





"He used to get quite aroused whenever I got on his back."—**Michael Fassbender** talks about his experience horseback riding in *Jane Eyre*. It's probably the only time a horse saw someone better endowed, as you can see on BillyMasters.com.

We've all heard that drinking red wine is good for you. Some studies state that a couple of glasses a day helps burn fat, lowers blood pressure, cholesterol, and even helps your teeth. So I was not particularly surprised when headlines blazed that drinking three glasses of champagne a day could help stave off Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia. We're not talking about champagne that comes from Oregon or Uganda. This is real champagne from Champagne, France. Alas, the story was retracted the next day. The study in question recommends three glasses of champagne a WEEK, not a day. Perhaps dementia set in a bit early for some members of the media.

The champagne was flowing last week at the 2015 Marine Corps Ball in Wilmington, North Carolina. And one couple made quite a splash. As we previously reported, Sgt. Tanner White made a video inviting gay singer **Steve Grand** to accompany him. And Grand accepted. The banner evening was well-documented by the sexy singer on Instagram, including a pre-festivity outing, touring a battleship and dressing for the occasion. In addition to some snaps of the handsome couple all gussied up (including dashing Sgt. White in his dress best), there's a photo that appears to show Grand sitting on White's lap. Hopefully he had a ball and didn't sit on one! Check them out on our website.

For the last few years, **Nick Jonas** has been courting gay fans with performances in gay bars, provocative pictorials and supportive sound clips—to say nothing of actually playing gay in the series *Kingdom* and *Scream Queens*. He even jumped in at the last minute to headline Pittsburgh Pride. I'm not criticizing any of this. In fact, I applaud his efforts. But I think there's a "gay-baiting" aspect to this—a kinda deliberate teasing. There's the insinuation that he not only enjoys the attention of his gay fans, but perhaps harbors some secret desires of his own. Those hints got a bit more explicit last week. At the Radio One Teen Awards, Nick was asked about gay sex. He responded, "Well, I'm gay in Kingdom. If you keep watching the series, you'll see more of that." He was then asked point-blank if he's ever hooked up with guys: "I can't say if I have or haven't, but if you watch the show you'll see more of that." Oy!

These days, the line between mainstream and porn is blurred regularly. But even I was shocked to read about a scandal regarding a gay adult flick and **Sir John Gielgud**! Way back in 1976, the venerable actor wrote a script for **Peter de Rome**, a notable figure in the history of gay porn. How Gielgud knew de Rome is unknown. But, hey, if I can have Sophia Loren on speed dial, anything's possible. The heretofore unknown script, *Trouser Bar*, was unearthed by David McGillivray, who came across it while researching a documentary about de Rome. He says, "John Gielgud was obsessed with trousers, loved corduroy and leather. And so he wrote a film set in a menswear shop." McGillivray has filmed the script but, since he's not a director, he hired one—the notable gay-porn auteur Kristen Bjorn. The flick begins with actors Nigel Havers, Julian Clary and Barry Cryer on a sidewalk watching a gay orgy inside a men's shop. McGillivray calls the 22-minute silent film an "erotic fantasy."

Predictably, the Sir John Gielgud Charitable Trust is not thrilled about this, and has denied permission for the film to be exhibited. Here's the problem: There is not a single mention of this script in Gielgud's letters or diaries. In fact, he doesn't appear to have ever written another



Steve Grand had a ball recently.
Photo by Joem C. Bayawa

screenplay. But by this organization seeking to ban the film, they're confirming that Sir John Gielgud actually wrote it. For the time being, McGillivray's flick remains under wraps, which is fine by him. He's planning a new documentary which he'll trot out to film festivals next year. Inside Leg: The Making of *Trouser Bar* will fully detail the history of the project. Without even trying, the Sir John Gielgud Charitable Trust has given McGillivray and his dirty movie thousands of dollars of free advertising. Banned or not, we have some stills from the short on BillyMasters.com.

The London production of *Les Misérables* just celebrated its 30th anniversary. As is typical of these events, original cast members joined the cast after the curtain calls. While she missed the 25th anniversary, **Patti LuPone** (the original Fantine) was on hand to sing "I Dreamed a Dream." Midway, out came **Rachelle Ann Go** (the current Fantine). Then the original Eponine, **Frances Ruffelle**, started singing "On My Own." Rounding out the quartet was the current Eponine, **Carrie Hope Fletcher**. Although the video has disappeared from the Internet, you can see it on BillyMasters.com.

Our "Ask Billy" question comes from Justin in Wisconsin: "I was surprised to learn that Asher on *How To Get Away With Murder* was a competitive bodybuilder. He doesn't look very in shape on the show."

If you've ever gone to a high school reunion, you will immediately notice that the guys who looked great as kids are now fat (and, often, bald). This is what happens to straight guys when they get older, and this is what happened to 29-year-old **Matt McGorry**, who plays Asher (who's also on *Orange Is the New Black*). In his early 20s, he was a personal trainer and a competitive bodybuilder with roughly 5 percent body fat! He says, "I didn't really enjoy it too much." Personally, I don't think he looks that bad. But he's certainly not as sexy as his co-star. **Charlie Weber** looks good as the bearded Frank but only a few years ago, his look was drastically different. He was clean-shaven, had a lean, ripped body, and looked ready for gay porn. You can check out both boys' past on BillyMasters.com.

When we're firing up the time machine, we've definitely come to the end of yet another column. It should go without saying that all of your gossip needs can be fulfilled by checking out www.BillyMasters.com, the site where you'll have a ball ... or two. If you have a question, send it along to Billy@BillyMasters.com, and I promise to get back to you before Nick Jonas shows us what's inside his trousers. So, until next time, remember, one man's filth is another man's bible.

LGBTRIVIA

An American Family was a 1973 PBS documentary series that was a precursor to reality TV. It featured the Loud family, including their son, who came out as gay on TV. What was his first name?

Answer on page 22

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THE SOFO TAP

Doin' the DILF, Sat., Nov. 7.
Photos by Kyle Henderson



CREW



HYDRATE

Sweet moments from James' Candy Shop for Barlesque, Fri., Nov. 13.
Photos by Kirk Williamson

LKH turns around for Barlesque, Wed., Nov. 11.
Photos by Kirk Williamson

the DISH

Weekly Dining Guide in
WINDY CITY TIMES

SAVOR Cocoa + Co.

BY ANDREW DAVIS

How sweet it is.
For those of you who adore chocolate (and I'm pretty sure that's most of you), **Cocoa + Co.** (1651 N. Wells St.; <http://cocoaandco.com>), is an adventure in pleasure.
You'll find pastries, bonbons, a wall of bars from chocolatiers around the world and even drinking chocolates at this establishment, which has only been around for about six months but has its share of regulars. (Cocoa + Co. also offers soups, packaged goods and even high tea, with reservations required for the latter.)
As one might gather, the owner must be someone with a longtime love stepped in the sweet stuff—and, indeed, Kim Hack is such a person. Cocoa +



Co. is a labor of love for Hack, who admitted that it took more than a decade (and a "sheer force of will") to make the idea real. "I'm married to a risk-averse lawyer," she said with a laugh. "But after 14 years, I wore him down—and he's become my biggest supporter."
After considering various neighborhoods (including Andersonville and the Gold Coast), Hack settled in on this spot because of a variety of factors. "I used to live [nearby], so I knew this area," she said. "Also, there's a variety of exciting businesses that have opened up here. It's very light-filled, and the landlord and neighborhood are supportive of independent businesses."
Indeed, a walk through Cocoa + Co. is quite a sensory experience—but it's also quite an education. Hack is likely to be present when you're there, and she's more than happy to walk you through everything from the flavors combinations to the provenances of the items there. She maneuvered me through a few drinking chocolates (including the seductively named Mocha Ecstasy), each more delicious than the last. "Drinking chocolates tend to be not as sweet as cocoa, and they're a little thicker and richer."
The wall of chocolate bars "has some items you'll find in other places—but most you won't," Hack said. She provided back stories on some of the chocolatiers behind the items, including one out of

Cocoa + Co.
Photos by Andrew Davis



Amsterdam who "is an ex-UN conservationist [who] decided to try to protect the rainforests, which is where the cacao trees grow."
"I'm a total chocoholic," said Hack, who said she'd like to expand the business someday but is stopping short of Starbucks-type domination. "Some days, I want a bonbon, other days I want a pastry and other days I want a drinking chocolate—but I didn't really find a place that combined all those things." Now, thanks to her efforts, we can drink (or eat) it all in—with a smile.

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OUR WEEKLY PICKS TO PLAN
YOUR NIGHTLIFE CALENDAR

All Things Beyonce

Wed., Nov. 18, 9 pm
Sidetrack, 3349 N. Halsted St.
Bow down to Queen Bey with videos, concert footage, drag performances from DiDa Ritz and Saya Naomi, and the Beyonce dance-off hosted by Dixie Lynn Cartwright.



Barlesque 8 events

Wed., Nov. 18 - Sun., Nov. 22

Various locations

Support your favorite bartender in this annual charity strip-athon:
Wed., Nov. 18—Jeri's Poison, Replay, 3439 N. Halsted St., 7 pm. Get a shot of contestant Jeri (pictured). All proceeds from the sales of Jeri's shot choice will benefit Barlesque.
Thu., Nov. 19—Bachelors For Barlesque, Charlie's, 3726 N. Broadway St., 10 pm. Contestant Khloe is raffling off some hot bachelors. Each raffle winner receives a date and a bottle Tijuana Sweet Tea Tequila.
Thu., Nov. 19—Bears, Beers and Barlesque Bedtime Stories, Big Chicks, 5024 N. Sheridan Rd., 9 pm. Bear Den and contestant Derrick take it off for a good cause. DJ HerrBear, \$4 Absolut cocktails, \$3 Miller Lite pints.
Fri., Nov. 20—Naughty Little Cabaret, She-Nannigan's House of Beer, 16 W. Division St., 8 pm. Getting naughty with NLC contestant Devon Aire.
Sat., Nov. 21—'nightOTTER, The Sofa Tap, 4923 N. Clark St., 9 pm. A snugly night of union suits, PJs and other nightwear. Contestant James will be selling raffle tickets and shots, prizes include a \$25 certificate from Leather 64TEN, a free haircut at The Public Barber and much more.
Sun., Nov. 22—Barlesque 8 Closing Party, Progress Bar, 3359 N. Halsted St., 7 pm. The final blowout for Barlesque 8. Join all the contestants as they raise the last dollars. Contest goes until midnight and the winner is announced.
For full list of Barlesque 8 contestants, see www.barlesque.org
Photo of Replay's Barlesque contestant Jeri by KJ Heath