

QUEER TEAM
BEHIND THE
FILM
'STILL
ALICE'

PAGE 24



WINDY CITY TIMES

THE VOICE OF CHICAGO'S GAY, LESBIAN,
BI AND TRANS COMMUNITY SINCE 1985

JAN. 21, 2015
VOL 30, NO. 17



www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com

Obama part of Rustin's writings



NICHOLE BARNES
MARSHALL
SPEAKS OF
DIVERSITY AT AON
PAGE 8



Bayard Rustin and Walter Naegle. Photo courtesy of Naegle

BY LAUREN E. CHILDERS

Barack Obama and Barney Frank add their words of wisdom to the new edition of Bayard Rustin's *Time on Two Crosses: The Collected Writings of Bayard Rustin* with a foreword and afterword, respectively. Frank is known for being the first openly gay Congressman; also, he married his partner in his last year in office.

"Bayard would be very proud to be associated with [them]," said Walter Naegle. "He would be delighted." Naegle was Rustin's partner of 10 years and continues to promote Rustin's legacy. He has also been asked to contribute a piece of writing to reintroduce the book which will be included in the final print publication. The preliminary publication is currently available as an ebook.

"It's certainly a worthwhile collection and I'm happy to be associated with it," said Naegle.

Turn to page 6



LOCAL LESBIAN
ENTERS WORLD OF
SCI-FI COMICS
PAGE 25



LONGTIME BANKER
IS HOOKED ON
TRIATHLONS
PAGE 26

WINTER THEATER & DANCE SPECIAL

page 13

Let the snow come! There's plenty to keep people entertained this winter season, including plenty of LGBTQ offerings. Coverage of what's happening in the worlds of theater and dance starts on page 13.

L-R: Photo from *Pride Films* and *Plays' The Book of Merman* by Leo Schwartz; photo of *Choreographers of Color Awards* courtesy of *Joffrey Ballet*; photo of *Theater Wit's Keys to the Kingdom* by Johnny Knight; photo of *The Who's Tommy* at *Paramount Theatre* by Liz Lauren.

THE BROADWAY
Smash
HIT!

La Cage aux Folles

CALL TODAY!
(847) 634-0200

Marriott Theatre
MarriottTheatre.com

OPENS JANUARY 28th

Chicago
Theatre
Feb 12-22
Week

**\$15 OR \$30
 TICKETS TO
 100+ SHOWS**



**LIMITED AVAILABILITY –
 GET YOUR THEATRE WEEK TICKETS TODAY
 AND SEE SOMETHING NEW THIS FEBRUARY!**

\$15 OR \$30 TICKETS TO OVER 100 THEATRE PRODUCTIONS

ChicagoTheatreWeek.com



this week in WINDY CITY TIMES

NEWS

LGBT immigration tell their stories	4
Supreme Court; Rustin books	6
Aon's diversity resources	8
Burning Bowl	10
Gay in the Life	11
Viewpoints: Monroe; letters	12

ENTERTAINMENT/EVENTS

Winter theater/dance special	13
Queer team of 'Still Alice'	24
Lesbian comic artist Beck Kramer	25
Bernard Bertilad	26
Book review: Soldier of Change	26
Dish: Osteria Langhe	28

OUTLINES

Classifieds	27
Calendar	28

Images on cover (left, from top): Photo of Richard Glatzer and Wash Westmoreland from Westmoreland; photo of Nichole Barnes Marshall by Victor Powell; photo of Beck Kramer courtesy of Kramer; photo of Bernard Bartilad courtesy of Bartilad



DOWNLOAD THIS!

Go to www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com to download complete issues of Windy City Times and Nightspots. Then click on any ad and be taken directly to the advertiser's Web site!

online exclusives at www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com



FUN IN THE SUN

Find out why Fort Lauderdale, Florida (left) is one of the top destinations. Photo from from the Greater Fort Lauderdale Convention & Visitors Bureau

THE WRIGHT STUFF



Out local singer Dylan Wright talks about his sound, album (As a Ghost) and aspirations. Photo by Britton Black

FULL OF GRACE



Bent Nights looks at the Homo for the Holidays CD, the Glitter Creeps show and a solo set from Laura Ann Grace (above). Photo by Vern Hester

NAKED AMBITION

Roger Billhardt has a unique dual life as a marketing administrator—and a nude model.

THAT'S GENIUS!

A local LGBT branch of the genius group Mensa is re-forming.

THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT

Find out the latest about Isaac Mizrahi, Idina Menzel and Gina Lollobrigida.

plus DAILY BREAKING NEWS

nightspots
JOJO BABY'S BERLIN CREATIVE FEATURE
OURETTE COMFORT
Find Nightspots on facebook

2015: LOOKING AHEAD W/ MISS CLEO
Show #608
Windy City Queercast
queer and now
www.WindyCityQueercast.com



MORE CLUB THAN GYM.



With world-class indoor tennis courts, state-of-the-art fitness equipment and a philosophy that nurtures a feeling of community, isn't it time you upgraded from gym to club? Do so in January and we'll waive your initiation fee. Learn more at midtown.com/chicago



WEDDINGS AT THE KEITH HOUSE



HISTORIC EVENT SPACE

The Keith House is among Chicago's oldest grand houses, in the heart of the renowned Prairie Avenue Historic District, 10 minutes from downtown Chicago. It resides next to the beautiful Chicago Women's Park and Gardens, which is perfect for pictures.

We can accommodate up to 90 people for cocktail style reception and 60 for a sit-down in a single room. Also available for corporate events, retreats and meetings.



WWW.KEITHHOUSECHICAGO.COM

1900 S. Prairie Avenue
Chicago IL 60616-1321

Phone: 312.907.7909
events@keithhousechicago.com

Immigration and LGBTQs: Immigrants tell their stories

Part two

BY GRETCHEN RACHEL HAMMOND

On July 4, 2012, at 11 in the morning, 25 U.S. military service members met President Barack Obama at the White House to swear a second oath to their country—one they had each already served without being citizens of it.

That year, more than 757,000 people had taken part in naturalization ceremonies across the United States, whether among 50 others in the modest venue of a Dayton, Ohio courtroom or as part of more than 8,000 who crowded into the Los Angeles Convention Center in March of 2012 and turned over their permanent resident [green] cards for certificates of naturalization after vowing to “support and defend the Constitution and laws of the United States of America against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same.”

During the White House ceremony, Obama stated that “the story of immigrants in America isn’t a story of ‘them,’ it’s a story of ‘us.’ It’s who we are.”

Dennis Akpona came to the United States having fled his home in Nigeria. The country is dominated and separated by two major religions: Christianity and Islam. The Muslims are concentrated principally in the north and the Christians in the south. In January 2014, Nigerian president Goodluck Jonathan signed the Same-Sex Marriage Prohibition Act into law. For the LGBTQ population there, it meant penalties of up to 14 years in prison for entering into a marriage or even co-habitation with someone of the same sex and 10 years for same-sex couples engaged in public displays of affection or operating or participating in a gay club or organization.

Within a week of the law being enacted, world press were reporting country-wide citizen assaults, along with police raids, arrests and torture of LGBTQ people in what the British newspaper *The Guardian* called an unleashed “wave of homophobia.”

Akpona was born in Benin City in the south of Nigeria. “It is the kind of country where the rich get richer and the poor get poorer,” Akpona explained to *Windy City Times*. “Unemployment is very high. Every year, there are thousands of university graduates and they can’t find a job. So they try to survive in any way they can and young people are very vulnerable. A lot of young gay men get into sex work as a way to earn money.”

Like many thousands of his young peers, Akpona moved to Lagos—a densely populated, commercial hub—in search of a better life. He moved in with his uncle and, in his early 20s, his life changed dramatically, but not in the way he had hoped.

“I was outed by a couple of friends,” Akpona recalled. “And my uncle and his wife found out. It was a very rough road. I didn’t have anywhere to go. My uncle contacted my elder brothers and one of them said that, if I was gay, he would be the one to kill me.”

At the time, Nigeria’s anti-gay laws were still being discussed in the country’s National Assembly and advocates had temporarily stemmed their progression. Nevertheless, Akpona took the threat from his brother seriously and so strenuously denied and attempted to hide his sexuality.

“I just needed to pretend to make people happy,” he said, “even though it wasn’t really me. This is typical of what every gay man goes through in Nigeria. We live a life where we make our family happy but, inside, we are not.

The only people who made me happy were my gay friends and they were people I owe my life to. I knew a few who would marry the opposite sex just to cover it up. There were three or four who committed suicide because they couldn’t help it anymore. They didn’t have anybody to love them for who they were and felt rejected by everyone around them.”

Still a university student, Akpona got a job and saved enough money to move out of his uncle’s home and into his own apartment at an address he kept secret from the rest of his family. However, even with his new-found privacy, events quickly took a turn for the worse.

“Every pastor and Islamic leader in the country was preaching against homosexuality,” Akpona said. “In March 2011, I was working for an HIV-prevention program where I was counseling a lot of young gay men. One day, I went to meet a friend at a bus stop. There were three other men there. They brought out ID cards, punched me, dragged me to the police station and arrested me saying that I was the one controlling the gay community in Lagos.”

“It was hell,” Akpona recalled. “I was tortured while my hands were cuffed behind my back. They wanted me to confess that I was gay and to give them a list of people I knew who were gay. I told them that I would not give them the details of my clients.”

Akpona was thrown into a cell with seven other prisoners who immediately assaulted him. He was 26 years old. “Eventually, the police came up with a report that I had raped someone,” he said. “The Nigerian police are very corrupt. One of the officers told me ‘you know we can kill you and nothing’s going to happen.’”

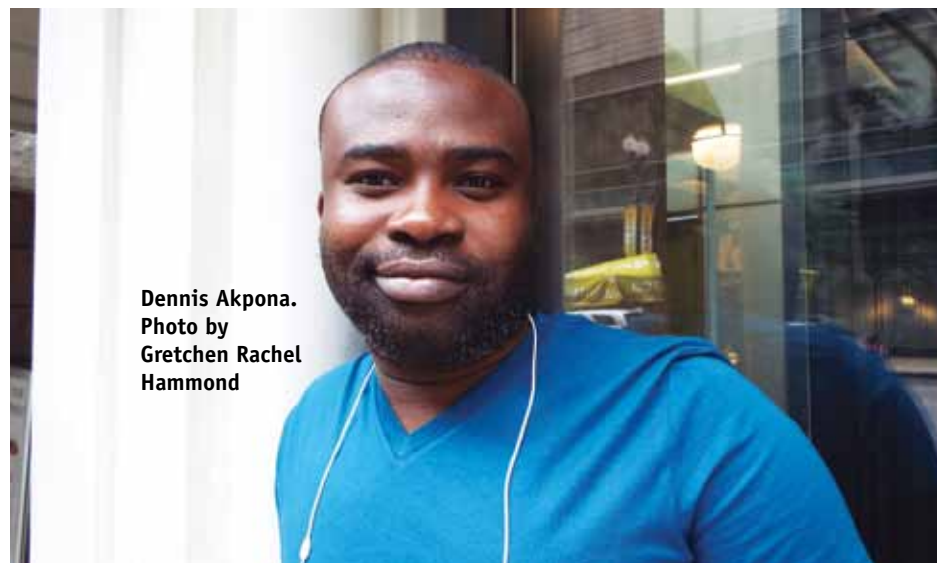
After spending four terrifying days in jail, Akpona asserted that he was released after having to pay the equivalent of \$800 to the man who was alleging rape against him, and to the Nigerian police. However, even back at home, he was not safe. “Community members take laws into their own hands,” he said. “I was scared of being beaten by them.”

He left Lagos and took a job in northern Nigeria, where he hoped to begin a new and anonymous life. “I was working in a part of the country dominated by the Muslims and they have their own constitution [Sharia law] stating that anybody found to be gay or lesbian should be stoned to death,” he said. “I received a phone call from someone from the Sharia commission who claimed I was in that part of the state to teach people how to become gay and lesbian. The only thing I could do was return to Lagos. But, I was not safe in any part of the country.”

In July 2012, Akpona attended an international AIDS conference in Washington, D.C. With little understanding of the process entailed in applying for asylum in the United States, he returned to Nigeria after the conference. “I got a phone call,” he remembered. “They said ‘Oh you’re back. Get ready for the worst.’ I was attacked by a group of guys in Lagos who demanded money. My friend took me to the hospital. I had no job and I could not apply for one because I had worked with gay people and I could have been arrested for that.”

One year later, friends in Canada raised the money for Akpona to travel back to the United States. “I was still scared because I had a life in Nigeria. Even though it was not safe, it was all I knew,” he said.

Akpona said that receiving asylum in the U.S. was not easy. “I realized that I would need to prove, with a lot of documents, that I was gay,” he said. “What helped me were the doc-



Dennis Akpona.
Photo by
Gretchen Rachel
Hammond

tor’s reports from when I was attacked. They stated that it was because I was gay. I had to find stories online about southern Nigerians killed or arrested because of their sexual orientation and prove that I was working with an organization providing services for the LGBTQ community.”

He described the sheer amount of documentation he amassed as being as thick as a telephone directory. “The day I was interviewed [by U.S. immigration], they wanted to know if I was telling the truth,” he said. “I told them the way things were. I was surprised that I got [asylum] two weeks later. There are people who applied even before I came to the U.S. and they had not received asylum until now.”

Akpona lives in Chicago. He is co-founder of the Chicago LGBT Asylum Support Program (CLASP). “It’s designed to give support for LGBTQ folks seeking asylum here in the city,” he said. “We try to provide housing services, bus passes, linking them to legal and healthcare services and create an environment for them to be able to stay.”

Meanwhile, the friends Akpona left in Nigeria are subject to daily terror and barbarism. “Just three days after they passed the [anti-gay] bill into law, a close friend of mine was stabbed to death in his house,” he said. “People were attacking my other friend’s houses, burning them down. Most of them had to jump through their windows to escape. There are thousands of people who don’t have the means to leave the country. They have no passport or visa and they have given up. They say ‘OK this is my life. I just have to face it even if I am beaten every day.’ Refugee organizations there are run by Nigerians. There is nowhere for [LGBT] people to go. Even neighboring countries have strict laws. A lot of gay guys in Nigeria marry a girl even though they are crying inside. I was one of the lucky ones. I got out.”

Akpona’s luck at escaping his country, successfully winning asylum and beginning a new life in the United States is not something enjoyed by most people in similar circumstances.

New ground

Many LGBTQ immigrants—particularly those who remain undocumented—are too afraid to talk publicly about their stories. One LGBTQ immigrant would only agree to an interview with *Windy City Times* on condition of anonymity.

Because of the assaults on gay people in Mexico, “America” had left her home country and started her own shipping business in Chicago which she ran from the first floor of her home. On March 1, 2013, her life in the U.S. was turned upside down.

“At maybe 6 in the morning, a police officer showed up at my door,” she recalled. “My son had answered the door and the officer asked for me. He said there was [an incident] with my car. My son told the officer that the car was not under my name. The police officer pushed my son into my house. Three or four seconds later, around 20 ICE [Immigration Customs Enforcement] officers showed up and started screaming and yelling at me. I didn’t know what was going on. They asked me if they could look

through all my files and records, like my taxes and I told them ‘yes’ because I didn’t have anything to hide. They didn’t find anything and so then they started looking through my computers. They told me I was being arrested because I didn’t have any [immigration] papers.”

Despite America’s repeated questions as to what was going to happen next, she claimed the ICE officers told her nothing, informing her terrified son that his mother was going to be transported to a jail in Chicago. Instead, America was sent to the ICE detention facility at the Rock Island County Jail. She would spend the next 10 months of her life in ICE custody.

“I was [in jail] four or five days before my son even knew where I was,” she said. “They wouldn’t let me call him and he could not find me. They don’t let you call. They don’t let you know where they’re going to take you. They don’t let you talk to your family. They don’t let you know what’s happening. Even when you ask them ‘what’s going on?’ I need to talk to someone, they just say ‘wait, wait’ so you don’t know what’s going to happen.”

America said she was eventually accused of illegal re-entry into the United States. “Two weeks later, I went to the court and they said that I had to wait for the results of an investigation to see if I had committed any other crimes in the past 10 to 15 years. They went back all the way to 1993. It took months.”

On arrival at the Rock Island jail, America said she was strip-searched and housed with the general population in a 12-foot-by-12-foot cell which she shared with six other women. “All we had was a shower and a toilet in this little room,” she remembered. “There were no windows and we did not know if it was day or night. The only thing we had was a TV that was shut off if something happened or somebody made a mess.”

She recalled the arrival of a cellmate who had been a drug user and was going through withdrawal. “She started vomiting in the cell, with everybody around,” she said. “It was disgusting. The guards didn’t do anything. They didn’t care. I was having issues with one lady who kept taking my stuff. I mean, they only give you a uniform. They don’t give you deodorant or underwear. You have to buy everything, even food. They don’t give you enough, so you have to buy that as well. I kept telling the guards this lady was taking my stuff and my food and they would say ‘we’re not here to babysit you.’”

One night America said she awoke to an inmate tying her hands down with a mattress cover. “I could not move my hands,” she said. “I started screaming and I called the guard. The guard showed up and he saw that I was tied to the bed and he started laughing and saying ‘you guys are old enough. You can fix your own problems.’ He turned around and walked away.”

The inmate attempted to assault America who fought back with her legs. She asserted that prison guards did nothing to intervene. The fight escalated later that day during the lunch period. “The guards showed up and the other women said I started the fight. So they

Turn to page 5

STORIES from page 4

put me in 'the hole,' she said. "It was a small room. They leave a night light on and the only thing you have in there is a toilet but no [toilet] paper. I was there for three or four days. I tried to make a report on what happened and nobody did anything."

America claimed she was only released from solitary confinement (administrative segregation) after prison officials reviewed a tape of the initial incident in her cell showing that she had indeed called for help to no avail. She was returned to general population. "It is the worst thing that can ever happen to you," she said of isolation. "They don't tell you anything or when they're going to let you out. You complain about something that happens and they don't listen. If you try to do something about it yourself, they punish you. I don't understand why."

Totally cut off from anyone who cared about her, America still wonders how she was able to survive, physically and mentally. "The first six months was total hell," she said. "I saw so many people try to kill themselves in detention. I remember a friend called Sophia and she was trying to hang herself in her cell. They took her away and put her naked in a room with only one mattress. They kept her there for two weeks. When she came back, she was just staring and did not react to any questions."

After the ICE investigation into America's life uncovered no criminal activity, she said was offered a deal. "They told me 'nothing was in there, don't worry. They're only going to give you between six and 24 months.' I said 'why? I didn't do anything!' They told me they would make a deal for three months and that, if I pled guilty, I would be sent back to Mexico. So I agreed. I just didn't want to be in jail anymore. I went in front of the judge on July 11. On July 16, they came to pick me up and took me to Chicago."

America said that she was then transported to the Dodge Detention Facility in Juneau, Wisconsin. "They kept me there four months and I kept asking 'when are you going to send me [to Mexico]?' The only answer I got from them was 'you're not on the list.' They said nothing else. They didn't even tell me if they were going to deport me."

She claimed that, every time her case was to be heard, she would be transported to Chicago—a seven-hour round trip. "One of the worst things that can happen to you is when they tell you they are going to take you to

Chicago," she said. "They pick you up at three o'clock in the morning, put a chain around your waist and tie your wrists to it. So for the whole trip, there and back, you are tied and you are in agony. Your hands hurt and they put you in a position where your whole body cannot move. It goes numb eventually. This happened to me at least six times."

Eventually, the experience began to break America. "One day, I was just crying and crying," she said. "An immigration officer showed up. She told me that they weren't sending me back because I was gay and that I should apply for asylum. She gave me a number to call and I found a lawyer called Aneesha Gandhi."

Gandhi is a staff attorney with the National Immigrant Justice Center (NIJC)—a Chicago based non-profit dedicated to ensuring human rights protections and access to justice for all immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers.

"Aneesha helped me a lot and would call me all the time to see how I was doing," America said. "Finally I was able to find out what was going on. I would hear from her two or three times a week and I was able to speak to my son. Everything was better. She even helped other inmates with advice, even though they weren't her clients."

America's ordeal ended Dec. 24, 2013. "They came and picked me up in the morning and told me I was going to be released," she said. "I couldn't believe it. I even told the guard 'you're wrong, my case is pending.' The guard looked at my wrist band and he said 'you're on the list. Do you want to go or not?' They brought me to Chicago to be released. When I was reunited with my son, it was the most wonderful feeling."

Before she was freed, America said she was informed that she could not leave the United States or work without authorization. She had to reapply every year for a permit to stay in the United States, inform United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) within 48 hours of any change of address or of any incident with the police. "They have the right to arrest me anytime they want," she said. "They told me that if anything changed in my country that would make Mexico a safe place for gay people, they would send me back."

As of July 2014, America had still not received her social security card. She lives every day with her future uncertain; terrified every time she sees a police car in her rear view mirror. "You may be free from ICE detention, but you're not really free. They can come and get you anytime they want. The only thing

that made coming to this country worth it was to be able to stay with my son. If you asked me if I would go through this all over again to stay in the United States, then no I would not."

Akpona told Windy City Times that he had a friend who spent 30 days in an ICE facility. According to Akpona, the experience left him so emotionally traumatized that he could not discuss it.

Cold as ICE

Roberto Romero-Perez is the founder of the Perrom Law Office offering legal counsel and representation to individuals in areas of immigration and naturalization among others.

"If you are ever in detention in the U.S. and you are in the LGBT community, you are the most vulnerable to attacks from the other inmates," he said. "What ICE has done at the urging of the USCIS is to create special units for the LGBT community. Where there are no facilities, they place these people into solitary confinement—which is horrible. They leave them there up to the maximum point before they suffer mental distress. It is not surprising to hear that people who have come out of detention have a lot of psychiatric issues."

Romero-Perez added that even though the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) was passed in 2003, as of yet he does not believe that it has been implemented in ICE facilities. "It remains to be seen," he said. "I have not heard any anecdotal evidence or any indication that it is in place. In the area of those detainees who have HIV, sometimes they are denied medications or, at least, special arrangements need to be made in order to get them. Basically, ICE needs to stop incarceration and use ankle or monitoring bracelets instead. A night in jail costs about \$150 where an ankle bracelet or monitor is about \$15. Of course there are political answers as to why this is not in place including the mandate to have a number of people in correctional facilities each night so that the private entities that run [them] can profit from it."

For more information about the work of CLASP and how to support the organization, please download: <http://www.lgbt-fan.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/CLASP-E-Flyer.pdf>.

To contact the Perrom Law Office, please visit <http://www.perrom.com/>

Next week, Windy City Times talks to celebrated activist Julio Rodriguez, ICE representatives and visits two ICE detention facilities in Illinois.

Study: Bisexual women have poorer mental health

BY BOB ROEHR

Bisexual women experience poorer mental health than lesbians and both were worse off than heterosexual women in England and Wales, according to a new, large study.

"Bisexual women may be more likely to experience social stress due to the 'double discrimination' of homophobia and biphobia. This stress, experienced mainly as internalized and felt stigma, could result in greater risk for poor mental health compared with lesbians," the authors concluded.

There analysis was based upon data gathered by the 2007 Stonewall Women's Health Survey, which included 937 bisexual-identified and 4769 lesbian-identified women age 15 and older. They were predominately white (92.4 percent).

As a group, bisexual women were younger, poorer and more likely to be trans-identified, minority ethnic identified, and used marijuana and tranquilizers than did lesbians. There were no differences in patterns of alcohol use.

While bisexuals were less likely to experience discrimination in public settings such as work and school, the survey found "they were significantly more likely to experience discrimination from friends."

Bisexual women were 64 percent more likely to report an eating problem than lesbians; 37 percent more likely to have deliberately self-harmed in the past year; 26 percent more likely to have felt sad, miserable or depressed in the past year; and 20 percent more likely to have felt anxious or nervous in the last year.

Lesbians showed improved mental health status compared with some earlier surveys. Lead author Lisa Colledge suggested it might be because of changes in the law, such as recognition of same sex relationships, which did not affect bisexuals.

The survey also found that bisexuals were more socially isolated while lesbians are more likely to participate in activities that help to create a sense of community.

It calls for creating "public validation and support for bisexual identity" within both the heterosexual and lesbian and gay communities.

The analysis also compared their findings with earlier surveys of the broader population in the United Kingdom.

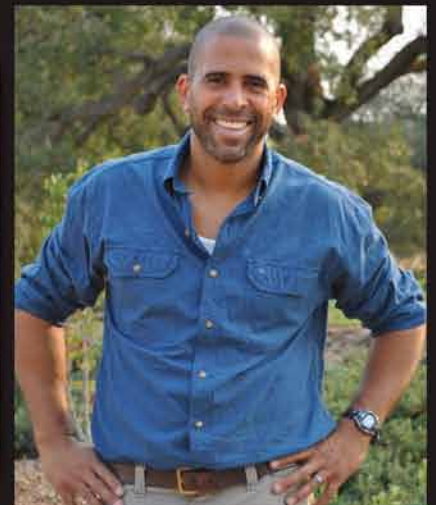
Poorer mental health in UK bisexual women than lesbians: evidence from the UK 2007 Stonewall Women's Health Survey. Lisa Colledge et al. Journal of Public Health, 14 January 2015.



Ideal Home Show Chicago

McCormick Place - Lakeside Center

January 23-25, 2015



Buy Tickets Online and Save \$4.00
with promo code: **SAVE**
www.idealhomeshowchicago.com

Online discount courtesy of
WINTRUST
MORTGAGE

AHMED HASSAN
HGTV's & DIY Network's
original "Yard Crashers"

U.S. Supreme Court to rule on marriage equality this year

BY LISA KEEN
KEEN NEWS SERVICE

There is at least one small nagging question looming over the happy news Jan. 16 that the U.S. Supreme Court will hear the appeals of same-sex couples challenging laws in four states that refuse to license or recognize their marriages.

Most legal observers are saying these four cases—from Michigan, Tennessee, Ohio and Kentucky—will be the means by which the Supreme Court will strike down such laws in 22 states. (Thirteen states are still enforcing their bans and nine are still in court defending their bans.)

In making its announcement Jan. 16, the Supreme Court spelled out two questions for attorneys to argue. Question 1 is the big one: Does the 14th Amendment require a state to license a marriage between two people of the same sex?

"A 'Yes' to the first question is [the] whole ball game. We very much want that," said Al Gerhardstein, lead counsel for same-sex couples in the case from Ohio, *Obergefell v. Hodges* (along with a companion case *Henry v. Hodges*).

Question 2 is the nagging one: Does the 14th Amendment require a state to recognize a marriage between two people of the same sex when their marriage was lawfully licensed and performed out-of-state?

The second question presupposes the possibility of a "No" regarding Question 1.

Thus the stage is set once again for a dramatic "Most Important LGBT Case Ever Before

the U.S. Supreme Court."

A "yes" answer on Question 1 would enable same-sex couples to obtain marriage licenses in any of the 50 states. Currently, they can marry in 37 (including Missouri, whose most populous counties are issuing licenses). A "yes" answer would also bolster the likelihood that LGBT people could rely on existing laws for equal protection and due process arguments in other arenas, including employment, public accommodations, and adoption.

The cases challenging the Defense of Marriage Act and California's Proposition 8 carried that dramatic mantle in 2013. The decisions in those cases struck down a federal law that prohibited same-sex couples with marriage licenses from receiving federal benefits, and allowed same-sex couples in California to marry. But they also signaled to lower courts that the Supreme Court could no longer be counted on to tolerate the sort of contortions most courts used to go through to find a "gay exception" to every rule.

"A lot would depend on the wording of the decision, but conceivably a 'yes' answer on the first question could provide an important basis for challenging any other law that discriminates on the basis of sexual orientation," said Richard Socarides, a longtime LGBT activist who writes on legal and political issues for *The New Yorker* magazine.

Dana Nessel, one of the key attorneys for the same-sex couple in the Michigan case, agreed. If the court says the bans are not justified by any rational reason, the impact might be limited. But if the court says that laws, such as

these, that disfavor LGBT people fail to identify a compelling reason to do so—a much tougher hurdle to clear—"the decision could have very broad impact and apply to all other areas" of discrimination."

Nessel noted that, in Michigan and other states, some adoption agencies are attempting to refuse to place children with same-sex couples and some bakeries refuse to provide services to same-sex couple weddings, often citing religious objections. And the state legislature, she said, is expected to pass laws in the coming session to enable businesses to use religious claims to discriminate against LGBT people.

"In Michigan, there are no protections of any kind for the LGBT population—in employment, housing, anything," said Nessel. "We would love to see something that could be applied to other areas."

So the best case scenario in the Sixth Circuit marriage appeals would be akin to that in *Loving v. Virginia*, the 1967 decision that struck down state bans on interracial marriages. That 1967 decision said that state laws banning marriage between persons solely on the basis of racial classifications violated the 14th Amendment's guarantees of equal protection and due process. With the Sixth Circuit marriage appeals, the best language would find that laws banning marriage on the basis of sexual orientation violate the constitution.

But even a "yes" to Question 2 alone would "at least provide some relief," said Gerhardstein.

That's why attorneys for same-sex couples in three of the four cases on appeal (all but Kentucky) posed the question themselves, along with the question of whether the states could

refuse to issue licenses.

The Sixth Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals, in November, became the first federal appeals court to answer "No" to both questions.

LGBT legal groups have been working with private attorneys on the four cases to make the appeals: Lambda Legal and the ACLU are working in Ohio in *Obergefell*, the National Center for Lesbian Rights is working with lesbian activist attorney Abby Rubenfeld and others in Tennessee in *Tanco v. Haslam*, Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders is working in Michigan on *DeBoer v. Snyder*, and the ACLU is involved in Kentucky in *Bourke v. Beshear*.

The LGBT groups and their allies must file argument briefs by Feb. 27. State officials must file their briefs by March 27. Then attorneys for the same-sex couples can file one last "reply" brief by April 17. That suggests the oral arguments—which have been allotted a total of two-and-a-half hours—will probably be held on April 27, 28 or 29, the last days calendared for oral arguments in the 2014-15 session.

"The court may give additional direction to the parties in the cases regarding structuring oral argument on each of the questions," said Susan Sommer, Lambda's director of constitutional litigation. "There also may be some variations in the facts and legal issues presented in the different cases that will be taken into account as well in planning for oral argument."

But the LGBT groups and attorneys working on the cases have been "working together, very effectively, for decades towards our shared goal to win equality," she said. "And I'm confident we will continue to work together effectively in this home stretch."

©2015 Keen News Service. All rights reserved.

RUSTIN from cover

Rustin is known for organizing many of the major events of the civil-rights movements, including the March on Washington. He worked closely alongside Martin Luther King, Jr., and was also was unapologetically out as gay throughout his activism in an intensely homophobic society. Rustin is also known and well-respected for his methods of nonviolent resistance.

Two years in the making, this book project was created to honor Rustin and his contributions in light of current affairs. In 2013 we celebrated both the 50-year anniversary of the March on Washington and Barack Obama posthumously awarded Rustin the Presidential Medal of Honor November 20, 2013; Naegle was selected to receive the award.

"One year later, the nation witnesses public protests that highlight the lack of society equality and reveal how tensions of class and race are far from settled," said Cleis Press, which publishes *Time on Two Crosses*, in a statement.

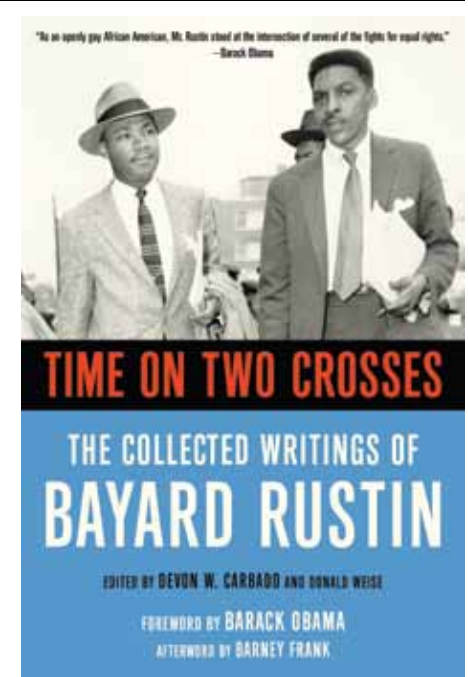
Frank's afterward expresses the power of knowing a man like Rustin and his great respect for a man who faced numerous adversities, yet remained nonviolent in his activism.

Obama's foreword reflects his sentiment voiced in Rustin's award speech for the Medal of Honor—acknowledging and commending Rustin for his fight at the intersection of several fights for civil rights.

Now, a year later, a series of protests have erupted following the Ferguson decision which the publishers hope to impart a "timely message of nonviolent and peaceful protest," with the ebook rushed to publication in Dec. 2014. Cleis Press sought out Rustin's publication, *Time on Two Crosses*, finding it particularly poignant on this issue.

"[Bayard] would want [activists] to be very strategic—to really think about they want to do and the kind of society they want to create," articulated Naegle.

"He would be happy that people are protesting what they see as injustice," Naegle said. "It's fine to go out and protest something but you also need to have a sense of what do you want to replace that with..."



Naegle continued by highlighting how Rustin's philosophy and tactics are relevant today:

"I think what the protests have succeeded in doing is raising awareness to, what I would say, are some heavy-handed tactics on the part of some police forces in the country.

"I think if he were to make any recommendations—the police are a service that are hired to protect—and so it makes sense for the people who are patrolling and working in the community to be from that community. He would be a strong advocate of having police work in the community in which they live."

Naegle voiced his hopes for the book: "Here we are 12 years after the first edition of *Time on Two Crosses* and in those 12 years you have a whole new generation of young activists going to college and getting out there, trying to figure out how to improve society. I hope that this book will give them some tools to use and some ideas about strategies and tactics."

As more gender and sexuality studies courses are started throughout the nation, Rustin's legacy continues to be uncovered and touch the lives of youth.

"So I hope that it will be a toolbox and an inspiration for those people," affirmed Naegle.

 /windycitymediagroup

Pope speaks against same-sex marriage

Speaking in the Philippines, Pope Francis made one of his strongest calls as pope against movements to recognize same-sex unions as marriage, Catholic News Service reported.

"The family is also threatened by growing efforts on the part of some to redefine the very institution of marriage," the pope said Jan. 16, hours after warning that Philippine society was "tempted by confusing presentations of sexuality, marriage and the family."

The pontiff made his remarks at a Mass in Manila's cathedral and then at a meeting with families in the city's Mall of Asia Arena.

At the latter event, the pope called on his listeners to resist "ideological colonization that threatens the family." The Vatican spokesman, Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, said later that the pope was referring to same-sex marriage, among other practices.

In the past, Francis said marriage must be between a man and a woman, MSNBC noted.

However, progressive Catholics have applauded his prior remarks on homosexuality, reproductive rights and the role of women.

In a statement, pro-LGBT Catholic group DignityUSA expressed its dismay at what the pope said. "DignityUSA is disturbed and disappointed by Pope Francis' remarks in the Philippines referring to support for same-sex marriage as 'ideological colonization...that is trying to destroy the family,'" said the organization's executive director, Marianne Duddy-Burke.

"Especially in light of the more welcoming and sensitive tone on LGBT issues that the Pope has taken over the past two years, it is disconcerting to hear a phrase that is a hallmark of extreme right-wing religious leaders and politicians coming from the leader of the Catholic Church," she added.

The original article is at <http://www.catholicnews.com/data/stories/cns/1500200.htm>.

 @windycitytimes1

The Tile Shop
WWW.TILESHOP.COM



Now Open In
LINCOLN PARK

Visit any one of our 10 area showrooms

Present this ad and receive

20% OFF

your first order

Exclusions Apply. Cannot combine with other offers.

Offer expires March 31st 2015

DISCOVER YOUR STYLE

Aon devotes various resources to diversity

This profile is part of a series about some local businesses that have scored perfectly on HRC's Corporate Equality Index
BY CARRIE MAXWELL

For the past eight years, Aon Corp. has received a 100 percent score on the Human Rights Campaign's (HRC) Corporate Equality Index (CEI). Aon is among 366 major businesses to achieve that score and earn the distinction of "Best Places to Work for LGBT Equality".

"Our consistent 100 percent rating shows that we didn't just get 100 percent that first year and stay at the level we were at. We've continued to be progressive in our policies and our culture," said Nichole Barnes Marshall, global head of diversity and inclusion for Aon plc. "This isn't one of those policies, strate-

with our partnerships with other organizations that allow us to do business in the LGBT community."

Pride Alliance's executive sponsor is Aon Global Chief Marketing and Communication Officer Phil Clement. He was recently named as one of the top 20 allies (number 15) around the globe in business and industry by OUTstanding—a non-profit professional network for LGBT executives and their allies—out of the United Kingdom.

"I'm proud to work for a company and CEO who truly value the importance of including diversity and inclusion as part of our growth strategy," said Clement. "These values are consistent with our strategic imperative to be a destination for best talent and the work of our colleagues in our global Pride Alliance is what has helped us achieve a perfect score on HRC's CEI year after year."



Aon's Eric Braverman and Koka Kliora. Braverman image courtesy of Aon; Kliora photo by Donn Moore

gies or initiatives were you do one thing and it goes away or you feel like you've checked that box. It really has to be a commitment that extends all the way through the organization. Our CEI rating helps us to keep that commitment strong and certainly very positively with our clients and partners because we're mirroring their values as well. Those companies also show up on the CEI 100 list so they expect their partners to show up on the list as well. It certainly has a business advantage as well."

One of the ways Aon achieves this score is through its Pride Alliance Business Resource Group (BRG). Pride Alliance is among 12 BRG's that Aon colleagues have created around shared interests and experiences. These BRG's help Aon achieve its diversity and inclusion vision.

Formed in 2005 as one of Aon's first BRG's, Pride Alliance is, according to Aon's website, "a global BRG for LGBT colleagues and allies (LGBTally) ... that works to incorporate the LGBTally experience in developing innovative ways to serve Aon's clients and grow the business."

"The group is really focused on ensuring that all of our colleagues are able to bring their authentic selves to work every day without worry or fear that they are going to be judged or mistreated in any kind of way," said Marshall. "All of our BRG's focus on four key strategic areas that align back to our talent strategy: recruitment and retention, community engagement, business development and professional development. Pride Alliance helps us recruit and retain LGBT talent, assists us in reaching out to community partners that engage us and brand us in the LGBT community and helps us



Eric Braverman and Koka Kliora are two local Pride Alliance leaders. Braverman (senior vice-president in the Special Services division in Chicago) is the Midwest Region Coordinator of Pride Alliance while Kliora (proposal manager for Aon Hewitt/Sales and Client Management in Lincolnshire, Illinois) is a liaison to Aon executives, represents Pride Alliance to colleagues and clients and spearheads events and education initiatives at the Lincolnshire location. Both have been with the company for about 10 years and joined Pride Alliance almost immediately after being hired.

Braverman shared that he has been out (he is gay) at work for many years and when he was originally asked to be the Midwest Region Coordinator he was reluctant at first but when he found out that there wasn't anyone else in a management position who was willing to do it that bothered him so he agreed to do it.

Kliora noted that one of the things that drew her to Aon was the Pride Alliance BRG. "At the time I was closeted because I didn't feel comfortable telling anyone that I was bisexual. It was really important that I found a group that welcomed me as I identified and they really helped me come out of the closet very quickly," said Kliora. "I'd never met anyone else who was bisexual and hadn't met any LGBT people in general so I didn't feel comfortable about being bisexual or a part of any community that was LGBT focused. So by being welcomed by Pride Alliance, I felt comfortable enough to be honest about who I was. Ever since I've been out at work and in my private life."

Each office's Pride Alliance BRG holds quarterly meetings. They also host a number of events across the globe. Just this past October,

they hosted an event here in Chicago centered around National Coming Out Day featuring Billy Bean (ambassador of inclusion for Major League Baseball) and Todd Sears (Out on the Street and Out Leadership founder). The event focused on what it means to be your authentic selves both personally and professionally.

"A few years ago we co-sponsored an event with a law firm Hinshaw and Culbertson centered around finance, estate planning and insurance for LGBT couples," said Braverman. "Afterwards Lashana Jackson, who was Nichole's predecessor, told me she was shocked that this inequality exists and she was instrumental in having Aon recognize domestic partner benefits for the purposes of insurance."

"We launched our Safe Space program [like the one that GLSEN sends to schools] at our London office where colleagues can put up a symbol in their cube or office that indicates that this is a place where any colleague, not only our LGBT colleagues, can feel comfortable and know that they are going to be respected and appreciated in that space," said Marshall. "This is just another way that we've demonstrated our commitment to our LGBT colleagues."

"At Aon, as with many other companies, in-

clusion is a given not that there's no work to be done. You can start at Aon knowing that they have inclusive policies and welcome you for who you are and if there are any issues that crop up you will have the company behind you," said Kliora.

"The fact that Pride Alliance exists sends a positive message to new hires and younger employees that this is a place where you can come to work and be your authentic self and not have to worry about hiding any aspect of your personal life or fear discrimination," said Braverman.

"We've had the opportunity to bring so much visibility to the needs of our LGBT colleagues through our Pride Alliance BRG," said Marshall. "Our president has been directly involved with the Pride Alliance either speaking at events or contributing in a meaningful way in supporting the organization's that support our LGBT colleagues and our visibility within the LGBT community. It's just another element of our commitment to our talent, clients and community. Our leadership's commitment to inclusion overall is reflected in our various BRG's."

See www.aon.com/about-aon/careers/diversity-and-inclusion-at-aon.jsp for more information.

Uber driver faces sexual-assault allegations

BY MATT SIMONETTE

A Villa Park man stands accused of sexually assaulting a 21-year-old man who hailed a ride from him on the car-sharing service UberX this past summer.

According to DNAinfo, Adnan Nafasat, 46, faces allegations that he choked and groped the passenger before trying to get him to perform oral sex. At a hearing on Jan. 14, Nafasat was ordered held on a \$150,000 bond by Cook County Judge James Brown.

Prosecutors say that the victim hailed Nafasat's car from the 700 block of West Cornelia Avenue July 31. Nafasat allegedly asked the man to sit in the front seat, and repeatedly groped him as he proceeded south to a neighborhood the victim was not familiar with. Furthermore, he allegedly choked the victim each time the car stopped in traffic. Nafasat drove the man home after unsuccessfully demanding oral sex from him.

Nafasat, who was arrested Jan. 13, faces charges of kidnapping, criminal sexual assault and unlawful restraint.

Another local Uber driver has been charged with sexually assaulting a passenger in November.

DNAinfo's article is at <http://www.dnainfo.com/chicago/20150114/lakeview/uber-driver-sexually-assaulted-young-man-boystown-prosecutors-say>.

MAP report: LGBTs behind in many areas

The Movement Advancement Project's (MAP's) newly released 2014 Momentum Report: A Snapshot of Progress and Setbacks for LGBT Equality shows that—despite many advances for the LGBT community—there are areas where deep disparities continue to exist compared to the heterosexual sector, according to a press release.

The report examines marriage, health, transgender equality and other areas of progress—and also provides an overview of some of the biggest remaining gaps in equality. The report contains a timeline of some of the important events that occurred throughout the year.

At the end of 2014, 14 states had marriage equality and no state-level protections from discrimination: Alaska, Arizona, Florida, Ida-

ho, Indiana, Montana, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Utah, Virginia, West Virginia and Wyoming.

Also, according to Ineke Mushovic, executive director of MAP, in a statement: "In [more than] 30 states, a person can be denied service in a restaurant or denied housing because they are transgender."

However, the report also notes several advances, including the percentage of LGBT people lacking health insurance dropping, as millions signed up for insurance offered under the Affordable Care Act. It also cites events such as then-college football player Michael Sam and current Apple CEO Tim Cook being public about their sexuality.

The report is at <http://lgbtmap.org/momentum-report>.

Tim Mitchell service Jan. 22 at Old St. Pat's

A memorial mass for Tim Mitchell will be held Thursday, Jan. 22, at 6:30 p.m. at Old St. Patrick's Church, 700 W. Adams St.

Mitchell, 49, a former Chicago Park District chief and aide under Mayor Richard M. Daley, died Dec. 3, 2014, of natural causes. Mitchell was a gay man, but that fact was not widely known to the general public.

As CEO and superintendent of the Chicago Park District from 2004 to 2011, Mitchell was the driving force behind many park improvements. Mitchell was also instrumental in the creation of the Center on Halsted.

Holocaust event Jan. 27

Temple Shalom/Am Keshet, 3480 N. Lake Shore Dr.—in commemoration of Holocaust Remembrance Day and the 70th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz—has organized a remembrance service and discussion with Danny M. Cohen on the future of Holocaust education.

The event will take place Tuesday, Jan. 27, 7:30-9:30 p.m.

Cantor Aviva Katzman will lead a brief service, followed by Cohen conducting an interactive discussion on how education can be used to prevent a future Holocaust.

Visit www.sholomchicago.org.

MCA Stage

Theater
Dance
Music

Museum of
Contemporary Art
Chicago

See any 3 performances
for \$66.

For tickets call 312.397.4010
or visit mcachicago.org.

at the Edlis
Neeson Theater

Sònia Sánchez
Le Ça (The Id)
Feb 13–15



Photo: Joan Cortés

**Joffrey Academy
of Dance**
*Winning Works:
Choreographers
of Color*
Mar 7–8



Joffrey Academy Trainee Graduate. Photo: Herbert Migdolli

The Seldoms
Power Goes
Mar 20–29



Photo: Andrew Musch

Lead support for the 2014–15 season of MCA Stage is provided by Elizabeth A. Liebman. Generous support for MCA Dance is provided by David Herro and Jay Frank. Additional generous support is provided by Caryn and King Harris, Lois and Steve Eisen and the Eisen Family Foundation. The MCA is a proud member of the Museums in the Park and receives major support from the Chicago Park District.



From left: Burning Bowl attendees Brandee Young-Dyson, Ebonie Davis, M'Reld Green, Christopher Goins, Phoenix Matthews, Chris Smith and Kim Hunt. Photo by Carrie Maxwell

Affinity kicks off 20th-anniv. year with Burning Bowl event

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

"Our theme today is soaring forward like a phoenix. A phoenix is never defeated. It may stumble. It may fall. It may experience incredible hardship and just when you think it's done it rises up rejuvenated, renewed and transformed," said Brandee Young-Dyson, Burning Bowl 2015 mistress of ceremonies and committee member.

That message permeated Affinity Community Services annual Burning Bowl event at Butler College Prep Jan. 10. About 200 people gathered to celebrate Affinity's accomplishments as well as its plans for the future as the organization enters its 20th year in operation.

Christopher Goins, principal of Butler College Prep, provided words of welcome ahead of the day's festivities.

The event featured performances by the Drum Divas with NEYSA Scott providing vocals, spoken-word artist and activist M'Reld Green and singer Charles Middleton with a rendition of Stevie Wonder's "Isn't She Lovely?"

Following an introduction by Kim Hunt, Affinity's executive director, Dr. Phoenix Matthews, associate professor and clinical psychologist at the University of Illinois Chicago, spoke about the important role that Affinity has played and will play in the community during her keynote address.

"It's a privilege to be here in the company

of such strong and beautiful women ... Whenever I stand, I recognize that never in life am I standing on my own foundation. I'm standing on the foundation of the people who came before me," said Matthews. "As Affinity goes into its 20th year, the image of a phoenix rising embodies what Affinity represents completely."

Ahead of Matthew's keynote address, Ebonie Davis (Affinity board of directors president) and Chris Smith (founding board of directors president of Affinity) spoke about the history of Affinity, the organization's accomplishments especially in the area of public policy over the past year, plans for the future and the importance of giving so organization's like Affinity can continue to provide services and outreach to the LGBT community in the coming years.

Attendees were asked to pen letters to themselves consisting of affirmations that they plan on working on in the coming year. These letters will be mailed back to the attendees in six months. Not only were attendees asked to write down their affirmations, they were also invited to write down the things they wanted to remove from their lives and burn them in a ceremonial "burning bowl".

Chicago mayoral candidate Jesus "Chuy" Garcia was also in attendance.

A reception featuring catering by Granny's Girls and cheesecake donated by Eli's Cheesecake followed the event.

See www.affinity95.org for more information.

Equality Illinois to honor TransLife Project

The TransLife Center of Chicago House is the recipient of the 2015 Equality Illinois Freedom Award for providing critical services to transgender Illinoisans.

Bernard Cherkasov, CEO of Equality Illinois, said, "The TransLife Center demonstrates remarkable vision, courage, and leadership in the effort to achieve full equality for transgender people in Illinois. For transgender individuals impacted by poverty, homelessness, and health issues, the TransLife Center provides critical, life-changing services."

The Freedom Award will be made at the 2015 Equality Illinois Gala on Saturday, Feb. 14, in the Hilton Chicago, 720 S. Michigan Ave. The theme of the gala this year is "love is love is love" in honor of Valentine's Day.

'Out at CHM' starts Jan. 22 with trans* event

The Chicago History Museum, 1601 N. Clark St., will hold its annual LGBT-focused "Out at CHM" series starting Thursday, Jan. 22.

On that date, "Transmopolitan: Transgender Resilience" will take place. Trans activist Precious Davis will present a multimedia project on Chicago's transgender history, and will then lead a panel discussion with trans individuals Andre Perez, Gloria Allen, Owen Daniel McCarter, Mimi Marks and Angelica Ross.

There will be a reception at 5:30 p.m., with each program at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$20 (\$15 for members and students); visit <http://www.chicagohistory.org/planavisit/upcomingevents/out-at-chm>.



Rosemary Mulryan (left) and Dori Fujii speak at the forum. Photo by J. Alice Jackson

Equality Illinois introduces 'Growing Your Family' series

BY LAUREN E. CHILDERS

Equality Illinois (EQIL) introduced a new talk series, Growing Your Family: A Guide for Prospective LGBT Adoptive Parents, on Jan. 13 with co-host Cradle; local adoption agency. Rosemary Mulryan of EQIL and Dori Fujii of Cradle teamed together to inform the group of approximately 50 prospective parents about the adoption process.

In addition to the launch of Growing Your Family, EQIL released an adoption guide Jan. 14 which is accessible via its website alongside other guidebooks. The adoption guide includes helpful information including Illinois adoption laws, an agency guide, and adoptive parents' rights.

The Growing Your Family presentation gave potential parents a snapshot into the adoption process including an explanation of the types of adoption, adoption costs, and other topics to prepare everyone for the decision to adopt. The majority of the talk focused on teaching options and what to expect as adoptive parents.

With the lessening of issues faced by LGBT couples looking to adopt, not as much time was needed to dedicate to this piece. Potential parents were informed that issues don't often come up during adopting process but down the road in parenthood. Two issues identified that remain for LGBT parents is the

need to prove legal parenthood in the case of emergency and supporting child and self through a "second coming out," articulated Fujii.

"Families often express a need for more LGBT specific parent training," explained Fujii.

"[But] in Illinois, the law is on our side," expressed Mulryan. Mulryan went on to express the relative ease for LGBT adoptive parents in Illinois. Chicago especially, she sited, has an abundance of LGBT specific resources from which to choose, including EQIL, as well as more allies such as Cradle.

Fujii provided gave examples of reasons why birth parents have given for choosing LGBT parents: LGBT couples can be chosen based on their perceived as understanding of adversities and will likely be understanding and supportive of a child that may be different. Another reason given, Fujii explained, is that adoptive parents' LGBT identity was a non-issue and another element of identity, values, or life experience trumped birth parent(s)' decision or the birth parents recognize many LGBT couples wouldn't otherwise have the opportunity to parent.

Equality Illinois associates identified the event as a relative success for its first talk and intend on having further seminars in the future.

For resource guides visit www.eqil.org.

Chamber of commerce looks to year ahead

BY MATT SIMONETTE

Members of the Chicago Area Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce (CAGLCC) gathered for their first 2015 meeting Jan. 13, as organization officials outlined what Board Chair Billy Stephenson called new "visions" for the year ahead.

Among the initiatives were an emphasis on committee-building, public events and invigorated engagement with outside organizations.

Stephenson said that in 2015 the the Chamber would be more aggressively pursuing relationships with city and state LGBT organizations focusing on business equality. The goal is for LGBT-owned businesses to be considered when corporations or government agencies are in need of suppliers.

"Protections for these businesses already ex-

ist on a federal, state and municipal level: minority-owned, veteran-owned, women-owned, and so on," he noted. "But that does not exist at the federal, state or municipal level for LGBT-owned businesses. I have some personal experience of the discrimination that does still exist."

Organizations CAGLCC will reach out to include Chicago Out and Equal, Citywide Pride, Equality Illinois and Human Rights Campaign, as well as government officials, according to Stephenson.

"That's not only going to help the membership here, it's going to help raise the profile of the Chamber at the government level," he said, adding that CAGLCC would also be more aggressively reaching out to other chambers of commerce—ones concentrating on specific geographic areas—as well.

The organization has also posted a job listing for a new executive director to replace Christina Pinson, who resigned in December. The board expects to begin reviewing resumes in February.

Mr. Chicago Leather 2015 this weekend

The official competition to choose Mr. Chicago Leather (MCL) 2015 will take place on Saturday, Jan. 24, at Leather Archives & Museum, 6418 N. Greenview Ave., at 8 p.m. A victory dance party at MCL home bar Touche, 6412 N. Clark St., will immediately follow the contest.

The weekend will also include a participant welcome party and roast of MCL 2014 Miguel Torres at Touche, Fri., Jan. 23, and a leather brunch, Sun., Jan. 25 at Andersonville Brewing Co., 5402 N. Clark St. Gerber/Hart Library will present a "dirty book sale" in conjunction with a fetish flea market, taking place on both Sat. and Sun. at Touche, from noon until 4 p.m.

The winner of the contest will go on to represent Chicago at this year's International Mr. Leather contest in Chicago over Memorial Day weekend.

Cornel West lecture Feb. 1 at Rockefeller

The Center for the Study of Race, Politics and Culture Annual Public Lecture will present Dr. Cornel West discussing his new book, *The Radical King*, on Sunday, Feb. 1, at Rockefeller Memorial Chapel, 5850 S. Woodlawn Ave.

West is the Class of 1943 University Professor at Princeton University. He has written 19 books and edited 13 works. He is best known for his book *Race Matters*, *Democracy Matters*, and the memoir *Brother West: Living and Loving Out Loud*.

The Office of Civic Engagement's UChicago Engages series, Seminary Co-op Bookstore and Beacon Press are co-sponsoring to this event that is free and open to the public.

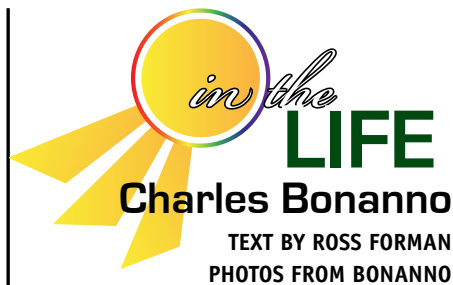
See "Cornel West: 'The Radical King'-CSRPC Annual Public Lecture" on Facebook.

Her HRC event Feb. 15

"Chicago Her HRC Presents: 4th Annual Va ~ Va ~ Vaudeville!" will take place Sunday, Feb. 15, at Mayne Stage, 1328 W. Morse Ave., 7-10 p.m.

Past events have featured burlesque dancers, comedians, jugglers, magicians, musicians, sword swallowers, painted ladies and belly dancers. Gwen La Roka will host this year's event, with Lady Gia, Aerin Tedesco, Cruel Valentine and Shana Vaughn-Gabor among the slated performers.

VIP admission (50-person capacity) is at 6 p.m., with general admission (150-person capacity) at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$20 and \$35; see <http://www.hrc.org/events>.



Charles Bonanno

TEXT BY ROSS FORMAN
PHOTOS FROM BONANNO

Age
49

Neighborhood
Andersonville

His journey
Originally from Des Moines, Iowa; moved to Boston in 1990; moved to Chicago in 2004

Relationship status
Single

Job title
Owner/stylist of XO Studio

Hobbies
"Bike riding, running and working out with my trainer, Adam Usicki at Cheetah Gym"

Favorite TV show
Judge Judy

Favorite movie
Until September

Favorite pro athlete
David Beckham

Preferred drink at a bar
Martini

The current/coolest hair trend
Ombre

First hair coloring
"I did [it years ago] on my best friend Rob Merk, [who] came over to my house to help me practice. The foils kept slipping out and, I turned his hair orange. What was worse [was], he had a huge meeting in the morning. Luckily, the salon I worked at opened first thing and our master colorist was able to save the day."

Four people (living or dead) who you'd like to invite to dinner
Harvey Milk, Marilyn Monroe, Princess Diana and John F. Kennedy Jr.



Charles Bonanno, known to most as simply Charlie, formerly was the part-owner of a chain salon here in Chicago.

"I was noticing that my staff and I were working in an environment that was unhappy and unproductive, and the salon had so much negativity," Bonanno said. "No matter what steps I took to change it as part owner, I was met with resistance. I knew it was time for me to break out on my own and create a salon that was high energy, professional and an amazing place to work."

And so he opened XO Studio at 3428 N. Broadway, which has been open for more than a year now.

"It's been an amazing journey," he said. "There comes a time in your life when you have to take a chance and believe in yourself. It's also important that others believe in you as well."

And clearly, XO has been doing things right. The salon was recently voted the Readers Choice for Best Salon award in Chicago Magazine.

"All of us are still in shock and overwhelmed by the support our clients, families and friends have shown," he said. "The amount of people that voted for us was mind-blowing. It validated what we did, and are doing: the right thing—quality services and our commitment to your profession and clients."

XO Studio will be featured in late August or early September on a national TV show called America's Best on the ION channel, which also will be streamlined on Ruku. Each episode highlights a city's "best."



"The producers contacted me about our salon and noticed our five-star reviews [on] many sites," Bonanno said. "They also sent someone in secretly to the salon for service and apparently the rumors were true."

XO has 14 employees and Bonanno said the best part of his job is simply "working with an amazing, talented staff and having clients tell us how much they enjoy coming into our salon."

The worst part of his job is simple, he said: sales calls.

"I am mostly a homebody," away from the salon, he said. "I like relaxing and watching TV with my dog, Cuba, and roommate, Wil. I love riding my bike along the lake and working out is a must. When I am out with friends, I love enjoying their company and simply having a great time with amazing food and wine."

"Through the years, I have overcome many transitions in life. The key is to make a decision and just go for it. If you doubt yourself or your choices, then the odds are already against you. I worked at Fidelity Investments for 10 years and knew it wasn't for me. Taking the chance to leave such a well-paying job with all the bells and whistles and pursue my dream job was scary, but exciting. Opening XO Studio with no partners and knowing if anything went wrong or failed, it was all on me was a huge [risk], but I don't regret [it for] one moment."

Groundhog Day Celebration!!!

Monday February 2nd
Noon - 5pm

THE LEIGH GALLERY
3306 N. HALSTED
CHICAGO
773.472.1865
theleighgallery.com

Groundhog Cookies - Groundhog Punch
Special Visit from the Gallery Groundhog
Drink Specials sponsored by Elixir
Artwork Specials - This Day Only
Don't Miss It!

INTERNATIONAL KENNEL CLUB DOG SHOW

JAN. 30 - FEB. 1 | McCORMICK PLACE LAKESIDE CENTER
8:00AM - 4:00PM

TICKETS \$20 ADULTS / \$12 SENIORS
★ TWO DAY PASS: \$25 ADULTS / \$17 SENIORS ★
CASH ONLY. ATM AVAILABLE. KIDS UNDER 12 FREE

\$2 OFF REGULAR PRICE ADULT ADMISSION
Does not apply to senior or children's admission. Reproduction of coupon not accepted. Not valid with any other discount. One coupon per ticket. Please check ikcdogshow.com to confirm breed schedules.

COME TO SEE AKC PUREBRED DOGS ON DISPLAY
100 VENDORS / WORLD CANINE FREESTYLE COMPETITION / MEET THE BREEDS / BEST IN SHOW AND MORE!

IKCDOGSHOW.COM

VIEWPOINTS

WINDY CITY
TIMES

VOL. 30, No. 17, Jan. 21, 2015

*The combined forces of Windy City Times,
founded Sept. 1985, and Outlines newspaper,
founded May 1987.*

PUBLISHER & EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Tracy Baim

ASSISTANT PUBLISHER Terri Klinsky
MANAGING EDITOR Andrew Davis
BUSINESS MANAGER Ripley Caine
DIRECTOR OF NEW MEDIA Jean Albright
ART DIRECTOR Kirk Williamson
SENIOR REPORTER Matt Simonette
SENIOR ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES Terri Klinsky,
 Kirk Williamson, Amy Matheny, Chris Cheuvront,
 Gretchen Rachel Hammond
PROMOTIONAL SUPPORT Scott Duff
NATIONAL SALES Rivendell Media, 212-242-6863
SENIOR WRITERS Bob Roehr, Tony Peregrin, Lisa
 Keen, Yasmin Nair
THEATER EDITOR Scott C. Morgan
CINEMA WRITER Richard Knight Jr.
BOOKS WRITER Yasmin Nair
SPORTS WRITER Ross Forman
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT WRITERS
 Mary Shen Barnidge, Steve Warren, Lawrence
 Ferber, Mel Ferrand, Jerry Nunn, Jonathan
 Abarbanel
COLUMNISTS/WRITERS: Yvonne Zipter, Jorjet
 Harper, Charlsie Dewey, Carrie Maxwell, Billy
 Masters, Sarah Toce, Dana Rudolph, Sally Parsons,
 Melissa Wasserman, Joe Franco, Nick Patricca, Liz
 Baudler, Rex Wockner, Marie J. Kuda, Kate Sosin,
 Angelique Smith, Meghan Streit
SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHERS Mel Ferrand, Hal Baim,
 Emmanuel Garcia, Tim Carroll, Ed Negron, Susan
 Mattes

CIRCULATION

CIRCULATION DIRECTOR Jean Albright
DISTRIBUTION: Ashina, Allan, Dan, John, Renee,
 Sue and Victor
WEB HOSTING: LoveYourWebsite.com (lead
 programmer: Martie Marro)

Copyright 2015 Lambda Publications Inc./Windy City Media Group; All rights reserved. Reprint by permission only. Back issues (if available) for \$5 per issue (postage included). Return postage must accompany all manuscripts, drawings, and photographs submitted if they are to be returned, and no responsibility may be assumed for unsolicited materials. All rights to letters, art and photographs sent to *Windy City Times* will be treated as unconditionally assigned for publication purposes and as such, subject to editing and comment. The opinions expressed by the columnists, cartoonists, letter writers, and commentators are their own and do not necessarily reflect the position of *Windy City Times*. Publication of the name, photograph, or likeness of a person or organization in articles or advertising in *Windy City Times* is not to be construed as any indication of the sexual orientation of such person or organization. While we encourage readers to support the advertisers who make this newspaper possible, *Windy City Times* cannot accept responsibility for advertising claims.
 (773) 871-7610 FAX (773) 871-7609
 e-mail: editor@windycitymediagroup.com or
Andrew@windycitymediagroup.com

www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com
 podcast: WindyCityQueercast.com

WINDY CITY MEDIA GROUP,
 5315 N. Clark St. #192, Chicago, Illinois 60640
 U.S.A.
 (MAILING ADDRESS ONLY)

Windy City Times Deadline every Wednesday.
Nightspots Deadline Wednesday prior to street date.
OUT! Resource Guide ONLINE
www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com
www.WindyCityQueercast.com

"Windy City Media Group generated enormous interest among their readers in this year's LGBT Consumer Index Survey. Out of approximately 100 print and online media partners who participated in the survey, Windy City was the best performing regional media in the U.S. Only survey partners with a nationwide footprint were able to generate a greater number of responses." —David Marshall, Research Director, Community Marketing, Inc.

 Community Marketing, Inc.



REV.
IRENE
MONROE

Martin Luther King Jr.'s expansive dream

Martin Luther King Jr.'s actual birthday is Jan. 15, and I believe if MLK were alive today he would be well-pleased with Ava DuVernay's film *Selma*.

Many people working for justice today stand on the shoulders of Martin Luther King, Jr. and what he achieved in *Selma*. But I believe King's vision of justice is often gravely limited and misunderstood. Too many people thought then, and continue to think, that King's statements regarding justice were only about race and the African-American community. We fail to see how King's vision of inclusion and community is far wider than we might have once imagined. And his vision always included LGBT people.

For King, justice was more than a racial is-

full participation in the fight to advance democracy. And surely part of our job, in keeping King's dream alive, is to also work to dismantle discriminatory laws and dehumanizing structures that we see young people now taking to the street to protest about across the country.

But if King were among us today, he would say that it is not enough just to look outside ourselves to see the places where society is broken. It is not enough to talk about institutions and workplaces that fracture and separate people based on race, religion, gender and sexual orientation. We must also look at the ways that we ourselves manifest these bigotries, how we are the very ones who uphold and are part of these institutions and workplaces.

Often, we find that these institutions and workplaces are broken, dysfunctional and wounded in the very same ways that we are. The structures we have created are mirrors not of who we want to be, but who we really are.

King would remind each of us that we cannot heal the world if we have not healed ourselves. So perhaps the greatest task, and the most difficult work we must do in light of King's teachings, is to heal ourselves. And this work must be done in relationship with our justice work in the world.

In *A Farewell to Arms*, Ernest Hemingway wrote that the world breaks us all, but some of us grow strong in those broken places. King's

We are foolish if we think we can heal the world and not ourselves. And we delude ourselves if we think that King was only talking about the woundedness of institutional racism, and not the personal wounds we all carry as human beings.

Ironically, our culture of woundedness and victimization has bonded us together in brokenness. The sharing of worlds to depict and honor our pain has created a new language of intimacy, a bonding ritual that allows us to talk across and among our pains. In exploring our common wounds, we sometimes feel more able to find the trust and the understanding that eludes us as "healthy" people.

When we bond in these unhealthy ways we miss opportunities in ourselves for moral leadership, and to work collaboratively with others to effect change in seemingly small ways that eventually lead to big outcomes.

Both Rosa Parks and Martin Luther King, Jr. were leaders in the Montgomery bus boycott in challenging Alabama's Jim Crow laws. Both were working together for a desired outcome, and they could not have done it without the other.

Had Rosa Parks not sat down by refusing her seat to a white man that day on the bus in December 1955, King could not have gotten up to promulgate a social gospel, which catapulted the civil rights movement.



A quilt featured at the 2010 Facing Race conference. Photo by Andrew Davis

sue, more than a legal or moral issue. Justice was a human issue. And this was evident in King's passionate concern about a wide range of concerns: "The revolution for human rights is opening up unhealthy areas in American life and permitting a new and wholesome healing to take place," King once told a racially mixed audience. "Eventually, the civil-rights movement will have contributed infinitely more to the nation than the eradication of racial injustice."

Moral leadership played a profound role in the justice work that King did. He argued that true moral leadership must involve itself in the situations of all who are damned, disinherited, disrespected and dispossessed, and moral leadership must be part of a participatory government that is feverishly working to dismantle the existing discriminatory laws that truncate

teachings invites us to grow strong in our broken places—not only to mend the sin-sick world in which we live in, but also to mend the sin-sick world that we carry around within us. And we can only do that if we are willing to look both inward and outward, healing ourselves of the bigotry, biases and the demons that chip away at our efforts to work toward justice in this world. And our differences have been used to divide us instead of uniting us, so consequently we reside in a society where human brokenness, human isolation and human betrayal are played out every day.

I know that the struggle against racism that King talked about is only legitimate if I am also fighting anti-Semitism, homophobia, sexism and classism—not only out in the world but also in myself. Otherwise, I am creating an ongoing cycle of abuse that goes on unexamined and unaccounted for.

Each year, I mark the Martin Luther King holiday by re-examining myself in light of King's teachings. And in so doing, I try to uncover not only the ways in which the world breaks me, but also how it breaks other people. That keeps us fractured instead of united toward a common goal—a multicultural democracy.

I believe that when we use our gifts in the service of others as King has taught us we then shift the paradigm of personal brokenness to personal healing. We also shift the paradigm of looking for moral leadership from outside of ourselves to within ourselves; thus, realizing we are not only the agents of change in society, but also the moral leaders we have been looking for.

Our job, therefore, in keeping King's dream alive is to remember that our longing for social justice is also inextricably tied to our longing for personal healing.

Send columns or letters to Andrew@WindyCityMediaGroup.com.
 Letters may be edited for brevity or clarity.

GOINGS-ON

WINDY CITY TIMES' ENTERTAINMENT SECTION



Photo from Sony Pictures Classics

STILL JULIANNE

WCT talks with the queer duo behind *Still Alice*, for which Julianne Moore (above) has gotten an Oscar nomination. See page 24.

THEATER

On target.
Page 14

Photo from *Edith Can Shoot Things...*
Photo by Julia Dratel



DISH

Sprout-landish.
Page 28

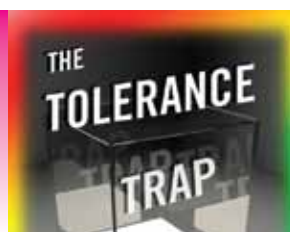
Osteria Langhe's cavolini
PR photo



BOOKS

'Trap' sheet.
Page 25

Cover of *The Tolerance Trap*



WINTER THEATER SPECIAL

Risk and resurrection: Theater classics and revivals kick off 2015

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

Plays drawn from the repertoire of Western drama are usually dismissed as "safe options" for theaters—what could be more reliable, after all, than a script arriving with a decades-long track record of pleasing audiences? This popular impression renders all the more astonishing the degree of *daring* reflected in this winter's selection of (at least) twice-told tales.

Big risks:

The Revenants, WildClaw Theatre, running through Feb. 22. Yeah, it's got zombies in it, but Scott A. Barsotti's play is really about the slow progress of our loved ones' transformation into parasitic aliens—a decline that social services hasn't addressed yet.

Waiting for Godot, Court Theater, opens Jan. 24 (773-753-4472): When you're waiting, there's nothing but empty time, but that's life, according to Samuel Beckett. Will director Ron OJ Parsons succeed in convincing us as well?

Red, Redtwist Theatre, opens Feb. 7 (773-728-7529): John Logan's two-character dialogue takes on a new urgency when you know that the more iconoclastic of the duo—played by company regular Brian Perry—is the 20th-century artist Mark Rothko on the verge of self-destruction.

Macbeth, The Artistic Home, opens Feb. 22 (866-811-4111): Witches, ghosts, blood, battles, assassinations and child murders are all performed in a West Town storefront by an en-

semble devoted to thoughtful text analysis.

Balm in Gilead, Griffin Theatre Company, opening March 22 (773-769-2228): Wicker Park may have left its seedy environs behind, but Lanford Wilson's crowd-the-stage-with-lowlifes landscape—it made Steppenwolf's reputation in 1980—should still look right at home in The Den.

Travesties, Remy Bumppo Theatre Company, opens March 30 (773-404-7336): A dotty old Brit recalls his sojourn in Switzerland during WW I in the company of the leader of the Russian Communist Revolution, the author of *Ulysses* and the founder of the Dada Art Movement—oh, and since this is a Tom Stoppard play, you'd better brush up on your Importance of Being Earnest, too—maybe with *ShawChicago*, opening Feb. 7 (312-587-7390):

Lady Windermere's Fan, Dead Writers Collective, opens April 17 (773-305-8221) On the one hand, it's an Oscar Wilde play. On the other, it's *not* *Salomé* or *The Importance of Being Earnest*.

Moderate risk:

The Rose Tattoo, Shattered Globe Theatre Company, running through Feb. 28 (773-975-8150): Amid the white protestant conclaves of the Gulf coast, Tennessee Williams found his Pagan muse lurking within the Sicilian immigrant community.

Dividing the Estate, Raven Theatre, opens Feb. 2 (773-338-2177): When the clan matriarch is still alive and intractable, quibbles over



The *Rose Tattoo*. Photo by Michael Brosilow

the family fortunes grow complicated in Horton Foote's last play.

The Addams Family, Mercury Theater, opens Feb. 5 (773-325-1700): This musical adaptation featuring Charles Addams' creepy clan has undergone many changes since its Chicago try-out tour in 2009, so why not let's see what made the—um, cut?

Jesus Christ Superstar, Theo Ubique, opens March 9 (800-595-4849): Andrew Lloyd Webber's rock-pop bio-gospel is no megachurch sermon, but a fable for our time, fitted snugly into the cozy No Exit café.

The Full Monty, Kokandy Productions, opens March 12 (773-975-8150): Working-class bucks played by young non-equity male actors aspire to Chippendale-style striptease—and they sing, too.

No risk:

West Side Story, Drury Lane Theatre at Oakbrook, running through March 22 (630-530-0111): Racial tensions are sung and danced away in Leonard Bernstein's operatic retelling of *Romeo and Juliet*.

Sondheim on Sondheim, Porchlight Music Theater, opens Feb. 13 (773-327-5252): An evening devoted to Stephen Sondheim songs and you can bring your drinks in from the lobby bar.

The Diary of Anne Frank, Writers Theater, opens March 4 (847-242-6000): The martyred Jewish journalist ranks alongside Joan of Arc and Malala Yousafzai in the annals of teenage heroines.



Kate Black-Spence and Brian Plocharczyk in *Keys of the Kingdom*. Photo by Johnny Knight

THEATER REVIEW

Keys of the Kingdom

Playwright: Penny Penniston
At: Stage Left at Theater Wit,
 1229 W. Belmont Ave.
Tickets: 773-975-8150;
www.theaterwit.org; \$20-\$32
Runs through: Feb. 15

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

What we know for sure is that while in New York City for a book-signing, high-profile preacher Ed Newell was shown a painting that the common citizens of Lower Manhattan worshipped as a shrine. Upon returning to his 400-member congregation, he commences hiring the artist to furnish his megachurch offices a ceiling mural, despite Irene Hoff's status as an avowed lesbian atheist. This meets with the disapproval of assistant pastor Arthur Garrett, but as work proceeds on the project, the dissenter finds himself in need of an organ transplant. After the Reverend Newell calls upon his flock to find a donor, an unexpected candidate comes forth.

Those are the facts, but interpretations vary: The Rev. Ed attributes these events to divine intervention, having received God's assurance that Irene is His chosen messenger—a verdict shared by the hitherto unbeliever, following a road-to-Damascus conversion. Irene's wife and business manager, Paige, is skeptical, but sees the assignment as a lucrative career-boosting commission. Arthur's wife, Joann, cares only about saving her husband's life—but what about Arthur, himself? When all signs point toward redemption, does his stubborn refusal to accept the proffered grace reflect humility, or a perverse kind of egotism? For that matter, could not Ed's preoccupation with temporal power, or Irene's defiant impiety, likewise arise out of vanity?

This is the theme (called "hubris" in Greek tragedy) explored in Penny Penniston's play, making its world premiere in this Stage Left production. Are those who profess their faith from habit, like Paige, or chafe under its demands, like Joann, any less worthy than Arthur, who employs it as a refuge from his own remorse? If someone claims to have been sent a revelation from God, can anyone deny it? As each of these flawed pilgrims find the courage to question their orthodoxy, they also embrace the directive to extend their fellow human beings the gift of forgiveness—a precept tran-

scending sectarian divisions.

Penniston never allows her discussion to slide into amen-snorting caricature, nor do director Greg Werstler or his all-star ensemble of actors ever permit their portrayals to stray from respect for their characters' integrity. Don Bender ascertains that Rev. Ed's spontaneous "witnessing," however foreign to urban audiences, always springs from the heart. Kathrynne Wolf's devoted Joann and McKenzie Chinn's pragmatic Paige supply wise counsel to Brian Plocharczyk's repentant Arthur and Kate Black-Spence's inquisitive Irene, making for lively theological debate to engage playgoers of all creeds.

CRITICS' PICKS

Fillet of Solo, Lifeline and Heartland Studio, through Jan. 25. This annual fest offers our best storytellers and live-lit performers, among them the Sweat Girls, Stir-Friday Night, Tekki Lomnicki, Rose Abdo, the kates, OUTspoken, The Stoop, Stephen Bastien and GayCo. Full schedule online; unlimited festival pass just \$50. JA

Apes of Wrath, The Second City e.t.c., an open run. Deep existential despair and sci-fi matters make for great comic gold in this hilarious sketch comedy revue directed by Jen Ellison. The writer-performers are all unashamedly brainy and funny at the same time. SCM

Red Bud, Signal Ensemble Theatre, opens Jan. 22. A pack of good ol' boys on the brink of midlife crisis take a road-and-camping trip to a motorcross event—what could possibly go wrong with Brett Neveu telling the story? MSB

Softly Blue, MPAACT at Greenhouse Theater Center, opens Jan. 30. Boy meets girl—but how? Can first-sight love still flourish under the complexities of 21st century lifestyles? MSB

—By Abarbanel, Barnidge
 and Morgan

THEATER REVIEW

Edith Can Shoot Things and Hit Them

Playwright: A. Rey Pamatmat
At: First Floor Theater at the Flatiron Arts Center, 1579 N. Milwaukee Ave.
Tickets: 312-857-6406;
www.firstfloortheater.com; \$20
Runs through: Jan. 31

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

The Tolentino family is not what is usually defined by that term. Doctor Mom died of cancer after divorcing Doctor Dad, who now lives with his girl friend, periodically depositing money in a bank account to cover the household expenses of 16-year-old son Kenny and 12-year-old Edith—the latter of whom considers herself guardian of the homestead, and will show you her BB gun to prove it. So successfully have the siblings adapted to this arrangement that they now regard adult interference as an unwelcome nuisance. When Kenny's boyfriend Benji is banished by his homophobic mother, his peers promptly offer to shelter the homeless refugee, and when strangers attempt an invasion, Edith opens fire on them.

In a different kind of play, social workers would pack the delinquent children off to foster homes, or Kenny could apply for Emancipated Minor status, or the story would be narrated in wistfully fuzzy flashback. Like his personae, however, author A. Rey Pamatmat rejects conventions to instead, forge ahead

toward resolution. His underaged heroes may be limited in their legal autonomy, but independence is not quickly relinquished—especially when those who would usurp it are, themselves, crippled by confusion and insecurity. Slowly, the youngsters' anger at their irresponsible progenitors gives way to compassion for grownups suddenly bereft of their entitlement. When your father is an orphan, alone in the world—stepmommy candidates being understandably wary of sharpshooting tweens—do you abandon him, as he abandoned you, or do you welcome him back into the fold?

Pamatmat emphasizes the alienation of would-be authority figures by keeping them invisible. We hear about them, and listen in on one-sided telephone conversations, but the sole glimpse of an over-twenty is a shadowy silhouette resembling, significantly, a pistol-range target. Physically, this renders it easier to accept the necessity of actors portraying much younger characters, but more important, it intensifies our psychological bond with these preternaturally mature adolescents forced to exercise a firm hand in bringing up their parents.

Kevin Matthew Reyes and Luke Michael Grimes capture the romantic exuberance of innocents learning about sex from dictionaries and comic books (leading to some serious onstage necking, but no nudity), while Aurora Adachi-Winter's scowl nails perfectly the Artemesian bravado of virgin-warriors from Mulan to Malala Yousafzai. Whether this is youth-market material is up to the individual, but playgoers of all ages can certainly appreciate Pamatmat's refreshingly smart approach to his subject.

THEATER REVIEW

The Book of Merman

Book and Score: Leo Schwartz
At: Pride Films and Plays at Mary's Attic, 5400 N. Clark St.
Tickets: 800-838-3006 or
www.pridefilmsandplays.com; \$20-\$30
Runs through: Feb. 15

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

Ever wondered what shenanigans might ensue if a couple of missionaries from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints happened to ring the doorbell of a woman who may or may not be the iconic Broadway diva Ethel Merman?

If you're a diehard musical theater fan answering in the affirmative, then the world premiere musical *The Book of Merman* will probably be for you. But if you're on the fence about a show that sounds like a premise for a so-so Saturday Night Live sketch that overstays its welcome, then this musical by Leo Schwartz (Under a Rainbow Flag) for Pride Films and Plays unfortunately confirms those suspicions.

Schwartz clearly had a field day writing songs that ape the style and content of numbers originally made famous by Merman in Broadway classics like *Anything Goes*, *Annie Get Your Gun* and *Gypsy*. Schwartz also directly spoofs numbers from the 2011 Broadway smash *The Book of Mormon*—so much so that you wonder if litigious lawyers representing Matt Stone, Trey Parker and Robert Lopez might show up at Mary's Attic at any moment.

Schwartz's song parodies are fun, but they're not enough to carry along his script that seems more interested in mocking Mormons' aversion to profanity than creating much palpable dramatic tension. Schwartz's characters are also underdeveloped and unbelievably lack self-awareness for the show's modern-day setting.

For instance, it's surprising that the more religiously inclined Elder Jacob Braithwaite (Dan Gold) doesn't immediately accuse Elder Aaron Schumer (Sam Button-Harrison) of harboring gay thoughts when he reveals his passion for all things musical theater and Merman.



Dan Gold and Sam Button-Harrison in *The Book of Merman*. Photo from Pride Films and Plays

Schwartz also seems to tone down the well-documented crassness of the real-life Merman, who likely would have had little patience for being proselytized to by Mormon missionaries.

If the show as a whole is hard to swallow beyond an exercise in post-modern camp, it's largely not the fault of the performers or of music director Robert Ollis. Gold and Button-Harrison do an admirable job playing earnest missionaries.

Yet, Libby Lane as Merman starts at an immediate disadvantage since director David Zak felt it important to screen actual Merman performance clips before the show and at intermission (no doubt as a refresher for audiences unfamiliar with the Broadway legend who passed away at the age of 76 in 1984). Compared to the real Merman on screen and possible other imitators incorporated into the show, Lane's performance is notably lacking in oversized brassiness and characteristic Merman vocal tics.

The Book of Merman is ideal for diehard musical theater fans who love Broadway song spoofs. But if you don't fall into that fan base, watching *The Book of Merman* will feel like you're not a member of the congregation.



Adam Benjamin and Scottie Caldwell in *A Map of Virtue*. Photo by Ryan Bourque

THEATER REVIEW

A Map of Virtue

Playwright: Erin Courtney
 At: Cor Theatre at Rivendell, 5779 N. Ridge Ave.
 Tickets: 866-811-4111;
 www.CorTheatre.org; \$25
 Runs through: Feb. 14

BY JONATHAN ABARBANEL

Are birds happy harbingers of pleasant days and flights of fancy? Or are they figures of foreboding *a la* Poe's raven and Hitchcock's flocks?

Mark, an adult gay man, carries a tiny wood statuette of a meadowlark, which he stole at 12 from a man who was sexually abusing him. Sarah, a married young artist, has bird tattoos. Serendipitously, almost mystically, Mark (Will Van Vogt) and Sarah (Mallory Nees) meet twice

without saying a word, the first time in a café which is swarmed by birds. Eventually, they strike up a friendship.

For the first 25 minutes of *A Map of Virtue*, they narrate their story directly to the audience, assisted by an actor playing the bird statuette (Scottie Caldwell) and giving each scene a title: Curiosity, Loyalty, Empathy, Honesty, Integrity, Love and Intuition. One quickly sees these are author Erin Courtney's Seven Virtues, different from the traditional Christian Seven Virtues.

Then, in the middle 25 minutes, Mark, Sarah and Sarah's husband, Nate (Nick Mikula), are kidnapped by June (Eleni Pappageorge), whom they meet at a party, and held captive for several days by June and her partner, Ray (Adam Benjamin). They are subjected to psychological terror and real violence until they are rescued by Mark's lover, Victor (Ruben Adorno). June and Ray then immolate themselves, destroying

SPOTLIGHT



The percussive dance revue **STOMP** has been playing off-Broadway since 1994 and wowing the world through a series of international tours. If you haven't seen the show, which features drummers making noise out of everyday objects, catch the current tour of STOMP now playing in Chicago. STOMP continues through Sunday, Jan. 25, at the Bank of America Theatre, 18 W. Monroe St. Performances are at 7:30 p.m. Jan. 21 to 23, 2 and 8 p.m. Jan. 24 and 2 and 7:30 p.m. Jan. 25. Tickets are \$17 to \$62. For more information call 800-775-2000 or visit www.broadwayinchicago.com. Photo by Steve McNicholas

in the process the bird statuette, which had been left behind.

In the final 25 minutes, Mark, Sarah, Nate and Victor try to make sense of their relationships and what has happened to them. They do so by narrating directly to the audience and reversing the sequence of named virtues, as author Courtney attempts to soothe the shocked nerves of her audience and recapture the poetic, almost-whimsical essence of the play's first one-third.

It doesn't work for me. Captivated and drawn-in by the opening gambit, I was completely alienated by the vicious and random middle section and was not re-engaged by the closing section. It's a fact that we live in a world of random and appalling violence, and perhaps

that's Courtney's point. There's no explanation for Hitchcock's birds, and no explanations of June and Ray. They are barely two-dimensional as characters, but even Mark and Sarah are scarcely deeper, and that's a big problem.

The actors give it their all. With director Tasha Fowler they clearly have worked out motivations and reasons why, which aren't apparent to the audience. They play with commitment and full emotional engagement and surprising subtlety, especially Van Vogt. The simple stage setting (Tierra G. Novy), woven with stabiles of origami birds in flight, provides a dark but pleasant neutral background. But *A Map of Virtue* mystified me. The radical change of tone, the bird, the virtues? I don't get it.

GIORDANO DANCE CHICAGO

ONE NIGHT ONLY!
JAN 31 @ 7:30PM

“More stunning than ever.”
— Hedy Weiss, *Chicago Sun-Times*

“MADE IN CHICAGO”
DANCE SERIES
MADE POSSIBLE BY THE BOEING COMPANY

TICKETS START AT ONLY \$27!

AuditoriumTheatre.org | 800.982.ARTS (2787)

NICOR GAS
An AGL Resource Company
Lead Corporate Sponsor

ROBERT R. MCCORMICK FOUNDATION
Lead Foundation Sponsor

BOEING
“Made in Chicago” Dance Sponsor

PALMER HOUSE
Official Hotel Partner

125

AUDITORIUM THEATRE 1889-2014

AUDITORIUM THEATRE

of ROOSEVELT UNIVERSITY

Giordano Dance Chicago In *Moving Sidewalks*. Photo by Gorman Cook Photography.

COMPLERA is a prescription medicine for adults who have never taken HIV-1 medicines before and who have no more than 100,000 copies/mL of virus in their blood. COMPLERA can also replace current HIV-1 medicines for some adults who have an undetectable viral load (less than 50 copies/mL) and whose healthcare provider determines that they meet certain other requirements. COMPLERA combines 3 medicines into 1 pill to be taken once a day with food. COMPLERA should not be used with other HIV-1 medicines.

Just the **one**  for me

COMPLERA is a complete HIV-1 treatment in only 1 pill a day.

Ask your healthcare provider if COMPLERA may be the one for you.

Pill shown is not actual size.

COMPLERA does not cure HIV-1 infection or AIDS.

To control HIV-1 infection and decrease HIV-related illnesses you must keep taking COMPLERA. Ask your healthcare provider if you have questions about how to reduce the risk of passing HIV-1 to others. Always practice safer sex and use condoms to lower the chance of sexual contact with body fluids. Never reuse or share needles or other items that have body fluids on them.

It is not known if COMPLERA is safe and effective in children under 18 years old.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

What is the most important information I should know about COMPLERA?

COMPLERA can cause serious side effects:

- **Build-up of an acid in your blood (lactic acidosis)**, which is a serious medical emergency. Symptoms of lactic acidosis include feeling very weak or tired, unusual (not normal) muscle pain, trouble breathing, stomach pain with nausea or vomiting, feeling cold especially in your arms and legs, feeling dizzy or lightheaded, and/or a fast or irregular heartbeat.
- **Serious liver problems.** The liver may become large (hepatomegaly) and fatty (steatosis). Symptoms of liver problems include your skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow (jaundice), dark “tea-colored” urine, light-colored bowel movements (stools), loss of appetite for several days or longer, nausea, and/or stomach pain.
- **You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or serious liver problems** if you are female, very overweight (obese), or have been taking COMPLERA for a long time. In some cases, these serious conditions have led to death. Call your healthcare provider right away if you have any symptoms of these conditions.
- **Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** If you also have HBV and stop taking COMPLERA, your hepatitis may suddenly get worse. Do not stop taking COMPLERA without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to monitor your health. COMPLERA is not approved for the treatment of HBV.

Who should not take COMPLERA?

Do not take COMPLERA if you:

- **Take a medicine that contains:** adefovir (Hepsera), lamivudine (Epivir-HBV), carbamazepine (Carbatrol, Equetro, Tegretol, Tegretol-XR, Teril, Eptol), oxcarbazepine (Trileptal), phenobarbital (Luminal), phenytoin (Dilantin, Dilantin-125, Phenytek), rifampin (Rifater, Rifamate, Rimactane, Rifadin), rifapentine (Priftin), dextansoprazole (Dexilant), esomeprazole (Nexium, Vimovo), lansoprazole (Prevacid), omeprazole (Prilosec, Zegerid), pantoprazole sodium (Protonix), rabeprazole (Aciphex), more than 1 dose of the steroid medicine dexamethasone or dexamethasone sodium phosphate, or the herbal supplement St. John’s wort.
- **Take any other medicines to treat HIV-1 infection**, unless recommended by your healthcare provider.

What are the other possible side effects of COMPLERA?

Serious side effects of COMPLERA may also include:

- **New or worse kidney problems, including kidney failure.** Your healthcare provider should do blood tests to check your kidneys before starting treatment with COMPLERA. If you have had kidney problems, or take other medicines that may cause kidney problems, your healthcare provider may also check your kidneys during treatment with COMPLERA.
- **Depression or mood changes.** Tell your healthcare provider right away if you have any of the following symptoms: feeling sad or hopeless, feeling anxious or restless, have thoughts of hurting yourself (suicide) or have tried to hurt yourself.

- **Changes in liver enzymes:** People who have had hepatitis B or C, or who have had changes in their liver function tests in the past may have an increased risk for liver problems while taking COMPLERA. Some people without prior liver disease may also be at risk. Your healthcare provider may do tests to check your liver enzymes before and during treatment with COMPLERA.
- **Bone problems**, including bone pain or bones getting soft or thin, which may lead to fractures. Your healthcare provider may do tests to check your bones.
- **Changes in body fat** can happen in people taking HIV-1 medicines.
- **Changes in your immune system.** Your immune system may get stronger and begin to fight infections. Tell your healthcare provider if you have any new symptoms after you start taking COMPLERA.

The most common side effects of COMPLERA include trouble sleeping (insomnia), abnormal dreams, headache, dizziness, diarrhea, nausea, rash, tiredness, and depression. Other common side effects include vomiting, stomach pain or discomfort, skin discoloration (small spots or freckles), and pain. Tell your healthcare provider if you have any side effects that bother you or do not go away.

What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking COMPLERA?

- **All your health problems.** Be sure to tell your healthcare provider if you have or had any kidney, mental health, bone, or liver problems, including hepatitis virus infection.
- **All the medicines you take**, including prescription and nonprescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. COMPLERA may affect the way other medicines work, and other medicines may affect how COMPLERA works. Keep a list of all your medicines and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist. Do not start any new medicines while taking COMPLERA without first talking with your healthcare provider.
- **If you take rifabutin (Mycobutin).** Talk to your healthcare provider about the right amount of rilpivirine (Edurant) you should take.
- **If you take antacids.** Take antacids at least 2 hours before or at least 4 hours after you take COMPLERA.
- **If you take stomach acid blockers.** Take acid blockers at least 12 hours before or at least 4 hours after you take COMPLERA. Ask your healthcare provider if your acid blocker is okay to take, as some acid blockers should never be taken with COMPLERA.
- **If you are pregnant** or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if COMPLERA can harm your unborn baby. Tell your healthcare provider if you become pregnant while taking COMPLERA.
- **If you are breastfeeding** (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed. HIV-1 can be passed to the baby in breast milk. Also, some medicines in COMPLERA can pass into breast milk, and it is not known if this can harm the baby.

You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit www.fda.gov/medwatch, or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

Please see Brief Summary of full Prescribing Information with important warnings on the following pages.



COMPLERA[®]
emtricitabine 200mg/rilpivirine 25mg/
tenofovir disoproxil fumarate 300mg tablets

Brief Summary of full Prescribing Information

COMPLERA® (kom-PLUH-rah)

(emtricitabine 200 mg, rilpivirine 25 mg, tenofovir disoproxil fumarate 300 mg) tablets

Brief summary of full Prescribing Information. For more information, please see the full Prescribing Information, including Patient Information.

What is COMPLERA?

- **COMPLERA** is a prescription medicine used as a complete HIV-1 treatment in one pill a day. COMPLERA is for adults who have never taken HIV-1 medicines before and who have no more than 100,000 copies/mL of virus in their blood (this is called ‘viral load’). Complera can also replace current HIV-1 medicines for some adults who have an undetectable viral load (less than 50 copies/mL) and whose healthcare provider determines that they meet certain other requirements.
- COMPLERA is a complete regimen and should not be used with other HIV-1 medicines. HIV-1 is the virus that causes AIDS. When used properly, COMPLERA may reduce the amount of HIV-1 virus in your blood and increase the amount of CD4 T-cells, which may help improve your immune system. This may reduce your risk of death or getting infections that can happen when your immune system is weak.
- **COMPLERA does not cure HIV-1 or AIDS.** You must stay on continuous HIV-1 therapy to control HIV-1 infection and decrease HIV-related illnesses.
- **Ask your healthcare provider about how to prevent passing HIV-1 to others.** Do not share or reuse needles, injection equipment, or personal items that can have blood or body fluids on them. Do not have sex without protection. Always practice safer sex by using a latex or polyurethane condom to lower the chance of sexual contact with semen, vaginal secretions, or blood.

What is the most important information I should know about COMPLERA?

COMPLERA can cause serious side effects, including:

- **Build-up of an acid in your blood (lactic acidosis).** Lactic acidosis can happen in some people who take COMPLERA or similar (nucleoside analogs) medicines. Lactic acidosis is a serious medical emergency that can lead to death. Lactic acidosis can be hard to identify early, because the symptoms could seem like symptoms of other health problems. **Call your healthcare provider right away if you get any of the following symptoms which could be signs of lactic acidosis:**
 - feel very weak or tired
 - have unusual (not normal) muscle pain
 - have trouble breathing
 - having stomach pain with nausea or vomiting
 - feel cold, especially in your arms and legs
 - feel dizzy or lightheaded
 - have a fast or irregular heartbeat
- **Severe liver problems.** Severe liver problems can happen in people who take COMPLERA. In some cases, these liver problems can lead to death. Your liver may become large (hepatomegaly) and you may develop fat in your liver (steatosis). **Call your healthcare provider right away if you get any of the following symptoms of liver problems:**
 - your skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow (jaundice)
 - dark “tea-colored” urine
 - light-colored bowel movements (stools)
 - loss of appetite for several days or longer
 - nausea
 - stomach pain

- **You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or severe liver problems if you are female, very overweight (obese), or have been taking COMPLERA for a long time.**
- **Worsening of Hepatitis B infection.** If you have hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection and take COMPLERA, your HBV may get worse (flare-up) if you stop taking COMPLERA. A “flare-up” is when your HBV infection suddenly returns in a worse way than before. COMPLERA is not approved for the treatment of HBV, so you must discuss your HBV with your healthcare provider.
 - Do not run out of COMPLERA. Refill your prescription or talk to your healthcare provider before your COMPLERA is all gone.
 - Do not stop taking COMPLERA without first talking to your healthcare provider.
 - If you stop taking COMPLERA, your healthcare provider will need to check your health often and do blood tests regularly to check your HBV infection. Tell your healthcare provider about any new or unusual symptoms you may have after you stop taking COMPLERA.

Who should not take COMPLERA?

Do not take COMPLERA if you also take any of the following medicines:

- **Medicines used for seizures:** carbamazepine (Carbatrol, Equetro, Tegretol, Tegretol-XR, Teril, Eptol); oxcarbazepine (Trileptal); phenobarbital (Luminal); phenytoin (Dilantin, Dilantin-125, Phenytek)
- **Medicines used for tuberculosis:** rifampin (Rifater, Rifamate, Rimactane, Rifadin); rifapentine (Priftin)
- **Certain medicines used to block stomach acid called proton pump inhibitors (PPIs):** dexlansoprazole (Dexilant); esomeprazole (Nexium, Vimovo); lansoprazole (Prevacid); omeprazole (Prilosec, Zegerid); pantoprazole sodium (Protonix); rabeprazole (Aciphex)
- **Certain steroid medicines:** More than 1 dose of dexamethasone or dexamethasone sodium phosphate
- **Certain herbal supplements:** St. John’s wort
- **Certain hepatitis medicines:** adefovir (Hepsera), lamivudine (EpiVir-HBV)

Do not take COMPLERA if you also take any other HIV-1 medicines, including:

- Other medicines that contain tenofovir (ATRIPLA, STRIBILD, TRUVADA, VIREAD)
- Other medicines that contain emtricitabine or lamivudine (ATRIPLA, Combivir, EMTRIVA, EpiVir, Epzicom, STRIBILD, Trizivir, TRUVADA)
- rilpivirine (Edurant), unless you are taking rifabutin (Mycobutin)

COMPLERA is not for use in people who are less than 18 years old.

What are the possible side effects of COMPLERA?

COMPLERA may cause the following serious side effects:

- **See “What is the most important information I should know about COMPLERA?”**
- **New or worse kidney problems, including kidney failure.** Your healthcare provider should do blood and urine tests to check your kidneys before you start and while you are taking COMPLERA. If you have had kidney problems in the past or need to take another medicine that can cause kidney problems, your healthcare provider may need to do blood tests to check your kidneys during your treatment with COMPLERA.
- **Depression or mood changes. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you have any of the following symptoms:**
 - feeling sad or hopeless
 - feeling anxious or restless
 - have thoughts of hurting yourself (suicide) or have tried to hurt yourself
- **Change in liver enzymes.** People with a history of hepatitis B or C virus infection or who have certain liver enzyme changes may have an

increased risk of developing new or worsening liver problems during treatment with COMPLERA. Liver problems can also happen during treatment with COMPLERA in people without a history of liver disease. Your healthcare provider may need to do tests to check your liver enzymes before and during treatment with COMPLERA.

- **Bone problems** can happen in some people who take COMPLERA. Bone problems include bone pain, softening or thinning (which may lead to fractures). Your healthcare provider may need to do tests to check your bones.
- **Changes in body fat** can happen in people taking HIV-1 medicine. These changes may include increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck (“buffalo hump”), breast, and around the main part of your body (trunk). Loss of fat from the legs, arms and face may also happen. The cause and long term health effect of these conditions are not known.
- **Changes in your immune system (Immune Reconstitution Syndrome)** can happen when you start taking HIV-1 medicines. Your immune system may get stronger and begin to fight infections that have been hidden in your body for a long time. Tell your healthcare provider if you start having any new symptoms after starting your HIV-1 medicine.

The most common side effects of COMPLERA include:

- Trouble sleeping (insomnia), abnormal dreams, headache, dizziness, diarrhea, nausea, rash, tiredness, depression

Additional common side effects include:

- Vomiting, stomach pain or discomfort, skin discoloration (small spots or freckles), pain

Tell your healthcare provider if you have any side effect that bothers you or that does not go away.

- These are not all the possible side effects of COMPLERA. For more information, ask your healthcare provider.
- Call your healthcare provider for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking COMPLERA?

Tell your healthcare provider about all your medical conditions, including:

- If you have or had any kidney, mental health, bone, or liver problems, including hepatitis B or C infection.
- If you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if COMPLERA can harm your unborn child.
 - There is a pregnancy registry for women who take antiviral medicines during pregnancy. The purpose of this registry is to collect information about the health of you and your baby. Talk to your healthcare provider about how you can take part in this registry.
- If you are breastfeeding (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed if you take COMPLERA.
 - You should not breastfeed if you have HIV-1 because of the risk of passing HIV-1 to your baby.
 - Two of the medicines in COMPLERA can pass to your baby in your breast milk. It is not known if this could harm your baby.
 - Talk to your healthcare provider about the best way to feed your baby.

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take, including prescription and nonprescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements:

- COMPLERA may affect the way other medicines work, and other medicines may affect how COMPLERA works.
- If you take certain medicines with COMPLERA, the amount of COMPLERA in your body may be too low and it may not work to help control your HIV-1 infection. The HIV-1 virus in your body may become resistant to COMPLERA or other HIV-1 medicines that are like it.

- Be sure to tell your healthcare provider if you take any of the following medicines:
 - Rifabutin (Mycobutin), a medicine to treat some bacterial infections. Talk to your healthcare provider about the right amount of rilpivirine (Edurant) you should take.
 - Antacid medicines that contain aluminum, magnesium hydroxide, or calcium carbonate. Take antacids **at least 2 hours before or at least 4 hours after** you take COMPLERA.
 - Certain medicines to block the acid in your stomach, including cimetidine (Tagamet), famotidine (Pepcid), nizatidine (AxiD), or ranitidine hydrochloride (Zantac). Take the acid blocker **at least 12 hours before or at least 4 hours after** you take COMPLERA. Some acid blocking medicines should never be taken with COMPLERA (see “Who should not take COMPLERA?” for a list of these medicines).
 - Medicines that can affect how your kidneys work, including acyclovir (Zovirax), cidofovir (Vistide), ganciclovir (Cytovene IV, Vitrasert), valacyclovir (Valtrex), and valganciclovir (Valcyte).
 - clarithromycin (Biaxin)
 - erythromycin (E-Mycin, Eryc, Ery-Tab, PCE, Pediazole, Ilosone)
 - fluconazole (Diflucan)
 - itraconazole (Sporanox)
 - ketoconazole (Nizoral)
 - methadone (Dolophine)
 - posaconazole (Noxafil)
 - telithromycin (Ketek)
 - voriconazole (Vfend)

Know the medicines you take. Keep a list of all your medicines and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist when you get a new medicine. Do not start any new medicines while you are taking COMPLERA without first talking with your healthcare provider.

How should I take COMPLERA?

- Stay under the care of your healthcare provider during treatment with COMPLERA.
- Take COMPLERA exactly as your healthcare provider tells you to take it.
- Always take COMPLERA with food. Taking COMPLERA with food is important to help get the right amount of medicine in your body. A protein drink is not a substitute for food. If your healthcare provider decides to stop COMPLERA and you are switched to new medicines to treat HIV-1 that includes rilpivirine tablets, the rilpivirine tablets should be taken only with a meal.

Keep COMPLERA and all medicines out of reach of children.

This Brief Summary summarizes the most important information about COMPLERA. If you would like more information, talk with your healthcare provider. You can also ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist for information about COMPLERA that is written for health professionals, or call 1-800-445-3235 or go to www.COMPLERA.com.

Issued: September 2014



COMPLERA, the COMPLERA Logo, EMTRIVA, GILEAD, the GILEAD Logo, GSI, HEPSERA, STRIBILD, TRUVADA, VIREAD, and VISTIDE are trademarks of Gilead Sciences, Inc., or its related companies. ATRIPLA is a trademark of Bristol-Myers Squibb & Gilead Sciences, LLC. All other marks referenced herein are the property of their respective owners.

©2014 Gilead Sciences, Inc. All rights reserved. CPAC0134 10/14



Top Girls. Photo by Emily Schwartz

WINTER THEATER SPECIAL

LGBTQ theater has plenty to offer

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

If you're looking for theater that explores LGBTQ issues, then you're in lots of luck this winter. Gender non-conformity, bullying and Broadway diva worship are just a few of the topics explored in the shows listed below. All shows in Chicago unless otherwise noted.

LGBTQ shows:

A Map of Virtue, Cor Theatre at Rivendell Theatre, now to Feb. 14. Apparently, there is a gay angle to Erin Courtney's psychological thriller about a group of obsessive friends who are left stranded in the woods. (See review in this issue.) www.cortheatre.org

Edith Can Shoot Things and Hit Them, First Floor Theater at Flat Iron Arts Building, now to Jan. 31. Two Filipino-American teenagers are abandoned and come to terms with their sexuality in A. Rey Pamatmat's drama that explores what it means to grow up poor, rural, queer and alone. (See review in this issue.) www.firstfloortheater.com

The Book of Merman, Pride Films and Plays at Mary's Attic, now to Feb. 15. Leo Schwartz, the Jeff Award-winning composer behind *Under a Rainbow Flag*, is behind this new musical comedy imagining what might happen if two Mormon missionaries happened to ring the doorbell of the iconic Broadway star Ethel Merman. (See review in this issue.) www.pridefilmsandplays.com

Top Girls, The Arc Theatre at The Den Theatre, now to Feb. 8. A revival of Caryl Churchill's drama that mixes fantasy (no doubt inspired by Judy Chicago's art installation *The Dinner Party*) and gritty 1980s reality to explore feminism through the centuries. www.arctheatrechicago.org

The Who's Tommy, Paramount Theatre, Aurora, now to Feb. 15. A horribly bullied and sexually abused British boy who is struck "deaf, dumb and blind" later becomes a media celebrity due to his amazing "Pinball Wizard" skills in a new production of the 1993 Broadway musical inspired by The Who's 1969 rock opera. www.paramountaurora.com

Keys of the Kingdom, Stage Left Theatre at Theater Wit, now to Feb. 15. An atheist lesbian artist is employed to paint a massive mural for an evangelical Christian megachurch in Penny Penniston's world-premiere drama (see review in this issue). www.stagelefttheatre.com

Accidentally Like a Martyr, A Red Orchid Theatre, now to March 1. The setting is a Manhattan dive gay bar in Grant James Varjas' dra-



The Glass Protege. Photo courtesy of Glitterati Productions

ma that explores the failed hopes and dreams of a group of guys from different generations. www.aredorchidtheatre.org

Next Door Gay-bors, The Orchard at Prop Thtr as part of Curious Theatre Branch's Rhino Fest, now to Feb. 20. A lesbian and a gay man share a common wall in an apartment complex and they also share an odd hobby of separately going online posing as heterosexual women in Kathy Anderson and Bill Felty's new play. www.curioustheatrebranch.com

The Anti-theatrical Prejudice, Scarlett Kim & Co. at Prop Thtr as part of Curious Theatre Branch's Rhino Fest, now to Feb. 22. Scarlett Kim takes in contributions from James Fleming, Natalie Houchins, Stephanie Litchfield, Michael Reinhard and Derek Spencer to explore the many reasons why there has been such a deep-seated hatred of theater throughout history, including a trope on effeminacy. www.curioustheatrebranch.com

The Foreplay Play, Realize Theatre Group at

Prop Thtr as part of Curious Theatre Branch's Rhino Fest, now to Feb. 20. A straight couple meets with a lesbian couple for dinner, drinks and a foursome. As expected, things don't go as planned in Mariah MacCarthy's play. www.curioustheatrebranch.com

Plastic Revolution, The New Colony at The Den Theatre, now to Feb. 22. The 2009 musical *Tupperware* by Will Cavedo, Andrew Hobgood and Julie B. Nichols has been thoroughly revamped, though there is still a drag component to the proceedings. www.thenewcolony.org

Princess Mary Demands Your Attention, Bailiwick Chicago at Victory Gardens Richard Christiansen Theater, now to Feb. 21. Tolstoy's *War and Peace* is apparently the inspiration for Aaron Holland's world-premiere drama about a gay, Black daydreamer who undertakes a decade-long journey to self-acceptance when he encounters a challenging drag queen. www.bailiwickchicago.com

Dead Writers mark 'A Wilde Affair'

Dead Writers Theatre Collective announces its 2015 season "A Wilde Affair," focusing on the theme of forbidden love with works by Oscar Wilde and Moliere.

All works take place at Stage 773, 1225 W. Belmont Ave. This season marks the company's fifth anniversary and the first time the company is offering its plays for purchase by subscription (three plays for \$90). For more information, visit deadwriters.net.

CHRP hosts 'JAMBoree' Feb. 13-15

The Chicago Human Rhythm Project (CHRP), celebrating 25 years, welcomes students and performers to its annual Winter Tap JAMBoree Feb. 13-15.

The event will feature master classes, auditions for the Tap Scholar Program and Nicholas Young's Institute For The Rhythmic Arts (IFTRA), a panel discussion and several Tap JAMS at the American Rhythm Center, Chicago's collaborative arts space in the historic Fine Arts Building, 410 S. Michigan Ave.

Among those teaching classes are guests Cartier Williams (a protégé of Savion Glover) and Nicholas Young as well as CHRP founder/director Lane Alexander and hip-hop/break

bailiwickchicago.com

Spike Heels, The Brown Paper Box Co. at Raven Theatre, Jan. 23 to Feb. 8. See if the bisexual elements of Theresa Rebeck's 1992 off-Broadway comedy drama focusing on sexual harassment are more than plot devices in this revival. www.brownpaperbox.org

La Cage aux Folles, Marriott Theatre, Lincolnshire, Jan. 28 to March 22. There should be lots of simultaneously glamorous and tacky drag in this 1983 Broadway musical adaptation of the hit French film featuring a score by Jerry Herman (*Mame*, *Hello, Dolly!*) and a script by Harvey Fierstein (*Torch Song Trilogy*, *Kinky Boots*). www.marriotttheatre.com

A Kid Like Jake, About Face Theatre at Greenhouse Theater Center, Feb. 6 to March 15. A 4-year-old boy's passion for Cinderella and princess dress-up threatens his spot in an exclusive Manhattan kindergarten program in the Chicago premiere of Daniel Pearl's 2013 off-Broadway drama. www.aboutfacetheatre.org

Sondheim on Sondheim, Porchlight Music Theatre at Stage 773, Feb. 6 to March 15. The Chicago premiere of the 2010 Broadway musical revue that incorporates video interviews with Sondheim alongside his songs, including the straight-to-gay creative transformation of the song "The Best Thing That Has Ever Happened." www.porchlightmusictheatre.org

Snow White and the Seven Drag Queens, MidTangent Productions at Hydrate, Feb. 6 to June 5. The 2014 revival is back again on a monthly basis and filled with lots of campy comedy and drag. www.midtangent.com

The Laramie Project, Devonshire Playhouse, Skokie, Feb. 14 to March 1. The acclaimed 2000 off-Broadway docu-drama exploring a town's response to the 1998 hate crime murder of gay college student Matthew Shepard is back. www.skokieparks.org

Four, Jackalope Theatre, Feb. 19 to March 28. Chicago premiere of Christopher Shinn's drama which includes a plot strand on a 16-year-old white boy who has a tryst with a closeted, married Black man he met over the internet. www.jackalopetheatre.org

fml: How Carson McCullers Saved My Life, Loyola University, Feb. 19 to March 1. A young lesbian in high school who is being cyber-bullied finds a way to survive through literature in this revival of Sarah Gubbins' 2012 play. www.luc.edu/dfpa

The Glass Protégé, Glitterati Productions at

Turn to page 27

dancer Monty Rezell, among others.

Master classes are \$20 per class plus a \$15 registration fee; Tap Scholarship Audition registration is \$15; and Nicholas Young's Institute For The Rhythmic Arts Audition registration is \$15. To register, visit chicagotap.org.

For information and registration, visit chicagotap.org/Performance-Education-Detail-Festival/winter-tap-jamboree-2015.aspx.

Black Ensemble Theatre announces new season

Black Ensemble Theater's Founder and CEO Jackie Taylor has announced the 2015 "Stir Up The Pot" season.

The season will open with a world premiere non-singing drama with music, *The Trial of Moses Fleetwood Walker*, by Ervin Gardner. The season continues with a new musical that highlights girl groups, past and present, *Sounds So Sweet*, followed by *A Tribute to the Incomparable Bill Withers*.

The *Black White Play* is a tribute to the late movie critic Roger Ebert, and the music will speak to his philosophy of life. The 2015 season will close with *Dynamite Divas: Gladys, Aretha, Roberta, Nina and Nancy*.

Tickets are available at www.blackensemble.org, 773-769-4451 or at the Black Ensemble Theater Box Office, 4450 N. Clark St.

steppenwolf

Airline Highway

BY LISA D'AMOUR
DIRECTED BY JOE MANTELLO

**EXTENDED THROUGH
FEBRUARY 14**
DUE TO POPULAR DEMAND!



FINAL CHICAGO SHOWS

Marie Antoinette

BY DAVID ADJMI
DIRECTED BY ROBERT O'HARA



STARTS FEBRUARY 5

Corporate Production Sponsor



TICKETS START AT \$20
steppenwolf.org | 312-335-1650

Major Foundation Support



Corporate Production Sponsor



2014/15 Grand Benefactors



2014/15 Benefactors



WINTER DANCE SPECIAL

Plenty of dance to heat up the winter

BY LAUREN WARNECKE

Winter took a while to officially land in Chicago; the dance scene, on the other hand, has yet to take a break. The winter season for dance audiences is notoriously slow—not so in 2015!

—**The Cambrians** is a brand new company with Benjamin Wardell at the helm ... sort of. Wardell has surrounded himself with a strong team of artists (Jamie Meek, Autumn Eckman, Melinda Jean Myers and Michel Rodriguez Cintra, who, with Wardell, developed The Nexus Project last year). The Cambrians is an umbrella

company supporting The Nexus Project and some lofty future endeavors, and a spin-off of Wardell and Cintra's dueling duets returns for a month long run Jan. 9-Feb. 1 at the brand-new Dovetail Studios in Albany Park. The show is pay-what-you-can, with tickets available at brownpapertickets.com/event/879622.

Dovetail is the newest brainchild of Joanna Rosenthal, artistic director of Same Planet Different World Dance Theatre (SPDW), who will share a bill with The Cambrians at Links Hall less than a month later. Two world premieres by Rosenthal and The Cambrians' Melinda Jean



Erica Mott's *3 Singers*. Photo by studioFILMLOVE

CULTURE CLUB

HOLLYWOODLA
FEBRUARY 20
THROUGH TO
MARCH 29, 2015
WWW.THEATERWIT.ORG
1229 W. BELMONT
BOX OFFICE:
773-975-8150
The Glass Protege
A SCANDALOUS NEW PLAY BY
Dylan Cojuelo
DIRECTED BY
John Noyce

lifeline
THEATRE
Chicago's Premier Solo Performance Festival Returns!
THE 18TH ANNUAL
Fillet of Solo
FESTIVAL
JANUARY 9-25, 2015
773-761-4477 • www.lifelinetheatre.com

The Book of Merman
A new musical by Leo Schwartz at Mary's Attic - 5400 N Clark
Directed by David Zak, Musical Direction by Robert Ollis
Jan 15 - Feb 15. Thurs - Sat at 7:30PM, Sun at 5PM
Tickets at www.brownpapertickets.com OR 1-800-838-3006
PRIDE FILMS & PLAYS

Myers round out the Feb. 26-March 1 program. linkshall.org

—After her recent retirement from a remarkable 30-year career with New York City Ballet, Wendy Whelan's **Restless Creature** finally makes its way to Chicago. The one-night-only might be on a school night, but the Jan. 21 engagement is not to be missed—if you can get a ticket! *Restless Creature* features Whelan's choreography in collaboration with an all-star cast that includes Kyle Abraham, Joshua Beamish, Brian Brooks and Hubbard Street Dance Chicago's resident choreographer, Alejandro Cerrudo. harristheaterchicago.org

—**The Joffrey Ballet** celebrates its annual Choreographers of Color Awards with works by Jennifer Archibald, Abdul Latif and Stephanie Martinez. The three world premieres, performed by Joffrey Academy Trainees and the Joffrey Studio Company, take place at the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago Stage March 7-8. (See mcachicago.org.)

Also on the Joffrey's calendar is the Feb. 11-22 program *Unique Voices* at the Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University. The bill features three contemporary ballets by Episode 31 choreographer Alexander Ekman, Canadian choreographer James Kudelka and Stanton Welch. Joffrey.org

—The Auditorium Theatre continues to celebrate its 125th anniversary with the season-long **Made in Chicago** series featuring home-grown dance not often seen on the Auditorium's stage. The series showcases Giordano Dance Chicago Jan. 31 for a one-night-only performance that includes the world premiere of *Shirt off My Back*, by award-winning choreographer Ray Mercer, alongside audience favorites *Exit 4* and *Feelin' Good Sweet*. *Tango Buenos Aires* is also in for one night at the Auditorium, performing the critically acclaimed *Songs of Eva Peron* Jan. 25. Auditoriumtheatre.org

—Kicking off Feb. 6 at Instituto Cervantes of Chicago, the **2015 Chicago Flamenco Festival** will feature an impressive line-up and equally impressive beefy list of producers, including *Arte y Vida Chicago*, City of Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events (DCASE), Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, Old Town School of Folk Music, Ensemble Español Spanish Dance Theater and more. Running through March 7, festival details are available at chicago.cervantes.es.

—Per usual, **Links Hall** is packed with a variety of offerings from established companies and up-and-comers. Veteran choreographers Colleen Halloran and Ann Boyd join forces for *Finding Peace*—and *Wanting Popcorn* Feb. 13-15, followed by Sarah Gottlieb work exploring birth and death through movement with *Yolk* Feb. 20-22. March brings a new friendship between RE|Dance and Denver-based *Evolv-*

ing *Doors Dance*. The two companies split a bill March 7-9, followed up by Links' annual fundraiser THAW on March 19. After two consecutive years at the Dankhaus, THAW takes its big night downtown this year to Block Thirty Seven. LinksHall.org

—**3 Singers** is the latest creation of Erica Mott, running Jan. 22-Feb. 1 at the newly opened National Museum of Health and Medicine Chicago, 175 W. Washington St. Mott interprets her "singers" in multiple ways as she explores women's rights in the textile industry through a multimedia production that includes music, voice, projections and three Singer sewing machines. ericamott.com/3-singers

—**The Dance Center of Columbia College Chicago** rounds out its season with performances from Los Angeles-base David Rousseve Feb. 5-7, local fusion dance company Chicago Dance Crash Feb. 19-21, contemporary south Indian dancer Shantala Shivalingappa March 5-7 and Urban Bush Women (celebrating its 30th-anniversary season) March 19-21. See colum.edu.

—**Winifred Haun and Dancers** re-stage the acclaimed full-length ballet "Promise," on March 20-21, at the Ruth Page Center for the Arts. Meanwhile, The Seldoms complete a years long project inspired by the life of Lyndon B. Johnson. Dubbed *Power Goes*, Artistic Director Carrie Hanson's latest evening length work enjoys a two week run at the Museum for Contemporary Art March 20-29. mcachicago.org

—**Hubbard Street Dance Chicago's** Spring Series kicks off March 12 for four days at the Harris Theater for Music and Dance. The anticipated return of Gustavo Ramirez Sansano to Chicago for *I am Mr. B* completes a beefy program that includes Alejandro Cerrudo's *Cloudless*, Jiri Kylian's *Fallen Angels* and *Sarabande*, and Crystal Pite's *A Picture of You Falling*, a company premiere. *Visceral Dance Chicago* also returns to the Harris for a spring series marking the end of its second season March 21-22. Hubbardstreetdance.com/spring

—**Chicago Tap Theatre** (CTT) kicks off its spring season with an evening length story performance inspired by the traveling circus of the 1930s. Per usual, CTT treats its audiences to original music written by Kurt Schweitz for a two week run March 20-29 at Stage 773.

—Speaking of tap, Tristan Bruns' newly formed company **Tapman Productions** premieres the family friendly *Adventures of Tapman*, featuring a tap-dancing superhero inspired by Bruns' love for comic books at the Athenaeum Theatre Jan. 29-Feb. 8. Additionally, the Chicago Human Rhythm Project hosts its annual Winter JAMBoree Feb. 13-15 with classes, workshops, and special events for tappers of all levels. Chicagotap.org

WINTER THEATER SPECIAL

Winter premieres: Something new

BY JONATHAN ABARBANEL

It's a new year with another 800 or so productions, the typical annual total of plays, revues, musicals, one-person shows, etc. presented by the 230-plus theater companies in the greater Chicago area.

You really can't go anywhere these days—Bridgeport, Naperville, Albany Park—without bumping into a theater troupe. So what's going to be good? How the hell do I know? I ain't seen them yet, either. But what's going to be interesting (not necessarily the same as good) is easier.

Keys of the Kingdom, Stage Left Theatre Company at Theater Wit, through Feb. 15—Penny Penniston's thought-provoking world premiere deals with a lowly assistant to a megachurch pastor, and how the assistant deals when the pastor hires a lesbian atheist artist to create a church mural. The pastor believes God has chosen this artist, but has She? Talk about drama of ideas—Keys of the Kingdom seems to be chock full.

Accidentally Like a Martyr, A Red Orchid, through April 12—This is a rare dip into gay-related material for A Red Orchid, with this regional premiere of Grant James Varjas bitter-sweet comedy about the not-so-young regulars at an East Side gay bar in New York. Written in 2011 and produced off-Broadway, it may be an update of *The Boys in the Band*: We're still all growing older, except this time no one's in the closet. The expert Shade Murray has directed.

The Apple Family Plays: That Hopey Changey Thing and **SORRY**, Timeline Theatre Company, through April 12—Tony Award winner Richard Nelson long has been hailed as one of

the country's super-intellectual playwrights, his intelligence often at the expense of creating empathetic characters. But Nelson has grown warmer over the years, especially with his series of four plays about the Apples, an upper-middle-class family. These two plays (first and third of the four) concern U.S. political change and how the multigenerational Apples deal with it. The plays are presented in repertory and either can be seen first. Jeff-winning director Louis Contey has staged these Chicago premieres.

Music Hall, Tuta Theatre, at The Den, Feb. 5-March 8—Three actors act, sing and dance every night in this serio-comic exploration of the finite career of any performer. The show doubles as a cabaret or vaudeville act, being both a personal story of the trio and show within the show. Author Jean-Luc Lagarce is a widely-produced and highly-theatrical contemporary French author. Tuta has scored with his works twice before. The director, Zeljko Djukic, is co-founder of Tuta and teaches theater at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

The Sweeter Option, Strawdog Theatre, Feb. 13-March 28—This one sounds like a good, gritty fist-to-the-face, lurid thriller. It's a world premiere by John Henry Roberts, and also Strawdog's 100th production. It's about a low-rent dick who stumbles on a vast embezzlement scheme while tracking a stolen rent-a-car. There's money for the taking, if he's willing to go through a dame to snatch it. Set in 1971 Chicago, *The Sweeter Option* will be staged by the always-interesting Marti Lyons.

First Wives Club, Oriental Theatre, Feb. 17-March 29—A big new musical, based on the 1996 film and Olivia Goldsmith's novel, will



Accidentally Like a Martyr. Photo by Michael Brosilow

play here for six weeks on its way to Broadway. The score will feature both classic and new songs by the legendary Motown team of Brian Holland-Lamont Dozier-Eddie Holland, which maybe makes it one-half a juke box musical. But, differently, this one also has a real story to tell, and a strong story at that.

The Hammer Trinity Part III: The Excelsior King, The House Theatre of Chicago, at Chopin Theatre, Feb. 21-May 4. Even if you have seen Parts I & II of this three-year epic saga by Nathan Allen, you'll find the twisty plotlines of *The Excelsior King* difficult to follow. So what? Nobody tells better stories than *The House*, mixing music, magic, myth and epic in highly physical and engaging productions. *The Hammer Trinity* is at once ancient and very modern as it relates the history of a timeless and ancient nation that nonetheless seems very modern and American. Oh, did I mention it's also a heroic journey quest tale? FYI: This is the final installment.

Outside Mullingar, Northlight Theatre at the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, March 13-April 19—Veteran U.S. playwright John Patrick Shanley scored a Tony Award nomination for this play in 2014, and he's quite the storyteller. This one, set in rural Ireland, offers a long-delayed and maybe-misguided romance between two neighbors whose families just may be planning a feud. Northlight artistic director BJ Jones will direct, and he knows his stuff.

The Good Book, Court Theatre, March 19-April 19—A world premiere by the co-au-

thors/performer team of Lisa Peterson and Denis O'Hare (yes, of *Oz* and other TV shows) who created *An Iliad* several years ago. It's about the Bible, and not. It's about religion and, perhaps, more so about faith. It's about a 13-year-old boy and a Biblical scholar, ancient Judea, medieval Ireland and the suburban United States. It promises to weave together multiple stories about devotion and the creation itself. You can't go wrong with these artists.

The Upstairs Concierge, Goodman Theatre, March 28-April 26—The exuberant Kristofer Diaz (*The Elaborate Entry of Chad Deity*) returns with a farce about expensive hotels, celebrity suites, fame and a new concierge for the limited-access floors. Which big celeb is going to run around naked tonight? Poor Ella soon will find out. This official world premiere (it was given a limited test-run off-Broadway last spring) was commissioned by the Goodman Theatre for its 90th-anniversary season.


Sense and Sensibility, Chicago Shakespeare Theater, April 18-June 17—Jane Austen and kick-steps. Well, perhaps at least there's a quadrille or minuet in this world-premiere musical version of Austen's novel about the Dashwood sisters, one swooningly romantic and the other acerbically sensible. Book, music and lyrics all are by Paul Gordon and, generally speaking, that's too much for any one person to do. We shall see. The show was commissioned by Chicago Shakes and will be staged by founding artistic director Barbara Gaines. You can be damn sure the production values will be lavish and the show will be gorgeous to see.

\$10 OFF PER TICKET!
Use Promo Code WINDY

WORLD PREMIERE

WHITE GUY ON THE BUS

by BRUCE GRAHAM
directed by BJ JONES



A candid and surprising perspective on the racial and socioeconomic divide.

For Tickets: NORTHLIGHT.ORG//847.673.6300
JANUARY 23 to FEBRUARY 28, 2015
9501 SKOKIE BOULEVARD, SKOKIE IL // FREE PARKING

NORTHLIGHT THEATRE
40 YEARS

ACCIDENTALLY LIKE A MARTYR

By Grant James Varjas
Directed by Shade Murray

A RED ORCHID THEATRE
January 15 - March 1, 2015
Tickets at aredorchidtheatre.org
or 312-943-8722
1531 N. Wells St, Chicago, IL 60610





Richard Glatzer (left) and Wash Westmoreland. Photo from Westmoreland

MOVIES

Queer couple addresses Alzheimer's in 'Still Alice'

BY GARY M. KRAMER

In *Still Alice*—writer/directors Richard Glatzer and Wash Westmoreland's beautiful, intelligent adaptation of Lisa Genova's novel—Alice (Julianne Moore) is a Columbia University linguistics professor who experiences the symptoms of early onset Alzheimer's. This compelling, moving drama shows the effect the disease has on her and her family.

Still Alice is all about loss and control as the title character slips in and out of stages where she has difficulty remembering things—be it a word, a name, or a dinner engagement—and the film shows how she tries to keep it together under such pressure. Glatzer and Westmoreland never milk her situation for pathos, and they coax an extraordinary performance from Moore. Her expressions and body language as she grapples with her condition, are absolutely heartbreaking.

In an email exchange, Westmoreland responded to questions about *Still Alice*.

Windy City times: I understand this film resonates with both you and Richard. Can you discuss your experiences and how they are reflected in *Still Alice*?

Wash Westmoreland: Richard developed a slight lisp about four years ago and was told he probably had bulbar ALS [amyotrophic lateral sclerosis]. The life expectancy for this is between 18 months and four years. Richard is not only beating the odds, but he has directed two feature films in this time. He's determined to keep going. We don't talk much about next year or the year after—we just live day by day. Adapting *Still Alice* helped us work through some of our own issues—both in terms of living with the disease and caregiving. The speech Alice gives at the Alzheimer's Association later on in the movie largely comes from Richard's experiences.

WCT: Your early films have had a significant queer characters, plot or subplots. With *Still Alice* and your previous film, *The Last Days of Robin Hood*, you have made "women's pictures." Can you talk about this shift in your work?

WW: We are always primarily driven by story and have projects on our docket with gay, straight, male and female protagonists. There is great tradition—from [George] Cukor to

[Rainer Werner] Fassbinder to Todd Haynes—of gay filmmakers having a strong connection to female protagonists. I guess there's a certain sense of empathy and exclusion from heterosexual patriarchy. We certainly had no problem identifying with Alice and working the entire story through her point of view.

WCT: Visually, you convey the theme of loss, the triggers of memory, and the fog of what is happening to Alice through out of focus shots and "home movies." Can you discuss your visual approach?

WW: As Alice's short-term memory deteriorates, she starts to live more in her distant memories. This is very common with people living with Alzheimer's—the further back the recollection, the easier it is to hold on to. To show this, we used little shards of Super-8 of Alice's childhood weaving in with her daily routine. Super-8 films were a big part of my childhood. When I remember something, I sometimes wonder if I'm remembering the event itself, or seeing it on Super-8. They have the same hazy texture in my mind.

WCT: Every scene—Alice speaking, cooking or running—is [fraught] with the danger that she may forget what she is doing, or even harm herself or others. Can you talk about how you created this narrative tension?

WW: We realized that the potential for memory loss leading to socially embarrassing situations or physical danger was a powerful source of suspense. Whenever Alice is doing something—whether it is giving a lecture, visiting the doctor or cooking Christmas dinner—the audience is consciously willing her to pull it off. In the end, it seems like she escapes social embarrassment but then something unexpected happens. In this way, it functions like a horror movie; the hand comes up out of the grave and grabs you.

WCT: There are powerful themes of shame, security, struggle and suffering reverberated throughout the film. Can you discuss that?

WW: Alice says, "I'm so ashamed," indicating the social perceptions of the disease. There is still something about Alzheimer's that people feel embarrassed about. HIV/AIDS is also relevant here, demonstrating how the perception of a disease can be changed through social activism. What Alzheimer's really needs is a

similar sea change in the way the disease is perceived. We hope that *Still Alice* is a story that can get people to understand the disease more intimately.

WCT: How did you work with Julianne Moore on the role?

WW: We divided Alice's deterioration into four main stages, but Julianne did such a nuanced portrayal it seem more like four hundred phases. Julianne was so committed. She did so much research—in terms of visiting support groups and making friends in the Alzheimer's community—to make sure everything she did was 100-percent real. This took away our main fear—a phony note—and created something that was authentic and relevant.

WCT: How did you adapt the novel?

WW: We knew the story was an intense emo-

tional ride but wanted to avoid overplaying it. We took a restrained approach—largely inspired by Ozu's *Tokyo Story*—so as not to hit the audience over the head with where and how to "feel." We were pleased with the way this worked but some still critics likened Alice to a *Movie-of-the-week*, which we found bizarre. The movie's tone is so emotionally raw and the techniques adhere much more closely to those of art film than Hallmark. I believe there is a generalized cultural misogyny around women's pictures. Conventions from traditionally male genres seem to get more of a free pass. "Noir" is seen as enduringly cool whereas the slightest whiff of melodrama and you're out!

©2015 Gary M. Kramer



Benedict Cumberbatch in *The Imitation Game*. Photo from The Weinstein Company

'Imitation Game' gets multiple Oscar nods

The Imitation Game—a movie about the life of the late gay British codebreaker Alan Turing—received eight Academy Award nominations when they were announced Jan. 15.

The film was nominated for actor (Benedict Cumberbatch), supporting actress (Keira Knightley), director, film editing, original score, production design, adapted screenplay and picture.

Birdman and *The Grand Budapest Hotel* led the Oscar pack with nine nods each.

Boyhood, *Birdman*, *Selma*, *Whiplash*, *American Sniper*, *The Grand Budapest Hotel*, *The Imitation Game* and *The Theory of Everything* were nominated for best picture. Among the omissions were *Foxcatcher*, *Gone Girl* and Angelina Jolie's *Unbroken*.

Best actor nods went to Cumberbatch, Eddie Redmayne (*The Theory of Everything*), Michael Keaton (*Birdman*), Steve Carell (*Foxcatcher*) and Bradley Cooper (*American Sniper*). One omission was *Selma*'s David Oyelowo, who portrayed Martin Luther King Jr.

Julianne Moore (*Still Alice*), Reese Witherspoon (*Wild*), Rosamund Pike (*Gone Girl*), Felicity Jones (*The Theory of Everything*) and Marion Cotillard (*Two Days, One Night*) received best actress nominations. Amy Adams (who won the Golden Globe Jan. 11 for her role in *Big Eyes*) and Jennifer Aniston (*Cake*) were snubbed.

Robert Duvall (*The Judge*), J.K. Simmons (*Whiplash*), Edward Norton (*Birdman*), Mark Ruffalo (*Foxcatcher*) and Ethan Hawke (*Boyhood*) were nominated for best supporting actor.

Best supporting actress nods went to Meryl Streep (her 19th Oscar nod, for *Into the Woods*), Laura Dern (*Wild*), Emma Stone (*Birdman*), Patricia Arquette (*Boyhood*) and Knightley.

Richard Linklater (*Boyhood*), Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu (*Birdman*) Bennett Miller (*Foxcatcher*), Wes Anderson (*The Grand Bu-*

dapest Hotel) and Morten Tyldum (*The Imitation Game*) received nods for best director. Among those snubbed were Jolie, Ava DuVernay for *Selma* and David Fincher for *Gone Girl*.

Earning nods in the best animated feature category: *Big Hero 6*, *Box Trolls*, *How to Train Your Dragon 2*, *The Tale of Princess Kaguya* and *Song of the Sea*. The *LEGO Movie* was left out this year.

In the music category, however, *The LEGO Movie*'s "Everything Is Awesome" (which lesbian duo Tegan & Sara performed) is up for best original song. Competitors include "Glory" (from *Selma*), "Grateful" (from *Beyond the Lights*), "I'm Not Gonna Miss You" (from Glen Campbell ... I'll Be Me) and "Lost Stars" (from *Begin Again*).

The 87th Academy Awards take place Sunday, Feb. 22. Neil Patrick Harris will host.

Train kills fitness model

Fitness guru, actor and model Greg Plitt, 37, has died after being struck by a train in L.A., the *UK Mirror* reported.

Plitt appeared on the covers of more than 250 fitness magazines and 25 romance novels in the last four years. Men's Fitness once named him among America's 25 Fittest Americans, while *DNA Magazine* called him one of the 60 Sexiest Men Alive alongside Bond actor Daniel Craig.

Read a 2008 WCT interview with Plitt—in which he talks about "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," among other things—at <http://www.windy-citymediagroup.com/lgbt/Greg-Plitt-work-it-out/18663.html>. The *Mirror* article is at <http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/world-news/greg-plitt-dead-live-updates-4999016>.

Frida Kahlo exhibit through Jan. 25

"The Complete Frida Kahlo: Her Paintings. Her Life. Her Story" is at South Shore Arts Gallery, 1040 Ridge Road, Munster, Indiana, through Jan. 25, 2015.

The exhibit features licensed re-creations of Kahlo's paintings, costumes and artifacts.

Admission is \$2-\$5, with South Shore members admitted for free.

'Burly' party Jan. 21

The alternative queer party "Burly" will start things off in 2015 with a tribute to iconic singer Dolly Parton.

In honor of Parton's 69th birthday this month, Burly presents "Welcome to Burlywood" Wed., Jan. 21, at The Burlington Bar, 3425 W. Fullerton.

"Burly" is a free night of music and drink "for queer, gay, lesbian, and otherwise funky and/or bearded individuals" that takes place the third Wednesday of every month, according to a press release.

Visit <https://www.facebook.com/events/436177943197025/>.

Beck Kramer shines with sci-fi Web comic

BY ROSS FORMAN

Beck Kramer created a comic to submit for an anthology from LGBTQ writers and artists, yet her work was not accepted for publication.

But Kramer brought the characters to life in another form.

Kramer, 32, a lesbian who lives in Chicago's Ravenswood neighborhood and grew up in Elmwood Park, launched her comic, *Relativity* (www.relativitycomic.com), last May. It is an ongoing sci-fi webcomic about an astronaut on the first lightspeed flight, her wife, and the affects her mission has on their marriage.

Relativity will be composed of three parts. Part one wrapped up in January, and part two kicks off in March. She expects the story to last about 100 pages, and then be turned into a book. *Relativity* will likely run into 2016, she confirmed.

Kramer attended the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, which is where she first began making comics.

"Making *Relativity* has been fun, interesting," Kramer said. "I tried making a longer form comic almost two years ago, and I almost immediately bit off more than I could chew—and quickly had to shelve it. I learned a lot about how I needed to approach making art around my fulltime job and all of the other responsibilities that I had picked up."



Beck Kramer. Photo courtesy of Kramer

Kramer admitted that both characters in *Relativity*, Irina Novak and her wife, Anne, have bits of herself in them. "The main thing being, how things are affected when two people are at different places in a relationship," she said.

raising a child as a single lesbian mom. Her writing style is light and accessible.

The *Tolerance Trap* is organized in three sections. Walters begins by describing a recent shift she has noticed in coming-out stories. Same-sex sexuality is easier, more fluid and more concentrated on acts than asserting a state of being, as it used to. Also, the shame and self-loathing associated with coming out is much diminished from what it used to be. She does say, however, that mainstream society still puts pressure on what coming out should look like (what straights will tolerate). Images of folks who are coming out must look "normal" so as not to make straight society uncomfortable.

In the section "Do These Genes Make Me Look Gay," Walters takes on the choice versus biology arguments. She boldly puts forth the idea that when we support the born-gay thesis, it makes it easier for straights to say we just can't help ourselves. Straights can then more easily put aside their thoughts about what we do. This then makes it easier for them to tolerate us. But, Walters contends, if sexual desires and choices are seen as fluid and complicated (and therefore heterosexuality is not a default norm), it "... would perhaps open up the door to a wider variety of sexual expressions and choices." More openly gay people could be positive role models for those struggling with their own sexuality. Walters concludes this section by stating, "It's not our genes that matter here but rather our ethics."

In "Citizen Gay," the author tackles what full citizenship entails—not only insistence on equal treatment but fighting for full inclusion. Walters claims that "...the framework of tolerance actively prevents the development of a more inclusive and powerful sexual and gender freedom." Tolerance makes us complacent.

Fun, provocative, and future-directed, The *Tolerance Trap* is a must read. Get a copy to stimulate your own thinking about the kind of LGBTQ future you want. Get a second copy for all your straight friends and family. We can all benefit from thinking outside the box of tolerance and into a free-ranging exploration of the possibilities for a society that enriches and celebrates everyone.



Image from Beck Kramer's comic, *Relativity*. Still courtesy of Kramer

The characters must deal with a long-distance relationship and "just being at different points in their lives during a relationship," Kramer said.

"And that's been a lot of fun," to develop.

Kramer also has a story in the sci-fi romance comics anthology, *Speculative Relationships Vol. 2*, due out this spring.

"I'm trying to work on some short works in addition to *Relativity*," she said.

Long-term, Kramer said she just wants "to keep making comics," especially since, "I have a lot of stories that I want to tell; I just have to figure out the best ways to tell them, get them out in front of people."

She also will be in *POWER! An Anthology of Queer Creators*, a comics anthology from Geeks OUT, an organization that tries to foster and maintain a queer presence at different conven-

tions and events that center on geek culture, Kramer said.

"It's an exciting time if you are an LGBTQ person wanting to find comics that have yourself reflected in them," she said. "There are a lot of really great queer comics out right now, and every year there just seems to be more and more."

"When I was a teenager, you'd be lucky to even find subtext on a TV show that you could truly relate to. But now it's really awesome to see so many stories with so many different kinds of people in them—and being able to see yourself in them; that's really cool, it's an exciting time."

Kramer is engaged to Adelaide Lee, 29, a theatre director, and they are planning to marry on May 23. She also works as a web developer.

BOOK REVIEW

The Tolerance Trap by Suzanna Danuta Walters \$14.87; New York University Press; 316 pages

BY SALLY PARSONS

Tolerance is a good thing, right? How could it be a trap? Walters—who is director of women's, gender, and sexuality studies and professor of sociology at Northeastern University—believes that the LGBTQ community all too often limits its vision to gaining access and to repealing repressive laws. We then look at any victories as acceptance into mainstream society, and settle for that. Walters argues we thereby constrict our future to a much narrower path than it need, or should, be.

"What should the queer future look like?" Walters nudges us to imagine. She pushes us to consider this idea: "What would it be like for [an] America ... [that] values the challenge and rewards offered by social and sexual difference?"

"Tolerance is not the same as freedom," the author further states. Freedom to do what? Set a higher bar leading to substantive change that enriches all of society, she argues. Examples? She presents some, maybe not enough: encourage schools to reconsider whether dividing kids by gender is a good idea, push toy stores not to divide their product by gender roles, and urge families to construct new forms of kinship. These are some ways she cites for how we can act to achieve full inclusion. More importantly, she urges us to imagine the kind of future we want and then gently nudges us to do something to make it happen. Mostly, *The Tolerance Trap* presents her arguments. It is not a grating rant for activism.

The book dutifully includes a bibliography and notes to support the author's arguments. But this is not your typical academic tome. On the light side, *The Tolerance Trap* is liberally sprinkled with quotes from noted commentators on the scene such as South Park, Lady Gaga, Karen Williams, Barney Frank, and Honey Boo Boo. Walters also shares personal anecdotes, from her coming out story to her sperm-induced pregnancy and experience of

Keys of the Kingdom

by Penny Penniston

Open up.

STAGE
LEFT
THEATRE

January 10 - February 15

Theater Wit, 1229 W Belmont

stagelefttheatre.com | 773-975-8150

Longtime banker hooked on triathlons

BY ROSS FORMAN

Bernard T. Bartilad has participated in the Chicago Triathlon every year since 2006, including this past summer, when he competed in the triathlon at Gay Games 9 in Cleveland.

"I enjoy swimming in [Lake Michigan] during summer and indoors the rest of the year," said Bartilad, who admittedly did not know how to swim when he started in the sport and now trains with the Chicago Smelts, a predominantly gay and lesbian U.S. Masters Swim Team.

Bartilad, 47, who lives in Rogers Park, is the senior vice president and division manager at MB Financial Bank, N.A. He is in charge of a division of bankers providing personalized services to mid-market, privately-owned companies, as well as non-profit organizations focused on education, healthcare and social services.

Bartilad is married to Michael Herman, 51, the chief development director at Chicago House. They have been together 18 years, linked through sports and the 2002 Gay Games in Sydney, Australia.

They met playing beach volleyball at Hollywood Beach in Chicago and their first date was at Big Chicks in Uptown, "after trying for several months to connect," Bartilad said.

They had a commitment ceremony in September, 2002, with a honeymoon in Sydney—at the Gay Games. Ten years later, they had a civil union, and this past Aug. 29, they were married at City Hall.

"Truly, the third time was the charm," Bartilad said.

Their son—Adam, 7—was the witness and photographer.

"When our son arrived from the Philippines, I had to learn how to cook Filipino dishes so that he would feel at home," Bartilad said. "This meant many phone calls to my sister. Before that, you would not have found me in the kitchen. Now, I proudly prepare chicken adobo, beef caldereta, [and more]. I have even added to my cooking repertoire, making salmon cakes from scratch, which is our son's favorite dish."

Bartilad is on the board of Center on Halsted and currently the chairperson of the Investment Committee. He also supports such causes as Chicago House, Howard Brown Health Center, AIDS Foundation of Chicago and Lambda Legal.

He has been with MB Financial Bank for 15 years. Prior to that, he worked with Bank One (now JP Morgan Chase) for 10 years.

The last 20 of his 25 years in banking have been in commercial lending.

"It was during my freshman year when I realized I would not be a doctor, so I decided to pursue a career in banking and changed my major to business economics," he said. "When I arrived in the U.S. in August, 1988, my first job was as a teller for a small community bank in Evanston. I honestly believe that this position served as the foundation for my banking career, as it taught me a lot about the basics of banking and customer service."

MB Financial Bank's LGBTQ Initiative was formed in 2011, focused on expanding the bank's involvement and support of the LGBTQ community, although MB took on smaller activities beginning over a decade ago, Bartilad said.

"Over the past three years, the initiative has made significant strides in expanding MB Financial Bank's visibility and engagement in the LGBTQ community," he said. "The presence of the MB branch [at] Belmont and Halsted, which is in the heart of Boystown, serves as a visible symbol of MB Financial's place in this very important Chicago community. And our commitment to the community goes beyond the physical branch and is geared to active involvement



Bernard Bartilad. Photo courtesy of Bartilad

in the community.

"The initiative's goal is to be an active participant in the dialogue surrounding topics affecting LGBTQ individuals and business owners. We do this by hosting events, supporting various LGBTQ organizations, and providing content information that utilizes our expertise as a financial institution that would be relevant to the various members of the LGBTQ community."

MB hosted a marriage-equality discussion, sponsored by the StartOut Chicago CEO Panel, and an annual Pride Open House. "Our objective is to become the bank of choice for the community, where they see MB as a partner in the community as well as in serving their banking needs. This is MB's approach to all the communities and markets in which we are involved," he said.

The bank's LGBTQ Initiative is comprised of 10 LGBTQ employees and allies, Bartilad said. "We expect to grow this as we establish an LGBTQ Business Resource Group, an affiliate group, to serve as a platform for our LGBTQ employees and allies to network and be engaged internally as well as externally. MB's support of its LGBTQ employees and the LGBTQ community not only adheres to MB's core value of community but also makes good business sense."

Bartilad, the manager of the group, is out to executive management and his associates.

"Our efforts in the LGBTQ initiative have made our community more visible to our management and employees," he said. "In the last three years, the attention and recognition by MB's executive management of our LGBTQ initiative has increased significantly. We have the support of our two executive sponsors, which validates and provides credence to the initiative. This will be further enhanced by the creation of the MB Financial Bank LGBTQ Business Resources Group."

Bartilad said MB "is a good place to for the gay community [to work] since we value mutual respect and diversity."

Note: Bartilad and MB Financial Bank are supporting the Windy City Times LGBTQ Youth Entrepreneurs event Feb. 28 as sponsors along with Center on Halsted and StartOut.

BOOK REVIEW

Soldier of Change

by Stephen Snyder-Hill
\$22.95; Potomac Books;
198 pages

BY TERRI SCHLICHENMEYER

The phone call began another very long day.

It arrived approximately 10 seconds after you walked to your desk—the first of that kind of interruption, followed by dozens of urgent (to the sender) emails and six cubicle drop-bys. Alas, you didn't get much done that day.

Sometimes, you just want to be left alone to do your work and live your life. Other times, as in the new book *Soldier of Change*, by Stephen Snyder-Hill, you need to stand up and speak out.

Growing up in small-town Ohio, Snyder-Hill says he'd always felt "this darkness I couldn't understand." His mother also noticed it, but he couldn't explain to her that he loathed himself.

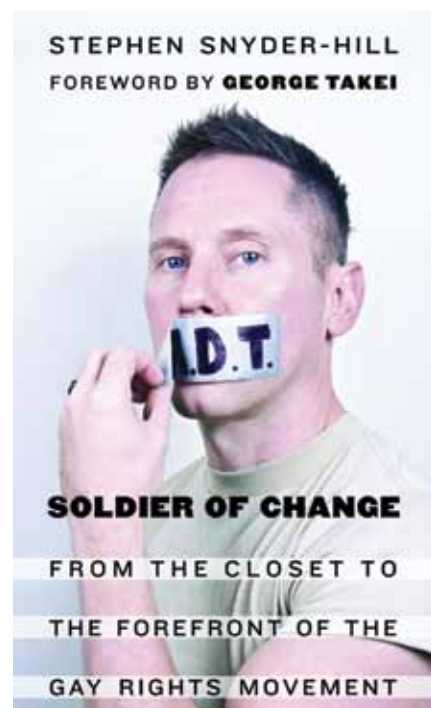
"When people say that being gay is a choice," he says, "I always remember trying to unchoose it." That didn't work, though he spent his teen years trying to be like other guys, trying to work through the shame he felt.

Nearing graduation, he started thinking about joining the military; he came from a long line of soldiers and enlisting seemed like a good way to pay for college. He was first stationed in Germany, then went to Iraq as a "fire support specialist." That was where he started journaling and where, following a friendly-fire near-miss, he decided that he was "going to finally start living my life for myself."

That included embracing his sexuality.

After leaving the army, Snyder-Hill began the slow process of coming out and he started "feeling like maybe... my purpose on this earth was to be exactly who I am." He graduated from college and, realizing that he missed the military, he re-upped—just before "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" (DADT) went into "full effect."

Knowing that the military would, in essence, force him to become a "professional liar," Snyder-Hill kept quiet about his sexuality. He endured indirect taunts from fellow soldiers and he learned to hide his love of and marriage to another man. Finally, fed up



and coincidentally presented with a chance to ask a question of the 2012 Republican candidates in a national debate, he crafted a query he thought might change things.

And, he says, "I hit send."

I liked *Soldier of Change*, but not just because of what author Snyder-Hill says. I liked the way he says it.

Reading this book is kind of like having a beer with a buddy. It's chatty rather than stuffy with a bit of brevity sprinkled here and there, yet Snyder-Hill's outrage comes through loud and clear as he takes his story further, writing about life as a gay man during DADT days, his activism, and the work he's done on behalf of gay and lesbian soldiers. This book is genuine, and I liked that, too.

I think this is an important story to read if you need to know where LGBT rights have been and who's brought them forward. It's also one to enjoy if you want an informal, easy-to-like memoir. Even in this post-DADT time, "Soldier of Change" is a book to call for.

Want more? Look for *Coming Out Under Fire: The History of Gay Men and Women in World War II*, by Allen Berube; or *Out in the Army: My Life as a Gay Soldier*, by James Wharton.

Speedskater engaged to partner

New Zealand speedskater Blake Skjellerup surprised fans by announcing his engagement to boyfriend Saul Carrasco on Instagram, according to The Huffington Post.

"Sunset over #Cleveland with my fiancé," Skjellerup wrote.

On Aug. 10, the Cleveland Plain Dealer reported that Skjellerup, who moved to New York in February and was in Cleveland for Gay Games 9, and Carrasco (a fashion stylist and blogger for Trend Styled) are tentatively planning a 2015 wedding in Hawaii.

See http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/08/11/blake-skjellerup-engaged-_n_5669218.html.

Sam confirms engagement

Michael Sam confirmed on Twitter that he is engaged, NBC News noted.

"Thank you for saying yes," Sam tweeted to his new fiancé, Vito Cammisano. The tweet was accompanied by a picture of Sam on one knee and a beaming Cammisano atop St. Peter's Basilica in Vatican City. Sam posted a picture of the view on Jan. 7, which also

happened to be his 25th birthday, but the engagement wasn't announced until Jan. 16.

Sam is still waiting to be signed by a pro football team after the St. Louis Rams and Dallas Cowboys cut him.

The original article is at <http://www.nbcnews.com/news/sports/michael-sam-confirms-his-engagement-tweet-n288086>.

Chicago Pride Classic calls for volunteers

The Chicago Gay Hockey Association will host the Chicago Pride Classic hockey tournament June 25-28, during the city's annual Pride weekend.

The tournament will be held at Chicago Park District's McFetridge Sports Center, 3843 N. California Ave. Online registration will open Feb. 15.

Volunteers are needed for a variety of committees, including sponsorship, hockey operations, Chicago Pride Day/Parade, social events, giveaway/award, marketing/advertising and tournament weekend groups.

Visit <http://www.ChicagoGayHockey.org/ChicagoPrideClassic> or email anthony@chicagohockey.org.

CLASSIFIEDS

ADVERTISE HERE

ADVERTISE HERE: Want to advertise your product, service, etc. to thousands of readers? Place an ad in the Windy City Times! We offer affordable rates, convenient service, and as a bonus, your ad runs in our online section for free. To place an ad, contact Terri at 773-871-7610 ex 101, terri@windycitymediagroup.com, or go to our website <http://www.windycitymediagroup.com/placeclassified.php>.

CLEANING SERVICES

CHESTNUT CLEANING SERVICES: We're a house cleaning service for homes, small businesses and small buildings. We also have fabulous organizational skills (a separate function at a separate cost that utilizes your assistance) for what hasn't been cleaned in many months or years due to long-term illness, depression, physical/mental challenges, for the elderly, if you have downsized and more. Depressed about going home to chaos? We can organize your chaos, straighten out your chaos, help you make sense of your chaos and finally clean what is no longer chaos. Can we help you? Bonded and insured. **Chestnut Cleaning Service: 312-332-5575. www.ChestnutCleaning.com** (11/18/15-52)

HOLISTIC HEALTH

NATURAL HOLISTIC PRODUCTS. AKM HOLISTIC 773-288-9341 www.akmholistic.com. herbalist@akmholistic.com. Woman owned and operated company offering custom bath and body products including single herbs, herbal formulas custom made to your needs. **Contact us for further information, by appointment only.** (1/28/15-4)

HOME IMPROVEMENT & PAINTING

MAKE YOUR HOME LOOK FABULOUS! January is a great time to give you bathroom a facelift. We also do drywall repairs and painting. "A+" with BBB. Licensed-Bonded-Insured, One year Warranty. Free Estimates! Andy OnCall **847-328-3100 www.andy-oncallchicago.com** (10/14/15-56)
GAY OWNED AND OPERATED FOR OVER 35 YEARS - carpet, tile, wood flooring, window treatments, granite/stone countertops, complete remodeling services, custom backsplash and shower tile designs - free estimates and design consultation - see our ad in "Connexions" - serving all of Chicago and Suburbs - **HOM, 847-541-4848, www.hombyrayandson.com, john@hombyrayandson.com** (2/11/15-am)

LEGAL SERVICES

**The Law Office of
Alexander Weaver**
312-588-5005
 email: violaw@rcn.com

**A Full Service
Law Firm
for the Community
since 1988**

410 S. Michigan Ave.,
Suite 628, Chicago

LGBT-FRIENDLY PERSONAL TRAINER NETWORK

"GET FIT...BE YOU" WITH RIGHT FIT FOR YOU. Search our network of LGBT-Friendly Personal Trainers and find your trainer today! First session with trainer is FREE! www.rightfitforyou.com **219-545-2909. sam@rightfitforyou.com** (3/25/15-13)

MEDIATION SERVICES

McDONOUGH MARITAL MEDIATION SERVICES Divorce, prenuptial, parenting, EEO, and workplace. Thirty years experience mediating - personal, workplace, and federal. Telephone conferencing available. Call Virginia **630.355.7055** or McDonoughMediation@gmail.com. www.McDonoughMediation.com (10/14/15-52)

PAID RESEARCH STUDY

ARE YOU 19-23 YEARS OLD? You may be eligible to earn \$40 by participating in a one-hour interview. Questions will be about your experiences since high school and future plans. Please call to complete a brief telephone screening in order to determine if you are eligible. **Helen Solis Research Support Services 1-888-557-7279** OMB Control Number: 1850-0803; Expiration: 09/30/2016 (12/31/14-1)

RELIGIOUS SERVICES



**You Are Loved,
You Are Welcome,
You Are Celebrated!**

**Chicago Coalition of
Welcoming Churches**

*60+ ministries celebrating
LGBTQ lives*

www.chicagowelcomingchurches.org

HELLENISMOS



ORPHISMOS

STUDY AND WORSHIP

inquire.hellenicgods@gmail.com
www.hellenicgods.org

INCLUSIVE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY. Dignity/Chicago envisions a Catholic Church welcoming to all - LGB-TIQ. Join us on Sunday's for Catholic Mass 5:00 p.m. at BUMC, 3344 N Broadway. **Learn more at www.dignity-chicago.org** (11/11/15-52)

WEDDING SERVICES

**The Oscar Swan
Country Inn**



An 18th century estate, on 8 acres available for weddings, private parties, retreats, family reunions and overnight stays.

Celebrate life's special occasions at the Oscar Swan Country Inn



630.232.0173
www.oscarswan.com
 Geneva, IL


Conversations for Life, Love and Remembrance

Weddings and Ceremonies for Couples
 Marguerite H. Griffin / Life Cycle Celebrant™
 Meaningful Moments / 773-919-1333
www.meaningfulmarguerite.com

WINDOW TREATMENTS

WONDERING WHAT TO DO WITH THOSE WINDOWS?: Call me! I take care of it all from design through installation, customizing to your needs. **JOSEPH RICE Interiors, Inc.** Full Decorating Services with a specialty in window treatments for over 25 years. **773-271-2361. www.JosephRiceInteriors.com** (3/11/15-13)
GAY OWNED AND OPERATED FOR OVER 35 YEARS - certified Hunter Douglas® priority dealer, custom window treatments, free estimates and design consultation - see our ad in "Connexions" - serving all of Chicago and Suburbs - **HOM, 847-541-4848, www.hombyrayandson.com, john@hombyrayandson.com** (2/11/15-am)

REAL ESTATE

FOR SALE
WEST SUBURBS - GLEN ELLYN



Vintage/Modern Home in the Heart of Town!
 Perfectly adorable Glen Ellyn charmer. Located in town—convenient to train, all dining, shopping & town events. Classic architecture and details with modern updates. 1,700+ sqft, 3 BRs, Hardwood floors, East facing, sun-filled morning room. Basement with huge rec area. It's a must see if you're looking at the suburbs!
705 Pleasant Avenue—\$439,900
 Call/Email Pattie Murray w/questions. (630) 842-6063 or pmurray@koenigrubloff.com




FOR SALE - OUT OF TOWN

SAUGATUCK/DOUGLAS, MI. This large home boasts 4 bedrooms, 4 baths, 2 kitchens, 3 stall garage, and many more amenities. A short walk to Lake Michigan. \$484,000. 84 Wilderness Ridge, Douglas, MI. **Call Jeff Marion, Keller-Williams 616-340-4581** (1/28/15-3)

THEATER from page 20

Theater Wit, Feb. 20 to March 29. A Chicago premiere of gay playwright Dylan Costello's drama exploring how the closet restrained artists in the early days of Hollywood. www.glit-teratiproductions.com

Winter Cabaret: The Music of Kander & Ebb, Chicago Gay Men's Chorus at Laugh Factory (Feb. 24) and Mayslake Peabody Estate, Oak Brook (March 7). Members of the chorus show off their talents performing music by the gay songwriters John Kander and Fred Ebb who were responsible for such Broadway smashes like Cabaret, Chicago, Kiss of the Spider Woman and Curtains. www.cgmc.org

The Book of Mormon, Bank of America Theatre, Feb. 25 to May 17. The national tour of the hit 2011 Broadway musical comedy about Mormon missionaries in Uganda is back for an extended multi-month run. www.broadway-inchicago.com

The Full Monty, Kokandy Productions at Theater Wit, March 10 to April 12. Out-of-work steelworkers turn to stripping to make a quick buck. in Terrence McNally and David Yazbek's 2000 Broadway and Americanized musical adaptation of the Academy Award-nominated British film. www.kokandyproductions.com

Legacies of Hope featuring Tyler's Suite, Windy City Gay Chorus & Windy City Treble Quire at St. James Cathedral, March 21. LGBTQ youth at risk is the focus of this concert that features the Midwest premiere of Tyler's Suite, which was commissioned to commemorate the life of late college student Tyler Clementi. www.windycitysings.org

Billy Elliot The Musical, Drury Lane Theatre, Oakbrook Terrace, April 10 to June 7. Jeff Award-winner Rachel Rockwell directs and choreographs the first regional production of the international hit musical by Lee Hall and Elton John about a British boy who develops a love of ballet in the midst of the contentious 1980s miners' strike. www.drurylane.com

Windy City Times, StartOut, Center on Halsted
and MB Financial Bank present

So you want to be an
Entrepreneur?

A workshop for Unstably Housed Youth ages 18-25

Saturday, Feb. 28, 2015
 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
 Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted

Workshops & brainstorming with LGBTQ entrepreneurs,
business school professors & MBA students

Open to youth who have experienced homelessness, ages
18-25. Youth will receive \$50 stipend plus meals and
transit passes

To receive an application, email
editor@windycitymediagroup.com or call 773-387-2394
DEADLINE: Jan. 31, 2015

Hosted by Windy City Times
 as a followup to the 2014 LGBTQ Homeless Youth Summit
 with StartOut, a national organization of LGBT entrepreneurs,
 Center on Halsted, Chicago's LGBTQ community center,
 and MB Financial Bank.







CALENDAR

Brought to you by the combined efforts of

WINDY CITY TIMES **nightspots**

Wed., Jan. 21

Fair Housing for LGBTQ People: Chicago

Free training for members of the LGBT community, housing professionals, LGBT allies and advocates, shelters for individuals experiencing homelessness, local governments, housing authorities, and other community-based organizations. 10:00am - 2:00pm Access Living 115 W. Chicago Ave. Chicago Tickets: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/fair-housing-for-lgbtq-people-chicago-tickets-14884533039>

The Piss & Vinegar Comedy Show Hosted by Trannika Rex and Adam Guerino, Featuring Kelsie Huff, Natalie Jose, Dana Austen and Rachel McCartney. 9:00pm - 11:00pm Berlin Nightclub 954 W Belmont Ave Chicago <http://www.berlinchicago.com>

Laughs in the Lounge: January Showcase

The first show of 2015 hosted by Marla Depew and featuring Thomas Bottoms, Conor Cawley, Peter S. Kim, Erin Lane, Mary Zee. Wine-o Wednesday. 9:00pm - 11:00pm Rogers Park Social 6920 N. Glenwood Ave. Chicago <http://www.rogersparksocial.com>

Thursday, Jan. 22

Senior Hot Lunch Center on Halsted is a City of Chicago Golden Diners site, where seniors age 60+ receive a hot lunch on Tuesdays and Thursdays at noon. The suggested donation for lunch is \$1.50. No pre - registration required, but we ask that you sign in for lunch before 11:30 to ensure that you receive a lunch ticket. 12:00pm - 1:00pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted Chicago <http://www.centeronhalsted.org/newevents-details.cfm?ID=9271>

Meditation Class Open to participants 40+. No previous meditation experience necessary. Free. Contact Troy Johnson at tjohnson@centeronhalsted.org or by phone 1:00pm - 2:00pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted Chicago 773-472-6469 x491 <http://www.centeronhalsted.org/newevents-details.cfm?ID=9277>

Co-Ed Volleyball Every Monday and Thursday in the gym, compete and practice. All welcome. \$7 daily pass or monthly pass \$30. Contact Mia Zucker at mzucker@centeronhalsted.org, or by phone. 6:00pm - 9:00pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted Chicago 773-472-6469 ext. 446 <http://www.centeronhalsted.org/Volleyball>

Full Kit Gear Grand Opening Celebration Celebrate the opening of Andersonville's new leather/fetish store. Nasty Pig, Cellblock 13, FK Sport, and all your favorite brands of lube, toys and more. 6:00pm - 8:00pm, <http://www.fullkit.com>

Transmopolitan: Transgender Resilience Trans activist Precious Davis presents a multimedia project on Chicago's transgender history and will moderate a multigenerational panel discussion with members of the trans community featuring Andre Perez, Gloria Allen, Owen Daniel McCarter, Mimi Marks and Angelica Ross. Reception, appetizers and refreshments at 5:30pm. Program at 6:30pm. 6:30pm Chicago History Museum 1601 N Clark, Chicago Tickets: <http://www.chicagohistory.org/outatchm>

The Book of Merman New musical comedy by Jeff Award-winning author Leo Schwartz. When two Mormons ring a doorbell, they have no idea that a certain Ethel will open the door. Dazzling parody music and original songs. \$25. Thursday through Saturday at 7:30 and Sunday at 5:00 through February 15th. 7:30pm Mary's Attic 5400 N Clark Chicago 800-838-3006 Tickets: <http://thebookofmerman.brownpapertickets.com>

Friday, Jan. 23

Love Me Forever! Oh! Oh! Oh By gay cartoonist Jeremy Sorese, a series of illustrations, selected from The Best American Comics 2013, exploring the idea of getting married. On display in the Congress Corridor through March 8, 2015. 9:00am - 5:00am Harold Washington College 30 E. Lake St. Chicago 312-747-4050 <http://tinyurl.com/kwb5mnl>

Live Your Life's Next Adventure Intensive, hands on workshop to assess, clarify and

create an action plan for change. Using a workbook of his four step method author of Amplify Your Career and Life: 4 Steps to Evaluate, Assess, and Move Forward Peter C. Diamond executive coach, will lead the process for each participant to clarify and define a plan to support career and life change. 10:00am - 4:00am United States <http://locallyinspiredchicago.com> Tickets: <http://www.eventbrite.com/e/live-your-lives-next-adventure-workshop-tickets-14567189857>

The Ideal Home Show New high end event hosted by Ahmed Hassan from the original HGTV's and DIY Network's "Yard Crashers" will offer ideas from home and remodeling experts. \$10 at door, \$8 online. Through Jan. 25. 12:00pm - 8:00pm McCormick Place Tickets: <http://www.idealhome-showchicago.com>

Chicago Zine Fest's annual karaoke fundraiser Shameless Karaoke. Diverse songbook covers all genres. \$5. 21+. 9:00pm Beauty Bar Chicago 1444 W. Chicago Ave. Chicago <http://chicagozinefest.org>

Roast of Mr. Chicago Leather 2014 Miguel Torres Join the leather community as they give a fitting send-off to MCL 2014 Miguel Torres. A kickoff to Mr. Chicago Leather 2015 weekend. 9:00pm - 2:00am Touche 6412 N Clark St., <http://www.touchechicago.com>

Saturday, Jan. 24

Mr. Chicago Leather 2015 The contest moves this year to Leather Archives & Museum, 6418 N. Greenview Ave. Emceed by IML 2003 John Pandal. Special guest judge IML 2014 Ramien Pierre. 8 pm, www.touchechicago.com

Pure: MCL 2015 Victory Dance Join the newly-crowned Mr. Chicago Leather 2015 right after the contest at the Leather Archives. 10 pm, Touche, 6412 N. Clark St., www.touchechicago.com

Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance, Chicago-area GLBT Chapter Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance chapter specifically founded for Chicago-area GLBT community with mood disorders or other significant psychological conditions, as well as their friends, partners, and family members. All are welcome. 11:00am Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted Chicago <http://www.dbsa-glbtc-chicago.com/>

Young Playwrights Festival Professional production using professional actors and directors to shine a spotlight on area emerging teen writers. Through Jan. 31 7:30pm Chicago Dramatists, 1105 W. Chicago Ave., 773-878-8864. Tickets: <http://www.PegasusTheatreChicago.org>



ROSS EXAMINED

Thursday, Jan. 22

Angelica Ross will be among the panelists at "Transmopolitan" at the Chicago History Museum.

Photo by Matt Simonette

Screening, Free Speech: The Transcendent Journey of Chris Drew, Street Artist Followed by Q&A with Nancy Bechtol, filmmaker, and Mark Weinberg, Chris Drew's civil rights attorney, Info revbookschi@yahoo.com 2:00pm Revolution Books, 1103 N. Ashland Ave., Chicago 773-489-0930 <https://www.youtube.com/user/madpalx>

CMSA Annual Party Performances by Catfight and DJ Seth Cooper. CMSA members free, friends \$10. Info: vicepres1@chicagomsa.org 7:00pm - 4:00am Joe's Bar 940 W. Weed St Chicago <http://www.chicagomsa.org>

10th Annual Charity Chili Contest for Care For Real A \$12 donation lets you sample and vote for your favorite chili. All money raised goes directly to Care For Real, a local food pantry. Hosted by Wayne Johnson of NBC Universal. 12:00pm - 3:00pm Crew Bar & Grill 4804 N Broadway Chicago <http://www.worldsgreatestbar.com>

Sweat Girls are Tribal Elders In this year's Fillet of Solo Festival the Sweats are glad to represent the greying edge of Chicago's Live Lit. \$10 community. 5:30pm Lifeline Theatre, 6912 N Glenwood Ave., Chicago 773-761-4477 <http://www.sweatgirls.org> Tickets: <http://www.Lifelinetheatre.com>

Sunday, Jan. 25

OutChicago, LGBT radio Progressive talk with Scott Duff. Streaming live online 11:00am - 1:00pm WCPT 820 am <http://www.outchicago.com>

www.chicagosprogressivetalk.com/pages/pages.php?page=451

SHE100 & Lesbians Who Tech Mix & Mingle Mix and mingle, talk tech and philanthropy with speakers from both groups. Free. Cash bar, nibbles for purchase. RSVP online. 3:00pm - 6:00pm Revival Social Club, 1133 W. Granville Ave., Chicago <http://lesbianswhotech.org/events/event/lesbians-who-tech-she100-january-mixer/>

OUTspoken! at Fillet of Solo Chicago's monthly LGBTQ storytelling event featuring self-identified and out LGBTQ performers appearing at the 2015 solo performance and storytelling festival. 4:00pm Lifeline Theatre, 6912 N Glenwood Ave., Chicago <http://lifelinetheatre.com>

2015 Ride For AIDS Kick-off Event \$15 at the door gets you two premium drink tickets and food provided by DS Tequila Company and mEAT. Lots of cool stuff to give out this year. Swag for registered participant. This is also a great time to bring the people that have "promised to sign up." Computers available so you can register. Discounted rate of \$75 dollars is extended to all returning participants. 4:00pm - 7:00pm Sidetrack 3349 N Halsted St Chicago <http://www.sidetrackchicago.com>

Tuesday, Jan. 27

Dr. Neil deGrasse Tyson Astrophysicist, host of Cosmos: A Spacetime Odyssey, best selling author, and the director of the Hayden Planetarium, will be speaking. 7:30pm Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University 50 E Congress Pkwy. Tickets: <http://www.NeildeGrasseTysonLive.com>

Holocaust event at Temple Shalom Temple Shalom/Am Keshet, 3480 N. Lake Shore Dr.—in commemoration of Holocaust Remembrance Day and the 70th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz—has organized a remembrance service and discussion with Danny M. Cohen on the future of Holocaust education. The event will take place Tuesday, Jan. 27, 7:30-9:30 p.m. Visit www.SholomChicago.org.

Wed., Jan. 28

REVIVAL 2015 :: source evolution :: Fully immersive performance art experience, visceral and sexy, replete with ritual and mystery. Free. Through Jan. 31. Donations welcome. Doors open 8 pm 9:00pm Jay Pritzker Pavilion in Millennium Park Tickets: <https://revival-event.tixato.com/buy/>

the DISH WEEKLY DINING GUIDE IN WINDY CITY TIMES



Osteria Langhe

BY MEGHAN STREIT

An Italian newcomer in an easy-to-miss Armitage Avenue space in Logan Square has made quite a splash on the Chicago dining scene in a few short months. **Osteria Langhe** serves cuisine from Italy's Piedmont region, a hilly area bordering France and Switzerland. The traditional dishes feature the region's famous white truffles, fragrant herbs and rich, eggy pastas, with hardly a drop of red sauce on the menu.

Inside, the space is sleek and modern, with sharp lines and a muted gray palette, warmed ever-so-slightly by a rustic wooden bar. The dining room is serene—almost austere—and it sets the tone for the food to take center stage.

The meal begins simply with a cup full of long, thin breadsticks, which are traditionally served in the Piedmont. While not spectacular, they are tasty enough to nibble on while you make some decisions about cocktails and

antipasti. There's a robust selection of Italian wines as well as a several stiff cocktails that aren't overdone with too many ingredients. As for antipasti, look for classic offerings like poached beef or fonduta, a rich and savory flan made with artichoke, spinach and Parmesan. Whatever else you try from the antipasti menu, don't skip the plin. It's a paper-thin pasta, yellow in its color from the egg yolks it's made with, and hand-pinched into tiny ravioli filled with La Tur, a creamy and pungent Brie-like cheese. The delicate pasta is dressed simply (and perfectly) in butter, thyme and Parmesan.

I visited Osteria Langhe during the holidays, when there was a special lobster salad on offer. A plump and succulent warm lobster tail sat atop greens and tender farro. It was scrumptious, and indicative of the quality of the dishes that are served here. Antipasti dishes are sized to allow you to save room for a second course of meat, fish or pasta. Expect straightforward, but exquisitely executed, preparations of duck, rabbit, scallops and beef. One of the more interesting main-course pasta offerings is tortelloni stuffed with lamb and green olives, and tossed in a light cream sauce of toasted garlic, rosemary and Parmesan. The small portion is deceptively rich and filling. I really enjoyed the steak, a tender portion of prime New York strip grilled to perfection and served



Photos of Osteria Langhe by Kara Lichtenstein

in thin slices. The steak is paired simply with roasted fingerling potatoes and sautéed escarole, but a dollop of creamy Gorgonzola cheese and a splash of red wine glaze make it memorable.

Dessert brings Italian classics like panna cotta and affogato. I opted instead for the less traditional and more playful S'Amore, a cleverly named and upscale interpretation of s'mores. The gourmet s'mores are served deconstructed, beginning with moist and fluffy graham cracker shortbread. Cool, creamy (and not too sweet) marshmallow gelato stands in for the roasted

campfire confection. And, instead of a hunk of a Hershey bar, there's a pot of hot Gianduja chocolate, a hazelnut chocolate spread commonly served in the Piedmont—it's not unlike Nutella, but it has a more complex flavor profile.

Osteria Langhe is at 2824 W. Armitage Ave.; call 773-661-1582 or visit www.osterialanghe.com.

Do you need more sugar and spice in your life? Follow me on Twitter— @SugarAndSpiceMS—for more news and views on Chicago's dining scene.

BILLY MASTERS

"I'm not playing the race card. I'm playing the rice card."—Margaret Cho Tweets a response to people who felt her Golden Globes appearance was racist. She also said, "I'm of mixed North/South Korean descent—you imprison, starve and brainwash my people, you get made fun of by me."

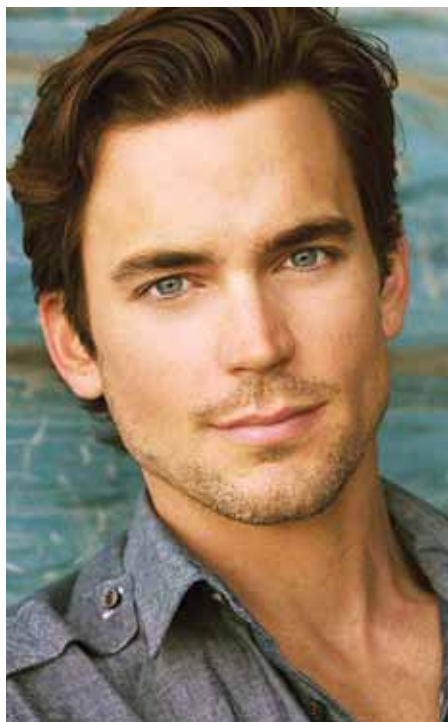
In a recent interview, Graham Norton discussed how difficult it is for gay men to find love. His analogy reminded me of a line in *The Boondocks* (don't ask): "A Black woman of a certain age is more likely to die in a tanning salon fire than find true love." This tied in with a revelation from our own Raven-Symoné. She said that in order to appear "blacker" while shooting her show *That's So Raven*, she used to go to a tanning salon three and four times a week. And that, dear readers, is how Graham Norton is like a Black woman.

One of my special keepsakes is a silver key ring from Tiffany given to me from he who shall remain nameless. At the time, we had a disagreement about boundaries: He felt that even though he gave me his keys, I should still call before I came over; I felt that I could come and go as I please (and go through all of his belongings). I returned the keys. Because acquiescing is the only way to remain in a relationship with me, he gave me back the keys ... on the Tiffany key ring. That beau is long gone and all that remains is the key ring ... and a restraining order. This stroll down memory lane was prompted by a story about that icon of fine jewelry, Tiffany. For the first time in the company's 178-year history, they are featuring a same-sex couple in an ad promoting wedding rings. I'm sure any day now Home Depot will run a similar ad promoting a bridal registry.

Nine million years ago, Joan Rivers gave me a signed copy of her will "for safe keeping." Alas, this is an old draft that is completely invalid (but I bet worth a small fortune on eBay). I thought about this while reading her last will and testament and discovering that she was as generous in death as she was in life. A portion of Auntie Joan's estimated \$150 million estate is to be donated to some of her favorite charities, including God's Love We Deliver and Guide Dogs for the Blind. Bequeaths were also made to a handful of relatives (her grandson Cooper and sister's two kids), her assistants and some close friends. The rest goes to daughter Melissa.

Kathy Griffin's debut on *Fashion Police* was a mixed bag. While she was as caustic as ever, her quips were more zingers than actual fashion critiques. What's more interesting is the gossip behind the scenes. I hear that the numerous personnel changes (both on camera and off) were "strong suggestions" from Griffin before she signed on the dotted line (although I must say that the addition of Brad Goreski was pretty seamless). But some feathers were ruffled when Kathy sequestered herself leading up to the show. She didn't want to rehearse or even discuss her jokes in advance. "I'm a different human being. ... I'm more improvisational. I don't know what I'm going to say, and neither does anyone else on the panel." This baffled her co-stars, who not only felt out of the loop, but hurt that Griffin eschewed spending any time with them—including skipping a network-arranged dinner so they could get to know each other. Since everyone was in the dark, Giuliana (the de facto host) prepared more jokes than usual ... just in case. Because, when I think of comedy, I think of Giuliana Rancic!

Someone who isn't laughing is executive producer Melissa Rivers—the person Kathy credits with bringing her onto the show in the first place. Griffin said, "Melissa called me and she said, 'I know that my mom would have given you and you alone the blessing,' and that really was it. ... Melissa was Joan's world. Everybody knows that." And yet, we hear that Kathy kept Missy entirely out of the loop and made all of



Billy says that it's all system go for out actor Matt Bomer. PR photo

her suggestions directly to the network brass. The result? The ratings were down 26 percent from last year's post-Globes show.

It was a good week for Matt Bomer. First, he won the People's Choice Award for Favorite Cable TV Actor (White Collar)—a niche category if ever there was one. Then, he won the Golden Globes for Best Supporting Actor in a TV Movie (*The Normal Heart*). This double whammy led to HBO greenlighting the long-gestating biopic on Montgomery Clift. The network is set to rush the flick into production so that it can air before the end of the year (perhaps leading to another win at the next Golden Globes). This could be filling the slot of the adaptation of Terrence McNally's *Master Class* with Meryl Streep, which was to be directed by the late Mike Nichols.

Then there's that oft-rumored-about actor who was intent on deflecting gay chatter that was resurrected by that claim of fraud. Look, I'm as gay as they come, and I loves me a set of titties. Heck, one of my best friends is Jennifer Lewis, and she's ALL about her titties!

It's official—Mariah Carey and Nick Cannon are getting a divorce. It's also true that Mariah will be filling in for Celine Dion and taking up residency at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas. You know what that means? No all-you-can-eat buffet on the strip is safe!

Our "Ask Billy" question comes from Warren in New Hampshire: "I just saw 'Zulu' and couldn't believe that was Orlando Bloom. He was SO buff and grown up. Was that his penis near the beginning? Sure looked like it."

I love a question that makes me do some research—especially when I'm looking for a hot guy's penis. First, you're right—Orlando Bloom was VERY grown-up and buff. He kinda looked like the love child of Eric Bana and Hugh Jackman! As to his penis, he's given conflicting reports about it. Once he said he was wearing the infamous "cock sock." Another time, he talked about walking around the set naked. You decide for yourself by watching the scene on BillyMasters.com.

When we've gone from the *Boondocks* to *Zulu*, it's definitely time to end yet another column. What range. What diversity. What titillation. And it can all be found on the new www.BillyMasters.com—the site that never skimps on skin. If you've got something on your mind, send it along to Billy@BillyMasters.com and I promise to get back to you before Graham Norton actually becomes a Black woman. Until next time, remember one man's filth is another man's bible.

CONNEXIONS

MAKE IT YOUR BUSINESS

The Law Offices of
Roger V. McCaffrey-Boss & Associates



When experience counts...
In service to the community
for over 35 years.

- Bankruptcy
- Wills, Trusts & Probate
- Real Estate Closings
- Premarital Agreements

33 N. Dearborn St., Suite 800, Chicago, IL 60602
312-263-8800 RVMLAWYER@AOL.COM

We are a debt relief agency.
We help people file for bankruptcy relief under the bankruptcy code.

Bernie Carter
708-912-2769

Bernie LaRocco
312-543-3838

Serving Chicago and Suburbs
"Let our years of experience work for you"
PROUD MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY

Bathrooms Kitchens Additions

Modern and Traditional Renovations
in Andersonville, North Center,
Ravenswood, Lincoln Square
and Lakeview for Over 25 Years.

PRYOR
construction, inc.

773.334.1800

pryorconstruction.com

Ray J. Koenig III and Clark Hill PLC



Ray is a legal authority on all of his practice areas, which include probate, trusts, guardianship, estate planning, and elder law, including the litigation of those areas. He is a longtime advocate for and member of the LGBT community, and is involved in several charitable groups, community associations, and professional organizations. Ray is a member of Clark Hill PLC, a full-service law firm consisting of a diverse team of attorneys and professionals committed to our clients and our communities.

Tel: 312.985.5938 | Fax: 312.985.5985
rkoenig@clarkhill.com | clarkhill.com



CLARK HILL

ARIZONA ILLINOIS MICHIGAN WASHINGTON DC

TRANSGENDER LAWYER
Joanie Rae Wimmer



- EMPLOYMENT LAW
- POLICE MISCONDUCT
- DIVORCE
- NAME CHANGE

"Joanie obtained the first award in favor of a transgender person under the Illinois Human Rights Act."

—The award in favor of cab driver Venessa Fitzsimmons totaled \$104,711.00—Fitzsimmons v. Universal Taxi Dispatch, Inc., ALS No. 09-0661

(630) 810-0005 or (630) 880-5005
www.joanieraewimmer.com



Family Owned & Operated Since 1965
24-Hour Emergency Service
We Service ALL Makes & Models

- Residential
- Commercial
- Industrial
- Service
- Installation
- Sales

Find us on Facebook at
www.facebook.com/AAService

847-729-7889

www.AAServiceCo.com
550 Anthony Trail, Northbrook, IL

iloilo



CUSTOM FRAMING

Framing Chicago's art since 1991.

25% off Custom Framing!

1478 W. Berwyn - 773.784.3962

Alan Sanchez, CPA, P.C.
Accounting Services
Tax Consultation/Preparation

3418 North Sheffield Ave.
Chicago, IL 60657-8589

Telephone 773-871-1256
www.alansanchezcpa.com

It's Your Home.
Let Us Help You Stay There.



Call today to request your free information
kit on home care services.
(773) 340-3932 | www.cmsschicago.org



The Most Extensive Senior Services Network
on Chicago's North Side

HOM Inspired Interiors
Ray & Son

Gay owned and operated for over 35 years
Serving Chicago and Suburbs

- Carpet, Tile and Wood Flooring
- Hunter Douglas® Blinds Priority Dealer
- Custom Window Treatments
- Granite and Stone Countertops
- Complete Remodeling Services
- Custom Backsplash and Shower Designs
- Free In-Home Estimates
- Free Design Consultations

847-541-4848

www.hombyrayandson.com



Susan O'Dell, PhD
Down to earth, change oriented therapy

I see individuals, couples, children & families
for crisis and ongoing work.

I also offer wellness support for persons
living with chronic illness, including cancer and
HIV-AIDS, their partners and families.

773.262.7010

1435 W. Rosemont Ave, #1W, Chicago, IL, 60660



Linda Kuczka, Agent
954 W Webster
Chicago, IL 60614
Bus: 773-975-9111
www.lindakuczka.com

Discounts as big as a house.
Or condo.
Or apartment.

See just how big your savings could be.
Your savings could add up to hundreds
of dollars when you put all your policies
together under our State Farm® roof.

GET TO A BETTER STATE.™
CALL AN AGENT OR VISIT US
ONLINE TODAY.



State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company,
State Farm Indemnity Company, Bloomington, IL

NEW YEAR, **NEW BODY**

Visit our website:
www.davidshifrinmd.com

Mention
WINDY CITY TIMES
and get
\$500 off
liposuction.

Discover what others know ...



DAVID SHIFRIN MD
PLASTIC SURGERY

Award-Winning Plastic Surgery
DR. DAVID SHIFRIN
Board-Certified Plastic Surgeon

CHICAGO • 312.590.3572
680 N. Lake Shore Dr.
www.davidshifrinmd.com



Member



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF
PLASTIC SURGEONS

CHICAGO, WE MISSED YOU TOO!



THE BOOK OF MORMON

FROM THE CREATORS OF
SOUTH PARK



BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND

WINNER 9 TONY AWARDS[®] INCLUDING BEST MUSICAL

TICKETS ON SALE NOW

12 WEEKS ONLY! FEB 25-MAY 17

BANK OF AMERICA THEATRE • 800.775.2000 • BROADWAY IN CHICAGO.com