







"I could listen to you and Don Lemon talk sports all night long."—**Kathy Griffin's** quip last New Year's Eve when Anderson Cooper and Lemon discussing football. Well, Don was discussing football. Coop was talking about his favorite halftime shows.

In recapping the top stories of 2015, I'm going to be somewhat selfish and start with me. This year, we celebrated the 20th anniversary of this weekly column—a column that I thought would only last a few months. I fully expected to be the Neil Patrick Harris of print media. That reminds me: Never say this is the "Best Column Ever!"

One of my favorite stories involved pal **Leslie Jordan**. He was at a Starbucks in the heart of West Hollywood and stood up to three thug-ish types who loudly complained about all the "fucking faggots." Jordan yelled, "Shut the fuck up! Not in my house, not in my neighborhood!" The guys left, but Leslie made sure they didn't go far—at least not until the police arrived to take them in.

The dashing **Thomas Roberts** hosted NBC's Nightly News, making him the first openly gay person to anchor the evening news on a major network—Mrs. Muir doesn't count, for obvious reasons.

Speaking of hot newsmen, **Gio Benitez** had been squiring top fitness model **Tommy DiDario** for months, and they chronicled their romance online. Still we were all shocked when the ABC reporter got down on his knees in front of Tommy. If they weren't at the Eiffel Tower, I'd have anticipated something more sexual. But leave it to a gay man to execute a perfectly planned proposal in a romantic setting—and to the other gay man to get the vapors!

**Lea DeLaria** proposed to **Chelsea Fairless**, and they plan to wed later in 2016—with **Sandra Bernhard** officiating. Gay-porn star **Harry Louis** got engaged on live television in Spain to **Allyson Chinalia**, a guy often referred to as his lookalike. And while we don't know exactly who went down on his knees (but one of 'em has oodles more experience), **Dustin Lance Black** and **Tom Daley** announced their engagement in The Times of London.

At the beginning of 2015, The View was hosted by **Whoopi**, **Rosie Perez**, **Rosie O'Donnell** and **Nicolle Wallace**. Now we have Whoopi, **Michelle Collins**, **Raven-Symone**, **Candace Cameron Bure**, **Paula Faris** and **Joy Behar**. The only real constant is **Mario Cantone**. No matter what drama unfolds, we can always count on Mario!

After campaigning to replace Joan Rivers on Fashion Police, **Kathy Griffin** crashed and burned. It was a bad match from the start and, when the going got tough, Griffin got going. Then **Melissa Rivers** joined the panel. Now she's bringing in someone Joan would approve of—**Margaret Cho**. The show returns with a Golden Globes recap.

The show of the year was Empire—a dishy, catty, well-written nighttime soap. **Taraji P. Henson** is chewing up scenery like she hasn't eaten in weeks! Someone who isn't going hungry is **Mo'Nique**, who claims **Lee Daniels** offered her the role first. The show also brought us an openly gay character played by an openly gay actor. And we have his full-frontal nude photo. **Jussie Smollett** and his ponderous penis made many of my readers' dreams come true. Someone who saw the photo confirmed that it is indeed legit, saying cryptically, "I couldn't sit down for a week." If you're wondering what that means, check it out on BillyMasters.com.

HBO cancelled **Looking**, although it's returning for a wrap-up movie. **Suze Orman** signed off after 13 years on CNBC. And **Chad Allen** an-



**Thomas Roberts** (left, with husband **Patrick Abner**) made history this year.

Facebook photo

nounced that he's retired from show business. He's getting a doctorate in clinical psychology and planning a private practice. Someday you could say, "My therapist is the kid from Dr. Quinn!"

Say what you will about the Kardashians, but **Caitlyn Jenner** has brought the transgender issue to the forefront of the American psyche. But she didn't do it alone. **Laverne Cox** laid most of the groundwork with the success of Orange Is the New Black and an Emmy nod—and she has the good sense to not be a Republican!

We heard memorable coming-out stories from **Joel Grey** and **Holland Taylor**. Since their average age is 78, we're glad to have **Reid Ewing** from Modern Family to bring down the average. And seeing him nude being mounted by a dog was a bonus. (Check out BillyMasters.com.)

That reminds me: **Andy Cohen** admitted that the most famous person he slept with was **Lance Bass**! Details may not have been forthcoming, but Lance said, "Sex is a broad term ... like 'Andy banged Lance'—when did he ever say that? This is an old story."

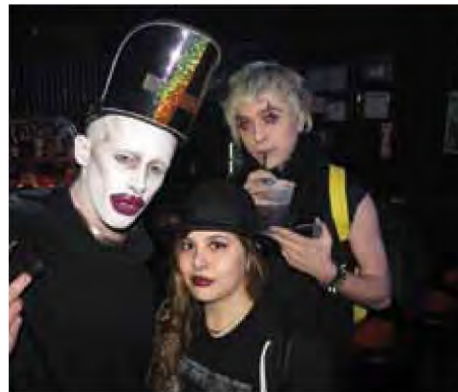
**Nick Jonas** continued courting the gays with hot shirtless photos and appearances in gay clubs. But he really showed his stripes when **Iggy Azalea** had to cancel performing at Pittsburgh Pride. It was Jonas to the rescue. "When I heard about the difficult position Pittsburgh Pride was in just days before their event, I knew I had to find a way to help. I'm excited to do what I can to support the LGBT community in Pittsburgh," he said.

That brings us to celebrity nudes. The most popular one came courtesy of the LA revival of Bent. Yes, the show featured **Jake Shears** acting and singing in drag, but it was stolen by **Tom Berklund's** perfect body, gravity-defying ass and enormous (semi-erect) penis. Every bit of Jake and Tom's "work" can be seen on BillyMasters.com.

**Lenny Kravitz** and his penis burst onto a Stockholm stage. If I didn't see it for myself, I wouldn't have believed it. And what about 20-year-old soccer player **Aaron Moody** from the UK? He posted photos under the name "bigwhitecock20"—talk about truth in advertising! Besides a big white cock from Britain, we got a kinda average-sized white cock from Canada, courtesy of **Justin Bieber**. See all of these nudes on BillyMasters.com.

The year's biggest gay-porn scandal was about porn star **Brodie Sinclair**, aka **Leif Derek Truitt**, who was allegedly hired to fly to Chicago and have an overnight "date" with Conde Nast CFO **David Geithner**, the brother of former Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner. Once Brodie/Leif figured out that Geithner had connections, he asked for help with a legal dispute. Geithner cancelled the date, but paid Brodie/Leif in full. Nonetheless, Brodie/Leif leaked details to the press. Geithner denied it, proof was produced, and lawsuits were filed.

When I'm delivering gossip for a landmark 20 years, it's definitely time to end yet another year of columns. You can find an expanded version of this column (and much more) on www.BillyMasters.com, the site that's always celebrating something. If you have a question, send it along to Billy@BillyMasters.com, and I promise to get back to you before Ryan Seacrest's balls drop, if they haven't already. So, until next year, remember: One man's filth is another man's bible.



**SMART BAR**

Yaas, Queen, Sun., Dec. 27.  
Photos by Jerry Nunn



# the DISH

Weekly Dining Guide in  
WINDY CITY TIMES

## SAVOR Highlights of 2015

BY ANDREW DAVIS

One of the perks of my job at Windy City Times involves bringing readers information and thoughts regarding just a few of Chicagoland's thousands of restaurants—which includes everything from behind-the-scenes interviews with chefs to, of course, critiques of dishes.

Below are just a few of the highlights of Savor 2015:

—**Senza:** One of the greatest local culinary tragedies this year involved the January closing of Senza, a Michelin-starred Lake View restaurant. There was a single gluten-free menu of nine to 12 courses—and every item was beyond delicious. (In addition to that, the server actually brought me a pint of Ben & Jerry's and a can of Yoo-Hoo when I jokingly suggested I wasn't full.) Fortunately, husband-and-wife duo Noah and Cara Sandoval are slated to open Oriole in the Loop early next year.

—**Melanie Diamond-Manlusoc:** Diamond-Man-



Above left: Magnolia Cupcakes. Above right: Spiaggia pastry chef Melanie Diamond-Manlusoc. Below left: Poached loup de mer at Senza. Below right: Junk food platter at Chuck's: A Kerry Simon Kitchen. Photo of Senza by Andrew Davis



lusoc the pastry chef at the much-revered restaurant Spiaggia—and she happens to be an out lesbian. What's more is that the gelato specialist had a fascinating and fulfilling life—and that she schooled me on a concept I didn't think was possible: pairing desserts with beer.

—**Magnolia Bakery:** Chicago has scores of bakeries, but this one (part of a global chain) can satisfy any sweet tooth. Although I still wish there were sandwiches, soups and the like, there's no complaint about the cookies, mini-cheesecakes, scores of cupcakes and other sweet items available.

—**Taus Authentic Food & Drink:** Chef Michael Taus went from closing Zealous to opening this Division Street restaurant with cuisine that he described to me as “modern French with global influences.” I still dream about the seared foie (in a mini-brioche sandwich with apple-smoked bacon and Japanese pickles).

—**Piccolo Sogno Due:** Chef/Partner Tony Priolo made magic happen again (following Piccolo Sogno) with this River North spot. With its coastal Italian cuisine, I actually like this place more than its predecessor.

—**Chuck's: A Kerry Simon Kitchen:**



Located in the Hard Rock Hotel, this spot features some pretty innovative and delicious items, including the Classic Chicago Hot Dog Flatbread, which tastes exactly like the best hot dog you've ever had. The only pall over this is Simon's unfortunate passing earlier this year.

—**Firefly Kitchen:** Really good restaurants are certainly not confined within city limits. Wilmette's Firefly Kitchen really impressed me, thanks to Chef Dean Salerno's smoked-pork mac 'n' cheese and Maine lobster spring rolls.

### Table fifty-two closing

On Thursday, Dec. 31, Table fifty-two will serve its final dinner service at 52 W. Elm St.

For nearly a decade, Table fifty-two has served both A-list celebrities and Chicago natives alike, providing elevated Southern cuisine and hospitality at the hands of Chef Art Smith, who once cooked for Oprah Winfrey.

“I feel that I've reached my peak at Table fifty-two. Everything I set out to accomplish there has been accomplished,” Smith said in a statement. “Moving forward, I'm excited for a new culinary challenge.”

Next year, Smith and Ideology Entertainment plan to reopen the space as Blue Door Kitchen & Garden.

Visit [www.tablefifty-two.com](http://www.tablefifty-two.com).

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## DANCING ABOUT ARCHITECTURE

BY MARC 'MOOSE' MODER



## The 2015 Moosey Awards

Lost somewhere in all those pesky Grammy Award press releases was my shortlist for the annual Moosey Awards. I guess I should take John Tesh off my press list. If you're just tuning in, The Moosey Awards are not quite as prestigious and The Grammys or The Mercury Prize, snarkier than The Village Voice pics, and a bit higher-end and more viewed than the AMAs. If you missed the short list, it's fine. I was probably drunk when I wrote it ... much like the Golden Globes. Without further ado, the Moosey Awards 2015 go to ...

**The Most Unexpected Hit – “Hotline Bling” by Drake.** Released quietly, sans video or accompanying album, “Hotline Bling” hit the web in July and, without any fanfare, earwormed its way into our hearts and minds. Followed by an equally infectious

video that borrows from Beyoncé's “Single Ladies” in its simplicity and perfection, “Hotline Bling” even spawned a great response album (Erykah Badu's “But You Can't Use My Phone”).

**Best Use of Opportunity to Make a Comeback:** See Badu above.



**Best Use of Gay Community For a Hit: Nick Jonas.** From his multiple appearances at gay bars to having two gay/gayish characters on TV at once, no one this year was as gay as Nick Jonas. Only thing is, he's not gay. Really. Kudos for him taking a page from Gaga, Madonna and Cher and knowing

what a powerful pop culture rocketship we are. You know, Nick, a nude pictorial or sex tape might be a good next step.

**Biggest Comeback Without An Album: Lady Gaga.** Somehow with only one single all year, a sexy Tom Ford disco ad and a role in American Horror Story, the down diva worked her way into becoming Billboard's Woman of the Year and getting a Golden Globe nomination. After the disappointing show of ArtPop, America was happy to take her down a notch, only to build her back up this year. Gotta love America.

**The “Opposite Of Last Award” Award: Rihanna.** Ri Ri? Where are you? These bitches have your money, and we'd love to give it to you, but you insist on constantly reworking and delaying your Anti or R8 album after each new single bombs. Last time we heard she was demo-ing another batch of new songs. At this point, let's just quietly put it out and move on. Even Dr. Dre and Axl Rose are making fun of you at this point.

**Every Other Award: Adele.** She took a few years off, made us salivate and it was worth it. The fact that it was just a good album was beside the point when she outsold an entire year of Taylor Swift's 1989 in just a few days, breaking all other records for first-week sales in history. This in a time when album sales are at an all-time low. Now if only she could figure out where all those pesky concert tickets ended up for her sold-out tour, we'd all have a great 2016.

## nightspots the big TO-DO

OUR WEEKLY PICKS TO PLAN  
YOUR NIGHTLIFE CALENDAR

## NEW YEAR'S EVE Thu., Dec. 31

### The Sofo Tap, 4953 N. Clark St.

No overpriced drink packages and never a cover. Just a fun night with party favors and a champagne toast at midnight.

### Sidetrack, 3349 N. Halsted St.

Doors open at 7. Champagne toast at midnight with Sidetrack's New Year's Babies. Fun surprises throughout the night. \$25 advance sale tickets to benefit Equality IL.

### Club Krave, 13126 S. Western Ave.

Fireworks, outdoor ball drop, champagne toast at midnight. Win tickets to see Janet Jackson. Tickets are \$10 in advance or \$15 at the door.

### Hamburger Mary's/Mary's Attic, 5400 N. Clark St.

Two floors of fun with midnight toast, balloon drop and a DJ in the Attic. No cover; just come as you are and dance in the new year.

### Manhole, 3208 N. Halsted St.

Doors open at 8; no cover until after 10. DJ Neon the Glowgobear.

### Touche, 6412 N. Clark St.

38th annual Black and Blue Ball. Free buffet at 9. DJ Freddie Bain. Special appearances by adult film stars Aleks Buldocek and Lorenzo Flexx. Champagne toast at midnight, then begins the blackout. Tickets available at the bar.

### Berlin, 954 W. Belmont Ave.

Doors open at 9. DJs Greg Haus and Larissa. Performances by Fox E. Kim, Alexis Bevels and more. \$5 cover before 10. Champagne specials at midnight.

### Bobby Love's, 3729 N. Halsted Ave.

It's a karaoke New Year's with Creaoke. Every singer/every song gets a shot. Countdown of top 20 songs of 2015. Champagne toast at midnight.

## NEW YEAR'S DAY Fri., Jan. 1

### Sidetrack, 3349 N. Halsted St.

One One Onesie party. Doors open at 3. TGIFriday showtunes 5-9 pm. Party goes until 2 am. Wear your onesie of PJs with Team Sidetrack.

### Scot's, 13126 S. Western Ave.

Let's see what you wear to bed! Doors open at 11 am. Wear your PJs and have a drink. Omelet bar brunch opens at noon.



## MONROE from page 14

Young Adult Medicine at Children's Hospital. "Teens with a sexual minority orientation are more likely than heterosexual teens to be unaccompanied and homeless rather than part of a homeless family. ... These teens face enormous risks and all types of obstacles to succeeding in school and are in need of a great deal of assistance."

In Luke 2:6-7, it states, "While they were there the time came for [Mary] to have her baby, and she gave birth to a son—her firstborn. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn."

Our birth, as LGBTQ individuals and as a movement, mirrors that of Jesus. It comes at a time where there is still neither room nor tolerance for us—even in 2015, with U.S. Supreme ruling in favor of marriage equality—in some homes and families.

Unfortunately, many of our homeless LGBTQ youth and young adult across this country this holiday season will not have a queer-friendly shelter to go to. And too many will spend the time alone even where homeless LGBTQ shelters across the country will be open because they gravely miss their families and communities.

During this holiday season, let us enjoy the time. Let us make home, if not with biological family, then certainly with beloved friends. But let us also not forget the continued struggle of the LGBTQ homeless youth and young adults searching for home for the holidays.

## 'Fabulous' panel event Jan. 22

As part of its annual "Out at CHM" program, the Chicago History Museum, 1601 N. Clark St., will host "Are We Still Fabulous?" on Friday, Jan. 22, 2016, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

A reception with refreshments and appetizers will start at 5:30 p.m., with the program commencing at 6:30 p.m.

A panel will weigh, among other things, how LGBTQ individuals identify themselves, now that marriage equality is the law of the land. Jennifer Brier, director of gender and women's studies at the University of Illinois at Chicago, will moderate a panel that will include performance artist/academic/activist Ricardo Gamboa; activist/writer Yasmin Nair, Ph.D.; Francesca Royster, PhD, professor and chair of English at DePaul University; and Joseph Varisco, founder and creative director of JRV MAJESTY Productions.

The cost is \$15-\$20 per person; visit [chicagohistory.org](http://chicagohistory.org).

## Davis on 'Say Yes to the Dress' Jan. 15

Local transgender figure Precious Davis will appear on the TLC show Say Yes to the Dress on Friday, Jan. 15, according to TransGriot.

The episode (which will air a few days before the Creating Change conference that Davis will help kick off in Chicago on Jan. 20) chronicles her effort to find the perfect wedding dress for her upcoming nuptials with Myles Brady.

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