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Darryl Roman Burt II, 29 years old

Angel L. Candelario-Padro, 28 years old

Juan Chevez-Martinez, 25 years old

Luis Daniel Conde, 39 years old

Cory James Connell, 21 years old

Tevin Eugene Crosby, 25 years old

Deonka Deidra Drayton, 32 years old

Simon Adrian Carrillo Fernandez, 31 years old

Leroy Valentin Fernandez, 25 years old

Mercedez Marisol Flores, 26 years old

Peter O. Gonzalez-Cruz, 22 years old

Juan Ramon Guerrero, 22 years old

Paul Terrell Henry, 41 years old

Frank Hernandez, 27 years old

Miguel Angel Honorato, 30 years old

Javier Jorge-Reyes, 40 years old

Jason Benjamin Josaphat, 19 years old

Eddie Jamoldroy Justice, 30 years old

Anthony Luis Laureanodisla, 25 years old

Christopher Andrew Leinonen, 32 years old

Alejandro Barrios Martinez, 21 years old

Brenda Lee Marquez McCool, 49 years old

Gilberto Ramon Silva Menendez, 25 years old

Kimberly Morris, 37 years old

Akyra Monet Murray, 18 years old

Luis Omar Ocasio-Capo, 20 years old

Geraldo A. Ortiz-Jimenez, 25 years old

Eric Ivan Ortiz-Rivera, 36 years old

Joel Rayon Paniagua, 32 years old

Jean Carlos Mendez Perez, 35 years old

Enrique L. Rios, Jr., 25 years old

Jean C. Nives Rodriguez, 27 years old

Xavier Emmanuel Serrano Rosado, 35 years old

Christopher Joseph Sanfeliz, 24 years old

Yilmery Rodriguez Solivan, 24 years old

Edward Sotomayor Jr., 34 years old

Shane Evan Tomlinson, 33 years old

Martin Benitez Torres, 33 years old

Jonathan Antonio Camuy Vega, 24 years old

Juan P. Rivera Velazquez, 37 years old

Luis S. Vielma, 22 years old

Franky Jimmy Dejesus Velazquez, 50 years old

Luis Daniel Wilson-Leon, 37 years old

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**Please see Brief Summary of
Patient Information with important
warnings on the following pages.**

Brief Summary of Patient Information about ODEFSEY

ODEFSEY (oh-DEF-see) (emtricitabine, rilpivirine and tenofovir alafenamide) tablets

Important: Ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist about medicines that should not be taken with ODEFSEY.

There may be new information about ODEFSEY. This information is only a summary and does not take the place of talking with your healthcare provider about your medical condition or treatment.

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

ODEFSEY can cause serious side effects, including:

- **Build-up of lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis).** Lactic acidosis may happen in some people who take ODEFSEY or similar medicines. Lactic acidosis is a serious medical emergency that can lead to death. Lactic acidosis can be hard to identify early, because the symptoms could seem like symptoms of other health problems. **Call your healthcare provider right away if you get any of the following symptoms which could be signs of lactic acidosis:**
 - feel very weak or tired
 - have unusual (not normal) muscle pain
 - have trouble breathing
 - have stomach pain with nausea or vomiting
 - feel cold, especially in your arms and legs
 - feel dizzy or lightheaded
 - have a fast or irregular heartbeat
- **Severe liver problems.** Severe liver problems may happen in people who take ODEFSEY. In some cases, these liver problems can lead to death. Your liver may become large and you may develop fat in your liver. **Call your healthcare provider right away if you get any of the following symptoms of liver problems:**
 - your skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow (jaundice)
 - dark “tea-colored” urine
 - light-colored bowel movements (stools)
 - loss of appetite
 - nausea
 - pain, aching, or tenderness on the right side of your stomach area
- **You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or severe liver problems if you are female, very overweight (obese), or have been taking ODEFSEY or a similar medicine for a long time.**
- **Worsening of Hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection.** ODEFSEY is not approved to treat HBV. If you have HBV and take ODEFSEY, your HBV may get worse (flare-up) if you stop taking ODEFSEY. A “flare-up” is when your HBV infection suddenly returns in a worse way than before.
 - Do not run out of ODEFSEY. Refill your prescription or talk to your healthcare provider before your ODEFSEY is all gone.
 - Do not stop taking ODEFSEY without first talking to your healthcare provider.
 - If you stop taking ODEFSEY, your healthcare provider will need to check your health often and do blood tests regularly for several months to check your HBV infection. Tell your healthcare provider about any new or unusual symptoms you may have after you stop taking ODEFSEY.

What is ODEFSEY?

ODEFSEY is a prescription medicine that is used to treat HIV-1 in people 12 years of age and older:

- who have not received HIV-1 medicines in the past and have an amount of HIV-1 in their blood (“viral load”) that is no more than 100,000 copies/mL, **or**
- to replace their current HIV-1 medicines in people who have been on the same HIV-1 medicines for at least 6 months, have a viral load that is less than 50 copies/mL, and have never failed past HIV-1 treatment.

It is not known if ODEFSEY is safe and effective in children under 12 years of age or who weigh less than 77 lb (35 kg).

When used to treat HIV-1 infection, ODEFSEY may help:

- Reduce the amount of HIV-1 in your blood. This is called “viral load”.
- Increase the number of CD4+ (T) cells in your blood that help fight off other infections.

Reducing the amount of HIV-1 and increasing the CD4+ (T) cells in your blood may help improve your immune system. This may reduce your risk of death or getting infections that can happen when your immune system is weak (opportunistic infections).

ODEFSEY does not cure HIV-1 infection or AIDS. You must keep taking HIV-1 medicines to control HIV-1 infection and decrease HIV-related illnesses.

Ask your healthcare provider about how to prevent passing

HIV-1 to others. Do not share or re-use needles, injection equipment, or personal items that can have blood or body fluids on them. Do not have sex without protection. Always practice safer sex by using a latex or polyurethane condom to lower the chance of sexual contact with semen, vaginal secretions, or blood.

Who should not take ODEFSEY?

Do not take ODEFSEY if you also take a medicine that contains:

- carbamazepine (Carbatrol[®], Eptol[®], Equetro[®], Tegretol[®], Tegretol-XR[®], Teril[®])
- dexamethasone (Ozurdex[®], Maxidex[®], Decadron[®], Baycadron[™])
- dexlansoprazole (Dexilant[®])
- esomeprazole (Nexium[®], Vimovo[®])
- lansoprazole (Prevacid[®])
- omeprazole (Prilosec[®], Zegerid[®])
- oxcabazepine (Trileptal[®])
- pantoprazole sodium (Protonix[®])
- phenobarbital (Luminal[®])
- phenytoin (Dilantin[®], Dilantin-125[®], Phenytek[®])
- rabeprazole (Aciphex[®])
- rifampin (Rifadin[®], Rifamate[®], Rifater[®], Rimactane[®])
- rifapentine (Priftin[®])
- the herb St. John’s wort or a product that contains St. John’s wort

What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking ODEFSEY?

Before taking ODEFSEY, tell your healthcare provider if you:

- have liver problems including hepatitis B or C virus infection
- have kidney and bone problems
- have had depression or suicidal thoughts
- have any other medical conditions
- are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if ODEFSEY can harm your unborn baby. Tell your healthcare provider if you become pregnant while taking ODEFSEY.

Pregnancy registry: there is a pregnancy registry for women who take HIV-1 medicines during pregnancy. The purpose of this registry is to collect information about the health of you and your baby. Talk with your healthcare provider about how you can take part in this registry.

- are breastfeeding or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed if you take ODEFSEY.
 - You should not breastfeed if you have HIV-1 because of the risk of passing HIV-1 to your baby.
 - At least one of the medicines in ODEFSEY can pass to your baby in your breast milk. It is not known if the other medicines in ODEFSEY can pass into your breast milk.
 - Talk with your healthcare provider about the best way to feed your baby.

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

Some medicines may interact with ODEFSEY. **Keep a list of your medicines and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist when you get a new medicine.**

- You can ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist for a list of medicines that interact with ODEFSEY.
- Do not start a new medicine without telling your healthcare provider. Your healthcare provider can tell you if it is safe to take ODEFSEY with other medicines.

How should I take ODEFSEY?

- Take ODEFSEY exactly as your healthcare provider tells you to take it. ODEFSEY is taken by itself (not with other HIV-1 medicines) to treat HIV-1 infection.
- Take ODEFSEY 1 time each day with a meal.
- Do not change your dose or stop taking ODEFSEY without first talking with your healthcare provider. Stay under a healthcare provider's care when taking ODEFSEY.
- Do not miss a dose of ODEFSEY.
- If you take too much ODEFSEY, call your healthcare provider or go to the nearest hospital emergency room right away.
- When your ODEFSEY supply starts to run low, get more from your healthcare provider or pharmacy. This is very important because the amount of virus in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time. The virus may develop resistance to ODEFSEY and become harder to treat.

What are the possible side effects of ODEFSEY?

ODEFSEY may cause serious side effects, including:

- See **"What is the most important information I should know about ODEFSEY?"**
- **Severe skin rash and allergic reactions.** Skin rash is a common side effect of ODEFSEY. Rash can be serious. Call your healthcare provider right away if you get a rash. In some cases, rash and allergic reaction may need to be treated in a hospital. **If you get a rash with any of the following symptoms, stop taking ODEFSEY and call your healthcare provider right away:**
 - fever
 - skin blisters
 - mouth sores
 - redness or swelling of the eyes (conjunctivitis)
 - swelling of the face, lips, mouth or throat
 - trouble breathing or swallowing
 - pain on the right side of the stomach (abdominal) area
 - dark "tea-colored" urine

- **Depression or mood changes.** Tell your healthcare provider right away if you have any of the following symptoms:

- feel sad or hopeless
- feel anxious or restless
- have thoughts of hurting yourself (suicide) or have tried to hurt yourself

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

- **Changes in body fat can happen in people who take HIV-1 medicine.** These changes may include increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), breast, and around the middle of your body (trunk). Loss of fat from the legs, arms and face may also happen. The exact cause and long-term health effects of these conditions are not known.

- **Changes in your immune system (Immune Reconstitution Syndrome)** can happen when you start taking HIV-1 medicines. Your immune system may get stronger and begin to fight infections that have been hidden in your body for a long time. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you start having any new symptoms after starting your HIV-1 medicine.

- **New or worse kidney problems, including kidney failure.** Your healthcare provider should do blood and urine tests to check your kidneys before you start and while you are taking ODEFSEY. Your healthcare provider may tell you to stop taking ODEFSEY if you develop new or worse kidney problems.

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

The most common side effects of rilpivirine, one of the medicines in ODEFSEY, are depression, trouble sleeping (insomnia), and headache.

The most common side effect of emtricitabine and tenofovir alafenamide, two of the medicines in ODEFSEY, is nausea.

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

- These are not all the possible side effects of ODEFSEY. For more information, ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist.
- Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

This Brief Summary summarizes the most important information about ODEFSEY. If you would like more information, talk with your healthcare provider. You can ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist for information about ODEFSEY that is written for health professionals.

For more information, call **1-800-445-3235** or go to **www.ODEFSEY.com**.

Keep ODEFSEY and all medicines out of reach of children.

Issued: March 2016

Odefsey
emtricitabine 200mg/rilpivirine 25mg/
tenofovir alafenamide 25mg tablets



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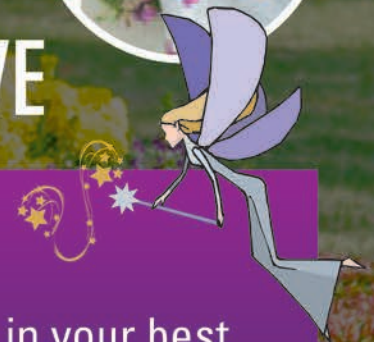
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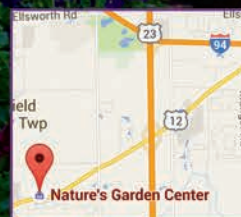
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Pulse nightclub in Orlando was the scene of a horrific massacre early Sunday morning in which 49 patrons of the LGBT club were murdered and 53 seriously wounded. We memorialize the 49 dead on our cover, most of whom were young, Latino men. Several couples were murdered together. One woman who died was a celebrated college athlete. Two victims had ties to Michigan. The murderer died at the scene in a gunfight with police.

Vigils were spontaneously organized Sunday night in at least 5 Michigan cities, and more are scheduled later this week.

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MOTOR CITY PRIDE

Find Motor City Pride Photo Albums Online

Visit Pridesource.com

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Please consider making a donation of any size to the family and victims. Follow links at www.weareorlando.org



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THE BUTCH BENEATH OUR WINGS

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Sign Up For The Sixth Annual LGBT Older Adult Summit

BY AJ TRAGER

DETROIT – The sixth annual LGBT Older Adult Summit will be held June 18 organized by SAGE Metro Detroit and offers LGBT older adults a chance to build stronger social connections and learn about resources to strengthen their financial, social and activist lives.

This year's summit will offer multiple panels, complimentary breakfast and brunch and will feature Jan Stevenson, co-publisher of *Between The Lines*, as the keynote speaker. With marriage equality the law of the land, LGBT folks are more out and visible and the Affordable Care Act has helped to make healthcare more affordable to LGBT older adults and others who didn't have it before. In the upcoming months SAGE Metro Detroit will take a look at what the challenges are for the LGBT community moving forward and how best to address them.

"We will be taking a look at the landscape for what is still going on like the trans bathroom issue, black lives matter/all lives matter, educational issues and issues like the Flint water crisis. As a part of the LGBT community ourselves, where do we fit in as older adults? We played a role in a lot of the things that occurred in the past, but what do we do now? Do we fold it up and see what happens or do you stay involved and make things happen? If that's the case what do you want to see happen or change? How do we engage more young people other than Pride? How do we engage more trans people in the LGB complementation?" Cornelius Wilson, treasurer of the board of SAGE Metro Detroit and organizer of the summit told BTL.

Wilson would like SAGE to continue the conversation on the intersections of LGBT identities and how the organization can work to unite people.

"As a community, to be inclusive and supportive there are various points where we have to step up and stand out together and let society see that this, inclusiveness and equality, are issues of society not a particular community. All those things that we say we want - we have to walk the walk. We have to stand in the middle of the stage and take a bow - particularly in our community. When we were younger we were wonderful, fabulous and beautiful and now some of us are retreating back into the closet. That's why we have to have the conversation about where do we go from here," Wilson said.

A very real and common fear for LGBT older adults is the negative or hostile

treatment they may receive in Michigan long-term care facilities or when the medical profession is treating them. Many LGBT older adults go back into the closet for fear of being harassed or even physically assaulted in spaces that they previously considered safe.

"We can't have them going back into the closet. Now is a time when they should be enjoying the sunset of their lives. They should be sipping cocktails and not running in and hiding because they're fearful of how they will be treated in the healthcare industry or the aid community. We need to address that," Wilson stressed.

The sixth annual LGBT Older Adult Summit will begin at 9 a.m. at the MSU Detroit Campus. Much like previous years, attendees will participate in an array of workshops including a panel discussion on the legal rights for couples and what folks should know whether they're married or not facilitated by Jay Kaplan of the ACLU; a presentation from AARP on care giving; a financial discussion for LGBT couples presented by Waddell & Reed, Inc, Financial Advisers; and a presentation by Vincent Tilford, the executive director of the Luella Hannan Memorial Foundation who will discuss ageism.

The Lifetime Achievement Award will be presented to Atiba Cohen and Carolee Moss who were very involved in older adult services. Unfortunately, both women passed away unexpectedly within the last year.

The organization, formally known as the LGBT Older Adult Coalition, changed its name last November after it was approved as one of 29 chapters of SAGE (Services & Advocacy For Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender Elders), the nation's largest and longest serving organization dedicated to improving the lives of LGBT older adults. Through its work, the Metro Detroit chapter of SAGE aims to provide premier LGBT cultural competency training, help create safe spaces and provide a framework for many programs and services that are lacking for LGBT older adults in the area.

The MSU Detroit Campus is located at 3408 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Call 734-681-0854 or email SAGE Metro Detroit at info@SAGEMetroDetroit.org for more information. To sign up for the event go to 6th annual at <http://gaybe.am/oas>.



#WeAreOrlando

Affirmations is deeply saddened by the deadly attack in Orlando and stands in solidarity with the entire LGBTQ community and the families whose lives will be forever changed.

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ACLU, Secretary of State Johnson, Discuss Trans Identities

BY BTL STAFF

LGBT Special Projects Attorney for the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Michigan, Jay Kaplan, met with Michigan Secretary of State Ruth Johnson June 10 in a deposition over a recent revision to the state's policy on changing one's gender on state identification.

Kaplan served Johnson an out-of-court oral testimony regarding the recent state policy changes for those wishing to change their gender marker on their state identification, despite a request to U.S. District Judge Nancy Edmunds by Johnson's attorneys to not allow the deposition.

The office of the Secretary of State abruptly changed the policy in March, no longer requiring an amended birth certificate to change gender on one's driver's license or state ID and opened up the use of passports or passport cards.

The decision essentially dropped the state's mandate that a trans man or woman must get a letter signed by a doctor that they underwent sexual confirmation surgery to change their documents, so long as the individual purchases a passport.

Kaplan, lead attorney on the case, says the

policy change still does not resolve all the challenges for trans residents to obtain changes on their state issued identification documents.

"Not everyone can get a passport. Not everyone can afford or needs a passport. For transgender people who are legally here, they can't access a passport," Kaplan said.

Johnson filed an affidavit May 17 and claimed that she was "not personally involved" in making past changes, though her staff was, and had no intention of making any more changes to the state's policy.

Last year the ACLU launched their suit against the SOS, *Love v Johnson*, on behalf of six trans plaintiffs, alleging that the 2011 policy change made it impossible for many trans people to change their state issued IDs. The ACLU has contacted Johnson's office every year since the change, requesting that the Secretary of State eliminate the surgery requirement.

Ultimately, the plaintiffs are seeking a court order declaring the state's policy unconstitutional and an injunction against Johnson prohibiting her from enforcing the state's current policy.

The June 10 deposition was limited to three hours and was closed to the press.

Uncommon Coffee Roasters Becomes Certified LGBT Business Company Releases Ironic 'Straight' Coffee

BY BTL STAFF

Uncommon Coffee Roasters, a certified LGBT business (LGBTBE) in Saugatuck, Michigan, has launched three new Cold Brew Coffee products with the help of Guernsey Farms Dairy, including one that they call Straight*.

Since Uncommon Coffee Roasters (UCR) opened in 1994, it has always been known as "the local gay coffee shop" in Saugatuck. Gay and Lesbian youths (and adults) have always found it welcoming and comfortable and have always been greeted by the rainbow flag. UCR has worked with the Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce of Chicago since 2009, becoming officially certified as a LGBT Business Enterprise through the National GLCC in Washington, D.C. in 2012.

UCR has been brewing Cold Brew Coffee for more than 10 years. Instead of pouring hot brewed coffee over ice as many people used to do, Cold Brew Coffee is brewed cold. This brew method uses time (sometimes up to 24 hours) and cold water, rather than heat, to extract the coffee's sugars, oils and caffeine and produces a smooth, less bitter and more refreshing cup.

In the Spring of 2016, UCR and GFD introduced three Cold Brew Coffee products; Cold Brew Coffee Straight*, Cold Brew

Coffee with Half & Half, and Cold Brew Coffee with Chocolate. All three flavors have been met with positive feedback from UCR and GFD fans, and reviews have been pouring in with a surprisingly overwhelming response for the Straight* coffee.

Jason from ThirstyDudes.com says, "This is the smoothest coffee I have ever tasted, not to mention the best tasting. I have always loved the way that ground coffee beans smell, and this is the first time I've ever tasted it brewed where the flavor matched that smell."

Not only is the flavor catching attention, the packaging is too. When UCR was in the planning stages of their Cold Brew Coffee, they went through different flavors and names for each carton. They decided that "Cold Brew Coffee" wouldn't be enough. They needed a descriptor that would set them apart from the rest of RTD coffees and fully represent their brand while showcasing their natural and delicious product. That is when someone mentioned the word "straight." Straight coffee made by an LGBT company. Owner, Guy Darienzo, jumped at the idea. Guy has always promoted UCR as a gay-owned business and said this was a perfect opportunity for him to promote the LGBT community and all of the great work done by the NGLCC with an interesting marketing campaign.



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Employment discrimination against LGBT workers is illegal.

It is the mission of the U. S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission to stop and remedy unlawful employment discrimination.

Call 1-800-669-4000

You can ask for translation assistance.

Although Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 does not explicitly include sexual orientation or gender identity, the EEOC and courts have said that sex discrimination includes discrimination based on an applicant or employee's gender identity or sexual orientation. For example, it is illegal for an employer to deny employment opportunities or permit harassment because:

- A woman does not dress or talk in a feminine manner.
- A man dresses in an effeminate manner or enjoys a pastime (like crocheting) that is associated with women.
- A female employee dates women instead of men.
- A male employee plans to marry a man.
- An employee is planning or has made a gender transition from female to male or male to female.

WHO IS PROTECTED?

All private sector and state/local government employers with at least 15 employees.

Examples of sex discrimination involving sexual orientation include:

- Denying an employee a promotion because he is gay or straight
- Discriminating in terms, conditions, or privileges of employment, such as by providing a lower salary to an employee because of sexual orientation, or denying spousal health insurance benefits to a female employee because her legal spouse is a woman, while providing spousal health insurance to a male employee whose legal spouse is a woman.
- Harassing an employee because of his or her sexual orientation, for example, by derogatory terms, sexually oriented comments, or disparaging remarks for associating with a person of the same or opposite sex.

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The anti-discrimination laws give you a limited amount of time to file a charge of discrimination. In general, you need to file a charge within 300 calendar days from the day the discrimination took place. Regardless of how much time you have to file, it is best to file as soon as you have decided that is what you would like to do.

Unity, Defiance in the Face of Terror, Hate



Mourners released lanterns in memory of the LGBT people killed in Orlando. Hundreds gathered in the parking lot of Spiral nightclub. Photo by Todd Heywood

Michigan Communities Respond

BY TODD HEYWOOD AND AJ TRAGER

As news of the horror in Orlando filtered out Sunday, activists across the state and the country organized impromptu vigils to mourn and to stand in defiance of an attack which President Barack Obama labeled “an act of terrorism and of hate.”

Vigils were held in Ann Arbor, Grand Rapids, Lansing, Battle Creek and East Lansing Sunday with more planned throughout the week in Kalamazoo, Ferndale and at Wayne State University, among others.

All are in response to the worst mass shooting in American history.

Facts About The Shooting

Early Sunday a gunman wielding an assault-type rifle and a handgun opened fire inside a crowded gay bar in Orlando, Florida, taking the lives of 49 men and women. At least 50 additional people were hospitalized, most in critical condition, officials said.

Pulse, a LGBT nightclub, was hosting a Latino night. The gunman, later identified as Omar Mir Seddique Mateen, entered the club around 2:02 a.m. armed with a .223-caliber SIG Sauer AR-15-type rifle and a 9mm Glock handgun. The Orlando Police officer assigned to cover Pulse engaged Mateen, returning fire. Despite those efforts Mateen was able to enter the club and began to open fire on patrons

during last call. Two more officers arrived on scene and forced Mateen to retreat further into the nightclub, during which he began gathering people as hostages. Dozens of first responders and approximately 100 officers were then dispatched to the scene, including a crisis negotiator.

At 2:22 a.m. EDT, Mateen made a 911 call in which he pledged allegiance to the Islamic State of Iraq and referenced Tamerlan and Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, the Boston Marathon bombers. Two and half hours later SWAT officers entered the building and the shooter was shot and killed.

ISIS has a long record of murdering members of the LGBT community in their conquered territories, often by throwing

them off of buildings or stoning them to death. Despite the fact that Mateen claimed allegiance to ISIS, the top Democrat on the House Intelligence Committee told The Associated Press that investigators have not yet found evidence of direct communication between the Orlando nightclub gunman and Islamic State members overseas. Mateen’s father has stated that the attack made by his son was not motivated by his faith. However Mateen’s father was quoted saying that he had seen his son get angry after witnessing a gay couple kiss in front of his family a few months prior to the attack, which he suggested might have been a strong motivating factor.

Multiple reports have come out stating Mateen has a history of violent behavior and

is no stranger to hateful remarks.

Mateen, a U.S. citizen, was born in New York City to Afghan parents. He first became a person of interest to the FBI in May 2013 after he told coworkers at a contract security job that his family had ties to al-Qaeda, and he was a member of Hezbollah. He met twice with the FBI, during which he admitted to making the statements but explained that he said them angrily because his co-workers were teasing him.

Lansing Vigil

"Their goal is to divide us," Virg Bernero, mayor of Lansing told a vigil of over 100 people at the state Capitol Sunday night. "We're united, exactly the opposite of what the terrorists want."

Acknowledging the unity, Bernero pointed out Republican State Sen. Rick Jones of Grand Ledge was present at the event. He also gave a call out to Ingham County Barb Byrum, a long time ally of the LGBT community and to Jody Washington, a representative of the City's First Ward on the City Council. Washington and Bernero have often butted heads over policy issues impacting the city.

"That council and the mayor disagree on a lot of things," said Washington after the event. "But we absolutely agree Lansing will be safe for everybody."

During the candlelight vigil for the victims of the shooting, held under a heavy police presence, the cast of Riverwalk Theater's production of "Rent," sang "Seasons of Love." Rev. Nicolette Siragusa, of the United Church of Christ in Grand Ledge, also spoke.

"We refuse to be silenced, refuse to allow fear to overcome love," she told the crowd.

"It is in this spirit that we unabashedly gather here, in public, on the steps of our state's Capitol. We refuse to hide in fear, we refuse to shrivel up and die.

"In fierce opposition, we boldly declare June to be our month of Pride. The Pride movement was birthed in a nightclub, led by beautiful trans folk who refused to be beaten down and shamed any longer," Siragusa told the crowd gathered at the Capitol. "LGBT clubs have long been our community centers, our safe-havens, our places where we may claim our God-given sexuality and celebrate that we are made in the image of the divine."

Byrum fought back tears as she spoke to BTL.

"It isn't very often I am at a loss for words," she said. "The hate. The hate that is so prevalent. It is so disappointing. I do believe love will conquer all. Through love we'll move forward."

She paused and looked away. Then quietly, almost to herself, she said, "It's just horrible. It's just horrible."

"For us, we mourn along with the nation the loss of life," Thasin Sadar said after the candle light vigil. Sadar is the former president of the Islamic Center of Greater Lansing, located in East Lansing. He also serves on the advisory board for the Council on American and Islamic Relations of Michigan (CAIR). "We are here not as Muslims, but as Americans. We wanted to join the community here."

This was just one of many gestures of solidarity, large and small, Sunday night as the greater Lansing community came together to mourn and process the terror attack.

Another 50 people gathered at Michigan

See Vigils, page 12



"I was at Motor City Pride this morning and I gotta tell you being surrounded by tens of thousands of people who refuse to be cowed, who refused to be silent, who refused to be invisible and to chant in unity 'We're here, we're queer, get used to it.' That was a beautiful thing. We're not going anywhere," Stephanie White, executive director of Equality Michigan, said to 250 people gathered at Braun Court, Ann Arbor. A2 Photos by AJ Trager

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► Vigils

Continued from p. 11

State University. They gathered at a place known as The Rock, a boulder in the middle of campus that is painted regularly to advertise political events, student organizations and to make social statements. Students there struggled with the reality of watching a space most LGBT people see as safe, violated and “defiled.”

Later in the evening about 200 people gathered in the parking lot of Spiral Dance Club in Lansing’s Old Town. They spoke quietly while 50 lanterns were lit to honor the deaths in Orlando. Each of the lanterns were released.

Watching quietly from one side of the lot were Bernero, Lansing Police Chief Michael Yankowski, Lansing Community College Trustee Andrew Abood, and Lansing City Councilmembers Patricia Spitzley and Kathie Dunbar. On the other side of the lot was Lansing City Council President Judi Brown Clarke and her husband, 54-A District Court Judge Hugh Clarke.

Braun Court, Ann Arbor Vigil

“My friends, my comrades, my siblings, my sisters, my brothers please repeat after me ‘We are Orlando,’” said LGBT legend Jim Toy in his opening remarks to the nearly 250 LGBT and allied folks gathered for a vigil June 12 in Ann Arbor’s Braun Court. The court was packed as people stood shoulder to shoulder, many holding white candles that burned for the LGBT lives lost at Pulse nightclub.

“The last time we had a spontaneous gathering of this size in Braun Court it was for a very happy event - the U.S. Supreme Court’s decision on marriage equality. We gather again spontaneously, or nearly spontaneously, under sad and tragic consequences. The shooting happened at a gay club. I’ve heard several commentators refer to it as a sanctuary,” Keith Orr co-owner of /aut/Bar and Common Language bookstore said.

“I do not believe that there is a member of the LGBT community who has not lived in fear at some point, if not been the victim of actual violence. This horror really is a nightmare of a whole community,” Orr said.

Travis Gonzales and his friend Leo Cartier attended the vigil. For nearly an hour they held two white candles that slowly dripped into a cup held in their hands. Gonzales works multiple jobs including driving for Uber and Cartier works for the Ann Arbor Convention and Visitors Bureau. Both of them were collecting themselves when they agreed to speak with BTL.

“We’re here in solidarity. You can’t just hide. One of my friends posted on Facebook that he was afraid to go out tonight because of what happened today and you can’t let that just force you back. You gotta support the LGBT



Braun Court, Ann Arbor Vigil

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community. We’re all one. Whether we’re in California, Oklahoma, New York... we all go through the same troubles and I believe that we all have a connection to what happened,” Gonzales said.

Gonzales and Cartier frequent Pronto, /aut/Bar and Necto. They like going to those places because they feel safe and included. Gonzales said that the folks at Pulse came out that night to feel safe and they were robbed of that safety.

“There is risk in attributing too much cultural meaning to the actions of a solitary killer for it amplifies and gives power to the despicable. But it is also true, of course, that today’s murders seem to stand at that too imaginable intersection of virulent homophobia, zealotry and gun culture,” said Ann Arbor Mayor Chris Taylor.

Ypsilanti’s mayor Amanda Edmonds pushed through some suppressed tears and some that snuck through.

“This day brings to me a message that hits home about the importance of me as an LGBT elected leader,” Edmonds said. “Though I am a leader, today, in front of you I feel powerless and small as probably a lot of us do.”

Also in the audience was State Representative Adam Zemke, City Councilwoman Julie Grand and County Clerk Larry Kestenbaum. Other speakers included: Angie Martell of Iglesia Martell Law Firm; Leon Golson, director of prevention programs at Unified; Sandi Smith of Trillium Real Estate; and many more including faith leaders from the community.

A GoFundMe was created to help raise money for the victims’ families. To donate visit www.gofundme.com/2942a444. As of press time the page had gathered \$2.2 million.



Lansing Vigil



Trump and Clinton Spar Over Orlando Attack

BY LISA KEEN

Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump said Monday that LGBT people should support his proposal to ban Muslims from the U.S. because Islamic groups promote violence against gays.

“Ask yourself, who is really the friend of women and the LGBT community,” said Trump, speaking on the campus of Saint Anselm College in New Hampshire June 13. He said Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton “wants to allow radical Islamic terrorists to pour into our country – they enslave women, and murder gays. I don’t want them in our country.”

“America must do more - much more - to protect its citizens, especially people who are potential victims of crimes based on their backgrounds or sexual orientations,” said Trump.

In what is being called the worst mass shooting in U.S. history, American citizen Omar Mateen, 29, a security guard from Fort Pierce, Florida, entered an LGBT nightclub in Orlando at 2 a.m. Sunday and shot 102 people, killing 49 before police killed him. While Mateen called 911 during the attack and declared his allegiance with the Islamic State (aka ISIS or ISIL), President Obama said Monday there was not yet any “clear evidence” that the shooter was “directed externally” by any terrorist organization.

“It does appear that, at the last minute, he announced allegiance to ISIL,” said the president, “but there is no evidence so far that he was in fact directed...There is also no direct evidence that he was part of a larger plot.”

Both Trump and Clinton delivered speeches Monday to address the implications of the Orlando attack.

Gregory Angelo, president of the national Log Cabin Republicans group, said Trump’s speech was “historic” because it marked “the first time in history a Republican presidential nominee made a direct and explicit appeal to the LGBT community.”

“Only time will tell if that translates to actual votes,” said Angelo, “but, in key states that will be decided by slim margins, a few extra votes from LGBT Americans could make all the difference.”

Log Cabin Republicans has not yet endorsed a presidential candidate, and Angelo underscored that his group “opposes an outright ban on all Muslims simply because of their religion.”

While Trump’s speech argued that the attack on the Orlando nightclub Pulse was the result



of a “dysfunctional immigration system,” Clinton blamed it on a failure to restrict the availability of assault weapons.

Mateen was able to shoot a large number of patrons at the Pulse by using an AR-15 assault rifle, a rapid-fire weapon developed for use by the military that can discharge up to 30 rounds per magazine clip. Federal law banned the sale of such weapons to civilians until 2004.

Noting that Mateen had been questioned by the FBI as a suspected terrorist, Clinton said, “If the FBI is watching you for suspected terrorist links, you shouldn’t be able to just go buy a gun with no questions asked. And you shouldn’t be able to exploit loopholes and evade criminal background checks by buying online or at a gun show.”

“The terrorist in Orlando,” said Clinton, in a speech Monday, “targeted LGBT Americans out of hatred and bigotry. And an attack on any American is an attack on all Americans. I want to say this to all the LGBT people grieving today in Florida and across our country: you have millions of allies who will always have your back. And I am one of them.”

Trump said that Clinton “can never claim to be a friend of the gay community as long as she continues to support immigration policies that bring Islamic extremists to our country who suppress women, gays and anyone who doesn’t share their views.”

“She can’t have it both ways,” said Trump. “She can’t claim to be supportive of these communities while trying to increase the number of people coming in who want to oppress them...Why does Hillary Clinton want to bring people here - in vast numbers - who reject our values? Immigration is a privilege, and we should not let anyone into this country

“The terrorist in Orlando, targeted LGBT Americans out of hatred and bigotry. And an attack on any American is an attack on all Americans. I want to say this to all the LGBT people grieving today in Florida and across our country: you have millions of allies who will always have your back. And I am one of them.”

Democratic Presumptive Nominee Hillary Clinton

who doesn’t support our communities - all of our communities.”

Clinton has expressed support for allowing 65,000 Syrian refugees into the U.S. in an effort to help alleviate “the worst refugee crisis since the end of World War II.” President Obama has called for the U.S. to accept 10,000 Syrian refugees. Trump has likened Syrian refugees to a “Trojan Horse” and said the U.S. should not accept any.

The Orlando attack and the two major party candidates’ starkly different responses to that attack promise to ensure that immigration and gun control will be prominent issues

in the presidential contest between Clinton and Trump. The attack will also likely focus continued attention on religious-based hostilities toward LGBT people.

Noting that Mateen appeared to have been “inspired by various extremist information that was disseminated over the Internet,” President Obama said Monday that organizations like ISIL “target gays and lesbians because they believe that they do not abide towards their attitudes towards sexuality.”

“Clearly there are connections between the attitudes of an organization like this and their attitudes towards tolerance and pluralism and the belief that all people are created equally,” said Obama, in remarks to a White House pool reporter in the Oval Office. “There are connections between this vicious, bankrupt ideology and general attitudes towards gays and lesbians and, unfortunately, that’s something that the LGBT community is subject to, not just by ISIL, but by a lot of groups...”

Numerous media outlets quoted Mateen’s father, Seddique Mateen, as suggesting his son had expressed hostility toward homosexuality and had been angered recently by seeing two men kiss. CBS News reported that Seddique Mateen had himself posted a video that showed him saying, “God will punish those involved in homosexuality.” But Seddique Mateen told CBS his son did not have the right to harm anybody.

A friend of Omar Mateen told the Washington Post that Mateen was “quite religious” but never mentioned any allegiance to the Islamic State. Mateen’s former wife told reporters Mateen was not a devout Muslim. But the FBI investigated Mateen’s connection to a man at his mosque in Fort Pierce, Florida, who executed a suicide bombing in Syria.

Media also reported patrons of the Pulse saying they had seen Mateen at the LGBT nightclub on several occasions and some believed he was interested in meeting men.

Mateen’s parents immigrated from Afghanistan, but Mateen himself was an American citizen, born in New York and attended high school and a small state college in Florida. He had a state license to carry a concealed weapon, worked as a security guard, and had extensive training in the use of firearms.

The White House announced Monday night that President Obama will travel to Orlando Thursday to “pay his respects” to the families of the victims “and to stand in solidarity with the community as they embark on their recovery.”



The Pride Parade was the largest yet. Photo: Tin Penfil



Audra Kubat, 43, standing in solidarity with those affected by murders in Orlando just hours after the horrific event. BTLPhoto: AJ Trager

BY AJ TRAGER

DETROIT – Saturday was hot. Blistering hot with strong winds. All week weather reports recommended Michiganders plan their weekend with caution for impending thunderstorms - maybe a severe thunderstorm they said. Despite intense winds there were only a few clouds. It never rained.

Motor City Pride took over Hart Plaza and as thousands flocked to downtown this weekend to celebrate Pride events and happenings spread throughout the city. The festival itself hosted an array of activities from a kids area that included face painting, arts and crafts, visits by Dr. Dino and more to an array of performances that were spread out over four above ground stages and one underground dance floor.

The festival smelled like sunscreen and plastic pride beads. Over 100 vendors attended this year's Motor City Pride including the Michigan State University Student OMM Clinic of Detroit, NOCIRC of Michigan, the Detroit Police Department and the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

Lorina Nichols and Ebony Lowe brought their son Devon. They were married October 3 and say that married life is not much different than life before the certificate. Over the course of the past eight years they've come out to Motor City Pride twice but this is the first year they've been able to come with Devon.

"This is something new for him to see,"

Nichols told BTL.

"It's nice to be around people like us and be around our family, basically. It's important for us now that we have a baby that he gets to see other kids like him, who have two moms and two dads," Nichols said.

Uniting for Unity, Detroit Stands With Orlando

Sunday morning, despite a perfect day with 80 degree temperatures and a full sky of sunshine, it finally rained. This was the Motor City's first Pride celebration following the marriage equality decision and the Sunday festivities were highly overshadowed by the June 12 shootings at Pulse in Orlando, Fla.

Ironically the 2016 Pride Parade theme was "Uniting for Unity," and was bigger and more vibrant than last year. Hundreds marched in the Pride Parade and even more flocked into the gates to celebrate LGBTQ identities.

Amidst the rainbow balloons and folks throwing rainbow beaded necklaces, fans, chap stick, condoms and more, Audra Kubat, 43, walked silently alone, standing in solidarity with those affected by deaths in Orlando holding a sign that read "Detroit Stands With Orlando."

"Amongst the celebration I wanted to bring in the conversation about how much work we still have to do. I wanted people around the world to know that we here in Detroit stand

with our fellow humans in this time of tragedy and we aren't going to stop being ourselves. We can celebrate and we can mourn at the same time," Kubat explained.

She heard about the shootings first thing in the morning and immediately started following the incident. The story changed as updated reports flooded the media sphere raising the body count from 20 to 50 and then finally declaring it a massive hate crime targeted against the LGBT community.

"There were a lot of times where I placed the sign over my face to distance myself and take away the idea that I'm claiming it or that I'm responsible for the sentiment. I didn't want to feel like I was capitalizing on it in anyway, it was unlike any other Pride fest that I've been in because people were reacting to the sign with such depth. And I realized how important it was to come out and be visible," Kubat said.

William VanHemert, chief executive officer of Unified - HIV Health and Beyond, attended the Sunday parade with his partner Robert. The two of them, clad in plaid shirts and big sunglasses, clapped in unison when Kubat walked down Jefferson to the Pride festival gate.

"Gay Pride happens once a year in June. We came out to support our community and today, Sunday, after what happened in Orlando we felt it was more appropriate to come down here and support our community and be in camaraderie with our brothers and sisters,"

VanHemert said.

This year was VanHemert's first year attending the Pride Parade. Since moving back to Detroit from San Francisco, he's always attended the festival but had never caught the parade.

"Fifty individuals are now dead and we thought it was important to come out and support our community - my community - but to let everybody know that we're here, we're queer and get ready for it and that we're not getting into a panic," he said. "When we saw what happened in Orlando we said 'We need to get up, we need to get out here and come down for that component.' I'm glad that Detroit and the LGBT community is doing much more and being visible."

The LGBT community in Detroit was visible. Orlando Florida sits more than 1,100 miles away from the Motor City but the victims and the tragedy were not far from anyone's mind during Michigan's largest LGBT Pride festival.

Before she opened up the 2016 Detroit Drag Review, host Sabin mentioned the victims saying that the morning has given the LGBT community a lot to think about.

The Motor City Pride festival is a time for the LGBT community to celebrate who they are and to come together to be visible and stand together. And in standing be stronger.

Moving forward - looking to tomorrow - we will be.



Hundreds signed a tribute wall for Orlando victims. Photo: Tin Penfil

“ Fifty individuals are now dead and we thought it was important to come out and support our community – my community – but to let everybody know that we’re here, we’re queer and get ready for it and that we’re not getting into a panic, ”

– William VanHemert, chief executive officer of Unified - HIV Health and Beyond, attended



Former State Sen. Gretchem Whitmer is this year's Grand Marshal. BTL photo: Jan Stevenson

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Let God's Trumpet Sound!

Parting Glances

OPINION BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

If little else, Donald J. Trump – who just celebrated his 70th birthday on June 14th – making him fully eligible, and then some, for U.S.S. benefits – has by inconclusive rhetoric, non-objective facial grimaces, carefree dandruff bleaching, somehow given bigotry a new lease on life for far too many folks.

Increasingly his zealous political wolves in sheep's clerical collars are also reverently – if somewhat snidely – encouraging their flocks to vent their collective sheep shearings to hate not only the sin but to openly hate the sinner as well.

It's called speaking out for freedom of religious choice...

Speaking out against same-sex marriage. Speaking out against transgender restroom usage. Speaking out against border crossing immigration. Speaking out against science and evolution. Speaking out against other worldwide, long-established faiths.

Yea, verily! No longer is that time-honored fundamentalist sin/sinner rule of thumb (or, is it rule of middle finger?) tempered by altruism or love.

It's all out animosity. Dogmatic one-upmanship over everyone and everything not born-again or, quote unquote, "saved". Hate by any other name.

To use a play on a popular choice of theocratic trash titles these days – something that might be an apt campaign slogan for Donald J (as in porta john) Trump – it's Kiss Our Left Behind for Jesus!

(The big-bucks series of "Left Behind" potboilers let's those who are not "washed in the Blood of the Lamb" – estimated by a 2015 GOP, Senate-sponsored, federally funded census to be 6,899,404,089 unsaved persons – know what a Hell on Earth life will be like when Jesus jerks his groupies homeward.)

Simplicity put, it's turning the other windy cheek for these Left Behinder ministers. As The National Inspirer, a weekly faith tabloid for fundygelicals, sold at 600 tax-exempt megachurches across America (62 in Alabama and Georgia combined), headlines it: HATE SOMEONE SPECIAL FOR JESUS' SAKE!

"We true believers have the go ahead to choose to activate our hate," says a Trump birthday National Inspirer front page editorial, accompanied with a truly inspiring photomontage of Revs. Franklin, Robertson, and Falwell (you do remember Jerry, don't you?), wearing badges announcing, "The Trumpet is sounding!"

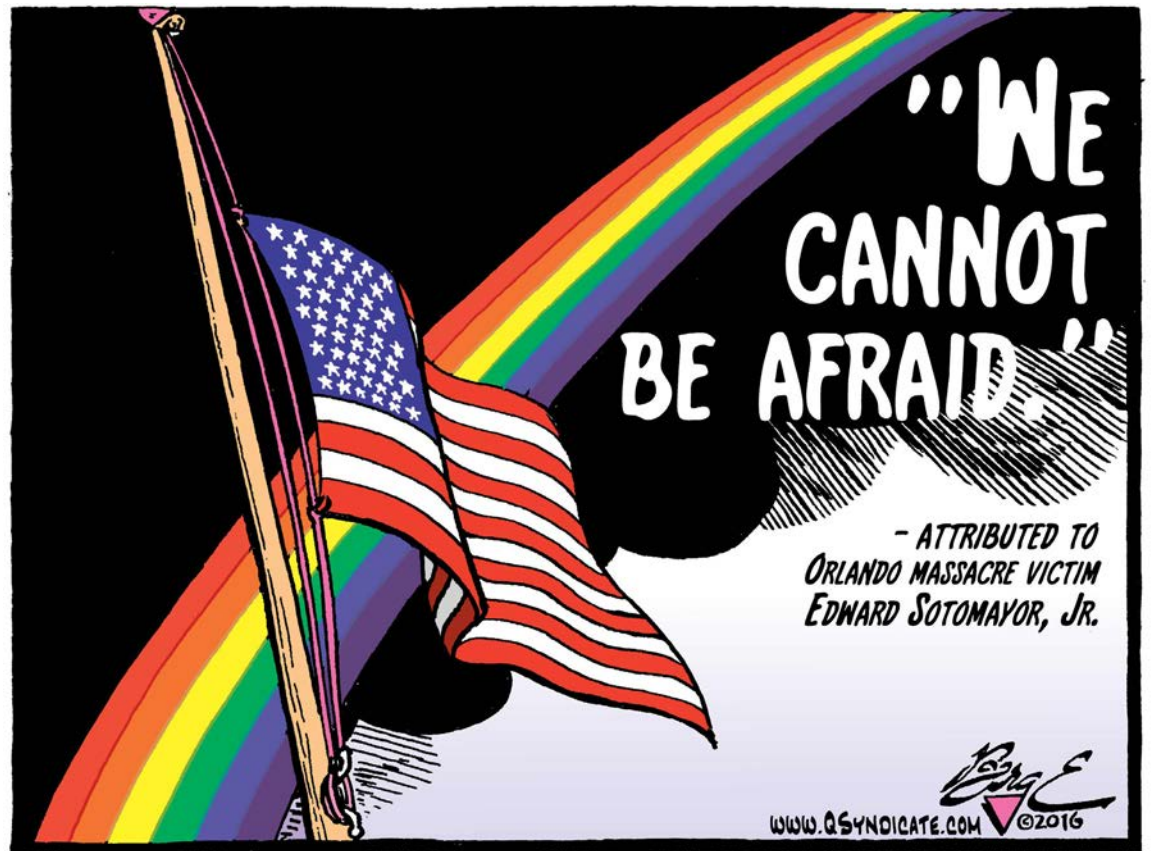
"Jesus has admonished us in Luke 14: 26 to rise to the challenge of hate as a visible demonstration of our life-changing, life-challenging way or worship. You don't have to let your hate get out of hand. A little hate goes a long way. Try it and see.

"For those of fellow Christians who haven't the courage of their convictions, or who just aren't sure who to – or, if you're a Wheaton College grad – whom to hate, please see the accompanying check list provided for your convenience.

"And Please! Before you check and choose, spend some time in prayer. This time around, hate someone special for Jesus. Any true "saved" believer can hate gays, muslims, feminists, hindus, Mexicans, atheists, Hillary Clinton. No big deal.

"Why not hate the whole damned Democratic Party. Yes, it's a challenge. But our God is a great undertaker for change. Please remember too: November 2016 is being set aside by all Bible true believers as Hate Someone Special for Jesus Month."

Charles@pridesource.com



BY DAVID MIXNER

This essay first appeared on www.Towleroad.com

Not since June 24, 1973 when a madman fire-bombed the UpStairs Lounge in New Orleans has the LGBT community suffered such slaughter at the hands of hate. On that horrible day, 43 years ago, 32 of our own were burned to death. No one was ever charged or punished for that crime. Ever since, unfortunately, random violence has shadowed our journey to freedom. Over a dozen MCC churches have been burned to the ground. Every one of us knows someone who has been gay-bashed. Many have been beaten so badly that they never regain their ability to function in the world. None of us will ever forget Matthew Shepard crucified on a fence in the barren and desolate prairie of Wyoming.

David Mixner For the LGBT community, the news that terrorists aim to kill us is certainly not new. We have recoiled time and time again as videos show our brothers and sisters in the Middle East stoned to death or hurled off the tops of buildings. In Africa we see members of our community burned to death encased in the infamous 'neckless' (a burning tire around their neck). A generation of us witnessed first hand as our brothers endured a prolonged and brutal death from AIDS while our own government turned its back on us. American preachers have called for the death sentence for LGBT

Viewpoint

Violence is No Stranger to the LGBT Community

Americans and dispatched missionaries overseas to urge third world nations to inflict hate and violence on their own LGBT citizens.

For the most part we have suffered all this amid the silence of others; it has almost become a way of life for us. The lack of outrage or even coverage of the repression and terror directed toward us from the media is striking. Also, the fact that thirteen nations have the death penalty simply for being homosexual — and many of them are American allies. As ACT UP said so eloquently, silence really does equal death.

Now another place, another name has joined the long list: Pulse. Ironically the name of the Orlando bar is the means to ascertain if a person is still alive.

Oh yes, we are still alive. They have not invented a bullet, a gun or firebomb that can come close to murdering our spirit or our determination to be free. For every one of our fallen there are ten to take their place.

The slaughterhouse in Orlando hits close to home. I have spoken there at a community event. Every city in America has a bar like Pulse. We have all danced to the same music! We all know it can happen anywhere, anytime in our community. We are all always at risk.

President Obama rightly called the slaughter in Orlando both a terrorist act and a hate crime. The two can't be separated.

Let's be honest. Not only was this twisted terrorist

Dozens of world landmarks lit up in dazzling color to express solidarity and honor victims of the horrific mass shooting at Pulse, an LGBT nightclub in Orlando.



Bond Bridge in Kansas City



Trevi Fountain, Rome



U.S. Embassy, New Delhi



One World Trade Center, N.Y.



Eiffel Tower, Paris

There are precincts of American politics filled with rhetoric against our community, our rights, our very being. Pastors advocate hate from their pulpits and legislation is submitted and enacted to demean us and sanction anti-LGBT discrimination.

inspired by ISIS; he had plenty of permission here in America to hate us.

There are precincts of American politics filled with rhetoric against our community, our rights, our very being. Pastors advocate hate from their pulpits and legislation is submitted and enacted to demean us and sanction anti-LGBT discrimination. There are states passing laws to permit our fellow citizens to deny us a meal in a restaurant, a place to sleep at night, or even access to a restroom. Do these agents of bigotry really believe their cynical fear-mongering and attempts to write hate into the statute books did not contribute to the massacre at Pulse? Really?

What can we do in the face of such horror?

For years to come and without question we will have to continue fighting our oppressors in the streets and at the ballot box. We cannot rest until every hate-filled law is overturned. The best memorial to the dead of Orlando is a new birth of freedom.

In the short term, many of the killed or injured are poor and they and their families need our financial assistance. Equality Florida has established a “Go Fund Me” page for us to help pay for funerals and medical expenses.

The LGBT community in Texas – and all decent citizens – have a special obligation and that is to remove Lt. Governor Patrick from office for his hateful tweet: “You reap what you sow.” He dishonors his office and America.

The Republican Party must stop exploiting gay-baiting as a tool to turn out their base.

Finally, we must stand tall, proud and open. All of us are sickened and angered by the mass execution of our brothers and sisters, but we are not bowed and not defeated. Never!

David Mixner is a LGBT rights activist, political strategist and best-selling author. www.davidmixner.com

Creep of the Week

Omar Mateen

BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

No one on an FBI watch list should be able to easily buy a gun. No one should be allowed to buy a gun designed for the military to kill as many people as possible as quickly as possible. If you want to hold an AR-15 or something like it, join the fucking Army. I know that gun nuts disagree. But I don't have the patience or the time to argue with people who think guns are more important than human lives.



Mateen

America is the only country where mass shootings happen on a regular basis. We need gun control, damn it. I don't want to hear another politician offer prayers for Orlando unless that prayer is, “Dear God, please guide my hand as I sign this gun control legislation.”

Then again, if a pile of dead six-year-olds wasn't enough to move the needle on gun control, then a pile of gays doesn't stand a chance. Hearing “prayers” from people like Jeb Bush, Marco Rubio, and Florida Gov. Rick Scott made me sick to my stomach. These are people who demonized LGBT people and families for political gain. Their prayers don't mean shit, thanks.

Ah, but there will be plenty of time to call them out. Right now the main villain in this plot is Omar Mateen, the man who mowed down nearly 100 people, killing 49 of them (as of this writing) at Pulse in Orlando. A gay club.

We know that he was racist and homophobic. We know that he beat up his first wife. We know that he worked as a security guard. We know he was on the FBI's radar. We know that he bought his murder weapons easy peasy.

Was he a terrorist? Well, undoubtedly, yes. But was he specifically a “radical Islamic terrorist” (as if that somehow explains or makes more comprehensible the carnage he wrought)? It's been reported that he called 911 to declare his allegiance with ISIS during the massacre.

Was he gay? There are plenty of reports he was a regular at Pulse. That he'd sometimes get so drunk he had to be thrown out. That he messaged men on Grindr. That he was creepy.

This mass murder can't be easily summed up or explained. But no doubt the toxic culture of masculinity and gun fetishism we cultivate in this country and the long history of vilifying LGBT people helped pave the way for this to happen.

That he threatened men at Pulse with a knife once. How much is true at this stage is unknown. Since news outlets compete to get the latest piece of info out first there's often a lack of fact-checking. Eventually a more cohesive narrative will form. And no doubt conspiracy theorists will use any and all inconsistencies and errors as proof that this never happened, that this is just an event fabricated by the government so they can take away our guns, just like they have with Sandy Hook.

And people will say, “Well, it doesn't matter if he was gay or not” just as they'll say, “It doesn't matter that the club was gay or not.” And these people will by and large not be gay. Because of course it matters. This is not only the largest mass shooting in U.S. history, but it is also the largest mass killing of LGBT people in this country (and it's not the first. Google “Upstairs Lounge arson attack 1973”).

This mass murder can't be easily summed up or explained. But no doubt the toxic culture of masculinity and gun fetishism we cultivate in this country and the long history of vilifying LGBT people helped pave the way for this to happen.

And it's a stark reminder that despite all of the gains that LGBT people have made, there is so much work left to do. Just because we can legally get married now doesn't mean that our lives are as safe or as valued as our hetero friends and neighbors.

Go out and hug each other. Be fierce, be proud, be woke.

Islamic State Group Targets Gays with Brutal Public Killings

BY BASSEM MROUE

REYHANLI, Turkey (AP) –The Islamic State group, which on Monday called the Orlando mass shooter Omar Mateen ‘one of the soldiers of the caliphate in America,’ has a history of targeting gays with brutal public killings.

Many Muslims consider homosexuality to be sinful. In some parts of the Arab world, homosexuals have been arrested and sentenced to prison on charges linked to “debauchery.” In Iran and Saudi Arabia, they have been lashed. Many other religions frown on homosexuality.

The Islamic State group has reserved one of its most gruesome methods of killing for suspected gays -- throwing them to their death from building rooftops.

The Associated Press is reproducing an article on IS treatment of gays that initially ran on Dec. 2 and was part of a 2015 AP series of stories, “Inside the Caliphate,” which explored life under Islamic State rule.

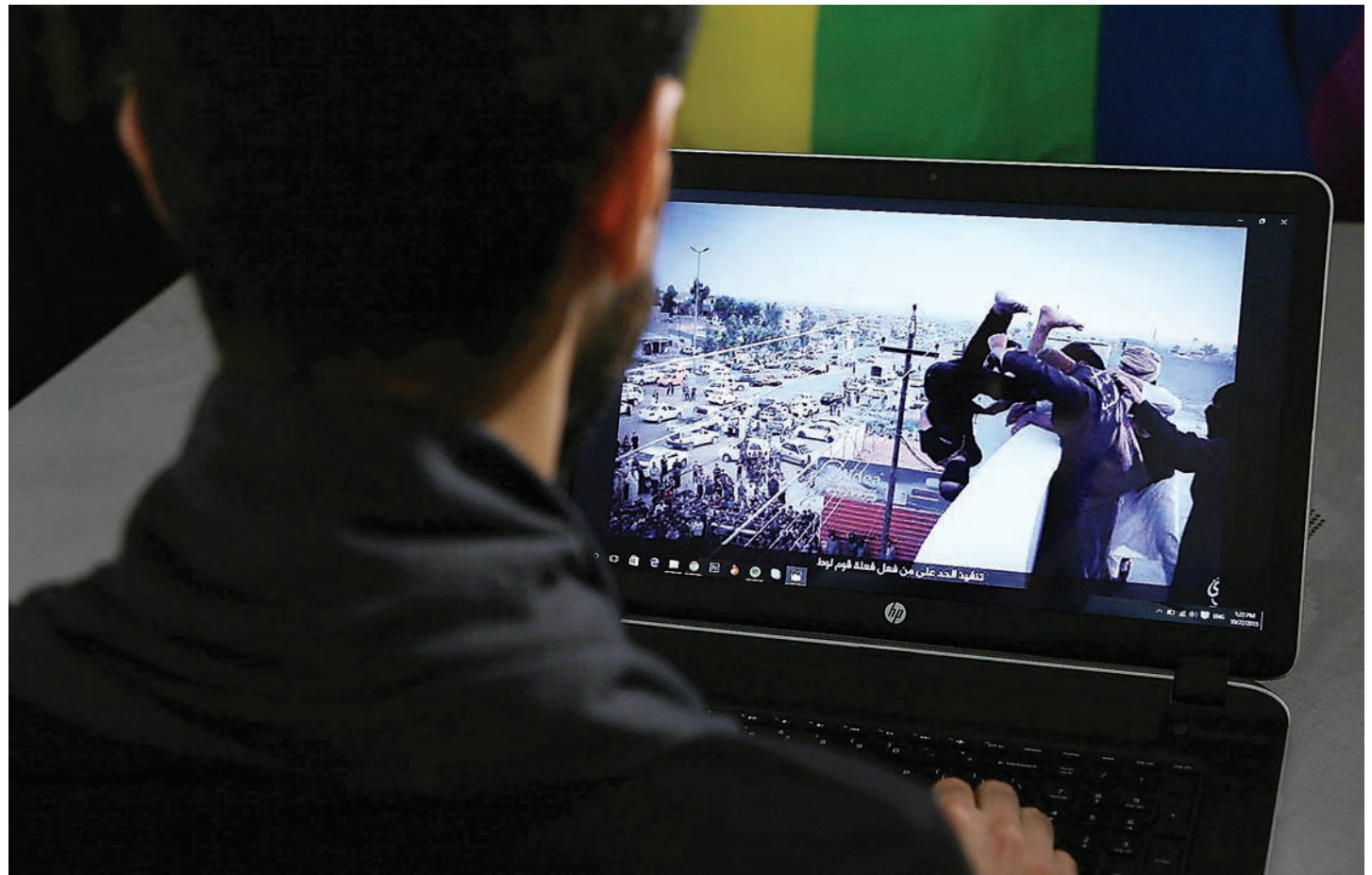
Before a crowd of men on a street in the Syrian city of Palmyra, the masked Islamic State group judge read out the sentence against the two men convicted of homosexuality: They would be thrown to their deaths from the roof of the nearby Wael Hotel.

He asked one of the men if he was satisfied with the sentence. Death, the judge told him, would help cleanse him of his sin.

“I’d prefer it if you shoot me in the head,” 32-year-old Hawas Mallah replied helplessly. The second man, 21-year-old Mohammed Salameh, pleaded for a chance to repent, promising never to have sex with a man again, according to a witness among the onlookers that sunny July morning who gave The Associated Press a rare firsthand account.

“Take them and throw them off,” the judge ordered. Other masked extremists tied the men’s hands behind their backs and blindfolded them. They led them to the roof of the four-story hotel, according to the witness, who spoke in the Turkish city of Reyhanli on condition he be identified only by his first name, Omar, for fear of reprisals.

Notorious for their gruesome methods of killing, the Islamic State group reserves one of its most brutal for suspected homosexuals. Videos it has released show masked militants dangling men over the precipices of buildings by their legs to drop them head-first or tossing them over the edge. At least 36 men in Syria and Iraq have been killed by IS militants on charges of sodomy, according to the New York-based OutRight Action International,



In this Oct. 22, 2015, file photo, Daniel Halaby, a gay Syrian living in southern Turkey, shows a photo from his laptop of Islamic State group militants throwing a man off a roof for allegedly violating the extremists’ ban on homosexuality. The Islamic State group, which on Monday called the Orlando mass shooter Omar Mateen ‘one of the soldiers of the caliphate in America,’ has a history of targeting gays with brutal public killings. AP Photo/Hussein Malla

though its Middle East and North Africa coordinator, Hossein Alizadeh, said it was not possible to confirm the sexual orientation of the victims.

The fear of a horrific death among gay men under Islamic State rule is further compounded by their isolation in a deeply conservative society that largely shuns them.

Many Muslims consider homosexuality to be sinful. Gay men are haunted constantly by the possibility that someone, perhaps even a relative, will betray them to the militants – whether to curry favor with IS or simply out of hatred for their sexual orientation. Islamic State group fighters sometimes torture suspected homosexuals to reveal their friends’ names and search their laptops and mobile phones. Even among IS opponents, gays find little sympathy. Some in the public who might be shocked by other IS atrocities say killings of gays is justified. Syrian rebel factions have killed or abused gays as well.

A 26-year-old Syrian gay man told the AP that even two years after fleeing to Turkey,

he wakes up shaken by nightmares that he is about to be hurled from a building. The man spoke on condition that he be identified as Daniel Halaby, the name he now uses in his activism tracking IS atrocities, and that the city in Turkey where he lives not be named for his own safety.

Halaby says a childhood friend who became radicalized and joined IS betrayed him to the militants in 2013, forcing him to flee his home city of Aleppo.

“He knew everything about me, such as being secular and gay. ... I am sure he is the one who gave my name to Daesh,” he said, using the Arabic acronym for the Islamic State group.

At that time, in mid-2013, IS had just started to spread from neighboring Iraq into Syria. It didn’t yet hold the large stretches of territory across both countries that it would capture the next year. Instead, its fighters pushed into rebel-held areas in Syria and tried to dominate other rebels, often clashing with them for control and imposing the group’s strict law

wherever they could.

In September 2013, IS fighters besieged the Aleppo neighborhood where Halaby lived with his family, trying to wrest it from the rebel Free Syrian Army. The two sides negotiated over an end to the siege and, during the talks, IS gave the rebels a list of people they demanded be handed over to them. Halaby said he learned his name was on that list.

He quickly escaped to Turkey.

There, his bedroom is decorated with a flag of the Syrian opposition and a rainbow banner that covers an entire wall. His parents, who remain in Aleppo, refuse to talk to him because of his sexual orientation. When he watches videos of gays being killed, he said, “What breaks my heart most is that I feel helpless.”

Life for gays in Aleppo, Syria’s biggest city, was always hidden, Halaby said. When the secular-led peaceful protests erupted against President Bashar Assad in 2011, he said he quickly joined, sure they would lead to a democratic government “that will respect everyone no matter their religion, ethnicity,

sect or sexuality.”

“We were very naive,” he said. “What happened was exactly the opposite.”

Subhi Nahas, a 28-year-old gay Syrian who now lives in San Francisco, said he fled because he feared his own father might turn him in to al-Qaida's affiliate, the Nusra Front, which also has targeted homosexuals.

When his father learned he was gay, Nahas said he called him a shame to the family and beat him. Around the same time, in late 2013, Nusra fighters launched a crackdown on suspected gays in Nahas' hometown of Maaret al-Numan, detaining 25 men and announcing through mosque loudspeakers that they would cleanse the town of homosexuals.

“With the problems between me and my father, I did not rule out that he might (hand me over),” he told the AP.

So he fled, first to Lebanon, then Turkey. But in Turkey, he said, he began getting death threats from a former school friend who joined the Islamic State group. Fearful that he wouldn't be safe even in Turkey, he legally resettled to the United States in June.

In August, Nahas and a gay Iraqi man spoke about the suffering of homosexuals in their countries at the first-ever U.N. Security Council session spotlighting violence and discrimination against lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transgender people.

The stigma surrounding homosexuality makes it difficult to document IS killings and identify victims, rights groups say. Families

and friends refuse to talk about victims. Gays under IS rule are terrified to speak, and most who flee abroad go into hiding.

The Islamic State group's announcements are the main source of information, but the group often does not name the victims, perhaps in deference to their families, who could lash out in anger at having their names publicly linked to homosexuals.

“Such a barbaric show of murder leaves LGBT individuals in constant state of fear and would deprive them of a normal life that any human being is entitled to,” Alizadeh said.

Widespread public hostility leaves the community even more vulnerable.

“They are violating God's laws and doing something that is forbidden in Islam, so this is a legitimate punishment,” said Hajji Mohammed, a resident of the IS-held northern Iraqi city of Mosul. There the group has thrown men suspected of being gay off the Insurance Building, a landmark about 10 stories high.

By employing the grisly method, the Islamic State group aims to show radicals that it is unflinchingly carrying out the most extreme strains in Islam – a sort of “ideological purity” the group boasts distinguishes it even from other militants. The punishment “will protect the Muslims from treading the same rotten course that the West has chosen to pursue,” IS proclaimed in its online English-language magazine Dabiq.

The Quran tells the story of Lot and the

destruction of Sodom – and sodomy in Arabic is known as “liwat,” based on Lot's name.

Men having sex with each other should be punished, the Quran says, but it doesn't say how – and it adds that they should be left alone if they repent. The death penalty instead comes from the Hadith, or accounts of the sayings of the prophet Muhammad. The accounts differ on the method of killing, and some accounts give lesser penalties in some circumstances.

The Islamic State group bases its punishment on one account in which Muhammad reportedly says gays “should be thrown from tremendous height then stoned.”

Before IS, the method was rarely used, though other militants have targeted homosexuals for death. During their rule in Afghanistan in the 1990s, the Taliban had their own method: The victim would be put in a pit and a stone wall would be toppled on top of them.

Most moderate Muslim clerics ignore the death penalty provisions, even as they fiercely denounce homosexuality. Across the Arab world, homosexuals have been arrested and sentenced to prison on charges linked to “debauchery” – and sometimes lashed in Iran and Saudi Arabia.

Omar, the man who watched the killings in Palmyra, said he remains shaken.

It began when IS militants blared on loudspeakers for men to gather. Then a black van pulled up outside the Wael Hotel, and Mallah and Salamah were brought out.

Subhi Nahas, a 28-year-old gay Syrian who now lives in San Francisco, said he fled because he feared his own father might turn him in to al-Qaida's affiliate, the Nusra Front, which also has targeted homosexuals.

The first to be thrown off was Mallah. He was tied to a chair so he couldn't resist, then pushed over the side.

He landed on his back, broken but still moving. A fighter shot him in the head.

Next was Salameh. He landed on his head and died immediately. Still, fighters stoned his body, Omar said.

The bodies were then hung up in Palmyra's Freedom Square for two days, each with a placard on his chest: “He received the punishment for practicing the crime of Lot's people.”

Worship With Pride!



Worship with PRIDE at these Lutheran churches - churches that have made a public affirmation of welcome to YOU - members, families and friends of the GLBTQ community.

*This is Christ's Church
There is a place for you here*

• **Ann Arbor**
Intersection Campus Ministry
801 S. Forest Ave.
www.lordoflight.org

• **King of Kings Lutheran Church**
2685 Packard St.
www.kingofkingslutheran.org

• **Trinity Lutheran Church**
1400 Stadium Blvd.
www.trinityaa.org

• **Burton**
Our Risen Lord Lutheran Church
4040 Lapeer Rd.
www.ourrisenlordelca.com

• **Detroit**
Spirit of Hope Church
1519 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
www.spiritofhopedetroit.org

• **East Lansing**
University Lutheran Church
1020 S. Harrison Rd
www.ulcel.org

• **Ferndale**
Zion Lutheran Church
143 Albany St.
www.fernzion.org

• **Kalamazoo**
Lutheran Church of the Savior
3616 East G Avenue
www.lcoskzoo.com

• **Kentwood**
Ascension Lutheran Church
4252 Breton Rd. SE
www.twochurches.org

• **Livonia**
Timothy Lutheran Church
8820 Wayne Rd.
www.timothychurch.org

• **Muskegon**
Our Saviors Lutheran Church
1132 Southern Ave.
www.oslcmuskegon.org

• **Port Huron**
St. Martin Lutheran Church
805 Chestnut St.
phone: 810.982.9261

• **Rochester Hills**
Abiding Presence Lutheran Church
1550 Walton Rd.
www.AbidingPresence.org

• **Saline**
Holy Faith Church
6299 Saline-Ann Arbor Rd.
www.holy-faith-church.org

• **Trenton**
St. Philip Lutheran Church
1790 Fort St.
www.stphilipelca.org

• **Toledo, Ohio**
St. Lucas Lutheran Church
745 Walbridge Ave.
www.stlucastoledo.org



Actual ATRIPLA patients.

ATRIPLA has been chosen by more than 500,000[†] people with HIV and their doctors. In the US, ATRIPLA is the #1 prescribed[§] one-pill, once-daily HIV treatment.

TALK TO YOUR DOCTOR OR VISIT ATRIPLA.COM TO FIND OUT MORE.

What is ATRIPLA?

ATRIPLA[®] (efavirenz/emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil fumarate) is a prescription medication used alone as a complete regimen, or with other anti-HIV-1 medicines, to treat HIV-1 infection in adults and children at least 12 years old who weigh at least 40 kg (88 lbs).

ATRIPLA does not cure HIV-1 infection or AIDS and you may continue to experience illnesses associated with HIV-1 infection, including opportunistic infections.

See your healthcare provider regularly while taking ATRIPLA.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

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

ATRIPLA can cause serious side effects:

- Some people who have taken medicines like ATRIPLA (which contains nucleoside analogs) have developed lactic acidosis (build up of an acid in the blood). Lactic acidosis can be a serious medical emergency that can lead to death.

Call your healthcare provider right away if you get the following signs or symptoms of lactic acidosis:

- feel very weak or tired
- have unusual (not normal) muscle pain
- have trouble breathing
- have stomach pain with nausea and vomiting
- feel cold, especially in your arms and legs
- feel dizzy or lightheaded
- have a fast or irregular heartbeat

- Some people who have taken medicines like ATRIPLA have developed serious liver problems (hepatotoxicity), with liver enlargement (hepatomegaly) and fat in the liver (steatosis). In some cases, these liver problems can lead to death.

Call your healthcare provider right away if you get the following signs or symptoms of liver problems:

- skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow (jaundice)
- urine turns dark
- bowel movements (stools) turn light in color
- don't feel like eating food for several days or longer
- feel sick to your stomach (nausea)
- have lower stomach area (abdominal) pain

- You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or liver problems if you are female, very overweight (obese), or have been taking nucleoside analog-containing medicines, like ATRIPLA (efavirenz/emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil fumarate), for a long time.

- If you also have hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection and you stop taking ATRIPLA, you may get a "flare-up" of your hepatitis. A "flare-up" is when the disease suddenly returns in a worse way than before. Patients with HBV who stop taking ATRIPLA need close medical follow-up for several months to check for hepatitis that could be getting worse. ATRIPLA is not approved for the treatment of HBV, so you need to discuss your HBV therapy with your healthcare provider.

Who should not take ATRIPLA?

You and your healthcare provider should decide if ATRIPLA is right for you. Do not take ATRIPLA if you are allergic to ATRIPLA or any of its ingredients.

What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking ATRIPLA?

Tell your healthcare provider if you:

- Are pregnant or planning to become pregnant:

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

TAKING CARE OF

ME

WITH THE STRENGTH OF

WE

For adults with HIV-1,

Undetectable viral load is a goal, and ATRIPLA has the power to help get you there.

In a clinical trial:

- ATRIPLA has been proven to **LOWER VIRAL LOAD** to undetectable* in approximately 8 out of 10 adult patients new to therapy through 48 weeks compared with approximately 7 out of 10 adult patients in the comparator group†
- ATRIPLA has been proven to **LOWER VIRAL LOAD** to undetectable* through 3 years in approximately 7 out of 10 adult patients new to therapy compared with approximately 6 out of 10 adult patients in the comparator group†

SELECTED IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

- Some people who have taken medicines like ATRIPLA have developed build up of lactic acid in the blood, which can be a serious medical emergency that can lead to death.
- Some people who have taken medicines like ATRIPLA have developed serious liver problems, with liver enlargement and fat in the liver, which can lead to death.
- If you also have hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection and you stop taking ATRIPLA, your hepatitis may suddenly get worse. ATRIPLA is not approved for the treatment of HBV.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION (continued)

Women should not become pregnant while taking ATRIPLA and for 12 weeks after stopping ATRIPLA. Serious birth defects have been seen in children of women treated during pregnancy with efavirenz, one of the medicines in ATRIPLA. Women must use a reliable form of barrier contraception, such as a condom or diaphragm, even if they also use other methods of birth control, while on ATRIPLA and for 12 weeks after stopping ATRIPLA. Women should not rely only on hormone-based birth control, such as pills, injections, or implants, because ATRIPLA may make these contraceptives ineffective.

- **Are breastfeeding: Women with HIV should not breastfeed** because they can pass HIV and some of the medicines in ATRIPLA through their milk to the baby. It is not known if ATRIPLA could harm your baby.
- **Have kidney problems or are undergoing kidney dialysis treatment.**
- **Have bone problems.**
- **Have liver problems, including hepatitis B or C virus infection.** Your healthcare provider may want to do tests to check your liver while you take ATRIPLA or may switch you to another medicine.
- **Have ever had mental illness or are using drugs or alcohol**
- **Have ever had seizures or are taking medicine for seizures.** Seizures have occurred in patients taking efavirenz, a component of ATRIPLA, generally in those with a history of seizures. If you have ever had seizures, or take medicine for seizures, your healthcare provider may want to switch you to another medicine or monitor you.

What important information should I know about taking other medicines with ATRIPLA?

ATRIPLA may change the effect of other medicines, including the ones for HIV-1, and may cause serious side effects. Your healthcare provider may change your other medicines or change their doses.

MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH ATRIPLA

- ATRIPLA should not be taken with:
Combivir® (lamivudine/zidovudine),
COMPLERA® (emtricitabine/rilpivirine/tenofovir disoproxil fumarate),
EMTRIVA® (emtricitabine),
Epivir® or Epivir-HBV® (lamivudine),
Epzicom® (abacavir sulfate/lamivudine),
STRIBILD® (elvitegravir/cobicistat/emtricitabine/tenofovir DF),
Trizivir® (abacavir sulfate/lamivudine/zidovudine),
TRUVADA® (emtricitabine/tenofovir DF), or VIREAD® (tenofovir DF), because they contain the same or similar active ingredients as ATRIPLA. ATRIPLA should not be used with SUSTIVA® (efavirenz) unless recommended by your healthcare provider.
- Vfend® (voriconazole) should not be taken with ATRIPLA since it may lose its effect or may increase the chance of having side effects from ATRIPLA.
- ATRIPLA should not be used with HEPSERA® (adefovir dipivoxil).

Please see Important Safety Information continued on the following pages.

*Undetectable was defined as a viral load of fewer than 400 copies/mL.

† In this study, 511 adult patients new to therapy received either the meds in ATRIPLA each taken once daily or Combivir® (lamivudine/zidovudine) twice daily + SUSTIVA® (efavirenz) once daily.

‡Symphony Health Solutions, PatientSource APLD and Source® PHAST Prescription Monthly, counts are cumulative and equalized. January 2007–February 2015.

§Symphony Health Solutions, Source® PHAST Prescription Monthly, equalized counts, July 2006–May 2015.

ATRIPLA[®]
(efavirenz 600 mg/emtricitabine 200 mg/
tenofovir disoproxil fumarate 300 mg) Tablets

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION (continued)

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

What are the possible side effects of ATRIPLA?

ATRIPLA may cause the following additional serious side effects:

- **Serious psychiatric problems.** Severe depression, strange thoughts, or angry behavior have been reported by a small number of patients. Some patients have had thoughts of suicide, and a few have actually committed suicide. These problems may occur more often in patients who have had mental illness.
- **Kidney problems** (including decline or failure of kidney function). If you have had kidney problems, or take other medicines that may cause kidney problems, your healthcare provider should do regular blood tests. Symptoms that may be related to kidney problems include a high volume of urine, thirst, muscle pain, and muscle weakness.
- **Other serious liver problems.** Some patients have experienced serious liver problems, including liver failure resulting in transplantation or death. Most of these serious side effects occurred in patients with a chronic liver disease such as hepatitis infection, but there have also been a few reports in patients without any existing liver disease.
- **Changes in bone mineral density (thinning bones).** Lab tests show changes in the bones of patients treated with tenofovir DF, a component of ATRIPLA. Some HIV patients treated with tenofovir DF developed thinning of the bones (osteopenia), which could lead to fractures. Also, bone pain and softening of the bone (which may lead to fractures) may occur as a consequence of kidney problems. If you have had bone problems in the past, your healthcare provider may want to do tests to check your bones or may prescribe medicines to help your bones.

Common side effects:

- Patients may have dizziness, headache, trouble sleeping, drowsiness, trouble concentrating, and/or unusual dreams during treatment with ATRIPLA (efavirenz/emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil fumarate). These side effects may be reduced if you take ATRIPLA at bedtime on an empty stomach; they tend to go away after taking ATRIPLA for a few weeks. Tell your healthcare provider right away if any of these side effects continue or if they bother you. These symptoms may be more severe if ATRIPLA is used with alcohol and/or mood-altering (street) drugs.
- If you are dizzy, have trouble concentrating, and/or are drowsy, avoid activities that may be dangerous, such as driving or operating machinery.
- Rash is a common side effect with ATRIPLA that usually goes away without any change in treatment. Rash may be serious in a small number of patients. **Rash occurs more commonly in children and may be a serious problem.** If a rash develops, call your healthcare provider right away.
- Other common side effects include: tiredness, upset stomach, vomiting, gas, and diarrhea.

Other possible side effects:

- Changes in body fat have been seen in some people taking anti-HIV-1 medicines. Increase of fat in the upper back and neck, breasts, and around the trunk may happen. Loss of fat from the legs, arms, and face may also happen. The cause and long-term health effects of these changes in body fat are not known.
- Skin discoloration (small spots or freckles) may also happen.
- In some patients with advanced HIV infection (AIDS), signs and symptoms of inflammation from previous infections may occur soon after anti-HIV treatment is started. If you notice any symptoms of infection, contact your healthcare provider right away.
- Additional side effects are inflammation of the pancreas, allergic reaction (including swelling of the face, lips, tongue, or throat), shortness of breath, pain, stomach pain, weakness, and indigestion.

This is not a complete list of side effects. Tell your healthcare provider or pharmacist if you notice any side effects while taking ATRIPLA.

You should take ATRIPLA once daily on an empty stomach. Taking ATRIPLA at bedtime may make some side effects less bothersome.

Please see the following Patient Information for more information about these warnings, including signs and symptoms, and other Important Safety Information.



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Patient Information

R ONLY

ATRIPLA® (uh TRIP luh) Tablets

ALERT: Find out about medicines that should NOT be taken with ATRIPLA (efavirenz/emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil fumarate).

Please also read the section “MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH ATRIPLA.”

Generic name: efavirenz, emtricitabine and tenofovir disoproxil fumarate (eh FAH vih renz, em tri SIT uh bean and te NOE' fo veer dye soe PROX il FYOU mar ate)

Read the Patient Information that comes with ATRIPLA before you start taking it and each time you get a refill since there may be new information. This information does not take the place of talking to your healthcare provider about your medical condition or treatment. You should stay under a healthcare provider's care when taking ATRIPLA. **Do not change or stop your medicine without first talking with your healthcare provider.** Talk to your healthcare provider or pharmacist if you have any questions about ATRIPLA.

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

- **Some people who have taken medicine like ATRIPLA (which contains nucleoside analogs) have developed a serious condition called lactic acidosis** (build up of an acid in the blood). Lactic acidosis can be a medical emergency and may need to be treated in the hospital. **Call your healthcare provider right away if you get the following signs or symptoms of lactic acidosis:**
 - You feel very weak or tired.
 - You have unusual (not normal) muscle pain.
 - You have trouble breathing.
 - You have stomach pain with nausea and vomiting.
 - You feel cold, especially in your arms and legs.
 - You feel dizzy or lightheaded.
 - You have a fast or irregular heartbeat.
- **Some people who have taken medicines like ATRIPLA have developed serious liver problems called hepatotoxicity**, with liver enlargement (hepatomegaly) and fat in the liver (steatosis). **Call your healthcare provider right away if you get the following signs or symptoms of liver problems:**
 - Your skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow (jaundice).
 - Your urine turns dark.
 - Your bowel movements (stools) turn light in color.
 - You don't feel like eating food for several days or longer.
 - You feel sick to your stomach (nausea).
 - You have lower stomach area (abdominal) pain.
- **You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or liver problems** if you are female, very overweight (obese), or have been taking nucleoside analog-containing medicines, like ATRIPLA, for a long time.
- **If you also have hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection and you stop taking ATRIPLA, you may get a “flare-up” of your hepatitis. A “flare-up” is when the disease suddenly returns in a worse way than before.** Patients with HBV who stop taking ATRIPLA need close medical follow-up for several months, including medical exams and blood tests to check for hepatitis that could be getting worse. ATRIPLA is not approved for the treatment of HBV, so you must discuss your HBV therapy with your healthcare provider.

What is ATRIPLA?

ATRIPLA contains 3 medicines, SUSTIVA® (efavirenz), EMTRIVA® (emtricitabine) and VIREAD® (tenofovir disoproxil fumarate also called tenofovir DF) combined in one pill. EMTRIVA and VIREAD are HIV-1 (human immunodeficiency virus) nucleoside analog reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NRTIs) and SUSTIVA is an HIV-1 non-nucleoside analog reverse transcriptase inhibitor (NNRTI). VIREAD and EMTRIVA are the components of TRUVADA®. ATRIPLA can be used alone as a complete regimen, or in combination with other anti-HIV-1 medicines to treat people with HIV-1 infection. ATRIPLA is for adults and children 12 years of age and older who weigh at least 40 kg (at least 88 lbs). ATRIPLA is not recommended for children younger than 12 years of age. ATRIPLA has not been studied in adults over 65 years of age.

HIV infection destroys CD4+ T cells, which are important to the immune system. The immune system helps fight infection. After a large number of T cells are destroyed, acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) develops.

ATRIPLA® (efavirenz/emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil fumarate)

ATRIPLA helps block HIV-1 reverse transcriptase, a viral chemical in your body (enzyme) that is needed for HIV-1 to multiply. ATRIPLA lowers the amount of HIV-1 in the blood (viral load). ATRIPLA may also help to increase the number of T cells (CD4+ cells), allowing your immune system to improve. Lowering the amount of HIV-1 in the blood lowers the chance of death or infections that happen when your immune system is weak (opportunistic infections).

Does ATRIPLA cure HIV-1 or AIDS?

ATRIPLA does not cure HIV-1 infection or AIDS and you may continue to experience illnesses associated with HIV-1 infection, including opportunistic infections. You should remain under the care of a doctor when using ATRIPLA.

Who should not take ATRIPLA?

Together with your healthcare provider, you need to decide whether ATRIPLA is right for you.

Do not take ATRIPLA if you are allergic to ATRIPLA or any of its ingredients. The active ingredients of ATRIPLA are efavirenz, emtricitabine, and tenofovir DF. See the end of this leaflet for a complete list of ingredients.

What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking ATRIPLA?

Tell your healthcare provider if you:

- **Are pregnant or planning to become pregnant** (see “What should I avoid while taking ATRIPLA?”).
- **Are breastfeeding** (see “What should I avoid while taking ATRIPLA?”).
- **Have kidney problems or are undergoing kidney dialysis treatment.**
- **Have bone problems.**
- **Have liver problems, including hepatitis B virus infection.** Your healthcare provider may want to do tests to check your liver while you take ATRIPLA or may switch you to another medicine.
- **Have ever had mental illness or are using drugs or alcohol.**
- **Have ever had seizures or are taking medicine for seizures.**

What important information should I know about taking other medicines with ATRIPLA?

ATRIPLA may change the effect of other medicines, including the ones for HIV-1, and may cause serious side effects. Your healthcare provider may change your other medicines or change their doses. Other medicines, including herbal products, may affect ATRIPLA. For this reason, **it is very important to** let all your healthcare providers and pharmacists know what medications, herbal supplements, or vitamins you are taking.

MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH ATRIPLA

- ATRIPLA also should not be used with Combivir (lamivudine/zidovudine), COMPLERA®, EMTRIVA, Epivir, Epivir-HBV (lamivudine), Epzicom (abacavir sulfate/lamivudine), STRIBILD®, Trizivir (abacavir sulfate/lamivudine/zidovudine), TRUVADA, or VIREAD. ATRIPLA also should not be used with SUSTIVA unless recommended by your healthcare provider.
- Vfend (voriconazole) should not be taken with ATRIPLA since it may lose its effect or may increase the chance of having side effects from ATRIPLA.
- ATRIPLA should not be used with HEPSERA® (adefovir dipivoxil).

It is also important to tell your healthcare provider if you are taking any of the following:

- Fortovase, Invirase (saquinavir), Biaxin (clarithromycin), Noxafil (posaconazole), Sporanox (itraconazole), Victrelis (boceprevir), or Olysio (simeprevir); **these medicines may need to be replaced with another medicine when taken with ATRIPLA.**
- Calcium channel blockers such as Cardizem or Tiazac (diltiazem), Covera HS or Isoptin (verapamil) and others; Crixivan (indinavir), Selzentry (maraviroc); the immunosuppressant medicines cyclosporine (Gengraf, Neoral, Sandimmune, and others), Prograf (tacrolimus), or Rapamune (sirolimus); Methadone; Mycobutin (rifabutin); Rifampin; cholesterol-lowering medicines such as Lipitor (atorvastatin), Pravachol (pravastatin sodium), and Zocor (simvastatin); or the anti-depressant medications bupropion (Wellbutrin, Wellbutrin SR, Wellbutrin XL, and Zyban) or Zoloft (sertraline); **dose changes may be needed when these drugs are taken with ATRIPLA.**
- Videx, Videx EC (didanosine); tenofovir DF (a component of ATRIPLA) may increase the amount of didanosine in your blood, which could result in more side effects. **You may need to be monitored more carefully** if you are taking ATRIPLA and didanosine together. Also, the dose of didanosine may need to be changed.

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- Reyataz (atazanavir sulfate), Prezista (darunavir) with Norvir (ritonavir), Kaletra (lopinavir/ritonavir), or Harvoni (ledipasvir/sofosbuvir); these medicines may increase the amount of tenofovir DF (a component of ATRIPLA) in your blood, which could result in more side effects. Reyataz is not recommended with ATRIPLA. **You may need to be monitored more carefully** if you are taking ATRIPLA, Prezista, and Norvir together, or if you are taking ATRIPLA and Kaletra together. The dose of Kaletra should be increased when taken with efavirenz.

- Medicine for seizures [for example, Dilantin (phenytoin), Tegretol (carbamazepine), or phenobarbital]; your healthcare provider may want to switch you to another medicine or check drug levels in your blood from time to time.

These are not all the medicines that may cause problems if you take ATRIPLA. Be sure to tell your healthcare provider about all medicines that you take.

Keep a complete list of all the prescription and nonprescription medicines as well as any herbal remedies that you are taking, how much you take, and how often you take them. Make a new list when medicines or herbal remedies are added or stopped, or if the dose changes. Give copies of this list to all of your healthcare providers and pharmacists **every** time you visit your healthcare provider or fill a prescription. This will give your healthcare provider a complete picture of the medicines you use. Then he or she can decide the best approach for your situation.

How should I take ATRIPLA?

- Take the exact amount of ATRIPLA your healthcare provider prescribes. Never change the dose on your own. Do not stop this medicine unless your healthcare provider tells you to stop.
- You should take ATRIPLA on an empty stomach.
- Swallow ATRIPLA with water.
- Taking ATRIPLA at bedtime may make some side effects less bothersome.
- Do not miss a dose of ATRIPLA. If you forget to take ATRIPLA, take the missed dose right away, unless it is almost time for your next dose. Do not double the next dose. Carry on with your regular dosing schedule. If you need help in planning the best times to take your medicine, ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist.
- If you believe you took more than the prescribed amount of ATRIPLA, contact your local poison control center or emergency room right away.
- Tell your healthcare provider if you start any new medicine or change how you take old ones. Your doses may need adjustment.
- When your ATRIPLA supply starts to run low, get more from your healthcare provider or pharmacy. This is very important because the amount of virus in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time. The virus may develop resistance to ATRIPLA and become harder to treat.
- Your healthcare provider may want to do blood tests to check for certain side effects while you take ATRIPLA.

What should I avoid while taking ATRIPLA?

- **Women should not become pregnant while taking ATRIPLA and for 12 weeks after stopping it.** Serious birth defects have been seen in the babies of animals and women treated with efavirenz (a component of ATRIPLA) during pregnancy. It is not known whether efavirenz caused these defects. **Tell your healthcare provider right away if you are pregnant.** Also talk with your healthcare provider if you want to become pregnant.
- Women should not rely only on hormone-based birth control, such as pills, injections, or implants, because ATRIPLA may make these contraceptives ineffective. Women must use a reliable form of barrier contraception, such as a condom or diaphragm, even if they also use other methods of birth control. Efavirenz, a component of ATRIPLA, may remain in your blood for a time after therapy is stopped. Therefore, you should continue to use contraceptive measures for 12 weeks after you stop taking ATRIPLA.
- **Do not breastfeed if you are taking ATRIPLA.** Some of the medicines in ATRIPLA can be passed to your baby in your breast milk. We do not know whether it could harm your baby. Also, mothers with HIV-1 should not breastfeed because HIV-1 can be passed to the baby in the breast milk. Talk with your healthcare provider if you are breastfeeding. You should stop breastfeeding or may need to use a different medicine.
- Taking ATRIPLA with alcohol or other medicines causing similar side effects as ATRIPLA, such as drowsiness, may increase those side effects.
- Do not take any other medicines, including prescription and nonprescription medicines and herbal products, without checking with your healthcare provider.

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- Avoid doing things that can spread HIV-1 to others.
 - **Do not share needles or other injection equipment.**
 - **Do not share personal items that can have blood or body fluids on them, like toothbrushes and razor blades.**
 - **Do not have any kind of sex without protection.** Always practice safe sex by using a latex or polyurethane condom to lower the chance of sexual contact with semen, vaginal secretions, or blood.

What are the possible side effects of ATRIPLA?

ATRIPLA may cause the following serious side effects:

- **Lactic acidosis** (buildup of an acid in the blood). Lactic acidosis can be a medical emergency and may need to be treated in the hospital. **Call your healthcare provider right away if you get signs of lactic acidosis.** (See “What is the most important information I should know about ATRIPLA?”)
- **Serious liver problems (hepatotoxicity)**, with liver enlargement (hepatomegaly) and fat in the liver (steatosis). Call your healthcare provider right away if you get any signs of liver problems. (See “What is the most important information I should know about ATRIPLA?”)
- **“Flare-ups” of hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection**, in which the disease suddenly returns in a worse way than before, can occur if you have HBV and you stop taking ATRIPLA. Your healthcare provider will monitor your condition for several months after stopping ATRIPLA if you have both HIV-1 and HBV infection and may recommend treatment for your HBV. ATRIPLA is not approved for the treatment of hepatitis B virus infection. If you have advanced liver disease and stop treatment with ATRIPLA, the “flare-up” of hepatitis B may cause your liver function to decline.
- **Serious psychiatric problems.** A small number of patients may experience severe depression, strange thoughts, or angry behavior while taking ATRIPLA. Some patients have thoughts of suicide and a few have actually committed suicide. These problems may occur more often in patients who have had mental illness. Contact your healthcare provider right away if you think you are having these psychiatric symptoms, so your healthcare provider can decide if you should continue to take ATRIPLA.
- **Kidney problems** (including decline or failure of kidney function). If you have had kidney problems in the past or take other medicines that can cause kidney problems, your healthcare provider should do regular blood tests to check your kidneys. Symptoms that may be related to kidney problems include a high volume of urine, thirst, muscle pain, and muscle weakness.
- **Other serious liver problems.** Some patients have experienced serious liver problems including liver failure resulting in transplantation or death. Most of these serious side effects occurred in patients with a chronic liver disease such as hepatitis infection, but there have also been a few reports in patients without any existing liver disease.
- **Changes in bone mineral density (thinning bones).** Laboratory tests show changes in the bones of patients treated with tenofovir DF, a component of ATRIPLA. Some HIV patients treated with tenofovir DF developed thinning of the bones (osteopenia) which could lead to fractures. If you have had bone problems in the past, your healthcare provider may need to do tests to check your bone mineral density or may prescribe medicines to help your bone mineral density. Additionally, bone pain and softening of the bone (which may contribute to fractures) may occur as a consequence of kidney problems.

Common side effects:

Patients may have dizziness, headache, trouble sleeping, drowsiness, trouble concentrating, and/or unusual dreams during treatment with ATRIPLA. These side effects may be reduced if you take ATRIPLA at bedtime on an empty stomach. They also tend to go away after you have taken the medicine for a few weeks. If you have these common side effects, such as dizziness, it does not mean that you will also have serious psychiatric problems, such as severe depression, strange thoughts, or angry behavior. Tell your healthcare provider right away if any of these side effects continue or if they bother you. It is possible that these symptoms may be more severe if ATRIPLA is used with alcohol or mood altering (street) drugs.

If you are dizzy, have trouble concentrating, or are drowsy, avoid activities that may be dangerous, such as driving or operating machinery.

Rash may be common. Rashes usually go away without any change in treatment. In a small number of patients, rash may be serious. If you develop a rash, call your healthcare provider right away. **Rash may be a serious problem in some children.** Tell your child’s healthcare provider right away if you notice rash or any other side effects while your child is taking ATRIPLA.

Other common side effects include tiredness, upset stomach, vomiting, gas, and diarrhea.

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Other possible side effects with ATRIPLA:

- Changes in body fat. Changes in body fat develop in some patients taking anti HIV-medicine. These changes may include an increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck (“buffalo hump”), in the breasts, and around the trunk. Loss of fat from the legs, arms, and face may also happen. The cause and long-term health effects of these fat changes are not known.
- Skin discoloration (small spots or freckles) may also happen with ATRIPLA.
- In some patients with advanced HIV infection (AIDS), signs and symptoms of inflammation from previous infections may occur soon after anti-HIV treatment is started. It is believed that these symptoms are due to an improvement in the body’s immune response, enabling the body to fight infections that may have been present with no obvious symptoms. If you notice any symptoms of infection, please inform your doctor immediately.
- Additional side effects are inflammation of the pancreas, allergic reaction (including swelling of the face, lips, tongue, or throat), shortness of breath, pain, stomach pain, weakness and indigestion.

Tell your healthcare provider or pharmacist if you notice any side effects while taking ATRIPLA.

Contact your healthcare provider before stopping ATRIPLA because of side effects or for another reason.

This is not a complete list of side effects possible with ATRIPLA. Ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist for a more complete list of side effects of ATRIPLA and all the medicines you will take.

How do I store ATRIPLA?

- **Keep ATRIPLA and all other medicines out of reach of children.**
- Store ATRIPLA at room temperature 77°F (25°C).
- Keep ATRIPLA in its original container and keep the container tightly closed.
- Do not keep medicine that is out of date or that you no longer need. If you throw any medicine away make sure that children will not find them.

General information about ATRIPLA:

Medicines are sometimes prescribed for conditions that are not mentioned in patient information leaflets. Do not use ATRIPLA for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not give ATRIPLA to other people, even if they have the same symptoms you have. It may harm them.

This leaflet summarizes the most important information about ATRIPLA. If you would like more information, talk with your healthcare provider. You can ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist for information about ATRIPLA that is written for health professionals.

Do not use ATRIPLA if the seal over bottle opening is broken or missing.

What are the ingredients of ATRIPLA?

Active Ingredients: efavirenz, emtricitabine, and tenofovir disoproxil fumarate

Inactive Ingredients: croscarmellose sodium, hydroxypropyl cellulose, microcrystalline cellulose, magnesium stearate, sodium lauryl sulfate. The film coating contains black iron oxide, polyethylene glycol, polyvinyl alcohol, red iron oxide, talc, and titanium dioxide.

Revised: February 2016

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Scarab Club Unveils Marketing Campaign: 'We Know Detroit by Art'

BTL's Own Charles Alexander Currently Exhibiting at Club

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

DETROIT – It's an organization rich in history and poor on public relations. The Scarab Club, which turns 110 next year, has not always done a good job of promoting itself. But thanks to a powerful new marketing campaign done gratis by the Mars Agency and promoted by Marx Layne Public Relations, the Club is hoping for a rebirth.

"When I took over as president in 2014, the (biggest issue I saw) was that no one knew who we were, where we were or what we were," said Scarab Club President Duncan Campbell. "So the whole idea of the campaign was to increase awareness within the community we serve. We're a club with no barriers. Everyone can join – artists, art lovers, collectors, etc.

"I saw it as really a marketing problem," Campbell continued. "We have great programming ... 24 fresh exhibitions a year. ... We had all this fresh programming but no one knew about us."

Enter the Mars Agency, which worked with the Club over an 18-month period in an effort to rebrand and rejuvenate it. The final result culminated in a strong new marketing campaign built around a simple tag line: "We know Detroit by art."

"Any good tag line seems like you should know it already," said Campbell. "It seems kind of familiar and accessible and kind of brilliant. But the brilliance comes in the simplicity of it ... that you don't have to think hard about it. It just seems natural."

Trina Ericson, the Scarab Club's gallery director, said she was impressed by the campaign the Mars Agency created.

"I think it's fantastic," Ericson said. "I love the fact that it finds a lovely balance between honoring the history of the club and also looking to the future and moving forward."

Mike Odom, VP at Marx Layne, is spearheading the distribution of the campaign and promoting it to media outlets throughout the region.

A Detroit Institution

So what is the history of the Club? Need a brief refresher? The Scarab Club was formed in 1907 and originally known as the Hopkin



Charles Alexander outside The Scarab Club in Detroit holding and wearing his art. BTL photo: Jason Michael.

“There is little conscious planning as I create my art, I work intuitively and rather quickly.”

-Artist Charles Alexander

Club after marine painter and founder Robert Hopkin. Renamed the Scarab Club in 1913, the club moved into its present clubhouse, situated right behind the Detroit Institute of Arts on Farnsworth Street, in 1928. Designed by member and architect Lancelot Sukert, the building is now a registered historic landmark.

The ceiling beams on the second floor of the classic Arts & Crafts building served for

years as a guest book for the succession of notable artists who came to the club. Among them were John Sloan, Diego Rivera, Pablo Davis, Marcel Duchamp, Norman Rockwell and, more recently, Gilda Snowden and Gary Grimshaw.

Today, the Club features three galleries as well as artist studios and a lovely garden. The Club offers a vast array of arts and cultural events, programming, and experiences including exhibitions, lectures, sketch sessions, festivals and parties, chamber and blues music concerts, poetry readings and a broad range of social events. The Club is also a popular venue for private party and wedding space rentals.

Another Detroit Institution

Like the Scarab Club, Charles Alexander is a venerable Detroit institution himself. Alexander, who celebrated his 80th birthday last month, currently has an exhibit on the

Scarab Club's second floor. Titled Good Rainbow Genes: Alexander's Art @ 80, the show runs through July 31.

Also like the Scarab Club, Alexander has a history that is equally as impressive. He was a commercial arts major at Cass Technical High School, graduating in 1955. He worked as a teacher and administrator in the Detroit Public Schools for nearly 30 years. Out and active in the LGBT community for over 50 years – long before there was such a name for it – Alexander, to put it in perspective, received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Community Pride Banquet nearly a quarter century ago.

But Alexander shows no signs of slowing down. He stills writes his popular Parting Glances column for Between The Lines – he's written nearly 600 of them over the past 23 years – and was recently given a Metro Times Best of Detroit Award for Best Facebook Artist. There has even been a line of apparel and accessories made from his designs thanks to ArtWear Detroit.

A prolific artist, Alexander estimates he creates on average a piece a day.

"There is little conscious planning as I create my art," Alexander said, explaining his process. "I work intuitively and rather quickly. I start with a geometric shape, a humorous or serious doodle, a fluid symbol fished from my subconscious, a newly minted hieroglyph or alphabet, sometimes a line expressive of energy and movement, and I proceed from there.

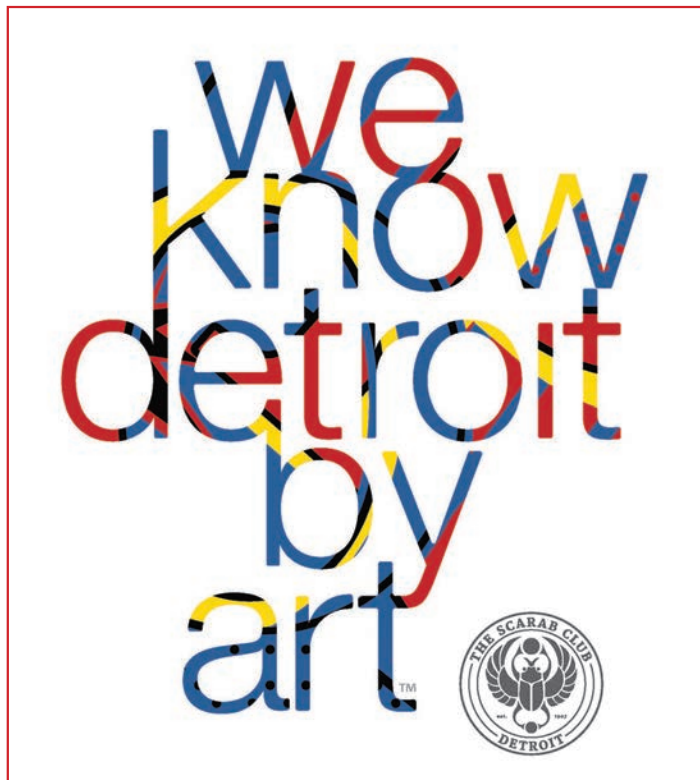
"The process is closely akin to automatic writing or, to use a label in vogue, channeling," Alexander continued. "I become both a witness of and a conduit to creativity. My work unfolds with its own inner logic, or lack of same, of which I am only dimly aware."

Alexander is known in artistic circles for the wonderfully whimsical names he gives to his pieces; names such as Illustration for A Medieval Poem Lost in Translation, Transgender Jesus, Image for a More-Than-Vivid Friday, Hieroglyphia and Paste Acupuncture.

"It's sometimes problematic in that I have to really think much more about the names than actually the creation of the piece," said Alexander. "I don't have to think about

“ So the whole idea of the campaign was to increase awareness within the community we serve. We’re a club with no barriers. Everyone can join – artists, art lovers, collectors, etc. ”

– Scarab Club President Duncan Campbell



The Scarab Club launches its new marketing campaign in time to celebrate 110 years serving the Detroit community.

creating a piece of art. It just flows. But I have to give some kind of thought to the name. The name should be something that gets the viewer, jogs their mentation and gets them to put their input into a piece of art. If someone asked me ‘what does this mean’ my response would be ‘what does it mean to you?’ I’m just a conduit.”

So how does Alexander create so rapidly? “I just do it,” he said nonchalantly. “I certainly have a backlog of a lot of art. Sometimes I go back to a piece and put additional touches on it or nuances or embellishments. And sometimes I take pieces that have been done and combine them and create a new piece. What is challenging is to have a piece of art that in some way there’s a mistake or something amiss, and to use that mistake – say a spot or something – and turn that into part of the art so that it, too, contributes.”

A member of the Scarab Club for more than 10 years, Alexander has also served on the Club’s board. His current show at the Club is his fourth, and he has also participated in several juried shows in the main gallery.

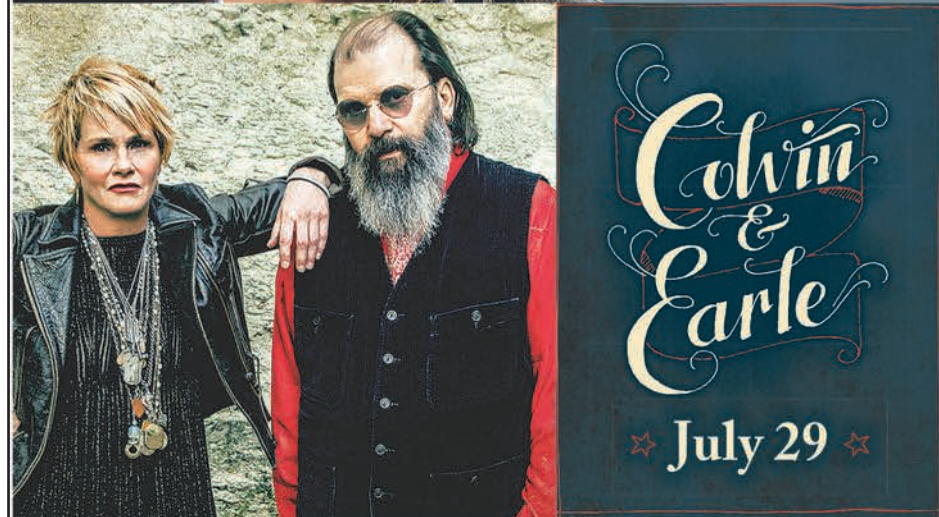
“I love Charles,” said Ericson. “He’s not just

a visual artist, he’s not a writer. He’s really is a renaissance man. I love the fact that when you talk to him he has a beautiful quote or a poem that he just pulls out of the air for whatever the occasion might be. He truly is just an exceptional man. In all areas of the arts he’s amazing.”

Sitting in the Scarab Club amid the 27 pieces that comprise his current show, Alexander paused for a moment of honest reflection.

“Being 30, 40, 50, 60, 70 never bothered me,” he said. “Being 80 bothers me somewhat. Physically I may be 80, but mentally I feel like I’m 38, 39, or 40. That’s where my thinking is at. And of course it crosses your mind ‘how much time do I have left to be creative? What’s going to happen next? What will happen to my art? Where will it go?’”

Though such questions cannot possibly be answered in a newspaper story, the writer would like to think that through the volumes of written word he has penned and the thousands of pieces of art he has created, that Alexander will, in a sense, live on for ages to come. That perhaps he will even, artistically speaking, be immortal.



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Lea DeLaria Reflects on Her Landmark TV Moment, Talks Making Tough Lesbians Cry with 'Orange Is the New Black'

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

First the screwdriver, then the peanut butter.

But Lea DeLaria's love for "Orange Is the New Black" goes beyond the craftiness of her shenanigans with both a hand tool and a classic sandwich spread as a regular on TV's Emmy-winning prison drama. Sure, Netflix has afforded the veteran actress a deep cargo-pocket of outrageous antics, but "Orange" isn't only here for your amusement. More importantly, the series and DeLaria's riotous, randy character, Big Boo, are part of the show's heralded inclusivity.

Breaking ground as the first openly gay comic to perform on American television, in 1993 on "The Arsenio Hall Show,"

DeLaria is still carrying the torch on TV two decades later, representing a deeply unsung subset in the queer community on "Orange": the butch lesbian.

As the show embarks on its icy fourth season, the 58-year-old called in for a tell-all interview about the "lesser known" controversy surrounding her historical TV debut: How the Fox network was not fond of the actress' lavish gayness and wanted to put the brakes on her groundbreaking "Arsenio" appearance.

Who stepped in to fight Fox's resistance to the landmark stint? Why has the actress turned down so many gay roles since then? And why does she think we should drop the community's longtime collective acronym, LGBT? Read on as DeLaria reveals all.

"Orange Is the New Black" is now in its fourth season. Is that hard to believe?

It's really shocking for me to believe it's our fourth season. I thought I'd have way more money by now!

What about this fourth season stands out from the past three?

I think what people are going to find about the fourth season is that it's darker than the other seasons. They really explore some of the shitty things about being in prison. There's a lot I can't talk about. I think it's going to be much darker than you've seen in the past. Still funny, but there's definitely a darkness involved. But Boo is going to be Boo as Boo always is.

You get to do some crazy stuff on this show. What's your relationship like with peanut butter at this point?

Yeah, I can't eat peanut butter at all, as a matter of fact. (Laughs)

Seriously?

Yeah, I don't really eat peanut butter. But yeah, I believe that the writers sit around and go, "What's the fucking most insane thing we can think of? Let's give it to DeLaria!" They know I'll do anything for a laugh.

When it comes to acting, you've been at it longer than most people know. An eternity, right?

It feels like an eternity.

You don't look like an eternity.

Good genes, I can assure you. It's certainly not from taking care of myself, as anyone who's seen me in the West Village, drunk on my butt at 4 in the morning, knows.

How is post-"Orange" life different from pre-"Orange" life? Are you recognized more often on the streets?

Oh yeah, I'm recognized nonstop. Before — first of all, not everybody was carrying their camera with them like they do now, so I would get stopped... I'd get stopped enough. I wouldn't say frequently, and I wouldn't say infrequently; it was somewhere in the middle. Generally, it's "Hey, you're Lea DeLaria; can I have your autograph?" Now I can't even walk out of my front doorstep. It's like, "Oh my god! 'Orange is the New Black!'" It just goes on all day.

Can you still even go to gay bars?

All the time. I could never go to a gay bar before! I mean, before "Orange" that would be the one place everyone knew who I was. I made the decision very early on in my life that I'm going to live my life, and if people come up to me, I'm going to be friendly and charming the way I am. I don't want to lock myself in my room. I just don't want to do

THE BUTCH BENEATH OUR WINGS

that, so I'm out all the time.

How does the treatment of LGBT characters and sexuality on "Orange" compare to your previous lesbian roles, both big and small?

What's different about it more than anything else in the world is that it's real. Believe me, as you've said, I played a lot of them, big and small, and I can assure you I've said "no" more than I've said "yes" to these roles. A lot of roles I say no to are because they're just so completely stereotyped and bullshit that I won't play them anymore.

You say "anymore." What changed?

When I started out in the business, I played them because it was work. And then it just got to be ridiculous. I just said, "This is it. I can't do this anymore unless someone is going to give me a real character." Like the chick I played on "Californication"! If you're going to give me a real character, I'm going to knock it out of the park for you. If you're just gonna make it the same ol' stereotypical bullshit butch, I'm not interested.

But that's what's great about our show, and not just with the queer characters but with what it does with women, what it does for trans people – what it does for *everybody*. We're real. We're three dimensional. We're honest. We cry. We laugh. We talk about life, you know? That's the biggest difference. And not to mention the very warm, friendly, three-dimensional positive portrayal of a butch dyke that is incredibly unique and unusual, and so I'm loving doing that.

As a butch lesbian yourself, how do you think Boo is opening doors for the butch lesbian community?

I know that she is because I get direct messages on Instagram. I get, like, 150 of them a day from all over the world, from all these different women saying, "Thank god for 'Orange Is the New Black,' thank god for Big Boo. I now know that it is OK for me to be who I am," and they're not just talking about being gay; they're talking about being a butch. I get constant messages about it. Constant! And then people come up to me on the street. I've had really hard-ass butches cry when they talk to me, which is... trust me, it's hard for us to cry. So finally somebody is putting out there who we actually are. I feel like Season 3, episode four, which is the Boo backstory episode – I believe that's done as much for butches as Season 1, episode three, did for the transgender community.

Do lesbians send you letters from jail?

I don't get letters from people in jail. What I do get are the conversations with them after they're out. I hear from guards, from COs, from wardens, from assistant wardens and from ex-prisoners on the street telling me how much our show hits the nail on the head. It's very real. It's very much like that. I think that's a really intense compliment. I'm not that kind of actor. Like Taylor (Schilling),

who is an amazing actor, she went to a women's prison. Kate Mulgrew went to a women's prison. To look at, to get the feel, to get the backbone of their character. I watched "Lockup." (Laughs)

What's your earliest memory of subverting gender norms? Were you a tomboy?

Yeah, I was what we called a tomboy back then. It's very interesting... when I went to a thrift store and got my first suit and put it on for the first time, it was like putting on my own skin. I was 17.

When did you get the "butch" tattoo on your forearm?

It must've been the '90s.

What's the story behind it?

I like tattoos! I've got a lot of 'em. I just wanted it to say "butch," and I went in and told (the tattoo artist) what I wanted. After we got done, I couldn't see it because of the angle, and he goes, "It's fantastic! It says 'bitch' perfectly!" And I went insane. "YOU PUT BITCH ON THERE?" And he laughed – he got me so good. He laughed soooo hard at me. He totally got me. But he was just messing with me – he knew better than to put bitch on my arm.

So 1993 comes around and you're the first openly gay comic to break through the late night talk-show circuit with an appearance on "The Arsenio Hall Show."

It was more than that – I was the first openly gay comic to perform on *television*, period, in America. I mean, it was late-night, which was really huge, but yeah. Nobody. It was me.

What were you feeling in that moment?

Scared as shit! Terrified, just terrified. All I could think was, "What if I bomb?" And I had "20/20" following me. So I wasn't just doing "The Arsenio Hall Show" – I was also doing fucking "20/20." It was craziness because it was such a big deal. I'm not sure how it happened but the universe aligned and the planets aligned perfectly and I killed. It was nine-and-a-half minutes of television gold, so yeah, I was lucky. Could've gone either way. The audience could have hated me. I was not lightly gay, if you know what I mean. I wasn't gay-lite. I was as queer as it gets.

They did an article in The Advocate right after it happened. They taped it and apparently I said the words "dyke," "fag" and "queer" 47 times. I mean, it was the second sentence I uttered: "Hello everybody, I'm Lea DeLaria. It's the 1990s, it's hip to be queer and I'm a big dyke."

We needed somebody to be that person.


I think that was probably right. It was the early part of the '90s, so we were having that rift about the words queer and dyke and fag. The


See Lea, page 32

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Screen Queen

Death Becomes Her, Carol

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI



Death Becomes Her

Character development, be damned. The archetypes in the Robert Zemeckis-directed commentary on showbiz superficiality and the general vanity of being human are mere sketches, but if “Death Becomes Her” is purely an excuse for a head-turning Meryl Streep and half-stomached Goldie Hawn to play up an onscreen rivalry with heightened fakeness and a one-on-one shovel showdown then, great gods of campy film, thank you for this gift. Lady Streep exercises a rare frivolity to play Madeline Ashton, a B-movie and Broadway actress; Hawn is Helen Sharp. They hate each other. Then, when a man war involving Sharp’s ex-fiancé (Bruce Willis) breaks out, Madeline visits an age-defying sorceress named Lisle von Rhuman (the fab Isabella Rossellini, supremely decked out in an iconic necklace) who can turn the desperate Madeline ageless... for a pretty price. Obsessed over by queers who live for seeing two queens in a cat fight (plus, beefy, shirtless men for maximum gayness), the 1992 dark-comedy camp caper took notes from “What Ever Happened to Baby Jane?” and let two screen icons unleash on each other because, you know, every generation of gays needs a Hollywood lesson on how greed and conceit and plastic remedies incite extreme comical consequences. Nearly 25 years after its release, the comedy debuts on Blu-ray in a Collector’s Edition with too few special features, though a fun vintage featurette offers an onset Meryl, relishing the fact that, “I’ve died in a lot of other films, but in this



Brooklyn

one, I live! And I look great!” Why, exactly, is *Brooklyn* so good? Saoirse Ronan, for one. Known for standout stints in “Atonement” and “The Lovely Bones,” the Oscar-nominated sad movie actress imparts her big, soft heart into the role of an immigrant who can barely stand to leave Ireland but must – aside from her mother and sister, there’s nothing left for her in Enniscorthy. America becomes home, eventually. She settles. An Italian fella charms her into loving him, she bonds with the boarding-house ladies with which she lives; it’s almost perfect. But Ireland is never far from Eilis’ mind (when letters are arriving from family overseas, how could it be?), and when tragedy strikes back home, Eilis returns to Enniscorthy and finds herself faced with wrenching decisions. Naturally, Ronan is a marvel, bringing earnest sensitivity to Eilis. But “Brooklyn” thrives on the strength of its ensemble, which was cast by Fiona Weir, who also assembled a brilliant troupe of talented actors for 2014’s sublime “Pride.” Wistful, nostalgic and bound to melt you into a big puddle of mush, this remarkably moving coming-of-age drama is classic filmmaking in peak form. The disc extras are less bountiful, with a mere trailer, a selection of deleted and extended scenes, and a commentary featuring director John Crowley.

How to Be Single

Maybe one day Rebel Wilson will surprise us by not playing the same man-thirsty, cocksure powerhouse

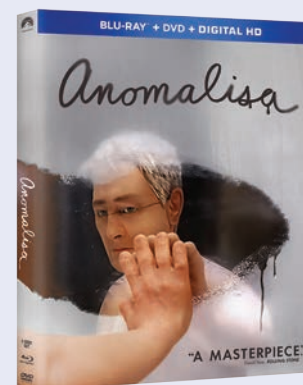


she’s so frequently cast as, but until then, we get Robin in “How to Be Single.” Wilson’s Robin is a singlehood specialist, and her latest project? The hopeless and hapless Alice, a new hire that Robin takes under her wild, horny, frequently drunken wing because Robin knows all the ins and outs of not being tied down and Alice is a clumsy broad who thinks she has to buy her own drinks at the bar. Meanwhile, a crop of other characters – though, surprisingly, none of them gay – offer various perspectives on getting the guy, even if just for one night. Alison Brie’s Lucy, for instance, steals Wi-Fi from the bar underneath her flat, a good excuse for her to encounter the hottie who bartends downstairs. You think you know where that encounter’s going, but screenwriters Abby Kohn and Marc Silverstein (“The Vow,” “He’s Just Not That Into You”) and Dana Fox (“Couples Retreat,” “What Happens in Vegas”) subvert rom-com predictability. Elsewhere, there’s Leslie Mann as Alice’s older sister, an obstetrician with a secret soft spot for babies. It’s all very “Sex and the City.” And yes, though Samantha, Carrie, Charlotte and Miranda already trained you on the need-to-knows about living beyond your means as a single in New York, “How to Be Single” and its dizzying array of storylines isn’t a bad way to refresh your memory as to why you’re probably better off alone. Special features play favorites, giving Rebel Wilson her own outtakes reel as well as a short featurette on her all-around awesomeness.



Carol

The taboos of homosexuality are contained in our director Todd Haynes’ wonderful, hypnotic romance “Carol,” focused on love’s enduring power despite external resistance. Cate Blanchett is the titular character who finds herself drawn to the strikingly younger, more meek Therese, the yin to her yang, when they meet during a chance run-in at a NYC department store. There are complications to pursuing a same-sex relationship, of course. It’s the ’50s, so there’s that. Also, Carol has a husband. Throughout his nuanced period piece, the “Far From Heaven” filmmaker brings a taut fervor to the film as it unfolds with Thelma and Louise-like shenanigans and heart-seizing moments of tender longing. Not that you’d doubt Blanchett’s commitment to Carol, but just in case: During a set of discussions with the cast and crew, Blanchett says she “read a lot of girl-on-girl fiction.”



Anomalisa

Charlie Kaufman introduced post-breakup memory obliteration in one of the best films of the aughts,

“Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind,” conveying aspects of the human condition with his own brand of idiosyncrasies. That same warped pathos pervades “Anomalisa,” Kaufman’s stop-motion film about a down-on-life inspirational speaker (David Thewlis) reinvigorated by an intense connection he has with a refreshingly spirited woman (Jennifer Jason Leigh). Poignant subtleties, including a moving bedside take on Cyndi Lauper’s “Girls Just Want to Have Fun,” abound as both characters, and the film’s off-kilter creative team, illuminate the mundanity of human connection in the most revelatory of ways – without humans at all. Innovative and thoughtful, “Anomalisa” is an artistic wonder. The creative process is explained during a fascinating 30-minute peek behind the scenes.



Sisters

If “Sisters” accomplishes anything, and it doesn’t accomplish much, it’s that everything is less insufferable with Amy Poehler and Tina Fey. Still, it’s hard not to wish these two comedy queens were using their time more wisely – you know, by making a “Mean Girls 2” that isn’t that made-for-TV mediocrity. Alas, we get “Sisters,” out “Pitch Perfect” director Jason Moore’s ill-conceived and tepid effort about a pair of siblings who turn their childhood home into a party scene – one last (too long) hurrah! – after their parents inform them the house is being sold. Maya Rudolph, as a snooty rival, is spectacularly bitchy, but still, you have to wonder: What might “Sisters” have been with an actual script and an actual story and more actual jokes? Cool, though, that Fey, Poehler and Moore are all game for the commentary, which is among a throng of special features fluff.



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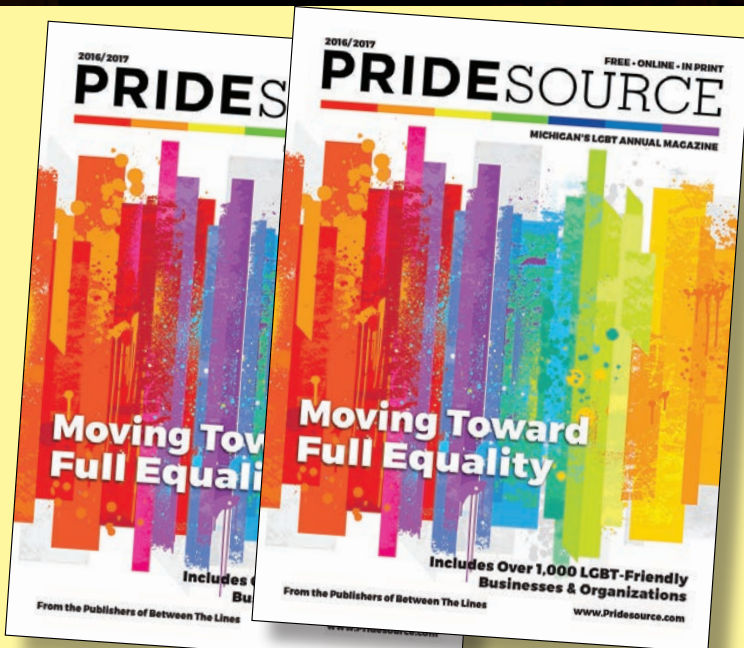
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This is the biggest issue we have in the queer community to date and will continue to be the biggest issue until we learn to accept our differences, and that's the issue. And part of me believes that this inclusivity of calling us the LGBTQQTY-whatever-LMNOP tends to stress our differences. And that's why I refuse to do it. I say queer. Queer is everybody.

► Lea

Continued from p. 29

lesser known story is that they almost didn't air it *because* I said queer and dyke and fag. The lawyers called Arsenio in and said, "We don't think you should let this go out." They were trying to pull it and Arsenio – again this is the lesser story that people don't know – had a fit and said, "She's a dyke. If she wants to call herself a dyke then it's none of your fucking business." He fought for it and got me on the air. The lawyers at Fox were saying, "Noooo." It was a big deal at the time; now it's ho-hum. But back then it was huge. You gotta remember, Ellen (DeGeneres) wasn't out yet. Rosie (O'Donnell) wasn't out yet. None of these guys were out yet.

Shifting gears: Let's talk about your cameo in one of the gayest classics of all time, "First Wives Club." What's an onscreen scolding from Bette Midler like?

Just like an offscreen scolding! (Laughs)

Wait wait, there's a story there.

I gotta say, you must be about my fiancée's age because everybody of her generation – she's 31 – loves that movie. That's her favorite movie. I'm like, mine's "Rebecca." I'm just saying, "First Wives Club" is your favorite movie?!

The best thing about "First Wives Club," though, beyond the fact that I got to be in it and beyond the fact that Paul Rudnick wrote that for me, which was very cool, was getting to work with Bette, who is my hero and one of the reasons I went into show business. But more than that was becoming friends with Goldie Hawn. Goldie is just an absolute unbelievable doll. Talented. Brilliant. Charming. Just a lovely human being. I had a blast doing "First Wives Club."

More recently, you called out a preacher while on the New York subway.

That guy? It's an insult to preachers to call him a preacher. He's just a homophobic asshole.

It went viral.

It went viral so fast I couldn't believe it, in

fact. I was on TMZ within a half hour. That was the thing: I was on a subway on my way to the studio – we were filming – so what had happened, I got out of the subway and I called my manager. I said, "Look, I had a confrontation. Somebody pulled out their phone and they videotaped it soooo there might be something on social media." Twenty minutes later, he called me and said, "You're on TMZ." It was hilarious! It just went nuts.

You famously dropped out of Michigan Womyn's Music Festival in 2014 because of their womyn-born-womyn stipulation, which discourages transgender people from attending. And you've spoken many times on the topic of "infighting," saying once, "We queers need to find a way to stop this fighting and work together towards our common goal." In the years since canceling your MichFest appearance, have you seen any noticeable change regarding the unification of the queer community?

Absolutely not. I speak at universities now because apparently I'm a role model (laughs). It just makes me laugh. Like, honey, if I'm a role model, queers are in a lot of fucking trouble. I speak about it a lot, but when we come together and don't infight we get a lot done. That's how we defeated DOMA, that's how we defeated Prop 8, that's why the SCOTUS decision happened.

But in the midst of all that I still find myself constantly dealing with the more conservative queers and the more radical queers like myself, and as I said in the statement when I pulled out of MichFest: How fucked up is it when I'm the voice of reason? You've got to be kidding me that you guys can't see this. When Lea DeLaria and Larry Kramer are the voices of reasons, people are fucked. 'Cause we're the two biggest bitches on the planet! We're little brats. We scream and yell until people listen to us, that's who we are.

This is the biggest issue we have in the queer community to date and will continue to be the biggest issue until we learn to accept our differences, and that's the issue. And part of me believes that this inclusivity of calling us the LGBTQQTY-whatever-LMNOP tends to stress our differences. And that's why I refuse to do it. I say queer. Queer is everybody.

Wharton Play Pays Tribute to 'Voice of Summer'

EAST LANSING – Following a sell out engagement last August, Wharton Center announces the return of “Ernie - The Play” to kick off the 2016-2017 season. “The Play” is the smash hit play about the “Voice of Summer,” Ernie Harwell, and recounts the life of the beloved Tigers announcer. Tickets are available at Wharton Center’s official ticketing outlets: online at whartoncenter.com, at the Auto Owners Insurance Ticket Office at Wharton Center, or by calling 1-800-WHARTON.

“The Play” is set on Ernie Harwell’s last night at Comerica Park, as the Hall of Fame broadcaster is about to give a moving thank you to a grateful city. Just before he walks onto the grassy field, he encounters an unusual boy who is eager to know all about him, coaxing Harwell into giving one final broadcast, the “broadcast of his life.”

In real life, Harwell and Albom spoke often about doing a stage play one day. According to Harwell’s longtime friend and attorney, S. Gary Spicer, Ernie “had always hoped Mitch would author it.” Having called Harwell a friend for 25 years, Albom, the hugely successful

Written by award-winning author Mitch Albom, “Ernie - The Play” pays tribute to Detroit’s Ernie Harwell.

playwright behind “Tuesdays With Morrie,” was willing to collaborate, but in 2009 Harwell’s health faded and the project had to be shelved. After Harwell’s passing, Albom picked up the pen again, and the result has thrilled over 80,000 theatergoers over the past four summers.

“Ernie’s story transcends sports,” Albom says. “It’s a story of 20th century Americana and a love affair with baseball and a childhood sweetheart. Ernie went through the Depression, World War II, the segregation of sports; he also called some of the grandest moments ever witnessed on a ball

field. It’s an honor to bring such a rich character to the stage, especially for so many fans who loved him.”

The play features actual footage from historic baseball moments, supplied courtesy of Major League Baseball, and boasts many unmistakable Harwell calls. Tigers fans will get a glimpse of the time that Ernie met the Great Bambino and Ty Cobb. They’ll witness how he “recreated” games in his early days, and what was behind his broadcasts of the Tigers’ 1968 and 1984 World Series. The East Lansing engagement of “Ernie - The Play” is sponsored by Capital Region Community Foundation; The Christman Company Plante Moran, PLLC; and Marketing Resource Group.

The play runs Wednesday, Aug. 24-Saturday, Aug. 27. Showtimes are 7:30 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday; 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday; and 2 p.m. for a Saturday matinee. Tickets start at \$15 for student, \$32 for general admission; a \$70 special VIP meet and greet with Mitch Albom package is available. The Pasant Theatre at the Wharton Center is located in East Lansing. For more information, visit www.whartoncenter.com.


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Ladies who love Ladies Night The hottest lesbian DJ Team, \$3 Drafts from all 18 taps all night, \$3 Jack Fire and Jack Honey drinks from 10 p.m. to 12 a.m. served by the Jack Girls. Pronto!, 608 S. Washington Ave., **Royal Oak**. 248-544-7900. www.facebook.com/ptorntorestaurantRO/

Meet Author Micheala Lynn 7 p.m. Join Bella Books lesbian romance author Micheala Lynn for a talk and reception. Following her debut novel, "Jagged Little Scar," Lynn will introduce her latest novel, Joie de Vivre. Refreshments will be provided. Schuler Books & Music, 2660 28th St., **Grand Rapids**. 616 942-2561. micheala@michealalynn.com www.michealalynn.com

Rehearsals for Metro Detroit LGBT Chorus 7 p.m. New members welcomed year round. One Voice Chorus uses singing to promote understanding outside of the LGBT community, and unity within it. One Voice Chorus, 1589 W. Maple Road, **Birmingham**. detroitonevoice@yahoo.com <http://onevoicechorus.net>

Friday, June 17

Second Annual White Party Grand Rapids Pride, **Grand Rapids**. www.Grpride.org

Author and Interior Designer Thom Filicia Appearance 6 p.m. Meet Queer Eye for the Straight Guy star, Filicia, will showcase his collection for Vanguard Furniture and sign his book "American Beauty: Renovating & Decorating a Beloved Retreat." A complimentary copy will be offered to the first 100 guests that register at the event. Guests will also save 40 percent on all Vanguard products during the event. Pre-registration is required. Scott Shuptrine Interiors, 32301 Woodward Ave., **Royal Oak**. 248-549-9105. www.scottshuptrine.eventbrite.com

Gay Play Series (GPS) 8 p.m. Don't miss the kick off event honoring everyone's favorite Miami foursome, The Golden Girls. Richard Payton will resurrect his Blanchette Deveraux character to host an evening of Golden Girls Trivia. Tickets: \$10. The Ringwald Theatre, 22742 Woodward Ave., **Ferndale**. 248-545-5545. www.theringwald.com

Saturday, June 18

Ann Arbor Book Festival Tickets: \$10-\$25. The festival brings together writers and readers for three days of literary events for book-lovers of all ages and across all genres. Take part in book crawls, street fairs, and writer's workshops. Ann Arbor Book Festival, PO Box 4387, **Ann Arbor**. www.aabookfestival.org

Ypsi Pride Ypsi Pride, **Ypsilanti**. www.Visitannarbor.org

Grounds Crew Workfest 10:30 a.m. Come help prepare the grounds for a family reunion. Work as much as you

can. Simple foods and water will be provided. Lansing Lesbians, 14371 McCrumb Road, **Eagle**. www.meetup.com

Hand in Hand Opening Event 11:30 a.m. Grand Rapids Pride, **Grand Rapids**. www.Grpride.org

Grand Rapids Pride Festival The LGBT Network of West Michigan, **Grand Rapids**. www.Grpride.org

Motown Invitational Classic Detroit River Cruise 12:45 p.m. Dancing, two cash bars - a tea dance down the Detroit River. \$25 per person/limited seating to 250 persons. Tickets Now available at Just 4 Us, Steven B's Barbershop and Menjos! 21+ Motown Invitational Classic, Jefferson Avenue, **Detroit**. 313-727-4101. billhav2003@yahoo.com www.Nictournament.org/Events.aspx

Bingo and Dinner Fundraiser at Affirmations 4 p.m. Join us for bingo & dinner at Affirmations to benefit Affirmations and the Ruth Ellis Center. Motor City Bears, 290 West Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. motorcitybears@gmail.com

Grand Rapids Pride concert on the Calder 6 p.m. Grand Rapids Pride, **Grand Rapids**. www.Grpride.org

Gay Play Series (GPS) 8 p.m. The original One Act Festival begins with four plays: A Man in Peril, You Too?, Party of Men, and Wallpaper. Tickets: \$10. A \$30 festival pass is available. The Ringwald Theatre, 22742 Woodward Ave., **Ferndale**. 248-545-5545. www.theringwald.com

Retro Fevre Saturdays 9 p.m. The best dance music from the 80s, 90s, and today mixed by DJ Beau Derek and Prime Minister. Red Door Night Club, 22901 Woodward Ave., **Ferndale**. 2485411600. events@reddoorclub.com <http://www.reddoorclub.com/events/>

Sunday, June 19

Grand Rapids Pride family concert on the Calder Grand Rapids Pride, **Grand Rapids**. www.Grpride.org

Paddle Group 1 a.m. Bring a kayak, canoe or whatever floats. The paddle group hits the watersheds known as Brighton, Huron-Clinton, Irish Hills, Jackson, Pinckney and Waterloo Recreation Areas. They paddle for two to

three hours most Sundays. Life jackets are required. Yak season is April through October. Yak Womyn, **Ann Arbor**. sapphosis@yahoo.com

Gay Play Series (GPS) 3 p.m. The original One Act Festival continues with four plays: Angel of the People Mover, Boblo Island Fairies, Happy & Gay, and Not Our Town. Tickets: \$10. A \$30 festival pass is available. The Ringwald Theatre, 22742 Woodward Ave., **Ferndale**. 248-545-5545. www.theringwald.com

Monday, June 20

Gay Play Series (GPS) 8 p.m. A hit last January, Jonathan Tolins' Buyer & Cellar returns featuring Richard Payton in his acclaimed one-man show. Tickets: \$10. A \$30 festival pass is available. The Ringwald Theatre, 22742 Woodward Ave., **Ferndale**. 248-545-5545. www.theringwald.com

Tuesday, June 21

Pride Awards Banquet 6 p.m. Tickets: \$20-\$30. Perceptions, 120 Ezra Rust Drive, **Saginaw**. 989-891-1429. pride@perceptionsmi.org www.perceptionsmi.org/prideBanquet.php

Thursday, June 23

Ladies Night on Livernois 5 p.m. Avenue of Fashion, Livernois Avenue (between 8 Mile & Clarita), **Detroit**. artinmotiondetroit@gmail.com. facebook.com/NEW-Avenue-Of-Fashion-On-Livernois-1499091960307005/

Friday, June 24

What Mental Health Providers Need to Know About Transgender Identity 12 p.m. The Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Gender Expression (SOGIE) learning series. SOGIE Basics will be offered the first 30 minutes prior to each training. Pre-registration required. No Cost for NASW Members. \$30 for Non-Members. Two Social Work CEUs available. Co-Sponsors: The Ruth Ellis Center and Connections-Wayne County System of Care. National Association of Social Workers - Michigan Chapter, 2799 West Grand Blvd, **Detroit**. 517-487-1548. cnichols@thechildrenscenter.com www.nasw-michigan.org/events/EventDetails.aspx?id=812713&group=

Festival of the Moon Features Bell's Brewery, food, music and dancing. 21+. I Love Old Town, **Lansing**. www.iloveoldtown.org

Gay Play Series (GPS) 8 p.m. The Ringwald Theatre, 22742 Woodward Ave., **Ferndale**. 248-545-5545. www.theringwald.com

Red Hot Fridays 9 p.m. Red Door Night Club, 22901 Woodward Ave., **Ferndale**. 248-541-1600. info@reddoorclub.com www.reddoorclub.com

MUSIC & MORE

Benefits/Social Events

Quicken Loans "Grand Circus Park Gala" Grand Circus Park, See website for location details, Detroit. 6 p.m. June 16. www.campusmartiuspark.org/events

Comedy

Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase "Comedian John Heffron" Special engagement tickets: \$25. Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase, 314 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. June 17 - June 18. 734-996-9080. www.aacomedy.com

Concerts

Ann Arbor Summer Festival "Gregory Porter" Porter makes his festival debut on the heels of his new Blue Note release, "Take Me to the Alley." Power Center for the Performing Arts, 121 Fletcher St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. June 22. 734-764-2538. www.a2sf.org

B-93 "Clare Dunn" Campus Martius Park, 800 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 9 p.m. June 24. www.campusmartiuspark.org/events

Complexions Contemporary Ballet "A Tribute to David Bowie" Music Hall Center for the Performing Arts, 350 Madison Ave., Detroit. 8 p.m. June 18. 313-887-8500. www.musichall.org

Foundation of Women in Hip Hop "Women in Hip Hop Conference" The Garden Theater, 3919 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 7 p.m. June 17. 313-832-0888. www.thegardentheaterdetroit.com

Palace Sports and Entertainment "Steve Miller Band" Also performing is Jimmie Vaughan. DTE Energy Music Theatre, 7774 Sashabaw Road, Clarkston. 7 p.m. June 24. 248-377-0100. www.dteenergymusictheatre.org

Palace Sports and Entertainment "Keith Urban" Also performing is Brett Eldredge and Maren Morris. DTE Energy Music Theatre, 7774 Sashabaw Road, Clarkston. 7 p.m. June 23. 248-377-0100. www.dteenergymusictheatre.org

Editor's Pick



It's an Old Town tradition: celebrating the summer solstice. Make the most of the shortest night and celebrate the longest day of summer with the Festival of the Moon & Sun, this year underwritten by Auto-Owners Insurance. Enjoy fine wine, craft beer, Lansing area's best cuisine and live music. For the first time ever, Festival of the Moon and Sun will feature craft cocktails from American Fifth Spirits.

The 21-and-over events are 6-11 p.m. June 24 for the Festival of the Moon, and 3-11 p.m. June 25 for the Festival of the Sun. VIP access for both events begins an hour before scheduled opening times. Day tickets, VIP passes and Weekend Passes are available at www.festivalofthemoonandsun.com. Tickets are \$18-22 for the Festival of the Moon, \$20-25 for Festival of the Sun.

Tickets include a souvenir glass filled with food and drink tickets to get you started. Funds raised from this event go to the Old Town Commercial Association and the continued revitalization of Lansing's Old Town. Call the OTCA office at 517-485-4283 or visit oldtownevents.com to purchase tickets or sign up to volunteer. Both festivals will be at Turner Street and Grand River Avenue in Lansing's Old Town district.

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Editor's Pick



Andy McKee comes to Ferndale's The Magic Bag this week for a concert highlighting his crossover success. McKee is among the world's finest acoustic guitarists. His youthful energy and attention to song structure and melodic content elevates him above the rest. He entertains both the eye and the ear as he magically transforms the steel string guitar into a full orchestra via his use of altered tunings, tapping, partial capos, percussive hits and a signature two-handed technique.

McKee's talent has garnered him millions of YouTube viewers, underscoring his emergence as one of today's most unique and influential artists. He has been featured as a cover story in both Acoustic Guitar Magazine in the U.S. and Acoustic Magazine in the UK, and is also the figurehead of the unique Guitar Masters tours.

His album, "Live Book," is his first live record and was released this past spring.

Doors open at 8 p.m. on Sunday, June 19. Tickets are \$22 in advance. The Magic Bag is located at 22920 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. For more information, visit www.themagicbag.com.

Palace Sports and Entertainment
"Bad Company" Also performing is Joe Walsh. DTE Energy Music Theatre, 7774 Sashabaw Road, Clarkston. 7 p.m. June 22. 248-377-0100. www.dteenergymusictheatre.org

The Carr Center "Evenings in Paradise" Detroit. June 7 - Aug. 25. www.downtowndetroitparks.com

The Magic Bag "Andy McKee" Tickets: \$22+. The Magic Bag, 22920 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. 8 p.m. June 19. 248-544-3030. www.themagicbag.com

Festivals

Kerrytown Concert House "Minifest: Great Lakes Chamber Music Festival In Residence" A classical performance by some of the world's finest chamber musicians. Tickets: \$15-\$35. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. June 17 - June 26. 734-763-4186. www.kerrytownconcerthouse.com

Make Music Detroit "Make Music Detroit" A complete schedule and venue detail is available online. Visit official website for details, 7500 Oakland Ave., Detroit. 12 p.m. June 21. www.makemusicdetroit.org

THEATER

Matrix Theatre Company's 25th Anniversary Extravaganza Matrix Theatre Company, Gem Theatre, Detroit. 6 p.m. June 16. 313-967-0999 ext. 7. www.matrixtheatre.org

Benefits and Fundraisers

Sutton Foster Ovation Awards Tickets: \$10. Wharton Center, Wharton Center for the Performing Arts, Michigan State University, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. 7 p.m. June 12. 800-WHARTON. www.whartoncenter.com

Civic/Community Theater

Alone With Friends Tickets: \$20. This new romantic comedy from award-winning Detroit playwright Margaret Edwartowski explores the relationship between a writer and her muses. Planet Ant Theatre, 2357 Caniff, Hamtramck. Through June 25. 313-365-4948. www.planetant.com

Dreamgirls The Dreamettes perform the showstoppers "And I Am Telling You I'm Not Going" and "I Am Changing." Stagecrafters, Baldwin Theatre, 415 S. Lafayette Ave., Royal Oak. Through June 26. 248-541-6430. www.stagecrafters.org

Forever Plaid Tickets range from \$27-\$42. This popular musical closes out the theater's golden anniversary season on the campus of Oakland University.

Meadow Brook Theatre, 2200 N. Squirrel Road, Rochester. Through June 19. 248-377-3300. www.mbtheatre.com

College/University Theater

The Book of Mormon Tickets: From \$49. Wharton Center, Wharton Center for the Performing Arts, Michigan State University, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. June 14 - June 19. 800-WHARTON. www.whartoncenter.com

Professional

Dreamgirls PG-13. Tickets: \$22-24. Stagecrafters, Baldwin Theatre, 415 S. Lafayette Ave., Royal Oak. Through June 26. 248-541-6430. www.stagecrafters.org

Heathers the Musical Tickets: \$10-25. The Ringwald Theatre, 22742 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Through June 13. 248-545-5545. www.theringwald.com

ART 'N' AROUND

Detroit Institute of Arts "Dance! American Art 1830-1960" Detroit Institute of Arts, 2100 Woodward Ave., Detroit.

June 5 - June 12. 313-833-7971. www.dia.org

Detroit's Pioneer Building "PIONEERS" Cass Cafe, 4620 Cass Ave., Detroit. April 16 - June 25. 313-831-1400. www.casscafe.com

Kerrytown Concert House "Suchness" Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. June 3 - June 29. 734-763-4186. www.kerrytownconcerthouse.com

Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit "Uncalibrated" Works by Nancy Mitchnick Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit, 4454 Woodward Ave., Detroit. June 3 - July 31. 313-832-6622. www.mocaddetroit.org

Robert Kidd Gallery "Continuum" An informal and insightful conversation with Lois Teicher begins promptly at 4:15 p.m. on Saturday, June 11 to coincide with the artist's solo exhibition. Robert Kidd Gallery, 107 Townsend St., Birmingham. June 3 - June 18. 248-642-3909.

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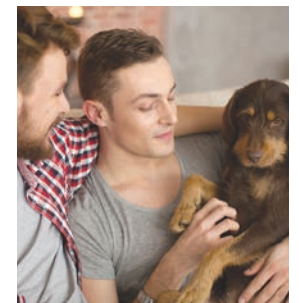
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Deep Inside Hollywood

BY ROMEO SAN VICENTE

Kristian Nairn, Hodor in 'Game of Thrones,' lives on in new fantasy worlds

Hodor is dead. We know, you're still upset. So are we. But Kristian Nairn, the large, lovable, gay actor/DJ who played that "Game of Thrones" character, is very much alive, and currently in the process of moving on. Not that he's shifting gears or anything. The film business is nothing if not consistent in its reductive demand that you stay in your lane – because once you star on a sitcom about a nun that can fly (Google it, and worship the resilience of Sally Field) they think you *are* a nun that flies until you prove otherwise. And that is why you will soon witness Mr. Nairn in not one, but two, fantasy-themed projects. He's taken a role in "Mythica: The Godslayer," the latest installment in the ongoing "Mythica" series where, you guessed it, there are warriors and dragons. He'll also star in "Victrix," the supernatural fantasy co-starring Rutger Hauer and the legendary Max von Sydow. We're not angry about this. We're happy the man is working and we'll be seeing these films. It's just typical of timid producers and short-sighted casting people that this man isn't also booked to star in a romantic comedy as the bisexual love interest of comedian Brian Posehn and also "Ghostbusters" Leslie Jones. It would be about very tall people falling in love. There you go, Hollywood, a free idea. You're welcome.

Amandla Stenberg in talks for 'Where Hands Touch'

Did you see "Belle"? You really should have. From British director Amma Asante, it was the story of a biracial woman (Gugu Mbatha-Raw) raised in England's aristocracy and her role in helping to dismantle that country's involvement in the slave trade. Now Asante is working on a new film, "Where Hands Touch," a romantic drama about a biracial woman and her relationship with an SS officer in Nazi Germany. Rising star Amandla Stenberg, who played Rue in "The Hunger Games" and also appeared in Beyonce's "Lemonade," is currently in talks for the lead, and we couldn't be happier about this possibility. The outspoken and bisexual star, who's been acting and modeling for years now, embodies the best of young Millennial boundary crossing, and this could be the breakout adult role she needs. More talks, please.

Tom Ford's 'Nocturnal Animals' takes November

Tom Ford's "A Single Man," the mournful yet stylish period drama starring Colin Firth, was a hit with audiences, critics and Academy Award voters (Firth received a Best Actor nomination). And based on that charmed first time at bat, the fashion designer-turned-filmmaker's latest, "Nocturnal Animals," has already secured a November release date. In case you weren't aware, that's when award season films typically begin aggressively stalking their prey. "Animals," based on the novel by Austin Wright, and starring the impressive line-up of Aaron Taylor-Johnson, Armie Hammer, Amy Adams, Jake Gyllenhaal, Isla Fisher, Kim Basinger and Michael Shannon, concerns a woman drawn into a mysterious manuscript that changes the direction of her life. It promises to be an unusual sort of literary, psychological thriller, and thank goodness for that. Call award season tedious if you like; it still prioritizes serious films for grown-ups, the sort of movies that are in ever-dwindling supply. We'll take it.



Kristian Nairn.
Photo: KathClick

Azealia Banks trades Twitter for 'Coco'

Queer, controversial, hip-hop/dance artist Azealia Banks isn't in hiding. The "212" musician whose refusal to back down from (and also start) a fight led to her recent banishment from Twitter (but, please, Twitter, by all means, let hetero men keep making rape and death threats, that's not a problem at all) is moving forward with a new project from director (and Wu-Tang Clan alumnus) RZA. The film is called "Coco," and it's set in the world of hip-hop and poetry slams. Banks stars as an aspiring rapper in New York who works her way through the slam poetry scene, looking for her break. And the rest of the cast is pretty impressive, too: "Pitch Perfect"'s Hana Mae Lee, Common, Lorraine Toussaint, Method Man, Jill Scott, "Scream Queens" star Lucien Laviscount and "Ballers" John David Washington. Not sure when this one will be finished and ready to see, but consider us pre-sold.

Romeo San Vicente supports all Wu-Tang Clan-adjacent media projects, especially Method and Red's comedy classic "How High."

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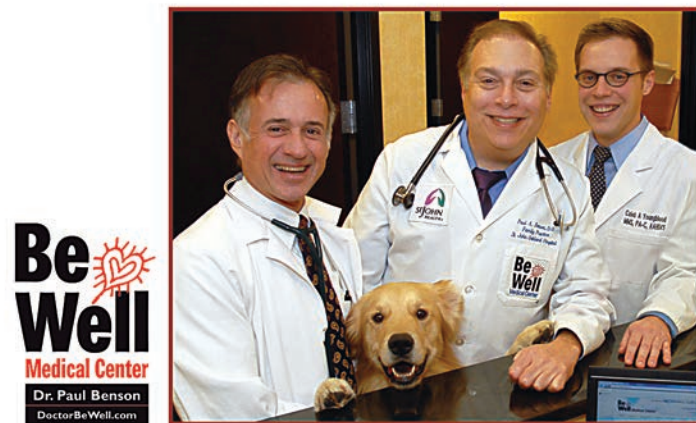
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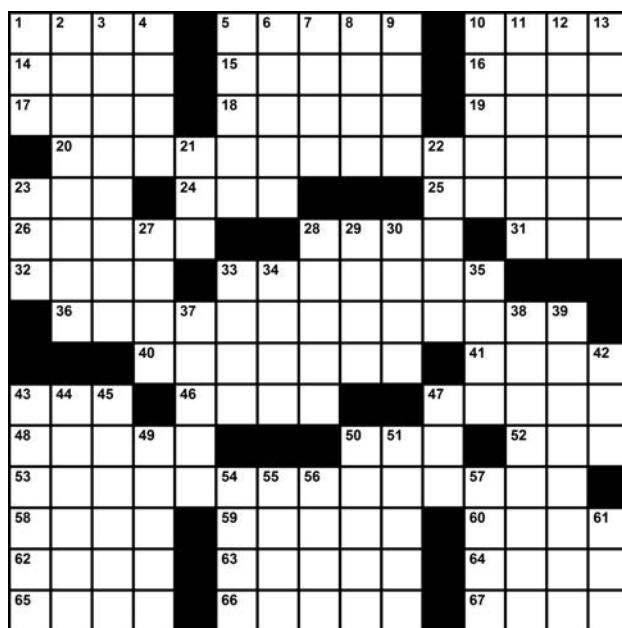
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5 Stick it to
10 "South Park" composer Shaiman
14 Poke with your stick
15 Belle of Tara
16 Garfield's whipping boy
17 Ruination
18 Erotic artist Tom, et al.
19 Intensely bright star
20 Baseball team at Petco Park

- 23 Org. for pucking around?
24 Blockhead
25 Machine handle for cutting leaves of grass
26 Parting words
28 Actress Merrill
31 Sonny, to Chaz
32 Sally Ride's org.
33 Brian on skates
36 They recently sang for "Pride Night" at Petco Park
40 Some real dickless wonders

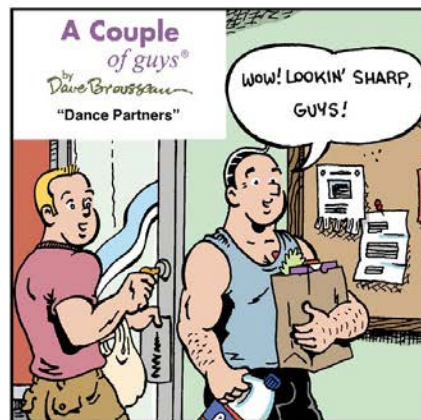
- 41 Chew on
43 Noise of the lambs
46 Untouchable leader
47 Bi suffix
48 Where husband and husband get on their knees
50 Drag queen's neckwear
52 Old Ford
53 A woman's voice was played over this as 36-Across sang it
58 Sphincter opening
59 Not straight up
60 Sale words
62 Easy partner
63 Single situation, to Billy Bean
64 Shakespeare's Hamlet, e.g.
65 Inquires
66 Like balls
67 Acronym for bears

Down

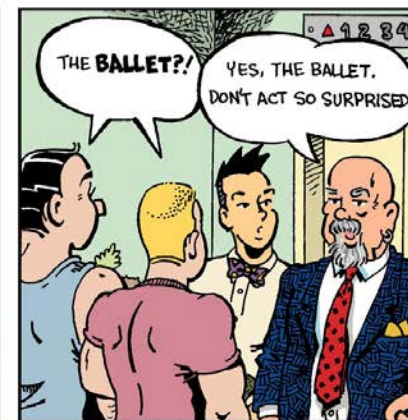
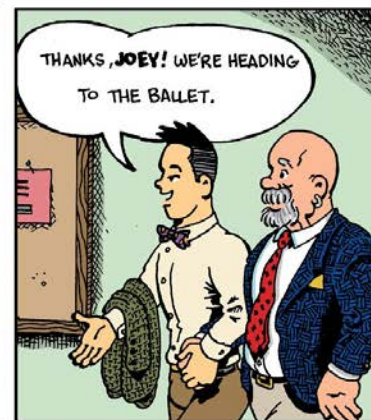
- 1 Alert, briefly
2 Spur-of-the-moment condom source?
3 Da Vinci signature piece
4 James Dean's "East of ____"
5 Bulgarian capital
6 One of the Village People
7 Initiated phone sex
8 Laszlo of skincare products
9 Flier with a stinging butt
10 Paper in gay Paree, with "le"
11 Had the hots for
12 Kahlo's husband
13 Cut out
21 Octave ends for Bernstein
22 Fictional Italian town
23 No to Rimbaud

- 27 Diggs of "Private Practice"
28 Frisbees, e.g.
29 Seven-year problem in a Monroe film
30 Discouraging words
33 Pasolini's well
34 Heavy burden
35 Sex party
37 Saki's real name
38 Top hat wearer
39 Workplace where you bust your balls
42 Got hitched
43 Condom wearer, in sex ed class
44 Gay marriage advocate Morrisette
45 Tear into
47 Tin roof pussy of Tennessee
49 Media exec Roger
50 Painter Francis
51 Erect
54 Former queen of Jordan
55 In the year, to Nero
56 Place for Proust
57 "Mary ____ little lamb"
61 Sarah Jessica Parker's city activity

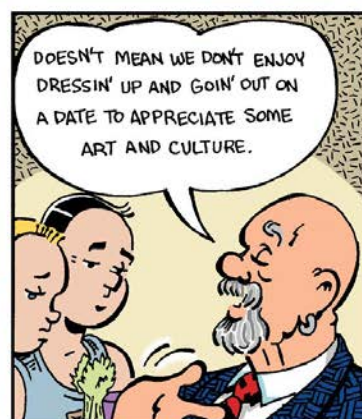
Find solution to this puzzle at www.pridesource.com



e-mail: acoupleofguys@qsyndicate.com

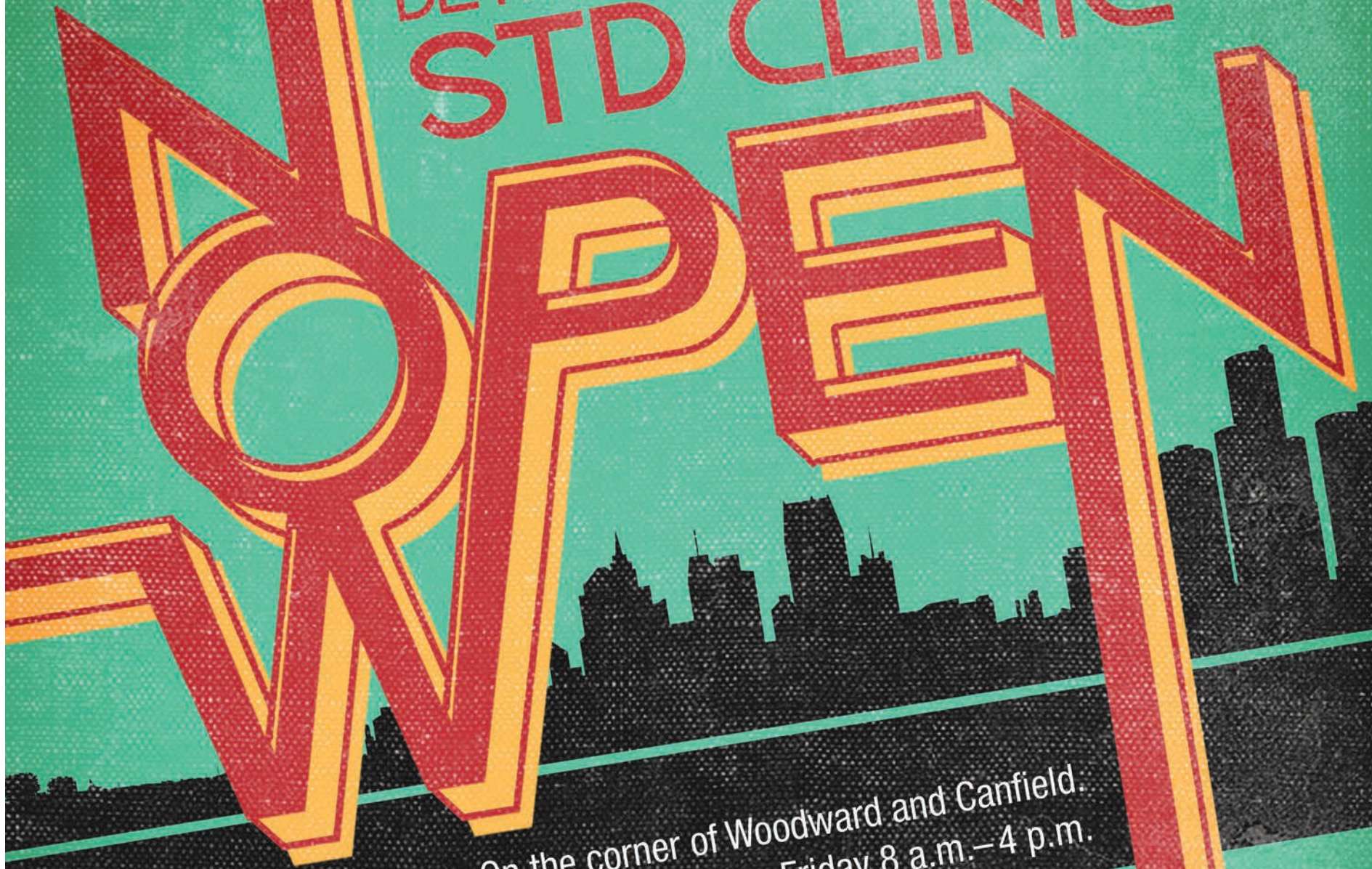


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