

WINDY CITY TIMES

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

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Left to right: Darling Squire, Bethany Thomas and Sawyer Smith in 2017.
Photo by Megan Lee Miller



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POINTE OF IMPACT

Trans, GNC dancers make mark



INTERSEX PROTEST
Protesters criticize Lurie's intersex surgeries.
Photo of Sean Saifer Wall by Matt Simonette

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Chaka Khan among those at Pitchfork.
Photo by Jerry Nunn

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Mother, son help Chicago House.
Photo of Chris and Derek Bagley, courtesy of Chris Bagley

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THE SPORTING LIFE
Joe Green is profiled.
Photo courtesy of Green

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Christine Ebersole. PR photo

DYNAMIC DUO

Christine Ebersole, Seth Rudetsky talk with WCT

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Seth Rudetsky. PR photo

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22Above: Raphael Saadiq was one of the performers at Pitchfork.
Photo by Jerry Nunnonline exclusives at
www.WindyCityTimes.com

'HEART'-FELT

WCT reviews the musical production
Heartbreak Hotel (left).

Photo by Brett Beiner

NOTE-WORTHY

Bent Nights covers the acts at Taste
of Chicago (such as Juanes, above),
while WCT also took in the Kesha/
Macklemore show.

Photo by Vern Hester

'FLOOR' SHOW

James LaRosa talks about being the
openly gay writer/executive producer/
director of the BET show Hit the
Floor.

THAT'S SHOW BIZ

Find out the latest about Henry
Cavill, Cyndi Lauper and the show
Heathers.plus
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Quigley, LGBTQ housing advocates meet with HUD Secretary Carson

U.S. Rep. Mike Quigley (D-Illinois), vice chair of the LGBT Equality Caucus, hosted a meeting with U.S. Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Ben Carson and Chicago LGBTQ housing advocates July 20.

After the meeting, advocates joined Quigley for a press conference at AIDS Foundation of Chicago.

The primary focus of the meeting was on four key asks of HUD:

—Reinstatement of LGBTQ guidelines that were

Housing, and Urban Development (THUD) Appropriations Subcommittee hearing last year, when he pressed the secretary on the disappearance of LGBTQ housing resources from the HUD website. Quigley grilled Carson on the matter again this March and encouraged him to meet with Chicago LGBTQ advocates for a better understanding of the housing challenges facing the community.

An estimated 40 percent of homeless youth are LGBTQ. According to the 2015 U.S. Transgender Survey, 30 percent of transgender Americans have



From left: John Peller, Rep. Quigley and Channyn Lynne Parker.

Photo by Hal Baim

removed from the HUD website.

—A request for HUD to fund of youth homeless projects in Chicago.

—A push to have HUD support tiny home housing and other creative housing solutions to meet the needs of the homeless, housing unstable and those needing affordable housing.

—Given that housing is a powerful tool in the fight against HIV/AIDS, a request to have a set aside for public housing vouchers for people with HIV.

Those attending the meeting to speak on LGBTQ issues were David Munar, CEO of Howard Brown Health; Channyn Lynne Parker, manager of the LGBT youth drop-in center at Broadway Youth Center; Modesto Tico Valle, CEO of Center on Halsted; Tracy Baim, founder of Pride Action Tank; John Peller, CEO of AIDS Foundation of Chicago; and Scott Ammarell, CEO of Chicago House.

The meeting was a follow-up from Quigley's questioning of Carson during a Transportation,

experienced homelessness at some point in their lives, with one in eight (12 percent) saying they experienced homelessness in the past year because of being transgender.

Carson was engaged and interactive in the meeting, and said he would follow up on the requests, including a required timeline where the LGBTQ guidelines are supposed to be re-posted on HUD's website. Carson also expressed interest in the issues of healthcare outcomes tied to housing, and he was supportive of exploring the concept of tiny homes, asking for follow-up materials. (Baim brought a 3-D model of a planned tiny-home community for youth that PAT is co-developing with La Casa Norte.)

Channyn Lynn Parker, a transgender advocate, was detailed in her explanation to Carson about the issue of IDs and gender-inclusive housing and shelters for transgender women.

Quigley vowed to continue to pressure HUD to fulfill its promises and mission.



Molly Pinta.

Photo courtesy of Carolyn Pinta

Buffalo Grove girl plans for 2019 Pride Parade

BY MATT SIMONETTE

A Buffalo Grove student has been working to bring a Pride parade to her Northwest suburban community.

The idea came to 12-year-old Molly Pinta, who attends Twin Grove Middle School, after she attended the wedding of an uncle who is gay, recalled Molly's mother, Carolyn.

"We were all involved, and it was a beautiful time," Carolyn said. "It got us to thinking about how we should start a gay-straight alliance (GSA) at the school she attends, which is also the school I teach at."

That GSA launched this past school year and generated far more interest than either Molly or Carolyn anticipated. The group, which came to be known as the Acceptance Club, began to meet monthly, rather than bi-monthly, as did most groups at her school.

"By the end of the year, my daughter herself had identified as lesbian," Carolyn said. "She was open with my husband and myself, as well as a few friends, but not with the whole world. Then he went with another teacher from the school, who is gay, to Aurora's first Pride parade, which was a smashing success. It was so amazing."

On the way home from the parade, Carolyn said to Molly, "We should do this in Buffalo Grove. We know a lot of people. We can make this happen."

Molly was so taken with the idea that she made a video about it.

Carolyn explained, "It started out with her in our hallway, where she talks about being 12 and being gay and proud, and the Aurora parade and how she wants to throw one in Buffalo Grove."

The family started a fundraising page as well,

and it went over the \$10,000 mark on July 18. They're now looking to start a not-for-profit to help other LGBT kids who want to start Pride events in their towns. They also are planning some educational events in Buffalo Grove in anticipation of the parade, which has tentatively been set for June of 2019.

"We've been very lucky to get great support, and we're just hoping to make the gay community visible in Buffalo Grove, and normalize it," she said, adding there's much logistical work ahead.

"We met with the police department already and they helped us to pick a good route," Carolyn explained. "We'll need to do everything, from the permits for port-a-potties to hiring a security team from off-duty police officers. ... The park district has reached out [and said] that they might be interested in partnering with us, and then we'll be putting those details down on paper."

She added, "I can't reiterate how much we want to use this to highlight acceptance in the community."

Morry Matson withdraws from aldermanic race

BY MATT SIMONETTE

Embattled 48th Ward aldermanic candidate Morry Matson announced July 17 that he was withdrawing from the 2019 election, citing health reasons.

"Mr. Matson suffered a brain seizure in May and will be undergoing brain surgery next week for a lesion," said a statement released to media outlets.

The withdrawal came just days after Matson made national news when, in his capacity as a manager at an Edgewater CVS, he phoned police when a Black woman attempted to purchase an item with a coupon he did not recognize. Matson and another employee were fired over the matter.

Matson had also been attempting to jumpstart the local chapter of the Log Cabin Republicans and has also apparently stepped down from his role there, according to a separate, unsigned statement also sent to media outlets July 17. The statement, ostensibly from members of the chapter, decried Matson's behavior, but downplayed the implications of racial discrimination that arose from the episode.

"We do not endorse or support the behavior displayed recently in the news regarding our former President M. Mattson, who has stepped down from his post of leadership with Log Cabin Illinois," the statement read. "We remain committed to promoting fiscally conservative and also pro-LGBT (and other inclusivity) stances for all individuals. As an organization with a pro-business stance, we believe excellent customer service is a goal to be strived for and leads to business product and service growth. As such, our official stance would be to have attempted to give the benefit of the doubt to every customer whenever possible."



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PASSAGES

James M. Schulze

James M. Schulze, a lifelong Chicago Heights resident, has passed away at 60.

Jim was a member of the Bloom High School class of 1976, and attended Butler University and the Keller School of Management. He was director of operations for the Council of Supply Chain Management Professionals, in Lombard, Illinois.

He was the husband of Russell Coutinho; son of the late Glenna and James Schulze; son-in-law of Jerry and Vivian Coutinho; brother-in-law of Carol Coutinho; and a devoted friend and co-worker.

Jim enjoyed sailing and was fortunate to have traveled the world.

A resting will be held at Panozzo Bros. Funeral Home, 530 W 14th St.(US Rt. 30, three blocks east of Western Avenue), in Chicago Heights on Wed., July 25, from 3 p.m. until the funeral service at 7:30 p.m. The burial will be private.

Memorial donations may be sent to Best Friends Animal Sanctuary, 5001 Angel Canyon



James M. Schulze.

Photo from Schulze's Facebook page

Rd., Kanab, UT 84741 or bestfriends.org/donate.

For further information, call 708-481-9230 or visit PanozzoBros.com.

Gay man announces aldermanic campaign

Longtime Hermosa resident and community activist Colin Bird-Martinez announced his progressive challenge to become Chicago's 31st Ward alderman. He hopes to become the city's first openly gay African-American alderman.

Aldermanic elections take place next year.

"I'm running for alderman because it's time to put community first in the City of Chicago," he said in a statement. "For far too long, the city has prioritized the wealthy and well-connected, and ignored the needs of our neighborhoods.

"In the 31st Ward, we need real solutions to the problems we face, including housing affordability, access to health care and education, and regressive taxes that overburden hard-working families. The city needs to invest in ordinary people, not special interests."

Bird-Martinez lives with husband Joshua; their two cats, Roy and Max; and a dachshund, Frankie. He works as an automotive analyst and volunteers as a community organizer. Colin founded the Hermosa Neighborhood Association and serves on the Local School Council of Nixon Elementary.

There are currently five gay alderpersons on the 50-member Chicago City Council (Tom Tunney, Deb Mell, Raymond Lopez, Carlos Ramirez-Rosa and James Cappleman). Maria Hadden, an African-American lesbian, is running in the 49th Ward against incumbent Ald. Joe Moore.



Above: Colin Bird-Martinez. Below: Bird-Martinez's campaign logo.

Photo courtesy of Bird-Martinez

**This Week's Featured Properties**

Centered on an open steel stairwell with a shimmering three-story water feature running against a subway slate backdrop, the residence is reminiscent of a Parisian garden court with an abundance of natural light reflecting off an array of stones, metals, woods, and glass – all artfully integrated into every inch of its construction.

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With an enormous suburban-sized yard perfect for tented parties, pick-up soccer games, or a simple breakfast coffee, this grand estate comprising 5+ lots on one of the city's most prized historic blocks proves you can have it all in the city – right across from the park and lake. Driveway and 3+ car garage.

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Enjoy jaw-dropping views of the harbor, lake, and park from a series of huge triple-hung windows spanning 45' in this front-facing residence on a high floor in this premier Beaux Arts vintage building with 2 parking spaces included.

3400 N. Lake Shore Dr. #6A
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Warm and inviting 4 bedroom, 3 bathroom pre-war co-op tastefully updated and beautifully maintained by its architect-owner, retaining the original integrity of its design with large and gracious rooms.

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Protestors challenge youth intersex surgeries

BY MATT SIMONETTE

About 70 persons, among them activists from as far away as Texas, Georgia and California, gathered July 19 at Ann & Robert H. Lurie's Children's Hospital downtown to protest that hospital's practice of performing what they say are medically unnecessary reconstructive surgeries on young intersex patients without those patients' informed consent.

In an informal show of hands, about 18 of the demonstrators said that they were intersex.

The hospital has long performed the surgeries, which many intersex individuals say rob them of bodily autonomy and often leave them facing a multitude of medical, physical and psychological consequences as they become older.

Among the supposed goals of such surgeries is a genital appearance that appears and seems more recognizably "male" or "female." Lurie pediatrician Earl Cheng, M.D., was called out repeatedly in the protest for performing such surgeries.

"This needs to stop, and it needs to stop now," said Sean Saifa Wall, an Atlanta-based activist who works with Intersex Justice Project, which organized the protest.

Activist Pidgeon Pagonis recalled a number of childhood surgeries on their reproductive organs at Lurie, and said that they were told the surgery was necessary to prevent cancer.

"Were here to say, 'Lurie, do better,'" Pagonis said. "You're doing the same surgeries today that you did on me in the '80s and '90s."

Councilwoman Betsy Driver, who became the first openly intersex politician in U.S. history when she was elected to the Flemington, New Jersey Borough Council, also marched and reminded the crowd of the political power they can collectively yield.

"Don't stay home on Nov. 6," Driver said.

Houston-based activist and artist Koomah unveiled a graphic art installation they said was intended to evoke the trauma of the surgeries, a canvas wall hanging with several diapers, each dabbed with fake blood, attached. It was laid before the front door of the hospital.

"We will not pick up this installation," Wall said. "We are not ashamed."

Some Lurie employees stopped to watch the protest and look at the installation as they left work that evening. One man yelled, "We hear what you are doing. Please continue to speak up."

In a statement, Lurie spokesperson Kathleen Keenan said, "The Gender and Sex Development program at Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago is dedicated to the development of optimal multidisciplinary care for individuals who identify as intersex or have differences of sex development (DSD) and their families. We are committed to open communication with the Intersex community and fully respect the diversity of opinions that exists. We believe that continued efforts to foster healthy and open

communication between intersex support groups and the medical community are vital to future improvements in patient care. Consistent with this philosophy, Lurie Children's is hosting an educational program as part of the annual Androgen Insensitivity Syndrome (AIS) and Differences of Sex Development (DSD)/ Intersex advocacy meeting July 19, 2018."

Houston Intersex Society, of which Koomah is a member, and interACT Youth were also represented at the July 19 rally.

Activists discuss fighting laws about HIV transmission

BY MATT SIMONETTE

Laws criminalizing the transmission of HIV/AIDS are outdated, perpetuate stigma, and give incentives for not knowing ones' own HIV status, say experts.

In a July 18 webinar, "HIV Criminalization 101," Attorney Scott Schoettes of Lambda Legal and activist Robert Suttle of SERO Project discussed such laws and their implications for Illinois.

Tuttle discussed his own conviction for transmitting the infection, which has haunted him even as he moved from Louisiana, where the conviction took place, to Pennsylvania and New York. His conviction necessitated his being placed on a sex-offender registry, he said.

He was arrested at his workplace and lost his job, he recalled, and had to pay for an ad in his local newspaper saying what he'd done.

The experience also "revealed more than I wanted revealed to my family," Suttle noted.

But the experience lit a proverbial fire beneath him in challenging such transmission laws, he added. "Instead of retreating, I decided to embrace this work."

"People like Robert are resilient, but they shouldn't have to prove their resilience in this way," said Schoettes, who is Lambda's HIV Project director.

Illinois changed its HIV-transmission law in 2012, modifying it so that it only addressed anal and vaginal contact, for example, and more clearly discussed the issue of intent. But Schoettes said much more work remains to be done on the issue in the state, as prosecutions still do arise. A coalition has slowly been forming to discuss legislative and legal options.

He said that the office of Cook County State's Attorney Kim Foxx has been open to discussions,



Attendees protest youth intersex surgeries.

Photo by Matt Simonette

but added that, "We're not having the same kind of success in other counties."

Schoettes also noted that he was reluctant to advocate for a full legislative repeal of the law, since states without such laws have prosecuted transmissions cases under other charges such as assault or attempted murder. Rather, he would like to see the current laws modified to the point so that a burden of proof would be exceptionally difficult to prove.

"These cases can be harder to fight without parameters or guidelines," Schoettes said.

Coleman Goode, AIDS Foundation of Chicago's manager of community organizing, also took part in the July 18 call.

Study: Mental health of young adults with lesbian parents same as peers'

The mental health of young adults with lesbian parents is the same as their peers, according to new findings from the 32-year U.S. National Longitudinal Lesbian Study that were published in The New England Journal of Medicine, according to a press release from the Williams Institute.

The longest-running prospective study on sexual minority parent families found that 25-year-olds raised by lesbian parents do as well on multiple measures of psychological health as adults

from a population-based sample. The researchers compared relationships, educational/job performance, and behavioral, emotional and mental health problems in the two samples.

The 25-year-olds are participants in the ongoing U.S. National Longitudinal Lesbian Family Study (NLLFS), which has followed this cohort of offspring from conception to adulthood. The NLLFS, now in its 32nd year, has a 92 percent retention rate. This is the first NLLFS report based on data collected when the offspring were legal adults.

The study focused on mental health because the peak incidence of many psychiatric disorders occurs during young adulthood. The researchers matched the 77 adult offspring in the NLLFS with a population-based sample of 77 adults of comparable age, sex, race/ethnicity and education to examine any disparities in their mental health.

The researchers specifically assessed adaptive functioning, the presence of behavioral or emotional problems, scores on the mental health diagnostic scales, and percentages of scores in the borderline or clinical range. Results showed no significant difference between the two groups for any of the measures.

The report, "National Longitudinal Lesbian Family Study—Mental Health of Adult Offspring," appears in The New England Journal of Medicine; co-authors include Visiting Distinguished Scholar, Nanette Gartrell, M.D., along former Williams Institute Visiting International Scholar with Henry Bos, Ph.D., and Audrey Koh, M.D., associate professor, Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology, and Reproductive Sciences, University of California, San Francisco.

The Williams Institute at UCLA School of Law is a think tank on sexual orientation and gender identity law and public policy.



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15th annual Disability Pride dedicated to equality

BY EMAGIN TANASCHUK

Hundreds of supporters came to celebrate and show pride at the 15th Annual Chicago Disability Pride Parade on July 22. The largest disability

pride parade in the nation began at 401 S. Plymouth Ct. and concluded at Daley Plaza.

More than 20 sponsors participate in the parade each year and come together to encourage self-acceptance and dignity for those who are disabled. These sponsors included The Family Resource Center on Disabilities, DAWWN, Blue Cross Blue Shield, Access Living, Equip for Equality and more. Participants of all physical and mental disabilities are welcome to participate. Several family members and friends were also present cheer-

ing on their loved ones.

The year's theme was "Disability Equality Is Long Overdue!" Chants demanding better care in disability homes and more rights for disabled folks permeated the streets. These chants were paired with posters containing encouraging messages and vibrant upbeat music. The energy was both powerful and empowering.

What is even more empowering about the Disability Pride Parade is that the entire event is planned around the needs of those with disabili-

ties. Despite the urge to push for more rights and better treatment, the environment was designed to be calm and positive.

"Today is just for us, it feels good to be here surrounded by good people who care about you," Osbaldo Rodriguez, a participant, said. "This is a huge family."

The event concluded with refreshments at Daley Plaza and information booths that the sponsors organized.



Supporters at the Disability Pride Parade.

Photo by Emagin Tanaschuk

Allred to address LGBT bar association at Sidetrack

Famed attorney Gloria Allred will deliver the keynote address and Illinois Supreme Court Justice Anne Burke will be honored at the Lesbian and Gay Bar Association of Chicago Foundation's (LAGBAC Foundation) 14th Annual 'Lawyers for Diversity' Midsummer BBQ on Thursday, July 26, at Sidetrack, 3349 N. Halsted St., at 6 p.m.

Allred is considered one of the country's legal pioneers on behalf of women's rights and rights for minorities. In January 2014, Allred received the Lifetime Achievement Award from The National Trial Lawyers for her role in combating injustices and winning new rights especially for women and minorities.

In addition to Allred's keynote address, the LAGBAC Foundation will honor Burke with the organization's Distinguished Jurist Award. Burke

has been a longtime supporter of the LGBTQ community and a staunch advocate for diversity in the Illinois bar.

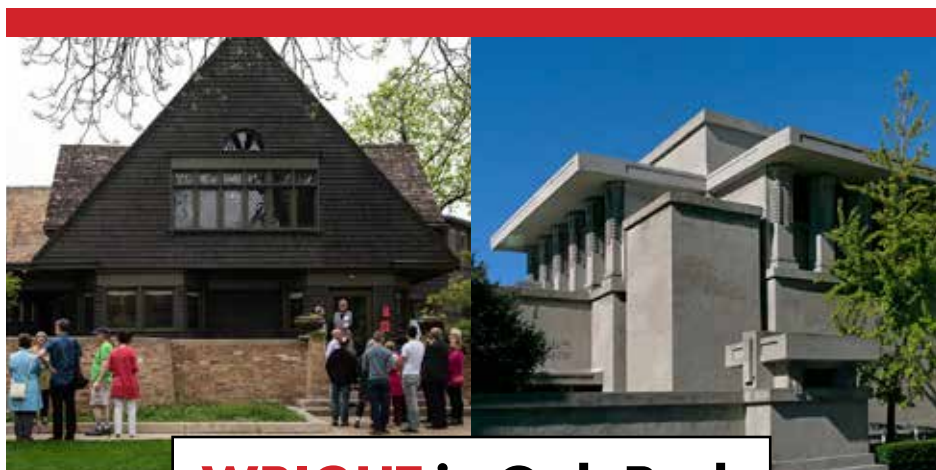
Tickets are available online at the door for \$30 each, or online at <https://lagbac.org/category/events-and-gatherings/> for \$25.

Affinity's leadership event July 26

Affinity Community Services is hosting a virtual leadership series, "The Blackprint: A Plan for Building the Leadership Capacity of Black LGBTQ+ Women Leaders," each Thursday in July. It continues on the following date:

—July 26: noon-1 p.m.: Building Executive Power

This virtual leadership series is free of charge, and will take place entirely online. Participants can register for the series at <http://bit.ly/AffinityTheBlackprint>; for more information, visit Affinity95.org.



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30 BUSINESSES, LIVE MUSIC, & MORE!

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Mother-son team on Chicago House, other endeavors

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

Christine “Chris” Bagley and her son, Derek Bagley, have always had a passion for giving back to causes and organizations that provide the most direct services to those in need through their Chris and Derek Bagley Family Foundation.

For the past three years (and next year), their foundation has been a presenting sponsor of the Chicago House Spring Brunch. Both Chris and Derek also serve as the brunch’s co-chairs. This year the event, REVIVE! Rally on the Runway, held at the Harold Washington Library, raised \$168,000.

“I was introduced to Chicago House through an acquaintance,” said Chris. “Knowing of my charitable work, I was asked if I would be interested in planning a benefit to launch a merger of Chicago House’s former bakery. From there, I worked closely with Chicago House staff and became passionate about its mission. Then I was asked if I would consider sitting on the board of trustees. I accepted and have been a board member for six years. I am also the Chicago House Development Fundraising Committee chair.”

“I got involved with Chicago House after my mother joined the board,” said Derek. “As a queer person, it is really refreshing to see an organization serve our community, and so many other vulnerable communities, so directly. I admire the hands on approach Chicago House takes at handling its casework, so I decided to join its Advocate Board. It is very important, especially in this day and age, that those who are most vulnerable in our society have networks of support like Chicago House.”

In their roles as co-chairs of the brunch, they work with their core planning committee eight months in advance to make the event a success.

“We plan everything from the colors of the napkins to strategies in courting major sponsors,” said Derek. “We usually start with picking a theme. I enjoy working with my mother because it gives us an excuse to spend quality time together, and I think our various talents play off of each other well. I look forward to doing this event every year.”

“Working with my son on this event has been a positive and rewarding experience,” said Chris. “Seeing the conception of the idea to its ‘birth’ is exciting. Derek and I work closely with the Chicago House development staff, headed by Kate Fenner-Lux, and the producer of the event, Quenten Schumacher, with every aspect of the

event. We have a great team that works great together.”

Chris—who has a BA in education and psychology, and has completed post-graduate work in interior design—spends her days doing philanthropic community activist work. She added that many of the guys in Boystown call her “The Queen of Boystown” due to her commitment to LGBTQ and HIV/AIDS causes.

Derek has a bachelor’s in government and a master’s degree in interdisciplinary studies. He spent seven years as a political operative and fundraiser for a variety of Democratic Congressional candidates, including U.S. Rep. Raja Krishnamoorthi. He has also been involved in Illinois state races and civic non-profit organizations such as Chicago Votes.

“Being the development director and a board member of Chicago Votes was a life changing experience, and I encourage everyone to engage with this incredible organization,” said Derek. “They specialize in providing civic education, access and real-life political/government experience to young people all over Chicagoland, specifically in underrepresented communities. I was in charge of fundraising from individual donors for Chicago Votes, but being part of their staff brought me to the frontlines of democracy in ways that no political campaign ever could. It was more than just a fundraising gig for me—it was a perspective shifter.”

Derek said it was an eye opening experience to work on political campaigns no matter whom the candidate was because it offers very few rewards. He explained that 95 percent of the time he was seeking out campaign donations and strategizing about how to defeat the opponent and very little time on policy work.

“After working on many campaigns, I learned how deeply insufficient the American political system is at serving the people, and how impossible it is to change that system from within,” said Derek.

In 2016, Derek decided to switch careers because he felt unfulfilled doing political work so he enrolled in the Film Studies Master of Fine Arts program at DePaul University. He is currently pursuing a career as a filmmaker and fine artist.

Derek said he will use his “art as a vehicle to encourage social criticism and dialogue about the systems of power that dominate our current society. My former political and academic work will inform my queer film practice. We need to use media and motion picture to expose the filthy



Derek and Chris Bagley at the 2018 Chicago House brunch. Photo by Rick Aguilar Studios

truth of the systems that govern our society, and, for that, I thank all of my political bosses for giving me a grade A education.”

When Chris and Derek are not working or planning this annual event, they like to travel together, both domestically and internationally, as well as dine out and enjoy Chicago’s cultural landscape. Chris also likes going to theater and dance productions while Derek enjoys reading and watching films.

Derek’s message to the world is “employ and support queer people of color.”

Both Chris and Derek said they are looking forward to the revival of Chicago House’s speaker series this fall. The event will take place Friday, Sept. 14, at 11:30 a.m. at the Chicago Hilton and Towers, 720 S. Michigan Ave.. This year’s speakers will be Adam Rippon and Wanda Sykes, with NBC Chicago News’ Chris Hush serving as the emcee.

LGBTQ candidate/campaign training offered Aug. 2-4

Victory Institute will train more than 40 LGBTQ people on running for office during its intensive four-day Candidate & Campaign Training in Chicago Aug. 2-5. The training aims to increase LGBTQ political representation across the Midwest and the entire country, which is critical to pushing forward LGBTQ equality at every level of government.

Taught by current and former elected officials, campaign experts and Victory Institute staff, the training provides LGBTQ leaders with the tools and skills needed to build a winning campaign and champion equality once in office. It pays particular attention to the uniqueness of running as an LGBTQ candidate including how to address questions about sexual orientation and gender identity while remaining focused on priority issues.

Among those leading the training are District of Columbia Deputy Mayor Courtney Snowden, Water Reclamation District of Great Chicago Commissioner Debra Shore, Victory Institute’s Director of Domestic Programs Sheila E. Isong and other campaign experts.

Victory Institute is the nation’s only organization dedicated to building a diverse pipe-



Debra Shore. Photo courtesy of Shore

line of LGBTQ elected leaders who can push for equality at all levels of government.

LGBTQ leaders interested in participating can apply to attend online at VictoryInstitute.org/event/chicago-candidate-campaign-training/.



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Anti-racism series Sept. 14-Nov. 17

A six-session anti-racism seminar for white people (called "Doing Our Own Work") will be held Sept. 14-15, Oct. 26-27 and Nov. 16-17 at Youth and Opportunity United, 1911 Church St., Evanston. Allies for Change is hosting the series.

The sessions, which are gender-inclusive, will be led by Aaron Wilson-Ahlstrom and Lois McCullen Parr.

This event is gender-inclusive, and attendance at all six sessions is required.

Some of the topics to be discussed include movements for racial justice in the United States, strategies for institutional change, and white privilege and unearned advantage.

Dates for the sessions are March 31 and April 1, April 28 and 29, and May 19 and 20. Attendance at all six sessions is required. held Fridays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The cost is \$485 (\$100 deposit; \$385 balance due), and it includes program, resource materials and lunch for six days. Scholarships and/or time payments are available.

The cost is \$475 (\$100 deposit; \$375 balance due), which covers the program, resource materials, beverages and snacks for six days. Scholarships and/or time payments are available.

There are 20 spaces available; visit AlliesForChange.org/doow-evanston-2018.html.



Adam Rippon.
PR photo

a 2017 Primetime Emmy nod for her work on the ABC show Black-ish.

Before he even stepped on the ice at the 2018 Winter Olympics, figure skater Adam Rippon made history as the first openly gay U.S. male athlete to qualify for the Winter Games. He eventually earned the bronze medal as part of the figure-skating team event, becoming the first openly gay athlete to medal at the Winter Olympics.

The event's hosts include co-chairs Nabeela Rasheed, intellectual property section head at AbbVie; and Chicago House Board Chair, Ray J. Koenig III, a Clark Hill Executive Committee and the managing member of the law firm's Chicago office as well as a member in Clark Hill's Litigation and Personal Legal Services practice groups.

See ChicagoHouse.org for tickets and more information.

Sykes, Rippon at Sept. 14 Chicago House Speaker Series event

Chicago House—which provides housing and support for those living with HIV/AIDS—has announced its 8th Speaker Series, with Wanda Sykes and Adam Rippon as headliners, on Friday, Sept. 14, in the Grand Ballroom of the Hilton Chicago, 720 S. Michigan Ave., 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

Local NBC reporter Chris Hush will emcee the event.

Sykes, an out stand-up comedian and actress, received an Emmy nomination for her first HBO comedy special, *Wanda Sykes: Sick and Tired*. Since, she has received numerous awards and nominations, including a 2010 GLAAD award and

Center seeks Billiken parade volunteers

LGBTQ facility Center on Halsted is marching in the Bud Billiken Parade this year on Saturday, Aug. 11, at 10 a.m.—and is looking for volunteers to represent the Center while handing out materials to community members.

As the largest African-American parade in the United States (and the largest one in Chicago), the Bud Billiken Parade has grown into an institution with generational participation across the country. The parade—which began Aug. 11, 1929—was intended to be a symbol

of pride, happiness and hope, as well as represented unity in diversity for the children of Chicago.

This year's theme is "Back to School, Back to Work, Back to Life, Back to Bud," with an '80s/'90s-themed festival after the parade with plenty of food and games. The parade is routed south on Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive, through the historic Bronzeville neighborhood, into Washington Park.

Those interested in volunteering should email JoannaThompson@centeronhalsted.org or visit https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd0XKmuiEjx42tbM_8nf5f0yBuThQdxAFiDH-tRwBg_-6U0mQ/viewform.

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BOOKS

45 years ago: Talking UpStairs tragedy with author Robert W. Fieseler

BY OWEN KEEHNEN

On June 24, 1973, an act of arson claimed the lives of 32 people at the UpStairs Lounge, a gay bar in New Orleans. In his new book, *Tinderbox*, author and historian Robert W. Fieseler has painstakingly researched the blaze.

In the book, we get to know the victims, giving a deeply personal face to the tragedy. In addition, Fieseler explains the importance of the UpStairs Lounge to New Orleans gay life at the time, the events surrounding the blaze, the bungled/apathetic investigation, and the lives of the survivors. The impact of the fire is also examined as well as the socio-political ripples the fire sent through the gay community nationwide.

Recently I had the chance to chat with Fieseler about the UpStairs Lounge fire and why this 45-year-old tragedy still resonates today.

Windy City Times: The UpStairs Lounge fire has been the subject of two previous books and a documentary film. How did you want *Tinderbox* to differ in its approach to the tragedy?

Robert Fieseler: You're right in that there have been several very worthy tellings of the tragedy. Aware of these, I wanted to focus directly on the socio-political context that surrounded the UpStairs Lounge fire, locally and nationally. As it turns out, this untapped terrain is virtually the whole story. There is essentially no way to understand this fire, except with an activist slant, if one doesn't account for the 1970s society that

created the conditions for this tragedy to occur. In order to appreciate public attitudes towards homosexuality in 1973, when the fire occurred, you'd have to not only flip today's scale of homosexual tolerance but then also break it.

Seven out of 10 Americans, when polling companies even bothered to ask about something so obvious, believed homosexuality to be "always wrong." Why? Because homosexual sex was a crime in all but five states, including Louisiana, and punishable with mandatory prison sentences. The American Psychiatric Association still categorized homosexuality as a sexual deviancy disorder; to much of medical science, homosexuality remained a dangerous illness. In New Orleans, a "live and let live" community with a unique relationship to the vices, homosexuals had been permitted to occupy a semi-closeted niche where, so long as the sexual behavior remained undeclared, individuals could dabble without being arrested. Speaking word of these activities, however, provoked violent reprisals, often from the same police members who ordinarily came calling to gay bars for payoffs. To the wider public, all this was "normal" behavior.

When you look at New Orleans' large homosexual community in 1973, between 60,000 and 100,000 in a city of 600,000, you see a kind of pressure cooker building among a population deeply in denial. A "closeted" gay underworld had served the Big Easy so well that the radical openness of the gay-rights movement had not yet reached the city's borders. Thus, when



Robert Fieseler.

Photo by Ryan Leitner

a gay bar exploded in a ball of flame, killing 32 innocents, a mask was ripped away, and people were forced to contend with a shocking reality they had been trained to suppress: the fact that a large gay community existed beside them, in their midst. This out-of-ordinary circumstance exposed widespread bias because, though the fire was the deadliest mass killing of homosexuals at the time and the deadliest fire on record in New Orleans history, individuals struggled to find what would ordinarily be a very natural sympathy for the dead.

WCT: There's so much information in the book. I was especially impressed with all the personal information you gathered about the lives of the people at the UpStairs Lounge on the night of June 24th, 1973. What were your primary methods of research?

RF: For me, it was incredible to realize that

archival documents and maps, plus a Venn-diagram of overlapping interviews and testimony from 1973, permitted a near-minute by minute account of what happened to real people inside the UpStairs Lounge at those critical moments. I wanted to honor the survivors and witnesses by spelling out exactly what happened as flames surged around them, especially in light of hearing from several survivors how people told them that their experiences didn't matter. In their lives and in the stream of history, their experiences mattered a great deal.

So I try to follow the Studs Terkel method of reporting, in that I delve deeply into historical background but I also rely heavily on interview. I want to know what people have to say and then map what people have to say, at the same time and in the same space, against each other. When I interview, taking another cue from Studs, I give the interviewee the wheel. That means they speak to me when they want to, where they want to, if they want to. I'm on their timetable, which can be stressful when a book deadline looms, but it also means that, when they talk, they're sharing the story they need to express rather than the story they think I want to hear.

For *Tinderbox*, that meant sometimes playing an email or a text message dance for three years before a fire survivor sat down to speak. And I had many magical, multi-hour-long conversations with survivors that were worth the wait. I would not trade these interviews for the world. And if a survivor decided that he couldn't share his experiences, well that said something profound to me, too, about the level of trauma. Some admitted that they could not relive those moments when fire surged through the front door of their favorite bar as if launched from a flamethrower. Some could not find it in themselves to describe their friends and lovers burning to death. And I understand why. I do. Reliving a pain they can't change is no catharsis.

Read the entire interview with Fieseler online at WindyCityMediaGroup.com.

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National LGBT media group announces 2018 Ad POP Awards

The National LGBT Media Association (NGMA) has announced its third annual Ad POP award winners, including many top corporate brand names. NGMA member papers have each selected one top award winner in their regional markets, plus one national AdPOP has been given to Target Corporation.

The Ad POPs (Pride in Online and Print) reward the best representations of LGBT advertising in online and print campaigns, as placed in regional LGBT newspapers in its member cities. LGBT marketing is most successful when it is local. The Ad Pops recognize clients, creative and placement agencies, and winners are selected based on their image and messaging.

NGMA represents legacy brand names and new top-performing papers: Bay Area Reporter (San Francisco), Bay Windows (Boston), Between the Lines (Detroit), Dallas Voice, Gay City News (New York City), Los Angeles Blade, Philadelphia Gay News, South Florida Gay News, Georgia Voice, Washington Blade, Watermark (Central Florida and Tampa Bay) and Windy City Times (Chicago).

Rivendell Media, the oldest and most experienced expert in LGBT media, helped coordinate

national entries across local LGBT media.

For more information, see NationalLGBTMediaAssociation.com.

Awards were granted based on 2017 advertising campaigns on a local level, and are as follows:

—National Winner: Target Corporation

—Atlanta Winner, presented by Georgia Voice: High Museum of Art, design by Angela Jaeger
 —Boston Winner, presented by Bay Windows: Cambridge College
 —Central Florida Winner, presented by Watermark: Orlando Health through Efficiency Media
 —Chicago Winner, presented by Windy City Times: Illinois Office of Tourism, design by: J. Walter Thompson
 —Dallas Winner, presented by Dallas Voice: Toyota, design by imre
 —Detroit Winner, presented by Between The Lines: Michigan State University Federal Credit Union
 —Los Angeles Winner, presented by Los Ange-

les Blade: MedMen

—New York City Winner, presented by Gay City News: Borgata Casino and Spa, design by: SKG Global

—Philadelphia Winner, presented by Philadelphia Gay News: The Philly POPS

—San Francisco Winner, presented by Bay Area Reporter: City Ventures

—South Florida Winner, presented by South Florida Gay News: Island City Stage

—Tampa Bay Winner, presented by Watermark: Straz Center for the Performing Arts

—Washington, D.C., Winner, presented by Washington Blade: Rufskin, design by Hubert Pouches and Douglas Coats

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viewpoints


**Rev. Irene
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That N-word, again

Papa John's is the latest to use the N-word and then apologize. CEO John Schnatter, known as Papa John, blurted out the N-word during a crisis communication training session over the phone—and not in the face of an African-American—he argues his use of the word doesn't constitute as a "slur."

He said, "It wasn't a slur. It was a social strategy and media planning and training and I repeated something that somebody else said and said, 'We're not going to say that...'"

Schnatter will no longer be the public face of the pizza franchise.

There is some talk now that in this political climate the use of the N-word needs to be reexamined. Perhaps we should.

Some Blacks defend the N-word. In 2002, Harvard Law professor Randall Kennedy, who wrote *N****er: The Strange Career of a Troublesome Word* [the book title uses the actual word], said that while the word has been used to "terrorize and humiliate" African-Americans, "It's also been used as a term of endearment and a gesture of solidarity."

In 2011, it was disclosed that at the entrance of former Gov. Rick Perry's hunting camp is a rock painted in block letters with the word "Ni****erhead." In discussing the offensive racial moniker of Perry's property, talk-show host Barbara Walters (then on TV's *The View*) used the N-word, sparking a debate with then-co-host Sherri Shepherd.

"I'm saying when you say the word, I don't like it," said Shepherd, who said she has used it among African-American family and friends. "When white people say it, it brings up feelings in me."

Many Black and white comedians never get the

laughs they were going for using the word. Obama's send-off at the 2016 White House correspondents' dinner ended with the N-word. Larry Wilmore, comedian and then-host of Comedy Central's *The Nightly Show*, in his closing remarks thanked Obama for his tenure as president said "...to live in your time, Mr. President, when a Black man can lead the entire free world. Words alone do me no justice. So, Mr. President, if I'm going to keep it 100: Yo, Barry, you did it, my n---. You did it." And, at that moment you heard audible gasps and saw visible grimaces of shock, pain and embarrassment.

However, when the word slips from the mouths of race-conscious allies such as Bill Maher last year—the comedian and political commentator on HBO talk show *Real Time with Bill Maher*—a lot of shock and hurt was felt. Guest U.S. Sen. Ben Sasse of Nebraska invited Maher to visit Nebraska and "work in the fields with us." Maher mockingly declined: "Work in the fields? ... I am a house ni****er."

Whites trip up in using the N-word. Dennis Lehane—Boston native and best-selling novelist—used the word at Emerson College's commencement last year. In talking about Boston's 1970s busing crisis, Lehane highlighted how white opponents of school desegregation shouted "ni****ers out" at protests. Twitter blew up attacking Lehane, and he apologized immediately.

Another failed teaching moment was in January 2011. The kerfuffle focused on Samuel Langhorne Clemens, known as Mark Twain, in the NewSouth Books edition of his 1885 classic *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*. In the original edition, the epithet is used 219 times. In an effort to rekindle interest in the Twain classic while tamping down the flame and fury the use of the word engenders, Alan Gribben—editor of the edition and an English professor at Auburn University in Alabama—replaced the word with "slave."

And, in 1998, a national controversy ensued over the April headline in the *Boston Magazine* profile of Henry Louis "Skip" Gates at Harvard as the recent "Head Negro In Charge" of the Black intellectual enterprise in this country. The appellation was

intended to be a compliment, but the "n" doesn't stand for "negro," and the controversy once again opened a dialogue about the N-word.

Is there a double standard here?

Shortly after Maher dropped the word, many on Twitter chimed in to defend him, saying he used a modified version, meaning it ended in an "a" rather than an "r"—and that this morphs the term into an endearment. I contend that you cannot conjugate the word, because it is firmly embedded in the lexicon of racist language that was and still is used to disparage African-Americans. Many slaveholders pronounced the word with the "a" ending, and in the 1920s many African-Americans used the "a" version as a pejorative denoting class difference.

Last year, Martha Stewart dropped the N-bomb during a taping of *Martha and Snoop's Potluck Dinner Party*. Stewart, still a neophyte to hip-hop culture, asked rapper Lil Yachty, "Yachty, does it upset you when Snoop says 'nigga shit?'"

The confusion, however, illustrates what happens when an epithet like the N-word—once hurled at African-Americans in this country and banned from polite conversation—now has a broad-based cultural acceptance in our society.

There are many reasons to end the use of the N-word. The fact that African-Americans have appropriated the N-word does not negate our long history of internalized self-hatred. Our culture's neo-revisionist use of the N-word makes it even harder to purge the sting of the word from the American psyche. And, our use of the N-word speaks less about our rights to free speech and more about how we as a people—both white and Black Americans—have become anesthetized to the damaging and destructive use of epithets.

What would work is a history lesson, because reclaiming racist words like the N-word does not eradicate its historical baggage and its existing fraught racial relations among us.

Instead, it keeps the hate and hurt alive. Papa John's just proved it.

letters

Valiant effort

To whom it may concern:

On the evening of May 25, 2018, my dear friend Karl Szwet and I had just finished the Critical Mass bicycle ride and had stopped at the Whole Foods next to Center on Halsted for a snack to eat in the lobby of the center.

After finishing our food and getting ready to leave, Karl suddenly went into cardiac arrest. Jamie Murphy, who was behind the counter, responded quickly by calling 911 and helping me place Karl on the floor. She was diligent enough to ask if he had any food blockage and administered CPR until the emergency crew arrived, which was only a few minutes.

It took the emergency crew a half-hour to stabilize Karl enough to transport him to the hospital. The

doctors were very pleased to find out that Karl was attended to so quickly.

I am very heartbroken to say that Karl passed away June 3. He never regained consciousness.

Even so, I am so very grateful to Jamie and the emergency crew for their valiant efforts.

Bill Petrites
Highland, Indiana

Send columns or letters to Andrew@WindyCityMediaGroup.com.
Letters may be edited for brevity or clarity.

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Furious Spoon.



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Mr. Midwest Rubber at Touche.



Full 'Stop'

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WCT reviews the William Inge classic *Bus Stop*, now at the Athenaeum Theater.

Photo courtesy of Jackalope Theatre Company

DANCE

Revolutionary steps: Dancers point past the binary

BY LAUREN WARNECKE

Chicago is not lacking queer spaces in the arts, and that includes dance and performance art.

Now in its ninth season, the Fly Honey Show remains a highly anticipated staple on the annual dance calendar. A one-night-only endeavor when it launched in 2009, the inclusive burlesque cabaret now runs five weekends starting Thursday, Aug. 9, at Wicker Park's Den Theatre. In its 27th season, *Dance for Life* (coming up Aug. 18 at the Auditorium Theatre) has been a force for good since its founding at the height of the AIDS crisis.

Other productions have left their mark: Joseph Varisco began his series *QUEER, ILL + OKAY* in 2012. The ever-popular *Salonathon* had a healthy six-year run before folding in February. Like the (now defunct) *Poonie's Cabaret*, they all created a welcoming performance platform for queer and gender non-conforming artists.

But many would say that Chicago's dance community is actually a collection of communities, with a divide between the underground and the concert dance world. Inclusivity and visibility for LGBTQ performers in the larger, more profitable concert dance space lags far behind other art forms.

Stuck in the gender binary of princes and princesses, concert dance offers few examples outside the cisgendered, heteronormative roles undating the field since the 1800s.

The struggle to be seen

San Francisco-based choreographer Sean Dorsey was the first openly transgender dance artist to receive national attention, and is a leading advocate for trans equality in dance. Dorsey's newest work—"Boys in Trouble," which saw its East Coast premiere July 12 at the Bates Dance Festival—brings queer and trans narratives about masculinity to the stage.

"Every choice I make, every work I create or perform and every conversation I have in the dance field occurs in the context of me being surrounded, judged and defined by cisgender people," said Dorsey (who uses he/him/his pronouns). "All the people with power in the dance field are cisgender. That's a problem!"

"Some of the challenges I face on a daily basis include the struggle to have my work seen and enjoyed without having to explain my identity first; not being able to safely or legally use a bathroom while (constantly) touring across the country; and never having had a transgender contemporary dance elder or mentor I could lean on," he said.

Casting ambiguity: Presentation or extension?

Local trans and gender non-conforming dancers cite similar challenges. Kaitlyn Dessoffy (they/them/their) dances for J. Lindsay Brown Dance and *Lucid Banter Project*. Their partner, Mags Bouffard, has also danced with *Lucid Banter Project* and was previously in *Zephyr Dance*. Dessoffy will audition for anything and everything,

but says, "It's really hard to know if the reason I'm not getting cast is because my extension is 90-degrees on the best day of my life, or because I'm really hairy and also look like a girl."

A home in the hive

Andy Slavin (they/them/their) grew up in a small town in California, moving to Chicago to attend Columbia College. They currently dance with Kristina Isabelle, Emma Draves and as part of the *Fly Honey Show's* masculine "hive."

Entering college, Slavin identified as a woman. "I didn't even know that gender non-conforming people were a thing," they said. Slavin and Bouffard have used hormone supplementation in the past, but discontinued testosterone for personal reasons, and up to now, neither has made further modifications to their bodies.

"I don't think my transition's over," said Slavin. "Every day I learn something new about myself, [but] I feel the most at home and comfortable with myself as I ever have."

Slavin, like Bouffard, is discerning about which projects they work on. "I don't want to be in spaces that don't want me as a performer. I feel like it's important to have agency and a sense of safety in your workplace," they said.

Crisis in plain sight

Columbia College has been a leader in embracing diversity in dance, providing a welcoming place for gender non-conforming artists. The *Bates Dance Festival* is another example, now led by Shoshona Currier, former director of performing arts for Chicago's Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events.

But diversity in dance remains an uphill battle. For *Darling Squire*, more success has come as a solo artist than by pursuing a position within a company. Squire said this was a career decision

Turn to page 22



Dancer Andy Slavin.

Photo by Megan Lee Miller

THEATER REVIEW

Everybody

Playwright: **Branden Jacobs-Jenkins**
 At: **Brown Paper Box Company at the Pride Arts Buena, 4147 Broadway**
 Tickets: **\$25; BrownPaperBox.org**
 Runs through: **Aug. 12**

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

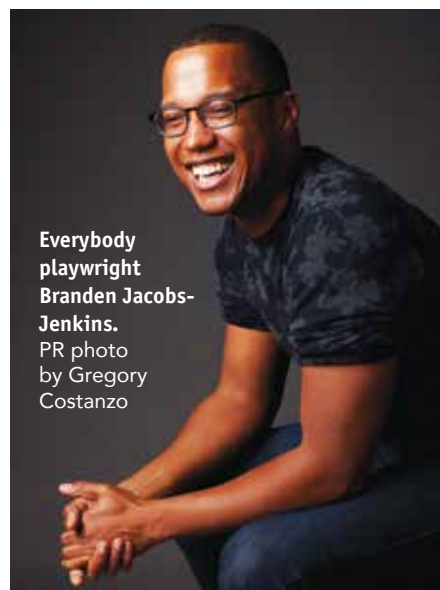
Long before the advent of self-help books, people looked to Morality Plays for advice on how to live in a manner ensuring a fair and just reward in the afterlife—however you define that term.

The earliest of these in the English language was the 1495-vintage *Everyman*, an allegorical narrative recounting its hero's final journey and his struggle to find a companion to accompany him beyond the grave. After *Fellowship*, *Kindred*, *Worldly Possessions*, *Knowledge*, *Strength*, *Beauty*, *Discretion* and *Wits* all desert him, he is left

with only his previous *Good Deeds* to testify on his behalf at the gates of eternity.

That's the Christian version of the tale, anyway—but deconstructionist playwright Branden Jacobs-Jenkins is not content with simply dressing old dogma in new robes. His reimagining of the medieval fable—now inclusively titled “*Everybody*”—expands the scope of its dramatic universe to address its applicability in an increasingly complex global consciousness, where Death expresses regrets at his duties rendering him “such a bitch” and even God falls prey to existential misgivings.

What hasn't changed is mortality's no-exception policy. To illustrate this, an assortment of actors disguised as playgoers of varying demographics (among them, trans-identified newcomer Hal Cosentino) are summoned to the stage and one selected by lottery for the role of protagonist that evening. This doesn't mean the also-rans are done for the night, though, but instead assume the personae of the would-be escorts. In Jenkins'



Everybody
 playwright
Branden Jacobs-Jenkins.
 PR photo
 by Gregory
 Costanzo

most significant deviation from his source material, *Good Deeds* is transformed into an upstart “*Love*” promising to be faithful—albeit not until *Everybody* has surrendered to humility—but whose other face is not revealed until the very last.

This is a lot of metaphysical punch to pack into a mere 90 minutes, extended by inter-episode vocal montages as *Everybody* attempts to diagram the progress of the metamorphosis under way. Under the direction of Erin Shea Brady, the nine-member ensemble led by Chelsea David as the Almighty-in-us-her-uniform (complete with Saints badge), discharge their tasks—ranging from quasi-balletic terpsichore set to Saint-Saens “*Danse Macabre*” to a nearly-nude exercise workout—with unflagging energy and aplomb. Since the cast assignments change with every performance, repeat viewings are encouraged. Who knows? You might emerge a little wiser in your own lifestyle choices for the experience.

THEATER REVIEW

Bus Stop

Written by: **William Inge**
 At: **Athanaeum Theater, 2936 N. Southport Ave.**
 Tickets: **\$20-\$30; EclipseTheatre.com**
 Runs through: **August 19**

BY SARAH BOWDEN

The women of *Bus Stop* are given little room to breathe.

They are shouted over, leered at and repeatedly reminded they owe their happiness to men. They all comment on the way they are treated, but few allies listen. Even when men hear them, conflict is still resolved via a testosterone-driven fistfight. I would never have guessed that William Inge's drama about love and regret might comment so sharply on our contemporary struggles

concerning gender, harassment, and respect, but thanks to Steve Scott's incisive direction of this Eclipse production, here we are.

Grace (Sarah Bright) runs a Kansas diner frequented by stop-overs on their way to places like Topeka and Denver. Her bright and wide-eyed waitress Elma (Jillian Warden) serves up coffee and soaks up stories from travelers. One such traveler is Cherie (Daniella Pereira), a self-described chanteuse who rushes into the restaurant looking for protection from the man who abducted her only hours before. His name is Bo (Anthony Conway); he's a Montana cowboy intent on marrying Cherie and building a life with her on his family ranch. His father figure Virgil (Zach Bloomfield) cautions him to slow down, as does local sheriff Will (Tim Kough), but the hot-headed rodeo champ refuses to accept Cherie's rejection. Meanwhile, Grace deals with the suggestive advances of bus driver Carl (Matt Thinnis) while Elma is targeted by disgraced Dr. Lyman (Ted Ho-

erl), who has trouble keeping away from young girls.

No customer or server can get away from one another for very long in scenic designer Kevin Hagan's cramped table seating. Rather than fight the theatricality of overheard conversations and broken trains of thought, Scott embraces these devices by having men butt in to other's business using insidious methods. Bo means well, but his bouncing-off-the-walls declarations of love derail Cherie's ability to tell him what she actually wants from him. More obviously, Lyman's open body language and intimate lean-ins show everyone what he intends, even if the naive Elma cannot perceive it.

Pereira as Cheri has a deadpan sense of humor and determined sensibility that more than makes her a match for Conway's bullheaded energy, while Warden walks a fine line between innocence and curiosity. Bright betrays Grace's wistful sadness with only a look at her diner as she turns out

the lights. If Scott cannot pack the male figures with as much pathos as the female characters, that may be due to Inge's plotting, which wraps the story up with dialogue about Virgil's regret, rather than Grace's. Luckily, Scott improves on that moment, too.

Inge's script contains a telling exchange between Bo and Will late in the action. The cowboy proclaims he has a right to what he loves, implying he can do what he likes to bully Cheri into marrying him. Will responds that Bo will see his love returned only if he takes the actions necessary to deserve it. *Bus Stop* is not a play about 2018, but I am glad it is playing in Chicago right now.

CRITICS' PICKS

Guards at the Taj, Steppenwolf Theatre, through July 29. Rajiv Joseph's very modern play with an historic setting explores friendship, loyalty, beauty and power through comedy and terror. The wonderful performers should not be missed. JA

Bechdel Fest 6: Revolution, Broken Nose at Steppenwolf 1700 Theatre, July 29-31. If you make it to one fest this month, make it this one, which features 40 stories about female identified and non-binary characters, all penned by local playwrights who understand that passing the Bechdel Test oughta be a cultural imperative. CES

Blood at the Root, Jackalope Theatre Company/Yard Ensemble at the Armory, through July 28. Dominique Morisseau may have based her “cho-reopoe” on real-life events, but a high-energy ensemble make for an electric immediacy that all but throws off sparks in the Armory's spartan cell-block. MSB

—By *Abarbanel, Barnidge and Sullivan*

THEATER REVIEW

Cat on a Hot Tin Roof

Written by: **Tennessee Williams**
 Directed by: **Marcia Milgrom Dodge**
 At: **Drury Lane Theatre, 100 Drury Lane, Oakbrook Terrace**
 Tickets: **\$38-58**
 Runs through: **Aug. 26**

BY ERIC KARAS

Drury Lane Theatre is presenting the Tennessee Williams classic *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, directed by Tony nominee Marcia Milgrom Dodge.

The first thing you notice is the overwhelming Southern gothic set by Kevin Depinet. It looks like Tara from *Gone with the Wind* after it's been shelled by Yankees. This is not a luxurious home people are fighting to inherit but a symbol of the rot inherent in the lives of this family over-

whelmed by disease, desperation and greed. It's emotionally on target, if a bit awkward at times for some of the staging. Shutting a door on someone isn't dramatic when there are no doors.

Maggie is a wife trying to deal with the alienated affections of her husband, Brick, who is descending into the bottle after the death of his best friend. As portrayed by Genevieve Angelson, Maggie is less of a sultry siren than a desperate Southern belle. She is more a grown-up Elle Woods (from the *Legally Blonde* movies) than a Liz Taylor type. It works here because your sympathy lies with her, as it should, and may be a more realistic portrayal of a woman than some other takes on this character.

Anthony Bowden's Brick seems a little less tortured but totally distracted and uninterested in anything but his drink. I didn't get the menace when he threatens Maggie or enough of his pain over the death of his friend. However, he does rise to the occasion with the scenes of him and his dying father, Big Daddy.

Matt Decaro's Big Daddy really brings out the

joy of man who thought he was going to die but thinks he has a second chance at life. He is very believable in his lust for life and his love for his son. Cindy Gold's Big Mama ranges from high camp to utter strength. The audience loved the gross-out humor, but I think if she were a bit more wounded by Big Daddy she could break a lot of hearts. When she has to take over for Big Daddy, she is a force. Michael Milligan does his best with a thankless part as the unloved older brother, Gooper, and Gail Rastorfer, as sister-in-law Mae, is never as villainous or cloying as she should be. If she can relax, she'll nail it and steal scenes.

Marcia Milgrom Dodge's direction keeps the characters moving so this never feels stagey or overdramatic (except, perhaps, the Addams Family style tableau at the beginning). The incredible set causes some awkwardness for her, however. The real star of this show is Tennessee Williams' play—which was way ahead of its time with gay content and still seems ageless in the family-drama canon.



Carla R. Stewart
and Adrianna
Hicks in *The Color
Purple*.
Photo by Matthew
Murphy

THEATER REVIEW

The Color Purple

Playwright: Marsha Norman (book);
Stephen Bray, Brenda Russell
and Allee Willis (music/lyrics)
At: The Auditorium Theatre,
50 E. Congress Pkwy.
Tickets: \$34-157
Runs through: July 29

BY REGINA VICTOR

The Color Purple is an electrifying ensemble performance, with Adrianna Hicks as a formidable Celie at the helm.

It is set upon a backdrop of fractured wood with suspended chairs on it up to the ceiling, designed by director John Boyle. This invoked all the unseen family and support Celie was craving and sometimes able to feel. The vocal talent of this ensemble was supported by an offstage orchestra, leaving the playing space free for the actors and the audience's imaginations.

Sofia, in this production, is excellently sung and acted to the full comedic potential of the role by Carrie Compere. She hit an outraged backbend at one point that had the audience in stitches. The direction was simple and effective with a beautiful depiction of Africa manifested through cloth.

At one point, Celie envisions a far-off Africa she is quilting—recalling the African-American tradition of quilting as a way to record history and lineage when it is so constantly being erased.

Long spools of cloth emerged from baskets carried on the heads of femme ensemble members, spread out to fill the stage with color, then worn as they portrayed African women. This is just a small example of the elegance and specificity of Boyle's direction.

Also, a spectacular minimalist really clarifies the story. In the beginning, the costume design, by Ann Hould-Ward, was simple earth tones with light patterns. However, she gets to play with color when it comes to the costume designs for Shug Avery (a steamy Carla R. Stewart) who is outfitted in a gorgeous purple suit for the title song.

Shug and Celie's romance, underplayed in the film, is unabashedly highlighted in the musical. Watching these Black women sing a beautiful gay duet together was simply wonderful. Both women are striving to get away from Albert, or Mister, sung with a silky baritone by Gavin Gregory in a performance that is not to be missed.

The Color Purple is written with pauses in the music for audience screams, and though the audience was enjoying it, guests did not take advantage of these moments to cheer the singers. Theater etiquette tells audience members to sit still and watch plays in silence, but for this production that would be a disservice. The cast gives so much to the audience and it should receive as much, because the performers don't just sing—they *sang*. When you attend this stellar production, be sure to snap, clap and holler back because this play deserves and demands it.

SPOTLIGHT

Babes with Blades are Chicago's grande dames of inspired uproar. From swashbuckling with swords to rioting with rapiers, they pioneered methods of fight choreography back when the art form was all but exclusively the domain of boys. With **The Lady Demands Satisfaction**, they deliver a farce filled with not-so-docile young maidens, mistaken identities and embattled inheritances. Move over, Douglas Fairbanks (oh, Google it, kids.) Femme fighting is ferociously fine. It runs through Sunday, Aug. 25, at City Lit Theatre, 1020 Bryn Mawr Ave.; \$25,



\$15 student, seniors, \$10 industry; pay-what-you-can Aug. 9, 16. Visit BabesWithBlades.org.
Caption: Photo by Steve Townshend

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Joe Green.
Photos courtesy of Green

The Sporting Life: Joe Green

BY ROSS FORMAN

Joe Green had only been out a few years when he started playing in a gay softball league, and yet still wasn't comfortable with being gay and living in the suburbs where he didn't know a lot of other gay people.

But suddenly, through softball, Green met hundreds of other people who were "just like me," he recalled. "[The league] made me feel like I found a place where I can just be me and not hide; it gave me a voice.

"I always had a competitive nature, knew how to play and was excited about meeting new people. I wasn't the strongest arm, nor the biggest bat, but I was fast and that helped me feel confident. Back then, teams would hang out together after the games, and your teammates became your friends and your extended family. The players on the other teams became your friends, too. I went from knowing about 10 gay people

to 100-plus. It made going out to the bars easier as there was always someone you would run into that also played softball and you can just have a conversation with them."

When the softball season ended, "I couldn't wait for next year to start all over again," he added.

Decades later, Green is still playing softball through the Chicago Metropolitan Sports Association (CMSA). And that's just the start of his sporting career.

"I think I've tried just about every sport," said Green, who has played in numerous softball leagues and countless tournaments, and he also

has tried his sporting blood in flag football, volleyball, basketball, kickball, dodgeball, badminton, tennis, bowling, billiards, darts and soccer. He has participated in the Gay Games when it was hosted in Chicago, and he medaled in the long jump (gold), triple jump (silver), 4x100 relay (bronze) and flag football (bronze).

In addition, has been a CMSA coach, umpire, referee, Main Board Member, Individual League board member and longtime sponsor.

And, he met his husband through softball. Green and Brian Kettner have been together for 16 years, the past three married.

On Saturday, July 28, Green will be inducted into the CMSA Hall of Famer, along with Bill Enright and Bill Helton. The ceremony starts at 7 p.m., at Andersonville Brewing, 5402 N. Clark St.

Green said the Hall of Fame induction means that "I can be visible."

"Growing up, I played a variety of sports, but I was average in stature and wasn't a star player; and being more on the quiet side, I didn't really want to stand out," he said. "I knew I was gay early on, but didn't know what it meant. Growing up in a military family, I used to hear stories of my dad coming home with stories about how other [military] service men were getting dishonorably discharged from service for being gay. I equated being gay was something that people were keeping as a secret life and got in trouble and losing their career if caught.

"In high school I did more individual sports, such as tennis and chess, part [as] my limiting belief that being gay I shouldn't do anything that made me stand out.

"I still have a relatively reserved life as part of that 'closeted' upbringing is still there. So, being honored and recognized is not something that I comfortably accept. At the same time, it's like a weight being lifted and the doors opening, if that makes sense."

Green, 52, has lived in Chicago since 1988 and is the owner of Green Team Properties as well as a realtor for Keller Williams Chicago Lincoln Park.

Green's sporting career has been filled with years of highlights—and some bloopers, too.

He was, for instance, named MVP of his softball team in his second or third year playing. He's made countless plays at home while a catcher and wasn't afraid of the collision. He had four interceptions in one flag football game during the Gay Games, two of which he returned for touchdowns and another in which he pitched the ball to another player for a touchdown.

Then there was the softball tournament in which he was playing right field, and a ball was hit down the right field line. Green caught the ball and went crashing into the fence where his shorts got caught on the fence and he ended up hanging upside down with his pants around my ankles."

Green and Kettner met during a softball tournament in Milwaukee. Kettner was new to the league and Green was a pick-up player for that

team for that tournament. "It truly was love at first sight for both of us," Green said. "We were both talking to our friends about each other, like we were back in high school."

Green and Kettner are, and have been for years, teammates on the fields of play, not just off.

"Being 50-plus, I'm definitely on the retirement track. It [will] be hard to stop playing [softball], but it's getting close to that," Green said. "I've had so many great memories, made great friends. Softball has given me life and made me more alive."

Green, who admitted he has grown more comfortable with being gay and accepting of who he is and of others through gay sports, also embraces those who are pioneers for the league and for the gay movement, plus those who have stood up for gay rights and the rights of others.

"I'm not the one standing on the pedestal or on the microphone shouting out for equal rights, but I do feel that I am more of that supporting cast member that does a lot of the work behind the scenes to help others," he said. "From giving the encouraging words to a player on my team or even those on other teams, which also flows into my business career of wanting to help as many people as I can in their real estate needs. I don't seek to be the center of attention, which is why I'm so honored to have been recognized and selected to be inducted into the CMSA Hall of Fame."



Extra innings with ... Joe Green

—Best sports: Softball or billiards

—Worst sport: Bowling

—Favorite pro sports team: "I appreciate teams [when] they are good, [such as the championship] run the Chicago Bulls had, the Bears when they did their Super Bowl Shuffle, the Cubs of recent [years]."

—Favorite pro sports stadium: Wrigley Field

—One pro athlete who you'd like to meet: David Kopay

—Still to do: "I wouldn't mind going after gold again in the long jump in the next Gay Games, [which] would put me in the 55-plus age group. As I joked, [the long jump] is about running really fast, then kicking your legs up into the air for as long as you can until you land on your ass."



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PERFORMANCE

Dishing with Christine Ebersole and Seth Rudetsky

BY CATEY SULLIVAN

Listen to Seth Rudetsky's dishy Sirius/XM radio program *Seth Speaks* and you'll hear a mix of Broadway gossip, obsessively deconstructed showtunes and witty chit-chat. It's not always overt, but Rudetsky instills his shows with something else as well.

"Everything I do has a social-justice element," Rudetsky told *Windy City Times* during a brief interval between tapings, concerts and host/emcee duties on luxury cruises aimed at fellow musical theater superfans. "I feel like anything artistic is part of the quote unquote resistance. That is obviously important right now."

On Monday, July 30, Rudetsky will bring his singular Broadway stylings the *Steppenwolf Theatre* for a 90-minute live show with two-time Tony winner Christine Ebersole (*Grey Gardens*; *War Paint*; 42nd Street; TV's *Pose*). The raconteur will interview the actress about her lives on and off the stage. It's a safe bet that Ebersole will punctuate the banter with numbers from her 40+-year Broadway career.

"I always say I can get people to reveal things they haven't told anyone but their therapist," Rudetsky said. "I think that's because when they talk to me, even big stars realize things they're nervous about revealing aren't necessarily big deals. Plus, they know I'm not going to make them look bad. And P.S., I've been in therapy myself for 325 years."

Ebersole, a Winnetka native and New Trier alum, is arguably best known to Chicago audiences for playing Elizabeth Arden in *War Paint* opposite Patti LuPone's Helena Rubenstein. *War Paint* premiered at the Goodman Theatre in 2016 before going to Broadway. Ebersole and Rudetsky have been friends for decades, dating back to his days as a writer on the *Rosie O'Donnell Show*, where Ebersole was a frequent guest. They've performed together from New York to Provincetown, Massachusetts, as well as on the high seas during the "Big Fat Broadway Cruises" Rudetsky enthuses that he "absolutely loves, loves, loves."

"Seth's unbridled enthusiasm about Broadway is contagious," said Ebersole from her New Jersey

home. "We always have a ball."

Like the free-wheeling interviews on Rudetsky's radio show, the *Steppenwolf* show isn't scripted. That said, Ebersole is more than likely to break out numbers from *War Paint* and *Grey Gardens*.

"What's interesting to me is hearing people put the songs they sing in context," Rudetsky said. "When you know what a song means to someone, what their history with it is—that makes it fascinating."

While Ebersole is a bona fide Broadway star, Rudetsky is the unofficial spiller of Broadway secrets. His knowledge of Broadway is encyclopedic, affectionate and acerbic. ("Christine's Broadway debut was in 1975. P.S.: The show closed two weeks after she joined the cast.")

On his radio show and in live performances, the fast-paced anecdotes range from hilarious to poignant. But along with wildly entertaining story-telling (Andrea McArdle's secret candy stash sending a rain of M&Ms skittering across the stage during a climactic moment in *Les Misérables*; Priscilla Lopez peeing onstage during *A Chorus Line*; *Wicked*'s Shoshana Bean failing to defy gravity during *Defying Gravity*, thanks to a malfunctioning cherry picker), Rudetsky brings what he deems an "undercurrent" of social justice to his multiple platforms.

He's done countless fund-raisers for everything from synagogues to the Sierra Club. He's ramped up his efforts over the past two years, launching (with his husband, James Wesley) the *Concert for America* series.

"Every month since the presidential election, we've done a concert to raise money for the groups being targeted. The NAACP, the Immigration Law Center, the Southern Poverty Law Center, the National Coalition against Domestic Violence—I feel like I have the means to make a difference. So that's what I try to do," he said. With the all-star concert recording *What the World Needs Now* (available on iTunes), he's raised more than \$100,000 for Pulse victims.

The theater community itself isn't immune to the same sort of stereotyping that the larger world engages in, he said.

"Musical theater is full of gay people, but

Chicago along the White City's "Midway Plaisance," with a modern-day twist.

The eight main stage shows will include performers and events such as *ROUGE!* Cabaret & Neo-Vintage Dance Party, provocateur Jeez Loueez and the "Red Light Special," a queer, body-positive dance after-party.

Visit <https://www.burningcityfestival.com>; festival passes (\$49-235) and individual event tickets (\$10-\$30) are available.



Christine Ebersole and Seth Rudetsky. PR photos

there are comparatively few actual gay characters in Broadway musicals who aren't the quippy side-kick," he said. "Every time I see a casting breakdown describing a 'flamboyant co-worker' or 'sassy best friend' I get angry," he said. "It's better now than it was—Falsettos was ground breaking. So was *A Chorus Line* and *Applause*. We've got *Fun Home*. But those kinds of characters are

still very few and far between."

"Music and lyrics can open up a person's mind," he said. "They can also be amazingly entertaining."

Seth Rudetsky and Christine Ebersole will perform Monday, July 30, at *Steppenwolf Theatre*, 1650 N. Halsted St. Tickets are \$50; visit Steppenwolf.org.

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Burning City fest July 25-29

"The Burning City Neo-Vintage Entertainment Festival"—advertised as "a massive city-wide, week-long event"—will take place July 25-29 at Uptown Underground, 4707 N. Broadway.

Drawing inspiration from the 1893 World's Columbian Exhibition, this new festival will focus on the entertainment styles first seen in

'Hamilton: The Exhibition' to now debut in 2019

"Hamilton: The Exhibition"—a 360-degree, immersive exhibit that will travel to select U.S. cities—has a new opening date for its launch on Chicago's North-erly Island.

The exhibit will launch April 6, 2019, according to the program's website. Originally, it had been set to be revealed Nov. 17, 2018.

Featuring an audio tour narrated by the musical's author Lin-Manuel Miranda, "Hamilton: The Exhibition" is designed to take visitors deeper into the life and times of Alexander Hamilton, while simultaneously chronicling the American Revolution and the creation of the United States.

The exhibition is a creative collaboration between creative director David Korins, who designed the set for Hamilton, Yale University professor and historian Joanne Freeman, Hamilton creator Lin-Manuel Miranda, director Thomas Kail and producer Jeffrey Seller.

See HamiltonExhibition.com.

Leather Archives' rummage sale in July

Leather Archives & Museum's Kinky Rummage Sale will take place Saturday-Sunday, July 28-29, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. at 6418 N. Greenview Ave. There's a members-only preview on July 28 at 9-11 a.m.

The sale will feature 600+ items, including leftover Male Hide Leathers/Shel-Don Chicago Stock, magazines, books, clothing, restraints and more.

Admission is free. Attendees are urged to bring their own bags for the sale. All sales are final.

For more info, visit <https://www.facebook.com/events/192655254761168>.

Broken Nose names new leadership

Broken Nose Theatre announced two major leadership appointments.

Associate Artistic Director Elise Marie Davis has been named the company's new artistic director, succeeding Founding Artistic Director Benjamin Brownson. Brownson, who has led the company since its formation in 2012, is taking a brief sabbatical and will return as the company's executive director in 2019.

Additionally, Company Manager Rose Hamill will assume the newly created position of managing director.

CULTURE CLUB

PAC PRIDE FEST



Pink Orchids

By Patrick Cash. Directed by Brennan T. Jones
June 6 - July 7

The Green Bay Tree

By Mordaunt Shairp. Directed by Amy Sarno
June 11 - July 8

Fucking Men

By Joe DiPietro. Directed by David Zak
July 1 - August 25

Hurricane Damage

By Kevin Brofsky. Directed by Paul J Cook
August 1 - August 26

Holding The Man

By Tommy Murphy. Directed by Michael Graham
August 5 - August 26

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FESTIVAL ROUNDUP

Pitchfork plays on with Ms. Lauryn Hill, Chaka Khan and more

BY JERRY NUNN

Pitchfork Music Festival returned to Union Park on July 20-22. While there was some light rain, the weather cooperated for the most part—and so did the musicians. Ms. Lauryn Hill arrived almost 30 minutes late, but at least she stayed for a full set of music.

For most of the artists, it was not about new music and instead brought their following from past records. This was the case for singer Moses Sumney with last year's Aromanticism and Philadelphia multi-instrumentalist (Sandy) Alex G, who had his Bandcamp fanatics packed around the Blue Stage.

The talented Raphael Saadiq, who many know from the group Tony! Toni! Tone!, chatted after his set to Windy City Times explaining he wanted to try new music from his upcoming fifth album called Jimmy Lee about addiction inspired by family members. He felt like this was the arena to present new things such as the song "I'm So Ready." He talked about going to the Academy Awards for his Mudbound nomination, producing Solange Knowles album and being from the Bay Area where he has always been supportive for gay rights. He described his Pitchfork performance as being similar to Prince's Purple Rain in the way that new music was played. Having toured on the Parade Tour in the past, he said, "He was an amazing artist who was our Jimi Hendrix, Elton John and Bob Dylan." Although he didn't know his hometown of Oakland, California, had a gay Pride celebration coming in September, he said his song "Keep Marching" would be perfect for the parade: "I love it!"

Girlpool's Harmony Tividad and Cleo Tucker, who came out as gender-non-binary last year, brought an intense sound to the mixed crowd for their July 21 set.

Chaka Khan was a seasoned pro, with five decades of music condensed down to hits like "I'm Every Woman" and "Ain't Nobody." She mentioned she was glad to be home, and seemed relaxed with the funky "Tell Me Something Good."

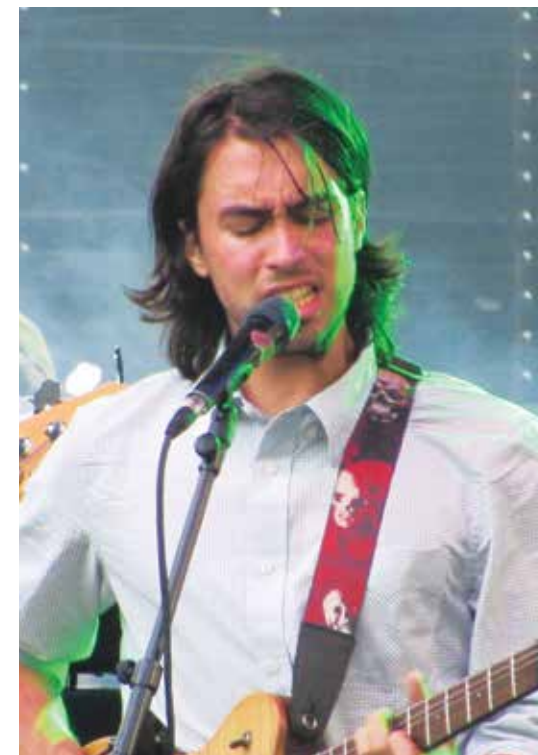
Hill was the closing act for the weekend, mentioning several times that the groundbreaking CD The Miseducation of Lauryn Hill is now 20 years old. She did a lot of motioning for the sound to be adjusted that was distracting, but overall seemed to be in good spirits, making for a happy ending to the music festival.

Visit PitchforkMusicFestival.com for future plans in 2019.



Above: Chaka Khan. Below: (Sandy) Alex G. Below left: Ms. Lauryn Hill.

Photos by Jerry Nunn





BILLY Masters

"I've had experiences with men, even while I was dating the woman who became my wife. It was like, 'Wow, does that mean—I am gay?' And my wife laid it out for me. She calls it 'two spirit', which is what the Native Americans call someone who can love both man and woman. I really like that."—Jason Mraz talks about his same-sex experiences.

Last week I told you that **Dame Diana Rigg** publicly chastised **Lauren Ambrose** for taking matinees off from My Fair Lady. Now it's just been announced that the person leaving the company is ... Dame Diana Rigg! I suppose it makes sense—she's in two scenes, serves tea, sings no song and utters a handful of lines. Is this parting of her own accord? We don't know, but she will be gone as of Sept. 9. In cheerier news, Happy birthday, Dame Diana!

When **Harry Styles** helped a girl come out to her mother as gay, I cheekily said, "The ball's in your court, Harry." I never imagined my opinion held such weight. But at the last show on his tour, he covered Little Big Town's "Girl Crush"—which already is about a girl-on-girl crush. When Harry sang it, the pronouns didn't change, nor did the descriptions like "I want her long blond hair, I want her magic touch, Yeah, 'cause maybe then you'd want me just as much." After the song, Harry quipped, "Eh, we're all a little bit gay." Baby steps, lad.

Remember when people thought **Richard Simmons** was being held prisoner in his home by his housekeeper? Well, one person decided to investigate that story and got a bit carried away. Scott Brian Mathews is a private detective. Why he became fascinated with Simmons is unknown, but it has been alleged that he installed a tracking device on a car belonging to Richard's housekeeper, Teresa Reveles. Allegedly, this is how he knew when Simmons was on the move—such as when he was rushed to Cedars-Sinai for dehydration. Simmons and Reveles have filed a lawsuit against Mathews, and the LA City Attorney has opened an investigation. "Richard and Teresa are very thankful to the Los Angeles City Attorney's office for its cooperation in this matter. Everyone is entitled to the same basic principles to privacy and security. No one has the right to infringe on that," said Simmons' attorney.

Guy Pearce has opened up about working with **Kevin Spacey** on LA Confidential. During a television interview, he characterized Spacey as "Tough one to talk about at the moment. Amazing actor—incredible actor. Hmm, slightly difficult time with Kevin. He's a handsy guy. Yeah, thankfully I was 29 and not 14." Once the quote went viral, Pearce "wished to clarify his comments regarding Spacey and that while he was not sexually assaulted, he was made to feel uncomfortable."

Just when you thought it was safe to watch **The View**, next season will bring yet another retooling of the panel. **Paula Faris** announced she was leaving both her part-time gig at The View and hosting Good Morning America Weekend to—



Jack Mackenroth is on a different, lucrative path, according to Billy.

Photo courtesy of Mackenroth

wait for it—do faith-based podcasts for ABC! The breakout star of the current panel has been **Sara Haines**. She's so good, ABC is pulling her from The View to co-host the third hour of Good Morning America with that lispng **Michael Strahan**. The combustible relationship between **Sunny Hostin** and **Meghan McCain** smoothed over when the gals found a common denominator—drinking. They are suddenly much more chummy and likely staying put. Needless to say, **Whoopi and Joy** ain't going anywhere.

With Mamma Mia 2, many people think **Cher** is jumping on the ABBA bandwagon. Not so. She said, "I was a HUGE fan. I saw the musical on Broadway three times and was dancing in the aisles with everybody." And her connection with ABBA isn't done. "After I did 'Fernando', I thought it would really be fun to do an album of ABBA songs, so I did. It's not what you think of when you think of ABBA, because I did it in a different way."

Elton John and **Neil Patrick Harris** have continued their parental bromance with another round of summer vacations. Elton, Neil, the two Davids and the various children took off for Saint-Tropez in France. The group has been seen frolicking all over the South of France. It must be working—they've been doing vacations together since 2011!

Meanwhile, **Lance Bass** has announced that he and hubby Michael Turchin would like to have kids. The only thing standing in their way is an egg. Bass said, "We've gone through a lot of egg donors already. I think we're on our fourth that we're looking at right now. It could take a while." I assume they'll also need a womb—possibly a womb with a view. Personally, I think they're only doing this to get on the Elton John vacation circuit!

Jack Mackenroth is better known for taking off his clothes than making them. The Project Runway alum has been doing porn for JustForFans and OnlyFans.com to supplement his income. He said, "The money is really incredible. I'm going to nursing school in the fall, so this is a means to an end for me. I charge the cost of three lattes at Starbucks a month, but people are so demanding; there's no way I can have sex and film something

every day." He's willing to bend over forward and backwards to make ends meet, as you'll see on BillyMasters.com.

Apropos of man milk, our "Ask Billy" question comes from Drew in Chicago: "I hear there's a nude video of Beau Mirchoff making the rounds. Have you seen it? Is it hot?"

For those of you who don't know, **Beau Mirchoff** was briefly on Desperate Housewives, but is better known for his stint on MTV's Awkward. The video in question appears to be a compilation of various masturbation clips likely shared with an unknown paramour. So, in short, yes we've seen them—and they're on BillyMasters.com.

When you are finishing yourself off, it's definitely time to end yet another column. We've run long, so I must quickly remind you to check out www.BillyMasters.com—the site that is always willing to lend you a hand. If you have a question, send it off to Billy@BillyMasters.com and I promise to get back to you before Cher's hologram opens for ABBA's hologram on the road! Until next time, remember: One man's filth is another man's bible.

the DISH

Weekly Dining Guide in
WINDY CITY TIMES

SAVOR

Furious Spoon

BY ASHLEY COLLINS

Furious Spoon is one of Chicago's spunky and spontaneous restaurants.

The restaurant concept originated from Chef Shin Thompson's grandfather, who owned a ramen shop in Japan. Together, Shin (along and restaurateur Anshul Mangal) opened its first location in Wicker Park in 2015. Furious Spoon has opened seven more ramen shops, with one coming next year.

Each Furious Spoon has its very own unique designs and atmosphere—including graffiti walls, a playlist of hip-hop music and specially designed counters so that guests can watch their food being made.

Shin chose the name Furious Spoon to educate guests—one being that the noodles are meant to be eaten "furiously" which in the Japanese culture is the proper way to eat a ramen bowl.

The noodles are made in-house daily with an authentic noodle maker imported from Japan.

Furious Spoon offers Tokyo-style ramen and rice bowls specially created by Shin. Each month,



Chicken dumpling shio at Furious Spoon.

Photo by Ashley Collins

the restaurant features a bowl and because of its popularity, the smoked BBQ brisket bowl is back for July. The bowl is prepared with a beef broth base topped with smoked barbeque brisket, Memphis barbeque sauce, miso, shoyu, cabbage and sweet corn. For some of you who are looking for that special touch of barbecue in the summertime, this dish will cure those cravings. Also, adding a new item to its menu fried chicken dumplings.

While Furious Spoon is known for its fire noodle

bowls, the ramen shop also appreciates rap/hip-hop culture. Furious Spoon launched a summer Artist Series that highlights some of Chicago's artists tracks across all of its locations. July features tracks from Jean Deaux, a singer from the West Side who orchestrates her music using range of vocals.

For individuals looking for a new spot to take family or friends, Furious Spoon offers a new and exciting environment that allows its guest to enjoy an experience with the food and music it offers. Furious Spoon also offers "Noodle Making Class & Lunch," which includes a hands-on class on how to make the noodles, the class includes one bowl, cocktail and take home-kit.

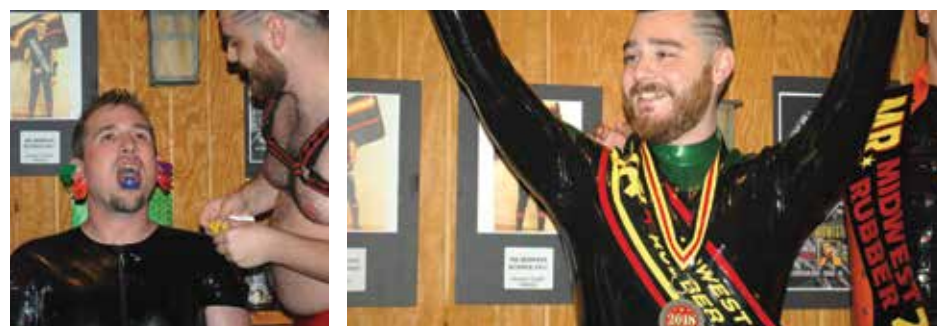
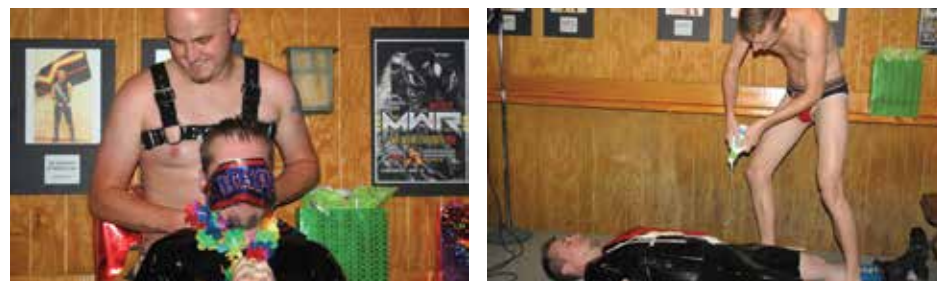
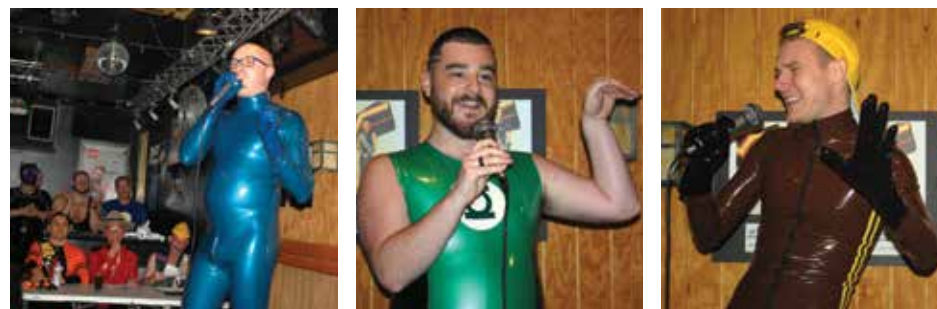
My own experience at a Furious Spoon (this one being in Chicago's Logan Square neighborhood) was great, overall. The "Furious" bowl is a spicy dish that consists of tonkotsu broth, spicy miso, chashu pork belly (which I didn't get),

chicken dumplings, egg, marinated mushrooms, garlic relish, fury sauce and corn. The dish was absolutely amazing and flavorful, thanks in part to the restaurant's very own fury sauce, which is available to buy in house as well.

Along with the bowl, I had the tuna poke—raw tuna served over hot white rice with a little bit of spicy seasoning. This was my first experience dining at a ramen restaurant and it truly was a moment; thankfully, the bartender helped me pick my drink, Worst Behavior—which consists of pisco, Bulldog gin and fresh lemon juice. I definitely recommend this restaurant to individuals who are looking to try something new and fun with their friends or families.

For a closer at the look the menu and locations, visit FuriousRamen.com for more information.

Note: Restaurant profiles/events are based on invitations arranged from restaurants and/or firms.



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THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT CHICAGO is seeking applicants for the position of Director of the Gender and Sexuality Center. View position details and apply online at <https://jobs.uic.edu/>. For fullest consideration, please upload a resume and cover letter by August 8, 2018 (8/8/18-13)

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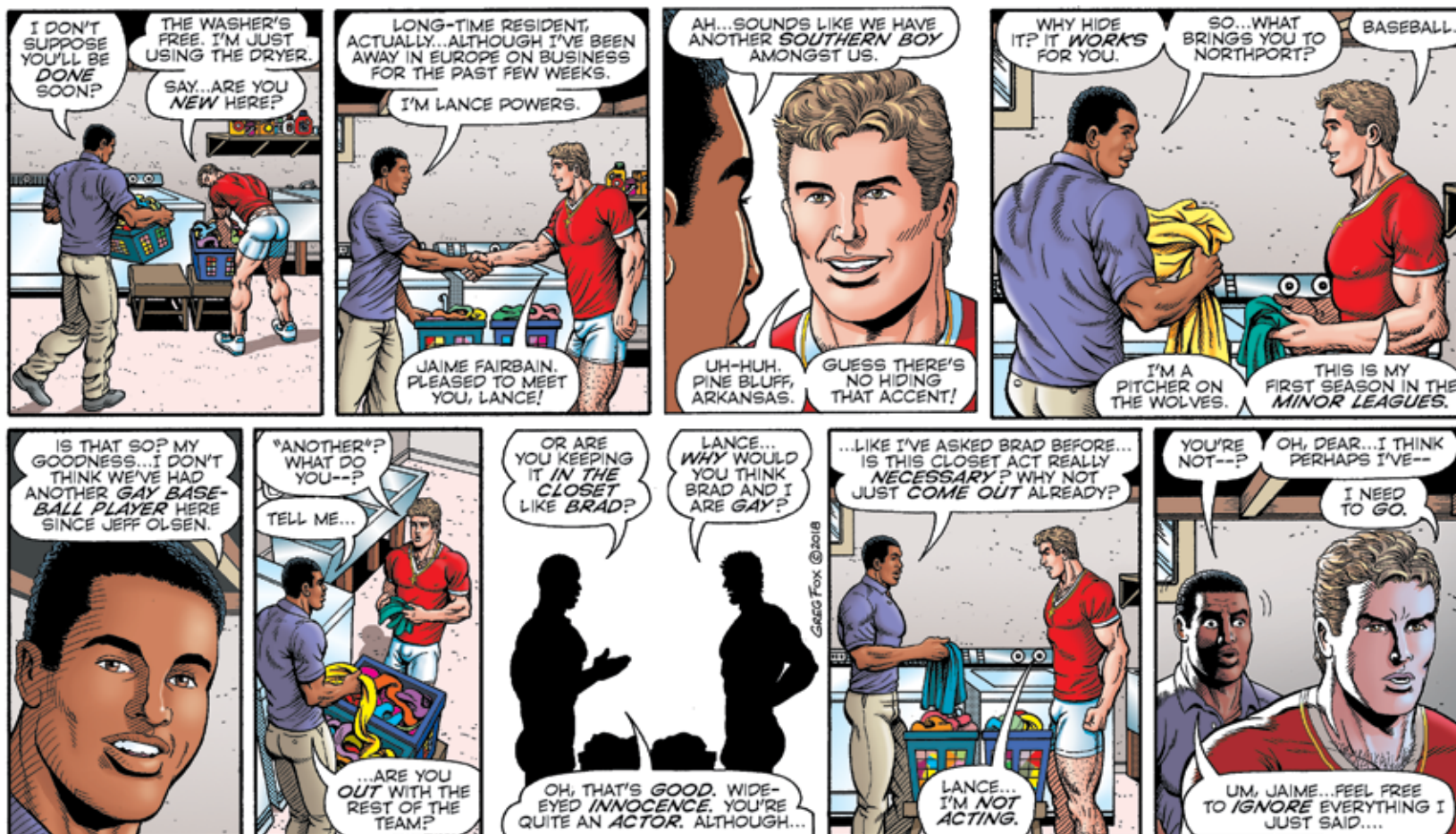
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KYLE'S BED & BREAKFAST

by Greg Fox



WINDY CITY TIMES COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Wed., July 25

The Burning City Neo-Vintage Entertainment Festival Inspired by the 1893 World's Columbian Exhibition with entertainment styles seen along the White City's Midway Plaisance in a massive city-wide, week-long event through July 29. Eight stage shows include top producers and performers. Fest passes \$49-\$235 Time:TBA Uptown Underground, 4707 N. Broadway St., Chicago <http://www.burningcityfestival.com>

Fast FLIRTING by the Little Gay Book Lesbian/Bi Single Mingle, for Women 35+ 6:30pm - 8:30pm The Sedgwick Stop, 1612 N Sedgwick Street, Chicago, IL <http://www.littlegaybook.com/chicago/> Tickets: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/chicago-lesbianbi-single-mingle-age-35-tickets-47126258909>

Thursday, July 26

Gloria Allred to address LGBT bar association event Legal pioneer on behalf of women's rights and rights for minorities will speak and Illinois Supreme Court Justice Anne Burke will be honored at



BAR NONE Thursday, July 26

Gloria Allred will give the keynote address at an LGBT bar association event at Sidetrack.
PR photo

the Lesbian and Gay Bar Association of Chicago Foundation's (LAGBAC Foundation) 14th Annual 'Lawyers for Diversity' Midsummer BBQ. \$25 online or \$30 at door. 6:00pm Sidetrack 3349 N Halsted St Chicago <http://lagbac.org/category/events-and-gatherings/>

Affinity Community Services virtual leadership series "The Blackprint: A Plan for Building the Leadership Capacity of Black LGBTQ+ Women Leaders," each Thursday in July 12:00pm - 1:00pm Affinity Community Services, 2850 S. Wabash, #108. <http://bit.ly/AffinityTheBlackprint>

Pride Action Tank Summer Gathering House party to celebrate 2017 accomplishments and kick off the new fiscal year, featuring PAT's signature program, Tiny Homes, and rolling out goals for 2019. Cocktail/appetizer reception. No admission fee. Private home, address provided with registration. 5:30pm - 8:00pm Bucktown area. <http://tinyurl.com/PATHOUSEPARTY>.

Friday, July 27

Andersonville's annual Summer Sidewalk Sale Businesses from 4800 to 5800 N. Clark Street and the adjacent side streets will expand their storefronts to line the sidewalks with summer sales 9:00am - 9:00pm Various locations <http://andersonville.org>

The Sip online show Live show every Friday night, three gay men from diverse occupations and life journeys discuss everything from world headline news to pop culture from a Black LGBTQ perspective. 6:00pm - 7:00pm On line <http://goo.gl/pL7wWA>

World TeamTennis The Philadelphia Free-

doms, owned by Billie Jean King. Benefits underserved Chicago youth seeking college through sports. 7:00pm Tennis Village, 5336 S. State St. <http://WTTChicago.com> <http://Ticketmaster.com>

Saturday, July 28

Leather Archives & Museum's Kinky Rummage Sale Free admission to the Museum during the sale. 18+ only. Bring bags or pay \$2 charge for a Fist tote bag, while supplies last. Through Sunday, July 29. 9:00am Leather Archives & Museum 6418 N Greenview Ave Chicago <http://www.facebook.com/events/192655254761168>

Slutwalk Chicago Bringing awareness of rape culture since 2011. See Slutwalk Chicago 2018 on Facebook 12:00pm Water Tower Place 835 N Michigan Ave Chicago

Indigo Girls w/ Lydia Loveless Amy Ray and Emily Saliers. Gates 6pm 7:00pm Canal Shores Golf Course, 1030 Central St., Evanston <http://www.eventbrite.com/e/indigo-girls-w-lydia-loveless-presented-by-space-at-canal-shores-tickets-45046488259>

Sunday, July 29

Jazz Benefit for Rape Victim Advocates Ending Sexual Violence. Hosted by Elaine Dame and featuring some of Chicago's best jazz performers. \$20. Tax deductible. 4:00pm - 7:00pm 1113 W. Belmont Ave, Chicago <http://rapevictimadvocates.org>

Tuesday, July 31

The Connect: Pride ERG/BRG Leaders Session for those charged with developing systems, programs, and activities to engage and support their LGBTQ+ employees. Discussion on local challenges will help build the Connect program 4:00pm - 6:00pm Federal Home Loan Bank of Chicago 200 E. Randolph St., Chicago <http://https://glchamber.chambermaster.com/eventregistration/register/3815>

Thursday, Aug. 2

Sampson McCormick, Black LGBT comic Down to earth veteran comic has taken on race issues, homophobia and helped fight to end LGBT youth homelessness and is touring to remind the public of the beauty and necessity of diversity in comedy. \$20 7:00pm Bru Chicago Cafe (inside Speakeasy), 1562 N Milwaukee Ave., Chicago Tickets: <http://www.sampsoncomedy.com>

BINARY from page 13

dictated by both choice and necessity.

Dorsey doesn't mince words in describing the struggle. "I want my field to start using the word 'crisis' when it comes to the continued exclusion of gender-nonconforming people in dance," he said.

"Modern dance is currently vehemently anti-transgender. Heterosexual-only partnering and duets, binary-gendered roles and costumes, a lack of safe spaces to change or pee in studios and theaters, a lack of trans dance teachers ... These things won't change without trans and non-binary people in leadership roles," he said.

At the Joffrey, "signs of progress—ever so lightly"

There are signs of progress. The national conversation around trans equity is permeating the dance world, with works like "Boys in Trouble" and Cynthia Oliver's "Virago-Man Dem." There is increased visibility surrounding the challenges faced by gender non-conforming artists in the media. There are a number of recent examples of costumes breaking the gender mold too - Luis Vazquez's "Sea of Comets" for Joffrey Academy's "Winning Works" and Peter Chu's "Divided Against" for Giordano Dance Chicago come to mind.

Even the Joffrey proper (the Joffrey Academy is the official school of the professional company, the Joffrey Ballet of Chicago) is finding a way for-

ward, sprinkling its seasons with contemporary works which press on the boundaries of convention, if ever-so-lightly. Last season's "Midsummer Night's Dream," which included queer romance scenes, contributed to the highest grossing season in company history. Brock Clawson's (he/him/his) 2012 "Crossing Ashland," originally set on the Milwaukee Ballet, gained less notice, but is notable for Clawson's gender-blind casting of the piece's central pas de deux.

The importance of transformation

Are these isolated incidents in a centuries-long erasure of any narrative that bucks cisgender, heterosexual norms? Hopefully, they aren't.

"Until the field prioritizes, supports and invests in trans and non-binary dance teachers, dance programmers, funding staff, writers and critics, dancers and choreographers, we will never achieve trans equity," Dorsey said. "We have to transform dance studios, theaters and schools—creating safe bathrooms and changing rooms, investing in trans leadership and especially leadership by trans people of color and trans women."

Dorsey envisions a future where trans dancers are included and applauded.

"I dream of our full liberation and us being celebrated and held up as incredible, wise, beautiful, powerful [and] insightful."

For information on the Fly Honey Show, go to TheFlyHoneyShow.com. For information about Dance for Life, visit <https://www.auditoriumtheatre.org/shows/danceforlife2018/>.

Music group to honor Dlugacz, Williamson

The Americana Music Association will honor lesbian music pioneers Judy Dlugacz and Cris Williamson, two of the Olivia Records founders, as recipients of the 2018 Jack Emerson Lifetime Achievement Award for Executive.

They will receive the honor at the 17th annual Americana Honors & Awards Wed., Sept. 12, at Nashville's Ryman Auditorium.

Olivia Records, paving the way for female and LGBT artists, quickly skyrocketed as one of the industry's leading independent labels during the 1970s, releasing and distributing more than 40 albums and selling approximately 1 million records from artists such as Williamson, Meg Christian and June Millington.

This announcement follows the recent unveiling of 2018 Americana Lifetime Achievement Award for Performance recipient Irma Thomas, Americana Trailblazer k.d.lang and Lifetime Achievement Award for Instrumentalist honoree Buddy Guy. There are also competitive categories, such as Artist of the Year, with nominees Brandi Carlile, Jason Isbell, Margo Price and John Prine.



Cris Williamson.
PR photo by Irene Young

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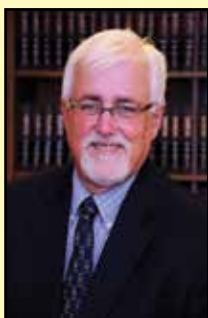
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