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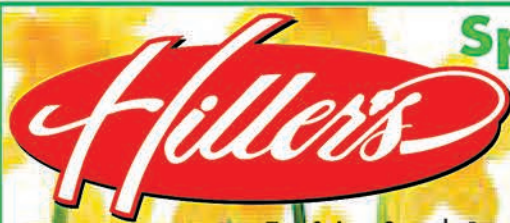
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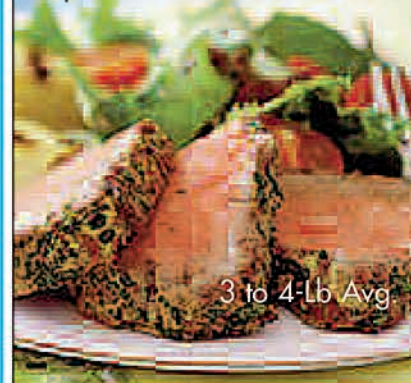
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COVER STORY

14 Spring Home & Garden Guide
Pictured: Tyson Gersh. Photo: Emell Derra Adolphus



“Design really is an opportunity to build a collection of things that chronicle the life that you’ve led, who you’ve loved, who you’ve lost, where you’ve been, what you’ve seen, who you’ve met along the way.”

– Nate Berkus, pg. 14

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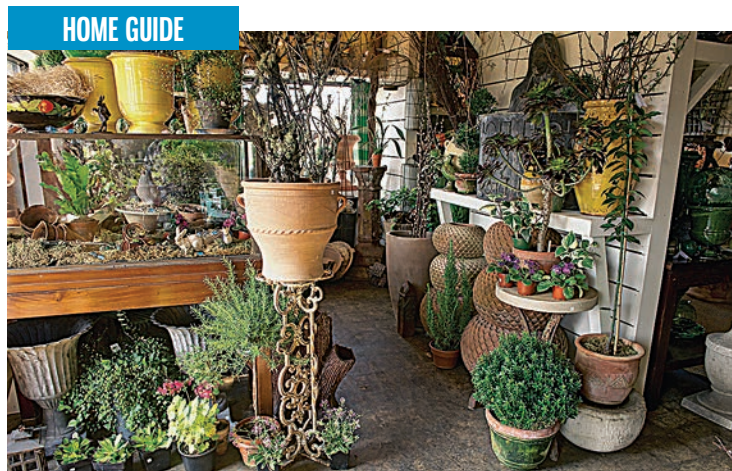
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HOME GUIDE

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BRIEFS

MICHIGAN

MI AG, Lawyers Disagree Over Same-Sex Marriage Appeal Path

(AP) - Attorneys who persuaded a judge to overturn Michigan's ban on gay marriage are opposing the state's request to have an entire appeals court take the case.

They want the case to move quickly, but they say the Cincinnati-based court should stick to its practice of assigning cases to a three-judge panel.

A Detroit federal judge in March threw out Michigan's ban on gay marriage. Attorney General Bill Schuette believes the entire 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals should handle the appeal to save time and money.

But it's rare for the whole appeals court to take any case.

More than 300 same-sex couples were married a day after the gay marriage ban was overturned by Judge Bernard Friedman. The appeals court subsequently suspended Friedman's decision during the appeal process.

ANN ARBOR

Inclusive Justice Conference Coming Up

The annual Inclusive Justice Conference will be held May 10 at the Bethlehem UCC in Ann Arbor. The keynote speaker will be Bishop Allyson Abrams, the first female pastor of Zion Progressive Baptist Church in Detroit, who resigned after telling her congregation that she is a lesbian and marrying her partner.

Along with Bishop Abrams, there will be workshops and sessions led by Emily Dievendorf, executive director of Equality Michigan, Kevin Hogan, LGBT Project Administrator with the Michigan Roundtable, Jan Stevenson, co-publisher of PrideSource and BTL, Dr. Judith Kovach, and Director of Michigan Project for Informed Public Policy (MPIPP)

Please register at <https://sites.google.com/a/inclusivejustice.org/inclusive-justice/home/register>

SOUTHFIELD

Modern Works Of Art For Sale This Weekend

The Michigan Modernism Exposition comes to Southfield this weekend, featuring works of art produced by the 20th century's greatest masters.

Considered one of the top shows in the country to feature 20th century design, the expo will feature up to fifty of the nation's Modernism merchants. Pieces that will be offered include works by Frank Lloyd Wright, Salvador Dali and Louis Comfort Tiffany among many more. Art Deco, Art Nouveau, Prairie School, Arts and Crafts, Surrealistic and Neo-Classical are some of the movements that can be seen the event. Industrial design, streamline and movements from the 50s, 60s and 70s will also be featured.

A gala preview for the event begins at 7 p.m. on Friday, April 25, benefitting the Detroit Area Deco Society. The event features live music, hors d'oeuvres, wine, cash bar, fashion show and more. Tickets are \$35-65.

The Michigan Modernism Exposition runs from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, April 25 and noon to 5 p.m. on Sunday, April 27. The expo will be at the Southfield Municipal Complex, 26000 Evergreen Road, Southfield. Tickets for the expo are \$10-12 and free for children 12 and younger. Call 247-582-3326 or visit www.daads.org for tickets, information and more.

By Shelby Clark Petkus

Check out BTL's calendar at www.pridesource.com/calendar.html for more events this weekend.

Motor City Pride's Line-Up Includes 'Glee' Star, Erasure's Andy Bell

Annual Detroit Festival Features Music, Food And Vendors June 7-8

BY BTL STAFF

DETROIT - The Motor City Pride Festival and Parade is set for Saturday, June 7 and Sunday, June 8. Held at Detroit's waterfront Hart Plaza, the annual event attracts tens of thousands of attendees to the live music, DJs, vendors and food. The festival is the largest LGBT celebration in Michigan.

Emily Dievendorf, executive director of Equality Michigan, organizers of the event noted, "The momentum is incredible right now, but we are hoping the perception of inevitability doesn't lead to a lack of action."

Equality Michigan will be working to sign up more people during the two-day gathering to build support not only for same-sex marriage, but to educate the public about the need to amend the state's Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act to include sexual orientation and gender identity to the list of protected classes that experience discrimination in the workplace, housing and public accommodations.

The festival is poised to attract more attendees this year because of the stellar music line-up. Featured headliners include Andy Bell (of Erasure), Alex Newell, who plays Unique in the TV series "Glee", and musical performer and Tunde Olaniran, one of Michigan's fastest rising musicians. The rest of the line-up features some of the state's best DJs, bands and performers.

The move to Hart Plaza four years ago allowed the two-day event to expand and offer more programming. Five performance areas, an expanded family area, a larger parade, food and retail vendors provide attendees with activities and entertainment throughout the weekend. Daily admission is \$5 for those 21 and over, no charge for those under 21.

Since it began as a pride march 42 years ago in response to the now historic Stonewall Riots in NYC, the festival has evolved into a culturally significant affair. This year's celebration of community is especially important in raising awareness about LGBTQ issues and providing a safe space for members of the community.

The Parade is scheduled for 11 a.m.



Andy Bell of Erasure fame will be performing at this year's Motor City Pride

Sunday, June 8. Visit www.motorcitypride.org for map, music lineup and additional information.

More information online

Motor City Pride is a volunteer-driven event and a project of Equality Michigan. The organization has worked for over 20 years to achieve full equality and respect for all people in Michigan regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression. For more information visit online www.equalitymi.org Motor City Pride is sponsored by the following companies that support the goal to build an inclusive community that is free of violence, intimidation and discrimination. Current sponsors include: Five-15, Motor City Casino Hotel, Fifth Third Bank, Delta Airlines, Netco, Ford Motor Company, General Motors, Chrysler, Comerica Bank, Kroger, Great Lakes Distributing, Menjo's, Gigi's, TD Bank, Pride Source Media/BTL, Metra Magazine, Flame Magazine, Hott Magazine and AMP Radio.



"Glee" star Alex Newell will be performing at this year's Motor City Pride

INFO

Motor City Pride
>> www.motorcitypride.org

Equality Michigan
>> www.equalitymi.org

The DATC Presents 'The Laramie Project'

Talk-Back April 25 To Feature Susan Burk Of The Matthew Shepard Foundation

BY BTL STAFF

FERNDALE – On Oct. 7, 1998, Matthew Shepard, a young student attending the University of Wyoming, was abducted by two men, tied to a fence, tortured and left for dead in a remote location on the outskirts of Laramie, Wyoming. This horrific event spurred one of the most covered news stories involving hate crimes in American History.

Moisés Kaufman and the members of Tectonic Theatre Project traveled to Laramie a month after the occurrence and conducted over 200 interviews over a span of 18 months with members of the local community. They compiled those interviews and made them into what would become "The Laramie Project."

The Detroit Actor's Theatre Company will present "The Laramie Project" April 24-26 at the Social Hall Theatre inside the Ferndale United Methodist Church, 22331 Woodward Avenue, Ferndale. Performance times are 8 p.m. Thursday and



The cast of "The Laramie Project." Photo: The Detroit Actor's Theatre Company

Matthew's story created a dialogue that has given victims of hate-crimes a voice that would have otherwise fallen on deaf ears.

Saturday, and 7:30 p.m. Friday.

Over the last 15 years, Matthews' story has been a major catalyst in the advancement of anti-hate crime legislation and LGBT rights in the U.S. The creation of anti-bullying campaigns and Gay- Straight Alliance groups in high schools across the country can be directly linked to the impact that The Laramie Project has had on youth and communities. "The

SHOWTIMES

Tickets on Thursday and Saturday are \$15 for adults and \$10 for students; and on Friday \$20 for adults and \$15 for students and seniors.

Tickets are available for purchase at www.thedatc.org or showtix4u.com

Laramie Project" has been performed thousands of times both in the United States and worldwide. All performances are dedicated to the advancement of cultural, racial and gender acceptance.

Matthew's story created a dialogue that has given victims of hate-crimes a voice that would have otherwise fallen on deaf ears. It has inspired a generation to stand up for themselves, hoping that one day, our world won't look down on people

because of their sexual orientation, race, gender, or religious affiliation.

In addition to the production, The Detroit Actor's Theatre Company is proud to host Susan Burk, programs director of The Matthew Shepard Foundation. Susan was the NBC affiliate executive producer and news anchor in Wyoming at the time of Matthew Shepard's murder. She will be speaking and leading a talk-back event after the performance on Friday, April 25.

MAY 30-JUNE 1

Summer Women's Weekend

Comedian Suzanne Westenhoefer



FRIDAY, MAY 30
9PM
Suzanne Westenhoefer in a word: Candid. She's refreshingly candid, disturbingly candid and oh-my-god-she-just-said-that candid. Happily, she's funny, too. Her openness blazed a trail of firsts: First openly lesbian comedian with an HBO special; First openly lesbian comedian on "Late Night with David Letterman."



Sami Grisafe

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Detroit Fashion Designer DL Perrett Presents Neon Valley Streets Event

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

DETROIT – It's not uncommon for soul singers to have gotten their start in the church. Apparently it's a breeding ground for fashion designers as well.

"I got into fashion, honestly, from designing choir robes," said Detroit designer DL Perrett. "I grew up in church and I started drawing choir robes and redesigning those. From there people started picking up my designs. Someone asked me to design their prom dress and it just grew."

Perrett went on to attend the International Academy of Design and Technology in Troy and later the Art Institute of Chicago.

"I have some traditional background and education, but a lot of it is self-taught," Perrett said.

It's the self-taught side of him that's slightly rebellious.

"My aesthetic is pretty edgy," said Perrett. "I'm refined in a way also, so you could say regal and refined at the same time. I was actually having this conversation with a friend the other day and my artistry is formed from rebelling against all of the norms. That's really where



Some of the new clothing that will be featured in DL Perrett's upcoming show. BTL photo: Jason A. Michael

once. It gives you more than just a platform runway 10-minute walk. It allows me to give you a full experience."

While it may be "edgy" and "refined," there's no denying that Perrett's work is playful as well.

"This show allowed me to play on my childhood," he said. "Remembering the ice cream truck coming down the street and my neighbors; just the smell of fresh flowers in the garden and fresh cut grass. It allowed me to just go there to this daydream state and I was able to bring it to life in this event."

When he's not busy designing or painting, Perrett is passionate about his work in HIV prevention. He started working for Mpowerment Detroit and today works for the Horizons Project.

"The fact that my community is largely affected – there's a lot being done but there's not a lot changing," said Perrett. "It just makes no sense for me not to be here."

SAVE THE DATE

Perrett will present Neon Valley Streets on Saturday, April 26th. The event is from 6-9 p.m. with a VIP reception beginning at 5 p.m. Location is 4719 Mt. Elliott St. in the historical Black Bottom area. Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$30 for the VIP reception. To purchase tickets, visit >> www.dlperrettneonvalleystreets.eventbrite.com.

“I wouldn't exactly call this a line, I'd call this a showcase of what I'm capable of.”

– Designer DL Perrett on his upcoming show

my aesthetic evolved from.”

In his second show, Perrett is presenting a collection he calls Neon Valley Streets.

"I wouldn't exactly call this a line, I'd call this a showcase of what I'm capable of," Perrett said. "I started my career in Chicago and made a name for myself there and this is to show Detroit what I'm capable of as an artist. It's like a full compilation of my experiences starting from choir robes all the way to now.

"Not only do I design clothing but I also paint," Perrett continued. "I've done a lot of walls and murals in the city and this show allows me to showcase all of those things at



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BRIEFS

CLEVELAND

Taxi Drivers Take Issue With Gay Games Placards

(AP) - Some taxi drivers who work at the Cleveland airport say they won't drive cabs with rooftop placards advertising the upcoming Gay Games.

Cleveland Hopkins International Airport has released a statement saying two of the three taxi companies operating there were informed by several drivers that they will no longer participate in the airport's dedicated cab program.

The (Cleveland) Plain Dealer reports that the drivers cited religious reasons.

The airport said plans are in the works to replace the drivers in the 75-cab Hopkins fleet.

Patrick Keenan, general manager of Americab, says the company is supportive of the games and doesn't share the views of the few drivers.

About 10,000 athletes are expected to participate in the Gay Games in Cleveland Aug. 9-16.

WASHINGTON DC

Log Cabin Gets Major Boost

A trade group that represents such consumer technology giants as Google, Apple, and Microsoft announced it will provide "financial support" to the national Log Cabin Republicans. Consumer Electronics Association (CEA) President Gary Shapiro said he was "very proud of CEA's groundbreaking financial support" for Log Cabin. "Our visible announcement," said Shapiro, "proves that trade associations want lawmakers and policies that recognize the economic value of hiring the best and brightest minds, regardless of sexual orientation." Shapiro did not disclose how much financial support CEA is giving Log Cabin or for how long. Log Cabin Executive Director Gregory Angelo said it was "great news" for his group, but he declined to discuss the numbers.

- Keen News Service

WASHINGTON DC

Milk Stamp Unveiled

The U.S. Postal Service revealed its design for the "forever" stamp honoring openly gay San Francisco Supervisor Harvey Milk Monday. The stamp includes a familiar close-up photo of Milk with a strip of rainbow colors in the top left-hand corner, along with his name across the top. The stamp will be officially recognized in a first-day-of-issue ceremony at the White House May 22. - Keen News Service

PENNSYLVANIA

Rushing Along With Five Lawsuits

Keen News Service - Lawyers pressing one of five lawsuits against Pennsylvania's ban on same-sex couples marrying have asked a federal judge in Harrisburg to forego a trial and, instead, make a decision based on briefs. The ACLU organized the lawsuit *Whitewood v. Wolf* on behalf of 11 couples who want to marry in Pennsylvania or have their marriage licenses from another state accepted by Pennsylvania. The ACLU said a trial became unnecessary after the state indicated it would call no witnesses to defend the ban. The state is not contesting the request for a decision based on the briefs and final briefs are due May 12, says the ACLU. - Keen News Service

Cicilline Meets In Ukraine

Openly gay U.S. Rep. David Cicilline (D-R.I.s.) is one of eight members of the House Foreign Relations Committee in Ukraine to show U.S. support for Ukraine's effort to remain independent of Russia. Cicilline and the others met with Vice President Joe Biden April 21 to discuss unrest in the region. - Keen News Service

Judge Takes Up Ban On Domestic Partner Benefits

BY ED WHITE

DETROIT (AP) - A ban on benefits for domestic partners in Michigan public schools and local governments might not save much money, but that's not a reason to throw out the law, a lawyer for the state told a federal judge Tuesday.

U.S. District Judge David Lawson is considering whether to overturn the 2011 law as an unconstitutional attack on gays and lesbians. He stopped it with an injunction last summer after finding that opponents' arguments were credible.

The law, signed by Gov. Rick Snyder, prevents public schools and local governments from offering benefits to unmarried partners of employees, whether homosexual or heterosexual. Supporters insist it was aimed at saving money, not punishing gays and lesbians.

Critics, however, insist that the law in practice hurts gays and lesbians almost exclusively.

Before the law took effect, a handful of school districts offered health insurance

to domestic partners, along with Ingham and Washtenaw counties and the cities of Ann Arbor, East Lansing and Kalamazoo, according to the American Civil Liberties Union.

Ingham County said the cost added up

If gay marriage were to be legalized in Michigan, the lawsuit challenging the ban on same-sex benefits likely would become moot.

to just \$16,157 in 2012, or 0.2 percent of what was spent for health coverage for all county employees and their families.

Any savings tied to the law "may be small but it doesn't matter if it's large or small. It's a savings," Assistant Attorney General Mike Murphy told the judge. "What may be small today may be significant tomorrow."

A law can be unfair to a group of people but still be constitutional, Murphy

said.

John Knight of the ACLU, however, said there was no rational basis for Michigan to stop local governments from voluntarily offering the benefits.

"It denied access to all same-sex domestic partners, who could not marry," he said.

Lawson signaled last year that he's troubled by the law. When he ordered an injunction, he compared the state's defense of the law to "a five-week-old, unrefrigerated dead fish."

Separately, Michigan's ban on gay marriage has been overturned in a case before another judge. The state is asking Lawson to put his case on hold until the gay marriage dispute is settled by higher courts.

Lawson said he would respond soon. If gay marriage were to be legalized in Michigan, the lawsuit challenging the ban on same-sex benefits likely would become moot.

Judge Stays Most Of Ohio Gay Marriage Ruling

BY AMANDA LEE MYERS

CINCINNATI (AP) - Ohio officials must immediately recognize the same-sex marriages of four couples who sued over the state's gay marriage ban, a federal judge said Wednesday, while staying the broader effects of his ruling to avoid "premature celebration and confusion" in case it's overturned on appeal.

Judge Timothy Black stayed his ruling ordering Ohio to recognize the marriages of gay couples who wed in other states pending appeal in the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati. The appeals process likely will take months.

Had Black not issued the stay, all married gay couples living in Ohio would have been able to immediately begin obtaining the same benefits as any other married couple in the state, including property rights and the right to make some medical decisions for each other.

Black said the stay does not apply to the four couples who filed the February lawsuit that led to the court case and ordered Ohio to immediately list both spouses in each relationship as parents on their children's birth certificates.

In explaining the stay, Black said that although he doesn't think the state's appeal will succeed, there is still a

chance the 6th Circuit could overturn his decision.

"The court recognizes that recognition of same-sex marriages is a hotly contested issue in the contemporary legal landscape, and, if (the) appeal is ultimately successful, the absence of a stay ... is likely to lead to confusion, potential inequity and high costs," Black said. "Premature celebration and confusion do not serve anyone's best interests."

In a court filing arguing for a stay, attorneys for the state did not contest Black's stated inclination to allow the four couples to both be listed on their children's birth certificates.

Dan Tierney, a spokesman for the Ohio Attorney General's Office, said that state's attorneys feel Black's stay is appropriate but declined to comment further.

Al Gerhardstein, the Cincinnati civil rights attorney who represents the four couples in the lawsuit and argued against a stay of any kind, said in a statement Wednesday that "at least for these four couples, the Constitution stands on the side of love."

"The implementation of same-sex marriage recognition has started and we are all very excited," he said. "We will try and expedite the appeals process so

full marriage recognition for all same-sex couples does not trail too far behind."

Three of the four couples who filed the lawsuit live in the Cincinnati area. One spouse in each relationship is pregnant and due to give birth this summer. The fourth couple lives in New York City but adopted a child from Ohio.

In Monday's ruling, Black said the state's refusal to recognize out-of-state gay marriage is a violation of constitutional rights and "unenforceable in all circumstances."

"The record before this court ... is staggeringly devoid of any legitimate justification for the state's ongoing arbitrary discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation," Black wrote.

Including Black, eight federal judges have issued pro-gay-marriage rulings since the Supreme Court's decision last June that struck down part of the federal anti-gay marriage law. All but one of those rulings has been stayed pending appeal.

Although Black's order does not force Ohio to allow gay marriages to be performed in the state, Gerhardstein said he was planning to file a lawsuit in the next couple of weeks seeking such a ruling.

Jim Toy Center To Honor Congressman Dingell

BY SHELBY CLARK PETKUS

The Jim Toy Community Center of Ann Arbor will host their Second Annual Jim Toy Birthday Bash on Friday, April 25 at Arbor Brewing Microbrewery in Ypsilanti (formerly Corner Brewery). The event will honor Congressman John D. Dingell.

The event will feature cupcakes, raffles, door prizes, entertainment and more. A cash bar featuring beer and wine will also be available.

JTCC offers LGBT services and support to all of Washtenaw county in addition to hosting a variety of groups and events throughout the year. The community center chose to honor Congressman Dingell, who announced he will not be seeking re-election for a 30th term.

Dingell is currently the longest serving member of Congress with 58 years of public service. The Democrat and longtime member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee has also served as longest serving Dean of the U.S. House of Representatives and Dean of the Michigan Congressional Delegation. The congressman has supported LGBT rights in the political sphere, voting no on constitutional amendments to ban gay marriage, gay adoptions in DC and voted yes on prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation.

JTCC is looking for sponsors and supporters of the event at Arbor Brewing Company. ABC



US Cong. John D. Dingell

has been serving craft beer since 1995, using local goods and ingredients in its food and ales. ABC has even expanded into India, where they've produced craft beer in Bangalore. Some of the brewery's more popular beers include Mackinac Island Fudge Stout and ABC Strawberry Blonde.

To sponsor or help host the event, prices range from \$100-500. E-mail jtmorgan07@gmail.com for details on joining the host committee. A donation of \$15-25 is suggested for bash attendees.

The host reception for the Jim Toy Community Center Birthday Bash begins at 6:30 p.m., with the birthday celebration following at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, April 25. Arbor Brewing Company is at 720 Norris St., Ypsilanti. Minors must be accompanied by a parent as per brewery rules.

For further information, visit www.jimtoycenter.org.

Hoadley To Seek LGBT Support At May 3 Detroit Fundraiser

BY JAN STEVENSON

DETROIT – Jon Hoadley is one of the most effective LGBT activists in Michigan. Now he is running for a seat in the Michigan House of Representatives, and he will be asking for the financial support of LGBT people at a May 3 fundraiser in Detroit.

Hoadley is the leader of Unity Michigan, a coalition of LGBT groups, and he has led Unity in a successful project to get local ordinances passed at city and municipal levels. To date, over 30 cities have passed non-discrimination ordinances, most of them within the past two years. He is the former executive director of the national Stonewall Democrats in Washington D.C. and is the principle of Badlands Strategies, a



Jon Hoadley

highly respected political consulting company in Kalamazoo.

Hoadley, originally from South Dakota, first came to Michigan in 2004 to help on the campaign that tried to defeat Michigan's anti-marriage constitutional amendment. He later settled in Kalamazoo where he worked on that city's successful 2009 campaign to pass a non-discrimination ordinance.

If elected, he will be only the third openly gay member of Michigan's legislature to ever serve, and the only one currently in office.

The May 3 fundraiser will be 5:30 to 7:30 at the home of Mac Farr in the Indian Village section of Detroit. For more information about the event call 269-903-7881. To donate to Jon Hoadley's campaign go to www.jonhoadley.com

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Solidarity
by Richard Grune, lithograph, 1947
(image: Schwules Museum, Berlin)

SPECIAL EXHIBIT

ON VIEW JANUARY 5 – MAY 4, 2014

Nazi Persecution of Homosexuals

The Nazi Persecution of Homosexuals exhibit details the Nazis' so-called moral crusade against homosexuality in an effort to racially and culturally purify Germany. This persecution ranged from dissolution of homosexual organizations to internment of thousands of individuals in concentration camps. Gay men, in particular, were subject to harassment, arrest, incarceration, and even castration. In Nazi eyes, gay men were weak and unfit to be soldiers, as well as unlikely to contribute to the racial struggle for Aryan dominance.

Artifacts from the exhibit depict the freedom experienced by homosexuals prior to the Nazi rise to power in 1933.

FAR LEFT: A 1907 political cartoon depicting sex researcher Magnus Hirschfeld, "Hero of the Day," drumming up support for the abolition of Paragraph 175 of the German penal code that criminalized homosexuality (image: US Holocaust Memorial Museum Photo Archives)

LEFT: Cover of the September 1931 issue of The Island, a magazine for homosexuals (image: US Holocaust Memorial Museum)

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Together We Will Preserve Memories and Build a Better World.

Passover 2014: Conquering Hate Together

BY STEVE SPREITZER

As I was preparing to send greetings to my friends in the Jewish community as they finish preparations for the beginning of Passover, I learned of the horror which took place in Kansas City April 13, claiming the lives of three innocent people.

I was struck by the irony of the Jewish community beginning a weeklong commemoration of their liberation from slavery, while they are reminded of the hate that has followed them throughout history. I recall attending my first Seder in the home of Miriam Imerman and her husband some 20 years ago, which helped me learn in a new way about the long history of hate the Jewish people have endured.

During nearly 25 years of interfaith work and as a part of an organization with a 73-year history working with the Jewish community, I have come to know of the steely-strong faith that has sustained the Jewish people for well over 5,000 years.

The lives lost due to the act of one hateful man in Kansas City are felt in our community, as the Oak Creek, Wisconsin massacre was felt among our local Sikh community several years ago, or the daily acts of hate are felt by those who follow the other great world religions represented here in Michigan.

This hate is also experienced daily by our sisters and brothers who are black, brown, red and yellow. This hate is also experienced daily by those with a different gender identity or sexual orientation. To know one is hated is one thing, but to be reminded of that hatred on a far too regular basis in another, leading me to ask what we can do to interrupt this message of hate, especially in the days ahead, as the members of our Jewish community gather to remember their liberation.

What better way to join them than to remind them of our gratitude for their lived faith and myriad contributions to the good of this community. To begin, I would encourage you to extend Passover greetings to those you know who are Jewish. If you don't know anyone who is Jewish, which is an unfortunate reality for too many of us who may work in diverse settings, but return to segregated communities, I would encourage you to reach out to our three primary Jewish organizations: American Jewish Committee, Anti-Defamation League and the Jewish Community Relations Council. You might also contact a local synagogue for a tour. And if you haven't been to our Holocaust Museum bring a friend and make a day of it.

As we have heard said over the years, the only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good people to do nothing. Please join me in the chorus of voices lifting up a message of love and appreciation, loud enough to drown out the voices of hate, who have lingered far too long.

Onward to making the places we work and live, places where all people are welcome and treated fairly.

Steve Spreitzer is the Interim President & CEO, Michigan Roundtable for Diversity & Inclusion. He sent this message out shortly after the shootings in Kansas City last week.

Walking While Trans



Transmission

BY GWENDOLYN ANN SMITH

Monica Jones is a 29-year-old transwoman of color. A former sex worker, she has turned her energies to the Phoenix chapter of the Sex Workers Outreach Project and her studies at Arizona State University's School of Social Work.

In May of 2013, she spoke at a rally in Phoenix, speaking out against "Project ROSE," a program that is designed to convince sex workers to cease prostitution in exchange for not having charges filed against them. Project ROSE was created by 15 some organizations, including the Phoenix Police Department, and is supported by the Catholic charities and other religious organizations.

What Project ROSE claims to do is move people into a diversion program rather than be charged for prostitution. If a person does not complete the program, then charges are filed against the suspect. The program claims to have a 28 percent success rate.

On the surface, this sounds like a great program, but there's more so consider. As Jones has argued, services and other resources could – should – be offered far earlier, and that sending people to Project ROSE still criminalizes sex workers. The program treats sex workers as victims – souls to save – and focuses heavily on poor women.

I have long been of the opinion that sex work is a victimless crime. Indeed, I hesitate to call it a crime at all: if the act is consensual, and no harm is being caused, why should this be illegal? I find myself questioning the involvement of religious bodies in this program as well, making this not a criminal issue, but a moral one.

It is worth noting that the same percentage of people exit sex work regardless of whether they complete the Project ROSE program or go before a judge. More than this, many do end up "failing" the program, getting charged while the program still pockets its funding dollars.

As I mentioned, Jones was speaking out against Project ROSE one day last May. The next day, in the same neighborhood she spoke at, Jones was in police custody.

That night, as she was walking to

a neighborhood bar, she accepted a ride from a man. Once she got in, the driver revealed himself to be an undercover police officer. The charge was "manifesting prostitution," a broad law that criminalizes every

touch your genitals all the way to multiple attempts to engage a passerby in conversation or attempting to wave down a car. Even asking if a person in a police officer can lead you to being arrested for "manifesting prostitution."

It is important to note that the law requires that the person accused of "manifesting prostitution" be the one to approach the arresting officer. Two eyewitnesses testified that the offer is the one who approached, seemingly invalidating the charge.

As you can guess, this very statute is used to send people into Project ROSE. While not formally charged by the officer, Jones was taken – in handcuffs – to a church basement for evaluation. Yet Jones was deemed ineligible. The creator of Project ROSE – Dr. Dominique Roe-Sepowitz, a tenured professor at the very college Jones attends – refused to speak to her as part of her eligibility evaluation.

We live in a time when transgender people, in popular culture, tend to be looked at as being deceivers. We still have movies, television shows, and even commercials that portray transgender people as being deceptive, hiding one's "real" gender identity from friends and possible lovers. We're told that transgender people should not be allowed to use a restroom congruent with their gender identity because a rapist or molester would use that for cover.

Indeed, even though Phoenix does

include gender identity to their anti-discrimination laws, it was only this time last year that the Arizona State Senate was considering a bill to make it a class 1 misdemeanor for a transgender person to use a restroom that did not match their birth certificate. This was under the same guise of protecting people from sexual predators. To quote Arizona state Representative John Kavanagh (R), allowing transgender people to use a bathroom that matches their gender identity, "raises the specter of people who want to go into those opposite sex facilities not because they're transgender, but because they're weird."

So into this environment walked Monica Jones, a transwoman of color, and a former sex worker who now speaks out on the rights of sex workers. She was arrested, deemed unfit to go through the Project ROSE program that she has spoken out against.

Jones recently had her day in court, arguing that the law itself was unconstitutional, and that she was indeed targeted for being both an activist and a transwoman of color. The court – even with the testimony of eyewitnesses on her behalf – disagreed. She now faces 30 days in Sheriff Joe Arpaio's jail.

Was she targeted? I think that should be painfully obvious. It could have been for her speaking out against Project ROSE. It could have been for her being a transgender woman of color. In my opinion, it is likely it was both.

Should she be going to jail? I do not believe so – and there should be someone looking into the officer, into the law, and into Project Rose itself, finding out just why the system has failed Monica Jones.

Gwen Smith stands with Monica Jones. You can find her at www.gwensmith.com



Ambidextrous Fable



Parting Glances

OPINION BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

Dear Daily Journal: I've been using my right hand only during Lent. 40 days of penance, as it were. (See the block lettering. My p's look like q's. My i's blend into u's. Does anyone do cursive writing these days? Reminder: Get a laptop!)

I'm left-handed. Supposedly. Or, so I've foolishly been led to believe all my life. Whether or not I can switch and go 'natural,' as now mandated by state law, at age 30, Daily Journal, remains to be seen.

I'll give it the old college try. My best – right! right! right! – foot forward. My eternal salvation's at stake. Tired of being out in left field catching right-handed flies – ha, ha! – so to speak.

I've been keeping my left hand pocket tucked. Or, I sit on it keeping it outta sight. Usually I keep it buttoned up inside my shirt. I get funny looks when I bowl but that's the price I'm willing to pay for my social and spiritual redemption in getting to be the true person I'm meant to be. (Unfortunately, my bowling scores are lousy.)

When I do go afterward to Right Side O'Tracks Bistro – the entrance sign states in bold face: Right Handed Peeps Only – I fumble and dribble a bit with the spoon and fork, but I've finally – practice makes perfect! – mastered the butter knife. And! Get this! I remember to butter the right side first.

There's some difficulty with my zipper, but what are right-handed friends for anyway? Levi buttons. Well, what can I say? A former lefty is more than willing to help, even if it sometimes takes 20 minutes to get the job done.

At night I keep my offending hand tied to the bedpost. My landlord, an understanding guy, ties me up. He says he's ambi – doesn't want that to get around – and understands. Hey! Daily Journal, don't worry. My 'bondage' doesn't prevent my daily diddling into dreamland. Actually – wow! surprisingly – my right hand is great!

Occasionally, I get twisted up in the sheets. But what the heck. Wanking still works. (Aside: my sleep apnea seems worse. My snoring louder. One or two nightmares about left-handed chain gangs. It'll pass, my pastor says.)

I'm taking "my biblical right to curb and cure my misguided choice." And, in a nutshell: "Using your left hand isn't natural. The truth, with a capital T – of the matter at hand is that you choose to use it. You can unchoose your choice if you choose to unchoose it. It's your choice even though you think it's not a choice.

Choose for yourself and see. The right choice is yours to choose. Choose or be damned!"

As my mighty-right, do-righters point out again and again at Church of Your Sunny Side Up, the straight-forward fact is that I've been leading the abominated Southpaw Lifestyle Seeking out buddies, bowling partners, bimbos who are lefties. Using left-handed scissors. Blowing my nose left-anded. Hanging out in leftist fast lanes. Getting left behind.

It could be worse. Five percent of left-handers are homos. (It's bad enough they choose to be left-handed.) Thank God I'm not gay. Hopefully my bowling will improve. If only those god-damned chain gang dreams would leave me alone.

I wake up screaming. Unfortunately, on my left side.



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Creep of the Week

Earl Bullard

OPINION BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

Here's a hypothetical situation for you: Let's say you've been the mayor for less than a year of a little town in South Carolina called Latta. We're talking 1,400 people, so everybody is probably in everybody's business.



Earl Bullard

Now let's say that your town's police chief is an out lesbian. She's been working for the police department for, oh, just a short time, say 20 years or so and has a pretty stellar record of service. But you don't like lesbians and you certainly don't like her because she's all, "You're not allowed to give your friend with a suspended license the keys to a city vehicle" or some such femi-Nazi stuff.

What's a guy like you to do?

We'll, if you're Latta Mayor Earl Bullard, you fire her. And you say it's not because she's a lesbian, it's because all of a sudden, after 20 years with no official reprimands for misconduct she just all of a sudden starts to be bad at her job and so you have to give her seven reprimands so that she knows who's boss.

Sounds legit.

And since Bullard is the mayor of a tiny town in South Carolina, the whole town rallied around him and sang, "Ding dong the dyke is dead!" while skipping through the town square, right?

Nope. It turns out that plenty of people in Latta liked their police chief very much and they are none too happy about Crystal Moore's firing.

And major bummer for Chief Moore: she has no legal recourse if she was fired for being gay. That's a totally legal thing. There's no federal law and there's no state law in South Carolina (or in 28 other states) that protects gays and lesbians from employment discrimination.

A little phone conversation that a council member recorded with Bullard sheds some light on why he might have found Chief Moore unfit for duty.

"I would much rather have, and I will say this to anybody's face, somebody who drank and drank too much taking care of my child than I had somebody

whose lifestyle is questionable around children," Bullard says according to transcripts of the call.

I think it's worth noting that in Bullard's worldview being a drunk is not a "lifestyle" that is "questionable around children." And just what could he mean by "lifestyle?"

"I'm not going to let two women stand up there and hold hands and let my child be aware of it," he continues. "And I'm not going to see them do it with two men neither."

Okay. His syntax makes his meaning a little unclear. But it appears that Bullard doesn't want his kids to be aware that women hold hands and that women

"I would much rather have, and I will say this to anybody's face, somebody who drank and drank too much taking care of my child than I had somebody whose lifestyle is questionable around children," Latta Mayor Bullard says according to transcripts of the call.

apparently have to ask him to "let them" holds hands to begin with. Bullard also doesn't want to see those women "do it" with men. Huh. I don't think he understands how this whole lesbian thing works.

"Now, all these people showering down and saying 'Oh it's a different lifestyle they can have it,'" Bullard continues, "ok, fine and dandy, but I don't have to look at it and I don't want my child around it."

You hear that? If you're a homo, you can "have" your "lifestyle" so long as you remain invisible to Bullard and his child.

Speaks volumes for why he fired the most visible lesbian in Latta, doesn't it?

Also, when Bullard refers to "all these people showering down," it is not clear who he is speaking of, but it is quite possible that it's raining men in Latta. Hallelujah. Maybe they can make a good one their mayor.

Doctor And Clinic Sued For Denying Medical Care To Transgender Woman

BTL STAFF

Urbana, IL - On April 15, in the U.S. District Court for the Central District of Illinois, Urbana Division, Lambda Legal filed a lawsuit on behalf of Naya Taylor, a transgender woman denied medical care after she requested hormone replacement therapy. The lawsuit alleges a violation of the ACA's non-discrimination provisions prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sex, (which includes gender identity), and requires that clinics receiving federal funds treat transgender patients in the same manner as they would any patient under their care.

The case is Taylor v. Lystila, and names Dr. Lystila and Carle, an integrated group of health care services, as defendants. A complaint was also filed with the Illinois Human Rights Commission.

"The provisions of the Affordable Care Act are clear - doctors receiving federal funds cannot discriminate in providing patient care just because a person is transgender," said Kenneth Upton, Senior Counsel for Lambda Legal. "Patients such as Naya Taylor place their health and well-being in a doctor's hands. Taylor asked for her doctor to provide services similar to those provided to other clinic patients who are not transgender and the

doctor and clinic refused, posing a significant risk to Ms. Taylor's health. The ACA's non-discrimination provisions were intended to ensure appropriate medical care for transgender people, a community that already faces a disproportionate amount of discrimination, violence and suicide rates."

Taylor is a transgender woman living in Mattoon, Illinois. Dr. Aja Lystila had been Taylor's primary care physician, but when she requested to start hormone replacement therapy (HRT) as part of her medically necessary, transition-related healthcare to treat her gender dysphoria, Dr. Lystila refused. Lystila first claimed she was not experienced in providing hormones to transgender people even though hormone therapy is regularly provided to non-transgender patients in a variety of settings every day. Later the clinic told Taylor that it "does not have to treat people like you." HRT is one of the vital life-saving treatments used to treat gender dysphoria, a recognized, serious medical condition.

"When they said, 'we don't have to treat people like you,' I felt like the smallest, most insignificant person in the world," said Taylor. "The doctor and office provide hormone replacement therapy for others at the same clinic, they just refused to do that for me."

Helping Transgender Population Find Jobs

BY PAULETTE NIEMIEC

Many people are suffering these days due to the slow economic recovery, especially the transgender population. It's no secret, those who identify as a gender different than their sexual anatomy, find it very difficult to find employment and/or provide an income to survive.

Steph Turner, founder of {URL www.jendurrserv.com}, is one transgender person trying to make a difference and provide the transgender community with hope in a traditionally hopeless situation.

"I noticed the economy slipping and the job market shrinking and decided I needed to do something about it," said Turner. "It's so hard for transgender people to find work, income, financial aid for medical procedures, etc... I knew I had to do something," she explained in a recent interview.

So Turner, after 10 years of research, including over a year of intense internet investigation, developed a website to promote creative ways for people to find work, jobs, earn money and "empower the economically disadvantaged." Her website www.jendurrserv.com was officially launched last June to fulfill that purpose.

"Jendurrserv.com is an organization and website created to help transgender people who are

constantly being discriminated against in the workforce. It helps them find the resources they need to help them survive." Turner said, "I noticed the economy sliding from job positions to job roles and discovered through the internet research I did, an opportunity to create something that links all these sites and information together on one website," she explained.

Turner, 51, gave several examples of websites and apps which promote inexpensive services (some with costs as low as \$5) that the transgender population can learn how to use to produce income for themselves. These include www.2appos.com, www.fiverr.com and www.Elance.com to name a few.

"This creates an opportunity for unemployed transgender people to build a portfolio of work, get paid and all without having to submit a resume, cover letter or interview for a job," Turner said with an enthusiastic smile.

Turner's website and service has several pages, tutorial videos and self-help instructions to help people find employment, make money and even find ways to raise funds for medical procedures including genital reassignment surgery (an expense most transsexuals can't afford.) Turner, who developed the website with the help of her son, said she feels the uniqueness of Jendurrserv.com is its ability to provide an extensive amount of assistance, training devices and technologies all in one place. "It pulls it all together and keeps it organized for you."

As the website states, "We are reinventing work to put it to work for you," something Turner hopes will help the transgender community for years to come.



Steph Turner created Jendurrserv.com to help people find jobs.

India's Top Court Recognizes Third Gender Category

NEW DELHI (AP) - India's top court on Tuesday issued a landmark verdict recognizing transgender rights as human rights, saying people can identify themselves as a third gender on official documents.

The Supreme Court directed the federal and state governments to include transgendered people in all welfare programs for the poor, including education, health care and jobs to help them overcome social and economic challenges. Previously, transgendered Indians could only identify themselves as male or female in all official documents.

The decision was praised as giving relief to the estimated 3 million Indians who are transgender.

The court noted that it was the right of every human being to choose their gender while granting rights to those who identify themselves as neither male nor female.

"All documents will now have a third category marked 'transgender.' This verdict has come as a great relief for all of us. Today I am proud to be an Indian," said Laxmi Narayan Tripathi, a transgender activist who, along with a legal agency, had petitioned the court.

The court's decision would apply to individuals who have acquired the physical characteristics of the opposite sex or present themselves in a way that does not correspond with their sex at birth.

"The spirit of the (Indian) Constitution is to provide equal opportunity to every citizen to grow and attain their potential, irrespective of caste, religion or gender," the court said in

its order.

The Supreme Court specified its ruling would only apply to transgender people but not to gays, lesbians or bisexuals. India's LGBT communities have been protesting the court's recent decision to reinstate a colonial-era law banning gay sex, which they say will make them vulnerable to police harassment.

The court also ordered the government to put in place public awareness campaigns to lessen the social stigma against transgender people.

Justice K.S. Radhakrishnan told the court that the "recognition of transgender (people) as a third gender is not a social or medical issue but a human rights issue."

The court ruled that transgender people would have the same right to adopt children as other Indians.

The court said any person who underwent surgery to change his or her sex would be entitled to be legally recognized as belonging to the gender of their choice.

The apex court also ordered state governments to construct separate public toilets for transgender people and create health departments to take care of their medical problems.

Recently, India's Election Commission for the first time allowed a third gender choice - "other" - on voter registration forms. The change was made in time for the national elections being held in phases through May 12.

Some 28,000 voters registered themselves in that category.

Anti-Gay Rally In Ethiopia Cancelled

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia (AP) - A planned anti-gay rally that would have made Ethiopia the latest African country to demonize gays has been cancelled, officials said April 16.

In addition, plans by the legislature to add gay sex to a list of crimes not eligible for presidential pardons has been dropped, said Redwan Hussein, a government spokesman.

Hostility toward gays across Africa is high. Uganda and Nigeria increased penalties against gay acts this year. Homosexuals in other countries face severe discrimination and harmful physical attacks.

Gay Ethiopians still face severe penalties for living in the open. Same-sex acts are punishable by up to 15 years in prison. A 25-year jail term is given to anyone convicted of infecting another person with HIV during same-sex acts.

But the government does not appear ready to further demonize homosexuals. Redwan said the anti-gay rally was on certain groups' agenda, but not the government's.

"It is not a serious crime. Plus, it is not as widespread as some people suggest. It

is already a crime and a certain amount of punishment is prescribed for it. The government thinks the current jail term in enough," said Redwan, who confirmed that gay crimes would not be added to the list of unpardonable crimes.

Two groups had been planning to hold a large anti-gay rally in Addis Ababa on April 26. Dereje Negash, chairman of a religious group affiliated with the Ethiopian Orthodox Church, said the cancellation came after people inside the church asked the government to prevent the rally.

"Currently I'm being threatened by the gay community for organizing the rally. Despite the threat, I will continue to pursue my struggle against the gay community. I believe I have been given a task by God to do this. I will do this even if it means life or death," Dereje said.

Dereje said his group is not seeking the harassment of gay people, but he wants Ethiopian law to increase punishments for gay sex. Dereje said that gay sex tourism is increasing in the country and he wants it stopped.

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PILLOW TALK with NATE BERKUS

'Design Santa' On Home Show & Boring Conversations With Oprah

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Home isn't where the heart is on "American Dream Builders." It's where the drama is, and it's where you'll find Nate Berkus, who hosts the home-renovation show airing Sunday nights on NBC.

As the bossman to 12 contestants trying to woo him with their best remodel, Oprah's longtime gay pal and talk show sidekick steps back onto TV after the cancellation of "The Nate Berkus Show."

Berkus recently chatted about "American Dream Builders" being a better fit for him, how the first thing he ever designed was so bad it ended up in the garbage and the boring home stuff he and Oprah talk about.

Gosh, these contestants mean business, Nate.

They really do.

Are home designers really this cutthroat?

When you take 12 people who are leaders in their industry from around the country, who are used to having the final say in everything they do in all realms of their lives, and you put them in a competition setting, they definitely have a curve on how to get along. The truth is, we had an embarrassment of riches when it came to the drama because it started in the very first episode and continued all the way through the last one.

What about "American Dream Builders" attracted you?

I really wanted to come back on television in a meaningful way that really centered on design and the design space, and in order to do that I needed to work with a network that would allow design on television to be what I think it always should have been: true creativity, great resources and transformation. I think a long time ago someone decided that design on TV should be about how quickly and how inexpensively you can

renovate a space, but I really never believed in that, so this was an opportunity to take 12 experts, give them, at their fingertips, those same things that they would normally have in their own private practices and set them loose to renovate two homes a week and focus exclusively on the quality and design.

Those shows you mention – are you referring to the ones we see on HGTV?

I'm not saying that specifically, but if you look at the trends in design over the years, these are the shows we all watch because that's what's been on so far. But "American Dream Builders" is something new. It's massive in scale. When you're doing high-end design you have to have antiques, you have to have architectural salvage, you have to have vintage, you have to have one-of-a-kind items, you have to have real paintings and contemporary art and photography and great construction materials. This isn't what you can do in a half hour or in an hour in your own home; the whole show, from the very beginning, is about high-level inspiration.

After the cancellation of "The Nate

See Nate Berkus, page 16

Spring Home
& Garden Guide

Photo: NBC



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► Nate Berkus

Continued from p. 14

Berkus Show" in 2012, how does it feel returning to TV?

I really enjoy hosting this much more than I enjoyed hosting my talk show, and I'll tell you why. The truth is, when you're doing a daytime talk show it's on every single day, so it's your responsibility to fill that hour with all sorts of different kinds of content that fit within the lifestyle realm. With this show, it's a Sunday night primetime show, it's once a week and it's purely about design. We have a fantastic cast, but my focus is creating an enormously scaled design show that I can be a part of, that I can call on my contacts to get involved with. I can hand select these 12 people from around the country and say, "I'm gonna watch what you do every single week and I wanna be shocked, I wanna be surprised, I wanna be blown away, I wanna rethink how I feel about design, and I'm challenging you by showing me just that. And if you can do it, one of you is gonna win, and if you can't then, you know, that's it."

So you're basically the Tim Gunn of interior design.

(Laughs) I hadn't thought of that!

How often do random people on the street ask you for home advice?

Oh my god, constantly. I always get the same thing: "Come to my home." I'm Design Santa when I'm walking through an airport. But it's great, because I've been doing design on TV for years now – it's been 13 years – and so I think that people associate me ringing their doorbell with a transformation that's about to happen and a really positive change in their lives, so I really wanted "Dream Builders" to represent that as well. It really is, for me, an extension of what I've always been doing, but it's a way for me to showcase the talent of people who deserve to be in the spotlight.

Do you think that being a gay man has anything to offer to your own work ethic and design aesthetic and inspiration?

Whether being gay has to do with my creativity – not really. I think that that's one part of who I am and it's always been a part of who I am and it's something that I've always been very proud of, but I know lots of creative heterosexual people as well. It's definitely one part of who I am, but I don't think that has really any influence over my professional work.

What inspired the latest Target line?

Celestial design and how influenced we are by space and colors, which I've

been working with for a long time – black, deep blues and clear acrylics, and those sorts of geodes and stones and metallics. It's something that's very modern right now, but I also think it mixes well with a lot of different styles.

I work with a great team of people who are based in Chicago on every new collection and we talk about what's really happening in fashion and what's happening in design, but we also talk about what will make a home feel updated with one purchase. In the current collection my favorite thing probably are these brass table lamps. That to me is the perfect example. You put it on a side table in your living room and all of a sudden the room takes on a completely different note.

Can you shop at Target without getting mobbed?

Actually, yes! I usually go to Target when I'm coming back from Soul Cycle, or coming back from the gym after a really long day, and I buy a lot of my own things. I have a sample closet, obviously, but I keep that primarily so that I have reference of what I designed before – and what my team and I are going to design going forward – so I try to not take the samples as often as I can, but I mean, I shop at Target constantly. I grew up in Minneapolis. I bought my Halloween costumes there and my school supplies, and it's a very funny moment for me to look up and see all of my collections that are sold at Target. It's fun. I mean, it's really fun! It's funny because I don't know anyone who doesn't shop at Target, and sometimes I can get by totally undetected even when I'm checking out and they're ringing up things that have my name and picture on them.

No way.

It depends on whether I've showered. If I can come from Soul Cycle, no one has a clue. They're like, "Do you want paper or plastic?"

How often does Oprah call you for design advice?

She does *not* call me for design advice. We do have extremely long conversations about things that other people would find incredibly boring, like hinges and doorknobs. But Oprah really loves design. It's something she's always been really passionate about, which is why 12 years ago when I started with her on her show we really both enjoyed being together doing the before-and-after segments because it's just something she's also really passionate about and interested in.

What's the first thing you ever designed?

A hamburger pillow in fifth grade home ec with sesame seeds, and it had ketchup dripping down the side. Mine

was by far the worst one in the entire class.

How did that happen?

How was I so bad? I still can't sew.

You used one of those pillow kits, didn't you? Because I did too! But mine was a tiger cub, so it was much gayer than yours.

(Laughs) Yeah, a hamburger – I guess I was predicting my future dietary habits.

Regarding your spring wedding to Jeremiah Brent – being that you're both designers, is there any clashing going on as far as planning the big day?

Not at all. We don't fight about design. We literally fight about who gets the last piece of pizza and who has to walk the dog – that's what we fight about. The two of us can furnish a room together in an hour on the computer because we reach for very similar things. We use them in different ways, but we have a very good connection with that.

What's the best party you've ever had at the Brent-Berkus residence?

I don't really do wild parties at home because I don't want people to break anything. Like, really. Not at all. But I do a lot of dinners for small groups of people. Dinner for six, dinner for eight, maybe dinner for 10, and it's always really good friends. We sit around the table really, really late and sometimes I'll bring in somebody to cook because I'm terrible at it, but, when it comes to entertaining, those are for me my favorite nights at home.

Your advice in your 2012 book "The Things That Matter" was to let your home tell your story. What room in your house tells the best story?

The truth is, the whole home does. Everywhere I look in our home reminds me of where I've been, who I've known, what memories I have of being that age in that place, who I was with. Design really is an opportunity to build a collection of things that chronicle the life that you've led, who you've loved, who you've lost, where you've been, what you've seen, who you've met along the way. That for me is really what the house represents. It's a great way to live, because when I look around our home, everything has meaning. Some things are there just because I think they're cool, or because he does, but in the end, everything really does tell a story of who we are as people.

Which room do you keep the hamburger pillow in?

(Laughs) It's in the school trashcan. I don't even think I brought it home from elementary school!

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Tyson Gersh is the president and co-founder of the Michigan Urban Farming Initiative. Photo: Emell Derra Adolphus

Farming A Following

Tyson Gersh Builds Community 'One Garden At A Time'

BY EMELL DERRA ADOLPHUS

We've heard just about every freaky thing the gay social app Grindr is used for, but volunteer recruitment takes the cake. Meet Tyson Gersh, president of the Michigan Urban Farming Initiative, who is slowly cultivating a farm boy "tribe" through his access to the local gay social network.

"I think the important narrative here is the power of communities," says Gersh, president and co-founder of the Michigan Urban Farming Initiative.

On the surface, the farming initiative is another agricultural based non-profit, and hipster haven, devoted to providing a source of fresh produce to Detroiters. But its true richness, says Gersh, 24, is buried beyond food production, and lies in its ability to grow organically as a community fixture through its use of networks – more pointedly, gay social networks.

"The reality is, (MUFI) was built through gay social networks," Gersh says.

He explains, using social networks such

as Grindr – combined with gratuitous photos of hard-bodied volunteers on Facebook – allowed the initiative to reach a wider audience, gay and straight. Through word-of-mouth and referrals, he has been able to build connections with the right people. And since its founding in 2012, the organization continues to steadily grow. "If I were straight I would not get access to the people that I did," says Gersh, who you could say turned the signature "hey" Grindr greeting into help for his cause.

"That's how startups work, right? You recruit your friends," says Gersh, with a laugh. "I should make it very clear that this was not sexually based," he adds, but a little farmer boy-esque eye candy only helps.

On a typical volunteer day at the MUFI farm, there are enough well-built men walking around, including Gersh, to suggest the non-profit may also raise its own "beef." The atmosphere is a calm and committed network of friends; friends of friends, girlfriends with their boyfriends – all of whom saw something in the farming

See Tyson Gersh, page 22



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Spring Home
& Garden Guide



Rebel Fleur

All Things Floral At Urbanscapes Detroit Offshoot

BY EMELL DERRA ADOLPHUS

When it comes to shaping your summer garden, beauty begins with the architectural bones, says Phillip Morici of Fleur Detroit in Bloomfield Hills.

“You can’t have an English garden in front of a super modern home,” explains Morici, 38. The rules of tailoring a fashionable look, he adds, especially apply when pruning a proper garden. “People should focus on one look and do it really well. Less is always more. Less. Less. Edit it. I think most people don’t have enough order in their landscape or backyard spaces.”

Morici, who co-owns Fleur with his partner Joe Nieradka, 36, explains that crafting a garden space is in part

a reflection of your personality. And if you feel a bit directionally challenged in your yard after a long winter, don’t throw down the rake just yet. The gardening “bug” comes in the simplest forms of inspiration.

For Morici, of course, it started early, during afternoons gardening with his grandmother.

“I have been affected a few times in my life by plants and trees which shaped me as a person and directed my path in life,” says Morici in a personalized blog post to Fleur’s client base titled, “The Trees That Shaped Me.”

“The first few were as a child when my grandmother instilled the sense of wonder with gardening,” Morici writes. “I was further supported by my parents, by allowing my brother

and I to plant our own little 2-by-2-foot garden squares with annuals by our old garden shed.”

Morici payed for college by working at an estate in Bloomfield Hills, where he got his hands dirty in floral maintenance and further cultivated a love for horticulture. And soon he found not a life-shaping tree but a branch of support in his partner.

“I met him, but he didn’t meet me,” Morici says, explaining he saw Nieradka at a wholesale nursery from a distance. “He really met me at a party.”

Morici and Nieradka’s love blossomed over a mutual interest in gardening and this year marks their 13th year together. Their joint venture, Fleurdetroit, is an

offshoot of their landscape business, Urbanscapes Detroit, located in Birmingham.

As a landscape firm, Urbanscapes offers a range of design services including installation, maintenance and house management services, such as gassing up family vehicles while homeowners are away. Fleurdetroit is growing to have the same setup, with an emphasis on flowers, says Morici.

“We were always doing work for families through the Urbanscapes brand, birthday parties, etc. And



Photos: Andrew Potter

then with Fleurdetroit, we focused that and refined it to include larger events,” says Morici, who explains Fleur started as an interior object and garden shop. “And then the retail has continuously evolved to the point where Fleurdetroit is bigger or as big

See Fleur, page 24


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Growing An Appreciation For Food

Beyond reaping the fruits and vegetables of your labor, planting a garden offers an insight into the ways organisms interact in a community, says Tyson Gersh, president and co-founder of the Michigan Urban Farming Initiative. A garden, Gersh explains, is a small-scale community, and studying food growth, consumption and production can be applied to larger scale communities like Detroit.

“Even a small household garden offers insight into how our global food system works,” says Gersh. Food systems, food growth, community structure and sustainability can all be taught from tending to a household garden. “That is different from one

crop (your backyard strawberries),” he notes. “That is an important distinction, because part of the value of a garden is seeing how different things interact with one another.”

Gersh uses this model to teach young volunteers at MUFI the importance of cultivating the whole plant community instead of honing in on specific crop care.

Gardening can also be used as a model for getting involved in your own community, explains Gersh. It teaches you to identify a problem in the community and formulate how you will contribute to the solution.

The first step, Gersh says, is to not think of getting involved in your community as charity but as a project

with a start and finish.

“Social change isn’t a project, it is a responsibility. Just as a pet isn’t a toy,” Gersh says, explaining that in order for a community to sustain its progress there needs to be a constant joint effort that does not end. “The only thing that really matters is seeing something through.”

Gersh adds: “There is value in having a garden above and beyond the produce it yields. It holds potential to empower people in that it serves as a physical platform to physically shape the world around them and is literally and figuratively a space in which people can reap what they sow.”

— Emell Derra Adolphus

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► Tyson Gersh

Continued from p. 19

initiative they admired and became committed to support its mission.

“Communities exist in a lot of different ways, and the gay community is a good example of one of them,” says Gersh, a senior at the University of Michigan-Dearborn, studying psychology. “The gay community is really unique, diverse, multicultural and generational across professional communities. And the common link between (some) people is being gay.”

Located in Detroit’s North End neighborhood (7432 Brush St.), Gersh co-founded MUFI with vice president Darin McLewskey through a shared interest in agriculture. After purchasing a lot in a tax auction, Gersh says it became clear upon cultivating the land for farming that the community should follow. “It’s about having an equitable food system where people are on a level playing field,” in a community unlevelled by socioeconomic disparity, he says.

“While we initially went in only with the intent of using agriculture,” Gersh says, “we found the real value that we could provide was much more diverse.” And that value is rooted in social change.

Since the MUFI’s founding, it has clocked over 30,000 volunteer hours, produced more than 10,000 pounds of produce in its first growing season and has utilized more than 300

volunteers from all over Michigan. Using agriculture as a platform, the initiative promotes education of food production, community and ecological sustainability.

“Any nonprofit in the city of Detroit needs to meet the needs of its community,” Gersh explains, and he credits MUFI’s acceptance in the

“Having the ability to shape the world around you is one of the most powerful things an individual can do. Knowing that you can change the physical, that’s where the power of gardening really lies.”

community to the model of meeting a need, not selling a service.

Says Gersh: “What I became interested in is structural inequality in the food system,” which are the barriers that prevent people from eating safe, healthy foods. “I became obsessed and interested in platforms that might work against it or work to repair it.”

MUFI is currently pursuing the construction of three projects: a non-profit incubator, designed to accommodate smaller non-profits seeking to promote community sustainability; a production urban farm for large volume crops and training center; and a shipping container building to house farm supplies.

“A lot of the needs of our community

were’n’t just about agriculture but extended from general manual labor to landscaping, mechanical and house renovations,” says Gersh about the areas surrounding the MUFI grounds. “Surely, through the MUFI community, we had access to these things. So responding to the needs of our community, that’s what we have been delivering: using the MUFI network to be relevant in our community.”


Gersh, who also serves as the director of development for Detroit-based non-profit Hostel Detroit and the Ann Arbor-based optiMize Social Innovation Challenge, says he is always looking for people who are willing to donate their services.

“And that’s what community development is all about. We were able to establish credibility and legitimacy through our accomplishments,” says Gersh, who explains he has a greater understanding of how home improvement and gardening can be empowering on a small and large scale.

“Having the ability to shape the world around you is one of the most powerful things an individual can do,” Gersh says. “Knowing that you can change the physical, that’s where the power of gardening really lies.”

He adds: “Building a community of empowered individuals one garden at a time.”

Want to get involved or donate money? Workdays are every Saturday at the MUFI farm, 7432 Brush St., Detroit. For more information, email support@MiUFI.org or visit MiUFI.org.



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► Fleur

Continued from p. 20

as the landscape division.”

Morici credits the popularity of Fleur to a rising appreciation of the power of a well-manicured garden.

“For (Joe and I) personally, because we are always on when we’re at work, once we pull up in the driveway and go up the walkway we are encapsulated in this little oasis so we can decompress,” Morici says, explaining that Fleur is about giving each client their own oasis. “We really like being inclusive of everyone. It’s really just making people aware around here, and making it attainable for everybody. An object does not have to be \$3,000 to be greatly designed.”

When thinking of ways to enhance an outdoor landscape, there is a common misconception that a professional job will be too expensive. But Morici says a professional opinion means less money spent in the long run and a lasting garden with solid

architectural bones.

“A lot of these older estates in Bloomfield, when they have had a good landscape architect they are set. The bones grow,” says Morici. “A lot of the legacy trees you plant now are going to be around in 80 years and you just want to make sure it’s well thought out.”

He warns: “Going to Home Depot, buying six bushes, and not having clear direction – those are disposable landscapes and in five or 10 years, you are just going to gut them out.”

The best piece of advice, Morici explains, is to take your focus off bright plant and flower choices. In Michigan, the most important thing you can do for your garden is to ensure a proper outdoor entertaining space to enjoy the warm season. A garden grows from there.

“It’s a necessity to have an outdoor living space, whether it is a little dining room or a nice patio,” says Morici. “Somewhere you can get out during that Michigan summer and enjoy it.”

For more information on FleurDetroit, visit FleurDetroit.com.

Flower Power 101

If a rose is a rose is a rose, why aren’t any of yours growing?

Each year gardening enthusiasts spend hundreds of dollars on plants and flowers only to have them die and never return. The sad truth is, some people just are not born with the right shade of a “green thumb.” But luckily for you, there are some flowers even a child could grow. Keep in mind, recommends Phillip Morici of FleurDetroit in Bloomfield Hills, the more you plant and install, the greater the upkeep.

We asked Morici for a few fast and dirty gardening tips to give your property some floral punch.

Have a master plan

“We always tell people to make sure they have a master plan,” says Morici. “Make sure there is a direction or a personality to the garden or property.”

Shy away from foreigners

“My number one pet peeve is when people use a lot of foreign

Oriental plants and their property looks like Disneyland,” says Morici. “That’s gross to me.”

He explains, “That’s their notion of how it is supposed to look. They are just not educated to design for their home. A lot of people are very content with buying a \$50 Japanese Maple at Home Depot and they think they got something special.”

Paint gardens with texture, not color

“Textured colors and greens,” says Morici. “Then whatever annual pop you add really is showcased. We tend to go less in color and more in monochromatic plantings. It’s a little calmer on the eyes than using your containers as your annual splash of color. Not putting a lot of color in the ground.”

Build your garden to fit your home

“You have to take into account not only the architecture but also the personality of the owner and the legacy of the garden,” Morici says, explaining one personal motto he

follows: “Good design does not have to be costly.”

When pairing classic garden structures with distinctly styled homes, contrast – when done right, says Morici – can be beautiful. “We’ve done contemporary homes with very wild gardens, very native. And the juxtaposition is fantastic. And we’ve also done contemporary homes with very rigid bones.”

If you are failing at flowers, turn to hydrangeas

“Most people can do really well with hydrangeas,” says Morici. “Mainly an Annabelle cultivar or a tardiva variety. They require a little more watering in the beginning but they are tried and true through the years. They really do well.” And for architectural planting, “A lot of boxwoods are really great, building the bones or structure to the garden. And once you plant them they are low maintenance.” He adds, “Every garden really needs a backbone. Otherwise, in the wintertime, it looks barren.”

– Emell Derra Adolphus

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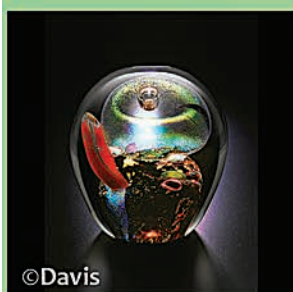
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The Real Thing



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Cameron Diaz On Being Called 'Bisexual,' Mom Fetishes & Her Disappointment In The Ladies

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Cameron Diaz is all about breaking the rules ... especially when someone else is breaking them too. Strutting into a room at the Four Seasons at Beverly Hills, the actress surveys the space and lugs an oversized sofa chair to the opposite corner where she gets comfortable, her slender legs curled behind her, heels still on.

In person, Diaz really is the sweetest thing, but don't cross her. At least not in "The Other Woman," where the actress, along with Leslie Mann and Kate Upton, serves some nasty shenanigans to a lover she learns is secretly married. (And because you need that sassy colleague to give you sage advice on getting even, Nicki Minaj co-stars.)

For this gay press exclusive, the actress recalls the faux lesbian action on the set of "The Other Woman," clarifies statements she made regarding her sexuality (don't call her bisexual), and advises the ladies to "step it up a little bit."

Recently I was at the gay club and they played that unforgettable sing-along from "The Sweetest Thing": "The Penis Song."

No way! That's so awesome.

When you did that song with Selma Blair and Christina Applegate in 2002, did you ever think the gays would still be dancing to a song about penises this many years later?

Not at all, but I guess we should have figured! We should've guessed that. It's quite obvious.

Because the penis is timeless.

(Laughs) Exactly. The penis is timeless.

Because of its girl-power fierceness, "The Other Woman" aligns itself with "Nine to Five," "Sex and the City" and "The First Wives Club." Why do you think gay men in particular are so drawn to these movies?

These women are underdogs. In "Nine to Five" it was really about discrimination. Gays and lesbians know what it's like to be discriminated against, to be the underdog and to have to fight to be seen. That's something that could be relatable. It's that feeling of beating all the odds and pushing through, and continuing to go on even though you get beat down and you feel like you can't possibly make it through.

Going back, what movie of yours do you attribute to the beginning of your gay following?

I don't know!

How about "Being John Malkovich" from 1999?

Because Lotte! I mean, of course! Lotte found out who she was. She was self-realized and empowered by it, and that's what I really loved about her – her recognizing herself and honoring herself, and no matter what she just kept going until she was able to fully express herself.

Actually, Lotte sounds a lot like you. In the last few years you've been expressing your own sexuality with honesty and openness, saying in interviews with Glamour UK and Playboy that just because you're sexually attracted to women doesn't mean you're a lesbian. The Kinsey Scale actually suggests that everyone is a little bisexual. Is that what you believe too?

What I really think is a problem is that for some reason everybody needs to label. There needs to be a label for something, and you have to qualify it with a label. If we didn't put these labels on ourselves, I think we would probably live in a much better society. We would just let people be who they are and we wouldn't have to define them.

Over the years I've known people who are male who love women, who want to be in a relationship with a woman, who

want to raise a family with a woman, who have that relationship and that's where they want to put their energy – but they also are sexually attracted to men. And just because someone's sexually attracted to a man he has to choose whether he wants to be with a woman or a man, and vice versa with women. Women may want to have a relationship with a man, and to raise a family with him, but may also be sexually attracted to women.

Because we have to label it, because we make people choose who they want to be, people aren't happy. They're ruining relationships and friendships and marriages, and they're feeling like they can't have all sides of themselves. They feel like they have to choose. If we just allowed people to be themselves and to be open to it and not have to be absolute one way or another, life could be really full.

This view of sexuality seems to be a recent trend, and now people often refer to themselves as "queer" because it's more indefinable.

Right, right. But does sexuality really define a person? Who you're sexually attracted to – does that define you as a person? It's just a part of who you are. Does who you love define who you are? It doesn't. We need to

see ourselves in the full spectrum of the human being.

Since making these statements about your own sexuality, people have tried putting you in a box.

Yeah.

The press is saying, "Cameron Diaz is bisexual." But it sounds like you don't want to put yourself in that box?

I don't. People get uncomfortable (when you don't). I'm not saying it's a bad thing, but it's a beautiful thing that we can appreciate beauty in other women. I think that's amazing. If they're confident in themselves and know who they are, heterosexual men can look at another heterosexual man and go, "Yeah, he's pretty hot. He's a sexy man."

And you have said you can do the same with the ladies.

Of course.

Could you see yourself in a relationship with a woman, though?

That's not at all what I said. That's not what I was saying. That's what people are (saying). What I'm saying is that I can appreciate the beauty of another woman. I've said this forever: I think women's bodies are beautiful – all shapes, all sizes. Every part of a woman is beautiful and that's something that we've celebrated culturally throughout history.

And men, as well. I mean, how about those Greek gods?

Exactly. Greek gods! You go to Florence and you see da Vinci and you go, "Oh, of course – this is a celebration of the body." So, I feel like saying that is just stating something that's obvious. People get weirded out when you bring in sexuality, when you say "sex," when you say you find someone else sexually attractive – because people feel like they can't control that! That if for someone reason they find somebody sexually attractive they're going to lose all control of themselves and they're going to question themselves and not know what it is. It's not black or white. There is a spectrum.

If a lesbian were to stop you on the street and reference one of your movies, which scene do you think they would point to? I mean, you fucked a Ferrari – that, I'm sure, was enjoyed by many a lesbian.

Yeah, that's always a good time. (Laughs)

But I don't know. It's hard to tell. I've played so many different characters, and I don't want to just generalize that all lesbians like the same kind of woman (smiles and points to herself). And there's a lot to choose from! Everybody has different "preferences." (Laughs)

Your girl crush in 2006 was Pamela Anderson. Have your tastes changed at all?

Who do I have a girl crush on?

Leslie Mann?

Leslie is just seriously one of the loveliest human beings. But I don't know right now if I have a girl crush! I haven't taken a second to look around because I've been working so much. Honestly, I think the girls need to step it up a little bit. I'm disillusioned with all the Botox and all the filler and all the fakeness. I really love a natural beauty, something

that you can celebrate.

Diane Keaton, Annie Lennox and Annette Bening are all aging naturally.

They are, because they're self-possessed.

So, as you age, you're not interested in plastic surgery?

No. It can be done well, but what I see with the women who do a lot of it is, the objective is to look younger, but they just start to look different. They don't necessarily look younger, but they do look different. I don't think that I would ever want to look different. I don't know if I could look into the mirror and be OK with seeing somebody other than myself.

The idea of being a cartoon version of yourself isn't appealing?

I did a little bit (of plastic surgery). I tried it out, and that's what disturbed me. I didn't look like myself. It scared me. I didn't look younger. I just looked different.

If you could team up with two of your gay friends to get back at a man who wronged you, a la "The Other Woman," whom would you pick as your gay sidekicks?

Oh my god, for sure my friend Brad (Cafarelli). He's my publicist and would be perfect because he's so clever and stealthy. He's just super keen. He doesn't miss a detail. And he sees it all! I want him on my side for anything. And he's hot. I would

See Cameron Diaz, page 34

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Introducing The Drag Rapper Du Jour

Iggy Azalea Talks Safeguarding Her Gays, 'Uppity' Makeup Artists & Being A Drag Queen

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Let's get something straight: Iggy Azalea is not a "fake lesbian." In an era where pseudo bisexuality is all the rage, and though her YouTube breakthrough was basically an anthem for female genitalia, Australia's rising rap star (real name Amethyst Amelia Kelly) refuses to admit that she kissed a girl and liked it.

Doing it her own way, songs off Azalea's long-awaited debut, "The New Classic" – the autobiographical rags-to-riches "Work," and the boasting liberation single "Fancy" – showcase a fierce fighter who's resilient, empowered and ready for rap domination.

After several delays, how does it feel to finally get this album out?

Definitely a relief. I think people's interest and support of "Fancy" came as a bit of a surprise. I didn't anticipate it being as embraced as it has been on radio, so I think I've been very lucky in my situation leading up to my album. I'm very happy at the moment to be putting (the album) out and feeling like, yes, it's finally out, but also I have a song that's doing well and getting radio play, which is something that I never usually get, so I'm very excited.

You've been embraced in the gay community since the beginning, when you released your mixtape, "Ignorant Art," in 2011.

Well, I am a drag queen, so ... (Laughs)

Do you call yourself a drag queen?

I always call myself a drag queen. My hairdresser always says, "You're a big drag queen. You're in drag makeup, drag hair..." And it's true! I can't help it!

"The New Classic" embraces themes of empowerment, independence and perseverance. Was that intentional?

That's the general gist of my album, yeah, but I didn't go into it thinking, "Oh, I'm gonna do these themes." I just said, "I'm gonna write about my life." And reflecting on it, and in retrospect, it makes sense

considering it is my life, and my life is a shit fight. (Laughs)

You've been very open about your life being a "shit fight," saying you were ostracized and that you felt like an outsider. Does that have anything to do with why you're drawn to gay people?

I don't think so. I think I just love that gay people generally have great taste and are fabulous ... and I think I'm the same! (Laughs) That's what I think we have in common the most, but we definitely do have being ostracized in common too. I relate to that as well, and I'll talk about certain things like that and draw comparisons over time. But I just know so many gay men – Marco Marco, who does my costumes, and my hairdresser – that I think are so creative and totally get it, I guess. They get how it's cheeky or how it's poking fun, whereas sometimes other people can take longer to catch on. For some reason the gay community seems to be straightaway, like, "We get what you're doing here," so I think that's why I've worked and aligned myself with so many gay men more than anyone else. They understand it and I don't sit there all day long explaining to them, "This is what it needs to look like, blah, blah, blah."

Who was the first gay person you connected to on that level?

My choreographer. I still have the same choreographer that I had

when I was 17. His name is Victor Jackson. He's really amazing. I remember the first time I ever met him: He was my stage coach and he was teaching me how to have confidence on stage – little things like stage blocking and always making sure you're in the middle of the stage for the chorus. I didn't know that when I was 17, and that's when I met him.

I remember the first time I met him and he was like, "Just do what you would normally do," and I did it and he was like, "Oh my god, you're such a drag queen." And he's been my friend since then. He still choreographs everything

I do. He does my stage shows, all my music videos. He

chooses all my dances – and he just gets me. He's the first gay guy that I was like, "Yes, you have to stick with me for life."

You watch "RuPaul's Drag Race" together, don't you?

I love RuPaul actually! I met him the other day and we've kept in contact. It's so funny because my makeup artist can't make it on my tour because she teaches makeup classes as well and she's doing a course at the same time I happen to have my tour. I'm like, "Oh no. Who's gonna do my makeup?!" I said to my hairdresser, "I need a drag queen makeup artist! I don't want one of these usual makeup artists that put makeup on models." I call it "casket ready." I don't need someone who hates makeup that does, like, runway makeup. I said to my hairdresser, "Who do you think does the best makeup?" He said Raja Gemini, so I'm getting Raja Gemini.

See Iggy Azalea, page 31

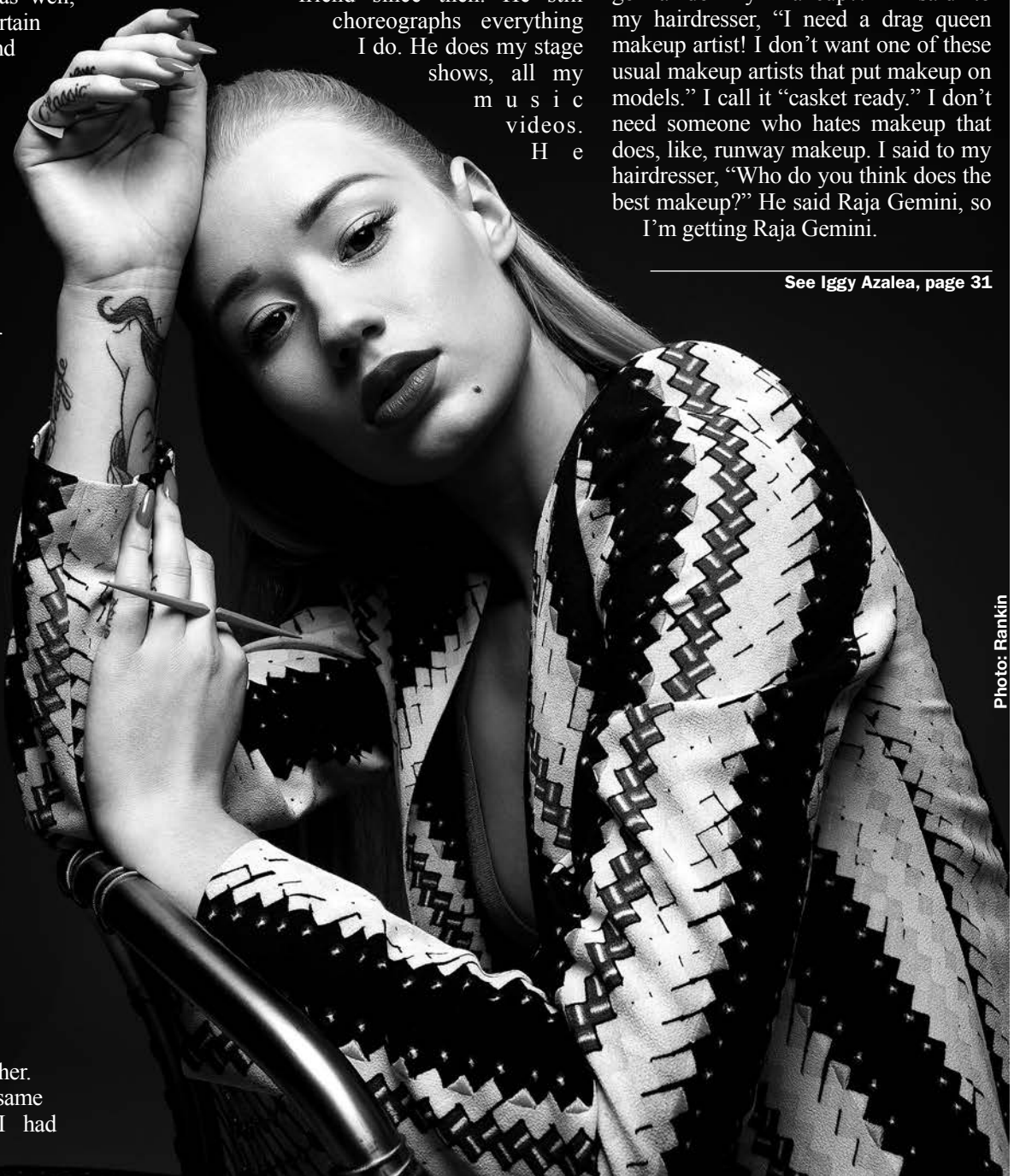


Photo: Rankin

Hear Me Out

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Dolly Parton, Ingrid Michaelson



Dolly Parton, 'Blue Smoke'

A song off Dolly Parton's 42nd studio album, "Lover du Jour," is as hilariously cheesy as some of the legend's own quips. On it, she warns, "I am not for your amusement." Except, well, she kind of is – and, for over 50 years, she has been. The campy kiss off to a no-good "lover boy" has Dolly's tongue firmly planted in her cheek as she dishes some feisty innuendo and speaks really, really bad French. Those who will always love her, however, don't just admire that she's never taken herself too seriously – they love her because she's got a heart of gold. No song on "Blue Smoke" models that better than "You Can't Make Old Friends," where Dolly reunites with Kenny Rogers. You can't fake a connection like theirs, and having them together again (they first collaborated on "Islands in the Stream" in 1983) is a lovely way of celebrating their enduring friendship. Moving, bittersweet and beautifully sung, "You Can't Make Old Friends," which really should earn the singer-songwriter her ninth Grammy, has the timelessness of a Parton classic. "From Here to the Moon and Back," with Kris Kristofferson, is equally as tender, even magical. "Blue Smoke," rooted in bluegrass, is a lot like watching Dolly play dress-up. She's a storyteller covering

the classic murder ballad "Banks of the Ohio," a self-help guru on "Try" and, on "Home," she's herself, singing about childhood memories over a pop-country wallop. Stylistically, "Blue Smoke" isn't consistent, but it is consistently Dolly – and who's gonna mind that? *Grade: B*



Ingrid Michaelson, 'Lights Out'

Reveling for too long in her success as a Starbucks go-to tapped for emotional TV dramas, maybe

Ingrid Michaelson felt as stagnant as it seemed she'd become. The indie-pop artist's sixth album, "Lights Out," boldly takes a giant leap forward with a radical sound switch-up indicative of a musician looking to be more than the soundtrack to "Grey's Anatomy" and your coffeehouse visits (genre buddy Sara Bareilles also surprisingly nabbed a coveted Album of the Year Grammy nomination last year, so that likely played a role in Michaelson's shift). "Girls Chase Boys" isn't just an adorable ditty with one of the most instantly infectious melodies this year. It answers, quite simply, why who you love shouldn't be a political debate: "Let's not

make it harder than it has to be / It's all the same thing / Girls chase boys chase girls." "Over You," with A Great Big World, swells into a big "Say Something"-esque ballad, and "Everyone Is Gonna Love Me Now" contemplates a farewell – maybe running away, maybe suicide – only to gain absent adoration. And though love in its many forms is commonplace on "Lights Out," Michaelson also confronts identity, doubt and finding your place. After its whimsical lead-in, Michaelson's voice whispering in your ear, "Home" swells into an atmospheric catharsis, eventually bursting at the seams with its choral orchestration. It sounds wonderful. It sounds right. It sounds like Ingrid Michaelson's where she belongs. *Grade: B*

Also Out



Boy George, 'This Is What I Do'

On Boy George's first album in two decades, the pop icon says his sparkle's back. If he's referring to his mid-'80s Culture Club sparkle, well, its luster isn't as radiant, but that doesn't mean he's not glistening under those stage lights. Despite the 52-year-old's voice dropping to that of a husky daddy, he stills commands on "It's Easy," a dreamy heartbreaker, and on the soul-searching "King of Everything." Otherwise, though, his long-awaited return, which ends with a blur of reggae tracks and two covers ("Make You Feel My Love" and "Video Games") is uneven, unfocused and mostly uninteresting.



Shakira, 'Shakira'

Shakira tames the beast she unleashed on her last English-language album five years ago, "She Wolf," sinking her teeth into something less dance-focused for this self-titled release. The Colombian pop star's first album for RCA is a too-broad stew of musical endeavors, trying on a variety of styles with a variety of collaborators: she goes reggae-rock with Rihanna on "Can't Remember to Forget You," gives pop standout "The One Thing" a rootsy guitar sound and somehow pulls off a duet with country's Blake Shelton on "Medicine." It's adequate, and sometimes quite good, but you'll wish the wolf would come out and play.

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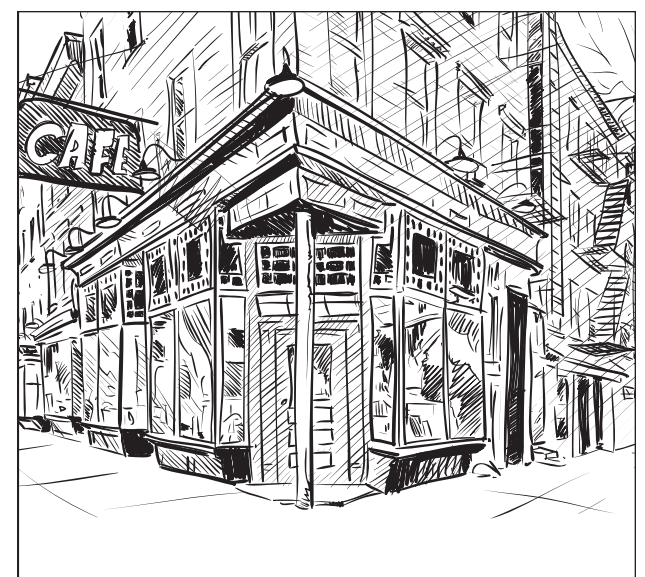
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Dining Out for Life When you eat out at any of the participating restaurants in the Metro Detroit area, a portion of your food bill will be donated to the Michigan AIDS Coalition (MAC). Michigan AIDS Coalition (MAC), **Metro-Detroit**. Diningoutforlife.com

Gender Hormone Counseling Sessions 6 p. m. Darnell Jones, RPH and GNA, will conduct one on one counseling sessions for the transgender community. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

Toastmasters International SpeakOUT! Club 7 p. m. Toastmasters will show you how to listen more effectively, think on your feet and speak confidently Jim Toy Community Center, 319 Braun Court, **Ann Arbor**. 734-995-9867. Jimtoycenter.org

Friday, April 25

Artistic Women's Entertainment 1 a. m. AWE is female entertainment group in SE Michigan (largely lesbians) who sing, dance, perform spoken word and more. The show is a chance for women of all skills to get on stage with a supportive audience AWE, **Inkster**. 248-943-2411. lindacbrin@gmail.com Artisticwomensentertainment.org

Human Trafficking Victim Service Provider Training 8 a. m. Victim service providers will learn about how to identify and respond, and what resources are available at the community, state, and national level for victims of human trafficking. Kalamazoo Anti-Human Trafficking Coalition and YWCA of Kalamazoo, 1316 Barney Road, **Kalamazoo**. Kglrc.org

Road., **Ferndale**. 248-334-1284. loakes@haven-oakland.org Goaffirmations.org

Open Mic Night with Michelle Brown 6 p. m. Whether it's poetry, singing or anything in between, this is your opportunity to express yourself on stage. All ages welcome. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

Second Annual Jim Toy Birthday Bash 6:30 p. m. Honoring Congressman John D. Dingell. Tickets: \$15-500. Jim Toy Community Center, 720 Norris St., **Ypsilanti**. 734-995-9867. Jimtoycenter.org

Womyn's Film Night 7 p. m. Film: Cloudburst-Stella and Dot, a lesbian couple, escape from their nursing home and head to Canada to get married. Along the way, they pick up a young male hitchhiker, a troubled soul who has much to learn about courage from the two ladies. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org/

Movie Night 7:30 p. m. Movies of an LGBT nature. Free. Battle Creek Pride Resource Center, 16 E. Van Buren St., **Battle Creek**. Battlecreekpride.org

Detroit Women's Coffee House Revival 8 p. m. A chance for us to celebrate the talent in our community and raise funds for Women musicians and artists and our local non-profit organizations in our community. GIFT, 1641 Middlebelt Road, **Inkster**. 248-943-2411. lindacbrin@gmail.com Womenoutandabout.com/calendar/detroit-womens-coffee-house/

Spring is in the Air 8 p. m. Let's get our dance on! Women of Color Same Gender Loving 40 & Up, 1641 Middlebelt Road, **Inkster**. Meetup.com/Women-of-Color-Same-Gender-Loving-40-UP

X the Line-Peer Educators 2 p. m. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. dsmith@goaffirmations.org Goaffirmations.org

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

Spring Beer Fest 7 p. m. Royal Oak Farmers Market, 316 E. 11 Mile Road, **Royal Oak**. 248-246-3276. Ci.royal-oak.mi.us

GLBT AA 8 p. m. Jim Toy Community Center, 319 Braun Court, **Ann Arbor**. 734-995-9867. Jimtoycenter.org

Sunday, April 27

Lansing in the Pink Week Different events throughout the week to help get donations for breast cancer research and treatment. Downtown Lansing, **Lansing**. Downtownlansing.org

London Lesbian Film Festival North America's only lesbian film festival. Anyone who self-identifies as a woman is welcome to attend all film screenings and all festival events. Tickets: \$12-65. Reeling Spinsters, **London**. Liff. ca

Run for Literacy 8 a. m. Proceeds from the run will help fund the Literacy Program, which provides an opportunity for adults residing in Wayne County to increase their skills, competencies and confidence, leading toward independence. Fee: \$20-25. Detroit Central City Community Mental Health (DCC), **Detroit**. Dcccmh.org

Get Out Bike-Belle Isle 9:45 a. m. Get Out Bike, Fountain Way, **Detroit**. Meetup.com/GOAL-Get-Out-And-Live-LGBT

Dykes on Bikes-Ride Schedule 11:45

Susan G. Komen Mid-Michigan Race for the Cure 2 p. m. Over 6,000 racers in front of the Capitol. Lansing in the Pink Week, **Lansing**. Downtownlansing.org

Passover Seder 4 p. m. Cost per person is \$25, seating is limited to the first 50 people. Affirmations Faith Alliance, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. http://goaffirmations.com/seder

Euchre Tournament 7 p. m. Battle Creek Pride Resource Center, 16 E. Van Buren St., **Battle Creek**. Battlecreekpride.org

Server Sundays 9 p. m. Bring in a paystub or POS card. Discounts for those in hospitality industry. aut Bar, 315 Braun Ct., **Ann Arbor**. 734-994-3677. Autbar.com

Showbiz Sunday 10 p. m. Ace Deville, Delicious, Maria Mirelez, DJ Lipgloss, and more. Additional showtimes at 11 p. m. and 12 a. m. Spiral Dance Bar, 1247 Center St., **Lansing**. 517-894-1315. Spiraldancebar.com

Monday, April 28

Buddys Pizza Slice For Life: Fundraiser for the Capuchin Soup Kitchen All the pizza and salad you care to eat (dine-in only) to support the Capuchin Soup Kitchen. Tickets: \$6-15. Capuchin Soup Kitchen, **Multiple**. 313-579-2100 ext. 17. cskdetroit.org/events/Buddys_Pizza_Slice_for_Life/

Restorative Yin Yoga with Meditation 6:45 p. m. Get pampered. GOAL, 1945 Pauline Blvd., **Ann Arbor**. Meetup.com/GOAL-Get-Out-And-Live-LGBT

Center Open-Drop In 7 p. m. Jim Toy Community Center, 319 Braun Court, **Ann Arbor**. 734-995-9867. Jimtoycenter.org

Mad Hatter's Writing Group 7 p. m. This group meets the fourth Monday of each month. It's a working group focused on using various tools and techniques to move any current project forward toward completion. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

Tuesday, April 29

Aff Action Night 6 p. m. Educating others about how to make Michigan an equality state. Pizza provided for volunteers. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. goaffirmations.org

Because We Are Worth It (Sex Addicts Anonymous LGBTQ Meeting) 6:30 p. m. Jim Toy Community Center, 319 Braun Court, **Ann Arbor**. 734-995-9867. jimtoycenter.org

Circle of Life: Pet Ownership Discussion and Support Group 6:30 p. m. Led by a licensed counselor. Share stories, frustrations, grief and successes. Tail Waggers 1990, 28402 Five Mile Road, **Livonia**. 734-855-4077. Tailwaggers1990.org

Life's a Stitch 6:30 p. m. Open to those who Crochet, Knit, Quilt, Needlepoint, Macrame and Jewelry. Free. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

Karaoke 9:30 p. m. Hosted by KJ Les. aut Bar, 315 Braun Ct., **Ann Arbor**. 734-994-3677. Autbar.com

Wednesday, April 30

Senior Koffee Klatch 1 p. m. A lively, discussion and social group for LGBT adults over 45. Group covers topics pertaining to aging and outside speakers. Potluck dinners at members homes, lunches out and holiday parties. Meets ever Wednesday on the upper level of the Affirmations building. Senior Koffee Klatch, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. GoAffirmations.org

Mid-Week Meditation 6 p. m. Suggested Donation: \$3. Michigan Pagans, 195 W. Nine Mile Road, Suite 1B, **Ferndale**. Meetup.com/michiganpagans

Thursday, May 1

Bell's Fest First ever event, with shows, Bell's beer and more. 21+. Bell's Brewery, **Lansing**. Downtownlansing.org

Twisted Games Party games and fully nude strippers. Hosted by Ace Deville. 18+. Spiral Dance Bar, 1247 Center St., **Lansing**. 517-894-1315. Spiraldancebar.com

Lavender Graduation 4:30 p. m. Spectrum Center, **Ann Arbor**. Spectrumcenter.umich.edu

Red Robot 7 p. m. Ageplay group. Every first Thursday. Jim Toy Community Center, 319 Braun Court, **Ann Arbor**. 734-995-9867. Jimtoycenter.org

Whole Lives, Healthy Lives Adult Support Group 7 p. m. This one-of-a-kind program in Berrien County helps attendees support each other in healthy ways through active listening and caring feedback. OutCenter, 132 Water St., **Benton Harbor**. 269-925-8330. Outcenter.org

Pagan Chat Nights 7:30 p. m. Come socialize with FOCAS members and other area pagans! Michigan Pagans, 21700 West Road, **Woodhaven**. Meetup.com/michiganpagans

Drag Queen Bingo Un-Leashed 8 p. m. "No Holds Barred" Thursday edition! 18+. Tickets: \$20. Five15, 515 S. Washington Ave., **Royal Oak**. 248-515-2551. Five15.net

MUSIC & MORE

Comedy

Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase "Gary Gulman" Tickets: \$11-17. Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase, 314 E. Liberty St., **Ann Arbor**. April 24-April 26. 734-996-9080. Aacomedy.com

Detroit Symphony Orchestra "Forgotten Harvest Comedy Night presents Tim Allen". Max M. Fisher Music Center, 3711 Woodward Ave., **Detroit** 8 p. m. April 26. 313-576-5111. Dso.org

Emergent Arts "Chilli Challis' Comedy Dojo" Coaching new and experienced standup comics. The Mix Studio Theatre, 8 N. Washington St., **Ypsilanti**. April 6-April 27. 734-985-0875. Emergentarts.com

Emergent Arts "UNclub Open Mic" Emcee Mark Sweetman. Tickets: \$5. The Mix Studio Theatre, 8 N. Washington St., **Ypsilanti**. April 6-April 27. 734-985-0875. Emergentarts.com

Concerts

Blind Pig "Fredo Santana" All ages. Tickets: \$20. Blind Pig, 208 S. First St., **Ann Arbor** 8 p. m. April 30. 734-996-8555. Blindpigmusic.com

Detroit Symphony Orchestra "Beethoven Violin Concerto". Max M. Fisher Music Center, 3711 Woodward Ave., **Detroit**. April 25-April 26. 313-576-5111. Dso.org

Kerrytown Concert House "Celebrate International Jazz Day with Vincent York" A tribute to Paul Desmond and Chet Baker. Tickets: \$10-20. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave., **Ann Arbor** 8 p. m. April 30. 734-763-4186. Kerrytownconcerthouse.com

Kerrytown Concert House "Penelope Crawford" Fortepiano. Tickets: \$5-30. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave., **Ann Arbor** 8 p. m. April 25. 734-763-4186. Kerrytownconcerthouse.com

Royal Oak Music Theatre "Jesse Cook". Royal Oak Music Theatre, 318 W. Fourth St., **Royal Oak**. April 30. 248-399-2980. Royaloakmusictheatre.com

The Ark "Pearl and The Beard" Tickets: \$15-20. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., **Ann Arbor** 8 p. m. April 26. 734-761-1800. Theark.org

The Ark "John Gorka" Tickets: \$20. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., **Ann Arbor**. 7:30 p. m. April 27. 734-761-1800. Theark.org

The Ark "Steve Tyrell" Tickets: \$35. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., **Ann Arbor** 8 p. m. April 24. 734-761-1800. Theark.org

The Magic Bag "Ekoostik Hookah" Tickets: \$15. The Magic Bag, 22920 Woodward Ave., **Ferndale**. April 25. 248-544-3030. Themagicbag.com

University Musical Society (UMS) "Rock and Roll for UMS" Proceeds fund the UMS Education & Community Engagement Program. Tickets: \$75. Cobblestone Farm, **Ann Arbor**. 7:30 p. m. April 24. Ums.org

Wharton Center for Performing Arts "Cyrille Aimee and Friends" Cyrille Aimee is an unstoppable, undeniable new talent in jazz today. Wharton Center for Performing Arts, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. 7:30 p. m. April 24. 517-432-2000. Whartoncenter.com/events/detail/cyrille-aimee

THEATER

Civic/Community Theater

A Streetcar Named Desire \$7-15. The Twin City Players, 600 W. Glenford Road, St. Joseph. Through April 27. 269-429-0400. twincityplayers.org

Annie Get Your Gun \$18-24. The Kalamazoo Civic Theatre at Civic Auditorium, 329 S. Park St., **Kalamazoo**. May 2 - 18. 269-343-1313. kazooicivic.com

Five Women Wearing the Same Dress \$15-20. Barefoot Productions, 240 N. Main St., **Plymouth**. April 25 - May 4. 734-560-1493. justgobarefoot.com

Irena's Vow \$7. The Kalamazoo Civic Senior Class Reader's Theatre at Carver Center Studio, 426 S. Park St., **Kalamazoo**. April 25 - 27. 269-343-1313. kazooicivic.com

Life is a Dream \$5-15. Brass Tacks Ensemble at A2CT Studio Theater, 322 W. Ann St., **Ann Arbor**. April 24 - May 3. 734-971-2228.

Moll \$25 dinner & theater (advanced only); \$13 show only. LowellArts! Players at Larkin's Other Place, 301 W. Main St., **Lowell**. April 25 - May 10. 616-897-8545. lowellartsmi.org

Rumors \$14-16. Farmington Players, 32332 W. 12 Mile Road, Farmington Hills. April 25 - May 17. 248-553-2955. farmingtonplayers.org

The Importance of Being Earnest \$10-15. Richmond Community Theatre, 69619 Parker St., **Richmond**. April 25 - May 11. 586-727-9518. richmondtheatre.com

The Laramie Project The Detroit Actor's Theatre Company at Ferndale United Methodist Church Social Hall Theatre, 22331 Woodward Ave., **Ferndale**. April 24 - April 26. thedatc.org

Professional

A Midsummer Night's Dream \$7-14. Pigeon Creek Shakespeare Company at Dog Story Theatre, 7 Jefferson SE, Grand Rapids. May 1 - 27. 616-425-9234. dogstorytheater.com

A Midsummer Night's Dream \$7-14. Pigeon Creek Shakespeare Company at Seven Steps Up, 116 S. Jackson St., Spring Lake. 7:30 p.m. May 2. 616-850-0916.

A Whale in Hilton Head and Conversations With a Chimpanzee \$8-12. The Stark Turn Players at Dog Story Theatre, 7 Jefferson SE, Grand Rapids. May 1 - May 4. 616-425-9234. dogstorytheater.com



Editor's Pick

Rumor has it the Farmington Players next production will shake you up ... with laughter.

The Players are wrapping up the season with the Neil Simon classic "Rumors," a zany fast-paced farce loaded with slamming doors, mistaken identities and physical humor. The show opens April 25 and runs through May 17.

The show is set in 1988 with no cell phones, no

Facebook and no shortage of word of mouth functioning as the main mechanism to spread rumors. The fun begins with the deputy mayor of New York shooting himself in the ear on the day he's hosting a party for his wedding anniversary. When upper-class couples arrive for the celebration they realize the politician and his wife are missing and the mad rush is on to conceal the truth from the media and police.

Tickets (\$14-16) are on sale at the box office at 248-553-2955. The Farmington Players Barn is located at 32332 W. 12 Mile Road in Farmington Hills.

Pets and Pajamas Movie Night 5 p. m. Adoptable animal interactions, cheese pizza dinner, and an animal-themed movie with popcorn. Appropriate for ages 5 and up. Tickets: \$15-35. Humane Society of Huron Valley, 3100 Cherry Hill Road, **Ann Arbor**. 734-662-5585. Hshv.convio.net

Take Back the Night 5 p. m. A community outreach event surrounding intimate partner violence and sexual violence in LGBTQ communities. We unite again this year to recognize the collective power of our community to end the violence. Affirmations and HAVEN, 290 W. Nine Mile

Saturday, April 26

Revitalizing the Neighborhoods of Midtown: People, Progress & Challenges Earn 5.0 CEUs. Feet on The Street Tours, **Multiple**. EnjoytheD.com

Quarterly Community Trainings 9 a. m. For anyone interested in volunteering at or learning more about the Ruth Ellis Center. Ruth Ellis Center, 77 Victor St., **Highland Park**. 313-252-1950. Ruthelliscenter.org

Informational Open House 2 p. m. OutCenter, 132 Water St., **Benton Harbor**. 269-925-8330. Outcenter.org

a. m. Meeting to discuss 2014 Ride Schedule. Dykes on Bikes, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

Outpouring 12:30 p. m. LGBT-affirming service. Non-denominational Christian. Affirming Love Ministries, 9550 Oakland Ave., **Detroit**. Affirmingloveministries.webs.com

Yom HaShoah Holocaust Day of Remembrance 1 p. m. Commemoration. Holocaust Memorial Center, 48123 Orchard Lake Road, **Farmington Hills**. 248-553-2400 x24. Holocaustcenter.org

► Iggy Azalea

Continued from p. 28

What exactly is the difference between a drag queen makeup artist and a regular makeup artist?

Regular makeup artists don't even believe in makeup; it's so fucking weird to me. Like, you're a makeup artist but you hate makeup? I see this hierarchy among makeup artists, and with fashion magazines too, and they're anti-drag makeup. My makeup artist really does do drag makeup too, and I always say she's a big drag queen as well. It's heavy and thick and more theatrical – it's all those things – but just because you go extra on the makeup or you can do it more theatrical doesn't mean it can't look good. There's actually more skill involved in doing a nice contour and a transformation and doing theater makeup or stage makeup. It's much harder.

I always try to book my makeup artists for my shoot and they'll be like, "Oh no, we don't want you to have such heavy makeup." I always laugh and say to them, "Do you know how much fucking makeup I was wearing in that picture, bitch? Stop trying to be so uppity about it." It's like if you do draggy makeup, it's "eww." If you do all moisturizer and five licks of mascara, then, "Ooh, that's a makeup artist." I think it's complete shit. And if they don't let me have my makeup artist, I just show up with my makeup done. Be like, "Hey, I'm here. You're not touching my face."

When it comes to the gay rights movement, the world is obviously evolving. Do you feel like hip-hop is keeping up with that evolution?

Yeah, I think so. I saw Le1f, the rapper ... *the* gay rapper.

The one gay rapper.

The one gay rapper – as if there aren't more! (Laughs) I did see him perform on "David Letterman" the other day and thought, "Wow, I don't think I would've seen that six years ago." I think it's the same thing with accepting people of different nationalities who are from different parts of the world. It takes consumers to make them see that they have a place, and I don't think people that hold the keys to the castle are just gonna fucking hand them over and let you in – whether you're gay or whatever! You have to just get out there enough and then be like, "I have an audience, so fuck you."

Have you ever experienced first-hand incidents of homophobia within hip-hop?

Definitely. I mean, I'm around a lot of guys who are hood guys, and I have the gayest hairdresser of all time. He likes to dress in themes, so there's definitely times when it's never kind of said, but when I'm like, "Mmm, no. It's gonna be trouble to bring you around these people because they're gonna fucking say shit."

INFO

Iggy Azalea

7 p.m. April 26
St. Andrew's Hall
431 E. Congress St., Detroit
www.saintandrewsdetroit.com

Aww, so you're the mother hen to the gays.

Yeah, pretty much. But sometimes I'll be surprised as well. Sometimes, especially with my hairdresser, Sami (Knight), who's just so flamboyant, which is why I love, love, love him, there are guys who I would think would be so anti-that and they'll be like, "I love Sami. He's so cool, he's so fun to have a conversation with, he's awesome." So there are times I've been surprised, but also times when I feel very protective over him.

So, there's "Pu\$\$y," of course, but then on "Drop That," a song off "Ignorant Art," you say, "I ain't gay, so problem is, I'll have to pass." Do people assume otherwise?

I think they do because I will do songs and I'll talk about women, and also, there was such a big trend of people being fake bisexuals. I don't know what that was about. Like, "I'm such a bisexual woman," and I'd be like, "But you had boyfriends your whole life; you're not gay. Why are you pretending to be? What's with that?" I know I talk about women a lot, and I think women are beautiful and I like talking about them, but I didn't want people to misconstrue that and think that I was being a fake lesbian. It wasn't a, "Don't think I'm gay," but more so me being like, "Hey, I'm not a fake lesbian." Straight's cool too, you know! It's almost like gay nowadays is so trendy that people want to be gay and then they don't. I'm not gay. I love gay people, but I'm straight. I don't wanna kiss girls. I'm not into girls. I appreciate women, and I like rapping about them, but in case you thought I was a lame person pretending to be gay, um, I'm not.

I appreciate anyone who stays true to themselves regardless of their sexuality.

I agree. I just hate when people do it to try to be trendy, and I see it so much in songwriting and it's like, you're not even bi-curious! You've probably never even been with a girl in any capacity! But somebody's written this lyric for you and you think it's cool so you're saying it? It's corny and it's lame.

So, I take it you're not a fan of Katy Perry's "I Kissed a Girl"?

I don't know. I don't wanna get into Katy Perry. First of all, that song is catchy as hell; I can't front. And second, I love Katy and she wrote songs on my album so I don't want to start naming people. Especially not Katy, because she's my friend and next thing you know I'll be getting a phone call.

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The Ark will host Micah Smiles Benefit Benefit Concert for C.S. Mott Children's Hospital: Acoustic Eidolon in Ann Arbor this Wednesday. Chamber folk act Acoustic Eidolon is comprised of couple Joe and Hannah.

Since 1998, a unique sound has been produced by the couple. Hannah is a studio cellist, while Joe plays a unique instrument: the double-neck guitjo. A double-neck guitjo is a cross between a guitar and a harp, with 14 strings.

The benefit begins at 8 p.m. Wednesday, April 30 at The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. Tickets start at \$30, with \$100 VIP tickets available. For more information, call 734-761-1800 or visit www.theark.org.

▶ Happenings

Continued from p. 30

August: Osage County \$10-30. Hilberry Theatre, 4743 Cass Ave., Detroit. April 18 - May 10. 313-577-2972. hilberry.com

Brother of All \$17-20. Detroit Repertory Theatre, 13103 Woodrow Wilson, Detroit. Through May 18. 313-868-1347. detroitreptheatre.com

Country Roads: A Musical Journey \$35-41. The Dio - Dining & Entertainment, 177 E. Main St., Pinckney. Through May 11. 517-672-6009. diotheatre.com

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

How I Became a Pirate \$19. City Theatre, 2301 Woodward Ave., Detroit. April 25 - 27. 313-471-6611. olympiaentertainment.com

Improv Mondays \$5 at the door. Planet Ant Theatre, 2357 Caniff, Hamtramck. 313-365-4948. planetant.com

Into the Woods \$10-25. The Ringwald Theatre, 22742 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. May 2 - June 2. 248-545-5545. theringwald.com

Life Is Happening To Us Again \$15. A Host of People at Play House, 12657 Moran St., Detroit. Through April 26. ahostofpeople.org

Love is Strange \$15-18. Magenta Giraffe Theatre Company at The Abreact Performance Space, 1301 W. Lafayette #113, Detroit. Through April 26. 313-454-1542. magentagiraffe.org

Motherhood Out Loud A staged reading. \$7. Flint Youth Theatre, 1220 E. Kearsley St., Flint. 6 p.m. April 27. 810-237-1530. flintyouththeatre.org

Nathan Gunn \$67. The Berman Center for the Performing Arts, 6600 W. Maple Road, West Bloomfield. 7:30 p.m. April 24. 248-661-1900. theberman.org

Old Wicked Songs \$27-29. Farmers Alley Theatre, 221 Farmers Alley, Kalamazoo. April 25 - May 11. 269-343-2727. farmersalleytheatre.com

Richard III \$27-46. Performance Network Theatre, 120 E. Huron St., Ann Arbor. April 24 - June 1. 734-663-0681. performancenetwork.org

Sister Act \$40+. Fisher Theatre, 3011 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit. April 22 - May 4. 313-872-1000. broadwayindetroit.com

Stars on Ice \$30+. Joe Louis Arena, 19 Steve Yzerman Dr., Detroit. 4 p.m. April 27. 800-745-3000.

olympiaentertainment.com

Steel Magnolias \$12-15. Great Escape Stage Company, 155 W. Michigan Ave., Marshall. Through April 27. 269-781-2700. greatescapetheatre.com

Sundays at Go Comedy! Pay-what-you-can at the door. Go Comedy! Improv Theater, 261 E. Nine Mile Rd., Ferndale. 248-327-0575. gocomedy.net

The Andrews Brothers \$25-40. Meadow Brook Theatre, 2200 N. Squirrel Road, Rochester. April 23 - May 18. 248-370-2030. mbtheatre.com

The Foreigner \$22-32. The Encore Musical Theatre Company, The Encore Musical Theatre, 3126 Broad St., Dexter. Through May 4. 734-268-6200. theencoretheatre.org

The PRTC Spring Comedy Festival: Lovers, Liars & Lunatics \$18.50-42. The Purple Rose Theatre Company, 137 Park St., Chelsea. Through May 24. 734-433-7673. purplerosetheatre.org

The True Story of the Three Little Pigs by A. Wolf \$8. Wharton Center for Performing Arts, 750 E Shaw Lane, East Lansing. April 27. 517-432-2000. whartoncenter.com/events/detail/the-true-story-of-the-three-little-pigs

The Wizard of Oz \$3-15. Wild Swan Theater at Towsley Auditorium in the Morris Lawrence Building on the campus of Washtenaw Community College, 4800 E. Huron River Dr., Ann Arbor. May 1 - 4. 734-995-0530. wildswantheater.org

To Kill a Mockingbird \$20. What A Do Theatre, 4071 W. Dickman Road, Springfield. May 2 - 17. 269-282-1953. whatado.org

Veterans of SNL \$29-59. The Whiting, 1241 E. Kearsley St., Flint. 7:30 p.m. April 26. 810-237-8689. thewhiting.com

ART 'N' AROUND

Cranbrook Art Museum "The 2014 Graduate Degree Exhibition". Cranbrook Art Museum, 39221 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. April 22-May 11. 877-462-7262. Cranbrookart.edu

Detroit Institute of Arts "Samurai: Beyond the Sword" The exhibition looks at how Japan's legendary warrior class sought balance between military and cultural pursuits. Tickets: \$8-16. Detroit Institute of Arts, 2100 Woodward Ave., Detroit. March 9-June 1. 313-833-7900. Dia.org

Downriver Council for the Arts "Adult Watercolor Class" Facilitated by Shirley Ciungan. Drop-In. Open to beginners to advanced. Students bring own supplies. List available at first class or in DCA office. Admission: \$10. Downriver Council for the Arts, 81 Chestnut, Wyandotte. Aug. 7-June 25. 734-720-0671. Downriverarts.org

Holocaust Memorial Center "Surviving Genocide: Armenians and Jews in 20th Century France" With presentation by Dr. Maud Mandel. Holocaust Memorial Center, 48123 Orchard Lake Road, Farmington Hills. 7 p.m. April 30. 248-553-2400 x24. Holocaustcenter.org

James Pearson Duffy Department of Art and Art History "scope: 2014 Wayne State University Undergraduate Exhibition" Features a wide range of approaches from which students derive their inspiration, ideas, and creations. Art Department Gallery, 150 Art Building, 5400 Gullen Mall, Detroit. April 18-May 16. 313-577-2423.

MOCAD "Tabernacle: A Metamorphic Healing Module" New York-based artist Sameer Reddy's practice aims to catalyze spiritual catharsis through aesthetic encounter, drawing on his parallel professional practice as a healer. Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit, 4454 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Feb. 7-May 4. 313-832-6622. Mocadetroit.org

Pewabic Pottery "Dominance Lost". Pewabic Pottery, 10125 E. Jefferson Ave., Detroit. March 21-May 11. 313-626-2000.

Riverside Arts Center "10th Annual Docent Exhibit". Riverside Arts Center, 76 North Huron Street, Ypsilanti. April 3-April 27. 734-483-7345. Riversidearts.org

robert kidd gallery "Deep Thaw" An emergence of new and recent acquisitions. robert kidd gallery, 107 Townsend St., Birmingham. March 22-April 26. 248-642-3909. Robertkiddgallery.com

The Michigan Modernism Exposition "The Michigan Modernism Exposition" One of the top shows of its kind in the country featuring 20th century design. Up to fifty of the nations most prominent Modernism merchants will offer pieces designed by such greats as Frank Lloyd Wright, Louis Comfort Tiffany, Herman Miller, Heywood Wakefield, the Stickley's, Salvador Dali and other designers' works of the Art Deco, Art Nouveau, Prairie School, Arts and Crafts, Surrealist and Neo-Classical schools of design. Tickets: \$10-12. Southfield Municipal Complex, 26000 Evergreen Road, Southfield. April 25-April 27. Facebook.com/MichiganModernism

The Scarab Club "Shapeshifters: Metamorphosis in the Sculpture of Germaine Richier" Part of Clyde Burroughs Dinner Lecture Series on American Art & Design. Tickets: \$50-65. The Scarab Club, 217 Farnsworth, Detroit. 6 p.m. April 24. 313-831-1250. Scarabclub.org

UMMA "An Eye on the Empire: Photographs of Colonial India and Egypt" The zenith of the British Empire in the later nineteenth century coincided with a unique convergence of cultural, technological, and economic forces. University Of Michigan Museum Of Art, 525 S. State St., Ann Arbor. April 1-June 29. 734-763-4186. umich.edu



Abracadabra Jewelry & Gem Gallery.....1	Esquire Interiors.....*	Necto.....11	Tios Mexican Cafe.....17
Ann Arbor Queer Aquatics.....*	Gail van Langen Ph.d.....7	Orion Automotive Services Inc.....*	Top of the Lamp.....*
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/aut/ Bar.....4	Jim Toy Resource Center.....4	Rock Shoppe.....*	University Musical Society.....19
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Dependable Collision Center.....*	Men's Yoga.....9	Sh'aut\ Cabaret and Gallery.....4	
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Leslie Mann, Nicki Minaj, Cameron Diaz and Kate Upton in "The Other Woman." Photo: 20th Century Fox

Feel free to elaborate.

We actually just did a very funny AOL "Unscripted" thing that just went off the rails. It was so funny.

Was it lesbianic?

Yeah, totally. Like, full-on hilarity. But yeah, (what happened behind the scenes) wasn't lesbian as in making fun of. It was putting it in a way that, you know, it's...

It's playful?

It's playful, exactly. Thank you. Totally playful. But Leslie (Mann) has this thing with butts, and it's because she has daughters. As a mom she's all like "goochy goochoo," "squeezy, squeezy, squeezy" and she's always pinching their tooshies. So Kate and I, when her kids weren't around, we got all the "squeeshy, squeeshy, squeeshy" and all the pinching and all the grabbing. (Laughs)

So that's as lesbian as it got?

It's more like mom nurturing. It's more like mom-ing. And, you know, some lesbians might find "mom-ing" really hot!

► Cameron Diaz

Continued from p. 27

also say Teddy (Bass), my trainer, who is just fearless and could crawl into any space and get anything done.

According to your co-star Kate Upton, there was some lesbian action happening behind the scenes of "The Other Woman."

(Laughs) What did she say?

That there was a lot of butt pinching.

Oh yeah, yeah, yeah!

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It's All In The Family At The Hilberry Theatre

BY CAROLYN HAYES

Viciousness shouldn't be quite so funny, nor frailty quite so compassionate, but family's weird that way. For the final production of its season, Hilberry Theatre takes on playwright Tracy Letts's much-lauded and recently film-adapted "August: Osage County," an epic tragicomedy chronicling resounding disaster and slovenly catharsis in one fractious Oklahoma clan. Fittingly, this story of homecoming features the return of Hilberry alumnus James R. Kuhl as director and a hotly anticipated guest performance by faculty member Lavinia Hart, who join with the graduate student company in pushing the vast ranges of this exhaustive script as far as parameters allow.

At the play's outset, the only inhabitants of the Weston house are the declining, adversarial Beverly (Alec Barbour) and Violet (Hart), along with their respective all-consuming addictions. When Beverly abruptly hires a live-in housekeeper (Sarah Hawkins Moan) and just as promptly



Miles Boucher, Dani Cochrane, Lavinia Hart, Annie Keris and Megan Dobberty Barbour in "August: Osage County" at The Hilberry Theatre. Photo: Bruce Giffin

disappears, it serves as the catalyst to bring the couple's three daughters back to their childhood home, with families – and baggage – in tow.

For Barbara (Danielle Cochrane), the added familial responsibility puts more weight on her spiraling marriage to Bill (Miles Boucher), whose insistent neutrality stings harder than hate and presents a parenting impasse over their cautiously willful teenaged daughter (Egla Kishta). As all eyes

begin turning to Barbara as de facto decision maker, Cochrane seizes over and over on the fallibility of instinct, agitating for external control in hopes of filling a personal void.

In contrast, self-serving Karen (Megan Barbour) makes clear the obligatory nature of her visit as she unflappably flaps her gums about herself. As her newly introduced fiancé, Brandon Grantz makes himself well at home in the humor of his deftly

REVIEW

August: Osage County

Hilberry Theatre, 4743 Cass Ave., Detroit. 8 p.m. April 24-26, May 1-3, 8-10; and 2 p.m. April 23, May 3. 3 hours, 20 minutes (including two 10-minute intermissions). \$10-30. 313-577-2972.

www.hilberry.com

bro-y cocktail of glossy sociability and simmering sleaze.

Finally, always underfoot is Ivy (Annie Keris), treated more like a hated afterthought than an entity by her haranguing mother. She's a resentful member of the faction who stayed close to the home front, playing caretaker and watchdog in concert with Violet's loudmouthed, cruel sister (Bevin Bell-Hall), her gentle, affectionate brother-in-law (Brandy Joe Plambeck), and their balmy, inoffensive screw-up of a son (David Sterritt).

A few clever concessions have been made to fit the house in the given

playing space, most notably tucking the "attic" to one side of the stage, with the suggestion that its visitors have climbed up from the second floor. The non-literal geography of the floor plan isn't particularly instinctive, but it makes abstract sense, requiring a bit of viewer flexibility in the same way that the casting might. Yes, it takes some extra mental energy to keep ages and relationships straight when aunts, uncles, and cousins are played by actors in a narrow age range, but it's a necessary concession given the nature of the Hilberry program, and it ultimately doesn't detract from the work being done.

Just to watch this play is an emotional workout, weathering expletives and contemptible barbs, as well as some decidedly mature subject matter. But this production's three acts keep the wheels turning, and its three-plus hours pass like a whirlwind, thanks to an unwavering through line and performances that reach the sublime. Viewers who like hard-hitting theater will relish this pummeling in the best, worst way.

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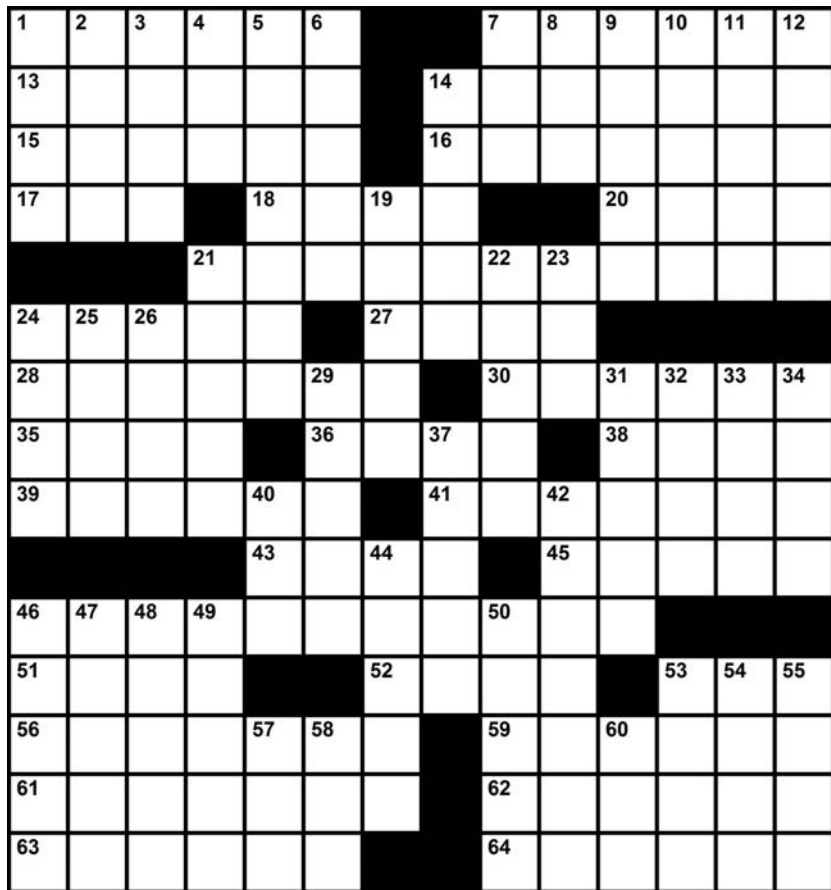
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Frontman With A Problem In Front



Across

- 1 Takei of "Star Trek"
 7 Rocker Boz
 13 Address to King Edward
 14 Dancer Duncan
 15 Start of an upcoming Broadway musical title
 16 Goes out with NASA astronaut Ride?
 17 Music lover's buys
 18 Leg smoother
 20 Virginia Woolf's "A Room of ____ Own"
 21 More of the title
 24 Hardly like a muscle Mary
 27 Survivor, sometimes
 28 Will Geer's role on "The Waltons"
 30 Put under
 35 Sophie B. Hawkins' "The Cream Will ____"
 36 End of the title
 38 A little, to Bernstein
 39 Come out
 41 Having a cool head
 43 On the summit of
 45 "Pussy, King of the Pirates" author Kathy
 46 With 59-Across, actor that plays -Across

- 51 Additional
 52 Azaria of "The Birdcage"
 53 "The Last King of Scotland" character
 56 1984 Lily Tomlin movie
 59 See 46-Across
 61 More minute
 62 Nocturnal reptile of Tennessee
 63 Beginnings
 64 Playground piece for a couple

Down

- 1 AIDS org.
 2 Looked at
 3 Ford contemporary
 4 Straight line
 5 Smiled from ear to ear
 6 Cut leaves of grass by the sidewalk
 7 F.I.C.A. funds it
 8 James Dean's "East of Eden" role
 9 Lesbian pulp author Arthur
 10 Auctioneer's word
 11 Garson of Hollywood
 12 Full of lip
 14 Porter's "Where ____ Life That Late I Led?"
 19 Hawke of _Hamlet_
 21 Mary Tyler Moore's costar Ed
 22 Eminem's " ____ Mile"

- 23 Constellation over Rio
 24 Fairy tale bad guy
 25 Fedora feature
 26 " ____ On Down the Road"
 29 Michelangelo's mother-and-son piece
 31 Tiny bit
 32 Long bath
 33 ____ homo
 34 Gay activist, e.g.
 37 "It's a Wonderful Life" director Frank
 40 Noticeable opening, with The
 42 A guy's junk
 44 Colette's "The ____ One"
 46 "Faboo!"
 47 First name in talk
 48 Lesbos and others
 49 "Fistful of Dollars" director Sergio
 50 Vonda Shepard's "It's ____ Kiss"
 53 Gershwin and Levin
 54 Actress Merrill
 55 Voyeur's confession
 57 Seizure for Caesar
 58 Month in Madrid
 60 Street where Debussy lived

Solution on pg. 34

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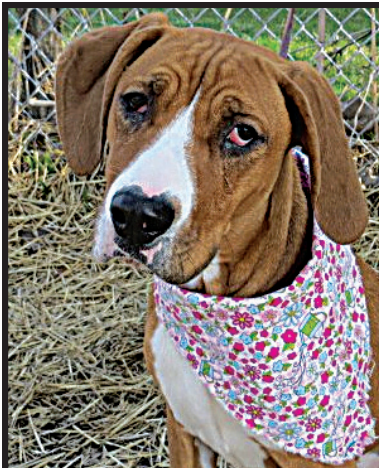
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7:30 pm, St. Andrews Episcopal Church Gay AA, 306 N. Division St. Closed/Discussion.

Bloomfield Hills-Sunday / Tuesday / Thursday

8:00 pm, North Woodward Equality, Birmingham Unitarian Church, 38651 Woodward, Bloomfield Hills, lower level classroom - enter first walkway off Woodward entrance. Big Book/12 & 12 Meeting.

Detroit-Tuesday / Friday

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

Farmington Hills-Monday

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

Ferndale-Monday / Wednesday / Friday

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

Ferndale-Saturday

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

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

Livonia-Friday

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

Warren-Monday

7:30 p.m., Eastside Serenity Gay AA, Odd Fellow's Hall, 830 S Monroe St Closed/Discussion.

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 Panel 3: "THEY BOTH HAD A LOT TO DEAL WITH WHEN THEY FIRST CAME OUT... JUST LIKE YOU."
 Panel 4: "BUT THEY KEPT ON GOING, MADE SOME GREAT FRIENDS, AND EVENTUALLY FOUND EACH OTHER."
 Panel 5: "AND TODAY THEY'RE COMPLETELY HAPPY!"
 Panel 6: "I THOUGHT SEEING THEM WOULD TAKE YOUR MIND OFF THOSE BULLIES AT SCHOOL."
 Panel 7: "BUT I GUESS I SHOULD HAVE CALLED AHEAD."
 Panel 8: "IF THEY'RE SO HAPPY, WHY WAS YOUR UNCLE ERIC TIED UP LIKE THAT?"

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Solution to puzzle from page 36

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