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DANCING ABOUT ARCHITECTURE

BY MARC 'MOOSE' MODER



Reading Billboard Gay: 1985

It was thirty years ago this past week, as regular readers know, that we launched Windy City Times. Some things have changed since 1985, but some have remained constant, like the lack of gay role models in pop music and the low level of LGBT references on the charts. Sure, artists have come out in droves, but most remain fringe—or at least mid-level with dedicated followings—and you have, as always, young pop singers professing their bisexuality whether it takes or not. With that, let's take a look back at the charts from September 28, 1985, and see how gay the charts were three decades ago.

"Money For Nothing" by **Dire Straits** was number one, and is such an interesting song, owing to the controversy over the lyrics including the phrase "faggot" three different times. We all know that wouldn't fly today—at least not to number one—and since then, even Canadian radio has banned the song for hate speech. Truth is, the song is sung from the point of view of a blue-collar character, and is meant to point out how ignorant he sounded. Back then, that only played to a small, knowing crowd, while the rest of the record buyers didn't mind the word or its context.

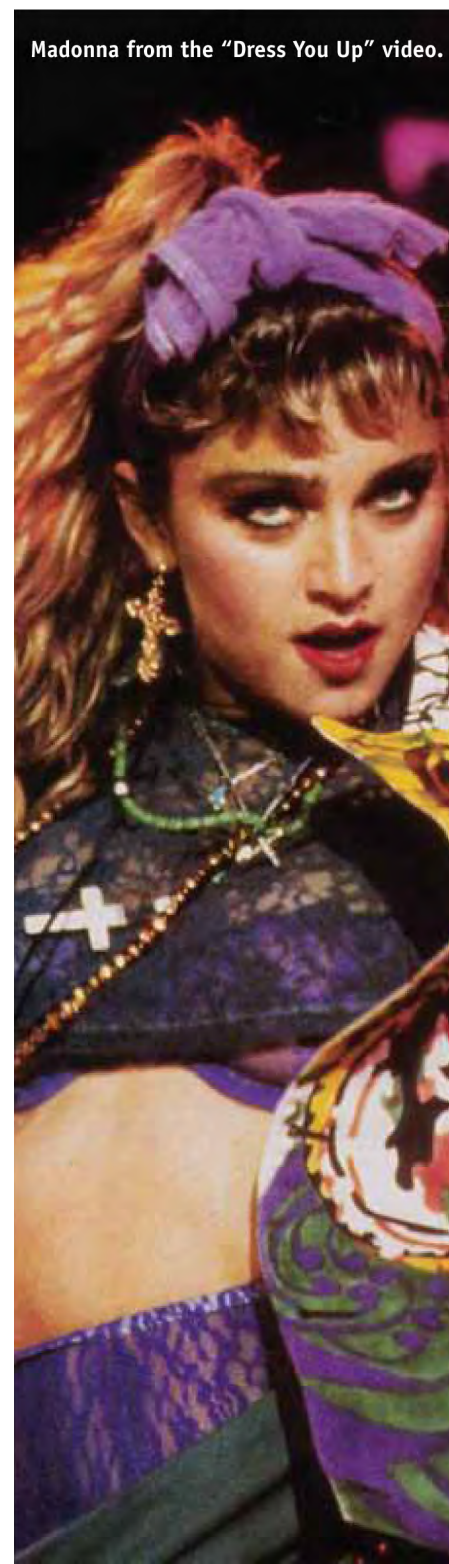


At number three we have **Wham!**, featuring future out icon, George Michael, with "Freedom." Even as a tween, I could spot that George wasn't your heteronormative pop star, but he steadfastly did his due closeted diligence: Dating Brooke Shields; saying he was with the lady in the video of "I Want Your Sex." All the while, we all secretly knew. He kept this up for another decade, believe it or not, until he was outed in a sex sting, but at least he flung those doors wide open and didn't look back after that.

Slot number seven was held by the dreamiest

Nords to ever grace the charts: **a-ha's** "Take On Me" (new album out now). Our beloved **Whitney Houston** was having her second massive hit as a superstar with "Saving All My Love For You," but the star in our eyes was, as she is now, **Madonna**. "Dress You Up" (number six) was Madge's seventh consecutive top-five hit, and the last single off the blockbuster Like a Virgin album. The video was her first live one, memorable only for that unfortunate brocade jacket and her cherubic face. But what stood out for me was this was the first song of hers that I took seriously as a budding gay youth of 15. Before that, she seemed too gimmicky and her songs too fluffy. "Dress You Up" had balls (and ovaries) and was the first single that got me hooked and believing this little girl could really sing, and could make a go of it. So as I'm off to my fourth Madonna show, I won't be checking the set lists. I'm hoping she'll be saving all that love for me, and rocking "Dress You Up" on its 30th birthday.

Madonna from the "Dress You Up" video.



SIDETRACK

More from Windy City Times' 30th anniversary party, Sun., September 27.

Photos by Hal Baim



"I have this feeling that I was a cheetah or a panther in another life and that I was also a Black soul singer: Male. So I do believe that you come back as something else or someone else."—

Jackie Collins shares her personal belief with People five days before her death. Maybe it was the medication talking.

In my zeal to include Emmy gossip in last week's column, I didn't get to write anything about the HBO party. The Pacific Design Center in West Hollywood was transformed into a flame-engulfed fantasy, courtesy of premier party planner Billy Butchkavitz. Since HBO was the biggest winner of the night, the place was buzzing with oodles of folks from *Veep*, *Game of Thrones* and *Olive Kitteridge* brandishing statuettes. Gone are the days when the biggest names at this party were Lorraine Bracco and Aida Turturro. HBO's bash has become de rigueur to anyone who's anyone—not to mention quite a few nobodies! There were some strange pairings around the room: **Adrien Brody** and **Marilyn Manson**, **Laverne Cox** and **John Stamos**, **Mel Brooks** and **Justin Theroux**. I had a brief conversation with designer **Zac Posen** (wearing an ill-fitting suit), who entered on the arm of **Naomi Campbell**. The supermodel seemed annoyed that I ignored her while gabbing with Zac about *Project Runway*. I don't think I was ever in any danger, but I kept an eye on her cellphone ... just in case.

Around the same time, a very butch **Queen Latifah** entered wearing a white pant suit and a green fedora. And that leads me to answering one of your questions. Many wondered why **Bradley Whitford** was wearing a fedora at the awards. That's because his hair has been significantly altered to play the role of Vice President Hubert Humphrey in the HBO adaptation of the Broadway play *All The Way*, about Lyndon Johnson. Others were curious why so many attendees were sporting green ribbons. Those were in support of the Environmental Protection Agency and were embossed with the words "Demand Climate Action." And now, you know.

When a filmmaker tackles a big subject such as the Holocaust or World War II, that person often does so through the eyes of a character the audience will identify with. **Roland Emmerich** has done that with *Stonewall*. Like most people, lead actor **Jeremy Irvine** also cannot act—nope, not even a little. But he is pretty (actually prettier and taller in person) and, these days, that tends to suffice. He kinda strikes me as an aspiring porn actor who got lucky—well, I'm sure **SOMEONE** got lucky. But he was not nearly as pretty as the people who were at this premiere in WeHo. The really pretty ones were part of the lovely **Bryan Singer**'s posse, but let's not go there. Back to the movie: The lead actor isn't even the biggest problem. That honor is saved for the script, written by the usually serviceable Jon Robin Baitz, which is filled with more pitfalls and potholes than any street in Greenwich Village. What the film DOES have going for it is the bravura, highly skilled performance of **Jonny Beauchamp**, who you may know from *Penny Dreadful* (where he has appeared naked, and you can see every inch of him on *BillyMasters.com*).

Last week, Disney announced that it is making a new *Mary Poppins* film. This is not a remake of the classic Julie Andrews flick, nor is it a sequel. The movie will utilize other stories taken from the Poppins books—stories that happen roughly 20 years after we last saw Mary. The new songs



According to Billy, actor **Jeremy Irvine** isn't even the worst thing about the film *Stonewall* ... and that's saying a lot.

Photo by Philippe Bosse

will be written by my pals **Marc Shaiman** and **Scott Wittman**—the talented guys behind the musical version of *Hairspray*. The film will be directed by **Rob Marshall**, who previously directed big-screen adaptations of *Chicago*, *Nine* and *Into the Woods*. I'm told that the Disney brass would like to find some way to include **Julie Andrews** and **Dick Van Dyke** into the new project. Sounds like a winner to me. And this goes to show that, contrary to popular belief, I CAN keep a secret. I knew about these negotiations for months, and did I tell you? No. 'Cause, I've got scruples ... which was a brilliant miniseries starring my beloved **Lindsay Wagner**.

Many of my less scrupulous colleagues pay lots of money for gossip stories—as if I haven't proven that you can get good stories using nature's credit card. This tit-for-tat is actually illegal, as an ex-prison official from London found out. Back in 2010, **George Michael** spent a month in jail after he was caught driving under the influence. One of the officers in that prison, Amanda Watts, was paid more than \$3,000 by the UK tabloid *The Sun* for information used in five different stories. She has pleaded guilty to misconduct in public office and is facing jail time when she is sentenced Oct. 16.

Just before we went to press, little **Danny Pintauro** made some revelations to Oprah Winfrey. First, he had been hooked on crystal meth: "I had just come out of a two-year relationship, and I discovered in that relationship that there was more I wanted to explore sexually. Crystal meth takes away your inhibitions, and if you want to explore that adventurous side, taking the drug is going to put you there." What it also did was lead to his next revelation—he's been HIV-positive for the past 12 years. "I know exactly when it happened," he said. "I was living in New York at the time and completely clueless to the idea that I was positive. I went in for a regular checkup. It was just regular blood work. You go in, and you sort of waited two weeks on pins and needles—or at least I did, because I was just terrified of the idea of getting HIV." He said that the diagnosis was almost a relief: "You spend so much time terrified that you're going to get it, and then you have it. You don't have to be terrified anymore." Let us hope young people everywhere are not following his example.

When Danny Pintauro is newsworthy, it's definitely time to end yet another column. And what a busy week I have ahead of me—one night with **Linda Ronstadt**, another with **Susanna Hoffs** and then *Gay Days* Anaheim. I'm exhausted just thinking about it. But I'm never too tired to update www.BillyMasters.com, the site that is anything but tired. If you have a question for me, send it along to Billy@BillyMasters.com, and I promise to get back to you before Jackie Collins wins a (posthumous) Tony. Until next time, remember, one man's filth is another man's bible.



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the DISH

Weekly Dining Guide in
WINDY CITY TIMES

SAVOR

Chicago Gourmet draws hundreds; new Freshii opens

BY ANDREW DAVIS

Bon Appétit presents Chicago Gourmet took place Sept. 25-27 in Millennium Park, drawing hundreds to take part in various events, see some esteemed chefs—and, of course, sample culinary treats.

One of the highlights of Chicago Gourmet was Grand Cru (with law firm Eimer Stahl LLP presenting), which featured chefs such as The Purple Pig's Jimmy Bannos Jr., Trencherman's Patrick Sheerin and Mott Street/Ruxbin's Edward Kim as well as master sommeliers like The Boarding House/Seven Lions' Alpina Singh, among others.

However, they were far from the only well-known culinary figures present, as Chicago Gourmet, as the Bon Appétit Main and Culinary stages had such people as Rick Bayless, Emeril Lagasse, Gail Gand, Lee Ann Whippen and Tony Priolo. (Local media figures, such as Catherine De Orio of Check, Please!, hosted the various seminars and demonstrations.)

Hamburger Hop started off things in a tasty way Sept. 25 at the Harris Theater rooftop, with more than a dozen chefs participating/competing. Chef Dino Tsaknis of David Burke's Primehouse was named the Buckhead Beef Hamburger Hop Award



Photos from Chicago Gourmet. Above: Barilla's LGBT stand. Top right: Liquid Lab NYC's Gregory Lucas (left) and Parker Boase. Bottom right: Bistronomic's Martial Noguier (left) and Mayor Rahm Emanuel (right). Photos by Andrew Davis

winner for his "Porchetta Burger," while Chef Daniel Grynevich, Kuma's Too earned the People's Choice Award for his "Sourvein" burger (certified Angus prime Buckhead beef topped with cheddar cheese, raspberry maple aioli, bacon, waffle, blackened chicken tender and maple syrup served on a mini-Turano pretzel bun). Both chefs took home a magnum of wine from Josh Cellars and a set of premium chef's knives for the win.

Overall, dozens of restaurants and other businesses took part at Bon Appétit presents Chicago Gourmet, including Hugo's Frog Bar & Fish House Chicago, The Duck Inn, Rosebud restaurants, XOCO, Cooper's Hawk Winery & Restaurant, Ceres' Table, Mercat a la Planxa and 312 Chicago. One particular standout was Barilla, as the pasta company came a long way from its 2013 anti-LGBT controversy with a booth dedicated to Spirit Day (Oct. 15), in which people don purple to take a stand against bullying and to show their support for LGBT youth.



A Freshii start

Fast-casual health-food spot **Freshii** has opened a new spot at 1871, a collective (of digital designers, engineers and entrepreneurs) in the Merchandise Mart—and marked things with a grand opening Sept. 25.

The event featured tech demos; appearances by Freshii CEO Matthew Corrin, 1871 CEO Howard Tullman and Freshii owner Alex Blair (a Windy City Times 30 Under 30 honoree); and—of course—selections from Freshii's menu, including salads and juices.



Photo by Sean Su

nightspots the big TO-DO

OUR WEEKLY PICKS TO PLAN
YOUR NIGHTLIFE CALENDAR



'Sync It lip-sync-off

Wed., Sept. 30

Sidetrack, 3349 N. Halsted St.

Lip-syncing is all the rage! Show your stuff at this third installment of Sidetrack's new monthly contest, hosted by the inimitable Dixie Lynn Cartwright. No drag required to perform. Enter to win great prizes.



LQKS: Teaches of Peaches with Christeene

Thu., Oct. 1, 10 pm

Berlin, 954 W. Bemont Ave.

An evening dedicated to our love of the rock goddess Peaches with a little help from Christeene (pictured). Featuring performances from Queerella Fistolot, Pangea, Claire Van Eijk, Chemise Cagoule and more.

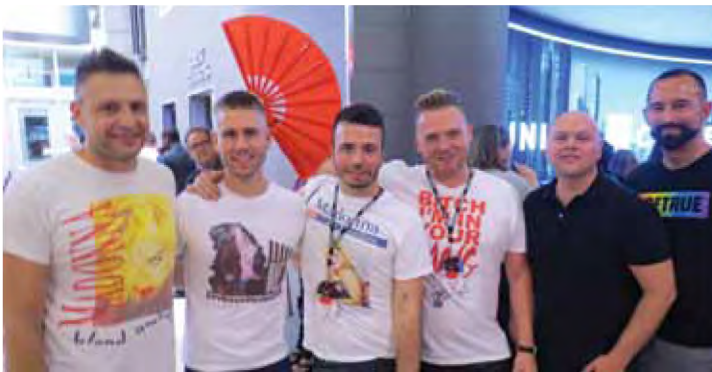


Charlie's Man of the Month contest

Fri., Oct. 2, 10 pm

Charlie's, 3726 N. Broadway

See who will be chosen Mr. October 2015 at this monthly contest. Free line dance and two-step lessons. DJ Michael B spinning your favorite country tunes.



MADONNA @ UNITED CENTER

Friends of Madge, Mon., Sept. 28.

Photos by Jerry Nunn. See concert photos and more online.



MAD DECENT BLOCK PARTY

Photos by Jerry Nunn

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Wed., Sept. 30

Genderqueer Chicago A grassroots group that works to create safe spaces for everyone to talk about, think about, explore and express gender. 7:00pm - 8:15pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted St.

Shop in Lake View to Fight Hunger Lakeview Pantry has launched "Shop to Fight Hunger." For the month of September, a number of local businesses will offer special promotions that will benefit the Pantry. More info at the link. 9:00pm Various locations <http://www.windycitymedia-group.com/lgbt/Shop-to-Fight-Hunger-in-Lakeview-for-Lakeview-Pantry-during-Hunger-Action-Month-/52774.html>

L Lounge A safe place where Lesbians can connect to each other as a community in a friendly, helpful environment. Free. 6:30pm - 9:00pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted

Thursday, Oct. 1

Open Gym Volleyball Every Monday and Thursday for 18 and over. All gender and experience levels welcome. Cost \$7/night or \$30/month. 6:00pm - 9:00pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted Chicago

Are You Prepared for PREP?: A community forum to explore the optimal use of pre-exposure prophylaxis for HIV prevention. RSVP/registration required. 5:15pm Conference Chicago at University Center, 525 S.State St., Chicago Tickets: <https://www.signup4.net/Public/ap.aspx?EID=MED011E&OID=130>

Girl Scouts Girl Scouts serve all girls regardless of race, religion, sexual orientation, national origin, economic status, or disability. Girl Scouts meeting are free, but fees may be required for supplies and uniforms. No one will be turned away if fees are not possible or reasonable for your family and interested scout. 6:15pm

FUNNY GIRL
Saturday, Oct. 3

Margaret Cho will be at the Chicago Theatre, 175 N. State St.

Photo by Todd V. Wolfson

- 8:30pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted St.; CenterOnHalsted.org

American Veterans for Equal Rights (gay veterans) monthly meeting AVER is a non-profit, chapter-based association of active, reserve and veteran servicemembers dedicated to full and equal rights and equitable treatment for all present and former members of the U.S. Armed Forces. 7:00pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted Chicago

Friday, Oct. 2

Midwest LGBTQ Health Symposium 2015 Howard Brown Health Center and Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center present.

Health-care professionals will learn about LGBTQ health-care best practices and challenges, LGBTQ health disparities, advances practices in HIV care, transgender health and hormone replacement therapy, and surgical solutions. Questions to Cecilia Hardacker at CeciliaH@HowardBrown.org or 773-388-1600, ext. 5123. Register online or call 800-323-8622 Monday-Friday 7 a.m.-7 p.m. or Saturday 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Registration at 7 a.m. 7:30am - 4:30pm at the Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center, Olson Auditorium, 836 W. Wellington. Chicago <http://AdvocateHealth.com/seminars>

Man Cave A peer lead group for individuals that were assigned female at birth (AFAB) AND ALSO who identify as either: FTM (female-to-male), trans*masculine, genderqueer/non-conforming and masculine, or who are questioning their gender. Free. 6:30pm - 8:30pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted Chicago

Karen Finley Reflecting on the day when Jesse Helms and fellow conservatives denied her NEA grant, calling her art obscene. New expanded edition out now of Finley's landmark book Shock Treatment. 7:30pm Women & Children First Bookstore 5233 N Clark St Chicago <http://www.womenandchildrenfirst.com>

World premiere of Funnyman George Wendt, Tim Kazurinsky, Amanda Drinkall, Steve Haggard and Rob Lindley. Through Oct. 18, 2015. 8:00pm Northlight Theatre 9501 Skokie Blvd Skokie, IL 60077 Tickets: <http://northlight.org>

The Kinsey Sicks "Chicks with Shticks" Dragtastic a cappella musical. \$35 main floor, \$25 balcony 9:00pm Mayne Stage 1328 W Morse Ave Chicago 866-468.3401 Tickets: <http://www.maynestage.com/>

Saturday, Oct. 3

Depression & Bipolar Support Alliance (LGBTQ) Support meeting to talk about illnesses, symptoms, treatment, doctors, and personal issues such as dating, relationships and work. Every Saturday. 11:00am - 12:30am Center on Halsted 3656 N Hal-

sted St., <http://dbsa-glbtc-chicago.com>

Bisexual Queer Alliance Chicago The goal of Bisexual Queer Alliance Chicago is to erase the invisibility of bisexual people within the LGBTQ community. This group is open to bisexual people and their allies. Free. 12:00pm - 2:00pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted Chicago

CineKink: Chicago Celebrating and exploring a wide diversity of sexuality, the films and videos in this sex-positive and kink-friendly showcase range from documentary to drama, comedy to experimental, mildly spicy to quite explicit - and everything in between. Separate tickets required for each screening: 7 pm - Best of CineKink 2015, 9:10 pm - Marriage 2.0 7:00pm - 11:00pm Leather Archives & Museum 6418 N Greenview Ave Chicago (773)761-9100 <http://cinekink.com/programs-and-events/tour/tour-2015/chicago/>

50 States of Gay Chicago's premiere LGBTQ sketch company GayCo Productions (www.gayco.com) unleashes its most patriotic sketch variety revue in its 19-year history, a completely unique sketch-variety hybrid experience. Through Oct. 31 7:30pm Under the Gun Theater, 956 W Newport Ave., Chicago Tickets: <http://GayCo.com>

Margaret Cho, The psyCHO Tour Three time Grammy and Emmy nominee, comedian. \$29.50 - \$59.50 8:00pm The Chicago Theatre (Chicago) 175 N State St Chicago Tickets: <http://www.thechicagotheatre.com/tickets.html>

Sunday, Oct. 4

The Lighthouse Church of Chicago Multi-ethnic and LGBT-inclusive with Pastor Jamie Frazier, 10:00am Uptown Underground, 4707 N. Broadway St., Chicago <http://www.lighthousechicago.org>

Fashion Focus CHICAGO Fashion Week Runway, market and professional development events. Citywide celebration of Chicago's fashion industry. Through Oct. 12. 12:00pm Locations throughout the city <http://fashionfocuschicago.org>

The Life and Music of Billy Strayhorn Free event. 3:00pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted Chicago

Melissa Ferrick Singer-songwriter Melissa Ferrick tours in support of her 12th album, Independent Music Award-winner The Truth Is. Tickets \$25/30/35. Open to all ages. 8:00pm City Winery Chicago 1200 W Randolph St Chicago 312-733-WINE (9463) Tickets: <http://www.citywinery.com/chicago/>

Monday, Oct. 5

Transworks Peer leaders run a job program for gender non-conforming community members in the John Baran Cyber Center. Walk-ins welcome. Free. 12:00pm - 2:00pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted

Tuesday, Oct. 6

Intersex group meeting Casual conversation for those who identify as Intersex or are interested in learning more about Intersex issues. Group is open to allies, friends, family, and significant others. Free. 6:30pm - 9:00pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted Chicago <http://www.centeronhalsted.org>

Homolatte Bea Cordelia, Jakob Paul. Hosted by Scott Free Free admission 7:45pm Big Chicks 5024 N Sheridan Rd., Chicago <http://www.homolatte.com>

Wed., Oct. 7

Joan Armatrading's "Me Myself I" tour The British singer/songwriter/guitarist/instrumentalist, best known for such worldwide hits as "Love And Affection," "Me Myself I," "Drop The Pilot" and many more, performs for nearly two hours per show sharing the highlights of her extensive career, singing, playing guitar and piano. Doors open 6 pm. 8:00pm City Winery Chicago 1200 W Randolph St Chicago <http://www.joanarmatrading.com> Tickets: <http://www.citywinery.com>

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