

MICHIGAN'S LGBT NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1993



Hotter Than July
2019 Preview

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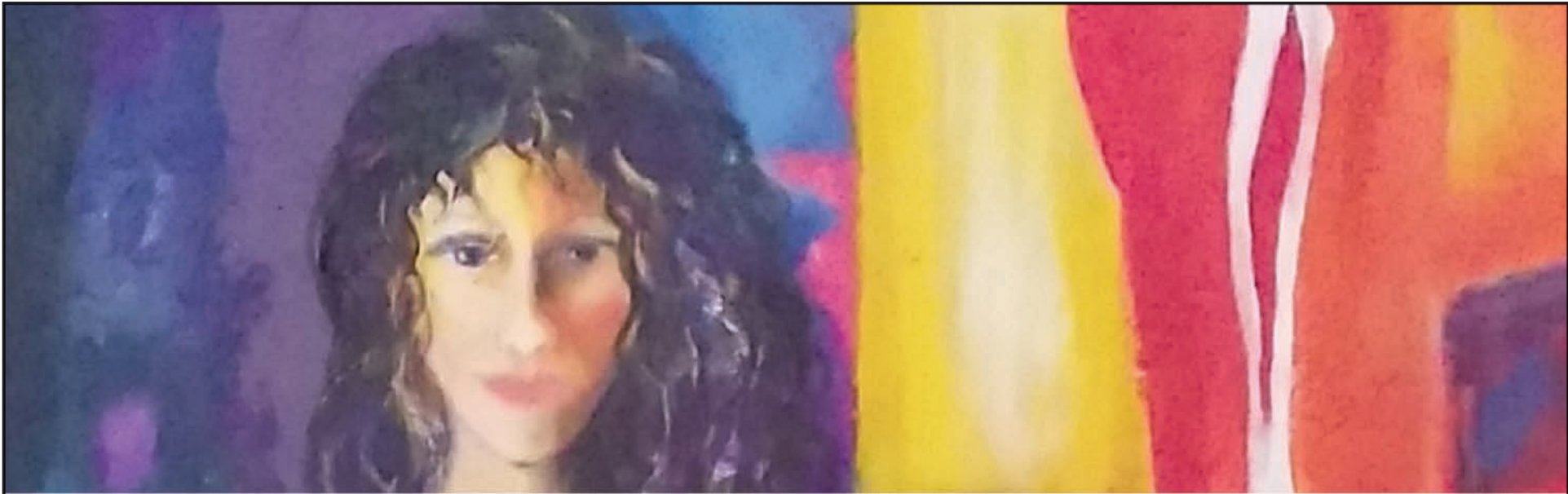
LGBT Activists to Take
Part in NAACP Panel
Discussion

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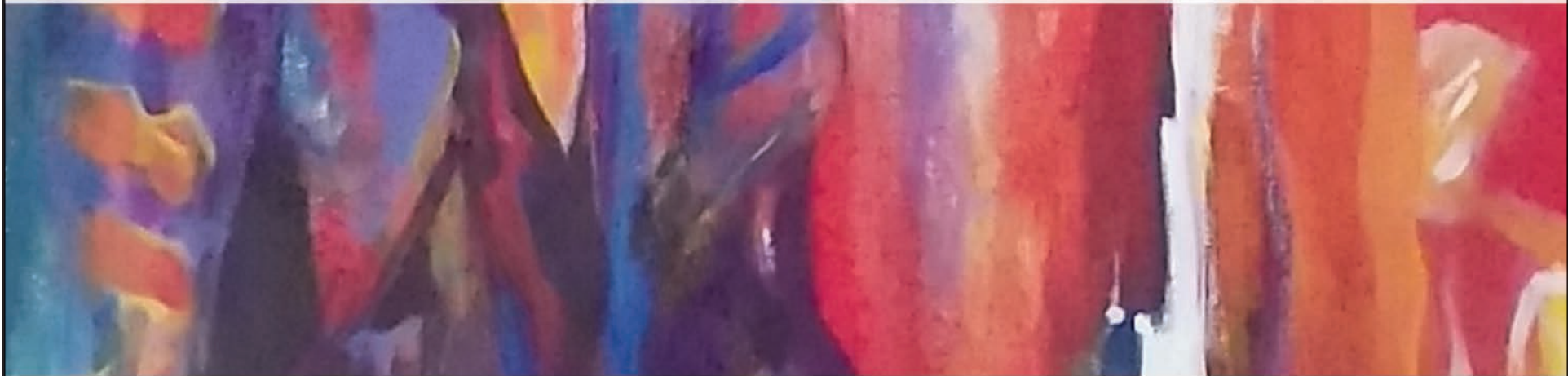


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Lee Burstein, Mixed Media

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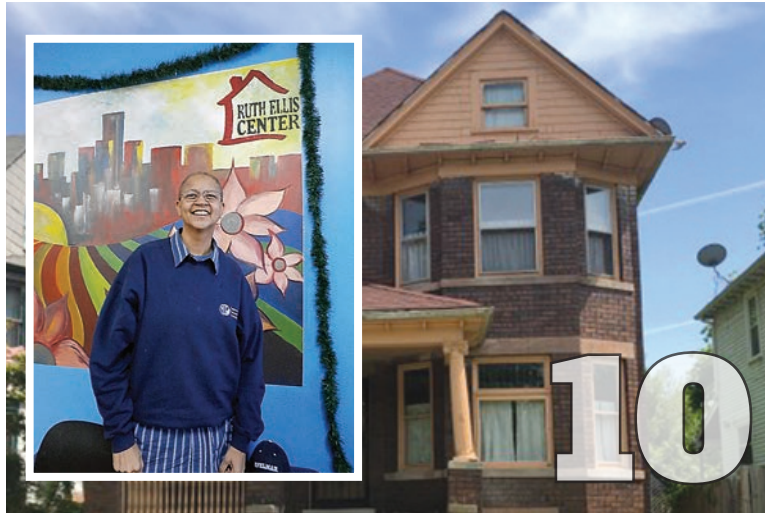
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22 Cover: Robyn Keeps You Guessing

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PRIDE SOURCE MEDIA GROUP

20222 Farmington Rd., Livonia, Michigan 48152
Phone 734.293.7200

PUBLISHERS

Susan Horowitz & Jan Stevenson

EDITORIAL

Editor in Chief

Susan Horowitz, 734.293.7200 x 102
susanhorowitz@pridesource.com

Entertainment Editor

Chris Azzopardi, 734.293.7200 x 106
chrisazzopardi@pridesource.com

News & Feature Editor

Eve Kucharski, 734.293.7200 x 105
eve@pridesource.com

News & Feature Writers

Michelle Brown, Ellen Knoppow, Jason A. Michael,
Drew Howard, Jonathan Thurston

CREATIVE

Webmaster & MIS Director

Kevin Bryant, kevinbryant@pridesource.com

Columnists

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

Cartoonists

Paul Berg

Contributing Photographers

Andrew Potter, Andrew Cohen, Roxanne Frith, Tih Penfil

ADVERTISING & SALES

Director of Sales

Jan Stevenson, 734.293.7200 x 101
jan@pridesource.com

Sales Representatives

Ann Cox, 734.293.7200 x 103
anncox@pridesource.com

National Advertising Representative

Rivendell Media, 212.242.6863

MEMBER OF

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



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THE '00S - 2009

May - Local Couples Flock to Gay Wedding Expo:

The first-ever gay wedding expo was held in Michigan aboard a three-tier luxury yacht at the Jefferson Beach Marina in St. Clair Shores. Dozens of couples enjoyed meeting over 40 gay-friendly businesses eager to work with couples of all kinds to plan their special days. The Same Love, Same Rights Expo was organized by Rainbow Wedding Network founder Marianne Puechl. Pictured: Bridie Johnson of Redford and Akita Stewart of Detroit attended the Same Love, Same Rights Expo on May 2, 2009



June - Taylor's Project in the Spotlight: Adam Taylor, the head and founder of Project Light, an organization dedicated to promoting mental health and reducing suicide among LGBT youth of Southwest Michigan, traveled to New York City to receive the Jed Foundation's 2009 Jerry Greenspan Student Voice of Mental Health Award. Taylor was the vice chair of the Michigan Democratic Party's LGBT and Allies Caucus.



July - Pride and Politics: During the 14th annual Hotter Than July picnic in Palmer Park, Detroit Mayor Dave Bing attended for the first time ever to celebrate black gay pride. "I met a lot of people today to learn from. I'd want them to know that I'm very open-minded and supportive of people, all people," he said. Bing said that he and his staff were discussing the possibility of reforming the city's LGBT advisory committee, which started during the Kwame Kilpatrick administration, but wasn't very active.

FLASHING BACK TO THE PAST:



August - Tel Aviv Shooting Victims Remembered in West Bloomfield Ceremony: Around 80 people from the local LGBT Jewish community in Michigan gathered at the Jewish Community Center in West Bloomfield on Aug. 10 to stand in solidarity with their gay brothers and sisters in Israel following the Aug. 1 shooting at a gay and lesbian youth center in Tel Aviv where two were killed and 11 others were injured.

October - Michiganders March in D.C.:

An estimated 150 marchers established a Michigan presence at the National Equality March in Washington, D.C. on Oct. 11, marching in support of both local and national LGBT rights. Many college students from all over the state traveled by tour bus from Ann Arbor. A group, SWISH (Straight Women in Support of Homos), held a poster-making party at The Atrium of Finn and Porter Restaurant prior to heading up Pennsylvania Avenue.



MI PUSH TO PASS ANTI-BULLYING LAWS

2001: The Triangle Foundation worked closely with State Rep. Buzz Thomas (D-Detroit) and other legislative leaders to introduce the first-ever bill to address bullying in public schools. In July, Michigan's State Board of Education passed an anti-bullying policy directive.

2002: Michigan House committee holds the only hearing on the bill. Matt Epling, an East Lansing eighth-grader, committed suicide after a hazing incident. His parents Kevin and Tammy began raising awareness about the attitudes and the culture surrounding bullying, hazing and harassment in schools.

2003: There is a re-introduction of anti-bullying legislation in the Michigan House and Senate known as Matt's Safe Schools Law. A Senate Republican told the Triangle Foundation that as long as gay kids are covered by the bill it will not move.

2005: Anti-bullying legislation is reintroduced by Sen. Buzz Thomas (D-Detroit) and State



Rep. Glenn Anderson (D-Westland). The bill gets a record 47 co-sponsors in the House. The Michigan Safe Schools Coalition formed with involvement from youth and national organizations.

2006: In January, Gov. Jennifer Granholm urges the passage of anti-bullying legislation in her State of the State Address. In March, Safe Schools Lobby Day is attended by more than 100 citizen lobbyists. By summertime, the State Board of Education voted unanimously to require school districts to pass inclusive anti-bullying

policies. The Safe Schools Coalition developed legislative strategy on pro-gay legislation, including the anti-bullying bill.

2007: In January, State Sen. Glenn Anderson (D-Westland) re-introduces Matt's Safe Schools Law. The bill was expanded to include bullying over the internet, either on school grounds or via a school-provided internet service.

2008: Sen. Alan Cropsey (R-Dewitt) says he will not allow anti-bullying legislation to pass the Michigan Senate. The Republican Senate was ready to move on the bill when Cropsey blocked it. From 2001 until early December 2008, supporters stress that the bill has to enumerate, or specify, the protected classes covered by legislation. Supporters of enumeration said that without it, the proposed legislation lacks teeth. Disagreements over language of the bill caused it to be rewritten and die several times in both the House of Representatives and the Senate.

2009: The Safe Schools Coalition is split apart amid a decision by some of the coalition's members to change course and begin supporting a version of the bill that does not specify LGBT students as being protected by the bill. Once again, Cropsey, the majority floor leader, refused to allow the Michigan Senate to

vote on the bill.

2010: Michigan remains just one of five states without an anti-bullying law. The Senate does not move on Matt's Safe Schools Law, continuing a stalemate that lasts for a decade.

2011: The state of Michigan finally passes anti-bullying legislation, but the bill comes under fire again while it was in the Senate when Republicans try to include an exemption for those who hold "sincerely held religious belief or moral conviction." Dubbed the "license to bully" bill, Republicans ultimately drop the amendment after significant backlash on a national level. The language included all students and prohibits bullying "without regard to its subject matter or motivating animus." The long-debated anti-bullying legislation was signed into law by Gov. Rick Snyder on Dec. 6, 2011, making Michigan the 48th state to have an anti-bullying law.



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2019 ADPOP AWARDS WINNERS

For excellence in advertising to the LGBTQ Community in *Between The Lines*
Present June 30 aboard the Portofino Yacht.



UNIVERSITY MUSICAL SOCIETY

For their production of the provocative and new work *Triptyche*, a multi-media production based on the work of famed photographer Robert Mapplethorpe. Composer Bryce Dresser, poet Essex Hemphill and Patti Smith explored the eroticism of an inspiration for Mapplethorpe's images. Accepted by Mallory Shea of UMS, pictured with her husband.



DR. PAUL BENSON AND BE WELL MEDICAL CENTER

Dr. Benson was one of the first medical doctors to focus on the AIDS epidemic in Detroit. He helped found the first Wellness Networks and Wellness House, and continues to serve people affected by HIV/AIDS with education outreach and medical care.



WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE AND DANCE

For their production of Tony Kushner's "Angels In America," winner of both a Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award. Accepted by WSU's Matthew Jared Lee.



TITO'S VODKA

Clever, Fun, Joyful and Irreverent – that's how I'd describe the Tito's campaign this year in BTL. Tito's is a leader among businesses reaching out to the LGBTQ community.



MATRIX-MAC HEALTH

For their outreach in BTL with images and ads to raise awareness of testing, case management, advocacy and education – all pillars of the fight against HIV/AIDS for decades. Accepted by Kathy Griffin and Royale Theus accepted the award.

Past Awardees

2018 ADPOP WINNERS

American Mattress, AT&T Michigan, Broadway In Detroit, The Fisher theater, created by Simons Michaelson Zieve, Diamond Castle Jewelers, Hagopian World of Rugs, MotorCity Casino Hotel and Sound Board, created by Campbell Ewald, Michigan Department of Health & Human Services, created by Brogan & Partners, MSU Federal Credit Union, University Musical Society

2018 LEGACY AWARD WINNERS

For advertising since the inception of BTL 25 years ago: Ameritax Plus, aut Bar and Common Language, The Ark, Gerry Banister, Realtor, Dr. Paul Benson and Be Well Medical Center, Hodges Subaru, Holiday Market, Joe Kort, PhD., Noir Leather, Lynn Stange, Realtor, Triangle Chiropractic, Trillium Real Estate, Ron Williamson, DDS

2017 ADPOP WINNERS

Abracadabra Jewelry/Gem Gallery, B. Ella Bridal, The Detroit Institute of Arts, Metals In time, The Fisher Theater for "Fun Home," created by Simons Michelson Zieve



Jerron Totten has been the project coordinator for Hotter Than July since April. He said he's excited for the week-long celebration and especially the Palmer Park Picnic.



Finally, the third new event will be a career fair at Saturday's picnic in Palmer Park.

That's the event Totten said he is most looking forward to.

"As it is HTJ's flagship event, we are always happy to see the over 10,000 people that attend," he said. "There's this strong communal feeling when you get that many people in this very specific demographic in one place."

The House Stage this year will feature DJ Tone, DJ Darryl G, DJ Tony Peoples, DJ Fred and Ms. Honey. The Main Soundstage will be hosted by Ramon and Dolly The Mayor with DJ Romeo. Featured on the Main Soundstage will be Fitness by Julie, Cierra Malone, J Jacobee, Deriko, Lambo, Nick Ferrari, Phresh Syndicate, Myles Simmons, B. Ward, Donald Lamb and Brandon Barz.

"While many aren't new to the HTJ Soundstage, some will be making their HTJ debut," Totten said. "We appreciate all of them for sharing their time and talents with us."

And for his efforts Totten has earned a great deal of appreciation himself. Longtime HTJ planning committee member Robert Tate commended Totten on his ability to put the event together.

"I think he's doing a really good job to have just stepped in and pulled off everything," Tate said. "We've been working pretty good together with no complaints. He's doing a really good job."

The complete Hotter Than July schedule is as follows:

Tuesday, July 23

Candlelight Vigil

6 p.m. to dusk

Admittance: Free

Merrill Plaisance Street and Woodward Avenue and Blue Spruce Memorial Tree, Palmer Park, Detroit

This vigil is the traditional opening ceremony for the Hotter Than July celebrations

Wednesday, July 24

Hotter Than July Mixer at Granite City Brewery

6 to 9 p.m.

Admittance: Free Admission, Cash Bar

Granite City Brewery, 100 Renaissance Center Suite 1101, Detroit

A new event, the Mixer will feature music by DJ Tony Peoples

Thursday, July 25

From Stonewall to Heaven: Dinner and Learning at Hotter Than July

7 to 10 p.m.

Admittance: \$5, limited to 30 RSVPs

The Marvin Lee Social Justice Center, 20021 Greenfield Road, Detroit

This event will feature a panel discussion looking at 50 years of LGBT activism.

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

He's the new project coordinator for Hotter Than July and he's making things happen; Jerron Totten is planning a big HTJ this year. He has also served as LGBT Detroit's legislative advocacy specialist and social outreach coordinator since April.

"I was initially introduced to LGBT Detroit two years ago when I was on a trip to assist a friend who ran for Detroit City Council," Totten said. "I immediately fell in love with the organization."

After falling in love, it wasn't long before Totten was coordinating Detroit's black gay Pride. However, he said it hasn't been without its difficulties. Specifically, in planning such a big event Totten said he has struggled to include community input from as many voices as possible — something that he says is vital.

"I think it's important to engage the community as much as possible when attempting to create such an event for the community to enjoy," he said.

Despite that struggle, however, Totten said that planning HTJ has ultimately been a

rewarding and enjoyable experience.

"It has been tedious at times as you have an entire community looking to you to deliver good, relevant programming," he said. "Overall, working with community members to make sure this year's HTJ goes well has been an experience that I wouldn't trade for anything."

New and different

This year, Totten said HTJ will feature three new events, about which he is very excited. On Wednesday, July 24, there will be a mixer at Granite City Brewery from 6 to 9 p.m.

"This was formerly the opening party and resource fair," Totten explained. "We wanted this to be an event where LGBT Detroit can engage with HTJ attendees and community members in a more relaxed and social environment."

"Additionally, we have added a sip and paint event which will feature a nude male model," Totten continued. "We are very excited about this new event and we're confident in its success."

The sip and paint event will be held on Sunday, July 28, at 6:30 p.m. at LGBT Detroit.



Cierra Malone



Deriko

Friday, July 26

Hotter Than July Annual Summit
9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Admittance: \$75
The Marvin Lee Social Justice Center, 20021 Greenfield Road, Detroit

It's had many names throughout the years, but this conference is a traditional part of the Hotter Than July celebration. This year, the event will look at the topic of building coalitions in LGBT communities of color and the future of gender.

Friday, July 26

Hotter Than July SWEAT Masquerade Party by DJ Tony Peoples
8 p.m. to Midnight
Admittance: \$15
The Marvin Lee Social Justice Center, 20021 Greenfield Road, Detroit

Saturday, July 27

Palmer Park Picnic
10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Admittance: Free
The flagship event of Hotter Than July, the picnic will feature a career fair, onsite HIV testing, two stages full of entertainment and much more.

Sunday, July 28

Worship Service
10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Admittance: Free
Tindal Recreational Center, 10301 West Seven Mile Road, Detroit

Sunday, July 28

Sunday Brunch
Noon to 3 p.m.
Admittance: \$25 and tickets must be purchased in advance.
The Charlevoix Gallery, 14505 Charlevoix St, Detroit

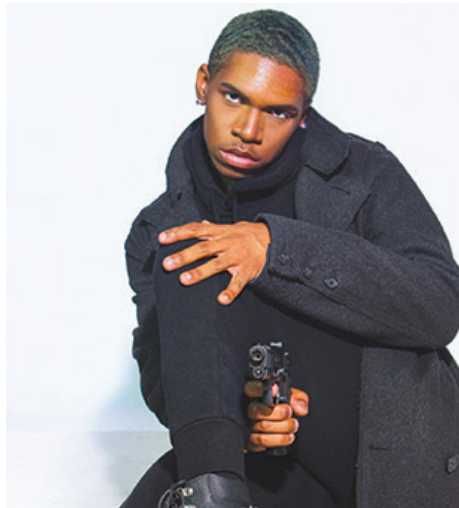
Sunday, July 28

Sip & Paint
6:30 p.m. to 10 p.m.
Admittance: \$35, which includes all painting materials and two glasses of wine
LGBT Detroit, 20021 Greenfield Road, Detroit
Another new event this year, it's sure to become a quick favorite.

For more information about the event, visit lgbtdetroit.org/hotterthanjuly.



DJ Romeo



J Jacobee



Dolly The Mayor

www.PrideSource.com



Ramon

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(bik-TAR-vee)

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

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

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- ▶ Go to BIKTARVY.com or call 1-800-GILEAD-5.
- ▶ If you need help paying for your medicine, visit BIKTARVY.com for program information.



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GILEAD



KOFI HOUSE: Ruth Ellis Center Unveils Plans for Lesbian-Specific Facility

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

Walking through any LGBTQ-friendly metropolitan area in the U.S. it's not hard to find a variety of gay bars. However, if one changes their destination to a lesbian-specific bar, the likelihood of seeking one out goes down drastically. So much so, that a 2017 Market Watch article cited New York, a city of roughly 8.5 million people, as having only one. The starkness of those odds was not lost on the Ruth Ellis Center's Director of Programs Pamela Alexander who said she's observed this exact trend in Detroit. And she said it extends beyond the bar scene, she's been feeling a lack of lesbian-inclusive spaces for roughly a decade now.

"At one time in our history in the gay community lesbians did have their places to go, whether it was through social networking, private organizations and so forth. And with Affirmations up the street, there were a lot of groups related to the lesbian community; socializing in bars and stuff like that was pretty much the norm," she said. "But over the last decade, that has dramatically changed. And so, there are less spaces available for lesbians and, of course, queer women and girls to gather."

To fight that loss, Alexander has been leading the charge over the past year for REC to expand its existing LGBTQ services to a branch dedicated to helping lesbian- and queer-identified women find a safe space to call their own. And as of June, REC officially approved a

strategic plan for an expanded space, scheduled its soft opening for fall 2019 and its full debut for 2020. Alexander filled BTL in about REC's expansion of services and why a space like this is necessary in Detroit.

Kofi House

Though its programs and services are still in development, two things that are certain are the building's location and its name. Just two miles from the existing Ruth Ellis Center, REC's expanded offerings will be in a house donated by Detroit LGBTQ activist John Kavanaugh and it will be called the Kofi House, bearing the name of Dr. Kofi Adoma. Known by some as Amorie Robinson, Adoma is a Detroit native, a licensed clinical psychologist, a founding member of REC and a staunch activist for Detroit's LGBTQ community.

"The idea of a facility that houses programming specifically for girls and women that are often marginalized in the LGBT community is not only unique but essential."

— Dr. Kofi Adoma

"Mr. Kavanaugh, who donated the house to our agency, wanted the house named after her. And so, what I feel will be a nice complement to that is to have this women's program to be located there," Alexander said. "And what we are looking to do in general is to make sure that young people have access to behavioral health and medical health services. In general, education will be a component, leadership development will be a component and certainly navigating around relationships."

Additionally, the center will have services centered around arts and entertainment, entrepreneurship and life skill building. Alexander made sure to emphasize, too, that the Kofi House will provide family services to young lesbian and queer moms without support — something that REC currently does not offer.

"We don't do that here, period. So, where would a group of lesbian moms connect? And



because we also have the family group decision-making program here, this will allow for our young moms who are having some challenges around parenting and so forth to connect with our family group decision-making program," Alexander said. "And I can see what will also be a benefit is having an inter-generational component, meaning having younger queer women and moms have that connection with the older generation ... allowing them to learn how to and to be open about sharing their own story. I'm hoping that will be part of it as well."

The Center's Namesake

Adoma herself is very supportive of the planned center, too. She said that when REC Executive Director Jerry Peterson first told her about the plans for the space and its name she was shocked.

"When Jerry told me the news, my head just started spinning; I was totally blown away. I was almost numb and speechless, I could barely believe that moment was happening," she said. "He told me that the house was donated by

John Kavanaugh, and I knew John Kavanaugh. Not personally, but through the community we've interacted before in the past, and he's someone that I look up to as a pioneer in the gay community."

Adoma realized then that she had been to the 135 Hazelwood address before in the mid-'90s when the local black LGBTQ community created an investment club that would meet at Kavanaugh's home.

"There's a part of me that wondered, 'Why did John want to name this after me?'" she said.

So, on his birthday Adoma paid Kavanaugh a visit.

"He applauded me for being a leader in the community and said that that was something he admired. We agreed that we didn't have to know each other well in order to have a mutual appreciation of each other and both of us, we realized, had so much in common," she said. "I would see him throughout the years, he would see me throughout the years, and he said that he would keep watching me and the things that I did and he had a lot of respect for my contributions to the founding of the Ruth Ellis Center."

Adoma said that Kavanaugh also told her that Ruth Ellis herself would have been glad of the activism she has done, which also contributed to the Kofi House bearing her name. Adoma added that she's glad that REC is expanding its services in a way that would stay true to Ellis.

"That just really touched my heart," she said. "I just felt so lifted up and at the same time, I needed to really honor him, too. Because he set a lot of groundwork for the Gay Liberation Movement here in Detroit and that's something that I know he will go down into history for; he's left a legacy."



Pamela Alexander

A Center Unlike Any Other

Adoma's expertise has also allowed her to be a contributor in part of the planning processes for the center. She said that before she learned of the upcoming facility she had never worked with another center quite like this one.

"No, not anywhere. I've been across the country and I know that in Chicago there's a group called Affinity and they have programs

that are specific to women ... but that's the closest that I've heard to such a program," she said. "It sounds like this is such a unique goal to have. The center has had a history over the past eight years of invisibility of cisgender girls and young women. I mean, every time I went to the center, and I would visit when I could, I would see plenty of my beautiful cisgender boys and young men and my beautiful trans girls and trans women, but rarely did I see cisgender lesbians and bi-attractional girls, or female-bodied pansexual or nonbinary girls for that matter, and I had wondered where they were."

Adoma said that she views the services that will be provided by the center as vital to the development of Detroit's lesbian- and queer-identified youth. In particular, because they don't often have strong positive role models to look up to. Adoma said she hopes the Kofi House will help change that narrative.

"Studies have shown that girls often get the short end of the stick when it comes to receiving positive attention. They tend to get overlooked even in classrooms and they suffer from a disability a lot of times and they face risks just like other youths do, but so many girls, and particularly girls of color, are being caught up in the school-to-prison pipeline," Adoma said. "The idea of a facility that houses programming specifically for girls and women that are often marginalized in the LGBT community is not only unique but essential."

And in order to make sure the Kofi House is a place that has a range of robust social service-oriented programming all the way to fun social events, Alexander said she's sought help from a variety of perspectives via an advisory committee.

"I am bringing together some really talented folks from the community that are either queer or lesbian who will help support this process through a community advisory committee," she said. "[We're] looking at some of the data related to girls and women, certainly some of the challenges around domestic violence and violence against women, period, and looking at some of the health factors related to this population."

That's an important part, too, because Alexander said that even to this day there are few statistics available that paint an accurate picture of what it's like to live life as a modern-day lesbian- or queer-identified woman.

"The fact that there's a limited number of spaces for lesbian and queer women, that factor may not change by creating this," Alexander said. "However, I think what it will do is encourage people to have conversations about data that they don't have around programming, that they don't have and looking at numbers — particularly around black girls. Of those, who end up in the juvenile justice system? And what percentage of them identify [as lesbian or queer]? And if they identify, what supports are in place?"

Alexander said those are the questions the Kofi House will help answer.

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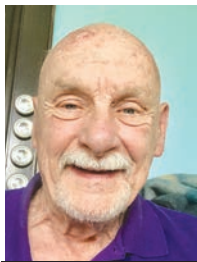
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Parting Glances

BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

Lost Language of S/he

This column first appeared in BTL June 5, 2014

As a post-pubescent teenager growing up on Detroit's Peterboro Street – just down the block from still-standing Burton Elementary School, recently turned movie and music theater venue – I spoke a made-up language called Quinish.

I have no idea why we who “spoke” it, I think that there were about three of us close buddies – one of whom I was more than aurally intimate with, that called it Quinish.

In a neighborhood somewhat streeety and just a little, watch-out! Rough and tumble. Our shared secret language acted as both bonding and buffer. All for one. One for each other. Call the Quinish Embassy! Ereh omesc rouble!

Maybe the Quinish title gave our conversation an international flavor and conferred upon us speakers a certain hoped for worldly sophistication (It was cheaper and faster than memorizing Berlitz Spanish body parts and cuss words. Cajones, notwithstanding.)

We speakers of Quinish were under the delusion that it kept our devious plans and caustic commentary about too noisy adults off-limits to them. And! Quinish was simplicity itself. Take the first letter of a word, put it at the end of that word, and speak the hybrid vowel-cruncher as fast as possible.

There were of course competing “secret” street languages. Pig Latin is one, and more than likely still in the intellectual acumen of most of my PG readers. There's also Carney Talk, a patois of sideshow barkers who needed to identify the proverbial, “There's a sucker born every minute.”

QUINISH: Et-guh hoos-wuh werekuh. PIG LATIN: Et-gay Oos-hay Were-quay. CARNEY TALK: Gee-as-sit Who-as-zits G-as-ay (Excuse my ineptness with Get-Who's-Gay requisite accents. My language skills are somewhat rustic, er, rusty with age and viable cocktail party or brunch usage opportunities.)

It pleases me to no end – six decades now since speaking historic Quinish – to hear occasionally spoken these days the Lost Language of S/he. For many of us old timers it is the language of gay/lesbian survival. The verbal tool for honing our Goddess-given, innate gaydar. Closet speak that often works.

(Do keep it in mind, that there actually was a time, mid-last-century, when one could coyly ask the question, “Are you gay?” And, believe it or not, get the frequent answer, “Yes! I'm happy aren't you?”) As for the Lost Language of S/he: it is, like Quinish, camouflage itself.

If you want to keep straights out of your personal, private, romantic or sexual business, simply change your pronouns, substituting she for he; or, vice versa, he for she, if you play golf, rugby or touch football.

Charles suffered a stroke on Memorial Day and is recovering at Henry Ford Village Rehab Center. He has begun to paint again and has gained much strength. Those who love him are all hoping for a near-full recovery in the coming months.



The Fight for LGBTQ Equality is Far From Over

BY SUSAN GRETTEMBERGER

Summer is finally getting here! That means Pride celebrations are well underway. Vacations are coming. It is time to just revel in being a member of the LGBTQ community. Time to kick back and just enjoy all the progress we've made, right? Not so fast... We have made considerable progress in being treated like people, but our rights are far from secure. We need to elect people who believe discrimination against others, for any reason, is just wrong and will fight for our rights. You are needed for that to happen. It takes all of us. Let me share a personal story to show you what I am talking about.

Twenty years ago, adopting my children meant going to the child welfare agency other gays were recommending as gay-friendly. That agency was in Detroit. It was not at all clear the hometown agencies in Lansing, all faith-based, would approve out lesbian parents. As a social worker, I knew the ropes but knew the risk of being turned down.

Over the years, it got easier, almost routine, for same-sex couples to adopt. Then gay marriage was legalized, and our community was home free on adoption! But, sadly, no. Not long afterward, a few Michigan faith-based agencies pushed our gerrymandered legislature into passing a law allowing them to reject people for religious reasons (read between the lines – LGBTQ parents) as long as they told them of other agencies. I and others testified against the law, but it passed because of who was in

the legislature voting. Here's where you come in. If it had been a different group of elected officials, it would not have passed.

Politics and legal things are slow and complicated, so here's the short version of what happened next:

1.) The ACLU brought a lawsuit against the law allowing faith-based adoption agencies to not work with us.

2.) Then we helped elect Dana Nessel, an out lesbian, as Michigan's attorney general and Gretchen Whitmer, a friend of our community, as governor.

3.) Nessel settled the lawsuit, telling the agencies they can't use Michigan taxpayers' money if they refuse to serve LGBTQ foster and adoptive parents.

4.) A lawsuit was immediately filed on behalf of the faith-based agencies, pushing back against Nessel's settlement. That is still being resolved.

So, there it is. We need different laws, which takes different elected officials. Your vote is your voice, so first, always vote. We have some great candidates running for office in Michigan including several LGBTQ candidates. They need help to win. They need your help. Help looks like one or more of these things: your money, even if it's just a little; your time working on the election starting as soon as you can; and, finally, your vote and encouragement of others to get out and vote for your candidates.

I've heard a lot of people ask, “Why bother? My little bit doesn't change anything.” But it does! Every little bit matters. Every dollar, every hour, every vote counts. Like adding drops of water to a bucket, voices to the cheering crowd at

a game or people on your side of the rope in a tug of war, at some point one more drop will push the water over the top of the bucket, one more voice will tip the balance over the sound of the opposing team or one more person on the rope pulls your team past the dividing line in the tug of war. In other words, every person's contribution adds up, and makes the final difference.

Gretchen Whitmer had 2,266,193 to Bill Schuette's 1,859,534. Someone had the 1,859,535th vote that put Whitmer past Schuette as she sought to be governor and every vote after that made the win stronger. But it took 1,859,535 people voting for her before she could pass Schuette for the win with that one vote. It took countless people volunteering thousands of hours and donating over \$12 Million. Each one mattered.

If you want elected officials who speak for you, do what you can to get them elected. At many Prides and other festivals this year, you will see materials for LGBTQ candidates and others who are allies. Look for the booth for the Michigan Democratic Party, which is supporting multiple LGBTQ candidates or the candidate booths. Sign up to help between now and November 2020. It may make all the difference.

Professionally, Susan Grettenberger is a social work professor at Central Michigan University. She is politically active because she believes our elected officials should be fighting for ALL of us and for the future of our planet. Susan volunteers as a Vice-chair of the MDP LGBT Caucus.

Which Stonewall? Whose Stonewall?

BY TIM RETZLOFF

“Ho Ho! Hey Hey! We won't pay to be gay!”

The chant, led by Vivian Thompson on a bullhorn and in unison with a couple dozen or so other protesters, announced the stance of Lansing People's Pride as they marched on June 17 through Old Town, home to this year's Michigan Pride celebration.

According to City Pulse, the gay, straight and trans group was demonstrating specifically against the \$10 donation/entry fee asked by the organizers of the Michigan Pride festival, and more generally against the event's ties to corporate sponsors and the U.S. police-state. They offered a non-commercial, countercultural and highly politicized alternative to the official festivities.

Fifty years after Stonewall, Lansing People's Pride captured much of the character and spirit of the original Stonewall uprising: youthful, diverse, angry yet campy, outcast, disruptive, with people who defied conventional gender expectations at the forefront, people we might now identify and who would likely now identify themselves as transgender.

In June 1969, patrons of the Stonewall Inn in Greenwich Village fought back against yet another routine police raid of a gay bar, triggering several nights of rioting and, subsequently, inspiring new queer organizing on a mass scale across the country.

Tens of millions recognize Stonewall each year as the milestone event that launched the modern LGBTQ movement. Or the gay rights movement. Or Gay Liberation. Depending on your perspective and politics.

Inside the fenced-in area of Michigan Pride, a large crowd, notably diverse, mingled from booth to booth along Turner Street amongst vendors and organizations that included a kid's activity tent, numerous booths hosted by local LGBTQ-friendly churches of various denominations, a table for the county Dems and a booth seeking recruits for the Michigan State Police.

The official event conveyed messages of arrival and acceptance, safety, some gender and sexual fluidity, and a larger mainstreaming of LGBTQ culture.

In contrast, Lansing People's Pride echoed a popular T-shirt phrase: Remember, Stonewall Was a Riot.

Indeed.

But what if we consider an alternate take? Remember, Stonewall Was a Bar.

As revealed in primary source texts in the new must-read “The Stonewall Riots: A Documentary History,” edited by Marc Stein, the Stonewall Inn was actually rather unsanitary, so much so that its unwashed glasses contributed to an epidemic of hepatitis among gay New Yorkers in the late 1960s.

“The Homosexual Handbook,” published the year of the uprising, describes the Stonewall Inn as a “haven of and for narcissists.” Other accounts take note of its go-go boys.

What are the implications of this? Was the bravery of the first night at least in part alcohol-

induced, albeit with liquor watered down by the Stonewall's Mafia owners? What if the Stonewall uprising was little more than a drunken outburst akin to the sofa torchings following a college sports championship?

I think not. Though, as a historian, I am trained to entertain different possible interpretations.

When we discuss Stonewall in my LGBTQ Studies course at Michigan State University, I expose my students to multiple, competing versions of the events of June 1969, with competing claims of who was there or who threw the first brick, with competing stakes.

We watch clips from Arthur Dong's 1995 documentary “OutRage '69,” a segment from the PBS show “In the Life” on Stormé DeLarverie and part of “Pay It No Mind” about Marsha P. Johnson.

We also view scenes from the 2010 film “Stonewall Uprising,” different witnesses and a divergent emphasis, including the perspective of Inspector Sidney Pine, who conducted the raid. Because people of color are largely absent from this account, some feel it whitewashes the narrative.

Who was there can matter a great deal to how and why we remember Stonewall. Whose origin story is it anyway? Cis white gay guys? Butch lesbians? Transgender people?

Beyond trying to figure out what actually happened, if that can ever be fully possible, perhaps a more important question is: Why is Stonewall significant? After all, other instances of resistance, such as the 1966 Compton Cafeteria Riots in San Francisco, preceded it.

The Stonewall uprising was on a significantly larger scale than previous uprisings.

Stonewall took place in the media capital of New York, so the press attention it received reached a wider audience than earlier clashes.

The volatile atmosphere of the late 1960s, from Black Power to SDS to women's liberation to growing opposition to the Vietnam War, provided the oxygen that fanned the flames.

Stonewall prompted the formation of Gay Liberation Front groups and other mass organizing across the country, including in Michigan.

And Stonewall was commemorated on its first anniversary not only in New York but also in Chicago and Los Angeles. In years that followed, other cities joined in, including Detroit in 1972.

In a sense, Stonewall was co-opted from the start. For half a century it has provided inspiration. It has achieved mythic status and continued to wield great cultural power.

As we embrace its mixed, messy legacy, we should strive to understand its multiple meanings and multiple descendants. They stood both inside and outside the fence in Lansing's Old Town this June.

Tim Retzloff teaches history and LGBTQ studies at Michigan State University. He is at work on his first book, Metro Gay, about lesbian and gay life and politics in Metro Detroit from 1945 to 1985.

Creep Of The Week

Donald Trump

BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

“I'm not going to the fucking White House.” Have more beautiful words ever been spoken by a world champion before? Megan Rapinoe of the U.S. Women's National Soccer Team said those words before her team won the World Cup. And now that they've won, she's not backing down.

“I stand by the comments that I made about not wanting to go to the White House with the exception of the expletive,” Rapinoe said at a press conference. “My mom will be really upset about that.”

Regardless, I am sure her mom is really fucking proud of her.

Rapinoe continued, “I would encourage my teammates to think hard about lending that platform or having that co-opted by an administration that doesn't feel the same way, that doesn't fight for the same things that we fight for.”

In other words, everything Trump touches turns to white supremacist mediocrity topped with a handful or two of misogyny. But the only reason Rapinoe and Team USA, after working so hard to show the world that they are an awesome positive force to be reckoned with, wouldn't want to be associated in any way with this odious man is because Rapinoe hates the U.S., obviously.

Did you know that she had the audacity to kneel during the National Anthem in solidarity with Colin Kaepernick in order to protest the brutality against and oppression of black people in the U.S.? And now that the league won't let her kneel she refuses to sing the National Anthem! “What an un-American thing to do,” cry people who have never represented America in the Olympics, or won a world championship for this country or done anything else for this country.

One of those people is named Donald Trump. He took to Twitter to vent about Rapinoe.

“Megan should never disrespect our Country, the White House, or our Flag, especially since so much has been done for her & the team,” Trump ranted. “Be proud of the Flag that you wear.”

“Be proud of the Flag” writes the man who faked having bone spurs to get out of serving in the military.

Of course, Rapinoe is proud of the U.S. but she's not proud of Trump.

“@mPinoe just stated that she is 'not going to the F...ing White House if we win.' Other than the NBA,” Trump wrote, “leagues and teams love coming to the White House.”

By “other than the NBA,” I'm assuming he's talking about how the Golden State Warriors went to visit President Obama, not Trump, after their 2018 championship win.

Trump's Twitter ramblings included a complaint that the NBA no longer uses the term “owners” and then asks that someone (not sure who) “please explain that I just got Criminal Justice Reform passed, Black unemployment is at the lowest level in our Country's history, and the poverty index is also best number EVER.” Apparently, he thinks that the reason that people think he's racist and/or people are protesting against racism is because they don't understand how Trump is basically a white one man NAACP.

In other words, Trump is saying, “Hey Black people, you have nothing to complain about. You should be thanking me.”

But black people and anyone who cares about black people (or anyone who doesn't identify as white) have nothing to thank him for unless it's a sarcastic, “Thanks for bringing concentration camps and crowds of Nazis with torches back.”

Trump wrote that he was “inviting the TEAM, win or lose.”

And as you know, they won. In response, Trump Tweeted, “Congratulations to the U.S. Women's Soccer Team on winning the World Cup! Great and exciting play. America is proud of you all!”

Mm-hmm.

As Twitter user Katy responded, “You gonna be eating cold Wendy's all by yourself.”

It's not an honor to meet the president if the president is not an honorable person. It would actually be a punishment to force this team of amazing women to be in the same room with a man who has been accused of sexual assault and rape by so many women that they could make up their own soccer team.

Sue Bird, a WNBA player on the Seattle Storm and Rapinoe's girlfriend, wrote an amazing piece for The Players' Tribune titled “So the President F*cking Hates My Girlfriend” in which she describes what it is like “to have the literal President of the literal United States (of literal America) go Full Adolescent Boy on your girlfriend.”

But Bird maintains perspective: “It's also really important not to forget what this is actually, first and foremost, about, you know? It's about a world-class athlete, operating at the absolute peak of her powers, on the absolute biggest stage there is. It's about an athlete f*cking killing it.”

Trump, alas, is also at the peak of his powers, and he is definitely using them for evil. He must be defeated. I think the Democratic field is pretty crowded, but I could get behind a Rapinoe-Bird ticket. Then again, they are kicking ass right where they are.

EQMI Announces 2019 Fall Reception

BY BTL STAFF

Equality Michigan is Michigan's statewide LGBTQ political advocacy organization that focuses on anti-violence and anti-discrimination work as well as providing support services for those who have been victimized due to their sexual orientation. EQMI will be hosting its annual Fall Reception, this year titled Mission Equality, on Friday, Sept. 13, with keynote speaker Attorney General Dana Nessel.

"We hope you'll join us for our 2019 Fall Reception 'Mission Equality,'" wrote event organizers. "Featuring an upscale Detroit venue with stunning views of the Riverfront and city skyline, delectable food and drinks, and awards for leaders in equality, this annual event brings together lawmakers, corporate leaders and community leaders to build the relationships that form the foundation of our political progress."

Ticket proceeds from the event will support the nonprofit half of EQMI as well as its Action Network that targets political causes.

Tickets start at \$175. To find out more about the event as well as its sponsorship opportunities visit equalitymi.org/missionequality.



Transcend the Binary Hosts Trans/Gender Diverse Camp

BY BTL STAFF

From July 28 through Aug. 2, campers ages 13 to 17 are invited to a welcoming transgender and gender non-conforming space to camp, do activities and connect with others at Trans/Gender Diverse Camp. The Camp is put on by Transcend the Binary – an organization created by and for transgender people dedicated to providing comprehensive health care.

"Create friendships that last a lifetime and build a community in a safe space! Experience a beautiful lakeside while enjoying boating, hiking, movie nights, art and games with new friends," said event organizers. "Our inclusive camp will also offers resources and help with things such as navigating relationships and self-empowerment."

The camp counselors present are community members who will also be working as peer advocates who can "offer personalized support." Any campers who need assistance with funding or transportation are invited to contact organizers during registration by visiting camptalahi.org.

LGBT Activists to Take Part in NAACP Panel Discussion

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

A panel discussion called The State of LGBTQ People of Color in America will be part of the 110th National NAACP Conference in Detroit this month. The panel discussion will take place Tuesday, July 23, at Cobo Hall and feature local activists Michelle Brown, LGBT Detroit Executive Director Curtis Lipscomb, Nicole Denson and attorney Robert Marchman from PLFAG.

"The NAACP LGBTQ national agenda focuses on establishing collaborative partnerships to ensure that all individuals are protected under the law irrespective of gender, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, religion and social classes to eliminate race-based discrimination," said The Rev. Karon Sadler, health programs manager for the NAACP and the organizer of

the discussion. "Through legal actions, legislative initiatives, public statements and national resolutions, the NAACP has demonstrated a growing commitment toward issues affecting the LGBTQ community."

In her job as health programs managers, Sadler is responsible for maintaining and strengthening the NAACP's commitment to HIV/AIDS as a high-priority and high-profile issue. In her tenure, she managed the development and co-authored "The Black Church and HIV: The Social Justice Imperative."

"Effective policy changes are dependent on active participation of all citizens," she said. "Without full inclusion, we acquire an outcome that is less than desirable communally. The LGBTQ community's voice rings loudly in the effective process to build and sustain systemic change

toward a stronger democracy. To ensure that the LGBTQ voice is captured as we advocate for civil and human rights, we will explore distinct priorities that include a strong yet diverse representation of the black LGBTQ population during this facilitated town hall."

Specific topics to be discussed include effective strategies for the LGBTQ activism, acceptance and inclusion, representation in the workplace, Congress and media, and the LGBTQ power in the area of voting rights.

The discussion will take place in Cobo Center room 321 from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. Following the discussion, there will be a reception honoring 10 years since the NAACP created the LGBT Taskforce. Find out more online at gaybe.am/67.

Sen. Moss Responds to SCOTUS Allowing One-Sided Maps to Remain

BY BTL STAFF

Sen. Jeremy Moss (D-Southfield) has issued the following statement regarding the U.S. Supreme Court's decision not to provide ruling or guidance on extreme partisan gerrymandering, and to allow one-sided maps to remain in place:

"Gerrymandering disrupts a functioning democracy. With the Supreme Court refusing to remedy political gerrymandering, it's my hope that



our independent commission will be a model for the country," he said. "I'm glad Michigan took the necessary steps before this disappointing decision, but I'm dismayed the Court abandoned its duty given its critical role in our system

of government.

"I've long been committed to ensuring

our government is of, by and for the people of Michigan and look forward to a transparent process of creating balanced maps play out through Michigan's Citizens Redistricting Commission," he continued.

As a state representative, Sen. Moss had previously introduced legislation during his two terms to create a nonpartisan commission to oversee the drawing of political boundaries. The application to be on Michigan's new 2020 Citizens Redistricting Commission will be available by the end of this year to draw new lines for 2022.

MDHHS Launches Statewide Lead Awareness Campaign

BY BTL STAFF

To help educate Michiganders about the sources of lead in and around their homes and how to protect their health, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services has launched a new statewide awareness campaign.

The goal of the campaign is to educate families about the possible sources of lead – including paint, dust, water and soil – and how to mitigate, reduce or eliminate those exposures. The campaign includes advertising on the web, social media and Pandora. A new website – Michigan.gov/MILeadSafe – has been developed to provide a one-stop-shop on lead, lead hazards and mitigation steps. It also has links to important community resources and information for families.

"Lead can be found in dust, soil, paint in older homes, in lead containing pipes and faucets," said Dr. Joneigh Khaldun, MDHHS chief medical executive and chief deputy director for health. "We want no child in Michigan to be exposed to lead, and this educational campaign is an important part of that effort."

The campaign kicks off following an announcement yesterday by Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, the Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy and MDHHS about the state's new Lead and Copper Rule and available resources.

Michigan adopted one of the nation's toughest lead rules for drinking water in 2018 that requires removal of lead service lines and lowers the action level over which public water supplies must take steps to reduce the corrosiveness of

the water they supply. Additionally, the rule imposes more stringent drinking water sampling requirements designed to provide municipalities with more accurate readings of potential lead exposure in communities.

For children and pregnant women, lead exposure is especially dangerous because it can impact a child's developing brain. It can also contribute to miscarriages and preterm birth.

Lead can be found in soil, chipping and peeling paint, drinking water if supplied by lead pipes, certain home remedies and is used in some hobbies and occupations. There is no safe level of lead in the blood.

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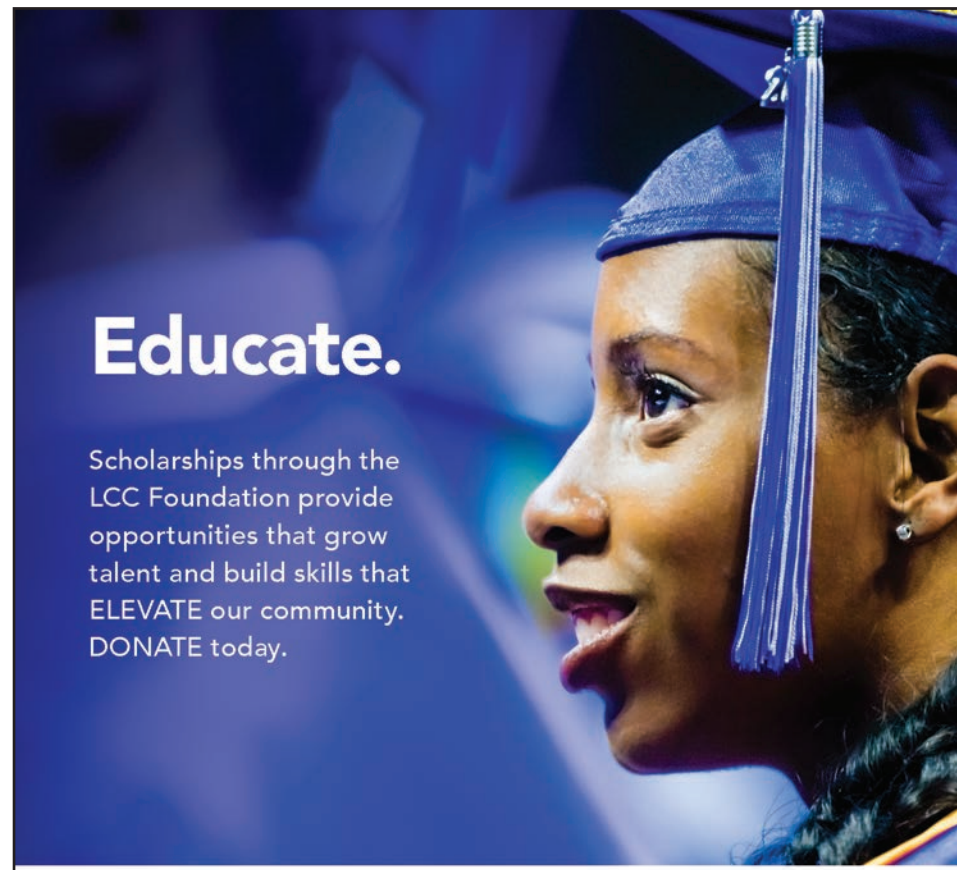
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Mehlman Leads GOP Brief Urging Supreme Court to Rule for LGBT Protections

BY CHRIS JOHNSON

Ken Mehlman, the former George W. Bush operative and Republican National Committee chair who came out as gay in 2010, is leading LGBT-supportive Republicans in urging conservative justices on the U.S. Supreme Court to rule in favor of LGBT workplace protections under current law.

In a 24-page legal brief first reported by Jeremy Peters of the New York Times, the Republicans take a conservative approach in asserting Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which bars sex discrimination in the workforce, also applies to cases anti-LGBT discrimination.

“When Title VII was enacted, Congress and the American public would not have expected it to protect sexual orientation and transgender status because those aspects of identity were not the subjects of significant political debate at the time,” the brief says. “Perhaps so, but it is not relevant. As this Court has repeatedly recognized, in Title VII cases as well as cases in other areas of the law, statutes often apply more broadly than their drafters anticipated, and extrinsic evidence of statutory ‘intent’ is irrelevant when the statute’s words are clear.”

The brief invokes the Supreme Court ruling



Former RNC Chair Ken Mehlman (Washington Blade file photo by Michael Key)

in the 1998 case of *Oncale v. Sundower Offshore Services*, which involved a male worker alleging a same-sex sexual harassment on the job. The decision, written by the late conservative U.S. Associate Justice Antonin Scalia, held the prohibition on sex discrimination under Title VII should be considered broadly.

Also invoked in the brief is the 1986 decision in *Meritor Savings Bank v. Vinson*, which for the first time held sexual harassment is an illegal form of sex discrimination.

“In the cases on review, the ultimate question is both simple and no different from the questions in *Meritor*, *Oncale*, or any other case applying the plain language of Title VII in the context of sex discrimination: Would the plaintiffs below have been treated differently by their employers were they of a different sex?” the brief says. “The answer, in each case, is ‘yes.’”

Signers of the brief in addition to Mehlman include Fred Karger, a gay 2012 Republican presidential candidate; Meg Whitman, Republican nominee for California governor in 2008; and gay former Republican congressional candidate Richard Tisei.

It’s not the first time Mehlman has led LGBT-supportive Republicans in calling on conservative justices to rule in favor of LGBT rights. The former RNC chair also led briefs urging the Supreme Court to strike down California’s Proposition 8 and bans on same-sex marriage throughout the country in 2015.

After taking a lead role in the Bush administration, which sought to ban same-sex marriage nationwide with a Federal Marriage Amendment, Mehlman had turned around, coming out as a gay and working to advance same-sex marriage.

Although former members of Congress, including Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen of Florida and former Sen. Alan Simpson of Wyoming

signed the brief, a conspicuous absence are any Republicans currently serving in the Congress.

Sen. Susan Collins (R-Maine) didn’t sign the brief, nor did any of the eight House Republicans who voted in favor of the Equality Act in May to ban anti-LGBT discrimination.

Meanwhile, a group of 151 congressional Democrats — 113 House members and 38 senators — have signed a legal brief insisting Title VII “makes clear” it affords LGBT protections.

The lead author of the brief is Roy Englert, a D.C.-based appellate lawyer at the Robbins, Russell, Englert, Orseck, Untereiner and Sauber.

The brief is made public as the Justice Department is expected to issue a filing this week representing the Trump administration’s position on whether Title VII covers LGBT workers. The Trump administration has previously held the view LGBT people aren’t protected under current law.

Englert told the Blade no attempt was made to get Trump’s signature of the Mehlman brief, but didn’t respond to follow-up email on why no current congressional Republicans signed.

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

Victory Fund Endorses Obama-Era Ambassador for US Senate

BY CHRIS JOHNSON

The LGBTQ Victory Fund, which has the exclusive purpose of backing LGBT candidates running for political office, has thrown its support behind a former U.S. ambassador who served during the Obama administration and is running to become the first openly gay man elected to the U.S. Senate.

Annis Parker, CEO of the Victory Fund, announced the endorsement of Baer Monday in a statement that recalled Jared Polis’s 2018 victory in Colorado as the first openly gay man elected governor.

“Coloradans led the country by electing America’s first openly gay governor in 2018 – and in 2020 they will make history again in sending the first out gay man to the U.S. Senate,” Parker said.

Baer is seeking the Democratic nomination to run for Senate in a field of candidates that includes former State Sen. Michael Johnston, former Navy sailor and Halliburton worker Keith Pottratz, former State Rep. Andrew Romanoff and former congressional candidate Stephany Spaulding.

The Democratic primary in Colorado is June 30, 2020. If Baer succeeds in obtaining the Democratic nomination, he’ll face off against Sen. Cory Gardner (R-Colo.), who’s considered

one of the most vulnerable Republicans in 2020.

The Victory Fund endorsement comes shortly after Baer reported a second-quarter fundraising haul of \$1.35 million, including \$1.1 million in total contributions. According to the Victory Fund, that’s the largest ever initial fundraising report for an openly LGBT congressional candidate not already in Congress.

Parker invoked both Baer’s fundraising numbers and Gardner, who has refused to support the Equality Act, in her statement announcing the Baer nomination.

“Never before has an openly LGBT Congressional candidate reported such strong initial fundraising numbers without the benefit of congressional incumbency – an important indicator, given LGBTQ candidates for high-level office are often underestimated early in their campaigns,” Parker said. “But Dan’s authentic and values-driven approach to politics is resonating with voters, and there is no better candidate to take on anti-LGBTQ incumbent Cory Gardner than a person so deeply affected by the discriminatory positions Gardner promotes.”

One of seven openly gay ambassadors in the Obama administration, Baer as U.S. ambassador to the Organization for Security & Cooperation in Europe was charged with



Gay U.S. ambassador Daniel Baeris running for U.S. Senate in Colorado. (Washington Blade file photo by Michael Key).

deescalating tensions in Europe during the Ukraine crisis in 2014.

Previously, Baer served as deputy assistant secretary for the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights & Labor under Hillary Clinton when

she was secretary of state. Baer worked on international LGBT issues, including the integration of LGBT human rights abuses in the State Department’s annual human rights report.

In addition to being the first openly gay man elected to the Senate, Baer would be the third openly LGBT person to serve in the U.S. Senate. The first was Sen. Tammy Baldwin (D-Wis.), the first out lesbian elected to the chamber, and the second was Kyrsten Sinema (D-Ariz.), the first out bisexual person in the Senate.

News of the Victory Fund’s endorsement of Baer comes shortly after the organization endorsed South Bend Mayor Pete Buttigieg in his bid for the Democratic nomination to become president.

Like Baer, Buttigieg announced good fundraising numbers for the second quarter, reporting a haul of nearly \$25 million. No other Democratic presidential candidate thus far has reported similar numbers.

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

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BY ANNA SACHSE

Whether your goal is a few simple substitutions or a more advanced overhaul, here are eight ways to go green on your big day.

Waste less paper

Simple – Use tree-free or recycled paper for everything from invites to programs to seating cards, says Danielle Venokur, founder and principle planner for dvGreen, a sustainable event design company in New York.

Advanced – “Revisit traditions with a modern eye to avoid paper altogether wherever it’s appropriate for your particular event,” Venokur said. This can mean anything from providing a single seating chart instead of multiple cards, to using email invites for events like the bachelor/ette parties, bridal showers or a casual rehearsal dinner.

Leave a smaller carbon footprint

Simple – “Choose a location that is central to the majority of your guests, so that less people have to fly to your event,” said Kate L. Harrison, author of “The Green Bride Guide: How to Plan an Earth-Friendly Wedding on Any Budget” (Sourcebooks, 2008), and founder/CEO of GreenBrideGuide.com. In addition, try to select a venue that is easily accessible by public transportation and works for both the ceremony and reception.

Advanced – Purchase carbon offsets for travel to your wedding, the big day itself and your honeymoon. Use a Carbon Calculator (find one on GreenBrideGuide.com) to determine your event’s footprint and buy equivalent offsets from Brighter Planet. “We also offer eco-friendly gift registries with free carbon-neutral shipping,” Harrison said.

Decorate sustainably

Simple – “Rentals, in general, are a great way to be more environmentally

conscious because you’re reusing,” Harrison said. Up the ante by renting linen from companies that use “green” dry cleaning and offer products made of eco-friendly materials, such as hemp silk.

Advanced – Capitalize on the season or a unique location to minimize extra décor, suggests Harrison. For example, a summer wedding that takes place in a garden will reduce the need for additional cut flowers, while a soiree held in a historic mansion can forgo extra electric lighting in favor of romantic candles or lanterns.

Use local, in-season florals

Simple – Venokur suggests only springing for in-season flowers that are grown locally. Also, consider blossoms that have a big impact with less quantity.

Advanced – “Think about the vessel, too,” Venokur said. Pass on products from China in favor of locally-made pottery or recycled glass. Or consider quirky non-floral centerpieces, like stacks of books and candles or buckets of fresh fruit that can double as a favor.

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17th Annual Orchard Lake Fine Art Show Features Gay Artist Don Tran

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

Whether it's an embracing couple, a seaside view or a crane mid-flight, seeing any of Don Tran's textile pieces from afar, it's hard to imagine the hand-embroidered silk isn't the work of brush strokes. Step closer, and only then will the thousands of individually placed silk strands show the meticulous nature of Tran's work — especially on the pieces as tall as 50 inches. And as captivating as his art can be, Tran is just one of 150 selected artists set to be featured at the 17th Annual Orchard Lake Fine Art Show held July 27 through 28.

Patty Narozny is the executive director of the juried show and the owner and operator of Hot Works, a fine art and fine craft show organization, which puts on the Orchard Lake event. She said that this show provides a great opportunity for artists of a variety of mediums, both in and out of Michigan, to not only showcase their work but get recognized for excellence in their fields.

"Every year is unique with the Orchard Lake Fine Art Show because we have a national outstanding reputation for high-quality juried fine arts and fine craft shows," Narozny said, adding that she attends each Hot Works show personally to meet all participants and see all submitted works. "We have an outside group of professionals and artists and owners of art organizations and the work is juried in based on originality, technique execution and booth appearance."

Those judges will award \$2,500 in prize money as well as other awards of recognition to the artists whose work stands out the most.

"[There are] 18 professional artists awards: one \$1,000; two awards of merit, \$500; five awards of excellence, \$100 each; and 10 non-monetary awards of distinction to recognize additional great artists who are in the show," Narozny said, including that the show provides a youth art competition as well.

She said that along with general recognition in Michigan, the show offers a national pull that draws in many artists from across and out of state to showcase their work. Tran, who is based out of St. Louis, is the "perfect example" of someone pulled to Michigan for that very reason, Narozny said. But he stands out in another way, too, as an openly gay man

"... Art is art, and it doesn't distinguish between race or age or whatever. There's no limits."

- Don Tran

who is carrying on a traditional Vietnamese embroidery style that has been passed down for generations among his family. Ahead of the Orchard Lake Fine Art Show BTL caught up with him to learn more about his work, his inspiration and his experience making his art.

About the Artist

Born in Vietnam, Tran comes from a long line of silk embroiderers and learned his skill

at 12 years old. Now 49, Tran said that he didn't always want to be an artist and that he even took a break to earn a master's degree in human resources in 2004. But even while he was working at a well-paid corporate job, something was nagging at him to return to the creative process.

So, eight years in, he quit and become an artist full time. And now, to even discerning eyes, it might be apt to call him a master of his craft as he produces works every day. Larger or

more complicated pieces, however, may take him months.

"The smaller pieces I create in a couple of days. If I say hourly, I would say 10 to 12 hours [per piece]," Tran said. "[In a year] I have two to four big pieces. This year, I just have [created] one design for 2019 so far, [it took me] eight months, 'Travelling Merchant in Cairo.'"

That piece is a tribute to the original done by Jean Leon Gerome in the 19th century and measures 32 inches by 27 inches. Along with traditional Vietnamese imagery, Tran said he's frequently inspired by classical painted works and sets about embroidering them in his own style.

"That is westernized a little bit so that I can fit my customers' desires in America," he said, noting that though he mostly sticks to tradition he sometimes tries something new.

"I designed my own skills and my own concepts about how I look at art and how I create that is based on what I like about nature and what my customers want from me. And so, there are two aspects there: traditional and following the desires of the customer," Tran said. "If you order me to do whatever, like your own face or [the] feet of your baby, [I can do] what design, what color you want — anything. Abstract or non-abstract I can do that."

Yet despite his proven ability to embroider practically any design, Tran said that sometimes he still finds himself butting up against a stigma surrounding his sexuality and the fact that embroidery is still by some considered to be "women's work."

"People in general, deep inside, they still think that this kind of work is for females, not for men. So, when they are at the booth they just assume that the artist would be a female and sometimes they're surprised. If they are professional or discreet they won't say anything, but sometimes people say, 'Oh, you're a man.' I used to take it personal because it happened so much but I don't anymore. [When they say,] 'I haven't seen a man do that,' I tell them, 'Well, now you've seen and opened your mind,'" he said with a laugh.

It's in part that positive attitude that has allowed Tran to be recognized across the country as one of the foremost artists in his craft. In fact, he said he enjoys sharing his work in places like the upcoming Orchard Lake Fine Art Show because it helps to highlight that despite anyone's preconceived notions, artistry shines through.

"When I'm creating the work [I don't put] my gender or sexual orientation into the work because art is art, and it doesn't distinguish between race or age or whatever," he said. "There's no limits."

Find out more about the upcoming Orchard Lake Fine Art Show online at hotworks.org.



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Photos: Heji Shin

Pop Icon on 'Pure Bond' with LGBTQ Fans, Doing Drag & Queer Culture Connections

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

If you're not a Robyn fan, you're not gay. Or so they say. I told Robyn about this POV from the gay Twitter collective when I called her direct on Skype recently – it was remarkably human of the pop goddess to answer, with no publicist listening in – and with a titter she said: “Well, that particular, uh, viewpoint is maybe a little extreme, in my mind.”

In non-Robyn minds, of course, that hyperbolic reach illustrates the electro dance queen's embedded place in queer culture, explicable underneath strobe lights inside a queer club where her shimmering dance-

pop anthems register as euphoric elation and communal catharsis.

Same goes for a Robyn concert, perhaps the closest thing to a gay nightclub that's not an actual gay nightclub.

Or on a New York City subway platform *after* a Robyn concert, which happened in March when a passel of devotees convened while waiting for the E train, exuberantly belting out “Dancing On My Own,” a diverse chorus of voices joined together by shared human emotions.

We, the misfits, move with her and are moved *by* her in the quiet solitude of our private sanctuaries (the bedroom) too, the lights down

low, hearts broken but not beyond healing – Robyn's music at its emotional, queer-relatable core.

“Ever Again” is the latest video release from “Honey,” her first solo full-length in eight years, and the album's low-key house and lounge vibes wittingly challenge those who thought they knew what a Robyn song *should* sound like (she gets off on turning her image and sound on their heads, she tells me). In the raw, evocative clip, the 40-year-old pop icon is dressed in a sheer, nipple-baring silk blouse and latex jumpsuit, both fashioned by Nicolas Ghesquière for Louis Vuitton; she sexes a mic stand, cutting loose in a sandy desert where

Greek statues tower over the Swedish fembot. When she raises the stand with profound ease after humping it on the ground, whipping it around and around through the air with propellant force, we are reminded of Robyn's status as a singular supernova still staking out her own slice of solitary sky in a galaxy of flashy pop stars.

You look at her, writhing, gyrating, moving in tandem with only herself as her guide, like a leader among us, and think: of course she is among the Gods. A true pop music heroine. In the decade since “Body Talk,” when the late-'90s artist reemerged a cult force in the aughts, the gay icon has culled a coalition of

underground outsiders and outcasts by cutting through pop-culture excess with the rarest of pop-star features: her desire to be human first, pop artist second.

She tells me she doesn't see herself like we see her – this, after I tell her how lucky I feel to be Skyping her (it's Robyn! On her own!), and how her music has served as a heartening salve for many, including myself. Our Robyn is not Robyn's Robyn, however, and so her demure response – “OK, great. I'm happy I can do that for you,” she said, in a voice that intoned a steady softness that made me wonder what Robyn sounds like when she's shouting – can be read as reluctantly appreciative (later, she tells me why).

The rest of my Skype conversation with Robyn was spent talking about why she thinks it's important artists understand the queer references they use in their work, the precise reason she's proud “Dancing On My Own” became a gay anthem, and how her current post-tomboy femininity is, for her, “almost like dragging.”

Has your relationship with the LGBTQ community always been such a natural fit?

Yeah, I'm sure. Whatever people connect to in my music, if it's there for them, then that is a natural connection. You know what I think? I wouldn't say that all LGBT and queer people are the same, so for me it's maybe a little awkward to assume that all people that are LGBTQ have the same views of what I do, but I can recognize myself in the LGBTQ community in the sense that I think they are people who question what being a human being is about because it has been naturally incorporated in being different or feeling different, or maybe not being conventional or living in a conventional way. I think questioning yourself or questioning the context you're in comes natural to this community, and for me that's something that I feel connected to or that I feel that I can understand. Maybe that's why there seems to be this strong, kind of pure bond between me and that part of my fan group.

How do you explain the relationship between the LGBTQ community and, more specifically, your music?

There's a tradition with the gay community gravitating to music that is melodic and melancholy, maybe in the same (song). You can hear it in ABBA, you can hear it in the tradition of British gay bands and gay artists that have always championed this way of singing about emotions, whether it's like Erasure, or even Queen. There's a tradition there within gay music culture that I always felt was something that I connected to.

You grew up with parents who owned a theater company. Was that your first exposure to the LGBTQ community?

Some of my parents' friends were gay and some of them were people I liked, but I don't know if I can say that I had an understanding of the gay community through my parents.

You've said that making your own space as a pop artist versus trend-grabbing has been at least somewhat a byproduct of being inspired by the queer community also having to create its own space. When did you first experience the queer community in that way?

My first experience of club culture was in New York in a club called Body & Soul, which was at this place called the Shelter in New York. I don't know if you could say it was a pure gay club because it was very mixed, but it was definitely a club that was authentic in the sense that it was really connected to the foundations of house music in New York, which was a pure gay culture. But I wouldn't say it was a part of gay culture that represents all gay people either.

Also, I think it's maybe important to just define “gay” or “LGBTQ” because there's so many different parts of it now, which is an amazing thing. You know, it's really beautiful how diverse it's been and become and also how broad it is now; it's part of the commercial pop culture in the world. But the part that I was brought into as a teenager was maybe something that I don't think you can say was a commercial part of the gay community but something that grew out of a gay community that was very underground and not so accepted.

When it comes to the commercialization of queerness in pop music, what are you seeing? Are more artists diving into queer culture in a way that wasn't happening when you launched your music career in the '90s?

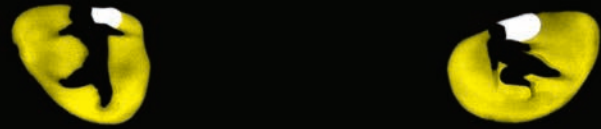
For me I don't think I am a protector of queer – well, maybe queer, but not gay values. I'm not the one who sets the agenda for how people should relate to gay culture; I think that's something that gay people have to do and kind of guard themselves. I don't feel like I have that right. But I was always inspired by club music, and the club culture is something that gay people crave. It wouldn't exist if there wasn't the gay community that started that whole movement in America in the '70s. And I think because of that, I have a responsibility to be aware of what the references are that I'm drawn to. But it's also queer culture in the sense that there's lots of artists who don't define themselves as gay artists but who are still making queer music, whether it's Kate Bush or Prince.

Is queerness in pop music political?

I think there's a political aspect to talking about gay communities – and there's also another aspect, which is just about the

See **Robyn**, continued on p. 24

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queer expression and what that means. But sometimes they overlap and sometimes it's really important to be political. I think it's always important to be aware of, whether it's gay culture or black culture or any minority, what it is that you are representing and where you draw your inspiration from. But then there's also another kind of space, which is held by a queer expression and which, I think, (goes) beyond your sexual orientation. It might be a way of just expressing yourself that is not part of the norm, so there's lots of different nuances in that.

You've said you get shy when fans express their love for you because you don't know if things are gonna get weird. What's the weirdest encounter you've had with a fan?

I don't remember. I don't keep track of those things, but I guess for me it's just maybe sometimes I don't feel that I – maybe I'm not just always comfortable with the attention, but that doesn't mean I'm not, like, happy that people enjoy my music. I'm just always really flattered when people come up to me and tell me what they feel. That's always a nice day, especially when people are nice. But I don't know. It's hard to give an example of weird fans.

What about the attention makes you uncomfortable?

I guess maybe I'm just a little bit uncomfortable with the idea of fame. I don't think it has to do, maybe, with fans; I just think sometimes I'm like a sensitive person (laughs), so I don't always feel like I recognize myself in the image that people have of me. I might have a different day, or I might be in a different kind of mood, or whatever; I just get a little awkward. But it's nothing too traumatic.

Aside from "Dancing On My Own," are there other songs of yours that have been interpreted, or even kind of claimed, by LGBTQ culture in ways you hadn't expected they would be?

I think with songs like that you never know what's gonna happen to them. It's almost like when you release a song, it's not yours anymore – it's up to the people who listen to it to decide what it means for them. And that's what I love about making music, or even performing live: that it's a conversation between me and the people who are listening. So I don't, maybe other people do, know what's gonna happen with a song.

With "Dancing On My Own," it was definitely like that – I had no idea it was going to take on these several different lives, being a part of "Girls," the TV series, and then becoming what you're saying: a song that meant a lot to the gay community, and in lots of different countries. That's one of the biggest compliments you can get as an artist,

“With ‘Dancing On My Own’ ... I had no idea it was going to take on these several different lives, being a part of “Girls,” the TV series, and then becoming what you’re saying: a song that meant a lot to the gay community, and in lots of different countries. That’s one of the biggest compliments you can get as an artist, because the gay community chooses their champions in a very special way.”

because the gay community chooses their champions in a very special way, and I think all subcultures do. For me, growing up with that kind of music, it's something I'm really proud about.

You've said that the sonic inspiration for "Baby Forgive Me," from "Honey," was Bruce Springsteen's "Streets of Philadelphia," a song that means a great deal to the LGBTQ community because of its use in "Philadelphia." Can you take me through the process of how Bruce's song led to "Baby Forgive Me"?

I think there were lots of different songs that inspired "Baby Forgive Me," but I know that I mentioned "Streets of Philadelphia" in an interview. That was definitely part of it, but there were other songs as well, like a George McCrae song called "Rock Your Baby," that I listened to. But also other disco and more modern songs like slower Balearic, like house music, that I also listened to so much. So that was a mix of very, very different things, and me and Mr. Tophat, who I made it with, were playing around with these chords in the studio. It was one of those songs that just came very intuitively and kind of in one go. We worked on it for a long time and refined it, and it went through lots of different stages. There was a point where it was almost like a slow acid track. To me, it's very inspired by disco and quite acoustic and more analog soul music, like the way it's written, but Mr. Tophat and Joseph Mount gave it this other more monotonous production that maybe sounds a little bit more like "Streets of Philadelphia" in a way.

Gay men still have a real thing for late '90s female pop: Are they the ones who still request that your '90s hit "Show Me Love" be part of your current tour repertoire?

I think it depends on where you look. In Sweden here, where I live, a lot of people that grew up with that song still see it as one of the more important songs of my repertoire (laughs). But yeah...

Do you still see it that way?

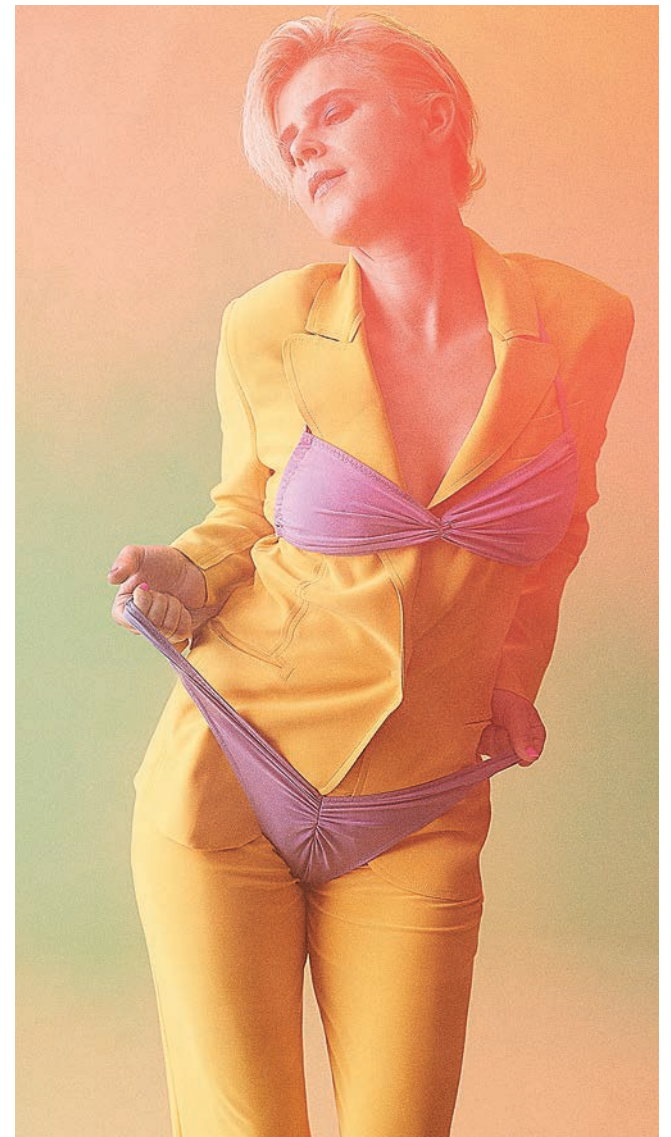
I do, yeah. I still play it live sometimes. It was a part of the setlist the last time I toured, so I'm not against it in any way.

You took an eight-year break before "Honey" was released last year. Will we have to wait as long for the next album?

Oh, I don't know if it will be another eight years – that would feel strange. There will be an album sooner or later, but I don't know when. I'm still touring, so I haven't been spending any time in the studio since the end of last year. I hope to at the end of this year, but I have no clue when I'll have music finished.

You once said you identify with the queer community when it comes to subverting gender expectations, and I noticed your gender presentation is currently softer and more feminine. Did you get sick of having to introduce yourself as, "Hi, I'm Robyn and I'm a girl"?

I haven't introduced myself that way in a very long time, but I think when I grew up, being androgynous was also a way of protecting myself and not being as vulnerable as a woman or as a girl. I was maybe at a stage when I made this album where I felt like it was time to let that go, even a bit. Not saying at all that androgyny is something you can't be vulnerable in, because I really think it's a lot of different things for a lot of different people. And I don't think that being androgynous is, as much as it was maybe when I was growing up, a protection, because everything with gender is kind of being re-examined at the moment. So maybe, for me, it was more drag going into a feminine role than it was being androgynous.



You felt more comfortable as a tomboy.

Exactly. So being more feminine is almost like dragging for me (laughs) – or exploring something in myself that maybe I wasn't as easy with.

Do you find power in how you choose to present gender?

For me, I think the power of it is being able to play with it and not having to decide what it is. And that it is just like everything else: Whether you have short hair or long hair or if you're shy or extroverted, these things change over time, and I think what's interesting is how you approach it from what *your* norm is, or how you're feeling, what is challenging to you – and maybe what's challenging to the people who think they know who you are.

As editor of Q Syndicate, the international LGBTQ wire service, Chris Azzopardi has interviewed a multitude of superstars, including Cher, Meryl Streep, Mariah Carey and Beyoncé. His work has also appeared in GQ, Vanity Fair and Billboard. Reach him via Twitter @chrisazzopardi.

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BACK TO THE CITY

Out Actor Murray Bartlett on Playing Mouse in 'Tales of the City'

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

As Michael "Mouse" Tolliver, "Looking" alum Murray Bartlett is the third actor to walk the queer utopian enclave at 28 Barbary Lane in Armistead Maupin's book-based "Tales of the City."

The role was originated by actor Marcus D'Amico, who first starred as Mouse, the gay confidante of adorably fizzy San Francisco-via-Ohio transplant Mary Ann Singleton (Laura Linney), in the series' debut on PBS in 1994. Paul Hopkins took over the part for "More Tales of the City," in 1998, and again in "Further Tales of the City," in 2001. Now, Bartlett, 48, portrays the "Tales" mainstay in Netflix's new revival of the perennial saga.

The openly gay Aussie actor recently talked about Mouse in modern times and acting alongside characters he's long cherished.

Having shot two LGBTQ-themed shows in San Francisco, how would you compare those experiences?

We shot some stuff in San Francisco for "Tales of the City," but (unlike "Looking") we weren't there most of the time. But the show has the spirit of San Francisco, so it was interesting; there's a real spirit to San Francisco that I connected to in the '90s. When I first went there, I really loved it, and on my first trip to San Francisco I watched the first season of "Tales of the City," and so my impressions of San Francisco are completely sort of inextricable from "Tales of the City" (laughs) and I projected "Tales of the City" onto San Francisco.

Was "Tales" on your mind while shooting HBO's "Looking" then?

Weirdly there was that thread for me working on "Looking" in San Francisco. We arrived to shoot the pilot of "Looking" in San Francisco on the night of my birthday and I rented this old stable house, which sounds kind of glamorous – it wasn't (laughs). But it was beautiful and it had a garden and we watched "Tales of the City," and then Armistead sort of became our godfather. We met up with him a couple of times and he was so lovely and generous with us. Even though I'm playing two gay men who live in San Francisco, there is quite significant differences in the characters, but the worlds of those shows are really kind of intertwined because San Francisco is so sort of bound to "Tales of the

City" in a lot of ways for me.

What did the original "Tales of the City" mean to you?

Particularly in the '90s there were very few queer characters in film and TV and a lot of them were tragic figures, so it was lovely to have these characters. I mean, they were tortured in some ways, but they were generally this wonderful family of people. It was great to have that kind of identification with real characters that weren't, like, about to die or going through some crazy stuff that we got used to with queer characters.

The show's approach to the cross-generational divide is something I appreciate, particularly during that tense dinner debate where Ben calls out a gay man for using the word "tranny" and, in turn, he's chastised for his young post-AIDS gay privilege. What about that scene struck you?

It's such a beautifully written episode. We had such an amazing team on the show and Andy (Parker), our writer for that episode, was just phenomenal. The thing that struck me about it is that it throws up both perspectives of a younger and an older generation and it doesn't allow you to take sides. You kind of agree and disagree with both, but they both have a point and I love that. It does a beautiful job of just showing the complexity of that sort of collision of those two perspectives, but it doesn't say this one is right or this one is wrong. It just shows the value of both.

To be a part of a show that once left a great impression on you, what was that experience like? What went through your head when you stepped on set and there's Olympia Dukakis as Anna Madrigal and there's Laura Linney as Mary Ann?

It was completely surreal and I felt that the moment I knew I had the job. It was very dreamlike, partly because I connected so strongly to the show and it and the books mean so much to me personally and I was involved in "Looking," which was very sort of interconnected because of "Tales" for me. Also amazing because I love those women as actors in pretty much everything that they've done, but I first came to them – well, I think I'd seen Olympia in "Moonstruck" before "Tales of the City," but I hadn't seen Laura

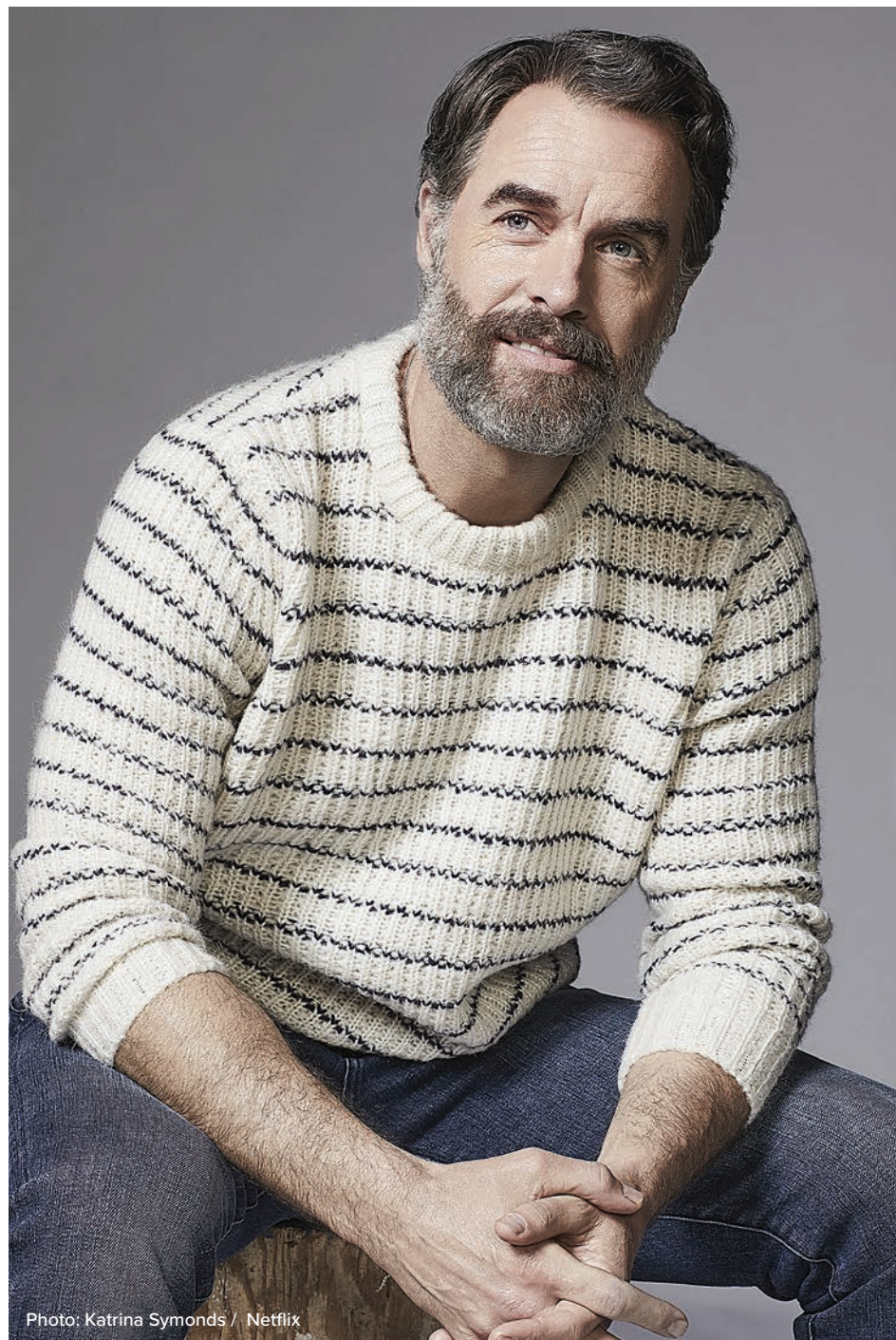


Photo: Katrina Symonds / Netflix

before "Tales of the City" and so I strongly associate them with those characters.

So I was nervous in my first few scenes with Laura, even though she was just very gracious and friendly. But then once we started the scene, I'm talking to Mary Ann! It's weird! Sort of no kind of acting required in a way (laughs) because she is this character for me. So it was very surreal and just a completely joyful experience. And Olympia, everything that she says just feels like she's this sage woman reaching down from the heavens giving you this pearl of wisdom. I just wanna cry every time she says something. So it was just an absolutely beautiful experience.

Was there more pressure on you knowing that Mouse had already been played by two other actors?

I didn't feel that. I don't know why I didn't feel that, but I think maybe because so much

time has gone by in between and so much has happened to Mouse since we last saw him in the TV shows. Decades have gone by, and he's gone through so much that I felt like he's got the essence of Mouse but he's almost a new character, as you kind of are after a couple of decades, particularly going through everything that he went through. He's still got that buoyancy and that boyish, man-child vibe, which I love. But he's gone through the depths, facing mortality, seen a lot of death. He's been through some deep shit. Really transformative stuff. So I felt like I could really approach it fresh. I didn't really think about it that much, to be honest.

You had a bit part alongside Sarah Jessica Parker in "Sex and the City" as her gay friend

See **Back to the City**, continued on p. 30

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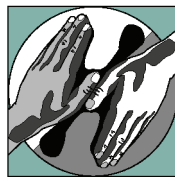
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Ann Arbor Pride Starts Aug. 3

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

Though Pride month may be winding down, Pride season has only just begun with dozens of Pride celebrations scheduled across the state this summer. Ann Arbor Pride is no exception, officially celebrating its 25th anniversary exactly 50 years after the Stonewall Riots. The annual event is hosted by and benefits the Jim Toy Community Center, an organization dedicated to serving Ann Arbor's LGBTQ community, and will begin on Saturday, Aug. 3. Joe Schock is co-director of the festival, and he said that this year will kick off like usual on Saturday with a party.

"We're still finalizing those details, [but] on Saturday is really where the festival is," he said. "[That's] where we'll have not only an entertainment stage with local entertainers as well as a national headliner, we'll also have a beer and wine tent and a kid zone as well. The kid zone will have a face-painter, a bounce house, a drag queen storytime — one of our favorites, we've received a really positive response for that in our community. And then, Sunday, we kind of wrap everything up with a community picnic."

This year's national headliner is

something of a milestone for the festival, too, as she's a drag queen — something Ann Arbor Pride has never done.

"Their name is Aja and they were on 'RuPaul's Drag Race,' but they also are an advocate in the genderqueer movement as well," Schock said, adding that this year the festival has a dedicated focus on inclusion of all groups within the LGBTQ community.

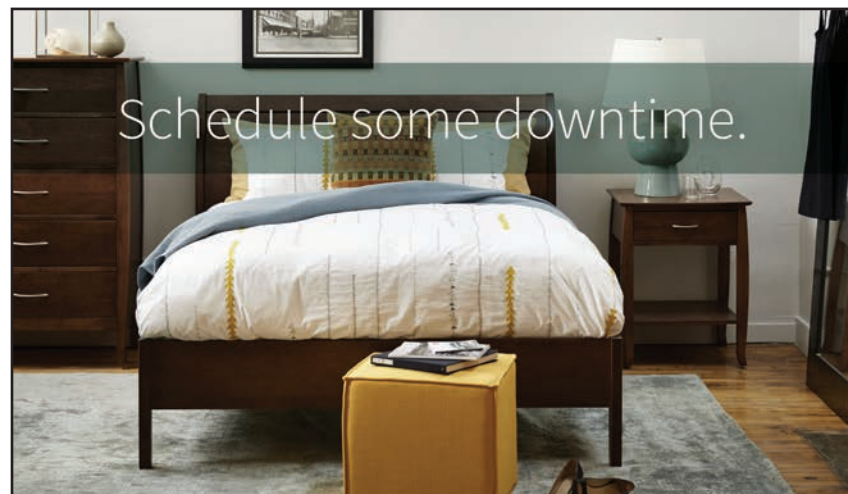
"Jadein Black is [a local drag queen and] the one who is organizing all of the local talent. One thing that I really like about Jadein's schedule is she does a really good job of really representing the community in diverse ways," Schock said. "So, this year we'll be bringing back yoga in the morning. We also have a variety of drag queens and kings, Killer Flamigos, we have some poetry readings as well and then we also have a queer burlesque group coming in, along with the OutLoud Chorus. So, what has really excited me is that Ann Arbor Pride has always had a really good representation of everybody in the community, not just the stereotypical



white male version of pride. We really wanted to make sure that we created an environment that mirrors Ann Arbor's environment and allows everybody to come in and feel comfortable."

Part of ensuring that comfortable feeling is ensuring that all can attend the event easily; that's why Schock said the event is free.

"It's nice to be able to see sponsors and vendors come in and also support the organizations and the group and help people find their communities hopefully post pride, so that this doesn't just become a one-time thing where the community gets together and celebrates," he said. "Hopefully, people can get together and engage in meaningful ways and find their community and their tribe outside of the first weekend of August."



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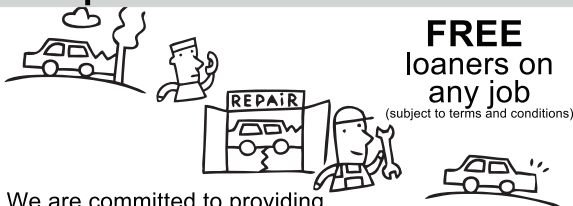
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Find puzzle on page 37

► Back to the City

Continued from p. 26

Oliver. Say you were to get Dom, Mouse and Oliver together for brunch – how do you envision that might go?

(Laughs) I think they'd *probably* get along. I feel like Oliver is a little more worldly, or likes to think of himself as more worldly, so he might find them a little provincial. I feel like Michael and Dom would get on well, but I feel like they're of a slightly different generation and I think Dom's life has been a little more sort of superficial than Mouse's has. I feel like Mouse has been forced to go really deep and face his demons and death and all that stuff, and I think Dom is starting to do that but he's still at the beginning of that. I think Dom would probably be slightly intimidated by that aspect of Mouse and Mouse would be like, "Yeah, I see you" (laughs). So I don't think any of them would be fast friends, but I think they'd get along.

Especially with bottomless mimosas.

Exactly. Loosen things up!

In the new "Tales," Mary Ann returns to

Barbary Lane with an infomercial product she once proudly hawked: Bloodies, which is essentially a hooded Snuggie. Did they let you keep your Bloodie?

(Laughs) We all got Bloodies as a wrap gift!

Are you wearing it right now?

No, I'm not. It's really funny, but it's one of those things where you're like, "Great. What the fuck am I gonna do with this now?" (Laughs) You can have it if you like.

You haven't worn it, I take it?

I mean, I've worn it just kind of, you know, to laugh at it (laughs), but not for real. I still have this amazing kind of Pendleton robe from "Looking" that I wear because it's so beautiful. I never wear robes but it's so gorgeous I have to wear it sometimes.

Do you keep in touch with the "Looking" cast?

Yeah! That was a total lovefest, that show. And we became great friends. And we're still really good friends, all of us. A bunch of us live in New York so we see each other regularly.

You had a famously sexy porn stache on

"Looking" and you have a beard on "Tales," and because it's not a Murray Bartlett interview without asking about your facial hair: Were there serious discussions about Mouse's facial hair for this new "Tales"?

(Laughs) I had a little beard when I auditioned, and I've got a lot of gray in my beard. I'm not that much younger than Mouse, but I'm a little bit younger, so we wanted him to look his age so it seemed that having it gray was helpful in that. I also think that beards are still a thing – maybe they're not anymore; I can't keep up! – (laughs) but you still see a lot of beards around, and it felt like something very kind of his generation. Also I think he has this boyish spirit but he likes to have this manliness to counteract his boyish, sometimes girlish, spirit.

And Mouse is basically a daddy now.

Totally. I think Ben in some ways has it more together, but Mouse does have that breath of experience that does sort of give him a sort of daddy vibe and daddy wisdom, but I think he's happy for Ben to take the wheel at times.

Read the full interview online at PrideSource.com.

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Happenings

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Sunday, July 14

LGBT Social Meet Up 6:30 p.m. Lgbt social meet up group is a group for all lgbt people who want to meet have light hearted discussions and social activities some activities , all is welcomed , we are on going every ongoing Hazel Park Community Center, 620 West Woodward Heights, Hazel Park. 248-632-8274. redbellysenegal90@gmail.com.

Monday, July 15

Rosanne Cash 7 p.m. Rosanne Cash and her band come to the Royal Oak Music Theatre for a tour stop. Royal Oak Music Theatre, 318 W. 4th Street, Royal Oak. 248-399-2980. royaloakmusictheatre.com.

LGBT Game Night 7 p.m. LGBT Game Night is an opportunity for all LGBT people and allies to come play a board game, drink coffee and socialize with other LGBT individuals. Java Hut, 165 W Nine Mile, Ferndale. 248-632-8274. redbellysenegal90@gmail.com.

Wednesday, July 17

Affirmations Senior Koffee Clatch! 2 p.m. A discussion and networking group for people 45 and older. Various discussion topics, social outings, and potlucks are held throughout the year. With age comes wisdom but, for LGBTQ seniors, loneliness can often come along An event every week that begins

at 2:00pm on [day], repeating until September 25 Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. goaffirmations.org.

Stand with Trans Support Groups – Livonia – Wayne County 7:30 p.m. Free to all, group meets the 3rd Wednesday of each month @ Emmanuel Lutheran Church. Parent Support Group Facilitators Karen Sessler, kssessle@yahoo.com or 734-673-3590 and Scott Sessler, pastorscott@emmanuel-livonia.org or 734-673-2485 Trans Youth Support Group (12+) Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 34567 7 Mile Road, Livonia. standwithtrans.org.

Thursday, July 18

Ann Arbor Art Fair This premier event, which features four fairs in one, hosts more than 1,000 juried artists in a wide range of media, including painting, drawing, glass, sculpture, mixed media, jewelry and more.

Friday, July 19

Battle Creek Pride 2019 – Pride Parade and Variety Show 7 p.m. Join us for a festive, fun, colorful, family friendly Pride Parade in downtown Battle Creek followed by a family friendly variety show at Wave Park brought to you by The Good Vibe Tribe.

Saturday, July 20

LGBT Community Chat 11 a.m. Saturday LGBT Chat is an on going social discussion group meets every week to discuss issues LGBT people face. Coming out , dating, and much more. Come join us every Saturday at 11 am. Java Hut Ferndale Michigan, 165 w 9 mile, Ferndale. 248-632-8274. redbellysenegal90@gmail.com.

Battle Creek Pride 2019 – Pride Festival 11 a.m. Come enjoy a day filled with food trucks, vendors, kids games, face painting and more including exceptional entertainment by the very talented Dacia Bridges Project, Allie Garland and Awesome Sauce, The Good Vibe Tribe and McCamy Park. 10 Washington Ave. North, Battle Creek. info@battlecreekpride.org.

Sunday, July 21

Stand with Trans Wyandotte Support Group for Trans Youth and Parents of Trans Individuals 5 p.m. There is no fee to attend the groups. This group meets the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month @ St. Stephens Episcopal Church. For Parent Support Group information, contact facilitator Kim Tooley, 734-747-4363. St. Stephens Episcopal Church, 2803 1st St., Wyandotte. 734-747-4363. standwithtrans.org.

Battle Creek Pride 2019 – Candlelight

Vigil 9 p.m. Help us as we honor those most vulnerable in our community, by joining us as we wrap up the weekend with an impassioned candlelight vigil to honor the Trans lives lost.

Tuesday, July 23

Hotter Than July 2019 – Candlelight Vigil 6 p.m. This candlelight vigil will serve as the opening ceremonies for Hotter Than July – Detroit Black Gay Pride 2019. It will take place near the Blue Spruce

Memorial Tree near the pond at Palmer Park. lgbtdetroit.org.

Strand with Trans Support Groups – Ann Arbor – Washtenaw 7:30 p.m. Trans Support Group meeting the 4th Tuesday of each month @ Journey of Faith Christian Church. Parent Support Group Facilitator – Yma Johnson, ymaj1968@gmail.com or 734-780-4092. Trans Youth Support Group Facilitator – Joy Cavanaugh, LPC An event every month that begins at 7:30pm on day Fourth of the month,

repeating until June 30, 2020 Journey of Faith Christian Church, 1900 Manchester Road, Ann Arbor. standwithtrans.org.

Wednesday, July 24

Hotter Than July 2019 – Mixer at Granite City Brewery 6 p.m. Hotter Than July – Detroit Black Gay Pride 2019 continues with a mixer at Granite City Brewery featuring music by DJ Tony Peoples Granite City Brewery, 100

Editor's Pick

Bash Fest at Trumbullplex

A benefit held for anti-racism and anti-facism, Bash Fest is a festival with an eight-band lineup featuring local acts like Pancho Villa's Skull, GIRL FIGHT and more. Find out more about the show online at the Trumbullplex Facebook page.



Editor's Pick



Hotter Than July

The annual Hotter Than July festival held July 23 through July 28 is put on by LGBT Detroit annually to celebrate the local black LGBTQ community. Events include a candlelight vigil, a summit, a mixer, musical acts and more. Find out about the week full of events online at lgbtdetroit.org.

Renaissance Center Suite 1101, Detroit. 313-309-9120. gcfb.com. lgbtdetroit.org.

Thursday, July 25

Toastmasters International SpeakOUT! LGBTQ Meeting 8 p.m. Professional & personal communication skills development. Jim Toy Community Center, 319 Braun Court, Ann Arbor. 734-995-9867. lawrencemoeb@gmail.com. speakout.toastmastersclubs.org.

Friday, July 26

Hotter Than July 2019 – Annual Summit 9 a.m. Hotter Than July – Detroit Black Gay Pride 2019's annual day-long conference takes place every year. Marvin Lee Social Justice Center, 20021 Greenfield Road, Detroit. lgbtdetroit.org/hotter-than-july.

Hotter Than July 2019 – SWEAT Masquerade Party by DJ Tony Peoples 8 p.m. Hotter Than July – Detroit Black Gay Pride 2019 continues with a dance party at the Marvin Lee Social Justice Center Marvin Lee Social Justice Center, 20021 Greenfield Road, Detroit. lgbtdetroit.org/hotter-than-july.

Saturday, July 27

Hotter Than July 2019 – Pride Picnic 10 a.m. The pinnacle event of Detroit's annual celebration is a family reunion that takes place in Palmer Park (at the intersections of West McNichols Road & Woodward Ave) Palmer Park. lgbtdetroit.org/hotter-than-july.

Thursday, August 1

Pride Night at Thunderbowl! 8 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.

Saturday, August 3

Ann Arbor Pride 2019 This 2-day festival, first in 1995, Ann Arbor Pride(OUTFest) celebrates lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer identities, community and allyship. All proceeds go to support the efforts of Jim Toy Community Center. Visit annarborpride.com.

Sunday, August 4

Stand with Trans 2018 Support Groups – Adrian-Lenawee County 6:30 p.m. FREE and OPEN to the community. For parents of transgender kids, this group meets the 1st Sunday of each month @ Hilltop Counseling 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.

Tuesday, August 6

Stand with Trans 2018 Support Groups – Lake Orion / Oakland County 7 p.m. FREE and OPEN to the community. For parents of transgender kids, this group meets the 1st Tuesday of each month @ St. Mary's In-the-Hills Episcopal Church. Parent Support Group Facilitated by Lisa Goyette, ally, activist. St. Mary's In The Hills Episcopal Church, 2512 Joslyn Court, Lake Orion. 248-391-0663. stmarysinthehills.org. standwithtrans.org.

Thursday, August 8

Stand with Trans 2018 Support Groups – Farmington Hills – Oakland County 8 p.m. All youth are welcome to attend this free group. This group meets the 2nd and

4th Thursday of the month at Orchard United Methodist Church. Oakland United Methodist Church, 30450 Farmington Road, Farmington. 248-626-3620. oaklandumc.org. standwithtrans.org.

Wednesday, August 14

Stand with Trans Youth Support Group – Flint – Genesee 7:30 p.m. Free to all, Trans Youth Support Group meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month @ Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Flint. 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. uuf Flint.org. standwithtrans.org.



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Slipstream Does ‘The Merry Wives of Miami’

BY BTL STAFF

Picture it: Miami. 1987. A successful television show ends after seven seasons to everyone’s chagrin. Dorothy, Blanche, Rose, and Sophia live on in all of our hearts as we watch reruns of “The Golden Girls” over a mound of cheesecake and a bottle of wine. But what if, through some strange bit of Hollywood magic, they were able to come back for a new season? And what if the first episode of that season included the girls doing Shakespeare’s “The Merry Wives of Windsor”? The gay gasps would be deafening. Good news, Slipstream Theatre Initiative reimagines Shakespeare’s comedy as just that – and invites you to a live filming of Season 8, episode 1: “The Golden Girls do Merry Wives!” now through Aug. 4.

The Merry Wives of Windsor is the story of Mistresses Page and Ford, two women of a certain age with more than a little wit and spunk. Mistress Ford has a terribly jealous husband who is sure he will catch his wife in an act of infidelity and sets out to prove himself right. Meanwhile, Sir John Falstaff, a rascal of a different sort, has devised a way to seduce both women and make some money in the process. A nosy neighbor and a much-sought-after daughter add to the frenzy and the result is madness and shenanigans as only the Bard could create.

Slipstream’s newly titled “The Merry Wives of Miami” features powerhouse Michigan actors Mandy Logsdon (as Betty White as Rose Nylund as Mistress Ford), Jan Cartwright (as Bea Arthur as Dorothy Zbornak as Mistress Page), Luna Alexander (as Rue McClanahan as Blanche Devereaux as Anne Page) and Linda Rabin Hammell (as Estelle Getty as Sophia Petrillo as Mistress Quickly). The rest of the cast includes Patrick O’Lear (as the scandalous buffoon John Falstaff), Ryan Ernst (as the jealous rascal John Falstaff), Jake Rydell (as the sex-starved French Doctor Caius), Alex “Cookie” Isenberg (as brother than thou suitor to Anne Page, Master Slender), Tiaja Sabrie (as the unfazed and incessantly chef-tastic Master Page) and Grace Trivax (as an in-over-her-head Floor Manager who has to take on various roles due to the Child Actors Union being on strike).

This production is directed by Bailey Boudreau with Alanna Elling serving as stage manager. Jackson Abohasira is the technical designer, and Tiaja Sabrie is the costume designer. Photography is by Jan Cartwright and graphic design is by Esbee Creative.

Tickets can be purchased at slipstreamti.com, by emailing Slipstreamti@Slipstreamti.com or calling 313-986-9156.

Review

Fall in Love With 'Crazy For You' at The Encore

BY KYM REINSTADLER

DEXTER – Everybody who's wistfully sighed, "They don't make musicals like they used to," should do themselves a favor and see Encore Musical Theatre's production of "Crazy For You." This recreation of George and Ira Gershwin's 1930 show "Girl Crazy" is a fun-filled 2 1/2-hour, laugh-a-minute song and dance extravaganza that kicks up so much positive energy that you'll almost feel like you're floating out of the theater.

The show has pretty-in-pink showgirls, rootin' tootin' cowboys who dance a lot better than they shoot, beautiful costumes, props that morph into dance partners, a field of cornball humor, and laugh-out-loud physical gags.

But the greatest strengths of this show are the music – 18 of the Gershwin brothers' most treasured songs – and the dancing, which includes some of the most inventive choreography you'll ever see. (No kidding. In the number "Slap That Bass," chorus girls become stringed instruments played by cowboys. In the stomping spectacular "I Got Rhythm," which ends the first act, pickaxes transform into swings for showgirls.)

"Crazy For You" was remade in the tradition of a classic Broadway musical with a large cast of singers, dancers and musicians. It won the Tony Award as Broadway's best musical in 1992.

The Encore Musical Theatre Company works from a much smaller stage, but the show still play big with director Dan Cooney's A-cast of 21 and music director

Tyler Driskill's pint-sized orchestra.

Matthew Brennan stars as Bobby Child, a showbiz wannabe who fate has miscast into a New York City banking family. The play is set during The Great Depression. Bobby's family's bank sends him to deadbeat town of Deadrock, Nevada, to foreclose on an old theater that's being used as post office for the few residents that remain after all the gold was panned out.

Soon after arriving, Bobby – who has a beautiful but bitchy fiancée back in New York – is smitten by the daughter of the theater owner (and the only girl in town), Polly Baker. The high-spirited and big-hearted Polly is wonderfully portrayed by Rachel Hafell, who does justice to two of the production's best-loved songs, "Someone to Watch Over Me" and "But Not For Me."

Because Polly knows that the bank is sending Bobby Child to foreclose on the property, Bobby disguises himself as Bela Zangler – the Florenz Ziegfeld-like New York impresario whom Polly idolizes – and convinces the townspeople to stage a show modeled after Zangler's Follies starring chorus-girl friends from New York and the denizens of Deadrock.

Of course, there are a mountain of snags and gags before we know whether Bobby's magical plan to save the theater and his romance with Polly will work.

Brennan dazzles as Bobby and Zangler. His dancing, singing and comedic timing are nothing short of superb. He delivers the Gershwin greats "They Can't Take That Away From Me" and "Nice Work if

INFO

Crazy For You

Through Aug. 11

Find out more online at theencoretheatre.org

of emotion. Brennan also did the show's wonderful choreography and serves as associate artistic director.

The memory of Brennan and Hafell's lovely singing and dancing to "Embraceable You" in the first act, and "Things Are Looking Up" in the second act, will long linger.

Supporting performances for this show are also strong, especially Patrick Wallace as saloon/hotel owner Lank Hawkins, who also has an eye for Polly, and Sarah B. Stevens as Irene Roth, Bobby's snooty socialite New York fiancée. When Irene vamps Hawkins while singing "Naughty Baby," it's a solid crowd-pleaser.

A few times the laughter from the audience was so loud that it drowned out caustic quips from soft-spoken actress Abby DeRosa (Patsy), but that's my only disappointment from this thoroughly enjoyable, well-executed show.

Don't miss it.

Visit EncoreMichigan.com for more theater reviews..

Preview: The Ringwald Does 'Debbie' to Debut July 12

BY ANNE KILEY

FERNDALE — Opening July 12 at The Ringwald Theatre is "Debbie Does Dallas: The Musical" that tells the famous rags-to-riches story.

Debbie Benton has been invited to try out for the Dallas Cowgirl Cheerleading squad. The only problem is that she has to pay for her fare to the tryouts. Being a girl of simple means, she enlists the aid of her friends to help her raise the money and together they will do *anything* to get Debbie to Dallas.

Conceived by Susan L. Schwartz, adapted by Erica Schmidt and with music and lyrics by Andrew Sherman, Tom Kitt and Jonathan Callicutt, "Debbie Does



"Dallas: The Musical" premiered at the New York Fringe Festival and has since been performed around the world.

The Ringwald production is directed by Brandy Joe Plambeck, with music direction by Jeremy St. Martin and choreography by Mike Suchyta. Phoenix Eldridge stage manages a cast that

includes Maggie Alger, Joe Bailey, Lily Belle Czartorski, Tess Hannah, Brenton Herwat, Kyle Mitchell Johnson, Brandy Joe Plambeck and Liz Schultz.

The design team features Mike Suchyta on set, Michelle Reeves does costumes and Brandy Joe Plambeck handles light and sound design.

Tickets can be purchased at TheRingwald.com or at the theatre, located at 22742 Woodward Ave. in downtown Ferndale. The Ringwald box office opens 45 minutes before performances and tickets can be purchased with cash or credit card. For more information, please call 248-545-5545.



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Deep Inside Hollywood

BY ROMEO SAN VICENTE

Jill Soloway teams up with 'Red Sonja'

You can probably thank "Wonder Woman" for the renewed interest in rebooting "Red Sonja," the 1985 Brigitte Nielsen/Arnold Schwarzenegger action flop-turned-cult-film. And now that Bryan Singer's involvement in the project has been terminated (or is that cancelled?) it was the perfect opportunity for Millennium Films to cast a vote of confidence in a female writer-director. This is, of course, what happened when they chose "Transparent" creator Jill Soloway as the person to run the show. There's no doubt there will be an aura of queer energy coming off of this production, so suddenly we're interested in yet another superhero movie. Casting will ramp up to find a woman to play Red Sonja – the comic book heroine of the 1970s whose stories have continued to this day – and though we have no idea who it should be, we will be on Twitter loudly complaining about any choice that isn't Beyonce or Gaga. That's how it works now.

'The Prom' dances over to Netflix

"The Prom," the adorable queer teen Broadway show that makes audiences cheer and cry, is coming to Netflix. It's about time, really: streaming theater makes a lot of sense for audiences who'll never get a chance to visit New York or be able to afford the steep ticket price of most shows, and for those who can it's a great lure to see it in person. The real reason this is happening, though, is because the Tony-nominated musical didn't win any, and without those to boost post-award-show box office, musicals tend to close unless they're, you know, "Beetlejuice." Therefore, on the show's final night, August 11, anyone with a Netflix account will get to see it before it begins its inevitable tour or medium-sized cities. Now, in case you're unaware, "The Prom" is about two high school girls in a small town who want to go to prom together as a couple, and their battle against bigotry involves a lot of singing and dancing. And now every small town Broadway diva will get a chance to enjoy it, too.

'Spinning Gold' from the Casablanca story

Freddie Mercury, Elton John, and... Neil Bogart? Sure, he might not be a household name, but he was a hit-maker on an epic scale in the 1970s, that's because Bogart ran Casablanca Records, where the roster of talent included Donna Summer, KISS, Parliament, Village People, The Isley Brothers and Gladys Knight, among many, many others. And like Elton and Freddie, the late mogul is getting a movie. Production begins July 16 in Canada on "Spinning Gold," a film written and directed by Timothy Scott Bogart, son of the disco-boss who died in 1982 of cancer at the too-young age of 39. Bogart says the film won't pull any punches on 70s excess, and



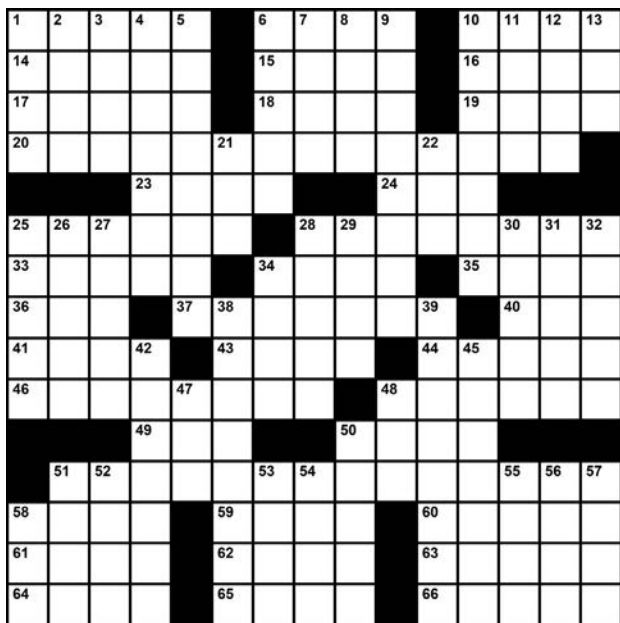
Jill Soloway. Photo: KathClick

there's already an impressive cast assembled: Samuel L. Jackson as George Clinton, Kenan Thompson as Motown's Berry Gordy, Jason Isaacs, Jason Derulo, Jay Pharoah, D.L. Hughley, singer Jazmine Sullivan, Neil Patrick Harris, Michelle Monaghan and Jeremy Jordan as Neil Bogart. At the moment, though, Donna Summer has yet to be cast. Now, some advice for the production, from very queer authorities on the matter: do not let anyone else sing for Summer, because no one can touch that greatness. Let them lip sync for their life.

Dee Rees: From 'Mudbound' to a musical

Dee Rees' next project will be "The Kyd's Exquisite Follies," a musical based on her own original script. It's kind of the perfect move, since her last feature, 2017's "Mudbound," earned four Academy Award nominations, and her earlier HBO biopic "Bessie" got her a couple of Emmy nominations. Why not be bold and go for it with a musical after all that? With music by Santigold, "Kyd's" concerns a young musician from a little town called Same Ol' Same Ol' who leaves in search of stardom in a sparkling place called It City. And in recent press Rees has described her favorite childhood musical as "The Wiz," so this over-the-rainbow vibe the sketchy story details conjures up must be intentional. We're expecting great things here because we've loved Rees' queer-centered stories since "Pariah," and because there can never be enough musicals. This has been scientifically proven.

Romeo San Vicente just belted out "Oh, What A Beautiful Morning" from "Oklahoma" and you would have loved it.



40 Not in the pink
 41 Muscle Mary stat
 43 Gershwin and Levin
 44 Word before "hol!"
 46 Shot back
 48 Scripture reading
 49 "South Park's" Big Gay, et al.
 50 Golden years org.
 51 She plays Anna Madrigal in the series
 58 Sons of, in Hebrew
 59 Make less difficult to bear
 60 Nuts
 61 Leather strap for a stallion
 62 "___ and the Detectives"
 63 Our, to Vivien
 64 Tolled
 65 Ms. Right-now
 66 R.E.M. follower?

Down

1 Ditch in some Flynn flicks
 2 Pac 10 school
 3 Lounge about
 4 They reproduce nonheterosexually
 5 Bit in the Windy City Times, e.g.
 6 Plays Sheehan's sport
 7 Not much
 8 ___ Hashana
 9 "Hook" role for Robin Williams
 10 Tee of "Cunt Coloring Book" fame
 11 Go off, on Broadway
 12 Say "She's just a friend" to a

jealous lover, e.g.
 13 Put a halt to
 21 Rene Auberjonois role
 22 Org. in many spy movies
 25 Linney, who plays Mary Ann in the series
 26 Buddy almost of "The Wizard of Oz"
 27 Intense sounds in the sack
 28 Holy war
 29 Israeli author Oz
 30 Disney's middle name
 31 Round of fire
 32 Page, who plays Shawna in the series
 34 Old strings
 38 Earhart's velocity
 39 Male organs, in slang
 42 Like Palm Beach palms in the wind
 45 Kahlo's tongue
 47 One with limbs spread wide
 48 Batting instructor Charlie
 50 "Hello" singer
 51 Ready to go in
 52 Reposed
 53 Isherwood's "___ Camera"
 54 Words before "were"
 55 Shakespeare's shrew
 56 About, in memos
 57 Penetrate slowly
 58 Cold response

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Across

1 Disney film set in China
 6 Robin Williams title role
 10 Sign over
 14 Carol's opening
 15 Penetrating reed
 16 Yoked beasts
 17 Bear
 18 Santa's got a long one
 19 Lemon zest source
 20 Armistead Maupin series now

featured on Netflix
 23 Auction actions
 24 ___ Tin Tin
 25 Flowing, for Bernstein
 28 Like a Samurai
 33 Put down
 34 Vegetable soup bean
 35 Airline to the land of the cut
 36 "Enterprise" initials
 37 She plays Margot Park in the series

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11AM-7PM
Walk-In

THURSDAY

Matrix MAC Health
FERNDALE
9AM-4:30PM
Walk-In

FRIDAY

Matrix MAC Health
FERNDALE
9AM-5PM
Walk-In
STD Testing ONLY
Gonorrhea, Syphilis, Chlamydia, Hep C

SATURDAY

Mpowerment Detroit
MIDTOWN
3rd Saturday of each month
11AM-2PM
Walk-In

NO
SUNDAY
TESTING

Call 1.888.226.6366 to make an appointment or for information.

1 (888) A CONDOM



MATRIX MAC HEALTH IS A PROGRAM OF MATRIX HUMAN SERVICES. LEARN MORE. GIVE. VOLUNTEER. DISCOVER MATRIX AT MatrixHumanServices.org

Your Best Choice in Healthcare For All the Right Reasons

Dr. Paul Benson's

Be Well
Medical Center

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



Most Experienced and Knowledgeable

Established in 1980 as the first Primary Care Medical Clinic in the Detroit area specializing in our LGBTQ community.

Board Certified in Family Practice & Designated Patient-Centered Medical Home

by Blue Cross Blue Shield as a Center of Excellence.

We're a Recipient of the Peter M. Fox Excellence in HIV Credentialing Award from the American Academy of HIV Medicine. Also, Dr. Benson was one of the first physicians credentialed and has maintained the AAHIV-S specialist designation since.

Certified Clinical Research Professional by the Society of Clinical Research Associates. A Principle Investigator in Clinical Trials since 1989 providing early access to life-saving HIV Medications.

Extensive Network of Sensitive Specialists

with an ongoing relationship to refer as necessary.

Dr. Benson is an Associate Professor at Michigan State University providing training to our next generation of physicians.

He leads our team of professional and talented Providers:

There is a difference. We're a patient-friendly Private Practice small enough to individualize care by a staff that knows you and large enough to manage all of your Primary Care Needs.

- HIV Prevention (PrEP), Post Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP), STI testing & treatment
- Hormone Affirming Therapy for HIV positive and negative transgender individuals
- Evening Clinic Hours Monday-Thursday, most Saturdays, and Same Day Appointments
- Full-time Patient Navigator/Advocate Social Worker on site
- Most Insurances accepted
- Ryan White Provider
- Medcart Pharmacy on Premises
- Group Medical Appointments (available soon!)
- Tele-Medical Visits (available soon!)



Caleb Youngblood, PA-C, AAHIV-S



Mark Rosen, PA-C



Leon Bullough, NP-F



Keyuna Nance, MSW

Tito's Lemonade & Tea

1½ oz Tito's Handmade
Vodka
3 oz lemonade
3 oz iced tea
5 raspberries, optional

Just add Tito's
Handmade Vodka,
lemonade, and tea to
a collins glass over ice.
Stir and garnish with a
lemon slice.

Pro-Tip: Muddle in a few
raspberries or try your
favorite summer berry!

Tito's
AWARD WINNING
DISTILLED 6 TIMES
Handmade
VODKA
Crafted in an Old Fashioned Pot Still
by America's Original Microdistillery
AUSTIN ★ TEXAS
DISTILLED & BOTTLED BY FIFTH GENERATION, INC. AUSTIN, TX. 40% ALC/VOL.

AMERICA'S ORIGINAL CRAFT VODKA®

★ TitosVodka.com ★ Crafted to be savored responsibly. DISTILLED & BOTTLED BY FIFTH GENERATION, INC. 40% ALC/VOL. © 2019 TITO'S HANDMADE VODKA.

Tito's

Handmade
VODKA
AUSTIN ★ TEXAS