

MICHIGAN'S LGBT NEWS SOURCE CELEBRATING 20 YEARS

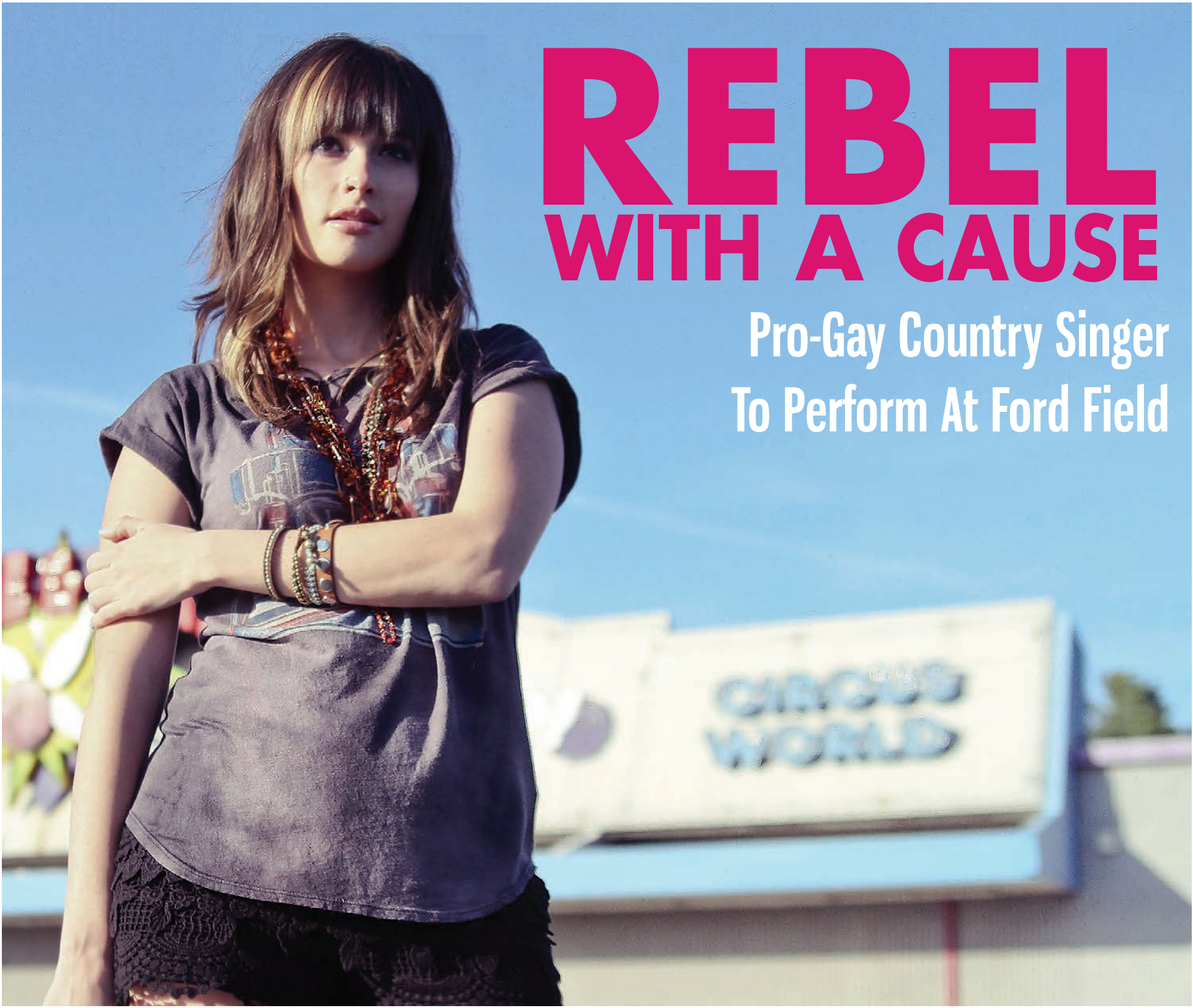


Local All-Lesbian Band
Takes Leap Of Faith

Romance Writers Group
Seeks Happily Ever After

“Employers know a well-rounded workforce includes people prepared with diversity training inclusive of LGBTQ issues.”

– Prof. Danielle DeMuth, pg. 4



REBEL WITH A CAUSE

Pro-Gay Country Singer
To Perform At Ford Field



Michigan's Original Statewide
Pride March, Rally & Festival



Ross Mathews
Speaking at
The Capitol Rally

The 2013 Michigan Pride
March, Rally & Diversity
Festival

Pride March kickoff at 1pm
Commitment Ceremony &
and Rally at Capitol Steps
Diversity Festival in Old Town
Featuring DJs and
Entertainment from Across
the State

Saturday August 24th 2013



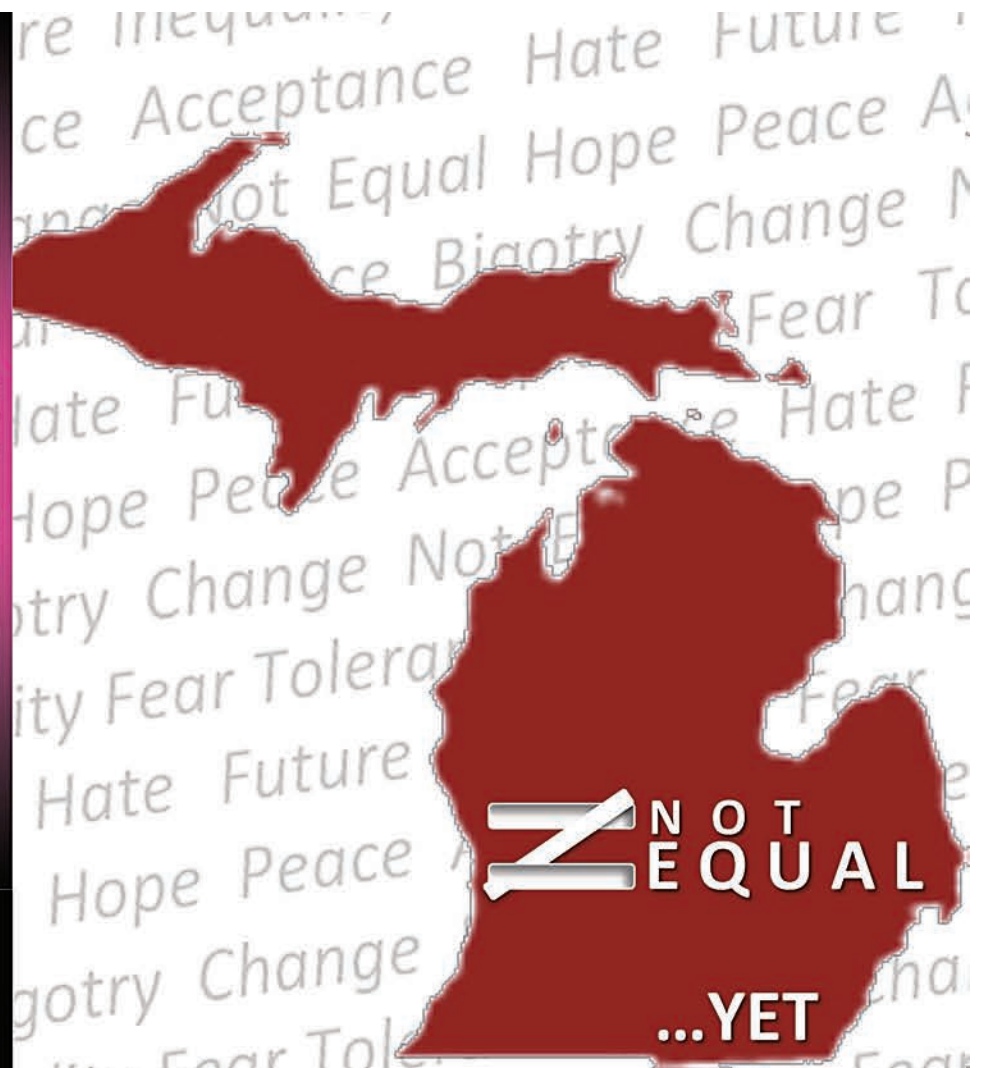
Pride Festival In Old Town

www.MichiganPride.org

MICHIGAN'S LGBT NEWS SOURCE CELEBRATING 20 YEARS



Blue Cross
Blue Shield
of Michigan



B E T H E
C H A N G E

March to the Capitol Steps
Rally for Equality Now!

Saturday August 24th 2013

COVER STORY

16 Rebel with a cause
Photo: Kelly Christine Musgraves



Special Double Issue

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“ I have to believe that there is **power** in my **forgiveness**. I won't disparage those who can't let these ex-gays off the hook, but there must be some small measure of healing to be found in accepting an offer of **reconciliation**. ”

— Abby Dees, pg. 10



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Change the Law.

dontchangeyourself.com/pride

Join The Voter Education Project Today

We're at a pivotal moment with a ton of momentum – now's the time to act. Sign up at www.Pridesource.com/VEP.html to receive information about pro-LGBT candidates next election cycle *and* help the Unity Michigan Coalition fight for discrimination at the state and local level.

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ONLINE EXCLUSIVE



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PUBLISHERS

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EDITORIAL

Editor in Chief

Susan Horowitz, 734.293.7200 x 12
susanhorowitz@pridesource.com

Entertainment Editor

Chris Azzopardi, 734.293.7200 x 24
chrisazzopardi@pridesource.com

Associate Editor

Benjamin Jenkins, 734.293.7200 x 14
ben@pridesource.com

News Staff Writer

Crystal Proxmire

Arts & Theater Editor

Donald V. Calamia, curtaincalls@pridesource.com

Calendar Editor

Shelby Clark, shelby@pridesource.com

CREATIVE

Art Director

Benjamin Jenkins, ben@pridesource.com

Webmaster & MIS Director

Kevin Bryant, kevinbryant@pridesource.com

Contributing Writers

Charles Alexander, Michelle E. Brown,
Todd Heywood, Jerome Stuart Nichols,
Kate Opalewski, Anthony Paull,
Andrea Poteet, Eric W. Rader,
Gwendolyn Ann Smith, Dawn R. Wolfe

Cartoonists

Paul Berg, Dave Brousseau

Contributing Photographers

Andrew Potter

ADVERTISING & SALES

Director of Sales

Jan Stevenson, 734.293.7200 x 22
jan@pridesource.com

Sales Representatives

Ed Bohach, 734.293.7200 x 15
ed@pridesource.com

Ann Cox, 734.293.7200 x 13
anncox@pridesource.com

National Advertising Representative

Rivendell Media, 212.242.6863

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Business Office

Diane Smith, dianesmith@pridesource.com

Circulation & Distribution

Diane Smith

ONLINE AT



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LGBT Learning: GVSU's New Minor, And The Queer Lit Class

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

The power of literature to change lives has been apparent throughout history and for Grand Valley State University's Lesbian Gay and Queer Literature professor this is no exception. Danielle DeMuth was 22 years old, freshly out of college, when a woman came on to her by giving her Rita Mae Brown's novel *Rubyfruit Jungle* to read. "We started dating ten minutes after I finished the novel," DeMuth said.

Her love of LGBT literature grew over the years, and has had an impact on her work as a professor in the Women and Gender Studies Program at GVSU. She's been with the university since 2006, and two years ago was among the professors working to create a LGBTQ minor as part of the Women and Gender Studies Program. The school will celebrate the launch of this minor in the Fall.

"We have had incredible support for this program from inside GVSU as well as from the community. Employers know that a well-trained and well-rounded workforce includes people prepared with diversity training that is inclusive of LGBTQ issues," DeMuth said.

One of the classes that will count towards the minor is the Lesbian, Gay and Queer Literature course that she has already been teaching for a couple of years.

"This class is very interesting because I get a mix of students majoring in Writing, English and Women and Gender Studies; this mix of students challenges each other and creates wonderful class discussion that broadens everyone's perspective. The class also challenges students from inter/disciplinary perspectives - for Women and Gender Studies students, studying literary forms and tropes is new, for English students, studying literature from an interdisciplinary intersectional perspective offers more theories from which to examine literature, Writing students are often interested in studying the work from the perspective of craft are inspired in ways that impacts their own writing. The class is also inclusive of students who identify differently with regard to gender and sexual orientation, which is also very transformative for students.

"As someone with a degree in English, I'd say that it is really important to understand and appreciate literature as one of the most important cultural forms of expression. As a Women and Gender Studies professor, I'll add that it is equally important to examine the ways in which identity categories of race, class, and citizenship intersect with sexual orientation in systems of hierarchy and privilege and to connect literature on sexuality with social and political movements," she said.

DeMuth says that choosing books for the class is a challenge, because there are so many good works that have been published over the years. "I like to keep the course balanced in terms of gender, sexual identity and I like to have as broad of an historical range as possible. Until recently our choices have been limited by what is actually still in print. However, many more books in the public domain have been made available as full downloads recently, so I have been able to expand my selections into the late-nineteenth and early twentieth centuries," DeMuth said. She's gone with obvious classics in the past, like Oscar Wilde's *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, James Baldwin's *Giovanni's Room*, and Leslie Feinberg's *Stone Butch Blues*. But when the class rolls around again in winter of 2014 she may aim to do something a little different.

"The list this time will likely include two selections each from four different writers," she explained. "For each writer we will read from an autobiography/memoir and another genre, likely some poetry, a short story or a novel. I am sure we will read T. Cooper's *Real Man Adventures* and Sarah Schulman's *Israel/Palestine and the Queer International*, but I am still deciding about the other writers to include (from Kate Bornstein, James Baldwin, Audre Lorde, Judy Grahn, Patricia Highsmith, and Alison Bechdel). I've decided to focus on memoir this time because the lives of LGBTQ writers often include important activism—feminist, anti-racist and global activism—that intersects with LGBTQ identities in ways that are deeply meaningful and transformative."

Sarah Schulman will be visiting GVSU's campus this November, and will be showing the film "United in Anger: A History of ActUP," which would tie in with the coursework.

As DeMuth looks forward to helping develop the LGBTQ minor at GVSU, she also keeps her eyes on other advocacy opportunities. She volunteers with Spectrum Health Hospice, and takes her dog Lizzie to volunteer with West Michigan Therapy Dogs. She focuses on global feminism and leads a study abroad trip with GVSU students to South Africa.

While the LGBTQ minor is new to Grand Valley, embracing diversity is not. The GVSU LGBT Resource Center offers support, activities and programs focusing on LGBTQ students, and there is an association for staff as well. To learn more about the Resource Center, visit their website at www.gvsu.edu/lgbtrc

Class Booklist

Oscar Wilde's *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, James Baldwin's *Giovanni's Room*, David Leavitt's *The Lost Language of Cranes*, Patricia Highsmith's *The Price of Salt*, Sarah Schulman's *Empathy*, Audre Lorde's *Zami*, Alison Bechdel's *Fun Home*, Leslie Feinberg's *Stone Butch Blues*, Ann Bannon's *Beebo Brinke*, Radclyffe Hall's *The Well of Loneliness* and Grand Rapids' writer Megan Rose Gedris' *You+Me Dream*.



Members of writers' group gather at Ferndale Pride. BTL photo: Crystal Proxmire

LGBT Romance Writers Group Seeks Happily Ever After

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

A good romance novel can carry the reader away from their own day-to-day worries and let their imaginations get a nice workout - a hot, steamy workout without the bother of real-life drama or worry over dating. For those in a relationship, a little romantic reading can be a good warm up for some real-life smooching, and what could be better than enjoying a good book together?

Writer Hank Edwards knows the power of his pen, and as the market grows for LGBT romance novels, so has his love for the work.

"The LGBT romance genre is growing fast. I've been writing gay erotic fiction for more than a decade now, first writing short stories for magazines and then moving on to novels. The introduction of e-publishing has really helped the market explode. The most popular stories seem to be contemporary romances, but I've also noticed a lot of interest in paranormal and sci-fi stories. The story and characters are key," he said.

Though Edwards writes from his home in Ferndale, he connects with LGBT romance writers from all over the state thanks to the Michigan LGBT Romance Writers Group. With over a dozen members, the group provides opportunities for support, talking about shared interests, and even making time to get together.

"We try to meet once a quarter for lunch to catch up, including a meet-up in Frankenmuth last year. We've also

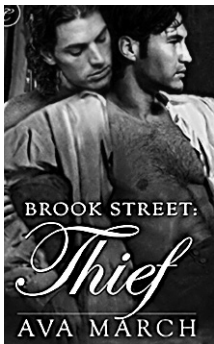
started an email newsletter and rented a table at Motor City Pride and at Toledo Pride later this month, to spread the word about our group. We also have a private Facebook group where we chat about plans for newsletters and things like that," Edwards said. While there are many more writers connected, the group's website www.milgbtromanceauthors.blogspot.com serves as place to promote the most active of the group.

"The romance writers group all have a common belief that everyone should have a happily ever after. We actually all started out as a group of writing friends who had lunch, then it grew into something more," said Oakland Township-based Jackie Nacht.

Nacht writes books that are more "sweet" than romantic, with high hopes for the reader's enjoyment.

"Thinking back to my own book addiction, where there were many nights I stayed up way too late so I could read just one more chapter — yeah, right — I decided to write short romances for young adults as well as adults. Hopefully, they will give high school and college students, or working men and women something they can read during their lunch hour, in between classes or just when they want to briefly get away from the daily stresses of everyday life," said Nacht.

Here are a few of the Michigan authors who have found support and community through the Michigan LGBT Romance Writers Group:



Ava March, Livonia, MI

www.AvaMarch.com

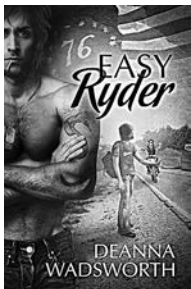
Writing can be such a solitary activity, and it's wonderful to be a part of a group of romance writers who understand the ups and downs of being an author.

I write historical gay romances set during the Regency period in England, with my books usually set around 1820. My books are sexy, emotionally intense erotic romances with a touch of sweetness. I love writing in the Regency time period, where proper decorum is of the utmost importance, but where anything can happen behind closed doors.

Highlights of my career thus far include being a finalist in the historical fiction category of the Rainbow Awards, selling foreign rights to two of my books (Bound by Deception

and Bound to Him) to a Japanese publisher, and having one of my books (Brook Street: Thief) reviewed by Publishers Weekly. Career accomplishments aside, the biggest highlight of my day is whenever I receive a note from a reader informing me that one of my books was their first gay romance read and they enjoyed it so much they are now seeking out more gay romances.

Writing can be such a solitary activity, and it's wonderful to be a part of a group of romance writers who understand the ups and downs of being an author.



Deanna Wadsworth, Grand Rapids, OH

www.deannawadsworth.blogspot.com

The best part has been when a stranger tells me that they loved my book. To me, that means more than awards.

I am a hairdresser by day and lead a pretty ordinary life. Hitting the Amazon bestseller lists is pretty cool. But the best part has been when a stranger tells me that they loved my book. To me, that means more than awards.

The camaraderie of being with other

writers is irreplaceable. I believe Motor City Pride was one of our first activities, at least that I have participated in. There is a huge demand. Actually gay romance, also called m/m is one of the fastest growing genres out there. Readers, both men and women, can't seem to get enough.



Hank Edwards, Ferndale, MI

www.hankedwardsbooks.com

No matter what genre I am dabbling in, however, I try to keep things steamy and heartfelt.

I write gay erotic romance, but the sub-genres I find myself returning to time and again are suspense/thriller, paranormal, and romantic comedy. Relationships are key in my writing, and I have a tendency to include some fun and zany secondary characters which I use to bring out the quirks of my main characters.

I have over a dozen books published now, and have managed to create three series: the Charlie Heggensford stories, the Up to Trouble series, and the Venom Valley series. I am most proud of the variety I've written - comedy, suspense, paranormal/horror and contemporary.

I am a fan of absurd comedy, and have incorporated this in the sizzling and hilarious

Charlie Heggensford Fluffers, Inc. series, available from Lethe Press, as well as Plus Ones, a wacky rom-com available from Loose Id. I also love a good mystery and suspense story, which inspired the Up to Trouble series from Loose Id, featuring FBI Agent Aaron Pearce and his lover Mark Beecher who met during one case and have gone on to solve others together. My love of chills and thrills prompted me to create the Venom Valley series, which combines vampires and zombies with Old West cowboys, now available from Wilde City Press.

No matter what genre I am dabbling in, however, I try to keep things steamy and heartfelt.



Jackie Nacht, Oakland Township, MI

www.jackienacht.com

I love having readers email me and say one of my books made a positive impact on them.

Most of my adult romance books lean to be more on the sweet side of romance. My Young Adult books are sweet, but deal with real life issues that many teens face on a daily basis like bullying, acceptance and helping teens realize they aren't alone. I love having readers email me and say one of my books made a positive impact on them.

The romance writers group all have a common belief that everyone should have a happily ever after. We actually all started out as a group of writing friends who had lunch then it grew into something more.

I was introduced to M/M Romance through my sister, Stephani, and read it for years. Then, I thought it was time to put my own stories

on paper. I began writing short and sweet stories that ended with a happily ever after... and sometimes more than one, in the case of my YA Fork in the Road series, which has interactive endings.

Thinking back to my own book addiction, where there were many nights I stayed up way too late so I could read just one more chapter—yeah, right — I decided to write short romances for young adults as well as adults. Hopefully, they will give high school and college students, or working men and women something they can read during their lunch hour, in between classes or just when they want to briefly get away from the daily stresses of everyday life.

See Romance Writers, page 14

See Common Language Bookstore Co-owner Keith Orr's Viewpoint on gay literature and culture on page 13.

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AFA's Gary Glenn Running For State House in 2014



Just weeks after the announcement of Tom McMillin's run for the 13th District State House Seat, another of the Hungry 4 Equality Hall of Shame politicians has announced their candidacy. Gary Glenn, President of the American Family Association, will be running for the 98th District in 2014.

The District covers cities and townships in Midland and Bay Counties including Midland, Larkin, and Pinconning. Currently the 98th District is represented by Republican Jim Stamas, but he cannot run again because of term limits.

Gary Glenn and the AFA have out-spent and out-spoken any other anti-gay person in Michigan, getting involved in any gay-rights issue that pops up anywhere in the state. While no one is exactly sure where this obsession with gay people comes from, it's clearly a top priority for Michigan's biggest homophobe. His battles have included speaking against people seeking protection through local human rights ordinances, campaigning against same-sex marriage and advocating for the removal of domestic partner benefits.

His campaign platform encourages the elimination of Obamacare, increased privatization of schools, and that he "support[s] values that encourage strong marriages, families, neighborhoods, and communities."

Federal Elections Commission Lets Gay Couples Donate Together

Same-sex couples who are legally married can now give money to political campaigns at the same rates heterosexual couples can, thanks to a new decision by the Federal Elections Commission. Just one of several inequalities being addressed at various governmental agencies, this decision comes after the United States Supreme Court ruled part of the Defense of Marriage Act unconstitutional.

In April, the FEC issued an opinion that same-sex couples did not have this right, but this new opinion grants it.

FEC Chairperson Ellen Weintraub penned two opinions on the matter stating, "The Commission concludes same-sex couples married under state law are 'spouses' for the purpose of Commission regulations."

Two requests had come before the FEC, one from the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee and the other from a Republican Senate candidate who lost in Massachusetts earlier this year. The Republican, Dan Winslow, is raising money to pay off his campaign debt and Log Cabin Republicans in the state want to be able to help him do so.

Under FEC regulations, individuals are able to donate up to \$5,200 to a campaign. Couples can give up to \$10,400. The sticking point is in married couples the money may actually come from one spouse. An individual cannot have their name used as the donor if the money did not come directly from them. But in couples with joint bank accounts, it does not matter who earned the money originally.

The new FEC ruling only affects legally-married same-sex couples. Massachusetts is one of 13 states that allow gay marriage, as does the District of Columbia. Michigan does not.

The decision can be found online at www.fec.gov/agenda/2013/mtgdoc_13-27.pdf

Save The Date: Design Events To Fight AIDS, Showcase Detroit

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

DETROIT - Elegance, originality and the spirit of Detroit combine for one of Michigan AIDS Coalition's most prominent fundraisers of the year Dining By Design by DIFFA (Design Industries Foundation Fighting AIDS). The three-day fundraiser is hosted by the DIFFA group, which brings the lavish event to six select communities a year including Detroit. Cities are chosen based on the strength of the designer and artist communities, and locations change each year to provide a unique space for the event.

One of the most spectacular things about this year's DIFFA: Dining By Design Detroit, Sept. 26-28, is its location. This is the only time people will be able to party in the old Federal Reserve Building at 160 W. Fort St. before it becomes full time retail/business space. On Sept. 26, there will be Cocktails By Design, featuring a preview of the design spaces, food and drink plus a silent auction. On Sept. 27, there will be Artworks By Design, a large gallery opening and auction showcasing 150 local artists. And on Sept. 28, the grand Dining By Design event will feature a sumptuous dinner in the uniquely designed place settings for 10 or 20 people, each uniquely created by a prominent designer for their guests. Designers include those with specialties in artistic interiors, architecture, graphic design, fashion, auto design and even landscaping. This variety provides eclectic experiences and ambiance for guests as they are encouraged to look at each of the custom-designed spaces.

"The significance of the event in Detroit is several fold," said MAC Executive Director Terry Ryan. "It unites the design and creative communities in a way not done before in Detroit; it also incorporates our strong artist community. It is MAC's single largest signature fundraiser, and important to the total income streams we receive to support programs. Now entering its fourth year, we have been in a different venue every year. Many guests have told us, 'We love it that



A table installation from the 2011 DIFFA: Dining By Design.

you show us a new part of Detroit each year."

"Funds raised will be used in a variety of ways," said Ryan, "to help underwrite programs that are not wholly supported by grants, new program initiatives that serve the community where funding sources have not yet been identified, and also assist with covering many administrative costs that grants will not cover, but which are essential to even having an organization and programs in the first place."

While MAC has only been part of the DIFFA event for four years, the Artworks By Design element is an 18-year tradition. The event has had a couple of names over the years, but the mission has always been the same – to raise money to fight AIDS.

Carl Demeulenaere of Grosse Pointe has been involved from the beginning. He was one of the co-founders of "Artworks for Life" in 1996 and has volunteered and donated artwork each year as he's seen the event grow. "I feel it is important to support MAC because of the important programming it implements to help those facing the challenges of living with HIV and AIDS, and the HIV and AIDS prevention programs it offers to the diverse community,

as well," Demeulenaere said.

"As far as Artworks is concerned, about 150 artists donate work to our silent and live auctions," said Demeulenaere. "Their generosity reflects the spirit of Detroit. Despite Detroit's bankruptcy, Artworks reminds the public that the arts community is far from bankrupt, offering a rich variety of art that is reflected yearly in our auction event. The fact that Artworks has become an eighteen-year tradition, most recently joining forces with the national DIFFA event, is a positive reflection on the city. As a Detroit, I'm very proud that my city is one of only five hosting this annual, national event, as well."

Demeulenaere said his best memory of Artworks goes back to the early years, when the event was held at the Edsel and Eleanor Ford House. "My late father was the oldest attendee during that time," he said. Demeulenaere and his family grew up on the east side of Detroit, and he's proud to see that the Artworks Detroit now bears the logo that he designed. Demeulenaere is an installation artist who creates large structures that enclose small-scale paintings, drawings and sculptural objects.

To celebrate the artists and designers of Detroit, while raising much-needed funding for MAC, join them for any, or all, of the following events:

Thurs., Sept. 26: Cocktails By Design: Guests view the installations, dance, sample food from 25 different Detroit restaurants, and participate in a live and silent auction. This is the party night! Tickets: \$100 each.

Fri., Sept. 27: Artworks By Design: The 18th annual ArtWorks Detroit event, featuring 150 pieces of art from prominent Michigan artists, with both live and silent auctions. Guests also can view the dining installations, and enjoy food and drink. Tickets: \$75 each.

Sat., Sept. 28: – Dining By Design: The culmination of the three day event: designers, sponsors and their guests enjoy

a fabulous dinner, opportunity to sit and relax in the installations. Dancing, live and silent auctions, and other elements are part of the evening's events. Limited seating available. Tickets: \$250 each.

For more information, go to www.diffa.org and www.michiganaidcoalition.org and click on DINING BY DESIGN.

Mr. Friendly Opens The Door For Discussions On HIV

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

KALAMAZOO – Stigma about HIV and AIDS stops people from getting tested. It stops people from talking about their status in an open way. It stops people from even mentioning HIV. And in short, it's a barrier to reducing the spread of infection.

When it comes to reducing stigma, Mr. Friendly can help. Mr. Friendly is a cute smiley face logo with a simple, yet psychologically robust message behind it. The face incorporates a positive and a negative sign into a smile, making those who sport the image more approachable. Mr. Friendly's grin tells the world "I am friendly. I am open to discussing HIV without judgment. And - positive or negative - we're all in this together."

Mr. Friendly graces t-shirts, stickers, buttons and other swag at LGBT events, HIV outreach opportunities, and even family-friendly events to encourage people to have supportive discussions. The creation came about in 2008 when Dave Watt, a HIV Prevention Team Leader at CARES in Kalamazoo, wanted to come up with a visual symbol to start these kinds of conversations. He'd been using campaigns that he realized were adding to fear or guilt, and wanted to address not only safer sex and testing, but the underlying roadblock of stigma.

The Mr. Friendly program teaches people to talk about HIV, but it also teaches people to be more aware of the words they use and how they can impact others' choices about disclosure, safer sex and getting tested.

"Use of the word 'clean' to mean HIV negative is pretty clearly offensive," Watt said. "Most times when I mention this to people online, they quickly realize the stigma that they are creating and change their wording."

He also said that when people tell others "you need to know your status," or when they say they would never be with someone who is positive, they don't know what the other person may be experiencing personally. "Maybe they already tested and know they are positive, or maybe they are too scared to be tested because they're afraid of the rejection," Watt said. "We use a soft sell approach when promoting HIV testing by saying 'We have free HIV testing today - tell your friends that you are there for them whether they are positive or negative.'"

Another thing that contributes to stigma is the way people will say "clean," or "negative" in online hook-up or dating ads. "This continues to be an issue for our community. What choices do we have? If that profile field is left blank, people often assume that you are poz. If you put 'neg' or even 'neg as of a certain date,' that seems to give people a false sense of security. We must keep in mind the window period of HIV," he said. "This is effectively pushing everyone to put 'neg' on their profile. While good intentioned,



The Mr. Friendly smiley face logo adorns shirts, stuffed animal and various other swag.

I find this often is a barrier to open and honest communication. I suggest to people to put 'open to discussing HIV without judgment' on their profiles instead – and a picture of Mr. Friendly of course!"

"Words are hurtful," he emphasized. "There is this idea that most new infections come from people who are positive and are intentionally hiding their status. The statistics clearly shows that this is not true. Most new infections come from someone who honestly didn't know they were living with HIV they are not aware of their status. That's why it hits our community so hard." He said that we need to teach society to encourage testing, respect people with HIV and encourage open, honest, educated conversations about HIV."

Mr. Friendly is a good start. Watt said there has been increased dialogue and cases where people have been more kind in their words. Testing rates have increased since the program began in 2008, and people are using the Mr. Friendly symbol on their online profiles as a way to let others know they are sensitive to the topic.

The program has grown well beyond Kalamazoo too. There are 15 trained Mr. Friendly outreach teams, including ones in Grand Rapids, Detroit, DC/Baltimore, San Francisco, San Diego, Denver, Atlanta, Minneapolis, and even Cape Town South Africa. Agencies that do HIV work can contact Watt to learn more about bringing Mr. Friendly to their town.

To learn more visit the Mr. Friendly website at www.mrfriendly.info.

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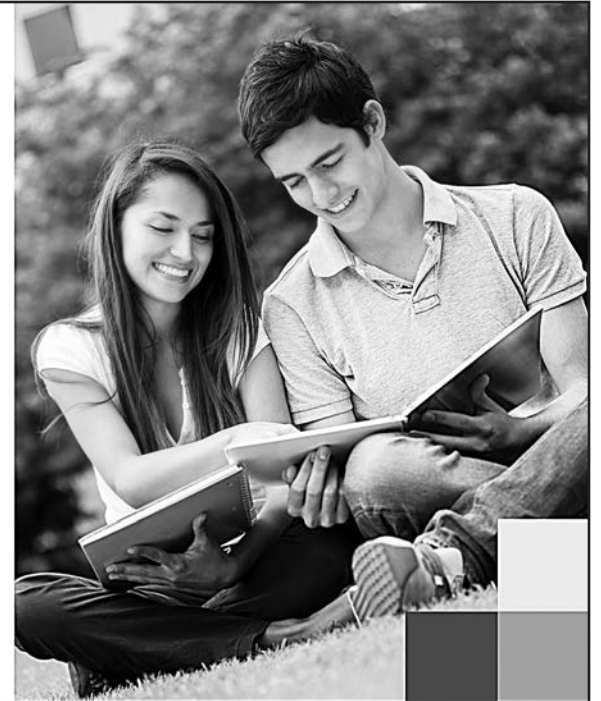
FALL 2013

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Come Together At The Capitol For Michigan Pride Aug. 24

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

LANSING - The 2013 Pride season's grand finale is coming Aug. 24 as people from all around the state converge on the state capitol for the march, rally and festival that is Michigan Pride.

Organizers selected the Aug. 24 dates so as not to compete with the many local Pride events taking place throughout the state in June and July. Event Chairperson Emily Hovarth explained, "There's no way to have it in June without conflicting with other events. We think it's important that people come to their statewide event, and that as many people come to the capitol at once as possible. People shouldn't have to choose between their local Pride and this. Twenty years ago, this problem didn't exist, and it's great."

The most distinctive part of the event is the march, which starts at Adado Riverfront Park, with participants gathering at noon and marching to the capitol steps at 1 p.m. "We're coming off the energy of the marriage decision and it's time to come to the capitol and be part of a big rally that will be really inspiring," Hovarth said. "I've been going to the rally at the capitol for a number of years, and I always wondered if it does any good, if the politicians are listening. This is our 24th year of the march and finally we know that it is making a difference. There has been progress. There have been three or four legislators that have introduced legislation for LGBT families. They're not just giving us lip service, they're taking a stand. And this is our chance to come together and show how many people this matters to. This year they are listening."

The march and subsequent festivities will be led by Ross Matthews, who is known as "Ross the Intern" by his fans. Ross the Intern started out his career as an intern on The Tonight Show with Jay Leno, and has gone on to make regular appearances on Celebrity Fit Club, The Insider and Chelsea Lately. Ross is gay, and has written a book about his experience going from a small-town closeted kid and celebrity fan, to being famous himself. The book is called Man Up!: Tales of My Delusional Self-Confidence, and it's promoted as "a mission statement for anyone who doesn't fit the mold."

Matthews was chosen by Michigan Pride because of his pop culture appeal. "He brings in a young audience, but he also has something to say," Hovarth said. "He's got entertainment as well as insight, and this event is about both."

While the march is a serious statement about the need for equality, many of the Michigan Pride events are done with a fun and community-building mindset. Following the march will be a mass commitment ceremony on the steps of the capitol, performed by Rev. Kent Lederer of Unity of Greater Lansing. There is no fee for the ceremony, though donations are accepted. The Diversity Festival takes place in Old Town and goes until 11 p.m. The cost to attend is \$5, giving access to several Michigan-based bands, a family fun area, food and vendors and a 21+ beverage tent. LGBT organizations will be on hand to recruit volunteers and let people know how they can get involved in the growing movement towards equality in this state.

For more information about Michigan Pride, go to www.michiganpride.org.

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Do We Have To Forgive The Ex-Gays?



Thinking
Out Loud

OPINION BY ABBY DEES

When Alan Chambers, the president of Exodus “ex-gay” Ministries publicly apologized for the hurt he has caused LGBT people, I forgave him. There are few things more powerful to change attitudes about LGBT lives than religious leaders publicly sharing their personal journeys toward understanding. No need to flagellate him for past wrongdoings; he’s here now. Let’s look forward.

My fellow LGBT commentators haven’t been so eager to hand out forgiveness to anyone who asks for it. Look no further than the comments sections of LGBT media reports on the apology to see a litany of the psychological

and spiritual torture that Chambers and his ilk have perpetuated, however well-intended his apology. Their issue with Exodus wasn’t that they simply disagreed with the message, but that the message caused real harm, even death. In light of this, how could I have been so willing to let it all go and move on?

The problem, if you want to call it that, is that I have never once doubted that my sexual orientation was perfectly fine in the eyes of my creator. Even when I faced discrimination at work and school, or worried that my family would never understand, or if being gay would doom me to a life of loneliness, I laid all my concerns at the feet of other people, not God. My spirituality only ever served to give me strength and determination in a world of human frailty. I have no idea what it’s like to think that my very being, as Joel Osteen frequently puts it, isn’t “God’s best plan” – a new and improved way of saying God still thinks LGBT lives kinda suck.

Now yet another Exodus leader, former VP Randy Thomas, has apologized. The responses are just as damning as before: His apology is vague, or hollow, or means nothing until he

actually does something to undo the damage. Some suggested that Thomas donate all the money he ever made from Exodus to PFLAG, or any other organization doing the clean-up work.

This all makes sense to me on an intellectual level. We throw words like “forgiveness” around the same way that we call anyone who manages to survive a calamity a “hero.” The power of those words is too easily diluted by sloppy, facile use. Here we have men who, correctly, acknowledged their mistakes. Good. This is important. But just how admirable is it to decide to do the right thing after you’ve been doing the wrong thing time after time? I truly don’t know.

Both of these men have made declarations to keep providing support and ministry to people who choose to keep trying to be straight – or something along those lines. I’m not sure if that’s the accepted terminology. Could it be “struggling with homosexual inclinations”? Something like that. Again, I have no idea why you’d want to do anything other than make peace with your gayness, unless you still feel there’s something inherently wrong with it.

This shows me they have not yet understood

their own complicity in others’ pain, let alone sacrificed enough to atone – and how could they ever do enough to fully make up for the slow, pernicious, soul-etching effect of the “not God’s best” happy talk? These apologies, at best, are statements of intention to begin the process of helping piece together shattered lives and spirits. No more than that.

And also, no less. I still want to forgive them. I have the right to, as much as anyone else has the right not to. I was struck by one comment, alone among the many justifiably angry ones, from someone named Czahn: “God made me gay, he also made me have the capacity to forgive [...] Today I am free to be me. Because I chose to forgive, and move forward...fiercely.” [sic]

Like Czahn, I have to believe that there is power in my forgiveness. I won’t disparage those who can’t let these ex-gays off the hook, but there must be some small measure of healing to be found in accepting an offer of reconciliation. My forgiveness means that I expect a lot from these men, and that the hard work begins now.

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

Letter To The Editor On Ex-Gays And Faith

OPINION BY LARRY JAMISON

I wanted to share a story for those who are confused about their sexuality, especially in light of the recent closings of ex-gay ministries like Exodus International. Even when I was under conversion therapies, I still remember that I would pick up BTL just to see if there was anything written there that spoke to me. I was desperate. But, there is so little out there written specifically for those who are confused and questioning. Being in the closet is sometimes treated with disdain rather than sensitivity.

When I was in the closet, I was friends with a guy named Chad from Canada. He was struggling on whether it was God’s will that he come out of the closet. Of course, we didn’t refer to the issue in those rash terms: to Chad and I, the issue was about whether God was approving of us living a gay lifestyle or not. Both of us had experience in churches where being gay was on par to any other sin of the flesh (envy, stealing, alcoholism, murder) or worse. We were tied to these places of worship and bigotry by the music that moved us so deeply, and the eloquent, manipulative words in the teachings we heard about homosexuality.

If either of us had doubts, the other would call on a sermon backed up with misinterpreted scripture or powerful times of worship in these places that saw being gay as a “sin.” After all, how could these ministers who had been a part of us meeting God be wrong? For us, that

meant something was wrong with us — deeply wrong — not them. Chad had been molested by his father and thrown out to the streets as a young man. He later had the misfortune of being coerced into an affair with an ex-gay minister. So much for “praying the gay” away. Chad had gotten to a point that I wasn’t at: he had had enough. He saw the manipulation and the coercion of the ministries he had been part of and shut it all down. Chad chose to stop listening to his Christian music, stop going to his present church and remove himself from ex-gay influences. He explained that he wanted to hear God’s voice for himself in the silence. I was very concerned that Chad was shutting himself away from what I considered important avenues of connection.

This is something far more foreign today in our 24-hour access to friends, news, music and more, to stay “connected.” Cell phones, tablets, Facebook, Twitter - oh my! The list is endless. The result for Chad stealing himself away was this: He came out of the closet and went on to find the life he was meant to live. It would take me nearly 15 years to do the same.

It is sometimes the people, places and things in our lives that are most precious to us that we need to disconnect from to hear that still, quiet voice. The good news is it isn’t forever. It is only for the time necessary that you know you have heard the voice of truth and love. You may need to see that you have been listening to wrong voices.

God is love and not condemnation. Jesus himself is known to have said that two most important laws are: “Love the Lord Your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength. You shall love your neighbor as yourself” (Mark

12:28-32). When I quoted this verse to Chad one day, he replied, “Thank you. You have no idea what that does for me.” I think I do now. It set him free to see God was more concerned about love than who you love.

15 years later it was my turn. It took me a long time to trust again, to want to hear worship music that I had loved again and to accept my new self. I never heard from Chad again, so I don’t know what the end results of coming out were for him. I do know for me that it has been a great experience of finding not only freedom within me, but a truly loving, accepting Church here in the metro Detroit area. I can listen to my

worship music again, and I am happier now than I ever been in my life.

So, if you are struggling with the messages you are hearing inside you, steal yourself away. Don’t wait till you need large amounts of years to recover from false, condemning messages about who you are. It may be a few moments, a few hours or a few days. When you come back, you will not only be walking on the waters of life, but you may help others in steering their boats back to safety.

Larry Jamison attends MCC Detroit and lives in southeast Michigan.



P'Town Here I Come!



Parting Glances

OPINION BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

PROVINCE TOWN - It's Friday. Outside a light rain. Nothing too serious. Cozy inside. There are six Dyer House B&B guests quietly chatting. Intimate sharings. Tinted slightly with Bostonian accents. Pleasing intonations. Ever so faintly in our shared breakfast background Edith Piaf's voice enchants. Just ever so. Somehow bridging lost distances for me. Nearly forgotten time.

LaVie En Rose. Life in rose colors.

Hosts and life partners, Brandon Quesnell and Steven Katsurinis have prepared a fire-star gourmet breakfast selection. Brandon studied at the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, New York. His cinnamon rolls melt magically into ones sense of well being. Their Lithuanian exchange student Brahos provides visual perfection. He prepares the sparkling nearby pool.

I compliment Brahos. "You're exceptional eye candy." He smiles. "Eye candy? What does that mean in American?" he asks. "It simply means you're nice to look at." He nods, exits gracefully. The poetry of youth.

This is my second visit. Sixteen years ago following retirement I stayed for a month at the Ice House with then BTL editor Cheryl Zupan. This go-around I've driven 950 miles, minutes short of 16 hours, with friends Ron Miotke and Gordon Price. Three years ago they were married here. This is their tenth holding-hands visit.

I thought I'd remember sights, restaurants, landmarks. Not so. I got lost walking Commercial Street, somehow winding up exhausted and surprised once more at Ice House. Turns out it's just a block or two away. (So far I've walked over 30 miles, taken four pedicabs rides, taken the hour-long trolley and half-hour dunes tours.)

Trolley tour guide LuAnne, a lively, well informed, non-stop source of fascinating knowledge of P'Town history - beginning with the 101 pilgrims arriving in 1620 - says there are 5,000 to 10,000 tourists on weekends. "During the third week in August Carnival time 2012, we had 85,000. People abandon their cars in our narrow streets, and celebrated the week away.

LuAnne, a 25-year resident, has driven trolley 18 of those years - "maybe four-a-day trips, about 15,000 total, with 100,000 throat lozenges. She says there are about 3000 year-around residents. (Gladys, another year-around P'Towner and Art Dunes Tour guide, says "maybe 30 percent of that number is LGBT.) LuAnne's definitive blog, The Year Rounder's Guide to Provincetown, may be accessed at ptownyeararound.com.

Friday still. Exactly at noon, the sky clears. The sun shines. I'm now bench sitting at historic Town Hall. I watch happy children being face painted. I can hear a would-be folk singer singing in irritating nasal twangs. (For whatever reason of unemployment, these sing-for-your-suffer are many.) And I lose count of same-sex couples securely holding hands.

I watch the grand cavalcade of P'Town vacationers by categories: Partner pairings. T-shirt designs. Nationalities. Languages overheard. Best suntans. In-shape and outta-shape bodies. Most beautiful legs and manicured feet. (I've yet to put on my walking shorts.) Bicyclists daring traffic. Seemingly, wonderfully, intently non stop.

Eye candy is multi-layered Whitman's Sampler. I'm wishing I were five decades younger. Just as I start feeling a trifle, oh well, wistful about my aging gay life, a passerby's dog on a leash stops in front of me and Wally jumps onto my lap. He wags joyfully. An unexpected one-on-one welcoming!

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Literature And Bookstores In LGBT And American Culture Viewpoint

BY KEITH ORR

Years ago, as a younger gay man, I remember walking by Common Language Bookstore. At the time it was a new store, owned and operated by two women, Kate and Kelly. I saw a book in the window, "Dancing on Tisha B'av", by a newly published author, Lev Raphael. I was drawn to the cover because the designer of the book had successfully created an intriguing and even alluring cover. I made several visits to the store before I finally bought the book. I had been unconvinced that I would relate to the book, as it was clearly about the Jewish gay experience, and even more specifically the perspective of a child of holocaust survivors.

I read the book and fell in love with the stories and the storytelling. I realized the reason to read the book was because, as with all great storytellers, the themes of the stories are universal. By reading Lev's words, I enriched my own world.

Stories are how cultures grow and flourish. We learn from stories told by our parents. Religions are shaped by the stories they tell.

As gay men and women, our stories form our culture. Many historians dispute the notion that Stonewall was the beginning of the gay civil rights movement, pointing to the courageous work of men and women like Del Martin and Frank Kameny. Though those pioneers set the stage for the gay movement, it was the story of Stonewall which gave rise to a popular civil rights movement. Against the backdrop of the funeral of Judy Garland, drag queens, the lowest caste of gay society in New York at the time, fought back against the oppression of the NYPD. Thousands joined them in their struggle, and held the police at bay for three days. That is a worthy creation story for a civil rights movement.

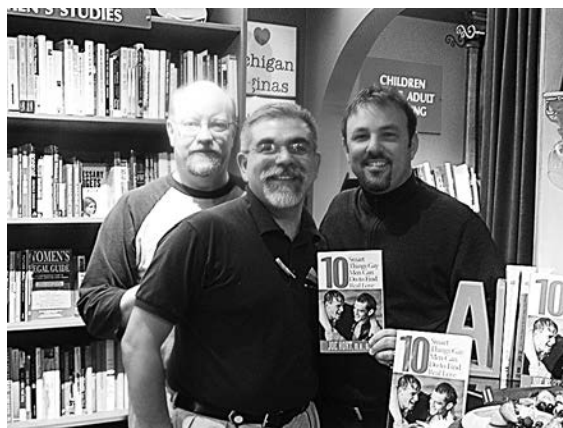
Through our history of civil rights, response to the AIDS crisis, bullying by the religious right, and victories in the courts and ballot box, it is our culture which gives us the compass to move forward. In Christopher Bram's book "Eminent Outlaws" he even argues that the group of post-World War II gay and lesbian authors shaped American culture, not just LGBT culture.

Lesbian, gay, transgender, and bisexual authors give shape and meaning to our experience. When "Rubyfruit Jungle" by Rita Mae Brown or "Stone Butch Blues" by Leslie Feinberg were first published they were transgressive. Though much has changed in the

LGBT world in the intervening years, they remain fresh and inspirational. I love putting "Rubyfruit Jungle" into the hands of a young queer who has never heard of the book, and seeing that same young queer a few days later excited by the brilliant storytelling.

I believe we need to nurture our culture. As a culture withers and dies, so does its society. For many years the LGBT bookstore served the community: as a de facto community center, a safe space for our community, a political organizing point, a fundraising center for our organizations, and more. For all of that, I believe one of the most important functions was as a place for authors to find their audience.

Author events at Common Language bring



Keith Orr, Martin Contreras, and author Joe Kort. Photo courtesy of: Common Language Bookstore

together author, bookstore, reader, and even publisher. The publishing world is in turmoil. LGBT bookstores, which used to number in the hundreds are now down to about a dozen nationwide. And yet authors are still writing and readers are still looking for the next good book. LGBT bookstores, no matter how they evolve, must continue to be a vital part of that equation. Amazon.com doesn't really care what you read, as long as you buy it from them. LGBT bookstores exist in order to help authors and audiences find each other. In an era when even some libraries are forced to bow to political pressure and censor what material is available, independent LGBT bookstores remain a vital part of our culture.

We are painfully aware that we do not live in a post-gay world. This is especially true in Michigan. We do have many outstanding LGBT writers in the state. Whether you celebrate the stories of Laurie Salzler, Kage Alan, Jackie Nacht, Lev Raphael, or the many others featured in this issue, all of them have in common the experience of the richness and diversity of our LGBT culture. We need them as much as they need us.

Keith Orr is co-owner of Common Language bookstore and \out\Bar in Ann Arbor, 317 Braun Ct, Ann Arbor, MI 48104.

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Christopher Doyle

“One is the loneliest number that you’ll ever know...” I’m sorry to report, but Ex-Gay Pride Month has been retroactively cancelled. I mean, obviously the month of July itself happened, but the ex-gay part, not so much.



That’s bad news for folks who were hoping to march on Washington with their thunderstorm flags (Get it? Because that’s the opposite of a rainbow flag). But it serves those folks right, since they didn’t even bother to show up.

But if you were to ask Christopher Doyle, president and co-founder of Voice of the Voiceless, an organization that calls itself “the only anti-defamation league for former homosexuals,” this whole ex-gay pride thing is working fabulously.

In an Aug. 2 to the VOTV website he writes, “July 31, 2013 was a great day for former homosexuals in America!”

What was so special about July 31? Well, that’s when approximately one dozen people -stormed- milled about in front of the Supreme Court building in D.C. to hold a press conference demanding equality and respect for ex-gays.

“While the turnout was humble, the enthusiasm among those who participated in Ex-Gay Pride was immeasurable,” writes Doyle, adding, “we have to start somewhere.”

Which is kind of weird, because if this whole “ex-gay” thing is really, well, a thing, then where are the thousands of people Doyle claims have thrown the homo monkey off their backs?

Why, in the closet, of course. Because the big gay meanies are bullying them.

That’s right. While gays are steadily coming out of the closet, ex-gays are apparently grabbing up the newly available real estate. Hey, it’s a buyer’s market, after all.

According to Doyle, numbers don’t matter. “[I]t only takes ONE ex-gay that has changed to put a wrench in the ‘born that way, cannot change’ strategy [gay activists] are using to deceive the public. The fact is, these activists cannot handle the existence of ONE person who says they have experienced change from same-sex attraction to opposite sex attraction,” Doyle writes. “So they need to mock, belittle, and downplay the significance of yesterday’s events. That is why there is so much anger. So much intimidation. So much disrespect. So much harassment.”

No disrespect, but surely he can’t be serious. Out of the thousands he claims exists, if he can find one real ex-gay then BAM! he wins? How convenient.

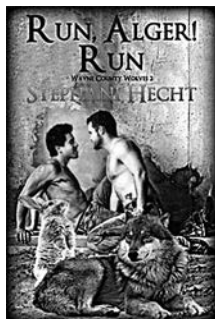
Look, there is no doubt that people who identify as ex-gay exist, but their existence does not negate the existence of LGBT people and the legitimacy of love between people of the same sex. Doyle’s insistence that because a handful of people claim to have cast off their same-sex desires then gay people are not, in fact, real, is akin to climate-change deniers denying global warming because a miniscule sub-set of scientists aren’t on board. The evidence to the contrary is overwhelming. You have to willfully ignore the majority of evidence to see the conclusion you want to see.

And so for Doyle, that means shouting from the rooftops that Ex-Gay Pride is a thing. You’d get a bigger crowd in D.C. if you did a march of Pastafarians (Church of the Flying Spaghetti Monster members). And, as an added bonus, Pastafarians aren’t known for hating themselves.

But Doyle hasn’t given up. Instead, he’s declared that September will be Ex-Gay Awareness Month. Apparently before you can celebrate Ex-Gay Pride, you have to wake the sleeping ex-gay masses. It’ll be just like The Night of the Living Dead, only more depressing. Save the date!

► Romance Writers

Continued from p. 5



Stephani Hecht, Holly, MI

www.stephanihecht.com

My biggest accomplishment is finally being

able to quit the day job and work full-time as a writer.

I am more than just a reader or a writer, I am a mother of a gay son. So, I know how hard it is some days to fight the struggles that the LGBT community face. But, know this...I will not give up, nor will I rest until all the civilians of America have the same civil rights and liberties as everybody else. And once they do, you’re all invited to my son’s wedding.

I like to describe my work as light and fluffy, with always a HEA (Happily Ever After). It’s what I want my own son to find in the world.

All love is equal and deserves to be told.

There are some things about being an author that only another author will get. Be it a receiving a bad review, having a stalker like email, or just balancing reality with the fake world in your head.

My biggest accomplishment is finally being able to quit the day job and work full-time as a writer. Now when people ask me what I do for a living, I can honestly say, I’m an author.



Jessica Freely, Royal Oak, MI

www.jessicafreely.com

A lot of people wonder why a woman would write about gay

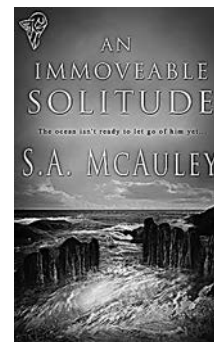
men falling in love. For me, the short answer is that I love romance, but I hate heterosexual power dynamics.

I love to start with a male character who is flawed, who doubts himself and wonders if he’s worthy of love, and then introduce him to another man who can see his real value. Through that relationship, both characters grow and develop, finding love and redemption together. To me, emotional vulnerability and intimacy between men is beautiful. I think the world needs more of it.

“A lot of people wonder why a woman would write about gay men falling in love. For me, the short

answer is that I love romance, but I hate heterosexual power dynamics. The longer answer is that I have never been comfortable with the hetero-normative expectation that a woman waits to be approached. That never worked for me and I always felt alienated from the romance stories that are all about a woman surrendering to a dominant man. But I love the emotional intensity of romance. For me, writing about men was the perfect solution. I get two equal partners, both with sexual agency, sharing their strengths and their weaknesses. It’s awesome!

“I started out in mainstream science fiction, and around about 2003 or so, I wrote a young adult science fiction book with a gay male romance as a central element. At that time it was not welcomed by my editor and agent, and it soon became clear that if I wanted to pursue gay romance, I would not be doing it with them. But I loved writing that book so much there was just no going back. So, I had to strike out on my own in search of a market that would accept gay romance authored by a woman. It took some time but I did it and now I’m publishing regularly and have quite a nice following.



SA McAuley, Waterford, MI

www.authorsamcauley.wordpress.com

I have a tendency to break my characters down to

their lowest point and see how they emerge, how they survive and thrive.

It’s been just over a year since I published my first book and my greatest accomplishment is still every time I actually finish something and send it off to a publisher. Seeing a project to its end is always more difficult than starting one.

I love writing about places where many of my readers probably haven’t been before. I enjoy setting characters in professions and journeys that are outside the norm. And I have a tendency to break my characters down to their lowest point and see how they emerge, how they survive and thrive. My tag line is “finding hope in the darkest of nights” and I think that describes my work as a whole better than any synopsis or blurb could.

This genre is full of engaging, loving, fun, and welcoming authors. There’s a steadily growing market for LGBT romance. Most readers don’t know it’s a genre that exists. So as the knowledge about this genre increases, so will the readership. I think we’re at a crossroads for LGBT literature in general. It’s an exciting time to be a part of it.

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Rebel With A Cause



Photo: Kelly Christine Musgraves

Kacey Musgraves On Opening Minds, Smoking Pot & All The Gays In Her Life

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

When it comes to country music, tradition says you should be a narrow-minded churchgoer who condemns drugs, lesbian love and casual sex. And you should definitely never, ever release an album about any of those sinful deeds.

Kacey Musgraves, who performs Aug. 17 in Detroit, missed that Bible school lesson.

The breakthrough artist's stellar

album "Same Trailer Different Park" shows not all country acts are bigoted meatheads who worship their trucks. If they're like this 24-year-old, they also love the gay community (and sing about it) and occasionally puff a doobie.

What're you up to, Kacey?

I'm just sitting here with a zit mask on my face. It's hard to talk. It's hardening and I can barely move my mouth.

What's your reaction to all the buzz surrounding you and the album?

It's overwhelming, but in a good way. It's more than I ever asked for and more than I could ever expect. I'm really happy that people are just listening to the music – and that it's finally out! I'm so thankful.

Tell me about growing up in a small town in Texas. Did you know many gay people when you were living there?

No, actually. My first roommate out of high school came out to me

and it was a big deal, because he came from a really conservative family. I just knew how hard it was for him to come to terms with that; I was in the Bible Belt in a really small town where everybody knew everybody. It really opened my eyes to a lot when he came out to me and I could see how hard it was, you know? It really made an impact on me. Since then, several guys that I grew up with have come out, and I'm just so proud of them.

It just makes me sad that there are other kids who are struggling with that and parents are worried about whether their kids are gonna come out of the closet; in reality they should be worried about way scarier things.

So that friend was the first gay person you knew?

Yeah. It made a big impact on me. I absolutely love gay people.

I heard "Follow Your Arrow" and

had a feeling you did; it's rare the gay community be acknowledged in a country music song. It doesn't happen very often, does it?

No. It never happens and I'm sick of it. It's ridiculous. Whether or not you agree with gay marriage or the fact that people don't choose to be gay, we share the same emotions, needs and wants. I just think that everyone should be included in that. It's definitely time.

Would you like to see more change within the country music world as far as LGBT inclusively goes?

For sure. Have you ever seen an openly gay male country artist be successful? No. That would be badass. But guys get grossed out by guy-on-guy ... but then if they see two chicks kissing at a party, they're like, "Oh my god, I gotta videotape this." I'm like, "That's the same shit!" You can't have a double standard.

Were you worried about releasing "Follow Your Arrow," a song that advocates marijuana and homosexuality?

Well, I didn't expect – sorry, I'm eating popcorn – country radio to play it. They're not gonna. That's OK, though. I think the song can be bigger than country radio. They wouldn't know what to do with it, anyway!

As far as backlash goes, the reaction has been surprisingly positive, and when I sing it live people really like it and they really listen to the lyrics. Even older people that I wouldn't think would be into it get a laugh out of it. I think even if you don't agree with everything I'm saying, as a human, hopefully you can just recognize that people should be able to do what they want to do and love who they want to love.

Tell me about the line, "Kiss lots of boys, or kiss lots of girls if that's something you're into." Was this based on personal experience?

(Laughs) I wrote the song with one of my producers, Shane McAnally, who's gay, and Brandy Clarke, who's an amazing writer and also gay. And I'm not gonna say it's not from some personal experience, but we were writing it and with the "kiss lots of boys" I said, "I wish, because of the nature of the song, we could just say '... or kiss lots of girls,'" and Shane was like, "Why can't we?"

INFO

Kenny Chesney with Kacey Musgraves

5 p.m. Aug. 17
Ford Field
2000 Brush St. #200, Detroit
www.kaceymusgraves.com

Did you worry the line would ruffle feathers?

I knew it would a little, but surprisingly, it didn't as much as I thought. At the same time, I didn't care.

Have you received feedback from the gay community?

Yeah! Perez Hilton did a cover contest for "Follow Your Arrow" where he challenged people to come up with covers for it. He's been really supportive about it all. And my manager is gay. It's kind of all around me.

I've had guys come up to me at shows and say, "Your song 'Follow Your Arrow' means so much to me." I think people are thankful that they don't have to be ashamed to be themselves and they can also listen to country music. Those don't have to be two separate things.

Are you interested in being the Lady Gaga of contemporary country music?

(Laughs) Dolly Parton is the closest thing that we've had, right? Maybe Reba. But as far as being loud about it, yeah, I would love to take that position.

I guess because of the nature of country music, there's deep-rooted tradition and there's a lot of gospel influence in country, but people need to get on the right side of history. There used to be songs about black and white differences and that's no longer an issue – and it shouldn't be. And this shouldn't be either. I would love to change that about country music.

Are equal rights important to you?

Yeah, absolutely. I don't even think it has to be about male or female, gay or straight – it's just about humans being able to live freely.

Tell me about some of your country influences.

I've always loved Dolly Parton and I used to sing her songs when I was little. She's a great storyteller and that's probably where I got a lot of my influence from. I love Loretta Lynn and

Willie Nelson and his truth telling. I love Glen Campbell and a lot of old-school country. I'm really all over the map, but the country I seem to like is a lot older.

This album is being called your debut, but this isn't your first album. This is actually your fourth, right?

Well, this is the only one that I want people to hear. The other songs were a learning curve and I'm a different person musically, so this is what I want the world to hear first. I'm a better writer and I've come into my own personally more.

Weren't there some songs that the label wanted you to release on "Same Trailer Different Park" but you didn't want them on there?

Yeah – just because I wrote it doesn't mean that I like it! (Laughs) The label will be like, "Oh, this song is a hit, it's a radio mash," and I'm like, "I don't give a shit. If it doesn't go on the record, it doesn't go on the record." The hits will come if I believe in them. It won't be a hit if I don't believe in it.

Were you nervous about suggesting you smoke pot on the album?

I was more worried about my grandma hearing it!

What did your grandma say?

We call her Nana, and she always has an opinion. "The Slut Song" is what she calls "It Is What It Is." And she doesn't get any of the marijuana references.

Should we assume you've dabbled?

You can assume. It does a lot of nice things for a lot of people and it comes out of the ground. End of story. The government should stay out of it and just let people do what they wanna do with their own bodies.

Do you want to be country's bad girl or would you rather leave that to Miranda Lambert?

I'd rather not. If I were gonna be a bad girl, I'd rather it be more in a progressive way than a "I'm gonna burn your house down" way.

In a way that brings hope and change to people's lives?

Right. If that makes me a bad girl, then what does that make society?

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Musical Martyrs

Jane of Arc Takes Leap Of Faith To Make Dreams Come True

BY JEROME STUART NICHOLS

In every musician's life, there comes a time when they have to decide what kind of career they want for themselves: Do they shoot for the stars and see what happens, or do they resign themselves to the life of local notoriety? For the ambitious and determined Ferndale-based all-lesbian indie-pop trio Jane of Arc, performing at Como's on Aug. 10, they went for the stars.

But first, they started like most

bands of the 2000s did: on MySpace. Back in 2007, Jane guitarist and drummer Elida Quesada stumbled across the music profile for then-fellow solo singer-songwriter Chelsea Carter. She was floored.

"I met Chelsea over the Internet when I stumbled across her music page on MySpace; we were both doing singer-songwriter-y things at the time," Quesada says. "I heard her voice – I mean, just a measure – and I got chills. I thought, 'Holy crap, this girl's amazing.'"

Once Quesada was able to finally hoist her jaw from the floor, she reached out to Carter and the two became instant friends.

"The first time we actually sat down, we just talked for hours and hours and hours," Quesada recalls. "We just had an instant friend connection."

That friend connection led to a casual music-making partnership before bringing on a drummer who introduced them to current lead guitarist Kelly Rons. Eventually,

INFO

Jane of Arc

8 p.m. Aug. 10
Como's

22812 Woodward Ave., Ferndale

the drummer departed, turning their quartet into a trio, with Carter singing lead.

From there, they began playing small gigs at hole-in-the-wall dive bars, earning no more than 10 bucks for a 45-minute set. It didn't matter.

They make music purely for the love of the art.

"It's another one of our involuntary reflex things," Quesada says. "You just breathe because you breathe; we make music because we have to make music."

"That's why it works between the three of us, because we all have that drive individually," Rons adds. "When we come together, we have that great dynamic and it gives us the ability to express our

See Jane of Arc, page 21

THE FLYING DUTCHMAN

Wagner's
THE FLYING DUTCHMAN

Performed in German with English translations

Sat. Oct. 19, 2013, 7:30 pm
Wed. Oct. 23, 2013, 7:30 pm
Fri. Oct. 25, 2013, 7:30 pm
Sat. Oct. 26, 2013, 7:30 pm
Sun. Oct. 27, 2013, 2:30 pm

DIABOLO DANCE THEATRE

DIABOLO DANCE THEATRE

Sat. Nov. 2, 2013, 7:30 pm
Sun. Nov. 3, 2013, 2:30 pm

LA TRAVIATA

Verdi's
LA TRAVIATA

Performed in Italian with English translations

Sat. Nov. 16, 2013, 7:30 pm
Wed. Nov. 20, 2013, 7:30 pm
Fri. Nov. 22, 2013, 7:30 pm
Sat. Nov. 23, 2013, 7:30 pm
Sun. Nov. 24, 2013, 2:30 pm

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Ballet Met Columbus

Performed in Italian with English translations

Fri. Nov. 29, 2013, 7:30 pm
Sat. Nov. 30, 2013, 2:30 pm
Sat. Nov. 30, 2013, 7:30 pm
Sun. Dec. 1, 2013, 2:30 pm

TOO HOT TO HANDEL

TOO HOT TO HANDEL
Jazz Gospel Messiah

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and The Detroit Opera House

Sat. Dec. 21, 2013, 7:30 pm

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Sat. Feb. 15, 2014, 7:30 pm
Sun. Feb. 16, 2014, 2:30 pm

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Sat. Mar. 1, 2014, 7:30 pm
Sun. Mar. 2, 2014, 2:30 pm

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Sun. Mar. 16, 2014, 2:30 pm

BALLET DU GRAND THEATRE DE GENEVE

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THEATRE DE GENEVE**

Fri. Mar. 21, 2014, 7:30 pm
Sat. Mar. 22, 2014, 7:30 pm

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Bolcom's
A VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE

Performed in English

Sat. Apr. 5, 2014, 7:30 pm
Wed. Apr. 9, 2014, 7:30 pm
Fri. Apr. 11, 2014, 7:30 pm
Sat. Apr. 12, 2014, 7:30 pm
Sun. Apr. 13, 2014, 2:30 pm

TURANDOT

Puccini's
TURANDOT

Performed in Italian with English translations

Sat. May 10, 2014, 7:30 pm
Wed. May 14, 2014, 7:30 pm
Fri. May 16, 2014, 7:30 pm
Sat. May 17, 2014, 7:30 pm
Sun. May 18, 2014, 7:30 pm

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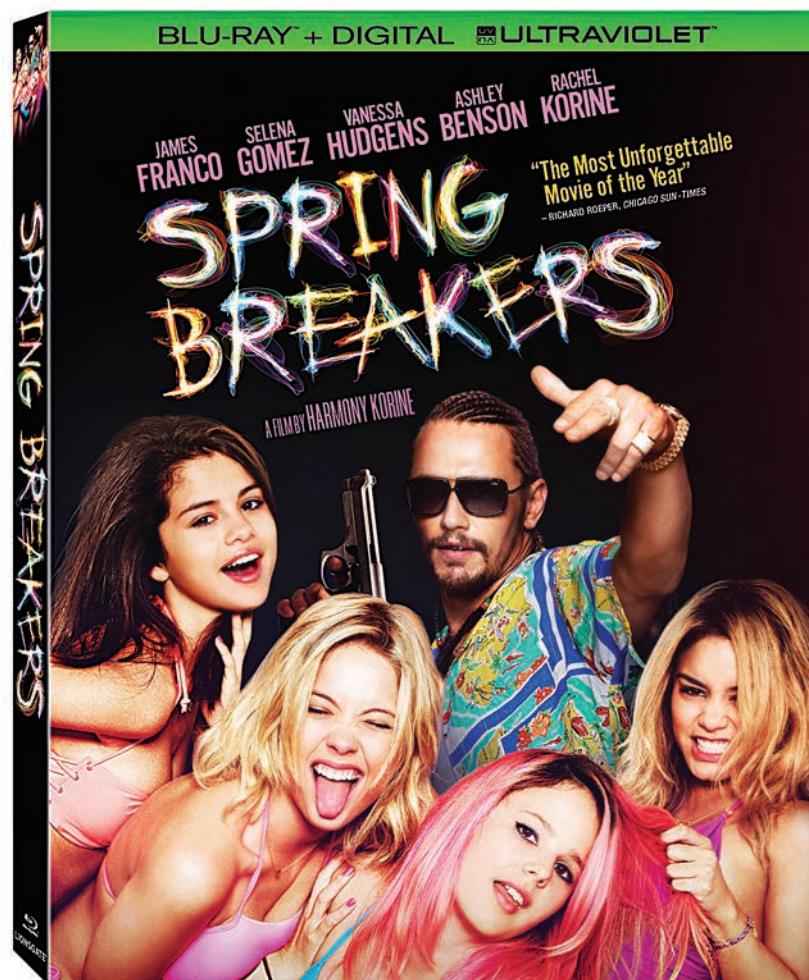
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Screen Queen

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI



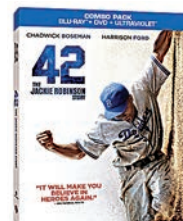
Spring Breakers

The intention of Harmony Korine's unsettling spring break dramatization – as discussed during the disc's interview with the director – was to create a surreal cinematic experience with the same hypnotically wormy sensation of a pop song. Something you play over and over in your head. Something you never forget. The entire film, then, is the hook, and there's no shaking the drugging, boozing, hyper-violent debauchery these four girls gets mixed up in while vacationing. Not only are images and sounds looped for mind takeover effect, but also, "Spring Breakers" is ridiculous. Highly and awesomely amusing, but ridiculous. James Franco totally makes the movie as a delusional gangsta named Alien; he's super proud of all his "sheeyit" and considers Britney Spears one of the greatest pop stars to walk the earth (of course he does). His scene at the piano, where he serenades his chickadees with "somethin' inspirin'" (see: Spears' "Everytime"), is classic kitsch. Extras include a three-part doc, outtakes from the priceless Franco monologue and a single deleted scene in which the girls make a chubby nerd get naked at gunpoint.



Mud

For all the obvious Mark Twain-ness of "Mud," director Jeff Nichols' coming-of-age triumph stands on its own as a poignant piece of literary cinema. Ellis (standout Tye Sheridan) and his buddy Neckbone (Jacob Lofland) discover a fugitive, Mud (Matthew McConaughey), living in a boat hung up in the trees. Longtime bayou dweller Tom Blankenship (Sam Shepard) cautions the teens about the runaway, telling them to keep their distance, but Ellis does just the opposite. In the midst of his parents' separation (Sarah Paulson plays the mother), Ellis finds a silver lining in Mud's romanticized version of love – the happy ending he wants not just for Mud, but also for himself – and assists in reuniting him with his true love (Reese Witherspoon). After Nichols' frantic modern-day allegory "Take Shelter," the first-rate filmmaker demonstrates no sign of waning with "Mud." It's a great American masterpiece. Nichols discusses his personal relationship with the film during the extras, which also includes a feature on the Arkansas shoot.



42

The relevance of famed ball player Jackie Robinson rings true today as prejudicial injustices persist. But if there's anything to gain from Robinson's story of breaking color barriers, it's this: hope. The handsomely filmed biopic "42" doesn't go deep enough (we're left with a perfect heroic figure that's just *too* perfect), but it's a feel-good film that's hard not to feel good about whenever Robinson (newcomer Chadwick Boseman) uses his badass baseball playing to silence the haters and close racial gaps. Boseman hits a homerun in the role, displaying the tenaciousness and believability of a baseball great. But as the gruff Brooklyn Dodgers exec Branch Rickey, Harrison Ford plays too close to sports-drama cliché. Also: Look out for "Grey's Anatomy" gay T.R. Knight as the team's publicist. "42" includes a couple short making-ofs – one on the green screen used to create the baseball field – and how Jackie Robinson helped integrate not just baseball, but the world.

Also Out



The Ice Storm

A '90s pinnacle, timeless suburban drama "The Ice Storm" – debuting on Criterion Blu-ray – was one of Oscar-winning filmmaker Ang Lee's first motion-picture triumphs. Before award champs "Brokeback Mountain" and "Life of Pi," Lee directed a distinguished ensemble of established Hollywood A-listers (Sigourney Weaver, Kevin Kline and Joan Allen) and young wannabes (Tobey Maguire, Katie Holmes, Christina Ricci and Elijah Wood) in this rich, moving and darkly comical story of escapism set during the early Nixon-era '70s. Political turmoil looms over connection seekers, where people have affairs with their neighbors and adolescents experiment. Lee's commentary from the 2007 DVD is included, along with cast interviews and a chat with novelist Rick Moody.

► **Jane of Arc**

Continued from p. 18

individual talents and make something that's bigger than ourselves."

Things continued that way until 2011 when they took a hiatus while Rons explored a career opportunity in Chicago. In February 2013, after about a year-and-a-half apart, they reached a fork in the road.

With all three women leading hectic lives outside the band, finding time to chase their passions was a luxury. They knew that if they were ever going to make anything out of this music thing, they had to move now and hit hard.

"Our lives are crazy. My job is incredibly demanding; I work at least 50 hours a week," Quesada says. "For us to come back around and be like, 'Yes, this is still something that lights a fire inside of us,' to even address the idea of going forward, it had to be do-or-die because we have so much on the line. It has to be that way, or it doesn't get done at all."

“It’s another one of our involuntary reflex things. You just breathe because you breathe; we make music because we have to make music.”

– Elida Quesada

brand new material for their debut album.

This new album will serve as the launching pad for the better, faster, stronger Jane of Arc. They're pouring their hearts and souls into the project and putting their livelihoods on the line to make their dream a reality. At this point, there's no turning back.

"I feel emotionally so connected to this project," Quesada says, "that failing, to me, is not an option."

The decision to make the most of their talent didn't just come from passion and drive; they truly believe in themselves.

"I think we really, really believe that we can make it and that we can make a career for ourselves," Quesada says. "I've always felt that way... and I've never felt it more strongly than when we got back together in February."

Refreshed and revitalized, Quesada, Rons and Carter have poured themselves back into music. They've spent the last few months polishing old material as well as writing and recording



The Place Beyond the Pines

In Derek Cianfrance's ambitious follow-up to "Blue Valentine," it's not just Ryan Gosling's bare chest causing those heart

palpitations. A harrowing narrative spanning 15 years, it's a tense sketch of fathers, sons and their unbreakable bonds, where choices are made and unfavorable consequences result. Gosling, a low-income dad who robs banks to provide for his kid, continues to forge complicated roles and excel at them; Bradley Cooper, as a cop, makes you forget "The Hangover Part III." It's a gripping, emotionally cogent saga slighting, unfortunately, some of the nuance that made "Valentine" the better film. The extras: 10 minutes of bonus scenes, a director commentary and a brief look behind the scenes.

visits with unclear motives and a sensual desire for his shy niece. Matthew Goode, known best as Colin Firth's lover in "A Single Man," is wickedly potent as the enigmatic Charles, whose lurid relationship with India (Mia Wasikowska of "The Kids Are All Right" haunts in the role) becomes something almost incestuous (their sexually charged duet at the piano will creep you the hell out). Her mother (Nicole Kidman) is stuck in the middle. It's an intoxicatingly and stylishly trippy art piece. Just some EPK featurettes and a 27-minute making-of round out the set.



Stoker

A mood movie, "Stoker" isn't so much about plot – there's not much of one – as it is about feeling. And fine, because South Korean director Park Chan-

wook effectively captures the feverish eeriness of a family's bizarre dynamic when an "uncle"



The Call

Until this Halle Berry potboiler goofily derails into the same twisted horror of "The Silence of the Lambs," it actually maintains enough of its own nail-biting chills to keep from being just another girl-in-peril rehash. Berry (in poodle hair) is Jordan Turner, a 911 dispatcher whose mistake costs her a young woman's life; years later, when faced with the kidnapping of Casey Welson (Abigail Breslin), she'll do anything – even risk her own life – to not let that happen again. The film gets batty in the end, with camp, cheese and the "it's already done" zinger encapsulating a girl-power finish, but hey, that's part of its stupid charm. An alternate ending lacking any of that awesome ridiculousness is included.

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OUTINGS

Thursday, Aug. 8

Forging Justice Creating Safe, Equal and Accountable Communities 8 a.m. HAVEN and UpRoot!, 525 W. Lafayette Blvd., Detroit. 248-334-1284 360. prevention@haven-oakland.org havenuproot.org
Wordpress.com/forging-justice-conference

Working with Transgender Youth and Their Families 8:30 a.m. Antonia Caretto, Ph. D., PLLC. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

The Role of Christianity in Sexual Identity Development 1:30 p.m. Robert Martin, D. Min., LPC. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

Lansing Community College Gay Straight Alliance 5:30 p.m. Bingo after at Esquire. Lansing Association for Human Rights, Lansing. spennyj@lcc.edu lahronline.org

The Family & Friends Support Group 5:30 p.m. Support group for family and friends of people living with HIV. Community Health Awareness Group, 1300 W. Fort St., Detroit. 313-963-3434.

Gender Non-Conformists 7 p.m. Meets every Thursday. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. Jjenkins@GoAffirmations.org GoAffirmations.org

Friday, Aug. 9

Ashley Cass City Cinema, 3420 Cass Ave., Detroit. cassave@aol.com Casscitycinema.com

Michigan Womyn's Music Festival Tickets: \$0-600. Michigan Womyn's Music

Festival, Oceana County. 231-757-4766. Michfest.com

Riot Youth 4 p.m. The Neutral Zone, 310 E. Washington, Ann Arbor. 734-214-9995. neutral-zone.org

GLSEN 6 p.m. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

Woman 2 Woman 6 p.m. Free. KICK, 41 Burroughs St. 109, Detroit. 313-285-9733. e-kick.org

Friday Night Socials: Euchre Night 7 p.m. Snacks and drinks available for purchase. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. goaffirmations.org

Drag Queen Bingo 10 p.m. A fun alternative to your usual weekend hot spots. Shows get out just early enough for you to hit the local clubs or bars! Refreshments from our full coffee bar (coffee, teas, smoothies), sodas, water, and more. Tickets: \$20. 18+. Club Five15, 515 S. Washington Ave., Royal Oak. 248-515-2551. five15.net

Saturday, Aug. 10

Kayak Stoney Creek 10 a.m. Stoney Creek has rentals or you can bring your own. Bring a lunch and we can picnic. GOAL, 4300 Main Park Dr., Shelby Township. Meetup.com/GOAL-Get-Out-And-Live-LGBT

Queer & Trans Yoga Series - Summer 2013 10:30 a.m. Admission: \$10-15. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. goaffirmations.org

Family Fun Day 12 p.m. Windsor-Essex Pride Fest, 1 Riverfront Festival Plaza, Windsor. 226-348-3378. info@wepridefest.com Wepridefest.com

Transgender Pride in the Park 12 p.m. Free food. Free fun. Great friends.

Transgender Michigan, Ferndale. Facebook.com/events/258817430910089/

Bikes and Beers Tours 1:15 p.m. Bike tour of Windsor, sampling beers at local restaurants. Helmets are mandatory. Part of Windsor-Essex Pride Fest. Tickets: \$60. WindsorEats, Windsor. windsoreats.com

Out4Equality - Collage Project 6 p.m. Collaborative art project incorporating community created art. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. goaffirmations.org

Motor City Bears 7 p.m. Social group for metro area bears. Meets every second Saturday of the month. Motor City Bears, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

The White Party 7 p.m. Windsor-Essex Pride Fest, 1 Riverfront Festival Plaza, Windsor. 226-348-3378. info@wepridefest.com Wepridefest.com

Sunday, Aug. 11

Get Out Bike/Shore to Shore Training - Metro Beach Ride 9:45 a.m. GOAL, 31300 Metro Pkwy., Mount Clemens. Meetup.com/GOAL-Get-Out-And-Live-LGBT

Pride Parade 11 a.m. Windsor-Essex Pride Fest, 1 Riverfront Festival Plaza, Windsor. 226-348-3378. info@wepridefest.com Wepridefest.com

Older Lesbians Organizing 1 p.m. Older Lesbians Organizing, 319 Braun Ct., Ann Arbor. 734-995-9867. Jasmithers@sbcglobal.net JimToyCenter.org

Rainbow Book Club 4:30 p.m. Book club dedicated to reading and discussing classic and contemporary LGBTQ literature. Rainbow Book Club, 319 Braun Ct., Ann Arbor. 734-995-9867. Catherine.herne@gmail.com

Conversation Station 5 p.m. GOAL, 714 S. Washington, Royal Oak. 248-981-4227. MarciLWilliams@yahoo.com GetOutAndLive.me

Monday, Aug. 12

Higher Ground 6:30 p.m. Ferndale. 586-427-1259. info@hghiv.org

Social Knit Night 6:30 p.m. Lansing Association for Human Rights, 319 S. Waverly Road, Lansing. lahronline.org

Adult Support Group 7 p.m. OutCenter, 132 Water St., Benton Harbor. 269-925-8330. outcenter.org

One Voice Chorus 7 p.m. LGBT Choral group. Meets every Monday. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

Tuesday, Aug. 13

Delish Detroit 9:30 a.m. Eastern Market tours. Feet on the Street Tours, 2465 Russell St., Detroit. 248-353-TOURS. feetonthestreettours.com

People of Victory 12 p.m. A bi-weekly support group for all women living with HIV. People of Victory, 4201 St. Antoine, Detroit. 313-805-7061.

Older Adult and Senior Helpline 4 p.m. Provides peer counseling, empathy and community resources for LGBT adults. 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 1-800-398-4297. goaffirmations.org

Euchre at Esquire Club 6:30 p.m. Lansing Association for Human Rights, 1250 Turner St., Lansing. 517-487-5338. lahronline.org

Out4Equality - Open Mic Performance Series 7 p.m. Monthly open mic series. Donations: \$0-5. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. goaffirmations.org

See Happenings, page 30

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Michael Chetcuti Foundation To Host Corvette-Themed Benefit Event To Raise Money For AIDS Walk Detroit During 2013 Woodward Dream Cruise

Linking AIDS awareness with the Motor City's long love affair with the Chevrolet Corvette, the Michael Chetcuti Foundation and General Motors are partnering with AIDS Walk Detroit for a special Woodward Dream Cruise fundraising event.

On Aug. 15, Michael Chetcuti and Kyle Evans will open their famous home in downtown Royal Oak to AIDS Walk Detroit for a pre-Dream Cruise cocktail party and benefit. The Corvette-themed party will feature the new 2014 Corvette C7 Stingray, a 1978 Corvette Aero Coupe Concept and two 1966 Corvettes restored and refurbished by Classic Design Concepts.

Tickets are \$250 per person. Please contact Christopher Keyes at 248-399-

9255 or email events@aidswalkdetroit.org.

"This is a great event that supports two great passions of mine and Kyle Evans'," said Michael Chetcuti. "We support AIDS Walk Detroit and the great work that they do, and we love classic automobiles - especially American-made cars."

"We thank General Motors for supporting this event by letting us display these vehicles," Chetcuti added. "The Corvette is an icon of American industry and Detroit culture. Let's have fun, celebrate Detroit and raise funds and awareness for a great charity that combats AIDS. Drive local. We do."

The Chetcuti-Evans house is a sprawling, modernist/automotive themed home in a converted industrial building. The open

floor plan joins indoors and out over two floors and envelops an enclosed courtyard with a fountain. Typically there are several classic cars on the property with up to two vehicles in the living room.

Virtually every architectural detail in the home was designed and fabricated by Chetcuti and Evans. The home has won several design and community beautification awards; it has been photographed and featured in a number of home and design publications. In September of 2012, Chetcuti and Evans hosted a private fundraising event that featured President Bill Clinton.

To register today for AIDS Walk Detroit, visit aidswalkdetroit.org or call 248-399-9255.

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For additional information contact Lydia Ahlum Hanson, Health and Wellness Manager at LHanson@GoAffirmations.org or (248) 677-7223.

Toll-Free Helpline: 1 (800) 398-GAYS (4297)

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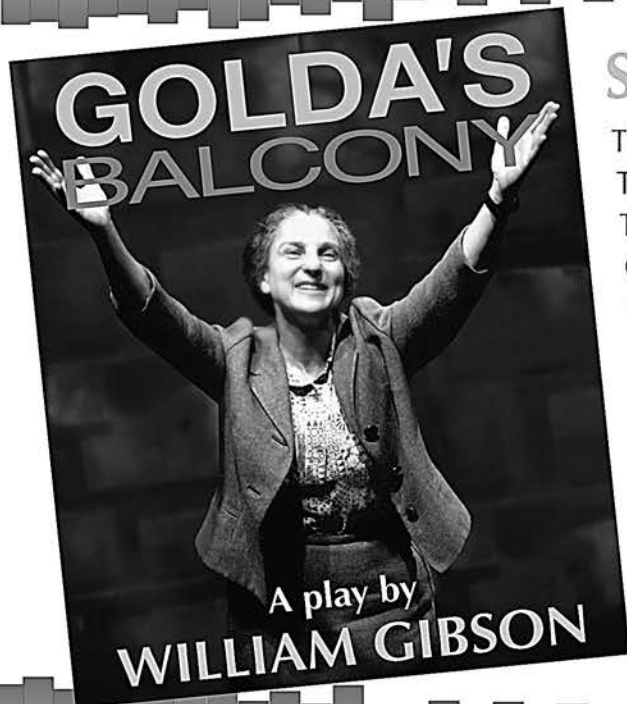
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"Tovah Feldshuh's marvelous, skillful portrayal of the indomitable Golda Meir will remain in your mind long after the curtain has come down!"

— Associated Press



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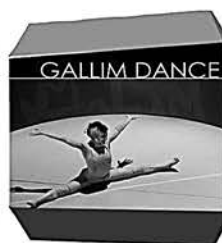
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Gallim Dance "Sit, Kneel, Stand"
 Wednesday, March 12
 7:30 p.m.
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Sara Catheryn Wolf, Richard Redman and Lynda Berge in "The Merry Wives of Windsor." Photo: Water Works Theatre

Making Merry Outdoors With The Bard

BY MARTIN F. KOHN

The first word in "The Merry Wives of Windsor" is "merry" (OK, technically it's "the," but come on) and Paul Hopper's Water Works Theatre production never loses sight of that.

Shakespeare's tale of two women who employ inventive pranks to give Sir John Falstaff his comeuppance receives a staging that's pretty inventive itself, beginning with the premise that somewhere Down South sometime in the 1800s a troupe of actors arrives at a barn to put on a show.

And arrive they do, whooping and stomping down the outdoor aisles with guitars, banjo, mandolin, washboard and harmonica and singing "Jimmy Crack Corn and I Don't Care." We know they're down south by their accents.

They get right down to Shakespeare after that, with some lively directorial touches, and "The Merry Wives of Windsor" entertains pretty much as it has for the last 400 years. The main plot – there are subplots numerous but negligible (blame the author) – involves the plump and dissolute Falstaff

REVIEW

The Merry Wives of Windsor

Water Works Theatre Company at Starr Jaycee Park, 1301 W. 13 Mile Road, Royal Oak. 8 p.m. Thursday – Saturday and 5 p.m. Sunday through Aug. 11. 2 hours, 30 minutes. \$20. 248-399-3727.
www.Waterworkstheatre.com

who, finding himself low on funds and fancying himself a ladies' man, aims to address both issues by seducing a couple of rich married women, Mistress Page and Mistress Ford. They, being (A) virtuous and (B) no fools, have other plans.

Merry they are, but any production of "Merry Wives" depends upon its Falstaff, and they've got a good one in Richard Redman. He's got the heft for the part, and he locates the character's essential magic: Falstaff is full of himself, behaves scandalously and doesn't seem to treat anyone with respect but we like him anyway.

Sara Catheryn Wolf (Mistress Page)

and Lynda Berge (Mistress Ford) take obvious delight in their efforts to give Falstaff what he's got coming, gleefully overacting when they want a hidden Falstaff to "overhear" them, innocently flipping their fans when jealous Mr. Ford (Peter Prouty) thinks they're up to something.

Prouty and Tobin Hissong are a nicely delineated study in contrasts as the loudmouth Mr. Ford, pathologically mistrustful of his innocent wife, and the genial, unruffled Mr. Page, justifiably confident of his wife's fidelity.

Directorially, Hopper comes up with some superb bits of business. In one scene, the character Dr. Caius (Chris Mick) writes a note with a quill pen using the back of his servant (Alastar Dimitrie) as a desk; for ink, Mick pokes Dimitrie's finger with the quill to draw blood; long after the letter is completed, Dimitrie intermittently sucks his wounded finger.

And the way a few crates, a couple of umbrellas, a horse collar and a handful of incidental actors become a moving tableau of a buggy ride is better seen than described.

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JTCC To Host Golf Outing Fundraiser

The Jim Toy Community Center, or JTCC, is fighting for "Equality in Michigan" with a golf outing at the end of the month. Proceeds from their first ever golf outing will go toward their continued fight for equal rights in the state of Michigan. Finishing out the last

month of "Pride Season," JTCC will also continue to play host to their various other activities. Weekly and monthly events include Lezread, a lesbian book club, as well as support groups for various forms of addiction.

JTCC is a resource for the gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer and allied residents of Ann Arbor, Ypsilanti and greater Washtenaw County. The center is named for Jim Toy, the first openly out

queer in Michigan and an active member of LGBT politics in Washtenaw county.

The golf outing will begin at 8:30 a.m. on Aug. 24 at Fox Hills Golf Club, 8769 North Territorial Road in Plymouth. A ball scramble will start the event. The outing costs \$99 per golfer, and tickets are available through the Jim Toy Community Center website with PayPal. For more information, visit www.jimtoycenter.org.

Mother, Son To Sing, Sign Books In Ann Arbor

Author Susie Duncan Sexton will read from her book "Secrets of an Old Typewriter" as part of the Ann Arbor Arts and Culture Series from 1-2:30 p.m. on Sept. 15. She will be joined by son Roy Sexton who, accompanied by pianist Rebecca Biber, will offer a selection of his mom's favorite show tunes. This presentation will be held at the Ann Arbor Senior Center at 1320 Baldwin Avenue, \$5 general admission or \$4 for guests 60 years and older. To reserve your tickets, please call 734-794-6250.

Anyone who has ever lived in a small town certainly knows that secrets are sometimes not so secret. Susie Duncan Sexton has tickled the keys of her trusty old typewriter for nearly five decades,

and now that venerable machine is ready to reveal its secrets. "Secrets of an Old Typewriter" may be about small-town life, but the ideas contained within it are expansive.

"My husband and I adore Ann Arbor," says Susie. "I am so jealous that my son gets to live here. This town with its progressive sensibility, thoughtful approach to life, and love of nature and animals is my ideal, so I can't begin to describe how honored it is for this Hoosier to be invited to participate in this Arts and Culture program.

Susie will have copies of her book on hand to sell and autograph. In a recent review of "Secrets" by fellow author Kandy Kay Scaramuzzo ("Pie: An Old Brown Horse"), Scaramuzzo writes, "This book is a true testament to what it's like to live in a small town. The author attacks ...with gusto."

Ann Arbor/Saline-resident Roy Sexton, Susie Duncan Sexton's son, is known throughout Michigan for his cabaret style performances. Roy will be accompanied by music director and local teacher Rebecca Biber, who just completed a stint helming the music duties for "Little Me." She has worked extensively with other local theatre groups as well, including Spotlight Players, Farmington Players and Encore Theatre. She holds degrees from The University of Michigan.

Susie Duncan Sexton grew up in the very small town of Columbia City, Ind. She currently writes monthly columns "Old Type Writer" for a popular local blog "Talk of the Town"; she also writes "Homeward Angle" for the "Columbia City Post and Mail" newspaper.

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► Happenings

Continued from p.22

Women's Social Group 7 p.m. The Lesbian and Gay Community Network, 343 Atlas Ave. SE, **Grand Rapids**. 616-458-3511. Grlgbt.org/calendar/

Tea & Talk 8 p.m. Open discussion with free tea and treats. Triple Goddess New Age Bookstore, 1824 E. Michigan Ave., **Lansing**. 517-347-2112. triplegoddessbookstore.net

Wednesday, Aug. 14

Jam Sessions 3 p.m. Bi-weekly support group for youth (13-24) years of age living with HIV. The Horizons Project (WSU School of Medicine/Children's Hospital of Michigan), 3127 E. Canfield, **Detroit**. 313-966-2589.

Beloved Hearts Grief Support Group 6:30 p.m. GOAL, 515 S. Washington Ave., **Royal Oak**. 248-515-2551. getoutandlive.me

Arcus Youth Group 7 p.m. The Network, 343 Atlas Ave. SE, **Grand Rapids**. 616-458-3511. Grlgbt.org

Significant Other Support 7 p.m. Discussion and support group for friends and loved ones of LGBT. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. goaffirmations.org

Thursday, Aug. 15

Free to be Me 9 a.m. AIDS Partnership Michigan, 2751 E. Jefferson Ave., Number 301, **Detroit**. 313-446-9836.

Moms in Motion 11 a.m. Bi-weekly support group for parents living with HIV. DMC/AIDS Partnership Michigan, 471 St. Antoine, **Detroit**. 313-993-3444.

The Parent Network 6 p.m. This group aims to assist parents in understanding their child's identity, while also giving parents the opportunity to socialize with other adults who have LGBT children KGLRC, 629 Pioneer St., **Kalamazoo**. 269-349-4234. Kglrc.org

Detroit Gay Men's Book Club 7 p.m. This is a social group meant to stimulate conversations, intelligent dialogue and meaningful friendships through reading a variety of books, which may or may not be gay themed or by gay authors. This club is for gay men, in and around Detroit. First meeting: Detroit Gay Men's Book Club, 4501 Woodward Ave. #105, **Detroit**. Meetup.com/Detroit-Gay-Mens-Book-Club

Men's Film Group 7 p.m. Social group to meet and discuss films of interest to men. Meets every Thursday at Affirmations. 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

MUSIC & MORE

CLASSICAL

Grand Rapids Art Museum "Piano Music" Museum Lobby. Grand Rapids Art Museum, 101 Monroe Center, Grand Rapids. May 3 - Sep. 27. 616-831-1000. artmuseumgr.org

Kerrytown Concert House "Louis Nagel" A lecture and concert of Mozart and Debussy. Piano. Tickets: \$5-30. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. 4 p.m. Aug. 10. 734-763-4186. kerrytownconcerthouse.com

CONCERTS

Black Iris Booking "Summer Slaughter" Animals As Leaders, Periphery, Norma Jean, Cattle Decapitation, The Ocean, Revocation, Aeon, Rings of Saturn, Thy Art is Murder ... and More. All ages. Tickets: \$25-30. The Magic Stick, 4120 Woodward Ave., **Detroit**. 2 p.m. Aug. 11. 313-833-9700. majesticdetroit.com

Blind Pig "Chris Pureka with Emy Reynolds Band" 18+. Tickets: \$10. Blind Pig, 208 S. First St. Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Aug. 14. 734-996-8555. Blindpigmusic.com

City of Birmingham "LEGEND The Band" Part of the 2013 In the Park Summer Concert series. Shain Park, Birmingham. 7 p.m. Aug. 14. bhmgov.org/summerconcerts

DTE Energy Music Theatre "Backstreet Boys" 18+. Tickets: \$10. Blind Pig, 208 S. First St. Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Aug. 14. 734-996-8555. Blindpigmusic.com

Grand Rapids Art Museum "An Dro" Celtic/World beat. Part of GRAM on the Green outdoor summer music series. Dancing, fitness, sketching and more prior to show. Free. Grand Rapids Art Museum, 101 Monroe Center, Grand Rapids. 5 p.m. Aug. 9. 616-831-1000. artmuseumgr.org

Kerrytown Concert House "Louis Nagel" Music of Mozart and Debussy. Piano. Tickets: \$10-30. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. 4 p.m. Aug. 11. 734-763-4186. kerrytownconcerthouse.com

Kerrytown Concert House "Kathy Kosins - Live by Request" Kathy Kosins, vocals. Cliff Monear, piano. Marion Hayden, bass. Scott Krezter, drums. Tickets: \$10-30. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Aug. 10. 734-763-4186. kerrytownconcerthouse.com

MSU Museum "Great Lakes Folk Festival" Performance schedule to be set in July. Downtown East Lansing, East Lansing. Aug. 9 - Aug. 11. museum.msu.edu/index.php?node=986

Olympia Entertainment "Lil Wayne" *2013 America's Most Wanted Music Festival. "

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Olympia Entertainment "Scott Weiland" Purple at the Core Tour. Tickets: \$28-35. Sound Board, 2901 Grand River Ave., **Detroit**. 8 p.m. Aug. 9. 800-745-3000. Olympiaentertainment.com

Royal Oak Music Theatre "Philip H. Anselmo & The Legals" All ages. Tickets: \$25-30. Royal Oak Music Theatre, 318 W. Fourth St., **Royal Oak**. 7:30 p.m. Aug. 9. 248-399-2980. royaloakmusictheatre.com

Saugatuck Center for the Arts "Summer in the Studio: Adrienne & Garrison" Tickets: \$15+. Saugatuck Center for the Arts, 400 Culver St., Saugatuck. 8 p.m. Aug. 12. 269-857-2399. sc4a.org

Stars in the Park "Parrots of the Caribbean" Jimmy Buffet tribute band. Free. Heritage Park Amphitheatre, Farmington Road, Farmington Hills. 7 p.m. Aug. 8. 248-473-1848.

The Ark "Cassie and Maggie MacDonald" Tickets: \$15. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Aug. 12. 734-761-1800. theark.org

The Magic Bag "Lez Zeppelin" Tickets: \$20. The Magic Bag, 22920 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Aug. 9 - Aug. 10. 248-544-3030. www.themagicbag.com

The Majestic "Andrew Stockdale (of Wolfmother)" Tickets: \$15. 4120 Woodward Ave., **Detroit**. 7 p.m. Aug. 12. 313-833-9700. Majesticdetroit.com

The Palette "Happy Hour". Flint Institute of Arts, 1120 E. Kearsley St., Flint. May 9 - Sep. 26. 810-234-1695.

THEATER

CIVIC/COMMUNITY THEATER

42nd Street \$15-\$35. The Crosswell, 129 E. Maumee St., **Adrian**. Through Aug. 11. 517-264-SHOW. crosswell.org

A Strange Series of Unexpected Events \$5. The Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill Road, **Canton**. 7:30 p.m. Aug. 16. 734-394-5300. Canton-mi.org/villagetheater

Father Bingo \$13-15. Spotlight Still Got It Players at The Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill Road, **Canton**. Aug. 21 - 25. 734-394-5300. Canton-mi.org/villagetheater

Rumors \$10-12. August Theater Company at Orchard Lake Community Church, 5171 Orchard Lake Road, **Orchard Lake**. Aug. 9 - 11. Augusttheater.webs.

See Happenings, page 32



Editor's Pick

All-girl band based out of New York City, Lez Zeppelin brings their gender-bending tribute act to Ferndale this weekend. Once called "the most powerful all-female band in rock history" by SPIN Magazine, the group performs Led Zeppelin hits like "You Shook Me," "Dazed and Confused," and "Whole Lotta Love."

Current members Steph Paynes, Leese Harrington-Squyres, Megan Thomas and Shannon Conley have reached ears as far as Japan with their electrifying performances. Their work has even been produced by Eddie Kramer, the same sound engineer who worked with Led Zeppelin.

Lez Zeppelin performs at 8 p.m. Friday, Aug. 9 and Saturday, Aug. 10 at The Magic Bag, 22920 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Tickets are \$20. For more information, call 248-544-3030 or visit www.themagicbag.com.

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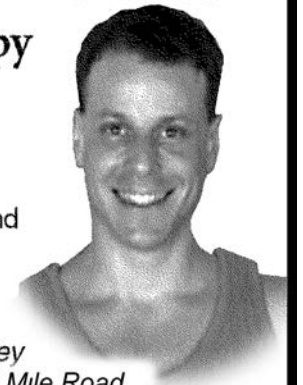
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Solution to puzzle from page 34

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▶ Happenings

Continued from p. 30

com/about

Will on the Water \$3-7. Enter Stage Right at Palmer Park & Riverview Plaza, Riverview Plaza, St. Clair. Aug. 10 - 11. 810-334-6415. enterstageright.org

PROFESSIONAL

Abracadabra Popcorn Magic Show \$7. Tibbits Popcorn Theatre at Tibbits Summer Theatre, 14 S. Hanchett St., Coldwater. Aug. 9 - 10. 517-278-6029. Tibbits.org

Adult Education \$10. The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Dr., Three Oaks. Aug. 9. 269-756-3879. acorntheater.com

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

Banana for Turtle \$5-10. PuppetART, 25 E. Grand River, Detroit. Through Aug. 17. 313-961-7777. puppetart.org

BoxFest Detroit 2013 \$5-30. BoxFest Detroit at The Elizabeth Theater, 2040 Park Ave., Detroit. Through Aug. 10. boxfestdetroit.com

Broadway in the Box The revue will also participate in Dine & Dash on Aug. 17. \$20; \$45 for Dine & Dash. The Box Theater, 90 Macomb Place, Mount Clemens. 8 p.m. Aug. 16. 586-954-2677. theboxtheater.com

Detroit Improv Festival Festival passes \$45-100. Detroit Improv Festival at various venues, Ferndale. Aug. 7 - 10. detroitimprovfestival.org

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

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

Game Show \$29-42. Mason Street Warehouse at Saugatuck Center for the Arts, 400 Culver St., Saugatuck. Through Aug. 11. 269-857-2399. Sc4a.org

If You Give a Mouse a Cookie \$18. Etico Productions at City Theatre, 2301 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Aug. 23 - 25. 313-471-6611. olympiaentertainment.com

James and the Giant Peach \$12-18. Flint Youth Theatre, 1220 E. Kearsley St., Flint. Through Aug. 11. 810-237-1530. flintyouththeatre.org

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

Les Miserables \$22-\$32. The Encore Rose Theatre Company, 3126 Broad St., Dexter. Through Aug. 18. 734-268-6200. theencoretheatre.org

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

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

Much Ado About Nothing \$8-20. Water Works Theatre Company at Starr Jaycee Park, 1301 W. 13 Mile Road, Royal Oak. Through Aug. 11. 248-399-3727. Waterworkstheatre.com

My Other Voice \$25. AKip Productions at Arthur Miller Theatre within the Walgreen Drama Center, 1226 Murrin, Ann Arbor. Aug. 15 - Sep. 1. 614-832-8304. myothervoice.org

Renegade Theatre Festival Free. Renegade Theatre Festival at various locations around Old Town Lansing. Aug. 15 - 17. renegadetheatrefestival.org

The Stoops to Conquer \$12-36. Michigan Shakespeare Festival at Potter Center's Baughman Theatre on the campus of Jackson Community College, 2111 Emmons Road, Jackson. Through Aug. 11. 517-796-8600. michiganshakespearefestival.com

Shrek the Musical \$35. Barn Theatre, 13351 W. M-96, Augusta. Aug. 6 - 18. 269-731-4121. barntheatre.co

The Foreigner \$10-27. Tibbits Summer Theatre, 14 S. Hanchett St., Coldwater. Aug. 8 - 17. 517-278-6029. tibbits.org

Tuna Does Vegas \$20-25. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. Through Aug. 18. 517-655-SHOW. Williamstontheatre.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

4731 Gallery "Laeruss Show". 4731 Gallery, 4731 Grand River, Detroit. July 20 - Aug. 31.

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

Cranbrook Art Museum "From the Archives" Cranbrook Art Museum, 39221 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. June 14 - Sep. 29. 877-462-7262. Cranbrookartmuseum.org

Detroit Artists Market "Summer Ceramics Market" 4719 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Aug. 2 - Aug. 30. 313-832-8540. Detroitartistsmarket.org

Detroit Artists Market "FIREPOWER Ceramics 2013" 4719 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Aug. 2 - Aug. 30. 313-832-8540. Detroitartistsmarket.org

Detroit Institute of Arts "Mosaics" 2100 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Aug. 1 - Aug. 29. 313-833-7900. dia.org

Downriver Council for the Arts "Gallery Committee Show" 81 Chestnut, Wyandotte. July 31 - Aug. 18. 734-720-0671. Dc4arts.org

Grand Rapids Art Museum "Friday Night Conversations" 101 Monroe Center, Grand Rapids. May 3 - Sep. 27. 616-831-1000. artmuseumgr.org

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

Lawrence Street Gallery "Printmaker X 6" 22620 Woodward Ave. Suite A, Ferndale. July 31 - Aug. 31. 248-544-0394. Lawrencestreetgallery.com

Michigan State University Museum "Michigan and the Civil War" 409 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing. May 4 - Oct. 31. 517-355-7474. museum.msu.edu

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

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

See Art Gallery "O Fortuna" Mark Dancy's newest exhibit. See Art Gallery, 444 W. Willis #111, Detroit. July 13 - Aug. 17. 313-833-9000.

The Henry Ford "Designing Tomorrow: America's World's Fairs of the 1930s" Tickets: \$17+. Members: Free. The Henry Ford, 20900 Oakwood Blvd., Dearborn. May 4 - Sep. 2. 313-982-6001. thehenryford.org

Urban Institute for Contemporary Arts "CHROMA" Features artwork that focuses on color, or the lack of color, as the central element of expression. Two Fulton West, Grand Rapids. May 31 - Aug. 18. Uica.org



Editor's Pick

The Spotlight Still Got It Players is taking a huge risk and gambling they'll be winners!

"Father Bingo," a musical comedy written by Dearborn heights resident Bill Nilsson, is scheduled as the opening production for the group's 2013-14 season. Its world premiere was in 2006 at Detroit's Music Hall, directed by Debbie Lannen and featuring

the Original Vandellas as the Bingo Mamas, followed by a production in Novi. Both times the audiences raved. Lannen is confident the third time will be the charm!

A parish priest fights to save his church and rejuvenate the congregation. A mayor tries to win the hearts of the voters in support of gambling – his idea of the city's winning ticket. A woman searches for the perfect match. And overseeing all of this is the Man Upstairs.

Performances are Aug. 21-25 at Village Theatre at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill Road in Canton 48187. For tickets, call 734-394-5300 or 734-394-5460.

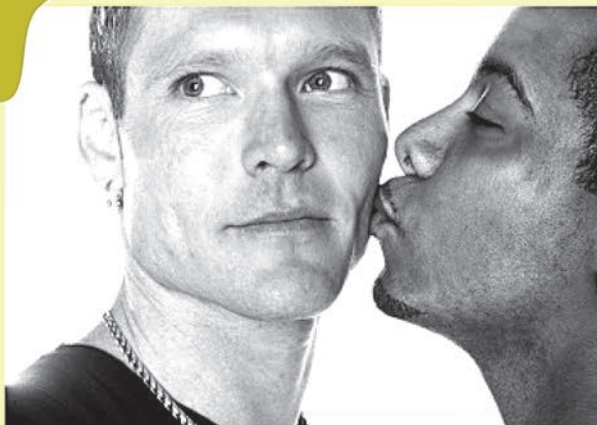
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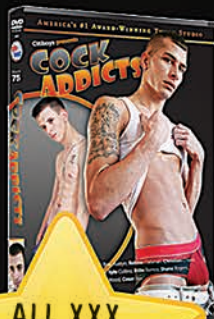
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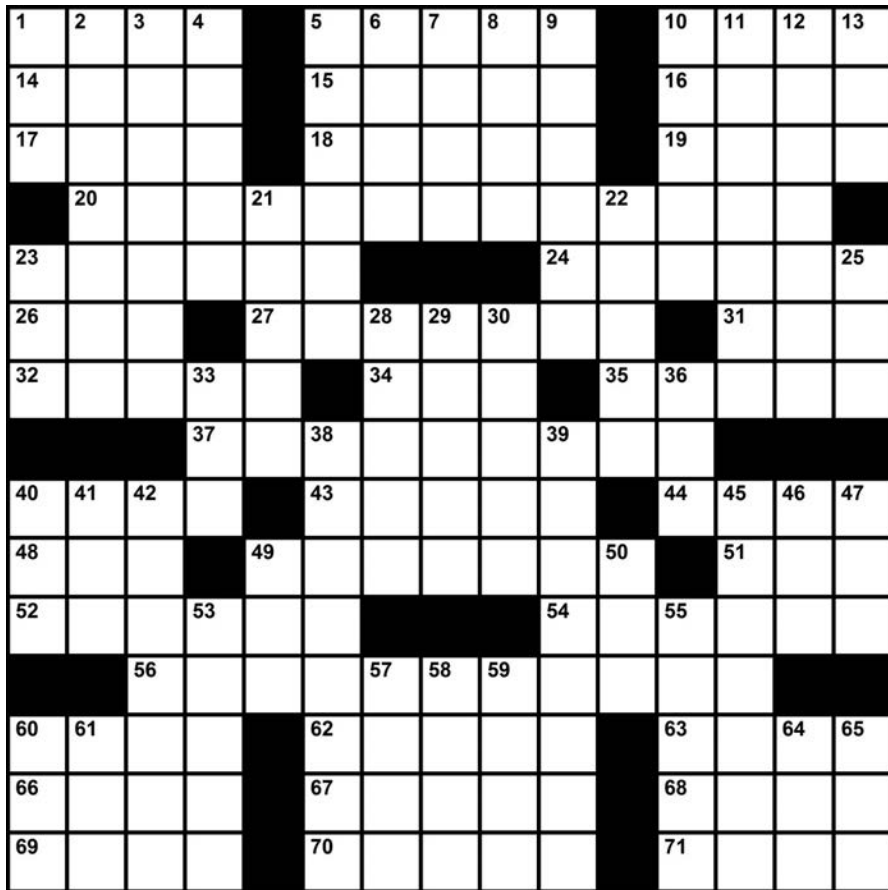
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Summer Hunks



Across

- 1 Israeli author Oz
- 5 Mushroom source
- 10 Greet Pat Robertson
- 14 That's bull, to Frida
- 15 She came between Bess and Jackie
- 16 Hit the ground
- 17 Armchair athlete's channel
- 18 Writer Dykewomon
- 19 "Now ___ me down to sleep ..."
- 20 "Step Up" star
- 23 Flew high
- 24 Murdoch with a flower?
- 26 Lodging place
- 27 Things to consider
- 31 Snaky shape
- 32 Bowling lane button
- 34 Home state of J. Nabors
- 35 Select from the menu
- 37 Captain Kirk portrayer
- 40 Judy Garland concert persona
- 43 Civil War side
- 44 Pink Triangle Press publication
- 48 Game with "Reverse" cards
- 49 Feeler
- 51 One of Lee's men
- 52 Fruit with a peel
- 54 Paths of Uranus and others
- 56 "Man of Steel" star
- 60 Mendicant's self-description?

- 62 Socrates' market
- 63 Seep slowly
- 66 Spot for gay honeymoons
- 67 Celestial ice ball
- 68 Opposed to, to Jethrene Bodine
- 69 Scores for Patty Sheehan
- 70 Remove a slip?
- 71 "Equal justice under law," to homophobes

Down

- 1 Went down on
- 2 George once of San Francisco
- 3 Broadway Annie, and others
- 4 Source of waves at sea
- 5 Changes a bill
- 6 "___ Hai" of "South Pacific"
- 7 Muscat site
- 8 Dynasty long before the Carringtons
- 9 Song about loving yourself?
- 10 Caribbean republic
- 11 Manhandled
- 12 Like the tutees in "Anna and the King"
- 13 Filthy digs
- 21 Like a bottom
- 22 Flaming queen's activity?
- 23 Title for Elton
- 25 Old letters from Russia?
- 28 A stripper takes it off

- 29 De Wolfe of design
- 30 Food fowl
- 33 "The Name of the Rose" writer
- 36 Title for Oedipus
- 38 Emulate George Frenn
- 39 Do pioneer work
- 40 Dupont Circle of D.C., e.g.
- 41 "Put ___ Happy Face"
- 42 Animal painter Rosa
- 45 Torch song threesome
- 46 Living in Fla., perhaps
- 47 Tummy muscles
- 49 Sothern of old TV
- 50 Jackie O.'s second husband
- 53 Sponsorship
- 55 Puff up
- 57 "Son of Frankenstein" character
- 58 Time out?
- 59 Deity on "Xena"
- 60 Shakespeare's Puck, e.g.
- 61 Ewe said it!
- 64 Fly on a guy
- 65 Bowie collaborator

Solution on pg. 31

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