

WINDY CITY TIMES

THE VOICE OF CHICAGO'S GAY, LESBIAN, BI, TRANS AND QUEER COMMUNITY SINCE 1985

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SPARKS & RECREATION

Jordin Sparks talks with WCT.
Photo by Standa Merhout

17



DANCE FOR LIFE 2015

Rhythm and moves at this annual fundraiser.
Hubbard Street dancers Andrew Murdock and Kellie Epperheiner in Hubbard Street + Second City's The Art of Falling. Photo by Todd Rosenberg

13



PRIDE IN ACTION

The Latina/o PRIDE Picnic celebrates 10 years of community and pride

PAGE 8

On stage at the Latina/o PRIDE Picnic in Humboldt Park.
Photo by Ed Negron

Queer woman talks activism, being undocumented

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

When Arianna Salgado was a sophomore in high school, she started thinking about her status as an undocumented immigrant and what that would mean for her in terms of higher education opportunities.

Since Salgado didn't have the usual avenues available to other high school students such as federal student loans (FAFSA), she had to find resources and information specific to undocumented people. This meant sharing her status as an undocumented person with outsiders. She chose to tell her



Arianna Salgado.
Photo by Yanina Guevara

close friends at first since she knew they would be supportive. "That really helped because if I needed to speak to a school official they would come with me and give me that support," said Salgado. "What also helped was my mom started getting involved in organizing with a local group and that made me more comfortable about sharing my status because I knew

Turn to page 8



GRAND RAPIDS/SAUGATUCK

An eye-opening experience.
Photo by Karen Sons

16



SAYING GOODBYE

Joel B. Carothers dies.
Photo from Kate Winner

6



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INDEX

NEWS

Chicago researcher receives grant 4
 HBHC's new status 5
 Joel B. Carothers dies; trans murders 6
 Conference on HIV and trans people 7
 Latino/a Pride picnic; Salgado 8
 In the Life 9
 Letters: Stop and frisk 10

ENTERTAINMENT/EVENTS

Scottish Play Scott 11
 Dance for Life 13
 Knight: Blackbird; Olive Films 14
 Sports: Konrad Eiring 14
 Travel: Saugatuck/Grand Rapids 16
 Jordin Sparks 17
NIGHTSPOTS 18

OUTLINES

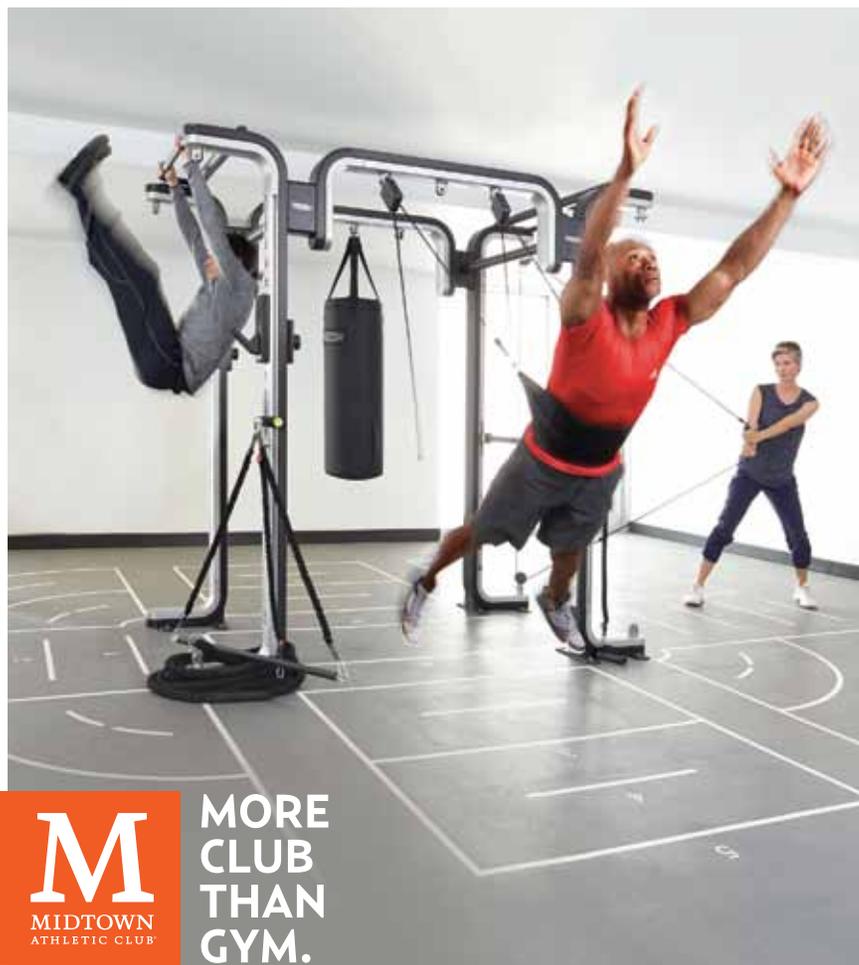
Calendar Q 21
 Classifieds 22

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COMMUNITY ACTION

The group Trikone provides a haven for local LGBTQ South Asians.
Photo (left) of Trikone-Chicago President Sal Salam from Salam

LIP SERVICE



Windy City Times talks with the intriguing entertainer Amanda Lepore.
Photo by David Nguyen

'ART' WORK

WCT reviews the theatrical production Art.

ACT UP

The latest Ask Lambda Legal deals with The Equality Act.

THAT'S SHOW BIZ

Find out the latest about Madonna, Jack Black and Heather Matarazzo.

plus **DAILY BREAKING NEWS**

IDDY WITH DELIGHT



Iddy Id Productions recently held "A.U.C.T.I.O.N." at Space 1858.
Photo of Kiyah Charleston (left) and Shiane Wilxocen from Shiane Myrih

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Chicago researcher among recipients of trans-health grant

BY MATT SIMONETTE

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) announced, on Aug. 14, that it has awarded \$5.7 million for a five-year study that will evaluate the long-term outcomes of medical treatment for transgender youth. Among the co-investigators in the study is Dr. Robert Garofalo, division chief of Adolescent Medicine at Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago and professor of Pediatrics at Northwestern University School of Medicine.

"This is one of the proudest moment of my academic career, and probably my medical career as well," said Garofalo. "This is the first study of its kind, and it really only comes after two years of very hard, diligent and collaborative work to get this award."

According to a statement, the goal of researchers is to uncover evidence-based information on the physiological and psychosocial impact, as well as safety, of hormone blockers and cross-sex hormone use amongst transgender youth. Garofalo's co-investigators include Johanna Olson of Children's Hospital of Los Angeles and the Keck School of Medicine of the University of Southern California; Stephen Rosenthal of UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital in San Francisco; and Norman Spack of Boston Children's Hospital and Harvard Medical School. The study will take place at four academic medical centers with dedicated transgender youth clinics.

Garofalo, who gave additional credit to the Tawani Foundation for its financial support on transgender health issues, added that the study came at the "perfect time" and can potentially expand the scope of transgender health issues.



Dr. Rob Garofalo.

Photo by Gretchen Rachel Hammond

"There's been an explosion of awareness in transgender health, both in the medical field and in the media, as well as in academic circles," he said. "For too long, transgender health issues have been seen singularly through the prism of HIV."

The study begins enrollment in the fall and will include 280 transgender youth. Participants will be individuals seeking medical intervention to align their physical bodies with their gender identity and alleviate gender dysphoria and its associated negative effects, including anxiety, depression and substance abuse.

of Bombastic magazine, which is about the Ugandan LGBTI community. Kasha Jacqueline, a founder of the Ugandan LGBTI movement who was one of the grand marshals for this year's New York City Pride Parade, created the first edition last year. Jacqueline and a team of volunteers delivered 20,000 copies of Bombastic across the country.

Jacqueline reached out to IGLHRC concerning a second edition, leading to the campaign. See Indiegogo.com/projects/bombastic-help-spread-lgbt-stories-across-uganda#/story.

UChicago announces LGBT research study

The University of Chicago has announced "Your Voice! Your Health!," a new research study focusing on the health-care experiences of LGBT people of color.

Those interested in learning more about the project are invited to attend one of four community launch events across the city, all of which are open to the public:

—Tuesday, Aug. 25, 6-7:30 p.m., Task-Force Prevention & Community Services, 9 N. Cicero Ave.;

—Tuesday, Sept. 1, 6-7:30 p.m., South Side Help Center, 10420 S. Halsted St.; and

—Wed., Sept. 2, 10 a.m.–12 p.m., Esperanza Health Centers, 2001 S. California Ave.

Any community organizations or health-care centers that wish to learn more about participating in the study should call 773-442-2591 or email ResearchStudy@mortengroup.com.

Reproductive Justice at the Intersections

BY GAYLON B. ALCARAZ



Marriage Equality and Social Justice

In the Spring of 2000 I wrote an opinion piece for Venus Magazine's (no longer in existence) Back Chat section titled "Until Death Do You Part?" about the LGBT fight for holy commitments and domestic partnerships.

In my piece I stated that "Quiet as it's kept, same-sex marriages are on the horizon." I knew then what I am very aware of now—that when mainstream LGBT organizations jump on board, it is only a matter of time before "they" win. Don't get me wrong. I understand the importance of this issue; still I see it as a very classist ideology.

The marriage framework is a construct based on a financial premise—arrangement and benefit. Who benefits? Better yet, what does love have to do with it? Beyond the "legal arrangement," my argument is based on the premise of loving, honoring and cherishing until death do you part ... whether you had that piece of paper or not.

that many people of color were on the frontlines of the fight but a majority of those individuals (many I know) are not poor, marginalized or disadvantaged. On the other hand, those individuals that are living on the margins of society have more important things to do than march for marriage equality. Yes I want my friends and family to marry if they choose. However, I also want my friends to have healthcare, a fair and livable wage, decent places for their families to live and the ability to walk the streets in love without being terrorized. Is that too much to ask?

I am disappointed with the mainstream LGBT movement focusing on marriage equality when so many in the community are suffering from daily injustices. My everyday conversations with my friends don't center on marriage or white picket fences. In fact we discuss the challenges they face in raising autistic children without any support; or why they can't find a decent affordable apartment in a safe and resourced neighborhood; or how they have to go miles to find healthy foods. A lack of employment or minimum wage are very valid concerns. Yet, the topic of conversation for the mainstream movement is the ability to get married.

My question is if my friends can get married will they find a job that pays them a livable wage? With her marriage certificate can she access a safe place to raise her children?

"Yes, I want my friends and family to marry if they choose. However, I also want my friends to have healthcare, a fair and livable wage, decent places for their families to live and the ability to walk the streets in love without being terrorized. Is that too much to ask?"

Does the ability to get married keep people together? Obviously, no. Still, many have said "it is cheaper to keep her/him" and so their efforts to maintain their relationship actually turns out to be a financial agreement. I am fine with that if we know that going in. However, many are falling in love and wanting to live happily ever after. Do we need a piece of paper for that?

What I find interesting and absolutely fascinating about the LGBT fight for marriage equality is that it was an agenda mostly orchestrated, fueled and funded by gay white males and the mainstream LGBT organizations. Yes, I understand

Despite all of this, I know and understand that we should have the choice to love, marry and make the type of family we want and desire. This is a reproductive justice issue. I fully support a person's choice to make their own decisions. However, I know that if I partnered with that special someone, a piece of paper is not going to keep me committed. Shout out to Kurt and Goldie! Like I ended my opinion piece 15 years ago, "Who needs society to validate our relationships? What's really the point? A ring on the finger or love in the heart?"

Gaylon B. Alcaraz is the former Executive Director of the Chicago Abortion Fund, a community organizer and staunch reproductive justice advocate. You can follow her on twitter @gaylonalcaraz and contact her at gabtalks@gmail.com.

AFER shutting down

The American Foundation for Equal Rights (AFER)—which fought to overturn California's anti-gay Proposition 8—has announced it is ceasing operations.

The announcement came approximately a month after the U.S. Supreme Court victory on marriage equality and the Freedom To Marry's decision to close down as well.

Activists Chad Griffin (now the president of the Human Rights Campaign) and Kristina Schake founded AFER in 2009. Oscar-winning screenwriter Dustin Lance Black, Rob and Michele Reiner, and Academy Award-winning producer Bruce Cohen were among those who joined its board. Cleve Jones, Julian Bond and David Mixner were a few on AFER's advisory board.

Executive Director Adam Umhoefer announced the decision on AFER's Facebook page. In part, he posted, "Today, because of you—and the pioneering work of organizations like the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), Freedom to Marry, Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders (GLAD), Lambda Legal, and the National Center for Lesbian Rights (NCLR)—this group of brave plaintiffs and legal teams have finished the work and won every American the right to marry who they love."

IGLHRC launches Ugandan campaign

The International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission (IGLHRC) has launched a campaign to support an initiative by activists in Uganda, according to a press release.

IGLHRC has helped start an international crowdfunding campaign for a second edition

 @windycitytimes1

HBHC named federally qualified health center

BY MATT SIMONETTE

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), on Aug. 11, selected Howard Brown Health Center (HBHC) as a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC).

The FQHC designation, the highest that can be awarded to a U.S. health center, means HBHC is qualified to receive both grants under Section 330 of the Public Health Service Act as well as enhanced reimbursements from Medicare and Medicaid.

"It's really good news for us," said HBHC Pres-

ident and CEO David Munar. Besides the prestige of the designation, Munar noted, HBHC will now be able to compete for a number of grants that they had previously been shut out of.

"There are grants that, throughout our entire history, we have never been able to compete for," he explained, citing as examples some state programs designated for capital expansion or expanding mental health services. "So the LGBT community has never been able to benefit from these opportunities before. We'll be able to try for those now."

HBHC will receive an annual operating grant of approximately \$650,000 and other benefits designed to increase access to primary care, behavioral health and ancillary services to low-income community members. Munar said HBHC is looking to bring in five new medical providers in the first 12 months, adding that the organization was projecting about 1,900 new patients in the first six or seven months. "This will have a cumulative effect and grow over time. It's not hyperbole to say that this will allow us to serve tens of thousands of patients."

FQHCs must serve an underserved area or population, offer a sliding fee scale, provide comprehensive services and have both an ongoing quality assurance program and a governing board of directors, according to HHS. HBHC has been a FQHC "Look-Alike" since 2001, meaning that it met eligibility requirements for under Section 330, but did not qualify for the associated grant-funding.

"Symbolically, it's important for this organization, which has had its ups and downs, to receive this," Munar noted. "This has been something Howard Brown has been competing for for years."

In addition, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HRSA) recently awarded Howard Brown Health Center (HBHC) a Geriatric Workforce Enhancement Program (GWEP) three-year grant for \$300,000 to continue its Health Education About LGBT Elders (HEALE) curriculum from 2015 through 2018.

The HEALE program focuses on improving cultural competence for nurses who care for the aging LGBTQ population. The program consists of a six-hour curriculum that focuses on appropriate terminologies around sexual orientation and gender identity, health disparities elders experience, and best practices and strategies for nurses to become allies and advocates for their older LGBTQ patients.

Over the last four years, HEALE has trained more than 1,100 nurses and 900 adjunct staff at more than 60 U.S. sites, including 18 Veteran's Administration hospitals.



Creating Change Host Committee co-chairs Mary Morten, Joshua Oaks, Precious Davis and Kenny Martin-Ocasio.

Photo by Carrie Maxwell

Creating Change events in August

The National LGBTQ Task Force has announced that the 28th National Conference on LGBT Equality: Creating Change ("Creating Change") will take place Jan. 20-24, 2016, at the Hilton Chicago, 720 S. Michigan Ave.

The next Host Committee meeting for Creating Change will take place Wed., Aug. 26, at the Gerber/Hart Library, 6500 N. Clark St., 6-8 p.m. RSVP by Monday, Aug. 24, at creatingchange@thetaskforce.org.

Also, to celebrate Creating Change coming to Chicagoland, the Host Committee will be holding a patio party on Thursday, Aug. 27, 6-9 p.m., at the SoFo Tap, 4923 N. Clark St., to spread the word about the conference and let those interested know how they can get involved. There will be free food and drink specials for those who attend. RSVP for the event on the Facebook event page ("Creating Change Patio Party").

Close to 5,000 LGBTQ community leaders and activists from across the country are expected to attend the conference.

For more information about the conference and to register, visit www.creatingchange.org.



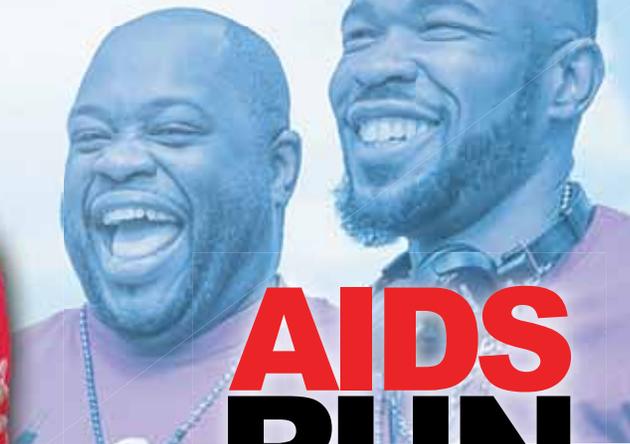
Howard Brown Health Center. Photo by Andrew Davis

Chicago's Black and Latino communities are hardest hit by HIV. What are we doing to stop this?



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Joel B. Carothers passes away

BY ROSS FORMAN

Joel B. Carothers, a former Chicago resident known to her friends as Joie, passed away Aug. 7 at a hospice unit in Albuquerque, New Mexico, after a long battle with several different illnesses and complications arising after heart valve surgery, with her longtime partner, Kate Winner, by her side. She was 74.

Carothers, who had been retired for about 10 years, had long worked in sales and tech support and taught basic internet skills for seniors.

"She was a very, very creative person who never lacked for an idea," said Sue Mazer, who knew Carothers for about 35 years.

Born in Fremont, Michigan, Carothers received an associate's degree in business management. Carothers was an accomplished trumpet player, who was involved with the formation of the first gay and lesbian chorus in Chicago. She had a passion for golf and the card game Hand & Foot. Carothers also enjoyed painting, using water color and/or acrylic.

Plus, she wrote poems and children's books for young adults.

Carothers and Winner had weekly karaoke nights at their home for a large circle of friends, often up to 12 people, over the past few years, said Winner.

Carothers had an infectious sense of humor, and was "laughing till that last week," Winner



Joel B. Carothers.

Photo from Kate Winner

said. "She came into my life to help me lighten up, and it worked."

Winner and Carothers met in September, 1993. Winner was living in New Mexico, about to open a bookstore. Carothers was living in Chicago, working for a company that sold inventory control software geared for bookstores.

Winner called the company that Carothers

worked at, and her call was transferred to Carothers.

"We met on the telephone," Winner said, laughing. "I called to inquire about the software, and whoever answered the called handed (the call) off to Joel. We liked each other immediately. It was just supposed to be."

Their friendship and relationship blossomed quickly, even though it was primarily done over the phone, and by that Christmas, Winner proposed to Carothers.

And on April 23, 1994, the two had a commitment ceremony in Chicago.

"We spent Christmas [1993] on the phone, talking for hours and leading to a \$700 phone bill," Winner said. "We talked Christmas Day on the phone, sipping Angelico and opening presents on the phone."

"I think she was put on the other end of that phone [asking about the software] for me, and me for her. I'll always think that. She came to show me how to have a good time, have fun, lighten up and take things less seriously. And I came to take care of her, nurture her in ways she deserved and hadn't totally had."

"It's been a wonderful life."

Winner ran the bookstore for only a few years.

"I opened the store to get on the phone to get Joel, and once I got her the store was sec-

ondary," she said, laughing.

"It was an amazing [courtship]."

The two often mailed letters to each other, Winner said.

"It was fun, always like [receiving] a present," when a snail-mail letter arrived, she said. "When I feel in love with that woman, I fell in love the way you're supposed to do when you're 16."

Winner, though, was 47 when she met Carothers.

The two left Chicago the day after their Chicago commitment ceremony in 1994, and actually had another commitment ceremony in New Mexico. Plus, they were legally married on Cape Cod on July 26, 2012.

Winner and Carothers, plus Mazer and her partner, Jan Norton, plus two others were scheduled to go on a Caribbean cruise next February. Mazer said she and Norton are definitely still planning to go—and plan to dedicate the cruise to Carothers "to her life and the fun we had with her," Mazer said.

Lou Bohr, who lives in Chicago and is a professor at Northeastern University, knew Carothers dating back to the early 1970s. They were "lovers" for a few years, Bohr said.

"She was funny, full of mischief and rebellious. She also was very passionate," Bohr said.

More trans women murdered in U.S.

In Dallas, Shade Schuler, 22, was found dead, according to LoneStarQ.com. Also, The Salisbury Post reported that, in North Carolina, authorities have charged a known Latin Kings gang member in the death of transgender woman Angel Elisha Maurice Walker, 20, after her remains were found buried in a shallow grave behind a home in Johnston County.

Other trans women reported slain recently include Ashton O'Hara, Kandis Capri and Amber Monroe.

The total of trans women found murdered in the United States (16) has already surpassed the number from all of 2014.

Schuler's body was actually found July 29. However, it was so badly decomposed that it took authorities nearly two weeks to identify her.

Regarding Walker, who had been missing since last November, the Rowan County sheriff's office charged Angel Dejesus Arias, 23.

The bodies of O'Hara, 25, and Monroe, 20, were found only weeks apart at Detroit's Palmer Park, The New York Daily News noted. That city is reportedly dealing with 15 reports of LGBT violence—a marked increase from last year's statistics.

Capri, 35, was killed Aug. 11 in Phoenix, The Guardian reported.

In a statement, National LGBTQ Task Force Executive Director Rea Carey said, "We are outraged. The level of violence against transgender women in this country is unconscionable and part of a national crisis. Together, we must continue to stand up against the ongoing systemic violence and educate the public about the real harm caused by discrimination."

"We also call upon local authorities to undertake a swift investigation and bring justice to [the victims], their loved ones and to their communities. Our thoughts and prayers are with their friends and families."

The Lone Star Q article is at LoneStarQ.com/breaking-black-trans-woman-found-dead-in-dallas-is-13th-trans-person-murdered-in-2015/. The Salisbury Post piece is at Salisburypost.com/2015/08/15/authorities-

charge-known-gang-member-in-the-death-of-missing-transgender-woman/#sthash.X3bp4Igd.dpuf.

The New York Daily News article is at <http://www.nydailynews.com/news/national/trans-killings-detroit-park-hate-crimes-article-1.2325078>.

Civil-rights icon Julian Bond dies

Julian Bond—a giant in the civil-rights movement who once headed the NAACP—has died at age 75 in Fort Walton Beach, Florida, after a brief illness.

While attending Morehouse College, Bond became one of the original leaders of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee in the 1960s. Later, he also became a writer, educator, legislator and television commentator, among other things. In addition, he founded, with Morris Dees, the Southern Poverty Law Center, a legal advocacy organization in Montgomery, Alabama.

Bond also fought for LGBT rights. Earlier this year, Bond was among those who condemned an Arkansas bill that some said fell short of providing needed non-discrimination protections to all of the state's residents. In 2013, he issued a letter supporting same-sex marriage that Illinois Unites for Marriage distributed.

Also in 2013, a Huffington Post piece quoted Bond regarding the link between civil and LGBT rights. "At bottom," he said, "it's these immutable characteristics [that couple the movements]. And you cannot be discriminated in this country for who you are." (See http://www.huffingtonpost.com/michael-g-long/from-black-to-gay-julian-bond-on-civil-rights-and-gay-rights_b_2450090.html.)

In a press release, National LGBTQ Task Force Executive Director Rea Carey said, "Julian Bond fought his entire life for freedom, justice and equality for all. He was a great friend of LGBTQ people and spoke at the National LGBTQ Task Force's Creating Change Conference in 2008 in Detroit. Professor Bond was someone who believed that it was always the right time for civil rights in our nation. We will miss him very much."



Joel B. Carothers (left) and partner Kate Winner. Photo from Winner

PASSAGES

Carlyle J. Jajko

Carlyle J. "Carl" Jajko, of Lake View, passed away peacefully Aug. 10. He was 83.

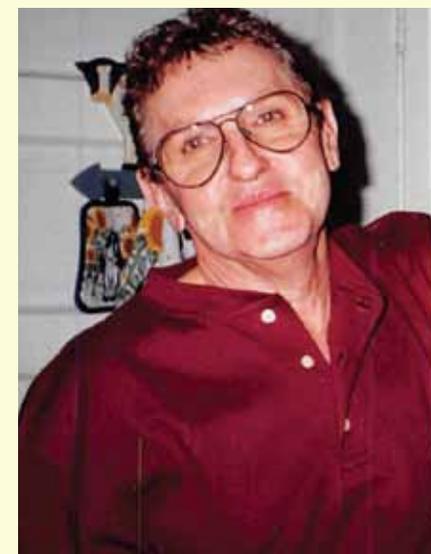
He was the beloved life partner of 51 years to John J. Manzella, and the faithful companion of Kukla Chang and many other shih tzus. Carl was the son of the late John Jajko and Wanda Yaros Raush (a spitfire and showgirl whose burlesque stage name was "Shebo").

After attending McDaniels Beauty School and working as a hairstylist, Carl went on to enjoy a second career as a print room coordinator at Cushing & Co. and the Environment Group architecture firms.

Carl loved dogs, cooking, art and painting, flowers and decorating, and was always volunteering with the needy, often leaving food and clothing out for the homeless in his neighborhood. He was a kind, optimistic and resilient person who bounced back no matter what life threw at him. He was also a cancer survivor since 1999.

Services are private.

Memorial contributions may be made in his



Carlyle J. Jajko.

name to Advocate Illinois Masonic Hospice (773-975-1600).

Arrangements by Cremation Society of Illinois, 773-281-5058 or www.cremation-society.com

Conference to look at HIV and the trans community

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

The Primary Prevention Early Intervention Committee of the Chicago Area HIV Integrated Services Council (CAHISC) will be hosting a conference on the structural, institutional and economic realities of HIV within the transgender community, "Transformation Conference," Thursday, Aug. 20, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Chicago Bar Association, 321 S. Plymouth Ct.

The organizer of the conference is Cynthia Tucker, vice-president of prevention and community partnerships at the AIDS Foundation of Chicago (AFC). Tucker is also a member of CAHISC's advisory board.

Tucker explained that she created the conference in order to gather more data on STI and HIV rates within the transgender community. She noted that the Primary Prevention Early Intervention Committee is tasked with making recommendations about funding priorities and any gaps in services, however, since there's a limited amount of information on STI and HIV rates in the transgender community due to a lack of research and data collection, it's been hard to pinpoint what those recommendations should be and this conference is a way to alleviate some of these gaps.

"The idea behind this conference is to get a wealth of real time data and information out to the public in a short amount of time that will help us to make sure that the City of Chicago has enough services and is doing everything they can to serve Chicago's transgender population," said Tucker. "I think a lot of the challenges and barriers to getting this data and information is the fact that transgender people lack access to trans affirming health care."

The panel will feature remarks by Dr. Margo Bell (inpatient pediatric director John H. Stroger, Jr. Hospital of Cook County specializing in Adolescent & Young Adult Medicine Pediatrics), Dr. Robert Garofalo (division head—Adolescent Medicine, professor of Pediatrics—Northwest-



Cynthia Tucker of AIDS Foundation of Chicago (AFC).

Photo courtesy of AFC

ern University Feinberg School of Medicine, director—Center for Gender, Sexuality and HIV Prevention, Stanley Manne Children's Research Institute), Lisa Kuhns, PhD. (research assistant professor of Pediatrics—Adolescent Medicine, Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine), Helena Bushong (activist and trans woman living with HIV) and Beverly Ross (trans woman and Youth Expert Advisory Board facilitator for AFC's Project Elevate).

Conference sponsors include AFC, the Chicago Department of Public Health, Cook County Health and Hospitals System, Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago and CAHISC.

To RSVP for the free conference, visit www.aidschicago.org/transformations. Lunch will also be provided to all attendees.

City insurance to cover trans-related health services

BY MATT SIMONETTE

Mayor Rahm Emanuel, on Aug. 5, announced that the city of Chicago will remove the exclusion of gender reassignment services from city health care benefits. Under the new rule, the insurance plans of city employees will cover such procedures.

According to a release, the change will be implemented for all non-union employees; the city is also working with labor partners to also remove the exclusion for union members. The change takes effect Oct. 1.

"Chicago is known for being a city that is welcoming to all and inclusive of every resident, and this new policy is in line with our efforts to support the rights and well-being of transgender individuals," said Emanuel. "With this change, Chicago will ensure that transgender city employees are able to receive the medical care that they need."

Brenda Johnson, a spokesperson for Chicago Gender Society, lauded the announcement.

"We were, of course, very pleased," said Johnson. "Corporate America has led the charge on this—the majority of large corporations have insurance that has these procedures included. We think it's wonderful that Mayor Emanuel has pursued this."

Dr. Magda Houlberg, chief medical officer at Howard Brown Health Center, said the decision "sets an example for other government agencies—it's very forward thinking. In the past three years, we've seen an increasing number of people come to Howard Brown for these types of services."

She added that not all transgender individuals choose to pursue surgery; some only pursue hormone treatments, for example. "A lot of patients have different goals."

According to Emanuel's statement, the issue was brought to the city's attention by American Civil Liberties Union Illinois.

"We commend the City of Chicago for recognizing that no one should be denied insurance coverage because of who they are," said John Knight, LGBT & HIV project director for ACLU Illinois. "More and more cities, states, private employers and the federal government have gotten rid of these outdated policy exclusions that make no sense, from either a medical or an economic standpoint. It's wonderful news that Chicago employees will now have access to the gender affirming care they need."

Correction

The photos that ran in the August 12 issue to go along with the OUTspoken! anniversary story were all credited to photographer Kyle Henderson. However, the photo of participant Alexis Martinez was from Facebook. Windy City Times regrets the error.

Trans individual charged with attacking alderman

BY MATT SIMONETTE

A transgender individual has been charged with attacking 17th Ward Ald. David Moore.

According to CBS 2, Moore said a group of people he called prostitutes did not believe that he was a public official and attacked him when he tried to break up their activity near 75th and Peoria Streets the early morning of Aug. 9.

Cordale Profit, of the 6100 block of South Rockwell Street, faces felony charges of aggravated battery to a public official, aggravated battery in a public place and unlawful vehicular invasion.

Moore said that he was returning home from another police incident in the ward when he

saw Profit and another individual congregating at the corner and asked them to disperse, identifying himself as the alderman.

"I really didn't want to deal with a whole lot of mess, so I just showed them my badge, told them I was the alderman and asked them to move on," Moore said in an interview to DNAinfo. "Both of them began to get irate."

Profit allegedly walked to Moore's car door and began punching his arm, while the other individual beat on the quarter-panel of his car. A third person joined in and began yelling at Moore. The three individuals left before police could arrive and Profit was apprehended at a service station a short time later.

After a bond hearing Aug. 10, Profit was released on their own recognizance and ordered to stay away from Moore.

CBS 2's article is at <http://cbslocal.com/1gv1m1Z>.

DNAinfo's story is at <http://dnainfo.com/1f4Mw16>.

AIDS Legal Council holds annual summer benefit

BY BEN SANDERS

The AIDS Legal Council of Chicago (ALCC) hosted its annual summer benefit at Boystown club Sidetrack Aug. 12. According to ALCC Director of Development Kevin Mork, 320 people registered for it.

The benefit's theme was "Tiki Holiday: Escape to a Polynesian Paradise," and the guests were adorned with leis, accordingly. Cocktails, provided by Sidetrack, were tropical flavored, and there was a performance by two members of Barefoot Hawaiian, who taught and presented various hula and Polynesian dances.

In addition, the night included food by Three Dots and a Dash, services by Revive Massage, a grand raffle and a silent auction.

The funds ALCC raised will help it continue to preserve, promote and protect the legal rights of men, women and children living with HIV/AIDS. Currently, the agency has a staff of 21 that's in charge of helping more than 1,800 clients, according to Mork.

Mork said he was very appreciative of all the support the ALCC received at the benefit, as was Tom Yates, the organization's executive director.

"I love the kind of affirmation of the work we do," Yates told Windy City Times. "I'm just so thankful that the community has shown up tonight to help us support our work and help us move forward to keep doing what we do, and to do it better."



AIDS Legal Council of Chicago Executive Director Tom Yates (center) draws for the raffle. Also pictured is ALCC Director of Development Kevin Mork. Photo by Ben Sanders. More photos online.

WINDY CITY TIMES

30TH ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL COLLECTOR'S EDITION



September 23, 2015

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Latina/o LGBT Pride celebrates 10 years

BY TONY ALVARADO-RIVERA

The Latina/o LGBT PRIDE Picnic celebrated 10 years of community and pride Aug. 15 in Humboldt Park.

After storms threatened the event, the clouds parted and the celebration was in full force. The picnic had a community resource area, plenty of food and fun activities for children. DJ Wanda and DJ [X]P kept people dancing and in good spirits all day. The event was topped off with performances from some of the community's top talent.

This year's picnic theme of "Entre Familia" ("Within our family") honored the past 10 years of organizing by and for the Latina/o LGBT community. Orgullo en Accion, a group of Latino/a LGBTQ community members united in working for social and political change, organized the event.

"We are so honored to have our community out in full force despite the rain. It's great to be amongst comunidad who are always full of love," shared Dulce Quintero, an Orgullo board member. "It's especially beautiful that because of community the picnic can celebrate 10 years—and maybe even more!"

Orgullo board member Tony Alvarado-Rivera mentioned the revamping of Entre Familia, a social support group for Spanish-speaking parents of LGBT children, and the Latino Leadership Summit. For more information on programs and events or to get involved, visit OrgulloEnAccion.org.



Photos by Ed Negron



SALGADO from cover

that my family, friends and community would be there to support me."

Due to her research efforts, Salgado was able to secure an academic scholarship from Dominican University as well as a scholarship from a private donor and small scholarships throughout her four years as a student at Dominican. The main scholarship and private donor scholarship covered \$20,000/year, however; that didn't cover the cost of attending Dominican, so she worked as a babysitter to pay for the rest of her tuition. By her senior year, that amounted to \$10,000 that she had to pay out-of-pocket.

Salgado, who identifies as queer, was born in Morales, Mexico, in 1992 and lived there for six years before coming to the U. S. with her mom and younger brother. She grew up in Melrose Park, Illinois and graduated from Proviso Mathematics and Science Academy.

"My biological father was abusive toward my mom so she decided she had to leave Mexico to provide us with a better life," said Salgado. "People don't realize the struggles that my mom and others go through in order to survive and get us to the U. S. It wasn't an easy decision."

Salgado grew up close to Secure Communities, which was a program that allowed for collaboration between the police and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

"If a person is undocumented and they get pulled over by the police, when they get booked their fingerprints are shared with the FBI and ICE. If ICE decides to do so they will place a hold on the person and the person can then be picked up and detained/ deported," said Salgado. "Melrose Park is a part of Cook County but we lived really close to DuPage County which was a Secured Communities county. That meant that I would constantly hear of people being pulled over and placed in proceedings because of the program."

"Even though Cook County wasn't a Secure Community that doesn't mean it didn't happen in Cook County. Chicago prides itself as a sanctuary status city for undocumented immigrants but the reality is undocumented immigrants are still being detained in Chicago. There was and still is a constant threat of deportation that we face as a family and community and that's why I got involved with immigrant rights issues while still in high school."

Salgado is currently involved with Organized Communities Against Deportation and Brown and Proud Press. She is also a part of the #Not1More campaign.

"When I started college, I became more involved with what's happening in Chicago in the areas of anti-deportation and anti-detention work," said Salgado. "I work with families who are facing detention and deportation through public campaigns. I've also been more involved with highlighting the intersections of being

queer and undocumented."

Salgado was one of the many undocumented people to be eligible for the Deferred Action on Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. She applied for and was given DACA benefits so that meant she was able to get a work permit, state ID and a Social Security Number (SSN).

"I don't have a drivers license, but that's just because I don't know how to drive, but I plan on learning so I can get my license," said Salgado. "Before receiving my state ID, I used my consulate card from the Mexican consulate, but many places wouldn't recognize that as a valid ID and would turn me away. I have so many more resources that I didn't have before DACA. With DACA protections, I'll be able to leave the country and visit my extended family in Mexico."

Due to her DACA benefits, Salgado was able to work at Dominican in certain departments that didn't receive federal money. This meant she wouldn't have to rely on babysitting money alone to help pay her tuition. She still wasn't able to do any work study programs or receive money from a federal program even with a SSN and work permit so to supplement her income she looked outside of the college for work.

That led Salgado to her current job as a legal assistant at the Law Offices of Mony Ruiz Velasco, an immigration law firm. She's been with the firm since last May.

This past spring, Salgado graduated from Dominican University with a degree in history.

She also studied criminology.

"Originally I wanted to get my Master's degree in teaching so I could teach high school history, but now that I've been working at the law firm, I'm considering going to law school," said Salgado. "I'm still unsure of what my next step will be academically so I'm taking a break from school to do the research and figure out funding before I enter graduate school."

This past spring, Salgado participated on a panel focused on the intersection between LGBTQ and immigrant rights with Windy City Times Publisher Tracy Baim and attorney and activist Nebula Li following a screening of the film Limited Partnership.

"It was great to be on the panel discussing the problems that undocumented, queer immigrants face trying to stay in the country legally and avoid deportation," said Salgado.

When not working, going to school or organizing, Salgado enjoys watching funny TV shows, hanging out with friends, going dancing and running.

"It's important to acknowledge all members of our community and support each other the best way we can," said Salgado. "The LGBTQ community includes undocumented people and people with disabilities, and it's imperative for us to be inclusive of those communities when thinking about LGBTQ issues."

Salgado can be found on twitter at www.twitter.com/ariannabee.



in the LIFE

Rich Saucedo

TEXT BY ROSS FORMAN
PHOTOS FROM SAUCEDO

- **Age**
46
- **Neighborhood**
Born and raised in Ludington, Michigan; now lives in Boystown
- **Orientation**
Gay, single
- **Favorite pizza toppings**
“No topping with extra sauce and slightly burnt cheese.”
- **Hobbies**
“I love to stay physically active every way I can. I play sports and workout regularly with a trainer, but mainly I love running outside.”
- **Preferred drink at a bar**
“My favorite cocktail is from Elixir and is off the menu: tequila gimlet, straight up, extra-shaken.”
- **Little-known fact**
“I have traveled and spent time in 25 countries for work. I have appreciated each trip because I love to travel.”

When Rich Saucedo jets over to Paris—five or six times annually, usually for two weeks at a time—it isn’t just for the amazing sights. He’s there on business.

On May 1, Saucedo was promoted to the vice president of human resources for Americas Bel Brands, a France-based cheese company, known for brands such as Mini-Baby Bel and Laughing Cow Cheese.

“I am excited and honored to have accepted the role, [which] combines my 20 years of HR experience into one position while working for a fantastic company that truly values people and diversity,” he said. “I feel like I captured every HR professional’s dream role where I have the freedom to act and expectation to do the right thing for people as regular part of our ways of working.”

Saucedo is now responsible for all HR strategy for the United States, Canada, Mexico and Brazil. That includes talent development, learning and development, compensation and benefits and HR generalist support for sales, marketing, industrial, finance and supply chain.

“It’s been amazing [working for a Paris-based company] and I have learned a lot,” Saucedo said. “One interesting fact I quickly learned is the French culture takes wine and cheese to a whole new level of appreciation. I’ve had more conversations about cheese in the last year than I have had in the past 20 years. And once educated on it, it’s hard not to appreciate and crave it.”

Saucedo, not surprisingly, said he has “completely [fallen] in love with [the French] way of living, food and architecture. I actually miss it when I’m not there. I’m already planning the next house party, which will be ‘Paris in a Bottle,’ where I plan to bring the best of Paris wine and food to Chicago.”

Bel Brands has a 150-year history of being a unique company with strong values, Saucedo said. “It’s awesome to know I am in a position where I can make sure we never lose this unique and caring culture. It’s a huge responsibility,



which I gladly accept.”

Saucedo said one of his career goals is to lead the talent and learning function for Bel, though that would require a move into Paris—but that’s a “win-win for me,” he added.

“Our internal and external company slogan is ‘Sharing Smiles’ and when our leaders talk about the business, this always works its way into the presentation. The business is doing incredibly well and is globally successful in profits and growth. We celebrate often with events at the office like beer and cheese fest, wine tasting and wellness challenges. The company just won Chicago’s 101 Best and Brightest for the 7th year in a row,” he said.

Saucedo is very active in Chicago’s LGBT community. He, for instance, is an investor in Halsted’s Bar and Grill in Boystown and he’s a multisport athlete within the Chicago Metropolitan Sports Association (CMSA). He plays dodgeball, softball and volleyball.

“As migrants, we didn’t have much money growing up, but money wasn’t the big challenge. In fact, my childhood was rich in very simple and beautiful ways,” he said. “My personal challenge came later in life when I

grow past my own insecurity of feeling that other people were better than me if they had more money, more education, were more attractive or because they were straight. I’ve learned through teachers, coaches, friends, family and a lot of self-reflection that we have total control over our own self value. We decide for our self what is important and how we will act towards others and, more importantly, how we treat and respect ourselves.

“It’s been an empowering lesson, or series of lessons, which has literally opened up the world to me.”

LGBTRIVIA



African-American actor Michael Boatman played gay mayoral minority-affairs liaison Carter on what 1990s-era TV series?

Answer on page 22

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letters

Stop and frisk

An Open Letter to the ACLU of Illinois Regarding Stop and Frisk
 American Civil Liberties Union of Illinois
 180 N. Michigan Avenue, Ste. 2300
 Chicago, Illinois 60601

Dear ACLU of Illinois:

We are writing in complete dismay and utter disgust upon learning—on the very day we were filing the Stops Transparency Oversight and Protection Act (“STOP Act”) in Chicago’s City Council—that you were in the midst of finalizing a “settlement” with the Chicago Police Department (CPD) and Mayor Emanuel’s office on the collection of stop-and-frisk data by the CPD. As a result of these secret negotiations, Mayor Emanuel requested that our aldermanic sponsors Proco Joe Moreno, Roderick Sawyer and Roberto Maldonado delay filing our ordinance until the September City Council meeting. In light of the mayor’s request, after consulting with our aldermanic sponsors, we did not file the STOP Act despite We Charge Genocide (WCG) and Chicago Votes’ announcement that we would at a packed press conference that very morning. The press conference itself was built upon several months of organizing and outreach by and to scores of youth of color in the City of Chicago in anticipation of the STOP Act’s introduction at City Council.

The ACLU’s unprincipled failure to inform WCG about these negotiations as soon as they were initiated and invite WCG to participate in them has directly undermined and undercut the organizing and advocacy efforts of Black youth who are targeted by stop and frisk and discriminatory policing in Chicago. You failed to be transparent that these negotiations were taking place and excluded the input of community partners—especially the youth directly impacted by the issue that is the subject of the legislation and who are fighting for their lives. This letter uplifts their critical work and serves as a warning to others who consider the ACLU a collaborator or partner. It is precisely this unprincipled and frankly shameful betrayal of impacted communities and grassroots organizing efforts that the ACLU claims to fight for that gives the organization its reputation for undercutting rather than supporting movements for change across the country.

Now, we learn that as a result of your secret and exclusive negotiations with the City you have reached an agreement with the CPD and Mayor Emanuel’s office on the collection of stop and frisk data, and your agreement does not provide the public with access to that data. Rather, under your agreement, only the ACLU and the designated “Consultant” will receive CPD stop and frisk data and other relevant information. Under your agreement, you are required to keep the information you receive confidential under an “attorney’s eyes only” standard. This result flies in the face of the public transparency and accountability that the STOP Act sought to secure—principles the ACLU allegedly propounds. We want to be clear: We are not in support of your work with the city or its result, which harms our existing work and undermines the broader campaign to end stop and frisk in Chicago.

WCG’s campaign on stop and frisk

WCG raised the issue of racially discriminatory stop and frisk practices in September 2014 in its shadow report to the UN Committee Against Torture (CAT). After the CAT issued its profoundly favorable findings in response to the WCG’s all youth-of-color delegation and the shadow report they drafted, WCG began developing our next steps, including advocating for the collection and publication of all stop and frisk data by the CPD. Over the course of the

last ten months, WCG began a broad campaign to educate and mobilize youth of color across Chicago to end CPD’s racially discriminatory stop and frisk practices, which has included launching the #ChiStops campaign, recruiting Chicago Votes to work alongside WCG in seeking the passage of the STOP Act, and going to classrooms and schools across the City to do the hard and essential work of building knowledge and support for the legislation among Black youth as young as eight who face discriminatory stops and abuse at the hands of the CPD every single day.

WCG’s communications with ACLU-Illinois

The ACLU Illinois has known for several months that WCG intended to seek mandated collection and publication of CPD’s stop and frisk data through Chicago’s City Council. It was first raised to the ACLU-Illinois in November 2014, and later when WCG members met with the ACLU-Illinois at your office on April 7, 2015. At that meeting, WCG shared a draft of the proposed ordinance, and you indicated the ACLU’s plan was to amend Illinois state law. You also informed us that you supported the STOP Act. You never suggested that WCG should not pursue the campaign to pass the STOP Act in Chicago’s City Council or that the ACLU was interested in working with the City to address this issue. You only asked us to refer any potential plaintiffs to you for a hypothetical lawsuit regarding stop and frisk. We subsequently emailed the ordinance to you and you provided us with feedback and edits which we wholeheartedly accepted.

The Illinois legislature then passed a bill, SB1304, on the collection of stop and frisk data that provided only half of what the STOP Act sought to achieve. WCG reached out to an ACLU-Illinois member on June 5 to discuss the SB 1304 and discussed the continuing need for the STOP Act. WCG then followed up with you ACLU to get your official endorsement of the STOP Act, which you provided and we informed you on July 1 that WCG would send out a press release and file the STOP Act on July 29 at the City Council meeting.

In light of this history, it was mind-boggling to learn that you have been in negotiations with the City without informing us prior to July 29. Common decency—let alone respect for the communities’ interests you claim to represent—would compel you to inform us of these developments. True solidarity, however, would have required you to not only inform us of your negotiations, but reach out to WCG’s youth members before even initiating or participating in them to discuss whether such negotiations should even be entered into, and on what terms.

Instead, you have chosen to shut us out of these negotiations entirely and even initially refused to disclose the possible terms of the “settlement” after the July 29th press conference. You only disclosed the terms of your deal to us on August 6th, the day you signed off on the deal with the CPD and Corporation Counsel, which was the same day you chose to meet with us. It was only then did we learn the true extent in which you undermined and undercut the efforts of WCG, Chicago Votes and Black youth who have been organizing against stop and frisk. Your actions evince a clear lack of respect and disregard for WCG and the communities impacted by the issue, and have completely disrespected and disregarded the many hours of work by the youth of color who are, in fact, those most impacted by stop and frisk.

The ACLU-Illinois’ unacceptable deal with the CPD

We Charge Genocide’s STOP Act is rooted in the experiences and ideas of those most directly impacted—young Black and Brown people. It is the strong desire of the youth we work with that data on stops and frisks be not only

collected, but be made publicly available on a City website every three months as a guarantee of actual transparency. The settlement you agreed to with the City fails to do this. Now, only you and the Consultant are provided with the relevant data and information—and on a confidential attorney’s eyes only basis. All other members of the public must seek the information through the FOIA process, which makes the information both inaccessible and hard to decipher if obtained. Your agreement with the City thus maintains the status quo, in which an elite knowledge of the FOIA process is required to access and review stop and frisk data. This is unacceptable.

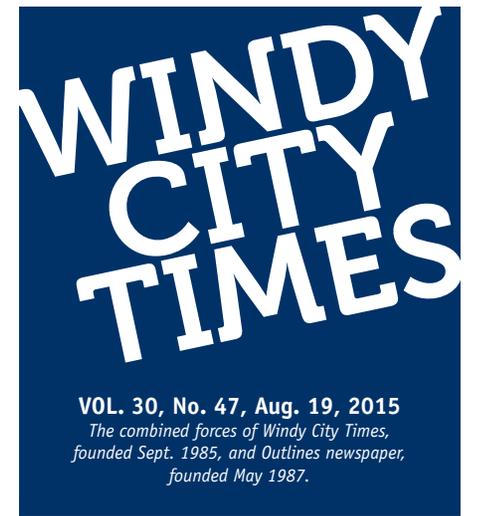
Additionally, we prioritized mechanisms in the STOP Act that would immediately reduce some of the harm caused by stop and frisk practices, e.g. issuing receipts after a stop that include the name and badge number of the police officers and requiring police officers to obtain written documentation of someone’s consent to search. These components of the STOP Act are critical parts of addressing the injustices experienced by young Black Chicagoans every day. They provide people with necessary information to complain about their encounters and attempt to hold the officers responsible while also being provided information as to their rights. Your settlement, however, does not include these pieces; it instead places more power, trust, and responsibility in the hands of those who brutalize us: the cops and the courts. If you had informed us of your negotiations with the City and respected the leadership of young Black people, the ACLU-Illinois would have known that we consider these elements to be non-negotiable aspects of any legislative measures regarding stop and frisk.

We do not naively believe that our communities are harassed, brutalized, and abused by the police simply because there is insufficient data, or because there are not enough laws on the books.

We understand police violence to be rooted in historical and systemic anti-blackness that seeks to control, contain, and repress Black bodies through acts of repeated violence. Stop and frisk should be understood as a tool police use to punish Black people just for being. Police violence is always state-sanctioned violence, and further strengthening narrow supervision of police action by elites will never address that. This is why any legislative or law-based campaign to address police violence requires not just policy change, but an actual transformation of power relations between communities of color and the police. Your settlement—focused on your own access—does not and cannot accomplish this.

What you have “won” is fundamentally different from the STOP Act, both in its means and in its ends. Our goals are rooted in the experiences of those most directly impacted; yours are not. Our movement is rooted in a political analysis that recognizes the need to shift power away from police and into our communities; your policy “victory” is not. Our motivation is rooted in a theory of change that prioritizes movement building and centering the leadership of those most affected; yours is not. Now, because of your self-serving interest in pushing simplistic policy changes, we and our allies face a much harder task pushing the critical package of reforms included in the STOP Act but ignored in your settlement. There is no such thing as an easy victory, and yours has come at a high cost.

Furthermore, as we expressed in our Aug. 6 meeting, it is highly disingenuous to claim this victory as a result of the usual non-profit legal advocacy work of the ACLU. The City’s desire to negotiate with you has much to do with WCG



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Turn to page 17

WINDY CITY TIMES

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20

Adamus' watermelon gazpacho. Joey's Bucket List benefit.



20



Yes, Michigan!

16

A visit to Grand Rapids/Saugatuck proved to be very enlightening.

Photo by Erin Wilkinson

SCOTTISH PLAY SCOTT

SNL dreams

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

Don't be deceived by the title of John Loos' SNL Showcase, now playing at the Annoyance Theatre. Despite its abbreviated moniker, it's not an actual audition showcase by the Chicago-based gay comedian for the long-running NBC sketch show Saturday Night Live.

"It's a way to frame my one-man show—actually a one-man play about auditioning for Saturday Night Live, which I have not," Loos said.

Like so many performers who specialize in improvisation and sketch comedy in Chicago, Loos has had the hope and dream in the back of his mind that one day that he might be featured in a local showcase and subsequently be asked to audition in New York for Saturday Night Live.

"I've never had the opportunity to do that, so this is sort of my own effort to create my own opportunity, I guess in a tongue-in-cheek way," Loos said. "Early on in the show, I declare that some of this is true and some of this is a lie, and I leave it up to the audience to decide."

Loos' show is also a way to point out that in the history of Saturday Night Live, there have only been two openly gay male performers in the ensemble: Terry Sweeney from the 1985-86 season and John Milhiser from 2013-14.

"I would hope that they would see something like this and maybe could diversify it in that way," said Loos, citing campaigns in recent years that pushed for more African-American representation on Saturday Night Live. "They can only benefit by diversifying."

In addition to performing his own shows, Loos remains a member of GayCo, Chicago's oldest and longest-running LGBTQ sketch comedy troupe which is currently planning its next revue show titled 50 Shades of Gay. Loos has also performed for The Second City as a cast member aboard Norwegian Cruise Line ships and its corporate shows, so he knows about tailoring material for more generalized audiences versus Chicago audiences who might already be used to his typically out and proud approach.

"I'm more of a traditionally campy performer," Loos said. "I think there's a lot of gay comedians who kind of struggle to find out where they belong along the greater comedy tapestry."

Another future project for Loos includes getting officially hitched to his long-time partner, Andy Eninger, the head of the writing program

for The Second City Training Center.

John Loos' SNL Showcase continues at 8 p.m. Sundays through Sept. 20 at the Annoyance Theatre, 851 W. Belmont Ave. Tickets are \$10. Call 773-697-9693 or visit www.theannoyance.com or www.johnlooscomedy.com. There is also one remaining performance of Hang In There, Carol! (John Loos' Unwanted & Unauthorized SNL Writing Packet) at 9 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 22, at Donny's Skybox at The Second City, 1608 N. Wells St. Call 312-337-3992 or visit SecondCity.com or JohnLoosComedy.com.

Revisiting Glory Days

There's a weird subset of musical theater fans known as "flop collectors." They pride themselves on seeing Broadway shows that failed artistically or financially (or both).

So no doubt that local flop collectors are eyeing the upcoming Chicago premiere of the Broadway musical *Glory Days* by the Refuge Theatre Project. *Glory Days* notoriously closed immediately after its opening night on May 6, 2008, giving it only one official Broadway performance after playing 17 previews.

But the artistic forces of Refuge Theatre Project believe in *Glory Days* and what it has to say. After all, *Glory Days* had a very successful regional run before Broadway at the Tony Award-winning Signature Theatre in Arlington, Virginia. A cast recording was also made to document the show by songwriter Nick Blaemire and playwright James Gardiner.

"We're trying to reach out to the twenty-somethings who don't normally go to the theater, and this show reaches out to that audience," said Ross Egan, co-founder and artistic director of Refuge Theatre Project.

Glory Days is a four-actor musical that shows four high school friends reuniting after their freshman year away at college. They have plans to pull a prank on the high school football team that tormented them while they were in school, but in the process they find out that

there have been a lot of personal changes that might fray their friendships. For example, one character named Jack comes out as gay to them.

"Those people who don't typically frequent the theater, they're going to be able to see themselves and what they experience in that time of change," said out director Matt Dominguez about *Glory Days* and his drive to cast the show with actors as close in age as possible to the characters. "If you listen to the entire score, you start to discover really great contemporary music that really is talking about a variety of issues and what it means to be in that time of being a kid but then realizing that you have to grow up."

Refuge Theatre Project's Chicago premiere of *Glory Days* plays from Thursday, Aug. 27, through Sunday, Sept. 20, in the Collaboration Room 300 in the Flat Iron Arts Building, 1579 N. Milwaukee Ave. Performances are at 7:30 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays and 6 p.m. Sundays. Tickets are \$20. Call 773-231-7691 or visit RefugeTheatre.com.



John Loos.
PR photo

THEATER REVIEW

Kurios: Cabinet of Curiosities

Devised and directed by: Michel Laprise
 At: Cirque du Soleil at United Center, 1901 W. Madison St.
 Tickets: \$35-\$270; 877-924-7783
 or www.cirquedusoleil.com/kurios
 Runs through: Sept. 20

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

There are plenty of recurring hallmarks for Cirque du Soleil shows and there are many to be found in Kurios: Cabinet of Curiosities. The show debuted in Montreal in 2014, and now it has toured to Chicago at the United Center's parking lot under the company's famed yellow-and-blue-striped big top tent.

Typical Cirque du Soleil shows are fairly thin on plot and more tied to a visually stunning theme to carry the show along—it also makes Cirque du Soleil shows truly international since it relies more on physical storytelling instead of language to further things along.

So it's the packaging of circus acts and feats that really matters, and Kurios more than delivers a captivating and imaginative framework under director Michel Laprise to contain all the amazing physical feats on display. The watchword is "steampunk" for the look of Kurios, and it envisions a dream world of late 19th-century technology in brown and copper tones blended with modern touches of today.

The first act of Kurios is much more urban in its approach as you see an inventor clown dream up a world that includes the arrival of a

**Kurios: Cabinet of Curiosities.**

Photo by Martin Girard

train, an aerial bike messenger and contorting creatures like you might see in an aquarium.

The second act becomes more like a visit to a seaside resort with flapping fish-like creatures bouncing in an enormous trampoline net and tumblers launching and landing on their compatriots' wrists and shoulders.

Everything is enhanced by a swinging score by composers and music directors Raphael Beau and "Bob & Bill" that sounds very similar to composer Yann Tiersen's quirky and contem-

plative film score to Amelie. Costume designer Philippe Guillotel is also particularly impressive with his whimsical work, which includes such amazing outfits like an accordion-man and one who can contain the cozy living quarters of the diminutive clown known as Mini Lili (Antanina Satsura of Belarus).

If there are any complaint to be lodged, it could be that the stadium-style seats are designed more for slender Europeans instead of double-wide Americans, so you might be hard-

pressed next to strangers more than you would like. Also, many audience members ignored the pre-show pleadings to put away their camera phones and experience everything live instead of behind a smartphone screen.

But otherwise, Kurios continues to live up to the notoriously high standards that Cirque du Soleil has set for itself and for what audiences expect of their gorgeously designed spectacles. Kurios will guarantee that you will be amazed and awed throughout.

THEATER REVIEW

The Dueling Gentlemen

Playwright: conceived and written by Marvin Eduardo Quijada
 At: Silent Theatre at the Athenaeum, 2836 N. Southport Ave.
 Tickets: 773-935-6875;
www.athenaeumtheatre.org; \$17-\$27
 Runs through: Sept. 20

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

Theater companies founded on a narrow repertory—Commedia, Operetta, the collected

works of Shakespeare/Shaw/Sondheim—might survive for a time on their appeal to a select audience but, sooner or later, will find it necessary to deviate from their initial mission. Silent theatre, by contrast, has remained faithful to its goal of replicating, through live-action performance, the aesthetic of pre-sound motion pictures. Rather than restricting the range of expression, though, exploration of this all-but-forgotten art form over the last 10 years now allows them to expand its boundaries to include, in a single 60-minute showcase, no fewer than five U.S. theatrical genres.

We begin with a vaudeville (19th- and early 20th-century variety-show entertainment) sketch entitled The Ugly Blonde—a farce recounting the tale of a fickle woman who spurns one suitor to marry another, only to have the wedding interrupted by a violent confrontation between the two, leading the presiding

clergyman to declare in disgust, "This is why priests don't get married!" What distinguishes this rendition of the familiar yarn is that all the roles are played by a single pair of actors employing quick changes of clothes, wigs etc. (a stunt-oriented gimmick still popular today). The narrative doesn't stop there, however, but moves backstage to reveal interpersonal tensions between the players—hostilities affecting their comedic duties to increasingly fatal extremes.

Did I mention that this scenario is presented in the style of a 1920s-era movie, complete with title cards supplying the dialogue and a stageside pianist providing lush, heavily chorded accompaniment to what was at one time called "MELO-drama"? The few breaks with period conventions—a stage picture retaining its natural hues rather than those of the early cinematic palette, and, at one point, a charac-

ter who texts and twerks—barely register, so consistent is the production's adherence to its chosen concept.

None of this would matter if Marcus Fittanto and Marvin Quijada were not operating at the top of their game in their respective portrayals of "The Drunk" and "The Perfectionist," whose rancorous relationship invokes pathos as infectiously intense as the clowning of their "onstage" personae elicits laughter. Credit is due the physical agility of both performers, but also that of Eliot Taggart as "The Guy on the Piano," who navigates Ian Custer's score with an aural dexterity matching that of his visual counterparts. The results make for a bravura tour turn as exquisitely executed as it is rarely essayed. Don't miss this opportunity to see it.

CRITICS' PICKS

Brilliant Adventures, Steep Theatre, through Aug. 29. A little Pinteresque menace, a lot of kitchen-sink drama and British post-industrial funk. But it's young playwright Alistair McDowall's sci-fi twist and well-etched characters that mark it as special, along with the best damn acting I've seen in a long time. JA

Grand Concourse, Steppenwolf Theatre, through Aug. 30. Psychologically impaired individuals are not always easy to identify, and if you think they are, see how long it takes you to spot the sociopath in Heidi Schreck's play. MSB

Stanley in the Name of Love, The New Colony at Den Theatre, through Aug. 29. This weird apocalyptic fairytale musical involving true love and gay porn may be a tad too simplistic, but Sean Kelly's club-kid production is assuredly and flashily produced with great pop numbers. SCM

Thunderballs, DD7 at Gorilla Tango Theatre, through Aug. 28. This clever gender-bending spoof of James Bond movies would be entertaining even if it didn't include a diverse range of playful mostly male physiques in diverse states of undress. MSB

—By Abarbanel, Barnidge and Morgan

THEATER REVIEW

The History of Alcohol in Chicago: A Drinker's Guide

Playwright: Andrew Thorp
 At: Public House Theatre, 3914 N. Clark Street
 Tickets: 1-800-650-6449;
www.publichousetheatre.com; \$15
 Runs through: Sept. 27 (Sundays only)

BY JONATHAN ABARBANEL

The theater venue that long housed Live Bait Theatre, and later the Artistic Home, has been the Public House Theatre for several years now, acquiring a cabaret license to allow drink service during performances of varied sketch comedy shows. Perhaps this formula is more appropriate for a Wrigleyville venue than the more traditional theater offerings of the former occupants.

The company's newest show (running in rep with several others) is The History of Alcohol in Chicago: A Drinker's Guide, offering several history-based vignettes that link Chicago and

alcohol. Mixed with the scenes are several audience-interactive drinking games. It's a clever idea but it suffers from pedestrian execution, as written and directed by Andrew Thorp. It doesn't dig deeply enough into its incredibly rich subject matter or create well-etched sketch characters. It also seemed, at the first performance, woefully under-rehearsed. For example, there's a scene about Prohibition and Al Capone—as one might expect—with Capone portrayed in superficial style as a cigar-chomping, gun-wielding thug. Isn't there something more imaginative the Public House folks might have done?

The show runs just 55 minutes, which barely gives viewers time to finish one drink, let alone order a second. The number of sketches is minimal introducing us to 1850s Chicago mayor Levi Boone (first to impose a Sunday liquor ban), temperance leader and suffragette Frances Willard, tavern owner and powerful politico Michael "Hinky-Dink" Kenna and a few others. But the brief sketches never spell out the intense link between saloons and politics (in the years before female suffrage), or gangsters and politics (Capone and 1920s Chicago mayor William Hale Thompson, for example) nor even mention the game-

changing Women's Christian Temperance Union of which Willard was president. The show ignores, for example, beer shipments from Milwaukee to Chicago immediately after the Great Chicago Fire, hooch-smuggling from Canada and anything post-Prohibition. It does mention that Chicago once was a beer brewing center (several of the long-defunct breweries still stand) and then focuses on an obscure brewing institute in a sketch in which the characters are not well-defined.

It also introduces the turn-of-the-last-century First Ward Ball hosted annually by Kenna and his ally "Bathhouse" John Coughlin, but doesn't mention that it was infamous for drag attendees. There's little connective tissue and so much that is, uh, untapped.

The program lists seven performers but there only were five onstage and they never identified themselves, so it's impossible to comment on them. Frances Willard was played by an actor in drag, and he had a fine sense of comic timing and improvisatory skills as he handled most of the audience-interactive sequences. Less is more may be a good rule for architecture, but it doesn't work for this show.

Dance for Life: Annual benefit draws record attendance



BY LAUREN WARNECKE

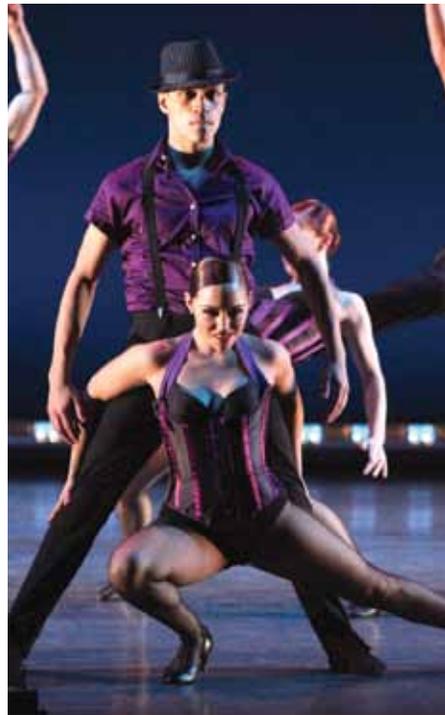
More than 2,000 people (a record number) flooded the Auditorium Theatre at Roosevelt University Aug. 15 for the 24th annual Dance for Life Chicago, presented by Chicago Dancers United. The yearly concert and gala event invites some of Chicago's best and brightest dance companies to share the stage in order to raise money and awareness for HIV/AIDS.

While much of Dance for Life (DFL) has evolved and changed over its 24-year tenure, the heart of DFL's mission remains the same. In 1992, Keith Elliott and Todd Kiech held the first Dance for Life as a response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic, with a particular lens on how AIDS was impacting the dance community. Throughout its history, money raised by the event supports two vital organizations: the AIDS Foundation of Chicago and The Dancers' Fund, a service organization providing emergency financial support to dancers facing chronic illness or health crises. In response to changing and evolving needs of Chicago's dance community, Chicago Dancers United is now an umbrella organization aimed at serving a wider scope of needs.

The fact remains, however, that HIV/AIDS has not gone away, and Dance for Life will continue to be a primary focus of Chicago Dancers United. Members and friends of the dance community gathered for a cocktail hour with all the glitz and glam that the Hilton Grand Ballroom had to offer before parading together to the Auditorium Theatre for a celebratory dance concert. In passing, Executive Director Anthony Guerrero confirmed that it was DFL's best year yet—thanks to a beefier marketing campaign and prioritized low-cost concert tickets this year. Expensive gala events are intended for aggressive fundraising, and while the cocktail hour still follows this format, Guerrero wanted the concert to be for everyone. For the first time ever, DFL patrons could get a \$15 seat to see seven world-class dance companies on the same stage.

At such a special concert, it is difficult to pull out the notable moments. Giordano Dance Chicago, River North Dance Chicago, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago and the Chicago Human Rhythm Project brought their best, show-stopping works from last season, and C5 presented a fun world premiere with a nod to Judy Garland and Barbra Streisand. The Joffrey Ballet and Same Planet Different World took a different approach, restoring older, but perhaps more meaningful, pieces for the program. Joffrey opened the program with the joyful romp "Viva Vivaldi," choreographed by co-founder Gerald Arpino. Arpino, apparently, took no prisoners when he created the work in 1965, but the incredibly difficult work showed well as a happy opening number.

Same Planet Different World (SPDW) brought back Shapiro & Smith's stunning "To Have and To Hold" specifically for this, the company's second appearance in Dance for Life. A favorite work of Artistic Director Joanna Rosenthal,



Top: Ahmad Simmons (from left), Hank Hunter, Ethan R. Kirschbaum, Drew Fountain, Levizadik Buckins, and John Litzler of River North Dance Chicago in *In the End* by Frank Chaves.

Photo by Gorman Cook Photography

Above: Martín Ortiz Tapia and Ashley Downs of Giordano Dance Chicago in *Feelin' Good Sweet* by Ray Leeper.

Photo by Cheryl Mann

the late Eric Eatherly—an SPDW alum and esteemed publicist who died recently—wrote of *To Have and To Hold's* significance: "...a gorgeous work where the dancers used three long benches to create the simplest yet most profound images. The work's transcendent themes of love, death, loss, and the ephemerality of life were never so profound in a work of dance." (Source: *The Silvermanifesto*, Mar. 14, 2011)

Randy Duncan's crowd-pleasing closer, "Stand By Me," was performed by an eclectic group of dancers selected by audition earlier in the summer. The finale was dedicated to the memory of Paul Christiano, a gifted dancer and choreographer who died earlier this month.

In a highly emotional evening, the mood remained light and positive, in large part due to hilarious emcees Joey Bland and Tim Mason of *The Second City*, and to the antics of HMS Media, who created a laugh-out-loud video of Joey and Tim embarking on a mission to learn all they could about Chicago dance. The moral of the story—made blatantly clear throughout the evening—was the sense of family and strong support members of Chicago's dance community has for one another. Dance for Life is a strong reminder of this, and of the impact that the arts and arts organizations can and do make in others' lives.

SPOTLIGHT



If you missed the the national tour of *Dirty Dancing: The Classic Story on Stage* the last time it played Chicago in 2008, then you can catch up with the international hit show once again. So see Baby fall in love with Johnny in the 1960s, complete with anachronistic songs written for the beloved 1987 film like "Hungry Eyes" and the Academy Award-winning "(I've Had) The Time of My Life." *Dirty Dancing—The Classic Story on Stage* continues through Aug. 30 at the Cadillac Palace Theatre, 151 W. Randolph St. Performances are at 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays through Fridays (also Aug. 23), 2 and 8 p.m. Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays (also Aug. 26). Tickets are \$15-\$82. For more information, call 800-775-2000 or visit www.broadwayinchicago.com.

Photo by Matthew Murphy

Chicago Dancing Festival Aug. 25-29

The ninth annual Chicago Dancing Festival will take place Aug. 25-29 at various downtown Chicago venues.

With choreographer Lar Lubovitch and Chicago dancer Jay Franke co-producing, the event aims to bring together leading ballet, modern and contemporary dancers from Chicago and across the country to present the largest dance festival in the nation.

The event will mark the festival debuts of companies such as the Miami City Ballet and Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre, as well as the return of Martha Graham Dance Company, Lar Lubovitch Dance Company, Pam Tanowitz Dance, Joffrey Ballet and Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, among others.

Also, for the first time, an entire evening will be devoted to "Modern Women," featuring works created by female choreographers from across the nation.

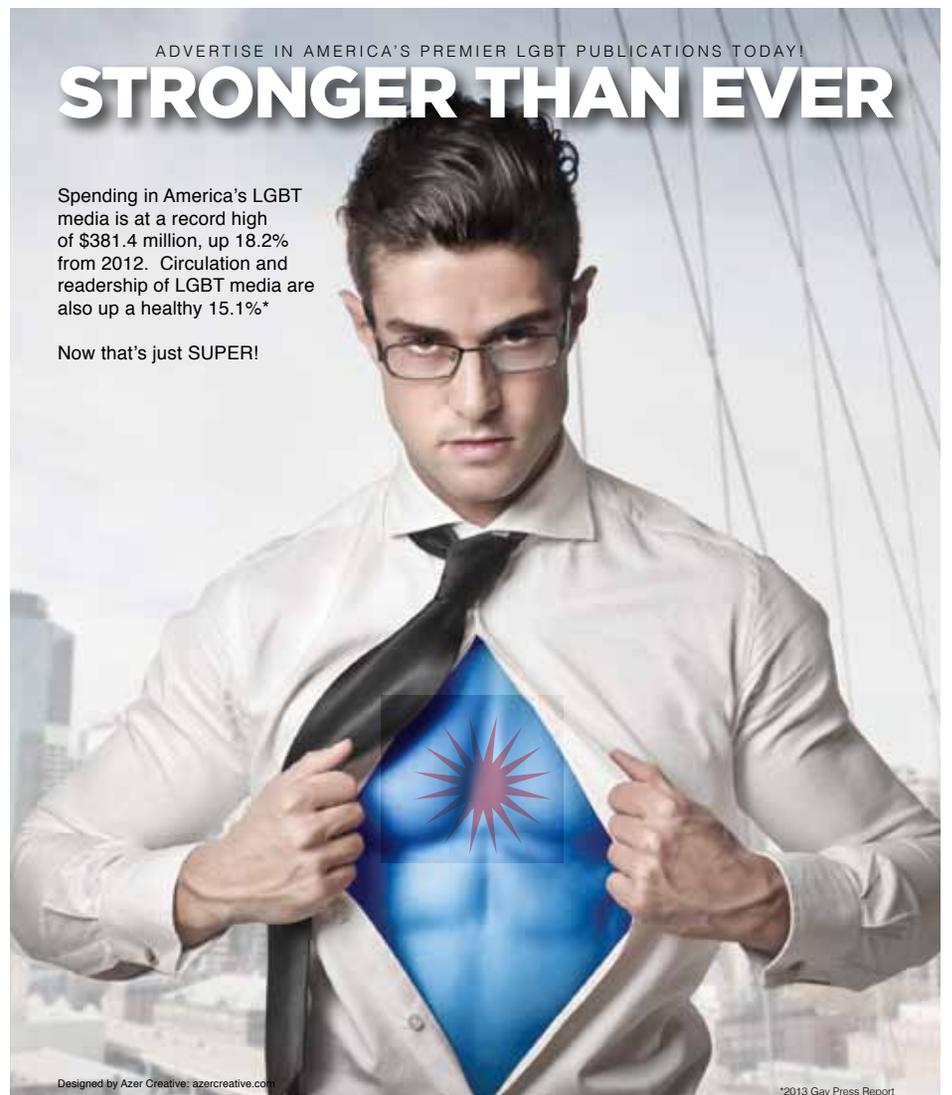
Visit ChicagoDancingFestival.com for information and tickets.

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KNIGHT at the movies

BY RICHARD KNIGHT, JR.

Blackbird; Olive Films

Blackbird

Patrik-Ian Polk has been dubbed “The father of gay Black cinema”—a title he is only too happy to claim, as he told *The Guardian* in a recent interview.

The 42-year-old filmmaker has been a torchbearer in that area for close to 20 years beginning, with his film *Punks* in 2000, although it was *Noah's Arc*, his series for *Logo* (2005-2006), that really put him on the map. A gay Black variation on *Sex & the City*—right down to the quartet of leading characters—*Noah's Arc* proved to be popular enough to spawn a feature film (in 2008) and was followed by Polk's next feature, 2012's *The Skinny*. Yet another urban tale of a group of gay black men this time adding a lesbian to the mix, the film starred Jussie Smollett, the openly gay African-American actor-singer who has seen his career zoom thanks to his starring role on *Lee Daniels' Empire*.

Aside from both being out African-American directors (and sometime screenwriters), Daniels and Ian-Polk also share a taste for over-the-top, melodramatic stories driven by sexed up characters with a penchant for expressing their emotions and desires in scenery chewing terms. Although highly enjoyable, their individual projects are also rather uneven, mainly because the reaches of both men sometimes exceed their grasps. That's an apt description of **Blackbird**, Ian-Polk's 2014 feature that played at both last year's Black Alphabet Film Festival and Reeling, and is now available on VOD and home release.

Mo'Nique makes her first film appearance since winning the Oscar for *Precious* (Daniels' incendiary 2009 film) in *Blackbird*, based on the 1986 Larry Duplechan novel. It's a coming-of-age drama that centers on Randy (openly gay actor Julian Walker), a devout Christian teen with a gorgeous voice who is having a crisis of faith over his desire for his muscular classmate, evidenced by frequent nocturnal emissions. Mo'Nique plays his anguished mother whose life revolves around trying to find out what happened to Randy's younger sister who disappeared years before.

The mother's obsession has all but destroyed her marriage to her easy-going husband (Isaiah Washington), who nevertheless tries to keep a relationship going with the angry Randy. Many more plot complications—a budding gay romance, teenage pregnancy, etc.—are melded into the plot of this overwrought drama that is elevated by the performances of Mo'Nique (who doesn't have nearly enough screen time) and Washington.

Episodic and plot-heavy though the film may be, there's no denying that this—like all of Polk's work—is plenty entertaining. Also, seeing gay Black lives represented onscreen is refreshing in itself though, thankfully, not quite as rare as it was when I began covering queer cinema 11 years ago. <http://www.blackbirdthemovie.com/>

Olive Films

“Cinema Lives Here” is the motto for **Olive Films**, a boutique distributor on Blu-ray and DVD of back catalogue titles and European art-house movies licensed from the major studios. A cursory glance over releases from the Chicago-based company certainly lives up to that moniker, with everything from Bertolucci's 1900 to Ford's *The Quiet Man* in its lineup.



Mo'Nique in *Blackbird*.

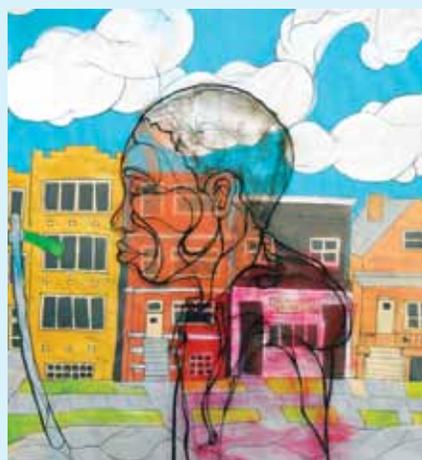
Photo courtesy of Vaughn Alvarez

I'm particularly happy to see a nice smattering of titles that queer-film fans will be interested in. For example, there are Jodie Foster's 1991 thoughtful directorial debut *Little Man Tate*; the Wachowskis' first film, the hot lesbian thriller *Bound*; Joel Schumacher's moving drag queen drama *Flawless*; the campy guilty pleasure *Roller Boogie*; the forthcoming *Prick Up Your Ears*, the biopic about gay English playwright Joe Orton; and *Deadly Prey*, a violent, homoerotic '80s variation on *Rambo* starring model/action star and *Playgirl* centerfold Ted Prior.

Peter Glenville's 1961 adaptation of Tennessee Williams' smoldering melodrama *Summer and Smoke*; Tony Richardson's 1994 *Blue Sky*, with its Oscar-winning performance by Jessica Lange; and Jerry Schatzberg's underrated 1987

Christopher Reeve drama *Street Smart*, with its sensational breakout performance from Morgan Freeman, are examples of Olive's classy offerings.

Guilty pleasures and terrific, little known movies from practically every genre—as diverse as *The Thing With Two Heads*, Peter Benchley's *Creature* and a batch of Blaxploitation flicks (including *Coffy*, my favorite Pam Grier movie), sci-fi (1956's paranoid classic *Invasion of the Body Snatchers*), film noir (two superior Barbara Stanwyck thrillers from 1950, *No Man of Her Own* and *The File on Thelma Jordan*), oddities (1954's *Johnny Guitar*), and Hollywood itself (1965's *Harlow*, 1975's *Once Is Not Enough*, 1978's *Fedora*)—just scratch the surface of Olive's ever-expanding catalogue. As movie purveyors are increasingly shying away



Sam Kirk's "Hoping and Praying."

Image courtesy of Kirk

Sam Kirk art exhibit Sept. 11-12

CHICAGO—Windy City Times and Prairie Avenue Gallery will present artist Sam Kirk's show “Do you see me?” The art show will be Sept. 11-12, 1900 S. Prairie Ave., and will benefit youth homeless projects of the Pride Action Tank.

The show represents Kirk's visual study of youth homelessness and the role it plays in working-class communities, communities of color, and the LGBTQ community. Kirk will exhibit original paintings, sketches, wood-cuts,

and sculptures that provoke viewers to pay attention, learn and get to know the people around them.

Kirk's work explores the intersections of culture and identity, which often include paths riddled with social issues and politics. “Do you see me?” addresses homelessness through a vibrant color palette and optimistic lens, provoking conversation and inspiring change.

Born and raised on the South Side of Chicago, Kirk is a product of a working-class family and has experienced many of the paths depicted in her work. She uses her work as a visual platform to incite change, and often exhibits in non-traditional settings, which allow her to use exhibits as a funding tool for organizations that help the people that inspire her work.

Sam Kirk's “Do you see me?” opening reception (with the artist) will take place Friday, Sept. 11, 5-10 p.m. Additional hours are Saturday, Sept. 12, 12-6 p.m.

See <https://www.facebook.com/events/104825039867502/>.

Renner, Reedus slated to attend Comic Con

Actors Jeremy Renner (*Avengers*; *The Hurt Locker*; *Mission: Impossible—Rogue Nation*), Norman Reedus (*TV's The Walking Dead*), Ian Somerhalder (*TV's The Vampire Diaries*), Ben McKenzie (*TV's Gotham*; *Southland*), Billie

from anything that doesn't stream, Olive Films has become a welcome resource for Blu-ray/DVD collectors of remembered cinema treasures and those that got away. <http://www.olive-films.com/>

Upcoming movie calendar

Highlights from films opening in Chicago, August 21 and 28 (or available digitally)

Hitman: Agent 47 (8/21)—A genetically engineered government assassin (Rupert Friend) is helped by a young woman in unlocking mysteries from her past and combatting a nefarious corporate plot. It's based on the series of video games, and co-stars out actor Zachary Quinto, Ciaran Hinds, and Thomas Kretschmann.

Sleeping with Other People (8/21)—Jason Sudeikis and Alison Brie star in this sex comedy in which, a dozen years after first hooking up, a man and woman run into each other and try to keep it on a friendly basis. Adam Scott, Amanda Peet and Natasha Lyonne co-star.

No Escape (8/26)—A U.S. businessman (Owen Wilson) living in Southeast Asia tries to keep his family and himself out of harm's way in the aftermath of a terrifying political uprising.

We Are Your Friends (8/28)—It's the latest from hunky heartthrob Zac Efron. This time out, he plays a DJ trying to hit the big time in Hollywood and, naturally, hedonistic complications galore (in the personage of his mentor's luscious girlfriend) throw up roadblocks to be overcome along the way. Emily Ratajkowski, Wes Bentley, Shiloh Fernandez and Jonny Weston co-star.

Grandma (8/28)—Lily Tomlin finally gets to play a lesbian (yay!) in this road comedy in which she portrays the title character, a cranky pants whose life is shaken up by the surprise appearance of her pregnant 18 year-old granddaughter. Julia Garner, Marcia Gay Harden and Judy Greer co-star.

Noir City: Chicago 7 (8/28—9/3)—The Music Box Theatre's annual film noir festival returns with a raft of little-seen '40s and early '50s noir classics in this much-anticipated annual series. This year I'm particularly thrilled to see the little revived *Hangover Square*, with queer star Laird Cregar in the title role, and *Ladies In Retirement*, starring Ida Lupino, among the treats being offered (more about both in my next column). <http://www.musicboxtheatre.com/festivals/noir-city-chicago-7>

Piper (*TV's Doctor Who*), Bruce Campbell and various professional wrestler are just some of the special guests expected at Wizard World Comic Con Chicago on Aug. 20-23 at the Donald E. Stephens Convention Center.

The 15th of 26 events currently scheduled on the 2015 Wizard World calendar, Chicago show hours are Thursday, Aug. 20, 3-8 p.m.; Friday, Aug. 21, 12-7 p.m.; Saturday, Aug. 22, 10 a.m.-7 p.m.; Sunday, Aug. 23, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

All full-price Wizard World Comic Con Chicago attendees will receive a limited-edition exclusive variant cover “The Walking Dead” comic, drawn by one of Wizard World's talented artist guests.

See WizardWorld.com.

South Shore Summer Festival on Aug. 23

Chicago's South Shore Cultural Center will, for the fifth year, host the South Side neighborhood's annual South Shore Summer Festival.

The popular one-day community happening will be held Sunday, Aug. 23, 11 a.m.-8 p.m. at the Cultural Center, 7059 S. South Shore Dr. (71st Street and the lakefront). Admission is free.

Among this year's performers are soul singers T.L. Williams and Terisa Griffin as well as longtime hip-hop artists Slick Rick and Doug E. Fresh.

See ChicagoEvents.com.

Local gay athlete excels in high school, now off to U. of I.

BY ROSS FORMAN

Konrad Eiring was a four-year varsity athlete at Barrington High School in the northwest suburbs, excelling in cross country and track & field. He missed graduation this past spring because he was at the Illinois High School State Track Meet.

His team, though, had a small graduation ceremony a week later, and now he's heading downstate to attend the University of Illinois in Champagne-Urbana, looking to major in art and design.

"I love design and clothing," said Eiring, 18, who also has a passion and appreciation for music, instilled in him at a young age by his dad.

"I was involved in many leadership clubs [in] high school, encouraging students to stay healthy and promote friendship. I also was quite active in my Boy Scout troop."

And yes, Eiring is gay—an accomplished athlete and a Boy Scout, who just happens to be gay.

"I came out while still in Scouts and one of the first people from my troop to say something about it to me was my scoutmaster, who was the father of one of my close friends," Eiring said. "He came up to me at a meeting, shook my hand and said he was incredibly proud of me. It was one of the most sincere realizations that I could be proud in my life without fear of losing all my work that I had put into Boy Scouts."

Eiring has achieved Eagle Scout, the highest rank attainable for a Boy Scout.

"I know there are a lot of homophobic fears when it comes to Boy Scouting, but I would love to let my experience show that if you stay true and work your ass off, you can be just as

successful in Boy Scouting."

Eiring, who has two older brothers, also enjoys drawing, painting and going on trail runs to help relieve stress, he said.

"I was very fortunate to be able to run with the varsity squads my freshman and sophomore year," of high school, Eiring said. "My freshman year we missed making it to the state meet by a few seconds and my sophomore we ran the same event (4x800) with just one new runner and won the Illinois state meet."

"Our team was better than it had been in a very long time, due to a lot of guys dedicating a lot of time and hard work."

Eiring participated in multiple track & field events—solo races and multi-member races.

As a junior, Eiring's run hit an obstacle, literally.

He was on a trail run and tripped, fracturing his fibula.

"At that time I didn't know I had fractured anything and struggled through the run," he said. "Then I went to the doctor because I couldn't walk and I got an x-ray, [but] nothing showed up. So I got the go-ahead to run one of my last cross-country races. In preparation for that meet I was told by my high school trainer to apply more weight to my injured leg to 'loosen up the muscles.' I trudged through my last race and let's just say it didn't go well. So I went back to my doctor and then got an MRI and found that I had broken my leg three weeks earlier."

He was placed in a boot to recover.

He often swam to stay in shape.

And that's when he started to think he was gay, but he wasn't comfortable telling anyone.

"Those long nights were my silent meditation where I realized that I was gay and that there was nothing wrong with it," he said. "After 14 weeks of my silent contemplation I was ready to return to land. Track [practice] was just beginning and I was feeling faster than ever. I came back rather quickly and set the conference indoor record for the 800-meters [race]. My confidence was perhaps a little inflated because after indoor conference [meet], I jumped my mileage from 30 miles a week to 50 miles a week."

But that led to another injury—he fractured his other fibula.

"This time I thought it was all over," he said. "It wasn't my off-season anymore and outdoor track was just beginning. I thought that my junior season was going to be a bust and that I would have no chance to run in college. My dreams seemed unattainable and I was broken. I remember one night just feeling, so helpless in my life as I was alone doing a swim workout and it dawned on me, I could let this whole situation beat me down and that would be it. Hang up my track spikes and walk away, there was always [that option]."

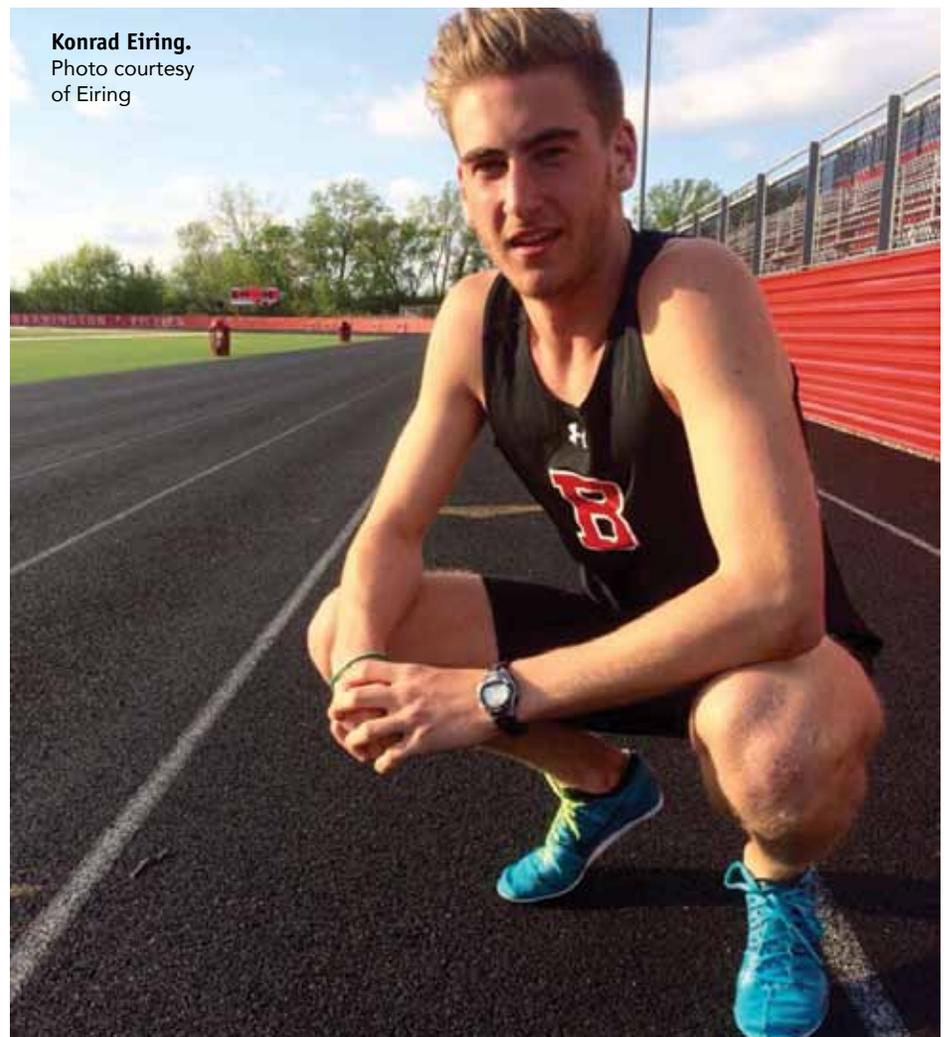
He opted against that route, though.

Eiring said he was one of seven LGBT students this past school-year at Barrington, and yes, there were other gay athletes at the school, too.

"My last year [at] Barrington was so incredible; I was able to grow even closer to my team and we accomplished greatness," said Eiring, who was out and proud as a senior. "I wanted to come out and set a strong example of a gay athlete."

Eiring said several opponents knew he was gay, and he never endured any negative feedback.

Eiring shared the popular Nike slogan on his size 12 Nike Victory shoes: in black ink, he



Konrad Eiring.
Photo courtesy
of Eiring

wrote, #BETRUE.

"I wanted a reminder to myself and others that being 100 percent with yourself is where true victory is found," he said.

"I know college is a new playing field, but that is true for everyone. I am so lucky to be joining some of the fastest and most devoted runners in the nation at the University of Illinois and a coach [who] supports all of us for us."

Eiring marched in the Chicago Pride Parade in late June with the Chicago Metropolitan Sports Association (CMSA), and said that Sunday afternoon was "out of this world, so intense and

incredible at the same time."

Eiring said other young, closeted athletes need to know that, yes, coming-out likely will be a challenge, "but coming out to your team will give you the opportunity to really grow as a team and individual. Being 100 percent with yourself can transform your confidence in all parts of your life."

"Some guys like guys, and some girls like girls, get over it and get back to the sport. If someone is honest with you about their sexuality, applaud it and get back to training, they are just like any other athlete."

Baseball player comes out as gay

David Denson—a minor-league player for Major League Baseball's (MLB's) Milwaukee Brewers—has come out as gay, The Chicago Tribune reported.

Denson, 20, plays for the Helena Brewers in the rookie Pioneer League. He is the first openly gay player on a team affiliated with MLB. He came out with the help of Billy Bean, MLB's ambassador of inclusion.

He told the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel that it was a "giant relief" to come out to his teammates. Denson told the newspaper that they were nothing less than supportive. "They said, 'You're still our teammate. You're still our brother. We kind of had an idea, but your sexuality has nothing to do with your ability,'" Denson stated.

The Brewers selected Denson in the 15th round in 2013 after playing for South Hills High School in West Covina, California.

'Race Judicata' Sept. 10

Race Judicata—the weeknight 5K run & walk that raises money for the Chicago Volunteer Legal Services (CVLS) Foundation—returns for its 21st year on Thursday, Sept. 10.

The after-work run/walk takes place at Roosevelt Road and Columbus Avenue in Grant Park. The start time is 6:30 p.m.

Registration is \$39; visit CVLS.org/judicata.

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Saugatuck sunset.
Photo by Karen Sons

TRAVEL

Saugatuck and Grand Rapids: Pristine and progressive

BY ANDREW DAVIS

"I can't believe this is your first time here."

If I had a dollar for every time I heard that during a recent writers' excursion to the Michigan enclaves of Saugatuck and Grand Rapids, I felt I could've purchased a home there. However, all those people did have a point: These places are basically a hop, skip and a jump from Chicago (with my flight being all of half an hour)—and they do provide the perfect getaway.

Dune and no gloom

The trip started with lunch at **Zing Eat Drink** (310 Blue Star Hwy., Douglas; ZingEatDrink.com), a snazzy place that serves some incredible sweet-potato fries. The petite Maryland crab cakes were pretty impressive as well—and I had to sample some of the Michigan cherries, of course. (The state is known as the cherry and blueberry capital of the United States.) Sitting on the patio was wonderful, as the weather was absolutely perfect that day.

Then, we traipsed on over to Saugatuck's **Oval Beach** (Perryman Street and Oval Beach Drive; Saugatuck.com/beaches.asp). No less than Conde Nast Traveler has ranked it as among the top 25 beaches in the world—and it's easy to see why. There are pristine sand dunes and, of course, Lake Michigan, but there are also secluded spots, tall grasses, wildlife (I spotted several deer) and much more.

It was then time to explore the dunes courtesy of **Saugatuck Dune Rides** (SaugatuckDuneRide.com). I wasn't quite sure what to expect—but basically more than a dozen people were strapped inside a giant dune buggy as our personable driver took us over sand hills at what seemed like a high rate of speed. The 45-minute ride was extremely informative (I learned what a "dead dune" is) and, although there was some corniness (rubber snake, anyone?), it was the most fun I had that day.

Of course, no trip to this area is complete without checking in at the "straight-friendly" **The Dunes Resort** (333 Blue Star Hwy., Douglas; <https://dunesresort.com/>). This complex offers everything from lodging to entertainment (karaoke, tea dances, dance floor, bar, large pool)—and this place is (justifiably) hoppin' during the big summer holidays. (Labor Day is an extremely popular time.)

The suite I was in was extremely comfortable. While no trip can go perfectly, it speaks to the establishment that the minor problems I encountered (e.g., tricky shower) were handled expeditiously.

We concluded our evening by visiting the **Everyday People Cafe** (11 Center St., Douglas; EverydayPeopleCafe.com). From the heady Sour Cherry Smash to the unforgettable S'more to hunky owner/chef Matt Balmer, this restaurant warrants a return.

An uncommon day

The following day began with a visit to **Uncommon Ground Roasters** (127 Hoffman St., Saugatuck; UncommonCoffeeRoasters.com). I dare you to leave here without picking up a pastry. *Note:* It until I traveled around a sleepy Saugatuck and visited this cafe that I released this was supposed to be a getaway—and that it was fine to be laid-back. Sometimes, it takes a while to get out of Chicago mode.

This was followed by a delightful breakfast at **Ida Red's Cottage** (645 Water St., Saugatuck). The place is beyond cute, and the food was more than satisfactory.

We then toured a few of the delightful resort inns in the area. The **Blue Star Motel**

(167 Blue Star Hwy, Douglas; BlueStarDouglas.com) is practically next door to The Dunes Resort and downtown Douglas. While some may look down on the word "motel," don't be fooled by this establishment. It is effortlessly chic, and coupled with a beautiful area in the back that includes a sun deck and hot tub.



Clockwise from above: Rainbow chairs at The Dunes; The Belvedere Inn; Art at GRAM.

Photos by Andrew Davis

The **Saugatuck Motel** (6190 Blue Star Hwy., Saugatuck; TheSaugatuck.com) and **Starlite Resort** (3353 Blue Star Hwy, Saugatuck; StarliteResort.com) are delightfully retro. Built in the early 1950s as the Shangrai-La Motel, the five-acre Saugatuck Motel area resembles a park. Starlite is decked out in colors of "aquamarine and tangerine," according to the owner. What owners of both establishments stressed to us is how inclusive these areas are, with people of all stripes getting together (espe-

cially by the pools) while swapping food and stories. I could easily see myself in any one of these motels.

For those who might not know, downtown Saugatuck has an amazing art scene. I learned this thanks to a tour courtesy of extremely knowledgeable artist **Jim Brandess** (238 Butler St.; JamesBrandess.com). Among some of the spots we hit were the **Jeff Blandford Gallery** (240 Butler St.; JeffBlandford.com), which specializes in raku, among other art forms; **Amazwi Contemporary Art** (249 Culver St.; Amazwi.com), which sells African art; and **Discovery Art Center** (347 Water St.; DiscoveryArt.org), a unique art co-op.

After this, we had certainly worked up an appetite so we sashayed across the street to the **Mermaid Bar & Grill** (340 Water St.; MermaidOfSaugatuck.com). Sitting outside while dining on mahi-mahi salad, with a view of the river, was just so relaxing.

Later that evening, it was time for dinner—so we went to **Hercules Bar and Grill** (236 Culver St.; "Hercules Bar and Grill" on Facebook), which serves Mediterranean cuisine. I'm going to go with the name being connected with the food—and not with the very muscular (and friendly) server Richard. This place, like so many others in the area, has my kind of outdoor seating—secluded, with a few tables. It was just a wonderful experience.

On to Grand Rapids

So it was time to (sadly) bid a temporary farewell to The Dunes—and head to the relative metropolis of Grand Rapids.

On our way there, we stopped off at the European-style **The Belvedere Inn & Restaurant** (3656 63rd St., Saugatuck; TheBelvedereInn.com). Shaun Glynn and Peter Ta, a Chicago couple, took over this spot—and have made it a secluded masterpiece, in my opinion. The lawns are perfectly maintained, and the inte-

rior is beyond stately. (I keep telling people it gives a Downton Abbey feel, and that I expect the Dowager Countess to show up any minute.) Rooms are unique (in a good way), with some employing that European theme of having sinks outside the restroom.

In Grand Rapids, the first place we hit was the impressive **Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park** (1000 East Beltline Ave.; MeijerGardens.org). Situated on more than 150 acres, the sculpture collection alone is worth the price of admission, featuring works such as Roxy Payne's "Neuron," Jonathan Borofsky's "Male/Female" and Nina Akamu's "The American Horse" in a variety of natural settings. However, we were also treated to The Richard & Helen DeVos Japanese Garden manages to project beauty, tranquility and even fragility

through items such as sculptures, bonsai garden and even a teahouse.

After a pleasant lunch at **CitySen Lounge** (83 Monroe Center St. NW; CityFlatsHotel.com), it was off to **GRAM: The Grand Rapids Art Museum** (101 Monroe Center St. NW; Art-MuseumGR.org). Director/CEO Dana Friis-Hansen provided a lot of intriguing information about a variety of items and exhibitions—of which one of the most interesting is "T.J. Wilcox: In the Air." Now running through Aug. 30, this is a panoramic film exhibition of New York City's skyline. Being a fan of modern art, I was also captivated by "Modern Design at GRAM: 20th-Century Furniture." However, it's safe to say that there's something here for every taste.

Then it was time to see the various neighborhoods of Grand Rapids. Experience Grand Rapids took us on a trip that included everything from the Medical Mile to North Quarter to East Grand Rapids. One of our stops was at the hot-dog place **Yesterdog** (1505 Wealthy St. SE; Yesterdog.com), which is probably most famous for being the setting in a scene in the original American Pie movie. Chicagoans can think of this as Grand Rapids' counterpart of The Wieners Circle—for example, patrons are encouraged to throw tips. By the way, the hot dog was outstanding.

However, don't leave Grand Rapids without visiting **The Cakabakery** (1436 Wealthy St. SE; TheCakabakery.com), which has cake pops, cupcakes, pies—and the best chocolate-chip cookie I think I've ever had in my life. A stop by **Founders Brewing Co.** (235 Grandville Ave. SW; FoundersBrewing.com)—which offers seasonal, specialty, year-round and year-round drafts—proved to be very refreshing.

I like the **JW Marriott** hotel in Chicago, and the one in Grand Rapids (235 Louis St. NW; Marriott.com/hotels/travel/grrjw-jw-marriott-grand-rapids/) is just as nice, of course. Of course, it doesn't hurt that the staff is pretty good-looking.

After checking in, we checked out **Reserve Wine & Food** (201 Monroe Ave. NW; ReserveGR.com). As someone who regular profiles restaurants for Windy City Times, I can say (or write) without hesitation that Reserve has some very fine items to offer—and I thoroughly enjoyed my confit pork shoulder. Next time, I'll be sure to try dessert. (I was actually too full from the appetizers and entree to try any more food.)

Our night concluded at **The Apartment Lounge** (33 Sheldon Ave. NE; ApartmentLounge.net), one of two (!) LGBT bars in Grand Rapids. (The previous high had been five.) Although it was my first time in this spot, I felt a very welcoming vibe—and it features a cool DJ in addition to the nonstop music videos.

Wrap it up

Unfortunately, as the phrase goes, all good things must come to an end. We wrapped up the Michigan visit with a visit to the Meyer May House (450 Madison Ave. SE; meyermayhouse.steelcase.com), a Frank Lloyd Wright building. Initially designed for a Grand Rapids clothier, Steelcase purchased and restored the Meyer May House, opening it to the public in 1987. For me, there are definitely many similarities between this impressive structure and Robie House (another Wright building on Chicago's South Side). It was also astounding how far ahead of his time Wright was.

Lastly, after that tour, we hit the Downtown Market (435 Ionia Ave. SW; DowntownMarketGR.com). Fortunately, it was Saturday, so there was an outdoor market as well—where I got some absolutely amazing Michigan blueberry donuts. The inside offers a cornucopia of offerings, from meats to bakery items to a kombucha booth.

Thanks go to Pure Michigan, PR firm Weber Shandwick (which provided our guide, Alyssa "Mama A." Bronikowski) and Experience Grand Rapids for arranging this trip. My eyes have been opened.

Many more photos of Saugatuck/Grand Rapids can be seen at WindyCityMedia-Group.com.

NUNN ON ONE: MUSIC

Jordin Sparks:

On '90s music, looking fit and her new CD



Jordin Sparks.
Publicity photo

BY JERRY NUNN

Singer Jordin Sparks' career took off after winning season six of the television show *American Idol*. Her music career broke out with hits "Tattoo" and "No Air." Then, she released *Battlefield*, which gave her her first number-one hit, "S.O.S. (Let the Music Play)."

She sizzled in acting roles like the remake of *Sparkle*, playing opposite the late Whitney Houston.

Her third album—*Right Here, Right Now*—recently dropped. *Windy City Times* talked with her right before her arrival at Boystown spot Roscoe's.

Windy City Times: Hi, Jordin. We did an interview a few years ago for your starring role in the movie *Sparkle*.

Jordin Sparks: Good to talk to you again.

WCT: What have you been up to since then?

JS: Ever since *Battlefield* came out I was out on tour and working on the new album, so it was not from lack of trying. I did the acting thing for a little bit with *Sparkle* and it was amazing to do that. I did a couple of other movies as well, *Left Behind* and *The Grace of Jake*, which has yet to come out. I have been taking classes and working on music. I have been trying to find exactly what I wanted to do and how I wanted it to sound. I was actually able to do that on this record. I am beside myself that the album is coming out in a week. I'm freaking out!

WCT: The sound is different for this album. How do you describe it?

JS: I would say it is pretty music with a bump to it. The sound was very inspired by '90s R&B like Mariah, Whitney, Babyface, Boys II Men, Brandy—all of those amazing artists. You will hear a lot of that on the record. I grew up listening to their music. I was a '90s kid and always loved it. It is an amazing opportunity to sing what I love, not to say that *Battlefield* and my first record I didn't love but I can now create focus and control to make things the way I want to sound. I can say what I want to say and I feel like I am coming into my own. I feel I have finally put out a complete piece of work.

WCT: How was it working with 2 Chainz on this record?

JS: It was fun. I wanted to work with people on this album that I was a fan of. I've always thought his clothes were great and he's very funny. He's the perfect fit for the song "Double Tap." He was fun and cool to work with. He came in did the song and we made the video. Everyone had a great time, from the crew to the extras, him, myself, and the director.

With the other collaborations on the album

I was encouraged to pick people that I liked. It has been a long time since I put something out. For these artists to agree to my project when it has been a minute was really cool.

WCT: Who are some of the other guest artists on *Right Here, Right Now*?

JS: We have Shaggy on there, Elijah Blake, B.o.B., J-Doe—who is also on *Louder Than Life*. He is my label mate.

With Shaggy, the collaboration came about because I was doing some summer radio shows and he was on it as well. I remember sitting on the side of the stage and he was performing hit after hit. We saw each other in the hallway and talked about doing something but not really knowing if it would happen. He's a pretty busy guy but got the collaboration done a week before we had to turn in the album. I was so excited to have Shaggy on the album!

WCT: The video for the new single "Right Here, Right Now" has lots of shirtless men in it. This will be perfect for playing at the gay bar.

JS: I'm stoked to come and see my fans. I can't wait. I am going across the country to a few different malls. I am doing some big meet-and-greets. I will be at the Water Tower Place in Chicago. Anytime I can go and say thank you to my fans face to face, I am all for it.

I can't wait to go to the bar and go to the mall! One of my best friends lives in Chicago—Gina Glocksens, who was on *American Idol* with me. I hope I get to see her when I am out there too.

WCT: You are looking amazing in the new videos. Do you have work out tips?

JS: Thank you. I wish I could say that I have been going hard in the gym but, if I am honest, I have just been so busy that I haven't stepped a foot in the gym. Because of that I have really had to watch what I eat. I know for myself that if I can't get in the gym that I have to be more careful with what I eat. If I want to have a cupcake I have to be even more careful!

I think it is important not to get down on yourself or beat yourself up if you do have that cupcake. I feel like everyone deserves one every once in a while. As cliché as it is everything should be in moderation. I used to eat food because it tasted good and I would keep eating seconds and thirds because it tasted good and not because I was hungry. That was a big thing to listen to my body when it's full. That really helps. I definitely indulge. I love desserts so when someone offers me one I'm going to take it!

Exercise is important. I do try to walk around and bought a Fitbit recently. My goal is to walk around 10,000 steps a day so I try to get that in.

WCT: I just started Fitbit this week.

JS: Isn't it amazing? I bought my mom one and her husband and all of my hair guys, too.

WCT: How was your experience being in the musical *In the Heights*?

JS: Oh my gosh—it was amazing. I miss it every day. I remember being welcomed with open arms from the cast. I was a newbie and had never done Broadway before. I was coming in as one of the lead characters. I thought they would expect me to be on my own but it wasn't like that. We were a big family and

TransReelization fest Aug. 29

The second annual TransReelization film fest will take place Saturday, Aug. 29, at Kinowerks Studio, 5645 N. Ravenswood Ave.

The VIP reception is 6 p.m., with the general-admission part of the evening starting at 7:30 p.m.

This evening of cocktails, celebrities and film supports the critical work of the Chicago House—TransLife Center. The studio is the production company of siblings Andy and Lana Wachowski. (Lana is transgender.)

VIP attendees will, among other things, meet the stars of the Wachowskis' Netflix series *Sense8*—Jamie Clayton (Nomi Marks), Miguel Angel Silvestre (Lito Rodriguez) and Brian J. Smith (Will Gorski); meet this year's TransReelization award recipient, Col. Jennifer N. Pritzker, IL ARNG (retired); and go on

they all encouraged me. It was so much fun. Now Lin-Manuel Miranda, who created *In the Heights*, has a new show called *Hamilton* on Broadway. I haven't seen it yet but I am very excited that some of the same cast members are in it from *In the Heights*. I'm very proud of what everyone is doing.

I would love to do Broadway again. It would have to be the right part and the right timing. That is the only reason I would move back to New York, if Broadway called again.

WCT: Where are you based out of now?

JS: I'm in L.A.

WCT: Are you coming back on a tour after the album is released?

JS: I definitely hope I am. We will see how things go after it is released. I would love to do a tour since I haven't been in a while. I want to be able to perform for my fans across the country and international as well. I'm sure Chicago will be on the list.

WCT: People are excited about you coming to Roscoe's.

JS: Yay, good. I have a question for you. What should I wear? I have no idea what to wear!

WCT: Something sparkly, I would imagine. Maybe you should go shopping while you are at the mall.

JS: Do I wear something super-nice or smart/casual?

WCT: No—club attire will work because they play dance music all night there. Will you have back-up dancers?

JS: I am not sure actually but, if I do, I will dress up even more!

See Sparks at Harry Caray's in Water Tower Place on Saturday, Aug. 22, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., or at Roscoe's Tavern, 3356 N. Halsted St., at midnight later on the same day.

For more details, visit www.shopwatertower.com and www.roscoes.com.

Shop her new music at JordinSparks.com.

a tour of the studio.

Admission is \$150-500 each; see ChicagoHouse.org.

'Rodeo Round Town' Aug. 21-23

The Illinois Gay Rodeo Association will hold its "Rodeo Round Town" weekend Aug. 21-23.

Events will include a rodeo hoedown dance at Charlie's, 3726 N. Broadway, on Aug. 21 at 9 p.m.; a "Cowboy Eye for the Leather Guy" makeover contest on Aug. 22 at Touche, 6412 N. Clark St., at 10 p.m.; and a "Happy Trails" farewell dance Aug. 23 at The Call, 1547 W. Bryn Mawr Ave., at 4 p.m.

See Facebook for more information, or email DavidBoyer53@yahoo.com.

LETTERS from page 10

and the larger Black Lives Matter movement's demands for radical change. Your settlement represents just one of many efforts by City officials across the country attempting to co-opt our movement by engaging with less threatening groups. Passage of the STOP Act would be public recognition of the real, grassroots power of young Black and Brown Chicagoans; instead the City wisely sought to settle into an ongoing relationship with a legal organization that poses no real threat to the status quo. In other words, you were used.

Data collection through the STOP Act was the first of many steps in our plan to end to stop and frisk in Chicago. You have disrespected us. You have undermined our movement. You have wasted our time and that of our allies. But, your refusal to acknowledge or take seriously our leadership has neither silenced nor weak-

ened us. We understand freedom will take a while and will not come without a fight. We are proud of what we have accomplished. We are proud of the base-building and power-building we have achieved. We are proud of our young Black leaders and their ongoing work. We are proud of our success. We will continue and build on that strong foundation in the coming weeks, months, and years. That is how we will win. That is how we will make Black lives matter.

"It is our duty to fight for our freedom.

It is our duty to win.

We must love each other and support each other.

We have nothing to lose but our chains."

Signed,

We Charge Genocide

Black Lives Matter—Chicago



/nightspots



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nightspots

weekly nightlife section in

WINDY CITY TIMES



BIG CHICKS

Mondays mean Buck Burgers.
Photos by Jerry Nunn

DANCING ABOUT ARCHITECTURE

BY MARC 'MOOSE' MODER



Our annual September collection

The release day of the week (now Friday) may have changed along with the rest of the music industry, but one thing remains chronologically constant in our world, and that is September being an amazing month for new albums. Traditionally tied in with back-to-school and to give artists enough time to promote for the holiday buying months, September is usually when labels release their big guns that were too cool for summer, but not cool enough for the post-Christmas chill. Let's take a look at some of the more anticipated releases hitting your inbox next month.

September 4 sees alternative icons **Public Image Limited**, **Tommy Keene** and Sebadoh's **Lou Barlow** all regrouping after some time off. However, what's really got this columnist hot and bothered are two upcoming releases by '80s icons. Norwegian band **a-ha** (after their



premature retirement six years ago) will release their comeback, *Cast in Steel*. Expectations are high, but guarded on the heels of three of the best records of their careers before the split, but the lackluster new single doesn't bode well, as their strongest songs are usually first singles. Same goes for **Prince**, who's dropping *The Hit & Run Album* exclusively on Tidal the following Monday. No sign of a physical release or anything related to last year's re-signing with Warner Brothers, but as any Prince fan is, we're hopeful that this is the funky Prince album we've been waiting for.

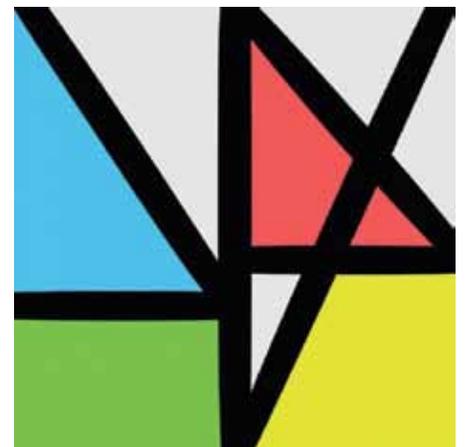
September 11, also known as Mariah Carey's Glittersary, brings us anticipated new albums by **Tamar Braxton** (her last, *Love & War*, surprised many), UK soul princess **Leona Lewis**, and hip-hop queen **Angel Haze**, plus more releases by '90s brethren (**Ben Folds**,



Stereophonics). Again though, it's the '80s comebacks that have our attention. After another well-done comeback, **Duran Duran** isn't mis-stepping into hip-hop/electronic again (that's killed them a few times), but following up a Mark Ronson-produced gem with a Nile Rodgers-produced gem. Rodgers produced their *Notorious* album and Duran Duran is his favorite band ever, so expect big, funky things.

September 18 is an embarrassment of riches with double the releases of previous weeks, including new ones by **Glen Hansard** (*Once, The Frames*), **ZZ Ward**, actress/singer **Katharine McPhee**, grunge gods **Chris Cornell** and **The Toadies** (not together) and favorite Lana Del Ray, who has some making up to do after her last album failed to catch on with her pop fans. Those who like their music a bit more queer should run out (or stay in) and get great new albums by chilled, electronic weirdos **Cocorosie** (good pacifier if you miss Bjork) and Brooklyn duo **PWR BTTM**, who, after two great singles, remind us a bit of Camper Van Beethoven and The Dead Milkmen, so that's a good thing for gays who rock.

Finally, September 25 brings some predictability: the obligatory covers album by **Shawn Colvin**; the throwback-to-your-roots obligatory country album by **Don Henley**, and the oh-look-it's-Sam-Smith-again release by dance superstars **Disclosure**. For a little excitement, look to **New Order** and their new album, *Music*



New Order's Music Complete.

Complete. They might be getting better with time (see Duran and OMD), and without bassist Peter Cook. Or kick it up a notch with the always unpredictable **Peaches** who never, ever lets us down. Like her contemporary, Goldfrapp, you don't know what to expect or when to expect it but you can count on one thing: quality.

THE SOFO TAP

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"Caitlyn's a Republican, she's on a reality show, and she's a Kardashian. We can't make fun of him or her?"—John Waters questions the political correctness of not making fun of Caitlyn Jenner. If it's good enough for John Waters, it's good enough for me.

You fans are insatiable. Our server for BillyMasters.com was flagged as possibly being attacked by a virus. The hosts were concerned because traffic to our website was roughly five times higher than usual. Of course, I knew the reason: feature a ginormous celebrity penis in a state of semi-arousal, and my fans come out of the woodwork. The penis in question belongs to **Tom Berklund**, who makes quite an impact in the LA revival of Bent at the Mark Taper Forum. If you can't get to LA, you should check him out on our website.

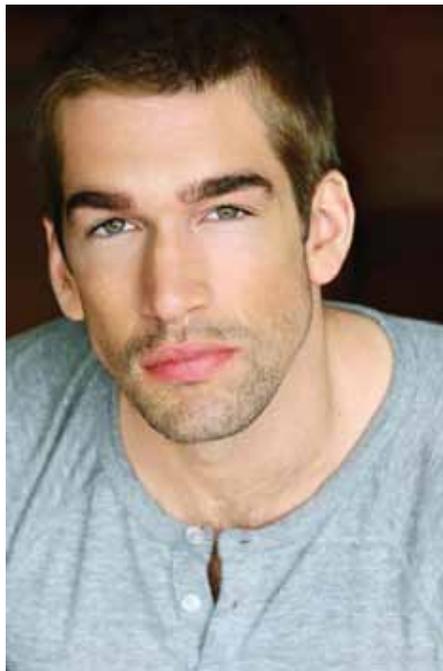
An even bigger dick will be heading to that same venue in November. **Kathy Griffin**, who is a dick in the best sense of the word, will be bringing her "Like a Boss" tour to the Taper on Nov. 4-5. "After having just sold out the Kennedy Center and with Carnegie Hall coming up, for my hometown I insisted on playing a venue so intimate that when I horrify someone with an inappropriate joke, I'll be close enough to look them in the eye ... while they're laughing hysterically at my comedic genius," said the modest Griffin.

Before she hits the Taper, Griffin will be at Town Hall in Provincetown Aug. 23, doing two sold-out shows under the aegis of the venerable Crown & Anchor. Last week, **Margaret Cho** played the same venue, and was greeted like a returning hero for her sold-out gig. The show took place hours after Cho filed for divorce from her husband of 11 years, Al Ridenour. She lamented the timing—but took great pride in the fact that her divorce papers were being featured on TMZ! She later blamed the break-up on the couple's drug use, specifically stating that once when she was out of town, her hubby was so wasted that he didn't fill their dogs' water bowls for three days. I'd dump someone over that, too.

The audience, while heavily laden with the LGB and T that are known to frequent Provincetown, also included a smattering of straight people. Cho found that out the hard way. She spied a few empty reserved seats near the front and asked people way in the back of the balcony to move up. That's how Cho ended up with a 10-year-old boy and his mom sitting front row center! After welcoming the lad with a warning that he was in for a crash course in adult education, she leapt into a sequence about how difficult it is to suck on the enormous dick of a Black man! She then discussed poppers, after telling the tot, "Drugs are bad!" I spied the boy asking his mom several questions. He should have taken notes—some-day, they'll come in handy!

Cho also revealed that she will be joining E!'s Fashion Police. Actually, the "FP" gig is only a guest spot for the first show on Aug. 31. The current plan is for each episode to feature three regular panelists—Melissa Rivers, Giuliana Rancic and Brad Goreski—and two guest stars. Cho and NeNe Leakes will be the first guests.

But here's a scoop you won't hear anywhere else—after Joan Rivers died, the frontrunner to replace her was Cho! She had several meetings with E! and was told it was a done deal. What happened? Kathy Griffin, that's what. Cho's dear friend campaigned for the job and made it clear



Check out billymasters.com for Tom Berklund's ... um ... headshot.

that she was Rivers' anointed successor. I should note that both Cho and Griffin were extremely close with Auntie Joan. While Rivers identified with Griffin, she greatly admired Cho's attention to detail and craftsmanship as well as how seriously she took fine-tuning a routine on the road. But one cannot underestimate Griffin's popularity, and that clinched it for E! After Kathy left and Fashion Police had to be rebuilt from scratch, I'm told Cho was the first person the network called. It will be interesting to see how Margaret fits in.

A source confirmed that the nude photo I have of the openly gay star of Empire, **Jussie Smollett**, is most definitely legit. In the words of my mouthpiece, "I couldn't sit down for a week." I'm surprised he didn't have lockjaw! You can check out Smollett's double digits at BillyMasters.com.

This issue comes up often: Why do most A-list actors hide their privates? In films, the women are walking around topless all the time—getting out of bed, making breakfast, getting the mail, walking the dog. Titties abound. But the guys? Nothing. Well, **Kevin Bacon** has had enough. He's calling for more male nudity and even filmed a PSA imploring Hollywood to "Free The Bacon." In his most exasperated example, he says, "'50 Shades of Grey'—I heard that you never even see it. Why not let Jamie Dornan take off his pants? Or better yet, let me play Christian Grey. We'll do the whole movie on one long close-up of my penis." I'm sure this is all tongue-in-cheek, but I'm all for it. Frankly, I've seen parts of Sharon Stone that only her gynecologist should see.

When we're playing Six Inches of Kevin Bacon, it's definitely time to end yet another column. Next week marks the 20-year anniversary of this column. For two decades, week in, week out, I have dished the dirt as only I can. Let's see ... carry the one, divide by 20, add a decimal point. That's like a million columns. And there is only one person to thank. No, not me (but, you're welcome). It's **you**. And not the collective "you." I mean each person reading this. Each of you who has laughed, or been pissed off, or jerked off, or simply been entertained.

Without you, I'd sure have a lot more time on my hands! We will be celebrating next week, but you can get a jump on the fun at www.BillyMasters.com, the site that doesn't look its age! If you have a question (or simply wanna say hi), drop a note to me at Billy@BillyMasters.com, and I promise to get back to you before I thank each and every reader individually. (You know I'm multi-orgasmic.) So, until next time, remember: One man's filth is another man's bible.

SIDETRACK'S NEW MONTHLY LIP SYNC CONTEST ...

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Weekly Dining Guide in
WINDY CITY TIMES

SAVOR

Adamus; Florentine's corn menu

BY ANDREW DAVIS

Have you heard of the Silversmith Hotel? I hadn't, either.

Located along Jewelers Row in The Loop, this boutique hotel itself is literally a jewel of a place—the hotel interior is quite sleek, and some of the tables have diamonds (or diamond facsimiles) on them. That was one of the entrancing things about Adamus (10 S. Wabash St.; Silversmithchicago-hotel.com/dining.aspx), an inviting restaurant whose name is Greek for—what else?—diamond.

The restaurant provides a luxury setting—and is helped by its telegenic chef, Nelson Erazo, who said his motto is “Never say no.” (He meant that regarding culinary requests only, folks.) Erazo immediately put my friend and me at ease, and the music (Donna Summer, etc.) gave the place a fun feel.

Thankfully, the food had a quality that matched the setting. The chilled watermelon gazpacho definitely pleased my dining companion, while lobster croquettes (with corn, roasted shallots and tasso gravy) were sufficiently tasty.

However, the high point for both of us was the wild striped bass and pastini salad. The ingredients of the salad (complete with fennel, tomatoes, olives, cucumber, baby arugula salad and truffle vinaigrette) worked well together—but the bass put it over the top. In fact, I wouldn't eat the fish (which was cooked perfectly) by itself.

The warm chocolate cake ended the meal well. Similar to the lava cakes seen at some chain res-



Chef Nelson Arazo (above) and the chilled watermelon gazpacho at Adamus.
Photos by Ed Negron



taurants, this dish was fluffy and not too rich.

However, with all the praise came a couple of problems. First, Adamus promotes specialty cocktails—but I couldn't get one at 2:30 p.m. because the hotel bar doesn't open until four. (What hotel does that?) Also, we had some unwelcome visitors—in the form of fruit flies—throughout the entire meal. I was constantly swatting them away and, when I summoned the server about the situation, she responded with an Emmy-worthy “I'm mortified!” (She was very nice, but this one instance just didn't quite ring true.)

If Adamus can correct those problems, guests can expect a practically amazing experience. The restaurant definitely has a lot going for it.

Florentine's corn menu

Through the end of August, **The Florentine** (151 W. Adams St., in the J.W. Marriott hotel; e2hospitality.com/florentine-chicago/) is offering a “Taste of Summer” three-course lunch menu (\$27) that focuses on corn. (This follows the June theme of squash and the more promising stone fruit-focused menu of July.)

I recently tried the line-up—and came away thoroughly impressed with Chef Zachary Walrath's offerings. My favorite was the first course: absolutely delicious corn fritters with rock shrimp, chili aioli and lemon. However, I also liked the raviolo, complete with taleggio, charred corn, basil, corn shoots and black truffle brown butter.

The last course worked for me as well, although it took me a minute to get used to the sweet corn-infused panna cotta. The blueberry compote really, really worked well with it.



Panna cotta (above) and raviolo (below) at The Florentine.



nightspots the big TO-DO

OUR WEEKLY PICKS TO PLAN
YOUR NIGHTLIFE CALENDAR



All Things Beyoncé party and dance-off contest

Wednesday, Aug. 19, 9 pm

Sidetrack, 3349 N. Halsted St.

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



Cowboy Eye For the Leather Guy

Sat., August 22, 10 pm

Touche, 6412 N. Clark St.

This annual makeover contest takes one lucky leatherman and redoes him as a rootin'-tootin' cowboy. The winner gets a makeover by Alcalá's Western Wear. DJ Cowboy Eric.

Photo of last year's makeover winner by Kirk Williamson



GLO - International Dance Party

Sunday, August 23, 10 pm

Berlin, 934 W. Belmont Ave.

Dancefloor fillers from the '90s, the '00s and now. Resident DJs Gabriel and Adam El. \$2 PBRs, \$3 Heinekens, \$4 Malibu Black.



SIDETRACK

More Market Days fun.
Photos by Jed Dulanias



Joey Kissling's Bucket List Benefit

Wed., August 19, 8-11 pm

ProgressBar, 3359 N. Halsted St.

Help raise much-needed funds for Boystown staple Joey Kissling (pictured), who has been diagnosed with terminal cancer, to help him do all the things he's wanted to do. Prizes from Rockit Ranch, Pink Rhino Tattoo, Progress Bar and many more.

If you'd like to donate to Joey's Bucket List Fund, please visit

www.GoFundMe.com/Joeybucketlist





COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Wed., Aug. 19

Genderqueer Chicago A grassroots group that works to create safe spaces for everyone to talk about, think about, explore and express gender. 7:00pm - 8:15pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted St.

The Boy From Oz The story of songwriter and performer Peter Allen. Features songs by Peter Allen, book by Martin Sherman and Nick Enright, Direction by David Zak, and Musical Direction by Robert Ollis. 7:30pm Stage 773 1225 W Belmont Ave., <http://pridefilmsandplays.com>

Thursday, Aug. 20

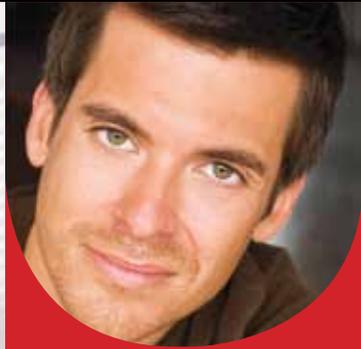
Open Gym Volleyball Every Monday and Thursday for 18 and over. All gender and experience levels welcome. Cost \$7/night or \$30/month. 6:00pm - 9:00pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted Chicago

An Evening About Lesbian Pregnancy Learn about choosing a sperm donor, Insemination, In Vitro fertilization, the legal deal, maintaining health. By Path to Parenthood. 6:30pm - 8:30pm Women & Children First Bookstore 5233 N Clark St. <http://www.path2parenthood.org/event/735600-2015-08-20-gay-womens-gathering-chicago-an-evening-about-lesbian-pregnancy/>

Queer Tango A beginner and intermediate Argentine Tango class designed specifically for the LGBTQ communities. \$15/class. 7:00pm - 9:00pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted St.

Newtown Writers LGBT (homophile) writing workshop. Questions to Barry, barryfrau-man@gmail.com 7:30pm Contact organizer for location 773-528-3637

Slo 'Mo at The Whistler: All is full of love For homos (and their fans) is Chicago's party for lovers hosted by Kristen Kaza with grooves by DJs Tess and Audio Jack. Slo 'Mo's residency at Logan Square's the



**'STORY' TELLING
Aug. 22-23**

**Javier Rivera will perform
Salve Regina: A Coming
of Gay Story at Center on
Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted St.**

Whistler takes place the third Thursday of every month, as well as Satellite Slo 'Mos hosted throughout Chicago. 9:00pm The Whistler, 2421 N Milwaukee Ave, Chicago <http://www.slomoparty.com>

Plastic Factory with Amanda Lepore Outrageous transsexual personality performs, Her new recording "I...Amanda Lepore: Make Over Sessions" has just released. 21+. \$10. 10:00pm Berlin Nightclub 954 W Belmont Ave Chicago <http://PeaceBisquit.com> Tickets: https://www.ticketfly.com/purchase/mobile/index/913495?utm_medium=bks

Transformations Free half day conference by The Primary Prevention Early Interven-

tion Committee of the Chicago Area HIV Integrated Services Council, featuring: Dr. Margo Bell, Helena Bushong, Dr. Robert Garofalo, Dr. Lisa Kuhns, and Beverly Ross. RSVP at aidschicago.org/transformations 11:30pm - 1:30pm Chicago Bar Association 321 S. Plymouth Ct. <http://aidschicago.org/transformations>

Friday, Aug. 21

Significant others, family, friends and allies of ManCavers (SOFFA) Partners, family, allies and friends of Transmen and those who attend Mancave. Free. 6:30pm - 8:30pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted St.

Man Cave A peer-led group for individuals that were assigned female at birth (AFAB) AND ALSO who identify as either: FtM (female-to-male), trans*masculine, genderqueer/non-conforming and masculine, or who are questioning their gender. Free. 6:30pm - 8:30pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted Chicago

Friends & Family Chicago Sky Game & Faith Panel Discussion The Lighthouse Church of Chicago will attend the WNBA Chicago Sky Faith & Family Game. Immediately following the game will be a panel about faith of which Pastor Jamie Frazier will be a featured panelist 6:30pm Allstate Arena 6920 N Mannheim Rd Rosemont, IL 60018 <https://www.facebook.com/events/1696198330601031/>

LGBTQ Artists Gallery Opening Occurring every 6-7 weeks throughout the year, Center on Halsted opens its doors to community artists to display their work. This month's featured artists' works will be on display through October 2nd, 2015. Suggested donation \$5 at door. 7:00pm - 9:00pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted

Bisexual Trans Queer Book Discussion at Gerber/Hart Library Dear John, I Love Jane: Women Write About Leaving Men for Women edited by Candace Walsh and Laura Andre 7:00pm - 9:00pm Gerber/Hart Library, 6500 N. Clark St., Chicago 773-381-8030 <http://sealpress.com/books/dear-john-i-love-jane/>

South Asian Queer Bollywood Dance Party Trikone Chicago's upcoming event, Jai Ho! Sunny Sunny - A Bollywood Dance Party 10:00pm - 2:00am Big Chicks 5024 N Sheridan Rd Chicago <http://trikonechicago.org/>

Saturday, Aug. 22

Chicago Michfest Re-Entry Party 125+ women remembering MichFest with fest-inspired potluck, musicians round the fire, swimming, stories, lounging, hula hoops, and fest womyn. 1:00pm Hollywood, The Gay Beach <https://www.facebook.com/groups/MichFest/permalink/964723306924372/>

Salve Regina: A Coming of Gay Story Solo show, written and performed by Javier Rivera. The coming of age story of Javier, a young Puerto Rican man, as he triumphs and stumbles in his journey to self-discovery. Tickets \$10 online or at the door (cash only). 7:30pm - 9:00pm. Through Aug. 23. Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted Chicago Tickets: <https://community.centeronhalsted.org/SalveRegina22>

Patchwork Drifter by Jennifer L. Mickelson Staged production. California-bound and down on her luck, Emmy Fox finds refuge working for shopkeeper Harriet Cooper and her two daughters. 8:00pm Akvavit Theater, Chicago

Third Annual White Heat Event Chicago Mature Women 9:00pm The Loft, 5923 S. Wentworth

Sunday, Aug. 23

The Lighthouse Church of Chicago Multi-ethnic and LGBT-inclusive with Pastor Jamie Frazier, 10:00am Uptown Underground, 4707 N. Broadway St., Chicago <http://www.lighthousechicago.org>

South Shore Summer Festival Daylong gathering to feature local merchant booths and kids' activities, eclectic music, food, libations. Performers include Doug E. Fresh, T.L. Williams, Terisa Griffin and Slick Rick. Free 11:00am - 8:00pm South Shore Cultural Center 7059 S. South Shore Dr Chicago <http://www.ChicagoEvents.com>

ible Empire//Crescent Moon." 8:00pm - 11:00pm City Winery Chicago 1200 W Randolph St. Through Aug. 25. (312) 733-WINE Tickets: <http://www.citywinery.com/chicago/kt-tunstall-8-23.html>

Desperately Seeking Saturday Night Live LGBTQ comedian John Loos eschews throws his own Saturday Night Live Showcase to impress bigwig producers 8:00pm Annoyance Theatre, 851 W. Belmont, Chicago 777-697-9693

Monday, Aug. 24

Ballroom Dance Get on the Floor dance company teaches ballroom, salsa and other energetic dance methods. Drop in or pre-register. \$15/class. Package discount available. 7:00pm - 9:00pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted St.

Tuesday, Aug. 25

Gay Men's Book Group The Persian Boy by Mary Renault. Free. 7:00pm - 9:00pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted St.

9th Annual Chicago Dancing Festival Opening Night Celebration with Lar Lubovitch Dance Company, Ballet Hispanico and Pam Tanowitz Dance. Co-produced by choreographer Lar Lubovitch and dancer Jay Franke. Free event. Tickets must be reserved in advance at the box office starting noon on July 9 in person or by phone. 7:30pm The Harris Theater Millennium Pk 205 E Randolph Dr Chicago (312) 334-7777

Wed., Aug. 26

Networking on the Lake 9th Annual Boat Cruise Chicago Area Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce. \$100 members \$125 non-members. Info from grodriguez@glchamber.org 6:30pm - 10:00pm SE corner of Michigan and Wacker downstairs on the Chicago River.112 E Upper Wacker Dr, Chicago <http://business.glchamber.org/events/details/2015-networking-on-the-lake-9th-annual-boat-cruise-2834>

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SUN 8.23
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Charlie's Touche Call

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LGBTRIVIA
From page 9 **ANSWER: Spin City**
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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