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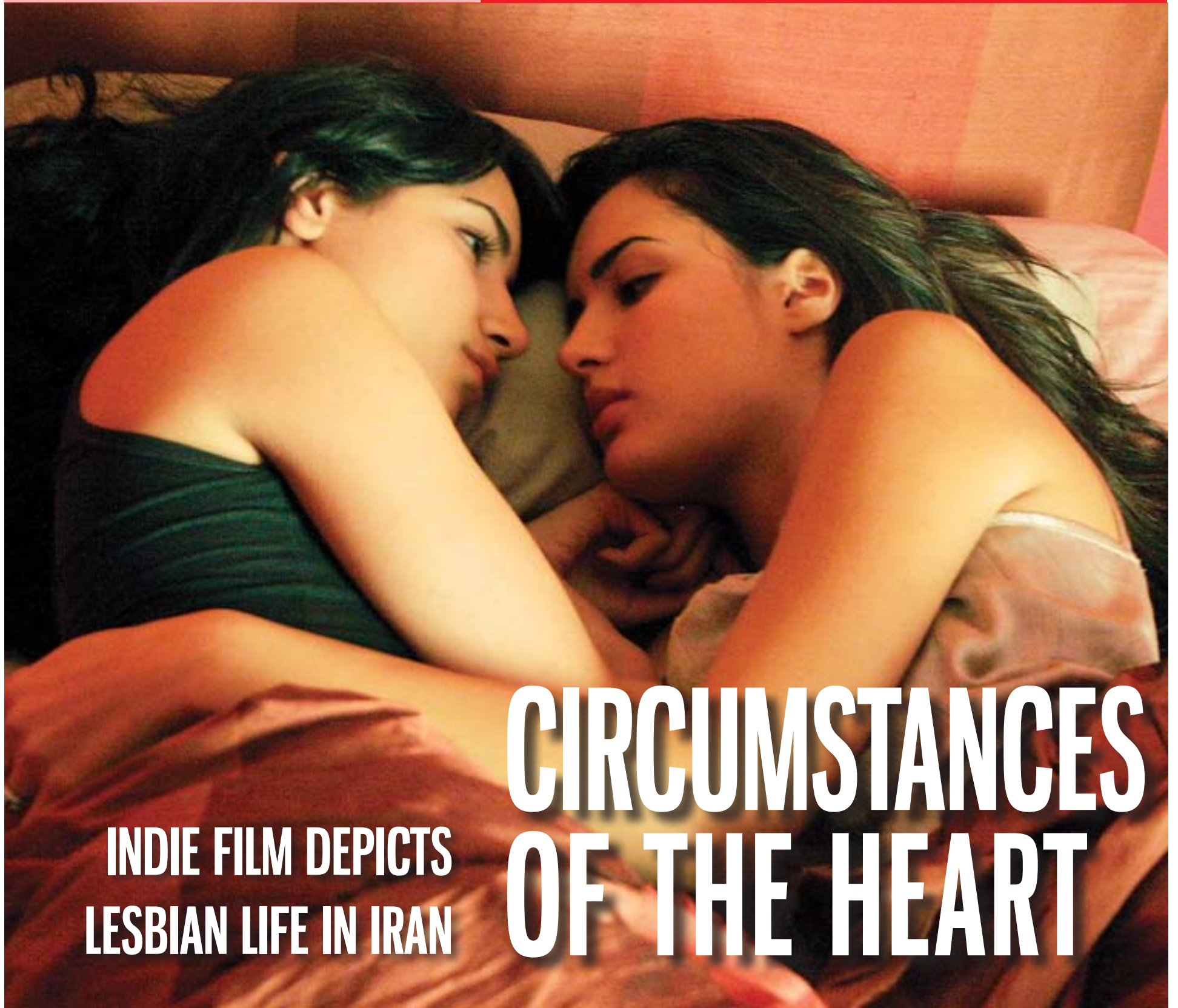
BTL
Between THE Lines™

AIDS Walks 2011
Why we should walk

FRANKMUSIK GETS FRANK

IS DADT REPEAL NOT ENOUGH?

DINING BY DESIGN: CREATIVITY FOR A GOOD CAUSE



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Friday \ September 23 \ 8 pm
Saturday \ September 24 \ 8 pm
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PROGRAM

Excursions (2008) Barber's Excursions for Piano, Op. 20
Festival Dance (2011) Hummel's Piano Quartet in G Major, Op. posth. 4
Socrates (2010) Satie's *Socrates* for tenor and piano

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The Saturday performance is co-sponsored by **Richard and Linda Greene** and **Ken and Penny Fischer**.

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The Infernal Comedy: Confessions of a Serial Killer

John Malkovich and Musica Angelica Baroque Orchestra
Saturday \ October 1 \ 8 pm
Hill Auditorium \ Ann Arbor

John Malkovich makes his UMS debut portraying a dead serial killer who returns to the stage to present his autobiography in a public reading. As part of a theatrical opera of sorts, Malkovich, a 40-piece chamber orchestra, and two sopranos tell the real-life story of Jack Unterweger, a convicted murderer and acclaimed prison poet. This gripping performance features arias and music by Gluck, Vivaldi, Mozart, Beethoven, Boccherini, and Haydn as the counterpoint to Malkovich's chilling monologue, which shifts between reality and delusion.

Sponsored by **Jane and Edward Schulek**



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133rd UMS season 11/12



Yuja Wang piano
Sunday \ October 9 \ 4 pm
Hill Auditorium \ Ann Arbor

PROGRAM

Brahms *Fantasies, Op. 116* (1892)
Scriabin *Sonata No. 5, Op. 53* (1907)
Debussy "*La soirée dans Grenade*" from *Estampes* (1894-1903)
Albéniz "*Triana*" from *Iberia (Book II)* (1905-09)
Ravel "*Alborada del gracioso*" from *Miroirs* (1905)
Fauré *Ballade in F-Sharp Major, Op. 19* (1877-79)

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AIDS Walks taking place in Michigan:

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Detroit
Palmer Park

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Genesee County/Flint
UM University Center

Jackson
Riverwalk Amphitheatre

Bay City/Midland/Saginaw
Wenona Park, Friendship Shell



SUNDAY, 9/25

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ONLINE EXCLUSIVES

National news: "Medical schools teaching little about gay health," "Illinois foster-care dispute a matter of law and faith"

Curtain Calls: 'Light' shines in Downtown Dexter and a powerful, thought-provoking night at JET

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BTI Speak Out

BY ERIC RADER

Joblessness and LGBTs

In an address to a joint session of Congress last week, President Obama outlined the American Jobs Act, legislation designed to combat the nation's persistently high unemployment rate. Since the beginning of the Great Recession in 2007, millions of jobs have been lost in this country. Just before the president's important speech, the federal government announced that zero jobs were added in the U.S. during the month of August. The national unemployment rate has been stuck in the 9 percent range for months. In fact, the real rate of joblessness is higher, because the official number only counts those who have searched for work in the past four weeks. Also missing from the 9 percent figure are those people who desire full-time work but are stuck in part-time jobs.

In his speech, President Obama announced a number of creative and thoughtful ideas to pull the country out of this jobs slump, including targeted tax cuts and spending on needed infrastructure repairs and other vital projects.

As the president observed, people in both parties have supported these ideas in the past. Without action by Congress, the jobs picture will get worse. Unfortunately, Congress is reluctant to spend any money to do anything about the unemployment situation. Some of the congressional opposition is ideological

— most Republicans are opposed to spending any government money on anything, ostensibly because it will add to the deficit. However, they have no such qualms about the impact of massive tax cuts for the wealthy on the federal budget deficit and government debt. Most of the GOP opposition is political — Republican leaders want to deny President Obama any political victories, and would prefer for the unemployment rate to remain high as the president faces the voters in 2012.

Like everyone else, LGBT citizens want jobs. In addition to the tough job market, gay job seekers face other obstacles when it comes to seeking and keeping employment. In many places in the country, including Michigan, a person has no legal recourse to pursue if an employer fires her or him because of sexual orientation or gender identity. Some states offer limited legal protections to LGBT workers, as do a number of local communities around the nation. Many private and public employers include LGBT-inclusive non-discrimination language in employment contracts, and an increasing number of workplaces now offer domestic partner benefits to employees. Still, too many Americans can be fired from their jobs because of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

For many years, an Employment Nondiscrimination Act has been stuck in Congress. Even under Democratic control from 2007-2011, the legislation did not move, and its chances of passing the Republican-led House now are nil. Those of us who support employment nondiscrimination have other ways of endorsing workplace equality on

a personal level. If a business or company is not inclusive in its hiring and benefit programs, we need to stop purchasing its products or services. At a time when jobs are hard to come by, we need to do everything we can to support those companies and businesses that value workplace equality. If you have a choice between competing brands or stores when making purchasing decisions, check their anti-discrimination and benefits policies before you give them your hard-earned money.

When it comes to economic development, states and local communities should focus on attracting companies that are inclusive in their employment policies. We need only look around the Metro Detroit area to see the municipalities that are thriving despite these tough economic times — they are places that have LGBT-inclusive human rights ordinances and where our community feels safe and valued.

America's long economic decline did not begin under President Obama, but he is now responsible for getting our country out of this mess. Contrary to Republican claims, the 2009 stimulus law did prevent this nation from sliding into an economic depression. Unfortunately, GOP obstructionism limited the financial value of the overall package.

In the coming months, the president should stand up for working people and against Republican intransigence on the economy. He began to do this last week in his speech to Congress. We should encourage President Obama to build upon this momentum and actively promote the American Jobs Act in "every corner of this country," as he said he would do. Hopefully, he will continue speaking out on behalf of those who are struggling, and remind the nation that no one should be left behind. The only way our economy will finally recover is when all segments of society are fully employed, regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, or any other category. This is the American Dream in the 21st century, and achieving it is possible in the months and years ahead.

Too many Americans can be fired from their jobs because of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

White House website for the American Jobs Act

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2011/09/08/american-jobs-act>

Contact your federal legislators and urge them to support legislative efforts to address unemployment

House member: www.house.gov

Senator Carl Levin: <http://levin.senate.gov/contact/>

Senator Debbie Stabenow: <http://stabenow.senate.gov/email.cfm>

Human Rights Campaign's Corporate Responsibility Index 2011

<http://www.hrc.org/documents/HRC-CEI-2011.pdf>



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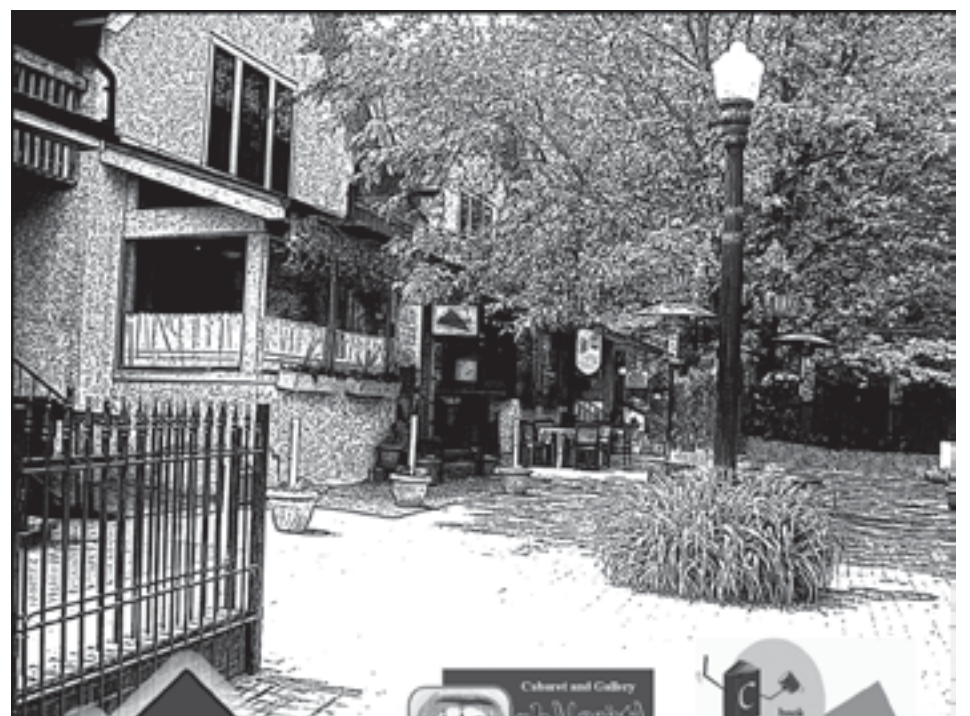


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Why you should walk

A little time and money this month can make a big impact on the fight against HIV/AIDS

BY TARA CAVANAUGH

If you've never supported the AIDS walks, this is a great year to start.

The upcoming AIDS walks – AIDS Walk Detroit, happening this weekend in Royal Oak, and AIDS Walk Michigan, happening next weekend in locations around the state – offer the opportunity to support state HIV/AIDS organizations at a time when they need it most.

"We've been swept up into the arguments that occur now about the federal budget and the debt ceiling and all that, which for many of us has caused funding decisions to be delayed, or put off, or caused us to have to live with short-term, even month-to-month budgets," said Barb Murray, executive director at AIDS Partnership Michigan.

"It's really hard right now with the federal funding to create a twelve-month operating budget when you just aren't assured of your funding streams."

Nearly 90 percent of APM's funding comes from federal sources, said Murray, and the federal government sends out checks after the services have been given: "So if the federal government catches a cold, we get pneumonia."

Earlier this year, the federal government announced state organizations will see a drastic reduction in their grant money for the next three fiscal years. For fiscal year 2012, Michigan's agencies will lose up to \$1.2 million for core HIV prevention activities. That loss increases to \$2.1 million by fiscal year 2014.

Increasingly Murray spends time figuring out which bills to pay: "While that's an administrative nightmare, it means that those of us who are in administration spend hours on administration, rather than on programming."

Murray would much rather spend more time on programming, because more programming is needed to treat those with HIV and to prevent it from spreading. The rates are still too high: at any given time, Murray said HIV-positive rates may run as high as nine and ten percent.

Murray wants to brush off the idea that HIV is a "chronic disease" that is easily managed.

"I don't find that phrase acceptable. It's much easier not to be HIV-positive and to not live with HIV.

"There's nothing simple about taking a lot of medications. Sooner or later it catches up

with you. And certainly there are pros and cons to all those medications. The side effects are not desirable. So, stay HIV-negative. That's where we want you."

Nearly 20,000 people in Michigan live with the disease, and two-thirds of them live in Metro Detroit, said Teresa Rosco, executive director of Health Emergency Lifeline Programs. HELP is teaming up with Stepping Out for the walk in Royal Oak this weekend; it plans to fully take over AIDS Walk Detroit next year.

"Both AIDS Walk Detroit and AIDS Walk Michigan remind us of those we've lost to the disease, and also provide a real sense of support for the people who are living with HIV today," Rosco said. "At the same time, we're able to raise funds for really important work around HIV prevention and programs that do support people who are positive."

Some of the money raised will go to specific programs, and some of it will help organizations cover operational costs. The latter is especially useful, Murray said, because most federal funding is designated for specific programs.

Rosco hopes AIDS Walk Detroit raises more than the \$160,000 it raised last year. Murray also hopes to exceed the \$40,000 to \$50,000 that AIDS Walk Michigan raises on average.

Kim Mumby, a nurse at Henry Ford Hospital who works in HIV programming, has long attended AIDS Walk Detroit. She's volunteered at APM for 25 years.

Mumby remembers when the epidemic first hit in the 1980s.

"I was just kind of appalled at the way the medical community was responding to the very first cases, as everybody was – the throwing food in the hospital rooms, going into rooms (suited up) like moon men."

Mumby is looking forward to this year's walks, and encourages everyone to attend. "It's a delightful group of people to be around," she said. "It's fun. And it's a simple way to be involved in your community in an impactful way.

"It affects every community, every single day, so it's a great way to have some impact with very little investment or commitment."

Where you can walk:

AIDS Walk Detroit

- Royal Oak
- Saturday, Sept. 17
- Starts at 8:30 a.m. at the farmer's market
- For more information and to register: www.aidswalkdetroit.org

AIDS Walk Michigan

- Locations all around the state
- Saturday, Sept. 24 and Sunday, Sept. 25
- Detroit, Palmer Park, starts Saturday at 8:30 a.m.
- Genesee County/Flint, University of Michigan-Flint University Center, starts Saturday at 2 p.m.
- Central Michigan, Island Park, starts Saturday at 9 a.m.
- Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti Detroit Edison Parking lot (at the corner of William and Main Streets), starts Saturday at 1 p.m.
- Lansing, Valley Court Park, starts Sunday at 10 a.m.
- Traverse City, Medalie Park, starts Sunday at 11 a.m.
- For more information, locations and to register: www.aidswalkmichigan.org

When you walk, you support:

- ACCESS
- Affirmations
- Children's Hospital of Michigan
- Deaf CAN
- HELP
- Higher Ground
- Michigan AIDS Coalition
- Oakland Livingston Human Services Agency
- Rainbow Alliance
- Simon House
- Stitches
- Visiting Nurse Association
- HIV/AIDS Resource Center
- Sacred Heart Rehabilitation Center HIV Program
- AIDS Partnership Michigan
- Alternatives for Girls
- Community Health Awareness Group
- Detroit Department of Health HIV Program
- Children's Hospital Horizons Project
- Oakwood Taylor Teen Health Center
- Ruth Ellis Center
- Visiting Nurse Association of Southeast Michigan
- Wayne State University Sinai Grace Specialty Care
- Wellness AIDS Services
- Lansing Area AIDS Network
- Munson Healthcare Thomas Judd Clinic
- Central Michigan District Health Department HIV Program

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—Teresa Rosco, executive director of Health Emergency Lifeline Programs



At last year's AIDS Walk Detroit, Ferndale-based Lincoln High School led the AIDS Walk High School Challenge with close to \$1,000 raised. BTL photo by Jessica Carreras.

Creativity for a good cause

Dining by Design features unique designs, local flavors, swanky soirees to raise money for the Michigan AIDS Coalition

BY TARA CAVANAUGH

This year's largest fundraiser for the Michigan AIDS Coalition promises glitz, glamour and rooms full of art – literally.

For a second year, MAC is teaming up with Design Industries Foundation Fighting AIDS to present Dining by Design on Sept. 22-24 at Willy's Overland Lofts in Detroit.

With the support of DIFFA and both national and local sponsors, 30 designers, artists and architects have created unique rooms that provide a spectacular backdrop for a series of fundraising events for MAC – parties, auctions, a fashion show, a formal gala and a public viewing.

Some of the designers spend as long as six months creating their installments, said Helen Hicks, MAC's executive director. The installments, which range from dreamy to classy to whimsical, only have one thing in common: they must be able to seat ten people. "Everything else is up for grabs," Hicks said.

At last year's event, designer Yuen Hom made a room almost entirely out of cardboard. "Some of these artists and designers are so



Jackie Neerkan designed this installment at last year's Dining by Design. Photo by Beth Singer.

"Some of these artists and designers are so talented, they could pretty much make anything out of anything."

–Helen Hicks, Michigan AIDS Coalition executive director

talented, they could pretty much make anything out of anything," Hicks said.

Sponsors donate thousands of dollars for a single installment – some, such as FIAT, even donate enough for a double installment – and are able to sit and eat in the functional rooms of art during Saturday's gala.

The Saturday night gala also features AIDS Foundation of Chicago Vice President David Munar, who will deliver a short address before dinner about the importance of prevention. "The HIV/AIDS incidence has actually risen," Hicks said. "People are living longer because of much better drugs. But it's all about prevention – if we could get the word out about prevention then people would not become infected."

Last year's Dining by Design raised \$50,000 for MAC. "For a first-year event, we were pretty excited about that, and especially in

this very challenging economic environment," Hicks said. "Things haven't improved a whole lot since last year, so we're hoping to make a little bit more." This time, MAC is aiming for \$60,000 to \$70,000.

Last year's cocktail party alone attracted more than 1,000 attendees, and Hicks expects the same kind of turnout this year.

DIFFA, which was formed in 1984, has raised more than \$40 million for AIDS organizations nationwide by pairing up national sponsors with state organizations. DIFFA also holds Dining by Design events in Chicago, Atlanta, San Francisco, New York City and Kansas City. To learn more about DIFFA, go online to www.diffa.org.

To purchase tickets for Dining by Design events, go online to <http://michiganaidcoalition.org>

Michigan Fairness Forum Sept. 16-17

MOUNT PLEASANT– The Michigan Fairness Forum invites activists and ordinary citizens interested in improving the state's climate for LGBT citizens to an annual forum on Sept. 16 and 17.

The forum takes place at the Bovee University Center at Central Michigan University. There is no cost to attend and assistance is available for lodging and transportation.

The weekend features networking opportunities and workshops in amending local human rights ordinances, addressing youth safety and bullying, helping LGBT organizations sustain work and also improving the image of the LGBT community.

Visit www.michiganfairnessforum.org to register.

Detroit Design Festival features LGBT graphic design and illustration exhibit

DETROIT– The Detroit Design festival, which runs Wednesday, Sept. 21 to Sept. 28, also features an LGBT graphic design and illustration exhibit called "Beyond the Bar: An LGBT Graphic Design and Illustration Showcase."

The Detroit Creative Corridor Center, which promotes the city's creative economy, established this event as a way to help showcase the tremendous talent in Metro Detroit and to help break stereotypes about the LGBT community.

The exhibit takes place on Friday, Sept. 23 from 7-9 p.m. at Start Gallery, 206 E. Grand River.

Name change for Mich. LGBT Democratic Caucus

LANSING– The Michigan Democratic Party LGBT & Allies Caucus is now known as the Michigan Democratic Party Queer Caucus. The change went into effect Sept. 1.

"We need to think of ourselves as part of the international queer movement," said Caucus Chair Phil Volk. "The new generation is leaving the old 'LGBT' term behind and fast moving to embrace the all-inclusive label 'queer.'"

"We have brothers and sisters fighting for queer rights in every nation in the world," Volk continued. "They are looking to support us as we must support them. Here in Michigan, the queer people all over the state are coming out and demanding that their local governments recognize their rights. They want their houses of worship to welcome them and their schools to protect them from bullying."

"They demand that the heterosexual community be allies and fight just as hard to give them all the rights and respect that the constitution gives them. We Democrats must be there supporting these efforts and we must embrace this new frame of mind. Above all else we must serve these grassroots efforts in any way we can."

Learn more about the caucus online at www.mdplgbt.org.

Don't miss Dining by Design events Sept. 22-24

COCKTAILS BY DESIGN

Thursday, Sept. 22
6 p.m. – midnight
Tickets: \$100
Featuring unlimited wine, Effen Vodka, auction of more than 150 original pieces of art, auction of 100 items valued at \$100 or more, contortionist artists, DJ

PUBLIC VIEWING

Friday, Sept. 23 and Saturday, Sept. 24
Noon – 5 p.m. (Friday)
11 a.m. – 3 p.m. (Saturday)
Tickets: \$10 at the door, students with valid ID free

PARTY BY DESIGN

Friday, Sept. 23
6 p.m. – midnight
Tickets: \$10 at the door
Featuring a party for young adults, DJ

GALA DINNER

Saturday, Sept. 24
6 p.m. – midnight
Tickets: \$250
Featuring an elegant black-tie evening; sponsors dine at the tables in the installments, view a fashion show and AIDS Foundation of Chicago Vice President David Munar as the speaker, bid at an

auction. Host of the Style Channel's "Clean House" Joel Steingold, local celebrities and TV personalities will attend. Appetizers and dinner provided by the Matt Prentice Restaurant Group.

AFTER PARTY

Saturday Sept. 24
11 p.m. – 1 a.m.
Free admission to the after party at The Whitney's outdoor garden. Complimentary shuttle service from the lofts to the party will be provided. The after party will have hors d'oeuvres, a cash bar and DJ Jim Stone.

In Tyler Clementi's NJ dorm, tensions were high

Court documents show young man felt harassed before committing suicide

BY GEOFF MULVIHILL

TRENTON, N.J. (AP)—“What if I catch him with a dude?” Dharun Ravi wondered in jocular web chat about his new, gay freshman-year roommate at Rutgers University. He pondered a computer program to alert him if Tyler Clementi tried to rape him at night.

In his own musings in those first days of dorm life a year ago, Clementi wrote, “I got an azn,” or Asian, for a roommate. His family is “soo Indian/first gen Americanish,” he wrote.

Those snippets of court documents released in recent weeks paint a picture of a relationship that started out tense even before the two met, before Clementi committed suicide and before they became characters in a drama that would stir reaction from celebrities, lawmakers and even the White House.

Ravi, 19, went to court Friday, Sept. 9 for a hearing in which his lawyers asked a judge to throw out the 15-count indictment accusing him of a hate crime, invasion of privacy and tampering with evidence. Authorities say he used a dorm-room webcam to spy on Clementi's intimate encounter with another man. Judge Glenn Berman decided Friday to bring the case to trial.

Clementi, 18 when he died, became a worldwide symbol of the consequences of bullying and intimidation after he jumped off the George Washington Bridge into the Hudson River amid the intrigue in Davidson Residence Hall C on the New Brunswick campus of New Jersey's flagship university.

The court papers show modern intrigue spelled out in texts and tweets, many jokey, some confessional. Along with computer records are interview transcripts that could become the heart of the evidence. The tension between the roommates began before the campus move in date of Aug. 28, 2010.

In an Aug. 22 instant message to a friend, Ravi disclosed he'd done some searches to learn about his roommate. Ravi made fun of Clementi's Internet postings about asthma treatments, violins, gardening and Internet security — and his sexual orientation.

In one exchange, Ravi wrote “idc” — short for “I don't care” — that Clementi was gay. But he chatted repeatedly with friends about it.

Though it appears the roommates never discussed Clementi's sexual orientation, it was a frequent topic in other conversations

held by Clementi, who in those first weeks of college told his family he was gay, attended a meeting of a campus gay-rights group and made arrangements to meet alone with a man.

Clementi noticed that Ravi changed his pants in a closet.

“It's like the most awkward thing you've ever seen,” he wrote to a friend. He also noticed that Ravi's webcam was pointed toward Clementi's bed: “I feel like he's watching me watching him.”

There were more common roommate tensions, too. Clementi, who said he liked to have a lot of time alone, told friends his roommate would party until 5 a.m.

They lived across the hall from Molly Wei, who had known Ravi since middle school. She told investigators in interviews that she had a falling-out with him because he lied so much. But when she saw that they would be living across the hall, she said, she decided to give him a clean start.

Around 9 p.m. Sept. 19, she said, Ravi came to her room. Clementi wanted to have someone over privately.

Wei said people in the dorm saw an unfamiliar older man who looked homeless — Clementi's guest. Ravi was afraid his iPad would be stolen — and was also curious about what was happening in the room from which he was exiled, Wei said.

During a moment when Clementi and the man were out of the room, he went in, turned on his webcam and set it up so he could view whatever it showed from Wei's computer, Wei said.

Later, they turned on the video stream. “We saw Tyler and the other guy, like, they were touching each other and, like, I think, kissing,” she told investigators. “And then after, like, two or three seconds when we realized what we were watching, we just turned it off.”

Later that night, Wei said, she briefly turned the video chat back on to show her roommate and some other women from the dorm. She said Clementi and the other man had their shirts off.

Wei chatted with her boyfriend at another college about what she had seen. In a detail previously noted in court papers, Ravi used his Twitter account to tell the world about it: “I saw him making out with a dude. Yay.”

According to an email Clementi later sent to a resident assistant, the tweet tipped him off



Former Rutgers student Dharun Ravi, right, Tyler Clementi's former roommate, and his attorney Steven Altman listen as Judge Glenn Berman, not seen, speaks at the Middlesex County Court in New Brunswick, during a motion hearing Friday, Sept. 9, 2011 in New Brunswick, N.J. Berman on Friday refused to dismiss hate crime, invasion of privacy and other charges against Ravi. He also says prosecutors must give defense lawyers the name of the man who was allegedly seen in a webcam video having an intimate encounter with Rutgers student Tyler Clementi. Clementi killed himself by jumping from the George Washington Bridge soon after the incident last September. AP Photo by Mark R. Sullivan.

that he had been watched.

The next night, he chatted with a friend that he felt violated when he realized what had happened. “But then when I remembered what actually happened... doesn't seem soooo bad lol.”

And the night after that, Sept. 21, it happened again. Clementi asked for the room and said he found Ravi's webcam on and pointed at his bed.

And Ravi took to Twitter again: “Anyone with iChat, I dare you to video chat me between the hours of 9:30 and 12. Yes, it's happening again.”

Ravi's defense lawyer, Steven Altman, says that Ravi was joking and had disabled his webcam. But in a message to a friend, Clementi said it was he who turned off the webcam before the man, identified only in court papers as “M.B.,” came over.

Around 3 a.m. Sept. 22, Clementi sent an email to his resident adviser detailing what had happened. It ended: “I feel that my privacy has been violated and I am extremely uncomfortable sharing a room with someone who would act in this wildly inappropriate manner.”

That night, he left a last message on his Facebook page: “Jumping off the gw bridge, sorry.” His car and wallet were later found on the George Washington Bridge, and his body was discovered days later.

Five minutes after the Facebook posting, Ravi sent Clementi a long text message.

“I turned on my camera and saw you in the corner of the screen and I immediately closed it. I felt uncomfortable and guilty of what happened,” it said. “Obviously I told people what occurred so they could give me advice.

Then Tuesday when you requested the room again I wanted to make sure what happened Sunday wouldn't happen again ... I turned my camera away and put my computer to sleep so even if anyone tried it wouldn't work. I wanted to make amends for Sunday night. I'm sorry if you heard something distorted and disturbing but I assure you all my actions were good natured.”

Another said, in part: “I've known you were gay and I have no problem with it.”

Prosecutors suggest he composed the message only after seeing the suicide threat Clementi had posted on Facebook. Altman says he was writing the same time as Clementi.

It's not clear whether Clementi ever saw the messages, but his legacy was quickly felt.

Talk show host Ellen DeGeneres was among the celebrities to champion the anti-bullying cause. Even President Barack Obama and Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton weighed in on the issue, filming videos encouraging bullied teens to hang in there.

New Jersey lawmakers quickly passed a law, a year in the making, to have the nation's toughest anti-bullying laws in schools, although activists say the state has been too slow to finalize the regulations to go with them. And Rutgers has instituted a policy allowing opposite-sex roommates to provide a comfort zone for gay, lesbian and transgender students.

Wei, charged with two counts of invasion of privacy, is cooperating with authorities and has entered a pretrial intervention program that could result in charges being dropped. Ravi is fighting the 15-count indictment, which includes a bias intimidation charge punishable by as many as 10 years in state prison.

Snippets of court documents released in recent weeks paint a picture of a relationship that started out tense even before the two met, before Clementi committed suicide and before they became characters in a drama that would stir reaction from celebrities, lawmakers and even the White House.



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From Stork to Finish



IN A LAST-DITCH BID FOR PUBLIC SYMPATHY, MUAMMAR el-QADDAFI RESORTS TO THE GAY PANIC DEFENSE.

Editorial

AIDS isn't over – do what you can to help

Maybe you've never donated much to any particular organization or cause. Maybe you don't really follow politics or activists. Maybe you're just a busy person trying to get by, and don't have much time to keep up with the news or issues facing the LGBT community.

But this month, it's incredibly easy to do something good, to do something that's simple and that directly affects people in your own neighborhood.

Although HIV/AIDS is no longer the disease du jour to support – it's not like breast cancer, whose pink ribbons pop up on packaging for nearly everything from yogurt to toilet paper – it affects people in our state every single day. There are 20,000 people in Michigan who live with the disease, and the vast majority of them live in the Metro Detroit area, especially in the city itself.

Perhaps HIV/AIDS is no longer the hip disease to support because we think its threat is under control. Information about sexually transmitted diseases tends to make its way into even the most basic health and sex education lessons. We understand the disease now, what it is and how it works. We also have access to better medications. HIV/AIDS is no longer considered a death sentence, but a chronic disease.

But with new infection rates as high as ten percent in our state, clearly HIV/AIDS is not under control. Even though our young people are aware of the disease, they are still contracting it. And even though better medications are available, they still wreck nuclear havoc on the bodies and lives of those who have to take them. It is by no means easy to live with the disease.

All of this appears even scarier when considering that federal funding for state HIV/AIDS organizations – often their largest source of funding – is being slashed in the upcoming years. What isn't being slashed is certainly

Although HIV/AIDS is no longer the disease du jour to support, it affects people in our state every single day.

threatened by political infighting and the potential overhaul to our healthcare system.

The shaky state of federal funding makes for even more difficult day-to-day operations for our state organizations that are dedicated to providing treatment and pushing prevention. Federal funding often comes in the form of reimbursement to the organizations for services that have already been given. Our organizations keep operating even though they're unsure if the federal government will follow through on its promise of repayment.

This month, it is incredibly easy for you to help remedy these problems. This weekend and next, you can donate a few dollars and take a walk, showing your support of those affected. Next weekend, you can take in fantastic works of art and delicious local cuisine. These upcoming events (read about them in our news section) provide simple ways to give a little time and money to our organizations that work in prevention and treatment.

A director of one of the state HIV/AIDS organizations said that more than anything, this disease belongs to our community. The disease also belongs to the other minority communities that it disproportionately affects. When it affects one of us, it affects all of us. Help us rise up from the stigma and shame of a disease that is most associated with our lives and identities. Take the upcoming opportunities and give the time and money that you can.



Thinking Out Loud

BY ABBY DEES

The biggest threat for our youth Forget politics – the real challenge is our families

In my travels lately as a professional gay I've been speaking at a lot of PFLAG meetings. No matter where I go, the following people are always there: hard core straight allies with "Ask me about my lesbian daughter!" pins permanently affixed to their chests, pink goth LGBT teens, and well-meaning deer-in-the-headlights parents whose kids just came out to them. They're all cool for different reasons: first, the straight allies, because they put to shame the rest of us blasé queers who have protested nary a school-board homophobe in years; second, the kids, because they're brave and fabulous and it sucks being in high school; and third, those newbie PFLAG parents, because they're diving in with both feet, albeit totally freaked out.

But I've noticed another pattern at these meetings too. While there are often a few LGBT kids who grew up, like their parents, steeped in a Sesame Street ideal of tolerance, there are always several more who grew up in deeply conservative or religious homes. At some point, nearly every one of these young people talks about attempting or thinking about suicide.

Of course I know the statistic that LGBT youth are four times more likely than straight kids to commit suicide, but it's quite another thing to meet the survivors, week after week – out in the sticks or smack in the middle of presumably hip L.A. These suicidal thoughts are as predictable as the weather.

Whether folks were sent to reparative therapy, shunned, shamed, or simply forced into an identity that was a big fat lie, the gist is that growing up in intolerant homes does nothing less than destroy lives. There is a body count.

So, a few weeks ago at yet another meeting, the familiar cross-section of folks introduced themselves, as is PFLAG tradition: the pierced bi girl who's starting a gay-straight

alliance, the activist mom running a speaker's bureau at the library, the scared parents whose 14-year-old son has declared his desire to come out to everyone, and at least two young men who compared suicide attempts with bittersweet campy humor.

Then the newbie parents asked the group, "How we can keep our son safe? You hear all this horrible stuff about gay-bashing and things on the news. It's frightening to think of him out there alone."

I've heard a version of this question a

hundred times, but I'd never put two and two together until I looked around the room that night. I said, "The biggest threat our kids face isn't 'out there' somewhere; it's right at home."

Yes, the world is dangerous, and there are hate crimes and bullying every day. And that's just here – you really don't want to visit Uganda or Iraq in a rainbow T-shirt anytime soon. But none of that matters much if you can't survive your own family.

As I spoke, I wondered if, among these people earnestly trying to be good parents, I was in effect saying, "It's you! You are going to screw up

your kid!" I felt like the guest who just sneezed all over the buffet. Still, it was suddenly so obvious that if all you do is stand by your LGBT child, their odds for survival go up by at least 400 percent.

There were nods of agreement, so I didn't need to duck out in shame. But I'm left acutely aware of the irony that while we're fighting publicly to have our chosen families legally recognized, LGBT young people are quietly in the fight of their lives, every day, in their own family homes. We can't prevail if they can't.

Abby is a civil rights attorney-turned-author who has been in the LGBT rights trenches for more than 25 years. She can be reached through her website: queerquestionsstraighttalk.com.

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What do you think about the controversy over 'Dancing With The Stars' contestant Chaz Bono – all because he's the first transgender person on the show?

Great for visibility for transgender folks and for the American Family Association (this will ensure ALL Americans know what despicable bigots they are).

–Quinn Phillips

I feel like dancin' dancin'...dancin' the night away! Go Chaz!

–Cindy Stiles

Chaz is the first transgendered contestant that we know about. There may have been others.

–Cristy Cardinal

It's totally a fabricated issue about an unimportant TV show, both of which are designed to distract us from real issues.

–Alex Hardesty

He is there to dance, plain and simple. Let him have fun.

–Tobey Brock

In the best of worlds, it would be a NON-issue.

–Jack Miller

He might do a two step. OH MY GOD. Sheesh.

–Frank Vaca

The bigots are bringing more attention to the fact that Chaz is transgender than if he was just on there dancing, soo ... yeah ... thanks for bringing the issue into the show and hopefully everyone will see how much of a non-issue it is and prove to the protestors how close-minded they really are being.

–Wendy Meier

Comments may be edited for grammar and length.



Join the conversation ...

Search: "Between The Lines Newspaper"

Election 2012, remembering 9/11



President Barack Obama

"It's time for me to start wrapping my head around the idea that Barack Obama may not make it. I'm not saying he will definitely lose his bid for reelection, merely that things are looking a little bleak. As a gay man, I am positively terrified. At the moment, the future of our nation appears to hinge on how crazy the Republican nominee will be, and how much of this insanity the voters will be tolerant of (or enthusiastic about) on election day. I ask you to envision this future as you watch the Republican presidential candidates debate over the next few months. Try to hold back the vomit, and listen to their responses when the inevitable questions regarding gay rights come up. Unless Obama can pull it together, this is our future. Discouraging? You bet. Not a fan? Then do everything in your power to see that Obama gets reelected. He isn't perfect, but he's far better than these yahoos."

–Humor writer Benjamin Phillips, in his column titled "Time To Start Facing The Gay Rights Realities Of A Post-Obama America?," about the direction of LGBT rights under any of the current Republican presidential candidates, thenewcivilrights_movement.com, Sept. 10.



Mychal Judge

"On 9/11, the one thing we can take from Mychal Judge is, in the midst of this hell and war and evil and violence, here is this man who directs us to another possible path as human beings: We can choose the path of compassion and nonviolence and reconciliation. Mychal Judge had a heart as big as New York. There was room for everybody. And I think that's the lesson."

–Brendan Fay, Irish-American gay activist, remembering his friend Father Mychal Judge, the first recorded death from the attacks on the World Trade Center on Sept. 11, 2001, fatally hit by falling bodies or debris while giving last rights to a stricken fireman during the collapse of the first tower, in a column titled "9/11 Victim 0001: Father Mychal's Message," truthdig.com, Sept. 6. A Franciscan friar attached to the Fire Department of New York, Father Mychal was much-revered by NYC's underprivileged and homeless, and was one of the few Catholic priests willing to minister to people with HIV/AIDS during the AIDS crisis, and an acknowledged gay man to his friends and diary.



Anarchist Reverend

"For many folks this is a huge issue because of the barriers around people being able to (or being able to afford to) change their documentation. I stress about full body scanners, about whether I can wear my prosthesis or whether I should put it in my luggage (and the stress that if I put it in my luggage or carry on it will be deemed suspicious and result in an embarrassing search). I worry about pat downs or about potential outings/humiliation. I am also privileged. Because I look like a straight white male I can sometimes avoid further scrutiny. I don't have to worry that I am going to be singled out for my race as well as my trans status. It's things like this that make a vacation stressful."

–Anarchist Reverend, in his blog posting titled "Traveling While Trans," anarchistreverend.com, Sept. 9.



Rachel Aviles

"She texted me and said something like 'They kicked me out,' and I made a joke, 'What, are you pregnant?' and she said, 'No, worse. I'm gay.'"

–Heather Lodovico, former coach at The Master's School, a K-12 Christian school in West Simsbury, Conn., about former student, Rachel Aviles, in a text message exchange, about Aviles' admission to the school administration that she is a lesbian and was subsequently "encouraged" to withdraw from the school before her senior year or be expelled, in a column titled "A Student's Honesty Cost Her A Place At This Christian School," [The Hartford Courant](http://TheHartfordCourant.com), courant.com, Sept. 8.

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BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

Suffer the little kids, etc.

I was five when I had my tonsils clipped at the long-vanished Burt Shirley Hospital at Grand Circus Park in downtown Detroit, followed by wonderful weeks of tapioca pudding, ice cream, no school, playmate hero worship.

I remember my ether-induced spin as I counted backwards ... ten, nine, eight ... a boy skating, round, round, round in circles.

Looking back on these moments of anesthetic induced delirium ... seven, six, five ... I'm sure it accounts for my interest in male skaters, how their extensions, open strokes, compulsory figures all measure up.

Dick Button! Jeffrey Buttle! Brian Boitano! Scott Cramer! Their names say it all.

Quite possibly the anesthetic affected my prefrontal lobes in some long-lasting way, leaving me not only pleasantly bereft of two useless anatomical glands but gay, in compensation for the sacrifice.

I'm grateful. If I had to do it all over, I'm sure I would, for no other reason than making me so unobtrusively oral. I only wish that my dream out time had been more detailed, that I might have been visited by famous rainbow personages, say Oscar Wilde, Radclyffe Hall, Michelangelo, Sappho. On skates or off. Triple sowkows or no.

Farfetched? Well, if a three-year-old boy having his appendix removed can have a million-dollar encounter with no less a personage than Jesus – and several sing-song angels thrown in to boot – just maybe there are as yet undreamed possibilities for gay kids facing surgery as well. Robotic or otherwise.

By the way, the aforementioned three-year-old is Calton Burpo, from a Nebraskan minister's family. Calton's story is told in a book that, as of last week, has been on the New York Times Best Seller list for 30 weeks. Title: "Heaven Is For Real," by papa Todd Burpo with Lynn Vincent (Thomas Nelson, publisher).

In Heaven Calton meets his grandfather, dead 30 years, sees a miscarried sister he knew nothing about, describes a horsey that "only Jesus could ride," how "reaaally big" God and his chair are, and how the Holy Spirit "shoots down power to help us." (But not during tornado rampages.)

In case you're on the brink – as in famed boy skater Hans Brinker – of intellectually poo-pooing this anesthetic-induced literary gem, "Heaven, etc." is listed by the New York Times ("all the news that's fit to print") as nonfiction, selling for a nonfictional \$9.99. There are a million copies in print. (Not bad profit for a nonfictional appendectomy.)

Apparently tots a-testifyin' for Jesus is the tried-and-true, nonfictional outreach for America's religious fundygelicals. How else to explain four year-old Kanon Tipton, a Mississippian Apostolic, self-ordained evangelist? His preaching in See Spot Run English and Holy Ghost gibber jabber gets two million plus hits on Boob, er, You Tube.

Kanon took to his Pie-in-the-Sky karaoke at 21 months old. Nothing succeeds like excess, and little Kanon has been on NBC's The Today Show. Daddy Pastor Damon Tipton, when asked if Kanon was a mimic, said, "Possibly, but I do feel the hand of God's on him in a special way."

As the Book of Ecclesiastes says, "There's nothing new under the sun." In my day, the Boy Evangelist du jour was Marjoe Gortner. He performed his first marriage ceremony at age four. (Would God please put His middle finger on a similarly aged gay or lesbian child. Same-sex marriage needs a heaven-sent goose up.)

Marjoe – name's a combo of Mary and Joseph – during his short-lived preaching career in the 70s was billed as the "World's Youngest Ordained Minister." He was christened a "Miracle Child," preached hundreds of gospel verses from memory, performed faith healings, cast out demons. Made his God-fearing parents rich. And how!

Marjoe's also now a self-admitted fraud. And! What else? An actor, slash, rock singer. (Have a blessed day. Seduce a Christian. 21 or over.)

Charles@pridesource.com

Discrimination could still continue after 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' repeal

BY LISA KEEN

"Don't Ask, Don't Tell" will be off the books Sept. 20, but some still worry that the removal of that specific law barring gays from the military will not stop discrimination. Servicemembers Legal Defense Network is warning active duty military to be aware of rules affecting them if they choose to be openly gay in uniform.

Congressional repeal of DADT is not enough to end discrimination against gays in the military, Log Cabin Republicans' attorney Dan Woods reminded a three-judge panel of the 9th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals on Sept. 1.

Woods noted that, before DADT was passed in 1993, there was a military regulation – not a federal law – that banned "homosexuals" from the military.

"That ban had existed for decades," Woods said.

And if the 9th Circuit panel does not affirm a district court decision finding DADT unconstitutional, Woods said, "the government will be completely unconstrained in its ability to again ban gay service in the military."

Woods noted that, even since Congress passed the repeal last December, there is a new Congress now, the House has voted to de-fund implementation of repeal, and "multiple candidates for president (are) promising, as part of their campaign platforms, to repeal the repeal."

One member of the panel, Judge Barry Silverman said the concern about presidential candidates seemed a bit "speculative."

"Well, there's an election next year," responded Wood.

"Come back next year," the judge shot back, with a barely stifled laugh. "If any of these things come to pass, it'll be a different story. But in the meantime, this is the situation we're faced with."

The situation is that the Department of Justice is urging the federal appeals panel to declare the Log Cabin Republicans v. U.S. lawsuit moot. That lawsuit – which won a

powerful decision from U.S. District Court Judge Virginia Phillips last September – was largely responsible for prompting Congress to finally pass a bill repealing DADT in December. Phillips had ordered the military to immediately stop enforcing DADT and military officials began warning Congress that it seemed inevitable the courts would strike down the law. The military wanted a smooth transition to a DADT-free force, and Congress agreed.

Henry Whitaker, attorney for the U.S. Department of Justice, urged the panel to declare the litigation moot. He said the government would submit a motion after Sept. 20 to vacate the ruling and have the case sent back to the district court for dismissal. He said that, if the 9th Circuit does affirm the lower court ruling, the government might even consider appealing it to the U.S. Supreme Court. And he stated several times that, until repeal takes effect, the government "is defending" DADT on its merits.

Log Cabin's attorney Woods said that, if the federal appeals panel agrees with the government and vacates the lower court decision, and then a new president or Congress reinstates the policy, "we'd have to start all over again to prove again that laws banning open gay servicemembers are unconstitutional. This case took seven years to get here today. And it would be inappropriate to have to have people go through that all over again."

Woods also noted that affirming Judge Phillips' ruling would remedy "collateral consequences" caused by DADT. Among those concerns, he said, were loss of benefits under the G.I. bill and benefits from the Veterans Administration, inability to be buried in VA cemeteries, and requirement that discharged servicemembers pay back their student loans.

The DOJ's Whitaker said Log Cabin's fear that a future Congress or president might re-enact DADT "does not pass the straight face test." And, he added, said individuals discharged under DADT could seek remedies to these collateral forms of

discrimination through individual lawsuits, but Woods argued that it "ought not be necessary for every one of the thousands of people who have been discharged under this law to have to do that."

"If you vacate the judgment and take away the case," added Woods, "the government is unconstrained and simply might do it again. History might repeat itself."

For now, SLDN is trying to prepare gay active duty service members for the historic change that is about to take place Sept. 20. That's the date on which a 60-day review period will have ticked away following certification of military readiness to implement repeal and, not surprisingly, some organizations, including SLDN, plan to celebrate the end of the 18-year-old ban.

"Many service members want to attend these celebrations, and some might want to speak at them," notes the SLDN website, noting that "no special rules apply to attendance at or participation in such events."

Before DADT was passed in 1993, there was a military regulation – not a federal law – that banned "homosexuals" from the military.

But SLDN did warn gay service members not to criticize their commanders – past or present – or elected officials, and not to urge defeat of any particular elected official or candidate. And the organization warned service members not to wear their uniform to an event that is partisan in nature.

For more details on what's allowed and disallowed for active duty service members in uniform, see www.sldn.org.

Scores protest assaults on 3 Utah gay men Three anti-gay assaults in two weeks alarm Utah citizens

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)– The sister of a man who was injured in the latest attack against gay men says it is "intolerable to treat someone as less than precious and valuable."

"I'm LDS. My family is LDS," said Marnie Nelson Bales, of Tooele, Utah. "And you know, it doesn't matter. He's my brother. We love him."

Her brother, Cameron Nelson, wants to see an end to the violence, she told the estimated 100 to 200 people who attended the event to protest the assaults. Bales spoke the night of Sept. 9 at a fireside vigil in the capital city's Liberty Park,

the Deseret News and Salt Lake Tribune reported.

Nelson was beaten early Sept. 8 by two or three people yelling anti-gay slurs outside the American Fork hair salon where he works. He suffered a broken nose and other injuries.

The attack was the third such on gay Utah men in the last two weeks. Dane Hall, a victim of a beating at Club South in Salt Lake City two weeks ago, had his jaw broken in three places and six teeth knocked out. He thanked the crowd for their support, speaking through his wired-shut jaw.

"Thank you for coming out and supporting us," Hall said. "I don't know how to express myself, but just know that I am very thankful." He has said he expects his medical bills to surpass \$40,000, but he has no insurance.

A second gay man also was attacked near Club South the same night, but police do not believe the two incidents are related.

Salt Lake City Police Chief Chris Burbank shared a personal story about his cousin, a gay man who was a victim of domestic violence on multiple occasions

See Utah, page 16

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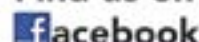


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Sally Kern

BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

With the tenth anniversary of Sept. 11 behind us it's important to reflect on the state of national security. For weeks now, pundits have been waxing philosophically about whether or not America is truly safer today than it was a decade ago. Most of them are full of shit, of course. Making people take their shoes off and confiscating bottles of water and cans of Aqua Net at the airport is Security Theater, pure and simple. After all, the failures that allowed the terrorists onto those planes ten years ago were at the CIA and FBI level, not because some baggage screener missed a box cutter.



Sally Kern

That threat is, of course, homosexuality. But people are afraid to speak out. Afraid that the homosexuals will enact revenge on their families if they expose the terrifying truth.

One woman, however, is brave enough to speak in public about this terrible danger our nation is facing. That woman is Oklahoma state legislator Sally Kern.

You may remember that Kern has spoken on this issue in the past. A few years ago she called homosexuality "the death knell of this country."

"I honestly think it's the biggest threat our nation has, even more so than terrorism or Islam, which I think is a big threat," she said.

She then compared homosexuality to cancer: "If you got cancer or something in your little toe, do you say, well, you know, I'm just going to forget about it because the rest of me is fine? It spreads. OK? And this stuff is deadly, and it's spreading, and it will destroy our young people, it will destroy this nation."

Mind you, Kern thought these comments were limited to the audience she was addressing. But somehow in this day and age where everyone has a cell phone and every cell phone has a camera and/or video recorder, her address was recorded and the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund had a field day making the video go viral. Kern and her right-wing apologists make a big deal about how the video was "selectively edited," and yet Kern stands by what she said and continues to say the same thing.

In an Aug. 31 interview with Peter LaBarbera, president of Americans for Truth about Homosexuality, Kern restated and "clarified" her "gays are worse than terrorists" line of thinking, proving that her original comments were not taken out of context or misunderstood.

"You know if you just look at it in practical terms, which has destroyed and ended the life of more people? Terrorism attack here in America or HIV/AIDS? Okay?" she said. "In the last fifteen to twenty years, we've had maybe three terrorist attacks on our soil with a little over 5,000 people regrettably losing their lives. In the same time frame, there have been hundreds of thousands who have died because of, uh, having AIDS. So which one's the biggest threat?"

This is, of course, a completely faulty comparison. Not to mention the fact that it rests on the assumption that all gay people have AIDS and are using it as a biological weapon of sorts. Also, since Kern is so concerned about AIDS, I'm sure we can expect her to sponsor bills to increase HIV/AIDS research and prevention funding in Oklahoma.

Of course, to Kern, gays are a sort of biological weapon, sights set on all of the young people in America. Because gays are all about making everybody gay.

"And you know, every day our young people, adults too, but especially our young people, are bombarded at school, in movies, in music, on TV, in the mall, in magazines, they're bombarded with 'homosexuality is normal and natural.' It's something they have to deal with every day," Kern said. "Fortunately we don't have to deal with a terrorist attack every day, and that's what I mean."

See? That's what she means. That gays are a constant, devious threat to the people of this nation and terrorists are only a sometimes threat; therefore being gay is worse than murdering someone. No duh and obviously.

And to think that Kern is baffled that people call her homophobic and a bigot.

N.C. legislature approves gay marriage ballot question for 2012 Citizens will vote on constitutional amendment

BY GARY D. ROBERTSON

RALEIGH— North Carolina state lawmakers voted to give social conservatives their decade-old wish to put a constitutional amendment on the ballot designed to make clear that marriage is between one man and one woman in the state. North Carolina citizens can vote on it in May 2012 — on the exact same date as a Republican primary.

Ten House Democrats voted Monday with nearly all Republicans in favoring of putting on May's primary ballot a question that would make marriage the only domestic legal union recognized in this state. The bill passed 75-42 — above the 72 needed for any constitutional change. The bill passed the Republican-controlled Senate 30-16 on Tuesday.

Although 30 states have gay marriage bans in their constitutions, North Carolina is the only state in the Southeast without such a marriage limit there. State law already defines marriage between a man and a woman, but amendment supporters argue traditional marriage would be better protected against potential legal challenges by same-sex couples married in six other states and the District of Columbia.

"Once again we seek to marginalize a group of individuals who only want equality and the same basic human rights afforded to every citizen of this state."

—Rep. Susan Fisher, D-Buncombe

"The question is, are we going to let the people decide, or judicial decisions based on the Supreme Court decisions of a half-dozen other states?" House Majority Leader Paul Stam, R-Wake, said during a floor debate that lasted more than three hours.

Republican legislative leaders said they move up the proposed referendum by six months as a way to try to bring on board more undecided legislators. It's also designed to immunize the GOP from criticisms that having it on the ballot in November 2012 as initially sought was designed to boost turnout among conservative Christians and others opposed to gay marriage.

North Carolina is expected to be a battleground state next year. President Barack Obama won the state's electoral votes in 2008 by only 13,000 votes and North Carolina is hosting the Democratic National Convention. Democratic Gov. Beverly Perdue also faces a tough re-election fight next year.

"I think what we're trying to do is respect some who thought this (amendment) was solely a political consideration," House Speaker Thom Tillis, R-Mecklenburg, said at a news conference, adding that the bill is "about putting a question to the people."

Opponents in the House who spoke — nearly all of them Democrats — said the referendum didn't matter. They said it was an awful idea that would discourage businesses from coming to North Carolina because executives would view the state as unwelcoming to gay and lesbian employees. Others likened the question to instituting previous constitutional restrictions in North Carolina that once barred interracial marriage. Rep. Deborah Ross, D-Wake, said approving this proposal would run counter to changing attitudes about same-sex relationships.

"Once again we seek to marginalize a group of individuals who only want equality and the same basic human rights afforded to every citizen of this state," said Rep. Susan Fisher, D-Buncombe. "Why do we insist on repeating history?" Still, Republican leaders managed to bring along nearly 20 percent of the House Democrats to support the measure. Rep. Charles Graham, D-Robeson, said he was satisfied with his yes vote after speaking to local residents, many of whom are conservative Christians.

"I had to listen to my constituents," said Graham, in his first term. "I'm satisfied with my vote."

Several hundred amendment supporters rallied Monday on the mall behind the Legislative Building, with religious leaders both black and white urging lawmakers to let the people vote on the gay marriage question after several years in which Democrats in charge of the Legislature blocked votes. Things have changed now that Republicans took control of the House and Senate simultaneously for the first time in 140 years.

"This piece of legislation has been held up and we haven't had the chance to vote on it," the Rev. Patrick Wooden of the Upper Room Church of God in Christ in Raleigh told the crowd. "This state has to protect God's holy institution as it is currently defined in state law."

Rep. Marcus Brandon, D-Guilford, the Legislature's only openly gay member, told colleagues that Christians should be compassionate toward everyone, not judgmental.

"It's not the spirit of Jesus," he said.

"It's not even close."

Opponents, meanwhile, brought to the Legislature nearly 50,000 postcards urging lawmakers to stop the amendment and scheduled vigils Monday night and their own rally Tuesday.

"I was disappointed that so many legislators regardless of party chose to discriminate (against people) who pose no threat other than wanting to live their lives with honesty, openness and with dignity," Alex Miller with the gay rights group Equality North Carolina said after the vote.

A House committee approved the measure earlier Monday without taking any public comments, angering lawmakers and activists.

"This is no way to conduct constitutional business for the state of North Carolina," said House Minority Leader Joe Hackney, D-Orange. "It ought not to be done this way. There ought to be a fair hearing."

Some law professors say the proposal could invalidate domestic violence laws, cause uncertainty with child custody decisions and wills and cancel out domestic partner benefits already instituted by a handful of local governments in the state.

"We are going to be enacting language into the constitution that no one knows what it means and could hurt citizens of this state and that will take years of needless litigation to resolve the meaning," said Maxine Eichner, a law professor at the University of North Carolina School of Law in Chapel Hill.

The referendum would be held on May 8, 2012. A majority of citizens would have to agree for it to be put in the constitution.

► Utah

Continued from p. 14

but wouldn't report the violence for fear of others finding out about his sexual orientation.

He told the crowd that it's important to involve police when violence takes place. Police handed out cards that detail how the public can submit confidential tips to detectives.

"We have people in our community who still cannot come forward because of the stigma that may be attached to them," Burbank said. "Any crime represents a failure of our society, especially a crime like this."

The nondenominational church City of Hope Salt Lake organized the event, which ended with participants marching with glow sticks through the streets of Salt Lake City and showing pictures of Hall's injuries.

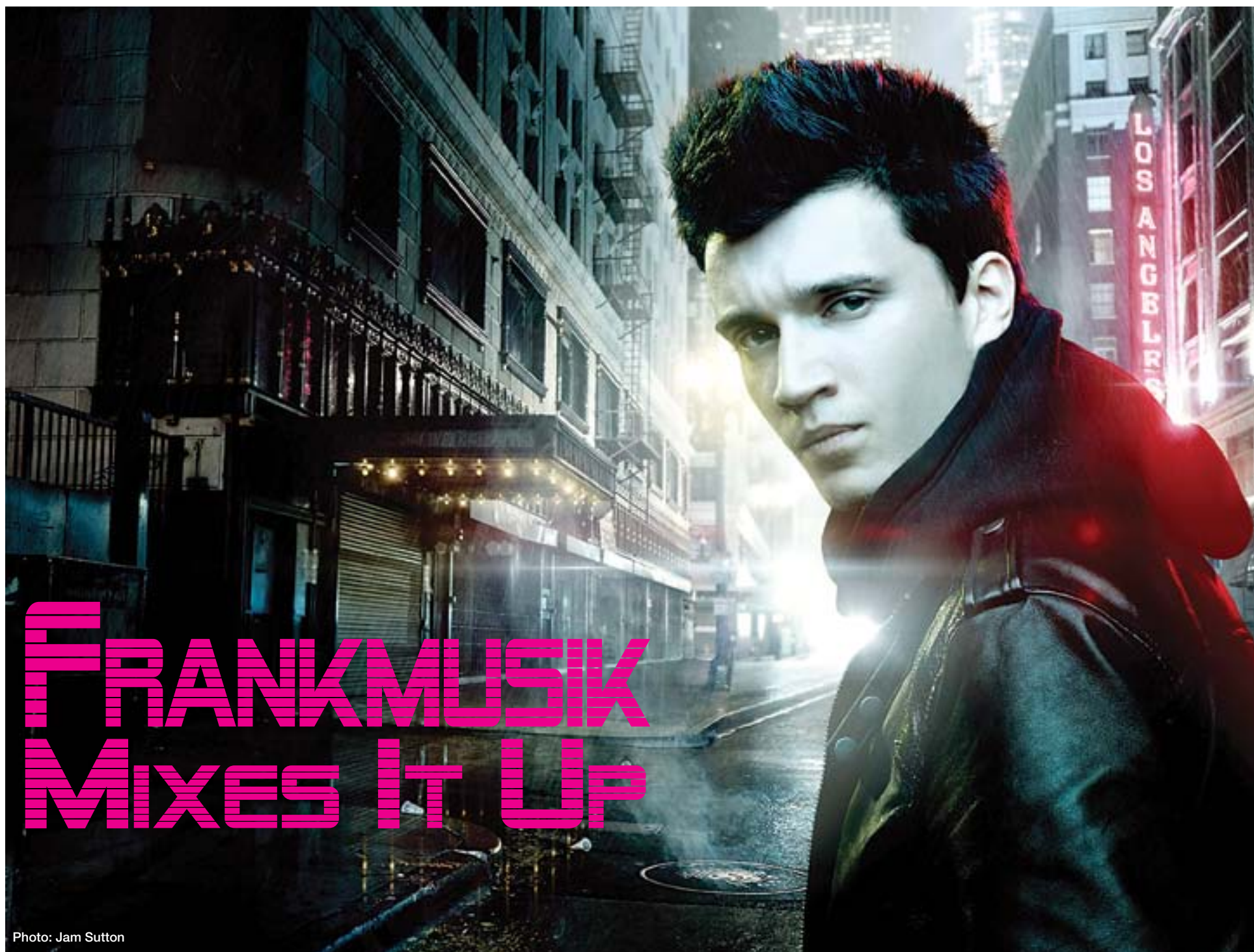


Photo: Jam Sutton

Pop musician on 'restrictive' straights, Erasure and getting naked for the gays

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Frankmusik goes where no straight man's gone before. Just look at what he did in 2008, when he disrobed – and bared his bum – for a spread in one of the U.K.'s gay magazines. Then, recently, he got naked again – on a massage table, for a promo that has a bunch of bears giving him a rubdown.

Clearly the guy's an original, which isn't just evident in his friendliness with the gays – but his music, too. With that, he's proved that pop isn't just a woman's world, mixing music for Lady Gaga and Pet Shop Boys and releasing his first album, "Complete Me," two years ago.

The 25-year-old follows up his electropop debut with "Do It in the AM," but it's not the only project with his name attached to it – he also produced Erasure's new album, "Tomorrow's World."

On the road with the synth-pop legends during their first U.S. tour in five years, Frankmusik chatted about how working with Erasure was his "calling," being an anomaly in the music business and why he wishes more

straight men would let go of their inhibitions.

Hey, Frank, how are you?

Hot. Not hot in a physical sense. Like, it's actually hot.

I already know you're hot physically, anyway.

Thank you, sir. Compliments will get you everywhere. (Laughs)

Where does mine get me?

This is a recorded conversation. I'll tell you off the record some other time.

How did the title track, "Do It in the AM," come about?

It's about losing it in my mind. I've never really spoken about this in an interview properly because I don't really think anyone's really been highbrow enough to engage with it but, being creative, I like having the creative freedom at night, because it's like my little secret. I'm making the party in my studio, and I'm making the songs that people want to party to.

So do you keep an alcohol stash in the studio?

No, no. I don't drink. Well, hardly. It just doesn't agree with me. I used to drink like a fish, but I just get heartburn. I'm getting old, man. And the hangovers – I actually cannot stand the concept of a hangover.

What's your a.m. routine?

Shower, shit, shave. No, wait – shit, shower, shave. You don't want to shit after you've already had a shower. The three S's. Sometimes you can do four S's if you're lucky, which is sex, shit, shower, shave. That is much more likely to happen these days since my missus has moved in.

How did your move from London to L.A. influence the album?

Just not being in London, being in a new city. I haven't got any really massive circle of friends or anything. I came here to experience emptiness. European culture is very clustered, very pedestrianized and everyone is very closely knit. I love L.A. for its vastness. It's devoid of any real sort of social integration because it's so spread out, and I love that. I love the fact that I

can be really anti-social and obnoxious in my studio and just concentrate on work.

You've gotten naked for the gays on a couple occasions. Do your gay friends call you a tease, because I think you might be?

I could be a tease; it depends on if you fancy me or not. The main thing is, I'm having fun. That's such a shit thing to say, but it is actually that. Straight male artists are restricting themselves through their sexuality, and I think you should just be open to anything, especially in press. If someone has an idea and it's tasteful, yeah, I'll do it. Fuck it. When I did the nude photo shoot, that was for male eating disorders. I wanted to support that cause, and if it meant a few famous guys getting their clothes off and talking about their own experiences with eating and their health, then fuck – any day dude, any day.

Why is it such an issue for straight guys to open up like that?

You have to ask them, because I'm definitely

See Frankmusik, page 19

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Photo: Jesse Jenkins

► Frankmusik

Continued from p. 17

not one of them. I think it was because I was brought up by my mom; I didn't have a dad, so I didn't have, like, this tenacious male figure in my life that was trying to make me fit a certain mold or anything. My mom sent me to ballet school and poetry recital classes. I mean, I was dancing around in a fucking leotard! I didn't know any different. If you don't know anything

different, it doesn't mean anything. It's imposed on you, this kind of straightness.

I feel so bad for guys, because you have this culture where people's gender has to fit into a demographic, which is just stupid. Men are just as expressive as women. I was just lucky enough that somebody as intelligent as my mother brought me up that way. It's a combination of common sense and not sort of digesting the bullshit that's fed to you in culture. I wish more men were expressive because, I'll tell you, there'd be a lot less trouble in the world.

Do people ever think you're gay?

I hope so, because that means I'm surrounded by stupid people that I can manipulate. That'd be nice.

Who are your boy crushes?

George Clooney. He's an absolute gentleman and a brilliant, brilliant human being and very good at what he does. And he's just really classy about it. I love classy guys. Not being a gentleman drives me crazy. I think being respectful and well-mannered is one of the most attractive things that any human can be.

You're an anomaly in pop music, because the genre is so dominated by young females – and you're a straight white guy. Why do you think there are so few like you in pop music?

Once again, it goes back to what it's like to be a man these days. Why is it that we feel that the only type of males that should succeed in this market are ones that come from a boy band? Or they've got to be a rapper, or they've got to be some beardy guy holding an acoustic guitar. Apparently dancing around and singing pop songs is only reserved for people like Usher and black culture, which I think is bullshit. White guys can do it too, but I think we're having a huge identity crisis.

I'm not a heavily political person, but I think there are some real plain facts staring us in the face that need to be dealt with – why can't a guy dance and sing without being seen as queer? Does that say anything bad about me, or does that say something really bad about the culture?

Tell me about your relationship with Erasure's Andy

Bell. Has he ever tried to get into your pants?

No, no – not at all. The closest we got was when we were doing the new single and he enjoyed what I was making so much he said something like, "I could fall in love with you," but I think he was referring more to the music that we were creating. (Laughs) He's a wonderful human being and incredible to work with. I see Andy more as a family member than a sexual stranger.

When did your relationship with Erasure start?

Beginning of this year, I think. I met Vince (Clarke) at his house in Maine and I met Andy in London. I met them both separately – and I've yet to actually meet all three of them at the same time, so that will happen when I'm on tour with them.

How would you compare the sound of their album and yours?

I mean, it's Andy Bell. The vocals are incomparable. His male tenor is like a freight train running through a china shop. I mean, the power! You believe every word he says, because he lives what he says. He is *in* the song. It's not some cookie-cutter bullshit, and that's what I love about him.

They stand for actually creating so many things that have been imitated blandly since they first made it. They're incredible, incredible pioneers. And I'm glad I could celebrate their originality once again.

Was it intimidating working with them?

No, no. It felt like my calling, it really did. I felt like I needed to make that album – for me and for them.

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Funky Art Fair focuses on local culture

Funky Ferndale Art Fair returns to Nine Mile and Woodward Avenue Sept. 15-17 this year. The Funky Ferndale Art Fair is an annual juried show of over 100 artists from across the country with contemporary and “funky” styles.

Selected artwork includes paintings, jewelry, photography, sculptures and more. Work is selected with a focus on the culture of Ferndale. “We are twice as ‘funky’ as the average fine art show,” said event coordinator Mark Loeb in a press release. “We focus on quality art, with a focus on work that is a bit more contemporary and edgy.”

The festival will also include an “Art Scholars” for student artists, acoustic music to compliment the viewing, ransom poetry and a childrens art area. Local Ferndale restaurants will also be present, offering a variety of tastes to festivalgoers.

The Funky Ferndale Art Fair has grown each year, reaching tens of thousands of viewers and putting hundreds of artists



in connection with enthusiasts and buyers. The festival runs from 4-9 p.m. Sept 15, 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Sept. 16 and noon-5 p.m.

Sept. 17. For more information, go to downtownferndale.com

Affirmations goes off the wall

Affirmations begins a new annual event with its “Off the Wall Art Competition,” presenting the edgy and funky artists of Ferndale and supplementing the Funky Ferndale Art Fair.

Affirmations will display a number of local submissions in its newest addition, the Grab & Go SushiCo located in the front of the community center. The competition organizers seek to highlight Ferndale’s eclectic vibe and expand the non-artist’s perception of what art is.

Integrity Shows, presenters of the competition, will determine the top four entries on Thursday, Sept. 15. The general public will then determine first, second, third place and honorable mention throughout the weekend. Winners of the contest will receive cash and/or gift certificates to Grab & Go SushiCo.

Artists entered in the competition are able to sell their displayed art during the competition with a 20-percent consignment fee, entirely donated to Affirmations.

Off the Wall Art contestants’ art will be displayed during the Funky Ferndale Art Fair from 4-8 p.m. Sept. 16, and 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Sept. 17.

Affirmations Off the Wall Art Competition is sponsored by Affirmations, Integrity Shows, Between The Lines and Grab & Go SushiCo. For more information, visit goaffirmations.org or contact Mark McMillan, events manager and development assistant, at 248-398-7105.

DIY Street Fair returns to Ferndale

The fourth annual DIY Street Fair returns to Ferndale this September to celebrate creativity and “do-it-yourself” pursuits with a free showcasing of local business and original crafters and their unique products in the southeast quadrant of Nine Mile Road and Woodward Avenue.

Attendees can expect to see handmade, home-cooked, locally brewed and ecologically friendly crafts, food and drinks. Many vendors are also offering performances, recordings and hands-on activities.

Launched in 2008, the DIY Street Fair has grown larger every year. “The response and support from the community has been phenomenal,” said Ferndale business owner Chris Johnston, who originated the concept of the DIY Fair, in the press release. “We’ve been just barely able to accommodate the demand for booths.” To accommodate the fair’s increasing popularity, the market’s stretch of Nine Mile will both accommodate additional vendors and open Friday night for the first time.

Exhibitors and vendors will line the outdoor marketplace while the fair’s main stage will showcase live music of independent regional artists throughout the weekend. Musician’s performances will



continue into the evening, relocating to a number of venues surrounding the fair site.

The DIY Street Fair has sought to keep the fair as reflective of its venue’s surroundings as possible. “What makes this fair unique is its participant roster, which we curate based on local presence, originality, grass-roots nature, and contribution to local creative culture,” said Carey Gustafson, Handmade Detroit co-founder and DIY

Street Fair board member during its first three seasons. “Every inch of the fair is somehow associated with Detroit and the surrounding area, if not completely of it.”

The DIY Street Fair runs Sept. 16-18 in the Southeast quadrant of Nine Mile Road and Woodward Avenue in Ferndale. Admission is free. For more information, go to diystreetfair.com or call 248-709-7673.

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Circumstances of the heart



Indie film depicts lesbian life in Iran

BY GARY M. KRAMER

“Circumstance” is a remarkable film that sensitively depicts the struggles of two teenage lesbians, Atafeh (Nikhoh Boosheri) and Shireen (Sarah Kazemy), in contemporary Iran. The story is based in part on bisexual writer/director Maryam Keshavarz’s own experiences as a teenager, and reveals how these teenagers find ways to express themselves sexually and otherwise, while living under state control.

The filmmaker, who lives in America, visited Iran regularly every summer until her controversial “Circumstance” (shot in Lebanon) prompted her to be banned from the country.

“Before I made this movie, I had the unique privilege to be able to go back and forth,” Keshavarz says. “Not anymore.”

In addition, Keshavarz reveals that she has been “threatened from anonymous sources, and been railed against by the government.” But it hasn’t been all bad. “I’ve had emails from hundreds of folks in Iran who are dying to see the film,” she notes. “I’m pretty happy. I had the freedom to make the film.”

The film, about forbidden love, is already resonating with Iranians. “Iranians have many layers of their personalities. So much of who they are has to be hidden. Even within the relative freedom of underground world, these girls’ exploration of sexuality is another subculture

within a subculture – another layer of duality, another layer of what they have to hide to really express themselves.”

These intertwined themes of gender and sexuality form the basis for much of the film’s drama. One of the ways the characters communicate their forbidden desires is through dancing. “Circumstance” opens with a fantasy bellydancing scene. Other sequences have the girls attending a secret house party, or going to a nightclub. At Atafeh’s home, the girls bond while singing and dancing to “Total Eclipse of the Heart” on TV.

“The idea was for me to express real life and fantasy,” says Keshavarz. “The state can never control your imagination.”

Atafeh and Shireen physically express themselves through intimacy too, and Keshavarz makes their sensuality erotic, not explicit. “It was important for me not to desexualize them,” she explains about the inclusion of several racy same-sex love scenes. “There are no men in the girls’ fantasies. There is more expressed sexuality in fantasy than in reality. In their real time, it’s very slight what they do. In their fantasy, it’s much more sexual, more erotic. It’s a space where they can really let loose.”

She goes on, addressing how Middle Eastern women suffer when it comes to representations of

Circumstance

Opening Sept. 16
Main Art Theatre
118 N. Main, Royal Oak
www.landmarktheatres.com

Nikhoh Boosheri as Atafeh and Sarah Kazemy as Shireen in “Circumstance,” directed by Maryam Keshavarz (inset).

sexuality. Being queer in the Middle East – except in Turkey and Israel – is illegal. “Circumstance” navigates queer identity carefully. Keshavarz says, “More liberal, more educated people can speak about (homosexuality), but it’s dangerous, so it’s like a very controlled conversation with very select people.

“It’s something people don’t talk about.”

“Circumstance” is revelatory, especially in its depiction of Iranian teenage desire. When it came to the portrayal of sexuality, Keshavarz made sure to protect her actresses. Boosheri was only 18 when she made the film, but she identified strongly with her role and had a complete understanding of Atafeh, who Keshavarz admits to being put in “an impossible situation.”

“Circumstance” is also a courageous film, depicting what Atafeh and Shireen must endure in Iran. Sometimes this is physical abuse, with women’s bodies being violated. Although these scenes are discretely filmed, they are quite horrifying. When Mehran is involved, the abuse is mental, and equally shocking.

Mehran is a particularly creepy, troubling character. His insidious behavior, surreptitiously videotaping his family, for example, creates much of the film’s tension.

“The thing about (Mehran) that is so important is that he’s pleasant on the outside, and his (nastiness) is so much underneath the skin,” Keshavarz says. “That’s so much creepier.”

Mehran becomes a fundamentalist Muslim who is loyal to Iran. He frequently condemns his sister’s wild behavior, causing friction within the family. “They are opposite reactions to the

same environment,” Keshavarz acknowledges. “Atafeh goes in one direction, and her brother goes in another.”

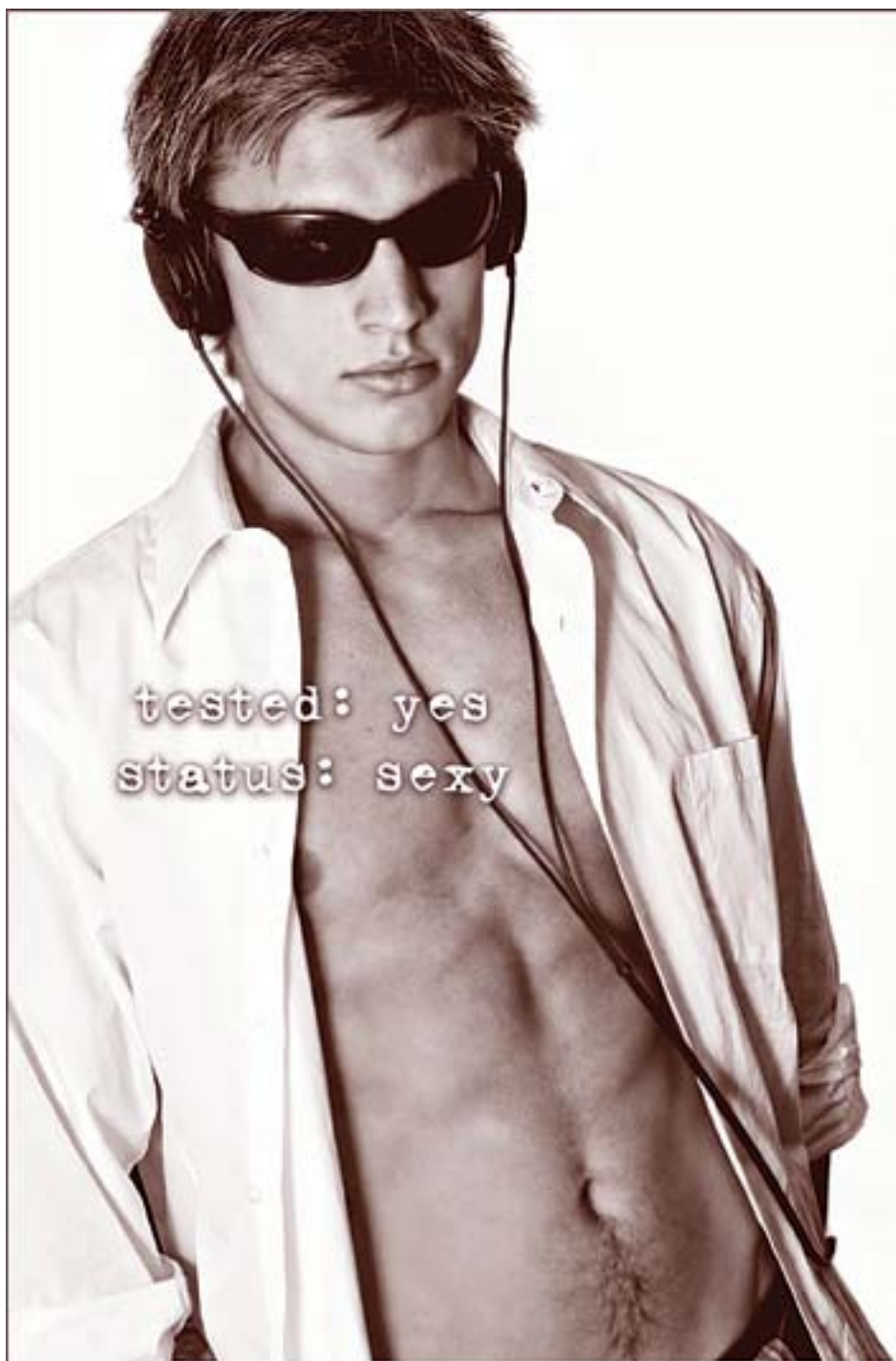
The filmmaker has seven brothers, one of whom is her fraternal twin. It comes to reason that her upbringing may be how she constructed the dual narratives of Atafeh’s downward spiral and Mehran’s efforts toward redemption.

“I never thought of this!” Keshavarz exclaims. “Maybe I did subconsciously. Perhaps because I’m a twin, and had someone born with me – and because we are different genders – we are very different and express ourselves differently.”

One of the dramatic turning points in “Circumstance” involves Atafeh and Shireen being arrested by the secret police. Keshavarz specifically had the teenagers caught for a crime that did not involve their sexuality. What happens – and it involves Mehran – changes the course of the girls’ relationship, and is quite haunting.

“Circumstance” ultimately may box its characters into corners, but the film offers hope that they may find an escape. The powerful ending should also prompt viewers to reflect on the question that opens the film: “If you could be anywhere, where would you be?”

Keshavarz answers that same question herself. “Wow! In the world? In my imagination? Or in reality?” She laughs. “Right now, I’m pretty happy with where I am. ‘Circumstance’ was really hard to make, and because the film has gotten a great response, I’m able to press forth with my next project a lot easier. I’m in a very unique place. I’m very happy right now. Although I’d probably be happier if I was on a beach in Maui!”



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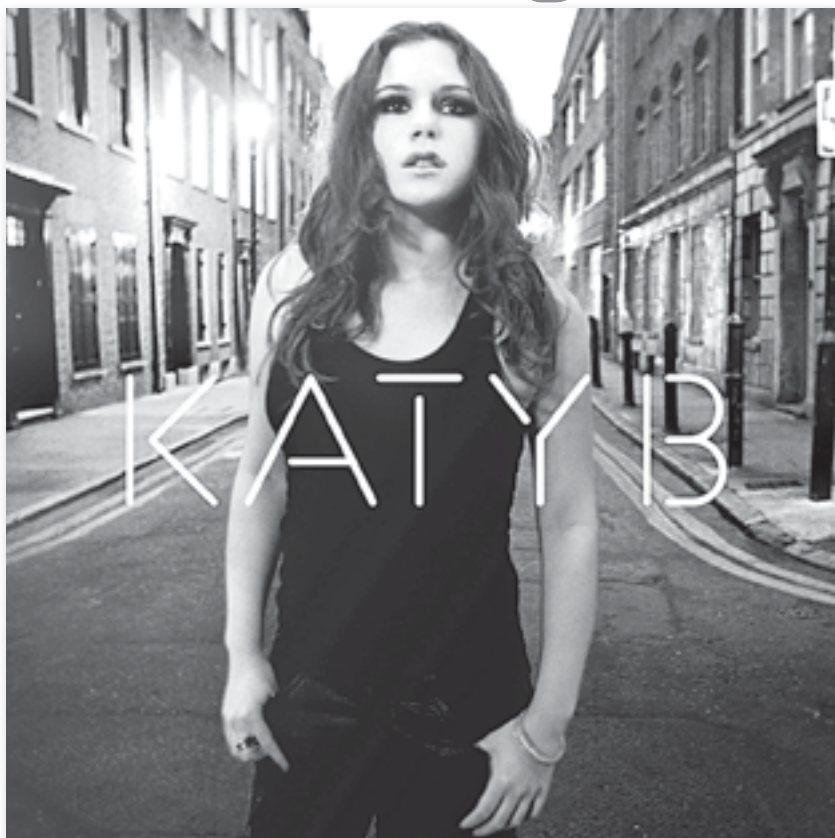
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Katy B's breakout record is worthy of hype. Plus: Pistol Annies' delightful debut



Katy B, 'On a Mission'

They're everywhere – British songbirds trying to take over the world with their voices. But Katy B, who's already made major headway in her native country for her unique, mainstream-friendly blend of dubstep, house and soul, is a name that's destined to catch on. The 22-year-old's debut is one of the best in recent years, a near-perfect spin that feels loose, gritty, mature and free from the strategic control of a record label (even though she's got major-label backing under Sony) – the antithesis of Jessie J's first effort, released just a few months ago. "Power On Me," an old-school throwback to the '80s, sets the stage for a familiar sound that the London-born artist makes all her own, moving into the thumping chainsaw-ripping single "Katy On a Mission," breezing through the jazzy "Movement" and nagging on the pitiful pool of men during "Easy Please Me," a devilish rant that's incredibly addictive. "These days I can't find a man to please me," sasses the singer, who adopts the Lily Allen brand of mouth-offs. She does it again on the dubstep groove "Go Away," but this time drops into some R&B coolness on the chorus. "Broken Record" lurches into a sweetly sung rave, and "Hard to Get" wraps the set – strangely pairing cricket chirps and lounge-y keyboards for a killer chiller. Even the what-could-be-canned thank yous at the end of the track sound like nothing you've heard before. *Grade: A-*



Pistol Annies, 'Hell on Heels'

Miranda Lambert isn't someone that likes to be messed with, which the country superstar has made clear on three consistently solid solo CDs. Now she and her two accomplices, Ashley Monroe and Angaleena Presley, are "Hell on Heels," the kitschy and cautionary title of the girl group's first album that's reminiscent of what Dolly Parton did with Emmylou Harris and Linda Ronstadt for the legendary "Trio" album. But that was 1987. So on their laid-back, traditional-sounding venture, Pistol Annies plays with a modern sensibility that allows them to riff on girls-behaving-badly with "Takin' Pills" and, at their campiest, greedy relatives fighting over their dead mother's belongings on "Family Feud." It's this openness to busting genre limits that makes their debut such a delight, with Lambert

getting feisty mad at her ex on "Trailer for Rent" and then all starry-eyed over "Boys from the South." "Lemon Drop" offers an adorably witty slant to an it-gets-better song, while "Beige" is the group at their most affecting, as they sing about a shotgun wedding. There are only 10 ditties – all of them simple, not-too-produced pieces – that stretch over a skimpy 30 minutes. But that's certainly enough time for them to give us some hell, and some heaven. *Grade: B+*

Also Out



Kristin Chenoweth, 'Some Lessons Learned'

Just because Kristin Chenoweth is baby-cute doesn't mean she can get away with anything. And her crossover into country music, from Broadway and Christmas to nearly everything else, is the kind of near-miss that you wish wasn't. She's obviously a talented singer, and she nails a reading of Dolly Parton's "Change" (also great is her ode to the icon, "What Would Dolly Do?") and does a bang-up job on the clean-cut heartbreaker "Mine to Love" – but there's too much, to use Chenoweth's words, to bitch about. There's the way-too-wordy lead single "I Want Somebody (Bitch About)" and an overload of schmaltzy songs (blame Diane Warren). Just consider this another lesson learned.



Jon McLaughlin, 'Forever If Ever'

We loved him as the hot ballroom balladeer who stole hearts during "Enchanted." But don't stop swooning; his fourth album features "I'll Follow You," another solid slowie in the vein of "So Close." Much of the rest, though, is grounded in the John Mayer genre: "Promising Promises," opening with organ, is a falsetto showcase; "Summer is Over" is his best chance at a hit (even if it's not the best track), and "You Are What I'm Here For" is a lovely song of desperation. The '80s influences of his last album no longer exist, instead gleaning inspiration from grunge-rock for "I Brought This on Myself" and neo-Hanson on "Without You Now." Outside of that, it's still McLaughlin – sweet and safe.

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The cast of "Avenue Q": Nick Bringardner (Princeton), Catherine Cypert, Kelly Fandrey, Marci Rosenberg, Andrew Szykula, Lisa Lee, Jeff Foust, Keshia Oliver, Erik Wright-Olsen. Photo: A2CT

'Avenue Q' in A2!

Musical features familiar puppets teaching lessons

BY BRIDGETTE M. REDMAN

ANN ARBOR – PBS may still insist that Bert and Ernie aren't gay, but that won't stop the thinly veiled characters of "Avenue Q" from singing, "If you were gay, that'd be OK," as Niky tries talking Rod out of the closet.

This time they'll be singing those songs in Ann Arbor in the region's first community theater production of the hit musical whose rights just became available a few months ago. The Ann Arbor Civic Theater is producing the show that joyously declares that the Internet is for porn and everyone is a little bit racist. Director Wendy Sielaff said it was a lucky chance that Ann Arbor Civic was able to do it so quickly after the rights became available.

Sielaff had spent nearly nine months preparing to do "La Cage Aux Folles" in this time slot. Then, right in the middle of tech week for "Miss Saigon" this past June, she got a call telling her the rights for "Folles" had been pulled. Two hours later, she received a message from a different source – an email list that let her know the rights for "Avenue Q" had just become available.

"I got on the phone with Ann Arbor Civic and told them to go get it now," Sielaff said. "It fell into our laps by accident that we got it so early, but that was a blessing."

It was also one that had actors from throughout the region excited about participating in. People came to auditions from far and wide, and cast members drive in nightly from as far away as Ohio and Clarkston.

"Avenue Q" opened on Broadway in 2003 and went on to win three Tony Awards. It is a "Sesame Street" for grownups, though the Jim Henson Company has not endorsed the show

Avenue Q
8 p.m. Sept. 15-17, 2 p.m. Sept. 18
Ann Arbor Civic Theatre at Lydia Mendelssohn
Theatre, 911 N. University, Ann Arbor, \$17-\$22
www.a2ct.org

and has nothing to do with its creation. Puppets interact with humans dealing with the difficulty of making it in the real world.

"The puppets can get away with saying the most amazing things," said Sielaff. "It's OK if you're gay, everyone is a little bit racist, the Internet is for porn. The appeal is the raw humor. We have puppet sex on stage, we have naked puppets... Kate Monster is definitely Prairie Dawn and she drops the F-bomb constantly. You just don't expect it."

Sielaff quickly brought Kyle Farr on board as the puppet director. He had performed in a version of "Avenue Q" in Kalamazoo a few years ago when it was being tested to determine how far rights could be released. He instituted a three-week puppet boot camp to teach all of the cast members how to manipulate the puppets and to manipulate their bodies when working with puppets. She said he has been amazing in teaching the cast, only one of whom had previous puppet experience. She also said her cast has taken to the work and put in all sorts of extra hours to learn what needed to be done.

"They've been so willing to do anything," Sielaff said. "We got the cream of the crop. Some bought their own practice puppets. They've been an amazingly wonderful cast to work with."

One of the mantras of the show has been to "keep it pure." They may be a community theater, but they're not modifying anything from the Broadway production. They've rented the puppets from the original production company and made their own videos for several of the scenes. The set itself may seem simple from the front, but in back it is an intricate piece of stagecraft.

"In the back we have scaffolds and ladders and platforms. People get 14 feet into the air. We knew it would be complex, but we never realized how much."

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'Sissies' come of age at The Ringwald

BY JOHN QUINN

"Sissie" rings harshly in the ear of any gay man. It's a slur meant to mock and hurt. Yet in the title of the play "Southern Baptist Sissies," it's an attention-getter as effective as a punch in the face – which often follows use of said epithet. Who Wants Cake? revives its 2007 hit this month at the Ringwald Theatre in Ferndale. The production, directed by Joe Bailey, unites members of the first cast with a few newer faces. The story they tell explores one of the classic themes of literature – the coming of age – from a distinctly LGBT perspective.

Playwright Del Shores is the son of a preacher man, and the play is quite personal. It follows four gay Dallas kids' growth from childhood into manhood, aware that they're misfits in the culture – especially their fundamentalist church. Each follows a different path seeking his true self.

Our storyteller, Mark (Matthew Turner Shelton), cannot deal with the hypocrisy of a church founded on love that preaches such hate, and leaves the church in anger. In the clash of religion and sexuality, the thoroughly indoctrinated T.J. (Michael Lopotrone), steps into the closet and slams the door. The flamboyant Benny (Vince Kelly), embraces his sexuality and becomes a "female illusionist." The rather shy Andrew (Joe Plambeck) is still in emotional turmoil well into adulthood.

Structurally the script is problematic, as it drifts into flashbacks, as well as switching scenes between a Dallas church

REVIEW

Southern Baptist Sissies

Who Wants Cake? at The Ringwald, 22742 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Friday-Monday through Sept. 26. Contains nudity and adult situations. \$10-\$20. 248-545-5545. www.whowantscaketheatre.com

and a gay bar. The bar, though, allows for the introduction of two lost souls: "Peanut," aging gay guy in a scene of the forever-young; and Odette Annette Barnett – hetero, but gay barfly. Together they have most of the comedy in this dramatic comedy. Jamie Richards and Melissa Beckwith reprise their roles from the first production and are fine comic relief. Yet as the characters swap jokes and stories, they reveal the emptiness of people who live lifestyles instead of lives.

But let's return to that script. I don't find it as compelling as other examples of the genre, due to Shores' rather superficial handling of his characters' inner states. If any of this is autobiographical, why isn't he more in touch with the complexities? Nor am I sure the convention of one actress playing all of the boys' mothers (here admirably performed by returning Connie Cowper) isn't a suggestion that "they're all alike." And while Barry Cutler's bigoted Preacher scares the bejeezus out of me, the character, as written, is so obtuse one wonders if Shore has Daddy issues. The



"Southern Baptist Sissies" returns to The Ringwald through Sept. 26. Photo: Colleen Scribner

Ringwald production is a clear case of performance transcending material.

The cast is a uniformly polished ensemble and is finding the souls the playwright neglected to give his characters. Bailey's direction makes the narrative flow like a dream as he weaves his cast around the pitfalls in the script. It's no problem seeing why "Southern Baptist Sissies" was a hit in the company's first season; it's no less a hit now.

To read the complete review, log on to ... www.EncoreMichigan.com or PrideSource.com

No slips in 'Freud's Last Session'

BY MARTIN F. KOHN

In "Freud's Last Session," Sigmund Freud and C.S. Lewis, a couple of intellectual .400 hitters, have a highly entertaining, wide-ranging philosophical discussion, an elevated version of what might take place in a dorm room around midnight abetted by a bottle or two of cheap wine.

Whether the two thinkers ever actually met – it's possible – is immaterial. Playwright Mark St. Germain embraces the idea, and the result is a lively 75 minutes on stage with much to contemplate and a surprisingly large amount of drama and humor.

The time is Sept. 3, 1939, the very beginning of World War II; the place is Freud's study in London. Lewis hasn't come to be psychoanalyzed (he conspicuously avoids Freud's famous couch). The elderly, terminally ill psychiatrist has invited the youngish Oxford professor over to talk about religion.

Ostensibly, the chief topic of their conversation is whether God exists. Freud says no, Lewis says yes, and this will not be the only subject on which they hold differing views. Up for discussion are the purpose of evil, the concept of shame, the nature of happiness, whether or not suicide is sinful, the significance

REVIEW

Freud's Last Session

Century Theatre, 333 Madison St., Detroit. Wednesday-Sunday through Nov. 20. \$39.50 - \$44.50. 313-963-9800. www.gemtheatre.com



Mitch Greenberg (Freud) and Cory Krebsbach (C.S. Lewis) clash on the existence of God, sex, love and the meaning of life in "Freud's Last Session." Photo: Santo Fabio

of music, why humor works (or doesn't) and, yes, where exactly sex belongs in all of this.

Somewhere in there St. Germain has Freud say, "I always consider what people tell me less important than what they cannot." And what St. Germain shows us without saying it is that despite strong differences on most things that matter, here are two people whose mutual respect and innate kindness trumps everything.

"Freud's Last Session" is in its second year off-Broadway. The new production at Detroit's Century Theatre, with the same director (Tyler Marchant), set designer (Brian Prather) and costume designer (Mark Mariani), is pretty much a carbon copy of the excellent New York production. The stage here appears to be slightly smaller and less open on either side; patrons seated way over on the right (stage left) won't see Freud's

window with its lovely view. Fortunately, Marchant keeps his actors away from the window.

They – Mitch Greenberg as Freud, Cory Krebsbach as Lewis – turn in complete and credible performances. Their accents – Greenberg's Germanic, Krebsbach's British – are consistent, and each man contributes something extra. During an air raid warning Krebsbach's Lewis manages to look irked with his face covered by a gas mask. Greenberg's Freud gestures in such a manner that his hands can be described in no way other than kindly.

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RTM Happenings

Editor's Picks

Outings

The 17th annual OutFest, Ann Arbor's LGBT celebration, returns this year on Sept. 17 to celebrate the upcoming National Coming Out Day. Though NCOB is celebrated Oct. 11 this year, OutFest has moved to Sept. 17 for more ideal outdoor weather.

OutFest is organized by the Jim Toy Community Center in cooperation with \aut\ bar and Trilium Real Estate. The festival will include live music, guest speakers, games, fundraisers and raffles, which will benefit the Jim Toy Community Center. Special performances from "Just Jill" and "Drag King Rebellion" begin at 6 p.m.

OutFest takes place in Braun Court, across from the Ann Arbor Farmer's Market. For more information, go to jimtoycenter.org.

Music & More



Joan Rivers simply exudes brash New Yorker, so it's no wonder she's earned a rabid gay following. After beginning her comedy career over 50 years ago at The Second City in Chicago, Rivers has gone on to host countless television events and appear on a variety of her own TV shows, including "The Late Show Starring Joan Rivers," "The Joan Rivers Position" and "Can We Shop?" A revealing documentary on her life, "Joan Rivers: A Piece of Work," was released last year.

Joan Rivers will perform her uncensored standup routine in front of a sold-out audience at 8 p.m. Sept. 17 at the Andiamo Celebrity Room in Warren, 7096 E. 14 Mile Road. For more information, visit joanrivers.com or call 586-268-3200.

Theater

Spotlight Players will present the energetic and dynamic "The Music Man" by Meredith Willson. This Tony Award-winning musical-comedy is loved all over the world. Show dates are Sept. 16-25 at the Village Theater at Cherry Hill in Canton.

"The Music Man" tells the story of fast-talking traveling salesman Harold Hill, whose con is to persuade towns to invest in a boy's brass band that never materializes. But Hill gets more than he bargained for in River City when his love for the town librarian provokes a dormant conscience.

"The Music Man" is a classic show that is fun for everyone: anyone who has played an instrument, those who enjoy a good love story, and anyone who gets a kick out of quaint and funny characters whose intentions are good but somewhat misguided," said musical director Rebecca Biber.

The Village Theater at Cherry Hill is located at 50400 Cherry Hill Road, Canton. For tickets, call 734-394-5300



OUTINGS

Wednesday, Sept. 14

LGBT In the Park, 5:30 p.m. Ongoing LGBT social group featuring discussions and meet and greets with new people during the week. Discussion: Ways of coping with the stress of the season. LGBT in the Park, 620 W. Woodward Heights, **Hazel Park**. 248-460-3251. jffryoliver@yahoo.com

Sistrum Orientation, 6 p.m. Sistrum's 26th season begins with an orientation. New members and returning members may RSVP to info@sistrum.org. Sistrum Lansing Women's Chorus, 215 N. Capitol Ave., **Lansing**. Sistrum.org

TransCend, 6:30 p.m. Open to persons 18 and older. Younger are welcome with parent or guardian permission. Kalamazoo Gay Lesbian Resource Center, 629 Pioneer Street, **Kalamazoo**. 269-349-4234. kgirc.org

Thursday, Sept. 15

Policy to Practice, 6 p.m. Discussing diversity and inclusion as effective strategies for businesses in Kalamazoo. Keynote speaker Eric Peterson. Borgess Lawrence Education Center, 1521 Gull Road, **Kalamazoo**. 810-650-6274. kgirc.org

Polyamory Network, 7:30 p.m. Open and inclusive community of people living polyamorously, people interested in polyamory and people of, friendly to and curious about polyamory. Welcomes diversity of sexual orientation and gender identity. Polyamory Network, 319 Braun Court, **Ann Arbor**. 734 6782478. Jimtoycenter.org

Friday, Sept. 16

Welcoming Reception, 11:30 a.m. President of Oakland University, Dr. Russi, will be speaking as well as Professor Larrabee of the LGBT Resource Group and Alexa Van Vliet of the Gay Straight Alliance. A welcome to LGBT and allied students of the fall semester. Free food will be provided. Oakland University's GSA, 2200 N. Squirrel Road, **Rochester**. 734-891-0501. gsaatoaklandu@gmail.com

Bisexual Peer Group, 7 p.m. Meets monthly on the third Friday. Discussion relating to bisexuality, pansexuality, omnisexuality. Allies are encouraged and welcomed to attend. Building is handicapped accessible using ramp to rear entrance. Bisexual Peer Group, 319 Braun Ct., **Ann Arbor**. 734-678-2478. biprideannarbor@gmail.com

Womyn's Film Night, 7 p.m. Film-The Hunger. Miriam, a centuries-old vampire, preys on urban club goers with her vampire lover John. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

Saturday, Sept. 17

Affirmations Off the Wall Art Competition, 10 a.m. 1st annual competition highlighting the eclectic vibe of Ferndale by featuring edgy and "funky" art. Submitted artwork will be displayed at the Grab and Go SushiCo., in the front of Affirmations. Prizes include cash and gift certificates. Affirmations, 290 W. 9 Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

Transgender Health Fair, 1 p.m. 2nd annual Transgender Health Fair. Transgender Michigan and Affirmations, 290 W. 9 Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

OutFest, 6 p.m. The Jim Toy Community Center, in cooperation with the \aut\ BAR and Trilium Real Estate, proudly invites all members of the community to "OutFest 2011" a National Coming Out Day celebration. Includes performances from "Just Jill" and "Drag King Rebellion." Party extends through the courtyard and into the Jim Toy Community Center. Jim Toy Community Center, 319 Braun Court, **Ann Arbor**. 734 6782478. Jimtoycenter.org

Sunday, Sept. 18

PFLAG Ann Arbor Meeting, 1 a.m. 3rd Sunday of every month. Support group and monthly speaker at each meeting. PFLAG Ann Arbor, 306 N. Division St., **Ann Arbor**. pflagaa.org

AIDS Walk Detroit 2011, 8 a.m. Annual AIDS Walk. Corporate Sponsors for this event are Comerica Bank, DirectRX, 5/3 Bank, Ford Motor Company, Genisys Credit Union, Gilmour-Jirgens Fund, MGM Grand Detroit, Raymond James, Tibotec Therapeutics, Volkswagon of America, and ZMC Pharmacy. More information online. AIDS Walk Detroit 2011, Royal Oak Farmer's Market, **Royal Oak**. Aidswalkdetroit.org

PFLAG Tri-Cities Meeting, 2 p.m. Every 3rd Sunday of the month. Support groups including monthly speakers. PFLAG Tri-Cities, 2525 Hemmeter, **Saginaw**. 989-941-1458. pflag@pflag-mbs.org

Chez Bouche, 7 p.m. Comedy, dance, adult puppetry and magic show. Lady Gaga impersonator Miss Redd Hott. Spiral Video and Dance Bar, 1247 Center Street, **Lansing**. 517-371-3221. Spiraldancebar.com

Monday, Sept. 19

New Member Night, Out Loud Chorus's new member night for the winter concert season. Opportunity to join LGBT chorus group. All are welcome--LGBT & allies. No sight-reading skills are required! We are Washtenaw County's original mixed LGBT chorus. Trinity Lutheran Church, 1400 West Stadium Boulevard, **Ann Arbor**. 734-265-0740. Olconline.org

Tuesday, Sept. 20

LanSINGout Gay Men's Chorus, Invitation to all people with male-sounding voices to join with us at our open enrollment rehearsals. Lansing First Presbyterian Church, 510 W. Ottawa St., **Lansing**. 517-490-1746. Lansingout.org

Transgender Life Support, 7 p.m. Support group for transgendered people and allies. Transgender Life Support, 290 W. 9 Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

Thursday, Sept. 22

Voices, 4:30 p.m. The voices of the lesbian, gay, bi-attractional, transgender or questioning homeless youth will be heard and celebrated at the Ruth Ellis Centers annual benefit, at the Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit. Tickets to Voices are \$175 for VIP, which includes a private reception at 5:30 p.m. and exhibition tour \$125 for the main reception at 6 p.m. with spoken word performances and a silent auction. \$50 for guests under 30. Ruth Ellis Center, 4454 Woodward Ave., **Detroit**. 313-252-1950. Ruthelliscenter.org

Dining by Design-Cocktails by Design/ Artworks Auction, 6 p.m. Spectacular designs from Detroit's design community, showcasing local talent and raising fundraiser for HIV/AIDS services and education organizations in the nation. \$100 admission to the auction includes cocktails, live entertainment, 25 local chefs and over 100 original works of art for auction. Michigan AIDS Coalition and DIFFA, 441 West Canfield, **Detroit**. 248-545-1435. Michiganaidcoalition.org

Friday, Sept. 23

Dining by Design - Party by Design, 6 p.m. Raising funds for HIV/AIDS services and education organizations in the nation. \$10 admission to an evening after party with cash bar, food, entertainment and dancing. Michigan AIDS Coalition and DIFFA, 441 West Canfield, **Detroit**. 248-545-1435. Michiganaidcoalition.org

Womyn's Film Night, 7 p.m. Film-Salt. After she's accused of being a Russian sleeper spy, rogue CIA agent Evelyn Salt goes on the run, using every tactic, accent and disguise she knows to elude her pursuers, clear her name and protect her husband. Affirmations, 290 W. Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

Saturday, Sept. 24

Know Us Project, 1 p.m. KUP conversations are about telling personal stories about what it has been like to experience discrimination, bias, prejudice or even hate crimes. No cost for attendees. PFLAG, 3333 Coolidge Hwy, **Troy**. 248-981-4227. pflagdetroit.org

Partnerships in Parenting, 1 p.m. Promoting the importance of relationship and family development for LGBTQ parents and their children. Seeking to build a stronger connection between parents and children through social networking and community outreach. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 734-574-5953. GoAffirmations.org

Dining by Design - Gala Dinner, 6 p.m. Raising funds for HIV/AIDS services and education organizations in the nation. \$250 admission. Limited seating, silent auction, dinner and appetizers provided by the Matt Prentice Restaurant Group. Live entertainment and complimentary valet parking. Michigan AIDS Coalition and DIFFA, 441 West Canfield, **Detroit**. 248-545-1435. Michiganaidcoalition.org

World Music Dance Party, 6:30 p.m. Celebrating diversity and support for the Jim Toy Center that serves the Ann Arbor area's LGBT Community. Tickets sold online, by phone at 734-424-2797 or at the door. Admission: \$10 each or two tickets for \$15. Jim Toy Center and Interweave of UJAA, 4001 Ann Arbor-Saline Road, **Ann Arbor**. 734-424-2797. Carole777@aol.com jimtoycenter.org

2nd Annual Red Party, 9 p.m. Raising money in the fight against HIV/AIDS. Red attire suggested. Wristbands cost \$10, which permits access to four venues. Michigan Pride & LAAN, Esquire Bar, Turner St.; Grand Cafe, 201 E. Grand River Ave.; Spiral Dance Bar, 1247 Center St.; and Rave Barn across from Spiral, **Lansing**. Michiganpride.org

Sunday, Sept. 25

Lezread, 4 p.m. Ann Arbors book group for Lesbians. Meets the last Sunday of every month. Lezread, 319 Braun Court, **Ann Arbor**. 734-678-2478. lezread@yahoo.com

MUSIC & MORE

BENEFITS/SOCIAL EVENTS

Kerrytown Concert House "Teal by Twilight" All proceeds benefit the Michigan Ovarian Cancer Alliance. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N Fourth Ave., **Ann Arbor**. 8 p.m. Sept. 16. 734-769-2999. Kerrytownconcerthouse.com

COMEDY

Andiamo Celebrity Showroom Joan Rivers, American comedienne, television personality and actress, Joan Rivers. Call for ticket information. Andiamo Celebrity Showroom, 7096 E. 14 Mile Road, Warren. 8 p.m. Sept. 17. 586-268-3200. Joanrivers.com

Meadowbrook Music Festival Stephen Wright Tickets: \$27.50 reserved, \$17.50 general. Meadow Brook Music Festival, 2200 N. Squirrel Rd., Rochester. 7:30 p.m. Sept. 17. 1-800-745-3000. Palacenet.com

The Ark Willy Porter Tickets: \$17.50. Hill Auditorium, 316 S. Main, **Ann Arbor**. 7:30 p.m. Sept. 18. 734-761-1800. Theark.org

CONCERTS

DTE Energy Music Theatre tobyMac With special guest Peter Furiar, Mandisa and Jamie Grace. Tickets: \$39.50 and \$25 pavilion and \$15 lawn. DTE Energy Music Theatre, 7774 Sashabaw, Clarkston. 7 p.m. Sept. 18. 248-377-0100. Palacenet.com

Joe Louis Arena "Chris Brown F.A.M.E. Tour" North American Tour with Kelly Rowland, T-Pain and Tyga. Tickets: \$39.75-85.75. Joe Louis Arena, 19 Steve Yzerman

Drive, Detroit. 7 p.m. Sept. 18. 313-396-7000. Olympiaentertainment.com

Kerrytown Concert House "All About The Trio" Ellen Rowe and her trio present a concert/lecture series exploring various aspects of the jazz piano trio. Tickets: \$10-25, \$5 students. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. May 1 - Sept. 18. 734-769-2999. Kerrytownconcerthouse.com

Kerrytown Concert House "Freddie Cole Quartet" Younger brother of Nat King Cole performs piano and vocalists of a classic jazz quartet. Tickets: \$35-20. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. Sept. 23 - Sept. 23. 734-769-2999. Kerrytownconcerthouse.com

Royal Oak Music Theatre "Tommy Emmanuel" Tickets: \$39.50. Royal Oak Music Theatre, 318 W Fourth St, Royal Oak. 7 p.m. Sept. 24. 248-399-2980. Royaloakmusictheatre.com

The Ark Mavis Staples. Tours for recently released a new album, "You Are Not Alone," produced by fellow Chicagoan Jeff Tweedy at Wilco's studio The Loft. Fund raises for The Ark. Tickets: \$50-\$500. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 6 p.m. Sept. 23. 734-761-1800. Theark.org

The Ark Caroline Herring Tickets: \$15. The Ark, 316 S. Main, Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Sept. 14. 734-761-1800. Theark.org

The Palace Foo Fighters with Special Guest Rise Against & Marichi el Bronx Tickets: \$49.50 general admission floor, and \$49.50-29.50. Palace of Auburn Hills, 5 Championship Dr., Auburn Hills. 7 p.m. Sept. 19. 248-377-0100. Palacenet.com

University Musical Society Emerson String Quartet, formed in the bicentennial year of the United States, the Emerson String Quartet took its name from the great American poet and philosopher Ralph Waldo Emerson. Tickets: \$52-24. Burton Memorial Tower, 881 N. University Ave., Ann Arbor. 4 p.m. Sept. 18. 734-764-2538. Ums.org

University Musical Society "Dan Zanes & Friends" Dan Zanes & Friends are releasing Little Nut Tree, the group's first album in five years and Ann Arbor is celebrating, with two performances by the wild, crazy, and popular ensemble that has "charged to the rescue of beleaguered parents everywhere." (The Washington Post). Tickets: \$16 adults, \$8 youth. Burton Memorial Tower, 881 N. University Ave., Ann Arbor. Sept. 25 - Sept. 25. 734-764-2538. Ums.org

FILM & VIDEO

Detroit Film Theatre "The Interrupters" Tickets: \$7.50, \$6.50 for DIA members, seniors and students. Detroit Film Theatre, 5200 Woodward Ave, Detroit. Sept. 16 - Sept. 18. 313-833-7900. Dia.org

Detroit Film Theatre "DFT 101: Mexican Cinema: Julio Bracho's Vision" Tickets: \$7.50, \$6.50 for DIA members, seniors and students. Detroit Film Theatre, 5200 Woodward Ave, Detroit. 7 p.m. Sept. 22. 313-833-7900. Dia.org

Detroit Film Theatre "Alloy Orchestra: Blackmail" Tickets: \$7.50, \$6.50 for DIA members, seniors and students. Detroit Film Theatre, 5200 Woodward Ave, Detroit. 7:30 p.m. Sept. 22. 313-833-7900. Dia.org

University of Michigan Museum of Art "Romanian Film Festival: Award Winning Shorts" Third annual Romanian Film Festival concludes with a series of short Romanian films: "The Boxing Lesson," "big brac," "Derby," "Cavier," "Lord" and "The Cage." Helmut Stern Auditorium, 525 S. State St., Ann Arbor. 7:30 p.m. Sept. 24. 734-763-4186. Umma.umich.edu

THEATER

CIVIC/COMMUNITY THEATER

ACT Two one-acts. \$12. Ann Arbor Civic Theatre at A2CT Studio Theater, 322 W. Ann St., Ann Arbor. Sept. 23 - Oct. 2. 734-971-2228. a2ct.org

All Shook Up \$18-\$22. Kalamazoo Civic

Theatre at Civic Auditorium, 329 S. Park St., Kalamazoo. Sept. 16 - Oct. 2. 269-343-1313. kazooocivic.com

Avenue Q \$17-\$22. Ann Arbor Civic Theatre at Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre, 911 N. University, Ann Arbor. Sept. 15 - 18. 971-2228. a2ct.org

Entertaining Mr. Sloane \$15. Korda Artistic Productions at The KordaZone Theatre, 2520 Seminole St., Windsor. Sept. 16 - 24. 519-562-3394. kordazone.com

Follies \$19. Village Players, 34660 Woodward Ave., Birmingham. Sept. 16 - Oct. 2. 248-644-2075. birminghamvillageplayers.com

Leading Ladies \$15. Center Stage Jackson at Jackson Community College, 2111 Emmons Road, Jackson. Sept. 23 - Oct. 2. 517-529-4932. centerstagejackson.org

Meet Me in St. Louis \$25, \$18 in advance. Stagecrafters at Baldwin Theatre, 415 S. Lafayette, Royal Oak. Sept. 16 - Oct. 9. 248-541-8027. stagecrafters.org

Mission: Possible \$12. All The World's A Stage at Gray's Opera House, 231 Van Dyke, Romeo. Sept. 24. showtix4u.com

The Music Man \$18. Spotlight Players at The Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill Rd., Canton. Sept. 16 - 25. 734-394-5300. spotlightplayersmi.org

The Sound of Music \$16-\$18. Avon Players, 1185 Washington Rd., Rochester. Through Sept. 24. 248-608-9077. avonplayers.org

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY THEATER

References to Salvador Dali Make Me Hot \$20. WMU Theatre at Gilmore Theatre Complex, 1903 W. Michigan Ave., Kalamazoo. Sept. 22 - Oct. 2. 269-387-3227. wmuthatre.com

What Happened: The September 11 Testimony Project & Return to the Upright Position A tribute to the 9/11 World Trade Center disaster. \$10. MSU Dept. of Theatre at Arena Theatre, MSU Auditorium Bldg., East Lansing. Sept. 20 - Oct. 1. 1-800-Wharton. theatre.msu.edu

PROFESSIONAL

A Day in Hollywood/A Night in the Ukraine \$12-30. Hilberry Theatre, 4743 Cass Ave., Detroit. Sept. 23 - Oct. 15. 313-577-6798. wsushows.com

Beehive: The 60s Musical Sensation \$15-\$20, \$49.95-\$59.95 dinner & show packages per couple. HappenStance Productions at Andiamo Novi Theatre, 42705 Grand River Ave., Novi. Sept. 8 - Oct. 9. 248-348-4448. andiamonovitheatre.com

Come Fly Away \$39-89. Fisher Theatre, 3011 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit. Sept. 13 - 25. 313-872-1000. broadwayindetroit.com

Daddy Long Legs \$34.50-44.50. The Gem Theatre, 333 Madison St., Detroit. Sept. 14 - Nov. 20. 313-963-9800. gemtheatre.com

Escanaba in Da Moonlight Previews Sept. 22-25 & 28-29 (\$20-\$30). \$25-\$40. The Purple Rose Theatre Company, 137 Park St., Chelsea. Sept. 22 - Dec. 17. 734-433-7782. purplerosetheatre.org

Freud's Last Session \$39.50 - \$44.50. Century Theatre, 333 Madison St., Detroit. Through Nov. 20. 313-963-9800. gemtheatre.com

Fridays and Saturdays at Go Comedy! Go Comedy! Improv Theater, 261 E. Nine Mile Rd., Ferndale. 248-327-0575. gocomedy.net

Girls Night: The Musical \$45. Miller Auditorium, 2200 Auditorium Dr., Kalamazoo. Sept. 23 - 24. 269-387-2300. Millerauditorium.com

Heroes \$18-\$24. Stormfield Theatre, 201 Morgan Lane, Lansing. Through Sept. 18. 517-372-0945. stormfieldtheatre.org

Life in a Marital Institution \$25. Meredith Vieira Productions at The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Dr., Three

Oaks. Sept. 23 - 24. 269-756-3879. acorntheater.com

Love Song \$16. Broadway Onstage, 21517 Kelly Rd., Eastpointe. Through Oct. 8. 586-771-6333. broadwayonstage.com

Love Song \$25. Planet Ant Theatre, 2357 Caniff, Hamtramck. Sept. 15 - Oct. 8. 313-365-4948. planetant.com

Oh, Hell! Admission by donation. The Abreact Performance Space, 1301 W. Lafayette #113, Detroit. Through Oct. 1. 313-454-1542. theabreact.com

Opera at The Acorn \$25. The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Dr., Three Oaks. 8 p.m. Sept. 17. 269-756-3879. acorntheater.com

Rosmersholm \$15-18, or pay what you can. Magenta Giraffe Theatre Company at 1515 Broadway, 1515 Broadway, Detroit. Sept. 16 - Oct. 8. 313-708-4269. magentagiraffe.org

Southern Baptist Sissies Contains nudity and adult situations. \$10-\$20. Who Wants Cake? at The Ringwald, 22742 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Through Sept. 26. 248-545-5545. whowantscaketheatre.com

Sundays at Go Comedy! \$7 for the night. Go Comedy! Improv Theater, 261 E. Nine Mile Rd., Ferndale. 248-327-0575. gocomedy.net

The Extraordinary Ordinary \$27-\$29. Farmers Alley Theatre, 221 Farmers Alley, Kalamazoo. Sept. 16 - Oct. 9. 269-343-2727. farmersalleytheatre.com

The Judy Show \$15. The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Dr., Three Oaks. 8 p.m. Sept. 15. 269-756-3879. acorntheater.com

The Light in the Piazza \$28. The Encore Musical Theatre, 3126 Broad St., Dexter. Through Oct. 2. 734-268-6200. theencoretheatre.org

The Mystery of Irma Vep \$28-\$30. Tipping Point Theatre, 361 E. Cady St., Northville. Through Oct. 9. 248-347-0003. tippingpointtheatre.com

The Whipping Man A co-production with Plowshares Theatre Company. \$36-\$43. The Jewish Ensemble Theatre Company at Aaron DeRoy Theatre at the Jewish Community Center, 6600 W. Maple Rd., West Bloomfield. Through Oct. 2. 248-788-2900. jetttheatre.org

Thursdays at Go Comedy! \$15. Go Comedy! Improv Theater, 261 E. Nine Mile Rd., Ferndale. Through Aug. 25. 248-327-0575. gocomedy.net

Time Stands Still Previews Sept. 23-25 & 29 (\$22-\$30). \$27-\$41. Performance Network Theatre, 120 East Huron Street, Ann Arbor. Sept. 23 - Oct. 23. 734-663-0681. performancenetwork.org

Unlocking Desire \$20. Khoros Inc. at Marlene Boll Theater, 1401 Broadway, Detroit. Sept. 23 - Oct. 8. barbaraneri.com/williamsing.html

Wednesdays at Go Comedy! Go Comedy! Improv Theater, 261 E. Nine Mile Rd., Ferndale. 248-327-0575. gocomedy.net

ART 'N' AROUND

Ann Arbor Art Center "Annual All Media Exhibition" 89th annual juried exhibition has provided many opportunities for both established and emerging artists throughout the state of Michigan. Ann Arbor Art Center, 117 W. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. Sept. 2 - Oct. 2. 734-995-8004. Annaborartcenter.org

Cass Cafe "6 Degrees" Exhibit of paintings by Detroit-based artist Craig Paul Nowak. The show features a range of works in a variety of media, and features large-scale portraits drawn from the artists' circle of family and colleagues. Cass Cafe, 4620 Cass Ave., Detroit. Aug. 27 - Oct. 29. 313-831-1400. Casscafe.com

Cranbrook Art Museum "Saarinen House and Garden" rare integration of art, architecture, design and nature's total work of art. Designed in the late 1920s, Saarinen House served as the home and studio of the Finnish-American designer Eiel Saarinen and Loja Saarinen from 1930 through 1950. Cranbrook Art Museum, 39221 Woodward Ave, Bloomfield Hills. May 2 - Sept. 30. 877-462-7262. Cranbrookart.edu

DC3, Klever Design "The Typography of Music" Free admission. This concert and lecture to showcase the beauty of the design of music notation is part of the Detroit Design Festival. A string quartet will play and the Audience will get to see the score of one of the pieces. Detroit Public Library Main Branch, 5201 Woodward Avenue, Detroit. 5 p.m. Sept. 27. 313-481-1300. Website

Farmington Downtown Development Authority "Farmington Farmers & Artisans Market" Each Saturday. Fresh Michigan produce, baked goods, locally produced honey, handcrafted soaps and emollients, fine art and jewelry, photography and a variety of unique, artisan-made products. Walter E. Sundquist Pavilion, 33113 Grand River Ave., Farmington. May 28 - Oct. 29. 248-473-7276. Downtownfarmington.org

Flint Institute of Arts "Quilting Traditions: The Art of the Amish" Amish women's traditional quilts assembled by collectors Marsha and Thomas French. Examples are from the Amish communities in Pennsylvania, Ohio and Indiana from the 19th to mid-20th century. Flint Institute of Arts, 1120 E. Kearsley, Flint. Sept. 9 - Nov. 13. 810-234-1695. Flintarts.org

Kalamazoo Institute of Arts "Portrait and Presence" Contemporary portraiture pursues a complex and personal approach to the genre's traditional representation of the subject's visage and social identity. Admission: Free. Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, 314 S. Park, Kalamazoo. May 1 - Sept. 17. 269-349-7775. Kiarts.org

Lawrence Street Gallery "Sherry Adams Foster" Luminous new work of LSG Gallery member Sherry Adams Foster. Lawrence Street Gallery, 22620 Woodward Ave. Suite A, Ferndale. Aug. 31 - Oct. 1. 248-544-0394. Lawrencestreetgallery.com

Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit "Stephanie Nava: Considering a Plot (Dig for Victory)" A work in progress, developed by French artist Stephanie Nava. Its installation at MOCAD marks the artist's first solo exhibition in the United States. The installation is based on the specifications and history of English allotments, or subsistence gardens. Started in London in 2005 as part of the Institute Francais Villa Medicis Hors les murs residency program. Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit, 4454 Woodward Ave, Detroit. Sept. 16 - Dec. 30. 313-832-6622. Mocadetroit.org

Pittmann-Puckett Art Gallery "The Face of Detroit" Metro Times photographer Bruce Giffin photographs of Detroit. A third of all subjects are homeless, though Giffin argues it is unimportant to know which they are. Affirmations, 290 W. 9 Mile Road, Ferndale. Sept. 1 - Sept. 30. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

The Gallery Project "Subjective World/ Umwelt" Umwelt or subjective world is a foundational concept in the study of animal behavior. It challenges people to think about animals as they might experience the world through their own senses and respond to it with their own bodies, according to their own priorities. The Gallery Project, 215 S. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. Sept. 21 - Oct. 30. 734-997-7012. Thegalleryproject.com

University of Michigan Museum of Art "Mike Kelley: Day is Done" New Media Gallery hosts Mike Kelley's "Day is Done," which continues the artist's career-long investigation into the relationships between order and transgression, popular and avant-garde culture, while touching on contemporary notions of trauma and repressed memory. University Of Michigan Museum Of Art, 525 South State Street, Ann Arbor. Aug. 27 - Dec. 31. 734-763-4186. Umma.umich.edu

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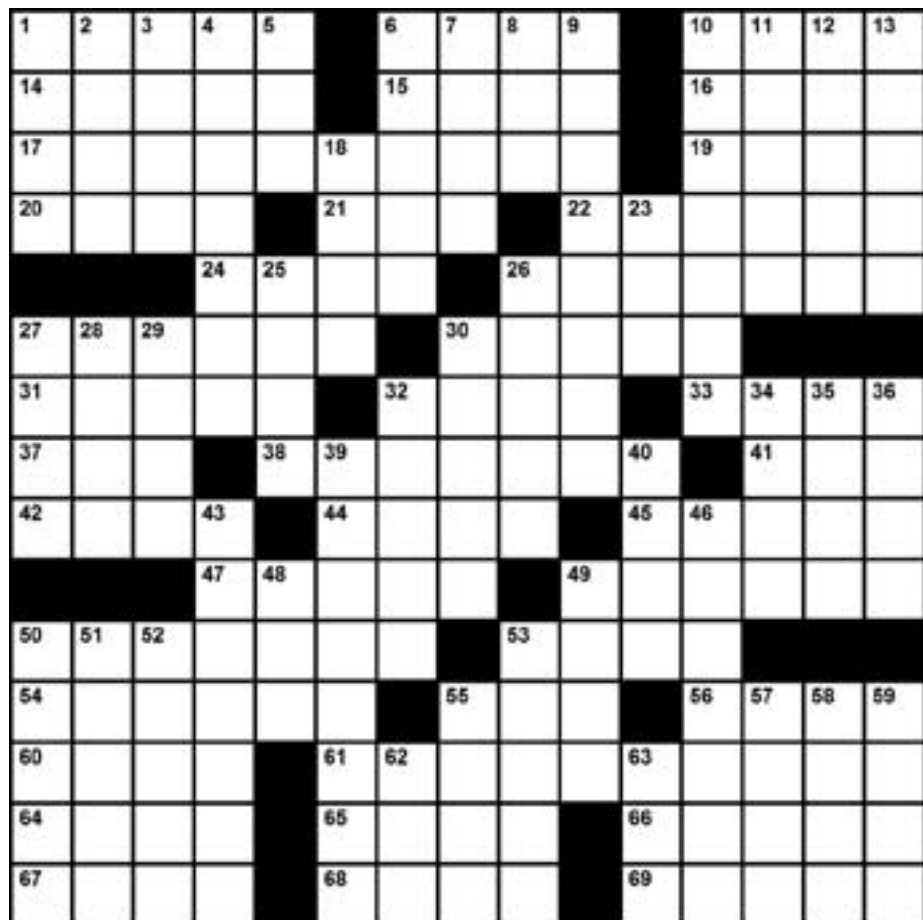
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Rose Parade

Across

- 1 Julius Caesar's first name
- 6 NG: Roth offerings
- 10 Moist mounds
- 14 Become a parent nonheterosexually
- 15 2008 biopic about Harvey
- 16 NG: Hint to the future
- 17 She played Rose on "The Golden Girls"
- 19 NG: ___-tat
- 20 NG: Actor Morales
- 21 Butch's towel word
- 22 Booty grabber
- 24 Worker on Broadway
- 26 Fruitful
- 27 Bea of "The Golden Girls"
- 30 NG: Cookies unit
- 31 Historic Stonewall disturbances
- 32 NG: Sills' solo
- 33 Nick Adams' Johnny
- 37 NG: Be in a cast

- 38 Getty of "The Golden Girls"
- 41 "Heather ___ Two Mommies"
- 42 Sucker or suckee?
- 44 NG: Takes advantage of
- 45 NG: Leave home
- 47 NG: Bounded along
- 49 Character played by 38-Across
- 50 Many a place near Aspen
- 53 Sit for Mapplethorpe
- 54 NG: Hollywood Bros.
- 55 NG: Provide assistance
- 56 NG: "Darn!"
- 60 NG: Crude cartel
- 61 Rue of "The Golden Girls"
- 64 NG: Seek a sorority
- 65 NG: Words of woe
- 66 NG: Funny Cheri
- 67 NG: Novel conclusion
- 68 Have an opening for
- 69 Offer an apple to Adam and Steve?

Down

- 1 NG: Kotter portrayer Kaplan
- 2 Fruity drinks
- 3 Sappho's "I"
- 4 NG: On pins and needles
- 5 Place for porking?
- 6 NG: "Like, no problem, man"
- 7 Park of Queens
- 8 NG: Model Carol
- 9 Like a pirate insignia
- 10 Character played by 27-Across
- 11 Place for a G-string
- 12 "South Pacific" nuts
- 13 NG: Kind of drum
- 18 Spin like a top
- 23 "Lord of the Rings" extra
- 25 Trojan Horse, e.g.
- 26 Blows it
- 27 NG: Spirited horse
- 28 NG: Anticrime acronym
- 29 Canine from Kansas
- 30 Go straight?

- 32 Cruising, maybe
- 34 NG: "Look out ..."
- 35 Spot for gay honeymoons
- 36 NG: Early movie dog
- 39 Dean Cain role
- 40 Some actors have big ones
- 43 Character played by 61-Across
- 46 Emulate Dr. Kildare
- 48 NG: Vein filler
- 49 Scotch partner
- 50 NG: Used inelegant language
- 51 NG: On the fritz
- 52 NG: Legal conclusion beginning
- 53 Accumulated, like Gomer?
- 55 Top
- 57 NG: "Excuse me!"
- 58 NG: Waterproof cover
- 59 Prissy hissy
- 62 "Evita" narrator
- 63 NG: "Just kidding!"

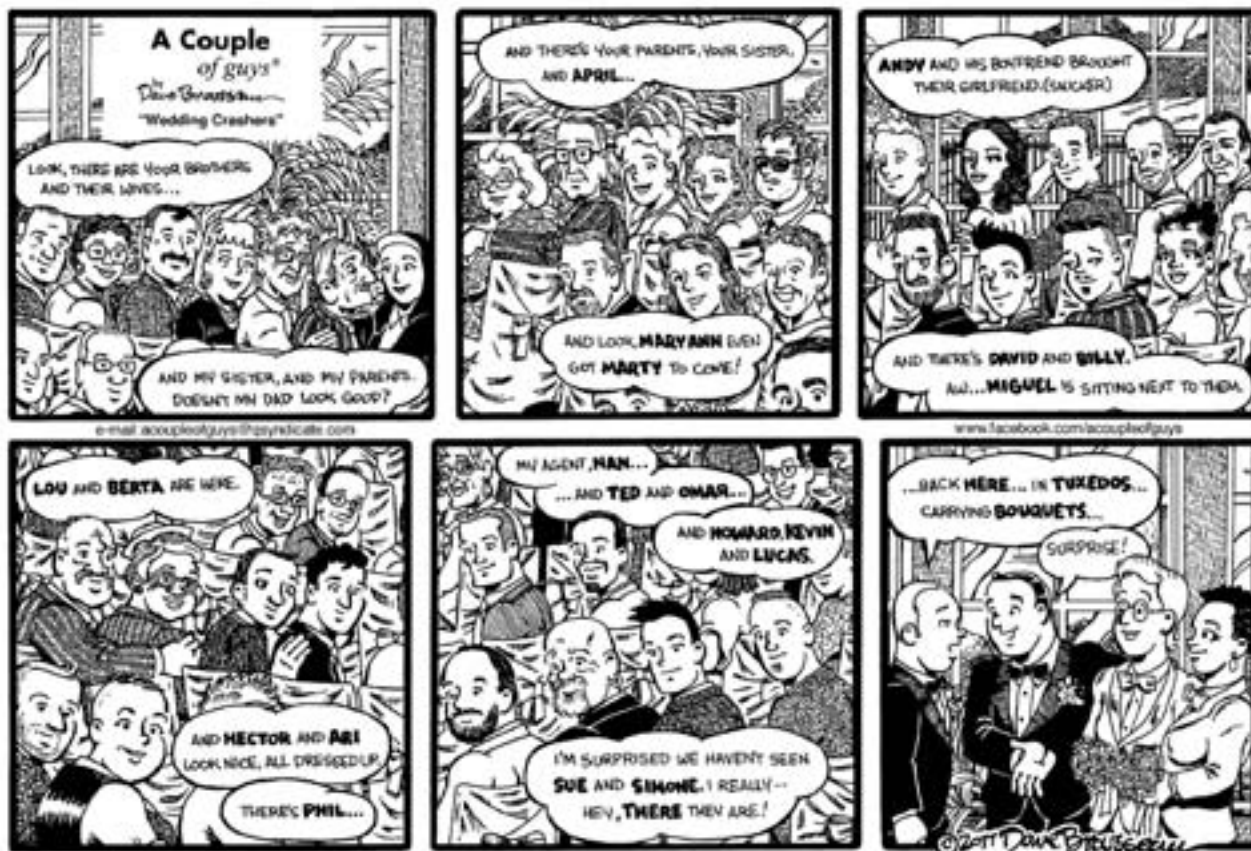
Solution on 32

Pet of the Week



Say hello to Annabelle! A calm and friendly girl, Annabelle is an 8-year-old terrier mix looking for her forever home. Annabelle would do best in a low-traffic, quiet home where she can curl up on your lap to get some much-needed shuteye. Come meet her today! The adoption fee includes sterilization, age-appropriate vaccinations and much more. For more information, visit or call the Michigan Humane Society's Rochester Hills Center for Animal Care at (248) 852-7420 and provide the pet ID number, 13412078. Photo by Heidi Waeschle-Gabel.

Pet of the Week made possible by
Patterson Dog & Cat Hospital
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313-832-7282
www.pattersondogandcat.com



BTT Horoscopes

Don't be nervous, Aries!

BY JACK FERTIG

Venus coming home to Libra normally helps us to be more gracious, social and polite. Opposing Uranus on the way, in whips up some crazy ideas of what that might mean. Compassion and imagining yourself in the other's position is usually the best way to start out.

ARIES (March 20 – April 19): You're suddenly looking marriageable no matter what local laws allow. Don't be nervous about letting that someone special see your inner wounds. Allowing yourself to be that vulnerable demonstrates truer, deeper confidence in both of you.

TAURUS (April 20 – May 20): A friend in need is a pain in the ass. You have your own problems. Even so, helping out your pal can not only get you out of your own problems for a bit, but help point you to a solution.

GEMINI (May 21- June 20): Your idea of social outreach can be a little outré. One on one is fine for scaring off people you don't want to deal with, but if you're working with a group keep your focus on your goals and behave accordingly.

CANCER (June 21- July 22): New recipes or techniques will not go the way you expect but could be better than you'd hoped for. Even if things bollix up, you get points for trying. At work keep your boss up on any experiments, just in case!

LEO (July 23 – August 22): "Helpful" advice and corrections are not necessarily appreciated, as you could find out the hard way. An earnest, soul-searching talk about sex can be more satisfying than actually doing it. Not that one rules out the other!

VIRGO (August 23 – September 22): You can find amazing deals at estate sales, perhaps even your true love. If you already have one of those, bring him or her along and you could find some treasure that will become an emblematic keepsake.

LIBRA (September 23 – October 22): You're looking especially gorgeous. The attention you get will surprise you. Romance is there for you, but what would your partner say? Of course you're not just a pretty face; a new contact could prove very helpful as a colleague.

SCORPIO (October 23 – November 21): Hiding out from the social whirl may give you some peace, but doesn't really do much to allay your anxieties. Hum the first tune that comes to mind. That song will offer insights to face your worries and put them in perspective.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 – December 20): Opportunities abound to "party hardy." Be careful not to go overboard. Seek out new, interesting, unusual people at these events. Their perspectives can trigger new insights into your own roots.

CAPRICORN (December 21 – January 19): Career opportunities are looking good for you, but are you really prepared? Know your strengths and the difference between reaching and overreaching. Work may be causing you to neglect issues at home. You need to talk with someone there!

AQUARIUS (January 20 – February 18): You might want to think a little harder before opening your mouth. Does it really need to be said? Your words carry more weight than you realize. Treat them like currency and don't waste them.

PISCES (February 19 – March 19): Sexual healing or sexual reeling? Opportunities abound as Venus is flashing her goodies in your house of illicit pleasures. She also offers a deeper challenge to reexamine your priorities and values. Question No. 1: where is the healing?

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, and by email at QScopes@qsyndicate.com.

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BTL Dear Jody

BY JODY VALLEY

The mess we've made

Q: I've been involved with "Ryan" for over a year. I met him while I was working in a city about 100 miles from where I live and work. I get assigned to different projects and am often away from the main office. I get to where Ryan lives several times a month.

I need to backtrack a little before I get into my problem. I've been living with "Stan" for over 10 years. We've not had a commitment ceremony, but I guess we have a commitment of sorts, though it has never been spelled out, exactly. That I know of, Stan has never been deeply involved with anyone, though he certainly – I'm sure – has had his little trysts in the past 10 years of our being together. I haven't told him about Ryan. I don't think he would take kindly to that knowledge.

Back to Ryan: I met Ryan in a bar, and we fell madly in love the first night. He didn't take me back to his place, but instead we went to my hotel. And this has been the case ever since we met: We go to my hotel when I'm in town, not to his place. This didn't start to bother me until about a month or so ago. Although I teased him in the past about not being worthy of staying at his place, it seemed OK because Ryan said that he got "turned on" by going to a hotel. In fact, it worked out well that Ryan liked hotels, because when he came to my city – on a few occasions – I got a hotel for us. (I couldn't exactly bring him home to Stan.) I told Ryan about Stan, so it's not like I've been lying to him. Ryan seemed OK with my being with Stan. He told me, very firmly, that he was not involved with another man.

I should have asked Ryan if he was involved with a woman, because he was! Not only was the other person a woman, but she was his wife! They were, as he put it, separated but still living together – supposedly sleeping in different bedrooms. (That's why I was never invited to his place, and why he told me that he got "turned on" by hotels.) Apparently, about four months after we met and fell in love, he began couple counseling with his wife. They have now reconciled, leaving me wonder where I stand, or if I should hang around.

Ryan told me that he wants to "stay in touch." I don't know if I want to do that, or exactly what that will mean for me. I feel like he

has deceived me, so I don't know if I can trust him. Also, Ryan said his wife doesn't know that he's bisexual, and he doesn't want her knowing. (They have two kids.)

I'm still in love with Ryan, but I'm not sure how this is all going to play out for me. Do you think I should hang in there and settle for half a loaf?

Half A Loaf

A: To hang in there with your metaphor, do you think that you are offering anything more than a whole loaf?

I'm not sure why you are upset with Ryan for not being honest with you. Why would you expect, or demand, honesty from someone else when you don't bring full honesty to the table yourself? Do you think you deserve something you're not willing to give? You did tell Ryan about Stan, but you didn't tell Stan about Ryan. You apparently pick and choose your moments of honesty.

My advice to you would be to back away from Ryan and his wife, let them work things out. Hopefully, one day, he will inject some honesty into his life. However, he's not writing to me, and you can do nothing about his behavior, only your own.

Though you didn't ask me, I suggest that you and Stan work on what your relationship means to you both, and how you want it to work. If an open relationship is what you both want, then be honest about it. In other words, try and get something honest going in your relationship with Stan. Then, you can ask and deserve honesty from others.

When we start lying in our relationships, we create a sticky web of deception; then eventually, get caught in it. It's just a matter of time.

Want to learn more about lying in relationships? Look up Dear Jody Valley on Facebook.

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. Reach Jody at DearJodyValley@hotmail.com. The "Dear Jody" column appears weekly.

BTL

To be included in next week's Fall Home Guide ...

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Solution to puzzle from page 30

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7:30 pm, St. Andrews Episcopal Church Gay AA, 306 N. Division St. Closed/Discussion.

Bloomfield Hills-Thursday

7:00 pm, Sobriety in The Hills Gay AA, Kirk in The Hills Church, 1340 W. Long Lake Rd. Closed/Discussion.

Detroit-Tuesday / Friday

8:00 pm, Downtown Gay AA, Fort Street Presbyterian Church, 631 West Fort St. Closed/Discussion (Open 1st Friday of every month).

Farmington Hills-Monday

8:00 pm, Suburban West Gay AA, Universalist Unitarian Church, 25301 Halstead (Between 10 & 11 Mile Roads) Closed / Discussion.

Ferndale-Monday /

Wednesday / Friday

11:30 a.m., Brown Baggers Gay AA, Affirmations, 290 West 9 Mile Rd. Closed/Discussion.

Ferndale-Wednesday

8 p.m., Diversity Wednesday Gay AA, St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 540 W. Lewiston @ Livernois. Closed/Discussion.

Ferndale-Saturday

1 p.m. Brown Baggers Gay AA, Affirmations, 290 West 9 Mile Rd. Closed/Discussion.

8 p.m. Go After Your Sobriety Gay AA, Drayton Ave Presbyterian Church, 2441 Pinecrest. Closed/Discussion.

Livonia-Friday

8 p.m., West Side Story's Gay AA, Providence Medical Center, 7 Mile & Newburgh. Closed/Discussion.

Pontiac-Tuesday / Thursday / Sunday

8 p.m., Pontiac Gay AA, Shrine of St. Joseph, 400 West South Blvd. Closed/Discussion.

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RTT Deep Inside Hollywood



Blake Lively. Photo: Warner Bros. Pictures

BY ROMEO SAN VICENTE

Are you ready for 'The Young Carrie Bradshaw Chronicles'?

From this summer's "X-Men: First Class" to the upcoming "The Amazing Spider-Man," youthful reboots are all the rage – but prequels aren't just for superheroes anymore. And while first there were just rumblings, there are now more definite plans for HBO's developing series (that would probably air elsewhere, most likely the CW) focusing on younger versions of the "Sex and the City" quartet. Imagine something along the lines of "Smallville," only with Carrie, Miranda, Charlotte and Samantha instead of Clark Kent. With two recent "Teen Carrie" books by Candace Bushnell, "The Carrie Diaries" and "Summer in the City," freshly ready for adaptation, this could all get moving quickly. Early casting news buzzing about Blake Lively has now grown to include talk of Emma Roberts. Who knows, maybe Selena Gomez is looking to change her image; if so, then there's your Charlotte. And if the show wanted to incorporate a genuine element of the surreal into the proceedings, they could just let Kim Cattrall keep playing Samantha. OK, maybe Samantha's slutty grandmother.

Zachary Quinto's gay for 'Horror'

While Zachary Quinto ("Heroes," "Star Trek") has maintained what we might call a "respectful silence" about his private life, he's certainly never shied away from taking on gay roles, most recently in the acclaimed Broadway revival of "Angels in America." (Or from making an "It Gets Better" video, for that matter.) Now Quinto's about to take on another gay role, this time on Ryan Murphy's much-anticipated scary show for FX, "American Horror Story," where he'll portray the man who sells the haunted Victorian manor to the show's lead characters, played by Dylan McDermott and Connie Britten. Quinto and Britten are slated to become pals on the show over the four episodes in which Quinto is slated to appear – he'll first turn up on a two-part episode airing Halloween week. So if you like getting spooked by Spock (and really, who doesn't?), tune in.

Billie Piper's 'Love Life' is all student/teacher-y

Once known as a '90s British pop princess, Billie Piper has successfully leapt the wall into acting with her acclaimed turns as a companion on "Doctor Who" and as an entirely different kind of companion on "Secret Diary of a Call Girl." But now Piper will be getting an apple (at the very least) on a new BBC drama called "Love Life." Her character is described as a schoolteacher who, after a disappointing fling with a married man, discovers herself being attracted to one of her female students. TV schoolboys have gotten hot for teacher on everything from "Dawson's Creek" to "Degrassi," but getting a lesbian spin, from the instructor's POV no less, helps level the pop culture playing field of inappropriate romance. We'll see how it works out when "Love Life" – which also stars "Ab Fab"'s Jane Horrocks and Piper's fellow "Doctor Who" alum David Tennant – premieres next year.

Sundance hit 'Shut Up Little Man!' heads for Theaters

Two Midwestern punk rock dudes moved to San Francisco in the late '80s, only to be kept awake at night by the loud and boisterous arguments of their drunken neighbors, one gay, one straight and both very familiar with alcohol. The fascinated new tenants tape-recorded the fights, which later led to zines and duplicated cassettes and staged readings that became an underground cultural phenomenon. That's the story of "Shut Up Little Man!," the darkly hilarious (and also remarkably sad) documentary that premiered at Sundance this year, and now it's heading to theaters in New York and Los Angeles on Sept. 16. (The film is currently available on-demand as well.) It's a fascinating portrait, not just of the battling boozehounds next door but also of pre-Internet culture, when something going "viral" was a process that took months and years, the products of cassette tape or copy paper. Given how today's YouTube sensation becomes tomorrow's has-been, it's a strangely retro reminder of the extremely recent past.

Romeo San Vicente is ready for sweater weather. He can be reached care of this publication or at DeepInsideHollywood@qsyndicate.com.

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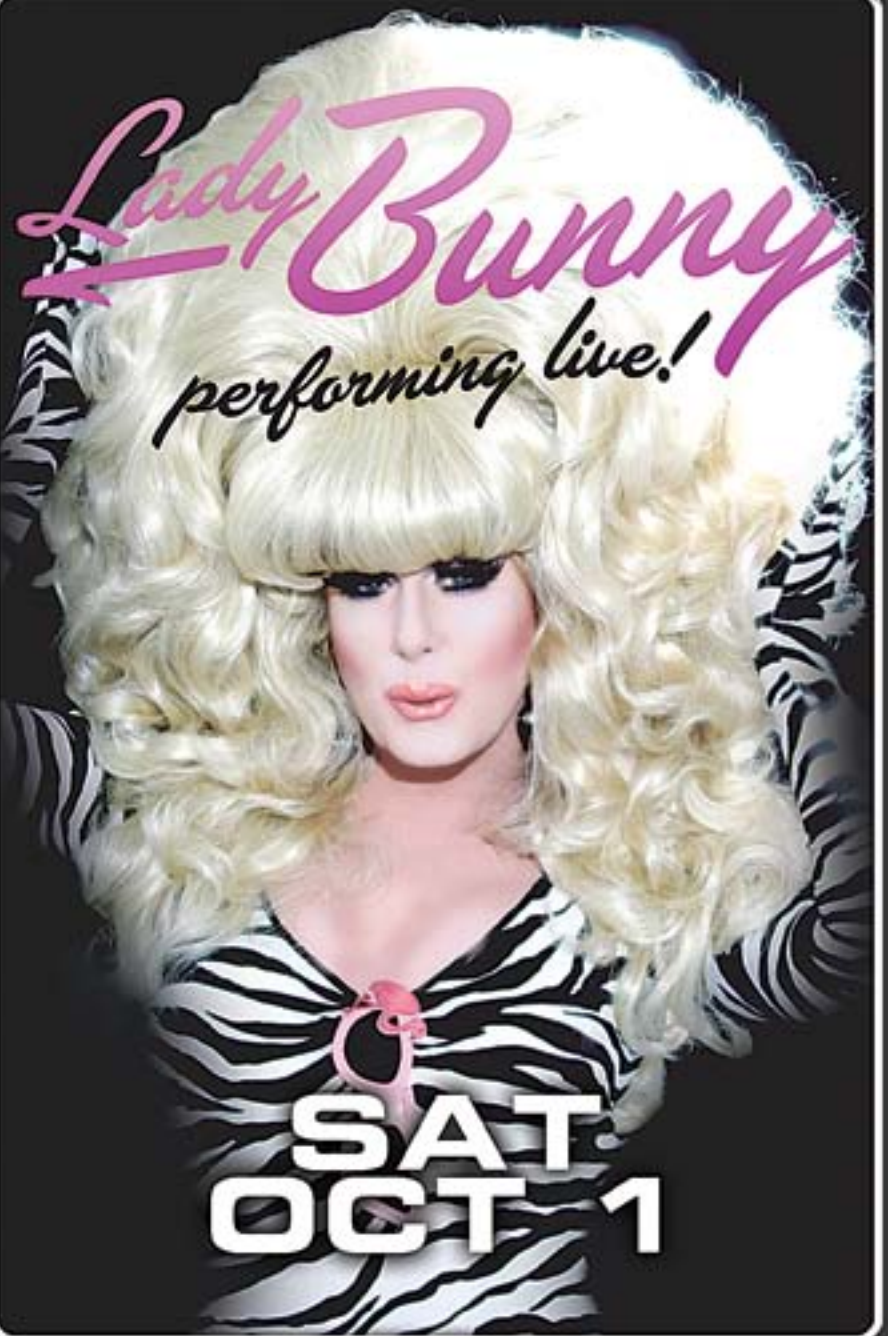
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