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weekly nightlife section in





THE SOFO TAP

Kelly Lauren gets very NSFW (photos edited to protect your virgin eyes).
Photos by Clayton Terrill

the DISH

Weekly Dining Guide in
WINDY CITY TIMES

SAVOR

The Florentine; 'Bootycandy' beverages

BY ANDREW DAVIS

The lovely Italian restaurant **The Florentine** (inside the J.W. Marriott Hotel at 151 W. Adams St.; The-Florentine.net) has a chef, Zachary Walrath, who rarely brings back dishes once a new season's in play.

The bad news regarding that approach is that you're unlikely to see a dish you've really savored the following year. The good news (at least in this case, thanks to Walrath's work) is that patrons experience a constant culinary adventure.

Start off with the burrata and top-notch pancetta, and then choose from a slew of enticing



Pancetta at The Florentine.
Photo by Andrew Davis

entrees, including the branzino (which is the only item that's never off the menu), Berkshire pork chop (my favorite) and pasta dishes like caramelli—with the somewhat unlikely combo of celery root, red grapes, pecorino, rosemary and aged balsamic. Oh—and be sure to conclude with a light gingerbread panna cotta or apple-pie crostata.

However, The Florentine also has a (not-so-secret) weapon: sommelier Alexandria Sarovich. She's cool, sophisticated and extremely knowledgeable—and even contributes to the creation of dishes, such as the caramelli.

By the way (speaking of alcohol), don't skip the cocktails. The Ginger Earth is a wonderfully refreshing and relatively simple mix of Grey Goose vodka, ginger, pear, lemon and soda.

Sidetrack's OUTspoken! Series: April's featured storytellers



Elizabeth Gerard



Melody Kamali



Owen Keehnen



Damian Moshak



Jerry Nunn



R.C. Riley

The April edition of **OUTspoken! LGBTQ storyteller series** takes place Tuesday, April 4, at Sidetrack, 3349 N. Halsted St. Doors open at 6 pm, stories begin at 7.

See www.outspokenchicago.com for more info.

'Bootycandy' beverages

Bootycandy (at Windy City Playhouse at 3014 W. Irving Park Rd.; <http://WindyCityPlayhouse.com/bootycandy/>) is a sexually graphic—and very funny—production about a gay African-American boy.

However, the reason it's being mentioned here is because of the associated drink specials. Among the offerings are the tasty Freaky and Twisted (basically, an espresso martini) and, of course, The Bootycandy (Jolly Rancher-infused vodka, lemon juice and simple syrup, with a lollipop garnish). Add in the fact that you can take in the drinks while sitting in very comfortable chairs in the venue, and it's fun for all. However, get there quickly: The production ends Saturday, April 15.

Note: Restaurant profiles/events are based on invitations arranged from restaurants and/or firms.

—**Elizabeth Gerard**, aka "The Mighty B," is an award-winning writer, teacher and performer based in Chicago. She holds an MFA in Fiction from Columbia College Chicago, and graduate degrees in Creative Non-Fiction, Stage and Screenwriting, and Poetry from Northwestern University and the University of Chicago. She has told stories and read poetry with various live-lit organizations throughout Chicago.

—**Melody Kamali** is a queer, first-generation Iranian-American stand-up comic and storyteller. The dualities of her life make for an awareness and appreciation of the absurd, and an almost confessional style of comedy. She is a current member of the female stand-up collective Hoo HA Comedy and co-producer of its monthly show. She also produces and co-hosts the bi-monthly stand-up show.

—**Owen Keehnen**, writer and historian, is the author of several books. He was the co-founder of The Legacy Project and currently serves on the boards of The Legacy Project and The Chicago LGBT Hall of Fame.

—**Damian Moshak** is a dedicated lifelong educator and trainer. A clever wordsmith, story telling seems to be in his DNA. He is quick with a joke and relevant story. Damian has lived in Chicago most of his life and makes his home with his Husband and two cats. Damian always has a story, inside joke and fun phrase to share.

—**Jerry Nunn** is a contributor and photographer for the LGBT weekly newspaper Windy City Times, the website GoPride.com, and Edge Media. He is syndicated nationally and completed thousands of celebrity interviews, many of these for his Nunn on One YouTube Channel. His own website, NunnOnTheRun.com, has him covering events all over town. Follow the Nunn @jerry-nunn on Twitter and Instagram and he will pray for you. Can I get an amen?

—**R.C. Riley** is a queer warrior woman, writer, performer and storyteller who began writing as a means of healing after a sexual assault. She has told stories at Tenx9, Loose Chicks, Sappho's Salon, Plagiarists Salon, and more. R.C. honed her writing skills at Chicago Dramatists Theater, and will be debuting her solo show, *Wrong Way Journey* in May as part of Three Cat Productions' SOLO Chicago Festival.



PR photo



Photo by Michael Brosilow



BILLY Masters

"So excited for you @NancyAKerrigan! Can't wait to see you grace that ballroom floor, break a leg!"—**Kristi Yamaguchi** probably didn't think twice before mentioning broken limbs to **Nancy Kerrigan**. But am I the only one who thinks *Dancing with the Stars* ratings would have gone through the roof if they also invited **Tonya Harding** to compete?

Who says you can't go home again? Actor **Trevor Donovan** recreated his iconic nude photo to shoot from 2004. How does the 38-year-old stack up against his 25-year-old self? Well, his ass looks better. So does his hair. As to the rest of him, I'll post the pics on BillyMasters.com and you can decide for yourself.

You all know about Russia's plan to ban Disney's live-action version of *Beauty and the Beast* because it shows **LeFou** (played by **Josh Gad**) dancing with another male character. Well, Russia backed down. Instead, the film was slapped with an "adults-only" rating—like it was *Last Tango in Paris*! I never thought I'd see the day when an NC-17 rating was given to any Disney film—other than *Song of the South*!

Hong Kong and Singapore had similar concerns. But it was the Malaysian censors who demanded the scene be cut because in Malaysia, it's illegal to engage in any homosexual activity—including dancing, apparently. "The film has not been and will not be cut for Malaysia," said Disney. The Mouse prevailed and the film will debut on March 30—with a PG-13 rating. Since the announcement, various non-government organizations have filed complaints with the Malaysian government. The first came from **Abdul Rani Kulup Abdullah**, the president of the *Pertubuhan Martabat Jalinan Muhibbah*. I'm not exactly sure what he said—I'm not exactly sure I typed his (or the group's) name right! But, as I always say, you're not a success until someone is protesting you.

Several outlets reported that a new *Sex and the City* film was happening. False. I recently spoke with someone very close to the project, and found out that nothing is definite. The only thing everyone agrees on is the plot. All four ladies like the outline. A script was ordered. **Sarah Jessica** allegedly did not like the first draft, feeling it departed from the tone of the original too much. And that's where it stands. Once **SJP** sees a script she likes, the other girls have to approve it. Then all the logistics of scheduling need to be worked out. So, it'll be a while.

Lindsay Lohan is angling to star as the live-action *Little Mermaid*, and composer **Alan Menken** has his eye on an ideal villainess: "I've wanted **Harvey Fierstein** to play *Ursula*. I would kill for that!" He's not alone. Fans have deluged *Harvey* with artist's renderings of *Fierstein* in fish regalia. "Oh, **Menken**, what have you started? Ha!!!"

It's been a while since we heard any news about **Bradley Cooper's** remake of *A Star Is Born*. So we made a few calls, greased a few ... well, grease was involved—and here's what I discovered. Pre-production is done, and filming will



Bradley Cooper's shooting "Star" soon, Billy says.

Cooper in *American Sniper*, courtesy of Warner Bros.

begin in about three weeks. The script is closer in tone to the **Judy Garland** version than the **Barbra Streisand** vehicle. **Lady Gaga** is still the star. **Bradley** will play her long-suffering hubby. **Sam Elliott** will play *Gaga's* manager. And, believe it or not, **Andrew Dice Clay** will play *Gaga's* father! I don't think he gets a song.

Previews for **Hello, Dolly!** began on Broadway, and everyone is saying that **Bette Midler** is beyond divine. So it's with great sadness I share the following news. Despite promises, original "Dolly" **Carol Channing** will not be able to attend the opening. I'm told the 96-year-old is simply not up to the cross-country trip. To compound *Bette's* disappointment, composer **Jerry Herman** will also miss the festivities for a similar reason.

Between concerts, Broadway shows, and recurring on *Quantico*, **Jay Armstrong Johnson** is kinda busy. But not so busy that he didn't notice a suspicious charge on his credit card bill. After a bit of investigation, he discovered that \$450 was billed by **OKCupid**—a site **NAJ** has never visited. "I've been in a relationship for almost 5 years. I've never done a dating site," he has said.

RuPaul recently announced that he married longtime companion **Georges LeBar** in January. It was the 23rd anniversary of when they met—on the dance floor at *Limelight* in New York in 1994 (ah, *Limelight*). Why did they finally tie the knot? **Ru** said, "We were looking into it really for tax breaks and financial reasons." How romantic! If you didn't know **Ru** had a partner, you're not alone. "He doesn't care about show business—he couldn't care less. Most of the time, he's on the ranch in Wyoming," **RuPaul** has said. "But he doesn't want me to come there. God bless you, Wyoming, but it's very boring, and it's the most isolated place on Earth." With the **RuPaul** renaissance, there's another project in the works. **J.J. Abrams** is producing a half-hour dramedy based on **Ru's** early years in NYC. The show will focus on the tyke's rise from club kid to global icon.

When **RuPaul** could become the next **Disney** princess, it's time to end yet another column. I must say happy birthday to the great **Bob Mackie**. I ran into the legendary designer (and my occasional vacation friend) while he was celebrating in a little cafe in our Beverly Hills neighborhood. It's as if he's turned back time—he looks AMAZING! See who else looks great on www.BillyMasters.com—the site that can't be censored. If you've got a question, send it to Billy@BillyMasters.com and I promise to get back to you before I'm banned in Malaysia! So, until next time, remember: One man's filth is another man's bible.

EVERY FRIDAY
STARTING MARCH 24
7PM/NO COVER

RuPaul's DRAG RACE

SEASON 9 CHICAGO VIEWING PARTY

TGIF SHOW TUNES
4-7PM

WATCH & WIN!
WITH DIXIE LYNN
CARTWRIGHT

FEATURING
THE VIXEN

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LIGHTS GO DOWN.
SHIRTS COME OFF.
TEAM SIDETRACK IS GEARED UP.
FIRST WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH

APRIL 5 9PM-2AM

WOOF

WEDNESDAY

HOSTED BY
TODD HARRIS
MR. CHICAGO LEATHER 2016
NO COVER

LEAVE YOUR INHIBITIONS AT THE DOOR...

NEWTON-JOHN from page 26

I have another thought, maybe I could have been a mounted policewoman, then I could ride horses and get paid for it!

At the time they didn't have mounted police-women, only men, when I was young. Luckily, I could sing.

WCT: Do you ride horses now?

ON-J: I used to. I had seven horses at one point. Now I have two gorgeous miniature horses.

WCT: What are their names?

ON-J: Harry and Winston. I didn't name them, but isn't that perfect? They are just adorable.

WCT: Have they ever thought about making a musical about your life?

ON-J: They are doing my life story for television in Australia, not a musical per se but you never know. I've thought of a one woman show, but I guess I am doing that already!

Hopelessly devote Thursday, May 11, to your concert calendar as **Newton-John** plays at **Joliet's Rialto Square Theatre**, 15 E. Van Buren St., at 7:30 p.m. Visit OliviaNewton-John.com for tickets and information.

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www.leather64ten.com