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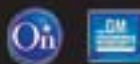
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BTL photo: Andrew Potter



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# People think they know the story of AIDS in America, but they don't.

– David France, director of "How to Survive a Plague." Pg. 26



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# Every Step Of The Way

## Alfredo Smith Works To Change Lives Of People With HIV/AIDS

### Leadership Project



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BY ANDREA POTEET

**DETROIT** - Anyone working for a nonprofit organization that fights against AIDS with information, outreach and support is obviously driven by a desire to do good and help those in need.

But while that is also the case for Alfredo Smith, who has worked with AIDS Partnership Michigan for five years, he admits that what initially drew him to his first AIDS-related volunteer stint, with Ruth Ellis Center's Young Brothers United, was something a bit more practical.

"I actually got into it because of the free condoms," he says with a chuckle. "I went to a party one summer after I graduated high school...and they had free condoms. I was like 'oh this is cool,' then I found out they had discussion groups every Sunday, where guys in my demographic came together and talked about everything from politics to relationships and from there it kind of grew."

Though he came for the freebies, he stayed for the one-on-one connections he was making with the 13-to-24-year old men the program targeted.

"That's where my passion kind of grew because I saw HIV prevention on another scale," he said. "It wasn't all about safer sex this, use-a-condom that, it was more about these are people with real-life issues. At the end of the day I learned that a lot of youth aren't worried about protecting themselves, they are worried about where they are going to sleep at night."

From there, he was offered a job as the small groups coordinator with Michigan AIDS Partnership's REC Boyz program, an acronym for "Real Enough to Change." Beginning in 2007 until the program closed its doors this year, he helped guide a group of about 50 young men as they designed outreach programs to teach their demographic about safe sex.

"It was really their program," he said. "They made the decisions and I was kind of like the rails on the side of the road to make sure they don't



BTL photo: Andrew Potter

go over the cliff."

After five years, the program was closed due to funding issues and Smith, 26, was brought on as an early intervention specialist at APM.

"When we had to close the doors down it was a real slap to the face for the community," Smith said. "These young men and women really relied on the services that the REC boys brought to the community so when it closed down it was like, 'well what do we do now?'"

He said though other empowerment groups met in the area, REC Boyz had provided a space for its members, who often didn't feel comfortable in other groups.

So he and other former REC Boyz took their group underground, meeting unofficially once a month to continue providing support to each other, discuss possible volunteer opportunities and continue outreach through APM, which helps to train the members to provide HIV testing.

"Even though the program isn't being funded anymore, we're still trying to keep the youth active and educated," he said.

He's juggling underground REC Boyz meetings with his class load at Wayne State University where he is pursuing a bachelor's in psychology (as a prerequisite to the master's he hopes to

earn in social work) and his full-time job as an early intervention specialist at APM. He also volunteers with Affirmations, where he worked for three years, eventually becoming assistant supervisor at their Oakland County Substance Abuse Prevention Team.

*"At the end of the day I learned that a lot of youth aren't worried about protecting themselves, they are worried about where they are going to sleep at night."*

At APM, he spends his time with clients who are newly diagnosed with HIV or have "fallen out of" medical care for the virus and need help addressing it. Once they are assigned to him, he talks them through the process and may also physically accompany them on any step of the way, from finding a doctor to going on a job interview.

"At the end of the day I know I've helped that person, I know I've educated someone, and I know I've made a new friend," Smith said. "That's what a lot of my clients are. They become like family."

And adding new members to his adjunct "family" is Smith's favorite part of his job.

"I get to interact with so many different types of people," Smith said. "I've always been interested in people who grew up differently than I did or thought differently than I did or had different values than I did."

Growing up for Smith was not without its challenges. Born in Detroit and raised by a single mother, he said he always felt different from the rest of his family.

"I grew up one of those smart cool kids or smart kids that try to be cool," he said. "I got good grades and tried to do my mom and grandmothers and family proud, but I always knew I was different than a lot of relatives around my age and I was always kind of treated different."

As he grew into a teenager he clashed with his stepfather and struggled with the religious dichotomies in his family.

"A lot of people in my family, at least at the time, had very traditional Christian values," he said. "It was kind of like 'you're sinning but don't

look at me.' I always felt like I had two sides of the family; the super Christians and the super thugs and I was somewhere in the middle."

He sought refuge in dancing, dreaming of touring with Janet Jackson as a backup dancer.

"Dancing was in my body," he said. "At family events I was the little kid break dancing in the middle of the floor. But when it came time for me to do modern dancing and things that were a little more feminine, it wasn't really supported by my mom. She was more into 'hey, here's a football, go out and play with the boys.' I wanted to play pitty-pat with the girls."

He said even if his mother did approve of sending him to dance classes, she couldn't afford it. But if he had his way, he'd make sure more children get the chance to pursue their creative dreams.

As a teen in an entrepreneurship camp, he dreamed up a nonprofit dance school for inner-city youth and hopes one day to make it a reality.

"There's so much talent in the city and the talent's kind of wasted because no one's paying attention to it," Smith said. "No one's giving kids the tools they need to go further with their talent."

Until then, he's keeping up his efforts to improve things for LGBT youth and adults in the Detroit area. After taking part recently in a weeklong activist "boot camp" in Washington, D.C. sponsored by Campaign to End AIDS, in which he joined a group protesting for transgender rights outside of the city's mayor's office, he said he came back with tools he hopes to use when he volunteers with Campaign to End Aids upcoming Detroit chapter.

"The big thing I learned was that when you have a group full of people with different minds and different backgrounds, you can really make some things happen," he said.

The trip also brought on realizations about Detroit for Smith.

"It was kind of bittersweet relief to know that the issues I see everyday in my city are not just in my city," he said. "We get so much flack here in Detroit because of this reputation of being this violent or decayed city... in an odd way it relieves me to know that the problems I'm seeing are not just here."

And as for his family problems, those got better after he came out to his family in 2008. He said he wrote his mother a long letter describing how she sometimes made him feel and he said their relationship has improved greatly. He said he feels more at home at family functions and his mother frequently tells him how proud she is of him and the work he's done.

"The older she got and the older I got she realized whoever I'm sleeping with at night, I'm still doing really good work and helping people and living a good life," he said. "Overall that's what makes her proud."

# Federal Funding Cuts Hamper HIV Prevention Efforts In Michigan

BY TODD A. HEYWOOD

LANSING – Leaders of state AIDS service organizations say federal funding cuts to HIV prevention are creating obstacles to addressing the epidemic in Michigan.

In July 2011, the Michigan Department of Community Health told organizations that by 2014, the state would have to shoulder the impact of a 33 percent decrease in federal prevention funds.

In fiscal year 2011, MDCH received \$7.6 million in federal cash, but in 2012, it received just under \$6.3 million. That's a 17 percent cut to federal funding in core HIV prevention services grants.

Core HIV prevention services include testing, outreach, and partner notification programs.

The reductions led the state to reduce contract lengths from annual to three month contracts, MDCH says.

"MDCH did not receive the full award for fiscal year 2011 from the federal level and also received notification of significant reductions in the federal HIV prevention funding for 2012," explained Angela Minicucci, spokesperson for MDCH. The statement was made in an email. "As a result of these unknowns and to prevent interruption of services, MDCH entered into a three month contract for prevention services Oct. 1, 2011. Contracts were extended until March 31, 2012 and once Michigan's CDC prevention allocation was received, contracts were extended and amended through Sept. 30, 2012."

A result of this move, AIDS service organizations say they have been hampered in their efforts.

"As Barb (Murray of AIDS Partnership Michigan) indicated it is very problematic not only when you are endeavoring to make strategic plans for the agency not only in terms of programming, but additionally, as you are considering staffing situations," said Jake Distel, executive director of the Lansing Area AIDS Network. "It is very difficult to hire permanent staff when you are uncertain of what the fiscal future might hold. This same level of uncertainty does little for the morale of an agency or as an agency is endeavoring to recruit new hires."

Stevi Atkins, executive director of Wellness AIDS Services in Flint, concurred with both Murray and Distel on the impact of the funding scheme on operations.

Adding to the financial woes, AIDS agency directors say is the high turnover of staff from the state's HIV/AIDS Prevention and Intervention Section.

MDCH confirms that 10 staff members have left the agency in the last two years, with eight of those staff exiting in the last year. Directors

**“ 20 percent of Americans living with HIV are unaware they have the virus. That group is significantly more likely to transmit the virus according to various studies. This transmission issue is in part due to the uncontrolled viral activity in people without treatment. ”**

express concern about the loss of institutional memory at the exodus, but MDCH dismisses those concerns.

"As with any departure, institutional knowledge can be lost but MDCH has continued to provide prevention services and grants," said Minicucci in an email to Between The Lines.

The funding cuts and short-term contracts are not the only issues hampering HIV prevention efforts. Federal funding mandates that 75 percent of Michigan's prevention funding be spent on HIV prevention efforts for those living with HIV, and the remaining for reaching out to risk groups and general community testing.

Prevention for people who have tested positive for HIV specifically target them with tools to live with the virus, adhere to medication protocols and help prevent transmission of their virus.

However, 20 percent of Americans living with HIV are unaware they have the virus. That group is significantly more likely to transmit the virus according to various studies. This transmission issue is in part due to the uncontrolled viral activity in people without treatment. Recent studies have found that an undetectable viral load, or viral suppression, achieved through the use of anti-retroviral medications reduces transmission of HIV by 96 percent.

These findings have driven the federal government to prioritize the use of the medications, which continue to have significant side effects, as "prevention." That prevention method is called "treatment as prevention," and in at least one situation federal officials have called it "treatment is prevention." The focus on medications has led to increase funding of drug assistance programs, and funding decreases in effective prevention programs such as teaching safer sex techniques to high-risk populations and other techniques that had been funded previously.

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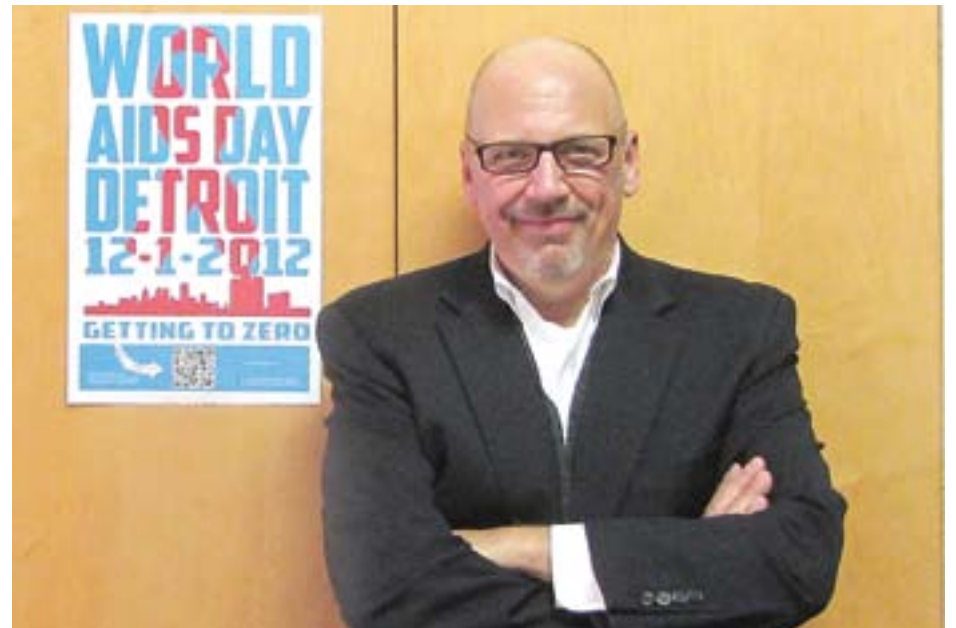
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Detroit Department of Health and Wellness, the director of the HIV/AIDS program, Patrick Yankee. BTL photo: Crystal Proxmire

## Tackling AIDS In Detroit

### Patrick Yankee Takes Over Area's AIDS Budget

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

**DETROIT** - Sitting in an office that once housed tuberculosis and mental patients in the Herman Kiefer Health Complex that now serves as the headquarters for the Detroit Department of Health and Wellness, the director of the HIV/AIDS program, Patrick Yankee, looks out at crumbling buildings in the foreground of a skyline that is slowly gaining back its shine, and he sees his next frontier.

In the city of Detroit there are 5,579 known cases of HIV or AIDS, and an estimated 7,260. That's about a third of the known cases statewide, just in one city. Yankee's target area is six counties; Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, St. Clare, Lapeer and Monroe, with a total of 9,708 known cases and an estimated 12,630. His goal is to get those numbers down.

"Being here in Detroit means I can focus on a specific area and put all my effort toward that," he said. "I live in this area, and I thought I can contribute to the efforts here." His full title is Director of the Southeastern Michigan Health Association in Association with Detroit Department of Health and Wellness Promotion HIV/AIDS Program. And his main responsibility is working with area organizations to divvy up federal program money and to make sure that progress is being made.

His appointment is unique in that this is the first time a gay person has taken on the task. He's also the first male.

One of his big concerns is that the largest percentage of infections continues to be in the gay community. MSMs (Men who have Sex with Men) make up 53 percent of all reported cases of HIV in Detroit according to the eHARS (enhanced HIV/AIDS Reporting System). "We look at how we can reduce infections, and what strategies we can use to prevent the most

infections from occurring," he said.

After MSMs, heterosexual categories make up 17 percent of reported cases, with females making up 82 percent of this group. Injection drug users are 15 percent, though there is overlap between injection drug users and people who fall into other categories as well.

The Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program is the main vehicle for funding, and it's those dollars that Yankee and his office are responsible for dispersing and tracking. With just \$9 million to allocate between about 25 agencies, there are tough decisions to be made. Ryan White provides "medical care, treatment and medications along with support services to people living with HIV/AIDS who are unable to access treatment and care from other sources." Part A provides funding to major cities, like Detroit. Part B is for state grants, including the funding of the state AIDS Drug Assistance Programs. Part C focuses on early intervention and primary care. Part D focuses on comprehensive care and research for children, youth, women and families. And Part F focuses on special projects like dental reimbursement and educational training centers.

With the money allocated for the greater Detroit area, 75 percent must go for medical services and 25 percent must go for support and prevention.

In addition to the \$9 million from Ryan White, Yankee also oversees funding for HOPWA, Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS.

Having a limited number of funds and multiple service organizations can be a challenge, especially when there are multiple agencies that do similar things. "Unfortunately there is a lot of fatigue," Yankee said. "Fatigue in not having enough resources. Nonprofits in general are expected to perform miracles with very little.

See Tackling AIDS, page 7

# Some Michigan Legislators Work To Deny Foster Children Loving Homes

Extremists in the Michigan House of Representatives have scheduled a hearing on Nov. 27 in the House Committee on Families, Children, and Seniors for House Bills 5763 and 5764, which would allow adoption agencies the ability to deny an adoption placement based on that agency's moral or religious beliefs. However, the bills acknowledge that denying a couple based on religious or moral convictions does not imply "that the proposed adoption is not in the best interests of the adoptee." Additionally, the bills protect public funding for agencies choosing to discriminate.

"Giving any government-funded agency a license to discriminate is

immoral and unethical. With 14,000 children in Michigan seeking a safe home to prosper in, our focus should be on cultivating stable environments to raise these children, and not turning away capable and willing families eager to love and support a child in need. The strength of one's convictions alone is not justification in and of itself for any action - it is a despicable excuse for damaging another human being," said Emily Dievendorf, director of policy for Equality Michigan.

Dievendorf added, "the fact that the proposed bills specifically state that this biased filter does not imply the couple are unfit to adopt shows

this is merely providing a license to discriminate based on an unlimited array of arbitrary criteria and not actually an attempt to protect children. The primary sponsor, Representative Kenneth Kurtz (R-Coldwater), is wasting our money on bills which do nothing to help the 14,000 children residing in foster care in Michigan. Rather than addressing that actual problem, they are fabricating a new one by offering this vile solution."

Equality Michigan is calling on fair minded citizens in state government to stand up and say no to this latest attempt to harm Michigan's children.

Visit [action.equalitymi.org](http://action.equalitymi.org) to find out how you can take action immediately.

## ► Tackling AIDS

Continued from p. 6

There's also fatigue because we've been forced into competition. It's not intentional, but it is a system that prevents cooperation."

Yankee's vision is to bring organizations together and look for ways to bring costs down, and also for ways to make sure that funding is reaching the right people. "We've got all this data, and we've been studying zip codes to find out very specifically who we need to reach out to. We need to streamline services and bring unity as much as possible. I know the passion and brains and talent in our community are there to fix

this...I want to turn the page with service providers to open dialogue and use data to close gaps."

One way to reduce the prevalence of HIV/AIDS is to catch infections early and get people into treatment. "Our goal is to link a newly diagnosed person to get medical care within 90 days," he said. "There is a big interest in getting people to care. You do not need insurance to be seen by a doctor. Treatment for people with HIV is completely covered for many people if their income is \$45,000 a year or less." There are multiple other programs that can help with costs of medicine and care.

Based on laboratory reporting, Yankee can estimate that of the 9,708 patients in the six counties, as many as 3,000 have not had a medical visit in the last year. While there is an obvious concern for the health of those individuals, early treatment has an additional benefit. "When someone is in treatment, the amount of the virus in their blood is lower, and the risk of transmission

is lower too. Getting people into treatment means they are less likely to infect other people."

Stopping the spread through treating the disease is one of the reasons why 75 percent of Ryan White funding goes towards medical care. It's also why Yankee

**“We need to streamline services and bring unity as much as possible. I know the passion and brains and talent in our community are there to fix this.”**

hopes to do more targeted efforts to reach people who are infected, both by zip code and by reaching out more in the gay community.

One barrier to this, however, is economic. "This is a disease of poverty," Yankee said. "When someone has money problems, housing problems, mental health issues, not having enough to eat, getting treatment may be lower on their list of priorities. That's why we need to work well with each other, and other agencies that provide services to people in need in general. Our goal is to reduce that out of care number, so we need to be able to connect people to whatever support they need."

"People with HIV and AIDS are still on the outside looking in. We have awesome medical care in this community. My concern is that people don't find their way there."

Yankee started with the Detroit Health Department in late August, but has spent his life doing HIV/AIDS work, going back to the beginning of the epidemic. "I started

out as a volunteer for HARC (HIV/AIDS Resource Center) in 1985/86 and I was on the board of Wellness Huron Valley. All we did in the early days was train volunteers. To start we had more volunteers than cases, but we knew the epidemic was coming and we just tried to learn all we could and reach out to as many people as possible."

When he was 23 years old his friends were getting sick, and dying quickly. "My oldest sister and dear friend died of brain cancer," Yankee said. "She was the first person I came out to when I was 14. She said 'It's good, it's fine.' She held a special place for me and I feel like I owe her. I came home from the funeral and turned the key and I heard the phone ringing inside. A close friend's partner called and said if you want to see them again you need to get to the hospital. He was dead less than a week later. So I quit my job and went to the Wellness network. I worked two part time jobs just so I could volunteer there." In 1990 he became the first director of HARC, a position he held for about 10 years, and has spent most of the past ten years at the State Health Department.

He said that having a small geographic area and a concentrated number of cases is helping him maintain his passion for AIDS work. "I've always worked hard, but here I feel creative again."

For more information about the Detroit Department of Health and Wellness Promotion HIV/AIDS program visit their website at <http://www.detroitmi.gov/DepartmentsandAgencies/DepartmentofHealthWellnessPromotion/Programs/HIVAIDS.aspx>.



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NATIONAL GAY  
NEWSPAPER GUILD  
Nothing average about it

# It's About More Than The Red Ribbon



## Viewpoint

OPINION BY TODD HEYWOOD

It's World AIDS Day. On this day, we join together as a community to remember the losses, celebrate the successes and support those living with the virus.

But this year we find ourselves at a truly momentous point in history. What we do about HIV in the next year will define the outcome of the epidemic in Michigan and the U.S. for years to come. We can make this about ending this dreadful epidemic, challenging arcane and discriminatory laws and supporting our brothers and sisters who are infected, affected and effected by the epidemic, or we can turn the page on the calendar and pretend like HIV is nothing to worry about until next year on Dec. 1.

To reach the historic challenges of putting an end to new HIV infections, we here at Between The Lines ask you to post the red ribbon on your Facebook page and other social media sites – but leave them up for the next month. This, however, is the first step in a series of tangible actions we need you to take to help end the epidemic as we know it. Here are our ideas, and our reasoning:

– **Donate to your local AIDS service organization.** We know, we know. Everyone wants money at this time of the year. But the reality is that ASOs in Michigan have been forced to do more with less for years and by the end of 2013, federal funding for prevention services will be reduced by 33 percent. And that's before any decisions have been made on the looming fiscal cliff. Our ASOs need your financial support to provide prevention services, support services for those living with HIV and to be a voice for HIV in the community. So, make a donation. Not just for some special event like AIDS Walk, either. Agree to make a monthly donation. Maybe it's \$5 a month, maybe it's \$100 a month. It doesn't matter how much, every penny literally helps to save lives.

– **Start talking about HIV.** Seems silly to have to tell a community where 1 in 5 gay and bisexual men is infected with the virus - and 44 percent of those who are infected didn't know it until the study was done in 2010 - to talk about HIV; but the facts are sobering. The epidemic in Michigan, as it is nationally, is striking our youth and particularly our youth of color. Young gay and bisexual men are coming out younger, but facing an educational environment which does not provide basic HIV education that is culturally appropriate for LGBT youth. That means we have

Getting to zero new infections is going to take all of us. The options on how to act are myriad, but there is only one you. How are *you* going to help us get to zero?

to have those conversations. And we have to do it in a sex positive way. Let's get real, gay and bi men are barebacking. It's happening. There are whole websites dedicated to it. The question is, why is it a taboo subject? Why aren't we talking about the reason gay and bi men are barebacking? Let's have that conversation. For real, and in earnest.

– **Get tested.** One in five gay and bisexual men is positive. Nearly half them don't know it. We know that those who are positive, but don't know it, are more likely to transmit their virus to others. We also know that being diagnosed early leads to healthier long term outcomes for people living with the virus and a decrease in infectiousness. That's not pie in sky thinking, those are scientific facts. Testing is not just a personal responsibility, it is a community obligation.

– **Stop the stigma.** We've all seen it. The personal ads that read "Clean, U B 2." The writer is not talking about hygiene, they are talking about HIV. It's a code. It's demoralizing and offensive and it is time to end it. We have run whole campaigns to stop people from saying "That's so gay" now it is time for us to remind ourselves that our own language about ourselves is unnecessarily hurtful and damaging. If you expect a person to

disclose they are HIV-positive, then you had also better respond with common decency. The adage, treat others as you would have them treat you applies. People living with HIV have the right to be intimate, to love another, and we as a community burdened with this epidemic have an obligation to support that right.

– **Take action.** Call your doctor and ask if they are asking everyone 13-64 to be tested for HIV. If they aren't ask them why. Call your local health department and ask them if access to pre- and post-exposure prophylaxis is available in your community and where. If it's not, ask why. Call your law maker and ask them to repeal arcane HIV laws that criminalize people living with HIV. Call your school board and demand to sit on the reproductive health committee and be a voice for rational LGBT sensitive reproductive health education. Donate two hours a week to distribute condoms for your local AIDS service organization. Offer to take friends for free testing anytime they want to go. Become a certified testing counselor.

Getting to zero new infections is going to take all of us. The options on how to act are myriad, but there is only one you. How are *you* going to help us get to zero?





# Falling Leaves To Count



## Parting Glances

OPINION BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

I ate a hearty Thanksgiving dinner with friends - a gay senior, a working lesbian mom, a transgender newbie, a straight advocate for women's rights, an outspoken teacher for bullied students.

We traveled shortly after turkey time by way of our collective Memory Lanes to the legendary Well of Loneliness that, contrary to skeptic's nay say, televangelist baseless rumor, does exist.

The Well of Loneliness itself was first mentioned by author Radclyffe Hall as a place of pilgrimage for outcasts, marginals, those shunned by the busy, hurly burly of self-righteous know-it-alls.

It was a courageous thing for Radclyffe Hall to do decades ago. God knows the censuring by clergy, press, and snooty readers she endured for mentioning the Well's existence and her discovery visit. (My own private thanks to you Radclyffe for such courage. I suppose being British and just a trifle butch helped.)

If truth be known, this place of pilgrimage has been visited over the years by many, many more persons than those who care to admit their own private visit or visits of short, long, heart-rending duration.

For those dependent upon GPS, let us, as a reader service, say at the onset, there are no satellite-electronic guidelines. (A search for the appropriate sounding voice to say, "Take a thoughtful right turn for a quarter mile, a reflective left turn three-quarters afterward," hasn't been successful. What's more: there have been no volunteer voices, not for love or money.)

It was almost dark when we friends arrived at the Forest of Memory surrounding the Well of Loneliness. It gets dark so early these days (and for some, the autumn or winter of life). It was light-blue ink dark at six. We skipped dessert to make it before total black curtained all.

As might be expected, the trees of the Forest of Memory had mostly shed. The ground surrounding the fabled Well of Loneliness was covered. There were thousands upon thousands of vibrant, heart-shaped leaves, of many, many hues of red, orange, yellow, gold.

It was a singular moment of autumnal beauty; and none of our small band wanted to break the sense of awed reverence we shared by speaking. We simply looked to each other, nodded, joined hands. How long we stood in silence, none of us knew.

As we stood, heads bowed, around the Well of Loneliness on Thanksgiving Day, we shared a moment of intuition. Each began to gather leaves and drop them carefully into the Well. In the dwindling light we also saw that each leaf bore a name, many etched in multitudes of languages.

We gathered gold leaves for AIDS losses. We gathered orange leaves for gay and lesbian victims of hate crimes. We gathered red leaves for transgender persons murdered, raped, assaulted.

We gathered yellow leaves for women victimized by husbands, politicians, religious fanatics. Early leaves for helpless bullied kids.

And once it became too totally dark we left the Well of Loneliness, sadly aware that next year there would be more leaves to gather, more names to remember, more memories to replenish and fuel the Well of Loneliness. Leaves . . .

. . . countless as the shining stars above.

Charles@pridesource.com

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# Caught In The Budget Battle

## How The 'Fiscal Showdown' Impacts LGBT Americans

BTL STAFF

**WASHINGTON, DC** - As fiscal cliff deliberations intensify, the Center for American Progress, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, and a coalition of 23 other national LGBT organizations released "Caught in the Budget Battle: How the 'Fiscal Showdown' Impacts Gay and Transgender Americans." This new report details the negative effects that sequestration would have on LGBT Americans in areas such as employment, health, housing, higher education and safety.

"If Congress fails to strike a deal before the end of the year, all Americans will suffer, including those that are LGBT," said Jeff Krehely, vice president of CAP's LGBT Research and Communications Project. "Sequestration in particular would inflict significant harm by requiring wholesale cuts to programs that are critical to the health, wellness and livelihood of LGBT people and their families. We cannot afford to let that happen."

As the report details, many federal programs, both directly and indirectly, function to support and serve the LGBT population. If across-the-board budget cuts go into effect, this community will experience a host of negative outcomes as a result of sequestration, including:

- Threats to the employment security of LGBT workers because federal agencies would have fewer resources to investigate claims of employment discrimination
- Lower quality health care for LGBT families because of reduced programmatic funding used to address their health care needs
- Absence of critical resources from government agencies currently working to combat bullying and school violence against LGBT youth
- Limited ability of the federal government to address the high rates of homelessness among LGBT youth
- Limited governmental capacity to prevent discrimination in housing against LGBT renters, tenants and potential homeowners
- Hampered governmental efforts to prevent violent crime against LGBT people through enforcement of hate crimes legislation

"Lives are literally on the line if Congress lets our country tumble off this cliff. LGBT people and our families - like so many families - are already struggling in this recovering economy, and draconian budget cuts will only make things worse," said Rea Carey, executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. "This critical report spotlights just how severe the consequences will be for LGBT people - from tackling LGBT youth homelessness and bullying in the schools, to fighting discrimination, to enforcing hate crimes laws, to ensuring proper health care for all. Our elected leaders must act responsibly and not put lives in harm's way."

*For the full list of coalition members, which includes more than 20 national LGBT organizations, please see the full report see [www.thetaskforce.org/reports\\_and\\_research/budget\\_battle\\_2012](http://www.thetaskforce.org/reports_and_research/budget_battle_2012).*

# Keisling Calls For Passionate Action Against Violence

## National Trans Leader Inspirational At EMU

BY JEROME STUART NICHOLS

**YPSILANTI** - Trans people don't always have a lot to celebrate. Besides the fact that the odds are stacked against them financially, socially and judicially, they're also much more likely to be victims of violence. This is why each year on Nov. 20, we take a bit of time out to celebrate and recognize those who have lost their lives due to transphobic violence.

To recognize this year's Transgender Day of Remembrance, Eastern Michigan University's LGBT Resource Center hosted prominent trans activist Mara Keisling. As she's known to do, the towering Michelle Obama fangirl brought her patent-pending sense of humor and charm to the discussion. Her speech focused on themes of transgender rights and issues, racism in the trans community and offered tips on how to be a trans ally. It was an inspiring night capped by a lively Q and A and a reflective candlelight vigil.

Although mostly unknown to people outside the movement, Keisling is the founding executive director of the National Center for Transgender Equality and is one of the most knowledgeable people on the topic of trans issues, making it an easy decision to invite her to share her message and perspective from a national level.

"EMU is really lucky to have her here, especially on the eve of TDoR," EMU LGBTRC Program Coordinator Mary Larkin said. "Just being able to have such an intimate conversation with her I think is really beneficial to our students. I know a lot of the students were really excited about that happening. My Facebook status today says, 'play it cool today' because I feel a little excited but I want to be professional."

The goal of the event was to remember and celebrate, but also to inform. Since people spanning the gender spectrum were in attendance, this presented a great opportunity to spread knowledge and bridge gaps.

In the fight for trans equality, it is important to connect trans and to other people. Often, it's a lack of knowledge that proves to be a barrier to understanding. Recently, NCTE and the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force quantified these issues and the results are disheartening. Trans people have an unemployment rate twice the national average, are four times more likely to live on less than \$10,000 a year and 91 percent of them have faced difficulties in their work place because of



Mara Keisling addressing EMU students as part of Transgender Day of Remembrance events. BTL photo: Jerome Stuart Nichols

their gender identity.

Then there's the issue of health care.

"We saw 20 percent of people in our sample say that they had been refused care from a healthcare provider because they're trans," Keisling said. "We once got a call from a nursing student in Florida who had been in a class on emergency room care. They were covering the difference between treating men and women in emergency rooms. She was a trans ally and said, 'what about transgendered people?' The teacher said, 'when I was in New York City, we would just let those people die.'"

Since these socioeconomic issues are inextricably linked, solving one requires progress on another. This makes it difficult to confront the main issue at hand on TDoR; violence.

"The folks who are murdered - about one a month in the United States - are never like me. They're never middle class, middle-aged, white trans people," Keisling said. "They're almost always young, almost always women, almost always people of color, often immigrants, often sex workers and almost always low income because if you're any of those things, you're much more susceptible to violence."

"You aren't really killed just because you're trans - although it may have been transphobia that triggered it. There's also socioeconomic implications and education implications. So, we need to fix all of those things. We need to make it so that people don't have to live in the conditions that foster that kind of violence."

This compounding of issues also makes

attacking the racism within the trans community challenging.

"Sure, they're facing transphobia. But for a lot of folks the racism they have to deal with is worse. We really take that seriously and I always talk about racism when I speak," said Keisling.

For Keisling, it's not about making sure that everyone joins in the fight to stop the inequalities that trans people face. It's about doing something about the issues that someone is passionate about.

"I want the folks who are in the audience to maybe get inspired to do something," she said. "I think all people, including students, are sometimes for things or against things and don't do anything about it. I want people to act, but I don't want them to do what I want them to do. I want them to do what they want to do. But really do it."

Once Keisling's speech was over the lights were snuffed and candles were lit. In the darkness, there was a sense of camaraderie that filled the space. As the names of the victims were read, many people were moved to tears. The amber cast of the candlelight outlined hands grasped, giving strength in a touching and emotionally evocative moment.

"This is my first Transgendered Day of Remembrance. I knew it was going to be really emotional," participant Jessie Kane said. "What really got to me was the 'unknowns.' That's somebody's child, parent, lover, friend. Just all those people that died to this senseless ignorance. It's important to remember."

# The Positives And The Negatives: Home HIV Test Now Available

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

As a doctor, it can be hard telling a patient they are HIV positive. When a person goes in for an HIV test at a clinic, like the Be Well Clinic in Berkley, they meet with a trained consultant who will help prepare them for the news. But still, for some people the news hits hard.

"It's not like a pregnancy test. No one is happy with a positive test result," said Dr. Paul Benson, who has been testing people for over 20 years.

"Sometimes the first words out of their mouth are 'well, I deserve this,'" Dr. Benson said. "I hear this so much more than I expected. 'I deserve it because I slept with so-and-so. I deserve it because I'm gay. I deserve it because God is punishing me.'"

Shock and hopelessness are common reactions. "Populations with low self-esteem, drug users, people who have unsafe sex, think 'well, I may not live another year so why bother changing anything?'"

Dr. Benson and his staff are trained to focus on the patient's needs in that critical moment when they may not know what a positive test result could mean for them. "We are passionate providers and we make sure that people leave our office with a plan they are comfortable with. We set appointments for follow up care and counseling," Benson said. "We let them know that a positive result is manageable if they begin treatment early." He said they look for signs of depression, and they follow up with people who may be avoiding care.

"The strategy is to get people who are positive into treatment. It gives them a higher life expectancy and it significantly reduces the risk of spreading it."

To Dr. Benson and others in the realm of HIV expertise, the lack of support and follow up is what makes an HIV home test problematic.

OraQuick® is the first FDA-approved oral swab in-home test for HIV-1 and HIV-

2. It's an oral swab test that doesn't require blood and gives a result after 20 minutes. It costs about \$40 and is available at major pharmacies. The test allows people to test at their convenience, in the privacy of their own home.

The test is particularly attractive to those who may be deterred by the idea of going to a clinic, or who are in rural areas where they may not have access to free testing or compassionate care.

The marketing also suggests that a home test can be used by couples before being intimate, and the New York Times is reporting that some are already using it

## The harshest reality of using the test to screen partners is the fact that being HIV free does not mean being STD free.

to screen prospective bar pick ups. "There are reasons to think that screening might make a difference. Studies have found that a significant minority of people who are H.I.V. positive either lie about their status or keep it secret, infecting unsuspecting partners," the article states. It looked at situations where one might use it to pre-screen partners, and situations where it might fail. For example, if someone were unwilling to wear a condom, they might also be unwilling to take a test. There is concern over what happens if someone gets a positive test result while in the company of someone they may not know very well. How will they react?

The harshest reality of using the test to screen partners is the fact that being HIV free does not mean being STD free. Unprotected sex with a stranger has many risks beyond HIV. Additionally, there is a window of time that someone could be infected but not have enough antibodies to test positive.

Terry Ryan of Michigan AIDS Coalition is not thrilled with the tests either.

"The CDC has tried a home test kit before as the 'end all/be all' solution to

this epidemic, so we will see if this one develops any more popularity than the last one," Ryan said. "Cost is another factor. So many inner city clients can't afford to buy one. Also home test kits do not replace the need for outreach efforts to educate clients they might be at risk on the first place. Frankly, the CDC has kept on trying to re-event the wheel, hoping to reach the hard core infected populations. The people who may use this test are likely gay white men with some financial means."

Like Dr. Benson, Ryan's biggest concern was for the people taking a test without an immediate support system in place. "I

am concerned about lack of face to face psycho/social support... We had a young client at MAC last week with a positive test who immediately wanted to commit suicide."

The OraQuick website does not list any emotional support resources or nationally recognized resources on their FAQ's page section about HIV resources. <http://www.oraquick.com/FAQs>. It does however have well-thought-out questions like, "What happens if my pet accidentally drank the testing fluid from the test tube What should I do?," "What should I do if I (or my child, friend, or partner) accidentally ate the test stick device?" and "I have discovered a 'cure' for HIV/AIDS. Who can I talk to?"

There is a 24/7 customer support hotline that is included with the test and on the OraQuick website. Find out more at [www.oraquick.com](http://www.oraquick.com).

*For information on local agencies that do free HIV testing along with support, check out: Michigan AIDS Coalition at <http://michiganaidcoalition.org>, and AIDS Partnership Michigan at [www.aidspartnership.org](http://www.aidspartnership.org).*

# Survey Says: Gay Marriage Is Good

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

Every year, Michigan State University conducts a "State of the State" survey systematically tracking the political mood of Michiganders on a variety of subjects, including gay marriage.

The survey asked 1018 people statewide about their views, categorizing them by region and political affiliation. The State of the State found that 56 percent of the states residents support gay marriage while 39 percent oppose it. Two years ago, 48 percent supported gay marriage and 51 percent were opposed.

"Support for gay marriage has increased in recent years, in Michigan and across the country," said Charles Ballard, MSU economics professor and director of the State of the State Survey.

Results varied among different groups:

– Among those with at least some college education, 63 percent favored gay marriage, while it was favored by only 26 percent of those who had never been to college.

– About 71 percent of those with household income over \$100,000 favored gay marriage, compared with only 26 percent of those with household income below \$20,000. Since income is strongly influenced by education, Ballard said, it is not surprising that there are major differences among Michigan residents of different income levels.

– Some 57 percent of whites favored gay marriage, whereas only 30 percent of blacks did so.

– Gay marriage was favored by 58 percent of Catholics, 48 percent of Protestants and 78 percent of those with no religious preference.

"Although a majority of Michigan residents favored gay marriage in this survey," Ballard said, "there remain substantial differences among different groups."

Nationwide the tide is also changing. Maine, Maryland and Washington recently voted to allow same-gender marriage, making them the first states to approve gay marriage by a direct vote of the people. They now join Connecticut, Iowa, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Vermont and the District of Columbia.

Before getting too excited about the results though, Michigan voters must consider the steps required to secure gay marriage here. Equality Michigan Policy Director Emily Dievendorf said, "In Michigan our first hurdle to achieving marriage equality is our constitutional ban against marriage equality. This means we have demolition work to do before we can lunge forward to pass marriage equality, win the stability for all Michigan families that Michiganders are now freely and overwhelmingly saying they believe should be allowed to exist, catch up with the progress being made elsewhere in the nation, and join the modern age. This will take a committed effort and a few more years of patience to change hearts and minds and to build up the resources necessary to either put equality back on the ballot and/or challenge the ban in the courts."

The State of the State survey also had other surprising results. For example when asked whether they were better off or worse off than one year before, Michigan residents gave the highest ratings since the summer of 2002. Economically 41.7 percent said they are better off than they were last year and 25.6 percent said they stayed the same.

The survey also broke down data by region. In the Upper Peninsula alone, 61.9 percent said that President Obama was doing "excellent" or "good," whereas only 21.8 percent said that about Governor Snyder.

To learn more about the State of the State survey, visit <http://ippsr.msu.edu/soss/>.

## Raising Money For Foster Kids While Holiday Shopping

From Dec. 1 through Dec. 6, a percentage of Barnes and Noble sales – both in-store and online – will be contributed to Play It Forward, a non-profit program that provides music lessons and instruments to children and teens in the foster care system.

Play It Forward is a program of For The Seventh Generation, operating under the guidance of Program Chair Sonya Mastick, owner of The Lesson Rooms in Royal Oak. It has been developed to promote

and support the basic concept that children need not only survive, but to thrive. Music and musical instruction can open the door to creativity, personal growth and most importantly, hope.

How it works: In-store bookfair, Dec. 1 only. Online bookfair from Dec. 1-6. During this time, supporters can use the Bookfair ID number 10938850 at any Barnes and Noble location or simply log onto [bn.com/bookfairs](http://bn.com/bookfairs) to shop. Choose from Barnes

and Noble's amazing inventory of books, music, toys & games, movies, gifts, and more and Barnes and Noble will give "cash back" or "gift cards" to Play It Forward! If you shop Dec. 1 at the Grosse Pointe location you will not need the bookfair ID, simply tell the cashier that you are shopping for PIF and they will get credit.

PIF bookfair gets credit for purchases when supporters enter the bookfair ID on the payment page during checkout.

# Trade Union of Russian Citizens

Do not fuck with Madonna. Not many court opinions can be summarized in five words, but when it comes to a favorable ruling for Madonna after a right-wing group in Russia sued her for not hating gay people, I think this about does it.

If you aren't familiar with the case, in August an anti-gay and pro-Kremlin group calling itself the Trade Union of Russian Citizens sued Madonna for over \$10 million for daring to speak in favor of gay rights during a St. Petersburg concert.

Madonna and her band waved rainbow flags on stage and handed out pink bracelets, t-shirts, and rainbow banners reading "No Fear" to the crowd.

Now, if you know anything about Madonna you'll notice that this sounds pretty tame. What's the big deal? Is being pro-gay illegal in St. Petersburg?

Why, yes. It is. At least since March when a law was passed banning "propaganda of sodomy, lesbianism, bisexuality and transgenderism, and pedophilia to minors," and now waving rainbow flags is apparently hard-core gay propaganda in this part of Russia.

And so a bunch of anti-gay nuts sued. And lost. According to the Associated Press, during a court hearing the Trade Union of Russian Citizens "claimed that Madonna's so-called 'propaganda of perversion' would negatively affect Russia's birthrate and erode the nation's defense capability by depriving the country of future soldiers."

That's right. One day you're a young Russian man or woman at a Madonna concert, the next you're renouncing procreative sex in order to subvert the military.

The AP also reported that the judge almost kicked journalists out of the courtroom for laughing too much.

And you kind of have to laugh when you get a load of some of the crazy testimony heard.

"Who will children grow up to be if they hear about the equal rights of the lesbian lobby and manly love with traditional sexual relations?" one plaintiff testified. "The death rate prevails over the birth rate in the West; young guys are becoming gender neutral."

Ah, yes, the children. Just who will these children learning about "manly love" from Madonna grow up to be? Androgynous and dead, I suppose.

The plaintiffs even submitted, as evidence, articles from Wikipedia, "claiming that a real encyclopedia could not have articles about homosexuality," according to the AP. You can't even use Wikipedia as evidence in a freshman comp paper, by the way.

"We aren't against homosexual people, but we are against the propaganda of perversion among minors," plaintiff testimony continued. "We want to defend the values of a traditional family, which are currently in crisis in this country. Madonna violated our laws and she should be punished."

But it was not to be as the judge called bullshit on it all and sent the Trade Union of Russian Citizens packing.

As for this "we aren't against homosexual people" stuff? That's bullshit, too. Anyone who passes or supports laws that make support for LGBT equality illegal is definitely against people. And while this might seem like something far removed from the United States, we forget at our peril that there are plenty of folks who see anti-gay laws like St. Petersburg's as a model for what should be happening right here. We've made a lot of progress, but there is still much work to be done. Don't just stand there, let's get to it.

# Benefits Fight Brings Lesbian Couple To High Court

BY LISA LEFF

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) - A San Francisco couple is waiting to find out if the U.S. Supreme Court will take their case challenging the 1996 law that prohibits the federal government from recognizing same-sex marriages.

Karen Golinski and her partner of 23 years, Amy Cunninghis, got married during the brief window in 2008 when gay and lesbian couples could tie the knot in California. Within weeks of their wedding, Golinski applied to add her spouse to her employer-sponsored health care plan, a move that would save the couple thousands of dollars a year.

Her ordinarily routine request still is being debated more than four years later, and by the likes of former attorneys general, a slew of senators, the Obama administration and possibly this week, the U.S. Supreme Court.

Because Golinski is married to another woman and works for the U.S. government, her claim for benefits has morphed into a multi-layered legal challenge to the 1996 law that prohibits the federal government from recognizing same-sex unions like hers.

The high court has scheduled a closed-door conference for Friday to review Golinski's case and four others that also seek to overturn the Defense of Marriage Act overwhelmingly approved by Congress and signed by President Bill Clinton.

The purpose of the meeting is to decide which, if any, to put on the court's schedule for arguments next year.

The outcome carries economic and social consequences for gay, lesbian and bisexual couples, who now are unable to access Social Security survivor benefits, file joint income taxes, inherit a deceased spouse's pension or obtain family health insurance.

The other plaintiffs in the cases pending before the court include the state of Massachusetts, 13 couples and five widows and widowers.

"It's pretty monumental and it's an honor," said Golinski, a staff lawyer for the federal appeals court based in San Francisco.

The federal trial courts that heard the cases all ruled the Defense of Marriage Act act violates the civil rights of legally married gays and lesbians. Two appellate courts agreed, making it highly likely the high court will agree to hear at least one of the appeals, Lambda Legal Executive Director Jon Davidson said.

"I don't think we've ever had an occasion where the Supreme Court has had so many gay rights cases knocking at its door," said Davidson, whose gay legal advocacy group represents Golinski. "That in and of itself shows how far we've come."

The Supreme Court also is scheduled to discuss Friday whether it should take two more long-simmering cases dealing with relationship recognition for same-sex couples.

One is an appeal of two lower court rulings that struck down California's voter-approved ban on same-sex marriage. The

other is a challenge to an Arizona law that made state employees in same-sex relationships ineligible for domestic partner benefits.

The last time the court confronted a gay rights case was in 2010, when the justices voted 5-4 to let stand lower court rulings holding that a California law school could deny recognition to a Christian student group that does not allow gay members.

The time before that was the court's landmark 2003 ruling in *Lawrence v. Texas*, which declared state anti-sodomy laws to be an unconstitutional violation of personal privacy.

Brigham Young University law professor Lynn Wardle, who testified before Congress when lawmakers were considering the Defense of Marriage Act 16 years ago, said he still thinks the law passes constitutional muster.

"Congress has the power to define for itself domestic relationships, including defining relationships for purposes of federal programs," Wardle said.

At the same time, he said, the gay rights landscape has shifted radically since 1996, citing this month's election of the first sitting president to declare support for same-sex marriage and four state ballot measures being decided in favor of gay rights activists.

"This is the gay moment, momentum is building," Wardle said. "The politics are profound, and politics influence what the court does."

For Golinski and Cunninghis, getting this far has been a long, sometimes frustrating and sometimes heartening journey.

Citing the act, known as DOMA, the Office of Personnel Management, the federal government's human relations arm, initially denied Golinski's attempt to enroll Cunninghis in the medical coverage she had selected for herself and the couple's son, now 10.

"I got a phone call from OPM in Washington, D.C., asking me to confirm that Amy Cunninghis was female, and I said, 'Yes, she is,' and they said, 'We won't be able to add her to your health plan,'" Golinski recalled.

Golinski knew that her employer, the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, had a policy prohibiting discrimination against gay workers, so she filed an employee grievance and won a hearing before the court's dispute resolution officer, Chief Judge Alex Kozinski.

As a lawyer for the court, she felt awkward about pursuing the issue, but she was also angry. Lambda Legal and a San Francisco law firm offered to represent her.

"I had been working for the courts since 1990, and I feel, like everybody, I work hard and I'm a valuable employee, and I'm not getting paid the same amount if I have to pay for a whole separate plan for Amy," she said. "It was really hurting our family."

Kozinski ruled that Golinski was entitled to full spousal benefits, but federal officials

ordered Golinski's insurer not to process her application, prompting the chief judge to issue a scathing opinion on her behalf.

After the government refused to budge, Golinski sued in January 2010.

The couple had joked about whether they "would make a federal case" out of their situation. Cunninghis noted that their genders would not have been an issue had Golinski worked in the private sector or in state or local government where domestic partnerships are offered.

Because of DOMA, she said, "we don't get access to a whole slew of benefits."

The Department of Justice originally opposed Golinski in court but changed course last year after President Barack Obama and Attorney General Eric Holder said they would no longer defend the law.

Republican members of the Bipartisan Legal Advisory Group, which oversees legal activities of the House of Representatives, voted to hire an outside lawyer first to back the act in Golinski's case and the four others, and to then appeal the rulings that the act is unconstitutional.

U.S. District Judge Jeffrey White handed Cunninghis and Golinski an unequivocal victory in February, finding that anti-gay sentiment motivated Congress to pass DOMA.

In ordering the government to allow Golinski to enroll her wife in a family health plan, White rejected all of the House group's arguments, including that the law was necessary to foster stable unions among men and women.

A group of 10 U.S. senators who voted for DOMA in 1996 have filed a brief with the Supreme Court angrily denouncing the judge's opinion and urging the high court to overturn it.

"It is one thing for the District Court to conclude that traditional moral views, standing alone, do not justify the enactment of DOMA; it is quite another to find that legislators who hold or express such moral views somehow taint the constitutionality of the statute," they said.

Former U.S. Attorneys General John Ashcroft and Edwin Meese, who served in Republican administrations, also weighed in, telling the court that Obama had failed in his duty and set a dangerous precedent by declining to defend DOMA.

As a result of White's ruling, Cunninghis was allowed in March to be added to Golinski's health plan.

Golinski so far is the only gay American who has been allowed to begin receiving federal benefits while DOMA remains in effect, a development that could be reversed if the Supreme Court upholds DOMA.

Until then, the couple said they are going to trust that the tide of history is moving toward gay rights.

"It seems so simple to us: just put me on the family health plan," Cunninghis said. "It's much bigger than that obviously, yet it isn't."

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# Michigan World AIDS Day 2012 Calendar



## THURSDAY, NOV. 29

### Free HIV Testing

5 p.m. Free HIV testing presented by HARC. Stop in for safer sex information, testing and counseling. HARC and S3 Safe Sex Store, 1209 South University, Ann Arbor. 734-741-1434. [Info@bak-inc.com](mailto:Info@bak-inc.com) [www.S3safesexstore.com](http://www.S3safesexstore.com)

### AIDS in Black and Brown: Poetry Slam

8 p.m. Sponsored by Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc and Lambda Theta Phi Fraternity Inc. AIDS in Black and Brown, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. [WorldAIDSweekum.wordpress.com](http://WorldAIDSweekum.wordpress.com)

## FRIDAY, NOV. 30

### Together We Are Stronger: AIDS Quilt and Stitches Project

Led by a historical partnership of medical students from all of Michigan's medical schools, WSU students, staff and faculty will hit the streets with the most powerful images of how HIV/AIDS has impacted us, reminding others of the need to continue the fight to get to zero. Time and location TBA. Wayne State University, Detroit. 734-577-6654. [Linda.seatts@wayne.edu](mailto:Linda.seatts@wayne.edu) [Wayne.edu](http://Wayne.edu)

### World AIDS Day Detroit Mayor's Breakfast

8 a.m. Two worlds collide bringing together Detroit's most inspirational young people with Detroit-area Mayors, business leaders and community leaders. The breakfast will feature keynote speaker, Kali Lindsey, director of Legislative and Public Affairs at National Minority AIDS Council. To purchase tickets: [worldaidsdaymayors.eventbrite.com](http://worldaidsdaymayors.eventbrite.com). World AIDS Day Detroit, 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit. [WorldAIDSdayDetroit.com](http://WorldAIDSdayDetroit.com)

### Getting To Zero

10 a.m. Zero infections, zero discrimination and zero AIDS-related deaths. Activities include free/confidential testing, STD and syphilis screenings, diabetes, blood pressure and cholesterol tests, displays from HIV/AIDS awareness organizations, workshops on STD prevention and a panel discussion on existing stigmas. Michigan Department of Community Health, 801 Fort St., Detroit. [Michigan.gov](http://Michigan.gov)

### Structural Vulnerabilities and Opportunities in HIV/AIDS

1 p.m. Dr. Jose Bauermeister from the School of Public Health talks about the structural vulnerabilities and opportunities in HIV/AIDS among Black and Latino young men who have sex with men. Free event. UM's School of Public Health

I, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. [SpectrumCenter.umich.edu](http://SpectrumCenter.umich.edu)

### HIV Testing at UHS

2 p.m. Offering anonymous or confidential testing free to students and \$20 to all else. UM University Health Service, 207 Fletcher St., Ann Arbor. [Uhs.umich.edu/hivtesting](http://Uhs.umich.edu/hivtesting)

### Free HIV Testing at S3

5 p.m. Free HIV testing presented by HARC. Stop in for safer sex information, testing and counseling. Donations accepted on behalf of HARC. HIV/AIDS Resource Center and S3 Safe Sex Store, 1209 South University, Ann Arbor. 734-741-1434. [Info@bak-inc.com](mailto:Info@bak-inc.com) [www.S3safesexstore.com](http://www.S3safesexstore.com)

## SATURDAY, DEC. 1

### AIDS Memorial Quilt

9 a.m. A viewing of AIDS memorial quilt panels at Baker College. Baker College, 1903 Marquette Ave., Muskegon. 231-672-3201.

### Congregation Tchiyah (Jewish Reconstructionist)

10 p.m. "Shabbat Service and Observance of World AIDS Day." Will include a display of The NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt. Congregation invited

Continued on pg. 17

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Wayne County Community College District  
(WCCCD)/Northwest Campus

**Sat., Dec. 1st, 1 pm**

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–BTL Contributing Artist Charles Alexander

## ► World AIDS Day Calendar

Continued from p.14

to share names to be remembered and healing prayers. Musical accompaniment by the Bel Canto Choral Society, directed by Martin Mandelbaum. Service organized by Peter Cooper. Refreshments and social will follow. All are welcome and attire is casual. Barrier free bldg. Mondry Bldg., Oak Park Jewish Community Center campus, 15000 W. 10 Mile Road (between Greenfield Coolidge), Oak Park. 248-542-0900. [Tchayah.org](http://Tchayah.org)

### And The Band Played On

12 p.m. A film screening and discussion of the film "And The Band Played On." Part of Oakland's World AIDS Day 2012 event series. Gender & Sexuality Center, Oakland University, Rochester. [Oakland.edu/GSC](http://Oakland.edu/GSC)

Oakland University, Rochester. [Oakland.edu/GSC](http://Oakland.edu/GSC)

### How To Survive A Plague



1 p.m. Film screening. Compuware Theater, 1 Campus Martius Park, Detroit. 313-757-1733.

[Worldaidsdaydetroit.com/how-to-survive-a-plague/](http://Worldaidsdaydetroit.com/how-to-survive-a-plague/)

### HIV 101

2:30 p.m. Graham Health Center presentation on HIV/AIDS. Part of Oakland's World AIDS Day 2012 event series. Gender & Sexuality Center, Oakland University, Rochester. [Oakland.edu/GSC](http://Oakland.edu/GSC)

### Perspectives from the Front Line: CHOSA Fundraiser

3 p.m. Hear from physicians and social workers who are on the front line, serving those affected by HIV/AIDS both here in Michigan and abroad. This event is a fundraiser for CHOSA, children of South Africa. They provide support for community-based organizations who care for orphaned and vulnerable children, many of whom were orphaned to HIV/AIDS. Common Cup Coffee Shop, 1511 Washtenaw Ave., Ann Arbor. [Worldaidsweekum.wordpress.com](http://Worldaidsweekum.wordpress.com)

### How To Survive A Plague

4 p.m. A documentary viewing and reception at 1st Congressional Church in Muskegon. Muskegon's Coalition for HIV Awareness and Prevention, 1201 Jefferson, Muskegon. 231-672-3201.



### ONE Campaign and FaceAIDS Vigil

5 p.m. ONE Campaign and FaceAIDS is holding a Vigil to remember those lost to AIDS-related illnesses.

ONE Campaign and FaceAIDS, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. [SpectrumCenter.umich.edu](http://SpectrumCenter.umich.edu)

Continued on pg. 20

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## ► World AIDS Day Calendar

Continued from p.17

### World AIDS Observance in Battle Creek

5 p.m. Third annual observance to be held locally with an outstanding program of speakers, presenters, art, and musicians marking the efforts to eradicate HIV/AIDS from the planet. First United Methodist Church, 111 E. Michigan Ave., Battle Creek. 269-963-5567. [Firstumcbc.org/index.php](http://Firstumcbc.org/index.php)

### Red & White Fashion Show

6 p.m. Not your typical fashion show, Fire and Ice is an audience inclusive fashion show featuring Detroit's own and a runway that only the motor city could build. Red and white attire encouraged. Honorary Hosts: Max Fisher, Jeremy Abbott, Lisa Brown, Hansen Clarke, John Conyers, Dave Coulter, Lawrence Crane, Jeff Montgomery, Anne Parsons, Charles Pugh and more. With musical guests Robin Horlock and DJ Mikey B. There will be live music, photo stations and hors d'oeuvres. Tickets: \$40. World AIDS Day Detroit, 3408 Woodward Ave., Detroit. [Red-White.eventbrite.com](http://Red-White.eventbrite.com)

### Todd Heywood presents 'Viral Apartheid'

6 p.m. Guest speaker Todd Heywood presents "Viral Apartheid: The Rise of HIV



Jake Mossop of "1 Girl 5 Gays" will speak on the status of HIV in Grand Rapids, Dec. 1

Exceptionalism." Part of Oakland's World AIDS Day 2012 event series. Gender & Sexuality Center, Oakland University, Rochester. [Oakland.edu/GSC](http://Oakland.edu/GSC)

### Jake Mossop of '1 Girl 5 Gays'

7 p.m. A discussion on the status of HIV featuring Jake Mossop of television's "1 Girl 5 Gays." A free event. A limited number of reserved front-row seats for a suggested donation. Grand Rapids Red Project, 1130

Wealthy St. SE, Grand Rapids. 616-456-9063. [Redprojectgr.org](http://Redprojectgr.org)

### Reflecting in Grand Rapids

6:30 p.m. Reflecting with Grand Rapids vocalist Edye Evans Hyde, GVSU Momenum Dance Co, In Harmony and an all-inclusive community choir. Fountain Street Church, 24 NE Fountain St., Grand Rapids. 616-988-8617.

### World AIDS Day Service

7 p.m. Arch Diocese of Detroit, 32500 Palmer Road, Westland.

### Take A Stand

7 p.m. Open to the public with a \$2 donation or a canned good. Sponsored by AIDS Committee of Windsor and AIDS Support Chatham-Kent. AIDS Committee of Windsor, 401 Riverside Dr. West, Windsor. 519-973-0222. [AIDSWindsor.org](http://AIDSWindsor.org)

## SUNDAY, DEC. 2

### SexUs Hold 'Em

7 p.m. This is poker with a twist: Poker chips are replaced with condoms. The purpose of this event is to educate individuals about safer sex practices and other issues surrounding sexual activity while still enjoying the game of poker. No prior knowledge of poker necessary. Phi Beta Sigma, 1443 Washtenaw Ave., Ann Arbor.

[Worldaidsweekum.wordpress.com](http://Worldaidsweekum.wordpress.com)

## MONDAY, DEC. 3

### Annual World AIDS Day Celebration

12 p.m. WSU Adult HIV/AIDS Program holds their Annual World AIDS Day Celebration hosted by the Community Advisory Boards. Lunch will be provided at noon with the program starting at 1 p.m. The program will feature "Ask the Nurses" panel of Nurses from WSU and Henry Ford Programs. The CABs will also be giving an award to a Community person that has gone above and beyond his duty to advocate for the Community. Community Advisory Boards, Kresge Eye Institute Auditorium, 4717 St. Antoine, Detroit, 48201. 313-993-8703. <http://www.worldaidsdaydetroit.com/event/annual-world-aids-day-celebration/>



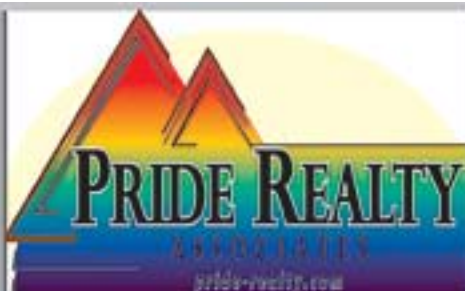
### AIDS in Black America

5:30 p.m. Today in the United States, 152 people will become infected with HIV. Of those, half will be black. Two-thirds of new HIV cases among women will be among

black women and 70 percent of newly infected youth are black youth. How and why does AIDS impact the black community



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## TUESDAY, DEC. 4

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### AIDS in Black and Brown: Healthy Cre(AIDS)tions

6:30 p.m. Sponsored by Cotius Love. AIDS in Black and Brown, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. [Worldaidsweekum.wordpress.com](http://Worldaidsweekum.wordpress.com)

Continued on pg. 23

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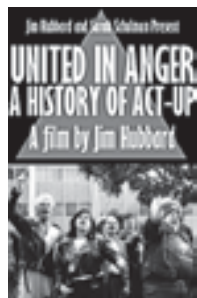
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► **World AIDS Day Calendar**

Continued from p.21

**WEDNESDAY, DEC. 5**



**AIDS in Black and Brown: Knowledge, Stigma**

7 p.m. Sponsored by Iota Phi Theta Fraternity Inc. and Sister 2 Sister. AIDS in Black and Brown, University of

Michigan, Ann Arbor.

[Worldaidsweekum.wordpress.com](http://Worldaidsweekum.wordpress.com)

**United in Anger Screening**

7 p.m. Visual AIDS's "United in Anger: A History of ACT UP," a new film by director Jim Hubbard, produced by Sarah Schulman and Jim Hubbard for Day With(out) Art/World AIDS Day. Urban Institute for Contemporary Art, 2 W. Fulton, Grand Rapids. 212-627-9855. [VisualAids.org](http://VisualAids.org)

**THURSDAY, DEC. 6**

**AIDS in Black and Brown: HIV Testing**

10 a.m. Sponsored by Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc, Latin@ Student Organization and Lambda Theta Alpha Latin Sorority Inc. AIDS in Black and Brown, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. [Worldaidsweekum.wordpress.com](http://Worldaidsweekum.wordpress.com)

**AIDS Awareness Luncheon**

12 p.m. Spreading awareness and education. Speakers will discuss first-hand experience with the disease and statistics. Student advocates are also invited to read poems, litanies and short stories of the history of World AIDS Day. As space is limited, RSVP by Dec. 1 (Link available on Facebook). PRIDE UM-Dearborn, 4901 Evergreen Road, Dearborn. [Facebook.com/Prideumdearborn](http://Facebook.com/Prideumdearborn)

**United in Anger Screening**

5:10 p.m. Visual AIDS's "United in Anger: A History of ACT UP," a new film by director Jim Hubbard, produced by Sarah Schulman and Jim Hubbard for Day With(out) Art/World AIDS Day. Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. 212-627-9855. [VisualAids.org](http://VisualAids.org)

**AIDS in the Arts**

7 p.m. Sponsored by The Black Student Union and EnspiRED. AIDS in Black and Brown, 525 South State St., Ann Arbor. 734-763-4186. [Worldaidsweekum.wordpress.com](http://Worldaidsweekum.wordpress.com)

**Fusion of Cultures**

9 p.m. Sponsored by the African Student Association, Arab Students Association, Latin@ Students Organization, Black Student Union, Persian Students Association, and the Indian American Student Association. AIDS in Black and Brown, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. [Worldaidsweekum.wordpress.com](http://Worldaidsweekum.wordpress.com)



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# Forever Kylie



## Icon Looks Back At 25 Years Of Gay Fans, Bad Fashion & Girl Kisses

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

**K**ylie Minogue was just 19 when she landed a record deal that would turn the soap star into a singing superstar. This year marks a quarter-century of Kylie, who's celebrating the milestone with orchestral reinterpretations of her most popular songs on "The Abbey Road Sessions," a greatest hits, two movies and an upcoming book chronicling her style over the last 25 years.

We hooked up with the 44-year-old pop icon to talk about those projects, the outfit she calls an "abomination," taking a sabbatical from music and why she doesn't want to know how she became a gay icon.

**"The Abbey Road Sessions" really shows a more sophisticated side to you – one that people who only know you from your dance music might not be familiar with. Why now are you venturing out into more stylistically ambitious territory and taking risks? Is it because you're in your 25th year and you just don't give a crap anymore?**

(Laughs) That could be a tiny bit of it! I actually recorded "The Abbey Road Sessions" late last year, knowing it would be part of what we've called K25. But I can't tell you exactly why. I've just felt like now is as good a time as any to do these things that I've been harboring – these desires to do the Anti Tour and to do an orchestra album – and I managed to make them happen.

**It's not even just with music, though. You're taking risks with film, too. You returned to acting this year in "Jack and Diane" – and you kissed a girl.**

(Sings) *And I liked it.*

**What was it like shooting that scene?**

Blink and you'll miss me, but I am there! (Laughs) I play a part-time flame of Riley Keough's character, and she's having drama with the girl she's just met and I'm, like, the older woman.

**What brought you back into the acting world?**

I was based in New York for a year – when I say that, I'm never anywhere for too long – but I had an apartment in Williamsburg and I was hanging out there. It was brilliant. My acting manager in the states said, "Oh hey, there's this independent director, Bradley Rust Gray. Do you fancy meeting him?" I met with Bradley and I said, "OK," because that's kind of where my head was and where my mind was heading – and then "Holy Motors" came up, and that took it to the next level.

**Did you study any lesbian flicks, like "Bound" or "The Hours," to prepare for your lesbian role in "Jack and Diane"?**

(Laughs) No, I just went with instinct.

**You've kissed a girl before anyway. Remember smooching Geri Halliwell in 2001?**

Oh, that's right! That's true, I hadn't thought about that. (Laughs) It was just very straightforward. It's a film about a couple of girls who fall in love, and I was a momentary wake-up call for Riley's character. We never discussed it – the kissing or anything. It just all happened.

**What does your hot Spanish boyfriend think of your lady lovin'?**



(Laughs) He hasn't seen it. I don't think he minded at the time. He's very open-minded, which is good.

**A lot of people who are working the same job for as long as you have might move on to something else. In these 25 years, was there ever a moment – maybe during your battle with cancer in 2005 – where you thought about ...**

... going off and living in Taos, New Mexico? Somewhere easy, somewhere kind of mystical? Maybe for a brief moment, but no, I was just eager to finish what I'd started. I wanted to get back on stage, and I wanted to be better and stronger and not as stressed out as I always was. I wanted to make it work for me as well as working for *it*. So no, I'm really so fortunate that I have a lot of different types of opportunities – thank god, because otherwise I would be off! That's why I'm doing so many different things, and fortunately my audience understands that about me and almost expects it of me these days. It's harmonious. It's not like I go off and do something and they just think, "She's just disappearing for a while and then she'll be back." They come with me.

**Gay fans are super loyal. We'll follow you anywhere.**

Oh yeah. Nothing if not loyal.

**For a lot of gay fans, you've been a source of strength and perseverance. I have a gay friend who was in the military who said he listened to you every day and it got him through.**

Aww, really? I love stories like that.

**What kind of stories have you been told over**

**the years from your gay fans about how you've inspired them?**

That's really hard for me to think of a specific story, but in general, I do hear that kind of thing. The biggest question is: How did I end up in this position? My gay audience just decided. It was like, "You're ours. We're adopting you." And I thought it was brilliant. But it wasn't like I was marketed to the pink pound or anything like that – that didn't even really exist back then, actually.

So yeah, I do hear lots of stories about people feeling some kind of support and loving what I do. I don't have the answer and I'm asked all the time, "Why do you have such a gay following?" "Why are you a gay icon?" I almost don't want to know the answer, because it was so organic the way it happened.

**When you work on a project, be it including mermen in the Aphrodite World Tour last year or recording a dance song, how much do you keep the gays in mind?**

I try to keep everyone in mind, because I don't want to go too far and I don't want to go *not* far enough. It's just a case of balance. Like, I wouldn't go on a tour that's got a routine like we had for "Slow" on the Showgirl tour. You wouldn't want that for two hours. I don't even think my gay audience would want that for two hours.

**I don't think we'd care. It's Kylie for two hours!**

(Laughs) I nearly spat my water across the room right then!

**You don't stop. Another album is already in the**

**works, and I hear this one's supposed to be more personal. How personal are we talking?**

I don't want to make a personal album at the expense of a great pop album, so I can put some personal material in there; I have done that previously, as well. People don't generally know that I write quite as much as I do, but a song like "Flower" (from "The Abbey Road Sessions") – that's the extreme end of personal. But it was very liberating, so I wouldn't mind more of that. That song wouldn't even be on the album if fans hadn't just loved it – and they didn't even know what it was about before they fell in love with it! It was just an instinctive reaction to the song; if it's about my life, they seem to know it.

**"The Best of Kylie Minogue" compilation, released earlier this year, made it easy to compare all the styles you've gone through since the '80s. For you, which was the most ridiculous fashion era? What are some clothes you'd like to burn – or that you have already?**

Oh my god. Gee, I probably have burned them. Hey, the late '80s wasn't that kind to anyone. There's a poster in existence where I have bicycle pants or, like, leggings under cutoff shorts with polka-dot socks and ankle riding boots and a huge leather jacket – and I even think there are stripes involved. It's just an abomination. If that could disappear into the black hole, that would be amazing.

But there's been some in the kind of "good period" when I'm supposed to know what I'm doing. (Laughs) Sometimes things just don't come together, especially if they're out of

context. I'm thinking of one example of being on stage, where you've got extra stage makeup on, and then going to something afterward. You look a bit like a freak.

**You crushed my little gay heart when you debunked rumors about you doing a song with Madonna for a TV special to commemorate your anniversary. You were kidding, right? Please tell me this is happening.**

Aww. No, for real. There's nothing. I've always dueted with guys, which is also good, but the question always comes up: "Would you duet with Madonna?" "Would you duet with Britney?" And the answer is always "yes," because I think all of those girls are great for different reasons. Hey, it might never happen, but maybe – if the moment and the song and the desire came up from both parties. It is a bit like a gay wet dream, but who knows. I've just always said, "Of course that's something that's interesting."

**Is there a gay friend who cuddles up with you on the couch with a bottle of wine to watch "RuPaul's Drag Race"?**

Is there *one*? No! Look, I might be a serial monogamist with my actual boyfriend, but with my gay boyfriends I'm a floozy. There are a few. I've got one in every port! (Laughs)

**What would you like to tell your gay fans who've been following you for these last 25 years?**

It's very simple: I just want to say thank you. That's all.

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# How To Survive A Plague



"How to Survive a Plague" premieres in Detroit on World AIDS Day, Dec. 1

NEO

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present in those years. Activists had adopted them broadly, with somewhat overlapping motivations. Some were artists responding to and commenting on the many incomprehensible outrages defining our lives then. Others were motivated to monitor public demonstrations and document police misconduct, or to memorialize loved ones as their illness progressed. What they shared was a desire to capture the images from the plague's ravages that mainstream media was ignoring.

You notice this in one of the most startlingly dramatic moments in the film, when Tim Bailey's friends carry his open casket through the streets of New York to the headquarters of the Republican party on the rainy night before George H. W. Bush was voted out of office in 1992. They were demanding that the world acknowledge Tim's human remains and understand their grief and anger. But almost nobody noticed. You can see in the footage the activists shot that no network television camera was dispatched to the scene, and no bank of photographers greeted them in Midtown. If it weren't for the activists' cameras, the moment – and Tim's last act of civil disobedience – would have been lost.

**If ACT UP hadn't fought as hard as it did during that time, pressuring drug companies to release meds to AIDS patients, how do you think that would have affected the future of HIV/AIDS? Would people still be dying in droves?**

One way or another, the era of effective medication would certainly have arrived without the intercession of ACT UP and other AIDS treatment activists, just not in the same timeframe. The work the activists accomplished made it possible to identify, test and regulate the drugs quicker. As a result, the new pills were able to reach patients by mid 1996 – and within a year, hospital admission rates dropped by 80 percent. The pharmaceutical industry working in isolation might have taken another six months, or another year or maybe many years more to bring the pills to market. Thousands or more lives would have been lost, including most of the people depicted in the film.

**What do you think we – we being the government, we being just the average person – learned from the AIDS epidemic?**

We learned a lesson that is still being debated – that you ignore science at great peril. When we first learned about the mysterious new disease in 1981, there were 41 reported cases. If the Reagan administration had listened to epidemiologists and public health experts, rather than religious leaders and political moralists, we wouldn't have a global pandemic today. Over 34 million have died – needlessly.

## Acclaimed Documentary Makes Detroit Premiere On World AIDS Day

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

The AIDS epidemic didn't just subside. It took a fight.

David France's film debut, "How to Survive a Plague," shows not only devastation, but what was – or wasn't – done about the virus that eventually wiped out over 34 million people.

The Kalamazoo College graduate, who now lives in New York, spoke with *Between The Lines* about the film, which makes its local premiere during World AIDS Day Detroit at 1 p.m. Dec. 1 at the Compuware Theater.

**What was it like making this film and reliving the AIDS crisis?**

For me, sinking back into this time was a huge catharsis. Anybody who survived the plague years, from 1981 to 1996 – 15 long and traumatic years – has locked away major parts of their memories: the terrible losses, the personal terrors, the rages. The feelings of betrayal. All of that came back, of course.

I lost my lover to the plague. Believe me, AIDS is no easy way to die. But it was a pleasure to revisit those long-lost people in the archival footage, to see them animated again all these years later – walking, talking and laughing. Thanks to the archival footage, they remain forever young and full of life – young gay people at their very best. I had forgotten how much joy was involved in the fight back

then, and how much love. That message came through clearly in the old footage, and has helped me reassess that period. A lot of good came out of the AIDS epidemic, much of it thanks to the people featured in my film.

**With all this talk of HIV complacency in recent years, why is telling this story important now, three decades later, on World AIDS Day? What do you hope people who are experiencing the AIDS crisis for the first time, through the film, feel and think?**

"How to Survive a Plague" shows how a few ordinary individuals, with nothing in common but a fierce will to live, changed the course of an epidemic and saved millions of lives. Fundamentally, it's a story about our capacity as human beings to tackle the insurmountable, to triumph and to prevail. That's an important and useful message on any day, for anybody confronting any challenge.

In AIDS, the challenges today remain daunting. We have not been able to stop the 55,000 new infections each year in America, most of them still among young gay men. And although some eight million people worldwide are on anti-HIV drugs, we haven't found the political will to reach the remaining 28 million, despite how cheap the medicine is. I hope people watching the film are reminded of this unfinished business and inspired to take it on and finally do something about it.

**You made this movie not because you wanted to show the affliction caused by AIDS in the '80s, but because you wanted to show what can be done when a group of people stand up and fight. Why was it important to you to cast the film as such?**

People think they know the story of AIDS in America, but they don't. It wasn't just a period of hideous disease and staggering death, although it certainly was that. But it was also a time of heroes and visionaries, and of revolutionary change in science and healthcare as well as in the gay community and the culture at large.

People with HIV and their advocates have left us a dazzling legacy. Through groups like ACT UP and the Treatment Action Group, which were so sometimes dismissed as reckless troublemakers in the media at the time, they even helped focus the work of Nobel Prize-winners to study the drugs that would eventually save so many lives. Somehow until now that part of history had been overlooked. I wanted to enrich the record to show not just what HIV did to our community and to the world, but what we did in response.

**How did you compile such compelling archive footage? Which clip was especially difficult to attain? Any that you would've liked to include but couldn't?**

At the beginning of the project, I had a memory of the bulky video cameras that were so

# A Glamorous 'Night Music' At Performance Network

BY DONALD V. CALAMIA

The first time I listened to the soundtrack of Stephen Sondheim's "A Little Night Music," I fell in love with it. A few years later, I saw the show for the first time, and it became my all-time favorite musical, a position it retains after 36 years. With a sophisticated plot and a score that's likely the most difficult to sing in all of musical theater, "Night Music" is rarely professionally produced – thanks, in part, to a budget-busting payroll that's needed to bring the show to life. But more importantly, theater companies that tackle the show without singers and actors who can conquer the complexities of Sondheim's operatic creation do themselves and Sondheim no favor. In such cases, the result can be excruciating. And embarrassing for all involved.

So when news leaked that Ann Arbor's Performance Network Theatre was considering "Night Music" for a future season – and that Naz Edwards was attached to it in the role of Desiree Armfeldt – a happier theater critic couldn't be found. And when the show was announced with John Seibert playing opposite her as Fredrik Egerman, I knew for sure that theatergoers were in for a treat.

As anticipated, I was proved correct on opening night when director Phil Simmons and the magic of live theater brought forth a near-perfect production of Sondheim's signature work.

With "Night Music," Sondheim (music and lyrics) and Hugh Wheeler (book) explore the nature of relationships and all their messy permutations. Set in Sweden at the turn of the 20th century, old flames Desiree Armfeldt and Fredrik Egerman are reunited when a play starring the actress arrives in the lawyer's hometown. The problem? Middle-aged Fredrik is married to Anne (Adrienne Pisoni), an immature but beautiful 18-year-old virgin, and Desiree is having an affair with the overly jealous and very married Count Carl-Magnus Malcom (Scott Crownover). Add to the mix Fredrik's son Henrik (Joseph Feldmann), a frustrated seminarian with a secret crush; the Count's conniving wife, Charlotte (Eva Rosenwald); and a weekend in the country – and the road to disaster couldn't be clearer.

Those intimately familiar with the show will find a few surprise treats scattered throughout director Simmons' production. (I assume he's also the uncredited choreographer.) With music director R. MacKenzie Lewis, much research into the show's history was conducted, which resulted in the seamless integration of previously cut lyrics and songs into the production. The result is well worth the effort.

Simmons' 11 actors move on, off and



"A Little Night Music" continues at Performance Network Theatre through Dec. 30. Photo: Sean Carter

## REVIEW

### A Little Night Music

Performance Network Theatre, 120 E. Huron, Ann Arbor. Thursday-Sunday through Dec. 30. 2 hours, 35 minutes. \$30-\$46. 734-663-0681. [performancenetwork.org](http://performancenetwork.org)

about the stage quite nicely, with scene changes occurring briskly and with much entertainment. But where he excels is digging into the characters' personalities and motives. There's no ambiguity here, and his cast brings the story to life quite vividly.

As a result, the production features a true ensemble – and that includes the six musicians, whose work is the best I've experienced in recent seasons. Each character is carefully delineated and the role beautifully sung. And the harmonies (with but a few brief exceptions) are angelic.

Even the supporting characters are given moments to shine. Zach Barnes (credited as one of two Lieder Singers, a Greek chorus type of role) only has to raise an eyebrow and grin slightly to let you know what his character is thinking. And the buxom Leslie Hull is wonderful using her God-given assets to help define the Armfeldt family maid, Petra.

Four performances merit special attention, however.

Barbara Scanlon is delightful as the aging Madame Armfeldt, Desiree's mother, who – like her daughter – has a rather colorful past. Watch as the elderly woman quietly melts into the past as she recalls her many "Liaisons." Hers is a spot-on interpretation that will leave you smiling because of its

warmth and honesty.

Conversely, Crownover's bombastic Count is a lesson on how to use carefully constructed, over-the-top gestures, facial expressions and mustaches for comedic effect. As usual, it's a masterful performance from one of the local stars of the musical theater genre.

Finally, musical theater is at its best when uber-talented stage veterans unite in a production that uses their immense skills and experiences to their fullest. That's certainly true with the combination of Edwards and Seibert in "Night Music." Together and with others in the cast, each is in top-notch form. But watch them sizzle in the best-known song from the show, "Send in the Clowns." Flawlessly sung, the emotions emanating from the two are palpable and unforgettable. And their humorous "You Must Meet My Wife" is a gem.

Monika Essen's set and projections evoke the time and country setting; panels slide in and out to help make scene changes quick and efficient. Lighting is by Daniel C. Walker, and costumes by Suzanne Young channel the era in which the play occurs.

Gremlins, however, nibbled around the fringes of the show. A few light cues were late, an occasional set piece didn't end up where it was supposed to, various noises intruded from backstage, and a necklace came apart offstage, scattering its many round, rolling piece parts in all directions. If the actors noticed these and a few other unexpected intrusions, they hid it well.

To many, Sondheim is considered a theater god. If so, Simmons' production is a fine offering that I suspect would please him greatly.

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# Happenings

## OUTINGS

### Thursday, Nov. 29

**Gender Non-Conformists** 7 p.m. A social and discussion group for transgender, genderqueer, gender-neutral and gender-exploring individuals. Space also available to significant others. Meets every Thursday. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. Jjenkins@GoAffirmations.org GoAffirmations.org

**Resource Center Health Group** 7 p.m. LGBTQ and allied teens 13-18. E-mail for more info. Kalamazoo Gay and Lesbian Resource Center, 629 Pioneer St., Kalamazoo. 259-381-2437. Youth@KGLRC.org Kglrc.org

### Friday, Nov. 30

**Clinical Issues and Sexual Orientation Training Opportunity** 8:30 a.m. Register to receive training on social development, legal and health issues, coming out, clinical considerations and more. This event is aimed toward social workers, addictions counselor, psychologists, school counselors, physicians and students. Register via e-mail. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. Klatosch@GoAffirmations.org GoAffirmations.org

**Getting To Zero** 10 a.m. Zero infections, zero discrimination and zero AIDS-related deaths. Activities include free/confidential testing, STD and syphilis screenings, diabetes, blood pressure and cholesterol tests, displays from HIV/AIDS awareness organizations, workshops on STD prevention and a panel discussion on existing stigmas. Michigan Department of Community Health, 801 Fort St., Detroit. Michigan.gov

**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

**Womyn's Film Night** 7 p.m. Film: Stray Dogs; Darla Carter lives in the rural south with her handsome, roughish husband, Myers. Myers can't hold a job, drinks too much and has a violent streak, so Darla decides to confront Myers with his misdeeds and asks her sister-in-law, Jolene, to join her for moral support. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

### Saturday, Dec. 1

**Congregation Tchiyah (Jewish Reconstructionist)** "Shabbat Service and Observance of World AIDS Day" Will include a display of The NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt, congregation invited to share names to be remembered, healing prayers, and musical accompaniment by the Bel Canto Choral Society, directed by Martin Mandelbaum. Service organized by Peter Cooper. Refreshments and social will follow. All are welcome and attire is casual. Barrier free bldg. Monday Bldg., Oak Park Jewish Community Center campus, 15000 W. Ten Mile Rd. (between Greenfield Coolidge), Oak Park. 248-542-0900. Tchiyah.org

**10th Anniversary Celebration & Holiday Gathering** 6 p.m. All proceeds will be donated to the USO Warrior and Family Care Program. Cocktails, silent auction, dinner, live auction, music and dancing. Tickets are \$15-40. Perceptions Saginaw Valley, 4519 River Road, Freeland. PerceptionsSV.org

**Lesbian Euchre** 6 p.m. No partner needed. For beginners to experienced. Come join the fun and meet new friends. Affirmations, 290 W. 9 Mile Road, Ferndale. 586-303-5977. Isbdaniii@aol.com

**World AIDS Day: Todd Heywood** 6 p.m. Guest speaker Todd Heywood presents "Viral Apartheid: The Rise of HIV Exceptionalism." Part of Oakland's World AIDS Day 2012 event series. Gender & Sexuality Center, Oakland University, Rochester. oakland.edu/GSC

**The 12 Drags of Christmas** 7 p.m. Featuring September Murphy, Deja Van Vartier, Natalie Cole, Hershae Chocolatae, Leah Halston, Sir Walt, Michael Cole and Aurora Sexton. A benefit for Ruth Ellis Center and Mittens for Detroit. Tickets available online. Five15 Media, 515 S Washington, Royal Oak. 248-515-2551. Five15.net

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### Sunday, Dec. 2

**Peace & Justice Banquet** 4 p.m. Michelle Alexander is author of "The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness." VIP/Honorary Host: \$200, Patron: \$125. Central United Methodist Church, 400 Renaissance Dr., Detroit. 313-965-5422 ext. 13. CentralUMchurch.com

### Tuesday, Dec. 4

**AIDS Testing - UM-Dearborn** 11 a.m. This is an opportunity for students, faculty, and staff of UM-Dearborn to get free testing courtesy of the AIDS Partnership Michigan

as well as receive information about the disease in a private setting. PRIDE UM-Dearborn, 4901 Evergreen Road, Dearborn. Facebook.com/PrideumDearborn

**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

### Wednesday, Dec. 5

**Dykes on Bikes** 6:30 p.m. Meets the first Wednesday of every month. Dykes on Bikes, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. GoAffirmations.org

**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

**United in Anger Screening** 7 p.m. Visual AIDS's "United in Anger: A History of ACT UP," a new film by director Jim Hubbard, produced by Sarah Schulman and Jim Hubbard for Day With(out) Art/World AIDS Day. Urban Institute for Contemporary Art, 2 W. Fulton, Grand Rapids. 212-627-9855. VisualAids.org

### Thursday, Dec. 6

**AIDS Awareness Luncheon** 12 p.m. Spreading awareness and education. Speakers will discuss first-hand experience with the disease and statistics. Student advocates are also invited to read poems, litanyes and short stories of the history of World AIDS Day. As space is limited, RSVP by Dec. 1 (Link available on Facebook). PRIDE UM-Dearborn, 4901 Evergreen Road, Dearborn. Facebook.com/PrideumDearborn

**United in Anger Screening** 5:10 p.m. Visual AIDS's "United in Anger: A History of ACT UP," a new film by director Jim Hubbard, produced by Sarah Schulman and Jim Hubbard for Day With(out) Art/World AIDS Day. Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. 212-627-9855. VisualAids.org

**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. Crystal@jimtoycenter.org

### Friday, Dec. 7

**Womyn's Film Night** 7 p.m. Film: Tracy Ullman: Live and Exposed; In this stand-up performance, the multitiered Ullman sums up the highs and lows of a varied career that includes appearances in films (Plenty) as well as sitcoms ("Girls on Top"). Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org/

### Saturday, Dec. 8

**Crossroads** 7 p.m. Dedicated to serving the needs of transgender individuals. Meets the second Saturday of every month. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. GoAffirmations.org

**Chanukah Concert & Jam for Food Justice** 8 p.m. Featuring Rabbi Shawn Zevit. Donations of any amount are welcome to cover event costs and benefit great Detroit food justice initiatives. Congregation T'chiyah, 1457 Griswold St., Detroit. Tchiyah.org

### Sunday, Dec. 9

**Winter Celebration Potluck** 2 p.m. Winter Celebration Potluck is a special monthly meeting. Will still have support groups, but the program portion of the meeting is replaced with the potluck. PFLAG asks that if you are able to, that you bring your favorite dish to pass. Genesee County PFLAG, 2474 S. Ballenger Highway, Flint. 810-496-8302. Pflagflint@yahoo.com Pflagflint.com

## MUSIC & MORE

### CLASSICAL

**Bach Festival Concert Series** "43rd Annual BachFest Christmas" Feature works by Bach, Handel, Mendelssohn, and more. Lyric soprano Rhea Olivacce will make her Kalamazoo debut with a performance of "O, Holy Night" and as the featured soloist in Moses Hogan's "Glory to the Newborn King." Familiar carols and an audience sing-along complete this often sold-out concert and much beloved family holiday tradition. Tickets: \$22. Stetson Chapel, Kalamazoo College, Kalamazoo. 4 p.m. Dec. 2. KalamazooBachFestival.org

**Detroit Symphony Orchestra** "Romeo & Juliet" Tchaikovsky's Romeo and Juliet, Ades' Violin Concerto and Prokofiev's Romeo and Juliet. Tickets: \$15+. Max M. Fisher Music Center, 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Dec. 8 - Dec. 9. 313-576-5111. DSO.org

**Fort Street Choral** "Handel's Messiah" The Fort Street Choral and Chamber Orchestra present their 34th annual performances of G. F. Handel's Messiah. Under the musical direction of founder Edward Kingins, the Fort Street Choral has grown from a handful of volunteers in 1971 to a musically proficient ensemble of some 90 voices. Fort Street Presbyterian Church, 631 W. Fort St., Detroit. Dec. 1 & 2. 313-865-6306. FortStreet.org

**Rackham Symphony Choir** "Too Hot To Handel" The one-night-only annual holiday concert. Tickets: \$18-85. Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway, Detroit. Dec. 12 - Dec. 1. 313-237-7464. Michiganopera.org

### CONCERTS

**Detroit Symphony Orchestra** "Rachmaninoff & Tchaikovsky" Khachaturian's Suite from Masquerade, Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No. 2 and Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 2 "Little Russian". Tickets: \$15+. Max M. Fisher Music Center, 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Nov. 29 - Nov. 30. 313-576-5111. DSO.org

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1. 313-576-5111. DSO.org

**Flowers of the Lakes; Huron Valley Optimists Club; Triangle Creative Arts** "A Piano Extravaganza: Tour de Force on Four Grand Pianos" Four master pianists and local musicians bring March of the Toys and other songs to life on four grand pianos. Delightful for all ages. Admission: \$7-\$25. Lakeland High School Performing Arts Center, 1630 Bogie Lake Road, White Lake. Dec. 8 - Dec. 8. 800-585-3737. 4-pianos.com

**Kerrytown Concert House** "Annual Croissant Concert" Enjoy fresh baked croissants and hot coffee while listening to rich festive sounds of traditional brass quintet music. Tickets: \$10-30. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. 11 a.m. Dec. 1. 734-769-2999. Kerrytownconcerthouse.com

**Kerrytown Concert House** "Boom Tic Boom" CD release party for Boom Tic Boom, named one of the Top 10 Jazz Albums of 2010. Tickets: \$5-30. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. 7 p.m. Dec. 2. 734-769-2999. Kerrytownconcerthouse.com

**Olympia Entertainment** "Ho Ho Hoey's Rockin' Holiday Show" Following a sold out performance last year, world renowned rock guitarist Gary Hoey will return to the City Theatre with his signature "Ho Ho Hoey's Rockin' Holiday Show." Tickets: \$35-55. City Theatre, 2301 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 8 p.m. Dec. 7. 800-745-3000. Olympiaentertainment.com

**Olympia Entertainment** "Daughtry and 3 Doors Down" Multi-platinum rock bands Daughtry and 3 Doors Down are excited to bring their joint 19-date first ever co-headline U.S. tour to the Fox Theatre. Tickets: \$35-60. Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 7 p.m. Dec. 5. 313-471-6611. Olympiaentertainment.com

**The Ark** "Ari Hest" Tickets: \$17.50. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 7:30 p.m. Dec. 2. 734-761-1800. TheArk.org

**The Ark** "Cherish The Ladies" Celtic Christmas. Tickets: \$30. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Dec. 5. 734-761-1800. TheArk.org

**The Ark** "Caravan of Thieves" Tickets: \$15. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Dec. 8. 734-761-1800. TheArk.org

**The Ark** "Melissa Ferrick" With special guest Anne Heaton. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Dec. 7. 734-761-1800. TheArk.org

## THEATER

### CIVIC/COMMUNITY THEATER

**Christmas Belles** \$11-12. The Twin City Players, 600 W. Glenlord Road, St. Joseph. Nov. 30 - Dec. 23. 269-429-0400. TwinCityPlayers.org

**Four Scenes: A Hungarian Trilogy** \$6-10. Fancy Pants Theater at Studio 246, N. Kalamazoo Mall, Kalamazoo. Nov. 30 - Dec. 9. 269-599-6437. FancyPantsTheater.webs.com

**Miracle on 34th Street** \$28. The Crosswell, 129 E. Maumee St., Adrian. Nov. 30 - Dec. 9. 517-264-7469. crosswell.org

**Nuncrackers** \$19. Kalamazoo Civic Theatre at Civic Auditorium, 329 S. Park St., Kalamazoo. Nov. 23 - Dec. 9. 269-343-1313. KazooCivic.com

**The Hollow** PTD Productions at Riverside Arts Center, 76 North Huron Street, Ypsilanti. Dec. 6 - Dec. 15. 734-483-7345. ptdproductions.com

**The 1940's Radio Hour** \$16-18. Farmington Players, 32332 W. Twelve Mile Road, Farmington Hills. Nov. 30 - Dec. 22. 248-553-2955. FarmingtonPlayers.org

### COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY THEATER

**Rumi** \$10. MSU Department of Theatre at Arena Theatre, located in the basement of the Auditorium building, Farm Lane and Auditorium Road, East Lansing. Nov. 30 - Dec. 2. 1-800-Wharton. http://theatre.msu.edu

**The Snow Queen** \$12-15. Bonstelle Theatre, 3424 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Nov. 30 - Dec. 9. 313-577-2960. Bonstelle.com

**White As Snow, Red As Blood: The Story of Snow White** \$7-15. Eastern Michigan University Theatre at Quirk Theatre, Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti. Nov. 30 - Dec. 9. 734-487-2282. Emich.edu/emutheatre

### PROFESSIONAL

**A Christmas Carol** \$17-\$40. Meadow Brook Theatre, 2200 N. Squirrel Rd., Rochester. Through Dec. 23. 248-377-3300. mbtheatre.com

**A Little Night Music** \$30-\$46. Performance Network Theatre, 120 E. Huron, Ann Arbor. Through Dec. 30. 734-663-0681. performancenetwork.org

**A Paradise of Fools** \$17 in advance, \$20 at the. Detroit Repertory Theatre, 13103 Woodrow Wilson, Detroit. Through Dec. 23. 313-868-1347. detroitreptheatre.com

**Adult Education: Storytelling After Hours** \$10. The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Dr., Three Oaks. Nov. 29. 269-756-3879. acorntheater.com

**Antigone in New York** \$25. The Elizabeth Theater at Park Bar, 2040 Park Ave., Detroit. Through Jan. 12. 313-444-2294. ParkBarDetroit.com

**Cancer! The Musical** \$25. Planet Ant Theatre at Boll Family YMCA Theatre, 1401 Broadway St., Detroit. Through Dec. 15. 313-365-4948. brownpapertickets.com

**Christmas Belles** \$15-18. Broadway Onstage, 21517 Kelly Road, Eastpointe. Nov. 30 - Dec. 22. 586-771-6333. Broadwayonstage.com

**Christmas with the Rat Pack - Live at The Sands** \$25-75. Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Nov. 27 - Dec. 2. 313-471-6611. Olympiaentertainment.com

**Ebenezer** \$20-25. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. Through Dec. 23. 517-655-7469. WilliamstonTheatre.org

**Fireside New Play Festival** Pay-what-you-can (suggested \$10). Performance Network Theatre, 120 E. Huron, Ann Arbor. Dec. 2 - 5. 734-663-0681. performancenetwork.org

**Five One Acts by Alan Ball** \$18. Detroit Ensemble Theatre at Michigan Actors Studio Theatre, 648 E. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. Through Dec. 2. 877-636-3320. DetroitEnsembleTheatre.org

**Goodnight Desdemona (Good Morning Juliet)** \$12-30. Hilberry Theatre, 4743 Cass Ave., Detroit. Plays in rotating repertory through Feb. 9. 313-577-2972. Hilberry.com

**Greetings!** \$15-18. Two Muses Theatre at Barnes & Noble Booksellers Theatre, 6800 Orchard Lake Road, West Bloomfield. Through Dec. 16. 248-850-9919. TwoMusesTheatre.org

**Home for the Holidays** \$28. Dionysus Theatre and Performing Arts Academy at Hartland High School Auditorium, 10635 Dunham Rd., Hartland. Dec. 7 - 23. 517-672-6009. diotheatre.com

**Jekyll & Hyde** \$39-79. Fisher Theatre, 3011 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit. Nov. 27 - Dec. 2. 313-872-1000. BroadwayinDetroit.com

**Ordinary Days** \$29-\$32. Tipping Point Theatre, 361 E. Cady St., Northville. Through Dec. 9. 248-347-0003. tippingpointtheatre.com

**Othello** \$12-30. Hilberry Theatre, 4743 Cass Ave., Detroit. Plays in rotating

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## Editor's Pick

Detroit's Bonstelle Theatre will open an adaptation of one of Hans Christian Andersen's "The Snow Queen" just in time for the holiday season. The show runs Nov. 30 to Dec. 9, and children get a special ticket price of only \$6.

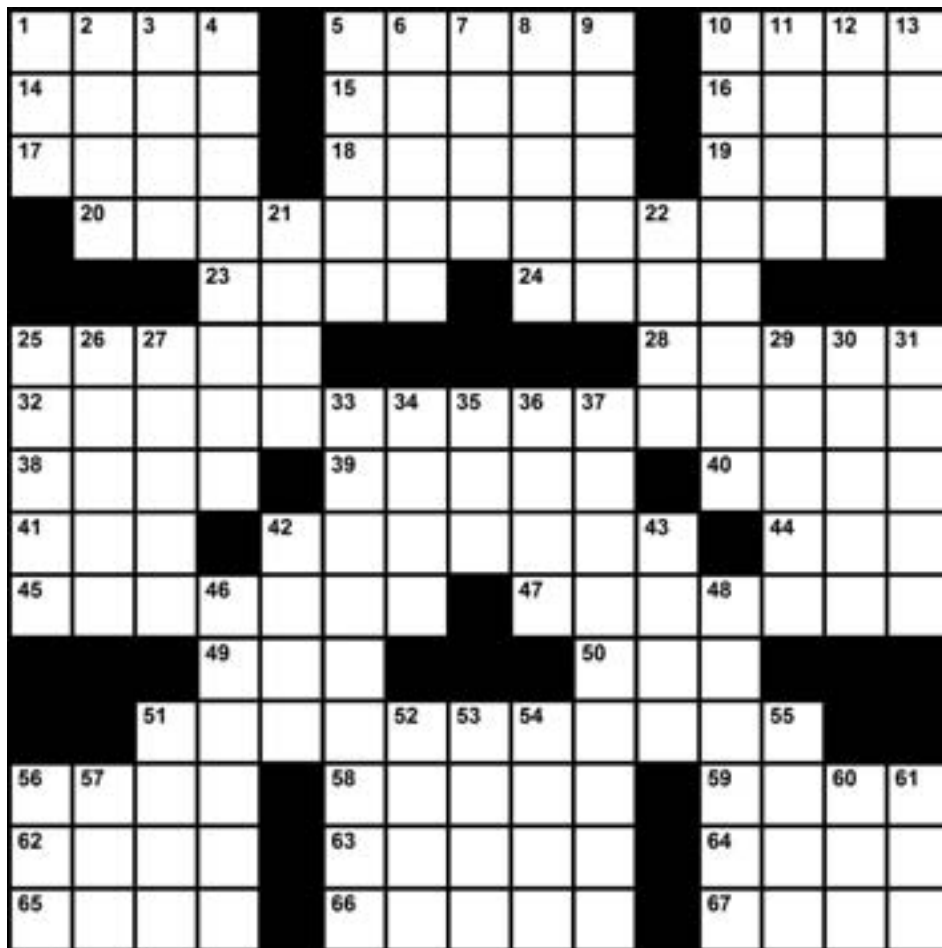
"The Snow Queen" is a tale of a young heroine's journey to rescue a young boy from the clutches of the evil Snow Queen. The heroine must traverse

through a world filled with a number of eccentric and dangerous characters to find and free the boy. Using puppets, music and supernatural magic, "The Snow Queen" is a show that celebrates the ideals of childhood.

The Bonstelle's production will include a preshow craft activity for children starting 45 minutes prior to curtain time. Paper roses and snowflakes will be made in the upstairs lobby and used by children in the audience to interact with the show.

For tickets (\$12-\$15), call the Bonstelle Theatre Box Office at 313-577-2960.

# Ian As We Speak



## Across

- 1 Testy response, or testicles  
 5 Antislavery author  
 10 Made it to second base, so to speak  
 14 Stage piece  
 15 Part of a makeup kit  
 16 Kitchen foray  
 17 First name in lesbian fiction  
 18 Gay porn director Francis  
 19 Java vessels  
 20 Janis Ian song about biracial love  
 23 Little fairies  
 24 Leave as is  
 25 "That's a wrap!"  
 28 Bring shame to  
 32 After 20-Across, book about Janis Ian  
 38 They're performing, in "Fame"  
 39 Barbeque locale  
 40 Peril for Patty Sheehan  
 41 Nero's thus  
 42 Pink slip actions  
 44 "Proud Mary" singer Turner  
 45 Dickhead  
 47 "Lake Wobegone Days" author  
 49 Shakespeare's dusk  
 50 Three, in Napoli

- 51 Janis Ian song about teenage angst  
 56 "\_\_\_ Let the Sun Go Down on Me"  
 58 Cosmetics name  
 59 Where orientation is determined, some say  
 62 Actress Skye  
 63 Turner that goes either way  
 64 Tibet's setting  
 65 Moved one's ass  
 66 Comes over  
 67 Winetaster's guess

## Down

- 1 "Morning Edition" aier  
 2 "Exodus" author Leon  
 3 The Tin Man's best friend  
 4 "O beautiful for \_\_\_ skies" (Katharine Lee Bates)  
 5 What hibernating bears do  
 6 Fouls, to the Pinball Wizard  
 7 Nothing but  
 8 Houdini's birth name  
 9 How Homo sapiens walks  
 10 Gay nocturnal flyer?  
 11 Banjoist Scruggs  
 12 Swedish soprano Jenny  
 13 Scores by David Kopay  
 21 "\_\_\_ the end of my rope!"

- 22 Enjoy phone sex  
 25 Stock up on  
 26 Line from Porter  
 27 First-rate mate  
 29 March follower  
 30 Plumed military cap  
 31 Keyed up  
 33 Willa Cather classic  
 34 Setter's sound  
 35 "When I see \_\_\_ will believe ..."  
 36 Porking noise?  
 37 Eager beavers  
 42 Montagues, to Capulets  
 43 k.d. lang record label  
 46 Made a profit of  
 48 Street named for writer Harper?  
 51 Shakespeare's Hathaway  
 52 Brandy bottle letters  
 53 Sundance's Place  
 54 It's a gas on Broadway  
 55 What Sam twitched on "Bewitched"  
 56 Bad-mouth  
 57 Caveman of comics  
 60 Woody's ex  
 61 Stonewall Inn, for one

See solution on pg. 32

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## ► Happenings

Continued from p. 28

repertory through Jan. 17. 313-577-2972. Hilberry.com

**Plaid Tidings** \$26-\$32. The Encore Musical Theatre Company, 3126 Broad St., Dexter. Through Dec. 23. 734-268-6200. theencoretheatre.org

**Puppet Scrooge** \$12 adult, \$10 senior & student. Matrix Theatre Company, 2730 Bagley, Detroit. Nov. 30 - Dec. 16. 313-967-0999. matrixtheatre.org

**Shakespeare's Will** \$48. Wharton Center, Michigan State University, East Lansing. Nov. 29 - Dec. 1. 517-432-2000. WhartonCenter.com

**Superior Donuts** \$18.50-42. The Purple Rose Theatre Company, 137 Park St., Chelsea. Through Dec. 15. 734-433-7673. purplerosetheatre.org

**The Homosexuals** \$10-20. The Ringwald Theatre, 22742 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Through Dec. 10. TheRingwald.com

**The Marvelous Wonderettes** \$20-\$22. The Box Theater, 90 Macomb Place, Mount Clemens. Through Dec. 8. 586-954-2677. theboxtheater.com

**The Snow Queen** \$10 adult, \$5 child. PuppetArt at Detroit Puppet Theater, 25 E. Grand River Ave., Detroit. Dec. 1 - Jan. 26. 313-961-7777. PuppetArt.org

**The Snow Queen** \$8. Wharton Center's Pasant Theatre, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. Dec. 2. 1-800-Wharton. whartoncenter.com

**The Ugly Duckling and The Tortoise and the Hare** \$17 adult, \$7 child. Music Hall Center for the Performing Arts, 350 Madison St., Detroit. 4 p.m. Dec. 2. 313-887-8501. musichall.org

**Wolf Cry Wolf** \$10-15. The New Theatre



## Editor's Pick

Focusing on the tension and overlap between these two strong currents in 20th-century art, the juxtapositions and points of convergence in Grand Rapids Art Museum's "Real/Surreal" encourage fresh new ways of looking at some of the most dynamic works of art of the 30s, 40s and 50s in America.

The exhibition offers viewers the exciting opportunity to actively reexamine categories that previously seemed oppositional. Artists whose styles are traditionally described as realist, such as Edward Hopper and Andrew Wyeth, distill from reality using composition and style to convey an ambiguous or unsettling mood, finding the uncanny in the everyday. Artists typically known as surrealists, such as Man Ray and Yves Tanguy, are represented with otherworldly yet sometimes familiar images. In between is the work of the magic realists, such as George Tooker and Jared French, who render reality in a way that makes it seem alien.

Real/Surreal is organized by the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, and includes over 60 paintings, drawings, photographs and prints. This exhibit runs until Jan. 13 at GRAM, 101 Monroe Center, Grand Rapids, 49503. For more information, go to ArtMuseumGR.org.

Project at Mix Studio Theater, 130 W. Michigan Ave., Ypsilanti. Through Dec. 16. 734-961-8704. TheNewTheatreProject.org

## ART'N'AROUND

**Charles H. Wright Museum** "Visions of Our 44th President" 315 E. Warren, Detroit. Nov. 1 - April 30. 313-494-5853. Thewright.org

**Cranbrook Art Museum** "From Here to There: Alec Soth's America" 39221 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. Nov. 17 - March 30. 877-462-7262. CranbrookArtMuseum.org

**Cranbrook Art Museum** "Soo Sunny Park: Vapor Slide" 39221 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills.

Nov. 17 - March 17. 877-462-7262. CranbrookArtMuseum.org

**Flint Institute of Arts** "Worth a Thousand Words: American Political Cartoons" 1120 E. Kearsley, Flint. Nov. 3 - Jan. 6. Flintarts.org

**Flint Institute of Arts** "Drawing Together: International Cartoons" 1120 E. Kearsley, Flint. Nov. 1 - Dec. 30. Flintarts.org

**Grand Rapids Art Museum** "Real/Surreal" 101 Monroe Center, Grand Rapids. Nov. 1 - Jan. 13. 616-831-2904. ArtMuseumGr.org

**Grand Rapids Art Museum** "Salvador Dali's Twelve Tribes of Israel" 101 Monroe Center, Grand Rapids. Nov. 1 - Jan. 13. 616-831-2904. ArtMuseumGr.org

**Grand Rapids Art Museum** "Robert McCann: New History Paintings" 101

Monroe Center, Grand Rapids. Nov. 1 - Jan. 13. 616-831-2904. ArtMuseumGr.org

**Kalamazoo Institute of Arts** "Great Lakes Pastel Society National Show 2012" 314 S. Park, Kalamazoo. Nov. 1 - Jan. 8. 269-349-7775. KIArts.org

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

**The Detroit Institute of Arts** "Faberger: The Rise & Fall" 2100 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Nov. 1 - Jan. 21. 313-833-7900. DIA.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

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## Classifieds

### 101-ANNOUNCEMENTS LGBT AA MEETINGS

#### Ann Arbor-Friday

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 AA, Faith-Trinity United Church of Christ, 12221 Martin Rd. East of Hoover. Closed/Discussion.

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### 101-ANNOUNCEMENTS LGBT AL-ANON MEETINGS

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#### Go After Your Serenity (G.A.Y.S.) Al-Anon Family Group

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Drayton Ave. Presbyterian Church  
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# Classifieds

Continued from p. 30

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SHE HADN'T SAID A WORD ALL NIGHT!

SHE'S DOWN TO BEST SHE CAN.

Solution to puzzle from page 29

N	U	T	S	S	T	O	W	E	F	E	L	T		
P	R	O	P	L	I	N	E	R	R	A	I	D		
R	I	T	A	E	L	L	I	E	U	R	N	S		
S	O	C	I	E	T	Y	S	C	H	I	L	D		
I	M	P	S	S	T	E	T							
A	L	C	O	A				A	B	A	S	H		
M	Y	A	U	T	O	B	I	O	G	R	A	P	H	Y
A	R	T	S	P	A	T	I	O	T	R	A	P		
S	I	C	F	I	R	I	N	G	S	I	K	E		
S	C	H	N	O	O	K	K	E	I	L	L	O	R	
E	E	N						T	R	E				
A	T	S	E	V	E	N	T	E	E	N				
D	O	N	T	E	S	T	E	E			W	O	M	B
I	O	N	E		R	O	T	O	R		A	S	I	A
S	P	E	D		S	P	A	N	S		Y	E	A	R



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## Deep Inside Hollywood

BY ROMEO SAN VICENTE

### Lesbian happy endings coming soon from 'Carol'

In 1952, Patricia Highsmith's romance novel "The Price of Salt" did an unexpected thing: a stylistic detour for its author (the lesbian mystery author of "Strangers on a Train" and "The Talented Mr. Ripley," "Salt" was published under a pseudonym), it also allowed for the possibility of an optimistic resolution for its lesbian characters in a time when those sorts of outcomes just weren't on the literary menu. Sixty years later, of course, this doesn't seem unreasonable at all, which means the time is perfect for a film adaptation starring Mia Wasikowska and Cate Blanchett. The movie's called "Carol" – the name of Blanchett's character, a woman who falls in love with the younger Wasikowska – and it starts shooting in New York and London early in 2013. To be directed by John Crowley (other credits: the Andrew Garfield drama "Boy A" and "Is Anybody There?" with Michael Caine), the screenplay is from lesbian writer Phyllis Nagy, which means one more lesbian line of defense against the usual movie missteps involving male fantasy versions of women in love with women. Look for this love affair to light up screens sometime in 2014.



Matt Bomer. Photo: Warner Bros

in on the screenplay and stage version, while the movie stars Matt Bomer, Jerry O'Connell, Marisa Coughlin, Patrick Wilson and Liv Tyler. True to its name and set in the futuristic 1970s, its convoluted soap opera plot involves space travelers named Misty and Sunshine and involves robots, bisexual secrets, Valium addiction, Women's Lib, asteroid assaults and a lot of feathered hair, pretty much everything you want from outer space that isn't already named Buck Rogers. Check film festival listings first, but it'll eventually crash down into an arthouse near you. Or possibly one in a galaxy far, far away.

### Hugh Laurie and Stephen Fry: Together again

Before "House M.D." turned him into a worldwide household name, Hugh Laurie was better known, alongside Stephen Fry, as one half of the U.K. comedy team whose TV series "A Bit of Fry and Laurie" launched both their careers. Laurie's been kind of busy during the past decade starring on the planet's number one show, so the pair haven't worked together in some time. But that's about to change with a new animated version of Oscar Wilde's "The Canterville Ghost." A comic satire about British/American culture clash in a haunted English manor – an American family moves in and encounters the ghost of Sir Simon de Canterville (Fry) and that of his afterlife nemesis, Death (Laurie) – the story has a perennial appeal and has already been adapted countless times. Just never by Fry and Laurie as CG animated ghosts. Directed by Kim Burdon with music by 84-year-old composer Ennio Morricone, it'll be a great literary enlistment tool when you introduce your kids to Oscar Wilde during the 2014 holiday season. At that age they'll appreciate it more than "The Importance of Being Earnest."

Romeo San Vicente hopes that Stephen Fry will be his British sugar daddy. He can be reached care of this publication or at [DeepInsideHollywood@qsyndicate.com](mailto:DeepInsideHollywood@qsyndicate.com).

### Kylie Minogue is 'Walking On Sunshine'

It's a "Glee"/"Smash"/"Mamma Mia!" world. We just live in it. And thanks to this cultural trend, the jukebox musical's prospects have never been brighter (at least until that "Jersey Boys" movie hits theaters – we'll see). But while the wave is high, who better to ride it than Kylie Minogue? The actress-turned-pop-diva-turned-actress, whose performance of a melancholy love ballad in the acclaimed arthouse hit "Holy Motors" was that film's most tender moment, is having a moment of her own. She's signed on to star in Walking On Sunshine, a musical about two women who fall for the same man in Spain that's stuffed full of '80s pop hits. U.K. actress Gemma Arterton – "Quantum of Solace"'s hilariously named Strawberry Fields, also starring as Gretel in "Hansel and Gretel: Witch Hunters" with Jeremy Renner – plays Minogue's romantic rival. And it can be assumed she knows how to carry a tune, too. She'd better, anyway. Otherwise when they get to the part where it's time to sing "I Should Be So Lucky," Kylie might have a bit of an advantage.

### Countdown to Matt Bomer in 'Space Station 76'

Gay Indie Film Alert! Evie Harris from "Girls Will Be Girls" has directed a movie. OK, her alter ego, Jack Plotnick, is the actual director. But whatever, same thing give or take a wig or two. The sci-fi comedy, "Space Station 76," is based on a Los Angeles stage production that Plotnick's been developing for some time, and it's quite the team effort. Actors Kali Rocha, Michael Stoyanov, Sam Pancake and Jennifer Elise Cox (Jan in "The Brady Bunch Movie") all pitched

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