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Surpasses Orlando as  
Deadliest in U.S. History

LGBT Middle-Eastern  
Americans Find Community  
During Arabian Nights

Guidance: Not Infectious,  
HIV Science Turns a  
Corner

**DEMI LOVATO  
ON HER  
OWN TERMS**

'Sorry Not Sorry' Singer Talks Sexuality,  
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FALL HOME GUIDE

In adults with HIV on ART who have diarrhea not caused by an infection



## Tired of planning your life around diarrhea? Enough is Enough

Get relief. Pure and simple. Ask your doctor about Mytesi.

### Mytesi (crofelemer):

- Is the **only** medicine FDA-approved to relieve diarrhea in people with HIV
- **Treats diarrhea differently** by normalizing the flow of water in the GI tract
- Has the same or fewer side effects as placebo in clinical studies
- Comes from a tree sustainably harvested in the Amazon Rainforest

### What is Mytesi?

Mytesi is a prescription medicine that helps relieve symptoms of diarrhea not caused by an infection (noninfectious) in adults living with HIV/AIDS on antiretroviral therapy (ART).

### Important Safety Information

Mytesi is not approved to treat infectious diarrhea (diarrhea caused by bacteria, a virus, or a parasite). Before starting you on Mytesi, your healthcare provider will first be sure that you do not have infectious diarrhea. Otherwise, there is a risk you would not receive the right medicine and your infection could get worse. In clinical studies, the most common side effects that occurred more often than with placebo were upper respiratory tract (sinus, nose, and throat) infection (5.7%), bronchitis (3.9%), cough (3.5%), flatulence (3.1%), and increased bilirubin (3.1%).

**For Copay Savings Card and Patient Assistance, see Mytesi.com**

Please see complete Prescribing Information at Mytesi.com.

NP-390-32

**Mytesi**<sup>®</sup>  
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delayed-release tablets

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### IMPORTANT PATIENT INFORMATION

This is only a summary. See complete Prescribing Information at Mytesi.com or by calling 1-844-722-8256. This does not take the place of talking with your doctor about your medical condition or treatment.

#### What Is Mytesi?

Mytesi is a prescription medicine used to improve symptoms of noninfectious diarrhea (diarrhea not caused by a bacterial, viral, or parasitic infection) in adults living with HIV/AIDS on ART.

**Do Not Take Mytesi** if you have diarrhea caused by an infection. Before you start Mytesi, your doctor and you should make sure your diarrhea is not caused by an infection (such as bacteria, virus, or parasite).

#### Possible Side Effects of Mytesi Include:

- Upper respiratory tract infection (sinus, nose, and throat infection)
- Bronchitis (swelling in the tubes that carry air to and from your lungs)
- Cough
- Flatulence (gas)
- Increased bilirubin (a waste product when red blood cells break down)

For a full list of side effects, please talk to your doctor. Tell your doctor if you have any side effect that bothers you or does not go away.

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

#### Should I Take Mytesi if I Am:

##### Pregnant or Planning to Become Pregnant?

- Studies in animals show that Mytesi could harm an unborn baby or affect the ability to become pregnant
- There are no studies in pregnant women taking Mytesi
- This drug should only be used during pregnancy if clearly needed

##### A Nursing Mother?

- It is not known whether Mytesi is passed through human breast milk
- If you are nursing, you should tell your doctor before starting Mytesi
- Your doctor will help you to decide whether to stop nursing or to stop taking Mytesi

##### Under 18 or Over 65 Years of Age?

- Mytesi has not been studied in children under 18 years of age
- Mytesi studies did not include many people over the age of 65. So it is not clear if this age group will respond differently. Talk to your doctor to find out if Mytesi is right for you

#### What Should I Know About Taking Mytesi

##### With Other Medicines?

If you are taking any prescription or over-the-counter medicine, herbal supplements, or vitamins, tell your doctor before starting Mytesi.

##### What If I Have More Questions About Mytesi?

For more information, please see the full Prescribing Information at Mytesi.com or speak to your doctor or pharmacist.

To report side effects or make a product complaint or for additional information, call 1-844-722-8256.

#### Rx Only

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Mytesi comes from the *Croton lechleri* tree harvested in South America.



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VOL. 2540 • OCTOBER 5, 2017  
ISSUE 1035

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# Las Vegas Shooting Surpasses Orlando as Deadliest in U.S. History

BY CHRIS JOHNSON

A deadly shooting at a concert Sunday night in Las Vegas has left more than 50 dead and 400 wounded, surpassing the shooting at a gay nightclub in Orlando as the deadliest in U.S. history.

The perpetrator – identified as Stephen Craig Paddock, 64 – fired from the 32nd floor of a Las Vegas casino upon an outdoor country music festival below as singer Jason Aldean performed.

According to the Associated Press, there was no immediate indication of the motive for the shooting. The Department of Homeland Security reportedly said there was no “specific credible threat” involving other public venues in the United States.

Based on accounts of the incident, the shooter apparently used a military-style weapon, such as an assault rifle.

According to CNN, law enforcement officials found Paddock dead inside his room at the Mandalay Bay hotel after he apparently killed himself. He was found with a cache of weapons, including 10 rifles.

President Trump from his Twitter account expressed condolences to the families of the victims as news reports rolled in about the tragedy.

“My warmest condolences and sympathies to the victims and families of the terrible Las Vegas shooting. God bless you! Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump).”

White House Press Secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said in a statement Monday morning President Trump “has been briefed on the horrific tragedy in Las Vegas.”

“We are monitoring the situation closely and offer our full support to state and local officials,” Sanders said. “All of those affected are in our thoughts and prayers.”

The death toll as of Monday already surpasses the shooting at Pulse nightclub in 2016 that left 49 dead and 53 wounded at the hand of Omar Mateen.

Terry DeCarlo, executive director of the Orlando LGBT Center, said on his Facebook page. His office stands ready to assist his local community reacting to the Las Vegas incident.

“Know that The Center is working on getting counselors to our offices, if you need to speak to someone after this morning’s horrific events in Las Vegas, we will be making them available to you...stay tuned and we will release times very soon!” DeCarlo said. “ORLANDO STANDS WITH LAS VEGAS!!!”

Nadine Smith, executive director of Equality Florida, called the shooting “another horrific,

inevitable, preventable, senseless tragedy.”

“Pulse has been eclipsed as the worst mass shooting in U.S. history,” Smith said. “And this one will be too. Somewhere, the profile tells us, there is another disaffected, angry man, likely with a history of domestic violence who is building an arsenal like the one reportedly in the shooter’s room as he slaughtered people from his balcony. His twisted sense of masculinity and entitlement coupled with an internet that feeds his petty grievances into a noble mission in his deluded mind.”

Smith added the shooting contributes to the sense of frustration with federal lawmakers over inaction in response to repeated mass shootings in the United States.

“Had everyone at the concert been armed they could not have stopped killing,” Smith said. “He opened fire at his leisure from a tactically superior vantage point. More guns aren’t making us more safe. More military-

“Pulse has been eclipsed as the worst mass shooting in U.S. history. And this one will be too. Somewhere, the profile tells us, there is another disaffected, angry man, likely with a history of domestic violence who is building an arsenal like the one reportedly in the shooter’s room as he slaughtered people from his balcony. His twisted sense of masculinity and entitlement coupled with an internet that feeds his petty grievances into a noble mission in his deluded mind.”

– Nadine Smith, executive director of Equality Florida

style weaponry is killing us with regularity. I’m heartbroken about Las Vegas. But right now all I can feel is rage at the predictability of it and the utter failure of our leaders to do a damn thing.”

## Court Upholds Ruling for Miss. Anti-LGBT Law – But There’s Stinging Dissent

BY CHRIS JOHNSON

A federal appeals court announced Sept. 29 it wouldn’t reconsider a ruling upholding a sweeping anti-LGBT “religious freedom” law in Mississippi – although one judge has penned a stinging dissent over the refusal.

The U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals refused to reconsider the ruling issued in June by a three-judge panel on the court upholding the law. The panel found the plaintiffs in the consolidated cases – one filed by Campaign for Southern Equality, the other by the Joshua Generation Metropolitan Community Church and 13 Mississippi ministers – lack standing to challenge on the basis it violated the Establishment Clause under the First Amendment.

The recorded vote against a rehearing of the decision was 12-2. Among those who dissented was U.S. Circuit Judge James Dennis, a Clinton appointee who said “the court has abdicated its mandate to decide the substantive claims raised by the plaintiffs.”

“Respectfully, the panel opinion is wrong; the plaintiffs have standing to challenge HB 1523 under Supreme Court and Courts of Appeals precedents,” Dennis writes. “The

panel opinion misconstrues and misapplies the Establishment Clause precedent, and... its analysis creates a conflict between our circuit and our sister circuits on the issue of Establishment Clause standing.”

Even though plaintiffs aren’t challenging a religious display set up by a government actor, which is sometimes forms the basis for Establishment Clause lawsuits, Dennis writes under the anti-LGBT law “the stigmatic harm suffered by non-adherents is sufficient to establish an injury-in-fact.”

“Because the plaintiffs in this case have alleged such a stigmatic harm, the panel opinion’s dismissal of this case is in error and should have been reversed by the court en banc,” Dennis writes.

Cited by the court as an example of similar case was the Fourth Circuit decision this year in *International Refugee Assistance Project v. Trump*, which found a Muslim lawful permanent resident of the United States had standing under the Establishment Clause to challenge a President Trump’s order banning immigration from six Muslim-majority countries.

“The panel opinion here states that IRAP is distinguishable because the Executive Order

at issue in that case would have barred the plaintiff’s wife from entering the country and thereby prolonged their separation,” Dennis writes. “But while the Fourth Circuit did recognize this effect as an injury sufficient to support standing, it also recognized as a ‘distinct’ injury the fact that the Executive Order ‘sends a state-sanctioned message condemning his religion and causing him to feel excluded and marginalized in his community.’”

As a result of denying standing to plaintiffs in the lawsuit challenging Mississippi’s “religious freedom” law, Dennis writes the Fifth Circuit panel “falls into grievous error, unjustifiably creates a split from our sister circuits, and rejects pertinent Supreme Court teachings.”

Joining Dennis in the dissent was U.S. Circuit Judge James Graves, an Obama appointee.

As a result of the Fifth Circuit decision, the Mississippi “religious freedom” law will go into effect. The measure, signed by Gov. Phil Bryant last year, enables sweeping discrimination against LGBT people.

The law prohibits the state from taking action against religious organizations that

decline employment, housing or services to same-sex couples; families who’ve adopted a foster child and wish to act in opposition to same-sex marriage; and individuals who offer wedding services and decline to facilitate a same-sex wedding.

Additionally, the bill allows individuals working in medical services to decline to afford a transgender person gender reassignment surgery. The bill also allows state government employees who facilitate marriages the option to opt out of issuing licenses to same-sex couples, but the person must issue prior written notice to the state government and a clerk’s office must not delay in the issuing of licenses.

There’s one more path in the courts for opponents of the law. Plaintiffs have the option of filing a petition of certiorari before the U.S. Supreme Court seeking review of the decision.

Robert McDuff, the Jackson, Miss.-based attorney representing plaintiff ministers in the Barber, affirmed “we do” intend to seek review of the decision before the Supreme Court.

*These articles originally appeared in the Washington Blade and is made available in partnership with the National Gay Media Association.*

# GNA Funding Gender Marker Changes on Passport Cards

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

A joint project of the Gender-Identity Network Alliance (GNA), Affirmations, the Trans Sistas of Color Project and the ACLU of Michigan is assisting trans people with getting their gender markers changed on their government-issued IDs.

The project stems from a 2011 policy change by the Michigan Secretary of State's office that allows people to change their gender marker on their state ID if they have a gender change on their birth certificate. This is problematic for people who have not had gender reassignment surgery, which is required in order to change the gender marker on their birth certificate.

An estimated one-third of trans people are able to have this surgery as costs are prohibitive and not covered by most insurance policies. Also, not every trans person defines their gender based on their physical anatomy.

Michigan became the only state with the birth certificate requirement and as a result the state's policy prevented a large number of trans residents from being able to obtain accurate identity documents.

The ACLU filed a lawsuit in federal court in May 2015 challenging the constitutionality of the state's policy. In return, the state unilaterally changed its policy to permit passports and passport cards to be used as the basis for changing the gender marker on a state ID. Since 2010, the U. S. Department of State has allowed trans people to submit a letter or affidavit from their physician stating that they have received the appropriate clinical treatment for gender transition. This does not have to include any surgical procedures.

This policy was enacted under Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and is now under threat from the current Trump administration. That's why trans people are encouraged to take advantage of the program and the financial assistance it provides to change their gender markers on their state IDs as soon as possible.

"The passport addition to the policy, while much better, is not optimal," said Jay Kaplan, staff attorney of the Nancy Katz and Margo Dichtelmiller LGBT Project with the ACLU of Michigan.

"Many trans people have no need for a passport or cannot afford the cost of a passport, which is about \$150. A passport card, which also can be used (it only permits traveling to Mexico and Canada) is cheaper and costs \$55."

**“It's truly amazing that we're able to do this because trans people need documentation that matches their gender identity.”**

– Lilianna Reyes, Affirmations program services director

## Act Now Before It's Too Late

GNA Founder and Executive Director Michelle Fox-Phillips encouraged the trans community to take advantage of this program without delay.

"We will provide the check for the passport card, which is \$30 to the state department and \$25 we make out to the U.S. Post Office for processing," she said. "So it's \$55 total. They will get their passport card with the correct gender and then they can take it to the secretary of state's office to get their license or state ID changed."

Lilianna Reyes, Affirmations program services director, said only 32 people had taken advantage of the program so far.

"It's truly amazing that we're able to do this because trans people need documentation that matches their gender identity," Reyes said. There is currently no shortage of funding for the program. Equality Michigan donated \$2,500, while the ACLU of Michigan gave \$1,000 and GNA, the TSOCP and Affirmations each gave \$500.

"We're going try to continue this as long as possible," she said. "There's no end date. We want to try to get as many people as we can into the pipeline. Because [Secretary of State] Rex Tillerson or [President] Trump can roll back that policy from Clinton at any time. So once that policy is rolled back we're back to square one with Secretary of State."

Jayla Jaorski has already taken advantage of the program.

"It meant a great deal to me to have an ID with my correct gender marker on it," she said. "It made me feel authentic and like the woman I knew I was."

To take advantage of the program, call Lilianna Reyes at Affirmations at 248-398-7105.



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## What is TRUVADA for PrEP?

TRUVADA for PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis) is a prescription medicine that is used together with safer sex practices to help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 through sex. This use is only for HIV-negative adults who are at high risk of getting HIV-1. To help determine your risk of getting HIV-1, talk openly with your healthcare provider about your sexual health.

Ask your healthcare provider if you have questions about how to prevent getting HIV. Always practice safer sex and use condoms to lower the chance of sexual contact with body fluids. Never reuse or share needles or other items that have body fluids on them.

## IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

### What is the most important information I should know about TRUVADA for PrEP?

#### Before taking TRUVADA for PrEP:

- ◆ **You must be HIV-negative before you start taking TRUVADA for PrEP.** You must get tested to make sure that you do not already have HIV-1. Do not take TRUVADA to reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 unless you are confirmed to be HIV-negative.
- ◆ **Many HIV-1 tests can miss HIV-1 infection in a person who has recently become infected.** If you have flu-like symptoms, you could have recently become infected with HIV-1. Tell your healthcare provider if you had a flu-like illness within the last month before starting or at any time while taking TRUVADA for PrEP. Symptoms of new HIV-1 infection include tiredness, fever, joint or muscle aches, headache, sore throat, vomiting, diarrhea, rash, night sweats, and/or enlarged lymph nodes in the neck or groin.

#### While taking TRUVADA for PrEP:

- ◆ **You must continue to use safer sex practices. Just taking TRUVADA for PrEP may not keep you from getting HIV-1.**
- ◆ **You must stay HIV-negative to keep taking TRUVADA for PrEP:**
  - ◆ Get tested for HIV-1 at least every 3 months.
  - ◆ If you think you were exposed to HIV-1, tell your healthcare provider right away.
- ◆ **To further help reduce your risk of getting HIV-1:**
  - ◆ Know your HIV status and the HIV status of your partners.
  - ◆ Get tested for other sexually transmitted infections. Other infections make it easier for HIV to infect you.
  - ◆ Get information and support to help reduce risky sexual behavior, such as having fewer sex partners.
  - ◆ Do not miss any doses of TRUVADA. Missing doses may increase your risk of getting HIV-1 infection.
- ◆ **If you do become HIV-1 positive, you need more medicine than TRUVADA alone to treat HIV-1.** TRUVADA by itself is not a complete treatment for HIV-1. If you have HIV-1 and take only TRUVADA, your HIV-1 may become harder to treat over time.

#### TRUVADA can cause serious side effects:

- ◆ **Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** TRUVADA is not approved to treat HBV. If you have HBV and stop taking TRUVADA, your HBV may suddenly get worse. Do not stop taking TRUVADA without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to monitor your health.

### Who should not take TRUVADA for PrEP?

#### Do not take TRUVADA for PrEP if you:

- ◆ **Already have HIV-1 infection or if you do not know your HIV-1 status.** If you are HIV-1 positive, you need to take other medicines with TRUVADA to treat HIV-1. TRUVADA by itself is not a complete treatment for HIV-1. If you have HIV-1 and take only TRUVADA, your HIV-1 may become harder to treat over time.
- ◆ **Also take certain medicines to treat hepatitis B infection.**

### What are the other possible side effects of TRUVADA for PrEP?

#### Serious side effects of TRUVADA may also include:

- ◆ **Kidney problems, including kidney failure.** Your healthcare provider may do blood tests to check your kidneys before and during treatment with TRUVADA. If you develop kidney problems, your healthcare provider may tell you to stop taking TRUVADA.
- ◆ **Too much lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis),** which is a serious but rare medical emergency that can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: weakness or being more tired than usual, unusual muscle pain, being short of breath or fast breathing, stomach pain with nausea and vomiting, cold or blue hands and feet, feel dizzy or lightheaded, or a fast or abnormal heartbeat.
- ◆ **Severe liver problems,** which in rare cases can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow, dark “tea-colored” urine, light-colored stools, loss of appetite for several days or longer, nausea, or stomach-area pain.
- ◆ **Bone problems,** including bone pain, softening, or thinning, which may lead to fractures. Your healthcare provider may do tests to check your bones.

**Common side effects** in people taking TRUVADA for PrEP are stomach-area (abdomen) pain, headache, and decreased weight. Tell your healthcare provider if you have any side effects that bother you or do not go away.

### What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking TRUVADA for PrEP?

- ◆ **All your health problems.** Be sure to tell your healthcare provider if you have or have had any kidney, bone, or liver problems, including hepatitis.
- ◆ **If you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant.** It is not known if TRUVADA can harm your unborn baby. If you become pregnant while taking TRUVADA for PrEP, talk to your healthcare provider to decide if you should keep taking TRUVADA.
- ◆ **If you are breastfeeding (nursing) or plan to breastfeed.** Do not breastfeed. If you become HIV-positive, HIV can be passed to the baby in breast milk.
- ◆ **All the medicines you take,** including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. TRUVADA may interact with other medicines. Keep a list of all your medicines and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist when you get a new medicine.
- ◆ **If you take certain other medicines with TRUVADA,** your healthcare provider may need to check you more often or change your dose. These medicines include certain medicines to treat hepatitis C (HCV) infection.

**You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit [www.FDA.gov/medwatch](http://www.FDA.gov/medwatch), or call 1-800-FDA-1088.**

**Please see Important Facts about TRUVADA for PrEP including important warnings on the following page.**

# I'm courageous, not careless.

I know who I am. And I make choices that fit my life.


TRUVADA for PrEP™ is a once-daily prescription medicine that can help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 when taken every day and used together with safer sex practices.

- ◆ TRUVADA for PrEP is only for adults who are at high risk of getting HIV through sex.
- ◆ You must be HIV-negative before you start taking TRUVADA for PrEP.

Ask your doctor about your risk of getting HIV-1 infection and if TRUVADA for PrEP may be right for you.

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(tru-VAH-dah)

## MOST IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT TRUVADA FOR PrEP

### Before starting TRUVADA for PrEP:

- **You must be HIV-1 negative.** You must get tested to make sure that you do not already have HIV-1. Do not take TRUVADA for PrEP to reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 unless you are confirmed to be HIV-1 negative.
- **Many HIV-1 tests can miss HIV-1 infection in a person who has recently become infected.** Symptoms of new HIV-1 infection include flu-like symptoms, tiredness, fever, joint or muscle aches, headache, sore throat, vomiting, diarrhea, rash, night sweats, and/or enlarged lymph nodes in the neck or groin. Tell your healthcare provider if you have had a flu-like illness within the last month before starting TRUVADA for PrEP.

### While taking TRUVADA for PrEP:

- **You must continue to use safer sex practices. Just taking TRUVADA for PrEP may not keep you from getting HIV-1.**
- **You must stay HIV-negative to keep taking TRUVADA for PrEP.** Get tested for HIV-1 at least every 3 months while taking TRUVADA for PrEP. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you think you were exposed to HIV-1 or have a flu-like illness while taking TRUVADA for PrEP.
- **If you do become HIV-1 positive, you need more medicine than TRUVADA alone to treat HIV-1.** If you have HIV-1 and take only TRUVADA, your HIV-1 may become harder to treat over time.
- See the "How To Further Reduce Your Risk" section for more information.

### TRUVADA may cause serious side effects, including:

- **Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** TRUVADA is not approved to treat HBV. If you have HBV, your HBV may suddenly get worse if you stop taking TRUVADA. Do not stop taking TRUVADA without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to check your health regularly for several months.

## ABOUT TRUVADA FOR PrEP

TRUVADA for PrEP is a prescription medicine used together with safer sex practices to help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 through sex. This use is only for HIV-negative adults who are at high risk of getting HIV-1.

- To help determine your risk of getting HIV-1, talk openly with your healthcare provider about your sexual health.

### Do NOT take TRUVADA for PrEP if you:

- **Already have HIV-1 infection or if you do not know your HIV-1 status.**
- Take certain medicines to treat hepatitis B infection.

## HOW TO TAKE TRUVADA FOR PrEP

- **Take 1 tablet once a day, every day,** not just when you think you have been exposed to HIV-1.
- Do not miss any doses. Missing doses may increase your risk of getting HIV-1 infection.
- Use TRUVADA for PrEP together with condoms and safer sex practices.
- Get tested for HIV-1 at least every 3 months. You must stay HIV-negative to keep taking TRUVADA for PrEP.

## IMPORTANT FACTS

This is only a brief summary of important information about taking TRUVADA for PrEP™ (pre-exposure prophylaxis) to help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 infection. This does not replace talking to your healthcare provider about your medicine.

## POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF TRUVADA FOR PrEP

### TRUVADA can cause serious side effects, including:

- Those in the "Most Important Information About TRUVADA for PrEP" section.
- New or worse kidney problems, including kidney failure.
- Too much lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis), which is a serious but rare medical emergency that can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: weakness or being more tired than usual, unusual muscle pain, being short of breath or fast breathing, stomach pain with nausea and vomiting, cold or blue hands and feet, feel dizzy or lightheaded, or a fast or abnormal heartbeat.
- Severe liver problems, which in rare cases can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow, dark "tea-colored" urine, light-colored stools, loss of appetite for several days or longer, nausea, or stomach-area pain.
- Bone problems.

**Common side effects** in people taking TRUVADA for PrEP include stomach-area (abdomen) pain, headache, and decreased weight.

These are not all the possible side effects of TRUVADA. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you have any new symptoms while taking TRUVADA for PrEP.

**Your healthcare provider will need to do tests to monitor your health before and during treatment with TRUVADA for PrEP.**

## BEFORE TAKING TRUVADA FOR PrEP

### Tell your healthcare provider if you:

- Have or have had any kidney, bone, or liver problems, including hepatitis.
- Have any other medical conditions.
- Are pregnant or plan to become pregnant.
- Are breastfeeding (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed. If you become HIV-positive, HIV can pass to the baby in breast milk.

### Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take:

- Keep a list that includes all prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements, and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist.
- Ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist about medicines that should not be taken with TRUVADA for PrEP.

## HOW TO FURTHER REDUCE YOUR RISK

- Know your HIV status and the HIV status of your partners.
- Get tested for other sexually transmitted infections. Other infections make it easier for HIV to infect you.
- Get information and support to help reduce risky sexual behavior, such as having fewer sex partners.
- Do not share needles or personal items that can have blood or body fluids on them.

## GET MORE INFORMATION

- This is only a brief summary of important information about TRUVADA for PrEP. Talk to your healthcare provider or pharmacist to learn more, including how to prevent HIV infection.
- Go to [start.truvada.com](http://start.truvada.com) or call 1-800-GILEAD-5
- If you need help paying for your medicine, visit [start.truvada.com](http://start.truvada.com) for program information.



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Version date: April 2017

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## SCOTUS Denies Review of Appeals Court Decision Striking Down Sex Offender Law

BY BTL STAFF

The U.S. Supreme Court announced Monday that it will not hear the State of Michigan's appeal in a challenge to the state's sex offender registration law, which was dealt a major blow by a federal appeals court in a unanimous decision last year.

Monday's announcement effectively requires the Michigan legislature to replace the existing law, thus creating an opportunity to reform Michigan's registry, which has been widely criticized as bloated and ineffective. The lawsuit was originally brought by the ACLU of Michigan and the University of Michigan Clinical Law Program in 2012.

"Courts have repeatedly recognized that Michigan's sex offender registry is not just unconstitutional, but it's an abject failure," said Miriam Aukerman, ACLU of Michigan senior staff attorney. "Our communities deserve effective public-safety measures that are based in facts and research, not wasteful and counterproductive policies based in fear. We look forward to working with the legislature on a common-sense approach that serves our communities."

In 2006 and 2011, the state legislature expanded the Sex Offender Registration Act (SORA), originally passed in 1994, creating harsher measures for registrants.

The amendments retroactively made most registrants register for life and imposed geographic exclusion zones barring them from living, working, or spending time with their children in large areas of every city and town. Additionally, the legislature added extensive and onerous new in-person reporting requirements that make it a crime for registrants to borrow a car, travel for a week, or get a new email account without immediately notifying the police. The changes were imposed without due process or a mechanism for review or appeal for the vast majority of registrants.

The plaintiffs in the case must all register for life despite decades old offenses and the fact that they do not pose a risk to their communities. Some plaintiffs were convicted as teens of consensual sex with younger teens, one person never committed a sex offense, and another was never convicted of a crime. All of the plaintiffs are parents or grandparents and as a result of SORA they cannot attend their children or grandchildren's graduations, sports events or school performances. Because the state posts pictures and extensive personal information about the plaintiffs online - including maps of where they live and work - they have repeatedly lost housing and jobs, and one plaintiff even faced death threats.

By denying the review, the Supreme

Court leaves in place a decision from the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals, which declared that portions of the law are unconstitutional. Noting the lack of evidence that registries actually protect the public, the appeals court held that restrictions added to the law after its original passage cannot be applied retroactively and that the state cannot cast people out as "moral lepers" solely on the basis of a past offense without a determination that they currently present a risk. The state appealed that ruling to the U.S. Supreme Court.

"Research proves that registries do nothing to keep us safe - in fact, they makes us less safe, as people with past offenses are stigmatized and pushed to the margins of society, making it harder for them to get jobs or an education, find homes, or take care of their families," said Paul Reingold of the University of Michigan Law School. "Smart public policy and current research show that this law should be reconsidered from the ground up."

Michigan has nearly 44,000 registrants, making it the fourth largest sex offender registry in the country, with the third highest registration rate per capita of any state. Michigan adds about 2,000 people to the registry each year, or about five a day.

## LGBT Groups Cheer Price's Resignation as Health Secretary

BY CHRIS JOHNSON

LGBT groups were among those cheering the news Sept. 29 that Secretary of Health & Human Services Tom Price resigned from his post amid scandal over using more than \$500,000 in taxpayer dollars for private jets on travel.

Although the cited reason for his resignation was the scandal, Price exits in the aftermath of several congressional attempts to repeal the Affordable Care Act, which provides health insurance for an estimated 20 million people, and accusations the Trump administration is sabotaging the law.

David Stacy, the Human Rights Campaign's director of governmental affairs, said in a statement Price's actions had a significantly negative impact on the health of LGBT people.

"We welcome Tom Price's resignation because he jeopardized the health and

well being of LGBTQ people and other marginalized communities," Stacy said. "Americans deserve a secretary of Health and Human Services who will stand up for them and look out for their best interests no matter who they are, where they come from or whom they love."

Prior to joining the Trump administration, Price had built an anti-LGBT record as a U.S. House member representing Georgia in Congress. In 2006, he voted for a U.S. constitutional amendment that would have banned same-sex marriage throughout the country. Price also voted against hate crimes protections legislation, "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" repeal and a version of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act.

In 2013, Price participated in a conference call hosted by Tea Party Unity and said a caller was "absolutely right" about the potential of negative health and fiscal impact of legislation

promoting LGBT rights. The caller was Rabbi Noson Leiter, who attributed the arrival of marriage equality in New York to Hurricane Sandy.

Sarah Kate Ellis, CEO of GLAAD, cited Price's anti-LGBT record in a statement celebrating the resignation of Price.

"After decades of targeting marginalized communities for his own profit, karma finally caught up with Tom Price," Ellis said. "It's a relief that an anti-LGBTQ activist like Price was removed from the Trump Administration's highest ranks, but LGBTQ Americans must remain vigilant and prepare for the next nomination - as they could bring the same discriminatory agenda as the rest of the president's picks."

*This article originally appeared in the Washington Blade and is made available in partnership with the National Gay Media Association.*

## White House Distances Trump from Roy Moore's Anti-Gay Views

BY CHRIS JOHNSON

President Trump may have said on Twitter Roy Moore "sounds like a really great guy," but White House Press Secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders was busy Sept. 28 distancing Trump from the U.S. Senate candidate over his anti-gay views.

In response to questions from mainstream media outlets, Sanders said Trump, who has own his anti-LGBT record, doesn't share the views of Moore, who's said homosexual conduct should be illegal and called on Alabama to ignore the U.S. Supreme Court ruling in favor of same-sex marriage. On Tuesday, Moore won a Republican primary to run for an open seat representing Alabama in the U.S. Senate.

Asked by Bloomberg News about Moore's anti-gay comments as well as his stated belief Muslims shouldn't be able to serve in Congress, Sanders initially refused to weigh in.

"As we've said many times before, I'm not going to get into back-and-forth on political endorsements from the podium, so I'm not going to weigh in on a specific race ahead of time at this point," Sanders said.

But Sanders put some distance between Trump and Moore in response to follow-up questions. When asked if the president shares the Alabama Republican's views, Sanders replied, "Not that I'm aware of."

"I have not taken a deep dive on every comment that the Senate nominee has made," Sanders added. "But I certainly know where the president stands on those issues, and wouldn't see any parallel between the two of them on that front."

Asked if a Republican candidate could take action or hold views that would bar Trump from endorsing that candidate, Sanders refused to comment based on the hypothetical nature of the question.

"I know where the president stands on specific issues -- that's what I can speak out -- not somebody else that's a candidate for another office that's not here," Sanders said.

Asked if she'd condemn the comments, Sanders replied Trump doesn't agree with Moore, but stopped short of issuing a condemnation of the anti-LGBT views.

"I would certainly say we don't agree with those comments," Sanders said. "But in terms of whether or not I'm going to get into the back-and-forth over another candidate, we're here to focus on the president, the president's agenda, and those are the questions and the people that I can answer for."

Trump's approach to LGBT issues may not be the same as Moore's, but still is filled with anti-LGBT actions. Among other things, Trump's administration has revoked guidance assuring transgender kids access to schools restrooms, ordered the U.S. military to ban transgender troops and hired attorneys at the Justice Department who are litigating against gay rights under the law.

*This article originally appeared in the Washington Blade and is made available in partnership with the National Gay Media Association.*

# LGBT Middle-Eastern Americans Find Community During Arabian Nights

## Menjos Celebrates 15 Year Partnership with Al Gamea Offering Support, Safe Space

BY KATE OPALEWSKI

As a gay, Arab American Muslim, it was scary for Hussein Ayoub to be so religious as a young man and at the same time be something that is damned by God. But how does he choose being gay over his religion?

“I didn’t. I suppressed my feelings,” said Ayoub, who immersed himself in his faith and hoped to pray away the gay.

He came to the U.S. from Lebanon when he was three years old.

“I actually don’t know anything but America. I just happened to be more inclined to learn about my history and learn my language and my culture more than some immigrants,” he said, noting that his family is not religious at all.

Yet Ayoub gave lectures at the mosque, he worked as a tutor at Islamic camps, he taught the Quran and attended school wearing Islamic Thobes like religious leaders do. All the while listening to his circle of friends at the time talk negatively about gay men.

“They would say things like, ‘Send them to Iran and let them get hanged’ or ‘If that was my brother, I would be so disgusted. He wouldn’t exist to me anymore.’ Hearing someone you love say that destroys you,” said Ayoub.

Around the age of 18, he grew more and more depressed in his Dearborn community. He was fearful of the idea that people like him can be sent back to their homelands to be tortured, beheaded and buried in unholy land.

“We can’t come out because our families are so abusive verbally and emotionally,” said Ayoub. Religion did not help nor did the long nights spent alone crying.

“I knew I had to try. I didn’t know if I was gay, but I wouldn’t know if I didn’t try. I would joke around with my friends and say things like, ‘He’s such a cute man,’” said Ayoub, who slowly started spending less time with his religious friends. “But this isn’t a joke. It’s getting really serious. I’m truly having feelings for my guy friends.”

So he acted on them.

“June 5, 2015 was the day that I finally went out on a date with a man and that’s when I knew I have feelings for men because that four hour date with him was by far the greatest four hours ever,” said Ayoub. He went on another date a few days later and was overwhelmed by “how good this felt.” That feeling continued when Ayoub went to his first Arabian Nights event at Menjos in Detroit, which celebrated 15 years on Sept. 30.



Hussein Ayoub in his teenage years and currently.



“I have never felt so much pride in being myself while I was there. I loved the atmosphere. I even saw four or five friends from high school there – Lebanese, Iraqi, Pakistani and Yemen men and women – not just me. I am not the only one who exists,” he said.

### Al Gamea Gives Meaning to Arabian Nights

Arabian Nights is sponsored by Al Gamea, a group formed in 2006 to address the growing needs of local gay Middle-Eastern Americans. In 2009 it became a non-profit organization founded by Christiano Ramazzotti who opened up his home to host gatherings and perform outreach. The goal was to find out where gay Arabs were hiding. Eventually, they outgrew the space and moved it to Craig Covey’s house. The longtime activist and politician served as the first openly-gay mayor of Ferndale.

Working in the LGBT community for many years, and also in the field of HIV education and prevention, Covey had made sustained efforts to reach and organize the gay Latino, Arabic, and Asian communities.

“I worked on this not only because we needed to reach these groups with health information, but because I have always believed that diversity and inclusion were important and desirable,” he told BTL.

With support from the state health department they used surveys, community

outreach techniques, popular opinion leaders and business owners to learn about the community and reach them in a safe and supportive way. “We had a lot of success, and this resulting success story is one I am really proud of, and it certainly can be and has been used as a model,” he said.

Arabian Nights outgrew Covey’s house too so they moved their event out of the shadows and into places like Q-Bar and Club 9 in Ferndale. They also gathered for a short time at Gigi’s and the Malebox in Detroit.

“In the beginning it was just a party to be more visible in the community,” said Ramazzotti, who co-produces the event with his husband David Ponsart and Tony Eljallad, vice president of Al Gamea. As this inspired more people to come out, the greater the need became to protect each other and keep each other safe. Ramazzotti began using the event to fundraise for Al Gamea, which established an Emergency Shelter Assistance Program for Middle Eastern LGBT people who have been ousted by their families and from their communities.

“In July of 2015, someone told my mother that I was gay and all hell broke loose,” said Ayoub. “I was able to push away the gay accusation because of how religious I was, but by January 2016 the tension between my mother and I had gotten so bad and she decided that she no longer wanted me to live in her house because ‘a gay man does not belong in my house. God’s wrath is upon this household because you’re gay.’”

Since then, he has been living with a roommate who was also displaced.

When something like this happens, Ramazzotti said, “We offer first month’s rent and deposit for an apartment. Some people ask us for food. Just recently we approved somebody who was kicked out of his home. He had enough money to move into an apartment but he had no food, bed, anything. So we’re taking care of him.”

### A Voice for the LGBT Middle Eastern Community

In June 2016, the weekend of Motor City Pride, Ayoub woke up to news of the Pulse Nightclub massacre in Orlando.

“That shook me like crazy. This could have been me. Suppressing my feelings. Keeping it hidden. I was feeling thousands of emotions. It was very shocking. Someone taking my religion and killing people in my religion’s name. That’s not what my God taught me as a devout Muslim. I would never think about hurting someone else.”

So he posted a Facebook message that said, “As a gay, Arab American Muslim, I do not condone this at all.”

Ayoub decided he no longer wanted to live in the closet.

“I knew I had to be a voice for Arab Muslims who are gay and they had to have a voice for themselves,” he said. “I was immediately

See LGBT Middle Eastern, page 15

# Guidance: Not Infectious HIV Science Turns a Corner

BY TODD HEYWOOD

For the first time since the HIV epidemic began, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta has announced that some people living with the virus can attain a state where they pose no risk of transmitting the disease.

On Sept. 27, National Gay Men's HIV/AIDS Awareness Day, the federal agency released a guidance – called a dear colleague letter – declaring persons living with HIV who take their medication as prescribed and achieve an undetectable viral load “have effectively no risk of sexually transmitting the virus to an HIV-negative partner.”

Since the advent of combination antiretroviral treatment in 1996, scientists and medical professionals have been aware that the treatments can suppress the virus to an undetectable level in the blood. Undetectable, for the federal government, means less than 200 viral particles per milliliter of blood -- men have on average five to six million blood cells per mL of blood, while women have an average of four to five million blood cells per mL of blood. In Michigan, many medical providers are using a much more sensitive viral load test which measures 28 or more viral particles per mL of blood.

The standard of care for HIV now is a combination of drugs which interrupts the virus' replication cycle at various stages. Scientists discovered in the 90s that three drugs targeting three different areas of the replication cycle are necessary to disrupt the virus' reproduction cycle and prevent it from developing resistance to the drugs. As a result of that combined assault on the virus, free viral particles, which can be transmitted, are drastically reduced in the blood stream.

The decision to support the messaging that people living with HIV fulfilling their treatment as a preventative move is backed by three separate studies. Those studies followed hundreds of couples – both gay and straight – where one partner was HIV-positive and the other was HIV-negative. In each of those studies, not a single transmission of HIV was genetically linked to the positive partner.

Michigan health officials have been telling HIV-positive people that treatment is a form of prevention for about a year, Erica Quealy, a spokesperson for the Michigan Department of Health and Human Service said in an email. That will increase this budget year she said.

“In addition, the CDC's 2018 HIV prevention grant requires that we design HIV prevention programs around treatment as prevention and we are developing our program guidance to meet these requirements,” she said.

The CDC statement was warmly greeted

The decision to support the messaging that people living with HIV fulfilling their treatment as a preventative move is backed by three separate studies. Those studies followed hundreds of couples – both gay and straight – where one partner was HIV-positive and the other was HIV-negative.

by HIV activists as well. In Michigan, a 1989 law makes it a felony for a person to fail to disclose his or her HIV-positive status prior to any sexual penetration, “however slight.” A 1994 Michigan Supreme Court ruling upheld that law, determining in part that sexual activity by a person living with HIV was inherently risky. The new science and directive from the CDC, however, undermines that legal thinking and gives advocates working to change the law ammunition in their fight.

“By amplifying the findings from multiple studies, that people living with HIV who have an undetectable viral load will not transmit HIV to an HIV-negative partner, we can move forward with efforts to modernize our HIV laws in states like Michigan,” said State Rep. Jon Hoadley (D-Kalamazoo). He has been trying to spearhead a reform effort since elected three years ago. “Let's be the generation that ends AIDS by ensuring everyone can access treatment.”

Kelly Doyle, who runs the Michigan Coalition for HIV Health and Safety, an advocacy group backing Hoadley's reform efforts echoed the lawmaker's praise.

“We know that many people living with HIV deal with fear and stigma of disclosing their status due to threats of violence, harm or concern of being shunned,” she said by email. “People living with HIV use safer sex behaviors to protect their partners and being undetectable is one way they do this. This shows that changing our current HIV criminalization laws is more imperative than ever and outdated to the current science of HIV.”

She's also the executive director of CARES in Kalamazoo, an AIDS Service Organization. She said while many of the groups' clients greet the news with enthusiasm, it takes time to get them over the perception that they can become uninfected.

“I think that most people have a hard time believing in the science and overcoming their fear infecting others,” she said.

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# How's It Hangin' Big Guy?



## Parting Glances

OPINION BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

Like people, words can be outed. Take the noun “testimony” for example. It’s closet meaning goes back to biblical times, and the quaint family values custom of holding and swearing an oath on the balls (testicles) of one’s father.

“So help me, JHVH! I swear this oath of promise to love, care, and protect my 25th plural wife on my father’s bodacious, low-hanging, everfecund, circumsized family jewels.”

(With their enthusiasm for male bonding, it’s a custom the Promise Keepers – you do remember these religious zealots, don’t you? – might have revived and added to their repertoire of male biblical bonding techniques. “You bless my biblical set. I’ll bless yours.”)

Who has and who hasn’t balls is too often religious history in a nutshell. Take for example the curious legend of Pope Joan, who supposedly got in male drag and was elected Pope John VIII in the auspicious year of 855.

You won’t find Joan in The Oxford Dictionary of Popes, but her story goes that her brief reign as Catholic Prelate ended when she somehow got pregnant. (Oh, no. Not another, virgin birth!)

You won’t find Joan in The Oxford Dictionary of Popes, but her story goes that her brief reign as Catholic Prelate ended when she somehow got pregnant. (Oh, no. Not another, virgin birth!)

The Church says the pope business is all nonsense. Which is well and good, except for the fact that hidden away in the Vatican Museum is an unusual chair made of aubergine marble. A candidate for the papacy was asked to sit on it. A special feature is its centered, sizable hole that allows for a deft fondle, a sanctified grope for the truth, as it were.

According to Catholic scholar Peter Stanford in his book, “The Legend of Pope Joan,” this papal commode was used to make sure that an elected pontiff was a well-hung he and not a virginal she. (It was a matter of sitting down humbly and getting up heavenly.)

Equally cunning is St. Peter’s papal altar. It’s decorated with eight pudenda carvings, the work of sculptor Gianlorenzo Bernini. Pope Urban III requested these flesh flowers in stone – female genitalia – as a thank you for the successful pregnancy of his favorite niece. (Whether these items distract the occasional straight celebrant is another matter.)

You show me your pudenda. I’ll show you mine.

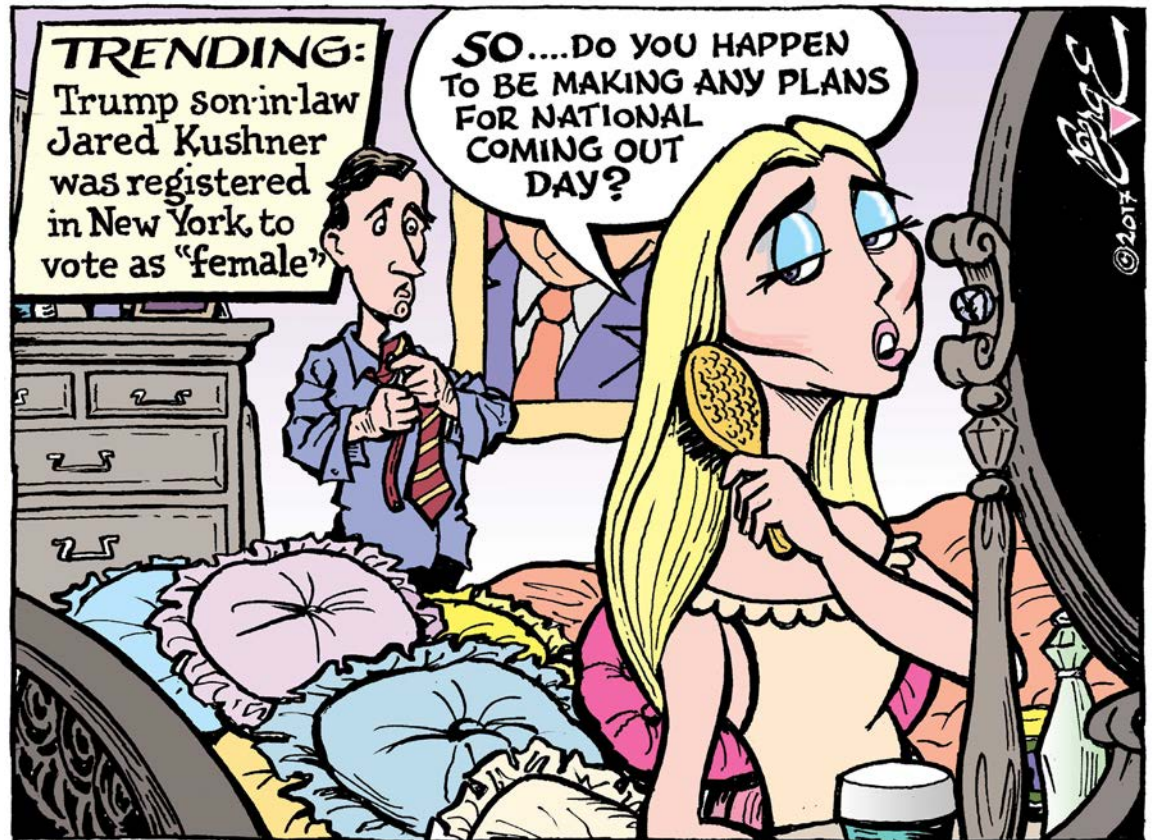
Then there’s Joan of Arc, who led Catholic France to victory, but was tried for treason and heresy by the Church and burned at the stake. Her treason was not that she was a victorious militant female, but that she wore male clothes. A – pun, fully intended – cross dresser!

Apparently testes and how they are hanging well, or not hanging well, is back again in the news, this time on the contemporary scene in the USA. The cover story of last week’s Newsweek is titled “Who’s Killing America’s Sperm?” Subtitle One: “The sudden rise in male infertility is a scary national crisis.”

Subtitle Two: “And we can’t blame it on Trump – or can we?” The article concludes, “It’s an inconvenient message, but the species is under threat, and that should be a wake up call to all of us.” Yes! Let’s blame Trump. (Instead of you know who.)

It’s damn obvious that very, very few Americans have the balls to impeach him.

Connect with Charles Alexander at [Charles@pridesource.com](mailto:Charles@pridesource.com).



## The Purging of Ann Arbor’s (Queer) Past

BY TIM RETZLOFF

I knew criminal court cases could be a gold mine for researching LGBTQ history. I did not know such records were so vulnerable.

As I recounted in an earlier blog post, my path to queer remembering started in the late 1980s with looking into old gross indecency and sodomy cases at the Genesee County Court House, unkind clerical staff and all.

When I moved from Flint to Ann Arbor in 1995, I had good reason to delve back into court records. From a pioneering exposé written in 1977 by Daniel Tsang for the Midwest Gay Academic Journal, I knew that the University of Michigan had engaged in highly publicized crackdowns on homosexual activity on campus in the late 1950s and early 1960s. From my Flint research, I knew that court documents promised to yield more details.

I made an initial survey of Washtenaw County criminal records in the summer of 1998, making notes and copies from a sampling of the cases. Of more than 200 cases, I managed to look at thirty-five.

From these, I found that those arrested were typically prosecuted as felons for attempted gross indecency; they typically pled guilty; and Judge James Breakey typically sentenced them to five years of probation, a \$275 fine, and ten days in the county jail, in some cases to be served on weekends “beginning at close of present semester.”

As I later learned from my work on Detroit, such treatment was particularly harsh. Detroiters who tried to pick up undercover police officers in the same years as the Ann Arbor crackdowns usually faced charges of

## Viewpoint

See next page

Untapped evidence that might have shed new light on Prohibition, or on the Students for a Democratic Society, or on marijuana prosecutions prior to Ann Arbor's famous five-dollar fine for a joint ordinance, was gone forever.

accosting and soliciting for immoral purposes, a misdemeanor, and after pleading guilty were given thirty days in the county jail, which was waived if the defendant paid a \$50 fine, plus one year of probation.

The Ann Arbor police who conducted the decoy operation learned such techniques as foot tapping for attracting homosexual come-ons, unlawful as they were, thanks to training from the Detroit Vice Squad. Patrolman Herbert McGuire revealed this connection in testimony given in one of the U of M cases after the judge cleared the courtroom. See Examination before Judge Robert L. Shankland, December 14, 1959, Criminal Case no. 11-893 (1959), Washtenaw County Clerk Files, copy in possession of author.

The original of this 30-page document no longer exists. Within just a few years after county staff photocopied it for me, county staff destroyed it.

On June 30, 2001, I returned to review the Washtenaw County records more thoroughly in preparation for a conference paper. I learned then that the files had been purged of all documents except for the sentencing and final disposition.

"So much for permanent retention," I wrote in my journal that day. "Trying not to feel so devastated."

The systematic destruction of documents applied to all criminal records that had not been active for twenty-five years, a span then covering 1880 to 1975. Nearly a hundred years of records were shredded per proper bureaucratic procedures.

I obsessed over the evidence that had been lost. I could barely sleep for nearly a week.

Besides handicapping my own study of gay and bisexual men in Ann Arbor, this act of

bureaucratic shortsightedness, implemented under the authority of Washtenaw County Clerk Peggy M. Haines (whose name remains etched in my mind), constituted an incalculable gutting of a crucial body of rich source material for local social history. Untapped evidence that might have shed new light on Prohibition, or on the Students for a Democratic Society, or on marijuana prosecutions prior to Ann Arbor's famous five-dollar fine for a joint ordinance, was gone forever.

Is gone forever.

When I decided to focus on lesbian and gay life and politics in Metro Detroit for my dissertation, I knew that the criminal files from the Detroit Recorder's Court would yield riches, as would court records for Oakland and Macomb County. To my great relief, I confirmed that they had all been microfilmed.

Mining them required more than eight months of looking through over 100,000 unindexed cases from 1944 to 1965 in order to locate about 1,200 that were relevant to my project. These cases did, indeed, prove invaluable to understanding city, suburb, and the changing map of queer Detroit in new and nuanced ways.

To this day, I think about the detailed Ann Arbor project that might have been. I feel haunted by how much of Ann Arbor's past, queer and otherwise, was so thoughtlessly and needlessly purged.

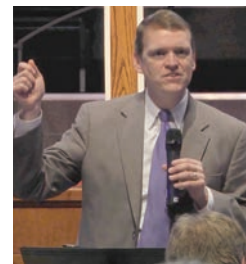
*This column is being republished from Tim Retzlaff's Queer Remembering blog (<https://queer-remembering.blog>) from the Michigan LGBTQ Remember (<https://michiganlgbtqremember.com>) site. Retzlaff is a professor of LGBT studies and U.S. history at Michigan State University.*

# Creep of the Week

## Jeff Mateer

BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

Most Americans don't spend a lot of time thinking about this country's court system. If you're lucky, you don't have a lot of direct contact with the courts. The most privileged among us don't even



really have to think about it. The judicial system is like a sewer system: if it's working okay then it's largely out-of-sight out-of-mind. But

when it gets clogged up with garbage everybody is sorry they didn't take better care of it and check on it sooner.

And clogging our courts up with garbage is just what Donald Trump is doing. He's outsourced the judge-picking to far right groups who have been giving him names of extremists that he is dutifully nominating. They are unfit for the bench, but when you're the president, they let you do it.

One of these nominees is Jeff Mateer who has been nominated for a lifetime seat on the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Texas. And he is a nightmare.

In a video put together by the People for the American Way, Mateer calls homosexuality "the elephant in the room" and bemoaned "the agenda that this small group is seeking and imposing on the rest of us."

According to this man, who Trump wants to make a judge forever, LGBTQ people are not protected by the Constitution.

"I've read the 14th Amendment thousands of times," he says in a recording. "I don't see anything about right to same sex marriage, I don't see anything saying right to homosexuality, I don't see anything about right to privacy."

No doubt he thinks it perfectly all right to tell a lesbian couple, "We're not going to rent to you" or refusing to make a cake for a gay couple's wedding citing religious freedom.

He also believes in so-called "reparative therapy," which has been thoroughly debunked by medical experts but is still embraced by those who

believe that you can just "pray the gay away."

The worst is what he has to say about transgender kids and their audacity to fight for the right to use the restroom at school.

"It just shows you how Satan's plan is working and the destruction that's going on," Mateer says.

Mara Keisling, the executive director of the National Center for Transgender Equality, isn't having it. "How dare he?" Keisling asks. "How dare anyone talk about children this way? This nomination is another slap in the face to hundreds of thousands of families across the country and their children who are transgender. How can they explain to their children that a public official, let alone a judge, speaks about them this way? This nominee simply cannot be confirmed."

And yet, he probably will be. Republicans have been rubber stamping Trump's nominees. The Democrats are opposing them, but they are in the minority.

In a letter signed by 278 parents of transgender children from 36 states, Mateer is encouraged to apologize and invited to withdraw his nomination.

"Hundreds of thousands of children and adolescents throughout this country are transgender, like our kids" the letter reads. "Like all children—like your children, Mr. Mateer—they deserve to grow up knowing that they are loved and supported. Your statements about children like ours are the opposite of love—they are cruel. We urge you to apologize sincerely and without reservation to us and our families and all the others like us, and to clearly articulate how wrong and damaging your words are to children like ours—or to withdraw your nomination."

Of course, that's like imploring the fox to be nice to the chickens now that he has the key to the coop. The radical right doesn't exactly have a history of showing mercy to LGBTQ people. Quite the opposite.

Elections have consequences. And when Trump is finally gone his legacy will live on in conservative anti-LGBTQ judges across the country and in the Supreme Court that will shape the legal landscape for generations to come. Some of the battles we thought we won will have to be fought again. The most effective weapon against this? Vote.

## Michigan Non Profit Resource

### Have You Experienced Discrimination?

If you or someone you know has experienced discrimination, intimidation, harassment or violence because of sexual orientation, gender expression or gender identity,

contact Equality Michigan's Department of Victim Services at :

**report@equalitymi.org or call 1-866-962-1147**

Equality Michigan is working with state legislators to update the Ethnic Intimidation Act to include proper protections for the gay and transgender community.

To get involved in the movement for better hate crimes law, contact [policy@equalitymi.org](mailto:policy@equalitymi.org).

**Hundreds more resources can be found at**  
**[www.PrideSource.com](http://www.PrideSource.com)**

## Stonewall Strong

*Below is an excerpt from “Stonewall Strong: Gay Men’s Heroic Fight for Resilience, Good Health and a Strong Community,” by John-Manuel Andriote. The book will publish Oct. 8 by Rowman & Littlefield; www.stonewallstrong.com.*

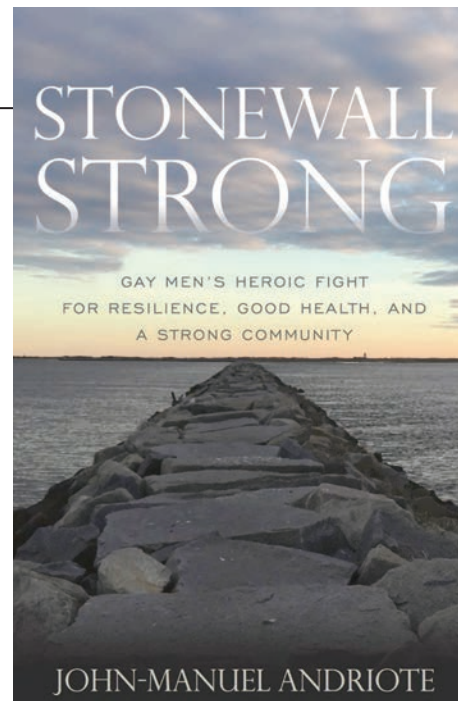
In 1961, Frank Kameny and Washington, D.C., native Jack Nichols organized the Mattachine Society of Washington, D.C., an affiliate of Harry Hay’s original group in Los Angeles in name more than in style. Nichols had been deeply affected at age 15 when he read Edward Sagarin’s 1951 book “The Homosexual in America.” Nichols recounted decades later in a letter to “The Gay Metropolis” author Charles Kaiser that he was most touched by Sagarin’s quotation from the prominent African-American activist and author W. E. B. Du Bois: “The worst effect of slavery was to make the Negroes doubt themselves and share in the general contempt for black folk.” Nichols well understood the harmful effects of self-stigma in gay men’s lives.

Kameny and Nichols realized that one of the biggest obstacles to gay people’s progress in society was the psychiatric profession’s classification of homosexuality as a mental illness. In a 1964 speech to the New York Mattachine Society, Kameny said, “The entire homophile movement is going to stand or fall upon the question of whether homosexuality is a sickness, and upon our taking a firm stand on it.”

In March 1965, the D.C. group threw down the gauntlet to the psychiatric establishment whose scientifically dubious classification of homosexuality served, as needed, to justify discrimination against gay people. “The Mattachine Society of Washington,” read the group’s public statement, “takes the position that in the absence of valid evidence to the contrary, homosexuality is not a sickness, disturbance or other pathology in any sense, but is merely a preference, orientation or propensity, on par with, and not different in kind from, heterosexuality.”

The following month, Kameny, together with other members of the Washington Mattachine Society and members of the lesbian group Daughters of Bilitis, launched the first gay and lesbian protest in front of the White House on April 17, 1965. Ten members picketed against Cuban and U.S. government repression of homosexuals in the first organized protest by gay people demanding equality. On July 4 of that year, Kameny and Nichols organized the first-annual Fourth of July pickets outside Independence Hall in Philadelphia. Their presence before America’s most hallowed building was intended to remind Americans that not all their fellow citizens were granted the equal justice under law promised in the Constitution, written and adopted right there.

Many of the new generation of activists who thrived on the energy of Stonewall after the 1969 riots looked at the Mattachine Society’s coat-and-tie, blouse-and-skirt politeness as an anachronism, a hangover of an earlier



time. Wistful longing for a place “somewhere over the rainbow” was giving way to a new insistence on equality here and now. “We were going to smash that rainbow,” says Stonewall “veteran” and Philadelphia Gay News founder and publisher Mark Segal. “We didn’t have to go over anything or travel anywhere to get what we wanted.”

But it was the Mattachines, the gay men and lesbians who had been chipping away — bit by bit, year by year — at the very bedrock of legal and social homophobia. The Washington Mattachines had already made it clear in their 1965 declaration to the psychiatric profession that there would no longer be a market in the homosexual community for their “pseudoscientific” views of homosexuality. In 1970, the executive committee of the National Association for Mental Health declared that homosexual relations between consenting adults should be decriminalized. The group’s San Francisco chapter adopted a resolution asserting, “Homosexuality can no longer be equated only with sickness, but may properly be considered a preference, orientation or propensity for certain kinds of life styles.” Braced by the affirmation, gay activists began to strike with vehement regularity at the American Psychiatric Association.

“Psychiatry is the enemy incarnate!” shouted Kameny, seizing the micro- phone as he and other gay-rights activists effectively took over the world’s most important gathering of psychiatrists during its prestigious Convocation of Fellows. The Mattachines may have been known for their button-down style of protest, but Kameny was no ordinary Mattachine. He was a man who believed with every fiber of his being that gay is good. “Psychiatry has waged a relentless war of extermination against us,” he told the assembled doctors. “You may take this as a declaration of war against you.”

The APA’s nomenclature and statistics committee met with a group of gay activists, including Bruce Voeller from the newly

formed National Gay Task Force (NGTF), who presented the scientific evidence proving homosexuality was not a mental illness. The committee, headed by Robert Spitzer, prepared a background paper on homosexuality for the APA’s board. In it they defined the simple standard by which psychiatrists to this day determine mental illness: For a psychiatric condition to be considered a mental illness, it must either cause distress or impair an individual’s social functioning. “Clearly,” wrote Spitzer, “homosexuality, per se, does not meet the requirements for a psychiatric disorder since ... many homosexuals are quite satisfied with their sexual orientation and demonstrate no generalized impairment in social effectiveness or functioning.” For the record, he noted, “the terms ‘normal’ and ‘abnormal’ are not really psychiatric terms.”

Two years after Kameny declared war on psychiatry, the American Psychiatric Association’s board of trustees voted unanimously in December 1973 to remove homosexuality from the “Diagnostic and Statistical Manual,” the bible of psychiatric disorders. The board acknowledged that “the unscientific inclusion of homosexuality per se in the list of mental disorders has been the ideological mainstay for denying civil rights” to homosexuals. For good measure, they called for the repeal of sodomy laws and for the passage of antidiscrimination measures to protect the rights of gay people. Ronald Bayer, co-director of Columbia University’s Center for the History and Ethics of Public Health, pointed out that the APA’s diagnostic change “deprived secular society ... of the ideological justification of its discriminatory practices.”

At a time when physicians, including psychiatrists, were held in very high esteem, it was unheard of that the prestigious medical field could possibly include homosexuals. To prove otherwise, former New York City health-services director Howard J. Brown, M.D., came out publicly as a gay man in October 1973. His announcement made the front page of the New York Times. He told the paper he decided to come out because times were changing. “You get to a point in your life where you want to leave a legacy,” he said. “In a sense, this can help free the generation that comes after us from the dreadful agony of secrecy, the constant need to hide.”

Brown capitalized on the publicity his coming out generated by helping to found the National Gay Task Force (NGTF) on Oct. 16, 1973, which helped achieve the massive victory with the APA for gay people only two months later. He wrote in his 1976 memoir,

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During LGBTQ History Month, BTL will publish in-depth features on LGBTQ history that are based in fact as part of the LGBT History Project. Read additional stories online at [www.pridesource.com](http://www.pridesource.com) throughout the month of October.

### Stonewall Rebellion: It wasn't Judy!

### New Doc Explores Mysterious Death of a Mother of the Trans Community

### 1954 Miami Murder Leads to 'Homosexual Panic'

### 'Gypsy' the Musical is LGBT History?



“Familiar Faces, Hidden Lives,” “The gay activists who converged on Washington on Dec. 15, 1973, were the first group of patients in history to insist that they were not sick and to demand that the label be removed.” When the APA voted to de-pathologize homosexuality, Brown says, “Never in history had so many people been cured in so little time.”

Even before the APA’s 1973 decision, Richard Pillard, M.D., had already become the first openly gay psychiatrist in America. Pillard had just turned 82 when I interviewed him for this book in October 2015. He recalled his own experience in psychoanalysis as a patient. He was married at the time and had three daughters. After four years of analysis, he realized he was a gay man and needed to find a male partner. He divorced his wife but remained, and remains, close to her and his three daughters. “I concluded I am a gay man,” he said, “and this is not a mental disorder.”

Besides knowing Howard Brown, another inspiration for the newly out Dr. Pillard was an invitation in the spring of 1970 from the Boston University student homophile league. Now he would know other openly gay people right there in his workplace. “Less than a year after Stonewall, the idea of coming out was becoming embedded in our psyches,” said Pillard. “I remember

telling a colleague I was going to give a talk to the student homophile league, and he said, ‘My god, there’s a league of them?’”

Pillard said that coming out had immediate rewards. Best of all, he said, there were no more “dark secrets.” He thought a moment, then added, “That is gay liberation. Freedom from our own fear.”

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*John-Manuel Andriote has written about LGBT, HIV/AIDS and other health and medical subjects since the early 1980s. He is the author of “Victory Deferred: How AIDS Changed Gay Life in America”; “Hot Stuff: A Brief History of Disco/Dance Music”; “Tough Love: A Washington Reporter Finds Resilience, Ruin and Zombies in his ‘Other Connecticut’ Hometown”; and a “fable for kids ages 5-105” called “Wilhelmina Goes Wandering.” His articles have appeared in the Washington Post, The Atlantic, the Huffington Post and leading LGBT publications across America. Andriote regularly speaks at conferences and universities, is interviewed by print and broadcast media and has been an adjunct communication professor at Eastern Connecticut State University. For more information on “Stonewall Strong,” visit [www.stonewallstrong.com](http://www.stonewallstrong.com).*

## ► LGBT Middle Eastern

Continued from p. 10

ostracized by family overseas, some of them whom I have never even met before or seen or heard of in the last 15 years. The death threats from my family and my father in particular, my friends and Islamic community who I loved and cherished so much here in Dearborn, also turn their back on me and sent me many hateful and hurtful messages online and to my phone.”

Although progress has been made, Ayoub said, “This is not an issue that will go away or that Arabian Nights alone will solve. There is so much to talk about and so much to do. The Arabic community just doesn’t want to do it. Being Arabic and gay is something that is so taboo. Just bringing up the subject for discussion is difficult. We can’t even talk about it. People in my culture are so concerned about what other people think, it blinds them.”

Part of the solution, he said, is that more gay Arabs have to come out.

“There is also a very large Iraqi Chaldean gay community and they also remain in the closet out of fear from their community. The hatred towards gays is not just an Islamic, Christian, or Arabic issue, it is a Middle Eastern cultural issue as a whole. Chaldeans who are not Muslim or Arab are also killed for being gay. Even Persian men and women who are gay face hangings in Iran and Afghanistan and they

are killed and beheaded in Saudi Arabia.”

By being more visible, Ayoub hopes more conversations among community leaders will be unavoidable and perhaps second generation Arabs and Chaldeans will feel more comfortable going against the conservative customs and beliefs held by their elders who emigrated from Middle Eastern countries to the U.S.

“My mother and I are close friends now and after some dialogue and patient conversation between the two of us she now has a more open mind about gay men and women,” said Ayoub, adding that Arabian Nights is a good place to be authentic and seek out much-needed support.

He added, “The sense of community you feel when you see people there who speak your language, of your own heritage, culture and sexuality celebrating who we are – immigrants, proud of being Arabic, proud of being gay. The pride they have – Tony, Chris and David – the time they put into creating something so inclusive is just awesome.”

*Jason A. Michael contributed to this story.*

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*Stay connected with Menjos at 928 W. McNichols Rd. in Detroit by calling 313-863-3934 or visit [www.newmenjoscomplex.com](http://www.newmenjoscomplex.com) for upcoming Arabian Nights events. Learn more about Al Gamea on Facebook [www.facebook.com/ALGAMEA/](http://www.facebook.com/ALGAMEA/)*



Photo by  
Christophe Dessaigne

### L'État de siege (State of Siege) Théâtre de la Ville

by **Albert Camus**  
Directed by **Emmanuel Demarcy-Mota**  
Friday-Saturday, October 13-14 // 8 pm  
Power Center

In this nightmarish future, a city is reduced to silence and submission to authority. A character called The Plague takes control of the government, imposing a regime of contagion, domination, and disinformation — until a young man, Diego, organizes a revolt. Written in 1948 in the aftermath of World War II, *State of Siege* reflects the creation of a corrupt, totalitarian regime, weaving together paranoia, endurance, and the necessity of resistance.

*Performed in French with English supertitles.*

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### Written in Water Ragamala Dance Company

Ranee and Aparna Ramaswamy, co-artistic directors  
Live music performed and written by **Amir ElSaffar**  
Friday, October 20 // 8 pm  
Power Center

In *Written in Water*, Ranee and Aparna Ramaswamy explore the concept of spiritual ascension through the 2nd-century Indian board game *Paramapadam* (upon which Snakes & Ladders is based) and the 12th century Persian epic *The Conference of the Birds*. Rooted in the South Indian Bharatanatyam classical dance form, the large-scale multi-disciplinary performance unfolds with paintings projected on the stage floor. This “gameboard” serves as a physical and metaphorical framework for a world of psychological complexity, with snakes and ladders representing the heights of ecstasy and the depths of longing in Hindu and Sufi thought.

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# Charles Alexander's 'Art and Autograph' Debuts

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

A new collection of the mixed media art of Between The Lines columnist and venerable LGBT community institution Charles Alexander has just been released. The Scarab Club presents "The Art of Charles Alexander" by John Douglas Peters, a well-respected artist himself, sells for \$49.95 from his Treasure Press with proceeds going to the Scarab Club, of which Alexander is a board member.

The book features 55 images of Alexander's art throughout the years. "I asked Charles to give me everything he had and we ended up with about 140 images," said Peters of the process of putting the book together. "We had them all professionally imaged at the Detroit Institute of Arts. Then we had them all printed out. I laid the 140 out and tried to find a cohesive structure, which I ended up doing.

"I started picking out and cutting ones that were not as strong as others or may have had the same look," Peters continued. "I would go to Charles and say, 'What about this? What about that?' and we worked back and forth."

From start to finish, Peters said working on the project with Alexander was a joy.

"Working with him was an absolute pleasure," he said. "He is a very introspective and cognitive person and could explain to me what he was trying to do with each particular piece. Although no artist

likes doing it he was able to do it."

Alexander has explained his process to Between The Lines before. In an article last year he said, "There is little conscious planning as I create my art. 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."

Peters sees it the same. "Spontaneity would be the word that would summarize his style," Peters said. "He takes a piece of paper and he works on it until he feels it's done."

Peter said the two never argued while working on the project, and that they did the best job they could of presenting a comprehensive collection of Alexander's work.

"What we didn't have access to were images from the first ten years of his output," he said.

"We also did not date any of the images because we could not date all of the images. So organizing them chronologically was not an option available to us."

In the end, the collection is compelling and expressive, just like the artist, himself.

"I think it's excellent," said Peters. "I'm not talking about myself. I'm talking about his work. Not only was his stuff very printable but he had enough of it so we could select a subset from the universe. And we ended up with a very wonderful



The artist with his newly released book. Alexander will be on hand Friday at the Scarab Club in Detroit from 5 - 8 p.m. during an opening reception of his work. BTL photo: Jason A. Michael.

subset, which wouldn't have been available for most artists because they don't have their work. Charles is so prolific that even though he has sold many, many images he still has

many, many images because he does about one a day."

Starting Friday, 25 of those images will be on view at the Scarab Club for the companion exhibit to the

book, titled "Art and Autograph." The exhibit runs Oct. 6 - Nov. 11 and both Alexander and Peters will be on hand opening night to sign books and meet and greet from 5-8 p.m.

The book release will mark the culmination of a friendship and mutual appreciation which goes back some 25 years.

"I first became aware of Charles's work in 1992," Peters recalled. "I thought it was unique and impressive and now that I'm retiring and do a few books I picked Charles to do the first book on because I thought his work was outstanding and should be seen by a broader audience."

As for the artist, himself, he says the new collection of his work fills him with pride.

"I'm proud that I've used my art as an openly gay artist and that I have used many, many of my art pieces to benefit our rainbow community in times favorable, times challenging, times of great sorrow and tribulation," said Alexander. "Our community is truly blessed with several gifted artists. I'm only one of many. But I'm proud especially that my art is the result because of my sobriety, which is now in its 36th year."

The exhibit "Art and Autograph" opens at the Scarab Club, which is located at the corner of John R. and Farnsworth Streets just across from the Detroit Institute of Arts, Oct. 6 - Nov. 11. There will be an opening reception on Oct. 6 from 5-8 p.m. and both author and artist will be signing books.



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# Approachable and Comfortable Design

## Talking with Michigan Designer Paul Feiten



“I make things very approachable and user-friendly. You have to be comfortable, and your house has to be pretty, too.”

– Paul Feiten



Photos: Beth Singer

BY JONATHAN W. THURSTON

**B**ased in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, Paul Feiten is an interior designer who is all the rage with numerous awards to his name, including the prestigious Detroit Home Magazine award. And he has a message for home-owners.

Feiten’s website offers his interior design philosophy: “I strive to create a home that is beautiful as well as functional with a keen eye to placement of furniture and accessories.”

When it comes to design, it’s clear that Feiten is just as attuned to function as he is aesthetics. “I make things very approachable and user-friendly. You have to be comfortable, and your house has to be pretty, too.”

When asked about what he does for clients, he said much regarding the current culture of furniture purchasing. “I know furniture well as far as scale, design and a certain finesse, so I can educate the client and tell them why these choices are better,” Feiten says. “When you open up a magazine and you see the furniture, you’re like, ‘Where’s that furniture?’ And they’re not available at a retail level. It’s available to me. Unfortunately, there are not stores around for consumers to go into, just the basic local furniture on the market. The smart consumer will hire a designer to get a better look.” A clear price-quality ratio exists for consumers, Feiten argues.

“Somebody will go out and spend \$1,500 on a sofa, and the cushions will start going, and the sofa will not last, and after three years, they’re ready for another sofa. A wiser consumer spends \$5,000 on a sofa, and it lasts 20 years. But that furniture is not available to the consumer walking in.”

Feiten has been doing this for most of his life. When he was younger, he had the opportunity to be a part of the family business as a manufacturing representative, “very technical parts in a sophisticated industry,” Feiten says, but lost interest once he was out of college. “I wanted to do something more creative. So, I started out



on my own. I’ve been doing this since I was 23 years old.”

When it comes to design, Feiten focuses a lot of his efforts on international design. “Travel is a big source of inspiration. When you go to Europe, people have different words to describe things that we don’t have in our language. They would put new fabrics together and different combinations.” Like much of Feiten’s work, those design choices are often not just aesthetic, but also functional. “I work with a variety of people from...Egyptian heritage, Lebanese heritage, Arabic heritage, Italian heritage and even Indian. So I’m able to work with indigenous people and integrate some of their artifacts and their heritage and their customs into their home...You’re in a very personal home, and you know their home has to reflect that.” Some of his recent work has led him to find an Indian swing for an Indian home and even a dining room table that can seat 18 for larger, communal dinners.

When asked about his awards from the Detroit Home Magazine, Feiten explained how big an honor it was having judges across the country – impartial and not connected with the Michigan area – praise his work. “I’ve won numerous awards over the years with Detroit Home Magazine... It’s competitive, and they judge fairly. It’s just a great way to be recognized with the industry.”

*Paul Feiten can be reached via phone at 248.763.7323 or through his contact form at the Michigan Design Center website.*

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## Fall Home Guide



# Tips for Buyers and Sellers in our 'Hot' Housing Market

BY BRAD BELL

When I hear friends talk about the local real estate market, the word I hear over and over again is “hot”. For buyers and sellers it means fewer homes are on the market and prices are rising.

According to Realcomp MLS, the August inventory of homes listed for sale was down compared to the prior year by 33.5 percent in Wayne County, 29.2 percent in Oakland County and 41.4 percent in Macomb County. Year-to-date median homes sale prices are up 8.9 percent, 10 percent and 5.8 percent in those counties, respectively.

But what does that really mean if you are looking to move in the current environment?

For those getting ready to sell, this can all be great news, particularly for those selling homes that resemble the “after” of an HGTV renovation show. Updated homes which are priced competitively tend to go under contract in just a few days, often receiving multiple offers.

However, before sellers put the “For Sale” sign out they should be prepared that deferred maintenance or over pricing a home can put them at a complete disadvantage. Even in a “hot” market, many still homes sit on the market for several months. Ultimately most sellers become buyers, so the advantage of the well-priced HGTV house can evaporate when they start looking for their next home.

For homebuyers, the lack of inventory can create a very frustrating situation as there are just not enough homes to meet demand. I have helped many buyers navigate this challenging territory, but it requires lots of patience and flexibility.

Being flexible on timing can greatly reduce client’s overall stress. Buyers under a specific move deadline are more likely to purchase a house that doesn’t meet their key needs. Buyers can select from a wider range of listings if they have flexibility on a lease end day, can make plans to stay with family or friends or are in a financial position to purchase their next home before having to sell their current one.

Buyers should also consider purchasing during a less busy time of year. In Michigan, home buying activity generally peaks between April and early July. The fall and winter can be great times to look as fewer buyers are in the market. Also buyers shouldn’t discount looking during the holiday season. With so many larger employers continually transferring employees in and out of the area, lots of sellers have to list during holiday periods. Buyers who are looking during the fall should not take a break during the holidays as they can miss some great opportunities.

Many of my clients want an updated, move-in-ready home, but this category of properties is where demand most exceeds supply. These homes often end up in a bidding war, and buyers with low down payment loans will find themselves less competitive in a multiple-offer situation.

Instead, I encourage clients to consider a house that may need some cosmetic updates. Homes that are structurally and mechanically sound but need fresh paint, new flooring or even kitchen and bath updates can be the right move for many buyers.

Location is the one thing about a house that can’t be changed. Sometimes to purchase in the location a client wants, they have



Brad Bell

**For homes that need a lot of remodeling, many lenders offer special mortgage programs that allow buyers to finance renovations as part of their home purchase.**

to take on a house that needs work. For homes that need a lot of remodeling, many lenders offer special mortgage programs that allow buyers to finance renovations as part of their home purchase.

Lastly I would remind buyers that making the most attractive offer on a house is not always about price. Buyers who present strong mortgage approval letters, larger down payments, quick closing timeframes, short inspection periods and have flexibility to allow sellers to stay in a home after closing for a few weeks, often have an advantage in multiple offer-situations. If sellers can avoid a double move, that has real financial value to them. They may not take the highest priced offer, as that may not be the best offer for them.

Despite tight inventory, today’s low mortgage rates still make it a good time to purchase a home. With the tax advantages of ownership, many of my clients find their monthly cost of ownership well below area rental costs.

A successful home purchase just requires the right mix of planning, patience and flexibility in our “hot” housing market.

*Brad Bell is the Associate Broker, Sine & Monaghan Realtors, 30574 Woodward Ave. in Royal Oak. For more information, call 248-835-4644 or visit [www.bradbellrealestate.com](http://www.bradbellrealestate.com).*



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# Marriage Equality Paving the Way for Increased LGBTQ Interest in Home Ownership

## Survey Finds LGBTQ Community Will Spend More Discretionary Income on Their Homes



BY BTL STAFF

The 2015 Supreme Court ruling legalizing marriage equality has paved the way for more LGBTQ home purchases, according to the 2017 National Association of Gay and Lesbian Real Estate Professionals (NAGLREP) Homeownership Survey.

The online survey of more than 325 NAGLREP members found that 47 percent of those surveyed believe more LGBTQ married couples are buying homes than prior to the decision, while 46 percent believe the entirety of the LGBTQ community is more interested in homeownership than prior to the Supreme Court's Obergefell vs. Hodges ruling.

"We firmly believe that when Jim Obergefell won his Supreme Court case, it was the start of a paradigm shift for the LGBT community," said NAGLREP founder Jeff Berger.

"The confidence we gained, coupled with society's continued acceptance of the community, is having an impact. Marriage will likely bring more wonderful life events including children, homeownership and a potential increase in suburban living."

Berger cited that 57 percent of those surveyed reported that LGBTQs with children has increased since the marriage equality decision. Interestingly, 29 percent of the real estate agents felt a sizeable number of their LGBTQ clients would move from urban settings to the suburbs at a higher rate in the coming year compared to the reverse (24 percent). Berger also shared that discrimination against the LGBTQ community remains a concern with 44 percent of those who responded indicating a sizeable number of their LGBTQ clients would experience the same or worse discrimination than in years past.

"We still have a long way to go to eradicate housing discrimination against our community," Berger said. "NAGLREP fully supported the Equality Act, which was supported by the Congressional LGBT Equality Caucus, the Human Rights Campaign and 92 major U.S. corporations, when it was unveiled in May. The National Association of Realtors (NAR)

also joined us in supporting Congressman Scott Taylor's (R-VA) proposed bill, the Fair and Equal Housing Act, to eliminate housing discrimination against the LGBTQ community. NAR has shared that they will also support the Equality Act."

### Other Notable Findings:

- 50 percent believe a sizeable number of their LGBT clients will become homeowners in the coming year while "move up" buyers (49 percent) will dwarf downsizers (18 percent).

- LGBTQ homeowners may go on a spending spree with 55 percent of surveyed agents expecting a sizeable number of their clients will spend more of their discretionary income on their home in the coming year, including new furniture (51 percent) and smart home technology (50 percent).

- 34 percent of surveyed agents indicated that a sizeable number of their LGBTQ clients will purchase a second home in the next 12 months.

- 70 percent of agents believe the same amount or more of their LGBTQ clients will look for a new job in the coming year compared to previous years.

The NAGLREP study also showed that LGBTQ homebuyers face similar concerns to their non-LGBTQ counterparts. Those surveyed indicated their LGBTQ clients are very or extremely concerned with affordability (60 percent), competition from other buyers (57 percent) and safety in their new neighborhood (53 percent). Credit history (31 percent), likelihood of loan approval (29 percent) and legal and title ramifications (21 percent) were of least concern.

"The higher prices in today's real estate market are largely the result of a lack of supply and increased competition amongst buyers, and clearly the LGBT buyer is aware of this," Berger said. "I do believe the LGBT community should be more aware of the legal and title issues because unmarried couples do not automatically share their same protections."

Visit [www.naglrep.com](http://www.naglrep.com) for more information.

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# Join the Maker Movement and Do It Yourself



BY BTL STAFF

The Village Workshop in Northville exists for those looking for a place that has everything they could ever think of to make anything they could ever think of. It's like a garage, basement, studio, or workspace filled with every possible machine to work on projects like the ones seen on the internet and TV.

The Village Workshop offers a "Maker Space" as part of

its Maker Movement to connect people back to vocations, technologies, and the spirit of do-it-yourself invention.

The space was opened in March 2015 by Northville residents Brian Donovan, Chris McDonald, and Dennis Engerer. There are no limits to what a person can create, design and make there with a plethora of tools, equipment, staff and software needed to make ideas come to life. It is a community space dedicated to creativity, learning, entrepreneurship, and prototype services.

The Village Workshop is a member-based, 26,000-square-foot community work space built in 1875.

Members include inventors, artists, builders, makers, small businesses, soon-to-be small businesses, not-so-small businesses, students, engineers, designers, crafters, hobbyists,

and retirees.

One does not have to be a member, though, to take a class. There is a computer lab, cooking space, craft studio, electronic shop, machine shop, metal shop, sewing studio, woodshop and even kids classes available to the public.

The classes, workshops and seminars inspire creators and are open to anyone from beginners to experts. The Village Workshop offers private events, custom group workshops for parties of four or more. Facility rental and catering available.

*The Village Workshop is located at 455 E. Cady St. in Northville and is open from 9 a.m. - 10 p.m. seven days a week. For more information, call 248-667-7157 or visit [www.thevillageworkshop.com](http://www.thevillageworkshop.com).*

## Help Detroit Block Works with 'The Old Redford Reset'

BY BTL STAFF

Detroit Block Works is looking for volunteers for a massive undertaking. The project is tentatively called "The Old Redford Reset." The goal is to transform a neighborhood overnight by way of a mass cleanup effort. The date the group is aiming for is Oct. 28. Hands are needed to help with heavy lifting.

*For those who are interested, please contact [Jason@DetroitBlockWorks.org](mailto:Jason@DetroitBlockWorks.org) or visit [www.facebook.com/DetroitBlockWorks/](http://www.facebook.com/DetroitBlockWorks/) for additional information.*



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## Elvira Kurt Performs at Women in the Arts Festival

Elvira Kurt is one of Canada's most accomplished comedians, individually as a stand-up and also as an improviser with The Second City, enjoying many years of comedic success in both Canada and the U.S.

One of North America's hottest college acts, Kurt has been nominated as both U.S. College Comedian

and Entertainer of the Year. She is in the midst of co-producing an all female comedy tour called "Girls School" which will be filmed and is already a huge success, being voted one the top comedy in shows in Toronto last year.

Kurt will perform at 6 p.m. on Nov. 11 at the 32nd Annual Women in the Arts Festival at the Edgewood United Church, 469 N. Hagadorn, in East Lansing. Tickets are \$15 to see her perform during a celebration of regional women artists that takes place during the second weekend of November each year.

The festival features a huge artist market, musicians, poets, and other creative arts as a symbol of WITA's commitment to support women in the creative pursuits. WITA is a volunteer-



Elvira Kurt

run organization with the goal of creating space for creative women to showcase their talents.

The festival schedule includes musical performances by Jamie Anderson, Diedre McCalla and Dianne Davidson. More information is available online at [www.witafestival.com](http://www.witafestival.com).

## Proud to Be Out at MSU

The LGBT Resource Center at Michigan State University welcomes students to celebrate joy and pride in themselves whether they are out to the world, to their family or just to themselves.

On Oct. 11, stop by the Center between 9 a.m. - 7 p.m. to partake in all of the great National Coming Out Day festivities - from Froot Loops and milk (and milk alternatives) to free T-Shirts, a photo booth, adult coloring activities, music and more.

In recognition and support of the complicatedness of coming out, especially when someone is coming out with multiple, intersected identities, the Center will offer the following student groups throughout the day as they host conversation, celebration, and community at the Center.

### A-Spectrum

9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

A group for asexual and aromantic identities

### TransAction

1-4 p.m.

A group for trans and gender non-conforming identities

### LGBT POC

4-7 p.m.

A group for LGBTQIA+ students of color

The MSU LGBT Resource Center is located at 302 Student Services, East Lansing. Visit <http://lbgtrc.msu.edu> for more information.

## Mid-Michigan Recovery Services Hosts Support Group

Concerned about drinking or drug use? Looking for a safe, peer-supported, therapeutic environment to explore issues with substance abuse? Mid-Michigan Recovery Services is offering a support group for queer, transgender and gender non-conforming people with a free, open meeting on Tuesdays from 3:30-4:30 p.m. to address the specific needs of community members with encouragement in the exploration of self-identity; individual role changes in family and community relationships as well as challenges that may come with discrimination and stigmas. The group will also explore substance use and how it relates specifically to the LGBTQ+ community on a drop-in basis.

There will be education and discussion of positive coping skills to assist individuals in navigating complexities of self-disclosure of sexuality or gender identity in families or community while providing education and support regarding substance use complications in this process. Resources and referral to family support groups and substance abuse treatment are also available.

The meeting is held at 913 W. Holmes Rd., Suite 200, in Lansing. Please call 517-887-0226 for more information regarding cost and insurance benefits coverage.

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## 'Sorry Not Sorry' Singer Talks Sexuality, Gay Icons and New YouTube Doc

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Whether it's knowing the already-established history of her sexuality or recalling that time a man had a very visible erection on stage as she performed, Demi Lovato appreciates Demi-schooled journalists.

"Thanks for doing your research," the 25-year-old singer-actress tells me. "I really appreciate and respect that."

Her warm send-off caps our frank exploration of queer topics, including the Disney alum's desire to maintain an air of mystery regarding her own sexual orientation.

While promoting her sixth studio album, "Tell Me You Love Me," Lovato talked artists who pander to the LGBT community, daddy issues and Mariah Carey, meanwhile thoroughly explaining her mindful decision to remain tight-lipped to the press about the gender of the person she's dating.

**Because many people will likely not have the opportunity to experience this, what is it like to perform at an NYC gay bar with gay porn playing and a man gyrating on a pole who very clearly has an erection?**

(Laughs) You know what, it was very interesting. I wasn't paying much attention to what was going on behind me, but it was definitely a first-time experience... and it will probably be the last. Actually, who knows. It might not be the last!

**You weren't paying attention to it? And by "it," you know what I mean.**

I definitely noticed it, but I was trying to perform!

**It was being called one of the most cringeworthy stage invasions ever.**

Yeah, it was pretty cringeworthy.

**While we're on the topic of wangs, tell me how the first thing out of your mouth while accepting the GLAAD Vanguard Award last year ended up being about Nick Jonas' penis, when you said yours is bigger than his.**

It was a joke that I was thinking about saying before I went on because I know that everyone in the audience was totally daydreaming about Nick.

**Was it even more special to have Nick present the award to you?**

It definitely meant something that it was being presented by somebody who has been very, very close to me for almost 10 years of my life, but also, it felt really amazing that I was being awarded by a whole community of people. I wasn't seeking an award. I was just doing what is right. And people should be accepting of the LGBT community. It's a no-brainer for me. So, defending and standing up for the LGBT community is something that I've always been fearless to do because it's just the right thing to do.

**You've headlined many Prides and you even filmed your video for**

DEMI  
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Photo: Dennis Leppold

**2013's "Really Don't Care" at LA Pride. What has been your most proud Pride moment?**

I think my most proud Pride moment would be getting the Vanguard Award. It was just amazing. It was just a really good feeling and I was so honored to get that award.

**When in your career were you first aware that you had an LGBT following?**

I was aware at the very beginning because I came out with a song called "This Is Me" for a movie called "Camp Rock" (in 2008) and I had gay guys tell me, "This song helped me come out to my family because this song represents who I am." That was when I was 15, and that was really beautiful to me and really unbelievable and powerful.

**You have become a staunch advocate for the gay community. I bet your late, gay grandfather would be really proud of your LGBT activism. I love what you said about him in 2014 on "Trailblazers," a Logo TV special honoring LGBT civil rights pioneers. How did he influence the way you grappled with your own sexuality?**

He definitely influenced me a lot. I actually would not like to talk about it just because I feel like – I think I outed him, actually, to some relatives, so it's kind of a sensitive subject.

**You didn't know he wasn't out?**

No, I had no idea.

**How about other queer trailblazers that you've looked up to?**

No – you know, I love who I love and I feel like I look at everybody who is outspoken about who they are as an inspiration and that's it.

**Your sexuality has been thoroughly dissected by the Internet after you alluded to being open to both genders. I want to give you the opportunity to speak on it as directly as you'd like.**

Thank you for the opportunity, but I think I'm gonna pass.

**"Cool for the Summer" became an anthem for people in the LGBT community, but AfterEllen, a lesbian pop-culture website, got the impression you were suggesting that same-sex intimacy has to be a secret. Was that message your intent and how would you respond to their feedback?**

My intention with the song was just fun and bi-curiosity. I think people look at song lyrics – they look too into it. I wish I could tell that website to "chill the fuck out" and "take a break," because it's just a song.

I think we live in a world today where no matter what you do, you're doing something wrong, whether it's cultural appropriation or it's being insensitive to certain groups

of people. We just live in that age where everything we do is wrong and, unfortunately, everyone's looking for a reason to have their voices heard, and sometimes it's not always in the most positive way.

**As someone who is an LGBT advocate, is there a reason you choose not to speak openly about your sexuality?**

I just feel like everyone's always looking for a headline and they always want their magazine or TV show or whatever to be the one to break what my sexuality is. I feel like it's irrelevant to what my music is all about. I stand up for the things that I believe in and the things that I'm passionate about, but I like to keep my personal life as private as possible when it comes to dating and sexuality and all that stuff just because it has nothing to do with my music. Unfortunately, we live in a world where everyone is trying to get that soundbite and I am purposefully not giving the soundbite. Watch my documentary.

**Oh?**

I have a documentary coming out on October 17 (on YouTube called "Demi Lovato: Simply Complicated") and I answer a lot of questions in my documentary.

**About your sexuality?**

Yeah, some about that. Because if ever I want to talk about it, I want it to be on my own terms.

**Then can we talk about how the drag queens are about to be practicing every song from this album for their routines? Because you guest judged "RuPaul's Drag Race." You know drag. What performance advice do you have for a drag queen who wants to do your new song "Daddy Issues"?**

Ohh, I was thinking that would be a fun song for drag! I think a lot of people can relate to the lyrics, so just relate to it and then pour your heart and soul out into it.

**Is it important to have daddies on stage?**

No, no, no. It's actually coming from the point of view where it's like, "I have daddy issues," so you don't have to dress as a daddy. I mean, you can if you want! (Laughs)

**Do you have a desire to be a gay icon?**

If it happens, amazing. I think sometimes people can abuse that opportunity by trying to win over the gay community. It's something that if it happens, amazing, and I'm more than willing to be that for people. But I don't go out trying to win over a certain community just so I can say that I have that fanbase.

**Have some singers tarnished the "gay icon" label?**

No. Nobody has tarnished the label, but I've heard people say with certain people they are kind of using the fanbase just to get to that demographic. I never want my music to be for anyone. I want my music to stand up for them.

**You don't want to pander is what it seems you're saying.**

Yeah. I'll never do that. If the gay community loves my music because they love it, then awesome.

**When it comes to gay icons, the Chers, Madonnas and Gagas of the world, which do you most want to share the stage with?**

I would love to share the stage with Gaga and Cher. I'd love to share the stage with RuPaul as well! I kind of did, but I want to perform with him.

**How about Mariah?**

(Laughs) You're funny.

**Even though you called her "nasty" for her J. Lo shade, and her response when asked about**

**you was "I don't know her," you both have GLAAD awards and I want to see you two kiss and make up and record a song together.**

I think she's got an incredible voice and, you know, yeah, I'd love to share the stage with her.

**As someone who has overcome obstacles to be the sober, confident and empowered woman you are now, what would you tell a young, struggling LGBT person also trying to triumph over similar substance-abuse hurdles and body-image issues?**

I think a lot of people drinking and using in the LGBTQ community has to do with finding their identity. The most important thing to know is that you are never going to find your identity through drugs and alcohol, so don't even go there. You are not going to find the answers through drugs and alcohol.

*As editor of Q Syndicate, the international LGBT wire service, Chris Azzopardi has interviewed a multitude of superstars, including Meryl Streep, Mariah Carey and Beyoncé. Reach him via his website at [www.chris-azzopardi.com](http://www.chris-azzopardi.com) and on Twitter (@chrisazzopardi).*

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## So You Think You Can Dance

19 Entertainment and dick clark productions will present audiences across the country with the opportunity to experience live the action brought into their living rooms each week on the beloved summer series, So You Think You Can Dance, with a variety of sizzling, one-of-a-kind dance routines from the Season 14 tour lineup featuring the Top 10 finalists from the show at 8 p.m. on Oct. 6 at Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave. in Detroit. Purchase tickets for \$29-85 by calling 313-471-3200 or visit [www.olympiaentertainment.com](http://www.olympiaentertainment.com).

# Happenings

## OUTINGS

### Thursday, Oct. 5

**45+ Club** 12 p.m. Activity and community group for persons age 45 and up. Play games and socialize in the Affirmations' Game Room. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. haymer@goaffirmations.org [www.goaffirmations.org](http://www.goaffirmations.org)

**Connections Youth Group** 6 p.m. For youth ages 13-18 OutFront Kalamazoo, 340 S. Rose St., **Kalamazoo**. 2693494234. [www.outfrontkzoo.org](http://www.outfrontkzoo.org)

**LGBTQ Networking Group** 6 p.m. OutFront Kalamazoo, 340 S. Rose St., **Kalamazoo**. 2693494234. [www.outfrontkzoo.org](http://www.outfrontkzoo.org)

**LGBTQ Youth Meeting** 6 p.m. OutFront Kalamazoo, 340 S. Rose St., **Kalamazoo**.

[michael@kgllrc.org](mailto:michael@kgllrc.org) [www.outfrontkzoo.org](http://www.outfrontkzoo.org)

**The League of Extraordinary Genders** 7 p.m. Transgender support group OutCenter, 132 Water St., **Benton Harbor**. 269-925-8330. [info@outcenter.org](mailto:info@outcenter.org) [www.outcenter.org](http://www.outcenter.org)

**Transgender Support Group** 7 p.m. Perceptions, 815 N. Grant, **Bay City**. [www.perceptionsmi.org/](http://www.perceptionsmi.org/)

### Friday, Oct. 6

**Alter-Abilities Support Group** 3 p.m. For alter-abled or "disabled" LGBTQ people. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. haymer@goaffirmations.org [www.goaffirmations.org](http://www.goaffirmations.org)

**LGBTQ Disco Party** 7 p.m. RSVP by phone or via the website. Suggested donation \$5. 18+ Theme is disco fever. OutFront Kalamazoo, 2747 S. 11th St.,

**Kalamazoo**. 269-349-4234. [www.eventbrite.com/e/outgoing-disco-party-free-event-tickets-36757764463](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/outgoing-disco-party-free-event-tickets-36757764463)

### Saturday, Oct. 7

**Bark for Life Kalamazoo 2017** 9 a.m. A benefit for the American Cancer Society. Admission free for people, dogs are \$15. Bark for Life Kalamazoo County, 900 S. 8th St., **Kalamazoo**. 269-249-8719. <http://gaybe.am/LA>

**3rd Annual Trans Youth Empowerment Workshop** 10 a.m. For ages 12-22. NEW this year: All Day Parent Workshop, Activities for transgender/gender expansive children ages 6-11 Stand with Trans, 30450 Farmington Road, **Farmington Hills**. roz@standwithtrans.org <http://standwithtrans.org/2017-workshop-registration/>

**Smart Recovery** 10 a.m. Smart Recovery

offers people with any type of addiction a place to learn how to change unwanted behaviors through cognitive based methods. This is a non-12 step program, led by Smart Recovery trainers, and does not require abstinence. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. [www.goaffirmations.org/programs-services/support-discussion-groups](http://www.goaffirmations.org/programs-services/support-discussion-groups)

**Coming Out Over Coffee** 10:30 a.m. A casual discussion group covering all aspects of coming out and the effects it may have on your life. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. [www.goaffirmations.org/programs-services/support-discussion-groups](http://www.goaffirmations.org/programs-services/support-discussion-groups)

**Open LGBT AA Meeting** 11 a.m. Grace Episcopal Church, 341 Washington St., **Traverse City**. [www.tcpolestar.org/](http://www.tcpolestar.org/)

**Friends and Families** 12:30 p.m. Support group for friends and families of LGBTQ identifying persons. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. haymer@goaffirmations.org [www.goaffirmations.org](http://www.goaffirmations.org)

**Caregiving Resource Workshop** 1 p.m. Please register by phone. Free event. Discuss nutrition, finances, veterans resources, exercise and fitness, and community resources. AARP and DMC, 3990 John R. Road, **Detroit**. 877-926-8300.

**Alcoholics Anonymous Brownbaggers** 1:30 p.m. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. [www.goaffirmations.org/programs-services/support-discussion-groups](http://www.goaffirmations.org/programs-services/support-discussion-groups)

**Open Ports, Open Arms** 2 p.m. A ride, party and raffle to benefit for Freedom House Detroit Detroit's MCR, Ypsi's NoNo's, and Southeast Michigan's Femme Pedals, 517 W. Cross St., **Ypsilanti**. <http://gaybe.am/hv>

**LGBTQ with HPV** 6 p.m. Support, discussion and activity group for anyone with HSV1/2 and HPV. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. haymer@goaffirmations.org [www.goaffirmations.org](http://www.goaffirmations.org)

**Lesbian Euchre** 6:30 p.m. Please arrive early to register. \$5 donation to Affirmations. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. lsbdaniil@aol.com [www.goaffirmations.org](http://www.goaffirmations.org)

**Fall Fling 2017** 7 p.m. Celebrate 10 years in the Affirmations building with entertainment, cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, desserts, raffle and silent auction. Purchase tickets online. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-677-7227. [kkoch@goaffirmations.org](mailto:kkoch@goaffirmations.org) [www.Goaffirmations.org/fall-fling-2017](http://www.Goaffirmations.org/fall-fling-2017)

**GLBT AA** 8 p.m. Jim Toy Community Center, 319 Braun Court, **Ann Arbor**. 734-995-9867. [www.Jimtoycenter.org](http://www.Jimtoycenter.org)

### Sunday, Oct. 8

**Walk to End Alzheimers** 10:30 a.m. Alzheimers Association - Michigan Great Lakes Chapter, 4800 E. Huron River Drive, **Ann Arbor**. 7343692716. [http://act.alz.org/site/TR/Walk2017/MI-MichiganGreatLakes?r\\_id=10507&pg=entry](http://act.alz.org/site/TR/Walk2017/MI-MichiganGreatLakes?r_id=10507&pg=entry)

**Rainbow Book Club** 4:30 p.m. Rainbow Book Club, 319 Braun Ct., **Ann Arbor**. 734-995-9867. [www.jimtoycenter.org/](http://www.jimtoycenter.org/)

**LGBTQ Support Group** 5 p.m. Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 6726 Center Road, **Traverse City**. [www.tcpolestar.org/](http://www.tcpolestar.org/)

**Pride AA Weekly Meeting** 6 p.m. OutFront Kalamazoo, 340 S. Rose St., **Kalamazoo**. 2693494234. [www.outfrontkzoo.org](http://www.outfrontkzoo.org)

**Pride NA Weekly Meeting** 7 p.m. OutFront Kalamazoo, 340 S. Rose St., **Kalamazoo**. 2693494234. [www.outfrontkzoo.org](http://www.outfrontkzoo.org)

### Monday, Oct. 9

**Alcoholics Anonymous 5:45 Serenity** 5:30 p.m. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. [www.goaffirmations.org/programs-services/support-discussion-groups](http://www.goaffirmations.org/programs-services/support-discussion-groups)

**Lambda Group Open LGBT AA Meeting** 5:30 p.m. Lambda Group, 341 Washington St., **Traverse City**. [www.tcpolestar.org/](http://www.tcpolestar.org/)

**Trans Youth and Family Support Groups** 6:30 p.m. Penny Hader, LMSW will facilitate the parent support group and Stephanie Lange, LMSW, will facilitate the youth support group. Contact Lange for more information. Stand with Trans, 21051 21 Mile Road, **Macomb**. 586-723-2872. [slange@cvs.k12.mi.us](mailto:slange@cvs.k12.mi.us) [www.standwithtrans.org](http://www.standwithtrans.org)

**Sexual Addicts Anonymous** 7 p.m. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. [www.goaffirmations.org/programs-services/support-discussion-groups](http://www.goaffirmations.org/programs-services/support-discussion-groups)

### Tuesday, Oct. 10

**Sexual Assault Survivors Groups** 4 p.m. Youth group, ages 13-17, meets at 4 p.m. Adult group, ages 18 and over, meets at 5:15 p.m. OutFront Kalamazoo, 340 S. Rose St., **Kalamazoo**. [www.outfrontkzoo.org](http://www.outfrontkzoo.org)

### Wednesday, Oct. 11

**The Pastor is In** 3:30 p.m. Pastor Dani Veenstra, local United Church of Christ faith leader and ally to the LGBTQ community hosts this free service every Wednesday. OutCenter, 132 Water

## Editor's Pick

### A Walk in the Woods

We all need an opportunity to relax. Sometimes that means connecting with nature and feeling in tune with our surroundings. Join the Metropolitan Community Church of Detroit around 12 p.m. on Oct. 22 for a Walk in the Woods. Following morning service, take a walk at the Johnson Nature Center, 3325 Franklin Rd. in Bloomfield Township. Carpools are available upon request. Cost is free but a donation is suggested for lunch. Sign up online at [www.mccdetroit.org/walk.html](http://www.mccdetroit.org/walk.html). Contact MCC Detroit, 2441 Pinecrest Dr. in Ferndale for more information.



St., **Benton Harbor**. 269-925-8330. thepastorin@outcenter.org www.outcenter.org

**Transcend** 6:30 p.m. For transgender and gender non-conforming individuals OutFront Kalamazoo, 340 S. Rose St., **Kalamazoo**. 2693494234. www.outfrontkzoo.org

**FtM Detroit Support Group** 7 p.m. Support is limited to transmasculine, AFAB people who no longer identify as female, or are questioning, and their guests. FtM Detroit, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. ftmdetroit@gmail.com

## Thursday, Oct. 12

**Justice for Our Neighbors** 1 p.m. Free legal consultations for LGBTQ immigrants Grand Rapids Pride Center, 343 Atlas Ave. SE, **Grand Rapids**. www.grpride.org

**Gender Non-Conformists** 7 p.m. A social and support group for genderqueer, genderfabulous, transgender, gender-exploring folks and all those who transgress gender binaries. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. www.goaffirmations.org/programs-services/support-discussion-groups

**Men's Social Group** 7 p.m. Grand Rapids Pride Center, 343 Atlas Ave. SE, **Grand Rapids**. www.grpride.org

**Support group for parents and transgender youth** 7 p.m. Youth meet in the "youth lounge." Parents meet in room 100. Second and fourth Thursday of each month. Stand with Trans, 30450 Farmington Road, **Farmington Hills**. 248-739-9254. roz@standwithtrans.org www.standwithtrans.org

**Red Umbrella Support Group** 7:30 p.m. For individuals involved in the erotic labor industry. Sex Workers Outreach Project Michigan, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. www.goaffirmations.org

## Friday, Oct. 13

**Working with Transgender Youth in the Juvenile Justice System (12 Social Work CEs)** 9 a.m. NASW members: \$325. Non-members: \$390. NASW student, retired, gold, unemployed, and transitional members: \$165. Non-member student: \$325. National Association of Social Workers - Michigan Chapter, 1679 Broadway St., **Ann Arbor**. 517-487-1548. tmccarthy@nasw-michigan.org www.nasw-michigan.org/events/EventDetails.aspx?id=1004305&group=

**Department of Victim Services**  
**Open Office Hours** 2 p.m. Contact

Serena Johnson, lead advocate, for more information or to schedule an appointment. Walk-ins welcome. Equality Michigan, 343 Atlas Ave. SE, **Grand Rapids**. 313-537-7000 Ext 115. sjohnson@equalitymi.org www.grpride.org

**Artworks Detroit 2017** 7 p.m. ArtWorks proceeds helps support the diverse Matrix family of programs that are focused around educating children, supporting families and rebuilding neighborhoods in Detroit. Matrix Human Services, 460 W. Baltimore, **Detroit**. http://gaybe.am/Q8

## MUSIC & MORE

### Concerts

**First Presbyterian Church of Farmington** "Classical Piano Concert - Francesco Attesti" . First Presbyterian Church of Farmington, 26165 Farmington Road, Farmington Hills. 4 p.m. Oct. 8. 248-474-6170. farmington-pres.org

### Other

**dog\*tec** "Ann Arbor Dog Walking Academy" Three day workshop leading to Professional Dog Walker Certification. Admission is \$850.00. LaQuinta Inns & Suites, 30847 Flynn Drive, Romulus. Oct. 13 - Oct. 15. 510-525-2547.

### Shows

**Detroit Masonic Temple** "Formal Masquerade Gala & Theatre Bizarre" Theatre Bizarre is proud to present legendary psycho-spook masters MESSER CHUPS. Costumes are mandatory. Tickets: \$95. Detroit Masonic Temple, 500 Temple Ave., Detroit. Oct. 13 - Oct. 21. http://theatrebizarre.com/choose-your-fate/

## THEATER

**Roustabout Theatre Troupe** "Dark Ride Radio Hour" . Bona Sera Underground, 200 W. Michigan Ave, Ypsilanti. 8 p.m. Oct. 14. 7087041004. roustabouttheatre.com

**State of Siege** Performed in French with English Subtitles. University Musical Society, Power Center for the Performing Arts, 121 Fletcher Street, Ann Arbor. Oct. 13 - Oct. 14. 7347642538. https://ums.org

**Steve Martin's The Under Pants** An uproarious comedy adapted from 1910 German farce Die Hose by Playwright Carl Sternheim. Theatre & Dance at WSU, Hilberry Theatre, 4743 Cass Ave., Detroit. Through Oct. 15. 313-577-2972. https://events.wayne.edu

**Vagina Monologues by Eve Ensler** Tickets on sale Sept. 7. The Detroit Actor's Theatre Company, Boo's Music Lounge, 215 S. Main St., Royal Oak. Oct. 6 - Oct. 28. www.thedatc.org

### Professional

**Dark Ride Radio Hour** . Roustabout Theatre Troupe, Bona Sera Underground, 200 W. Michigan Ave, Ypsilanti. 8 p.m. Oct. 14. 7087041004. roustabouttheatre.com

**Evil Dead: The Musical** Tickets: \$30. Sweat Equity Studio and Olympia Entertainment, City Theatre, 2301 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Through Oct. 28. 313-471-6611. www.olympiaentertainment.com

**God of Carnage by Yasmina Reza** . Purple Rose Theatre Company, Purple Rose Theatre, 137 Park St., Chelsea. Through Oct. 29. 734-433-7673. www.purplerosetheatre.org

**The Laramie Project** Tickets \$12 or \$16 to donate to The Matthew Shepard Foundation. Directed by Katie Cooper and Melissa Dane. Lakeland Players, CUMC, 3882 Highland Road, Waterford. Oct. 13 - Oct. 22. www.lakelandplayers.net/tickets

**The Rocky Horror Show** Tickets: \$25 on Friday and Saturday. \$10 on Monday. The Ringwald Theatre, 22742 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Through Oct. 30. 248-545-5545. www.theringwald.com

**The Taming** . Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam Road, Williamston. Through Oct. 22. 5176557469. www.williamstontheatre.org

## ART 'N' AROUND

**DIA** "Art of Rebellion: Black Art of the Civil Rights Movement" Explore powerful artworks by African American artists who formed collectives during the Civil Rights Movement of the '60s and '70s. Detroit Institute of Arts, 2100 Woodward Ave., Detroit. July 23 - Oct. 22. 313-833-7900. www.dia.org

**Downtown Development Authority** "Art & About" Every second Friday from June through October Downtown Berkley, 3338 Coolidge Hwy, Berkley . June 9 - Oct. 13. http://gaybe.am/DG

**Flint Institute of Arts** "Size Matters" Big and small works from the FIA Collection Flint Institute of Arts, 1120 E. Kearsley St., Flint. Sep. 16 - Dec. 30. 8102341695. flintarts.org

**Ford Motor Company Fund** "ArtWorks Detroit 2017" Fundraiser to benefit Matrix Human Services College for Creative Studies, 460 W. Baltimore, Detroit. 7 p.m. Oct. 13. MatrixHumanServices.org/artworks

**Lawrence Street Gallery** "Celebrate the Print '17" Opening reception Oct. 6 from 6 to 9 p.m. Lawrence Street Gallery, 22620 Woodward Avenue, Ferndale. Oct. 4 - Oct. 27. 2485440394. www.lawrencestreetgallery.com



# Ringwald Does 'The Time Warp Now' with Rocky Horror

BY TANYA GAZDIK, ENCORE MICHIGAN

**FERDALE** – It's hard to go wrong with a classic like *The Rocky Horror Show* and *The Ringwald's* treatment does not disappoint.

If you've seen the movie at a theatre and heard/seen the audience participation elements, all of that is happening here. However, attendees are not allowed to bring their own props and instead are invited to purchase a "goodie bag with everything you'll need to participate in the show" at the box office for \$5. They are pretty serious about no outside props, with the program reading "The theatre reserves the right to confiscate any outside props brought into the theatre. Failure to comply with the theatre's rules will result in ejection from the theatre without a refund." I can't say I blame the theatre for being so hardcore. They have enough of a mess to clean up every night with just the props they provide in their goodie bags – confetti, newspaper, party hats, playing cards, etc.

You don't need props for the callout element to various lines in the show. If you don't remember that you are supposed to yell "slut" whenever the narrator says Janet's name or "asshole" when Brad's name is mentioned, it's okay because director Joe Bailey leads the charge from the back of the theatre. Even if you haven't seen the movie at a theatre in a while, it'll come back to you. There also is no shortage of suggested callout lines if you look online, including this one from none other than Playbill.

This is a fantastic night of fun for everyone. The cast

is spectacular across the board with not a single "weak link" worth noting. For starters, the four phantoms (Jacob Boida, Manning Goldman, Tess Hannah and Ryan Kayla) warm up the audience before the show officially begins. Boida, the lead vocalist for "Science Fiction/Double Feature," has an amazing voice. Goldman is the dance captain, which is totally appropriate because in this

show as in every other one I've seen him in, he uses his long legs for good and not evil. Hannah, who also is Columbia's understudy, connects with the audience in a very palpable way. Kayla is the glue that ties the phantoms together, connecting to each of them as well as the audience.

Other noteworthy performances include Dyan Bailey, who may have been born to play Magenta. She really shines in the final scenes — I won't spoil it for those unfamiliar with what her character and her brother Riff Raff end up doing. Richard Payton may be the best and most lovable Riff Raff I have ever seen. He delivers his lines with the most perfect tone and timing.

Suzan M. Jacokes, who has an amazing stage presence, plays Dr. Frank N. Furter. I have to admit I felt a bit mixed about having a female in the lead role. But Tim Curry's portrayal in the movie can't be topped, so maybe having an androgynous female is meant to quell the comparisons. Transgendered Laverne Cox played the character in the movie's remake and the gender switch was not embraced by all. I found a very emphatic blog on "Why Frank N. Furter CANNOT Be A Female." That said, Jacokes does a good job in conveying the mix of predatory creepiness and gender ambiguity that Frank is known for.

Nicole Pascarella makes a sweet and sympathetic Columbia. It's hard to believe Jordan Gagnon, who plays Janet, is just out of high school. She has the aura of a seasoned actress. Kevin Kaminiski (Brad) says in his bio that he's "no stranger to playing corny white dudes." Indeed, he seems a natural for the role and his character's sexual naiveté is perfectly conveyed. Casey S. Hibbert does a great job tying the action together as the narrator. It's hard not to think of Meat Loaf, who played Eddie in the original movie, but Brandy Joe Plambeck does a great job in the role belting out "Hot Patootie" and then magically transforming into Dr. Scott. Finally, Nick Yocum is fantastic as Rocky. It takes a special kind of actor to feel comfortable running around in nothing but gold underpants.

This performance is a good example of how *The Ringwald* always does amazing things with their small space and austere stage. It's a testament to the ability of the actors, who must rely solely on their own talents to hold the audience's attention. This two-act, two-hour show elicits many laughs and holds the audience's attention from beginning to end.

## Editor's Pick

### Zoo Boo

The Detroit Zoo's annual "merry-not-scary" Zoo Boo celebration features a festively decorated half-mile trick-or-treat trail through the front of the park, crafts and live entertainment. Zoo Boo is held from 5:30-9 p.m. on the evenings of Oct. 6-8, 13-15 and 20-22. Advance tickets for \$9 for the rain-or-shine event at 8450 W. 10 Mile Rd. in Royal Oak can be purchased at the admission gates or online at <http://detroitzoo.org/>. Call 248-541-5717 for more information.



## PERFORMING

*The Rocky Horror Show* runs now through Oct. 30 at the Ringwald Theatre, 22742 Woodward Ave. in Ferndale. Showtimes are Friday and Monday nights at 8 p.m. and Saturday nights at 7 p.m. and 10 p.m. On Oct. 28, a special midnight performance will replace the 10 p.m. show. Tickets are \$25 for Friday and Saturday performances, Monday nights are \$10. \$5 student discount tickets available on Friday and Saturday performances, with valid student ID. For more information, call 248-545-5545.

>> [www.TheRingwald.com](http://www.TheRingwald.com)

# Dark Tale of 'Sweeney Todd' Finds Second Life at The Encore

## Director and Actor Dig Below Surface of Sondheim Classic and Discover Emotional Gems

BYLINE BY DONALD V. CALAMIA

For an actor whose recent credits include such seemingly diverse characters as John Wilkes Booth in "Assassins," Ash in "Evil Dead: The Musical," Ted Bundy in "Date

### PERFORMING

#### Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street

The Encore Musical Theatre Company  
3126 Broad Street, Dexter  
734-268-6200  
www.theencoretheatre.org

Tickets: \$27-35

7:30 p.m. Thursday: Oct. 5, 12, 19

7:30 p.m. Friday: Oct. 6, 13, 20

2 p.m. Saturday: Oct. 7, 14, 21

7:30 p.m. Saturday: Oct. 7, 14, 21

2 p.m. Sunday: Oct. 8, 15, 22

16" and now the demon barber in the Stephen Sondheim musical "Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street" that's now running through Oct. 22 at The Encore Musical Theatre in Dexter, one might wonder what's lurking behind David Moan's fascination with guns, blood and fatally sharp instruments. "I've been trying to rationalize this in my brain," Moan

laughed a few days before the show's opening night performance. "I would never have pegged myself as (an) intense, sort of dark character."

Neither would anyone who's ever met the warm, personable and innocent-looking actor. But it's the work of Academy Award-winning actor Christoph Waltz and how he approaches darker or more tortured characters that he looks to for guidance. "It's always with this air of charisma and always with this lightness that makes the dark that much scarier," Moan explained. "I hope that's what I bring to these characters. When I put a knife in my hand, a razor in this case or when I hold a gun, people automatically go, 'Wait. He shouldn't have a gun!' That makes it all the more terrifying. So, I think it's that juxtaposition of my relatively cheery disposition in real life with this quiet intensity, which I hope resonates with people."

After a short pause, and with a twinkle in his eye, he breaks into a sly grin. "It does make me worry a little bit, that everybody is like, 'If somebody's going to murder somebody else, it's probably David.' It's a trend."

Yes, but a profitable and career-enhancing trend for Moan, who is a past recipient of two Wilde Award nominations (for "Evil Dead: The Musical" and "RoboCop! The Musical"), and a 2017 winner for his memorable performance in "Assassins."

"But this is probably the hardest role I've had to do."

That's likely an understatement, as Sondheim is known



David Moan (Sweeney Todd) and Sarah Briggs (Mrs. Lovett). Photo: Michele Anliker Photography

to craft some of the toughest and most complicated scores for musical theater artists to sing. That's especially true of "Sweeney Todd," which is more operatic than most musicals.

In this case, however, director Matthew Brennan is taking a somewhat different approach to his production. "I don't think it's anything too wild, honestly," he said. "We are very focused on the story."

Rather than its traditional setting on the streets of London in the 19th century, Brennan's tale of a vengeful barber and the demented baker who loves him unfolds in a factory sometime in the 1940s. Not everyone on stage will be one of its employees, however. "The audience will be ever present," the director explained, noting that some patrons will be seated on two sides of the stage as well as in the traditional spot out front. "No matter where you sit, you will be looking across the stage at some form of audience member. The ensemble ends up in chairs. The whole set is one rolling table and 20 chairs. Then it's just a giant game of make believe with moving chairs and trying to come at some things from a different angle."

What drives the production forward, however, is its rich story content, which is ripe for mining. "We kind of tried to - I think, I hope - look at the story, look at the plot points and clues about the characters, or why they do what they do, and that just kind of set-up this whole chain reaction of moving chairs, and having an ever-present 'Greek chorus' kind of feel to the ensemble. But man, moving those chairs has been complicated," Brennan said with chuckle.

Moan agreed, adding, "It's more like a ballet than I would have ever have anticipated for a show like this."

It's Brennan's concept for the show that sold producing artistic director Dan Cooney on making "Sweeney Todd" The Encore Musical Theatre's first-ever major revival. Cooney's decision was likely a tough one, as the company's 2009 production - which he directed - was a memorable one that earned two Wilde Award nominations, one of which was for Best Musical. (Sarah Litzsinger won for Best Actress - Musical for her portrayal of Mrs. Lovett.) And the big-budget show can be a tough sell to potential customers who fear it might

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See Dark Tale, page 36

# Screen Queen BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

## Lady Gaga Is One of Us in New Netflix Doc

### Lady Gaga: Five Foot Two



Lady Gaga at Walmart is my new favorite thing, thanks to a humanizing Netflix doc that shows the continuing transformation of the gay icon from once-meat-dress-donning oddity back to Stefani Germanotta, your everyday lover of queers who just happened to perform at the Super Bowl earlier this year. Like her latest album, “Joanne,” its creation covered in depth here, “Five Foot Two” documentarian Chris Moukarbel (“Scissor Sisters” frontman Jake Shears’ husband) captures a superstar in flux, trying to meet professional demands as her relationship with Taylor Kinney and her health crumble. Real enough for you? No? Then cut to the diva fit she throws during a behind-the-scenes segment from “American Horror Story” (they had it coming), or Walmart, where she more prominently displays her new release on a Gaga-deficient end-cap. She also does not mince words about Madonna, who Gaga wishes would just come out and tell her she’s a “piece of shit” to her face. No more telephone games. No more media middle-manning. As Lady G gets back to her roots – both in the musical sense with “Joanne” the album, but furthermore, the music’s familial ties – we are granted access to an emotional exchange between Gaga and her grandmother, as the performer plays the recording’s personal opener, “Joanne,” about Gaga’s late aunt. Perhaps intentionally, then, the courageously transparent “Five Foot Two” is rooted in survival, as Mother Monster rises to

the top of Houston’s NRG Stadium in the doc’s triumphant final scene, showing that even superheroes are human.

### The Big Sick

“The Big Sick” features a Muslim-American man and a white woman finding love in a hopeless place, but if you’re queer, you know their struggle to be accepted. Emily (Zoe Kazan) and Kumail (Kumail Nanjiani) are a cushy match made in movie heaven – cut to her calling for an Uber from his place as the Uber notification goes to his phone (what do you know, he’s the driver) – but cruel, old societal and cultural expectations complicate a coupling so charmingly right in every way. “The Big Sick” succeeds on a myriad of levels, merely by being its charming self, but also by personalizing issues of race and, adjacently, any relationship that isn’t between exclusively white, straight, cis people. Nanjiani, who delivers a witty, ballsy script branded as an “awkward true story,” is based on the romantic courting of the “Silicon Valley” actor and his now-wife, so as Kazan wins you over once again – why is she not in everything? – you can take solace in knowing that humanity can and will prosper despite the forces against it. Ultimately, the sweet and timely “Big Sick” humanizes the love spectrum for those who can’t see beyond their own color (and orientation) blindness.

### Get Out

Trump’s America is scary enough, with white supremacists on the loose and the president’s own outright racist remarks regarding Charlottesville. Enter writer-director Jordan Peele’s “Get



Out,” which earned sleeper-hit status earlier this year for its frighteningly real premise alone: Chris Washington (Daniel Kaluuya) and his girlfriend Rose (Allison Williams) visit her too-nice suburban parents (Catherine Keener and Bradley Whitford). Things aren’t what they seem when Chris gets the grand tour and spots a black housekeeper in the kitchen and a black gardener, both either freakishly nice or glaringly cold. Even if ominous music wasn’t looming over these scenes – and even if Rose’s dad didn’t randomly reassure Chris that, “I would’ve voted for Obama for a third term if I could” – you’d know that there’s no “both sides” to this situation. There is one side: the one on the other end of those crazy white people’s front door. Amplified by its mirroring of America’s current race-relations crisis, Peele’s trippy and terrifyingly real “Get Out” brandishes a sharp, timely Trumpland edge as it uses familiar horror tropes to underline problems with present-day systematic racism. Worth noting are the disc’s Q&A (hosted by Chance the Rapper) and an engaging Peele commentary, which covers, among many other things, the film’s literal wokeness.

### 45 Years

Kate (Charlotte Rampling) and Geoff Mercer (the powerfully tender Tom Courtenay) are led down the path of uncertainty as they muddle through some deep waters that test their loyal,

Continued on page 32

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► **Screen Queen**

Continued from p. 31

loving nearly-half-century-long relationship in “45 Years.” The news comes just as they’re about to celebrate their anniversary, rearing its troubling head through intimate and impassioned conversations. Its naturalistic style is in the same vein of other feeling-based work by Andrew Haigh, including HBO’s “Looking” and “Weekend,” the latter released four years before the decidedly not-gay but equally-as-rich character drama “45 Years.” Haigh, who directed and co-wrote with David Constantine, explores whether love can endure the most transformative of revelations: How must we adapt? Can we? Those questions linger long after the credits roll, as Rampling shares an anniversary dance with her husband, and the distance between them is as discernible as the look on her face (a look that must’ve also moved Academy Awards voters who gave the actress a much-deserved Oscar nod). The Criterion Collection edition also includes a behind-the-scenes doc featuring sit-downs with Courtenay, Rampling and Haigh, expounding on his desire to tell outsider stories.

**Rough Night**

I can’t think of enough good reasons to see “Rough Night,” a “Bridesmaids” repro, unless

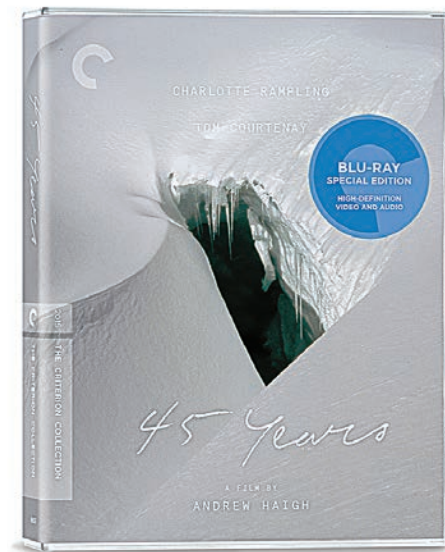


you’ve never heard of Google Images (another conversation for another day) and you, too, want to experience Colton Haynes’ beautifully tan bubble butt in a thong. You could also see it for deadpan pro Jillian Bell, the next best thing in ensemble comedies (she stole the show in “22 Jump Street” as Seth Rogen’s foil). Or Kate McKinnon, who we love, especially as Hillary Clinton, right? Though maybe not so much in this, as the Aussie BFF who comes to town, encounters friction among friends of the film’s bride-to-be (Scarlett Johansson), and then, because what are good friends for if they can’t dispose of the dead stripper in the house, takes one for the team. And if you’re

wondering why Scarlett Johansson is wasting time on a rote, one-note comedy versus giving us the lesbian scenes we’ve been craving since her steamy role in “Vicky Cristina Barcelona,” take solace in knowing that “Broad City” actress Ilana Glazer and Zoë Kravitz star as an ex-couple. Supplements include an improv bit, gags and deleted scenes.

**Tampopo**

Jûzô Itami’s escapist delight “Tampopo” – proclaimed the first “ramen western” – has been an especially-coveted-by-foodies film since its 1985 release. Just before Criterion worked their magic on its Blu-ray release, I saw the film at a local art theater for the first time, enraptured by its artful food shots and general buoyancy. Truthfully, if you thought you enjoyed ramen before, I can attest that noodles in a big bowl of broth will take you to places you’ve never known post “Tampopo.” The happenchance plot alone elates me to no end: A truck driver named Goro stops at a noodle shop run by the darling Tampopo. Goro thinks her ramen is fine in the way that some people still think Taco Bell is decent “Mexican.” Their mission: Perfect the ramen recipe. Interspersed within the core storyline are mouthwatering vignettes, like an egg orgasm. Now yours to savor thanks to Criterion, “Tampopo” is a cinematic treat that cooks up a scrumptious platter of supplements, including new interviews with ramen experts



and a feature-length shooting diary narrated by Itami.

As editor of Q Syndicate, the international LGBT wire service, Chris Azzopardi has interviewed a multitude of superstars, including Meryl Streep, Mariah Carey and Beyonce. Reach him via his website at <http://www.chris-azzopardi.com> and on Twitter (@chrisazzopardi).

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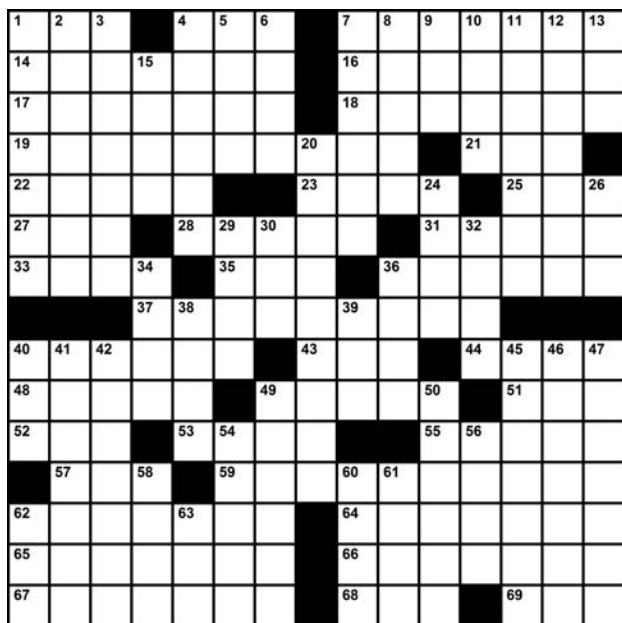
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# Q Puzzle



- 36 Takei of "Star Trek"  
 37 With 59-Across, "Edie & Thea: \_\_\_\_" (2017 film)  
 40 Homo's tail?  
 43 Former Pakistan president  
 44 Vast area in Asia  
 48 Popular variety of nuts  
 49 Jewelle Gomez's "\_\_\_\_ Stories"  
 51 \_\_\_\_ Tin Tin  
 52 Very hairy swinger  
 53 One side of Ed Wood  
 55 Areas between hills  
 57 Charlotte of "Facts of Life"  
 59 See 37-Across  
 62 Thea Spyer's wife Edie  
 64 Relevant to Greer?  
 65 Cockamamie  
 66 Willa Cather character  
 67 "Naked" David  
 68 Lawyer's thing  
 69 Like McCullers' cafe

- ejaculation  
 13 Uey from WSW  
 15 Like a thermometer that tastes funny  
 20 Process for Niles or Frasier  
 24 Wilson of "Zoolander"  
 26 Writer Harper  
 29 Kind of sheet  
 30 Elton John's "Act of \_\_\_\_"  
 32 Boss of "The Dukes of Hazzard"  
 34 What a computer may spit out  
 36 Stick it in the slow ones  
 38 Rhames of "Holiday Heart"  
 39 Like Abner, before Viagra?  
 40 Emissions-watching org.  
 41 Return to a theme, to Bernstein  
 42 Swimmer where sailors cruise  
 45 What Joan of Arc was maid of  
 46 Years that go both ways?  
 47 Word of preference  
 49 Gay mag and others?  
 50 Heads off  
 54 TĒa of "Spanglish"  
 56 BB's, e.g.  
 58 Barry Humphries' Dame  
 60 Tutti-frutti ingredient  
 61 Trait carrier  
 62 "Till There \_\_\_\_ You"  
 63 Title for Ian McKellen

## Down

- 1 Come out, perhaps  
 2 Like Liberace's sequins  
 3 Enjoy the bedroom  
 4 Mitchell of NBC News  
 5 River of Ulrichs' country  
 6 Petty of "Orange Is the New Black"  
 7 Like an irregular tongue  
 8 "Do" in "The Sound of Music"  
 9 WWII fighter pilots of Eng.  
 10 Deep throat sound  
 11 Yves' evening utterance  
 12 Avoiding premature

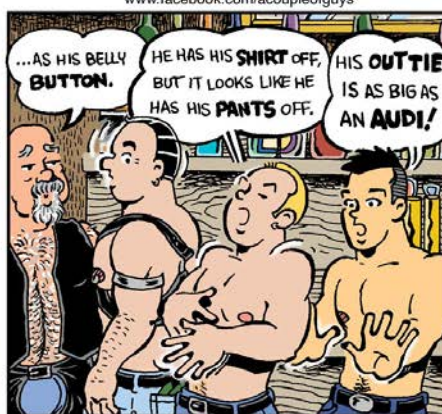
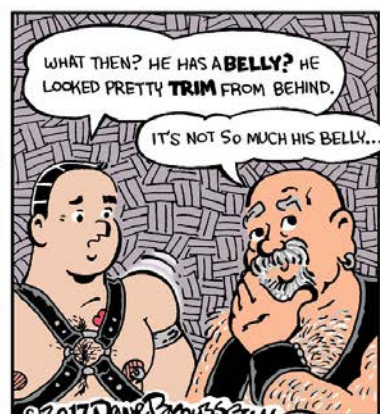
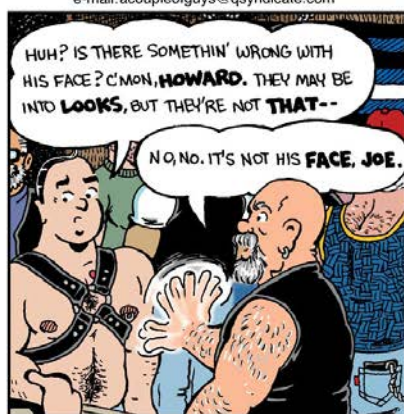
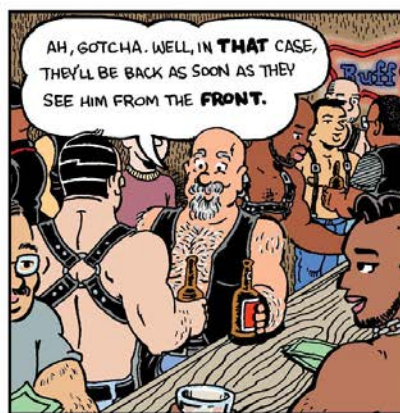
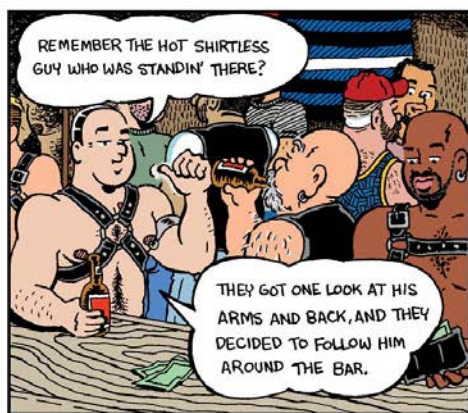
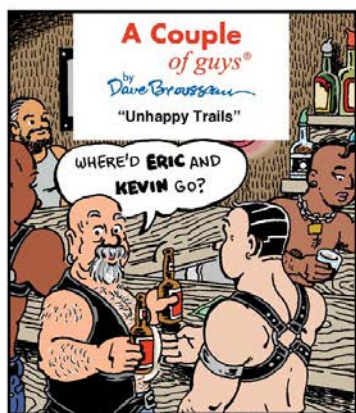
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## Edie & Thea

### Across

- 1 Family docs  
 4 ISP invested in PlanetOut Partners  
 7 Story about a man scattering his seed, e.g.  
 14 Virginia Woolf novel  
 16 "My own private" state resident?  
 17 Go to the bottom  
 18 With 19-Across, act overturned in the Supreme Court

- by Edie & Thea's suit  
 19 See 18-Across  
 21 Ariz. clock setting  
 22 Coin in Nureyev's pocket  
 23 Robert De \_\_\_\_  
 25 Crude material  
 27 Poet who inspired "Cats", initially  
 28 "You just gotta have \_\_\_\_ or you're out of luck" ("Funny Girl")  
 31 Moan, like Albert to Armand  
 33 Crowd at the gay rodeo?  
 35 Bert, to Ernie



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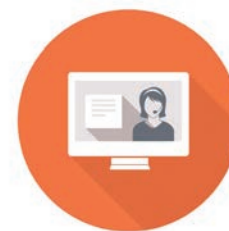
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# Deep Inside Hollywood

BY ROMEO SAN VICENTE

## Samira Wiley and Fortune Feimster are 'F\*\*\*ing People'

Near the top of our list of lesbians we love – yes, we keep a list, we like to be organized – is the hilariously funny stand-up comic Fortune Feimster (“Chelsea Lately”) and the super chill Samira Wiley (“Orange is the New Black”). And because there’s magically exponential power when lesbians team up for a project, we’re very excited to hear that they’ve appeared together in an upcoming film. It’s called “F\*\*\*ing People,” which will be fun to say out loud at a box office, and it’s from filmmaker Theresa Bennett, making her narrative feature directorial debut about a young woman who’s single, broke, stoned a lot, and, to make it even less stable, falling in love with a married man. The film stars Aya Cash (“You’re The Worst”), Carly Chaikin (“Mr. Robot”) and Josh Radnor (“How I Met Your Mother”), as well as the cool lesbians that caught our attention in the first place. It’s all in what’s known as “post production” right now so be on the lookout for the title you can’t say in front of your mom coming sometime – probably in 2018 – to an indie film fest or arthouse or streaming platform near you.



Fortune Feimster.  
Photo: KathClick

## Angela Robinson meets 'Strangers'

The thing you hear a lot in Hollywood is that nothing gets you work like already having work. Which means Angela Robinson, the lesbian for whom we stan forever because of “D.E.B.S.,” who also just premiered her latest

film, the Luke Evans/Bella Heathcote-starring “Professor Marston and the Wonder Women,” at the Toronto International Film Festival, is on a roll. She just announced her next project, an adaptation of the acclaimed Terry Moore graphic novel, “Strangers in Paradise.” A young adult girl/girl/boy bisexual love triangle fuels the plot, as does the mystery of a missing near-million dollars in mob money, and those are stories we can always get behind. There’s no cast yet, no shooting schedule, no anything really – just a deal for now. We’ll be anxiously waiting for casting news on this one.

## 'Angels' returns to America

Maybe you’re not old enough to remember 25 years back when Tony Kushner’s thunderous, epic, theatrical masterpiece “Angels In America” swept the stage, picking up awards (Tonys, Pulitzers) and acclaim. It was at the height of the AIDS crisis and Kushner’s funny, furious, political, galvanizing work stopped audiences in their tracks. And then, of course, it was an HBO movie, and now, perhaps you’ve heard, it’s wowing audiences again in London, where it made star Andrew Garfield wish he were gay for a moment. Well, here’s your chance to see it again or for the first time, because it’s returning to Broadway, with Garfield and co-star Nathan Lane. The Neil Simon Theater will house the revival for 18 weeks in spring of 2018, directed by Marianne Elliott (“The Curious Incident of The Dog in

the Night-Time”), so jump on those limited-time tickets now and be sure to set aside two nights for the experience. Oh, you didn’t know about its durational qualities? Well, just bring a nice cushion to sit on.

## And now for a Madonna rumor about 'RuPaul's Drag Race'...

Normally, we like facts. We’re reporters of truth, after all. But it appears that RuPaul can barely stand keeping this tea to himself, so here goes. At the Primetime Emmy Awards, Miss Ru – having just won another Emmy and then appearing in full Emmy Statue drag with host Stephen Colbert – was asked about how “Drag Race” might top having Lady Gaga appear last season as a challenge-starter and judge. Mr. Charles responded with, “It is kinda tough to top her. But I think we’ve done it. I really do.” Now, you know and we know that there’s only one woman standing between Gaga and the top of the heap and that’s Madonna. Asked if that meant Madge was going to be hopping into a judge’s seat, RuPaul’s answer was, “I can’t saaaaay.”

So, basically, we’re running with the story that Madonna is going to go on this show and shred those queens if they “fuck it up,” that is until someone in charge officially tells us otherwise. Your move, fact checkers and rumor squashers at VH1/Logo/Viacom.

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## Fall Fling Marks 10 Year Anniversary of Affirmations Building

BY BTL STAFF

**FERNDALE** – Affirmations will welcome the autumn season at the LGBTQ+ center with their annual Fall Fling at 7 p.m. on Oct. 7 and this year, the celebration will include the 10-year building anniversary. More than 200 guests are expected to attend the nearly sold out evening, complete with live entertainment, silent-auction, raffle, cocktails, hors d'oeuvres and dessert. Attire is casual.

Event sponsorships have been secured with Blue Cross Complete of Michigan, Citizens Bank, Comerica, Domino's Pizza, FCA US LLC, Masco, Mercedes-Benz Financial Services, MGM Grand Detroit, and Mike Flores and Josh Curie.

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"I hope that you can join us for what is sure to be an occasion full of fun festivities," said Susan Erspamer, executive director at Affirmations. "Not only are we honoring the arrival of the fall season, but our landmark 10-year building anniversary will also be recognized throughout the evening and I can't wait to celebrate with you."

*Affirmations is located at 290 W. Nine Mile Rd. in Ferndale. To purchase tickets to Fall Fling or for more information, visit <http://goaffirmations.org/fall-fling-2017>.*

## Fair Michigan Gets Justice for Gay Man Conned, Robbed

BY BTL STAFF

A Detroit man was sentenced Sept. 28 for an April robbery in which he lured a gay man from a gas station to rob him.

Officials told WDIV ClickOnDetroit that Johnny Frost and another person met a gay man at a gas station. Frost pretended to be interested in the man and lured him to a dark, quiet location. Frost placed something on the victim's head and used a gay slur while taking money from his pockets, according to the report.

Frost was sentenced to 29 months to 15 years in prison for one count of unarmed robbery.

The case was prosecuted by Jaimie Powell Horowitz, special

prosecutor for the Fair Michigan Justice Project, a non-profit organization created in July 2016 to prosecute hate crimes against the LGBTQ community in partnership with Wayne County Prosecutor Kym L. Worthy.

"This case illustrates the danger that LGBTQ people face during their everyday activities," said Dana Nessel, president of the FMJP, in a statement. "The Fair Michigan Justice Project, in association with the Prosecutor's Office and the Detroit Police, is committed to vigorously prosecuting serious crimes against the LGBTQ community."

*For more information, visit [www.fairmichigan.org](http://www.fairmichigan.org).*

### ► Dark Tale

Continued from p. 30

be too bloody. But Cooney recognizes a good idea when he hears one. "For Matt, there (are) a handful of shows he has been obsessing over since he was a child," he said. "They've all gone through an intense development process in his bedroom many years ago - and continue to haunt him in his sleep. Given Matt's enthusiasm and insane concept for 'Sweeney,' we decided it was an exciting choice for our first revival, and a perfect fit for our tenth season."

Although Brennan's work at The Encore has been behind the scenes of late as a choreographer and director, the Chicago-born, but Louisville, KY-based artist first arrived in Dexter almost as a fluke. Or maybe divine intervention. "I had not moved to Louisville yet, but I was there working a lot. There was a woman named Barbara Cullen who used to direct and choreograph here. She and Dan know each other because Dan used to work at the theater I work at in Louisville all the time, which is how Barb kind of ended up coming here. In 2010, Barb called me kind of in a panic and said, 'I'm doing 'Damn

Yankees.' I need dancing guys. I'm sure there's no chance that you have the next five weeks free?"

He checked. He did - but barely. "So, I said, 'Sure, yeah. Sure. Why not?'"

He got more than he bargained for. "So I came in 2010 kind of thinking, 'I'll hop in here. I'll put on a baseball uniform and dance around for Barb. It'll be great. And I'll go back to New York and continue doing whatever.' (I) just kind of never thought I would ever venture back."

But it's a journey he's since taken numerous times. "And it all started with Barb needing a dancing gentleman."

With "Sweeney," Brennan needs more than just a gentleman who dances. In fact, there are nearly two dozen characters he needs to bring to life, some of whom are the opposite of gentlemanly - and all of whom need to be excellent singers. Both he and Moan make it clear they couldn't be happier with multiple Wilde Award-winning musical director Tyler Driskill and the ensemble that's been assembled for this production.

"It's just been the best environment," Moan said. "I've felt so much support from my cast mates who are doing incredible things. The actor playing Tobias, Billy

Eric Robinson, he comes in and he has such craft for that role and just inspires me every day."

Moan gives especially high praise to his co-star and leading lady (if you can a woman who gleefully turns murder victims into meat pies a "lady"). "Sarah Briggs is just killing it as Mrs. Lovett. It's been wonderful," Moan said.

Brennan agrees. "She's very funny, but she's very sexy. Even the gay guys in the cast are like, 'I'm thinking about switching over because of Sarah Briggs!'" he laughed. "(Her number) 'By the Sea' is funny and it is heartbreaking."

It's also unlike any "Sweeney Todd" you've likely seen before - and according to Moan, that's one its selling points. "(For) those people who don't know 'Sweeney Todd,' this is a great place to start. And people who've come to The Encore for years, I think, are going to be very surprised at what The Encore can be. Those people who have never been to The Encore before are going to want to come back because of this show."

With the opening night performance now in the record books, truer words have likely never been spoken.



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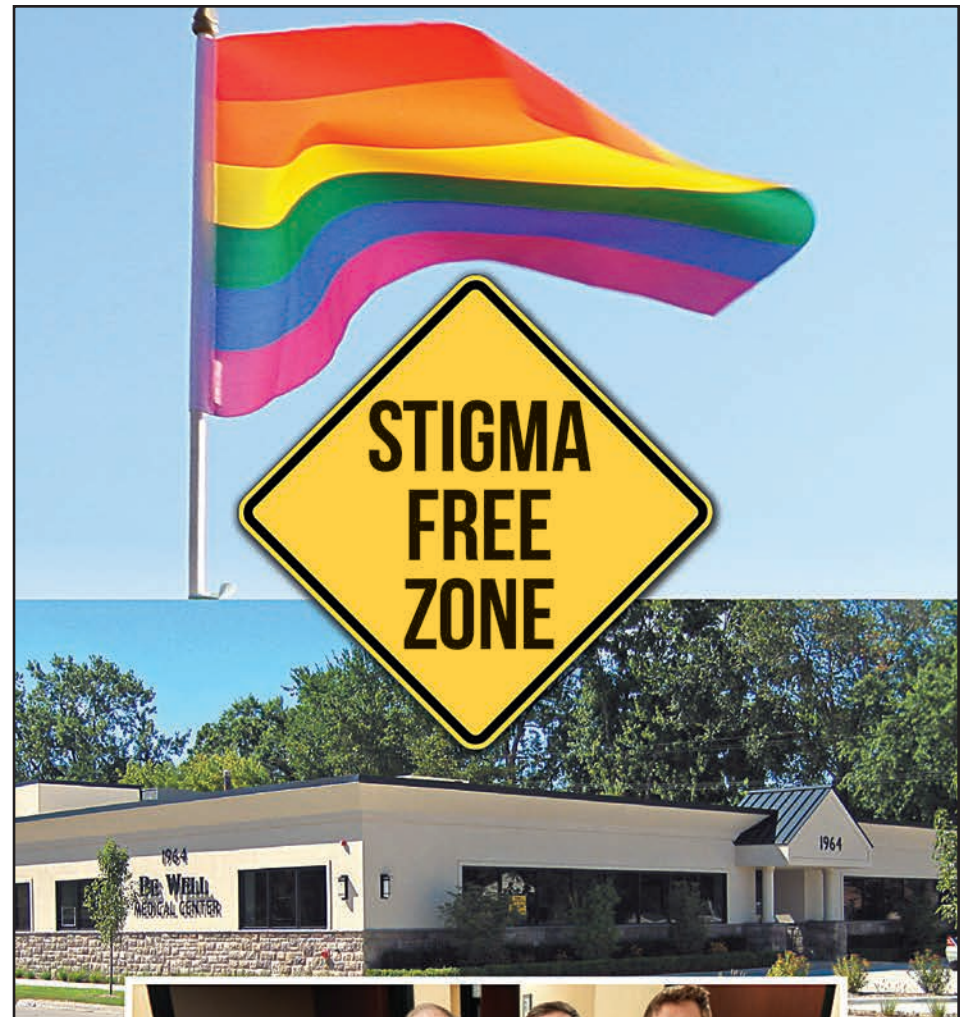
Artist Heaven is a mobile nonprofit that uplifts, educates, and inspires the youth, ages 7-18 through various forms of art.

[www.artistheavendetroit.org](http://www.artistheavendetroit.org)

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[iunger@goaffirmations.org](mailto:iunger@goaffirmations.org)



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# COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Find over 300 Non-Profit Listings Serving Michigan's LGBTQ Online @ [www.pridesource.com](http://www.pridesource.com)

Editor's Note: This is a sampling of the hundreds of Michigan non-profits working with the LGBTQ community across the state. From time to time this print resource will emphasize different sectors as space permits.

## AIDS/HIV

There are dozens of AIDS/HIV organizations and resources listed at [www.pridesource.com](http://www.pridesource.com). Here are just three of them:

### AIDS Walk Detroit

Contact [info@aidswalkdetroit.org](mailto:info@aidswalkdetroit.org) or 248-399-9255 for more information. The walk takes place this year on Sunday, Sept. 15, 8:30 a.m. at the Royal Oak Farmers Market

### Macomb County STD Clinic

27690 Van Dyke  
Warren, MI 48093  
586-465-9217  
<http://health.macombgov.org/Health-Programs-HPDC-HIVAIDSCounselingTesting>

### Matrix Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program

120 Parsons Street  
Detroit, MI 48201  
888-226-6366  
248-545-1435  
[www.matrixhumanservices.org/programs/ryanwhite/](http://www.matrixhumanservices.org/programs/ryanwhite/)

### UNIFIED - HIV Health and Beyond

3011 W. Grand Blvd. Suite 230  
Detroit, MI 48202  
313-446-9800  
[www.miunified.org](http://www.miunified.org)  
Michigan HIV/STD Hotline  
800-872-2437

## Advocacy

### Equality Michigan

19641 W. 7 Mile, Detroit, MI  
313-537-7000  
[equalitymi.org](http://equalitymi.org)  
[Facebook.com/equalitymichigan](https://www.facebook.com/equalitymichigan)

## Campus

Currently there are 19 organizations listed as active online at [www.pridesource.com/](http://www.pridesource.com/) yellow pages. The following are some in the southeast Michigan area:

### U-M Ann Arbor

Spectrum Center  
[Spectrumcenter@umich.edu](mailto:Spectrumcenter@umich.edu)  
<http://spectrumcenter.umich.edu>  
734-763-4186

### Oakland University Gender & Sexuality Center

[gsc@oakland.edu](mailto:gsc@oakland.edu)  
[www.oakland.edu/gsc](http://www.oakland.edu/gsc)  
248-370-4336

### Eastern Michigan University

LGBT Resource Center  
[emich.edu/lgbtrc](http://emich.edu/lgbtrc)  
734-487-4149

### The Lawrence Tech LGBT Resource Center

[ltu.edu/student\\_affairs/lgbt.asp](http://ltu.edu/student_affairs/lgbt.asp)

### Wayne State JIGSAW

[Facebook.com/groups/WayneStateJIGSAW](https://www.facebook.com/groups/WayneStateJIGSAW)  
[wsujigsaw@gmail.com](mailto:wsujigsaw@gmail.com)

## Community Centers

Michigan has nine active LGBTQ community centers, with a tenth planned in Lansing. Here are three of them.

### Jim Toy Community Center

Ann Arbor  
[www.jimtoycenter.org](http://www.jimtoycenter.org)  
[www.facebook.com/jimtoycenter](https://www.facebook.com/jimtoycenter)  
or follow them on Twitter @ JimToyCenter.  
319 Braun Court  
Ann Arbor, MI  
734-995-9867  
**LGBT Detroit**

### Detroit

[www.lgbtdetroit.org](http://www.lgbtdetroit.org)  
[www.facebook.com/lgbtdetroit](https://www.facebook.com/lgbtdetroit)  
or follow them on Twitter @ LGBTDetroit.  
20025 Greenfield Road  
Detroit, MI  
Phone: 313-397-2127

### Affirmations

Ferndale  
<http://goaffirmations.org>  
[www.facebook.com/Affirmations/](https://www.facebook.com/Affirmations/)  
or follow them on Twitter @ GoAffirmations.  
290 W. Nine Mile Road  
Ferndale, MI  
248-398-7105

## Legal

### American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan

Jay Kaplan, Staff Attorney, LGBT Project  
2966 Woodward Ave., Detroit, MI  
[www.aclumich.org](http://www.aclumich.org)  
313-578-6800

### Fair Michigan

PO Box 6136  
Plymouth, MI 48170  
877-432-4764, 313-556-2300  
[fairmichigan.org](http://fairmichigan.org)  
[Facebook.com/fairmichigan2016](https://www.facebook.com/fairmichigan2016)

### Know Your Rights Project

Outlaws U-M student group  
[outlawslegal@gmail.com](mailto:outlawslegal@gmail.com)  
734-995-9867

## Older Adults

### SAGE Metro Detroit

290 W. Nine Mile Rd. Ferndale, MI  
313-578-6812  
[sagemetrodetroit.org](http://sagemetrodetroit.org)  
Facebook: SAGE Metro Detroit

## Political

### The LGBT and Allies Caucus of the Michigan Democratic Party

[Facebook.com/TheLGBTACaucusoftheMDP](https://www.facebook.com/TheLGBTACaucusoftheMDP)

### Stonewall for Revolution

[www.facebook.com/stonewall4revolution](https://www.facebook.com/stonewall4revolution)

## Professional Groups

### Detroit Regional LGBT Chamber of Commerce

P.O. Box 32446  
Detroit, MI 48232  
[detroitlgbtchamber.com](http://detroitlgbtchamber.com)  
1-800-DET-LGBT

### Ties Like Me

Professional networking events  
third Weds. 5:30 - 8 p.m.  
[TiesLikeMe.org](http://TiesLikeMe.org)

### Suits And The City

Lansing, MI  
[suitsandthecity@gmail.com](mailto:suitsandthecity@gmail.com)  
[www.suitsandthecity.org](http://www.suitsandthecity.org)

## Transgender

### FtM Detroit

<https://www.facebook.com/FtMDetroit/>  
[ftmdetroit@gmail.com](mailto:ftmdetroit@gmail.com)

### FtM A2 Ypsi

[ftmannarborypsilanti@gmail.com](mailto:ftmannarborypsilanti@gmail.com)  
<https://www.facebook.com/ftma2ypsi/>

### Transgender Michigan

23211 Woodward Ave.  
Ferndale, MI  
[info@transgendermichigan.org](mailto:info@transgendermichigan.org)  
[www.transgendermichigan.org](http://www.transgendermichigan.org)  
800-842-2954

### Trans Sistas of Color Project

19641 W. 7 Mile Rd. in Detroit  
313-537-7000 Ext 107  
[info@tscopdetroit.org](mailto:info@tscopdetroit.org)  
[www.facebook.com/TSCOPD/](https://www.facebook.com/TSCOPD/)

## Youth

### Ruth Ellis Center

77 Victor Street, Highland Park, MI  
48203  
[info@ruthelliscenter.org](mailto:info@ruthelliscenter.org)  
Facebook: Ruth Ellis Center  
313-252-1950

### Ozone House

102 N. Hamilton Street  
Ypsilanti, MI  
734-662-2265  
734-662-2222

### Stand With Trans

Farmington, MI  
[www.standwithtrans.org](http://www.standwithtrans.org)  
248-739-9254



Find a digital version of PrideSource Magazine online under Our LGBTQ Yellow Pages

## Find these resources online

- Adoption Services
- AIDS/HIV Hotlines
- AIDS/HIV Organizations
- Alzheimer's Association
- Animal Shelter
- Anti-Violence
- Archives/Collections
- Campus; Student and Alumni Groups
- Cancer Support Groups
- Choruses
- Community Centers
- Employee Resource Groups
- Families and Parents
- Foster Care
- Foundations and Funders
- Hotlines & Switchboards
- Labor Union
- Legal Organizations
- Museums
- Music Groups
- National Organizations
- Political Organizations
- Professional Organizations
- Religious & Spiritual
- Senior Living
- Seniors
- Social/Community Organizations
- Sports
- Substance Abuse
- Transgender Groups/Services
- Women's Health
- Youth Services

## Get Listed, Promote Your Events

You can add or update any listing by going to [www.PrideSource.com](http://www.PrideSource.com) and clicking on Yellow Pages. Once you submit your listing, our staff will contact you to confirm your information.

You can add your event to the Pride Source Calendar online and in print by going to [www.PrideSource.com](http://www.PrideSource.com) and clicking on Calendar, then "Add Event." Send any press releases and announcements to [editor@pridesource.com](mailto:editor@pridesource.com)

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or go to [gettested.cdc.gov](http://gettested.cdc.gov)



## STD/HIV CLINIC

"The Risk is Not Knowing,  
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### Services Provided:

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- Rapid HIV Testing/Counseling



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| • Gonorrhea/ Chlamydia            | • Pubic lice |
| • Trichomoniasis                  | • HEPC       |
| • Non-gonococcal urethritis (NGU) |              |

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