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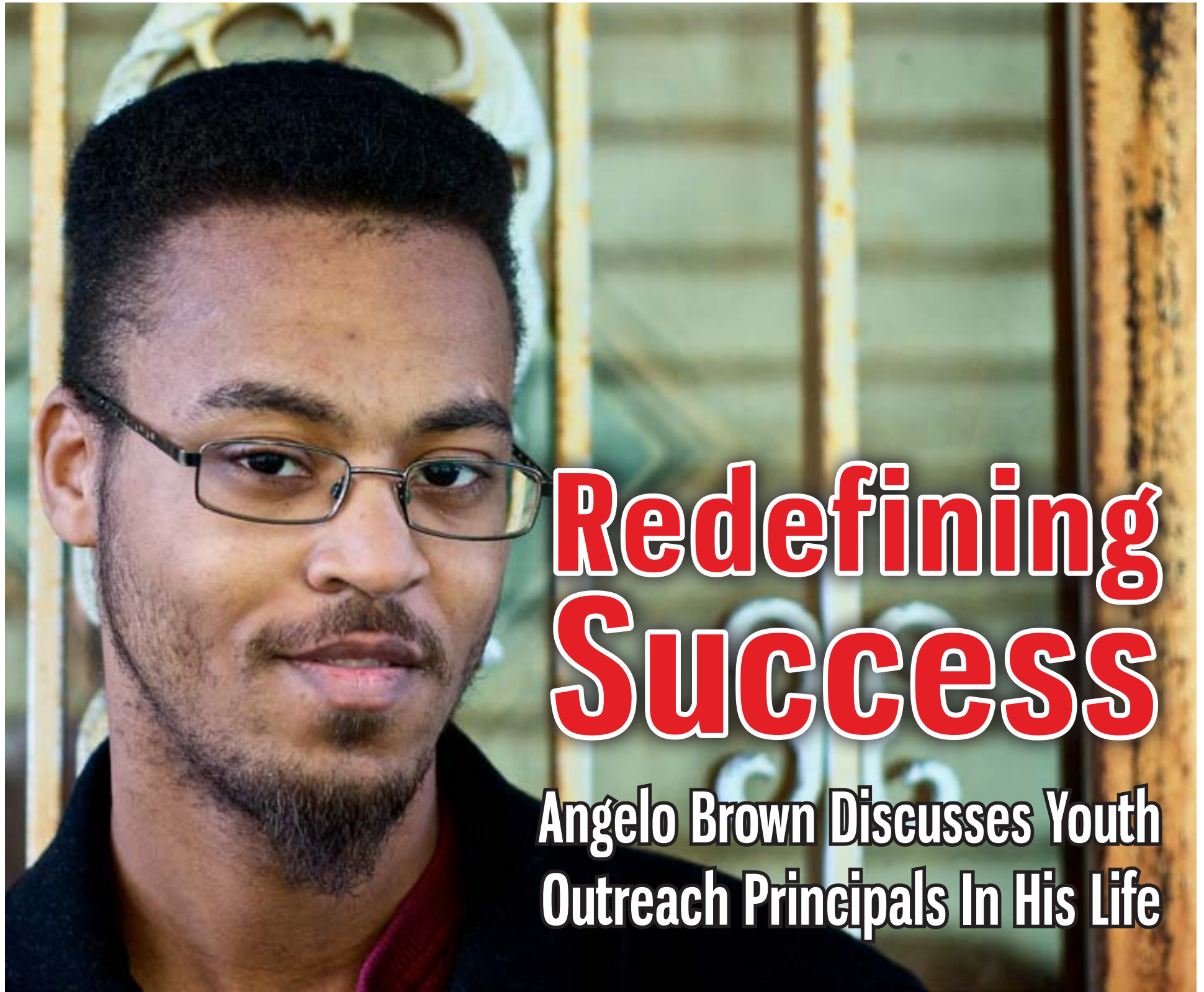


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Be comfortable with it, but also do things you are scared to do. It's your turn to be whoever you want to be.

– Michael Christian, member of Motor City Drag Kings, Pg. 6



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# Changing The Faces Of Faith In The Media: GLAAD Speaks To Michigan Roundtable

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

How did an ousted lesbian den mother from Ohio become a national symbol for LGBT equality? One of the main reasons is because of GLAAD, a New York based organization that serves to make sure LGBT related stories are given the fair and widespread attention of the media.

The Michigan Roundtable for Diversity and Inclusion, along with dozens of affirming religious leaders, learned more about GLAAD's media work at the second annual Celebrating Faith Inclusion breakfast on Dec. 7 at Renaissance Unity Church in Warren.

Ross Murray, Director of Religion, Faith and Values at GLAAD spoke at the event, sharing information about how they too can use the media, and their own experiences, as tools for social change.

Jennifer Tyrrell is one of many examples where GLAAD was able to take a local story and amplify its reach. Tyrell and her partner live in Ohio with one daughter and three sons. She served as den mother for one son's Tiger Scouts Troop until she was kicked out of the troop last spring because the Boy Scouts of America do not allow gay people in their organization.

With GLAAD's help, Tyrrell's story went viral, and an online petition drive collected over half a million signatures in opposition to the Scout's practice of discrimination. It also gave celebrities a cause to rally behind. Julianne Moore, Fran Drescher, Jane Leeves, Josh Hutcherson, Benicio del Toro, and stars of Glee and The Real Housewives all spoke up in support of the family. Though the Scouts have not changed their minds, the story has helped bring to light the discrimination LGBT people still face.

Closer to home, the story of Dominic Sheahan-Stahl grew beyond the Mt. Clemens area after GLAAD got involved. Sheahan-Stahl had been a student at Sacred Heart Academy, like others in his family had been over the generations. His younger brother was set to graduate, and Sheahan-Stahl was asked to give the commencement speech.

However, school administrators saw that he had posted engagement



Ross Murray, Director of Religion, Faith and Values at GLAAD spoke Dec.7 at the Michigan Roundtable for Diversity and Inclusion's Second Annual Celebrating Faith Inclusion breakfast. BTL photo: Crystal Proxmire.

photos to his Facebook page, featuring him and his fiancé who is also male. The invitation to speak was revoked.

The graduating class rallied around him, creating a movement called "Let Dominic Speak." GLAAD too stepped in. After the commencement, hundreds of supporters gathered for a rally at Central Michigan University to hear the speech that Sheahan-Stahl had not been allowed to give.

"They filmed him and sent us the speech," Murray said. "We took the footage and made a two minute video with parts of the speech and clips from some of the people that were there, and we sent that out to our media contacts, saying here's what it looks like when we help people who are silenced."

While the media is increasingly interested in LGBT stories, there are still things that GLAAD must remind reporters and activists of, particularly when it comes to the framework of religion in the LGBT rights dialogue.

## Missing Voices

Murray talked about the Missing

Voices Study, which examined media coverage of LGBT issues from 2008-2011. The study revealed that three out of four religious spokespeople came from denominations with strong opposition to the LGBT community. "There is an over-representation of Evangelical Christians and Catholics, and not that many pro-LGBT religious spokespeople." He explained that even when affirming people of faith are in the media, they tend to "speak in secular language" and "avoid using religious terminology or quotes."

"The frame is that people of faith oppose LGBT equality. These are the things that show up in headlines," Murray said. "What I see a lot is you can only be one or the other – LGBT or a person of faith. I know this is not true. You know this is not true. But we need to let other people know it's not true."

"As LGBT religious leaders we have a voice that no one else can use. We have too long let being a 'true Christian,' a 'person of faith,' and a 'values voter' be determined by someone else."

Murray encouraged people to step

up and speak from a faith-based perspective so that the public and the press can see that it's not religion vs. orientation. There are LGBT people of faith, and people in all congregations that support equality.

"We hear it [religious speech] so much from the other side that we don't want to sound like them, but we need to... people need to hear faith-based discussion."

Every denomination has their own unique voice, and when people of faith speak up it is much more effective if they come from their own perspectives. "When you talk to the media or to others, use Bible verses that are meaningful to you. We've all had the Leviticus discussion a million times and we don't need to do that. Instead talk about the parts of the Bible that give you comfort and faith. You can speak from a perspective of God's love."

While Murray spoke in terms of "people of faith," he urged religious leaders to be as specific and authentic as possible in their messaging. As a Lutheran, Murray is able to speak in a way that resonates with other

“As LGBT religious leaders we have a voice that no one else can use. We have too long let being a ‘true Christian,’ a ‘person of faith,’ and a ‘values voter’ be determined by someone else.”

– Ross Murray

Lutherans. Leaders from other denominations can speak not only to all religious people, but they can connect with their fellow worshipers in a more personal way by naming their affiliation and using its teachings as a framework for sharing their story.

GLAAD provides resources for anyone looking to share their LGBT related stories with a broader media audience. They can help people who are willing to share their stories. They educate members of the media. And they have ways to distribute content to broad audiences. While Murray specializes in religious stories, others on staff work with the general public and activist organizations. Find out more at <http://www.glaad.org/resources>.

The faith inclusion breakfast had representatives from a variety of churches and synagogues from throughout the state. Working with multiple church leaders, the Roundtable for Diversity and Inclusion has been creating change from within congregations. Because of their work over 125 places of worship have made advances toward inclusion. Find out more about the Roundtable at <http://www.miroundtable.org/>.



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Left: Michael Christian. Upper right: Spacee Kadette. Lower right: Teddy

# Motor City Drag Kings Lets Performers Shine

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

The 2012 Mr. Heart of Detroit, Drag King Teddy, is spreading the love of music and performance beyond his own ambitions. The 23-year-old drag star from Melvindale has teamed up with Mr. Grand Diva Michael Christian and the fabulous Spacee Kadette, who was National King Entertainer of the Year, to start the Motor City Drag Kings. The

troupe is dedicated to connecting reliable drag artists to audiences throughout Michigan and beyond.

The Drag King Industry has begun to blossom after years in the shadow of Drag King Shows. “Usually Drag Kings would be one or two in a show full of Queens. I’ve worked with some of the bigger names for Queens, but it’s hard to get clubs to book Kings,” Teddy said. “Out of town clubs weren’t

booking Kings at all, usually because they’ve booked local Kings who aren’t as experienced and they don’t bring in much of a return.”

He explained that for a successful show there must be quality in the performance and the costumes, plus support in promotions. Having a loyal fan base also helps.

Teddy and his friends made a name for themselves by convincing night club

owners to do ladies nights, where fans came out in droves to see them dance. Now they perform an average of three nights a week, often at The Birdcage in Detroit.

“I’ve been performing for going on five years now,” Teddy said. “I was dancing at GiGis and someone came and said ‘I want you to dance at my bar,’ which was Stilletos. I didn’t know what I was doing. I started out doing

Christian rock, like Creed. I knew how to dance, but I was nervous, but excited at the same time.

“One thing I learned is that they (the audience) love it when you interact with them. It’s fun to see a big macho guy gettin’ into it. I’ve had guys come up after the show and say ‘Wow, I’m not trying to hit on you or anything, but that takes some real talent and I just wanted to tell you that.’”

“One thing I learned is that (the audience) love it when you interact with them. It’s fun to see a big macho guy gettin’ into it. I’ve had guys come up after the show and say ‘Wow, I’m not trying to hit on you or anything, but that takes some real talent and I just wanted to tell you that.’”

– Michael Christian

Christian also was recruited, approximately 13 years ago.

“It was a Wednesday night and Trixie Deluxe saw me dancing and singing along. She grabbed me and said ‘Come on stage with me. I know you know the words.’ It was a huge adrenaline rush,” Christian said.

Over a decade later Christian still gets the performance high. He also gets the pre-show jitters. “There’s a lot of stress and pressure on ourselves. I stress and get nervous all day, so when I do get up there it really is a rush. All that pent up energy comes out on the stage.”

Christian lives in Chicago, where he works as a bartender and commutes to Michigan for shows. “It’s exhausting, but I love it,” he said. Often the tall thin King will move the crowd with country songs or rock. “My favorite song to perform is ‘Call Me,’ by Shine Down. It’s a little dark so I don’t always get to do it, but around Halloween I was able to bring it out again.”

Christian’s strength is in costume, theatrics and effects and he said he is grateful for Teddy – and for Teddy’s family. “His dad helps me make the props. It’s great to see the way his family gets involved and is so supportive. His mom is everybody’s mom.”

His favorite thing though is “dressing room time, all the chaos and the camaraderie. So much energy. And the crowds.”

For Teddy, his passions helping others get along and building up the business for everyone. These days, when he dances it’s usually to Chris Brown. “Every time you turn on the radio it’s a Chris Brown song. It makes the ladies go wild.”

Christian said they try to incorporate variety into their shows, so “there is something for everybody.” He praised Spacee Kadette as well, boasting that the performer sings his own songs and “does an amazing Dean Martin illusion.”

They also have a call list with dozens of Kings, and some Queens, who they can bring with them to do shows.

“In this business things can get competitive. I work with people who I know will show up on time, who won’t steal, and who will give their all for a show,” Teddy said. “I go about it in a professional way, and that makes it a better experience for everybody.”

Being organized and understanding promotions has helped Motor City Drag Kings take their talent on the road. They’ve done shows in Chicago, Grand Rapids, Kalamazoo, Port Huron, and of course

throughout southeast Michigan. “I just got married in March. Now is the time to go out of state and travel, but I do plan on settling down and having kids. I’d like to keep the company going long term and finding more Kings who can come up. This is such a fun thing, and it helps bring more attention to the masculine side. Everyone loves the Queens, and I love the Queens. But I want more Kings to get involved and make this bigger for everyone.”

For those who are thinking about becoming a Drag King or Queen, Teddy advises “When you’re on stage, nobody is judging you. They’re there to have a good time and they want you to do good. And if you mess up, just keep going. Most people won’t even notice it.”

Christian’s advice can help as well. “Be comfortable with it, but also do things you are scared to do. It’s your turn to be whoever you want to be.”

To find out more about Motor City Drag Kings, follow them on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/MotorCityDragKings>.

## Upcoming Performances

### Teddy

New Years Eve at Club Liquid  
Jan. 20: Motor City Drag King Show  
Jan. 25: Club Station House- Springfield, Ill  
April 11: Oakland University

### Spacee Kadette

New Years Eve - BirdCage  
Jan 12: Malebox II, Warren MI  
Jan. 20: Motor City Drag King Show  
Jan. 25: Club Station House - Springfield, Ill

### Michael Christian

Jan 12: Partners Bar, Battle Creek  
Jan. 20: Motor City Drag King Show  
Friday Jan. 25 Club Station House- Springfield, Ill  
April 11 Oakland University

### Dirty (DJ) Johnny

Jan. 20: Motor City Drag King Show  
Jan. 25: Club Station House - Springfield, Ill  
April 11: Oakland University

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# Notre Dame Approves Gay Straight Alliance

BY CHUCK COLBERT

In a move affirming of gays on campus, officials at University of Notre Dame said last week they would recognize an organization for LGBT students — a first for the school.

News of the decision came Dec. 5 in a press release, and comes after a five-month administrative review process and after a decades-long push for a self-governing student club or GSA, a gay-straight alliance.

More than a dozen times and over the same number of years and more, Notre Dame has refused to create a university-recognized student group for gays. Against that historical backdrop, the decision on the South Bend, Ind., campus is considered a breakthrough, especially given the iconic school's Catholic character and identity.

In announcing the change, Notre Dame also said it would expand support and services for LGBT students, initiating a new advisory committee composed of undergraduate and graduate students, faculty and staff to provide guidance to the vice president for student affairs on questions, concerns and needs of LGBT identified students.

And Notre Dame will hire a student development professional, a full-time staff member who will oversee the new student organization and programmatic activities.

In all, the response on campus and beyond has been positive, if not enthusiastically so, even as some alumni voiced skepticism and guarded optimism.

Current students involved in the efforts could not be happier or more enthusiastic.

"It's a pretty significant change, given Notre Dame's reputation as the face of a Catholic university," said openly gay senior Karl Alexander Abad of Fullerton, Calif., during a telephone interview.

"I foresee a lot more student involvement here with the change," he said.

Another student leader who participated in conversations with student affairs and school administrators was straight ally, junior Alex Coccia of Columbus, Ohio.

Coccia was a key player in the 4 to 5 movement, the largest coalition for LGBT rights at Notre Dame in history, which, last year, brought together students, faculty, staff and alumni in a unified way to tell the administration that they were not doing nearly enough to serve LGBT people in the university community. In fact, social media, like Facebook, raised the profile of the 4 to 5 movement well beyond South Bend.

"I am very excited about it," he said, referring to approval of an officially recognized student organization. "It has a lot of potential and students are excited. Ultimately, having that passion and effort are going to make it successful."

## Open To All

A name for the organization has not yet been selected.

The student group is not a club and not a



Above: Notre Dame campus. Right: Openly gay senior Karl Alexander Abad



political advocacy association. Rather, it is an organization open to all students who will elect officers.

Designation as an organization holds some significance insofar as the student group will have an advisor appointed by the office of student affairs. Clubs choose their own advisors.

During a telephone interview, Coccia said designation of the new group as an organization, on the same par as the student government, student union and the yearbook, for example, raises its visibility and status on campus even as it gives administrators tighter oversight and control.

While Notre Dame has hundreds of clubs, its number of designated organizations is much smaller.

"That's good for questioning students, he said, "because it will be easier for them to find the organization," which will also be permanent.

"It's also good for prospective students because Notre Dame has been on GLBTQ unfriendly lists before," said Coccia. "They may want to come to Notre Dame now that the university has a commitment to them."

Still, Notre Dame lags behind other Catholic colleges and universities as any number of them offer legal protections on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity, and/or allow self-governing LGBT student groups, including Boston College, Georgetown University, DePaul University, and Santa Clara University, among others.

Georgetown and DePaul also have GLBTQ resource centers. A little more than a year ago, Georgetown's center received a \$1 million gift to fund an LGBT life initiative.

With a new approach on LGBT issues, one characterized by more openness, inclusion, trust and collaboration, Notre Dame outlined its thinking in a six-page document entitled "Beloved Friends and Allies: A Pastoral Plan for the Support

and Holistic Development of GLBTQ and Heterosexual Students at the University of Notre Dame."

The pastoral plan relies on Catholic Church doctrine and teaching on human sexuality and marriage. The pastoral framework cites the catechism of the Catholic Church, writings from the US Catholic Conference of Bishops, and natural law theory. Accordingly, Notre Dame's plan repeatedly holds out chastity as a theological virtue, along with the cardinal virtue of justice, as guiding principles, along with "respect, compassion, and sensitivity" for all.

While calling students to chastity, the plan, citing the catechism, specifically reminds gays that "homosexual persons are called to chastity" and to "friendship" and should cultivate "the virtues of self-mastery that teach them inner freedom."

## Chastity For All?

Ultimately, chastity has different meanings for straights and gays. The church holds out sexual intimacy in opposite-sex marriage and family life for non-gays. But chastity for gays requires mandatory life-long celibacy. Same-sex marriage is not a sacramental option, according to church teaching.

Historically, in considering anything GLBTQ, Notre Dame has a longstanding practice of holding out church teaching by repeatedly singling out gays for chaste living, which seems to imply that, for whatever reason, gays are somehow more prone to non-chaste behavior than non-gays.

Below the surface seems to lay an offensively stereotypical operative equation — gay equals sexual activity. In other words, being gay is all about sex.

Therein lies a rub for students and alumni who voiced skepticism and criticism.

As Notre Dame senior Michael O'Brien of Strongsville, Ohio, (suburban Cleveland) explained, "In terms of the call to chastity, I have frequently been upset by the double standard Notre Dame had used to justify exclusion of the GLBTQ community," he said in email correspondence through Facebook.

"The GSA (gay/straight alliance) supposedly would lead to many GLBTQ students to hook up, but speed dating, dorm dances, and Hip Hop Night apparently never cause straight students to act immorally.

"There was also always concern that a GSA would need to be heavily regulated to make sure it was in line with Church teaching. However, this standard is rarely ever applied to other campus organizations.

"The administration never criticizes the Right to Life Club for not campaigning for the abolition of the death penalty. College Democrats and College Republicans frequently promote candidates with un-Catholic stances on issues.

"Why would a GSA be held to a higher standard?"

"I see this disparate treatment as a tacit distrust of the university in the GLBTQ community that somehow they are more prone to sin than the rest of the student body."

Added a 2011 Notre Dame alumna Grace Loppnow on Facebook, "Obviously ... we're supposed to be chaste, and when other student clubs are proposed, chastity isn't an issue that is explicitly addressed. Do you think the Scrabble Club's application had a response that said, 'We're all called to live chaste lives?' I doubt it."

Still, Abad said school administrators' harping on chastity was "there to protect us from external forces that would have a detrimental effect on the student body."

"I feel it was necessary," he said, referring to Notre Dame's incessant chastity appeal.

Abad may be on to something. Earlier this year, a conservative Notre Dame alumnus watchdog group, the Sycamore Trust, voiced reservations about the possibility of an officially authorized gay student group.

"University recognition and support of a homosexual club would be deeply objectionable for even more fundamental reasons," they wrote on their Web site. "It would give grave scandal damaging to the Church, to the University, to students, and to other Catholic institutions and would establish a potential source of serious mischief within the school."

Notre Dame's call-to-chastity strategy is apparently working. The Fort Wayne-South Bend Catholic diocese issued a statement in support of the school's decision.

Said Bishop Kevin Rhoades, "The University of Notre Dame clearly affirms its fidelity to Catholic Church teaching on human sexuality by affirming that sexuality is ordered to the conjugal love of man and woman" and that "the deliberate use of the sexual faculty, for whatever

See Notre Dame, page 10

www.PrideSource.com



# And 2012, In Conclusion ...



## Parting Glances

OPINION BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

This is the last PG column of 2012. Last because the year – as years so quickly have a habit of doing – has come to a conclusion. (The older one gets, the more rapidly they seemingly like to conclude.)

Fortunately the world, as predicted by the Mayan soothsayers, did not itself end in either a poetic whimper or a prosaic bang. Nor did Jesus return in the clouds of glory to rapture his flock heavenward. (Unfortunately for Pat Robertson, and for us left behinders.)

Like it or not, we're all stuck here for another round of 365, 24/7, 9 to 5. The cultural wars will no doubt continue, and gays will accordingly to be blamed for Lady Gaga, Cher, Jim Parsons, and, to a somewhat slightly lesser extent, BTL's ever-smiling Chris Azzopardi.

For the 12 or 13 faithful readers of this column – two have ceased finding inspiration, either spiritual or carnal, in my comments and stopped speed reading me – this PG column is number 675. That comes to 371,256 words, and heaven knows how many individual letters. But who's counting?

To my credit I've yet not to meet a deadline. I think this act of anal retentive behavior on my part is the least I can do for my handful of column regulars – each of whom I'm sure is likewise intellectually, if not also physiologically, retentive in their readership loyalty.

I signed on as a BTL writer with co-publishers Jan & Susan (the ampersand says it all) from day one of their ownership. A year or so before they took over the paper from previous publisher Shannon Rhodes and founding publisher Mark "Fanzina" Winstein, I had interviewed Jan for Ten Percent, an early local L/G publication.

Jan liked that what I had to say about her in the interview was flattering, non-controversial, insightful, and had just the right touch of believable human and lesbian interest to underscore an honest 500-word, male opinion that she was emerging leadership material and special. (Susan later, I'm told, confirmed my sageous foresight.)

So began my column odyssey. (And, admittedly, at times it's been just that: odd.) As for being regular in my writing commitment to a weekly column, that happened in 1999, when for a modest 15 cents a word I wrote 125 words about LGBT history of the past 100 years. (Generously J&S paid me \$20 per column, rather than the stipulated going rate of \$18.75.)

Oh, yes! I had the bright idea to call my historical walk through (some would say it was a swish through) Parting Glances, after one of my all time favorite gay movies of the same name. What started out as history soon became opinion, satire, fantasy, joy, anger, and often for myself a touching remembering of what it was like to be a gay or lesbian some fifty-plus years ago. Times have changed!

Next year is a biggie for BTL. It's the twentieth anniversary of "our" paper. I say "our" because that indeed is what it's all about. The proud, persistent, determined, reliable voice of our collective LGBT struggles and successes. Yours and mine. Thank you Jan. Thank you Susan. Thank you Between The Lines!

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# Confessions Of A Marriage Doubter

## When There's So Much More To LGBT Rights, Why All The Fuss About Marriage?



### Viewpoint

OPINION BY ABBY DEES

I've been writing about marriage a lot lately, which seems weird to me because even up to my own wedding in 2008, I had mixed feelings about the massive focus on marriage equality over the last decade. I mean, when I came out in...well, a different century, we weren't talking much about marriage as a major goal. We talked about rights, damnit. All of them. Marriage too, I guess, but there was some odd mix in our collective queer psyche that both poo-pooed marriage for aping heterosexual norms (we talked this way then) and thought that achieving marriage equality was about as likely as changing the word "God" to "Goddess" on our money. There were more important things to fight for anyway.

We could enumerate our demands like we could count Madonna hits on our fingers: an end to workplace discrimination, sodomy laws, and gay bashing; access to hospital visitation and adoption; the right not to be declared an unfit parent just because you were gay or lesbian; positive representation in the media; recognition of bi-national couples, and the right to political asylum based on sexual orientation or gender identity. The closest we got to marriage was domestic partnership, which we fought for and won in many places.

All of these things were so practical and necessary and all are still pressing issues

somewhere, even if we've moved forward in other places. We wanted then, and now, to live our lives like anyone else without running head first into stupidity, ignorance or violence.

Marriage, though, was different.

Marriage had baggage. If you were someone's wife not long ago - and today in some cultures - you were his property. Marriage in history was about securing money, property and power. And for me, chronically single and compelled to chase after indecisive idiots throughout most of my 20s and 30s, marriage didn't have a thing to do with my freedom as a lesbian. If you asked me in 2000 what the biggest issue facing our community was, I'd have said employment discrimination. Domestic partnership was important too, of course, and I was happy, single as I typically was, to fight for it. It made good, practical sense if you were lucky enough to hook up with a normal person.

What's happened now that I'm beating the drum for marriage equality? Did I finally drink the Kool-Aide? Am I a patriarchy-and-heterosexuality-blinded zombie? No, and I still don't like to be called anyone's wife. I just got to the core of the thing: The difference between marriage and domestic partnership, aside from the fact that "domestic partnership" will always look better on a numbered administrative form than embossed in fancy curlicues, is a sense of dignity.

If we had civil unions under the law for everyone, and marriage were only a spiritual contract, then I'd be all over the domestic partnership thing. But that's not the way our culture does it. Marriage is the brass ring of agreements. The courts have held it to be

the bedrock relationship of our society since the Magna Carta. (In fact, the 1879 Supreme Court case that upheld bans on polygamy didn't mention morality; instead, it spoke about protecting the democratic system: If a man could have a dozen wives, he became, essentially, a despot). In its most basic form, everyone knows, more or less, what you mean when you say, "We're married." Likewise, everyone understands why you sometimes need a divorce, but I once had to explain to someone,

**We wanted then, and now, to live our lives like anyone else without running head first into stupidity, ignorance or violence.**

repeatedly, why she needed to dissolve her domestic partnership when the relationship tanked.

As the right wing reminds us, marriage is special and important - which is why we're fighting so hard for it. Marriage equality could happen as soon as 2013. It could move us dramatically closer to legal equality in all realms, regardless if we're single, married or otherwise arranged.

I get why some people don't give a toss about conventional marriage. I'll fight for their rights too. But most of us, LGBT or not, and me too, are inevitably drawn back to our cultural roots. It can be a beautiful thing as long as we don't get all zombieified about it.

### ► Notre Dame

Continued from p. 8

reason, outside of marriage is essentially contrary to its purpose."

Meanwhile, current leadership from the Gay & Lesbian Alumni of Notre Dame and St. Mary's College (GALA-ND/SMC) voiced its praise and appreciation. "Father [John I.] Jenkins [the schools' president] and the Notre Dame administration took the right step this week in recognizing the needs of the GLBT students in the Notre Dame community," said Jack Bergen, a 1977 graduate, who serves as GALA's vice president for programs.

"We should all be proud of the work that the students, faculty and staff courageously undertook to make this happen. I feel confident that a logical next step in this process will be to officially recognize GLBT alumni members of the community as well," he added in an email correspondence.

"Even now, GLBT alums are working with local alumni clubs to forge this alliance, so it is

only a matter of time that this occurs across the broader alumni organization," said Bergen.

A former chair of GALA was more skeptical. "I'm cautiously optimistic that this is at least a step in the right direction," said Liam Dacey, who also expressed hope GALA could make inroads within the larger Notre Dame community.

"It will also be important for GALA to find a way to have a say in all this," he said in email. "We have to find a way to have a voice."

Jerry Seaman, a 1964 gay alumnus of Evanston, Ill., offered an assessment. "I think the acknowledgement by the university is great," he said through Facebook messaging. "However, I'm suspicious about the university's 'control' over how LGBT issues are 'discussed.' This 'call to chastity' language seems to be pretty strong."

GALA—ND/SMC is an independent nonprofit organization that is not affiliated with the Notre Dame Alumni Association.

Beyond the Notre Dame campus, reaction from leadership in LGBT Catholic advocacy organizations and of those who minister with gays and lesbians was upbeat.

Marianne Duddy-Burke, executive director of

the advocacy organization Dignity/USA, voiced praise for Notre Dame's change of heart.

"They are doing what can be done at the moment," she said during a phone conversation, adding, "For a college of Notre Dame's stature to produce a more inclusive environment for LGBT students at a time when [school officials] are being pressured to preserve the Vatican's ideal of Catholic identity is encouraging."

The executive director of New Ways Ministry said he, too, was pleased with Notre Dame's pastoral approach. "I think that this decision is a victory for the courageous, informed, and persistent approach that students took on this issue," said Francis DeBernardo of the Mount Rainier, Md.-based gay positive organization.

"Supported by the faculty, the students, in fact, educated the administration about the application of Catholic social teaching, and, in the end, their arguments and their witness won the day. That is the best thing about this decision," he said.

*A 1978 Notre Dame alumnus, Chuck Colbert is a co-founder of GALA-ND/SMC and a former co-chair of the organization.*

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# ENDA Fight Likely Same Track As Don't Ask, Don't Tell Repeal

BY LISA KEEN

The Employment Non-Discrimination Act - or ENDA - has always been a top priority for the LGBT community politically. It's been around in one form or another for almost 40 years, passed the House once, and nearly passed the Senate once.

Now, as President Obama - the most pro-gay president in history - readies to begin his second term, a Republican-dominated House still makes passage of ENDA extremely unlikely.

Many LGBT activists have pressured Obama in the past to go around the Republican House and issue an executive order barring discrimination in employment at least by contractors who do business with the federal government.

At a routine White House press conference Dec. 12, Washington Blade reporter Chris Johnson asked press secretary Jay Carney whether the president might consider doing that, now that he's secured his second term.

But Carney said the White House has no such plans under consideration. Instead, he said, the White House plans to follow the same path on ENDA as it did on repealing Don't Ask, Don't Tell - and that path winds through Congress.

Michael Cole-Schwartz, a spokesman for the Human Rights Campaign, said his organization would continue to press the White House to sign an executive order.

"ENDA is a critically important piece of legislation, and the political reality in Congress is that there is not an immediate, clear path to passage," said Cole-Schwartz. He said HRC also believes the potential paths - through Congress and through executive order - "don't have to be separate tracks."

In the 2011-12 Congressional session, the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor & Pensions gave ENDA a hearing, and four of five witnesses favored it. The one witness opposed to the legislation, National Religious Broadcasters Association spokesman Craig Parshall, claimed it would have a chilling

effect on the right of religious organizations to exercise beliefs concerning homosexuality.

However, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 - which prohibits employers from discriminating based on race, color, religion, sex, and national origin - already exempts "religious organizations" and "religious educational institutions" from the mandate concerning religion, enabling such organizations to give preference to employees who share their religion. It does not allow religious organizations to discriminate against employees based on race, sex, or the other covered categories and simply claim the discrimination is religiously-based.

The ENDA bill introduced in this past Congressional session included a "Exemption for Religious Organizations" section, stating: "This Act shall not apply to a corporation, association, educational institution or institution of learning, or society that is exempt from the religious discrimination provisions of title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964...."

U.S. Senator Jeff Merkley (D-Ore.) introduced ENDA in the current session of the Senate. In the next Congressional session, the Senate's first openly gay elected senator, Tammy Baldwin of Wisconsin, will likely sit on that same Senate committee and be a part

**In the 2011-12 Congressional session, the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor & Pensions gave ENDA a hearing, and four of five witnesses favored it.**

of ushering the bill forward.

In the Republican-dominated House, where the chief sponsor has been Rep. Barney Frank (D-Mass.), who is retiring, the new most veteran openly gay member of the U.S. House, Rep. Jared Polis (D-Colo.), will take over the chief sponsorship of ENDA.



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This is the final interview in a series of 13 with young LGBT leaders of color in the greater Detroit area, an 18-month, collaborative print and video project produced by Between The Lines and Model D, and supported by the Racial Equity Initiative of the HOPE Fund of the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan. Highlights from the 12 previous interviews appear in the following pages.

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# Redefining Success

BTL Photo: Andrew Potter

## Without A Job Since His Program Was Cut, Angelo Brown Still Can't Stop Smiling

BY ANDRA POTEET

"I don't think a success story is just because your pockets are full," Angelo Brown says in his cheerful tone. "I think a success story is because you get what you want in life."

For Brown, 28, success is now measured in smiles brought to faces, his way of continuing the outreach he did with AIDS Partnership of Michigan's REC Boyz program until it was disbanded due to budget cuts at the end of last year.

After working as a coordinator for the program for six months, Brown suddenly found himself without a job. He was

interesting in volunteering, but battling diabetes and without transportation to get to a nonprofit organization's headquarters made it difficult. So he applied some of the principals he learned working with youth in the program to his own life.

"I've kind of been just taking care of the people that I know personally and talking to people on Facebook," he says. "I haven't been doing that much with my time but I've been making sure the people I know are growing up doing more with themselves. If they are feeling a little down I make sure I talk to them the way I used to and make them feel a little better and it works."

His current situation is far from the

mobility he most misses about the REC Boyz, an acronym for "real enough to change," who traveled to night clubs and other spots where men ages 13 to 24 hung out to teach them about safe sex.

"Most of the places I know, they want the people that they reach out to, to come to them," he says. "We went to the clubs, we went and did events that were out in the open and people would walk by and go 'oh that looks fun' and that's when we would reach out and talk to them. Our major goal was to go to the people and make sure the people who need the help were found."

While working with the REC Boyz, Brown said his desire to help sometimes manifested itself in odd ways. Bent on

helping youth in the program use their minds in creative ways, Brown often set up debates, encouraging participants to critique the thought patterns of each other. He said it sometimes took a lot of energy to make sure the debates did not turn into verbal arguments.

"I always feel like you learn the most about what you talk about when you have to defend it," he says. "My boss, Hal Smith, pulled me aside one time and said 'why are you always ending it so that they argue with each other?' When you have strong minds, it's kind of hard to make sure that punches don't get thrown, but as time went on, I get better at it."

After the group disbanded, several

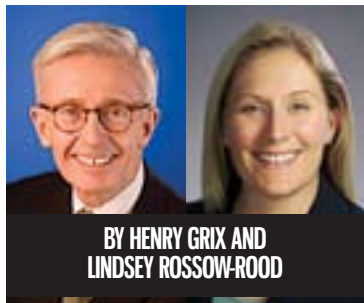
members instituted "underground," meetings, in which they attempt to spread the group's message with little or no funding. Brown said he can't afford transportation to its meeting, but he follows the group online and is glad that it is still, in some sense, active.

"What I like about it is that they haven't let the soul of the REC Boyz die," he says.

His love for helping others began as a volunteer with Ruth Ellis Center, where he met former staff member Cynthia Goodman. She treated volunteers like "her kids," Brown said, and Brown took notes on how she built connections with

See *Redefining Success*, page 14

## What Is Your Legacy?



BY HENRY GRIX AND  
LINDSEY ROSSOW-ROOD

It's that time of year again when many of us are rushing to make our year-end donations to our favorite charities. By sending in a check or making an online donation, you're letting the organization know that you care about its mission, and want to help ensure that its good work continues throughout the year.

Now, what if you wanted to be sure that the causes that you care about are supported well beyond your lifetime? You may be thinking, "It's time to stop reading this article now as I know the terms "planned gift", "estate planning", or "legacy gift" are going to be mentioned. And honestly, I don't have an estate to worry about much less give to charity, so this doesn't apply to me." Well, before you stop reading consider the following:

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You can be assured that if you are 18 years of age or older, estate planning is not only relevant to you, but essential. Estate planning is not something that you can "opt out" of as Michigan law creates an estate plan for you if you do not have a written plan in place. LGBT individuals, couples, and their families have particular incentive to plan their estates deliberately. Without enforceable, written plans in place, the personal and financial affairs of LGBT people are subject to legal "default" rules that were not designed with their needs in mind. The legal default rules are based upon marital or biological ties and do not recognize relationships that LGBT individuals may develop with unrelated loved ones and friends. Estate planning remains important even for LGBT people whose closest

relationships are with their biological families because an estate plan guides and assists those who step into your shoes in the event of lifetime disability or death.

Estate planning is important not only to protect yourself during your lifetime but also to leave your legacy after your death. You may wish to leave a legacy through gifts to loved ones, but you may wish to provide for causes that matter to you. You don't need to be Bill Gates to leave a charitable legacy. Consider naming one or more charities as beneficiaries of all or a portion of your retirement plan, whether 10 percent, 50 percent or a specific dollar amount. In the alternative, consider gifts that may provide income to a loved one for life, with a remainder to charity. Your gift, no matter its size, can have a permanent impact upon our community.

For more than 28 years, the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan has helped individuals, couples, and families, meet their charitable and financial goals. Making a planned gift can be as simple as a beneficiary designation, while others can be more complex, depending on your unique financial, personal, and business situation. If you are considering making a planned gift, the staff at the Community Foundation can work with you and your professional advisors to identify the best giving opportunities for you. Whether you are interested in establishing a named endowment fund to support your favorite organization, would like to contribute to the endowment of one of our existing partner agencies (see side bar), are interesting in leaving a gift to The HOPE Fund of the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan (see side bar), or would like to explore whether or not a certain giving vehicle might be right for you (such as a Charitable Gift Annuity or Charitable Remainder Trust), consider the Community Foundation as your partner in philanthropy. For more information please visit <http://cfsem.org/hope-fund> or contact Lindsey Rossow-Rood at the Community Foundation at 313.961.6675 or [lrossow@cfsem.org](mailto:lrossow@cfsem.org).

*Lindsey Rossow-Rood is a Philanthropic Services Officer at the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan, and Henry Grix is an Estate Planning Attorney at the law firm of Dickinson Wright.*

## What Is The HOPE Fund Of The Community Foundation?

For more than 28 years the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan has helped community members meet their charitable and financial goals by providing tools and resources that make giving easier, flexible, and effective.

One way that the Community Foundation has partnered with the local LGBT non-profit community is by establishing The HOPE Fund, which was launched in 1994 as a grantmaking and technical assistance program focused on strengthening organizations and projects which serve the LGBT community in southeast Michigan. Since its inception more than \$1.7 million in grants have been made to 128 projects at 45 nonprofit agencies.

We also helped the following organizations establish endowments for their long-term financial stability:

Affirmations Community Center  
AIDS Partnership Michigan Inc.  
Equality Michigan  
Michigan AIDS Coalition  
Ruth Ellis Center Inc.

Please help us support programs and services that serve the LGBT community in southeast Michigan by:

- Making an outright gift of any size to support The HOPE Fund, The HOPE Fund Endowment, or one of the endowment funds of our agency partners.

- Establishing a new named endowment fund.
- Making a planned gift through your will, revocable trust, or through a beneficiary designation of your pension, profit sharing, IRA, 401(k) or 403(B) plan.
- Learning more about gifts that benefit you, your loved ones and charities, such as charitable gift annuities, charitable remainder trusts or charitable lead trusts.

To learn more about gift opportunities, the impact of The HOPE Fund on the community, or to make a gift online, please visit <http://cfsem.org/hope-fund> or contact Lindsey Rossow-Rood at the Community Foundation at 313-961-6675 or [lrossow@cfsem.org](mailto:lrossow@cfsem.org).



### ► Redefining Success

Continued from p. 13

people, applying those skills to his own work there.

"When you work with youth, you want to teach them values, but at the same time, you want to make them feel like their work is important," he says. "A lot of people that work with youth try to constantly tell the kids what they should do but they don't listen."

Seeing what the youth did and did not respond to helped him build his own successful approach, he said.

"When I volunteered, I would suggest things and I would try to make what everyone was doing possible," he said. "I found that it not only was rewarding, but it constantly made the next day better. That's what kept me trying to do more within the community. I felt like if I could make someone think bigger and better, it would make me that way too."

Brown said he became interested in AIDS Partnership Michigan and the REC Boyz as a way to educate himself on safe sex and STD prevention.

"The thing I loved about working with that organization was it made you feel like you can make safe sex fun, you can instill it in yourself to where it's the first thing you think of; it becomes a reaction," he says.

In addition to using his time at REC Boyz and Ruth Ellis to help those he cares about, Brown, a self-described

"video game nerd," is focusing on starting his own business; he hopes to start a console-driven arcade where video game players can socialize with others who share their interests. With most of the needed consoles already collected, he's saving up to find a venue.

During his youth, Brown said he struggled to "find" himself, donning Goth-inspired clothing like black trench coats, black lipstick and spiked hair.

"I did whatever I could do to be different, but at the same time, it really wasn't me," he says. "Trying to come up with who I was, was what the problem was."

When he realized he was bisexual after a relationship with another future REC Boy, Brown said he didn't make a conscious choice to come out, he merely went about his business as normal, occasionally dating men as well as women.

"I just did it," he says. "It wasn't like I was hiding anything. I said to myself 'I'm not going to hide me to anybody, but unless you ask me, that's the only way you're gonna find out.'"

While his mother battled drug addiction, he was raised in Detroit by his grandmother since age 5. A brother who lived with them got sent to jail and Brown spent most of his time with his grandmother, who also battled diabetes. That background fueled his desire to help those who feel they are alone, he said.

"That's why when I see someone sitting by themselves, I'll be the one

to walk over and say 'hey how you doing?,' he says, "because a lot of times they say they want to be alone but being alone is what's making them feel bad."

After spending much of his childhood alone, he said he became inspired to fight for the inclusion of everyone of all sexual orientations and backgrounds. He hopes one day to reenter the nonprofit sector, either at an existing nonprofit or through his own venture, and help reform problems he sees within it. He hopes to focus on ideas, making a "dream factory" where those in charge work to help the ideas of youth volunteers and workers bigger and better.

"These young people today have a lot of great ideas" he says. "Some of them are rough, but they have a good idea and the only thing about it is they don't have the money or the faith in themselves. A lot of people will make their idea the event and they will make the youth's idea the decoration of the event. I always thought I would like to design a place where all the ideas are nurtured and constantly built up and constantly training the kids to be the big things in our community."

Though he said his illness and job loss have made him feel as though he's not currently in a position to be a role model, his main thrill in life is still seeing other people smile through their misfortunes.

"That would be my dream, to make people have a genuine smile," he says. "Not 'I can afford to do whatever I want to, so that's why I'm smiling,' - because that smile doesn't last - but a real smile."

# YOUNG LGBT LEADERS OF COLOR

A joint project of BTL and Model D, supported by the REI of the HOPE Fund of Community Foundation for SE Michigan. BTL Photos: Andrew Potter



## Alfredo Smith

“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.”

– Alfredo Smith

Meet Alfredo Smith: 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. Condoms. But though he came for the freebies, Alfredo stayed for the one-on-one connections he was making with the 13-to-24-year old men the program targeted - connections that would lead him to the work he does today.

By Andrea Poteet  
BTL, Nov. 29, 2012



Go to [Pridesource.com](http://Pridesource.com) or scan this QR code to read the full article.



## Roland Leggett

“Initially, I wanted to work for NPR or PBS. But I got more interested in affecting the story than just telling it.”

– Roland Leggett

Meet Roland Leggett: For Roland, absence from Michigan not only made him fonder of his home state, it made him roll up his sleeves and start fighting to change it. In 2009, Leggett had just moved back to Michigan after working for Obama for America in Chicago. He said moving from progressive Chicago back to a state with so much anti-LGBT legislation was a shock. When he returned, he started working for ACLU of Michigan for two years before landing in his current job as a field organizer at Equality Michigan. Roland didn't like what he saw when he got back to Michigan, so he started trying to change it.

By Andrea Poteet  
BTL, Nov. 1, 2012



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# YOUNG LGBT LEADERS OF COLOR

A joint project of BTL and Model D, supported by the REI of the HOPE Fund of Community Foundation for SE Michigan. BTL Photos: Andrew Potter



## Lance Hicks

*“ We felt like a lot of media representation of LGBTQ youth was either not presented by members of the community, it was kind of by other people about us, or it didn’t represent youth of color. ”*

– Lance Hicks

Meet Lance Hicks: Growing up Detroit’s Northwest side, Lance did not have it easy in school. Growing up with a white parent and a black parent, his peers would deny him his identity, only seeing a white man. But his race is not the only part of his identity people often misread. Hicks, 22, has been correcting them about his gender since coming out as transgender at 15. After coming out, Lance’s mother would drive him to Affirmations’ youth group every week. There his passion for activism emerged. He became involved in OSASS, Oakland County Substance Abuse Services and through Affirmations, he helped organize a Midwest trans youth conference that ran from 2007 to 2009.

By Andrea Poteet  
BTL, Oct. 11, 2012



Go to [Pridesource.com](http://Pridesource.com) or scan this QR code to read the full article.



## Kibibi Blount-Dorn

*“ I think the spirit of organization in Detroit is so unique. I feel like organizers in Detroit sort of have this, ‘this is our city and whatever we can imagine, we can create it to be.’ We don’t have to be bound by any of these superstructures, we can build our own. ”*

– Kibibi Blount-Dorn

Meet Kibibi Blount-Dorn: Kibibi loves food. It’s not just its flavors, smells and textures, or even the process of turning ingredients into a meal. For her, it’s about food’s story from the farm to the table and the people and places it touches along the way. But it’s more than that. Since accepting a job as program manager of the Detroit Food Policy Council, Kibibi has worked closely with the council to improve access to healthy food, advocate for urban agriculture and to bring broader education about food and health to Detroit.

By Andrea Poteet  
BTL, Sept. 6, 2012



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# YOUNG LGBT LEADERS OF COLOR

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## Marland Colyer

*“I couldn't find any work, so just having a change and being able to come somewhere else and saying 'let me start over here and see where it takes me' was kind of my push to come to Detroit.”*

– Marland Colyer

Meet Martin Colyer: This 29-year-old Chicago native, who moved to Detroit last December, has a lot of big plans for changing the world through leadership. After graduating from KICK's first Learn, Educate, Advocate and Drive (LEAD) program in May, Martin said he has the tools to make those dreams come true. And to Colyer's surprise, his chance for an out-front role would come before he left the LEAD class. His classmates unanimously voted that he should give the class' graduation speech. Though he's not sure where his love of helping people, especially those in the LGBT community, will take him, he says he is sure whatever he does he will be able to make a positive difference.

By Andrea Poteet  
BTL, July 26, 2012



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## Bre'Ann Campbell

*“For the longest, I've been searching for someone who is strong and looking out for trans women. I didn't realize that I was becoming that person.”*

– Bre'Ann Campbell

Meet Bre'Ann Campbell: After being denied housing for being trans, Bre'Ann took her case to Equality Michigan and the Michigan Department of Civil Rights and was launched into the public spotlight. Although investigators could not make a sufficient case that she had been the victim of discrimination, the incident awakened an activist within her. Bre'Ann didn't set out to change the world, but in the process of finding herself this confident 26-year-old Detroiter has become an unwitting advocate for trans women everywhere.

By Desiree Cooper  
BTL, June 28, 2012



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# YOUNG LGBT LEADERS OF COLOR

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## Tony Johnson

*“I decided that I can’t stay at home and do nothing. I have to get out and help others.”*

– Tony Johnson

Meet Tony Johnson: Johnson, is disabled and lives on a fixed income. In 1993, he discovered that he was HIV-positive, but the virus has been undetectable in his blood since 2004. In 2005 Tony got involved in KICK’s mission to create a stigma-free, safe space for LGBT African Americans who are HIV-positive. Johnson was so taken by the mission, he started catching the bus three days a week to manage KICK’s calls and to become an intake specialist. But don’t bother talking to Johnson about his leadership in Detroit’s African American, LGBT community, it would only embarrass him. He’s more interested in talking about service and change.

By Desiree Cooper  
BTL, May 24, 2012



Go to [Pridesource.com](http://Pridesource.com) or scan this QR code to read the full article.



## Rosemary Linares

*“I’m a bisexual woman with heterosexual privilege. When you have that kind of privilege, it’s important to explore your feelings around it. Do you feel guilty or powerful? Having explored my own privilege, I’ve come to the social justice movement with humility and self-awareness.”*

– Rosemary Linares

Meet Rosemary Linares: Rosemary is a bubbly 29-year-old with a master’s degree from New York University, a supportive husband and an adorable stepson. From the outside, it looks like she has it all, including what she calls “heterosexual privilege.” What is not so obvious is that Linares is a bisexual Latina. In 2010, Rosemary founded Cross Movement Social Justice Consulting to advance social justice by increasing the capacity of nonprofit organizations and building alliances across social movements. Last year, she joined the board of Detroit Latin@s, a community based group formed to bring greater influence and visibility to the Latino/a LGBT and straight allied community.

By Desiree Cooper  
BTL, March 22, 2012



Go to [Pridesource.com](http://Pridesource.com) or scan this QR code to read the full article.

A joint project of BTL and Model D, supported by the REI of the HOPE Fund of Community Foundation for SE Michigan. BTL Photos: Andrew Potter



## Royale Theus

“LGBTQ parents face the issues that other parents don’t face. They have to deal with outsiders who do not believe that gays can be parents. And they have to deal with their own children not accepting them because of what other children may say.”

– Royale Theus

Meet Royale Theus: As a member of an African American LGBT health organization, Royale went to Detroit’s Palmer Park to pass out health information. After graduation, he eventually landed a job in the Detroit Health Department’s HIV mobile testing unit, bringing healthcare services to soup kitchens, methadone clinics and distressed neighborhoods. When he was only 20, the Detroit native discovered he was going to be a father. It wasn’t exactly what he had planned for his future. “Having a son saved my life,” said Theus, whose son is now 11. But instead of throwing him into a tailspin, fatherhood was a wake-up call. “He was my ‘Stay Out of Jail’ card. I knew there was someone depending on me.”

By Desiree Cooper  
BTL, Feb. 9, 2012



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## Adrienne Maree Brown

“I thought if I was a lesbian, I would never have kids, etc. I had accepted what I’d been told it means to be gay, versus what it’s really like to be gay.”

– Adrienne Maree Brown

Meet Adrienne Maree Brown: Since her early 20s, Adrienne has worked on the ground floor of social movements in order to hone her skills. From 2006 to 2010, she was the executive director of The Ruckus Society, a California-based organization that trains activists in non-violent direct action. Today, Adrienne helps social justice groups and progressive movements as an organizational guru, a facilitator, a networker and a life coach. While her organizational consulting takes her nationwide, her home base is Detroit’s Cass Corridor, working closely with groups like the Food Justice Task Force and the East Michigan Environmental Council.

By Desiree Cooper  
BTL, Dec. 15, 2011



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# YOUNG LGBT LEADERS OF COLOR

A joint project of BTL and Model D, supported by the REI of the HOPE Fund of Community Foundation for SE Michigan. BTL Photos: Andrew Potter



## Ryan Oliver

*“I’m committed to there being a more visible trans movement in our society – a more confident movement.”*

– Ryan Oliver

Meet Ryan Oliver: At 28, Oliver’s view of manhood has been hard-won. From his youth in a violent Detroit neighborhood, to his isolation as a black college student in a white environment, he has struggled to define himself and his masculinity. It’s a challenge that’s been even more daunting because Oliver is biologically female. As his journey to adulthood took a toll on Ryan’s cultural footing and his confidence suffered, he found support in the words of his sociology professor at EMU. Today, Ryan uses the passion ignited by his professor to advocate on behalf of the invisible transgendered community.

By Desiree Cooper  
BTL, Oct. 27, 2011



Go to [Pridesource.com](http://Pridesource.com) or scan this QR code to read the full article.



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## Kirsten Ussery

*“We need to help people get out of the closet. We need to grow more leaders. There’s a lot of potential out there.”*

– Kirsten Ussery

Meet Kirsten Ussery: She has worked on behalf of LGBT children in the Detroit Public Schools and her leadership in the lesbian women of color support group SPICE - Sistas Providing Intelligence, Creativity and Empowerment. She has also become part of the young brain trust dedicated to the city’s renaissance. She belongs to the inner circle of one of Detroit’s most influential politicians, City Council President Charles Pugh, who, in 1999, ran as an openly gay candidate. Working closely with organizations like the Downtown Detroit Partnership and Business Leaders for Michigan, she has been privy to plans for the city’s revitalization. Ussery is truly not afraid of a challenge.

By Desiree Cooper  
BTL, Sept. 27, 2011





# Gayby Making

## Stars Of Acclaimed Indie Talk Awkward Sex Scenes & What Their Film Says About Family

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

There are lots of ways to have a baby if you're a gay man who wants one with his platonic girlfriend. Surrogacy is one option. You could adopt. Maybe even go the donor insemination route.

Or you could just get naked and stick it in.

"Gayby," an acclaimed indie film from writer/director Jonathan Lisecki (recently nominated for Best First Screenplay by the esteemed Spirit Awards) now on DVD, is the story of two besties, Jenn and Matt (real-life friends Jenn Harris and Matthew Wilkas), who decide to finally fulfill a lifelong promise to have a kid ... by having sex together.

### Love at first sight

**Jenn:** We met during our freshman orientation at Boston University, and it was literally and completely love at first sight. I don't mean love like, "Oh my god, I want to marry that guy"; it was like, "You're coming with me." He's just one of those soul-mate people that knows you. We go together really well; he's very much my brother. So I can't even think of him having sex. It totally creeps me out. But neither of us really can. We get grossed out.

**Matthew:** Yeah, we're never going to have sex. That's never gonna happen.

### The real-life Jenn and Matt

**Jenn:** I remember reading, "Jenn's walking around the city depressed and she falls into

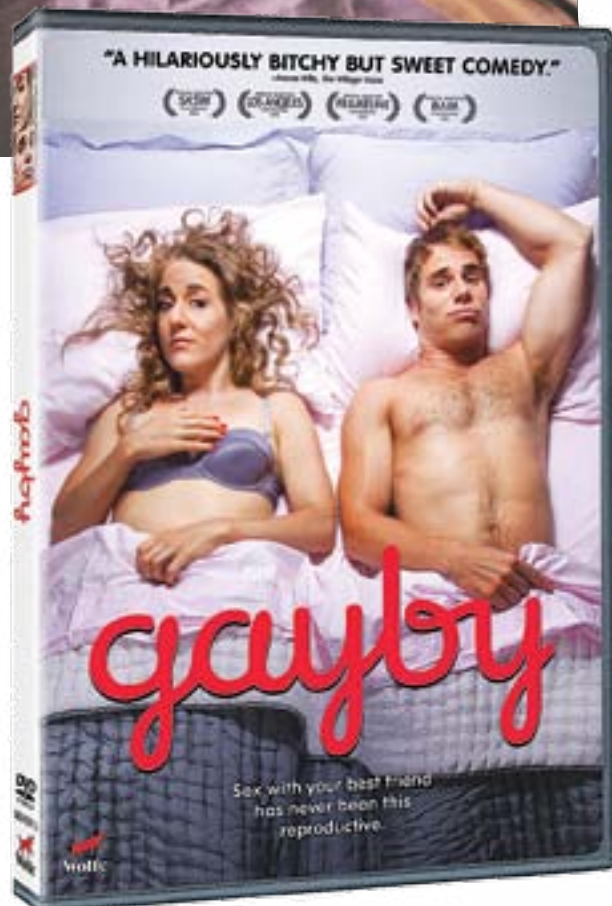
a bush" and thinking, "I can't wait to fall into a bush!" I thought it was this big moment, like I'm gonna fall from a cliff into a bush, and it wasn't. I have as much fun as my character does and I work hard like she does, but it's obviously high comedy – I'm not walking around falling into bushes. I was also a spinning instructor for years, and that is my motorbike.

**Matthew:** We're both really neurotic. I think we both share that quality, so I don't think Jenn is the only neurotic one in this relationship like she is in the film.

### Having babies

**Matthew:** I have no desire to have a baby. Jenn wants to have a baby. She always says that I'm gonna be involved in the child's life, and I'm sure I will be.

See Gayby Making, page 25



# BTL Cool Cities Birmingham



**RICK VIAN**

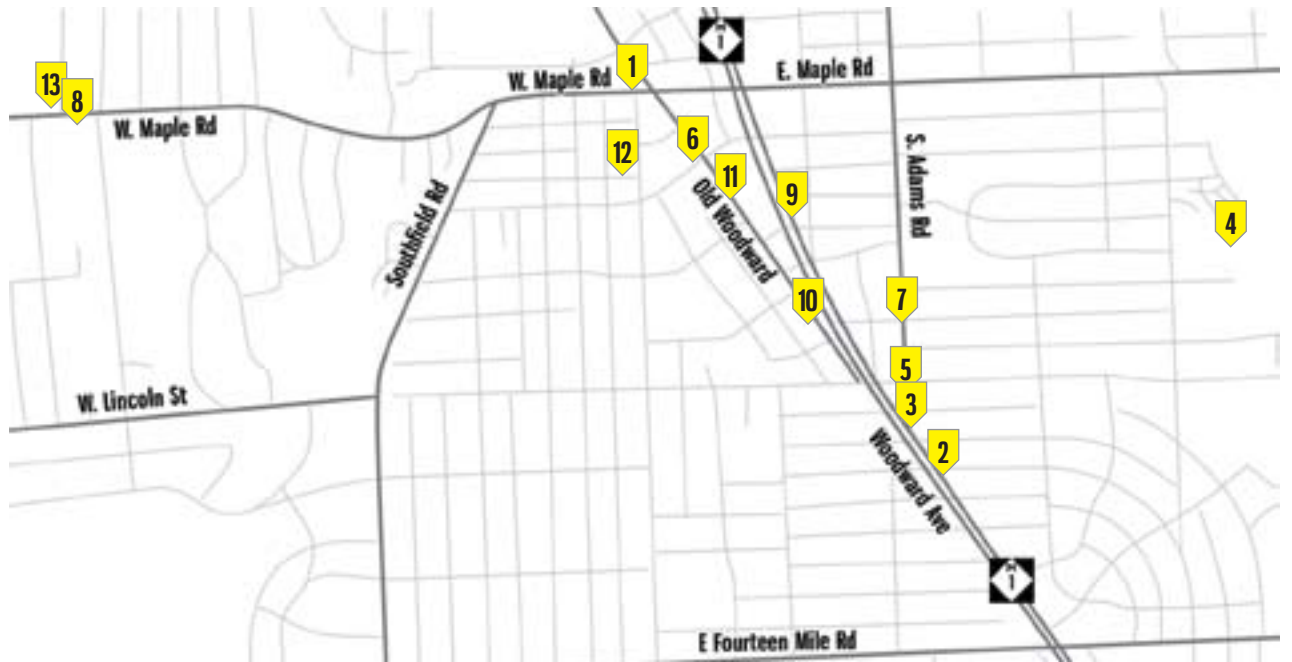
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Stefan Karl as The Grinch with Brooke Lynn Boyd as Cindy-Lou Who. Photo: paparazzibyappointment.com

# ‘The Grinch’ in Detroit Opera House Takes On Classic Seuss Story

BY MARTIN F. KOHN

With songs that vanish from memory even as they’re being sung, an ensemble garbed in reds, whites and pinks, looking like a bowl of candy canes left on the stove, and choreography straight out of a grade-school show – everyone take two steps to the right, everyone take two steps to the left, everyone raise both hands way up – “How the Grinch Stole Christmas” begins inauspiciously even for a kid-friendly holiday musical.

But a little more than halfway through the 90-minute, intermissionless production, something wonderful happens: The show gets very good very fast. Either that or somebody’s heart just grew three sizes.

“How the Grinch Stole Christmas” gets better when the Grinch comes down the mountain to swipe all the Yuletide goodies – presents, stockings, Christmas dinners, decorations, even trees – from the relentlessly cheery Whos down in Whoville in their reds, whites and pinks. The tale zeroes in on its handful of main characters and suddenly, there’s action. The Grinch, played by Stefan Karl with rollicking, child-friendly menace, scoops

## REVIEW

### Dr. Seuss’ How the Grinch Stole Christmas! The Musical

Broadway in Detroit at the Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway St., Detroit. Tuesday-Sunday through Dec. 30; no performance Dec. 25. 90 minutes. \$29-\$62. 313-872-1000.

[www.broadwayindetroit.com](http://www.broadwayindetroit.com)

up presents and tosses or soccer-kicks them to his dog, young Max (Seth Bazacas), who deftly catches the objects in an oversized pillowcase; at one point he executes a sliding catch worthy of the Tigers’ Austin Jackson.

Meanwhile, the older version of Max (Bob Lauder), who serves as narrator and sometime participant, sings “You’re a Mean One, Mr. Grinch,” with deep-voiced gusto, and subsequently reprises it as a sing-along which, judging by the response, is precisely what the audience has been waiting for. Later on, the Grinch himself engages in some audience

give-and-take, which Karl manages with consummate skill: The kiddies get to holler their lungs out but things always stay under control.

And then there is little Cindy Lou Who, an adorable child with a big, Broadway voice (Jenna Iacono at the performance I attended; she alternates with Georgia Kay Wise). Cindy Lou’s big number occurs as she wakes up from a bad dream and discovers the Grinch disguised as Santa Claus. “Oh no,” says the Grinch, “it’s a ballad.”

It is, indeed, and it’s one of just a couple of decent new songs in the musical. At least the two standards from the original 1966 TV special – “Welcome, Christmas” and the aforementioned “Mr. Grinch” – have been retained, as has enough of Dr. Seuss’ original poetry to make fans of the original feel at home.

You take risks when you make a 90-minute stage show out of a 30-minute TV cartoon. Some pay off, some are problematic. Like Santa’s sack, it’s a mixed bag. And it is, ultimately, a gift for the holidays.

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# Happenings

## OUTINGS

### Thursday, Dec. 27

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

**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. Crystallr@jimtoycenter.org

**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, Dec. 28

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

**The Real L Word (Ladies Night @ Liquid)** 9 p.m. Every Friday, it's ladies night at Club Liquid Detroit with DJ Lena. MC Lyrik Drag King Teddy, \$5 cover. DJ Lena, 3537 E. Seven mile Road, Detroit. 313-826-1192. Djsirlena@gmail.com

**Youth Only HIV Testing** 6 p.m. Free anonymous testing for individuals 21 and under. Available the second and fourth Friday of every month. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. GoAffirmations.org

**50 and Better Friday Group** 7 p.m. Designed for those 50 and better looking for an excuse to get out of the house. Goes out every other week or so for miniature golf, a movie, or other activity, per vote. Kalamazoo Gay and Lesbian Resource Center, 629 Pioneer St., Kalamazoo. 269-349-4234. PhoenixChurch.org

### Saturday, Dec. 29

**LezRead** 4 p.m. Ann Arbors book group for Lesbians. Meets the last Saturday of every month. LezReads, 319 Braun Ct., Ann Arbor. 734-995-9867. Lezread@yahoo.com LezRead.com

### Sunday, Dec. 30

**TransCend** 4:30 p.m. Open to persons 18 and older. Younger are welcome with parent or guardian permission. Kalamazoo Gay Lesbian Resource Center, 629 Pioneer St., Kalamazoo. 269-349-4234. Tracy@kglrc.org Kglrc.org

**Conversation Station** 5 p.m. LGBTQI (and allies) 35 and over - join GOAL each week for discussion, food and fun. Topic: What is your purpose in life? Do you believe you have a unique mission? GOAL, 714 S. Washington St., Royal Oak. 248-981-4227. MarciLWilliams@yahoo.com

### Monday, Jan. 31

**Sexual Compulsives Anonymous** 7 p.m. A weekly anonymous 12-step group for those who are facing sexually compulsive behaviors. Affirmations, 290 W. 9 Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. GoAffirmations.org

### Tuesday, Jan. 1

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

### Wednesday, Jan. 2

**Ladies Who Lunch** 11:30 a.m. Ladies meet at Nina's Cafe for food and conversation. Contact Angie to make a reservation. The Resource Center, 1710 W. Main St., Kalamazoo. angiehosewillard@yahoo.com kglrc.org

**Goodie 2 Shoes** 7 p.m. A new social group dedicated to reaching out to the community and helping others. Meets every other Wednesday at MCC Detroit. Goodie 2 Shoes, 2441 Pinecrest St., Ferndale. 299-399-7741. AnnCox@Pridesource.com

**Wild Wednesday** 6 p.m. A group for youth ages 12-18 interested in hanging out with other kind and supportive youth in a safe environment. Dedicated to Make a Change, 319 Braun Ct., Ann Arbor. 734-657-1792. Gail@dedicatedtomakeachange.com Dedicatedtomakeachange.com

**Senior Koffee Klatch** 1 p.m. A lively, discussion and social group for LGBT adults over 45. Group covers topics pertaining to aging and outside speakers. Potluck dinners at members homes, lunches out and holiday parties. Meets ever Wednesday on the upper level of the Affirmations building. Senior Koffee Klatch, 290 W. Road Mile Road, Ferndale. 586-573-9932. GoAffirmations.org

### Friday, Jan. 4

**Womyn's Film Night** 7 p.m. Kathleen Madigan: In Other Words: Acclaimed St. Louis comic Kathleen Madigan unleashes her sarcastic, perfectly timed delivery on such subjects as George W. Bush, tattoos, math, sports, aliens and more in this hilarious stand-up performance. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. GoAffirmations.org/

### Sunday, Jan. 6

**Conversation Station** 5 p.m. Discussion Group with facilitator for LGBTQI (and allies) 35 and over. Food, fun and discussions. Topic: What is the biggest lie you ever told? Get Out And Live!, 714 S. Washington St., Royal Oak. 248-981-4227. MarciLWilliams@yahoo.com GetOutandLive.me

## MUSIC & MORE

### CLASSICAL

**Lansing Symphony Orchestra**  
"MasterWorks 4: "Red Violin" & Brahms"  
Respighi's Brazilian Impressions,  
Corigliano's Chaconne from "The Red Violin", Brahms' Symphony No. 1. Tickets: \$15-50. Wharton Center for the Performing Arts at Michigan State University,

Michigan State University, East Lansing. 8 p.m. Jan. 5. 517-353-1982 ext. 14. LansingSymphony.org

### CONCERTS

**Kalamazoo State Theatre** "The Red Sea Pedestrians & The Corn Fed Girls' New Years Eve! Performing The Beatles' Sgt. Pepper's and Abbey Road Live. Tickets: \$23-25. Kalamazoo State Theatre, 404 S. Burdick, Kalamazoo. 9 p.m. Dec. 31. 269-345-650. KazooState.com

**Magic Stick Lounge** "Vanna Inget" The band has a sound that Swedish bands like Masshysteri, Baboon Show, Invasionen, etc. have conveyed the last ten years. Bands that have given punk a little more melodic vein. Vanna Inget have turned down the distortion and added some more minor chords and vocal harmonies but the intensity, anxiety and the energy is there anyway. Cover: \$5. Magic Stick, 4120 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 7 p.m. Jan. 6. 313-833-9700. MajesticDetroit.com

**The Ark** "Rev Robert Jones" Featuring Sis Bernice Jones. Tickets: \$15. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 7:30 p.m. Jan. 6. 734-761-1800. TheArk.org

**The Ark** "Freakwater" Tickets: \$12. The Ark, 316 S. Main, Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Jan. 10. 734-761-1800. TheArk.org

**The Ark** "The Wallers" Tickets: \$30. The Ark, 316 S. Main, Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Jan. 8. 734-761-1800. TheArk.org

**The Detroit Institute of Arts** "Planet D Nonet Sun Ra Tribute" Planet D Nonet (the D stands for Detroit) plays a tribute to the late Sun Ra. Led by group founders R.J. Spangler and James O'Donnell, the Nonet will perform the music from Sun Ra's six-decade career. Detroit Institute of Arts, 2100 Woodward, Detroit. Dec. 28 - Dec. 28. 313-833-7900. DIA.org

**The Fillmore Detroit** "Brantley Gilbert" WYCDs Holiday at the Fillmore with Brantley Gilbert. Tickets: \$30-49.50. Fillmore Detroit, 2115 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 7 p.m. Dec. 28. TheFillmoreDetroit.com

**The Fillmore Detroit** "Third Eye Blind" Tickets: \$25-45. Fillmore Detroit, 2115 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 7 p.m. Dec. 29. TheFillmoreDetroit.com

**The Majestic** "The Sights' Christmas Waltz" Like the Last Waltz, The Sights' Christmas Waltz is a chance to relax and enjoy a celebration of music - lots of special guests performing songs you'll never hear again with once-in-a-lifetime lineups. Cover: \$8. Magic Stick, 4120 Woodward Ave, Detroit. 9 p.m. Dec. 27. 313-833-9700. MajesticDetroit.com

**The Majestic** "New Year's Eve Silver Soiree" Celebrate the arrival of 2013 in the Magic Stick and Garden Bowl with Detroit's finest bands including: Amy Gore & Her Vanities, Twine Time, Replicas, Weed Nap, Heat Lightning, Patrick Davy & The Ghosts, Growing Pains, Fake Surfers, Chit Chat, Kickstand Band, Habibi, Rooftop Vigilantes, Mouth Breathers, Peach Pit, Sugarcoats, Pupils, Jeecy & the Jungle, Michael & the Particle, Mexican Knives & Sisters of Your Sunshine Vapor. Cover: \$5. Magic Stick, 4120 Woodward Ave, Detroit. 7 p.m. Dec. 31. 313-833-9700. MajesticDetroit.com

**The Palace** "Trans-Siberian Orchestra" Tickets: \$33-73. Palace of Auburn Hills, 5 Championship Dr., Auburn Hills. Dec. 29 - Dec. 29. 248-377-0100. Palacenet.com

### OTHER

**Sing Out Detroit** "Sing Out Detroit Rehearsal" Singers needed to join Sing Out Detroit Choir. LGBT and Ally's Welcome. Jewish Community Center, 15110 W. 10 Mile Road, Oak Park. Jan. 8 - March 26. 248-943-2411. Singoutdetroit.org

## THEATER

### CIVIC/COMMUNITY THEATER

**Songs for a New World** \$25. The Twin City Players, TCP Studio, 600 W. Glenford Rd., St. Joseph. 7 p.m. Dec. 31. 269-429-0400. www.twincityplayers.org

### PROFESSIONAL

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

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

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

**Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas! The Musical** \$29-\$62. Broadway in Detroit, Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway St., Detroit. Dec. 18 - Dec. 30. 313-872-1000. www.broadwayindetroit.com

**Faith Healer** Free; donations accepted. The Abreact Performance Space, 1301 W. Lafayette, #113, Detroit. Through Dec. 29. www.theabreact.com

**I Do! I Do!** \$38-\$45; \$50 (6 p.m.) and \$60 (9 p.m.) New Year's Eve. The Jewish Ensemble Theatre Company at Aaron DeRoy Theatre on the campus of the Jewish Community Center, 6600 W. Maple Road., West Bloomfield. Through Dec. 30. 248-788-2900. www.jettheatre.org

**Jeff Daniels: Onstage & Unplugged** \$75; \$250 for the 8 p.m. NYE show. The Purple Rose Theatre Company, 137 Park St., Chelsea. Dec. 26 - Dec. 31. 734-433-7673. www.purplerosetheatre.org

**Jersey Boys** \$34-\$94. Fisher Theatre, 3011 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit. Through Jan. 6. 313-872-1000. www.broadwayindetroit.com

**My Way: A Musical Tribute to Frank Sinatra** \$33-35. Farmers Alley Theatre, 221 Farmers Alley, Kalamazoo. Through Dec. 30. 269-343-2727. www.FarmersAlleyTheatre.com

**Striking 12** \$50 adult, \$35 student and senior, \$25 for student under 21. Performance Network Theatre, 120 E. Huron, Ann Arbor. 9 p.m. Dec. 31. 734-663-0681. www.performance-network.org

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

**Super Happy Funtime Burlesque** \$20 advance, \$25 day of show. The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Dr., Three Oaks. 9 p.m. Dec. 31. 269-756-3879. www.acorntheater.com

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

**This Wonderful Life** \$30. Tipping Point Theatre, 361 E. Cady St., Northville. Through Dec. 31. 248-347-0003. www.tippingpointtheatre.com

## ART 'N' AROUND

**Charles H. Wright Museum** "Visions of Our 44th President" A collective art exhibit, was created to honor and celebrate the significance of the first African American President of the United States, Barack Obama. Forty-four busts were created from a model that served as a blank canvas, giving each of forty-four contemporary

artists from across the country free reign to creatively interpret this milestone in American history. Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History, 315 E. Warren, Detroit. Nov. 1 - April 30. 313-494-5853. Thewright.org

**Cranbrook Art Museum** "From Here to There: Alec Soth's America" Within the wanderlust embodied in Alec Soth's photographs is an impulse to uncover narratives that comprise the American experience. Cranbrook Art Museum, 39221 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. Nov. 17 - March 30. 877-462-7262. CranbrookArtMuseum.org

**Cranbrook Art Museum** "Soo Sunny Park: Vapor Slide" Sculptor Soo Sunny Park's large-scale installation SSVT Vapor Slide. The exhibit combines quotidian materials chain link fence, plastic cups, paper clips, river rocks in imaginative ways, crafting a dazzling environment of ethereal light and space. Cranbrook Art Museum, 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" Worth a Thousand Words explores the history of American political cartoons in the 19th and early 20th century from the collection of Michael Kelly. In the pages of popular magazines, such as Harper's Weekly and Puck, cartoonists sought to influence public opinion through the use of widely and instantly understood imagery. Several works in the exhibition were created by Thomas Nast (1840-1902), who defined American political cartooning in the 19th century. Through Nast's work for Harper's Weekly, he popularized such American political symbols as the Republican elephant and the Democratic donkey. Flint Institute of Arts, 1120 E. Kearsley, Flint. Nov. 3 - Jan. 6. Flintarts.org

**Flint Institute of Arts** "Drawing Together: International Cartoons" Presents 130 award winning cartoons from around the globe, offering an opportunity to study almost three decades of world history. Each year in Istanbul, Turkey, the Aydin Dogan Foundation organizes an international cartoon competition in order to stimulate thinking about important issues among nations. Flint Institute of Arts, 1120 E. Kearsley, Flint. Nov. 1 - Dec. 30. Flintarts.org

**Grand Rapids Art Museum** "Real/Surreal" Focusing on the tension and overlap between these two strong currents in twentieth-century art, the juxtapositions and points of convergence encourage fresh new ways of looking at some of the most dynamic works of art of the thirties, forties, and fifties in America. Grand Rapids Art Museum, 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" Salvador Dali, one of the masters of European Surrealism, created the Twelve Tribes of Israel portfolio in 1973 to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the founding of the State of Israel. Grand Rapids Art Museum, 101 Monroe Center, Grand Rapids. Nov. 1 - Jan. 13. 616-831-2904. ArtMuseumGr.org

**Grand Rapids Art Museum** "Robert McCann: New History Paintings" In his dynamic and colorful large-scale paintings, Robert McCann explores "the ways people fit into and echo their environment," including sites of urban sprawl and strip malls. He draws from a cast of characters that include friends and acquaintances, sports stars, and pop culture icons. Grand Rapids Art Museum, 101 Monroe Center, Grand Rapids. Nov. 1 - Jan. 13. 616-831-2904. ArtMuseumGr.org

**Kalamazoo Institute of Arts** "Treasures from Kalamazoo Collections" Through the generosity of many lenders in the greater Kalamazoo area, this exhibition will feature paintings, sculptures, prints, photographs, and decorative arts that are seldom seen in



## Editor's Pick

"Faberge: The Rise and Fall" features more than 200 precious objects from the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, home of the largest collection of Faberge in the United States. The show traces Karl Faberge's rise to fame, highlighting his business savvy, artistic innovations and privileged relationship with the Russian aristocracy. Despite the firm's abrupt end in 1918, the legacy and name of Faberge continues to hold a place in popular culture.

Visitors will have the rare opportunity to glimpse imperial Russian treasures made by the House of Faberge, including jewel-encrusted parasol and cane handles, an array of enameled frames, animals carved from semi-precious stones and miniature egg pendants.

The objects on view will be exhibited with text, images and activities meant to help visitors imagine the ways in which such luxury items would have been manufactured in a workshop, displayed in a storefront and used to adorn the interior of the imperial palace. This exhibit runs through Jan. 21 at the Detroit Institute of Arts. For more information visit DIA.org.





## Editor's Pick

The Purple Rose Theatre Company will present "Jeff Daniels' Onstage & Unplugged" for a limited seven-show engagement from Wednesday, Dec. 27 through Monday, Dec. 31. All performances will be at The Purple Rose Theatre Company, 137 Park St., in Chelsea.

A prolific songwriter as well as playwright, Daniels will perform an arsenal of songs that are alternately humorous and poignant. Daniels has toured nationally with his music, but has reduced his concert appearances since landing the lead role on HBO's acclaimed series "The Newsroom."

Jeff will be joined by special guests Brad Phillips and Jed Fritzsche, the Ben Daniels Band and Luc "The Roadie" Daniels and his Big Bay Shuffle for both New Year's Eve performances. Tickets are \$75. A special event ticket price of \$250 for the 8 p.m. show on New Year's Eve will include dinner, celebratory drinks, special guests and prizes.

For tickets, call 734-433-7673.

public. Explore these treasures from private collections. Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, 314 S. Park, Kalamazoo. Nov. 17 - Feb. 17. 269-349-7775. KIArts.org

**Kalamazoo Institute of Arts** "Great Lakes Pastel Society National Show 2012" The KIA will host the biennial national juried exhibition of the Great Lakes Pastel Society. A variety of subjects are explored by masters of the pastel medium. Juror Sally Strand is an award-winning pastelist who was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2007, the highest commendation of the Pastel Society of America, NY. Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, 314 S. Park, Kalamazoo. Nov. 1 - Jan. 8. 269-349-7775. KIArts.org

**Michigan State University Museum** "Cruisin' the Fossil Freeway" Brings together the best of the MSU Museum's fossil collection and the fossil-inspired artwork of celebrated artist Ray Troll to explore questions about evolution, extinction, and early life on Earth. Michigan State University Museum, 409 W. Circle Dr., East Lansing. Oct. 6 - Dec. 30. Museum.msu.edu

**Michigan State University Museum** "An Interwoven Christmas" Every Christmas through the first half of the 20th century, the Interwoven Stocking Company of New Brunswick, New Jersey provided a popular gift option for Dad. Knowing that every man could use more stockings, they offered

a new Christmas gift box each season with a colorful Early American holiday scene created by a series of talented commercial artists including N. C. Wyeth, J. C. Leyendecker, Norman Rockwell and others. Variations of the beautiful scene on the box also appeared in their magazine advertising and in store display signs and large fabric banners that were displayed in shoe and clothing stores. Michigan State University Museum, Michigan State University, East Lansing. Dec. 1 - Jan. 13. Museum.msu.edu

**Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit** "Vision in a Cornfield" Based on an unexpected encounter shared by artists Mike Kelley and Cary Loren, which took

place in a cornfield in Wixom, Michigan. It is also a reunion and re-imagining of an unsanctioned art project in the streets of Detroit by the members of the 30-year-old collective, Ogun, named after the Yoruba deity of iron, hunting, politics and war. Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit, 4454 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Sep. 7 - Dec. 30. 313-832-6622. Mocadoetroit.org

**Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit** "Anri Sala" Exhibition of two films, Dammi i Colori and Long Sorrow, by the Albanian-born Sala, who lives and works in Berlin, Germany. The films are artistic metaphors and social documents. They are portraits of communities in crisis and reflections of the human condition. Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit, 4454 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Sep. 7 - Dec. 30. 313-832-6622. Mocadoetroit.org

**Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit** "Voice of the City" Directed by Qiu Zhijie and co-curated by Boris Groys, Jens Hoffman and Johnson Chang Tsong-zung, the themed exhibition is composed of four parts, "Resources", "Revisit", "Reform" and "Republic", which focus on artists that can motivate the public, revisit or rewrite history, convert and transform energy and organize dialogues and communications respectively. Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit, 4454 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Oct. 2 - March 31. 313-832-6622. MOCADetroit.org

**The Detroit Institute of Arts** "Faberge: The Rise & Fall" Discover the story behind the renowned House of Faberge as you view more than 200 precious objects from the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts that trace Faberge's rise to fame and privileged relationship with the Russian aristocracy. Detroit Institute of Arts, 2100 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Nov. 1 - Jan. 21. 313-833-7900. DIA.org

**The Detroit Institute of Arts** "Picasso and Matisse" Pablo Picasso (1881-1973) and Henri Matisse (1869-1954) were ground-breaking visionaries who constantly experimented with techniques and materials. This exhibition features almost all of the works by Picasso and Matisse in the museum's prints and drawings collections. Detroit Institute of Arts, 2100 Woodward Ave., Detroit. June 11 - Jan. 6. 313-833-7900. DIA.org

**The Gallery Project** "Process as Content" A multimedia exhibit in which 24 local, regional and national artists explore a wide range of iterative and often intense processes for making art. The Gallery Project, 215 S. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. Dec. 1 - Dec. 30. 734-997-7012. TheGalleryProject.com

**The Henry Ford Museum** "Holidays in Henry Ford Museum" The Henry Ford welcomes families to build lasting memories and traditions during Holidays in Henry Ford Museum. See how we've decked the halls, share your wish list with Santa or build your own Lego creation during this seasonal celebration. Henry Ford Museum, 20900 Oakwood Blvd., Dearborn. Dec. 1 - Jan. 6. 313-982-6001. TheHenryFord.org

**Toledo Museum of Art** "Made in Hollywood" Showcasing more than 90 prints by the most important photographers working in Hollywood from 1920-1960, celebrating the finest portraits and still photography drawn from the London-based archive of John Kobal. Toledo Museum of Art, 2445 Monroe St., Toledo. Oct. 7 - Jan. 30. 419-255-8000. ToledoMuseum.org

**University of Michigan Museum of Art** "Young-Hae Chang Heavy Industries" The Seoul-based art collaborative, Young-Hae Chang Heavy Industries (YHCHI) is known

for innovative video works that exist at the nexus of visual art and digital literature. Blurring the boundaries between media, technologies, and cultural histories, YHCHI has gained international acclaim for their "net art" productions and videos. University Of Michigan Museum Of Art, 525 S. State St., Ann Arbor. Aug. 11 - Dec. 30. 734-763-4186. Umma.umich.edu

**University of Michigan Museum of Art** "Benjamin West: General Wolfe and the Art of the Empire" Benjamin West's iconic painting The Death of General Wolfe (1776) depicts the death of James Wolfe, the British commander at the 1759 Battle of Quebec, one of Great Britain's most famous military victories, during what in this country is known as the French and Indian War. University Of Michigan Museum Of Art, 525 S. State St., Ann Arbor. Sep. 22 - Jan. 13. 734-763-4186. Umma.umich.edu

**University of Michigan Museum of Art** "Discovering Eighteenth-Century British America: The William L. Clements Library Collection" This significant exhibition provides glimpses of British America in the 1700s and is designed to complement the Museum's concurrent exhibition, and features a mix of rare items from Mr. Clements's original donation and pieces the Library has acquired since 1923 to complement and enhance its strength in eighteenth-century American history. University Of Michigan Museum Of Art, 525 S. State St., Ann Arbor. Sep. 22 - Jan. 13. 734-763-4186. Umma.umich.edu

**University of Michigan Museum of Art** "Francis Alys: Guards" Belgian artist Francis Alys's video Guards (2005) documents sixty-four of the Queen of England's guards on a "walk" throughout the City of London. University Of Michigan Museum Of Art, 525 S. State St., Ann Arbor. Dec. 15 - March 31. 734-763-4186. Umma.umich.edu

### ► Gayby Making

Continued from p. 21

**Jenn:** If gay-couple friends of mine wanted me to have their baby or something – I'm not in the market to do that right now. I'm not ready to mother at this moment – but I'm not against it. I'm not even against having sex with a gay man!

### Does this really happen?

**Matthew:** I would say maybe, like, less than 1 percent of the time. But maybe it's more. I don't know anyone who's done it this way. I feel like people are more apt to go the turkey baster method.

If sex were the only option, I think I'd be able to handle it. I mean, it's very strange. It's obviously more an excuse to write a really funny scene than something that happens in reality. (Laughs)

### The first sex scene

**Jenn:** That was actually our favorite scene to shoot. It was really hard not to break. We had actually shot that scene in the short a couple of years ago, when "Gayby" used to be a short. It's longer in the film, obviously, but it's pretty much what we did in the short. I think we were just so comfortable. Matt and

I travel. We're always sleeping in the same bed. It was really easy. Like, "Oh, this is a familiar moment."

**Matthew:** It was a blast. There's a comfort there that I wouldn't have had if it were with someone I didn't know. A lot of the awkwardness was authentic in that it was so easy to imagine how awkward it would be in real life to have to go through that, so I think part of that added to the fun of making that scene. It's totally awkward but doable.

(The shoot) was pretty casual. Jonny is one of those directors where I didn't feel like I was under his control too much. It felt a lot looser than that. I guess for the physical stuff it would depend on the shot, like if they needed the shot of me jerking off under the sheet and Jenn's face in the background, there was definitely a specificity to have that be done – the angle of the camera and how high my hands could jerk upward. That sort of thing. (Laughs)

### Sex work

**Jenn:** People who say that sex scenes – at least with the gorgeous gentleman I've been given the pleasure to be cast opposite of – are awkward, hard and weird are lying. They're lying because they want to be artsy-crafty. It's bullshit. There is nothing weird about it. People were watching! People were filming! Come on, that's great. I was given my

best friend and three gorgeous men who are wonderful gentlemen. Going to work to make out with someone? Not difficult. I can see the allure of the porn industry.

### Advice to gay men

**Matthew:** My character, Matt, has it right: He suggests that he gets off outside of her and then rolls over and sticks it in when it's just about to happen. That's the best way for a gay man to go about having sex with a woman. It saves you from actually having to go through with it for too long.

### Family is what you make it

**Jenn:** The film is very much about the family that we create. We have our biological family and then we grow up and move to big cities, or we move away from our family of origin and we build our own little family with our friends, coworkers and our neighbors. We get to choose who we want in our family when we get older. We have the gift of choice. Just like I chose Matt, and Matt chose me. He's definitely my gay husband.

**Matthew:** The definition of family isn't exclusive to just blood relatives. It's really beyond that. I am not very close to my family, and I moved to N.Y. and I had to create my own family, essentially. That's what the film is about. It's about creating your own family when you don't necessarily have one.

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For more information, please visit or call the MHS Detroit Center for Animal Care at (313) 872-3400 and provide the pet ID number, 733885.



# Classifieds

## 101-ANNOUNCEMENTS LGBT AA MEETINGS

<b>Ann Arbor-Friday</b>
7:30 pm, St. Andrews Episcopal Church Gay AA, 306 N. Division St. Closed/Discussion.
<b>Bloomfield Hills-Thursday</b>
7:00 pm, Sobriety in The Hills Gay AA, Kirk in The Hills Church, 1340 W. Long Lake Rd. Closed/Discussion.
<b>Detroit-Tuesday / Friday</b>
8:00 pm, Downtown Gay AA, Fort Street Presbyterian Church, 631 West Fort St. Closed/Discussion (Open 1st Friday of every month).
<b>Farmington Hills-Monday</b>
8:00 pm, Suburban West Gay AA, Universalist Unitarian Church, 25301 Halstead (Between 10 & 11 Mile Roads) Closed / Discussion.
<b>Ferndale-Monday / Wednesday / Friday</b>
11:30 a.m., Brown Baggers Gay AA, Affirmations, 290 West 9 Mile Rd. Closed/Discussion.

<b>Ferndale-Wednesday</b>
8 p.m., Diversity Wednesday Gay AA, St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 540 W. Lewiston @ Livernois. Closed/Discussion.
<b>Ferndale-Saturday</b>
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.
<b>Livonia-Friday</b>
8 p.m., West Side Story's Gay AA, Providence Medical Center, 7 Mile & Newburgh. Closed/Discussion.
<b>Warren-Monday</b>
7:30 p.m., Eastside Serenity Gay AA, Faith-Trinity United Church of Christ, 12221 Martin Rd. East of Hoover. Closed/Discussion.

To place a classified ad with us, visit [PRIDESOURCE.COM/classifieds](http://PRIDESOURCE.COM/classifieds) or call us at 888.615.7003 x15

## 101-ANNOUNCEMENTS LGBT AL-ANON MEETINGS

<b>Diversity Wednesday Al-Anon Family Group</b>
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See Classifieds, page 28

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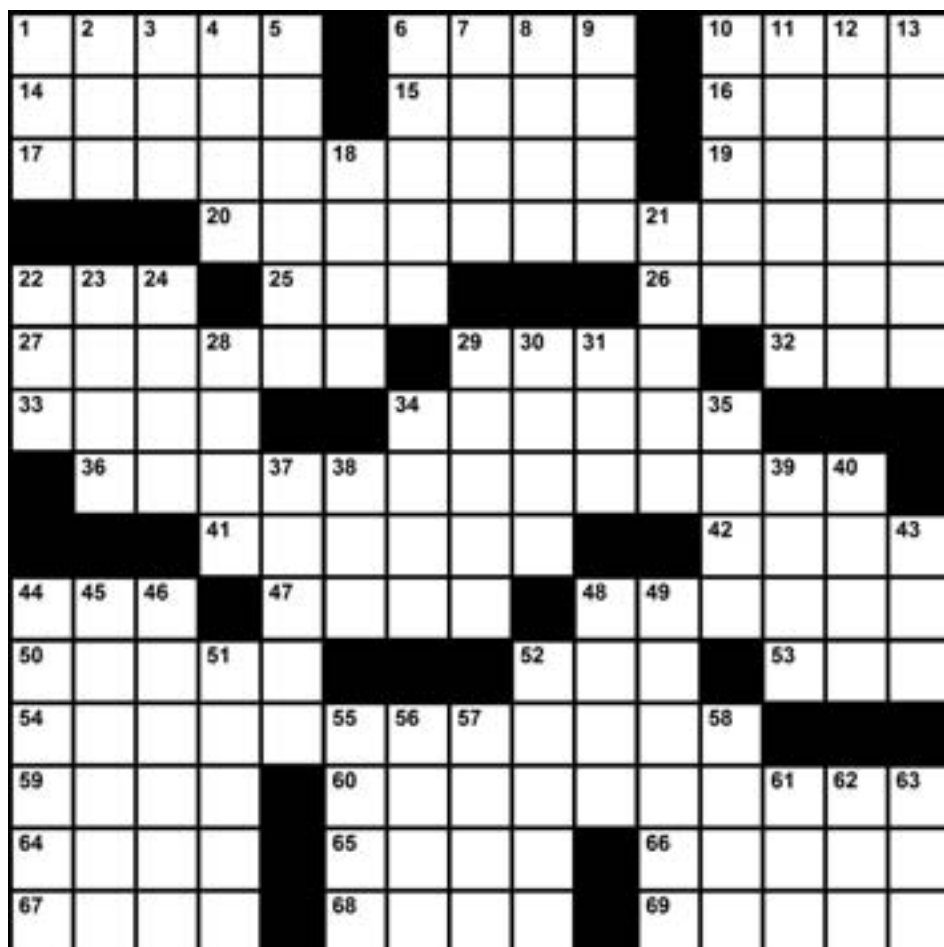
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## THE GAY AGENDA.

# Takei Home Pay



## Across

- 1 Word used to stop seamen
- 6 Bites of Caesar's girlfriend
- 10 "Now!" in a hospital
- 14 Oscar winner Marisa
- 15 "Starting Over" bisexual
- 16 Frau's spouse
- 17 Condom size claimed by most
- 19 Start to climax
- 20 Start of Lawrence O'Donnell's description of George Takei's support for Obama's policy
- 22 Follower of Jim Buchanan
- 25 "Fourscore and seven years ..."
- 26 Elroy Jetson stroked him
- 27 Opera tenor Enrico
- 29 Politico Panetta
- 32 Gay guy, to Brits
- 33 Cry before getting off
- 34 Teeny-weeny
- 36 More of the description
- 41 Dinah on a beach?
- 42 Balls of brass
- 44 Maple fluid
- 47 Behind
- 48 Nutty as a fruitcake, e.g.
- 50 Gertrude's partner
- 52 Howe'er
- 53 " \_\_\_ Feet Under"

## Down

- 54 End of the description
- 59 On the ocean
- 60 Pop art icon
- 64 Aussie bounders
- 65 Men behaving badly
- 66 Screw (up)
- 67 Hathaway of "Brokeback Mountain"
- 68 Star-\_\_\_ tuna
- 69 It might have a Phillips head

## Down

- 1 Had a Twinkie
- 2 \_\_\_ populi
- 3 Invoice fig.
- 4 One in bondage
- 5 Queen toppers
- 6 You must remember this
- 7 Balkan dweller
- 8 Work under Barney Frank
- 9 Where the Mets waved their sticks
- 10 Pillow covers
- 11 Catechism content
- 12 Conductor Toscanini
- 13 Guy with a "third leg"
- 18 HRC's equal sign
- 21 Devilfish
- 22 \_\_\_ UP
- 23 Luggage

- 24 Mobius of "The L Word"
- 28 Elusive craft
- 29 Metric measure
- 30 Name that rhymes with a dick?
- 31 Not closet-bound
- 34 Vidal's Breckinridge
- 35 Vet, of a sort, for short
- 37 Number of sides to a gay symbol
- 38 Foot fetish digit
- 39 Apples with chips
- 40 Of grades 1-12
- 43 Kevin's "Superman Returns" role
- 44 African desert
- 45 Cartoonist Bechdel
- 46 Easy mark, in slang
- 48 Tobacco wad
- 49 They're not out-of-towners
- 51 Climax at the end of an action film
- 52 No-tell motel meeting
- 55 Spice holder
- 56 Sons of, at Beth Chayim Chadashim
- 57 Says further
- 58 Fast food pioneer
- 61 Heston's "Ben \_\_\_"
- 62 Fruit sugar ending
- 63 61-Down author Wallace

Solution on pg. 28

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Continued from p. 26

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Solution to puzzle from page 27

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

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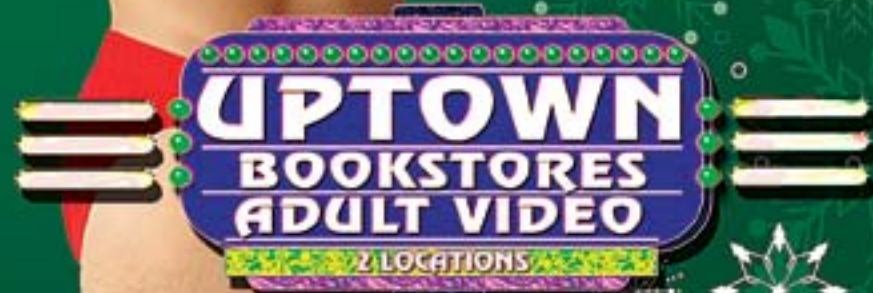
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## Deep Inside Hollywood

BY ROMEO SAN VICENTE

### Viggo Mortensen & Kirsten Dunst are 'The Two Faces of January'

Eventually they'll run out of Patricia Highsmith books to adapt into films, but until that day, the late bisexual author's body of work continues to make for great entertainment of the rich-people-plus-crime variety. Currently in production is "The Two Faces of January," based on Highsmith's 1964 novel and starring Viggo Mortensen and Kirsten Dunst. Set in Greece and France, the psychological thriller concerns a con man (Mortensen) who accidentally kills a Greek police officer. The con man's wife (Dunst) and a stranger (Oscar Issac) help to cover up the incident before fleeing the country in some really impeccable period costumes. And if all of that sounds more than a little bit like "The Talented Mr. Ripley," give or take a handful of details, that's because Highsmith wrote that one, too. The film is set for a late 2013 release. Make sure your shoes are properly shined and your necktie is knotted just-so before then.



Kirsten Dunst. Photo: Magnolia Pictures.

### New gay HBO pilot: the names behind the camera

Some people call it jumping the gun when you talk about a show with no cast yet. But when the behind the scenes people are accomplished and generate excitement all by themselves, it's never too early to start buzzing. Proof: HBO has picked up a comedy pilot about three thirty-something gay friends in San Francisco. Title? Not yet. Actors? Nope. But it's from creators David Marshall Grant ("Brothers and Sisters") and Sarah Condon ("Bored to Death"), written by Michael Lannan (assistant director of James Franco's upcoming experimental "sequel" to the film "Cruising" called "Interior. Leather Bar."). The pilot will be directed by acclaimed "Weekend" filmmaker Andrew Haigh, whose presence alone is cause for confidence. True, if you're not already paying attention to who actually makes and produces the gay-themed shows and films you love then these aren't names you'll know. But you should. And if this thing goes to cable you will. Look, nobody used to know who Lena Dunham was, either.

that new gadget or product they happen to be using at home. And why? Because they're not a real family. They're actors playing a family for marketing research and development, gathering information and selling, selling, selling. Even the kids (one of whom is gay and closeted for the role) are part of the corporate brand-building team. Well, if at first you don't succeed there's always a reboot, which is just what Bravo has ordered, intending to turn "The Joneses" into a weekly series. No cast is set yet but the creators are adapting the scenario for the long haul. If it works it might just fill the void left behind by the departing drug-dealing-in-the-suburbs sitcom "Weeds." And if it doesn't then nobody can say they didn't try. Twice.

### 'Pan's Labyrinth,' this time with more singing

If we learned any lessons from the all-singing stage adaptations of "Les Miserables" and "Carrie," it's that just about anything, for better or worse, has musical theater potential. Even the Spice Girls have their own jukebox show happening right now in London. That's why it's not really much of a shock to hear that Guillermo Del Toro's critically acclaimed cult hit, the horror-fantasy-historical-drama "Pan's Labyrinth," is gearing up to serenade you, monster-style, in the near future. The story of a young girl in 1944 Fascist Spain who finds a hiding place from her cruel army officer stepfather by retreating to her own fantasy world of horrible creatures, "Labyrinth"'s stage life has been quietly taking shape for a few years now and del Toro has already co-written the book. Meanwhile, Paul Williams and Gustavo Santaolalla (composer of "Brokeback Mountain"'s score) are on board to write music and lyrics. The costumes for the sheer variety of creatures alone cry out for the Julie Taymor treatment. And if and when it all comes together (Note to "Smash": promote this thing!) it'll make for a genuinely freaky Tony Awards broadcast.

Romeo San Vicente has met more than his share of monsters already.

### Bravo plans to keep up with 'The Joneses'

It's okay if you never saw "The Joneses." The Demi Moore/David Duchovny comedy caper came to movie theaters and left quickly after with very few tickets sold. The story was intriguing, though. A picture perfect family moves into an upscale neighborhood and makes fast friends with families in the community, helpfully sharing tips and hints about this or

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