



nightspots

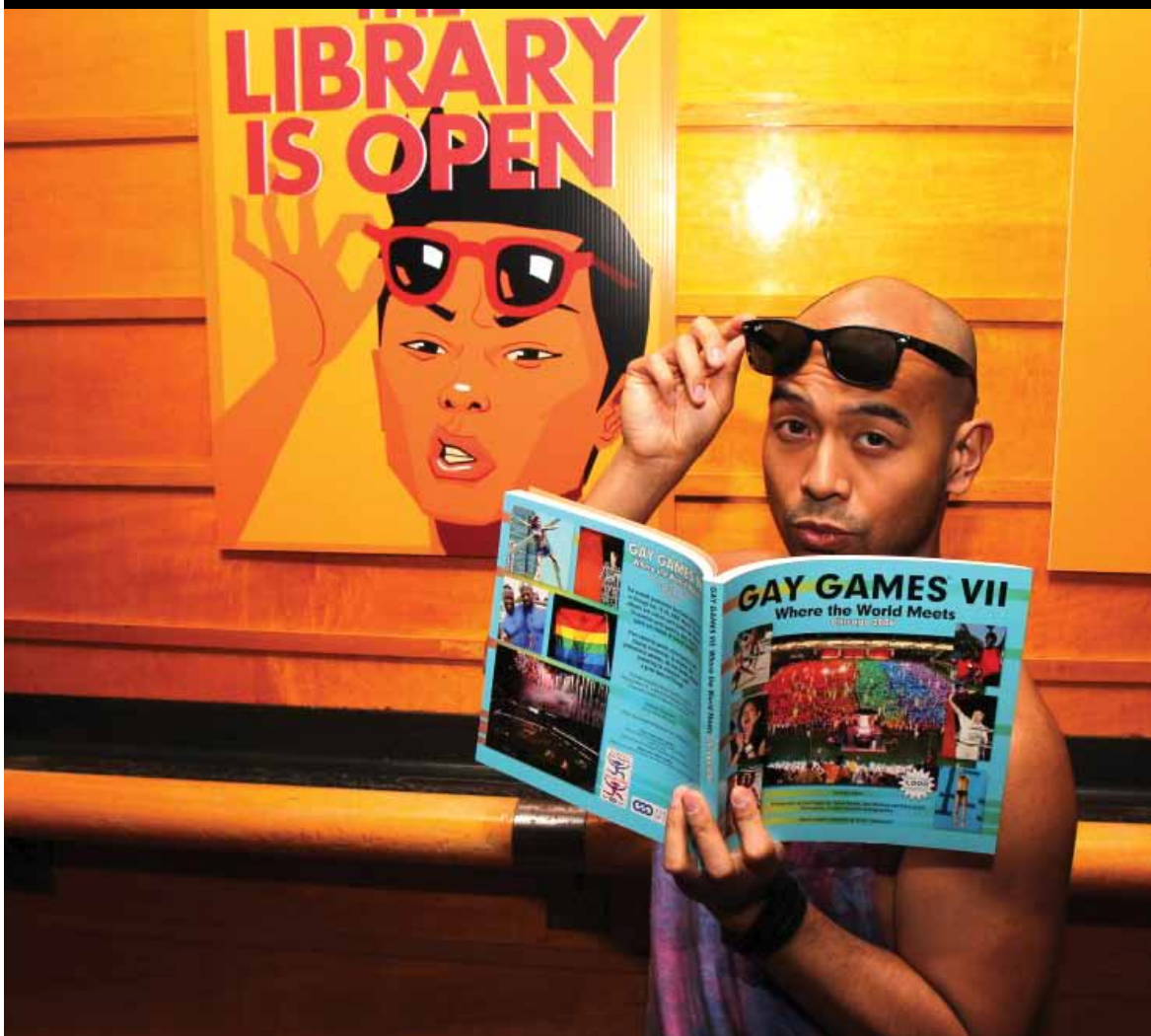
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DANCING ABOUT ARCHITECTURE

BY MARC 'MOOSE' MODER



Purple influence

First, let me state that this space is, and always will be a Prince-heavy zone, so pardon me for writing on such a rich topic two issues in a row. Second, after losing David Bowie within the same short calendar year, the following topic has been covered before. That said, I can't think of two bigger influences on the blurring of art/fashion/music/sex/God than those two giants. So it must be asked: Who wouldn't be here in our "Pop Life" if not for the presence of Prince?

—**The sensual balladeer.** Teddy Pendergrass, Barry White and Isaac Hayes all crooned before, but none of them worked in straight up SEX and respect like Prince. With a few verbal strokes, he made you feel safe, special, aroused and dirty. Real dirty. Acts like D'Angelo, R Kelly and Janet Jackson would all play with these factors, especially in the '90s when a ballad could still get airplay.

—**The fashion plate.** While he wasn't always in vogue and his outfits bordered on tacky in later years, he did stick to a consistent style, designing his own looks with his own fashion house. Seemingly hundreds of acts have gone on to work their personal looks into fashion lines, but none have committed 100% to these looks for 40 years. Think about it, we'd have no Mark Anthony for Kohl's or Adam Levine for Sears

without Prince. Wait, is that a good thing?

—**The sexual enigma.** Like Bowie before him, Prince was happy to play with queer sexuality at the expense of his heterosexuality just for the sake of equality. Now it seems there's a star every week (usually women though) teasing their sexuality, sometimes for press, sometimes for real, but always for good in the end. Now if we could only get more men like Nick Jonas flirting with our community, I'd be happy to be flirted with.

—**The independent warrior.** Before bands like Radiohead, TLC and Wilco went rogue by skipping the major label system, Prince was selling his side projects via 1-800-NEW FUNK and then, after his Warner Brothers release, via his record club or his website. He even once presented a free CD with purchase of a magazine (Twenty10). He was always playing with new ways to get his music directly to fans, not just for the bigger margin and masters rights, but because he became so bored so fast with completed songs.

—**The multi-instrumentalist.** Little Stevie Wonder amazed fans at age 12 with his ability to jam on keys and harmonica, but Prince took it further, playing almost every instrument on almost every album he released. Sure, he had many bands over the years, but 90% of the studio instruments heard are him, with some help from horn players, vocalists and strings. Even at 16, when he started, everything was Prince right down to production. Now thousands of bedrooms recorders like Moby and Miguel spend weeks recording and producing their own material on their own terms. Even Bowie spent much of his last weeks tinkering with new material he planned to release posthumously. If not for Prince's own studio, drive, ambition and talent, we'd not have thousands of vault recordings to last us through our natural lives as well.

Let's hope these discussions and the subsequent listenings inspire great new artists to rise forth and inspire us; however, none will compare 2 Prince.

DJ Moose spins Irresistible Bitch: Prince+TheLadies this Saturday at 11 pm at The Jackhammer Complex, 6406 N. Clark St.

RPDR finale viewing party at Sidetrack

Find out which of the final three queens of season 8 of RuPaul's Drag Race will be crowned "America's next drag superstar," Mon., May 16.

In the lead up to the finale, Sidetrack will be displaying the work of local artist Chad Sell, featuring the queens of the show, past and present. Sell exhibits and sells his work online and at conventions, such as C2E2 and RuPaul's Drag Con.

For more on Sell's work, see www.chadsell.com



Artist Chad Sell's depiction of Naomi Smalls.

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All ashore that's going ashore! Tea in A-ville takes on a nautical theme, Sunday, May 1.
Photos by Kyle Henderson

nightspots
the big TO-DO

OUR WEEKLY PICKS TO PLAN YOUR NIGHTLIFE CALENDAR

Fabitat: Prince Party - A Celebration of Life

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

DJ Adam LeBlanc takes U on a full journey through Prince's work. Performances by Joan Waters, Curlene Ribbon and host Lucy Stooles. Chance to win passes to Spring Awakening and Mamby on the Beach for strong Prince LQQKS.

the DISH
Weekly Dining Guide in
WINDY CITY TIMES

SAVOR
TWO;
Mary's on 'Boss'

BY ANDREW DAVIS

Bib Gourmand recipient **TWO** (1132 W. Chicago Ave.; 113two.com) has at least two things going for it.

One is its extremely telegenic staff, almost giving the impression that one has to be a model in order to be hired. Our server, Oscar, was as friendly as he was handsome, and the few others (male and female—including Oscar's brother) who were there wore smiles on their lovely visages. Then, there's General Manager Yamandu Perez, a Chilean-turned-Uruguayan who exerted a certain smugness (saying at one point that he probably gets away with saying things because he smiles so much) who was charming, nonetheless.

Then, there's the food (with Perez saying that everything—including cheeses and sausages—is made in house). There are some combinations that may seem like they wouldn't work, but they do.



TWO.
Photo by Lisa Taylor

For example, there's a dish with asparagus, homemade brioche, maitake, poached duck egg and wild onion vinaigrette: It was wonderful. Then there's ricotta cavatelli, which comes with English peas, homemade sausage, red-pepper harissa and honey-roasted almonds.

However, there are also more traditional items that impress, like gulf prawns with chili vinaigrette; and the double cheeseburger, served with mile-high fries in a formation that seemed to resemble a game of Jenga.

My dining partner and I agreed that dinner did

not live up to the rest of the meal, unfortunately. The half-baked blondie (with raspberry sorbet, oranges and salted caramel) didn't quite work—but TWO has some intriguing alternatives, including a goat cheese-and-ricotta cheesecake as well as puppy chow.

Regarding drinks, you must try Gleaming the Cube, consisting of Langley's, sparkling wine, fresh lemon juice, green-tea simple—and a hibiscus tea and Radler ice cube. As the cube melts, it transforms the taste of the drink.

Hamburger Mary's on 'Undercover Boss'

There will be a viewing party to mark Hamburger Mary's being on the CBS show Undercover Boss. The event will take place Sunday, May 15, at 8 p.m. at 5402 N. Clark St. Ashley and Brandon Wright, the co-owners of Hamburger Mary's, will be featured on the episode.

See "Hamburger Mary's on 'Undercover Boss' Viewing Party" on Facebook.



Riot Bear Productions: Friday the 13th Freakout



Fri., May 13, 10 pm
Touche,
6412 N. Clark St.

DJ Germ (Modern Day Rippers, Sexy Baby Records) spins from pre-punk to post hardcore, garage rock, heavy metal and more.

Irresistible Bitch: The Ladies + The Prince



Sat., May 14, 11 pm
Jackhammer,
6406 N. Clark St.

Two of Chicago's biggest Prince fanatics, DJ Moose (fan since 1980) and The Vixen, who's hosted and performed at Prince functions throughout Chicago her whole career, celebrate the ladies of Prince's entourage, including Vanity, Sheila E., Sheena Easton, The Bangles, Beyonce and more.

Animals: Jockstraps Fur a Cause



Sun., May 15, 6-9 pm
Hydrate,
3458 N. Halsted St.

The Crochet Empire jockstrap fashion show to benefit Chicago House and TPAN. Featuring a pride of animal print jockstraps and performances by Anghell and Matteo Lane. Hosted by Dixie Lynn Cartwright. \$20.



Summer's coming and Sidetrack is ready.
Photos by Jed Dulanias



"My presence was used for my celebrity, not my talent. I'm not surprised."—Jennifer Hudson talks about the snub for a Tony Award, but seems to be implying that she was cast in *The Color Purple* solely because her name recognition would get people to buy tickets. And that's a bad thing?

During my years as an avid theatergoer, I've pored over countless Playbills. And one trend I've noticed is how personal people are getting in their official bios. This was highlighted at a recent play I attended where many of the characters were gay. While the bulk of the bios were pretty bland, one of the hottest guys ended his by thanking his wife and children for their endless support. Here's what that means—"Back off, queens—I'm straight!" While I don't begrudge him asserting his heterosexuality, I don't need it shoved down my throat ... so to speak.

There are some stories that do not arouse my sympathies. These typically involve people who I perceive as having a myriad of benefits but want us to feel sorry for them. It's clearly a failing of mine, and I'm telling you this up front before launching into the tale of woe that is **Colton Haynes**. Last week, the hot young actor/model officially came out. Colton grew up in Kansas, first gained notoriety as a model and then as an actor on two successful TV shows: *Teen Wolf* and *Arrow*.

All the while, he amassed a throng of followers on social media, attracted no doubt by his frequent selfies in various forms of undress. Speculation about his sexual orientation was rampant, but he never confirmed it—and he also didn't deny it. But there were two clearly divergent images of Haynes—the person who had lawyers threaten websites for posting photos from his explicit, homoerotic XY spread, and the person who posted about his openly gay brother who has a child with his hobby.

Last January, gay stories about Colton picked up steam after one of his fans posted the following on his Tumblr page: "When I found out Colton Haynes had a secret gay past, I got so excited even though I know it makes absolutely no difference in my life." Haynes responded, "Was it a secret?" After that, he didn't say much. But Colton now admits that he voluntarily committed himself to a hospital. "I've had terminal anxiety my entire life. Physically ill, fainting. I'm 27 years old and I have an ulcer. I had to step back." We are not talking about someone new to Hollywood—he's lived in LA since 2006! Now, a decade later, he's given an interview to *Entertainment Weekly*—a curious choice for a coming-out story. In it, talks about how he's been plagued with anxiety about people finding out his "secret," and how the pressure was so great that he asked to be written off of *Arrow*. (The show's creator, openly gay **Greg Berlanti**, is one of his mentors.) My hunch is most people will laud Colton as some sort of gay hero—primarily because he's hot and they want to sleep with him, not that there's anything wrong with that.

Then there's that other "hero," **Caitlyn Jenner**. Reportedly, she will be appearing nude on the cover of an upcoming issue of *Sports Illustrated*. What is it about those Kardashians? They're constantly photographed naked at the drop of a hat—so whatever you do, DON'T drop a hat! When it comes to Caitlyn's spread, I have one simple question that I intend without malice—does anybody really wanna see all of that?



Colton Haynes made news recently. Facebook photo

Take the transgender issue out of the equation and just consider her a female sports legend. A 66-year-old female sports legend. Then ask yourself this question—are readers of SI clamoring to see nude photos of Martina Navratilova?

The most effective way for celebrities to deal with rumors is to ignore them. Then there's **Arsenio Hall**. Shortly after Prince's death, **Sinead O'Connor** posted this on Facebook: "Two words for the DEA investigating where Prince got his drugs over the decades ... Arsenio Hall (AKA Prince's and Eddie Murphy's bitch)." The post was deleted, but Hall is not having it. He has sued for damages of \$5 million and calls Sinead "an attention-seeker." If you ask me, the one drawing attention to this story is Arsenio. Sinead responded, "I'm more amused than I've ever dreamed a person could be and look forward very much to how hilarious it will be watching him try to prove me wrong. ... I do not like drugs killing musicians. And I do not like Arsenio Hall. He can suck my dick. That is, if he isn't too busy sucking someone else's dick." Yowza!

Channing Tatum made a special announcement: "Magic Mike Live!" will hit the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino in Sin City next March. "We want to change what male entertainment has been for years," said Tatum. While he's being cagey about the details, he said, "It's definitely things you've never seen before, I can promise you that." Tatum is co-directing the show, but he's not planning on being onstage—at least not initially, saying, "If I'm even in shape enough to actually do the show again, I will absolutely step on stage, just because it's fun. I'm sure there will be lots of crazy cameos." He then introduced us to the guys in the troupe, who are quite hot indeed. As Tatum said, "If you build it, they'll come." You may, too, when seeing the video on BillyMasters.com.

That leads us perfectly into this week's "Ask Billy" question. Chase in Baltimore asks, "What do you know about A&F model **Alex Libby**? He's done some shoots where he's teased his penis, but never shows it."

In an attempt to change their image, **Abercrombie & Fitch** has hired 23-year-old British model **Alex Libby** to be the new face (and body) of the brand. Libby is what some online are calling "homeless chic." If that's what the homeless look like, I'm moving into a box on the side of the road. And, oh yes, he most certainly has shown his penis. Just before getting the A&F gig, he did a series of shots that show every inch of his fitch. And it's definitely worth seeing ... on BillyMasters.com.

When Sinead has bigger balls than Arsenio, we've definitely come to the end of yet another column. Since we ran long (A&F models will do that), let me quickly remind you to check out www.BillyMasters.com, the site that's working to end homelessness one model at a time. If you have a question, send it along to Billy@BillyMasters.com, and I promise to get back to you before Colton gets cast in "Magic Mike Live!" So, until next time, remember: One man's filth is another man's bible.

RuPaul's Drag Race Season Finale
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 SLAY TO DRAG BY DIDA RITZ, THE VIXEN, O'LAYSIA

BOYER from page 12

momentary stories during a few of hours of any given night.

There has been a significant difference in the leather community—one all but wiped out by HIV/AIDS, but that has since flourished into the kind of record attendance numbers seen at events like the Cleveland Leather Annual Weekend (CLAW) or International Mr. Leather (IML) in Chicago Memorial Day weekend.

"When I came into leather it was a tight little group," Boyer said. "People had no concept of what leather was all about. I fit in with them, not just because of the sexual activity but where they were coming from personally. I don't know as many bars that do as much fundraising and support as much as leather bars. I went to the very first CLAW weekend. It was one bar that housed a party. When the bar closed, we went to the bathhouse a few doors away and carried on all night long. Now it takes up one or two hotels and you don't know everyone there. You can't make the connection."

In its own way, *Touche* has also grown far beyond the perceived restraints of its beginnings.

"When I started at *Touche* maybe 75 guys were in the bar on a Friday night and you got to know each other," Boyer said. "You got to have sex with most of them and it was like you really knew who everybody was. Nowadays, I have people who come in and I don't know them. I try to get to know them all but some want to get their drink, stand in a corner and cruise."

Some of the other changes at *Touche* have been out of necessity.

"In the second room, we enforced a strict dress code of 'put on your leather or you don't go in'," Boyer said. "I can't afford to do that anymore. People are doing their cruising on the Internet. So we have a dress code once a month."

What used to be a men's only space in *Touche* now allows women. But there are limits.

"There's an atmosphere that the backroom is trying to create," Boyer said. "There are men who bring these girls in and they come up to me and say, 'Can we go back there and see what these guys do?' And I'll be like, 'If you want your girlfriend to see two guys sucking dick, take her home with your trick!' The folks back there are not here to put on a show. If people can respect that, then they are welcome."

But, to Boyer, most of the individuals who stand in front of his bar and ask for a drink are family and he's not ready to leave them or relinquish events like *Leather Eye* which he started in order to introduce a new person to the leather scene by outfitting them and taking them to IML. He also routinely helps *Lori Cannon* by raising \$200, which, he noted with admiration, she can turn into three times that much in food bargains for her clients.

"I don't feel like an old guy yet," Boyer said. "Besides, I like what I do. Sitting over the bar talking. That's what my world has been. I've got to meet some incredible people; big stars, average Joes, young people trying to figure out what they're going to do with their lives. I don't have kids, so I'm watching [clients] grow up and I'm very proud of them."

"I could have gone through college and been a therapist. I can do it just as easily over a beer," he added with a contented shrug. "At the same time, I can affect what's going on in the community. I can support things. When I came here I didn't know anybody. I had an apartment with a table and a chair. To this day I work Christmas Eve because this is my family. There's always more to learn. There's always someone new to meet. I haven't done it all yet. There's more to come."

For information on *Touche*, see ToucheChicago.com.

International Mr. Leather is Memorial Weekend in Chicago. See IMRL.com.

For a 2007 video interview with Boyer, on the *Chicago Gay History* website, see ChicagoGayHistory.org/biography.html?id=704.

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