

# WINDY CITY TIMES

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

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## ANJANETTE MILLER

COVID-19 claims local transgender nurse's life.

Photo from Cremation Society of Illinois



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## DOCTOR, DOCTOR

Pandemic spotlights healthcare disparities.

Photo of Dr. Maya Green by Matt Simonette

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## ERIC ROSEN

From About Face to debut film.

Photo courtesy of Rosen



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# NET GAINS

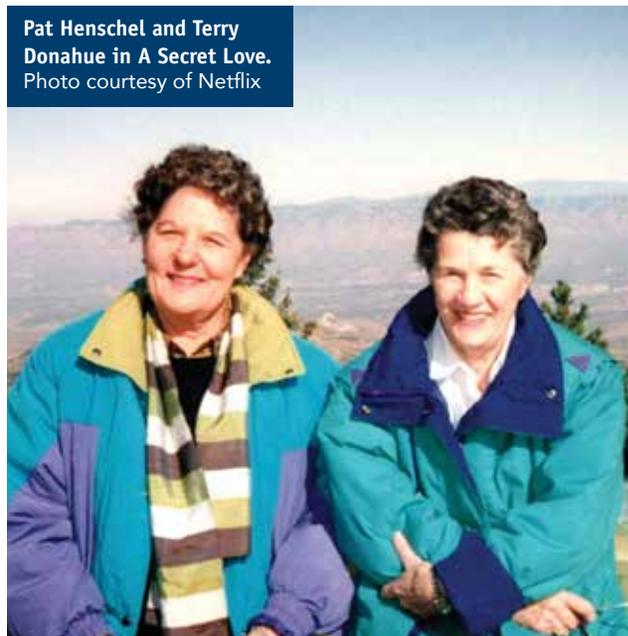
## LGBTQ icon Billie Jean King on activism, tennis and more



Billie Jean King.  
Photo courtesy of Tip Nunn

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Pat Henschel and Terry Donahue in *A Secret Love*.  
Photo courtesy of Netflix



# WCT reviews **A SECRET LOVE**

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SAVE THE **NEW** DATE

SATURDAY, *November 21*

*6 pm - 12 am*

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AIDS  
FOUNDATION  
CHICAGO

## WINDY CITY TIMES

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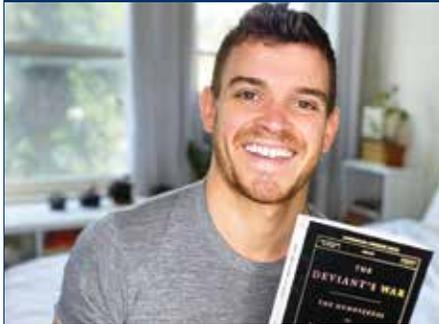
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## UPCOMING 2020

## WINDY CITY TIMES PRINT DATES:

May 27, 2020	July 22, 2020	Sept. 16, 2020
June 10, 2020	Aug. 5, 2020	Sept. 30, 2020
June 24, 2020	Aug. 19, 2020	Oct. 14, 2020
July 8, 2020	Sept. 2, 2020	Oct. 28, 2020

online exclusives at  
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## BEING FRANK

Dr. Eric Cervini discusses his new book, which looks at the life of late LGBTQ-rights activist Frank Kameny.

Photo courtesy of Cervini

## QUEER AND NOW



A New Ways Ministry column focuses on how Cameron Esposito (above), in her memoir *Save Yourself*, digs into queer liberation and her Catholic upbringing.

Photo by Jerry Nunn

## EVENT HORIZON

Find out about events that have been cancelled or postponed because of the coronavirus pandemic.

## THAT'S SHOW BIZ

Find out the latest about Alexandra Billings, Naomi Campbell and Adam Rippon.

plus  
DAILY BREAKING NEWS

## This Week's Featured Properties



Serene oasis on a 57'-wide lot: stunning historic all brick home overlooking 37' yard.

5335 N. Lakewood Ave.  
\$1,699,000

Lakewood-Balmoral



Huge super cool mid-century townhouse.

526 W. Barry Ave., Unit A  
\$675,000

East Lakeview



Stylish and smart 1-bed in new conversion.

2750 N. Kenmore Ave., Ground Floor  
\$199,000

Lincoln Park



Sleek one-bedroom in full-amenity high-rise.

3200 N. Lake Shore Dr., #403  
\$139,500

East Lakeview



Indoor/outdoor architectural masterpiece.

2727 N. Seminary St.  
COMING SOON

Lincoln Park



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## COVID-19

# Healthcare inequities come to foreground during pandemic

BY MATT SIMONETTE

In mid-April, when Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot called attention to the disproportionate number of COVID-19 deaths among the City's Black residents—about 70 percent of deaths related to the virus were among African-Americans—officials at the Howard Brown Health system were not shocked, said Maya Green, MD, medical director for the organization's 63rd Street, Thresholds South and other south region facilities.

"This is what happens in a pandemic," said Green. "Traditionally underserved communities get impacted the hardest. We weren't surprised and saw that coming. We were grateful that we had the [testing] tents in place."

A vital aspect of healthcare service delivery is both recognizing and meaningfully addressing socio-cultural inequities that affect the lives of clients to the point where their wellbeing can be negatively impacted. As such, Howard Brown has tried to be conscientious serving Chicagoans on the margins as the pandemic progresses.

The organization began delivering COVID-19 tests in March at multiple locations, and recently launched a new testing facility in partnership with Project Vida in Little Village. Since Lightfoot's initial comments about the racial disparities, City officials have also noted higher rates of COVID-19 transmission within the Chicago Latinx community as well.

"We are [also] grateful to the community and fellow organizations that see the needs and are moving at 'pandemic speeds' to meet them," Green added.

Howard Brown has been providing resources to allow its regular clients to continue sheltering in place, by offering visits by Telehealth and psychiatry mobile units, for example. The organization is also doing STI screenings via mobile units and working alongside food pantries in prioritized neighborhoods, Green said.

"Part of 'shelter-in-place' means you have to get food [safely]—that's primary prevention, where you do all the things you can do to make sure that someone doesn't get sick," she added.

Primary prevention strategies are based upon both how a condition transmits as well as the behaviors of a population. Green cited numerous determinants of health factoring in a patient's well-being that healthcare providers must be aware of in looking at COVID-19 at both the micro and macro levels.

Chief among those are chronic conditions such as HIV or diabetes affect persons of color disproportionately and can make a patient more vulnerable to illness from COVID-19. Other determinants include access to health resources, equity in education and equity in employment opportunities, which can have a similar impact.



Howard Brown Health's Dr. Maya Green.  
Photo by Matt Simonette

One realm where circumstances directly led to mass infection was among America's incarcerated. Green noted, "Look at what's happening in our present system, where African Americans are disproportionately incarcerated, for lesser crimes, and they are in [jails and prisons] being exposed to COVID."

She was blunt in naming the "one disease" that makes persons of color especially vulnerable in the pandemic: historical oppression.

Bias was implicit in how the COVID response played out in early 2020, Green explained. For example, concerns for travelers—a demographic that is predominantly whiter and wealthier than other Americans—seemed paramount in driving initial prevention strategies. Early requirements that patients have a doctor's referral in order to receive a COVID test presupposed that the patient could make contact with a doctor in the first place.

"Access to your doctor is an issue in a pandemic," Green added. "Even people who have a plethora of hospitals and clinics in their neighborhood experience a decrease in access to care from their primary care physician. Imagine what folks do when they didn't have access to one to start with."

Howard Brown has been trying to eliminate as many structural barriers to testing as possible, according to Green. She estimated that, as of late

April, the organization had tested about 950 persons for COVID-19.

Bias within the healthcare system is often internalized at both the individual and structural levels, since Americans deal with it their entire lives, Green noted. That bias is exacerbated further in a natural resistance from stakeholders to a systematic critique.

"The hardest part of dealing with bias, especially with implicit bias, is the struggle when you don't even acknowledge it," she explained. "It's hard to recognize that about ourselves as a collective society."

That denial is often followed by an impulse to assign blame onto persons in need. All the while, as communities, politicians and other stakeholders go through these processes, the pandemic

only advances rapidly.

"Once they get it, some people are dealing with a two-week span of their life," Green said. "Instead of going through shock, blame and denial, we need to pivot that energy and turn to a narrative focused on determining the social determinants of health—getting them access to food, access to Telehealth, access to education. That's why I'm glad [Howard Brown] is in a space where we can do that."

Green added that, even with the strain of individualism that so infuses life in the United States, "We're seeing how much we need each other and looking for opportunities to connect. Now that we're seeing so many of the opportunities taken away, a lot of us our saying, 'Hey, I really appreciate my fellow humans.'"

## COVID-19

## Forum explores virus' impact on the disenfranchised

BY MATT SIMONETTE

Chicago advocates gathered online the morning of May 8 to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on vulnerable communities.

The meeting was part of a series organized by the Chicago House advocacy and was moderated by activist Kim Hunt, who is executive director of Pride Action Tank.

The pandemic, Hunt said, "is an opportunity to apply lessons learned and remember that we can do better."

Participants discussed how both community members and organizations have had to be nimble in responding to persons who have had varying degrees of need both going into, and as a result of, the pandemic.

Coronavirus "requires us all to be rapid responders, to varying degrees," said Channyn Lynne Parker, Howard Brown Health's director of strategic partnerships. She discussed her agency's early efforts to widen access to coronavirus testing all throughout the city, a daunting challenge when those tests were initially accessible mainly for the wealthy few.

LaSaia Wade, executive director of Brave Space Alliance, which primarily serves transgender Chicagoans of color, said that, to a certain extent, the pandemic offers an exacerbation of difficulties her organization's constituency face on a day-to-day basis.

Hunt described Brave Space Alliance as an organization that "fills the gaps" left open from the government's failure to respond.

"We live this life of extreme need daily," Wade added. As such, her organization tapped into "people power" to ensure transgender Black and Brown folks would be able to access food and other resources.

"We have to take care of each other, because we know that the state has never taken care of us," Wade said.

Chicago House CEO Michael Herman was asked to note any similarities between the HIV/AIDS crisis he perceived. He focused on



Chicago House CEO Michael Herman.  
PR photo

two: the increasing application of shaming to put distance between the infected and the non-infected, and the potential for public and governmental downplaying of the health crisis' urgency since minority groups are those who are primarily impacted.

"I have a great fear that we are seeing a lot of this same type of behavior," he said.

Parker added that ageism also fed into how the pandemic played out in this country. She noted that the urgency in the coronavirus response did not see a significant uptick until it became clear that more than the elderly and the infirm were at risk for infection.

AIDS Foundation of Chicago Director of Policy Aisha Davis noted that the discussions about "opening up" the economy needed to be broadened significantly, and the implications more thoroughly considered, since many Americans driving the conversation do not so much want go back to work as have other people go back to work for them.

When these discussions take place, Davis said, "You have to have all the people in the room who have been impacted" by the pandemic. She added, "There are a lot of intersecting things that we have to consider."



# Howard Brown Health

The U.S. Census happens only every 10 years. It counts everyone in the United States and uses that information to determine how many members of Congress represent your community and how federal funds are spent. Completing the census is one more way we can help each other. When you fill out the census, you help amplify the LGBTQ community's voice and ensure federal funds go to critical services like schools, libraries, nutrition and health programs, roads and much more.

Get started today at [howardbrown.org/2020census](https://howardbrown.org/2020census)

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## COVID-19

# Pritzker announces 'Restore Illinois,' a five-phase plan

Relying on data, science and guidance from public-health experts and after consulting with stakeholders across the state, Gov. JB Pritzker announced Restore Illinois—a five-phase plan focused on saving lives, reimplementing a semblance of livelihood and safely reopening Illinois.

"We have to figure out how to live with COVID-19 until it can be vanquished—and to do so in a way that best supports our residents' health and our healthcare systems, and saves the most lives," said Pritzker in a statement. "Restore Illinois is a public-health plan to safely reintroduce the parts of our lives that have been put on hold in our fight against COVID-19. This is also a data-driven plan that operates on a region-by-region basis, a recognition that reality on the ground looks different in different areas of our state."

The five-phase plan is based on regional healthcare availability and recognizes the distinct impact COVID-19 has had on different regions of our state as well as regional variations in hospital capacity. The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) has 11 Emergency Medical Services Regions that have traditionally guided its statewide public health work. For the purposes of Restore Illinois, from those 11, four health regions are established, each with the ability to independently move through a phased approach: Northeast Illinois, North-Central Illinois, Central Illinois and Southern Illinois.

The five phases of reopening for each health region are as follows:

—Phase 1—Rapid Spread: The rate of infection among those tested and the number of patients

admitted to the hospital is high or rapidly increasing. Strict stay at home and social distancing guidelines are put in place and only essential businesses remain open. Every region has experienced this phase once already and could return to it if mitigation efforts are unsuccessful.

—Phase 2—Flattening: The rate of infection among those tested and the number of patients admitted to the hospital beds and ICU beds increases at an ever slower rate, moving toward a flat and even a downward trajectory. Non-essential retail stores reopen for curbside pickup and delivery.

Illinoisans are directed to wear a face covering when outside the home, and can begin enjoying additional outdoor activities like golf, boating and fishing while practicing social distancing. To varying degrees, every region is experiencing flattening as of early May.

—Phase 3—Recovery: The rate of infection among those tested, the number of patients admitted to the hospital, and the number of patients needing ICU beds is stable or declining. Manufacturing, offices, retail, barbershops and salons can reopen to the public with capacity and other limits and safety precautions. All gatherings limited to 10 or fewer people are allowed. Face coverings and social distancing are the norm.

—Phase 4—Revitalization: The rate of infection among those tested and the number of patients admitted to the hospital continues to decline. All gatherings of up to 50 people are allowed, restaurants and bars reopen, travel re-



## Gov. Pritzker's "Restore Illinois" plan.

(For a larger version, visit [WindyCityMediaGroup.com/pdf/Restore1.pdf](https://www.windy-city.com/pdf/Restore1.pdf).)

Image courtesy of Pritzker's press office

sumes, child care and schools reopen under guidance from the IDPH. Face coverings and social distancing are the norm.

—Phase 5—Illinois Restored: With a vaccine or highly effective treatment widely available or the elimination of any new cases over a sustained period, the economy fully reopens with safety precautions continuing. Conventions, festivals and large events are permitted, and all businesses, schools, and places of recreation can open with new safety guidance and procedures

in place reflecting the lessons learned during the COVID-19 pandemic.

With a vaccine or treatment not yet available, IDPH will be closely monitoring key metrics to immediately identify new growth in cases and hospitalizations to determine whether a return to a prior phase is needed.

Pritzker and his administration continue to urge all Illinois residents to follow the state's stay-at-home order and to follow the guidance issued by the state and public-health experts.

## COVID-19

## Lightfoot unveils five-phase plan for reopening Chicago

On May 8, Chicago Mayor Lori E. Lightfoot, alongside the Chicago Department of Public Health, announced the "Protecting Chicago" framework that the city will be using to guide Chicago's reopening process amid COVID-19.

The framework—organized into five phases in alignment with the State of Illinois' "Restore Illinois" plan—will advise Chicagoans on how to safely exit from shelter-in-place while continuing to prioritize the health of our most vulnerable residents.

The "Protecting Chicago" framework comprises five phases, and Chicago has already transitioned from phase one (Strict Stay-at-Home) to phase two (Stay-at-Home):

PHASE ONE: STRICT STAY-AT-HOME – Limit the amount of contact with others; goal is to limit in-

teractions to rapidly slow the spread of COVID-19

—Essential workers go to work; everyone else works from home

—Stay at home and limit going out to essential activities only

—Physically distance from anyone you do not live with, especially vulnerable friends and family  
PHASE TWO: STAY-AT-HOME – Guard against unsafe interactions with others; goal is to continue flattening the curve while safely being outside

—Essential workers go to work; everyone else works from home

—Stay at home as much as possible

—Wear a face covering while outside your home

—Physically distance from anyone you do not live with, especially vulnerable friends and family

PHASE THREE: CAUTIOUSLY REOPEN – Strict physical distancing with some businesses opening; goal is to thoughtfully begin to reopen Chicago safely

—Non-essential workers begin to return to work in a phased way

—Select businesses, non-profits, city entities

open with demonstrated, appropriate protections for workers and customers

—When meeting others, physically distance and wear a face covering

—Non-business, social gatherings limited to <10 persons

—Phased, limited public amenities begin to open

—Stay at home if you feel ill or have come into contact with someone with COVID-19

—Continue to physically distance from vulnerable populations

—Get tested if you have symptoms

PHASE FOUR: GRADUALLY RESUME – Continued staggered reopening into a new normal; goal is to further reopen Chicago while ensuring the safety of residents

—Additional business and capacity restrictions are lifted with appropriate safeguards

—Additional public amenities open

—Continue to wear face covering and physically distance

—Continue to distance and allow vulnerable residents to shelter

—Get tested if you have symptoms or think you have had COVID-19

PHASE FIVE: PROTECT – Continue to protect vulnerable populations; goal is to continue to maintain safety until COVID-19 is contained

—All businesses open

—Non-vulnerable individuals can resume working

—Most activities resume with health safety in place

—Some events can resume

—Set up screenings and tests at work or with your family

—Sign up for a vaccine on the COVID Coach web portal

The epidemiological criteria for transitioning between phases are rooted in public health guidance and will be reviewed and revisited on an ongoing basis. Health-based metrics are one of the many considerations that the City is weighing to determine the details of the city's reopening approach and sequencing.

## COVID-19

# Virus claims local transgender nurse

Anjanette "AJ" Miller—a registered nurse who lived in Skokie—passed away at Glenbrook Hospital due to COVID-19 on April 14. She was 48.

Born in the Philippines, she obtained her bachelor of nursing degree in the University of the Visayas. AJ moved to the United States in 2001 to pursue her professional career and seeking for a greener pasture, and to live openly as a trans woman.

She was the director of nursing at Bridgeway Senior Living, and also worked at Kindred Lakeshore Chicago and Community First Hospital. She worked in previous hospitals, home health and other healthcare institutions in her almost two decades in the United States. Among her many interests were filmmaking, travelling, fashion, designing and fishing. She was known for her wit, passion and dedication toward work, and generosity.

She was predeceased by her mother, Prudencia. AJ will be lovingly remembered by her father, Guido, and siblings, namely Cielo (Edgar), Loida (Nilo), Jun-jun (Jovelyn) and Venus (Ted). She will be forever cherished by her numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, extended family, friends and colleagues.

A memorial mass and interment will be celebrated in the Philippines at a later date when it is once again safe to travel and gather.

Arrangements by Cremation Society of Illinois, 773-281-5058 or [www.cremation-society.com](http://www.cremation-society.com)



Anjanette "AJ" Miller.  
Photo courtesy of Cremation Society of Illinois

## COVID-19

## Lightfoot, BACP unveil more measures to help businesses

On May 7, Chicago Mayor Lori E. Lightfoot and the Department of Business Affairs and Consumer Protection (BACP) introduced an ordinance to provide additional regulatory and financial relief measures to Chicago's businesses impacted by the COVID-19 outbreak.

The proposed ordinance would extend the expiration date for licenses that otherwise would expire during the pandemic and defer the collection of accessibility fee payments from taxicabs and transportation network providers (TNPs) while the ordinance is in effect.

The relief legislation was passed by the Committee on License and Consumer Protection and will be considered by the full City Council on Wed., May 20.

The proposed ordinance would be in effect until it is automatically repealed on Tuesday, June 30, or until the Commissioner of the Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH) makes a written determination that the threat to public health of COVID-19 has diminished, whichever is earlier.

Under the ordinance, any license issued by BACP with an expiration date on or after March 15 will be considered active and no late fees will be assessed until 30 days following the repeal of the ordinance on June 30 or until CDPH makes a written determination. This applies to all businesses licensed by the City, such as retail stores, child day cares, hotels, restaurant and bars, along with public vehicle licenses,

such as those required for public chauffeurs, taxicab medallions, pedicabs, private ambulances and medcars.

Also, the proposed ordinance would give BACP the authority to defer the collection of the accessibility fee paid by Chicago taxicabs and TNPs.

Currently, taxicab medallion licensees pay \$22 per month and TNPs pay \$0.10 per ride into the Accessibility Fund, which is used to support accessible transportation options, including those for individuals who use wheelchairs. Under the proposal, this fee will be deferred until June 30 and will apply retroactively to March 18 since these businesses are not able to generate revenue. This delay will not impact accessible transportation needs that the fund provides.

## COVID-19

## Report: 320K trans adults with underlying conditions at risk

An estimated 319,800 U.S. adults who identify as transgender have one or more medical conditions, including asthma, diabetes, heart disease, or HIV, according to the Williams Institute at UCLA School of Law.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has indicated that adults with underlying medical conditions and older adults are at high risk for COVID-19. Approximately 217,000 transgender adults are age 65 and older.

The entire brief is at [WilliamsInstitute.law.ucla.edu/publications/transgender-covid-19-risk](http://WilliamsInstitute.law.ucla.edu/publications/transgender-covid-19-risk).



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## IMPORTANT FACTS FOR BIKTARVY®

This is only a brief summary of important information about BIKTARVY and does not replace talking to your healthcare provider about your condition and your treatment.

(bik-TAR-vee)

### MOST IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT BIKTARVY

**BIKTARVY may cause serious side effects, including:**

- ▶ **Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** If you have both HIV-1 and HBV, your HBV may suddenly get worse if you stop taking BIKTARVY. Do not stop taking BIKTARVY without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to check your health regularly for several months.

### ABOUT BIKTARVY

BIKTARVY is a complete, 1-pill, once-a-day prescription medicine used to treat HIV-1 in adults and children who weigh at least 55 pounds. It can either be used in people who have never taken HIV-1 medicines before, or people who are replacing their current HIV-1 medicines and whose healthcare provider determines they meet certain requirements.

**BIKTARVY does not cure HIV-1 or AIDS.** HIV-1 is the virus that causes AIDS.

**Do NOT take BIKTARVY if you also take a medicine that contains:**

- ▶ dofetilide
- ▶ rifampin
- ▶ any other medicines to treat HIV-1

### BEFORE TAKING BIKTARVY

**Tell your healthcare provider if you:**

- ▶ Have or have had any kidney or liver problems, including hepatitis infection.
- ▶ Have any other health problems.
- ▶ Are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if BIKTARVY can harm your unborn baby. Tell your healthcare provider if you become pregnant while taking BIKTARVY.
- ▶ Are breastfeeding (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed. HIV-1 can be passed to the baby in breast milk.

**Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take:**

- ▶ Keep a list that includes all prescription and over-the-counter medicines, antacids, laxatives, vitamins, and herbal supplements, and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist.
- ▶ BIKTARVY and other medicines may affect each other. Ask your healthcare provider and pharmacist about medicines that interact with BIKTARVY, and ask if it is safe to take BIKTARVY with all your other medicines.

### POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF BIKTARVY

**BIKTARVY may cause serious side effects, including:**

- ▶ Those in the “Most Important Information About BIKTARVY” section.
- ▶ **Changes in your immune system.** Your immune system may get stronger and begin to fight infections. Tell your healthcare provider if you have any new symptoms after you start taking BIKTARVY.
- ▶ **Kidney problems, including kidney failure.** Your healthcare provider should do blood and urine tests to check your kidneys. If you develop new or worse kidney problems, they may tell you to stop taking BIKTARVY.
- ▶ **Too much lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis),** which is a serious but rare medical emergency that can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: weakness or being more tired than usual, unusual muscle pain, being short of breath or fast breathing, stomach pain with nausea and vomiting, cold or blue hands and feet, feel dizzy or lightheaded, or a fast or abnormal heartbeat.
- ▶ **Severe liver problems,** which in rare cases can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow, dark “tea-colored” urine, light-colored stools, loss of appetite for several days or longer, nausea, or stomach-area pain.
- ▶ **The most common side effects of BIKTARVY** in clinical studies were diarrhea (6%), nausea (6%), and headache (5%).

These are not all the possible side effects of BIKTARVY. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you have any new symptoms while taking BIKTARVY.

You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit [www.FDA.gov/medwatch](http://www.FDA.gov/medwatch) or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

**Your healthcare provider will need to do tests to monitor your health before and during treatment with BIKTARVY.**

### HOW TO TAKE BIKTARVY

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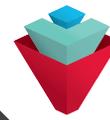
### GET MORE INFORMATION

- ▶ This is only a brief summary of important information about BIKTARVY. Talk to your healthcare provider or pharmacist to learn more.
- ▶ Go to [BIKTARVY.com](http://BIKTARVY.com) or call 1-800-GILEAD-5
- ▶ If you need help paying for your medicine, visit [BIKTARVY.com](http://BIKTARVY.com) for program information.



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# Billie Jean King: LGBTQ icon on Chicago ties, tennis, out athletes

BY ANDREW DAVIS

Billie Jean King could easily rest on her laurels as one of the greatest tennis players ever—and she's one of the few to have a movie made about her (the 2017 film *Battle of the Sexes*, starring Emma Stone and Steve Carell).

However, King has done much more, most notably as an advocate for LGBTQ rights as well as gender parity. In a recent interview with *Windy City Times*, King (who is a member of the Chicago LGBT Hall of Fame) talked about the COVID-10 pandemic, tennis, politics and the dearth of openly LGBTQ athletes.

**Windy City Times: One thing a lot of people don't know is that you have Chicago connections.**

Billie Jean King: We [King and partner Ilana Kloss] lived there for 12 years; we're now in New York City. We ran World Team Tennis, which has men and women on each team. We sold it three or four years ago, but we were in Chicago for 12 years and absolutely loved it. We did a lot of work with Mark Walter, the Guggenheim [CEO] whose family is in Chicago now.

And there's also this tennis facility on the South Side of Chicago [the XS Tennis Village], which has indoor courts and some outdoor ones. Kids play there, but some of the world's best players are there, too. [Founder/CEO] Kamau Murray is a great guy who's making some things happen there. It's even a great place to hang out. Anyway, I got behind that and I feel very connected to Chicago. I play a lot of golf there, too.

Also, we have friends here. But other people always bring up the weather first: "How can you live in Chicago? It's so cold there." There are places that are colder. I tell people Chicago is the most underrated city in the world. The only thing I don't like is that it's too segregated; we've got to get rid of that. I think the South Side has so much potential there. People think of guns when you bring up the South Side, but there are a lot of beautiful things happening there.

I think [Mayor] Lori Lightfoot is great. To have a woman who's an out lesbian mayor is fantastic. I think having more and more people in office like her and Robert Garcia—the gay mayor of Long Beach, California, where I'm from—is great. The LGBTQ community has [many problems]: the poverty is higher, teenage suicides are 40-percent higher. People still are not necessarily comfortable with us.

And we really need to be careful these days, with COVID-19, especially if you're immunocompromised with HIV/AIDS. Ilana and I have been involved with the Elton John AIDS Foundation—they kicked Elton and me out because we're too old. [Laughs] He's now the [founder] and I'm the [honorary lifetime] president; David Furnish [John's husband, who chairs the board of

directors] has been great. With the foundation, I think it's good to be ambitious, even if you don't make the mark. I think we're trying to eliminate AIDS by 2030; that would be amazing for so many people, including newborn babies.

What's the place in Chicago, on Halsted?

**WCT: The Center on Halsted.**

King: Yes—I helped them, too.

**WCT: Yes; the gym is named after you.**

King: Yes. I helped Patrick Sheahan and the Center [with its fundraising campaign]. He's the one I worked with. Do you know what the Center is doing right now regarding COVID-19?

**WCT: I know there are some programs and services going on. [The Center is currently closed, but there are some remote services.] Let's switch to tennis. I know that current and former players such as Simona Halep and Amelie Mauresmo have said that this current tennis season should be scrapped entirely because of the pandemic. Where do you stand?**

King: I have the feeling they won't play this year. The WTA and ATP [women's and men's associations] are trying to figure out something but COVID-19 will dictate what happens this year—not us. Health comes first, so whatever is most important for our fans and players [takes precedence]. All the factions are trying to get some sort of scheduling together, but I know they'll do what's best for people's safety. There's also been a lot of talk for sports with no fans—so maybe if we can get some fans to watch. But the health of people in the world is number one.

**WCT: Recently, Roger Federer has been talking about merging the men's and women's tennis associations—something you've been advocating for decades. Why hasn't that happened?**

King: Over 50 years ago, I tried to get us together—but this is why your question is really wonderful. Men of this generation and the one coming up are so much better about inclusion of women than they used to be, and when top men players like him speak out, it's really great. I talked with Roger the other day and I said, "I hope you guys get together and persevere."

Tournaments that have men and women playing together make so much more money than single-gender tournaments. It's a no-brainer that we should [coalesce]. It's good business and we need to do it for our fans; also, media get more money if we get together—we all end up winning. Also, we would be setting a precedent and an example for the rest of the world about inclusion.

What I used to say 50 years ago is that it's not just about what we do on the court, but off of it as well—and make this world a better place. Your generation and younger are better about inclusion. Boy, COVID-19 has brought that idea to the forefront; every ad is about working together

Billie Jean King.  
Photo by Howard Schatz



now. Every time I see that, I say, "Yes! That's what I've been wanting to tell you." We need to fight for equality and inclusion, and that includes the LGBTQ+ community. We're not a binary world anymore, and we just need to be kind to each other.

**WCT: We're supposed to be more progressive than ever. Why do you think more athletes have not come out?**

King: We still have a culture that's macho, and ignorance is a part of it. I grew up in a really homophobic culture, but still you notice that if a guy comes out, he's usually retired. The culture of the locker room is so tough—but the difference today is that coming out is celebrated, like with Jason Collins of the NBA.

One difference between when he came out and when I was outed [in 1981] was that I lost most of my endorsements. I lost a lot and was still struggling with my sexuality, so everything was just a mess. Larry [King] was a great guy and didn't divorce me even though I kept asking for one. And it was also about me and the future of the tour, so it wasn't just about me; I had a lot on my shoulders.

When Jason came out [in 2013], President Obama called him and congratulated him. That would not have happened in the late '70s or early '80s—I can tell you that much now. But it makes me happy that it's celebrated now.

However, men weren't really questioned about

sexuality like women were. I didn't have one woman sportswriter at the [Battle of the Sexes]. We started the Virginia Slims tour in 1971 and, for years, there were no women at the media conferences. Also, I have a younger brother [Randy Moffitt] who played 12 years of professional baseball [1971-83]; he was always great. He went through a lot—can you imagine the team giving him a hard time [as King went through her outing]? And the straight women stepped up, which surprised me but was great; they didn't care about our sexuality. But every generation has to want, fight and win. We deserve the best.

**WCT: I know you're politically involved. If you had a chance to ask our current president one question—and be guaranteed to get the truth from him—what would it be?**

King: I try not to think about this president, but focus on what we need to do. What would I ask him? Probably something about COVID-19... I probably want to know "Did you do the right thing with the information you got about COVID-19?" My understanding is that Trump [disbanded] Obama's pandemic preparedness team; I'd ask him why he did that—and what he's truly doing for people now. It's good to handle things early, like [California Gov.] Gavin Newsom did.

Character is usually revealed when things are tough—even if someone says, "I made a mistake." Sports teach you that.

**COVID-19****Lightfoot, CDPH, unions come together regarding surge in Latinx cases**

On May 6, Chicago Mayor Lori E. Lightfoot and the Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH) joined union leaders to announce a new phase in the city's plan to address the racial health disparities exacerbated by the COVID-19 outbreak, including new data showing the disproportionate impact on Chicago's Latinx community.

As part of a response plan, the city has formed a partnership with SEIU Local 1, UNITE HERE Local 1 and the Construction and General Laborers' District Council of Chicago and Vicinity to better protect essential workers and address inequities across the city. The unions will work in partnership with the city's Racial Equity Rapid Response team to activate a new phase of the response plan, engaging the most impacted communities in an effort to build greater equity in health outcomes.

The number of confirmed COVID-19 positive cases throughout Chicago continues to increase, and over the past month the data show an increasingly disproportionate impact on the Latinx community. In early April, the Latinx population represented 14 percent of cases and 9 percent of deaths. However, new data now show Latinx Chicagoans represent 37 percent of cases and 25

percent of deaths.

African Americans also continue to represent a disproportionate percentage of cases (36 percent) and deaths (52 percent), but Latinx residents now make up the largest percentage of cases.

As of May 5, COVID-19 demographic data show 7,156 Latinx Chicagoans, 6,967 Black Chicagoans, 3,381 white Chicagoans and 636 Asian Chicagoans had been diagnosed with COVID-19. Notably, in spite of efforts to improve reporting, about 28 percent of test results still lack race and ethnicity data; however, in the cases of death, only 3 percent of the same data is missing.

Last month, CDPH issued a public health order enhancing medical data-sharing requirements for all acute care and long-term hospitals, in line with Mayor Lightfoot's commitment to transparency and in order to better support the City's ability to track COVID-19 and its impact on individuals and communities. CDPH is releasing updated demographic data daily during the COVID-19 pandemic at [Chicago.gov/coronavirus](https://www.chicago.gov/coronavirus).

**Town hall addresses youths' needs during pandemic**

BY MATT SIMONETTE

Advocates focused on ensuring that LGBT youth have access both to resources and straightforward facts during the COVID-19 pandemic pre-

sented during Equality Illinois' April 28 online town hall meeting.

As the pandemic processes, numerous LGBT youth might be finding themselves without the support systems they generally rely upon, whether those might be friends, school personnel or community organizations, noted Nat Duran, youth engagement manager for Illinois Safe Schools Alliance.

They further explained that youth are currently facing "unparalleled questions," and that adults need to both model self-care and give as many visual indications as possible of their support.

Tara Bell Janowick, who is board chair for Carbondale-based Rainbow Cafe, added that many downstate youth especially in danger of isolation since they often do not have access to the same online resources as students in Cook County or its collar counties, nor are their schools staffed with personnel who were much equipped to thoroughly address LGBT students' needs in the first place.

Rainbow Cafe normally holds Friday night meetups with its youth; those are obviously on hold for now. For the moment, Janowick added, "Our primary function has disappeared. ... Being able to do that one-on-one interaction has been taken away."

Successfully engaging youth, concluded both speakers, involved speaking with them honestly while being conscientious about not inducing anxiety. Additionally, adults should remember that communication goes both ways, Duran said.

"Sometimes youth just need to talk and vent, and give in to their emotions," they added. "Rather than [just] 'telling,' it might be more

helpful just to listen."

**Report: Sexual minorities more than twice as likely be homeless**

A new study from the Williams Institute at UCLA School of Law finds an estimated 17 percent of sexual minority adults in the country report having experienced homelessness at some point in their lives, compared to 6 percent of the general population.

The majority (71 percent) experienced homelessness for the first time as an adult, compared to 20 percent who experienced it before age 18.

In addition, a significantly higher proportion of transgender people reported homelessness in the past year compared to both sexual minority and cisgender straight people. And among LGBT people, African Americans had particularly high rates of recent experiences of homelessness.

This study is the first to provide estimates of the percentage of sexual and gender minority adults experiencing homelessness compared to cisgender straight adults using nationally representative data collected from the Generations Study and the U.S. Transgender Population Health Survey (TransPop). Questions about lifetime experiences with homelessness were not included in TransPop, so only recent experiences are included for transgender people.

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## viewpoints



**Glenn D.  
MAGPANTAY**

## Census 2020 is complicated for LGBTQ people, but it counts

By now, everyone should have received a mailing from the U.S. Census Bureau to get counted. I have complicated feelings about the census.

While the census is critically important to ensure a fair allocation of funding for services and political representation, it will not deliver the full acceptance and freedom of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer community. After all, it's a government survey. It will not capture the breadth of human experience in America today. So why are my feelings about it "complicated?"

### It's about me and who I am

Some aspects of my identity are reflected in the census. I'm gay. There is no census question asking about sexual orientation. Yet, the relationship question counts same-sex married spouses and unmarried partners. While being a same-sex couple is a poor proxy for sexual orientation, the 2010 census uncovered more than 700,000 same-sex couples in the United States.

I'm a dad of an adopted African-American child. Many LGBTQ people build families through adoption. The census counts transracial families. In fact, every year census data is used to allocate \$8 Billion for foster care and adoption assistance that can help queers start families.

### But it doesn't reflect my community

At the same time, my community is erased. Trans and gender non-conforming people must respond to a binary sex question. They must choose between their sex assigned at birth or how they identify to-

day. The census asks about biology, not identity, and today while Facebook has more than 52 genders, the U.S. government only has two. It sucks.

Even India, Nepal, Pakistan, and Washington and Oregon states recognize a third gender. I and my organization, the National Queer Asian Pacific Islander Alliance (NQAPIA), have urged the Census Bureau to recognize all of our community.

### It's critically important

In the midst of the CO-VID 19 pandemic, health care is especially critical. The census is used to allocate \$311 Billion in medical assistance annually, according to the George Washington University Institute for Public Policy. More resources flow to where there is greater need based on the relative size of the population.

I teach a class on Asian American queerness at Hunter College CUNY. So many of my students benefit from the \$29 billion in financial aid (Pell Grants) for college every year.

I came out in the 1980s, at the height of the AIDS crisis. When I was in ACT UP, I fought hard to stop the spread of HIV/AIDS. The census continues to be used to allocate \$645 Million in HIV funding.

I could go on and recount the importance of an accurate census:

—\$457 million for community mental health services

—\$133 million for domestic violence prevention programs that guard against same-sex intimate-partner violence

—\$48 million for community arts programs and for queer and trans artists

—\$4.7 million to prevent abuse, neglect and exploitation of elders

The more people who respond to the Census, the more likely resources will flow to under-resourced communities.

### It's about political power and influence

But for me the most important aspect of the Census is the political influence that the data drives. The census can be a check on the outsized political influence that some intolerant states command

when apportioning congressional seats among the states based on population.

Census data is also used to redraw Congressional, State Legislative and City Council district boundaries to make them equal in population. Sure, some districts can be gerrymandered. But voting rights advocates can also use the data to draw districts that give communities of color, and those who have been traditionally underrepresented, a voice in the halls of power.

### It's mandatory and ensuring safety

The census is required by law. People can be fined \$100 for not responding. Federal law also ensures that personal information is private and may not be shared with the immigration service, IRS, or law enforcement.

I am a lawyer. I reviewed the law and was delighted to find that the confidentiality protections have been upheld and strengthened by the courts. Yet, even in light of the strict penalties for those who violate the protections, I am still concerned.

NQAPIA is monitoring the census to keep our community safe. We have lawyers ready to sue if there are breaches and who are available to answer questions. You can report problem to us at <http://bit.ly/2ULyily>.

The way I see it, getting LGBTQ people to participate in the census is ultimately about harm reduction. The data collected inherently underrepresents the multiplicity of our identities. It can feel reductive and often dehumanizing, but it is necessary because of the very real implications towards how the government will allocate resources and representation. The census holds a lasting impact. To be missed is to be gone for the next ten years.

Let's be counted.

**Glenn D. Magpantay is a longtime civil-rights lawyer who led community education and advocacy efforts for Census 2000 and 2010. He is executive director of the National Queer Asian Pacific Islander Alliance (NQAPIA)—a federation of LGBT Asian American, South Asian, Southeast Asian, and Pacific Islander organizations.**

**To take the census, visit [2020Census.gov](http://2020Census.gov).**

## letters

### Handling the pandemic

Dear community:

How is our community responding to the coronavirus pandemic? The key seems to be a social-distance approach that many of our medical and political leaders are counseling.

Our religious communities are putting the people first, canceling services and even closing down houses of worship.

Our bars and restaurants provide a living for many

who work in the service arena. They need our support. Many of our restaurants and LGBTQ+ bars have closed. Our bar owners are responding responsibly a job—well done! Many of these workers live paycheck to paycheck.

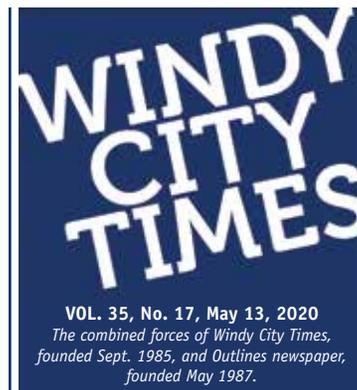
The Center on Halsted, like our churches, is putting people first. Perhaps the Center can be an important communication hub for all the homebound.

Remember to watch out for each other by using Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc. Now is the time to remember that God is with us in our joys, and our sorrows. Remember always to be thankful for life. Finally, it is also time for prayer and turning to God.

The days ahead may be full of uncertainty and hope. Focus on hope.

Do not give in to fear. We will get through this together. Always remember that hope is alive and well.

*Sincerely,  
Joe Murray  
Executive Director  
Rainbow Sash Movement  
(LGBTQA Roman Catholics)*



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WINDY  
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TIMES

## ARTS + THEATER

Eric Rosen.  
Photo courtesy of Rosen

FILM

**Eric Rosen:**  
From About  
Face to the  
movie 'Netuser'

BY ANDREW DAVIS

Eric Rosen is entering the world of movies with his short-film thriller, *Netuser*.

However, theater fans in the Midwest, and especially Chicago, will remember Rosen from his time as co-founder and artistic director of About Face Theatre from 1995 to 2008, and as co-founder of About Face Youth Theatre. (He is also a member of the Chicago LGBT Hall of Fame.) Rosen then went on to the Kansas City Repertory Theatre. Among other accomplishments, he directed the original production of *A Christmas Story: The Musical*, which opened on Broadway in 2012 and was nominated for a Tony Award for Best Musical.

*Netuser* stars acclaimed actors Denis O'Hare, Claybourne Elder (who's also Rosen's husband), Johanna Day and Tatiana Wechsler in a short about an activist whose life unravels when a nightmare about a gay political candidate turns true.

**Windy City Times: I'm going to start with a subject that's currently affecting everyone: How has your life changed because of the COVID-19 pandemic?**

Eric Rosen: Well, now we [Rosen, Elder and their son] are in upstate New York, away from New York City. We've been living this bucolic life that we never really anticipated. Now we're stay-at-home dads and, most of my days, I'm working on film stuff or we're taking care of each other—which is challenging, yet extraordinary. I feel like I know our son so much better now than if he were in day care.

But it's nice to be able to walk five miles or so without seeing anyone



Photo courtesy of Big Universe Adventures

else. But who knew the apocalypse would be so boring? [Laughs]

**WCT: [Laughs] You thought it'd be like *Mad Max*?**

ER: It's like *Mad Max*—in very slow motion. [Laughs]

**WCT: You have a deep Chicago connection. We didn't conduct a full "exit interview" with you, but did you leave About Face because it felt natural?**

ER: To be honest, I was going through some personal things and the opportunity to go to Kansas City—and run a bigger company—arose. It was heartbreaking to leave Chicago; I miss Chicago so much. Kansas City was a break; it was never home. But I quit [Kansas City] almost two years ago, when my son was born.

**WCT: How did theater prepare you for film, and what was making a movie different from leading a theatrical production?**

ER: The advantage of knowing how to write a play made writing *Netuser* a lot easier; the storytelling is exactly the same. What's different is that, in film, the actors are the first big thing you work with, and there were elements I hadn't done before, such as the editing process.

The film shoot was about a week and it was very intense, with 18-hour days. But you do things in reverse order than theater. I had to learn the nuts-and-bolts of filmmaking. It took two solid workdays to put together that sequence where Denis is making the video. I had to find the perfect image to explain who that guy is.

**WCT: The cast is pretty impressive.**

ER: Denis and I have been friends for a really long time. Last spring, he came to our place for lunch. I was working on the script and asked, "Denis, who's an actor like you who could do this part?," and he said, "Well, I would do it." I said, "No, you won't." [Both laugh.] But we went from a small budget to a larger one that allowed us to get a crew, thanks to Denis' involvement. He's an amazing collaborator and actor.

Johanna works with Denis, and was on a very short list of people he thought of for the role. Tatiana actually did a play, *Benny and Joon*, with Clay.

**WCT: Was this made before Pete Buttigieg announced his presidential run [in April 2019]?**

Turn to page 14



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Eureka O'Hara (left).  
Photo by Khun Minn  
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NUNN ON ONE: DRAG

# Eureka O'Hara: 'Here' and now

BY JERRY NUNN

Born in Johnson City, Tennessee, David Huggard transformed into drag personality Eureka O'Hara and began performing in the local gay club called New Beginnings. Competing in the pageant system around town prepared them for a future in performance art that has taken them around the world.

O'Hara served fish on the ninth season of RuPaul's Drag Race and was immediately a front-runner in the game. After a torn ligament forced them out of the competition, an open invitation from RuPaul brought them right back the following season. After eventually landing in the top three, their career took off afterwards with music video appearances and RuPaul's Drag Race Holi-slay Spectacular.

O'Hara's latest trip takes them on the road for HBO's new project We're Here. Fellow Drag Race contestants have teamed up with O'Hara, Bob the Drag Queen and Shangela Laquifa Wadley, to change people's lives and shake some conservative beliefs along the way in a six-part unscripted series.

Eureka O'Hara: [Chants] Jerry! Jerry! Jerry!

**Windy City Times:**[Laughs] I grew up in Tennessee, just like you!

EOH: Come on, Tennesseans in the house...

**WCT: Do you still go by the last name O'Hara?**

EOH: Everyone calls me Eureka in real life, but in the pageant system, I actually have several drag names. My full drag name is Eureka Belle O'Hara St. James.

RuPaul just always called me Eureka on TV. It was just easier for me to promote that versus Eureka O'Hara.

I am a junior so I am named David after my dad. I wanted my drag name to be after my mom, which is Ulrike.

**WCT: What pronouns do you go by?**

EOH: They/them. I'm gender-neutral, queer, fish and a human-hybrid queen all in one!

**WCT: There is a lot of talk about drag mothers on the HBO show. Who was yours?**

EOH: Jacqueline St. James, the winner of Miss

Gay USofA at Large. She was our matriarch pageant queen where I grew up. She was the queen bee and the headliner. She's a trans, beautiful woman.

**WCT: What are your thoughts on the current season of RuPaul's Drag Race?**

EOH: I think it's great. I am such a huge fan and even more of one after being on the show. It's a lot of Drag Race on Friday nights now. I heard they set records and the fans stuck with it by watching all three and a half hours.

This Drag Race season is really good. Jackie Cox had me crying on a recent episode. I was upset when Widow Von'Du went home. I was on her team from the first episode when she did that backbend. There has been a lot of controversy this season though. At this point, you are either loved or hated by the fans. There's no in-between.

**WCT: Who do you keep in contact with from your season?**

EOH: Kameron Michaels and Farrah Moan from between both seasons I was on.

**WCT: How were you cast in We're Here?**

EOH: Executive producers Stephen Warren and Johnnie Ingram are very resourceful people. Stephen invited me to lunch and pitched me the idea. He said he wanted to take it to HBO. I didn't take it seriously at first. A lot of people come to drag queens and want to start projects, but it costs so much to do drag. They came through!

**WCT: Why are you three the perfect picks for this show?**

EOH: I think because me, Bob and Shangela are all from small towns. We moved into the big city life with Bob in New York and Shangela and I in LA. We had success on RuPaul's Drag Race. We are good at communicating with people and are empathetic. I feel it works really well.

**WCT: I talked to my friend from Tennessee who was the director of photography on the show. When are they taking the show to Tennessee?**

EOH: I hope we go to Tennessee. We all want

to go to our hometowns for the second season. Shangela is from Paris, Texas and Bob is from Columbus, Georgia.

**WCT: How did you pack for this trip?**

EOH: Luckily, I have a great assistant and we packed like I do for anything else. It's just like Drag Race with all the suitcases.

We did have a team that came with us and made some costumes onsite in these towns. Everything happens while we are there. The creative process is done with our drag daughters at the moment. We don't go in completely ready at all.

That's where the authenticity of the show is. The TV is just part of the process. There is some creating and working on the important story to tell, but a lot of it happens on the spot. Our drag daughters have a lot of say-so over the performance and help us design it. Their show quality is good for people that have never performed before.

**WCT: Clifton on the second episode does really well transforming into drag and is cute.**

EOH: People are going to be in love with him. He's coming to my Instagram Live after the show! He is as sweet as he comes across on TV.

**WCT: Why did this straight man want to try drag?**

EOH: What we discovered was Clifton was regretful about the way he acted when he was younger. It was his way to forgive himself. His girlfriend wanted him to do it, so he had approval as a straight man. What straight man doesn't want to be silly and have fun?

**WCT: Going into a barn with that redneck crowd on the second episode didn't scare you?**

EOH: Of course it did. I get nervous before almost anything. I am such a timid person secretly.

I use the gentle giant tool. My grandmother told me early in life, "You can't do anything about how big you are, but you can use it to your advantage!" She was talking about my personality and the way I hold myself.

We fear straight people, as gay men. We are taught to fear them. Most of the time, there is

awkwardness because they can sense that fear. It's uncomfortable and there's tension there. If you come in as an unafraid gay, then straight men love you. They feel like they don't have to be "on." I just talk to them like I am one of them. I do have a weiner, so we can compare if they really want to!

**WCT: I did see that tucking episode...**

EOH: The meaty tuck, momma! I'm glad that made the cut.

**WCT: I was crying on the second episode with the grandfather supporting his grandson.**

EOH: Larry was a gem. It was so sweet to see that relationship with the queer community. Relationships like that are out there. It can show people how to help their nephew or grandchild. Just treat them like all the other children!

**WCT: I was surprised on the third episode that Branson, Missouri, was not more open-minded.**

EOH: In the social world, we have progressed to a point where people don't care what you are and that is your business. They won't talk about things claiming that they are "family friendly." That phrase gets used a lot.

We don't need to talk about sex in front of people, but the discussion for equal opportunities for homosexual people should be allowed everywhere. That is a weird line where they try to use kids against us. Gurl, bye!

**WCT: Kids love drag queens. It's like a princess dressing up to them.**

EOH: Yes, they are big and colorful. They are like cartoon characters. Most of our fanbase are younger kids. My niece is a freshman in high school and all of her friends want signed promo items.

**WCT: I heard the premiere party for We're Here was a Zoom call. How was it?**

EOH: It was amazing. Everyone was dancing on my video screen. It was intimate and maybe what we needed at the time.

We are trying to figure out how to navigate through this time. We are still working and pushing out more content.

**WCT: My friend said there were wrap parties when each episode finished as well.**

EOH: Yes, and the crew became our immediate families. I think it's the message and the vibe of the show. The people that work on it get to see what we are doing. It creates a camaraderie with everyone that works on it, from the marketing to heteronormative cameramen. They have become family members of mine that I love.

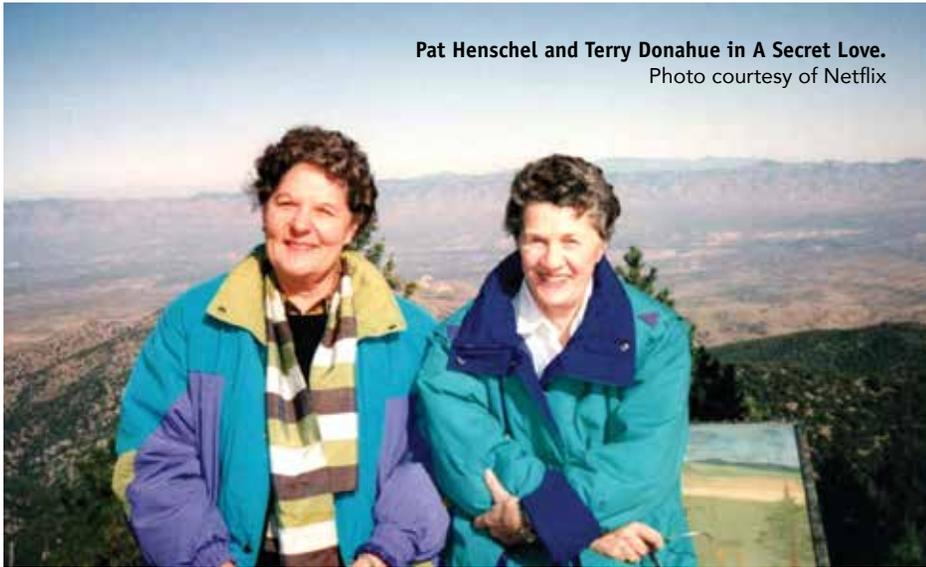
**WCT: What do you want audiences to take away from We're Here?**

EOH: For me, I hope I get an Emmy and a second season, but I want people to get a sense of belonging out of the show. There are a lot of stories that people don't talk about very often that are shown throughout the series. I hope it starts a conversation.

The biggest message is that we all have a place. If you are gay, straight or anywhere in between, it's about loving and respecting yourself. Bob says it a lot on the show, "We are your doctor or cousin or neighbor down the street. We are all here!"

**Follow the adventures of three drag queens making small-town life fierce on HBO Thursdays at 8 p.m. CT, now through June 4.**

Pat Henschel and Terry Donahue in *A Secret Love*.  
Photo courtesy of Netflix



## MOVIE REVIEW

# 'A Secret Love' shines for a new generation

BY JERRY NUNN

Netflix's new documentary *A Secret Love* is the story of a relationship between two lesbians named Terry Donahue and Pat Henschel that began in the late '40s. For almost seven decades, even some of their family members remained in the dark about their life behind closed doors. The

elderly couple face even more struggles in the latter half of the 81-minute movie.

Chris Bolan, Donahue's great-nephew, was inspired to create this labor of love after visiting his two great aunts. He captures many tender moments through archived footage, photos and love letters while covering hot topics that have affected so many people throughout the years.

Glee's Ryan Murphy produces the film and *The Normal Heart*'s Jason Blum is executive producer. *A Secret Love* was scheduled to have its world premiere at South by Southwest this year, but was instead released on April 29 on Netflix's streaming platform because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Donahue and Henschel met after World War II and their relationship quickly blossomed, but remained hidden in the closet. When someone would discover their secret, they were swiftly told to not live their truth, so they remained quiet about their life together for many years.

At age 19, Donahue played in the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League that inspired the hit movie *A League of Their Own*. There was no crying in baseball back then, and female players were required to slide into home wearing a skirt.

It was a different time indeed, as explained in the film by Chicago Reader publisher (and Windy City Times owner) Tracy Baim and local activist Marge Summit; lesbian bars were raided and the LGBT community was regularly treated unfairly. This was not a time to come out of the closet, as many feared for their very lives and some lost their jobs after their names were outed in the newspapers during this time period.

Younger folks in the LGBT community may watch this doc and feel like it's just a fairy tale, but controversy over civil rights still continues to this day. It was only in 2015 that the US Supreme Court passed gay marriage in all 50 states. There's a moment in *A Secret Love* where it is plainly seen in the couple's faces that they never thought marriage between two women would happen in their lifetime.

Despite all of the hardships, their sweet story can't be stopped. Bolan directs with such sensi-

tivity that Donahue and Henschel's spirits shine through in the face of adversity as he allows outsiders to peek into their private lives.

While much of the story is set in the Midwest, it also moves to Canada where Donahue and Henschel visit a home for retirement. This approaches a topic that has been a concern for many of the aging LGBT community over the years—there are too few retirement homes that are welcoming to LGBT seniors. How sad that we have to watch these women struggle to come out once again as a same sex couple to an assisted living director. The two simply want to be treated like everyone else, with dignity and respect in their old age.

As health problems begin to plague the couple, they are forced to face a looming situation of selling their home and moving to a smaller space. This is where Henschel digs her heels in and shows she's the *Bea Arthur* in this golden girl relationship by being the strong arm. This could have gone badly if an agreement with Donahue's niece was not reached. The hard truth is courts are continuing to side with the family over an outside relationship, no matter the length of time two people are together. The struggle continues, but hopefully, a story like this one will make people think about the wishes of an ailing or deceased love one in the future.

Instead of veering too politically on this topic, *A Secret Love* shows we all need to work together and do the right thing.

The best documentaries make audiences relate to the subjects and this one excels in that department. It's a simple story about a secret romance and overcoming prejudice.

Shout it from the highest hills: *A Secret Love* will tug at a viewer's heartstrings for many years to come.

## MOVIES

# Young gay filmmaker debuts LGBT romantic drama

BY MATT SIMONETTE

A gay Massachusetts-based filmmaker will release his new LGBT-themed feature film, which he produced for the unheard-of sum of \$400, to YouTube in late May.

Director Josh Cox, 20, based the new film, *Summer of Mesa*, about two young women who fall in love on Cape Cod during the summer of 1985, on a short film that he produced a few years back. That short garnered more than half a million views on YouTube.

The feature, like the short, focuses on the romance between Lily, a summer visitor to Cape Cod, and Mesa, a local resident. Cox is a native of Cape Cod, and leveraged his local connections in order to film there.

"I've never made any film for any amount of money," explained Cox, who called upon friends and acquaintances to act in *Summer of Mesa*. "It was a lot of reaching out to locations I would drive by, or looking through real estate listings and asking the owners if I could just come by and

film something."

*Summer of Mesa*'s \$400 budget "was for equipment, transporting people and feeding people," he added.

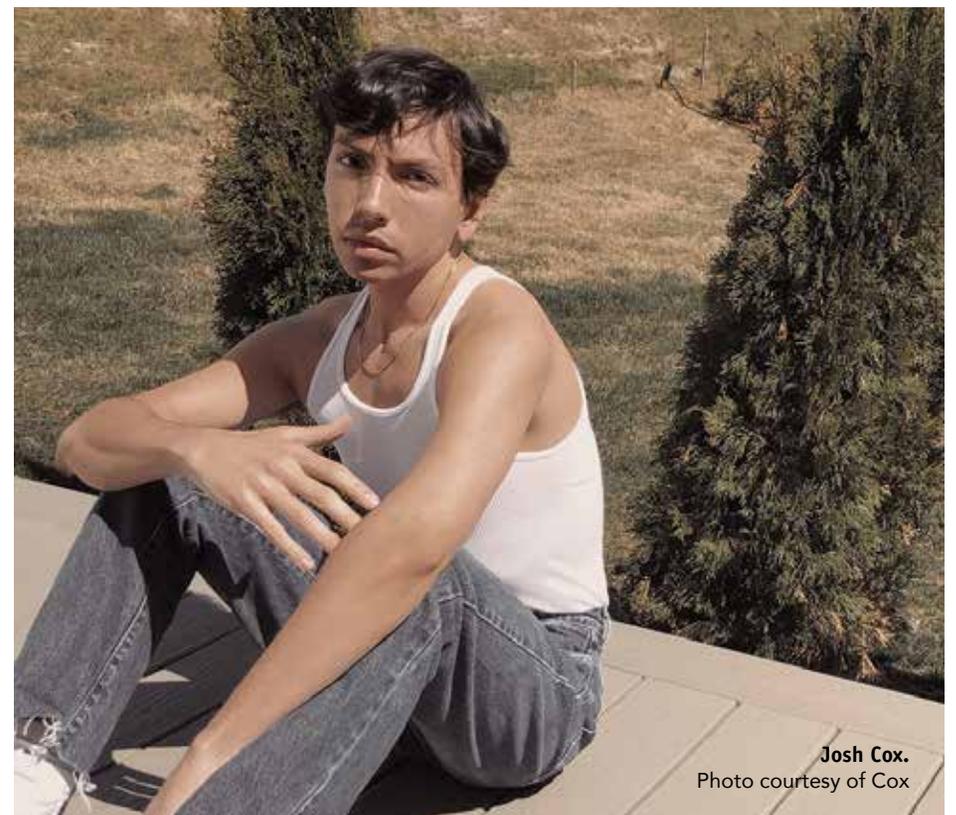
Cox had dropped out of college in Massachusetts in order to work in the film industry in Los Angeles, a path he ultimately realized was not working for him.

When he conceived the *Summer of Mesa* feature, "taking a break from where I was [professionally], and taking a break to tell this story, it felt like it would be more fulfilling to go home."

Cox's feature tells the same story as the earlier short subject, albeit with a lighter, more positive tone. He said that the film's characters were reflective "of where I was at that particular moment," drawing inspiration from his time spent on Cape Cod.

"My connection was really deep with that landscape," he said. "It's such a beautiful place to set a story."

Although he drew from his own experiences, he



Josh Cox.  
Photo courtesy of Cox

Turn to page 21

# Arts funding faces challenges in new landscape

BY MATT SIMONETTE

Equality Illinois invited local advocates to address the implications of the coronavirus pandemic for the state's arts community for a May 5 online discussion.

The talk was part of Equality Illinois' weekly town hall meetings series, which the organization has been holding over the duration of the state's shelter-in-place orders.

Speakers in the May 5 discussion expressed both grave concern but reserved optimism for Illinois arts professionals as socio-economic landscape undergoes a seismic shift.

"The livelihoods of so many creatives are in peril," said Marcia Festen, a member of the board of directors at 3Arts, which provides relief to artists and arts agencies. "I think we're going to lose a lot of really good organizations."

Ian Martin, artistic director for Haven Theatre, added, "The ground has fundamentally changed. ... It's very hard to see so many in the community struggling."

Festen said that, despite myriad and isolated shows of generosity, arts organizations have fallen "to the bottom of people's list of priorities," which was especially unfortunate since many of those organizations sponsored work addressing social justice issues.

But the participants discussed how artist communities

have mobilized over the course of the pandemic, taking advantage of technology to showcase their work with on-line performances and exhibitions, for example.

"There is a lot of seed-planting," said Jared Lewis, co-founder of Pride South. "...I'm excited to see what kind of fruit those seeds will bring six or 12 months from now."

But while such activities might hold promise for stretching the boundaries of expression, few offered prospects of financial stability. Discussion participants were asked how organizations and community members with no connections to arts-funding could best support local artists. Their answer was straightforward: Give artists jobs.

"Art is everywhere," said Lewis, who said that organizations need creative work done all the time. "... It's about listing the jobs to be done, and looking at how to plug folks in."

Martin added, "Any opportunity that can be made to hire an artist—by all means, go for that."

Lewis opined that a vibrant arts scene can play a key role as the community eventually tries to heal from both a medical disaster and the socio-economic wreckage in its wake.

"Art is centered in everything we do, in [both] a formal and informal economy," he said.

Pride South co-founder Jared Lewis.

Photo by Matt Simonette

## Market Days hockey tourney postponed

The Chicago Gay Hockey Association (CGHA) has decided to postpone its CGHA Market Days Classic hockey tournament as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak.

The tournament had been scheduled for Aug. 6-9.

In a note at MarketDaysClassic.com, the CGHA stated, "We know that this comes as a disappointment to the players, sponsors, and organizers who have looked forward to this event, but we have been carefully monitoring the uncertainty and challenges surrounding the safety of large gatherings and global travel and we feel that this is the most responsible decision to make at this time.

"We appreciate the flexibility that our partners like the Chicago Blackhawks and Fifth Third Arena have shown us in this challenging time. The CGHA will continue to develop relationships with supporters of the gay hockey community to bring you an even bigger and better CGHA Market Days Classic during the summer of 2021."

Northalsted Market Days, originally slated to take place Aug. 8-9, has been moved to Labor Day Weekend, Sept. 5-6, in combination with Chicago's PrideFest celebration.

Follow CGHA on Facebook and Instagram.

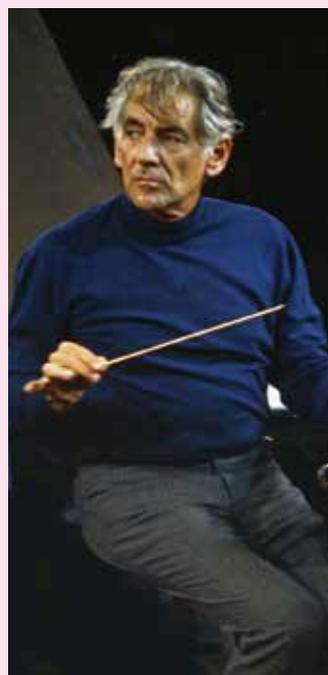
## Ravinia's production of Bernstein's 'Mass' on PBS on May 15

Ravinia's 2019 presentation of iconic conductor Leonard Bernstein's little-seen music theater masterwork *Mass* will be shown as an installment of the PBS series *Great Performances* on Friday, May 15, at 9 p.m. on PBS (including on Chicago's WTTW, Channel 11), PBS.org/gperf and the PBS Video app.

The presentation—featuring more than 200 onstage artists, including the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Vocality, a cast of

"street singers," and even a local high school marching band—was a repeat performance from the previous year, when Ravinia President/CEO Welz Kauffman and Chief Conductor/Curator Marin Alsop first unveiled it.

A virtual "panel discussion" will be livestreamed on Ravinia's Facebook page just prior to the broadcast, beginning at 8:15 p.m. For this talk, Alsop and Kauffman will be joined by Tony-winning singer/actor Paulo Szot (South Pacific), who starred in the central role of the celebrant in both Ravinia performances, as well as Chicago Children's Choir Artistic Director Josephine Lee and Highland Park High School Band Director Joshua Chodoroff. WFMT Vice President and General Manager George Preston will moderate the panel.



Leonard Bernstein.

Photo by Allan Warren

## Brown Paper Box announces final season

After 10 years, 16 venues and six Jeff Award recommendations, Brown Paper Box Co. (BPBCo.) announced that the upcoming 10th season will be its last.

In a statement, artistic director Kristi Szczepanek said, "With staff departures and others on the team wanting to move forward with new projects, we felt a celebratory 10th and final season would be the best option for us. And with the company dissolving on our terms, BPBCo. gets to end its fantastic run on a high note, featuring a world premiere play from one of our founders and a celebratory cabaret highlighting 10 years of stories and song."

Brown Paper Box Co.'s 10th season begins with *Prodigy: A Modern Family Portrait*, by Managing Director and company co-founder Anna Schutz and featuring Artistic Director Kristi Szczepanek. This world-premiere play will run July 23-Aug. 23 at the Athenaeum Theatre's Studio Two.

And in October, BPBCo. concludes its run with "One Last Time: A Celebratory Cabaret," a two-night cabaret event at Stage 773. Hosted by Marketing Director and company co-founder M. William Panek, "One Last Time" comes to Lake View on Oct. 9-10 to celebrate 10 years of dedication, talent, heart, and music.

Additional information including cast, staff, designer and on-sale date announcements can be found by visiting [BrownPaperBox.org](http://BrownPaperBox.org).

## 'Teenage Dick' to now run through May 17

Chicago's Theater Wit announced another two-week extension of its current, critically acclaimed virtual production of *Teenage Dick*. It now runs through Sunday, May 17.

Wit has sold more than 1,000 remote view tickets since launching its virtual run in mid-March and, with capacity capped at 98 viewers per stream, several of Wit's online performances have played to sold-out houses. Moreover, over half of the ticket buyers to date have resided outside Illinois, with audiences logging in from as far as Canada, Japan, the United Kingdom and Pakistan.

Tickets for shows Thursday through Sunday start at \$25; for tickets and information, visit [TheaterWit.org](http://TheaterWit.org) or call 773-975-8150.

# VIRTUAL VIBES

Support your favorite LGBTQ bar events online.

Physical distancing, social togetherness.



## Virtual Music Monday- Show Tunes Trivia

Join **Sidetrack** Monday, May 18, at 8 p.m., for a Sidetrack Show Tunes Trivia experience with your Facilitator of Fun, Stew of Stewpendous Productions.

Click "Going," and on Sunday, May 17, a Zoom link will be distributed to use for log-in. Bring your knowledge of show tunes and Sidetrack specialty videos. Connect with your best Judy and make a virtual team or go solo. No fee to join/play!

<https://bit.ly/ShowTunesTrivia>



## RAM Party Quarankiki Edition!

Show off your favorite gear with **Hydrate** and **Daddy Ersin** on Saturday, May 23, starting at 8:30 p.m.

Beats by Tom Stephan, Alex Ramos and Seth Breezy.

Get ready for a party with men in gear, stud dancers, pups, leathermen, circuit boys, daddies, bears and bearded boys. Oh my!

The links to join and to donate are at <https://hydratechicago.com/>



## Name That Tune w/ Moose the DJ

Put on your listening ears and be the first to "Name That Tune," every Monday at 6 p.m.

Topics vary weekly, so stay tuned for your favorite genre.

Game takes place on the Twitch platform.

<https://www.twitch.tv/moosethedjontwitch>

Follow [www.facebook.com/moosethedjpro/](https://www.facebook.com/moosethedjpro/)



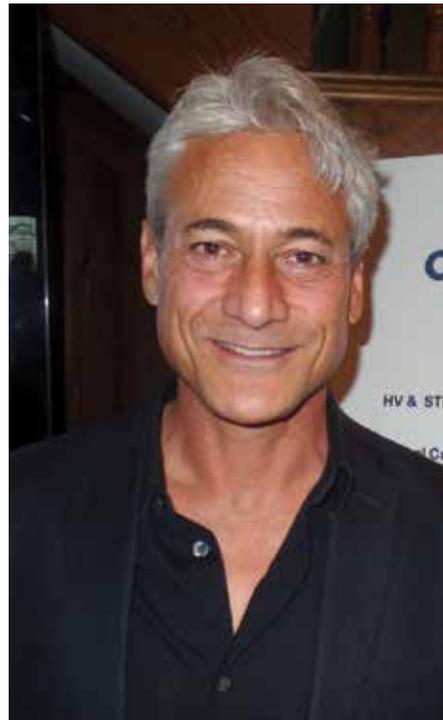
## BILLY Masters

"Billy, you are a new find of mine. I'm now your biggest fan."—**Paul Shaffer**—yes, THAT Paul Shaffer—after showing up to surprise my guest, the legendary **Darlene Love**. Yet another typical episode of "Billy Masters LIVE!"

I'm not quite sure what I believe in—God, Karma, Buddha, Barbra. But occasionally, things happen that make even the most skeptical person believe in a higher power. I recently heard that televangelist (and all-around sleazebag) **Jim Bakker** was selling something he called "Silver Solution"—a small vial of liquid that he claimed would cure you of the coronavirus. I was shocked. I'm not sure why—surely this isn't much of a leap from someone who promised salvation in return for your credit-card number! The New York state attorney general ordered him to stop advertising the product. Then lawsuits were filed against him. And you know what happened to Jimbo this past weekend? He had a massive stroke. You know what might help? "Silver Solution!"

There's one thing we know for sure—all the money in the world can't help when you're being dragged offstage with your neck in the mouth of a tiger. That was my thought when we heard of **Roy Horn's** death. On April 28, it was reported that Roy tested positive for the coronavirus. In a statement over the weekend, partner **Siegfried Fischbacher** said, "Today, the world lost one of the greats of magic, but I have lost my best friend."

In a kinda-related story, it was just announced that **Nicolas Cage** will play Joe Exotic in a limited series based on **Tiger King**. Apparently, many actors were vying for the role, including **Dax Shepard** and **Edward Norton**. And just think—they settled for Nicolas Cage! Those other actors may get a chance to play the role anyway. We



**Greg Louganis still hasn't gotten the chance to dance, Billy says.**

Photo by Carrie Maxwell

hear that **Kate McKinnon** will produce and star in a miniseries of her own based on the feline enthusiast.

I hate to be so dark with all these tragic stories, but this one grabbed my attention because it's so absurd. Obviously people are often killed after being run over by a car. But, this is the first time I've heard of someone dying after being run over by a plane! When a Southwest Airlines flight landed in Austin, it ran over a man without any sort of airport clearance or ID who was wandering around on the runway. I'm sure more details will follow.

This is the time of year when TV networks announce their upcoming season. One show that didn't make the cut was **Fun**, a comedy pilot ordered by CBS which would have reunited **Ugly Betty** co-stars **Becki Newton** and **Michael Urie**. Apparently the network didn't find it all that fun. CBS also cancelled **Broke**, **Man with a Plan**, **Tommy** and **Carol's Second Act**. But they did pick up a remake of **The Equalizer**, starring **Queen Latifah**.

You know what hasn't been cancelled? "**Billy Masters LIVE!**" As you saw in the opening quote, **Paul Shaffer** (from **The Late Show with David Letterman**) stopped by to surprise my special guest, **Darlene Love**. If you had told me I'd have either of these people on my show, I never would have believed you. We were also joined by beloved songwriter, **Marc Shaiman**. That show had a whole lotta musical folks surrounding a whole lotta love. With a good helping of gossip—'cause that's what we do! Check out our YouTube channel at **Billy Masters TV**.

On another show, I was joined by journalist **Sue O'Connell** to chat with legendary diver **Greg Louganis**. I surprised him with fellow Olympic diver **Kent Ferguson**. That show had a whole lotta abs! Didya know Greg Louganis has been DYING to be on **Dancing with the Stars**? And yet they've passed on him—even for the season devoted to athletes! And yet, "DWTS" has found room for such luminaries as **Jerry Springer**, **Buzz Aldrin** and **Master P**. We also unearthed the audition video Greg and Kent made for **The Amazing Race**—another show they haven't appeared on. But they both appeared with me—as you can see on **BillyMasters.com/TV**.

And like me, many people have come up with inventive ways to keep people entertained. I was tickled when I read that a restaurant in Michigan City, Indiana, hired drag queens to deliver food for curbside pickup. **Fiddlehead Restaurant** calls it "Dragside Pickup"! Before anyone accuses them of cultural appropriation (a term I find revolting), **Fiddlehead** is an LGBTQ-owned establishment.

Our "Ask Billy" question comes from Terry in Chicago: "Did you see those photos of **Lil Nas X** in

his hot tub?"

I must confess I didn't know anything about **Lil Nas X's** hot-tub photos until you mentioned them. Were they steamy? Sure, in that hot tub way. But they weren't as hot as the full-frontal nudes we have on **BillyMasters.com**.

When I have to worry about the coronavirus and tigers, it's time for me to end yet another column. And didn't I hear that someone allegedly caught it from a tiger? You don't think ... do you? While I look into this, you should check out **BillyMasters.com**—the site where you can read gossip and watch some great original programming. If you have a question, send it along to **Billy@BillyMasters.com**, and I promise to get back to you before **Lil Nas** posts photos of himself in a hot tub ... with a tiger! Until next time, remember: One man's filth is another man's bible.

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## When you're here, you're family ... 2Bears Tavern Group prepares community meals



Twice weekly on Tuesdays and Fridays, the staff of 2Bears Tavern Group distributes community meals at Meeting House Tavern, 5025 N. Clark St., 2-6 p.m. The effort began immediately after the order to close the bars as a lifeline to the staffs of Meeting House Tavern, The SoFo Tap and Jackhammer. Soon, the owners reached out to include other LGBTQ hospitality staff and, from there, anyone in need was able

to take advantage of the effort.

About 80 meals (consisting of a hot meal and a "snack bag") are served each day. By May 1, they had served their 1,000th meal to the community.

Joseph Stevens Photography

## the DISH

Dining Guide in  
WINDY CITY TIMES

### SAVOR Culinary spots to consider for delivery/pickup (part II)

BY ANDREW DAVIS

As with practically all businesses at this time, restaurants are fighting to survive—and have had to adapt by, among other things, getting creative with curbside/delivery offerings since dine-in service is currently shuttled. This list continues what was in the April 29 issue, covering a variety of cuisines and locations:

—**Brass Heart:** The Uptown restaurant is offering virtual group dining starting Friday, May 15. There will be a four-course tasting menu (with items such as potato gnocchi, pan-roasted monkfish, duck breast and white chocolate blondie)—and a meet-and-greet with Chef Matt Kerney via Zoom. The cost will be \$85/person (and groups of eight or more are encouraged); email [brassheartchicago@gmail.com](mailto:brassheartchicago@gmail.com) or call 773-564-9680 to place orders.

—**Brasserie Jo:** Working out of the Osteria Via Stato space in River North, French spot Brasserie Jo has returned after being closed for a decade, The Chicago Tribune reported. Through Saturday, May 23, there will be collection of favorites (carrots a la Jo, green asparagus soup, shrimp bag 2020 a la B. Jo, chocolate mousse and a French baguette) for \$27.95/person (pre-paid pickup for parties of two to four people). Dinners can be ordered, via Tock; orders must be placed by 1 p.m. the day of pickup.



—**Demera Ethiopian restaurant:** Listed under GrubHub, Demera has an enticing selection of African dishes, including kayseer salata (beet salad), ye-beg wot (spicy stewed lamb), beef sambussa (which requires people to be 21 to order) and even Ethiopian-style tiramisu.

—**The Purple Pig:** Chef Jimmy Bannos Jr.'s Michigan Avenue spot has the Greek Feast for delivery (on Tock) and pickup. The feast consists of roasted Greek chicken, Greek lasagna, Greek salad with gigantic beans, and baklava. Prepaid delivery for parties of one through 20 is required.

—**TAO Chicago:** Items at this esteemed River North spot are available for curbside pickup and delivery (via Grubhub, Uber Eats, DoorDash or Postmates) Wednesdays through Sundays at 4-9 p.m. Available items include Chilean sea bass satay, lobster wontons, triple pork-fried rice, Shanghai fried rice, filet mignon pepper steak and the ever-popular giant fortune cookie, among

Left: The Mott Street Burger. Below: TAO Chicago's giant fortune cookie.  
Left photo by Andrew Davis. Below: PR photo.



other things. (BTW, guests who call TAO at 224-888-0383 for pickup will receive a 10-percent discount.)

—**Chicago Waffles:** Of course, people don't just order dinner. Chicago Waffles (which has two Loop locations) has a nice selection of offerings, such as red-velvet waffle, the Steak Skillet Breakfast, the Beny Breakfast (with two poached eggs and hollandaise sauce, along with potatoes and fruit), biscuits and gravy, and much more.

—**Blind Faith Cafe:** Available on Caviar, DoorDash, Seamless and Grubhub, this Evanston spot serves vegetarian and vegan fare as well as baked goods. Items include spicy fried Brussels sprouts, warm onion Gruyere tart, flautas, quinoa salad bowl, Thai peanut noodles and barbecue seitan sandwich.

—**Victory Italian:** This River North restaurant is famed for its sizable meatballs, but it has so much more. Try the Elmwood Park pizza (10-inch pizza with red sauce, mozzarella, Italian sausage,

Italian beef and hot giardiniera); fried calamari; brick chicken; eggplant stack; or agnolotti pasta stuffed with ricotta, parmesan and bacon in a sage butter sauce—the 2018 People's Choice Bacon Fest Winner.

—**Lark Chicago:** This Boystown restaurant has its wide variety of comfort items available for pickup and delivery. Choose items such as chipotle lime chicken sandwich, pesto arancini, the Lark Smash Burger, the cheeseburger pizza, pulled pork mac 'n cheese and the Ghiradelli chocolate-chip cookies.

—**Mott Street Chicago:** The spot (at 1401 N. Ashland Ave.) that some consider to have the best burger in Chicago is open for pickup/delivery Thursdays through Sundays at noon-9 p.m. Yes, the Mott Burger is still here (with or without egg)—but there are also selections such as kimchi udon, crispy wings, Thai-style "papaya salad," grilled cauliflower, five-spice ribs and the bi bim bop rice bowl.

## COX from page 17

made the lead characters female since he finds female characters easier to write for and about.

"I've been so much more inspired by women," Cox said. "That goes with my identity, I guess. I've been surrounded by women my whole life. I've come to understand them and they've come to understand me."

He got additional aesthetic inspiration from the 1983 French drama *A Nos Amours*, he said, further leading him to set *Summer of Mesa* in 1985, a time when characters would not be utilizing technology as shortcuts to communication.

"I hate watching something and suddenly a text message just pops up on the screen," Cox explained. "For my next film, I'd like to set it in the 1960s. I don't think I could ever make anything set in the present day."

Getting *Summer of Mesa* distributed was a long and difficult road, he recalled.

"This has been a tremendous learning experience, not having anybody around me who knows the right thing to do," Cox said. He researched numerous distributors who had handled films that were similar to *Summer of Mesa*, but was met only with "lots of waiting," he added. "And then, COVID happened."

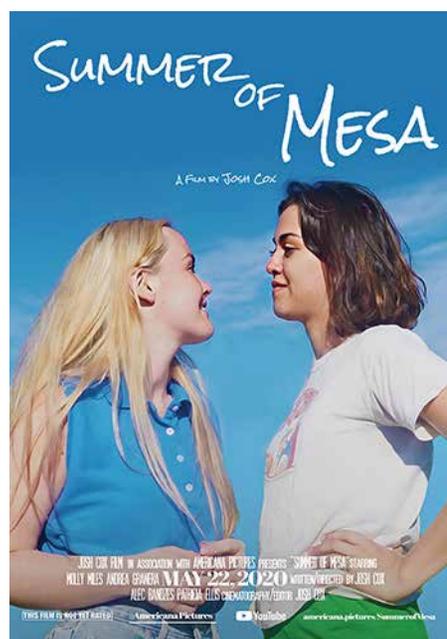
Ultimately, since at least Cox's outlay of cash was minimal by feature standards, he put the film on YouTube, where the film stands a good chance of being seen by audiences.

"Six months ago, I never thought I would do that," he said. "Now, I'm really happy with that decision."

Cox is currently sheltering in place in Massachusetts, trying to determine his next steps, be they returning to school or trying to launch a new film project resulting from a more "conventional path."

No matter which direction he goes, Cox said, "I definitely want to continue exploring [both] queer narratives and what the faces of queer characters look like."

*Summer of Mesa* debuts on YouTube on Friday, May 22. See <https://www.youtube.com/JoshCox-Film>.



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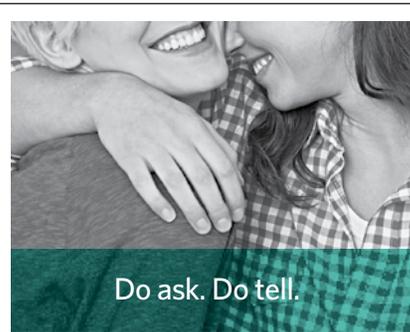
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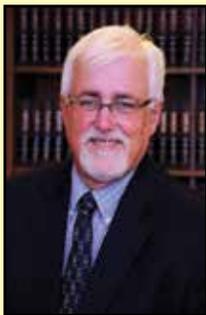
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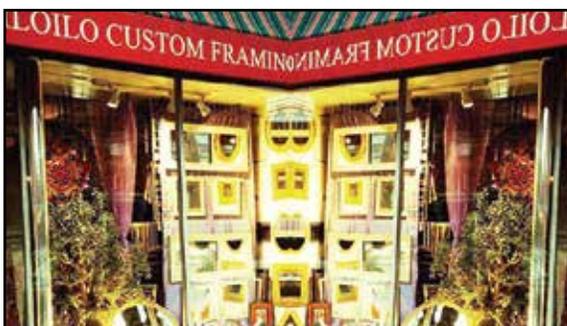


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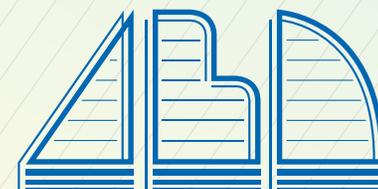


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