



/nightspots



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# nightspots

weekly nightlife section in

WINDY  
CITY  
TIMES



# the DISH

Weekly Dining Guide in  
WINDY CITY TIMES

## SAVOR

### Jake Melnick's Corner Tap

BY ANDREW DAVIS

I wasn't quite sure what to expect at **Jake Melnick's Corner Tap** (41 E. Superior St.; [JakeMelnicks.com](http://JakeMelnicks.com)).

Judging from what I had heard and read about the establishment—which has been around since 2002, replacing Blackhawk Lodge—I wasn't certain whether it was a midscale restaurant or the quintessential dive bar. However, what I discovered was a warm, friendly place that has solid fare for everyone.

To be sure, the atmosphere is very casual (so people can leave their suits and dresses at home). Signs dot Jake Melnick's and there are more than 20 television screens—making sure that people won't miss their favorite sports events.

There's a wide variety of satisfying foods. Starters range from tasty grilled artichokes to BBQ pork nachos (with our brisket version being quite addictive); signature sandwiches incorporate everything from chicken breasts to cod filets; several soups



**Brisket nachos (left) and Get Toasted cocktail at Jake Melnick's Corner Tap.**

Photos by Andrew Davis

and salads are offered; and there are even what are called "baskets of fries" that come in varieties such as buffalo, sweet potato and even breakfast—which comes with, among other things, bacon and two fried eggs. (Vegans and cardiologists might want to steer clear of this place.)

By the way, we liked our sandwich selections: I had a Jake's cheeseburger (a solid performer) while my friend found his buffalo chicken item delectable. There's also an eight-pound cheeseburger, incidentally; no one leaves this place hungry.

Then there are the jumbo wings, which have acquired a legend (and following) of their own. There are the popular Poncho's wings (which my dining companion and I thoroughly enjoyed), which come in varieties such as grilled, garlic and cayenne. And there are the intriguing-sounding PB&J wings—Thai peanut (like a satay) with raspberry chipotle jelly. However, the XXX wings have a lore all their own—and they have tastes such as

habanero, ghost pepper and scorpion (among the hottest spices in the world). If you want to test yourself, this is the place to be.

And then there is the drink selection. Jake Melnick's has dozens of items on tap, including a few cocktails. We tried a couple that turned out to be quite delicious: Get Toasted (house-infused vanilla vodka, Vander Mill Totally Roasted Cider and a splash of cranberry) and Unfashionable (an "Old Fashioned" on draft made with High West Double Rye Whiskey and housemade simple syrup, with bittercube orange bitters and a lemon twist).

THEN, if you somehow have room for more, this restaurant offers dessert options. The little bit I had of the hot-fudge sundae was very nice (as my friend found it even more delicious), but there are also items such as warm apple-pie skillet and loaded dessert fries.

Jake Melnick's is a fun, satisfying place to be—just be sure to work out before you go.

## nightspots the big TO-DO

OUR WEEKLY PICKS TO PLAN YOUR NIGHTLIFE CALENDAR



### All Things RIHANNA

**Wed., Jan. 27, 9 pm**  
**Sidetrack, 3349 N. Halsted St.**  
Dance to a night of your favorite RiRi hits and enter SYNC IT!, the monthly lip-sync contest. No drag required, just get on stage and give a show to win fun prizes. Hosted by Rihanna doppelgänger Dixie Lynn Cartwright.



### 11th Annual Chili Cookoff to benefit Care For Real

**Sat., Jan. 30, Noon-3 pm**  
**Crew Bar + Grill, 4804 N. Broadway St.**  
For \$12, you can try eight chilis and vote for the best chili and best presentation. Supporting Edgewater food pantry Care For Real. Hosted by Wayne Johnson.  
Photo of '15 contest by Kirk Williamson



### Buck Angel Meet-and-Greet

**Sat., Jan. 30, 8:30 pm**  
**Leather 64TEN, 6410 N. Clark St.**  
Meet iconic transman and filmmaker Buck Angel. DVD and posters available for signing. 10% off your entire purchase during the event.  
Facebook photo



### Mr. Chicago Leather 2016

Congrats to the new MCL '16 Todd Harris (top photo, third from right, pictured with former MCLs), Sat., January 23, at Leather Archives.

Photos by Verdell Shannon



### TOUCHE

MCL 2015 Luis Tipantasig gets nice and roasted at the MCL 2016 meet-and-greet, Fri., January 22.

Photos by Verdell Shannon



"First of all, Lily should have won. And I would love to go down on you." —Amy Schumer's perhaps drunken acceptance speech for Best Actress in a Comedy at the Critics' Choice Awards. Given the recent rumors about Amy, perhaps she stole this joke from Jane Wagner.

With discussions that diversity is missing from the current crop of Oscar nominees is widespread, a call for a boycott came from **Jada Pinkett Smith**. It's somewhat ironic that the call for recognition of the great work actors of color are doing came from someone who spent most of the past year promoting *Magic Mike XXL!* Doesn't that really get to the heart of the issue? It's an age-old battle of doing films that are "important" and receive critical acclaim vs. doing films that are going to make oodles of money. Do you think **Kevin Hart** is sad that he's not getting Oscar nominations? His latest work, *Ride Along 2*, just bumped *Star Wars* out of the number-one spot at the box office. Given the choice of accolades or cash, Hart went for the cash—he can buy his own damn statue.

When I openly wondered why **Julianne Moore** appeared in those god-awful *Hunger Games* movies, I was reminded that she has to do some blockbusters so that she can do good movies for zero dollars. It's all about the hard choices. On the flip side, **Charlotte Rampling** says that calls for a boycott are not only rubbish, but actually "racist to white people," adding, "One can never really know, but perhaps the Black actors did not deserve to make the final list." It's a good question, but one I ain't gonna bring up at the NAACP Image Awards!

Now I get to do something I always regret—mention **Alexis Arquette**. When the gender-neutral sibling of the award-winning Arlettes heard about Jada's call for an Oscar boycott, s/he took to Facebook: "When Jada comes out as gay and her beard husband admits his first marriage ended when she walked in on him butt-servicing his sugar daddy, Benny Medina ... then I will listen to them." Hey, I'm just the messenger.

Then there's **Tyrese Gibson**, who said that **Chris Rock** should protest the lack of diversity by refusing to host the Oscars. Yeah, that's what Chris Rock should do—take Academy Awards advice from someone who was in the *Fast & Furious* and *Transformers* franchises! Tyrese added that more people would take this seriously if the LGBTs were not being adequately represented: "If the host Chris Rock was a homosexual, he would have stepped down already." Really? Was there a plethora of gay nominees when Ellen DeGeneres hosted? Did I miss them?

On to far more important news—the Divine Miss M is headed back to Broadway. In a move that surprised no one, it was announced that **Bette Midler** would headline a revival of *Hello, Dolly!* The idea actually goes back more than two decades. In 1993, Bette scored a major success with her made-for-TV version of *Gypsy* (Bette-1, Babs-0). Immediately, studio execs asked her to follow it up with either *Mame* or *Hello, Dolly.* "What am I gonna do—remake every classic Broadway musical?", she was rumored to retort. As I previously told you, the idea of doing a musical onstage heated up when she returned to Broadway, playing superagent Sue Mengers. When she seriously considered doing "Dolly" and "Mame," she did her due diligence. She checked out YouTube clips online and went to the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts to see whatever footage was available. She met with **Jerry Herman**. As she narrowed her focus on "Dolly," and she even reviewed the director's notes from the



Zac Efron is apparently in another stinker—*Dirty Grandpa*. Here he is in a better movie: *Neighbors*.

Photo by Glen Wilson

original production. That clinched it for her. Plus, there was the timing: This revival won't happen until 2017—50 years after her first Broadway appearance in *Fiddler on the Roof*. Although she will be 71 years old when the show opens, that will not make her the oldest Dolly—**Carol Channing** did the last Broadway revival when she was 74!

What I'm looking forward to even more is who will replace Bette when she (inevitably) leaves the show. When Channing left the original production, a veritable cavalcade of legendary ladies filled her shoes—ladies like **Ginger Rogers**, **Martha Raye**, **Betty Grable**, **Phyllis Diller** and, closing the show, **Ethel Merman** (who turned down the opportunity to create the role). Then, of course, there's **Pearl Bailey**, who starred in the all-Black version of the musical. I wouldn't be surprised if we get limited runs by **Bernadette Peters**, **Patti LuPone**, **Liza Minnelli** and, eventually, **Audra McDonald**! What about an Asian or a Latina Dolly? Or what about Dolly Parton as Dolly? Oh, the possibilities are endless.

Here is what is destined to be my favorite headline of a review—ever: "'*Dirty Grandpa*' Review: The Worst Film Of Robert De Niro's Career (Or Maybe Anybody's)." Come on—how could you not like that? The review (featured on the website Deadline), begins: "Make no mistake about it, Robert De Niro is a bona fide legend. But also make no mistake that his latest film, '*Dirty Grandpa*', is not just the worst movie he has ever been in, but it may be the worst movie anyone has ever been in." Later in the review, it says: "People are already confusing it with Johnny Knoxville's '*Bad Grandpa*', but that movie is '*12 Years A Slave*' compared to this." Well, that explains all of the semi-nude shots of **Zac Efron** that have "leaked" (read: been leaked) from the set—including a minor dick-slip. Anything to cover for the lack of a quality film. But for a film this bad, he really should have gone the full monty!

Could it be that a certain sizable son is inching out of that closet? How he found a closet big enough to fit into is beside the point. While he's been the messy one of the clan (and that's saying something), he's getting some help from an unlikely source. Seeing what someone close to him is doing has given this guy the impetus to be who he is. Sure, it's baby steps—being seen in public in his current physical state is a big enough deal. But making out with another guy is HUGE—and we don't mean huge like his self-proclaimed need for Magnums!

When you don't need to be a PI to guess this blind item, it's definitely time to end yet another column. Before we dash, we should remind you to check out [www.BillyMasters.com](http://www.BillyMasters.com), the site where we never scrimp on size. If you have a question, send it along to [Billy@BillyMasters.com](mailto:Billy@BillyMasters.com), and I promise to get back to you before Jada stars in some regional production of *Hello, Dolly!* Until next time, remember: One man's filth is another man's bible.

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TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2

## EVERYONE HAS A STORY

### LGBTQ STORYTELLING

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STORIES 7PM

CURATED BY DAVID FINK  
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## THE BATON SHOW LOUNGE

Farewell to Miss Mimi Marks, giving her final Baton performance, Sunday, January 24.

Photos by Hal Baim