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weekly nightlife section in



Andersonville Midsommarfest

Photos by Liz Baudler



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Milwaukee Pridefest

Photos by James Schiefelbein





BILLY Masters

"I'm gonna say one thing—'Fuck Trump!' It's no longer 'Down with Trump,' it's 'Fuck Trump!'"—**Robert De Niro** takes the Tonys (and CBS) by surprise and gets a standing ovation at Radio City Music Hall.

Last week, I attended the 40th-anniversary screening of the restored version of *Grease* on the Paramount lot. In circumstances far too convoluted to explain, I was part of a small handful of elite VIPs—primarily cast members who were guests of director Randal Kleiser. After the screening, scores of fans descended onto our group to get autographs and photos. Twice, people asked if I was in the film. OK, let's do the math—the film is celebrating 40 years. Exactly how old do I look? Eventually, I told people I was the stand-in for Cha Cha—the best dancer at Saint Bernadette's! Aside from that, Miss DiGregorio, how did you like the film? I loved it. The restoration work is amazing. The video has never looked so pristine or vivid, and the audio remastering let me hear bits of background dialogue for the first time. I wholeheartedly recommend getting the Blu-ray.

One doesn't often get to meet a childhood crush, but while I was hangin' with the T-Birds, pal **Barry Pearl**, who played Doody, introduced me to **Kelly Ward**, who played the blond Putzie. The fact that Kelly didn't run for the hills when I confessed he was my secret love only endeared him to me more. (Truth be told, I spent much of the evening dancing with his wife than I did mooning over him.) While watching *Grease*, I was struck by how much Kelly looked like **Tab Hunter**. And that leads to our next story.

In the 2005 book *Tab Hunter Confidential* (and the subsequent documentary in 2015), the actor discusses his clandestine love affair with fellow queer actor **Anthony Perkins**. That story will be the genesis of a film currently in development. *Tab & Tony* is being produced by **Zachary Quinto** and **J.J. Abrams**.

I am thrilled to report that **Lisa Kudrow** is returning to Must-See TV. Kudrow is poised to reprise one of her most popular roles that originally aired on Thursday nights on NBC. Yes, obviously I am talking about Ursula on *Mad About You*. While talks of rebooting the Paul Reiser/Helen Hunt sitcom persist, we hear that both **Carol Burnett** and Kudrow have expressed interest in returning to the fold. Throw in the sensational **Cynthia Harris as Paul's mother** and I'm in. Okay, I also want **Richard Kind**. Thank you.

You know what **Shawn Mendes** wants to get his hands on? **Justin Bieber's** underwear. Well, who could blame him? It all happened during an episode of **James Corden's** show. Shawn was doing Carpool Karaoke, and he mentioned that even though he lives on his own, his mum still does his housework and laundry. This gave Corden the perfect opportunity to say, "You know, Jus-



Shawn Mendes (above) wants part of **Justin Bieber**.

Photo by Jerry Nunn

tin Bieber wears a new pair of underpants every day. I think he then sells them online." Without batting a perfectly mascaraed lash, Mendes said, "I'd buy them." In case he didn't hear right, Corden asked, "How much would you pay for Justin Bieber's underpants?" "I'd probably cap it at, like, \$500." James then asked Mendes how much he'd pay for a pair of his (Corden's) undies. "I would pay to not have a pair of your underpants. I would pay for them to be as far away from me as possible." Charming.

Meanwhile, West Hollywood continues to be a beacon to the rest of the world. And I know this for a fact because that's what they told me at the Rainbow Key Awards. At least twice during the course of the evening, people were described as shining like the Olympic torch—those are pretty big shoes to fill, especially from a buncha people most of you don't know. The most famous honoree was our very own **Kathy Griffin**, who was ushered in through the back door (but not before waving and saying "Hi, Billy" to me). Griffin used the opportunity to once again reiterate her support for the gay community, her resistance to the Trump presidency, and her commitment to speaking out at all costs. You can see her entire acceptance speech on BillyMasters.com.

Picture it: June 1, 2004. Way back then, I married **gay porn superstar Kurt Young** in a ceremony that was far from legal. In fact, most of the things we did on our honeymoon are still illegal in six states, but I digress. The point is, we're married, and I defy anyone to question that—even Kurt's partner, West Hollywood mayor John Duran, who actually officiated over our ceremony. Anything goes in WeHo—the same city that gives out awards to Stormy Daniels and Kathy Griffin.

In a scintillating "Ask Billy" question, Robbie from Dallas asks, "What do you know about model **Charles Laurent**? I hear he's a sex pig."

I never heard of him before, but I'm happy to research anyone who is a sex pig. Turns out the luscious French model has a past—providing services to people on an hourly basis. Apparently,

that was after he was discovered "dancing," he says euphemistically. Nowadays, Charles-Laurent Marchand (to use his full name) is far more respectable, but previously had a penchant for posing nude whenever he could—thank God! While lately he's been more chaste, our researchers uncovered a sizable appendage. Yes, the face is hot and the body is beyond perfect. But trust me when I say you'll wanna see the rest. And the only place to do that is on BillyMasters.com.

When I'm bringing you uncut photos of models (and in this instance, the model is uncut), it's time for me to end yet another column. Since this column is coming to you from LA Pride, I'm happy to announce that our surprise performer was Christina Aguilera. You can see that and so much more on BillyMasters.com—the site that holds nothing back. For anything else, write to Billy@BillyMasters.com and I promise to get back to you before I sell my undies to Shawn Mendes (if I were wearing undies). So, until next time, remember: One man's filth is another man's bible.

Chicago Pride Fest 2018: Full entertainment schedule

Chicago Pride Fest returns to Boystown Saturday, June 16 and Sunday, June 17, for another week-end filled with sun, fun and world-class entertainment.

This year's headliners include Mya and Jessica Sanchez.

The festival takes place on North Halsted St. from Addison St. to Grace St. There will be a \$10 suggested donation.

Pride Fest is produced by Northalsted Business Alliance. For more info, see <https://northalsted.com/pridefest/>.

Here is the full schedule of entertainment:

Saturday, June 16

Bud Light North Stage

1 p.m.: Pride Drag Show
2:30 p.m.: La Bouche
3:15 p.m.: Carlito Olivero
6 p.m.: Frenchie Davis
7 p.m.: Pride Drag Show
8:15 p.m.: Kim English
9 p.m.: Jessica Sanchez

South Stage

Noon.: Chicago Gay Men's Chorus
1:15 p.m.: Hello Weekend
2:30 p.m.: Chicago Spirit Brigade

3 p.m.: Don't Speak
4:45 p.m.: Catfight
6:45 p.m.: TL Williams & Band
8:30 p.m.: The Four C Notes

Waveland DJ Stage

Noon.: DJ Xtacy
2 p.m.: DJ Bryan Smith
3 p.m.: Miss DJ Meg
5 p.m.: DJ Bryce Fersher/KC Ortiz
6 p.m.: DJ Vlad
7 p.m.: Porn N Chicken
8:30 p.m.: DJ Metro

Sunday, June 18

Bud Light North Stage

Noon.: VIP Pet Care Pet Parade
1 p.m.: Pride Drag Show
2:30 p.m.: Belinda Carlisle
3:15 p.m.: Blake Lewis
4 p.m.: Pride Drag Show
6 p.m.: Thea Austin

6:45 p.m.: Pride Drag Show
8 p.m.: Brian Justin Crum
9 p.m.: Mya

South Stage

Noon.: Lakeside Pride Jazz Orchestra
1:30 p.m.: One Night Band
2:30 p.m.: Chicago Spirit Brigade
3:30 p.m.: ABBA Salute
5:15 p.m.: Boy Band Review
7:45 p.m.: Sixteen Candles

Waveland DJ Stage

Noon.: DJ Xtacy
1 p.m.: Pride Fashion Show
2 p.m.: Michael Serafini
3 p.m.: Joe Gauthreaux
5 p.m.: Avi Sic
6 p.m.: DJ Rae Chardonnay
7 p.m.: DJ King Marie
8 p.m.: DJ All the Way Kay



All photos from artists' official Facebook pages

the DISH

Weekly Dining Guide in
WINDY CITY TIMES

SAVOR

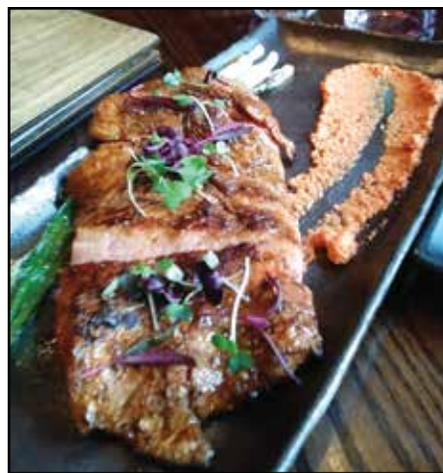
Mercat a la Planxa; Furious Spoon and HBH

BY ANDREW DAVIS

You almost can't throw a rock without hitting a tapas restaurant, but South Loop restaurant **Mercat a la Planxa** (638 S. Michigan Ave.; <https://mercatchicago.com/>) is the real deal, bringing dishes from the Spanish area of Catalonia to Chicago.

However, things got off to an inauspicious start, as I encountered a little difficulty finding the spot. The problem was that I entered through the Michigan Avenue side; I ended up ascending a spiral staircase that lead to the cavernous spot. A better idea for diners is to enter the Blackstone Hotel on the Balbo Street side.

Mercat originally opened in 2008, but underwent a renovation about a year and half ago, with a decor that has as much a Catalan aesthetic as the delightful cuisine (which is courtesy of Chef Diego Amat Lopez, who is



Mercat's pork loin.

Photo by Andrew Davis

from—drum roll, please—Catalonia).

Traditional tapas include house-marinated Spanish olives, ciabatta bread with Iberian ham and tomato (just divine), diver scallops, the gustatory Russian-roulette dish of shishito peppers (with one in 10 being spicy), sardines topped with vanilla and olive oil (and tasting better than it sounded), lovely patatas bravas and bacon-wrapped dates (with almonds, in cheese fondue).

Lopez offers a huge variety of intriguing and even challenging dishes in addition to some of the previously mentioned items. There are Catalan beignets filled with Brandade, quince

aioli and celery root salad; Atlantic cod, pil pil, garlic chip, guindilla chile and alubias blancas/navy beans; and even a \$65 oasted suckling pig, accompanied by Yukon gold potato, calcots and sauces.

And then there are the paellas—huge pans of valencia rice with variations that include chorizo, rabbit, chicken and shitake mushrooms; diver scallops, prawns, clams and mussels; and asparagus, peas, artichoke hearts and smoked eggplant. We actually opted for the other offering: squid-ink paella with calamari, pork sausage, pork loin, artichokes and garlic aioli. It

was pretty tasty, save for some tougher artichoke parts that I encountered here and there.

As for the "a la Planxa" in the restaurant's name (meaning "grilled on a metal plate"), there are menu items such as Black Angus ribeye, secreto and hanger steak. Dessert is a must, with olive-oil cake, ice cream and sorbets, and chocolate torte among the choices. You really can't go wrong.

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

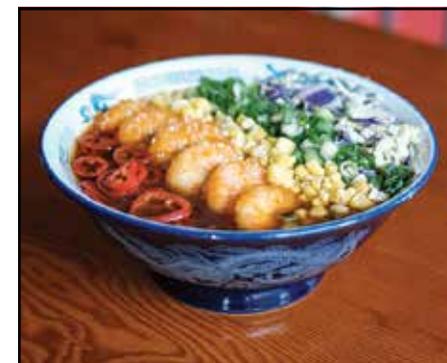
Furious Spoon teams with Howard Brown Health

In celebration of Pride Month, **Furious Spoon** announces the Pride Bowl in partnership with **Howard Brown Health**, offering a colorful bowl of ramen with proceeds benefiting the organization during all of June.

The rainbow ramen creation, of course, showcases the LGBTQ flag, paying homage to Chicago's community during the celebratory month.

Priced at \$15, two dollars from every bowl will be donated to Howard Brown, which aims to eliminate the disparities in healthcare experienced by the LGBTQ community through research, education and provision of services promoting health and wellness.

The Pride Bowl is available at most Furious Spoon locations, including those in Wicker Park, Logan Square, Pilsen, Andersonville, Evanston



Furious Spoon's rainbow ramen.

PR photo

and Lake View. (The smaller Loop location, at Revival Food Hall, will not have the dish.) For more information, visit FuriousRamen.com.