

 /nightspots

 @nightspotschicago



nightspots

weekly nightlife section in



Market Days shines on Halsted

Photos by Jerry Nunn





Jody Watley.



Linda Clifford (left) with Chilli Pepper.



Steve Grand.



Inaya Day.



Prince Poppycock.



Tiffany.



SQUIRT.org

The hookup site **TOO HOT** for the app store

the DISH

Weekly Dining Guide in
WINDY CITY TIMES

SAVOR

Heritage Restaurant & Caviar Bar

BY ANDREW DAVIS

It would be almost impossible to not have an enjoyable time at **Heritage Restaurant & Caviar Bar** (2700 W. Chicago Ave.; <https://heritage-chicago.com/>), a deceptively laid-back spot that's at the junction of East Humboldt Park and West Ukrainian Village.

First, it might be wise to address the sturgeon in the room: Those who may be intimidated by caviar (simply because it's caviar) shouldn't be. The staff is more than happy to steer guests



Whitefish crudo (left) and the baked Alaska at Heritage Restaurant & Caviar Bar.

Photos by Andrew Davis

through the caviar-related part of Heritage's menu, which includes items such as gold osetra and Siberian sturgeon. (There are also offerings such as salmon, trout and paddlefish roe for the adventurous.) I'm not the biggest fan of fish eggs, but the ones I sampled were actually particularly tasty—although people should be aware that the items (as expected) are not cheap.

Also, to show the power of the vegan demographic, there is actually vegan caviar at Heritage

as well (spheres with white balsamic and truffle). I didn't try them, so taste them at your own risk.

However, there is much more to the two-floor Heritage (and I urge people to check out the basement space) than roe. Oysters (of which a variety is served) come with garnishes of house sea-salt matzo, house mignonette and hot sauce; whitefish crudo is delicate and a spicy; and the king-crab legs (with flying-fish roe) is practically heaven on earth.

However, for those who are seafood-averse, there are plenty of choices as well. There's the Heritage Burger (shortrib, sirloin and prime rib-eye burger with cheddar and garlic aioli); baby-back ribs with peanuts and mint; dumplings (like the beef-heart pierogi) and noodles; heirloom tomato pie with goat cheese and caramelized onions; a savory bone-in pork chop with Carolina Gold grits; and even the Heritage Cobb salad, which comes with coal-roasted chicken, Wisconsin horseradish cheddar and sous vide egg. And, yes, there are desserts here, too, including baked Alaska (a solid winner) as well as raspberry-and-vanilla cake and other items.

There's also a pretty nifty wine list as well as a list of (reasonably priced) cocktails. I had the Upside Down and a Little Flirty—a heady but tasty mix of Imbue Pearl and Thorn, gin, sparkling wine and Luxardo Maraschino.

(By the way, this spot also serves breakfast seven days a week, with dishes such as ancient grain-and-wild rice oatmeal, fresh baked kolachki, and duck-confit biscuits and gravy.)

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



SIDETRACK

Getting wood at Camp Sidetrack during Market Days.

Photos by Jerry Nunn

Country Dance's 30th Anniversary at The Call

Chicago's Original Country Dance, hosted by David Boyer, will be celebrating its roots and 30 years of country dance parties across Chicago with a special dance party beginning at 4 pm on **Sunday, August 20**, at **The Call**, 1547 W. Bryn Mawr Ave.

Alcala's Western Wear, 1733 W. Chicago Ave., will offer door prizes ranging from T-shirts to a \$50 gift certificate; a light buffet will be served. Admission to Chicago's Original Country Dance is free and open to all 21 and older.



It may seem like a whole other time, but thirty years ago this past May, David Boyer (pictured at left) hosted the very first "Texas 2-Stepping Night" at Carol's Speakeasy. Carol's was Chicago's largest gay dance club with legendary parties and DJs. Beginning in the late '70s, Carol's was packing them in every weekend.

Boyer remembers that about 30 guys were there that first night looking to learn to two-step. Every single guy stepped on the dance floor and by the night's end, Two-Stepping and country dancing were in Chicago to stay.

Whether you are an old fan of the dance or are looking for a new outlet for dancing and fun, all are welcome to come help celebrate 30 years of country dancing in Chicago LGBT community.



Legal Council's ¡Bienvenidos! at Sidetrack

Legal Council for Health Justice will host its annual summer benefit at **Sidetrack** on Thursday, Aug. 17, at 6 p.m. This year's event is called ¡Bienvenidos! and will celebrate the diverse, vibrant and welcoming country of Mexico. ¡Bienvenidos! will feature Mexican cuisine by Bombón Café, cocktails by Sidetrack, live entertainment, an extensive silent auction and the popular Grand Raffle. Over 350 influential guests from law, medicine, politics and social service will be in attendance. All proceeds from this event support the Legal Council's free legal service programs which assist low-income people with HIV, individuals facing homelessness, and children with disabilities.

Tickets start at \$75 and are available at www.council17.gesture.com or by calling 312-427-8990.

The generous Platino-level sponsors for ¡Bienvenidos! are Aetna, Aetna Better Health, Kirkland & Ellis LLP, and Sidley Austin. This event is in collaboration with the Mexico Tourism Board.

This year, Legal Council For Health Justice's three programs—AIDS Legal Council, Chicago Medical-Legal Partnership for Children and Homeless Outreach Project—will provide free, direct legal care to over 2,200 individuals who would otherwise never be able to afford legal assistance.





BILLY Masters

"As a friend, I hate when she gets into trouble. As a comic, I'm next in line whenever she gets fired. I'm blowing up Anderson Cooper's phone: 'Girl, what are you doing New Year's Eve?'"—Margaret Cho talks about good friend and colleague **Kathy Griffin**.

Since it's Carnival Week in Provincetown, you know where I am. When I'm not having more sex than you can shake a stick at (or whatever they were shaking at me), I'm seeing tons of great shows. Even if you aren't anywhere near Cape Cod, these people regularly tour the country and will likely hit your locale sometime soon.

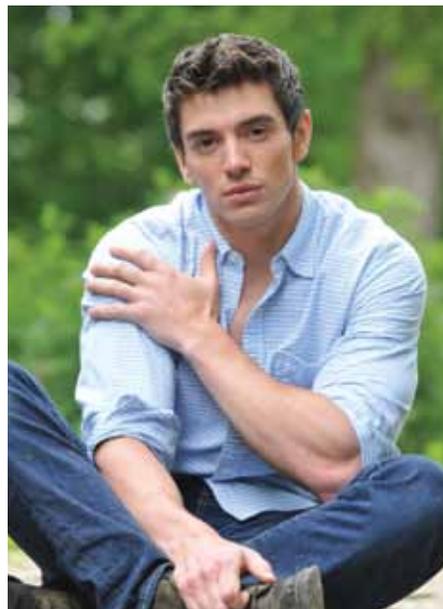
I made it to the tip of the Cape just in time for **Marilyn Maye** at the Provincetown Art House. To say she's better than ever is an understatement. Yes, she's my dear friend, but this woman's voice cannot be equaled by people half her age. While I'm always amazed at her power and range, this year it was the quieter moments which struck me as incredibly delicate and yet totally controlled. She definitely fills the stage—and the entire room.

Sexy **Steve Grand** is also at the Art House all season. While his rippling physique is probably better known to most of my fans than his voice, they will be pleasantly surprised if they buy a ticket for his show. His vocals are secure, and his self-written material is enjoyable if not somewhat repetitive. What makes his show work is how well he connects with his audience. It's intimate. You kinda feel like you're in his living room—we should all be so lucky! You can see a clip from his show on BillyMasters.com.

Every year, I think **Varla Jean Merman** can't top herself—try and get that picture out of your head. But every year, the material is fresh, incisive, sharp, and on target. "Bad Heroine" (also at the Ptown Art House) focuses on female role models throughout history, and it's hysterically funny. It's even educational—I came out learning something. Take that, PBS! The costumes are outrageous, the vocals are spot-on, and the entire show is a massive delight for all the senses.

The cherry on the cake at the Ptown Art House is this season's **Ryan Landry** play. His 5 To 9 is a spoof on 9 To 5, is set in the Trump White House—and it works extremely well. The cast is also sublime. Landry channels Lily Tomlin's tightly wound Violet to a T, Varla Jean Merman goes places Dolly Parton never dreamed of and **Peaches Christ** makes Jane Fonda look like a schoolgirl. **Larry Coen** is a lascivious and clueless Trump. And in many ways, **Penny Champayne** steals the show as Kellyanne Conway, Melania, Ivanka, and even Roz. Atta girl! Tix for all these shows can be found at PtownArtHouse.com.

If you follow this column, you're probably sick to death of all the mentions of the hunky **Rick Murray** and the Crown and Anchor. But one upcoming show deserves some mention. **Billy Porter** is returning for two shows Aug. 19-20. Having seen his previous Ptown outing, I can tell you not to miss the chance to see this phenomenal



Billy got intimate with singer Steve Grand—in a way.

Photo by Joem C. Bayawa

artist in such an intimate setting. You can get tix at OnlyAtTheCrown.com. And if you miss him in Ptown, here's an exciting announcement—Billy and his original castmate **Stark Sands** are returning to the Broadway production of "Kinky Boots" on Sept. 26. This will be a strictly limited return through Jan. 7. I guess you can go home again!

All of you who have been waiting with bated breath for ABC's live production of *The Little Mermaid* on Oct. 3 will have to keep waiting—it's been "postponed." And I would not recommend holding your breath. I think "postponed" is code for "cancelled." "The project is so unique that we are making best efforts to do it next year and want to give it all the attention it deserves." Like mermaids, I'll believe it when I see it.

On the other hand, FOX will bring us *A Christmas Story* on Dec. 17. You may know that the beloved holiday film (which, believe it or not, I have never seen), was made into a Tony-nominated musical. This live TV presentation will be of the musical, with a twist—it will feature some new songs written by **Benj Pasek and Justin Paul**, composers of *Dear Evan Hansen*. They've even wrangled the great **Maya Rudolph** to play the mother.

The upcoming London production of *Hair* is offering a clothing-optional performance. The audience members will get the opportunity to strip during the Act 1 finale. Note to self—bring a paper seat cover to this show!

Someone who usually shocks by shedding her clothes has actually shed her hair! **Kathy Griffin** just shaved her head. No, it isn't some misguided homage to Sinead O'Connor. She did it in solidarity with her sister who is undergoing chemotherapy to fight a tumor. Mama Maggie tweeted a photo and wrote, "My daughter Kathleen Mary is a wonderful human being." Well, now we know who is actually writing Kathy's mother's tweets!

Three people just filed a suit against **Usher** claiming that he gave them herpes through sex. What caught my eye is that one of the three people is a guy. While some media outlets call

WEDNESDAY
august 23

pre-party for
gaga's wrigley
field concert

all things
gaga

hosted by
dixie lynn cartwright

drag by
dida ritz, jade & the killer

lipsync & dance

TO LADY GAGA AND
WIN FUN PRIZES!
NO DRAG REQUIRED

TO LADY GAGA INSPIRED
PARTY MUSIC 9PM-2AM
NO COVER!

**GAGA
CONCERT
TICKETS
GIVEAWAY!**

3349 N HALSTED SIDETRACKCHICAGO.COM [f](https://www.facebook.com/SIDETRACKBAR) [i](https://www.instagram.com/SIDETRACKBAR) [t](https://www.tumblr.com/SIDETRACKBAR) @SIDETRACKBAR

this a "frivolous lawsuit," I'm not so sure. The plaintiffs even engaged the services of celebrity attorney Lisa Bloom—who recently repped Kathy Griffin during her fatwa. And once again I tied this whole column together.

Our "Ask Billy" question comes from Darren in Las Vegas: "Friends of mine tell me **Tyson Beckford** had a wardrobe malfunction at The Chippenales at the Rio. True? Are there any photos?"

Well, we've featured every inch of Tyson Beckford before, so why not do it again? After all, it's time for summer reruns. As to the slip at the Chips, well, you can see something swinging around on BillyMasters.com.

When we're bringing you a "dick slip," it's definitely time to end yet another column. Even though I'm technically on vacation, you can still find the freshest dish on BillyMasters.com—the site that never goes down. If you're here and wanna hook up (or if you just have a question), drop a note to Billy@BillyMasters.com and I promise to get back to you before Tyson shakes his stick at me! Until next time, remember: One man's filth is another man's bible.

**SPECIAL SALES
THROUGHOUT THE STORE!**

OPEN
LATE

**LEATHER64TEN
CHICAGO**

SHOP ONLINE
@ LEATHER64TEN.COM

6410 N. Clark, Chicago, IL | 773.508.0900