

MICHIGAN'S LGBT NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1993



Marjorie Hill To Keynote
Leaders Of Color

Mother Stands Up For
Son's Fashion Choice

“It's just so silly and
it doesn't make any sense
to me that you wouldn't be
able to marry whomever
you want to marry.”

— Adam Levine



HE IS WHAT HE IS

Actor Talks 'La Cage' Role



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10/6-7

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(One-Hour Family Performance)
Saturday, October 6, 8 pm
Sunday, October 7, 2 pm
Power Center

Features Norbert De La Cruz's *Square None*, Jiri Kylian's *Stamping Ground*, and Jorma Elo's *Over Glow*. Opening Night Post-performance Q&A.

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9/27

Chicago Symphony Orchestra
Riccardo Muti, music director
Thursday, September 27, 7:30 pm
Hill Auditorium

Program
Wagner: Overture to *The Flying Dutchman*
Mason Bates: *Alternative Energy*
Franck: *Symphony in d minor*

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For more information, visit www.ums.org or call 734.764.2538.

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN | ANN ARBOR



10/4

Ensemble Basiani
from the Republic of Georgia
Thursday, October 4, 7:30 pm
St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church

UMS is pleased to introduce the highly praised all-male choral/folk music ensemble Basiani from the Republic of Georgia. The extraordinary program performed by Basiani is representative of Georgia's musical heritage and comprises samples from almost every geographical region of the Republic.

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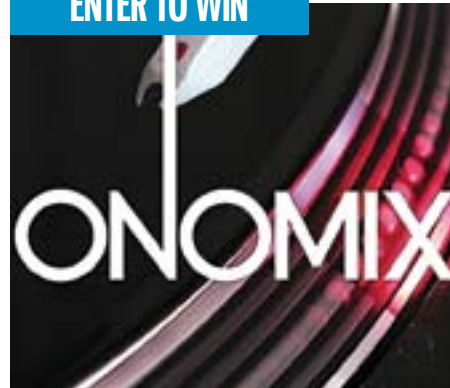


Corvino Takes Same-Sex Debate To YouTube

Professor John Corvino is intimately familiar with NOM's arguments, having just published a book with NOM's co-founder Maggie Gallagher. See Corvino continue the debate on YouTube with a new series of webisodes.

For a link to Corvino's new videos, search "John Corvino" at www.Pridesource.com

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Enter online at www.Pridesource.com/TicketContest.html



Did Between The Lines Snag A Photo of You At AIDS Walk?

Last week BTL photographer Andrew Potter took plenty of photos of AIDS Walk Detroit in Royal Oak. Head online and see the photo galleries. Who knows? Maybe he snagged a candid of you and your team!

See the online gallery in the News section at www.Pridesource.com

COOL CITIES



Exploring Fabulous Ferndale

Check out Ferndale's Online Cool Cities page to discover LGBT-friendly businesses, upcoming concerts, community events, and engage other readers in conversation about fabulous Ferndale!

Find Ferndale under the Cool Cities tab

ONLINE EXCLUSIVE



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BRIEFS

DETROIT

John Corvino And Maggie Gallagher Take A Point/Counterpoint Approach

The Center for the Study of Citizenship invites the public to learn more about the debate by joining John Corvino, professor and chair of the Wayne State University Department of Philosophy, and Maggie Gallagher, co-founder of the National Organization for Marriage, as they discuss issues from their book, "Debating Same-Sex Marriage".

In the book, Corvino and Gallagher take a point/counterpoint approach to the hot-button issue. They consider key questions about the institution itself: What is the purpose of marriage? Is sexual difference essential to it? Why does the government sanction it? And what are the implications of same-sex marriage for children's welfare, for religious freedom, and for our understanding of marriage itself?

While Gallagher and Corvino disagree on many points, they share a common conviction: Because marriage is a vital public institution, this issue deserves comprehensive, rigorous, thoughtful debate.

This free event will be held from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Sept. 27 at Wayne State's Community Arts Auditorium, 450 Reuther Mall. For more information or to RSVP, visit www.specialevents.wayne.edu/debating-same-sex-marriage.

The event, sponsored by MGM Grand Detroit and the Wayne State University Dean of Students Office, will conclude with a book signing.

FERNDALE

New LGBT Older Adult Group To Host Seminar On Legal And Financial Issues

Gay Elders of Southeastern Michigan (GESEM), a newly founded organization for LGBT older adults, presents a seminar on legal and financial issues for LGBT seniors, Sept. 27.

The seminar, with facilitating attorneys Tim Cordes, Henry Gix, Molly Giles and Amanda Shelton, will answer questions such as "What happens if I die without a will?" and "Should I get a reverse mortgage?" GESEM invites all members of the community to bring their legal and financial questions.

GESEM is a new organization and a potential pre-cursor to a local chapter/affiliate of the national organization Services and Advocacy for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Elders (SAGE).

This seminar begins 6:30 p.m. Sept. 27 at Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. For more information, or to RSVP, email GESEM12@gmail.com or call 586-573-9932.

LANSING

LAHR PAC To Hold Town Hall Meeting

Lansing Association for Human Rights (LAHR) and LAHR PAC are co-hosting a town hall meeting and candidate's forum at Trippers in Lansing Sept. 20 for the LGBT and allied community. The meeting will be informal and allow candidates to say a few words about their candidacy and answer questions from the community and meet attendants.

All local candidates have been invited, with confirmations from several individuals running for State House, U.S. House, Circuit Court and District Court.

LAHR's town hall meeting begins 7 p.m. Sept. 20 at Tripper's Bar, 350 Frandor Ave., Lansing. For more information, go to LAHROnline.org/Articles/TownHall.htm.

Extended briefs are available online at:

>> www.PrideSource.com

View the Online Gallery
www.pridesource.com



BTL Photo: Andrew Potter

AIDS Walk Detroit Meets Goal

ROYAL OAK – The streets and sidewalks of downtown Royal Oak were full of walkers against HIV/AIDS Sunday. About 2,500 people participated in the 2012 AIDS Walk Detroit on a beautiful Sunday morning.

The total raised was about \$175,000, according to Maxwell Cameron, director of development of Health Emergency Lifeline Programs, the parent agency for the walk

project.

"Our corporate sponsorship was up almost 30 percent over last year, which gave us a huge boost to the event," said Cameron. The four largest, gold sponsors were Best Buy, Future Help Designs who designed the app for the event, Delta Airlines and Genesis Credit Union.

Cameron said that the total raised may exceed \$200,000, once all the funds

are tallied. He explained that the funds are then distributed in two ways. First, agencies can sign up their own walk teams and all the proceeds from that team goes directly to that agency. Cameron estimated that about \$70,000 was raised by the individual agency teams. The remaining funds are then distributed through a grant making process, with most of the awards announced by Dec. 1.

GMHC Executive Director To Keynote Leaders Of Color At Affirmations



Dr. Marjorie Hill, executive director of the Gay Men's Health Crisis in New York City, will keynote a multi-media event Oct. 11 at 6 p.m. featuring about a dozen LGBT young leaders of color in greater Detroit. The event capstones an 18 month media partnership with Between The Lines and Model D that highlighted young, LGBT leaders of color in the greater Detroit area.

FERNDAL —Dr. Marjorie Hill, executive director of the Gay Men's Health Crisis in New York City, will keynote a multi-media event Oct. 11 at 6 p.m. featuring about a dozen LGBT young leaders of color in greater Detroit. The reception, exhibit and speaking program capstones an 18 month media partnership with Between The Lines and Model D that highlighted young, LGBT leaders of color in the greater Detroit area.

"By partnering with Model D, this Young Leaders of Color Visibility Project has been able to reach beyond the LGBT community into the mainstream media, and it has underscored just how important the LGBT community is to the entire social fabric in southeast Michigan," said Jan Stevenson, co-publisher of Between The Lines.

Extensive print and video interviews were created on each of 14 young leaders. These interviews were then featured in Between The Lines, Model D and on PrideSource.com. The project was supported by the Racial Equity Initiative of The HOPE Fund, an LGBT fund of the Community Foundation for Southeastern Michigan.

This unique event will include large displays of each of the interviews, showcased in the Pittman-Puckett Art Gallery at Affirmations. Guest are invited to enjoy refreshments provide by Bona Sera Café as they stroll through the exhibit and watch the video interviews of the young activists on large screens in the gallery.

In celebration of LGBT History Month in October, the speaker program and panel discussion will create an intergenerational bridge between the young interviewees and the extensive experience of Dr. Hill as an activist, scholar, leader and policy maker for over 30 years in both the LGBT movement and the

HIV/AIDS service community.

Dr. Hill will speak about her experiences when she was a young leader of color in the LGBT movement in New York. Prior to her tenure at GMHC, Dr. Hill was the Assistant Commissioner for the Bureau of HIV/AIDS at the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. Dr. Hill formerly served as a Commissioner for the New York State Workers' Compensation Board and as Director of the NYC Mayor's Office for the Lesbian and Gay Community in the Dinkins' Administration. During her tenure in these positions, Dr. Hill implemented successful initiatives in public safety, citywide EEO and NYC Domestic Partnership policy. A licensed clinical psychologist, Dr. Hill has consulted and lectured on issues of cultural diversity, HIV/AIDS in communities of color, conflict resolution, organizational development and homophobia. Prior faculty appointments include Yeshiva University, New York Medical College, Pace University and the College of New Rochelle.

After her remarks, Dr. Hill will join a panel that will include several of the young people profiled in the project to discuss what can be learned from the past, expected in the future and how best to prepare and support our young leaders as they take the reigns of the LGBT movement here in Michigan.

The program will start with welcoming remarks by Mariam Noland, president of the Community Foundation for Southeastern Michigan, and Allan Gilmour, co-chair of the HOPE Fund. The event is free and open to the public, but due to limited space, reservations are requested. Call 734-293-7200 ext. 15 or email edbohach@pridesource.com to reserve your spot.

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Jack (above and left) and his mother, Sheri Kennedy (left).

Mother Stands Up For Her Son's Fashion Choice

boys can't wear earrings? That's not fair either." Kennedy was referring to the large tribal art tattoos that are visible on Principal Bruner's arms and neck.

The previous day Kennedy had been pulled aside by a lunchroom aide who said that earrings weren't allowed in school. The next morning Sheri was called in to either take out the earrings or take the boy home. She said she was told that Bruner was trying to "change the culture of the school," and that he had been bothered when he'd heard a woman refer to her young son as a 'playa.' He tried to convince her to "let it go."

Instead she stood up for her son and ultimately he agreed to let Jack stay in school for the day, suggesting they could discuss the situation further in a meeting that evening.

Sheri researched the legal issues over dress codes, and learned that schools

cannot have different policies for male and female students. A public school cannot discriminate on the basis of gender, and there are questions over first amendment rights to free expression.

When contacted about this incident, Ferndale Schools Media Relations Specialist Stephanie Hall confirmed that there was no policy against wearing earrings, but that each school administration was in the process of creating policies for their individual building, with elementary principals working together for consistency, and that the policies would be out later in the school year.

Deputy Superintendent Henry Gold told BTL that the District was in the process of creating policies. He said that Ferndale Schools have always been very diverse and would never intentionally discriminate. Gold said, "there will not be any policies that treat

boys differently than girls."

Sheri and Jack are satisfied with the results.

"I told them that this is partly their fault, because this is how I was raised. I am a product of Ferndale Schools and I was raised to do the right thing and to stand up for others when they aren't being treated fairly," said Sheri. "There are other parents who just said 'eh, whatever' and told their kids to take their earring off at school and put it on when they get home. But I was raised to do the right thing. I want my son to know that I am here to stand up for him when he is in the right."

Sheri added, "this was a good learning experience for everyone and I think the rest of the year will be just fine."

The district policy can be found in section 9130 Public Complaints at Neola.com/ferndale-mi

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

FERNDALE – Nine-year-old Jack Kennedy got an unexpected lesson in equality last week when he was belittled and ostracized for wearing an earring to school. Fellow students did not dole out the social pressure and belittling, rather it came from Coolidge Intermediate Principal Eric Bruner, who claimed it was against school policy. Bruner informed Kennedy's mother, Sheri, that the fourth grade boy would be sent home and not allowed to return to school unless he removed his earring. He did not want boys looking like "playas," and that he wants them to be "respectable men."

Sheri immediately questioned the validity of the policy.

"I can't believe that with Ferndale Schools being so open to diversity, that they would have a policy like this," she said. When she researched it, she found out that there was no such policy. "Jack has worn an earring ever since he was two years old. This was never an issue at Roosevelt (his previous school in the same district)," she said.

The nine-year-old was perplexed. "That's not fair that girls get to wear earrings but boys don't," he said as he played with his four sisters in the playground, the evening after his mother had a meeting with the principal.

"How come he can have tattoos but

Between Ourselves

Kevin Howley

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

1 Why are you running for County Executive?

I'm running for County Executive because the media seems to be ignoring the underlying challenges in Oakland County and the current administration refuses to acknowledge them. Oakland County lost 175,000 jobs between 2000 and 2010, median household income in the county has declined by 15 percent, property values have plummeted, the number of children in poverty has more than doubled, school districts are struggling and young families are not choosing Oakland County as the place to settle. This trend started happening well before the economic crisis of 2008-2009 hit and the Patterson administration has not provided any strategic leadership to address these underlying problems. Patterson has convinced voters that being able to balance a budget is the only measure on which to judge success. I have higher expectations for Oakland County - and the entire region.

2 How does it feel being one of the only openly gay candidates running for office in Michigan at this time?

It's disappointing that Michigan does not currently have a single LGBT community member in the state house or senate, and has no candidates for the legislature on the ballot this November. This race for Oakland County Executive is the largest municipal race in the country this year at the executive/mayoral level with an LGBT candidate on the ballot. The LGBT community in Michigan has been hard hit of late with changes from Lansing, with more on the way, and one reason this is happening is because the LGBT community really is not very visible across the state in elected office. That needs to change.

3 Have you ever been mistreated for being gay?

We've all faced challenges in our lives simply for being gay. The worst among my challenges was being dismissed from what was for me a dream job simply because I was gay. I was the CFO for an international management consulting company and during my 90-day review I was told that I would be promoted to COO within 60 days. Within two weeks, however, my life was turned upside down as I went from hero to goat. The CEO found out about my family

structure after I had a staff party in my home and that was the end of that. I was in a new town, with a brand new home and things looked bleak.

Things ultimately worked out just fine for me, but others aren't so lucky when this occurs. Without protections, we are always vulnerable.

4 Would being gay have any impact on your role as County Commissioner?

Somebody's sexual orientation really should be irrelevant in the role of County Executive. That said, I do think that my being a member of the LGBT community gives me a heightened awareness of the need to make sure that voices from all communities in

Oakland County are being heard, which I do not believe is the case today. Oakland County has changed dramatically over the last 20 years, but our policies and approach to government have not.

5 Do you feel like Oakland County is a diverse and welcoming place?

There is no doubt that Oakland County has become an extremely diverse community - in whatever way you want to measure it. While the citizens of Oakland County are a welcoming group, the Patterson administration has left Oakland County with an image problem. When Troy mayor Janice Daniels made disparaging remarks about the LGBT community, Brooks Patterson remained silent. The Patterson administration has been the single biggest impediment to the establishment of a regional transit authority, making Oakland County appear isolationist. Patterson's recent games around rigging the redistricting process has left communities of color feeling marginalized. Image matters and the Patterson administration seems stuck in decades gone by.

6 Has anyone, including your opponent, made homosexuality an issue in this race? Has it been brought up in any literature or debates?

To this point, the "gay" issue has not been brought up in the campaign. There are folks that have made comments online and others who have tried to generate conversation with the media, but those attempts really haven't gotten very far. On the whole, Oakland County residents just don't care if a candidate is gay. But, there is a segment of folks that do want it to be an issue and we just have to see what happens. My partner and I are mostly concerned about the impact negative campaigning might have on our children.



Photo courtesy of the Kevin Howley campaign

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NATIONAL GAY
NEWSPAPER GUILD
Nothing average about it

'Third Rail' No More



Viewpoint

OPINION BY AMY HUNTER

Tip O'Neil famously said, "All politics is local". And it's true - in more than one context, politics is always "local" to every constituency. To some, local is the wallet, to others; it means political clout behind a particular issue. And that's where local can become broad and the narrative nasty.

Many years have passed since the Stonewall Riots, Roe v. Wade, a time when immigrants were viewed as the lifeblood of American democracy and now. By the turn of the millennium, these had all become traditional "third rails" of Democratic Party politics - a cryptic reference to the electrically charged, deadly if touched rail, which powers subway trains.

Not so any longer. All three of these politically deadly-if-touched subjects are third rails no more; rather now, they have become the very planks in the Democratic Party platform upon which unity stood at the Democratic National Convention in North Carolina two weeks ago. All politics is local and local in 2012 for the LGBT community, women, immigrants, labor - an entire mosaic of democratic constituencies, is a slate of candidates, a convention, a president, and indeed, an entire national party in their figurative corner.

There were many moments that could be called pivotal at DNC 2012. One that stands out in stark relief in my mind came during Tuesday night's speech by Massachusetts Governor, Deval Patrick; Patrick said what many of us have been saying for three or more years already - "It's time for the Democratic Party to grow a spine". Not a particularly eloquent statement, nor was it said quietly. Patrick was literally shouting by this point in his speech, yet no one in that arena felt chastised - they felt relieved and cheered all the louder.

Finally.

A platform we can all stand on together.

We no longer live in a world that is able to pay heed to the plight of one, or, for that matter, many in the same, but narrowly defined plight. Social media, the Internet, the twenty four-hour news cycle has seen to that. We are distracted, working longer and harder for less security and we just don't have the time to care anymore. So what do we do? The only way to get where we need to be is to expand the boundaries, make "local" broader, build the case for inclusion and make it stick. Ironically, the hollowing out of the middle class and the shallow, divisive, narrative predominate

in American politics may have already driven us to this point - to the cusp of democratic and idealistic unification.

The long-game, played since the Reagan Revolution for narrow interests of a moneyed class has steadily pried apart the segments comprising the central core of the American body politic. Nearly forty years of Lee Atwater wedge issue politics as practiced by Frank Luntz, fueled by Ralph Reed, Jerry Falwell and finally, Bush's Brain - Karl Rove has stymied social progress while Milton Friedman worshipers gathered true believers to his cause of economic liberalism and strangled the American Dream of upward mobility and accompanying class cohesion.

We should have been making progress, both economically and socially at a rapid pace, considering the potential inherent in the world's largest economy, instead the would-be masters of the universe told us that it was the gays, abortion, women's liberation, affirmative action, illegal immigrants, teachers - "it's their fault" - the other has done this to you...and now it's the tipping-point. Either side of this, the real special interest group in America, who fancy themselves the

meritocratic elite inheritors of the true American legacy, yaw great gulfs of empty promises we no longer believe. No, we can't and furthermore, we don't want to be just like them anymore.

"'Were all in this together', is a far better philosophy than 'you're on your own'"; said Bill Clinton on Wednesday night of the DNC.

In one brief sentence, with just the right amount of explanation and the requisite dash good ol' boy charm, Clinton distilled the hopes and dreams of an entire nation weary of self-betrayal. With a simple statement of belief in the goodness of the American spirit, lay a path by which we could and would take back the

political narrative and put forth a renewed moral imperative - we are all in this together.

In that moment, captured again for the crowd of delegates in that arena and the millions watching at home was the essence of the true American Dream and all that it implies - but mostly, that all men and women are created equal...

Finally.

Amy Hunter is the chair of the Equality Michigan Pride PAC.



Trolley Ride To Destiny



Parting Glances

OPINION BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

Who could imagine in 1865 that 144 years after John Wilks Booth murdered Abraham Lincoln in Ford Theater America's first black president would be attending ceremonies in Lincoln's honor?

The gala event on the 200th anniversary of Lincoln's birth was celebrated with the theater's reopening in 2009 after a \$25 million, 18-month face lifting. President Barak Obama and first lady Michelle were joined by Hollywood stars, DC politicians, TV audiences nationwide.

President Obama called Ford Theater "hallowed space," adding, "For despite all that divided us -- North and South, black and white -- Lincoln had an unyielding belief that we were, at heart, one nation, and one people."

Many present in the audience surely recalled a more-recent presidential assassination: John Fitzgerald Kennedy, November 23, 1963.

(I was 27, working at Wayne State University. JFK - cultured, charismatic, young, witty, boyishly handsome, Camelot's prince - was gone. It seemed horrifically beyond belief. For days, weeks, months, years, his assassination left us stunned, empty, infinitely sad.

(In 1965, I met Army staff sergeant Larry Stetson, who was to be my partner for eight years. He was in the Kennedy funeral honor guard at Arlington and a rifleman firing a farewell salute to the slain president. Larry spoke first hand to me of Jacqueline, John John, Caroline, brother Bobby, himself in line for assassination in 1968.)

Few know that on the night Lincoln was shot and Wilks Booth jumped from the balcony presidential box into history shouting, "Death to tyrants," there was a gay witness sitting in the audience: Peter Doyle, longtime companion of poet Walt Whitman.

Whitman, 47, met Doyle when he was 21. The meeting took place in January 1865 on a horse-drawn trolley moving slowly down snowy Pennsylvania Avenue -- Route #16.4 -- between the Navy Yard and Georgetown. For Whitman, seeing handsome conductor Peter Doyle was electric.

Peter, born in Limerick, Ireland, emigrated to Virginia with his folks. During the Civil War he served in Richmond's Fayette Artillery, bravely enduring several hard-fought campaigns. (Walt was attracted, so he confessed in "Leaves of Grass," to "powerful uneducated persons.")

Peter years later recalled their trolley encounter. "Walt was my only passenger. It was a lonely night, so I thought I would go and chat. Something in me made me do it; something in him drew me that way.

"Anyway, I went into the car. We were familiar at once. I put my hand on his knee. We understood. Walt did not get out at the end of the trip. In fact went all the way back with me. From that time on we were the biggest sort of friends."

The couple spent idle afternoons riding streetcars. Visited crowded city markets. Held hands during moonlight walks along the Potomac River. Walt recited Shakespeare sonnets. Peter matched him with teasing, blarney-tinted songs and limericks.

Of Lincoln's murder Peter told Walt, "I heard the pistol shot. I had no idea what it was, what it meant . . . until Mrs. Lincoln leaned out of the box and shouted out desperately, O God! Our president is shot!"

Their male bonding lasted 30 years. Whitman died in 1892. Doyle, in 1907. What's past, proved sadly prologue in 1963. Presidentially speaking.

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One year has passed since Obama signed the repeal of DADT (seen above). Photo: The White House

One Year Out, Report Finds Few Issues With DADT Repeal

BY CHUCK COLBERT

In a few short days, backers of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" repeal are throwing a party aboard the Intrepid Sea, Air, and Space Museum, located in New York City.

It's a pretty big deal, the one-year anniversary celebration to be held on Tuesday, Sept. 18, which includes a tribute to retired Admiral Mike Mullen, the former head of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and American service members and veterans.

Servicemembers Legal Defense Network is the organizational muscle behind the tribute, an event to be hosted by ABC News' Barbara Walters.

And just in time for the celebration, a Palm Center report, issued earlier this week, documents no negative effects on the armed forces one year after repeal.

In fact, major findings of the study show no negative impact on combat readiness, unit cohesion, recruitment and retention, assaults, and harassment. While repeal's effect on morale showed no net negative impact, morale rose for some, and fell for others, with no net overall change.

The report also documented no "wave of mass disclosures of sexual orientation after repeal."

Still, a minority of straight service members, in an independent study, said someone in their unit disclosed being gay, bisexual, or lesbian, or that an LGB service member joined their unit.

On balance, moreover, "DADT repeal has enhanced the military's ability to pursue its mission," the study states.

The 50-page report, "One Year Out: An Assessment of DADT Repeal's Impact on Military Readiness," has nine co-authors, one of whom is Aaron Belkin, Ph.D., an associate professor in political science at San Francisco

State University.

Belkin is a founder and director for the Palm Center, a public policy research arm based at the Williams Institute at the UCLA School of Law.

During telephone interview, Belkin discussed some of the report's findings, as well as areas in military service for LGB troops that need improving and a caution.

For starters, he said, "What surprised me is the group of authors." More than 10 years ago, when Belkin initially began working on DADT, the topic was "so toxic in the military," that few military leaders were willing to go on record, he said.

As evidence of a new era, Belkin points to the eight co-authors of the report, five of whom include professors and/or a senior military officer at the U.S. Military Academy (West Point), the U.S. Naval Academy (Annapolis), Naval Post Graduate School (Monterey), the U.S. Air Force Academy (Colorado Springs), and the U.S. Marine Corps War College (Quantico, Virginia).

Another surprise, said Belkin, is how difficult it was to find evidence suggesting repeal has harmed the armed forces.

In doing their analysis, he said, the study group reached out to known opponents of DADT repeal, including 553 retired admirals and generals (out of 1,167) who predicted in 2009 that openly gay military service "would break the all-volunteer force."

The study group also reviewed media articles, interviewed nearly 100 troops and experts, conducted a statistical experiment, administered surveys, and observed the field operations of military units, said Belkin.

In short, what did the study find?

Belkin cited the comments of a straight Army Ranger for a thumbnail assessment.

Repealing DADT, the soldier said, "Didn't change anything. ... We've got a guy in the

unit who is gay. We've been working together for years and everyone knew, but no one ever cared. For us it's all about whether or not you're good at your job ... it's all about quiet professionalism, not about your sexual orientation."

And, said Belkin, even opponents of DADT repeal told the same story.

With repeal, "It was not much of a transition, it's not like people come in with rainbow flags or anything ... the funny thing about the military is, people come in and do a job. That's all there is to it," said a currently deployed Army National Guard sergeant who, nonetheless, opposes open service.

To protect respondents' identities and to ensure confidentiality, the report did not identify demographic or professional details of any service member, including their names.

And yet, one area for improvement is achieving open transgender inclusion, which Belkin puts "at the top of the list." That he said, "could be accomplished by re-writing the rules" and regulations, with "no law of Congress" required.

Another concern, Belkin said, is some expressions of "bias and harassment" service members face in the wake of DADT's repeal. But he said the Pentagon has the unique, unprecedented opportunity to address that piece of military culture.

Yet another concern, Belkin said, is one line in GOP's 2012 party platform, which raises a red flag. He was referring to the Republican Party's "We Believe in America" document, which states, "We will conduct an objective review of the current administration's management of military personnel and will correct any problems with appropriate administrative of legal action."

That, said Belkin, "Is code to me for 'We want to repeal' DADT, should Mitt Romney be elected president."

Hungry4Equality: Week 7

www.Hungry4Equality.com

Day 43



“Tremendous progress has been made over the past decade to give equal rights to everyone in this country, but obviously the work

isn't over. H4E has done an amazing job just getting people to talk about the fight for equality. Given enough time, education and communication will always change minds. That's why I had to be a part of it.”

- Russel McNamera

Day 44



“I believe every Michigan citizen should be treated fairly and equally. How can we move forward if we continue to walk backwards.”

- Fred Douglas

Day 45

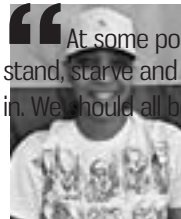


“I am not a second class citizen! I can't get married and I can be fired for being gay. I hope my experience will educate others about

the reality our community is up against. This is about equality, a basic human right. Not religion. Not politics.”

- Ami Mansell

Day 46



“At some point we should all sit, stand, starve and run for what we believe in. We should all believe in equality.”

- T. Miller

Day 33



“I will teach my children a hard hatred for the word tolerance. I don't want us to merely tolerate you! I want us as a family to *accept* everyone unconditionally, and celebrate how you make our world better!! I promise that we as a *family* will work to restore your rights that you are so wrongfully denied and to treat your struggle as our own.”

- Kristen Wolf

Day 34



“After spending most of my day watching the ebb and flow of the “sea of humanity”, I wondered how many of those people face the struggles and challenges we as the LGBT community experience. That is what made a difference to me and am so hoping all our collective efforts makes the difference, for our equal treatment, we as people deserve.”

- Danielle Heythaler

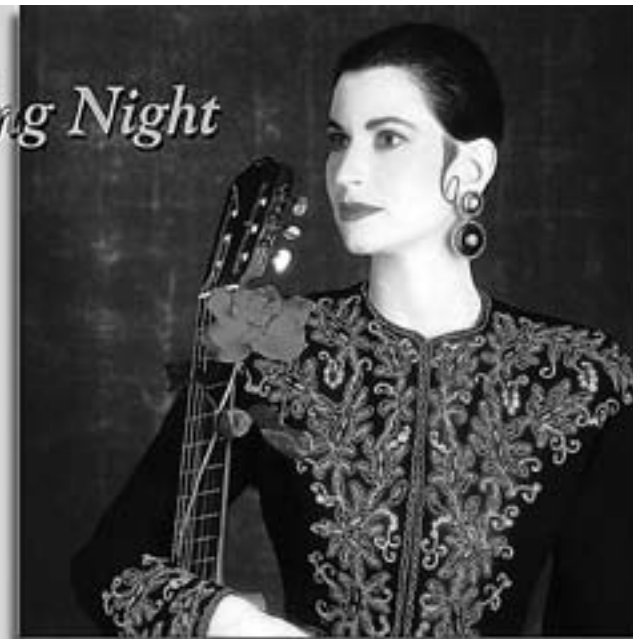
Day 35



“The wife and I are Hungry4equality. We are fasting for 24 hours to bring positive attention to the fight for LGBT rights.”

- Kalimah and Keisha Price-Jones

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Creep of the Week

OPINION BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

Jerome Corsi



Have you heard the news about Obama? He's gay. A total homo closeted to the extreme who spent an awful lot of time at Chicago gay clubs and bath houses. Brave "author" Jerome Corsi, known for books such as "Where's the REAL Birth Certificate?" and "Obama Nation" (get it? Abomination?), took to the pages of World Net Daily to expose Obama's secret gay life.

And how does Corsi know about Homobama? Because he's been doing some super-sleuthing. "This is something I've accumulated a great deal of evidence on," Jerome Corsi says in an August video. "The evidence, I think, is very strong."

Evidence includes a photo of Obama sitting next to his college roommate on a couch. He "seems to be sitting about on the guy's lap," says Corsi. "I've not seen a lot of roommate pictures where two guys are that chummy." The photo in question shows Obama sitting kind of close to a skinny dude, though they aren't touching. On the other side of the couch, next to Obama, is a bunch of stuff, which helps to explain why the two men are sitting where they are. Corsi also points out that this same roommate was Pakistani and that Obama went to Pakistan with him. Because Pakistan is such a gay vacation hot spot.

And then there are the photos of Obama wearing a band on his ring finger long before he was married to Michelle. "He's not married as far as we know, unless this is a love affair with his Pakistani male roommate," Corsi says. In fact, he ruminates on the Ring of Gay Mystery for an entire 13-minute video. "Was he married to a guy, I mean, what's the deal?" asks Corsi. He calls these "legitimate questions" that people have a right to know the answer to.

One of Corsi's "sources" is Kevin DuJan, founder and editor of HillBuzz.org, which has an entire page detailing a long and lurid conspiracy theory about Obama's homosexuality and the lengths he's gone to cover it up.

DuJan claims that Obama will go so far as to have you killed if you've ever slept with him and might talk. He then points to the tragic death of Alex Okrent, a 29 year-old Obama campaign staffer who died after collapsing in a campaign office. According to DuJan, Obama must have offed him and they must have been gay lovers.

Oh, and remember how earlier this month the big burly pizza shop owner gave Obama a bear hug? DuJan says this is more proof that Obama is light in the loafers. "I don't think Van Duzer is gay, but Obama sure is for allowing this big 'bear' to hug him," writes DuJan.

With sources like DuJan, how could Corsi possibly be wrong?

Lest you think Corsi's "investigation" has nefarious purposes, Corsi insists, "The issue is, again, not an issue that we want to raise in terms of criticizing the homosexuality or the bisexuality or whatever Obama's true inclination are. The issue is why does he have to lie about this, too? And why is Obama if he wants to go out and proclaim same-sex marriage, he wants to proclaim that all of this is great for everybody except he has to lie about himself?"

See? Corsi clearly just wants to help the president to come out of the closet. What a nice guy.

Corsi then, displaying a complete lack of irony, declares that this whole thing is an issue of "truthfulness." Ha ha ha hoo. Stop, my sides.



Delegation Hopeful: The End of AIDS Could Be Near

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIERE

For Dr. Paul Benson, founder of the Be Well Medical Center, two things were different about this year's World AIDS Conference held in Washington, D.C.. The first was that though he was able to attend 13 of the past 16 conferences, this was the first he was able to travel to with a group of fellow HIV care providers and patients from Michigan.

And the second was a more grand realization. "I've been going to these since the 80s when people were angry," he said. "When AIDS patients would throw cherry juice at speakers, the cherry juice was for blood. And when they would destroy things. People were mad. This conference was the first ever that was optimistic."

The conference was held in the nation's capitol from July 22-27. Dr. Benson and the other delegates worked for two years to raise money to go as a group, with one particularly successful pancake breakfast that raised over \$4,000. Nine delegates were able to go, and on Aug. 29 five of them, including Dr. Benson, spoke about what they learned at a dinner presentation for supporters.

The optimism Dr. Benson felt came from a variety of presentations that demonstrated that the end of AIDS is in sight. There is,

of course, a catch. "The science is there," he said. "We have the medicines. We have vaccines. We have multiple options for protection. It's the intervention that's the hard part. Getting people to take medications. Getting people to protect themselves. Dealing with the social issues that stand in the way."

One of the benefits of the Conference was being able to look at AIDS from more perspectives than even the most ardent AIDS activist could imagine. The prejudices, obstacles and even successes of others, spark new ideas and spread them throughout the world.

Sex Workers of the World

The delegates each presented information they found interesting or important to share. Debbie Dempster is a nurse who treats AIDS patients. She told the audience that "being of a social work heart, this is where I'm going to speak from. The sex workers were the ones that touched my heart."

She described the "Global Village" area of the conference where sex worker organizations had their own section, with groups like HIPS (Helping Individual Prostitutes Survive) talking about the need for education, decriminalization and support services for people in the sex work trade.

In most places prostitution is illegal, and some places have additional barriers to protection of sex workers, like in Russia where it is illegal to have more than three condoms on a person at a time.

Next Stop Australia

Scott Cook was impressed with the sheer size of the event and the abundance of information and culture.

One of the take-aways Cook was impressed with was a cutout of the U.S. with the counties color-coded by the prevalence of HIV infections. The map, created by the Centers for Disease Control showed that the coasts of the country are the hot spots, with points of entry being the hardest hit. Florida, for example, is full of red, whereas some states in the Midwest don't even have reported numbers.

Cook focused his presentation on comparing Australia to the U.S., since the next AIDS Conference will be held in Sydney in 2014.

"A lot of people that visit Australia go to the East Coast and that's where most of the cases are," he said. "I found it interesting that in Australia there are 29,395 cases of HIV and in Michigan there are 25,607. That means we

See Next Page



Madison Hildebrand and Ashley Montague at the Dining by Design Gala Dinner. BTL Photos: Andrew Potter

DIFFA Showcases Detroit's Style

DETROIT -The Michigan AIDS Coalition (MAC) in partnership with DIFFA, Design Industries Foundation Fighting AIDS, hosted two spectacular fundraising events at the Joe Dumars Fieldhouse last week, Cocktails By Design /ArtWorks Detroit Auction Sept. 13 and the Dining By Design Gala Dinner Sept. 15. This was the third year that MAC and DIFFA partnered to bring together acclaimed individuals from the worlds of interior design, art, architecture and fashion to raise money in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

"I continue to be thrilled by the diversity of the artistic and design experience that we have here in Detroit, and that we can bring all this together in this event," said Terry Ryan, executive director of MAC. "Detroit is continuing to reinvent ourselves - we've had to - and it is reflected in the event's unique style."

The Thursday event attracted over 850 people to view and bid on over 100 pieces of original artworks. On Saturday about 325 gathered for a gourmet meal and to view the different installations created by some of the most

renowned interior designers and architects from the greater Detroit area.

Ryan said that Detroit's event, one of 13 DIFFA events held throughout the country, has gained a reputation for its unique look and style.

"What's a little unique for Detroit is that we have somewhat more support from the architecture community than from the interior design community," said Ryan. "I had a terrific meeting with Steven Williams, director of partnerships for DIFFA in New York, and he said the other cities' events have become somewhat predictable. He was taking notes to give to the New York folks about how they can improve their event, based on what we've done in Detroit."

Ryan said they haven't tallied the total monies raised, but he said he felt confident they made their goal of raising \$100,000 for MAC. The event committee raised over \$100,000 in corporate sponsorships and \$30,000 or more in tickets sales. The results of the art auction and the silent auction are still being counted.

► World AIDS Conference

Continued from p. 12

have about the same number of cases in our state as they do in their whole country."

Not Just A Number

For Leslie Guinn the trip meant knowing and showing that he is more than just a number. Guinn is not just a gay man. Not just a black man. Not just a recovering substance abuser. Not just another case of HIV.

While on the trip, Guinn celebrated nine years clean by going to the Martin Luther King Jr. monument and celebrating the positive turn his life has taken since he took control and started making healthy decisions for himself.

He lamented the treatment of other patients as if they are criminals. He was particularly moved by the stories of people from the Czech Republic,

where having HIV is a criminal offense. "I met a social worker from New York City. He stood up before me and addressed the Czech delegates before I did. 'Please let us not forget these are human beings,' he said. 'How is a recovering drug addict or sex worker going to be honest if they are only a number?'"

Guinn ran into the social worker later in the conference and asked if he could take his picture because he was so moved by the things he'd said. The two became fast friends, and theirs really is one of many new bonds that were made among the thousands of attendees.

"Feeling like more than a number" was crucial in Guinn being able to overcome his obstacles and move towards self-actualization. He met Dr. Benson seventeen years ago, and credits the Be Well Center and his counselor Shelly McAllister for helping him feel empowered enough first start using protection, and ultimately to find a life that he finds safe and rewarding. He thanked the health care professionals in the room and told them



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why they are so important in stopping the AIDS epidemic. "The first thing we want to know is that we matter. And self-esteem can be infused in us just by how you treat us. When you go into work you change lives."

A Criminal Even in Michigan

Being a teacher made it easy for delegate Ken Warnock to soak up information at the conference, and one area that struck him as crucial is the de-criminalization and de-stigmatization of the people who have HIV or AIDS.

"One of the presenters was from the University of Michigan and he did a thesis on the criminalization of HIV. Michigan ranks fourth in criminalization laws," he said. He explained that in Michigan laws are being used to turn biting or spitting into cases of bio-terrorism, and that disclosure laws are a barrier to people wanting to get tested or to tell others about their infection.

How You Can Make A Difference

There was a woman in the audience who recently lost a loved one to AIDS. After absorbing the information of what was happening around the world, she wanted to know what someone like her could do.

Dr. Benson explained that education and de-stigmatization are important. Getting involved with AIDS organizations and sharing information online and in person about prevention can help. He said that people may not realize all the ways they can prevent HIV infection. Condoms are an obvious choice, but even those have stigma attached that people need to overcome. There are also medicines to prevent the disease. Circumcision can reduce the risk. And early treatment works to stop it from progressing.

To find out more about the AIDS Conference visit www.aids2012.org. For more on Dr. Benson and the Be Well Clinic, go to www.doctorbewell.com.

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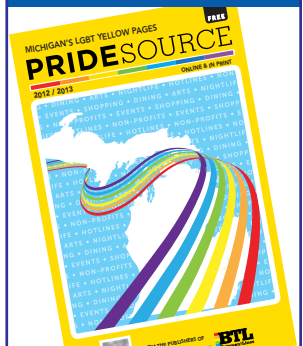
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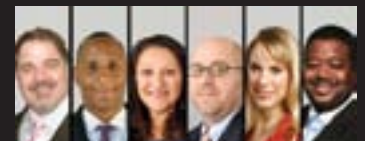
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Pop Star Talks Passion For Gay Rights & Taking His Clothes Off

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Supermodel girlfriends, rumored spats with Christina Aguilera and the engine that has kept Maroon 5 running for 10 years – there's still so much more to Adam Levine. The adored frontman of one of the biggest pop bands, who recently told MTV that if he were president his first mission would be to legalize gay marriage, is also a straight ambassador for the gay community. With lots going on – judging the third season of “The Voice,” making his acting debut on the second season of Ryan Murphy’s “American Horror Story” (premiering Oct. 17) and touring with Maroon 5 – it's no wonder the band's latest album is called “Overexposed.”

In this exclusive chat with the pop star, Levine talks how fighting for gay rights has little to do with him having a gay brother, what he really thinks of people who don't believe in marriage equality and if we'll see him, ahem, overexposed on “American Horror Story.”

Of all the things you could've said, why did you tell MTV that you'd legalize gay marriage first if you were president?

It's just so silly and it doesn't make any sense to me that you wouldn't be able to marry whomever you want to marry. It's not our business. I don't know why we're obsessed with making everything in this country our business, all the time. It seems we're a little behind on that, and we just need to make it legal and stop caring so much. It doesn't matter. And it shouldn't matter.

What would you say to other straight people who don't agree with you on the marriage issue?

Listen, I'm always willing to hear all sides of all arguments. Anyone who doesn't agree with it is essentially putting themselves above other people. That's what they're doing. And that's not OK with me.

People have their personal preferences as to what they want to do with their own lives, and they have every right to do that – just like a gay couple has every right to do that. It's just not anyone's business except the people involved. That's all I would say: “What makes you better than these people?”

People have a million different justifications and reasons why they don't want (gay marriage) allowed, but it doesn't check out. Whenever I hear people's reasoning behind it, I think to myself: First of all, marriage isn't always successful anyway. Look at the divorce rate and all the things that go wrong with marriage. Whether it's gay or straight, there are issues with it. Clearly people have a hard time staying together, and that's just a sad truth about marriage in our

society. People should be allowed to succeed and fail at marriage as they so desire.

Has having a gay brother influenced how outspoken you've become for the gay community?

I don't think that having a gay brother has affected the way I feel about it, because I would feel the same way regardless. I happen to have a gay brother, but that doesn't mean I'm more of an advocate for equal human rights. That shouldn't change anything about the way that I feel.

But he's your brother, so certainly some of your passion for gay rights is an extension of that relationship, right?

Of course! That contributes on some level to the way that I feel. But I don't know – I don't think I would feel any differently if he happened to be straight. The relationships that I have with people – whether it's my brother or a friend, gay or straight – shouldn't really ever come into play. Someone's sexual preference is their sexual preference. Let's move on.

When I'm talking about dating a girl and they're talking about dating a guy – big fucking deal. That's the thing; that's what's so bizarre about it: It doesn't faze me. Obviously I was brought up to believe that everybody is on a level playing field and we're all crazy, cool and all that fun stuff – and I don't pay much mind to it, because who am I to judge people? I judge people based on the things that they do. I judge people based on their character. If you have a friend who decides to do certain things in their own private time – even if they're straight – whatever the fuck they're into, fine. It doesn't matter. That's the biggest problem: It just simply doesn't affect the way I view a person. It's so arbitrary.

How big of a role do you think the gay community has had in Maroon 5's career?

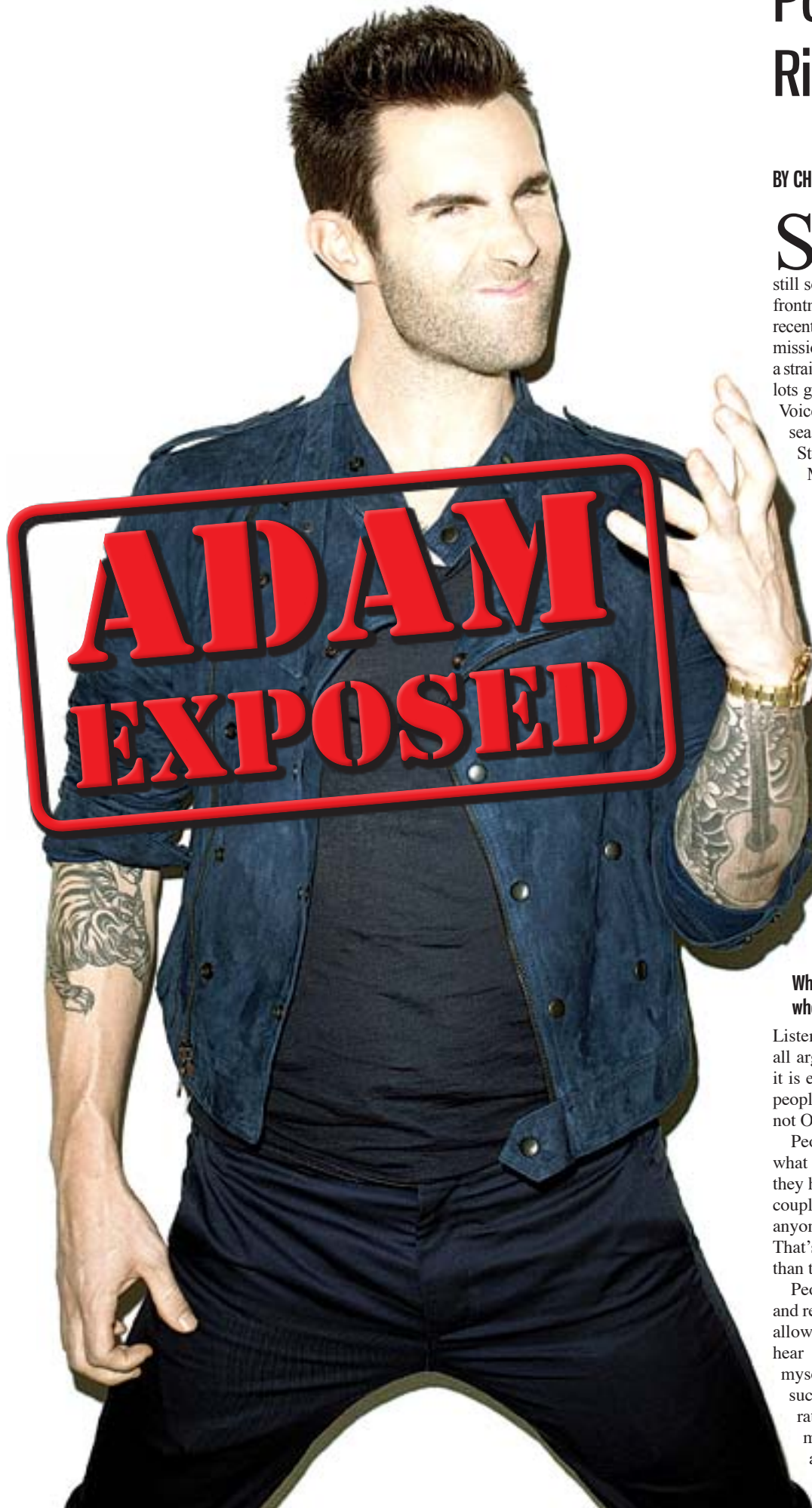
The music that we make is for people to enjoy, and as far as all communities are concerned, the band's mission statement is that we make music for everybody and that we love everyone who appreciates it and we appreciate everyone who appreciates it. There's every type of person at our shows. And I love that. The more diverse our crowds get over time, the happier we get as a band.

What's been the best part of shooting “American Horror Story” so far?

It's so much fun. I'm having a blast and obviously Ryan (Murphy) is amazing and so passionate and so cool, and I thank him for giving me this opportunity. It's a really special show to be a part of, and it's been really fun and I'm very excited to see the results.

I've never really seen myself do any of this

See Adam Levine, page 18



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Screen Queen BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

'Weekend,' 'The Hunger Games'

Weekend

In an interview with Andrew Haigh on the Criterion Collection release of his second feature film, "Weekend," the director insists he's not keen on having his British indie be classified as just a "gay movie." He has a point: The film is so wonderful—absolutely one of the best of 2011—that it can stand alongside some of the greatest love stories ever made. Two young men wake up to each other after hooking up the night before at a club, then find themselves sharing intimate conversation that reveals a much deeper connection than either expected. But here's the catch: One of them is moving to the U.S. in a couple days. Haigh's sweet slice-of-life film—featuring breakout roles from Chris New and Tom Cullen—is an emotionally affecting observation on our casual but life-changing encounters. Its insights into relationships, and the subtle approach used to examine them, are revelations that speak universally. Bonus highlights include 30 minutes of interviews with the actors and director on making "Weekend," plus two of Haigh's shorts and a conversation about the sex scenes. Don't go a weekend without this one.



The Hunger Games

The concept is sick: Kids kill each other in a dystopia where 12 districts lottery off their "tributes" to compete in a brutal war of child-on-child violence, rigged traps and cartoonish freaks. That doesn't make box-office beast "The Hunger Games" an easy watch, but done right with a solid cast of young up-and-comers—including Josh Hutcherson of "The Kids Are All Right"—and a script that closely resembles the novel, it's certainly an intriguing one that serves as part-satire, part-cautionary tale. The franchise's first film is a nail-biting sucker punch that's intensely laid out over two hours-plus as Jennifer Lawrence, who plays Katniss Everdeen, impresses with her steely brand of kick-ass and empathetic sweetness. The not-gay actor Stanley Tucci camps it up as an outrageous talk-show host who seemingly takes skin tips from George Hamilton. Hungry for more? The two-disc Blu-ray should leave you fairly full with over three hours of extra stuff, including a talk with director Gary Ross and an eight-part documentary.



Romy and Michele's High School Reunion

If you've seen "Romy and Michele's High School Reunion" (and what good gay hasn't?), you've probably never looked at Post-its the same. The 1997 girl-comedy is every high school underdog's feel-good film: Two longtime chums (the hilarious duo of Lisa Kudrow and Mira Sorvino, whose characters vow to become lesbian if they're unmarried by 30) attend their reunion with a bunch of fibs and bad fashion to out-fab their former classmates. Alan Cumming and Janeane Garofalo make funny cameos as two other outcasts who return to show up their frenemies, but this is ultimately Romy and Michele's show—a timeless female-buddy cult classic with camp, heart and quotables. Good thing this 15th

Anniversary Blu-ray Edition can stand on its own, because there's nothing in the way of extras, except a lame production featurette. We know mono is, like, the best diet ever, but Romy and Michele deserve something bigger.

Revenge: The Complete First Season

The daytime soap opera might have one life to live, but that doesn't mean there's no room for prime-time debauchery and enough drama to give Mary J. Blige a heart attack. Who's creating it? Queer conning hustlers, backstabbing best friends and one ruthless woman out for, well, revenge. Welcome to the crack cocaine of TV dramas—a breakout hit from ABC, starring Emily VanCamp and Madeleine Stowe, that's a throwback to "Dynasty" and pretty much anything else with cattiness, hot guys, murder and gay sex bribes. The gist: VanCamp's character, Emily Thorne, returns to The Hamptons to

See Screen Queen, page 22

Local Trans Film Persists Despite Janet's Doc

Detroit Filmmakers Say They Felt Discouraged

BY JEROME STUART NICHOLS

As an artist, your ideas and vision are your life — especially when you're independent. But what happens when you're midway through your greatest work and you discover that someone with a bigger budget and celebrity backing had the exact same idea?

Detroit-based independent filmmakers Erica Hayes and Madisun Leigh of the upcoming documentary film on the transgender experience, "iTrans*: Transforming the world," know this disheartening situation well. On June 5, months into filming their documentary, it was announced that Janet Jackson would be taking the seat of executive producer on a separate documentary, on the same topic, called "Truth."

Obviously, the news of a separate documentary covering the same subject by people with more money, greater notoriety and more Hollywood connections would leave most indie filmmakers a bit shaken. Especially when they got the news about a week after filming their most current interview.

"My first reaction was, 'You've got to be kidding me!'" says Leigh, the director for "iTrans*" who's also known for being Smooth

Jazz V98.7's on-air personality. "Here we thought we were doing something profound and prolific and exciting and world-changing. Our little bitty effort pales in comparison. I thought, 'We're toast. We're done.'"

Whether they liked it or not, their film was now at risk of being overshadowed by the much larger production of "Truth." Even though the situation was disconcerting, there was still a glimmer of hope.

"Our publicist, Courtney (Wilson), was giving us this motivation. (She was) like, 'There's is enough room for all of us,'" says Hayes, producer of "iTrans*."

The reactions from the production team of "iTrans*" is something with which trans advocate and educator Buck Angel identifies. Having recently released "Sexing the Transman," a documentary on the lives of trans men, he has a unique insight.

"I sort of had to deal with this same thing when Chaz Bono came out," he says. "My work was completely overshadowed by him. Most everything he has said, I have said years before him. But the most important thing is that the message got out there even further."

Although the

team is hopeful,

there is still an

air of suspicion

surrounding

"Truth." The main

question being: Who

inspired whom? For

his part, "Truth"

director Robert

Jason says that he

is not familiar with

"iTrans*."

"I started developing

'Truth' in 2006. Janet

became attached in

2009," Jason says. "We

have been methodically

collecting material and

partners to make sure this

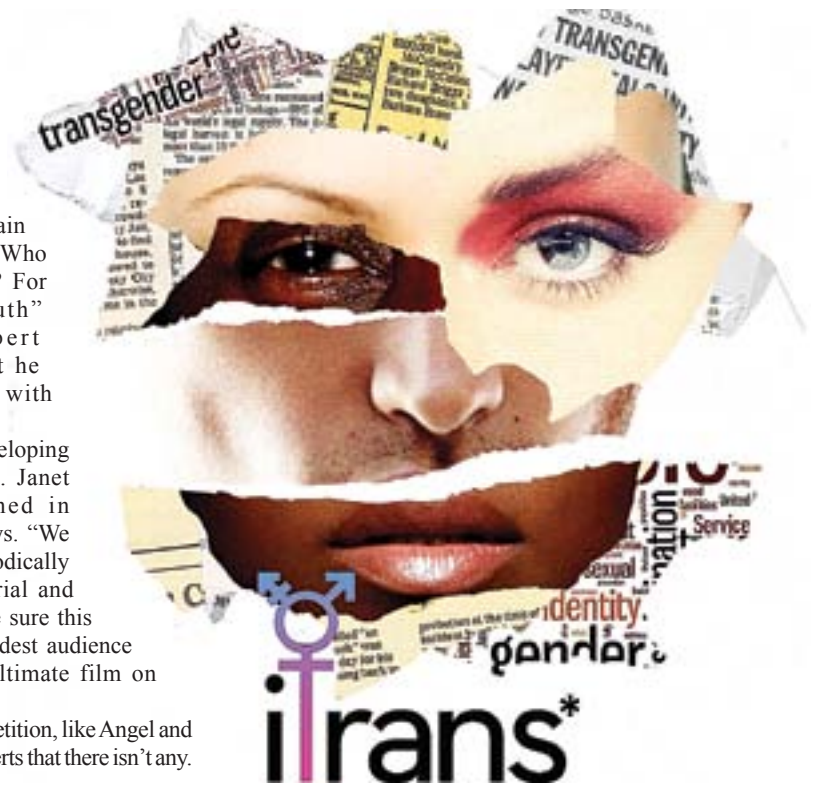
reaches the broadest audience

and is the penultimate film on

the subject."

As far as competition, like Angel and

Wilson, Jason asserts that there isn't any.



See iTrans, page 28

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Continued from p. 15

What does that taste like?

Dylan McDermott is known for getting naked a lot on the show. Should we expect you to get naked as well?

Who's the bigger diva on "The Voice," you or Christina Aguilera?

Blake Shelton seems very connected to you. So connected, in fact, he has said that he wants to kiss you. Is there a bromance going on that you want to tell us about?

When was the moment that you felt like Maroon 5 had become overexposed?

(Laughs) (The album title) is more just a humorous take on the fact that the band is

We've been lucky enough to withstand over a decade of, I guess, what you call relevance, and we're really excited about that: continuing to have songs on the radio, playing big concerts and having this wonderful career. But we're everywhere, so I do believe there is some truth to that statement – and it's funny to poke a little bit of fun at it.

A lot has changed in the business since you started 10 years ago. We have Chely Wright, an out gay country artist, and now the first major out hip-hop artist: Frank Ocean. How do you think these people, and the music business as a whole, can be influential in changing people's mind regarding gay politics?

Look at the strides. It's really easy to look at all the things that are wrong with the world and say, "Oh my god, we're all going to hell in a hand basket." But I think what's cool to say is, "Look at the wonderful things that we have been able to achieve and look at how much more equally people are treated now as opposed to the past."

I think we have a lot of really big strides to make: For some reason, someone being homophobic is still somewhat acceptable in our society, which I don't like. That's what I hate so much, but I think that we've made strides there, too. It's going to be a long battle. People make fun of people for being gay too much; it's too culturally accepted still, but it's better.

You used to watch a movie and people used to say – I won't say it – but F-A-G all the time. And that doesn't happen anymore. You have to look at

What about the music business itself: Do you see the music business evolving faster than the rest of the world?

That would be a nice idea. You do tend to find that a lot of people who are involved in music don't care about whether someone is gay or not, or gay themselves. Who knows why that's the case. Maybe that particular part of entertainment is evolving or has always been that way.

Most of the people that I know, it's just not an issue. Most people in the music industry don't necessarily judge people for that kind of thing and it doesn't

really come into play doesn't matter. People, especially musicians and artists, were more guarded a while ago. Now it seems like it doesn't seem to bother anybody very much, which is great.

Listen, the forward movement with this whole thing is good, and getting it all out there and having discussions and debates only

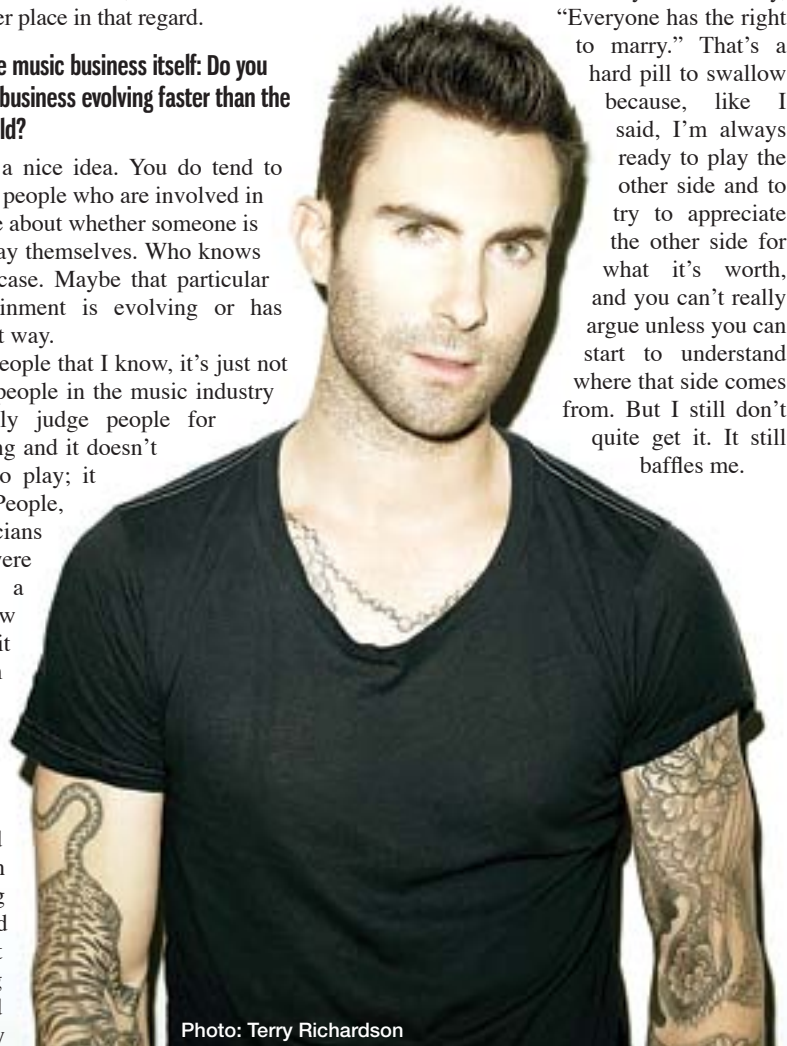


Photo: Terry Richardson

Otherwise you would say, "Everyone has the right to marry." That's a hard pill to swallow because, like I said, I'm always ready to play the other side and to try to appreciate the other side for what it's worth, and you can't really argue unless you can start to understand where that side comes from. But I still don't quite get it. It still baffles me.

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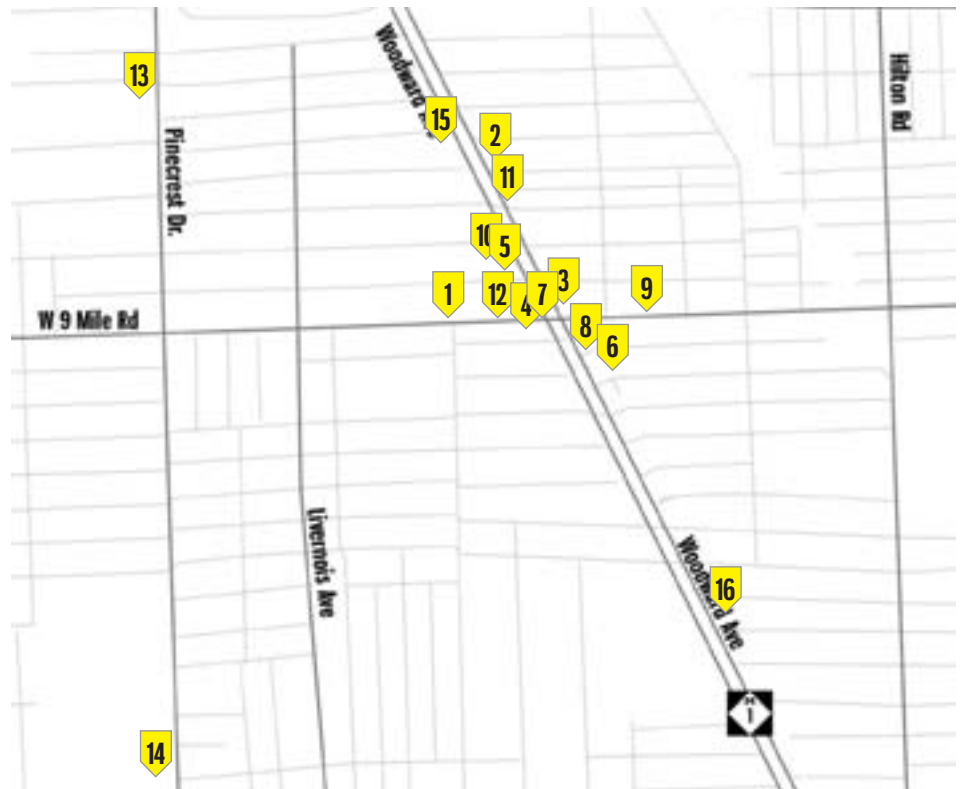


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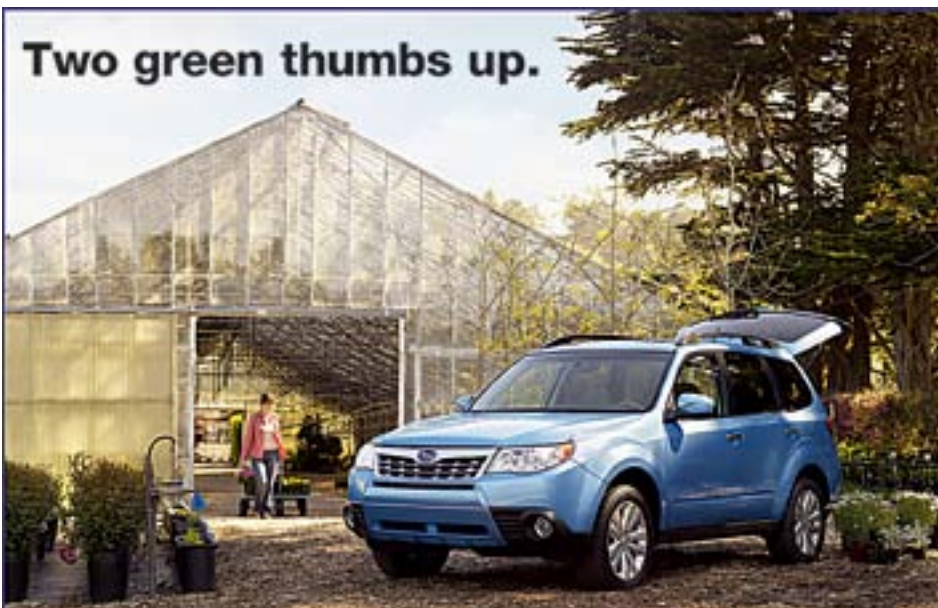
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A Clever Commentary On The State Of The Union

BY JOHN QUINN

"The American political landscape is a mess and it's time to whip this country into shape." Do we really need a press release from an improvisational comedy troupe to tell us that? With the intrepid artists at Go Comedy! in Ferndale combating the general malaise with topical humor, "50 States of Grey" is a swift poke in the ribs of the body politic.

While improv and sketch comedies are always collaborations, "50 States of Grey" gives writing credits not only to the six-member cast, but also to director Pj Jakokes, assistant director James Quesada, stage manager Jessica Loria and a bevy of familiar names in the local comedy scene. This might seem like too many cooks for a show that runs less than 90 minutes, but that's the nature of the recipe. Mountains of comic ingredients are tried and discarded before the perfect blend of flavors is ready to be served. The comedy kitchen must have been really smokin' to turn out this hot, spicy fare.

The sketches are generally excellent, and the company leads with what might be their strongest material – a presidential debate that immediately devolves into sound bites and insults. Suitably subversive, the contenders' ethnicities are flip-flopped, with Joe Hingelberg portraying President

REVIEW

50 States of Grey

Go Comedy! Improv Theater, 261 E. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. Thursday-Friday at 8 p.m. through Nov. 3
80 minutes. \$10-\$15. 248-327-0575.

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Obama and the intrepid Dez Walker as Governor Romney. Introducing the characters in the first sketch allows them back for a sweet little coda at the end. In between, the troupe observes the foibles of the common culture, from a presidential candidate plagued by an under-educated press corps, to Suzie Jakokes's OB/GYN patient unable to describe her "female troubles" lest taboo words are used. Also memorable is Travis Peltó's take on a young man finally coming out to his parents, Steve Forbes and Carrie Parmenter. In a turn on stereotype, Peltó utterly blindsides the folks by admitting he's really straight.

Sketch comedy is always hit or miss; here the flat spot is a spoof of sequel-obsessed Hollywood, the trailer for "Thomas Jefferson, Werewolf Wrangler." It's a great premise, but ultimately it goes nowhere.



"50 States of Grey" at Go Comedy! Improv Theater features, clockwise from top left, Dez Walker, Travis Peltó, Steve Forbes, Joe Hingelberg, Carrie Parmenter and Suzie Jakokes. Photo: SMyers

I love surprises. I didn't think, after 40 years of exposure to improvisation, that I could be surprised at Go Comedy! Yet the troupe segued into a session of traditional improv – winging it, with input from the audience – so smoothly that they were well into it before I caught on. Their homage to third-party campaigns is very sharp and remarkably funny – and if you weren't there opening night, you're not going to see what I saw. Improvisation is an ephemeral art form and it's

never the same twice. Judging from the skills of these artists – in this bit especially Hingelberg, Forbes and Peltó – you're still in for a blast.

The most successful element of "50 States of Grey" is its light-hearted attitude toward issues many take way too seriously. The satire is neither partisan nor non-partisan – call it "equipartisan." There is a firmly defined theme that the ills of the nation stem from many causes, and, as is often observed, laughter is the best medicine.

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“The only reason a film on this subject is going to reach the mainstream, and hopefully effectuate real change, is because of the vision and creative courage of someone like Janet.”

— Robert Jason

Madisun Leigh (left), director of indie film “iTrans*,” says she felt like “toast” after hearing that Janet Jackson was producing a similar film.

► iTrans

Continued from p. 17

“My objective is to transform human consciousness and expedite human evolution,” he says. “The more people exerting pressure to effectuate that end, the better. This is not a competition. Perhaps this is not the goal of their film.”

Jason isn’t the only one with concerns. Hayes, like many others, questions Janet Jackson’s commitment to the “Truth” project.

“I’m not sure if she was paid to be a part of

it or it was a passion project. For us, it’s a real passion project,” Hayes insists.

But Jason thinks that without Jackson and her celebrity, the message would never reach a mass audience.

“The only reason a film on this subject is going to reach the mainstream, and hopefully effectuate real change, is because of the vision and creative courage of someone like Janet,” Jason says.

Then there are the historically justified questions of whether either film would get the story wrong. Perhaps with such a big budget and celebrity backing, “Truth” might exploit those the director seeks to spotlight. Conversely, with such

a small team and little outside financial backing, “iTrans*” could easily fall into similar trappings of exploitation or mischaracterization.

With the recent controversy over trans woman and performer Carmen Carrera’s appearance on the TLC reality show “Cake Boss” — she was offended by the show’s portrayal of her that was edited for dramatic purposes — it’s understandable that this would be such a major concern.

To that point, Angel had a positive outlook.

“Why would she (Janet) get the story wrong? People are always looking at the bad in things,” Jason says.

Regardless, both teams are working, in their

own way, to ensure that their film captures the story in the best way possible.

Jason, who has been in a relationship with transgender actress and artist Nina Poon for 10 years, is making sure that trans people are heavily involved in the production of the film.

“Half of my staff is trans and I am encouraging and facilitating trans participation in many levels of the production process,” he says. “Additionally, we are working directly with the head of communications for GLAAD and I am presently bringing on board an amazing and prominent trans activist/writer to be part of the production.”

Leigh, Hayes and the “iTrans*” team are taking similar but budget-accordant strides.

“We were able to pick up one of our interviewees, Noah (Alvarez), as our trans liaison. That has helped us get the proper wordage, the proper terminology,” Hayes says.

All worries and controversy aside, both films, if done properly, will open the transgender experience to people in a unique and eye-opening way. While the “iTrans*” team is doing it on their own, the “Truth” team have some rather lofty goals.

Whether either film will succeed is still a mystery. Regardless, this controversy does beg the question: Why now? Both production teams had their thoughts but, perhaps, it was Buck Angel who said it best.

“Trans” is sort of the new ‘gay’ in the media now. So, I believe there will be even more documentaries coming on this subject,” he says, “and it’s about time.”



► Screen Queen

Continued from p. 16

ruin the lives of those who wrongfully imprisoned her father years ago, including Stowe’s Queen Victoria. Besides the addictive first 22-episode season, the set is full of special features: a look into crafty bisexual Nolan Ross, a breakdown of Emily and Victoria’s rivalry and something called “Femme Fatale Fashion.” That’s for you — the gays. You’re welcome.



Jaws

The water was a scary place long before “Piranha 3DD.” Steven Spielberg’s shark-attack original, despite rip-offs and several less-impressive sequels, has as much bite now as it did 37 years ago when the story about a great white terrorizing a seaside community became a worldwide phenomenon. And if any movie deserves a pretty revamp, it’s this classic: Now on Blu-ray, “Jaws” doesn’t just look and sound better than ever — fully restored

with a like-new image and audio overhaul — but gets an impressive array of cool special features. Never-before-seen interview footage of the cast and crew is assembled for a new docu on “The Impact and Legacy of Jaws.” Also included are deleted scenes and outtakes, a two-hour making-of and an intriguing look at the “Jaws” makeover. (Clearly, the process would’ve been less laborious with a drag queen doing the touch-ups.)



He Is What He Is

'La Cage' Star Dazzles As Chanteuse Zaza

BY BRIDGETTE M. REDMAN

Christopher Sieber isn't about to follow the advice he's gotten from several New York doctors and physical therapists.

Their advice: Stop doing what you're doing. It's exhausting. It's bad for health. It contorts his body in ways the body wasn't meant to contort.

But it's a living, and one that the 43-year-old Sieber has been immensely successful at, earning himself a reputation as an entertainer who is funny and who will "do weird things with his body."

"I only do parts that hurt me," he jokes, saying that as much as he loves "La Cage Aux Folles," he's grateful that there is only one more stop after Detroit, after which he'll be able to return home from the road and a role that has been vocally, emotionally and physically exhausting.

This isn't the first time a role has placed such demands on Sieber. He earned a Tony nominee for his work in "Shrek: The Musical," creating the role of Lord Farquaad. While rehearsing and workshopping the show, there were all sorts of

PREVIEW

La Cage Aux Folles

Fisher Theatre, 3011 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit.

Tuesday-Sunday, Sept. 25-Oct. 7.

\$40-\$80 (includes parking and facility fees). 313-872-1000

>> www.BroadwayinDetroit.com

discussions about how to make Farquaad short – whether they'd make a trench in the stage or constantly hide him behind set pieces. Then Sieber hit upon the idea that made the stage role famous.

"We're on our knees, and it's my fault," Sieber says of the part that he and now several other actors have played on Broadway and on tour. "I came in one day with little legs attached like Charlie Chaplain and it killed. It was the funniest thing in the world. It is totally my fault that I created this thing and anyone else doing it – now they're screwed."

Now he's on the road with the revival of "La Cage Aux Folles," starring opposite George Hamilton. He plays Albin, a man who moonlights

as the glamorous chanteuse Zaza and is partnered with the Saint-Tropez nightclub owner, Georges.

It's a show he's been doing since March 2011 when he first joined the Broadway production as Georges playing opposite Harvey Fierstein. It's a role he fell into while on his way to accept a two-month stint as Billy Flynn in "Chicago." He'd done "Chicago" seven years earlier and was in line at the box office to go see the show as a way to refamiliarize himself with the part before performing it again.

"I get a call from my agent saying, 'You're going to go see 'La Cage' across the street,'" Sieber says. "I replied that that's a funny way to prepare myself for a role – by seeing a show I'm not going to do, but I did it."

After the show, he went backstage to visit with Fierstein and noted that Jeffrey Tambor, the actor who was supposed to be playing the role, was nowhere to be seen. It turns out that he had to leave the show after only 10 performances because of hip problems.

"I go to Harvey's dressing room and he says, 'Are you going to do this show? I need you, I need you, I need you,'" Sieber says. "I said sure, but I'm supposed to do 'Chicago.'"

Fierstein assured him that the two shows had the same producer and that there would be no problem with him switching. Seven days later, Sieber was on as the lead and would finish out the Broadway run. When it got ready to go on tour, Sieber said he'd go if Fierstein did. While Fierstein backed out, the producers managed to convince him to stay and to switch roles by enticing him with the opportunity to star opposite Hamilton.

"I never expected to be in the show; it all just fell on me like a ton of bricks," Sieber says. "So now I'm here and we're almost done."

It's a show he says audiences have warmly received, because while the characters and setting are very gay, the story itself is universal.

"It isn't a political show," Sieber says. "It's about how you have to be true to yourself, and it is about family and about love. It happens to be that this family happens to be gay. It really is just a story. It really doesn't matter whether they are straight or gay."

As a gay actor who married his lover last Thanksgiving, he understands intimately that gay relationships can get politicized, though he finds that everyday people are less likely to do so than those in the public eye.

"Going around the country, you get this trepidation of 'what are we getting into?'" Sieber says. "All the people are amazing. I've talked to a lot of people and gotten to know them very well. The people are pretty cool. It's the talking heads on FOX and MSNBC and the politicians trying to get votes. They say all this garbage. The people I talk to aren't terrible. They're all great people."

He does say that he's tired of the talking heads turning his relationship into a political football and has utter disdain for the idea that someone's marriage is going to threaten America and traditional marriage.

"I married my husband on Thanksgiving. We did it to bring down the fabric of this nation," he jokes. "Our marriage was meant to destroy everything. Our diabolical plan has not worked, but we keep trying every day with our love and commitment to bring down this nation. I guess our love is not doing the right thing. It's so bizarre."

CONTEST

BTL's 'La Cage Aux Folles' Contest Winner George Westerman Tells His Story:

Last month BTL asked readers to submit their most outrageous – but true – "Meet the Parents" stories, in celebration of "La Cage aux Folles" coming to Detroit. The winner has been awarded tickets to see "La Cage" and his letter is printed below. Congratulations to BTL Meet the Parents Contest winner George Westerman:

Twenty years ago in the summer of 1992, my parents were planning a trip to visit me here in Michigan. Cliff and I had been together just over a year and had moved into a flat in Ferndale. My parents were used to staying with me whenever they visited and it would be their first time ever staying with me and my boyfriend! We were excited for their visit, as they had been trying hard to be supportive of me ever since I came out to them. And they were doing a great job!

A couple of weeks before their visit, my mind went to a place it frequents: to the Land of Worst Case Scenarios. I suddenly had an intense fear that they might expect to be staying only with me. What if they assumed that Cliff would be leaving for the duration and staying somewhere else? That would be terrible, not to mention unacceptable to us! After talking with Cliff, we agreed that this had to be discussed with my parents before their arrival so that we all had the same expectation.

So, with my heart beating fast and practically in my throat, I phoned my parents. "We're really looking forward to your visit," I told Mom with my eyes squeezed shut with anxiety about the impending response to my next statement. "But we want to make it clear that when you stay here, Cliff will be here as well. He will not be going to stay with his parents or a friend, and he and I will be sleeping in the same bedroom. This is our apartment and we will both be here while you're here. I hope you can respect that."

I was not prepared for her angry response. She let me have it, but not in the way I expected. "I can't believe you think so poorly of your dad and I that you assume we'd have a problem with you and Cliff being in the same room while we're there! Don't you think we've worked hard to be supportive of you? Do you think we're shallow and petty?" I opened my eyes. Then I exhaled and smiled. My angst had been for nothing. It was a nonissue! Perhaps her next statement was the confirmation I needed to completely let go of my own fear about my relationship with Cliff: "You know, we're really only coming to see Cliff. We don't care if you're there or not!"

My smile turned to a giant grin.

I told Mom that I loved her and couldn't wait for their visit.

I've told this story many times over the last 20 years, and though my parents are both gone now, my telling of this story is a testament of my pride at the hard work they did after I came out. Thanks, Mom and Dad!

Happenings

Thursday, Sept. 20

Know Us Project 6:45 p.m. Join the KGLRC and Michigan Partnership for Informed Public Policy (MPIPP) as they present the Know Us Project, a dynamic program designed to teach effective ways to express our stories to change public opinion and public policy. Kalamazoo Gay and Lesbian Resource Center, 629 Pioneer St., **Kalamazoo**. 269-349-4234. Kglrc.org

KGLRC Youth Group 7 p.m. The Resource Center Youth Group helps young people, ages 13 to 18, who are trying to come to terms with their sexuality in a sometimes-unaccepting society. Meets every Thursday from 7-9 p.m. at a confidential location. To attend, call or e-mail the resource center. Kalamazoo Gay and Lesbian Resource Center, 629 Pioneer, **Kalamazoo**. 269-349-4234. Kglrc.org

LAHR Town Hall Meeting 7 p.m. LAHR and LAHR PAC are hosting a town hall meeting to allow the LGBT community and others concerned about the rights of LGBT people to meet the candidates who will be on the November ballot and to ask them important questions. Lansing Association for Human Rights, 350 Frandor Ave., **Lansing**. Vacaafrank@gmail.com

VOICES: Honoring LGBTQ homeless and Runaway Youth A photography exhibit honoring LGBTQ homeless and runaway youth in partnership with the MOCAD with special guest Wanda Sykes. Ruth Ellis Center, 4454 Woodward Ave., **Detroit**. 313-832-6622. RuthEllisCenter.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 Ct., **Ann Arbor**. 734-995-9867. Jimtoycenter.org

Friday, Sept. 21

Gay Bowl XII 9 a.m. Gay Bowl is the annual flag football championship tournament of the National Gay Flag Football League (NGFFL). Denver will host both men and women divisions. Metro Detroit Flag Football League, 6000 Victory Way, **Commerce City**. 248-910-7200. info@MDFFL.org MDFFL.org

50 and Better Friday Group 7 p.m. Designed for those 50 and better looking for an excuse to get out of the house. Goes out every other week or so for miniature golf, a movie, or other activity, per vote.

Kalamazoo Gay and Lesbian Resource Center, 629 Pioneer St., **Kalamazoo**. 269-349-4234. PhoenixChurch.org

Bisexual Peer Group 7 p.m. Meets monthly on the third Friday of each month. Discuss relating to bisexuality, pansexuality, and/or omnisexuality. Allies are encouraged and welcomed to attend. Meeting usually followed by dinner at aut Bar, two doors down. Bisexual Peer Group, 319 Braun Ct., **Ann Arbor**. 734-678-2478. Biprideannarbor@gmail.com Facebook.com/groups/110918256984/

Womyn's Film Night 7 p.m. Film: The Topp Twins: Untouchable Girls; Trace the fascinating lives of New Zealand's provocative music and comedy duo Jools and Linda Topp through this enjoyable documentary, which details the lesbian twins' rural upbringing, political activism and immense popularity at home and abroad. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

Saturday, Sept. 22

AIDS Walk Michigan-Detroit 8:30 a.m. The annual AIDS Walk helps to raise awareness about HIV and AIDS and simultaneously it helps to raise funds for local AIDS services. For many, these services are a lifeline to food, housing, transportation and support services that are designed for people and families living with HIV and AIDS. AIDS Walk Michigan, Riverfront, **Detroit**. AIDSWalkMichigan.org

AIDS Walk Michigan-Great Lakes Bay Region 9:30 a.m. AIDS Walk Michigan, Friendship Shell, **Bay City**. 888-791-9255. AIDSWalkMichigan.org

Transgender Health Fair 1 p.m. Transgender Michigan presents the 3rd Annual Transgender Health Fair. Discover health resources available to the transgender communities. Exhibits, vendors, speakers and panels. The largest health fair in the region dedicated to the transgender community. Transgender Michigan, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. Info@transgendermichigan.org Transgendermichigan.org

AIDS Walk Michigan-Genesee County 2 p.m. AIDS Walk Michigan, University of Michigan-Flint, **Flint**. 810-232-0888. AIDSWalkMichigan.org

ALIVE Youth Group Meeting 2 p.m. All LGBT and allied youth 14-20 encouraged to join. 4th Saturday of every month is Social Justice Saturday. As some meetings are

held around town, contact ALIVE prior to attending meetings. ALIVE Youth Group, 132 Water St., **Benton Harbor**. Youthgroup@outcenter.org

Songs of Love, Hope, and Spirit 7 p.m. An Oasis Benefit Concert featuring recording artist Tiana Marquez. Accompanying Ms. Marquez will be Ms. Lillian Fox, Mr. David Gitterman, and Dr. Doris Allen. Program includes an eclectic blend of show tunes and love songs (Sondheim, Gershwin, Bacharach, Rodgers & Hart) and Spirituals. Suggested donation: \$15-\$20. Oasis Ministry, 3257 Lohr Road, **Ann Arbor**. 734-846-3578. Jsummers@umich.edu Oasisministrymi.org.

Sunday, Sept. 23

AIDS Walk Michigan-Lansing/Eat Lansing 10 a.m. AIDS Walk Michigan, Valley Court Park, **East Lansing**. 517-394-3560. AIDSWalkMichigan.org

AIDS Walk Michigan-Northern Michigan 11 a.m. AIDS Walk Michigan, 1910 S. Airport Road, **Traverse City**. AIDSWalkMichigan.org

Third Annual Bold for the Cure Ann Arbor Event 2 p.m. Music by Michael Stefaniak and refreshments will be provided. Not ready to part with your locks? Participate in our event by getting pink highlights, pink feathers, pink hair extensions, or make a monetary pledge of support. Bold For the Cure, 305 South Main Street, **Ann Arbor**. 734-936-1888. Info@boldforthe.cure.com BoldForTheCure.Com

The Conversation Station 5 p.m. Weekly discussion group for LGBTQA 25 and over. Week's topic Who was the first person you were jealous of and why? Get Out And Live!, 714 S. Washington St., **Royal Oak**. 248-981-4227. MarcilWilliams@yahoo.com GetOutAndLive.me

Monday, Sept. 24

Community Conversations 6:30 p.m. Conversation regarding the mental health needs of LGBTQ individuals in the community. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. GoAffirmations.org

New Member Night 7 p.m. For the upcoming 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. Out Loud Chorus, 1400 West Stadium Boulevard, **Ann Arbor**. 734.265.0740. Outloudchorus@gmail.com olconline.org

PFLAG Battle Creek 7 p.m. Meets monthly at St. Thomas Episcopal Church. Affiliated with BC Pride. PFLAG Battle Creek, 16 E. Van Buren, **Battle Creek**.

Tuesday, Sept. 25

LansINGout Rehearsal 7 p.m. LanSINGout Gay Men's Chorus is dedicated to enriching those around them through music, fellowship and community involvement. LanSINGout Gay Men's Chorus, 510 W. Ottawa St., **Lansing**. 517-490-1746. Info@lansingout.org Lansingout.org

Transgender Life Support 7 p.m. Offering support, education, resources and a social structure for Transgender individuals. Facilitated by Arlene Kish, Lorraine Brown, Jessica Manko, Tracy Hoover, Marty Howland and Colt F. McIssac. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. Transgenderlifesupport.org

Transgender Resource Group 7 p.m. All ages, sexual and gender identities are members. Allies are welcome too. This is a support and social group, with an emphasis on advocacy and education. The Lesbian and Gay Community Network of West MI, 343 Atlas Ave. SE, **Grand Rapids**. 616-458-3511. Thenetwork@grlgbt.org GRLgbt.org

Women's Group 7 p.m. This group focuses on networking, socializing, and discussion of issues relevant to lesbian and bisexual women. Additional activities occasionally planned. The Lesbian and Gay Community Network of West MI, 343 Atlas Ave. SE, **Grand Rapids**. 616-458-3511. Thenetwork@grlgbt.org Grlgbt.org

Wednesday, Sept. 26

Coping with Disabilities Group 1 p.m. Ongoing discussion group for adults with disabilities. Discussions about LGBT friendly doctors, counseling, health benefits, and activities. Every second and fourth Wednesday. Handicapped accessible. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

LGBT Public Hearing 6 p.m. Public hearing on the impact of "Anti-Discrimination Policies on LGBT Persons, the Economy & Social Well-Being." Taking testimony from the general public on the personal impact of Michigan's anti-discrimination policies. Both written and verbal testimony will be accepted. Michigan Department of Civil Rights, 5203 Cass Ave., **Detroit**. 517-241-4319. CalcagnoR@Michigan.gov Michigan.gov/mdcr

Newly Single Support Group 6:30 p.m. Group for all dealing with the end of a relationship and want to talk-or listen-to others who share similar experiences. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

Thursday, Sept. 27

Civic Engagement Committee 1 p.m. Fourth Thursdays, May 24, 1PM at the OutCenter. Empowering people to advocate and speak out for themselves and the LGBT community is key to creating effective change. Our Civic Engagement committee organizes to educate and resource our community members to make a difference in our community. E-mail to learn more. OutCenter, 132 Water St., **Benton Harbor**. CivicEngagement@OutCenter.org OutCenter.org

Euchre Tournament-Benefit for Out Loud Chorus 7 p.m. Entry: \$10. Cash prizes awarded. No partner necessary, all levels of ability welcome. Food and beverage service available. Out Loud Chorus, 1950 S. Industrial Hwy, **Ann Arbor**. 734-652-0801. OutLoudChorus@gmail.com Olconline.org

Legal and Financial Issues for LGBT Seniors 6:30 p.m. "What happens if I die without a will? What happens if I become incapacitated? Should I get a reverse

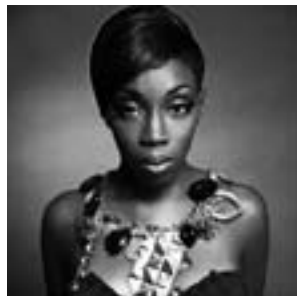
mortgage? Who makes health/legal decisions for me if I cannot do so?" A free seminar for LGBT seniors, with guests Tim Cordes, Henry Grix, Molly Giles and Amanda Shelton. Gay Elders of Southeastern Michigan, 290 W. 9 Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 586-573-9932. GESEM12@gmail.com

Speak Out 7 p.m. Offers a welcoming environment for LGBT people to improve their public speaking and leadership skills. Meets the first and fourth Thursday of every month. Jim Toy Community Center, 319 Braun Ct., **Ann Arbor**. 734-995-9867. Crystalr@jimtoycenter.org

Debating Same-Sex Marriage: A Dialogue with Corvino and Gallagher 7:30 p.m. The Center for the Study of Citizenship invites the public to learn more about the debate by joining John Corvino, professor and chair of the Wayne State University Department of Philosophy, and Maggie Gallagher, co-founder of the National Organization for Marriage, as they discuss issues from their book, "Debating Same-Sex Marriage". Center for the Study of Citizenship, 450 Reuther Mall, Wayne State University, **Detroit**. Specialevents.wayne.edu/debating-same-sex-marriage

Saturday, Sept. 29

AIDS Walk Michigan-Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti/Jackson 1 p.m. AIDS Walk Michigan, Detroit Edison Building, **Washtenaw**. 734-544-0015. AIDSWalkMichigan.org



Estelle to perform alongside Anthony Hamilton at Fox Theatre

OUTFest 2012 5 p.m. OutFest 2012 is a full evening event with food and drinks, entertainment, information about community organizations, opportunities to win prizes, and the ability to be immersed in a welcoming and inclusive community. Outfest in an event held each year to celebrate National Coming Out Day. The Jim Toy Community Center provides support and resources to the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Ally community in Washtenaw County. To present an event of this magnitude, JTCC rely on the support of our community in many ways. Contact JTCC to get involved. Jim Toy Community Center, 319 Braun Ct., **Ann Arbor**. 734-776-8104. OutFest2012@gmail.com JimToyCenter.org

MUSIC & MORE

COMEDY

Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase Ahmed Ahmed; Ahmed Ahmed was born in Helwan, Egypt on June 27, 1970. His parents immigrated to the U.S. when he was one month old and he grew up in Riverside, CA. He moved to Hollywood when he was 19 years old to pursue a career as an actor and stand-up comedian. Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase, 314 E. Liberty St., **Ann Arbor**. Sept. 20-Sept. 22. 734-996-9080. AACComedy.com

Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase Tony Deyo; A rising young talent, Deyo is known for his sharp, quick material and near perfect comedic timing almost certainly gained from his years as a professional symphony musician. Tickets: \$10-12. Ann Arbor

Comedy Showcase, 314 E. Liberty St., **Ann Arbor**. Sept. 28-Sept. 29. 734-996-9080. AACComedy.com

Olympia Entertainment "Radio One's Comedy Explosion" Hosted by Hot 107.5 and Kiss 105.9, will star Rickey Smiley and George Wallace at the Fox Theatre with special guests Dominique and Jay Anthony Brown of The Tom Joyner Morning Show and George Wilborn of The Michael Baisden Show. Tickets: \$25-110. Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., **Detroit**. 8 p.m. Sept. 29. 313-471-6611. Olympiaentertainment.com

The Palace Kevin Hart; Comedian Kevin Hart's "Let Me Explain" Tour. Tickets: \$45.50-75.50. Palace of Auburn Hills, 5 Championship Dr., Auburn Hills. 8 p.m. Sept. 22. 248-377-0100. ThePalace.net

CONCERTS

Detroit Symphony Orchestra "Opening Week Joshua Bell" Bernstein Divertimento for Orchestra, Overture to Candide, Symphony No. 1, "Jeremiah," and Serenade. Tickets: \$15. Max M. Fisher Music Center, 3711 Woodward Ave., **Detroit**. Sept. 28-Sept. 30. 313-576-5111. DSO.org

Kerrytown Concert House "Parisian Soiree" This annual gala season opener is fun, full of surprises, and features a program that focuses on repertoire with a connection to all things Parisian. Champagne included! Tickets: \$15-35. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N Fourth Ave., **Ann Arbor**. 8 p.m. Sept. 22. 734-769-2999. Kerrytownconcerthouse.com

Olympia Entertainment "Back to Love Tour" Grammy Award winning, multi-platinum selling entertainer Anthony Hamilton headline's a tour in support of his latest album "Back to Love," with special guests Estelle and Antoine Dunn. Tickets: \$40-100. Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., **Detroit**. 8 p.m. Sept. 28. 313-471-6611. Olympiaentertainment.com

Olympia Entertainment Anthony Hamilton; With special guests Estelle and Antoine Dunn. Tickets: \$39-99. Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., **Detroit**. 8 p.m. Sept. 28. 313-471-6611. Olympiaentertainment.com

Olympia Entertainment "American Cancer Society Cattle Baron's Ball" The event will be led by honorary chair James D. Farley, Jr., Ford Motor Company's Group Vice President for Global Marketing, Sales and Service, and will be supported by many of the area's most respected corporate and civic leaders. Joe Louis Arena, 19 Steve Yzerman Dr., **Detroit**. 6 p.m. Sept. 29. 313-396-7000. Olympiaentertainment.com

The Ark John Gorka; With special guest Michael Johnson. Tickets: \$15. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., **Ann Arbor**. 8 p.m. Sept. 21. 734-761-1800. TheArk.org

The Ark BeauSoleil; Tickets: \$25. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., **Ann Arbor**. 8 p.m. Sept. 24. 734-761-1800. TheArk.org

The Ark "The Devil Makes Three" With special guest John Fullbright. Tickets: \$17.50. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., **Ann Arbor**. 8 p.m. Sept. 26. 734-761-1800. TheArk.org

The Ark The Kin; Tickets: \$15. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., **Ann Arbor**. 8 p.m. Sept. 28. 734-761-1800. TheArk.org

The Palace Lynryd Skynryd; With special guests Los Lonely Boys. Tickets: \$10-75. DTE Energy Music Theatre, 7774 Sashabaw, Clarkston. 7:30 p.m. Sept. 21. 248-377-0100. ThePalace.net

The Palace Peter Gabriel; Tickets: \$35-125. Palace of Auburn Hills, 5 Championship Dr., Auburn Hills. 8 p.m. Sept. 26. 248-377-0100. ThePalace.net

University Musical Society "Special Celebration Dinner" The venerable ensemble returns to help kick off the "Hill 100" season in style. Join us for this celebratory dinner, honoring both 100 years of UMS performances in



Editor's Pick

"Songs of Love, Hope and Spirit," a benefit concert for the LGBT ministry of the Episcopal Church, Oasis, will feature a performance by Tiana Marquez Sept. 22 in Ann Arbor.

Marquez has performed around the world and recorded several albums of her music. She views her music as a tool for spiritual healing, cultural renewal and social change. Accompanying Marquez is Lillian Fox Freedland and David Gitterman on piano and Doris Allen on drums. Together, they will perform show tunes and love songs from composers such as Sondheim, Gershwin, Bacharach and Rodgers and Hart. Terry Madden will narrate the program.

Suggested donations of \$15-20 will go toward Oasis and their work with the LGBT and allied community within the Episcopal Church. "Songs of Love, Hope and Spirit" will begin 7 p.m. Sept. 22 at the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation, 3257 Lohr Road, Ann Arbor. For more information, call 734-846-3578 or go to www.OasisMinistry.org.



Editor's Pick

The Baldwin Theatre will be an explosion of pink this fall as Stagecrafters kicks off its 56th season with "Legally Blonde – The Musical." Come fawn over fine-looking frat boys and drool over adorable dogs in this hit Broadway musical. This fun and energetic show runs through Sept. 30 in downtown Royal Oak.

Elle is a sorority girl and fashionista who is obsessed with socializing and the color pink. Just when Elle thinks her boyfriend, Warner Huntington III (Stephen Brown of Farmington Hills), is about to propose, she gets the

unexpected surprise that he is breaking up with her. Determined to win him back, Elle follows him to Harvard Law to prove that she's really the "serious" girl he wants.

Advance tickets are \$18 on Thursdays, and \$20 on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. Student and senior discounts are available for specific performances. Tickets can be purchased by calling 248-541-6430.

Hill Auditorium and Ken Fischer's 25th anniversary as President of UMS. Campus Inn, 615 E. Huron St., Ann Arbor. 5:30 p.m. Sept. 27. 734-764-8489. UMS.org

THEATER

CIVIC/COMMUNITY THEATER

Legally Blonde - The Musical \$18-20. Stagecrafters at Baldwin Theatre, 415 S. Lafayette, Royal Oak. Through Sep. 30. 248-541-8027. www.stagecrafters.org

Legally Blonde, the Musical \$23+. Kalamazoo Civic Theatre at Civic Auditorium, 329 S. Park St., Kalamazoo. Sep. 28 - Oct. 14. 269-343-1313. www.kazoocivic.com

My Fair Lady \$16-18. Spotlight Players at The Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill Road, Canton. Through Sep. 23. 734-394-5460. www.SpotlightPlayersMI.org

Spring Awakening \$18-20. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Dr., Lansing. Through Sep. 23. 517-482-5700. www.riverwalktheatre.com

Stepping Out \$12-15. Center Stage Jackson at Baughman Theatre at Jackson Community College, 2111 Emmons Road, Jackson. Sep. 21 - 30. 517-782-8473. www.centerstagejackson.org

PROFESSIONAL

A Little Work \$18. Two Muses Theatre at Barnes and Noble Booksellers Theatre, 6800 Orchard Lake Road, Bloomfield. Through Sep. 30. 248-850-9919. www.TwoMusesTheatre.org

A Skull in Connemara Free; donations accepted. The Abreact Performance Space, 1301 W. Lafayette, #113, Detroit. Through Sep. 29. 313-454-1542. www.theabreact.com

Adult Education: Storytelling After Hours \$10. The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Dr., Three Oaks. Sept. 27. 269-756-3879. www.acorntheater.com

Blue Man Group \$34.50 and above. Broadway Grand Rapids at DeVos Performance Hall, 303 Monroe Ave., Grand Rapids. Sep. 25 - 30. 616-235-6285. www.broadwaygrandrapids.com

boom Previews Sept. 20-23 & 27 (\$15). \$20-22. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam, Williamston. Sep. 20 - Oct. 21. 517-655-7469. www.williamstontheatre.org

Death and the Maiden \$15-20. Matrix Theatre Company, 2730 Bagley, Detroit. Sep. 21 - Oct. 14. 313-967-0999. www.matrixtheatre.org

Deathtrap \$29-32. Tipping Point Theatre, 361 Cady St., Northville. Through Oct. 7. 248-347-0003. www.tippingpointtheatre.com

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

God of Carnage \$15-18. Broadway Onstage Live Theatre, 21517 Kelly Road, Eastpointe. Through Oct. 6. 586-771-6333. www.broadwayonstage.com

Hamtown Races \$20. Planet Ant Theatre, 2357 Caniff, Hamtramck. Sep. 21 - Oct. 13. 313-365-4948. www.planetant.com

Kidd Pivot: The Tempest Replica \$16+. University Musical Society at Power Center for the Performing Arts, 121 N. Fletcher St., Ann Arbor. Sep. 21 - 22. 734-764-2538. www.UMS.org

La Cage Aux Folles \$40-80. Fisher Theatre, 3011 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit. Sep. 25 - Oct. 7. 313-872-1000. www.BroadwayinDetroit.com

Moonlight and Magnolias \$38-45. Jewish Ensemble Theatre at Aaron DeRoy Theatre on the campus of the Jewish Community Center, 6600 W. Maple Road, West Bloomfield. Sep. 19 - Oct. 7. 248-788-2900. www.jettheatre.org

Oh, Ananse \$10 adult, \$5 child. PuppetART at Detroit Puppet Theatre, 25 E. Grand River, Detroit. Through Sep. 29. 313-961-7777. www.puppetart.org

Shopping & F*ing** \$10-20. The Ringwald Theatre, 22742 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Through Sep. 24. 248-545-5545. www.TheRingwald.com

Superior Donuts Previews Sept. 20-23, 26-27 (\$22-\$32). \$18.50-42. The Purple Rose Theatre Company, 137 Park St., Chelsea. Sep. 20 - Dec. 15. 734-433-7673. www.purplerosetheatre.org

Suzhou Kun Opera Theater of Jiangsu Province \$30 and up. University Musical Society at Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre, 911 N. University Ave., Ann Arbor. Sep. 28 - 29. 734-764-2538. www.ums.org

The Fantasticks \$18-32. The Encore Musical Theatre Company, 3126 Broad St., Dexter. Sep. 27 - Oct. 21. 734-268-6200. www.TheEncoreTheatre.org

The Glass Menagerie Previews Sept. 27-30 & Oct. 4 (\$22-\$32). \$25-41. Performance Network Theatre, 120 E. Huron St., Ann Arbor. Sep. 27 - Oct. 28. 734-663-0696. www.PerformanceNetwork.org

The Mousetrap \$12-30. Hilberry Theatre, 4743 Cass Ave., Detroit. Sep. 21 - Oct. 13. 313-577-2972. www.hilberry.com

The Pillowman \$15-18. Threefold Productions at Mix Studio Theater, 8 N. Washington St., Ypsilanti. Sep. 21 - Oct. 13. www.threefoldproductions.org

Vigil \$15. LCC Performing Arts at LCC Black Box Theatre, 411 Grand Avenue, Room 168, Lansing. Through Sep. 23.

517-372-0945. www.lcc.edu/showinfo

ART'N'AROUND

Ann Arbor Art Center "Annual: All Media Exhibition" 117 W. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. Sept. 2-Oct. 21. 734-995-8004. AnnArborArtCenter.org

Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History "The Chris Webber Collection" 315 E. Warren, Detroit. May 1-Sep. 30. 313-494-5853. TheWright.org

Cranbrook Art Museum "George Nelson: Architect / Writer/ Designer / Teacher" 39221 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. June 16-Oct. 14. 877-462-7262. CranbrookArtMuseum.org

Goldner Walsh Garden & Home "Reel Art Detroit Art Opening" 559 Orchard Lake Road, Pontiac. 6 p.m. Sept. 21. 248-332-6430. Goldnerwalsh.com

Kalamazoo Institute of Arts "Elliot Erwitt: Dog Dogs" 314 S. Park St., Kalamazoo. July 7-Sep. 23. 269-349-7775. Klarts.org

Lawrence Street Gallery "All Girls, No Boys" 22620 Woodward Ave. Suite A, Ferndale. Sept. 1-Sep. 30. 248-544-0394. Lawrencestreetgallery.com

Michigan State University Museum "Echoes of Silent Spring: 50 Years of Environmental Awareness" 409 W. Circle Dr., East Lansing. June 1-Nov. 30. Museum. msu.edu/?q=node/527

Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit "Vision in a Cornfield" 4454 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Sept. 7-Dec. 30. 313-832-6622. Mocadetroit.org

Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit "Anri Sala" 4454 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Sept. 7-Dec. 30. 313-832-6622. Mocadetroit.org

Riverside Arts Center "The Pieces Fall Together" 76 N. Huron St., Ypsilanti. Sept. 6-Sep. 29. 734-483-7345. Riversidearts.org

The Detroit Institute of Arts "Picasso and Matisse" 2100 Woodward Ave., Detroit. June 11-Oct. 29. 313-833-7900. DIA.org

The Gallery Project "Quantified Self" 215 S. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. Aug. 30-Oct. 7. 734-997-7102. TheGalleryProject.com

The Scarab Club "Nancy Mitnick: Time Travel" Detroit. Sept. 5-Oct. 14. 313-831-1250. ScarabClub.org

University of Michigan Museum of Art "Jesper Just" 525 South State Street, Ann Arbor. Aug. 21-Dec. 9. 734-763-4186. umma.umich.edu


University of Michigan Museum of Art "Young-Hae Chang Heavy Industries" 525 S. State St., Ann Arbor. Aug. 11-Dec. 30. 734-763-4186. Umma.umich.edu

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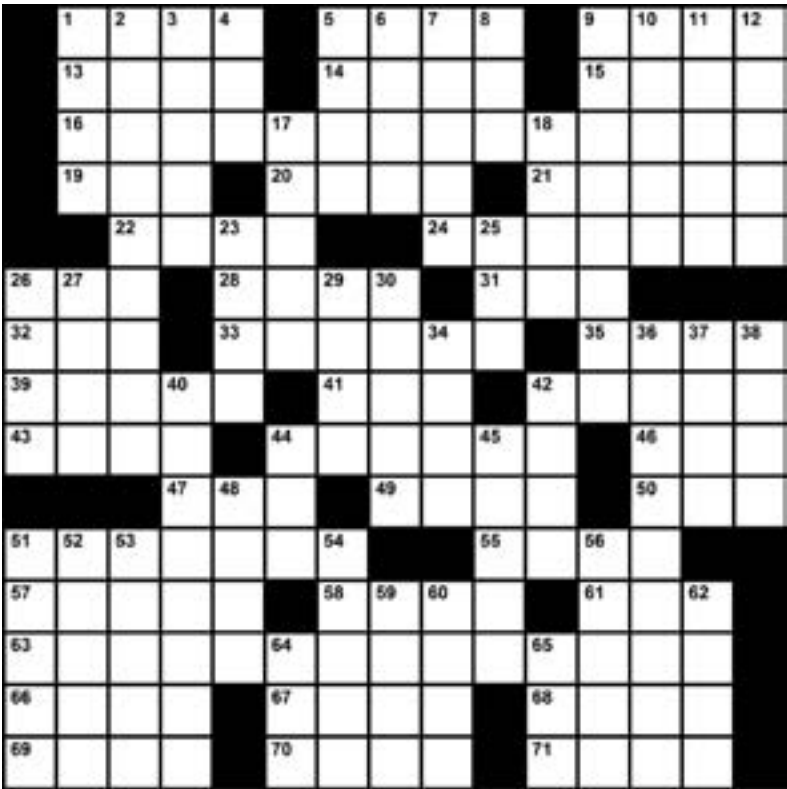
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Place: Affirmations, 290 W. 9 Mile Rd., Ferndale
Date: Thursday, Sept. 27
Time: 6:30 – 8:00 pm

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Across

1 Man, as a cruising goal
5 Homo leader?
9 Skelton's Kadiddlehopper
13 Pansy supporter
14 Willy Wonka creator
15 "___ want is a room somewhere ..."
16 Start of the title of a memoir by 2-Down
19 Where G. Keillor began
20 Bit from Michael Musto
21 Rolling Stones ballad
22 David ___ Pierce
24 Sentence enders
26 Bathhouse feature
28 Working hard
31 Jane Spahr's title
32 "Oscar wiled away the time," for example
33 Endora, to Samantha
35 Queens tennis stadium
39 Like Indians
41 More of the title
42 Tennessee city named for a foil
43 Not now
44 ABC's
46 "___ Pinafore"
47 Augsburg article
49 State, to Cocteau

50 Like Kopay, from MLB
51 Robert Goulet musical
55 "See ya!"
57 "Scary Movie" Cheri
58 Bump from office
61 Sound from a small pussy
63 End of the title
66 On top of that
67 Baltic Sea tributary
68 Personal-ad stats
69 British carbine
70 Where to bet your bottom dollar
71 Left to pirates

Down

1 Novel ID
2 With 36-Down, lesbian writer with Tourette's syndrome
3 "Rescue Me" star
4 Down wearer down under
5 Cut
6 Colette's coffee
7 Sucker
8 Conduit bend
9 Rio festival
10 Hispanic family org.
11 Spanish hero
12 Sound system hookups

17 Connect with
18 It may be hard or soft
23 Rhett Butler's final word
25 Go wrong
26 Petty quarrel
27 Instruction on a door
29 Culture Club's "___ Miracle"
30 Items on hand
34 Come out
36 See 2-Down
37 Where you can't go again
38 Toward the sunrise
40 Hans Christian of fairy tales
42 Vino venue
44 Newt, to Candace
45 Where to find lots of pricks
48 "East of Eden" director Kazan
51 Brown bubbly beverages
52 Not straight
53 Reagan's Attorney General Ed
54 Some like it hot
56 Kahlo's cohort
59 Brings into play
60 "Oh, what the hell!"
62 Toward the sunset
64 No to Rimbaud
65 Top off

Solution on pg. 28



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Horoscopes

Think ahead, Aquarius!

BY JACK FERTIG

Mercury in Libra makes people agreeable, but opposing Uranus and squaring Pluto he triggers a lot of arguments. Good! Raise the hard issues and resolve them.

ARIES (March 20 – April 19): Do not take conflicts with authority personally. Rash outbursts will only make things worse. It's hard not to react and dig your heels in, but you really need to be empathetic and strategic. Discuss your approach with a friend before you do anything!

TAURUS (April 20 – May 20): Domesticity suits you especially well now. Find ways to economize and you'll be amazed at how much you can save. That does "not" mean taking an advantage of a big sale unless it's for something you really need.

GEMINI (May 21– June 20): Whatever you invest time, money or energy into will explode. That would be bad for finances; great for creativity. You're sure to outrage someone (if not everyone). Stay clear on your values and priorities in order to use that power productively.

CANCER (June 21– July 22): Push your mind in new directions. It will take both instinct and logic to get through intellectual barriers. What traditions are holding you back? Can you make them a foundation rather than an obstacle? Don't sell yourself short. Take the challenge and push yourself!

LEO (July 23 – August 22): A slap up against your limitations could lead to doom and gloom. Better to use that as a key to empathy with the limits and frailties of others. That in turn could help you to transcend some limitations, though probably not the same ones.

VIRGO (August 23 – September 22): Worrying about money problems can undermine your relationship. Discussing them frankly and not dramatically with your partner can strengthen it. Wild crazy sex helps, too, but don't leave the serious issues under the rug.

LIBRA (September 23 – October 22): Dreams can come true, but not just by dreaming. Balance that fairy-dusted right side of your brain with some good solid logic, real world planning and a budget that you can stick to!

SCORPIO (October 23 – November 21): Stay calm through the upsets of work, commuting and the annoying fidgets of people nearby. The real problem is within you. So is the solution. Meditation and exercise can lift your mind from petty bothers to stronger purpose and foresight.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 – December 20): It is not your job to correct the idiocy of others. Read the story of Br'er Rabbit and the Tar Baby. Knowing you're right is enough. Or are you? Listen to new ideas that could open your way of thinking. Still, don't argue!

CAPRICORN (December 21 – January 19): Getting due credit may take some self-promotion. Don't push too hard, but don't be shy. For LGBT folks, lines between friends and family can be vague. Arguing with a friend can clarify the questions, but don't rush too quickly to an answer.

AQUARIUS (January 20 – February 18): Efforts at diplomatic outreach are likely to stumble over your now-more-than-usual impulsive frankness. With careful, rapid thought your efforts at wit can prove charming. Think ahead! If you can't avoid disputes with authority, at least avoid a full-frontal attack.

PISCES (February 19 – March 19): Loyalties to your group may clash with your ideals. An open mind and closed mouth make a powerful combination. The best way not to blurt out secrets is to keep the conversation on other topics.



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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.

Warren-Monday

7:30 p.m., Eastside Serenity Gay
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Solution to puzzle from page 26

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Deep Inside Hollywood

BY ROMEO SAN VICENTE

'James Franco's Cruising' is a thing that's really happening

If you're a film festival nerd or just really into arty-dirty stuff like BUTT Magazine, you probably saw or at least heard about "I Want Your Love," the indie movie from director Travis Mathews that featured actors having real sex on camera. If not, it's still making the festival rounds, so you have time to catch up before Mathews' latest effort makes waves. And it will make waves. He's teamed up with actor/art-star/overachiever James Franco for "James Franco's Cruising." What's it about? Well, when William Friedkin ("The Exorcist") directed the highly controversial "Cruising" in 1980 – in which Al Pacino played an undercover detective in the gay leather world – Warner Bros. made him cut about 40 minutes to satisfy the MPAA and receive an "R" rather than "X" rating. That footage, now destroyed, forms the basis for this film's plot. Not a remake, not a sequel, instead it will be a highly speculative exploration of what might have been. And it'll give Franco yet another opportunity to be conceptually gay-for-pay, just the way we like him.



James Franco. Photo: Columbia Pictures

upcoming kid-themed projects. Currently he's starring in a pair of franchise-builders, as a voice (alongside Anna Faris and Andy Samberg) in "Cloudy 2: Revenge of The Leftovers," the sequel to the animated hit "Cloudy With A Chance of Meatballs," and on the days when he actually has to go in to hair and makeup, he's shooting the inevitable "Smurfs 2" opposite a green screen that'll eventually be populated with more tiny blue creatures. It's a living. It's also a kid-friendly way to introduce the idea that dad isn't just the guy who persuades you to eat your vegetables; he's also a celebrity, which is why you've got your own room, a nanny and a swimming pool.

Wanda Sykes has 'Hot Flashes'

After the success of "Hot in Cleveland" – and what with the whole post-"Bridesmaids" film culture we're living in now, one where Hollywood has finally started waking up to the fact that half of the ticket-buying public is female – it was only a matter of time before women of a certain age got their shot at big screen ensemble comedy. Coming soon, then, is "The Hot Flashes" (this type of joke will get stale quickly, but for now we'll allow it) from director Susan Seidelman ("Desperately Seeking Susan") and starring a roster of big lady-names like Wanda Sykes, Brooke Shields and Virginia Madsen. The plot involves a Texas basketball team of former high school champs who take on a girls' state-champ team in a series of breast cancer prevention fundraising games. Camryn Manheim and Daryl Hannah round out the lineup. There'll probably be some men in it, too, but do you care who? Didn't think so. There's no official release date yet, but you can friend the movie on Facebook if you want, where it is unlikely it will annoy you with lots of political posts about the election.

Wachowskis ascend to 'Jupiter Ascending'

After years of frenzied speculation, Lana Wachowski – formerly known as Larry – finally spoke about her life in transition. She took the opportunity afforded her by the recent Toronto International Film Festival premiere of the Tom Hank-starring "Cloud Atlas" to finally address the topic (non-shocker: being famous can be a burden and she didn't want the press breathing down her neck about it) and did so with the same "Matrix"-level of coolness fans of the Wachowskis' work have come to expect. Don't expect to see her on the talk show circuit with a memoir or on "Dancing With The Stars" anytime soon (not that there's anything wrong with that, Chaz-o-philes) but do expect increased movie output from the famous filmmaking siblings. Coming in 2014 is the sci-fi thriller "Jupiter Ascending," starring the now-ubiquitous Channing Tatum and Mila Kunis. And when that memoir finally does arrive some day (in 2044 or whenever) you know it'll be jaw-dropping.

Romeo San Vicente is frequently the cause of dropped jaws. He can be reached care of this publication or at DeepInsideHollywood@qsyndicate.com.

Neil Patrick Harris making movies he can take his kids to

Even in liberal Hollywood, it's highly unlikely that an actor whose career involves playing a coarse womanizer on a popular sitcom and making incredibly raunchy hay of his off-screen sexuality in a series of marijuana-themed comedies would allow his preschool aged children to watch him on the job. That's why it's no big surprise to see Neil Patrick Harris take on back-to-back roles in

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THERE WAS "LA CAGE."**

GEORGE HAMILTON

CHRISTOPHER SIEBER



WINNER!
BEST MUSICAL
REVIVAL
2010 TONY
AWARD

LA CAGE AUX FOLLES

MUSIC & LYRICS BY
JERRY HERMAN

BOOK BY
HARVEY FIERSTEIN

BASED ON THE PLAY LA CAGE RE-TOLLED BY JEAN POIBET



FISHER THEATRE • SEPT. 25-OCT. 7

Shows: Tues.-Fri. 8PM; Sat. 2PM & 8PM; Sun. 2PM & 7:30PM

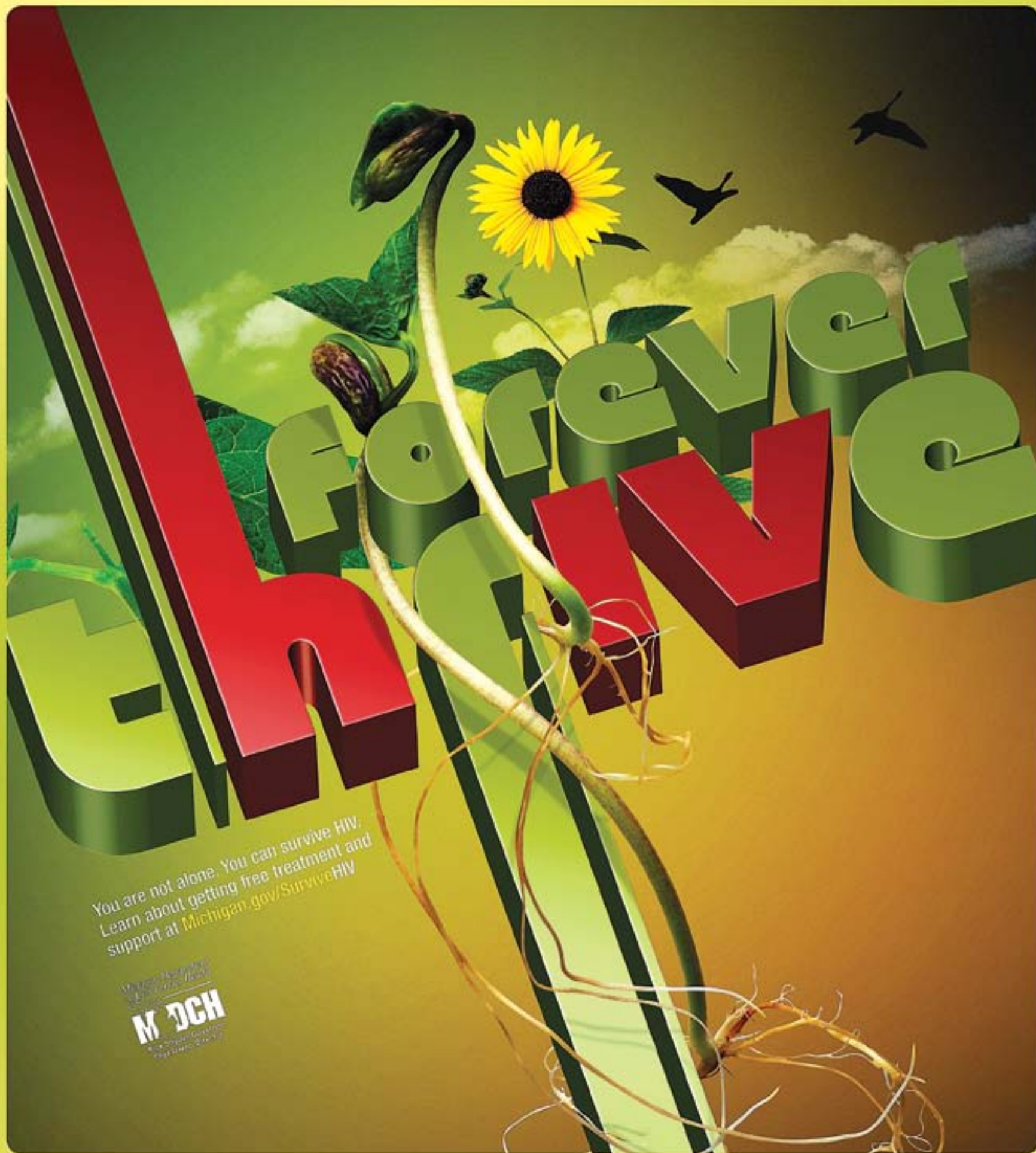
Tickets: Fisher Theatre box office, ticketmaster.com & 800-982-2787

Info: BroadwayInDetroit.com • 313-872-1000 • LaCage.com

Groups (10+): Groups@BroadwayInDetroit.com (subject line: LaCage) or 313-871-1132

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