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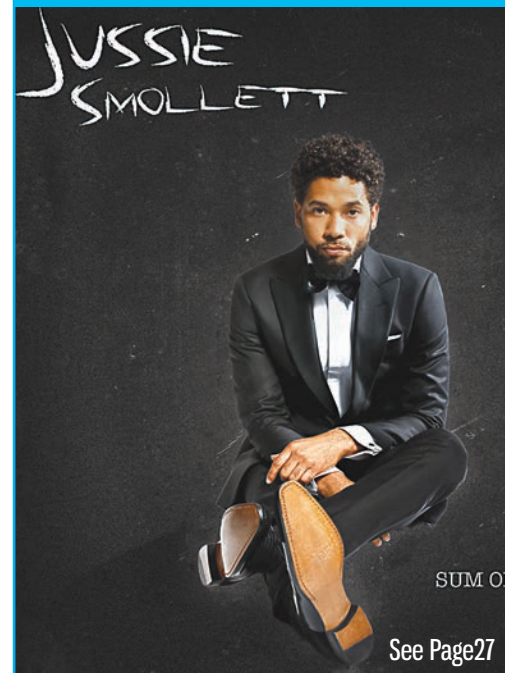
MICHIGAN NEWS



HAPPENINGS



HEAR ME OUT



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Looking Ahead 2019

BY EVE KUCHARSKI, KATE OPALEWSKI AND DREW HOWARD

As 2018 comes to an end, Michigan's LGBTQ community can look back on a year filled with both hard hits to our rights along with major political wins toward greater equality. On a national scale, the rights of transgender individuals have been threatened along with the security of marriage equality, yet the year's midterm elections saw a huge rise in pro-equality candidates.

Locally, this year Michiganders fought against conversion therapy and banded together to protect the rights of those promoting self-expression with events like Drag Queen Story Time. At the same time, populous cities in Michigan scored well above the national average on Human Rights Campaign's Municipal Equality Index.

Of course, these are just a few examples of the wins and losses the community has experienced in 2018, so Between The Lines reached out to people on the ground to get a fuller picture of the year and what is to come in 2019. We spoke with community LGBTQ leaders, politicians and representatives of LGBTQ-specific organizations to get their take on the successes and failures of the year, local midterm results, their goals coming into 2019 and any hurdles they anticipate facing.

They brought up both wins in the past year as well as goals they were striving for, like the need for governmental transparency, expanded services for the disabled and elderly LGBTQ community, increased voter education, housing and health care service growth. But despite all the new year's upcoming tasks and priorities, the overwhelming attitude of each contributor seemed that of optimism and resolution. Perhaps it was Washtenaw County Commissioner Jason Morgan who summed it up best when he answered why it was important for LGBTQ politicians and activists to be present in the community.

"To have LGBT folks in leadership ... sends a message to the community that we're here, we're proud and we're out," Morgan said. "It'd be a very strong sign that our community is welcoming and encouraging of those of us who are LGBT. It's a sign that we're taken seriously."

So although we couldn't reach them all, we selected 22 of those prominent community members to include in this year-end issue. Here's their take on which projects, issues and people will be valuable to watch in 2019.

The photographs in this section were courtesy photographs provided by the interviewees or existing BTL Photos.

State Rep. Jon Hoadley 60th District

Democratic State Rep. Jon Hoadley represents Michigan's 60th District. Due to term limits, 2019 will mark the start of his third and final two-year term representing the city of Kalamazoo and part of Kalamazoo county. He was clear that he wants to start 2019 with a strong push toward expanding the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act to include sexual orientation and gender identity.

"It is a priority of the governor. She went out of her way to talk about it in the public debates," Hoadley said. "It's an issue that myself and my colleagues such as Sen.-elect Moss, Rep. Sneller and others have been championing for years since I came to the legislature. And we know that it is popularly supported by the residents of Michigan, so this has to be the year that gets it done."

Looking past 2019 and into the 2020 presidential election year, Hoadley emphasized the importance of the LGBTQ community voting and paying attention to politics at play.

"The Trump administration has shown that we can't take LGBT equality for granted. His appointment of Supreme Court candidates are threatening the underpinnings of marriage equality," Hoadley said. "His administrative choices are directly attacking transgender people and other administrative policies are jeopardizing the safety of LGBT people in an international context. So, as we look to 2020, we have to see that there is a stark difference in the priorities of the major political parties. Republicans are bad at LGBT issues and Democrats have been very good on LGBT issues. Looking ahead to Michigan, I think some of those decisions coming from the Trump administration could impact our state."



"We're not sent to Lansing to fight, we're sent there to make the lives better of the people in Michigan. That's what my priority is going to be."



Cynthia Thornton – President of Pride at Work Michigan

Pride at Work Michigan is a nonprofit organization that represents LGBTQ union members and their allies that works to organize mutual community support between the organized labor movement and the LGBTQ members within it. Across the U.S. there are over 20 chapters and Thornton serves as Michigan's president. She said her primary goals for next year are to focus on inclusivity for members who are transgender, hard of hearing and blind.

"Because it is still a fairly conservative workplace, typically male," Thornton said. "We need to raise our education around those issues, so that when we do have LGBT folks who want to work in those environments that it's a comfortable work environment. And so that people are comfortable and have had some LGBT exposure education."

She said that post the midterm elections she's "cautiously optimistic" that her work will be made easier because of the "blue wave" felt in the state.

"Running an election versus actually doing the work [is different], and that phrase has been used a lot, 'Get to work, do the work.' So, we're going to see," she said. "We definitely have a more progressive situation, but of course we don't have the legislature so the possibilities around getting the Elliott-Larsen Act expanded are not as good. ... We don't want to lose any of the momentum that we built this year. In our first year we basically wanted to let people know that the chapter was back and doing LGBT, voter ed and candidate visibility. We're trying to move that forward and add to it and spread that vision and work."



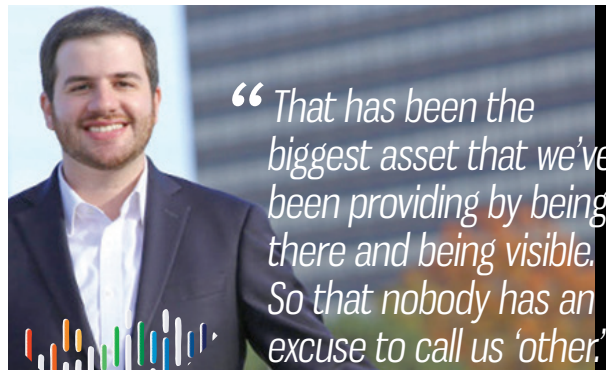
"We don't want to lose any of the momentum that we built this year. ... We're trying to move that forward and add to it and spread that vision and work."

State Sen. Jeremy Moss 11th District

Jeremy Moss made history in November when he was elected the first openly gay person to the Michigan State Senate. Moss's district includes the communities of Farmington, Farmington Hills, Ferndale, Hazel Park, Huntington Woods, Lathrup Village, Madison Heights, Oak Park, Pleasant Ridge, Southfield and the Charter Township of Royal Oak. When asked what his priorities in 2019 will be, he emphasized governmental transparency.

"It's important. This is probably one of the biggest issues I have campaigned on and it resonates with folks across the political spectrum," Moss said. "We are one of two states where people can't access their government records in the legislature or in the governor's office and I don't think a lot of people knew about that until we really highlighted this issue in a bipartisan fashion."

He added that increasing



"That has been the biggest asset that we've been providing by being there and being visible. So that nobody has an excuse to call us 'other.'"

LGBTQ visibility in politics through more openly gay elected officials like himself will aid in creating progressive policies in the future. He predicts that in 2019 the LGBTQ community will need to focus on housing and job security.

"I think of an older lesbian couple that I talk to often in Southfield," he said. "And as they approach their retirement years, they don't want to have to go back in the closet after living a proud and open life so that they can go back to living in a retirement community together. Because nothing

protects them in Michigan law from a retirement community kicking them out for being a lesbian couple."

He then mentioned "the other end of the spectrum."

"We need to attract young talent to Michigan, and if we don't have laws that protect LGBT workers who want to contribute to our economy, they ain't gonna come here," Moss said.

State Rep. Tim Sneller 50th District

Now set to serve a second term in the Michigan House of Representatives, State Rep. Tim Sneller represents the 50th House District in Genesee County which includes the cities of Grand Blanc and Burton and both Mundy and Grand Blanc Townships. He said his focus will be amending Michigan's current hate crimes law to include the LGBTQ community.

"And I am going to reintroduce it and I'll reintroduce it until we can get the majority," Sneller said. "And hopefully we can get some movement on it and this time with the majority being closer than it was this current legislative session. Maybe we can convince some of our Republican friends that this is the right thing to do."

Sneller said that midterm



count, even nationwide there were 8.7 million more Democrats that voted than Republicans. That was a landslide. And it set a record. It beat 1974 right after the Nixon resignation, but because the lines were so gerrymandered it was almost impossible," Sneller said. "I'm thrilled that we picked up five seats in the house. I think we need to build on that. We're

"[2018] is the year we take back our state. In 2020 we take back the country. And I truly believe with enthusiasm that we are on the right side of history."

voter turnout was great to witness and that it's a great jumping-off point for more progress — pointing to the legislation passed during the lame duck session as a spot for improvement.

"If you look at the vote

watching what's going on in lame duck, the undemocratic things our Republican colleagues are trying to push through in these remaining days, I think it's shameful. We need to fight that."



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Dana Nessel – Attorney General

She made history as the first openly gay attorney general in Michigan's history in 2018, running on a progressive platform of inclusion and a promise to pay special attention to prosecuting those who commit hate crimes. BTL caught up with Nessel while she was still on the campaign trail to get her thoughts on her main focus in the new year. She emphasized that she will be a staunch advocate for LGBTQ rights during her term.

“At a time where the community is under assault, if the worst thing you can say about me is that I’m too aggressive in my efforts to support the LGBTQ community, same-sex couples, their families, etc., then maybe that’s what we need right now. ... There’s about a hundred other issues that I think are incredibly important, but if people see me as being incredibly eager and interested and anxious to assist the community in terms of protecting the community then so be it,” Nessel said. “That is who I’m gonna be and I’m not gonna shy away from it. No matter who you are in the community, even if you’re a person who has not seen eye-to-eye with me on how to best proceed in terms of gaining protection, I will always do everything I can to protect the lives of LGBTQ residents in this state.”

However, she made clear that she has experience in various other cases, too.

“I have more experience in practicing criminal law both as a prosecutor and a defense attorney than anyone who’s ever held the office of attorney general,” she said.



“As an openly gay person, I represent over half a million Michiganders. I think that number is higher, but we know it’s at least half a million people who have never had that representation at the statewide level before.”

“We have one of the first and one of the strongest and inclusive non-discrimination ordinances in the state and we continue to grow that. We need to have that at the state level, that would be lovely. There’s continually more work to be done. Ypsilanti itself is already welcoming and we just want to make it more so.”



Beth Bashert – Mayor of Ypsilanti

Ypsilanti Mayor Beth Bashert won out with 63 percent of the vote in her city last November. She ran on a platform that advocated for changing the city’s budget, bringing back services and increasing development. She said that though Ypsilanti is already an LGBTQ-friendly place, she’s excited and honored to work with a city that’s focused on inclusion. She added that her goal is to combat any existing hostility against the LGBTQ community and to make Ypsilanti a positive example in the state. Ideally a city to which people are drawn and where they’ll end up wanting to stay.

“Michigan’s had a lot of brain drain in the last 20 years and a lot of people that left were talented people and a lot of people that left were from the LGBTQ community,” Bashert said. “And if Michigan is going to continue to be hostile, it’s going to restrict people from coming back. I hope that [the midterm election results] make all of our work at the local level more effective and allow us to do more work to support civil rights.”

When asked if she expects any obstacles to achieving her goals, she mentioned divisiveness within parts of the LGBTQ community.

“There are some factions that feel like it’s us or them or that some people say, ‘If we do this kind of development that helps this part of the community then it takes away from me,’” Bashert said. “That kind of thinking is just going to really interfere with the unification of the LGBTQ movement going forward. We have got support each other as we grow for our health and the strength of our community.”



Mark LaChey – 2nd Vice Chair of the Michigan Democratic Party, MDP Chair of LGBT & Allies Caucus

With elections a priority for the chair of the Michigan Democratic Party and its LGBT & Allies Caucus, Mark LaChey is setting his sights not only on 2019, but to 2020 and beyond. He said that he’s looking to put diverse candidates front and center in the coming years.

“My focus is going to be on recruiting LGBTQ and especially women and persons of color; to emphasize the ‘L’ and the ‘T’ and the ‘Q’ and POC candidates,” LaChey said. “Especially for the legislature to run in the state house in 2020. With the draconian term limits, we have the real prospect of going back to zero in the not-too-distant future with respect to representation in the state House. We always need to be refreshing our candidate pool, and, additionally, not only finding those people but generating support in terms of money and expertise to mentoring to help those people get elected.”

Setting his sights to a national scale, he said that an LGBTQ Michigander running for Congress is in sight.

“The entire state House is up for re-election in 2020. I look within the four corners of Michigan primarily, but if we had a gay person who wanted to run for Congress, I think there’s some opportunities there,” he said. “I think there are some districts that are more purple than they were, two, four, six, years ago. I think that would be phenomenal to add an LGBT member of Congress in Michigan. I think it’s past due, just like it was past due for us to have a statewide elected LGBT person before Dana Nessel.”

“The greatest challenge is less finding good candidates, because we have a lot of great LGBTQ people in the state of Michigan, but finding people who are willing to do their civic duty and serve in our legislature, serve in our House and take two, four, six years out of their lives to do that.”



Travis Radina – Jim Toy Community Center Board President

For more than a quarter of a century, Ann Arbor's Jim Toy Community Center has been a beacon of hope for the Southeast Michigan community. In 2018 the center received unexpected news that the landlords of its current location would be selling the building. Despite this sudden knowledge, Board President Travis Radina said that programming will continue as the center focuses on its move, though it will be the first priority coming into the new year.

"That's the first thing that we have to take on. So, as a result, we're not going to focus too much on expanding our calendar this year," Radina said. "We're going to make sure that we're going to have our marquee events like pride and the Jim Toy Birthday Bash and continue to, as long as we can, provide that physical space for all of our partner groups to meet and utilize the facilities."

Commenting on the results of the midterm election, Radina said that he's excited to work in a state that will have many more pro-LGBTQ officials in 2019.

"The Jim Toy Center is nonpartisan and non-political as a nonprofit organization, so we're not as much focused on the blue wave versus the red wave so much as we are focused on candidates who are tolerant and accepting of the LGBT community," he said. "And with the election of Dana Nessel as attorney general, we're finally going to have an attorney general who understands and supports us and is part of our community — and that's coming off of an incredibly hostile attorney general's office. So having Dana Nessel is an incredible accomplishment and we're looking forward so much to working with her."



"We're really happy to have someone in the governor's office who understands that the LGBTQ community is an integral part of Michigan and that when we're doing well, the state does well."



Angela Perone – Director of SAGE Metro Detroit

SAGE Metro Detroit is an affiliate of the national Services & Advocacy for GLBT Elders organization that is the nation's largest and oldest organization dedicated to aiding the lives of LGBTQ older adults. Angela Perone serves as its director and has her sights set on expanding existing programming in 2019.

"Our main priority is to expand and to continue to do the work that we're doing but doing it bigger and better and to unroll new programs and new initiatives for LGBTQ older adults," Perone said. "For the programming aspect we have our Friendly Caller program. It's essentially a program that matches LGBT older adults who may be at risk for social isolation or are currently experiencing social isolation to other LGBT people or allies. And that's already shown promise in reducing social isolation and depression as well."

SAGE Metro is also collaborating with Wayne State University and Corktown Health Center for an even bigger project.

"We're teaming up to help implement different programmatic initiatives to help open a health clinic in Metro Detroit that's focused on providing care to older LGBT adults," she said. "It's the first of its kind in Michigan and we received support from the Michigan Health Endowment Fund to do that. ... Then we're also going to be training a minimum of 15 organizations through this initiative that will be serving this new health clinic for LGBT older adults. We're excited about that new initiative and it's a two-year program that's going to start right at the beginning of 2019."

More information about programs can be found at sagemetrodetroit.org.



"I have a lot of faith and I have a lot of belief in Michigan and the people that live here and that folks will ultimately do the right things that will help move us forward."

A full-page photograph of a young woman with long, wavy brown hair, wearing a white strapless wedding dress with lace detailing. She is smiling broadly and looking upwards and to the right. The background is a soft, light-colored, slightly blurred setting.

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Roz Keith – Founder, Board President of Stand With Trans

Created in 2015, the nonprofit Stand With Trans has dedicated itself to working with transgender youth and families who are struggling to cope with their child's transition. The organization's mission is to provide tools to empower, support and validate anyone needing services.

"We're the only ones in the state of Michigan who has this particular mission so what we're looking forward to doing is expanding the way we connect and communicate with our target audience. It seems that there's a group, kind of in the middle, that gets forgotten and that's literally the middle school kids," Keith said. "We have things for young children and for teens, but not for sixth, seventh and eighth grade. They're too old for the little kids and they're not quite old enough to participate in the conversation and support environments for the older kids. They kind of get left in the dust, so we're exploring how we can better serve that population as well as continuing to educate within the community and expanding who we talk to."

Beyond expanding the supports for that demographic, Keith said that 2019's focus will also be directed toward service providers and other community leaders.

"We'll continue that educational path as well as continuing to teach anyone who is connected to families who have transgender youth," she said. "So that might be a pediatrician, another medical professional, a mental health practitioner, a teacher, a coach — we want to make sure that we expand our audiences again with the premise of the more people we can teach the more acceptance there will be out there."



"It's going to be a two-front of trying to change policies in general, but also putting a check on the abuses of the Trump administration which has an ongoing attack against immigrants and immigrant rights. And, certainly, we see an attack on the LGBT community with their policies and practices."

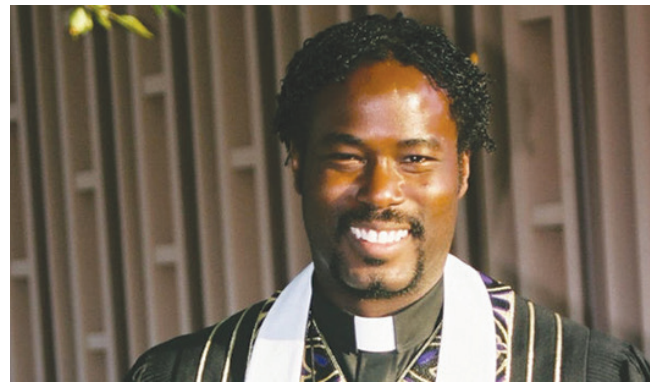
Jay Kaplan – Staff Attorney ACLU of Michigan

In 2018 the American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan had a full plate working to defend and advocate for LGBTQ civil rights across the state. Staff Attorney Jay Kaplan predicts that 2019 will be just as involved, especially leading up to the 2020 elections, but he is excited about potential collaboration opportunities that have sprung up since the midterms.

"Among the things that I'm hopeful about is possibly working with the secretary of state to develop a more inclusive policy for transgender people to get more accurate identity documents for them," Kaplan said. "Hopefully the governor, through her appointments and in terms of policies, will be more supportive of LGBT people and their families. And then for the attorney general, there is an opportunity to look at current laws and ways that our courts might have handled LGBT-related issues — including how we recognize parents and families and how we will possibly request attorney general opinions on that."

Kaplan also emphasized that as hopeful as he is, issues like religiously based service refusals are not going to go away in the new year.

"I see that as a very big threat to LGBT rights and I think that's going to continue to be a priority to the ACLU," Kaplan said. "So we're going to want to be involved in those situations and, in some situations, possibly intervene where someone has challenged an LGBT-supportive policy as violating that person's LGBT religious freedom. We have a presidential administration that's very supportive of the ability to use one's religious beliefs to exempt people from complying with civil rights laws."



Roland Stringfellow – Senior Pastor at MCC Detroit

Rev. Dr. Roland Stringfellow, among other titles, serves as the senior pastor and teacher at the LGBTQ-affirming Metropolitan Community Church of Detroit. When asked about the church's priorities in 2019, Stringfellow said its focus will be community outreach.

"We want to help really connect more with the community. We feel like our congregation is one of the best kept secrets out there. We want to break that, because we are inclusive of all individuals," he said. "We're even trying to break the gay church label, meaning that we're going to be more of an inclusive [space]. Meaning that if you're allied-identified or transgender-identified, no matter your race or ethnicity, we want to create a place that's comfortable and where people can really connect with God's spirit."

When asked about his thoughts on the impact of the many pro-LGBTQ candidates elected during the midterms in 2018, Stringfellow said that his hope is that their work will reach his congregants.

"I believe it will help us as a community in terms of safety and access and we are hoping and trusting that Elliott-Larsen will be addressed," he said. "But beyond that, there are real issues that impact my parishioners such as health care and adoption bans and things of that nature that have a direct impact on the livelihood of those who I am honored to serve. So, I am hoping that more types of legislation that is pro-LGBT would go forth."

"There are a couple of bills coming up and we want to get people of faith to connect with their representatives, to share their stories, so that they can really understand the impact of equality and justice for all."



Katie Scott – Washtenaw County Board Commissioner

Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners' first lesbian commissioner Katie Scott described her win this November as a victory for the blue wave, women's wave and progressive wave. Advocating for labor unions and improving public health are two of her top priorities in the coming year, she said, in addition to safeguarding the rights of LGBTQ county workers.

"We're seeing these increased attacks on the LGBTQ community, particularly the trans community," Scott said. "I would really like to see contract protections instituted for those workers across the county. When you put that into a contract that's legally binding, there are protections for LGBTQ people against harassment at work ... having those protections can serve to make them feel comfortable, happy and productive at work."

Scott will continue to work as a nurse at the University of Michigan and serve on the Michigan Nurses Association board into the new year. Additionally, she hopes to pursue a leadership position on the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners alongside Jason Morgan, the board's first openly gay commissioner.

"It's fun to think about the members who are LGBT also being in leadership positions on the county board," she said. "I love what it says to young people who are growing up to see out and active individuals serving not only in politics but in leadership positions, and who embrace who they are. It's a positive message, especially for young people who feel isolated and scared of the future."



"Now I've got to get to work and really do those things which I'm very eager to do ... I'm really pleased the board I'm on is a female majority and an all-Democratic board. That's really unique."



Jason Morgan – Washtenaw County Board Commissioner

Environmental sustainability, government transparency and LGBTQ visibility are just some of goals Washtenaw County Board member Jason Morgan is looking to check off before the end of his second term. Morgan made history in 2016 when he became the first openly gay man to be elected to the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners. He ran another successful campaign this year, winning 89 percent of the vote in November.

"It was really encouraging to win the election with 89 percent of the vote even though I had opposition on the ballot," Morgan said. "It's nice to see the constituents still support me and the things I advocate for."

Morgan is a strong advocate for transparency and accountability in local government. In his next term, he plans to work on initiatives aimed at increasing civic engagement with the board.

"We've fallen into a place where we assume we're doing the right things but don't allow the community to see the decision-making process, to give input throughout the process," Morgan said. "I want to change policies to say that we'll have more community engagement and openness."

Morgan is also on a mission to decrease Washtenaw's carbon footprint. While the board pledged to prioritize environmental sustainability efforts outlined in the Paris accord, Morgan said an actual plan of action has yet to be formulated.

"By carbon footprint, I mean the energy use in buildings, facilities, the lights and electricity," he said. "There are more efforts we can take to reduce the carbon footprint by building more sustainable facilities and tapping into other more renewable power sources."



"To have LGBT folks in leadership in the county sends a message to the community that we're here, we're proud and we're out. It's a very strong sign that our community is welcoming and encouraging of those of us who are LGBT. It's a sign that we're taken seriously."



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Rachel Crandall-Crocker – Executive Director of Transgender Michigan

A registered social worker and licensed psychotherapist, Rachel Crandall-Crocker is also an international transgender activist and the founder and organizer of the International Transgender Day of Visibility. Asked about her 2019 goals in her role as Transgender Michigan executive director, she said she feels “full of promise” but ready for action.

“We are already coordinating with the ACLU to work with the new governor and others to make life easier for the transgender communities of Michigan. Also, this coming year we plan on opening even more chapters throughout Michigan and extending our network even further,” she said. “The biggest hurdles of the following year will be whatever the administration in Washington does next to harm our community. We must be ready and we must be unified.”

Crandall-Crocker added that the 10th anniversary of the International Transgender Day of Visibility is coming on March 31 of 2019. It was that holiday that helped members of the transgender community feel safer, more seen and heard across the world — even in places where being openly transgender is illegal.

“This is a major milestone of our community. Since its inception it has brought the transgender communities of the world together in ways I’ve never seen before,” she said. “I am doubly delighted by this as the founder and the organizer. Transgender Michigan will also be running a statewide rally on the Capitol Steps in Lansing for the 10th Anniversary on Saturday, March 30.”



“This coming year we plan on opening even more chapters throughout Michigan and extending our network even further.”



Kevin Terrell Heard – President of the Board of Directors, Detroit Regional LGBT Chamber of Commerce

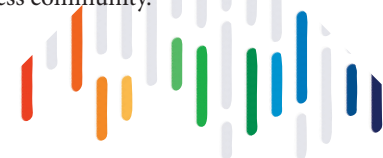
The Detroit Regional LGBT Chamber of Commerce’s mission is “to promote and empower our Metropolitan Detroit LGBT, allied business members, non-profit members, corporate partners and their employees through leadership, advocacy and education.” In his role as president, Kevin Terrell Heard says he is gearing up for a year of reaching out to those corporate partners, allied business members and other supporters.

“Our goals for 2019 are to increase awareness about our valuable network of LGBT professionals and business owners and increase the knowledge and importance of LGBT business certification,” he said. “We are working to bring respected people in business to come to speak and/or mentor our members. We want to work with the governor’s office and the state legislators to include LGBT-owned businesses apart of the state procurement requirements.”

Heard says he hopes that members of the Chamber will come together to form even stronger bonds.

“Ultimately, we want our members to speak about their needs and come out to meet each other. Metro Detroit has a valuable LGBT ecosystem and the Chamber is the natural leader in this aspect,” he said. “Everyone should look to us as to what is happening in the LGBT Business community.”

“Our goals for 2019 are to increase awareness about our valuable network of LGBT professionals and business owners and increase the knowledge and importance of LGBT business certification.”



Jake Cunningham – Oakland County Circuit Court Judge

A graduate of the Western Michigan University Law School, Cunningham has spent the past 3 1/2 years serving as a judicial staff attorney under Oakland County Circuit Judge Mary Ellen Brennan. The position has given him experience in the three dockets of the circuit court: the Civil/Criminal Division, Business Court and the Family Division. He said that in 2019 he will “hit the ground running.”

“The people elected me and put their trust in me to be to be a prepared, knowledgeable, compassionate and empathetic judge. I will be serving in our court’s family division and I promise to embody these qualities on the bench,” he said. “It feels like a natural progression. Judges have taught me knowing it’s my passion and goal to be a judge. Brennan has been really gracious in letting me know her process, what’s going on in her mind and what she’s looking for. I’ve been taught by the best, so I’m ready to go. ... I will also attend ‘New Judges School’ the first week of January and be planning my swearing-in ceremony.”

Though his position is non-partisan, commenting on the “blue wave” he said it was, “an expression used to energize voters and activists.”

“The 2018 election saw an unprecedented number of candidates from very diverse backgrounds, locally and nationally, running for office,” he said. “I feel honored to be elected as the first openly LGBTQ person to the Oakland



“My goal is to hit the ground running as a judge of the Oakland County Circuit Court immediately when I take the bench in January.”

Circuit Court and one of only a handful of openly gay judges serving in our State.”

Patrick Yankee – Chief Development Officer at Corktown Health Center

Corktown Health Center developed into reality from the idea of an LGBTQ-focused primary health care center five years ago.

“After 30 years of providing services to thousands of persons living with HIV, it was clear that more needed to be done to address the lack of primary care that is focused on the LGBTQ community,” said Corktown organizers. “Unlike other metropolitan areas, Southeastern Michigan lacked an agency that was committed to the health of the LGBTQ community.”

Patrick Yankee said that in 2019 the goal is simple: expansion.

“In 2018 we served over 525 people from the LGBTQ community at Corktown Health Center. My hope for 2019 is that we double this number by this time next year with expanded primary care, aging services and improved access to behavioral health and preventative services like PrEP and Cancer Screening,” Yankee said. “As always, managing our work with limited resources will be the biggest challenge. We are thrilled to have been awarded new funding from the Michigan Health Endowment Fund to begin providing formal geriatric services at Corktown Health Center, which we look forward to doing in collaboration with SAGE Metro Detroit. This is a first for our state and we are honored that the Health Fund is supporting this important step.”



“In 2018 we served over 525 people from the LGBTQ community at Corktown Health Center. My hope for 2019 is that we double this number by this time next year.”

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Erin Knott – Interim Executive Director at Equality Michigan

Originally established in 1991 as the Triangle Foundation, Equality Michigan has been dedicated for 25 years to helping Michigan's LGBTQ community achieve basic fairness and equality. Appointed interim executive director earlier this year, Erin Knott said that 2019 will be integral for increasing anti-violence and victim service programming.

"In 2018 we worked on over 400 cases of discrimination, violence and harassment. We will maintain our pop-up office hours across the state and will be expanding our current efforts so that we are training more organizations and helping more members of the LGBTQ community in all corners of the state," Knott said. "Our political program launched a membership program in 2018 and will continue to recruit new members to the Equality Michigan Action Network. We also piloted an interrogated voter engagement strategy in Southwest and West Michigan, which positions the organization to do more year-round voter education and mobilization. In 2019, we will engage LGBTQ volunteers and members in municipal races across the state to ensure we are supporting pro equality candidates at the local level."

Finally, Knott said that EQMI's legislative agenda will include the following in 2019:

- 1.) Having a more inclusive policy for gender marker changes on licenses and State IDs and perhaps a third option regarding gender
- 2.) Ensuring that the Michigan Dept of Civil Rights can continue taking complaints of LGBT Discrimination
- 3.) Ensuring that Michigan's Medicaid Programs do

not discriminate against transgender recipients and their medically necessary care.

4.) Re-introducing a bill to amend Elliott-Larsen in Michigan legislature

5.) Re-introducing a bill to ban conversion therapy in Michigan legislature

6.) Ensuring equitable parent protections for LGBT parents.



"It's incumbent on voters to educate their lawmakers on the issues that matter most to them and hold them accountable. We will continue to do that regardless of party affiliation because civil rights and access to care are not partisan issues."

Jerry Peterson – Executive Director at Ruth Ellis Center

Established 18 years ago, the goal of the Ruth Ellis Center is to provide trauma-informed services for homeless, runaway and at-risk LGBTQ youth and young adults of color. Today it serves as the only residential foster care program specifically for LGBTQ youth in the entire Midwest. Jerry Peterson called 2018 and "extraordinary year" for the center and is dedicated to finding new "and innovative ways to ensure LGBTQ youth can be safe and supported in all systems of care."

"From health care to housing, child welfare to employment, REC's unwavering commitment to the young people they serve has resulted in unparalleled growth, and new opportunities to have an even greater impact on outcomes for LGBTQ youth nationwide," Peterson said. "Even still, if asked, REC will tell you that it is the legacy of Ruth Ellis herself, and her commitment to the Detroit community she loved that inspires them to keep forging ahead."

This means that 2019 will face a period of expansion.

"First, the Center is looking at the full housing continuum for young people experiencing homelessness or currently residing in unstable housing. REC will begin to look at ways it can assist the shelter system in providing safer and better outcomes for LGBTQ youth in crisis, particularly in the winter months when few options are available," he said. "And while affirming shelter programs are critical, the Center also recognizes the need to expand housing options for LGBTQ young people by looking into scattered site apartments and developing a short-term host home program while helping young people find more permanent supportive housing."



"Now in its 19th year, the Center continues to challenge itself to find new and innovative ways to ensure LGBTQ youth can be safe and supported in all systems of care. From health care to housing, child welfare to employment."

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“I think it’s important that elected officials work to make sure all LGBTQ members are welcomed in our state and communities. We also need to be more welcoming and better allies to our transgender community, especially transgender women of color.”



Tracy Hall – Kalamazoo County Commissioner

A Kalamazoo resident for more than 20 years, Kalamazoo County Commissioner Tracy Hall represents the 3rd District. Among her other priorities, Hall has said she is dedicated to increasing intergovernmental collaboration and cooperation and enhancing the overall quality of life for all the residents of Kalamazoo. In 2019, she said she wants to focus on making it known that LGBTQ people have a voice in county government.

“To also make sure that I continue to help move Kalamazoo county and our various policies to reflect that we are a welcoming and inclusive county,” Hall said. “To look for areas where there are gaps and assess how, as county government, we can close those gaps. I will also push our state elected officials to amend our civil rights act and to work toward other policies that are beneficial to the LGBTQ community.”

Hall added that she’s excited for the pro-LGBTQ equality candidates who were elected across Michigan.

“Obviously, I am super excited about the big wins at the state level, but here in Kalamazoo we had an impressive blue wave. The County Board now has eight Democrats. In fact, two of my incumbent Republican colleagues lost. One is the current chair of the Kalamazoo GOP and the other is a long-term politician from this area. Those were significant wins for us,” Hall said. “Just as important and big was the victory of State Sen.-elect Sean McCann, who defeated well known State Sen. Margaret O’Brien.”

She said she is hopeful that in 2019 the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act will be amended.

Mary Barr – Treasurer of Fair Michigan

Fair Michigan’s goals are to ensure that in the era post marriage equality that LGBTQ peoples’ rights are still being advocated for and affirmed through the prosecution of those who commit crimes against the LGBTQ community. Mary Barr is treasurer for the group and says that in 2019 the organization will reaffirm their main priorities.

“As part of this advocacy, we will continue to provide support to victims of and witnesses to these crimes. Thanks to newly formed partnerships this support will include emergency housing and counseling. We also will continue to provide extensive assistance in navigating the criminal justice system,” she said. “Distrust and misunderstanding between the LGBTQ community and the law enforcement community often hamper the reporting, investigation and prosecution of crimes against LGBTQ persons. To bridge this divide, Fair Michigan provides Cultural Competency Training to law enforcement, educators and businesses around the state.”

Barr added that after the midterm election that resulted in Dana Nessel, the group’s current president, winning the seat of attorney general re-affirmed the group’s dedication to providing their services. In addition, she said they are welcoming to all candidates who are pro-equality.

“We support efforts explicitly to include sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression as protected categories in the Michigan Constitution, the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act, and the Ethnic Intimidation Act,” she said. “We also support efforts to ban ‘conversion therapy’ and to increase resources available to battle anti-LGBTQ hate crimes. In the future, we would like to see the blue wave supplemented by a rainbow wave of political activism in support of pro-equality candidates, especially from within the LGBTQ community.”



“Fair Michigan’s main priority, through our Fair Michigan Justice Project collaboration with the Wayne County Prosecutor’s Office, is to provide justice to the LGBTQ community through vigorous and effective prosecution of those accused of committing serious crimes against LGBTQ persons.”

Community Housing Needed for Creating Change Attendees

People from all over the country will visit Detroit Jan. 23 to 27 for the 2019 Creating Change conference. In an effort to make the conference financially accessible for everyone, the National LGBTQ Task Force is offering community housing to as many attendees as possible. But hosts are needed to help provide space in their private homes for LGBTQ people, allies and activists looking for a place to stay.

According to the Task Force, “by offering your home you will help a person connect with their community, explore resources and acquire services they need to survive.”

The Community Housing Committee will make matches in alignment with information provided on the registration forms. For example, a host who indicates there is a cat in the home will not be matched with a guest

who indicates allergic incompatibility with cats. Transportation and location will also be taken into consideration.

The host involvement may simply be a bed and use of a bathroom or hosts can open their kitchen for meal prep, the living room for relaxing, TV and conversation.

The Task Force expects that guests will respect hosts’ wishes, limits and boundaries with regard to: the agreed-upon length of stay; alcohol and tobacco use in the home; uses of the kitchen and other common areas of the home; and any other procedures of the house.

Please find the Community Housing Host form at creatingchange.org/community-housing/ as well as more information on joining the Task Force in offering alternative housing to Creating Change attendees.

2019 Michigan Women’s Marches Jan. 19

On January 19, 2019, thousands of women and their allies will come together in Washington D.C. to celebrate the two-year anniversary of the 2017 Women’s March on Washington. In a show of solidarity with the national anniversary march, a group of women across the state in places across Michigan from Detroit to Saugatuck and Douglas are organizing their own marches.

These are a peaceful demonstrations on Jan. 19, and in Detroit will begin at the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History. In Douglas, the march will begin at Beery Field and march over the bridge into Saugatuck. Across the state, many thousands of women have participated in this tradition annually.

To follow developments and news about Detroit’s Women’s March go online to actionnetwork.org. For information about the Saugatuck-Douglas’ women’s marche, find out more on their Facebook page @ [saugatuckdouglaswomensmarch](https://www.facebook.com/saugatuckdouglaswomensmarch).



Meet Creating Change Co-Chair Lilianna Reyes

who are involved in putting on this Detroit-specific event. This interview is part of that series.

Lilianna Reyes is the former interim executive director of Affirmations and is currently serving as Ruth Ellis Center's Second Stories director. She is a proud transgender Latina woman and a public administration graduate of the University of Michigan's Rackham Graduate School. Reyes has worked with many state and national civil rights organizations including Planned Parenthood, the Detroit Police Chief's LGBT Advisory Council, Transgender Michigan and others. In 2017 Reyes was recognized by USA Today as a leader in their Faces of Pride report. Reyes also serves as co-executive director of the Trans Sistās of Color Project – Detroit.

BY JASON MICHAEL

Creating Change is an annual LGBTQ conference put on by the National LGBTQ Task Force. Hosting hundreds of workshops, caucus sessions, keynote speakers and more, the more than 30-year-old event tours across the U.S., every year choosing a city in which to showcase the LGBTQ community's local and national community. This year, Creating Change 2019 is coming to Detroit in January. In advance of the event, BTL has reached out to interview four local co-chairs

What does Creating Change mean to you?

Creating Change, for me, feels like a family reunion. A space with many attached within it that feels safe and reconnecting. It's a means to continue family togetherness and advocacy beyond borders. I have made what I feel will be lifetime friendships with people and we usually come into connection again at Creating Change every year. It's a safe place that I feel fully welcomed and engaged with my advocacy. Creating change is the first conference that really allows me to bring

myself in my entirety. That's a beautiful space.

What are you doing to create change in your own life?

I live every day authentically and unapologetically. Living as a trans woman of color openly and even in the public eye can be scary due to the high violence against people like me. Showing others that living in your truth can save your life is me creating change. I also believe my leadership in two separate organizations show that I'm making changes personally and professionally. I work to bridge communities so that we can all work together to minimize discrimination.

What made you feel you had to be a co-chair?

I knew a trans women of color needed to be. I didn't think it would be me, but when I was asked I couldn't turn it down. When they chatted with me I was weary because of my schedule. But my dynamic fused with the other co-chairs worked perfectly.

What are you most looking forward to about Creating Change 2019?

I am looking forward to seeing the Detroit and Michigan communities welcome others into our space. I think it'll be beautiful to see so many national and international

community members coming into Detroit to work on building better and inclusive spaces is very exciting.

What is your take on gay rights in the era of No. 45? Where are we as a community and where do we need to be?

I think for some communities, we've seen things like this before. But, now, people who have had more privilege are seeing them flee. There's a bittersweet nature of seeing them realize how hard it can get but also not wanting anyone to feel that. We need to focus on the most marginalized so that everybody reaps the benefits. We need to be working together but understanding our own power, privilege and oppression. Without it, we're doing nothing but creating more trauma and distance.

INFO

Creating Change will be held at the Detroit Marriott at the Renaissance Center from Jan. 23 through 27 in 2019. More information its included events, speakers and programs can be found online at creatingchange.org.

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NICHOLAS HOULT

Gets in Formation

Photo: Fox Searchlight

'The Favourite' Actor Reflects on His Gay Roles, and Chats Beyoncé, Wigs and Hollywood Inclusion

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Someday, if we're lucky, we might get a full performance of Nicholas Hoult in a fluffy wig, his cheeks powdered and painted pink, with heeled feet, all the while vivaciously lip-synching Beyoncé's "Hold Up." Give the people what they want, I say.

And for 13 gloriously gay seconds in November on his Insta he did. Without even having to ask for it, we were blessed by Hoult and his perky brows serving Bey realness. "I wasn't prepared to see this on my feed," one commenter wrote. Actor James McAvoy couldn't resist chiming in: "When I grow up...I want to be inside your wig."

Hoult loves Beyoncé, which makes him seem a lot like you and me (the choppy international

cell reception when he calls me in America from the U.K. further cultivates his everymanness). And wigs? He must love them enough to wear three of them in his new film "The Favourite," all of which were given divine lady names: Babs, Lulu and Hattie. The role isn't gay in any obvious way, but because the 18th century is long over *and* men's hair has deflated considerably in the 300 years since *and* he wears heels, this could arguably pass as the 29-year-old Brit's closest encounter to drag yet.

Flawless is the only way Beyoncé could possibly describe his performance in "The Favourite," and she must have loved his tender heart in Tom Ford's 2009 film "A Single Man," portraying Colin Firth's maybe-gay lifeline, Kenny; of course she wanted to pinch his chubby pre-teen cheeks in 2002's "About a Boy"

(who didn't?); and no way Bey didn't appreciate the queer allegory of 2013's zombie rom-com "Warm Bodies."

Given how deliciously cheeky he is in director Yorgos Lanthimos' "The Favourite" as the foppish Robert Harley, an earl who frolics around Queen Anne's royal court as Anne (Olivia Colman) becomes the object of two women's (Emma Stone and Rachel Weisz) ruthless affection, wigs will be snatched.

As great as you are in "The Favourite," perhaps your best performance to date was posted to Instagram on November 21: a Beyoncé lip-sync.

(Laughs) Thank you. Yes, it was. A fine moment. I actually did that the year before but I had to wait until the movie was out to release it. Yeah, that was in my trailer before

I got onto set.

And you picked Beyoncé's "Hold Up" as your song? That was all you?

Yes, yes, it was all me. We released one behind-the-scenes of "X-Men," dancing and stuff a couple of years ago, and then there's this one. That Beyoncé song is how I felt, so I got into this character's makeup and costume. (Laughs)

Is Beyoncé your gay icon?

(Laughs) She's the Queen Bey. I went to her tour. She was phenomenal.

I wish I could move like that.

Don't we all.

Are you already planning your next lip-sync?

(Laughs) Yeah, I've got a whole back catalog, so it's just in terms of when they're released.

Now, "The Favourite": Harley has been described as "effeminate." Is that what you were going for?

I don't think so. Because of the fashion of the era, the guys at that time were in the era of makeup and wigs and high heels and canes and lots of frills. But the character seemed quite manipulative and dry and, pathetically, a bit of a bully, and kind of playing a chess game with the other characters within the court.

Considering the costume, do you have a greater appreciation for what drag queens have to go through?

I guess so – just anybody who has to wear high heels. I know the pain of wearing those now.

One of your wigs was named Barbara, Babs for short. Which one was she?

Babs was the main wig, and the larger of Harley's personalities. She was the white, curly wig with two horns on top. She was the most delicious wig. Hattie was the more serious, white frilly wig, and then Lulu was the rambunctious, red wig.

Something tells me you've seen a drag queen or two in your lifetime – or have maybe watched some "RuPaul's Drag Race"?

You know what, I haven't seen it before. I've gotta tune into it at some point because I've got everyone telling me it's a good one, so I will watch that. Maybe I could be a judge on it or something sometime.

I think you could be a contestant at this point.

Yes, a contestant.

I think you've already auditioned. It's this movie.

Exactly, I'll send it in. That's why I did it.

When were you first aware of the LGBTQ audience?

I don't really see any audience as different, particularly, to be honest with you. I'm just telling stories that I like and then playing characters that I'm interested in. When I'm making things I'm not picking depending on the audience, but that's really nice of you to say that I've got that following. That's lovely. I guess that would go back to "Skins" or "A Single Man," perhaps.

You played Tony Stonem in BBC's British teen drama "Skins," which ran from 2007-2013. How do you reflect on shooting that brief fling you had with Mitch Hower's Maxxie?

I thought he was such an odd character to play at times. There were some similarities between him and Harley, I guess. He's a fascinating character, a tricky one, and he's a lot of fun to play. A nice change from what I'd been doing up until that point, work-wise.

How so?

Everything up until that point was fairly, perhaps, "nerdy guy" and this was someone who was quite alpha in his personality and traits and how he fit into that group.

How do you reflect on portraying Kenny in "A Single Man"?

That role was beautiful to shoot because Tom Ford is a brilliant director. Working with Colin and doing those scenes ... it was just really beautifully written. And Tom's understanding of each character. So, it was a great feeling to be in that world.

Did you notice more acknowledgement from the LGBTQ community after it was released?

Yeah, I think so. For me, it's always that thing that telling stories gotta be from the moment, and that story is so heartbreaking in terms of the romance of it and the love of it. I think a lot of people can relate to that and the difficulties, and the world has changed to the positive in terms of that. But again, I do the work and then it goes off and lives its own life.

You never revisit these roles?

No, I never go back and revisit, to be honest with you. Even you mentioning these things now, it's difficult for me to dredge up the memories because I kind of take what I'm focusing on in that present moment, or planning the next one. But it's nice to reflect occasionally.

How have the gay and queer roles you've played spoken to you?

Both of those roles they were exploring, definitely. And fighting for a place, I'd say. They were lonely and felt displaced and they didn't have a community, or they felt misunderstood. With those characters – well, not Tony, but certainly for Kenny in "A Single Man." And Tony, it's much different; he kind of has more power.

How does your character Mark, who's gay, in the 2009 West End production of "New Boy" compare?

He was a different character because he was younger and he couldn't understand his own feelings, and that made him funny but also someone who would be quite venomous, occasionally. And yeah, that character was at the turning point of discovering his sexuality.

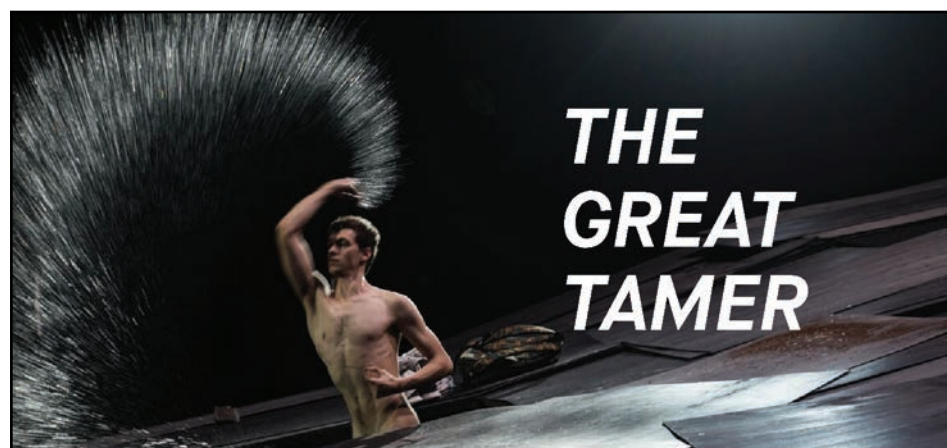
Does playing a gay role come with a different sense of responsibility for you?

No, I feel responsible for every character, regardless. When (I'm) playing real characters, I feel more of a responsibility, but otherwise no.

Of those roles, is one more significant to you than the others?

No, I don't think so. They all mesh somewhat, I would say. You're inhabiting these characters

See **Nicholas Hoult**, continued on p. 24



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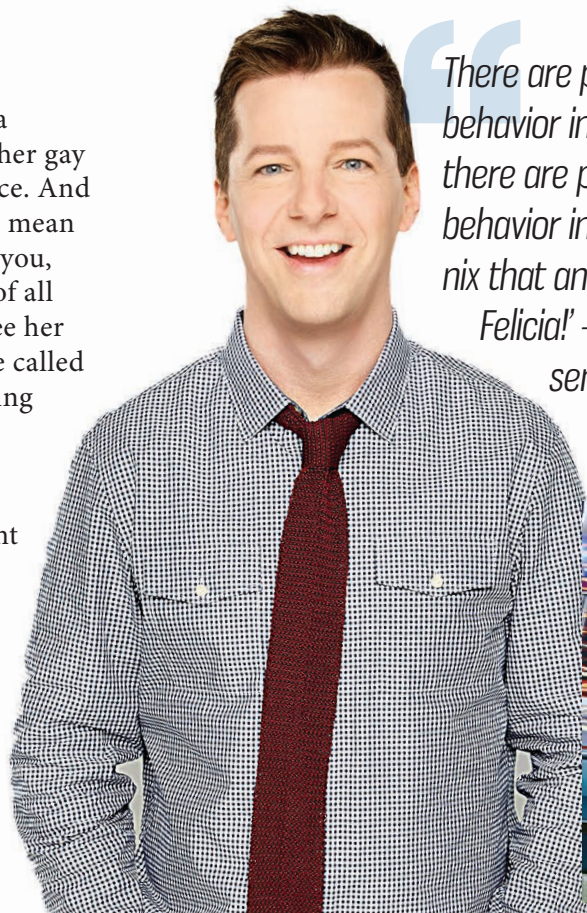
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INTERVIEWS BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Cher once jumped out of a bathroom window with her gay friend to escape the police. And if you also didn't know that you mean as much to her as she means to you, well now you do. The gay icon of all gay icons expressed just that (see her heartfelt quote below) when she called me in September while promoting her 26th (!!) album, "Dancing Queen." Other highlights from this year's interviews with LGBTQ-identifying and adjacent Hollywood notables: Anna Kendrick opened up about being sexually fluid, "Will & Grace" stars Eric McCormack and Sean Hayes chatted about the show's revival, and powerhouse actress Viola Davis reflected on her queer evolution.



There are people on all spectrums of human behavior in the gay community, just like there are people on all spectrums of human behavior in the straight community, so I nix that and I say 'bye' to that – I say, 'bye, Felicia!' – because that doesn't make any sense to me.

– Sean Hayes on dismissing those who say Jack is too flamboyant

"I was always me, but I didn't always own it. And when I owned it, that's when I found that I was my strongest."

– Adam Rippon



Who knows how and why and who you pick as your friends, but it's usually me and all my lovely, dear gay friends that I've had forever.

– Melissa McCarthy

A YEAR IN REVIEW...

"If the people are listening to you, you should say something worth hearing."

– Jussie Smollett

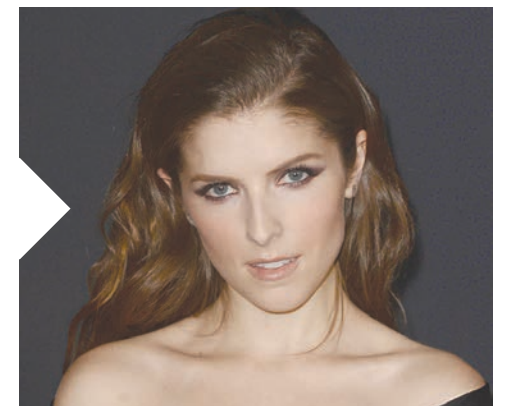
"At the time, there was that kind of question when you'd go into the audition: 'Are you comfortable kissing a guy?' 'Yeah, of course.'"

– Justin Theroux on playing gay in the late '90s



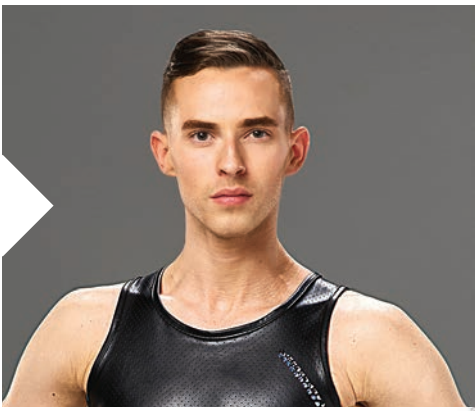
"I think I haven't had that emotional love for a lady, which isn't saying it could never happen to me, but I think I'm more of an Emily than a Stephanie."

– Anna Kendrick, who played opposite Blake Lively's sexually fluid Emily in "A Simple Favor"



"So, the thought of going to a program like the one in the film at that crucial, vulnerable moment and being told, 'No, this is 100 percent back on you, and you're filling a God-shaped hole in your life with these tendencies' was one of the most harmful and hurtful things that I can imagine."

– Troye Sivan on his role in "Boy Erased"



"If you're queer, your subjectivity is not in the margins – it's front and center for the life you're leading. But mainstream stories have pushed queer stories into the margins of storytelling..."

– Rachel Weisz, star of two lesbian-led films this year, "Disobedience" and "The Favourite"



"I have to say I loved him, so I felt it was on me to shift my thinking and it was up to me to understand him."

– Viola Davis on getting acquainted with the LGBTQ community through her friend Slim

"Do I care anymore about mass appeal? Do I care about universality if it's not moving people?"

– Brandi Carlile, lesbian musician and most nominated female at this year's Grammys



"Even as a 13-year-old, I saw my friends be conflicted with their sexuality and religion and I was thinking, 'OK, something's wrong here.'"

– Dan Reynolds, Imagine Dragons frontman

WHAT THE CELEBS SAID

"I just wanted to be a beacon for moms who are confused..."

– Jennifer Garner on playing the mother of a gay son in "Love, Simon"

"That was a first for me. I can't say that I've walked in on any gay orgies in the past."

– Margot Robbie on the gay orgy in "The Wolf of Wall Street"

"However you define yourself or don't define yourself, you should be able to do that with total freedom."

– Antoni Porowski

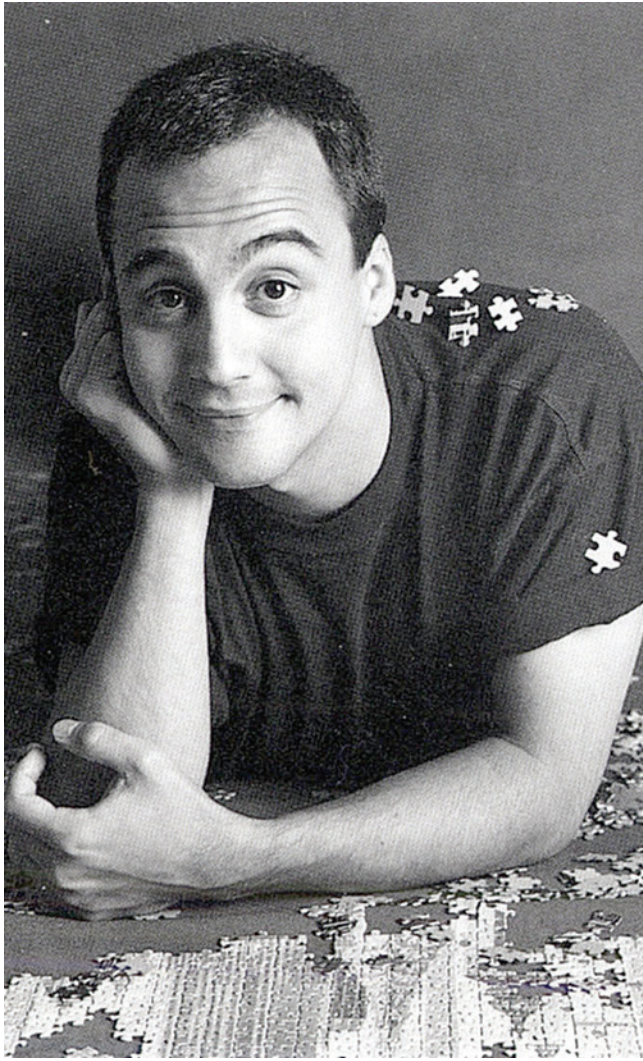


"There's been sometimes where I was just, you know, heartbroken about things, but it always gives you hope when there are people who think that you're cute and worthwhile and an artist."

– Cher on her LGBTQ fans

"It's like your queer uncle that was marching back in '78: Maybe he doesn't have the loud voice, maybe he can't march as fast now, but he is still just as important."

– Eric McCormack on the "Will & Grace" revival



Love Lost and Inspiration Gained

Ricky Ian Gordon's LGBTQ-Inspired 'Orpheus and Euridice' in Ann Arbor

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

It's the stuff of nightmares, learning that a loved one has died long before their time. For Orpheus, his beloved Euridice died because of a snake bite, but for composer Ricky Ian Gordon, his partner succumbed to illness.

"I fell in love with a man named Jeffrey Grossi in the tail end of '91," Gordon said. "On our very first date he told me he was HIV-positive and, you know, at the time you knew that just meant, 'Oh, he's going to die.' And so, I just decided that I'm going to love him right off the bat."

That love sprouted into a relationship that lasted until 1996 and resulted in Gordon's now world famous reimagination of the classic Greek myth "Orpheus & Euridice: A Song Cycle in Two Acts." Now over a decade since its original release, it's set to premiere at the Kerrytown Concert House, put on by the Arbor Opera Theater on Jan. 11 through 13.

"The moment that it popped back into my head it felt like the absolute fit for that space in that part of our community next to Braun Court," said the theater's Artistic Director Austin Stewart. "Given how present Ricky has been in Michigan over the past years — with [the opera] '27' with the Michigan Opera Theatre and then his being the commencement for the school of Music, Theatre & Dance at the University of Michigan and the Michigan Opera Theatre in Detroit — it just felt right to continue to celebrate this artist with a piece that was so unlike his big grand operas. This really

remarkably intimate work clicked as perfect in this space."

The three-person piece features soprano Monica Dewey as Euridice, clarinetist Marissa Mitchell as Orpheus and pianist Kathleen Kelly. Stewart and Kelly agreed that although the inspiration for this piece is LGBTQ-specific, all audiences alike will be able to relate to its subject matter.

"Especially with Ricky's own story of where he was in life when he wrote the work, but there's also a great universality in the story," Stewart said. "And that's why composers ever since opera was first invented have continued to return to the story of Orpheus and Euridice, this bond between two individuals that knows really no definition. While the personal story and how he approaches the text and reimagines it from his own experience, that's one of the real beauties of this story."

Gordon said that he got inspired to write "Orpheus & Euridice" soon after he was asked to write a 10-minute piece for clarinet, piano and soprano.

"I was sort of in a state. With Jeffrey things were declining sort of quickly, and it wasn't necessarily an ideal time for me to take a commission. I was also writing this opera called 'The Tibetan Book of the Dead,'" Gordon said. "I was writing that to help Jeffrey die. He asked me if I would help him die a Buddhist, so I decided to do an opera to put the teachings to music while he was here."

Gordon said he could only describe that period in his life as "surreal." Eventually, feeling drained, Gordon said he would only be able to write a clarinet

Photos: Composer Ricky Ian Gordon's (center) song cycle "Orpheus & Euridice" will be presented at the Kerrytown Concert House by Arbor Opera Theatre from Jan. 11 through 13. Jeffrey Grossi (left) who died from AIDS in 1996 was the inspiration for Gordon's work. Kathleen Kelly (right) is the pianist who will be performing the work, along with soprano Monica Dewey and clarinetist Marissa Mitchell.

and piano piece. As if commanded by the fates, it was that night that he had a vision involving the characters of the Greek myth.

"It was four in the morning. I got up, I went to the dining room table and I wrote the entire libretto. Around 5:30 Jeffrey got up and he could see I was sort of sweaty and crazy at this dining room table and I said, 'Oh my God, I just wrote this whole libretto about Orpheus and Euridice.' It was about falling in love, and then, instead of Euridice being bitten by a snake, she's robbed by Orpheus incrementally the way AIDS steals people from you sort of pound by pound," Gordon said.

That reality is demonstrated within the libretto: "As she slept, he wept bitterly and dearly. Growing more and more bereft when, in increments, she left."

Beyond including AIDS, however, Gordon's reimagination goes further and redesigns the treatment of the story's characters. Kelly said that one of the most exciting aspects for her about this performance is that Gordon reimagines Euridice's role.

"What strikes me about the piece is that it's the Orpheus and Euridice story, but the only person who's got text is Euridice. She sometimes speaks about herself and sometimes speaks about Orpheus, but the whole character of Orpheus is represented by the clarinetist," Kelly said, adding that usually operas focus on Orpheus' journey through the underworld to retrieve Euridice's life.

"[Because of that] Euridice became kind of a secondary character," Kelly said. "Ricky's composition turns that on its head a little bit and you get to hear from Euridice for an hour. I think that in itself is interesting and that's the driver of any other choices we might make as we put the piece together."

She added that this unique interpretation provides a storytelling challenge for her as a performer and it's something she's enthusiastic for audiences to see.

"That's what's exciting about chamber music: because your individual voice is very important and the possibility of in-the-moment collaboration and taking a chance and maybe doing something surprising," Kelly said. "Those doors are a lot more open than they might be in larger scale collaborations."

Gordon will be doing pre-performance talks before both the Friday and Sunday performances of the show. He said he's thrilled to have the Arbor Opera Theatre perform this song cycle, adding that watching different interpretations of his work can be immensely exciting.

"It's great and it's moving and sometimes it's scary because you wonder if people are up to it," Gordon said with a laugh. "It always starts in your head and then when it's actually being performed it's up to people outside your head to make it work. So, when it's satisfying, it's like nothing else."

Kelly said that it's heartening to her to see operas like this one that bring modern stories to life.

"The big, popular operas that people think of as opera like 'La Boheme' and the big, old-fashioned works for orchestra and stage, I love those too, and there are universal aspects to those stories, but opera has relied for a long time on a rather small portion of its literature," she said. "Right now we're in a period where many other stories are being said operatically but opera singers are becoming more conversant in a wider variety of musical and vocal styles, and that's all becoming part of composition that's being seen as operatic."

For her, that influx of modern stories is vital for the medium.

"That's very important because this is what's going to keep blood flowing through the veins of the art form, which, after all, should be changing all the time because that's what art forms do."

The Arbor Opera Theater will host "Orpheus & Euridice" from Jan. 11 through 13 with special pre-performance lectures by the work's composer Ricky Ian Gordon. Find out more about ticketing and showtimes online at arboropera.org.

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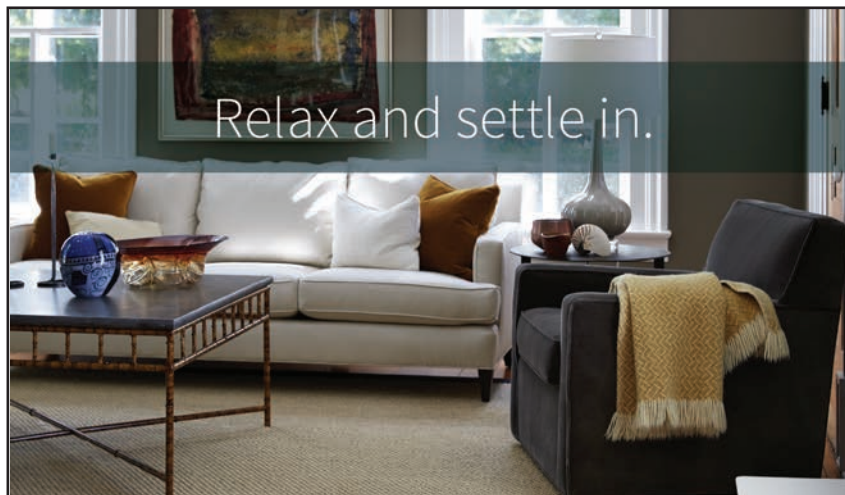


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Nicholas Hoult, star of "The Favourite"

“People keep mentioning that (it’s queer) or that it has female leads and it’s kind of surprising and disconcerting that it’s even a conversation as this point.”

► **Nicholas Hoult**

Continued from p. 17

and their feelings as best as possible for that time, so each one is significant at that time.

After “A Single Man,” did an influx of gay roles come your way?

Not necessarily. I get sent quite varied things anyway because of the variety I’ve tried to play, so it varies hugely. I don’t think I saw an increase at that point, no; but perhaps an increase in roles in terms of stories being told that are more inclusive. You see more and more stories, and that’s just a sign not necessarily of me having done that but more the times – that things are changing, and it’s becoming represented better.

“The Favourite” is being celebrated for being so queer-inclusive. When you’re a part of a project that means something to a particular group of underrepresented people, does that feel different for you than doing something more mainstream like, say, “X-Men”?

It’s like, you just see them as characters, as people and very good actresses. People keep mentioning that (it’s queer) or that it has female leads and it’s kind of surprising and disconcerting that it’s even a conversation as this point. It’s almost like we should have – I mean, it’s great that the conversation is happening and that these movies are getting made more and more, but it should be up to

the point where it’s completely normal and it’s not even something that people have to keep feeling is unusual.

Are you encouraged to be part of the movement by seeking out roles that may push that movement forward?

Obviously you want to be part of things that are relevant, if possible, but mostly you just want to tell good stories. You can’t always determine the effect that something is going to have or the place it’s gonna fill when the end-product comes out. You just try to work with the right people and tell stories you find interesting.

If you were caught in a gay love triangle with a king and his longtime secret lover and his secret lover’s cousin, who’d be playing the other roles?

It’d be people I look up to acting-wise: It’d be Christian Bale and Joaquin Phoenix.

And you’d be the cousin?

I guess so in that scenario, yeah. Christian’s probably the king, right?

I believe Batman has to be the king.

Always.

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 and on Twitter (@chrisazzopardi).

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Folk and alternative country musician Brandi Carlile is heading to Ann Arbor for the 42nd Ann Arbor Folk Festival. Carlile's music has been recognized internationally and this year she earned six Grammy Award nominations in advance of the 2019 award show. She will perform on Friday, Jan. 25. Tickets start at \$42.50. Find our more at theark.org.

OUTINGS

Thursday, December 27

Stand with Trans 2018 Support Groups – Farmington Hills – Oakland County 7 p.m. All youth are welcome to attend this FREE group. Oakland United Methodist Church, 30450 Farmington Road, Farmington. 248-626-3620. oaklandumc.org. 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. lawrencemoeb@gmail.com. speakout.toastmastersclubs.org.

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Tuesday, January 1

Stand with Trans 2018 Support Groups – Lake Orion / Oakland County 7 p.m. St. Mary's In The Hills Episcopal Church, 2512 Joslyn Court, Lake Orion. 248-391-0663. stmarysinthehills.org. standwithtrans.org.

Thursday, January 3

Pride Night at Thunderbowl! 7 p.m. Meet & Greet First Thursday of every month, unlimited bowling, shoe rental, private room, private bar area, drink specials, billiard room, 250 foot video wall. Thunderbowl Arena, 4200 Allen Road, Allen Park. 313-928-4688. thunderbowl.org.

Sunday, January 6

MCC Detroit Testimony Sunday 11:30 a.m. Join us as we reflect on God's goodness over the past year. Share your testimony in word or in song. MCC Detroit, 205 N. Main St., Clawson. 248-399-7741. mccdetroit.org.

Stand with Trans Wyandotte Support Group for Trans Youth and Parents of Trans Individuals 4 p.m. For Parent

Support Group information, contact facilitator Kim Tooley, 734-747-4363. St. Stephens Episcopal Church, 2803 1st St., Wyandotte. standwithtrans.org.

Stand with Trans 2018 Support Groups – Adrian-Lenawee County 6:30 p.m. For parents of transgender kids. For Trans Youth Support Group information, contact facilitator Socorro Sevilla, MSW: socorro@hilltopcounseling.org. Hilltop Counseling, 115 W. Maumee St., Adrian. 313-909-5408. standwithtrans.org. hilltopcounseling.org.

Wednesday, January 9

Stand with Trans Youth Support Group – Flint – Genesee 6:30 p.m. Facilitator Sara Griffin, MA, LPC is a psychotherapist and a parent of a transgender son, eiregriff@aol.com. Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Flint, 2474 S. Ballenger Hwy, Flint. 810-232-4023. uuflint.org. standwithtrans.org.

Saturday, January 12

Ferndale Pride Euchre Tournament Sponsored by Tito's 6 p.m. Come show off your Euchre skills and help the Ferndale Elks raise money for Ferndale Pride. Ferndale Elks Club #1588, 22856 Woodward Av., Ferndale. 248-542-2626. julia@ferndalepride.com.

Monday, January 14

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. Dakota High School, 21051 21 Mile Road, Macomb. 586-723-2700. chippewavalley.schools.org.

MUSIC & MORE

New 'Holiday Belles' House Tour at Ford House Repeating through January 6, With replica holiday décor and new stories, this new tour gives you a glimpse into the society scene of the 1960s. Edsel & Eleanor Ford House, 1100 Lake Shore Road, Grosse Pointe Shores. 313-884-4222. info@fordhouse.org.

Sound Board Presents Nelly December 27, 8 p.m. Cornell Haynes Jr., known professionally as Nelly, is an American rapper, singer, songwriter, entrepreneur, investor, and occasional actor. Motor City Casino Sound Board, 2901 Grand River Ave., Detroit. 313-309-4700. motorcitycasino.com.

Sound Board Presents Cedric, The Entertainer December 28, 8 p.m. Cedric Antonio Kyles, better known by his stage name Cedric the Entertainer, is an American actor, comedian, and game show host. Motor City Casino Sound Board, 2901 Grand River Ave., Detroit. 313-309-4700. motorcitycasino.com.

MCC Detroit – New Year's Eve Party! December 31, 7 p.m. Come ring in 2019 with MCC Detroit! Join us for a night on the town that includes dinner, dancing, cash bar, midnight celebration and snack. Vassel's Banquet Hall, 26750 Eight Mile Road, Southfield. 248-354-0121. vasselscatering.com. mccdetroit.org.

The House on Poe Street at The Detroit Repertory Theatre January 10, 8:30 p.m. Gothic ghosts encounter modern monstrosities when twin sisters inherit the house where Poe is reputed to have composed *The Raven*. Detroit Repertory Theatre, 13103 Woodrow Wilson, Detroit. 313-868-1347. DetRepTh@aol.com. detroitreptheatre.com.

Flint Symphony Orchestra Presents Rachmaninoff's Symphony No. 2 January 19, 7:30 p.m. Pre-concert talk at 6:30 p.m. The Whiting Auditorium, 1241 E. Kearsley St., Flint. 810-237-7333. thewhiting.com. thefso.org.

Michigan Philharmonic Presents 'Miniature Masterpieces' January 20, 2 p.m. This concert features a variety of chamber music with a little twist as we welcome, Whitney George as composer

and narrator. The Inn at St. John's, 44045 Five Mile Road, Plymouth. 734-414-0600. theinnatstjohns.com. michtix.com.

Safe and Effective Management of Pain and Addiction January 22, 7:30 p.m. Dr. Carl Christensen and Dr. Mark Weiner discuss relative risks and benefits of pharmacologic and non-pharmacologic pain management. St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Education Center Auditorium, 5305 Elliott Drive, Ypsilanti. 734-485-8725. dawnfarm.org.

The Novi Home Show is Back! January 25, 2 p.m. Showcasing home and landscaping trends for 65 years, The Novi Home Show is a one-stop destination to find inspiration, ideas, and resources for every type of home project. Suburban Collection Showplace, 46100 Grand River Ave., Novi. 586-752-6381. gmonette@allseasonscommunications.com. novihomeshow.com.

Cabaret 313 Presents University of Michigan Musical Theatre Seniors January 26, 7 p.m. As the University of Michigan Musical Theatre seniors prepare for their annual Theatrical Industry Showcase in New York City, they discover songs that they fall in love with but do not quite make the final. N'Namdi Center for Contemporary Art, 52 E. Forest Ave., Detroit. 313-831-8700. nnamdicenter.org. cabaret313.org.

THEATER

Disney's Aladdin at the Detroit Opera House! Repeating through January 13, 7:30 p.m. A thrilling new production filled with unforgettable beauty, magic, comedy and breathtaking spectacle. Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway St., Detroit. 313-237-SING. broadwayindetroit.com.

The Purple Rose Theatre Presents 'Diva Royale' Repeating through December 29, 8 p.m. The play follows the exploits of three midwestern stay-at-home moms who plan a last minute trip to NYC to see their favorite star Celine Dion. The Purple Rose of Chelsea, 137 Park St., Chelsea.

THE ELVES AND THE SCHUMACHERS by Carla Milarch and R. MacKenzie Lewis World Premiere Repeating through December 30, 7:30 p.m. Bring the whole family to laugh, boo, hiss, and sing in this over-the-top evening of heroes and villains, funny songs and extreme merriment. Theatre NOVA, 410 W. Huron, Ann Arbor. 734-635-8450. A2TheatreNOVA@gmail.com. theatreanova.org.

'Rent' is Back at The

Fisher Theatre – 20th Anniversary Tour! Repeating through January 20, 8 p.m. A re-imagining of Puccini's *La Bohème*, RENT follows an unforgettable year in the lives of seven artists struggling to follow their dreams without selling out. Fisher Theatre, 3011 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit. 313-872-1000. broadwayindetroit.com.

A2CT Presents "Oliver" Repeating through January 13, 7:30 p.m. In a musical adaptation of the Dickens novel, young Oliver runs away to London. There he falls in with the Artful Dodger, and through him, the shady Fagin, but this is just the start. A2CT Studio Theatre, 322 W. Ann St., Ann Arbor. 734-971-2228. a2ct.org.

Farmington Hills Youth Theatre Auditions for Spring Production of The Addams Family January 12-13, 12 p.m. Free to audition. Open to both beginning and experienced actors, residents & non-residents in grades 4 to 12. Costick Center Stage, 28600 West Eleven Mile Road, Farmington Hills. 248-473-1848. bsamelko@fhg.gov.

Farmington Hills Youth Theatre Auditions for Spring Production of Annie January 12-13, 12 p.m. Free to audition. Open to both beginning and experienced actors, residents & non-residents in grades K to 6. Costick Center Stage, 28600 West Eleven Mile Road, Farmington Hills. 248-473-1848. bsamelko@fhg.gov.

Williamston Theatre Presents 'To Quiet the Quiet' January 24, 8 p.m. Having suffered great loss and heartbreak in her life, Kathy, now middle-aged and alone, is a woman on the edge. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam Road, Williamston. 517-655-SHOW. info@williamstontheatre.org.

Stagecrafters Presents If/Then January 25, 8 p.m. *If/Then* follows Elizabeth, a divorced urban planner. Baldwin Theatre, 415 South Lafayette, Royal Oak. 248-541-8027. stagecrafters.org.

Cabaret 313 Presents University of Michigan Musical Theatre Seniors January 26, 7 p.m. As the University of Michigan Musical Theatre seniors prepare for their annual Theatrical Industry Showcase in New York City, they discover songs that they fall in love with but do not quite make the final. N'Namdi Center for Contemporary Art, 52 E. Forest Ave., Detroit. 313-831-8700. nnamdicenter.org. cabaret313.org.

Editor's Pick

Mozart Birthday Bash Jan. 12

Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra features pianist Alon Goldstein as he returns by popular demand to play Mozart's 9th piano concerto argued by many to be Mozart's first unequivocal masterpiece of the classical period that he wrote at just 21. The show is on Saturday, Jan. 12 with tickets starting at \$20.



Hear Me Out: Best Albums of 2018

needed dose of unity and light.

Queer and Trans Yoga Offered by Lansing Salus Center

Offered as a way to introduce peace and healing to LGBTQ people in the Lansing area, the Salus center offers Queer and Trans Yoga every Thursday, with their next scheduled class on Jan. 10 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. The program is hosted by instructor, Amanda, who is a part of the LGBTQ community and invites all skill levels to join.

“Amanda is a queer and trans person, parent, partner, trauma survivor and yoga practitioner,” write event organizers. “Amanda has lived/survived/thrived in the Lansing area for 14 years, practiced yoga for 7 years and trained to be a yoga instructor in 2016. Amanda teaches yoga using a consent-based, trauma-sensitive approach, through a racial and gender justice lens, welcoming every identity, life experience and skill level.”

For more information about the class visit the Salus Center’s Facebook page or go online to saluscenter.org.

WC SAFE Group to Offer Poetic Justice

Survivors of sexual assault and their supporters will have an opportunity to express their stories through creative means such as spoken word and storytelling beginning Sunday, Jan. 13. Through an eight-week group called Poetic Justice, survivors of sexual assault and their supporters can explore storytelling as a means for healing.

The project, according to Nicole Denson, who is the director of Advocacy Services with WC SAFE, stems from the lack of reporting from survivors of sexual assault in Wayne County and across the U.S. Denson points to statistics that suggest only 15 percent of sexual assault victims report that they experienced sexual violence.

“Here in our very own city in 2009, over 11,000 unsubmitted rape kits were discovered forcing many survivors to relive past trauma and endure the criminal justice system once again,” said Denson. Additionally, she said that survivors do not feel heard and that justice has not been served. As a result, Poetic Justice was created to provide workshops to inspire storytelling, offer self-care guidance, media training as well as learning how to manage conflict.

“Art is activism and it inspires individuals to create and make change for themselves and others,” said Denson.

For more information or to sign up, please contact Nicole at ndenson@wcsafe.org, Sharron at sfincher@wcsafe.org, or call 313-964-9701.



10. Jussie Smollett, ‘Sum of My Music’

No way “Empire” star Jussie Smollett was about to let a label – in his case, not just any label but Sony – stifle his musical ambitions. So he walked. Then he independently produced a stunning soul album called “Sum of My Music.” Smollett’s buttery croon and barefaced vulnerability are served on a smoldering bed of R&B grooves that bend contemporary urban trends in exciting and sincere ways. Same-sex love is a liberating act of defiance on the intimate organ-droned “Freedom,” the precursor to “I Know My Name,” a spirited self-determination chant and proof that going his own way was, clearly, the way to go.

9. Santigold, ‘I Don’t Want: The Gold Fire Sessions’

Pure, unencumbered joy on a Santigold album? Yes, she was looking out for your darkened post-Obama spirit, recording a much-needed but little-heard antidote for 2018. For it, the dancehall queen opened the blinds and let the light in on “I Don’t Want: The Gold Fire Sessions.” Deploying an intoxicating rush of reggae-tinged bliss on playful escapade “Crashing Your Party” and cosmic bop “Valley of the Dolls,” Santigold’s hallucinatory medicine goes down so easy you just might forget the sting of this last year.

8. Christine and the Queens, ‘Chris’

Gender constructs bend and break in the glistening queer-pop heaven of French artist H  lo  se Letissier’s “Chris.” Rich in the singer-songwriter’s sense of self, the result of her own exploration of gender and its place in society, the subversive and complex “Chris” flexes a fully formed and thriving persona, where ambition, sexuality and electric pop-funk sizzlers are well within her spectacular reach.

7. Sugarland, ‘Bigger’

“So cut the cake, and let us eat,” country artist and queer ally Jennifer Nettles sasses on Sugarland’s first album in eight years. Given the surprising sociopolitical weight of the rest of her reunion with Sugarland bandmate Kristian Bush, it makes perfect sense that the duo’s call-for-cake is a call-for-equality: “Mother” conveys the pro-LGBTQ stance of its, yes, country music creators, while the wrenchingly too-real “Tuesday’s Broken” makes a case for stronger gun laws. It ends on “Not the Only,” leading us into a new year with a



4. Janelle Mon  e, ‘Dirty Computer’

In 2018, Janelle Mon  e came out and declared herself human. Her other reveal – that she is pansexual – is no footnote on a year that needed all the queer visibility it could get, but her latest finds Mon  e shedding the metal components of her android alter

ego. For “Dirty Computer,” she came down to earth with bold, timely and lyrically charged assertions of being black, female and queer in an America where all the above is shunned. Her remedy for

6. Robyn, ‘Honey’

This isn’t the Robyn album we asked for. You wanted to dance more, and for that, dear queers, you have a trilogy of “Body Talk” bangers. Though lead single “Missing You” is the kind of Robyn song you’ll be happy to know will leave you feeling sad on the dancefloor, generally, “Honey” doesn’t bang; the Swedish pop star’s art changed because her life changed – a breakup, a death. Thusly, Robyn let “Body Talk” be “Body Talk,” and because she’s an artist she sculpted a new sound for a new era that forgoes the immediacy and lingering pop thunder of “Dancing on My Own.” “Honey,” then, with its ’90s-R&B vibe and low-key house throwbacks and wonky detours (“Beach2k20” anyone?), is its own sweet, weird and wonderful thing.

5. Pistol Annies, ‘Interstate Gospel’

Country artists Miranda Lambert, Ashley Monroe and Angaleena Presley have been here before, narrating cheeky and earnest parables of love, life and other woes set to the Americana backdrop they’ve all independently pursued. But with “Interstate Gospel,” their collective supergroup is fine-tuned as they breathe new life into the road-less-traveled aphorism on “Milkman” and uncover the grimeiest of family traditions in “5 Acres of Turnips,” as Lambert’s lament teems with aching regret: “generations of shame, in my granddaddy’s name.” Beauty ultimately triumphs, as does Pistol Annies on this, their most moving album.

See **Hear Me Out**, continued on p. 28

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► Hear Me Out

Continued from p. 27

Trump's America: a vagina monologue ("Pynk") and a restorative message for the disenfranchised ("Americans"). "Dirty Computer" is an artist taking full advantage of her role as an activist.

this year – for six awards, including Album of the Year, as well as Record of the Year and Song of the Year for her soul-reviving queer anthem, "The Joke." Notably, the set lives in the space Carlile is most comfortable: the intimacy of a theater, where her towering rough-hewn

much, as she evokes a world so serene it's hard to believe we're living in it. Flowers grow and so does love. Rainbows break through the sky and so does hope. Musgraves' "Golden Hour" reminds you of the here-and-now, her voice as sweet as the pretty things – and the pretty hard things (letting someone go on "Space Cowboy," the year's best breakup song) – she brings to life simply by reminding you they exist. That's the point, of course: to turn an eye to the unseen, clouded by a volatile political and social state. But Musgraves' majestic spin on simple pleasures is



3. Mariah Carey, 'Caution'

Living tea-drinking legend Mariah Carey came to "Caution" without the world's expectations on her shoulders, resulting in her most cohesive and self-assured set since 1997's "Butterfly." On "GTFO," she kisses off the hims and hers she does not know in a composed and blasé purr, the whole low-key affair setting the stage for the diva's chill defiance. This is Mariah emancipated from caring. This is Mariah in a negligee on a chaise lounge sipping her hot tea (and on "A No No," spilling some too). This is Carey turning in one of the most experimental tracks of her enduring career, "Giving Me Life," as elusive as ever during the song's hypnotically eerie final stretch. This is what happens when you're Mariah Carey on your own terms. To that I say, resoundingly: a YES YES.

howl has room to embellish and warm instrumentation emanates like a front-row seat at a Carlile concert. Lyrically, world injustices are brought to the fore with personal urgency and dramatic flare; the album is sad and dark and heavy. But it will heal you too.

like returning to a place you love, where just the thought is comforting – a balm, a breather. The sound of a new day.

Chris Azzopardi is the editor of Q Syndicate, the international LGBT wire service. Reach him via his website at chrisazzopardi.com and on Twitter (@chrisazzopardi).

1. Kacey Musgraves, 'Golden Hour'

On "Golden Hour," Kacey Musgraves follows her own arrow again, thank you very



2. Brandi Carlile, 'By the Way, I Forgive You'

Veteran singer-songwriter Brandi Carlile came at us hard with the pen on "By the Way, I Forgive You." Not a word was wasted, and the Grammys took notice, nominating Carlile – the most nominated female artist

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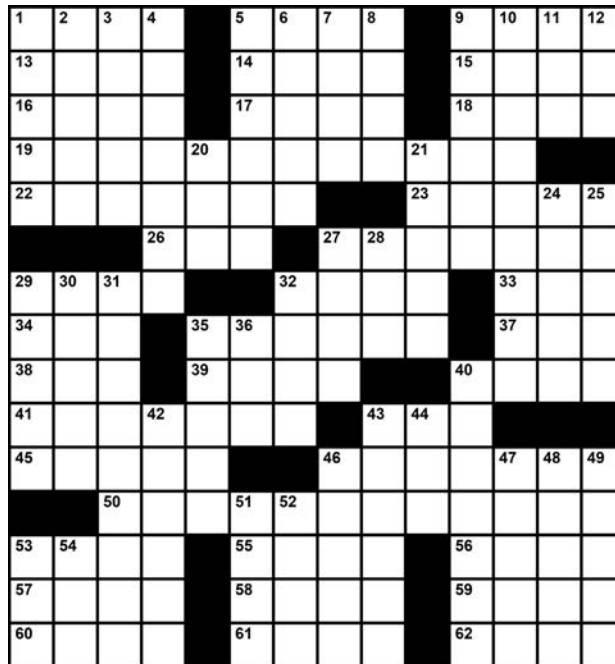


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Across

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- 5 Foe of Peter Pan
- 9 Like a top
- 13 On ___ with
- 14 Wet hole
- 15 Mauresmo's dividers
- 16 Gay-friendly Barrett

- 17 Witty Bombeck
- 18 Enjoy a hot tub
- 19 She plays Queen Anne in 50-Across
- 22 In need of some lube?
- 23 Words before "forgiven"
- 26 Dorm VIPs
- 27 One who doubts in the Divine Miss M?

- 29 Heartbreaker for a big, hairy male
- 32 Mishima's continent
- 33 Mop & ___
- 34 NATO turf
- 35 With 29-Down, she plays Lady Sarah in 50-Across
- 37 Solo of sci-fi
- 38 End of Debra's Mess?
- 39 Tops
- 40 "Look ___, I'm Sandra Dee"
- 41 Not like a breeder
- 43 "Just ___ thought"
- 45 Some defenses by Indiana Fever
- 46 Frilly, for instance
- 50 2018 historical period drama film with a love triangle of women
- 53 Artist Catherine
- 55 ___ impasse (stuck)
- 56 Be reminded of S&M, e.g.
- 57 Sup in style
- 58 Start of a Mozart title
- 59 "If ___ my druthers..."
- 60 Hand out some queens, maybe
- 61 911 respondents
- 62 Pride places

Down

- 1 Substitute for Nick Malgieri's "Chocolate"?
- 2 Ohno of Geert Blanchart's sport
- 3 Took to the police station
- 4 Balls
- 5 Says "'&%@#!"
- 6 TV series in which Guillermo Diaz played a nurse
- 7 Giggling Muppet
- 8 Airline to the land of the cut
- 9 Enticing words at Barney's
- 10 Broadway luminosity
- 11 "Is ___ boy or..."
- 12 Condescending cluck
- 20 Lupino of _Women's Prison_
- 21 Taj ___
- 24 Religion of Allah
- 25 Emma, who plays Abigail in 50-Across
- 27 Queens stadium name
- 28 Butch lesbian's fashion accessory
- 29 See 35-Across
- 30 Approach in a hurry
- 31 "Evita" setting
- 32 Teen outbreak
- 35 Erect
- 36 Internet trigram
- 40 Attack by spraying from above
- 42 Fix some kinky boots, e.g.
- 43 Handsome young man
- 44 Trifling amount
- 46 Shout used to stop seamen
- 47 Area of expertise
- 48 Hawke of "Hamlet"
- 49 Boy Scouts do good ones
- 51 It's hard to keep a straight one
- 52 Molecule part
- 53 Ann Bannon's " ___ Girl Out"
- 54 Often fruity dessert

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