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weekly nightlife section in



the DISH

Weekly Dining Guide in
WINDY CITY TIMES

SAVOR

Mott St.; Silver Fork program

BY ANDREW DAVIS

If your idea of adventurous eating is shrimp-fried rice, just skip **Mott St.** (1401 N. Ashland Ave.; <http://www.mottstreetchicago.com/>) right now. The spot specializes in mixing the familiar and unfamiliar, resulting in dishes that challenges patrons' taste buds—and maybe even their mindsets.

For example, the Asian-focused menu takes appetizers like grilled cauliflower and adds sahmjang butter, fennel seed and almonds. Brussels sprouts are wok-fried, with additions such as lamb pancetta and maple brown butter. (I could've eaten this dish all night.) The shrimp-and-kohlrabi salad (which comes with chicken, peanuts, oranges, lime, fish sauce and fresh herbs) was delicious and refreshing.

And there is what many consider the restaurant's centerpiece: the Mott Burger—a dish so popular that it's been hailed as Chicago's



Brussels sprouts at Mott St.

Photo by Andrew Davis
best burger (even besting Au Cheval's, in some people's minds). Mott St.'s concoction (only available during brunch, at the bar during the week and in the restaurant for only the first hour of operation during the week) is a work of art, indeed, consisting of double chuck patties, sweet-potato shoestrings, hoisin aioli, pickled jalapenos, dill pickles, miso butter and American cheese. This is a must-try.

However, there are plenty of other enticing dishes as well. I was pleasantly surprised with the bone marrow (accompanied by pineapple-pickled peppers and imperial black rice) as well as the stuffed cabbage (napa kimchi stuffed with pork butt and sticky rice).

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Desserts are enjoyable—although the apps and entrees set an almost impossibly high that the sweets fall just short. The mango sticky rice is a solid treat, although my friend dove into the ricotta donuts with relish, uh, joy.

There's also a wonderful assortment of drinks, from cocktails to wine to sake. (I highly recommend the Gin Cloudkicker, a cocktail with gin, shochu, lemon, sweet potato and egg white.) Also, we were treated to small servings of coffee mezcal, post-dessert—and that unique cocktail really hit the spot.

The only possible drawback to this place, at least for me, involves the hours (Tuesday–Thursday at 6–10 p.m., bar until 11 p.m.; Friday–Saturday at 6–11 p.m., bar until 12 a.m.; and Sundays at 10 a.m.–2 p.m.). However, as my dining companion pointed out, that could also be construed as a smart marketing move.

Regardless, if you manage to make it to Mott St., you're in for a culinary ride.

Center on Halsted's Silver Fork program

Center on Halsted's Silver Fork is a free nine-week culinary arts and job readiness program. It is ideal for adults who want to enter or re-enter the hospitality industry and experience a fresh outlook on their career potential. Participants experience intensive culinary training coupled with service training, job readiness and career counseling.

Applications are being taken Thursday, July 12, with the first class taking place Tuesday, July 24. (Classes meet Tuesdays through Thursdays at 11 a.m.–4 p.m. each week.) Graduation is Thursday, Sept. 20.

See CenterOnHalsted.org/silverfork.html, call 773-472-6469 or email silverfork@centeronhalsted.org.

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

Drag stars display 'Black Girl Magic' at the Metro

BY VERNON HESTER

On June 26, The Vixen—fresh from RuPaul's Drag Race—hosted a sold-out “drag concert” featuring an all star cast of local and nationally acclaimed performers at the Chicago Metro.

The event, titled “Black Girl Magic,” was part of The Vixen's movement to address racism in the gay and drag communities while celebrating the art of drag performance. For several months, The Vixen has been building momentum for this event with monthly Black Girl Magic events at Berlin Nightclub.

Audience members waited patiently for hours in the rain for the show, and they weren't disappointed, with some members driving in from out of state to attend. Among the performers featured were former fellow Chicago-based ‘Drag Race’ contestants Shea Coulee and Dida Ritz, along with Bambi Banks, Eva Styles, Monet X Change, Sasha Love, Monique Heart, Lucy Stoole and Asia O'Hara.

A contingent from Test Positive Aware Network was on hand to offer free HIV testing before the show.



Photos by Vernon Hester





BILLY Masters

History was just made with the crowning of a trans woman as Miss Spain. She was not crowned because of or despite of her being trans—she was crowned because she was the best/most attractive contestant. **Angela Ponce** will now go on to compete in the Miss Universe Pageant, making her the first trans contestant in that pageant's history. (Trans people were banned from the contest until 2012.) Felicitaciones, Angela!

An Irish priest has been placed on "personal leave" after a gay-sex video surfaced showing a man in vestments performing sexual acts on another man. A local paper described it thusly: "Priest desecrates altar with gay-sex acts!" It was filmed at St. Bartholomew's Church in Kildorrery, North Cork and, according to the subheading, "State Police in Ireland investigating the sacrilege." Words like "desecrates" and "sacrilege" always catch my eye.

The video first appeared on a gay "dating" app and was brought to the archdiocese by Bishop Pat Buckley—so we have a good idea what Pat does at night in the rectory. (I love spending time in the rectory.) Two guys aged 18 and 19 claim they met the priest through the site and he brought them to St. Bartholomew's. The church has not identified the cleric in question, although people whisper it is Father Michael Lomasney, who resigned due to alcoholism. There is concern that the church has to be reconsecrated due to the sacrilege. Some parishioners are even calling for an exorcism! Yeah, like this is the first time a Catholic priest had gay sex on an altar.

Tom Daley and Dustin Lance Black have a new young man in their lives—and, no, it isn't what you think. They recently posted, "Welcome to the world our precious little Robbie Ray Black-Daley. The amount of love and joy you have brought into our life is immeasurable, our precious little son." Within days, online trolls began clamoring for the child to be removed from the home and accused the diver of child abuse. One such tweet said, "It's astonishing. Twitter has been full of outrage about children being taken from their mothers on the Mexican border but, when Tom Daley and Dustin Lance Black take a baby from its mother, everyone says how wonderful it is."



Tom Daley and Dustin Lance Black have welcomed a new young man into their lives, **Billy** says.

Now, I don't know the details of their surrogacy deal, but I would reckon nobody was taken from anyone.

Speaking of British divers, our "Ask Billy" question comes from Patrick in Boston: "You wrote about nude photos of **Freddie Woodward** before. Are those the same photos he's suing about?"

Back in 2015, the allegedly heterosexual Woodward took part in the "Naked Issue" of the UK Gay Times. All of a sudden, his lawyers are threatening to sue websites posting the three-year-old photos. Or perhaps they mean those even nuder (and erect) photos that fell into my hands. If anyone's interested, they're on BillyMasters.com.

When we've got an erect diver in our hands, it's definitely time to end yet another column. Due to a scheduling snafu, my first week in Provincetown straddled both Circuit and Bear weeks. Alas, I'm too fat for the circuit boys and too thin for the bears—I'm a man without a week! While I try to find one, you can find loads of ... well, loads on www.BillyMasters.com—the site that has something for everybody (and every body). If you have a question, dash it off to Billy@BillyMasters.com. Until next time, remember: One man's filth is another man's bible.



Sasha Love performs at Black Girl Magic at the Metro.
Photo by Vernon Hester