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To Wed Aug. 22

Photo courtesy of Miners Den

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“Everyone was saying that the gay community made that song ('Love to Love You') a hit. Now, I hear other people, especially with the song 'I Feel Love,' (saying) that it became a little bit of an anthem for the gay community. But, at the time, I didn't really realize it.”

– Disco Pioneer  
Giorgio Moroder  
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### OPINION



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DETROIT

**Trans Woman Of Color Murdered On Detroit West Side**

A 20-year-old trans female of color was found murdered Aug. 8 near Six Mile and Woodward.

Equality Michigan reported Amber Monroe, a trans Wayne State University student, was found shot and killed on the city's west side Saturday morning.

Monroe is the 12th transgender woman murdered in the U.S. this year and the 10th trans woman of color.

"Our hearts are heavy with grief that we have lost another vibrant member of our community too soon. Our thoughts and prayers go out to all of Amber's family and friends whom she clearly loved deeply. We have no idea yet whether this attack was fueled by transphobia," Yvonne Siferd, director of Victim Services for Equality Michigan said, "Transgender women, and especially transgender women of color, are disproportionately affected by violence. Her life was just beginning; I know that this loss will leave so many people with a hole in their lives and with more questions than answers. Let's come together to celebrate her life, and work for real change so that our transgender sisters can be free from persecution. I know we can do better. We have to do better."

According to Equality Michigan, Monroe loved her friends and vogueing.

Dani Woods, LGBT Liaison Officer to the Detroit Police Department, reports that no other information can be released at this time.

The Detroit police investigated three hate crimes, including a murder, against transgender people in the same area last year.

In 2013, the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs reported that 72 percent of anti-LGBT homicide victims were trans women and that 67 percent were trans women of color. In 2014, they reported that trans women were 5.8 times more likely to experience police violence and 6.1 times more likely to experience physical violence from the police.

SAGINAW

**SVSU Adds Nondiscrimination Policy**

Saginaw Valley State University has added gender identity protections and genetic information protections to the university's nondiscrimination policy.

Transgender individuals and individuals with a family history of genetic health conditions are now listed as protected classes under SVSU's nondiscrimination policy that applies to faculty, staff and students.

"A lot of people put in a lot of work over a long period of time trying to convince the administration and the board of trustees that including gender identity and sexual orientation in SVSU's nondiscrimination policy is the right thing to do. Ultimately, students are the winners when their professors aren't saddled with the fear of losing their job if they accidentally reveal their gender identity and sexual orientation during a lecture. It's like finally being able to exhale, knowing that you'll never have to hold your breath for an entire day ever again," said adjunct professor, Char Davenport, who teaches English at Delta College and Saginaw Valley State University.

J.J. Boehm, Director of Media and Community Relations, told MLive that university officials regularly review policies in the interest of keeping them updated and said that no single event prompted the changes.

A copy of the anti-harassment/discrimination policy can be found at [www.svsu.edu](http://www.svsu.edu).

# Anti-Gay State Lawmakers Caught In Sex Scandal, Refuse To Resign



In this Jan. 14, 2015 photo, Rep. Cindy Gamrat, R-Plainwell, and Rep Todd Courser, R-Lapeer wave to reporters in the House of Representatives in Lansing. A Michigan House leader on Friday, Aug. 7, 2015 requested an investigation into allegations that Courser orchestrated the distribution of a fictional email claiming he had sex with a male prostitute in a bid to conceal an extramarital relationship. In audio recordings obtained by the Detroit News, Courser said the email was designed to create "a complete smear campaign" about him and Gamrat so a revelation about their relationship would seem "mild by comparison." Dale G. Young /Detroit News via AP

BY TODD HEYWOOD

Two of Michigan's leading tea party voices and anti-gay leaders in the state legislature are refusing to step down after it was revealed they have been having an affair with each other, and tried to use taxpayer resources to cover it up. At least one of the lawmakers is now vowing to stay and fight even amidst growing calls for both to resign.

Reps. Todd Courser, R-Lapeer, and Cindy Gamrat, R-Plainwell, found themselves at the center of an unfolding scandal on Friday when the Detroit News published audio from meetings between the two lawmakers and a former employee of their offices, Ben Graham.

Courser on Monday released a bizarre 27 minute long audio statement on the unfolding scandal in which he committed not to resign; but then went a step further and accused establishment Republicans of "blackmailing" him over his affair with Gamrat. He refers to himself as a "broken messenger" for limiting government and cutting spending in the audio statement.

Gamrat has thus far remained silent on

the matter.

The revelations led Republican Speaker of the House Kevin Cotter to direct the House Business Office to conduct an investigation into whether any House rules or laws were broken. If House rules were violated, the pair could face expulsion from the body; if laws were violated, the investigation could be handed over to the attorney general and eventually prosecuted. Also on Friday, Congresswoman Candice Miller called on Courser to resign. Courser has said he is contemplating a run to replace Miller in Congress.

Monday, Sen. Rick Jones, R-Grand Ledge, told Between The Lines it's time for the pair to resign.

"They should resign because they can no longer be effective representatives to their home districts," Jones, who chairs the powerful Senate Judiciary Committee, said. "In the past when people asked me why I'm not a member of the tea party, I used to say: 'There is no 'T' in Republican.' Now I will say: 'Because I don't want to be in Todd Courser's herd.'"

In the first tape reported by the Detroit News, Courser can be heard cajoling the

**Moral Crusading**

This list identifies some of the legislation the moral crusading duo have introduced since taking office in January:

- Allow eligible people to purchase and carry – openly or concealed – weapons without registering the gun with the state or getting a concealed pistol license.
- Eliminate straight-party ticket voting.
- Eliminate the requirement for marriage licenses and only allow clergy to perform marriage ceremonies.
- Prohibit the imposition of income taxes on individuals or businesses and repeal the Michigan business tax.
- Provide all the protections afforded to individuals to fetuses.
- Provide protections for medical professionals and hospitals who refuse service because of religious objections.
- Allocate Electoral College votes by congressional district.

- Originally reported in Detroit Free Press

young political activist turned staffer to send smear email to GOP operatives and the media accusing Courser of being a "bisexual porn-addicted sexual deviant" who had sex with male commercial sex workers behind local Lansing night clubs. That conversation occurred in Courser's Lapeer law office. The email, the audio reveals, was written by Courser himself and was designed to "inoculate" his conservative, anti-gay followers against the likely revelations that Courser and Gamrat were having an affair.

In his audio statement, Courser now says he created the email sham as a way to uncover the participants in a "blackmail" scheme designed to keep him inline with pro-government political establishment types.

"The email in question was really put in motion to disrupt, disrupt the blackmailer and to give me some clues as to what their ability was as far as surveillance over my life and the threats they were making," Courser said.

The lawmaker – who introduced legislation to require a member of the clergy to sign every marriage license in the state in order for it to be valid – claims "the Lansing mafia" has had him under

See Anti-Gay State Lawmakers, page 8

# First GOP Debates: 17 Candidates, One 'Humane' Response On LGBT Issues

BY LISA KEEN

Republican presidential hopeful Rand Paul singled out Houston's lesbian mayor for criticism, saying she had tried to "invade the church to enforce (her) own opinion on marriage." Candidate Bobby Jindal said he'd sign an executive order on Day One to ensure that, "Christian business owners and individuals don't face discrimination for having a traditional view of marriage." And Mike Huckabee suggested that allowing transgender people to serve openly in the military would mean the government would have to pay for their gender change surgery.

In short: There were no surprises on LGBT issues from the 17 Republican presidential hopefuls who took part in one of two debates sponsored and broadcast by Fox News last Thursday (Aug. 6). Only six of the candidates fielded a question that hit upon an LGBT issue. And only one of those six — Ohio Gov. John Kasich — answered in a way that suggested a measure of respect for LGBT people.

Kasich said he would love his own child even if she was gay. But his wording walked a delicate line between noble father and tolerant tongue-biter.

"Kasich's answer was far from perfect — the phrasing 'if one of my daughters happened to be that' was unfortunate, and in noting that he would love his daughters 'no matter what they do,' he indicated that he thought being lesbian was something that requires forbearance," wrote June Thomas, editor of Slate.com's LGBTQ section. "Nevertheless, his response was loving and humane..."

The mainstream media and the audience in Cleveland reacted favorably to Kasich's comments. But other candidates showed no interest in walking a line between flat out opposition and respect for anything LGBT. At best, some Republican candidates participating in the debates just seemed eager to slide off the topic whenever asked to elaborate on their views against equal rights to LGBT people.

When a Fox News moderator asked former U.S. Sen. Rick Santorum whether the U.S. Supreme Court's decision striking state bans on same-sex marriage is "settled law," Santorum said no and likened his response to that of President Lincoln to the Supreme Court's 1857 decision in Dred Scott.

In Dred Scott v. Sanford, the Supreme Court ruled that slaves were not citizens of the U.S. and could not sue and that Congress didn't have authority to prohibit slavery. While Lincoln made clear he thought the Dred Scott decision was "erroneous" and hoped it would be overturned, he urged "respect for the judicial department."

Santorum did not urge respect for the

judicial department.

"This is a rogue Supreme Court decision," said Santorum. "Just like (Chief) Justice (John) Roberts said, there is no constitutional basis for the Supreme Court's decision." But then he spent the rest of his time talking about the Supreme Court's rulings upholding the right of women to have an abortion.

Fox News panelist Chris Wallace asked former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee how he thinks he can be elected president given that some of his positions — such as wanting constitutional amendments to ban same-sex marriage and abortions — are positions opposed by a majority of Americans.

Huckabee completely ignored the question's reference to same-sex marriage and talked exclusively about his opposition to abortion.

When Fox News panelist Bret Baier asked Huckabee how he would "handle" Defense Secretary Ashton Carter's recent directives "to prepare for a moment" when the military might welcome transgender persons to serve openly, Huckabee did not attempt to answer that question. Instead, he said, "The military is not a social experiment" and, "It's not to transform the culture by trying out some ideas that some people think would make (us) a different country and more diverse."

"The purpose is to protect America," said Huckabee. "I'm not sure how paying for transgender surgery for soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines makes our country safer."

Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal brought up the issue of same-sex marriage himself. When asked during the 5 p.m. debate (for candidates with low polling numbers) what his first executive order would be if elected president, Jindal said he would "sign an executive order protecting religious liberty, our First Amendment rights, so Christian business owners and individuals don't face discrimination for having a traditional view of marriage."

Santorum then jumped in, echoing that response.

"I will institute an executive order to make sure that people of faith are not being harassed and persecuted by the federal government for standing up for their religious beliefs."

Both remarks were apparent references to reactions of many opponents of same-sex marriage who have been promoting new state laws attempting to carve out a religious exception to human rights ordinances prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

U.S. Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky picked up on the religious freedom theme during the 9 p.m. debate (for the 10 candidates with the highest polling numbers). Fox News panelist

See GOP Debates page 9

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# Trans Activist Begins ACLU Advocacy Project

BY AJ TRAGER

**DETROIT** – West Michigan activist and trans advocate Amy Hunter has joined the ACLU of Michigan and begun her work with the Trans Advocacy Project, or Advocacy University.

Hunter has done advocacy work since 2008; she has helped redraft Kalamazoo's nondiscrimination ordinance before it went into referendum, worked on the One Kalamazoo campaign and is the current chair of Kalamazoo Alliance for Equality.

Hunter began speaking with the ACLU in late summer of 2014 just before an amendment to the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act, which would have added sexual orientation and gender identity to a list of Michigan's protected classes, failed in the state Legislature. Since then she has worked closely with Legislative Director of the ACLU of Michigan, Shelli Weisberg, to develop a program that will build an infrastructure and build stronger trans leadership in the state.

"Shelli saw me as someone who has had experience and holds a big picture view of the landscape around trans issues," said Hunter, "that I seem like a logical person to kick this thing off. Shelli and I saw a need and we've since been really good friends."

The Trans Advocacy Project or Advocacy University will bring together trans men and women from across the state who will participate in six skill building sessions. Each session will teach them how to utilize story telling and voice building skills to tell their story in a compelling way with the goal of educating the public sphere by speaking effectively on trans issues to coworkers, friends, community members, policy makers and the media.

In June of this year, Hunter and the ACLU held a series of four meetings with trans leaders across the state including individuals from the Kalamazoo Gay and Lesbian Resource Center, The Network in Grand Rapids, the tri-cities area and with Lilianna Reyes, youth director at Affirmations.

"Another key component was bringing together these groups that were serving the community that had trans outreach. They



Amy Hunter

engaged membership and had folks that utilize their services already. That was our initial poll, pitching the idea to trans folks and allies," Hunter said.

The Advocacy University sessions will begin in September and continue through February 2016 with an initial poll of about 30 people. She plans to have media representatives present to talk about how to effectively tell a life story as well as representatives speaking towards political strategy and getting trans persons to advocate on behalf of the trans community. Hunter hopes that the discussions will create a strong sense of community and that they will develop new ways to talk about nondiscrimination protections and why they are so important to the trans community.

"It is imperative that trans people be at the table talking about their lives and how they are impacted by lack of healthcare and how trans women of color are at the intersection of blackness and transness. They're people of color and trans, and they are women. They experience gender discrimination, trans discrimination and racial discrimination," Hunter said. "That's how you change the narrative. The trans community is an easy community to demonize. That keeps us marginalized and dehumanized. We are a political football. And the only way to combat that is through representation and sharing personal stories."

There has been an unprecedented explosion of trans people in the media from Laverne Cox on "Orange is the New Black" to the recent coming out of Caitlyn Jenner. Hunter says this may allow the general public to find a level of familiarity with trans people, but they remain largely unaware of what being transgender means and what the trans community faces on a day-to-day basis.

"We've had enough response for Advocacy

University that I'm hoping we will then scale more trainings and format them to be more open to the public and tailored to people who aren't as interested in public outreach on their own, but would still like to learn advocacy skills," Hunter said. "If we could do some corporate outreach, we can talk to folks in healthcare, talk to law enforcement in how to interact with the trans community; there is a myriad of ways that the trans community can and should be advocating for themselves that goes beyond law making."

Ten years ago, Hunter remembers how the media spoke of trans identities in a completely sensational manner and was constantly focused on the physicality of trans people. While there may be less and less of that now, and the media is more focused on substantive material, instances of misgendering continue to persist. Just recently, India Clarke, a 25-year-old trans woman of color, was killed in Tampa with local and state media organizations misgendering her in their reports.

However, even with the maltreatment from the media, Hunter still sees trans representation as a positive and emphasizes the importance of having those faces and stories visible to the public.

"I cannot emphasize enough that it represents a step into the mainstream for us. Which is where we need to go," Hunter said. "We still haven't reached equity for the trans community. There is a whole segment of stuff out there that you just don't hear about yet. I'd like to see folks talking about how trans women of color have some of the highest rates of HIV infection in the community. And a lot of that is driven by the fact that there isn't socio-economic equality for trans people of color and people of color. I'd like to have some real talk about sex work in the trans community. Let's talk about why people have to do sex work to survive. We have to be willing to talk about disparate treatment of trans people in the criminal justice system."

*For anyone interested in joining the Trans Advocacy Project, visit [www.aclumich.org/transgender-advocacy-project](http://www.aclumich.org/transgender-advocacy-project). Contact Amy Hunter at [ahunter@aclumich.org](mailto:ahunter@aclumich.org).*

## ► Anti-Gay State Lawmakers

Continued from p. 6

surveillance since he took office.

In a second tape, Courser and Gamrat talk with Graham about the email and the affair. Graham again encourages the duo to resign. It was during this conversation that Courser indicated someone named "Ike" had sent out the controversial email.

The Detroit News reported Sunday that the man identified as Ike in the recordings was Immanuel "Ike" Eickholdt. The 51-year-old is a long time associate of Courser's who ran as a Democrat in the three way primary last year to challenge the Republican primary, who was ultimately Courser. Eickholdt told the News he had nothing to do with the smear email.

Republican blogger Brandon Hall, who has a conviction for theft from a Grand Haven High School fundraiser for cancer while he served on the school board for that district and is facing criminal charges on election fraud, reported over the weekend that a primary flier distributed in the race last August accusing Courser of being a "child molester" was another false flag to get sympathy and attention for Courser. Hall runs West Michigan Politics, and he was one of the first to report on the smear email against Courser, as well as report that the smear may have come from Republican sources.

On Friday, Between The Lines reported that it had been aware of rumors of an affair between the two lawmakers for some months.

The two conservative lawmakers rolled into Lansing closely aligned with Rep. Gary Glenn, R-Midland. Glenn is a longtime foe of the LGBT community and president of the American Family Association of Michigan.

When the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that same-sex couples had a constitutional right to marriage, Courser took to the internet to claim the decision was evidence "we are indeed living in the last days."

"His decision will be a toe hold and from this decision we will see many more decisions that curtail our first amendment rights of free speech, freedom of religion, freedom of association and of course freedom of conscience," Courser claimed in his July 4 post. "This decision will unleash the power and scope of government to further society by its power of persuasion and its hammer of threat of governmental persecution. Every regulatory apparatus of government will be focused henceforth on indoctrinating children and the greater society that same sex marriage is moral and every bit accepted, preferred to traditional marriage. Anyone who disagrees with this new paradigm will be vilified as a homophobic bigot. Some of these activists are the most intolerant viscus hate mongers who will demonize anyone who opposes their tyrannical agenda. It works and virtually none are left in elected leadership who will now stand and oppose them publicly as they destroy our rights to freedom of religion and freedom of speech."

encouraged to bring signs.

The Michigan Pride Festival will begin at 1 p.m. at Adado River Front Park. Festivities will include food and merchandise vendors, nonprofit and information stations, a beer and bar tent, stage performances and multiple DJs; headliner CeCe Peniston will take to the stage at 7 p.m.

Tickets for the festival are a suggested donation of \$5-10.

*Visit the event's Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/events/1606530966225518](http://www.facebook.com/events/1606530966225518).*

## LANSING

### Michigan Pride To Feature Gay Country Star, CeCe Peniston And More

Michigan Pride 2015 will be held Aug. 28-29 in Lansing. This year will be the 26th Annual Michigan Pride celebration and will consist of a parade that will travel through downtown Lansing, a white party, tons of entertainment and a rally at Michigan's capitol.

The weekend's events will begin with a kick

off concert featuring Pop/Rock/Country star Steve Grand. Grand is an American singer-songwriter and model from the Chicago area. The overnight celebrity is the first openly gay country musician to attract mainstream attention across the country. The country star will take to the stage at 9 p.m. Aug. 28. Tickets are \$20 pre-sale or \$25 at the gate. VIP tickets can be purchased at [www.MichiganPride.org](http://www.MichiganPride.org).

Pridegoers will march down Grand Avenue to the Michigan's capitol at noon on Aug. 29; participants should plan on arriving at 11 a.m. at 201 E. Shiawassee St., Lansing and are



## ► GOP Debates

Continued from p. 7

Megyn Kelly directed a question from a viewer who asked (via Facebook): “What would you do to ensure Christians are not prosecuted for speaking out against gay marriage and will Christians be forced to conduct business that conflicts with their religious beliefs?”

“Look, I don’t want my marriage or my guns registered in Washington,” said Paul. “And if people have an opinion, it’s a religious opinion that’s heartily felt, obviously they should be allowed to practice that, and no government should interfere with that.”

From there, Paul launched into an attack on Houston’s openly lesbian mayor, Annise Parker, though he did not mention her by name.

“One of the things that really got to me was the thing in Houston, where you had the government, the mayor actually trying to get the sermons of ministers,” said Paul. “When the government tries to invade the church to enforce its own opinion on marriage, that’s when it’s time to resist.”

It was not Parker, but the city’s legal department that subpoenaed the “sermons” of five Houston pastors, while preparing its defense against a lawsuit against the city’s human rights ordinance protecting LGBT people. Parker met with pastors and then directed the legal department to withdraw the subpoenas last fall, saying the subpoenas were “inadvertently” being associated with and escalating a religious freedom debate nationally.

That nuance was almost certainly lost on most of Thursday night’s 24 million viewers – a record for a presidential primary debate.

But nuance was not in play when Kelly asked real estate mogul Donald Trump how he could be considered electable given his sometimes crude remarks about women. She quoted him as calling some “fat pigs, dogs, slobs and disgusting animals.”

Trump tried to deflect the question by suggesting he had made those remarks about “only Rosie O’Donnell.”

O’Donnell, a lesbian actress and talk show host, has had a public feud with Trump since 2006, when, on “The View,” O’Donnell mocked Trump’s hair, bankruptcies and multiple marriages, and said he was like “a snake oil salesman.” Trump responded, calling O’Donnell “a loser” who is “unattractive inside and out” and saying he was going to “send one of my friends to pick up her girlfriend – and I think it’ll be very easy.”

Kelly stopped Trump cold: “For the record, it was well beyond Rosie O’Donnell.”

“Your Twitter account has several disparaging comments about women’s looks,” continued Kelly. “You once told a contestant on ‘Celebrity Apprentice’ it would be a pretty picture to see her on her knees. Does that sound to you like the temperament of a man we should elect as president? And how will



you answer the charge from Hillary Clinton, who is likely to be the Democratic nominee, that you are part of the war on women?”

“I think the big problem this country has,” said Trump, “is being politically correct. I’ve been challenged by so many people, I don’t frankly have time for total political correctness. And to be honest with you, this country doesn’t have time either...”

Kelly asked Ohio Gov. John Kasich a question that combined religious freedom and “gay marriage.” She asked: “If you had a son or daughter who was gay or lesbian, how would you explain to them your opposition to same-sex marriage?” (Kasich has twin teenaged daughters from his second marriage.)

“I’m an old-fashioned person here and I happen to believe in traditional marriage, but I’ve also said the court has ruled and I said we’ll accept it,” said Kasich, who then noted he had just attended the wedding of a gay friend. Kelly tried to press him to answer the question on explaining his opposition.

“Just because someone doesn’t think the way I do doesn’t mean I can’t care about them or can’t love them,” said Kasich. “So, if one of my daughters happened to be that, of course I would love them and I’d accept them because you know what, that’s what we’re taught when we have strong faith. So if she’s like that – this is where I would agree with Jeb and I’ve been saying it all along – we need to give everybody a chance, treat everybody with respect and let them share in this great American dream that we have. I’m gonna love my daughters no matter what they do. Because you know what: God gives me unconditional love; I’m going to give it to my family and my friends and the people around me.”

Jimmy LaSalvia, former executive of the now defunct national gay group GOProud, was underwhelmed by Kasich’s remarks.

“Gov. Kasich was the only one who got a question about marriage equality because FOX knew that his answer was the most palatable for most Americans because he recognized the reality that civil marriage for gay couples is legal now,” said LaSalvia. “But they also knew that he wouldn’t go so far as to offend their viewers and socially conservative GOP base by endorsing marriage equality.”

“I think the whole thing was a carefully orchestrated and ‘scripted’ program designed to further FOX News Channel executive’s goal of electing a Republican president in 2016,” said LaSalvia. “They carefully chose the questions to ask each of the candidates that would help further that goal.”



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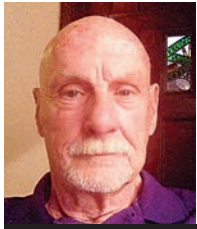
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## Gay Divorcees, Anyone? Parting Glances

OPINION BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

Human nature being what it is – and sometimes mostly what it isn't – those who marry in haste, straight or gay, usually repent at leisure by visiting an attorney to file for a divorce.

It's time consuming. Costly. But it also keeps a substantial majority of marriage counselors, attorneys, mothers-in-laws, private detectives in a happy and financially rewarding position of privilege and on occasion, sweet revenge.

What with almost 48 percent of American marriages ending in separation, divorce, alimony, property settlement, hurt feelings, animosity, verbal and too frequent physical abuse, it's also amazing that many are eager to repeat the process by marrying again. And again. And again.

It's called the Newt Gingrich Syndrome.

Now that the lately enlightened Supreme Court has granted gay and lesbian couples the U.S. Constitution-guaranteed right to marry, a right-wing fundamentalist group called "Once Is Quite Enough, Marry!" is advocating the passing of legislation to prevent gays and lesbians from getting divorces.

Says Once Is Quite Enough, Marry! spokesperson Rev. J.C. Walker Wince, "Everybody knows gays believe variety is the vice of life. And the grass is always leaner on the other side. Gay divorce would be an 'open sesame' to change dance partners and line dance with the blessing of legal sanction.

"Like one-man, one-woman marriage, one-man, one-woman divorce is a Christian privilege. If your spouse sins against the Holy Ghost, say by regularly watching X-rated porn on Sunday or believing in Obamacare instead of faith healing, it may be time to call it quits. It's certainly worth praying about it first."

**While no statistics about same-sex divorce rates are understandably available at the onset of catching the marriage equality bouquet, according to the University of Chicago's National Opinion Research Center, "Christians per se have a national divorce rate of 42 percent. The rate for religiously unaffiliated is 50 percent."**

While no statistics about same-sex divorce rates are understandably available at the onset of catching the marriage equality bouquet, according to the University of Chicago's National Opinion Research Center, "Christians per se have a national divorce rate of 42 percent. The rate for religiously unaffiliated is 50 percent."

Analyzes Barna Research Group, a deeply religious evangelical, conservative organization, its contrasting percentages are: "Non-denominational (34 percent); Mainline Protestant (25 percent); Mormon (24 percent); Catholic (21 percent); Lutheran (21 percent)."

A National Public Radio survey finds that Red States have a higher divorce rate than Blue States: "Tennessee, Arkansas, Alabama, Oklahoma and Kentucky are the top five in frequency of divorce. Conservative states are roughly 50 percent above the national average of 4.2/1000 people." (Yea, verily! Bible Belters all.)

Speaking of Newt Gingrich Syndrome, the following are thankfully not Gay Divorcees: Bob Dole, Dick Armey, Gov. John Engler, Rush Limbaugh, Henry Kissinger, Sen. John McCain. Oh, yes. President Ronald Reagan. (The less said about Sarah Palin's daughter, the better.)

Charles@pridesource.com



## Viewpoint



## Much More Work After Marriage Equality Decision

OPINION BY ANGIE PERONE

More than a month after the U.S. Supreme Court's landmark marriage equality decision, *Obergefell v. Hodges*, much work remains for full LGBT equality. The decision itself represents a giant step forward on our civil rights journey. By affirming marriage equality in all 50 states, the decision opens new rights for many same-sex couples, including access to health, disability and survivor benefits, tax exemptions, Medicaid benefits, inheritance, adoption, funeral and bereavement leave, and spousal pensions — to name a few. But we must remain vigilant about the many rights this decision fails to address.

While the *Obergefell* decision bestows rights to same-sex couples who are married, it provides no relief for LGBT people who are single, dating or partnered but unmarried. For LGBT older adults — particularly those who come out later in life — marriage can strip important economic benefits that keep LGBT older adults out of poverty.

Assume that Regina and Betty came of age during McCarthyism, also called the "Lavender Scare."

At the time, the government and private panels persecuted persons suspected of same-sex attraction or gender nonconformity and punished them with jail, hospitalization, lobotomies, employment termination and loss of child custody. Burying their same-sex attractions, Regina and Betty married men. While they held various part-time jobs, their husbands provided most of their financial support. After their husbands died, Regina and Betty received spousal benefits through Social Security and pensions, based on their husbands' past work experience. Regina and Betty met at an event in 2008 and have been together ever since. If they marry, however, they lose access to their pension and Social Security spousal benefits. For an 80-year-old woman, this financial outcome is daunting.

Because many rights are so intimately tied to marriage, unmarried LGBT persons at any age encounter this inequality.

This problem plagues persons outside the LGBT community, too. But the long history of exclusion,

See More Work, next page

## ► More Work

Continued from p. 10

stigma and discrimination toward LGBT persons renders a relationship between marriage and equal rights especially problematic because it creates one more place of inequity. While decoupling equal rights from marriage could be a potential long-term solution, LGBT persons and allies can help tip this unequal balance by first recognizing the existence of this inequality.

In addition to leaving the rights of unmarried LGBT persons untouched, the Obergefell decision also fails to preserve equal rights in important domains outside marriage, including employment, public accommodations and housing. Some states have laws that prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. Other states only prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation. Most states (including Michigan) prohibit neither types of discrimination. In two recent rulings, the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission found that federal law prohibits employment discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, but these rulings are not binding on many employers. Many LGBT people can be terminated, evicted or refused service from a business merely because they are lesbian, gay, bisexual and/or transgender. Not because they failed to pay rent. Not because they violated any policies or rules. Not because they failed to pay their bills. But solely because they are LGBT.

Many civil rights organizations, legislators and community leaders are diligently working to create legislation that protects LGBT persons from discrimination as workers, renters and consumers. But these groups encounter new obstacles in the form of religious exemptions, which are nebulous and provide immense room for discretion, thus allowing significant discrimination to continue. Many anti-discrimination laws already in place have some form of religious exemptions for churches, for example. Religious exemptions proposed for new laws go much further, allowing individuals to decide on a whim that their

In addition to leaving the rights of unmarried LGBT persons untouched, the Obergefell decision also fails to preserve equal rights in important domains outside marriage, including employment, public accommodations and housing. Some states have laws that prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. Other states only prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation. Most states (including Michigan) prohibit neither types of discrimination.

individual “religious beliefs” prohibit equal treatment. The Obergefell decision fails to address these religious exemptions, and immediately after the decision, several states created religious exemptions for their county clerks, allowing them to refuse marriage licenses to same-sex couples.

The U.S. Supreme Court does not seem too eager to rule against such exemptions. In its 2014 *Burwell v. Hobby Lobby* decision, the Court ruled that corporations with religious objections may disregard the Affordable Care Act’s requirement to provide contraception in their health coverage. Religious exemptions reflect a new tool that many groups are using to destroy efforts to create meaningful anti-discrimination laws. Instead of helping build a more just society, broad religious exemptions are chiseling away at equal rights. They seem to be gaining traction, however, and efforts to create new anti-discrimination laws that protect more LGBT people will have to contend with this obstacle.

Despite its occasional reference as a “gay marriage” case, the Obergefell decision benefits same-sex couples in which one or both partners are transgender, particularly because most states connect legal marriage to state identification documents. Thus, many transgender persons can now marry who were once denied marriage because their state identification documents reflected a gender that would have resulted in a marriage deemed to be between same-sex partners. Nonetheless, Obergefell does not extend equal rights to transgender persons

outside marriage, and equal health coverage remains an important battleground for the future.

Obergefell leaves many other health issues for LGBT persons unaddressed, including whether LGBT employees with certain types of insurance plans (e.g. self funded) will be able to cover their same-sex spouse. LGBT persons who want equal health coverage for fertility treatments and surrogate parenting also lack clarity under the law.

To obtain full equality, an LGBT movement must understand and respond to the connection among multiple injustices. LGBT communities reflect a rainbow of classes, races, genders, religions, sexual orientations and gender identities. The murders of unarmed black men like Eric Garner, Trayvon Martin and Michael Brown are LGBT issues. Sexual assaults and workplace abuses of immigrant women like Maria Bojorquez are LGBT issues. Mass killings and destructions of places of worship like the Emanuel AME Church in South Carolina and Islamic Center in Texas are LGBT issues. Significant work remains after the Obergefell decision. By finding common ground among allies and supporting all LGBT persons, full equality can prevail.

*Angie Perone is a civil rights attorney and researcher. While working at the National Center for Lesbian Rights, she oversaw the LGBT Elder Law Project and started one of the first transgender-specific law clinics for older adults. She is currently pursuing a doctoral degree in social work and sociology at the University of Michigan.*

# Creep of the Week

## Todd Courser

BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI



Michigan State Reps. Todd Courser, R-Lapeer, and Cindy Gamrat, R-Plainwell, two of the most right-wing and extreme members of the Legislature, have been doing it for quite some time now.

Not surprisingly, Courser and Gamrat really didn’t want their affair revealed. Both are married, (not to each other, duh) and both have multiple kids. But these things have a way of refusing to remain hidden.

And so, on the day his affair was revealed, Courser lamented, “It’s a crushing day for those who believe

in traditional marriage and traditional morality.” Just kidding. That’s what he said after the Supreme Court ruled in favor of marriage equality while Courser was defending traditional marriage with his penis.

Now, rumors about the affair had been swirling for months. Political sex scandals are a dime a dozen these days, but what makes this one interesting is that Courser and Gamrat are conservative Christians who seem to think they are holier than thou.

Oh, and the gay sex Courser paid for “behind a Lansing nightclub!”

Except that never happened. Courser just wanted people to think it had.

**Courser lamented, “It’s a crushing day for those who believe in traditional marriage and traditional morality.”**

Back in May, an anonymous email making all sorts of colorful allegations against Courser was sent to Republicans across Lansing.

“He is a bi-sexual porn addicted sex deviant!” the email reads. “He is a gun toting bible thumping cock sucking freak! His whole (personality) is a sham!”

The entire email is riddled with typos and grammar errors. It’s the kind of thing that even your most insane right-wing uncle wouldn’t forward.

Courser has now admitted to sending the email out in order to cover up the news about his affair.

“My actions in and around these events and the email that was sent to misdirect attention were my doing both in planning and execution,” he said in a statement on his website.

See, the accusations in the email are so ghastly, that an affair with a female colleague seems tame by comparison. And, of course, what could be more terrible than being gay or bisexual!

Even Courser admits that it was a bad idea. “I was running on no sleep for days and no food and was simply on auto pilot” when he released the email, he says. Sounds a lot like the “Twinkie Defense.”

Granted, Courser’s email blast might seem to many like a very immature, and totally crazy, way to avoid taking personal responsibility for his actions. And that’s exactly what it was revealed to be during a taped conversation Courser had with an aide during which Courser spilled the beans about the plan and wanted the aide to send out the email. And the aide was all, “Bro, that’s crazy,” and Courser was like, “Just do it,” apparently unconcerned that asking his aide to take a fake sick day to send out fake incriminating spam email is spending tax payer money for such a thing. Which is illegal.

But the aide wouldn’t. And instead he handed over the recordings he made to The Detroit News and now Courser and Gamrat are back in the spotlight, both under investigation and hopefully about to lose their jobs.

Courser has apologized and admitted to the affair, but claims the email was a very clever and calculated move to deal with some anonymous figure or figures trying to blackmail him to get him to resign. In other news, Courser is a very big fan of *Spy vs. Spy*.

To borrow from a sage’s own words, “It’s a crushing day for those who believe in Courser’s bullshit.”

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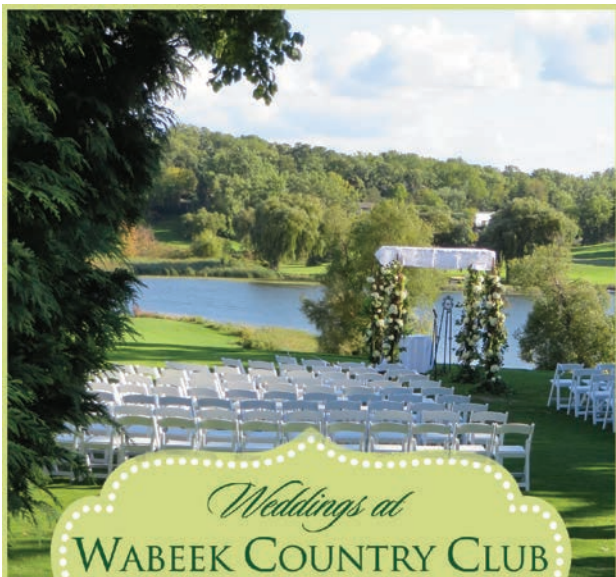
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# Love Comes Out Of The Closet

## Detroit Couple Weds At Age 73

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

FERNDALE – Carl Weiler and James Whipple, both 73, got married in the middle of a Sunday morning service at Zion Lutheran Church on July 26. The day had been a long time coming. The two had been together for some 17 years. Both men had previously been married to women and had children, having come out later in life.

The two met, they proudly recall, at a leather party in 1998, back when Weiler was a member of Tribe Detroit and Whipple of Studs 30.

"I had been dating for about three years and finally given up," said Whipple. "I said, 'Nothing's gonna ever happen.' Then he walked up and posed the question, 'Do you wanna play?' And I turned around and said 'Who me?' There were three of us there. So we had a delightful evening of sex."

Afterward, Whipple asked for Weiler's phone number.

"He was sure he wasn't going to get a call from me," said Whipple. "But I called him and the next Friday we went to see a movie at the Detroit Film Theater and it sort of progressed from that."

At that time, Whipple was working as the executive director of Friends Alliance, an AIDS service organization. Weiler had an apartment in Detroit, and the couple spent a lot of time together there.

"I made him wait two years before I would move in with him," Weiler said.

But soon the couple was very serious. They traveled together, taking as their first trip an RSVP cruise to the Caribbean. Then in 2002 they had a commitment ceremony at Metropolitan Community Church-Detroit, the church the couple attended at the time.

"We've lived as if we were married for many years," said Weiler. "We see the same doctor. He sees us both at the same time ... the urologist, the internist, the dentist ... But there was always that fear that someone would find out. We work out at the Y five days a week, and if someone found out that we were gay ... They just assumed we were brothers. But as it turned out, we'd been there 10-15 years and it didn't matter when they discovered we were gay. We were already



James Whipple and Carl Weiler were married on July 26. BTL photo: Jason A. Michael

accepted."

Today, the couple remains very active in the community. Whipple is the current president of Gay Elders of Metro Detroit, a group that works closely with the LGBT Older Adult Coalition at Affirmations. They are both also involved with AARP, the Diversity Task Force of their synod and the Motor City Bears.

"I think that keeping active and being involved has really helped us," said Whipple. "It always amazes me, especially with people of our generation, how few of them are connected with resources for older adults. They tend to be very insular in their approach and we just sort of do everything. But I think for a majority of people in our generation it is very difficult. That was the impetus of getting involved in the Adult Coalition, to make things a little easier for older

LGBT people to have access to services and find out what's really going on and what's available."

Weiler and Whipple say they are together frequently and one is not often seen without the other.

"He's thoughtful, considerate and very loving," Weiler said of his husband. "He's supportive in anything I choose to do. Like, I'll pull the weeds, and he'll pick up the weeds and put them in the trash. We work together very closely."

Of his husband, Whipple said, "He has a very pure soul. He's very loving. He has beautiful silky hair. He's a very good balance for me. He's a good protector. I do crazy things.

"We laugh a lot, too, the both of us," Whipple continued. "Unfortunately, we've been together long enough that he's picked up all my bad habits."

# Cake: The New Favorite Mode For American Political Debate?

BY DEEPTI HAJELA

**NEW YORK (AP)** – It should be a piece of cake. Customer comes in, asks for a cake with a specific design or for a particular event, baker makes it, everyone's happy.

But sometimes customers and bakers have clashed over what goes on the cake, or whether to make it at all. An Oregon bakery was fined \$135,000 for refusing to bake a cake for a lesbian couple's wedding. A baker in Colorado earned a customer's ire because she refused to write anti-gay messages on his cake. A Louisiana man posted a video to the Internet lambasting a local Wal-Mart for not making a cake with a Confederate flag on it.

Somehow, this mix of flour, butter, eggs and sugar with frosting on top has become yet another delivery system for American political debate, raising questions about where the customer's free speech ends and the baker's begins.

"Cake has had symbolic meaning in this country," even aside from politics, said Stephen Schmidt, food historian and writer for the Manuscripts Cookbook Survey. "We think of cake as something that can carry that meaning, whereas I don't think the French do."

But some political experts question whether frosting florets on a cake really is the best way to get your way of thinking out there. Would a strongly worded tweet, letter to the editor or yard sign be a better choice than the grand unveiling of the cake to the tune of "Happy Birthday"?

"There's got to be some kind of psychological profile of individuals who deem it important enough to have their politics on their cake," said Doug Muzzio, political science professor at Baruch College. "Have their cake and ideology, too."

Some of the most contentious fights have involved bakers who refused to make a cake for same-sex weddings, frays that have also entangled the likes of florists and photographers.

Bakery owners Aaron and Melissa Klein of Gresham, Oregon, said their religious beliefs would be violated in 2013 if they made a wedding cake for a lesbian couple. The women filed a discrimination complaint and were awarded damages.

There's also been the reverse. Last year, when a customer wanted anti-gay messages on a cake, Marjorie Silva, owner of Azucar Bakery in Denver refused to do it. She told him that she would bake the cake, but that he would have to write his own messages.

"We're human beings, too; we have our beliefs, we should be respected," she said.

Free speech issues have come into play in jurisdictions with laws banning discrimination against certain protected classes. Some bakers

Some of the most contentious fights have involved bakers who refused to make a cake for same-sex weddings, frays that have also entangled the likes of florists and photographers. Bakery owners Aaron and Melissa Klein of Gresham, Oregon, said their religious beliefs would be violated in 2013 if they made a wedding cake for a lesbian couple. The women filed a discrimination complaint and were awarded damages.

have argued that being forced to make a cake for something that went against their religious beliefs was a form of compelled speech by the government, barred by the First Amendment.

But courts have ruled that a business open to the public has to be open to everyone.

"The answer so far that courts have given is, no, it's not coercion ... because you do have a choice" about whether to be in business to the public, said Nelson Tebbe, professor at Brooklyn Law School.

Images and words perceived as hateful have raised yet another flavor of cake fight.

A Louisiana man in June wanted a local Wal-Mart to make a cake with an image of the Confederate flag and the phrase "Heritage Not Hate," but was refused. Chuck Netzhammer then ordered a cake with a flag used by the Islamic State group, which he got. Wal-Mart apologized and said the cake was a mistake, made by an employee that didn't recognize the flag and what it represented.

In 2009, a New Jersey supermarket refused to make a cake for a child whose full name was Adolf Hitler Campbell. The boy's mother said the cake was eventually made by a store in Pennsylvania.

For some cake makers, it's not for them to go against the customers' wishes.

Stacey Leon, of New York City's Butterfly Bakeshop, said she and her husband keep their personal feelings out of the oven. While they've never been asked to make a cake they thought was truly objectionable, they have made cakes for causes they don't personally believe in.

"If it's a political party that we don't agree with, that doesn't mean we're not going to make their cake," she said. "We just have to separate the way we feel from our business."



# First Comes Law, Then Comes Marriage

## Michigan Couple April DeBoer And Jayne Rowse To Wed

BY AJ TRAGER

*“The first couple of weeks after the SCOTUS decision were calm and exciting, and then we jumped into wedding planning. We jumped from a frying pan to a boiling pot of water. For us, it’ll be nice when it is all finished and our kids are adopted, safe and covered by the law.”*

- April DeBoer

It all started 15 years ago, when April DeBoer and Jayne Rowse met at a music festival in 1999. DeBoer came out with some friends, and Rowse was on-duty as an event police officer. The two didn’t exchange numbers that weekend, but that didn’t hinder the budding romance.

They got to know one another slowly and dated on and off again for the next four years until they had both finished nursing school. They knew that going back to school was going to put a stress on their relationship, so they tabled the romance but remained close companions.

“We went from falling in love to heartbreak, to a strong, strong friendship, back to feelings of wanting a relationship and having that love again for each other,” DeBoer said.

After securing career positions as registered nurses, the two decided to try their hand at a relationship again, shifting the focus from best friends to partners. They’ve been nearly inseparable ever since.

“Falling in love with Jayne was exciting and refreshing and she made me feel safe and secure,” DeBoer said. “She’s got a fantastic sense of humor, so we did a lot of laughing. It was easy to do.”

DeBoer and Rowse had wanted children from the beginning, but they wanted to make sure they were established in their relationship and their careers before making the call. Two years before their eldest was born, they had decided to file as foster parents. In 2009, Nolan arrived. Now, eight years later, date night looks less like campfires and live music and more like dinners out and grocery shopping.

“Our favorite time is after the kids go to bed and we have a few hours to ourselves to talk, snuggle up and watch TV – just be us. We’ve been fortunate in the past year to take a couple of trips by ourselves, and that has helped renew our relationship. We try to keep everything fresh and new. But we have a very good handle on our relationship and we understand what each other needs,” DeBoer said.

By 2011 they had adopted three children and were in the process of adopting a fourth. But

without applying for second-parent adoptions, each child was left with only one parent as the legal guardian, despite the fact that DeBoer and Rowse were both providers in the home.

DeBoer and Rowse each had legal rights over the children as foster parents, but once they filed for adoption, either DeBoer or Rowse lost their legal hold of that child and became a legal stranger. Hospitalization, the right to make a medical decision and the right to remove the child from school would all be limited to the parent who had legal custody. They wanted to ensure that their children had the most protections possible and decided to take legal action.

They approached Dana Nessel at Nessel & Kessel Law to have guardian paperwork drawn up to minimize the legal gap that resulted from adoption. They filed a case against the state of Michigan in 2011 seeking to change the second-parent adoption law which states that a couple has to be married to file for second-parent adoption. Federal Court Judge Bernard A. Friedman requested that the legal

See Then Comes Marriage, page 16

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## ► The Comes Marriage

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team change the angle of the lawsuit to instead challenge the Michigan Marriage Amendment of 2004, a voter-approved law that defined marriage as between a man and woman.

After digesting evidence presented during a 10-day trial in January 2014, Friedman ruled in favor of the DeBoer-Rowse legal team, determining that the MMA was unconstitutional. A stay was placed on the ruling the following day but not before 323 same-sex couples were legally married in the state. In August of that same year, the 6th Circuit Court of Appeals heard marriage equality cases from Michigan, Tennessee, Ohio and Kentucky, and in November ruled in favor of states' rights, thus creating a circuit split.

The U.S. Supreme Court is often called upon when there is an inconsistency in circuit court rulings and agreed to hear oral arguments regarding the constitutionality of same-sex marriage, which were heard April 28, 2015. Two months later, SCOTUS issued a historic ruling in favor of the plaintiffs which made same-sex marriage legal.

## Planning The DeBoer-Rowse Wedding

Anyone who has ever planned a wedding will say that much goes into making sure all the pieces are in place to guarantee a seamless event. Happy couples (and sometimes wedding planners) speak with multiple vendors to plan for flowers, invitations, travel, gowns, tuxes, dresses, music, food and cake. For DeBoer and Rowse, the LGBT and ally communities stepped up their support and have provided all of these services. Donations have totaled roughly \$50,000.

DeBoer and Rowse first mentioned marriage during Between The Lines' 2015 LGBT Wedding Expo, which brings together over 100 LGBT and allied wedding vendors from across Michigan every spring. During a conversation the first week of July with Jan Stevenson, CEO of Pride Source Media Group, DeBoer revealed that a local venue had called them with an offer they couldn't refuse: an all-expenses paid banquet hall, equipped with catering, if they wanted to marry on Aug. 22. DeBoer was calling to see if Stevenson knew of any invitation

companies.

"What about everything else," Stevenson remembers asking. "What about flowers, decorations and entertainment and all that stuff?" And from DeBoer's line she heard silence. So Stevenson offered to help.

After two hours of phone calls, working down a list of LGBT Wedding Expo vendors, Stevenson and BTL sales representative Donelle Kremke were able to secure vendors for all services required for a wedding.

"I was really pleasantly overwhelmed because I just went through our vendor list, told them what was going on and asked if they would be willing to step up for these women who put so much on the line for us (the LGBT community) and no one hesitated," Stevenson said.

## A Sneak Preview

"The first couple of weeks after the SCOTUS decision were calm and exciting, and then we jumped into wedding planning. We jumped from a frying pan to a boiling pot of water," DeBoer laughed. "For us, it'll be nice when it is all finished and our kids are adopted, safe and covered by the law. For us, there is still that final step in the process."

But the first step for any wedding is the planning. Amanda Laidlaw and her sister have been involved in event planning for a few years. Laidlaw has assisted some LGBT couples but has only been advertising her services for a year. For this wedding, Laidlaw coordinated all of the moving pieces on an accelerated schedule.

"I like helping other people get rid of their stress. So, by me finding ways to put different pieces together, I have found that I've enjoyed it," Laidlaw said. "But we don't design weddings. We sit down with a couple and ask them what they want and

See Then Comes Marriage, page 18



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## ► The Comes Marriage

Continued from p. 16

try our best to make that happen so that what they planned is what happens. The DeBoer-Rowse wedding is very traditional, and it is a standard wedding."

The first week in August, DeBoer and Rowse sent out 250 invitations that were designed and printed by Molly Axe at Maxe Designs. Axe left corporate America after a friend requested some original art from Axe, who has been an illustrative artist for many years. Now she specializes in invitations and original pieces, which she prints herself at her own studio. Axe designed something special for DeBoer and Rowse: traditional with a splash of color. After discussing font styles, wording and colors, she began sketching.

"What is so exciting about my work is every client is a brand new piece of art. This is more just for them. I don't ever use a client's design again," Axe said. "So many people support same-sex marriage. And I'm excited that it is finally legal. My thing has always been, let people love who they love."

"The boys are excited to wear tuxedos and eat cake, and the girls are looking forward to wearing their dresses. There's big discussion on who is going to marry who," DeBoer joked. "They are all excited. They still don't understand the big picture or the big reason. But they're excited that there will be cake."

DeBoer and Rowse took a trip up to Midland to meet with Cary Fisher of the Gourmet Cupcake Shoppe where they sampled a variety of flavors from raspberry cheesecake to Harry Potter inspired "butterbeer." But when the day was over they chose a flavor named after their home called "Motown Truffle," which includes Belgian chocolate,

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cocoa and vanilla buttercream.

"They did what needed to be done. They stood up against the establishment and questioned the pervasive thinking of the people in Michigan," said Dale Morgan, owner of Blossoms, a Birmingham-based florist. "I am thankful that they did it because now it has led to freedom for the LGBT community. I spent a lifetime in fear of what people would physically and emotionally do to me. When you think about it, homosexuality wasn't taken off the list of mental illnesses until 1973."

Morgan is happy to be a part of the celebration and will bring a colorful sense of style and aroma to the room, utilizing his skills in floral artistry.

The gowns are provided by B. Ella Bridal in Plymouth. Owner, Brittany Blase, has been a big part of the LGBT Wedding Expo fashion show and donated five dresses for the wedding, totaling \$3,000.

DeBoer's mother will wear a cranberry chiffon dress with a built in lace top. The couple's daughters will all wear flowergirl skirts with red sashes and DeBoer will wear an ivory Mori Lee V-neck fit and flare lace gown with a beaded under bust.

"The three little girls are so precious and precocious. They are beautiful, opinionated and they have a great time trying on dresses," Blase said. "I'm very excited for April and Jayne. I know from personal experience how it can be such a long legal journey and to be

See Then Comes Marriage, page 20



April DeBoer and Jayne Rowse, with two of their children, at the 2015 LGBT Wedding and Anniversary Expo. Many of the 2015 Expo vendors stepped up to donate services for the DeBoer-Rowse wedding this month. BTL Photo by AJ Trager



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► **The Comes Marriage**

Continued from p. 18

victorious and have that relief. There is much joy in being able to celebrate this with everybody who has stood by them. I commend all the vendors.”

Tuxedos for Rowse and the two boys will be provided by Birmingham’s The Tux Shop on Woodward.

Their rings were donated from Miner’s Den in Royal Oak. Since the brides both work in the medical field, they wanted rings that wouldn’t distract from their job and could withstand everyday wear and tear. They chose rings made from tungsten carbide that feature a railroad-brick pattern.

“Like anything else, this is an experience that everybody should be able to have and everybody should be able to walk into a florist or a jewelry store and look for and be priced for their services without being secretly judged,” said Kyle Burns, general manager at Miner’s Den.

The two boys will escort Rowse down the aisle with the two older girls escorting DeBoer down the aisle.

“The children will give their mothers away as they become a full fledged legal family. No other bridesmaids or groomsmen will be standing,” Laidlaw

explained. “We will allow press to see the vows and will conduct a short Q&A session outside of the venue before they come back in and the DJ announces them as Mrs. and Mrs.”

Friedman will officiate the wedding and officially declare DeBoer and Rowse married under the eyes of Michigan law.

Annie O’Neill Photography will provide a photobooth, coverage of the event as well as an opportunity for family and friends to write a special message to the newlyweds. Candlewood Suites Detroit in Troy offered the couple six rooms for family and friends. Charmed Salon in Plymouth will provide manicures. DeBoer’s hair stylist will do her hair and Satisfaction Limousines will provide their transportation for the day.

Laidlaw says that planning this

wedding wasn’t stressful but instead much more exciting, with very few chances to waffle on decisions. In the next four weeks Laidlaw has four lesbian weddings planned but says that these couples are looking towards DeBoer and Rowse’s celebration as verification that marriage equality actually happened and that “the legal part of the discussion gets to be over.”

The press conference to be held at the wedding and all public relations inquiries are organized by Mike Odom at Marx Layne, Integrated Public Relations and Digital Media.

The location of the hall will remain private until after the ceremony, with respect to the brides and their historical evening.



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Diane R. Harbour, EA

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See Wedding Resources, page 24

# 2016 BTL Wedding Expo Moves To MotorCity Casino Hotel

BY BTL STAFF

The 2016 BTL Ultimate LGBT Wedding and Anniversary Expo will be moving to the MotorCity Casino Hotel March 20, 2016. The event will be spread out over the huge ballroom facility and incorporate Sound Board, where a professionally produced fashion show and other entertainment will be staged.

"We are excited to partner with Between The Lines on this lovely event," said Irene Lignos, Director of Conference and Catering Sales. "We are prepared to do whatever it takes to assist with décor, lighting, cutting-edge audio visual and our expertly crafted banquet services to make this a truly memorable event."

BTL's same-sex wedding expo started in 2012 at the Detroit Marriott Livonia with 30 vendors and about 100 attendees. Each year the Expo grew in vendors, attendees and sophistication with entertainment and larger fashion shows. In 2014 the event moved to The Southfield Civic Pavilion, a much larger space that allowed for up to 100 vendors and staging for an expanded fashion show. The 2015 Expo, also at the Southfield Civic Pavilion, had sold out vendor spaces, record attendance and included workshops, demonstrations and lively entertainment.

The U.S. Supreme Court's historic decision June 26 granting full marriage equality nationally has galvanized the wedding industry. A recent Williams Institute study shows that same-sex weddings in Michigan could pump as much as \$53.2 million into Michigan's economy, and that over 7,300 same-sex couples are poised to marry in Michigan within the next year.

"We have been swamped by the interest in the LGBT Wedding Expo," said Jan Stevenson, co-publisher of BTL and organizer of the Expo each year. "Businesses offering wedding related services want to exhibit, other businesses just want to be somehow involved to show their support. It is really wonderful to see how excited everyone is about marriage equality. It is also a fantastic opportunity



State Rep. Jon Hoadley, D-Kalamazoo, and Joel Kremke modeling at the 2015 BTL Wedding Expo. BLT file photo: Andrew Potter

for jewelers, dress makers, venues, florists, invitation makers, caterers, bakers – every service that goes into a wedding – to develop an entirely new market."

Moving to the MotorCity Casino Hotel gives organizers a chance to greatly expand and enhance the Expo, with more room for vendor space and one of the most technologically advanced conference and theater facilities in Detroit. Planners are coming up with ideas for fashion show staging, entertainment and event enhancements that are only possible in such an advanced facility.

"The MotorCity Casino Hotel has been fantastic to work with so far," said Stevenson.

"They are making the full capacity of the facility available to us – it is overwhelming how much we can do there."

The 2016 LGBT Wedding and Anniversary Expo will be at the MotorCity conference facility which has its own marquee entrance. Abundant free, secure parking is available right outside the conference facilities, so attendees can drive right up to the Expo entrance and park for free. The MotorCity Hotel is offering a special Expo room rate package for those who want to stay Saturday or Sunday night and enjoy the luxury accommodations, restaurants, spa, fitness and business centers and – of course – the gaming.

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Continued from p. 22

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## INFO

### BTLWeddingExpo.com

This sister website to BTL provides all LGBT-friendly vendors who are ready to help with planning your wedding or any other special occasion.

Many of the Expo vendors graciously stepped up to donate services to April DeBoer and Jayne Rowse (see story in this issue) as they get ready to tie the knot later this month.

The 2016 Expo planning is underway for Sunday, March 20, 2016. This year the event will be moving to The MotorCity Casino Hotel and promises to be a spectacular gathering, now that marriage equality is the law in Michigan.

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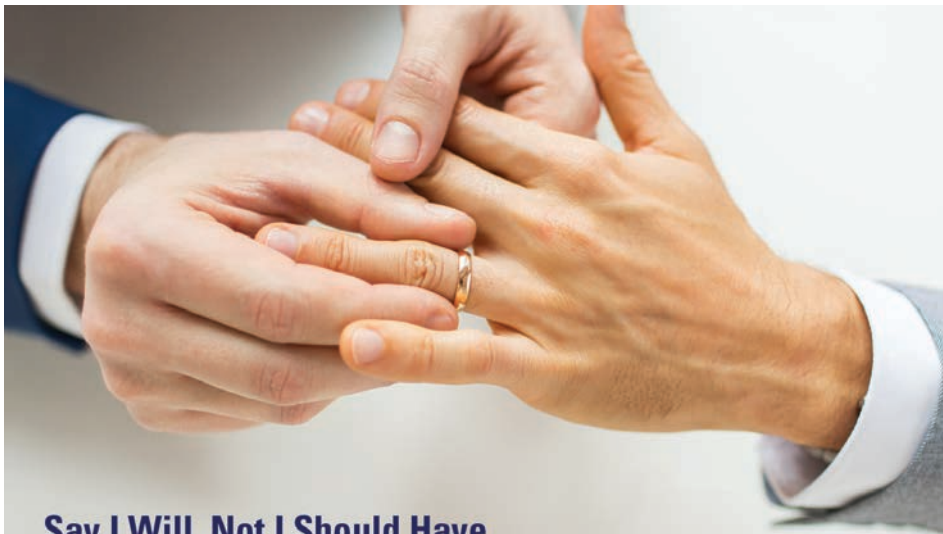
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Photo: Shayne Laverdiere

# THE DE-GAYING OF XAVIER DOLAN

## Out Director On Why His New Film Isn't A 'Gay Thriller'

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Xavier Dolan is fulminating against the gay tag that typically accompanies his revered art films.

Though indies such as “Laurence Anyways,” “I Killed My Mother” and “Mommy” have earned Dolan substantial queer cred, sexuality-based pigeonholing has been irksome for the 26-year-old cinema prodigy. Surely, however, it hasn’t stopped him from moving beyond those perceived barriers.

His big break is just around the corner: Dolan has two projects in the hopper featuring Hollywood notables. Marion Cotillard is

taking on the role of Catherine in Dolan’s “It’s Only the End of the World,” while “The Death and Life of John F. Donovan,” which he’s also directing, attracted Oscar winners Kathy Bates and Susan Sarandon.

But first he’s making his press rounds for “Tom at the Farm,” an eerie drama centered on a young man (Dolan) asked to keep his sexuality on the DL while staying at his dead lover’s mother’s farm. The film opens Aug. 14 at Cinema Detroit.

**“Tom at the Farm” mingles grief with sexual desire. Why do you think sometimes these two emotions converge, and what drew you to**

**explore that hybrid on screen?**

I’m glad you’re bringing that up because I remember on set saying it’s gonna be an extreme mixture of violence and emotion. I feel like when you watch a thriller you are not emotionally stirred – you are anxious or you are scared – and then when you watch an emotional movie, you are rarely scared or freaked out. I saw that it could be an interesting way of approaching a thriller, to combine these emotions, not that I think this film is especially emotionally stirring, but it’s a little morose, a little blue, in the beginning. Characters are indeed grieving, and there are moments of sincere emotions toward

the end with the mother. It was all about finding a balance. I think that happened quite organically on set, and it was pretty clear to me when was the right time for which emotion.

**There’s a real sexual intensity between Tom and the brother in this film, and this lingering feeling that they’ll get it on.**

You know what? It was originally planned as such. We shot a scene, but I feel like in the end it wasn’t what the movie was about. It wasn’t about romance; it was about something else. It was about a theme that is larger than sexual desire, even though it’s cool and, you know,

sort of a nice supporting narrative to add tension, but it wasn't something that needed closure or needed to actually happen for real.

**It's the big tease of the movie. Was that gay / pseudo-straight attraction influenced by any real-life desirability of your own?**

(Laughs) I wish! My life is not that exciting. I honestly wish that I had known that sort of barbaric, savage, brutal tension... with such a man... on a farm. But, unfortunately, no; I'm afraid my romances are much more urbane.

**Why were you drawn to "Tom at the Farm"?**

I saw the play and the cinematic potential was just very, very obvious. I immediately saw that this could be a very exciting thriller and a very exciting endeavor for me. The story itself was fascinating and very interesting, but then I was excited to explore something new – the newness in everything was what was most appealing.

**And it strays from your typical style.**

It's sort of an outcast in the rest of the ensemble. But you know what? I've been dreaming about doing another thriller. I really am looking right now.

**One of your next projects is "The Death and Life of John F. Donovan," starring Kathy Bates, Susan Sarandon and Jessica Chastain. Isn't that like the ultimate gay filmmaker's dream?**

I mean, Kathy Bates, Jessica Chastain, Susan Sarandon – it's a dream come true. Kathy Bates is just, honestly... who doesn't love her? She's an icon. She's so, so good. Same goes for Susan Sarandon. Both were part of my childhood. And Jessica is literally the first actress who reached out to me and said, "I want to work with you," and who showed me kindness and generosity in a very surprising and rare way. She is an infinitely kind person and a truly compassionate woman. She is socially engaged. She's just eloquent and beautiful and, over the past year, a true friend. I'm excited to get to know the other actors I'm about to work with as well as her because obviously I don't have a relationship with all of them. I don't know them that well. I know Kit (Harington of "Game of Thrones"). We've hung out a couple of times and he's a sweetheart, and I'm extremely excited to work with him.

**You have two projects with big names on the horizon; aside from "John Donovan," you're directing "It's Only the End of the World" with Marion Cotillard. How are you feeling about what lies ahead when it comes to your film career?**

I'm very excited. I'm just hoping I can shoot "John Donovan" like I wish to shoot it in that we'll be able to bring that movie to life, see it take shape and then share it with the world. The movie speaks again about diversity, and as much as I want to think of it as very commercial and appealing to a broader audience, I'm having a hard time convincing people of that.

**You have said that your hope is that the line between "gay" films and non-gay films disappears. With that in mind, how do you feel about "Tom at the Farm" being touted as a "gay thriller"?**

I'm not infinitely pleased. Let's just try to fathom how a community would react if we'd call it a Jewish trailer or a black thriller. Tags and ghettos are not exactly my speciality.

**How do we overcome these labels?**

We just drop the word "queer" or "gay" and call it a thriller, that's basically how we do it. It's a very, very simple thing to do and we are extremely reluctant to do so. To stress the ghettos and labels and tags to which movies belong – I can hardly imagine what the positive impacts of those gestures of marginalization are. I can hardly imagine how those impacts can be positive. I'm trying to understand what exactly it's doing to give a movie an award – a queer award – like the queer Palmes. In Cannes you can win a normal Palme and then you can win a gay Palme. The problem with ghettoization is that there are ghettos and we don't blend in and people are taught to see others as outcasts. The place that queer themes and queer characters should be occupying is not a marginal or an independent place.

It seems that those intrigues can only unfold on the independent scene, but the rest of the world is ready to see gay characters and gay themes on the commercial scene without stressing that they are gay or queer. You know, every once in a while (including) a gay character who isn't some sort of sassy boss in fashion or annoying first AD on a set or other unimportant gay best friend to the bridesmaid. These tropes stem from a very contrived perception of homosexuality and diversity. With that being said, the problem is obviously much larger than just for LGBT or queer culture – it's for anything that's not generally white and anglophone. There is a place out there for difference, but the problem is that there is no place for difference – there is a place. There shouldn't be a place. There should just be *more* place.

**I'm glad you're taking such a passionate stand on this issue.**

You know, this sort of speech is perceived as homophobic by many, many people, and it's just exasperating. (People think) you are ashamed about your sexuality and you're coy about it, and it's so not what it's about – it's that I'm striving for a greater understanding and welcoming and acceptance of new standards of new ways of living. Not only by a community of people who are already convinced – this is about bringing one culture into another one.

*Chris Azzopardi is the editor of Q Syndicate, the international LGBT wire service. Reach him via his website at [www.chris-azzopardi.com](http://www.chris-azzopardi.com) and on Twitter (@chrisazzopardi).*

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## Jewish Community Center To Hold LGBT Discussion On Aging

Jewish Family Services will present their second discussion on LGBT aging at 7 p.m. on Aug. 19 at the Jewish Community Center of Ann Arbor.

"The Role of Exercise As We Age" will feature discussion on the physiological and cognitive changes that can lead to a premature decline in overall function, reaction time and balance.

Britt Michael, BS, CSCS, CME, will describe how participating in regular exercise may significantly reduce negative changes in aging adults. Whether interested in remaining functional and independent for as long as possible, reducing fall risks or learning more about exercise, participants will have an intimate discussion on how the benefits of exercise can help improve their quality of life.

Michael is the program coordinator for the Transitions Programs, a step-down rehabilitation program at the University of Michigan Health System, and has over 20 years of experience in the field of exercise and wellness for older adults.

The presentation is hosted free of charge; however, registration is required. Those interested in attending the event can contact Leah Zaas at the Jewish Community Center at 734-769-0209 or by emailing leahz@jfsannarbor.org. Those without transportation can contact Zaas to arrange it if needed.

The Jewish Community Center is located at 2935 Birch Hollow Drive in Ann Arbor.

## Community Resource: PFLAG Ann Arbor

PFLAG Ann Arbor is a non-profit organization providing support, education and advocacy for the LGBT community, its family members, friends and allies for over 33 years. The group holds regular free monthly meetings.

You can reach PFLAG Ann Arbor at 734-741-0659 or contact them at info@pflagaa.org.

Group support is available to anyone that comes to the meetings held on the third Sunday of every month from 2-4:30 p.m. at St. Andrews Episcopal Church, located in Ann Arbor at the N.E. corner of Catherine and Division (the entrance is off of Catherine Street). PFLAG is not affiliated with the Church, this is simply the meeting location. The next meeting is scheduled for Sept. 20.

Visit the website [www.pflagaa.org](http://www.pflagaa.org) to sign up for the monthly newsletter.

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# Ann Arbor's Penny Seats Brings The 'Pee' With Production Of 'Urinetown'

"Urinetown: The Musical!," the Tony-award-winning hit from 2001, will have its last performances by Ann Arbor's Penny Seats Theatre Company this weekend. Set in an admittedly absurd dystopian future where one must pay to pee, the show lampoons corporate bureaucracy, pie-in-the-sky optimism, revolution without a plan and the musical theater genre itself. With a full pit orchestra (led by Richard Alder) on the band shell stage, the action takes place around the audience in the park. Featured performers include Brendan Kelly (Ypsilanti), Roy Sexton (Saline), David Kiley (Ann Arbor), John DeMerell (Walled Lake), Sarah Leahy (Ann Arbor), Paige Martin (Ann Arbor), Cathy McDonald (Plymouth), Christina McKim (Albion), Jenna Pittman (Royal Oak), Linda Rabin Hammell (Detroit), Jeff Stringer (Jackson), Maika Van Oosterhout (Ann Arbor) and Daniel Bachelis (Howell).

Director Lauren London (who also serves as The Penny Seats' President) says the piece is a natural for the group: "Since its turn on Broadway, 'Urinetown' has been a favorite of performers, for its snappy score and hilarious, wink-to-the-audience feeling. It's a perfect show to place in our park, where the cast can interact up close with the audience, and take them into the show's silly world. Our cast is filled with performers who excel at just this type of theater, and we're thrilled to bring it to the park."

Advance tickets are available at the group's website, [www.pennyseats.org](http://www.pennyseats.org). For the first time this year, the group is also selling package tickets, where patrons can purchase tickets to shows and save a dollar per ticket. Although the curtain goes up at 7 p.m. each evening, pre-show picnicking is encouraged, and the group will sell water and concessions at the park as well.

The Penny Seats current just completed their run of "The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)." The hilarious parody featured three actors



Brendan Kelly as Bobby with ensemble. Photo by Gabriella Rundall

attempting valiantly to perform every Shakespearean work in a mere 90 minutes. It was first performed by its authors, Adam Long, Daniel Singer and Jess Winfield, at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe in 1987, and it has gained meteoric fame in the years since, becoming one of the world's most popular shows. The actors move frantically from piece to piece, donning and doffing costumes and wigs, hurling well-timed insults at one another and frequently interacting with the audience. The show starred Matt Cameron, Artun Kircali and Leanne Young, and was directed by Anne Levy.

All performances are at the West Park band shell. Patrons are encouraged to bring a picnic dinner to enjoy at the park before or during the show. Lawn chairs, hats, bug spray and other outdoor gear are also encouraged. Alcohol may also be brought and enjoyed responsibly. Water and concessions will be available for purchase. More information about tickets, parking and available packages, is available on the company's website, [www.pennyseats.org](http://www.pennyseats.org). Tickets can be ordered at 734-926-5346.

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Photo: Colleen Hayes/HBO

# Hey Mickey, You Do Hair So Fine

‘Comeback’ Actor Robert Michael Morris Talks ‘TV Baptism’ & Being Lisa Kudrow’s Cherished Sidekick

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Lisa Kudrow’s Valerie Cherish might be the washed-up star of her own show, but it’s her trusty hairdresser, Mickey Deane, who makes her look like one.

For two seasons of HBO’s sharp reality-show satire, “The Comeback,” Mickey, played by Robert Michael Morris, has endured the plights of humiliation right alongside Valerie herself – all in the name of friendship. From season one’s cupcake fiasco to Val’s tasteless improv riffs after his cancer diagnosis during the second installment, the manny-pack-wearing Mickey’s seen it all... and, well, so has “Red,” as he affectionately calls her.

She once walked in on him in bed, sprawled out, naked.

As the entire 21-episode series (so far) hits DVD, the Kentucky-born Morris phoned to chat about how that emotional finale was “all in Lisa’s eyes,” his former career as an English teacher and why he decided to bare his butt during the show. And no, he doesn’t do hair.

**I just watched the season two finale for probably the 15th time. I can’t shake it. Those last few minutes are some of the most brilliant minutes in television history. What was the vibe of the cast during the finale shoot?**

Well, I was away for most of it. The hospital scene – they were shooting

other stuff, but I was just waiting in the hospital bed, so for me it was very easy. Just lie there! (Laughs) We didn’t wrap that last scene until 4:20 that morning, so it was quite late in the day. I keep using the word “honest,” and that’s the thing I always appreciated about the show. It seemed to me to always be so honest, and the relationship between Lisa and I really crystallized in that last moment.

**That’s true. By the end of the second season, Valerie realized what really mattered.**

Oh, she always realized it. It’s like you can’t walk away from a sick child, and when Mickey, who had

always been with her forever – 25 years longer than her marriage – seeing him on his way out became the priority for her. *I have got to get to him. I have got to get to him.* When she gets there and finds out it was the medication and he’s just a frightened mess in the bed – and she’s comforting him for a change – it really revealed the depth of their relationship. A lot of times we skate on the surface, and it’s only when the rubber hits the road that you can plumb the depths of what it is.

**Nothing has been confirmed regarding a third season of the show. And seeing it took nearly 10 years for a second season, it could be that long before we**

**see a third. Did the uncertainty of the show’s future make shooting this past season emotional?**

Oh, I don’t think that played into it – it certainly didn’t play into it for me. You hear actors say a lot of times they have to be in the moment, and if you’re playing something for effect, it rings false. HBO has always loved the show and they were incredibly supportive of this show. Well, the current HBO people. I think the first HBO person – whomever he was – didn’t get it. It was also, at that time, the only show that HBO had where there was a female lead. They were all male leads. And (the show) is about the business, which for them



was uncomfortable.

I feel pretty confident in saying that there is gonna be a third season. There will be a third one, I'm almost positive. Lisa has already said in many interviews there will be, and (co-creator) Michael (Patrick King) has said there will be, and HBO has said we're leaving the door open. It takes a while to write something of quality, and I think that's what they're doing now. But they know what they want. Michael said to me, "We wanna make sure the next time is something worthwhile, that it's something that will be what people wanna see about Valerie." Lisa's already said, "I'm not done with that character." I don't know where she can go: Oscar? Tony?!

**You must have been over the moon when Lisa recently received an Emmy nomination for Best Actress in a Comedy Series.**

Oh, I was thrilled to death! I emailed her right away and she got right back to me and said, "Thank you." But this gives you an idea of the kind woman she is: She said, "...however, it's bittersweet because they overlooked two other Michaels." She's a neat lady.

**How would you like to see the relationship between Valerie and Mickey evolve during a potential third season?**

Oh, I don't know. She's seen me bleeding, she's seen me naked, she's seen me laid out on a hospital bed scared out of my mind. It can only go up from there!

**When your character was first developed, how did you find the Mickey that we came to know by the end of the second season?**

I know that Michael and Lisa did not want a screaming stereotype. Mickey was just a human being, and he didn't think of himself as gay. Remember in the first episode he says to her before he went to the restaurant, "Did you tell Juna I was gay?" Now anybody with half a brain – or Stevie Wonder who can't see – knew he was flittin' around. But he was just being him, so he couldn't imagine why Juna would think that he was gay. And the look on Lisa's face – her take on that was, I thought, masterful. So he finally decides by the end of that season to come out, and he's a little long in the tooth to be coming out, but he decided to come out. He brings his boyfriend Robert to the party and kisses him on national television – or on the reality show, anyway – and Lisa's only comment is, "Well, that's out of the way."

**Can you elaborate on exploring Mickey's sexuality during the series?**

I think it's a common thing – well, maybe not common, but it's not so extraordinary that men who do have a

sexual preference for men don't believe anybody knows. I've heard stories of people who were major celebrity types who like to crossdress but they don't think anybody knows it. I mean, what exactly makes somebody gay? Now they're all saying it's the way you talk. Other people say it's the way you walk. In high school, one of my dearest friends was effeminate, and effeminacy is not the same as being gay. In fact, there was a marvelous "Saturday Night Live" skit with Dana Carvey where his kids all thought he was gay because he liked to do interior decoration and arrange flowers, and maybe he had a bit of a stereotypical speech pattern, but his own children thought he was gay, and he wasn't.

It's a very complicated issue, and what I liked about it (on the show) was that they didn't want the same kind of approach to it that is often used. Right away it goes to the humor and not necessarily truth. Then after he comes out or announces on the show that, in fact, he is (gay), I think there's a kind of freedom in him, but you'll notice he doesn't noticeably change. He doesn't start wearing loud colors. I mean, he really likes jewelry, but what's wrong with a little personal adornment?

**In what ways are you and Mickey alike?**

Well, I do like wearing jewelry, although I go through phases. (Laughs) A lot of the jewelry that was used in the show was mine. I brought it all in. In fact, as we started doing the show, I bought a lot of stuff on eBay.

**Do people expect you to know a lot about hair?**

Yes, they do... and I don't! I ran three college drama departments, and I was always pretty much a one-man band, so I had to learn how to do everything. I had to learn how to sew – not well, but at straight seaming I'm a whiz. And I don't really know fabrics that well – I'm not really a tailor. I also had to learn how to do wigs. A lot of Mickey is based on some people that I know who were hairdressers who helped me out when I was teaching college. When we first started the show, I would sit and watch Lisa's hairdresser style and do her wig for her. I watched what he did and I just tried to do that without screwing up what he had done. I think actors observe. You have to watch people, and I think you have to know what you're doing or it rings false. I take it as a great compliment that people think I was or am a hairdresser, but it couldn't be further from the truth!

**Have you ever worked with a Valerie Cherish type?**

No; most of my life, I was primarily a

teacher. I taught for over 25 years. I had no intention of doing show business because I had done very little television. I did one under-5 (a character who has fewer than five lines of dialogue) for "All My Children" so long ago that Erica Kane still had her communion money, but I was working there after the teaching thing ended. I was working for my brother and Michael King called me on September 19 – I remember the date – and he said, "I'm working on a show with Lisa Kudrow, and there's a part I think you would be really right for."

You see, I had known Michael for a long, long time, and my brother would always say to me, "Why doesn't he get you on 'Sex and the City'?" I said, "Look, I would never ask a friend for anything like that. To me, a friendship is more important than a job. He knows what I can do and when he can, he'll do something." And I told that to Michael. He said, "Oh, I could've used you, but it would've been a one-shot deal. I wanted to wait for something with more substance." So I went to the audition for "The Comeback" and then the call back and, to my surprise, I was hired. It was my first audition in Los Angeles; I hadn't worked with anyone else. This is really my TV baptism.


**Looking back at the show's two seasons, what scenes that you shared with Lisa stand out most to you? I mean, aside from that naked scene where your behind is on full display – because I imagine that's a real highlight!**

(Laughs) I said one time in a meeting, "Everybody thinks that he's a bottom anyway, so that makes perfect sense to me." That's what people think being gay is all about. "Top or bottom? Which one are you?"

But let's see. I always love her when she's befuddled, when you can see her mind racing, like, "What do I do? How do I make this work?" And then, of course, that last scene I really love. And that's all Michael and Lisa, I must tell you. They know what they want and everything is in Lisa's eyes. When she looks at you, she's bare. She's a very, very honest performer.

**How did that help you connect with her during that final hospital scene?**

There would be no scene if that wasn't there. I remember one time someone asked Meryl Streep that (same question) when she did "Sophie's Choice" and she said it was always in Kevin (Kline) and Peter MacNicol's eyes – that's where she got her performance. And I think that's true for me – it was all in Lisa's eyes. You'll notice, if you watch it for the 16th time, because there are no cameras around, she's not performing. To me, it was an amazing thing.



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"An Evening of Broadway at Aut Bar" begins at 6 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 16. Aut Bar is located at 315 Braun Cat., Ann Arbor. The event is free and open to the public.

## Editor's Pick

Local tenor and music educator Jeffrey Willets joins forces with ACLU LGBT attorney and tenor Jay Kaplan to present an evening of songs from 21st century musicals and reprisals of musicals in the 21st century. Pianist Elisabeth Wagner and Mezzo Ruth Ann Wagner guest star in this presentation. Come early, as chairs go quickly.

The performances will take place on the Aut Bar Patio, Ann Arbor's premier LGBT bar and grill. The bar serves Mexican food alongside pool tables and a focus on community fundraising.

# Happenings

## OUTINGS

### Thursday, Aug. 13

**Mental Health Summit** 9 a.m. Free (must register) Detroit VA Healthcare System, **Warren**. 313-576-2400. Detroit.va.gov

**MAC Health** 11 p.m. Michigan AIDS Coalition (MAC), 928 McNichols Road W, **Detroit**. 313-863-3934. Michiganaidcoalition.org

### Friday, Aug. 14

**Michigan Lean Consortium 2015 Annual Conference** The conference will feature several exciting keynote speakers including Rich Sheridan, CEO of Menlo Innovations; Darrell Rogers, CCIO-Chief Continuous Improvement Officer at Britten Studios and Mike Zimmer, Director of the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA). Michigan Lean Consortium, **Traverse City**. Michiganlean.org

**The Business of Art** 6 p.m. Free and open to the public. Refreshments provided. Wayne State University, **Detroit**. Events.wayne.edu/rsvp/bofa/

**MAC Health** 11 p.m. Michigan AIDS Coalition (MAC), **Detroit**. Michiganaidcoalition.org

### Saturday, Aug. 15

**Annual White Party** 6:30 p.m. West Shore Aware, **Saugatuck**. Westshoreaware.org

### Sunday, Aug. 16

**LGBT Parenting Support Group** 1 a.m. The purpose of the group is for LGBT families to have a monthly opportunity to get together to get to know one another and to discuss topics of interest. Free. Organization Name, 318 W. Nine Mile, **Ferndale**. 248-955-3219. Naturesplayhouse.com

**Bisexual Peer Group** 4 p.m. Our group meets monthly on the third Sunday & discussion relates to bisexual identity. Building is handicap accessible using ramp to rear entrance. Bisexual Peer Group, 319 Braun Ct., **Ann Arbor**. paylor9@icloud.com Facebook.com/groups/110918256984/

**An evening of Broadway at the Aut Bar** 6 p.m. Local tenor and music educator, Jeffrey Willets, joins forces

with ACLU LGBT attorney and tenor, Jay Kaplan, to present an evening of songs from 21st century musicals and reprisals of musicals in the 21st century, at the Aut Bar Patio. The event is free and open to the public. Pianist Elisabeth Wagner and Mezzo Ruth Ann Wagner guest star in this presentation. Come early, as chairs go quickly! Aut Bar, 315 Braun Ct., **Ann Arbor**. 734-994-3677. jvincent44@yahoo.com Autbar.com

### Thursday, Aug. 20

**MAC Health** 1 a.m. Michigan AIDS Coalition (MAC), **Detroit**. Michiganaidcoalition.org

### Faith Alliance Meeting

12 p.m. Welcoming new members who would like to be involved with the intersection of faith, sexual orientation, and gender identity. Kalamazoo Gay and Lesbian Resource Center, 2208 Winchell Ave., **Kalamazoo**. Kglrc.org

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

**A Night for James: A Concert Tribute to James Taylor** 7:30 p.m. Private Music Network and GW Staton, 120 E. Huron St., **Ann Arbor**. 734-663-0681. Pntheatre.org

### Friday, Aug. 21

**Bistro Fridays** Special menu. AutBAR, 315 Braun Ct., **Ann Arbor**. 734-994-3677. Autbar.com

### 22nd Annual Benefit on the Bay

5:30 p.m. Music by John Dickson & the C-Notes, The Key Suspects, and special musical guests, the Capuchin Soup Kitchen Choir! 100 percent of the events profit benefits the Capuchin Soup Kitchen. \$65 ticket includes appetizers, dinner, dancing, beer, wine and desserts. There will be both a live auction and a silent one, the latter featuring over 100 items. Capuchin Soup Kitchen, 30675 North River Road, **Harrison Charter Township**. 313-579-2100. Cskdetroit.org/events/22nd\_annual\_benefit\_on\_the\_bay

**LGBT Dinner** 6:30 p.m. Lansing Association for Human Rights, **Lansing**. Lahronline.org/

**MAC Health** 11 p.m. Michigan AIDS Coalition (MAC), **Detroit**. Michiganaidcoalition.org

### Saturday, Aug. 22

**turnt! Aut** AutBAR, 315 Braun Ct., **Ann Arbor**. 734-994-3677. Autbar.com

**Lansing Mitten Mavens vs. Ann Arbor Bruising Company** 7:30 p.m. Lansing Mitten Mavens take on the Ann Arbor Bruising Company in their fifth home bout! Tickets: \$10. Free for 12 and under. Lansing Capital Roller Derby, 7868 Old M-78, **Lansing**. marketing@mittenmavens.net Mittenmavens.net

### Sunday, Aug. 23

**M.C.C. Detroit Trip to Toronto** Cost: \$335 per person. Includes hotel in downtown Toronto, roundtrip motor coach and show on Saturday evening. Friday evening will include a group activity. Breakfast is included for Saturday & Sunday. All payments for trip are to be made to Step on Bus Tours, 215 W. Troy St., Ste 2046, **Ferndale**, MI 48220 or call Rose at 248-619-6692 with credit card. MCC Detroit, **Ferndale**. 248-613-2513. coxie331@aol.com

**Salsa Night** Salsa lessons. \$1 tacos. AutBAR, 315 Braun Ct., **Ann Arbor**. 734-994-3677. Autbar.com

**Yoga and Pilates in the Garden** 12 p.m. Tickets: \$0-10. The Scarab Club, 217 Farnsworth, **Detroit**. 313-831-1250. Scarabclub.org

**TransCend** TransCend provides support and resources to the Southwest Michigan transgender community, their significant others, family, friends, and allies. Meetings occur twice per month on the 2nd Wednesday and 4th Sunday. Kalamazoo Gay and Lesbian Resource Center, 629 Pioneer St., **Kalamazoo**. 269-349-4234. Kglrc.org

**Pride NA** 6:30 p.m. Confidential and anonymous. Open to all individuals impacted by addiction. Kalamazoo Gay and Lesbian Resource Center, 629 Pioneer St., **Kalamazoo**. 269-349-4234. Kglrc.org

### Tuesday, Aug. 25

**Karaoke and Half Off Wine** AutBAR, 315 Braun Ct., **Ann Arbor**. 734-994-3677. Autbar.com

**MAC Health** 2 p.m. Michigan AIDS Coalition (MAC), **Detroit**. Michiganaidcoalition.org

## Wednesday, Aug. 26

**Free Pool and \$1 Off Beer** AutBAR, 315 Braun Ct., **Ann Arbor**. 734-994-3677. Autbar.com

**MAC Health** 10 a.m. Michigan AIDS Coalition (MAC), **Detroit**. Michiganaidcoalition.org

**MAC Health** 6 p.m. Michigan AIDS Coalition (MAC), 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. Michiganaidcoalition.org

**Queer People of Color** 6 p.m. QPOC hopes to be a supportive radical environment for people of color that are part of the LGBTQIA+ community. The coalition will support conversation about issues that face our community, build friendships and, furthermore, serve the greater Kalamazoo area. Kalamazoo Gay and Lesbian Resource Center, 629 Pioneer St., **Kalamazoo**. 269-349-4234. Kglrc.org

## Thursday, Aug. 27

**Creative Monologue: A Solo Exhibition by Timothy Oriki** Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. Goaffirmations.org

**Trivia with Terry and Thirsty Thursday** Half off beer and well drinks with student ID. AutBAR, 315 Braun Ct., **Ann Arbor**. 734-994-3677. Autbar.com

**MAC Health** 2 p.m. Mondays by appointment only. Michigan AIDS Coalition (MAC), **Ferndale**. Michiganaidcoalition.org

**Connections** 6 p.m. Open to all LGBTQ and Ally youth from 13-18. Join us to meet other LGBTQ and Ally teens and socialize in a safe space. Kalamazoo Gay and Lesbian Resource Center, 629 Pioneer St., **Kalamazoo**. 269-349-4234. Kglrc.org

**Throwing Shade** 8 p.m. Tickets: \$12+. The Magic Bag, 22920 Woodward Ave., **Ferndale**. 248-544-3030. Themagicbag.com

## MUSIC & MORE

### Classical

**Michigan Opera Theatre** "Carmen" Filmed live and shown in eye-popping HD. Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway St., **Detroit**. Aug. 13 - Aug. 13. 313-237-SING. Motopera.org

### Concerts

**DIA** "Songwriter Audra Kubat Performs at The DIA" Free show as part of the Sunday Music Series. audrakubatmusic.com. Detroit Institute of Arts, 5200 Woodward Ave., **Detroit**. 1 p.m. Aug. 15. 313-833-7900. Dia.org

**Quicken Loans** "Free Summer in the Parks" Running through Sept. 2, will be held in: Campus Martius/Cadillac Square, Capitol Park, Grand Circus and Paradise Valley. Four historic parks, **Detroit**. June 4 - Sep. 2.

**The Ark** "Goitse" Tickets: \$15-25. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., **Ann Arbor**. 8 p.m. Aug. 18. 734-761-1800. Theark.org

**The Ark** "Bryan Sutton Band featuring S Grisman, C Campbell, M Barnett" Tickets: \$25. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., **Ann Arbor**. 7:30 p.m. Aug. 16. 734-761-1800. Theark.org

**The Ark** "EmiSunshine" Tickets: \$15. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., **Ann Arbor**. 8 p.m. Aug. 15. 734-761-1800. Theark.org

**The Ark** "Breathe Owl Breathe" Tickets: \$15. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., **Ann Arbor**. 8 p.m. Aug. 14. 734-761-1800. Theark.org

### Dance

**Motor City Tap Fest** "Motor City Tap

Festival" . Wayne State Campus, Detroit. Aug. 12 - Aug. 15. Motorcitytapfest.com

## THEATER

**A Midsummer Night's Dream** In Royal Athens, the conventions of tradition, archaic law and patriarchy rule the day; in the forest, magic, mystery and mischief rule the night. Tickets: \$16-40. Michigan Shakespeare Festival, The Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill Road, Canton. Through Aug. 16. 734-394-5300. cantonvillage theater.org

**Alone Together Again** The humor of aging and the sandwich generation takes center stage as the final show of the professional summer season. Tickets: \$12-33. Tibbits Summer Theatre, 14 S. Hanchett St., Coldwater. Through Aug. 15. 517-278-6029. tibbits.org

**Banana for Turtle** A set of vignettes that involves five animal friends: Monkey, Python, Parrot, Elephant and Turtle. Created in the style of classical marionette, the performance speaks humorously to issues of early childhood. Tickets: \$5-10. PuppetART, 25 E. Grand River Ave., Detroit. Through Aug. 15. 313-961-7777. puppetart.org

**Ernie** Tickets: \$32. The Wharton, Wharton Center for the Performing Arts, Michigan State University, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. Aug. 19 - Aug. 22. 800-WHARTON. Whartoncenter.com

**Hatfield's & McCoy's** We have all heard of this feud, but who knows the truth! No one, really. This musical comedy adaptation is sure to help you pick sides. Tickets: \$43.50; includes meal and show. Cornwell's Dinner Theatre, 18935 15 1/2 Mile Rd., Marshall. Through Aug. 22. 269-781-4293. turkeyville.com

**Henry IV** A powerful, commanding father despairs of his errant, unruly eldest son; an heir questions his own fitness for the rank he's been groomed to inherit in a production that combines Henry IV, parts 1 and 2. Tickets: \$16-40. Michigan Shakespeare Festival, The Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill Road, Canton. Through Aug. 15. 734-394-5300. cantonvillage theater.org

**In to the Woods** While everyone is familiar with the traditional fairy tale ending of happily ever after, this musical follows these stories even further to explore the consequences of the characters' wishes and quests. Tickets: \$28-32. The Encore Musical Theatre Company, 3126 Broad St., Dexter. Through Aug. 30. 734-268-6200. theencoretheatre.org

**Invasive Species** Earl Hobbs doesn't like people. Alone with his secrets, he continues this tradition in a little private fishing hole by his house - until one summer night he reels in something that leaves him speechless. Tickets: \$27-32. Tipping Point Theatre, 361 E. Cady St., Northville. Through Aug. 23. 248-347-0003. tippingpointtheatre.com

**The Art of Murder** In a remote estate in the countryside of Connecticut, Jack Brooks, one of the most accomplished and eccentric painters of his generation, and his devoted wife Annie await the imminent arrival of Jack's art dealer. But the visit is not a standard one. Tickets: \$15-35. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam Road, Williamston. Through Aug. 23. 517-655-SHOW. williamstontheatre.org

**The Great American Trailer Park Musical** In this Michigan premiere, Betty, Lin and Pickles are back with a new cast of residents at North Florida's most exclusive manufactured housing community, Armadillo Acres. Tickets: \$34-36. Farmers Alley Theatre, 221 Farmers Alley, Kalamazoo. Through Aug. 16. 269-343-2727. farmersalleytheatre.com

**The Rivals** In Bath, the center of fashion and culture in 1770s England, Lydia Languish wants to marry only for love; her mother, the famed Mrs. Malaprop, wants her to marry for status and fortune. Tickets: \$16-40. Michigan Shakespeare Festival, The Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill Road, Canton. Through Aug. 14. 734-394-5300. cantonvillage theater.org

**Urinetown the Musical** Penny Seats Theatre, West Park Band Shell, Seventh Street between Miller and Huron Rds., Ann Arbor. Through Aug. 15. 734-926-

5346. pennyseats.org

## ART 'N' AROUND

**N'Namdi Center for Contemporary Art** "Susan Aaron-Taylor: Journeying". N'Namdi Center for Contemporary Art, 52 E. Forest, Detroit. June 12 - Aug. 22.

**Flint Institute of Arts** "Beauty, Passion and Bliss: 19th Century Masterworks". Flint Institute of Arts, 1120 E. Kearsley St., Flint. May 17 - Aug. 16. 810-234-1695. Flintarts.org

**N'Namdi Center for Contemporary Art** "Gregory Coates: Minutes". N'Namdi Center for Contemporary Art, 52 E. Forest, Detroit. June 12 - Aug. 23.

**Phoenix Cafe** "Redheads & Monsters - the art of steve czapiewski" Cover: \$10. Phoenix Cafe, 24918 John R. Road, Hazel Park. 7 p.m. Aug. 14. 248-439-0334. On.fb.me/1CNNdrb

**Riverwalk Theatre** "Mary Jobin, Oil Painted Landscapes". Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Dr., Lansing. Aug. 1 - Sep. 30. 517-482-5700.

**robert kidd gallery** "Tom Parish: Venezia". robert kidd gallery, 107 Townsend St., Birmingham. July 17 - Aug. 15. 248-642-3909. Robertkiddgallery.com

**The Scarab Club** "Jerome Ferretti". The Scarab Club, 217 Farnsworth, Detroit. July 1 - Aug. 15. 313-831-1250. Scarabclub.org

**The Scarab Club** "Cool & Warm: Scott Dolan & Jeanne Ruzzin". The Scarab Club, 217 Farnsworth, Detroit. July 1 - Aug. 29. 313-831-1250. Scarabclub.org

**UMMA** "Jem Cohen: Life Drawing". University Of Michigan Museum Of Art, 525 S. State St., Ann Arbor. Aug. 15 - Nov. 29. 734-763-4186. Umma.umich.edu

**UMMA** "Mine More Coal: War Effort and Americanism in World War I Posters". University Of Michigan Museum Of Art, 525 S. State St., Ann Arbor. May 9 - Sep. 20. 734-763-4186. Umma.umich.edu

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## Editor's Pick

The Ann Arbor Film Festival (AAFF) will conduct the 53rd Ann Arbor Film Festival Touring Program. The Ann Arbor Film Festival is the longest running independent and experimental film festival in North America, internationally recognized as a premier forum for film as an art form. The AAFF receives more than 3,000 submissions annually from over 70 countries and serves as one of a handful of Academy-Award qualifying festivals in the United States.

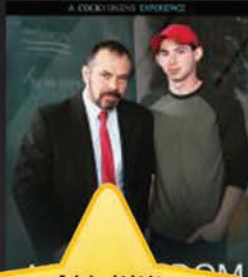
The AAFF is a pioneer of the traveling film festival tour, and each year visits more than 35



theaters, universities, museums and art house cinemas around the world. Galleries, art house theaters, universities, media arts center and cinémathèques throughout the world will host the AAFF Tour through February 2016.

The AAFF is a pioneer of the traveling film festival tour concept, starting with film screenings in Paris, Los Angeles and Berkeley, California in 1964. Since that time, the AAFF Tour has presented hundreds of influential works, including films by Barbara Hammer, Gus Van Sant, Sally Cruikshank, Don Hertzfeldt, Bill Brown, Ross McLaren, Paul Winkler, James Duesing, Martha Colburn and Jay Rosenblatt. The tour provides filmmakers the unique opportunity of having their work screened in front of audiences for whom, in some places, the tour venue is their only access to this form of film art. Each filmmaker participating in the AAFF Tour is also paid for each tour stop, thereby helping to directly support their filmmaking. For full program information, visit [http://aaaffilmfest.org/53rd\\_tour\\_programs](http://aaaffilmfest.org/53rd_tour_programs).

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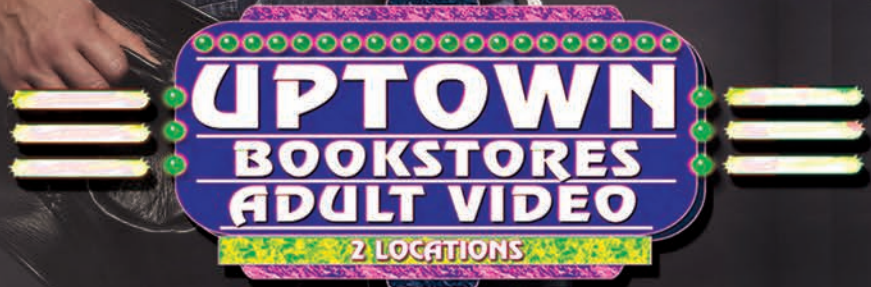


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# Deep Inside Hollywood

BY ROMEO SAN VICENTE

## Clea DuVall in the director's chair

Lesbian fan favorite Clea DuVall, star of “Argo,” “American Horror Story” and, back in the day, the queer indie cult hit “But I’m A Cheerleader,” is stepping into a new role: director. She’ll take the reins for an untitled feature film currently in pre-production. The cast is set – Melanie Lynskey (“Togetherness”), Natasha Lyonne (“Orange is The New Black,” and DuVall’s “Cheerleader” co-star), Jason Ritter (“Parenthood”), Alia Shawkat (“Arrested Development”) and Cobie Smulders (“Avengers”) – and apparently so is the original script, written by DuVall, but nobody’s talking about that just yet. That’s right, fanticipators, no title and no plot details, the way they did it before the Internet spoiled everything all day long. You’ll just have to wait. Unless you’re down with Hollywood’s power-lesbian In Crowd, that is; they probably know all about it by now.



Luke Evans. Photo: Joe Seer

## Luke Evans: The gay action star

Here come three new Luke Evans movies, “Three Seconds,” “High Rise” and “SAS: Red Notice.” Unsurprisingly, they are all action thrillers about one crime or another, with co-stars like David Oyelowo, Tom Hiddleston and Elisabeth Moss. That’s where this rising star lives, usually, in the land of “The Fast and the Furious” films and big action spectacles like “The Hobbit” movies. But what makes Evans unusual is that he’s navigating action film stardom as a gay actor. You may remember him as the actor who was totally out of the closet, then shoved back in by weird marketing/publicity folks, and who is now kinda-sorta re-emerging from that bizarre moment. Either way, it’s fairly unprecedented for any openly gay actors to continue being cast as top-tier talent in the tough-guy action genre, so this man with a lot on his plate is something of a pioneer, no matter how PR-challenged his journey has been. The three films are in various stages of production, so look for them sometime in 2016, around the moment when his turn as Gaston in the live-action version of Disney’s “Beauty and The Beast” hits theaters. Yes, the tough guy sings, too.

## Grace Jones: Silent film star

“We had faces,” said Gloria Swanson in “Sunset Boulevard,” describing her long-ago glory days as a silent film siren. Well, they still have them, but silent films – “The Artist,” notwithstanding – aren’t exactly on anyone’s green-light agenda in 2015. This makes it the perfect time for a film like “Gutterdammerung” to stand alone in the spotlight. Already being referred to as the “loudest silent movie on Earth,”

it’s a project from Belgian-Swedish director Bjorn Tagemose and will be scored with some very loud rock music, but no talking. It’s about Satan’s guitar, naturally, and it will star Iggy Pop as a punk-rock angel, Henry Rollins as a priest, and Jesse Hughes from indie band Eagles of Death Metal. The film will also feature towering, glowering, gay icon Grace Jones – speaking of giving good face – as a supernatural entity that controls all the testosterone in the rock ‘n’ roll world. Perfect casting. We can’t wait.

## ‘Rainbow Family’: Deep Inside Banned Chinese Hollywood

Usually, we like to keep you informed about what’s coming soon. But sometimes projects – gay sitcoms from China, for example – don’t have a lot of buzz surrounding them until they hit and make a noise heard round the world. That’s what’s happening with “Rainbow Family,” China’s first sitcom focusing almost entirely on gay characters (Think broad comedy like “Will & Grace,” but in Mandarin). It’s about a young, closeted, gay man in graduate school (actor Xie Kezan), his “flamboyant” roommate, and his best queer friends. Sounds groundbreaking, right? Well, it is, which is why the Chinese government banned it from TV. Now, if this were 20 years ago, everyone would be out of luck and the entire project would become a hard-to-find urban legend. But because of the magical invention called the Internet, the series (with helpful English subtitles) has earned over 24 million views online, censorship be damned. To quote the song, you can’t stop the beat. Go check it out and beef up those numbers.

Romeo San Vicente web series got three dozen views. He likes to think of it as a highly exclusive audience. He can be reached care of this publication or at [DeepInsideHollywood@qsyndicate.com](mailto:DeepInsideHollywood@qsyndicate.com).


## Always Something happening at the \aut\ BAR Weekly Events and Specials

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 **Saturday**  
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 **Thursday**  
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Thirsty Thursday  
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 **Sunday**  
Salsa Night  
\$1 tacos  
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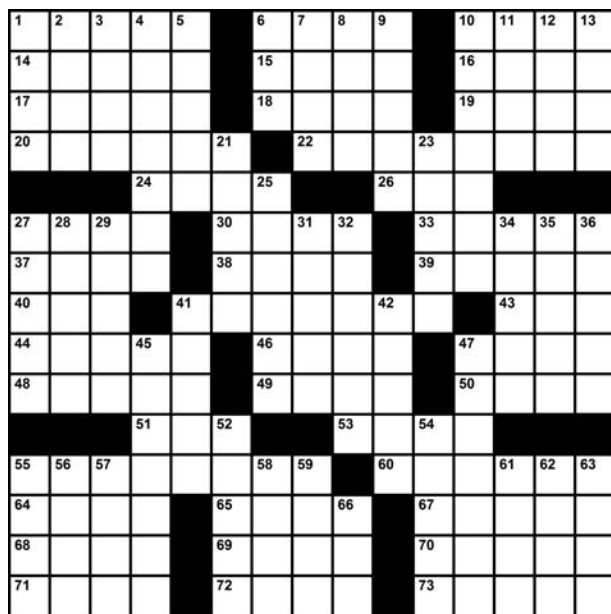
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Volunteer Opportunities - Want to help improve the health of your community? Volunteer with the hotline today! The Michigan HIV/STD Hotline is a program of AIDS Partnership Michigan

# Q Puzzle



- 40 Stole upon the stage
- 41 \*Singer-songwriter Carlton
- 43 Frat boys tap it
- 44 Skip a syllable
- 46 Give out
- 47 Malone of "Life as a House"
- 48 Pinker, to meat-eaters
- 49 Model Banks
- 50 Party to
- 51 Homoerotic ending
- 53 Business letter abbr.
- 55 \*Comedian Cho
- 60 Jodie of "Soap"
- 64 Buck heroine
- 65 English channel, with "the"
- 67 City of "The Bird Cage"
- 68 "\_\_\_! Valour! Compassion!"
- 69 Cross inscription
- 70 "Dykes to Watch Out For" section
- 71 Began like Sheehan, with "off"
- 72 Sweater spots?
- 73 Bitchy warning
- 11 "A Boy Named Sue" singer Johnny
- 12 Taylor of "Gaudi Afternoon"
- 13 Helm location
- 21 "My Fair Lady" lady
- 23 Homeland of Princess Aida
- 25 Uranus, for one
- 27 \*Hip hop model Rose
- 28 Do-re-mi
- 29 Broadcast studio alert
- 31 The Riddler, to Batman
- 32 Have the hots for
- 34 Like some old buckets
- 35 Bridge call, informally
- 36 \*Mullaly or Fox
- 41 Vice \_\_\_
- 42 Bear
- 45 Condescended
- 47 \*America's Toughest Trainer Michaels
- 52 "Sex and the City" character also known as John
- 54 Sleeps under the stars, maybe
- 55 Leave a trail behind a boa?
- 56 It's for skin care
- 57 Like many a "Hairspray" review
- 58 Start of a rhyme about a tiger
- 59 Period of service for Sheila Kuehl
- 61 Star Turner
- 62 From the States: Abbr.
- 63 Place for a hot pie
- 66 The eight women in this puzzle's theme

## On A First Name Basis

### Across

- 1 Bowie's "\_\_\_ Oddity"
- 6 Lucci in "All My Children"
- 10 NCAA home of the Bruins
- 14 Emma Stone plays a beard in this movie
- 15 Words after the race
- 16 Polished surface, for a fem
- 17 Dry with a twist
- 18 "I'm not in the \_\_\_!"
- 19 Emerald, for one
- 20 Sink to the bottom
- 22 \*Pop singer Davis
- 24 "Can't \_\_\_ Lovin' That Man of Mine"
- 26 Sonny and Cher, once
- 27 Mine, to Rimbaud
- 30 "Glen or Glenda: \_\_\_ Two Lives"
- 33 Closet item
- 37 Anna Madrigal's daughter
- 38 Billy of "Titanic"
- 39 Nuts

### Down

- 1 Works under Edith Head, perhaps
- 2 Strip a fruit
- 3 "Be that \_\_\_ may..."
- 4 \*Nixon of \_Sex and the City\_
- 5 Name of many gay bars
- 6 \*Zolciak of "The Real Housewives of Atlanta"
- 7 Starting on
- 8 Jordanian queen
- 9 Rear follower
- 10 Horny equine?



# Naked Men's YOGA

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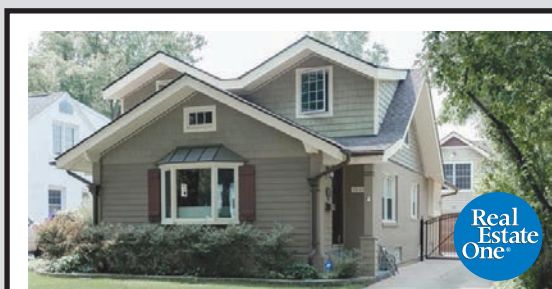
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### Puzzle on this page

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

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- A. kids
- B. dogs
- C. stuff
- D. all of the above



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