

MICHIGAN'S LGBTQ NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1993



THE *Applause!* ISSUE

# Detroit's REC Honors MARGARET CHO



[WWW.PRIDESOURCE.COM](http://WWW.PRIDESOURCE.COM)

SEPT. 6, 2018 | VOL. 2636 | FREE

## What is BIKTARVY®?

BIKTARVY is a complete, 1-pill, once-a-day prescription medicine used to treat HIV-1 in adults. It can either be used in people who have never taken HIV-1 medicines before, or people who are replacing their current HIV-1 medicines and whose healthcare provider determines they meet certain requirements.

**BIKTARVY does not cure HIV-1 or AIDS.** HIV-1 is the virus that causes AIDS.

## IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

### What is the most important information I should know about BIKTARVY?

#### BIKTARVY may cause serious side effects:

- ▶ **Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** If you have both HIV-1 and HBV and stop taking BIKTARVY, your HBV may suddenly get worse. Do not stop taking BIKTARVY without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to monitor your health.

#### Who should not take BIKTARVY?

##### Do not take BIKTARVY if you take:

- ▶ dofetilide
- ▶ rifampin
- ▶ any other medicines to treat HIV-1

#### What are the other possible side effects of BIKTARVY?

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

- ▶ **Changes in your immune system.** Your immune system may get stronger and begin to fight infections. Tell your healthcare provider if you have any new symptoms after you start taking BIKTARVY.
- ▶ **Kidney problems, including kidney failure.** Your healthcare provider should do blood and urine tests to check your kidneys. If you develop new or worse kidney problems, they may tell you to stop taking BIKTARVY.
- ▶ **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.

**The most common side effects** of BIKTARVY in clinical studies were diarrhea (6%), nausea (5%), and headache (5%). Tell your healthcare provider if you have any side effects that bother you or don't go away.

#### What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking BIKTARVY?

- ▶ **All your health problems.** Be sure to tell your healthcare provider if you have or have had any kidney or liver problems, including hepatitis virus infection.
- ▶ **All the medicines you take,** including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, antacids, laxatives, vitamins, and herbal supplements. BIKTARVY and other medicines may affect each other. Keep a list of all your medicines and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist, and ask if it is safe to take BIKTARVY with all of your other medicines.
- ▶ **If you are pregnant** or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if BIKTARVY can harm your unborn baby. Tell your healthcare provider if you become pregnant while taking BIKTARVY.
- ▶ **If you are breastfeeding** (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed. HIV-1 can be passed to the baby in breast milk.

**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.**

**Ask your healthcare provider if BIKTARVY is right for you.**



Please see Important Facts about BIKTARVY, including important warnings, on the following page.

Get HIV support by  
downloading a free app  
at [MyDailyCharge.com](https://MyDailyCharge.com)



# KEEP PUSHING.

Because HIV doesn't change who you are.

BIKTARVY is a **1-pill, once-a-day complete HIV-1 treatment** for adults who are either new to treatment or whose healthcare provider determines they can replace their current HIV-1 medicines with BIKTARVY.

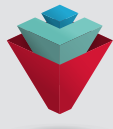
**BIKTARVY does not cure HIV-1 or AIDS.**

[BIKTARVY.COM](https://BIKTARVY.COM)



**BIKTARVY**<sup>®</sup>  
bictegravir 50mg/emtricitabine 200mg/  
tenofovir alafenamide 25mg tablets

**LOVE  
WHAT'S  
INSIDE**<sup>®</sup>



**BIKTARVY**<sup>®</sup>

bictegravir 50mg/emtricitabine 200mg/  
tenofovir alafenamide 25mg tablets

**(bik-TAR-vee)**

## MOST IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT BIKTARVY

**BIKTARVY may cause serious side effects, including:**

- **Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** If you have both HIV-1 and HBV, your HBV may suddenly get worse if you stop taking BIKTARVY. Do not stop taking BIKTARVY without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to check your health regularly for several months.

## ABOUT BIKTARVY

BIKTARVY is a complete, 1-pill, once-a-day prescription medicine used to treat HIV-1 in adults. It can either be used in people who have never taken HIV-1 medicines before, or people who are replacing their current HIV-1 medicines and whose healthcare provider determines they meet certain requirements.

**BIKTARVY does not cure HIV-1 or AIDS.** HIV-1 is the virus that causes AIDS.

**Do NOT take BIKTARVY if you also take a medicine that contains:**

- dofetilide
- rifampin
- any other medicines to treat HIV-1

## BEFORE TAKING BIKTARVY

**Tell your healthcare provider all your medical conditions, including if you:**

- Have or have had any kidney or liver problems, including hepatitis infection.
- Are pregnant or plan to become pregnant.
- Are breastfeeding (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed if you have HIV-1 because of the risk of passing HIV-1 to your baby.

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

- Keep a list that includes all prescription and over-the-counter medicines, antacids, laxatives, vitamins, and herbal supplements, and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist.
- Ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist about medicines that interact with BIKTARVY.

## IMPORTANT FACTS

**This is only a brief summary of important information about BIKTARVY<sup>®</sup> and does not replace talking to your healthcare provider about your condition and your treatment.**

## POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF BIKTARVY

**BIKTARVY can cause serious side effects, including:**

- Those in the “Most Important Information About BIKTARVY” section.
- Changes in your immune system.
- 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.
- **The most common side effects of BIKTARVY** in clinical studies were diarrhea (6%), nausea (5%), and headache (5%).

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

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

## HOW TO TAKE BIKTARVY

Take BIKTARVY 1 time each day with or without food.

## GET MORE INFORMATION

- This is only a brief summary of important information about BIKTARVY. Talk to your healthcare provider or pharmacist to learn more.
- Go to BIKTARVY.com or call 1-800-GILEAD-5.
- If you need help paying for your medicine, visit BIKTARVY.com for program information.



BIKTARVY, the BIKTARVY Logo, DAILY CHARGE, the DAILY CHARGE Logo, KEEP PUSHING, LOVE WHAT'S INSIDE, GILEAD, and the GILEAD Logo are trademarks of Gilead Sciences, Inc., or its related companies.

Version date: February 2018

© 2018 Gilead Sciences, Inc. All rights reserved. BVYC0048 07/18



Photo credit: Albert Sanchez

# Join The Conversation @ Pridesource.com

## FALL APPLAUSE ISSUE

**IT'LL BE A GAY OL' TIME IN THEATERS**  
The 2018-19 Season Shapes Up to Be the Most LGBTQ-Friendly Year in Ages



## THE INTERVIEW



### COVER

6 Detroit's REC Honors Margaret Cho

### NEWS

10 Jason Morgan: 'We Need More Out, Gay Elected Officials'  
12 Kavanaugh Hearings to Begin Tuesday Despite Trump Scandals  
13 El Salvador Government Employee Attacks Activist, Mother  
16 Christ Church Cranbrook Gets Gay Associate Rector

### APPLAUSE

22 It'll Be a Gay Ol' Time in Theaters Across Metro Detroit  
24 Meet Eric Swanson  
24 Applause Calendar  
28 Meet Megan Buckley-Ball  
30 2018-19 LGBTQ Theater Series  
32 Meet Paul Stark  
34 4 Performances of 'The Laramie Project' at The Ringwald Sept. 14-17

### OPINION

14 Parting Glances  
14 Viewpoint  
15 Creep of the Week

### LIFE

6 Detroit's REC Honors Margaret Cho  
36 Gus Kenworthy's Next Chapter  
44 5 Reasons to Resist Tossing Out Your Ex-Relationships' Mementos  
45 Aquaria: Go-Getter, Trendsetter  
40 Happenings  
43 Puzzle and Crossword

### COOL CITIES: LANSING

38 National Attention Paid to Michigan's 'Dadvantage'

## SAVE THE DATE



### AQUARIA: GO-GETTER, TRENDSETTER

Now, local fans can get excited as she'll be making her way to Detroit's own Sound Board at MotorCity Casino Hotel on Wednesday, Sept. 12.

See Page 45

## MARRIAGE ISSUE



### COUPLE MEETS VIA FACEBOOK

See Page 18

## WORSHIP GUIDE



### CHRIST CHURCH CRANBOOK GETS GAY ASSOCIATE RECTOR

See Page 16

VOL. 2636 • SEPTEMBER 6, 2018  
ISSUE 1077

### PRIDE SOURCE MEDIA GROUP

20222 Farmington Rd., Livonia, Michigan 48152  
Phone 734.293.7200

### PUBLISHERS

Susan Horowitz & Jan Stevenson

### MEMBER OF

Michigan Press Association  
National LGBT Media Association  
National Gay & Lesbian Chamber  
Q Syndicate



### EDITORIAL

#### Editor in Chief

Susan Horowitz, 734.293.7200 x 102  
susanhorowitz@pridesource.com

#### Entertainment Editor

Chris Azzopardi, 734.293.7200 x 106  
chrisazzopardi@pridesource.com

#### Feature News Editor

Kate Opalewski, 734.293.7200 x 108  
kate@pridesource.com

#### Editorial Assistant

Eve Kucharski, 734.293.7200 x 105  
eve@pridesource.com

### News & Feature Writers

Emell Derra Adolphus, Michelle Brown, Todd A. Heywood, Ellen Knoppow, Jason Michael, Drew Howard, Jonathan Thurston

### CREATIVE

#### Webmaster & MIS Director

Kevin Bryant, kevinbryant@pridesource.com

### Columnists

Charles Alexander, Michelle E. Brown, Mikey Rox, D'Anne Witkowski, Gwendolyn Ann Smith

### Cartoonists

Paul Berg, Dave Brousseau

### Contributing Photographers

Andrew Potter, Alexander Godin, Andrew Cohen

### ADVERTISING & SALES

#### Director of Sales

Jan Stevenson, 734.293.7200 x 101  
jan@pridesource.com

#### Sales Representatives

Ann Cox, 734.293.7200 x 103  
anncox@pridesource.com

Donelle Kremke, 734.293.7200 x 104  
donelle@pridesource.com

#### National Advertising Representative

Rivendell Media, 212.242.6863

Our rate cards are available online. All material appearing in Between The Lines is protected by federal copyright law and may not be reproduced in whole or part without the permission of the publishers. Between The Lines is supported by many fine advertisers, but we cannot accept responsibility for claims made by our advertisers, nor can we accept responsibility for materials provided by advertisers or their agents.

Copyright 2018 Pride Source Media Group

### ONLINE AT



"Between The Lines Newspaper"



Follow us @YourBTL



Email your op-eds to editor@pridesource.com



Sign up online to receive our E-Digest

# REC Honors Margaret Cho's Trailblazing Activism

## Detroit's Ruth Ellis Center Will Award Comedian on Sept. 27

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

Fame, for better or worse, almost always comes with a platform, and in the case of Margaret Cho, it's been one that promotes acceptance. Ever since she first graced the comedy stages of her native San Francisco or appeared on ABC in a sitcom featuring a Korean-American family, she's been unafraid to broach topics that make others uncomfortable – like LGBTQ rights, sexual assault and racism – and then swiftly release the tensions of those subjects with laughs. Coupled with her comedy, Cho has worked as an activist in many fields, taking on problems like homelessness and anti-bullying, and stood firm in the face of controversy. Cho's courage and boldness are exactly why Mark Erwin-McCormick, the Director of Development and Advancement at Detroit's Ruth Ellis Center, said she was chosen to receive a Ruth Ellis Legacy Award this year.

"The thing with Margaret is that she's been so incredibly outspoken about LGBTQ equity, and not just for the LGBT community as a whole, but with emphasis on LGBTQ youth for sure," Erwin-McCormick said. "And she wasn't doing it when it was popular to do so, or when other people were doing it. Margaret has been talking about this for decades."

Cho will be receiving the award at the annual REC VOICES Gala, on Thursday, Sept. 27, alongside guests Jack Antonoff, Andrew Dost, Billy Porter and Zeke Thomas.

In advance of the awards, Cho spoke with BTL about what pushes her to be an activist, what it's like to be bisexual in the public eye and how to make sense of our divisive political climate.

**Activism and your comedy seem to have always been intertwined. Why did you choose to focus on arguably difficult topics in your stand-up?**

Well it comes from the environment I grew up in. It was all about Harvey Milk and the way that the world was changing. We were looking to equal rights as something that could be possible, that could be an actual experience and lived, and so this was a very big deal. And I think I've always been influenced by that and growing up around that and really feeling like we could have equal rights and that we could have a fair world, that that was a really incredible thing to witness. I've always been around activism, it's always been a part of my life. Even starting up young as a comedian and doing shows and it was always a part of life.

**How was it growing up with your parents owning an LGBTQ bookstore? That must have been an**



Photo credit: Albert Sanchez

**amazing pocket of acceptance and an influence, too.**

Yeah, it was really incredible. Also, I come from, like, what would be considered a pretty conservative background with my family and how, you know, they're very Korean [laughs]. So, a very strange place to grow up in a gay bookstore, for a Korean family to be in. It was so highly unusual, and it was really a testament of my father's vision, of what he wanted. He wanted to have a place in the gay community, and this was in the '70s, that was incredibly forward-thinking, and, to me, outrageous. I think about it now and it's really amazing. You know, he's great that way. It's really powerful.

**You have a bit in which you your mother tells you about your dad punching his gay friend because he didn't know how to react to him coming out, something that he later regrets. It's a funny way to send a good message, but it was also true. Is that how you try to shape most of your comedy, by injecting a clear message within the humor?**

That's what it always was about. It was funny because it was true, and it was just stuff that was normal to me and it just made sense to me, you know? I have gay friends, I have a life that I am queer in and around. I just was talking about my life and all of the things in it and the fact that it happened to be gay was just the truth.

**In another interview you mentioned from a young age, 6 or 7, you had an understanding that you were different than your peers. Did your family owning a gay bookstore provide insulation from the outside world, or did it impact you negatively?**

It made it a safe space to be who I was. Everything was acceptable. There wasn't any sense of it being weird. Being gay, or all that was totally normal, but being bi that was really obvious, that was something that like, nobody could understand. The gay people that worked for my father they didn't get bi, they didn't understand bisexuality. And then the straight people didn't really get bi. So, bisexuality because this weird thing of, "Is

that a thing? Is that even real?" I still kind of think that that kind of exists too, that that kind of mentality around bisexuality exists, "Oh, is that real? Or is that actually bisexual?" It was kind of like before people came out they would say they were bi. So, it's this idea that you're not actually coming out and you're only coming out to a point and as opposed to bisexual actual existence that's real and valid. I think that's something that I think we're still coming up against. Or they feel like, "Oh, you're going to go back to who you were." On both sides, straight or gay, and, like, that's a weird kind of a thing, too, that there's a going back [laughs]. We're just not trustworthy, that's kind of what the message is.

**If you could talk to a younger version of yourself grappling with their sexuality in their adolescence, what advice would you give them?**

I think it's just knowing that everything is going to be OK. It's like what you are is actually valid and you don't have to be afraid to embrace that. And it's OK to be different. It's OK to be different even when everyone else is supposed to be different, too, they're supposed to be, like, even from you. So, in the greater gay community we still have that feeling of we're not really gay [laughs], but you can be.

**Do you think it's the responsibility of people like you, who have a platform, who are "outsiders" in the mainstream, to be visible? To talk about those things that make them different?**

Well, I don't know. I just think it's fun and easy, you know, and I just like to. But, I don't feel like there's any sense of responsibility to serve your identity politically. You know, people just kind of do what they do. I have fun with it, talking about it in my work and playing around with it, but it's also fine to not as well.

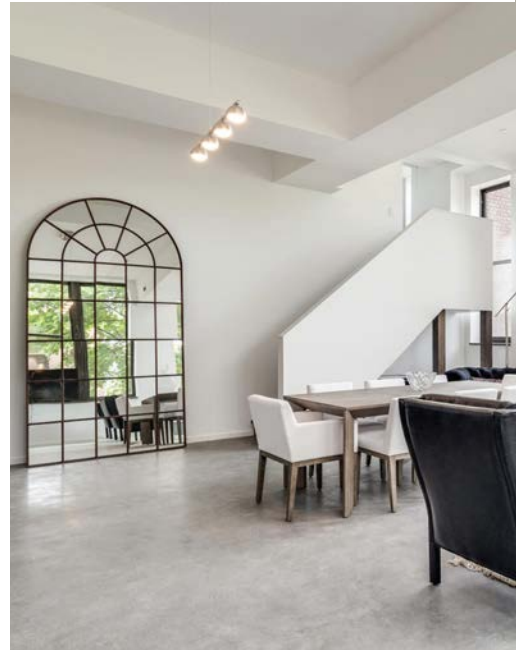
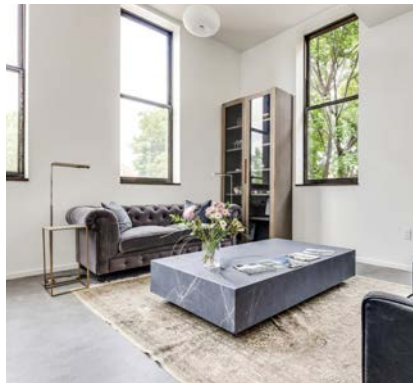
**Having this opportunity to accept an award from the Ruth Ellis Center for your activism, does that give you hope for the future, even in a divisive political time?**

Yeah, yeah, absolutely. It does give me hope for the future in the way that resistance has become a really big part of how we cope and I love that. It just gives you a lot of hope. I think it's a really important thing and now we have a chance to go back to what gay pride was about before, which was about equal rights and not so much just a big party, it was about activism before. So, now we're returning to that which is really great.

See **Margaret Cho**, continued on p. 8

# SAINT CHARLES RESIDENCES

Welcome Home to Detroit's Greater Villages



Mixing the appeal of a century-old architecture with modern design, the **Saint Charles Residences** feature large open spaces, abundant natural light from expansive windows, soaring ceilings and luxury finishes. Experience firsthand the transformation of Islandview, incorporating new and revitalized streetscapes, mixed-use retail development, family-friendly parks, play grounds, greenways and Belle Isle State Park. ***Welcome home to modern luxury.***

SaintCharlesDetroit.com | 1454 Townsend Street, Detroit MI 48214 | 313.658.6400  
**Fully-decorated model now OPEN** | Contact Adam Soroka for a showing: 586.563.7792

  
**BERKSHIRE  
HATHAWAY** | The Loft  
HomeServices Warehouse



## ► Margaret Cho

Continued from p. 6

**You've worked for a variety of causes over the years. How did you go about choosing your causes, was it just a focus on something that was at the forefront at the time?**

Yeah. I think whatever that feels like it needs attention. Whether it's, like, working with gay homeless youth or something that feels very urgent, that feels really good to do. It's intuitive and it's something that feels like, 'I just need to do this.'

**When you're writing comedy now, are you finding inspiration in the fact that many people are starting to take on political causes?**

Yeah. I think it's inspiring, too, to see other people and what they do and see how fired up people are on social media and that's great. You know, I think that we can look to the world and see it's really awesome in the way that we're learning how to do this. We're learning how to take it all to heart and to survive it.

**Is there a certain issue that you're really paying attention to right now in which you feel people could get more involved?**

I think really the #MeToo movement is something that has really spoken to me also, you know? Just talking about what's happened and naming abusers and then not allowing it to happen anymore. And this is something that is a very important thing, and I love that it's happening.

**When you were coming up as a comedian in your early years,**

**did you even think something like the #MeToo movement was a possibility?**

No. I just never thought anything like this could happen. So, it's really inspiring and real joy to witness it every day and it's really awesome.

**What would you say to someone who wants to get involved in a cause they care about but is feeling defeated by the current political situation?**

I think it's just, stay hopeful. Stay positive. It's easy to get bogged down with negativity and get really angry and scared and now is a time to stay fighting. We have to stay really focused and not despair which also can be very easy.

# In Need of Relaxation?

Call Ms. Win  
248-862-4451  
Massages for Woman  
Downtown Detroit Location



Cultivate a timeless look.

**THREE CHAIRS CO**

208 & 215 Ashley Street  
Ann Arbor, MI 48104  
734.665.2796

215 South River Road  
Holland, MI 49423  
616.393.9433

[www.threechairs.com](http://www.threechairs.com)

Exclusive dealer for **Mitchell Gold + Bob Williams**

# Prism of Possibilities Psychotherapy

**Christine Cantrell, PhD**  
Fully Licensed Psychologist



Give yourself an extreme self makeover ...

- ▼ Speak Your Truth
- ▼ Discover What You Want
- ▼ Create Your True Self
- ▼ Heal Old Hurts, Find Wholeness

Located in Royal Oak  
[www.christinecantrell.com](http://www.christinecantrell.com)  
[christinecantrellphd@gmail.com](mailto:christinecantrellphd@gmail.com)

**CALL NOW! 248-591-2888**

**Gabrielle D'Angelo**  
Financial Advisor  
248.655.4147  
2600 W Big Beaver Rd, Suite 110  
Troy MI 48084



Merrill Lynch Wealth Management makes available products and services offered by Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated, a registered broker-dealer and Member SIPC, and other subsidiaries of Bank of America Corporation.

© 2018 Bank of America Corporation. All rights reserved. ARVBHCB | MLWM-100-AD | 470944PM-1017 | 10/2017



**SINE & MONAGHAN**  
REALTORS®

**Brad Bell**  
Associate Broker  
Cell: 248-835-4644  
[www.bradbellrealestate.com](http://www.bradbellrealestate.com)

20+ years of experience in lending, real estate and home building

Residential Sellers & Buyers  
Relocation Specialist  
Select Commercial Properties

30574 Woodward Ave., Royal Oak

**Linda Lom Team**  
AT TRILLIUM




**Linda Helps People Make Good Decisions.**

Come find out why Linda Lombardini was voted Washtenaw County's Favorite Realtor.

**Thrice.**

734-302-3600  
[www.LindaLom.com](http://www.LindaLom.com)


323 Braun Ct., Ann Arbor  
[Linda@LindaLom.com](mailto:Linda@LindaLom.com)



**TRIANGLE CHIROPRACTIC**

INTEGRATE MIND, BODY, AND SPIRIT VIA NATURE AND CHIROPRACTIC MASSAGE AND NUTRITION

GROSSE POINTE OFFICE PLAZA  
1-94 SERVICE DRIVE AT ALLARD EXIT



**JOHN TSAKOS, DC**

MOST INSURANCES ACCEPTED

OPEN MONDAY - SATURDAY  
313-885-9496  
[WWW.TRIANGLECLINIC.COM](http://WWW.TRIANGLECLINIC.COM)





**DETROIT SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**  
LEONARD SLATKIN *Music Director Laureate*  
A COMMUNITY-SUPPORTED ORCHESTRA

**200+ EVENTS  
ON SALE NOW!**

**CLASSICAL  
TICKETS  
START AT  
\$15**

**2018-2019 SEASON AT THE MAX M. & MARJORIE S. FISHER MUSIC CENTER IN MIDTOWN**



**STAR  
WARS**

A NEW HOPE

**IN CONCERT**

PRESENTED BY

**DETROIT SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**

FULL ORCHESTRA CONDUCTED BY CONSTANTINE KITSOPOULOS

SEPTEMBER 28, 29 & 30, 2018 IN ORCHESTRA HALL

MUSIC BY JOHN WILLIAMS

PRESENTATION LICENSED BY



Presentation licensed by Disney Concerts in association with 20th Century Fox, Lucasfilm Ltd., and Warner / Chappell Music. © 2018 & TM LUCASFILM LTD. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED © DISNEY



CLASSICAL SERIES  
**GIL SHAHAM  
AND ENIGMA**

Leonard Slatkin, *conductor*

Gil Shaham, *violin*

SPONSORED BY



Fri., Oct. 5 at 8 p.m.

Sat., Oct. 6 at 8 p.m.

Sun., Oct. 7 at 3 p.m.

ERB *The Seventh Trumpet*

PROKOFIEV *Violin Concerto No. 1*

ELGAR *Enigma Variations*

**OPENING WEEKEND!**

**CLASSICAL SERIES HIGHLIGHTS**

**THE FIREBIRD**

Fabien Gabel, *conductor*  
Hunter Eberly, *trumpet*  
October 18-20

Sponsored by



**TCHAIKOVSKY  
SYMPHONY NO. 4**

John Storgårds, *conductor*  
Pekka Kuusisto, *violin*  
November 16-18

**EMANUEL AX  
PLAYS BEETHOVEN**

Cristian Măcelaru, *conductor*  
Emanuel Ax, *piano*  
November 9 & 10

**BEETHOVEN'S FIFTH**

Carlos Miguel Prieto, *conductor*  
Christian Tetzlaff, *violin*  
December 6-8

DETROIT SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA FEBRUARY 2019

**AMERICAN PANORAMA**

A DSO WINTER FESTIVAL

SPONSORED BY



**PNC POPS SERIES HIGHLIGHTS**

**DANCING IN THE STREET**

Jeff Tyzik, *conductor* • Chester Gregory, *vocalist*  
Michael Lynche, *vocalist* • Shayna Steele, *vocalist*  
October 12-14

**CIRQUE DE LA SYMPHONIE**

Sean O'Loughlin, *conductor*  
November 2-4

**BUGS BUNNY  
AT THE SYMPHONY II**

George Daugherty, *conductor*  
November 30-December 2

TITLE SPONSOR PNC BANK

**PARADISE JAZZ SERIES**

**DIANNE REEVES &  
CHRISTIAN MCBRIDE DUO**

October 26

**CYRUS CHESTNUT TRIO:  
A CHARLIE BROWN  
CHRISTMAS**

December 7

**THE MOVIE MUSIC OF SPIKE  
LEE & TERENCE BLANCHARD**

June 2

MADE POSSIBLE  
WITH SUPPORT FROM



**SPECIAL  
EVENTS:**



**HOME FOR  
THE HOLIDAYS**

DEC. 21-23

Detroit's  
best-selling  
holiday musical  
tradition!



**VIENNA  
BOYS  
CHOIR**

NOV. 25



**HOME ALONE  
WITH THE DSO**

DEC. 19



ORDER YOUR  
TICKETS NOW!

**CALL 313.576.5111 or visit [dso.org](http://dso.org)**

Box Office Hours: Mon.-Fri. 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

GROUPS OF 10 OR MORE CALL 313.576.5130

ORCHESTRA HALL • MAX M. & MARJORIE S. FISHER MUSIC CENTER • 3711 WOODWARD AVE., DETROIT, MI 48201

FIND ALL 200+  
EVENTS ONLINE OR  
CALL FOR A FREE  
BROCHURE

# Nessel Faces Tough AG Race

## Anti-LGBTQ Attackers, Possible Third Candidate

### POLITICAL ANALYSIS

BY BTL STAFF

The contours of the race to replace Republican Attorney General Bill Schuette are starting to clarify. On the Democratic side, openly lesbian attorney Dana Nessel is the nominee, and on the GOP side it's Michigan Speaker of the House Tom Leonard. However, one blurred line remains: independent Chris Graveline.

He grabbed the endorsement of former U.S. Attorney Barbara McQuaid, but when he failed to gather the required 30,000 signatures to qualify for the ballot, Graveline sued the state

in federal court. Last week, the court ruled that if he has 5,000 valid signatures, Michigan Secretary of State Ruth Johnson will be required to certify him for the ballot.

McQuaid originally backed former U.S. Attorney Patrick Miles for the Democratic nod, but when he failed to gain that approval in April, she switched her backing to Graveline — not a first for McQuaid. The Detroit News reported that when Graveline originally failed to qualify for the ballot, she switched her support to Nessel. If McQuaid switches support again, Graveline could cut into Nessel's base and create a far costlier two-front battle.

Leonard, for his part, is rolling into the race with conservative bona fides that would make President Donald Trump happy. The DeWitt Republican survived a brutal battle leading up to the GOP's convention in August with State Sen. Tonya Schuitmaker. The two Republicans hammered each other on immigration issues, with Schuitmaker attacking Leonard for allowing a DACA individual to volunteer in his office for three weeks. That volunteer was characterized by Schuitmaker's attack machine as "undocumented" and as a liberal community organizer, according to Bridge Magazine.

In June, Leonard joined with Senate

Majority Leader Arlan Meekhoff to challenge a May decision by the Michigan Civil Rights Commission to treat anti-LGBTQ discrimination as

a form of sex discrimination under Michigan civil rights laws. The duo appealed to Attorney General, and current GOP nominee for governor, Bill Schuette to overturn the decision. Schuette obliged. Schuette is also a supporter of private religious adoption agencies refusing service to potential parents who do not match their religious beliefs — particularly LGBTQ parents.

State Rep. Gary Glenn is the president of the fundamentalist Christian American Family Association of Michigan, and has called Leonard the most conservative speaker of the Michigan House in his endorsement. Although Glenn lost a battle for the state Senate seat in his area after big energy companies backed his GOP opponent, Glenn's wife, Annette Glenn, won the GOP primary in August to replace him



in the House.

Annette Glenn's support comes from Leonard's anti-LGBTQ pushback, as well as his staunch anti-choice stance. Add on top of that Leonard's focus on so-called free market

economics which includes cutting taxes, putting work requirements on those receiving Medicaid and repealing the prevailing wage.

Of course, Leonard is also a big fan of the "no reason Constitutional carry" of firearms. That's a creative way of saying anyone with a gun should be able to carry it anywhere for any reason.

Watch for Leonard backers, like former Governor John Engler's Chief of Staff and Campaign Manager Dan Pero, to not only attack Nessel with phrases like "nutty Nessel," but also encourage Democrats to back Graveline. It's a clear message that Leonard and his team will try to peel votes away from Nessel in an attempt for him to land in the AG post with a plurality, rather than majority of the vote.

# Jason Morgan: 'We Need More Out, Gay Elected Officials.'

BY DREW HOWARD

From an early age, Washtenaw County Board Commissioner Jason Morgan was instilled with the idea that openly gay candidates could never successfully run for public office, let alone for a second term as he's now doing unopposed.

"When I was growing up I cared a lot about politics, and I was told directly I'd never be able to run for office being openly gay," he told BTL. "I didn't think I would run because it wasn't a thing that, if you were gay, you would do."

Morgan nevertheless pursued a political career in the face of such comments. After taking a position on Capitol Hill following graduation from Northern Michigan University, Morgan moved back to Ann Arbor where he's involved himself in efforts around community engagement and LGBTQ-inclusive policymaking.

Morgan is now seeking re-election on the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners, a seat he's held since 2016. His first two years on the board were focused heavily around advocating for minority groups in the community, he recalls.

"We got a lot of challenges from the city government and the federal government that really threaten our community in terms of immigrants, the LGBT community, seniors, and low-income residents," Morgan said. "A lot of work over the last couple years has focused

on advocacy and making sure state and federal government is doing a good job in protecting citizens."

Before running for the Board of Commissioners, Morgan served as a board member and the chair of public policy for the Jim Toy Community Center. "A part of our work was to reach out to officials and commissioners to ensure we're advancing LGBT policies, and making sure our community is represented in policy-making procedures," he said.

It was around 2015 when Morgan realized his skill set would be of more use running for those same leadership positions he was attempting to reach out to. "I decided it'd more useful to be a policymaker and work with fellow policymakers rather than advocating to them," he said. "I felt we didn't have a voice on the city council or the Board of Commissioners."

One of Morgan's most notable projects over the past two years in terms of LGBTQ policies was promoting Trans Day of Visibility in the Washtenaw County. Celebrated on March 31, Trans Day of Visibility is an annual event that aims to empower and lift up transgender individuals.

"I've sponsored a resolution each year to fly the Transgender Pride Flag in front of County buildings because our transgender residents face significant challenges, and it's important that we as a unit of government show our support for the diversity of individuals in our community," he said.

"This is especially important at a time when our state and federal government keep trying to make it harder to be who you are by rolling back protections for LGBT individuals to serve in the military, or work without fear of being fired for being LGBT."

Morgan understands that while he represents a segment of the LGBTQ community, that doesn't mean he necessarily speaks for everyone under the umbrella. That's why he plans to work even harder over the next two years on creative methods to engage the public in the policymaking decision process.

"Ideally you'd spend all your time reaching out to people and see what they're thinking," he said. "Usually the voices we need at table in terms of better health treatment, housing programs and food assistance are those people who don't have the time to get to downtown Ann Arbor, go to board meeting and pay attention because they're working their tail off."

Morgan and fellow board members are now in the process of studying what other communities are doing in terms of public engagement to create a model that works for Washtenaw County. Tools of engagement like town halls, electronic newsletters and coffee hours are just a few ideas he's hoping to expand upon.

"I want to look at how we can reach people in a way that works for them to get their thoughts and feedback," he said. "Those who don't have the opportunity to speak out need their voices



heard even more."

He adds that one of the most important things he can do for the LGBTQ community is to stay visible. "There's a lot to be said about being visible and being proud as an openly gay elected official," he said. "My hope is to encourage other LGBT people to serve on boards and committees and to get involved, and make those voices heard. We need more out, gay elected officials."



/ therapy for today's world

Lori Edelson, LMSW, LMFT

2075 West Big Beaver Road / Suite 520 / Somerset Corridor / Troy Michigan 48084 / 248 646 6659 / www.birminghammaple.com /



Birmingham Maple Clinic



**On the go? No appointment needed.**

Stop in for an oil change, tire rotation or other minor maintenance services – no need to schedule ahead of time! Our dedicated team of factory trained technicians will get you and your Subaru back on your way. Fast.

- ▶ Oil Change
- ▶ Tire Rotation
- ▶ Engine Air Filter Replacement
- ▶ Cabin Air Filter Replacement
- ▶ Wiper Blade Replacement
- ▶ Tire Pressure Adjustment
- ▶ Tire Tread Depth/Condition Check
- ▶ Fluid Top-Offs
- ▶ Light Bulb Replacement
- ▶ Battery Health Test



2018 SUBARU IMPREZA 2.0I PREMIUM SEDAN

.JD



**HODGES SUBARU**  
Metro Detroit's "Subaru-Only Dealer"

21205 Woodward Ave • Ferndale • MI • 48220

248.547.8800 • www.hodgessubaru.com

HOURS: TUES, WED, & FRIDAY SALES – 9 A.M.-6 P.M. SERVICE – 7:30 A.M. - 6 P.M.

MONDAY & THURS SALES – 9 A.M. - 8 P.M. SERVICE – 7:30 A.M. - 8 P.M.

SATURDAY SALES – 10 A.M. - 2 P.M. SERVICE – 10 A.M. - 2 P.M.

EVERYDAY!

EXCELLENT SERVICE • OUTSTANDING SELECTION • FANTASTIC PRICES....

We value diversity in the City of Ann Arbor, and take pride in being **different** from the rest.



**The City of Ann Arbor is an Equal Opportunity Employer**

We are proud of our diverse workforce and our commitment to equal opportunity. We do not discriminate on the basis of actual or perceived age, arrest record, color, disability, educational association, familial status, family responsibilities, gender expression, gender identity, genetic information, height, HIV status, marital status, national origin, political beliefs, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, source of income, veteran status, victim of domestic violence or stalking, or weight in any aspect of our hiring or employment process. The City of Ann Arbor has earned a perfect score on the Human Rights Campaign Foundation's Municipal Equality Index (MEI), which assesses lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer equality in more than 500 cities across the nation.

[a2gov.org/jobs](http://a2gov.org/jobs)

**RON T. WILLIAMSON DDS**

Dedicated to make our community brighter  
One Smile At A Time  
248-399-4455



**Zoom Special \$249**  
**One-hour Teeth Whitening**

*\*Must mention this BTL ad - Expires 5/29/15*

Nitrous Oxide (relaxing air)  
Proud participants in the Ryan White Program  
No charges for emergency examinations and consultations.  
Uninsured? No problem. Significant savings with our in-office club.



1964 W. 11 Mile Road, Suite 4,  
Berkley, MI 48072  
[www.rontwilliamsondds.com](http://www.rontwilliamsondds.com)

Find us on **facebook**

ANNOUNCING

**Gian Clair**  
MEDICAL SPA

AT PARTRIDGE CREEK OBGYN

Love without discomfort

Laugh without fear of embarrassment

Live reclaim your body with vaginal rejuvenation



FemTouch™

Now offering Vaginal rejuvenation treatments.

Fast, efficient and safe vaginal laser procedure for women's health. Call to day and schedule your treatment.

**586-247-8609**



Center: Rhonda L. Kobold, DO, FACOOG

Left: Teresa C. Kuz, MSN, WHNP-BC

Marcie S. Mullins, MSN, CNM

Angela V. Viviano, MSN, FNP-BC

Right: Tanya M. Vaughn, DNP, CNM, FNP-BC

Beth K. Mutch, MSN, FNP-BC

Corinne Sakiy, MSN, CNM, WHNP-BC

(Not pictured: Hina Javaid, MD)

[partridgecreekobgyn.com](http://partridgecreekobgyn.com)

19991 Hall Road, Suite 105  
Macomb, MI 48044

# Kavanaugh Hearings Begin Despite Trump Scandals

BY CHRIS JOHNSON

Despite objections to holding confirmation hearings for Brett Kavanaugh to the U.S. Supreme Court amid the withholding of documents from his time at the Bush White House and mounting scandals facing President Trump, the Senate is nonetheless poised to begin its public questioning of the nominee next week. The Senate Judiciary Committee is moving forward with hearings — scheduled from Tuesday to Friday — as Republican leaders push to have a floor vote on his confirmation before Election Day — after which control of Congress could change.

LGBT groups and Democrats — who oppose Kavanaugh based on fears his confirmation would tilt the Supreme Court in a more conservative direction — are insisting the hearings be delayed until the Trump administration makes public the entirety of Kavanaugh's records of his time during the George W. Bush administration, including when he served as staff secretary from 2003 to 2006 at the White House.

With Kavanaugh's 12-year record as a circuit judge on the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit scant on LGBT rulings, those Bush administration records may be more revealing on his work or thoughts on LGBT policy. After all, that was the time the U.S. Supreme Court struck down state anti-sodomy laws in the *Lawrence v. Texas* decision and Bush was pushing a Federal Marriage Amendment that would have banned same-sex marriage nationwide.

Additionally, the Bush administration was taking heat at this time for use of torture in interrogation of terrorist suspects, warrantless wiretapping and misleading the American public in motivations for the Iraq war.

Sasha Buchert, staff attorney for the LGBT legal group Lambda Legal, cited those Bush administration initiatives, saying with Kavanaugh up for an appointment to the Supreme Court the availability of those documents is “really, really critical.”

“We don't have adequate information,” Buchert said. “For our lane specially, we don't know his involvement in so many of those Bush-era scandals, so it's critical that this not move forward without us knowing his full involvement.”

Among the documents revealed so far suggest Kavanaugh had a hand in Bush administration policy in which the Salvation Army requested an exemption from local non-discrimination laws to discriminate against LGBT people and still receive federal funds. Although then-White House spokesman Ari Fleischer said in 2001 the administration had decided “not to proceed with the Salvation Army request,” the records suggest Kavanaugh developed an alternate policy for the Bush White House

allowing a religious exemption, which would be consistent with a leaked report at the time from the Salvation Army.

In July 2001, White House counsel Bradford Berenson wrote in an email to fellow White House counsel Jay Lefkowitz he hadn't seen an inquiry from House Democrats on the Salvation Army issue, but “if it's on faith-based, Brett is talking point.” In a subsequent exchange with Berenson, Kavanaugh wrote, “We have mapped out a preliminary strategy.”

Buchert said the email exchange about Kavanaugh's involvement on the Salvation Army issue is revealing.



Confirmation hearings for Judge Brett Kavanaugh began Tuesday. (Photo courtesy of the U.S. Court of Appeals of D.C.)

“It's clear that he had extensive involvement in that issue and likely many others, this is just the tip of the iceberg,” Buchert said.

Senate Democrats have also asserted the withholding of documents stands in contrast to the confirmation process for U.S. Associate Justice Elena Kagan, who was

required to hand over documents related to her time at the Clinton White House. According to Senate Democrats, only six percent of Kavanaugh documents have been made public.

Calls for delay are also based on recent developments suggesting President Trump may have engaged in unlawful activity in the 2016 election. Chief among them is Trump lawyer Michael Cohen's pleading guilty to criminal violations of campaign finance law, which Cohen asserted as part of a plea deal was done at Trump's request. Harper Jean Tobin, director of policy for the National Center for Transgender Equality, cited both the legal troubles facing Trump and the withholding of Kavanaugh documents as reason to suspend the hearings.

“This entire process has already been farcical at best, and attempting to keep Judge Kavanaugh's record a secret is an extreme step that ignores the will of the American people,” Tobin said. “Given the severity of the legal crisis facing the top levels of this country's leadership, these hearings must be suspended at least until Judge Kavanaugh's full records have been made available to the public.”

But those calls for delays aren't enough to persuade Republicans to hold off on the Kavanaugh hearings. Sen. Charles Grassley (R-Iowa), chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee, said in a statement he's “not going

to delay Judge Kavanaugh's confirmation” because the calls for delays are disingenuous.

“Minority Leader Schumer said he'd fight Judge Kavanaugh with everything he's got,” Grassley said. “Some members of this committee announced their opposition before giving him any consideration whatsoever. The goal has always been the same: Delay the confirmation process as much as possible and hope Democrats take over the Senate in the midterm elections.”

Grassley disputed the Trump administration wasn't forthcoming in the confirmation process when compared to the process for confirming Kagan, denying only 6 percent of the Kavanaugh documents were released.

“We have received almost three times the number of pages for Judge Kavanaugh than we received for Justice Kagan,” Grassley said. “This is on top of the fact that we have Judge Kavanaugh's 12-year judicial record to look at, while we didn't have any judicial writings to review for Justice Kagan. This is the most transparent and open Supreme Court

confirmation process of all time.”

The Senate considers the Kavanaugh nomination as the U.S. Supreme Court may take up major LGBT cases in the coming years. Among them are cases challenging

Trump's transgender military ban, lawsuits seeking clarification on whether federal statutes against sex discrimination — such as Title VII and Title IX — cover LGBT people and “religious freedom” litigation seeking a First Amendment right to discriminate against LGBT people despite non-discrimination laws.

Although the Supreme Court already decided in the *Obergefell v. Hodges* case of 2015 that marriage equality is the law of the land, new cases seeking to compromise that ruling may also come before justices. Among them is *Turner v. Pidgeon*, a case percolating in the Texas judiciary challenging spousal health benefits for Houston city employees in same-sex marriages and whether the *Obergefell* decision applies to those benefits.

A number of Senate Democrats — including Kamala Harris (Calif.), Amy Klobuchar (Minn.), Sherrod Brown (Ohio), Claire McCaskill (Mo.) — as well as Sen. Susan Collins (R-Maine), who support LGBT rights, have already met with Kavanaugh to question him privately ahead of the confirmation hearings. Only Brown's office responded to the *Washington Blade's* request for comment on whether senators in the meetings brought up LGBT issues, like same-sex marriage. Jenny Donohue, a Brown spokesperson, said those issues did come up and the Ohio Democrat wasn't happy with the responses.

“Sen. Brown raised concerns with Judge Kavanaugh during their meeting about his take on settled law and civil rights, in the context of everything from worker rights to marriage equality,” Donohue said. “Sen. Brown was not satisfied with Kavanaugh's answer and he will not support someone for the high court who would take rights away from Ohioans.”

Gregory Angelo, president of Log Cabin Republicans, said his organization will be looking to hear from Kavanaugh himself on LGBT issues during his confirmation hearings.

“The main things Log Cabin Republicans will be looking for is how Judge Kavanaugh answers questions regarding the Supreme Court's *Windsor* and *Obergefell* rulings, in addition to questions regarding the balance between religious liberty and LGBT equality,” Angelo said. “Questions regarding the application of the definition of ‘sex’ to LGBT non-discrimination principles will also be on our radar.”

Asked how Kavanaugh's answers to those questions will factor into whether Log Cabin will support the nominee's confirmation, Angelo replied, “I'd rather wait and see how he answers until jumping to conclusions about hypotheticals.”

*This article originally appeared in the Washington*



An El Salvador Ministry of Foreign Affairs employee on Aug. 29, 2018, attacked ESMULES Executive Director Andrea Ayala and her mother at an office in San Salvador, El Salvador. (Photo courtesy of Andrea Ayala)

## El Salvador Government Employee Attacks Activist, Mother

BY ERNESTO VALLE

**SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador** — An employee of the El Salvador Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Wednesday attacked a prominent LGBTI activist and her mother in the country's capital of San Salvador.

Espacio de Mujeres Lesbianas por la Diversidad (ESMULES) Executive Director Andrea Ayala arrived at the ministry's offices at a San Salvador mall 3:25 p.m. to fill out some paperwork. The guard did not allow her and her mother to enter, saying it was 3:30 p.m., the time at which the office closes for the day.

"I told him that wasn't the case because it was not yet closing time and the man exploded," Ayala told the Washington Blade.

"You are nobody here and you cannot come in and tell me what to do because this is an office of the Ministry of Foreign Relations," she added, recounting what the government employee told her.

The ministry employee punched the human rights defender in the mouth. Ayala's mother intervened when she saw this happen, but his

only response was to attack her when she asked him not to hit her daughter.

They both tried to restrain the aggressor and insisted that he calm down to which his only response was "you are nobody here."

Ayala told him that she was going to file a complaint, but the aggressor didn't seem to care. She was able to take out her cell phone in between the blows and pushing and shoving and record the situation in order to share it with her friends and family on social media networks.

The ministry responded to the incident on its Twitter with the following, "[the ministry] is taking seriously the incident that took place in our office at Las Cascadas Mall this afternoon. This ministry reiterates its rejection of any kind of violence and is cooperating with corresponding institutions for resolution of the case."

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



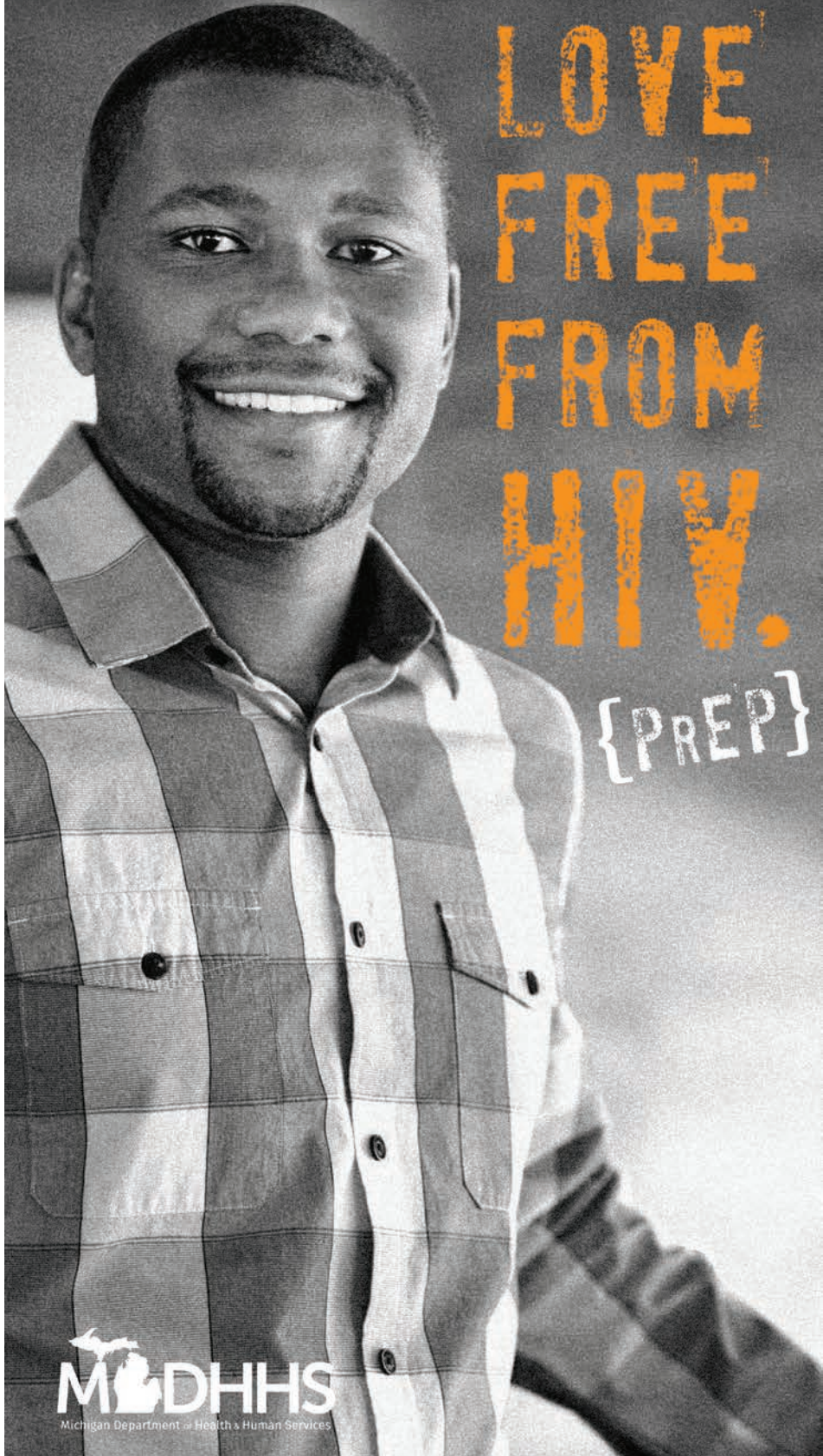
### Shop The Rainbow

There are hundreds of businesses that advertise in BTL and welcome everyone.

Invest in equality and work with businesses that support Michigan's LGBTQ community!




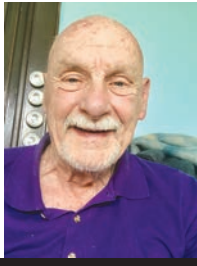
If you are HIV negative, a medicine called PrEP can help keep you that way. When you add PrEP (Pre-exposure prophylaxis) to your daily routine and combine it with other preventative measures like using protection and regular HIV testing, it could help you reduce your risk of getting HIV by over 90%. Ask your healthcare provider about PrEP. Learn more at [michigan.gov/hivstd](http://michigan.gov/hivstd).



LOVE  
FREE  
FROM  
HIV.

{PREP}





## Parting Glances

BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

### When Gay Boys Turn 50 Gaily

A 50th anniversary production of Mort Crowley's groundbreaking play "The Boys in the Band" closed on Broadway Aug. 12 of this year, with big-name stars Jim Parsons (who has said goodbye to TV's "Big Bang Theory"), Andrew Rannells, Matt Bomer and Zachary Quinto.

"Boys" was — what else? — a complete, nostalgic, box-office hit. A frank, honest look at gay life as lived pre-AIDS. An on-stage wake up call to a frightening devastation yet to come.

Mort Crowley's "The Boys in the Band" opened Off-Broadway in 1968. I bought a copy of the play while visiting in Chicago and read dialog aloud while driving back to Detroit with my then partner Larry.

We saw a local production a few years later at the long-vanished Rivera, movie house turned legitimate stage, starring Wayne State University theater major Paul Pentecost.

Seeing gay life as we sometimes found ourselves living it proved fascinating: a big city birthday party turned "truth game," with much drinking, lotsa line dancing to the sweet turn-on sounds of Burt Bacharach's "The Look of Love." A play about us.

The play's opening was timely, one year before New York City's liberating Stonewall Riots (The same year Rev. Troy Perry started the first gay lib church in Los Angeles.). Change was in the air.

"Boys" was exciting on two counts: It was gay from start to finish, with camp humor putdown, and — score one up for me — I had spent a romantic summer week with one of its Off-Broadway production actors Frederick Combs.

I met "Honey Combs" in a gay bar. He was appearing in 1966 in 18-year-old British playwright Shelagh Delaney's international hit, and later movie, "A Taste of Honey" at the Fisher Theatre. He played Geoffrey, a gay artist. It was his big break. The cast included legendary Uta Hagan and the start of a promising career.

Freddy was staying at the Wardell Sheraton transients hotel, later Park Shelton Apartments (I later lived there for 24 years. The property was once owned by comic Gilda Radner, of Saturday Night Live fame.).

Freddy said his two high school drama teachers believed he had talent and much promise and paid for his ticket to New York to study acting (He also said he had been brought out by an Army sergeant when he was 16.).

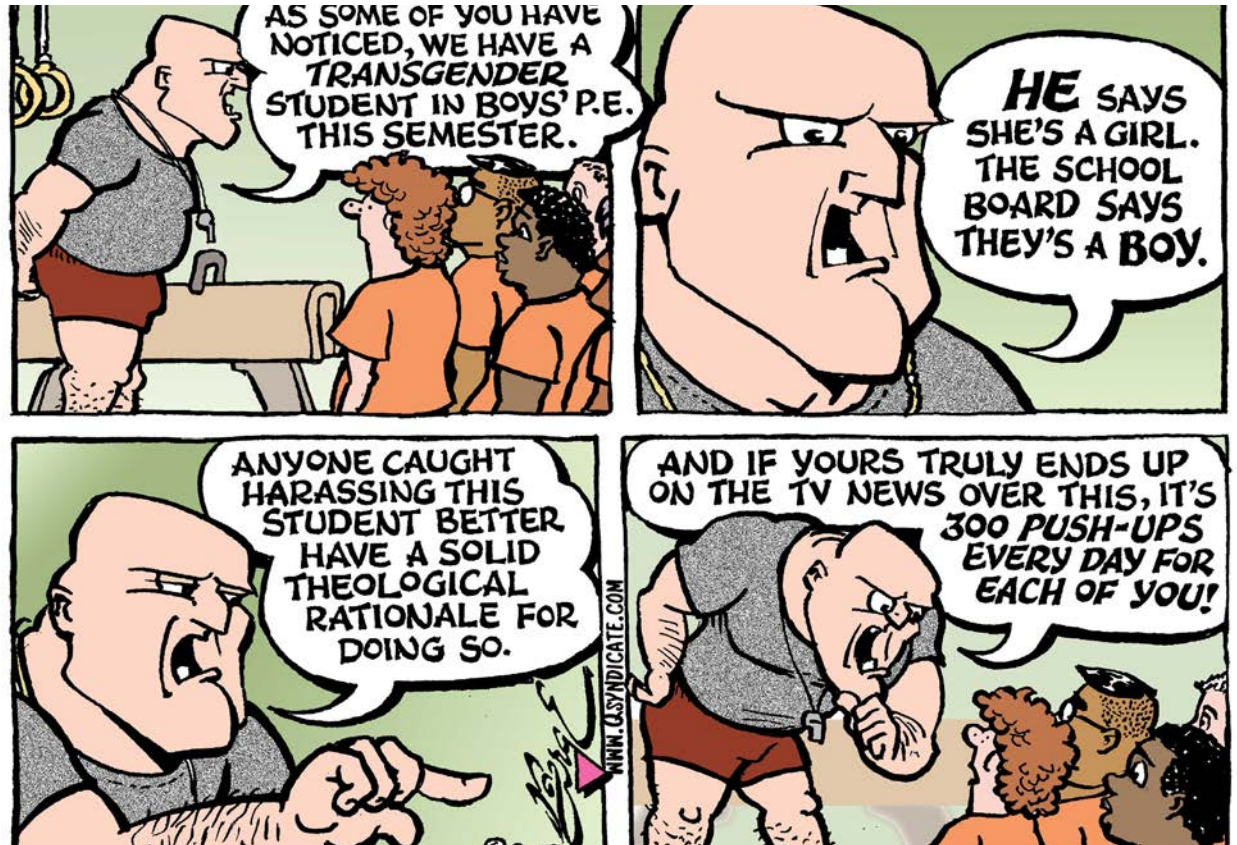
I followed him to Chicago New Year's week, but was gently told our final curtain had rung down in Detroit. I never saw him again in person, but in 1970 had the pleasure of seeing him playing Donald when "Boys in the Band" was made into a movie (His thespian buns are glimpsingly preserved for posterity.).

Looking back at Crowley's pre-Stonewall play, given all that's happened — gay liberation, the AIDS crisis, Clinton's "don't ask, don't tell" policy, Ellen Degeneres, "Brokeback Mountain," "Angels in America" — "Boys" remains entertaining, well-crafted and compelling, if gay self-loathing.

It's characters are guys of another time and place who have yet to shake off the constricting onus placed upon them by religion, psychiatry, police, politics and even the Mafia - you name it. Just about everyone and everything straightjacketing.

Given as much, today we either like the play for its moments

See **Parting Glances**, next page



BY MARK MCMILLAN

## Viewpoint

### The Need for a Non-Judgmental Community Conversation About Drug Use

"Drug addict," "philanderer," "lifestyle" ... these are the pejoratives that substance abuse professionals used in a workshop I recently attended at a national conference on substance abuse. I was shocked to hear such judgmental and stigma-laden words casually thrown around the room by trained professionals. I have issues with judgmental words and labels; not only on a professional level, but also when talking to others from the LGBTQ2+ community. We are already fighting for our equality on many other fronts, specifically fewer barriers to health care and we don't need labels to be used against us.

We've all seen the headlines and they are more alarming every day: Drug overdoses claimed more Michigan lives than traffic and firearm deaths combined; New estimates in drug epidemic where Fentanyl is a big culprit. These are variations on two news articles that recently caught my eye.

The first headline reads: "CDC report: In 2017, drug overdoses claimed more Michigan lives than traffic and firearm deaths combined." The second reads: "Bleak New Estimates in Drug Epidemic: A Record 72,000 Overdose Deaths in 2017 Fentanyl is a big culprit, but there are also encouraging signs from states that have prioritized public health campaigns and addiction treatment."

It's important to specifically raise up the under-reporting of statistics for our LGBTQ2+ brothers and sisters who have been affected by this public health crisis and also the use of the word "epidemic." As a reminder, opioids are a class of drugs that include the drug heroin as well as the prescription

pain relievers oxycodone, hydrocodone, codeine, morphine, fentanyl and others.

In any general population statistic, especially concerning alcohol and other drug misuse, the incidence rate is usually much higher for the LGBTQ2+ community. Especially regarding the current opioid public health crisis, our community is at higher risk due to a number of factors. First and foremost, trauma is a powerful, recurring reason why people turn to substance abuse, according to Maureen A. Keeting, a chemical dependency counselor at Kent State University. In a 2017 online article, she notes that 80 to 90 percent of addiction victims have a background in trauma.

Unfortunately, trauma isn't uncommon for us LGBTQ2+ folks, due to violent attacks against us, family rejection, and housing insecurity or fear of job loss, since these civil rights are not protected under Michigan law. However, there is no proven, direct correlation to these and any other traumatic event and addiction.

The first article paints a bleak picture for Michigan in numbers: a recent report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention revealed in 2017 drug overdoses were responsible for the deaths of 2,662 Michiganders, more than the number of traffic and firearm deaths combined. The overdose deaths represent an 82 percent increase over five years and an 8 percent jump from 2016. Unfortunately, when we take a deeper dive into these statistics, we learn that the largest portion of those struggling with opioid addiction are straight, white, suburban females.

However, studies do not accurately capture and reflect

See **Headline**, continued on p. 15

## ► **Headline**

Continued from p. 14

LGBTQ2+ addiction rates for a variety of reasons, mostly due to changing terms and labels and self-identity. For example, often times men identify as “straight” but have sexual relations with other men and would never describe themselves as “gay” or “bisexual” or “queer.” Hence, the national figures are important, but still do not accurately reflect our community. Those of us on the “front lines” of the public health crisis know first-hand the numbers and sub-groups afflicted, mostly gay white millennials and trans-men/women.

This is why I have issues with judgmental words and labels; especially when counseling an LGBTQ2+ individual. Our community and our rights are being threatened more every day, especially our access to health care, and we don't need more labels used against us, like lifestyle choice, religious freedom, etc. While the term “epidemic” is accurate – Webster's defines the word as “affecting or tending to affect a disproportionately large numbers of individuals within a population, community or region at the same time” – this word is laden with connotation and stigma; much like the words “addict,” “alcoholic” and “tweaker” are too.

Calling this a public health crisis more accurately describes the problem and is more inclusive of the individuals involved, namely those struggling with out-of-control behavior associated with either prescription or non-prescription drugs use. I also believe that a change to the current child-resist bottles in use today would greatly reduce these numbers across the board.

Before speaking about reducing health barriers

## Letter to Editor: The Danger of Vaping

I want to call to your attention the issue of young adults using e-cigarettes and targeted marketing toward those youth. E-cigarettes are on the rise in popularity, with a misconception that it is not truly smoking. In reality, e-cigarettes are yet another way to keep young people addicted to tobacco products. Most vaping juices are filled with nicotine; often, these nicotine levels are unregulated and “house-mixed” at vape and tobacco shops.

Beyond this, the vaping solutions are marketed using bright colors and candy flavors, somehow managing to avoid the regulations that prevent appealing to youth.

## ► **Parting Glances**

Continued from p. 14

of history replayed or loath it for its internalized homophobia; nonetheless, it's courageous, especially compared to cautious plays dealing with homosexuality preceding it, like “The Children's Hour” and “Tea and Sympathy.” The boys in “Boys” are who they are in spite of a culture that demonizes them.

Frederick Combs' later career included writing, producing, and directing an Off-Broadway mystery play that got soundly panned, prompting him to leave New York for LA. He then appeared in TV soaps and

currently facing our community, a recent bill introduced in the Michigan House that would require opioids and other highly addictive drugs be dispensed in locking prescription vials, is a good start to begin combating early drug use in teens, especially for our LGBTQ2+ teens. As the article states, each year 960,000 children nationwide, between the ages of 12 and 17 initiate prescription drug abuse and many children start in middle school. As many of us LGBTQ2+ adults struggled with our gender identity and sexual orientation as teens, statistically, most of us turned to some form of alcohol or drug use to help cope. As the numbers show, this leads to a higher risk factor of substance abuse in early adulthood according to the CDC.

This bill as a first step to help curb early drug abuse makes sense. We need to have more open and honest conversations regarding the drug abuse currently ravaging our community, specifically meth and heroine. If you are one who “parties and plays,” “is looking for Tina” or any other number of euphemisms for drug seeking; or are selling drugs; or don't speak up when a drug sale goes down near you; or if you are a business owner that allows drug sales or drug use on your property ... or any other number of scenarios we are all familiar with, then YOU are also contributing to the current public health crisis killing and destroying our community.

Let's start a conversation about drug use and start with the person you love who is currently struggling with alcohol or other drug misuse. Let's stop judging and labeling and begin supporting and offering help.

*Mark McMillan, LMSW, CAADC is a behavioral health therapist and certified addiction therapist at the Center for Relationship & Sexual Health. He can be reached by phone at 248-399-7447.*

According to a study by the Journal of the American Medical Association, young adults who are exposed to non-cigarette tobacco advertisements that are colorful and flavorful are significantly more likely to try them; over 44 percent of youth under 18 were receptive to the ads, and that receptiveness equaled and estimated 60 times more likely to vaping within the year.

We as a community need to take action and work toward changing the attitudes about e-cigarettes and recognize that these are still addictive tobacco products. We need to raise awareness that e-cigarette advertisement is using a loophole to get away with marketing to young people.

Sincerely,  
Ian Unger  
Youth Program Coordinator  
Affirmations Community Center

miniseries, and for a time ran his own drama school. He died from AIDS-related causes on Sept. 19, 1992.

He was 57. His acting talent, face – and rather memorable backside anatomy – are available for repeated viewing on DVD. I watched the movie this week and remembered when. ...

And as one of the old boys in an old band I'm still grateful to be tootin' my horn. On or off-key.

*Charles Alexander is prolific both as a BTL columnist (700-plus columns) and as a well-known LGBT community artist (1000 Facebook images). He is a Spirit of Detroit Award recipient and an Affirmations LGBT CENTER Jan Stevenson awardee. Connect with him at Charles@pridesource.com.*

# Creep Of The Week

## Janet Boynes

BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

I am tired this morning as I write this. You see, I stayed up way too late talking to my mother-in-law who is visiting from Florida. We talked about all kinds of things: my son, her only grandson; cancer, I've had it twice; grief, my wife's father died over the summer after suffering through ALS; politics, we both worry constantly about the horror show that is Donald Trump; and also chicken, I'm a vegan and my 14-year-old miniature poodle is sick so she cooked him some chicken to spare me from having to.

All in all, it was a good talk, and by the time I went to bed it was midnight.

I haven't always had a great relationship with my mother-in-law, but when my son was born 9 years ago we bonded over our shared love for him. And when I was going through breast cancer treatment she flew up here to help out.

So I'm glad she didn't read “How to Set Boundaries With Your Gay Family Members,” an Aug. 31 column by “ex-lesbian” Janet Boynes for Charisma News, because according to Boynes, my mother-in-law shouldn't have done any of those things. In fact, she never shouldn't have met me at all, let alone said a single word to me.

“Parents have a tendency to take a course of action out of guilt or to please others,” Boynes said. “This type of compromise will eventually cause more pain than if we would have just refused to meet with the partner.”

For some context: my wife and I just celebrated our 21st anniversary. We've been together since I was 19 and she was 22.

So, according to Boynes, my mother-in-law, who adores her grandson – and he adores her – is suffering “more pain” by having a relationship with us than she would have if she'd cut her daughter out of her life and never met her grandson.

“I believe that actions speak louder than words,” Boynes said. “If we spend time with our loved one's lover, we are sending the wrong message. Our mouth says, ‘I don't support your lifestyle,’ but our actions compromise our beliefs

by going to dinner out of guilt. We hear this all the time: ‘My wife and I went, but they know we don't support their relationship.’ Your action has spoken above any words you spoke.”

First of all, let's agree to banish the term “loved one's lover” for all eternity. Secondly, I'm going to have to agree with Boynes here, to a point. If you want to condemn your child for being gay, then you should absolutely cut ties with them and never acknowledge their partners. However, if you want to be a parent, not to mention a decent human being, you don't do that.

Of course, Boynes has an answer to why someone like my mother-in-law would feel like she loves me and my family.

“Satan has cleverly manipulated you by demonstrating that your belief is not strong enough to go against this hidden agenda,” she said. “Is it better to please your children above God?”

I'm going to go with, “Yeah.” It is better to please your children if by “please” we mean “love and accept without going full-blown you're-possessed-by-Satan on them.”

Boynes writes, “I believe when you give in to the homosexual person, their sin will cause them to stay out in the world longer than if you made a loving, yet resolute stand.”

In other words, if you don't acknowledge something, it just goes away. So if you just pretend that your child isn't gay, then they will sooner rather than later give up on the whole gay thing and live heterosexually ever after.

I should point out that my mother-in-law does not believe that homosexuality is a sin, nor is she a right-wing Christian. But plenty of parents with LGBTQ children do and are. And Boynes's “advice” to them is sick and dangerous. Condemning your child for who they love isn't “loving.” It is the exact opposite. I mean, you can make your life on earth into a living hell in the hopes that'll ensure you some kind of magical afterlife after you die. Or, you could just love your kid and accept them. Then again, that could just be the devil in me talking.

# Christ Church Cranbook Gets Gay Associate Rector

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

Christ Church Cranbook, Michigan's largest Episcopal church, will be getting a new associate rector – and he happens to be gay. From San Diego, his name is Rev. Chris Harris and he stepped into the post Sept. 1. Harris said he is relocating to Michigan to give his twin daughters a familial connection.

“My husband Joe and I, we had two girls in November of 2016. About a year after having the girls we felt a pull to be closer to family,” he said. “And Joe has a huge amount of family in Michigan.”

Harris came to the ministry by an unusual route. He grew up in northern California and describes his parents as “classic hippies.” He recalls even living with his family in a commune for a time.

“The more diversity we have in the church the more complete the picture of God that we see. It allows us to see God in each other.”

– Rev. Harris

“Needless to say, I didn't spend any time going to Sunday school,” said Harris. “I kind of grew up with a rather negative image of Christians in general. I grew up seeing the Jerry Falwells and the Pat Robertsons and as a result of that I thought Christians were judgmental and hypocritical ... almost the opposite of the God of love or the ministry that Jesus practiced.”

Moving south to San Diego to attend law school at California Western University, Harris did well for himself after passing the California Bar Examination.

“I practiced law for about 10 years,” Harris said. “I had just settled a big case, I bought a Maserati, a sailboat and a house with a view. I was in my early 30s and I just had this knowing within myself that there's got to be more to life than the classic



The Rev. Chris Harris (right), husband Joseph Bruglo and twin daughters Aleena & Gianna.

American dream. I felt I was checking off a lot of those boxes and looking for meaning still.”

Harris was attending a gay pride parade when church found him.

“I was minding my own business and through the parade walks St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral, which got my attention, because I wasn't expecting to see a church in a gay pride parade – much less a cathedral, a 'legitimate-sounding church.' I knew there were gay churches but I always assumed they were not like traditional churches in any way.”

The very next week, Harris and his partner at the time attended a service at the church.

“I didn't know the Episcopal Church from Adam,” Harris said. “I didn't know anything about the denominations. But on that very first Sunday we walked in and they said a welcome that I have never forgotten and still repeat to this day: ‘Whoever you are, wherever you find yourself on the journey of faith, you are welcome here and you're not just welcomed but you are affirmed

and celebrated as the beloved child of God that you are.”

“That got my attention,” Harris continued. “That sounded much more like something Jesus would say. What little I knew about Jesus I knew he spent his time with the marginalized and the outcast. So I took communion on that very first day, not knowing what it was other than they invited me to do it. And I came back the next Sunday and the next Sunday and the next thing you know they invited me to join the chapter, which is like a board of directors.”

Baptized and confirmed, Harris had been attending church a few years when it was suggested he go to seminary.

“My response was, ‘What? Who am I to do that?’” Harris said. “And they said, ‘People like you make great priests’ and that kind of got me to where I am now.”

Today, Harris describes himself as “kind of an evangelist at heart.”

“I want to help people see that the Episcopal Church at least does not have the negative stereotypes that so many people associate with the church,” Harris said. “We're really trying to do the work of accepting all people for who they are. And not just accepting them, but confirming them.”

Harris went on to say that gay people have a “witness to offer the church.”

“The more diversity we have in the church the more complete the picture of God that we see,” Harris said. “It allows us to see God in each other.”

Not where he ever imagined he'd be growing up, Harris said he is glad of where he is.

“The church changed my life,” he said. “It caused me to go from being a lawyer to working for the truth. From being someone who was a lot more self-centered to being a little less self-centered. It got me on the path to a different life, a life that is more fulfilling.”

For more information, visit [christchurchcranbook.org](http://christchurchcranbook.org).

**Divine Peace**  
Metropolitan Community Church

Divine Peace MCC has moved.  
We are now sharing a building with Bethel UCC.

**NEW ADDRESS:**  
6650 Elizabeth Lake Road  
Waterford, Michigan 48327

**Phone: 248.332.1186**  
[www.dpmcc.net](http://www.dpmcc.net)

**Sunday Worship time is now 9:30 A.M.**

**DIGNITY DETROIT**

A Catholic Faith Community of  
LGBTQI individuals, families and friends.

Liturgy every Sunday at 6 P.M.  
Please join us – all are welcome!  
Sacred Heart Chapel – Marygrove College  
West McNichols at Wyoming  
[www.dignitydetroit.org](http://www.dignitydetroit.org)





# unity<sup>®</sup>

## of Royal Oak

Join us Sundays @ 10 am  
or for one of these events:

A Spiritual Home For Your  
**modernfamily**



### OUR HOUSE

URO's 4th Friday Concert

Series presents: **GET OUT THE VOTE**  
Special Concert and  
Voter Registration Event

FRIDAY  
SEPT 28, 2018  
7:30 pm

Pastor & Spiritual Leader: **Rev. Ric Beattie**

Unity of Royal Oak ♦ 2500 Crooks Road ♦ Royal Oak, MI 48073  
248.288.3550 | [info@unityroyaloak.org](mailto:info@unityroyaloak.org)



For More Info On Events & Classes Visit Us On The Web: [www.unityroyaloak.org](http://www.unityroyaloak.org)

#MoreThanAChurch

#LovesOnTheMove

## CELEBRATING 46 YEARS

Sunday, September 16 - 11:30 am

MCC Detroit is celebrating 46 years of being your Community Church! We are inviting our community to come and help us celebrate as we prepare to launch a new and exciting ministry model. Come for Worship, Food and A Whole Lot of Fun!




**MCC Detroit**

A Diverse, Inclusive Christian  
Church serving the LGBTQ and  
Ally Community since 1972.

205 N Main St, Clawson, MI 48017  
248-399- 7741 [www.mccdetroit.org](http://www.mccdetroit.org)



Grosse Pointe  
Congregational Church

Rev. Richard Yeager-Stiver

An Open and Affirming Congregation  
**Join us for the Journey, Sundays at 10am**

240 Chalfonte • Grosse Pointe Farms  
(313) 884-3075 • [gpcong.org](http://gpcong.org)



CHRIST CHURCH CRANBROOK

is excited to invite you to

*Rick off Sunday*  
September 9, 2018

- \* 9 am Pancake Breakfast / Middle School
- \* 9:45am Elementary Sunday School
- \* 10 am Worship + High School Sunday School
- \* Picnic after Worship Service:

Welcoming the Rev. Chris Harris



hot dog lunch.  
bounce houses.  
'peekaboo' the clown.  
laughter. family. friends.

470 Church Road | Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304  
[www.christchurchcranbrook.org](http://www.christchurchcranbrook.org) | 248.644.5210



**Miner's Den**  
JEWELERS

WWW.MINERSDEN.COM  
(248)-585-6950

3417 ROCHESTER RD.  
ROYAL OAK, MI



FOREVER STARTS  
HERE

VISIT US AT



Lynelle Osborne (left) and Monica Givens of Linden. BTL photo: Andrew Cohen

## Michigan Lesbians Create 'Instant Connection' via Facebook

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

Well, Facebook may be considered a bit passe by today's social media standards, but as Monica Givens and Lynelle Osborne of Linden found out, it still has its relevance. The couple, who is now engaged, met on the site.

"There's this Facebook group, Michigan Lesbians, that we were both a part of," said Givens. "She mentioned something about still being single and I said, 'I don't know why. You're so beautiful.' And we just started talking from there.

"The first time we talked, we started talking and just never stopped. It was an instant connection," Givens continued.

"It was just everything about her," Osborne said. "From her personality down to her ... I don't know. It was a connection I could never explain. I've never had this connection before and I just knew."

Online conversations flowed so easily, Givens recalled.

"Everything we talked about was dead on,"

Givens said. "She agreed with everything I said. We'd both been through some things and everything she said it was, 'Oh my God. Me, too.'"

However, the couple was forced to proceed slowly because of distance, living across the state from one another.

"It was hard in the beginning," said Givens. "I was like an hour and a half away from her. So we'd have to get hotel rooms or I'd have to drive out to Battle Creek to her house. Then, in April, we got a place together in Linden."

Last month, the two became engaged at Ann Arbor Pride. The two had begun discussions on the topic a few weeks earlier.

"We had been talking about it and I just kind of threw it out there," Osborne said. "I said, 'Let me see what kind of rings you want.' So she said, 'I want something like this.' And I said, 'I kind of need to know more exactly.' I said, 'You get a couple rings that you truly like and then you give it over to me and I'll take it over from there.'"

See **Marriage**, continued on p. 20

Jeep  
CELEBRATION EVENT

**Sneathkamp**  
CHRYSLER • DODGE • JEEP • RAM

CHRYSLER PACIFICA  
**INCREDIBLE**  
SALES EVENT



**At Sneathkamp  
We Share Your Pride.** CALL 313-868-3300  
Ask for Alex Chernov or Mike Carter

Proud Sponsor of the 2018 Ultimate LGBT Wedding and Anniversary Expo  
achernov@sneethkampcj.com www.billsneathkamp.net 16400 Woodward Ave. Highland Park, MI 48203



*Norton's*   
FLOWERS & GIFTS

**SERVING WASHTENAW AND  
WESTERN WAYNE COUNTIES**

Largest Florist Serving All of Washtenaw and Western Wayne Counties • One of America's Top 100 Florists • Let our talented, experienced staff design the perfect arrangements for your weddings and special events. We're equally ready to help you make everyday occasions extra special with our flowers, plants, gifts, cards, keepsakes, chocolates and unique home decor items.

Established in 1892. We Deliver the WOW!  
Visit or call us at one of our three locations:



**YPSILANTI STORE**  
Open 7 Days a Week!  
2900 Washtenaw Ave.,  
Ypsilanti, MI 48197  
734-434-2700

**ANN ARBOR - WEST SIDE**  
2558 W. Stadium Blvd.,  
Ann Arbor, MI 48103  
734-769-9100

**ANN ARBOR - DOWNTOWN**  
Chelsea Flower Shop  
203 E. Liberty St.,  
Ann Arbor, MI 48104  
734-662-5616

**800-682-8667 - WWW.NORTONSFLOWERS.COM**



**ARTCARVED**  
Celebrating Love Since 1850

HAND IN HAND  
Committed to One Another



**KARAGOSIAN**  
Master Jewelers Since 1950

2266 Orchard Lake Road at Middlebelt Road • Sylvan Lake, MI 48320  
248-682-8573 • Learn more at www.karagosian.com



©2018 ArtCarved Bridal

Featured Rings: 11-WV8830YW65-G, 11-WV8828WY65-G, 11-WV8798WR65-G, 11-WV8829WY6-G  
Featured Rings: 33-V9137W-L, 33-V9157Y-L, 33-V9197W-L, 33-V9161R-L, 33-V9182W-L, 33-V8884Y65-L, 33-V9544W65-L, 33-V8884W65-L, 33-V9186W-L, 33-V8884R65-L, 33-V9644W65-L, 33-V9444W65-L, 33-V9184W-L

**ArtWorks Detroit hosted at the Wasserman Projects gallery in Eastern Market!**

**Please join us for an exciting evening!**

**TICKETS INCLUDE:**

- Live and silent auctions of donated artworks, many by renowned national and Detroit-area artists
- Amazing food options from outstanding local Detroit restaurants
- Exciting experience package auctions
- Open bar!! Including beer, wine and spirits!
- Live entertainment and performances
- A fashion showcase curated by Walk Fashion Show
- And much more!

**ARTWORKS  
DETROIT**

**THURSDAY  
SEPTEMBER 13<sup>TH</sup>  
6:00 - 9:30 PM**



**Space is limited!**

**Reserve your tickets early online at  
MatrixHumanServices.org/artworks**

**► Marriage**

Continued from p. 18

But that wasn't good enough for Osborne. "I wanted the element of surprise," Givens said. "I knew the ring was coming. So I decided I was going to get a ring and ask her first. We have a little millpond in our town so I took her up there. She was mad because she wanted to be the one to do it. So we went to Pride and she had actually already gotten the ring."

Osborne approached the emcees while away from Givens.

"I said, 'Can you please make time so I can propose to her? I've got to do it today.'"

"As soon as the guy walked over and handed her the microphone I knew what she was doing," said Givens. "She was shaking so bad she almost dropped the ring. I was glad she did it at Pride because everyone was talking about marriage and equality and it couldn't have been a more perfect time. It fit into the schedule with everything they were talking about."

"I was glad they let me do it," Osborne added. Initial wedding planning has begun but the couple is taking it slow.

"We wanted to do it this fall but I just don't think I could get it together in time," said Givens. "Then we were also thinking of spring but we're also talking about buying a house in the spring so I don't know if we can do a move and wedding at the same time. So, it's looking like fall of next year."

"We live together, so it's no hurry," Givens continued. "Nobody's going anywhere so it's not like we have to run to the church to get it done."

Givens said that she and her fiancée are still talking about what kind of wedding they want.

"I'm like super girly so of course I want a big wedding," she said. "But I don't know that we can afford a huge wedding so we'll probably

*"She (Lynelle) was shaking so bad she almost dropped the ring. I was glad she did it at Pride because everyone was talking about marriage and equality and it couldn't have been a more perfect time."*

- Monica Givens

have an outdoor thing with just our closest friends and family. I don't even know what she should wear. I'm trying to connive Nell that she should put on a dress for a change. And I'm still torn between whether we should do a normal, traditional wedding or go all out and have a big, fabulous fay wedding. We went to one where all the bridesmaids had different color dresses so it came out like a rainbow. That was pretty cool."

As for a honeymoon that, too, is still to be decided.

"I can get school loans and I was thinking we should take some of that money and go on a vacation," Givens said. "She just works so much and I'm always so busy with the kids and their stuff so we don't ever take any sort of vacation. So I was just thinking that it would be really nice to take some of that money and get out of here for a bit."

A WEDDING ABOARD THE *Portofino*  
*Simply Exquisite*

Introducing Detroit's Newest Luxury Charter Yacht  
Servicing the Greater Detroit Area from Wyandotte, Detroit and Lake St. Clair

Experience the feel of a destination wedding

FIRST CLASS SERVICE INCLUDES  
- Personal Cruise Director  
- Licensed & Uniformed Crew  
- Award-Winning Chefs  
- Sommelier

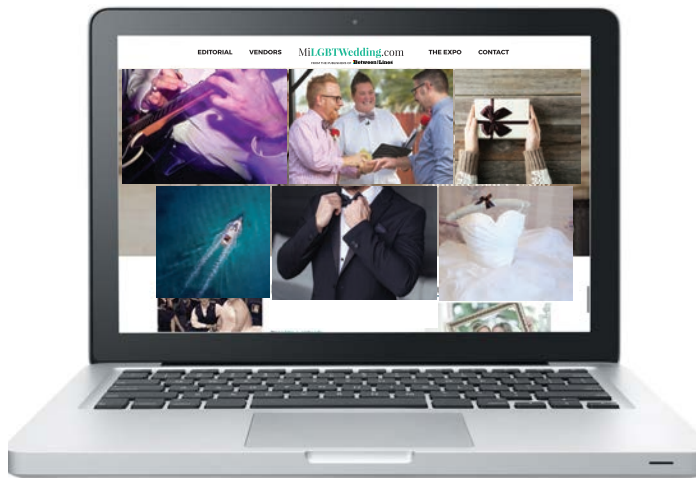
U.S. Coast Guard Inspected | 90ft Long | 149 Passengers | On Board Galley | 2nd Deck Bar Lounge & Open-Air Deck

3455 Biddle Ave, Wyandotte, MI | 734-281-6700 | DetroitRiverYacht.com

**BTL**  
Between the Lines™  
**OVER 9500 LIKES & COUNTING**  
JOIN THE CONVERSATION.

Michigan's Definitive LGBTQ-Friendly  
Wedding and Anniversary Guide

MiLGBTWedding.com



A PROJECT OF

**Between THE Lines**™

To learn more contact [donelle@pridesource.com](mailto:donelle@pridesource.com)

call **734-293-7200** ext. 22

PATTERSON  
DOG



CAT  
HOSPITAL

Established in 1844

Glynes D. Graham, DVM  
*Doctor of Veterinary Medicine*

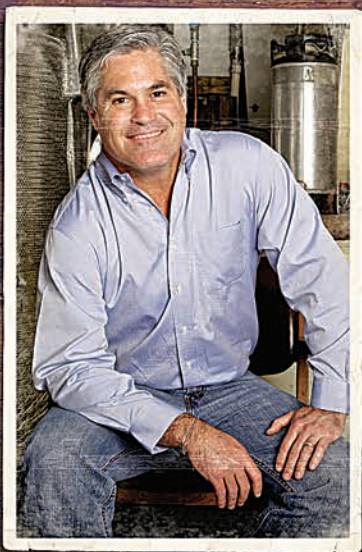
3800 Grand River, Detroit, MI 48208-2866

tel: 313.832.7282 fax: 313.832.4990

[www.pattersondogandcat.com](http://www.pattersondogandcat.com)



★ AMERICA'S ★  
ORIGINAL CRAFT VODKA



**Hi.** I'm TITO BEVERIDGE.  
My **Handcrafted American Vodka**  
beats the giant imports  
**EVERY DAY!**



TITO'S IS CERTIFIED  
**GLUTEN-FREE**

★ **TitosVodka.com** ★  
Handcrafted to be savored responsibly.

DISTILLED & BOTTLED BY FIFTH GENERATION, INC. 40% ALC/VOL ©2014 TITO'S HANDMADE VODKA



# It'll Be a Gay Ol' Time in Theaters Across Metro Detroit

## The 2018-19 Season Shapes Up to Be the Most LGBTQ-Friendly Year in Ages

BY DONALD V. CALAMIA

If you're a longtime theater fan – especially an LGBTQ theater fan – one thing you may have noticed over the years is that what's popular one season may not be the next. Or that trends disappear as quickly as they arrive. That's especially true of plays with LGBTQ themes and characters, which rise and fall and ebb and flow from one year to the next for no apparent reason.

This year, however, Metro Detroit's 2018-19 theater season appears to be one for the record books, as producers throughout the area are throwing caution, and bigots, to the wind, doubling down – literally, for a handful of them – with one of the gayest seasons in recent memory.

For Guy Sanville, the longtime artistic director of the popular Purple Rose Theatre in Chelsea, it's never an objective to either select or exclude a play simply because of the inclusion of LGBTQ themes or characters. It all comes down to the quality of the script.

"We didn't pick the plays because there are gay characters in them. That was a bonus. We look for plays that are structurally strong, potentially timeless and epic, and speak on some level to the wide diversity of souls who call the Midwest home," he explained.

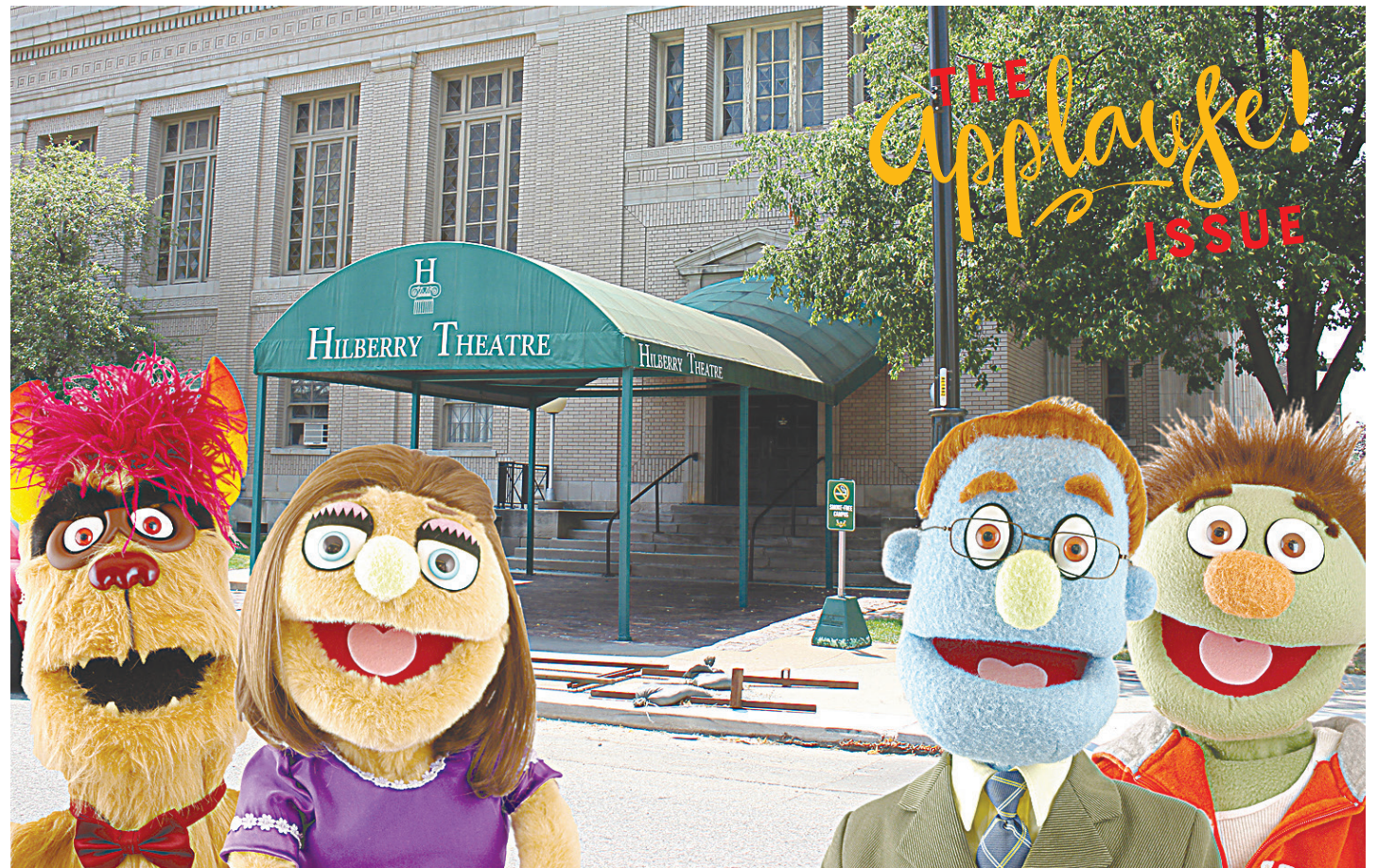
That certainly includes his season opener, "Diva Royale," which begins previews Sept. 20, as well as "Never Not Once" that begins previews Jan. 17, 2019.

"Both plays are extraordinary new works," he said. "Both plays are very, very different. One is a comedy, one is not. Both plays contain a gay character. I will say that in both plays the gay characters serve as a metaphor for growth and courage."

As the head of a well-regarded institution of higher learning, a somewhat different philosophy is espoused by John Wolf, chair of the Maggie Allesee Department of Theatre and Dance at Wayne State University in Detroit.

"Our goal is to produce plays that reflect our community while also providing students with unique experiences in their field of study, be that acting, dance, design, management, etc.," he said. "Additionally, theater teaches empathy, something from which we can all benefit. By sharing stories that reflect diverse communities, we're learning what it means to be compassionate human beings."

Diversity and compassion are certainly hallmarks of his Hilberry Theatre's LGBTQ-related plays this season, which begins Sept. 21 with the musical "Avenue Q" and continues after the first of the year with both halves of the Pulitzer Prize-winning "Angels in America" – Part I, Feb. 8 and Part II, April 26.



The Hilberry Theatre opens its season Sept. 21 with "Avenue Q." Photo courtesy of Hilberry Theatre

"Particularly with 'Angels in America,' each of the characters in the play face a life-changing decision and everyone can relate to that, whether or not you're a member of the LGBT community," Wolf said. "Prior Walter is a gay man suffering from AIDS in the mid-1980s. Joe Pitt, a conservative Mormon husband, struggles with his own sexual identity. His wife, Harper, struggles with mental illness. Louis struggles with love and commitment. There's a touch point in this story for every person."

A different perspective is held by the artistic director of The Ringwald, who programed the new season specifically to include several LGBTQ-themed plays.

"We were light on LGBT themes last season, and I want to return to our roots," Joe Bailey said. "It is important to me for a couple of reasons. As a gay man, I am naturally drawn to these stories, and there are a number of great plays that might not get done elsewhere in the area, and they're shows or scripts that I love and want to share with audiences."

Although The Ringwald has earned a reputation for doing camp – and deservedly so – Bailey's objective is to tell stories from across the whole spectrum of gay life. His season will open Sept. 14 with "The Laramie Project" to

commemorate the 20th anniversary of the hate crime that stunned the world. It continues with "The Cake" on Nov. 16 that deals with a lesbian wedding and a baker who won't make them a wedding cake, followed by "Significant Other" on Jan. 4, in which a young gay man tries to find his place in the world as all his friends are falling in love and getting married. And closing the season is the much-anticipated "Fun Home" on May 10, which tells a fascinating coming-out story. "I think five of our shows this upcoming season deal directly with LGBT themes, characters or sensibilities. They're all such diverse scripts in and of themselves and really speak to the diversity of gay life. I'm very excited to share these stories with Detroit audiences," he said.

### Story matters

Unlike most Equity theaters, The Purple Rose Theatre specializes in original works – so much so that more than half of the plays it's produced since 1991 have been new scripts. And that now includes the upcoming world premieres of both "Diva Royale" by Jeff Daniels and "Never Not Once" by Carey Crim.

"They are damn good plays written by real playwrights," Sanville said. "Doing new plays is the riskiest thing a company can do."

And he should know. To date, Sanville has shepherded more than 40 original scripts from early drafts to opening night, likely more than any other director currently working in the industry – or, at the very least, close to it. What does he look for in a script?

"Plays that argue both sides of an issue with something like equal force and clarity," he said. "There is a lot of propaganda out there designed to make liberals like me feel good about myself, masquerading as art. We try not to do propaganda. The themes and characters are in our season simply because they are critical elements in the stories we chose to tell this year."

For Wolf, when considering a script for inclusion in the Hilberry's season, he looks for two things: "How will this production enrich the educational experience of our students, and what does it bring to our audience? When those two criteria mesh, we have a show that we believe will be instrumental in our educational and community missions," he said.

Bailey, who believes the country has taken a

See **Gay Ol' Time**, continued on p. 34

# THEATRE & DANCE at WAYNE

## BETWEEN THE LINES DISCOUNT

Save \$5 on each adult ticket when you order tickets to any of the following shows using promo code **BTL1819**.

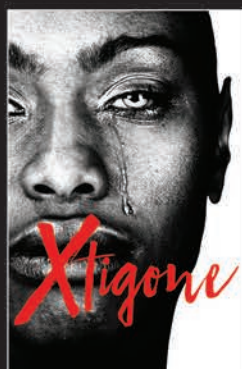
Offer expires Sept. 30, 2018.



WINNER OF THE 2003 TONY AWARD® FOR BEST MUSICAL

**Avenue Q**

Sept. 21 to Oct. 7  
Hilberry Theatre



Oct. 12 to 27  
Studio Theatre



Oct. 26 to Nov. 13  
Hilberry Theatre



Nov. 30 to Dec. 16  
Bonstelle Theatre



Dec. 7 and 8  
Music Hall



Dec. 7 to 16  
Studio Theatre



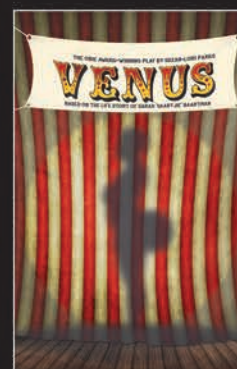
Feb. 8 to 24  
Hilberry Theatre



April 26 to May 12  
Hilberry Theatre



March 1 and 2  
Bonstelle Theatre



March 22 to April 13  
Studio Theatre



April 5 to 14  
Bonstelle Theatre

## Order today for the best seats!

[theatreanddanceatwayne.com](http://theatreanddanceatwayne.com)

313-577-2972



WAYNE STATE  
College of Fine, Performing  
and Communication Arts

Theatre and Dance at Wayne is part of the College of Fine, Performing and Communication Arts at Wayne State University

# Meet Eric Swanson

## Q&A with Executive Director of the Detroit Actor's Theatre Company

BY KATE OPALEWSKI

### What is it like being the executive director of the Detroit Actor's Theatre Company?

Well, it is a lot of work, but it is work I am very passionate about. My job is to foster growth and sustainability of the company of course, but the real purpose of my job is to create the safe space for our artists. This means hiring a strong team of people that acknowledge the voice of artists they are working with, can create works that have an impact, and foster a certain openness to each show's creative process. It changes because the staff and the artists involve change.

### How important is diversity in theater casting?

This should be a no brainer to anyone you ask but sadly, I feel some people are still coming to terms with this. It is not only important but it is in fact critical. I think we are in a Renaissance II age of theatre. All over we are seeing works written for artists of color that don't play into stereotypes. Moreover, we are seeing even some major regional companies, cast artists of color in roles that have famously been portrayed by white actors. Take for example the recent casting of an African-American actress as Elle Woods in "Legally Blonde;" a role that no one thought could be played by anyone other than a tall, white,

blonde actress.

### What is one of the gay plays that changed your world?

"Angels in America." I must have read and watched the TV special at least two dozen times. It taught me so much about the AIDS crisis, treating myself as divine, and gave me a total new look on humanity. It's a show I would love to do someday but I am actually terrified to direct it. I feel like I need a little more time, a little more bravery, and just the right cast. In my head it would just have to be perfect.

### What advice would you give to young actors or industry professionals who fear their sexuality may hold them back or present a block in a highly competitive industry?

Screw them. We as an LGBTQ+ culture are by nature rebellious and different. My main advice is always to not conform or copy. You are you and that is the best you have to offer. Speak up when true injustices occur, and acknowledge when the part was just not right for you. I have been dropped from an agency before because I was too flamboyant. My response was to self submit for things and show up to auditions I had sought out. Not long after, I got a national tour on my own. This industry is what YOU make of it, not

## THE Applause! ISSUE

what others will do for you. If you want it, you have to be willing to fight for it and do the work.

### What can audience members look forward to for the upcoming season with the DATC?

This season is exciting for us in that we will likely be in our own space, hopefully before winter. Until now, we have been a portable company, going to wherever the contract or booking was. We are doing some aggressive fundraising and are very close to making our goal of having a space, thanks to our new initiative Rent Angel's Detroit. Show-wise, this season will feature five second-stage shows and five main-stage shows ranging from Murder Mysteries, Spoken Word Cabarets, "Lady Day at Emerson's Bar," which is playing at The Whitney this September through October, in addition to two fully-staged plays and an outdoor blockbuster summer musical will be announced at the top of 2019.



For more information about shows at DATC, visit [thedatc.org](http://thedatc.org).

## Applause Calendar

### Arthur Miller Theatre

1226 Murfin Ave., Ann Arbor  
734-971-2228 or [a2ct.org](http://a2ct.org)

Oct. 25-28  
Arsenic and Old Lace

March 14-17, 2019  
Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike

April 25-28, 2019  
Fahrenheit 451

### Bonstelle Theatre

3424 Woodward Ave., Detroit  
313-577-2972 or  
[theatreanddance.wayne.edu](http://theatreanddance.wayne.edu)

Nov. 30 - Dec. 16  
A Christmas Carol

April 5-14, 2019  
Mamma Mia!

### Cobb Great Hall

Wharton Center for the  
Performing Arts  
Michigan State University  
750 E. Shaw LN, East Lansing  
800-942-7866 or  
[whartoncenter.com/](http://whartoncenter.com/)

Sept. 18-23  
School of Rock: The Musical

Oct. 9-14  
Love Never Dies: The  
Phantom Returns

Oct. 30  
Czech Philharmonic Orchestra

Nov. 4  
Steve Martin and Martin Short

Dec. 4-9  
Fiddler on the Roof

Dec. 21  
Manheim Steamroller  
Christmas

### Detroit Actors Theater Company

The Whitney  
4421 Woodward Ave., Detroit  
[thedatc.org](http://thedatc.org)

Sept. 27, 29-30 and Oct. 4, 6-7  
Lady Day at Emerson's Bar  
and Grill

### Detroit Opera House

1526 Broadway St., Detroit  
800-982-2787 or  
[broadwayindetroit.com](http://broadwayindetroit.com)

Oct. 27  
A Letter to My Nephew: Bill  
T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance  
Company  
734-764-2538 or [ums.org](http://ums.org)

Dec. 12 - Jan. 13, 2019  
Disney's Aladdin

Jan. 24, 2019 - Feb. 3, 2019  
The Phantom of the Opera

### Detroit Public Theatre

Allesee Hall  
3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit  
313-576-5111 or [dso.org](http://dso.org)

Oct. 6 - Nov. 4  
Pipeline

Nov. 17 - Dec. 9  
Cry It Out

March 23, 2019 - April 4, 2019  
Girlfriend

May 4-26, 2019  
The Beauty Queen of Leenane

### Detroit Repertory Theatre

13103 Woodrow Wilson St.,  
Detroit  
313-868-1347 or  
[detroitreptheatre.com](http://detroitreptheatre.com)

Nov. 1 - Dec. 23  
Evidence of Things Unseen

Jan. 10, 2019 - March 17, 2019  
The House on Poe Street

March 28, 2019 - May 19, 2019  
Aubrey

May 30, 2019 - June 30, 2019  
Williston

### Detroit Symphony Orchestra

Orchestra Hall  
3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit  
313-576-5111 or [dso.org/](http://dso.org/)

Sept. 28-30  
Star Wars: A New Hope

Oct. 5-7  
Gil Shaham and Enigma

Oct. 12-14  
Dancing in the Street: A  
Symphonic Tribute to Motown

Oct. 18-20  
The Firebird

Nov. 2-4  
Cirque de la Symphonie

Nov. 9-10  
Emanuel Ax plays Beethoven

Nov. 16-18  
Tchaikovsky Symphony No. 4

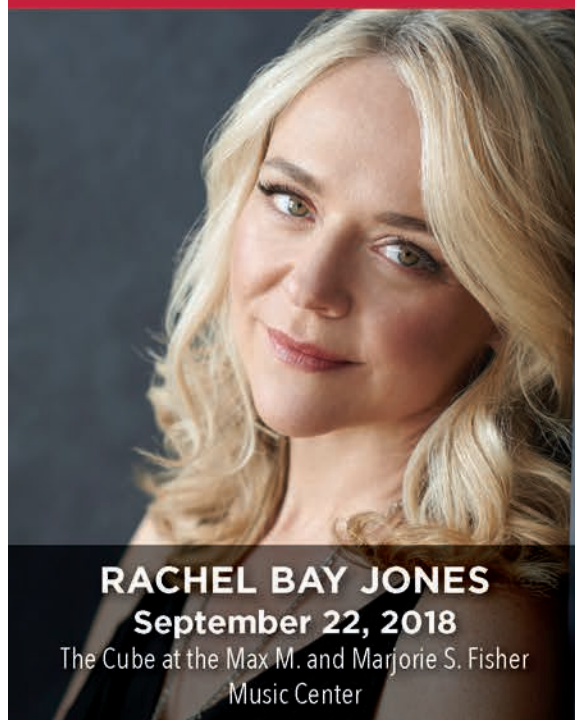
Nov. 30 - Dec. 2  
Bugs Bunny at the Symphony  
II

See Calendar, continued  
on p. 26



# CABARET 313

## 2018-19 SEASON



**RACHEL BAY JONES**

**September 22, 2018**

The Cube at the Max M. and Marjorie S. Fisher  
Music Center



**JILLIAN LOUIS**

**October 27, 2018**

The Players Club Playhouse



**UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN  
MUSICAL THEATER SENIORS**

**January 26, 2019**

N'Namdi Center for Contemporary Art



**CAROLE J. BUFFORD**

**February 23, 2019**

Rivera Court at the Detroit Institute of Arts



**11 O'CLOCK NUMBERS**

**March 23, 2019**

The Black Box Theatre at the Michigan Opera Theatre



**KATE BALDWIN**

**May 19, 2019**

Marlene Boll Theatre at the Boll Family YMCA

Performances begin at 7 and 9:30 p.m. Dinner packages available for purchase for select performances.

For more information or to order tickets, please call 313.405.5061 or visit [cabaret313.org](http://cabaret313.org).

► **Calendar**

Continued from p. 24

Dec. 6-8  
Beethoven's Fifth

Dec. 14-15  
Strauss: Der Rosenkavalier

Dec. 21-23  
Home for the Holidays

**Fisher Theatre**  
3011 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit  
800-982-2787 or  
broadwayindetroit.com/

Sept. 25 - Oct. 7  
Something Rotten

Oct. 16-21  
Chicago

Oct. 26  
Kathy Griffin: Laugh Your  
Head Off Tour

Dec. 4-9  
The Book of Mormon

Feb. 12-24, 2019  
The Play That Goes Wrong

Feb. 26, 2019 - March 9, 2019  
The Lightning Thief

March 12, 2019 - April 21,  
2019  
Hamilton

May 7-19, 2019 -  
Waitress

June 11-23, 2019  
Anastasia

**Fountain Street Church**

24 Fountain St. NE, Grand Rapids  
thecrofoot.com

Sept. 29  
Comedian Tig Notaro

**Hilberry Theatre**

4743 Cass Ave., Detroit  
313-577-2972 or  
theatreanddanceatwayne.com/

Sept. 21 - Oct. 7  
Avenue Q

Oct. 12-27  
Xtigone  
(Inside Hilberry's Studio Theatre)

Oct. 26 - Nov. 11  
As You Like It

Dec. 7-16  
Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike  
(Inside Hilberry's Studio Theatre)

Feb. 8-24, 2019  
Angels In America - Part I:  
Millenium Approaches

March 22 - April 13, 2019  
Venus  
(Inside Hilberry's Studio Theatre)

April 26 - May 12, 2019  
Angels In American - Part II:  
Perestroika

**Hill Auditorium**

825 North University Ave.,  
Ann Arbor  
734-764-2538 or ums.org/

Sept. 21  
50th Anniversary Live  
Presentation of Stanley  
Kubrick's 2001: A Space  
Odyssey

Sept. 27  
Philadelphia Orchestra

Oct. 10  
An Evening with Pat Metheny

Oct. 12  
Orchestre Revolutionnaire et  
Romantique

Oct. 24  
Yuja Wang and Martin  
Grubinger

Nov. 1  
Czech Philharmonic  
Orchestra

Nov. 2  
Totalmente Juan Gabriel:  
Aida Cuevas

Nov. 7  
Jake Shimabukuro

Nov. 17  
An Evening with Audra  
McDonald: Songs from the  
American Musical Theater

Nov. 28  
Big Band Holidays: Jazz at  
Lincoln Center Orchestra with  
Wynton Marsalis

Dec. 1-2  
Handel's Messiah

Dec. 16  
Joyce DiDonato and Yannick  
Nezet

**Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre**

911 N. University Ave.,  
Ann Arbor  
734-971-2228 or a2ct.org

Sept. 6-9  
Dirty Rotten Scoundrels

Jan. 10-13, 2019  
Oliver!

June 6-9, 2019  
Curtains

**Marlene Boll Theatre**

1401 Broadway Street, Detroit  
313-993-3270 or udmercy.edu/life/theatre/index.php

Sept. 28 - Oct. 14  
Wittenberg

Nov. 30 - Dec. 9  
War of the Worlds

Feb. 1-3, 2019  
American Privilege

Feb. 14  
A Thousand Miles to Freedom

March 29 - April 14, 2019  
Young Frankenstein

**The Masonic of Detroit**

500 Temple Ave., Detroit  
313-638-2724 or themasonic.com/

Sept. 28  
Comedian Tig Notaro

**Michigan Theater**

603 East Liberty Street, Ann Arbor  
734-764-2538 or ums.org/

Sept. 30  
National Theatre, London:  
Live in HD, Julie

Oct. 28  
National Theatre, London:  
Live in HD, Frankenstein

Nov. 4  
National Theatre, London:  
Live in HD, King Lear

See Calendar, on p. 28

www.PrideSource.com

W H  
A R T



Love Never Dies,  
October 9-14



Renée Fleming,  
October 16



Soweto Gospel Choir,  
November 18



Miss Saigon,  
March 12-17

2018-2019 SEASON  
TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

WHARTONCENTER.COM • 1-800-WHARTON

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY  
**WHARTON CENTER**  
FOR PERFORMING ARTS

FROM  
GARTERS  
TO  
CHAPS

SHOWS  
FOR  
EVERY  
STYLE

STAGECRAFTERS  
SEASON 63

ORDER TICKETS TODAY  
STAGECRAFTERS.ORG

THE **WILD PARTY**  
September 7 – 30, 2018

**FOOL**  **LOVE**  
October 5 – 14, 2018

**PETER AND THE STARCATCHER**  
November 30 – December 16, 2018

**IF / THEN**  
January 25 – February 17, 2019

**SONDHEIM ON SONDHEIM**  
March 1 – 10, 2019

**BOEING BOEING**  
March 22 – April 7, 2019

**SOUTHERN COMFORT**  
April 26 – May 12, 2019

**OKLAHOMA!**  
May 17 – June 9, 2019

# Meet Megan Buckley-Ball

THE Applause!  
ISSUE

## Q&A With Artistic Director at Matrix Theatre Company

### What is it like being artistic director with the Matrix Theatre Company?

Serving as Matrix Theatre Company's Artistic Director is both exciting and challenging. Matrix's staff is quite small, so we've all become accustomed to working together to get the job done. The work can certainly be stressful at times but seeing the lasting effects of positive change in our community serves as a constant reminder of the importance of our efforts.

### How important is diversity in theater casting?

It's incredibly important. Theater reflects life. Life is obviously not made up of one color, gender or orientation, and the art needs to reflect that. If it doesn't, then we as producers aren't doing our job.

### The gay and lesbian theater movement has changed radically since the oppressive days of

### the 1950s, but could more writers rise to the challenge of contemporary issues?

Of course. The movement has changed and continues to do so but is obviously still very necessary. Given the country's current administration (and it's base), I'm not entirely sure that we're all that far off from those oppressive days. I think today's issues offer playwrights a unique opportunity to push back at the wave of hate and homophobia. While many writers have jumped at the chance, I hope more of them will continue to do so.

### How can theater change attitudes toward LGBTQ people?

I think theater can offer the easiest and most natural shift in attitudes towards LGBTQ people. When you attend a performance, you enter another world. That world will possibly – and hopefully – be full of people that are different from you. Presenting a

storyline or character that introduces a new idea, changes an opinion, or sparks a conversation is how we teach empathy, and I think we can all benefit from that. For Matrix, we don't want the curtain call to be the end of our audience's experience; we want it to be the beginning. Inciting those important conversations about social justice issues – oftentimes regarding the LGBTQ community – is our goal.

### What can audience members look forward to for the upcoming season with the Matrix Theatre Company?

Matrix Theatre is presenting a season of plays that have been written and directed by female-identifying artists. More than half of the plays depict characters from the LGBTQ community. Audiences can look forward to pushing the boundaries of their preconceived notions regarding race, gender, and their personal definition of activism. Each of



the plays selected for the season tackle hard-hitting issues in their own beautiful ways. I hope BTL's readers will join us.

For more information on upcoming shows, visit [matrixtheatre.org](http://matrixtheatre.org).

THE Applause!  
ISSUE

### ► Calendar

Continued from p. 26

Dec. 8  
Charles Lloyd and the Marvels  
with special guest Lucinda  
Williams

Dec. 9  
National Theatre, London:  
Live in HD, The Madness of  
George III

Dec. 23  
The Bolshoi Theater, Moscow:  
Live in HD, The Nutcracker

### Monster Box Theatre

2529 Elizabeth Lake Road,  
Waterford  
248-787-1400 or [info@monsterboxtheatre.com](mailto:info@monsterboxtheatre.com)  
[monsterboxtheatre.com](http://monsterboxtheatre.com)

October-November  
Hand to God

November-December  
The Book of Liz

January 2019  
The Real Inspector Hound

Black Comedy

February 2019  
Crunchy Water

Men on Boats

March-April 2019  
Glengarry Glen Ross

**Power Center**  
121 Fletcher St., Ann Arbor  
734-764-2538 or [ums.org/](http://ums.org/)

Sept. 29  
Dramatic readings of Arthur  
Miller's Death of a Salesman  
with Alec Baldwin and  
U-M Theatre and Drama  
Department

Oct. 19-20  
Two Different Programs:  
Hubbard Street Dance Chicago

March 15-16, 2019  
American Wedding

### Purple Rose Theatre

137 Park St., Chelsea  
734-433-7673 or  
[purplerosetheatre.org/](http://purplerosetheatre.org/)

Sept. 20 - Dec. 29  
Diva Royale  
A world premiere by Jeff  
Daniels

Jan. 17 - March 16, 2019  
Never Not Once

April 4 - June 1, 2019  
All My Sons

June 20 - Aug. 31  
Welcome to Paradise

### Rackham Auditorium

915 East Washington Street,  
Ann Arbor  
734-764-2538 or [ums.org/](http://ums.org/)

Oct. 6  
Jerusalem Quartet

Oct. 26  
M-Prize 2018 Winner: Aizuri  
Quartet

Nov. 15  
Danish String Quartet

**The Ringwald  
Theatre**  
22742 Woodward Ave.,  
Ferndale  
248-545-5545 or [theringwald.com/](http://theringwald.com/)

Sept. 14-17  
The Laramie Project

Oct. 5 - Nov. 5  
Clue

Nov. 16 - Dec. 10  
The Cake

December dates to be  
announced  
The SantaLand Diaries &  
Season's Greetings

Jan. 4-28, 2019  
Significant Other

Feb. 15 - March 11, 2019  
Death of a Salesman

March 29 - April 22, 2019  
The House

May 10 - June 10, 2019  
Fun Home

### Slipstream Theatre Initiative

460 Hilton Rd., Ferndale  
313-986-9156 or [slipstreamti.com](http://slipstreamti.com)

Sept. 15 - Oct. 8  
Ruthless! The Musical

### Stagecrafters

415 South Lafayette, Royal  
Oak  
248-541-6430 or  
[stagecrafters.org/](http://stagecrafters.org/)

Sept. 7-30  
The Wild Party

Oct. 5-14  
Fool For Love

Oct. 25-28  
Dorothy in Wonderland

Nov. 30 - Dec. 16  
Peter and the Starcatcher

Jan. 25, 2019 - Feb. 17, 2019  
If/Then

March 1-10, 2019  
Sondheim on Sondheim

March 22, 2019 - April 7, 2019  
Boeing Boeing

April 26 - May 12  
Southern Comfort

May 17 - June 9  
Oklahoma!

Common Ground's 44th Annual  
**Birmingham Street Art Fair**  
 In Downtown Birmingham's Shain Park



Featured artwork: "Sleeping Bear" by Amy Fergusson

**September 15 & 16, 2018**

Featuring the Annual Silent Art Auction to benefit Common Ground

Produced in  
 association with



**Common Ground**  
 helping people move from crisis to hope

With special  
 thanks to



[BirminghamStreetArtFair.com](http://BirminghamStreetArtFair.com)

**LONGWAY PLANETARIUM**

**Skies over  
 Michigan**

**SHOWS DAILY  
 AT 3 P.M.**

Visit Michigan's  
 largest planetarium!

Check out the full show  
 schedule at [Longway.org](http://Longway.org)

1310 E. Kearsley St. Flint, MI 48503 | 810-237-3400 | [Longway.org](http://Longway.org)



**Philadelphia Orchestra**

Yannick Nézet-Séguin, music director

Lisa Batiashvili, violin

Fri 9/27 at 7:30 pm

Ann Arbor's Hill Auditorium

Music Director Yannick Nézet-Séguin brings the Philadelphia Orchestra to Ann Arbor with a stunning program: a suite from Nico Muhly's sensational opera *Marnie*, which receives its US première this fall at the Metropolitan Opera; Rachmaninoff's *Symphonic Dances*, the composer's final piece, written for the Philadelphia Orchestra in 1940; and Tchaikovsky's spectacular Violin Concerto, performed by the Georgian violinist Lisa Batiashvili in her UMS debut.



734.764.2538 — [UMS.ORG](http://UMS.ORG)



**THE rep** FLINT REPERTORY THEATRE  
World Premiere Play

# THE BOATMAN

By **ALEX MOGGRIDGE**  
Directed by **MICHAEL LLUBERES**

*The Boatman* is sponsored by  
Estate Funding, Donald Messier

**SEPTEMBER 28 – OCTOBER 7**

**BUY TICKETS: 810.237.7333**  
FlintRep.org • 810.237.1530



## 2018-19 LGBTQ Theater Series

Here are some LGBTQ highlights of the 2018-19 theater and entertainment season.

### Tig Notaro, Comedian

Lesbian comedian Tig Notaro unleashes her inner prankster in a playful stand-up special packed with funny anecdotes, parenting confessions and more.

Sept. 28, 5:30 p.m. — *Detroit Masonic Temple*  
Sept. 29, 6:30 p.m. — *The Fountain Street Church, Grand Rapids*

### Angels In America – Parts I and II

In this two part epic, Prior Walter, a young man living in NYC in 1985, is diagnosed with AIDS. His boyfriend, Louis, struggling to cope with the disease and his own fears, abandons him. Alone, Prior struggles until he's visited by ancestral ghosts who herald the coming of an angel. At the same time, Joe Pitt, a conservative but closeted Mormon, is offered a high profile job in Washington, D.C., by his mentor, the McCarthyist lawyer Roy Cohn. Joe's wife Harper, who struggles with her own illness, refuses to move. In the seven-time Tony Award- and Pulitzer Prize-winning drama, playwright Tony Kushner explores evolving values in America. Contains adult situations. Experience "Angels in America: Parts I and II" back-to-back with marathon performances on May 5 and 11, 2019.

*Part I*  
Feb. 8 to 24, 2019 — *Wayne State University, Hilbery Theater, Detroit*  
*Part II*  
April 26 to May 12, 2019 — *Wayne State University, Hilbery Theater, Detroit*

**THE Applause! ISSUE**

### Never Not Once World Premier

Eleanor, a biology major at Princeton, brings her boyfriend Rob home to meet her two moms. While there, she lets them know that she has hired a private investigator to help her find her biological father. She says that as a scientist she is curious about her genetics, and it's evident she might also just want to meet her dad. Nadine, her non-biological mom thinks it's a great idea, while Allison, Eleanor's biological mom insists that Eleanor's father, a one-night stand in college, never even knew she existed.

Jan. 17 to March 16, 2019 — *Purple Rose Theater, Chelsea*

### American Wedding World Premier

Thirty years after photographer and visual artist Robert Mapplethorpe's untimely death, many are still influenced by his body of work. Hosted by the University Musical Society, in "American Wedding," music, poetry and photography come together in a theatrical context, exploring the impact of the work Mapplethorpe had on the lives and careers of composer and Cincinnati native Bryce Dessner and librettist Korde Arrington Tuttle.

March 15 and 16, 2019 — *Power Center, Ann Arbor*

**MICHIGAN PHILHARMONIC**  
Nan Washburn, Music Director & Conductor

## 2018-19

**October 5, 2018, 8PM**  
**Happy 20th NANiversary**  
*Our Lady of Good Counsel, Plymouth*

**October 27, 2018, 7PM**  
**PhilharMonster Mash**  
*PARC, Plymouth*

**November 30, 2018**  
**In a Winter Garden**  
*Our Lady of Good Counsel, Plymouth*

**December 13, 2018**  
**Holiday Pops with the Phil**  
*PENN Theater, Plymouth*

**January 20, 2019**  
**Miniature Masterpieces**  
*St. John's Chapel, Plymouth*

**February 16, 2019**  
**In the Mood for Swing**  
*The Village Theater at Cherry Hill, Canton*

**March 10, 2019**  
**Franck, Fireflies & Fortissimos**  
*First United Methodist Church, Plymouth*

**April 6, 2019**  
**PHILpalooza<sup>2</sup>**  
*PARC, Plymouth*

734.451.2112  
www.michiganphil.org

## Fun Home

When her father dies unexpectedly, graphic novelist Alison dives deep into her past to tell the story of the volatile, brilliant, one-of-a-kind man whose temperament and secrets defined her family and her life. Moving between past and present, Alison relives her unique childhood playing at the family's Bechdel Funeral Home, her growing understanding of her own sexuality, and the looming, unanswerable questions about her father's hidden desires. "Fun Home" is an honest, wholly original musical about seeing one's parents through grown-up eyes. Book and lyrics by Lisa Kron and music by Jeanine Tesori, it is based on the graphic novel by Alison Bechdel.

May 10 to June 10, 2019 — *The Ringwald Theatre*

## Southern Comfort

"Southern Comfort" is based on the true story of Robert Eads, a transgender man with ovarian cancer, who lives in rural Georgia with his chosen family of transgender friends. Like all families, they have their struggles and sometimes fall short, but ultimately they hang on with tenacity and hope, refusing to

be sidelined by any obstacles. The folk and bluegrass-infused score features soaring melodies and beautiful harmonies in an uplifting celebration of the true meaning of family and being one's authentic self. Book and lyrics by Dan Collins. Music by Julianne Wick Davis. Directed by Jay Kaplan.

April 26 – Sunday, May 12, 2019 — *Stagecrafters, Royal Oak*

## Girlfriend

Romance unfolds in a new musical wound around the tender love songs of Matthew Sweet's landmark album, *Girlfriend*. Two teenage boys - one a social outcast, the other a quintessential jock - realize there's more to life than what high school has taught them. This rock musical, taking place between high school graduation and the rest of life, gives voice to everyone who has ever felt they do not quite fit in - and anyone who remembers the terror and thrill of first love will relate.

Previews: March 21 to 22, 2019 — *Detroit Public theater*  
March 23 to April 14, 2019 — *Detroit Public theater*

Nothing's as **AMAZING** as a **MUSICAL!**

**SOMETHING ROTTEN!**

BROADWAY'S HILARIOUS NEW SMASH!

"The Producers **PLUS** Spamalot **PLUS** The Book of Mormon. **SQUARED!**"  
—NEW YORK MAGAZINE

**Fisher Theatre • Sept. 25–Oct. 7**

BroadwayInDetroit.com, ticketmaster.com, 800-982-2787 & box office 313-872-1000.  
Groups (12+): Groups@BroadwayInDetroit.com or 313-871-1132. **OC** 7:30PM Sept. 30.

**Michigan BURLESQUE FESTIVAL**  
6TH ANNUAL

**DIRTY MARTINI**  
HANK & PANKY • HOLLY HOCK

SEPTEMBER 21-22  
TANGENT GALLERY / HASTINGS ST BALLROOM  
715 E. MILWAUKEE, DETROIT  
7PM • 18+ • \$30/DOOR • \$20/ADVANCE  
WWW.MICHIGANBURLESQUEFESTIVAL.COM

Monster Box Theatre  
2529 Elizabeth Lake Road  
Waterford MI 48328  
Tickets: 248-787-1400  
Info: 248-787-5365  
@monsterboxthr  
info@monsterboxtheatre.com  
monsterboxtheatre.com

**MONSTER BOX THEATRE**

PRESENTS  
THE 2018/19  
FALL/WINTER  
SEASON

**'Hand to God'**  
Robert Askins - (dark comedy) - Oct/Nov 2018  
A devilish puppet wreaks havoc on a small Texas church

**'The Book of Liz'**  
David and Amy Sedaris - (comedy) - Nov/Dec 2018  
A runaway discovers that you can't escape your purpose when your purpose is cheeseballs

**'The Real Inspector Hound'**  
Tom Stoppard - (dark comedy) - Jan 2019  
Two critics are in over their heads when a theatrical murder mystery becomes real

**'Black Comedy'**  
Peter Shaffer - (dark comedy) - Jan 2019  
Everything comes to light when the lights go out at a party hosted for an art collector

**'Crunchy Water'**  
Monster Box Improv - (original comedy) - Feb 2019  
An original sketch comedy with hedgehogs

**'Men on Boats'**  
Jaclyn Backhaus - (artistic dramedy) - Feb 2019  
A mostly true account of the "men" who "discovered" the Grand Canyon

**'Glengarry Glen Ross'**  
David Mamet - (drama) - Mar/April 2019  
High stakes in the high powered, high pressure, sales-world of real estate

# Meet Paul Stark

THE Applause! ISSUE

## Q&A With Managing and Artistic Director at the Monster Box Theatre

BY KATE OPALEWSKI

**What is one of your greatest challenges as the managing and artistic director at Monster Box Theatre?**

One of the greatest challenges of directing a live performance theater is always funding. Finding funds to support the arts is especially difficult in today's political climate. There is the fact that grants are few and so then the theater must rely on audiences and attendance. This can create a dilemma between creating art and simply entertaining the masses. We have tried very hard to keep the art at the forefront and challenge our audience, but an audience often will choose to put their dollars into soft and easy, light experiences rather than the exert the effort that is required to expand or educate oneself. This delicate balance is always at play when deciding on a

season of performances.

**What can theater-goers expect from the upcoming Monster Box Theatre season?**

The upcoming Monster Box Theatre season (just announced) has met with very favorable response and we are very excited for it. The fall and winter season is the first half of our theatrical year and we hope all agree that is has a strong variety of offerings. Performances begin in October through November with the edgy, controversial and five-time Tony Award-nominated "Hand to God" by Robert Askins, which is a very adult comedy about a religious teen and his psychotic puppet. December brings a slightly lighter, very witty send-up of religion with "The Book of Liz" by Amy and David Sedaris. In January, we have two hilarious farces that run concurrently: "The Real Inspector Hound" by Tom Stoppard which is a murder within a play about a murder within a play about a play, and "Black Comedy" by Peter Shaffer (five Tony nominations) which takes place entirely in the dark. In February, "Crunchy Water" is an original comedy written and performed by The Monster Box Improv Company along with an artistic historical comedy/drama "Men on Boats" by Jaclyn Backhaus. The "men" are played by an all-gender cast telling the "mostly" true story of the explorers that "discovered" the Grand Canyon. Finally March through April concludes the Pulitzer Prize-winning drama "Glengarry Glen Ross" by David Mamet.

**Considering our current political climate, how important is it for our community to come together through art to support different cultural experiences and perspectives?**

Given today's political climate, what we do in the arts has never been more important. While our government is performing its duties, it is most certainly not concerned with creativity, freedom of expression, beauty, tolerance or the humanities in general. And given this situation, those of us who have a venue for it, may not have an obligation but certainly have



an opportunity to keep the arts alive through cultural experiences and expression through the pulpit of performance. It is so very important to realize this opportunity into tangible artistic productions that not only bring art and beauty to the public but also challenge and educate through the medium. Theatre, as an art form is powerful, and it speaks to its audience in a way that can change attitudes and lives. The power of art should never be taken lightly and it is as important a vehicle of expression as it has ever been.

**Discuss the importance of theaters incorporating queer-themed plays or characters in their performance lineup.**

It is an important thing for theatres to present diversity in all aspects of their seasons and characters wherever possible. Queer themed shows and characters as well as racial and gender diversity are important because it reflects the reality of today. The opportunity for individuals to openly express themselves as they really are is relatively new but is such a large and important part of our current daily lives. Many of the plays that we present were written in a time when people could not speak openly and freely and it sheds new light when a play is presented from this more modern viewpoint. I have personally observed actual transformations in audience members from watching a single performance of a show such as "Bare." Individuals don't always give themselves the chance to be open to caring about characters that are different than themselves in their outside lives. Theater gives us an opportunity for communication that is unique and can allow for better understanding through a story being told or a song being sung.

**What advice would you give to young actors or industry professionals who fear their sexuality may hold them back or present a block in a highly competitive industry?**

My advice to all actors regarding fear of anything is don't be afraid to be yourself. My experience is that the theater community is one of the most tolerant and welcoming places anywhere. I have never worked a director worth his salt that is going to judge you for who you are. They are going to judge how well they feel you can portray a character or sing a song in character. The director will be judged on the finished product they mount to the stage and if you contribute to that in a positive way then you have value to the show. This has nothing to do with anything that happens off the stage and most people know this very well. Also being unique is almost always a plus because you will stand out. And this is good in a competitive situation. So, go and be your unique amazing self and don't be afraid.

*The Monster Box Theatre at 2529 Elizabeth Lake Road in Waterford Township opened its doors five years ago with the one-woman show "Please Give Me Your Money So I Can Buy a Vagina." Since then, they have shown their support for the LGBTQ community through performance choices like "Bare," "365 Women Festival," "Now. Here. This.," "The Book of Liz," and "Men on Boats." For more information about upcoming performances, visit [monsterboxtheatre.com](http://monsterboxtheatre.com).*

2018-2019 LUCKY SEASON 13

**Silent Sky** by Lauren Gunderson  
September 20 - October 21, 2018

**A Hunting Shack Christmas** by Jessica Lind Peterson  
November 15 - December 23, 2018

**To Quiet The Quiet** by Christy Hall  
January 24 - February 24, 2019

**The Gin Game** by D.L. Coburn  
March 21 - April 20, 2019

**New Releases** by Joseph Zettelmaier  
May 9 - June 9, 2019

**Popcorn Falls** by James Hindman  
June 20 - July 28, 2019

Williamston Theatre  
122 S Putnam Street Williamston MI 48895  
517-655-SHOW (7469)  
[www.williamstontheatre.org](http://www.williamstontheatre.org)

There are hundreds of businesses that advertise in BTL and **welcome everyone.**

Invest in equality and work with businesses that support Michigan's LGBTQ community!

LOVE Wins

**Between THE Lines™**





**Ann Arbor Civic Theatre**

your theatre. your town.

ANNOUNCING  
OUR 2018-2019  
SEASON!

## dirty rotten scoundrels

book by Jeffrey Lane | music & lyrics by David Yazbek  
directed by Glenn Bugala

September 6-9, 2018

*Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre*

---

## arsenic and old lace

by Joseph Kesselring  
directed by Alexandra Duncan

October 25-28, 2018

*Arthur Miller Theatre*

---

## oliver!

book, music, & lyrics by Lionel Bart  
directed by Wendy Sielaff

January 10-13, 2019

*Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre*

---

## vanya and sonia and masha and spike

by Christopher Durang  
directed by Cassie Mann

March 14-17, 2019

*Arthur Miller Theatre*

---

## fahrenheit 451

by Ray Bradbury  
directed by David Widmayer

April 25-28, 2019

*Arthur Miller Theatre*

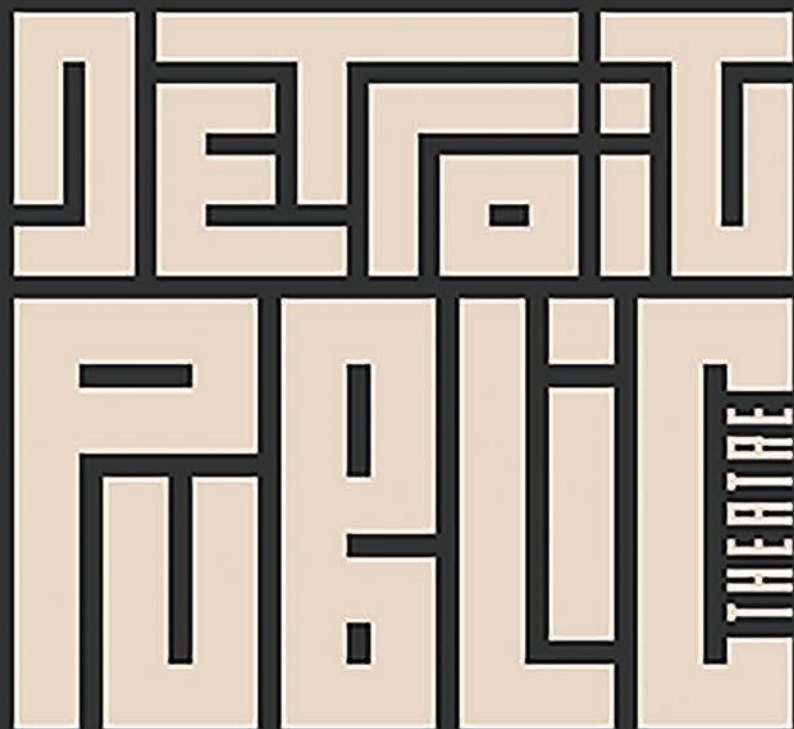
---

## curtains

book by Rupert Holmes | music by John Kander | lyrics by Fred Ebb  
directed by Jason Smith

June 6-9, 2019

*Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre*



## SEASON FOUR

### PIPELINE

by **Dominique Morisseau**

Directed by Candis C. Jones

OCT. 4 - NOV. 4, 2018

### CRY IT OUT

by **Molly Smith Metzler**

Directed by Courtney Burkett

NOV. 15 - DEC. 9, 2018

### GIRLFRIEND

by **Todd Almond** and **Matthew Sweet**

Directed by Joe Bailey

MAR. 21 - APR. 14, 2019

### THE BEAUTY QUEEN OF LEENANE

by **Martin McDonagh**

Directed by Andrew Borba

MAY 2 - MAY 26, 2019

## BUY YOUR TICKETS TODAY

Call 313.576.5111

Visit [WWW.DETROITPUBLICTHEATRE.ORG](http://WWW.DETROITPUBLICTHEATRE.ORG)

## 4 Performances of 'The Laramie Project' at The Ringwald Sept. 14-17

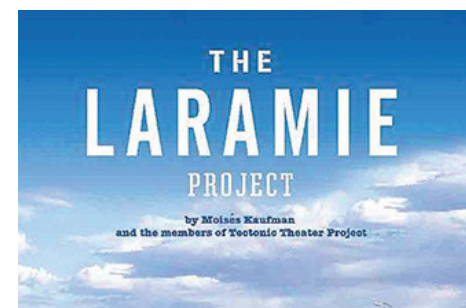
**FERNDALE** – In honor of Matthew Shepard, 20 years after his murder, The Ringwald presents a four-show engagement of “The Laramie Project,” a landmark play by Moises Kaufman and members of the Tectonic Theater Project. Performances begin Friday, Sept. 14 and run through Monday, Sept. 17.

Matthew Shepard was brutally beaten and left to die on Oct. 6, 1998 in Laramie, Wyoming. He was 21. He was gay. He died six days later. Members of the Tectonic Theater Project made six trips to Laramie over the course of a year and a half, in the aftermath of the murder and during the trial of the two young men accused of killing Shepard. They conducted more than 200 interviews with the people of the town. This play is the result of those interviews.

“The Laramie Project” remains a significant and necessary work in the political climate of 2018, and stands as an inspiration for director and Ringwald co-founder Brandy Joe Plambeck.

“As a gay man who is also a Wyoming native, ‘The Laramie Project’ holds a significant place in my heart. Not only does it feature ‘characters’ of real-life friends of mine, but it also explores the cultural views of my home state. I find it heartbreaking, heartwarming and incredibly impactful.”

Directed by Plambeck and featuring Joe



Bailey, Greg Eldridge, Taylor Johnson, Kelly Komlen, Sydeny Lepora, Joel Mitchell, Gretchen Schock and Mike Suchyta, “The Laramie Project” tells the story of Shepard’s life, death and legacy from more than 60 perspectives.

There will be a special talkback following the Saturday, Sept. 15 performance featuring the cast and director Plambeck, who will share his thoughts about growing up in Wyoming and his personal relationships with several of the real-life characters from the play.

*Purchase tickets at [TheRingwald.com](http://TheRingwald.com) or at the theatre, located at 22742 Woodward Ave., in downtown Ferndale. The Ringwald box office opens 45 minutes before performances and tickets can be purchased with cash or credit card. For more information, call 248-545-5545.*

### ► Gay Ol’ Time

Continued from p. 22

few steps backward over the past two years when it comes to social issues, felt it was important to emphasize three specific points when considering his upcoming season.

“To signal that we’re not going anywhere; we’re just like everyone else; and there’s simply nothing wrong with being gay,” he said. “It’s nothing to be ashamed of and nothing to be hidden. And all of these shows don’t deal exclusively with being gay. There are plenty of commonalities in these shows that we share with our straight brothers and sisters – finding love, parent/child relationships. We’re all just people trying to make it through the day. There are just some of us who happen to love our same sex. Whoop-de-doo.”

### But will they come?

Although one would hope the country has progressed to the point that plays with gay themes and characters won’t be shunned simply because of those themes and characters, nothing is guaranteed.

Except at The Ringwald, of course, where pushing boundaries theatrical and otherwise

has been the norm since its founding in May 2007. “Including LGBT plays is not a risk for us at all,” Bailey said. “If anything, it is more important today. Our audiences are used to us pushing the envelope on a lot of different fronts, so I think we may have used up our shock factor by this point. Since we’ve announced our season, the feedback has been very positive and, I would even say, enthusiastic!”

The Hilberry’s Wolf isn’t too concerned about potential blowback to his choices this season. “There will, without a doubt, be a few people who choose not to attend ‘Angels in America.’ I believe our audience is progressive and they’re interested in stories about people who may be very different from them. Ironically, it’s the few people who choose not to attend who would benefit most from experiencing this play,” he said.

The always pragmatic Sanville isn’t worried, either. “We try to pick the best plays. We try and chase the best writing. Fascinating characters come from great plays. Gay characters, straight characters and everyone in between are all part of the human family. And that makes them all fair game!”

“If the stories are strong and the plays well made, people will come,” he said.

**THE DETROIT REPERTORY THEATRE**  
NATIONALLY RENOWNED INTIMATE PROFESSIONAL THEATRE

**SEASON 62**

Midwest Premiere  
**Nov 1 to Dec 23, 2018**

**EVIDENCE OF THINGS  
UNSEEN**

by **Katie Forgette**



A lovely sister story with lots of humor about differing responses to grief, revenge, sorrow, solace, faith, feeding ducks and the need to understand the actions of those nearest to us. How outside forces can bring us together to begin to heal.

**The House on Poe Street**  
By **Fengar Gael**

World Premiere  
Dark Comedy



**Jan 10 to Mar 17, 2019**

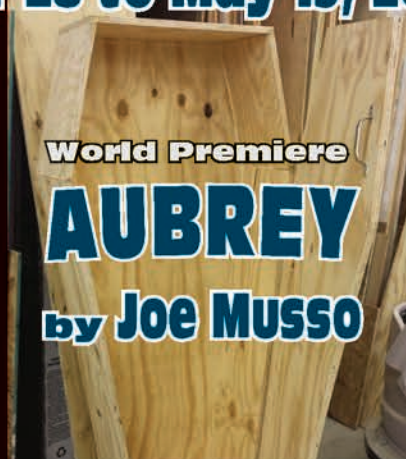
Twin sisters inherit the house where Poe is reputed to have composed The Raven. What ensues is a feminist fantasy that explores gender parity, genetic determinism, and the power of poetry to affect visions of afterlife.

**Mar 28 to May 19, 2019**

World Premiere

**AUBREY**

by **Joe Musso**



Aubrey Gagnier, a heroin addict, haunted by her role in her lover's drug overdose death, seeks out Ivan Stillman, the grave digger and coffin maker. Between Aubrey's addiction and Ivan's tragic past they become each other's best hope not just to survive, but to live.

World Premiere

**May 30 to June 30, 2019**



**Williston**  
by **Adam Seidel**

A story to ignite moral indignation. A ruthless oil industry generational clash about American Indian land in Williston, ND.

**Book a Fundraiser, Subscribe, Pledge,  
Sponsor, Donate, Call 313.868.1347  
Web: [DetroitRepTheatre.com](http://DetroitRepTheatre.com)**



Photo: Ralph Lauren.

## Olympian-Activist on His Hollywood Aspirations, a Promising Future for LGBTQ Athletes and Being a 'Bad Gay'

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Nobody reminds silver Olympic medalist Gus Kenworthy that he was in “Sharknado 5,” and it’s hard to tell how that makes him feel after I casually drop that nugget of info as you do if you’ve studied his IMDB page. “Global Swarming,” I say, naming the film’s subtitle. He laughs big. “Never before has anyone said that to me.”

It’s 9 a.m. when Kenworthy calls, and he’s either in serious-guy interview mode, a low-key (or sleepy?) version of his perky Instagram self – or he just rolled out of the air mattress he’s been snoozing on since recently moving to Los Angeles. If you’re an aspiring actor like Kenworthy, this is where you aspire. This is where Kenworthy will spend time writing his latest and greatest chapter, maybe host a game show or a talk show. (Whatever he does, let there be dogs, because Kenworthy loves dogs.) And he’s in the right place with the right man, his actor-boyfriend of three years, Matthew Wilkas. So, why not?

Before pursuing acting, Kenworthy gained global notoriety after taking silver in men’s slopestyle at the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi. But after the 26-year-old British-born freestyle skier came out as gay the following year in an interview with ESPN, he was recognized as an LGBTQ trailblazer for being one of only a few athletes to do so. This year, Wilkas and Kenworthy expressed their unabashed affection for each other during the Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang, South Korea, when their televised kiss before his qualifying run in the men’s slopestyle became, like his triumphant sports career itself, a notable moment of visibility for LGBTQ athletes.

**I spotted you in Detroit recently during a Stars on Ice performance, when you shot your interview with fellow Olympian and your good friend Adam Rippon, for “Nightline.” At the end of the show, fans swarmed you. Are you used to being recognized in public?**

Yes and no. It stills seems strange, but I’ve gotten used to it. I got a little bit of recognition prior to the Olympics four years ago from skiing. And then when I came out, I feel like my platform definitely changed and grew, and it took a different shape in terms of the people who would approach me. It’s sort of been a slow grow, not completely overnight. It must be much more insane for Adam, because heading into this Games, he hadn’t been to another Games and his platform wasn’t super huge and now it’s insane. He had more growth than any other Olympian at the Games. That’s very much night and day.

**How do the conversations you have with fans change depending on if you’re at, say, a ski shop versus a gay bar?**

At a ski shop it’s often like, “Oh, what’s up man? Where do you ski?” It’s pretty surface. Who comes up to me most are other gay guys and usually they’re really, really sweet and they say something really nice. And they’ll want a photo; it’s kind of a short exchange. Sometimes it’s more earnest, but often it’s not. And it definitely does happen a lot at gay bars.

### What's a not-earnest exchange like?

I think one type of interaction is like (models a fangirling vocal affect), "Oh my god! I love your Instagram! Can I take a photo?" And then like, "I saw you in the Olympics; can I have a photo?" Or another one: "Hey, just wanted to say thank you so much for coming out and for using your platform." It's just really, really, really sweet. It means a lot to me.

### Adam told me he most identifies with Dorothy and Blanche. Which Golden Girl are you?

I mean, I'm Betty White.

### You're a Rose?

I don't know. To be completely honest, I don't watch "Golden Girls," so I'm a bad gay. Honestly, it's not a choice, it's just, I never did. But I have an ongoing list of things that my boyfriend is like, "You're a bad gay, you haven't seen this."

### Where are you at now with your sexuality compared to when you first came out?

I'm in a way better place in my life. Right after I won the silver medal I was not out. I was in a low point in my life too because it was sort of a time where I wanted to be out; I didn't think it was a reality. Suddenly, I did have this elevated platform from the Olympics and the dogs (Kenworthy rescued a mother dog and her four puppies at the Winter Olympics in Sochi), and it sort of made me feel uncomfortable because I wasn't being my true self. I just felt fake and had a boyfriend in the closet at the time. I wasn't sharing him with my world, and vice versa, and I think that took a toll. So, I wasn't in the best place.

Now, at this moment in my life, another Olympics just ended, I didn't get a medal at this Games, but I still feel like I had a good season at the qualifying events in order to get to the Olympics. I still got to be at the Olympics and compete out loud and proud, and cheer on Adam and my other friends, and got to be who I am and represent myself and my country and my community and the things I believe in. It was an awesome experience. I don't know what the next chapter of my life is, but I'm in L.A. right now and I'm planning on spending more time here and auditioning and trying to get into some acting and do TV hosting.

### What are your acting aspirations?

I would love to be on Broadway. I would like to work on my voice, and maybe get it to a place where I feel confident with my singing so that I can do more theatrical-type stuff. It would be a dream to be on TV and in movies. Growing up, I did theater. My dream was to be an actor, not a skier.

### Acting doesn't always promise overnight success. Does that scare you?

No. I feel like I've had success in my sport and this is something I'm really into and passionate about and would love to pursue.

I wanted it as a kid and then something else presented itself and I spent my life skiing, and I'm not done with it either completely, but this is a new thing. It'd be great and fun, and if it doesn't (work out), it's not the end of the world.

### Will you compete in the next Olympics?

Maybe. I haven't decided.

### You've been a brand ambassador for H&M, for their recent Pride collection, and Head & Shoulders, for their "Shoulders of Greatness" campaign.

Actually, (the Head & Shoulders campaign) was a really cool experience because it was the very first time that there was ever a Pride flag in a national TV commercial. So, it was cool and I was like, "Oh my god, that's never happened."

### As an out gay man, what it's like to partner with these LGBTQ-inclusive brands?

It's amazing. It's important brands align themselves with the LGBTQ community. LGBTQ people should be represented in every part of life, and so that's also in the arts and in commercials and on billboards. Things shouldn't just be catered to straight people and white people and men. So, it's cool to do a campaign that highlights that and highlights me as a gay man.

### You were recently the Pride grand marshal in Montreal and Miami Beach. What was your Pride message to the LGBTQ community?

I think that Pride is so important. It's a moment for us as a community to celebrate who we are but also to look back on where we've come from. It's important to remember the people who put their lives and their careers and their necks on the line to try and really, really fight for equality. And then also just to reflect on each of our own journeys, because every single LGBTQ person has struggled at some point in their life coming to terms with themselves and identifying themselves and embracing it and living their truth. It's a hard thing to do. It's a scary thing to do. But once you start doing it, there's no other way to live.

### What was your first Pride like?

A whole new world. I was with my very first boyfriend years and years and years ago and we happened to be in San Francisco because we were driving up to Vancouver from where he's from, Colorado, and we woke up in San Francisco and it was Pride. We walked outside and there were naked people and painted people and Pride flags and people all getting ready for San Francisco Pride, and I was like, "What the fuck?" I didn't even know what it was. I was totally in the closet with him, and I remember being nervous to watch it but so excited. That was kind of my first Pride. But

See **Gun Kenworthy**, continued on p. 39

# JOIN US & KEY NOTE SPEAKER ADAM RIPPON OCTOBER 5, 2018

EQ  
MI

EQUALITY  
MICHIGAN

DTE ENERGY  
1 ENERGY PLAZA  
DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48226

VIP RECEPTION  
5:30PM  
\$250

RECEPTION  
6:30PM  
\$175

WWW.EQUALITYMI.ORG/RECEPTION  
E-MAIL CHARLIE@EQUALITYMI.ORG PHONE 313-537-7000

PRESENTING SPONSORS



# BTL Cool Cities Lansing

**YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD ♦ YOUR MARKET**

Pinpoint your ad dollars where they will do the most good . . .  
Advertise in the next Cool Cities  
TO PLACE AN AD CALL 734.293.7200

**DAVID HARRIS, PH.D.**  
FULLY LICENSED PSYCHOLOGIST



Individual  
Couples  
Family Therapy

**LANSINGPSYCH.NET**  
adjacent to msu campus

234 MICHIGAN AVENUE, EAST LANSING, MICHIGAN 48823  
(517) 337-6545 X 232 FAX: (517) 337-3010



## National Attention Paid to Michigan's 'Dadvantage'

Michigan's innovative "Give your child the dadvantage" campaign that urges families to establish paternity at birth won a national award last month.

The National Child Support Enforcement Association (NCSEA) recognized the dadvantage campaign with its Program Awareness Award at its 2018 Leadership Symposium in Pittsburgh, which coincides with Child Support Awareness Month as proclaimed by Gov. Rick Snyder. The award recognizes the effectiveness of media relations and public outreach in providing child support information to the public.

"Give your child the dadvantage is very successful in raising awareness about the importance of paternity establishment and educating unmarried parents in advance of their child's birth, resulting in more effective parent engagement." NCSEA Executive Director Ann Marie Ruskin said in a letter to the Office of Child Support within the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS).

The Office of Child Support kicked off its "Give your child the dadvantage" campaign in 2017. The office oversees the Voluntary Acknowledgment of Paternity program, which provides information and training to birthing hospital staff about the benefits of establishing legal fatherhood for children born to unmarried parents.

"Establishing paternity – or legal fatherhood – is good for children and good for their families," said Erin Frisch, director of MDHHS's Office of Child Support. "When paternity is established at birth, a child can develop a better sense of identity and have his or her needs better met due to additional financial and emotional support."

Children who have a legal father also have a right to their parents' benefits, such as health insurance and Social Security, and can stay healthier through knowledge about the family's complete medical history.

The paternity process at the hospital upon birth of a baby is simple. To establish paternity, both parents should have photo identification and read and sign the affidavit the hospital gives them when the child is born. It's free, and hospital staff can answer any questions the parents may have.

NCSEA serves as the voice of the child support community. It serves child support professionals, agencies and strategic partners worldwide through professional development, communications, public awareness and advocacy to enhance the financial, medical and emotional support that parents provide to their children.

In Michigan, nearly 1 million children benefit from the state's child support program. MDHHS's child support program provides parents of all income levels with assistance in obtaining financial support and medical insurance coverage for their children. The program helps by locating parents, establishing paternity, establishing child support orders and collecting and distributing child support payments.

*Child support information for parents, employers, hospitals and schools can be [michigan.gov/childsupport](http://michigan.gov/childsupport). More information about the campaign and the paternity establishment process can be found at [michigan.gov/dadvantage](http://michigan.gov/dadvantage).*

The all New Subaru Ascent has arrive at the dealership. Come test drive one today!

# Love is now bigger than ever.

Presenting the all-new 3-row Subaru Ascent.



**The 2019 Subaru Ascent.** The biggest Subaru SUV ever with room for up to 8 passengers. Choice of second-row captain's chairs or bench seating. Standard EyeSight® Driver Assist Technology,<sup>15</sup> and standard Symmetrical All-Wheel Drive + up to 27 mpg.\*



**WILLIAMS**



A Williams AutoWorld Group Member

525 North Howard St., Lansing, MI 48912

Sales (866) 752-9939

[www.lansingsubaru.com](http://www.lansingsubaru.com)

## ► Gus Kenworthy

Continued from p. 37

I definitely wasn't embracing myself and proud of myself and enjoying Pride in the sense that it should be. New York Pride was the first time I was out and excited and wearing rainbow shit and cheering and screaming and dancing.

**You recently attended Life Ball, the biggest charity event in Europe supporting people with HIV or AIDS. I heard people lose their shirts in flight en route to Vienna. This is a thing?**

Yeah. Basically, there are no rules at all. Like, Kelly Osbourne did our in-flight announcement and as soon as the flight took off everyone was out of their seats, everyone was switching seats, walking around, people were drinking in the aisles of the flight straight out of the bottle.

**Who wasn't wearing a shirt? Or who was?**

I think most people. I definitely didn't know everyone on the flight. It was packed with people. But there was a whole congregation of people at the back of the plane, in the back galley. And they were flipping the lights on and off and playing music and people were drinking. And some shirts came off. And people were making out. And I think some people might have maybe gone into the bathroom together. It was really wild.

**And what were you doing the whole time?**

I was part of the process! I was in the back with people! And I don't know, just chatting with people, meeting people, drinking, hanging out. Witnessing all that was going on around me.

**Is it weird that this is your life now?**

I mean, yeah, I guess. This was definitely different than anything I've ever been to. I was like, this is crazy. Definitely pretty surreal.

**Which famous person that you've met has left the biggest impression on you?**

In just short meetings like that I'm often starstruck and just excited to say "hey." But I met Miley Cyrus after the last Olympics and we've become friends, sort of. We don't hang out all the time, but she's definitely had a big impact on me. I just think she's amazing. I think she does a lot for the LGBTQ community, a lot for animals and she's just a really nice, good, kind person

**You work with her charity, the Happy Hippie Foundation, which serves homeless youth and the LGBTQ community.**

Yeah, I do. And I think that's another way that she's inspired me. I feel like I've tried to do a



lot for charity because I just believe in it.

**Tell me about your part in the new documentary "Alone in the Game," about the lack of out LGBTQ athletes. And what do you think the future holds for LGBTQ athletes?**

I talk about the importance of representation in sports. I think sports are kind of a scary place for LGBTQ people, but sports are meant to be about inclusion in their own right and putting aside differences to come together and play on a team.

I think it's important to have representation, and the reason we haven't had more gay people in sports isn't because we haven't had more gay people in sports, it's because we haven't had more gay people in sports that have been willing to put their life on the line and be open and honest about who they are. But there are gonna be more of us in the future. Whether it's just because more and more people are gonna come out who are currently competing, or it's the next generation.

I feel like there are so many kids who are out in high school, and it's crazy because I'm not that much older than that and I don't feel like that was an option for me. So, that's great to see, and I think that will change things. But the only way to change misperception is just through visibility. The more that we can show that we're here and we're queer and we're just as capable as anyone else, it will be better for everyone and more people will feel safe to come out.

*As editor of Q Syndicate, the international LGBTQ 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).*

# 18 Branches Statewide

From Grand Rapids to Metro Detroit, MSUFCU has you covered.

See why over 260,000 members call MSUFCU their Credit Union.

Open your account today!  
[msufcu.org](http://msufcu.org) or 517-333-2424

# I Stay Ready. I Use Condoms.

Using condoms can protect you from sexually transmitted infections, HIV, and pregnancy.

Free condoms delivered by mail to residents of **Detroit, Highland Park, and Hamtramck.**

Order yours at:  
[www.detroitmi.gov/health](http://www.detroitmi.gov/health)



# Happenings

## Maroon 5 Plays Little Caesars Arena

On Sunday, Sept. 30 at 7:30 p.m., fans get to see three-time Grammy Award-winning band Maroon 5 at Little Caesars Arena. Recording chart-topping records since the early 2000s, the group has consistently produced hit tracks like “Maps,” “Animals” and “Moves Like Jagger.” Find out more information at [ticketmaster.com](http://ticketmaster.com).



Friday, 9/14, 8 pm  
Saturday, 9/15, 8 pm



The “Made in America (Some Assembly Required)” Tour!

Tuesday, 9/18, 8 pm

### Deidre McCalla & Dianne Davidson



Enduring figures of women’s music, together on stage!

Tickets at MUTO at the Michigan League Underground, The Ark Box Office, or [theark.org](http://theark.org).

**734.763.TKTS**  
316 S. Main, Ann Arbor, MI  
[www.theark.org](http://www.theark.org)

[f](#) [t](#) [t](#) [v](#)

## OUTINGS

### Saturday, September 8

**Detroit: You’re So Unusual Bus Tour** 12 p.m. This fun, quirky Detroit bus tour goes beyond the familiar local landmarks and showcases the cool, curious, unfamiliar, and forgotten sites of interest located within the city’s vast 139 square miles. 2934 Russell Street, 2934 Russell St, Detroit. 313.757.1283 <https://citytourdetroit.com>

### Monday, September 10

**Stand with Trans 2018 Support Groups – Macomb County** 6:30 p.m. Macomb Teen/Youth Support Group: All youth are welcome to attend this FREE group. Come

and meet other trans\* youth and teens and support each other through your journeys. Dakota High School, 21051 21 Mile Road, Macomb. 586-723-2700 <http://www.chippewavalleyschools.org/schools/high-schools/dhs/>

### Wednesday, September 12

**Stand with Trans Youth Support Group – Flint – Genessee** 6:30 p.m. Free to all, Trans Youth Support Group meets the 2nd Wed. of each month @ Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Flint. Facilitator Sara Griffin, MA, LPC is a psychotherapist and a parent of a transgender son, Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Flint, 2474 S. Ballenger Hwy, Flint. 810-232-4023 [uflint.org](http://uflint.org) [www.standwithtrans.org](http://www.standwithtrans.org)

### Thursday, September 13

**Detroit Regional LGBT Chamber of Commerce Merge & Mixer** 6:30 p.m. Michigan Employee Resource Groups for Equality (MERGE) Monthly Networking Event. All are welcomed to network. Host by: Detroit Regional LGBT Chamber of Commerce. Check website for monthly location, RSVP is Required. Soho, 205 W. 9 Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-542-7646 [www.ferndalesoho.com](http://www.ferndalesoho.com) [www.detroitlgbtchamber.com](http://www.detroitlgbtchamber.com)

**Stand with Trans 2018 Support Groups – Farmington Hills – Oakland County** 7 p.m. All youth are welcome to attend this FREE group. This group meets the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month at Orchard United Methodist Church. Oakland United Methodist Church, 30450 Farmington

Road, Farmington. 248-626-3620 [www.standwithtrans.org](http://www.standwithtrans.org)

**Toastmasters International SpeakOUT! LGBTQ Meeting** 7 p.m. Professional & personal communication skills development. With better communications skills, you’ll better your leadership style as well as your relationships. Warm & welcoming members. Find out what Toastmasters can do for you. Jim Toy Community Center, 319 Braun Court, Ann Arbor. 734-995-9867 [lawrencemoebis@gmail.com](mailto:lawrencemoebis@gmail.com) <https://speakout.toastmastersclubs.org>

### Saturday, September 15

**U.P. Pride Fest** 12 p.m. Join us for Upper Michigan’s FIFTH ANNUAL PRIDE FEST. This year’s event will feature a deaf

## Editor’s Pick

### DIA Hosts Mexican Independence Day: Sones de Mexico Ensemble

On Thursday, Sept. 13, the Sones de Mexico Ensemble will be hosted at the Detroit Institute of Arts. Guests can view traditional Mexican folk music and dance including regional styles of huapango, gustos, chilenas, son jarocho and more. The cost is included with the price of admission. Go online to [dia.org](http://dia.org) for more information or call 313-833-7900.





# Editor's Pick

## Meet Your Best Friend at the Zoo

A massive off-site pet adoption event, The Detroit Zoo is hosting this semi-annual event to help future pet owners meet the pet of their dreams. On Friday, Sept. 14 and Saturday, Sept. 15, guests can gather beneath the Zoo's landmark water tower to meet dogs, cats and rabbits. Since the event's inception in 1993, over 23,000 animals have been placed into new homes.



speaker, kids activities, a drag show, and lots of other entertainment and vendors!  
www.uprainbowpride.

### Tuesday, September 18

**Health is The Gift You Give Yourself** 6:30 p.m. Health begins to decline for most Americans when they reach middle age. Yet this doesn't happen in areas of the world where a Whole Food Plant-Based lifestyle is the cultural norm. Dr. Breakey lays out Groves High School, 20500 West 13 Mile Road, Beverly Hills. 248-919-8726 www.pbns.org

### Wednesday, September 19

**Stand with Trans Support Groups – Livonia – Wayne County** 6:30 p.m. Free to all, group meets the 3rd Wednesday of each month @ Emmanuel Lutheran Church. 734-673-2485 Trans Youth Support Group (12+) Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 34567 7 Mile Road, Livonia. www.standwithtrans.org

### Tuesday, September 25

**Stand with Trans Support Groups – Ann Arbor – Washtenaw** 6:30 p.m. Trans Support Group meeting the 4th Tuesday of each month @ Journey of Faith Christian Church. Journey of Faith Christian Church, 1900 Manchester Road, Ann Arbor. www.standwithtrans.org

### Friday, September 28

**Tig Notaro at Masonic Temple** 6:30 p.m. Tig Notaro is a groundbreaking stand-up comedian, actor, writer, producer, and director. Hailed for her effortless storytelling and fearless stage presence, her subject matter ranges from the delightfully absurd to the monumentally serious. Rolling Stone Detroit Masonic Temple, 3011 W. Grand Blvd., #1100, Detroit. 800-854-2196 www.themasonic.com/events.php

### Saturday, September 29

**10th Annual Fall Fundraiser – An Evening with Ozone House** 6:30 p.m. Ozone House, based in Ann Arbor, is a non-profit organization that works to "meet the needs of runaway, homeless, and high-risk youth and their families. Spend a delightful evening enjoying delicious food, drinks, music, performances and Domino's World Resource Center, 30 Frank Lloyd Wright Drive, Ann Arbor. 734-930-3030 http://ozonehouse.org/calendar-old/evening-with-ozonehouse/

**Tig Notaro at Fountain Street Church in Grand Rapids!** 7:30 p.m. Tig Notaro is a groundbreaking stand-up comedian, actor, writer, producer, and director. Hailed for her effortless storytelling and fearless stage presence, her subject matter ranges from the delightfully absurd to the monumentally serious. Rolling Stone Fountain Street Church, 24 Fountain Street NE, Grand Rapids. 616-459-8386 www.fountainstreet.org

## MUSIC & MORE

**Life Tour – Boy George and Culture Club and The B-52s @ DTE Energy Music Theatre** August 30, 7 p.m. HUGE news, 80s music fans!! Boy George and Culture Club are reuniting in 2018 for a huge North American tour with "The World's Greatest Party Band," The B-52s, with support from Tom Bailey of the DTE Energy Music Theatre, 7774 Sashabaw Road, Clarkston. 248-377-0100 www.dteenergymusictheatre.org

**Matrix Theatre Presents the 7th Annual Cabaret Fundraiser** Sept. 14, 7:30 p.m. Kate Brennan and Harvey Reed are back for their 7th annual cabaret and this year's theme is "Tears and Laughter." Hop on this emotional roller coaster and enjoy an evening of memorable songs 2730 Bagley St., Detroit. 313-967-0599 www.matrixtheatre.org

**Health is The Gift You Give Yourself** September 18, 6:30 p.m. Health begins to decline for most Americans when they reach middle age. Yet this doesn't happen in areas of the world where a Whole Food Plant-Based lifestyle is the cultural norm. Dr. Breakey lays out Groves High School, 20500 West 13 Mile Road, Beverly Hills. 248-919-8726 www.pbns.org

**2018 Voices – A Detroit Legacy** September 27, 6 p.m. Save the date for 2018 Voices, VIP Reception at 6pm, Main Event at 7pm. Tickets available at www.ruthelliscenter.org Motor City Casino Sound Board, 2901 Grand River Ave., Detroit. 313-309-4700 www.ruthelliscenter.org

**Mega March for Animals, Presented by Sellers Subaru** September 29, October 6, 9 a.m. Join an estimated 1,000 supporters of the Michigan Humane Society and their dogs as they walk up to two miles along the scenic Detroit RiverWalk. Participants will also meet and mingle (and sniff) with many Detroit RiverWalk, Cullen Plaza (formerly Rivard Plaza), Detroit. 313-566-8200 www.MichiganHumane.org

## ART 'N' AROUND

**Star Wars and the Power of Costume** 9 a.m. Star Wars™ and the Power of Costume explores the challenges in dressing the Star Wars universe from the Galactic Senate and royalty to the Jedi, Sith and Droids™. Featuring more than 60 hand-crafted costumes. Detroit Institute of Arts, 2100 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 313-833-7900 www.dia.org

**21st Annual Ford Arts, Beats & Eats Returns to Royal Oak!** August 31, 11 a.m. The festival offers more than 200 performances on nine stages, a highly ranked Juried Fine Arts Show, and local restaurants with some of the finest cuisine in Metro-Detroit. Royal Oak. http://artsbeatsseats.com

**Saline Antiques Market** September 9, 9 a.m. Since the Saline Antiques & Vintage Market debuted a few years ago, it has been our goal to offer a quality monthly market for your buying enjoyment. Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor-Saline Road, Ann Arbor. 734-761-2796 salinemarket@gmail.com www.salineantiquesmarket.com/

**Have We Met: Dialogues on Memory and Desire** September 21, 6 p.m. Curated by Srimoyee Mitra. Artists include Rudolf Baranik, Al Loving, Michele Oka Doner, Emory Douglas, Stephanie Dinkins, Brendan Fernandes, Chitra Ganesh, Carole Harris, Maren Hassinger, Josh MacPhee, Native Art Department International and more. stamps gallery, 201 S. Division Street, Ann Arbor. https://stamps.umich.edu/exhibitions/detail/have-we-met

## THEATER

**Wicked is Flying Back to Detroit!** August 29, 8 p.m. Back By Popular Demand!! WICKED, the Broadway sensation, looks at what happened in the Land of Oz ... but from a different angle. The untold true story of the Witches of Oz transfixed audiences. Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway St., Detroit. 313-237-SING www.broadwayindetroit.com

**A2CT Auditions for Arsenic and Old Lace** September 4, 7:30 p.m. Auditions for Arsenic and Old Lace, directed by Alexandra Duncan, will take place on Tuesday, 9/4 and Wednesday, 9/5 at 7:30 p.m. at the A2CT Studio. More info www.a2ct.org/audition. A2CT Studio Theatre, 322 W. Ann St., Ann Arbor. 734-971-2228 http://www.a2ct.org/audition

**A2CT Presents: Dirty Rotten Scoundrels** September 6, 7:30 p.m. Based on the 1988 movie of the same name, this hysterical musical comedy with a delightfully jazzy score lets audiences tag along to the French Riviera, and see what happens when two lifelong con men One event on September 7 at 8:00pm One event on September 8 at 8:00pm One event on September 9 at 2:00pm Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre, 911 North University, Ann Arbor. 734-763-3333 http://www.a2ct.org/shows/dirty-rotten-scoundrels

**The Totalitarians by Pete Sinn Nachtrieb** September 7, 8 p.m. Politician Penelope Easter is a disaster of a candidate: impulsive and crass, with a closet full of skeletons. When she enlists the help of Francine, a silver-tongued political operative, the two embark on a madcap adventure. Theatre NOVA, 410 W Huron, Ann Arbor. 734-635-8450 - www.theatrenova.org

# The Fab Four

The Ultimate Tribute

## OCTOBER 18

---

AUSTRALIA'S

# THUNDER FROM DOWN UNDER

## NOVEMBER 15

# SOUND BOARD

CASINO HOTEL City

ticketmaster®

SOUNDBOARDETROIT.COM

Michigan Department of Community Health

If you bet more than you can afford to lose, you've got a problem. Call 1-800-270-7117 for free, confidential help.

MotorCity Casino Hotel and MotorCity Casino Hotel design are trademarks of Detroit Entertainment, L.L.C. ©2018 Detroit Entertainment, L.L.C. All rights reserved.

THE FINEST IN ADULT ENTERTAINMENT AT THE BEST PRICES!

BUY  
ADULT DVD'S  
STARTING AT  
\$5.95

EVERY TUES & FRIDAY  
NEW  
RELEASE  
DAY

ALL XXX  
DVD RENTALS  
AS LOW AS \$1.25  
EVERY DAY!



FREE \$5.95 XXX DVD  
WITH EACH PURCHASE OF  
\$25 REGULAR PRICED  
MERCHANDISE  
SEPT 27 - 30, 2018

**BO-GO SALE**  
**BUY ONE**  
AT REGULAR PRICE, (RED STICKER ONLY!)  
**GET ONE \$5.95 DVD FREE**  
YOUR CHOICE  
SEPTEMBER 13 - 16, 2018



Rush - Jungle Juice - Maximum Impact -  
Swiss Navy - Amsterdam - ID Glide - COLT-  
Butterfly Kiss Pink - The Womanizer

**UPTOWN**  
**BOOKSTORES**  
**ADULT VIDEO**

2 LOCATIONS

WWW.UPTOWNADULT.COM

Find us on  
facebook

follow us on  
twitter

16541 Woodward Ave.  
at McNichols next to "Deja Vu"  
Highland Park  
313.869.9477

16401 W. 8 Mile  
Between Greenfield & Southfield  
Detroit  
313.836.0647

Hours:  
Mon-Sat 9am - 10pm  
Sun Noon - 8pm



## Healthy Sexual Care

LGBTQ Primary Medical Care  
HIV Prevention (PrEP) • HIV Care & Clinical Trials  
**All Genders Welcome!**

Your well-being is our priority. Our medical team is experienced, compassionate and sensitive to our diverse lifestyles. Also, our providers are board certified and accredited as HIV specialists by AAHIVM.

We maintain an extensive network of specialists to refer to as appropriate. We celebrate and embrace diversity and are non-discriminatory.

### Quality health care, experience counts

- ◆ Preventative health services & primary care for your whole family
- ◆ State-of-the-art facility: lab, x-ray, pharmacy on site
- ◆ Most insurances accepted
- ◆ Designated a "Patient-Centered Medical Home" by Blue Cross Blue Shield, a high standard of excellence

### Physician led – Patient Centered!

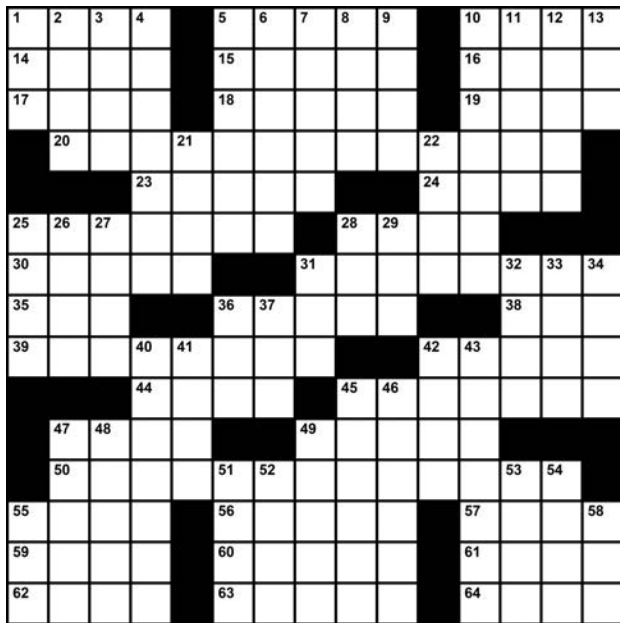
PAUL BENSON, D.O. is a Board Certified Family Medicine physician and Medical Director of the Be Well Medical Center.

Dr. Paul Benson's

**Be Well**  
**Medical Center**



1964 Eleven Mile Rd • Berkley, MI 40872  
**(248) 544-9300 • doctorbewell.com**



## Peppermint Twist

## QPuzzle

### Across

- 1 Homer work
- 5 Patron of Wilde's homeland, briefly
- 10 Stats on a stallion
- 14 Sammy once of the Cubs
- 15 Pirate's stash
- 16 Parker of "South Park"
- 17 Leopold's partner
- 18 Responds to yeast
- 19 "...a deer, a female deer..."


- 20 Musical in which Peppermint became the first transgender woman to originate a principal role on Broadway
- 23 In the loop, at a gay rodeo
- 24 Swiss miss, perhaps (abbr.)
- 25 As a bottom limit
- 28 Sea near the Caspian
- 30 Gives a butt-whuppin' to
- 31 20-Across is based on the music of this all-female band
- 35 Anderson Cooper's network

### Down

- 1 Subj. for some aliens
- 2 Honeypot lover
- 3 Fortune-teller's opening
- 4 1972 Minnelli musical
- 5 Leather bands
- 6 Hot dish holder
- 7 Sat for "JustUsBoys"
- 8 Declare firmly
- 9 New Ager John
- 10 Moor jealous of his partner
- 11 Dentist's mouth penetrator
- 12 Hard to penetrate

- 36 Edgar Box to Gore Vidal
- 38 Ambient rocker Brian
- 39 Start of a song title from 20-Across
- 42 More adept
- 44 Wife of Buck's Wang
- 45 Blows one's top
- 47 Where to vote against homophobic candidates
- 49 Elizabeth Perkins' "Weeds" role
- 50 End of title
- 55 Maupin's "\_\_\_ of You"
- 56 "\_\_\_ la vista, baby"
- 57 Pointing to it is the little hand's job
- 59 "The thing," to Hamlet
- 60 Fruity-smelling compound
- 61 Primal impulse
- 62 Welcome bedroom sounds
- 63 Nasty type
- 64 Went right with your stallion


- 13 Melina's "Providence" nickname
- 21 Some E.R. cases for Dr. Callie Torres
- 22 Webzine
- 25 Bend over
- 26 The sound of music
- 27 Deity identified with Diana
- 28 "Got ya!"
- 29 Legal matter
- 31 Seventh notes to Debussy
- 32 Gets hard
- 33 R.E.M.'s "The \_\_\_ Love"
- 34 Arrange by penile length, e.g.
- 36 "The Guardians" writer Castillo
- 37 Architect Maya \_\_\_
- 40 Shots from Mauresmo
- 41 "\_\_\_ Enchanted"
- 42 Tibet setting
- 43 Hairy embrace?
- 45 Of the season after Mardi Gras
- 46 Owner of an "arsonist" cow
- 47 Former "American Idol" judge Abdul
- 48 Winfrey of "The Color Purple"
- 49 \_\_\_ del Sol
- 51 Class for future AZT makers
- 52 Cushiness
- 53 Went lickety-split
- 54 Likely to break the condom, perhaps
- 55 Cruising area
- 58 Checkers side




**Talk to a live expert about STDs**

# 800 872 2437


The Michigan HIV/STD Hotline. Live Weekdays, 9 am - 5 pm.



**Michigan's Statewide Resource For Sexual Health Information**



**Online Chat Now Available At  
WWW.MIUNIFIED.ORG**



**Trained Operators Available  
Weekdays 9 AM - 5 PM**

Free trainings and certifications for Hotline volunteers.

Resource hub for sexual health screenings, health insurance enrollment, housing, harm reduction programs and more.

Beyond the Hotline:  
Opportunities for field experience for volunteers.

# LIVING WITH HIV? WE CAN HELP!



FREE, comprehensive services designed to assist those living with HIV/AIDS.



METRO CARE  
COORDINATION NETWORK  
ACCESS, MAC Health, Matrix Human Services, OLHSA



(248) 266-5545 | MetroCareNetwork.org | (877) 931-3248

## DID YOU KNOW:

**3 IN 10 LGBTQ+ YOUTH USE E-CIGARETTES, WHICH IS 25% HIGHER THAN HETEROSEXUAL YOUTH. MOST E-CIGARETTES CONTAIN NICOTINE WHICH CAN HARM BRAIN DEVELOPMENT AND LEAD TO LONG-TERM ADDICTION.**

Need help with quitting or know someone who does?  
Speak to an LGBTQ+ Sensitive Specialist at the  
Michigan Tobacco Quitline by calling 1-800-QUIT-NOW.

**#QuitTodayForABetterTomorrow**

290 W. Nine Mile | Ferndale | MI 48220 | 248-398-7105 | [www.goaffirmations.org](http://www.goaffirmations.org)



# 5 Reasons to Resist Tossing Out Your Ex-Relationships' Mementos

## The Frivolist

BY MIKEY ROX

When a relationship ends, tensions run high – and the first thing many of us do to satisfy our anger and sadness is to toss or burn the photos, letters and other mementos our partners have given us. This act of aggression won't solve anything, and, in fact, will only serve to hurt you more later. Quell the temptation to pitch your ex-relationships' physical reminders with these five reasons to hold onto them.

### 1 Throwing the mementos out won't get back at them

If you think tossing out the tangible remnants of your relationship is somehow “getting back” at your ex for whatever he or she did, you're wrong. If you're angry enough to go to those lengths, it's safe to assume that you're the one scorned while your partner may be eager to move on. If that's the case, it's doubtful that they care what you do with those possessions. So, in fact, you're not affecting them but rather hurting yourself in the long run by destroying the evidence. Before you do what can't be undone, stop, think about this decision and find something more productive to do. If you need the mementos out of your sight stat, find a box, tape it up and put it away until you're ready to reminisce.

### 2 The negative feelings you have right now won't last forever

Breakups suck. They hurt; leave us depressed, lonely and insecure; and maybe even feeling like damaged goods. But like other painful situations in life, this too will pass – eventually – and once the skies clear again for you, you may reflect fondly on the relationship. When you do, you'll be glad you have the reminders that once upon a time you had a good thing, and though it didn't work out, you were able to successfully move on and make peace with the fact that everything happens for a reason.

### 3 You may reconcile

Real talk: It's hard to find someone to whom you're attracted who will put up with your bullshit – for me it is, at least – so when I find that person, I'm committed to the relationship and making it work. Everybody argues, and sometimes it's easy call it quits to hurt your partner's feelings when that's not what you

really mean. You might even “break up” a few times along the way – something most us have experienced with at least one relationship – but if you know deep down that there's a chance of reconciliation, concentrate on that (and the work you'll both need to put in to make a go of it again) instead of being destructive.

### 4 You'll regret it if they die

My first relationship with a guy didn't last long – about six months when I was a sophomore in college – but it was the first time



I fell in love and experienced gay love in return. We dated long-distance for the entirety of the relationship, and to keep in touch in a world where email was just becoming commonplace, we sent letters and cards to each other regularly. When we broke up, I was crushed – mostly because it was my fault – but that didn't stop me from throwing out everything he ever sent or gave me. He's dead now, and there are few things I wouldn't give to have those letters.

### 5 That relationship is part of your story – embrace it

I see my relationships as sort of like getting a tattoo: While there's no physical representation of that experience on my body, the relationship still leaves an indelible mark. I have many tattoos, and I haven't always been happy with the end result. I held onto that state of mind for a long time, particularly in my 20s, but as I've gotten older I realize that I just have to accept the things I can't change – despite that I'm an absolute control freak. I recognize now that these “mistakes” on my body and, similarly, in my personal life are all part of my story, my learning experience, and all of it informs the future decisions I make so I (hopefully) don't make the same mistakes again.

*Mikey Rox is an award-winning journalist and LGBT lifestyle expert whose work has been published in more than 100 outlets across the world. He spends his time writing from the beach with his dog Jaxon. Connect with Mikey on Instagram @mikeyrox.*



Common Language™



**Puerto Rico Strong**  
An anthology of authors and graphic artists response to the aftermath of Maria. Proceeds benefit Hurricane relief



**Marching Dykes, Liberated Sluts, and Concerned Mothers:**  
Women Transforming Public Space  
Elizabeth Currans  
Professor at EMU



**Tomorrow Will Be Different:**  
Love, Loss, and the Fight for Trans Equality  
Sarah McBride  
A powerful memoir from the first open transgender person to speak at a national political convention

Most Books In Print available online at [www.glbttbooks.com](http://www.glbttbooks.com)



**Aut BAR**

Changing the world  
one Cosmo at a time  
since 1995

**DJ Nicole Myint**  
Every Saturday  
10pm - 2am

**Trivia With Terry**  
Every Thursday  
8pm  
Ann Arbor's most entertaining  
Trivia Night

**Brunch**  
Amazing Mexican & American Brunch  
Featuring the  
Ugly Dog Bacon Bloody Mary

Saturday 11am - 3pm  
Sunday 10am - 3pm

Follow us on



Like us on



Common Language Bookstore  
317 Braun Court  
Ann Arbor, MI 48104  
(734) 663-0036  
[www.glbttbooks.com](http://www.glbttbooks.com)

Aut BAR  
315 Braun Court  
Ann Arbor, MI 48104  
(734) 994-3677  
[www.autbar.com](http://www.autbar.com)

# Aquaria: Go-Getter, Trendsetter

## Season 10 Winner on Life After 'Drag Race'

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

Confidence, biting wit and the performance chops to back it up, at only 21 years old Aquaria set a very high bar when she claimed the title of Season 10 winner of "RuPaul's Drag Race." Unlike many of the queens who have appeared on the show, Aquaria came armed with an existing social media following – that now numbers at over 1 million followers – and international touring experience. That pre-show preparation made her one of the most versatile contestants to ever grace the "Drag Race" stage, as she easily switched from hyperfemininity, androgyny, to everything in-between and back again. Her status as a winner and a fan-favorite queen also earned her a spot on the RuPaul's Drag Race Werq the World Tour, that highlights fan favorite performers. Now, local fans can get excited as she'll be making her way to Detroit's own Sound Board at MotorCity Casino Hotel on Wednesday, Sept. 12.

Performing alongside her will be "Drag Race" runner-ups Asia O'Hara, Kameron Michaels, Eureka as well as veteran queens Kim Chi, Valentina and Violet Chachki. In the middle of a busy international tour schedule, Aquaria found time to chat with BTL about the inspiration for her various looks, the secret behind her high-impact performance style and to lay down a little hard-earned insight for any would-be drag queens.

**Watching you perform and work a room, one gets the sense that you've had a lot of experience on stage. Did you train professionally in dance or theater?**

Yeah. Not necessarily theater, but I studied dance all throughout high school. I started a little late, but very often boys start dance late. I knew that I had to work really hard at that to get back on par with the rest of the girls in my classes, so that's something that's a big passion. I built myself up to a decent level of dance knowledge.

**Were you always drawn to music and performing?**

Totally. I think I have a strong musicality and I think that has definitely helped me emote and has helped my body language and movement, but also I am naturally a very athletic person. I've always been very into sports and dance. So, for me, when I do drag now, I love to get out a lot of energy on stage. Which can get a little out of hand, but I have learned to control the calmer moments of songs, and go harder for the fiercer parts.



**How is preparing a performance for Werq the World different from what you normally do, or what you did on the show?**

We start with a choreographed number which is on the easier side of choreography because everyone is doing it, but for my solo number I love choreography. I love doing dances that are prepared and been tested. So, my number is me and dancers and it's just like any drag pageant-type number. Lots of high-energy dance moves, a lot of exciting lifts and theatrical explorations. And, you know, being a fierce, pop star-type entertainer, I want to give you the full show which comes with a hell of a lot of dancing – and it keeps me in shape so I love that.

**At the start of your career you've done a lot more than many other queens. Did you think that you were underestimated by the other contestants on season 10?**

I think they were kind of underestimating me, maybe because I was the young one or maybe because I gained a lot of my following and popularity through Instagram – a lot through social media prior to the show. Or just because they thought of me as, 'Yeah, you put down fierce looks, but can you apply that to performances and stuff like that?' I guess some of that has to do with my age, but for sure plenty of the girls didn't see me, at least initially, going as far as I did. I think also in the competition there were so many opportunities at areas where I could excel and really prove myself as a very legitimate competitor.

**You've said before that you've been watching the show since it came out, around the time**

**when you were in middle school, do you think it impacted your drag?**

I had been watching the show for a good part of my life, so on the stage, definitely. There's so much that drag is beyond "RuPaul's Drag Race," but it's still a very great example of a competition that has the well-roundedness of a queen. You know, if you're not great on "Drag Race" that doesn't mean you're not great or well-rounded, but it is still a different barometer of that. And I think growing up per se with the show, it did help inform me on how to be the best me I could be.

**What is some advice that you'd give to queens who are your age or younger who have always wanted to do drag, but haven't been able to yet?**

For young people looking to get into drag or anything, my advice is the same: do whatever makes you happy. Put your mind where your heart is and just whatever you're doing, do to the best of your ability that you can each day and know that you can't succeed and get better and flourish and (be) stronger if you don't practice and try new things and put yourself out there. Literally, my advice is the Nike slogan: 'Just Do It.' You really do have to do it. Just fucking do it ... There are so many things in life that are trying to stop you from doing what you want, but you have to try for those things not to get you. You have to push yourself more and more each day to be the best.

**Read our full-length interview online at pridesource.com. Find out more information about Werq the World at vossevents.com. Follow Aquaria on Instagram at @theageofaquaria.**

## Jazz Musician Ben Sharkey Hosts Album Release Party

BY BTL STAFF

If they haven't already, fans of Detroit-born music can seek out Detroit-based artist Ben Sharkey's brand-new album "Mercury Rising." The record dropped last August and includes Sharkey's usual blend of golden-voiced jazz and swing, with a sampling of some new styles. Sharkey is slated to celebrate the release of his new music with a concert on Thursday, Sept. 13 that'll showcase his foray into "the darker side of sultry."

"It's literally about raising the heat in the thermometer, so the mercury is rising," Sharkey said. "The reason why that was the choice in this one was because my last album, 'Day Into Night,' that one was a little bit cutesy ... and this one is a lot more adult."

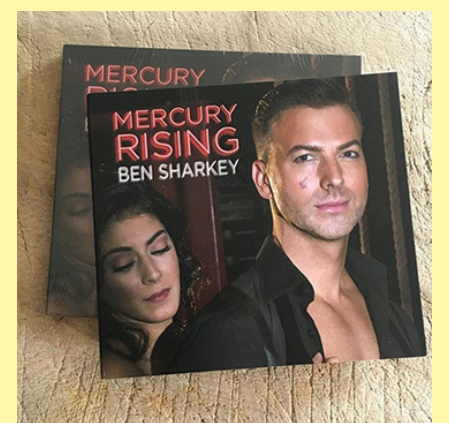
The concert will feature performances by Ben Sharkey, keyboardist Chris Codish, bassist Takashi Iio, drummer Rick Beamon, percussionist Dan Schmatz and the Woodward Horns Jimmy Smith, James Hughes, Matt Martinez and Bobby Streng.

Sharkey says he's excited for audiences to hear his takes on styles like house and pop on the all-original album.



"I wanted to create an album that encompasses everything that I'm into, but also being true to my main roots which is jazz and swing," he said. "I wanted it be kind of a crossover thing that a lot of people would enjoy, not just a specific niche genre. I wanted people that are in their 60s and 70s to enjoy it and people that are young."

**Read our full-length interview with Ben Sharkey online at pridesource.com.**

*The event will be held at The Garden Theatre located at 3919 Woodward Ave., in Midtown. Doors open at 7 p.m. Tickets start at \$30. More information can be found online at BenSharkey.com.*



**Free Dinner & Talk**


# Dinner with the Doc

Join us for an intimate talk and dinner with  
**Dr. Paul Benson**  
He will share what he learned at the  
**22nd World AIDS Conference**  
*From Amsterdam to Detroit*

**Tuesday**  
**September 11, 2018**  
6 pm Dinner • 6:30 pm Program  
**St. John Oakland Hospital Educational Center**  
27351 Dequindre • Madison Heights, Michigan 48071  
Also, the event will be live streamed on [facebook.com/BeWellMedicalCenter](https://facebook.com/BeWellMedicalCenter)

Featuring a discussion about  
**U=U**  
(undetectable = untransmittable) and  
**HIV Prevention (PrEP)**



**RSVP** today – seating is limited  
Call CHAG to reserve your space:  
**313-963-3434**



RSVP online at [dinnerwiththedoc2018.eventbrite.com](https://dinnerwiththedoc2018.eventbrite.com)  
For more info, contact Dorothy Dempster: [ddempster@matrixhs.org](mailto:ddempster@matrixhs.org)

Following the lecture, Dr. Benson will be available to answer all your questions.

**Paul Benson, D.O.** is a Board Certified Family Medicine physician and Medical Director of the Be Well Medical Center.  
Learn more about Dr. Benson: [doctorbewell.com](https://doctorbewell.com)



Are We So Different?  
**SLOAN MUSEUM**

Sloan Museum in the Flint Cultural Center | 1221 E. Kearsley St. Flint, MI 48503  
810-237-3450 | [SloanMuseum.org](https://SloanMuseum.org)

**FREE ADMISSION**  
Through Dec. 9  
EXHIBIT SPONSORED BY:






Ruth Mott Foundation  
APPLEWOOD

FREE ADMISSION  
SPONSORED BY THE  
**Community Foundation**  
of Greater Flint and  
the Ruth Mott  
Foundation

**STD/HIV CLINIC**



“The Risk is Not Knowing,  
Know Your Status! Get Educated! Get Tested!”

**Services Provided:**

- Risk Assessment Counseling
- Free Condoms
- Rapid HIV Testing/Counseling

**Testing and Treatment:**  
Confidential, Appointment Only, persons 12 and older

- Syphilis
- Gonorrhea/ Chlamydia
- Trichomoniasis
- Non-gonococcal urethritis (NGU)
- Prep Referrals
- HIV Linkage to Care Services
- Scabies
- Pubic lice
- HEPC
- Free Hep A Vaccinations (limited time)



**“We take pride in taking care of our residents”**

To schedule an appointment  
**CALL 586-465-9217** at the time listed below

Monday 10:00 a.m. | Tuesday 9:00 a.m. | Thursday 9:00 a.m.  
Staff is available Monday-Friday to answer any questions

**ON SALE NOW**

**THE  
PIANO GUYS**

*Christmas  
Together*



**THE FOX THEATRE  
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7**

**DECEMBER 19  
THE FOX THEATRE**

**STRAIGHT  
NO CHASER**



**ONE SHOT TOUR**



**DECEMBER 6  
THE MASONIC TEMPLE**



**TICKETS AVAILABLE ONLINE AT [AEGPRESENTS.COM](http://AEGPRESENTS.COM) OR THE VENUE BOX OFFICE**

**AEG**  
PRESENTS



## Every voice matters

In 1975, AT&T made a commitment to the LGBT community to foster an inclusive workplace. Today we continue to keep that promise because we believe that when everyone works together to make a difference, innovation shines through.



*“At AT&T,  
inclusion is at  
the heart of  
innovation.”*

**David Lewis**  
*President of  
AT&T Michigan*



© 2018 AT&T Intellectual Property. All rights reserved. AT&T, the Globe logo and other marks are trademarks and service marks of AT&T Intellectual Property and/or AT&T affiliated companies.

MOBILIZING  
YOUR  
WORLD™

