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**nightspots**

weekly nightlife section in 

# the DISH

Weekly Dining Guide in  
WINDY CITY TIMES

## SAVOR

### Mama's Boy event; Yoshi's Cafe gala

BY ANDREW DAVIS

Windy City Times recently had the honor of attending two different special events. Thankfully, the one thing in common was that they both featured excellent food.

**Mama's Boy Peasant Italian** (445 N. Dearborn St.; RosebudRestaurants.com/restaurant/mamas-boy-peasant-italian/) held an event that was big on the goal of achieving exposure via social media (although I don't think the organizers will be upset with publicity being achieved through a publication, either). Guests were invited to use Facebook, Twitter and Instagram to send photos and good words out to the masses—and there was even a Facebook live segment that let guests convey what was happening.

Fortunately, the cuisine at this new Rosebud venture was worth touting. The telegenic Chef Fabio Capparelli explained that the food reflects what he had growing up—and although I adore my



Left: Dessert tray with panettone (with gelato), panna cotta and cannolis at Mama's Boy Peasant Italian. Right: Japanese black cod at Yoshi's Cafe.

Photos by Andrew Davis

own mother's Southern dishes, it would've been cool to stop by the Capparelli household every once in a while.

Dishes included fried calamari, which was merely okay for me. However, the quality definitely improved with the sizeable traditional meatballs (with creamy polenta, marinara, parmesan and basil) as well as Nonna's meatballs (complete with pine nuts, raisings, escarole and beans). We next sampled white and margherita pizza.

What followed were three spectacular pasta dishes—orecchiette alla barese (my favorite), carbonara and gnocchi al pomodoro—and concluded the night with a dessert tray consisting of panna cotta, cannoli and coconut cake (the latter filled with gelato). Get to this restaurant to sample



some top-notch Italian cuisine.

On the other hand, the 34th-anniversary gala of French-Japanese spot **Yoshi's Cafe** (3257 N. Halsted St.; YoshisCafe.com) had culture and warm welcomes as well, although there was certainly a different vibe. Nobuko Katsumura (widow of chef-owner Yoshi Katsumura) welcomed dozens of attendees who were treated to a very special menu that included various appetizers; tuna poke salad; lobster bisque; entrees such as Japanese black cod, roasted quail and wagyu beef shortribs; and pear tart.

However, there was much more at this swanky, yet fun, event. Journalist Laura Washington emceed the festivities, which included words from Ald. Tom Tunney as well as singing and calligraphy.

## nightspots the big TO-DO

OUR WEEKLY PICKS TO PLAN  
YOUR NIGHTLIFE CALENDAR

**ChiGayGo:  
A Holiday Kiki**

chiGAYgo

Thu., Dec. 1, 10 pm  
Laugh Factory Chicago,  
3175 N. Broadway

A fabulously funny group of queer comics make the yuletide gay. Featuring Peter Kim, Rachel McCartney, Whitney Chitwood, Eric Lewis-Baker, Erin Diamond and your hostess with the most-est, Scott Duff.

**Master/Slave Class/  
Myth Busting**



Fri., Dec. 2, 7-8:30 pm  
Leather64TEN, 6410 N. Clark St.

Master Michael has been in a Master/slave relationship for over 13 years and will be hosting a Q/A discussion on what M/s is and isn't, what changes he's seen in the M/s and kink world, and possibly do a bit of myth-busting. Class size limited to 30. \$5 fee. Food and non-alcoholic beverages served.

**Barlesque 9:  
Closing Party**



Sat., Dec. 3, 9 pm

Charlie's, 3726 N. Broadway  
The official closing party for Barlesque 9. This will be the very last time to donate to your favorite contestant. Raffle prizes from Barlesque sponsors: Leather64Ten, Taboo Tabou, Fireball Whisky, Dr. McGillicuddy's, Victory Garden's Theater and many more.

**Tea in A-ville:  
Holiday Tea 3**



Sun., Dec. 4, 4-8 pm

Mary's Attic, 5400 N. Clark St.  
Come dance to all your favorite disco, '80s & '90s anthems and diva holiday music by Kylie, Mariah and more. Hosted by Vince Rango, music by Moose and co-hosted by Santa's favorite hardworking elves Chuck Keys and David Reiss.

## BARLESQUE 9 EVENTS

TPAN's annual fundraising strip-athon is turning out a revealing series of events.



## TOUCHE

Todd hosts a touching  
Spanksgiving, Wed., Nov. 23.  
Photos by Gerald Cernak



## NAUGHTY LITTLE CABARET

Furry burlesque, Sun., Nov. 27.  
Photos by Gerald Cernak



## CHARLIE'S

No hiding at Alex's Mask4Masq  
party, Wed., Nov. 23.  
Photos by Jerry Nunn



## JACKHAMMER

Fundraising insanity with  
Otter Chaos, Sat., Nov. 26.  
Photos by Kirk Williamson



"I'm almost positive a certain beloved daytime talk-show host once had me kicked out of a backstage dressing room at the Emmy Awards. I can't prove it, but this person, who has short blonde hair, has a mean streak that all of Hollywood knows about."—Kathy Griffin's clearly afraid to name **Ellen DeGeneres**. But we're not—because we have positive stories about both funny ladies in this week's column.

It was a sad Thanksgiving in the Masters household when we got word that **Florence Henderson** had died only days earlier she appeared on the season finale of *Dancing with the Stars*. Flo was a helluva gal. Actually, she liked to be called a "dame," apropos of her starring role in the 1967 revival of *South Pacific*. In fact, Henderson performed "There Is Nothing Like a Dame" at last year's *Broadway Backwards*, which raised money for *Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS* and the *NYC Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Community Center*.

Yes, Mrs. Brady was always there for us. I have a plethora of stories that I could share, but my most treasured anecdote is from two years ago after her show at the *Catalina Bar & Grill*. I told her about a friend who had been a child actor and had fond memories of appearing opposite her in the 1970 musical, "The Song of Norway"—her first film. A week or so later, I ran into Flo at a party. She told me she couldn't stop thinking about my friend and how sweet it was that he still thought about her. She then pointed to my phone and said, "Can you record a video on that thing?" I said, "Yes." She asked me to film her sending a message to my friend. That was Flo. RIP.

Social media was all a-twitter with rumors that **Mike Pence** may have done gay porn in the past. The allegation was accompanied by a photo of a very hot man, indeed. But it's not Pence. The porn pup in question is **Brad Patton**, aka *Joel Mangs*. First off, *Mangs/Patton* was born in 1972—Pence hails from the late '50s. Patton ended his porn career with a bang (or a mang) in 2007, and then continued working as a professional ice skater. He's won two gold medals at the *Gay Games* and two silver medals at the *World OutGames*. He's also been a member of "Disney on Ice" and appeared on "Dancing on Ice" in the Netherlands.

Time to set the record straight—**Elton John** will not be singing at **Donald Trump's** inauguration. I repeat, Elton John will NOT be singing at Donald Trump's inauguration, despite a claim made by Anthony Scaramucci, a member of Trump's transition team: "This will be the first American president in U.S. history that enters the White House with a pro-gay-rights stance. Elton John is going to be doing our concert on the mall for the inauguration." Really? A mouth-piece for the singer stated, "Elton will not be performing at Trump's inauguration."

A couple months ago, I reported about a married Republican politician in Louisiana who allegedly picked up a kid at a high school luncheon, started sexting with him, met him at his job at the mall food court, brought him a gift of some undies, and then made out with him in the men's room. Does any of that ring a bell? Well, it doesn't with the politician in question. In an interview, **Mike Yenni** claims that much of the story was made up. While he doesn't want to go through it "line by line," he says he never



Tom Ellis plays the devilish Lucifer on the Fox show of the same name.

saw the lad at any high school function. In fact, they first met when they were both a part of a "group text." When asked why he was sending explicit texts to a 17-year-old, he says it was "a stupid decision to send a text to, in my opinion, another consenting adult that we had, we had, we had some off-color texts." When asked if he meant the things he said in the texts, Yenni says, "Probably not, 'cause nothing was acted upon. There was no sex." When asked if he bought the boy underwear, Mike said, "There are fictional elements to this story." When asked if they kissed, Yenni said, "There was no sex. There was no sexual contact." Well, I guess it depends on how you define "sexual contact."

Believe it or not, it's time for Billy's Holiday Gift Giving Suggestions. Let me start by telling all potential vendors that my endorsement can be bought. But until the payola starts rolling in, let's start off with something that should make everyone happy. If you've gotten this far, I'm gonna assume you enjoy reading. Not heavy reading—my fans like reading trash. Something you can breeze through and get a bit of a chuckle out of. If you know someone like-minded, then buy them Kathy Griffin's new best-seller, *Celebrity Run-Ins: My A-Z Index*. It's exactly what you want from Kathy—dish about celebrities. And it's alphabetized! Here's a little tip—if don't like reading, get the audio book! It's available through Audible, or you can go really old-school and buy the CDs—read by the author, naturally!

We can squeeze in a very short "Ask Billy" question. Thomas in Baltimore asks, "What do you know about **Tom Ellis** from 'Lucifer'? He looks so familiar. Or maybe it's just because he's SO hot."

You may remember the handsome Welsh actor from when he played Robin Hood on *Once Upon a Time*. Nope, not the Robin of Sean Maguire. Ellis played the role first, but had to bow out when the character became a regular the following season because he'd been cast in the USA series *Rush*—which was swiftly cancelled. But you're in luck. During our research, we learned that Ellis appeared nude in the British series *The Fades*. And in the spirit of giving, you can check him out on *BillyMasters.com*.

When we can go from Netherlands to nether regions, it's time to end yet another column. With the holiday season upon us, you can get lots of ho, ho, hos at *BillyMasters.com*, the site that would make one helluva stocking stuffer. If you'd like some stuffing personally, send me a note (and a photo) to *Billy@BillyMasters.com* and I promise to get back to you before Elton and Hillary sing "Don't Go Breaking My Heart" at the inauguration! So, until next time, remember: One man's filth is another man's bible.



JOIN THE PARTY! SATURDAY DECEMBER 3

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at SIDETRACK

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## Sidetrack's OUTspoken! Series: December's featured storytellers



Bea Cordelia



David Ferrell



Ashlee Robison



Imani Rupert-Gordon



Jace Smith



Kirk Williamson

The December edition of OUTspoken! LGBTQ storyteller series takes place Tuesday, December 6, at Sidetrack, 3349 N. Halsted St. Doors open at 6 pm, stories begin at 7.

See [www.outspokenchicago.com](http://www.outspokenchicago.com) for more info.

### Bea Cordelia

Bea Cordelia is an award-winning, Chicago-bred writer, solo performer and teaching artist, specializing in issues of gender, sex and sexuality, queerness and the body. Six of her plays have been produced to date and many of her poems and essays published, including the self-published chapbook of poetry, 28.06 // Dear Sylvia. Her autobiographical solo show, Chasing Blue, recently featured in The Brick's inaugural Trans Theatre Festival in Brooklyn. She has been featured at the Goodman Theatre, Victory Gardens Theater, the Green Mill Cocktail Lounge, Links Hall, Salonathon, The Fly Honeys Show, the Chicago Home Theater Festival and many more events and venues throughout Chicagoland.

After winning the Agnes Nixon Playwriting Award for the second consecutive year at Northwestern in 2014, she had the pleasure of meeting Agnes Nixon herself and working as a guest writer on All My Children. Last year, she also wrote an award-winning academic thesis on the intersection of body image and law in the German transgender community, based on original research she conducted in Berlin.

She just finished developing her first-ever multimedia installation in a Chicago Performance Lab residency at The University of Chicago, and was recently made a 2016 Creative Writing Fellow with Luminarts Cultural Foundation.

### David Ferrell

David Ferrell is a native of southwest Michigan. Since coming out to his family and friends in the summer of 2012, David has been approached by others asking for advice on the subject. Over the course of this past year, David has been doing just that.

As an LGBTQ author, blogger and advocate, David has been lending his voice across the Midwest at the Kalamazoo Pride Fest; the Southwestern Michigan College LGBTQ and Allies Club; and has volunteered in community service projects with Howard

Brown Health and The Center on Halsted. Recently, David has added first-time author to his list of accomplishments with his newly published book, The Open Closet, based on his popular WordPress blog. He currently lives in Chicago with his partner of four years.

### Ashlee Robison

Ashlee Robison is a PhD student in Chemistry at Northwestern University, investigating the ways one can use DNA to control the assembly of nanoscale biomaterials, and in the evenings she moonlights as a queer feminist writer. She has received undergraduate degrees in creative writing, environmental policy and chemistry.

Raised in Montana, she has also lived in Alaska, Idaho, Wyoming, North Carolina and Colorado, before settling in Chicago in 2015. She enjoys reading Stuart Dybek and Cormac McCarthy, listening to Lady Gaga, and drinking mezcal when she's not in the lab.

### Imani Rupert-Gordon

For 15 years Imani has worked to advance social justice efforts in higher education in local communities.

Currently, Imani serves as the Executive Director of Affinity Community Services. She also serves on the governing board of United Way of Metropolitan Chicago's United Pride Executive committee and the Illinois State Treasurer's LGBTQ Advisory Council.

### Jace Smith

Jace Smith wears many hats. He is a fundraiser by day and manages a college access program for at-risk youth. By night, he is an entrepreneur; he has owned Embrace your fit™ personal training company for 15 years. Jace is also a nutrition coach who loves seeing the internal transformation that comes from people taking their health and

well-being to the next level. Jace co-hosts The Life Lab, Mega Minds Building Mega Bodies radio show. His show airs bi-weekly and focuses on empowering listeners to experiment with their own power and find their individual path to achieving greatness.

In his free time he is a complete gym rat and is a guitarist/vocalist that composes music that can fit into many genres. Jace loves to cook, bust a move on the dance floor and he prides himself as a connector and resource for many communities. He has served in various capacities for some of Chicago's largest LGBTQ organizations. Jace believes that by being of service to others, he can increase his reach and impact the lives of members of the most vulnerable communities.

### Kirk Williamson

Kirk Williamson is the art director for Windy City Times and served as editor of Nightspots Magazine, starting in 2004. During his editorship, he strived hard to achieve the most comprehensive coverage in town of Chicago's LGBTQ nightlife scene, always with twisted humor and a real focus on the individuals who make this community so great. He is well-known in the bar scene for his photography and his column, "That Guy," which was a shortened version of "Hey, You're That Guy From the Magazine," a phrase he heard all too often.

While you won't find Kirk out at the bars that often anymore, you may see him hosting local trivia nights as KWizmaster Kirk Williamson, pursuing his passion for vintage resale as owner of his brand-new venture, When Vintage, hiking the many trails of Illinois' state parks or doggedly conducting genealogical research and forming bonds with distant family all over the globe.

Kirk graduated from Beloit College with a Bachelor's in Russian language, which, at this point, amounts to fun anecdote at parties for which he will be repaying student loans well into his 50s.

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