



When I was an acting student at the prestigious American Academy of Dramatic Arts (AADA) in NYC, I felt as if I were a target of discrimination. Virtually every one of my classmates except for me had been hired by the TV show Unsolved Mysteries to re-enact various bloody crimes. I started to get a complex—perhaps nobody wanted to see me as a murder victim.

Well, I am in good company. **Christopher Sieber** has often joked that he is the only working actor in NYC that has never appeared on an episode of Law & Order. In fact, his Broadway bio ends with these words: "Mr. Sieber has not appeared on Law & Order." Well, he's gonna have to take that "not" out. Last week, Sieber appeared on an episode of Law & Order: Special Victims Unit. Congrats! Meanwhile, I'm still looking for someone who wants to see me as a stiff. I already know dozens of people who enjoy seeing me stiff ... but that's another story.

One of my AADA classmates was **Troy Garity**—the spawn of **Jane Fonda**. I didn't know him well, but he did date one of my friends. Alas, Troy wasn't with his mom when she was honored at the 46th Anniversary Gala Vanguard Awards for LA's LGBT Center. This swanky soirée was attended by more than 1,200—most of whom paid upward of \$1K. And then there's me—since I was there to write about it, I was shoved into an empty seat. On my right was **Greg Hernandez** from GregInHollywood.com, a site I check out regularly. Every day he writes about things I enjoy reading, but clearly would not fit within the confines of a weekly column.

We kibitzed while **Lily Tomlin** paid tribute to her buddy Jane Fonda, whom she called a "vagina warrior!" This presentation took place shortly after we sat down and while they were serving the salad. Turns out Jane had to be out at 9 p.m. Better people, or a plane to Paris to catch—I heard both stories. Lily stayed 'til the bitter end. Along the way, **Linda Perry** sang and auctioned off an autographed piano for the second year in a row. **Miley Cyrus** helped out by licking the piano until someone bid \$50K. I don't know who I was more concerned for—Miley, who could get a splinter, or the next piano player, who could get syphilis! But she got her bid, and the winner got a prescription for Cipro!

Then Miley talked about the Center. She's visited it. She's met with the youth. She seems to really connect with them because, let's face it, without Hannah Montana, she could have ended up sleeping under an overpass (which is apparently where the well-off homeless live). She appeared completely committed to the cause and moved by the work the Center does. And she vowed to stay involved—even begging to be invited back next year (which, I trust, is not a problem). Once she wrapped up her rambling speech, I grabbed a couple of peach cobbles and left.

A paltry 40K have signed a petition for CNN to fire poor **Don Lemon**. What got this ball rolling was the video of that South Carolina student being dragged across a classroom by a cop. When asked for an opinion, Lemon said, "I think there's context to everything. It does look horrible. It does look like there's no excuse for what he's doing to her, but again, we don't know. It only shows a small slice in time of what happened. I'd like to know more before passing judgment." Would that more people waited to get all the facts before jumping down someone's throat—even Don's!

Another CNN employee made news last week. **Anderson Cooper** walked a red carpet with his beau—and they were holding hands! SHOCKING! Coop ain't often in the company of the dashing **Benjamin Maisani**, so that in itself was notable. And this wasn't just any red carpet. It was the Elton John AIDS Foundation's 14th Annual "An



Chris Zylka is a reason some are tuning in to HBO's The Leftovers.

Photo from Shark Night 3D by Steve Dietl

Enduring Vision" Benefit. Well, if you're gonna hold your boyfriend's hand, that's the place to do it. But they weren't joined at the hip. **Andy Cohen** made sure everyone knew that he's the one Cooper usually hangs with—he all but peed on him (which he may or may not have enjoyed). And they got to spend time with **Gus Kenworthy**. In a photo of the three of them, Andy looks like he's giving Gus the eye—or maybe it was Cohen's wonky eye. Either way, the newly out Olympian didn't seem to mind. In fact, he posted the pic on Instagram with the following caption: "For dinner at the EJAF gala they were serving up some silver-fox sandwich realness. Lol! Pleasure to be seated at a table with these two handsome gents."

You know what it means when someone calls you a gent? You ain't gettin' any ... that's what it means. But Andy-squared shouldn't take it personally. Kenworthy recently revealed that he's taken. He confirmed to People magazine that he's seeing someone. But he was quick to add, "It's still new." Stay tuned.

Our "Ask Billy" question sounded familiar. Cary from Dallas asked, "You never write about **Chris Zylka**. He's so hot on The Leftovers. And he even showed his penis. What more do you need?"

If this sounds familiar, it's because Cary from Dallas previously wrote to me about Chris Zylka almost five years ago to the day! Back then, Zylka was in The Secret Circle, a show I'd never heard of and one that quickly disappeared from TheCW. But I most certainly remembered the Hannah Montana alum from Gregg Araki's Kaboom, where he showed all as the hunky roomie of the delicious Thomas Dekker (who, as it turns out, was also on The Secret Circle). In the HBO series The Leftovers, Zylka not only continues to flaunt his fantastic physique, but also those extra inches. How many inches? A soft four, which could turn into a impressive amount once aroused. In addition to his penis, the 30-year-old is maturing rather nicely, as you'll see on BillyMasters.com.

When I'm picturing being in my own secret circle with Zylka and Dekker, it's definitely time to end yet another column. Since we ran long, I barely have time to remind you to check out www.BillyMasters.com, the site that will never leave you high or dry. If you've got a question for me (even a repeat question), send it along to Billy@BillyMasters.com, and I promise to get back to you before I get cast as a corpse on How To Get Away With Murder. Until next time, remember, one man's filth is another man's bible.

LGBTRIVIA

What presidential first lady said this: "A woman is like a tea bag—you can't tell how strong she is until you put her in hot water"?

Answer on page 22

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 18

ALL THINGS
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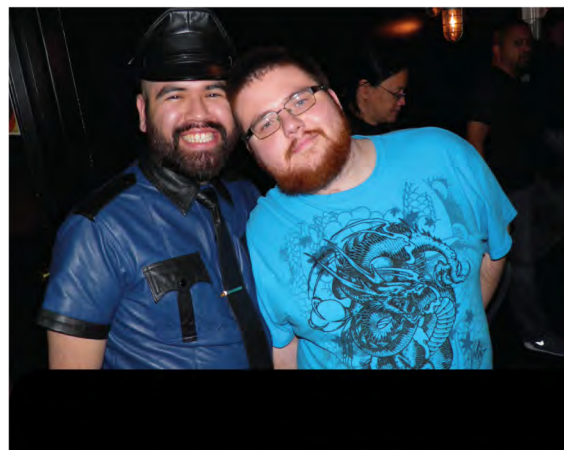
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TOUCHE

38 years and still leathering! Photos from the anniversary party, Tues., Nov. 3.

Photos by Kirk Williamson



BARLESQUE 8: BEDTIME STORIES

The book opens at TPAN's kick-off party for this year's fundraising strip-athon, Thu., Nov. 5, at Uptown Underground.
Photos by Kirk Williamson

the DISH

Weekly Dining Guide in
WINDY CITY TIMES

SAVOR

The Boarding House

BY ANDREW DAVIS

If you want to know the importance of wine at **The Boarding House** (720 N. Wells St.; <http://boardinghousechicago.com/dine/>), all one has to do is look up upon entering the establishment.

Even if one doesn't know that famed sommelier Alpina Singh is one of the forces behind the restaurant, the wine-glass installation (featuring more than 9,000 of the items—and, no, that's not a misprint) right above the main bar on the first floor lets guests know about the relevance of spirits.

However, there's much more to The Boarding House than that installation (and another one consisting of wine bottles that's on the third floor).



Baby octopus at The Boarding House.
Photo by Andrew Davis

The restaurant is an multi-level establishment consisting of bars, dining rooms and spaces for private affairs. I also liked the restaurant's location—enough to ensure it can be busy, but not so overwhelming as something you'd find near Michigan Avenue.

Then, there's the food. I asked our server (who came off as pretty knowledgeable and attentive) if the food was centered around the wine, or vice versa. He replied that the items "are like dance partners," with each taking turns leading the other. It was an elegant response—even if it did momentarily make me think of the show *So You Think You Can Dance*.

Regarding the appetizers, the soft-egg spinach

ravioli (with ricotta, caramelized onions, beech mushrooms and truffle) is a can't-miss item, as is the combination of hen egg and polenta fries (complete with bechamel sauce, pecorino cheese and truffles). I also greatly enjoyed the baby octopus, which is accompanied by squid-ink aioli, chorizo, grilled lemon, confit potatoes and shishito peppers (which can be hit-or-miss in terms of spiciness). By comparison, though, the beets-and-goat cheese salad seemed a little flat; it wasn't bad at all, but it didn't quite match up to the aforementioned standouts.

For my entree, I chose the bone-in Berkshire pork chop—and it seemed that I selected well. The chop was incredibly juicy, and the cheddar croquettes elevated what could have been a standard side mix of red cabbage and roasted apples.

As for dessert, yeah, you should make room for that. Again, my friends and I got three items: the oatmeal-raisin cookie sandwich (with cream cheese-and-bourbon caramel filling), the espresso gelato truffle and Julia's carrot cake. The latter was extra-special as far as I was concerned, as I will praise any dish that can make me appreciate walnuts. However, you can't go wrong with the other two, either.

Singh, Executive Chef Tanya Baker and Pastry Chef Julia Fitting have their own version of "girl power" happening (although I feel compelled to give genial General Manager Matthew Sheridan a shout-out as well).

nightspots

the big TO-DO

OUR WEEKLY PICKS TO PLAN
YOUR NIGHTLIFE CALENDAR



Fabitat: Prince Party

Wed., Nov. 11, 9 pm
Double Door's Door No. 3,
1551 N. Damen Ave.

Dearly beloved, come 2 this special Prince-themed edition of Fabitat, featuring performances from Joan Waters, Curlene Ribbon, The Vixen and Kurri Orizotti. Hosted by Lucy Stooile (pictured), DJ Adam LeBlanc.
Photo by Marisa KM Photography



Barlesque 8 events

Wed., Nov. 11 - Mon., Nov. 16

Various locations

Support your favorite bartender in this annual charity strip-athon:

Wed., Nov. 11—Hydrate's Turn-around Drag Show, Hydrate, 3458 N. Halsted St., 8:30 pm. Performances from staff/contestants from Hydrate, Elixir, Replay, Halsted's, Elixir A-ville and Replay A-ville. Hosted bar 8:30-9:30 with \$10 donation to Barlesque.

Fri., Nov. 13—Strip-athon, mini-bar, 3341 N. Halsted St., 9 pm. A night of skin and sin for contestant Paul.

Fri., Nov. 13—Candy Shop, Crew Bar + Grill, 4804 N. Broadway St., 9-11 pm. Featuring drag, burlesque, shot boys and other performers, with raffle items from Leather 64TEN, Full Kit Gear and more. In support of contestant James.

Sat., Nov. 14—Drink Up For Shea's Strip-down, Replay Andersonville, 5358 N. Clark St., 7 pm. Two drinks for \$10 donation to Shea's barlesque fundraiser.

Sat., Nov. 14 & Mon., Nov. 16—Lex's Tag Night, Sidetrack, 3349 N. Halsted St., 9 pm. Give it up for sexy Lex-y (pictured) at this special fundraiser.

For full list of Barlesque 8 contestants, see www.barlesque.org
Photo of Sidetrack's Barlesque contestant Lex by KJ Heath



JANET @ CHICAGO THEATER

We go deep in Chi-town, Thu., Nov. 5.
Photos by Jerry Nunn

BIG CHICKS

Congrats to Gummibärchen, the new Mr. International Rubber 19!
Photos by Kirk Williamson

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Wed., Nov. 11

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.

AVER Veterans Day Dinner Honoring the service of all military veterans. Professor Mark Wojcik of John Marshall Law School will speak on the work to change the discharge status for those discharged due to sexual orientation. Buffet dinner, open bar, silent auction. Reservations: jamesdarby@aol.com. 6:30pm - Ann Sather - Belmont 909 W Belmont Ave Chicago <https://www.facebook.com/AVERChicagoChapter?fref=ts>

Celebration of Emmanued Garcia's induction to the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame Hors D'Oeuvres and beverages. \$10 6:00pm - 10:00pm National Museum of Mexican Art 1852 W. 19th St. Chicago Tickets: <http://www.eventbrite.com/e/community-celebration-in-honor-of-emmanuel-garcia-on-his-induction-to-the-chicago-gay-and-lesbian-tickets-18835512525>

An Adventure Was Home: Gertrude Stein in Chicago Readings and discussion inspired by Gertrude Stein's November 1934 visit to Chicago. Opens and concludes with a reception. Free. 7:00pm Poetry Foundation, 61 W. Superior St. Chicago www.poetryfoundation.org/programs/event/4819

Thursday, Nov. 12

Chicago House Speaker Series Caitlyn Jenner. Jenner, a former Olympic athlete who was prominently featured on the reality program Keeping Up with the Kardashians, made headlines earlier in 2015 when she began publicly discussing her gender transition. 11:30am - 2:00pm Chicago Hilton and Towers 720 S Michigan Ave Chicago

CAIT EXPECTATIONS
Thursday, Nov. 12

Caitlyn Jenner will headline the Chicago House Speaker Series at the Chicago Hilton and Towers.

PR photo

<http://www.chicagohouse.org/events/the-5th-annual-speaker-series/>

Change Chat: At the intersection of the Movement for Black Lives and LGBTQ Equality Discussing marginalized communities, challenges that bring movements together, how goals and principals intertwine. Hosted by Creating Change 2016 Chicago Host Committee 6:00pm Little Black Pearl Workshop, 1060 E 47th St, Chicago <http://www.creatingchange.org/>

Fashion Group International of Chicago Night of Stars Luminaries from the fashion and design world will take the stage as they accept their FGI Stargazer Awards

6:30pm - 10:30pm The Ritz-Carlton Chicago Hotel 160 E Pearson St Chicago Tickets: <http://chicagonightofstars.eventbrite.com>

Queer Tango A beginner and intermediate Argentine Tango class designed specifically for the LGBTQ communities led by Paola Borden (Second Place winner at the USA Championships for Argentine Tango in 2015). \$15. 7:00pm - 9:00pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted

Friday, Nov. 13

Man Cave A peer-led 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 <http://www.centeronhalsted.org/newevents-details.cfm?ID=9671>

Gay Film Weekend Finalists in Pride Films And Plays' Great Gay Screenplay Contest will be performed as staged readings directed by some of Chicago's leading filmmakers. Tickets are pay-what-you-can, \$10 suggested. Through Nov. 15 7:00pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted Chicago <http://pridefilmsandplays.com/five-great-screenplays-in-gay-film-weekend-2015/>

David Mixner Brings Storytelling Charm to Chicago Stage Civil rights activist, political firebrand, and author with a theatrical oral history covering milestones in 20th-century LGBT history. One night only. VIP \$150, standard \$100, young professionals \$75. Doors 6 pm. 7:00pm Greenhouse Theater Center 2257 N. Lincoln Ave. Chicago Tickets: <https://www.pointfoundation.org/events/david-mixners-show-to-benefit-point-foundation-chicago/>

Saturday, Nov. 14

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 - 12:30pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted Chicago <http://dbsa-glbtc-chicago.com>

Beyond October: Healthy Habits, Healthy Living Participants will be engaged in food demonstrations, health info games and Zumba or line dancing. Sign up for insurance or free mammogram. RSVP by Nov. 6. 2:00pm - 5:00pm Herman Hall Conference Center, Illinois Institute of Technology, 3241 S. Federal Street, Chicago (312) 942-3368 http://www.chicagobreastcancer.org/site/epage/94096_904.htm

Lakeside Pride Symphonic Band Presents: Once Upon a Time Magical evening of music, featuring selections inspired by or composed for fictional or theatrical works. Peter and the Wolf, The Sorcerer's Apprentice, Selections from "Into the Woods," Symphony No. 1 from "The Lord of the Rings" 7:00pm Preston Bradley Center 941 W. Lawrence Ave., <http://www.lakesidepride.org/events/once-upon-a-time>

The Strayhorn Fringe Festival Presented by the Old Town School of Music. 8:00pm Szold Hall, 4545 N. Lincoln Ave., Chicago, IL (773) 728-6000 Tickets: <http://oldtownschool.org>

Sunday, Nov. 15

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) Free. 2:00pm - 4:00pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted Chicago <http://community.pflag.org/Page.aspx?pid=194&srcid=2>

Queer Readers Book Group Men Explain Things to Me by Rebecca Solnit. Welcomes folks of all ages, genders, identities and abilities who love to read queer-centric works. Meets every third Sunday of the month. 2:00pm Women & Children First Bookstore 5233 N Clark St Chicago <http://www.womenandchildrenfirst.com/queerreaders>

Transgender & Jewish: from Tradition to Today Evening of liturgy and learning to commemorate Transgender Day of Remembrance featuring keynote speaker Rabbi Becky Silverstein, Education Director of

Pasadena Jewish Temple & Congregation. RSVP by Wednesday, Nov 11 to tjm@templejm.org 7:00pm - 9:00pm Temple Judea Mizpah, 8610 Niles Center Rd, Skokie <http://www.templejm.org/event/transgender-program-700-pm/>

Monday, Nov. 16

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 St.

Tuesday, Nov. 17

McTucky Fried High screening of Season 1 Comedic, animated web series about an ensemble of teen foods. Suggested donation \$15-20 but no one turned away for lack of funds. Live music by Scott Nadeau and table reads of season 2 episodes, followed by Q&A with McTucky Fried High creator and director, Robert-Carnilius. 7:00pm - 9:00pm Columbia College Chicago, 623 S. Wabash Ave., <http://www.mctuckyfriedhigh.com/Season1>

Wed., Nov. 18

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

Macy Gray Multi-award winning, multi-platinum selling singer, songwriter, actress. With special guest Valise through Thursday, Nov. 19. \$55/60/65. Doors 6 pm. 8:00pm City Winery Chicago 1200 W Randolph St Chicago Tickets: <http://www.citywinery.com>

Uncovered: How I Left Hasidic Life and Finally Came Home Reading and signing of this book by Leah Lax. 7:30pm Women & Children First Bookstore 5233 N Clark St



DANCING ABOUT ARCHITECTURE

BY MARC 'MOOSE' MODER



Some Grace in your face

Much like grand dames Cher, Sade and Adele, **Grace Jones** only does things on her own terms, and when she wants to. She took almost two decades off from recording before releasing 2008's Hurricane (since she had an artistic fall-out with Tricky), has been late to almost every event she's ever been a part of, and, famously said in song, she'd never write her memoirs. But then she did just that (and dished about the other two items mentioned) with her new book, I'll Never Write My Memoirs. In the new hardcover out now, she lays bare her body, her motives, and her proper place in music history. Here are five reasons we think Grace Jones should be hailed as the queen of her musical castle.

Art. Working with luminaries like Andy Warhol, Keith Haring and her former partner Jean Paul Goude, she was one of the first musical artists to interactively work with visual artists in photography, paint and performance art. Her collaborations with Goude highly influenced what is thought to be the modern music video, via her movie, One Woman Show.

Vocals. Her voice wasn't ready for prime time in her early career, and she was then told to sing higher in her disco career. One day Grace caught a blip of a 1978 Anita Baker singing very low with her band, Chapter 8, and realized she would sing

in her naturally low register. Along with Baker and Tina Turner, Grace brought some balls to female vocalism in the middle of the sexual revolution.

Sex. In her book, Grace makes no bones about working her open sexuality into her music and her life. From the start with her very first single, "I Need A Man," Jones was out of the box with what she wanted and how she wanted it. Often in her personal life, she used men like rags, and some women to get those men. She didn't care to explain her sexuality or judge yours. Unlike disco queen Donna Summer, Grace always spoke up and supported her LGBT allies before it was cool or a good marketing campaign. Yes, even before Madonna. Now straight artists often work our community into their plans, but Grace was playing shows at gay bars in the '70s (Yes, Bette, you were, too).

Fashion. Like her male counterpart, David Bowie, Grace wasn't shy at all about being clothed (when she was actually clothed) in the most cutting-edge looks, often co-designing her wardrobe with Issey Miyake. Now, no diva is complete without a fashion counterpart and many of her "children" have outright stolen her looks. Do we need to name names here?

Equality. Not just for her LGBT friends, but for women. Grace fought all her childhood to get away from her abusive step-grandfather, so when she got to America, she wasn't going to let any man tell her what to do, like most women in the industry in the mid-'70s and before. After she felt stifled from her three disco albums with the legendary Tom Moulton, Grace staged a coup from her label by posing naked and lubed for Goude, purposely horrifying a label that wanted her to be the next Vegas lounge queen. The plan worked and she easily slipped away from their grasp, creating an original and independent vision, and paving the way for every single woman and gay man in pop for the next 30 years to be themselves. Take a moment and say "Grace."

GRACE IN UR FACE with DJ Moose + The Vixen kicks off Sat., Nov. 14, 11 p.m. at Jackhammer.

BERLIN

32 years and still shining at the anniversary party, Sun., Nov. 8.
Photos by Kirk Williamson