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SUMMER OF PRIDE

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John Grant on His Most Personal Album Yet

PLUS

A Local Assault on Two Gay Men. Now, How to Heal

LIVE SHOWS RETURN
11 Must-See Artists
Coming To Town

THE QUEER MUSIC ISSUE

How Detroit Let Siena Liggins Unleash Her Queer Superpowers on Her Debut Album



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Photo: Victorian Prime

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Second Time's a Charm? Ann Arbor State Rep Again Targets Anti-LGBTQ+ Michigan Laws

By Jason A. Michael

SAGE's LGBTQ+ Older Adult Summit Is a Virtual Success

By D'Anne Witkowski

'Tool of Intolerance': Dana Nessel Blasts Restrictive Michigan ID Gender Marker Law

By Jason A. Michael

The Host Homes Program: A Lifeline for Homeless LGBTQ+ Teens in Southwest Michigan

By Jason A. Michael



Photo: SAGE Metro Detroit (Facebook)

5 Queer Things You Can Do Right Now

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

Whether you're settling in for the night or planning for a day on the town, there's music to be heard and queers to be found. That was a bad attempt at some song lyrics, but don't let that stop you. For this special Queer Music Issue, treat yourself to these legit musical acts.

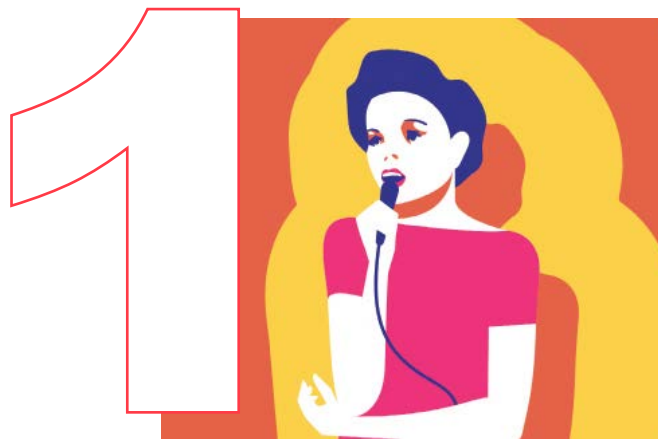


Illustration by Ben Wiseman. Courtesy photo.

Find a Thousand (More) Ways to Love Judy

Judy Garland's impact on music history and gay culture is incomparable. For the ninth year in a row, the "Night of a Thousand Judys" concert, written and hosted by NYC cabaret icon Justin Elizabeth Sayre, honored the beloved legend with the help of celeb fans like Alan Cumming, Duchess and more. Sayre tells Pride Source Garland is an "icon supreme." "She made the mold that all the rest have fallen into. While many LGBTQ people come to people for a host of different reasons, for me, it's her commitment to her audience, her giving of herself to her audience — any audience. That commitment continues to surprise and inspire me." So put on your ruby slippers and, thanks to virtual concerts, tap back in time to this night to remember.

Watch the concert and donate through Saturday, July 24 at [ThousandJudys.com](https://www.ThousandJudys.com). You can also bid on a piece of Judy Garland commemorative artwork to benefit The Ali Forney Center at [charityauctionstoday.com](https://www.charityauctionstoday.com).



Photo: Pete Souza

Plan for the Gayest Vacation Ever

It's every Americana-loving lesbian's dream: back-to-back sets by Brandi Carlile, joined by hit-makers Sheryl Crow, Tanya Tucker, Indigo Girls, Margo Price and Katie Pruitt at an all-inclusive-resort — and this isn't even including TBD special guests. Gays are obviously gonna eat up tickets for this third-ever Girls Just Wanna Weekend, so jump on booking yours now before the event kicks off Feb. 1, 2022.

To learn more and join the waitlist for rooms, visit [girlsjustwannaweekend.com](https://www.girlsjustwannaweekend.com).

Shake the Summer Heat with 'Mamma Mia!'



It has all the makings of a classic tale: foreign lands, past romances, a wedding and Swedish pop. Those looking for a reprieve from Michigan's scorching summer should take a trip to the Greek islands (by that I mean Kindleberger Park in Kalamazoo) from July 7-11 for a taste of ABBA's smash hit musical "Mamma Mia!" as performed for the Kindleberger Summer Festival. Everyone is welcome to attend this free event.

Learn more about the upcoming performance online at the [Kindleberger Summer Festival's Facebook page](https://www.kindleberger.org).

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Photo: PRISM Men's Chorus. Courtesy photo.

Pop in for Music at the Market

On Saturday, July 17, take some time to shop at the Royal Oak Farmer's Market in the morning, and then come back that night for a musical performance by PRISM Gay Men and Allies Chorus. Having performed music from classic Broadway hits like "A Chorus Line" and "South Pacific," alongside standards like "Luck Be a Lady," the volunteer-led, nonprofit blends crowd-pleasing jazz standards and showtunes. Sure to please both newbies and veterans of the gay a cappella chorus scene.

Tickets for this general admission event cost \$25. Learn more online at prism-chorus.org.



Photo: MCA MEDIA LLC

Have Brunch the Way God Intended

Is it really brunch if a drag queen isn't involved? The queens at Michigan Drag Brunch know the answer. Attend an upcoming event and let them school you in why mimosas should always be paired with lip syncs and death drops. "A lot of our audience is first-timers, so they don't really know what to expect, but as soon as the show starts, we dive right into it and they are getting the full experience of a drag show," says featured queen Donatella, whose signature number is "Show Me How You Burlesque" from the movie of the same name. The show benefits As You Are, an organization working to prevent youth homelessness.

For tickets (if they're still available by the time you read this) to the upcoming Knoop Rooftop Beer Garden event on July 25, visit midragbrunch.com.

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Philadelphia-based artist ggggrimes was commissioned to paint a mural on the Ruth Ellis Center's Victor Street building as a gift from Spotify to the center. Photo courtesy of HK Strategies

Spotify Commissions Ruth Ellis Center Mural to Celebrate Queer Community

The Philadelphia-Based Artist, ggggrimes, Is Black, Non-Binary and Queer

BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

The Ruth Ellis Center's Victor Street building is sporting a new look thanks to Spotify and ggggrimes, a Philadelphia-based artist who identifies as Black, non-binary and queer.

The building has been painted with a mural that “shines a spotlight on the important contributions of featured artists and activists local to the Detroit area including K-HAND, DJ MINX, Griz, Ruth Ellis and Dr. Kofi in telling their own unique stories,” according to Spotify Social Impact and Brand & Creative Teams. Spotify is also making a donation to the Ruth Ellis Center.

This is all part of Spotify's Claim Your Space initiative, which the blog describes as Spotify's way of “encouraging the queer community to make noise, make their presence known, and make their own rules with a single rallying cry: Claim Your Space. With a series of activations, this global campaign is aimed at creating permanent space, both physical and digital,

for the LGBTQIA+ community.”

The idea for Claim Your Space came from the historical marginalization of queer culture. “It happened behind closed doors, blacked out windows, without witnesses, without a name,” states Spotify Social Impact and Brand & Creative Teams. “It was forced underground and within the shadows. It was silenced.”

And since silence is not exactly on brand for Spotify, they devised a way to counter it: “With this in mind, we were inspired to create work that would claim both cultural and physical space for the LGBTQIA+ community. We wanted to create an indelible testament to queer survival, queer creativity, and queer joy while also celebrating the creators and activists within the community who have always fearlessly demanded to be seen, to be heard, and to be recognized as who they authentically are.”

According to Spotify's “For the Record” blog, Detroit was chosen along with Nashville and New Orleans because they are “places where the queer community has been instrumental to the

music scene, but their stories are often untold — to commission permanent murals celebrating these groundbreaking local LGBTQIA+ artists and activists, in close collaboration with queer community spaces and The Ally Coalition.”

While not connected to Detroit, ggggrimes communicates to BTL via email that they “did research on techno culture, where festivals are located, techno fashion, and old school Detroit queer culture.”

“Detroit is an area where the queer community has been instrumental to the music scene,” ggggrimes says. “This project was an amazing opportunity for me to deep dive into Detroit's queer techno scene. I'm honored to learn so much about Detroit and help give a loving gift to the queer community there.”

ggggrimes describes their artistic style as “something similar to a graphic novel, but softer. I really love anime, manga and manhwa, and my style has been heavily influenced by these art forms. I like bold color palettes, patterns and line width variation.”

The goal of the mural is not only to pay tribute to queer music culture in Detroit, it's also to simply inspire joy. “I hope that it makes them happy when they look at it, or that they see some part of themselves in it,” ggggrimes says. “That's always been my goal — for queer people to find joy in my artwork.”

Spotify also teamed up with DJ Minx to curate a Detroit-specific playlist that includes artists such as GRiZ, K-Hand, Alex Wilcox and Hotwaxx Hale.

“We were very proud to work with DJ Minx,” Spotify Social Impact and Brand & Creative Teams tell BTL. “She is a techno legend and a pivotal figure in the Detroit music scene. We worked with her to curate our Detroit city playlist as we knew her passion and authenticity would shine through.”

Spotify's curated flagship Pride playlist “Out Now” features artists such as Frank Ocean, Lil Nas X, Hayley Kiyoko, King Princess, girl in red, and Syd.

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- ▶ **Severe liver problems,** which in rare cases can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow, dark “tea-colored” urine, light-colored stools, loss of appetite for several days or longer, nausea, or stomach-area pain.
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 **GILEAD**

Affirmations Telethon and Funding Campaign Raises \$125,775, Jay Kaplan Wins Jan Stevenson Award

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

In just two months, Affirmations, the LGBTQ+ community center based in Ferndale, raised \$125,775 during its annual Affirmation Pride Fundraising Campaign. The organization closed out the event with a unique telethon on Saturday, June 26.

Affirmations Executive Director David Garcia and legendary drag performer The Lady “T” Tempest hosted the livestream event and presented several awards to supportive community members.

“Our Pride Telethon Livestream was not only a strong fundraising activity but, more importantly, has become a great ‘friendraiser’ with dozens of new donors supporting the important programs and services offered by Affirmations,” said Anthony Sherman, co-chair of the Affirmations Board of Directors. “We are amazed by the outpouring of goodwill individuals have shown our organization throughout the pandemic as we have met the emerging needs of our community.”

Here are some highlights from the event:

Telethon beats last year in funds raised

The telethon was livestreamed, and more than \$21,000 — an increase of nearly \$30,000 over last year — was raised on the day of. Affirmations Board Co-Chair Brianna Yuille generously added \$25,000 in matching funds.

The event featured entertainment on new center stage

This year, the telethon featured live entertainment in the Ringwald Theatre at Affirmations. The performance space was relocated from its original location to Affirmations amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Featured entertainment included music by The Ringwald Theatre, Jay Kaplan, the PRISM Men’s Chorus and local band The Handgrenades.

Jay Kaplan wins Jan Stevenson Award

The Jan Stevenson Award, named for Affirmations’ first executive director and the co-founder of Pride Source, went to Jay Kaplan in recognition of his 20 years as a staff attorney for the ACLU of Michigan’s LGBT Project. “I am so touched and humbled by this honor,” Kaplan told Pride Source. “I consider myself to be one of the lucky people who gets to do work that I feel passionately about and



Photo courtesy of Affirmations

to be of service to the LGBTQ community.”

Rachel Zaback wins Karen Dorgan Volunteer Award

The Karen Dorgan Volunteer of the Year Award was presented to Rachel Zaback, who Garcia said gave not only of her time but also of her energy and represented the center to the community in a positive and respectful manner.

Charles Balis and Brandon Balis win Lorna Utley Outstanding Ally Award

The Lorna Utley Outstanding Ally Award, which goes to individuals who support the center and its missions and programs as allies, was picked up by Charles Balis and Brandon Balis from CW and Associates.

Liam Thomas McDonald wins Charles Moyer Philanthropy Award

The Charles Moyer Philanthropy Award has historically been presented to someone who has a history of going above and beyond in their support of Affirmations. This year’s winner was Liam Thomas McDonald.

Jan Stevenson and Susan Horowitz win Community Hero Award

Finally, Stevenson, herself, along with her wife and fellow Pride Source co-founder Susan Horowitz, received the Community Hero Award, which was presented by the center’s board of directors to the couple for inspirational leadership, advancing acceptance, equality and inclusion. “We’re deeply humbled,” said Stevenson. “It was a surprise for sure. We were there to give out an award, and instead, we received one.”



How Do We Heal After an Anti-LGBTQ+ Hate Crime?

‘If One Person’s Rights Are Violated, None of Us Is Free’

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

Mike Hall and his fiancé Anthony Hamilton’s story is harrowing. On June 15, the two were riding scooters home from Hall’s job at the Kroger at 16 Mile Road and Crocker in Harrison Township when they were assaulted.

Hall bore the brunt of the damage and was left with a brain bruise and fractures above and below one of his eye sockets. He has also suffered migraines, severe sinus drainage issues and poor memory since the attack.

When one member of the LGBTQ+ community is attacked in such a vicious manner — police are investigating it as a possible hate crime — it affects all of us. It reminds us of our vulnerability and of the fact full equality remains elusive. So how do we process such a crime? What should the community response be? And is there anything we can do to prevent it from happening again?

Between The Lines spoke to two Michigan-based therapists and posed to them these very questions. The first is Christine Cantrell, Ph.D., who works out of Royal Oak.

“For any community under attack — immigrants, Blacks, LGBTQ, Muslims, etc. — it is crucial for the community at large to respond in support of human rights,” Cantrell said. “If one person’s rights are violated, none of us is free.”

Cantrell’s suggestions ran the gamut.

Stay informed and engage with the community

“There are many things you can do to cope with and respond to such violence,” she said. “Be informed. Read LGBTQ news and magazines to learn what the most recent incidents and trends are in discrimination and attacks against us.”

Cantrell suggests engaging in dialogue with like-minded people and gathering as a group of friends or community members to identify dialogue points and ideas for how to improve the safety and quality of life for LGBTQ+ people.

“These suggestions are best coming from those who are targeted, as they know what is not working or what makes them feel vulnerable,” said Cantrell. “For example, if a trans person doesn’t feel safe using public transportation to go to a support group or an outing, perhaps a buddy driving list could [be of help].”

Cantrell also suggests using organizations like Affirmations, Lambda Legal, Metropolitan Community Churches, choruses, and sports and dinner groups to connect and gather with other LGBTQ+ folks and their allies.

“Ask friends in the community what groups they are a part of online. Sometimes you will need a participant’s referral to be a part of a private or closed group. Bring up individual and community concerns and brainstorm together about what actions you might take as an individual or as a group.”

Organize visible responses to hate crime incidents

Another community response, said Cantrell, is to organize protests, vigils, marches and letter-writing campaigns

See **LGBTQ+ Trauma**, page 15

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Outed on the Job

Lesbian Prison Officer Sues Michigan Prison System Following 'Horrible' Harassment

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

A former correctional officer with the Michigan Department of Corrections (MDOC) is suing that agency. Bridget Cadena's lawsuit focuses on harassment she says she endured by coworkers and inmates alike after she was outed as a lesbian.

Cadena worked for the Parnall Correctional Facility near Jackson but said she quit three years ago following 18 months of harassment and subsequent inaction on the part of MDOC.

"Since my first day working at MDOC (in 2014), until the day I left, it felt horrible," Cadena told Pride Source. "I cried in my car before walking into work every day." Cadena said she could not safely do her job because supervisors allowed the prisoners to harass her. Worse, Cadena said, her supervisors put her in "many terrifying situations."

Cadena said the prisoners she was assigned to found out about her sexuality from other officers without her consent. In the suit, Cadena alleges a fellow corrections officer identified her as a lesbian in the course of a conversation with a kitchen worker. Nearby male prisoners overheard this conversation. The same officer, Cadena alleges, referred to her by a derogatory term used against gay women.

At that point, she said, "the respect that was established between us was destroyed." She alleges in the suit that the prisoners mocked her and made sexually threatening remarks. When she turned to her superiors to get help, Cadena said, "Nobody seemed to care about me at all."

Disappointed by the lack of assistance provided by her supervisors, Cadena said she was "shocked, alarmed, confused on why they wouldn't help me. I was looking for mentors, and in return, I received continuous harassment."

Not necessarily called a dream job by most, Cadena was excited about being a correctional officer, she said. She only left the job on the recommendation of her doctor after suffering anxiety and panic attacks.

"My whole life, I knew my purpose was to be in a field that was to help and serve people — my goal was to help with prison reform," she said. "I was very excited about my career."

Now, Cadena said she's had to change her plans.

"I want to help bring awareness to not only my harassment but women working in public service everywhere," Cadena said. "We don't sign ourselves up for this job lightheartedly. We are good people wanting to help the less fortunate."

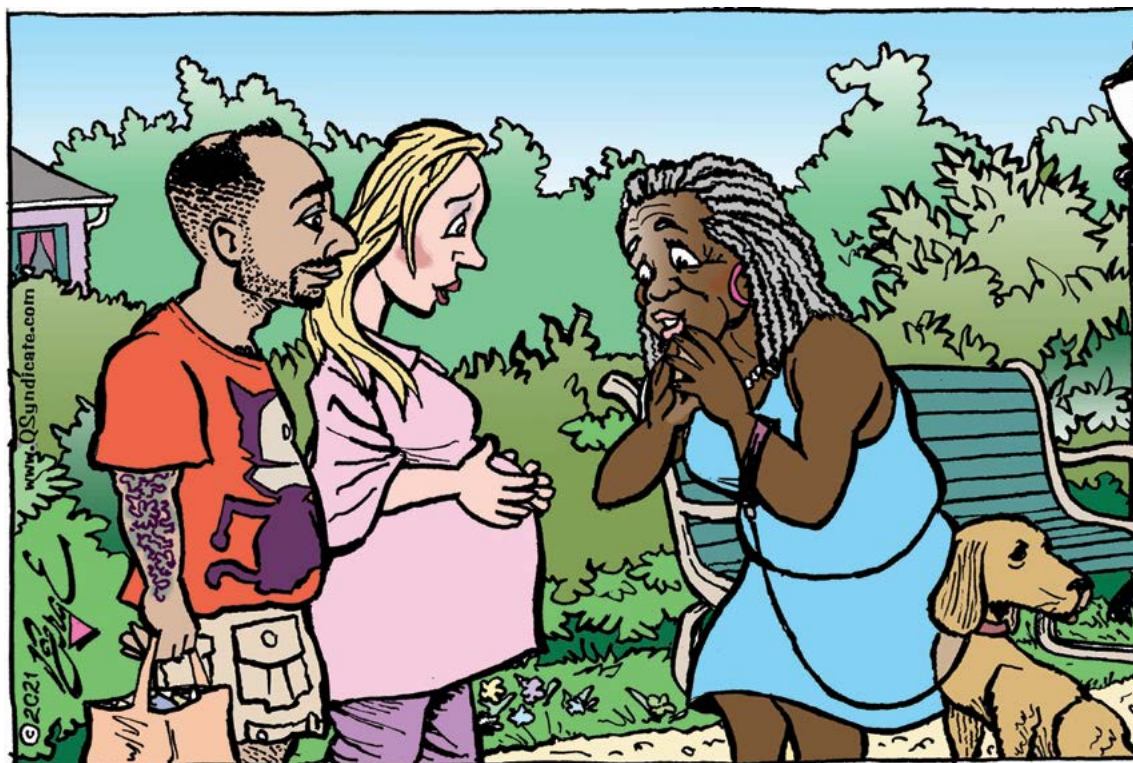
Cadena is represented in her case by Royal Oak-based attorney Jim Rasor.

"This incessant egregious and blatant discrimination against Ms. Cadena was made far worse by the inaction of the Michigan Department of Corrections," Rasor said. "It is, obviously, bad enough to experience such discrimination and vile attitudes, but it becomes much worse when the discrimination becomes institutionalized and commonplace."

Rasor said that Cadena's concerns should have been addressed as soon as she brought them to her supervisors.

"Instead of doing a proper investigation, instead of relocating her to a safer environment, they allowed this to continue until Bridget had no choice but to resign," said Rasor. "What MDOC allowed to have happened was a travesty. They allowed this trash talk to continue on this corrections officer team to the extent Bridget felt she was not safe."

MDOC has denied Cadena's allegations. In a recent Detroit Free Press article, an MDOC representative said the department had conducted a "robust, two-month investigation" into the allegations but "could not find sufficient supporting evidence."



"OH, WE'VE DECIDED TO HOLD OFF ON A GENDER REVEAL FOR THE BABY UNTIL THEY IS OLD ENOUGH TO DECIDE FOR THEMSELVES."



Transmissions

Musing on Loss

BY GWENDOLYN ANN SMITH

I am no stranger to trans mortality.

When I got my first taste of community on the early trans internet, one of my friends and mentors, Lauren Wilson, took her life. To this day, I have a quote from her at the end of every email I send. While I was aware before I ever knew Lauren how difficult this path I was traveling could be, her death brought it home that for many of us, it would be a challenge to even make it day by day as a transgender person in a hostile world.

Within five years of me first joining that internet community, in the wake of the killing of Rita Hester, I started to research anti-trans violence and murder. This led to what is now known as the Transgender Day of Remembrance, and helped to unveil just how many of us are killed out of pure prejudice against trans people.

Some days I agonize over this legacy. I want to be part of a community that celebrates our beauty, our talent, and our victories. To paraphrase that email sig I mentioned, I want a movement that is a joyous harmony of voices, ringing out in celebration of who we are.

Instead, I will always be remembered for showing us at our most sorrowful, when we mourn those we have lost, and hope for a better future, where our lives can be lived without the non-transgender majority deeming us simply too monstrous to live.

This year, in particular, has been especially awful, as the media and politicians beat the drum against transgender

rights, their followers hold up their part of the stochastic terrorism bargain. It looks like there have been 27 such cases in the United States thus far in 2021, putting us on par to beat last year's high-water mark of 44 cases stateside in 2020.

When I was a child, long before any of these statistics were floating around, I had assumed my life would be a short one. I knew I was likely trans in one form or another when I was still very much a child, and knew there were others like me by age 8.

I also knew there was no one I could even broach the subject with, let alone utter such words about myself. I knew my parents would not want to be a part of such. And as a child, there aren't many others who you can turn to.

At school, too, I knew there were no options. The bullies at school had been escalating for years, going from taunts and teasing to physical altercations.

Of course, if the bullies weren't willing to finish the job, I also had already considered ways to finish what they started, planning to walk — or jump from an overpass — onto the nearby highway. I had long felt that I would not make it anywhere past, say, 30-35 years old, one way or another.

I was wrong. Now I'm some two decades or so past that. I'm not what I'd call old. I eschew the term "elder" when people have tried to apply it to me, by and large — though yes, I am aware that, statistically, I am rapidly



Parting Glances OZ Updated

BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

Somewhere over the rainbow in the fabled Land of OZ there were rumors circulating like chatterbox whirlwinds that the latest, newly appointed Wizard of OZ is transgender.

It wasn't a sure thing who was responsible for this startling insight: Z-Anon, FLUX News, or Gaydar Enterprises International. Perhaps all three.

Nonetheless, Over the Rainbow Dorothy, who prides herself on what she said was her one-of-a-kind vocal, sing-a-song cisgendering, iPhoned her fabled companions on the MGM Yellow Brick Road.

She was very concerned. Worried about the Tin Woodman, Scarecrow and the Cowardly Lion. Worried about what their entertainment fans might think.

"Hey, bosom buddies! The world has changed since we got together in 1939 for our debut. Seems like these days everybody wants to get into the act. One way or another."

"If it's true (and Heaven only knows) that our Beloved Wizard is transgender,

or depending on the role she, he, s/he, they must play, binary or non-binary) we need to follow suit (or dress, as the case might be)."

"So, here's some wholesome advice from my Auntie Em who lives in Kansas (Need I say more?): Tin Woodman: "Don't deny it. Everyone know you're bisexual. You like soldiers as well as sailors. Be proud of that fact."

"Truth of the matter is, you now can join the Army or Navy if you're so inclined to do so.

"Scarecrow, don't be concerned about your inner straw. Just say you're transitioning to high-quality, COVID-19 twice-vaccinated sawdust."

"And, last but not least, Cowardly Lion: There's a new label that just might cover all your shortcomings. Proudly tell your fans that even though you're either/or, you're asexual when it comes to politics and other like-related porn. You can either roar or purr."

(Just let Toto out to pee if need be, when casting your lifetime ballot.)

becoming one of the older active trans folks out there. My body has reached a time when it feels every one of my years thanks to an ever-increasing number of aches and pains.

Yet, now, after years of feeling the unceasing drumbeat of death, I find myself wholly unprepared for where I am now.

In the last two months, give or take, I've seen six people I know — not all of them trans, mind you — die. A couple of those I only knew online, and were, at best, passing acquaintances. Two were friends who I hadn't seen in a while, but still cared a lot for, one was the top executive of the company I work for, and one was one of my closest, dearest friends in the world.

It has been hard to mourn. I'm still trying to really come to terms with the loss of a best friend, someone who I have been close to for a decade and a half, and knew of for well over half of my life. It's been all the more challenging to lose so many others around this same time span, trying to come to terms with their passings as well.

I hurt. I ache. I feel like something was taken from me and cannot be replaced. Heck, I don't want these people replaced. I want them back. It's a primal pain that I feel, and I am suffering from a very deep wound indeed.

I long ago came to terms with my own mortality. Again, I was sure I'd only make it to 35 under even the best of conditions. Furthermore, being transgender, particularly with the specter of my own studies into anti-transgender violence, has kept me well aware that our lives can often be brief and brutish, cut short by violence of one sort or another.

Yet the part I was never prepared for was realizing that I may continue to go on, while those around me are the ones who pass away.

I'm not wholly sure what to do, knowing this is a very distinct possibility.

That's the part I am a stranger to, and that scares me.

Gwen Smith would ask you to stay off her lawn, if she had one. You'll find her at gwensmith.com

Creep Of The Week Pride Month Is Over. Now Get on Your Knees. But Only If You're Into That.

BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

"Pride month is over," Christian evangelist Franklin Graham declared on Facebook. You hear that, everybody? Those rainbow flags should all be taken down and boxed up in the basement next to that giant, light-up, inflatable Santa and those ice skates you keep telling yourself you will totally use again someday.

Or, you know, keep 'em flying. Because if you listen to what Franklin Graham tells you to do, you'll be pretty miserable.

Graham, like so many right-wing haters, is super pissed that Pride Month exists to begin with.

"It's like setting a month aside to celebrate lying, adultery, or murder (which includes abortion), or anything else that God says is sin," he writes. "The Bible also tells us that God hates pride. Shame on the nation that celebrates and glorifies sin."

Hoo boy. A lot to unpack here. First of all, no. Second of all, the Bible tells us that God has hang-ups about a LOT of things. But I'm betting God's attitude about Pride would change if God came to a Pride event. It's fun! It's colorful! There are lesbians with strollers and guys kissing each other on the lips!

As for shame on this nation? Can't argue there. The United States has a very horrifying history! We have a lot to feel shame for — like slavery and racism — and, ideally, should be working to correct at a systemic level.

Except that a very vocal and racist contingent keeps screaming that racism isn't real and that we're teaching white kids to hate themselves by even mentioning the horror of slavery or Jim Crow or, you know, now?

But love and, yes, even sex between consenting adults? The United States doesn't have to feel shame about celebrating and glorifying that. And I don't have any patience for someone who looks at a Pride parade and sees nothing but sin and then looks at police beating Black Lives Matter demonstrators for protesting against police violence and sees law enforcement just doing their jobs.

Oh, but wait. Graham didn't mean to convey that only LGBTQ+ people are sinners.

"All of us are guilty of sin, which means

breaking God's standards," he continues. "But instead of celebrating and taking pride in our sin, we should come to God, our Creator, in repentance, asking Him to forgive us and cleanse us."

And, like, if you're Christian and into that and have committed actual sin, not just loving someone of the same sex or expressing your gender in a way that doesn't fit within society's expectations, then, like, go for it. Tell God you're sorry, ask for his forgiveness, and take a shower. But, of course, you don't need me, or Graham, to tell you that. Your relationship with/belief in God is your business.

Speaking of "guilty of sin," doesn't God hate lying? So isn't lying about the election of President Biden and encouraging people to believe the election was stolen from Trump a sin? I'm asking for this guy Franklin Graham, who totally spread this lie and all of the other right-wing evangelicals who are still spreading this lie because it serves their political purposes.

Watching the right-wing worship of Trump is wild. The man uses the Ten Commandments as a Choose Your Own Adventure tale. But, according to Graham, you just have to tell God you're sorry, and all is forgiven. How convenient for Trump and the people benefitting politically by backing him.

Graham then gives an in-a-nutshell version of the whole Jesus dying and coming back to life thing.

"Jesus died, was buried, and God raised Him to life on the third day," Graham writes. "If you are willing to turn from your sin and put your faith and trust in Jesus Christ, God will forgive you and give you a new life. Now that's something to celebrate!"

And I'm sure it is, for people who believe such a thing. But I think the big issue Graham and I are having is that we're defining "sin" differently and thus aren't ever going to agree on this issue.

But I can't just "agree to disagree."

Look, I don't believe in God. But I don't begrudge people who do. I'm not going to argue with you about whether God exists. But I will always argue for the humanity of LGBTQ+ people. I will always argue against LGBTQ+ dehumanization in the name of religion. This is my testimony.



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Michigan Supreme Court to Decide on Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Case

What Does This Mean for the Ballot Initiative?

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

When current Michigan Supreme Court Chief Justice Bridget Mary McCormack campaigned for reelection last year, she said she wouldn't consider it a win unless newcomer Elizabeth Welch won, too. The double victory meant that the court would have a 4-3 Democratic majority for the first time in years. Now, the Court is exciting LGBTQ+ folks across the state after announcing last week that it would bypass the appellate court and hear an appeal of Rouch World LLC v. Department of Civil Rights, a case that could amend the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act to include sexual orientation and gender identity.

Rouch World is a 300-acre park and wedding venue in Sturgis. In 2019, the owners of the park refused to host a same-sex wedding ceremony citing religious beliefs and the fact that Elliott-Larsen does not protect individuals on the basis of sexual orientation. Rouch World sued after learning that the Michigan Department of Civil Rights had opened an investigation.


The state Court of Claims ruled in favor of Rouch World in December and Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel vowed to appeal. But she did not know at the time that the appeal would head straight to the Supreme Court. If the high court rules favorably, it would be a landmark decision. Michigan's LGBTQ+ community has long lobbied the state legislature to amend Elliott-Larsen on its own. But the body, controlled by Republicans, has been loath to touch the matter.

"I think it's important to note that for the first time in decades there's a progressive majority on the Michigan Supreme Court," said Jay Kaplan, staff attorney for the ACLU of Michigan's LGBT Project. "So we're hopeful that the Supreme Court is going to [rule in our favor] and we're going to have a decision saying that gay and lesbian people are covered under state law."

Now, the Supreme Court has given until Oct. 25 for briefs to be filed. The Court has also invited several groups to file amicus briefs in the matter. The groups include the ACLU of Michigan, the ACLU National, Affirmations LGBTQ Community Center, Equality Michigan, Freedom for All Americans, Human Rights Campaign, LGBT Detroit, National Center for Lesbian Rights, OutCenter of Southwest Michigan, OutFront Kalamazoo, Ruth Ellis Center, Southern Poverty Law Center, Stand With Trans and Tran Sistas of Color Project.


"It's terrific for the LGBTQ community," said Trevor Thomas, president of Fair and Equal Michigan, the group that has been campaigning to either get the state legislature to amend Elliott-Larsen or get it on the ballot. "Many of us have been following the case and, as you know, a great number of groups, including Equality Michigan, for which I've been the chair of the board for some time, did amicus briefs. Amicus briefs will be invited for the Supreme Court's arguments as well."

"I think that's terrific the groups can be engaged," Thomas continued. "We are all waiting to see if the court finally recognizes the inclusion of both sexual orientation and gender identity in Elliott-Larsen."



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But while he waits, Thomas said the campaign continues.

“As the attorney general said at the LGBT Chamber of Commerce event, there are multiple paths and each path compliments the other. We, of course, fully support any path that brings protections to LGBTQ people in Michigan the fastest. We are mindful that, as we’ve said previously, that changing the law to expressly clearly include LGBTQ people is a critical step especially because we know that the court can change and have an all-new opinion any time in the future.”

So what is the status of the campaign?

“We turned in signatures, 483,000, on Oct. 13 and we are pending before the Bureau of Elections and Board of State Canvassers for certification, which is a fancy way to say we can move forward to bringing the initiative to the legislature where they’ll have 40 days to pass it out right or they could send it to voters in 2022.”

Thomas, rather optimistically, is hoping for the former.

“I hope that by the Supreme Court taking the case lawmakers will see greater incentive and value to moving legislation forward immediately and finally recognizing LGBTQ people in our civil rights law.”



Mike Hall of Harrison Township was severely beaten on June 15 as he and his fiancé, Anthony Hamilton, were riding scooters on the way home from Hall’s work. Photo courtesy of Anthony Hamilton

→ LGBTQ+ Trauma

Continued from p. 10

when such horrible events take place. These allow the victims to feel supported while showing the community at large our visibility and numbers.

Finally, Cantrell said that everyone should “be proactive in their own life. Talk with loved ones and friends about your concerns about LGBTQ+ safety and how to have each other’s backs in public and private situations. Turn to each other for ideas, support and a hug and a shoulder to cry on as needed.”

Paul Mattson is a social worker, community activist and a deacon of Metropolitan Community Church-Detroit.

“What happened to [Mike and Anthony] did happen to all of us and, theoretically, could happen to any of us,” he said. “It behooves all of us to not live in fear but to be aware of our surroundings all the time. This is not in any way to blame the victims. I’m sure they felt perfectly safe where they were. But even at that rate, since things like this do happen, we need to know

and be aware to keep ourselves safe.”

And what about the victims? What can we do for them?

“I think victim support is very important,” Mattson said. “A lot of times, the victims end up feeling alone and possibly even further victimized depending on how they’re treated by the police or medical caregivers. So I think reaching out in any way that we can to support the victims is good so they do not feel alone and know they have the support of the greater Detroit LGBTQ community.”

Community organizations also have a part to play.

“I think it’s important that affiliated organizations like Affirmations, MCC-D, LGBT Detroit, PFLAG, all of them, either cooperatively or individually, take a stand or at least make a statement against this kind of thing,” he adds.

Mattson urges organizations and citizens to put pressure on Harrison Township authorities to thoroughly investigate the recent incident as a hate crime.



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As Masc Lesbian As She Wants to Be

How Detroit Let Siena Liggins Unleash Her Queer Superpowers on Her Debut Album

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Everyone thinks they know Siena Liggins. Originally from Saginaw but currently living in Atlanta — the 27-year-old artist has lived all over, really, including North Carolina — Liggins gets a lot of this in her Twitter DMs: “My last name is Liggins too.” Or: “I found out you’re my cousin today.”

“I’m like, I had no idea I had family here,” Liggins says from her home in Atlanta. “And also, are you sure?” On video, I tell her that maybe they think, ever since she released her debut record and visual album in April, “Ms. Out Tonight,” that her bank account has just completely exploded. Dollar bills everywhere. A fancy house. A fancy car. After all, her wonderfully filthy pop music is accessible and gay club-ready, and she made Billboard Pride’s list of “20 new LGBTQ artists to fall in love with.” So she *should* be making bank. But Liggins, laughing modestly, says about these folks who think she’s their flush-with-cash cousin: “They’d be so sadly mistaken.”

Liggins does have family all over — in fact, many members still live in Southfield and Detroit, off 8 Mile — so the cousin thing isn’t such a stretch. Whether you do know Liggins, or just think you do, now’s a good time to learn a few new things about one of Michigan’s most promising talents.

How did growing up around Detroit nurture you as a musician?

One of my favorite movies when I was a kid was “The Temptations.” So much of it was very familiar. You see a lot of the city in the movie. Being a kid that didn’t really have a home — I was the new kid all the time — it was one of the very few movies that I could call out and be like, “I know where that is.” I felt very familiar with it. And my grandma listened to a lot of The Temptations and Michael Jackson. My mom was a huge Michael Jackson fan. I listened to a lot of music that was very much Detroit



Siena Liggins says Detroit heavily influenced her debut album, “Ms. Out Tonight.” Photo: Victorian Prime

music. I mean, I was very young and had a perspective on, like, who Berry Gordy was. (Laughs.)

What other memories do you have of growing up with Detroit music?

One of my journals from when I was a kid — I still have it — is a cutup record of Diana Ross. I just thought it was so cool because I was like, “That’s my home.” Stevie Wonder is also very close to home for me. I listen to a lot of that kind of music and those artists, and it’s had a huge impact on just my taste.

I didn’t directly pull from this, but when I went to the Motown Museum, there were instruments with holes in them, things that were broken and out of tune. That’s my life motto, not even kidding. I always say: “We’re all just doing the best we can with what we have.” I embody that. A lot of the things that you’ll hear in my music or on my album are honestly things that we make up on the spot. Like my dog’s breath — we just recorded it on the mic for one of the songs and it ended up being the shaker noise throughout the track. It’s on “Ur

Place,” which is the last track on my album. If you listen to the outro, you can hear it really well. It’s not actually a shaker. It’s just my puppy breathing into the microphone. And we’ll clang water bottles and metal canteens together to get a nice gong sound, or shake some keys to get a cool hi-hat sound. That is so Detroit.

Were you trained as a musician in Detroit?

Not when I was young, no. When I lived with my mom in North Carolina, she kept me in the Martin Luther King Jr. All Children’s Choir. That was part of the bane of my existence growing up. But I learned how to read sheet music. And it was awful. Every Tuesday and Saturday. Just the worst times. I could never hang out with my friends. I was also always forced to have a lead, and I was so insecure about my voice back then.

I definitely tried to learn guitar and soon realized that was gonna ruin my hand modeling career and so I quit. (Laughs.) But I still have my guitar. It’s actually in Detroit

right now. I got most of my training once I went to school. I learned a lot more of just what things meant and how I can make them fit for me. I spent some time at DIME Detroit, which is downtown. I studied there for a bit. I studied at NYU Steinhardt for a bit. But I dropped out so it doesn’t even count. (Laughs.) Never went to school because the thing is, how are you gonna teach someone to be great at something that is mostly feeling?

Aside from the instrumentation and your musical inspirations, how else has Detroit influenced this album?

A lot of the songs were birthed through connections I made. And, actually, “Flowerbomb” was written at Assemble Sound, which I was a resident at and it’s in Detroit. The majority of the artists that work out of there are Detroit-based artists, producers and writers. When I walked into Assemble for the first time, I got that spirit of Motown. It was very much a collaborative space. You could be in Studio A and somebody from D could come in and be like, “What are you working

on? Can I borrow this? And how do you do this?”

That is very much the spirit of Detroit. It’s something that I love about Detroit, that I don’t feel in many other cities: the feeling of community. And such a heavy emphasis on expression and art. I felt free to express myself how I wanted to sonically and lyrically on this project. If I was living in LA and made this project there, I might have been more calculated about what worked in terms of it being the “pop of now” and to fit in there. When I’m writing in LA, I feel so much pressure to sound like the “next (big) artist.” But in Detroit, there’s encouragement to just sound nothing like anything else.

This is your first album. How were you feeling right before it was released? And how are you feeling now that it’s out in the world?

Every single day I was on the verge of puking from the anxiety leading up to it. It was a lot. It’s a really wild feeling knowing that everything you have has gone into a thing. So much of my time, resources. Literally blood, sweat and tears. To really harness and understand that idiom is wild because nobody tells you what it feels like right before you put it out. And then it’s like, “OK, I know that this is my best work. I know that this is the best that I can do right now. I wonder if people are going to get it and match that energy.”

Because I made it during COVID in September, there were a lot of restrictions. There’s a lot of things that we had to pull together and get creative and work around and work through and budget out for. And then to get to this moment of like, “If I put this out and people don’t like it, at the very least acknowledge that it was hard work, I’m gonna lose it.”

That’s what I was feeling before it came out. Really, really nervous. But once it was out, it was such a freeing feeling. I’m like, “I don’t

have to look at this private link anymore!” Now that it’s out, it’s really, really cool to see which songs are resonating with folks and which ones aren’t as much. It just gets me excited to think about how I can turn it into a live show.

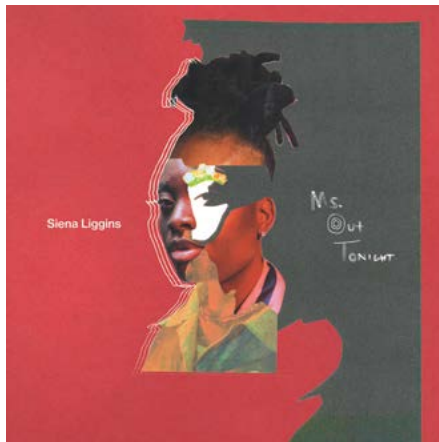
The songs on this album are really accessible pop. I can imagine these being on the radio. And when I hear radio-friendly music that’s not on the radio, I often wonder: Is it because of an artist’s race or sexuality that these songs are not on the radio?

That’s a tough question. Even if I wasn’t a queer artist, I’m not sure that I’d be on the radio right now. That’s just a part of me and my growth and my trajectory. But in terms of the broader and larger question there, you know, it could fit on the radio. And even my dad shared that sentiment. (Laughs.) He was very adamant about voicing that. And unfortunately, we live in a very capitalist, white-man led economy.

But I honestly believe that there’s still blissful ignorance within the industry. Not so much about who exists as artists, because I think that they are pretty aware of the fact there are artists like me — a queer, Black woman, hypersexual, not hyper-feminine — who’s not this mold of what they typically classify as a pop artist. I don’t think that they’re ignorant to the fact that we exist. But I do think that there is some ignorance to what the market wants and what listeners want. As we move toward a more fluid society in terms of gender and the spectrum of sexuality, the nuances of race and ethnicity and culture and all of those things, I think that as that becomes more prominent and the voice of the people becomes louder and there’s a higher demand, or people start paying attention to the demand that is already there for artists like me, that will change.

I think back to Aretha Franklin and how there were other artists like her — Black women soul singers — but the industry had this “We’ve met our Black female artist quota” mentality.

One of the really awesome things that I have that Aretha Franklin didn’t have access to is just the direct access to my fans, the direct access to the people that choose to engage with me and what I’m doing and what I stand for. I’m very lucky in that way. My mission is to try and break down some of those borders and walls and sort of disrupt the narrative. I can’t put too much of my energy and focus into the industry side of things. The best that I can do is continue to



call out the biases. But I’m not writing songs about girls that I have crushes on to just get the attention of X, Y and Z who work for whatever company. A lot of the reason why I started doing what I’m doing is because I needed an outlet. I needed a way to express myself. I couldn’t find a song like mine for who I was wanting to sing it to.

And who is that?

Oh, I mean, I’m making them for other lesbians. (Laughs.) I’m making them for other girls who like girls. Specifically, Black girls that like girls. And androgynous girls that like girls. And genderfluid girls who like girls. I’m genuinely just trying to make them with other girls who can relate to waking up the next morning and having their pillow smell like the perfume of the girl that they were next to the night before.

That was “Flowerbomb,” that’s how I started that song. It was literally just ‘cause I couldn’t find another song that felt like that to me. From there, I continued writing more. I wrote “Naked” ‘cause I was dating a girl who didn’t look at her body in the same light that I saw it. I wanted to sing that to her. I wanted to let her know how I felt about that. All of the songs that I write are always for girls who like girls.

Does it ever cross your mind that you could be more successful if you try to fit in?

Absolutely, yes. Every single day. (Laughs.)

And what still makes you decide to stay true to yourself?

It’s a lot harder to not be myself than it is to be myself. And that, honestly, is the concept of “Ms. Out Tonight.” When I neglect my true self, when I don’t let myself be me, I always end up missing out, I always end up cutting myself short or playing myself. I don’t wanna do that. I want to be able to be who I am.

My parents: I’m so lucky that they’ve always championed who I am, even when I hated myself. I’ve had a support system that’s told me that it’s OK to be me. So it would be so whack for me to not be me. But I do think about it. I think about

how much easier it would be if I’d shut my big mouth and just do what (laughs) everybody probably wants me to do.

Part of it also feels like, once you’ve tapped into being your true, authentic self, you unleash your superpowers.

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AT LONG LAST, LIVE SHOWS RETURN TO MICHIGAN

11 Must-See LGBTQ+ Artists Coming To Town



Judas Priest are set to play Sept. 16 in Grand Rapids and Sept. 19 in Detroit. Photo courtesy of 313 Presents

BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

For those of us who love live music — and for those employed by the concert industry — the wait for in-person shows has been very, very long. Here are some much-anticipated live shows featuring LGBTQ+ artists coming to Michigan over the next few months and into 2022.

Greyson Chance

in Detroit and Grand Rapids

Saturday, July 24, 2021 at the Magic Stick (Detroit)

Sunday, July 25, 2021 at The Stache (Grand Rapids)

Once upon a time Greyson Chance was a kid who went viral for his rendition of Lady Gaga's "Paparazzi" in a grade school talent show. Chance is all grown up now and bringing his danceable pop and smooth, sexy crooning to Michigan for two intimate shows.

Brothers Osborne

in Sterling Heights

Saturday, Sept. 4 at Michigan Lottery Amphitheatre at Freedom Hill

Contry musicians and brothers T.J. and John Osoborne will stop in Sterling Heights on their "We're Not For Everyone" tour. T.J. is gay and John is fully supportive of his brother. They've got grit, they've got guitars, they make boot-stomping, hand-clapping, have-another-beer country music, and they're both very handsome dudes. Yee-haw.

G-Eazy, Yung Baby Tate, Tee Grizzley, Duckwrth, JAHMED, & Kossisko in Lansing

Saturday, Sept. 11 at Jackson Field

G-Eazy heads to Lansing for the annual Common Ground Music Festival with a roster of hot hip-hop and rap artists, including emerging bisexual act Yung Baby Tate, who was just named an Artist You Need to Know by Rolling Stone. She raps, she sings, she dances, she slaps. "I've always felt so loved, so seen by the LGBT community, even before I was out," she tells them's second annual Out Now Live celebration. You'll love her. Go see her.

Randy Rainbow

in Grand Rapids

Thursday, Sept. 16 at DeVos Performance Hall

Getting through the Trump years (which, sadly, haven't ended) was made just a bit more bearable thanks to Randy Rainbow's sass, wit and incredible song parody skills. "Sedition," Rainbow's tune about the Jan. 6 attack in D.C. done to the tune of the Fiddler on the Roof Classic "Tradition," is pure gold. Rainbow's headed here on his Pink Glasses Tour. If laughter is the best medicine, then we can call him Dr. Rainbow. Ms. Rainbow if you're nasty.

Judas Priest

in Grand Rapids and Detroit

Thursday, Sept. 16 at the Van Andel Arena (Grand Rapids)

Sunday, Sept. 19 at The Fox Theater (Detroit)

When Metal God Rob Halford came out as gay in 1998, it rocked the metal world. Some people were shocked, while anyone who had been paying attention to Halford's decades of leather-clad stage domination or read the lyrics to Judas Priest songs like "Raw Deal" and "Jawbreaker" was not. Coming out didn't end the Metal God's reign: 50 years into playing live shows, the band's still tearing it up.

Too Many Zooz and Big Freedia in Detroit

Wednesday, Sept. 22 at Majestic Theatre in Detroit

Too Many Zooz is a trio that plays what they've dubbed brass house music using drums, trumpet and baritone sax. They got their start busking at New York City subway stations and now they're coming to you with Big Freedia, the Queen of Bounce music from New Orleans. Big Freedia has been featured on tracks like the Kesha hit "Raising Hell," RuPaul's "Peanut Butter," and big names like Lizzo and Icona Pop have been featuring on her albums. She even has her own Ben & Jerry's ice cream flavor, Big Freedia's Bouncin' Beignets ice cream. All hail the Queen of Bounce.

Bob Mould

in Detroit and Kalamazoo

Wednesday, Sept. 22 at Saint Andrews Hall (Detroit)

Sunday, Oct. 17 at Bell's Eccentric Cafe (Kalamazoo)

He fronted Hüsker Dü in the '80s and Sugar in the '90s, and his solo material blends that punk/alternative sound featuring his signature voice. Out since the '90s, Mould helped raise \$30,000 for Freedom to Marry by co-organizing the 2004 WEDRock benefit concert. Check him out as he swings through Detroit and K-Zoo on his Distortion and Blue Hearts! Tour.

Melissa Etheridge

in Manistee and New Buffalo

Saturday, Oct. 2 at Little River Casino (Manistee)

Friday, Oct. 8 at Silver Creek Event Center At Four Winds (New Buffalo)

Out rock icon and Grammy Award winner Melissa Etheridge is making two stops in Michigan in support of her latest album, "One Way Out," dropping Sept. 17. In a recent TODAY interview, she said of the album, "These songs are really fun, kind of pure rock 'n' roll. I just think my fans will love it." Etheridge, 60, has been rocking out since the '80s and shows no sign of putting her guitar down any time soon.



Big Freedia will perform Sept. 22 at the Majestic Theatre in Detroit. Photo: Chris Bernsten

Bianca Del Rio

in Royal Oak

Friday, Oct. 8 and 9 at Royal Oak Music Theatre

Drag Queen (yes, that's with a capital Q) and "RuPaul's Drag Race" winner Bianca Del Rio announces that, "She's vaxxed; she's waxed, and she has more attitude than ever," and she's coming to Royal Oak with her "Unsanitized" comedy tour. Del Rio's razor-sharp wit spares no one. It's sure to be fierce and fabulous.

Elton John Farewell Yellow Brick Road: The Final Tour in Detroit

Monday, July 18, 2022 at Comerica Park

Note that this show is in 2022, but we would be remiss if we didn't include Sir Elton John on this list. In a video he posted online, John said, "I'm going to go out in the biggest possible way, performing at my very best, with the most spectacular production I've ever had, playing in places that have meant so much to me throughout my career." Obviously this one's not to be missed.

St. Vincent in Detroit

Wednesday, Oct. 20 at The Fillmore

Grammy Award-winning singer/songwriter/ethereal sorceress St. Vincent has been making some of the most inventive, observant and poignant music for years. Ever-evolving, St. Vincent reinvents herself with every album, but never strays too far from the emotional core that has earned her a large and undying fanbase. Catch her in Detroit supporting her new album "Daddy's Home."



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John Grant On His Most Personal Album Yet

BY LAWRENCE FERBER

You won't find musician John Grant's new autobiography on the bookstore shelves or via ebook platforms. It's not that kind of autobiography. Instead, Grant's memoir, "Boy From Michigan," is a purely audio experience.

A melodic, synth-soaked affair with heavy influence from '80s New Wave, post-punk and electropop (he considers Devo a major touchstone, admitting "I'm always inspired by Devo even if it doesn't sound like it"), the fifth solo album from the openly gay former frontman of '90s alt-rock band The Czars features pieces of his life with chapters that draw upon his childhood in Buchanan, Michigan, his youth in Denver, Colorado, and other deeply personal periods and places.

Among those experiences-turned-songs: that time Grant, still conflicted about his sexuality, repelled a male friend's attraction by purposely creating a cock-block situation with a female friend ("Mike and Julie"); a childhood nightmare sparked by the 1971 Mia Farrow horror movie "See No Evil" ("Dandy Star"); an ode to an accepting straight friend from his chemical addiction days ("Billy"); and, fast-forward to 2020, a dark piano-driven ballad about the perverse, economy-obsessed America that Trump exemplified ("The Only Baby").

Living in Reykjavik, Iceland for almost a decade, Grant, who possesses an epic, enviable vinyl collection as seen during our Zoom interview, elaborated on the stories, people and motivations behind some of the songs on "Boy," whether any superfans have crossed the line, and the most generous gift you can leave behind for someone who loved you.

One aspect I really loved about this album is you allowed these songs to take their time and unfold, with lush, atmospheric intros and outros. There are six- and seven-minute-long tracks, and one that approaches 10 minutes. Can you talk about that?

Somebody asked me earlier today if people would ignore [these songs] on Spotify, because they start off



John Grant. Photo courtesy of Partisan Records

like that. I'm always told there have to be radio edits because they're way too long, but I won't have anything to do with them because that's not what I wrote. I think it's grotesque and like asking a painter which part of his painting you can cut out. Those sections with the sort of ambient vibe, they're really important to me and set up and finish the songs really well; they're indispensable as far as I'm concerned and happened really naturally.

I suppose I love the cinematic, so sometimes the songs just turn out to be that long. The almost 10-minute one, "The Only Baby," it was hard to cram everything that needed to be in there, and I sort of felt I was quite economical! We're getting ready to do the live shows and I was looking for the MIDI part of the main melody, but there never was a midi file because it was all improvised. I was talking to Elton John, who's loving this record and playing some of the songs on his radio show Rocket Hour, and he told me he loves to play the whole track and not the edited versions, which I really appreciate. In the corporate world there's no room for art.

The synth start and end to the title track, which opens the album, reminded me a bit of Daniel Lopatin's spacey score for "Uncut Gems." Was that something you were listening to or inspired by?

No. I would say that vibe comes more from [Greek musician] Vangelis and [French composer] Jean-Michel Jarre, but I bought that record after I saw the movie because I love Daniel's stuff, so it doesn't surprise me that it fits in there. Also, the 1986 album from Jarre, "Zoolook." It's amazing.

Did you sit down with the intention of creating a memoir album, or were these songs written over time and squirreled away for such an opportunity?

It was on my mind. With the election and that last presidency, I was thinking a lot about the American dream and American way and patriotism. Feeling like an outsider from the beginning, and [how] there's not a place for you in that American dream. Just the ugliness of a lot that we've seen made me think about my childhood, about the way I romanticize certain sections.

Michigan for me is romance and beauty. And Colorado, which is an extremely beautiful place, it's hard to say I can't stand it but I feel that way. I have a visceral reaction. There's a lot of death and addiction and difficult times. Colorado was not a good experience for me.

Can you elaborate a bit on how Michigan is romantic for you?

Because of the apple orchards and maple syrup farms. I remember collecting sap from a tree on a field trip when I was young. Everything is covered in snow and you go drink apple cider. It was idyllic.

Are you planning to perform in Michigan during your next tour?

I hope so! I'll definitely tour in the states for this record, and I look forward to it. And I make it back to Michigan more often than I thought I would. I have fantasies about buying an old farmhouse in Michigan, but I don't know how realistic that is.

You broke up with your Icelandic boyfriend since the last album, 2018's "Love Is Magic." Is there a breakup song on "Boy"?

Not really. I had such a great experience during my last relationship I wouldn't have anything negative to say about him in a breakup song. It was the first time I had a sign I was making a lot of progress in my own life that even though things didn't work out we continue to be loving and truly respectful of each other all the time, and I really like that. So no breakup songs. But he's definitely included in songs like "Best in Me," which is about the names of all these caterpillars, because I wanted a metaphor for the transforming power of deep friendship and how that helps you turn into a beautiful butterfly.

Let's talk about a song from the album that's actually set in Oklahoma, "Mike and Julie." Do either of the real-life people this is based on know this song exists? It's quite moving.


Julie knows about it. We hadn't talked in 30 years, and she knows. I don't expect Mike to care or have any reaction at all. It's understandable why I reacted to him the way I did, because I couldn't deal with my sexuality at the time, but it doesn't really matter to the person *why* you're acting that way at the time, it just hurts.

I feel bad the way I treated and pushed him away, and I don't have any idea where he is today. I did see him again years later when I was working at the concession stand of one of my favorite arthouse theaters in Denver, the Mayan. I'm not sure if he recognized me, but he ordered what he wanted and walked off. That was the last time I saw him, in 1995, almost 26 years ago.

The closing track is also named after someone, "Billy." What can you tell us about him?

He's a dear friend that I've known for a long time and one of the first straight men I could talk to about being gay who didn't treat me differently, didn't judge me, or change our friendship in any way. He's just quite dangerous for me


See **John Grant**, page 27



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Early Out p. 31

Keep Your Pride Season Going With These 8 Queer Artists (and Allies with Receipts)

BY TONY WESLEY

Between sips of White Claw or while sweeping cicadas off of your patio, you'll want to turn up your speakers to some of our favorite rising LGBTQ+ musicians — and a few allies — that will give you new reasons to expand Pride into July, and beyond.

Allison Russell

Allison Russell is truly all the things: speaker, poet, a Black woman, queer, a survivor of abuse. Those facets are woven into the fabric of the multi-hyphenate's debut album, "Outside Child." Inspired by the likes of Lucinda Williams and Tracy Chapman, Russell's solo release is a sonic reclamation of her childhood that promises a career full of triumphs. Fans of Feist shouldn't miss this one. allisonrussellmusic.com



Goldilocks

Goldilocks, who uses the pronouns she, her and ella, is a non-binary, New York-based musician whose debut album, "Future Famous," is both accessible and ambitious in scope. From the reggaeton stylings of "Slide My Way" and "Animal" to the catchy pop choruses of "Cherry," Goldilocks is only one album in and already she's fit for fight against the likes of J Balvin, Bad Bunny and Ozuna. blonderrecords.com

McKinley Dixon

McKinley Dixon describes his sound as "music Gerald from 'Hey Arnold!' would listen to." Hard to argue with that. With his latest release, "For My Mama and Anyone Who Look Like Her," Dixon shares his experiences — and his critique of American society — through his lens. "Never Will Know" contemplates the fear of being gay and not getting into heaven, while the sincere and urgent "make a poet Black" pleads abstractly. mckinleydixon.com

LAWRENCE ROTHMAN GOOD MORNING AMERICA



Lawrence Rothman

A veteran composer, Lawrence Rothman has had a chance to explore the music scene from their non-binary, genderfluid perspective for over two decades. Active

early in their career in alt- and punk-rock band Living Things, music from Rothman's 2017 debut, "The Book of Law," would later appear in Netflix's "13 Reasons Why" and "Lucifer." "Good Morning, America," Rothman's sophomore album, was largely written with collaborators over video calls and was recorded in a number of unusual locations, including an abandoned mall in Los Angeles. "Good Morning, America" is out July 16. lawrencerothman.com

Dizzy Fae

With three releases now under her belt, Dizzy Fae has a lot to say on what it means to be a queer woman of color in



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PUSHING FOR BLACK

'FEMULINE'

ACCEPTANCE

Photo: Pol Kurucz

Todrick Hall Talks Reinvention, Industry Bias and What Drives His Advocacy

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

Todrick Hall is serving bitch but making it, as he says on his latest record, *fashòn*. The album's title, "Femuline," is exactly as it seems: the blending of feminine and masculine attributes to create a

greater, queerer whole. That theme serves as the perfect narrative for an artist who has made a music career out of reimagining classic stories like "The Wizard of Oz" and "Cinderella" through his own creative lens. The difference this time, he says, was that there was no "pre-existing blueprint."

"It may exist, but I've never heard a song talking about how you can be both: you can be a prince, you

can be a princess; you can be the bride, you can be the groom. And that was very interesting for me to explore," Hall says. "But it was uncharted territory as far as I know."

Full of club-ready bangers that seem tailor-made for Pride season, "Femuline" is Hall's "open love letter to the LGBTQ community," he says. An already queer experience is made queerer thanks to both LGBTQ+ and allied icons like Brandy, Tyra Banks, TS Madison, Chaka Khan, and, of course, Hall's signature Broadway vocals.

So far in his career, Hall has been part of multiple Broadway smash hits, secured a spot as a recurring guest judge on "RuPaul's Drag Race"

and amassed a whopping 44 million views on YouTube with his 2019 "Nails, Hair, Hips, Heels" breakthrough single. Considering Hall only made the move to Los Angeles a decade ago, it's all the more impressive that his hard-won successes have been so consistent and plentiful. Not even the vision board that he created upon his permanent move out West could've prepared the Plainview, Texas native for everything he has accomplished at this point in his career.

"It wouldn't have included any

of these things because I wouldn't have had the courage and the wisdom and the diversity and the acceptance and the permission from society to be able to put things on there," Hall says. "As a dreamer, I still even limited my dreams at that time."

He says that shortly after breaking into the industry he realized that, because of societal stigma and bias, his identity as a Black gay man would only make achieving his goals more difficult than he imagined. Hall recalls a distinct moment on the Broadway stage when another Black performer in "The Color Purple" pulled him aside and told him that he was never going to get

away with mediocrity.

“And in every Broadway show that I’ve ever been in, I had to tumble,” he says. “I had to be doing backflips and leaping across the stage, and riffing and singing high, and understudying 8 billion roles while I saw my counterparts that were a different race come in and give, in some cases not even a mediocre performance, but the skill set that was required for them [to succeed] was lower,” Hall says.

In some ways, Hall says he views the high standards society places on him as a compliment, as an expectation to only bring the best quality to his work. Yet he recognizes their deeply problematic

nature, racist origins and the consequences those standards have on both himself and fellow Black performers.

“You expect Black women to get up and out-sing everyone on the stage. If she doesn’t sing ‘And I Am Telling You’ or ‘I Will Always Love You,’ then why is she there?” he says. “To me, I think a Black woman should be able to get up and sing ‘Part of Your World’ from ‘The Little Mermaid.’ The reality is that there are a lot of people who are musical-theater performers that, if they can’t deliver a gospel Jennifer Holliday-, Jennifer Hudson-, Beyoncé-esque performance, their opportunities to perform and exist in entertainment are almost nonexistent.”

To Hall, one of the keys to dispelling the stigma that still persists around identity, whether conscious or not, is to push for representation whenever possible – not only of Black entertainers but those who are LGBTQ+ as well.

“Some days I wake up and I’m like, ‘You should be grateful for the things that you have.’ But then there are other days where I’m like, ‘You can count on one hand, without using most of your fingers, the amount of gay men who have come out and been gay when they were popular on the radio,’” he says, lamenting that he’s never heard a man sing a love song to another man on mainstream radio.

He adds that Hollywood’s acceptance of Black queer artists in 2021 isn’t enough: “We’re accepting breadcrumbs when we should get a slice of bread at this point.”

Hall believes that it should be a requirement and not an exception for radio stations to play

same-sex love songs as a means of normalizing ideas of LGBTQ+ acceptance. Really, though, he’s out of patience for people who use a handful of examples of Black representation in popular culture as an excuse to say that visibility is equitable.

“People can make the decision to be like, ‘Yeah, there wasn’t a lot.’ Or they can bring up the fact that Oprah existed and be like, ‘That’s enough,’ when that wasn’t enough,” Hall says.

That extends to LGBTQ+ artists, too. He points to Lil Nas X’s “Montero (Call Me By Your Name)” as an example of audacious content created by a talented Black gay artist who’s seeking to break free from societal expectations of what Black queerness should look like.

“He probably knows singing a song that’s just a format that the Jonas Brothers, that Shawn Mendes, that James Arthur, that Ed Sheeran, that Sam Smith have been able to do would not be enough,” he says.

His passion about this topic and advocating for representation in his work comes from a personal place. A place, he says, that was born of being told “no” because of his Black, queer identity. It’s those roots that inspired him to take on advocacy projects outside of music like being the face of Morphe’s “Live With Love” palette whose full proceeds will go to benefit The Trevor Project. But as vocal as he is about causes he cares about, Hall doesn’t feel every artist needs to be required to use their platform for advocacy — it’s just the “cherry on top” if they do.

Looking ahead, it won’t be until 2022 that fans will get to see Hall perform “Femuline” live, seeing as how COVID-19 has thrown things off-kilter for nearly every touring artist’s schedule. But until then, there’s no question about what he needs to do next: “knock down walls and barriers so that the people that come after me are able to just strut without having to stress out [about] the things that I had to worry about that made me believe that I could never accomplish my dreams.”

Todrick Hall will be performing at the Royal Oak Music Theatre on April 4, 2022. Learn more about where to stream and purchase “Femuline” and other upcoming tour dates online at todrickhall.com.



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QUEER MUSIC



Dizzy Fae. Photo: Alondra Buccio

→ Queer Artists

Continued from p. 22

the music industry. Her single "Body Move" is an upbeat testament to dance and pop. Ever the visionary, Dizzy's art would be incomplete without considering her intricate, hypnotic music videos. As with her other singles, "Her/Indica" and "I'm Good," psychedelia and surrealism emerge in surprising and curious contexts on her new EP, "Antenna." dizzyfae.com

Indigo Sparke

Sydney-based Indigo Sparke's debut album, "Echo," delivers careful and thoughtful moments with her often-mournful folk. Co-produced by Big Thief's Adrianne Lenker, the album's melding of spoken word and living-room guitar creates intimacy in both sound and feeling. "Echo" is sweetened by its moments of reprieve, and the album as a whole is a satisfying labor of love. indigosparke.com

Patrick Paige II

Patrick Paige II is perhaps best known for his work in The Internet alongside Syd Tha Kid. With his second album, "If I Fail Are We Still Cool?," Paige delivers cut after cut of mellow bars and bass-laden R&B, using equal parts sensuality and funk to compose the hazy "Whisper (Want My Love)." Lead guitar and trap hype up "Big Plays," a stark contrast to the thoughtful and not-quite-lofi "Who Am I." fatpossum.com/artists/patrick-paige-ii

Fears

As Fears, Constance Keane recorded her album *Oíche* in three separate bedrooms. The album is like a scrapbook, each song an emotion. A feminist endeavor, Keane released *Oíche* through her own label, TULLE Collective, to create space and representation for female and non-binary musicians. tullecollective.com

Hear selected tracks from each of these artists online at pridesource.com.



Constance Keane, who performs as Fears. Photo courtesy of Fears

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because he's bigger than life and one of those people I would follow to my grave because he can do blow for two weeks, 24 hours a day, and be fine. And I'd end up in the emergency room with a heart attack from one night of that!

I got sober and he didn't, and a lot of times when you get sober you have to part ways, even though you don't want to, because your interests don't align anymore. But I was thinking about the way Billy is straight and how his father affected him and mine affected me in completely different ways by these ideas of what a man should be, and we both spent years trying to destroy who we are to live up to what was expected of us. [The song is] a study of how damaging that is, to tell somebody who they are.

Despite its title, "The Cruise Room" has nothing to do with backrooms or hookups?

It's about a bar in Denver. It's one of the most beautiful bars in the world, I think, and not a gay bar, just a regular bar, so there's no cruising involved. It's just called The Cruise Room. I think it opened in the 1920s or '30s and is part of the oldest hotel there, the Oxford, and the most exquisite original art deco bar. They had a beautiful jukebox and I loved to play Patsy Cline. I wanted that place

"I was thinking about the way Billy is straight and how his father affected him and mine affected me in completely different ways by these ideas of what a man should be, and we both spent years trying to destroy who we are to live up to what was expected of us."

to be immortalized in song because it's so beautiful.

One song, "Just So You Know," confronts mortality and exists to comfort loved ones after you die. What was the creative spark for that one?

I was maybe thinking about my mother's death [in 1995 from lung cancer] and how after someone goes away we spend a lot of time beating ourselves up wondering if we expressed enough to them [about] how much we loved them while alive. I was quite young when she died and going through a rough time. She was very religious and didn't want me to be gay, so there was a rift there. If I had a letter from my mother that said, "I know our relationship was complicated, but don't worry about it, I knew you loved me..."

When I'm gone people won't have to beat themselves up or think I didn't know, because they'll have this song that says I always felt

your love and knew you cared for me. I do get that a lot of people think it's quite morbid, but death happens to all of us, so it's not that weird, is it?

That said, would you like to exclude anyone who did you wrong? Name them now publicly so they can't absolve themselves or find solace in the song.

It's funny you should say that, but I'll let those people know personally with a letter: "This does *not* apply to you, I didn't know you loved me because you were a cunt."

Would you like Mia Farrow to know she helped inspire "Dandy Star"?

I've thought about that! I think so, it would be cool. But, I mean, her life is so huge.

Are you glad that your life is lower profile than Mia's or Angelina Jolie's? That you're not hounded by paparazzi?

I do really like that. When you see the way people like Britney Spears were hounded, I felt quite compassionate toward her. It's so strange the way people follow people around and force them into these reactions and point and say they're crazy. The people saying they're crazy are completely out of their minds as far as I'm concerned. America is a no-boundaries place.

Do you have superfans who crossed a boundary at least once, though?

There was somebody for some time trying to prove I was the father of her son. My manager and I were like, "You're barking up the wrong tree here, lady!"

"Boy From Michigan" is out now, with a European and U.S. tour to follow later this year.

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Ann Arbor Art Fair Returns

3 LGBTQ+ Artists to Check Out

BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

The 2021 Ann Arbor Art Fair is happening in real life. Or, more accurately, art fairs (plural), as the annual summer event will feature three fairs in one: The Original Ann Arbor Street Art Fair, Ann Arbor Summer Art Fair, and Ann Arbor State Street Art Fair.

2020's event was canceled entirely due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In fact, there was some doubt it would happen this year for the same reason, but an improved public health outlook and a thumbs up for outdoor events means that the fair will go on as planned July 15-17 in downtown Ann Arbor.

Ann Arbor has a reputation for being one of Michigan's most affirming cities for LGBTQ+ people, and so it's no surprise that this year's Art Fair includes a diverse roster of artists. Here are three LGBTQ+ artists to look out for this year.

Scotty Jones—Ann Arbor Summer Art Fair Booth MN237

Fiber/Fabric

Kokomo, Indiana artist Scotty Jones is

headed to Ann Arbor for the fourth year, not counting 2020. Expect to find functional fiber art in the form of handbags and wallets as well as wall art. Prices range from \$20 to \$150.

Jones combines hand-pulled screen prints with vintage textile and vintage-inspired textile he designs himself. "I fuse and layer foundation and textile, creating structured handbags and wallets," Jones tells BTL via email. "Each piece is one of a kind. I consider the handbags and wallets my canvas. I use the scraps to create framed tiles. The images in my screenprints are made from my digital art. I use rescued photos of people I don't know found in flea markets and mid-century ephemera as my inspiration."

A personal inspiration for Jones is his grandmother. "She was very skilled in the home arts and taught me to sew when I was around 9 years old," he says. "She gave me a love for vintage things and an appreciation of fine craft."

Artistic inspirations include handbag designer Enid Collins and Andy Warhol. "I learned screen printing in the 1980s because I was so drawn to his repeating graphic images," Jones says.

Jones particularly loves working with vintage barkcloth, "a fabric that was mainly used for drapery and upholstery," he writes. "The name comes from the texture: it's nubby like the bark on a tree."

As to where he finds this material, he writes, "It finds me."

"When you collect something, it seems that thing has a way of finding you," he continues. "I find it in many places, online, estate sales, flea markets and sometimes it's gifted



Scotty Jones makes functional art in the form of purses and wallets using screen printing and vintage barkcloth. Photos courtesy Scotty Jones

to me from people I meet at art festivals."

Like most artists, 2020 was a very difficult year for Jones. Not only did both Jones and his husband get infected with the virus, but they also lost friends and family. And then there was the threat to his livelihood.

"Once the shows began canceling, I felt an overwhelming sense of anxiety and fear," he writes. "I began to grieve not only the loss of income but my whole support system. The reality of not being with your tribe was a hard pill to swallow. Once the dust began to settle and the hard reality of no-shows sunk in, I had to figure out a new way forward."

That new way forward included a new focus on selling art through his website and connecting with local galleries and gift shops. He honed his photography and website-building skills. He read books, connected with artists across the country via social media, and listened to podcasts about the business side of art.

"I will look back on this time as the time I really grew as a creative and got more deeply in touch with that artistic voice that fuels it

all," he says.

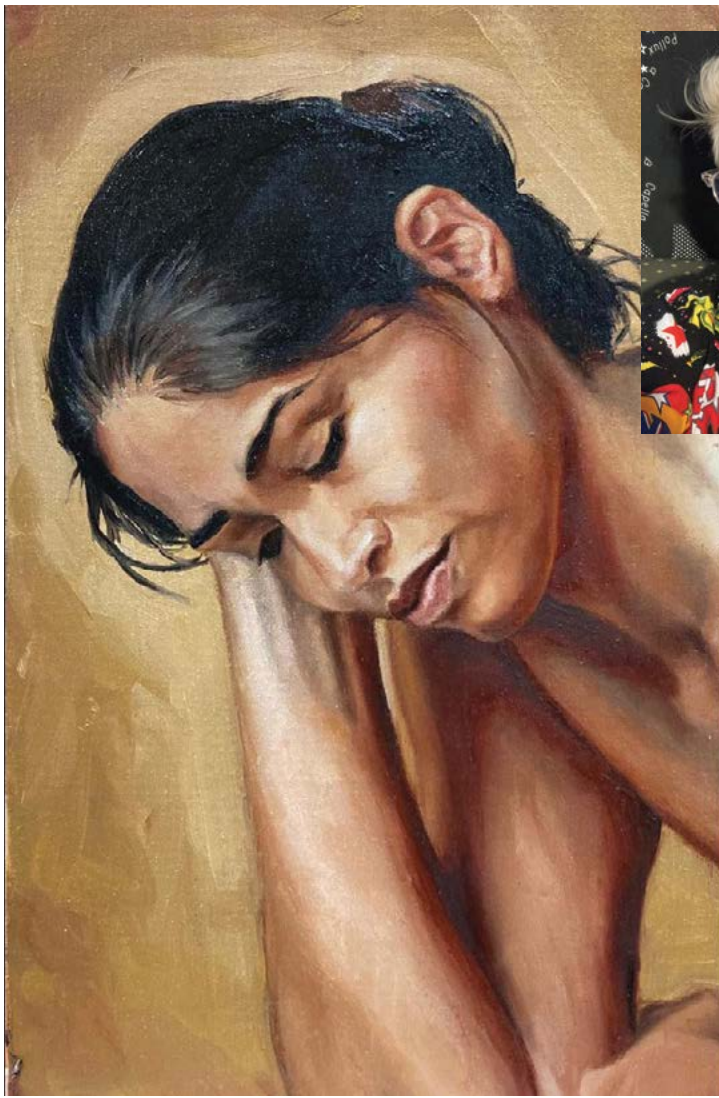
Regarding being an LGBTQ+ artist in today's artistic and political climate, Jones writes, "I am 58 years old and came of age during the AIDS epidemic of the late '70s and '80s. I've seen change in our community I never could have dreamed of as an 18-year-old gay man. I have always just been who I am and pressed forward. I travel the art fair circuit with my husband Leon and our two dogs. We will be celebrating our 40th anniversary this October."

You can find Jones's work on Instagram @scottyjones_urthyfiberart and at urthyfiberart.com.

Con Lustig—Ann Arbor Art Fair, The Original Booth WA818

Painting

Michigan native Con Lustig is a lifelong Downriver resident currently living in Wyandotte. This will be Lustig's first time at the



very different ends and to make very different statements), but making them obviously contemporary and beautiful pieces. Both inspired me because I also love the look of traditional oil paintings of that ... time period, but for a while, I thought that they were too antiquated to be a viable source of inspiration for contemporary works."

Lustig encourages a visit to the Detroit Institute of Art to see Wiley's painting

"Officer of the Hussars," describing it as "really breathtaking." He continues, "I encourage anyone who is there to see it, if for no other reason than to understand how beautiful his work is and that photographs really can't quite do oil paintings justice."

While Lustig sees "the continued and increased participation of LGBTQ artists in the world" as very important, he's also wary of being reduced to simply a "queer artist," used as a token "Pride Month gesture of representation" and/or expected to represent all queer artists.

"I want to use my talent and skill to do something — at the very least, increase representation. I want to explore more queer themes," he says. "[But] there becomes the question of how deserving I am to be that representative — where does that leave intersectionality in all this? Who might I be talking over who also deserves a voice and a means to express their experiences?"

Lustig's plan for summer art shows last year fell apart after the shows were canceled. "It completely changed my plans, and I think my life trajectory," he says. "Artistically, I started working with oil paints since I had the time and no real pressure to produce a viable product. Personally, I finally started HRT and transitioning— being forcibly confronted with

See **Art Fair**, page 30

Ann Arbor Art Fair, though he was supposed to be part of the canceled 2020 event. Expect to find paintings in acrylic and in oil, as well as prints of some of his works, ranging from \$15 to several hundred dollars.

"I had been working in acrylic painting for several years, but since the beginning of 2020, I've been practicing working in oils," Lustig writes to BTL via email. "I like to lean toward the surreal, even gothic. I've always liked exploring darker themes and broad concepts (fear, love, etc.) in my work; often, I like using animals for their symbolism related to these themes."

Lustig, who has no formal artistic training, says most of his images are built "almost fully in my mind before I put anything down."

"Occasionally, I make a loose compositional sketch beforehand," he writes. "Then I search for reference photos I can use to help me build a realistic image. I create a much more detailed sketch directly on the canvas or board in a thin wash of paint. With my most recent oils, I've used both direct and indirect painting techniques."

Among his influences, Lustig names Caravaggio and Goya. "For contemporary artists, I really enjoy the work of Kehinde Wiley and Nicola Samori," he says. "Both draw from and directly reference works of the Renaissance and Baroque era, using the cultural recognition and iconic power of those traditional styles (to

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→ LGBTQ+ Trauma

Continued from p. 10

your own mortality every day really can be a motivator.”

Luke Hobbs—Ann Arbor State Street Art Fair Booth MA330

Industrial & Vintage Inspired Lighting Design

Luke Hobbs comes to Ann Arbor by way of Los Angeles, California, although he is originally from the Midwest and has family in Wisconsin, Michigan and Illinois. “I’ve lived in different cities across the country, but most recently have called Palm Springs, California home! It’s a very welcoming city for artists and the LGBTQ community,” he writes to BTL via email.

He adds, “As a person of the LGBTQ community, I love the travel that comes along with being an artist and being able to connect with the different local communities.”

Hobbs creates unique lighting and lamps, aka “functional art.” His first time at the Ann Arbor Art Fair was in 2019. Prices for his work range from \$95 to \$300.

“My medium is always somewhat hard to describe, depending on the ‘categories’ available to choose from.” As an example, on the art fair website, he is listed under artists who work with wood, but wood is only one element of his work. “I use an array of different materials and components. There is a lot of

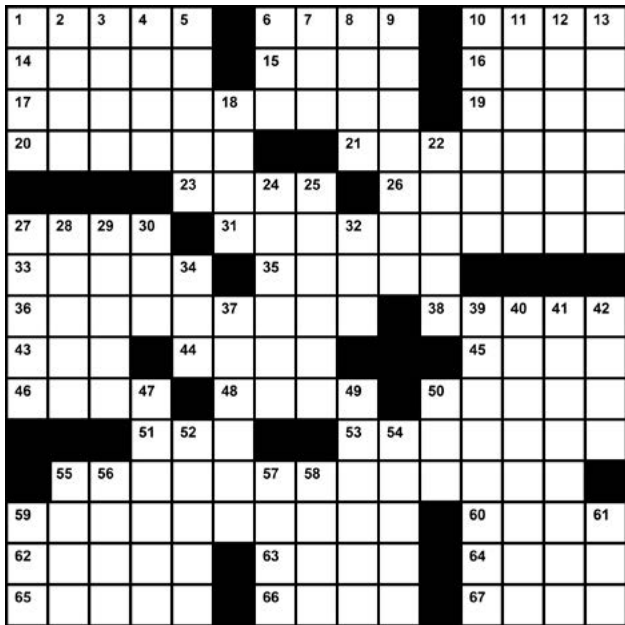
woodwork involved, but I also work with concrete, metal, etc. They all combine to form a unique aesthetic that can blend nicely with a variety of different styles.”

Hobbs’s art can be found in the possession of some high-profile clientele.

“I primarily started off as an artist in Los Angeles, where my workspace was in the middle of Hollywood,” he says. “One of my first sales at a local artisan market was to Leonardo DiCaprio (who happened to be with his friend Johnny Depp). That was a nice confidence booster in my work and helped propel me further. He has since purchased several more pieces as gifts throughout the years.”

Past COVID-caused cancellations of art events made the past year a particularly rough one.

“The cancellations of the artist events really took a toll on me both mentally and creatively,” Hobbs writes. “I love to meet people and the interaction that comes with traveling as an artist. The interactions, travels and networking always propel me and help to fuel my creativity. I’m excited to finally get back to some ‘normalcy’ and see some smiling faces!”



- 38 The 44th president
 43 "Evita" narrator
 44 "___ Hai"
 45 Judy Garland, to many
 46 Mata ___
 48 Sch. for your first mate
 50 Nero's land
 51 Edvard Grieg's land (abbr.)
 53 Accra resident
 55 Early out pioneer of the 3 movies in this puzzle
 59 Archaic word for gay
 60 Words before many words
 62 One of the Village People
 63 "Nobody ___ But Me"
 64 From the top
 65 When to have sex
 66 Mauresmo's do-overs
 67 "Not that I loved Caesar ____"

- 18 Retreat for D.H. Lawrence
 22 Try to deceive
 24 Body snatchers
 25 Entered
 27 Barmaid, to the Bard
 28 Largest cornhusker city
 29 Onions partner
 30 Emulate Earhart
 32 Bentley of "American Beauty"
 34 Come out on the beach
 37 "House" star Hugh
 39 Like House races
 40 That's Rich!
 41 Swamps, or what tops want?
 42 Cumming on the stage
 47 Ready for bed, perhaps
 49 All shook up
 50 Rink star Babalonja
 52 "Full House" twin name
 54 Nathan and Alan
 55 Enterprise Klingon
 56 "___ your disposal"
 57 Doug Mattis leap
 58 Animal that's no breeder
 59 "Sex and the City" source
 61 Cries from an S/M bottom

Down

- 1 Cornfield cries
 2 Morales of "Resurrection Blvd."
 3 Lid problem
 4 "East of Eden" son
 5 Like balls
 6 Like hard-core porn
 7 Vein contents
 8 Madonna's "Dick Tracy" role
 9 Indian bean tree
 10 "High Sierra" star Ida
 11 Experiencing REM, maybe
 12 Type of network
 13 Carry a torch for

Early Out

Across

- 1 "The Gay Caballero" star Romero
 6 Mil. student body
 10 Chloe's "Boys Don't Cry" role
 14 Elroy Jetson stroked him
 15 Lot measurement
 16 Treated as a sexual object
 17 Setting for a cowboy story, or a 1930 movie

- 19 Color purple
 20 Earth pigment
 21 Abraham in "Amadeus"
 23 Rapper Snoop ___
 26 One-dimensional
 27 Fairy tale huffer
 31 Actors, e.g., or a 1928 movie
 33 "Dirty Dancing" director Ardolina
 35 ___ a time
 36 Certain dark hues, or a 1929 movie

Q Puzzle

House

See p. 20 for answers

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