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weekly nightlife section in



'Leather Eye' contest at Touche



Leather Eye For the Preppy Guy, the annual preppy-to-leather makeover contest, returns this Friday, April 28, to **Touche**, 6412 N. Clark St. Sign up begins at 10, contest at 11. Winner receives a \$500 leather makeover from Leather 64TEN. A benefit for Vital Bridges Groceryland Pantry.



Wonka Ball shows cosmic delights

BY BRONSON PETTITT

"It's a great gateway drug, as it were, for coming to the theater," said Andrew Volkoff, referring to Friday's Wonka Ball, an annual gala to raise money for the About Face Theatre.

Volkoff—one of the event's organizers and the outgoing artistic director for the community-focused LGBTQIA arts organization (who is stepping down at the end of the 2016-17 season)—said the space-themed gala was a "smash."

Dressed as space cowboys and cowgirls, Star Trek and Star Wars characters, astronauts and aliens and more, participants danced, drank, ate and bid on silent-auction items, including cookie bouquets, martial arts packages, happy hour for a dozen people, baseball games, electronic-music concert tickets and pieces from local artists.

A live auction for a Lady Gaga concert package in Chicago went for \$2,300, while a seven-day cruise package fetched \$3,500. Similarly, one of About Face's lifetime donors offered a matching \$2,500 if bidders contributed the same amount in donations—and in just a few minutes, the offer was met.

"The programs [AFT] does with youth and the way they get the message out so people understand what our communities' experiences are—they do it with such quality, with such heart, without pandering, without apologizing, and I love that," said Vinny Cousineau, who was with husband LT Cousineau; incidentally, they were both dressed as droids during what was their third Wonka Ball.



Photos by Bronson Pettitt



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

Lihy Epstein



Jackie Kaplan-Perkins

Brad Lippitz



Joshua Oaks

Eitan Schechtman-Drayman



Amy Thompson

The May edition of **OUTspoken! LGBTQ storyteller series** takes place **Tuesday, May 2, at Sidetrack, 3349 N. Halsted St. Doors open at 6 pm, stories begin at 7. See www.outspokenchicago.com for more info.**

—**Lihy Epstein** has been performing in various media for years. It all started with theater camp as child, speech team in high school, college drag performances as "Dick Then Dyke," and numerous poetry open mics throughout. She is currently working on keeping both of her family businesses' legacies going, and moonlighting as an aspiring poet and storyteller.

—**Jackie Kaplan-Perkins** is a lifelong Chicagoan. She serves as the Director of the Chicago and the Midwest for Human Rights Watch and in the evening drinking scotch and telling stories (usually in that order). She lives on the north side with her wife, Ann, their son, David and a menagerie of pets.

—**Brad Lippitz** is an accomplished lawyer, artist and—for the last 24 years—real estate broker. He and his husband, Yoni, have been together for nearly 30 years and have two teenaged sons. He and Yoni are active in politics and they have hosted scores of benefits for LGBT organizations and politicians over the years. Brad has served on numerous boards and remains active in political and social service organizations on both the local and national level.

—**Joshua Oaks** has been working on social justice issues affecting queer communities on the local, state and national level for over 10 years. Currently, he is the Digital Policy Manager for the AIDS Foundation of Chicago and in 2016 served as a co-chair for the Creating Change Conference. Joshua is a giant Star Trek dork and is prone to bursting out in long phrases of gibberish when he gets excited. Oh yeah, he is also a hugger, so give him one.

—**Eitan Schechtman-Drayman** lives in Evanston with his husband and two children. He is a postdoctoral fellow in Neuroscience at Northwestern University. Eitan was born in Israel and lived there almost all his life. He has volunteered at various Israeli LGBTQ organizations, such as Hoshen, an educational organization, IGY (Israeli Gay Youth) and the Jerusalem Open House.

—**Amy Thompson** performs across the country with The Second City Touring Company, and in Chicago with The Annoyance house ensemble, Baby Wine. A California native, Amy graduated from Brandeis University with degrees in English and Acting in 2011.

the DISH

Weekly Dining Guide in
WINDY CITY TIMES

SAVOR

Chicago Artisan Chocolate Show; Broken English

BY ANDREW DAVIS

Attendees were definitely living the sweet life at the **Chicago Artisan Chocolate Show** that took place April 22-23 at Plumbers Hall.



Glazed and Infused at Chicago Artisan Chocolate Show.

Photo by Andrew Davis

Several dozen vendors exhibited everything from classic treats to tasty trends in the world of chocolate. (Unlike some festivals, most vendors offered samples and sold larger items.) A few of the standouts were as follows:

—**Sweet P's Pantry:** This Wisconsin-based chocolatier is the home of the giant peanut-butter cup, but offered some great toffees at the show.

—**Terry's Toffee:** Speaking of toffee, this gay-owned business has some of the best treats in that category this writer has ever tasted (including magical lemon-flavored candies)—but, at the show, it also offered Wackerpop (popcorn smothered in toffee and drizzled in dark chocolate).

—**Lemaster Family Kitchen:** One of the few non-chocolate-focused vendors at the exhibit, LFK sold rubs that smelled absolutely amazing, including Backyard Blend (a blend of roughly ground root vegetables and herbs, with a hint of arbol chili pepper), South of France and Rub It Right.

—**Let Them Eat Candles:** It sounds like one of those ideas that makes someone say, "Why didn't I think of that?" Glencoe-based Let Them Eat Candles offers edible (and working) items that taste like milk, dark or white chocolate.

—**IntoxiCakes:** As one might surmise, this company offers boozy confections, such as vodka red velvet (with Chambord cream-cheese frosting), whiskey chocolate (with Irish cream buttercream icing) and bourbon salted caramel (with bourbon cream-cheese topping) cupcakes.

—**Somrus:** There were also vendors who offered alcohol (as long as attendees presented tickets). One of the most intriguing was Somrus, a versatile liqueur that counts cardamom, almonds and rose petals among its ingredients, and that can be used in everything from chai lattes to desserts—and, of course, drunk on its own.

Turn to page 30



BILLY Masters

"There's this whole generation of young Hollywood girls who can't find love where they think it's supposed to be, and then they come out being gay and two weeks later they have a boyfriend. It drives me nuts!"—**Kelly Osbourne** takes issue with girls who play gay for fun. For the record, if any young straight boys want to play gay with me, I'm in.

The **Bette Midler**-led production of *Hello, Dolly!* finally opened on Broadway—and, no surprise, the critics were dutifully impressed. Amidst all the plaudits, there was some disappointment for Bette—the absence of **Carol Channing** and **Jerry Herman**. Of course, if she were keeping up with BillyMasters.com, she would have known weeks ago that these two would be unable to attend. The composer of "Dolly" said he hoped to travel from Miami for the opening—perhaps by train since he hates planes. But his health has been up and down, so he declined.

As for the original "Dolly," Channing decided months ago that she wouldn't be there, saying, "Dolly is Bette's, now. I'm not going to take away from that." Altruistic as those sentiments are, she, too, was not well enough for the trip. Several sources tell me that Carol is under hospice care and has been intubated. Not so, say her people. "She's at home in bed recovering but no means is she on death's door or connected to anything. She just had a small fall, but that's nothing." I suspect the truth is somewhere in the middle. We send our best wishes to Carol and hope, whatever is going on, that she's not in any pain.

Because of her fall, Carol wasn't able to attend two local events. One of them was an award from the Professional Dancers Society on April 23 at the Beverly Hilton Hotel. Due to Carol's indisposition, **Lily Tomlin** graciously stepped in. Because when I think of professional dancers, I think of Lily Tomlin.

The second event was "Hello, Jerry!," a musical tribute to Jerry Herman that was produced by Michael Childers at the McCallum Theatre in Palm Springs and raised money for Jewish Family Service. The show, under the direction of Jason Graae, featured many luminaries giving voice to Jerry Herman songs. Folks like **Lucie Arnaz Jr.**, **Faith Prince**, **Hunter Ryan Herdlicka**, **Lee Roy Reams**, **Liz Callaway**, **David Burnham**, **Vicki Lewis**, **Davis Gaines**, **Gary Beach**, **Ruta Lee**, and the indefatigable **Carole Cook!** There were many stars in attendance as well, such as **Mimi Hines**, **Kaye Ballard**, **Sal Mistretta**, and **Peter Marshall**. Were it not for the traffic driving to Palm Springs (damn you, Coachella), it would have been a perfect trip. That mar was made up for by the terrific food courtesy of Lulu California Bistro—the short ribs, in particular, were spectacular. And the event raised a ton of money.

Now we get into a "she said, 'she' said" situation. I'm sure you've all seen **Caitlyn Jenner's** latest interview with **Diane Sawyer**—which just happened to air four days before the release of Cait's autobiography. Because we already told you the good stuff in advance, there weren't many revelations. Jenner did say that she's trying to be a better father, but is not as close to members of



Damon Dayoub has found more fans through Grace and Frankie.
Instagram photo

the Kardashian Klan as she'd like. Two days later, *Keeping Up with the Kardashians* dealt with Kris' reaction to the book—and it's not good. "Basically, the only nice thing 'she' had to say was that I was great socially, at a party one time. None of it makes sense. Everything she says is all made up. Why does everything have to be that Kris is such a bitch and an asshole?" Kris' big disagreement with Jenner is whether he (at the time, Cait was a he) told Kris about his issues: "I tell Kris about my gender issues before I make love to her. This will always be a subject of dispute between us. She insists that she was taken by surprise by my ultimate transition to Caitlyn, which obviously means in her mind that she did not know enough."

Kevin Spacey was just named host of the Tony Awards—which means either someone better dropped out or he has something to promote. Or there's a third option. People close to Kevin say that he's going to take this opportunity to come out of the closet in a kinda matter-of-fact way. Really? I guess we'll find out on June 11.

Whether Spacey is gay or not, he'd be welcomed at Club Cumming, an offshoot of **Alan Cumming's** dressing room at Cabaret, which kinda became a nightclub with people always dropping in. He's teamed up with **Ben Maisani** (Anderson Cooper's beau) and **Daniel Nardicio** (of *Playgirl* and various notorious underwear parties in NYC and Fire Island) to make it a reality: "Alan wants it to be a home for everyone of all ages, all genders, all sexualities, who all enjoy letting go and making mischief. No judgments, no attitude, no rules, except kindness, acceptance and fun." The club will take over the Eastern Bloc space in the East Village and will reopen in the fall.

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Danny in Maryland has an "Ask Billy" question which I enjoyed researching: "Do you know anything about the hot male escort Briana is sleeping with on *Grace and Frankie*? He's absolutely incredible!"

His name is **Damon Dayoub**, and he's straight. There—I just lost half my audience. But I can keep the rest of you on board when I tell you how hot he is, and how he's not shy about showing off his assets, as you'll see on BillyMasters.com.

When Lily Tomlin is bringing us dancers and male escorts, it's definitely time to end yet another column. You can find all that and more on BillyMasters.com—the site that's of no interest to Lily! The rest of you can send your questions to Billy@BillyMasters.com and I promise to get back to you before I tell you what I have in common with Caitlyn! So, remember, one man's filth is another man's bible.