

# Between THE Lines

Vol.1836 FREE

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SEPT. 9, 2010



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Musician talks equality, new music and exhibitionism

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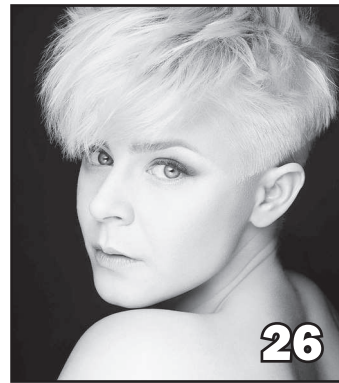
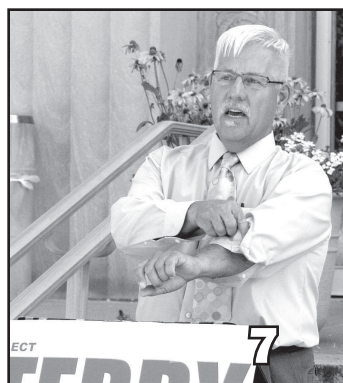
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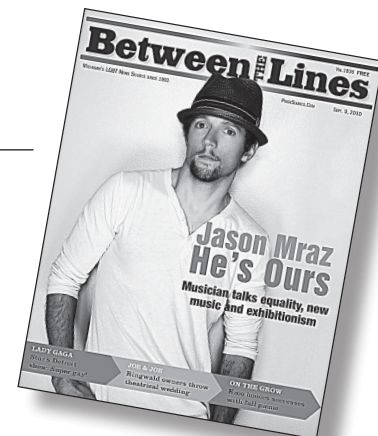
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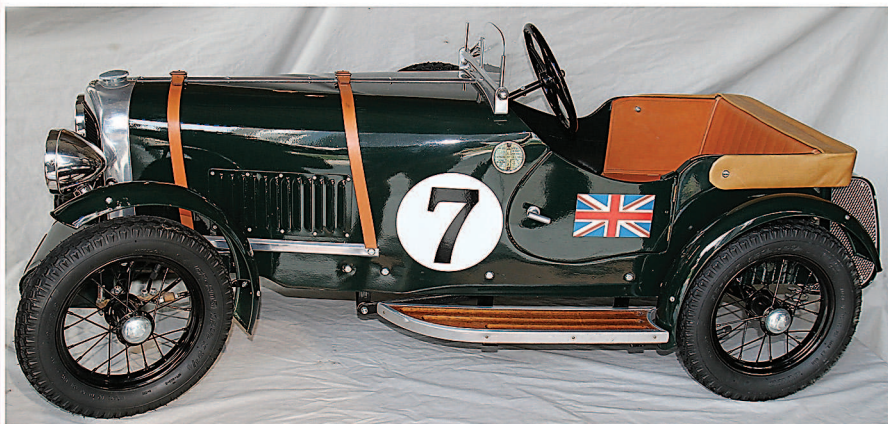
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**Shawn Brier** is the founder and executive director of the Kalamazoo GLBT Professionals Network. Over the past year, the 34-year-old Kalamazoo resident and Navy veteran has been juggling developing the new organization, studying law at the Thomas M. Cooley Law School and preparing for his June 2011 wedding to his fiancé.

**1 Why did you decide to begin the Kalamazoo GLBT Professionals Network?**

Back in the fall of 2009 when the Kalamazoo Alliance for Equality and the One Kalamazoo campaign were working on Kalamazoo's non-discrimination ordinance, we were shocked by how little we knew about the GLBT and allied professional community. We knew that there must be thousands of GLBTA professionals in the greater Kalamazoo area, but we had no idea who they were, nor how to reach them. This brought the need for a professional networking organization to the forefront as a way for all of us to get to know each other.



**One of my pet projects that will hopefully see fruition next year will be an GLBTA-centered career fair here in Kalamazoo.**

these things help to encourage people to live, work, play and worship right here.

Last fall, this city showed itself to be open and welcoming to all people, regardless of sexual orientation and gender identity. People should and do feel safe here. There are many employment opportunities, safe neighborhoods, a "cool" city to play in and a youthful energy that is renewed every fall with the return of college students. This network will help all of its members take the fullest advantage of all of these great things.

**2 How has the group developed in the past year?**

Our first mixer, held in October 2009, had about 20 people in attendance. At that time, I was trying to figure out if there was a desire in the community for this sort of professional networking organization. I established a Facebook page and invited people to join and to ask them to invite their friends. The page very quickly grew to over 100 members!

Since that first mixer, we've had other mixers about every other month and have done a few joint events with the Kalamazoo Gay and Lesbian Resource Center. We now have a board of directors that includes five people: myself; Bill Jefferson as the president; Terry Storey and his partner Bruce Trevino are co-directors of publications; and Angel Matthews as the director of the Women's League of the Professionals Network, which is dedicated to women's interests.

Initially, the network started as an independent organization. Seeing an opportunity to show greater cooperation and solidarity in the community, we recently decided to partner with the KGLRC and now enjoy a status as a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization.

**3 What are you hoping to provide to Kalamazoo GLBT and allied professionals?**

There are layers and layers of benefits to having the network. Students benefit by identifying potential employers and meeting great people in the Kalamazoo community. Businesspeople gain the opportunity to expand their businesses to new clients. The GLBTA community benefits by learning who these businesspeople are, what they do, and therefore can encourage supporting like-minded people who support us and avoid those businesses that don't. The greater Kalamazoo area benefits because all of

**4 How is your group similar to GLBT professional groups in southeast or mid-Michigan?**

Fundamentally, I think most of these groups are the same. We want to expand the opportunities available to GLBTA professionals. We're homegrown in Kalamazoo and operated by people who are from Kalamazoo and know this area. Our interest is to support this community. Likewise, I expect that the other professional groups do the same for their communities.

One of my goals over the next year is to seek out a coalition with other regional professional organizations. The opportunities for networking can only improve as we grow the network. I'm sure there's plenty that we can learn from each other, like streamlining many of our processes and learning from each other's successes and failures.

**5 What events does the network have coming up?**

We host our monthly mixers on the first Thursday of every month. We're joining forces with many of the other community programs to put on the Fall Welcome Picnic on Sept. 11. The next Women's League Mixer is planned for Oct. 10. Additionally, I'm looking at an educational event regarding same-sex marriage some time soon, depending on resources.

One of my pet projects that will hopefully see fruition next year will be an GLBTA-centered career fair here in Kalamazoo. I think that will be a fantastic opportunity for the city to help attract great talent to the area, for members of the community to find employment and for employers to hire fantastic employees.

Check the Kalamazoo GLBT Professionals Network website, [www.kzooglb.com](http://www.kzooglb.com), for information about upcoming mixers.



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*Island Park*

**DETROIT**

Saturday, September 25  
*Palmer Park*

**FLINT**

Saturday, October 2  
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## Affirmations to hire interim CEO, begin search for permanent replacement

The Affirmations board of directors announced Sept. 2 that they were reviewing options to hire an interim CEO to replace current CEO Leslie Thompson, who announced her resignation last month. Though originally planning to exit the center by January 2011, the center announced that Thompson would be taking an indefinite medical leave, effective immediately, due to health concerns.



Leslie Thompson on medical leave

“We want to be proactive in searching for and identifying the next stage of leadership at Affirmations,” said Mary Rose MacMillan, president of the Ferndale LGBT community center’s board of directors. “While also difficult, leadership transition can be a window of opportunity as the organization looks to its future. We want to ensure the organization stays strong through this transition.”

The board is also in the preliminary stages of putting together a search committee that will select the next permanent CEO.

Current CEO Leslie Thompson has served the organization for nearly 11 years. A gathering celebrating her tenure at the center is planned for Oct. 17 at Affirmations.

Current Chief Administrative Officer Kathleen LaTosch has been appointed acting CEO by Affirmations’ board of directors until an interim CEO is identified.

## Kick to hold two focus groups

Kick, the Detroit-based agency for LGBT African Americans, has announced two focus groups to be held this month, and is looking for community involvement. The focus groups will be held from 6-7:30 p.m. Sept. 9 and 16 at the office of DEXDesign, located at 41 Burroughs, Suite 110, in Detroit’s Tech Town. Refreshments will be served.

The purpose of the focus groups is to evaluate Kick’s current services, and to determine what else the nonprofit organization should offer. Each group will be comprised of 5-7 people, and RSVPs are required to attend.

To secure a spot in either focus group, contact Tony at 313-285-9733. To learn more about Kick, visit [www.e-kick.org](http://www.e-kick.org).

# Kalamazoo LGBTs celebrate growth, collaborative spirit

## KGLRC and others prepare for fall picnic, reflect on explosive year

BY JESSICA CARRERAS

Kalamazoo Gay/Lesbian Resource Center Executive Director Dave Garcia has been on vacation. And it was deserved, too, as the West Michigan LGBT community leader celebrated his one-year anniversary Sept. 1 – a year filled with hundreds of thousands of dollars in grants, over 250 new donors, a Pride festival that brought in over 5,000 visitors, the win of the city-wide non-discrimination ordinance and the expansion of the center’s board of directors, programming, office space and staff.

The successes and growth of the West Michigan community will be celebrated Sept. 11 with the second annual LGBTQA Fall Welcome Picnic, held at the building KGLRC shares with Community AIDS Resource and Education Services.

For the KGLRC, says Garcia, there’s been continuous cause for celebration.

“I don’t have much time to reflect on the past year, but I certainly am happy with the expansion of the organization,” he says. “I think what makes me proudest is seeing the amount of community support. The picnic’s coming up, and I know it’s going to be huge. Everyone’s talking about it. People are calling left and right with their own ideas, and willing to serve on the committee to see that those things happen. The Pride celebration was amazing, and to see it continue to grow and expand was awesome. ‘I’ve been tired, but excited.’”

The community support has been overwhelming adds CARES Prevention Specialist Jan de la Torre, who is helping to organize this year’s picnic. “We’ve been working together and we need to continue together,” he explains. “I think this picnic is just going to highlight that and maintain a high level of engagement for the community – not just the gay community, but the community at large.”

Being seen as an integral part of the community at large is a concern Kalamazoo’s LGBT people are all too familiar with. From their ordinance battle last year to acceptance in West Michigan’s large faith community and convincing local business owners to support LGBT equality, the constant struggle has been to prove the gay community’s worth. Several committees under the umbrella of the KGLRC are tackling that in small bites, including the Public Policy Committee, the Business Bureau and the Faith Alliance.

The latter, says Garcia, is particularly important in West Michigan, where the faith community is often behind anti-gay efforts. But just as many congregations, he adds, are on their side. “It’s always been one of my greatest frustrations that when you say ‘gay,’ people assume that all churches and religions are against us,” Garcia insists. “That’s just not the case. We have as many churches on our side as they do and many of those churches and denominations are represented on our Faith Alliance.”



Over 150 people attended last fall’s annual picnic. This year, LGBT leaders hope to see more participation from the community. Photos courtesy of CARES.

Equally important to working with the community at large, says de la Torre, is working together within the LGBT community – a skill of West Michigan gays exhibited in their upcoming picnic.

The event is a collaboration between CARES, the KGLRC and a slew of other groups: a CARES program (similar to MPowerment Detroit) called Project(!); the Kalamazoo Alliance for Equality; the Kalamazoo GLBT Professionals Network; the Western Michigan University Office of Lesbian, Bisexual, Gay and Transgender Student Services; Phoenix Community Church and Fire Historical and Cultural Arts Collaborative. The event will feature resource tables, an open house for visitors to tour the center (including the new youth drop-in space), food, games and live performances by local singer-songwriters Casey Grooten and Dana Scott.

“One part of the picnic is all about welcoming the students, because we have such a large student population here in Kalamazoo, but also welcoming the season,” de la Torre shares. “It’s one way for the gay community to just refresh and get together and celebrate LGBT lives and successes for the year.”

And the successes still to come, says Garcia, who revealed plans in the works to continue the KGLRC’s growth.

In the past year, on top of a successful campaign that raised \$50,000, the resource center has received several grants, which will allow it to expand its services drastically. The Kalamazoo Community Foundation has provided \$30,000 for the center to begin an LGBT youth mentoring program. The Gillmore Foundation – also Kalamazoo-based – granted another \$30,000

### LGBTQA Fall Welcome Picnic

1-6 p.m. Sept. 11

Kalamazoo Gay/Lesbian Resource Center,  
629 Pioneer, Kalamazoo

[www.kglrc.org](http://www.kglrc.org)

to help with operational costs. And the Arcus Foundation awarded the KGLRC a two-year \$180,000 grant, all of which has allowed Garcia to hire a part-time director of programming – an important job, considering that, too, is growing.

In addition to the annual Pride festival and Fall Picnic, the KGLRC will be hosting its first black-tie Pride Banquet in December, which will award local LGBT leaders for their work in the community. The upscale evening will also include the naming of the first benefactor of the LGBT Scholarship Fund, created in honor of late gay activist and Kalamazoo City Commissioner Terry Kuseske, who passed away Sept. 2.

The KGLRC’s successes, Garcia and de la Torre agree, mirror the growth and strengthening of Kalamazoo’s entire LGBT community. With an effective non-discrimination ordinance in place, the backing of city government and a fair share of religious, educational and community leaders and a collaborative spirit, there is nowhere to go but up.

“In Kalamazoo, we are a small community, but we are a strong community,” de la Torre sums up. “We work with each other, we play off of each other’s strengths, we enhance each other. If we didn’t work this way, if we didn’t have such a great collaborative spirit in town, I don’t think any of the advances made by gay and lesbian people in Kalamazoo would be possible.”

# Gay activist Terry Kuseske dies

## Kalamazoo city commissioner leaves legacy of activism, passion for LGBT rights

BY JESSICA CARRERAS

**KALAMAZOO** – Longtime educator, Kalamazoo City Commissioner and LGBT rights advocate Terry Kuseske passed away the afternoon of Sept. 2 after a nine-month battle with pancreatic cancer. He was 61.

“Kalamazoo has lost a great champion for equality and drum major for justice,” wrote Rev. Matt Laney, chair of the Kalamazoo Gay Lesbian Resource Center’s Faith Alliance. Laney had also worked alongside Kuseske with pro-gay rights group One Kalamazoo in the fight to pass the city’s non-discrimination ordinance in 2009 – a battle that they won with 63 percent of the popular vote.

“Terry will be fondly remembered as a caring teacher and a dedicated public servant,” Laney continued. “His ability to connect with people, frame important issues in a reasoned and patient manner and work tirelessly behind the scenes made him an ideal community leader.”

Kuseske gave his life to public service in many arenas. He held a long career as a social studies teacher in the Dogwiac Union School District. He served in many community roles, including as a Cass County commissioner and, when he moved to Kalamazoo, as chair of the Kalamazoo Planning Commission and as a member of the public safety/citizen liaison board.

Throughout all his work, Kuseske fought for LGBT rights. He served on the board of directors for Michigan Equality and, recently, the newly formed Equality Michigan. He was also a founding member of the Kalamazoo Alliance for Equality.

In 2009, his activism work culminated with Kuseske being elected as Kalamazoo’s first openly gay city councilman in the same election where the city-wide ordinance was voted into law.

“I am so proud of our city right now,” Kuseske told *Between The Lines* after his Nov. 3 win. “We have an ordinance, and the city has elected an openly gay male to the city commission. This takes Kalamazoo to a whole new level.”

It was a high point for Kuseske, who was sworn into office the following Monday.

However, his time on the city commission was short-lived, as he was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and underwent surgery March 19, followed by chemotherapy and radiation treatments.

Kuseske’s last weeks, spent at Rose Arbor Hospice Care, were adorned with many visits from friends, family and fellow community leaders, including Rev. Laney and KGLRC Executive Director David Garcia.

“In my visit with Terry a week ago his faith was strong and he spoke with gratitude for both the joys and challenges



of life,” Laney said. “It is said that our life is a gift of God and what we do with that life is our gift in return. On that score Terry gave heartily.”

Garcia came with great news: The Resource Center would be creating a scholarship fund for LGBT youth in Kuseske’s honor, and the Arcus Foundation had already pledged \$25,000 to the effort.

The first scholarship, Garcia said, will be bestowed upon a West Michigan graduating high school senior at the KGLRC’s first annual black-tie gala and awards banquet this winter. The center’s Excellence in Education award will also be given to an outstanding community member in Kuseske’s honor at that ceremony.

Through discussion and posts on Kuseske’s Facebook page, the LGBT community collectively mourned the city commissioner’s passing.

“(Terry Kuseske) personally touched the lives of thousands, and the entire state, indirectly, through his unwavering passion for LGBT rights,” Equality Michigan said in a statement. “Many of us knew him, many more of us knew of him. While we

### Scholarship Fund

Contributions to the Terry Kuseske LGBT Youth Scholarship Fund can be made to:  
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will miss Terry terribly, he lived a rich life and we are so grateful for the difference he made. He set the bar high, and in his honor, Equality Michigan will continue the journey to equal rights with the same dignity and respect that was characteristic of Terry Kuseske.”

Visitation for Terry Kuseske will be held from 5-6 p.m. Sept. 9 at Unity Church, located at 1204 Whites Road in Kalamazoo. It will be followed by a memorial service at 6:30 p.m.

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## Serving the under-served

### Operation: Kid Equip founder steps in as JGN board president

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

Michael Menachem Kniespeck is well known for his charitable community activity. As the founder of Operation: Kid Equip, he helps ensure that thousands of less fortunate children receive backpacks full of school supplies each year.



Michael Kniespeck

The 36-year-old is the chief financial officer for Kids for Kicking Cancer, and also a consultant specializing in helping others develop nonprofits that address the under-served or overlooked needs through the delivery of humanitarian aid and service.

Now, he is bringing his 20 years of community service experience to the board of the Jewish Gay Network of Michigan, an organiza-

tion he says “provides a safe space within the Jewish community for GLBT Jews, parents, siblings, friends, fellow congregants and allies to come together for educational programs, monthly socials and the JGN Family and Friends Group.”

JGN also presents programs at local Jewish schools about sexuality awareness and bullying. “In the near future,” Kniespeck added, “JGN will also be hosting a series of seminars for elderly LGBT lesbians that will address some of the key concerns for this small, but often overlooked, group within our community.”

In Kniespeck’s one-year term as board president, he hopes to raise awareness about the resources available through JGN – not just to Jewish Gay people, but to everyone. “All of the programs and services have been carefully developed to help anyone who walks through the door,” he explained. “I want to show that anyone with a heart and mind can step forward. It doesn’t matter who you are, what you believe in, or who you happen to sleep with at night. JGN is open and embraces everyone who joins in our mission and vision.”

Kniespeck is no stranger to the struggles and harassment that are often experienced by people of marginalized persuasions. In the 1970s, he had a cousin who was shot to death near a gay bar in Detroit, and it is in honor of his cousin’s memory that he has taken on his role within JGN.

Kniespeck was also physically and emotionally abused as a child under the suspicion that he might be gay. “No matter if someone is gay, or is perceived as gay, these are not struggles from a different time period,” he said. “They still happen today, especially within some of the tighter ethnic and religious groups within our communities.”

Rather than settling for the negativity he experienced, Kniespeck has taken on a new mission to get people to see LGBT issues as human issues, and the connections between violence and family. “Even in some parts of the Jewish community, these negative situations can be the springboard for positive work and change,” he said. “Many people don’t know we’re here to support them, and we are working to increase that awareness through programs and services.”

For more information on Jewish Gay Network, visit [www.jgnmi.org](http://www.jgnmi.org).

# A night of Wilde surprises

## Theater critic Don Calamia honored with Spirit of Detroit award

BY JESSICA CARRERAS

The ninth annual Wilde Awards, held Sept. 1 at Detroit’s Gem Theatre, were full of surprises. Aside from the usual slew of astonished and appreciative awardees, there was an unexpected appearance made by usual co-host Jaime Moyer, who had relocated to Los Angeles, but made a special stop at the awards ceremony.

But even more shocked was Between The Lines Theater Editor and host of the Wilde Awards Don Calamia, who switched places from award-giver to award recipient when Detroit City Council President Charles Pugh presented him with the prestigious Spirit of Detroit award.

“For nearly 40 years, Don Calamia has been a champion of live theater,” Pugh said before presenting Calamia with the award. “His background encompasses directing, acting, producing, and he’s now the theater critic for Between The Lines and EncoreMichigan.com. Don, you are constantly promoting live theater as a source of cultural enhancement, artistic expression and fun for everybody here in greater Detroit.”

“I’m amazed that gay people could keep a secret,” Calamia joked of BTL Publishers Jan Stevenson and Susan Horowitz, who orchestrated the presentation of the award.

What couldn’t be kept a secret were the numerous quality theatrical performances from the 2009-2010 season, including the Performance Network Theatre’s production of “Little Shop of Horrors,” which won for Best Musical; Meadow Brook Theatre’s “Boeing-Boeing,” which won the award for Best Comedy; and the Performance Network Theatre’s “K2,” which took honors for Best Drama, Best Teamwork and Best Design - Lights.

There were the usual slew of Wilde Awards, this year highlighting such categories as “Best Performance by a Man – Stuffed,” “Quickest Shave Ever,” “Best Audience Reaction to Plumbing” and the “It’s So Groovy Award.” The latter, said Calamia of the Blackbird Theatre’s time-traveling version of “A Midsummer Night’s Dream,” took him back to his teenage years in the ‘60s and ‘70s.

A more somber trip back in time was provided by the Ann Arbor Civic Theatre, which dared to challenge audiences by presenting select scenes from “The Laramie Project,” along with a difficult discussion about the 1998 murder of gay Laramie, Wyo., teen Matthew Shepard. The production garnered the theater the Jim Posante Community Pride Award for standing up to what was promised to be an anti-gay protest against the controversial play by Westboro Baptist Church and its Rev. Fred Phelps.

“Thank God for the First Amendment, because the answer is not to silence the voice of hate. The answer is to courageously stand up for



Cassie Mann (left) and Suzi Peterson of the Ann Arbor Civic Theatre said of the theater, “We are absolutely committed to diversity.”

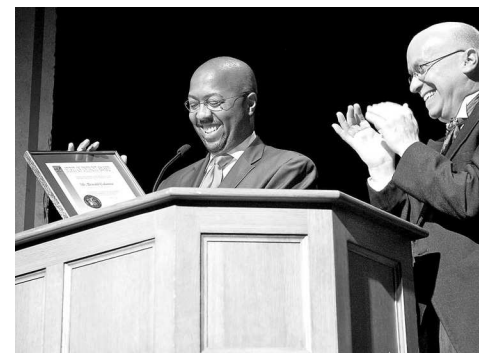
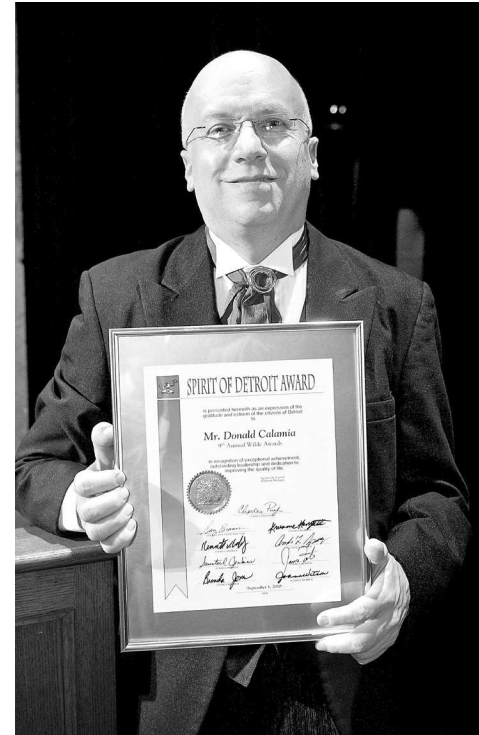
what we believe,” said Bar proprietor and local LGBT activist Keith Orr of the planned protest. “So what did this theater do? They ignored Mr. Phelps and went on with the show as planned. They created a community event, performing excerpts of ‘The Laramie Project’ with a lively discussion about the work and the planned protest. Counter-protests were planned, but they were for naught. The bigots failed to show.

“Martin and I have a long history with the Westboro Baptist Church and Mr. Phelps,” Orr continued. “Also with Jim Posante, and also with this theater, so it with special pleasure that for standing up for what they believe in and for not caving in to the possibility of negative publicity, we give the 2010 Jim Postante Community Pride Award to the Ann Arbor Civic Theatre.”

“We were very proud to present ‘The Laramie Project’ and we were very happy to have Keith and (co-owner) Martin (Contreras)’s help in putting it on and scheduling this event,” said Cassie Mann, who accepted the award on behalf of the theater. “We are absolutely committed at the Ann Arbor Civic Theatre to diversity and theater, no matter what it says, and we were very happy with the production.”

Several more special honors were given at this year’s Wilde Awards, including the Publisher’s Award for Excellence, presented to the Detroit Opera House for their Access Opera program, which provides people ages 35 and younger with the chance to attend opera performances for free.

“One of the things that’s most important for the vibrancy of the future of theater is to develop young audiences,” said BTL’s Stevenson upon presenting the award, “and to develop



BTL Theater Editor Don Calamia was honored at the Sept. 1 Wilde Awards with the Spirit of Detroit award, presented to him by Detroit City Council President Charles Pugh. BTL photos by Andrew Potter.

audiences that will not only come to the shows this year, but next year, and fall in love with theater and fall in love with the performing arts and come for their entire lives.”

Further helping that cause was the announcement of a planned expansion of theater website EncoreMichigan.com, which Stevenson said they hoped would provide “one solid place where anybody who’s interested in fine arts in the general area – whether its visual, performing, musical or otherwise – to be able to see what’s going on, who’s doing what with whom, where and when to get it and how to buy your ticket right there.”

Moreover, added Calamia, the community will see its first Free Night of Theater on Oct. 14, a national program coming to Michigan for the first time that invites new theater patrons to see performances.

“For some reason, Michigan’s never been a part of this,” Calamia commented. “But this year, that’s changing.”

As is the face of Michigan theater, including many differences that will provide cause for celebration.

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# The performance of a lifetime

## Ringwald Theatre owners Joe Plambeck and Joe Bailey dish about the biggest do-not-miss production of the season: their wedding

BY JESSICA CARRERAS

The biggest show of this theater season didn't win any Wilde Awards. It didn't make any money, and didn't get any rave reviews. Well, at least not from critics.

But leading up to the Sept. 4 "performance," Michigan's theater community was buzzing about the wedding of two of their ilk – comedy golden boys and Who Wants Cake? co-owners Joe Plambeck and Joe Bailey.

In true thespian style, the personal commitment turned into a full-on production, from Plambeck's on-stage proposal at last winter's WWC? production of "The SantaLand Diaries" to the themed double reception – '80s prom and club night – held at the Ringwald and Go Comedy! Theaters. The wedding day even promised attendees surprise guests, costumes and, of course, performances by some of metro Detroit's finest actors.

At the Sept. 1 Wilde Awards at Detroit's Gem Theatre – just 72 hours before their big day – the smitten duo known as Joe 1 and Joe 2 chatted with *Between The Lines* about their wedding video blog, how they met (a play about porn?) and why they weren't going to wait for Michigan to make their love legal.

### What was the idea behind your wedding video blog?

Joe Plambeck: For a long while now, I've had these dreams of doing some sort of viral marketing for one of our shows, and I always find myself not following through with the idea. And with the wedding, it just kind of hit me. I hadn't planned too far in advance, but maybe shortly before the month, I thought, It would be fun if I did blogging every day, for 30 days. I thought it'd be fun to do it and I thought it'd be fun to be able to look back on it.

And also to see if anyone would watch it. Oddly enough, there were people from my childhood who I see commenting on it, so it's kind of fun.

### Well it's really funny. I was watching it and people kept asking me, "What are you laughing at?"

J.P.: (Laughs) And you were like, "Some crazy queens!"

### It sounds like this is going to be more like a production than a wedding.

Joe Bailey: It really is, and people call it a show. They're like, "What time is the show – I mean, the wedding?" There are certainly elements – set design, lighting design.

### You should have sold tickets to it!

J.P.: (Laughs) I know! We were saying, "We'll just do one more weekend and charge for that one."

### I had lots of questions for you guys, but after watching the vlogs, many of them



Joe Plambeck (left) and Joe Bailey, co-owners of Who Wants Cake? Theatre, were married on Sept. 4 in a wedding that rivaled most theatrical performances of the season. BTL photo by Andrew Potter

### were answered. But I'm still curious to hear about how you met.

J.B.: I lived in Los Angeles and I auditioned for a show out there called "Ten Naked Men," which I got cast in and remained friendly with the producer and the playwright of that. So (the playwright) was trying to get me to go on the road and finally I agreed and went out to different cities and did these shows.

The first stop was Denver, and I met a fellow named Preston who was in the show. So when I retired from doing "Ten Naked Men," Preston said he had a roommate from college who could be a suitable replacement for me. That was Joe. We still had not met yet at this point, but Joe got cast.

Then they were going to do "Making Porn" (another work by the same playwright) in San Diego, so I went out there to be in it and Joe

came out to do the lights and that's how we met.

J.P.: We continued to tour for another six months – we would just go into a city, cast it, Joe would direct it, we'd do the set ourselves and essentially live in a city for one to two months together.

### How did you end up permanently here in Michigan?

J.B.: I'm from here originally and I was getting tired of living out of a suitcase. And Joe's from Wyoming, so...

### Close enough.

J.P.: (Laughs) Yeah, I wasn't terribly fond of Wyoming.

J.B.: I wanted to settle back here and asked him if he wanted to come with me.

J.P.: I basically invited myself.

**Well, it must've worked out, because now you're getting married! In the video blogs, you guys have hinted at some possible wedding theatrics. What can you reveal?**

J.P.: There may be some elements of dance, of song, of performance ... (laughs).

**That's it? You're keeping it pretty mysterious.**

J.B.: We're trying to keep it close to us. We want there to be surprises.

J.P.: But we have enlisted a couple handfuls of talented folks we know to participate in it – people that mean a lot to us – and we've asked them to handle certain aspects of the wedding.

**Are you going to orchestrate any awkward Joe-Joe moments, like with the vows?**

J.P.: It's possible. Maybe we should start, you know, writing those (laughs).

J.B.: Yeah...

**Uh-oh. So is everything pretty much ready to go, then?**

J.P.: Yes. There are a few design elements that just need a last-minute touch-up, and then we have our rehearsal dinner. Overall, what every bride who's already been there has expressed to me is not to sweat the small stuff. That is the important thing.

**That's good advice. But now that the wedding is only three days away, are you freaking out?**

J.B.: I'm not.

J.P.: He's not, but if you watch the vlogs, I certainly say that I am the bride in the relationship and I have to say I'm a little stressed. But more than anything, I guess I'm anxious.

**So anxious, you said in your videos, that you couldn't wait for same-sex marriage to be legal in Michigan.**

J.P.: When it really came down to it, it's not about the papers and the legality of it. It's really more about being able to get married in a place that's home, and Ferndale has certainly become a home to me and Joe over the past six years. To me, it's just important about the actual act of coming together as one and celebrating that. And it just got to the point where I didn't want to wait around anymore to see if and when it would happen here in Michigan.

*Want to see more Joe and Joe? Check out [www.whowantscaketheatre.com](http://www.whowantscaketheatre.com) for information about upcoming shows at the Ringwald Theatre.*

# On REYATAZ,

**INDICATION:** REYATAZ<sup>®</sup> (atazanavir sulfate) is a prescription medicine used in combination with other medicines to treat people who are infected with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). REYATAZ has been studied in a 48-week trial in patients who have taken anti-HIV medicines and a 96-week trial in patients who have never taken anti-HIV medicines.

**REYATAZ does not cure HIV or lower your chance of passing HIV to others.**

**IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION:**

**Do not take REYATAZ if you are taking the following medicines due to potential for serious, life-threatening side effects or death:** Versed<sup>®</sup> (midazolam) when taken by mouth, Halcion<sup>®</sup> (triazolam), ergot medicines (dihydroergotamine, ergonovine, ergotamine, and methylergonovine such as Cafergot<sup>®</sup>, Migranal<sup>®</sup>, D.H.E. 45<sup>®</sup>, ergotrate maleate, Methergine<sup>®</sup>, and others), Propulsid<sup>®</sup> (cisapride), or Orap<sup>®</sup> (pimozide).

**Do not take REYATAZ with the following medicines due to potential for serious side effects:** Camptosar<sup>®</sup> (irinotecan), Crixivan<sup>®</sup> (indinavir), Mevacor<sup>®</sup> (lovastatin), Zocor<sup>®</sup> (simvastatin), Uroxatral<sup>®</sup> (alfuzosin), or Revatio<sup>®</sup> (sildenafil).

**Do not take REYATAZ with the following medicines as they may lower the amount of REYATAZ in your blood, which may lead to increased HIV viral load and resistance to REYATAZ or other anti-HIV medicines:** rifampin (also known as Rimactane<sup>®</sup>, Rifadin<sup>®</sup>, Rifater<sup>®</sup>, or Rifamate<sup>®</sup>), St. John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum*)-containing products, or Viramune<sup>®</sup> (nevirapine).

Serevent Diskus<sup>®</sup> (salmeterol) and Advair<sup>®</sup> (salmeterol with fluticasone) are **not recommended with REYATAZ.**

**Do not take Vfend<sup>®</sup> (voriconazole) if you are taking REYATAZ and Norvir<sup>®</sup> (ritonavir).**

The above lists of medicines are not complete. **Taking REYATAZ with some other medicines may require your therapy to be monitored more closely or may require a change in dose or dose schedule of REYATAZ or the other medicine.** Discuss with your healthcare provider all prescription and non-prescription medicines, vitamin and herbal supplements, or other health preparations you are taking or plan to take.

Tell your healthcare provider if you are **pregnant, breast-feeding**, planning to become pregnant or breast-feed, or if you have **end-stage kidney disease** managed with hemodialysis or **severe liver dysfunction.**

Tell your healthcare provider right away if you have any side effects, symptoms, or conditions, including the following:

- **Mild rash** (redness and itching) without other symptoms sometimes occurs in patients taking REYATAZ, most often in the first few weeks after the medicine is started, and usually goes away within 2 weeks with no change in treatment.

- **Severe rash** has occurred in a small number of patients taking REYATAZ. This type of rash is associated with other symptoms that could be serious and potentially cause death. **If you develop a rash with any of the following symptoms, stop using REYATAZ and call your healthcare provider right away:**

- Shortness of breath
- General ill-feeling or “flu-like” symptoms
- Fever
- Muscle or joint aches
- Conjunctivitis (red or inflamed eyes, like “pink-eye”)
- Blisters
- Mouth sores
- Swelling of your face

- **Yellowing of the skin and/or eyes** may occur due to increases in bilirubin levels in the blood (bilirubin is made by the liver).

- **A change in the way your heart beats** may occur. You may feel dizzy or lightheaded. These could be symptoms of a heart problem.

- **Diabetes and high blood sugar** may occur in patients taking protease inhibitor medicines like REYATAZ. Some patients may need changes in their diabetes medicine.

- **If you have liver disease**, including hepatitis B or C, it may get worse when you take anti-HIV medicines like REYATAZ.

- **Kidney stones** have been reported in patients taking REYATAZ. Signs or symptoms of kidney stones include pain in your side, blood in your urine, and pain when you urinate.

- **Some patients with hemophilia** have increased bleeding problems with protease inhibitor medicines like REYATAZ.

- **Changes in body fat** have been seen in some patients taking anti-HIV medicines. The cause and long-term effects are not known at this time.

- **Gallbladder disorders** (including gallstones and gallbladder inflammation) have been reported in patients taking REYATAZ.

**Other common side effects** of REYATAZ taken with other anti-HIV medicines include: nausea; headache; stomach pain; vomiting; diarrhea; depression; fever; dizziness; trouble sleeping; numbness, tingling, or burning of hands or feet; and muscle pain.

You should take REYATAZ once daily with food (a meal or snack). Swallow the capsules whole; do not open the capsules. You should take REYATAZ and your other anti-HIV medicines exactly as instructed by your healthcare provider.

**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.**

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- ◆ Can help lower your viral load and raise your T-cell (CD4+ cell) count
- ◆ Has a low chance of diarrhea (shown in clinical trials)
  - REYATAZ in combination therapy had a 1%-3% rate of moderate-to-severe diarrhea in adults.
- ◆ Is taken once a day with a snack or meal

REYATAZ is one of several treatment options your doctor may consider.

**Do not take REYATAZ if you are allergic to REYATAZ or to any of its ingredients.**

**Ask your healthcare team about REYATAZ [www.REYATAZ.com](http://www.REYATAZ.com)**

REYATAZ does not cure HIV, and has not been shown to reduce the risk of passing HIV to others.



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(generic name = **atazanavir sulfate**)  
**Capsules**

**ALERT: Find out about medicines that should NOT be taken with REYATAZ.** Read the section "What important information should I know about taking REYATAZ with other medicines?"

Read the Patient Information that comes with REYATAZ before you start using it and each time you get a refill. There may be new information. This leaflet provides a summary about REYATAZ and does not include everything there is to know about your medicine. This information does not take the place of talking with your healthcare provider about your medical condition or treatment.

**What is REYATAZ?**

REYATAZ is a prescription medicine used with other anti-HIV medicines to treat people who are infected with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). HIV is the virus that causes acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS). REYATAZ is a type of anti-HIV medicine called a protease inhibitor. HIV infection destroys CD4+ (T) cells, which are important to the immune system. The immune system helps fight infection. After a large number of (T) cells are destroyed, AIDS develops. REYATAZ helps to block HIV protease, an enzyme that is needed for the HIV virus to multiply. REYATAZ may lower the amount of HIV in your blood, help your body keep its supply of CD4+ (T) cells, and reduce the risk of death and illness associated with HIV.

**Does REYATAZ cure HIV or AIDS?**

**REYATAZ does not cure HIV infection or AIDS.** At present there is no cure for HIV infection. People taking REYATAZ may still get opportunistic infections or other conditions that happen with HIV infection. Opportunistic infections are infections that develop because the immune system is weak. Some of these conditions are pneumonia, herpes virus infections, and *Mycobacterium avium* complex (MAC) infections. **It is very important that you see your healthcare provider regularly while taking REYATAZ.**

**REYATAZ does not lower your chance of passing HIV to other people through sexual contact, sharing needles, or being exposed to your blood.** For your health and the health of others, it is important to always practice safer sex by using a latex or polyurethane condom or other barrier to lower the chance of sexual contact with semen, vaginal secretions, or blood. Never use or share dirty needles.

**Who should not take REYATAZ?**

**Do not take REYATAZ if you:**

- **are taking certain medicines.** (See "What important information should I know about taking REYATAZ with other medicines?") Serious life-threatening side effects or death may happen. Before you take REYATAZ, tell your healthcare provider about all medicines you are taking or planning to take. These include other prescription and nonprescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements.
- **are allergic to REYATAZ or to any of its ingredients.** The active ingredient is atazanavir sulfate. See the end of this leaflet for a complete list of ingredients in REYATAZ. Tell your healthcare provider if you think you have had an allergic reaction to any of these ingredients.

**What should I tell my healthcare provider before I take REYATAZ?**

**Tell your healthcare provider:**

- **If you are pregnant or planning to become pregnant.** It is not known if REYATAZ can harm your unborn baby. Pregnant women have experienced serious side effects when taking REYATAZ with other HIV medicines called nucleoside analogues. You and your healthcare provider will need to decide if REYATAZ is right for you. If you use REYATAZ while you are pregnant, talk to your healthcare provider about the Antiretroviral Pregnancy Registry.
- **If you are breast-feeding.** You should not breast-feed if you are HIV-positive because of the chance of passing HIV to your baby. Also, it is not known if REYATAZ can pass into your breast milk and if it can harm your baby. If you are a woman who has or will have a baby, talk with your healthcare provider about the best way to feed your baby.
- **If you have liver problems or are infected with the hepatitis B or C virus.** See "What are the possible side effects of REYATAZ?"
- **If you have end stage kidney disease** managed with hemodialysis.
- **If you have diabetes.** See "What are the possible side effects of REYATAZ?"
- **If you have hemophilia.** See "What are the possible side effects of REYATAZ?"
- **About all the medicines you take** including prescription and nonprescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. Keep a list of your medicines with you to show your healthcare provider. For more information, see "What important information should I know about taking REYATAZ with other medicines?" and "Who should not take REYATAZ?" Some medicines can cause serious side effects if taken with REYATAZ.

**How should I take REYATAZ?**

- **Take REYATAZ once every day exactly as instructed by your healthcare provider.** Your healthcare provider will prescribe the amount of REYATAZ that is right for you.
  - For adults who have never taken anti-HIV medicines before, the dose is 300 mg once daily with 100 mg of NORVIR® (ritonavir) once daily taken with food. For adults who are unable to tolerate ritonavir, 400 mg (two 200-mg capsules) once daily (without NORVIR®) taken with food is recommended.
  - For adults who have taken anti-HIV medicines in the past, the usual dose is 300 mg plus 100 mg of NORVIR® (ritonavir) once daily taken with food.
- Your dose will depend on your liver function and on the other anti-HIV medicines that you are taking. REYATAZ is always used with other anti-HIV medicines. If you are taking REYATAZ with SUSTIVA® (efavirenz) or with VIREAD® (tenofovir disoproxil fumarate), you should also be taking NORVIR® (ritonavir).
- **Always take REYATAZ with food** (a meal or snack) to help it work better. Swallow the capsules whole. **Do not open the capsules.** Take REYATAZ at the same time each day.
- **If you are taking antacids or didanosine (VIDEX® or VIDEX® EC),** take REYATAZ 2 hours before or 1 hour after these medicines.
- **If you are taking medicines for indigestion, heartburn, or ulcers such as AXID® (nizatidine), PEPICID AC® (famotidine), TAGAMET® (cimetidine), ZANTAC® (ranitidine), AcipHex® (rabeprazole), NEXIUM® (esomeprazole), PREVACID® (lansoprazole), PRILOSEC® (omeprazole), or PROTONIX® (pantoprazole),** talk to your healthcare provider.
- **Do not change your dose or stop taking REYATAZ without first talking with your healthcare provider.** It is important to stay under a healthcare provider's care while taking REYATAZ.
- **When your supply of REYATAZ starts to run low,** get more from your healthcare provider or pharmacy. It is important not to run out of REYATAZ. The amount of HIV in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time.
- **If you miss a dose of REYATAZ,** take it as soon as possible and then take your next scheduled dose at its regular time. If, however, it is within 6 hours of your next dose, do not take the missed dose. Wait and take the next dose at the regular time. Do not double the next dose. **It is important that you do not miss any doses of REYATAZ or your other anti-HIV medicines.**
- **If you take more than the prescribed dose of REYATAZ,** call your healthcare provider or poison control center right away.

**Can children take REYATAZ?**

Dosing recommendations are available for children 6 years of age and older for REYATAZ Capsules. Dosing recommendations are not available for children from 3 months to less than 6 years of age. REYATAZ should not be used in babies under the age of 3 months.

**What are the possible side effects of REYATAZ?**

The following list of side effects is **not** complete. Report any new or continuing symptoms to your healthcare provider. If you have questions about side effects, ask your healthcare provider. Your healthcare provider may be able to help you manage these side effects.

**The following side effects have been reported with REYATAZ:**

- **mild rash** (redness and itching) without other symptoms sometimes occurs in patients taking REYATAZ, most often in the first few weeks after the medicine is started. Rashes usually go away within 2 weeks with no change in treatment. Tell your healthcare provider if rash occurs.
- **severe rash:** In a small number of patients, a rash can develop that is associated with other symptoms which could be serious and potentially cause death.
  - **If you develop a rash with any of the following symptoms stop using REYATAZ and call your healthcare provider right away:**
    - shortness of breath
    - general ill feeling or "flu-like" symptoms
    - fever
    - muscle or joint aches
    - conjunctivitis (red or inflamed eyes, like "pink eye")
    - blisters
    - mouth sores
    - swelling of your face
- **yellowing of the skin or eyes.** These effects may be due to increases in bilirubin levels in the blood (bilirubin is made by the liver). Call your healthcare provider if your skin or the white part of your eyes turn yellow. Although these effects may not be damaging to your liver, skin, or eyes, it is important to tell your healthcare provider promptly if they occur.

### REYATAZ® (atazanavir sulfate)

- **a change in the way your heart beats (heart rhythm change).** Call your healthcare provider right away if you get dizzy or lightheaded. These could be symptoms of a heart problem.
- **diabetes and high blood sugar (hyperglycemia)** sometimes happen in patients taking protease inhibitor medicines like REYATAZ. Some patients had diabetes before taking protease inhibitors while others did not. Some patients may need changes in their diabetes medicine.
- **if you have liver disease** including hepatitis B or C, your liver disease may get worse when you take anti-HIV medicines like REYATAZ.
- **kidney stones** have been reported in patients taking REYATAZ. If you develop signs or symptoms of kidney stones (pain in your side, blood in your urine, pain when you urinate) tell your healthcare provider promptly.
- **some patients with hemophilia** have increased bleeding problems with protease inhibitors like REYATAZ.
- **changes in body fat.** These changes may include an increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), breast, and around the trunk. Loss of fat from the legs, arms, and face may also happen. The cause and long-term health effects of these conditions are not known at this time.

Other common side effects of REYATAZ taken with other anti-HIV medicines include nausea; headache; stomach pain; vomiting; diarrhea; depression; fever; dizziness; trouble sleeping; numbness, tingling, or burning of hands or feet; and muscle pain.

**Gallbladder disorders** (which may include gallstones and gallbladder inflammation) have been reported in patients taking REYATAZ.

**What important information should I know about taking REYATAZ with other medicines?**

**Do not take REYATAZ if you take the following medicines (not all brands may be listed; tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take). REYATAZ may cause serious, life-threatening side effects or death when used with these medicines.**

- Ergot medicines: dihydroergotamine, ergonovine, ergotamine, and methylethylergonovine such as CAFERGOT®, MIGRANAL®, D.H.E. 45®, ergotrate maleate, METHERGINE®, and others (used for migraine headaches).
- ORAP® (pimozide, used for Tourette's disorder).
- PROPULSID® (cisapride, used for certain stomach problems).
- Triazolam, also known as HALCION® (used for insomnia).
- Midazolam, also known as VERSED® (used for sedation), when taken by mouth.

**Do not take the following medicines with REYATAZ because of possible serious side effects:**

- CAMPTOSAR® (irinotecan, used for cancer).
- CRIVAN® (indinavir, used for HIV infection). Both REYATAZ and CRIVAN sometimes cause increased levels of bilirubin in the blood.
- Cholesterol-lowering medicines MEVACOR® (lovastatin) or ZOCOR® (simvastatin).
- UROXATRAL® (alfuzosin, used to treat benign enlargement of the prostate).
- REVATIO® (sildenafil, used to treat pulmonary arterial hypertension).

**Do not take the following medicines with REYATAZ because they may lower the amount of REYATAZ in your blood.** This may lead to an increased HIV viral load. Resistance to REYATAZ or cross-resistance to other HIV medicines may develop:

- Rifampin (also known as RIMACTANE®, RIFADIN®, RIFATER®, or RIFAMATE®, used for tuberculosis).
- St. John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum*), an herbal product sold as a dietary supplement, or products containing St. John's wort.
- VIRAMUNE® (nevirapine, used for HIV infection).

**The following medicines are not recommended with REYATAZ:**

- SEREVENT DISKUS® (salmeterol) and ADVAIR® (salmeterol with fluticasone), used to treat asthma, emphysema/chronic obstructive pulmonary disease also known as COPD.

**Do not take the following medicine if you are taking REYATAZ and NORVIR® together:**

- VFEND® (voriconazole).

**The following medicines may require your healthcare provider to monitor your therapy more closely (for some medicines a change in the dose or dose schedule may be needed):**

- CIALIS® (tadalafil), LEVITRA® (vardenafil), or VIAGRA® (sildenafil), used to treat erectile dysfunction. REYATAZ may increase the chances of serious side effects that can happen with CIALIS, LEVITRA, or VIAGRA. Do not use CIALIS, LEVITRA, or VIAGRA while you are taking REYATAZ unless your healthcare provider tells you it is okay.
- ADCIRCA® (tadalafil) or TRACLEER® (bosentan), used to treat pulmonary arterial hypertension.
- LIPITOR® (atorvastatin) or CRESTOR® (rosuvastatin). There is an increased chance of serious side effects if you take REYATAZ with this cholesterol-lowering medicine.

### REYATAZ® (atazanavir sulfate)

- Medicines for abnormal heart rhythm: CORDARONE® (amiodarone), lidocaine, quinidine (also known as CARDIOQUIN®, QUINIDEX®, and others).
- MYCOBUTIN® (rifabutin, an antibiotic used to treat tuberculosis).
- BUPRENEX®, SUBUTEX®, SUBOXONE®, (buprenorphine or buprenorphine/naloxone, used to treat pain and addiction to narcotic painkillers).
- VASCOR® (bepridil, used for chest pain).
- COUMADIN® (warfarin).
- Tricyclic antidepressants such as ELAVIL® (amitriptyline), NORPRAMIN® (desipramine), SINEQUAN® (doxepin), SURMONTIL® (trimipramine), TOFRANIL® (imipramine), or VIVACTIL® (protriptyline).
- Medicines to prevent organ transplant rejection: SANDIMMUNE® or NEORAL® (cyclosporin), RAPAMUNE® (sirolimus), or PROGRAF® (tacrolimus).
- The antidepressant trazodone (DESYREL® and others).
- Fluticasone propionate (FLONASE®, FLOVENT®), given by nose or inhaled to treat allergic symptoms or asthma. Your doctor may choose not to keep you on fluticasone, especially if you are also taking NORVIR®.
- Colchicine (COLCRYS®), used to prevent or treat gout or treat familial Mediterranean fever.

**The following medicines may require a change in the dose or dose schedule of either REYATAZ or the other medicine:**

- INVIRASE® (saquinavir).
- NORVIR® (ritonavir).
- SUSTIVA® (efavirenz).
- Antacids or buffered medicines.
- VIDEX® (didanosine).
- VIREAD® (tenofovir disoproxil fumarate).
- MYCOBUTIN® (rifabutin).
- Calcium channel blockers such as CARDIZEM® or TIAZAC® (diltiazem), COVERA-HS® or ISOPTIN SR® (verapamil) and others.
- BIAXIN® (clarithromycin).
- Medicines for indigestion, heartburn, or ulcers such as AXID® (nizatidine), PEPICID AC® (famotidine), TAGAMET® (cimetidine), or ZANTAC® (ranitidine).

**Talk to your healthcare provider about choosing an effective method of contraception.** REYATAZ may affect the safety and effectiveness of hormonal contraceptives such as birth control pills or the contraceptive patch. Hormonal contraceptives do not prevent the spread of HIV to others.

**Remember:**

1. **Know all the medicines you take.**
2. **Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take.**
3. **Do not start a new medicine without talking to your healthcare provider.**

**How should I store REYATAZ?**

- Store REYATAZ Capsules at room temperature, 59° to 86° F (15° to 30° C). Do **not** store this medicine in a damp place such as a bathroom medicine cabinet or near the kitchen sink.
- Keep your medicine in a tightly closed container.
- Keep all medicines out of the reach of children and pets at all times. Do not keep medicine that is out of date or that you no longer need. Dispose of unused medicines through community take-back disposal programs when available or place REYATAZ in an unrecognizable, closed container in the household trash.

**General information about REYATAZ**

This medicine was prescribed for your particular condition. Do not use REYATAZ for another condition. Do not give REYATAZ to other people, even if they have the same symptoms you have. It may harm them. **Keep REYATAZ and all medicines out of the reach of children and pets.**

This summary does not include everything there is to know about REYATAZ. Medicines are sometimes prescribed for conditions that are not mentioned in patient information leaflets. Remember no written summary can replace careful discussion with your healthcare provider. If you would like more information, talk with your healthcare provider or you can call 1-800-321-1335.

**What are the ingredients in REYATAZ?**

**Active Ingredient:** atazanavir sulfate

**Inactive Ingredients:** Crospovidone, lactose monohydrate (milk sugar), magnesium stearate, gelatin, FD&C Blue #2, and titanium dioxide.

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**BTL EDITORIAL**

## Kalamazoo inspires us all

For weeks, we at Between The Lines had planned to run an article updating our readers on all of the great things happening in Kalamazoo and all of West Michigan.

Within the past week, we've learned a few things: One, that the work going on there – often unnoticed by those of us not on the western side of the state – is tremendous and inspiring. They're doing great, innovative things in LGBT Kalamazoo – and lots of them. Two, that successes are always tempered by losses.

In this case, the loss was not of a legal or political battle, but of a valued member of our state's LGBT community. The death of Terry Kuseske – a lifelong gay rights activist and Kalamazoo's first openly gay city commissioner – was sad in that he passed away from pancreatic cancer just as he entered a new chapter in his career. But it left those of us who knew him with a smile on our faces, because we knew that Terry had seen much of his endeavors come to fruition: his election, the passage of Kalamazoo's non-discrimination ordinance and, just within the past month, the announcement of an LGBT Scholarship Fund in his name, which will be given to a local LGBT senior. Terry was, after all, an educator by trade, and the idea that he could continue his legacy of helping youth even beyond his own life thrilled him.

And as we say goodbye to one of our great leaders, we welcome in new programs, new staff and tremendous growth in Kalamazoo's LGBT community. The Kalamazoo Gay/Lesbian Resource Center now has several new grants, 10 standing committees working on various issues, a new director of programming and plans for its first black-tie awards ceremony in December. And that's just the tip of the iceberg.

Programs to mentor LGBT youth, as well as to provide them with a drop-in center and, if need be, temporary housing, are all in the works as well.

And the most beautiful part of all of this is that these successes are gained collectively and thus, celebrated collectively by organizations,

**"We work with each other, we play off of each other's strengths, we enhance each other. If we didn't work this way, I don't think any of the advances made by gay and lesbian people in Kalamazoo would be possible."**

**- Jan de la Torre, a prevention specialist at Community AIDS Resource and Education Services**

social groups and LGBT individuals throughout West Michigan.

"In Kalamazoo, we are a small community, but we are a strong community," says Jan de la Torre, a prevention specialist at Community AIDS Resource and Education Services. "We work with each other, we play off of each other's strengths, we enhance each other. If we didn't work this way, I don't think any of the advances made by gay and lesbian people in Kalamazoo would be possible."

It's a belief we should all remember and a mentality we should all embrace. And just as the KGLRC's successes belong to the whole West Michigan gay community, Kalamazoo's wins – and their losses – belong to all Michigan LGBT people.

If you are able, we encourage you to attend their LGBT Fall Welcome Picnic, held 1-6 p.m. Sept. 11 at the KGLRC offices. Because whether we are from the area or not, we mourn together over our losses – be they people or legal and social battles – and thus, we should also celebrate together over our gains. And right now, there's much to celebrate in Kalamazoo.

**MOMBIAN**



## Reading, Writing, 'Rithmetic and Reaching Out

BY DANA RUDOLPH

Back-to-school time is upon us once again, and LGBT parents are busy buying pencils and notebooks, rulers and knapsacks. We're not that different from any others.

For many LGBT parents, however, the start of the school year brings up concerns about our children's inclusion and safety. To begin, we may wonder about how and whether to come out to our children's new teachers. How do we get a sense of whether they will create an inclusive classroom?

There are three basic approaches a parent can take. First, one can wait until any questions or issues arise. Some parents may feel most comfortable with this less-intrusive method. For parents of older students, too, this may be the way to go, allowing the children to take control over how and when to come out about their families.

Others may choose to be more proactive, setting up a time to meet with the teacher, get a feel for their commitment to inclusion, and answer any questions they may have. If you think there may be issues, this could be the best way to bring them into the open. On the other hand, it might be overkill – for all you know, the teacher could be LGBT her/himself, or a strong ally.

A more middle-ground approach would be to find a way – without making a special appointment – to let your children's teachers know you are an LGBT family. If you are a two-parent family, for example, make sure both of you take your child to school on the first day or go to a start-of-year parent gathering. Make a point of introducing yourselves as "So-and-so's parents."

There is no one right answer for every family. Parents may even mix methods as they deal with homeroom teachers as well as music, art and physical education specialists.

Beyond general issues of inclusion, many LGBT parents may also be rightly concerned about bullying. Studies by the Gay and Lesbian and Straight Education Network have shown that one of the most frequent reasons students are harassed is because of their real or perceived sexual orientation. This puts both LGBT students and non-LGBT children of LGBT parents at particular risk.

A Michigan anti-bullying bill passed the state House in May, and now awaits action in the Senate. It does not, however, specifically name sexual orientation and gender identity as protected categories, although doing so has been shown – by GLSEN and by the U.S. Supreme Court in the landmark gay-rights case *Romer v. Evans* – to make such laws more effective. An earlier version of the bill died in the Senate in 2008 because senators could not agree on whether to enumerate the categories of victims.

And on Aug. 11 and 12, the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Safe and Drug-Free Schools, headed by GLSEN founder Kevin Jennings, held a national conference on bullying

**We may bemoan the lack of solid state and federal protections, but we should remember that regardless of laws and regulations, bullying prevention begins at the very local level, with parents, teachers, administrators and students themselves working together to create an environment of respect.**

which several LGBT groups attended. But if it has taken a year and a half into the Obama administration just to have a conference on the subject, one might surmise it will take even longer to see any action. And several bills that would address LGBT-based discrimination and bullying in schools look unlikely to move during this session of Congress.

We may bemoan the lack of solid state and federal protections, but we should remember that regardless of laws and regulations, bullying prevention begins at the very local level, with parents, teachers, administrators and students themselves working together to create an environment of respect.

We should not, therefore, start the school year by dwelling on all that could go wrong. While we should prepare for the worst, it also behooves us to think of all the positives. There are allies out there, from parents of our children's existing friends to parents and teachers with LGBT relatives (and even some who are LGBT themselves). There are non-LGBT families who might face similar concerns because of race, religion, disability, adoptive status, being a single parent, or other factors. We can reach out and build bonds based on our desire for acceptance.

For parents wanting to recommend resources to their schools, or to gain more insight on school-related matters themselves, HRC's Welcoming Schools Guide remains the best single source for all age groups. It offers suggestions on how to create welcoming classrooms for LGBT students and those with LGBT parents, lesson plans for teachers who want to address diversity issues more directly and lists of books and other resources. It can be used as part of a structured curriculum, but is also a useful standalone guide. It can be found at [www.welcomingschools.org](http://www.welcomingschools.org).

Other organizations offering school-related resources include GLSEN, COLAGE, PFLAG, the Gay-Straight Alliance Network

See Mombian, page 15

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# S/he said

## Bullying, Texas and David Arquette

COMPILED BY HOWARD ISRAEL

*"We feel more and more that activists are being deceptive in using anti-bullying rhetoric to introduce their viewpoints, while the viewpoint of Christian students and parents are increasingly belittled. Public schools increasingly convey that homosexuality is normal and should be accepted, while opposing viewpoints by conservative Christians are portrayed as bigotry."*

- Candi Cushman, Focus on the Family education expert, in an article titled "Focus on Family says anti-bullying efforts in schools push gay agenda," [www.denverpost.com](http://www.denverpost.com), Aug. 31.



David Arquette

*"Anybody who doesn't think gay people should be married is ... a moron! This is the fucking new world. Love is love!"*  
- Actor David Arquette, when asked about his thoughts on gay marriage, [www.wehodaily.com](http://www.wehodaily.com), Aug. 6.

1. Cable guys and telephone repair men have a lot of sex. This must be why when I call for an appointment I get vague schedules like 'Sometime between noon and next Thursday.' 2. There is some magical facial expression that translates into 'Please remove your clothing and allow me to touch you.' I've been practicing in the mirror for the last month to no avail. 3. Hitchhikers are extremely horny. So are pool boys. 4. The most innocuous looking people have dungeons in their basements. 5. No one is ever disappointed when their partner's pants come down since penises are always massive."

- Jester, in his blog titled "Things I've Learned from Watching Porn," [www.ourbiggayborhood.com](http://www.ourbiggayborhood.com), Aug. 19.



Erwin de Leon

*"As a queer person of color, I am anxious about the place and future of minority LGBT people. I worry about those of us who do not look, sound, dress, act or live like everybody else. These are members of our community who do not have the resources, voice or power some of us enjoy due to the accident of birth and circumstance. These are Americans who remain in the margins. It will be up to those of us who are joining the mainstream and are looking forward to better days not to forget those who are left behind."*

- Erwin de Leon, in his column titled "A shared future?," <http://erwinsdeleon.blogspot.com>, Aug. 20.

*"We're creating more jobs than any other state in the nation. Would you rather live in a state like this, or in a state where a man can marry a man?"*

- Texas Gov. Rick Perry, who is running for reelection, in an article titled "On the Campaign Trail With Gov. Rick Perry," [www.texastribune.org](http://www.texastribune.org), Aug. 30.

### ► Mombian

Continued from p. 14

and the National Center for Lesbian Rights. Also, the American Library Association's Rainbow Bibliography offers a librarian-selected list of LGBT-inclusive children's and young adult books (<http://rainbowlist.wordpress.com>).

The most important thing for LGBT

parents to remember is that you are not alone. Even if you are the only LGBT family you know of at your school, you may still find other families who support you. And there are more and more LGBT families if you look further afield to your local or state LGBT organizations or online.

No matter what advice we get from others, however, the only global truth is

that we must act based on what we feel is right for our own children. May we all learn along with them in the coming year.

*Dana Rudolph is the founder and publisher of Mombian, a blog and resource directory for LGBT parents. Find it online at [www.mombian.com](http://www.mombian.com).*



*"Too often the face of young Black masculinity is violent or associated with drugs and prison. Very rarely do we see Black men loving each other and showing concern for each other. ... In a world so overwhelmed with hate, I fail to see how loving anyone could possibly be considered a bad thing."*

- Blogger Renee Martin, in her blog titled "No Excuse for Homophobia," about an internet photo of two affectionate Black men <http://twitpic.com/2es87y>, <http://carnalnation.com>, Aug. 31



## Parting Glances

Then & Now

BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

Baptism's a matter of separation of church and State. I paid my 25 cents to use that damned stall ...

## DQ4J Gatorade (Pt. 3)

GATORADE, Ariz.: I'm a skeptic concerning things supernatural; but the wonder-working weekend I spend reporting on the Drag Queens for Jesus confab is, well, miraculous – awe inspiring.

It's also ecumenical, as the three-day drama-queen pageant coincides with the 33rd anniversary departure to Greater Graceland in the Sky of Elvis Presley, king of kings (as in rock & roll, sideburns, sunglasses, pelvic-articulated gyrations and exit-cue peristalsis go).

With 100 drag queens, two-dozen Elvis look-alikes, a DQ4J Passion Play non-Equity cast of Jesus, Mary, Pontius Pilate, John the Baptist, Salome, 'Madonna', Judy Garland, Mae West, Pope Joan Rivers, assorted flagellants and semi-naked line-dance slaves, gathered, Gatorade (pop. 832) is transformed into Vatican City Meets Mel Gibson's S/M – sandals and mascara – Hollywood West at High Noon.

As usual, Rainbow flight attendant Chance Ankleman's posing early at poolside our last day, and, after giving me his trademark wink, flexing his biceps, triceps, abs, glutes, suggests I join him for lunch at the town's No Spic, No Spam (Show You Green Card) Cafe.

"Two years ago I bought one of your hypnotic pictures," begins Chance, looking me reasonably straight in the eye, "And discovered your hidden 'for a good time call the artist' message and phone number. I called several times, but never got an answer. Frankly, I was disappointed. Do I get some sort of discount?"

(I must say Chance looks splendid in rainbow-colored Speedo with hidden uplift testicular support, and much more physically articulate than I do in my Passion Play, sequin-stitched, sag-crotch, WWJD-embroidered loin cloth.)

"I'm sorry, Chance, but I quickly grew out of my blue period. Now that I've gone exclusively sexting, my subliminal art messages have changed. An artist has to keep pace with his audience. Tell you what, Chance. I'll pop you for lunch."

It's reassuring to find proven once more – thousands of miles from home – and in a small hamlet like Gatorade – that the profession of choice among goodlooking gay men is waiter. "Goodness, what abs," ours greets us. "Goodness had nothing to do with it," replies Chance, off on another bout of winking.

Over our meal of tacos, chili, tortillas, we earful big-time gossip making the Gatorade rounds. "You may be out-of-towners," says Hunkers Jones, our waiter, "but three weeks ago, Rev. Dowler P. Sparks had lotsa explaining to do. He was caught by a Greyhound bus attendant baptizing a wetback in a stall in the men's room.

"Things quieted down a bit 'til the ACLU got involved. Rev. Sparks says he's got a right to baptize anybody he wants, anywhere he wants, as the spirit leads. Immigration should mind its own business, he says. Baptism's a matter of separation of church and State. I paid my 25 cents to use that damned stall ..."

DQ4J THE CLIMAX: "I'm on stage at the Los Alamos A-Bomb Memorial Theater. The auditorium's packed. Not a vacant seat. The mayor's here. Rev. Sparks, front-row center, with what appears to be a recently baptized wetback. (Unfortunately, still wet behind his ears.)

"The gilded curtain rises. The overture to 'Jesus Christ Superstar' blares into high-kick tempo, and 100 Drag Queens for Jesus take center stage, blowing kisses everywhere, making signs of the cross, genuflecting – one by one joining a gigantic line dance of sheer mind-blowing jubilation. (You know how drag queens can mind blow. Or jubilate.)

Miracle of miracles, the audience rises and applauds wildly. One or two begin to speak in tongues. (Or, maybe Spanish.) Suddenly, out of nowhere a banner waves, "Have a blessed day. Get in drag for heaven's sake!" Everybody hugs.

I look adoringly at Chance. He winks lovingly at me. I wink back at him. He winks back at me. Life is good, even if it's occasionally a drag.

[Charles@pridesource.com](mailto:Charles@pridesource.com). Facebook, too.

## Tim Ravndal

BY D'ANNE WITKOWSK

You know what's totally hilarious? Matthew Shepard jokes. You know, the 21-year-old guy who, in 1998, was brutally beaten and then hung on a fence like a scarecrow to die in rural Wyoming because he was gay. So much potential for comedy there.



Tim Ravndal

Shepard's murder is the exact kind of thing that seems so terrible at the time but you think, "One day we're all gonna look back on this and laugh." If you're a total shit-for-brains asshole, that is.

Enter Tim Ravndal, president of the Big Sky Tea Party Association in Montana.

On July 23, Ravndal posted a link to a story about marriage and gays on his Facebook page with the following comment, "Marriage is between a man and a woman period! By giving rights to

those otherwise would be a violation of the constitution and my own rights."

**"He is a public figure, in the public sphere, condoning and making light of violence against gay people. It's actually pretty frightening."**

A friend named Dennis Scranton wrote in reply, "I think fruits are decorative. Hang up where they can be seen and appreciated. Call Wyoming for display instructions."

Ravndal writes back, "Dennis, Where can I get that Wyoming printed instruction manual?"

"Should be able to get info (from) Gazette archives. Maybe even an illustration," Scranton posts. "Go back a bit over 10 years."

Get it? LOL! ROTFLMAO! I mean, sure, they don't mention Shepherd by name, but they don't have to. We all get the joke.

Not everybody is laughing, however. "Mr. Ravndal's comments are outrageous," Kim Abbott of the Montana Human Rights Network told the Great Falls Tribune. "He is a public figure, in the public sphere, condoning and making light of violence against gay people. It's actually pretty frightening."

Kim Abbott, also with MHRN, said, "I would like to know if Mr. Ravndal thinks that gay people are entitled to the same safety, security and protections as everyone else, because his comments seem to suggest he thinks it's OK to hurt or even kill members of the LGBT community."

I'm going to guess that the answer to Abbott's query is, "No, he doesn't think homos deserve the same protections as everybody else." I'm not inside Ravndal's head (thankfully), but that's where I'd put my money.

Ravndal is now claiming that he had no idea what Scranton was talking about and that he does "not condone violence to any human being."

"I wasn't even thinking about the tragedy that happened in Wyoming," Ravndal said. "I made a mistake and I apologize to anyone I offended."

Really? Ravndal had no idea that "fruit" means "fag?" And that to "hang up" means, well, to hang? As in lynch? As in kill? Hasn't he ever heard Billie Holiday sing "Strange Fruit" before? And even if all of those things really did go right over Ravndal's head, wouldn't the specific mention of Wyoming be, at minimum, confusing?

Because Ravndal doesn't reply with something like, "Dude, WTF? I don't get it." He writes, "Where can I get that Wyoming printed instruction manual?" Kind of hard to believe he didn't know the significance of "Wyoming" in this instance.

It's interesting to note that on his Facebook page in the list of things Ravndal "Likes" right alongside "Tea Party protests" is "Not everything that pops into your head needs to be shared on Facebook."

Ironic, yes. But it really makes you wonder what kinds of things he *isn't* posting.

# Court won't force California officials to defend Prop. 8

## Anti-gay activists had urged governor, AG to take reigns in appeal case

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — A California court has refused to order Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and Attorney General Jerry Brown to appeal a ruling that overturned the state's gay marriage ban.

The Third District Court of Appeals on Sept. 1 denied a conservative legal group's request to force the officials to defend voter-approved Proposition 8. Presiding Justice Arthur Scotland did not explain why the appeals court turned down the request filed two days earlier by the Pacific Justice Institute.

The institute now plans to take the matter to the California Supreme Court, Chief Counsel Kevin Snider said last Thursday.

"We are disappointed that the appellate court showed indecisiveness in trying to prevent a constitutional crisis," Snider said. "They didn't want to deal with it."

The institute maintains the attorney general and governor have the duty to uphold all laws, including those passed by voters.

Brown has said he cannot defend Proposition 8 because he thinks it is unconstitutional; Schwarzenegger has chosen to remain neutral.

Chief U.S. District Judge Vaughn Walker struck down Proposition 8 last month as a violation of gay Californians' civil rights.

The measure approved by 52 percent of California voters in November 2008

amended the state Constitution to outlaw same-sex unions five months after the state Supreme Court legalized them.

The state has until Sept. 11 to challenge Walker's ruling. Both Brown and Schwarzenegger have said they don't plan an appeal.

The coalition of conservative and religious groups that sponsored the ban has appealed the ruling by Walker. But doubts have been raised about whether its members have authority to do so because as ordinary citizens they are not responsible for enforcing marriage laws.

Twenty-seven members of the California Assembly sent Schwarzenegger a letter this week urging the governor to bring an appeal if Brown will not.

# Thousands rally against gay marriage, abortion

## Sacramento protest held at height of Calif. Prop. 8 battle

BY JUDY LIN

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — Thousands of Christian conservatives spent 12 hours Sept. 4 praying and fasting in front of the California state Capitol at a gathering organizers described as spiritual repentance "when there is no hope for a nation."

The daylong religious event, titled "TheCall to Conscience," was led by Lou Engle, as well as other pastors and speakers, to protest gay marriage, pornography and abortion. Many of those attending slapped red "Life" stickers over their shirts and set up blankets and folding

chairs facing a large stage with banners that read: "Only One Hope — God." The gathering filled the west lawn of the state Capitol and hundreds of people spilled into the next block.

Ken and Antoinette Rodrigues, who described themselves as born-again Christians, drove in from Fremont to attend the rally. "It's a little more blunt than I anticipated, not that I'm opposed to that, but the things they are speaking, it's bold, very bold," said Antoinette Rodrigues, 48. "But I feel that it's very appropriate and timely."

Engle said it was the 17th fast hosted by TheCall in 10 years. Previous events have been held in New York, Boston and Nashville, as well as in other parts of California, such as Pasadena and San Francisco. It follows a similar prayer march and rally to a Houston abortion clinic back in January.

The Sacramento event, Engle said, helped to highlight immoral laws being

passed out of the Capitol and called on traditional marriage to be restored.

"If marriage is going to be upheld between a man and a woman, which we believe is the best for families and children and society, then right now, it seems we need divine intervention," Engle said. "That's part of the reason we're coming here, to pray, but also to take a stand and be a prophetic voice to stand for truth."

Last month, Chief U.S. District Judge Vaughn Walker struck down Proposition 8 as unconstitutional. The measure, approved by 52 percent of California voters in November, 2008 amended the state Constitution to outlaw same-sex unions five months after the state Supreme Court legalized them.

The state has until Sept. 11 to challenge Walker's ruling. Both Attorney General Jerry Brown and Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger have said they don't plan an appeal.

# School official loses job after marrying partner

SPRINGFIELD, Mass. (AP) — A top administrator at a Springfield Catholic school says she was forced out of her job after marrying her female partner last month.

Christine Judd, who served as dean of students and athletic director at Cathedral High School, tells The Republican

newspaper that she met with school officials on Sept. 1 and was given the choice of resigning or getting fired. Judd said she was "hurt," and is exploring her legal options. Although gay marriage is legal in Massachusetts, it is against church policy.

Judd worked at the school for 12 years, beginning as a science teacher

in 1998. She became dean of students six years ago and athletic director three years ago.

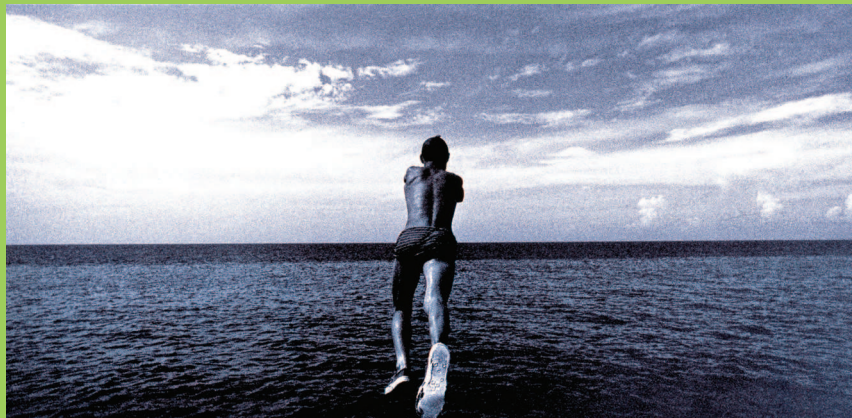
A spokesman for the Springfield Diocese said Judd resigned, but would not discuss the reasons for her resignation.



# Unbroken Ties Dialogues in Cuban Art

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Manuel Piña, *Untitled* (detail), 1992-2001, Organized by the Museum of Art | Fort Lauderdale, Nova Southeastern University

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# California Senate condemns Ugandan bill and U.S. religious groups

The California Senate passed a resolution Aug. 30 condemning the pending bill in Uganda that would jail gays for life and punish some with the death penalty. The vote was 21-14.

Introduced by Sen. Mark Leno (D-San Francisco) and sponsored by Equality California, the resolution also "calls upon the United States Department of State to increase efforts to encourage the decriminalization of homosexuality in every country" and "encourages a more careful review of all United States funding and resources given to faith-based organizations in foreign countries" to ensure that U.S. money does not go to groups that disrespect human rights.

The resolution says that "some United States-based religious leaders have been fomenting fear and discrimination against the ... LGBT community in Uganda" and that "the links between some United States-based religious groups and the antigay bill ... have been well-documented."

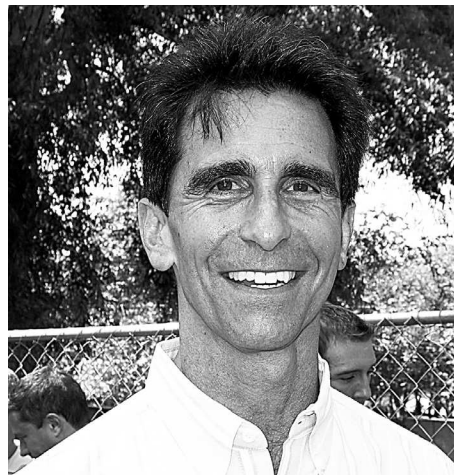
"There is a growing movement, supported and funded by some United States-based religious groups, to further criminalize homosexuality globally," the resolution states. "(T)he Senate calls upon the United States Department of State to censure American citizens and organizations

who contravene American foreign policy by demonstrated exportation of fear and misinformation to other countries. ..."

EQCA Executive Director Geoff Kors commented: "The U.S. government must do everything in its power to stop the bill before the Uganda (parliament) that would lead to the criminalization and even death of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender Ugandans. The California Senate has taken an important step in passing this resolution, which will help raise awareness of the crisis in Uganda and will put the state on record in support of the U.S. government strengthening its efforts to end the criminalization of LGBT people worldwide."

Leno added: "It is egregious that radical religious leaders from our nation are working to spread fears about and discriminate against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people in Uganda. These deplorable actions have encouraged violence and even death against Ugandans. This resolution is a simple human rights appeal urging President Obama and our federal leaders to call for the decriminalization of LGBT people, not only in Uganda, but across the globe."

Uganda's "Anti-Homosexuality Bill 2009" would imprison for life anyone convicted of "the



offense of homosexuality," punish "aggravated homosexuality" (repeat offenses or having gay sex while being HIV-positive) with the death penalty, forbid "promotion of homosexuality" and incarcerate gay-rights defenders, and jail individuals in positions of authority for up to three years if they fail to report within 24 hours the existence of all LGBT people or sympathizers known to them

**"It is egregious that radical religious leaders from our nation are working to spread fears about and discriminate against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people in Uganda. These deplorable actions have encouraged violence and even death against Ugandans. This resolution is a simple human rights appeal urging President Obama and our federal leaders to call for the decriminalization of LGBT people, not only in Uganda, but across the globe."**

- State Sen. Mark Leno  
(D-San Francisco)

## Castro: I'm responsible for past anti-gay persecution

In an Aug. 31 interview with the Mexican newspaper La Jornada, Fidel Castro accepted responsibility for Cuba's persecution of homosexuals decades ago.

From 1959, when the previous government was overthrown in an armed rebellion, until the 1970s, gays were branded as counterrevolutionaries and forced into labor camps.

"Those were moments of great injustice," Castro told La Jornada. "A great injustice! ... If anyone is responsible, I am.

"It's a given that at that time, I couldn't occupy myself with this matter. I found myself immersed primarily in the October Crisis (Cuban missile crisis), the war, political questions (but I'm not going to toss the blame on others."

These days, Cuba stages official public LGBT events.

On May 15, hundreds of LGBT people marched in Havana's Vedado nightlife district in advance of the May 17 International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia. They were led by President Raúl Castro's daughter Mariela, who heads CENESEX, the National Sex Education Center.

Other IDAHO events included workshops on LGBT issues and a huge, officially sanctioned outdoor drag show May 17 in the city of Santa Clara, 160 miles east of Havana.

## Conservative British MP comes out; foreign Minister denies being gay

Conservative British Member of Parliament Crispin Blunt, the government's minister for prisons and probation, announced Aug. 28 that he has separated from his wife of 20 years so he can embrace being gay.

A statement issued by his office said: "Crispin Blunt wishes to make it known that he has separated from his wife Victoria. He decided to come to terms with his homosexuality and explained the position to his family. The consequence is this separation. There is no third party involvement, but this is difficult for his immediate and wider family and he hopes for understanding and support for them. The family do not wish to make any further public comment and hope that their privacy will be respected as they deal with these difficult private issues."

Blunt, 50, is a former Army officer. He has been an MP since 1997.

Meanwhile, British Foreign Minister William Hague released a statement Sept. 1 denying that he's been having an affair with a 25-year-old male assistant, who nonetheless resigned because of what Hague called "untrue and malicious allegations" that the two are involved.

Hague, 49, acknowledged that he and the

adviser, Christopher Myers, had "occasionally" shared a hotel room during the election campaign.

"In hindsight I should have given greater consideration to what might have been made of that, but this is in itself no justification for allegations of this kind, which are untrue and deeply distressing to me, to (my wife) Ffion and to Christopher," Hague said.

"Any suggestion that his appointment was due to an improper relationship between us is utterly false, as is any suggestion that I have ever been involved in a relationship with any man," he said.

## Tasmanian Parliament moves to recognize foreign gay unions

The Australian state of Tasmania's lower house of Parliament, the House of Assembly, voted Sept. 1 to recognize official same-sex unions and marriages that take place elsewhere in the nation or world.

The measure now moves to the upper house, the Legislative Council.

Australia does not allow same-sex marriage but three states and the Australian Capital Territory have same-sex partner registration schemes. Those partnerships also are recognized by the federal government for purposes of all spousal entitlements associated with marriage.

The Tasmanian bill will recognize overseas

same-sex marriages only as state civil partnerships, not marriages, because Australian federal law explicitly bans recognition of foreign same-sex marriages.

## New South Wales passes gay adoption bill

The Legislative Assembly of the Australian state of New South Wales, where Sydney is located, passed a bill to legalize adoption by same-sex couples Sept. 2. The vote was 46-42, following two days of debate.

The measure permits church-affiliated adoption agencies to continue to discriminate against gay couples without fear of prosecution.

One other state, Western Australia, and the Australian Capital Territory allow gay couples to adopt together. The bill now moves to the upper house, the Legislative Council.

## Derry sees first pride parade

Some 5,000 people took part in the first gay pride parade in Derry, Northern Ireland, on Aug. 28. The procession traveled from Waterside Railway Station to Guildhall Square. About 20 people gathered around Duke Street to protest the march.

# Jason Mraz: He's Ours

**He sings, he dances, he steals hearts – but the musician also cares about equality**

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Jason Mraz is all love, because even when the wordplay-toying troubadour isn't singing about it, he's spreading it. To everyone.

Since the hipster launched his career eight years ago with "Waiting for My Rocket to Come," he's been an outspoken gay rights supporter – maybe even more (sexually "open-minded," as he told us). But Mraz is also remarkably talented: How else do you hold a record for most weeks on the singles chart ... ever? But, for 76 weeks, there he was with "I'm Yours," off his latest studio album, 2008's "We Sing. We Dance. We Steal Things."

As the singer-songwriter readies his upcoming release, due next year, he's working out the new material on the road, stopping at 7 p.m. Sept. 16 in Ypsilanti. We stole a few minutes with Mraz, 33, to chat about the new tunes, his Björk-loving inner girl, being a gay rights activist and how, sometimes, he walks around naked.

**Word is there's lots of love on this upcoming album. What kind of love – romantic? bromantic? gay?**

You know, "The Love Album" was actually a working title for this record, and it's still in the running. Love is always a recurring theme in my work. I feel like everything I try to create is to reveal a blessing from a hardship or just to add more positive articulation to a situation or the current state of the world. Optimism has always been my genre – so yeah, it's bro love, it's love for all, it's equality.

**You've said your songwriting tends to have a feminine sensibility about it. Are you tapping into your inner girl for these songs?**

Um... maybe. As a songwriter, my inner girl is Björk. And I know that sounds weird – we're nothing alike – but I love her singing style, and that's what pushes me over the top as a singer.

The inner feminine in my songwriterness is nothing more than keeping a diary (laughs). Whenever I open up that thing and start scribbling in it, I feel like a 12-year-old girl.

**Do you have a special pen?**

You know what, I get attached to pens, I do. And then I always get upset when I lose them.

**You should get Björk onboard for this gay rights song you're interested in doing with Elton John. You three, what do you say?**

Yeah! That's not a bad idea.

**Has that song reached Elton yet?**

It hasn't. I went to his Oscar party and I had the flu. I couldn't talk without coughing, so I chose to just sit there tight-lipped because I didn't want to cough on anybody's face and be repulsive. But if anything, I got a little face time and I'm going to see him again in October, so hopefully!

**You've been incredibly outspoken about gay rights. How did you get involved in the fight, including Cyndi Lauper's Give a Damn campaign?**

They came to me. I did a project with the True Colors Fund and Broadway

## Jason Mraz

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Photo: Justin Ruhl

See Mraz, page 28

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# Lady Gaga's Monster Balls

**Superstar rolls out the glitz, glamour and gay during a repeat visit to metro Detroit area**

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

World domination hasn't de-gayed Lady Gaga's shows. The pop queen, unlike some who've used us as a stepping stone to mainstream fame, has yet to abandon the crowd that crowned her, just as she insisted she wouldn't during our interview last year.

"Sometimes artists, as they begin to fill bigger and bigger venues, forget where they came from," Gaga told me with earnest believability, so humbled by her relationship with the gay community. "I'll never do that."

She's a Lady of her word, because even as she packs those bigger venues, like she did on Sept. 4 at the Palace of Auburn Hills, she honored her disciples with endearing call-outs, like introducing "Boys Boys Boys" as one for "all my 8 Mile gays," and saluted freedom, equal rights and individuality throughout the two-hour show. The Monster Ball Tour, originally rolled out last year with a stop at the Joe Louis Arena in January, waved a rainbow flag proudly above its lavish production of shifting set pieces and a catwalk stage extension long before Gaga actually did so herself, when she wrapped with her encore: an explosive, outer-spacey "Bad Romance."

But the rest of the show was out of this world, too. Spark-igniting boobs! A friggin' monster! Live singing! Fake blood! Costume changes galore! And the get-ups were, of course, stun-

ningly crazy, especially when Gaga remained fairly immobile during "So Happy I Could Die" in a white, wing-propelling, headpiece-moving dress, like a peacock ready to walk down the aisle. It was as ridiculously amazing as it sounds, and so Gaga.

Her entrance, set to the throbbing should-be-hit "Dance in the Dark," was tweaked from January's tour, as she teased the audience behind a stage-wide screen that projected her larger-than-life silhouette. The stage was unveiled mid-song, and boy was it some stage: Designed to look like a red-light district, a broken-down car, which housed a piano under the hood, was the opening centerpiece.

Therein began Gaga's mission – to get to the Monster Ball, by car, by subway, by dancing her ass off. The story was simple, and there wasn't much to it, but it gave the pop star reasons to wind up in weird, elaborately ornate places, wrestle with a demonic, fish-looking "fame monster," and frolic among half-naked hotties (OK, there's always a good enough reason for that!). Hipster urban was how it started, but halfway in it was like Tim Burton crashed her disco-dance party.

Thematically, this Monster Ball felt like a modern-day "Wizard of Oz" reboot, as the Yellow Brick Road became "Glitter Way" (as if "Oz" wasn't gay enough) and Gaga was Dorothy, leading her friends and fans – her "Little Monsters" – back home. Silly musical-theater camp overturned self-serious commentary, the nature of her premiere outing.

It was joyous, liberating and hypersexual as she fired up the hits she's amassed in lickety-split time – "Poker Face," "Paparazzi," "Telephone," "Alejandro" and "Just Dance" – and wedged in some new bits that, during the run of her biggies, felt inconsequential. "You and I," though, really did have hit written all over its Elton-esque clas-



Photo: Timothy French

**The Monster Ball Tour, originally rolled out last year with a stop at the Joe Louis Arena in January, waved a rainbow flag proudly above its lavish production of shifting set pieces and a catwalk stage extension long before Gaga actually did so herself.**

sic rock chorus, and "Speechless" – which Gaga also thrashed on piano (a burning one!) – is still way better live than on disc.

Between songs, Gaga's off-the-cuff conversation saved her from sounding like a Chatty Cathy doll, as she repeated banter from her previous stop here (Gaga: It's time to send Tinkerbell back to Neverland). When she wasn't rehashing old shtick, she was hosting Gaga group therapy, insisting we all embrace ourselves, regardless of who we are, because we're born that way. She loved up on Detroit almost as much as her gays, telling the cutest story: how she did yoga that

morning in the area and a young girl in the class recognized her, said nothing, but gave her "the paw" (the Gaga hand sign for "Little Monster").

Even just for a bit, between being her outrageous superstar self, Gaga descended from the throne we helped put her on. She genuinely connected with the emulating cult-like crowd, pretending to be just one of us when she hated on Hollywood and revealed that she, too, had felt like an outsider. Nobody was one at the Monster Ball, where everyone felt right at home in the Haus of Gaga. And, as we all know, there really is no place like it.



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# More eateries join Detroit Restaurant Week lineup

## Eighteen area restaurants offer specially-priced dinners

**DETROIT** – The historic and classy Caucus Club, along with the brand new Detroit Seafood Market, are the latest additions to an already impressive list of fine dining heavy-hitters participating in the fall edition of Detroit Restaurant Week, Sept. 24-Oct. 3.

“We are extremely pleased to have the Caucus Club and Detroit Seafood Market be apart of our third Detroit Restaurant Week,” said Jason Huvaere, executive director of Detroit Restaurant Week, in a press release. “I expect both will be fantastic ambassadors of fine dining because of their great menus and inviting atmospheres.”

Caucus Club is located inside the Penobscot Building in downtown Detroit. It opened in 1952 to manage the overflow of customers from the London Chop House. In 1961, the now-famous Barbra Streisand performed there before heading to New York to perform on the Jack Parr Show. Iron Chef Bobby Flay visited to feature Caucus Club’s Sautéed Lake Perch and Oysters in Champagne Sauce for his “Food Nation” television program. Today, with its English Gentleman’s Club charm and classic cuisine, the Caucus Club is still a popular spot for judges, lawyers and Detroit business leaders.

“We are excited to be part of Detroit Restaurant Week,” said Mary Belloni, who along with her son Robert has owned the Caucus Club since 1994. “Detroit has always been a terrific place to find amazing food, and for us this promotion will be a great opportunity for us to introduce new people to an old classic.”

Detroit Seafood Market, located in the Paradise Valley en-

“Detroit has always been a terrific place to find amazing food, and for us this promotion will be a great opportunity for us to introduce new people to an old classic.”

– Mary Belloni, co-owner of Caucus Club

tainment district, opened in late July and since then, Executive Chef Leonardo Vulagi has impressed locals with his culinary skills, while the servers have proven to be on top of their game. Moreover, owner Kenny Akinwale has shown a strong commitment to making his restaurant a success in Detroit.

For just \$28 per person (excluding tax, gratuity and beverages), Southeastern Michigan residents and visitors from Windsor, Ontario and beyond will be able to enjoy outstanding three-course dinners at 18 restaurants.

Organizers for Detroit Restaurant Week note that reservations are not required; however, they are strongly encouraged so that the restaurants can provide an outstanding experience for each guest.

To make a reservation, visit [DetroitRestaurantWeek.com](http://DetroitRestaurantWeek.com) and click on the “Restaurant Page” to obtain contact information for each establishment. Reservations can be made by contacting the restaurants directly or through the Open Table link, which can be also be found on the Detroit Restaurant Week website. Also, visit the event’s website to get the latest information about menus, helpful tips, restaurant reviews and a list of after-dinner activities.

### Detroit Restaurant Week Participants

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**"Hollywood Babylon Strikes Again!" by Darwin Porter and Danforth Prince. 282 pages, \$25.95 hardcover.**

Superman Christopher Reeve had a fling with gay porn star Cal Culver. Kirk Douglas, Humphrey Bogart, Tony Curtis and of course Rock Hudson frequented Hollywood's Finlandia Baths. Walt Disney (Walt Disney!) hired hustlers for \$100 blowjobs, but asked them to keep their clothes on. These and hundreds of other snippets of "hot, unauthorized, and unapologetic" titillations pepper the tabloid pages of this second volume of the contemporary "Hollywood Babylon" series – no connection to Kenneth Anger's two dirt-digging tomes of 1965 and 1984. The kink here isn't all queer – pinup queen Bettie Page's "tragic" life is profiled, and Mario Lanza is depicted as "a mess addicted to food, wine, and women." Two of the rowdiest chapters focus on body parts: "Hollywood Bazooms" is a 34-page pictorial showcasing the upfront charms of actresses from Ann-Margret to Raquel Welch; "Hollywood Shortcomings" is about actors, including Fred Astaire, Clark Gable and Liberace, who were reportedly "losers in the battle of the bulge." Veracity? Hardly relevant. Half the fun of this book is its authors' "snap, girlfriend" style.

**"I Came Out for This?," by Lisa Gitlin. Bywater Books, 294 pages, \$14.95 paper.**

Love comes late for Joanna Kane, who denied her sexual self well into her 40s. For a spell, newfound lesbian love is a luscious experience, after Joanna is introduced to Terri Rubin, a visitor to town. And then it vanishes, when Ms. Right returns home – and moves on to other women. Devastated, Joanna does

the non-sensible thing – she uproots herself from dowdy Cleveland and relocates to Washington, D.C., where the object of her denied desire lives, and where she knows not a single other soul. Oops. Multiple heartbreaks, moments of hilarity, and a perceptive take on lesbian life ensue. Joanna settles into a gay flophouse with a cast of kooky characters, receives mixed signals from the woman she yearns to love, and gradually forges new friendships – and, potentially, a new romance. Debut novelist Gitlin's breezy story is told through freelance writer Kane's sometimes manic, sometimes maudlin, and sometimes simply wonderful journal entries, a narrative point of view that propels the tale with enchanting wit.

**"Krakow Melt," by Daniel Allen Cox. Arsenal Pulp Press, 152 pages, \$15.95 paper.**

It's quite likely that Cox's second novel, after his stellar hustler-in-New York debut, "Shuck," qualifies as the most original queer story of the year. Take a deep breath: It's about Radek Tomaszewski, a mostly-gay, sometimes-bisexual parkour-loving pyromaniac whose artistry consists of building scale models of the world's major cities – London of 1666, Chicago of 1871, San Francisco of 1906 – before setting them afire at his art openings. Set in Krakow – where the author lived for a while – it's also about Poland's repressive homophobia, marked by the government banning a gay pride march. And it's about a nation gripped by the looming death of Polish-born Pope John Paul II. Even more, it's about Tomaszewski's romance with a young woman, fellow pyromaniac Dorta, who shares his passion for sexual insurrection, Pink Floyd, and setting the world on fire

with his art and their rage. Cox's fiery mix of activist anger, sexual heat and transgressive humor is a tonic for a tired reader's eyes. (And for another literary treat, search out the author's outrageous 2006 novella, "Tattoo This Madness In").

**"Cockeyed," by Richard Stevenson. MLR Press, 228 pages, \$14.99 paper.**

There's not much mystery in Stevenson's 11th novel featuring Albany, N.Y., private investigator Don Strachey. But there are a lot of laughs. In something of a departure from a norm of addressing serious issues with dashes of humor – past books have handled forced outing, religious oppression and aversion therapy – this book is about the turmoil that descends on a campy gay household when one man wins a billion-(as in B)-dollar lottery. Hunny Van Horne, a working-class queer who puts the "flame" in flamboyant, has led – along with his partner – a somewhat active, even salacious, sex life. As soon as his winnings are announced, a bevy of former beaus (and boys) threaten blackmail, and so Strachey is hired to modulate their demands. That's pretty much the extent of his sleuthing, however. Stevenson's screwball comedy is mostly about how the world at large – straight-laced gay as much as simply straight – handles Hunny's lurid, over-the-top lifestyle, in a story that scales cheerful height of hyperbole.

*Richard Labonte has been reading, editing, selling, and writing about queer literature since the mid-'70s. He can be reached in care of this publication or at [BookMarks@qsyndicate.com](mailto:BookMarks@qsyndicate.com).*

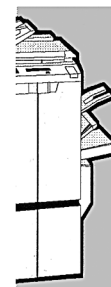
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## Robyn talks queer club culture, gay fans and her album trilogy

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

**O**f all the dance queens claiming the fame, Robyn's our best queer-kept secret. But the Swedish stunner wasn't always this exclusive – in the '90s, the world did exactly what her teen-pop megahit "Show Me Love" told it to.

Ever since, the 31-year-old dark horse has rebuilt her career on crying-in-the-corner Eurodisco club anthems – following "With Every Heartbeat," 2007's comeback heartbreaker, with this year's liberating triumph "Dancing on My Own" – and evolved into a boundary-pushing purveyor of swaggering, post-modern electronica.

Robyn's music, some of the best pop in recent years, speaks to the feet – and the heart. No wonder she calls her CD series "Body Talk," a trilogy rolling out this year on her label, Konichiwa Records. This week, the second installment, "Body Talk Pt. 2," dropped. After touring the U.S., and stopping in the Detroit area for a divine show earlier this summer, Robyn rang us to chat about '80s club culture inspiring her music, feeling close to the gay community and her "nerdy self."

### How was touring the U.S.?

I had such a good time on tour in America. I loved being there, performing. It's really not just something I'm saying. It's actually been a real pleasure to do this last tour. Such a warm crowd at every show. Just fantastic.

### There seems to be a really strong emotional connection between you and your fans. When you were growing up and listening to music back in the '80s, did you look for that connection with other artists?

I don't know if I was aware of it, but that's what I connected to in people like Prince or Kate Bush. I was listening to a lot of really commercial pop music as well, like Michael Jackson and Janet Jackson and Madonna. But my parents had a theater group, and I was always around people discussing performance and communication with an audience. That really shaped how I look at what I do – even though I do something very different from my parents.

I was lucky that I had that. When I got into the industry, I was really young and like all 16 year olds you don't really know what you want to do. Getting to where I am was a really natural thing. For people on the outside, it was a more drastic kind of change. But for me it was always there. It's just that I was making my way toward it in an industry that's not very open to change.

### The same subjects pop up in your songs – being on the outside, not being understood and, of course, heartbreak. Why are you stuck on these sad themes?

Because that's how life is. I mean, isn't that how we all feel? Those are the things that everybody – or a lot of people, at least – think about. That's what pop music is supposed to be doing – talking about those everlasting issues, like love, being on the outside ... and feeling like you want to dance.

### Do you think that's why your gay fans connect with you so much?

That's what always defined gay culture, and that's what defines a lot of cultures. But gay culture has always defined itself from that perspective, and also from the perspective of, like, making the space that is yours – creating that space where you can be what you want to be.

Naturally, being gay puts all those questions in front of you in a different way than they do for other people. Anyone who's different, anyone who feels like that – no matter who you are – it makes you question what society is and what it makes you feel, so I always connected with the gay audience. Ever since "Show Me Love" I was always aware of my gay audience and I always felt like I could connect back.



**"Ever since 'Show Me Love' I was always aware of my gay audience and I always felt like I could connect back."**

### You got a fantastic tweet from someone recently who wrote, "I wonder if Robyn realizes how many fags around the world are in love with her?"

Of course I do! I mean, that's obvious to me. I've consciously decided to show my appreciation as well because I always loved the music that was connected to gay culture.

### How does gay club culture play into the "Body Talk" albums?

It's there all the time, not only with "Body Talk." But on this album I've consciously chosen to explore that world sound-wise, and I've listened to a lot of old house and techno – everything from Sylvester to Donna Summer. Even the dirtier stuff – things that are more raw – talk to me. ABBA and Erasure, the bittersweet kind of songwriting that's present in that world, have been important to me as well.

### How will the rest of "Body Talk" compare to the first disc?

To me, they're one album, and I just decided to release it in three parts because I felt like I needed to change my way of working – figure out a way where I could be more fluid and more intuitive and, I guess, spontaneous.

Also, everyone knows how music is changing. People go out on the Internet and they find what they want and what they're into, and I think as an artist, you look stupid if you don't recognize that, you know? For me, that was obvious, and it was logical to assess that. And I don't think it's a new idea; people have been doing this in a lot of different ways for a long time. Look back 20 or 30 years – like with "Thriller," it was nine songs. Even before that, people were releasing one album a year and they weren't so long. You had a more direct relationship to the music.

### Why did you turn the video for the first single off "Body Talk Pt. 2," "Hang with Me," into a touring travelogue?

Touring has been a really important part of this record. I wanted to make this album through touring, because I think it's necessary. And in the environment that we're in at the moment, where things are changing and there's a lot of really tough and hard attitudes in the visuals in pop music, I wanted to show the emotional side of what I do and connect to the audience in a way that feels real to me.

I also feel like it fits the song – it's a very sweet song, and I didn't really know how to perform the song in a way that would still give it the kind of depth and sincerity that it has.

### Yeah, the video's very intimate.

Good! That's what I wanted.

### There's been debate about the gender you're referring to in the chorus of "Dancing on My Own," which would change the whole perspective of the song. Is it a guy or girl?

Yeah, I know! I guess it's my Swedish accent, but I am saying, "I'm not the girl you're taking home." To me, it doesn't matter – however you want to read into it, that's fine.

### Several of your songs involve robots. Why the obsession with them?

They're funny. They're like more simple versions of humans. It just helps me to put my finger on what it is that I want to get through. I guess it's like a metaphor for the human condition.

I'm a sci-fi nerd – I was super into "Battlestar Galactica"; I know it's tacky! – so it's just fun to me. And yeah, I've been doing it for a while, so for me it's not about trying to be trendy. It's more about my own nerdy self.

# Lutheran church split over gay pastors

BY ANDREW WELSE-HUGGINS

**GROVE CITY, Ohio (AP)** – Critics of the country's largest Lutheran denomination and its more open stance toward gay clergy have formed a new Lutheran church, announced Aug. 27 at a meeting of a conservative activist group.

The overwhelming voice vote by members of the Lutheran Coalition of Renewal created the North American Lutheran Church, a tiny denomination of churches formerly affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, headquartered in Chicago.

As of early August, 199 congregations had cleared the hurdles to leave the ELCA for good, while 136 awaited the second vote needed to make it official. In all, there are 10,239 ELCA churches with about 4.5 million members, making it by far the largest Lutheran denomination in the U.S.

The vote followed the ELCA's decision to move gay pastors into its fold, becoming the largest Protestant denomination in the U.S. to allow noncelibate gays into its ranks.

The move came during Lutheran CORE's annual meeting, held this year in a Church of the Nazarene megachurch in Grove City, just south of Columbus.

The gay pastor issue was the tipping point for many Lutherans, but it followed serious concerns about the ELCA's movement away from holy scriptures as the final authority for church beliefs, said Paull Spring, of State College, Pa., the new denomination's first bishop.

He gave as an example the ELCA's use of inclusive language that strips male references to God – such as "Father" and "Son" – replacing them with words like "Creator" and "Savior."

"The issue that really presented itself was the issue of sexuality, but back of that was

the broader issue: Which is the authoritative voice of the church today?" Spring said. "Is it holy scripture, which Lutherans have always confessed, scripture alone, or is supposed to be some combination, that as well as some mood of the times?"

The ELCA has lost more than half a million members over the past 20 years, a decline faced by many mainline congregations struggling to keep congregants. But that decline is balanced by individual congregations that flourish, many of which hold the same views as the North American Lutheran Church, said Mark Chavez, director of Lutheran CORE.

"The average person out there who's interested in a Christian church wants the real thing," Chavez said. "They want Jesus. They want the gospel. They don't want something else."

The ELCA regrets the decision of some congregations to leave for the new denomination, said ELCA spokesman John Brooks.

"One of the hallmarks of the ELCA is that we reach out to other Christians in the spirit of understanding, reconciliation and unity," he said. "We pray for the unity of the whole church and its members, and we pray for those who will be leaving to join the North American Lutheran Church."

St. John Lutheran in Bridgewater, Mich., has taken the first vote toward joining the new denomination, and pastor Kathleen Meyers supports the decision. But Meyers, attending the meeting in suburban Columbus, also acknowledges it's a tough choice.

"I have friends who are gay – for me, it's a very personal issue," she said. "But I can't set aside the authority of scripture just because I have friends that I love."

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► Mraz

Continued from p. 19

Impact in New York – a fundraiser/small cabaret performance thing – and I got to know a lot of great people in that organization. Then they put out the Give a Damn campaign and they just called me up.

I was always turned on by people making a difference. And most of my management team is gay, a lot of my friends in San Diego are gay, and so are a lot of my high school friends. It seemed pointless for me to not speak up when I have such a huge audience that I can speak to.

**Have you always been close to gay people?**

In high school, my best friend was gay. Also, a friend of mine got kicked out of his house because he came out, and so my dad, being a hero, took him in. I was bullied myself in high school, and then taking a gay kid into our house – it felt so good to do that.

I went to musical-theater college, so I was probably the only straight kid there. And now, you know, I'm in the entertainment business.

**Could you empathize with gay people because you were bullied for doing something that wasn't considered macho – cheerleading?**

Yeah, I just didn't understand it. In fact, I had older family members that were kind of closed-minded that would talk bad about other people and use stereotypes and it never sat well with me as a kid. Those are the kind of things that make kids grow up to think that being gay is wrong or that people of color are unsafe to be around, and so I wanted to overcome that. I wanted to make sure that my kids didn't grow up that way.

**What did you learn about yourself by experimenting with your sexuality when you were younger?**

I learned that I'm not really into facial hair! It has nothing to do with being too selective other than I kind of like smooth features (laughs). Going up against someone else's facial hair or chest hair, it's just not my thing. And yeah, that's about it.

**In 2005, you told Genre that you're "bisexually open-minded." Are you still keeping your options open?**

Well, I would say it's still an option in that I'm open-minded, but I've found someone who just makes me feel so great. I'm with a beautiful woman, and the way she supports me and holds me up gives me the strength to go out and fight for these causes.

**Did you ever attend a gay wedding while California, where you live, allowed gay marriage?**

I have not been to a gay wedding, no. My friend, (recording artist) Abby Schwartz, is engaged. She's the one that actually got me into the LGBT center in San Deigo, which really kind of led me to the whole fight. So she's engaged, and hopefully I get an invite to her wedding.

**What song of yours would make a good gay wedding song?**

I've written a few for this next record that I hope are good wedding songs. I mean, I've heard people use "I'm Yours" and "Lucky" for their wedding, but I've written one called – fuck, I don't even know what it's called – but I'm calling it "This is What Our Lives Look Like" or "This is What Our Love Looks Like," and it's just getting present with the person standing in front of you.



It's basically wedding vows.

**On tour, you change up your set-lists for each show. Is that because you get bored playing the same show night after night?**

Yeah, a little bit. And I feel like we have a lot of material, and it's going to be tricky to sneak it in without boring everybody. I'm changing up my band, I'm changing up the feel a little bit, but it's not going to be a stretch. It's just going to be tight and exciting, and it's still going to be a show about community and participation. And it's never planned, so the current events and the current weather conditions and the room and the energy of the audience all weigh in to how great the show will be.

**You test the new songs on the road, right?**

Yeah, I've been in the studio for quite a bit this year, so now – before I put the final touches on the album – I want to get on the road and see how these songs feel, because they'll change so much as soon as you get onstage.

**You're hitting all sorts of venues. What differences do you notice in the crowd and vibe between different rooms?**

You could play the same room every night and always have a different vibe, different crowd. It's really about the day: Was there traffic coming in? Was there traffic on the way to work this morning? Everybody comes in with some kind of energy, so I'm no longer attached to the room. I make the best of every situation.

**My friend claims that there's more pot depending on where you perform.**

Oh yeah, that's true. Festivals, obviously. With theaters you're less likely to get away with pulling out an apparatus ... and getting it done.

**Some pretty risqué photos of you are floating around online – some in which a guitar is the only thing covering your bits and one of you in your underwear. Are you an exhibitionist?**

I'm growing more into my exhibitionism. Where I live at home is more like a compound, and so my significant other, she's always getting an exhibit. We frolic around naked. And then she and I both went to Burning Man, an exhibitionist dream that's kind of off the radar in the desert, and so that's nothing but sheer exhibitionism.

But you know, I'm growing more into it as I'm growing as a young man. I'm still a well-mannered kid – and I'm worried that my mom is looking at everything!

# Life and death close season at Ledges

BY DONALD V. CALAMIA

A young woman, sitting in her bleak New York apartment, is watching television when the door buzzer sounds. To her surprise, it's her deceased husband's identical twin brother with whom she's been out of contact since Craig's death in Iraq one year and one day earlier. She quickly tidies the unkempt room - and in particular, puts her wedding albums back in the bookcase - and opens the door. It's an awkward and uncomfortable greeting Kelly and Peter share, rarely looking into one another's eyes as they obviously avoid the big questions hanging over their heads.

While the set up might sound a little cheesy or like something out of a daytime soap, Christopher Shinn's "Dying City" is anything but. Rather, it's a psychological drama wrapped with political overtones that asks many questions, but answers few. And wisely, that's just how director Marianne J. Bacon staged it for Capital TheaterWorks at The Ledges Playhouse

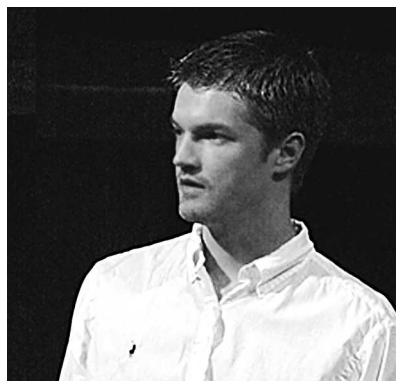
**REVIEW**

**'Dying City'**

Capital TheaterWorks at The Ledges Playhouse, 133 Fitzgerald Park Dr., Grand Ledge. Friday-Sunday through Sept. 12. Free; suggested donation \$10. 517-944-0221. [www.capitaltheaterworks.org](http://www.capitaltheaterworks.org)

in Grand Ledge.

Shinn's script, which first premiered off-Broadway in 2007, tackles George W. Bush's Iraq War from the perspective of a dutiful soldier who goes off to a war he initially believes in; his therapist wife (and later, widow) who says she does but later claims she doesn't; and his identical twin, a handsome and popular gay actor. It's clear Shinn is not a Bush fan, but that doesn't permeate his work. Instead, he uses that to explore how differences in our backgrounds, experiences and where we grew up influence our perspectives on



Dax Spanogle stars as identical twins Craig and Peter in "Dying City." Photo: Capital TheaterWorks.

violence, Bush and the war. (The brothers grew up in the Midwest with a Vietnam vet for a dad; Kelly comes from a wealthy, East Coast family.)

To read the complete review, log on to ... [www.EncoreMichigan.com](http://www.EncoreMichigan.com) or [PrideSource.com](http://PrideSource.com)

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# At the Abreact: Hot summer in the city

BY JOHN QUINN

It's the Labor Day holiday and after the torturous dry spell, most humans are yearning for one last fling of sand, surf and sun. Is it crazy for a theater company to open a show in Detroit this weekend? Oh HELL, yeah! But when that play is Sam Shepard's 1980 tragicomedy, "True West," and the company is The Abreact, crazy is good.

"True West" is a crazy play, one of many in which Shepard explores the legacy of dysfunctional families. It features unique character studies of the protagonists - estranged brothers Lee and Austin. It also features emotions as raw as a sun burn and some truly amazing mayhem in the intimate confines of The Abreact Performance Space. One patron was overheard comparing the experience to seeing a play in your living room, but trust me - you don't want these characters

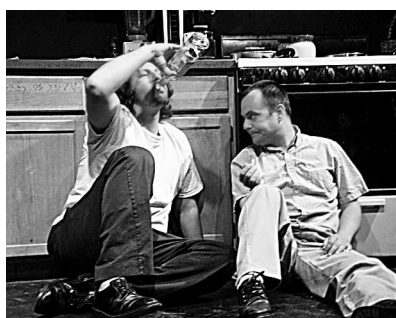
**REVIEW**

**'True West'**

The Abreact Performance Space, 1301 W. Lafayette Blvd., #113, Detroit. Friday-Saturday through Sept. 25, plus Sunday, Sept. 19. Free; by donation. 313-378-5404. [www.theabreact.com](http://www.theabreact.com)

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Austin, played by Chris Korte, seems to have it all - he's risen above his upbringing. An ambitious screen writer, he has the wife, the kids and the house in the suburbs that are the anchors of middle class respectability. He is at present working on a script while house sitting for his vacationing mother. His work is interrupted by the first appearance in years of his older brother Lee (Eric Maher), a drifter and petty thief. In the hands of a



"BoxFest Detroit 2010" continues through Aug. 21 at The Furniture Factory in Detroit. Photo: Steve Perez

less thoughtful playwright, this could be yet another take on Cain and Abel, but Shepard's characters are both driven by the same envy and resentment. Each brother is only half of a complete person.

To read the complete review, log on to ... [www.EncoreMichigan.com](http://www.EncoreMichigan.com) or [PrideSource.com](http://PrideSource.com)

# Birch, Davies heat up 'Red Hot Lovers'

BY D. A. BLACKBURN

If "Last of the Red Hot Lovers" sounds like a romantic comedy, think again. The reality is that there's very little romance in the Tipping Point Theatre's season opener. But what it lacks in sultry steam, the production makes up for in scorching comedy, and as the lead-off to a season of "All American" works, it leaves this critic feeling theatrically patriotic.

Written by Neil Simon, "Last of the Red Hot Lovers" is the story of Barney Cashman - a successful, if tragically square restaurateur, seeking excitement through a series of three (failed) extra-marital affairs. Cashman's life feels stale. He's been married to his high school love

**REVIEW**

**'Last of the Red Hot Lovers'**

Tipping Point Theatre, 361 E Cady St, Northville. Thursday-Sunday through Oct. 16. \$28-\$30. 248-347-0003. [www.tippingpointtheatre.com](http://www.tippingpointtheatre.com)

for 23 years, runs the family business and longs to experience life outside the day-to-day routine. Having decided to stray, he sets out to seduce, using his mother's apartment as a love nest. Unfortunately, he can't seem to find a suitable lover. With each attempt, his self confidence - and his

swagger - grow. But failing to seal the deal, he discovers a surprising truth: He's been happy all along, and he's simply too decent to cheat.

A frequently reoccurring theme in Simon's play is the deterioration of morality, brought on by the sexual revolution - no surprise, given that the work premiered in 1969. The Tipping Point's production, however, is set firmly in the disco-driven 1970s. Ultimately, this makes little difference thematically, and proves to be a good decision with regard to costuming (Colleen Ryan-Peters), music and direction (James R. Kuhl).

To read the complete review, log on to ... [www.EncoreMichigan.com](http://www.EncoreMichigan.com) or [PrideSource.com](http://PrideSource.com)

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## Making her mine

**Q.** This is pretty embarrassing to admit, but I have never really had a "normal" relationship. I mean, a relationship where two people date or have a real life together.

I did have a long, sort of relationship with a woman who really didn't want me – other than for sex. She was seeing other women during the time that I was involved with her. (She never wanted to go out with me to a movie, party or anything that normal people do.) I stupidly thought that one day she'd see the light and settle down with me. Well, nine years – and lots of therapy – later, I realized that that wasn't going to happen. I also spent my time in therapy dealing with why I would go for that kind of relationship.

The good news is that I feel like I'm now ready for a good relationship, and my therapist thinks so, too. (I'll be 40 next year.) I have been dating and finally feel like I met someone who could be Ms. Right. She has all the right stuff, physically and in every other way.

I met this person on a dating site. I went out with her and it really went well. She said that she'd call me when she got back; she was going out of town for two weeks. She said that she really enjoyed our time together and thought we had things in common – as well as chemistry. I thought so, too. So we left it at her calling me. Well, it was three-and-a-half weeks later and I heard nothing, so I made an excuse to text her. Two days after that, she contacted me back and asked if I wanted to go have a drink that weekend. Of course I did. Again we had a great time. This basic scenario of my always being the person who contacts her has been going on now for three months; then we go out, she doesn't call back, then we connect because I make the effort, and we do something, both of us always having a good time. (Believe me, she's having a good time too; it's not just me.)

We have not had sex, which drives me crazy, but we have kissed. The kisses rank somewhere between you-are-a-friend kiss to something pretty hot, but not leading to anything. If I try to push it, she backs off, saying she's not ready.

I'm certain this isn't another case of me trying to be with someone who doesn't want me; I've described this to my therapist and she agrees with me. My therapist does think that maybe this woman is not ready for a relationship, but I know that she wants a relationship, or why would she be on the dating site? In her blurb about herself, she said her "goal in life was a permanent relationship." She told me that in her last relationship, which lasted 12 years, her partner left her for another woman – that was about six months ago.

I don't know what I need to do to put a fire under this woman. After all, six months is a long time and I can tell that she likes me and is attracted to me. What do you suggest I do?

*Hot to Trot*

**A.** I'm with your therapist on this one, and suggest you cool your jets. Six months is not a long time, especially after a breakup in which her partner of 12 years left her for another person. Healing just doesn't happen that fast. She's still hurting and is gun shy. She's probably more in the dating mode and hoping for a permanent relationship in the future. Your eagerness could be scaring her.

You are really ready for a Ms. Right – right now. You and she are at very different places in regards to "readiness" for a serious relationship, so you might want to move on and find someone who's ready, like you are, to be a couple. However, if you truly feel that this woman could be Ms. Right, you'd be wise to sit back and let things happen slowly, at her pace. Otherwise, you will scare her off.

*Jody Valley spent 12 years as a clinical social worker. She worked with the LGBT community both as a counselor and a workshop leader in the areas of coming out, self-esteem and relationship issues. The "Dear Jody" column appears weekly. Reach Jody at [DearJodyValley@hotmail.com](mailto:DearJodyValley@hotmail.com). Letters may be edited for clarity and length.*

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### Here's how to play BTL's Fake Ad Contest

1. Search this issue of *Between The Lines* for the one ad that is the fake ad. Here's a clue: the fake ad will include the line "between the sheets" somewhere within the text of the ad.
2. Go online at [www.Pridesource.com](http://www.Pridesource.com) and click where it says "Click here to win!"
3. Scroll down to the entry form for the fake ad contest and enter your name, etc.
4. In the notes field, put the date of the BTL issue, page number where you found the fake ad and the name of the fake advertiser.

Search this issue for the Fake Ad

**Between The Lines**  
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Each week we'll select a winner to receive a fabulous prize, like a gift certificate for dinner out at a wonderful restaurant, tickets to a great show, CD's, movies and more!

**Have fun searching, and good luck!**

**FIND THE FAKE AD CONTEST**



by Jack Fertig

## You're too sexy for your own good, Pisces!

*As Jupiter backs into Pisces and bumps into Uranus, Venus will quincunx both, inspiring brilliant attempts at reconciliation and harmony. Then Mars follows Venus, energizing those ideals, which might help – or could ruin the whole thing by being too pushy. Easy does it!*

**ARIES (March 20 – April 19):** You can try too hard to please your partner (or to land one!), leading to frustration and explosions and making your baby wonder where that came from. Take it easy! Share secrets to build intimacy. That's better than overextending yourself.

**TAURUS (April 20 – May 20):** Your efforts to bring co-workers into better cooperation include some excellent ideas, but your enthusiasm could be excessive, creating more discord than morale. Share your ideas, but also make an effort to get theirs. Independent efforts are good, too!

**GEMINI (May 21- June 20):** Your reputation for wit and playfulness could complicate your efforts at work. Building morale is important, but is it part of your job description? Surprise conferences with the boss may include some light chastening, but with that comes some opportunities.

**CANCER (June 21- July 22):** Your efforts at home or community improvement will seem welcome at first, but your plans are more far-reaching than others like. Keep the arguments calm and principled, be flexible, and you can come to a much better plan.

**LEO (July 23 – August 22):** Your seductions and cajoling will get you to places you never imagined going. What feels like surprising successes can lead you to overdo your efforts, provoking arguments and frustration. Be cool. Take it all as experimentation and adventure.

**VIRGO (August 23 – September 22):** In the constant and necessary negotiations of relationships, you can expect to hit a bump on something you thought you had tight agreement on. Don't overreact. Just talk it out; keep it clean and open. Maybe agree to disagree.

**LIBRA (September 23 – October 22):** Take a good hard look at your diet and exercise. Some adjustments are necessary on both scores. Maybe just a few

less desserts, a few more reps. It doesn't have to be anything dramatic, but in time the results could be!

**SCORPIO (October 23 – November 21):** Meditation and retreat should prove very harmonizing, but once you get relaxed, some of your darker dreams and fantasies can surface. You can handle that and more. It should make good creative inspiration.

**SAGITTARIUS (November 22 – December 20):** Look beneath those urges to get out of the house. What are you getting away from? Getting out and having fun is fine, but imagine a home you'd rather stay in and take steps toward reaching that ideal.

**CAPRICORN (December 21 – January 19):** Contradicting your boss or other authorities is a sure way to get into trouble, but if you think it out very carefully – plan your criticism, don't just pop off spontaneously – the results could be well worth it.

**AQUARIUS (January 20 – February 18):** As much as people do value your opinion, try to keep it in check. It will be much more respected when it's asked for. Being right isn't enough. Being terse, considerate and respectful of others (no matter how stupid they are) is important, too.

**PISCES (February 19 – March 19):** You're too sexy for your own good. Seriously. Stop and think before you get sucked into something you'll regret later. You can enjoy greater passion and a more powerful connection if you just think it through before you get started.

*Jack Fertig, a professional astrologer since 1977, is available for personal and business consultations in person in San Francisco, or online everywhere. He can be reached at 415-864-8302, through his website at [www.starjack.com](http://www.starjack.com), and by e-mail at [QScopes@qsyndicate.com](mailto:QScopes@qsyndicate.com).*



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## EDITOR'S PICK

OutFest is back! Common Language Bookstore and \aut\Bar owners Keith Orr and Martin Contreras will again be hosting Ann Arbor's annual OutFest on Sept. 18 in Kerrytown's Braun Court.

The fall festival will feature resource booths from Michigan-based LGBT organizations, a live DJ, dancing and food and drink specials at the bar. There will also be live performances by local gay favorites Drag King Rebellion and (the) fundamentalists. Both bands are Pride favorites – this summer alone, (the) fundamentalists played at Motor City Pride, while DKR could be seen at both the Southeast Michigan Dyke March and the Michigan Pride festival.

Don't miss out on the free fun! To learn more, call 734-663-0036, or visit [www.autbar.com](http://www.autbar.com).

## OUTINGS

### Thursday, Sept. 9

**Hang Out Night**, 7 p.m. Join other young, up-and-coming adults in the Emerald Room for drink specials, free pizza, networking and lots of fun! Rosie O'Grady's, 279 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. [jsimpson@goaffirmations.org](mailto:jsimpson@goaffirmations.org) [www.goaffirmations.org](http://www.goaffirmations.org)

**Meet 'n Greet**, 7 p.m. Welcoming LGBT people and allies ages 18-33. A meeting with the 20 Somethings with light snacks and dinner to follow. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. [www.the20somethings.org](http://www.the20somethings.org)

### Friday, Sept. 10

**September Downtown Lunch**, 11:45 a.m. The annual lunch for Lansing's LGBT community. RSVP recommended. Soup, 123 E. Kalamazoo, Lansing. [milatino@aol.com](mailto:milatino@aol.com) [www.lahronline.org](http://www.lahronline.org)

**Womyn's Film Night**, 7 p.m. "And Then Came Lola" This romantic comedy follows scatterbrained photographer Lola as she attempts to make it to a key meeting on time. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. [www.goaffirmations.org](http://www.goaffirmations.org)

**Behind Closed Doors Office Party**, 10 p.m. Business formal attire suggested, but not required. No cover, but donations to ICON charities appreciated. Hayloft Saloon, 8070 Greenfield, Detroit. [www.icondetroit.net](http://www.icondetroit.net)

### Saturday, Sept. 11

**LGBT Fall Welcome Picnic**, 11 a.m. The annual event with picnic food, games, prizes and a musical performances by Casey Grooten and Dana Scott. CARES/KGLRC, 629 Pioneer Street, Kalamazoo. 269-349-4234. [www.kglrc.org](http://www.kglrc.org)

**Aerial Fitness Program**, 11:30 a.m. A six-week course that will cover stretching, trapeze, aerial hoop, circus rings and more. Cost: \$85. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. [www.goaffirmations.org](http://www.goaffirmations.org)

**Scavenger Hunt**, 1 p.m. A benefit for Together We Can, \$5 donation for team scavenger hunt. On foot only, with prizes! Meets at Nine Mile Road and Planavon, Ferndale. [twc@twcdetroit.com](mailto:twc@twcdetroit.com) [www.twcdetroit.com](http://www.twcdetroit.com)

**Men's Discussion Group**, 6 p.m. A group for adult gay, bi or trans men. Topics range from public displays of affection or LGBT images in advertising to movie nights and picnics. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. [www.goaffirmations.org](http://www.goaffirmations.org)

**YEP Awards**, 7 p.m. An awards ceremony to honor Affirmations youth and their accomplishments. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. [www.goaffirmations.org](http://www.goaffirmations.org)

**Monster Ball**, 9 p.m. The ultimate Lady Gaga event, with MSU's own Baby Gaga. Ages 18 and older welcome. Ages 21 and older free cover before 11 p.m. Spiral Dance Bar, 1247 Center, Lansing. [www.spiraldancebar.com](http://www.spiraldancebar.com)

### Sunday, Sept. 12

**Volunteer Party**, 1 p.m. A celebration honoring all the 2010 Windsor Pride Festival volunteers. RSVP required. Windsor Pride, 662 Hall Ave., Windsor. 519-817-6357. [www.windsorpride.com](http://www.windsorpride.com)

**Natalie Mosher Support Event**, 4 p.m. An event to support the election of Mosher to the U.S. House of Representatives and unseat anti-gay Rep. Thaddeus McCotter. Special appearance by Gov. Jennifer Granholm. Sponsor: \$500, Sponsor: \$250, Friend: \$100. Alan Semonian and Danny Zavala, 30382 Cascade Court, Southfield. 734-299-9595. [www.mosherforcongress.com](http://www.mosherforcongress.com)

**LGBT Bowling**, 11 p.m. The start of BTI's Sunday Mixed League. Teams and individuals encouraged to sign up. BTI, Fairlanses Bowl, 29600 N. Stephenson Highway, Madison Heights. 586-779-3738. [BTIBowling@aol.com](mailto:BTIBowling@aol.com) [www.btibowling.com](http://www.btibowling.com)

### Wednesday, Sept. 15

**MDGLCC Executive Board Meeting**, 5 p.m. The executive board of the MDGLCC meets to discuss issues, events, strategies, etc. Metro Detroit Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce. 313-759-7894. [info@mdglcc.org](mailto:info@mdglcc.org) [www.mdglcc.org](http://www.mdglcc.org)

**Health Advisory Council Meeting**, 6:30 p.m. A meeting for those interested in joining the council, which discusses LGBT health issues. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. [www.goaffirmations.org](http://www.goaffirmations.org)

### Friday, Sept. 17

**Youth Talent Show Auditions**, 6 p.m. A chance for youth to try out for the YEP Talent Show. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. [www.goaffirmations.org](http://www.goaffirmations.org)

**Womyn's Film Night**, 7 p.m. "Margaret Cho: Beautiful" Cho's latest stand-up comedy tour is a show with a message: What makes all of us beautiful is how we feel about ourselves, not what society dictates we should feel. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. [www.goaffirmations.org](http://www.goaffirmations.org)

### Saturday, Sept. 18

**Hepatitis A and B Vaccinations**, 11 a.m. In partnership with ACCESS. Free, with HIV testing also available. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. [www.goaffirmations.org](http://www.goaffirmations.org)

**Aerial Fitness Program**, 11:30 a.m. A six-week course that will cover stretching, trapeze, aerial hoop, circus rings and more. Cost: \$85. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. [www.goaffirmations.org](http://www.goaffirmations.org)

**OutFEST**, 5 p.m. The annual festival with resource booths, dancing and performances by (the) fundamentalists, Drag King Rebellion and more. \aut\Bar, Kerrytown District, Ann Arbor. 734-663-0036. [www.autbar.com](http://www.autbar.com)

**Men's Discussion Group**, 6 p.m. A group for adult gay, bi or trans men. Topics range from public displays of affection or LGBT images in advertising to movie nights and picnics. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. [www.goaffirmations.org](http://www.goaffirmations.org)

**Hayloft Saloon Leather Expose**, 8 p.m. Featuring demonstrations and merchandise from over 40 regional leather-gear vendors. Hayloft Saloon, 8070 Greenfield, Detroit. 313-581-8913. [www.hayloftsaloon.com](http://www.hayloftsaloon.com)

**Monsters Ball - Fright Night**, 9 p.m. Premiere afterparty featuring DJ Jen. Dance the night away following Trick or Treating Fright Night event on the deck, weather permitting. Windover Resort, 3596 Blakely Road, Owendale. 989-375-2586. [reservations@windoverresort.com](mailto:reservations@windoverresort.com) [www.windoverresort.com](http://www.windoverresort.com)

## MUSIC & MORE

### BENEFITS/SOCIAL EVENTS

**Dawn Farm** "Dawn Farm Jamboree" The annual free event for Dawn Farm celebrating recovery from chemical dependency with activities, entertainment and more. Dawn Farm, 6633 Stony Creek Road, Ypsilanti. 1 p.m. Sep. 12. 734-485-8725. [www.dawnfarm.org](http://www.dawnfarm.org)

**Friends for the Dearborn Animal Shelter** "No Beast Feast" An all-vegetarian event with cooking demonstrations, recipes, prizes and a full veggie meal. Tickets: \$45. Park Place Caterers, 23400 Park Street, Dearborn. 6 p.m. Sep. 17. [www.dearbornanimals.org](http://www.dearbornanimals.org)

**Kalamazoo Institute of Arts** "Benefit Appraisal Day" Appraisals by DuMouchelle Gallery. Registration: \$15 per item for KIA members, \$18 for non-members. Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, 314 S. Park, Kalamazoo. 10:15 a.m. Sep. 11. 269-349-7775. [www.kiarts.org](http://www.kiarts.org)

**Kerrytown Concert House** "Parisian Soiree" The annual gala season opener with Parisian-inspired performances. Tickets: \$15-30. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Sep. 17, 8 p.m. Sep. 18. 734-769-2999. [www.kerrytownconcerthouse.com](http://www.kerrytownconcerthouse.com)

**Northville Historical Society** "Victorian Festival Clothing Sale" A sale leading up to the annual Victorian Festival. Downtown, Northville. 12 p.m. Sep. 9, 12 p.m. Sep. 10. 248-348-1845. [www.northville.org](http://www.northville.org)

**Overture Society of the Southern Great Lakes Symphony** "Breakfast Fundraiser" To raise funds for scholarships, with musical performances by 2009 scholarship winners. Tickets: \$35. Grecian Center, 16300 Dix-Toledo Road, Southgate. 10 a.m. Sep. 11. 313-382-7532. [www.downriverarts.org](http://www.downriverarts.org)

**Saks Fifth Avenue** "AIDS Walk Detroit Gala" Celebrating the 20th anniversary of Steppin' Out. Includes SFA gift certificate, cocktails, appetizers, DJ and fashion show. Tickets: \$50. Saks Fifth Avenue, 2901 W. Big Beaver Road, Troy. 5:30 p.m. Sep. 16. 248-399-9255. [www.aidswalkdetroit.org](http://www.aidswalkdetroit.org)

**Steppin' Out** "AIDS Walk Detroit" The 19th annual walk to raise funds for HIV/AIDS advocacy and treatment. Free to register. Farmer's Market, 316 E. 11 Mile Road, Royal Oak. 9 a.m. Sep. 19. 248-399-9255. [www.aidswalkdetroit.org](http://www.aidswalkdetroit.org)

**University Musical Society** "On The Road with UMS" The annual auction benefiting UMS, with food and live music. Tickets: \$100. North Campus Research Complex, 2800 Plymouth Road, Ann Arbor. 6:30 p.m. Sep. 11. 734-764-8489. [www.ums.org/ontheroad](http://www.ums.org/ontheroad)

**Whole Foods** "AIDS Walk Detroit Open House" Register for the walk, pick up a goodie bag and sign up to win a Whole Foods gift card. Free. Whole Foods, 2880 W. Maple Road, Troy. 1 p.m. Sep. 12. 248-399-9255. [www.aidswalkdetroit.org](http://www.aidswalkdetroit.org)

### CLASSICAL

**Lansing Symphony Orchestra** "Beethoven's Triple" Part of the MasterWorks series, with performances of works by Reznicek, Beethoven and Brahms. Tickets: \$12-45. Wharton Center, Michigan State University, East Lansing. 8 p.m. Sep. 10. 517-487-5001. [www.lansingsymphony.org](http://www.lansingsymphony.org)

**MSU College of Music** "Faculty Concert" With Walter Verdehr on violin and Ralph Votapek on piano. Tickets: \$10 adults, \$8 seniors, free for students. Music Building Auditorium, Michigan State University, East Lansing. 7:30 p.m. Sep. 16. 517-353-9958. [www.music.msu.edu](http://www.music.msu.edu)

### CONCERTS

**Arab American National Museum** "Jesus 'Chuy' Negrete" Part of the extension of the Concert of Colors. Tickets: \$10 Arab American National Museum, 13624 Michigan Ave., Dearborn. 6:30 p.m. Sep. 9. 313-624-0215. [www.arabamericanmuseum.org](http://www.arabamericanmuseum.org)

**Croswell Opera House** "Kathy Kosins" A special one-night engagement of the jazz singer's Live by Request concert. Tickets: \$18 adults, \$12 students. Croswell Opera House, 129 Maumee, Adrian. 7:30 p.m. Sep. 16. 517-264-7469. [www.croswell.org](http://www.croswell.org)

**Eastern Michigan University** "Jason Mraz" A performance by the best-selling singer/songwriter. Tickets: \$22-42. Convocation Center, Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti. 7 p.m. Sep. 16. 734-487-2282. [www.emutix.com](http://www.emutix.com)

**Kalamazoo Institute of Arts** "Zion Lion" The kickoff to the Art & All That Jazz season. Admission: \$3 adults, free for members. Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, 314 S. Park, Kalamazoo. 5:30 p.m. Sep. 10. 269-349-7775. [www.kiarts.org](http://www.kiarts.org)

**Kerrytown Concert House** "Chard & Holland" The annual benefit concert, with baritone Roger Chard and pianist Maurita Patterson Holland. Tickets: \$15-30. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Sep. 10, 8 p.m. Sep. 11. 734-769-2999. [www.kerrytownconcerthouse.com](http://www.kerrytownconcerthouse.com)

**Kerrytown Concert House** "Old Burying Ground CD Release Party" Honoring the release of the orchestral song-cycle, recorded by the University of Michigan Symphony Orchestra. Admission: \$5 students, \$10 adults, free with CD purchase. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. 7:30 p.m. Sep. 12. 734-769-2999. [www.kerrytownconcerthouse.com](http://www.kerrytownconcerthouse.com)

**Live Nation** "Jackson Browne" With special guest David Lindley. Tickets: \$25-59.50. Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 8 p.m. Sep. 18. [www.livenation.com](http://www.livenation.com)

**MotorCity Casino** "Ludacris" Battle of the Sexes, a performance by the Grammy Award-winning rapper. Tickets: \$32-39. Sound Board Theater, 2901 Grand River Ave., Detroit. 8 p.m. Sep. 10. [www.motorcitycasino.com](http://www.motorcitycasino.com)

**MotorCity Casino** "An Evening with Al Jarreau" A concert with the Grammy Award-winning jazz and soul singer. Tickets: \$39-42. Sound Board Theater, 2901 Grand River Ave., Detroit. 8 p.m. Sep. 17. [www.motorcitycasino.com](http://www.motorcitycasino.com)

**MSU College of Music** "Faculty Concert" An evening of excruciatingly bad love songs with soprano Melanie Helton and pianist Derek Polischuk. Tickets: \$10 adults, \$8 seniors, free for students. Music Building Auditorium, Michigan State University, East Lansing. 7:30 p.m. Sep. 13. 517-353-9958. [www.music.msu.edu](http://www.music.msu.edu)

**Music Hall** "Curtis Fuller and his Quintet" A live jazz performance by the Detroit legend and his band. Tickets: \$30. Jazz Cafe, 350 Madison, Detroit. Sep. 17 - Sep. 18. [www.jazzcafedetroit.com](http://www.jazzcafedetroit.com)

**Olympia Entertainment** "Nickelback" The Dark Horse World Tour, with special guests Three Days Grace and Buckcherry. Tickets: \$49.50-79.50. Joe Louis Arena, 600 Civic Center Drive, Detroit. 6:15 p.m. Sep. 18. [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com)

**Palace Sports and Entertainment** "KISS" The Hottest Show on Earth Tour, with special guest The Academy Is... Tickets: \$28-78. DTE Energy Music Theatre, 7774 Sashabaw Road, Clarkston. 6:30 p.m. Sep. 11. [www.palacenet.com](http://www.palacenet.com)

**Palace Sports and Entertainment** "Crosby, Stills & Nash" A performance by the legendary classic rock trio. Tickets: \$21-76. DTE Energy Music Theatre, 7774 Sashabaw Road, Clarkston. 7:30 p.m. Sep. 12. [www.palacenet.com](http://www.palacenet.com)

**The Magic Bag** "Robert Bradley's Blackwater Surprise" With Jamie McCarthy and Alyssa Simmons. Tickets: \$10. The Magic Bag, 22920 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. 8 p.m. Sep. 17. 248-544-1991. [www.themagicbag.com](http://www.themagicbag.com)

**University of Michigan Museum of Art** "Dennis Wilson and Friends" Held in the Commons, a performance by the UM professor of jazz. Free. University of Michigan Museum of Art, 525 S. State, Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Sep. 15. 734-763-UMMA. [www.umma.umich.edu](http://www.umma.umich.edu)

### FESTIVALS

**Northville Chamber of Commerce** "Victorian Festival" The annual journey back in time to the art, history and romance of the 1800s, with fun for adults and kids alike. Mill Race Village, Northville. 5 p.m. Sep. 17, 12 p.m. Sep. 18, 12 p.m. Sep. 19. [www.northville.org](http://www.northville.org)

**The Henry Ford** "Old Car Festival" Featuring nearly 500 antique cars, plus new cars, green cars and special performances and exhibits. Free with Village admission: \$22 adults, \$21 seniors, \$16 youth, free for members. Greenfield Village, 20900 Oakwood, Dearborn. 9 a.m. Sep. 11, 9 a.m. Sep. 12. 313-982-6001. [www.thehenryford.org](http://www.thehenryford.org)



Local stand-up favorite Jen House will be hosting a House Party on Sept. 17-19 at Detroit's Park Bar with performances by several comedians, plus a set by the hostess herself.

Detroit-based House is known for her kooky alter egos, including Hell's Belles Girlie Revue MC Hal King and Carlisle C. Carlisle J Wentworthy, a regular at the monthly "Torch With A Twist," which opened for Sandra Bernhard at Detroit's Fringe Festival.

House will be hosting two headlining comedians upstairs at the Park Bar – Toronto's Sarah Donaldson and Chicago's Mike Stanley – plus a local aspiring comedian.

Shows begin at 9 p.m. Sept. 17 and 18 and 8 p.m. Sept. 19, with doors opening one hour before showtime. Cover is \$10. For more information, visit [www.jenhouse.net](http://www.jenhouse.net).



## FILM & VIDEO

**Michigan Theater** "Metropolis" Part of the Summer Classic Movie Series. Tickets: \$9 adults, \$7 students, seniors and veterans. Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor. 1:30 p.m. Sep. 12, 7 p.m. Sep. 14. [www.michtheater.org](http://www.michtheater.org)

**Michigan Theater** "Carbon Nation" Part of the Stonyfield Sustainability Film Series. Tickets: \$6 adults, \$5 members, students and seniors. Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor. 7 p.m. Sep. 15. [www.michtheater.org](http://www.michtheater.org)

**Olympia Entertainment** "A Name is a Name" A showing of a film about Macedonian people and their fight to have their name and identity recognized. Tickets: \$25 general admission, \$100 VIP. Masonic Temple, 500 Temple, Detroit. 7 p.m. Sep. 11. 313-271-3110. [www.anameisname.com](http://www.anameisname.com)

**University of Michigan Museum of Art** "California Dreamin'" Shown in the Helmut Stern Auditorium. Winner of the 2007 Cannes Award. Tickets: \$10. University of Michigan Museum of Art, 525 S. State, Ann Arbor. 7 p.m. Sep. 17. 734-763-UMMA. [www.umma.umich.edu](http://www.umma.umich.edu)

**University of Michigan Museum of Art** "Sequences" Shown in the Helmut Stern Auditorium. A 1982 drama by Alexandru Tatos. Tickets: \$10. University of Michigan Museum of Art, 525 S. State, Ann Arbor. 4 p.m. Sep. 18. 734-763-UMMA. [www.umma.umich.edu](http://www.umma.umich.edu)

**University of Michigan Museum of Art** "Award-Winning Short Films" A collection of international shorts, shown in the Helmut Stern Auditorium. Tickets: \$10. University of Michigan Museum of Art, 525 S. State, Ann Arbor. 7:30 p.m. Sep. 18. 734-763-UMMA. [www.umma.umich.edu](http://www.umma.umich.edu)

## OTHER

**Detroit Waldorf School** "Mom to Mom Sale" A day of sale and swapping of children's clothing, toys and equipment. Detroit Waldorf School, 2555 Burns Ave., Detroit. 10 a.m. Sep. 11. [www.detroitwaldorf.org](http://www.detroitwaldorf.org)

**Downriver Council for the Arts** "Poetry with M.L. Liebler" Part of the free Parlor Series. Wyandotte Arts Center, 81 Chestnut, Wyandotte. 7 p.m. Sep. 16. [www.downriverarts.org](http://www.downriverarts.org)

**Healthy Oakland Partnership** "Family Market Day" Enjoy Oakland County Parks and Recreation physical activity mobile units, music, activities, prizes, exhibits and more. Oakland County Farmers Market, 2350 Pontiac Lake Road, Waterford, 9 a.m. Sep. 11. [www.oakgov.com/health](http://www.oakgov.com/health)

**National Kidney Foundation** "Personal Action Toward Health Class" A free class to help individuals learn how to manage long-term health conditions. Pre-registration required. Royal Oak Township Recreation Department, 21272 Mendota, Ferndale. Sep. 17 - Oct. 22. 734-222-9800. [www.nkfm.org](http://www.nkfm.org)

**The Auction Block** "Seized Goods Auction" Flat screen TVs, new computers, digital cameras, Wii, Play Stations, Xbox, iPods, cell phones, DVD players, jewelry and much more. Auction starts at \$1. The Auction Block, 12660 Greenfield, Detroit. 9 a.m. Sep. 11. 313-659-3376. [www.theauctionblock.com](http://www.theauctionblock.com)

**Vegetarian Traditions** "George Vutetakis Book Signing" A talk with the former chef and author of "Vegetarian Traditions: Favorite Recipes from My Years at the Legendary Inn Season Cafe." Farmer's Market, 316 E. 11 Mile Road, Royal Oak. 8 a.m. Sep. 11, 11 a.m. Sep. 18. [www.thevegetarianguy.com](http://www.thevegetarianguy.com)

**Vegetarian Traditions** "Vegan & Vegetarian: How to make it work for you" A talk with author and former chef at Royal Oak's Inn Season Cafe, George Vutetakis. WCCC Northwest Campus Welcome Center, 8200 W. Outer Drive, Detroit. 6 p.m. Sep. 16. 313-496-2704. [www.thevegetarianguy.com](http://www.thevegetarianguy.com)

## SHOWS

**Jen House** "House Party!" With stand-up performances by comedians Sarah Donaldson and Mike Stanley, plus sets by Jen House and a local aspiring comedian. Cover: \$10. Park Bar, 2040 Park Avenue, Detroit. 9 p.m. Sep. 17, 9 p.m. Sep. 18, 8 p.m. Sep. 19. 313-962-2933. [www.jenhouse.net](http://www.jenhouse.net)

## Palace Sports and Entertainment

"Fall Home Improvement Show" Advice from experts, ideas for decorating and remodeling and more. Admission: \$8 in advance, \$10 at the door. The Palace, 5 Championship Drive, Auburn Hills. 10 a.m. Sep. 11, 10 a.m. Sep. 12. [www.budgetconsumereexpo.com](http://www.budgetconsumereexpo.com)

**Scarab Club** "Will Alexander" A poetry performance, as part of the Woodward Line Poetry Series. Free. Scarab Club, 217 Farnsworth, Detroit. 7 p.m. Sep. 15. 313-831-1250. [www.scarabclub.org](http://www.scarabclub.org)

# THEATER

## BENEFITS AND FUNDRAISERS

**Bridge to Terabithia** Two lonely children create a magical forest kingdom where they are safe from those who don't understand them. A staged reading, followed by a talkback and reception. A benefit for FYT. \$25. Flint Youth Theatre, 1220 E. Kearsley St., Flint. 6 p.m. Sep. 12. 810-237-1530. [www.flintyouththeatre.org](http://www.flintyouththeatre.org)

**Mitzi's Abortion** A compelling play about a young woman who struggles to define herself in a world where others are determined to make choices for her. A fundraiser for Planned Parenthood of South Central Michigan. Sept. 17 - \$25, which includes reception and silent auction beginning at 6:30 p.m.; Sept. 18 - \$100, which includes an exclusive reception, silent auction and the playwright, Elizabeth Heffron, beginning at 6:30 p.m.; Sept. 24 & 25 - \$15, which includes a talkback. Planned Parenthood of South Central Michigan at Epic Theater, 359 S. Kalamazoo Mall, Suite 205, Kalamazoo. Sep. 17 - Sep. 25. 269-372-1200. [www.plannedparenthood.org/ppscm](http://www.plannedparenthood.org/ppscm)

## CIVIC/COMMUNITY THEATER

**A Midsummer Night's Dream** \$16-\$18. Stagecrafters, 415 S. Lafayette Ave., Royal Oak. Sep. 16 - Oct. 3. 248-541-6430. [www.stagecrafters.org](http://www.stagecrafters.org)

**Bye, Bye, Birdie** \$17. Ann Arbor Civic Theatre at Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre, 911 N. University Ave., Ann Arbor. Sep. 16-19. 734-971-2228. [www.a2ct.org](http://www.a2ct.org)

**Caroline, or Change** A co-production with Peppermint Creek Theatre Company. \$20. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Dr., Lansing. Sep. 9-19. 517-482-5700. [www.riverwalktheatre.com](http://www.riverwalktheatre.com)

**Crossing Delancey** \$15. The Players Guild of Dearborn, 21730 Madison St., Dearborn. Sep. 17 - Oct. 3. 313-561-TKTS. [www.playersguildofdearborn.org](http://www.playersguildofdearborn.org)

**Kiss Me, Kate** \$18. Spotlight Players at The Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill Rd., Canton. Sep. 17-26. 734-394-5300. [www.spotlightplayersmi.org](http://www.spotlightplayersmi.org)

**The Drowsy Chaperone** A Michigan premiere. \$17. Village Players of Birmingham, 34660 Woodward Ave., Birmingham. Sep. 10-26. 248-644-2075. [www.birminghamvillageplayers.com](http://www.birminghamvillageplayers.com)

## PROFESSIONAL

**A Closer Walk with Patsy Cline** \$25-\$29. Farmers Alley Theatre, 221 Farmers Alley, Kalamazoo. Sep. 17 - Oct. 3. 269-343-2727. [www.farmersalleytheatre.com](http://www.farmersalleytheatre.com)

**Beyond Therapy** \$20. The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Dr., Three Oaks. Sep. 17-. 269-756-3879. [www.acorntheater.com](http://www.acorntheater.com)

**Boeing-Boeing** \$25-\$38. The Purple Rose Theatre Company, 137 Park St., Chelsea. Through Sep. 11. 734-433-7673. [www.purplerosetheatre.org](http://www.purplerosetheatre.org)

**Criminal Hearts** \$20. Planet Ant Theatre, 2357 Caniff Ave., Hamtramck. Sep. 10 - Oct. 2. 313-365-4948. [www.planetant.com](http://www.planetant.com)

**Dying City** Free. Capital TheaterWorks at The Ledges Playhouse, 133 Fitzgerald Park Dr., Grand Ledge. Through Sep. 12. 517-944-0221. [www.capitaltheaterworks.org](http://www.capitaltheaterworks.org)

**Fridays and Saturdays at Go Comedy!** \$15 per show; "Dark Matter" is free. Go Comedy! Improv Theater, 261 E. Nine Mile Rd., Ferndale. 248-327-0575. [www.gocomedy.net](http://www.gocomedy.net)

**Last of the Red Hot Lovers** \$28-\$30. Tipping Point Theatre, 361 E. Cady St., Northville. Through Oct. 16. 248-347-0003. [www.tippingpointtheatre.com](http://www.tippingpointtheatre.com)

**Opera at The Acorn** \$25. The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Dr., Three Oaks. 8 p.m. Sep. 11. 269-756-3879. [www.acorntheater.com](http://www.acorntheater.com)

**Sonia Flew** A co-production with The Jewish Ensemble Theatre Company. Previews Sept. 17-19 & 23 (\$10-\$32). \$22-\$41. Performance Network Theatre, 120 E. Huron St., Ann Arbor. Sep. 17 - Oct. 17. 734-663-0681. [www.performance-network.org](http://www.performance-network.org)

**South Pacific** \$34.50 and above. Broadway Grand Rapids at DeVos Performance Hall, 303 Monroe Ave., Grand Rapids. Through Sep. 12. 1-800-745-3000. [www.broadwaygrandrapids.org](http://www.broadwaygrandrapids.org)

**Sundays at Go Comedy!** \$7 for the evening. Go Comedy! Improv Theater, 261 E. Nine Mile Rd., Ferndale. 248-327-0575. [www.gocomedy.net](http://www.gocomedy.net)

**Susurrus** Times vary; groups of four admitted every 15 minutes. Recommended for ages 16+; contains adult themes. \$30. University Musical Society, Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd., Ann Arbor. Sep. 9 - Oct. 3. 734-764-2538. [www.ums.org](http://www.ums.org)

**The Ant Farm** A monthly stage reading series; pay what you will. Planet Ant Theatre, 2357 Caniff Ave., Hamtramck. 3 p.m. Sep. 12. 313-365-4948. [www.planetant.com](http://www.planetant.com)

**The Last Great British Sex Farce Ever!** \$14-\$16. Broadway Onstage Live Theatre, 21517 Kelly Rd., Eastpointe. Sep. 10 - Oct. 9. 586-771-6333. [www.broadwayonstage.com](http://www.broadwayonstage.com)

**The Prodigal Son** \$10. Willing Worker & Shawn P. Entertainment at Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, 13651 Dequindre, Detroit. 4 p.m. Sep. 12. 313-433-8384.

**The Rocky Horror Show** \$19.50 reserved, \$15 general admission. Etico Productions at Meadow Brook Music Festival, 3554 Walton Blvd., Rochester Hills. Sep. 10-11. 1-800-745-3000. [www.meadowbrookmusic.com](http://www.meadowbrookmusic.com)

**The Taming of the Shrew** \$15. Bach Dor Shakespeare Company at Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Rd., East Lansing. Sep. 17-26. 517-333-2580.

**The Underpants** \$16. The Box Theatre, 70 Macomb Place, Mt. Clemens. Sep. 10-25. 586-954-2311.

**Thursdays at Go Comedy!** \$10 for the evening. Go Comedy! Improv Theater, 261 E. Nine Mile Rd., Ferndale. 248-327-0575. [www.gocomedy.net](http://www.gocomedy.net)

**Til Death Do Us Part** \$10 in advance; \$15 at the door. BusyB Productions at 1515 Broadway, 1515 Broadway St., Detroit. Sep. 10-12. [www.facebook.com/busybproductions](http://www.facebook.com/busybproductions)

**True West** Free; by donation. The Abreact Performance Space, 1301 W. Lafayette Blvd., #113, Detroit. Through Sep. 25. 313-378-5404. [www.theabreact.com](http://www.theabreact.com)

**Wednesdays at Go Comedy!** \$5 for the evening. Go Comedy! Improv Theater, 261 E. Nine Mile Rd., Ferndale. 248-327-0575. [www.gocomedy.net](http://www.gocomedy.net)

**Women in Love** Previews Sept. 16-19 (\$10-\$20). \$15-\$25. Blackbird Theatre at SH!ut Gallery and Cabaret, 325 Braun Ct., Ann Arbor. Sep. 16 - Oct. 16. 734-332-3848. [www.blackbirdtheatre.org](http://www.blackbirdtheatre.org)

## THEATER FOR YOUNG AUDIENCES

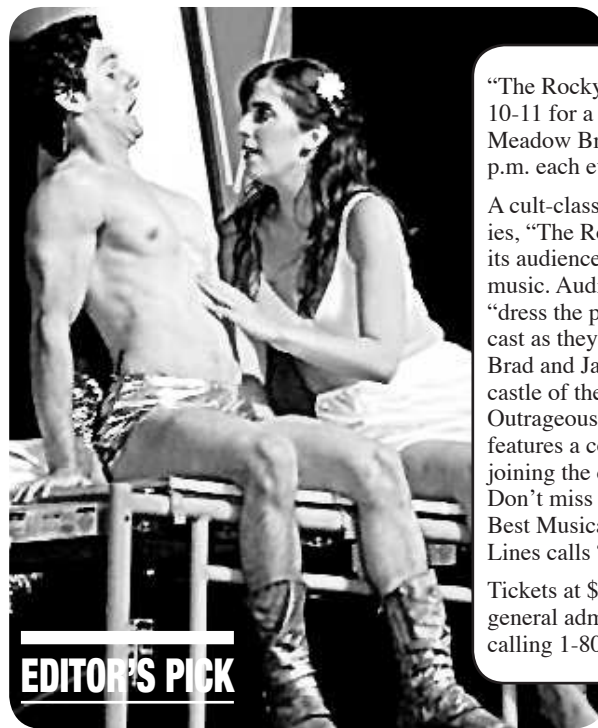
**Kolobok** \$10 adults, \$5 children. PuppetART, Detroit Puppet Theater, 25 E. Grand River Ave., Detroit. Saturdays through Sep. 25. 313-961-7777. [www.puppetart.org](http://www.puppetart.org)

## AUDITIONS & WORKSHOPS

**ALL-OF-US EXPRESS CHILDREN'S THEATRE** - auditions for "Time Machine," Sept. 9-11, 517-333-2580, ext. 30

**BLACKBIRD THEATRE** - audition workshop for high school actors. Sept. 11, [blackbird\\_theatre@yahoo.com](mailto:blackbird_theatre@yahoo.com)

**THE CROSWELL** - auditions for "The Rocky Horror Show" and "Leading Ladies," Sept. 12-13, 517-263-6868



EDITOR'S PICK

**KALAMAZOO CIVIC THEATRE** - auditions for "Annie," girls ages 8-15 only. Sept. 25-27 and adults Sept. 26-27, 269-343-2280.

# ART 'N' AROUND

**323East Gallery** "Cluster F" <k" An exhibition by local artist Ron Zakrin. Free. 323East Gallery, 323 E. Fourth Street, Royal Oak. 6 p.m. Sep. 10. [www.323east.com](http://www.323east.com)

**Art & Ideas** "Social Realism 2010" An exhibition of photographic work by Thomas McMillen-Oakley, Julia DeClerck and Shaq Kalaj. Art & Ideas Contemporary Art Gallery & Studio, 15095 Northville, Plymouth. Aug. 7 - Sep. 18. 734-420-0775. [www.artandideasgallery.com](http://www.artandideasgallery.com)

**Boll Family YMCA** "Slik Skiz Anew Memorial Art Exhibition" An exhibition in memory of late Detroit artist Jason Ellison. Boll Family YMCA, 1401 Broadway, Detroit. 5 p.m. Sep. 17. 313-309-1095. [www.rememberjasonellison.com](http://www.rememberjasonellison.com)

**Cass Cafe** "Detroit and Issues" Works by four Detroit-area artists. Cass Cafe, 4620 Cass Ave., Detroit. July 17 - Sep. 18. 313-831-1400. [www.casscafe.com](http://www.casscafe.com)

**Charles H. Wright Museum** "Portraits of Life and Landscapes" The Art of Frank Kelley Jr. Charles H. Wright Museum, 315 E. Warren Ave., Detroit. Aug. 27 - Dec. 12. 313-494-5800. [www.charleshwrightmuseum.org](http://www.charleshwrightmuseum.org)

**Community Arts @ Paramount Gallery** "Custom Guitar Exhibit" Works by Steve Brook and Daniel Cascardo. Paramount Bank, 22635 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Aug. 13 - Sep. 24. [www.paramountbank.com](http://www.paramountbank.com)

**Downriver Council for the Arts** "The Soul of New Orleans" Photographs of music and life by Joe Crachiola. Opening reception held 7-10 p.m. Sept. 17. Wyandotte Arts Center, 81 Chestnut, Wyandotte. Sep. 17 - Oct. 8. [www.downriverarts.org](http://www.downriverarts.org)

**Flint Institute of Arts** "Unbroken Ties" Dialogues in Cuban Art, presenting works of artists who have remained in Cuba alongside works by those who have left the country. Flint Institute of Arts, 1120 E. Kearsley, Flint. Sep. 9 - Dec. 7. 810-234-1695. [www.flintarts.org](http://www.flintarts.org)

**Gallery Project** "Politics of Fear" A multimedia exhibit of works by 35 artists visualizing fear in American society. Opening reception held 6-9 p.m. Sept. 10. The Gallery Project, 215 S. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. Sep. 8 - Oct. 17. 734-997-7012. [www.thegalleryproject.com](http://www.thegalleryproject.com)

**Holocaust Memorial Center** "Synagogues in Germany: A Virtual Reconstruction" Computer aided design reconstructions of 14 synagogues destroyed during Kristallnacht. Holocaust Memorial Center, 28123 Orchard Lake Road, Farmington Hills. Aug. 29 - Nov. 29. 248-553-2400. [www.holocaustcenter.org](http://www.holocaustcenter.org)

**Jewish Community Center of Metro Detroit** "The Green Show" Sculptures, jewelry and other art created from recycled materials. Children's workshop held 12-2 p.m. Sept. 19. Jewish Community Center, 6600 W. Maple, West Bloomfield. Sep. 2 - Oct. 14. 248-432-5579. [www.jccdet.org](http://www.jccdet.org)

**Kalamazoo Institute of Arts** "Flowers in Art" Selections from the KIA collection featuring the beauty of flowers. Free. Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, 314 S. Park, Kalamazoo. May 29 - Sep. 12. 269-349-7775. [www.kiarts.org](http://www.kiarts.org)

**Kalamazoo Institute of Arts** "Beauty amid Thunder" The past two centuries of Chinese art, in the new Joy Light Gallery of Asian Art. Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, 314 S. Park, Kalamazoo. Aug. 28 - Oct. 17. 269-349-7775. [www.kiarts.org](http://www.kiarts.org)

**Kalamazoo Institute of Arts** "Wondrous ink" Selections from the Richard Fabian Collection, held in the new Joy Light Gallery of Asian Art. Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, 314 S. Park, Kalamazoo. Aug. 28 - Dec. 5. 269-349-7775. [www.kiarts.org](http://www.kiarts.org)

**Kalamazoo Institute of Arts** "Strong Women, Beautiful Men" Japanese Portrait Prints from the Toledo Museum of Art, held in the new Joy Light Gallery of Asian Art. Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, 314 S. Park, Kalamazoo. Aug. 28 - Oct. 31. 269-349-7775. [www.kiarts.org](http://www.kiarts.org)

**Kerrytown Concert House** "In The Studio" Paintings and drawings by local artist Sarah Innes. Opening reception held 5:30-7:30 p.m. Sept. 9. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. Aug. 26 - Sep. 27. 734-769-2999. [www.kerrytownconcerthouse.com](http://www.kerrytownconcerthouse.com)

**Kresge Art Museum** "2010 Faculty Biennial Exhibition" Featuring works by MSU faculty. Opening reception held 7-9 p.m. Sept. 10. Kresge Art Museum, Michigan State University, East Lansing. Sep. 10 - Oct. 10. [www.artmuseum.msu.edu](http://www.artmuseum.msu.edu)

**Kresge Art Museum** "Lucas en Alba" Dawning Lights in Mexican Photography. Held in the Perspectives Gallery. Kresge Art Museum, Michigan State University, East Lansing. Sep. 7 - Oct. 4. [www.artmuseum.msu.edu](http://www.artmuseum.msu.edu)

"The Rocky Horror Show" will run Sept. 10-11 for a limited two-show engagement at Meadow Brook Music Festival. Showtime is 8 p.m. each evening.

A cult-classic spoof of science-fiction movies, "The Rocky Horror Show" is famous for its audience participation and rock 'n' roll music. Audience members are encouraged to "dress the part" and "Time Warp" with the cast as they follow the innocent young lovers Brad and Janet through their adventure at the castle of the mysterious Dr. Frank-n-Furter. Outrageous and energetic, each performance features a costume contest with the winners joining the cast on stage for the grand finale. Don't miss the show the Oakland Press named Best Musical of the Year and Between the Lines calls "Sheer fun!"

Tickets at \$19.50 reserved pavilion and \$15 general admission pavilion are on sale now by calling 1-800-745-3000.

**Lawrence Street Gallery** "Celebrate the Print" Works by 40 local printmakers. Lawrence Street Gallery, 22620 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Sep. 1 - Sep. 24. 248-544-0394. [www.lawrencestreetgallery.com](http://www.lawrencestreetgallery.com)

**Marshall M. Fredericks Sculpture Museum** "Regional Biennial Juried Sculpture Exhibition" A showing of 32 works by 24 local artists. Free. Marshall M. Fredericks Sculpture Museum, Saginaw Valley State University, Saginaw. July 3 - Sep. 18. 989-964-7096. [www.marshallfredericks.org](http://www.marshallfredericks.org)

**MSU Museum** "Sticks, Strings and Shadows" A collection of puppets of Asia. Runs through Nov. 7. MSU Museum, Michigan State University, East Lansing. 517-432-1472. <http://museum.msu.edu>

**Riverside Arts Center** "Great Lakes Small Works" A 2D and 3D juried exhibit. Artist reception held 5-7 p.m. Sept. 11. Riverside Arts Center, 76 N. Huron. Ypsilanti. Sep. 2 - Sep. 25. 734-480-2787. [www.riversidearts.org](http://www.riversidearts.org)

**Sherry Washington Gallery** "Summer Solstice X" An exhibition of paintings, drawings and sculpture by 13 artists. Free. Sherry Washington Gallery, 1274 Library, Detroit. July 17 - Sep. 25. 313-961-4500. [www.sherrywashingtongallery.com](http://www.sherrywashingtongallery.com)

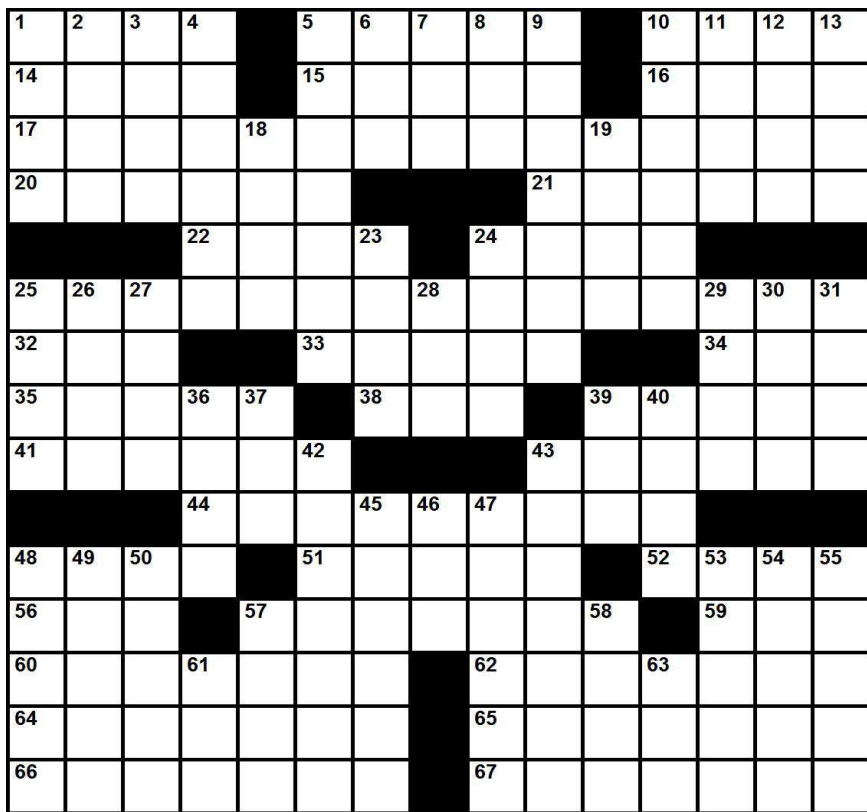
**The Butcher's Daughter Gallery** "Paycheck to Paycheck, part one" A group exhibition in two parts, each running for the length of a worker's pay cycle. The Butcher's Daughter Gallery, 22747 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Sep. 4 - Sep. 18. 248-890-6536. [www.thebutchersdaughtergallery.com](http://www.thebutchersdaughtergallery.com)

**The Henry Ford** "Play" An exhibit that explores how people interact with each other. Admission: \$15 adults, \$14 seniors, \$11 youth. The Henry Ford Museum, 20900 Oakwood, Dearborn. June 19 - Sep. 19. 313-982-6001. [www.thehenryford.org](http://www.thehenryford.org)

**University of Michigan Museum of Art** "On Beauty and the Everyday" The prints of American artist James McNeill Whistler. University of Michigan Museum of Art, 525 S. State, Ann Arbor. Aug. 21 - Nov. 28. 734-763-UMMA. [www.umma.umich.edu](http://www.umma.umich.edu)

**University of Michigan Museum of Art** "Out of the Ordinary" Selections from the Bohlen Wood Art and Fustfeld Folk Art Collections. Free. University of Michigan Museum of Art, 525 S. State, Ann Arbor. 10 a.m. Sep. 11. 734-763-UMMA. [www.umma.umich.edu](http://www.umma.umich.edu)

**Wayne County Community College** "Haiku Middle Passage" A multimedia exhibition commemorating the 200th anniversary of the abolition of the Trans-Atlantic slave trade. Brown and Juanita C. Ford Gallery, 1001 Fort Street, Detroit. July 29 - Sep. 17. [www.wcccd.edu](http://www.wcccd.edu)



**Q P U Z Z L E** Geographical Orientation

**Across**

- 1 Their fruits are acorns
- 5 Take by force
- 10 Sushi ingredient
- 14 Buck heroine
- 15 Where Bruce Wayne kept Dick Grayson
- 16 "Like \_\_\_ not"
- 17 Start of a straight man's reply to a woman coming out
- 20 Nova follower
- 21 Like Marcia Brady, to her sisters
- 22 Hint in an Ellen Hart mystery, e.g.
- 24 Regarding
- 25 More of the reply
- 32 Boy played by Martin and Duncan
- 33 Nancy's older son, on "Weeds"
- 34 Earthlink competitor
- 35 Opportunity for Glenn Burke
- 38 Where a trucker parks his bottom
- 39 Snake charmer's pet
- 41 Streisand's "Funny Girl" costar
- 43 Book about autoeroticism?
- 44 More of the reply
- 48 Vegetable soup bean
- 51 One of a "Full House" twosome
- 52 Some writers work on it
- 56 Did an encore of "Food, Glorious Food"?

57 End of the reply

- 59 The whole shebang
- 60 Be good in bed
- 62 WWII site where a flag was erected
- 64 Bit
- 65 Compensation in a lawsuit
- 66 "CHiPs" costar Erik
- 67 Rubbers

**Down**

- 1 Package appreciation cries
- 2 Guinness of "The Lavender Hill Mob"
- 3 Boxing win
- 4 Tattletale
- 5 German marks
- 6 So, in Alan Cummings' tongue
- 7 Us, to Rilke
- 8 "Chicago" director Marshall
- 9 Mychal Judge and Malcolm Boyd
- 10 In a way
- 11 Suffix with leather
- 12 George Michael's Johns
- 13 Bapt. or Meth.
- 18 Leon Uris' "\_\_\_ 18"
- 19 One kind of opera queen
- 23 Really big tale
- 24 Gaza Stripper, e.g.
- 25 Cruising areas

- 26 "\$#@!&", e.g.
- 27 The New York Liberty's org.
- 28 Home st. of Harper Lee
- 29 Perfume brand
- 30 Traditional round dance
- 31 Jerusalem server
- 36 "Aida" solo
- 37 Carol contraction
- 39 Rainbow flag sticker site, often
- 40 Dollar bills
- 42 Left with mouth wide open
- 43 Stud of the early days of horse racing
- 45 Audre Lorde, to Hunter College
- 46 Overdraft letters
- 47 Abuse orally
- 48 Spell of forgetfulness
- 49 Michael Musto's tidbits
- 50 Type of badge for the morally straight
- 53 Peter of "Say Uncle"
- 54 Male-on-male kissing target of Bugs
- 55 School group
- 57 It may put one in an awkward position
- 58 Home of Picasso's Stein portrait
- 61 Eleanor's beard?
- 63 Pres. without a first lady Buchanan

See solution on page 37

**Pet of the Week:**



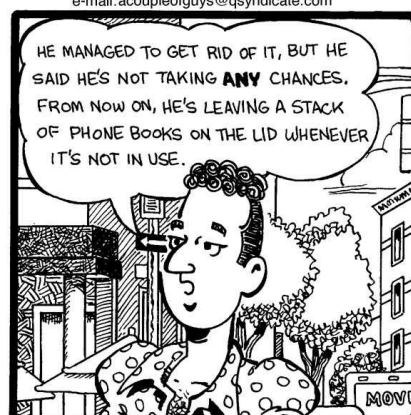
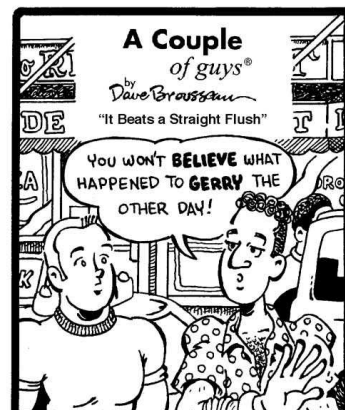
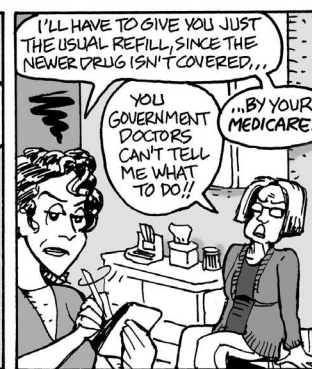
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Pet of the Week made possible by  
**Patterson Dog & Cat Hospital**  
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bitter girl

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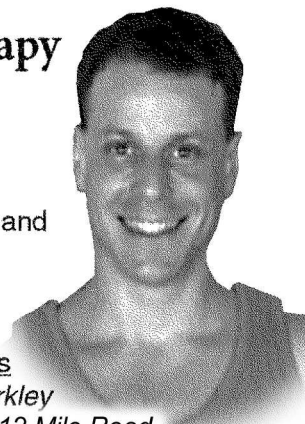
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# Words with friends

There's one cool thing about accepting friend requests from random people you don't know – when you meet them, you already know if they're crazy.

And if they're not – why waste time with them?

Seriously, don't you have enough lame-brained friends running boring-ass circles around your social life? Wouldn't you rather spice things up with a spitfire for a change – someone who can suck the life force out of the biggest cock on the block?

I would, and I've met my match in the form of a gay boy named Gabe. A few days ago, Gabe asked to be my Facebook friend, and I accepted the request, only because he shot me a message first, raving about my column. And who doesn't like a little sunshine shot up their ass? God knows, it's been awhile since anything else has shot up there! So now, we're fast friends, spending oodles of time together. Gabe says he'd like to spend more, but he's too busy with life's mundane tasks – you know, like taking out the trash and making sure his boyfriend isn't nailing the Eurotrash neighbor.

"Apparently, I'm not entertaining enough," Gabe declares, after buzzing me into his pricey, stone-block condo, where I have to ask permission from the doorman to ride the elevator. On the way up, I meet a pug and his elderly, gay master. The pug's jeweled collar is worth more than my car, I think, but Gabe lives that kind of lifestyle.

Everything is amazing. Everything is beautiful. But if anything is more beautiful than Gabe, we have issues. BIG issues. Whoppers! "I usually date down," he says, combing his gold locks with his fingers. "But now, I'm living with a guy hotter than me. And last night, I find out he's playing games with some guy in the unit across the hall."

"Games? What kind of games?" I ask, as he mixes me a cappuccino martini.

"Stupid Facebook games. Scrabble over an iPhone. He calls it words with friends. Why does my boyfriend need to play games with our neighbor? Seriously, that neighbor guy just arrived from France last month. He doesn't even know how to properly shower, but he sure knows how to Facebook!"

"Maybe it's just a game."

"Oh, please. And maybe my ass is just for exits. C'mon, Anthony. Would you have a problem with your boyfriend playing cyber Scrabble with some random queer?"

"Depends on what words they're using."

Not finding me amusing, Gabe demands that I slam my martini before seeing me to the door. That way he can exfoliate, take a disco nap and decide how to handle this unpleasant matter. Later, he calls me with his plan. Basically, he wants in on the game, and tonight, he plans to help his boyfriend come up with new, fascinating words.

"If you can't beat them, join them," he informs me. Yet later that night, the plan isn't working. "Can you believe it? They've been playing for weeks. Weeks! That's what my boyfriend said. And that Frenchman isn't even cute! I mean, hello,

**Now, I can't speak for others, but initially I'm never attracted to the men I inevitably adore. Hence, why I fight off the keepers, and I'm alone, I suppose. But when a guy catches me with more than looks – with either his wit or his charm – I'm often hooked for the long haul, and I find just having a conversation with him is enough to get me off.**

look at me! I'm a god! Would you cheat on me?"

I can't help but laugh. "Gabe, there's more to life than being beautiful."

"Bullshit," he remarks.

"I'm being serious. You're beautiful. Fine! I get it! But what else do you have to bring to the game table? You know, maybe if you had a game going with your boyfriend, he might not have time to play with others."

"You're right. I hate this," he says, breaking down. "It used to be easy. Being sexy was enough. Now, my boyfriend actually expects me to do things with him."

True, but doesn't spending time with someone you like, such as a boyfriend, help you know if "like" can turn to love? Isn't that how it works?

Isn't there more to love than "face value"? Now, I can't speak for others, but initially I'm never attracted to the men I inevitably adore. Hence, why I fight off the keepers, and I'm alone, I suppose. But when a guy catches me with more than looks – with either his wit or his charm – I'm often hooked for the long haul, and I find just having a conversation with him is enough to get me off. The problem is: like Gabe, people say I'm too "put together" – that's why I barely get approached. But the truth is I'm looking to connect with a guy who may not have the perfect puzzle parts – just an average guy who'd much rather compete for my attention than compete over word games with "friends" on the Internet.

"I have an idea. Maybe you and your man can join a sport together," I suggest to Gabe. "What do you guys like to do for fun?"

"Fuck," he states. And that's exactly what they do – rather loud – later that night, when Gabe "accidentally" leaves the front door ajar for the Frenchman to hear.

"Ugh," I moan. "That wasn't what I meant when I suggested spending more time together."

"Yeah, but I screamed really loud. Like I was giving birth," he declares. "That way the Frenchman thinks we're in love. Wouldn't you think that if you heard me screaming?"

"Maybe," I admit, reflecting a bit. "But I'd probably think you were more secure in your relationship if I heard you two talking instead."

*Anthony Paull is a freelance writer from Sarasota, Fla. The Dating Diet runs the second week of each month.*

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## Stephen Collins goes gay for 'Brothers & Sisters'

Stephen Collins played a Protestant clergyman and family man on the long-running "7th Heaven," but he's about to get his gay on in the new season of "Brothers & Sisters." The 63-year-old Collins plays Charlie, who'll be dating Uncle Saul (Ron Rifkin) and helping Saul deal with the HIV-positive diagnosis he received at the end of last season. The "Brothers & Sisters" gig is part of a busy fall TV season for Collins, who's also got a recurring role on the new superhero show "No Ordinary Family." (The fact that gay producer Greg Berlanti is involved with both shows no doubt facilitated Collins' multi-tasking.) Collins' character is slated for only a few episodes of "B&S," but if the characters have chemistry — or if "No Ordinary Family" faces an early demise — maybe he'll get an extension. TV primetime could use a good November/December gay romance, after all.

## Sondheim, played for laughs

No one is officially saying that the new HBO series, "The Miraculous Year," is specifically based on the life of legendary gay Broadway composer and lyricist Stephen Sondheim, but it's hard to miss the resemblances. Sondheim suffered a heart attack at age 49, and "Year"'s protagonist (played by Tony-winning actor Norbert Leo Butz) is a 44-year-old Broadway composer who suffers an aneurysm. But whether it's

based on real life, "The Miraculous Year" sounds promising, with a cast that also features fellow Tony winners Frank Langella, Patti LuPone and Eddie Redmayne, plus Oscar-winners Susan Sarandon (acting) and Kathryn Bigelow (directing the pilot, written by gay Oscar-nominated screenwriter John Logan). Audiences will have to wait until the possibly miraculous year of 2011 to catch what promises to be a dishy dive into Broadway's backstage drama.

## Finally! Rooney Mara is 'The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo'

Much like the searches for Scarlett O'Hara, James Bond, Lestat and Harry Potter, everyone wondered who would play Lisbeth Salander in the movies based on the popular mysteries by Stieg Larsson. Big names like Natalie Portman and Scarlett Johansson were tossed around, but it's relative newcomer Rooney Mara who's landed the coveted role of the badass bisexual hacker in "The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo" and its two sequels, which will be brought to the screen by David Fincher. Rooney who-ney, you ask? She popped up in "Youth in Revolt" and the queer indie "Dare," starred in this year's unspectacular remake of "Nightmare on Elm Street," and she's the younger sister of "Brokeback Mountain"'s Kate Mara. She'll soon be seen in Fincher's "The Social Network" — the gig that got her the role as Salander — and by the time "Dragon Tattoo" opens in 2011, she's bound to be a household name.



Queen Latifah. Photo: New Line Cinema

## Dolly Parton and Queen Latifah come to Jesus

They've got two of the most speculated-about private lives in show business, but Dolly Parton and Queen Latifah got to that place because of their talent. So there are a lot of reasons to get excited about these two titans teaming up for "Joyful Noise," a new movie about two fierce ladies banding together to save their small-town gospel choir from a budget cut shutdown. For one thing, Parton plans to write some original songs for the film (that's never a bad thing) and though Latifah got her start as a rapper, she's proven she can belt it out to the bleachers in "Living

Out Loud" and "Hairspray." The cherry on top of this diva sundae is that it's being written and directed by gay filmmaker Todd Graff, who in the last few years has given us two happily music-packed films — the show-tune-teen crowd-pleaser "Camp" and the underappreciated rocker-teen comedy "Bandslam." If you haven't seen Graff's two previous directorial efforts, make sure to check them out before "Joyful Noise" hits theaters in 2011. You won't be sorry.

Romeo San Vicente's joyful noises have gotten him evicted from at least three thin-walled apartments. He can be reached care of this publication or at [DeepInsideHollywood@qsyndicate.com](mailto:DeepInsideHollywood@qsyndicate.com).

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