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MDP Hosts LGBTQ Issues Forum, Focuses on 2020 Elections

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NAACP Convention Hosts LGBTQ Town Hall, Passes 3 Pro-LGBTQ Resolutions

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CORRECTION: JULY 25, 2019

An article in the print editions of Between The Lines about the Black Bear Brotherhood mistakenly referred to BBB board member Chris Sutton as Chris Grafton. The online versions of this article have been changed to reflect the correct last name.

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GILEAD

National, Local Democratic LGBTQ and Allied Leaders Convene at Detroit Forum

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

As the nation's eyes fell on Detroit last week for the Democratic presidential primary debates, Democratic LGBTQ leadership took advantage of the increased attention on the city to congregate and discuss some of the key issues facing LGBTQ Americans in the U.S. in a forum at Dessert Oasis Coffee Roasters. Those in attendance included Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel, Human Rights Campaign Senior Vice President for Policy and Political Affairs JoDee Winterhof, LGBT Detroit Executive Director Curtis Lipscomb among others.

The National Stage

Democratic National Committee LGBTQ Engagement Director Ted Jackson kicked the event off with a few words about the importance of the meeting.

"Very briefly, the LGBT Caucus is one of the more important caucuses as you can imagine. At the DNC we raise a lot of money, but we also expect our issues to be addressed," he said. "... If you look at 2016 ... we made some very important benchmarks and we're looking to increase those benchmarks. So we went from 2012 and 2016, 7.9 percent of the delegates being LGBT to 11.5 percent. We increased from 550 to 600 delegates. And that's amazing, because we have fewer delegates in '16 than in '12. And most importantly, we doubled the amount of transgender delegates from 14 to 28 and we want to double that once again."

Before introducing the Democratic National Committee CEO Seema Nanda, Jackson went on to emphasize that the current LGBTQ platform adopted by the Democratic party was the most affirming one in the nation's history, but that there was still much work to be done. Nanda agreed, pledging the Democratic Party's support for the LGBTQ community and pressed on the point that the 2020 election is "the most important election of our lifetime."

"And we have everything at stake in this election. We have our environment at stake, education, jobs, our democracy is at stake, is on the line. And yes, our civil rights are at stake in this election," Nanda said.

She further cited examples of the Trump Administration's anti-LGBTQ actions like opposition to the Equality Act, banning transgender service in the military, repealing an Obama-era rule to protect federal contractors on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity and more. Nanda called attention to the fact that the Democratic Party is organizing earlier in the election process than ever before



From left to right: Human Rights Campaign Senior Vice President for Policy and Political Affairs JoDee Winterhof, Democratic National Committee LGBTQ Engagement Director Ted Jackson, Attorney General Dana Nessel and Activist Nicole Kqueen Denson. BTL Photo: Eve Kucharski

and intentionally so.

"We are laying infrastructure. I am so proud of our Organizing Corps 2020 program," she said. "We have 300 paid organizers this summer on the ground in seven battleground states. Forty-five right here in Michigan organizing every day, 77 percent diverse, nearly 100 percent local, paid \$15 an hour and 26 percent identify as LGBTQ. That is the Democratic Party and that is what I mean by infrastructure and organizing growing."

Nanda finished her remarks by emphasizing that the goal of the DNC was to rebuild trust and focus on transparency in this election cycle.

Focusing on Michigan

Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel was the first of the Michigan-based speakers. Like Nanda, she pointed to the anti-LGBTQ actions of the Trump administration but also to the legal victories against some of the actions

that have been won by her and the 26 other Democratic AGs across the U.S. Commenting on the general public's "inundation" of regularly distressing news, Nessel asked the crowd to focus on one issue specifically: The Department of Health and Human Services' rule that gives health providers the right to refuse service based on conscience.

"And the fact of the matter is that if this law is allowed to be implemented, what it means is that states like Michigan will lose billions and billions of dollars if health care providers are not permitted to discriminate against LGBTQ people. And when you talk about the United States turning into a theocracy, I don't know a better example of it than that," Nessel said. "But I am here to tell you that myself and the other 26 Democratic AGs are going to be out there tirelessly, working as a team to fight against each and every one of these policies and we are not going to stop."

She left the stage with a push for the crowd to support pro-LGBTQ and equality candidates

"so we can finally take back this nation and have it be a nation again that really subscribes to the notion of equal protection under the law for all Americans."

Winterhof followed Nessel's address. She focused her time calling for action to persuade Michigan's equality voters — those likely to vote Democrat — to the ballot via grassroots organizing. She attributed HRC's efficiency in its own organizing to helping secure many of the wins in the 2018 election but pointed to more work to be done for 2020.

"As we think about progress and what we're going to do, guess what? We have to do more. So, as an organization that's what we're going to do. We know that your state keeps landing on all the lists, so we will be here with you in partnership," Winterhof said. "We know that Wisconsin and Pennsylvania and Arizona and many other states are going to be on the list to help us make change in the White House and

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

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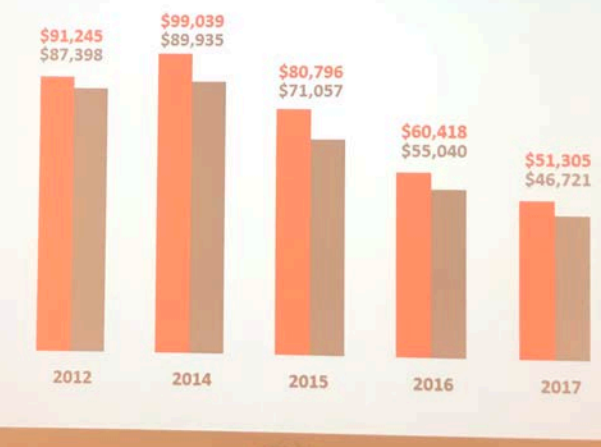


Leon Bullough, NP-F



Keyuna Nance, MSW

Money raised and granted to partner organizations between 2012 and 2017



This chart shows a decline in the AIDS Walk's grants to partner organizations over a five-year period in its current configuration. Current organizers are looking to rebrand the event and revamp it before debuting it in Sept. 2020.

AIDS Walk Detroit Rebrands, Reschedules

BY BTL STAFF

Early last month organizations working to fight HIV across Southeast Michigan received word that the future of AIDS Walk Detroit as it currently stands is in question. For the last several years, the Walk has been held at the Royal Oak Farmer's Market, but in 2018 it was halted even after permits and a location were secured due to construction efforts in the city. With too little time to find another suitable location, organizers decided to plan for a 2019 Walk in Detroit.

However, this year's plans were hindered due to the increased costs associated with hosting the event in the new location and decreased involvement of partner organizations. Since that announcement, two community meetings were called to address how event organizers should proceed at Corktown Health Center, which houses the nonprofit Health Emergency Lifeline Programs or HELP.

"HELP took over AIDS Walk a few years ago and we've been shepherding it for the past six or seven years as a partner organization," said Anthony O. Williams, HELP CEO.

He added that when HELP became aware of the increased costs required for this year's event, roughly \$50,000, it was determined that the original planned date in September "was too close to do all the things we would normally do this close to the walk."

See **AIDS Walk**, continued on p. 10

Mike Flores Announces Run for Ferndale City Council

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

Those who know of Mike Flores in the city of Ferndale likely recognize him from his work as board president of the Affirmations LGBTQ community center. Now as of his official campaign launch party last week, he'd like the Flores for Ferndale slogan to catch on as he runs for one of two available spots on the city council. When asked about his running platform his answer was a simple abbreviation: GPS.

"So, the GPS plan is basically what I'm going to use to guide me in my decision-making if elected to serve the city of Ferndale," Flores said. "And what GPS stands for is: growth, public investment and services. And when it comes to growth, we need to make sure that it's balanced, fair and inclusive. When it comes to public investment, we need to make sure that we do it in a responsible and sustainable way. And when we're talking about services we're focused on strong city and community services."

Implementing GPS

Flores himself is a Ferndale resident and he said he developed this plan from his own experiences living in the city and from talking to his neighbors and other residents across the city. He sees Ferndale as something of a beacon of inclusivity along the Woodward Corridor, but he also sees areas where the city can improve in its overall plan for fostering community: namely, in citizen retention.

"Especially when families start to grow and start adding to their families and when they're evaluating things like schools and is this the right neighborhood to raise a family," Flores said. "And that's where a lot of the GPS [aspects] do come in, because families are evaluating that and saying, 'Does this make sense? Does this align with the environment that I want to raise my family in?' and so forth."

Flores also believes that the city should collaborate with local communities more than it's doing now, too, in order to boost that community retention. He said that this could be transferred effectively to ensure more services positively impact things like Ferndale schools, public safety and even services for seniors. Beyond that, he said that if elected, he will focus



Mike Flores, lower left.

on appropriate fund allocation, which translates directly into issues affecting the city currently like affordable housing.

"When it comes to public investment, Ferndale is one of the top 10 communities with the highest tax rates in Oakland County and that tax millage has a direct impact in terms of affordability of housing in our city. So, if we continue to either to maintain this high millage rate that we have, or if we continue to increase our millage rate, the city is having a direct impact in terms of who can and cannot afford to live in our city," he said. "With that being said, it's important that we have a strong tax base and tax revenue to invest in our city and that's where the public investment element comes in: we need to make sure that what we're investing in is done responsibly, effectively and efficiently. We need to make sure that whatever we're investing in has a high rate of return to justify the high millage rates that we have in our city and that's one of the things that I'm actually very, very passionate about."

The Neighborhood Candidate

When asked about prior political experience, Flores said that this will be his first run for any public office.

"And I think that sends an important message to make sure that I truly am running as somebody who is not part of the bigger machine that kind of exists in politics," he said. "I'm a first-time political, I'm someone who has come back to Ferndale, I'm active in my neighborhood, I am active at Affirmations. ... [And] when you're looking at the candidates I do feel that I most represent the neighborhood. I strongly believe that I will be the right candidate to elevate neighborhood issues at the city level."

He emphasized that his work in the private sector in the automotive and aerospace industries along with his nonprofit work make him a well-rounded candidate with a solid understanding of

finances.

"So, I think there's definitely a lot of transferable skills and knowledge that I would be able to bring from the private sector and from my experiences on the board [of Affirmations] to public service," he said. "My whole career has been focused on strategy, being able to have foresight, looking into the future and trying to determine how we're going to achieve goals in the future."

Beyond simply having that foresight, however, Flores said that in helping to deal with Affirmations' near-bankruptcy late last year, he's put those skills to the test effectively.

"When I decided to volunteer at Affirmations on their volunteer board, I took my knowledge of strategy and applied it at Affirmations as well. But something that I learned a lot during my time at Affirmations is the need, the requirement to be transparent. And it was something that under my leadership, the board committed to, which necessarily isn't required in the private sector," he said.

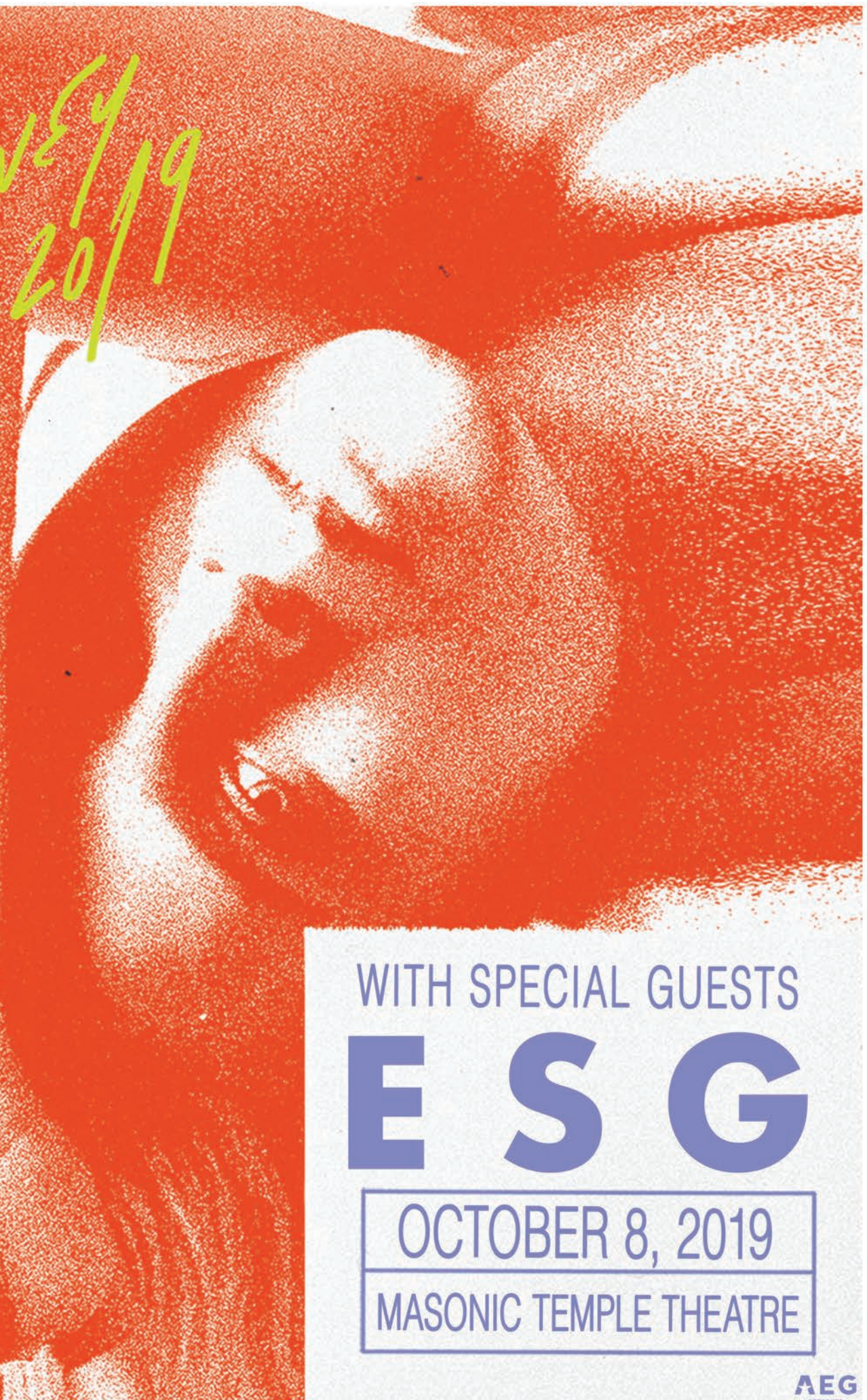
He also said that his background as a first-generation American will give him a unique perspective that is underrepresented in Ferndale politics.

"Ferndale has definitely been one of the most welcoming communities in Metro Detroit, but one of the things about inclusivity is visibility. It's making sure that everyone is being represented at city government and everyone is involved in decision-making. So, one of the things that I hope I'll be able to do if elected to serve is that I will not only be a resident representing neighborhood issues, but I'll also have the LGBT experience that I'll be able to bring to the table," he said. "And in addition as a person of color, as a person who is a minority, I would be able to bring in that minority perspective as well."

To find out more about Flores' campaign visit floresforferndale.com.

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It was decided at the close of the first meeting that the originally scheduled walk would change into something different, “more of a community-focused event,” Williams said.

“And in addition, Wayne State University came forward and offered to have something reasonable [on its campus],” Williams said.

At the end of the second meeting, AIDS Walk organizers agreed to partner with other groups in the community like Connect 2 Protect — a coalition of Detroiters in various HIV-prevention groups aimed at stopping HIV in Detroit. Setting a collaborative meeting for Friday, Aug. 16, both HELP and C2P agreed to meet together to plan a September kick-off event for a newly rebranded Walk called Detroit Walks to End HIV.

History of the AIDS Walk

Teresa Roscoe is HELP’s chief operations officer. She said that HELP took over the Walk from an organization called Steppin’ Out in order to help provide organizations with funds that work to prevent HIV and AIDS.

“Steppin’ Out did an amazing job. ... They did that for many years from 1991 up until 2011 and 2012, when they were just seeing diminished levels of capacity in terms of their board members, their volunteers,” Roscoe said. “Amazing people, but they were getting a little bit burned out in terms of their capacity to be able to put on the walk. As Anthony had mentioned, HELP had been the largest fundraising partner organization for many years going up to that time period and the board from Steppin’ Out approached HELP at that time to see if HELP would be willing to shepherd it.”

From that point, AIDS Walk Detroit was established as a separate 501(c)(3) from HELP so that it functions independently of its shepherd organization. Roscoe said that similarly to what Steppin’ Out experienced, community engagement has dwindled in recent years. This particularly impacts organizations that would receive unrestricted grants as a result of 95 percent of funds raised during the event.

“So, what’s historically been the case is that a partner organization team would raise funds through their own walkers that they would recruit, and then the bulk of those funds that were raised — 95 percent typically — would go directly back as an unrestricted grant to the organization,” Roscoe said.

This is a developing story and BTL will continue to update as details change. Visit pridesource.com to learn more.

Community Leaders Hold Town Hall on Issues Facing Trans Women of Color

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

Jey’nce Poindexter Mizrahi has logged a lot of miles traveling across Michigan since starting as Equality Michigan’s transgender victim advocate in the fall of 2018. Poindexter Mizrahi, who also serves as the vice president of communications and organizing for the Trans Sistās of Color Project, has become one of the leading transgender activists in the state since joining the agency.

That means, among other things, that she’s taken meetings with the Department of Justice, the FBI and the state attorney general’s office and civil rights commission. She’s also been known to rub elbows with Gov. Gretchen Whitmer and she was just tapped by presidential candidate Sen. Cory Booker to do some outreach.

Since she’s been able to build so many connections, Poindexter Mizrahi put out a call to some of her friends asking them to attend a special town hall meeting on transgender women of color issues. Those who responded to the call included U.S. Rep. Rashida Tlaib (D-Detroit), State Rep. Sherry Gay-Dagnogo (D-Detroit), State Sen. Jeremy Moss (D), former Wayne County Judge Vonda Evans, Wayne County Chairwoman Alisha Bell, Trans Sistās of Color Project Executive Director Lilianna Angel Reyes, Fair Justice Victim’s Advocate Julisa Abad, ACLU of Michigan LGBT Project Staff Attorney Jay Kaplan, local media personality and HIV/AIDS activist Ka’Juan “Mr. Let’s Talk About It” Hill and Letoya Tinch with the Howard Brown Agency in Chicago.

The meeting, which took place July 22 at Focus Hope headquarters in Detroit, started with a dinner that was hosted by Tlaib. A crowd of about 100 was present for the town hall, which began with a sobering message.

“There is a national statistic that if a trans woman of color transitions young she only lives to be about 35 years old,” Reyes said. “The thought that my time is coming to an end is really scary. There’s not a lot of women who transitioned young that I can look to and say, ‘You did it.’ There are some, but not many. ... Trans women of color are dying at alarming rates, specifically black trans women in the U.S. and Latina trans women internationally.”

Reyes had words of advice for those supporting trans rights agencies in Michigan.

“For the people who are supporting trans-led organizations, make sure that trans-led organization is working for trans people and doing work in the city of Detroit



Left to right: Lilianna Angel Reyes, executive director of the Trans Sistās of Color Project, Letoya Tinch with the Howard Brown Agency in Chicago, Jey’nce Poindexter Mizrahi, U.S. Rep. Rashida T’laib and Wayne County Chairwoman Alisha Bell post for a photo at the town hall on trans women of color issues July 22. (Photo courtesy of Jey’nce Poindexter Mizrahi.)

because that’s where people are dying,” Reyes said. “And if you’re doing work for us, let us do the work for you because we’re really the only ones who know how to do it.”

Hill spoke of the recent string of murders of trans women of color.

“I’m tired of seeing these posts about my sisters dying,” he said. “I’m furious, but I’m not restless. And I want us to know today is to be inspired for us to keep the fire. We need people to know that our trans sisters do matter. It’s about educating people. It’s about knowledge.”

Moss announced that he had recently introduced a bill to amend the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act to include sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression.

“We need to call out the murders of our trans sisters of color as hate crimes,” Moss said. “That’s exactly what it is.”

For her part, Judge Evans spoke of the plight of the transgender woman of color.

“Having served this wonderful community for so many years first as a prosecutor and then as a judge, I know firsthand the fear that trans women of color feel,” she said. “I know how it has to feel to have to hide who you are because of your sexual orientation. You’re fearless in your walk and in your identity, but you’re afraid in your home. And you’re afraid in your community of people who look like you. And you become a prisoner of who you are. And that’s not fair to anyone.”

Abad shared with the crowd a little-known transgender inclusion policy in

the Wayne County prosecutor’s office that she said is helping to increase the number of crimes reported against trans women.

“If you are trans and your name is not legally changed they are still going to address you by your preferred name and preferred pronouns,” Abad explained. “In the beginning, the report obviously will have to give what I call what your dead name is. But the remainder of you going to court, testifying, going to the precinct, we will address you as you want to be addressed, which, in turn, makes my community feel safer in coming forward to report crimes.”

Abad also told the crowd that the Ruth Ellis Center is offering free name-change assistance and revealed that her name change had become official the week prior.

“I cried a lot today,” Abad said. “Not because my name was changed, but because I realized that in two months, supposedly, my life is supposed to be over. I’ll be 35 years old. That’s really, really sad for trans women.”

Poindexter Mizrahi said she only found out about the policy in recent weeks.

“I was really, really excited to kind of hear about it,” she said. “But to know that it’s been around and no one knows about it, that kind of shows you the plight of what’s really going on here. The fact that there is something that speaks to protections for, and speaks to respect of, our community and the fact that it’s kind of pushed up under the rug and no one knows about it, that was kind of shocking to me.”



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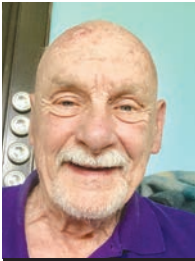
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Parting Glances

BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

Green Carnations, Mary?

This column first appeared in BTL Aug. 2017

Somewhere pressed in my book of tattered memories is a green carnation, still remarkably fresh with the passage of so much time.

It's there with a wrist corsage I hadn't the courage to wear to my senior high prom and some daisy chains I linked together in celebration at my graduation party.

The green carnation dates to 1991, when the Detroit Area Gay/Lesbian Council, an activist confabulation of over a dozen, then LG and B organizations, held a fundraiser at Wayne State University's Hilberry Theater.

(DAG/LC vanished into the sunset, as did fledgling gay organizations: Association of Suburban People, Michigan Organization for Human Rights and Motor City Business Forum. DAG/LC's legacy is Motor City Pride.)

The Hilberry Theater gala was Oscar Wilde's "The Importance of Being Earnest." WSU actor Ray Schultz, now tenured theater professor at University of Minnesota, was Earnest.

About 50 of us secret thespians wore green carnations as badges of honor that memorable evening. The boutonniere was Oscar's brainstorm, or so he led the "Earnests" of his day to believe. (In the 1920s, the gay signaling device was a red tie. Color-coded hanky-panky handkerchiefs arrived late 1960s.)

Oscar borrowed the carnation idea from Parisian gais, and at the 1891 first night opening of his play, "Lady Windermere's Fan" got London queens to give new meaning to the wearin' o' th' green. The effect was electric, as was Wilde's curtain call with a gold-tipped cigarette in hand. A quite shocking breach of manners.

Some time ago I swore I'd never read another Wilde bio (ditto Radclyffe Hall), having read my fill of the Irish genius, playwright, poet, esthete, raconteur, iconoclast, fashion maven and 19th century martyr for gay rights.

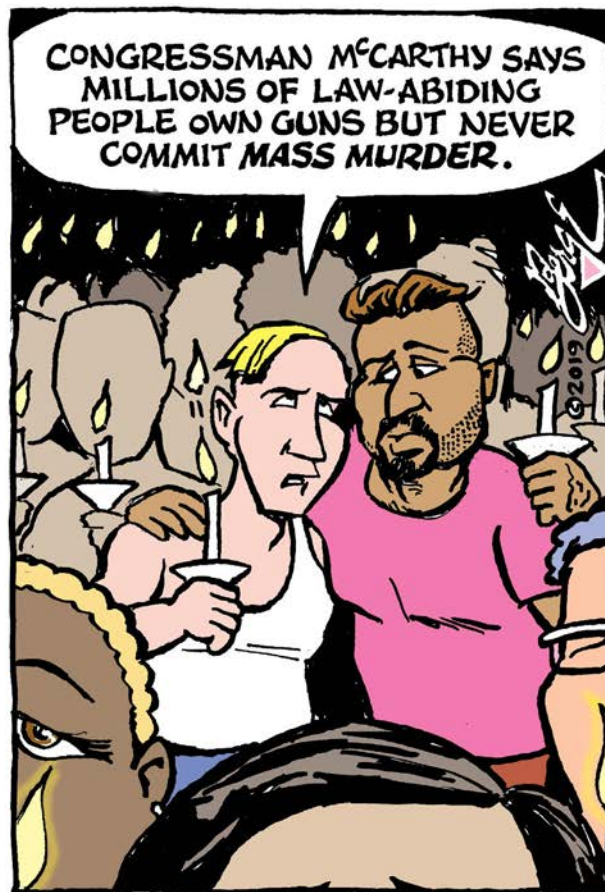
However – cluttered closet snoop that I am – I couldn't resist Neil McKenna's "The Secret Life of Oscar Wilde: An Intimate Biography" (Basic Books). Based on new Victorian documents, diaries, letters, it's a strip-tease tragedy glimpsed from a gloryhole perspective.

Two tamer items: 1) The maiden name of "Bosie" Lord Alfred Douglas's mother is Montgomery; and 2) Francis, Lord Drumlanrig, Bosie's older brother, killed himself because he feared exposure of his same-sex love affair with Prime Minister Lord Rosebery. Rule Fruitannia!

According to McKenna, Oscar and Bosie burned their patchouli-scented candles at both ends. More than once singeing hotel bed linen. Together they indulged in a rarely interrupted orgy of boner escapades with clerks, waiters, bellhops, messengers, adoring gay groupies, stage door Johnnies, rent boys. Wilde called the latter act of noblesse oblige "feasting with panthers."

Oscar & Bosie were not exactly discrete in public as to whom they rubbed their velveteen kickers with; and among close friends they boasted of joint weekly conquests, providing salacious details of activity, size, position, male brothel decor,

See next page



BY GWENDOLYN ANN SMITH

Emerging Victorious

Transmissions

At long last, North Carolina's House Bill 2 is dead. For those few who are reading who may not know the significance, I'll explain: The Public Facilities Privacy & Security Act, otherwise known as HB2, was a bill passed in North Carolina in 2016. Created in part as a reaction to the Charlotte, North Carolina, Ordinance 7056, passed earlier that year, that prohibited discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity within a few specific categories, including public accommodations.

A month after the passage of Ordinance 7056, there was a special session of the state's General Assembly. A day later, HB2 passed and the then-Governor signed the bill into law.

What House Bill 2 did was simple, but far-reaching. It pre-empted any anti-discrimination ordinances — and not just LGBTQ-specific ones — enacted below the state level, disallowed anyone but the state to determine the minimum wage and required anyone using the restrooms at schools and public facilities in the state to only use the one corresponding to their birth certificate.

North Carolina requires surgery before one can alter their birth certificate. Also, few people carry their birth certificate around before using a restroom.

The fight over transgender people and bathrooms has been around for a while, flaring up in the aftermath of the fight for marriage equality as a new cause célèbre. The basic argument is that rapists and pedophiles will somehow use the restroom

of a gender different from theirs and their right to do so and assault others will somehow be upheld due to transgender public accommodation rights.

The notion is laughable, seemingly oblivious to the fact that rape and the sexual assault of minors are both very much illegal. Unless you are the president of the United States or one of his trusted advisors, it seems, but I digress.

The notion of this sort of crime doesn't start with transgender people, of course. Racists arguing against the rights of blacks and other people of color using the same facilities as whites usually included arguments that blacks would somehow use these rights to assault others. Fights for the ERA in the 1970s included arguments that the law would lead to "coed" restrooms and legalized assaults.

"Gay rights" battles, too, led to assumptions that restrooms would because of a hotbed of sexual assault, too. One may argue that the debates over trans restroom usage are simply an extension of this same tropes used against gay and lesbian people in the 1970s, even as transgender people now see evolving media stories claiming transgender people are inappropriately "recruiting" non-transgender people, just like the era of Anita Bryant and Sen. John Briggs.

However, back to HB2. The passage of the bill caused a firestorm. Various localities across the country enacted bans on travel to North Carolina, companies scaled back plans to expand into the state and performers canceled events. Overall,

When House Bill 2 passed, many other states — most notably Texas — began to look at it as a framework for halting the spread of trans rights. I still do expect to see some places attempt to do so again, but the fight against HB2 may make all but the most fervent lawmakers think twice.

North Carolina lost about \$400 million dollars in jobs and investments thanks to House Bill 2.

Former Gov. Pat McCrory also lost his job, being defeated by Democratic candidate Ray Cooper for the governor's chair. Cooper ran largely on repealing HB2 — and he did. Sort of.

One year after the passage of HB2, almost to the day, North Carolina passed HB 142. The bill declared that, “state agencies, boards, offices, departments, institutions, branches of government, including The University of North Carolina and the North Carolina Community College System and political subdivisions of the State, are preempted from regulation of access to multiple occupancy restrooms, showers or changing facilities, except in accordance with an act of the General Assembly.”

One might think this is the end of the story, but Joaquin Carcaño, a transgender man who works for UNC-Chapel Hill disagreed. He took the state to court, in *Carcaño v. Cooper*. In July, a settlement in that lawsuit was approved, placing another nail in HB2's coffin. The state may not bar transgender people from using a public restroom or similar state-run facilities congruent with their gender identity.

While this battle appears to, at long last, be won, I can't help but note that the war is far from over.

“Bathroom bills” still crop up every legislative session, as well as similar policies to restrict transgender minors in sports, and even bills designed to limit

gender-affirming care. Meanwhile, the United States Supreme Court is poised to debate transgender workplace rights in a case that could bar sex-based protections for decades. Transgender people remain barred from the U.S. military in most instances while so-called “religious freedom” arguments threaten LGBTQ rights nationwide.

When House Bill 2 passed, many other states — most notably Texas — began to look at it as a framework for halting the spread of trans rights. I still do expect to see some places attempt to do so again, but the fight against HB2 may make all but the most fervent lawmakers think twice.

This is something we should take some small amount of hope from. Even in these dark days, we still have a chance of victory over what was seen as an undefeatable bill that could sweep across, state by state, stripping transgender people of their rights nationwide.

Let this one victory be a candle in the darkness that is the fight for transgender rights in the era of Donald J. Trump, Michael Pence, and Brett Kavanaugh, and let it help fuel us as we continue to fight for a better, most just world for transgender and nonbinary people.

We need to take our victories where we can right now.

Gwen Smith doesn't carry her birth certificate around. You'll find her at gwensmith.com

readers just who did what, with which, to grammatically correct whom. “The Green Carnation” ran through four sizzling editions.

It “ruined Oscar's character with the general public” and painted a lurid, and fascinating, picture of London's lavender set.

Wilde wrote to the *Pall Mall Gazette*: “I invented that magnificent flower. But ... with the middle-class and mediocre book that usurps its strangely beautiful name, I have nothing whatsoever to do. The flower is a work of art. The book is not.” (Mary, Mary, quite contrary.)

Connect with Charles Alexander at Charles@pridesource.com.

Creep Of The Week

Candice Keller

BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

Keller, who is endorsed by the NRA, continues to list who and what is at fault, beginning with, “The breakdown of the traditional American family (thank you, transgender, homosexual marriage and drag queen advocates).”

Back to back mass shootings in Dayton, Ohio, and El Paso, Texas. And by the time you read this, that list will probably have to be updated. Because mass shootings are basically an everyday occurrence in the United States. And we're becoming dangerously numb to it all.

And every time people rush to blame something, anything other than guns. Video games and mental illness are popular.

But Candice Keller, a Republican state representative from Ohio, has some other ideas. After the shooting in Dayton, she wasted no time in pointing fingers.

“After every mass shooting, the liberals start the blame game,” she writes on Facebook. “Why not place the blame where it belongs?”

Oooh, on guns? Or the rise of white supremacy and misogyny in American society coupled with guns, guns everywhere as far as the eye can see?

Not quite.

Keller, who is endorsed by the NRA, continues to list who and what is at fault, beginning with, “The breakdown of the traditional American family (thank you, transgender, homosexual marriage and drag queen advocates).”

That is number one on her list. LGBTQ people. According to Keller, mass shootings are caused by families like mine. Mass shootings are the fault of transgender people and the allies who advocate for them. Mass shootings fall at the feet of RuPaul.

It is almost laughable, but Keller isn't joking. The next thing on her list is “fatherlessness.” She really and truly sees two women married to each other as more threatening than guns, which are specifically designed for one purpose: to kill.

I'm not saying that fatherlessness is never a problem. It most certainly is and a big reason is this country's mass incarceration problem, which of course hit black and brown families especially hard due to racist policing practices. But I somehow doubt that's what Keller is trying to get at.

In fact, Keller includes “disrespect to law enforcement” in her list of shame, which she blames on Obama.

She also blames “the relaxing of laws against criminals (open borders),” which of course means immigrants, stoners (“the acceptance of recreational marijuana”), and “professional athletes who hate our flag and National Anthem.”

Oh, and not to mention “snowflakes who can't accept a duly-elected President.”

Granted, “duly-elected” is a stretch, but that aside, this president stokes hatred every single day trumpeting his own racism at rallies, on Twitter and in comments to reporters. There is absolutely a correlation between white supremacy and violence and white supremacy is being championed at the highest levels of government. We have a racist president. He tells us every day.

And yet Republicans like Keller view Trump as if he were hand-selected by God.

And the media, by and large, seem oblivious to the real threat Trump poses to American security.

Thankfully, some people are more than willing to call him out, it's just that these people by and large are not Republicans who are sticking with their man, as awful as that man is in every single way.

Reporters asked Beto O'Rourke, who is running to be the Democratic nominee for president, about how Trump could make things better post-shootings.

“You know the shit that he's been saying,” O'Rourke responded. “I don't know, like, members of the press, what the fuck?”

Yes, what the fuck, indeed. Trump loves to rail against the media, by the fact is they've been normalizing him since day one. And he is not normal.

Elizabeth Warren, who is also running to be the Democratic nominee for president, responded to Trump blaming mental illness by Tweeting, “White supremacy is not a mental illness. We need to call it what it is: Domestic terrorism. And we need to call out Donald Trump for amplifying these deadly ideologies.”

And they are deadly. Trump and the Republicans who support him have emboldened white supremacists whose very ideology is one of violence. You can't, after all, make America a country where only white people are welcome without violence. The very idea that white lives are more important than black or brown lives dehumanizes. And once people are dehumanized violence is that much easier to justify.

“Did I forget anybody?” Keller ends her Facebook post. “The list is long. And the fury will continue.”

It sounds like a threat. And it is. As long as Trump is president, as long as people who don't see LGBTQ people as human are writing laws, as long as racists are running the country, the fury has only just begun.

In America we are at war with ourselves. And we can't seem to decide what is worth more: people's lives or people's guns. So if you're feeling helplessness in the face of so much ugliness and violence, replace it with fury and direct that fury toward the ballot box. We must elect people who value live people over live rounds. All of our lives depend on it.

► Parting Glances

Continued from p. 12

hospitality, tea service (or, lack thereof).

One of Bosie's down-the-Nile travel companions, Robert Hichens, a journalist, took copious shorthand notes while sailing and counting pyramids, turning queersay into a roman a clef, entitled -- call FTD -- “The Green Carnation,” published anonymously in 1894, one year before Wilde's three notorious trials.

Thanks to blabbermouth Bosie's trash talk, Hichen's novel sold like holiday hot-cross buns. Though not mentioning O&B by name, it was clear to titillated

Hotter Than July 2019 Recap



BY JASON MICHAEL

Last week royalty joined together for a multi-day celebration during the 24th annual Hotter Than July black gay Pride celebration. The theme of this year's event was Kings & Queens: Family, Friends, Faith, Fun. The event was produced via collaboration between LGBT Detroit and project coordinator Jerron Totten, who got on board with event preparation in spring.

"For me, to have hit the ground in April and three months later we had the experience that we had, I'd say that things were pretty amazing," Totten said. "I'm really thankful for the volunteers, for the rest of the staff at LGBT Detroit and our executive director for their support. I had volunteers that from day one have been consistent in making sure that the project moved forward."

HTJ 2019 kicked off its traditional candlelight vigil and opening ceremony in Palmer Park and followed with events like Wednesday's mixer at the Granite City Brewery, a Sunday worship service at One Church Detroit and a brunch at the Charlevoix Gallery. Another small event was Sunday's Sip & Paint, which made its debut this year and drew over a dozen people.

"The Sip & Paint was a small intimate group and I loved the way that it turned out," Totten said. "We had two male models."

Collectively these events drew hundreds, but the biggest draw was Saturday's Pride picnic in Palmer Park. Totten estimated that about 9,000 people came to the picnic throughout the very warm and sunny day.

"The best part of the overall experience was just hearing people say how much they enjoyed



All photographs by Justin McAfee. He can be found at @jasmcafee on Instagram.

the weekend," said Totten. "Just seeing people enjoy themselves. That was the best part for me. I was too tired to enjoy myself the way that other people were enjoying themselves. But it was great to see them enjoying themselves while I sat gathering myself."

Though the event went smoothly for the most part, a frightening incident took place when a fight broke out between two women. Then, in the midst of the physical altercation, a woman standing nearby raised a handgun into the air and fired multiple times in a failed attempt to end the fight. The incident was captured on video by a picnic attendee and

posted to Facebook.

"LGBT Detroit does not condone violence of any kind," said Totten. "We understand that disagreements occur and emotions run high,

but we encourage nonviolent resolution. We are thankful to the Detroit Police Department for their presence on sight and we hope that things like this do not occur again."

The singular incident aside, Totten said he enjoyed his first HTJ and said he was confident that future years will only continue to improve.

"I learned that Hotter Than July is bigger than LGBT Detroit," he said. "It's bigger than Detroit. The project itself is a history maker. Being the second oldest [black gay] Pride in the world, Hotter Than July was one of the first to set a standard for black Prides. I was able to see and talk to some people who were there in the beginning days of Hotter Than July and just hearing their stories I understood why it is that we do what do."

In fact, Totten said that is already looking forward to next year when HTJ will celebrate its silver anniversary. He said that event organizers will be "very intentional" about ensuring that attendees know the history and importance of HTJ.

"There will be new events and activities. It's going to have a different look and a different feel because it's a celebratory year as we celebrate 25 years of uninterrupted black gay Pride," he said.

To find out more about HTJ, how to get involved and how to volunteer visit lgbtdetroit.org.

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NAACP Convention Hosts LGBTQ Town Hall, Passes 3 Pro-LGBTQ Resolutions

BY JASON MICHAEL

The NAACP, at their 110th National Convention in Detroit, hosted a town hall on LGBT issues July 23 at Cobo Hall. The event, produced by the NAACP's LGBTQ Taskforce, was titled The State of LGBTQ People of Color in America.

"I am so proud that the NAACP has recognized the importance of inclusivity and the richness of our civil rights movement, which includes the LGBTQ community," said the Rev. Keron Sadler in opening remarks.

Moderating the panel was CNN political commentator and New York Times bestselling author Keith Boykin. Members of the panel included *Between The Lines* columnist and radio host Michelle Brown, activist Nicole Kqween Denson, LGBT Detroit Executive Director Curtis Lipscomb, PFLAG National Board Member Robert Marchman and Transgender Victim's Advocate for Equality Michigan Jey'nce Poindexter Mizrahi.

Boykin began the panel discussion by recapping recent LGBTQ news, both the good and the bad. Lipscomb followed this recap with a note about positivity.

"Black people are optimistic people," Lipscomb said. "They are progressive people. They always look forward. So, I think it's important to take note of the successes we have because we should always celebrate our successes."

When asked about the most daunting issues facing the black LGBTQ community, Lipscomb listed his top three.

"HIV infection is out of control," he said. "That one in two black gay men is infected with HIV and the use of condoms is a consideration — is a consideration. So, I'm looking for acceptance and possible love, and that love can kill me, and there's no outrage.

"The second thing I'm concerned with is violence. Whether it is against black trans people, against domestic partners, at the club, the violence is real. We film it and we broadcast it. We normalize it. I am really sad about this. The last thing that I think is excessive is the excessive drug use, this normalizing of drug



Between The Lines columnist and radio host Michelle Brown posed for pictures with moderator Keith Boykin following the town hall. Photo courtesy of Ojetta Brown

use that it's OK to be outside of self in public."

For her part, Brown offered the following advice.

"One of the most important things that we have to do is reclaim and talk about that what's facing the black community faces us," Brown said. "If a young black man gets pulled over there is no get-out-of [-jail] free card because I'm gay. We are black.

"The challenges facing our [LGBTQ] community face our [African-American] community," Brown continued. "I am a black queer woman and I step back from none of those identities. And I am your sister."

Denson agreed.

"My racial-, my ethnic-, my sexual orientation and gender are interwoven in every aspect of who I am," she said. "And I will not go to any employer, any space, any church and not bring all of me."

David Daniels, Scott Walters Indicted in Houston Sexual Assault Case

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

University of Michigan Professor and opera star David Daniels and his husband, former Out Loud Chorus Artistic Director (William) Scott Walters, were indicted in Houston July 25 on charges of sexual assault. Daniels, 53, and Walters, 36, are accused of raping Samuel Schultz in a 2010 incident. Schultz has said that the couple, who face a sentence of between two and 20 years in prison if convicted, plied him with Ambien and alcohol before raping him at their apartment following a chance meeting at a Houston Grand

Opera reception.

Schultz, who was a 23-year-old grad student at Rice University when the incident happened, said he came forward to help others who might be fearful of filing a report. But Matt Hennessy, an attorney in Houston representing the couple, said that Schultz is no victim.

"He drove himself to David and Scott's apartment at 3:20 a.m. to meet them after a night of partying," Hennessy told the Associated Press. "But he leaves that fact out every time he tells the story. You have to wonder why?"

Daniels has been on paid leave from his position at U of M since last year, the same time

NAACP Passes 3 Pro-LGBTQ Resolutions

On the same day the town hall took place, the NAACP voted unanimously on three pro-LGBTQ resolutions. The NAACP, which championed marriage equality and is a strong supporter of the Equality Act, passed resolutions in support of the transgender community and to aid in ending murders and violence against transgender women; preventing and detecting HIV infection earlier; and for the inclusion of LGBTQ Diversity and Sensitivity Training for NAACP chapters across the country.

"Anyone who purports to care about the well-being of black people must care about all of us all of the time," said David Johns, executive director of the National Black Justice Coalition, an organization Boykin founded. "At

a time when our community is under attack by occupants of the highest office in the country as well as the lowest depths of hatred and bigotry, it is noteworthy that the NAACP is taking meaningful steps toward intersectional social justice. Too many people think that the gains made by the white lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer community are eroding civil protections for black people and these people miss the fact that as long as there have been black people there have been black LGBTQ and same-gender-loving people.

"Black LGBTQ/SGL people are vulnerable to discrimination and dying at a disproportionate rate and this does not have to be our reality," Johns continued. "The resolutions passed by the NAACP will help to ensure that local chapters across the country do a better job of holding space and ensuring equality for all black people."

Walters stepped down from his position from Out Loud. A second similar lawsuit was filed last October in Federal Court. U of M student Andrew Lipian also alleges that Daniels gave him alcohol and Ambien disguised as Tylenol before forcing himself upon him. Following the encounter, Lipian claims that Daniels told him he would likely be receiving a fellowship for his master's program.

In a statement released at the time through a public relations firm, Daniels denied the claims.

"These allegations are both false and malicious," read the statement. "I have never had a physical relationship with the individual

mentioned in this complaint. The events alleged here never happened and I intend to defend my reputation. I am an openly gay man who has been married to a wonderful partner for the past four years. It pains me that someone, for reasons that I cannot fathom, would attempt to destroy my career, the program at Michigan and all that I hold dear."

As the Texas case winds its way through the courts, U of M has allegedly begun proceedings to terminate Daniels from his tenured position, which reportedly pays him nearly \$200,000 a year.

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Modern Renaissance Marriage Made Real



Joe Pawelezyke and Michael Pytlik. Photo courtesy of couple.

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

When Joe Pawelezyke and Michael Pytlik met on Match.com in 2012 they knew they had similar interests, but it wasn't until they dated for a while that they realized they both had a flair for fashion — Renaissance fashion, that is. But it's not enough for clothing to just date back to the Renaissance, both Pytlik and Pawelezyke are connoisseurs of particular styles dating back roughly to the Elizabethan and Tudor eras as well as garb worn by famous Italian families like the Borgias and the Medicis. In fact, it was a wedding outfit of Henry Tudor's that inspired their own wedding wear when they tied the knot at the Michigan Renaissance Festival in 2016.

"We were in Chicago and went by a fabric shop — it was just on a whim that we walked in there — and we saw a roll of fabric and we both said, 'This is going to be our wedding garb,'" Pawelezyke said. "And we had complementary outfits made with that fabric."

A Growing Interest

Just as the couple's clothing was chosen with the most discerning eyes, the location of the wedding venue was carefully chosen, too. Long before wedding plans were in the works, however, Pawelezyke said that Pytlik first introduced him to the Festival when they began dating.

"I had kind of grown up in a way with the

"We're so grateful for the fair's staff and how they accommodated and worked with us to bring forth this vision of our fantasy medieval/Celtic wedding to life," he said. "It was very, very well done and very nice how they accommodated us. ..."

Joe Pawelezyke

Renaissance fair. I got into it in the late '90s and was quite a bit into going to the fair in Michigan," Pytlik said. "Joe liked it quite a bit like me, and so we got fully into the historical clothing."

They both soon realized that they really enjoyed the research process for finding new outfits, and over the next several years, their burgeoning interest as a couple turned into a fully blown hobby. It wasn't long before Pawelezyke and Pytlik began attending both Michigan's Festival and similar venues in nearby states and locales.

"We ran into people at other fairs in other states and we have our friends all over the place, and one of them really became our expert seamstress. She can recreate almost anything we look up or decide or get a picture from a movie or whatever," Pytlik said, adding that he annually travels to Israel and began a tradition of bringing back unique fabrics for future clothing projects.

As the relationship progressed, it was becoming clearer and clearer that historical dress was a key factor in solidifying the couple's bond. When asked if they recalled a specific moment that they knew they wanted to get married, both Pytlik and Pawelezyke said there wasn't one in particular. But Pytlik said that it was on a 2015 trip to Israel that he heard news that the U.S. Supreme Court had passed marriage equality.

"It just seemed like it was the next logical step," Pytlik said. "And we enjoy the fair, we enjoy travel, history — a lot of things we enjoy together — and it just sort of fit. And we wanted to include all of our friends and family as best as we could. So, I don't know if there was an exact moment, but if there was one it was when I was on the phone from Israel saying, 'We can do this now. Let's think about it.'"

A Venue Made in Heaven

As soon as official proposals were made, the couple set about planning their day at the Michigan Renaissance Festival and choosing among the various themed options available for interested couples.

"They did the Royalty Package which was in our Crystal Palace," said Kim Heidger, the venue's marking manager.

This included a ceremony in the Palace and, just like with all wedding ceremonies held at the Festival, all-inclusive catering. Heidger said that Pytlik and Pawelezyke, like many couples over the course of the venue's 35-year wedding history, ended up customizing the package's parameters to fit their needs.

"Probably one of the number one questions that we get asked is, 'Does it have to be a themed wedding?' And it absolutely doesn't," she said. "It can be whatever people want it to be. We have linens and we have decorations on our site that we use to decorate the weddings, but people can also bring in outside decoration. We have a pretty large variety of what people can do."

Pytlik said that their customization had to do with some location changes and the implementation of their own unique theme.

"There's a portion of it that's out in the open where you can do vows when the fair is actually open. We didn't want that, so we did it in the castle," he said. "We then went to the ceremony, which we wrote together. We had my rabbi and also had a friend who was a shaman, so we had a dual kind of ceremony with witnesses and the whole bit. And it had a Jewish flair, but it also had a kind of non-religious sort of spiritual Celtic flair to it, too. So, it was an interesting combination. We also had the presenting of gifts to each other, we had a knot-tying ceremony, and also we did the dinner and then we went to places within the fair itself as part of the reception."

Pawelezyke said that though he had good expectations to begin with, he was pleasantly surprised at how smoothly the entire day came together and how well it created their targeted ambience.

"We're so grateful for the fair's staff and how they accommodated and worked with us to bring forth this vision of our fantasy medieval/Celtic wedding to life," he said. "It was very, very well done and very nice how they accommodated us. ... And [some] who accommodated us there were people who hadn't even personally known us but had seen us



coming up and said, 'Congratulations, thank you, we're next!' Fair people are unique family to begin with and they get it. So, to share that with them and to have them share the experience with us was just the most appreciating thing."

To find out more about the Michigan Renaissance Festival and wedding packages visit michrenfest.com. This year BTL's LGBTQ Wedding Expo takes place Sunday, Oct. 13, noon to 4 p.m. at The Henry in Dearborn. The Renaissance Festival will be on hand to discuss your event. Tickets are available online at www.MiLGBTWedding.com

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► Forum

Continued from p. 6

I will say this: ... we don't just want to help win elections because it's fun — it is fun — but we want to help win elections because our community needs protections. Half of this country for LGBTQ people is not protected."

The State's Nonprofits

Equality Michigan's Executive Director Erin Knott followed, starting her address with a sobering reminder of the inequalities that

LGBTQ Michiganders regularly face.

"This year alone Equality Michigan has served 267 people, individuals, LGBTQ community members that have experienced violence, discrimination or harassment. Thirty-two of those individuals suffered from serious acts of violence because of their gender identity or expression," Knott said. "The previous speaker talked about how leadership doesn't see the acts of violence that are happening in our transgender communities of color, [and] it's because they refuse to see it."

Knott gave an example of House Speaker Lee Chatfield stating that discrimination and harassment in Michigan's LGBTQ community

doesn't exist despite those statistics, underlining not only the need for sexual orientation and gender identity protections in Michigan's Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act, but for voters to mobilize to the polls come November 2020. As Knott left the stage, she was followed by a fellow Michigan nonprofit executive director Curtis Lipscomb who heads LGBT Detroit.

Lipscomb's primary focus was reminding those in the room of Detroit's ongoing HIV epidemic, particularly in the city's LGBTQ community of color.

"It's still here, it didn't go away. We've gathered the modern LGBT movement around our health crisis," Lipscomb said. "We've had some successes, but there's still a lot of work to be done."

He finished his statement by encouraging everyone to visit LGBT Detroit's recently expanded campus to learn more about the work being done to combat HIV and a host of other issues.

Affirmations LGBT center's Executive Director Dave Garcia followed Lipscomb. The emphasis of his address was on community centers rethinking their lack of involvement in political movements.

"The community center has a role to play in political action and advocacy. It always has, since the time of Act Up, and it certainly has to do it today. Next month, we're going to be launching Aff-Advocacy programs. Anybody who wants to get involved and become an Advocate and organize can be a part of that program," Garcia said. "Look, in Los Angeles when the President [Trump] won the election, we started a mobilization squad. Hundreds and hundreds of people joined that mobilization team because they wanted to fight back. We have a responsibility as the community center to organize them, to train them to go and provide testimony. Who can give stories better up in

Lansing or in D.C. than the LGBT community center and the people who walk through our doors?"

Final Messages

State Rep. Jon Hoadley was one of the event's final speakers. Currently running for Congress, if elected Hoadley would become the first openly LGBTQ member of Congress from Michigan and would flip a key swing seat for the Democrats. The race for Michigan's 6th Congressional District is among the most closely watched 2020 Congressional races.

"We're all familiar with the idea that if you're not at the table you're on the menu, but here's the deal: sometimes just getting to the table isn't enough," Hoadley said. "We know that with the incredible organizations like the Victory Fund, HRC and Equality Michigan, people are mobilizing people to make sure we go vote in elections. People are making sure people are at the table, that's why we broke incredible glass ceilings in this last election."

Hoadley pointed to Dana Nessel's election as the first out AG in the state's history. However, Hoadley also emphasized a need to keep pushing for more elected officials across the state.

"There are people who are still actively trying to take away our rights. That's why we have to be at the table, we have to elect not only out officials but pro-equality candidates up and down the ticket and I am so thankful that we have friends in Lansing and in D.C. that are getting that done," he said. "It's about putting our dreams and aspirations back in front of the conversation because we deserve to be part of the American feast just like everybody else."

Final words were delivered by Lavora Barnes, the MDP chair.

"We decided after 2016 to never be caught flat-footed standing still again. We've been knocking doors and making phone calls almost constantly," Barnes said, adding that over the course of just this summer more than 12,000 homes were visited by on-the-ground organizers. "... Here's my ask of you: We have days of action with these kids, we have days of action with our organizers, come out and join us. Knock some doors with them, help them understand some of the work we do. Help teach them and then thank them, tell them how great they're doing because that's how we get them to come back and do the work they're doing."

To find out more about the MDP visit michigandems.com.

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K. Flay, Here to Slay (and Stay)

The Wordplayer Wasn't Serious About Pursuing Songwriting But, Three Albums Later, It 'Obviously Struck a Chord'

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Ask genre criss-crosser K. Flay about all the music she grew up with, what the soundtrack of her youth is, which CDs she rushed to the store for just as they hit the shelves, and she, a two-time Grammy-nominated artist, will shock you: "I didn't really care about music growing up."

For kid K. Flay, who was born Kristine Meredith Flaherty and grew up in Illinois, there were no emotional ties to music – certainly not in the way teenagers eat up her pop-rock-

rap style and relate to musical themes like unconditional self-love and newfound queer romance, which are scattered throughout her punchy, motivational and moving third studio album, "Solutions."

Here, the 34-year-old artist talks about her career starting off as a joke, how she got outside her comfort zone for "Solutions" and navigating queerness in her music.

In June, you performed alongside Kesha, Tegan and Sara, and Imagine Dragons frontman and festival creator Dan Reynolds at the LoveLoud

Festival, a fundraiser for LGBTQ charities. For you, what was the highlight?

Honestly, the highlight for me was: intellectually, I know what that festival's about from knowing Dan since its inception, and also just kind of following it over the years, but often, no matter what the circumstance, when you're playing shows you forget that you're a part of something that's bigger, you know?

Dan gave this kind of pep talk to all the artists who were performing beforehand and just reminded people that, "Hey, this is an

event where, for a lot of folks, it's the first time they're interacting with people who openly identify LGBTQ. This is like the first Pride-ish event for a lot of people." You take so much of that for granted as a performer and as a traveling person, and it was an important reminder. It reframed the whole day for me. I think if there was a highlight it was just kind of, in a weird way, that reframing moment of realizing that you're part of a day that can really change people's lives in this quite profound manner.

INFO

K. Flay

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Having recently spoken openly about your sexuality to GQ with your girlfriend Miya Folick, did LoveLoud resonate differently? Did you get a different kind of response from the queer community?

I think there's always been a large contingent of people who listen to my music and come to the shows and engage online who are queer, so it hasn't felt like a sea change. I always tried to create an environment that felt very open and welcome to everybody, so I haven't; but we haven't played a ton of shows yet, so maybe I'm still at the frontier of that. I might have a better answer in like four months. (Laughs)

You spoke with your record label to make sure they didn't exploit your queerness to sell this record. Why was it necessary to have that discussion with your label?

Certainly I did not want to capitalize on this identity and this community that in a lot of ways I'm kind of new to and still sort of figuring out my place and role there. The idea that I'd sort of be co-opting something or using something to my advantage just felt totally disingenuous and bad and not what I was trying to do in any way, or what my goal is. But I think the other side of the coin and story is that this record was made pretty much a week after she and I met. (Laughs)

So... it's pretty queer?

Yeah (laughs). The process of writing this thing, in many ways, was informed by the process of not only falling in love with somebody, but I think really being outside of my comfort zone. That's very fruitful territory for any creative enterprise, and the best work always comes from being outside of your comfort zone, but for me that comfort zone we're talking about is a very specific kind of cultural, political and sexual place.

I do think it's relevant to discuss, and also we talked a little bit about that. Miya and I have talked about this at great lengths: that we do think it's important and useful for all stories to be a part of the narrative because the great privilege of a straight, white man in the United States, or in the equivalent wherever, is the privilege of nuance. That a straight, white man can do anything and be anything and act any way and have a rich, complex inner life (laughs). And I think the idea that other people's narratives have to fit into categories is a disservice to everybody. I just feel it's very important to be a part of the nuance conversation, and I think it's useful and it's important, and I just wanted to make sure to do that in a way that was honest and

authentic. Like, it's not about selling a record; it's just that it was created in this context and I feel it's important for me to talk about that.

The album's sound is more optimistic and lighthearted than your past work. Is that because of your relationship with Miya?

Yeah, I think being in love, in general, you have to be kind of optimistic to do that. (Laughs)

The odds of it working are greater if you are optimistic. If you aren't, it probably won't work.

Right, exactly! To successfully fall in love you need to be optimistic. But I think there was an optimism and a hopefulness that was emanating. I think the other component of that is that I'd gotten off the road; I was out for about two-and-a-half, three years touring, and I kind of lost the plot a little bit. I think I was sort of burning the candle at both ends, and I got off the road and just felt like I was out in the middle of the ocean pretty untethered and kind of fundamentally not grounded. I just felt like I was at a point in my life where I needed some answers, in a pretty basic way. For me, those kinds of solutions were really returning to the basic things I know about: how to live, how to treat myself well, how to hopefully treat other people well and how to be creative and productive. It's hard to parse it all out because it's all connected, but in a broader sense I felt like I had creatively and experientially explored problems and I wanted to move toward solutions. (Laughs)

Hence the album title.

Exactly.

You actually got a late start to music. In fact, you studied psychology and sociology at Stanford University before pursuing music. Were you a musical kid at all?

My dad was kind of a hobbyist guitar player and so my dad taught me how to play guitar – pretty basic guitar, maybe in fifth grade, something like that. I think in large part he just wanted a rhythm guitar player while he sort of drunkenly noodled (laughs), so I kind of learned some of the basics. Definitely my dad listened to a ton of music, so there was music in the house, but my parents are all pretty ... I have two dads. One was a lawyer, one's a doctor, and my mom is a lawyer. Everyone has these straight-laced professional jobs, so it wasn't a super arty house but there was music in the air, you could say.

What artists did you latch onto growing up?

I had no real emotional connection to music as a teenager, which is sort of interesting to me in retrospect. But the music I really started connecting with was in college. It was during the tail end of my freshman year when I started listening to a lot of West Coast indie-rap; the Bay Area has a pretty vibrant scene for that. What I really loved about it, and this is sort of my entry

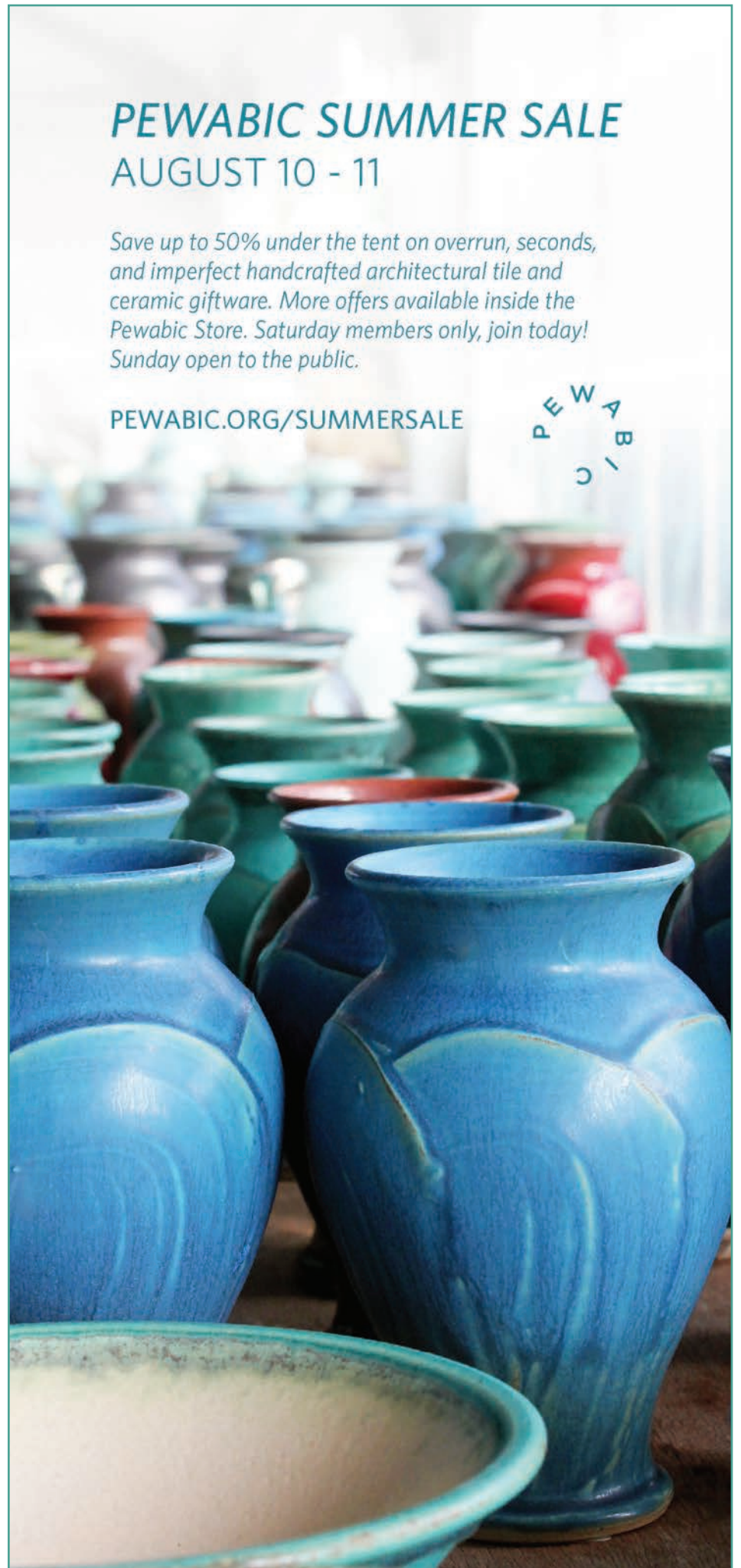
See **K. Flay**, continued on p. 24

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► K. Flay

Continued from p. 23

point to really loving music, was wordplay. I mean, that's the most fun and exciting part of hip-hop: just that it's one giant crossword puzzle. Besides the content of what you're saying, that just felt so exciting and energizing to me. I think it's a very confessional genre in many ways, so that was what I started listening to. Then I started listening to music and started making music, and just discovering all sorts of different things, and then getting into more indie rock, a lot of female driven stuff.

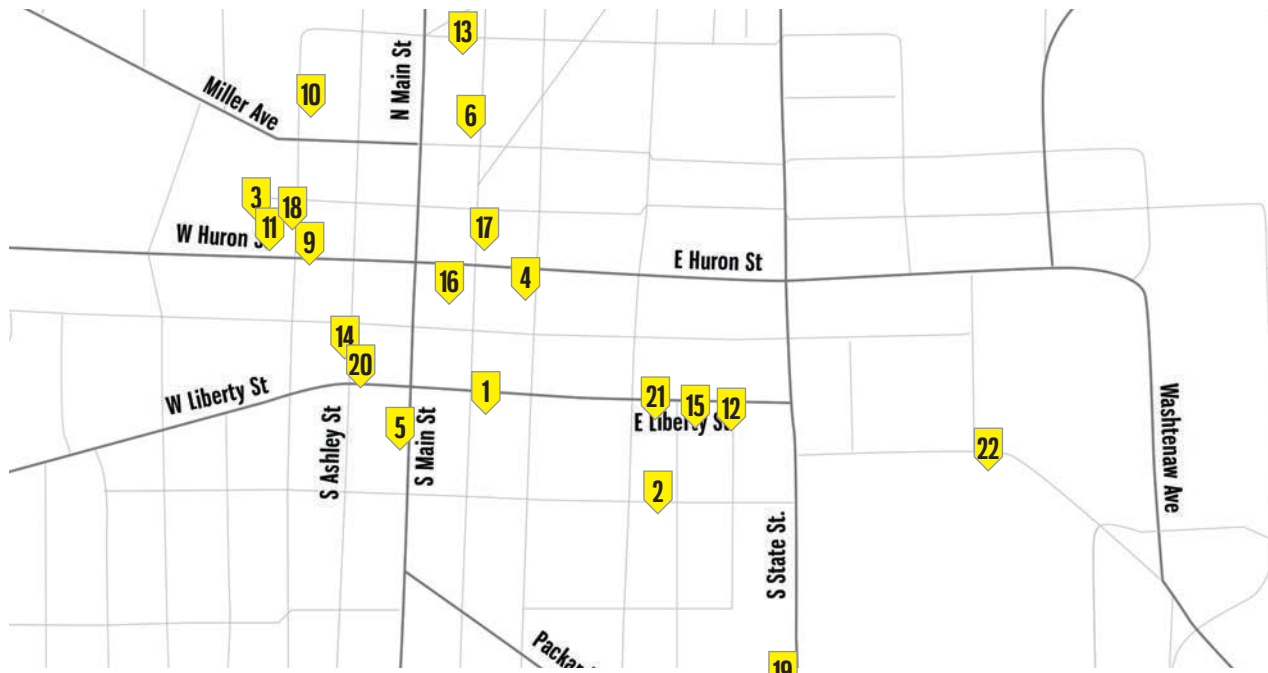
During college, a friend suggested you make a song and then you made a song. What was the first song you wrote?

It was just a joke song, a parody of a song. I was at the time, again, very, very into indie-rap, and on the radio it was like the Ying Yang Twins and I was just on my high horse about why they don't play this on the radio. It was sort of made in the spirit of that, which I think is a good spirit. I think when you see the world is some way and you would like it to be different, that's often a good starting point. But it really just started out as a joke, just for fun. But I think there was something about the process that obviously struck a chord.

While on tour a few years ago, you brought along a blank notebook and had fans write entries about their experiences getting their heart broken or breaking someone else's heart. Fittingly, you titled it the "Crush Me" book. For this current tour, can we expect anything along those lines?

I don't want to really just rehash that exact thing, but I do think – and this is something I just really believe, and then when I go out on the road that belief is confirmed – live shows still, especially in this moment, remain very unique spaces for people to just be themselves. I know people bring their phones to shows and that's a part of this thing, but if you want to, it's a real space to get away from that. It used to be movies were like that but nobody even sees movies anymore (laughs). But it feels like this moment for a real exchange, so I definitely want to reinforce that feeling because I do think it's special and it's worth celebrating. So TBD. But that's the spirit undergirding that enterprise, and I'd certainly like for it to live on.

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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Ann Arbor Pride 2019 Recap

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

Sunny weather accompanied Ann Arbor Pride 2019 on its four-day run starting Thursday, Aug. 1, through Sunday, Aug. 4. The hundreds of attendees across the weekend were able to enjoy the musical stylings of local fan-favorites like cover band Redi Choi and Alise King, taste some of Ann Arbor's food truck fare and even see national drag acts like headliner Aja. Jadein Black is a local queen herself and helped organize this year's entertainment. She said that she loves that Ann Arbor Pride can encourage education about the LGBTQ community.

"It brings everyone together, especially because of the farmer's market across the street. It educates people that are not exposed to LGBTQ events," Black said. "A lot of people are miseducated on those things. I do bingos around the whole state of Michigan, so I deal with a lot of straight-identifying people, and after my shows and stuff like that I try to bring that here for them to have a good experience and to be an ally for us, because we need more allies — especially with the government and what is going on right now. We need to stick together."

Included among Pride's many events were dozens of vendors. One booth also dedicated to dispelling misinformation about the LGBTQ community was sponsored by the Michigan Department of Health & Human Services. Encouraging potential parents to "raise hope and foster dreams," the booth was dedicated to raising awareness about foster parent



opportunities for LGBTQ parents. Sara Srygley is a foster parent pride trainer and recruiter. She said that the need in Michigan for foster parents is high.

"So, we're out here at Pride today to raise awareness about the need for homes in the state of Michigan and to answer questions [people] might have about what it takes to be a foster parent and what the process is like and how they can get started," she said, adding that many LGBTQ couples aren't aware that there are foster parent options for them. "We were out here last year and we had a lot of questions about LGBTQ families being able to foster and adopt. ... A lot of times people come up to the table and they

think that they're not allowed to foster and adopt because they've heard things in the media, and so we're doing a little bit of myth-busting as far as that LGBTQ families absolutely can foster and adopt."

And beyond focusing on parents-to-be, Ann Arbor Pride also drew the attention of the LGBTQ-allied group Free Mom Hugs. Moms Donna Day and Andrea Keown, along with others in the group, were present at Ann Arbor Pride, looking to spread a little compassion via hugs to anyone who wanted one. Mom Donna Day said her motivation to attend was to support her daughter and anyone feeling

See **Ann Arbor Pride**, continued on p. 28

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► Ann Arbor Pride

Continued from p. 26

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down. Another mom, Andrea Keown, agreed.

“I actually am out here to support everybody. I’m a new mom and I was reading about what this group does and it kind of resonated, because as a mother of a young daughter, I couldn’t imagine my daughter not feeling comfortable enough to tell her who she is and not being there to support her,” Keown said. “And the fact that there are people out here that don’t have that support, it’s heartbreaking.”

However, it’s that spirit of increased education and push for inclusivity that encouraged participants, like one attendee who preferred to stay anonymous, to “show my dad around and celebrate my bisexual identity.” That positive association with the LGBTQ community also encouraged local businesses to show their support for everyone at Pride, like Executive Chef Louis Goral from the Blue Llama Jazz Club.

“We’re a restaurant and jazz club in Ann

Arbor, and it’s a part of our mission to support cultural diversity in Ann Arbor and around the area, so we’re very excited to be able to sponsor Ann Arbor Pride,” Goral said. “And we’re doing a Drag Queen Bingo where proceeds will help the Jim Toy Community Center and Ann Arbor Pride. We’re really excited to be a part of it, to come and do some food for everybody and showcase what we do and support this great event.”

That motivation was similar for Abby Sugar, who was there on behalf of her business.

“Our company is Play Out Underwear and we are based out of New York City actually, but I grew up in Ann Arbor, so we wanted to come and support the local Prides,” Sugar said. “We make gender-equal underwear and so we don’t use gender terminology on our website, we just make styles. So, half of our styles have flat-stitch fronts, so boxer briefs, bikinis and thongs, and then half of our

styles have pouch fronts if you want or need a pouch, same trunks, bikinis and thongs. But everything is available in all the colors, it’s not pink is for girls, blue is for boys, we make high-art, fashionable underwear for everybody.”

However, as inclusive as all the vendors in attendance were, it was perhaps Black who summed up the value of fostering a welcoming space like Ann Arbor Pride best.

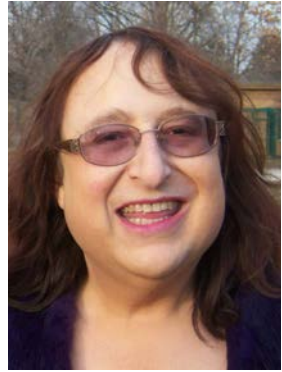
“One thing that I do at all my shows, because I’m a fulltime teacher by day, I tell all my people that they have homework: tomorrow, please find three people that you don’t usually talk to,” Black said. “Smile at them and tell them, ‘You have a great day,’ because you might changing a life or saving a life.”

Find out more about Ann Arbor Pride online at annarborpride.org.

Transgender Pride in the Park to Celebrate 20th Anniversary Aug. 10 in Ferndale

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

Just like most long-running events, Transgender Pride in the Park got its start as a small gathering, a picnic to be exact, in Lansing. That was 20 years ago, and though the event still features food today, it's evolved into something more: a gathering spot for transgender people across the state, and even outside of it, to congregate safely. Attendees can also expect a variety of local transgender-affirming vendors providing everything from accepting health services to vacation getaways.



Rachel Crandall-Crocker

This year, Pride is no different and will be held on Saturday, Aug. 10, from noon to 6 p.m. at Martin Road Park in Ferndale. Looking back on her 20-year involvement with the festival, founder Rachel Crandall-Crocker said that she's learned the value of a space like this one.

"I've learned that people really need a place where they can be themselves and that it's all trans. And that people will come from all over for it. And that people come to this event that don't come to any other event all year," she said. "A lot of people don't realize that this Transgender Pride is really the very first place that transgender people will come all dressed. And that's one reason why it's really special. A lot of people aren't ready to go to an LGBT community center or a support group, however this attracts people because they can just come and watch if they want. And they don't have to introduce themselves to anybody if they don't want to."

This event draws the involvement of hundreds of people each year, and Crandall-Crocker said part of the reason for this Pride's popularity is that it doesn't require a long-term commitment from its attendees unlike many other services for the transgender community.

"Walking into a community center or going to a support group is kind of like making a commitment," she said. "I talked to people who said that they came to one year ago and they just watched from afar and that really helped them. [And] I talked to someone who said they were never planning on coming out of their house and they were never planning on letting anyone see them. However, they came and now they think they're ready to go to a support group."

It's that kind of positive impact that Crandall-Crocker said makes her proud to host the event annually. And this year, she's especially excited for the participation of the former owners of the Common Language Bookstore in Ann Arbor. Though the store itself doesn't have a physical location any longer, Crandall-Crocker said that Martin Contreras and Keith Orr still describe themselves as "gentleman booksellers."

"People who don't have access to any books are going to be able to say, 'Oh my God, I want that one and that one and that one and that one!' They will realize, 'Hey, there really are safe spaces. And if I could come out here, maybe I could try to do some clothes shopping at Meijer later on,'" she said with a laugh. "People think that it isn't safe to come out of their homes and it really is. ... And I hope that this will give people confidence."

Martin Road Park is located at 1900 Orchard Ave. in Ferndale. Find out more about the event and Transgender Michigan online at transgendermichigan.org.



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This project is funded by a Eugene Washington Community Engagement Award from the Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute



Solution to Q Puzzle p. 33



Schitt's Creek

UP CLOSE & PERSONAL

'SCHITT'S CREEK: UP CLOSE & PERSONAL' AT THE MASONIC TEMPLE

Get to know the cast members of "Schitt's Creek" as they stop by Detroit's Masonic Temple to divulge behind-the-scenes info about the sitcom on Saturday, Aug. 10. Find out more by visiting themasonic.com. Tickets start at \$35.

OUTINGS

Sunday, August 11

LGBT Social Meet Up 6:30 p.m. A group for all LGBT people who want to meet and have lighthearted discussions and social activities. Hazel Park Community Center, 620 West Woodward Heights, Hazel Park. 248-632-8274. redbellysenegal90@gmail.com.

Monday, August 12

Stand with Trans 2018 Support Groups – Macomb County 7:30 p.m. Teen/Youth Support Group. Dakota High School, 21051 21 Mile Road, Macomb. 586-723-2700. chippewavalley.schools.org.

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, August 14

Affirmations Senior Koffee Clatch! 2 p.m. A discussion and networking group for people 45 and older. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. goaffirmations.org.

Saturday, August 17

LGBT Community Chat 11 a.m. An on going social discussion group meets every week to discuss issues LGBT people face. Coming out, dating and much more. Java Hut Ferndale, 165 W. 9 mile, Ferndale. 248-632-8274. redbellysenegal90@gmail.com.

Wednesday, August 21

Stand with Trans Support Groups – Livonia – Wayne County 7:30 p.m. Free to all. Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 34567 7 Mile Road, Livonia. standwithtrans.org.

Thursday, August 22

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.

Tuesday, August 27

Strand with Trans Support Groups – Ann Arbor – Washtenaw 7:30 p.m. Trans Support Group meeting. Parent Support Group Facilitator – Yma Johnson, ymaj1968@gmail.com or 734-780-4092. Journey of Faith Christian Church, 1900 Manchester Road, Ann Arbor. standwithtrans.org.

Friday, August 30

22nd Annual Arts, Beats, Eats The 22nd Annual Arts, Beats & Eats will take place in Downtown Royal Oak. The festival offers more than 200 performances on nine stages, a highly ranked juried fine arts show and more. Downtown Royal Oak, Main Street/Washington/Lafayette, Royal Oak. artseatsbeats.com.

Sunday, September 1

Stand with Trans 2018 Support Groups – Adrian-Lenawee County 6:30 p.m. Free and open to the community. For parents of transgender kids. Hilltop Counseling, 115 W. Maumee St., Adrian. 313-909-5408. standwithtrans.org. hilltopcounseling.org.

Thursday, September 5

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.

MCC Detroit LGBTQ Film Night Aug. 17

BY BTL STAFF

Though LGBTQ representation is becoming more frequent in films and television, it's still not a common occurrence. The LGBTQ-affirming church MCC Detroit is aiming to combat that in a small way with a LGBTQ Film Night on Aug. 17 from 5 to 7:30 p.m.

"Come out and share in selected award-nominated short films that are geared toward the LGBTQ community," event organizers wrote. "Come and share your pride with a good film featuring us. Popcorn and soda will be provided. Movie trivia with prizes between films!"

This is a free-to-attend event that will be held in the Fellowship Hall. MCC Detroit is located at 205 N. Main St. in Clawson. To RSVP visit this link: gaybe.am/VW.

Editor's Pick

DETROIT BURGER WEEK

Lasting from Aug. 19 through 25, Detroiters can look forward to \$6 burgers from 15 of Detroit's favorite restaurants like Basement Burger Bar, Brome Burgers & Shakes, Common Pub and more. Find out more about the event online at burgerweekdtown.com.



MUSIC & MORE

Sing-A-Long A Sound of Music August 11, 1:30 p.m. The classic film featuring subtitles so everyone can sing along. Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. 734-668-8397. michtheater.org.

Backstreet Boys August 15, 8 p.m. In their biggest arena tour in 18 years, the Backstreet Boys are heading to Little Caesars Arena. This visit coincides with the release of their latest album "DNA." Little Caesars Arena, 2645 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 313-349-5777. gaybe.am/20.

Chris Botti at MotorCity Casino Hotel August 15, 8 p.m. Grammy Award-winning musician Chris Botti is coming to MotorCity Casino Hotel's Sound Board. Tickets start at \$41. Motor City Casino Sound Board, 2901 Grand River Ave., Detroit. 313-309-4700. motorcitycasino.com.gaybe.am/oh.

World's Largest Plant-Based Potluck Picnic August 24, 1 p.m. Enjoy live music, comedians, games, raffles and more! Speakers include Dr. Joel Kahn and Paul Chatlin. Bring a plant-based dish to share and a copy of the recipe

Editor's Pick

SARAH MCLACHLAN AT THE MEADOW BROOK AMPHITHEATRE



Heading to Metro Detroit on Saturday, Aug. 10, Grammy and June Award-winning artist Sarah McLachlan will headline a performance at the Meadow Brook Amphitheatre. The 30-year music industry veteran is a Canadian Music Hall of Fame inductee and a multi-platinum artist. Find out more about the performance online at 313presents.com. Tickets start at \$30.50.

to Seaholm High School Athletic Field. Seaholm High School, 2436 West Lincoln St., Birmingham. pbnsq.org.

CATS September 3, 7:30 p.m. CATS, the record-breaking musical spectacular by Andrew Lloyd Webber that has captivated audiences in over 30 countries and 15 languages, is now on tour across North America and is coming to Detroit. Fisher Theatre, 3011 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit. 313-872-1000. broadwayindetroit.com.

Lenny Kravitz at the Fox Theatre September 5, 8 p.m. Extending a two-year world tour, Lenny Kravitz is returning to the Midwest for the North American leg.

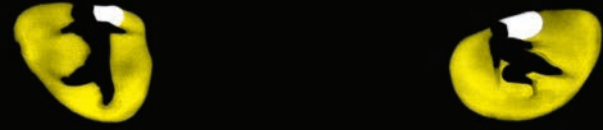
He'll be stopping by The Fox Theatre playing music from his 2018 album "Raise Vibration." Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 313-471-6611. gaybe.am/na.

Social Distortion, Flogging Molly, The Devil Makes Three, Le Butcherettes September 6, 6 p.m. Punk rock bands Social Distortion and Flogging Molly are teaming up with The Devil Makes Three and Le Butcherettes on their summer tour. Michigan Lottery Amphitheatre at Freedom Hill, 14900 Metro Pkwy, Sterling Heights. 586-268-9700. freedomhillampitheater.com. gaybe.am/yl.

Reba McEntire September 7, 7:30 p.m. Reba McEntire comes to the Michigan Lottery Amphitheatre at Freedom Hill in Sterling Heights. 14900 Metro Pkwy. 586-268-9700. freedomhillampitheater.com.

Jonas Brothers September 7, 7:30 p.m. The Grammy Award-nominated powerhouse trio Jonas Brothers are heading to Little Caesars Arena on their "Happiness Begins Tour." Little Caesar's Arena, 2645 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 313-349-5777. gaybe.am/JP.

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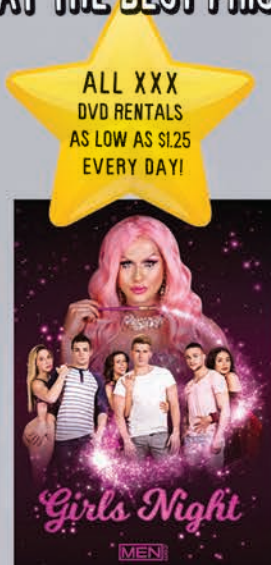
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Deep Inside Hollywood

BY ROMEO SAN VICENTE

Chloe Sevigny joins Luca Guadagnino HBO series

Luca Guadagnino, the gay Italian filmmaker who caused a splash with “Call Me By Your Name” and then the “Suspiria” remake, is developing a new series for HBO/Sky called “We Are Who We Are,” to star Chloe Sevigny. It’s a coming-of-age story about two American teenagers living on a military base in Italy. They experience all the typical teenage firsts there, as outsiders in their own little cultural pocket of another country. Sevigny – who we assume plays one of the parents – will be joined by Alice Braga (“City of God”) and a host of young newcomers like Ben Taylor and Francesca Scorsese (daughter of Martin), as well as pop star Jordan Kristin Seamon and rapper Kid Cudi. It shoots later this month in Italy and we’ll probably get to see it pop up on HBO sometime in early 2020. It’ll be a nice way to enjoy this director’s work while we wait patiently for the “Call Me By Your Name” sequel. Because we are waiting. And waiting.



Tessa Thompson. Photo: KathClick

Tessa Thompson will find her queen in ‘Thor: Love and Thunder’

This entire bit of news is a spoiler, we guess. But it’s the good kind. The Marvel Cinematic Universe will finally get an LGBTQ superhero. Valkyrie, played by out star Tessa Thompson, a character we’ve all been hoping would be fleshed out as fully queer, will be getting herself a queen in one of the story lines of the upcoming “Thor: Love and Thunder.” We’ve been waiting for this to happen and, while we appreciated the blip of queerness that took place in the grief support group scene of “Avengers: Endgame,” we’re glad nobody stole Valkyrie’s spotlight until now. The best part of this is that the big news for this film was supposed to be that Natalie Portman will return as a female version of Thor, but the moment we heard about bi-Val, we forgot everything else. Anyway, “Thor: Love and Thunder,” directed by “Thor: Ragnarok”’s Taika Waititi – whose injection of absurdist comedy into the MCU has been a breath of fresh air – will hit theaters in November 2021. This means you have a minute to get your cosplay together.

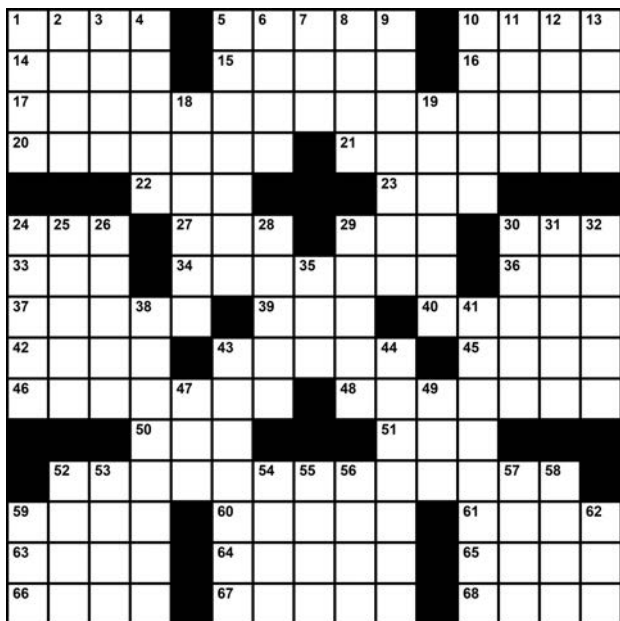
Angelica Ross: From ‘Pose’ to ‘American Horror Story’

As “Pose” devotees, we have always been about Candy Abundance Ferocity, played by the dangerously cool Angelica Ross. While everyone else was hugging each other and being supportive and building house families, Candy was scratching and clawing to keep herself in business, demanding to be treated with respect and getting very little of it in return. Then Candy died, and we cried and sang along to the lip-sync number she performed at her own funeral (it’s complicated, you just have to watch the show). But Ross built Candy on a Ryan Murphy show, and now that she’s a free agent, her next step is – that’s right – to another Ryan Murphy show. Ross will co-star on the upcoming “American Horror Story: 1984,” about which little is known outside of a teaser trailer that resembles an ’80s slasher film. But we do know it also features Emma Roberts and Gus Kenworthy, that it premieres on FX September 18, and that wherever Ross leads, we will follow. And we hope she gets to play the murderer because those are the best parts.

‘Trixie Mattel: Moving Parts’ is moving closer to you

It’s a safe bet that you like Trixie Mattel. If you don’t, then it’s almost certainly because you haven’t yet been properly introduced. She’s charming, talented, funny, musically gifted, and has taken her “RuPaul’s Drag Race” momentum and started a marathon career. From web series “UNHhhh” to “The Trixie and Katya Show” on Viceland to releasing albums and selling out venues across the country that are much larger than gay bars, she’s on a roll. And now there’s a documentary about the rising star called “Trixie Mattel: Moving Parts.” The feature-length exploration of exactly how much work goes into a career in giant wigs, directed by Nicholas Zeig-Owens, also boasts a cast of “Drag Race” alums like Katya, Willem, Peppermint, Bob The Drag Queen, and Ru himself, veterans of the grind who know that stardom isn’t guaranteed. Currently the documentary is hitting queer film fests, but it’s likely you’ll be seeing this one get a theatrical release, and it’s a lock that you’ll be able to stream it sooner rather than later.

Romeo San Vicente works overtime in heels but can’t get a “Drag Race” audition.



42 “ ___ to My Window” of 33-Down
 43 Mardi Gras costume components
 45 Former Time film critic
 46 _M*A*S*H_ cross-dresser
 48 Rita Mae Brown’s “Riding ___ “
 50 Unsettle
 51 Rear on board
 52 End of the quote
 59 Banana stalk
 60 Flaming queen’s activity?
 61 Trireme propellers
 63 Roz portrayer on “Frasier”
 64 Nuts
 65 Couture magazine
 66 Baldwin’s “The ___ Corner”
 67 Lesbian family’s anonymous “dad”
 68 Advice from Richard Simmons

Down

1 Diva’s piece
 2 Like spilled seed
 3 Apple Store buy
 4 Younger daughter of Michelle
 5 It comes with a pink slip
 6 Amos’s sidekick
 7 Lesbian opponent of Wade
 8 Mt. sign
 9 Top
 10 Adjustment for Catherine Opie
 11 Respondents to 911
 12 Shoe bottom
 13 Plugs and such
 18 On the whole

19 Hosiery pattern from Barrie’s land
 24 IHOP serving
 25 Swashbuckling Flynn
 26 Beach of a White Party
 28 Samantha not of “Bewitched”
 29 Operates properly
 30 Fayetteville fort
 31 Foucault’s final word
 32 Guitarist Eddie Van ___
 35 Second pitches for Copland
 38 John ___ Hickey
 41 Sporting body art
 43 Howard Ashman’s little one
 44 William, who played with George Takei
 47 Pump purchase
 49 Frequently, to Whitman
 52 Ellen and Anne, once
 53 “The Way We ___ “
 54 Cube designer Rubik
 55 Healthy ___ ox
 56 Denial for Nanette
 57 South Pacific island
 58 First name in detective stories
 59 Sweaty place
 62 Get hard

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Across

1 Label on a lemon that isn’t a fruit
 5 Where women cohabitate
 10 Ending with Pride
 14 Tomato variety
 15 Name on a bomber
 16 1847 Melville travel book
 17 Start of a quote from Megan Rapinoe
 20 Caesar salad option
 21 Cause of AIDS, and others

22 Org. for bears
 23 Classic sports cars
 24 School for Rev. Spahr
 27 More of the quote
 29 More of the quote
 30 Ebenezer’s exclamation
 33 Angular opening
 34 Engage in vote-swapping
 36 Abbr. on a Froot Loops box
 37 Sheik’s land, in song
 39 Lang. of the von Trapps
 40 Intercourse while surfing?

QPuzzle



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FERNDALE
5:30PM-8:30PM
Walk-In or Appointment
Mpowerment Detroit
MIDTOWN
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

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®

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Tito's

Handmade
VODKA
AUSTIN ★ TEXAS