

LOOKING AT PEDRO ZAMORA'S LIFE

PAGE 15

# WINDY CITY TIMES

THE VOICE OF CHICAGO'S GAY, LESBIAN, BI AND TRANS COMMUNITY SINCE 1985



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KELLY CASSIDY AMONG PRIMARY WINNERS  
PAGE 4

## Bayard Rustin: A complex legacy

ANALYSIS BY YASMIN NAIR

The gay civil-rights activist Bayard Rustin was born a hundred years ago, on March 17, 1912. Considered the key organizer of the historical 1963 March on Washington, Rustin was involved in movements for racial and economic justice till his death in 1987. Yet, he is relatively unknown today and often deliberately stayed in the background, in large part because public knowledge about his identity as a gay man added to his vulnerability as an outspoken civil-rights activist.

In 1953, Rustin was arrested on a "morals" charge for sex in a car with two men. The arrest would shadow his life and activism for years. When he was an adviser to Martin Luther King Jr., the two men planned a demonstration at the 1960 Los Angeles Democratic National Convention. Harlem Congressman Adam Clayton Powell got King to cancel the action, threatening to reveal that

King and Rustin were having an affair. King, fearing the worst, let Rustin go, even though there was no truth behind the threat. In such ways, Rustin's sexual identity would overcast his work.

In recent years, Rustin has been the subject of extensive biographical works. Among these is the 2003 book, *Lost Prophet: The Life and Times of Bayard Rustin*, by John D'Emilio, a historian at the University of Illinois at Chicago. The 2003 film, *Brother Outsider: The Life of Bayard Rustin*, co-directed by Nancy Kates and Bennett Singer continues to make the rounds, especially this year. (It is running at the Chicago Cultural Center March 28.)

*I Must Resist: The Life and Letters of Bayard Rustin*—a new book and collection of correspondence from

Turn to page 8



Bayard Rustin (right) with Martin Luther King Jr. Photo courtesy of Bennett Singer



ANTI-TRANS LAW REJECTED  
PAGE 5

## Getting schooled



The controversial film *Bully* (left) is among the items in *Windy City Times*' spring movie/music roundup. Read about everything from a queer movie preview to a look at this year's SXSW music festival. All the fun starts on page 28. Photo by Michael Dwyer and The Weinstein Company

page 28



PAULA POUNDSTONE INTERVIEW  
PAGE 34



page 10

## Setting the bar

Local gay entrepreneur Colm Treacy is responsible for some of the most popular LGBT hangouts in the city, including T's and The Glenwood Bar. Now, he's looking to expand his empire. Read more on page 10. Photo by Ross Forman

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# this week in WINDY CITY TIMES

## NEWS

Illinois elections; Cassidy wins	4
Wis. anti-transgender law defeated	5
Gerber/Hart removes voting rights	6
Immigration activists win	7
Bayard Rustin's complex legacy	8
LGBT health and smoking	9
Gay businessman Colm Treacy	10
Lobbying around syringe exchange	11
T in the Life; Alphawood; JTIC	12
Gay in the Life	13
AIDS @ 30	14
Viewpoints: Morten; letter	18

## ENTERTAINMENT/EVENTS

Scottish Play Scott	19
Michael Feinstein interview	22
Art review: 'Djuna Barnes'	23
Knight; spring movies/music	28
Poundstone; 'Scrooge' news	34
Traci Lords; writer Rosenberg	35
Gay Bronzeville	36
Dish: Carmine's	38
Billy Masters	45

## OUTLINES

Real estate; classifieds; pets	42
Calendar Q	44
Sports: Beating cancer; hockey	46

Photos on cover (left, from top): Cover of the book *Pedro and Me*; official headshot of state Rep. Kelly Cassidy; photo of M. Dru Levasseur from *Levasseur*; Paula Poundstone PR photo



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### CAPTIVE AUDIENCE

Read about a discussion of the book *Captive Genders*.

Photo of Yasmin Nair and Eric Stanley by Jamie Anne Royce



See photos from the GLAAD Media Awards held in New York City.

Photo of Isis King by Mike Coppola/WireImage



Read an interview with Trevor Thomas, who's running for Congress in Michigan.

Photo by Charlsie Dewey

### LEAVING A MARK



Read an article on the late local performance artist Mark Aguilar as well as see photos of a vigil for the slain Mexican trans activist Agnes Torres.

Photo from the vigil by Ed Negron

### ESTATE OF GRACE

Phil Sitar discusses women and estate planning as well as how you can help your credit score.

### BRIDAL WAVE

See photos from Project Runway alumna Rami Kashou's unveiling of his bridal line at bebe.

### THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT

Read entertainment news about Dame Edna, Angelina Jolie and Paula Deen. Also, read an interview with Shanola Hampton of the TV show *Shameless*.

plus DAILY BREAKING NEWS

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## ELECTIONS '12:

# Romney, Jackson, Cassidy among primary victors

BY ANDREW DAVIS

Mitt Romney bolstered his position as the front-runner of the GOP presidential candidates with a strong victory over Rick Santorum in the Illinois primary March 20.

Romney delivered his victory speech in Schaumburg at a relatively early time: 8 p.m. He ended up with 47 percent of the vote, with Santorum trailing at 35 percent. Ron Paul and Newt Gingrich had 9 and 8 percent, respectively.

The win may provide Romney the momentum he needs to clinch the nomination.

Befitting someone who believes he will face President Obama in November's general election, Romney spoke only of the chief executive. At one point, the former Massachusetts governor said, "We know our future is brighter than these troubled times. We deserve a president who believes in us."

Santorum left the state March 19 and was watching the numbers from an election-night party in Gettysburg, Penn., in the state he once served as a U.S. senator.

WGN-TV reported that the voter turnout was the lowest ever for a presidential primary, with the percentage in the lower 20s.

## U.S. House and state Senate races

There were several statewide races that garnered attention statewide and even nationally.

In the 2nd Congressional District, Democrats Debbie Halvorson and Jesse Jackson Jr. had waged an intense war of words. However, Jackson had little problem in the election, winning handily.

Halvorson was challenging Jackson after losing her 11th District seat to Republican Adam Kinzinger in 2010. Jackson had 71 percent of the vote. He said in his victory speech that this win was probably the most meaningful of all his elections, and thanked Halvorson for making him "a better candidate."

Iraq War veteran Tammy Duckworth also won rather easily, defeating fellow Democrat Raja Krishnamoorthi 67 percent to 33 percent. She will now go on to face Republican Joe Walsh in the general election. In a statement, Duckworth said, "As we turn our focus to defeating Joe Walsh, it's even more important for us to remember what this election is all about. ... It is a personal commitment to do my part to fulfill the promise of America for the families of the 8th District."

Speaking of Kinzinger, it looked as if he was defeating fellow Republican Don Manzullo in a rare match-up of incumbents. (Because of redistricting, they had to face each other.) Kinzinger prevailed, garnering 54 percent of the vote.

Jan Schakowsky won in a walk over Simon Ribeiro, with the 9th Congressional District incumbent getting 92 percent of the vote.

In the 10th Congressional District Democratic primary, businessman Brad Schneider (who has been under fire for donating to Republicans) edged 25-year-old candidate Ilya Sheyman 47 percent to 39 percent. Schneider will now square off against Republican Bob Dold.

"Brad has run a spirited campaign over these past 12 months, and will need all our help to defeat Congressman Dold in November," said Sheyman. "I'll stand strongly behind him to take back the 10th Congressional District for the Democrats for the first time in 32 years."

An intriguing race in the state Senate arena involved Democrat Patricia Van Pelt Watkins (whom Carol Moseley Braun infamously called a

crack addict when they both ran for mayor last year), who defeated incumbent Annazette Collins in the 5th District.

## Cassidy beats Basta

In the most-watched primary in LGBT Chicago, 14th District state Rep. Kelly Cassidy defeated challenger Paula Basta 62 percent to 38 percent.

The two have been engaged in tight battle for the seat that Cassidy was appointed to last spring, a race that offered an unprecedented choice between two longtime lesbian advocates and divided LGBT political activists.

See the full story at right.

## County races

In her re-election bid for commissioner of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District, open lesbian incumbent Debra Shore won enough votes to be among the Democrats moving on to the November general election. With 98 percent of the city votes counted, Shore was the top Democratic vote getter. Kari K. Steele and Patrick Daley Thompson also advanced to the general election.

Dorothy Brown easily kept her seat as clerk of the circuit court of Cook County a closely watched race against 22nd Ward Ald. Rick Munoz, pulling in 67 percent of the vote. Munoz had voiced his support for marriage equality in an interview with Windy City Times, while Brown said she was waiting to see how civil unions evolved. Munoz told WGN-TV that the results show that Cook County is not yet ready for reform.

## Judicial races

Two openly gay men were among the Democratic candidates for judge in the 8th Subcircuit, Cole vacancy. John Ehrlich prevailed in a race that included another openly gay candidate, Brad Trowbridge.

In the Democratic race for the Chiola vacancy in the 8th Subcircuit, Celia Gamrath had 49 percent of the vote, followed by James Shapiro at 33 percent.

Openly lesbian Judge Mary Trew lost in her race for the 9th Subcircuit Epstein vacancy, as Larry Axelrood won.

Lesbian judicial candidate Andrea Schleifer won her Democratic race in the 12th Subcircuit, Rochford vacancy, with 61 percent of the vote.

Judicial candidate Deidre Baumann, a member of the LGBT community, lost in her bid for the Stewart vacancy to Patricia Leeming.

Gay attorney John G. Dalton won his judicial primary in Kane County for the 16th Dist. 2nd Subcircuit seat without challenge. He will face off against John Walters in the general election.

Mike Forti, a gay Democratic Cook County Judicial Circuit candidate for the Simmons Jr. vacancy, lost his race to Jessica O'Brien. Forti had 31 percent of the vote to O'Brien's 48 percent.

## More gay candidates

A few openly gay candidates sailed to success without opposition. Openly gay 13th Dist. Rep. Greg Harris ran unopposed for his seat. Deb Mell, 40th Dist. Rep. and an out lesbian, ran unopposed in the primary and will face off in the general election against Antoinette "Toni" Puccio-Johnson. Elsewhere on the state House trail, out gay candidate for the 62nd Dist. Sam Yingling was also unchallenged in the primary and will go up against Sandy Cole in the general election.

## Indicted candidate wins big

In an interesting development, Democratic incumbent state Rep. Derrick Smith of Chicago defeated Tom Swiss with three-quarters of the vote—a week after being indicted on a federal bribery charge. According to the Chicago Sun-Times, Smith, a 2011 appointee, allegedly accepted \$7,000 to write a recommendation letter for a day-care center.

## Madigan overpowers Piszczor

State Rep. Mike Madigan, D-Chicago, easily pushed back a challenge from Michele Piszczor, garnering more than 75 percent of the vote in a four-person race. However, Piszczor told Progress Illinois she believes the House speaker engaged in misconduct, saying, "I know he cheated." Madigan has been in the Illinois General Assembly since 1970.

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NATIONAL NEWS



—Military academy holding pride week

—Michele Bachmann (left) owes \$1M

—Bank of America exec opposes gay-marriage ban



State Rep. Kelly Cassidy with her children at her victory party. Photo by Kate Sosin

## ELECTIONS '12:

# Cassidy downs Basta in 14th District race

BY KATE SOSIN

In the most-watched primary in LGBT Chicago, 14th District state Rep. Kelly Cassidy defeated challenger Paula Basta.

The two have been engaged in tight battle for the seat that Cassidy was appointed to last spring, a race that offered an unprecedented choice between two longtime lesbian advocates and divided LGBT political activists.

Cassidy pulled in 62 percent of the vote Tuesday, with Basta trailing. With 100 percent of the votes in the city results, Cassidy had 5,850 to Basta's 3,561 (62.16 percent to 37.84 percent). In the county vote (which totals just two precincts), Cassidy took in 69 percent of the votes, with Basta taking 31 percent. There is no candidate on the Republican side in the race.

Cassidy stood with her three sons at St. Andrew's Inn in Edgewater.

"I am so thankful for everyone here tonight," said Cassidy, who thanked a number of politicians and friends by name before sending her sons home to bed.

Basta held her campaign party at The Call bar in Andersonville. She called the campaign experience "wonderful."

"I am thrilled that two lesbians got to run against each other, and it was not that that was the issue," she said. Basta sent her congratulations to Cassidy, adding that she supported Cassidy 100 percent.

Tensions between the two campaigns,

which largely remained positive in public, have ripened in recent weeks. Basta's campaign had billed her as the "independent" candidate, and her supporters have suggested that Cassidy's support from Democratic insiders and appointment last year had locked her into machine politics. Cassidy has rejected that characterization.

Basta and Cassidy made the same campaign stop March 20 at Nicholas Senn High School. Just a handful of voters stopped in to vote after 5 p.m., a time when polls typically see an influx of voters getting off work. At Senn, campaign representatives largely outnumbered poll-goers. One campaign worker noted that in his 12 hours at Senn, he had seen fewer than 200 voters. Basta and Cassidy stood across the same sidewalk for several minutes, each competing for an occasional handshake.

Carol Ronen, 48th Ward Democratic committeewoman and former state senator, addressed suggestions that Cassidy was an insider election night, stating that regardless of her appointment last year by Ronen's party, voters had spoken in favor of Cassidy.

"Today makes clear ... that Kelly is the elected state rep," Ronen said.

As for Basta, she said she will continue her work as director at the Northeast (Levy) Senior Center. Asked if she would run for office in the future, she said, "That's always up to people—people other than me."

## Citizen lobbyists to join El outreach

With same-sex marriage, hate crimes and anti-bullying proposals on the table, Equality Illinois is sponsoring a major lobbying initiative in Springfield to alert state lawmakers of the importance the LGBT community places on these initiatives, according to a news release.

More than 200 citizen lobbyists from all over the state will join the Equality Illinois professional staff and bipartisan advocacy team April 25. A full day of meetings and receptions is planned.

Equality Illinois is following many bills in the legislature, Hannig said, but among the biggest issues is the Religious Freedom and Marriage Fairness Act, which would create marriage equality in Illinois.

Also on the agenda is Equality Illinois support for adding gender identity, military status and immigration status to protected classes under the state's hate-crimes law. Another measure would require all Illinois schools to develop new measures against bullying and cyberbullying.

Buses will depart from Chicago, Oak Park, Bolingbrook, Carbondale and Belleville. See [www.tinyurl.com/MarriageEQLobbyday2012](http://www.tinyurl.com/MarriageEQLobbyday2012).

# Wis. anti-transgender statute struck down

ANALYSIS BY M. DRU LEVASSEUR

There are particular moments in the movement for transgender equality when we consider it a great victory when a court refuses to hear a case—and today is one of those moments. The U.S. Supreme Court refused to hear an appeal brought by the State of Wisconsin after Lambda Legal, the ACLU and the ACLU of Wisconsin successfully challenged a state law that prohibits medically necessary treatment for transgender people in prison.

In 2005, Wisconsin legislators passed a law—offensively coined the “Inmate Sex-Change Prevention Act”—that barred prison doctors from providing transgender prisoners medically necessary transition-related care such as hormone therapy or sex reassignment surgery while in state custody. Even though Wisconsin, to date, is the only state to pass such a repugnant law targeting an already marginalized, politically unpopular group of people, the law is symbolic of the widespread ignorance of transgender people’s health care. Transition-related care is so often seen as cosmetic, experimental or simply unnecessary, even though the medical community for years has understood these treatments to be effective, medically necessary and often even life-saving.

In 2006, we filed *Fields v. Smith*, a lawsuit on behalf of several transgender women in prison who were experiencing severe physical and psychological harm after the medical treatment they had been receiving under prison doctors’ care was abruptly cut off due to this new draconian law. During a four-day trial, our medical experts testified about the medical necessity of transition-related care and were joined by the

medical director of the prison who testified in support of our case.

The U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Wisconsin then struck down the law as unconstitutional based on both the Eighth Amendment (cruel and unusual punishment) and on the Equal Protection Clause. Unfortunately, the State of Wisconsin didn’t stop there. In 2010, they appealed the ruling. In August of last year, a unanimous three-judge panel of the U.S. District Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit upheld our victory, stating: “Refusing to provide



M. Dru Levasseur. Photo from Lambda Legal

effective treatment for a serious medical condition serves no valid penological purpose and amounts to torture.”

After losing twice, in a last-breath attempt, Wisconsin once again appealed the ruling, this time to the U.S. Supreme Court. Today, this seven-year battle has finally come to an end after the Supreme Court’s rejection of the State of Wisconsin’s appeal.

Although the *Fields v. Smith* case does not mean that all transgender people in prison now have full access to transition-related care, it does send a clear message that medical care should be left in the hand of doctors,

“I am honored to have the opportunity to work for one of the largest cities in our nation, and I look forward to continue making Phoenix a safer place for our entire community,” Laieski said.

Among other things, Laieski has founded the organization Gays and Lesbians United Against Discrimination, petitioned his former school district to add sexual orientation to their list of protections and met President Obama and Vice President Biden at a White House conference on bullying prevention, according to LGBTQ Nation.

not legislators who may be operating on bias and misinformation about the medical needs of a marginalized population. Access to discrimination-free health care is a constant challenge for transgender people and people in prison are particularly vulnerable to limited care. Legislators, politicians and policy makers should not be in the business of making medical decisions. We all lose when politicians get to decide what course of treatment our doctors prescribe for us.

The *Fields v. Smith* win is not the only recent significant victory for transgender people who are in the hands of the government for medical care. Last year, the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) changed its policy for treatment of transgender individuals in federal prisons nationwide as part of a settlement in the *Adams v. Federal Bureau of Prisons et al.* case filed by National

Center for Lesbian Rights and Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders. The new BOP policy allows federal prisoners access to an evaluation by a doctor and treatment in accordance with the internationally accepted Standards of Care issued by the World Professional Association for Transgender Health. Like Fields, this case is groundbreaking because it established a new federal standard for transgender prisoners—one that states across the country will undoubtedly look to as guidance in forming their own policies.

We still have much work in front of us, but today’s victory is just one more step along the road toward a more equitable future for transgender health care.

M. Dru Levasseur is a transgender-rights attorney with Lambda Legal.

## Former NOW leader Olga Vives dies

Olga Vives, a lesbian who was executive vice president of the National Organization for Women (NOW) during 2005-09, died March 16, 2012.

She was also NOW’s action vice president from 2001 to 2005.

At 14 she arrived in the United States from Cuba with her family, and as the only one who spoke English, she marched into agencies negotiating on behalf of her relatives.

According to an obituary on the NOW website, “In her eight years as a national officer in NOW, she led the charge against the Iraq invasion, demanded fairness for Wal-Mart workers before it became stylish, exposed the hypocrisy of the Bush White House with The Truth About George campaign, represented the women’s movement in demanding that sexual identity be included in the Hate Crimes legislation, held the first meeting of the National Coalition for Immigrant Women’s Rights, and devised a lobbying strategy to support equal marriage when allied organizations said ‘it’s not time yet.’”

The obit concludes by saying, “was our jefe and compadre—our sister, our friend, our boss and our conscience, our angel and party girl, our inspiration and our model, exasperating and exhilarating.”



Olga Vives.

## Phoenix mayor names teen diversity liaison

Phoenix Mayor Greg Stanton has added another staff member to his office: 17-year-old Caleb Laieski, according to AZCentral.com. Laieski will work as Stanton’s “Youth and Diversity Liaison.”

Laieski—who says he was bullied at Surprise Willow Canyon High School for being gay—will focus his work on raising awareness about bullying and diversity, complementing the anti-bullying agenda of the city’s first lady, Nicole France Stanton.

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# Gerber/Hart strips member voting rights, replies to questions

BY KATE SOSIN

Gerber/Hart Library has removed the voting rights of its members in a newly released undated version of its bylaws.

In addition, the LGBT library has responded to Windy City Times (WCT) questions posed in January, after the newspaper discovered the LGBT library was moving amid questions surrounding its non-profit compliance.

WCT had repeatedly asked for information on current Board President Karen Sendziak's term and whether the organization was in violation of its bylaws, the last known copy of which dated back to 2000.

On March 20, Sendziak released responses and indicated that a copy of the bylaws would be posted on the organization's website. (They are now available at [www.gerberhart.org/GH\\_Bylaws.pdf](http://www.gerberhart.org/GH_Bylaws.pdf).)

Both documents together show an organization that has become far less accessible to members (which Sendziak said totals at 60), with directors making all decisions.

Most significantly, members are no longer eligible to vote.

"No member of any class shall have the right to vote" for board members or any other matter, the bylaws now read. The new bylaws do not state that members can request meetings, which they could previously do by a one-third majority. Now, meetings are to be called by the board or board president. The location of meetings will also be chosen by the president or board, and the purpose will be "to inform the members of such matters concerning the Corporation."

The change is a marked difference from the 2000 bylaws, in which members voted and could call meetings. However, it remains uncertain if the bylaws were changed legally.

According to former board member Sukie de la Croix, the organization was operating under the old 2000 bylaws until at least July 2011, when he left the board.

The 2000 bylaws stated, "Each member shall be entitled to vote at the annual meeting in the election of the Board of Directors and at any meeting of the membership. Members shall also be eligible to vote to amend the bylaws of the corporation."

That document goes on to state that the board of directors may change the bylaws "where notice of such proposed action has been announced in the notice of such meeting."

According to Sendziak, Gerber/Hart held no annual meeting in 2011, a violation of the Illinois Not For Profit Corporation Act. This violation does not invalidate the organization. However, if Gerber/Hart fails to hold an annual meeting within 15 months of its last one, voting members could submit a written request for a meeting within 60 days. Following, the circuit court can order that such a meeting be held.

It is not known how the organization changed its bylaws to take away voting rights without its voting members' approval.

Unlike past versions of the bylaws, the latest is not dated, so it is unclear when it was written. (WCT has requested this information from Sendziak.)

The new bylaws, however, appear to react to recent questions raised by community members and WCT reports.

Under the old rule, board members could only serve four consecutive one-year terms before taking off a year. (Sendziak is on her ninth.) The new bylaws allow for directors to serve five consecutive two-year terms before taking one year off, making Sendziak's continued leadership



Karen Sendziak. Photo by Ross Forman

compliant up to 10 years.

The new document places most of the organization's operations and decisions in the hands of the board of directors and its president. The board is now charged with interpreting the bylaws, controlling funds, electing and appointing new board members, voting on all major decisions, forming committees, entering into contracts, holding meetings, keeping books, applying for grants and further altering the bylaws. It gives directors considerable freedom in scheduling and holding directors' meetings as well. It also allows the president to replace board vacancies by appointment.

The latest bylaws reduce the mandated size of the board from a minimum of 10 to a minimum of three, the current number of known Gerber/Hart board members. (Stan Huntington and Don Landers are the other two board members.)

The new bylaws also add that board members need not reside in Illinois, a seeming reference to the fact community members have complained that Landers lives in Arizona.

Such updated rules come after dues-paying members have alleged that annual meetings have not been held in at least two years, that regular meetings have not been made public and that elections with members have not occurred.

All in all, the updated bylaws provide just one right to members: the right to inspect meeting minutes and books upon request.

Membership is now determined on an application basis (this process was not previously defined in the bylaws), and applicants are accepted with payment of annual dues of \$25 or more. Members who do not pay annual dues are deemed to have resigned and must reapply. The bylaws do not state if application acceptance is dependent upon other criteria.

The bylaws contain another significant addition: They shield board members from legal recourse. Under the new bylaws, board members are indemnified against legal judgments, fines and attorney's fees, so long as the board decides that a person is eligible and acted with correct intentions. The organization can also purchase insurance to protect one of its own against liability. Such protections are common for organizations but are new additions to Gerber/Hart bylaws.

Gerber/Hart has struggled to stay compliant in recent years. Its IRS 990 form was filed more than two months late for 2010. In 2009, de la

Croix was listed as a board member on a 990, when he in fact joined the board in late 2010.

But perhaps the most significant question is whether such bylaws were adopted legally.

Ryan Oberly is an attorney at Mosher & Wagenmaker, LLC, specializing in non-profit law. Oberly said that "if the bylaws grant the members the right to vote on amendments, then the board of directors are not authorized to unilaterally amend the bylaws without the members' approval."

Oberly also noted that the Illinois Not For Profit Corporation Act further mandates that organizations with voting members provide notice to members of proposed amendments and allow them to vote.

In other words, it is possible that Gerber/Hart's members would have had to vote on bylaws that stripped their voting rights, but several members report that no such vote was announced or took place.

WCT has asked Sendziak to clarify how and why such changes were made without an annual meeting in a list of follow-up questions. Paula Cozzi Goedert, who Sendziak has indicated is the library's non-profit attorney, was not available for comment in time for publication.

Several community members have raised questions about the library's new home in addition.

The building, located at 6500 N. Clark St., appears vacant and unfinished. Through its large windows, one can see a vast empty interior, without finished walls. On the first floor, some pipes remain exposed as does the concrete floor. Loose wires hang from the ceiling. A McDonald's cup sits on the same post it did three weeks prior.

Outside, a sign states the building is for lease or purchase. A curb at the adjoining parking entrance has yet to be leveled to allow cars to drive into it the lot.

The City of Chicago website shows a list of building permits on the property that date back to 1985. The most recent of those permits was issued in December 2006.

The building itself displays two more permits, but those still appear to be from early and mid-2007. The most recent, from June 2007, is to "wreck and remove" a one-story commercial property. According to a real estate listing, the building was completed in 2009.

A name listed on the 2007 building permits has been crossed out and replaced with "new owner."

Another posting on the building indicates that water service was terminated in November 2011.

Gerber/Hart's lease ends at the end of April, leaving some questioning if the building will be ready in time to accommodate the library.

However, according to Michele Kurlander, the real estate attorney who handled Gerber/Hart's property search, the building is expected to be ready by May 1.

"I believe that they believe that it will be completed on time, but nobody has a crystal ball," she said.

In the event that space is not built-out in time, she said, the lease includes a provision that allows the library to store its materials in the building.

Kurlander said that the library will occupy half of the second floor. While the first floor appears to be empty, the second floor is hardly visible from the street.

Kurlander described Gerber/Hart's process of finding a new building and negotiating a lease as "extensive." She said that the organization looked at many properties before deciding on the Clark location. She added that the library also underwent "extensive negotiations" before signing a lease. The floor of the building was also investigated and found to be supportive enough to hold the library's books, she said.

WCT has asked Sendziak if she anticipates the building will be completed in time for May 1, but has not yet received an answer.

*Sendziak's responses to WCT's initial questions are published in full here:*

"I want to apologize for the delay in getting

these responses to you. As you know, Gerber/Hart is an all-volunteer organization and our team has been working diligently on a variety of projects, including preparing for our upcoming move. To facilitate our ability to respond to your questions in the most accurate manner, we had to review our own records and documentation, which took a bit of time to process. We appreciate your interest in Gerber/Hart and recognize how invaluable the work of both Windy City Times and Gerber/Hart is to the LGBT community. Your professional and responsible coverage of our organization will support our ability to continue to attract supporters, donors and members who will ensure the sustainability of Gerber/Hart for years to come."

*Sincerely,*

*Karen Sendziak*

**WCT: Why is Gerber/Hart moving?**

Karen Sendziak: The space was no longer ideal for our library as the configuration included unusable space for our current needs. Most importantly, the Board recognized that the current economic climate would make it an opportune time to look at new spaces.

**WCT: When did Gerber/Hart decide to move and did the board vote on this decision?**

KS: Gerber/Hart decided to move in December. The Board voted on this decision.

**WCT: Is the library purchasing property or renting?**

KS: Gerber/Hart will be renting the property.

**WCT: What are the anticipated costs of the move?**

KS: Gerber/Hart is currently in the process of obtaining estimates from various moving companies.

**WCT: How many dues-paying members does Gerber/Hart have? Are these all voting members?**

KS: Currently, Gerber/Hart has 60 dues-paying members. None are voting members.

**WCT: How long has the current president served in that capacity?**

KS: Eight years and two months.

**WCT: Are there any compensated positions within the organization? If so, who are they and what are their salaries?**

KS: There are no compensated positions at Gerber/Hart.

**WCT: Was there a 2011 annual meeting?**

KS: No.

**WCT: When was the last election of board members?**

KS: The last election of board members was on Dec. 17, 2011.

**WCT: Please provide the most current copy of the bylaws.**

KS: The bylaws should be available on our website by the end of the day tomorrow.

**WCT: What is the agency's current bank balance?**

KS: As our 990 tax returns indicate, Gerber/Hart is financially sound.

**WCT: Please provide a list of archival collections, both processed and unprocessed.**

KS: We cannot at this time provide a list of our archival collections. Many of the collections were donated in the time before personal computers were common and the Internet came into being. Some were donated by individuals who died of AIDS in an era when there was a great stigma associated with having AIDS. These donors could not imagine that their gift would be made public beyond the borders of Gerber/Hart. This is a unique dilemma that LGBT archives face—as we recognize that some collection donors may not have been "out" at the time they donated these items. This summer, we have a full-time archives graduate student interning at Gerber/Hart. One of the intern's tasks will be to contact collection donors in order to receive their express permission to include their collection in a list that we will post on our website.

**WCT: What is the name of the library's attorney?**

KS: At the time we received your questions, real estate attorney Michele Kurlander was our only counsel. Paula Cozzi Goedert is also now our legal counsel for non-profit matters.

# Gay immigration activists found not guilty

BY JAMIE ANNE ROYCE

Six youth immigration activists, arrested while protesting an U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Secure Communities public hearing, were acquitted of all charges March 20.

Fanny Lopez-Martinez, Jorge Mena, Arianna Salgado, Ireri Unzueta Carrasco, Carla Navoa and Miguel Martinez faced charges of mob action, reckless conduct and obstruction of traffic. Mena and Unzueta Carrasco have been named among Windy City Times 30 Under 30 for their work on LGBT undocumented immigrant rights.

"There's been a lot of LGBT leadership within the undocumented immigrant movement," said Tania Unzueta, an organizer with Immigrant Youth Justice League (IYJL). "Almost every instance of civil disobedience we've done, there's been LGBT people involved. It's something I've never seen in the past, LGBT people at the forefront of these civil disobedience actions and rallies"

Through Secure Communities, when someone

is arrested, that person's biometric information (fingerprints) is checked against Department of Homeland Security (DHS) databases. If there is a match, ICE is notified and takes legal steps.

DHS hosted a series of public hearings across the country on Secure Communities to gain feedback from the people. During the Chicago hearing in August, members of IYJL, Nuestra Voz and the Latin@ Youth Action League (LYAL) shared their opinions on the program and called for attendees to walk out.

The six, all undocumented immigrants, formed a circle on West Washington Street, blocking traffic. Police removed them from the street several times before the activists sat in an entrance to the I-94 expressway. Police asked them to move, and upon refusing, the activists were arrested.

"This case is about the best of American youth. They are actively engaged and involved in a movement for social changes in the finest tradition of this country," Janine Hart, lawyer for the defendants, said during her opening statement.



Immigration-rights activists outside the courtroom in January. Photo by Jamie Anne Royce

The six opted for a bench trial after several continuances and changes to the charges. One of the arresting officers testified during the trial, reaffirming the police report.

Judge Peggy Chiampas found that the state and city attorneys did not meet the burden of proof for these charges, and found the six defendants not guilty.

"I am the child of immigrant parents, and I take immigration issues seriously. I applaud your work," Chiampas said.

However, Chiampas also stressed that people have the right to move freely and go about their

business. She also commended the Chicago Police Department for handling the protest effectively and safely.

"I take this very seriously. Your right to protest is what America is all about," Chiampas said. "That's why all of us come here, my parents as well. But we have to respect the law."

The defendants rejoiced at the not guilty verdict.

"I think [Chiampas] is conscious of why we did it. We're youth and came to the U.S. when we were young. She applauded us. I think she understood us," said Mena.

## 'Out in Chicago' wins Berube Prize

The "Out in Chicago" exhibition that ended at the Chicago History Museum March 26 has received the Allan Berube Prize, according to a press release.

The Committee on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender History, an affiliate of the American Historical Association, awarded the honor. Jill Austin and Jennifer Brier were the co-curators of the project.

The Allan Berube Prize recognizes outstanding work in public or community-based LGBTQ history, according to the committee's website. It is awarded in even-numbered years, covering works from the previous two years.

"Out in Chicago" looked at diverse stories and perspectives and explored issues such as language, gender expression, formation of identity, the role of LGBT people in politics and culture, and family relationships.

In related news, a flash mob gathered outside the Chicago History Museum March 25 to thank the facility for the "Out in Chicago" exhibition. More photos can be found at [www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com](http://www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com).

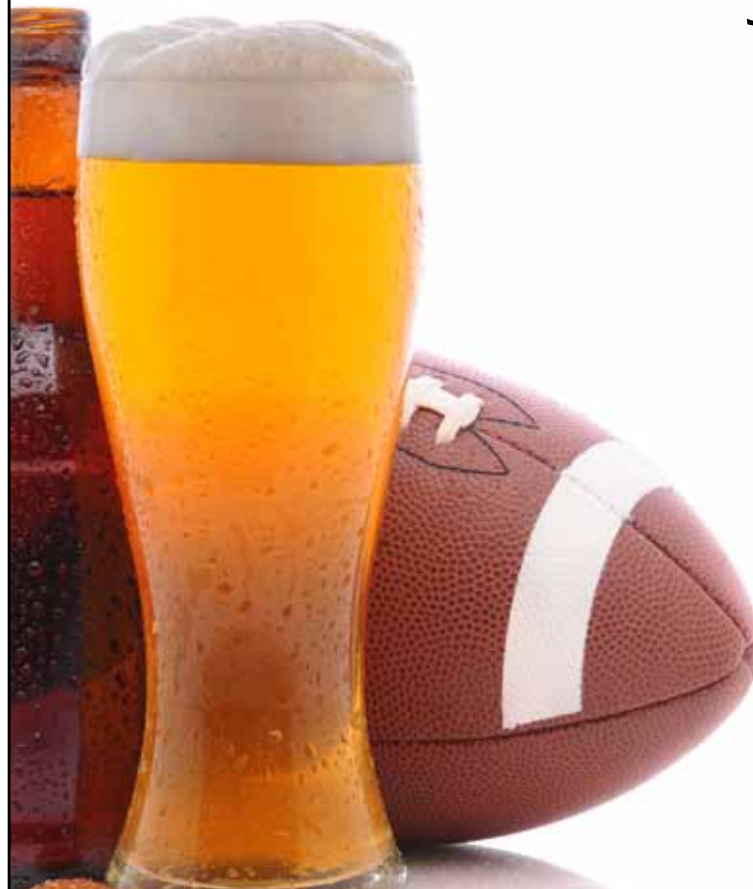


Flash-mob attendee. Photo by Ed Negron

# Spring Men's Flag Football Open Registration Party

Saturday, March 31, 2-5pm

D.S. Tequila  
3352 N. Halsted



Season begins  
Saturday, April 28.

Teams, groups and  
individual players  
welcome at all skill levels!

Placement assistance available.

Check out our website for more info on our flag football league:

[chicagomsa.org](http://chicagomsa.org)

or email [mensfootball@chicagomsa.org](mailto:mensfootball@chicagomsa.org)

## RUSTIN from cover

Rustin as well as letters about him, including those from FBI files—shows a more personal side of the activist.

Rustin died in 1987. He was still active in various social-justice struggles, and made visits to refugee camps in Thailand as part of the International Rescue Committee. He went as part of a high-power delegation that also included Liv Ullman, Elie Weisel and Joan Baez. If he were alive today, Rustin would most likely be among the firmament of celebrity activists. Yet, in an age of Kardashians where celebrity is as fleeting as the scant snow of this year's Chicago winter, many might well wonder who Liv Ullman is. And, according to D'Emilio, the general response of most people "outside a small circle" to any mention of Rustin's name is, "Bayard, who?"

D'Emilio, in a phone interview, described Rustin's life as one "that raises almost any question you might ask about how to change society, and how to bring about social and economic justice." He added that even if people did not agree with all of Rustin's choices, "there is hardly any question he did not grapple with; his life is a textbook for how we build movements and bring about change."

Indeed, it is likely that some on the left might find it difficult to reconcile themselves to aspects of his politics. There was, for instance, his staunch support for Israel and condemnation of the Palestine Liberation Organization. In a 1974 letter to the president of the International Ladies' Garment Workers Union, he wrote about UN delegates applauding Yassir Arafat, head of the Palestine Liberation Organization: "I'm sure you are as disturbed as I am about the reception accorded the Palestinian Liberation Organization by the United Nations..the overwhelming majority of black Americans are deeply outraged by the slaughter of children and innocent civilians during terrorist raids."

However, Rustin would also be uncompromising in advocating for labor rights. In 1980, Yeshiva University voted to give him an honorary degree. The university had supported a ruling that faculty members at private colleges and universities, such as Yeshiva, could not organize. Writing to the university's president, Norman Lamm, Rustin declined the honor, stating that Yeshiva's decision to not support collective bargaining, "a principle which I hold dear," meant that it would be "hypocritical" for him to accept the degree.

Reading the letters, it becomes clear that Rustin did not live his life according to some master template which required him to always respond in exactly the same way to every situation. Instead, he was constantly thinking through his support for his own work and that of others according to his basic tenets. As a staunch supporter of Israel and as someone who believed in the links between the struggles of the African-American and Jewish communities, rejecting the honorary degree had to be painful for him.

Rustin brought that same thoughtfulness to his personal life and integrated his politics into whatever was happening to him at the time. In 1944, he was jailed in a maximum-security prison in Ashland, Ky., as a conscientious objector. He promptly set about organizing, with other prisoners, against segregation within the prison. He took it upon himself to write long letters to the warden, R.P. Hagerman, about racial injustice. While there, he also corresponded with his lover, David Platt.

The letters to Platt are heavily coded, and they combine a "brotherly" tenderness with well-considered reflections on the politics of resistance to war, as well as thoughts about his fellow prisoners. A visit from Platt apparently prompted some speculation about their relationship amongst the others, and it appears that he may not have shirked from talking to them: "The fellows ... were concerned on Thursday to know who you were. That, too, afforded an opportunity."

Rustin's career, after his stint in prison, never really dimmed: He would go on to key positions

in organizations like the Fellowship of Reconciliation and become an adviser to King. However, he would always be haunted by the specter of what happened in 1953.

According to D'Emilio, Rustin had three big strikes against him: that he identified as a Communist in the 1930s, and "that fact trailed him forever; it made him potentially a disability and cast him as disloyal." He was seen as a draft dodger for choosing to go to jail rather than join the war effort. Compounding all this was that he was "queer in an era when it was impossible to be known as gay, lesbian or anything else." Rustin's response to being outed was not to cover himself with the semblance of a heterosexual life but to continue living as gay man, and he would spend many years working in movements in ways that "did not call attention to himself."

There is, in the emerging and more public narrative about him, a tendency to describe Rustin as an "out gay man." But the truth is more complex. In 1986, the writer Joseph Beam invited Rustin to contribute to what would become a key work, *In the Life: A Black Gay Anthology*.



Bayard Rustin. Photo courtesy of Bennett Singer

Rustin's response was thoughtful and clear: "I was not involved in the struggle for gay rights as a youth. ... I did not 'come out of the closet' voluntarily—circumstances forced me out. While I have no problem with being publicly identified as homosexual, it would be dishonest of me to present myself as one who was in the forefront of the struggle for gay rights. ... I fundamentally consider sexual orientation to be a private matter. As such, it has not been a factor which has greatly influenced my role as an activist."

This might come as a surprise to many who think of Rustin as a pure gay icon or who might wonder about the fact that his sexuality in fact often impinged upon his political life. Indeed, that same year, Rustin would write to Ed Koch, then-mayor of New York City, to provide testimony about a gay-rights bill: "No group is ultimately safe from prejudice, bigotry and harassment so long as any group is subject to special negative treatment."

In all this, it seems impossible to paint Rustin as an unalloyed gay icon who stood for a particular gay-rights movement. Rather, it seems more likely that his continuing thoughts on gay issues mark something that may be lost in the current debates around marriage or "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," regardless of positions, within the LGBTQ community: that reconciling the private with the public is not as easy as a simple emergence from the closet into freedom.

Rustin's complicated consideration of his own "outing" also suggests that the closet is not an historical entity, like some version of the *Wardrobe* in C.S. Lewis's classic, *The Lion, The*

Witch, and the *Wardrobe*, re-emerging at will in different time periods as always the same. His experience with being a gay man in the 1950s and 1960s was markedly different from that in the later decades, but he never saw himself as someone who "came out of the closet" and yet, simultaneously, never disavowed his sexual identity.

Today, Rustin's legacy is in the process of being recovered and celebrated. In Chicago, The Legacy Project brought Bennett Singer to town for a March 28 screening of the film he co-directed with Nancy Kates, *Brother Outsider: The Life of Bayard Rustin*. Rustin's plaque is expected to be among those unveiled at the dedication of the Project's Legacy Walk Oct. 11 (National Coming-Out Day).

The upcoming Bayard Rustin Centennial Conference at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) aims to bring about a two-day inter-generational conversation about Rustin life and legacy in a way that connects his life and legacy with activist work. Speaking to various participants and organizers, it becomes clear that the complexity of Rustin's life speaks more readily to people today than any attempt to portray him as simply a gay hero.

One sign that this will not be a group of academics talking to each other is that the event is spearheaded by the Gender and Sexuality Center and not by an academic program; the conference is also free and open to the public. The UIC conference is one of many such events across the country. The Center's director, Megan Carney, said that the idea to bring one to Chicago came from a student, Kris Clutter, who had heard Mandy Carter, a driving force behind the celebrations, speak about Rustin and the centennial plans.

Carney said that the conference will be intentionally "intergenerational and interdisciplinary" and that it would be grounded in history but "not nostalgic." The larger point is to allow present-day activists, including youth activists, "to apply what they can learn from Rustin's legacy."

For Mandy Carter, a social-justice activist based in Durham, N.C., Rustin's life has been fascinating because of its parallels to her own. Co-founder of Southerners On New Ground (SONG) as well as the National Black Justice Coalition, Carter has long organized on issues connecting homophobia, poverty, and racism. Born in 1948, Carter never met Rustin but learned of his life and work when members of the American Friends Service Committee came to her high school class and spoke about him. "As a Black, gay man heavily involved with activism, he became my role model," she said.

Carter emphasized that the idea for the centennial "started before me" and that the organizers of marches commemorating the 1963 event have wanted to ensure that Black and gay voices would also be heard in the celebrations. The fact that Rustin's centennial is this year and the March's 50th anniversary is in 2013 means that there will be a longer period of time to mark his contribution. For Carter, the two events also mark "an almost unbelievable historical narrative, from Bayard Rustin to Barack Obama."

Carter has long-term connections to Chicago, which she has often visited to work with the Chicago Black Lesbians and Gays. She is also a long-time friend of John D'Emilio, who taught for some years at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. D'Emilio is scheduled to speak at the conference, providing an overview of Rustin's life and work. Carter will provide the keynote address.

If some of the new-found attention being paid to Rustin has meant a tendency to appropriate him for particular causes as a gay hero, D'Emilio cautioned that Rustin was "not a single-issue, single-identity activist. He believed that all the issues of injustice were linked, as a pacifist who understood that there would be no peace without racial justice and no racial equality as long as poverty was an issue."

D'Emilio's contribution to the conference also comes in the shape of some of the materials he

was able to find during his research for the book. David Platt, whom he met, gave him some of his personal correspondence with Rustin. D'Emilio also has copies of other correspondence, and these will be the basis for a performance piece at the conference.

D'Emilio has been struck by the enthusiasm for Rustin from students, and their surprise upon first hearing of him: "They're outraged they never heard of him before, and ask, 'Why are people like him being denied to me?'" His hope is that the conference will allow students and activists to reclaim Rustin and to learn how to organize people collectively, rather than from the top down.

Jinna Holt is one of the students involved in the performance. A junior at UIC and a gender/women's-studies major, Holt had heard about Rustin, but working on the piece has given her a keener understanding of his legacy. Among the letters that the performance is based on are those written by the FBI as they surveilled Rustin, and Holt spoke of the great contrast between what she represented there and what she knew about his "multi-faceted" and passionate life: "I read those and wonder, how could they see him as a danger? He was a radical, but the antithesis of dangerous." She was also struck by how he dealt with being in prison, and his "stoicism" in the face of hardship.

Holt said she considers herself a trans ally, and also works and writes about racial-justice issues. For her, Rustin is an enigmatic figure who shows how to move forward despite enormous setbacks: "He inspires me to continue doing what I do. He's also an example of using your voice and not your body, and of understanding where the [opposition] is coming from, where they are at."

Kris Clutter, a senior majoring in political science, learned about Rustin in one of D'Emilio's classes. At the time, he was also interning at People's Law Office, which represented Fred Hampton and the Chicago chapter of the Black Panther Party. Working in an office replete with images of Hampton and his allies and understanding their struggles from the perspective of those who supported their work, Clutter could not help but see parallels between Hampton and Rustin. He said, "Both their stories were similar in that they were not the most polished, unlike those of Martin Luther King and Harvey Milk. Their stories are not the sort that mainstream America would learn about, such as Rustin being picked up for public sex. But they're both radical leaders and they exemplify how such histories are not told in the dominant narrative about America."

If Clutter and Holt are emblematic of what happens when more people are exposed to Rustin's life, there may still be hope that U.S. politics accepts complexity rather than continuing to flatten out lives in the interest of a traditional "Great Heroes" narrative. Rustin's career trajectory might also prompt us to reconsider whether we have truly achieved an era of great equality when the laws governing sexual conduct have become more onerous for some. Despite the stigmatizing he suffered in his earlier years, Rustin went on to become a respected and even revered activist. Among those he worked with and influenced are public figures like Democratic Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton.

However, for these very reasons, we might want to return to the 1953 incident. Today, we live with far more draconian sex-offender laws, where even a consensual sex act in public can be deemed an offense that bars people from employment and housing, for life. Would Rustin have been able to come out from under the weight of the punishment meted out to him today? Rustin is a hero for many. Do our times really afford that same opportunity for someone as complicated and complex?

**The website for the conference is [www.uic.edu/depts/quic/gsc/bayardrustin.html](http://www.uic.edu/depts/quic/gsc/bayardrustin.html). The conference will take place March 30-31 at the University of Illinois at Chicago.**

**Further information about events across the country can be found at [www.rustin.org](http://www.rustin.org).**



# LGBT Health Awareness Week: Clearing the air

BY JASON CARSON WILSON

Clearing the air is the goal of LGBT Health Awareness Week this year. The Chicago Public Health Department, National Coalition for LGBT Health and Howard Brown Health Center joined forces to combat smoking.

LGBT people smoke, on average, more than their straight counterparts. Chicago Department of Public Health Commissioner Dr. Bechara Choucair said various studies show queer community members are 1.5 to 2.5 times as likely to smoke—for various reasons.

Choucair hopes “Come Out for Health” inspires people to quit. Choucair said the targeted campaign encourages people to call the Tobacco Quitline at 866-QUIT-YES.

“We want less people smoking and less people to be exposed to secondhand smoke,” Choucair said.

A trained professional creates a personalized smoking cessation plan after a confidential conversation. Then, that professional links the caller with various community resources, including community group sessions and nicotine replacement therapy.

“Smoking is the most preventable cause of death in this country,” Choucair said.

More than 440,000 Chicagoans die from tobacco-related illnesses each year. Smoking can cause asthma, heart disease and lung cancer.

American Respiratory Health Association money helped make Howard Brown’s involvement possible. A federal grant is paying for community group sessions.

The health center is also conducting a LGBTQ smoking-cessation study known as “Bitch To Quit.” (For more information, call Karyn Haney at 773-388-8682.)

Howard Brown did not respond to multiple inquiries by the press deadline.

In addition, the American Respiratory Health Association has partnered with the Chicago Public Health Department to create the Chicago Tobacco Prevention Project.

It rewards Chicagoans accepting the challenge to quit smoking, promotes smoking cessation classes and resources as well as sponsoring youth-centered contests encouraging young people to avoid smoking.

Smoking cessation is among priorities that initiative Healthy Chicago identities. Others include obesity prevention, HIV prevention, adolescent health, cancer disparities, health-care access, communicable disease control and prevention, violence prevention and improving public health infrastructure, among others.

Choucair noted that Mayor Rahm Emanuel launched the Healthy Chicago initiative in August. Workgroups that focus on issues facing business, academics, faith-based organizations, health care providers, the LGBT community, philanthropic organizations, community coalitions and other public healthcare officials were created.

Increased social stress, high alcohol use and pervasive advertising, according to Choucair, are among the factors that encourage smoking. Other evidence shows LGBT smokers begin at an earlier age.

“The younger you are, the more likely you’re going to be addicted,” Choucair said.

The annual “Kick Butt Day” (which took place on March 21) targets youth smokers and tobacco sales to minors. Choucair cited stress and peer pressure as reasons young people—gay or straight—begin smoking. About 20 percent of adults in Chicago are smokers.

Americans for Nonsmokers Rights agreed smok-



Dr. Bechara Choucair.

ing is a big problem for the LGBT community. The organization lays blame at the tobacco industry’s collective feet—citing the companies’ “relentless campaign to target gay men and women,” according to its website.

Tobacco companies spend more than \$13 billion to promote cigarettes. They have specifically focused on the LGBT people since 1991, advertising at Pride and other events, according to the DC Center for the LGBT Community. Interestingly, the companies have also contributed heavily to local and national LGBT groups as well as HIV/AIDS organizations.

Bar promotions, sponsorships and LGBT press advertising are the corporations’ tools of choice. LGBT adults and youth nationwide are 40-70 percent more likely to smoke than the general population.

In addition to the other efforts, there is the Chicago’s Clean Air (Indoor) Ordinance. The ordinance was passed in 1988, according to cityofchicago.org. Its current version, which took effect in February 2008, forbids smoking in nearly all public places and enclosed workplaces. The ordinance prohibits smoking within 15 feet of their entrances.

Residences, except those used as day-care centers or businesses; some hotel and motel rooms; and retail tobacco stores are exempt. Illinois’ smoke-free law, which supersedes local statutes, went into effect January 2008.

Find out more about the Chicago Tobacco Prevention Project at [www.lungchicago.org/chicago-tobacco-prevention-project](http://www.lungchicago.org/chicago-tobacco-prevention-project).

## Candace Gingrich-Jones at NEIU March 29

Activist Candace Gingrich-Jones—the lesbian half-sister of Newt Gingrich—will speak at Northeastern Illinois University, 5500 N. St. Louis Ave., Thursday, March 29, at 7 p.m.

Gingrich-Jones will speak as part of the school’s Presidential Lecture Series. She will talk about The Accidental Activist, her autobiography, among other topics.

The event is free and open to the public.

National Coalition  
for LGBT Health

NATIONAL  
LGBT HEALTH  
AWARENESS WEEK

# COME OUT FOR HEALTH

## MARCH 26-30, 2012

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# Colm Treacy expands LGBT bar and restaurant empire

BY ROSS FORMAN

Back in the late 1990s, while teaching culinary arts and hospitality courses at Kendall College in Chicago, Colm Treacy wanted to practice what he preached.

So, on June 26, 2001, he opened T's Bar & Restaurant along Clark Street in Andersonville.

"After a few years of being open, I realized I could stop worrying if in fact it'd be a success, because it was—and then I decided to do it again," said Treacy, often simply called T—hence the bar's name—since many are confused on the pronunciation of his first name (column).

Next up was The Sofo Tap, which Treacy bought and took over June 26, 2005.

Then came The Glenwood Bar, which Treacy opened in Rogers Park April 14, 2008.

Although Treacy sold Sofo April 18, 2011, he certainly wasn't done expanding his food and beverage reach across the city's North Side, particularly within the LGBT community.

On Feb. 16, Treacy opened Sidecar, a two-minute walk south, door to door, from The Glenwood.

Also, between The Glenwood and Sidecar, Treacy bought the corner property and, in May, is opening Morsel—an American bistro-style restaurant.

"I'm a project person," Treacy said matter of factly, with a smile, "and I'm not done yet."

Watch out, Lakeview, here comes the Treacy train—building Andersonville and Rogers Park into popular areas for the LGBT community.

"I'm doing well," said Treacy, 45, who was born in Ireland and now lives in Chicago's Andersonville neighborhood—less than a minute walk away from T's.

"When the economy is bad, people drink. When the economy is good, people drink. My business partners are solid, sound, nice people. We cultivate a very loyal following, a very loyal customer base, especially since they really like the trifecta: the ability to go to T's, Sidecar and The Glenwood all in one night."

T's is about 2,000 square feet, with a staff that is about 75 percent LGBT; also, it has the same percentages of male and female customers, Treacy said.

"When you open [a neighborhood bar], you let the neighborhood dictate what it's going to be, so I wasn't expecting anything," he said. "I think the neighborhood told me what T's was going to be. The clientele is very mixed, particularly welcoming to the lesbian and transgender audience."

"It's a comfortable place, for the gay and straight communities—and that's what I wanted it to be."

"I think people make a mistake sticking exactly to their [pre-opening] business plan, and not, instead, listening to the customers when they tell you what they want the place to be."

Take, for instance, the customer years ago who complained about the pinot grigio served at T's. Treacy listened and asked the customer to come back the next day. Treacy then had three other pinots for the customer to sample. The customer picked his favorite—and that one was ultimately offered for sale at T's.

"It's very important to listen to the customers," Treacy said. "You cannot be arrogant in this industry. You have to listen to the customer and the staff, and I'm really blessed to have the staff that I do. A lot of them have been working for me for 10 years."

Treacy employs about 30 people at his four locations, and only five of them are crossover employees—those who work at multiple loca-



Colm Treacy. Photo by Ross Forman

tions, though Treacy said all could. About 80 percent of his employees are LGBT, but hiring from within the gay community is not his driving force. "What impacts me [about a potential employee] is, are they a good worker, regardless [of their sexual orientation.]"

Treacy and his partner, Tom Hoang—who also happens to be his co-owner at Sidecar—will celebrate their 19th anniversary in July.

Hoang was the mastermind behind T's name and logo. Treacy suggested selecting a name that was short, simple, memorable and easy to repeat.

When Treacy launched Sofo—a 1,200-square-foot location named because its location is just south of Foster Avenue—he admittedly wanted it to be a gay bar.

"[Sofo] was very successful for me," Treacy said. "Ultimately, I got a call one day and was offered me a lot of money," to sell the bar.

"It was a hard decision to make because I was emotionally attached to Sofo, but it was a good business decision."

The Glenwood came to Treacy and Renee Labrana, his business partner at that location, when its former owner offered to sell. They have since tripled its size with an expansion about two years ago.

"The Glenwood has been a huge anchor to the neighborhood with a real mixed audience. It's been more than I ever expected it to be," Treacy said. "I didn't realize how the neighborhood was going to totally embrace The Glenwood, and they really have. From the [area] alderman to the Rogers Park Business Alliance to so many others. It has lent itself to being a real anchor

of the community."

Treacy opened the 1,000-square-foot Sidecar after Neil Lipton, the owner of a bar at that site, died in January. Lipton's wife, Mary Bau, approached Treacy to buy and take over the location.

"She really felt that Renee Labrana and I had done a tremendous job at The Glenwood and would treat this place with great respect, honor her husband, and carry on the tradition of being part of the community," Treacy said.

"I just love this neighborhood, which is very diverse, and I knew I could open a bar that had a completely different style than The Glenwood."

After all, Sidecar is a martini lounge with a predominantly gay crowd, Treacy said.

"Sidecar is an old, classic cocktail. Plus, since the location right [near a train stop], the name seemed logical," Treacy said. "So far, Sidecar already has been more than I expected. I hear nothing but compliments, and the neighborhood has really embraced it."

Treacy will open Morsel in May, and it will be his largest venture: 3,600 square feet with 220 seats. MaryAnn Culleton is Treacy's business partner at Morsel. Culleton and Labrana are married.

"Customers kept telling me that they wanted a place similar to T's in Rogers Park," Treacy said. "Well, since this place is located on Morse and the EL stop, and with the natural food tie, morsel, it will be Morsel."

Morsel will be open seven days a week, Treacy said.

Treacy's impact on the community and, in particular, the economy of Andersonville and Rogers Park is profound. Plus, when he goes out for dinner of drinks in the city, he always stays within the two neighborhoods. "I want to give my money back to the community where I live and work; that's very important to me," said Treacy, who tagged Calo Ristorante, Jin Ju and Antepima among his favorites.

Treacy said the soft economy over the past few years has definitely impacted business, which he's seen first hand through the eyes—and spending habits—of his customers. When they struggle personally or professionally, Treacy relates and understands.

"You become emotionally attached to the customers; that's the hard part of the job. You really caring about them, about their lives, about their families," he said.

Treacy said he's not sure of his next business venture; he's not even sure what industry it will fall in. "I just like projects; I like doing things—and Tom hates that," he said, laughing.

Will there be more bars? Yes, if the opportunity arises, concentrating on the Rogers Park area, Treacy said. He added there could be more eateries, but nothing else is in the works right now.

"My mind is always open to new ideas," said Treacy, who gleaned his entrepreneur ways from his mom, Eileen, who bought, owned and ran a bar in their native Ireland.

"I always knew, from the time I was a kid, that I was going to move to the U.S. and make it, succeed," Treacy said.

His success has certainly spilled into the LGBT community. He said that he annually donates about \$60,000 to LGBT causes. For instance, he offers T's and The Glenwood for free to groups of 25 or more—and then he donates 10 percent of that night's sales to the group.

Treacy also sponsors about 10 sports teams through the local gay leagues.

"That's very important to me," Treacy said. "It means a lot to me that others are out there having fun, doing something that they want to do, something that's healthy, energetic, something that takes their mind away from whatever worries they may have, such as sports."

Away from his establishments, Treacy is admittedly shy. In fact, he often buys tickets to major charity functions, mostly just to support the cause because he rarely even considers attending.

"When I'm outside of my own comfort zone, I'm shy. I don't like going to public places; I don't like going to public events," said Treacy, a jeans-and-T-shirt kind of guy.

"I started T's years ago, and all of the other places since, to better my own life and, in turn, hopefully, help others. Business has been great. I'm blessed—I'm living my own destiny, and I don't think everyone can say that. I'm doing exactly what I'm meant to be doing," Treacy said.

## PASSAGES

### Rev. David Holzauer

BY JAMIE ANNE ROYCE



Dominic Tristram Fife Hamilton-Little, in his Nightlines Fey Ways column pose. Photo from the Nightlines/Outlines archives

## Former Chicagoan Dominic Hamilton-Little has died

Dominic Tristram Fife Hamilton-Little, a performance artist, actor and writer, died in April 2011, and some Chicago friends just recently learned of his death, which was from complications with diabetes.

Hamilton-Little was a columnist for Nightlines (now Nightspots) magazine in the 1990s, as part of the Outlines (now Windy City Times) family of publications. His wit and creativity were unmatched, and his "Fey Ways" column had fans across the country.

Hamilton-Little also wrote the More Sex column for POZ magazine for more than two years.

He moved to New York after leaving Chicago, and most recently lived in San Diego.

He was a 1990 graduate of Michigan State University.

Rev. David Holzauer, former pastor of Holy Covenant Metropolitan Community Church (MCC) in Hinsdale, passed away March 19.

Holzauer most recently served as assistant pastor at King of Peace MCC in St. Petersburg, Fla., but he led Holy Covenant MCC in the western Chicago suburbs from 1987 to 1989.

Gay men who were kicked out of their own churches because of their sexuality, founded MCC in 1968. MCC prides itself on non-traditional, contemporary spirituality worship.

Holzauer grew the building fund for the Holy Covenant MCC, which was used to purchase the location that the congregation currently worships in Brookfield.

"Once during the Pride parade, he walked up and down the contingent and tried to talk people on the sidelines into buying building blocks for the Holy Covenant building fund. That was one of the methods he used to get that started," said Rev. Gordon McCoy, north central network lead for MCC and a pastoral colleague of Holzauer while he was in Chicago.

McCoy also recalled Holzauer opening his own home to congregation members for dinner.

Frederick Ratchford, Holzauer's longtime partner, died two weeks before Holzauer on March 4.

A memorial service was hosted at Memorial Park Funeral home in St. Petersburg, Fla., March 25.

# Local activists lobby around syringe exchange

BY KATE SOSIN

According to HIV/AIDS advocates, the cost of a clean syringe is just 72 cents. Treating AIDS over a lifetime costs an average of \$300,000.

It is simple math, said Melissa Janiszewski, policy education coordinator at the AIDS Foundation of Chicago (AFC).

Still, since December, local AIDS advocates have been up against a difficult hurdle: the reinstated federal ban on funding for syringe-exchange programs.

Janiszewski and other local advocates spent March 21 lobbying against the ban in coordination with the National Day of Action for Syringe Access.

"We really want to send the message that every life matters," said Janiszewski.

The goal, she said, is to educate legislators on the benefits of harm reduction in combating the spread of HIV.

Advocates met with U.S. Sen. Dick Durbin and representatives for U.S. Sen. Mark Kirk (Kirk is currently recovering from a stroke) March 21. Janiszewski also presented on the ban at the Chicago Task Force on LGBT Substance Use and Abuse later that night.

According to a March report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, a study done in 2009 found that nine percent of injecting drug users tested positive for HIV. Forty-five percent of those who were positive did not know it. Of those who were HIV-negative or uncertain of their status before the test, 35 percent reported that they had shared syringes.

The report concludes that access to clean syringes, among other things, is a known and effective way of curbing the spread of HIV among injecting drug users.

"It really is the most cost-effective way to reduce transmission," Janiszewski said.

However, stigma around HIV is compounded by the stigma around substance use and abuse when it comes to needle-exchange programs. The syringe-exchange battle, which has been ongoing for decades, is hinged on the belief of some that providing clean needles encourages drug use, rather than discourages needle sharing.

AFC says that is a dangerous position, and one that ignores years of study that show needle exchange as an effective tool for reducing HIV and hepatitis transmission.

In addition to providing clean needles, syringe exchange programs link clients to services and care, providing them with treatment options



Melissa Janiszewski. Photo courtesy of Janiszewski

and support. As a consequence, many needle exchange programs have both curbed HIV rates and substance abuse.

Service providers do not need additional federal money to run syringe exchange programs. They simply need federal funds already going to HIV service work to be unrestricted when it comes to syringe exchange.

"It's basically changing a line item in the way the law is written," said Janiszewski.

The ban has not yet meant dire straits for local AIDS advocates yet. AFC has used private funds to continue its syringe exchange program. But the situation is unsustainable, Janiszewski said.

The debate over syringe exchange programs is hardly new. The federal ban lasted more than two decades before it was overturned in 2009. In December, it was again reinstated in the 2012 budget appropriates bill.

AFC is encouraging people to call their lawmakers and ask them to lift the ban in anticipation of the 2013 budget. More information is available at [www.aidschicago.org/prevention-home/syringe-project](http://www.aidschicago.org/prevention-home/syringe-project).



Curt Clapper.

## Curt Clapper dies

Allen Curtis "Curt" Clapper, born July 21, 1949, in Chicago to Allen Bernard and Martha (nee Garrett) Clapper, passed away March 18 at Northwest Community Hospital in Arlington Heights. Clapper, who grew up in Park Ridge, most recently lived in Arlington Heights.

Clapper, who was gay, was a longtime supporter of LGBT causes.

Clapper was a 1967 graduate of Maine East High School in Park Ridge, and he earned his B.S. in mathematics from Northwestern University in 1971. Clapper worked for many years in technology support, both at DeSoto and as an independent consultant. Then his professional life merged with his passion for books, reading and writing. He spent many years in the retail-book industry, including as partner in People Like Us Books, a gay and lesbian bookstore.

Clapper was always happy at work at the Arlington Heights Memorial Library. He loved biking, hiking, in-line skating, theater and acting, gardening and his cats. Clapper cared deeply about people and his community, and demonstrated this by his volunteer work at Horizons Community Services (now Center on Halsted) in Chicago. Clapper realized a dream this past December when some of his writing was published.

Clapper is survived by his brother, Greg (Jody) Clapper; nieces Laura Clapper and Jenna (Dave) Staples; and his aunt, Catherine Smith.

Clapper was preceded in death by his parents.

A memorial service was held March 22 in the Hendrickson Room on the second floor of The Arlington Heights Memorial Library. Interment was private.

## Sweet Miss Giving's going national

Sweet Miss Giving's—the bakery/jobs program affiliated with HIV/AIDS agency Chicago House—is going national.

According to an open letter from Chicago House CEO the Rev. Stan Sloan, "Sweet Miss Giving's has attracted the attention of a national wholesale baker who will be entering a licensing agreement to take part of our product line to a larger audience. We are very excited to be working with him and for the potential that this move holds for both our Transitional Jobs/Internship Program as well as for the potential benefits to Chicago House and its mission."

However, this development means that local operations will cease. On April 1, the retail location at the Loop's French Market will close, and the wholesale and catering businesses will end.

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COMPILED BY KATE SOSIN

## Melvin Antoine Whitehead

**Identifies as**  
Black Same-Gender Loving Christian Man

**Pronouns**  
He/him/his

**Life's work**  
"My life's work is excavating the past in order to learn from it and move forward. The Akan people call this 'Sankofa.' I'm currently working on a genealogy and oral history project, in which I am tracing my lineage, digitizing old family videos and photos and interviewing extant family members about their lives. Combined with the contextual research I'm doing about Afro-American history, I am learning much more about the past, my family and current social justice struggles happening today."

**Job**  
"I'm a librarian and assistant professor at a community college. I'm helping the world become more information literate- one college student at a time!"

**What is the best thing about being trans/ gender-variant?**  
"For me, it's having the dual consciousness that comes with having lived as female and now as male. Noticing the gendered nuances in my interactions, gaining a new and insightful understanding of male privilege, and seeing

the ways in which my 'new' gender shapes how I experience race. It's been painful, but also a continuous learning experience."

**Do you consider yourself an activist?**  
"I recently connected with two local organizations that seek to educate, mentor to, and support young people of color. Too often, our society dismisses and devalues young people and underestimates what they are capable of. I believe an important aspect of social justice work is inter-generational dialogue and respect."

**What issues outside of the queer community do you care about?**  
"I feel that every issue impacts the queer community. These days, I'm especially passionate about immigrant rights, voter suppression and women's healthcare. But anything that impacts marginalized groups is something that I care about."

**What do you think are the most important issues facing the trans/ gender-variant community?**  
"I would like to see more self-love and unity within our community. No more shaming people for their decisions about how they decide to transition (or not). No more comparing ourselves to other people to validate our identities. Loving who we are from the inside out in a society that stigmatizes our bodies and identities is the most radical thing we can do."



James D. McDonough. Photo courtesy of the Alphawood Foundation

## Alphawood announces new leaders

Alphawood Foundation Chicago has announced the appointment of James D. McDonough, a former Lambda Legal national board member, as executive director.

This announcement concludes an intense search the foundation launched in January. The Foundation also said Bradford J. White has been appointed associate director.

McDonough comes to Alphawood from Sun-Times Media Holdings, LLC, where he was general counsel, senior vice president and chief administrative officer. Since joining the senior management of Sun-Times Media in 2005, that company has successfully entered and exited bankruptcy and has been sold twice to separate groups of local investors. Sun-Times Media is the parent company of the Chicago Sun-Times and more than 40 other daily and weekly newspapers in the Chicago metropolitan area. Prior to join-

ing Sun-Times Media, McDonough was a partner in the Chicago law firm Gardner, Carton & Douglas.

"Alphawood Foundation is delighted to welcome Jim McDonough as our new Executive Director," said Fred Eychaner, foundation chairman. "Jim brings a wealth of experience in advocacy and not-for-profit organizations, informed by a deep and varied background as a lawyer and business person in the media world. We look forward to his leadership of our organization," he said.

McDonough is a graduate of Marquette University and the Northwestern University School of Law. He has been appointed by the Illinois Supreme Court as member of its Committee on Professional Responsibility. He lives in Chicago.

Brad White joins Alphawood with more than 25 years of professional and volunteer experience in community and economic development, affordable housing, preservation, public policy and advocacy. He has created planning and incentive strategies for economic development in downtown areas, neighborhood commercial districts, and residential districts. In addition, he has worked with neighborhood residents to help them shape the development of their neighborhoods.

## Join the Impact holds town hall

BY JAMIE ANNE ROYCE

Members of Join The Impact Chicago (JTIC) and the LGBT community gathered at Merlo Library in Boystown for a town-hall meeting March 24.

When Proposition 8 passed in California in 2008, constitutionally banning gay marriage in the state, a website called Join The Impact spurred activists across the country to organize rallies in solidarity. JTIC was born out of the Chicago rally, and members have been organizing on a local and national level since.

The group is excited to have kept the momentum from the Prop 8 rally going to continue grassroots organizing for queer rights.

"There's a rising tide of LGBTQ rights in this country on all levels," said Rachel Miller, a JTIC



Join The Impact Chicago members at the March 24 town hall. Photo by Jamie Anne Royce

organizer. "There's been a lot of fights. It's all very exciting to watch and be a part of."

Past actions have included nonviolent acts of civil disobedience, like a sit-in at Sen. Dick Durbin's office, and organizing buses to the National Equality March in Washington, D.C. JTIC often works in cooperation or in solidarity with other organizations, groups and causes.

The town hall served as an open discussion for community members to voice concerns or needs, and as a platform to propose ideas or directions for new projects.

Members wanted to have a queer presence at protests of the upcoming NATO summit in Chicago, work on moving the Employment Non-Discrimination Act through Congress, show solidarity with the working class by supporting unions, and provide safe housing for homeless LGBT youth.

"We don't just need homeless shelters. We need to find them a safe and affirming home," said Danelle Wylder, a JTIC organizer.

Some attendees wanted to pressure non-inclusive or unfriendly organizations that aid homeless people to change exclusionary policies and reform services to make homeless LGBT youth welcome. Others wanted to engage more financially privileged members of the community to

## WCT seeks nominations for 30 Under 30

CHICAGO—Windy City Times is seeking to recognize 30 more outstanding LGBT individuals (and allies) for its annual 30 Under 30 Awards.

Nominees should be 30 years or under as of June 30, 2012, and should have made some substantial contributions to the LGBT community, whether in the fields of entertainment, politics, health, activism, academics, sports or other areas.

The deadline to nominate individuals is Friday, April 20.

Individuals, organizations, co-workers, etc. can nominate a person by e-mailing Andrew@WindyCityMediaGroup.com or faxing to Andrew Davis' attention to 773-871-7609. Self-nominations are welcome.

The nomination should be 100 words or fewer, and should state what achievements or contributions the nominee has made. Nominators should include their own names and contact information as well as the contact information and the age of the nominee.

Note: Following the policy instituted in 2005, individuals can only win once. Those have won the award since that year are ineligible for this year's awards.

Honorees will be notified in May and recognized at a free ceremony Thursday, June 28, at 5:30 p.m., at Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted St.

open their homes to homeless youth through a hosting program like UCAN.

JTIC members also wanted to engage the LGBT community in more of their events, actions and organizing, explaining why they are community organizers.

"The [big] reason I'm an LGBTQ rights advocate is because I want to ask, 'Was I there?' When we stepped out of the closets. When we elected gay politicians. When we demanded our rights. I want to be able to say, 'yes,'" said Miller.

## About Face's Wonka Ball has prom theme

About Face Theatre's annual Wonka Ball will have a school theme this year.

The ball's theme is "Your Prom: The Remix." The event will take place Friday, March 30, at the Chicago Illuminating Company, 19 E. 21st St. VIP admission begins at 7 p.m.; general admission starts at 8 p.m.

Attendees will be revisiting the '70s, '80s and '90s. They can take prom photos, and celebrate the crowning of a prom king and queen.

General-admission tickets are \$150 each; VIP-admission tickets are \$250 each. See www.AboutFaceTheatre.com.



# Candy Johnson

TEXT AND PHOTOS BY ROSS FORMAN



The She Art store that opened in Andersonville is a mix of art, antiques and collectibles from all eras that depict the female form, including the work of 18 local artists.

And who are the majority of the customers since opening on March 1?

Men, said store owner Candy Johnson. "In fact, we brought in jewelry, vintage purses and vintage clothing—just for women," she said.

An admittedly eclectic artist, Johnson rarely is singularly focused—although she was years ago.

Back at her Oak Park store, she unveiled a full-length, hand-sewn formal dress, made completely from bras. More than 100 bras were used and the dress ultimately was sold for charity.

"It was amazing but, when it was done, I didn't really know what to do with it," she said.

Johnson's wacky world of art also has included the 50 birdhouses that she made of found objects, and ultimately sold all but two.



She Art carries items from \$2 to \$2,000. There also are multiple tattoo sheets (\$15 each), water colorings of 1920s actress Miriam Hopkins (\$350), and much more.

"When people come into the store, they seem to have a good time. We see what people want, and we make things work."

She Art encompasses 700 square-feet.

"It really isn't my store. The store belongs to the community; it's an extension of Andersonville, so hopefully everyone will come in just to say Hello," Johnson said.

Age  
54

Neighborhood  
Edgewater

Hobbies  
Loves playing Scrabble

Job title  
Owner of She Art

Relationship status  
Partners with Mercedes Corona. They have been together for 15 years and are co-partners in business, too.

Favorite local restaurant  
Wishbone

Website  
www.sheartchicago.com

Little-known fact  
"I'm a spiritual person who believes in fate. Everything happens for a reason."

She Art  
It opened March 1 in Andersonville and the former Amazon Driving School location. She had a store in Oak Park for two years in its arts district.

**Thursday, March 22**  
**7:30 p.m.**  
**Anne Laughlin**  
**Runaway**  
**Special guest:**  
**Kathie Bergquist**

**Sunday, April 1**  
**4:30 p.m.**  
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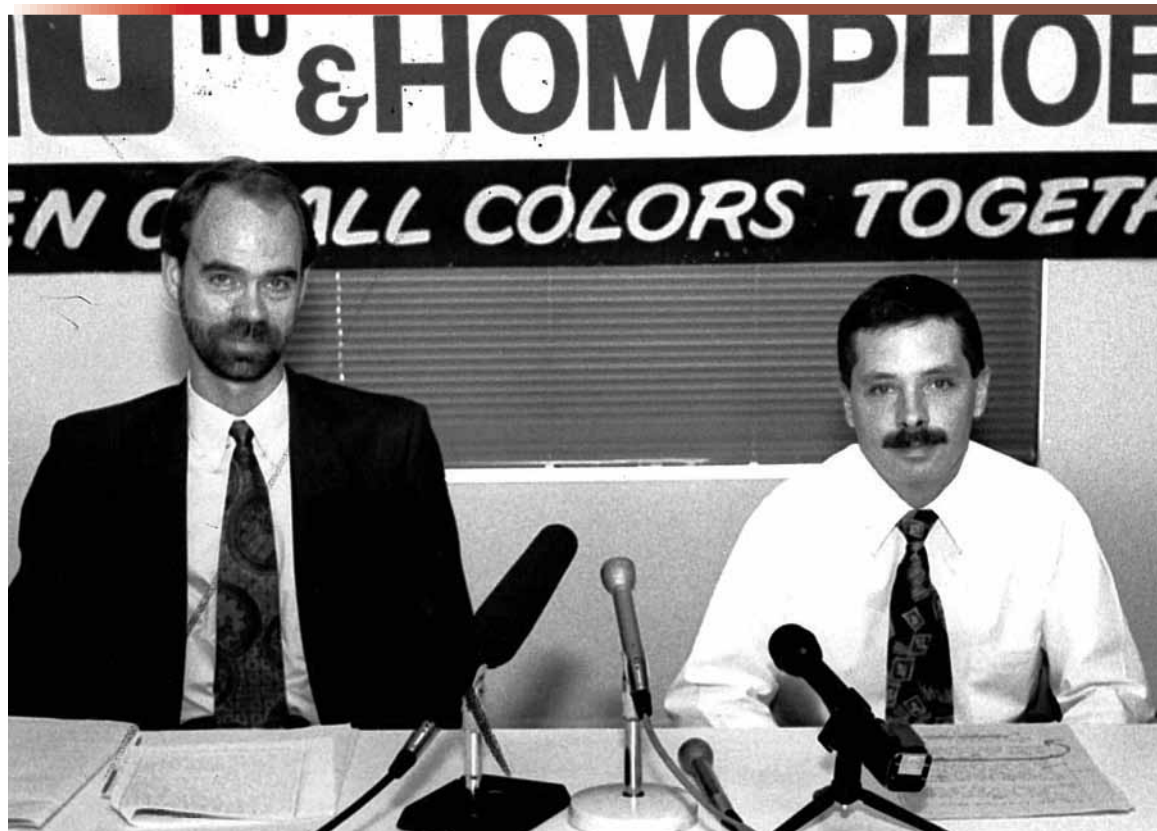


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John Hammell (left) with Keith Richardson, who fought the Boy Scouts' anti-gay policies, 1990s. Photos from the outlines/Windy City Times archives



Jill Pollack with John Hammell at a Horizons event, December 1991.

## Attorney John Hammell: He fought the good fight

BY ERICA DEMAREST

By the time he was 37 years old, John Hammell had accomplished more than most people do in a much longer lifetime.

The openly gay attorney and LGBT activist won numerous landmark civil rights cases, led the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Illinois's AIDS and Civil Liberties Project, and served in leadership roles at the Howard Brown Health Center and AIDS Foundation of Chicago (AFC).

"He was a trailblazer," ACLU Legal Director Harvey Grossman said. "[John] was very high-profile. There were a lot of lawyers in the closet in those days, and he was a very powerful role model for people."

Born in 1957, Hammell grew up in Detroit in a devout Catholic family. One of six children, Hammell was an active Boy Scout who rose to the rank of Eagle Scout. He earned bachelor's and master's degrees in communication studies from Northwestern University, and went on to graduate from Harvard Law School in 1982.

In the mid-1980s, Hammell worked for Chicago's Business and Professional People for the Public Interest (BPI), where he litigated several major racial discrimination cases.

ACLU of Illinois Executive Director Colleen Connell recalled noticing Hammell as one of BPI's "bright young stars."

"Around that same time, in the early 1980s, the AIDS epidemic was raging," Connell said. "The ACLU of Illinois office was very active both legislatively and legally ... Our office was really in some ways ground central in Illinois for providing a legal response to the mistreatment of people on the basis of real or perceived HIV status."

By 1988, the ACLU of Illinois decided to bring on an additional lawyer to work exclusively on AIDS cases. Hammell was a natural choice; he became the first director of the ACLU's AIDS and Civil Liberties Project.

"He was a wonderful colleague and a really smart lawyer," Connell said. "John was the ultimate coalition builder. ... He saw the connectivity of really so many of the issues that the ACLU worked on."

Hammell argued a number of precedent-setting cases including one that forced the Chicago Transit Authority to post AIDS-prevention ads on buses and trains; one that extended federal housing protection to HIV-infected patients; and one that declared a state law compelling HIV testing unconstitutional.

"[Hammell] picked up on a new area, which was discrimination against persons with HIV in seeking healthcare treatment," Grossman said. "There were doctors and dentists who would not treat [HIV-positive people]."

Dentists were particularly hesitant to treat people with HIV, Grossman said, since bleeding is common in many dental procedures. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) issued safety standards, but many medical professionals ignored them.

"It took a very, very long time for science to catch up with the individual psyches of Americans," Grossman said. "People with HIV were really discriminated against and stigmatized, and really spoken of in the foulest terms. ... It was tough times for LGBT people. It was tough times for HIV-infected people, and [Hammell] himself was ill."

Hammell was HIV-positive. Though he was open about his diagnosis, he never focused on it.

"It wasn't how John defined himself, and it

wasn't how he wanted to be defined," Connell said. Instead, he threw himself into his work. Colleagues described Hammell as smart, well spoken, and strategic.

Despite the serious nature of ACLU work, Hammell often made light of everyday situations.

"John was fun," Grossman said with a smile. "He had a very dry sense of humor. He was basically funny all the time."

Hammell was known for witty quips and impromptu songs, Connell said. She recounted an instance when Hammell enlisted ACLU co-workers to help her prepare for an upcoming U.S. Supreme Court appearance.

"It's the biggest moment in a lawyer's life," Connell said. "I come into work, and there on my office door frame is a poster with a contest that says 'Dress Colleen for her Supreme Court argument.'"

Hammell had pasted fashion cutouts from magazines on a large poster board. Outfits included a professional black suit, a chic red ensemble, Frederick's of Hollywood lingerie, and a baseball uniform ("Hit a home run!"); colleagues voted on their favorite.

"It was witty; it was clever," Connell said. "It's just completely laugh-out-loud funny because you can only wear the most lawyerly buttoned-down business suit in front of the Supreme Court."

The moment was made even funnier, Grossman said, by the fact that Hammell cared very little for fashion. He frequently made anti-fashion statements by wearing off-trend pieces such as his father's skinny ties, which were not in style at the time.

"He had a certain delight walking around with, what were in those days, very unusual ties," Grossman said. "Some of them, I have to say, were just ugly."

As AIDS law became more established in the early 1990s, Hammell began to focus his attention on LGBT-related legislation. He was appointed director of the ACLU of Illinois' Gay and Lesbian Rights Project.

"John was a leader in the LGBT community, particularly in the LGBT legal community," Connell said. "He brought the ACLU to the LGBT community, and vice versa, because he thought it was absolutely essential that civil rights organizations see LGBT rights as a fundamental right just like the First Amendment."



Hammell, Art Johnston and Lori Cannon during Chicago Pride 1992.

# Pedro Zamora at 40

BY EMMANUEL GARCIA

If Pedro Zamora was alive today he would have turned 40 on Feb. 29, something that was inconceivable to him at 22 when he filmed MTV's *The Real World: San Francisco*.

Pedro Zamora is remembered as an outspoken HIV/AIDS educator who used every opportunity he had on camera to talk about his battle living with AIDS.

"I will probably not see the age of 30. I will probably die," he told a group of students at Stanford University in a mid-season episode. He died Nov. 19, 1994, five months after the crew wrapped filming for the third installment of *The Real World* series.

In 1992 MTV started to experiment with the concept of unscripted programming or "Reality Television." The concept of *The Real World* was to room a group of seven young people in their 20s and film them in a different city. Each series brought together individuals from backgrounds that would predictably create conflict with others in the house.

Youth across America applied by sending in audition tapes for the chance to become famous from the exposure the cutting-edge cable network had. It was a new phenomena that would change television and celebrity forever. The San Francisco cast included Pedro Zamora, David "Puck" Rainey, Rachel Campos, Cory Murphy, Judd Winick, Mohammed Bilal, Pam Ling and Jo Rhodes.

Prior to moving into the house on Lombard Street, producers informed the cast that one of their roommates was HIV-positive, but none were told who.

During the first 10 minutes of the premier episode, Zamora revealed to Murphy on a train ride to San Francisco, "I'm HIV-positive." When they arrived to meet the other selected six, he told them he was living with AIDS.

It was a personal journey for the cast and for TV audiences who watched Zamora's battle with his deteriorating health.

He found out he was positive when he was a junior in high school. He said he became obsessed with the fact that he could die at any point and pushed himself to graduate early.

"When I found out I was HIV-positive, about eight months later I started doing AIDS education," he explained to Murphy.

Prior to *The Real World*, Pedro was actively

involved in speaking out about his status. He came into the show with a scrapbook that included newspaper articles, fliers and pictures of him as an HIV/AIDS activist. It was clear from the onset that he would use this new platform to reach more people.

Pedro immigrated to Miami from Cuba with his parents when he was eight years old. At the time of filming he had been living in the U.S. for 13 years. The Zamoras left Cuba on the Mariel boatlift, along with 125,000 other Cuban exiles. He told the camera with a subtle Spanish accent, "I give thanks every day that I could live in America. I live in a place that I could say who I am and say how I feel without being reprimanded. Some are not going to agree with me, but I could still say it."

Zamora was not the only Latino cast on the show; Rachel Campos, an Arizona State University graduate also made the cut.

Campos self identified as a young Republican who was raised in a strict Catholic home. Her family was the opposite of the Zamoras, who proudly embraced Pedro's identity as a gay man living with AIDS. The Zamoras exemplified a supportive and loving family who rallied around to celebrate him at every opportunity.

The loving way that they interacted with him in each episode was the image of a Latino family that is often not seen in scripted television and film. Latinos have been historically stereotyped as conservative Catholics. For example, Latino men have been portrayed as insensitive "macho" womanizers, but the men in Pedro's family could be seen hugging and kissing him hello and goodbye. Embracing him with respect and adoration.

Initially Rachel's family worried about her living with someone HIV-positive, but that was not because they were Latino—it was a lack of education.

She invited Pedro to visit her parents in Phoenix. In that episode her mom invited him to give a talk at the school where she worked. She appeared nervous that he would talk about his queerness to the students, but felt his message was important. He stood in front of a classroom of seventh graders, behind him on the chalkboard were written the words HIV/AIDS and VIH/SIDA (the Spanish translation). A boy asked, "How was the disease transmitted to you?"

"I got it through sex, I got it through unpro-

tected sex," he replied. He never outed himself because he wanted them to understand that anyone can get HIV/AIDS.

"Every day I wake up and I say, 'I am going to go and educate my community about my disease, that's a choice I am making, but it's not something I have to do,'" he told Rachel during a confrontation. "We have a lot in common, aside from both being Latinos."

If producers predicted that Pedro and Rachel would have the biggest conflict because of political or religious differences, they quickly found out they were wrong.

Housemate David "Puck" Rainey, a biker from San Francisco, turned out to be Pedro's biggest enemy on the show. During filming Pedro was invited to talk on local TV news channels to share his story.

Rainey grew jealous of the media attention that Pedro received as part of his job as an educator. His bad attitude and antagonistic personality would seem tame today, in comparison to characters in *The Bad Girls Club*, *Jersey Shore* or *The Real Housewives of Atlanta*.

However nothing could overshadow what was unfolding. Pedro began dating Sean Sasser, an AIDS activist living in San Francisco. It was the first time young audiences would see an HIV couple fall in love. The two bickered over who would move where after the show ended. By mid-season Pedro's T-cell count dropped and his health began to suffer. In a trip to visit his family in Miami he got sick and was unable to get medical attention because he did not have medical insurance.

Eventually he received care, but TV audiences learned that it was not easy for a person to access healthcare. In the last episodes we saw less of Zamora. He appeared gaunt and fragile. It seemed purposeful that most of the shots were from far away. Viewers were watching him die. In the second to last episode Sean and Pedro married.

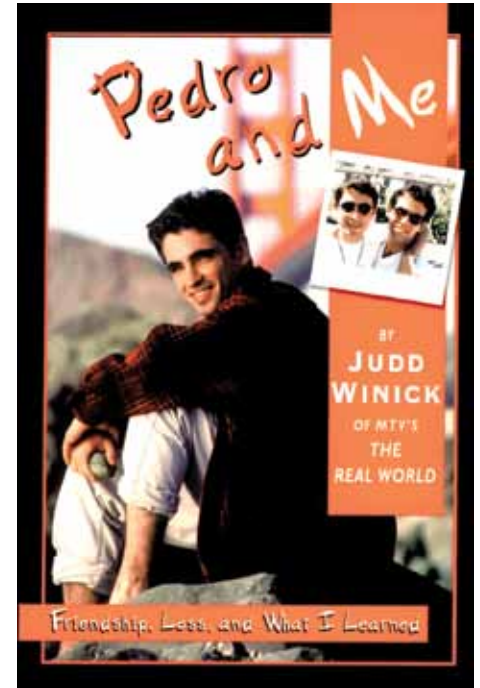
In 1994 the U.S. was still trying to understand the disease after initial political ignorance and widespread misinformation. When high-profile actors and athletes, like Rock Hudson, Magic Johnson and Greg Louganis revealed their HIV-positive status, it gave new faces to the disease, but their worldly lifestyle was perceived by everyday people to have played a role in the transmission. Still, none had humanized the reality of a person living with HIV/AIDS. Pedro's courage to tell the truth made him a pioneer.

Every revelation, every moment, proved to be a lesson: "I want people to remember my struggle as a person living with AIDS and [the] crap

that I have to go through in my everyday life." In 2009 the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) reported that Latinos represented 20 percent of new HIV infections. Three times higher than that of whites. Lack of awareness and healthcare also put Latinos more at risk.

In that same speech at Stanford University Pedro concluded, "There is not one second of my day that I am not aware that I am HIV-positive. I don't want to forget that I have AIDS and I don't want you to forget that I have AIDS. You have to understand AIDS is part of my life. It's my reality. It's who I am."

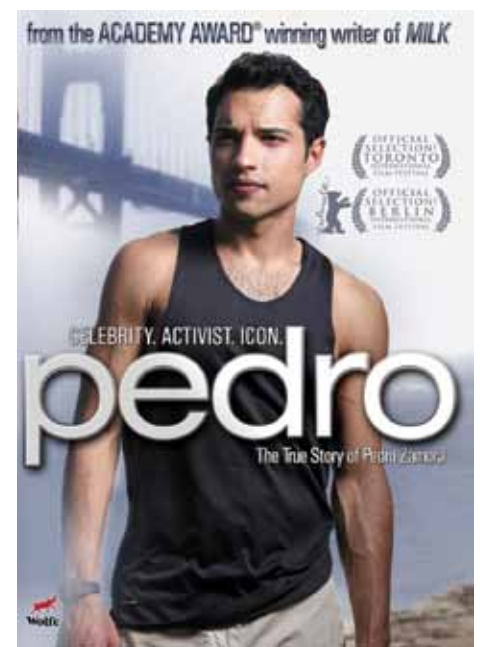
Pedro Zamora died Nov. 11, 1994 at age 22. U.S. President Bill Clinton credited Zamora for his activism, including for his testimony on the disease in front of Congress.



From top: The cover of the book *Pedro and Me*, by Pedro Zamora's *Real World* roommate Judd Winick, published in 2000; *The Real World: San Francisco* cast, 1994; A poster for the feature film about Pedro Zamora.



This picture, from Wikipedia, is believed to be among the last taken of Pedro Zamora, seven days before he died in 1994, surrounded by friends and family.



## P.I.S.D

BY JON-HENRI DAMSKI

The following column ran in the April 9, 1992 *Windy City Times*. We are re-printing it now in tribute to longtime Chicago gay columnist Jon-Henri Damski, who was born March 31, 1937 and died Nov. 1, 1997. The column has been slightly edited.

The P.I.S.D. caucus, People with Immune System Disorders, is an affinity group inside ACT UP/Chicago, dedicated to fighting AIDS personally and publicly 24 hours a day. They are the core of the core. Usually, you see them in their oppositional mode, protesting in Daley Plaza against Mayor Richard M. Daley's sick response to the AIDS crisis.

Members of P.I.S.D. are not just generally angry, or sometimes active, they are always PISSED and always active. As member Bill McMillan keeps telling us in his speeches, "I will live with AIDS every moment of my life. When this gathering is over, I don't just go home and think about it. I live with it! I Fight AIDS with every breath I take." Billy, like many members of P.I.S.D. has full blown AIDS; he is not activism for the camera, it is his life.

On the two days of hearings before the the health committee of the City Council, several experts, health professionals and community leaders gave excellent testimony.

Dr. Robert Murphy, medical director of Northwestern Hospital's AIDS treatment unit, spoke not only as a physician, but as an observer who could verify that the city has not put more of its money into the fight against AIDS in the last three years, even through cases have dramatically increased.

Linda Benson, executive director of Kupona Network, pointed out how we have lagged way behind in primary care services for African-Americans. Mildred Williamson, administrator of the Women and Children HIV program at Cook County Hospital, testified that "women and children are [the] fastest growing group of people with AIDS," yet the least recognized and attended.

Robert Rybicki, director of Bonaventure House, said they can house 30 homeless people with AIDS, but have a waiting list for 40 more. Bill Verick, co-chair of the Illinois Gay And Lesbian Task Force, held up a bag of pennies worth 38 cents. "This is what the Chicago Health Department is spending per capita to fight AIDS." He held up another bag with 75 cents in it. "This is the increase we are asking." The alderman were so taken with Verick's visuals that they asked him to repeat his numbers.

But the star witness for the two days of hearings came from ACT UP/Chicago, and specifically the P.I.S.D. Caucus.

Dennis Lenk, former accountant and former Daley voter, one of the seven-years-plus survivors, came to the hearing directly from his hospital bed. He had to use his aerosol medication during his testimony, for he nearly passed out. But he made his points most effectively: "While we sit here and debate the issue of more money, three people will die of AIDS today, and four more will be diagnosed." Ald. Ed Smith (28th), chair of the committee, responded, "Be sure, I get your message. Soon it will be four dying and six getting diagnosed. Believe me, I'm on your side on this. I will do what I can to get this resolution passed, and further down the road an ordinance to get it into law that we increase what we are doing." As Dennis left the stand, he was comforted by his brothers in P.I.S.D., like a warrior in the Iliad nursed by his fellow combatants.

Tim Holland used to live right next door to the mayor in Bridgeport. When he would watch the mayor's car and guard come for him in the morning, he wanted to go out on his porch and yell, "I'm HIV Positive. I'm your neighbor, help me." But he didn't have the nerve to interrupt the mayor then. But in testimony, he said, "See Mister Mayor, I'm here. I'm here, I'm your neighbor, and I'm asking for your help.

Todd Sears, also a member of Men of All Colors Together (MACT), had a sharp question for the committee: "I'm lucky. I'm white. Doctors have been good to me. I have had over a quarter of a million dollars worth of attention. I get to go to the fine clinics. But what about my black brothers? Why don't they get the same attention? Why are they told to get lost? Why do you think that is?"



Jon-Henri Damski (right) with Mayor Richard M. Daley, holding a declaration for Jon-Henri Damski Day June 4, 1997, at City Hall. Daley had a rocky start with AIDS activists. From the Outlines/Windy City Times archives

Ida Greathouse spoke as a mother with AIDS. "There are many of us. My young son comes to demonstrations with me. What's going to happen to him when I am gone? Who will take care of him? Do you alderman have to wait until this plague hits your family, your children, before you respond?"

Sheryl Holtzman of ACT UP/Chicago gave an emotional and tearful account of all her young friends who have died of this pandemic plague. A long list of first names, ending with Danny Sotomayor's. "How many more, how much longer?" Later she told the media outside, "We're asking for crumbs and Daley gives us is a crummy health department. Shame. Shame. Shame!"

Tim Miller of ACT UP spoke like a wise insider, and argued on lines of "cost effectiveness." "Are you going to spend a little money now for prevention and education, or a lot of money later for hospital care that only ends in a funeral?" Tim didn't knock the aldermen for the recent pay increase, but said, "if you can find money for

that kind of increase, I'm sure you can also find money for increased AIDS funding."

Greg Lindeman, a member of the board of Test Positive Aware Network, held up his grandfather's felt hat. "My grandfather was a precinct captain in the 9th and 10th wards. He used to get services for people, like new garbage cans. In the same tradition, we are here asking for services. Doesn't this city help its people?"

Glenn Krejci of P.I.S.D. had an eloquently written request on 3x5 cards. "Alderman Wojcik, I live in your ward. People say you are going to vote against this resolution. How can you?" Wojcik chose not to respond to Glenn. Some speculated that he was there as a Daley ally, to make a quorum call and delay the hearings. But when the vote came, he voted 'yes' with the other aldermen present. He could not look Glenn in the face and vote 'no'.

Billy McMillan told me he can't get primary care at a city clinic in his home neighborhood. Like many, he has to go to Cook County. Take three hours going back and forth on the bus. Wait three hours to see a doctor. And four more hours to get his prescription. On a routine visit, that could be done by a city clinic near his home in two hours, if they would offer primary care services as they promised to do in Daley's AIDS Strategic Plan.

Bruce Barnes, at the first day of the hearing, had the book, the City Budget, the size of two Chicago phonebooks, put it in his lap by Chairman Smith, "Now you find where we can get the money." Assisted by 14 others from P.I.S.D., Bruce came back with three possible answers, including an accurate reading of how the city is saving \$5 million on a reduced interest on its bond rating. He had checked with the market analysts last Friday.

Our ACT UP-pers maybe pissed about AIDS, but they meet all challenges.

P.I.S.D. and ACT UP/Chicago proved the queer citizens are also good citizens. Not only can they surround city hall in angry demonstrations, but they can also provide testimony, that is direct and totally informational.

Damski was a columnist for *GayLife*, *Gay Chicago Magazine*, *Windy City Times*, and *Nightlines/Outlines*. He died of melanoma complications in 1997.

# AIDS group: Elizabeth Taylor's legacy lives on

On the one-year anniversary of the passing of Elizabeth Taylor (Feb. 27, 1932–March 23, 2011), the Los Angeles-based AIDS Healthcare Foundation (AHF) said Taylor's groundbreaking legacy on AIDS continues to live on.

Taylor was a fearless and outspoken advocate on behalf of people with AIDS. At the time of her death, Michael Weinstein, president of AIDS Healthcare Foundation said, "Elizabeth Taylor holds a special place in the hearts of people with AIDS and their supporters for her tireless efforts to combat this dreaded disease. Long before it was fashionable, she was there by our side."

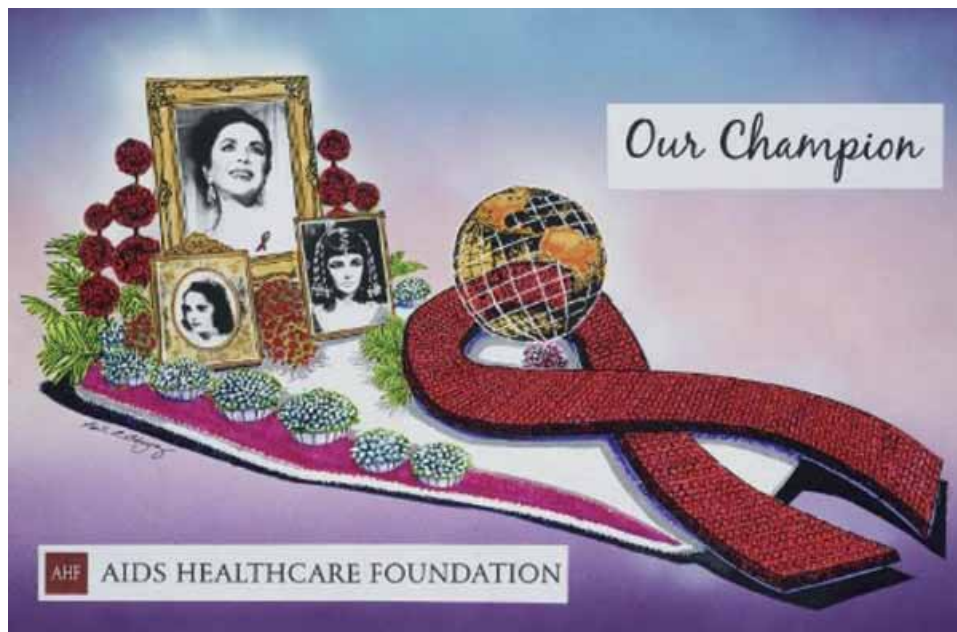
In tribute to Taylor for her efforts on AIDS, AHF created the first-ever AIDS-themed Tournament of Roses Parade Float. AHF's parade entry, 'Elizabeth Taylor: Our Champion,' which AHF entered in the 123rd Tournament of Roses Parade, was seen by more than 40 million U.S. viewers as well as more than 20 million international viewers of the parade Jan. 2, 2012. The float served as reminder of Taylor's enormous compassion and tireless work on AIDS and also as a stark reminder that the fight against AIDS is not over. AHF's Taylor tribute float won the Tourn-

ment's prestigious "Queen's Trophy" for best use of roses.

AHF's parade entry was designed by award-winning float designer Raul Rodriquez and was built by the respected and award-winning Fiesta Parade floats. The float was made of 150,000 flowers and took the form of an oversized red ribbon, the international symbol of AIDS, with a circling world globe. There were iconic photographs of Taylor from various stages in her life and career: from National Velvet, her breakthrough film as a child; from the film, Cleopatra; and an iconic photo from her later years when she was devoting much of her life to advocacy on AIDS. The photos were rendered in black-and-white, using seeds and grains to capture the effects of a black-and-white photo.

Now, those three oversize black and white photos of Taylor constructed from seeds and grains for AHF's Rose Parade float will be incorporated into different floats that will participate in upcoming gay pride parades taking place later this spring in West Hollywood, Long Beach and San Francisco.

See [www.aidshealth.org](http://www.aidshealth.org).



Concept image of Tournament of Roses Parade float honoring Elizabeth Taylor.



# Groups testify for Affordable Care Act

BY ERICA DEMAREST

As the U.S. Supreme Court gears up for oral arguments, two HIV/AIDS heavyweights are urging justices to find the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) constitutional.

Lambda Legal and the National Minority AIDS Council (NMAC) earlier this year filed friend-of-the-court briefings. Each amicus brief details how the ACA will improve access to care and augment prevention services.

"The ACA is a crucial bridge between the current state of the domestic epidemic and a future that is free from AIDS," said Scott Schoettes, Lambda Legal's HIV project director. "When Congress enacted the ACA in 2010, only 17% of people living with HIV had private health insurance... With continuing prevention education, early detection, and quality care for everyone living with HIV, we have the power to stem the HIV/AIDS epidemic."

The ACA was signed into law in March 2010. Its principle provisions included an expansion of healthcare access and several industry practice reforms, such as changes to pre-existing condition clauses.

The law's constitutionality was immediately challenged in federal courts, and the U.S. Supreme Court will begin to weigh in on cases this month.

In its briefing, NMAC urged the Court to uphold the ACA's Medicaid expansion, which would eliminate current disability requirements and expand eligibility to those making up to 133 percent of the federal poverty level.

Presently, low-income citizens who are HIV-positive are not eligible for Medicaid until they are disabled by an AIDS diagnosis.

"[The] current Medicaid eligibility requirements lack both sense and humanity," said NMAC Director of Legislative and Public Affairs Kali Lindsey. "They create a system in which individuals must be diagnosed with AIDS in order to gain access to the very treatments that could have prevented that diagnosis in the first place. This endangers the health of the very people that Medicaid is meant to serve, while raising program costs by delaying care until the latest stages of the disease."

For its part, Lambda Legal focused on the link between the ACA, healthcare and prevention. Lambda argued the federal government's controversial individual mandate is, in fact, constitutional under the Commerce and Necessary and Proper clauses.

"The ACA's interconnected reforms ... are a proper exercise of Congress's power to address a broken national healthcare finance system and directly expand access to health insurance for millions of people living with HIV," said Susan Sommer, Lambda Legal's director of constitutional litigation.

Sommer continued: "Congress has acted many times in the past to prevent the exclusion of particular groups from interstate markets. It undoubtedly has the power to take such action to allow people with pre-existing conditions, like HIV, to participate in the national healthcare insurance market."

Four national organizations, including amFAR and the HIV Medicine Association, joined NMAC in its filing; more than 130 organizations have endorsed Lambda Legal's amicus brief.

The ACA is widely considered the most prolific HIV/AIDS legislation since the Ryan White CARE Act.

"The list of supporters for our brief ... continues to grow because of the law's enormous potential to impact the domestic AIDS epidemic," Schoettes said.



Counter-clockwise from top left: TPAN's Bill Farrant; COIP's Koorey Kooistra with honoree Matthildur "Matta" Kelley; State Rep. Greg Harris' chief-of-staff Coleman Goode, accepting on behalf of Harris; partners Ed Jeske and John Hern; Alexian Brothers AIDS Ministry ED Cheryl Potts. Photos by Kevin Beaney, except where otherwise indicated



Honorees at the awards. Photo by Jamie Anne Royce

# HIV advocates honored for work

BY JAMIE ANNE ROYCE

The AIDS Legal Council of Chicago (ALCC) in partnership with the Windy City Times presented Outstanding Advocate of the Year awards to six people working in the HIV/AIDS community.

ALCC assists low-income people with HIV in Chicago with legal issues, including discrimination, Social Security benefits, wills and powers of attorney.

A reception preceded the awards ceremony at Sidley Ausin LLP at One S. Dearborn, attended by long-time activists and professionals providing HIV/AIDS related care and services.

"Tonight's the night we celebrate our friends," said Ann Hilton Fisher, executive director of the AIDS Legal Council of Chicago. "We're a small piece of the HIV community in Chicago and we all work together."

Fisher stressed that while the community has made great strides, people are still dying of AIDS complications and people are still being discriminated against for carrying the HIV virus. She indicated that because of that, the community still needs fierce advocates like the award winners.

Honorees included: Cheryl Potts, executive director of Alexian Brothers AIDS Ministry, who has dedicated her career to advocating for people with HIV. She cited the meeting of a 4-year-old girl early in her career with changing her life. "She taught me the most important thing in life is to give a damn and open a door," said Potts.

Matthildur "Matta" Kelley, case manager at Community Outreach Intervention Projects (COIP), started working on the streets with injection drug users. As a result, COIP saw a 70 percent reduction in new HIV infections among the people Kelley was serving.

State Rep. Greg Harris is Illinois's highest-ranking openly HIV-positive elected official. Harris's staff member Coleman Goode accepted the award on his behalf, saying, "As someone who is HIV positive, it is nice to see someone who is also HIV positive on the House floor advocating for me, because I can't always do it myself."

Test Positive Aware Network (TPAN)—a national model for peer-led programs supporting, serving, educating and empowering people with HIV—has been serving the community since 1987.

Partners Ed Jeske and John Hern have been working with the AIDS Legal Council of Chicago for more than 10 years, raising thousands of dollars for the organization and donating their time for everything from stuffing envelopes to event planning. "The honorees are competent, compassionate people who are only trying to do what is best for others. We are so proud to be associated with them," said Jeske.

"Each advocate does terrific work and makes a tremendous impact in the health and lives of people with HIV," said Ricardo Cifuentes, director of development at the AIDS Legal Council of Chicago.



## VIEWPOINTS

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 Community Marketing, Inc.



MARY MORTEN

## When will we listen to Black youth?

If you had a problem in the Black community, and you brought in a group of white people to discuss how to solve it, almost nobody would take that panel seriously. In fact, there'd probably be a public outcry. It would be the same thing for women's issues or gay issues. But every day, in local arenas all the way to the White House, adults sit around and decide what problems youth have and what youth need, without ever consulting us.

These are the words of 17-year-old Jason, a Bronx resident and member of the teen activist organization Youth Force. They are the words I chose to open my film, *Woke Up Black*—because now more than ever, the voices of African-American youth need to be heard in conversations about the issues that shape their lives.

Recently in Florida, the nation witnessed a tragic reminder of how the lives of our youth can be shaped, and cut short, by forces beyond their control. Trayvon Martin, a 17-year-old boy in the Orlando suburb of Sanford with no criminal record, was shot and killed Feb. 26 while running an errand by a neighborhood watch captain. The captain, George Zimmerman, had told the 911 dispatcher that Trayvon looked "like he's up to no good or he's on drugs or something." He also asserted that "[s]omething's wrong with [Martin]... He's got something in his hands. I don't know what his deal is." Trayvon was carrying a cell phone, a bag of Skittles and an iced tea. He was guilty of no crime other than being African-American, and was, therefore, suspicious.

I made *Woke Up Black* to document what Trayvon's story tells us—how race can influence and override many other factors in determining the futures of African-American youth. I spent two years interviewing youth around Trayvon's age. The five youth my film centers on all live in the Chicago area, and represent the incredible cultural, economic and sexual diversity of African-

Americans.

There is Rosalee, who was raised by her aunt and uncle and is about to become the first in her family to attend college; Carter, a football captain who was adopted by two gay men when he was 10; Ansheera, a self-identified gender-queer youth who has struggled to gain acceptance from her family and who has become an activist in response; Morgan, a middle-class suburban college student whose parents have both attained success in white-collar jobs; and Sheldon, an organizer at a South Side community organization who was incarcerated at age 17, and is attending college part-time while working to get his record expunged.

We initially thought that we would only have these youth speak in the film. But we soon realized we needed to include the adults in their lives—the parents and guardians whose involvement, or lack thereof, played a critical role in shaping their future.

A close friend said that he thought the youth were all exceptional, and that this was why the film has been so well received.

Well, I agree—the youth in this film are exceptional—but they are not exceptions. There are many more stories of African-American youth who serve their communities, who are excellent students, who never use drugs, and who have no criminal records.

We just don't hear these stories—not until someone like Trayvon Martin is killed. Not until someone like George Zimmerman makes clear just how pervasive, and deadly, the assumption that all African-American males are potential criminals is.

Reactions to *Woke Up Black* have been overwhelmingly positive. I believe that is, in large part, because the film tells stories that do not make the news. *Woke Up Black* does not ignore the difficult realities that African-American youth face; the film tackles issues like the media's negative portrayal of Black youth, sex and relationships, family structures and the importance of education. Yet it allows its viewers to see themselves in a hopeful light. For I know that if our youth are constantly fed a stream of negative stories about youth like themselves and their prospects for the future, stories become prophecies, and those prophecies become self-fulfilling.

But I also know that my film, in itself, is far from enough. How do we create a space where we hear about the reality of young Black lives? We made this world. This is the world our youth came into—why are we not willing to bring our

youth into the conversation about the issues that shape their futures?

And we most often do all of this work without consulting one single young person.

We asked several young people as they exited film screenings in Madison—where we had three overflow crowds for three separate screenings—what they thought about the film. One young woman said that after seeing *Woke Up Black*, she knew she did not have to play sports or be in a rap video to be successful. One young man said that if the young men featured in the film could succeed, he could as well; he knew he had to try harder to make life better for himself and his younger brother. At the University of Chicago screening, an adult community organizer told us that the film made him realize his own homophobia. His eyes had been opened about how difficult it was for young people who were gay and had been rejected by their parents.

Often, when we do screenings in communities across the country, well-meaning organizers want to populate the post-screening panels with adults who run youth development organizations and want to talk about their own work. We always push back and say we want to hear from youth on the panel—not adults. We must create a space for youth to be part of the solution and not just be seen as the problem.

I know well that my film, in itself, is far from enough. How do we create a space where we hear about the reality of young Black lives? We made this world. This is the world our youth came into—why are we not willing to bring our youth into the conversation about the issues that shape their futures?

We talk about the concerns of Black youth; we lament their limited opportunities, and we develop programs, make laws and craft policies for the supposed purpose of trying to make things better for these marginalized, often-ignored youth. Yet we most often do all of this work without consulting one single young person.

Our film's title comes from one young man from Bayview in San Francisco, who said: "I don't drink, I don't do drugs, but I get treated the same way as my friends who do all that. I guess I just woke up Black."

If not now, when? When will we create spaces for Black youth to speak on their own behalf? How many lives have to be lost?

This column also ran on *Huffington Post*, [www.huffingtonpost.com](http://www.huffingtonpost.com).

Mary Morten is a Chicago-based filmmaker and lesbian activist.

## LETTERS

## All in the meaning

Dear Editor:

As a recipient of a 2012 Advocates of the Year award from the AIDS Legal Council of Chicago (ALCC) and *Windy City Times*, I want to thank the HIV/AIDS community for the honor and recognition. It means so much to me after working in the field for 14 years (and volunteering for 18) to get accolades from colleagues who I hold in such high esteem. So many talented, committed individuals preceded me and I look forward to the recipients to follow in these next years.

I do want to address one word that was used in the *Windy City Times* article describing my work at Alexian Brothers AIDS Ministry: "destitute." To me, "destitute" implies a lack of ALL resources for a person's subsistence; it carries a connotation of hopelessness. I strongly disagree that the people living with HIV whose homes exist at Bonaventure House, The Harbor and Bettendorf Place, embody this definition. On the contrary, the residents of our programs come to us with

fierce spirit, determination, and the ability to regain independence.

In fact, 50 percent of the residents are enrolled in formal education programs and more than 25 percent of residents are employed. Many, many others are engaged in volunteer work in the community. The AIDS Ministry provides the opportunity for personal growth and excellence of each person who walks through our open door.

I would be remiss as an AIDS advocate to not object to and seek clarification of the word "destitute." It is a commendation to HIV/AIDS service providers and to all men and women living with HIV/AIDS in the Chicagoland area that we have come so far from the days in the 1980's where individuals had little resources and comforts. The men and women who make Alexian Brothers AIDS Ministry home are full of riches of spirit and accomplishment. They make me proud to come to work every day and be a part of such a dedicated community.

I again thank the AIDS Legal Council of Chicago and *Windy City Times* for the recognition they bestowed upon me. I hope to be afforded

the opportunity to continuing advocating for men and women living with HIV/AIDS until the day comes when each person has access to the basic human rights of healthcare and housing.

Cheryl Potts  
 Executive Director  
 Alexian Brothers AIDS Ministry  
 Chicago

AIDS Legal Council of Chicago Executive Director  
 Ann Hilton Fisher responded:

We are so grateful to *Windy City Times* for co-sponsoring the *Advocates of the Year Awards* and for the wonderful article about this year's great award winners in last week's paper.

We want to acknowledge that we were the ones responsible for using the word "destitute" to describe those who receive such excellent services from Bonaventure House. We, of course, were using the word strictly in the economic sense. We agree with Ms. Potts that her clients, and ours, are rich in many other ways and bring great gifts to our work and our communities.

## GOINGS-ON

WINDY CITY TIMES' ENTERTAINMENT SECTION

Photo by  
Murray  
Close

## 'GAMES' ON

Windy City Times looks at the cinematic blockbuster *The Hunger Games*, starring Jennifer Lawrence (above). See page 28.

## DISH

Pasta time away.  
Page 38.

PR photo of salmon  
portofino at Carmine's



## SPORTS

Floor burn.  
Page 46.

Photo from Andrew Sobotka



## THEATER

'Tea' time.  
Page 20.

Photo from Kristin Collins



## SCOTTISH PLAY SCOTT

# 'Angels' arise at Court Theatre

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

Court Theatre artistic director Charles Newell was taken aback when Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Tony Kushner prodded him to direct *Angels in America*.

"I went 'Oh my God!,'" said Newell, recalling his reaction when first asked to take on *Angels*. "We then had an extensive conversation about why."

*Angels in America*, of course, is Kushner's epic and multi-award-winning drama dealing with AIDS that premiered in the early 1990s and has since been staged around the world. Broken into two parts, *Millennium Approaches* and *Perestroika*, *Angels in America* teems with magical realism and plenty of political commentary on life, religion and politics under the administration of President Ronald Reagan.

*Angels in America* mixes historical characters alongside fictional ones dreamed up by Kushner for his heady work that he subtitled "A Gay Fantasia on National Themes." It starts in 1985 at the height of the AIDS crisis in New York, and journeys along the way to Salt Lake City, Antarctica and even heaven as eight actors portray multiple characters dealing with love, loss, sickness, death, prescription drugs and more.

"It's an incredibly ambitious and incredibly challenging undertaking for any theater to do both parts of this play," Newell said.

This isn't the first time Newell has directed works by Kushner at Court Theatre. Newell helmed a critically acclaimed and Jeff Award-winning production of the 2004 musical *Caro-*

line, or *Change* by Kushner and composer Jeanine Tesori in 2008, and then Newell drew even more admiration the esteemed playwright by directing Kushner's adaptation of Pierre Corneille's *The Illusion* in 2010.

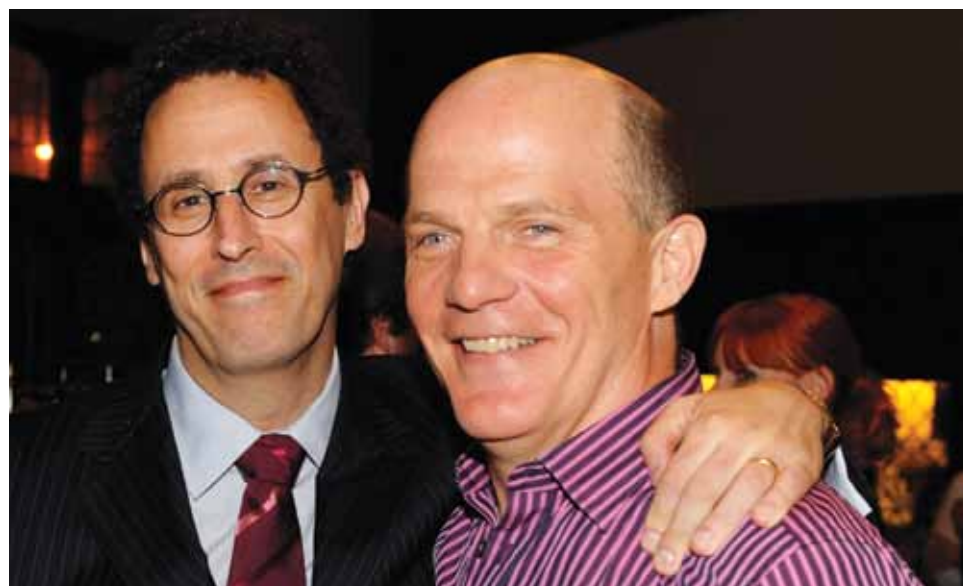
In light of those productions, Kushner and Newell became closer friends and artistic colleagues. Initially the two were discussing future collaborations with Newell directing Kushner adaptations of works by Brecht and Goethe, before the suggestion for *Angels in America* arose.

"When Tony Kushner says I want you to direct 'Angels in America,' how can you say no? And yet I needed to make sure I was really doing it for the right reasons for myself and for the theater and for our community," Newell said. "It just had incredibly profound things to say asking how do we take care of ourselves, how do we take care of each other? Those ideas and those questions seemed even more pressing and more necessary today than ever. So I came back to Tony and said I would be honored to do this piece at Court."

Of course, it's easier said than done when it comes to staging an epic like *Angels in America*. The play it calls for so many different locations and theatrical effects like a flying angel who crashes in to proclaim an ill HIV-positive man to be to a spiritual prophet.

"This is certainly the most ambitious production in terms of the resources of Court Theatre. Just even the architecture of the building is being stretched," Newell said, noting how the 251-seat theater lacks a suitable fly space.

Working with designers like John Clubert



Tony Kushner (left) and Charles Newell. Photo courtesy of Court Theatre

(sets), Mike Tutaj (projections), Keith Parham (lighting) and Joshua Horvath (sound), Newell said, "I feel all the design work we did ahead of time required six or seven radical iterations to finally arrive at ideas that are working very well. I'm very glad to say that we have hit upon an idea that I think is going to carry us all to the end of the play's epilogue."

Newell is also pleased to be work with many Chicago acting veterans in the cast like Mary Beth Fisher, Hollis Resnick, Larry Yando, Heidi Kettenring, alongside some up-and-coming actors such as Eddie Bennet, Michael Pogue and Geoff Packard.

"I feel incredibly lucky and fortunate to have so many [actors] that I have a long history with, and some actors in the company who are new to me and to Court Theatre," Newell said, reflecting on his nearly 20 years of working in Chicago. "I think we have the best of the Chicago acting community in the cast."

The Court Theatre revival of *Angels in America*

follows a wildly acclaimed off-Broadway revival that played at the Signature Theatre in New York last year, and will feature Kushner's newly-revised take on *Perestroika*.

Throughout rehearsals, Newell said he's been in contact with Kushner who is still offering up ideas and suggestions.

"I think he very much wanted this piece to be playing in Chicago during an election season," Newell said. "I'm thrilled that Court has taken on this challenge and I hope that people come to see both parts in what ever way they can. But if they can see both on a single day, I think that is a very special way to see this play."

**Angels in America Part 1: Millennium Approaches and Angels in America Part 2: Perestroika run in repertory now through Sunday, June 30, at the Court Theatre, 5535 S. Ellis Ave. Tickets are \$35-\$65 (special two-play packages are available). Call 773-753-4472 or visit [www.courttheatre.org](http://www.courttheatre.org).**



Beyond the Horizon. Photo by Scott Cooper

## THEATER REVIEW

### Beyond the Horizon

**Playwright:** Eugene O'Neill  
**At:** Eclipse Theatre Company at Athenaeum Theatre, 2136 N. Southport  
**Tickets:** 773-935-6860 or [www.eclipsetheatre.com](http://www.eclipsetheatre.com); \$28  
**Runs through:** April 22

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

Love does not conquer all in Eugene O'Neill's 1920 drama *Beyond the Horizon*. And as the first play in Eclipse Theatre Company's three-show season dedicated to O'Neill (the only American dramatist to win the Nobel Prize for Literature), the rarely produced *Beyond the Horizon* is an interesting historical work to explore.

*Beyond the Horizon* won O'Neill the first of the four Pulitzer Prizes for Drama he would receive for his works, which range in style from realism to experimental plays. *Beyond the Horizon* is an early O'Neill work, and therefore might be a tad too melodramatic for some modern tastes.

*Beyond the Horizon* focuses on a love triangle between two brothers and a neighboring Massachusetts farm woman in the early 20th century. Robert Mayo (John Wehrman) is more of a bookish dreamer, while his brother, Andrew (Nathaniel Swift), is a natural-born farmer. Everyone expects neighbor Ruth Atkins (Emily Shain) to marry Andrew, but when she shifts her affections to Robert right before he is set to take a long sea voyage, many hopes and dreams among the two families are soon derailed.

What's interesting is the case O'Neill makes

that young love can be disastrous when acted upon impulsively, and how getting tied down can ruin one's life's ambitions. So it's a safe bet to guess that things won't turn out well for the folks onstage from the instant you spot the peeling wallpaper of Joe Schermoly's effectively foreshadowing set design.

Director Lou Contey is mostly effective at steering his actors to barrel through the text without lingering too long over some of the more overwrought dramatic passages about male pride. Yet there are times that you wish the ensemble wouldn't hold back and go all out for the heightened melodrama (particularly when the Mayo brothers fail to meet the level of their angrily bursting father played unsettlingly by Brian Parry).

Among the love-triangle-trio, Wehrman comes off best as the sickly and pride-filled Robert who realizes all too well of the mistakes he's made in life. I would have liked a bit more passion and aggravation from Shain's Ruth, while some more self-awareness from Swift as Andrew might have made Eclipse's *Beyond the Horizon* feel more tragic than it does now.

Among the supporting cast, the always-complaining Mrs. Atkins of Kate Harris is a guilty delight when set against the more understanding Mayo matriarch of Molly Lyons. Zach Bloomfield is also very genial as the intruding Irish seafaring uncle, Captain Scott.

*Beyond the Horizon* can't be lumped with O'Neill's greatest works, but it does provide a taste of what was to come. Eclipse's production is good on an informative historical level, if not so much for its nuanced dramatics.



## SPOTLIGHT



What is the dividing line between white people being inspired by and stealing from African-American artists? **Kevin Coval**, a Chicago poet, author and co-founder/artistic director of *Louder Than a Bomb*: The Chicago Youth Poetry Festival, explores the issue by adapting his book *L-Vis Lives! Racemusic Poems* into his one-man stage show *L-Vis Live!* Victory Gardens Theater's Freshly Squeezed Series presentation of *L-Vis Live!* continues through Saturday, April 14, at the Richard Christiansen Theater in the Victory Gardens Biograph Theater, 2433 N. Lincoln Ave. Previews continue nightly at 7:30 p.m. through Thursday, March 29, before an official opening at 7:30 p.m. Friday, March 30. Performances then continue at 7:30 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays. Tickets are \$10-\$20; call 773-871-3000 or visit [www.victorygardens.org](http://www.victorygardens.org). Photo of Coval courtesy of Victory Gardens Theater

## THEATER REVIEW

### F---ing A

**Playwright:** Suzan-Lori Parks  
**At:** Urban Theatre at the Beacon Street Hull House, 4520 N. Beacon St.  
**Tickets:** 312-239-8783;  
[www.urbantheaterchicago.org](http://www.urbantheaterchicago.org); \$20  
**Runs through:** April 15

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

It's a "brand" in more ways than one, the scarlet "A" worn by Hester Smith, signifying her trade as an abortionist. It is—as she explains to her likewise bloody-aproned suitor, the local butcher—her "shingle and license," guaranteeing her customers the best-quality surgical care offered in this remote tropical Third World country, where gynecological information is shared in a polyglot patois spoken only by women. Adultery, that old-school source for the stigmatic emblem, is practiced by Hester's friend and confederate, Canary Mary, mistress to the nation's Mayor, whose wife is unable to conceive. This barren First Lady's wealthy parents, we learn, are responsible for sending Hester's son to prison for stealing food—an injustice invoking a mother's wrath.

Playwright Suzan-Lori Parks makes only passing reference to Nathaniel Hawthorne's classroom staple, borrowing more freely from Brechtian motifs imposed upon a plot lifted from Jacobean tragedy. The nebulously exotic setting, with its ethnically mixed populace, conjures an anarchic society where criminals are pursued by sadistic bounty hunters and convicts' families are encouraged to buy their kin's release. A screen mounted on the upstage wall flashes projected scene titles and translations of the aforementioned "women's talk," while a two-piece stageside orchestra supplies accompaniment for the text-based song snippets mandated by the aesthetic of "alienation" (another Brechtian term). Finally, violence designer Zev

Steinberg engineers the copious distribution of gore appropriate to a tale of revenge.

Emotional intensity smoldering on the brink of ignition is Urban Theater's stock-in-trade, but any first production in a new space presents unforeseen challenges—especially when the auditorium is big enough to house a dozen of the storefronts comprising this neighborhood company's former quarters. Lyndsay Rose Kane and Madrid St. Angelo, veteran players of



F---ing A. Photo by Gia

troupe specializing in epic extravaganzas (Vitalist Theatre et al.), enable Canary Mary and the Butcher to readily assume command of the stage for their appearances, as does Kelly Owens' Hester, whom director Richard Perez wisely locates downstage whenever practical.

Further adjustments are needed, however, before the operatic scope demanded by the sheer size of the Beacon Street Hull House—once home to the musicals of Black Ensemble—can be wholly reconciled with the intimate connection between players and audience characterizing the Urban Theater experience.

at the rigid gender roles prevalent in the post-WW II years. Director David New chooses to address the more timely existential question of individual identity, however, instructing his actors to look beneath the surface of what their characters may *profess* for hints of doubt regarding their society's insistence on "learning to run with the other horses," and in doing so, rendering the text's ambiguities—some maybe undetected by the author—to develop on their own merits.

Thus it is that the character most engaging our sympathies is not the lad suffering under his peers' bullying and his father's disappointment, nor the woman frustrated by her wedded partner's disaffinity for the attention she craves—though Andrew Cutler and Kate Tummelson acquit themselves admirably as the saintly cross-generation lovers—but Peter DeFaria's Reynolds, whose allegiance to the masculine values of his age belies his visible desire for the intimacy denied him. Following the Artistic Home's fresh look at this American classic, the question beguiling us is what lie *he* lives, and how long will he wait for history to liberate him from the herd?



Tea and Sympathy. Photo from Kristin Collins

## THEATER REVIEW

### Tea and Sympathy

**Playwright:** Robert Anderson  
**At:** The Artistic Home at Stage 773, 1225 W. Belmont Ave.  
**Tickets:** 773-327-5252;  
[www.stage773.org](http://www.stage773.org); \$28-\$32  
**Runs through:** April 22

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

One reason that Robert Anderson's 1953 play is conspicuously absent from the annals of early gay drama is that although its topic is a teenage boy accused of being queer, the dramatic question is not "is he or isn't he?" or even, "so what if he is?" but "who says he is?" In other words, it's the universal dilemma of self-definition vs. acceptance of others' judgments, whether friend or foe. Nowadays, the more problematic issue is that of an authority figure—in this case, a faculty wife—offering her affections to the troubled student as a test of his sexual preferences.

Oh, it's all legal: Tom Lee is 18—barely—and Laura Reynolds, by declaring her intent to leave her super-jock husband, has, in effect, relinquished any claim to administrative status. Still, while she is clearly distinguishable from the campus cougars who deliberately tease the hormone-racked adolescents, as well as the freethinking male professors who claim to see nothing unseemly in skinny-dipping with minors, when the bewildered Mr. Reynolds notes his spouse's propensity for "mothering" sensitive youths on the brink of adulthood, we can't help but wonder if he might have a point.

If all of Anderson's het males were portrayed as thuggish pigs, it would be easy for us to jeer (as several opening-night playgoers did)

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# Michael Feinstein celebrates the 'American Songbook'

BY TERRI-LYNNE WALDRON

Entertainer Michael Feinstein has amassed a career as an interpreter of the American Songbook—timeless standards originally sung by legends such as

Duke Ellington, Frank Sinatra and Irving Berlin.

The five-time Grammy-nominated Feinstein is the host of the PBS documentary series, *Michael Feinstein's American Songbook*, which recently wrapped season two. Feinstein and producer/director Amber Edwards talked to *Windy City Times* about America's rich musical heritage and gave us a sneak peek into the DVD extras from Season two.

**Windy City Times: Tell me about working on season two of *Michael Feinstein's American Songbook*.**

Michael Feinstein: I'm delighted that we created a second season of the show because the subject is infinite. I'm very grateful to Amber for finding a way to dramatize my peculiar existence in a fashion that seems to appeal to many people and brings attention to this American musical heritage.

Amber Edwards: And also with the DVD and Blu-ray we're able to include a lot of stuff you didn't see in the series. For example, in the DVD extras for this season we have the entire Bobby Short set that he did on Hugh Hefner's "Playboy's Penthouse" TV show. So instead of most of one song you have five songs. And we have five extra Liberace songs and all of Al Bowlly's film appearances, plus 12 or 13 Michael Feinstein additional performances, so it's a lot of bang for your buck.

**WCT: How did you come to collaborate with PBS on the show?**

Feinstein: It's because of Amber. She conceived the idea and approached PBS about it—and how could I not say yes? [All laugh.]

AE: Very easily. Perhaps if you had known what you were getting into you wouldn't have said yes!

Feinstein: It's true that it is a great deal of work to create the show because it is sort of a highbrow reality show on one level, and because of that it is invasive and that was the biggest consideration about how it would effect my life and how much I wanted to reveal. I'm still not

comfortable with that aspect of it but I don't think about it.

**WCT: Did you film any part of the series in Chicago?**

AE: Actually that's one place that we have not been and it's not because we don't want to; it's because the whole structure of this is built around Michael's touring schedule and we go where he goes. I would say 80 percent of all of the archival footage that we used in the series and especially in the DVD extras comes from a Chicago collector, J. Fred MacDonald, who had this amazing 9,000-square-foot warehouse full of films. [He] has been incredibly generous with us and just this last year consigned his collection to the Library of Congress. He had all of the Liberace television programs and just a mind-bending amount of stuff that we've been enjoying rifling through.

**WCT: Michael, you were born in Columbus, Ohio, and you learned to play piano by ear at the age of 5. What type of music were you listening to at that time?**

Feinstein: I was listening to the music that my parents were listening to which was music on television and the radio. That was the day of many variety shows so I heard a lot of the standards because of shows like *Sing Along With Mitch* and *The Lawrence Welk Show*. I heard pop music on the radio and pop music consisted of standards alongside rock and roll and all pop things that were happening.

**WCT: At that time, did your family know that you were a musical genius in the making?**

Feinstein: Well they still don't know that. [Laughs] They knew that I had an unusual ability to sit down and play without ever having had lessons and that was significant to them. But how far it was going to go or what it meant at that time remained to be revealed. I didn't know that I was going to have a career in music; I just knew that I loved it. It wasn't like Mozart was born into the family!

**WCT: Have you heard from a younger generation of music fans since the series aired?**

Feinstein: It has been wonderful that it is reaching all ages, including young people.

**WCT: Did you ever get to see Liberace perform live?**



Michael Feinstein plays one of Liberace's rhinestone-encrusted pianos at the now-closed Liberace Museum in Las Vegas. Photo by Dave Davidson, Hudson West Productions

Feinstein: Yes I did, and I knew him. I saw his last show at Radio City Music Hall but no one knew that it was going to be his last show. My companion at the show was Shana Alexander, the brilliant author of a number of books. She kept commenting that a lot of Liberace's humor was scatological and how odd it was that he was inciting all these ladies to a sexual fever pitch.

**WCT: Why is this DVD a must-have?**

Feinstein: The DVDs contain extraordinary archival footage of people like Rosemary Clooney and Frank Sinatra footage that is not available in any other form. To be able to have access to these images in high-definition Blu-ray is unique. The shows themselves I'm proud of because they put the heritage of this music in a context that I think is entertaining, educational and unique.

**WCT: Is there going to be a season three?**

AE: Yes; for season three we are in the throws of planning some additional shoots. We've filmed Michael with Stephen Sondheim and with Angela Lansbury, and we just filmed a session with him taping a radio program that he's now doing for [National Public Radio], with Joshua Bell and Jeremy Denk, so we're getting a little classical crossover in there. We're very much looking forward to season three and some more wacky adventures.

**To purchase seasons one and two of *Michael Feinstein's American Songbook* on DVD and Blu-ray, visit [www.shoppbs.org](http://www.shoppbs.org) To find out more about Michael Feinstein, visit [www.michaelfeinstein.com](http://www.michaelfeinstein.com).**

## CRITICS' PICKS

**Gypsy**, Drury Lane Theatre, Oakbrook Terrace, through April 1. Klea Blackhurst gives a human and powerhouse vocal performance as Madame Rose, usually just written off as "the stage mother from hell." This glorious rendition of the hit musical based upon the memoirs of burlesque queen Gypsy Rose Lee shouldn't be missed. SCM

**Hair**, Paramount Theatre, Aurora, through April 1. This iconic 1960s "tribal love-rock musical" caps off Paramount's amazing first season of producing its own Broadway-caliber productions. Go see *Hair* in all its uninhibited glory. SCM

**A Midsummer Night's Dream**, Chicago Shakespeare Theater, through April 8. Gary Griffin works his wizardry on the classroom classic with oodles of sensory dazzle, but it's Elizabeth Ledo's ambisexual Puck that steals the show. MSB

**The North Plan**, Theater Wit, through April 1. Nobody does grassroots revolution like Jason Wells and Kate Buddeke as they light the spark to fiery holocaust in this sinister/slapstick look at uprisings in humble quarters. MSB

—By Abarbanel, Barnidge and Morgan

## CULTURE CLUB



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## Chicago Slam Works hosts poetry slams

Chicago Slam Works is presenting its premiere season of three original performances showcasing Chicago's slam scene.

There will be three world premieres: "Two Sides" on Tuesday, April 3; "Dead or Alive" on Friday, May 25; and "In Any Tongue" on Saturday, July 21.

"Two Sides" will pair Chicago's best storytellers with the city's finest poets to tell their true, poignant and sometimes hilarious stories. Featured poets include Dan "Sully" Sullivan, Jamila Woods, Kristiana Rae Colon, Reggie Eldridge, Shelley Geiszler Randall and Molly Meacham. Storytellers include Samantha Irby, Shannon Cason, Scott Whitehair, Bill Hillmann, Cara Brigandi and Janna Sobel. "Two Sides" is directed by CSW Artistic Director J. W. Basilo.

All performances are at 8 p.m. at the Vittum Theater, 1012 N. Noble St. Prior to the first performance, patrons may purchase a "Slam

Pass," which includes all three performances as well as tickets to the weekly "Uptown Poetry Slam" and the monthly "Encyclopedia Show."



Jamila Woods.

ART REVIEW: BROOKLYN MUSEUM

# 'The New York Journalism of Djuna Barnes'

BY KELSIE CHAUVIN

Djuna Barnes (1892–1982) was just 21 when she marched into the Brooklyn Daily Eagle and declared, "I can draw and write and you'd be foolish not to hire me." Her statement says much about this brassy "modern" woman. She was so far ahead of her time in terms of moxie and self-sufficiency, her early work is considered "proto-feminist"—since feminism as the equal-rights movement we know today did not yet exist. Rather, most forward-thinking women and men of the 1910s were focused on suffrage, which culminated with the 19th Amendment in 1919.

Uniquely audacious, Barnes had such daring she likely would stand out no matter what era she lived in, and no matter which gender. To showcase some of her innovative early writing and illustrations, the Brooklyn Museum's Elizabeth A. Sackler Center for Feminist Art has installed Newspaper Fiction: The New York Journalism of Djuna Barnes, 1913–1919, in its always illuminating Herstory Gallery.

The admittedly modest exhibit packs a punch, composed of the potency of Barnes' early work. In just six years of journalism displayed here, it's clear that she was eager to perform dangerous feats for the sake of an exciting news report in one of several publications she wrote for. Whether that meant letting a firefighter "save" her from a rooftop by descending with only a rope around her waist (part of her "My Adventures Being Rescued" series), or being tied to a gurney for the story of "How It Feels to Be Forcibly Fed"—in response to British authorities' tactic on imprisoned, hunger-striking suffragists.

However, it wasn't just a dramatic article

Barnes was after. As an intrepid reporter, she sought the subjective view. It meant putting herself in the shoes of those she wrote about—contrary to the "just the facts" journalism of her peers. This approach allowed her creativity to emerge in tandem with her feminist voice. "Politics Through Personalization" is how the exhibit explains her early journalism. It was through her trademark first-hand experiences and reports that Barnes spotlighted political disparities and untold truths.

Writing wasn't her only forte. Since photojournalism would not become a newspaper staple until the 1920s, Barnes often included hand-drawn "snapshots" with her stories. Her figurative illustrations are pictorial representations of everyone from nightclub patrons and ladies who lunch, to soldiers and the homeless. She was as interested in high society as she was in bohemian artist circles and seedy downtown saloons. All of them made great subjects (and surely were just as much fun).

Her visual art was influenced by art nouveau and Japanese woodblock styles, always in simple media like ink and watercolors. She embraced a modernist elegance in her drawings, earning her the covers of magazines like Vanity Fair, and the acclaim of her artistic peers.

It's clear that Barnes also was privileged to work with editors who appreciated her inventiveness. Her early columns quickly morphed into short fiction stories for the New York Morning Telegraph and other publications. Sackler Center curator Catherine J. Morris asserts that Barnes' early voice in these tales would evolve into her later writing style of "modernist narrative fragmentation," as seen in Nightwood (1936), her most famous novel.

Barnes' personal history explains where some of her atypical sensibilities came from. She was raised in a non-traditional household even by today's standards. Her childhood home in Long Island, N.Y., included her eight siblings, both parents, her father's mistress and her paternal grandmother. Far from a conventional upbringing, she steadily grew more independent and her perspective more cynical. She moved to New York City and began to study art in her late teens. By 1915, she found an apartment in Greenwich Village and assumed the life of a writer.

Hers was a particularly long and colorful life. It included living through Paris in the 1920s and the Village thereafter. Enjoying a remarkable period of liberal sexuality, and the joys and heartbreaks of her own unabashed lesbian relationships. The Depression also took its toll, and Barnes would never go on to make a king's ransom for her significant contributions to the literary and artistic worlds. However, that's another story.

This exhibit of just 45 objects, while compact, reveals much about the worldly, modernist author and artist. Morris explained that it was Barnes' early training in newspaper fiction and experience with diverse networks of characters that "paved the way for the dramatic life and literary accomplishments that would follow."

For Barnes, to revel in one's own daring is a life worth sharing, and lucky for us, she shared it.

**"Newspaper Fiction: The New York Journalism of Djuna Barnes, 1913–1919" will be on view through Aug. 19 at the Brooklyn Museum; call 718-638-5000 or visit [www.brooklynmuseum.org](http://www.brooklynmuseum.org).**



Portrait of Djuna Barnes. Image courtesy of the Brooklyn Museum

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The  one for me

Patient model. Pill shown is not actual size.

## INDICATION

COMPLERA® (emtricitabine 200 mg/rilpivirine 25 mg/tenofovir disoproxil fumarate 300 mg) is a prescription HIV medicine that contains 3 medicines, EMTRIVA® (emtricitabine), EDURANT™ (rilpivirine), and VIREAD® (tenofovir disoproxil fumarate) combined in one pill. COMPLERA is used as a complete single-tablet regimen to treat HIV-1 infection in adults (age 18 and older) who have never taken HIV medicines before.

**COMPLERA does not cure HIV and has not been shown to prevent passing HIV to others.** It is important to always practice safer sex, use latex or polyurethane condoms to lower the chance of sexual contact with any body fluids, and to never re-use or share needles. **Do not stop taking COMPLERA unless directed by your healthcare provider. See your healthcare provider regularly.**

## IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

**Contact your healthcare provider right away if you get the following side effects or conditions while taking COMPLERA:**

- Nausea, vomiting, unusual muscle pain, and/or weakness. These may be signs of a buildup of acid in the blood (lactic acidosis), which is a serious medical condition
- Light-colored stools, dark-colored urine, and/or if your skin or the whites of your eyes turn yellow. These may be signs of serious liver problems (hepatotoxicity), with liver enlargement (hepatomegaly), and fat in the liver (steatosis)
- If you have HIV-1 and hepatitis B virus (HBV), your liver disease may suddenly get worse if you stop taking COMPLERA. Do not stop taking COMPLERA without first talking to your healthcare provider. Your healthcare provider will monitor your condition

**COMPLERA may affect the way other medicines work, and other medicines may affect how COMPLERA works, and may cause serious side effects.**

### Do not take COMPLERA if you are taking the following medicines:

- other HIV medicines (COMPLERA provides a complete treatment for HIV infection.)
- the anti-seizure medicines carbamazepine (Carbatrol®, Equetro®, Tegretol®, Tegretol-XR®, Teril®, Epitol®), oxcarbazepine (Trileptal®), phenobarbital (Luminal®), phenytoin (Dilantin®, Dilantin-125®, Phenytek®)
- the anti-tuberculosis medicines rifabutin (Mycobutin), rifampin (Rifater®, Rifamate®, Rimactane®, Rifadin®) and rifapentine (Priftin®)
- a proton pump inhibitor medicine for certain stomach or intestinal problems, including esomeprazole (Nexium®, Vimovo®), lansoprazole (Prevacid®), omeprazole (Prilosec®), pantoprazole sodium (Protonix®), rabeprazole (Aciphex®)
- more than 1 dose of the steroid medicine dexamethasone or dexamethasone sodium phosphate
- St. John's wort (Hypericum perforatum)
- other medicines that contain tenofovir (VIREAD®, TRUVADA®, ATRIPLA®)
- other medicines that contain emtricitabine or lamivudine (EMTRIVA®, Combivir®, Epivir® or Epivir-HBV®, Epzicom®, Trizivir®)
- rilpivirine (Edurant™)
- adefovir (HEPSERA®)

### In addition, also tell your healthcare provider if you take:

- an antacid medicine that contains aluminum, magnesium hydroxide, or calcium carbonate. Take antacids at least 2 hours before or at least 4 hours after you take COMPLERA
- a histamine-2 blocker medicine, including famotidine (Pepcid®), cimetidine (Tagamet®), nizatidine (Axid®), or ranitidine hydrochloride (Zantac®). Take these medicines at least 12 hours before or at least 4 hours after you take COMPLERA
- the antibiotic medicines clarithromycin (Biaxin®), erythromycin (E-Mycin®, Eryc®, Ery-Tab®, PCE®, Pediazole®, Ilosone®), and troleandomycin (TAO®)
- an antifungal medicine by mouth, including fluconazole (Diflucan®), itraconazole (Sporanox®), ketoconazole (Nizoral®), posaconazole (Noxafil®), voriconazole (Vfend®)
- methadone (Dolophine®)

**This list of medicines is not complete. Discuss with your healthcare provider all prescription and nonprescription medicines, vitamins, or herbal supplements you are taking or plan to take.**



COMPLERA is a prescription medicine used as a complete single-tablet regimen to treat HIV-1 in adults who have never taken HIV medicines before. COMPLERA does not cure HIV or AIDS or help prevent passing HIV to others.

## New COMPLERA

**A complete HIV treatment in only 1 pill a day.**

Ask your healthcare provider if it's the **one** for you.

### Before taking COMPLERA, tell your healthcare provider if you:

- have **liver problems**, including **hepatitis B or C** virus infection
- have **kidney problems**
- have ever had a **mental health problem**
- have **bone problems**
- are **pregnant or plan to become pregnant**. It is not known if COMPLERA can harm your unborn child
- are breastfeeding; **women with HIV should not breast-feed** because they can pass HIV through their milk to the baby

### Contact your healthcare provider right away if you experience any of the following serious or common side effects:

#### Serious side effects associated with COMPLERA:

- **New or worse kidney problems** can happen in some people who take COMPLERA. If you have had kidney problems in the past or take other medicines that can cause kidney problems, your healthcare provider may need to do blood tests to check your kidneys during your treatment with COMPLERA
- **Depression or mood changes** can happen in some people who take COMPLERA. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you have any of the following symptoms: feeling sad or hopeless, feeling anxious or restless, or if you have thoughts of hurting yourself (suicide) or have tried to hurt yourself
- **Bone problems** can happen in some people who take COMPLERA. Bone problems include bone pain, softening or thinning (which may lead to fractures). Your healthcare provider may need to do additional tests to check your bones
- **Changes in body fat** can happen in people taking HIV medicine. These changes may include increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), breast, and around the main part of your body (trunk). Loss of fat from the legs, arms and face may also happen. The cause and long-term health effect of these conditions are not known
- **Changes in your immune system (Immune Reconstitution Syndrome)** can happen when you start taking HIV medicines. Your immune system may get stronger and begin to fight infections that have been hidden in your body for a long time. Tell your healthcare provider if you start having new symptoms after starting your HIV medicine

#### Common side effects associated with COMPLERA:

- trouble sleeping (insomnia), abnormal dreams, headache, dizziness, diarrhea, nausea, rash, tiredness, and depression

#### Other side effects associated with COMPLERA:

- vomiting, stomach pain or discomfort, skin discoloration (small spots or freckles), and pain

Tell your healthcare provider if you have any side effect that bothers you or that does not go away. These are not all the possible side effects of COMPLERA. For more information, ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist. Call your healthcare provider for medical advice about side effects.

You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit [www.fda.gov/medwatch](http://www.fda.gov/medwatch) or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

#### Take COMPLERA exactly as your healthcare provider tells you to take it

- **Always take COMPLERA with a meal.** Taking COMPLERA with a meal is important to help get the right amount of medicine in your body. A protein drink does not replace a meal
- **Stay under the care of your healthcare provider during treatment with COMPLERA and see your healthcare provider regularly**

Please see Patient Information for COMPLERA on the following pages.



**COMPLERA**<sup>®</sup>  
emtricitabine 200mg/rilpivirine 25mg/  
tenofovir disoproxil fumarate 300mg tablets

Learn more at [www.COMPLERA.com](http://www.COMPLERA.com)

## FDA-Approved Patient Labeling

### Patient Information

#### COMPLERA® (kom-PLUH-rah)

#### (emtricitabine, rilpivirine and tenofovir disoproxil fumarate) Tablets

**Important: Ask your doctor or pharmacist about medicines that should not be taken with COMPLERA.** For more information, see the section “What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking COMPLERA?”

Read this Patient Information before you start taking COMPLERA and each time you get a refill. There may be new information. This information does not take the place of talking to your healthcare provider about your medical condition or treatment.

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

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

**1. Build-up of an acid in your blood (lactic acidosis).** Lactic acidosis can happen in some people who take COMPLERA or similar (nucleoside analogs) medicines. **Lactic acidosis** is a serious medical emergency that can lead to death.

Lactic acidosis can be hard to identify early, because the symptoms could seem like symptoms of other health problems. **Call your healthcare provider right away if you get any of the following symptoms which could be signs of lactic acidosis:**

- feeling very weak or tired
- have unusual (not normal) muscle pain
- have trouble breathing
- have stomach pain with
  - nausea (feel sick to your stomach)
  - vomiting
- feel cold, especially in your arms and legs
- feel dizzy or lightheaded
- have a fast or irregular heartbeat

**2. Severe liver problems.** Severe liver problems can happen in people who take COMPLERA or similar medicines. In some cases these liver problems can lead to death. Your liver may become large (hepatomegaly) and you may develop fat in your liver (steatosis) when you take COMPLERA.

**Call your healthcare provider right away if you have any of the following symptoms of liver problems:**

- your skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow (jaundice).
- dark “tea-colored” urine
- light-colored bowel movements (stools)
- loss of appetite for several days or longer
- nausea
- stomach pain

**You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or severe liver problems if you are female, very overweight (obese), or have been taking COMPLERA or a similar medicine containing nucleoside analogs for a long time.**

**3. Worsening of Hepatitis B infection.** If you also have hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection and you stop taking COMPLERA, your HBV infection may become worse (flare-up). A “flare-up” is when your HBV infection suddenly returns in a worse way than before. COMPLERA is not approved for the treatment of HBV, so you must discuss your HBV therapy with your healthcare provider.

- Do not let your COMPLERA run out. Refill your prescription or talk to your healthcare provider before your COMPLERA is all gone.
- Do not stop taking COMPLERA without first talking to your healthcare provider.
- If you stop taking COMPLERA, your healthcare provider will need to check your health often and do regular blood tests to check your HBV infection. Tell your healthcare provider about any new or unusual symptoms you may have after you stop taking COMPLERA.

#### What is COMPLERA?

COMPLERA is a prescription HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) medicine that:

- is used to treat HIV-1 in adults who have **never** taken HIV medicines before. HIV is the virus that causes AIDS (Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome).
- contains 3 medicines, (rilpivirine, emtricitabine, tenofovir disoproxil fumarate) combined in one tablet. EMTRIVA and VIREAD are HIV-1 (human immunodeficiency virus) nucleoside analog reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NRTIs) and EDURANT is an HIV-1 non-nucleoside analog reverse transcriptase inhibitor (NNRTI).

It is not known if COMPLERA is safe and effective in children under the age of 18 years.

#### COMPLERA may help:

- Reduce the amount of HIV in your blood. This is called your “viral load”.
- Increase the number of white blood cells called CD4+ (T) cells that help fight off other infections.

Reducing the amount of HIV and increasing the CD4+ (T) cell count may improve your immune system. This may reduce your risk of death or infections that can happen when your immune system is weak (opportunistic infections).

#### COMPLERA does not cure HIV infections or AIDS.

- Always practice safer sex.
- Use latex or polyurethane condoms to lower the chance of sexual contact with any body fluids such as semen, vaginal secretions, or blood.
- Never re-use or share needles.

Ask your healthcare provider if you have any questions about how to prevent passing HIV to other people.

#### Who should not take COMPLERA?

- Do not take COMPLERA if your HIV infection has been previously treated with HIV medicines.
- **Do not take COMPLERA if you are taking certain other medicines.** For more information about medicines that must not be taken with COMPLERA, see “What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking COMPLERA?”

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

**Before you take COMPLERA, tell your healthcare provider if you:**

- have liver problems, including hepatitis B or C virus infection
- have kidney problems
- have ever had a mental health problem
- have bone problems
- are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if COMPLERA can harm your unborn child
- **Pregnancy Registry.** There is a pregnancy registry for women who take antiviral medicines during pregnancy. Its purpose is to collect information about the health of you and your baby. Talk to your healthcare provider about how you can take part in this registry.
- are breast-feeding or plan to breast-feed. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that mothers with HIV not breastfeed because they can pass the HIV through their milk to the baby. It is not known if COMPLERA can pass through your breast milk and harm your baby. Talk to your healthcare provider about the best way to feed your baby.

**Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take,** including prescription and nonprescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements.

**COMPLERA may affect the way other medicines work, and other medicines may affect how COMPLERA works, and may cause serious side effects.** If you take certain medicines with COMPLERA, the amount of COMPLERA in your body may be too low and it may not work to help control your HIV infection. The HIV virus in your body may become resistant to COMPLERA or other HIV medicines that are like it.

#### Do not take COMPLERA if you also take these medicines:

- COMPLERA provides a complete treatment for HIV infection. Do not take other HIV medicines with COMPLERA.
- the anti-seizure medicines carbamazepine (CARBATROL®, EQUETRO®, TEGRETOL®, TEGRETOL-XR®, TERIL®, EPITOL®), oxcarbazepine (TRILEPTAL®), phenobarbital (LUMINAL®), phenytoin (DILANTIN®, DILANTIN-125®, PHENYTEK®)
- the anti-tuberculosis medicines rifabutin (MYCOBUTIN®), rifampin (RIFATER®, RIFAMATE®, RIMACTANE®, RIFADIN®) and rifapentine (PRIFTIN®)
- a proton pump inhibitor medicine for certain stomach or intestinal problems, including esomeprazole (NEXIUM®, VIMOVO®), lansoprazole (PREVACID®), omeprazole (PRILOSEC®), pantoprazole sodium (PROTONIX®), rabeprazole (ACIPHEX®)
- more than 1 dose of the steroid medicine dexamethasone or dexamethasone sodium phosphate
- St. John’s wort (*Hypericum perforatum*)

#### If you are taking COMPLERA, you should not take:

- other medicines that contain tenofovir (VIREAD®, TRUVADA®, ATRIPLA®)
- other medicines that contain emtricitabine or lamivudine (EMTRIVA®, COMBIVIR®, EPIVIR® or EPIVIR-HBV®, EPZICOM®, TRIZIVIR®)
- rilpivirine (EDURANT™)
- adefovir (HEPSERA®)

**Also tell your healthcare provider if you take:**

- an antacid medicine that contains aluminum, magnesium hydroxide, or calcium carbonate. Take antacids at least 2 hours before or at least 4 hours after you take COMPLERA.
- a histamine-2 blocker medicine, including famotidine (PEPCID®), cimetidine (TAGAMET®), nizatidine (AXID®), or ranitidine hydrochloride (ZANTAC®). Take these medicines at least 12 hours before or at least 4 hours after you take COMPLERA.
- the antibiotic medicines clarithromycin (BIAXIN®), erythromycin (E-MYCIN®, ERYC®, ERY-TAB®, PCE®, PEDIAZOLE®, ILOSONE®), and troleandomycin (TAO®)
- an antifungal medicine by mouth, including fluconazole (DIFLUCAN®), itraconazole (SPORANOX®), ketoconazole (NIZORAL®), posaconazole (NOXAFIL®), voriconazole (VFEND®)
- methadone (DOLOPHINE®)

**Ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist if you are not sure if your medicine is one that is listed above.**

**Know the medicines you take. Keep a list of your medicines and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist when you get a new medicine.** Your healthcare provider and your pharmacist can tell you if you can take these medicines with COMPLERA. Do not start any new medicines while you are taking COMPLERA without first talking with your healthcare provider or pharmacist. You can ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist for a list of medicines that can interact with COMPLERA.

**How should I take COMPLERA?**

- **Stay under the care of your healthcare provider during treatment with COMPLERA.**
- **Take COMPLERA exactly as your healthcare provider tells you to take it.**
- **Always take COMPLERA with a meal.** Taking COMPLERA with a meal is important to help get the right amount of medicine in your body. A protein drink does not replace a meal.
- Do not change your dose or stop taking COMPLERA without first talking with your healthcare provider. See your healthcare provider regularly while taking COMPLERA.
- If you miss a dose of COMPLERA within 12 hours of the time you usually take it, take your dose of COMPLERA with a meal as soon as possible. Then, take your next dose of COMPLERA at the regularly scheduled time. If you miss a dose of COMPLERA by more than 12 hours of the time you usually take it, wait and then take the next dose of COMPLERA at the regularly scheduled time.
- Do not take more than your prescribed dose to make up for a missed dose.
- When your COMPLERA supply starts to run low, get more from your healthcare provider or pharmacy. It is very important not to run out of COMPLERA. The amount of virus in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time.
- If you take too much COMPLERA, contact your local poison control center or go to the nearest hospital emergency room right away.

**What are the possible side effects of COMPLERA?****COMPLERA may cause the following serious side effects, including:**

- **See “What is the most important information I should know about COMPLERA?”**
- **New or worse kidney problems** can happen in some people who take COMPLERA. If you have had kidney problems in the past or take other medicines that can cause kidney problems, your healthcare provider may need to do blood tests to check your kidneys during your treatment with COMPLERA.
- **Depression or mood changes. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you have any of the following symptoms:**
  - feeling sad or hopeless
  - feeling anxious or restless
  - have thoughts of hurting yourself (suicide) or have tried to hurt yourself
- **Bone problems** can happen in some people who take COMPLERA. Bone problems include bone pain, softening or thinning (which may lead to fractures). Your healthcare provider may need to do additional tests to check your bones.
- **Changes in body fat** can happen in people taking HIV medicine. These changes may include increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck (“buffalo hump”), breast, and around the main part of your body (trunk). Loss of fat from the legs, arms and face may also happen. The cause and long term health effect of these conditions are not known.
- **Changes in your immune system (Immune Reconstitution Syndrome)** can happen when you start taking HIV medicines. Your immune system may get stronger and begin to fight infections that have been hidden in your body for a long time. Tell your healthcare provider if you start having new symptoms after starting your HIV medicine.

The most common side effects of COMPLERA include:

- trouble sleeping (insomnia)
- abnormal dreams
- headache
- dizziness
- diarrhea
- nausea
- rash
- tiredness
- depression

Additional common side effects include:

- vomiting
- stomach pain or discomfort
- skin discoloration (small spots or freckles)
- pain

Tell your healthcare provider if you have any side effect that bothers you or that does not go away.

These are not all the possible side effects of COMPLERA. For more information, ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist.

Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088 (1-800-332-1088).

**How do I store COMPLERA?**

- Store COMPLERA at room temperature 77 °F (25 °C).
- Keep COMPLERA in its original container and keep the container tightly closed.
- Do not use COMPLERA if the seal over the bottle opening is broken or missing.

**Keep COMPLERA and all other medicines out of reach of children.****General information about COMPLERA:**

Medicines are sometimes prescribed for purposes other than those listed in a Patient Information leaflet. Do not use COMPLERA for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not give COMPLERA to other people, even if they have the same symptoms you have. It may harm them.

This leaflet summarizes the most important information about COMPLERA. If you would like more information, talk with your healthcare provider. You can ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist for information about COMPLERA that is written for health professionals. For more information, call (1-800-445-3235) or go to [www.COMPLERA.com](http://www.COMPLERA.com).

**What are the ingredients of COMPLERA?**

**Active ingredients:** emtricitabine, rilpivirine hydrochloride, and tenofovir disoproxil fumarate

**Inactive ingredients:** pregelatinized starch, lactose monohydrate, microcrystalline cellulose, croscarmellose sodium, magnesium stearate, povidone, polysorbate 20. The tablet film coating contains polyethylene glycol, hypromellose, lactose monohydrate, triacetin, titanium dioxide, iron oxide red, FD&C Blue #2 aluminum lake, FD&C Yellow #6 aluminum lake.

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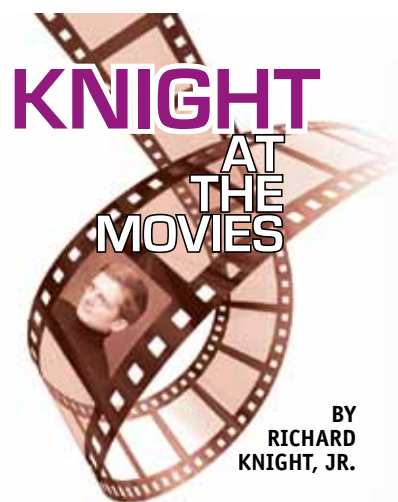
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Foster City, CA 94404

Issued: August 2011

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BY  
RICHARD  
KNIGHT, JR.

## The Hunger Games; The Deep Blue Sea; film notes

Having once again obstinately refused to succumb to the entreaties of family and friends (not to mention an omnipresent marketing campaign to read the damned books) I have availed myself at last of that cultural juggernaut better known as **The Hunger Games**—well, the movie version, anyway. Having done so, I can now report that, I, too, have fallen under the spell of this expertly made movie that takes its time to unfold; is headed by the fearless Jennifer Lawrence and sunny Josh Hutcherson; and is that rare example of science fiction that enthralls and entertains at the same time that it's delivering its pseudo-cautionary message. However, I am disturbed by that message (more on that later) and I also have a theory as to why the series has become such a cultural touchstone.

To put it rather simply, the world created by Suzanne Collins in *The Hunger Games* is closer to science fact than science fiction. It's akin to the landscape of Fahrenheit 451, 1984, Brave New World and, especially, *The Handmaid's Tale*. These works all share the same theme of the lone individual bridling under the conformity forced on society by the yoke of overwhelming political and societal oppression. All of these continue to resonate because they seem like one election, one insurrection—and one conservative revolution away from happening. In a world of reality-competition TV shows as well as a disenfranchised population aware of the huge disparity between rich and poor but narcotized into a general malaise by junk culture, mass media and the virtual reality of social networking, the possibility of the elite of *The Hunger Games* trotting out 24 teens and forcing them to partake in a televised competition to the death for their pleasure seems almost frightening real.

Basically, this survival-of-the-fittest theme is a throwback to the decadent Romans tossing Christians to the lions dressed up in a new variation—but what an enticing variation! Gussied up with a big budget and a comely young cast that earnestly goes through its paces (Lawrence and Hutcherson and the other teen actors are ably supported by some terrific adult actors like Woody Harrelson, Elizabeth Banks, Stanley Tucci, Donald Sutherland, Wes Bentley, Lenny Kravitz, et al), director Gary Ross' movie is superb entertainment. Ross keeps things moving but pauses to let his leading character, 16-year-old Katniss Everdeen, grieve over her losses (that become ours, too) and grow in emotional and courageous stature. And he gives us a minimum of violent gore (a bonus) when the reality competition starts, as the teens are hellbent on killing one another. (Only one can survive, it seems.)

Ross is greatly helped by his costumer (Judiana Makovsky) and production designer (Philip Messina) in creating this cruel new order.

So, *The Hunger Games*, while a great ride of a movie, is also one wrapped around an oddly disquieting message. I couldn't help but wonder what kind of affect the lust for violence layered on top of the morality tale that is *The Hunger Games* would ultimately have on such a receptive audience as the one I saw it with (filled with teens and young parents with little kids). Or maybe that train has already left the station?

Openly gay writer-director Terence Davies—noted for his gorgeously photographed, nostalgic films set in the early 1950s London of his childhood—returns to that time period in his adaptation of Terence Rattigan's '50s-set play **The Deep Blue Sea**, Davies' first narrative film in more than a decade. With its stately pace, paint-like cinematography (by Florian Hoffmeister), use of Samuel Barber's classical violin concerto and, especially, the complex performances



Josh Hutcherson in *The Hunger Games*. Photo by Murray Close

of Rachel Weisz, Tom Hiddleston and Simon Russell Beale, Davies' movie is a triumph of style and substance—a rare distinction that he has managed time and again.

The material focuses on Hester, the unhappy wife of a wealthy, prominent British judge who leaves him for a hot affair with a psychologically damaged war vet but then increasingly questions her choice. As the movie opens, Hester's suicidal and at its fade-out, her prospects don't seem much brighter. Weisz, who has no hesitation about plunging to the depths of her rather fraught character, gives Hester a vivid intensity that makes you believe that happiness is out of reach for a woman whose passion and intelligence is tamped down by the two men on either side of her and the constraints of the society around her. Adding an odd undertow to the emotional goings-on, both the male characters set off my gaydar—big-time. Although this certainly wasn't Rattigan's intention and probably wasn't of Davies' either, this extra psychological layer added a very interesting twist in my mind and might do the same for like-minded queer film fans looking for another reason to check out *The Deep Blue Sea*.

### Film notes:

—The series Cinema Q II concludes Wed., March 28 at 6:30 p.m. in the Claudia Cassidy Theater with the 2003 documentary **Brother Outsider: The Life of Bayard Rustin**. The film, by out director Bennet Singer, celebrates the life of Rustin, the justly celebrated, openly gay African-American civil-rights activist who has been lauded with a series of tributes and commemorations this month on the 100th anniversary of his birth. Singer will attend the screening, which is being co-sponsored by The Legacy Project Chicago (Rustin will be inducted in October as one of the group's initial honorees) along with Affinity

Chicago. A dessert reception, provided by Ann Sather, will follow a post screening discussion with Singer. Windy City Times is one of the series' media sponsors. [www.legacyprojectchicago.org](http://www.legacyprojectchicago.org)

—Out writer-director Stephen Cone's film **The Wise Kids** is going to have a rare local screening Thursday, March 29, at the Evanston Public Library, 1703 Orrington Ave., at 7 p.m. The 2011 movie—which focuses on three teenagers (including one who's gay) raised as Southern Baptists, and their sexually confused choir director (played by Cone)—was the opening-night selec-

tion of last fall's Reeling film festival. It's a tremendously subtle, gentle movie that is deservedly receiving lots of critical acclaim (including a critic's pick recently from the New York Times), which will hopefully lead to a hometown theatrical run. Cone and Tyler Ross (who plays the gay teen) will be present for a post-screening discussion. Admission is free. [www.thewisekids.com](http://www.thewisekids.com)

Check out my archived reviews at [www.windycitymediagroup.com](http://www.windycitymediagroup.com) or [www.knightatthemovies.com](http://www.knightatthemovies.com). Readers can leave feedback at the latter website.

## Spring queer movie preview

BY RICHARD KNIGHT, JR.

Spring officially arrives in a few weeks but as usual movies are ahead of Mother Nature, pushing summer blockbusters into early May. Although that means we're moving into teenage-boy, testosterone-heavy territory, movie-wise, that also means get ready for plenty of homoerotic undercurrent. And there are some openly queer films and film related events before we get to pride month. A few highlights:

### April

A lot of teenage gay boys swooned over Leonardo DiCaprio (and no doubt, plenty of teenage gay girls had the hots for Kate Winslet), so heading back to *Titanic* on the advent of the movie's 15th anniversary is something to look forward to. **Titanic 3D** (the official title of the re-release) clues audiences in that the nearly four-hour epic is going to be screened with those darkening, irritating sunglasses. Early reports indicate that the movie hasn't taken to the process like a fish to water but the chance to see Leo, Kate and sassy Kathy Bates, and hear Celine Dion belting out the title track might be enough of a lure to get folks back into theatres. It's certainly enough for my husband and I to book return passage. April 3.

**Bully**, director Lee Hirsch's long-anticipated documentary about the psychological and physical effects of the epidemic of this long-tolerated practice in schools is put under the



John Cusack in *The Raven*.

microscope in his tremendously moving film. The movie is now unrated. April 13.

That same weekend filmgoers will witness an attempt to reanimate the long moribund three stooges franchise. The trailer has a couple of laughs and if slapstick (emphasis on the slaps) is your thing, **The Three Stooges** reboot is going to make you nothing if not slaphappy. For queer audiences, the presence of Sean Hayes as one of the stooges and Jane Lynch in a supporting role might tip the balance in its favor. April 13.

Locally, the **Chicago Latino Film Festival** will be presenting a number of LGBT-themed films, including the excellent transgender teen drama *Gunhill Road*, *La otra familia*, *Lorca: The Sea Stops Moving*, *To Die on My Feet* and *The Marriage*. The fest will also present the Chicago premiere of *Mariachi Gringo*, queer filmmaker Tom Gustafson's eagerly anticipated follow-up to *Were the World Mine*.

Ventura Pons, a celebrated figure in the Spanish LGBT cinema community will be honored at the fest as well. April 13-26. [www.chicagolatinofilmfestival.org](http://www.chicagolatinofilmfestival.org)

The horror-sci-fi parody **The Cabin in the Woods** is a really clever reimagining of the oft replicated genre that finds horny teens heading into the woods for a weekend of fun and games and, naturally, ending up fighting for their lives—and there's some nice hunky beefcake to boot. April 13.

Locally, queer writer-director Patrick Wang stars in **In The Family**, an LGBT-themed drama focused on a custody battle that ensues after tragedy strikes a family headed by two dads. The film is being given a one-night screening at the Gene Siskel on April 14 (which Wang will attend) as part of their Asian American festival and begins a run at the Music Box a week later. [www.musicboxtheatre.com](http://www.musicboxtheatre.com) April 20.

John Cusack plays the legendary gothic writer Edgar Allan Poe who teams up with a cohort (played by queer actor Luke Evans) to solve a series of mysteries inspired by his horror writing in **The Raven**. April 27.

### May

Marvel Comic's **The Avengers** really ups the ante on the superhero movie by having all your comic-book blockbuster faves—Iron Man, Thor, etc.—join up to combat a worldwide threat. With Robert Downey, Jr., Chris Evans, and Chris Hemsworth repeating their muscular duties in their often-skintight superhero drag, the hunk factor is going to be through the roof (along with the action sequences, no doubt). May 4.

Queer audience faves Judi Dench and Maggie Smith head a juicy cast of British actors (Bill Nighy, Tom Wilkinson, et al) in **The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel**, in what promises to be yet another of those charming English imports—this a dramedy set in India about renewal during the sunset years. May 4.

Almost 45 years after the celebrated gothic soap opera **Dark Shadows** first invaded afternoon television, a new film version based on the beloved show is finally here. Director Tim Burton and star Johnny Depp (who loved the series as a kid) are teaming for their sixth outing. The advance trailer reveals that Burton's take on the material—featuring Depp as Barnabas Collins—is definitely tongue-in-cheek rather than dark and creepy. Diehard fans ain't happy about this but I'm taking a wait and see attitude. May 13.

Charlize Theron, Oscar winner for playing the lesbian serial killer Aileen Wurnos in *Monster* plays another monstrous creature—the evil queen in **Snow White and the Huntsman**, the latest in Hollywood's recent obsession with big-budget fairy tale movies (thanks to the success of Tim Burton's *Alice in Wonderland*). Kristen Stewart plays the hapless but far from hopeless title character, as audiences await the final *Twilight* installment and Chris Hemsworth again takes on the heroic hunk duties, this time as the courageous huntsman of the title who helps Snow White battle the evil queen. May 31.

# Latina filmmakers on companies, movie projects

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

Linda Garcia Merchant has been making films for the last six years and with her latest productions, *Thresholds* and *The A Word*, she covers two controversial topics—teen violence and abortion, respectively.

Her newest production company, *Las Pilonas*—which she formed a year ago with sisters, Yovani Flores and Evon Flores Barrera—was behind *Thresholds*. *Voces Primeras*—her first production company, which was formed in 2006—backed *The A Word*.

Merchant, Barrera and Flores grew up in the Humboldt Park neighborhood of Chicago and while Flores now resides in Phoenix, Merchant and Barrera still call Chicago home.

Merchant and Flores are both lesbians while Barrera is an ally of the LGBT community.

A member of the Lesbian Leadership Council, Merchant has also written for scholarly journals. She will be attending DePaul University in the fall to work on her Master's of Science in Applied Technology.

Barrera is a writer, poet, actor, performer and artist as well as a member of the La Dulce Pal-

abra spoken-word ensemble. She made her acting debut in *Thresholds* as Detective Gomez. Merchant said "To have the students see Latina women doing this work was the goal, which we achieved."

As for future projects under the *Las Pilonas* banner, they are already in pre-production with some of their scripts. They have had to put much of that work on hold since they have been getting requests from organizations that are interested in using *Thresholds* to address the issue of bullying. They are also still showing the film at Latino/Latina and LGBT film festivals around the country including the Out in the Desert Tucson LGBT International Film Festival where they won the award for Best Consciousness Raising Short Film.

As for *Voces Primeras*, Merchant is creating a catalog of documentaries on pioneering Latina women. "The story of women activists and especially Latina activists is absent," she said. "There is a significant community of women that have done incredible work within social justice

From left: Evon Flores Barrera, Yovani Flores and Linda Garcia Merchant.  
Photo from Kathryn Haviland



Turn to page 30

## Spring movie/ music round-up

abra spoken-word ensemble. She made her acting debut in *Thresholds* as Detective Gomez.

Flores won an award for a short story she wrote and *Thresholds* is also her acting debut where she played Benny's mom, Nancy.

With *Las Pilonas*, Merchant, Flores and Barrera work within the narrative framework to tell stories they would like to see. "There is this whole narrative that defines a large part of our [Latino/Latina] culture and doesn't get the recognition we feel it should within the industry," said Merchant.

"The film *Thresholds* is an urban tale about pushing barriers in the moments lived between each breath. Three people—Detective Gomez, Nancy and her son, Benny—are touched by life-changing events that will shatter assumptions encompassing the edge of humanity," said Merchant.

"The story is based on the perception of the viewer. A lot of people get that Benny is a smart, good kid who may have gotten killed for being in the wrong crowd or for being black, gay or a straight ally," said Barrera of the film, adding, "We wrote the story without intention of who Benny was because we wanted to let the viewer to decide for themselves although Benny does represent all of the young people who are dying today." As for the title Merchant said, "it refers to what happens inside and outside the threshold of Benny's house."

The genesis of *Thresholds* came when Flores started writing the story and realized there could be a film component so she sent Merchant and email and they began working on the project. Over the next few weeks they came up with a script over the phone. Flores came back to Chicago when they were ready to shoot and principal photography was completed during that weekend. The entire process took six weeks to complete.

Evanston Township High School students acted as crew members alongside a few adults in key production roles, including cinematographer Steven Lemieux-Jordan. One student, Brent Brown, played the role of Benny and Jeff Rysiewicz played Detective O'Brien alongside Flores as Nancy and Barrera as Detective Gomez.

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Won't Cry," she establishes her fortitude by revealing, "I get cut, I might bleed, but I won't cry." The set's highlights include modernizations of Ike & Tina Turner's "You Got What You Wanted" and Gladys Knight's "I Don't Want to Do Wrong."

When Magness won the B.B. King Entertainer of the Year at the 2009 Blues Awards, she had the distinct honor of being the only woman other than Koko Taylor to receive this recognition.

Magness serves as ambassador for Foster Care Alumni of America and is a spokesperson for Casey Family Programs' National Foster Care Month.

On Friday, March 30, Magness will have a release party for Stronger for It at Space, 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston.

On Let It Burn, **Ruthie Foster** closes the gap on blues, gospel and rock, as witnessed on her smashing remake of Adele's "Set Fire to the Rain." William Bell guests on his original "You Don't Miss Your Water" as a duet. Here, they sing over a stunning accompaniment prominently featuring a saxophone and organ. "Lord Remember Me" and "The Titanic" boast a choir chant, showing off Let It Burn's Southern influence. Foster reaches a higher state with the superb cover of the late John Martyn's "I Don't Want to Know," as she draws out the song's pace. The lesbian Grammy nominee proves she still can jam on the irresistible take on Crosby, Stills and Nash's "Long Time Gone" with the Blind Boys of Alabama. This fantastic set also includes Foster's own penned material, "Welcome Home" and "Lord Remember Me."

Foster has a concert at Schaumburg Prairie Center for the Arts, 201 Schaumburg Ct., Schaumburg, on Saturday, March 31, and another at Space Friday, June 22.

In the process of following up 2008's *We Started Nothing*, the **Ting Tings** scrapped an entire album of material. The duo makes a notable return with *Sounds from Nowheresville*. The lead single, "Hang It Up," has the pair's affinity for a retro vibe with a groove that would make the Red Hot Chili Peppers proud. "Hang It Up" can be heard on spots for ABC's *Don't Trust the B-- in Apartment 23*. "Hit Me down Sonny" and "Guggenheim" will keep the party going where the previous hits "That's Not My Name" and "Shut up and Let Me Go" left off. The pair will be at The Metro, 3730 N. Clark St., on Tuesday, April 3. Sadly, drummer Jules del Martino loses some of his hotness factor with his overgrown beard and cigarette-smoking.

Although I thought it was a known matter, **Gillian Anderson** confirmed that she has had relationships with women. What does this have to do with music? In 1997, the X-Files actress provided vocals on the electronic masterpiece "Extremis" by HAL. The video finds Anderson dreaming that she plays a voyeur while a couple covered in metallic body paint grinds and kisses.

In the wake of **Rush Limbaugh** calling Sandra Fluke a slut, advertisers have pulled out of sponsoring the conservative's show. Peter Gabriel and Rush are insisting that their music will not be used again on Limbaugh's program. Gabriel's "Sledgehammer" was playing in the background when the host hurled insults at the Georgetown Law student. Similarly, Rage Against the Machine's Tom Morello responded once his band's track, "Sleep Now in the Fire," was featured on Limbaugh's show. Morello tweeted, "To Rush Limbaugh: Hey Jackass, stop using our music on your racist, misogynist, right wing clown show. Sincerely, Rage Against the Machine" March 8.



Steven Brinberg.

with the medley "Funny Girl/Don't Rain on My Parade." Her award-winning role in *Wicked* is revisited with a magical rendition of "Defying Gravity." *Live: Barefoot at the Symphony* is out now via Concord Records. Menzel performs with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra at Ravinia, 418 Sheridan, Highland Park, on Sunday, July 8.

In case Streisand does not want to make a big deal of her looming 70th birthday, **Steven Brinberg** will handle the honors with a tribute to the diva Thursday, March 29, at Davenport's Piano Bar, 1383 N. Milwaukee Ave. Female impersonator Brinberg does a hilarious version of "You Don't Bring Me Flowers Anymore," whereby he singlehandedly delivers both the male and female vocals on this standard. Brinberg's keepsake, *Simply Barbra Live in London*, is out now on Jay Records.

When a singer with a voice like **Javina Magness** makes a demand, heed the call. Her latest, *Stronger for It*, opens with the fiery "There It Is," where she shows her vocal chops. On "I

## Upcoming shows and releases

### Shows:

- Javina Magness at Space on Friday, March 30
- Ruthie Foster at Schaumburg Prairie Center for the Arts on Saturday, March 31
- Melissa Ferrick at Space on Saturday, March 31 with Edie Carey and Sunday, April 1, with Anne Heaton
- Ting Tings at The Metro on Tuesday, April 3
- Nero at Congress Theater on Saturday, April 7
- Big Freedia at Empty Bottle on Friday, April 13
- Rachael Sage at ACE Bar on Friday, April 13
- Matt Alber at Jackhammer on Saturday, April 14
- Live from Daryl's House with Daryl Hall and Sharon Jones at Auditorium Theatre on Monday, April 16
- Putting on the Ritz Presents Judy at Carnegie at Mayne Stage with two shows on both Friday, April 20 and Saturday, April 21
- Diana Ross at The Venue on Friday, April 27
- Amy Ray at Lincoln Hall on Tuesday, May 15

### Noteworthy spring releases:

- Amy Ray – *Lung of Love*
- Cowboy Junkies – *Wilderness*
- Garbage – *Not Our Kind of People* (May 15)
- Ian Wilson – *This Is Water* (May 12)
- Idina Menzel – *Live: Barefoot at the Symphony*
- Joan Osborne – *Bring It on Home*
- Madonna – *MDNA*
- Matt Alber – *Constant Crows*
- Rufus Wainwright – *Out of the Game* (May 1)
- School of Seven Bells – *Ghostory*
- Sinead O'Connor – *How about I Be Me (And You Be You)?*
- VCMG—*Ssss*

## LATINA from page 29

movements so my goal is to make films about women who have been integral in those movements."

Since *Voces Primeras'* inception, Merchant has made six documentaries and one feature film. They include *Las Mujeres de las Caucas Chicana* (a story that included the work her mother did with the National Women's Political Caucus in the 1970s as one of the vice-chairs), *Palabras Dulces, Palabras Amargas* (which focuses on a group of latina multi-cultural, multi-generational lesbian or straightly performing artists), *Amigas! 15 Years of Amigas Latinas* (about the organization) and most recently *The A Word* (marginalized women in the reproductive-justice movement through the Chicago Abortion Fund).

*The A Word*—also shot by cinematographer Lemieux-Jordan, who been with Merchant throughout all of her films—focuses on the "My Voice My Choice Leadership Group" at the Chicago Abortion Fund. "The women agreed to do this project without hesitation. They are not public speakers by trade but they went on camera to share their stories," said Merchant. "The fight is ramping up and I wouldn't doubt that we will be doing a follow up documentary to reflect the current climate surrounding women's reproductive rights."

Merchant is currently working on a project called *Chicana Por Mi Raza: Uncovering the Hidden History of Chiana Feminism* (1965-1985) with Dr. Maria Cotera, associate professor of the department of women's studies and program in American culture at the University of Michigan. They are conducting interviews and gathering materials to create a virtual history museum about the work that

## k.d. lang, Andy Cohen at Center's May gala

k.d. lang and The Siss Boom Bang will headline the Center on Halsted's fifth annual Human First Gala May 12 at 7 p.m. at the Harris Theater, 205 E. Randolph St.

Bravo's Andy Cohen will emcee the festivities. Chicago Cubs Charities, The Chicago Community Trust and Kraft Foods will receive Community Spirit Awards for their support of LGBT individuals and the unique issues facing this community. Amina Dickerson, Laura Ricketts, Greg Cameron, and Richard and Susan Kiphart also will be honored for their support.

Tickets for Human First 2012 are \$125-\$500 per person, and may be purchased at [www.centeronhalsted.org](http://www.centeronhalsted.org) or [www.harristheaterchicago.org](http://www.harristheaterchicago.org).



k.d. lang. Photo by Jeri Heiden

Chicana's have done with many social-justice movements. The project has won the Scalable Research Challenge 2012 from the Institute for Computing in Humanities, Arts, and Social Science (I-CHASS) at the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana, which Merchant said is a huge honor.

Merchant recently spoke at the National Association for Chicana and Chicano Studies conference here in Chicago, where she talked about the project and cultivating scholarship surrounding digital archiving. She participated in two panels; one was on reclaiming history and queer activism in the Midwest where she showed *Thresholds*, and she was a part of a Chicana plenary where she did a multimedia presentation about her filmmaking journey. (While working on this project, Merchant has thought of three documentary ideas that she plans to explore.)

Of their film and independent filmmaking, Barrera said "Go see our movie whenever it is in your town." Merchant added, "Support independent films because a lot of blood, sweat, tears and hard work goes into these productions without much compensation for the people involved. There are some really good independent films being made by people from a variety of cultures."

Flores added, "Everything we have done surrounding *Thresholds* has been done without a budget. We have used our own resources for the entire project including the film festivals we have entered over the last year."

See [www.vocesprimeras.com](http://www.vocesprimeras.com) and find it on Facebook. To view the trailer for *Thresholds*, visit [www.vimeo.com/channels/305079](http://www.vimeo.com/channels/305079), and to view trailers from *Voces Primera*, see [www.vimeo.com/channels/305072](http://www.vimeo.com/channels/305072).

NUNN ON ONE: MUSIC

# All-American Rejects

## guitarist dishes on band's name, 'Secret'

BY JERRY NUNN

The All-American Rejects have a "Dirty Little Secret" and it is how to make top-40 hits while still keeping true to their sound. This rock band has sold more than 10 million albums with such memorable songs as "Swing, Swing," "Move Along," and "Gives You Hell." The members formed the group in Oklahoma with Tyson Ritter; lead guitarist and backing vocalist Nick Wheeler; rhythm guitarist and backing vocalist Mike Kennerty; and drummer and percussionist Chris Gaylor making up the current line-up.

Windy City Times talked with Kennerty before the Rejects swung into town.

**Windy City Times: Hi, Mike. Guess where I was last week? Oklahoma!**

Mike Kennerty: Small world!

**WCT: The band is all from Oklahoma?**

MK: Yes, everybody.

**WCT: How did the Rejects get together?**

MK: Nick and Tyson started the band in Stillwater, Okla., when they were in high school. They played for a couple of years and things developed. They met Chris and I who are from the Oklahoma City area. We joined on and it has been a decade now.

**WCT: The group has had a lot of radio hits.**

MK: We have been very lucky.

**WCT: Who does the writing on the songs?**

MK: All the songs start with Tyson's melodies. Him and Nick will create a skeleton to the song.

We will all get together and flesh it out then hit record.

**WCT: Do you record in Oklahoma?**

MK: We ended up recording in L.A. for the past few records. It is usually the producer who decides where he wants to go. We are easy. We will work anywhere.

**WCT: The new CD *Kids in the Street* came out March 26. It has taken a while to get released, correct?**

MK: We always tend to take a while when we write stuff. We don't feel the pressure to capitalize on current success thereby shooting out a mediocre record. We like to take our time and do it right. It will hinder us at time because we have to start over like a new band at the time because people have forgotten. We have the songs there to help us get over that hurdle. This is probably our best record so I am really excited for people to hear it. We are very excited to get back on the road. It has been way too long to do that.

**WCT: Who is the bear-looking person on the cover for the single "Somebody's Gone?"**

MK: That is our drum tech. His name is Gravy. We had a blast making that. We all got together and made all of these masks and had everyone wear them. We took a bunch of pictures so we are all in there.

**WCT: Are there any gay members in the band? This is for a LGBT publication.**

MK: No, there is not but that would help, though.



The All-American Rejects. Photo by Piper Ferguson

**WCT: Well, there are lots of gay fans, myself included. I noticed the band tours with a lot of equipment.**

MK: We have a lot of gear, more than the average band. It definitely makes touring more expensive than the average band. The past couple of records have had more instrumentation than just standard bass, guitar, and drums. It takes a lot to pull it off live. It is a fun challenge.

**WCT: Where did the name "Rejects" come from?**

MK: It originally started as "What should we name the band?" It was a random name that sounded cool. I feel like we have grown into it over the years. We have maintained success but we have never been the band that has been fully embraced. Every time we are out doing our thing there is a band in a similar genre that gets super-huge; then we are on the backburner as second-mentioned. But we have stood the test of time as far as longevity so I am not going to complain. The tortoise wins in that case.

**WCT: "Dirty Little Secret" covers a lot of bases, and contestants at our singing contest Windy City Idol have sung that with a whole new meaning. It is a great song.**

MK: Well, thank you.

**WCT: "Beekeeper's Daughter" is the first video off the new album. It looked like a really fun one to make.**

MK: It was and a crazy production. I don't think we have made a production that big for any video. We shot it all in one long, hectic day. We had so many extras, dancers, and even had Wayne Newton there. I don't know how we pulled it off but I am really happy with it.

**WCT: I didn't even catch Wayne Newton, there was so much going on.**

MK: He is the parade master at the end.

**WCT: Are you doing more with your side project band, These Enzymes?**

MK: No; that was something some friends and I did a few years ago. It was a one-off thing.

**WCT: So it was just something to do on downtime.**

MK: Yes, exactly, because I have no other hobbies but music. Whether I am on the road or in the studio I always have to find something else to do with music!

The All-American Rejects rock out Monday, April 9, at the Metro, 3730 N. Clark St., at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$26 and can be purchased at [www.metrochicago.com](http://www.metrochicago.com) or 773-549-4140.

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## MUSIC

# All that glitters: Eight acts we loved at SXSW

BY KHYENTSE JAMES  
AND NICK BROWNING

When South by Southwest (SXSW) was mentioned during the commercial break for the Grammys, we knew the festival had reached new heights for 2012.

With more than 50,000 attendees and 2,000 acts from 55 countries, the festival has become more expansive than ever; NPR and Carson Daly aired national broadcasts and Bruce Springsteen and Jay-Z rocked the main stages. On the streets, we passed the dragon tattoo lady herself, Rooney Mara, and spotted Fiona Apple lounging at the Fader Fort. Elliot Bergman of the band Wild Belle told us he played 14 shows at

propriated textile factory rooted in punk ethos and pop music. Her hyper-futuristic new album, *Visions*, is influenced by everything from Enya and TLC to industrial and glitch music, and embodies 2D arts, performance, dance, video and sound. With these dynamic pop and R&B vocals and quirky electronic beats, Grimes got the party hopping at SXSW all the way from Pitchfork to the Fader Fort and Filter Magazine's showcases.

## Bomba Estereo

Hailing from Bogotá, Colombia, Bomba Estereo mixes traditional Columbian cumbia music with electro to create a unique fusion that is unlike anything that you have heard. Being classified as "electro tropical," the band has peaked



Alabama Shakes. Photo by Nick Browning

SXSW and Brittany of The Alabama Shakes told us that "[SXSW] is an endurance test." After spending five 13-hour days at concerts with everyone from Santigold to Skrillex and Jimmy Cliff, we couldn't agree more.

Check out the gold we've gleamed from this extraordinary experience, which took place March 9-18 in Austin, Texas. (All of the acts' performances can be seen on YouTube.)

## Alabama Shakes

The Alabama Shakes have been the rare overnight sensation that deserves all the hype. In the past month, they've been everywhere from Conan O'Brien to NPR and Rolling Stone. Having formed in high school in Alabama, the Shakes are a tour de force of the music industry, with powerful blues riffs; gritty vocals reminiscent of Janis Joplin; and steady, catchy bass lines.

It is this organic sound that they brought out March 15 at Stubb's BBQ to a packed house; everybody was there to bask in the stripped-down, rock-blues sound that is currently taking the country by storm. Headed by lead vocalist Brittany Howard, the band takes vocal dynamics to another level, and that is reflected when you see them in concert. With its highly anticipated first album, *Boys and Girls*, due April 10, fans and critics alike will be singing the band's praise.

## Grimes

With a legit musical background, this 21-year-old Canadian has really started to make a name for herself. Grimes was a prominent figure in the illegal DIY loft culture of Montreal at a place called Lab Synthèse—a 4,600-square-foot re-ap-

propriated textile factory rooted in punk ethos and pop music. Her hyper-futuristic new album, *Visions*, is influenced by everything from Enya and TLC to industrial and glitch music, and embodies 2D arts, performance, dance, video and sound. With these dynamic pop and R&B vocals and quirky electronic beats, Grimes got the party hopping at SXSW all the way from Pitchfork to the Fader Fort and Filter Magazine's showcases.

## Wild Belle

Attention Chicagoans: Go to the nearest computer, find Wild Belle's "Keep You," light a candle and pretend you're sitting by a fire on Molokai. What you will hear is a careful blend of traditional island rhythms backed by unique and organic electro synth sounds as well as strong female vocals.

The group is fronted by Chicago natives, brother and sister duo Elliot and Natalie Bergman. Natalie recalls having been around music all their lives: "We grew up in a very musical household—I played the violin and Elliot the clarinet." This musical union is evident, as they carefully blend what Elliot referred to as "man and machine" with both man-made sounds and natural instruments being run through processors. The music is rooted in "earthly sounds" and is unmistakably innovative. After SXSW, they are off on an eight-date West Coast tour with Tennis, then over to Sweden and London—and Wild Belle's first album hasn't even been released yet. Keep an eye out for this band.

See [www.youtube.com/watch?v=2EtYBbPH-kw&sns=em](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2EtYBbPH-kw&sns=em).

## Nneka

Last time we covered SXSW we were so stuck by Nneka that we wrote an entire piece on her prophetic hip-hop, funk, reggae and Afrobeat sounds. This year, she's released a new album, *Soul is Heavy*, and if you haven't checked her out yet, now is the time. Hailing from the Niger Delta and using her soulful voice as a platform to promote social change, Nneka is reaching new depths of artistic expression. We managed to catch her at the Stage on Sixth—a medium-sized venue right in the heart of SXSW—and were once again blown away.

## Sharon Van Etten

Sharon's showcase at Stubb's BBQ March 14 was charming. Her vocals are mellow and sweet, yet as evidenced by the thousands of quiet attendees, completely captivating. She just released her third studio album in February, and we're hoping there's a lot more to come.

## Kimbra

Kimbra is not only somebody you used to know; she is somebody you should continue to get to know for the foreseeable future. She blew

the crowd away at Perez Hilton's SXSW show, and Hilton himself was quoted saying that if you're a fan of Nina Simone, Florence and the Machine, and Bjork, you need to familiarize yourself with this New Zealand-born, Australia-based vocalist. Having won the New Zealand Critics' choice awards in 2011 and Best Female Artist and Best song at the 2011 ARIA awards, she is becoming a household name.

## Balkan Beat Box

The co-founders of this group met when they were teenagers on the Streets of Brooklyn; one played the clarinet and the other was a drummer in a punk band. After jamming together a few times, they couldn't decide on what genre they wanted to play, so they decided to create their own. This creative musical fusion combines Jamaican dancehall, dub, traditional Balkan music and hip-hop beats. At its SXSW show at Stage on Sixth, every nationality and age group was represented. If you want to get the party started quickly, throw on some Balkan Beat Box and let the eclectic blend of music rock you into the night.

## NUNN ON ONE: MUSIC

### Singer MNDR on Mark Ronson, Patty Hearst

BY JERRY NUNN

Amanda Warner, now known as MNDR, is coming to town with supergroup The Ting Tings. The songwriter was featured on Mark Ronson song "Bang Bang Bang" then broke out on her own. MNDR's electronic music is currently a part of Ultra Records stable of artists. Her single "#1 in Heaven" is inspired by the story of Patty Hearst. Find out about that her bear following in this Nunn on One interview.

#### Windy City Times: Hi, Amanda. Where in the world are you?

AW: Right now, I am in Los Angeles. I just got done with a photo shoot. I am driving to San Diego for a show at House of Blues.

#### WCT: What does MNDR stand for?

AW: It is a play on my name, Amanda Warner. I used it when I was a DJ in the Bay Area and have kept it.

#### WCT: It is very confusing, with Madonna using MDNA [as the title of her new CD].

AW: I know. Even though she is the "Queen of Pop," I will have to say that I did it first, just on that one...

#### WCT: You are a solo artist. You fell into the biz from being a songwriter, correct?

AW: I was a bass player for hire, keyboardist and songwriter. I just fell into doing this. Peter was the one that thought I should do an artist project.

#### WCT: Have you met The Ting Tings before?

AW: No, I just met them last night and they are sweet. Katie had appendicitis and now she is much better. They put on a great show last night.

#### WCT: How was it working with Mark Ronson?

AW: It was awesome. I love Mark. There are not words to describe what Mark Ronson is like. He is a truly lovely individual. With a producer of that level it is usually more formal. He is very casual and it is like making music with a friend. Often times we would just call each other and swing by the studio. It probably makes him very relevant and involved with new artists.

#### WCT: Your song "#1 in Heaven" has a fun energy, although it's about Patty Hearst.

AW: The chorus actually takes her quotes after she was arrested for the bank robbery/murder incident. After she sympathized with



MNDR. PR photo

her captor, this was the quote that she gave to the media: "Tell everybody that I am smiling and I send my greetings"—while she in handcuffs. I thought that was rad. She was in a zone where she believed in what she was doing at such a level that she didn't give a shit about anything. Whether it was negative or positive, that was an awesome space to be in.

#### WCT: Is the name of the album going to be Feed Me Diamonds?

AW: Yes, it is an homage to [performance artist] Marina Abramovic. It is also a song on the album, which I am really psyched about. It tells the story of the album. It is decadent at points, then tragic. They used to kill aristocracy by crushing up diamonds, put it in their food, and their insides would bleed internally. One of the hardest songs I have ever written came out of that. My manager told me to call the record *Feed Me Diamonds*, and I agreed.

#### WCT: Do you know when the album is coming out?

AW: It will be out on Ultra Records this summer in the U.S. With the second single I will be making a video with Cody Critchloe again, who did the first video. He designed artwork and the merch, so he is visual creative director.

**Don't miss MNDR and The Ting Tings Tuesday, April 3, at Metro, 3730 N. Clark St., at 7:30 p.m. For tickets, visit [www.metrochicago.com](http://www.metrochicago.com) or [www.jamusa.com](http://www.jamusa.com); for more on MNDR, see [www.mndr.com](http://www.mndr.com).**



## NUNN ON ONE: MUSIC

## Nneka: Revealing her 'Soul'



BY JERRY NUNN

Nigerian singer Nneka recently performed in Chicago. Born in Warri, Nigeria, she moved to Germany at age 18. After working with DJ Farhot in Hamburg, Nneka slowly grew to public notice as an opening act for Sean Paul, Nas and Lenny Kravitz.

Her style has been described as Lauryn Hill mixed with Erykah Badu. Although she recites and sings in both English and the Nigerian language of Igbo, at the show the crowd chanted right along with her—no matter what language. Her latest album, *Soul Is Heavy*, continues her journey in politics and hip-hop with a mix of sounds from reggae to pop music.

We spoke the day of her live show at the Double Door, where she spread the message that we are all connected.

**Windy City Times:** Good morning, Nneka.

Nneka: I am so tired. We arrived in Chicago at 2 a.m.

**WCT:** I'm sure there is a time change. Do you live in Nigeria?

Nneka: Yes; I moved to Nigeria from Germany five years ago but I do go back and forth.

**WCT:** How many languages do you speak?

Nneka: I speak English, a little bit of French, Igbo and German, so four languages. In Nigeria, English is the major language. It is supposed to



Nneka. Photo by Jerry Nunn

be Oxford English but we kind of abandoned it.

**WCT:** Last time I saw you was at Lollapalooza and the afterparty with Perez Hilton.

Nneka: Oh, yes—at the Hard Rock Café. Lady Gaga was there, too.

**WCT:** Yes, that was the gayest Lollapalooza we have had. I noticed you played at Lilith Fair in the past, which is mainly a women's event. You must have many lesbian fans now.

Nneka: Oh, good. I have so many! It is true and it is all good.

**WCT:** Your big single "Heartbeat" I cannot get enough of.

Nneka: Thank you.

**WCT:** The new record is called *Soul Is Heavy* but it seems lighter in some respects.

Nneka: I was inspired from a dark place in my personal life. I was questioning a lot, including myself. I moved up to Nigeria in between. I needed to tackle the situation in Nigeria and cope with it. There were things happening around me, kidnappings, it all inspired me to sit down and write this album.

Songs such as "J" and "Restless" seem calm but they were created when I was in a dark state of mind. They were written in Lagos with DJ Farhot, who I work with most of the time. He came down to Nigeria for the first time to complement the whole vibe on the record. People may say the record does not sound indigenous as it was recorded in Africa but that is the funny thing about it. The album doesn't sound typical Nigerian. It is a blend of everything.

I needed to let the record out the way it is. I had some problems with the record company putting it out but I had toured with one record for three and a half years and I had to get it out, even if it was a premature birth. I was pregnant and needed to let it go after nine months!

[Laughs]

**WCT:** It was time, then.

Nneka: Yes. I am already inspired by traveling around to write new songs on the road. It will be a totally different sound of what you know on *Soul Is Heavy*.

**WCT:** Tonight at the show it will be covering your albums, *Concrete Jungle* and *Soul Is Heavy*.

Nneka: And some little remixes...

**WCT:** Fun! Is the song "J" inspired by a specific person?

Nneka: How do I put it? The name itself is a person's name, but the content of the song appeals to many people. When people confront you with hatred, then you need to be able to convert that energy into something good for yourself. It needs to be the opposite of what you have been given. I was in Nigeria when I wrote it and there is a lot happening in the streets of Lagos. You can be stuck in traffic for five hours. It is a colorful, crazy, chaotic place. Speaking negative about people although coming from a negative place is not going to change my future. I want to live a good life with no complaining.

**WCT:** So there is some positivity.

Nneka: Exactly.

**WCT:** You have a song with Ms. Dynamite called "Sleep."

Nneka: She is amazing. I have been following her career for a while now.

**WCT:** She is finally putting out new music.

Nneka: She does quite well in England.

**WCT:** How was touring with Lenny Kravitz?

Nneka: He was amazing. He is a humble person. Usually smaller artists like me go on tour with someone like him to broaden your horizons. He blew me away. It made me think about the way to create music. I learned to use my heart onstage by watching him. He came to say thank you to me instead of the other way around!

Discover why the whole world is thanking Nneka these days with her music and performances at [www.nnekaworld.com](http://www.nnekaworld.com).

## Matt Alber at Jackhammer April 14

On Saturday, April 14, The Flesh Hungry Dog Show will present "An Evening With Matt Alber" at Jackhammer, 6406 N. Clark St., at 10 p.m.

Alber is a gay Seattle-based singer/songwriter touring a new acoustic album titled *Constant Crows*. The album debuted at No. 2 on the iTunes Singer/Songwriter Chart and was recorded and produced at his home on Vashon Island in Puget Sound.

He may be best known for the song "End of the World" and the accompanying video of two men dancing.

See [www.fleshhungrydog.com](http://www.fleshhungrydog.com) for more information.

## Rufus and Ronson team for 'Out of the Game'

Rufus Wainwright will release the CD *Out of the Game* May 1 on Decca, according to



a press release. Produced by the celebrated Mark Ronson, this will be Wainwright's seventh studio album.

Wainwright calls *Out of the Game* "the most pop album I've ever made," while Ronson recently stated, "It's the best work of my career."

Musicians on the album include the Dap-Kings, who Ronson used for the Amy Winehouse album *Back To Black*; Wilco's Nels Cline; Nick Zinner of Yeah Yeah Yeahs; Andrew Wyatt from Miike Snow; Sean Lennon; and Martha Wainwright.

See [www.RufusWainwright.com](http://www.RufusWainwright.com) or [www.DeccaRecords.com](http://www.DeccaRecords.com).

## New Adam Lambert CD out May 15

Adam Lambert will release his second album, *Trespassing*, on RCA Records/19 Recordings May 15.

Lambert has described the album—which he executive-produced—"an exciting journey through the past two years of my life. It's been a transformative period and I really wanted to make music from what I've experienced. All these songs honestly explore the ups and downs of my reality."

His debut CD, *For Your Entertainment*, has sold more than 2 million copies worldwide.

## Melanie Fiona at The Mid March 29

React Presents & The Mid are welcoming two-time Grammy-winning Canadian R&B songstress Melanie Fiona to the Mid, 306 N. Halsted St., March 29.

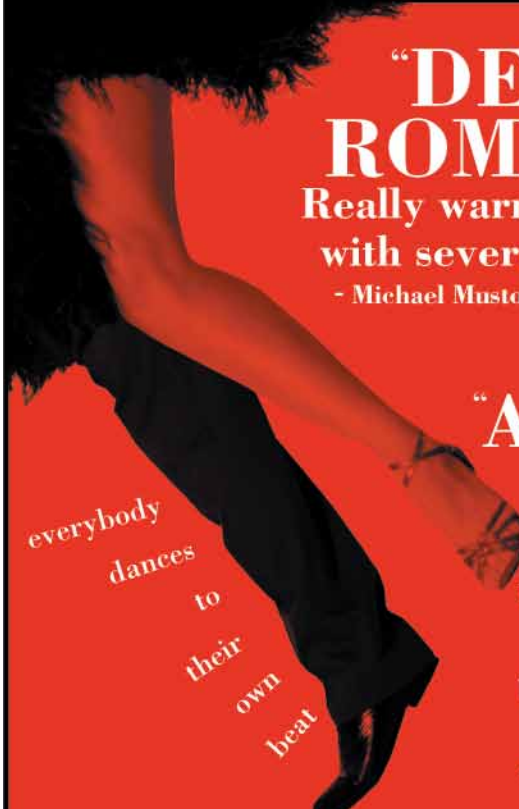
See [www.Clubtix.com](http://www.Clubtix.com).

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NUNN ON ONE: COMEDY

# Paula Poundstone: On Alaska, her act and reality shows

BY JERRY NUNN

Paula Poundstone has been performing stand-up most of her life. Since her first open-mic nights in 1979, the comedian has kept audiences rolling in the aisles. Dressed in a suit and tie, her funny observations have led her to write a book and make a comedy CD entitled *I Heart Jokes*.

We talked to this classic funny woman before her upcoming show in Skokie.

**Windy City Times:** Hey, Paula. Good to see you are coming to town.

Paula Poundstone: Me, too—I love playing in Skokie.

**WCT:** I am glad to see that the show is closer to Chicago this time out.

PP: Skokie moved?

**WCT:** No (laughs), but your other shows have been farther out in the suburbs. I will definitely be at this show.

PP: Oh great, come up and say hi!

**WCT:** Will do. I saw you recently went to Alaska.

PP: I did, last weekend. It was fantastic. I am still recovering. It was a whirlwind trip to say the least.

**WCT:** It is daylight for a long time there, right?

PP: It wasn't at this time. I was working a lot and I had brought my daughter with me. Normally during the day I am fairly sedentary when I am on the road. I travel, I eat, I do some writing, I take shower, I go to work, I take nap, but because she was with me more was expected of me. We did dog sledding and stuff like that. It was cool. We went to the glacier. I summited a rock.

**WCT:** Wow.

PP: Not that big of a rock, honestly.

**WCT:** Well, you did it.

PP: I stood on it.

**WCT:** How did your show go there?

PP: The audiences were great. I had a blast talking to the people. They were all rugged individualists.

**WCT:** They are very Republican there, aren't they?

PP: I don't know, but I made some jokes about the Republican primary. One can't help oneself. It is like in the Roger Rabbit movie when they lured him out saying, "Knock, knock." You can't throw this Republican field in front of me and have me resist saying stuff about it. It is just too damn funny. It has been a boon.

**WCT:** The jokes write themselves, I am sure.

PP: It kind of does—Santorium, my heavens! Newt Gingrich said he was going to do something with Israel his first day in office. I thought, "Wouldn't he just put up his pictures and his little tchotchkes on his desk first?"

**WCT:** I liked reading your Twitter posts. Lisa Lampanelli told me once if she could get two jokes a day on there, then she is happy.

PP: I am about the same. It is interesting because for my act I never really push myself that hard. I never wrote two jokes a day for my act. I also do it differently onstage. A lot of things I have developed by talking onstage. I certainly never sat down with a piece of paper and said, "Now I am writing jokes." When I am on Twitter, I sit at my computer and think of things to say.

I also tell people where I am going to be although I never thought of that when I first started using it. I hate to do that without giving them more enjoyable content.

**WCT:** How do you keep your act fresh after performing for so long? It has to be hard being away from your kids.



Paula Poundstone. PR photo

PP: That is fresh sometimes. ... When I first started out I took a Greyhound bus around the country to see what clubs were like in different cities. I ended up in San Francisco at The Other Café. It was very small and I was desperate for money so I got a job working behind the counter. I didn't want to wipe my hands on my apron and come out onstage. I decided to work at night as a standup comic and during the day work behind the counter. I did open mic on Wednesdays.

When I opened the place in the morning I would hear people bitching about the comics from the night before. The number-one complaint was [that] people always did the same thing. I became very sensitive to the waitresses' opinions. I was very liberal about mixing it up after that. I guess I still am. If you came to the two nights in Anchorage, Alaska, there would be a few things that I repeated from one show to the other but much of it is unplanned. So in that way, it regenerates itself. I don't do the same thing that I just did because I grew up doing it that way.

**WCT:** Lily Tomlin just performed at the same place in Skokie. She took questions from the audience. Do you do something like that?

PP: I ask people where they are from and what they do for a living. I love talking to the audience. It is my favorite part of the night. I randomly ask people questions. In this way little biographies are developed. That is how I set my sails for the night. Depending on what one person says then I will talk about a certain topic. I will talk to a different person and follow that. It is like being a pinball I guess. I let the conversation with the crowd dictate where I go next. It seems to work pretty well.

**WCT:** Have you played Provincetown before?

PP: I have and I love it.

**WCT:** I thought you would have a huge gay crowd for that.

PP: I have been doing it for several years now with a night or two. It is such a great place like a carnival. There is the natural beauty of the place and the wacky beauty too! I like both.

**WCT:** Would you ever do a reality show, like *Celebrity Apprentice*?

PP: One of those? Yes, I would. I wanted to do *Dancing With the Stars*. They didn't want me. I pursued it to a degree. Somebody even started a Facebook page. It was a running joke with my Twitter followers for a while.

Someone told me the list had come out and Nancy Grace was on it. I thought it is one thing to turn me down but to have Nancy Grace's face on television for one more millisecond contributing to the destruction of the world has made them tainted! They could ask me but I would no longer doggedly pursue trying to get on the show.

My children and I watched it last night but they were horrified by the notion that I would do that—as if there were anything else I could do to embarrass our family more! I would do it strictly for the weight-loss factor and to drop a pound or two.

**WCT:** You would be Paula Poundless, then! Sherri Shepherd is on there to do that this season.

PP: Who is that?

**WCT:** She is from *The View*.

PP: That show is horrible. If that is *The View*, then give me a room with no windows!

**WCT:** Hilarious. The weather is going to be perfect for you the week you are here in Illinois.

PP: We live in southern California and it has been so cold. I wear that jacket from Alaska to bed with me at night! I am looking forward to going to Skokie for the warmth.

**Bring the heat to Skokie and see Paula at the North Shore Performing Arts Center, 9501 Skokie Blvd. on Friday, March 30, at 8 p.m. For tickets and information, visit [www.northshorecenter.org](http://www.northshorecenter.org). For more Paula, try [www.paulapoundstone.com](http://www.paulapoundstone.com).**

## Bruce Vilanch, David Moretti added to gay Christmas film cast



David Moretti. Photo by Dexter Brown



Bruce Vilanch. Press photo

CHICAGO—Hollywood legend Bruce Vilanch and acclaimed actor David Moretti have joined the cast of a feature film being shot in Chicago this May.

*Scrooge & Marley* is a modern-day variation on Charles Dickens' classic story of the holidays, *A Christmas Carol*. Recounted from a gay sensibility, Dickens' tale of a man's redemption at the holidays—thanks to the help of three ghostly spirits—has a fresh perspective.

Two-time Emmy winner Vilanch is a writer, songwriter and actor, well known for his four-year role on *Hollywood Squares* and as a head writer for the Oscars.

Moretti is best known as Thom Etherton, the intrepid reporter on here! TV's acclaimed vampire series, *The Lair*. Moretti led the series for three seasons between 2007 and 2010. His character also crossed over into the network's sister show, *Dante's Cove*.

"I am beyond excited to be a part of *Scrooge & Marley*," Moretti said. "Christmas movies hold a very special place in my heart as I have a handful of favorites I've watched every single Christmas since I was a little boy. My hope is that *Scrooge & Marley* becomes that for the gay community. It's a sweet, classic story of redemption ... with a little glitter."

Moretti and Vilanch join several other actors already cast in the film, including Megan Cavanagh (*A League of Their Own*, *Robin Hood: Men in Tights*, *Exes and Ohs*); Rusty Schweimmer (*North Country*, *Perfect Storm*, *A Little Princess*, *Drop Dead Diva*, *Bones*, *Louie*); Ronnie Kroell (*Bravo's Make Me a Supermodel*, *Eating Out: Drama Camp* and *Into the Lion's Den*); and Becca Kaufman, a renowned Chicago-area vocalist.

Final casting of the film's major roles will be complete by April 1.

*Scrooge & Marley* is based on an original script by Ellen Stoneking, Richard Knight, Jr. and the late Tim Imse. Knight and Peter Neville will direct.

Executive producers of the film are Tracy Baim (Hannah Free) and David Strzepek (*Foodgasm*), who are joined by several co-producers (Knight, Neville, Stoneking, Kroell and Etta Worthington) and experienced crew. Line producer is Thavary Krouch.

The film is being financed by investors and an IndieGoGo campaign under the name *Scrooge & Marley* film has also been launched. They hope to raise \$15,000 by April 4, to add to the investor funding. See [www.indiegogo.com/Scrooge-Marley-film?a=396864](http://www.indiegogo.com/Scrooge-Marley-film?a=396864).

NUNN ON ONE

# Traci Lords:

## On John Waters, her name and new song

BY JERRY NUNN

Traci Lords turned the porn world upside down at an early (illegal) age before breaking into mainstream movies such as John Waters' *Cry-Baby*.

She went on to gain "Control" of her career with a dance track of the same title that reached #2 on the Billboard chart.

Lords wrote an autobiography about her life entitled *Traci Lords: Underneath It All* that made the New York Times best-seller list.

Currently with a new movie called *Excision* and new song "Last Drag," we caught up with her when she was recently in the Windy City.

**Windy City Times:** Hi, Traci. Have you been able to try out some food in the city yet?

TL: I had some salmon downstairs in the hotel. It had capers and onions.

**WCT:** I have some gum if you want.

TL: Is that a hint?

**WCT:** No!

TL: At first, he fed me gum...

**WCT:** How does it feel to have the new hair color?

TL: I have been red before; it was about 10 years ago. I have been blonde most of my life. We were getting ready to go to Sundance about a week ago. I have a film called *Excision* there. [As a] homage to its bloody ending, I need some fire!

**WCT:** Tell me about this movie.

TL: It is intense and a trip. Richard Bates Jr. directed and wrote it. He is a kid out of NYU who did it as a short film for his final. He expanded it into a feature that he has worked on for many years. It fell into my hands early on. My agent sent it over to me. The casting is really good in it. My friend John Waters is in it.

**WCT:** I heard!

TL: He plays the reverend, which was fun for us to get to work together since he is not making as many movies as he should; this was one way to do it. AnnaLynne McCord [star of the TV series *90210*] plays my daughter in it. She is quite deranged and delusional. She wants to become a surgeon and practices on the neighbors and animals in the neighborhood. My younger daughter is played by Ariel Winter from *Modern Family*. She has cystic fibrosis.

**WCT:** That sounds intense.

TL: I play this very religious uptight mom that had a perfect life on the outside and married the right guy with the right house with the white picket fence. I was homecoming queen that now has two beautiful girls. None of it works. The older one is really crazy and messy. The younger one is dying. I try to hold it together but it slowly comes unraveled. The whole family sort of implodes.

**WCT:** This sounds like a good part for you.

TL: It is a juicy role. I am hoping it will bring more *The Hand That Rocks the Cradle* roles. I want smart, feisty and layered roles. No kitten roles! I am not a kitten anymore. I am a fierce feline. There is a difference.

**WCT:** And a mother now.

TL: Yes, I am a red-hot momma!

**WCT:** Explain the name *Traci Lords*. I have heard conflicting stories.

TL: It is not from *The Philadelphia Story*. If I had known that I would have just been Tracy Lord. I think that is cooler. I wasn't that together then. Traci was the name of a close friend when I was little. Lords came from Jack Lord on *Hawaii Five-0*.

**WCT:** Good to get the real story. There are all kind of things out there.

TL: There are all sorts of weird things out



Traci Lords. PR photo

about me. Don't look on the Internet!

**WCT:** You had the name legally changed.

TL: It has been mine since 1986. It does feel like forever but I am not quite that old thank you.

**WCT:** Life seems good for you right now.

TL: I feel great. I have been having fun. I am here now and not in the past. Where I am is a good place. That was just part of the journey.

**WCT:** I played "Control" all the time back in the '90s when I was going out to clubs.

TL: You were dancing. I was, too. It was all about the black latex—those rubber dresses you couldn't get off when the sweat was going.

**WCT:** That CD had a great cover.

TL: Thank you.

**WCT:** Your new song, "Last Drag," is number one on the dance charts. It is not techno, like past songs.

TL: No, I think my music has evolved also. My first album was really electronic and techno-based but had rock elements to it. I think if it had been slightly delayed it would have done better. Madonna had it right to wait for *Ray of Light*. She has been a lot better with her timing than me. I am proud of that album because I hear it now and it still feels current. It doesn't feel dated.

**WCT:** No it doesn't.

TL: I am making a lot of great music this year. I am signed to Sea to Sun Records. Creatively, a lot of things are just juicy, with the film out and the music all happening. My son is now 4 years old so I can walk away from the sandbox for a second. That is my biggest most important job: being a mom. It truly is. It is difficult, time-consuming and all-consuming.

**WCT:** Some gay fans were writing me about you.

TL: Good! What do they want to know?

**WCT:** They talk more about the music.

TL: Love it! My gay following is just not into my vagina. They appreciate the boobs, but whatever. [Laughs] Did you see the new video?

**WCT:** Yes, I did, kissing girls. It is a hot video.

TL: You think? Zalman King directed it; he did *Red Shoe Diaries* and *9 1/2 Weeks*. The only thing I regret was not getting the guys naked. What do you think?

**WCT:** You should have.

TL: Or more shirts off, something. What was I thinking?

**WCT:** From the title you think drag queens, but it is about smoking.

TL: It all ties into it. It is not meant to be an anti smoking thing at all. It was really a meta-

phor. The lyrics are "You are my last drag." It is being addicted to something that you love. You have to do it one more time. The whole idea of the video is to walk into a den of my temptations and sins. To see them whether it was girls or whatever. It was meant to go together and flirt with that. People have asked me a lot about it because they consider it very bi-curious.

**WCT:** Do you feel you were bisexual at any point in your life?

TL: I have played with girls. I like girls. Who

doesn't like pretty girls? The rest of it...

**WCT:** Not your thing?

TL: It is not that it is not my thing but I don't know about that title of it. I don't know. Don't all girls kiss other girls?

**WCT:** I don't know. I wish all boys kissed boys, but they don't!

Lots more of Lords can be found at [www.tracilords.com](http://www.tracilords.com).

## BOOKS

## Now-sober gay author recounts days of wine and doses

BY JON PUTNAM

Waking up one afternoon after a long night of drinking, Mark Brennan Rosenberg found himself curled up on the bathroom floor of a stranger's apartment. He vaguely remembered meeting a guy at a bar and going home with him. However, upon venturing out of the bathroom, Rosenberg discovered that the apartment was completely empty; his trick had moved out, furniture and all.

This is just one of the true stories that Rosenberg recounts in his memoir, *Blackouts and Breakdowns*, a series of vignettes chronicling his drug-and-alcohol-fueled adventures in the New York City dating/hookup scene. The author's penchant for drama no doubt owes something to his lifelong love of ABC soaps, especially *All My Children*. (He even dedicates his book to Erica Kane, Susan Lucci's character on the show.)

Now sober since 2008, the twentysomething Rosenberg—groaning when asked about his age, like all misguided youth who can't see how young they really are—will read from his book April 3 at the Center on Halsted. This is the latest stop on his "Blackouts and Breakdowns Bar Crawl Book Tour," a four-month nation-spanning odyssey that began in January. Google is sponsoring the Chicago reading; Rosenberg guaranteed that it will be "a shit parade" as well as "a great networking event."

Although the tour has included many non-bar venues, it still might seem surprising that someone in recovery would promote a bar crawl in the first place. Rosenberg isn't concerned. "If someone else has a problem with me being in a bar, that's not my fault," he said. "I don't drink, but I'm perfectly comfortable going to a bar. That's where people hang out, where communities gather. ... It's very hard to get people to come to a book reading at a bookstore. I wanted to think of a unique way to get to know the audience and new fans."

His addictive tendencies were on display early. Hooked on coffee by age 10, he moved on to harder stuff, although the serious partying didn't begin until he relocated to New York City for college. "After college, the party ended for everyone else," he admitted. "I just kept going." That didn't happen for much longer, though; he became sober at age 25.

Rosenberg was quick to point out that his goal as writer and public speaker is not to lecture audiences about the dangers of substance abuse, or even to encourage sobriety. He's simply telling his story: "I talk about a lot of the crazy-ass shit that I used to do and how I overcame that. It's not supposed to be preachy [or] about you getting sober. It's about how I got sober."

Originally targeting the East Coast, the tour has expanded to more than 40 cities nationwide. The lineup includes the expected meccas like San Francisco and Los Angeles, but



Mark Rosenberg. Photo from Rosenberg

Rosenberg has discovered that the most memorable destinations to be off the beaten track. "It's been the places that you wouldn't expect that have had the best turnouts, the most fun," he said. "The response has been unbelievable."

"One of our best events was in Fayetteville, where the University of Arkansas is, and it was amazing. ... Fayetteville is a wonderful community, a very liberal town in a very conservative state, and they have so many interesting things going on there! I would move there in a heartbeat. Oklahoma City was another place—a fun, quirky little town. Tempe, Ariz., was really fun."

"When you live in New York for 11 years, you don't think there's anywhere else to live. But I've found at least 12 cities I want to live in already."

In addition to *Blackouts and Breakdowns*, Rosenberg will offer Chicago audiences a preview of his new book *Eating My Feelings*, which hits bookstores April 19: "I think it's more relatable because it's all about food and body image ... how we view ourselves, and how the things that we're told as children affect our decision-making process as adults."

"When I was younger, I was very overweight, and I still, to this day, view myself as heavier, even though I'm not any more ... when we get older, especially being gay, you have to live up to this standard of how you're supposed to look, how you're supposed to act, how you're supposed to present yourself so that you are the perfect gay man."

As he approaches the fourth anniversary of his sobriety, Rosenberg reflected on his journey. "There are days that I miss drinking so much," he conceded. "I had fun, I got myself into these crazy adventures that I will cherish for the rest of my life, but at the end of the day I've totally changed my life around for the better. I'm having the most fun I've ever had."

**"Blackouts and Breakdowns: An Evening with Mark Rosenberg" will take place at the Center on Halsted's Hoover-Leppen Theatre, 3656 N. Halsted St., Tuesday, April 3, 6:30-8:30 p.m. The suggested donation is \$5.**

Rosenberg's books can be ordered at [www.blackoutandbreakdowns.com](http://www.blackoutandbreakdowns.com).

THE CHICAGO DEFENDER  
Sunday, Nov. 10, 1951 3

# Boy Meets 'Girl' At Hallowe'en Ball



FEMALE IMPERSONATORS TAKE THE STAGE AT Chicago's Southside Halloween night. A debutante takes a fling with her beau, (photo at extreme left) one of the few participants who dressed as a male. An original "boy meets girl" scene is shown in the center. The "boy" (second from left) is one of the eye-catchers in the parade of "couplets." Costumes were live.



"BOY MEETS GIRL" (right) has woman in woman talk with another woman who really did a woman of all during this Halloween night in Chicago's Pershing Ballroom. The men had little right as they dressed the girls like "The Sexistress" Madia Fildes, one of the ballroom's leading dancers and promoters, was master of ceremonies of the gala event, scores of spectators here expected for tonight's event by the sponsors of the annual affair.—Defender photo by photo.

# Mississippi May Abolish Public Schools

**Wait To See How High Court Rules**

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all know they are making a year in a political year. Further than that the governor of Mississippi would not be expected to do anything concerning the subject for publication. A similar proposal was made recently in Georgia. Action in that state, however, depends upon how the Supreme Court rules in cases challenging the separate state, however, depends upon how the Supreme Court rules in cases challenging the separate state, however, depends upon how the Supreme Court rules in cases challenging the separate state.

# Spurned Hubby Shoots Wife, Then Kills Self



ATLANTA — (AP) — A 41-year-old woman, apparently abandoned by her husband, shot her husband and then herself in a jealous rage. Her husband, who was shot in the chest, died in the hospital. She is in the hospital, and her husband's death is being investigated by the police.

In "Boy Meets 'Girls' at Hallowe'en Ball," published Nov. 10, 1951, the Defender described a drag ball.

# 'DRAG' BALL ATTRACTS 3,600

With all the fanfare of a klieg-lighted Hollywood premiere, Chicago female impersonators donned mink stoles and skimpy bathing suits to vie for costume honors at their 35th annual Hallowe'en ball. A crowd of 3,600 applauded as a "Miss St. Louis," was chosen "queen."

New queen, "Miss St. Louis," (c.) is flanked by runners-up.

One contestant takes time out to powder nose.

Two impersonators showed off legs for crowd.

Drag Ball Attracts 3,600 was published in Jet magazine Nov. 11, 1954, page 15.

# Queer Bronzeville: A History of African American LGBTs on Chicago's South Side, 1900-1985

## Part III: Constructing Black Homosexuality on Chicago's South Side: The Black Press, Queer Identities, and the Civil Rights Movement, 1950-1965

BY TRISTAN CABELLO

This is the third of a multi-part series.

During the 1950s, Chicago's most important Black publications redefined African American sexuality and acceptable sexual behavior in Black communities. An original discourse aimed at explaining the limits of certain sexual behaviors was created. Beginning in 1952, Ebony, Jet and the Defender engaged in a discursive shift describing homosexual behavior as a contradiction to the values of Black society.

In the 1950s, important figures in African American music and literature did not hide their homosexual identity. James Baldwin publicly acknowledged his homosexuality. In 1953, Bayard Rustin spent 60 days in prison for "consensual sodomy," which was at the time a crime in the State of California.

Queer African American culture was popular in working-class Black neighborhoods. In Detroit, the Paradise Valley, a local gay club, held drag shows which brought in the country's most popular drag queens, such as Janis L Cava, Baby Jean Ray, Zorina La Crosse and Caledonia Anderson. In New Orleans, the most popular drag queen was "Princess Lavonne," and would come to be known as Little Richard in the late 1950s.

Around the country, Black Americans were organizing and rising up against racial discrimination. In this struggle for civil rights, access to full citizenship was at the very heart of activists' concerns and would lead to many shifts in African American identity. Access to full citizenship regulated the ideal image of the Black American community. It set out acceptable norms for social behavior, including sexual behavior. Homosexuals were criticized by leaders in the struggle for civil rights, who saw them as hurdles to full citizenship for African Americans.

During the early 1950s, queer festivities in Chicago's Black neighborhoods reached their hour of glory.

Eddie Phlique continued to host fashion shows at the Show Lounge Easter on Sunday; the mayor of Bronzeville continued to crown the Queen of the Night at drag balls; the Roberts Show Lounge housed the largest U.S. drag queen troupe, the Jewel Box Revue; and the Defender begged Joe Hughes to return to the nightlife. Drag balls organized by Jerry "Talent Scout" Jones at the Casino Moderne officially opened their doors to male cross-dressers. Reverend Clarence Cobbs was publicly a friend of queer DJ Eddie Phlique.

The Defender always dedicated a large part of its publication to queer events taking place. In the early 1950s, it published a two-page article about drag balls, the longest coverage of the events since the newspaper's creation. In "Boy Meets 'Girls' at Hallowe'en Ball," published Nov. 10, 1951, the Defender described a drag ball, complete with five large photographs of drag couples, drag queens on stage, and men dancing with female impersonators. That year, the event had brought 5,000 people to the Pershing Ballroom. The 1952 edition was also described in detail in a Defender article, along with four large photographs. The reporter still noted the "interracial" nature of the event.

Tasked with relaying important events in the Black community, Jet and Ebony naturally relied on the news from queer sources, particularly in Chicago. In Ebony Magazine, articles on homosexual behavior mainly focused on entertainment, drag balls, and female imperson-

ator shows. Jet's editorial board gave a special place to news briefs, allowing the magazine to add, for example, reports of domestic violence in homosexual couples, in the section entitled "Mr. and Mrs." These articles did not mention homosexuality openly. They did, however, create a discourse on Black sexuality, reflecting the middle class's morality and desire to counteract the visibility of homosexuality in large cities.

When describing homosexuals, Ebony and Jet implicitly confirmed dominant discourses; homosexuals were not living in line with their gender identity. Queer men presented feminine characteristics, and homosexual women presented masculine traits.

Reporters from both publications were not at a loss for examples. Thus, Beatrice Calloway, a Detroit lesbian who killed her lover because the lover had fallen in love with another woman, stated that her rival wore "pants, a rumpled shirt, and men's shoes."

Ebony emphasized female impersonators' feminine traits, which were described in articles on drag balls. The editors reminded readers that "the female impersonators were often more feminine than real women, but many more were merely grotesque caricatures of femininity." The process of feminization was often highlighted, with reporters noting that participants had to shave and wear makeup, stating that a female impersonator had a tough job because "walking in high heels" was a hard task, as was "making sure that fake breasts did not fall out." At no time, however, did reporters from Ebony or Jet explicitly reference the "abnormality" of this behavior.

Ebony Magazine never mentioned queer subjects' sexual preferences when reporting artistic performances and activities. Ebony refused to categorize those who were present at drag balls. Photographs suggested that at the dances, hugging and kissing were innocent.

Jet was more explicit regarding its queer subjects. In articles about drag balls, reporters used direct terms to describe the participants' sexuality. The words "gay" and "queen" were preferred terminology. Competitors were part of a "gay affair" which presented "gay entertainment." Men pranced "gaily down the runway," or the MC would elect the "queen of queens," making "queently bows."

In order to access full citizenship, Blacks had to accept the societal norms created by white communities, in order to acquire the "traits highly regarded by white Americans." This campaign to regulate sexual behaviors began during the 1950s, and was led by political and religious leaders. Adam Clayton Powell published an article entitled "Sex in the Church" in Ebony Magazine, in which he described unacceptable sexual behavior in the Black clergy. Powell particularly criticized the relationship that Prophet Jones of Detroit maintained with his assistant.

Beginning in 1953, Jet and Ebony Magazine's editorials began to reflect these shifts in discourse. The editorial coverage of drag balls disappeared from the magazine's columns in 1953. In 1954, Jet redefined these popular events in an article entitled "The Truth about Female Impersonators," describing them as the "obscure causes of homosexuality."

The first step of this campaign was seen in an article about the life of a famous lesbian, Blues singer Gladys Bentley, who claimed to have been



Jet Magazine Aug. 7, 1952, "Is There Hope for Homosexuals?"



"Kiss for loveliest female male" was published in Jet magazine Dec. 11, 1952, page 26.



Jet Magazine, April 15, 1954, "Are Homosexuals Becoming Respectable?"

BRONZEVILLE from page 36

"cured" of her homosexuality.

If Ebony Magazine's message was confusing during this stage of the campaign, the shift in discourse toward criminalization and the perception of homosexuality as a medical issue was already evident. In an August 1952 article entitled "I am a Woman Again," Bentley told Ebony Magazine readers about "how she found happiness again after a medical treatment to correct her strange condition." Indeed, Bentley stated, "For many years, she had lived a personal hell, a sort of "no man's land, a dark place that existed between the limits of the two sexes."

For the first time in the magazine's history, the article analyzed the psychology of the homosexual individual, described as "mentally ill, suffering deeply."

In October 1953, Ebony Magazine published the story of Georgia Black, a female impersonator who had recently passed away in Florida. According to Ebony, Georgia Black was an African American woman who should have died "humiliated and in disgrace" as a "pervert, a sissy, a monster." Black had lived as a woman for nearly 30 years, fooling everyone around her, as she was actually a man.

Georgia Black's adopted son, Willie Saab, published his version of his mother's biography in an article entitled "My Mother was a Man" in the November 1953 Ebony. Saab described his mother as "a generous soul, who always came to the aid of others," who "worked tirelessly in her church," and who "always followed the law," but emphasized his feminine attributes.

In August 1953, Ebony published "The Woman Who Lived as a Man for Fifteen Years," which described the life of an African American woman in Ohio who had lived as a man for 15 years, and was less sympathetic than the article about Georgia Black. Throughout the article, Jim, in contrast to Georgia, was described as a criminal. Jim had carried out many affairs with women, was engaged to a woman he had met in high school, and became the "deacon" of the Kosciusko church. He had moved from town to town, hiding his identity, smoking cigarettes, speaking like a man, and holding "male" jobs such as a taxi driver, cook, fireman, and preacher. The residents of Kosciusko were profoundly shocked by the entire affair, and particularly angry with the preacher who appeared to be aware of Jim's identity.

On the first page of its Feb. 16, 1957 edition, the Defender announced a series of articles about the "third sex," in which the newspaper cast aside its longstanding relationship with Bronzeville's queer community and female impersonators, and redefined homosexuality, describing it as a medical phenomenon that was both obscure and foreign.

In the first article of the series, the Defender ignored the newspaper's long historic relationship with the South Side queer and female impersonator community, as well as the multitude of articles on African American drag queens from New York, Chicago, and Detroit that had appeared in the publication since its creation. The first article emphasized the "novelty" of this topic for the newspaper. The first article laid out the history of homosexuality. Following a brief

discussion of the Biblical story of Sodom and Gomorrah, the article focused on Greek and Roman history.

Encouraged by very positive letters from its readership, the Defender published the second article in the series, in which it defined homosexuality as a psychological condition exclusive to whites. The article concentrated mainly on homosexual personalities and reiterated the idea of homosexuality as an obscure affliction. The main example, Oscar Wilde, was used to support Alfred Duckett's theory of a psychological disease. [Duckett was a Chicago Defender journalist who wrote the series on the "Third Sex."] According to Duckett, Wilde had become a homosexual only after the age of 35, following an unhappy marriage and attempting to escape the domination of his overbearing mother throughout his life. Homosexuality was therefore seen as the result of a traumatic situation with one's mother, or a romantic disappointment with a person of the opposite sex. No African American gay man was included in this description.

The third article also focused on prisons reinforcing the idea that homosexuality was a result of a specific environment. Prison was a place of transformation, where heterosexuals became homosexuals. Duckett's main source was Haywood Patterson's book, Scottsboro Boy (1950), which detailed his stay in prison. Patterson's book proved that one could find "gal boys" and "wolves" (masculine men) who "engaged in amorous relations, and that some even married." Prisons encouraged homosexuality by pairing off possible partners. "Wolves" protected the young boys; young queers prostituted themselves. Ac-

ording to Patterson, 50% of all incarcerated African Americans and 75% of all incarcerated whites were "gal-boys."

The fourth article was entirely dedicated to the history of lesbians, and placed them in another category, which was "twice the size of the male homosexual population." The article informed its readers that lesbians, often "frigid in heterosexual relationships," married men who were homosexuals, and that "some were African Americans." Gladys Bentley's story was recounted in detail; highlighting the problems she faced, particularly regarding the failure of her transition therapy.

While African American gays continued to organize queer events and be visible in Bronzeville's bars, a change in discourse on homosexuality was beginning to take root in Chicago's Black press.

Homosexuality came to be seen as a medical and psychological problem, alien to African American communities. Homosexuals were thus marginalized. Not only were homosexuals viewed as mentally ill, but also they could be cured with psychotherapy.

With this new definition, Black homosexuals would have to struggle to be respected during the 1960s, after a period of wide acceptance.

Tristan Cabello is the Andrew W. Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow in African American Studies at Bowdoin College. He is currently completing his first book Queer Bronzeville: Race, Sexuality and Urban Boundaries in Black Chicago, 1900-1985. His exhibit "Queer Bronzeville" is available on the Website www.outhistory.org . Tristan can be reached at tcabello@bowdoin.edu.



In August 1953, Ebony published "The Woman Who Lived as a Man for Fifteen Years."



Georgia Black's adopted son, Willie Saab, published his version of his mother's biography in an article entitled "My Mother was a Man," Ebony, November 1953.



Gladys Bentley renounces her homosexuality in an August 1952 Ebony article entitled "I am a Woman Again."



## WEEKLY DINING GUIDE IN WINDY CITY TIMES

### Carmine's: A Rosebud Restaurant

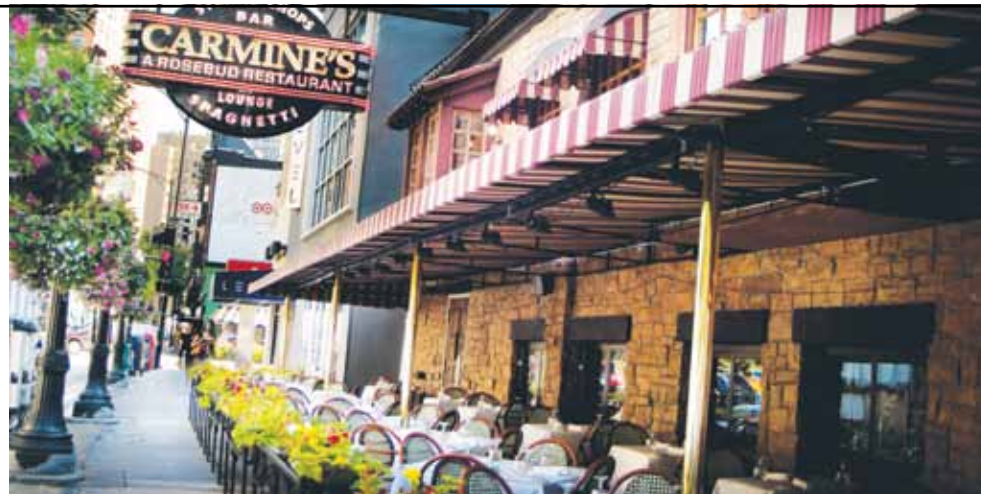
BY JOE FRANCO

I normally avoid the intersection of State and Rush streets, as if it carried with it a viral plague. However the Viagra Triangle, as we affectionately call it, still has some surprises. Sure, there are the women whose dog's hairdos match their own and, of course, there are old men in just-as-old-school silk Versace shirts and wearing Aramis cologne, just hoping that there is a desperate divorcee lurking about. However, in that Gold Coast cultural milieu is also Carmine's.

First, hands down, it's one of the best patios on Rush from which to watch the dogs in boots and toddlers in tiaras on parade. The winemaker at Frog's Leap Winery in Napa Valley once told me that 75 percent of wine's flavor comes from the environment in which you drink it. A hobo in an alley guzzling Gallo from a jug probably is going to have a less savory experience than say one in a hammock in the hills of Napa. Carmine's is like that. You could eat at some horrific place without the ambiance, but why on earth would you want to?

Second, you can actually afford to eat here. Sure, if you order lamb chops and a bottle of Dom Perignon you'll need a little extra padding in your wallet. But their pasta entrees range from \$14 through \$20; add a salad or soup and a glass of quality vino and you're still spending less than \$25 a person to see what truly is the greatest show on Earth traipse along the street in front of you. Who needs le carnivale when you have Rush Street on any warm evening?

As for the food at Carmine's, I would not say there was anything groundbreaking about the



menu. You will not find exotic meats mixed with unpronounceable spices. Frankly, most nights, that's probably what you're looking for. Its quality food served simply and that makes all the difference in the world. I will say this: SHARE AN APPETIZER—they're huge. I ordered the steamed mussels and thought, "a small bucket would hit the spot!" Instead, my server brought nearly two pounds of them. Being a fat girl, I ate almost every one of those little buggers. I thought the best mussels I had ever had were at Café Bruxelles in New York, but I was mistaken. These were really quite the best mussels I have ever had. My dining companion had the stuffed baby bellas and thoroughly enjoyed them. But if you like butter, why wouldn't you enjoy butter, Italian bread crumbs and garlic?

I ordered the filet and was truly blown away. I ordered it rare and it came to me rare. C'est un miracle, n'est ce pas? Why does every other restaurant just cook the hell out of their beef? If I wanted charcoal, I'd eat some Kingsford. The steak was topped with a portabella mushroom and glazed with a peppery marsala wine sauce that brought out the meat's flavor. It was served with something green but I'm a meatasaurus; broccolini is nifty but give me cow!

After I ordered the steak, our fabulous server Dominika ("It's with a 'K'. I'm Polish, darlings!") informed us that Carmine's has a full range of gluten-free pasta dishes made with quinoa. So for those who, like me, cannot eat wheat, or those who just want a lower-calorie, higher pro-

tein pasta alternative can get that at Carmine's. My faithful dining companion ordered oricchette pasta with broccolini and sausage tossed in olive oil. He liked it but added that it was "slightly underseasoned." Pasta can be a bit on the mild side if the water is not properly salted so maybe it was a fluke. He still said he enjoyed it and still ordered dessert.

Speaking of, I never order signature desserts. It's like ordering a drink with an umbrella in it—wholly unnecessary. No, I always get the staples and see if the chef can handle those. If a chef cannot even tackle crème brulee, why would I want to even eat his Oreo-crust-ed cheesecake cupcake tower? So I ordered crème brulee, and it was quite good. My only dissatisfaction with the dish was with the dish itself. I like a slightly deeper ramekin but this was shallower. So if you love to crack your crème brulee, then you'd like this one for sure.

Carmine's is not (insert new trendy restaurant name here). It's a staple and an old stand-by in the Gold Coast for more than 15 years. If a restaurant has that kind of staying power, it's certainly worth another visit. If you do nothing else, order a drink or three, eat some mussels and sit and watch the summer of a thousand matching dog hairdos parade on by, for this is Chicago's elite, and it's better than the Real Housewives of ANY county.

See more about Carmine's at [www.rosebudrestaurants.com/rest2.php](http://www.rosebudrestaurants.com/rest2.php).

### Taking "Action"

The Chicago Metropolitan Battered Women's Network hosted its 2012 "Chicago Chefs Spring Into Action" benefit March 22 at the Renaissance Blackstone Hotel.

Many of Chicago's top chefs served dishes, complemented by sommeliers and mixologists. Alpana Singh, master sommelier and host of the WTTW program Check Please, served as master of ceremonies. There were also silent and live auctions.

Among the many chefs who participated were Celeste Zeccola of Bittersweet Pastry Shop; Cory Morris of Mercat a la Planxa; Terry Opalek and Michael Frontier of Terry's Toffee; and Koren Grieveson of avec.



Awards were presented to those who have made a concerted effort in overcoming domestic violence over the past year. The Civic Advocacy Award was presented to Cook County State's Attorney Anita Alvarez & WBEZ 91.5FM/Vocalo.org 89.5FM for their efforts in raising awareness and providing education about violence against women. Kathy Doherty—executive director of Between Friends, a domestic-violence service organization—received the Community Advocate Award for her many years of dedicated leadership focused on breaking the cycle of domestic violence and building a community free from abuse.

More information about the network is at [www.batteredwomensnetwork.org](http://www.batteredwomensnetwork.org).

Photo by Christina Frances Photography

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312-372-3451  
[beefbrandy.net](http://beefbrandy.net)  
A Chicago tradition since 1967. Serving pizza, burgers, meat loaf, homemade Focaccia bread and more.

#### Roscoe's Sidewalk Cafe

3356 N. Halsted St., Chicago  
773-281-3355  
[roscoes.com](http://roscoes.com)  
Visit our popular outdoor cafe. Salads, burgers, wraps, sandwiches, drink specials, and Sunday Brunch.

#### Jane's Restaurant

1653-55 W. Cortland Ave.  
773-862-5263  
[janesrestaurant.com](http://janesrestaurant.com)  
An everyday, upscale eatery

located in neighborhoody Bucktown. Stunning Special Events Room. Brunch, Lunch & Dinner.

#### Hamburger Mary's

5400 N. Clark St., Chicago  
773-784-6969  
[hamburgermarys.com/chicago](http://hamburgermarys.com/chicago)  
Burgers, salads and sass served up in a kitschy atmosphere with an on-site brew pub.

#### ASIAN

**Miss Asia**  
434 W. Diversey Pkwy., Chicago  
773-248-3999  
[missasiacuisine.com](http://missasiacuisine.com)  
At Miss Asia we provide fine traditional Thai cuisine and an elegant dining atmosphere.

#### BAKERY

**Swedish Bakery**  
5348 N. Clark St., Chicago  
773-561-8919  
[swedishbakery.com](http://swedishbakery.com)  
European-style cookies, pastries, breads, and tortes. We'll create a cake for any celebration.

#### FONDUE

**Geja's Cafe**  
340 W. Armitage Ave., Chicago  
773-281-9101  
[gejascafe.com](http://gejascafe.com)  
Romantic fondue dining. Live classical and flamenco guitar. Extensive, moderately priced wine list.

#### ITALIAN

**Taverna 750**  
750 W. Cornelia Ave., Chicago  
773-348-5172

Bright and fresh Italian small plates with an exciting cocktail menu. Surprisingly affordable.

#### Club Lucky

1824 W. Wabansia Ave., Bucktown  
773-227-2300  
[clubluckychicago.com](http://clubluckychicago.com)  
1940's style Italian Supper Club & Cocktail Lounge Award-winning. Holiday decorations and private party room. Accepting online reservations.

#### MEDITERRANEAN

**Socca**  
3301 N. Clark St., Chicago  
773-248-1155  
[soccachicago.com](http://soccachicago.com)  
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#### MEXICAN

**Mundial Cocina Mestiza**  
1640 W. 18th St., Chicago  
312-491-9908  
[mundialcocinamestiza.com](http://mundialcocinamestiza.com)  
Creative Mexican cuisine in the Pilsen neighborhood. Hand-shaken margaritas and affordable wines.

#### GERMAN

**Chicago Brauhaus**  
4732 N. Lincoln Ave., Chicago  
773-784-4444  
[chicagobrauhaus.com](http://chicagobrauhaus.com)  
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## VEHICLE REVIEW

# 2012 Jeep Grand Cherokee SRT8

BY CASEY WILLIAMS, GAYWHEELS.COM

The idea of taking the suburb-conquering, Rubicon-busting Jeep Grand Cherokee and turning it into a star of your weekend track club is somewhat akin to putting sneaks on L. L. Bean and asking him to win the New York Marathon. One has to wonder, "What's the point?"

You could attach Chrysler's 470hp 6.4-litre HEMI V8 to a John Deere and be impressed with its performance. The Grand Cherokee SRT8 runs from 0-60 mph in 4.8 seconds and hits a terminal velocity of 160 mph. Those figures make it the quickest Jeep, ever. Its paddle-shifted five-speed automatic transmission makes the most of the engine's prodigious thrust, while multi-displacement technology shuts down cylinders when the full fury isn't needed. Still, with the SRT8 offering only 12/18 mpg city/hwy, you'd never call it frugal.

Asking stylists to turn the big n' boxy Grand Cherokee into a performance beast worthy of this HEMI engine must have caused some soul searching within the studios of Chrysler's design center. Being consummate professionals, they lowered the SUV an inch, attached monochrome wheel flares, and installed massive 20" alloys. A

nose job includes LED running lamps, front splitter and functional heat extractors in the hood. However, to be honest, most fellow highway travelers will only see the Jeep's liftgate spoiler that improves downforce and dual 4" chrome exhaust tips as the SRT8 streaks away.

Behind the steamroller wheels and Pirelli P Zeros are giant Brembo discs with red calipers. They're capable of stopping the Grand Cherokee from 60-0 mph in only 116 feet. Much of the chassis was co-developed with the Mercedes M-Class, giving it a German heaviness, four-wheel independent suspension, and a full array of stability control electronics. Five modes of suspension adjustment control the handling for touring, track performance, snowy conditions, or towing. In Track mode, this bruiser serves up .90g on the skidpad—on par with many top-shelf sports cars. Quadra-Trac AWD shifts power to wheels with grip, though all drive modes bump and tug the steering wheel. It gets the job done, but you're better off looking elsewhere if you want a luxurious ride.

Inside, the SRT8 is a pretty cozy place to travel. The heated/cooled leather front seats and heated rear perches grip your sides with thick bolsters and hold your rump with suede inserts.



2012 Jeep Grand Cherokee SRT8. Photo courtesy of Gaywheels.com

Carbon-fiber trim complements large analog gauges, and a heated steering wheel, power steering column, and touchscreen for navigation and audio are nice touches. There is also a handy rear camera. The 19-speaker harman/kardon audio system kicks out 825 watts of power to thump just about anyone within a ten-mile radius. Adaptive cruise control, forward collision warning, and blind-spot monitoring systems are available. Enthusiasts will swoon over the SRT-exclusive Performance Pages that provide feedback for your steering input, horsepower, torque, acceleration, braking, and cornering. Take a pic (not while driving please!) and post it on your Facebook wall.

On the way to my parents' for Christmas, I blasted by a long line of Conestogas clogging up the left lane. Those who didn't respect the Jeep's sinister snout soon bowed to its gathering wake. That's pretty much the point of this

truck. A Grand Cherokee SRT8 will never conquer the Rubicon Trail, and it's barely adequate for hauling groceries. However, it will make you laugh and scare the hell out of everyone else.

2012 Jeep Grand Cherokee SRT8  
 Five-passenger, AWD SUV  
 Powertrain: 470hp 6.4-litre V8, 5-speed automatic transmission  
 Suspension f/r: Adjustable Ind/Ind  
 Wheels: 20"/20" f/r  
 Brakes: Disc/Disc fr/rr with ABS  
 Must-have feature: Style, performance  
 0-60mph: 4.8 seconds  
 Top speed: 160 mph  
 Fuel economy (city/hwy.): 12/18 mpg  
 Manufacturing: Detroit  
 As tested price: \$55,295

See more at <http://www.Gaywheels.com>.



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## ARTISTS

**CALL FOR ARTISTS: SKOKIE ART GUILD'S 51st ANNUAL ART FAIR.** July 14th & 15th, 2012. Fine art. Prizes and awards. Held on the Village Green, 5211 W. Oakton St., downtown Skokie, IL. apply now. For applications or information: [skokieart@aol.com](mailto:skokieart@aol.com) or 847-677-8163. [www.skokieartguild.org](http://www.skokieartguild.org) (6/27/12)

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## LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to "An Act in relation to the use of an Assumed Business Name in the conduct or transaction of Business in the State," as amended, that a certification was filed by the undersigned with the County Clerk of Cook County. File No. D12129379 on March 6, 2012, Under the Assumed Name of "Sunset Beach Spa" with the business located at 5615 W. 79th St., Burbank, IL 60459. The true name(s) and residence address of the owner(s) are: Edyta Krol, 7318 S. Octavia, Bridgeview, IL 60455. (3/28/12-3)

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**NEED LEGAL HELP?** Pride Law, Andersonville's legal aid clinic for the LGBT community can help. Clinic hours every Wednesday, 5-8:00 p.m. by appointment only. **Call 1-866-703-5509 or send us an email at [prideslaw@tsamislaw.com](mailto:prideslaw@tsamislaw.com).**

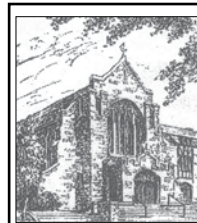
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## STUDIOS FOR RENT

**6100 NORTH NEAR LAKE.** Huge studio, many windows, tile floor, modern kitchen, maple cabinets, lunch counter, large closets, newer appliances, all utilities. Transportation, shopping close. **\$650. 773-837-2981 or 773-706-2054. (4/4/12-2)**

## ONE BEDROOMS FOR RENT

**6100 NORTH NEAR LAKE - CHARMING VINTAGE** 1 Bdrm, modern kitchen, formal dining room, maple cabinets, wood floors, newer appliances, heat/cooking gas, decorative fireplace, laundry, pedestal sink bath. Transportation, shopping close. **\$835. 773-837-2981 or 773-706-2054. (4/4/12-2)**

**6100 NORTH NEAR LAKE - PICTURESQUE VINTAGE.** Huge (approx.. 900sq ft), well maintained 1 Bdrm, modern kitchen, maple cabinets, newer appliances, formal dining room, ceiling fans, oak floors, walk-in closet, sun room, large rear porch, heated laundry, pedestal sink bath. Transportation, shopping close. **\$935. 773-706-2054. (4/4/12-2)**

**6100 NORTH NEAR LAKE - CHARMING VINTAGE.** Well-maintained 1 Bdrm. Modern kitchen, maple cabinets, newer appliances, attached dining area, ceiling fans, wood floors, heated, laundry, pedestal sink bath. Transportation, shopping close. **\$830. 773-837-2981 or 773-706-2054. (4/4/12-2)**

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Wednesday, March 28, 6:00 pm

John Merlo Library  
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Thursday, March 29, 6:00 pm

Center for Neighborhood Tech.  
2125 W North Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60647

Saturday, March 31, 9:00 am

Fun Run at Foster Ave. Beach  
5200 N Lake Shore Drive  
Chicago, IL 60640

Wednesday, April 4, 6:00 pm

Bucktown-Wicker Park Library  
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# calendar

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## Wed., March 28

### HIV Research & Black Gay/Bisexual Men

HIV Research and Black gay/bisexual men, research trends and partnerships, public health policy and community outcomes. Free and open to the public. All welcome. RSVP online. 12pm-5:30pm, Univ of Chicago, Chicago School of Social Service Administration, 969 East 60th St., www.chiblackgaycaucus.org

**LGBT Brazil in Film** Screening of two short documentaries, "The Butterflies," and "I'm a Woman, I'm a Brazilian, I'm a Lesbian." 5pm-7pm, Forum Room, Northwestern University, Evanston, www.northwestern.edu

**Brother Outsider: The Life of Bayard Rustin** Out writer-director-producer Bennett Singer will attend this screening of the documentary portrait of openly gay Civil Rights activist Bayard Rustin (in honor of the 100th anniversary of Rustin's birth date) followed by a complimentary dessert reception in the G.A.R. Rotunda (courtesy of Ann Sather). Co-sponsored by Affinity Community Services. 6:30pm, Chicago Cultural Center, 78 E Washington St., www.explorechicago.org

**Hello Gorgeous, Happy 70th Birthday to an Icon** Premier award-winning Barbra Streisand impressionist Steven Brinberg, one night only, singing Streisand song classics. Just as mega-superstar Barbra Streisand lands her 31st Top 10 album on the Billboard charts. Reservations are highly recommended by calling 773-278-1830 or online. 8pm, Davenport's, 1383 N. Milwaukee Ave. www.davenportspianobar.com/home.swf

**Health and Access Advocacy Day** The Accurate Sexual Health Education Bill (HB

## SCHOOL DAZE Thursday, March 29

Candace Gingrich-Jones will speak at Northeastern Illinois University, 5500 N. St. Louis Ave.

Photo by Kate Sosin



3027) provides youth grades 6-12 with complete, accurate and age appropriate sexual health education necessary to prevent sexually transmitted diseases. Transportation and participation are free. Lunch provided. Questions to Aramide Oladeinde at aramide@icah.org. 10pm, State Capitol (6:30am bus pick up from Chicago location TBD) Where: State Capitol Building, 401 S. 2nd St., Springfield

## Thursday, March 29

**Birth to Buyout: The Seminar** Lawyer and author Coco Soodek has created a day-long seminar, based on her book "Birth to Buyout: Law for the Life Cycle of Your Business." How to avoid some of the legal tricks and traps. Lunch provided, and all will get a copy of the book. Members and non-members \$30. 9:30am-4:30pm, Chicago Area Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce Headquarters: 3179 N. Clark St., www.glchamber.org

**"Come Sail Away: Chicago Rock in the 1970s"** Styx and Cheap Trick. The lecture

starts at 6:30pm and the performance at 7:30pm Tickets are \$25 for the public and \$20 for museum members. 6:30pm, Chicago History Museum, 1601 N Clark St., www.chicagohistory.org

**AfterWork Karaoke Thursday** Singing starts at 7pm. Always a secret song for \$25 bar tab! Hosted By Karaoke by Creagh. Beer bucket specials all day - but order by 10p and get a basket of fries from our friends at Burger Philosophy. Weekly themes. So who are you gonna sing? 7pm-11:30pm, 773-334-2525, The Call (Chicago), 1547 W. Bryn Mawr Ave.

**Candace Gingrich-Jones** Gingrich-Jones—the lesbian half-sister of Newt Gingrich—will speak as part of the school's Presidential Lecture Series. She will talk about The Accidental Activist, her autobiography, among other topics. The event is free and open to the public. 7pm, Northeastern Illinois University, 5500 N. St. Louis Ave., www.neiu.edu

**Austin Armacost's Birthday Bash** Star of Logo's hit reality show The A-List: New York and former runway model Austin Armacost will be celebrating his birthday at Scarlet Bar Chicago's famed Frat Night party; 9pm, Scarlet Bar, 3320 N Halsted St., www.scarletbarchicago.com

**Drag Idol** Hydrate Nightclub presents season two of Drag Idol! A winner is chosen every week to take home a cash prize of \$100 and secure a spot to compete in the Drag Idol Finals to win a prize package worth over \$10,000! 9pm, Hydrate, 3458 N. Halsted St., www.hydratechicago.com/home/

**Steampunk Thursdays** Elate is taking its eco-friendly philosophy to new heights, on Thursdays, by re-inventing itself as the Steampunk center of Chicago. 9:30pm, 312-202-9900, Elate, 111 W. Huron St., www.elatechicago.com

## Friday, March 30

**"25 Years of Pride"** A Multimedia Photo Event In 2012 PrideFest Milwaukee will celebrate a milestone, as the festival turns 25. In celebrating this major event, the people of PrideFest Milwaukee invite you to join them for a stroll down a digital memory lane, with a fundraising event unlike any other. 6pm-10pm, Milwaukee Gay Arts Center, 703 S 2nd St., Milwaukee, Wis., www.pridefest.com

**LAGBACs Meet the Bar** For LGBT law students and friends to network with practicing LGBT lawyers and judges. Times and final info: John Litchfield at jlitchfield@lagbac.org. 6pm-8pm, Sidetrack, 3349 N Halsted St., www.lagbac.org

**Life and impact of Bayard Rustin** Rustin, a key figure from the U.S. civil-rights move-

ment, will be the focus of a conference at the University of Illinois at Chicago, March 30-31, organized by UIC's Gender and Sexuality Center. It will bring together artists, scholars and community organizers to examine Rustin's legacy and discuss contemporary social justice issues. Mandy Carter, National Coordinator of the Bayard Rustin Centennial 2012 Project of the National Black Justice Coalition will speak. A reception opens the event at 6pm and the program begins at 6:30pm; 6:30pm, UIC Education, Performing Arts, Social Work Building, Room 060, 1040 W. Harrison St.

**Wonka Ball** About Face Theater presents Your Prom, The ReMix benefiting About Face Theatre and About Face Youth Theatre. Revisit the best of the '70s, '80s, and '90s and dance the night away. Take a new prom photo, celebrate the crowning of a prom king & queen, enjoy decadent desserts and open bar. 7pm VIP admission, \$250 per ticket. 8pm general admission, \$150 per ticket; The Chicago Illuminating Co., 19 E. 21st St., www.aboutface theatre.com

**Paula Poundstone** After fabulously unforgettable sold-out performances in past seasons, Paula Poundstone returns to the North Shore Center stage by popular demand. 8pm, North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie, www.northshorecenter.org

## Saturday, March 31

**Spring Men's Flag Football Open Registration** Party Teams, groups and individual players welcome at all skill levels. Season begins Sat., April 28. 2pm-5pm, DS Tequila Company, 3352 N. Halsted St., www.chicagomsa.org

**Trikon Chicago Reading** Canadian authors Farzana Doctor and Vivek Shraya will read from Six Metres of Pavement and God Loves Hair. Fawzia Mirza will open the afternoon with introductions. 3pm-5pm, 773-381-8030, Gerber/Hart Library, 1127 W Granville Ave., www.gerberhart.org

**Vital Bridges' Annual Bowling event: Strike Out Hunger** The 9 to 12 Bowling League and River Rand Bowl holds its 15th annual bowling benefit for Vital Bridges. \$35 per individual bowler, \$180 per team (up to 6 bowlers). Highlights: X-X-X raffle, 7-10 Split the Pot, Bowling Bingo, No-Tap & Cosmic Bowling, DJ & refreshments. For more information about Strike Out Hunger and Vital Bridges Center on Chronic Care, please contact Makara Fairman at mfairman@heartlandalliance.org. 7pm-10pm, 773-271-5140, River Rand Bowl. 191 S. River Rd., Des Plaines, www.vitalbridges.org

**Joan Rivers TV Taping** Joan will be performing her uncensored, uninhibited standup comedy. Second show 9pm. \$39. to \$125.00; 7pm, The Arcada Theatre, St. Charles, Tickets: www.oshows.com/#!showlists/vstc5=joan-rivers

**Battle Of the Bulge Contest** A CLAW Nation party. Raffle prizes, live and silent auctions, hosted by MCL 2012 Angel Velez. VIP (Very Indecent Pervert) reception 9-11 in the Club room. Hosted bar, gift bags and more. \$25 per person/\$40 per couple to benefit Chicago House. 9pm, Touche, 6412 N Clark St, Chicago, www.touchechicago.com

## Sunday, April 1

**Urban Village Church: Andersonville service** Andersonville is a neighborhood full of passion, art, diversity, and eclectic energy, all which makes Urban Village Church thrilled to be joining the community! 10:30am-11:45am, 1602 W. Ainslie (at Ashland), www.newchicagochurch.com

**Urban Village Church** Spiritual worship is about coming together as community to make space for God to move in us. 10:15am-11:30am, Urban Village Church, Spertus Institute, 610 S. Michigan Ave., www.urbanvillagechurch.org

**Rainbow Brunch North Shore** LGBT men



## DOCTOR, DOCTOR

Saturday, March 31

Canadian writers Farzana Doctor and Vivek Shraya will hold a book-reading at Gerber/Hart, 1127 W. Granville Ave.

Photo from Doctor

and women who meet the first Sunday of every month to socialize and make new friends. There is no membership fee. Brunch is under \$8.00, pay at the door; 10am-12pm, Old Country Buffet, 8780 W. Dempster, Niles

**Madonna Album Release Party** Win copies of MDNA, the new one from Madge herself. Part of Madonnarama with DJ Riley York. 10pm, Berlin Nightclub, 954 W. Belmont Ave, www.berlinchicago.com

**Marriage Equality Forum** Explore the subject of marriage equality and civil unions in Illinois, the current status of the movement to legalize gay marriage, and the legal difference between civil unions and marriage. Speakers will include Sen. Don Harmon, Representative Camille Lilly, and Equality Illinois CEO, Bernard Cherkasov. 10:30am, Oak Park Temple, 1235 N. Harlem Ave., Oak Park, www.oakparktemple.com

## Monday, April 2

**CROSSwalk Walk Against Violence** Four-mile interfaith procession through Chicago's streets to remember the murdered youth and find opportunities to protect children. 5:30pm, 773-348-3434, St. James Cathedral, Huron and Wabash, www.crosswalkchicago.org

**A Night Of Elegance: Benefit for Sheri Payne** Join Stella Productions for this benefit gala for Continental Elite bound Sheri Payne. Entertainment includes Chili Pepper, Maya Douglas, Victoria Le Paige, Tajma Hall, Dida Ritz and many, many more. Great raffles, free sandwich and dessert bar. \$10. 8pm, Baton Show Lounge, 436 N. Clark St., www.stellaproductions2.com

## Tuesday, April 3

**Blackouts and Breakdowns: An Evening with Mark Rosenberg** Rosenberg's book is a no-holds-barred look into the life of a 20 something very gay, very fabulous, very alcoholic, young man. \$5 suggested donation at the door. Info from mross@centeronhalsted.org; 6:30pm-8:30pm, Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted St., www.centeronhalsted.org

**Bisexual Social/ Discussion Group** An evening for bisexual, bi-curious, and allied individuals to form community, share ideas, and connect with peers. 7pm, Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted St., www.centeronhalsted.org

## Wed., April 4

**Windy City Gay Idol** Windy City Gay Idol, now in its 10th year, kicks off the 2012 search for the best amateur GLBT singers in the Chicago area. Singers sign up at 8pm. Learn more online. 9pm, The Glenwood, 6962 N Glenwood Ave, www.windy-citymediagroup.com/lgbt/windy-city-gay-idol-kicks-off-10th-year-/36745.html



## GAME OF THRONES

Friday, March 30

About Face Theatre's annual Wonka Ball will take place at the Chicago Illuminating Company, 19 E. 21st St.

Photo from 2011 by Kat Fitzgerald

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# BILLY MASTERS

"I'm totally for it. ... I think there was a time in my life, probably in college, that I wished every guy was gay because it meant more women for me! I don't know what everyone's problem with it is. I wish everyone was gay. That's always the way I thought about it. I have no issue with it. If I have to suffer through marriage, why shouldn't they?"—Donald Trump Jr. shares his opinions on gay marriage. By the way, he's also pro-choice.

Obviously, I have to start with the big trial that has changed us forever—Nicollette Sheridan's suit against Marc Cherry and ABC for wrongful termination from *Desperate Housewives*. I don't even know where to start. Most people probably would start with the difference between a slap and a tap, but not me. I'm starting with a section of Cherry's testimony where



Jennifer Saunders and Joanna Lumley stay "Absolutely Fabulous."

he recounts breaking up a fight between Sheridan and Teri Hatcher. Nicollette allegedly called Hatcher "the meanest woman in the world." It's not the first time I've heard Teri described this way.

As to his own altercation with Sheridan, Cherry admitted he "tapped her head" while trying to demonstrate how he wanted a scene acted. She claimed, "He hit me and he hit me hard." Ultimately, the judge threw out the assault charge. Cherry also said he never considered Edie Britt a main character on *Desperate Housewives*. She was never in the opening credits and he thought of her as a "spoiler to complicate the other women's lives." Of course, she was always in the group promotional photos, and she's on the DVD covers with the other four ladies. The jury wrestled to make sense of it all while the judge tried to get both sides to agree to a settlement. ABC refused. Ultimately, it was a hung jury with eight out of the 12 jurors siding with Sheridan. A mistrial was declared and Nic promises to have the case retried. I don't doubt her for a second.

While I was in Florida, I saw an ad in one of the gay papers for "Genital Perfecting Cream." What is that? It is apparently a skin lightening cream that men use to bleach their nether regions. I believe the Kardashians are developing a similar product.

Some truly tragic news rocked the entertainment industry. After 56 years, Dame Edna Everage, arguably the most famous woman in the world, will be retiring. Well, retiring is such an ugly word—right up there with the word "ugly," as a matter of fact. But she is bidding farewell to the live theatre (while reserving the right to pop up occasionally on the telly).

This announcement was made despite medical assurances that she is in tip-top shape. In fact, just last week her gynecologist gave her two thumbs up, which I suspect the Dame enjoyed heartily. Her final tour, "Eat Pray Laugh!," will debut in June on a lovely stage in the city of Canberra (that's in Australia, for those of you who are somewhat geographically challenged) and will wind its way throughout Edna's homeland before venturing abroad. Tentative plans

call for the show to also play the United Kingdom and United States, making mandatory stops in London's West End and New York's Broadway. Obviously paying homage to fellow Aussie Dame Nellie Melba, this farewell tour will last two years—which leaves her two years short of her operatic predecessor, but certainly leaves the door open for a second farewell—à la Cher! After all, they're roughly the same age ... give or take.

From Australia we go to London, where our favorite "AbFab" girls turned up for "Sport Relief," which is a sort of telethon where popular athletes and various other luminaries come together and raise money for charity. For the event, Jennifer Saunders and Joanna Lumley put together a mini-episode. In a nutshell, Patsy's

magazine offers to do a spread of models and Olympians wearing Stella McCartney's clothes. Eddy actually set up the meeting in Patsy's name so that she could then get free clothes. The plan is thwarted by Baby Bunton, who intends on keeping Eddy busy working out with various famous athletes and away from the meeting. It's all rather fun, as you'll see on BillyMasters.com.

It must be the unseasonably warm weather that brought in a summer rerun question to our "Ask Billy" box. Patrick in Chicago asks: "My God—who is the hot Latino on *Dancing with the Stars*? He's STUNNING! Tell me you've got some nude shots of him. Or even shirtless. Anything!"

Sometimes all I have to do is sit back and wait for you to catch up with me. When I told you about William Levy months ago after he did that music video with Jennifer Lopez, most of you couldn't place him. So you probably didn't bother going to [www.BillyMasters.com](http://www.BillyMasters.com) to see the full-frontal nude photos of him—yes, penis and all. But something tells me you'll be rushing over now to get a piece of him. And what a mighty fine piece it is.

When I'm praying for Levy to have a wardrobe malfunction, it's definitely time to end yet another column. As you all know, I've met lots of celebrities and don't have many names left on my wish list. But you know who would be at the top of it? Dame Edna. Oh, I've met her wily manager, Barry Humphries. He forced me to take some photos with him at Edna's opening night on Broadway. But I think maybe he was just trying to keep me away from his famous client. I guess I only have two years left to fulfill that goal. While I'm busy plotting, you can keep up with the latest gossip on [www.BillyMasters.com](http://www.BillyMasters.com). If you have a question or perhaps an idea that doesn't involve kidnapping an Aussie gigstar, drop a note to [Billy@BillyMasters.com](mailto:Billy@BillyMasters.com) and I promise to get back to you before Nicollette offers to be the face of genital perfecting cream. (Hey, a gig's a gig.) So, until next time, remember, one man's filth is another man's bible.

**Note:** The views expressed in this column are not necessarily those of Windy City Times.

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# Former Force player beats a bigger foe: Breast cancer

BY ROSS FORMAN

The tattoo tells the tale.

On the backside of her left shoulder, Kim Duffey has a new tattoo with the Ford Warrior in Pink logo and the word "Survivor" emblazed in red and pink. "It is a battle and because of the massive number of people affected by breast cancer, it is very much like a tribe of people battling a common enemy," Duffey said. "The first walk we did after my surgery I saw the symbol and commented that once I beat this I am going to get that as a tattoo."

Duffey, 45, who lives in Crystal Lake and works as an eighth-grade teacher at Dundee Middle School, has truly had one wild, emotional, life-changing two-year journey.

In July 2010, she had a routine mammogram and doctors noticed an irregularity in the screening, so they ordered an additional mammogram. Doctors ultimately found two affected areas, and Duffey was scheduled for a biopsy.

She then had to wait a week for the results.

On July 27, 2010, Duffey was at the Terrapin 5K Run with her wife, Demie, waiting to start. The call came.

"I wasn't really surprised; my mom had breast cancer, and as serious and quickly as people were moving [after the mammograms,] I knew they were concerned. Still, hearing that you have cancer is scary as hell and definitely life-changing," said Duffey, who played for the Chicago Force (offensive and defensive line) from 2002-2006 and was a co-owner from 2005-2011.

She had a single mastectomy and reconstruction using a TRAM (transverse rectus abdomi-



Kim Duffey. Photo courtesy of Duffey

nus myocutaneous) flap. Duffey said she was "extremely lucky" that no lymph nodes were involved and she did not have to have radiation or chemotherapy. But she did have five reconstruction surgeries.

"It has been a very long 18 months," said Duffey, who had her number retired after the 2011 season.

"I was off work for eight weeks," she said. "I had anticipated being back in five, but due to the massive amounts of surgery I had, my body

did not heal at the normal rate. I have had to miss about two [more] weeks from the follow-up surgeries. During the entire 18 months, I never felt like I was in this fight alone. My wife, family and friends were always there for me in a million ways. It started with them throwing a 'Bye Bye Boobie' party for me and several other gatherings during my reconstruction and recovery.

"Since my reconstruction started the same day as my mastectomy, I never had the 'flat chest scar.' I really didn't think I would be bothered by losing a breast; it was never something I considered a central feature of mine. As I got through the initial treatment, drains, bandages, suture removal, I thought I had come to accept my 'new look.' I looked pretty normal in a bra and shirt. It wasn't until my last surgery, when Dr. Stefan Szczerba did a skin graft and created a nipple and areola that I realized how much having the surgery had affected me mentally. Once all the bandages came off, I was so excited; I was normal again. When I got out of the shower, I now saw myself with two breasts, not one breast and a reconstruction."

Duffey said the hardest part of her journey was the number of setbacks. Her abdominal incision, for instance, split open after three weeks, requiring a wound VAC (vacuum-assisted closure) attached to her for two weeks. "Just as I would start to gain some strength back and feel better, it was time for another surgery," Duffey said. "At one point, I realized that I had not been suture, packing or drain-free for one year."

Duffey attended Sycamore High School locally and then Augustana College (undergraduate) and Northern Illinois University for her master's.

"After each surgery, there was a new set of wound care procedures; she did them all and never winced, and many were pretty gross," Duffey said. "My family was wonderful. My parents

came into town for the surgery and anytime I was in the hospital. My sister checked on me everyday and made sure I had lots of texts and messages from my niece and nephews. My friends were great for moral; they never let me get down or bored. They were also there to support Demie and give her some time as well."

Duffey's drive and determination paid off Feb. 24, when she met with her plastic surgeon for a check-up connected to what she hoped would be her last surgery. The healing was good, with no crazy scarring or additional wound issues, the doctor reported.

She then was moved from medical patient to a follow-up patient. She went from meeting with her oncologist every month to once every three months, and now, every six months.

"I beat it," Duffey said with pride.

Duffey, Demie and Kim's sister will participate in the annual Susan G. Komen 3 Day, a 60-mile walk to support breast cancer.

"I have to be on a cancer-inhibitor drug for five years and have to have regular mammograms every year now," Duffey said. "Other than that, [it's] just healing and getting my strength back. Life-wise I have had a change of priorities. It made me evaluate what and who is important in my life, how I want to spend my time. Demie and I have some trips planned; I am trying to go and visit my family more, and eliminating things that don't bring positives to my life."

"It's been crazy. You don't really realize it when you are in the middle of it. You just try and keep moving forward and then, when you get to the end of the chapter, you look back and say 'How the hell did I get through that?'"

With support of friends, family and even some relative strangers. It's been a team battle for Duffey—just like her playing days for the Force.

## Gay floor-hockey league takes off

BY ROSS FORMAN

The gay floor-hockey league has really taken off this winter, with 50 percent more players than last year and three more teams. In total, there are about 80 players, with 11 teams in two divisions.

There are five competing in the recreational division and six in the competitive division, and the league has more than 20 women playing this season.

"The league is going really well," said Andrew Sobotka, who, with Tony Tiet, are also members of the Chicago Gay (Ice) Hockey Association. (They also serve as the co-coordinators of the floor league.) "Center on Halsted is the perfect venue; we can run three games at a time and each team gets to play two games a night."

The season runs through April 29, with games played Sunday nights 6-8 p.m.

What has been this season's highlight?

"Well, there haven't been any fights, yet," Sobotka said with a smile. "The only difference [from past seasons] is that we have three games running at a time, which brings a new level of excitement to the atmosphere in the gym."

Sobotka, 26, plays on the gray team; most teams just go by shirt color. The only team name this season is Hustla's.

Players range in age from 21 to 50-plus, Sobotka said. Each team has a roster of about eight players, and games are played four-on-four (three players and one goalie per team).

"I think each season is really different," Sobotka said. "Some teams win one season and lose the next; it all depends on how long they've played together to build chemistry."

Sobotka said the league has a mix of straight and gay players.

"We plan to just keep running [the league] and hoping that, [through] word of mouth and some advertising, it will help to build

what we think is a really great and fun sport," he said. "I think the highlights come when we have some really strong competition building and game play picks up. Plus, there are usually some fun times had at North End, the sponsor of the league, after the games."

Players can join at any point in the season. "Come check it out. It's more fun than you might expect," Sobotka said.



Floor hockey. Photo from Andrew Sobotka

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**Q.** My lover and I are in the process of selling our house. When we bought the house we discovered after the closing that the house had asbestos around the basement heating pipes. We had the pipes wrapped by a heating contractor to prevent any flaking or peeling of the asbestos. What is our legal obligation to inform the buyer of our house of the asbestos?

**A.** Most experts agree that residential asbestos in good condition is usually not a health risk. For one thing asbestos in homes is usually in minimal amounts and is unlikely to become airborne. However, asbestos can impair the resale value of your home as some mortgage lenders are requiring that the asbestos be removed from a home. With older homes the four things that a buyer is concerned about is mold, the roof, the furnace and the presence of asbestos.

The residential asbestos problem is also a bigger issue for sellers because of the Illinois Residential Real Property Disclosure Act. Under the law all home sellers are required to complete a disclosure sheet advising any potential buyers of problems or known defects with the house. Question number 15 on the sheet asks if the seller knows there to be any "unsafe concentrations of or unsafe conditions relating to asbestos" in the home. All home sellers will have to answer this question yes, no or not applicable.

My advice for the couple in the question is to make a complete disclosure of everything known about your house. Such lawsuits can be avoided by using the following safeguards:

\* Sellers should insist that the buyer have the house inspected. If the buyer knows about a defect and there is written evidence such as an inspection report, the chances of a lawsuit decrease.

\* At the time the seller signs a listing agreement with a realtor the seller should provide the realtor with a list of all known defects in the house. The list should be shown to prospective buyers so they will be aware of any known defects. The realtor will present the defects to the prospective buyer in a neutral way and at the same time stress the positive aspects of the house. It's the realtor's job to sell the house and put it in the best light possible.

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Ray is a legal authority on all of his practice areas, which include probate, trusts, guardianship, estate planning, and elder law, including the litigation of those areas. He is a longtime advocate for and member of the LGBT community, and is involved in several charitable groups, community associations, and professional organizations. Ray is a member of Clark Hill PLC, a full-service law firm consisting of a diverse team of attorneys and professionals committed to our clients and our communities.

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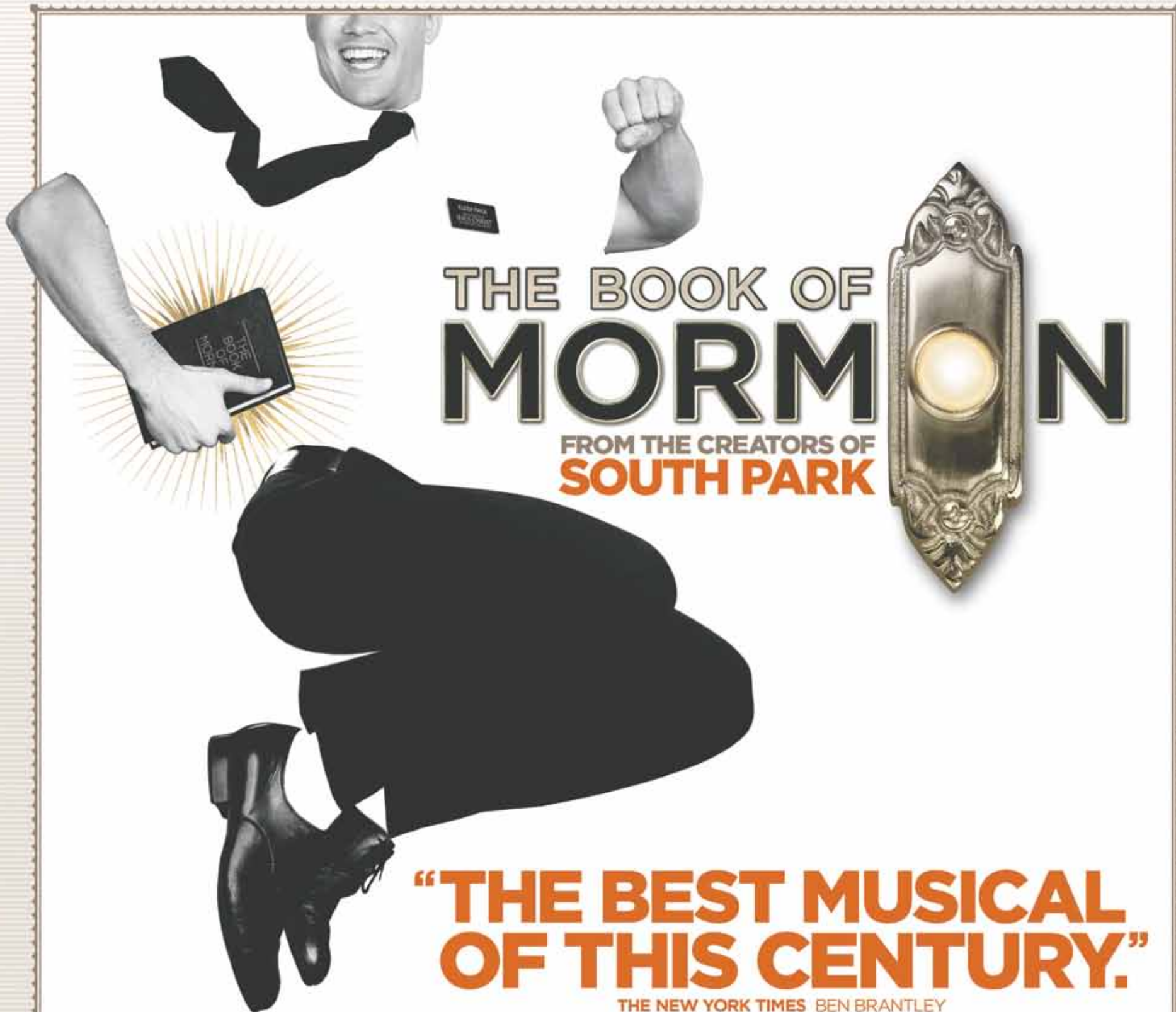
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