



Boyer celebrates 40 years 'behind bars'

Members of the leather/fetish and bar communities gathered Friday, April 15, at Touche to honor manager David Boyer on his four decades in Chicago's bar scene. The party, appropriately titled "1976: Celebrating David Boyer's 40 Years Behind Bars," featured a special DJ set featuring disco, '70s rock and more from DJ Freddie Bain.

The bar's walls were decorated with blowups of press clippings from Chicago's gay press in 1976, including Gay Life and Gay Chicago. The hallway to the Club Room was plastered with copies of ads from bars of that era.

In celebration of Boyer's stints at several different bars over the years, the Touche space was transformed into a bar complex, with each section paying homage to certain locations from his career. It featured a dance floor a la Bistro days, as well as elements from Gold Coast, Cheeks and more.

A highlight of the night was the surprise presentation to Boyer of the 2016 Jon-Henri Damski Award, in recognition of his activism work. The presentation was preceded by a stirring tribute reading by Heartland Health Outreach founder Lori Cannon. Cannon then presented the award to Boyer with help from previous Jon-Henri Damski Award honoree Dean Ogren.

"Long before LGBT rights legislation and AIDS, David was there," recalled Cannon. "While many of us went to march on Washington in 1987, David attended the first DC march for gay and lesbian rights in '79 with a small group of would-be activists to show the world their pride in being gay, leather men. By then, his brand of activism had taken front and center, and he never looked back."

Text and photos by Kirk Williamson



Wonka Ball hardly a 'Drag'

About Face Theatre celebrated a 20th anniversary with a community fundraiser on April 15 on the corner of Irving Park and Ravenswood.

This annual event has grown out of being inspired by Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory to a variety of themes such as a circus inspiration in the past to, now, the art of drag ("Dragstrip").

The spacious Ravenswood Event Center was taken over by wigs and wheels and was the perfect spot, with high-end sportscars in every corner. A 2016 Mini Cooper was brought for photo ops, and a photo booth was present as well.

A special VIP Winners Circle reception opened early where guests were able to sample tacos from Cantina 1910 and whiskey cocktails from Templeton Rye. The food continued thanks to Hamburger Mary's sliders, Wow Bao's dumplings and Riques Cocina Mexicana's citrus salad. Dessert was provided by Do-Rite Donuts and Up-town Brownie.



A punch-out prize wall and silent and live auctions all raised money for the organization. Live-auction items included a Broadway getaway and Beyonce concert tickets; this group definitely knows its LGBT donors.

The event also featured drag makeovers as well as live singing performances and other forms of entertainment throughout the night.

The wigged-out crowd also danced, thanks to DJ Circuitmom spinning until 11 p.m. In this drag race, everyone was a winner.

The 20th-anniversary celebration for the theater company who celebrates gender identity continues with songs and scenes at Center on Halsted on Friday, June 17. Visit AboutFaceTheatre.com for more information.

Text and photos by Jerry Nunn

BILLY Masters

"Dame Norton barged past me in Starbucks ordering a grande latte with soy—one never forgets."—An anonymous poster online talks about his encounter with **Graham Norton**.

Having written this weekly column for two decades, I've developed quite a following. But since I'm primarily in print, I'm rarely recognized outside of the occasional gay bar, film festival or sex club. Last week was an exception.

At the Pasadena Playhouse, a lovely man told me he was a big fan. OK, so we were at a **Harvey Fierstein** play—I'm bound to run into a fan or two. A few days earlier, I made a 3 a.m. dash to my Beverly Hills-adjacent supermarket—I figured I could get in and out fast. While the store was fairly deserted, I did find myself negotiating around some boxes (from restocking) and an attractive man (not wearing stockings). I pushed the boxes out of the way and said "Excuse me" as I inched by the guy. "No problem," he said. "By the way, I'm a fan ... and a subscriber." I wondered if my pill was kicking in—was this a dream? I suppose if anyone has fans who are grocery shopping near Beverly Hills at 3 a.m., it would be me. "I'm really glad I said 'Excuse me', 'cause you never know when you'll be recognized!" And just to make sure he didn't trash me online later, I had sex with him in the frozen food aisle. Anything for a fan...and a subscriber!

You never know where you'll run into someone. I was flipping through photos from Jeffrey Sanker's White Party in Palm Springs and there, amongst the plethora of hot men, was professional ice skater **Joel Mangs**. You probably know him under his gay-porn moniker, **Brad Patton**. Last I heard, the sexy stud hooked up with fellow "actor" **Brian Hansen** and retired. He later resurfaced on *Dancing on Ice* in the Netherlands, where he lives. (He was born in Australia but raised in Sweden.) From what I can see, he's still in enviable shape ... and nary a Hansen in sight. (Rumor has it that Hansen is now dating Stefano Gabbana—of "Dolce &".)

Someone else made a quick cameo at the White Party. During the Sunday Tea Dance, **Barry Manilow** was spotted walking around with manager/husband Garry Kief. We came across a photo of him with financial guru **David Rae**, who is no slouch in the looks department. We'll run these photos on BillyMasters.com.

Congratulations to ABC News' **Gio Benitez**, who got married last weekend to model **Tommy DiDario**. The intimate ceremony took place in Miami and was officiated by DiDario's sister. Also attending the wedding were fellow newsman **Thomas Roberts** and his husband, Patrick Abner. They posed for some photos with a cock or two. Damn Autocorrect! That was supposed to be a cockatoo.

The long-gestating big-screen remake of *Gypsy* starring **Barbra Streisand** is on, again. The project, which was stalled at Universal, has resurfaced at STX Entertainment. Babs brought with her the script by *Downton Abbey* scribe Richard LaGravenese (based on Arthur Laurents' original book). **Barry Levinson** is slated to direct, and we hear rumors that the film could star **Lady Gaga** as *Gypsy* and **John Travolta** as *Herbie* ... or *Mazeppa*! Of course, by the time they actually start shooting, Streisand could be playing *Grandma Rose* and using a walker. But, eh, if we could suspend our disbelief that Rosalind Russell could sing the score, anything's possible. In making the announcement, producer **Joel Silver** kinda



ABC journalist **Gio Benitez** (left) has made it official with **Tommy DiDario**. Instagram photo

referred to Barbra's age: "It's Barbra Streisand doing one more, if not the last, movie musical of her career." Something tells me nobody ran that quote by Babs!

Speaking of movie musicals, rumor has it that **Beyonce** has all but killed plans for the latest remake of *A Star is Born*. The oft-recycled property was originally supposed to be directed by **Clint Eastwood**. Potential leading men were **Tom Cruise**, **Will Smith**, **Leonardo DiCaprio** and, eventually, **Bradley Cooper**. Then Beyonce was attached and Clint was out. Then Bradley said he wanted to act and direct. Just when it looked like all the pieces were coming together, Queen B reportedly wanted too much money, and the studio (Warner Bros) balked. Stay tuned...

Lots of performers have come out against these so-called anti-LGBT bills. **Sharon Stone** nixed filming a movie in Mississippi, forcing producers to find another location. **Bryan Adams** cancelled a concert in Mississippi. **Ringo Starr** cancelled his North Carolina concert. *Cirque du Soleil* has cancelled all of its shows in North Carolina. **Duran Duran** decided not to cancel a North Carolina show, but use it as a platform to speak out against "plain old-fashioned prejudice, fear and oppression."

Cyndi Lauper, too, is going ahead with her N.C. show, feeling that "the best way I know how to make a difference is what I have strived to do my whole life and that is show up for my family, friends, and fans in the LGBT community." She's also donating all profits to Equality North Carolina's efforts to repeal HB2. Like Cyndi, comedian **Joel McHale** didn't cancel his show in North Carolina. Instead, he donated "every single dime I make tonight" to the Durham LGBT Center.

Our "Ask Billy" question comes from Joe in NYC: "Did you see *Modern Family* [last week]? Who was the hot Christian rocker with the long hair? Looks like he has an amazing body. You must have some photos of him."

He caught my eye as well. His name is **Andy Fischer-Price**—yes, his last name is Fischer-Price. He's a 28-year-old musician/actor who has done some other things that I've never heard of—until I noticed his credit in **Gregg Araki's** film *Kaboom*. In that film, he wrestles in his underwear with a similarly clad **Chris Zylka**, and has sex with **Thomas Dekker**. We'll post the pertinent sections on BillyMasters.com.

When a *Modern Family* co-star is a "c" away from being a kid's toy, it's definitely time for me to end yet another column. Just when I thought I had outgrown playing with toys. Of course, you can play with yourself while checking out www.BillyMasters.com, the site that's endlessly entertaining. If you have a question, send it along to Billy@BillyMasters.com, and I promise to get back to you before *Travolta* bumps it with a trumpet. So, until next time, remember: One man's filth is another man's bible.

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R.I.P. **Joey Kissling (DJ Boxxxxcutter)**

Photos by Kirk Williamson and Anthony Meade for Nightspots



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Have a big bowl of Stewpendous Trivia every Wednesday at Big Chicks.
Photos by Kirk Williamson

the DISH

Weekly Dining Guide in
WINDY CITY TIMES

SAVOR

Earls Kitchen + Bar

BY ANDREW DAVIS

Canada has offered many interesting exports to this country over the years, ranging from poutine to hockey to Celine Dion and Justin Bieber. (I'll let you be the judge of how welcome each is.)

However, after visiting **Earls Kitchen + Bar** (1538 N. Clybourn Ave.; <https://earls.ca/locations/lincoln-park>) recently, I'm convinced that this eatery chain is one of the more welcome imports from our neighbors to the north. (FYI: Father and son Leroy Earl "Bus" Fuller and Stanley Earl Fuller—lending their middle names—started the business in the early '80s.)

Each Earls (and there are 66 in Canada and the



Chef Chris Memme (above) and Thai tomato coconut soup (below) at Earls Kitchen + Bar. Photos by Andrew Davis



United States!) is tailored for its host city—and the Lincoln Park site is no exception. Chicago flourishes include menu items such as the Chicken, Brie + Fig Sandwich and Leroy's Crispy Ribs. However, the touches are not just limited to culinary offerings, as there are works of art such as an item that honors blues musician Muddy Waters; an installation from a local Banksy-esque artist named FRESH; and a piece on one wall of the lounge that is a stunning take on the local music scene, complete with trumpets emerging from the wall that are arranged to produce a visual sound wave.

Speaking of the lounge, it's just one component of an expansive, airy restaurant that General Manager Brad Bilick described as "casual premium" at a recent media event this writer attended. (When he asked what I thought of the space, my first answer was "There's a lot of it.") There are a three-season patio, a sports bar area with multiple screens and what I call the more traditional dining area that offers a view into the prep kitchen, which Chef Chris Memme oversees.

And mentioning the kitchen (which is meticulously organized, by the way) brings us to the food, which both Memme and Bilick described as a "global skillet." (Bilick pointed out that everything is made in-house at Earls.) The burgers have earned universal raves (and I plan on trying those in the future), but the offerings I sampled were pretty impressive as well. The Thai tomato coconut soup had crispy chickpeas for added texture, while the bibimbap was a solid dish. My faves had to be the fall-off-the-bone ribs and the chimichurri skirt steak (served with baby potatoes and pan-roasted tomatoes). The desserts are also pretty cool, with offerings such as sticky toffee chocolate pudding and coconut cake.

By the way, I urge you to partake of the intriguing drink selection at Earls. There are items that range from craft sodas to unique cocktails—and I loved the Marilyn Monroe, a tasty melange of Skyy vodka, passionfruit puree, vanilla and prosecco. Then, there's the Caesar—Earls' take on the Bloody Mary, complete with vodka, Clamato and spices.

The only potential snag for some may be the price points (e.g., \$15 burgers). Answering that concern, Bilick emailed, "Earls believes in using only the best, consciously sourced ingredients. Sustainable seafood, approved by Oceanwise and the Marine Stewardship Association; fresh antibiotic free chicken and cage-free eggs, and 100-percent all-natural Certified Humane™ beef for our burgers and steaks. We even make our own cheese slices for our burger.

"Our food is cooked fresh and from scratch, there's no commissary kitchen as many other traditional chains have. We strongly believe in practicing conscious-sourcing and providing only quality ingredients for our customers, which can result in increased prices. We think our guests will both taste and appreciate the difference and understand that it can cost a bit more to eat consciously."

Earls is a very welcome addition to Chicago—even if, for some, visiting may be more of a special occasion than an everyday thing. Thanks, Canada!

Note: Earls offers a wine special on Thursdays, with half off all wines.

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SIDETRACK

Bow down to Bey, Wed., April 13.
Photos by Jed Dulanis

nightspots

the big TO-DO

OUR WEEKLY PICKS TO PLAN YOUR NIGHTLIFE CALENDAR

Pop Smash



Thu., April 21, 10 pm
Mary's Attic,
5400 N. Clark St.

A pop music revue that covers artists from Cher and Madonna, all the way to Britney Spears. Featuring the vocals of Eric Briggs and Tyler R. Hall. Live guitar by Kevin Florian. Doors open at 10 pm, \$5 at the door.

Jai Ho: Springtime Secrets



Fri., April 22, 10 pm
Big Chicks,
5024 N. Sheridan Rd.

DJ Voxbox spins Bollywood and Bhangra hits and Masala Sapphire puts on a show featuring Chicago's freshest queens. A queer dance party featuring South Asian music and performances. \$5 donation goes toward supporting future Trikone Chicago events.

Bear All w/Scott Free



Sat., April 23, 10 pm
Touche,
6412 N. Clark St.

Sensuous men singing steamy, sweaty songs. Featuring The Pleasure Centers, Mister E Machine, Ben Walter and Scott Free. Hosted by Bryan Dowling.

The Boys in Briefs



Tue., April 26, 7 pm
Uptown Underground,
4707 N. Broadway

Featuring Emmy Award-winner Scott Gryder, Jeff Award-winner Donterrio Johnson, and the stars of PFP's The Boy From Oz, Chris Logan and Luke Meierdiercks. Sizzling classics from George Gershwin, Kander and Ebb, the Drifters and more.



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Wed., April 20

Outing Queer Fluxus: Geoffrey Hendricks and David Getsy in Conversation
Hendricks is a prominent member of the Fluxus movement and a legendary organizer of '60s era Happenings. His work communicates a fascination with nature, collaborative rituals, and the performance of gender and sexuality in public life. In conversation with David Getsy, author of *Abstract Bodies*, *Sixties Sculpture in the Expanded Field of Gender* (2015) and the editor of the anthology *Queer* (2016). Free 7:00pm Block Museum 40 Arts Circle Drive Evanston, IL 60208 <http://www.blockmuseum.northwestern.edu/>



STRIKE UP THE BON Thursday, April 21

Lambda Legal's annual Bon Foster event will take place at Morgan Manufacturing.
Photo from 2015 by Gretchen Rachel Hammond

Thursday, April 21

Lambda Legal's Bon Foster Lambda Legal's premier Chicago event honors the memory of Robert Bonvoulior "Bon" Foster the late civil rights activist and attorney who was an outspoken opponent of injustice and challenged others to demand the best for themselves. Cocktails, hors d'oeuvres. 6:00pm - 9:30pm Morgan Manufacturing, 401 N. Morgan St., Chicago <http://www.lambdalegal.org/bonfoster> Tickets: <https://secure3.convio.net/lambda/site/Ticketing;jsessionid=C17E689E9E9840623AF7A14D8F5877AE.app30103a?view=Ticket&id=105703>

New Town Writers Workshop Participants are asked to bring copies of their work to share with other writers and listeners. 7:00pm - 9:00pm Gerber Hart Library and Archives 6500 N Clark St Chicago <http://www.gerberhart.org>

The 30 Year Gap The world isn't the same place that it was in 1978. For George, who lived his life in the closet, and his nephew, Chris, who is free and open with his sexuality, their Chicago's are vastly different. In a play that moves between 1978 and 2008, George and Chris must learn from each other what it means to be honest. Also April 28. \$10. 8:00pm Public House Theatre Bar, 3914 N. Clark St., Chicago 800-650-6449 <http://pubhousetheatre.com/the-30-year-gap/>

Friday, April 22

Pride Films and Plays: Gay Play Weekend A slate of four new LGBTQ+ plays

and 1 musical have emerged as Finalists in *Pride Films and Plays' 2016 Great Gay Play and Musical Contest* and will be performed as enhanced staged readings! Pay-what-you-can, \$10 suggested. Shows throughout weekend. 7:00pm - 9:00pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted Chicago <http://www.centeronhalsted.org/newevents-details.cfm?ID=11962>

Jai Ho: Spring Secrets. Trikone Chicago presents *Springtime Secrets - A Queer Bollywood Dance Party* with South Asian dance music and performances. \$5 10:00pm - 2:00am Big Chicks 5024 N Sheridan Rd., Chicago; <http://trikonechicago.org>

Saturday, April 23

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

Engendering Change Conference Graduate student conference for students working in gender and sexuality, this year with a focus on racial and gender justice. Rod Ferguson is the keynote speaker and will be speaking on "Street Transvestite Action Revolutionaries and the Intersectional History of Gay Liberation." 9:00am - 5:15pm UIC Student Center East, 3rd Floor Conference Center, 750 S. Halsted St., Chicago <http://engenderingchange2016.wordpress.com>

Sunday, April 24

{she crew} Sadie Hawkins Dance Dancing, delicious bites from Luellas Southern Kitchen and Pork Shoppe, performances from She's Crafty, smashing the patriarchy (Pinata), and supporting {she crew}. Benefits the {she crew}

program, accessible arts empowerment for adolescent girls. Early Bird \$20 tickets, \$25 at the door. 21+ 6:00pm - 9:30pm The Hideout 1354 W Wabansia Ave Chicago <http://shecrew.org> Tickets: <https://www.eventbrite.com/event/she-crews-sadie-hawkins-dance-tickets-24268610066?aff=eac2>

Matt Damon Improv Remember that time when Matt Damon* got caught saying a number of tone-deaf things while mansplaining what diversity is to Effie Brown, the Black Woman who produced the movies "Dear White People" and "But I'm a Cheerleader"? "Matt Damon" is an improv comedy show based around racial and social tensions within the world around us. Last three Sundays in April. \$12. 9:00pm Under the Gun Theater, 956 W Newport Ave., Chicago <http://www.undertheguntheater.com>

Monday, April 25

A Wider Bridge: U.S. Tour of LGBTQ Ethiopian Israeli Leaders Introducing KALA (Hebrew abbreviation of Kehila Lahatavit Ethiopit translated to 'LGBT Ethiopian Community') to North America to facilitate collaboration between diverse communities in the areas of advocacy, human rights and cultural exchange. Israeli LGBT leaders Sarah, Yaniv and Lielshare share their personal stories and the critical need for KALA. Hosted by Jeff Grinspoon and Jon Foley. Wine & hors d'oeuvres. Donations support A Wider Bridge and KALA. 6:00pm Lincoln Park address provided with RSVP Tickets: <http://awiderbridge.eventbrite.com>

180 Degree Rule Play about professor Katie Dunham's obsession with long-dead film director Ruth Alice Bennett, shunned by studio heads for her lesbian proclivities, and the struggle to unpack the truth behind the doomed romance between Bennett and leading lady Mar-

got Faber... 30 years too late. Through May 21. By Babes With Blades Theatre Co. \$22 8:00pm City Lit Theater 1020 W. Bryn Mawr Ave., Chicago <http://babeswithblades.org>

Tuesday, April 26

Mary Lambert Discussing the art of songwriting (with special performance) with moderators Jim DeRogatis and Greg Kot from Sound Opinions. Free and open to the public. Sponsored by Center for the Writing Arts and Northwestern Women's Center 7:30pm Northwestern University Lutkin Hall, 700 University Place, Evanston campus <http://www.northwestern.edu/writing-arts/>

Wed., April 27

Why should your company be LGBTQ-certified? MB Financial Bank's LGBTQ Business Resource Group in partnership with the LGBT Chamber of Commerce of Illinois, StartOut Chicago, Northalsted Business Alliance and Lakeview East Chamber of Commerce in a panel discussion on LGBTQ company certification. Discussion will include: Requirements and steps for LGBTQ certification, Testimonials from LGBTQ certified companies, Update on corporate and legislative initiatives to increase opportunities for LGBTQ certified companies. Seats are limited. Please register by Friday, April 15. 4:00pm - 7:00pm Fulton Market Kitchen 2nd Floor Studio, 311 N. Sangamon St., Chicago Tickets: <http://links.mail1.spocesentials1.com/servlet/MailView?ms=MTI4MDU0NzkS1&r=Nzg0NDg2ODc2ODUS1&j=NzAzNzY0Mjg2S0&mt=1&rt=0>