



'TANGERINE' DREAM

Unique trans buddy film to open at Music Box.
Photo courtesy of Magnolia Pictures

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UGANDAN ACTIVIST

Trans Ugandan activist Pepe-Julian Onziema visits Chicago.
Photo by Melissa Wasserman

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18-20



From the LGBT 50th picket reenactment, marking 50 years since the first homosexual pickets at Independence Hall in Philadelphia.
Photo by Tracy Baim

PHILADELPHIA FREEDOM

Philly's 1965 protests remembered

BY TRACY BAIM

Several major events, including an historic reenactment, marked the 50th anniversary of the first Reminder Days in Philadelphia July 4th weekend. The Reminder Days were held annually 1965-1969, and were among the most critical precursors to the 1969 Stonewall rebellion sparking the modern LGBT-rights movement.

The centerpiece of the National LGBT 50th Anniversary Celebration was July 4, in front of Independence Hall, where 40 people recreated that first Reminder Day in 1965. Most wore traditional male and female clothing, to honor the original protesters' call for conservative outfits in their fight for homosexual equality. The signage was also a recreation of the professional-looking slogans used 50 years ago.

Near the end of the program, a few younger protesters wore more radical outfits and carried signs asking for transgender equality and a wide range of other LGBT rights issues.

Lesbian comic Wanda Sykes was MC for the July 4 event, which featured more than a dozen speakers and special guests. U.S. Supreme Court marriage victors Edie Windsor and Jim Obergefell were at many weekend events, including the reenactment, where Obergefell addressed the crowd.

Obergefell also attended the kickoff for the weekend, a July 2 wreath-laying at the Gay Pioneers Historical Marker honoring those early pioneers. Attending that event were three of the 1960s marchers: Ada Bello, Paul Kuntzler and John James. Each of those pioneers, along with pioneer Randy Wicker, also attended various weekend panels and events. The Gay Pioneers historic marker is across the street from Independence Hall and Liberty Bell Center.

Among the diversity of speakers at the July 4 Independence

Hall event were Amanda Simpson, President Obama's highest-ranking transgender appointee; Kate Kendell, head of the National Center for Lesbian Rights; Tamika Butler, co-chair of the NCLR board; Sergeant Eric Alva, the first soldier injured in the Iraq war; John Holmes III, a descendant of President George Washington; singers Jonathan Allen and GoGo Morrow; Walter Naegle, the widower of Bayard Rustin; Selisse Berry, head of Out & Equal; Brad Sears, head of the Williams Institute; Jorge Valencia, head of the point Foundation; and Episcopal Bishop Gene Robinson.

Judy and Dennis Shepard, parents of slain gay activist Matthew Shepard, were also at the reenactment, and Judy received a special honor earlier that day, along with Windsor, from Equality Forum, which organized most of the weekend's events. Malcolm Lazin, Equality Forum executive director and chair, National LGBT 50th Anniversary Celebration, spoke at each of his group's events, emphasizing the role Philadelphia played in the national homosexual rights movement.

There were multiple panel discussions during the weekend. On July 2, the National Legal Panel was held at the National Museum of American Jewish History. Panelists scheduled were: Douglas Hallward-Driemeier, Obergefell attorney in the U.S. Supreme Court marriage equality decision; James Esseks, director, ACLU LGBT Project; Brad Sears, executive director, Williams Institute; Jennifer Goldstein, associate general counsel, U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC); and Kenji Yoshino, Chief Justice Earl Warren Professor of Constitutional Law, NYU School of Law.

That panel was followed by the National Politics Panel at historic Congress Hall, with Kirk Fordham, executive director, Gill Action Fund; Kate Kendell; Stacey Long Simmons, director

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AMIGAS LATINAS

Organization holds final event.
Photo of Evette Cardona and Alma Izquierdo by Carrie Maxwell

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A TIP FROM A
**FORMER
SMOKER**

**HIV alone
didn't cause the
clogged artery
in my neck.
Smoking with
HIV did.**

Brian, age 45, California

*Brian had his HIV under control
with medication. But smoking with
HIV caused him to have serious
health problems, including a
stroke, a blood clot in his lungs
and surgery on an artery in his
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KATE EXPECTATIONS

The B-52's Kate Pierson (left) talks about everything from RuPaul (who was in the group's "Love Shack" video) to her new solo project.

Photo by Monica Coleman

CHAIRMEN OF THE 'BARD'



Windy City Times reviews the theatrical production Bard Fiction

Photo by Michael Brosilow

ON THE MARK

Writer Mark Merlis talks about his gay-themed book JD: A Novel.

SHERMAN RANK

Lisa Sherman is leading Ad Council into the future.

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Study: Bisexuals have worst health

In Texas, sociology professors at Rice University have found that bisexual individuals face higher health disparities than their gay, lesbian and straight counterparts.

The study says that several of these health issues stem from socioeconomic vulnerability in the bisexual community.

Lead author Bridget Gorman told The Advocate, "A big thing was emotional support." In addition, bisexual respondents also reported a higher propensity for smoking and using alcohol than straight or gay counterparts.

The original article is at <http://www.advocate.com/bisexuality/2015/07/07/study-bisexuals-have-worse-health-gay-lesbian-or-straight-people#.VZwNoivtIxY.twitter>.

gltbq.com shutting down Aug. 1

The site gltbq.com—the world's largest encyclopedia of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and queer culture—will close on Aug. 1 due to a lack of advertising revenue.

Founder/Publisher Andrew "Wik" Wikholm said in a statement, "While I am sorry to see something I and more than 350 other people have worked on so hard close, that closure comes at a time of unprecedented gains we all hoped for, especially the Supreme Court decisions that make it possible for American same-sex couples to marry in every state in the union."

"The encyclopedia was started to educate people about LGBT contributions to history and culture. When the encyclopedia launched in 2003, textbooks, teachers, and professors often minimized or concealed the sexual ori-

entations and gender identities of important lesbian, gay and trans contributors to our culture. Many belittled Queer Theory as a fringe movement."

Wikholm added that "[m]ost of the credit belongs to the hundreds of contributors who spent many hours doing research and writing gltbq.com's entries. Granted the size of our honoraria, they worked for love, not money."

"The project is also indebted to ONE, Inc. for its financial support during the last year, and to Chris Freeman and Jim Berg who spearheaded their effort."

ONE, Inc., will archive gltbq.com's material.

Same-sex couples to get federal benefits

Attorney General Loretta Lynch has confirmed that same-sex couples—on the heels of the U.S. Supreme Court ruling legalizing marriage equality nationwide—will receive federal benefits.

In a statement, she said, "I am proud to announce that the critical programs for veterans and elderly and disabled Americans, which previously could not give effect to the marriages of couples living in states that did not recognize those marriages, will now provide federal recognition for all marriages nationwide."

Human Rights Campaign Government Affairs Director David Stacy said in a separate release, "From Texas to Michigan and Montana to Florida, married same-sex couples across this country will finally have full access to federal benefits that had previously been denied them. We applaud Attorney General Lynch for her leadership in working to ensure these critical programs—from Social Security to veterans benefits—are finally extended to all legally married couples."

Transforming Gender

BY REBECCA JURO



The Train Station

It's about 9:30 p.m. on a Tuesday. I'm at Penn Station in New York waiting for a train home to New Jersey after an evening in Manhattan with a friend.

An older woman and her husband are sitting about 30 feet from me. I'm reading a book on my iPad and not really paying close attention until I hear the woman say to her husband, probably not quite as quietly as she'd intended, "See Marty? Look at how she holds her hands. It's like a man."

I peek over out of the corner of my eye, but the woman is oblivious to me as she reports her observations to her husband. I return my gaze to my iPad and listen more closely.

"You can always tell with the hands, Marty. That's the giveaway. The hands."

The woman does have a point. I have big mitts like my father did, and I generally don't have my nails done because I do so much typing they tend to chip and get in the way.

There's a zone many trans women of a certain age live in, especially those of us who have lived our lives still in possession of fully or semi-functional testosterone factories between our legs, and particularly those of us who begin estrogen later in life. It's the zone where we'll often pass through life unnoticed for the most part but a

who began life with an F on their birth certificates, and that's as much as a lot of us have ever really wanted.

It's largely because of the social and cultural stigma associated with transitioning from male to female that trans women are scrutinized and vilified much more than trans men generally are. There's an unspoken cultural agreement that being a man, masculinity and manhood, are goals one achieves, signs of strength and competence. Conversely, femininity and womanhood are traits which are all too often culturally understood as lesser, indicators of weakness and subservience.

Thus, those designated female at birth who behave and present like men are popularly considered ambitious and strong-willed while those designated male but present and live as women are commonly considered to be failed men who are unable to cope with the demands of being "a real man" and are thus reduced to the "lower" status of women.

In the end, it all goes back to the elderly woman in the train station. Had I been designated female at birth and wearing a men's suit and tie, chances are she wouldn't have noticed or cared. Masculine affectations in someone perceived as female aren't generally

considered a problem, and often are even seen as cute and sexy. However, when a visibly trans woman says, does, or exhibits something that strays even a little bit from what's considered the cultural norm for cis women, she's frequently defined as an imposter and by extension, a potential threat to those around her.

"For the most part, we're just average, everyday women with unusual life histories. We're not men who became or live as women because we were never really men in the first place."

truly keen observer may detect us as trans. It's the zone where even though someone might suspect that we weren't designated female at birth, they're not quite certain enough to risk a public comment that could be extraordinarily embarrassing if proven wrong.

That's where I live, and it's where a lot of middle-aged trans women live. It's the grayish life space where you're less likely to hear "That's a man!" and more likely to hear "Was that ... ?"

To be honest, it's not such a bad place to live most of the time. It usually doesn't involve being misgendered, and in some cases, recognition that a woman may be trans may even encourage increased courtesy in some circles. Most of the time it means trans women like me can expect to be treated the same way in our daily lives as those

Just as some heterosexuals see gay and lesbian relationships as a threat to their own identities, so too do trans women have to confront not only men who see us as a threat to their own concept of manhood and masculinity but also women who see us as pretenders and interlopers in their territory.

There's a lesson to be learned here, and as always, we're going to have to teach it to the rest of the world:

For the most part, we're just average, everyday women with unusual life histories. We're not men who became or live as women because we were never really men in the first place.

If trans women can successfully make those two points to the world at large, we win.

Rebecca Juro is a nationally published freelance journalist and radio talk show host. Her work has appeared in the Huffington Post, Advocate.com, the Washington Blade, Gay City News, and The Advocate magazine, among others.

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Legacy Project events feature Ugandan activist

BY MELISSA WASSERMAN

Among the 30 bronze memorial markers featured on the rainbow pylons in Lakeview, Ugandan LGBT activist David Kato's plaque was paid special attention July 11 and 12. A part of its fifth-anniversary season celebration, The Legacy Project welcomed Ugandan LGBT activist Pepe-Julian Onziema to remember his friend and talk about the state of affairs for LGBT people in Uganda.

The two-part weekend celebration started with a welcoming meet-and-greet reception and fundraiser at the Sidetrack rooftop on July 11 and continued the next day with "Facing the Future," a program in remembrance of Kato at Center on Halsted. The program included the video "Last Week A Man Was...," a word from Onziema, who served as the keynote speaker; and a panel discussion that was followed by a Q&A session. All proceeds benefited the Legacy Project Education Initiative.

Affinity Community Services Executive Director and Legacy Project board member Kim Hunt; Director of Operations for Planting Peace, Co-Creator and resident of Equality House Davis Hammet; Andy Thayer, of the Gay Liberation Network; John Ademola, of Chicago LGBT Asylum Support Program (CLASP); and Jenny Ansay, of the Northern Illinois Justice for Our Neighbors sat on the panel with Onziema. WCPT Radio Host Wayne Besen provided opening remarks and was panel moderator, while Legacy Project Executive Director Victor Salvo made the closing remarks.

"[There were] a lot of diverse and different voices from different perspectives of the problem because there's not one simple way or one sentence that can describe the problem," said Hammet, who knew Onziema prior to the event. "This is incredibly complex. It will take many, many years [and] it will take many, many generations for us to conquer such a nasty hatred that's poisoned our society. The panel was exciting, but what's more exciting is to see everyday citizens come in and get engaged who will hopefully carry on this struggle into their own communities and spread the word."

"I'm happy about the other panelists because the things that I couldn't articulate the way the American audience would understand, they did, which I'm really happy about," Onziema said. "All the perspectives were things that I think about, things that I care about, so for them to be able to share and articulate those things was really important for me."

Currently residing in Washington, D.C., while he is participates in a fellowship under the National Endowment for Democracy, Onziema serves as the program director of advocacy for Sexual Minorities Uganda (SMUG) and has received numerous honors over the years.

July 9-13 was not only Onziema's first time visiting Chicago. It was also his first time seeing the Kato plaque, which he helped edit and was dedicated in the fall of 2014. Onziema's first look at the bronze dedication was featured in the program's video, which centered around Kato's life and death. The whole piece prompted an emotional response from Onziema, which he expressed during his speech. In a statement to Windy City Times, he recognized his response came from "that void—missing someone that you got very close to that was part of your day-to-day planning."

"Having this street that has all these rainbows and people walking down the street like there's no care in the world ... like I love it here," Onziema said of seeing Halsted Street for the first time and the prominent rainbow flags. "If I was going directly to Uganda from here, Uganda would be in trouble because I'm so inspired and so rejuvenated. ... so I have this energy—the spirit I've received here just a couple of days. [If] I went back, I would be



Pepe-Julian Onziema at Center on Halsted. Photo by Tracy Baim

sharing the energy with my colleagues in office and would have renewed spirits."

"We [The Legacy Project] have no agenda personally, beyond simply connecting history to contemporary relevance and giving people a reason to embrace history," said Salvo. "But the truth of the matter is, we're living in the fall-out from the decisions that were made a generation ago. Everything we do today affects what our children will be doing in the future. This issue is much bigger than the United States and I personally believe LGBT people are the fulcrum upon which, in many ways, world history is going to tip because we are part of every family born anywhere in the world."

Onziema, during his keynote speech, also reflected on Kato and discussed the humanitarian crisis in Uganda. He also shared his own experience of coming out and identifying as transgender in the African country. Coming out at the age of 12 and beginning his activism at a young age, he explained he had the support an protection from his family the whole time, which was helpful in his activism. At the event, he said Uganda needs to stay on the radar.

"There are many people who are not knowledgeable and people who are actually ignorant of what's happening in Uganda, so it was important for me to shed a bit of light on that and the fact that my colleague, my comrade is hanging on your streets, you needed to know a bit of background about that," said Onziema, who is optimistic of change happening in Uganda during his lifetime. "That when you pass the plaque, you don't dismiss him and that you do not dismiss Uganda and I think it's just the beginning of information sharing with the community in Chicago. It's a beginning for support for the movement in Uganda or in Africa. I think it has been important for people to get information directly from someone who does grassroots work."

"It was a really exciting event and it was important to solidify David Kato's memory because this is someone who could've easily been forgotten in history, but someone whose contribution ended with his actual life and people who make that ultimate sacrifice should always be remembered," said Hammet. "It was great to see the community support this event."

For more information, visit LegacyProjectChicago.org.

For video footage of the Center on Halsted discussion, view <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=En2XE-xFTp4>, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=woap-KlynVo>, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1KA3rF2WzBk> and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b1mvRCWzB3w>.

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A panoramic view of the LGBT history display at the Liberty Bell.
Photo by Tracy Baim

PHILADELPHIA from cover

of public policy and government affairs, LGBTQ Task Force; and moderator Kevin Naff of the Washington Blade.

On the morning of July 3, a Ceremonial American Flag was placed at the Tomb of Unknown Revolutionary Soldier, at Washington Square. Speakers at the solemn affair were Alva, Holmes, Obergefell and Lazin.

Also July 3, the William Way LGBT Community Center and the Dr. Magnus Hirschfeld Fund hosted an LGBT History Panel Discussion at the National Constitution Center. Pioneers Wicker, Bello, James and Kunstler were on the panel, along with Philadelphia Gay News Publisher Mark Segal, Freedom to Marry President Evan Wolfson, and historians David Carter and Lillian Faderman. Chris Bartlett, executive director of the William Way Center, moderated the discussion.

As with other events, the recent marriage victory in the Supreme Court provided a wonderful bookend to discussions of the fight 50 years ago to today.

Later on July 3, historic Christ Church was the site of a National Interfaith Service with a sermon by Bishop Robinson, the same week that the Episcopal Church approved same-sex marriages in their churches. Robinson, the first ordained openly gay Episcopal Bishop, was joined by Tynan Power, a transgender Muslim

faith leader; Rabbi Linda Holtzman, Reconstructionist Rabbinical College; Rabbi Margot Stein, Reconstructionist Rabbinical College; Reverend Timothy Safford, Christ Church; Reverend Jeffrey Jordan, Pastor, Metropolitan Community Church; Reverend Susan Richardson, Christ Church; and "Ave Maria" was sung by Jonathan Allen, a semi-finalist on TV's America's Got Talent.

Robinson also addressed the thousands gathered at Independence Hall the next day for the reenactment.

The evening of July 3, WHYY studios screened the documentary Gay Pioneers. Because I just wrote a recent book about Barbara Gittings, I was honored to moderate a post-film discussion with historians Michael G. Long and Marc Stein, joined by Lazin.

Gittings and Frank Kameny, who have both passed away, were acknowledged at numerous points during the weekend for their leadership roles in the 1960s protests, and many other LGBT causes. After a screening of the documentary Gay Pioneers, the standing-room-only audience at WHYY was eager to discuss the contributions of Gittings and other pioneers, and the role Philadelphia played in the national movement.

Saturday was the big day, with a kick-off luncheon at the Independence Visitor Center—which also had a small LGBT exhibit on the first

Turn to page 7

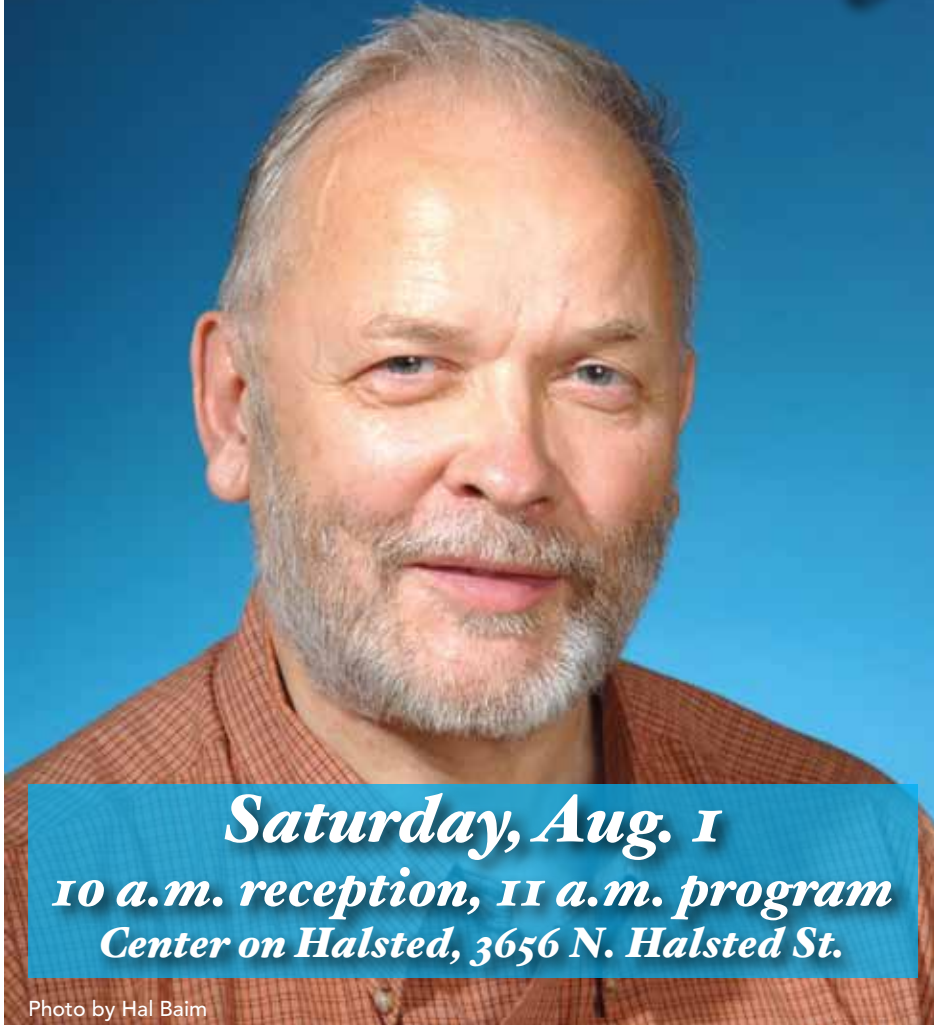


Upper left: Judy Shepard accepting an award from Equality Forum for her work on anti-LGBT hate crimes. Lower left: Edie Windsor and Jim Obergefell, plaintiffs in the two historic marriage equality cases before the U.S. Supreme Court. Below: Amanda Simpson, President Obama's highest-ranking transgender appointee, at the July 4 Reminder Days event.

Photos by Tracy Baim



Memorial for William B. Kelley



Saturday, Aug. 1
10 a.m. reception, 11 a.m. program
Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted St.

Photo by Hal Baim

Bishop Gene Robinson gives a sermon at Christ Church, as part of an interfaith service in Philadelphia. Looking on are Reverend Jeffrey Jordan, Pastor, Metropolitan Community Church and Tynan Power, a transgender Muslim faith leader.



As Tamika Butler, co-chair of the NCLR board, and Brad Sears, head of the Williams Institute, spoke, youth protesters addressed current concerns of the LGBT movement, including transgender equality.

PHILADELPHIA from page 6

floor of the location. Given that this was such a busy tourist weekend, tens of thousands of people saw LGBT images throughout their visit to Philadelphia at several tourist attractions.

At the luncheon, Windsor and Judy Shepard gave compelling speeches about their paths to working on LGBT issues. Windsor spoke of her 2013 U.S. Supreme Court case that helped strike down a key portion of the Defense of Marriage Act, laying the groundwork for the victory in the Obergefell case this past June. It was amazing to see Windsor speaking as Obergefell himself was standing just a few feet away. Then Shepard spoke eloquently of her work against hate crimes and the tragic loss of her son Matthew.

After the reenactment, Obergefell was presented with the Frank Kameny Award by Equality Forum.

The most elaborate exhibit marking the 50th anniversary was at the National Constitution Center, mounted by the William Way LGBT Community Center. It features the dress worn by Gittings at some of her 1960s protests. The Speaking OUT for Equality exhibit exhibit, up through Jan. 3, 2016, has many other artifacts and photos from the era. Chicagoan William B. Kelley, who died May 17 of this year, had planned to be at the celebrations; his photo and short biography are among the items at the Constitution Center, because he was among the 1965 marchers at Independence Hall.

The Liberty Bell Center in Independence National Historical Park also had a nice visual display from the protests, accompanied by text explaining the fight for LGBT equality—just steps away from the actual Liberty Bell.

The African American Museum featured the photographs and stories of Gerald Gaskins in "Legendary: Inside the House Ball Scene."

The National Museum of American Jewish History had a small exhibit on Philadelphia's early gay movement, including Kameny, Clark



Main: From the LGBT 50th picket reenactment, marking 50 years since the first pickets at Independence Hall in Philadelphia.
Inset: Wanda Sykes speaks at the National LGBT 50th Anniversary Celebration in Philadelphia.
Photos by Tracy Baim



Polak and the Janus Society, and Martha Shelley.

And the Free Library of Philadelphia, Central Library, had an exhibit on Gittings.

The weekend ended with a day-long party in the city's "Gayborhood."

For more information visit lgbt50th.org.
The online version of this article has links to numerous videos, and hundreds of photos, from the events.

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Amigas Latinas bids farewell

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

Amigas Latinas' founders, board members, members and allies gathered to bid the organization a fond farewell at its final event, "*Siempre Latina Celebrando 20 Años*," at Michelle's Ballroom July 10.

The organization announced earlier this year that it would be folding after 20 years of support, education and advocacy for Chicago-area LGBTQ Latinas.

Speakers included Evette Cardona (Amigas Latinas' co-founder and first board president),

Foundation for Women leadership and members for attending the event and supporting Amigas Latinas over the years.

"In this moment, I want to honor these women for all of their hard work over the past 20 years," said Hunt. "You've truly been sisters in the struggle and we will always hold a place in our hearts for you."

Mary Torres and Lydia Vega (two of Amigas Latinas' co-founders) also reflected on what Amigas Latinas has meant to them over the years and their thoughts on the organization's folding.



From left: Sofia Sarabia, Zaida Sanabia (Amiguitas Youth Group founder) and Alicia Vega (Sarabia and Vega mentored Sanabia).

Photos by Carrie Maxwell

Alma Izquierdo (Amigas Latinas' final board president) and Kim Hunt (Affinity Community Services' executive director).

"We've made the decision to pass this on to the next generation so our challenge to them is to continue this work," said Cardona. "There's still a lot to be done but look at what we've accomplished and how far we've come as a community over the past 20 years. No matter what happens in the days to come we should celebrate who we are with pride and acceptance without boundaries or limitations fearlessly and unapologetically representing who we are as a community."

"Even though Amigas is ending it doesn't mean that our voices won't be heard because no matter where we are in the future Amigas Latinas will be in the room," said Izquierdo.

Izquierdo recognized Amigas Latinas' founding board members and leadership over the years as well as those who organized this event for their time and talent. She also encouraged everyone to stay involved in the community and recognized Affinity, ALMA (Association for Latinos/as Motivating Action) and the Chicago

"I'm sad and happy at the same time because we did good work in so many areas over the past 20 years but it's time for the next generation to create something for themselves," said Torres. "Evette, Mona and Lydia have become my sisters and I will always cherish that because Amigas made that possible."

"My journey with Amigas centers around family," said Vega. "My nieces and nephews grew up around Amigas and the most beautiful part of that is they know that people are different and shouldn't be discriminated against because of who they love. The family commitment we made 20 years ago to not only Amigas but to our own family helped along the way and because of that Amigas was the biggest part of my nieces and nephews lives as they were growing up. As for my fellow founding board members, we started as friends and became a family. Amigas' journey goes beyond the parties or the pláticas and, as Amigas folds, it's also important to remember our commitment to the community and how we came together."

The event featured a buffet dinner and desserts provided by Yo Soy Underground Supper



Above, from left: ALMA President Julio Rodriguez, Alma Izquierdo (Amigas Latinas final board president) and Kim Hunt (Affinity executive director). Below: Two of Amigas Latinas' co-founders Lydia Vega and Mary Torres.

Photos by Carrie Maxwell

and music by Amigas Latinas' longtime record spinner, DJ Wanda.

Raffle prizes included posters of Amigas Latinas' past events and two tickets to Affinity's JazznJuly event July 18 at Gallery Guichard.

All monies raised during the evening's festivities will go toward Amigas Latinas' Archival Project, which is housed at the Gerber/Hart Library and Archives.

See www.facebook.com/amigas.

latinas.16?fref=ts for more information.



Affinity to celebrate 20 years on July 18

Affinity Community Services will mark its 20th anniversary with the "JazznJuly" event at Gallery Guichard, 436 E. 47th St., on Saturday, July 18, 7:30 p.m.-12 a.m., with a VIP reception beginning at 6:30 p.m.

According to a press release, "Affinity's summer benefit will honor the accomplishments of the founders of the organization, celebrate the achievements of the current staff and board, and look forward to the future of Affinity and the important work that is yet to be done."

VIP tickets are \$125; advance purchase individual tickets are \$85; couples' tickets are \$150; and door tickets purchased on the night of the event will be \$100. The event will be emceed by comedian Karen Williams and will feature a live auction for a trip with Olivia Travel, valued at \$6,000, with a starting bid of \$2,500.

Visit JazznJuly.com.

Center launches youth/family directory

Center on Halsted has launched the LGBTQ Youth & Family Directory.

Identified by the board of directors as a growing need in the community for these populations, the organization worked cross-departmentally to identify partner organizations and services catered to those in the LGBTQ community.

The youth sections specifically highlight services and programming in legal, employment, housing and health care. LGBTQ family resources are outlined from both from the perspective of family formation as well as additions for parents of LGBTQ-identified children.

For more information, visit <http://www.centeronhalsted.org/community-resources/>.



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PASSAGES

Terry Readdus

BY ELLEN MEYERS

Terry Readdus (1948-2015) was an original gender rebel, a description he adored.

An only child, he came from two generations of Marines. Needless to say, he broke that link. From an early age, he was interested in fashion—the haute couture kind. He got a scholarship to the Art Institute of Chicago in fashion design but dropped out after a semester because he did not like its formal approach.

He found the love of his life in Darryl, and they were together 41 years. Partners in life and livelihood, Terry designed and Darryl tailored. They had a very successful business based in New York City and Chicago with clients who stayed with them for years, so they often ended up clothing three generations of a family. They also designed and sewed for the stars of the Jewel Box Review and many other female impersonators. Their longest design history was for Chicago's world-renowned gospel group Delois Barrett Campbell and the Barrett Sisters. Their performing outfits are still works of art!

Terry spent most of the last years of his life caring for others. He and Darryl relocated to



Terry Readdus.

Photo from Ellen Meyers

Chicago to care for Terry's beloved mother. Then, Darryl got sick and Terry cared for him. Darryl died before they were able to go back to New York to get married. The lack of equal marriage in Illinois and Darryl's death really affected Terry.

With Darryl's death, Terry, for the first time in his life, had to function on his own. His last several years were such a learning experi-

ence for him! He had to learn how to navigate government systems, deal with a bank, qualify for health care, get free transportation and move into a place by himself that he had chosen for himself. He also had to deal with a cellphone and personal finances. He kept meticulous notes and whenever he went out or had an appointment, he dressed for the occasion in outfits that he designed and Darryl sewed.

In his youth, Terry was a marvelous dancer and, as he aged, he always appreciated the human form. Friends throughout his life became really extended family. He had a great sense of humor and did not miss much. He loved the view from his Town Hall Apartment studio and the fact that he could walk everywhere. For the first time in his life, he lived alone and could set his own schedule. And, until his death, he loved correcting anyone who referred to him as "she," so he was a gender rebel until the end.

Terry suffered a massive heart attack on a CTA bus when he was coming home from a matinee of Carousel at the Lyric Opera. At the memorial service for fellow Town Hall residents, "I'll Fly Away," by Delois Barrett Campbell and the Barrett Sisters, was played.

Many thanks to the staff of Center on Halsted Senior programs.

He leaves no known survivors.

Anti-detention rally held in Loop

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

Immigration activists held a rally calling for “#Not1More detainee and to #EndAllDetention” in front of Chicago’s Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Field Office on Congress Parkway in the Loop July 8.

The rally was one of many events that took place across the country in conjunction with the National Week of Action to End Detention: July 7-11. About 200 people representing the #Not1More Campaign, Organized Communities Against Deportations (OCAD), the Translating Coalition-Chicago chapter, the Detention Watch Network, We Belong Together, Families for Freedom, Undocumented Students & Allies and other organizations as well as Chicago Teachers Union members attended the rally.

“The organizers of Chicago’s rally included members of the LGBTQ community, some of whom were recent recipients of this paper’s 30 Under 30 awards,” said Tania Unzueta, national organizer for the #Not1More Campaign. “The release of trans detainees is central to the demands of the #Not1More and National Week of Action to End Detention campaigns.”

Activists shouted lines such as “Stop detention, stop the lies. We are fighting for our lives,” “GEO, CCA. How many lives did you take today?,” “Hey ICE, step off it. Our people aren’t for profit,” and “One, two, three, four. Stop deporting. Not1More. Five, six, seven, eight. No more jails. Liberate

Among those who spoke were local OCAD organizers Rosi Carrasco and Irene Romulo and undocumented immigrants and former detainees Genoveva Ramirez, Felipe Diosdado, Anibal

Fuentes and Arnulfo Mercado.

Carrasco (speaking in Spanish) and Romulo (speaking in English) noted that every day there are approximately 34,000 undocumented people in detention centers across the country including facilities throughout Illinois and the surrounding states.

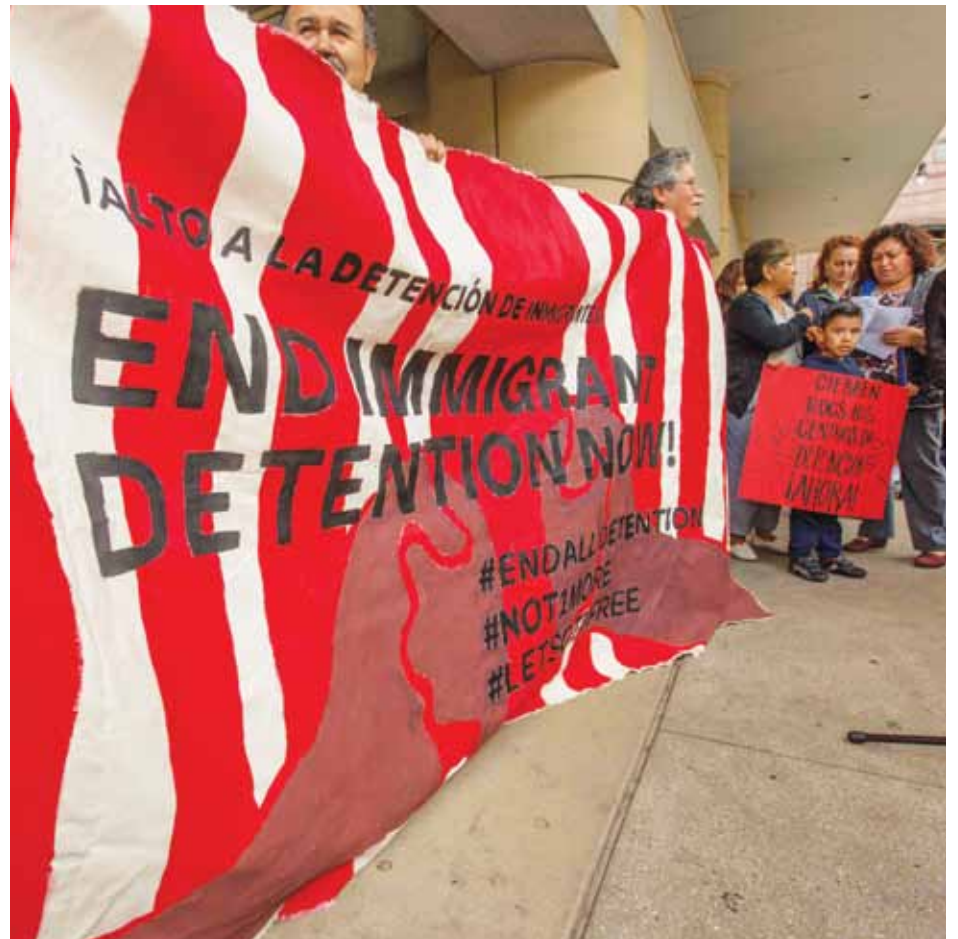
“Even in the best conditions these detention centers are inhumane and unjust,” said Carrasco and Romulo. “People who are detained there experience isolation, depression and trauma.”

Ramirez said via a translator that she was detained for two weeks, during which ICE deprived her of her blood-pressure medicine. She claimed that ICE makes detainees pay for everything while in custody and there is no privacy at all. Ramirez explained that families on the outside are also adversely affected, including her grandson, who spent the two weeks wondering if he would see her again.

Diosdado, who spent 30 days in custody, claimed details such as ICE giving detainees used uniforms to wear and charging them \$20 to make a 15-minute call. He added that detainees in the facility he was sent to were kept inside 24 hours a day.

Fuentes said via a translator that he was arrested in front of his house and detained for about a week. He explained that, while in custody, he talked to other detainees who had been there for more than a year. That worried him because he thought he would be in custody for that long or be deported to his home country, Guatemala.

Mercado said via a translator that he was bound by his hands and feet when he was taken into custody. He also noted that everything



Scene at the anti-detention march/rally.
Photo by Paul Hirsch

in the detention facility where he was held was old and used.

Both Carrasco and Romulo called for all ICE detention centers to be closed, following all the speakers’ remarks.

Homeland Security and Chicago Police Officers stood guard in front of the ICE building during the entirety of the rally. Conversely, a number of people in vehicles blew their horns in

support of the rally.

Attendees held signs with statistics concerning the number and types of people who are currently in ICE detention facilities across the country as well as other information about ICE policies regarding detainees.

See www.notonemoredeportation.com/end-detention-week-of-action for more information.

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CDPH announces seventh meningococcal disease case

BY MATT SIMONETTE

The Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH) announced, on July 9, that a seventh case of meningococcal disease had been reported in the area.

The case was confirmed over the Fourth of July weekend, said CDPH Commissioner Julie Morita, shortly after briefing members of the City Council's LGBT and Black caucuses as well as its Health Committee.

A seventh possible case was announced in late June, but that turned out not be part of the meningococcal strain causing the outbreak that had already infected five Chicagoans and one person from suburban DuPage County, Morita added. One of those Chicagoans died from the infection.

All of the infected individuals were men who

have sex with men, so health officials have been urging all gay and bisexual men, to be vaccinated. They also recommend the vaccination for transgender women, straight women who may have had sex with a gay man and HIV-positive individuals.

"Those numbers are small, but, because this disease is so serious, and we have a well-defined group at risk—all are gay or bisexual men—we really need to intensify and continue our efforts for vaccinating," Morita explained. "All gay or bisexual men should receive this vaccine."

Six of the seven cases are African-American men, she added. The strain in the outbreak has led to both cases of meningitis and bloodstream infections. "With a bloodstream infection, it can be very serious. People can lose limbs and have significant medical com-

plications. It doesn't affect how we respond. If it were all bloodstream infections we would respond the same as if it were all meningitis cases."

CDPH distributed about 11,000 doses of the vaccine for Chicagoans. Morita estimated that over 5,000 of those have been used, but noted that private physicians who inoculated their own patients would have drawn from their own supplies and would not be counted in that figure.

"The Pride events were helpful," Morita said. "Because Ald. [Tom] Tunney got vaccinated publicly, there was a lot of momentum around that, and around Pride. Through those [Pride Month] events, I think we vaccinated about 2,000 people. The challenge in the months ahead is getting people to go to get their vaccine in more traditional places."

CDPH lists vaccination locations at both <http://bit.ly/1Jr8C9M> and <http://chicago-meningvax.org/>. They can also be located by calling 311.

Vives Q showcases Hispanic LGBT culture

BY SEBASTIAN SAENZ

On July 7, the National Museum of Mexican Art hosted Vives Q, advertised as "an independent cultural arts project committed to creating an LGBTQ movement building experience through art, music, food, spoken word, dance and oral history that enables intergenerational dialogue across multiple identities and communities."

Emmanuel Garcia, Antonio Elizondo and Christopher Avalos curated the event.

On this occasion, attendees had the chance to hear a few words from two speakers and longtime friends: LGBT-rights activist Rick Garcia and Pulitzer Prize-winning writer/journalist Achy Obejas. They both talked about their proud origins (Spanish and Cuban, respectively), the support of their families, the hard times when the gay movement started, how HIV truly brought the community together, the role of media, the political and professional challenges, and their strong principles and values.

Adding to the evening were the Elijah James (spoken-word performer), Jade (Jessica Paul, poet) and Nani Melendez (Drag performer) as well as some traditional food. Guests were in-



Rick Garcia and Achy Obejas.
Photo from Alfredo Flores

vited for free HIV testing in that same place thanks to the partnership with Project Vida; were encouraged to present themselves using their preferred pronouns; and were even able to use gender-neutral restrooms.

Other Vives Q sessions will take place Tuesday, Aug. 4; and Tuesday, Sept. 1. Both are at 6-9 p.m.

See "Vives Q" on Facebook.

IML raises \$87K for leather museum

The Leather Archives & Museum (LA&M) announced that International Mr. Leather (IML) weekend raised \$87,000 for LA&M during the 2015 Memorial Day Weekend event, according to a recent statement.

In addition to donations from visitors to the IML leather market, funds were raised at a CLAW Nation silent auction, a raffle, a roast of the outgoing International Mr. Leather (Ramién Pierre) and International Mr. Bootblack (Scout), and other fundraising events and gifts.

Proceeds from the IML Weekend account for approximately one quarter of the museum's 2015 forecasted funding budget.



Nurse Kevin Keiser prepares a meningitis vaccination.
Photo by Kellee Terrell/HBHC

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in the LIFE

Cody Domino

TEXT BY ROSS FORMAN
PHOTOS COURTESY OF DOMINO

- **Age**
33
- **Neighborhood**
Lake View/Buena Park
- **Orientation**
Gay
- **Relationship status**
Partnered to Rah Lettieri
- **Job title**
Insurance agent by day; DJ and owner of Infinite Entertainment by night
- **Hobbies**
"I love architecture, music, photography, working out at the gym, art, graphic design, cars and movies."
- **Favorite TV shows**
Family Guy/American Dad, House of Cards, Rachel Maddow Show, Ellen DeGeneres Show and Absolutely Fabulous
- **Little-known fact**
"I was involved in Drum & Bugle Corps for seven years, and I'm a former Mr. Wisconsin USA, Mr. Midwest USA [and] Mr. Great Lakes USA."

Cody Domino, a DJ since 2001, was asked in 2012 if he knew any new go-go dancers for area venues, thus leading to his next/current venture, Infinite Entertainment.

He started booking the dancers a few years ago, and is still at it—and now with more nights to be booked, at more clubs and for more dancers.

"I think we started with four or five guys, and at our peak were at 50, which included guys and girls, some burlesque, and handful of DJs," Domino said. "I've been working in the nightlife industry since I was a barback 15 years ago at the former Za's Nightclub in Green Bay, Wisconsin."

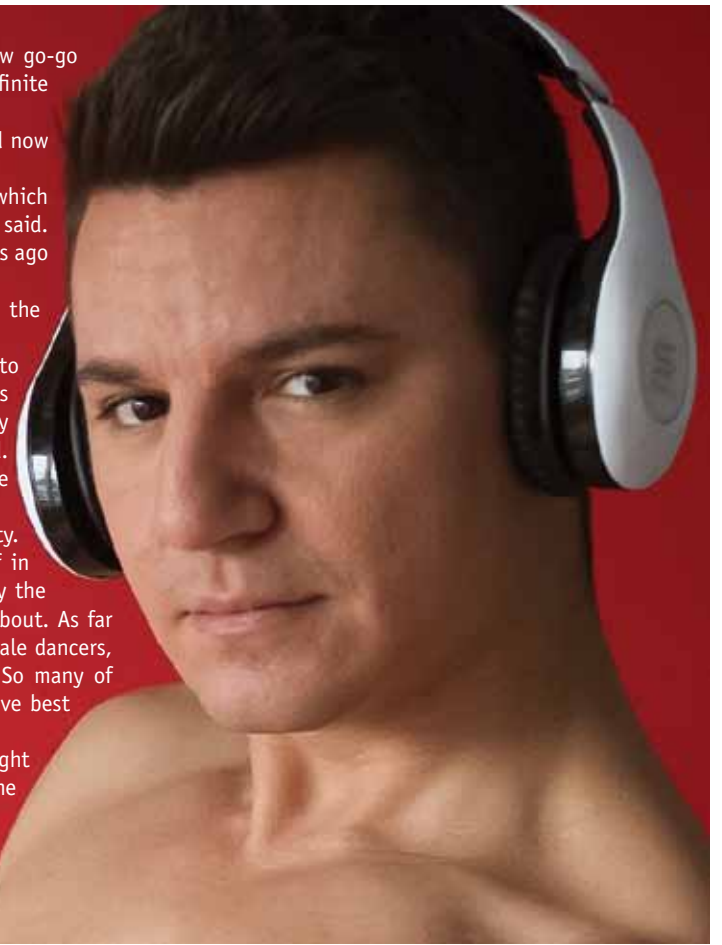
Domino has worked as a DJ with CircuitMom (Matthew Harvat) for the REVOLUTION Party at the House of Blues, and more.

"We do what we can with what little resources we have, so we like to help [the gay community] by donating our time to great organizations like Chicago's Santa Speedo Run that benefits the Center on Halsted. They auctioned off some of our sexy models to help raise money," Domino said. "We also have donated our dancing capabilities and time to The Tease Chicago that benefits Chicago House."

"As a DJ, my goal is just to be respected by peers, fans and the community. I'm not trying to be next top-paid DJ; that's why I positioned myself in another career so that I don't have to use my passion for music to pay the bills, because the music and the opportunity to be heard is all I care about. As far as the agency, I hope that we continue to provide the best in male/female dancers, burlesque, performers, and DJs to as many venues that will have us. So many of our talent use the agency as their main income and I want them to have best opportunity with us."

Domino said the best part of his job as a DJ is simply "putting the right track on at peak hour and watching the crowd move; it literally gives me goosebumps." From the agency side, he said "being able to provide work for my performers" is the highlight.

But with the good, there also is stress, such as when a performer calls in sick and thus the mad scramble to replace that dancer.



LGBTRIVIA

What actor played opposite gay actor Rupert Everett in the gay 1984 British classic *Another Country*?

Answer on page 19

ANAL CANCER IS

ON THE RISE

FOR THOSE OF US

WITH HIV



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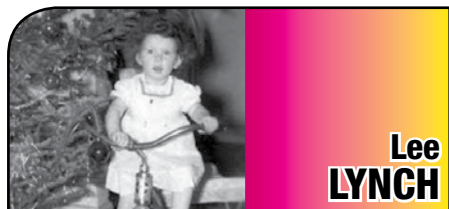
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viewpoints



THE AMAZON TRAIL

Teased to death

I never put this in words until recently: I'm afraid of children. Crazy, right? Unnatural. Just plain dumb.

About a month ago, while still digesting that news flash from my brain, I had a related revelation that was brought on by all the recent talk about bullying. Here goes: I'm afraid of children because of the incessant bullying I got as a kid. So obvious. I kinda understood it, but kinda didn't want to look at it.

Growing up in my neighborhood, kids got teased, not bullied. Bullying happened; it was just called teasing. Often, it was called harmless teasing. I don't know if the adults were being polite or they believed themselves and thought I was oversensitive. They sure didn't stop it. My mother basically told me to stand up for myself—something I never figured out how to do. Instead, I cried.

I cried in classrooms, I cried in the backyard of my apartment building, I cried on the street. Children, from toddlers to teens, mocked me for looking like a boy, for being smart, for building roads in the mud, for wanting to be the father when we played house, for wearing hand-me-down boys' clothes and homemade girls' clothes, for my name, for not having a re-

ligion, for my skinny body. For being different.

Walking with my mother, well into adulthood, I cringed when children came toward us, terrified they'd call me names or ask if I was a boy or a girl. I even feared my niece and nephew, especially during their teen years, when I knew I'd be the weird aunt. They weren't mean kids, though, and now that they're grown, I couldn't ask for stronger supporters.

But kids are unpredictable and bullying takes its toll—especially when it's not called by its right name. That's a negation of a child's experience: "Oh, they're just teasing you." I don't know what the right way would be for a parent to help a child who is bullied. I do know that ignoring the issue isn't. My sweetheart tells me she stood up for her little sister. I'm in awe of her for that. Protecting another child is a heroic act for any little peewee.

I'm not alone in this experience. A lot has been written about the cycle of bullying and how adults who have been bullied perpetuate the behavior. I haven't read anything about adults who've learned compassion from the experience, or about adults who go into the helping professions or otherwise devote their lives to lessening the pain of others, human or four-legged. That's what I took from my little ordeal.

I know I got off easy: no one disowned me, beat me up or tried to kill me. I didn't have to live on the streets, go hungry or be violated. The damage was more subtle. Before age 5 or 6, I was an outgoing friendly kid, never a bit of trouble, according to my mother. She claimed that I would talk to every stranger on the street. Then I changed. I became shy, withdrawn and silent. I was reluctant to eat. The crying started. My affect became flat. Kids and

adults and my mother teased me for never smiling. And that's how I stayed most of the time for many years.

No therapist picked up on this. I would have been embarrassed to bring up teasing. After all, I was taught to ignore it, a mere childhood discomfort. I never dealt with the bullying issue, never thought it was an issue, even as it went on right into college.

By high school, though, I'd come out. All of a sudden I knew who I was, understood my difference. Shaming me was not as effective as it had been, partly because I had a group identity. I didn't know many gays, but those I knew accepted me as I was. Being bullied was an unspoken bond. We played at being tough dykes on the city streets and seldom were hassled.

Yet the damage had been done. I wasn't going to let anyone see the little girl I'd been ever again.

I live in an adult community now. Little by little, I've found myself relaxing, becoming more outgoing, talking to strangers in the 'hood. It's a small miracle for me, though I don't know that I'll ever trust the neighbors not to turn against me. Holidays, demon grandchildren visit, and I find myself getting all gimlet-eyed with suspicion—hyper-vigilant, like in the old days.

I never learned how to protect myself from them. Now that I know the truth—that I was badly bullied—my fears don't seem so crazy or unnatural, and certainly not dumb. Raising awareness about bullying is a real smart move.

Somehow, my natural resilience prevailed and formed who I am today—unlike others who were teased to death.

Copyright Lee Lynch 2015



The welcome challenges of marriage equality

For some time now, my spouse and I have been bickering over where we should live in our retirement years. She, being a child from the South, and me, being from the North—well, we have our tensions. I have jokingly dubbed them our "Mason-Dixon Line feud." We are not stretching our imaginations much to feel some of the same concerns our enslaved ancestors must have encountered as they considered the free states up North.

My spouse is tied to the weather of the South—a moist, subtropical climate with sultry summers. I like the four seasons of the North, but could live in autumn all year round.

During particularly heated battles, I have questioned if her desire to live in Georgia was worth living in a state that didn't recognize our marriage. Our marriage would be de facto dissolved.

Our ongoing exhaustive argument gained a new complication (in my mind, at least) with the recent historic Supreme Court ruling—*Obergefell v. Hodges*—that legalized same-sex marriage in all 50 states.

Justice Anthony M. Kennedy was, once again, the swing vote on this tough ruling. Kennedy wrote all recent decisions protecting LGBTQ rights, including the 2003 case *Lawrence v. Texas*, which struck down sodomy laws that targeted gay men; and 2013's *U.S. v. Windsor*, which recognized and provided federal benefits to same-sex married couple in states where

their marriages were legal. His argument last week was *Loving v. Virginia* (1967) redux, showing how these two historic struggles for marriage equality are interconnected.

Of course, I applaud the Supreme Court's decision. It would have been both wrong-hearted and wrong-headed to rule otherwise.

But with victory comes backlash. This change in law will not come easy. A movement is already afoot with a 50-state plan to pass "Religious Freedom Restoration" acts to roll back progress.

As the country battles this issue on a new front, we should hold on to Thomas Jefferson's words about how change is required for progress:

"I am not an advocate for frequent changes in laws and constitutions. But ... laws and institutions must go hand in hand with the progress of the human mind. As that becomes more developed, more enlightened, as new discoveries are made, new truths disclosed, and manners and opinions change with the change of circumstances, institutions must advance also, and keep pace with the times."

Same-sex marriage is of our times. And it's democracy at its best.

I understand democracy to be an ongoing process, where people are part of a participatory government working to dismantle all existing discriminatory laws truncating their full participation in society.

But democracy can only begin to work when those relegated to the fringes of society can sample what those in society take for granted as their inalienable rights. The right to marry regardless of a couple's sexual orientation or gender identity is now one of them. How wonderful to know that a same-sex couple in Mississippi has the same right to marry as someone here in Massachusetts.

Back to the challenge in my home: My spouse is all smiles now with this new ruling. She has been doing what I call "nicey nicey," which is her way of using charm to wear down my recalcitrant stance on issues.

In celebration of *Obergefell v. Hodges*, we went out for drinks at Legal Sea Foods in Harvard Square. While enjoying the evening summer breeze, my spouse said we could have this experience all year if we moved to a milder climate.

I snapped back and said, "I ain't moving to Georgia!"

And that's what marriage equality looks like.

Letters

A lovely day

Chicago's Gay Pride Parade was a four-and-a-half-hour celebration on Chicago's North Side with an estimated 1 million enthusiastic people participating. The crowd was particularly jubilant because of the Supreme Court's decision on June 26 legalizing same-sex marriage.

The Chicago Police Department officers' attentive presence and the mostly law-abiding, though behaviorally challenging revelers (including a small sit-in protest early in the parade) made for a mostly safe and entertaining event for adults on that mild summer day.

A small group of Christian anti-gay protesters occupied the same location that they have for years, at the end of the parade route. People of differing opinions voiced them colorfully and in a law-abiding way. There were no noticeable protesters representing other religious groups.

Whether one considers the day to have been a success depends on one's individual beliefs. At least we know that we live in a city where those beliefs and such a happening is permitted. Not too many other places in the world could say as much. Perhaps there is hope yet for our beleaguered, challenged Chicago.

Leon J. Hoffman, Ph.D.
Chicago

WINDY CITY TIMES

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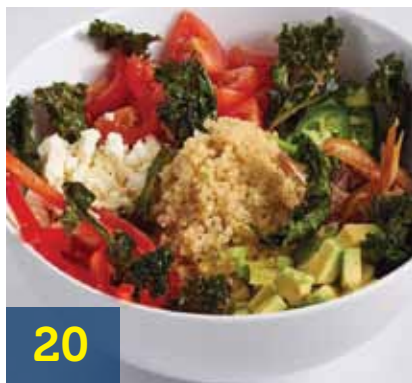
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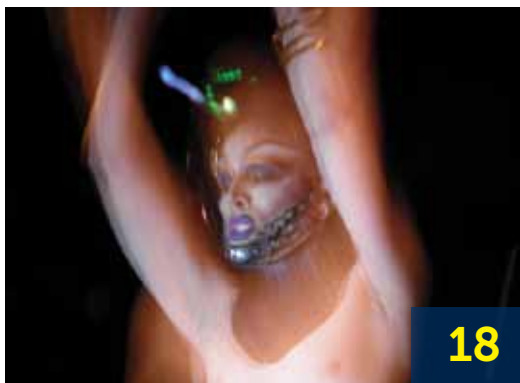
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WCT reviews the new production of Kinky Boots.

Photo by Matthew Murphy

SCOTTISH PLAY SCOTT

Singing gay icons

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

Die-hard fans of the Grammy-winning singer/actress Bette Midler are well-aware that her rise to stardom includes an unconventional run performing in 1970s New York at the gay male bathhouse known as the Continental Baths.

Midler herself has stated in interviews that she's proud of Continental performances, which is where she laid the foundations for a spot as a gay icon and first earned her nickname as "The Divine Miss M." In fact, Midler named the title of her 1998 album *Bathhouse Bette*.

But now with Midler performing in concert arena shows, it's very unlikely that she'll ever return to performing the seedy and intimate confines of a bathhouse. Which is where *Hell in a Handbag Productions* comes in with its summer show *Bette, Live at the Continental Baths*. The musical tribute stars Caitlin Jackson as Midler, features music director Jeremy Ramey portraying Barry Manilow (who also famously accompanied Midler during her Continental days) and includes TJ Crawford and Adam Fane as two toweled "bathhouse boys."

"I've been obsessed with Bette Midler since forever. Haven't we all?" said Jackson, who was overjoyed when someone posted black-and-white footage of one of Midler's full Continental cabaret shows on YouTube. "I thought it would be fun to someday, sort of re-create that."

Luckily for Johnson, the *Hell in a Handbag* folks were very receptive to the idea, particularly artistic director David Cerda who greenlit the project with director/choreographer Christopher Pazdernik at the helm.

"I just thought it would be a fun, frothy summer show," Cerda said. "The goal is not to mimic Midler, but to capture her spirit and Caitlin is very bawdy and funny and she's got the vocal chops."

Now both Cerda and Johnson emphasize that *Bette, Live at the Continental Baths* is a tribute show and that their venue, *Mary's Attic*, has a karaoke license. So hopefully these will be deterrents and defenses to keep the real Midler from swooping in to shut the show down.

"It's really no different than people doing an homage to Bette Midler, but this is the first one at least that I've seen that really takes you back to the baths instead of just a revue," Jackson said. "I hope she doesn't get mad."

Although Jackson loves Midler and her long career, she said really wanted to give audiences a taste of Midler's brassiness and unfiltered performance style long before "Disney got

ahold of her in the 1980s."

"I'm desperate to do this show at *Man's Country*," Jackson said, referring to the long-time Chicago bathhouse just down a few blocks south on Clark Street from *Mary's Attic*. When asked about Jackson's wish, Cerda laughed and said, "That would be fun. I'm sure it's possible, but we'll just have to wait and see how well-received it is first."

Hell in a Handbag Productions' *Bette, Live at the Continental Baths* plays through Friday, Aug. 21, at *Mary's Attic*, 5400 N. Clark St. A preview is 8 p.m. Friday, July 17, with a press opening 8 p.m. Saturday, July 18. Tickets are \$20-\$22, with a limited number of \$35 VIP tickets (including drink). Visit handbagproductions.org.

Gertrude Stein repeats

Back in 2006, the gay collaborators of director/adaptor Frank Galati (*The Grapes of Wrath*) and composer Stephen Flaherty (*Ragtime*, *Once on This Island*) teamed up to write *Loving Repeating*, a musical revue dedicated to the writings of famed American lesbian writer and modern art curator Gertrude Stein.

About Face Theatre and Chicago's Museum of Contemporary Art teamed up to present the show's world premiere, which was deemed so artistically important that Jay Records issued an original cast recording even though *Loving Repeating* never transferred to New York.

Now, *Loving Repeating* is back in Chicago with a new production courtesy of Kokandy Productions at Theater Wit. Allison Hendrix, a Stein fan since the age of 17, directs the musical.

"I generally like the hardest challenge possible," laughed Hendrix about taking on such a high profile revival of *Loving Repeating*. "I like to choose something that is non-traditional

narrative structure and has a lot of things to figure out."

Nonetheless, Hendrix emphasized that *Loving Repeating* is actually one of the most accessible ways to find out about Stein and her publicity-filled life as an artistic expatriate in 1920s Paris where she was very open with her relationship with longtime partner Alice B. Toklas.

"It's material that makes a lot of sense," Hendrix said, noting how Galati drew a lot from Stein's public lectures for the show. "It's not dry and intellectual, it's very silly. There is someone doing a dance in a cow head and there is a little vaudeville and it's very romantic and joyful."

Kokandy Productions presents *Loving Repeating* from Saturday, July 18, through Sunday, Aug. 30, at Theater Wit, 1229 W. Belmont Ave. Preview tickets are \$25; regular-run admission is \$38. Call 773-975-8150 or www.kokandyproductions.com.



Caitlin Jackson flanked by TJ Crawford (left) and Adam Fane (right) in *Hell in a Handbag's Bette, Live at the Continental Baths*.

Photo by Rick Aguilar Studios

THEATER REVIEW

Kiss of the Spider Woman: The Musical

Book: Terrence McNally;
Music: John Kander; **Lyrics:** Fred Ebb
At: Benevolent Theatre at Trap Door Theatre, 1655 W. Cortland St.
Tickets: www.benevolenttheatre.com;
 \$20-\$25
Runs through July 26

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

You've got to admire the pluck of some itinerant Chicago theaters as they cram challenging works into tiny storefront spaces. But sometimes they bite off more than they can chew, and that's the clearly the case of Benevolent Theatre's take on the 1993 Tony Award-winning Broadway musical *Kiss of the Spider Woman*.

Based upon the novel of the same name by Manuel Puig, *Spider Woman* is a darkly unconventional musical set in a prison most likely during Argentina's military dictatorship of the 1970s and '80s. Imprisoned gay window-dresser Molina (Parker Guidry) copes with the constant psychological and physical torture by dreaming up Hollywood-style production num-



Kiss of the Spider Woman: The Musical.

Photo by Jessica Harling

bers starring his beloved B-movie star icon Aurora (Jessica Kingsdale).

But Molina is also under the thumb of the sadistic Warden (Gary Saipe), who manipulates Molina to try and get secrets out of his new cellmate, the standoffish revolutionary Valentin (Darius T.Q. Colquitt). That dangerous of dance of who is playing whom drives the tuneful songs by John Kander and Fred Ebb

within Terrence McNally's engrossing script, which also plays up the odd-couple dynamics between Molina and Valentin that starts with outright hostility before ending with mutual concern and affection.

Spider Woman is a technically complex show, and director Jessica Harling's efforts in the tiny space of Trap Door Theatre betrays the company's limited resources. For instance, the too-

bright lighting design by Austin Dambacher exposes far too many of the space's size limitations and the clearly small clothing budget at the disposal of costume designer Cherish Varley. Music director Clayton Horath has admirably re-orchestrated the score for a prerecorded series of synthesized samples to give the show a fuller sound, but a live piano might have been preferable since there were hiccups in a few music cues at the performance I attended.

Harling also makes some questionable directing and casting choices that might force you to stifle unintentional giggles now and then. The interpretive dance between Valentin and Molina during the singing of title song in particular felt wildly wrong-headed.

As Aurora, Kingsdale dances the role well, though she could work on her unamplified vocal projection. And though the cast isn't as Latin as they could be, at least they all appear to throw themselves into their roles, even if they're not always appearing to be the most comfortable fit.

But as Molina, Guidry gets to shine as you see his conflicted character's emotions tugged at by Colquitt's butch Valentin and Saipe's angry Warden. Guidry's doing very good work in *Spider Woman*, although it's for less-than-ideal circumstances for a company that has plenty of ambition, but not the means, to fully actualize it.

THEATER REVIEW

Brilliant Adventures

Playwright: Alistair McDowell
At: Steep Theatre, 1115 W. Berwyn Ave.
Tickets: 866-811-4111;
www.steeptheatre.com; \$10-\$35
Runs through: Aug. 15

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

Audience members scrutinizing their playbills for this Steep Theatre production may have attributed to printing error two actors listed for a single role, but, in fact, ambiguous taxonomical clues are an integral component of stories including among their furnishings a bona fide *time machine*. Alastair McDowell's transchronological coach is no gleaming Tardis or sleek DeLorean DMC-12 twinkling with flashing lights



Brilliant Adventures.
 Photo by
 Brandon
 Wardell

and spinning dials, but is fashioned from a cardboard box that might have once held a refrigerator, propped up in the corner of a subsidized-housing apartment in a district dubbed by the BBC "The Worst Place to Live in the UK."

Luke, its owner, is a bookish 19-year-old looking to distance himself from a family consisting of his brother Rob, whose drug-deal profits are their sole source of income, and who, literally, leads their junkie father around on a dog leash ("so I always know where he is"). Luke's severe stutter entitles him to govern-

ment disability benefits, enabling him to live alone, but his privacy is constantly interrupted by nebbishy sidekick Greg, whose ambition is to join in the criminal activities constituting the neighborhood's exclusive economic opportunities. Offering employment is newcomer Ben, whose leather blazer and London accent immediately identify him as a petty-hustler villain even before he announces his goal of building his own empire through exploitation of citizens demoralized by poverty and despair. He is intrigued by Luke's invention.

The best science-fiction is frequently rooted in circumstances most needing fantasy, so it should come as no surprise to find it co-existing with the squalor of the "In-Yer-Face" school of British drama. Playgoers versed in the possibilities associated with time-travel allegories might anticipate the individual components referenced in McDowell's pursuit of a resolution, but its analogical foundations may prove more elusive. Is Luke's device a weapon for destroying evil, a means of suicide for the remorseful, or a promise of deliverance for the pure in heart? Are brutal environments doomed to breed only brutes? Does the telephone call arriving just before the final curtain portend salvation for our hero, or more misery?

Robin Witt's directorial expertise with intimate settings is invoked to appropriately disturbing extremes by the demands of McDowell's script (the vulnerability of an innocent goldfish swimming in a bowl, for example). A precision-drilled ensemble led by Curtis Edward Jackson as the reluctant boy-genius navigate the intricacies of their pinpoint-specific dialects under the instruction of Kendra Thulin with a verbal dexterity matched by their physical mastery of Christina Gorman's full-contact violence to render McDowell's plot, if not exactly logical, always riveting.

CRITICS' PICKS

Bad Jews, Theater Wit at North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, Skokie, extended through Aug. 8. There's even more time to catch Joshua Harmon's lacerating off-Broadway comedy since Theater Wit's acclaimed Chicago premiere has transferred to Skokie. SCM

The Birds, Griffin Theatre at Theater Wit, through July 19. Forget Hitchcock! Mystery-loving Irish author Conor McPherson adapts Daphne DuMaurier's original story into a tense psychological thriller performed by players determined to show you a good time. JA

City of Angels, Marriott Theatre in Lincolnshire; through Aug. 2. Film noir buffs won't want to miss this smart jazzy musical comedy that pays homage to hardboiled gumshoes while also spoofing the 1940s Hollywood studio system. Director Nick Bowling does a masterful job of juggling the musicals two worlds. SCM

Stick Fly, Windy City Playhouse, extended through July 19. Don't be fooled by the on-stage and offstage swank—even nearly ten years after its premiere, Lydia R. Diamond's observations on privileged African-American families has lost none of their satirical insight. MSB

—By Abarbanel, Barnidge
 and Morgan

THEATER REVIEW

Kinky Boots

Playwright: Music and Lyrics by Cyndi Lauper, book by Harvey Fierstein
At: Broadway In Chicago at the Cadillac Palace, 151 W. Randolph St.
Tickets: 800-775-2000;
www.broadwayinchicago.com; \$25-\$108
Runs through: July 26

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

During its pre-Broadway development in Chicago, audiences saw a different show every night, so busy were songwriter Cyndi Lauper and scriptwriter Harvey Fierstein putting the final touches on the winsome tale that eventually earned itself six Tony awards. The finished version now returns in triumph under the auspices of Broadway In Chicago.

The story is simple enough: Northampton's Price and Son has produced quality footwear for generations, but young Charlie Price pursued an urban career, only to later find him-

self heir to the factory—now fallen on hard times—following the death of the Price paterfamilias. Struggling to save the source of his town's economy, Charlie discovers a hitherto-ignored market for specialty shoes—designed for men who dress as women. With the bank threatening to foreclose on the industrial property, a real estate developer eager to convert it into apartments and his material-girl fiancée issuing him an ultimatum, can Charlie and Lola (nee Simon) ease cultural tensions between the country shoemakers and the drag-divas—not mention their own unresolved filial legacies—in time to save the family business?

Do shoes come in pairs? How can you *not* anticipate a happy ending when, from the very outset, every melody and lyric in the score exhibits the wisdom, dignity, empowerment and grandeur of an anthem to embracing diversity? (Club DJs, marching bands and wedding planners, take note.) From the brisk "Most Beautiful Thing In the World" that dispenses with the exposition in an efficient 20 minutes, to the exuberant hand-clapping

"Raise You Up" finale, Stephen Oremus' symphonic orchestrations anchored by thumping disco bass keeps the adrenalin flowing. Two inspirational ballads—"Not My Father's Son" and "Hold Me In Your Heart"—provide quiet moments and, for fans of old-school warbles, there's the tango-tempo "What A Woman Wants" and the flirty "History of Wrong Guys."

Textual improvements made manifest include a more detailed set-up for the pivotal boxing scene between Lola and an anti-gay tradesman (which gets its own song in this revision) and for Charlie's stress-fueled rant nearly derailed the goodwill generated by the full-cast "Everybody Say Yeah" dance on industrial conveyor belts just before intermission. The multitalented Kyle Taylor Parker leads a squad of antelope-agile (and steel-ankled) chorines wearing stiltwalker heels that make the most of Jerry Mitchell's athletic choreography, while Steven Booth, Lindsay Nicole Chambers and bear-boy extraordinaire Joe Coots exude enough earthy charm to spur exhilarated Yankee playgoers to consider booking a vacation to the English midlands.

David Thorpe doing vocal exercises in *Do I Sound Gay?*

MOVIES

It's okay to sound 'gay': Talking with filmmaker David Thorpe

BY TONY PEREGRIN

"If I'm in a hotel and I call the front desk, they always say, 'We'll have that right up to you, ma'am,'" says author David Sedaris in *Do I Sound Gay?* a documentary that turns up the volume on "gay voice" by featuring interviews with LGBT celebrities—as well as complete strangers on the street—about their experiences "sounding gay."

"I'm embarrassed to say this but sometimes somebody will say, I didn't know you were gay," says Sedaris in the film. "It's like, Why does that make me feel good? I hate myself for thinking that. It's very disturbing. I thought I was beyond that. What's the problem if somebody assumes that I'm gay when I open my mouth? Why do I have a problem with that?"

Like Sedaris, out gay journalist and filmmaker David Thorpe has felt anxiety concerning his "gay voice." Several years ago, self-conscious and smarting from a painful breakup, Thorpe decided to confront his "gay voice" anxiety by trying to learn how to "sound straight" with the help of two speech coaches. "As the film shows, I broke up with a boyfriend who I was really in love with, and I found myself single

and middle-aged wondering why I couldn't find love," said Thorpe. "Quite often when you're single, you scrutinize yourself, asking 'what's wrong with me?'"

In Thorpe's feature-length documentary debut, *Do I Sound Gay?*, what starts as a personal journey becomes a chance to unpack layers of cultural baggage concerning sexuality, identity and self-esteem. "This process taught me that I actually don't want to sound less gay, although that never occurred to me as an option," Thorpe said. "I was in my mid-40s and struggling with my sexuality even though I was out. So, all I had to do was ... make a movie. Real simple, right?"

Thorpe, 46, a resident of Brooklyn, interviewed 165 people in four countries for the documentary, including public figures such as Dan Savage, Tim Gunn, Margaret Cho and George Takei. But it was the interview with Sedaris that really resonated with Thorpe.

"I think for myself, and a lot of people, the interview with David Sedaris is the most touching and something that audiences carry with them," said Thorpe. "I never expected someone as successful in life and in work as David to really have these feelings of shame about being

gay. I felt so liberated after that interview! I felt it was okay to share some of these feelings and that I didn't have to feel guilty about my shame."

"In a similar vein, Dan Savage casts pearls of wisdom [in the film] and, really, that is what they are—they're not clichés. Dan really helped me get a grip on what I was going through. He said, very succinctly, that gay men are self-conscious because we were persecuted about it when we were young," said Thorpe. "I hadn't put two and two together until that moment."

In an interview with Vice.com about the documentary, Savage said he agreed to be interviewed for the film because he "likes gay voice." "One of the things that a lot of gay people aren't comfortable acknowledging, not for all of us, but for many of us, is that we're kind of a mix of masculine and feminine qualities and traits, and I find that mix and that tension really hot," he said. "Not just attractive, but I find it really fucking sexy."

Profiles on popular hook-up apps like Scruff and Grindr routinely shun "queens" or "effeminate men," but that's not entirely problematic, according to Thorpe.

"I think two things about that—listen, people are attracted to who they are attracted to and masculinity can be hot. We can't tell people not to be attracted to butch men. But there is a difference between the play and fun aspect

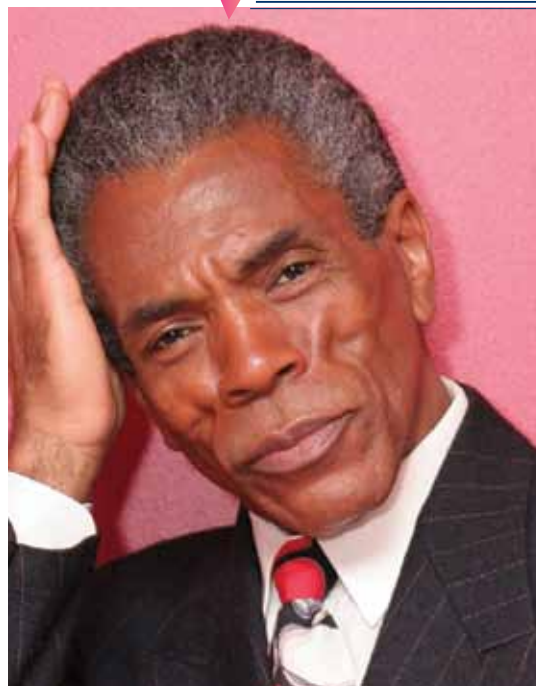
and rejecting people and hurting people. I am still trying to figure this out for myself. I don't want to put words into his mouth, but Dan Savage might say you are better off without someone who rejects you for being too effeminate," said Thorpe.

While shooting the documentary—which was funded, in part, by nearly 2,000 people who contributed to a Kickstarter campaign—Thorpe realized that most men, regardless of their sexual orientation, had some level of fear that their voices might reveal aspects about themselves that society deigns as shameful or less than the masculine "ideal."

"I always wanted the film be a mainstream conversation about homophobia and about individuality. I wouldn't have made a film that not everyone could relate to," said Thorpe, whose film had its world premiere at the Toronto Film Festival last year. "A lot of times, culture tells gay men who they are—and I'm hoping *Do I Sound Gay?* tells culture who we are. I wanted to talk back to the pop culture that was always talking to and at me my whole life."

***Do I Sound Gay?* starts Friday, July 24, at the Gene Siskel Film Center, 164 N. State St., and is now available on video-on-demand. For more information and to view a trailer of the film, visit DoISoundGay.com.**

SPOTLIGHT



Get a possible glimpse at a future season of Victory Gardens Theater via its **2015 IGNITION Festival of New Plays**. Seven new play readings are on the roster, and a few have celebrities attached. For instance, Tony Award-nominee and out actor Andre De Shields' solo show *Confessions of a P.I.M.P.* is based upon his own journey from inner-city poverty to a performance career. Also, Grey's Anatomy star Sandra Oh returns to appear in Julia Cho's drama *Office Hour*. Victory Gardens Theater's 2015 IGNITION Festival of New Plays runs from July 16-19 at the Biograph Theater, 2433 N. Lincoln Ave. Performances are free, although reservations through the box office are required; call 773-871-3000 or visit www.victorygardens.org.

Photo by Lia Chang

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KNIGHT at the movies

BY RICHARD KNIGHT, JR.

Tangerine; Tig; Mr. Holmes; Edith Lake Wilkinson

Back out on the streets after 28 days in lock-up, Sin-Dee (Kitana Kiki Rodriguez) celebrates Christmas Eve by buying a donut to split with her best friend, Alexandra (Mya Taylor). But when Alexandra lets it slip that Sin-Dee's pimp boyfriend, Chester (James Ransone), hasn't been faithful while she's been away, she goes ballistic.

A female buddy picture of life on the hard-scrabble streets of Hollywood ensues as the two transgender hookers attempt to find Chester and his new favorite, Dinah (Mickey O'Hagan), to exact revenge. Bitching each other out mercilessly one moment, having each other's back the next, Sin-Dee and Alexandra are fast, funny and tremendously moving as they crash through life.

A subplot involving an Armenian cab driver—whose complicated life eventually connects with the duo—is less successful, and the over-the-top climax that brings all the characters together back at the donut shop is a large misstep. However, for the most part, *Tangerine* crackles with verve and energy. Writer-director Sean Baker's movie, which mixes professional actors with newcomers (including both Rodriguez and Taylor), gained instant notoriety when it debuted at Sundance because it was



shot entirely on an iPhone—a technical marvel that is quickly forgotten as one become wrapped up in Sin-Dee and Alexandra's world.

Opens exclusively at the Music Box Theatre, 3733 N. Southport Ave., this Friday, July 17; <http://www.musicboxtheatre.com/features/tangerine>

Tig

Lesbian stand-up comic Tig Notaro had been working the club circuit for years with a fair amount of success when, in 2012, a perfect storm of personal catastrophes hit her: A severe intestinal illness was followed by a painful romantic breakup and the unexpected death of her mother. Then came the news that she had breast cancer. When the latter happened, something clicked inside Notaro's head as she headed onstage one night soon after. "Is everybody having a good time? I have cancer," she asked the audience.

What followed was a Richard Pryor-esque set that quickly became the stuff of legend and transformed not only Notaro's career but her life—all documented in Ashley York and Kristina Goolsby's film, *Tig*. The movie, which opened the Outfest LGBT film festival in Los

Angeles, is premiering on Netflix beginning Friday, July 17. Notaro is now cancer-free. <http://www.netflix.com/title/80028208>

Mr. Holmes

In 1998, the teaming of out director Bill Condon and openly gay actor Ian McKellen struck lightning with *Gods and Monsters*, a fictionalized portrait of the final days of legendary gay movie director James Whale, who helmed *Frankenstein*, *The Bride of Frankenstein* and a much-admired musical version of *Showboat*. McKellen's performance earned him a Best Actor nod and Condon the Best Adapted Screenplay Oscar. Both men went on to a series of increasingly high-profile movies (*Dreamgirls* and the *Twilight* series for Condon, and both the *Lord of the Rings/Hobbit* and *X-Men* series for McKellen).

Now, with *Mr. Holmes*, these two giants of queer cinema have finally reunited. McKellen plays the now-retired Sherlock Holmes, who is living a quiet life in England in 1947. In ill health, Holmes travels to Japan to track down a rare plant with restorative powers and witnesses the devastation caused by the dropping of the atomic bomb. Back at his secluded farmhouse—attended only by his housekeeper (Laura Linney) and her small son—Holmes reflects on his life and begins to re-examine his one unsolved case, quietly determined to see its resolution. Expect another *tour-de-force* performance from McKellen, masterful direction from Condon and perhaps more Oscar love for both as well. <http://www.mrholmesfilm.com/>

Edith Lake Wilkinson

Out writer-director Jane Anderson has had great success writing for movies and television, with everything from *The Prize Winner of Defiance, Ohio*, to *Normal* to last year's critically acclaimed HBO miniseries *Olive Kitteridge*. Throughout her career, Anderson has been spiritually guided by the example of her great-aunt Edith Lake Wilkinson, an artist whose paintings decorated the home in which Anderson was raised.

Sadly, in middle age, the financially independent Wilkinson, who had a burgeoning career living in Provincetown, had ended up in a mental asylum. Anderson became determined to find out what happened. Her sleuthing efforts are revealed in director Michelle Boyaner's *Packed in a Trunk: The Lost Art of Edith Lake Wilkinson*, which debuts on HBO on Monday, July 20.

Among the revelations: Wilkinson lived in Provincetown with a close female friend, traveling with her to Europe and to other exotic locales. Was she committed to the asylum for being lesbian by an unscrupulous lawyer after her fortune? The film explores that and other provocative questions as Anderson proceeds on her journey into the past.

<http://www.hbo.com/documentaries/packed-in-a-trunk-the-lost-art-of-edith-lake-wilkinson.html>

Black Alphabet Film Festival

Mark your calendars: The Black Alphabet Film Festival (BAFF), which is dedicated to showcasing Black LGBTQ cinema, returns for the third year on July 23-26 with screenings on the campus of the University of Chicago and the Center on Halsted. More than 35 features and shorts will be showcased during the festival, many of them Chicago premieres. Highlights will be discussed in my next column. Visit the fest's website for complete line-up and to purchase advance tickets. www.blackalphabet.org

Upcoming movie calendar

Highlights from films opening in Chicago, July 17 and July 24 (or available digitally)

The Tribe (open now)—Myroslav Slaboshpytskiy's audacious feature debut, the winner of multiple Cannes Film Fest awards, takes us inside a Ukrainian high school for the deaf in which all manner of vice are carried out by the corrupt faculty and their all-too-eager, blood-thirsty charges.

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Turn to page 22

JUBA+

JULY 26 - AUG 1

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Daughter of Gay Games founder opposes World Outgames merger

BY ROSS FORMAN

The potential merger in 2022 of the long-running Gay Games and the relatively new World Outgames has one staunch opponent: Jessica Waddell Lewinstein, the daughter of Gay Games founder Dr. Tom Waddell.

"Not to say change is bad, [and] more often than not it's a good thing. But in this particular case, I think the merger will only result in people forgetting about the original mission and principles that at least one of the events, [the Gay Games], were founded upon, [which are] participation, inclusion and personal best.

"I think the merger will ultimately diminish the experience that the Gay Games has successfully offered over the course of the last 30-plus years. The Gay Games have always revolved around sports, and I, along with many others, firmly believe that this new merger will detract from that."

The Gay Games, operated by the Federation of Gay Games (FGG), is the largest and oldest sports and cultural event primarily for LGBT athletes, as well as artists and musicians. The quadrennial, multi-sport event dates back to 1982, when it was first held in San Francisco. The Games were held in Chicago in 2006 and the most recent edition was held last summer in Cleveland and Akron, Ohio in 2014.

The 2018 Games will be held in Paris.

The World Outgames, run by the Gay and Lesbian International Sport Association (GLISA), launched in Montreal in 2006, kicking off that year a few weeks after the Chicago Games ended. There also have been World Outgames held in Copenhagen (2009), Antwerp (2013) and next will be in Miami Beach in 2017.

Several years ago there were intense talks by FGG and GLISA to merge into one quadrennial, multi-sport and cultural event, but that failed. At least at the time.

Earlier this year it was announced that FGG and GLISA were once again trying to merge into one quadrennial event—for 2022.

The [merged event] will work to perpetuate the history of FGG and GLISA, while also working to bring the LGBTIQI community together, a statement from both organizations said.

"The Gay Games means a lot to me. I have a lot to thank them for—my family, my life, my career," said Lewinstein, 31, who lives in Oakland, California; works as a communications manager at 2K; and is engaged to John J. Kopp III, a partner alliance manager for Sony.

"[The Gay Games are] the reason my parents [Tom Waddell and Sara Lewinstein] met, the reason I was born and the reason I got into communications after college. That said, it also means so much more—and not just to me, but to the LGBTQ community as a whole. It's a place for people to come together, take pride in who they are, overcome their differences, build relationships, and share a common interest in sports."

Lewinstein is so adamantly opposed to a merger that she's started a Change.org campaign, urging people to sign up online in support of nixing the merge. Lewinstein started her online petition about a month ago and has 287 signatures of 500 needed, as of press time.

"I know the FGG collected 2,000 votes of support for [the merger], but I think it's important to note that the number is less than half of the participants from Cleveland," which attracted 5,000 to 7,000, Lewinstein said. "We have no idea how many voted against [the merger], and we have no idea who these people are. As someone who is very data-driven, I would like to know how big the pool of people they reached out to was, who they were, and how this poll was even taken.

"Otherwise, I honestly haven't seen enough data or testimonials to convince me that this

[merger] is what people want, nor have I seen a plan that would convince me that this is the right direction.

"In general, I'm totally open to merging two events, if it is done properly and makes sense, but I'm not seeing anything that tells me that this is one of those situations."

Lewinstein said she has reached out to FGG to ask why they think the merger is a good idea, "but they have yet to tell me their reasoning, or really talk to me at all about it," she said. "To their credit, they did invite me to a recent conference call, but it was unfortunately booked for times that conflicted with my day job, and I have not heard back from them about arranging some kind of follow-up call or discussion since."

Clearly it is a "very tough" time for Lewinstein, who certainly wants to honor her late father's legacy, which she wants to preserve.

"I would be lying if I haven't fantasized



Jessica Waddell Lewinstein.
Photo by Steve Becker

about being able to take my own future family to a Gay Games one day, showing my one-day kids what their grandfather did, who he was, and what kind of impact he had on people from all over the world," she said.

Lewinstein is convinced that a merger would "severely impact" the Gay Games legacy. "With the merger, they want to essentially change the event's core principles, focus and mission, [and also] the name. And once you change those, what's really left?" she said.

Lewinstein lived in Chicago in 2006, working on those Games—and those are her fondest memories of the Games.

"After having attended these events with my mom over the years, Chicago was the first one where I got to branch off and do my own thing, and really take an active role in working on the event itself," she said.

See <https://www.change.org/p/federation-of-gay-games-gay-and-lesbian-international-sport-association-keep-the-gay-games-alive>.

The entire article is at <http://www.windy-citymediagroup.com/lgbt/Daughter-of-Gay-Games-founder-opposes-merge-with-World-Outgames/52104.html>.

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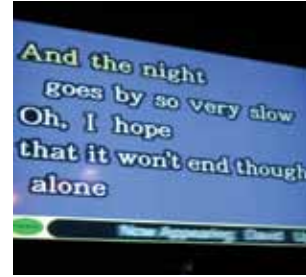
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weekly nightlife section in

**WINDY
CITY
TIMES**

MARY'S ATTIC

Hitting all the right notes at Sunday-night Mary-oke.
Photo by Kirk Williamson

Hirsute honeys at Drag Matinee's Bearded Lady Ball, Saturday, July 11.
Photos by Kirk Williamson


SIDETRACK

End your weekend with some Sunday showtunes.
Photo by Kirk Williamson


PROGRESS BAR

The official afterparty for Mamby On the Beach, Sunday, July 12.
Photo by Kirk Williamson

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"I'm sorry—are you *THAT* famous?"—Nicolle Wallace's response when Raven-Symone said that she doesn't sign autographs because it just goes on too long and she ends up getting a cramp in her hand. Yes, this is what The View has come to.

People are insane. This is not a new observation, but it comes courtesy of a trio of stories which all revolve around audiences behaving badly while attending a live show. The most ridiculous thing happened just before a performance of Hand To God on Broadway. A man with a cell phone running out of juice spied what he felt was an available outlet. Alas, it happened to be onstage. (It was also a non-working prop outlet!) Moments after the perpetrator plugged in his phone, a phalanx of ushers rushed down the aisle to remove it and chastise him. The bewildered theatergoer allegedly said, "Well, where can I charge it?" Sigh. Were he not hot, I wouldn't bother posting a video of the incident or a photo of him on BillyMasters.com.

Next is something which has reached epidemic proportions: texting in the theater. Shockingly, most people don't even attempt to do it discreetly—they brazenly whip it out, not caring if the glare is a distraction to anyone. We recently reported that **Madonna** was accused of texting during Lin-Manuel Miranda's *Hamilton*. Her behavior was such that the cast banned her from coming backstage—but Madge denied the episode. The issue has been confirmed by our own Jonathan Groff, who was in the show: "That bitch was on her phone. You couldn't miss it from the stage. It was a black void of the audience in front of us, and her face was perfectly lit by the light of her iPhone through three-quarters

of the show." Maybe that's why she did it—for favorable lighting.

Some people can ignore misbehaving audience members. But some people ain't **Patti LuPone**. I've warned you—don't fuck with Patti. I know you want to capture her brilliant performances, but unless you can do it surreptitiously, don't risk it—that woman has eyes like a hawk. She's currently appearing off-Broadway in *Shows for Days* (a performance the 'London Guardian' calls "never less than watchable"). It seems a woman was using her phone during the show—happily not taking photos or videos, but likely texting. Patti spotted the glare and she glared back. Because timing is everything, LuPone waited until the perfect moment—an exit line—to snatch the phone away as she walked off-stage. No word if the woman was brave enough to ask for her phone back. Patti re-enacted the moment (which she called a "sight of hand") the next evening in a pre-show speech which was posted online by the theatre. PHEW—an officially sanctioned video!! Check it out on BillyMasters.com.

How was your Independence Day? I had a lovely weekend in Provincetown catching up with old friends, drinking too much, and vacuuming sand out of my various nooks and crannies. While I typically don't see shows at the beginning of the season, **Well-Strung** and **Varla Jean Merman** are like family to me; they even invited me to their swanky cookout on the Fourth of July. So how could I refuse when they asked me to check out their latest shows and tell them what I thought? I am pleased to report that both are in quite fine fettle. Miss Merman is going where no drag queen has gone before with Varla Jean's *Big Black Hole*. It is exactly what you'd expect—it's outrageous and hysterical. The show is so specific to the concept that every song is brand-new—definitely a must-see. And, I'm proud to say a couple of my jokes made the final cut. So if you laughed, good. If not, they're the ones Varla wrote!

The boys of Well-Strung were never more adorable and playful. With their new show *Summer Lovin'*, under the expert direction of Richard Jay-



Don't mess with Patti LuPone.

Photo by Jerry Nunn

Alexander, they are most certainly on the right track (as they say in "Pippin"). If you've never seen them, GO! And if you've seen them before, GO again. The majority of this show is brand new and you'll have a blast. You can get details and tickets about both acts at PtownArtHouse.com.

The Well-Strung hunks are known for mixing pop songs with classical pieces, or playing pop songs in a classical style. They brought their unique skills to Foundations of Wayne's "Stacy's Mom", retitled "Chelsea's Mom." Then they made a pro-Hillary campaign video for the song. Within days, the video went viral and reached Chelsea, who reTweeted it to her mom. That would be cool enough, but then Hillary actually saw the video and retweeted it herself. Cool, right? It gets better. Hill had a fundraiser in P-town on July 2, so the boys cancelled their show. Why? Because they were asked to perform at the fundraiser and meet Chelsea's Mom in person! Now that, my darlings, is cool!!! You can check out the video and pics of the boys with our next president on BillyMasters.com.

The big gay news last week was the extortion trial of Teofil Brank. You remember Teofil, aka gay porn star **Jarec Wentworth**. He's the guy

who was blackmailing MagicJack founder Donald Burns. Teofil/Jarec was found guilty on all six counts after a rather short two-hour deliberation, and will be sentenced in September. But far more interesting to me was Burns' testimony about his extensive history of hiring porn stars. No judgment there—I'm sure many of us would do the same thing. But Don claims to have hired guys every few weeks for solo or group sessions, paid them hundreds/thousands of dollars, and then sent them away—often by plane. These included Sean Cody stars Willis, Arthur and Miles/Aidan, among others. The head of the class appears to be Ashton/MacKinzie Amadon, who continues to be paid \$4-5K a month just for being Burns' "friend." With friends like that...

Since we're talking about gay porn, directrix **Chi Chi La Rue** has voluntarily checked into rehab. While en route to the famed Hazelden/Betty Ford Center, he posted a video message to fans on his Facebook page.

When even gay porn is subject to summer reruns, it's definitely time to end yet another column. This week, we are sad to announce the loss of one of our long-time proofreaders. No, he didn't die—he just has a real job that actually pays! So that means we have an opening for someone who would like to join the fast-moving, glamorous world of www.BillyMasters.com, the site that's always looking to fill an opening. If you'd like to apply (or ask a question), send an e-mail to Billy@BillyMasters.com and I promise to get back to you before someone asks LuPone if they can charge their phone in her dressing room! Until next time, remember, one man's filth is another man's bible.

LGBTRIVIA
From page 11
ANSWER:
Colin Firth

Questions from That's So Gay! A Game of LGBTQ Discovery, a 2400-question board game available from Women & Children First Books and on Amazon.com.

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the DISH

Weekly Dining Guide in
WINDY CITY TIMES

SAVOR

New York Delicatessen; Be Leaf

BY ANDREW DAVIS

Take one co-owner from Indianapolis and another who already has a long-established Chicago eatery, and what do you get? Naturally, it's **New York Delicatessen** (2921 N. Clark St.; SecondCityDeli.com).



Co-owner Isaac Work (right) and Lee of New York Delicatessen.

Photo by Andrew Davis

After the original New York Deli was closed in March, Isaac Work (yes, that's his actual name) and Clark Street Dog owner Angelo Velliotis—taking the spot over from Bronx native David Lobo—reopened the spot, retaining the Big Apple vibe. Work described the New York attitude to Windy City Times as “overly friendly—except maybe for Manhattan.” (He may have been joking.)

As for the food, the New Yorker (corned beef, pastrami navel, swiss, Russian dressing and cole slaw on rye bread) is possibly one of the best sandwiches I've had this year. The Macy's Parade (tur-



Be Leaf (29 N. Wacker Dr.; BeLeafSalad.com), as one might gather from its punny name, is another of a wave of restaurants (Just Salad; Freshii) aimed at having people eat more healthfully.

Speaking of puns, Be Leaf is a veritable pun house when it comes to its menu. (The restroom has pea-themed wallpaper because that's why people do in bathrooms, owner Becky Marks said. Think about it.) Regarding the menu, there are the Hail Kale (All Hail Caesar), with kale and romaine, chicken, parmesan crisps, shaved parmesan cheese, sliced cherry tomatoes, roasted garlic and Caesar dressing; and Falafel-osophy, with romaine and arugula, sweet potato falafel, crumbled feta, dates, quinoa tabbouleh, English cucumber, sliced

key, bacon, creamy havarti, whole cranberry sauce and tomato on French bread) isn't far behind. Other enticing items include everything from the matzo-ball soup to the housemade cannolis. (Other desserts are courtesy of Angel's Bakery as well as Glazed and Infused.)

The decor is sparse—in step with the no-frills approach this casual spot has. (The awning/signage will be more prominent once city permits are approved.) If you get the chance, definitely check out this place.

cherry tomatoes, cilantro, pickled red onions and chipotle date dressing.

Not to be topped, another is the Chi-cobb-o—a mix of romaine, chicken, bacon, hard-boiled egg, avocado, kale chips, red peppers, and bacon tahini dressing or maple yogurt dijon dressing. (There are many other varieties, or people can make their own.) In addition, patrons can get wraps (spinach or whole wheat) instead of salads.

Marks, with an eye toward the future, said that she would like to open a chain, and has already envisioned changes/additions to the menu of the just-opened spot (e.g., smoothies). Be Leaf is off to an auspicious start.



MAMBY ON THE BEACH

The summer sun was the perfect setting for the weekend-long festival at Oakwood Beach with music from Royksopp, Felix da Housecat and more. Photos by Jerry Nunn

nightspots the big TO-DO

OUR WEEKLY PICKS TO PLAN
YOUR NIGHTLIFE CALENDAR



Mr. Midwest Rubber 2015

Fri., July 17-Sun., July 19

Touche, 6414 N. Clark St.

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All Things Beyoncé party and lip-sync contest

Wednesday, July 15, 9 pm

Sidetrack, 3349 N. Halsted St.

Celebrate she who runs the world with videos, concert footage, showtune clips, Bey-drag and a special lip-sync contest. Get on stage and mouth the words ... and no drag required. Email info@sidetrackchicago.com for more.



OTTER

Saturday, July 18, 9 pm

The Sofo Tap, 4923 N. Clark St.

Nightlife veteran Gary Sullivan hosts the July installment of the monthly party for hairy dudes you all know and love. Fireball shot specials. No cover. Photo by Kirk Williamson

WINDY
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CALENDAR

Wed., July 15

Men's Speed Dating Enjoy comedy - all while searching for the man of your dreams in this classic, round-robin evening of speed dating! \$10 in advance, \$15 at door 7:00pm - 9:00pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted Chicago <http://www.gayco.com> Tickets: <http://community.centeronhalsted.org/SpeedDating>

Thursday, July 16

Move Your Body: The Evolution of House Music Exhibition in the Chicago Rooms celebrating more than 30 years of a home-grown art form that is now heard around the world. Through Aug. 16, 2015 7:00pm - 9:30pm Chicago Cultural Center 78 E. Washington St. Chicago http://www.cityofchicago.org/city/en/depts/dca/supp_info/moveyourbody.html?utm_source=Move+Your+Body+Exhibit+Preview+2015&utm_campaign=Move+Your+Body+Exhibit+Preview+2015&utm_medium=email

Public Space & Cultural Diversity: What Makes a Space Feel Welcoming Public panel discussion. Part of Chicago's Families: Where Community Begins series. Eighteen cultural organizations across Chicago are showcasing the rich diversity of families in Chicago through evolving exhibits at area museums. 5:00pm - 7:00pm The Swedish American Museum Center 5211 N. Clark St. Chicago <http://chicagoculturalalliance.org/families>

Kinky Boots Broadway musical, winner of six Tony Awards, follows a struggling shoe factory owner and a fabulous entertainer in need of some sturdy stilettos. Through July 26 7:30pm Cadillac Palace Theatre 151 W Randolph Chicago <http://www.broadwayinchicago.com> Tickets: http://www.ticketmaster.com/Kinky-Boots-Chicago-tickets/artist/1726694?brand=bicartist&camefrom=CFC_BIC_BUYAT_bic2000&cam

MOOD INDIGO
Tuesday, July 21

The duo Indigo Girls will perform at The Vic Theatre, 3145 N. Sheffield Ave.

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Confessions of a P.I.M.P. The first event of the Ignition Festival of New Plays, Confessions of a P.I.M.P. is written and performed by Andre De Shields. Song, dance and spoken word. 7:30pm Victory Gardens Theater 2433 N Lincoln Ave Chicago 773-564-9564 <http://www.victorygardens.org/>

Roxane Gay, Bonnie Jo Campbell, and April Lindala, authors Reading and signing Here: Women Writing on Michigan's Upper Peninsula 7:30pm Women & Children First Bookstore 5233 N Clark St Chicago <http://www.womenandchildrenfirst.com>

Friday, July 17

July Genre Fiction Discussion Group. Book Discussion Group: The Sealed Letter by Emma Donahue. Event is free and RSVP is not required. 6:30pm - 8:30pm Gerber Hart Library and Archives 5315 N Clark St., 773-381-8030 <http://gerberhart.org>

Queen An event of the Ignition Festival of New Plays, Queen is written by Madhuri Shekar and directed by Joanie Schultz. The play depicts two scientists working together to discover the cause of the urgent crisis where bees are disappearing around the world. An Artistic Meet and Greet & Ice Cream Social will follow the performance. Admission is free although an RSVP is required. 7:30pm Victory Gardens Theater 2433 N Lincoln Ave Chicago (773) 871-3000 Tickets: <http://www.victorygardens.org/ignition/>

Bert Ashe, author Twisted: Dreadlock Chronicles Reading and signing. After forty years this author and professor began growing dreadlocks in an attempt to step out of his conventional American life and chronicles the reactions 7:30pm Women & Children First Bookstore 5233 N Clark St Chicago <http://www.womenandchildrenfirst.com>

Saturday, July 18

Depression & Bipolar Support Alliance (LGBTQ) Support meeting to talk about illnesses, symptoms, treatment, doctors, and personal issues such as dating, relationships and work. Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted 11:00am - 12:30pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted Chicago <http://dbsa-glbtc-chicago.com>

Three Oaks Theater Festival - Elephant & Piggie's We Are In A Play Presented by Emerald City Theatre Company. This vaudeville musical features the characters from Mo Willem's "Elephant and Piggie" series and was developed by Willems and composer Deborah Wicks La Puma. Directed by Morgan Ashley Madison, this is an all-ages event. Time is ET. 10:00am The Acorn Theater 107 Generations Dr. Three Oaks, MI 49107 269-756-3879 Tickets:

http://www.vendini.com/e/rd.php?id=339549702&cid=143366&link_number=58&u=http%3A%2F%2Fthreecoastfestival.com%2Fdetail_elephant-piggie.html

Chicago Red Stars. Women's professional soccer. Celebrate during Chicago Red Stars' match against Boston. \$10 7:00pm Village of Lisle Benedictine University Sports Complex Lisle, IL Tickets: <http://Chicago-RedStars.Ticketfly.com>

Affinity's JazznJuly Celebrate and recommit to the work ahead. Individual ticket \$85. Door ticket \$100. Couple's ticket \$150. VIP reception \$125 each. 6:30 pm. 7:30pm - 12:00am Gallery Guichard, 463 E. 47th St., Chicago Tickets: <http://JazznJuly.com>

Loving Repeating Musical tribute to the life and loves of celebrated American author Gertrude Stein. Using Stein's own works as lyrics. Through Aug. 30, 2015 7:30pm Theater Wit 1229 W Belmont Ave. Chicago Tickets: <http://www.kokandyproductions.com>

Bette, Live at the Continental Baths Hell in a Handbag Productions presents this musical tribute to Bette Midler starring Caitlin Jackson, directed and choreographed by Christopher Pazdernik with musical direction by Jeremy Ramey as Barry Manilow. Tickets \$20 advance, \$22 at the door. VIP reserved seating with drink \$35. 8:00pm Mary's Attic 5400 N Clark Chicago Tickets: <http://www.handbagproductions.org/>

Sunday, July 19

PFLAG DuPage chapter Meets the third Sunday of each month 2:00pm St. Paul Lutheran Church, 515 S. Wheaton Ave. Wheaton <http://www.pflagillinois.org>

Web series: Nupita Obama Creates Vogue The first independent pilot in the #OpenTV Presents series about artists exploring alternative relationships. Nupita Obama explores a love triangle between three queer artists of color. Also, 7 pm performance by Saya Naomi and DJ Latham Zeafross of "Chances Dances" 8:00pm Canvas, 2313 North Ave., Chicago <http://weareopen.tv/story>

Monday, July 20

TransSafe Drop In Resource Center Trans and gender non-conforming. Hang out, socialize, enjoy some food. Access medical, hormones, legal, housing, social, employment New day and location. 1:00pm - 4:00pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted Chicago http://www.chicagohouse.org/?post_causes=translife-center

Tuesday, July 21

Indigo Girls With Michelle Malone. 18+ \$39 8:00pm The Vic Theatre 3145 N Sheffield Ave Chicago Tickets: <http://jamusa.com/events/indigo-girls/>

Kate Pierson of the B-52's Meet & Greet tickets also available. Doors 6 pm 8:00pm City Winery Chicago 1200 W Randolph St Chicago Tickets: <http://www.citywinery.com>

Thursday, July 23

The Newberry Book Fair Chicago's largest book binge offers bargains for every age through July 26 with 120,000+ used books, music and collectibles 10:00am - 6:00am Newberry Library 60 W Walton St Chicago <http://www.newberry.org>

Black Alphabet Film Festival Showcasing films and other works that highlight and explore the Black LGBTQ and same-gender-loving (SGL) experience. Through July 26. Time:TBA Reva and David Logan Center for the Arts, Chicago <http://www.black-alphabet.org>

Lesbian Miniature Art Group Limited space (10 women). Limited size (6" x 6"). Bring supplies to work in your medium. Each will create her own work of art culminating in a Group Miniature Art Show. Mary Anne Cataldi is a professional artist and teaches computer illustration, visual arts, film animation and commercial arts. Every other Thursday. Please RSVP to: macataldi@aol.com or call. 6:30pm - 9:30pm 2418 W. Bloomingdale Ave., Unit 201, Chicago 773-718-6445

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diverse range of individuals, organizations, and communities required; Willingness to travel throughout the Chicago metropolitan area required; Willingness to conduct street and Agency outreach; Willingness to work night and weekend hours required; Bi-lingual, Spanish speaking preferred. **E-MAIL RESUME TO: swa-claw@chicagohouse.org** (7/15/15-2)

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SOCIAL ORGANIZATIONS

ARE YOU INTELLECTUALLY GIFTED? Are you interested in meeting other LGBTs like you? Come join the LGBT and Allies Special Interest Group in Chicago Area Mensa. **To inquire, contact lgbta@chicago.us.mensa.org.** (4/20/16-52)

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KNIGHT AT THE MOVIES from page 16

dialogue, the movie's visual sweep and aural soundtrack—not surprisingly—traps the viewer within this hermetically sealed, bleak and very violent world from which there is seemingly no escape. Although the film is lacking in depth, its gritty surface is something the viewer never forget. <http://www.musicboxtheatre.com/features/tribe>

Boulevard (7/17)—Robin Williams, in his last movie role, stars in what is reported to be a very somber drama as a closeted gay man whose chance encounter with a street hustler leads to changes in his life. Kathy Baker, Bob Odenkirk and Roberto Aguirre co-star. The film has been released theatrically in New York and Los Angeles with other major cities (including Chicago) suggested, followed by a VOD release on Starz Digital. <http://boulevardmovie.com/>

Tangerine (7/17)—See listing details above.

Tig (7/17)—See listing details above.

Mr. Holmes (7/17)—See listing details above.

A Murder in the Park (7/17)—Shawn Reich and Brandon Kimber's eye-opening investigative documentary delves a sensational murder case on Chicago's South Side in 1982, a reversal of a miscarriage of justice after an investigation by a group of Northwestern law students and then ... a series of questions about what exactly happened and who was truly innocent. It's a film that stands your expectations on its head. <http://www.siskelfilmcenter.org/murderinthepark>

Marvel's Ant Man (7/17)—Gentle funny man Paul Rudd steps into comic-book hero territory in this big-budget action flick that focuses on a heist that will save the world. Evangeline Lilly, Hayley Atwell and Michael Pena co-star.

Packed in a Trunk: The Lost Art of Edith Lake Wilkinson (7/20)—See listing details above.

The Black Alphabet Film Festival (BAFF) (7/23—7/26)—See listing details above.

Southpaw (7/24)—Jake Gyllenhaal bulked up for this portrait of a boxer whose personal life falls apart as his career gains momentum.

FILM NOTE: The Music Box Theatre presents the Chicago Premiere of Kris Swanberg's new film *Unexpected*. Kris will be in attendance and will be participating in a post-show Q+A moderated by film editor of The Chicago Reader, J.R. Jones, Friday, July 24, 6 p.m. for a pre-reception in the Music Box Theatre lounge. Light snacks and beer will be provided by Corridor Brewery and Provisions.

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