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**A TALE OF TWO MURDERS: CONNECTED OR NOT?**  
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# LGBTs welcome new archbishop

BY MATT SIMONETTE

Bishop Blase Cupich of Spokane, Washington, will be the successor to Cardinal Francis George in leading the Archdiocese of Chicago, it was announced Sept. 20.

This is Pope Francis' first major appointment, and is one Catholic insiders will closely watch. Cupich purportedly shares the pope's stated commitment to fighting poverty and economic injustice, but nevertheless took stands, albeit measured ones, against the referendum that ultimately led to gay marriage in Washington state.

The Chicago Sun-Times asked Cupich Sept. 20 if he thought the Church was too focused on homosexuality and abortion.

"I think there is something to be said about the important insights of the Holy Father on this," he replied. "... We have to make sure that we don't collapse our agenda around issues that distract us from the full breadth of human rights issues. That however doesn't diminish the importance of defending life of the unborn and also defending people's rights."

Miguel Diaz, the former U.S. ambassador to the Vatican and now a theology professor at Loyola University Chicago, told The Chicago Tribune that Cupich "will be very much in line with Pope Francis' vision of a pastor bishop. He cares about the people who have been left out of the system. He will minister to the needs of the marginalized and the poor. Pope Francis has clearly chosen a man of great compassion."

Dignity/Chicago, an advocacy organization for LGBT Catholics, said in a Sept. 21 statement that it was "enthused" about the selection.

"Pope Francis has stepped up and acted on his intentions for a new, more welcoming Church by appointing Bishop Cupich, who, by all appearances, invites dialogue and envisions a more inclusive Church that respects everyone's faith and interest in living Gospel values," said Chris Pett, past president and spokesperson for Dignity/Chicago.

Another past president, Martin Grochala, added, "The Archdiocese of Chicago, in prior years, has led the national Church in efforts toward social justice and responding to the real needs of the faithful and our society with wisdom and outstanding leadership. Bishop Cupich brings his experience of ministry in a smaller, local Church that has been reflective of Pope Francis' call to embrace the poor and marginalized. He now has the opportunity to lead us in this ministry on a much broader scale—to be a true leader and shepherd of all who seek God and wish to live fully in the Gospel."

Pett noted, "We look forward to learning more about Bishop Cupich's views on the many issues impacting justice in the Church, including women's ordination, justice for church workers, and support for the sanctity and value of LGBTIQ families and lives. We also hope the Bishop Cupich will fully engage our community and other

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**HALL OF FAME TO INDUCT 15, INCLUDING LISA MARIE PICKENS**  
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## 'BOOM(ER)' WITH A VIEW



**BILLIE JEAN KING SPEAKS AT CFW LUNCHEON**  
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HIV activist Peter Staley is one of 19 individuals (along with Rosie O'Donnell, Eve Ensler, Samuel L. Jackson and others) profiled in The Boomer List. Read his interview with WCT on page 17. Photo copyright Timothy Greenfield-Sanders

## A MATTER OF RACE



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Lesbian-feminist professor Mab Segrest weighs in on race relations and Ferguson, Missouri. An in-depth discussion on those subjects and more is on page 10. Photo courtesy of Segrest

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**THOROUGHLY MODERN LILY**  
Singer Lily Allen (left) talks about Rihanna and gay best friends.  
*Press photo*



**HOWARD BROWN**  
Health Center's Dr. Cory Brown is penning an LGBT health column for Windy City Times.  
*Photo from Brown*



Among the sights WCT saw in Atlantic City was Miss America contestant Miss Illinois.  
*Photo by Ross Forman*

**SIMPLY THE FEST**  
Bent Nights recaps Riot Fest and reviews a recent Fishbone concert.

**ON THE MARKS**  
Chicagoan Dr. Natalie Marks is a finalist for "America's Favorite Veterinarian."

**THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT**  
Find out the latest about Aretha Franklin, Magic Mike XXL and Queen.

plus **DAILY BREAKING NEWS**

## ART AND SOUL



EXPO CHICAGO, the International Exposition of Contemporary and Modern Art, took place at Navy Pier.  
*Photo by Andrew Davis*

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# U.S. Supreme Court: Which case makes the best case for marriage equality?

BY LISA KEEN  
KEEN NEWS SERVICE

Some have said the U.S. Supreme Court could announce as early as Sept. 30 which marriage equality case—or cases—it will accept for review this session. But, while the Court has seven marriage equality cases to choose from during its private working conference Sept. 29, it may not choose any of those seven for review.

"If there's no disagreement [among the circuits], then the Supreme Court has the option of not taking any case for a period of time," said Roberta Kaplan, who represented plaintiff Edith Windsor in landmark Supreme Court case that struck down the key provision of the Defense of Marriage Act last year.

Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg made just that point in remarks Sept. 16 at a University of Minnesota Law School forum. Her host asked Ginsburg to comment generally on marriage equality cases before the high court and discuss whether she thinks the court will and should take a case "as soon as possible."

"So far, the federal courts of appeal have answered the question the same way—holding unconstitutional the ban on same-sex marriage," said Ginsburg. "There is a case now pending before the Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. Now, if that court should disagree with the others, then there will be some urgency in the courts for taking the case. But when all the courts of appeal are in agreement, there's no need for us to rush to step in. It remains to be seen what the Sixth Circuit would rule, when it will rule. Sooner or later, yes, the question will come to the court...."

Her comments attracted attention from Supreme Court observers because the court had been rather quick to put the seven cases on its list for discussion at its first big "long" conference. But Ginsburg was basically voicing what many such observers already know: The Supreme Court is more keen on taking appeals when there's a disagreement among the circuits.

So far, four appeals courts have ruled such marriage bans unconstitutional: the Ninth (in last year's Prop 8 case), the Tenth (Utah and Oklahoma), the Fourth (Virginia), and the Seventh (Wisconsin and Indiana).

Another Ninth Circuit panel heard oral arguments Sept. 8, in cases challenging bans in Hawaii, Nevada, Idaho and Oregon, but it widely expected to find once again that the bans are unconstitutional.

But a three-judge panel of the Sixth Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals heard arguments Aug. 6 in cases from Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio and Tennessee, and it seemed to signal it was prepared to uphold state bans on marriage for same-sex couples. That would create a conflict, but the panel has not yet released its opinion. If there was anything unusual about Ginsburg's comments last week, it was that she expressed, very diplomatically, the widespread impression that the Sixth Circuit is likely to uphold the bans.

Kaplan thinks Ginsburg's remarks are a strong indication that the Court is more likely to accept a case from a circuit that disagrees with the others—either the Sixth or the Fifth circuit. The Sixth Circuit decision could be released any day now; the Fifth, which covers Texas, Louisiana and Mississippi, recently gave the state of Texas an extension of time (until Oct. 10) to file its final brief in *Perry v. DeLeon*.



Lambda Legal National Legal Director Jon Davidson. Photo from Lambda Legal

If the Supreme Court declines to review one of the pending marriage cases this session, said Kaplan, it would have to lift the stays currently in place.

"Then marriages between gay couples could happen in a whole bunch of new states," she said. That would enable same-sex couples to get married in 12 additional states: Utah, Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, Kansas, and Oklahoma in the Tenth Circuit; Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and West Virginia in the Fourth Circuit; and Wisconsin and Indiana, in the Seventh Circuit. Added to the 19 states that already enable same-sex couples to marry, and the count will stand at 31 and the District of Columbia.

That seems unlikely.

So, if and when it takes a case, does it matter which marriage equality case the Supreme Court accepts? Does it change the prospects for the decision if it takes a case where the ban has been upheld? Does it matter whether the attorneys arguing the case are seasoned veterans before the Supreme Court?

Constitutional law legend Laurence Tribe, the Harvard law professor who argued against state bans on same-sex sexual activity in the 1986 *Bowers v. Hardwick* case, has said, "It could matter in a large number of ways" but he was "disinclined to speculate about at this point."

Lambda senior attorney Jenny Pizer offered some ideas. Though she and others agree the "core arguments will be very similar regardless of which case or cases the Supreme Court takes," Pizer noted that there can be interesting and important ancillary arguments.

"For example, if the Ninth Circuit rules as many anticipate and invalidates the marriage bans ...the Supreme Court would have the heightened scrutiny for sexual orientation classifications question presented more squarely because that is currently the law of the circuit," said Pizer. "If they take the *Baskin* [case] out of [Indiana in] the Seventh, there are issues of emergency relief in the context of serious illness that might influence the Court's analysis and timing. If they take *Bostic* out of Virginia, there could be a strong temptation to talk more about the historical parallel [with the ban on interracial marriage, in *Loving v. Virginia*]. And I have to wonder if the same

would be true if they were to take [the] *Kitchen* [case] out of Utah, given the unique history of that state's marriage laws [and polygamy]."

Shannon Minter, legal director for the National Center for Lesbian Rights, noted that state officials are "vigorously" defending the ban in the Utah case, in which NCLR and Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders are helping represent plaintiff couples. The Supreme Court might favor such a case to avoid any procedural snag like it faced in the California Proposition 8 case, which was appealed by a third party which lacked legal standing to file the appeal.

Lambda Legal's national legal director, Jon Davidson, said attorneys for all the cases think their case is a particularly good vehicle for review, but said, "The questions presented for review are essentially the same in all these cases."

As for whether it matters if seasoned Supreme Court attorneys present the arguments for plaintiff couples, Tribe and others said it probably doesn't matter.

"As long as they're sufficiently 'seasoned' not to make any ridiculous concessions or to overreach in any foolish ways," said Tribe, "this is

not the kind of case in which counsel's arguments are likely to make much difference."

"There are slight issues in terms of whether a state's attorney general is defending the law, but other than that," said Kaplan, "the legal arguments and the plaintiff facts are virtually identical" in all seven cases.

Evan Wolfson, head of the national Freedom to Marry group and a participant in the early marriage cases, agreed.

"All of the cases that have reached the Court present compelling stories from the plaintiffs, and all are in good hands with strong lawyer teams. Each lawyer, of course, would like to be the one who gets to stand before the Court, but the reality is that, whichever case the Court chooses and whichever lawyers are the lead, it is the strong collective presentation we will make together—on top of the friend-of-the-court briefs, the rulings from the more than 30 wins below, and the records and arguments the justices have already considered last year—that will matter."

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John Wambere (second from right) with (from left) GLAD attorneys Janson Wu and Allison Wright and attorney Hema Sarang-Sieminski.

## U.S. grants asylum for LGBTI activist Wambere

Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders client John "Longjones" Abdallah Wambere has been granted asylum in the United States.

With escalating attacks against the LGBTI Ugandan community, including Wambere himself, in recent years, culminating in the passage of the Anti-Homosexuality Act this February, Wambere's identity as a gay man and his advocacy for the LGBTI community made it impossible for him to return to Uganda, GLAD stated.

"In May we helped John apply for asylum in coordination with attorney Hema Sarang-Sieminski, and on Sept. 11 the U.S. Citizen and Immigration Services approved his application pending a routine security check," the group said.

"I am overwhelmed. I must say that I am blessed, but there are many stories out there. I call upon everyone who helped me to continue to support LGBTI people around the world and all asylum seekers in the U.S. And my thoughts are with Uganda; I have sleepless nights while I worry about my community there," said Wambere.

Read Wambere's full statement at <http://www.glad.org/uploads/docs/cases/in-re-wambere/wambere-statement-on-gaining-asylum.pdf>.

Gary Buseck, GLAD's interim executive director/legal director, stated: "Asylum is a life-saving system that protects vulnerable members of the LGBTI community forced to flee places like Uganda, Russia, and Jamaica, where it is fundamentally unsafe to be out.

"We are relieved for John and pleased that the U.S. has recognized the moral necessity of providing a safer haven for someone in John's situation. We're hopeful that the U.S. will continue to grant asylum to LGBTI people from around the world who can't enjoy the most basic freedoms in their countries of origin and whose lives are threatened simply because of who they are.

"John, who was in Massachusetts advocating on behalf of his community when the Anti-Homosexuality Act was passed, will now be able to continue his important work on behalf of the Ugandan LGBTI community here in the U.S, free from fear of arrests and incarceration.

"It is your ongoing support that allows us to do this critical work for equal justice for all in our community."

## UIC receives national award for diversity

The University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) received the 2014 Higher Education Excellence in Diversity (HEED) Award from INSIGHT into Diversity magazine, the oldest and largest diversity-focused publication in higher education.

The HEED Award is a national honor recognizing U.S. colleges and universities for commitment to diversity and inclusion. UIC will be featured in the magazine's November 2014 issue.

The school is Chicago's largest university, with 27,500 students, 12,000 faculty and staff, 15 colleges and the state's major public medical center.

## ARCHBISHOP from cover

marginalized communities in the justice work of the Church."

But Joe Murray of Rainbow Sash Movement, an organization that has long struggled with the archdiocese's combativeness towards the LGBT community, said he was not convinced that that perceived compassion will translate to a cordiality between the archdiocese and gays and lesbians.

"Nothing's going to change," Murray said. "I think the tone will be different, but the substance is going to stay the same. He'll just be a gentler person, one who's not as raw as George."

He added that the appointment might indicate that Pope Francis is interested in taking the Church in a new direction, but he did not see any benefits trickling down to LGBT church members. He pointed back to a commentary that Cupich wrote as Washington state voters prepared to go to the polls over Referendum 74, a bill that eventually opened the door for gay marriage in that state.

Cupich said he was opposed to the bill, explaining, "... Many opponents of the law redefining marriage have close friends and family members who are gay or lesbian. They too recognize the importance of creating a supporting environment in society for everyone to live a full, happy and secure life. Yet, they also have sincere concerns about what a redefinition of marriage will mean for the good of society and

the family, both of which face new strains in our modern world. They are asking the public to take a serious and dispassionate look at what a radical break with centuries of marriage law and practice will mean."

His letter urged opponents of the bill not to use the occasion as an excuse for intolerance and hostility towards gays and lesbians, however: "My genuine hope is that we all can value the coming vote on Referendum 74 as an opportunity to have a substantial public debate regarding this critical issue, carried on with respect, honesty and conviction ... I offer these thoughts with respect, but also out of a sense of duty to contribute to the debate for the good of our state."

Murray said that Cupich was taking a "two-pronged" approach to the matter—urging compassion for gays and lesbians but rejecting their call for marriage nonetheless—that might be misleading for gays and lesbians. "It's hard for a lot of gay Catholics. They want to latch onto these folks."

Activist Rick Garcia, who is Catholic, is more optimistic about Cupich, although he acknowledged, "He is a bishop, which means he's a company man, and a company man tows the company line. But he is markedly different in style and tone than George, who was a hard-line, dogmatic and insensitive leader."

Garcia noted that, in Cupich's letter, the archbishop only spent one paragraph discussing the supposed shortcomings of gay marriage, and spent the rest of the document urging compassion.

"This is a very positive thing," he added. "He comes from a small diocese and is not one of the big boys who are groomed for this kind of job. There was a list of people whom everyone thought was in line for the job, and none of them had a snowball's chance in hell. I think we're going to see a different tone coming out of the archdiocese than the one we've had with this character we've been burdened with for many years."

Rainbow Sash Movement announced Sept. 20 that it would send a delegation to Holy Name Cathedral Nov. 17 for Cupich's inauguration.

"The Rainbow Sash Movement welcomes the appointment of Bishop Blase Cupich of Spokane, Washington as the next Archbishop of Chicago," said Murray in a statement. "The relationship between the Chicago's LGBT Commu-

nity and the Chicago Archdiocese can best be described as hostile over the years. ...We recognize we have differences. The question upmost on our minds is should we allow those differences to stop us from acting as good neighbors? Is it so bad to talk to each other in a respectful way? ...The choice is simple for the new Archbishop: either welcome us or not. Is it possible for us to find Common Ground?"

George has been taking a less active role in the day-to-day affairs of the archdiocese since early this year, when he announced that he was battling cancer. He submitted a letter of resignation in January 2012, but that was a formality expected of all cardinals upon their turning age 75, and it was up to the discretion of the pope whether to accept it.



Archbishop Cupich will now reside in this home in Chicago's Gold Coast. Photo by Andrew Davis

## Reinhart succeeds Darby as AVER president

Lee Reinhart has succeeded Jim Darby, founder and longtime president of the Chicago chapter of the American Veterans for Equal Rights (the GLBT veterans group).

During his early military career, Reinhart had served honorably in the Navy only to be discharged from the Coast Guard under "Don't Ask, Don't Tell." He became one of the first Illinois veterans discharged under the policy to reenlist after it was repealed, reenlisting in the Navy in Chicago on Oct. 24, 2011. On March 13, 2014, he returned from a one-year tour in Afghanistan.

While there, he spearheaded the first ever gay-pride event on Kandahar Air Force Base.

Darby is a former national secretary of the American Veterans for Equal Rights and founded the Chicago chapter in 1991. He is a Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame member and secretary of the Mayor's Advisory Council for Veteran's Affairs.

Other new officers are vice president/treasurer, Larry Simpson; vice president/secretary, James Darby; senior board member, Tara Buckley; and junior board members, Patrick Bova and Stanley Jencyk.

## OPALGA's 25th-anniv. gala Oct. 25

OPALGA, the Oak Park Area lesbian & gay Association, will hold its 25th-anniversary gala Saturday, Oct. 25, at 6:30 p.m. at the 19th Century Club in Oak Park.

This year's OPAL Awards go to Illinois state Rep. Greg Harris (13th District), Illinois state Sen. Don Harmon (39th District) and the publisher and executive editor of Windy City Media Group, Tracy Baim, for their efforts connected to marriage equality in Illinois.

Proceeds from the OPAL Gala Benefit will go to the OPALGA Education Scholarship Fund, The Lakeside Pride Marching Band and The Historical Society of Oak Park and River Forest.

Visit [www.opalga.org](http://www.opalga.org).

## 'A Fireside Chat' with Victor Salvo on Oct. 1

"A Fireside Chat" with Victor Salvo, executive director of The Legacy Project, will take place at Center on Halsted's Hoover-Leppen Theater, 3656 N. Halsted St., on Wed., Oct. 1, at 7:30 p.m.

The Fireside Chats are produced by Joanne Gaddy, Christina Court and Douglas O'Keeffe, who also hosts the event. There is a \$5 donation for the event.



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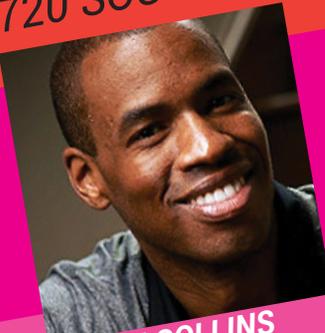
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# Coalition forms for rescinded HIV/AIDS funds

BY MATT SIMONETTE

A statewide coalition of HIV/AIDS organizations, most of whom primarily serve persons of color, is continuing with its efforts to receive allocations they had been awarded through the state's appropriation process.

The Service Provider Improvement Network (SPIN) recently issued a press release that outlined its purpose. According to its statement, "Community-based organizations and advocates from across Illinois have come together to ask the legislature to fix this devastating funding mishap related to the African American (HIV/AIDS) Response Act."

Members of the coalition, not all of whom were financially affected by the situation, include Affinity Community Services; AIDS Foundation of Chicago; BMX Chicago; Brothers Health Collective; Chicago Black Gay Men's Caucus; Chicago Recovery Alliance; Chicago Women's AIDS Project; The Community Wellness Project; Community Health & Education, Inc.; East Side Health District; Making A Daily Effort (M.A.D.E.); Men and Women in Prison Ministries; Proactive Community Services; Project VIDA; South Side Help Center; Task Force Prevention and Community Services; and Writers Planners Trainers, Inc.

The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) awarded grants to 18 agencies for fiscal year 2015, but in July grantees were notified by IDPH that the funds would not be available. The agency offered little explanation for the change, only saying that the General Assembly did not replenish the fund in order for them to follow through with their allocations. But State Rep. Greg Harris, chairman of the House Appropriations—Human Services Committee, has said that IDPH did not specify a revenue source from which the funds could be provided.

No matter the reason for the funding problem, many organizations now face serious problems.

"Losing these funds has disrupted our entire outreach strategy for targeting the highest risk populations," said Rosalyn Ross of East Side Health District, located in East St. Louis, Illinois, in the SPIN statement. "We've lost three employees that were fully trained and capable to meet the objectives that we proposed."

Agencies in St. Clair County, where East St. Louis is located, were hit especially hard. That area has the second highest rate of incidences outside Cook County.

Calvin Spinks, who heads the Chicago chapter of Black Men's Xchange, previously told Windy City Times that he will likely have to shut down his agency: "That money was my entire budget. I am exploring other grant options, and using my personal money, and I let my contractors go. But if nothing comes through in the next few months, I'm going to have to close my doors."

"This type of error severely threatens the public health infrastructure for addressing HIV/AIDS that we have worked very hard to build over the past 30 years," said Rev. Doris Green of Men and Women in Prisons Ministries in the SPIN statement.

Activist Keith Green said that the coalition has for the time being focused on getting IDPH to make the allocations through its supplemental budget, rather than writing and lobbying for new legislation that would need approval from the General Assembly, as the group had originally planned.

"If we went the legislative route, those funds would technically be 'new money,' which would be difficult to have approved," said Green. He added that another priority of the coalition would be working for a more transparent and user-friendly allocation process at IDPH.

"It would be nice if our agencies did not have to shift our priorities every time IDPH shifts theirs," he said.

John Peller, interim president/CEO of the AIDS Foundation of Chicago (AFC), said that the affected organizations, though small, often leave large footprints in their communities: "They have deep ties and have credibility with local residents, but they don't have the resources to quickly pull themselves back up if funding falls through."

The rescinded funding has not affected AFC, but the organization has joined the coalition, Peller added. "We were part of the coalition that lobbied for the act in 2005. It is incredibly disappointing to see that this funding was not available," he said.

## Rep. candidate pushes to uphold marriage bans

BY MATT SIMONETTE

Republican Susanne Atanus, who is challenging incumbent U.S. Rep. Jan Schakowsky (D-Illinois) for her 9th District seat, has asked two federal courts to uphold state bans on same-sex marriage. On Top Magazine reported Sept. 18.

Atanus submitted a four-page handwritten letter to the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco, as well as the U.S. Supreme Court, to make her case.

In the letter, Atanus attempts to correlate homosexuality with climate change and disease, a connection she has drawn upon frequently over the course of her campaign.

Atanus wrote in her letter, "Homosexuality is sin and we are a nation under God and it is sinful to disobey God's word in the Bible. We have seen the consequences of sin that is harmful to all mankind: droughts, floods, severe winters, tornadoes, hurricanes and many diseases, ailments, sickness, cancers, bacterial infections, etc. Also plagues, arctic vortex, tsunamis, sink holes, mudslides."

The 9th Circuit Court of Appeals earlier this month heard arguments on marriage bans in Hawaii, Nevada and Idaho.

In January, Atanus reached out to Windy City Times to say that she is not looking to alienate LGBT voters, but added that gay marriage along with abortion was the cause of the Midwest's severe winter.

"Everybody knows that God controls weather," Atanus said. "God is super-angry. ... Gay marriage is not appropriate, and it doesn't look right, and it breeds AIDS."

She has maintained that she is running on a platform ensuring "common sense economics for prosperity for all."

Republican leaders, meanwhile, have diligently tried to distance themselves from Atanus' views. Adam Robinson, chairman of the Chicago Republican Party, told Huffington Post that Atanus "is not in any way affiliated with any of our efforts in the Chicago GOP, nor have we ever supported, endorsed, or assisted her in any way at any time." Officials from both Cook County and Illinois state Republican Party organizations both have encouraged Atanus to drop out of the race as well.

In March, Schakowsky told the Daily Herald, "Republicans have nominated a troubled individual with a history of making inflammatory statements that have no place in the public discourse. This election cycle, I will be working to advance a progressive agenda and the ideals of the district by helping Democrats take back the House, and keeping Illinois a solid blue state."

## PASSAGES

### Jerry J. Burgdoerfer

Jenner & Block partner Jerry J. Burgdoerfer passed away Sept. 17. He was 56.

Burgdoerfer, a graduate of Indiana University (BS 1980) (JD 1983, cum laude) (MBA 1983), began practicing law at Jenner & Block in 1989. Among other things, he was co-chair of the firm's Securities Practice and Transactional Cross-Border Practice and a member of the Corporate and Mergers and Acquisitions Practices, and was one of the founders of the firm's LGBT Forum.

Managing Partner Terrence J. Truax said in a statement, "The Jenner & Block family is deeply saddened by Jerry's death. He was a talented lawyer, a trusted counselor and a wonderful friend, role model and mentor to many. He will be greatly missed."

A memorial service for Burgdoerfer is being planned, and details regarding that service will be published when finalized. In the interim, his family has asked that, in lieu of flowers, any donations be made to the "The Jerry Burgdoerfer Memorial Scholarship Fund" at his alma mater, Indiana University



Jerry J. Burgdoerfer.

School of Law. Checks should be made payable to the Indiana University Maurer School of Law and mailed to: Office of Development, 211 S. Indiana Ave., Bloomington, IN 47405. If individuals would like to make their gifts by credit card, they can contact Lisa Hosey at lhosey@indiana.edu.



Victor Salvo, Lillian Faderman and her partner, Phyllis Irwin. Photo by Tracy Baim

## Faderman, Lazin in Chicago for Legacy Project benefit

Prominent lesbian historian and author Lillian Faderman and Malcolm Lazin, executive director of the Philadelphia-based Equality Forum, were the special guest speakers at a benefit for Chicago's Legacy Project Sept. 14 at the home of Legacy board member Christopher Barrett Politan.

The event featured a Q&A with Faderman and Lazin that WGN-TV's Sean Lewis conducted. They discussed the importance of documenting and remembering LGBT history, both local histories of places like Chicago and Philadelphia, as well as nationally significant events including Stonewall in 1969, and the Annual Reminders that started in 1965 at Independence Hall in Philadelphia. Next year marks the 50th year of those events.

Faderman discussed her next book, due out next year, which will focus on the movement for LGBT rights starting in the late 1940s through present-day. Her other books include *My Mother's Wars* (2013), *Gay L.A.: A History of Sexual Outlaws, Power Politics, and Lipstick Lesbians* (2006), *To Believe in Women: What Lesbians Have Done For America—A History* (1999), *Chloe Plus Olivia: An An-*

thology of Lesbian Literature from the 17th Century to the Present (1994), *Odd Girls and Twilight Lovers: A History of Lesbian Life in Twentieth-Century America* (1991), *Scotch Verdict: Miss Pirie and Miss Woods v. Dame Cumming Gordon* (1983), and *Surpassing the Love of Men: Romantic Friendship and Love Between Women from the Renaissance to the Present* (1981).

Legacy Project Board President Ralph Kennedy and Legacy Project Creator and Executive Director Victor Salvo also addressed the crowd. Retired Judge Tom Chiola, Illinois' first openly gay elected official, closed out the evening, announcing that he and his partner Drew Jemilo were matching donations collected for the benefit.

The Legacy Project has already installed 23 plaques along Halsted Street in the Legacy Walk, and they will be adding another seven in October. See <http://www.legacyprojectchicago.org/>.

The online version of this article includes videos from the discussion as well as an interview with Faderman.

—Tracy Baim

# Hall of Fame to honor 15 individuals and organizations

Fifteen individuals and two organizations will be inducted Wed., Nov. 12, into the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame, the country's only known government-sponsored hall of fame that honors members of the LGBT community.

The inductees were selected by a committee composed of former inductees, which reviewed nominations submitted by members of the public. The names were released by Friends of the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame, a section 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

The chosen nominees will be inducted at the Hall of Fame's annual ceremony, which will take place 5:30-7 p.m. at the Chicago History Museum, 1601 N. Clark St. A reception begins at 5:30 p.m., and the program is scheduled for 6 p.m. The event is free and open to the public.

Those honored in 2014 are:

## "Individual" category

Gerald Arpino (1923-2008), co-founder of the Joffrey Ballet, which is celebrating its 20th year in Chicago, for his more than 50 Joffrey years as dancer, choreographer, and company director;

Jennifer Brier, 43, a historian of LGBT communities and of AIDS, for her 11 years of Chicago work, including co-curation of the 2011 Chicago History Museum "Out in Chicago" exhibition;

Kelly Cassidy, 44, now an Illinois state representative, for her 21 years of Chicago political activism on women's and LGBT rights, criminal justice, health care, and social justice;

Terry Cosgrove, 61, president and CEO of Personal PAC and a 1970s LGBT activist, for his 25

years of advocacy and political consultancy in behalf of women's reproductive choice rights;

Christina Kahrl, 46, the nation's first openly transgender sports writer and a co-founder of the Baseball Prospectus think tank, for that and her seven years of pro-transgender Chicago activism;

Edward Mogul, 68, lawyer, teacher and president of the Illinois Academy of Criminology, for LGBT advocacy and for legal and financial help to LGBT groups over more than 40 years;

Lisa Marie Pickens, 51, a co-founder and board president emeritus of Affinity Community Services, for more than 25 years of activism as an open African-American lesbian;

Debra Shore, 62, an openly lesbian Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago commissioner since 2006, for her 32 years as a conservationist and political organizer;

Ross A. Slotten, M.D., 60, a physician, medical faculty member, and biographer, for 30 years of providing supportive care, innovative treatments, and expert advice in the fight against AIDS; and

Bennet Williams (1947-2001), a community organizer, for almost 20 years as an HIV-positive man advocating and educating about HIV and human rights, especially with African-Americans.

## "Organization" category

Out & Proud in Chicago, a WTTW initiative, for producing television documentaries about Chicago LGBT history and personages, including its award-winning 2008 namesake production; and

Silk Road Rising, the Chicago theater proj-



Individual inductees into the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame include Terry Cosgrove (left) and Illinois state Rep. Kelly Cassidy.



ect, for 12 years of showcasing works that address themes relevant to Silk Road peoples and their diaspora, including polycultural LGBT stories.

## "Friend of the community" category

Lucretia Clay-Ward, 49, an HIV/AIDS survivor, counselor and advocate, for 13 years of HIV-prevention outreach and education, especially among youth, sex workers, and substance abusers;

Heather A. Steans, 51, an Illinois state senator, for six years of legislative representation, including service as chief Senate sponsor of the marriage-equality bill that passed in 2013; and Clarence N. Wood, 74, a veteran human-rights

advocate and former Chicago Commission on Human Relations chairman, for his decades of unwaveringly advocating for LGBT equality.

The Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame was established in 1991 under the auspices of what was then the Chicago Commission on Human Relations' Advisory Council on Gay and Lesbian (later, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender) Issues, a municipal government agency. At the end of 2011, the advisory council ceased to exist after a commission restructuring, and the Friends organization succeeded it as caretaker of the Hall of Fame in partnership with city government.

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# A tale of two murders: Connected or not?

## PART ONE

BY GRETCHEN RACHEL BLICKENSERFER

Fewer than six miles west of the office of Mayor Rahm Emanuel at Chicago's City Hall sits the corner of West Madison Street and North Kilbourn Avenue. It is part of the neighborhood of Austin—a disregarded, neglected backyard obscured by the magnificent opulence of the

**“I just remember Donta’s smile and, after that, I never seen my child again.”—Donta Gooden’s mother, “Mary”**

Chicago loop and kept quietly hidden from the marveling eyes of the record 46.2 million tourists to which Emanuel proudly laid claim in 2012.

On March 29 of that year, Emanuel announced a \$7 billion revitalization of the city that would “touch nearly every aspect of the city’s infrastructure network.” In his accompanying speech, Emanuel pledged “stronger communities and a better quality of life for all of Chicago’s families. That’s what I mean by building a new Chicago.”

In December 2012, Crain’s Chicago Business reported that the YMCA in Austin was closing its doors. Less than four months later, Chicago Public Schools announced the closure of four of its schools in the neighborhood. According to the Austin Talks Newsletter, educators at Francis Scott Key, Louis Armstrong, Horatio May and Robert Emmet schools all received notice of the closures on March 21, 2013. The concern of teachers and staff was not so much for their jobs, but the children who would be forced to walk “on their own at a farther distance through an area known for gang activity.”

Elce Redmond is the Organizing Director of the South Austin Coalition, a community organization that has been mobilizing residents around Austin’s economic and social issues for the past 37 years.

“There were fights to save the schools, there were fights to save the YMCA, there were fights to address the drug and crime problem with jobs,” he told Windy City Times. “But the city, the county, the state, no one wants to really hear that. They don’t want to solve problems, they want to increase the amount of people going to jail and that makes a lot of money for folks, but it doesn’t address any of the concrete issues of the community. None of these leaders want to do that at all.”

It was in this environment, on March 28, 2012—the morning before Emanuel’s pledge to build a new Chicago—that a 22-year-old transgender woman of color named Eisha Love, along with another young trans\* woman who has since been identified by friends and family members as Donta “Tiffany” Gooden, 19, were allegedly subjected to a verbal and then physical assault by two men at a Citgo station on the Austin corner of West Madison Street and North Kilbourn Avenue.

Love and Gooden fled in Love’s vehicle with the two men allegedly pursuing on foot. Two more men reportedly joined the chase in a blue Pontiac. One and a half blocks north of the

Citgo, Love lost control of her car. It jumped the curb, striking the lower left leg of one of her pursuers. Using male pronouns and Love’s birth name, the arrest report stated that, at the time, Love was “in fear for ‘his’ safety.” According to Love’s mother, a group of male bystanders at the scene of the accident told Love “we’re going to get you.” [For the full report on the Eisha Love case, see last week’s Windy City Times print and online editions.]

Love was subsequently placed under arrest at the District 11 police station on West Harrison Street on a charge of aggravated battery. An April grand jury then indicted her on a charge of “attempted first degree murder” with “intent to kill.”

Soon after Love was arrested, another incident happened that may be related. One block east of the Citgo, a rusty viaduct crosses Madison at the corner of Kenton Avenue. It was under this viaduct that some of the transgender women who were engaged in sex work (locally referred to as “on the stroll”) with 23-year-old Paige Clay say they last saw Clay getting into a car with an unknown man or group of men. On April 16, 2012, less than a month after Love’s arrest, Clay’s body was discovered half a mile away from the viaduct in an alley in the 4500 block of West Jackson. She had been shot through the head.

An LGBT advocate and former child welfare worker who asked to be identified as “John” told Windy City Times that he was the man who identified Clay’s body at the morgue and then had the task of informing her family of her death—a memory that haunts him to this day.

“Paige loved life. She was a strong-willed individual,” he told Windy City Times. “Paige wanted to work in the fashion industry. Paige had the skills to be successful on so many levels but didn’t have the services and support



Tiffany Gooden (left) and Paige Clay.

mechanisms around her to do that and that’s why she had to resort to the kind of life that she had. We have a public school system that has let trans\* people down. It’s not inclusive enough to trans\* individuals and is doing nothing help nurture them. Trans\* women of color come out of it totally unprepared and they have to rely on prostitution as a means of survival. We may not like to think about it, but it’s their truth. It’s their reality. It was very disheartening for Paige to go on job interviews in retail stores and—even though she was very well put together and more than qualified to do the job—to be denied because she was trans\*.”

At the time of Clay’s death, Brian Turner was



Tiffany Gooden died in a building at this location, where there is now an empty lot. Photo by Gretchen Rachel Blickensderfer

a social worker with Taskforce Prevention and Community Services which has provided HIV and STI preventative services in Austin since 1990. In that capacity, he became close to Clay and her death devastated him. He organized a community forum to discuss violence against transgender women of color later that month. During the event, Windy City Times reported that a Taskforce outreach worker said “it saddens me that Paige was brutally murdered and no one cares.”

Turner pushed Chicago Police Department (CPD) investigators for answers and even started a Facebook page demanding justice for Clay



out who did what in Austin because Paige was a trans\* woman. That’s just how they operate.”

Donta “Tiffany” Gooden may have been another victim connected to the Eisha Love case. She was the one reportedly in the car the day Clay was arrested. In an interview with Windy City Times, Gooden’s mother—who asked to be identified as “Mary” and prefers to refer to her daughter as Donta—said that both Clay and Gooden were friends who spent a lot of time at Gooden’s home before Clay’s murder. “[Paige] was calling and coming over,” Mary said. “They were kicking it, like women kick it, switching each other’s outfits. That’s just what they did.” She added that the two girls looked very much alike, so much so that when Clay’s body was discovered, Mary’s family members and friends were genuinely concerned that it was Gooden.

According to Mary, while growing up, Gooden was exceptionally smart, graduating at the top of her class following a three-month educational program that she attended. “Donta got a diploma and everything. I was so proud,” Mary said. “And we were so very close. But what with peer pressure and neighborhood pressure, the streets were calling.”

She asserted that Gooden only expressed her feminine identity when going out onto those streets. “I knew what Donta was doing,” Mary said. “But all you can do as a mother is love your child for who they are, no matter what.”

When Clay was found dead, Gooden became noticeably frightened. According to Mary, for the following four months, she would only go out on the stroll as the sun was beginning to rise in the morning. “I knew my child was scared,” Mary said. “But Donta didn’t want me to worry.”

After Clay’s funeral, Gooden told her mother that she had been in the car with Love. Despite Mary’s repeated questions, she offered little beyond that.

Mary and the family were also trying to cope with the Memorial Day death of Mary’s mother. Gooden had told her aunt that she intended to go back to school and get herself together so that she could help shoulder some of the bills.

On the morning of Saturday, Aug. 11, 2012, Gooden and her mother had been enjoying time together as they usually did. Shortly after midnight on Sunday, Gooden inexplicably left the home with a group of neighborhood friends. “It was unusual because Donta had stopped going out at night,” Mary said. “I don’t think she was going out on the stroll.”

It was the last time Mary would see her

with the goal of ensuring that “another of ours won’t be swept under the rug.” The page asked anyone with information to get in touch with him.

It was then that Turner said he received an unexpected phone call.

“The CPD contacted me at Taskforce and told me that I was hindering the case and that, if I did not stop, they were going to lock me up,” he told Windy City Times. “The detective never said his name but he did threaten me.”

“I don’t find that hard to believe,” John said. “Bottom line, I don’t care how many gay and lesbian officers or LGBT liaisons they have, I believe the CPD is an entity that is still very transphobic. They have no concern in finding

daughter alive. "I just remember Donta's smile and, after that, I never seen my child again," she said.

When Gooden didn't return home, Mary frantically called everyone she knew before filing a missing person's report with the CPD. "First thing they said was 'you sure you don't want to give it another day or so?'" Mary remembered. "But I knew something had happened to my child. There was an emptiness in my soul. All I could do was pray."

For two days, she heard nothing. Three blocks from where Clay's body was found, there is a line of three abandoned buildings on the corner of South Cicero Avenue and West Jackson Boulevard. It was on the second floor of the center building that Gooden's mutilated body was discovered on Aug. 14, after complaints about an unpleasant smell. She had been stabbed multiple times. "They stabbed my child in the face," Mary said. "They chopped at Donta's neck; there were stab marks around the back area. It was just a mess."

CPD investigators told Mary that Gooden's blood was found in the front hallway leading to the second floor, as if she had been dragged up there. Provided with no more information, Mary desperately tried to piece together the last hours of her daughter's life. "I figured that Donta might have got there and realized it was a set up and got snatched in there," Mary said. "They had pulled the stairs down in the back of that building so there was no way out. So whoever did this knew the area. They knew Donta could holler as loud as she wanted to but, on a Sunday morning, nobody was going to hear."

Witnesses on the floor below said that they heard Gooden fighting for her life. Mary asserted that within three weeks after her daughter's death, the crime scene was torn down. Today, all that is left is an empty lot conspicuously located between boarded-up buildings.

Mary remembered that shortly after her death, a transgender friend of Gooden's told her that threats had been leveled against her daughter's life. "She said that somebody in a green van was looking for Donta," Mary stated. "They were saying they was going to kill her. They were saying they were going to 'get 'his' ass because 'he' was riding in the car."

**Next Week: Part Two examines walking the streets of Austin.**

**Windy City Times would like to acknowledge the contributions of Channy Lynne Parker, Joy Morris, Emmanuel Garcia and Project Vida, Jen Richards, the Sex Workers Outreach Project (SWOP), Brian Turner, Terry Dean and the Austin Weekly News for their invaluable assistance in this investigation.**

# Iu-Luen Jeng on art therapy, power of young people

BY HAYLEIGH SYENS

For most, science and art are polar opposites. But for Iu-Luen Jeng, the two make perfect sense together.

Jeng, is a director for the Illinois Art Therapy Association. Art therapy combines the creative process with psychotherapy, making it easier for those affected by trauma to more easily express themselves when words fail.

"When we talk about mental health services or behavioral services, it is important to look at people's healing process not just from verbal communication but how a lot of difficulties and challenges or things that are troubled are actually beyond words and hard to describe," Jeng said. "So art therapy is effective in dealing with clients with trauma, or people who have a language barrier, or people who just have a hard time using verbal tools to express themselves."

Jeng said she has found art therapy to be successful with the LGBTQ community, particularly LGBTQ youth.

"I think LGBTQ individuals in our community face a lot of trauma, and we're not just talking about individual encounters of trauma, but also institutionally," Jeng said. "In society, compared to heteronormative forms, the LGBTQ lifestyle is always being oppressed. So, I think a lot of times it is important to talk about invisible oppression that comes from a heteronormative society, and be able to speak from that perspective."

"I also think that LGBTQ individuals do have a strength as far as being very creative. There are a lot of really talented artists in our community. So, I do believe that the creative process is a natural path for LGBTQ individuals to express themselves. So, why don't we utilize that natural path of communication to work on traumatic issues?"

Two years ago, Jeng led a self-portrait photography workshop where she encouraged young people to showcase themselves how they viewed themselves, not how adults or society viewed them. She described it to Windy City Times as her biggest professional accomplishment to date.

"I'm very interested in creating more visibility for LGBTQ youth in our community. I think for a lot of young people that don't

necessarily have a home to go to, to be able to have some visibility through the programs that they engage in the most is important, and that provides a sense of stability and ownership," Jeng said. "If I had to reflect on my career so far, I do think the portrait project really depicts what this specific community needs compared to the general LGBTQ space."

Jeng sees the value that young people hold in the community, and she wants to change how they are understood and portrayed.

"I think young people are powerful and very articulate," Jeng said. "We need to find a better way of communication that lets them

speak for their own needs. I also think that young people deserve to be seen as young adults in a way that their positions are being respected."

Jeng plans to improve communication between adults and young people through her work with the Illinois Art Therapy Association. By creating more art therapy programs that are independent and youth-driven, Jeng hopes to give young people a voice and a forum to express their thoughts, wants and needs that is free of judgment or oppression.

"The power of creating is really powerful and it's inspiring for young people," said Jeng. "An independent and youth-driven program can really shift the power dynamic between the services provider and the youth that we serve to a more balanced relationship. For me, that's a more cohesive and authentic community program."



Iu-Luen Jeng. Photo courtesy of Jeng

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# Lesbian-feminist Mab Segrest on Ferguson, race and civil rights

BY SARAH TOCE

Lambda Literary Award-winning author (*Memoir of a Race Traitor*, 1994) and professor Mab Segrest was raised in Tuskegee, Alabama, (Macon County) during the civil-rights movement of the 1960s.

Segrest's firsthand experience on the topics of white supremacy, homophobia, desegregation and patriarchy began under her own roof as a child. In fact, her great-grandfather was a segregationist who co-wrote Alabama's constitution in 1901 to maintain white power.

Segrest told GRITtv host Laura Flanders in August 2014: "The more I thought about it, the more I saw in my family and outside of it—the more I felt like I had to get away. I didn't realize until later when I went to Duke to graduate school in the '70s, and then came out as a lesbian, that I knew in my gut that 'I can't live here.' When I came out in Durham, there was a very vibrant, political lesbian community in Durham doing all kinds of activism. I started doing feminist and anti-racist work very soon there that allowed me to go back and pick up the experiences from my childhood and make more sense of them."

Utilizing her personal history to help in constructing North Carolinians Against Racist and Religious Violence in the 1980s to combat virulent Klan and neo-Nazi activity and hate violence, Segrest also co-founded Southerners on New Ground (SONG) with five other Southern lesbians in 1993.

In early September, Segrest offered her understanding of what happened in Ferguson between police officer Darren Wilson and 18-year-old Michael Brown. Her information was based on reading news reports, social media and personal conversations, and she did not presume to speak for the people in Ferguson, Missouri, the recent site of racial unrest.

"As I understand it from the media, Michael Brown, an 18-year-old African-American man in Ferguson, was stopped on the street by police in midday. They were suspicious because he was walking in the street, and an altercation ensued with the police from which he ran. One policeman shot him and apparently hit him four times in the arm," Segrest said. "At some point he stopped and turned around, held his hands up as much as he could with four gunshot wounds apparently in his arm, as the autopsy said, and walked (or staggered) forward, at which point the police felt either entitled or threatened enough to shoot him two more times, hitting him in the head, including the top of the head as he was falling down."

What occurred next was also troubling to onlookers who quickly gathered.

"The police left him dead in the street for four hours or more in his own blood in the middle of his community in which his family and he lived, and his neighbors. People were quite, I would say understandably, upset—that his body was lying there, that he had been shot, and they wanted information," she said. "So that's the actual event as much as I can reconstruct it from various news reports, various investigations and autopsies."

The tragedy in Ferguson sparked community outrage.

"I think that the kind of explosion of activism and analysis and encounters between the community and the police in the next few weeks [following the killing] were the results of very deep-seeded divisions in that community that resonate nationally, particularly as it has to do with racism against African Americans and particularly young men," Segrest offered.

Had the circumstances been different, perhaps the attention would have been, too.



Mab Segrest. Photo courtesy of Segrest

"If he had been the only person shot in Ferguson or Missouri or the United States who was Black and young, unarmed in an altercation with the police that decade, that year, it wouldn't have had any legs—it wouldn't have gone anywhere," she said.

"The other piece to it that was very incendiary from the town of Ferguson's point of view was how rapidly these police forces were assembled armed in a way that made them look like they were in Baghdad or Afghanistan or somewhere fighting insurgents in the Middle East. I think that that was a very new element in the public perception of how since the 1990s and particularly since the War on Terror our local police forces have been so militarized," she added.

Case in point: the weaponry used in Ferguson.

"They had tanks; they had automatic weapons trained on demonstrators—not barrels turned down—with police people who were not trained to use them, their fingers on the trigger in highly volatile situations. As the newspapers variously reported, local community governments have spent millions of dollars to buy this surplus military hardware to arm themselves in such a way that's just astounding," said Segrest.

Astounding even to a woman who has seen just about everything in her time.

"I'm 65, and these days I'm surprised to be surprised at things. That was one of those surprises that I kind of knew, but to see it played out on the ground like that..." she said. "When I think about it, if there's a million dollars at the local level going into surplus military hardware—which meant we didn't need it in the first place—or leftover from various military campaigns in the Middle East, buying all of that came at the expense of federal money that since the 1980s restricted for funding human needs and social services.

"So a community that has all of a sudden the U.S. Army armed to the teeth as its police force, has also been cut in these austerity moves because we ran up debts on the military side of it, with that much less money for school, for job training, for health care, for a whole range of things. That abandonment also shapes our communities."

The public images coming out of Ferguson featured men and women of various shapes, sizes and colors holding their hands up in solidarity for Brown. Segrest offered her take on the visuals seen around the world. "I think [the demonstration's] intent was to give a voice to

these people in their last moments. It's to also say, any of us could be shot. 'Hands up, don't shoot. I've got my hands up, please don't shoot me. You know, y'all are out of control, you're running amuck.. Don't shoot. You need to stop shooting.'"

In fact, it was another demonstration entirely that further illustrated Segrest's point.

"I went to a demonstration recently on Staten Island where Eric Garner, another Black man, was apprehended by police and killed. About six policemen jumped on him because he was selling something illegally on the street to support his family, and put him in a chokehold that cut off his windpipe. He said, 'I can't breathe, I can't breathe!' and then he was dead. They didn't stop until he was dead," she said. "In terms of New Yorkers' activism around police violence and the events in Ferguson and the Florida shooting of Trayvon Martin, all of these things were very present with the people at the march. And both, 'Hands up, don't shoot!' and, 'I can't breathe, I can't breathe, I can't breathe!' were frequent chants by various portions of this march to remember the last moments of the dead."

U.S. citizens often suffer from a media mind-meld, which could not be more apparent than right now in our nation's history with gun violence.

"The United States today is highly polarized and fragmented. The media is split into hundreds of channels that have niche perspectives to which people go. There's so many more media so much less common viewing experiences across communities than back when I was little and you had four channels and they stopped at 11 at night and they picked up again at 6 in the morning," Segrest recalled. "But as I understand it, many white people have read the responses of police in Ferguson as an overreaction and are supportive of the demonstrators., although many are not and have supported the officer who shot Brown Many, many African Americans understand and feel vulnerable to the same forces that killed Michael Brown, as do Latinos. But I do think that perhaps the view of that level of military in a police force was alarming across these registers."

To explain the situation in Black and white is one thing; to truly understand the situation is another.

"Nothing in this country is all one thing, never was. There are very deep, polarized and entrenched divisions that have political importance today," Segrest offered.

A voter registration booth was constructed in Ferguson following Brown's death. Only 12 percent of voters voted in the last election.

"If I start to compare Ferguson at this point to what things were like in my childhood in Alabama in the 1950s and '60s, in Macon County I recall that we had maybe 85 percent African-Americans and 15 percent white people, but it was white control of everything; all the political organizations, all the law enforcement and so forth. Gradually, Black people were getting on the voter rolls and then the Civil Rights movement broke open those struggles that ended in the Voting Rights Act," Segrest remembered. "Now in Macon County, it's predominantly a Black population, predominantly Black political structure, predominantly Black law enforcement, overwhelmingly so. And in many of the Black belt counties—the plantation counties which had large populations of African Americans—there's a similar situation at least at the local level."

Segrest added, "In Alabama today, there are over 800 Black elected officials; mostly in the local and county level, some also in the legislature, too, but it's still very much a white-controlled state. The constitution goes back to 1901 when segregationists, including one of my great-grandfathers, wrote it to maintain white power, not only to bring in segregation, but to really hold down taxation and make all the counties who wanted taxes have to go to the legislature for approval. Activists in Alabama still work on trying to break the hold of that constitution, and haven't been able to." The situation of white political control of Afri-

can Americans is similar in ways to Ferguson, Segrest said.

Voting is important, a fact Segrest goes on to discuss.

"Ferguson is 33 percent white now and 63 percent Black, and has the police force of 50 white officers and three Black officers. Ferguson is very under-registered and many African American people don't really participate, as I understand it; and now they've had a major wake-up call. With more votes they might at least gain some local control that would buffer them more with more Black voters. So people there are registering voters and doing voter education and basic citizenship lessons that people don't get in their schools because they're so busy getting those young people ready for prisons today in poor communities," she said.

"In order to change that dynamic in Ferguson, you would have to get a different city council and have a different police force," she said. But some things simply won't change in just one place. "You're not necessarily going to have a different governor; you won't have a different president. One person's vote registers at the local and municipal level, the county level, the state level, and the national level; and the further out you get, the less say you can have in terms of what difference your vote makes."

Segrest recalled voting rights in the Deep South during the civil-rights movement.

"In Alabama 50 years ago, Black people were systematically shut out of voting. In Macon County, sometimes the board of registrars held registration in the bank vault so that they could control who came in. Macon County had the Tuskegee Institute, which had a very educated professorate and citizenry, but literacy tests would deny a vote to a Black PHD and give it to an illiterate white person. So there were profound ways to distort and limit the degree to which being able to vote and having a democracy operated," she said.

How is the voting process different today?

"Of course there are changes. But there are disturbing similarities as well. Today, there are new efforts at voter restriction and gerrymandering that have profoundly impacted the ability of people to have their vote count. Republicans did a brilliant job of gerrymandering up to 2010, so that they have the U.S. House of Representatives really nailed down, and the Tea Party folks there can just stop business so that the ability of the federal government to actually govern and pass laws has been severely limited. It's like they're putting a wrench in the works. "Those Tea Party people within the Republican majority in the House of Representatives can stop everything. That's a form of minority control that feels to me a lot like the 15 percent white people that controlled the 85 percent Black people in the county I grew up in. We're the most powerful country in the world; we're an empire, and concerning our capacity to govern ourselves, we're shooting ourselves in the head—not in the foot, but in the head. We're in the danger of becoming a failed advanced industrial state, and it's quite remarkable."

Segrest added that campaign financing has as much to do with it as the rest.

She recalled *Gomillion v. Lightfoot*, the 1959 Supreme Court decision that originated in Macon County and brought together racial discrimination with political representation and gerrymandering. "This many years after 1959, we have these gerrymandered districts. After the Citizens United Supreme Court decision we have huge presence of private money in the electoral process because the Republican majority on the Supreme Court said that financial contributions from corporations are their free speech and should not be limited by campaign finance reform: the wealthy can put as much money as they want to into affecting political races,. Super rich and conservative people like the Koch brothers can outspend almost everybody else and often control the electoral

**GAY** *in the* **LIFE**  
**Eric Huppertz**  
 TEXT BY ROSS FORMAN  
 PHOTOS COURTESY OF HUPPERTZ

**Age**  
47

**Neighborhood**  
North Center

**Relationship status**  
Partners with Roberto Rodriguez-Torres, 36, an urban planner

**Job title**  
Customer Relationship Manager, UBS Global Asset Management - End User Services

**Hobbies**  
Writing, bicycling and photography

**Favorite TV show**  
Modern Family

**Favorite movie**  
Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind

**Four people (living or dead) you'd like to have dinner with**  
Mark Twain, James Burke, Robin Williams and Ludwig Wittgenstein

**Little-known fact**  
"I can flex my pupils, or, more accurately, my irises the way some people can wiggle their ears."

Eric Huppertz joined the Chicago Metropolitan Sports Association (CMSA) in the fall of 1998 to play flag football. He also has played CMSA softball and tennis—and softball is his favorite.

"I've played on several great teams and met a lot of good friends in the softball league," Huppertz said. "Roscoe's used to be the place where everyone went after [Open Division] Sunday softball games. It was the de facto host bar, week after week, and it was always a blast. When I played

for Big Chicks, the running joke was that we were the football team for Rydell High—from Grease, of course. Every year we had a Homecoming game, and we'd even elect a Homecoming Queen after the game. It was so much fun."

This season, his partner of nine years, Roberto Rodriguez-Torres, also is Huppertz's teammate.



Huppertz (left) with partner Roberto Rodriguez-Torres.



"Being teammates comes naturally for us," Huppertz said. "A few years ago we played football together. On that team, it was impossible not to have a great time. This season we played softball together on the Bad News Beards—a fun, quirky, and improbably successful team. Playing sports together is something we both enjoy and look forward to."

Huppertz said there really is no key to their longevity off the field. "We just like being together," he said. "We both have a strong sense of 'even when you piss me off, there's still no place I'd rather be.' People have asked me how I managed to find such a good match, as if they expect to hear advice like 'eat less and exercise more.'"

"But we met because we were both in the right place at the right time. It was luck, plain and simple."

Actually, it was at Northalsted Market Days in 2005.

"We never really had a first date. We were just suddenly together, and never looked back," Huppertz said. "It sounds corny, but we knew it was love when we shared a bratwurst with sauerkraut and mustard."

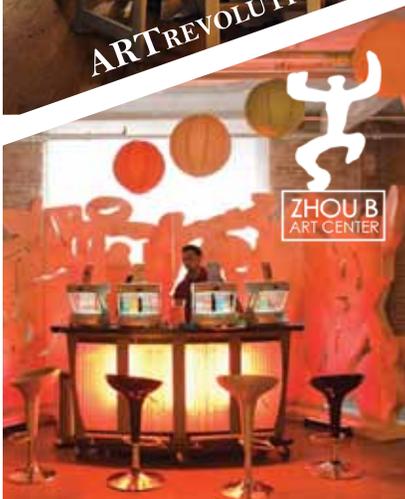
The two had actually met a few months earlier—at the 2005 Chicago Pride Parade.

"Pride will always be special to us, because that's the day our lives changed forever," Huppertz said.

We raise our glasses to Marriage Equality at last!



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## VIEWPOINTS

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Community Marketing, Inc.



REV.  
IRENE  
MONROE

## Black children are beloved and beaten

"Beloved and beaten" is a phrase that best depicts how many African-American children—past and present—are disciplined.

It is an authoritative type of African-American parenting discipline style that is painfully revered. Yet, in too many incidents, it continues to be uncritically passed along generationally.

When Minnesota Vikings running back Adrian Peterson was indicted on allegation of child abuse, he admitted to using the disciplinary methods passed down by his father.

"I have always believed that the way my parents disciplined me has a great deal to do with the success I have enjoyed as a man," Peterson said in a statement.

Among those coming to Peterson's defense was NBA Hall of Famer Charles Barkley. "Whipping—we do that all the time. Every Black parent in the South is going to be in jail under those circumstances," Barkley stated in an interview with Jim Rome on the CBS pregame show *The NFL Today*.

Comedian D. L. Hughley tweeted, "Who knew that was illegal, cuz my mama would b in jail!"

The "in jail" part Hughley is referring to is the punishment that Black parents would likely receive due to the flogging and excessive bodily harm many exact on their children—all in the name of discipline. It's done without reproach, both legally and culturally.

"I've had many welts on my legs," Barkley recalling his childhood beatings told Rome.

Unfortunately, the tradition of this type of discipline style lives on—unchecked and unexamined.

While Black people don't have a monopoly on beating children, we do have unique reasons for choosing it as a style of discipline.

Using corporal punishment on our Black children is rooted in the violent history of American slavery. It was a prophylactic method to protect Black slave children from harsher beatings from white slavers by having enslaved adult Africans—parents or authority figures—publicly discipline them.

The "switch" has become an African-American institution—both feared and revered. This savage tool that was once used to break the back of my ancestors sadly finds its marks on too many Black children's bodies today.

In a tussle over a toy, Peterson's 4-year-old pushed his brother off a video game. Peterson reacted by shoveling leaves in his son's mouth from the "switch" made from the tree branch he used to lash him pants down. His son sustained lacerations and wounds to his ankles, legs, hands, back, buttocks and scrotum, requiring medical attention.

"My goal is always to teach my son right from wrong and that's what I tried to do that day," Peterson stated in his defense.

But too little progress has been made in peacefully teaching right from wrong, because teaching positive nonviolent child discipline methods in my culture are a Herculean task to both uproot and replant. The internalized violence many of us are unconsciously passing on to future generations—as a disciplinary method or prophylactic approach—is doing as much harm to our children as the ongoing toll of racism and discrimination they confront.

But like Peterson, some Black parents still see physical discipline as their duty, and data supports it revealing that 89 percent of African-Americans use corporal punishment to discipline our children.

If you're looking for parental guidance from African-American ministers—young and old—on this issue, more of them than not are likely to recite the hackneyed phrase "spare the rod, spoil the child," and have you read the biblical injunction stated in Proverbs 13:24: "He who spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is careful to discipline him."

Let's not forget the 2012 child abuse incident with Atlanta megachurch minister Creflo Dollar. When his 15-year-old daughter called 911 because he choked and slapped her, Dollar was only detained in jail for a few hours. He had to be released because the local NAACP was outraged releasing the following statement:

"The parents are in a dilemma whether to forgo disciplining their children or to leave it up to law enforcement. Should we be apathetic, lax or indifferent and let the courts send our unruly children to jail or should we as parents do our duty and appropriately discipline our children?"

There's the racist belief that our children should be beaten as a disciplinary method—and our style easily feeds right into it. For example, the 2002 *Journal of Clinical Child Psychology* issue unabashedly reported that the authoritative style Black parents use on their children was more effective.

Black parents have an uphill battle disciplining our children. Our children confront a myriad of obstacles before them: a higher school drop-out rate, teen pregnancies, gang violence, juvenile detention, being racially profiled, and killed by police, to name a few.

Parenting is hard, and trying to figure out what is the appropriate punishment gains nothing with the force of violence. And just because it was done back in the day from slavery to our childhood, it doesn't mean it ought to be revered, but rather cease and desist immediately.

In 2010 First Lady Michelle Obama learned that lesson when she admitted to spanking her then 4-year old Malia—the same age as Peterson's son—but she came away changed.

"I did it one or two times and just found it to be completely ineffective because it was less about teaching a lesson and more about my own [feelings]. Malia was younger, probably 4."

The challenge to our community is break free from a shackle of our past, corporal punishment, to find a peaceful and more effective way to discipline our children.

## LETTERS

### Bad choice

Dear Editor:

I am responding to the coverage in the Sept. 17 *Windy City Times* article "LGBT group Hosts 9/11 tribute to Fr. Mychal Judge."

The coverage was troubling to me for a few reasons—and I found it ironic that it was juxtaposed to the Matt Simonette story, "Man fired from church job meets cardinal."

The fact this gathering took place in Old St. Patrick's Church—a Roman Catholic institution—only lends credibility to misunderstanding. The cardinal's actions in firing the music director at Holy Family Catholic Church was a major disappointment to me. However, had the music minister at Old St. Patrick's done the same thing, the pastor would've fired him in the name of church teaching. There should be no confusion on this issue. To allow confusion by silence is to enable innocent LGBT people to be harmed.

I have donated to effort to get Judge recognized, and feel betrayed that this solemn event took place in a church where Catholic LGBT couples are not welcomed and would be denied communion.

I was also troubled that Victor Salvo, founder and executive director of Legacy Project Chicago, was in attendance at this event, lending credibility to the blurred boundaries of acceptance that Old St. Patrick's is trying to

promote. There should be no doubt that this church supports the teaching that LGBT people are morally disordered and that discrimination, in its regard, is justified.

Certainly, there are other venues where this event could have taken place so that the whole community can be welcomed without selective homophobia being in the driver's seat.

We can and should do better.

Joe Murray  
Chicago

Victor Salvo responds: Although I can certainly relate to the frustration and sentiment expressed by Joe Murray—I am a recovering Catholic with the therapy bills to show for it—I think he missed the central point of showing the film tribute to Fr. Judge at Old St. Patrick's.

Rather than bemoan that the film was shown on church property, I pray "The Saint of 9/11" is shown in every Catholic church in the world!!! It should be lost on no one that half the people who attended that screening were not LGBT. And that was the point: to open eyes and hearts and minds, to support the terrified majority of Catholics who embrace LGBT people regardless of what the latest edicts are.

I applaud John Parro and his team at the LGBT Outreach of Old St. Patrick's Church for being committed to fostering dialog and creating opportunities for learning. Church-going Catholics are the only people who will be able to ulti-

mately impress the need for change.

It is vital that every opportunity for dialog be embraced and celebrated. For those of you who would not think of entering a church space to watch that film, I totally understand. But I strongly recommend you rent it. It is extremely moving and healing—exactly like Fr. Mychal.

[Editor's note: Old St. Patrick's declined to respond to Murray's letter.]

Send letters to  
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MediaGroup.com.  
Letters may be  
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# GOINGS-ON

WINDY CITY TIMES' ENTERTAINMENT SECTION



Photo by Michael Brosilow

## 'SON' SHINES

Windy City Times reviewer Scott C. Morgan is impressed with the theatrical production of *Native Son*. See page 15.

### THEATER

Up and 'Down.'  
Page 14

Photo from *The Downpour*  
by Brandon Dahlquist



### DISH

Tails of the city.  
Page 21

Press photo of shrimp at Herb



### MOVIES

'Face' time.  
Page 16

Photo of Oscar Isaac  
in *The Two Faces of January*  
courtesy of Magnolia Pictures



### SCOTTISH PLAY SCOTT

# A Broadway legend returns to town

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

Chita Rivera is truly a living theater legend. Her Broadway career spans 60 years starting in 1953 when she was hired as a dancer for Cole Porter's musical *Can-Can*, stretching to 2013 when she turned 80 starring as Princess Puffer during the Roundabout Theatre Company's revival of *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* at Studio 54.

But Rivera also has an amazing performance history in Chicago, largely via visiting Broadway touring companies starting in the 1950s with *Call Me Madam* with co-star Elaine Stritch at the Shubert Theatre. Rivera adds to her long Chicago-area legacy with her one-night-only show *Chita: A Legendary Celebration* at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 27, at Moraine Valley Community College in Palos Hills.

Windy City Times got to speak with Rivera in advance of her upcoming show. The interview started with an apology, since I wasn't sure if she minded when I called her "a living theater legend" when I said I was so honored to speak to her.

"The good word is 'living,'" said Rivera with a laugh. "That's the word. Call me a 'living' anything."

Rivera was the first Latino American to receive a Kennedy Center Honors award in 2002, and she was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2009. No doubt these honors stem from Rivera's cemented place in theater history by originating roles in a number of iconic musicals.

Rivera was the original Anita in *West Side Story* in 1957, the original Rose in *Bye Bye*

*Birdie* in 1960 and the original Velma Kelly in the musical *Chicago* in 1975. Rivera also won her two Tony Awards for Best Actress in a Musical for *The Rink* in 1984 and in 1993 for *Kiss of the Spider Woman: The Musical*—both works penned by the out songwriting team of John Kander and the late Fred Ebb.

Rivera recalled it was Kander and Ebb, along with choreographer Ron Field, who pressured her to put together her first nightclub act. It was something to keep them all busy when there were rehearsal delays to the musical *Chicago* when director/choreographer Bob Fosse suffered a heart attack (an event that became slightly fictionalized in Fosse's 1979 Academy Award-nominated film musical *All That Jazz*).

"[When Fred Ebb] put the stuff together, he said here you'll do 'America' from *West Side Story*," and I said, "Oh, no, no. I don't want to do anything that I've done before," Rivera said. "[But Ebb stressed] 'you have to give them what they expect.' And I have learned that's absolutely true."

Rivera said her show in Palos Hills will feature a jazz combo backing her on songs from shows she has done, plus lots of great backstage anecdotes about working and performing with esteemed collaborators and co-stars. Rivera wasn't specific about which ones, but they're bound to be good considering how Rivera has worked with the likes of Jerome Robbins, Bob Fosse, Gwen Verdon and Liza Minnelli.

"In your entire career, to have been fortunate enough to been in so many shows in which you originated—and in the golden age of Broadway there were hits all over the place—original American musicals that you were a part of it,



Chita Rivera. Photo by Laura Marie Duncan

anassian in Kander and Ebb's musical *The Visit*, inspired by Friedrich Durrenmatt's 1956 play. Longtime Chicago theatergoers will remember that Rivera starred in the regional world premiere of *The Visit* at the Goodman Theatre in 2001. It's a musical Rivera revisited this past summer at the Williamstown Theatre Festival in Massachusetts in a thoroughly reconceived production by Tony Award-winning director John Doyle.

"I always felt it needed a European approach because it's a European story. John Doyle just did a fabulous job and I'm mad about Roger Rees," Rivera said about the show's new director and her new co-star. "I don't like to talk about it, but things look quite good right now for it."

To end the interview, I hesitated to offer Rivera the customary theatrical wish of good luck by saying, "Break a leg." After all, Rivera's left leg required extensive surgery after it was broken in 12 places following a 1986 car accident involving a New York taxi. Rivera also had to briefly leave the national tour of *Kiss of the Spider Woman* at the Chicago Theatre when she suffered a mid-performance knee injury in 1995.

"That was in Chicago? Oh, you're right," Rivera said, excusing her memory lapse of the Chicago touring incident. "But you see, that's the kind of person I am. In order for me to survive, I have to laugh and I have to forget about the bad stuff."

**Chita Rivera stars in *Chita: A Legendary Celebration* at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 27, at Moraine Valley Community College, 9000 W. College Parkway, Palos Hills. Tickets are \$40 and \$35 for seniors and students; call 708-974-5500 or visit [www.morainevalley.edu/fpac](http://www.morainevalley.edu/fpac).**

**Chita Rivera is also scheduled to perform her cabaret show, *Chita's Back*, from Tuesday, Oct. 7, through Saturday, Oct. 11, at Birdland, 315 W. 44th St., New York. There is a \$40-\$50 cover charge and a \$10 food and drink minimum; call 212-581-3080.**

you've got to do it," Rivera said, joking that she's not about to do an evening of folk songs anytime soon.

In addition to her show highlighting her amazing Broadway career, Rivera is also awaiting the next potential chapter with her starring role as the vengeful wealthy widow Claire Zach-



Ross Lehman (left) and Larry Yando in *King Lear*. Photo by Liz Lauren

## THEATER REVIEW

### King Lear

**Playwright:** William Shakespeare  
**At:** Chicago Shakespeare Theatre at Navy Pier, 800 W. Grand Ave.  
**Tickets:** 312-595-5600;  
**www.chicagoshakes.com;** \$48-\$78  
**Runs through:** Nov. 9

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

Of all Shakespeare's plays, his ranting-in-the-rain scene in *King Lear* is unsurpassed for sheer Wagnerian spectacle, so nobody can blame Chicago Shakespeare Theater's for deciding to open their 2014 season with flourish and fanfare. The title role also constitutes an irresistible star turn for mature actors, so who can argue with the casting of Larry Yando—whose credits include both *Scrooge* and *Scar*—as western literature's most abusive Dad? Oh, and how about an innovative central aural metaphor drawn from Frank Sinatra's "Where Do You Go?" to symbolize our monarch's gradual slide into Alzheimer's-linked dementia?

This fable of fathers who come to regret surrendering their power to untrustworthy progeny is sturdy enough to support some heavy analogies—the entire Balkan Wars, recently—but not when forced to stagger under too many disparate similes. For example, we meet Lear as he scrolls through tracks from the Ol' Blue Eyes canon, childishly flinging the remote to the floor until he is soothed by the complacent lyrics of "World on a String." This, coupled with the Dior fashions worn by his daughters (whose names he sometimes forgets) hint at the 1950s, as *The Fool's* tweedy plus-fours do the English countryside. However, by the time Kent disguises himself in biker-leathers, Edgar dons 21st-century sweatgear and armies arrive uniformed in modern body armor and Uzis—did I mention the David Hockney male nude that Regan hangs in the palace?—we are as nebulously located as Lear himself.

The visual disconnection takes its toll on the dramatic integration as well. Yando delivers an operatic portrayal—roaring like a wounded bear, swapping foosly patter with blind Gloucester in a Beckettian wasteland (complete with lone tree), keening in inarticulate anguish over the lifeless Cordelia before making an aria of his final lament. So grandly, in fact, does the spotlight shine on his performance—and it's never anything but an actor performing, bravura notwithstanding—that only Ross Lehman's Fool and Kevin Gudahl's Kent can be said to truly *share* the stage with him, all other char-

acters seeming to occupy another dimension altogether.

Was this production originally conceived as an ensemble effort before it evolved into The Larry Yando Show?

Had director Barbara Gaines envisioned a quietly pensive interpretation—mirroring Sinatra's inspirational song—before the volume got turned up to eleven? Did rushed preparation dictate that subordinate personnel rehearse separately from the principals, or that special effects—falling walls, overhead sprinklers, urban-camo curtains—be recycled from past seasons? Whatever its flaws, there's no denying the heroic Yando's delivering 200 percent and more; however, he can't do it alone.

## CRITICS' PICKS

**Depraved New World**, The Second City, open run. With elements of long-form improv, Second City's 102nd mainstage revue features an extremely sharp cast (especially John Hartman), some high-risk musical improv, several gay-specific scenes and advanced use of music and sound. **JA**

**The Game's Afoot**, Drury Lane Theatre, Oakbrook Terrace, through Oct. 19. If you're a fan of mysteries and plush art decor, then you'll love this gorgeously realized production of Ken Ludwig's recent comedy in its Chicago-area debut. **SCM**

**Jane Eyre**, Lifeline Theatre, through Oct. 26. The balance of power is reversed in Christina Calvit's Steampunk adaptation of Charlotte Brontë's classic novel, with the intrepid governess coming to the rescue of her enslaved employer. **MSB**

**Miracles of the Fall**, Polarity Ensemble at Greenhouse Theatre, through Oct. 5. Chuck O'Conner's parable of a devout Catholic family thrown into turmoil by the upheaval of America in 1968 is recoutned with old-school craftsmanship reminiscent of Eugene O'Neill. **MSB**

—By Abarbanel, Barnidge and Morgan

## THEATER REVIEW

### The Healthcare Plays

**Plays:** *Let Me Down Easy* by Anna Deavere Smith; *Mercy Strain* by Michael Milligan  
**At:** American Theater Company, 1909 W. Byron St.  
**Tickets:** 773-409-4125;  
**www.atcweb.org;** \$43-\$48  
**Runs through:** Oct. 18

BY JONATHAN ABARBANEL

American Theater Company (ATC) collectively bills *Let Me Down Easy* and *Mercy Strain* as *The Healthcare Plays*. As important as health care is, and as much a hot-button political topic, the last thing I'd want to see is a pair of plays about health care. What? You've never been in the hospital or known someone dear who was? You've never hassled with an insurance company?

But don't worry. These two superbly staged and acted one-person plays have little to do with health care, and ATC shouldn't bill them as such. What they do concern is how we face death and dying, a point specifically made in the first scene of *Let Me Down Easy*, a title which references Bettye LaVette's mid-1960s soul hit. Both works are deeply humane and passionate but touch only briefly or indirectly on healthcare. It's not the main issue of either play, which are separate productions performed in repertory, not as a single event.

In *Let Me Down Easy*, author Anna Deavere Smith follows her usual documentary style of recording interviews with a number of real people, then editing the texts into a dra-

matic form to be performed by a single actor playing each person in succession, male and female, young and old. The actor is Usman Ally in an astonishing *tour de force* performance, shaped and guided by director Bonnie Metzgar. In the course of 105 minutes, he plays the famous—Lance Armstrong, late Texas Gov. Ann Richards, supermodel Lauren Hutton—and various less-celebrated healthcare workers, hospital patients and clergymen.

Smith uncovers their attitudes towards mortality, disease and ill-health (not necessarily because they are ill or dying themselves) and what emerges is a vibrant cross-section of concern, dedication, courage, care, anger, love, intelligence, humor and a little faith—in short, the very finest qualities that make us human. The beauty of the writing and of Ally's performance brought me near tears several times, as the play called up memories of those whose deaths are among my intimate experiences.

*Mercy Strain* is no less brilliantly acted—and ferociously acted—by its author, Michael Milligan (directed by Tom Oppenheim), but it's a whole other thing. Entirely fictional, it tells of a hard-working blue-collar guy caught in every possible horror of both the housing bubble and insurance/healthcare bureaucracy as his wife struggles with cancer. Subprime mortgage, cancelled insurance, infection from hospitalization—you name it and it happens. But his ultimate choice to help his wife end her life has nothing to do with all that; she could have been dying even if the system hadn't fucked them so mercilessly. Because of that, *Mercy Strain* often sounds like a political diatribe despite the care Milligan takes as author and actor in creating a very real character.

## THEATER REVIEW

### The Downpour

**Playwright:** Caitlin Parrish  
**At:** Route 66 Theatre Company at the Greenhouse, 2257 N. Lincoln Ave.  
**Tickets:** 773-404-7336;  
**www.greenhousetheater.org;** \$35  
**Runs through:** Oct. 12

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

In olden days, they were called "family insanities"—mental disorders seemingly handed down through generations like physical characteristics. Nowadays such fears are no longer as prevalent, but if *your* mother suffered postpartum psychosis so severe as to compel her to inflict harm upon herself and her progeny, wouldn't you think twice before deciding to have a child? And if you were the sister of the optimistic mommy-to-be, wouldn't you keep a watchful eye for signs of erratic behavior? And what about the husband who witnesses his beloved wife transformed into a monstrous hag governed by paranoid hallucinations?

What distinguishes Fred and Robin Kimball from the latter's destructive mom is that they don't have to face this problem alone. To be sure, Fred's best-buddy Miller lacks parenting skills—an impairment leading to his divorce and estrangement from his pre-teen daughter—and Robin's sister Hazel, author of young-adult novels, greets the news of her impending auntiehood with alarmed forebodings. Still, when Robin goes batcrackers, barely a week after the birth of the eagerly awaited son, the presence of outsiders experienced in dealing with households under stress—who know to hide the kitchen knives, for example—make for invaluable assistance.

This premise could be easily mined for hiding-in-the-shadows melodrama, but the abundance of light in the Kimballs' home, not to mention regular deliveries of fresh flowers from Fred's own garden, tips us off early that this is no cheap camp thriller. Instead, Caitlin Parrish explores her topic with the same procedural tone employed so skillfully in her breakthrough



*The Downpour*. Photo by Brandon Dahlquist

hit, *A Twist of Water*. Rather than wallowing in despair, Hazel and Robin's struggle to shine the aforementioned light on the darkness of their past nightmares—aided by the menfolk contributing what comfort or service they are able—is tracked slowly, step by step, from confrontation of their abusive childhood, to recognition of its enduring repercussions, and finally, to the courage necessary to recovery.

Erica Weiss directs a formidable ensemble unswerving in their matter-of-fact tone: as portrayed by Brenda Barrie, Robin's bouts of delusion arise out of lucid moments almost imperceptibly (as such seizures are inclined to do in real life), while Caroline Neff's Hazel, forced to take on the responsibilities of protector, never succumbs to gratuitous emoting. Peter Moore and Stef Tovar likewise find strength in patience and nurturance—traits not often associated with males, but essential to playing any useful part in domestic crises. The results forge a refreshingly intelligent reassessment of a centuries-old scourge, concluding in hope for victims of improvident lineage.



Native Son. Photo by Michael Brosilow

**THEATER REVIEW**

**Native Son**

**Playwright:** Nambi E. Kelley  
**After the novel by** Richard Wright  
**At:** American Blues Theater & Court Theatre, 5535 S. Ellis St.  
**Tickets:** 773-753-4472 or [www.courttheatre.org](http://www.courttheatre.org); \$45-\$65  
**Runs through Oct. 19**

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

On the surface, Nambi E. Kelley's world-premiere stage adaptation of Richard Wright's novel *Native Son* is a period piece set in 1939 Chicago. But as the play hurls toward its tragic end, it becomes uncomfortably apparent at how much of the drama's depiction of the racist and unequal society of back then is still with us today.

So Court Theatre and American Blues Theater deserve nothing but kudos for this powerful collaboration that brings Wright's best-selling novel to life in a new way (Wright himself worked with Paul Green in 1941 on a Broadway version of his novel).

Kelley's taut, 90-minute adaptation of *Native Son* is gripping from start to finish, plus it constantly makes you question the inequi-

ties faced by its many characters. Kelley also demands the audience's attention by her fractured storytelling structure, which keeps things in a constant state of flux as events from the past and present are pieced into place.

Kelley leads off with the accidental murder committed by the symbolically named Bigger Thomas (Jerod Haynes), the central character of a young, aspirational African-American man who has uncomfortably found himself in place of privilege as the chauffeur for the wealthy white Dalton family.

While the main thrust of the drama concerns Bigger's attempts to cover up the crime and his time on the run, *Native Son* also details the societal circumstances and surroundings that contributed to this tragic chain of events. Another interesting theatrical device is Kelley's idea of personifying the inner thoughts of Bigger via the unseen cool-cat character of "The Black Rat" (Eric Lynch).

Helping to keep all of Kelley's theatrical plates spinning with ease is director Seret Scott, who is assisted in focusing the action with pin-point precision by lighting designer Marc Stubblefield throughout the multi-level unit set designed by Regina Garcia.

Scott has also assembled a top-notch acting ensemble, who believably slip into their multitude of characters as comfortably as their fine

**SPOTLIGHT**



Chicago actress and trans\* woman Sandra Wagner makes her directorial debut with **Moon over Buffalo**, Ken Ludwig's 1995 Broadway comedy about two aging repertory actors battling against memory lapses and other stage mishaps in a vain attempt to impress a visiting Hollywood producer. The PAC Rats Theatre Company's *Moon over Buffalo* continues through Sunday, Sept. 28, at South Suburban College's Kindig Performing Arts Center, 15800 S. State St., South Holland. Performances are 8 p.m. Friday, Sept. 26, 2 and 8 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 27, and 2 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 28. Tickets are \$8, and \$6 seniors and students; call 708-210-5741 or visit <http://learn.ssc.edu/theatre>. Photo of the cast courtesy of Kindig Performing Arts Center

period costumes designed by Melissa Torchia. Whether its Shanésia Davis pouring out a widowed mother's shocked disbelief of being told her son is a murderer or Nora Fiffer drunkenly staggering across a room as a spoilt socialite, the entire ensemble is utterly convincing in their many roles.

But pride of place definitely goes to the commanding performance of Haynes as Bigger. Haynes embodies all the pent-up rage and

pained desperation of this marathon role that rests so heavily on his shoulders.

There's no doubt that many audience members will find Kelley's dramatically compelling adaptation of *Native Son* to be deeply unsettling. But that's as it should be in our own day and age where African-American lives are often afforded the equal respect and dignity they deserve.

**Mapplethorpe exhibition at IU Oct. 10-Nov. 22**

"Robert Mapplethorpe: Photographs from The Kinsey Institute Collection" will go on display Oct. 10 through Nov. 22 at Indiana University's Grunwald Gallery.

With the Grunwald Gallery and The Kinsey Institute jointly presenting, the exhibition marks the first time this group of photographs has been publicly shown.

On Oct. 10, photo critic Philip Gefter will deliver the lecture "Robert Mapplethorpe, Sam Wagstaff, and the Gay Sensibility." In addition, on Oct. 24, Andrew Moisey will present the gallery talk "Robert Mapplethorpe: Pleasure and Pain."

For further information, contact the Grunwald Gallery at 812-855-8490 or [grunwald@indiana.edu](mailto:grunwald@indiana.edu).

**Etta James tribute back at Black Ensemble Sept. 27**

Black Ensemble Theater Founder and CEO Jackie Taylor has announced the return of the Black Ensemble production *At Last: A Tribute to Etta James*.

"At Last" will be presented at the Black Ensemble Theater Cultural Center, 4450 N. Clark St., Sept. 27-Dec. 28.

Tickets are \$55-\$65 each; visit [www.blackensemble.org](http://www.blackensemble.org) or call 773-769-4451.

**Profiles presents 'Cryptogram'**

Profiles Theatre has announced the next show of its 26th season with the 20th-anniversary production of David Mamet's *The Cryptogram*.

The production runs Sept. 26-Nov. 16 at Profiles Theatre's The Alley Stage, 4147 N. Broadway.

Tickets are \$20-\$40; visit [www.ProfilesTheatre.org](http://www.ProfilesTheatre.org).

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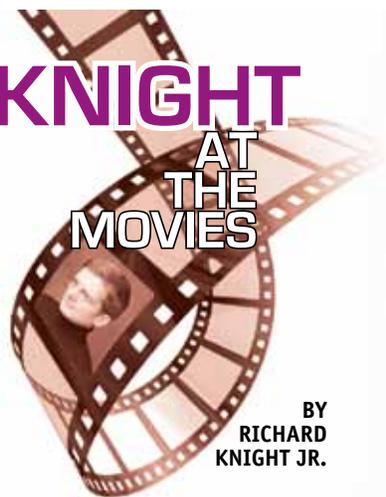
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photo by Jeff Sciorfino

# KNIGHT AT THE MOVIES



BY  
RICHARD  
KNIGHT JR.

## Two Faces; This Is Where...; Devil's Door; The Innocents

Movie-wise, we're in that pocket between summer blockbusters and meaty awards contenders—that time of year when most of the movies are “medium” rather than “good” or “bad.” And even with audiences finding new ways to watch movies, sidestepping the Cineplex altogether, the majority of what they're being offered—whether it be in theaters, On Demand, at a streaming site or on Blu-ray—in this time period still seems to fall into the also-ran category. Here are four cases in point—well, three sorta goods and one classic.

In person, the late bisexual mystery writer Patricia Highsmith was, by most accounts, a nasty person one should avoid at all costs but, on paper, to read Highsmith is to fall hard for her. The flinty, evocative prose welded to her sensual (and very sexual) subtext—lots and lots of it gay—are just one of the pleasures to be counted on in Highsmith's novels. It's little wonder that *Strangers On a Train* and the *Tom Ripley* novels (with *The Talented Mr. Ripley* being the most famous) are esteemed classics. One of her lesser-known thrillers, **The Two Faces of January**, has now been given a very fetching screen adaptation.

Helmed by Hossein Amini—the screenwriter of *Drive* and *The Wings of a Dove* who is making his directorial debut—the film focuses on a wealthy and dazzlingly beautiful couple: Chester MacFarland and his much-younger wife, Collette (Viggo Mortensen and Kirsten Dunst), who are vacationing in Greece in the summer of 1962. They are spotted by Rydel (Oscar Isaac), a handsome American expat who makes a living as a tour guide, glomming onto pretty young heiresses, hoping for a big score. Rydel figures the MacFarlands to be his latest pigeons but soon learns, at least as far as Chester's concerned, that he's in way over his head.

Greed outweighing his good judgment, Rydel helps Chester cover up a man he has accidentally killed over a money dispute—but how accidental? As the trio flees across the Greek islands and on to Istanbul, the tension ratchets up, along with the underlying sexual implications. Although the plot is a bit straightforward and could have used a couple more twists, *The Two Faces of January* is nonetheless stylish, cinematically lush and well-acted by its gorgeous three leads. This is a more-than-satisfying mystery thriller filled with plenty of the patented acrid Highsmith touches.

**This Is Where I Leave You**, which has been in theaters for a week, is an all-star dysfunctional family variation on August: Osage County and many other movies of this ilk. Jane Fonda is the sexed-up mother who insists her adult children and their significant others, returning home for their father's funeral, live under one roof for the seven days of shiva that follow.

During the week, naturally, secrets are uncovered, old wounds are brought to the surface and life lessons are learned. This being

a comedic spin, the movie, with Shawn Levy (*Night at the Museum 2*, *Cheaper By the Dozen 2*) directing with the blandness that has come to be his stock in trade, includes a “hilarious” pot-smoking scene, repeated sight gags centered on Fonda's enormous breasts, her grandkid's morning poop sessions and a last-minute gay twist that feels as contrived as the rest of Jonathan Tropper's script (based on his best-selling novel).

Jason Bateman and Tina Fey are the two siblings at the center of the movie with Adam Driver (from TV's *Girls*) as the younger and truly obnoxious, spoiled younger brother, with Corey Stoll, Kathryn Hahn, Rose Byrne, Timothy Olyphant, et al., in the lineup. The knockout cast does wonders with the predictable characters and situations but, in doing so, constantly make one yearn for worthy material. *This Is Where I Leave You* deserves to get left behind.

Budding horror-meister Nicholas McCarthy, who broke through with 2012's *The Pact*, now writes and directs **At the Devil's Door** (available On Demand, various streaming sites and playing at the Music Box Theatre, 3733 N. Southport Ave., on Friday, Sept. 26). A young real-estate agent named Leigh (Catalina Sandino Moreno) stops by her new listing and stumbles upon some rather odd things in the empty house. Suddenly, the daughter of the owners appears out of nowhere and just as quickly disappears when Leigh tries to get her story.

As we quickly learn, it's a much more sinister figure. Is it a teenage girl who committed suicide in 1987—or was it actually a satanic spirit possessing the girl that murdered her? Now that same malevolent spirit is after Leigh and her sister Vera (*Glee*'s Naya Rivera) and nothing, it seems, can stop it. Juxtaposing the young teen's story in 1987 with the current plight of the two sisters, McCarthy pours on a lot of the familiar psychological horror tropes and the film definitely has ... something creepy going for it. With all of these elements in place it would seem that we'd be in for a bloody good time; however, McCarthy's marvelously unnerving set pieces are in service to a headscratcher of a story that never coagulates.

McCarthy and all other students of the psychological horror film should immediately get their hands on the new Criterion Collection's edition of Jack Clayton's **The Innocents**, which is just out on Blu-ray. Clayton's 1961 adaptation of the Henry James novella *The Turn of the Screw* used the play based on it (by William Archibald) as his primary source, and gay icon Truman Capote wrote most of it. *The Innocents* is that rare ghost story that fires on all cylinders: It's tremendously acted, sensationally photographed in deep-focus black and white by Freddie Francis (in *CinemaScope*, no less), sumptuously produced and, best, genuinely frightening.

Deborah Kerr (in her greatest screen performance) plays the inexperienced governess who finds herself in charge of a young brother and sister, the niece and nephew of a fabulously wealthy man who has left them to their own devices on his enormous estate in the English countryside during the Victorian era. The governess soon suspects that the previous caretakers for her young charges—who seem rather adult in manner—are haunting the estate, trying to use the children for their own insidious purposes. Repressed and filled with moral indignation, the governess attempts to gain control of the situation and her young charges before it is too late. Not only does the Criterion's new Blu-ray edition look sensational but the fascinating psychological underpinnings in the script added by Capote and other little known details offered up by cultural historian Christopher Frayling in the supplements and audio commentary are reason enough for an upgrade. This edition of *The Innocents* is a great way to kick off the Halloween movie season.

#### Film notes:

—Samuel L. Jackson, Kim Cattrall, Billy Joel and Eve Ensler are among the mega-achiev-



Viggo Mortensen and Kirsten Dunst in *The Two Faces of January*. Photo from Magnolia Pictures

ers profiled in **The Boomer List**—the latest “list” documentary from filmmaker Timothy Greenfield-Sanders—which focuses on 19 baby boomers born between 1946 and 1964. Well-known queer baby boomers Rosie O'Donnell, Dave LaChapelle and AIDS activist Peter Staley (profiled in this issue of WCT) are also included. The film is playing on PBS throughout the month. The DVD version and a coffee-table book tie-in are both arriving Oct. 1. <http://www.pbs.org/wnet/americanmasters/episodes/the-boomer-list/about-the-film/3123/>

—The 32nd edition of **Reeling: The Chicago LGBT International Film Festival** has been going on since last week and continues tonight with two exceptional screenings the Queer Film

Society is sponsoring: **Lilting**, starring out actor Ben Wishaw, and **Drunktown's Finest**, a transgender drama Robert Redford is executive-producing—scheduled for tonight at 7 p.m. and 8:45 p.m., respectively. The fest closes tomorrow night, Thursday, Sept. 25, with the queer-themed **Blackbird**, starring Mo'Nique and Isaiah Washington. All screenings take place at the Landmark Century Centre Cinema, 2828 N. Clark St. [www.reelingfilmfestival.org](http://www.reelingfilmfestival.org)

**Now available:** *The Best of Knight at the Movies: 2004-2014*—a compilation book of more than 150 of my film reviews from a queer perspective for *Windy City Times*—is now available. [www.knightatthemovies.com](http://www.knightatthemovies.com)



RuPaul's Drag Race alum Carmen Carrera (right) was among the guests at Reeling32's opening night. Photo by Jerry Nunn

## Festival 'Reeling' in audiences 32 years later

For more than 30 years, Reeling has housed some of the best international LGBT films in history. This year is no different, as Reeling32 covers drama, horror, comedy and documentaries, among other genres. Centerpieces throughout the run of the festival highlight every letter in LGBT for inclusion of everyone.

Opening Sept. 18 at the Music Box Theatre, 3733 N. Southport Ave., the festival began with a comedy called *Boy Meets Girl*. The movie tells the story of Ricky, played by trans actress Michelle Hendley, who's on a search for love.

Prior to the screening there was a reception with drinks, hors d'oeuvres and a red carpet. The upcoming documentary *TransAmerica*, produced by Tyra Banks and starring activist Carmen Carrera, was being filmed at the screening that evening during this reception. An after-party followed at Ginger Man Tavern, with more festivities.

The upcoming closing night, on Sept. 25, will be held at Landmark's Century Centre Cinema, 2828 N. Clark St., with the film *Blackbird* starring Academy Award winner actress Mo'Nique and actor Isaiah Washington. The after-party flies into Progress Bar, 3359 N. Halsted St., following the screening.

There are more than 100 feature and short films this year at the festival crossing three different venues including the previous mentioned Music Box Theatre and Landmark Century Cinema as well as Chicago Filmmakers at 5243 N. Clark Street in the Andersonville neighborhood.

Several directors, stars and producers are expected to attend throughout the festival so check the website for updates this week. For a complete schedule and info, including special prices for select celebratory parties and showtimes for individual screenings, visit <http://reelingfilmfestival.org/>. To become a member of Reeling, email the online membership form to [reeling@chicagofilmmakers.org](mailto:reeling@chicagofilmmakers.org) or fax to 773-293-0575. There are also ways to donate and support this film festival on the website.

Photo and text by Jerry Nunn

## MOVIES

# AIDS activist Peter Staley on being a 'Baby Boomer' and HIV treatments

BY RICHARD KNIGHT JR.

Documentary filmmaker Timothy Greenfield-Sanders, renowned in the gay community for his 2013 film *The Out List* (which included Ellen Degeneres, Neil Patrick Harris, Larry Kramer and Wanda Sykes among its subjects) now focuses on the baby-boomer generation—the huge population born between the years 1946 and 1964—in *The Boomer List*.

As in *The Out List* (and previous “list” documentaries), Greenfield-Sanders focuses his camera on heavyweight figures as disparate as Deepak Chopra, Maria Shriver and Samuel L. Jackson to Eve Ensler, Billy Joel, Tommy Hilfiger, David LaChapelle and Rosie O'Donnell. These interview subjects (with each discussing his or her humble beginnings and rise to success) are joined by lesser-known subjects like Vietnam veteran and author Tim O'Brien; Chicagoan Julieanna Richardson, founder of *Historymakers*, which collects the oral histories of African-Americans; and the openly gay AIDS activist Peter Staley, one of the early members of ACT UP.

Staley, who travels worldwide from his home in Brooklyn lecturing on HIV/AIDS and the challenges it continues to present, was also seen in David France's Oscar-nominated documentary *How to Survive a Plague*, a history of ACT UP. He spoke with *Windy City Times* about *The Boomer List* just after returning from Washington, D.C., to meet with President Obama's new AIDS czar, Douglas Brooks. The film, which premiered on PBS Tuesday, Sept. 23, will be available Oct. 1 on DVD in conjunction with a coffee-table book of Greenfield-Sanders' portraits of the interview subjects including Staley.

**Windy City Times: I'm a baby boomer and a gay man, and I marched here in Chicago with ACT UP so I would be remiss if I didn't begin by thanking you for your years of community service on behalf of Our People.**

Peter Staley: Thank you. It was a movement and an amazing one to be a part of.

**WCT: You seem to be in great company, but I saw a post on your Facebook page where you said you were honored and thrilled to be wedged between Rosie O'Donnell and Erin Brockovich but that you were “not sure The Boomers generation as a whole has a lot to be proud of.”**

PS: I have problems with feeling some sort of underlying sense of pride for my generation as a whole—mostly because I think 50 to 100 years from now, and rightly so, everyone's going to lay at our feet the fact that we just let the planet go to pot by not rising to the challenge of global warming during the '90s, when we should have.

**WCT: But, as you also say, there's no doubt that what ACT UP did, there is a lot to be proud of.**

PS: Right. We're not a generation that is completely lacking in accomplishments, and certainly ACT UP is one of the greatest social-activist movements in American history, I think, and it was definitely a boomer generation movement.

**WCT: There have been many artistic, technical and cultural accomplishments we can be proud of, too. We followed the dictates of our parents or forebears who said, “You can accomplish anything.” We weren't exactly slackers, no?**

PS: No, no. We weren't slackers. And yeah, there's that fighting back that I most admire but I still think we're going to have some shit laid at our feet. [Laughs]

**WCT: Literally and figuratively, perhaps. [Laughs]**

PS: Yes—for the one thing that we didn't rise up and handle. The biggest of things in my mind.

**WCT: Of course, for the gay community there is also pride in seeing all the work bear these incredible cultural changes after going through that horrible, hopeless time and coming out on the other end. In some ways, it's like a social miracle here in America. Did you ever think back at those “kiss-ins” we'd be able to get married?**

PS: No, and that's one of the cool things about now. In the last couple of years, everybody is saying the cultural wars have finally been won; there's a clear winner now and the boomer generation was on the right side of that and certainly the generations after us clearly were on the right side. But we were there, too, and we wisely evolved [laughs] just at the right time and we got it right and that happened on our watch. And now those wars are winding down with a clear victor.

**WCT: So these next generations who have come along and are looking up to you and these other boomers included in the film—what advice do you offer when they ask you, “How did you do this?” “What advice do you have?”**

PS: The first thing I advise is “Don't think we know it all” because we don't. I remember distinctly the slightly older generation in ACT UP, mostly with great credibility, having been at Stonewall [laughing], saying, “This is how you should do it” and a lot of us youngsters were like, “Excuse me, we'll figure this out; there's no playbook here that we have to follow.”

And there's a bit of benefit to having that youthful lack of respect for what came before because there are things to learn and it is helpful to learn the lessons from the past but every time is different and every movement needs its own energy and ideas and those ideas usually come from those who are starting with a clear slate. I always advise people to trust their instincts and to create their own playbook; learn from the past as much as they want—they'll be stronger for it to know as much history as possible—but we don't have a magic formula. And that was the great thing about ACT UP: We borrowed from other social-activist movements liberally but we also created a new playbook that worked for that moment in time. And now people are borrowing from us.

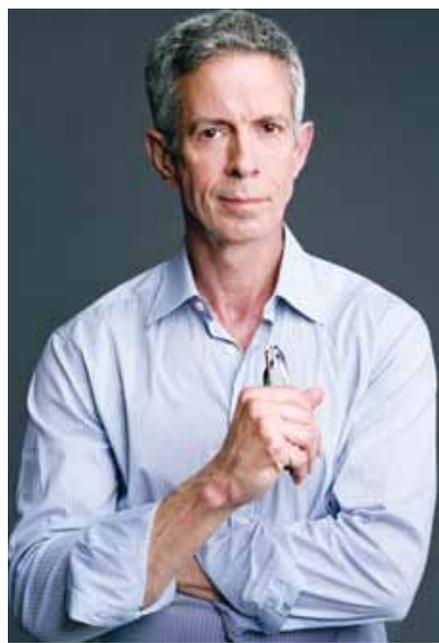
**WCT: Would many of the ACT UP tactics still work today?**

PS: Some of them, but you have to keep things fresh if you want the media's attention. I do think that the community aspect is still key. There's nothing like coming into a room together and brainstorming. I have yet to see that replicated online.

**WCT: I'm sure in some ways it was very gratifying to see the success of *How to Survive a Plague*—you're the literal poster child for that film—but also so bittersweet.**

PS: I mostly found it a very empowering and wonderful experience. You know, the years prior to that a lot of us ACT UP alumni were feeling gloomier and gloomier that our history was vanishing. You'd meet a twentysomething or even a thirtysomething [who] had never heard of ACT UP, and it was very disheartening. There was an idea that maybe we'd be completely forgotten and we had already gone through the very painful experience of having the gay community very quickly pivot away from HIV/AIDS after 1996—when the triple drug regimens came out—and move into things like gays in the military and gay marriage so quickly. [They were] almost running away from HIV/AIDS, and that was painful.

So that was all kind of frightening, frankly,



Peter Staley. Photo copyright Timothy Greenfield-Sanders

and while the film forced me and others to re-live those years, it alleviated that fear and it started a bit of a revival of people remembering that moment in history with other projects. Now we have Larry Kramer's work on HBO and we've seen an AIDS movie that got an Oscar with *Dallas Buyers Club*, so we're seeing quite a little moment here where we're not being forgotten; I think, for me and I know for many other ACT UP veterans, it's reinvigorated us and it's reinvigorated AIDS activism in the U.S. I can point to dozens and dozens of examples of how there's been a nice little uptick in activism

and optimism in being able to finish this fight against HIV/AIDS.

**WCT: How is that going to be accomplished, Peter?**

PS: The activists are now filled with a sense of optimism that we now have tools that when correctly applied can dramatically lower the rates of infection of HIV in the U.S. We've seen it done in some cities; we have a 45-percent drop in infections in Washington, D.C., and almost the same amount of drop in New York City. We have HIV pretty dramatically under control in San Francisco, [where it] is almost entirely among gay men, so we have these examples of using the current toolset to wind down the epidemic.

**WCT: How is that being done?**

PS: It's through testing and treatment. Now, we have this new prevention tool, PrEP, that we can add as an additional method to keep lowering the rates of infection and to empower HIV-negative, at-risk individuals by giving them an extra tool to prevent infection. So, it's an exciting time to be an AIDS activist and we're completely aligned with the public health officials, which [laughs] was not the case back in the '80s.

**WCT: To say the least.**

PS: That's right. But it's exciting to be on the same page now in cities across the country. Everyone is feeling optimistic that they can do the job just given the resources.

**WCT: That alone speaks volumes to how far we've come—and what the boomer generation accomplished.**

PS: Yes.

<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/americanmasters/episodes/the-boomer-list/about-the-film/3123/>

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Andy Bell (left) and Vince Clarke of Erasure. Photo by Joe Dilworth

## 'Flame' on!: Erasure's Andy Bell on the duo's new CD and Joan Rivers

BY LAWRENCE FERBER

Erasure's Andy Bell isn't one for trends.

On the afternoon of Apple's crazily anticipated iPhone 6 announcement in early September, with the Internet and social media abuzz with details and consumer frenzy to buy one (and some anti-Apple snark), he simply couldn't care less. "People are just mad," he muses. "It's like the ice bucket challenge, it's ridiculous."

Dance music, however, is never out of style with the 50-year-old frontman. His recent single with Dave Nave, "Aftermath," hit number one on Billboard's dance charts while Erasure's new album, *The Violet Flame* (Mute), percolates with contagious ditties driven by the pulsing electronic melodies of longtime bandmate Vince Clarke. The pair is currently supporting the album with an international tour.

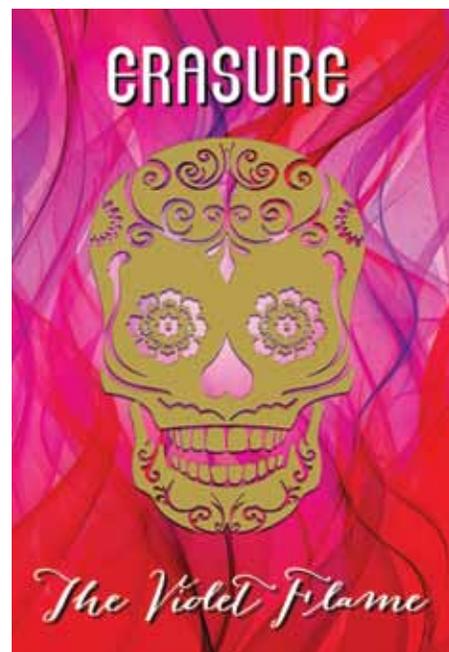
One standout is the opening track, "Dead of Night," an instantly catchy, clubby track that owes a debt to EDM pioneer Giorgio Moroder. "I was channeling Donna Summer for a while," Bell elaborated, "because I love Giorgio Moroder and love his early work. When Vince and I were talking about writing the album, I said I want to write with a synth instead of piano and guitar, because once I hear those guitar chords it puts me into a folk frame of mind. You start sounding all folksy. So having the synth as backdrop gave it a more dance impetus. I don't think you can do that too many times because it would wear out, but when I'm working with other people I love doing that, especially with DJs."

While Erasure's previous outing, 2013 holiday album *Snow Globe*, was a comparatively somber affair that served as a goodbye prayer for Bell's late partner/manager, Paul Hickey (whom died in 2012), *Violet Flame* "is the flipside, almost like having a new page and fresh start," he shared. Happily partnered today with Miami-based Stephen Moss, where the album was written and recorded, Bell admitted that, "I feel fulfilled. I feel so lucky and fortunate and we're really balanced. I don't find myself chasing my tail. I think that has to do with growing up as well, but when you've found your ideal partner you don't need to do that

anymore. Which isn't to say you're not going to write an unrequited love song, because that's just the way singers are I think."

In fact, there's plenty of drama—relationship and otherwise—going on in *The Violet Flame*'s songs. "Smoke and Mirrors," Bell said, entails "a true showbiz story which is about how wicked you can be to the person that's helping you the most," while "Reason" represents "a promise to be faithful."

Bell credited producer Richard X with helping him craft the lyrics for these songs, while modernizing and freshening up Clarke's signature electronic sound. "Richard's very disciplined,



and it was good to work in a less haphazard way than usual," Bell said. He helped with the words as well because my brain was fried. I had done the Dave Nave record, and also the 2014 iPop record with the two guys from Shelter, and I did all the vocals for Torsten. I was almost wringing my brain for words!"

The Torsten Bell refers to is a one-man musical, *Torsten The Bareback Saint* ([www.saint-torsten.com](http://www.saint-torsten.com)), which ran at Edinburgh Fringe

Festival last month. Portraying the titular character, a Century-old, possibly immortal polysexual, Bell sings his way through 22 songs (the album's available on iTunes) about lovers, dalliances, disappointments and queerness.

"It was quite heavy," he said. "One guy came from the theater in Manchester and said he hated it, so I'm not sure if it was too close to his own thing. Some of the songs don't reflect very well on the gay scene! One song is called 'This Gay Thing Isn't Working.' So I think it was probably a bit too close to the knuckles. But most of the people who saw it enjoyed it. It was very emotional and tearful to perform—it wasn't bells and whistles like Erasure."

Bell said he hopes to eventually bring the show stateside to San Francisco and NYC for engagements, and that a *Torsten* part two and three are in the works. "One of my ambitions was to be like a living soap opera, and I think *Torsten* is that," he added.

Yet what about the "bareback" part of the title, which is as provocative—and polarizing—a term as there is in modern-day gay culture?

Bell, who is HIV-positive and regularly supports, and appears at events for, AIDS-related organizations like the UK's Terrence Higgins Trust (he praises the late Joan Rivers for an occasion when he was slotted to appear at a London gay club, but when he got sick, she filled in and donated her fee to AIDS research), explains, "I don't think it's about barebacking as such, but it's about your own sexuality belonging to you and there should be no rules. As long as you're not hurting anybody or putting them in danger, unless it's a mutual consented situation. Sexuality should be infinite. Even saying 'gay' and 'straight' becomes a pigeon-hole."

**The Violet Flame (Mute) was released Sept. 23. See [www.erasureinfo.com](http://www.erasureinfo.com) for more details and a tour schedule.**

### Bjork film screening in U.S. starting Sept. 26

Björk: *Biophilia Live*—the documentary film capturing the concert centered on Björk's eighth studio album—has begun a limited series of premiere screenings at festivals, museums, libraries, galleries and cinemas worldwide. Furthermore, screenings in the United States begin at the IFC Center in New York Sept. 26, with further screenings in cities such as Los Angeles, Chicago, Seattle and many more throughout the fall.

The film documents the live show based on *Biophilia*, the multi-disciplinary, multimedia exploration of the intersection of music, nature and technology first released in 2011 as an album and suite of apps.

Directors Nick Fenton and Peter Strickland filmed Björk live in performance and augmented her music with animation created by top designers.

Locally, it will run Friday, Oct. 10, at the Gene Siskel Film Center, 164 N. State St. Visit [www.siskelfilmcenter.org](http://www.siskelfilmcenter.org).

### Singer Chely Wright starts Kickstarter campaign

Country singer and gay-rights activist Chely Wright announced that she is working on her first studio album since coming out, and has launched a Kickstarter campaign to fund the project.

Fans who want to support the project will find a variety of Kickstarter backer benefits, including a pre-show meet-and-greet with Wright; a Skype chat and their own personal house party featuring Wright performing for friends of their choosing; a double dinner date with Wright and her wife; or a bike ride with Wright through Central Park.

Chely Wright's first Top 40 country hit came in 1997 with "Shut Up and Drive" followed by her number-one single "Single White Female."

Visit <https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/chelywright/chely-wrights-new-studio-album>.

### SEGREST from page 10

process. I don't call it the democratic process anymore, in terms of voting, but it's the electoral process that is supposed to point to democracy, but it just doesn't anymore. I mean, we still have to use it, but it's really been rigged and we need to fix that."

"When Republicans vote in super majorities, as they are in many places, particularly now five southern states, then they can do whatever they want. North Carolina, where I lived for 30 years, is certainly a state in point," she said.

Adding, "North Carolina, for a southern state, had in the twentieth century a very progressive wing and a very progressive tradition for supporting infrastructure and education. In the 1980s, Jesse Helms came to represent the North Carolina electorate for so much of the country and the world; but 40 percent of the people in North Carolina loved the man and thought he could walk on water; 40 percent hated him, thought he was the anti-Christ; and then there was a swing vote, and it always came down to only 3 percent, sometimes 2 percent. So we could never get the 50 percent plus one to get the man out. He got in on a very narrow margin and he ruled in the most extreme way. And that's kind of a template for Republican politics now. When they get in office on however slender a margin they use power in very extreme ways that feel very familiar to me from having grown up living where I did."

Segrest further explained the current temperature in North Carolina.

"In North Carolina now they have a Repub-

lican Governor and a Republican Senate and House, so they have passed the most repressive legislation that right-wing think tanks have been breeding in the petri dishes of state and local campaigns. Whether it's reproductive rights and freedoms, or turning down Medicaid, or the Affordable Care Act for hundreds of thousands and across the south millions of poor people, to limiting voter participation, to gutting school budgets, to gutting any kind of budgets, it's the most extreme form of governing, and it pulls so deeply on white Southern roots, and yet it also has national implications and it's not just happening in the South," she said.

There are distinct means in which the United States can put the train back on the track, according to Segrest.

"Democracy has got to be taking back our institutions, building coalitions, being as smart as we can at all these different levels, and realizing that just because we have an election does not mean we have a democracy," she said. She pointed to the Moral Monday movement in North Carolina that has brought increasing numbers of people out to protest in response to extreme legislative actions. This North Carolina movement is broadly coalitional and collaborative. "Like organizing in other places, the movement in North Carolina shows that we don't give up our rights or our minds or our communities or our fellow human beings to the governing of the new ruling class. I mean, they just don't have the authority to act within the positions that they achieve in all of these nefarious means."



WEEKLY DINING GUIDE IN

WINDY CITY  
TIMES

## Herb

BY MEGHAN STREIT

If you're looking for the standard pad Thai-and-spring-roll routine, then stick to the Thai joint on the corner you rely on for takeout. But, if you're in the mood to expand your horizons with authentic and upscale Thai cuisine that is really more of a culinary adventure than a simple "meal," then you've got to check out Herb, a restaurant that opened in Edgewater over the summer.

The Broadway Avenue space is sleek and modern, so much so that it almost seems out of place in the casual neighborhood. I personally think it's nice to have some upscale dining options on the Far North Side, and perhaps Herb will usher in some more of them. The dining room is a study in soothing earth tones, accented by green potted plants on the tables in lieu of flowers. It's the perfect calm and sophisticated backdrop against which to serve

colorful Thai food—and there's a lot of that to come.

You can order a la carte, but you're better off choosing one of the prix fixe menus. You can select three courses for \$35, or seven for \$55—a far cry from what you may be used to paying for Thai food, but an excellent value considering the quality of the dishes. Order all of your courses at the beginning of your meal, which won't be difficult because the menu is a tidy selection of carefully curated options. With your ordering complete, you can sit back and be guided through your culinary experience. Should ever you have a question or an unmet need, the waitstaff will never be more than a few feet (inches, possibly) away. The servers are extremely knowledgeable, professional and attentive. However, their vibe is almost a bit intense, and while I appreciate that they take the job seriously, a bit of levity could go a long way. (It's only food, after all!)

My waiter highly recommended the blue shrimp appetizer but, not having the stomach for raw shrimp on that particular evening, I opted instead for the vegan spring roll. (Vegans, rejoice! There's an entire vegan tasting menu at Herb.) I don't necessarily regret the spring roll, but it was remarkably bland—so bland, I didn't bother to finish the roll, and couldn't even pawn the remaining bites off on



Images from Herb.

any of my dining companions, who were too busy enjoying the blue shrimp.

Fortunately, the spring roll was the lone flavorless item I tasted at Herb. Everything else was bursting with flavor and spice. In fact, a few of the dishes were too spicy for my tastes. But, if you like well-made spicy food, you will be in heaven. Herb is BYOB, so bring a beverage you like to guzzle. Even if you're into spicy food, you're going to want a cold drink to chase the intense flavors of your meal.

The winged bean is an interesting mix of

shrimp, tomatoes, fragrant green herbs and ever-so-slightly cooked baby scallops. The flavor profile is complex and intriguing, but you have to be able to tolerate some serious spice to enjoy this dish. More up my alley was the one-bite salad, a lovely scoop of shredded carrots, fresh ginger and chopped peanuts served atop a bright green leaf. You wrap up the leaf and pop the whole thing in your mouth. Even taken as one big bite, you can still detect the

Turn to page 20

# CALENDAR

Brought to you by the  
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WINDY CITY  
TIMES

nightspots

## Wed., Sept. 24

### Trans Youth Resources and Advocacy

**Youth Drop-In Center** Every Wednesday, safe, confidential place for transgender people between the ages of 14 to 24. Meet other youth who also identify as transgender, or are questioning their gender identity. Free food, snacks and refreshments, music, peer support, adult supervision, referrals and education. 5:00pm - 7:00pm Broadway Youth Center, 615 W Wellington Ave., <http://www.genderadvocates.org/Tyra/TYRADropIn.html>

### Black Gay Guys Rock Monologues AIDS

Foundation of Chicago presents in commemoration of National Gay Men's HIV/AIDS Awareness Day. Spoken word, comedian and singer ButtaFlySoul will excerpt his one man show titled "ButtaFlySoul for President." Marquese Rhyne will deal with the intersection of oppressions for a little black boy from down south Discussion to follow. RSVP online. Limited seating. 6:00pm - 8:30pm Baton Show Lounge 436 N Clark St Chicago Tickets: [www.stepupgettested.com](http://www.stepupgettested.com)

### Angela Pneuman, author Lay it on My Heart

The story of one unforgettable month in a Kentucky girl's thirteenth year: her prophet father has been committed to a psychiatric institution, and her mother has moved the family down to a trailer. Charmaine tries to pray as her father taught, but it seems like even God has changed. 7:30pm Women & Children First Bookstore 5233 N Clark St., Chicago <http://www.womenandchildrenfirst.com>

## Thursday, Sept. 25

### Rep. Greg Harris . 13th District 2014

**Fundraiser** Celebrate passage of marriage equality, Medicaid expansion and hospital rate reform, new protective services for persons with disabilities, nursing home reform, expansion of services for homeless youth, immigrant and refugee services, expansion of substance abuse treatment, youth programs and victories yet to come. Tickets: \$100 per person, payable to Citizens for Gregory Harris, c/o Joyce Dugan, 929 W. Foster Ave. #809, Chicago IL, 60640 or pay on-line. Donation amounts:

\$1,000, \$500, 250 5:30pm - 7:30pm

Sidetrack 3349 N Halsted St Chicago <http://gregharris.org/wp/contribute>

### Reeling Film Fest Closing Night screening

**Blackbird** Randy (newcomer Julian Walker) is a good-natured boy with a gorgeous voice and a whole host of problems to deal with: the disappearance of his baby sister, the separation of his parents (played by Academy Award-winner Mo'Nique and Isaiah Washington), disturbing visions, a crisis of faith, and most distractingly, unwanted feelings for his handsome friend Todd, in this striking coming-of-age drama from the director of PUNKS and NOAH'S ARC. 7:00pm Landmark Century Centre Cinema 2828 N Clark Chicago [http://reelingfilmfestival.org/?page\\_id=1139](http://reelingfilmfestival.org/?page_id=1139)

### ROOF Runway

Featuring the latest trends from shops at Water Tower Place on Michigan Avenue, ROOF Runway celebrates high fashion in a vibrant evening filled with sounds by DJ DOLLO and ROOF's unmatched energy and setting. No cover charge. Reserve online, or by phone. Doors open at 2pm. 7:00pm ROOF on theWit, 201 N State St. 27th Floor, Chicago 312-239-9502 <http://www.roofonthewit.com>

### Crystal Bowersox

Singer/songwriter, former "American Idol" star, out as bisexual. Limited VIP meet and greet, \$45. Premier \$35. Reserved \$25. Doors open at 6pm. 8:00pm City Winery Chicago 1200 W Randolph St Chicago <http://www.citywinery.com>

### World tour of the "David Bowie Is" exhibition

More than 300 objects, including handwritten lyrics, original costumes, photography, set designs, album artwork, and rare performance material from the past five decades are brought together from the David Bowie Archive. Through January 2015. More information to come. 9:00pm Museum of Contemporary Art (MCA) 220 East Chicago Ave Chicago <http://www.mcachicago.org>

## Friday, Sept. 26

### College of DuPage Pride Alliance Speaker

**Series** Brother Michael C. Oboza, Founder of Bisexual Queer Alliance on his retirement from bisexual leadership. 12:00pm

- 1:00pm BIC 3245, 425 Fawell Blvd., College of DuPage, Glen Ellyn <http://www.facebook.com/CODPrideAlliance>

### Writing the Disability Experience: Local authors read from new work

Riva Lehrer sharing excerpts from her memoir-in-progress "Golem Girl Gets Lucky." Sarah Michael Hollenbeck reading from her essay "A Goldmine." 6:00pm - 8:00pm Access Living, 115 W. Chicago Ave, Chicago 312-640-2100

### Window Shopping: Youth Fashion Show

Ballin on a Budget youth shopping. Food, contests, prizes, music. Hosted by Jaleel Kameron Carter, paster Alli and DJ Anderson. Free. 6:45pm Broadway Youth Center 615 W Wellington Ave Chicago 773-935-0642

### An Intimate Evening with Coco Peru

The Chicago Cabaret Project, along with Amy Armstrong and Freddy Allen, present the final installment of The Divine Decadence Cabaret Series at Circuit Night Club. The evening will begin with the Dynamic Duo of Amy and Freddy in a tribute to Annie Lennox followed by the much-anticipated Coco Peru. 7:00pm - 11:00pm Circuit Nightclub 3641 N Halsted St Chicago

### David Bowie Variety Hour

MCA Stage presents an eclectic combination of Chicago performers, dancers, and musicians uniting in celebration of the pioneering rock icon. The line-up of performers includes queer art band BAATHHAUS, BOOM CRACK! Dance Company, Chicago Tap Theatre, burlesque dancers the Fly Honeys, tribute queen Kasey Foster, "dancejokers" LADY/WATCH, and Meredith Miller's cabaret band Lovers' Quarrel. \$20 7:30pm Edlis Neeson Theater, 220 East Chicago Ave., Chicago <http://mcachicago.org>

## Saturday, Sept. 27

### Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance,

**Chicago-area GLBT Chapter** Specifically founded to meet the needs of the Chicago-area GLBT community with mood disorders or other significant psychological conditions, as well as their friends, partners, and family members. Free. No RSVP needed. 11:00am - 12:30pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted Chicago <http://www.dbsa-glbtc-chicago.com/>

### Fitness training

Chicago Gay Hockey Association off-ice workout training classes every Saturday each week. Free to members. \$5 for non-members 1:00pm Urban Athlete, 4437 N. Ravenswood Ave., Chicago <http://chicagogayhockey.org/calendar/>

### SHes on the Tees, 1st Annual Tee100

**Golf Outing** Three Options: Golf w/cart & Pizza and Non-Alcoholic Beverages- \$40;



## THE RIGHTS STUFF

Saturday, Sept. 27

Chicago PD actress Sophia Bush will deliver the keynote speech at the Human Rights Campaign Chicago gala.

PR photo

Golf w/o cart & Pizza and Non-Alcoholic Beverages-\$35; Pizza and Non-Alcoholic Beverages-\$15 (for those who don't golf but want to join in the fun later). Please respond to sheonehundred@gmail.com by Sept. 10. After party: Seven Ten Lanes, 1055 E 55th St. 3:00pm South Shore Golf Course, 7059 South Shore Drive, Chicago

### The HRC Chicago Gala Dinner

Sophia Bush will be the 2014 Chicago Gala speaker. Law firm Baker & McKenzie will be honored with the Corporate Equality Award. 5 pm VIP reception. 6 pm Reception and silent auction. 6:45 pm dinner and awards. \$225 general admission and \$350 VIP admission. Proceeds directly support HRC's work. 7:00pm Fairmont Chicago 200 N Columbus Dr Chicago <https://www.hrc-chicago.org> Tickets: <https://www.boxofficetickets.com/bot/wa/event?id=268315>

### Chita Rivera

Broadway legend Chita Rivera unique solo concert event celebrating her 80th birthday. \$40 for the general public and \$35 for seniors and students. 7:30pm Moraine Valley Community College's Dorothy Menker Theater, 9000 W. College Pkwy., Palos Hills 708-974-5500 <http://morainevalley.edu/fpac>

## Sunday, Sept. 28

**Gone with the Wind** Celebrating the 75th anniversary of its release will be shown in its original 1:37 aspect ratio. 2:00pm AMC River East 21 Theater 322 E Illinois Ave Chicago Tickets: <http://www.fathom-events.com/event/gone-with-the-wind-75th-anniversary/buy>

### OPALGA Monthly Meeting

Come and learn about Northwestern University's IMPACT LGBT programs. 3:00pm First United Church of Oak Park 848 Lake St. Oak Park, IL 60301 <http://opalga.org>

## Monday, Sept. 29

### Bi movie night

Every other Monday, a movie that deals with bisexuality in some way. Past movies have included Cabaret, Interview With a Vampire, Kinsey, and Beautiful Creatures. Soft drinks. 7:00pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted Chicago <http://www.centeronhalsted.org>

## Tuesday, Sept. 30

### David Bowie Is

The first retrospective of the extraordinary career of David Bowie—one of the most pioneering and influential performers of our time. More than 400 objects from the David Bowie Archive. \$25. Through Jan. 4, 2015 12:00pm Museum of Contemporary Art (MCA) 220 East Chicago Ave Chicago 312-397-4068 Tickets: <http://www2.mcachicago.org/exhibition/david-bowie-is>

## Wed., Oct. 1

### Elaine Soloway

author Green Nails and Other Acts of Rebellion: Life After Loss launch party 7:00pm Women & Children First Bookstore 5233 N Clark St Chicago <http://www.womenandchildrenfirst.com>

### La Roux

Androgynous English synthpop singer will perform with Midnight Magic. \$28 7:00pm Concord Music Hall 2047 N. Milwaukee Chicago Tickets: <http://www.clubtix.com/concordmusic/hall/la-roux-at-concord-music-hall-tickets-305785?p=14511>

### Paloma Faith

Multiplatinum UK superstar on tour celebrating the release of her upcoming new album, A Perfect Contradiction. \$17.50 7:30pm Park West Chicago 322 W Armitage Ave Chicago <http://palomafaith.com> Tickets: <http://jamusa.com/park-west/>

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## COMMERCIAL SPACE AVAILABLE

**2,000-3,000 SQ FT IN EDGEWATER ON BUSY BRYN MAWR,** walking distance to L, Outer Drive express bus, beach, park. Ideal for retail/office. High visibility, heavy vehicular and pedestrian traffic in densely populated neighborhood with community feel. Family owned building. (773) 443-4945 (10/8/14-4)

Dessert is the listed as "chef's whim" and, after such a lovely meal, you'll be quite content to submit to her whims. When I visited, dessert was a surprisingly complex and rich-tasting tapioca pudding, a sweet and creamy ending to a spicy meal.

Every morsel at Herb is presented like a work of art—carefully arranged slices of meat, expertly chopped vegetables, beautiful edible flowers. The duck is served with a blood red-beet root meticulously carved into a rose. (It's stunning!) You can tell that everything from the amount of spice to the particular dish each course is served in has been thought about (agonized over, perhaps) in advance. It's an ambitious and eager kind of place that feels like it is the manifestation of someone's lifelong dream—and, because of that, I am betting that it will have a long and successful run in Edgewater.

**Herb is located at 5424 N. Broadway; call 773-944-9050.**

**Do you need some more Sugar & Spice in your life? Follow me on Twitter @SugarAndSpiceMS for inside scoop and commentary on Chicago's dining scene.**

## DISH from page 19

coconut and chile notes within. I also enjoyed the pork dumplings. The juicy meat is stuffed inside a pleasantly gummy tapioca dumpling.

There is one cool and creamy dish among all of the hot and spicy offerings—the mushroom soup. Lots of tender oyster mushrooms swim in the coconut-y broth, which is thinner than a typical cream soup, and far more flavorful. If only my bowl were a bit warmer, this soup would have been the highlight of my meal.

If you embark on the seven-course journey, you'll be starting to feel full before your entrée arrives (even though portions are appropriately on the smaller side), but persevere. The expertly seasoned steak is a standout. I ordered mine medium and it was perfectly tender. The thin slices of meat come with a (by now predictably) spicy banana pepper dressing. I wised up and ordered mine on the side, which allowed me to add just the tiniest drop to each bite, and I'm glad I did because the stuff is delicious.

## Celebrate LGBT History Month

at Bookends & Beginnings in Evanston  
Thursday, Oct. 16, 6-7:30 p.m.



## John D'Emilio

**In a New Century: Essays on Queer History, Politics, and Community Life**

For LGBT people in the U.S., the 21st century has brought dramatic changes. In this wide-ranging collection of essays, pioneering historian John D'Emilio reflects on these developments and offers provocative questions and analysis. What can we learn from a lifelong activist like Bayard Rustin, who questioned the wisdom of identity politics? Was Richard Nixon a "gay liberationist"? What's wrong with marriage? How can knowing local stories help build stronger communities and enrich our activism?

## Mary Morten

**Miss Gay Black America: The Terri Livingston Story**

A young Black boy in the 1970s, Ronnie Reed stood out from the men on the South Side of Chicago and suffered prejudices and harassment until he was old enough to move away and pursue his interests in hairstyling and entertainment. Before long, he became drag performer Terri Livingston and began touring the country and the world with his act, winning the title of Miss Black America. Mary Morten, Reed's sister, directs a new documentary which speaks to ideas of masculinity and femininity, the past and present of female impersonation in Chicago and around the country and its transformation since the 1980s. Morten, an award-winning documentary filmmaker, will discuss her work on this film, expected out in 2015.

## Tracy Baim and Owen Keehnen

**Vernita Gray: From Woodstock to the White House and co-authors of multiple Chicago LGBT history books**

Tracy Baim and Owen Keehnen have co-authored several books on LGBT Chicago history, including biographies of Vernita Gray (who lived part of her life in Evanston), Chuck Renslow and Jim Flint. Baim, who is publisher of Windy City Times newspaper, also edited Out & Proud in Chicago: An Overview of the City's Gay Community, which also includes essays by Keehnen. They have also both written additional fiction and non-fiction titles. Baim and Keehnen will discuss the impact of Vernita Gray and other LGBT activists in the region.

**BOOKENDS & BEGINNINGS**

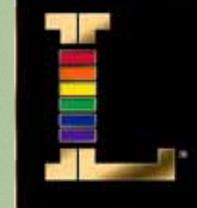
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# BILLY MASTERS

"And I really like her, I swear to God. I really like her."—Rosie O'Donnell comments on her new View co-host, Republican strategist Nicolle Wallace. Let's see how long this lasts. We'll start an office pool at BillyMasters.com.

Since I'm on the tail end of my travels, I now feel comfortable revealing that this column is coming to you from Istanbul, Turkey. Thus far, I haven't been spat upon, abducted, or robbed of a limb. In fact, it's been quite lovely. But, I must say that traveling abroad has a lot in common with breaking up with a boyfriend—the more I'm away, the more I appreciate what I had. However, I must remember to not take a walk down memory lane and look up old beaux once I get home. They're "former" paramours for a reason.

The big television event last week was Barbra Streisand's return to late night. It's been more than 50 years since Babs had deigned to appear on The Tonight Show. (Her last visit was in March 1963.) Why she's stayed away is a mystery, but here's a fun fact: Carson begged her to be on his penultimate show, the slot Bette Midler ultimately filled. Maybe Babs finally returned because she knew Jimmy Fallon would gush. Or maybe she just really wanted to sell CDs. Or maybe it was because it was arranged in advance that she'd be filmed from her good side (as if). Yes, the whole business of Jimmy letting her sit in his chair fulfilled an edict from Babs—she had to sit on his left. So the choices were for her to take his chair or for the set to be flipped around (which is what Rosie O'Donnell did). Fallon was happy to oblige, and even made it look kinda spontaneous.

During her media blitz, Streisand shared some details about the proposed big screen remake of Gypsy. Yes, she does have the rights to the show and is still working on the script. ("Downton Abbey" scribe Julian Fellowes was initially asked to write the new version, but he has been jettisoned in favor of Streisand's previous collaborator, Richard LaGravenese.) Regarding if she will star or direct or both, she said, "Stephen Sondheim would prefer that I just concentrate on [starring in] Gypsy. But if it ever gets made, I see it, I see every frame of it. And I kind of write my notes, and I think it's possibly gonna happen." If she hires another director, it would behoove that person to read about William Wyle's experience "directing" Streisand in Funny Girl.

During her first week on the job, Julianne Hough wasted no time in creating a scandal on Dancing with the Stars. The new girl at the judges' table was chatting with Dancing alum Mario Lopez on Extra. It all went well until she started talking about contestant Jonathan Bennett. "He tweeted me last year and said, like, I had a nice butt," she said. "But he also tagged my trainer. And so I was like, 'Oh, he's hitting on me. I should try to go on a date with him.'" Mario asked how that turned out. Without batting an eye, Julianne says, "He's gay. So I was, like, 'That's not gonna work.'" This struck me as amusing for two reasons. First, this may be news to Mario, but my faithful fans have known Bennett was gay since I reported his relationship with the now openly gay Matt Dallas way back in 2009. Secondly, since when has someone being gay stopped Hough from dating that person?

Last week, Nick Jonas was all over New York promoting his new single ("Jealous") and a new television series (DirecTV's Kingdom). Because he's as smart as he is pretty, his first stop was the gay nightclub BPM. He told MTV News, "It's been a fun couple days partying with some of my gay fans. I love them to death and their support of me, so why not go out and hang?" And hang he did—including posing with underwear-clad strippers. He even showed off his own abs—anything to sell a CD!

When asked about his gay fans, he said, "I'm thrilled by that. I've always had a pretty strong



Barbra Streisand is putting on a media blitz.

gay fan base, having been a theater kid. That's a community that I love and have embraced, and they've embraced me. I love them. They're so supportive." They'll be even more supportive when they see his show. Jonas told Andy Cohen that Kingdom will contain lots of nudity, sex scenes and perhaps more. Andy asked if this meant that Nick's mixed martial arts fighter character was "bi-curious." With a mischievous grin, Jonas answered, "We'll see."

Nick then paid a visit to Ryan Seacrest's radio program, which was being broadcast in NYC to coincide with promoting the new clothing line, Ryan Seacrest Distinction. Jonas was given one of the collection's new shirts and, being a clever cad, Ryan asked Nick to try it on. Nick promptly doffed his top—yeah, like that wasn't the point all along. Seacrest later posted, "It took some convincing, but he finally gave in (and we're glad he did!)" I bet!

While Jonas was being buoyed in the Big Apple, Bieber was booed. Justin was in NYC for Fashion Week and made an appearance on Fashion Rocks. After being brought onstage by model Lara Stone, Bieber clumsily stammered out, "I actually don't feel comfortable unless I'm, uh, in my Calvins. So, uh, what's up? Is that cool?" He then adroitly took off his pants, unbunched his hip briefs and took off his tank—to a chorus of BOOS! Why? He certainly looked great. But was it all too ... I don't know ... desperate. Contrived. Ridiculous. Join the chorus over at BillyMasters.com.

Lastly, a few of you have written in asking if the latest purported photo of a bare Bieber is real or not. Fake, fake, fake. I'll post the fake and the real version on our website so you can see for yourself.

When Nick Jonas is trading in his promise ring for a cock ring (anything for his gay fans), it's definitely time to end yet another column. By the time you read this, I'll be winding down my travels and winging back to the good ole USA. But, no matter where in the world Billy Masters is, he's only a mouse click away at www.BillyMasters.com. We didn't have room for an "Ask Billy" question, but I'm always available to answer your queries. Send them along to Billy@BillyMasters.com and I promise to get back to you before Julianne Hough outs anyone else from her past. So, until next time, remember, one man's filth is another man's bible.

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# Billie Jean King takes fair shot at equality at luncheon

BY GRETCHEN RACHEL BLICKENSERFER

The life of legendary tennis champion and hall of famer Billie Jean King is one that has triumphed over each of the challenge rounds she has faced both personally and throughout a professional career that garnered her 20 Wimbledon titles and 39 Grand Slam singles. Her ardent work towards equality for women and in the LGBTQ community garnered her recognition from advocacy organizations across the country. In 2009, she was awarded the Medal of Freedom from President Obama.

King once famously said, "No one changes the world who isn't obsessed." As the keynote speaker for the 29th annual luncheon held by the Chicago Foundation for Women (CFW) at the Hyatt Regency Sept. 18, she was lending a hand (and lobbing a few tennis balls) to an organization that has been obsessed with advancing equality for all women and girls via \$18 million dollars worth of grants distributed throughout a nearly three decade legacy of empowerment.

In keeping with King's preternatural ability to break records, according to CFW President/CEO K. Sujata, the luncheon-fundraiser was the highest grossing in the organization's history. Before King joined WBEZ sports contributor Cheryl Raye-Stout for a candid discussion on how to ensure a fair shot for women both on and off the sports field, Illinois Gov. Pat Quinn and Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel—each fighting for game, set and match in his re-election campaign—stepped up to the podium to voice their support for women's equality.

"More than half of our minimum-wage workers are women," Quinn said. "It's very important that we in Illinois work together to raise the minimum wage and pass it by the end of this year in the General Assembly." He also stressed that keeping women safe from the debilitating horrors wrought by domestic violence should be a goal shared by both the state and the country as a whole. "I've had a chance to visit some who are on the front lines making sure we protect all women from any kind of violence," he said. "We've been reminded in recent days how important that issue is."

Dramatically making Quinn's argument, Rosalva Nava—a domestic-violence survivor and parent peer trainer at Community Organization and Family Issues (COFI)—told her story. "Nineteen years ago, I locked myself in a bathroom with a loaded gun," she recalled. "I was ready to take my life. It was hopeless." Nava had reached that point because her husband had subjected her to heinous physical and mental abuse that included, on one occasion,



Billie Jean King at the CFW luncheon. Photo by Gretchen Rachel Blickensderfer

pushing her out of a moving car. "My spirit was broken and I was ready to pull the trigger," Nava said, adding that it was her young daughter's knock on the bathroom door that stayed her hand and ultimately sent her on a journey that would free her from a life of wretched degradation.

After boasting that he now offered his employees four months of paid medical leave, Emanuel announced that Chicago is about to build its first new domestic-violence shelter in a decade, noting that police respond to 25,000 domestic-violence calls per year. "The first person that a mother or a girlfriend meets is a police officer," he said while assuring the audience of new training initiatives now in place via a partnership between the CPD and Cook County State's Attorney Anita Alvarez. "We're making sure that we have policies—from income to education to social services—to support a family in making the right choices," Emanuel stated.

The emotional atmosphere of the luncheon returned with Raye-Stout's more impassioned introduction to the keynote speaker. She called King her hero, mentor and role model. "I know that every other person in this room has benefited from Billie Jean King's vision, determination, principles and courage," Raye-Stout said.

King walked on stage to a long standing ovation.

Looking back on the genesis of her career, King remembered her days as an 11-year-old young girl on the public tennis courts of Long

Beach, California. "I had access and opportunity," King said. "Because the city of Long Beach had a great parks and recreation program, I was able to have instruction at the public parks."

There, she was introduced to a tennis coach named Clyde Walker. "At the end of that day, I knew I had found what I was going to do with my life," she recalled. "I wanted to be the number one tennis player in the world and I had only played twice."

One year later, King had an epiphany. She said, "I closed my eyes and I started thinking everybody in tennis wears white shoes, white socks, white clothes. Everybody was always in white and I asked myself, 'Where's everybody else?'"

Using tennis as a platform, King wanted to change not only her sport, but the world beyond it. "Sports is just a microcosm of the world and of society," she said and referred to the recent spate of domestic-violence incidents involving National Football League players. "It just shows you what's going on in life and magnifies it because there's so much attention given to it which is good because now we have a dialogue and people are focused and want to make a difference."

Even at the age of 12, King knew that the only way she was going to make a difference herself was to become number one in her field. "I already knew, as a girl, that I was more of an outsider when it came to the boys," she said. "I was in sports and around men all the time and I thought 'this is going to be tough.'"

Seventeen years later, King played Bobby Riggs in a match televised around the world and called "The Battle of the Sexes." Notwithstanding the barrage of misogynistic taunts that Riggs lobbed towards King before the

match even began, King told Raye-Stout that the reason it received so much exposure was simply because she was playing against a guy.

"Ninety-five percent of the media is controlled by men," King said. "It's sad to think the reason we got that attention is because it was about them. If it had been two women against each other it would have got nothing."

In terms of the lack of attention paid to women's sports, King sees a clear parallel to today. "It reflects where women are in society: 18 percent in the House of Representatives, 20 percent in the Senate. That's pathetic," she declared. "Then, if you go into people of color, we are so far behind."

In order to change those statistics, King urged the audience to empower themselves. "Each one of us is an influencer and I don't think you realize it. I just don't think people know the power they have. When you hear Rosalva Nava's story, you realize the courage it took to find her voice. That's what this is about. It's one-by-one-by one."

King encouraged people, not only to find their own voice, but to think globally about changing the conversation from hatred to love. "The LGBT community in Russia has had a setback," she said. "I met a boy there. He's scared; he's getting beaten up every day, people are trying to rape him. It's terrible."

She also wanted to see an end to a woman's constant feeling that she needs to apologize for herself. "We have to stand up and have our voice," she said. "We're fine and great just the way we are."

**For more information about the work of the Chicago Foundation for Women, visit <http://www.cfw.org>.**

## Proud to Run opens applications for beneficiaries

Proud to Run (PTR) welcomes applications for beneficiaries of the 2015 Proud to Run 5K and 10K run/walk.

Over its 33 years, PTR has donated more than \$350,000 to nonprofits around Chicago that serve the LGBTQ community. In 2014, it donated \$30,000, in total, to our three beneficiaries: The Night Ministry, TPAN and About Face Theatre.

**For a form, and to submit applications, contact [info@proudtorun.org](mailto:info@proudtorun.org) no later than Monday, Oct. 17, 2014.**

A part of Chicago's LGBT Pride Week activities since 1982, PTR is an annual 10K run & 5K run/walk focused on celebrating pride in a healthy way and raising funds to support the greater Chicago area LGBTQI&A community. In 2013 they had a record turnout of more than 1,600 registrants. Overall, more than 2,200 people participated in last year's event by running, walking, volunteering and sponsoring.

The 10K and 5K races take place along Chicago's lakefront. PTR is a Chicago Area Runners Association and USA Track and Field certified event.

The 34th Annual PTR event will take place Saturday, June 27, 2015.

For those unfamiliar with Proud to Run, visit [www.proudtorun.org](http://www.proudtorun.org).

## Bucs host LGBT tailgate event

The Tampa Bay Buccaneers recently hosted an LGBT tailgate event in conjunction with Barefoot Wines and the You Can Play project, Outsports noted.

It's thought to be the first LGBT tailgate event organized in part by an NFL team. Wade Davis, former NFL player and current executive director for the You Can Play Project, said, "I would say, honestly, this is a revolutionary day, because most people don't think that sports and LGBT mix and I think that the Bucs are reframing that and debunking a lot of myths around sports and LGBT individuals."

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Ray is a legal authority on all of his practice areas, which include probate, trusts, guardianship, estate planning, and elder law, including the litigation of those areas. He is a longtime advocate for and member of the LGBT community, and is involved in several charitable groups, community associations, and professional organizations. Ray is a member of Clark Hill PLC, a full-service law firm consisting of a diverse team of attorneys and professionals committed to our clients and our communities.

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