

the DISH

Weekly Dining Guide in
WINDY CITY TIMES

SAVOR

Bar Toma class; Cider Bash

BY ANDREW DAVIS

Making a good pizza isn't easy.

That was the lesson several people learned during a recent pizza-tossing class with Chef Tony Mantuano (also a chef/partner at Spiaggia and a couple other spots) at **Bar Toma** (110 E. Pearson St.; BarTomaChicago.com).

Among the many nuggets of wisdom Mantuano and the Bar Toma crew provided were that pizza dough at this restaurant is prepared during a two-



Shrimp diavolo pizza at Bar Toma.

Photo by Andrew Davis

day process that involves, among other things, a huge mixer (imported from Italy) called "The Monkey" as well as using a wood-fired oven that can accommodate up to six pies. (The other oven is used for toppings, etc.)

After the class members exhibited various degrees of success tossing pizza dough, attendees dined on pizzas such as speck and egg, shrimp diavolo (a spicy item), four-cheese and artisan pepperoni (which was adorned with smoked garlic,

fresh mozzarella and tomato sauce); chopped and beef-and-fennel salads; zucchini; and a chocolate-banana pudding topped with a few grains of sea salt.

However, Bar Toma has more to offer than just great food. The eatery's famed pizza-tossing class actually involved more than we did, with attendees splitting into teams to create their own customized pizzas. There's also "Unwine Your Senses," during which guests try to identify the aromas of various varietals of wine. There are also The Amazing Mini-Race and Bar Toma Team Trivia. There's also an event space that can accommodate more than 100 people.

Jake Melnick's Cider Bash

On Sept. 15, **Jake Melnick's Corner Tap** (41 E. Superior St.; JakeMelnicks.com) offered a fall preview with its annual Cider Fest.

In the keg room and patio, the restaurant offered dishes such as smoked apple BBQ wings, hot links with cider-braised onions, applwood-smoked pork-loin sliders, BBQ chips and house-baked apple pie.

Approximately 40 people appeared at the event.

nightspots the big TO-DO

OUR WEEKLY PICKS TO PLAN
YOUR NIGHTLIFE CALENDAR

Laughs in the Lounge



Wed., Sept. 21, 9 pm
Rogers Park Social,
6920 N. Glenwood Ave.

The September showcase features comedians Adam Bindert, Alex Dragicevich, Laura Hugg, Vikram Pandya, Cynthia Shur Petts and host Marla Depew (pictured).

Mel Platzke Memorial Celebration



Sat., Sept. 24, 3-5 pm
Sidetrack,
3349 N. Halsted St.

An afternoon of remembrance, laughs, art, music and love, celebrating the amazing life of Mel Platzke. His humor, fashion style, big heart, artistic creativity and charm were all one-of-a-kind and managed to bring so many people together.

Project Run-a-way: Season 7



Sat., Sept. 24, 4-9 pm
Fantasy Nightclub,
3641 N. Halsted St.

A mix of top fashion, model, and drag reality TV shows. Contestants are asked to create a garment (without professional sewing equipment) in an extremely short time frame. This year's event benefits Project Fierce Chicago and the homeless LGBT youth that they support.

Presidential Debate Viewing Party



Mon., Sept. 26, 7 pm
Sidetrack,
3349 N. Halsted St.

Hosted by Chicago LGBTQ for Hillary. Doors open to Glass Bar at 7, debate 8-9:30. No cover. Event chairs Art Johnston, Pepe Peña, Jamie Citron and Kevin Hauswirth hope you will make a financial contribution to keep the Hillary Victory Fund moving full steam ahead!

SIDETRACK

Photos by Jed Dulanias



Sleater-Kinney.



Juliette and the Licks.



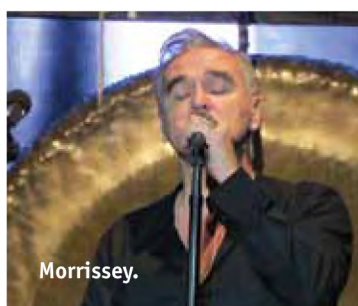
Death Cab
For Cutie.



Joey Bada\$\$.



Bad Religion.



Morrissey.



Dee Snider.

RIOT FEST 2016

Photos by Jerry Nunn



"I would not be unhappy were I the last cisgender male to play a female transgender on television."—**Jeffrey Tambor's** acceptance speech after winning the Emmy for Outstanding Lead Actor in a Comedy Series.

Anyone who still thinks our community isn't visible on TV clearly didn't watch this year's Emmy Awards, which kicked off with **Louie Anderson's** win for playing the mother on *Baskets*. "I have not always been a very good man, but I play one helluva woman," he said. That was followed by **Jeffrey Tambor's** second Emmy for *Transparent*. And I'm always happy when **Holland Taylor** is acknowledged. This time, the mention came from partner **Sarah Paulson**, whose plus one was the real **Marcia Clark**. I believe she was wearing a Colombian necklace.

The given at any awards show is that there will be notable exceptions to the In Memoriam sequence. This year, the names **Beth Howland** and **Pat Harrington** spring to mind—to say nothing of **Big Ang** and **Chyna**. I guess they had to make room to acknowledge the great television careers of **Glenn Frey** and **Prince!**

Would you date a hooker? Or a porn star? It's a silly question for me to answer—I refuse to sleep with anyone who I can't check out on video first! But for the average guy, it's a reasonable concern, and one he probably wouldn't even think to ask when going on a TV dating show. After all, there's an assumption that the network has checked everyone out, right? So I'm not surprised the guys from *Finding Prince Charming* are speaking out now that they've learned about the escorting past of their "Prince," **Robert Sepulveda Jr.**—someone who not only escorted but engaged in quite a bit of questionable (and unhygienic) behavior on videos which can be seen on *BillyMasters.com*.

The most prevalent allegation is that Logo knew exactly who Robert was when they cast him, and perhaps leaked information about his past themselves in order to gain publicity for the show. One of the contestants came right out and said, "I don't believe the network was blindsided. I don't think anyone believes that." Another revealed that all of the guys "had to go through rigorous background checks for three weeks, and another three days before the show even started taping." Yet another was sure he recognized Robert from a gay porno film: "As soon as I left the house and got my phone back, I Googled 'Robert Sepulveda' and the words 'sex tape' and there it was. I didn't even need to scroll down."

This brings up a crucial point—allegedly each cast member had to sign a contract stating they didn't appear in sex tapes or have nude photos that show their faces. The guys feel the same rules should have applied to Sepulveda—although I hasten to add that in most of the videos, his face is the least-featured part of his anatomy. Now that the guys have seen the videos, they're appalled. "There are videos of Robert out there that are quite disgusting," one said. "Now, I'm associated with him. Try explaining that to your mother." Another was more to the point: "If I wanted to date a hooker, I'd hire one. I'm beyond livid!" While I'm all for these guys speaking out—they should and it's their right—don't hide behind the moniker of "unnamed contestant." Say who you are and own it. I suspect they're contractually unable to speak on the record until the reunion show, which has not yet taped.

History was made last week when a gay woman competed for Miss America. **Erin O'Flaherty**, the reigning Miss Missouri, is the pageant's first openly gay contestant—and she got to strut her stuff



Billy has more on the life of Alexis Arquette.

Facebook photo

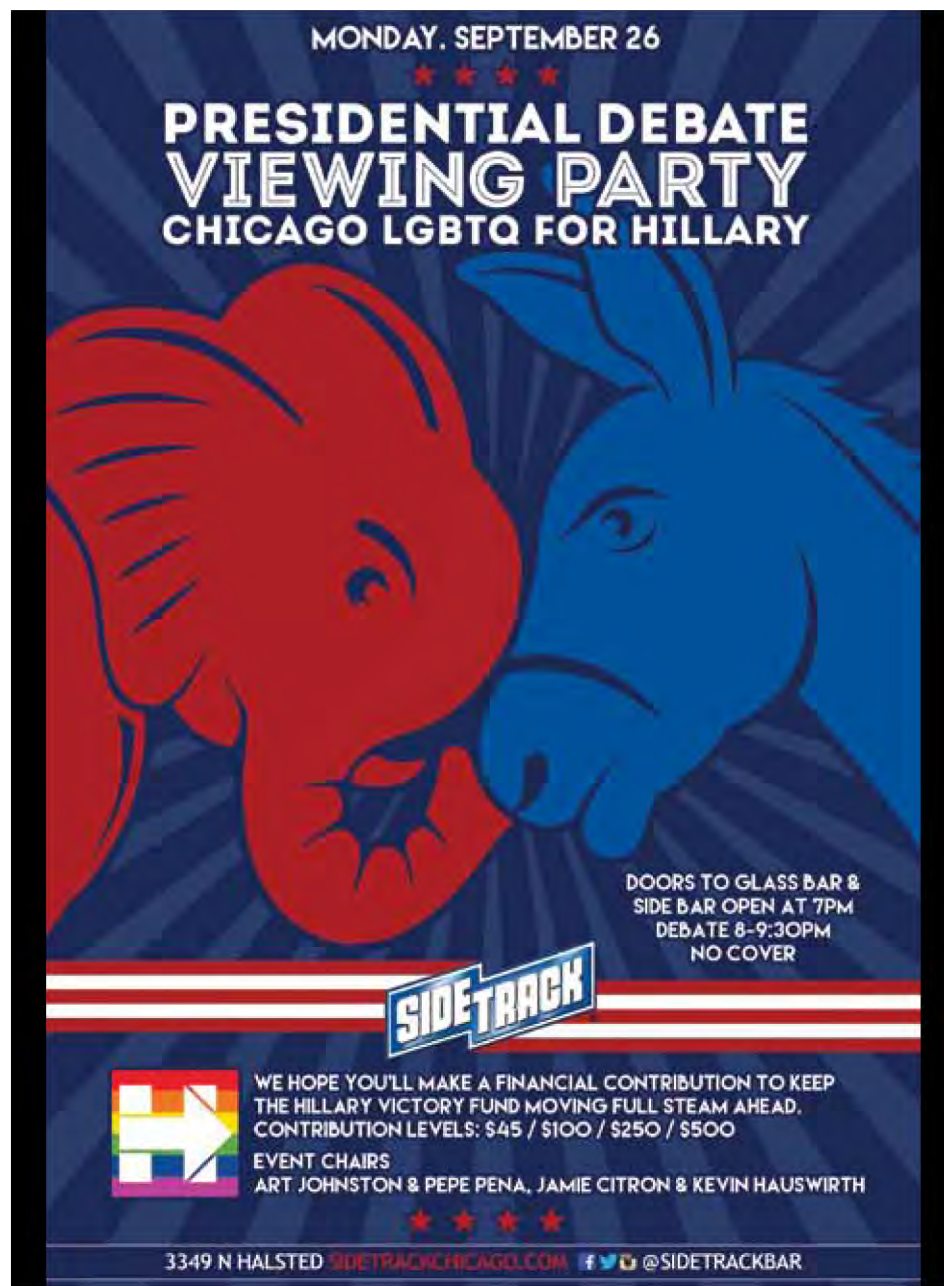
during the Parade of States on the live telecast. She was cut when the top 15 were announced. But there's still enough to celebrate—she's also the first openly gay woman to ever win a state pageant.

Many of you have written in asking for details about the death of **Alexis Arquette**. According to *The Hollywood Reporter*, Alexis was living in a West Hollywood apartment building run by The Actors Fund, which provides low-income housing for actors who are HIV-positive and have an annual income of \$17,400-\$29,000 per year. Reportedly, Arquette had been HIV-positive for two decades, but toward the end refused to take certain medications that would have potentially been life-saving. We're told that an untreated liver infection spread throughout Arquette's body. As to the bigger question of gender, Alexis was always unwilling to talk about what surgeries had or had not taken place. **David Arquette** said, "It was like, 'Yeah, sometimes I'll be a man, sometimes I'll be a woman. I like to refer to myself as gender-suspicious.'" David said he was confused—are you my sister or my brother? In pure Alexis form, the response came quick: "It depends on how I'm dressed!"

Apropos of **Rami Malek's** Emmy win for *Mr. Robot*, our "Ask Billy" question comes from Jason in Baltimore: "I was reading some of your old columns on *BillyMasters.com* and saw the photo of **Zayn Malik's** penis. It got me thinking, do you have any nude photos of Rami Malek from *Mr. Robot*? He's way hotter! Tell me he's gay."

Alas, the new Emmy winner is not gay, but he has played gay before. Back in 2005, he was on the show *The War at Home*, in which he was the neighbor who had a crush on the son, played by Jackson Rathbone. As for seeing him nude, while he previously showed his ass in *Need for Speed*, he recently showed even more on *Mr. Robot*. In one scene, he is strip-searched by an officer who says, "Bend over; spread your ass." How could you even think I wouldn't post that video on *BillyMasters.com*?

When Rami is showing us where to plug in a hard drive, it's definitely time to end yet another column. Since I'm just home from the Emmys (and exhausted), I barely have the strength to remind you to check out *www.BillyMasters.com*, the site that never sleeps. If you have a question for me, I'm always here for you. Just send it along to *Billy@BillyMasters.com* and I promise to get back to you before **John Travolta** gets cast as Louie Anderson's sister on *Baskets*! So, until next time, remember: One man's filth is another man's bible.



Jen Richards.

Photo by John Sturdy

Trans actress joins 'Nashville'

Trans actress Jen Richards has joined the cast of the CMT television series *Nashville*.

The Emmy-nominated writer, actress and producer (*Her Story*; *Doubt*) is set to join the cast in the recurring role of Allyson Del Lago, a physical therapist who helps a character.

Richards is playing CMT's first transgender character and is the first out transgender actor on the network. Richards' television credits include being series regular on *E!'s I Am Cait*, *Logo's Beautiful As I Want to Be* and *AOL's True Trans* with Laura Jane Grace.

ABC canceled *Nashville* after four seasons, and it will debut on CMT on Thursday, Jan. 5.

'Before Stonewall' series Oct. 11, 18

The series "Before Stonewall: The LGBTQ Experience in the '50s and '60s" series—which the Lincoln Park Village, Gerber/Hart Library, Howard Brown Health and Lake View Presby-

terian Church are presenting—will take place Oct. 11 and 18.

This two-part lecture and discussion will focus on the history of the LGBTQ community before the Stonewall Rebellion on June 28, 1969, which led to the gay liberation movement and modern fight for LGBTQ rights in the United States.

—Part 1: Lecture by Tracy Baim, publisher and executive editor of *Windy City Times* on Tuesday, Oct. 11, 3-5 p.m., at Gerber/Hart Library, 6500 N. Clark St.

—Part 2: Panel discussion by four members of the LGBTQ community on what it was like living in the '50s and '60s.

The four panelists: Bill Gordon, a Lincoln Park Village member, retired executive director of the American Library Association (representing gay men); Martha Smith, a former allied medical professional (representing lesbians); David Matteson, professor emeritus from Governors State University (representing bisexual individuals); and Gloria Allen, currently working with trans youth at the Center on Halsted (and representing trans individuals). The discussion panel will be held Tuesday, Oct. 18, 3-5 p.m., at Lake View Presbyterian Church, 716 W. Addison St.

This series is free and open to the public, but registration is required. For more information and registration, visit *LincolnParkVillage.org* or call 773-248-8700.

Lincoln Park Village is an innovative, member-driven community of older adults living throughout Chicago's North Side neighborhoods, who together are inventing a different, better future for life after 50. Village members enjoy community, connection, engagement, and fun—plus mostly volunteer-provided supportive services if needed. Using our talents, wisdom and skills we have become an important asset to our communities and to each other and are creating a much-needed change in both the perception and the reality of life after 50.

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