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Is Michigan The Next
Marriage Equality State?

In Focus: Transitioning
In The Workplace

“A loving and
committed gay and
lesbian relationship
deserves the same rights
as anyone else’s.”

– Matthew Morrison
interview, pg.18



Out Of The Shadows

‘20 Feet From Stardom’ Gives
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COVER STORY

20 The unsung stories of Merry Clayton & Darlene Love
Pictured: Merry Clayton



“THIS IS AN AMAZING DAY.”

– Marge Eide with Ann Sorrell, both 76 and together for 40 years, on the end of DOMA, pg. 4

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ONLINE EXCLUSIVE



A Season of 'Wow' – The 2013 Wilde Awards

Professional theaters from across Michigan will share the spotlight Aug. 19 when The 2013 Wilde Awards are presented at The Berman Center for the Performing Arts in the Detroit suburb of West Bloomfield. Head over to Pridesource.com to read all about it and discover which shows and performers have been nominated!

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Hundreds gathered at Braun Court in Ann Arbor, June 26. BTL photo: Jennifer Chapin-Smith

DOMA's Demise Cheered By Michiganders Across State

BY JAN STEVENSON

Spontaneous celebrations erupted across Michigan June 26 when the U.S. Supreme Court's June 26 ruled parts of the Defense of Marriage Act unconstitutional and that California could go ahead with same-sex marriages. At Affirmations in Ferndale about 50 people waited anxiously for the decisions to be released, and when Dave Garcia, Affirmations' executive director, announced that DOMA was officially dead, the room erupted in cheers and tears.

"It's a great day," said Em Paris, 25 of Dearborn, "It's a monumental ruling in civil rights. There's not a place I'd rather be right now than at Affirmations."

"This is history in the making," said Bradley Gartin, 36 of Hazel Park. "I want to be able to tell future generations where I was when this happened. I'll be able to say I was at Affirmations."

In Ann Arbor hundreds gathered in Braun Court that afternoon to celebrate and begin dreaming of the day when marriage equality will be a reality in Michigan.

"We know there's a lot of work to do in Michigan," said bar owner Keith Orr. "The rulings today don't change much for us in Michigan, but it opens the door for tremendous changes."

An especially moving moment came when

Marge Eide and Ann Sorrell came before the court's crowd. Both 76 years old, they have been together 40 years. "This is an amazing day," said Eide. "Back when we were young the only place you could meet other women like us was on the sports field. We became very good athletes," she joked. They each received a long stem red rose and beamed happily throughout the evening event.

In Detroit, the legal team representing April DeBoer and Jayne Rowse held a press conference to explain the impact that DOMA's has on their case. The Hazel Park lesbians sued the State of Michigan to allow them to jointly adopt their children.

"Any outside observer would have to say that today's decision in the DOMA case provides strong support for the claim that Michigan's ban on same sex marriage violates equal protection," said Wayne State University constitutional law professor Robert Seidler.

ONLINE EXCLUSIVE

Michigan DOMA Celebration Coverage

Access photo galleries and extensive news coverage looking at how the U.S. Supreme Court rulings may impact Michigan's LGBT community.

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Is Michigan The Next Marriage Equality State?

National Focus Turns To Two Court Cases That May Permit Same-Sex Marriage

BY JAN STEVENSON

Michigan is now at the epicenter of legal fallout from the U.S. Supreme Court's historic decision to strike down parts of the Defense of Marriage Act. Legal experts across the nation have shifted their focus to two federal court cases, both of which deal with discrimination against gay and lesbian couples that was justified by Michigan's ban on same-sex marriage. The ban was put into effect in 2004. Decisions in both cases could invalidate Michigan's marriage ban, thereby clearing the way for Michigan to become one of the next state's to legalize same-sex marriage.

Although the two federal cases differ on the specific issues – one argues for domestic partner benefits, and the other for marriage and adoption rights – both cases rely on Michigan's marriage ban to justify discrimination against gay and lesbian couples. And in both cases the judges have issued clear statements that they will consider the U.S. Supreme Court's rulings on DOMA when they issue their final decisions on whether the discrimination is constitutional or not.

Domestic Partner Benefits

The first case, *Bassett v. Snyder*, challenged a 2011 law that took away domestic partner benefits for certain public employees. On June 29, Federal Judge David Lawson, of the Eastern District of Michigan in Detroit, temporarily prevented the law from taking effect. Technically speaking, Lawson did not conclude that Michigan's marriage law was unconstitutional. But that may be the practical effect of the decision, if it were to be sustained after trial and appeal.

"The unavoidable conclusion is that Public Act 297 contains a discriminatory classification on the basis of sexual orientation," Lawson said, referring to gays and lesbians as he ordered the injunction.

The statute, which became law in December 2011, provides that a public employer can provide benefits to a person living with an employee only if that person is married to the employee, a dependent of the employee under federal law, or otherwise eligible under Michigan law to inherit from the employee. Since Michigan law makes marriage (or dependency or eligibility for inheritance) a prerequisite for a live-in partner of a public employee to receive benefits, and the Michigan Constitution, prohibits same-sex partners from marrying, then gay and lesbian couples cannot be eligible for benefits under the statute.

Three of the five plaintiff couples in *Bassett* allege that they would get married if Michigan law allowed it; and a fourth was married in California when same-sex couples could marry there, but Michigan does not recognize that California marriage. The fifth couple held a commitment ceremony in 2004; the opinion does not indicate whether they would be married but for the Michigan constitutional prohibition.

In granting a preliminary injunction to the plaintiffs, the judge concluded that the law in effect, establishes a form of discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, when read in conjunction with the Michigan constitutional provision making same-sex couples ineligible to marry.

"Although the act does not use the term 'sexual orientation,'" Lawson wrote, "it both explicitly incorporates statutes that draw classifications based on sexual orientation and renders access to benefits legally impossible only for gay and lesbian couples." Michigan law as a whole, in other words, "permit[s] benefits to be extended only to married couples while barring same-sex couples from marrying."

"We're breathing a sigh of relief right now," said Peter Ways, an Ann Arbor teacher whose partner would have lost his benefits. "This law was clearly meant to target families like ours and to make us feel as though we didn't count."

"This law served no purpose to the state of Michigan other than to needlessly discriminate against hard-working families," said Kary L. Moss, executive director of the ACLU of Michigan. "It's hard to encourage talented people and their families to work for public employers in Michigan when they're denied the ability to take care of each other."

Adoption and Marriage

In the second case, Federal Judge Bernard Friedman denied the State of Michigan's motion to dismiss the case of a Hazel Park lesbian couple seeking to marry and to adopt their children. April DeBoer and Jayne Rowse sued the State of Michigan and the County of Oakland because as a same-sex couple they are not allowed to be issued a marriage license, and they are not allowed joint adoption for their children.

In his decision not to dismiss the case, Judge Friedman wrote, "The U.S. Supreme Court's recent decision in *United States v. Windsor* has provided the requisite precedential fodder for both parties to this litigation ... The Supreme Court has just invalidated a federal statute on equal

protections grounds because it 'place(d) same-sex couples in an unstable position of being in a second-tier marriage.' Moreover, and of particular importance to this case, the justices expressed concern of the natural consequence of such discriminatory legislation would not only lead to the relegation of same-sex relationships to a form of second-tier status, but impair the rights of 'tens of thousands of children now being raised by same-sex couples' as well. This is exactly the type of harm plaintiffs seek to remedy in this case."

Attorney Dana Nessel, who represents the lesbian couple, explained the court process. "The motion to dismiss was pending. He's allowing the case to move forward, with a hearing on July 10. At that hearing he will

ask if either side has any evidence to present in trial.

"They (the State) could bring in experts or they could decide to cross-examine April and Jayne. But they have already agreed that there is no issue of fact in the case, only an issue of law. There are no facts that we need to dispute, so hopefully there will not be any evidence to present. If this is just a matter of law, we will move forward on a motion for summary judgment. The judge will read briefs from both sides and make his decision from there."

Read the original reporting on the Hazel Park couple online at www.pridesource.com. Additional reporting compiled from SCOTUS Blog, AP Reports.

Mich. Counties Prepare To Offer Same-Sex Marriage

BY TODD A. HEYWOOD

LANSING – As a federal judge in Detroit is preparing to rule in the case of April DeBoer, et al, v. Richard Snyder, et al, at least two Michigan county clerks say they are ready to offer same-sex marriage licenses should the case find Michigan's Marriage Amendment is unconstitutional.

"I, too, am preparing to marry all loving couples to each other," says Barbara Byrum, Ingham County Clerk. She says she has been in contact with legal counsel as well as "other county clerks" about the potential impacts of a ruling in *DeBoer*.

Byrum says she expects to be able to offer marriage licenses "immediately," and that she, herself, is prepared to perform marriage ceremonies.

She notes, however, that even if Judge Bernard Friedman does strike down Michigan's laws and constitutional amendment as unconstitutional, the state government is expected to request a stay of the ruling. A stay would hold the ruling until higher courts have had an opportunity to review the case and issue rulings.

"I would expect the Attorney General's Office to file a stay if the court rules it's unconstitutional," Byrum, a former state

lawmaker said. "If a stay is not filed, I will immediately begin offering marriages to all loving couples."

California's Proposition 8 underwent a similar journey when a San Francisco federal judge ruled the amendment was unconstitutional. That decision was stayed until review by the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals, and when that court concluded the original decision was correct, its decision was stayed until a review by the Supreme Court of the United States. That case was determined nearly one week ago, with the high court ruling that supporters of the law had no standing in court. That cleared the way for California to once again offer same-sex nuptials, and even a last minute appeal to the high court on Saturday resulted in a denial of standing and paved the way for every county in California to offer marriage to same-sex couples.

Ingham is not alone. At a rally celebrating the Supreme Court rulings last week, officials from the Wastewaw County Clerk's office distributed a document announcing intentions to host a marriage equality celebration if Friedman strikes down Michigan's marriage ban.

A decision by Friedman could come as soon as July 10.

Implementing The Supreme Court Endgame: The Stark Difference Between Two Presidents

BY LISA KEEN

The Obama administration's reaction to the U.S. Supreme Court rulings striking down DOMA and Proposition 8 provides a stark contrast to that of the predecessor administration.

In 2003, when the Supreme Court struck down laws prohibiting private intimate contact between same-sex partners (in *Lawrence v. Texas*), President George W. Bush had nothing to say, at least not publicly. His press secretary, Ari Fleischer, told reporters that the Bush administration had not filed a brief in the case and that it considered the decision to be "a state matter."

The Bush administration took no action to determine to what extent the *Lawrence* ruling might apply to various federal programs, such as the military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" law banning openly gay servicemembers. It continued enforcing the ban and, though statistics showed the Bush administration reduced the number of discharges under the policy, it did so before *Lawrence* was issued and at a time when the demand for troops in Iraq and Afghanistan was intensifying.

In the year following *Lawrence*, President Bush endorsed a Congressional bill seeking a federal constitutional amendment to ban marriage for gay couples nationally.

Ten years later, the Obama administration's response has been dramatically different. President Obama issued an immediate statement in support of the Supreme Court rulings in *U.S. v. Windsor* and *Hollingsworth v. Perry*. *Windsor* struck down the key provision of the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), and *Perry* dismissed an appeal, effectively upholding a district court decision that struck down California's ban on marriage for same-sex couples, Proposition 8.

"The laws of our land," said Obama, "are catching up to the fundamental truth that millions of Americans hold in our hearts: when all Americans are treated as equal, no matter who they are or whom they love, we are all more free." He said he had already "directed the Attorney General to work with other members of my Cabinet to review all relevant federal statutes to ensure this decision, including its implications for Federal benefits and obligations, is implemented swiftly and smoothly."

President Obama, traveling on Air Force One to the start of a multi-nation tour in Africa, also telephoned the plaintiffs in both cases, expressing his support of the ruling and thanking them for their efforts.

U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder issued a statement of support for the Supreme Court



rulings and another statement June 28, saying the federal government would, through the Office of Personnel Management (OPM), "now be able to extend benefits to Federal employees and annuitants who have legally married a spouse of the same sex." The statement added that DOJ would "continue to coordinate with other federal agencies to implement this ruling as swiftly and smoothly as possible."

Elaine Kaplan, the openly gay acting director of OPM sent a message to all federal department heads offering some preliminary details of how the administration would go about complying with the DOMA ruling. She said federal employees married to same-sex partners would have until August 26 to make "immediate changes" to their federal health plans, adding that they would be able to do so again later in the year, during the federal government's annual "open season" period for making changes to federal health coverage plans. Under these same deadlines, she said, federal employees could also opt in their same-sex spouses and families for coverage under federal dental, long-term care, and life insurance plans. Retired federal employees who are married to same-sex spouses will have two years to notify the federal government that they are married and qualify for retirement benefits. She said same-sex spouses would now be eligible for survivor annuities.

Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel issued a statement after the DOMA ruling was released. "The department will immediately begin the

process of implementing the Supreme Court's decision in consultation with the Department of Justice and other executive branch agencies," said Hagel. "The Department of Defense intends to make the same benefits available to all military spouses -- regardless of sexual orientation -- as soon as possible."

At a press conference later in the day, Hagel was even more firm, saying, "Make no mistake: It will be a decision implemented in every way, as it should be."

Joining him at the press conference, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Martin Dempsey, reiterated the point: "The Joint Chiefs have been very clear that we'll follow the law of the land, and the law of the land has just changed, and we will now, as quickly as possible, assess what that means. I'm sure there will be some cost, but we'll figure it out, because we'll follow the law of the land."

Other department heads, including Secretary of State John Kerry, also issued statements in support of the DOMA ruling. Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano issued a statement Monday (July 1), saying, "I have directed U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) to review immigration visa petitions filed on behalf of a same-sex spouse in the same manner as those filed on behalf of an opposite-sex spouse." Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius said HHS would "work with the Department of Justice to review all relevant federal statutes

and ensure this decision is implemented swiftly and smoothly."

Making the transition between no recognition to equal recognition go smoothly may require Congressional action in some instances. Toward that end, U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein reintroduced the Respect for Marriage Act in the Senate within hours of the *Windsor* ruling. Although Feinstein's office did not get back to this reporter by deadline, the text of last year's bill essentially repeals both sections of DOMA -- both the "no recognition" provision and the section that allows one state to ignore the valid marriage license issued by another state. The Senate bill introduced Friday had 40 sponsors, including openly lesbian Senator Tammy Baldwin (D-Wisc.) and Senators Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.), Dick Durbin (D-Ill.), Carl Levin and Debbie Stabenow (Democrats of Michigan), and Elizabeth Warren and William Cowan (Democrats of Massachusetts).

Rep. Jerrold Nadler (D-NY) and introduced the bill into the House with 160 sponsors.

Feinstein said the Respect for Marriage Act is still "necessary because inequities in the administration of more than 1,100 federal laws affected by DOMA—including Social Security and veterans benefits—will still need to be fixed."

Nadler said the Act would also provides a uniform rule for recognizing couples under federal law... no matter where they live."

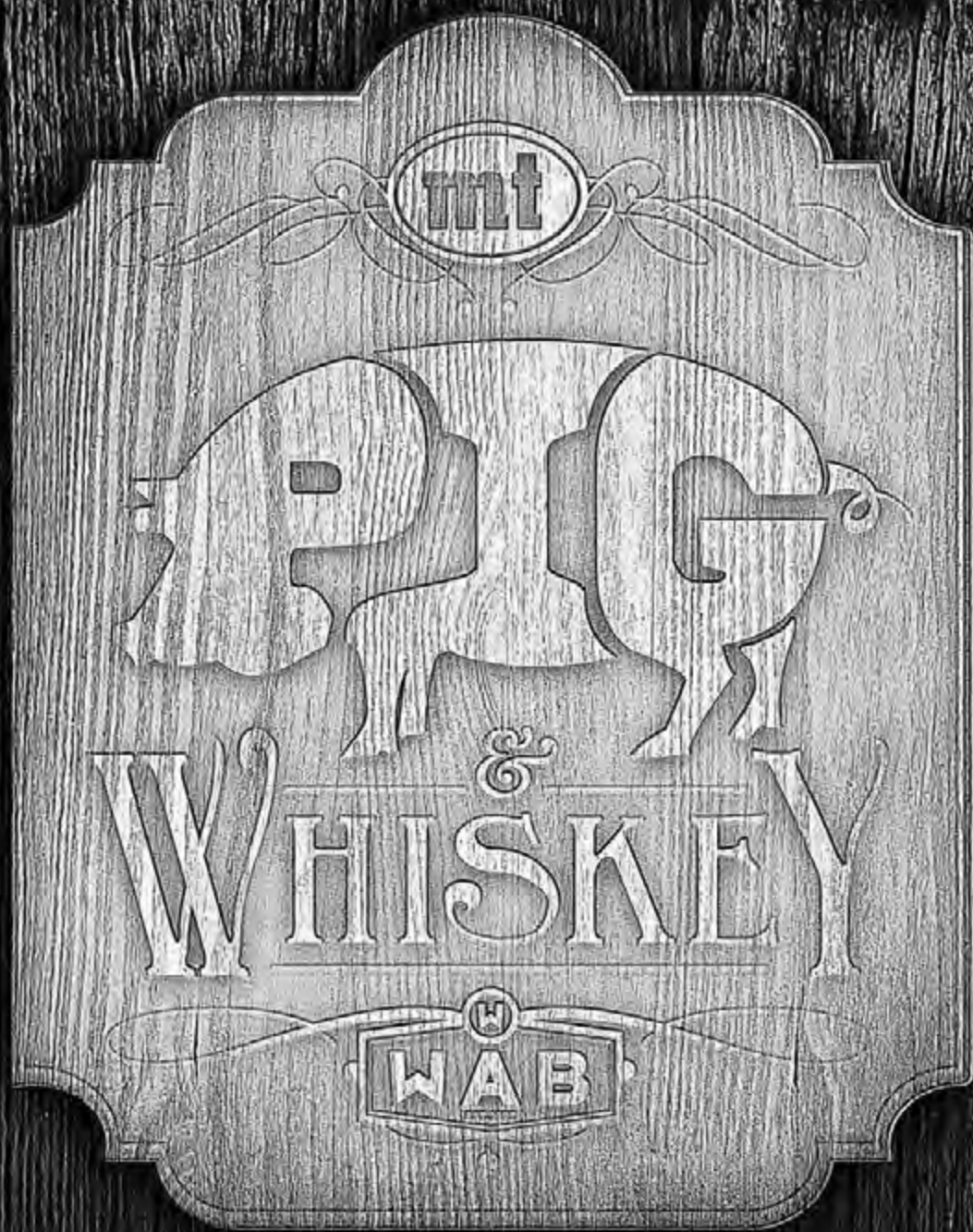
There will be many questions to be answered too about the existing definitions relating to marriage and spouses in various federal programs. Some federal programs recognize a marriage license regardless of where the couple lives; others are tied to the state of residence. And given that 37 states still ban recognition of same-sex marriages, many same-sex couples -- including those with marriage licenses--could have trouble accessing certain federal benefits.

For instance, under DOMA, a person who received health insurance coverage under their same-sex spouse's health plan had to pay income taxes on the value of that coverage. Now, they don't. And under DOMA, if the spouse lost his or her job, he or she could continue their health coverage under the federal COBRA plan, but the same-sex spouse could not. Now, they can.

On the other hand, the Internal Revenue Service is expected to allow duly married same-sex couples to start using the designation "married," whether filing jointly or separately. But the IRS's current practice relies on whether the state in which one resides considers one married.

Under the Social Security statute, says Mary

See Endgame, page 16





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A Transwoman's No Cakewalk



Viewpoint

OPINION BY DANIELLE HEYTHALER

How do you tell someone what your world looks like, when they cannot even understand who you are? Good question.

Let's start with the fact that I am a Transgender Woman (Transwoman). Some people might be indifferent, not wanting to get "involved"; others have the heart and sincere interest to try to listen to your story.

Then, as expected, you may experience the "You are some sick out-of-your-mind freak that belongs tucked away in some hole or Hell." Those are the fun ones. Not really, but it was worth a try.

Moving on to the life of a middle-aged Transwoman. The term for me basically means that although my reproductive parts are masculine, the rest of me is decidedly *not!* Realizing it and then trying to actually live that life is where the issues and troubles start.

For the younger ones, it may not be as difficult. However, those like myself making this revelation later in life, have tons of baggage (habits, fully developed body/voice) and pre-existing lives that include things like work, family, church, friends, school, clubs or associations and activities which can cause severe distress and complete upheaval of current conditions.

With any luck you won't face too many of the naysayers.

Take for instance the first noted item. Work. Yes, it is a nasty four-letter word for some, and it has for a short while been just that – a nasty four-letter word. Now it wasn't always this way. There was a time when I truly loved my job and enjoyed going into work. Well that was the past.

Before "coming out" to my company supervisor/manager, I had the foresight to contact my HR department first to ensure that I would not be fired on the spot for being "Trans" and wanting to "transition" at work.

With assistance from my counselor, I wrote down a few notes on a yellow sticky note and went to discuss this, innermost need to be myself, with my department leader and one other person. It was an emotional meeting for me as I was divulging a very intimate and secret part of myself to an "outsider" and who also had authority to tell me to "get out!"

That's where the HR department had my back, because they had already been in discussion with the company executives and leaders. My job at the time was still there. That was October of 2011. Come along June of 2012 and transition time. Within a week my job was handed to someone else that I had to train. I was then

See No Cake Walk, page 9

Transitioning In The Workplace

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

Transitioning in the workplace can be tricky, especially in Michigan where individuals can be fired without cause and LGBT people lack discrimination and hate crime protections.

"The last thing you want to do is leave work on a Friday as George and come back Monday as Gina," said Jessica Manko, who spoke at the Transgender Day of Empowerment at Affirmations this past April. "There is nothing legal in this in Michigan. Timing is very critical when you're coming out. When you're ready to do it, you'll want to tell them 30 days before you are going to begin transitioning at work."

Manko and Tina Seitz co-presented "Transitioning in the Workplace" to share their stories of transitioning on the job and to share tips with others who are considering the same. Though they worked in different capacities, Manko and Seitz both transitioned six years ago while working at General Motors.

"I had worked for the company off and on for over 20 years," Manko said. "It was a successful coming out and transition, even though there were bumps along the way."

The most important part of transitioning at work is giving the employer advance notice of the transition, Manko and Seitz agreed. "Doing this out of the blue without any cooperation with the management, they may say they don't want to deal with this and you could be digging yourself into a hole," Manko said. "They need time to wrap their head around this. They need time to talk to your coworkers to let them know what to expect."

They recommended giving at least 30 days notice before making the big change, longer if possible. This gives employers time to instruct fellow employees how to behave, but it also gives them time to adjust and ask questions.

"When I came out I told them, and they didn't have a clue. I had to explain it to them, and it took some time to sink in," Manko said.

Depending on the size and structure of the workplace, knowing whom to talk to first can make a big difference. Sometimes the Human Resource Department is the best place to start, other times it may be a manager or supervisor. Union reps can also be a good place to start, as many unions now push for transgender protections as part of their contracts. Bringing along materials that explain transitioning can be helpful, but face-to-face communication and being willing to answer questions is



Jessica Manko and Tina Seitz co-presented Transitioning in the Workplace to share their stories of transitioning on the job and to share tips with others who are considering the same. BTL Photo by Crystal Proxmire

Transitioning in the workplace can be tricky, especially in Michigan where individuals can be fired without cause and where LGBT people lack discrimination and hate crimes protections.

the best way to create understanding.

Seitz had challenges while she was transitioning, but she kept a level head and worked through them with her employer.

"First off, keep a journal and document the changes at work. Hopefully nothing happens and it's something you can throw away later. But in case you need to go to the EEOC [Equal Employment Opportunity Commission], it's good to have that documentation," Seitz explained.

"I was told that until I could document my surgery below the belt, I could only use the gender-neutral restroom. The only gender-neutral restroom there is, is all the way in the medical area and unless there are people being seen, it is always locked. I used it only once and said this isn't going to work. So I had a discussion with the policy manager. I said that if they had any question about what is discriminatory and what is not, just substitute another group for 'transgender' in the policy and see if

it sounds right. Would you make someone use a different restroom because they had a different ethnicity? No? Then don't do it for a transgender person."

Another bump in the road for Seitz came when she took time off work to have facial surgery. The company asked her to take an extra week off because they weren't ready and wanted more time to talk to employees. "When I came back, my whole department had been re-organized. The first day I came in I had to move my desk and work with new people."

Having inclusive EEOC statements or other policies is no guarantee that employees will always be welcomed or treated fairly. Nor does having a local human rights ordinance ensure job security according to Manko. "If you're an employer and you want to violate it, you just pay a fine. It's nice and symbolic, but it has no teeth."

The ability to handle the bumps in the road with class can make the difference between keeping or losing a job. Both presenters said that humor and a self-deprecating demeanor were helpful.

"Personally I've always been a smartass, so I would really screw with the guys at work and it was lots of fun. And they didn't have to worry that they couldn't talk in front of me," Seitz said. "You've gotta know your audience obviously, but it's ok to have fun with this."

One transgender woman in the audience said that when she came to work after transitioning, she would curtsy to others to break the tension.

See Transitioning, page 9

Legal Footnote Raises Concern

BY ACLU ATTORNEY JAY KAPLAN

A footnote in a recent case decision issued by the Michigan Court of Appeals could be used to deny transgender people appropriate identity documents and recognition for their gender identity and expression. The case is *In re Estate of Devon Pearl Burnett v Bobbie Eliza Burnett*. Essentially it involves a divorce action brought on behalf of Devon Burnett by her children, who were her legal guardians, against her spouse who she married in 1984. Subsequent to the marriage, Devon's husband transitioned from male to female and underwent sexual reassignment surgery in 2003. One of the issues before the Court was whether the legal validity of the marriage was voided when the husband transitioned to female, as Michigan law and Michigan's constitution prohibits same-sex couples from marrying, resulting in the Court lacking jurisdiction to grant a divorce. The Court panel (consisting of Judges Murray, Markey and Whitbeck) got it right on this issue. The marriage was valid in 1984 and it remains valid regardless if a spouse comes out as transgender and begins living her life in accordance with her gender identity and expression. The Court, however, then decided to address in a

footnote, an issue of first impression, that of whether a post-operative transgender woman could be a woman for purposes of Michigan's marriage laws. The Court looked to Random House Webster's Dictionary, 2001 edition to define woman as "a person of the sex who cell nuclei contain X chromosomes and who is normally able to conceive and bear young" or "any organism of the sex of sexual phase that normally produces egg cells." Based on this limited definition of female, the Court

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determined that a transgender woman is not a woman under Michigan marriage law.

The parties in this case should have had an opportunity to make a factual record, present legal arguments, and to educate the court on legal precedent from other states that have held just the opposite. Unlike the Michigan Court of Appeals panel, these state courts, along with experts in the area of transgender health, understand that a person's sex cannot be narrowly defined solely as an issue of chromosomes. An individual's sex includes

many elements, including chromosomal, emotional, anatomical, hormonal as well as reproductive elements.

As the issue of the legal gender of a transgender woman was not before this Court and was not determinative of the case, this footnote is considered dicta and does not have any legal precedential value. In other words, it does not represent Michigan law, nor are other Michigan courts obligated to follow it. However, it should be cause for concern. Dicta in another Michigan Court of Appeals decision (1991) has been used to deny gay couples the right to jointly adopt children.

The case was *In re Adams*. A man and a woman who were married to other spouses,

wished to jointly adopt their adult daughter. The Court denied the adoption, holding that because Michigan's adoption law made it mandatory for married spouses to join an adoption petition, this would result in 4 adoptive parents. The issue of two unmarried persons jointly adopting a child was not before this Court. However, the panel opined that it would be inconsistent with the "general scope" and "purpose" of the adoption statute to permit two unmarried persons to jointly adopt. The Court referenced a case from Louisiana to

support this theory. This was dicta - an issue not related to the case before the Court. However, many opponents of second parent adoption, including former Attorney General have used this dicta to support the legal position that since same-sex couples cannot marry in Michigan, they cannot jointly adopt.

We are concerned that opponents of transgender equality will use this footnote to deny transgender people their rights, including obtaining identity documents that accurately reflect their gender identity and expression. The inability to obtain accurate identity documents can result in a host of difficulties and indignities for transgender persons, including the inability to cash and check and complete other financial transactions, problems with law enforcement when documents are incongruent with gender appearance, and the inability to obtain retain employment due to this incongruence. That is why we filed a Motion for Reconsideration with the Michigan Court of Appeals, asking them to remove this footnote from the decision. Unfortunately our Motion was denied without any explanation by this Panel. We continue to believe that this footnote is not controlling in Michigan. We urge any transgender persons who encounter any difficulties as a result of this decision to contact the ACLU of Michigan's LGBT Project. What the Michigan Court of Appeals did was wrong - but it is dicta, a footnote, and we want to make sure that it is treated as such.

► Transitioning

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Another recommendation was that when people transition, they make their wardrobe changes gradually and dress in line with what other men or women in the workplace are wearing. "The key word being conservative," Manko said. "Especially we ladies. When we come out we tend to buy clothes that are more provocative. I had an engineering job and the women in the office wore slacks. Most women

don't wear dresses to work now a days. Watch what your co-workers wear. You don't have to copy their sense of fashion, but it should be a guide."

In addition to the concerns over workplace culture, there are legal considerations when transitioning on the job. Keeping the payroll department informed when there is a name change is important. It's also a good idea to make sure employment files have both a legal name and preferred name documented. Insurance and medical histories should also be

kept up to date, and hospitals should be asked to "merge" medical histories with the pre-transition files as opposed to starting new files.

Someone in the audience also recommended that transgender individuals not get too excited about their name changes and burn their own records. "Keep them in a lock box somewhere because you never know what will happen and you may need to verify who you are," they said.

Within the last few years there has been a great increase in the acceptance of

transgender workers, particularly in large corporations. And in terms of discrimination, the EEOC is in the process of trying to set legal precedence for transgender discrimination to fall under the category of sex. Keeping up with the latest advancements in the LGBT equality movement, knowing one's rights, connecting with support and advocacy groups and having the number for a good attorney can help transgender people navigate the difficult task of transitioning in the workplace.

► No Cake Walk

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shuffled off to a different department.

I guess because women cannot be engineers or think logically (not true)! Talk about belittling someone and running them out on a rail. My new position was in the Customer Service Department and in a completely different building, as everyone knows that's where the women belong (also not true)!

Do you sense the direction things are going? This happens to be a very kind-hearted and open-minded company (read as: some of the people). Thankfully my new manager was open and kind about the situation. I could tell she was sincere.

Continuing on, new job and very little "real" training with multiple tasks that are very time consuming, causes back-up and

work overload.

Now come to May 2013. Old leader now becomes leader of my new department. Yes, hopefully you can feel the tension and slight twinge of fear that started to rattle my bones and cause my heart to quiver. That self-same leader was now again directly in control of my employment. Take that same stack of work piling up on my desk and somehow magically reposition it on my current supervisor's desk (because she was very kind and willing to help.) New manager walks in and sees said work and an instant a meeting was called.

I accidentally, and out of a sense of momentary disorientation, went to the wrong conference room. This is not a good way to start this meeting. I finally arrive out of breath and once again starting to sob a bit. Oh, did I tell you I am an emotional person?

Meeting begins with new manager making this first comment, and I quote, "Emotional outbursts will no longer be tolerated!" So Spock just walked in and possessed my boss. Uh, I am not a Vulcan, sorry for being human. Next my boss tells me that my work/productivity had decreased since starting this new job.

She also cleverly mentions that in my former job *and identity* my productivity was great. Now this development and things have just gone downhill. I tried to explain that my identity had nothing to do with my lack of work performance, but that it was the lack of training and a time consuming workload.

She then proceeded with the following phrase, and I am also quoting here, "If you cannot do all of your job you will be terminated." There was no listening to "lack of training" or time consuming factors - it

was all due to this "new" person.

You can run but you just can't hide. I have been blessed to have kept my job. Most lose them on the spot or very shortly afterwards.

Obviously some of these "evaluations" could happen to anyone at any job, but when a boss out rightly says, "You were highly productive before, and now after this your performance has decreased," can *only* be referencing one single issue. *Trans*.

This is in a "safe zone" at work - now try being in public and needing to use the ladies restroom. It's possible you may not only get looks and under-the-breath comments. You could find yourself being escorted from the building. All for trying to be yourself.

A glimpse is all I can offer, but hopefully it is enough for you to see that being a Transwoman is no cakewalk. Would you like to experience this type of bias and treatment?



The **one**  for me

Patient model. Pill shown is not actual size.

What is COMPLERA?

COMPLERA[®] is a prescription HIV medicine that is used as a complete regimen to treat HIV-1 in adults who have never taken HIV medicines before and who have an amount of HIV in their blood (this is called "viral load") that is no more than 100,000 copies/mL. COMPLERA contains 3 medicines – rilpivirine, emtricitabine and tenofovir disoproxil fumarate. It is not known if COMPLERA is safe and effective in children under the age of 18 years.

COMPLERA[®] does not cure HIV-1 infection or AIDS. To control HIV-1 infection and decrease HIV-related illnesses you must keep taking COMPLERA. Avoid doing things that can spread HIV-1 to others: always practice safer sex and use condoms to lower the chance of sexual contact with body fluids; never reuse or share needles or other items that have body fluids on them, do not share personal items that may contain bodily fluids. Ask your healthcare provider if you have questions about how to reduce the risk of passing HIV-1 to others.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

What is the most important information you should know about COMPLERA?

COMPLERA[®] can cause serious side effects:

- **Build-up of an acid in your blood (lactic acidosis)**, which is a serious medical emergency. Symptoms of lactic acidosis include feeling very weak or tired, unusual (not normal) muscle pain, trouble breathing, stomach pain with nausea or vomiting, feeling cold, especially in your arms and legs, feeling dizzy or lightheaded, and/or a fast or irregular heartbeat.
- **Serious liver problems.** The liver may become large (hepatomegaly) and fatty (steatosis). Symptoms of liver problems include your skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow (jaundice), dark "tea-colored" urine, light-colored bowel movements (stools), loss of appetite for several days or longer, nausea, and/or stomach pain.
- **You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or serious liver problems** if you are female, very overweight (obese), or have been taking COMPLERA for a long time. In some cases, these serious conditions have led to death. Call your healthcare provider right away if you have any symptoms of these conditions.
- **Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** If you also have HBV and stop taking COMPLERA, your hepatitis may suddenly get worse. Do not stop taking COMPLERA without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to monitor your health. COMPLERA is not approved for the treatment of HBV.

Who should not take COMPLERA?

Do not take COMPLERA if you have ever taken other anti-HIV medicines.

COMPLERA may change the effect of other medicines and may cause serious side effects. Your healthcare provider may change your other medicines or change their doses.

Do not take COMPLERA if you also take these medicines:

- **anti-seizure medicines:** carbamazepine (Carbatrol, Equetro, Tegretol, Tegretol-XR, Teril, Epitol); oxcarbazepine (Trileptal), phenobarbital (Luminal), phenytoin (Dilantin, Dilantin-125, Phenytek)
- **anti-tuberculosis medicines:** rifabutin (Mycobutin), rifampin (Rifater, Rifamate, Rimactane, Rifadin) and rifapentine (Pristin)
- **proton pump inhibitors for stomach or intestinal problems:** esomeprazole (Nexium, Vimovo), lansoprazole (Prevacid), dexlansoprazole (Dexilant), omeprazole (Prilosec), pantoprazole sodium (Protonix), rabeprazole (Aciphex)
- **more than 1 dose of the steroid medicine dexamethasone or dexamethasone sodium phosphate**
- **St. John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum*)**

If you are taking COMPLERA you should not take other HIV medicines or other medicines containing tenofovir (Viread, Truvada, Stribild or Atripla); other medicines containing emtricitabine or lamivudine (Emtriva, Combivir, Epivir, Epivir-HBV, Epzicom, Trizivir, Atripla, Stribild or Truvada); rilpivirine (Edurant) or adefovir (Hepsera).

In addition, tell your healthcare provider if you are taking the following medications because they may interfere with how COMPLERA works and may cause side effects:

- certain antacid medicines containing aluminum, magnesium hydroxide, or calcium carbonate (examples: Rolaids, TUMS). These medicines must be taken at least 2 hours before or 4 hours after COMPLERA.
- medicines to block stomach acid including cimetidine (Tagamet), famotidine (Pepcid), nizatidine (Axid), or ranitidine HCL (Zantac). These medicines must be taken at least 12 hours before or 4 hours after COMPLERA.
- any of these medicines: clarithromycin (Biaxin); erythromycin (E-Mycin, Eryc, Ery-Tab, PCE, Pediazole, Ilosone), fluconazole (Diflucan), itraconazole (Sporanox), ketoconazole (Nizoral) methadone (Dolophine); posaconazole (Noxliil), telithromycin (Ketek) or voriconazole (Vfend).
- medicines that are eliminated by the kidneys like acyclovir (Zovirax), cidofovir (Vistide), ganciclovir (Cytovene IV, Vitrasert), valacyclovir (Valtrex) and valganciclovir (Valcyte).

COMPLERA. A complete HIV treatment in only 1 pill a day.

COMPLERA is for adults who have never taken HIV-1 medicines before and have no more than 100,000 copies/mL of virus in their blood.

Ask your healthcare provider if it's the one for you.

These are not all the medicines that may cause problems if you take COMPLERA. Tell your healthcare provider about all prescription and nonprescription medicines, vitamins, or herbal supplements you are taking or plan to take.

Before taking COMPLERA, tell your healthcare provider if you:

- Have liver problems, including hepatitis B or C virus infection, or have abnormal liver tests
- Have kidney problems
- Have ever had a mental health problem
- Have bone problems
- Are pregnant or planning to become pregnant. It is not known if COMPLERA can harm your unborn child
- Are breastfeeding: Women with HIV should not breastfeed because they can pass HIV through their milk to the baby. Also, COMPLERA may pass through breast milk and could cause harm to the baby

COMPLERA can cause additional serious side effects:

- **New or worsening kidney problems, including kidney failure.** If you have had kidney problems, or take other medicines that may cause kidney problems, your healthcare provider may need to do regular blood tests.
- **Depression or mood changes.** Tell your healthcare provider right away if you have any of the following symptoms: feeling sad or hopeless, feeling anxious or restless, have thoughts of hurting yourself (suicide) or have tried to hurt yourself.
- **Changes in liver enzymes:** People who have had hepatitis B or C, or who have had changes in their liver function tests in the past may have an increased risk for liver problems while taking COMPLERA. Some people without prior liver disease may also be at risk. Your healthcare provider may need to check your liver enzymes before and during treatment with COMPLERA.
- **Bone problems** can happen in some people who take COMPLERA. Bone problems include bone pain, softening or thinning (which may lead to fractures). Your healthcare provider may need to do additional tests to check your bones.
- **Changes in body fat** can happen in people taking HIV medicine.
- **Changes in your immune system.** Your immune system may get stronger and begin to fight infections that have been hidden in your body for a long time. Tell your healthcare provider if you start having new symptoms after starting COMPLERA.

The most common side effects reported with COMPLERA are trouble sleeping (insomnia), abnormal dreams, headache, dizziness, diarrhea, nausea, rash, tiredness, and depression. Some side effects also reported include vomiting, stomach pain or discomfort, skin discoloration (small spots or freckles) and pain.

This is not a complete list of side effects. Tell your healthcare provider or pharmacist if you notice any side effects while taking COMPLERA, and call your healthcare provider for medical advice about side effects.

You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit <http://www.fda.gov/medwatch> or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

Additional information about taking COMPLERA:

- **Always take COMPLERA exactly as your healthcare provider tells you to take it.**
- **Take COMPLERA with a meal.** Taking COMPLERA with a meal is important to help get the right amount of medicine in your body. (A protein drink does not replace a meal).

Stay under the care of your healthcare provider during treatment with COMPLERA and see your healthcare provider regularly.

Please see Brief Summary of Full Prescribing Information with important warnings on the following pages.



COMPLERA[®]
emtricitabine 200mg/rilpivirine 25mg/
tenofovir disoproxil fumarate 300mg tablets

Learn more at www.COMPLERA.com

Brief Summary of full Prescribing Information

COMPLERA® (kom-PLER-ah) (emtricitabine, rilpivirine, tenofovir disoproxil fumarate) tablets

Brief summary of full Prescribing Information. For more information, please see the full Prescribing Information including Patient Information.

What is COMPLERA?

- **COMPLERA** is a prescription HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) medicine that is used to treat HIV-1 in adults
 - who have **never** taken HIV medicines before, **and**
 - who have an amount of HIV in their blood (this is called ‘viral load’) that is no more than 100,000 copies/mL. Your healthcare provider will measure your viral load.

(HIV is the virus that causes AIDS (Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome)).

- COMPLERA contains 3 medicines – rilpivirine, emtricitabine, tenofovir disoproxil fumarate – combined in one tablet. It is a complete regimen to treat HIV-1 infection and should not be used with other HIV medicines.
- It is not known if COMPLERA is safe and effective in children under the age of 18 years old.
- **COMPLERA does not cure HIV infection or AIDS.** You must stay on continuous therapy to control HIV infection and decrease HIV-related illnesses.
- **Ask your healthcare provider if you have any questions about how to prevent passing HIV to other people.** Do not share or re-use needles or other injection equipment, and do not share personal items that can have blood or body fluids on them, like toothbrushes and razor blades. Always practice safer sex by using a latex or polyurethane condom to lower the chance of sexual contact with semen, vaginal fluids or blood.

What is the most important information I should know about COMPLERA?

COMPLERA can cause serious side effects, including:

- **Build-up of lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis).** Lactic acidosis can happen in some people who take COMPLERA or similar (nucleoside analogs) medicines. Lactic acidosis is a serious medical emergency that can lead to death. Lactic acidosis can be hard to identify early, because the symptoms could seem like symptoms of other health problems. **Call your healthcare provider right away if you get any of the following symptoms which could be signs of lactic acidosis:**
 - feel very weak or tired
 - have unusual (not normal) muscle pain
 - have trouble breathing
 - have stomach pain with nausea (feeling sick to your stomach) or vomiting
 - feel cold, especially in your arms and legs
 - feel dizzy or lightheaded
 - have a fast or irregular heartbeat
- **Severe liver problems.** Severe liver problems can happen in people who take COMPLERA. In some cases, these liver problems can lead to death. Your liver may become large (hepatomegaly) and you may develop fat in your liver (steatosis). **Call your healthcare provider right away if you get any of the following symptoms of liver problems:**
 - your skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow (jaundice)
 - dark “tea-colored” urine
 - light-colored bowel movements (stools)
 - loss of appetite for several days or longer
 - nausea
 - stomach pain

- **You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or severe liver problems if you are female, very overweight (obese), or have been taking COMPLERA for a long time.**

- **Worsening of Hepatitis B infection.** If you have hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection and take COMPLERA, your HBV may get worse (flare-up) if you stop taking COMPLERA. A “flare-up” is when your HBV infection suddenly returns in a worse way than before. COMPLERA is not approved for the treatment of HBV, so you must discuss your HBV with your healthcare provider.
 - Do not let your COMPLERA run out. Refill your prescription or talk to your healthcare provider before your COMPLERA is all gone.
 - Do not stop taking COMPLERA without first talking to your healthcare provider.
 - If you stop taking COMPLERA, your healthcare provider will need to check your health often and do blood tests regularly to check your HBV infection. Tell your healthcare provider about any new or unusual symptoms you may have after you stop taking COMPLERA.

Who should not take COMPLERA?

Do not take COMPLERA if:

- your HIV infection has been previously treated with HIV medicines.
- you are taking any of the following medicines:
 - **anti-seizure medicines:** carbamazepine (Carbatrol, Equetro, Tegretol, Tegretol-XR, Teril, Epitol); oxcarbazepine (Trileptal); phenobarbital (Luminal); phenytoin (Dilantin, Dilantin-125, Phenytek)
 - **anti-tuberculosis (anti-TB) medicines:** rifabutin (Mycobutin); rifampin (Rifater, Rifamate, Rimactane, Rifadin); rifapentine (Priftin)
 - **proton pump inhibitor (PPI) medicine** for certain stomach or intestinal problems: esomeprazole (Nexium, Vimovo); lansoprazole (Prevacid); dexlansoprazole (Dexilant); omeprazole (Prilosec, Zegerid); pantoprazole sodium (Protonix); rabeprazole (Aciphex)
 - more than 1 dose of the steroid medicine dexamethasone or dexamethasone sodium phosphate
 - St. John’s wort (*Hypericum perforatum*)
- **If you take COMPLERA, you should not take:**
 - Other medicines that contain tenofovir (Atripla, Stribild, Truvada, Viread)
 - Other medicines that contain emtricitabine or lamivudine (Combivir, Emtriva, Epivir or Epivir-HBV, Epizcom, Trizivir, Atripla, Truvada, Stribild)
 - rilpivirine (Edurant)
 - efavirenz (Hepsera)

What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking COMPLERA?

Before you take COMPLERA, tell your healthcare provider if you:

- have or had liver problems, including hepatitis B or C virus infection, kidney problems, mental health problem or bone problems
- are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if COMPLERA can harm your unborn child.
- **Pregnancy Registry.** There is a pregnancy registry for women who take antiviral medicines during pregnancy. The purpose of this registry is to collect information about the health of you and your baby. Talk to your healthcare provider about how you can take part in this registry.
- are breast-feeding or plan to breast-feed. **You should not breastfeed if you have HIV because of the risk of passing HIV to your baby.** Do not breastfeed if you are taking COMPLERA. At least two of the medicines contained in COMPLERA can be passed to your baby in your breast milk. We do not know whether this could harm your baby. Talk to your healthcare provider about the best way to feed your baby.

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take, including prescription and nonprescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements.

- **COMPLERA may affect the way other medicines work, and other medicines may affect how COMPLERA works, and may cause serious side effects.** If you take certain medicines with COMPLERA, the amount of COMPLERA in your body may be too low and it may not work to help control your HIV infection. The HIV virus in your body may become resistant to COMPLERA or other HIV medicines that are like it.

Especially tell your healthcare provider if you take:

- an antacid medicine that contains aluminum, magnesium hydroxide, or calcium carbonate. If you take an antacid during treatment with COMPLERA, take the antacid **at least 2 hours before or at least 4 hours after** you take COMPLERA.
- a medicine to block the acid in your stomach, including cimetidine (Tagamet), famotidine (Pepcid), nizatidine (Axid), or ranitidine hydrochloride (Zantac). If you take one of these medicines during treatment with COMPLERA, take the acid blocker **at least 12 hours before or at least 4 hours after** you take COMPLERA.
- any of these medicines (if taken by mouth or injection):
 - clarithromycin (Biaxin)
 - erythromycin (E-Mycin, Eryc, Ery-Tab, PCE, Pediazole, Ilosone)
 - fluconazole (Diflucan)
 - itraconazole (Sporanox)
 - ketoconazole (Nizoral)
 - methadone (Dolophine)
 - posaconazole (Noxafil)
 - telithromycin (Ketek)
 - voriconazole (Vfend)
- medicines that are eliminated by the kidney, including acyclovir (Zovirax), cidofovir (Vistide), ganciclovir (Cytovene IV, Vitrasert), valganciclovir (Valcyte), and valganciclovir (Valcyte)

What are the possible side effects of COMPLERA?

COMPLERA can cause serious side effects, including:

- **See “What is the most important information I should know about COMPLERA?”**
- **New or worse kidney problems, including kidney failure,** can happen in some people who take COMPLERA. Your healthcare provider should do blood tests to check your kidneys before starting treatment with COMPLERA. If you have had kidney problems in the past or need to take another medicine that can cause kidney problems, your healthcare provider may need to do blood tests to check your kidneys during your treatment with COMPLERA.
- **Depression or mood changes.** Tell your healthcare provider right away if you have any of the following symptoms:
 - feeling sad or hopeless
 - feeling anxious or restless
 - have thoughts of hurting yourself (suicide) or have tried to hurt yourself

- **Change in liver enzymes.** People with a history of hepatitis B or C virus infection or who have certain liver enzyme changes may have an increased risk of developing new or worsening liver problems during treatment with COMPLERA. Liver problems can also happen during treatment with COMPLERA in people without a history of liver disease. Your healthcare provider may need to do tests to check your liver enzymes before and during treatment with COMPLERA.

- **Bone problems** can happen in some people who take COMPLERA. Bone problems include bone pain, softening or thinning (which may lead to fractures). Your healthcare provider may need to do additional tests to check your bones.

- **Changes in body fat** can happen in people taking HIV medicine. These changes may include increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck (“buffalo hump”), breast, and around the main part of your body (trunk). Loss of fat from the legs, arms and face may also happen. The cause and long term health effect of these conditions are not known.

- **Changes in your immune system (Immune Reconstitution Syndrome)** can happen when you start taking HIV medicines. Your immune system may get stronger and begin to fight infections that have been hidden in your body for a long time. Tell your healthcare provider if you start having new symptoms after starting your HIV medicine.

The most common side effects of COMPLERA include:

- trouble sleeping (insomnia)
- abnormal dreams
- headache
- dizziness
- diarrhea
- nausea
- rash
- tiredness
- depression

Additional common side effects include:

- vomiting
- stomach pain or discomfort
- skin discoloration (small spots or freckles)
- pain

Tell your healthcare provider if you have any side effect that bothers you or that does not go away.

These are not all the possible side effects of COMPLERA. For more information, ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist.

Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088 (1-800-332-1088).

How should I take COMPLERA?

- **Stay under the care of your healthcare provider during treatment with COMPLERA.**
- **Take COMPLERA exactly as your healthcare provider tells you to take it.**
- **Always take COMPLERA with a meal.** Taking COMPLERA with a meal is important to help get the right amount of medicine in your body. A protein drink does not replace a meal.
- Do not change your dose or stop taking COMPLERA without first talking with your healthcare provider. See your healthcare provider regularly while taking COMPLERA.
- If you miss a dose of COMPLERA within 12 hours of the time you usually take it, take your dose of COMPLERA with a meal as soon as possible. Then, take your next dose of COMPLERA at the regularly scheduled time. If you miss a dose of COMPLERA by more than 12 hours of the time you usually take it, wait and then take the next dose of COMPLERA at the regularly scheduled time.
- Do not take more than your prescribed dose to make up for a missed dose.

This Brief Summary summarizes the most important information about COMPLERA. If you would like more information, talk with your healthcare provider. You can also ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist for information about COMPLERA that is written for health professionals, or call 1-800-445-3235 or go to www.COMPLERA.com

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LGBT Michiganders Respond After U.S. Supreme Court Ruling

“We’re just here to celebrate. We had a great victory today. Let’s not forget that. Tomorrow we start working again.”

– Sandi Smith, president
Jim Toy Community Center

“The door has opened and the time has come for us to leave the vestiges of second-class citizenship outside.”

– Iglesia Martell, attorney and co-chair of the
Washtenaw Bar Association’s LGBT Section

“If the judge [Friedman] overturns the ban you’re all invited to come down to my office and get your marriage license. I’m looking forward to it. Congratulations and thank you!”

– Lawrence Kestenbaum, Washtenaw
County Clerk (in charge of the office that
issues marriage licenses in that county)

“When we extend civil rights to everybody, everybody benefits. As a judge, I can officiate at wedding. I will marry as many as I can as fast as I can, just as soon as Kestenbaum gives me permission.”

– Judge Carol Kuhnke, 22nd
Circuit Court, Michigan

“I’m thrilled about the DOMA decision...I started this stuff back in 1975, and if someone had told me then that we would get gay marriage by the time I was middle aged, I would not have believed it. It’s kinda neat watching history unfold.”

– Craig Covey, former mayor of Ferndale

“Sisters and brothers, we are climbing up the mountain of justice and I look to see all of you on total equality day.”

– Jim Toy

“That’s the future we’re fighting for, when there is no gay marriage, no straight marriage, just marriage. This is a day when justice won. This is the day when liberty won. This is the day love won.”

– Rev. Dr. Cynthia Landrum, Universalist
Unitarian Church, Clark Lake

Special thanks to Jennifer Chapin-Smith. Visit her photo library and complete speaker quotes online at www.pridesource.com

VRA: When The Dancing Stops REALLY Protecting Our Equal Rights



Viewpoint

OPINION BY MICHELLE E. BROWN

On Wednesday the 26th, I was driving down “the Lodge” (M-10 to you non-Detroiters) listening to NPR – of course – specifically “The Diane Rehm Show,” waiting to hear the Supreme Court’s decision on DOMA and Prop. 8.

Like most members of the LGBT community, my stomach was in a knot, but my stomach was in more than just a knot. It was in a double half-hitch with a twist knot as I was still reeling from the Supreme Court’s decision the day before gutting the Voting Rights Act.

If they would gut this Act that sought to ensure protections for voting rights at the polls for every American, I wondered if the same court could muster sufficient votes to stand for equal rights for LGBT families.

Then it came, the news we had all dreamed, dared hope for, decisions for marriage equality on both DOMA and Prop. 8.

I screamed, tooted my horn, then breaking my rule of not calling/texting while driving, called my good friends Donna Payne at the Human Rights Campaign who has been working for marriage equality nationally, and Susan Horowitz at Between The Lines who had spent many days and nights in the trenches with me on Prop. 2 in Michigan.

These decisions weren’t everything. Marriage for LGBT couples is not legal in most states but the walls had definitely started tumbling down.

By the time I reached downtown Detroit, I had shared numerous celebratory horn-toots with cars sporting equality stickers. Sitting at an outdoor café, I watched with a grin as same gendered couples walking, with eyes glued to their smart phones, let out a little whoop then reached out and walked the rest of the way hand-in-hand or arm-in-arm.

Every two seconds I received a text or tweet from friends and family. I even heard from people I barely knew but who had stood with us on the cold January day in Lansing when Michigan enshrined discrimination into the constitution believing as King said that, “The Arc of the Moral Universe Is Long, but It Bends Toward Justice,” and today it had bent for equality. It was a good day to be gay in America.

And could the timing have been any more perfect, the ruling came in June as we celebrate

pride in cities across the country.

It’s been great seeing jubilant couples in California again exchanging vows; seeing Edie Windsor jubilant in victory and leading the New York Pride parade with co-Grand Marshals Earl Fowlkes and civil rights icon Harry Belafonte; and even though I don’t have a wedding (or a date for that matter) on the horizon I could not be prouder.

My country, the United States of America, had affirmed that major statement on human rights within the Declaration of Independence – that in marriage my LGBT community was also endowed with “certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.”

Oh happy day – but maybe not, because I wear this Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat woven with threads from the intersections of race, class, gender and sexual orientation.

The day before a very big thread in my dream coat had got snagged by the same Supreme Court with implications that could set back our march for equality and that snag was the gutting of the Voting Rights Act.

I am first and foremost an African American woman. I didn’t have to do anything other than come out the birth canal to be identified as such and to be subject to discrimination based on the very fact that I was born this way. I am also proud, out member of the LGBT community.

Even though the formula struck down by the Supreme Court in Section 4 of the Voting Rights Act had, as Chief Justice Roberts said in his bench statement, extended a 40-year-old coverage formula based on “obsolete statistics,” it had protected voters most at risk for being disenfranchised or denied their right to vote.

I can’t help but wonder how many LGBTQ

people of color who gained recognition with the DOMA repeal will now face discrimination in the voting booth? But it’s more than just a Black/White, Gay/Straight issue. How many women, including Lesbians, will be denied access to reproductive rights if voting rights can be skewered by partisan politics?

Want a glimpse of the future? Just take a look at Texas where gerrymandering and challenges at the polls threaten to disenfranchise Latino, African-American, the poor and whatever other group is not in favor (like pro-choice/women) voters.

Want a closer glimpse? You need look no further than Saginaw County in Michigan where the Supreme Court decision cleared the way on to dissolving the Buena Vista school district.

The ultimate battle for equal rights will take place in communities, municipalities and states across the country at the ballot box. We must change hearts and minds one person, one vote at a time and not leave equality hanging in a SCOTUS balance.

It’s up to us. Time to Gladiator-up community! We will never have the full freedom to marry without the freedom to vote! Congress can reverse the effects of the court’s decision on the Voting Rights Act. Get involved by visiting www.freetovote.org.

Today I’m doing my happy dance for marriage, but I’m gearing up for the real fight. Let’s protect every vote so when the dancing stops I won’t find my Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat unraveled and all of our rights flapping in the wind.

Michelle E. Brown is a public speaker, activist and author. Follow her posts at www.mychangeiam.com and www.twitter.com/mychangeiam



1 Million Say Happy Pride!



Parting Glances

OPINION BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

I'm sitting on a concrete corner fence at the edge of Walgreen's pharmacy outlet, Belmont and Broadway. I'm an hour early for the start of Chicago's 44th Gay Pride Parade.

In front of me are some Chinese children passing out plastic rainbow bracelets, courtesy of Walgreen's.

Over the years I've attended some dozen of these celebratory events, and following the two recent Supreme Court decisions last week, I'm sure this march will be glorious, memorable, and for me a fitting exclamation point to my own 50-year-plus gay life.

(My first Chicago parade was in 1960. It was St. Patrick's Day. Mayor Daley was political kingpin at the time, and for the event the Chicago River was dyed green. As a Living Rosary marched by us, my friend Dan quipped, "Get a look see at that second Our Father on the right!")

Around me a gathering of Latinos are in a party mood, hugging, kissing, patting each other affectionately, joking. I take iPhone pictures. A harried dishwasher blond vendor is also annoyingly tooting a loud horn, and shooting floating bubbles into the air from a hand-held gun. Five or six shattering toots later she shrugs and moves on.

As a dozen or so police reroute Belmont traffic and close off the street for spectator viewing, an overly dressed, older drunk - sport coat and tie - stands in front of me, holding a bottle in a bag, obviously in his cups. "Frankly, I liked it better when they'd think nothing of pissing on us gays. It's all too open now. Not as much private and fun."

This year's parade is touted to be shorter. Under two hours. Attendance last year was 850,000. (If I recall correctly, it seemed that every politician or would-be running for office was in there. Standing outside the Halstead \$20-million LGBT Center, I saw hundreds marching for dozens of candidates of choice.)

It's 12:25 and everybody gathered around cheers, cheers, cheers, as NFL player Wade Davis as grand marshal waves into view. (He will be followed in turn by Illinois Governor Pat Quinn, Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel, Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle, and U. S. Senator Dick Durbin.)

From my exalted vantage point I record favored highlights: floats carrying gay/lesbian police and fire staff, veterans displaying a street-wide American flag, P-FLAG Parents, senior citizens, TV broadcast units, LGBT parents marching with children, persons of color: Hispanic, Asian, Black, Indian; bar floats with gigantic balloon displays, dozens of Berlin body builders flexing.

Oh, Good God! In this Pride Parade celebration there are not one but two separate contingents of Dykes on Bikes, revving it up, sending the crowd into competing roars of pleasure. Two marching bands pass by like happy-go-lucky pied pipers, and I want to follow!

Nearly four hours have gone by. The rainbow tail end wags past. The guard gates are removed, and I and hundreds join the parade, marching about a mile-and-a-half to gather at Lincoln Park. Along the route, thousands and thousands yell, scream, shout, glad hand it, Happy Pride! Yes! Happy Pride!

As I march two things automatically happen: I get goosebumps; and I'm proudly, happily moved to tears along the way.

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Creep of the Week

Tony Perkins

OPINION BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

And so it was that the Defense of Marriage Act was declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court and Prop 8 was dead in California.



Tony Perkins

And the gays did celebrate across the land. Meanwhile, after crying many tears, Family Research Council President Tony Perkins went on Meet the Press to apologize to LGBT people. "I was wrong," he said, "and also a real dick. I'm sorry." He then pulled off his microphone and walked into the ocean. He was last spotted on a gay cruise ship performing his one man comedic monologue "Research THIS: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Gays."

Ha ha, just kidding. Perkins did, indeed, go on Meet the Press, but rather than apologizing, he equated people who vote in favor of marriage equality to people who use violence to steal cars.

"Essentially what (the Supreme Court) has done is that they've dragged 'we the people' from behind the wheel of this republic and carjacked the nation," Perkins said. "And this never ends up good."

And by "this," I assume he means his carjacking analogy because I am having a lot of trouble picturing Justice Anthony Kennedy, who cast the deciding vote in the DOMA case, pistol whipping a soccer mom at a gas station and taking off in her mini van.

But I guess I just lack Perkins' vivid and bizarre imagination.

"Americans will begin to see that with same-sex marriage does not come a hope chest, rather it's a Pandora's box," he continued.

Oh boy, here we go. The reality train is about to jump the rails.

"We'll see parents who pay taxes

to send their kids to school, those schools are going to start teaching those children values that are in contrast with the parents," Perkins wailed.

Oh, the horror! God forbid children be exposed to a world where not everyone agrees with and thinks like them! Listen, if you're terrified that the "values" you've been teaching your kids will be exposed as bullshit the minute your kid starts public school, then it's time to reevaluate your values.

"We're already seeing bakers and florists and photographers forced to participate in same-sex marriages under the threat of law and in some cases even jail!" Perkins continued. "I can't think of anything that's more un-American than that."

Oh, hey, I can think of something more un-American than that: saddling a specific segment of the population with a law solely intended to demean and humiliate their love lives and their families and relegate them to second-class citizen status.

"We're already seeing bakers and florists and photographers forced to participate in same-sex marriages under the threat of law and in some cases even jail!"

But no, to Perkins it's un-American to tell a florist they can't say no to a lesbian couple, "Oh, I won't do the flowers for your wedding because you make Jesus puke." Because that's protected religious speech, according to Perkins. Never mind that if this same florist said such a thing to, say, an interracial couple, their shop would be vilified by everyone but the most ardent Paula Deen supporters.

When Face the Nation host Bob Schieffer points out that support for marriage equality is on the rise and that Perkins may be "behind the times" on this issue, Perkins brushes him off saying that Americans are just going through a phase.

"I think as Americans see that there's a lot more to same-sex marriage than simply two people who love each other, that they'll have time to reconsider this," he said, willfully blind to the fact that scores of soldiers in the "culture war" are jumping ship all around him.

Lambda Legal Urges NJ Court To Allow Same-Sex Couples Freedom To Marry

BY BTL STAFF

TRENTON, NJ – One week after the Supreme Court's historic decision to strike down Section 3 of the discriminatory Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), Lambda Legal filed a motion for summary judgment in New Jersey Superior Court on behalf of Garden State Equality, New Jersey's statewide LGBT advocacy organization, and six same-sex couples who want marriage equality.

"Now that DOMA is gone, New Jersey is, as a matter of law, in direct violation of the New Jersey Supreme Court order we won in 2006 that requires equality for same-sex couples, and in violation of the Equal Protection clause of the federal Constitution," said Hayley Gorenberg, Lambda Legal Deputy Legal Director. "New Jersey's discrimination is all that bars same-sex couples from the full array of federal protections for their families."

In June 2011, Lambda Legal filed a lawsuit seeking the freedom to marry, arguing that barring same-sex couples from marriage and relegating them to civil union violates both the

New Jersey Constitution and the 14th Amendment of the federal Constitution. In light of last week's Supreme Court ruling striking Section Three of DOMA, Lambda Legal filed a motion for summary judgment in the case, arguing that by barring marriage, the state of New Jersey denies same-sex couples the full range of federal benefits, rights and protections available under the Windsor decision. This denial explicitly conflicts with the New Jersey Supreme Court ruling in 2006 that says same-sex couples should have the same rights and benefits as their different-sex counterparts.

"The Supreme Court of the United States has spoken, and it is clear that the time for marriage equality is now. The debate is over, the facts are in, civil unions are not and never will be equal to marriage," said Troy Stevenson, executive director of Garden State Equality. "Today, Lambda Legal will file a brief on our behalf seeking relief through the courts to prevent further discrimination from taking place in New Jersey and to open access to all federal rights and protections that marriage affords."

In 2002, Lambda Legal filed a historic case, *Lewis v. Harris*, seeking marriage equality on behalf of seven New Jersey couples. The case reached the New Jersey Supreme Court in 2006. The high court ruled unanimously that same-sex couples must be provided all the benefits and responsibilities of marriage, although it declined at that time to mandate that marriage was specifically required, and gave the state legislature 180 days to provide equality. The legislature hastily passed a civil union law in December 2006, and began issuing civil union licenses to lesbian and gay couples in February 2007.

"Eleven years ago, when we asked Lambda Legal to work on our behalf, we were prepared for a long, hard road and believe it will lead to the freedom to marry. The Supreme Court decision striking down DOMA was historic for the nation but out of reach for us here in New Jersey," said Cindy Meneghin, plaintiff in the lawsuit along with her high school sweetheart, Maureen Kilian and their two children.

Online: www.lambdalegal.org/in-court/legal-docs/gse_motion-for-summary-judgment

► Endgame

Continued from p. 6

Bonauto, civil rights project director for Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders (GLAD), the government looks at the state of domicile of the decedent for survivor benefits, and looks at the state of domicile at the time of application for spousal benefits. That could be a complication for same-sex couples with marriage licenses who are living in one of the 37 non-marriage equality states.

"This will likely be an evolving area of law and you should consult with a qualified tax expert about your circumstances," advises an {URL "After DOMA" guide <http://www.glad.org/doma>} prepared by

GLAD, Lambda Legal, the National Center for Lesbian Rights, the ACLU and other national groups.

"There's a lot of intensive legal research still being done, including by lawyers within the Administration and the various agencies that administer federal programs," said Jenny Pizer of Lambda Legal.

And there are other complications, too. For example, in some instances, couples that have a civil union or domestic partnership relationship may be able to tap into some federal benefits.

According to Pizer, the Social Security statute "can allow eligibility for those entitled to inherit per the state's intestate inheritance law."

"That's unusual, though,"

cautioned Pizer. "For the most part, a recognized marriage is required. And that fact puts a bright light on the discriminatory effect of a state's choice to offer a lesser status instead of marriage where there's no constitutional barrier."

"For the most part," said Pizer, "the many important federal benefits and protections that turn on one's marital status do require marriage. That's why the many tens of thousands of couples who have been in civil unions and domestic partnerships for years haven't been able to access federal benefits. And that's why litigation for federal benefits began after couples began marrying in Massachusetts, not when they began entering civil unions in Vermont."



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MATTHEW MORRISON SINGS OUT

'Glee' Star On Being An Ally, Equal Marriage & His Gay Following Vs. Adam Levine's

Photo: Brian Bowen Smith

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

“Glee” made Matthew Morrison (and his unruly curls) a star, but his success started long before his role as do-gooder teacher Will Schuester. Morrison originated the studly Link Larkin during the Broadway run of “Hairspray,” and then he went on to earn a Tony nomination for his stint in “The Light in the Piazza.”

The “Glee” star goes back to his Broadway roots for “Where It All Began,” a collection of show-tune

covers. For Morrison, though, it goes back even further. All the way to elementary school, in fact.

Where did it all begin for you? When did you first start singing?

I first started singing in fifth grade. I grew up in Southern California and my parents took me to Arizona for the summer – I have a lot of family there: aunts, uncles, cousins – and my grandma put my cousin and I in a children’s theater production of this show called “The Herdmans Go to Camp.” I’m sure you’ve

heard of it. (Laughs)

Yeah, it was big on Broadway, right?

(Sarcastically) Yeah, exactly. It had a great run. (Laughs) So, it was this little made-up show and I was so lucky to have found my passion at such a young age in doing that show. I came back to Southern California after the summer and told my parents that I wanted to be in children’s theater and that started the whole thing.

This album is being released on Adam

Levine’s label, 222 Records. How well did you get to know Adam? Did you guys have a beer after recording?

(Laughs) We’ve had a few drinks in our day. We both live in Los Angeles, and he’s such a big fan of this kind of music. I wouldn’t think that personally – you think of him as this pop-rock kind of guy – but he’s such a fan of the standards. When I got to know that, and we started talking about that, I told him this was the record I always wanted to make and he’s like, “Let’s make it.” He’s been a big champion of mine through

this whole process, but at the same time he’s really given me my space. He’s an artist himself and he knows how an artist should be treated, and he really gave me space and respect. He checked in probably three times during the process just to hear stuff and hang out in the studio. He didn’t have much to say because he was really loving everything.

Did you two ever settle the question that’s been on everyone’s mind: Who has the bigger gay following?

Wow. I don’t think we answered that

question. Do you know the answer to that? I have no idea.

You're supposed to say yourself.

Well, you said it for me then. (Laughs) I would give myself the advantage coming from the theater world and stuff, but he's younger and more attractive than I am, so I give him the advantage that way. It depends on what gay genre you're looking at. If you like the tattoo kind of thing, he's your guy. If you like the clean-cut kind of guy, that's me.

You say this is the album you always wanted to make. Why didn't you make it the first time around with your self-titled debut, when you were on Mercury Records?

You know, that's a good question. (Pauses) I kind of felt like it was the height of "Glee" and that's the kind of music that we were doing on the show and ... I liked that album. It was a really interesting process for me, just because I had never done songwriting before, so I got to work with some world-renowned songwriters – some people who wrote songs with Adele – so that was a really great opportunity to kind of work a muscle that I'd never really worked before. It was great, but it just ... it didn't feel authentic. It didn't feel totally authentic to me, whereas this is rooted in the music I grew up singing and I know so well. This music is in my bones, so I feel very confident.

You look good in that top hat on the cover of the album. Are you much of a hat man?

I do like hats ... especially because I'm so synonymous with my crazy curly hair now. I can cover it up. It's good to have a little disguise.

Is there a song on this album that most inspired your musical-theater career?

Yeah, actually there is. "On the Street Where You Live," which is from "My Fair Lady," is a song that I found really early on in my life. I first sang it when I was maybe 13 at a talent show or something. It's typically done as a ballad, and that's actually the song I've sung for every single audition I've ever had in my entire life, including "Glee." That song has kind of made my career, I guess. (Laughs) But for this version on the album, I really wanted to kind of give it a little more pep, speed it up a bit, make it a little more danceable. So that's what we did!

When you were recording these songs, did it dawn on you how outdated the vernacular is? And how much the word "gay," which once just meant happy and carefree, has changed?

It's funny you say that, because every time I sing "Younger than Springtime" with the "gayer than laughter" line – I think I sing it maybe three or four times within the song – it does pop in my mind. You're right, it doesn't mean that ... well, it does mean that, but it has changed, absolutely. When I originally was hearing it I was thinking of (the "gay" reference), but it's not like I really care. (Laughs)

Of all people, I didn't think you did.

(Sarcastically) Damn those gay people!

How did you get involved in the Human Rights Campaign video for marriage equality?

From my friends. I have so many friends who are involved with HRC – my friends from the theater community – and it's a cause that I absolutely support. It just comes down to human rights. Forty years ago, if you saw a black man walking down the street with a white woman it was like "oh my god," but now you don't even blink. I'm hoping that's the same thing that's gonna happen with this, and hopefully gay and lesbian couples can marry. That you can't marry the person that you love in today's society is just wrong. I think a loving and committed gay and lesbian relationship deserves the same rights as anyone else's.

I was honored recently with the Ally for Equality Award at the HRC Atlanta dinner, and there were these brothers from New Hampshire. The younger brother is gay, and the older brother is straight and married to his wife, and hearing the straight brother talk about his brother and what he's gone through and the person that he is, he got so choked up. It was the most beautiful thing to see him talk about his brother, (saying) that he deserved the same rights that he has. I was blown away by these two guys. It was pretty incredible.

Have you performed at a gay wedding before?

I have performed at a gay wedding. And my massage therapist and his partner are planning a wedding in the next year or so and I plan on singing at their wedding too.

What will you be singing?

I'm gonna leave it up to them. But I'm taking requests!

What's your future on "Glee"?

It's been renewed for a couple of seasons, but I don't know the answer to that question.

What do you see for yourself when "Glee" does end? A break?

I don't think "Glee" is ever going to end. (Laughs) No, I don't want a break. I have two months off from the show right now and I'm putting out an album and doing some touring. I love working. I always wanna work. I think for me – now that I've done everything, and I've been on stage for 10 years and done film and television – my heart is in the theater, and that's where I feel the most alive and connected to the audience. I love being on stage. That's something that I know I will definitely go back to. I feel like I've had a really well-rounded career so far, and I want to keep trying to put my hand in a lot of different things.

I take it you won't be bringing "The Herdmans Go to Camp" to Broadway?

My career would probably be over.

It's that bad?

I don't remember it. That's saying a lot.



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The Unsung Stories Of Merry Clayton & Darlene Love

Photo: Radius-TWC

The World Called Them Backup. We Called Them Stars.

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

When Merry Clayton recalls the song most dear to her, “After All This Time” – one of many Carole King-written tunes on Clayton’s self-titled 1971 solo album – she starts to recite the words: “Oooh, I get a feeling every night when you come home that life is sweet, yeaah, baby.”

But then, she can’t help herself. Clayton breaks out the song full force, her voice swooping into a belt. It’s in this moment of impromptu vocal prowess you wonder why Clayton never found the solo success she so deserves.

That mystery is documented in “20 Feet from Stardom,” a film that finally puts background singers – including the renowned Darlene

Love – center stage. And life from there, well, it really is sweet.

When you first saw the documentary, and all that footage they’d compiled, what was going through your mind?

Merry Clayton: That film ... it took me to another place. Let me say it this way: It took my breath away. I could hardly breathe. I made it through the whole film until they showed myself and my late husband and my band doing “Southern Man,” and then I lost it. I mean, totally lost it. I was crying. It just got to my heart.

Darlene Love: I didn’t even know it was gonna touch me, but I was very emotional watching it. A lot of my friends who know me personally, and family who’ve seen it, actually cried during the movie. There were friends who didn’t even know I went through that (career) struggle, because I wasn’t the type of person to ask for help. They were really surprised that I had gone through that and had never said a thing about it.

Darlene, when this project first

came to you, what were your initial thoughts?

DL: I was the first person involved in it. (Producer) Gil Friesen went to Lou Alder, who is a very old friend of mine, and Dick Donner, who is the director of the “Lethal Weapon” movies, and he said, “I have this idea to do a story on background singers, but I don’t know where to start.” They told him, “Well, if you’re gonna do a story on background singers, you’re gonna have to get in touch with Darlene Love first.” And that’s what he did, because I’ve been doing background singing full time since 1958.

Was this a trip down memory lane for you?

DL: It was. They filmed it off and on for two years, so the director (Morgan Neville) had to do some digging, because there is no information on background singers ... unless you talk to background singers! What he did find, like The Blossoms (the vocal trio led by Love) singing with Tom Jones back in 1971, I was like,

“Wow, how did they find that? We have never seen that.”

MC: It was really something. It took me back to the years out on the road with my husband and my band. I didn’t have to do anything; my job was to just do my craft, and he took care of the band. He had his career. He had done eight or nine albums. So he wanted me to have a great career – and he worked very closely with me to see that that happened. But they only wanted one queen, and it was Aretha at that time. And there was only one Diana Ross. That left me as the Merry Clayton who was basically almost unsung.

It just wasn’t your time. But now is your time.

MC: I really believe that. And listen to me, I am soooo ready for it. I’m in good health. I’m in good spirits. I look fabulous, honey. And I got it going on.

Did you ever think of yourself as an underdog?

DL: Oh, no, I never did. I never felt that way, because once we got so big at doing background singing, people waited on us. People were just as excited about us being on their records as we were excited about doing them. I don’t think that anyone who was doing background ever felt bad about what they were doing.

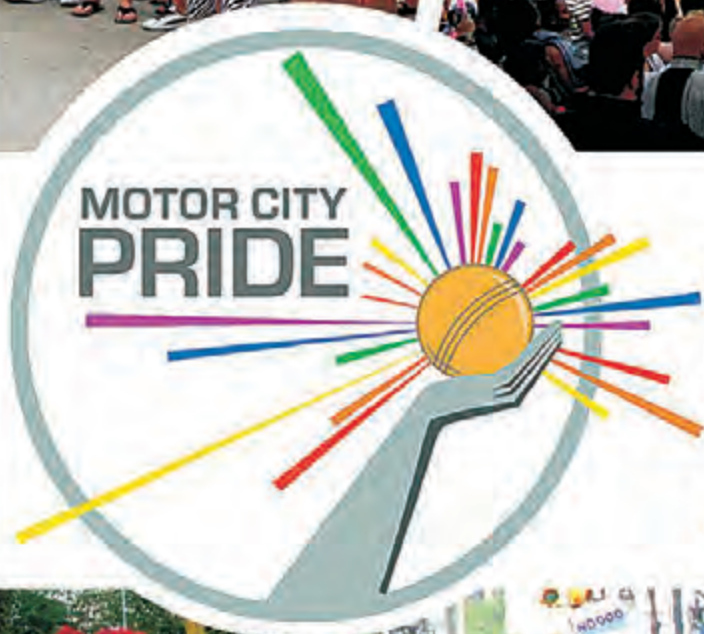
MC: No, I don’t think I’m an underdog. I think I’m an after-dog. I think I’ve been totally recognized, if for nothing else but for the people I’ve performed with. You can’t be more recognized than being recognized for “Gimme Shelter” (Clayton sang on the 1969 track with The Rolling Stones). That’s been all over. By presidents, queens and kings, I’ve been recognized. The thing is, you get recognition, but not the recognition you think you should have.

You gotta know that the gay community always puts our divas in the spotlight, right?

MC: That’s right, baby. And I

See 20 Feet, page 22

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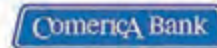


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► **20 Feet**
Continued from p. 20

mean, when you got the gay community under your feet, you really don't have too much of anything to worry about.

How would you describe your relationship with the gay community all these years?

DL: If it weren't for them in my audience, I wouldn't have one. They've always supported me over the years. Ninety percent of my audience is white – it's not black – and gay. So, you know, thank god! They know more about the background singers than anybody. They saw how we looked, they saw how we moved around. They were looking at that too. A lot of people have come up to me, even before the movie, saying, "I saw you when you sang with Dionne Warwick" or "I saw you when you were with Tom Jones" or "I saw you with Elvis," so they watch that. They don't just watch the lead singer; they watch the whole thing – the whole performance in front of them.

MC: They've always loved me. They always loved me and adored me and have alllll-ways supported me! When I needed clothes, when I needed things to wear for shows, I'd call my queens, baby. They'd be like, "Don't you worry; we got you covered." The children, they'd be there to see me, protect me. I loooooo-ve my gays, baby. (Laughs) I love the children and the children love me. But it's always been that in my career. Always.

A diva doesn't go without her gays.

MC: Ever. Ever! From 5 years old. What I'm saying is, when you start singing, there's always a wonderful

gay friend in your family – not a part of your family, but always a friend your parents know or somebody knows – and they're always very protective of you. They make sure you have what you need, they make sure you get to where you're supposed to go on time and they make sure you're cool. I mean, when I first started singing, please ... there were wonderful gays who were like, "Oh, you need a gown for baby sister, for Merry? Let's make her a couple of dresses, honey." And I'd look good! We didn't come with silver spoons in our mouth, so

“It really is just a phenomenal dream, and I hope to stay in it until I close my eyes for the last time.”

– Merry Clayton

they would sit down and make me a dress, make sure my shoes matched my dress, that my hair was done and that I looked cute. So yes, I love my gays, baby.

What's your fondest memory of recording "Cornflake Girl" with Tori Amos?

MC: That's my baby. I haven't talked to my baby in a long time. I'm gonna have my co-manager find Tori because I haven't heard from her in quite a while.

But she calls me in the evening: "Merry, what are you doing?" I said, "Hey, who is this?" "Tori." I said, "Hey mama, what's going on?" She says, "I need you to come and sing on this song with me." I said, "OK now, you gotta pay me the lunch money."

So we did it and had a great evening. Tori was with me when I did the song for "Dirty Dancing," "Yes." Her ma and dad were in town and she called me and she said, "Well, what are you doing?" I said, "I'm going to the studio, girl; I got this thing for something they're doing called 'Dirty' ... something." She says, "I want you to meet ma and dad." So they came to the studio where I was and hung out while I did "Yes." We had a wonderful time.

Darlene, in the movie you talk about cleaning houses to make ends meet when singing wasn't cutting it. Tell me about the worst house you had to clean.

DL: (Laughs) My own! To this day, I always say, "Lord, please let me make enough money for somebody to clean my house." And so far, it's been working out.

After doing this film, do you feel like the star you always wanted to be?

MC: I feel that I am absolutely the diva that I've always wanted to be. Not necessarily the diva, but just the woman who has paid dues and had fun in the process and has had, basically, a wonderful life. I really feel blessed to have been a part of this. Honestly, it feels like I'm in a dream and I'm waiting for someone to pinch me and say, "Girrrl-friend, wake up. Come out of it, suga." It really is just a phenomenal dream, and I hope to stay in it until I close my eyes for the last time.

DL: Between getting inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and this, this kind of seals it because now, with this movie, my career will go on and on and on. This movie is doing for us what superstars' records do for them. It has given us a voice. Now we have a voice.

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Hear Me Out

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Sigur Rós, LeAnn Rimes



Sigur Rós, 'Kveikur'

When frontman Jónsi Birgisson went stag for his kaleidoscopic solo venture, he introduced sunshine and rainbows to the stirring atmospherics he'd already established with Sigur Rós. What a difference a few years, and a couple bandmates, makes: "Kveikur," their seventh album released just a year after "Valtari," rocks so hard in parts that it's easy to forget Jónsi's little gay side project. Thunderous bass rumbles through "Brennisteinn," a whirling marvel that's grayer and more restless – but still harmonious – than nearly all of Sigur Rós' recent output. The Icelandic trio's once mellowing Zen state is replaced with cranked guitars, clanging drums and an enveloping sense of panic dispelled into brash cacophonies; "Hrafntinna" plods with isolated sadness into a dreamy horn outro and "Yfirboró" sounds like the impending apocalypse, where darkness looms and hope barely exists. "Ísjaki," though, breaks some of the sinister tension, evoking the majestic tranquility of their earlier work with a lightness that teeters on Coldplay pop. The calm of "Rafstraumur" also brings levity – as does the piano closer "Var," sans Jónsi – but "Kveikur" isn't rooted in the rock vanguards' modus operandi: optimism. It has audacity, aggression and doom. This is Sigur Rós getting their hands dirty. *Grade: B+*

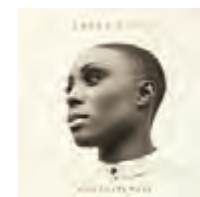


LeAnn Rimes, 'Spitfire'

It's hard to separate LeAnn Rimes "the tabloid magnet" from LeAnn Rimes "the Grammy success story." Now you don't have to. With her latest, Rimes flips through her diary to confess deeply personal thoughts on husband Eddie Cibrian's ex (hissing diss song "Spitfire"), the extramarital affair (the surprisingly honest "Borrowed") and breaking hearts (she takes the blame on "What Have I Done"). Throughout, the country singer pulls no punches – even unleashing a burn about some guy's tiny manhood on the vengeful breakup self-booster "God Takes Care of Your Kind" (written with ex-hubby Dean Sheremet, so it's probably not his) – as she backtracks on the emotions consuming her post-divorce and post-marriage. Rimes' slays these songs – and has co-writing credits on many of them – with her now supremely underappreciated and overshadowed-by-drama voice, sounding particularly powerful when she finds every pain in Missy Higgins' "Where I Stood." Another fine choice in cover material, "Gasoline and Matches," has her getting randy with Rob Thomas. "You've

Ruined Me," punched up with a gale of slide guitar and pulsating drums, and the buoyant "Bottle" could be hits ... you know, in a world where a major talent's personal life has no place on the charts. *Grade: B*

Also Out



Laura Mvula, 'Sing to the Moon'

Laura Mvula knows the power of being true to yourself. Not once on her debut does the former receptionist go for a big Beyoncé belt or any other gimmicky move that might earn her the mainstream following she's certainly worthy of. "Sing to the Moon" is dreamy soul beyond her 26 years, and you won't find many recent moments of musical beauty as exquisite as "Father, Father" or "Like the Morning Dew."



'The Bling Ring': Original Motion Picture Soundtrack

This is what robbing the homes of the rich and famous sounds like: thrashes of blown speaker static on Sleigh Bells' "Crown on the Ground," Kanye West ("All of the Lights") and, of course, M.I.A.'s "Bad Girls." But most indicative of the flick? "Super Rich Kids," a slow groove released last year on Frank Ocean's solo masterpiece that epitomizes everything about fame-hungry teens.



The Lonely Island, 'The Wack Album'

It has a shelf life, for sure, but The Lonely Island's latest isn't without some laughs and surprising guest cameos. The highlight, of course, is Robyn and the troupe mocking follow-the-leader club music on the hooky "Go Kindergarten." Solange also turns "Semicolon" into an unexpected pop pleasure (it's really about punctuation), while Gaga and Justin Timberlake do their "SNL" classic, "3-Way (The Golden Rule)."



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Michigan Womyn's Music Festival Marks 38th Year

Co-Founder On Event Legacy, Transgender Controversy

BY CAROL TANIS

This summer, on 650 acres of land just north of Hart, thousands of women will gather for one week in a community created by women for women. Scheduled for Aug. 6-11, the Michigan Womyn's Music Festival provides a safe space for attendees to camp in the woods, participate in workshops, listen to a wide variety of music, watch films and simply commune with each other in nature. Besides various regions of the U.S., visitors to the festival come from distant countries, including Australia, New Zealand, Russia and Scotland.

This year marks the 38th year for the festival – and co-founder Lisa Vogel has helped to produce every one. Born in Bay City, she moved to Mt. Pleasant to attend Central Michigan University. At age 19, she, along with other women from the region, launched the festival in 1976 just outside the village of Remus.

Over the years, countless controversies have plagued the event. The food, being one. Also, outsiders, such as religious fundamentalists, even tried to put an end to the festival at one time. The continued controversy, though, is whether to admit transgender individuals.

BTL got festival co-founder Carol Tanis on the phone to talk about the heated transgender debate, the event's rugged history and the challenges that lie ahead.

What excites you most about the 2013 Michigan Womyn's Music Festival?

I think we have an awesome program for this year's festival. It's really diverse and it highlights a lot of strong, beloved returning groups and some really exciting new talent. It really reflects the diversity and breadth of the Michigan audience, and I'm excited about it.

Is there anything new for the coming year in terms of workshops, amenities and special acts?

We've received requests to initiate an adult camping area and we're going to be putting some serious thought into where this could go in the general camping area. We want to have a campground where mothers can know this is not an area to camp with little ones. It's certainly not an antifamily thing, but I think there is some desire around adult behavior in tents, where they don't have to be concerned about little ones overhearing personal moments. So we're going to be looking for a good place to create some adult space within the general camping area, just as we have family camping.

Attendance has been down and there are rumors the festival might be coming to an end. What is the current state of the festival?

We've been reshaping the festival over the last decade. It's never lost on me that this will be our 38th year and we're already in miracle territory to keep something alive and viable and vibrant and relevant for all of these years. Whenever this question is posed, I feel

See Womyn's Music Festival, page 30

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Hope Women Roar With Invincible Voices

BY BRIDGETTE M. REDMAN

What is a woman?
And how do you capture her in song?
That may be a task of Sisyphian proportions, but Hope Summer Repertory Theater undertook it with such enthusiasm and passion as to inspire anyone trying to answer those questions.

“I Am Woman” is their musical revue of the summer season, a revue in which five women tackle music from every decade from the 1930s forward. It opened, of course, with the Helen Reddy power ballad of the same title, that was combined in a medley with “A Natural Woman” and “I’m a Woman.”

The five women of the ensemble, Katie Drinkard, Alyssa, Magarian, Olivia Puckett, Grace Stockdale and Sierra White, showed that women can be strong, sexy, silly, vulnerable, fun and entertaining, sometimes at the same time.

The 30 songs, directed and chosen by director Fred Tessler and co-creator Brad Landers, covered not just a scope of nine decades, but a range of genres from blues and torch songs to comedic ditties and power rock ballads. Each of them showcased the skill of the female performer, giving them opportunity to strut in a combination of solos, duets and ensemble pieces.

And while the Park Theatre stage is a small one, made even more intimate by placing the four-piece orchestra on the back of the stage, the performers still managed to fully choreograph each of their numbers, making the stage glitter with powerfully emotional presentations.

The Park Theatre is a new performance space for Hope Summer Rep, and they take advantage of the venue by setting up a mix of tables and chair rows. They also sell a combination of soda, wine and beer as part of their concessions before and after the show and during intermission. It turns the evening into a cabaret performance where the audience easily interacts emotionally with the performers. The singers also made full use of a thrust that was surrounded by tables and let them come out into the audience.



“I Am Woman” plays in repertory at the Park Theatre in Holland through July 31. Photo: Hope Summer Repertory Theatre.

REVIEW

I Am Woman

Hope Summer Repertory Theatre at Park Theatre, 248 S. River Ave., Holland. 8:30 p.m. July 8, 9, 18, 23, 31. \$12-20. 616-395-7890.

www.Hope.edu/hstr

Following the opening ensemble number, Magarian sang a beautiful ballad from 1983, “I Sure Like the Boys,” a moving piece that set the pace for the first act. She was also a strong presence in each ensemble number, particularly “Fire” and “I Love the Night Life.” Her comedic side came out with Stockdale in “Can that Boy Foxtrot!”

White sang what is perhaps the raunchiest number in the evening (with “Pretty Young Men” near the end capturing a close second) with the 1935 song “If I Can’t Sell It, I’ll Keep Sittin’ On It,” a song supposedly about a chair for sale at a second-hand shop. White was brilliant in her comedic timing in that song and such numbers as “Change” and “Buttered Popcorn.”

Stockdale showed the same powerful versatility in “I am Woman” that she displayed last week in “All Shook Up,” performing a torch song such as “I Can’t Make You Love Me,” the upbeat complaint of “I Heard It Through the Grapevine,” the peppiness of “Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy” and the soulful presentation of “Anytime.”

Puckett often seemed overwhelmed by her stronger compatriots, especially in the numbers that required pouring on

sex appeal, but she was heartbreakingly good in “Your Daddy’s Son” from “Ragtime” and performed a beautiful ballet during “The Portrait” as Drinkard sang. She also excelled at the cute numbers such as “Lollipop” and “Up the Ladder to the Roof.”

Drinkard had the fewest number of featured songs, but provided excellent support in ensemble numbers. She also exhibited excellent acting skills, telling stories with each of her songs and ensemble pieces.

When the women first took the stage, they were donned in the classic “little black dress,” each one its own cut and design to best show off the individual shapes of each actress. Through the evening’s numerous costume changes, costumer Michelle Bombe made each of the women look her best at all times, whether in a swim suit, an evening gown or a suit.

Stephen Sakowski’s lighting was often on the dark side, but appropriate for a night-club cabaret style performance. There were times when the orchestra, particularly the percussion started to overwhelm the singers, but for the most part their powerful voices and Jeffrey Levin’s sound design was able to overcome that.

Charisma oozed off all of the women, who reveled in all dimensions of their femininity. They made love to the audience while demonstrating with their voices that they were powerful and strong, women the audience was privileged to experience. “I Am Woman” is an unadulterated celebration of women’s lives and passions.

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► Womyn's Music Festival

Continued from p. 26

gratitude that the community supports and still has the desire to create this kind of space together. It's far more than a concert. It's an experiment in living where we create all of these support systems and services so we can live in this experimental community for the week. And that takes a lot of resources. As the numbers have lessened, it has been difficult in recent years in order to make our budget with all of those things we need to meet on the numbers we've been getting. We're really hoping we can bring 500 or a thousand women back into the festival, or bring new women into the festival to be able to support the infrastructure that we have.

Those of us who work on it are dedicated to continue to do it. And while the financial health has been a little dubious, the spiritual health has been strong. I'm convinced and still very confident that what women receive from that week at the festival is precious and valuable. Meanwhile, we're in changing times and challenging economic times. I'm hoping that we weather it. We've weathered a lot of things in the last 37 years and we have every intention to give it our best energy and keep making community on the land for many more years to come.

The question of whether allow transgender individuals into the festival has been a big issue. How do things currently stand with that?

This is a very complicated discussion. We don't actually allow or disallow anyone from attending, and we actually never have. We do say, and we have said, that the focus of this festival is for women who were born female and we want that to be where the focus and energy lies. We feel that in the greater

queer community affinity groups have the right and responsibility to say whom they would like to gather with. And it's everyone's decision how and if they respect that. That statement has been taken out of context many times. And people have run with it in either side of the discussion. So, it's been very polarizing for the festival. For the women who love the festival, there is such a vibrant and broad representation of gender identity, so for this community to be understood to be narrow in its scope of understanding gender is really missing the importance of the discussion in terms of a female identified community.

It's a complicated discussion. It's not simple. I can't say that I've seen that it's been a big discussion in the gay male community, but in the lesbian community it's a big discussion. And Michigan has always been some place where the discussions are ripe, get discussed, and acted out and argued out and the passion play happens. So I'm heartened that there are many women who attend the festival who have strong beliefs on all sides of this discussion and are able to have this conversation at the festival with respect for differences, and hopefully we'll come to a place where there is greater understanding – where everyone has respect for the authentic experience of every individual.

What are some of the biggest changes or trends you've seen in the festival and attendees in the last 10 to 20 years? Is it that more children are present?

When the festival first began, the only children that anybody knew of were from women who had been divorced and had been married to men. They had children and then they came out, and what we've seen in the last 35 years is several waves of a lesbian baby boom. There were very few children in the first handful of festivals. Now, we just heard from someone who was

brought by her mother when she was 7 and now her mother and her and her daughter are coming. And we get a lot of stories of three, and sometimes four, generations of women in a family coming to the festival together – that it's kind of like a rite of passage.

How does the Michigan Womyn's Festival compare to other such festivals held in the United States?

The thing that is unique about this festival is that it happens on the land and that it's a week long. We get to have the experience of being there and really getting into a groove of a culture together. Plus, we're not moving into a pre-existing space or a camp. You walk around and know that women did the plumbing, women did the stands, women put up those tents, and it just starts to sink in that this is a town created for women by women. And it's in harmony with the natural environment to the degree that when you leave, you couldn't tell two weeks after the festival that a festival had happened there. That's intentional.

Having been with the festival since the beginning, what's your happiest memory?

I don't have a happiest memory; I just have so many memories. We really present some fantastic music and entertainment and workshops and politics, and the experience we really feel has been valuable over the years is for women to have the experience that we create together that is very unique to that space. And whether there's been 6,000 or 3,000, that energy has remained intact.

For ticket information about the 2013 Michigan Womyn's Music Festival, visit michfest.com or call 231-757-4766.

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▶ Happenings

Continued from p. 28

School, 740 Cadieux. Dirty Dog Jazz Cafe Stage, St. Clair and Kercheval, Grosse Pointe. June 6 - Aug. 1. thevillagegp.org

Kerrytown Concert House "Tad Weed" Jazz pianist. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. 7 p.m. July 13. 734-763-4186. Kerrytownconcerthouse.com

MSU College of Music "17th Annual Muelder Summer Carillon Series" Wednesday, July 3: Stephan D. Burton, Eagle Mountain, Utah. Wednesday, July 10: Philippe Beullens, Brussels, Belgium. Wednesday, July 17: Julianne Vanden Wynngaard, Grand Valley State University and George Gregory, San Antonio, TX. Wednesday, July 24: Laura Ellis, University of Florida. Wednesday, July 31: Gijbert Kok, The Hague, The Netherlands. Free. msu college of music, Beaumont Tower, W. Circle Dr., East Lansing. July 3 - July 31. 517-353-9958.

Olympia Entertainment "Jill Scott" Tickets: \$49. 75-99. 75. Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 8 p.m. July 12. 313-471-6611. Olympiaentertainment.com

Royal Oak Music Theatre "Animal Collective with Dan Deacon". Royal Oak Music Theatre, 318 W. Fourth St., Royal Oak. 8 p.m. July 15. 248-399-2980. royaloakmusictheatre.com

Saugatuck Center for the Arts "Summer in the Studio: Brant Satala" Tickets: \$15+. Saugatuck Center for the Arts, 400 Culver St., Saugatuck. 8 p.m. July 15. 269-857-2399. sc4a.org

Stars in the Park "Farmington Community Band" Free. Heritage Park Amphitheatre, Farmington Road, Farmington Hills. 7 p.m. July 11. 248-473-1848.

The Ark "A Little Help from My Friends: Concert for Chris Buhalis" Tickets: \$20. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 7:30 p.m. July 14. 734-761-1800. TheArk.org

The Ark "Taj Mahal" Tickets: \$50-75. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. July 11. 734-761-1800. theark.org

The Ark "Shawn Phillips" Tickets: \$20. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. July 12. 734-761-1800. TheArk.org

The Magic Bag "The Grandmothers of Invention" Tickets: \$20+. The Magic Bag, 22920 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. 8 p.m. July 11. 248-544-3030. themagicbag.com

The Majestic "Undesirable People" With the Young and Heartless. 18+. Free. Garden Bowl, 4120 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 10 p.m. July 13. 313-833-9700. majesticdetroit.com

The Palace of Auburn Hills "One Direction" Tickets: \$40. 15-101. 45. The Palace of Auburn Hills, 5 Championship Dr., Auburn Hills. 7:30 p.m. July 12. 248-377-0100. palacenet.com

FESTIVALS

Oakland University and the Eisenhower Dance Ensemble "Great Lakes Dance Festival" Two-week intensive with daily classes in Ballet, Jazz, Modern and Repertory. Room and board available for additional cost. For experienced dancers age 16+. Tuition: \$525-550. Oakland University, 2200 N. Squirrel Road, Rochester. July 8 - July 19. 248-370-2030. oakland.edu

City of Ann Arbor "Ann Arbor Art Fair". City of Ann Arbor, 721 E. Huron St. #200, Ann Arbor. July 17 - July 20. 734-994-5260. artfair.org

City of Wyandotte "Wyandotte Street Art Fair". Downtown Wyandotte, Wyandotte. July 10 - July 13. wyandottestreetartfair.org

OTHER

Grand Rapids Art Museum "Piano Music" Museum Lobby. Grand Rapids Art Museum, 101 Monroe Center, Grand Rapids. April 5 - Sep. 27. 616-831-1000. artmuseumgr.org

I Love Old Town "Pickin' in the Park" Weekly social affair and jam session for artists, musicians, and residents in the heart of Old Town. Burchard Park in Old Town, Lansing. May 7 - Sep. 24. iloveoldtown.org

Oakland University "Creative Computer Music Composition" One-week course will explore the world of music composition using the computer. Ages: 12-18. Tuition: \$200. Oakland University, 2200 N. Squirrel Road, Rochester. July 15 - July 19. 248-370-2030. oakland.edu/compositionworkshops

Oakland University "Theory and Composition Workshop" Three hour daily workshop. Ages: 12-18. Tuition: \$200. Oakland University, 2200 N. Squirrel Road, Rochester. July 15 - July 19. 248-370-2030. oakland.edu/compositionworkshops

THEATER

CIVIC/COMMUNITY THEATER

Fools \$11-12. The Twin City Junior Players at The Twin City Players Playhouse, 600 W. Glenford Road, St. Joseph. July 12 - 21. 269-429-0400. Twincityplayers.org

Little Me \$7-10. Ann Arbors Penny Seats Theatre Company at West Park Band Shell, 215 Chapin St., Ann Arbor. July 11 - 27.

734-276-2832. Pennyseats.org

Next to Normal \$12-\$17. Peppermint Creek Theatre Company at Miller Performing Arts Center, 6025 Curry Lane, Lansing. July 11 - 20. 517-927-3016. peppermintcreek.org

The Bikinis \$15-35. The Crowell Opera House, 129 E. Maumee St., Adrian. July 12 - 21. 517-264-SHOW. Crowell.org

The UFO Show Free. Emergent Arts in Downtown Ypsilanti, Washington St., north of Michigan Ave.. 7 p.m. July 11. 734-985-0875. Emergentarts.com

PROFESSIONAL

1964...The Tribute \$15.25-25.45. Meadow Brook Music Festival, 3554 Walton Blvd., Rochester Hills. 8 p.m. July 11. 248-377-0100. Palacenet.com

Adult Education Stories told for adults only, with each event followed by a themed video dance party. \$10. The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Dr., Three Oaks. July 12. 269-756-3879. acorntheater.com

All Shook Up \$12-28. Hope Summer Repertory Theatre, DeWitt Theatre, 141 E. 12th St., Holland. Through Aug. 10. 616-395-7890. Hope.edu/hsrt

Andronicus Bound A bold, new adaptation of William Shakespeare's Titus Andronicus. \$15-18. Threefold Productions, The MIX Studio Theatre, 8 N. Washington St., Ypsilanti. Opens July 19. 28. 734-968-8717. Threefoldproductions.org

Becky Shaw \$27-41. Performance Network Theatre, 120 E. Huron St., Ann Arbor. Through July 28. 734-663-0681. PerformanceNetwork.org

Celebrating America's Best Loved Composers \$13-16. Macomb Center for the Performing Arts, 44575 Garfield Road, Clinton Township. July 12 - 13. 586-286-2222. Macombcenter.com

Ernie \$20-\$25; City Theatre, 2301 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Through Aug. 11. 800-745-3000. olympiaentertainment.com

Fiddler on the Roof \$10-\$27. Tibbits Summer Theatre, 14 S. Hanchett St., Coldwater. July 11 - 20. 517-278-6029. tibbits.org

Five Women Wearing the Same Dress \$15-18. Broadway Onstage Live Theatre, 21517 Kelly Road, Eastpointe. July 19 - Aug. 17. 586-771-6333. Broadwayonstage.com

Forever Plaid \$32-39, includes food and entertainment. The Dio Dining and Entertainment, 135 E. Main St., Pinckney. July 11 - Aug. 3. 517-672-6009. Diotheatre.com

See Happenings, page 34

continuing education

Clinical Issues & LGBT Clients

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Clinical Educator: Antonia Caretta, Ph.D., PLLC

THE ROLE OF CHRISTIANITY IN SEXUAL IDENTITY DEVELOPMENT
Thursday, August 8th | 1:30-4:30pm
Clinical Educator: Robert Martin, D. Min., LPC

CULTURAL COMPETENT PRACTICE WITH AFRICAN AMERICAN LGB YOUTH
Wednesday, August 21st | 6:00-9:00pm
Co-presented by Ruth Ellis Center
Clinical Educators: Michelle Anderson, MSW; Amoré Robinson, Ph.D., L.P. (aka Kofi Adoma)

COUNSELING LGBT PARENTS & THEIR CHILDREN
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Editor's Pick

The 54th Annual Ann Arbor Art Fair will fill the streets of the city starting July 17, bringing a multitude of artists, performers, culinary masters, and more. Area restaurants, stores, bars and clubs will have a variety of specials to celebrate Ann Arbor's biggest event of the summer.

Ann Arbor combines four fairs (the Original Ann Arbor Street Art Fair, the Ann Arbor Summer Art Fair, the State Street Area Art Fair and Ann Arbor's South University Art Fair) into one four-day long event representing the city's finest artists and musicians. Last year's event attracted more than 500,000 fairgoers, with this year's event sure to bring in more.

The Ann Arbor Art Fair runs through Saturday, July 20 in downtown Ann Arbor. The event is free, with various parking and transportation options available during the fair. For more information, call 734-994-5260 or visit www.artfair.org.

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Editor's Pick



"Retro never sounded so now!" That is according to Under the Streetlamp, the vocal group coming to Meadow Brook Theatre for two benefit performances at 2 and 7:30 p.m. Saturday, July 20.

The all-male, all-heartthrob vocal group, made up of Michael Cunio, Michael Ingersoll, Christopher Kale Jones and Michigan native Shonn Wiley, are all recent leading cast members of the Tony Award-winning sensation "Jersey Boys." Under the Streetlamp was formed after the four stars finished a production of the show, based on the life and times of The Four Seasons. They loved performing together so much that they formed the current group and have been touring ever since.

"If you loved 'Jersey Boys,' you'll love this show," said Cheryl Marshall, MBT's managing director. "It's truly going to be an amazing performance!"

Performances will be at Meadow Brook Theatre, 207 Wilson Hall, Rochester. Tickets range from \$100 to \$125; all proceeds benefit the theatre. For tickets, call 248-377-3300.

▶ Happenings

Continued from p. 33

I Am Woman \$12-20. Hope Summer Repertory Theatre at Park Theatre, 248 S. River Ave., Holland. Through July 31. 616-395-7890. Hope.edu/hsrt

King John Plays in repertory. \$12-36. Michigan Shakespeare Festival at Potter Center's Baughman Theatre on the campus of Jackson Community College, 2111 Emmons Road, Jackson. July 20 - Aug. 9. 517-796-8600. Michiganshakespearefestival.com

Kolobok \$5-10. PuppetART Theater, 25 E. Grand River, Detroit. July 11 - 27. 313-961-7777. Puppetart.org

Les Miserables Previews July 11. \$22-\$32. The Encore Musical Theatre Company, 3126 Broad St., Dexter. July 20 - Aug. 18. 734-268-6200. theencoretheatre.org

Life Could be a Dream \$33-35. Farmers Alley Theatre, 221 Farmers Alley, Kalamazoo. July 19 - Aug. 11. 269-343-2727. Farmersalleytheatre.com

Magic Rocks \$7. Tibbits Popcorn Theatre, Tibbits Summer Theatre, 14 S. Hanchett St., Coldwater. Through July 13. 517-278-6029. Tibbits.org

Miles & Ellie \$18.50-42. The Purple Rose Theatre Company, 137 Park St., Chelsea. Through Aug. 31. 734-433-7673. PurpleRoseTheatre.org

Mommie Queerest \$10-20. The Ringwald Theatre, 22742 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. July 12 - Aug. 5. 248-545-5545. Theringwald.com

Peter Rabbit and Friends \$7. Tibbits Popcorn Theatre, Tibbits Summer Theatre, 14 S. Hanchett St., Coldwater. July 19 - 27. 517-278-6029. Tibbits.org

Romeo + Juliet \$12-21. Hope Summer Repertory Theatre, DeWitt Theatre, 141 E. 12th St., Holland. July 12 - Aug. 8. 616-395-7890. Hope.edu/hsrt

The Amazing Adventures of Dr. Wonderful (And Her Dog!) \$12. Hope Summer Repertory Theatre at Studio Theatre in DeWitt Center, 141 East 12th Street, Holland. July 8 - Aug. 9. 616-395-7890. hope.edu/hsrt

The Glass Menagerie \$25. Three Oaks Theater Festival, The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Dr., Three Oaks. 8 p.m. July 20. 269-756-3879. Threeoaksfestival.com

Tuna Does Vegas Previews July 11-14 & 18 (\$15). \$20-25. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. July 11 - Aug. 18. 517-655-SHOW. Williamstontheatre.org

Twelfth Night Plays in repertory. \$12-36. Michigan Shakespeare Festival at Potter Center's Baughman Theatre on the campus of Jackson Community College, 2111 Emmons Road, Jackson. July 18 - Aug. 10. 517-796-8600. Michiganshakespearefestival.com

Under the Streetlamp \$100-125. Meadow Brook Theatre, 207 Wilson Hall, Rochester. July 20. 248-377-3300. mbtheatre.com

Xanadu \$29-42. Mason Street Warehouse at Saugatuck Center for the Arts, 400 Culver St., Saugatuck. Through July 14. 269-857-2399. sc4a.org

You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown \$12. Hope Summer Repertory Theatre at Studio Theatre in DeWitt Center, 141 E. 12th St., Holland. Through Aug. 9. 616-395-7890. Hope.edu/HSRT

ART'N'AROUND

Art Detroit Now "Third Thursdays in Detroit" 45+ local galleries and retail locations stay open until 9 p.m. to offer the best in contemporary art. Multiple, Detroit. June 20 - Oct. 17. Artdetroitnow.com

Chelsea River Gallery "Natural Phenomena and Synthetic Wonder" Jessica Joy London. Chelsea River Gallery, 120 S. Main St., Chelsea. July 11 - Aug. 17. 734-433-0826. Chelsearivergallery.org

Cranbrook Academy of Art and Art Museum "Anders Ruhwald at Saarinen House: The Anatomy of a Home" 39221 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. April 28 - Oct. 31. 877-462-7262. Cranbrookart.edu

Detroit Artists Market "EDGE" A group exhibition of twelve artists reconfiguring established thinking and current perceptions of art. Detroit Artists Market, 4719 Woodward Ave., Detroit. June 7 - July 13. 313-832-8540. Detroitartistmarket.org

Detroit Institute of Arts "Refrigerator Magnets" 2100 Woodward Ave., Detroit. July 3 - July 31. 313-833-7900. dia.org

Detroit Institute of Arts "Chinese Slat Books" 2100 Woodward Ave., Detroit. July 2 - July 30. 313-833-7900. dia.org

Detroit Institute of Arts "Paper Flowers" 2100 Woodward Ave., Detroit. July 5 - July 26. 313-833-7900. dia.org

Downriver Council for the Arts "2013 Members Show" Mixed Media Fine Art. Downriver Council for the Arts, 81 Chestnut, Wyandotte. June 1 - July 12. 734-720-0671. Downriverarts.org

Fourteen East "Abstract Art by Jan Brown" 15 E. Kirby, Detroit. April 30 - July 26.

Grand Rapids Art Museum "Saturday All Day with The Arts" 101 Monroe Center, Grand Rapids. April 6 - Dec. 28. 616-831-1000. artmuseumgr.org

Kerrytown Concert House "Jordan Pemberton" 415 N. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. July 9 - Aug. 4. 734-763-4186. Kerrytownconcerthouse.com

Krasl Art Center "Books + Art" 707 Lake Blvd., St. Joseph. May 9 - Sep. 12. 269-983-0271. krasl.org

Lawrence Street Gallery "Summer Invitational" 22620 Woodward Ave. Suite A, Ferndale. July 4 - July 27. 248-544-0394. Lawrencestreetgallery.com

Liberal Arts Gallery "Shooting Nudes... and Other Stories" 3361 Gratiot Ave., Detroit. July 12 - July 27. 313-925-9578.

Michigan State University Museum "VOICE" 409 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing. May 1 - July 28. 517-355-7474. museum.msu.edu

Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit "(in)Habitation" 4454 Woodward Ave., Detroit. June 7 - July 28. 313-832-6622. mocaedetroit.org

Pewabic Pottery "Judith Salomon & Amy Sinbondit" 10125 E. Jefferson Ave., Detroit. June 6 - Aug. 11. 313-626-2000. Pewabic.org

Re:View Contemporary Art Detroit "Kate Silvio: 40 Weeks Unprepared... Little Nightmares" 444 W. Willis #112, Detroit. July 13 - Aug. 17. 313-833-9000.

Saugatuck Center for the Arts "Chris Cox" Color film photography. Saugatuck Center for the Arts, 400 Culver St., Saugatuck. July 11 - July 31. 269-857-2399. Sc4a.org

The Henry Ford "Designing Tomorrow: America's World's Fairs of the 1930s" Tickets: \$17+. Members: Free. The Henry Ford, 20900 Oakwood Blvd., Dearborn. April 27 - Sep. 2. 313-982-6001. thehenryford.org

UMMA "Isamu Noguchi and Qi Baishi: Beijing 1930". University Of Michigan Museum Of Art, 525 S. State St., Ann Arbor. May 18 - Sep. 1. 734-763-4186. umma.umich.edu

Classifieds

101-ANNOUNCEMENTS LGBT AA MEETINGS

Ann Arbor-Friday

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

Bloomfield Hills-Thurs- day

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

Detroit-Tuesday / Friday

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

Farmington Hills- Monday

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

Ferndale-Monday / Wednesday / Friday

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

Ferndale-Wednesday

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

Ferndale-Saturday

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

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

Livonia-Friday

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

Warren-Monday

7:30 p.m., Eastside Serenity Gay AA, Faith-Trinity United Church of Christ, 12221 Martin Rd. East of Hoover. Closed/Discussion.

106 ANNOUNCEMENTS - GROUPS

Open Arms: Southeast Michigan's longest run- ning peer-run HIV/AIDS support group

Meets every Wednesday from 7pm to 9pm at the Community Pride Building: 429 Livernois, Ferndale; 248-545-1435 Ext. 104, openarms@michiganaidscollition.org, Michigan Open Arms Open to those infected or affected by HIV or AIDS.

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Solution to puzzle from page 37

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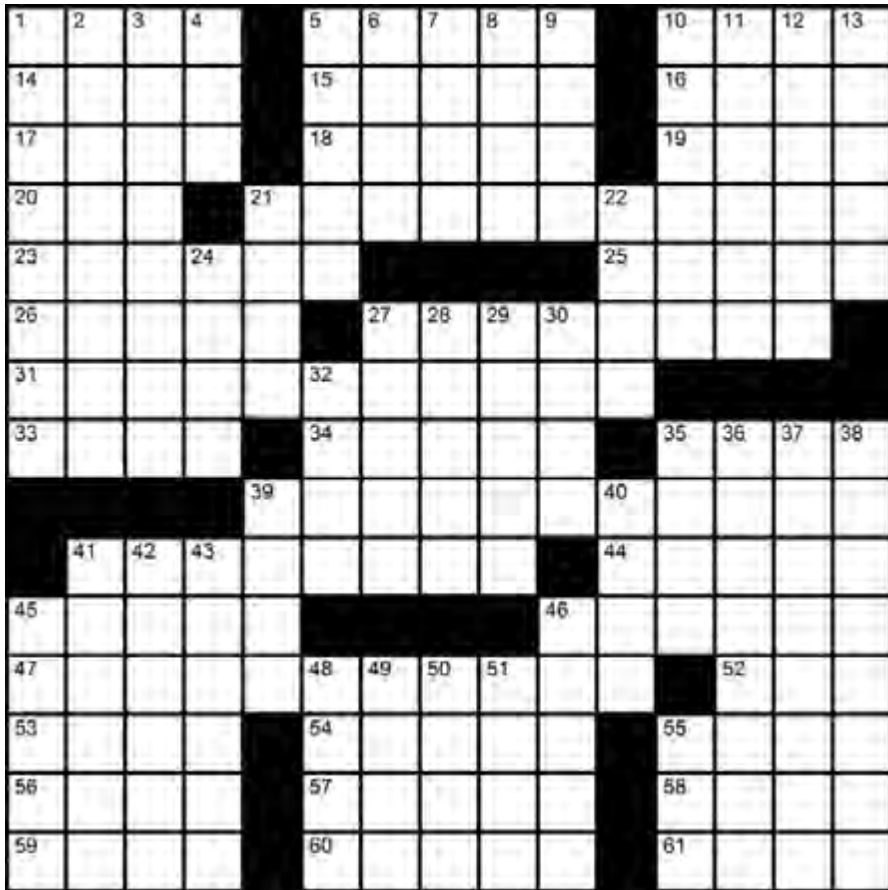
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 17 Close by
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 19 "How queer!"
 20 "Underground" org.
 21 Issue supported by Kinky Friedman
 23 Bearing
 25 Lesbos and more
 26 Skater Orser
 27 Solving puzzles and such
 31 Start of what 21-Across means, from a straight point of view
 33 Relieved sighs
 34 Plied with pinot, perhaps
 35 Thompson of "Angels in America"
 39 More of what it means
 41 Workplace for Michelangelo
 44 Come together
 45 Jack of nursery rhymes
 46 Sage of the East

- 47 End of what it means
 52 Coop dweller
 53 C&W's McEntire
 54 Reacts to a Margaret Cho set
 55 Bible bk. at Beth Simchat Torah
 56 Steamed up
 57 "Ready ____, here I come!"
 58 Maneuver slowly
 59 Small pooch, briefly
 60 Wet spots on a blanket of sand
 61 Put the finger on



Down


- 1 Shadowy area
 2 Companion piece to "Like a Virgin?"
 3 Come close to your partner, perhaps
 4 Neighbor of Leb.
 5 Like rays caught at South Beach
 6 Nephew of Disney's Donald Duck
 7 "Exotica" director Egoyan
 8 Gershon of "Bound"
 9 Lightly burn
 10 Belief in the Divine Miss M?
 11 Show a really good time
 12 They may be spitting
 13 ___ one's time (waits)
 21 Decent chap
 22 Park of Queens
 24 Slangy refusals
 27 Model's asset
 28 Doubleday of baseball fame
 29 Voyeurs, e.g.
 30 Cry of pride
 32 Boob, to a Brit
 35 Salt's saint
 36 Nitwit
 37 Female rubber
 38 Gave in
 39 Pass out
 40 Frat hazing sounds
 41 Property of one who has balls?
 42 "Jeopardy!" host
 43 Gay Pride event
 45 "Take it off!"
 46 Desires, with "after"
 48 "Beat it!"
 49 Scroll at Beth Chayim Chadashim
 50 Holds title to
 51 Ice in the sea
 55 Nero's "Of God"

Solution on pg. 35

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Deep Inside Hollywood

BY ROMEO SAN VICENTE

Wes Bentley is wide 'Open'

Is Ryan Murphy in some kind of private who-can-have-the-most-jobs competition with James Franco? Because that's the only reason we can come up with to explain the "Glee" and "American Horror Story" creator's sprawling proliferation of TV shows. And the Murphy wave just gets higher with "Open," his new HBO pilot starring Wes Bentley ("The Hunger Games"). Co-written by Murphy with Lauren Gussis, "Open" follows the life of "handsome, arrogant" Evan Foster (Bentley), a man who thinks he knows all there is to know about human sexuality and who loves to hear himself spin theories about it all. We're guessing he has a lot to learn and that, since it's for HBO, there'll be a lot of nudity while class is in session. Unless it turns into a bro-style "Sex in the City." Then nobody will ever take off their clothes.

Kendrick and Jordan spend '5 Years' together

Musicals, musicals, musicals, everywhere you look these days another musical is heading to the screen, either big or small. Of course, sometimes they get cancelled like "Smash," but even when they dump your favorite low-rated, somewhat-dorky TV show about Broadway, you know you'll see those folks somewhere soon again. Case in point: Jeremy Jordan, a Grammy- and Tony-nominated actor from that not-quite cult hit, will step out with "Pitch Perfect"'s Anna Kendrick for the film version of "The Last 5 Years." Richard LaGravenese, whose most recent project was the extremely gay "Behind The Candelabra," will write and direct this adaptation of Jason Robert Brown's musical. The story revolves around the love affair between an actress and a novelist, with one character's timeline moving backwards and the other's moving forwards, meeting in the middle for that wedding duet. It's shooting this summer in New York and you can expect this "Scenes From An All-Singing, All-Dancing Marriage" in theaters sometime in 2014. You won't believe the choreography they've got ready for the pre-nup sequence.

'Chozen' will probably make you very happy or very angry

FX has a little brother network coming to basic cable this fall. Its name is FXX and its geared toward a younger demographic (because FX shows like "Archer" are for old people?), which means that it's perfect to host "Eastbound & Down" star Danny McBride's new animated series, "Chozen." "Chozen" features the voices of Grant Dekernion ("Eastbound Down"), Bobby Moynihan ("Saturday Night Live"), Michael Pena ("Gangster Squad") and Method



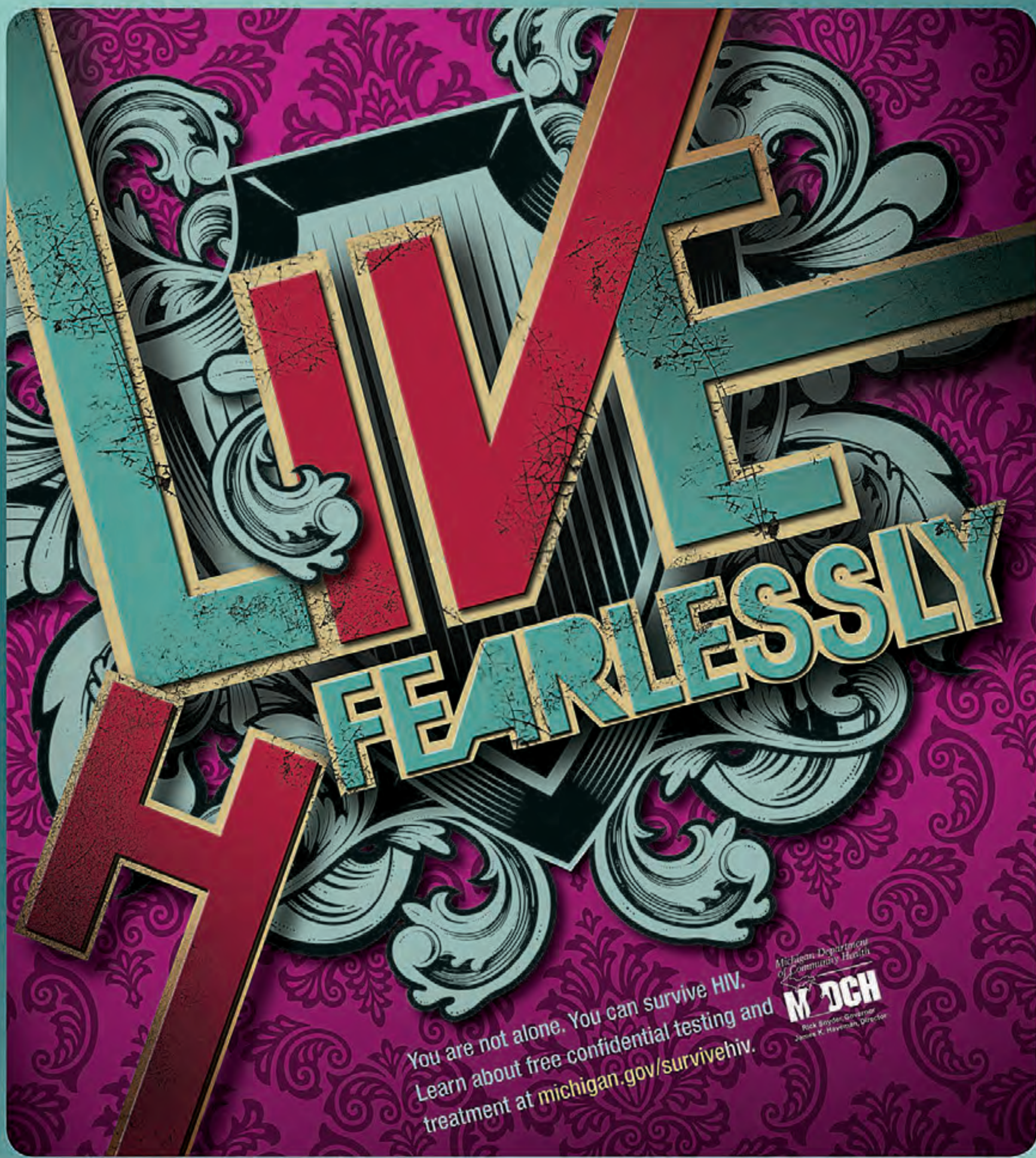
Danny McBride. Photo: Featureflash

Man ("The Sitter") and will revolve around the adventures of a gay white rapper who's just been sprung from prison. Now, given that McBride's most recent film is the wildly homoerotic apocalypse comedy "This Is The End," one in which he winds up as what can only be called the "top" in an unusual relationship with Channing Tatum, no one should be surprised when this adult cartoon decides to go all the way with its subject matter. Its creators are comedy trailblazers, so it's pretty much a given that nothing will be off limits and someone's going to be offended at some point. Good.

Don't sleep on 'Orange Is The New Black'

Do you miss "The L Word"? "Oz"? Both? Sure you do; we all do. Well, by the time you get around to reading this you'll probably already be late-coming to "Orange Is The New Black," the comedy/drama that bubbled up quietly and mostly under the radar but now has a home at Netflix. Created by Jenji Kohan ("Weeds") and based on the memoir by Piper Kerman, "Orange" is the true story of what happened to the WASPy Kerman when she found herself doing time for being involved in a reckless relationship with a hot lesbian drug lord. Unlike the seemingly unscathed Martha Stewart, Kerman's 15-month sentence became a lesson in everything she never knew she needed to know, including which all-female gang to roll with on the inside. The show stars Taylor Schilling ("Atlas Shrugged"), Jason Biggs, Kate Mulgrew (!), Laura Prepon, Lea Delaria, Natasha Lyonne and Taryn Manning -- in other words, everyone great you always wished would be on a TV show full of lesbians. Get that Netflix subscription now and do your time.

Romeo San Vicente is the cutest jailbird you ever did see. He can be reached care of this publication or at DeepInsideHollywood@qsyndicate.com.



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