



The new plaque honoring Leonard Bernstein is unveiled.  
Photo by Melissa Wasserman

# LIVING LEGACY

## Legacy Walk unveils five new bronze memorial plaques

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**'ROAD' WARRIOR**  
Gloria Steinem on her legacy and new book, *Life on the Road*.  
Photo by Brian Kinyon **13**

## HIV, day to day: The truth about consequences

BY SEBASTIAN SAENZ

Luis Cano's life might seem ordinary, but Cano—who happens to be HIV-positive—wants to send a message about his life. His life has had its ups and downs, just like everybody else's. He grew up in Torreon, Mexico, without a father, but with a mother and siblings. He helped them, he fell in love, he danced at the best Folk Ballet of Mexico, he got his BA in sociology in the University of Coahuila, and his professional life was quite

fulfilling for a while. He taught inmates and farmers to read and write, and he worked with indigenous groups in remote locations for the Mexican government until the mid-'90s, when the political crisis forced him out of the country.

He got to California in his 30s with a tourist visa. He worked at a family restaurant for a while, but at first he missed his country and his job. He knew he had to study and get credits to get a permit to find a better job, which he did eventually, as a teacher assistant, in 2006. He worked in kindergartens, elementary and junior high schools, teaching everything from math and U.S. history to dance. He also fell in love again with other men, he came back to Mexico for visits and he made what he called "mistakes." These mistakes can be made by anybody, but the consequences for his case were deeper; he sees it as "winning the lottery."

When he was living in Las Vegas, he became friends with the wrong people, who led him to drug use. He told Windy City Times that "people not only become addicted to the drugs,

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A history of transgender achievements.  
PR photo of Caitlyn Jenner **6**



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# WINDY CITY TIMES

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### WEB BROWSING

Bent Nights reviews shows by music acts The Gold Web (left), Ono and Those Manic Seas.  
 Photo by Vern Hester

### SIMPLY THE FEST



Chicago Black Gay Men's Caucus held its annual Lovestep over the weekend.  
 Photo by Vern Hester

### 'BRIDGE' TO CROSS

An event at DePaul University focused on readings of This Bridge Called My Back: Radical Writings by Women of Color.

### BABY LOVE

The organization Men Having Babies helps gay men have children.

### THAT'S SHOW BIZ

Find out the latest about Andrew Rannells, Madonna and Prince, and the Fabulous Beekman Boys.

### LIMITED PARTNERSHIP



The Limited has chosen Latina lesbian CEO Natalia Oberti Noguera as one of the faces of its new advertising campaign.  
 Photo courtesy of Noguera

plus  
**DAILY BREAKING NEWS**





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## GUEST COLUMN

BY JEROME POHLEN



### History is for kids

Four years ago I sat in a theater watching *We Will Rock You*, and I was fuming.

Though this rock musical is based on the music of Queen, not a single LGBT character appears in its cast of "Bohemians." I was fine with that, if perhaps a little disappointed, but midway through the show *Galileo*, the male lead, made an unintentional reference to gay sex, a mild innuendo. Pop, a crusty hippie character, then mugged for the audience like his rear end hurt, and the crowd roared. Roared! After the laughter died down, Pop said something like, "Whatever floats your boat, man."

Really? You appropriate the songs of Freddie Mercury to cash in on the good will of his fans, then make a middle-school joke about how icky gay sex must be? Was I the only one offended that this brilliant bisexual singer was being straightwashed out of this show?

Luckily I went to see *Matilda the Musical* the following night, where more than once the plucky lead sings, "If you always take it on the chin and wear it, nothing will change." She was right. So there in the theater, I promised myself I would write *Gay & Lesbian History for Kids*.

ized there were gaps in my own knowledge. Not only that, there were gaps in the LGBT community's knowledge of itself, even about iconic events like the Stonewall uprising. If the histories written about that 1969 riot agree on one thing, it's that nobody knows for sure who threw the first brick, even if we know who threw most of the rest.

Luckily I had plenty of help telling the story from the community, people like photographer Dan Nicoletta, who as a young man worked in Harvey Milk's Castro Camera and whose iconic photos you have likely seen many times, and Suzanne Manford Swan, surviving daughter of Jeanne and Jules Manford, founders of PFLAG. There were also modern-day heroes, like Theresa Volpe and Mercedes Santos, two of the plaintiffs in the Lambda Legal lawsuit to overturn the same-sex marriage ban in Illinois. On and on, everyone I contacted generously gave of their time, resources, and memories, without exception.

It turned into an embarrassment of riches, and even after convincing my publisher to make the book longer, plenty of the material still had to be cut, including Freddie Mercury. But because it is

"At school, they've probably been involved in antibullying campaigns and have friends who identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual, and, increasingly, transgender, or they are LGBT themselves. Yet there are very few history books to help children make sense of it all."

such a rich history, it wasn't a difficult book to write. Its heroes are underdogs, its villains come right out of Disney central casting, and the heroes (mostly) win. Their stories are dramatic and sometimes humorous, and illustrate the importance of honesty, courage, hard work,

creativity, love, and determination. For a children's author, it was a lavender gold mine.

The only challenge I faced was deciding where to stop. Fortunately the U.S. Supreme Court made the decision for me. When we learned that it would be ruling on same-sex marriage last spring, I left a hole in the manuscript with the plan to fill it at the last minute before going to press. On the June day that the book was announced at the American Library Association convention, I got the ending I'd hoped for. And that evening, President Obama provided the rainbow-lit White House that appears on the back cover. Talk about lucky.

I sincerely hope that more authors will write about LGBT history for children. The community has so many stories yet to be told, and so many different ways to tell the stories I included in my book. And if I've learned anything from the LGBT community over the years, it's that through our diverse voices that we find our strength.

The research took two years, and despite being a history buff, I quickly real-

ized there were gaps in my own knowledge. Not only that, there were gaps in the LGBT community's knowledge of itself, even about iconic events like the Stonewall uprising. If the histories written about that 1969 riot agree on one thing, it's that nobody knows for sure who threw the first brick, even if we know who threw most of the rest.

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Jerome Pohlen will be signing copies and reading from *Gay & Lesbian History for Kids* at Open Books, 651 W. Lake St., Saturday, Oct. 17, 1–3 pm. The event is sponsored by Windy City Times as part of LGBT History Month. Event link: <http://www.open-books.org/event/lgbt-history-celebration/>. General book link: <http://www.indiebound.org/book/9781613730829>.



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## LGBT HISTORY MONTH

# Transgender forward

BY SAN DIEGO LGBT WEEKLY,  
LGBT HISTORY PROJECT

As the gay and lesbian community celebrates marriage equality across the United States, the transgender members of the LGBT community continue to work diligently to place their civil rights front and center, as we move into the next chapter of LGBT equality.

To many, it seems as if the transgender movement has come from nowhere in the last decade, but the reality is that transgender Americans have been fighting for civil rights right along with the lesbian, gay and bisexual members of our community for decades. Here are a few key highlights of transgender people within U.S. LGBT-rights history:

#### c. 1800: "Woman Chief" Barcheeampe

A leader of the Crow nation, the "woman chief" was known for her war exploits and had several wives.

#### 1871: We'Wha

Two-spirit Zuni Native American who was born male but lived as a woman. An accomplished weaver and potter, in 1886 the six-foot Zuni maiden met President Grover Cleveland, who was unaware that she was two-spirit.

#### 1952: Christine Jorgensen

A trailblazer who was the first person in America to receive sexual-reassignment surgery, Jorgensen, a former GI, became a household name and put the issue of gender identity in the American conscience.

#### 1957: Billy Tipton jazz album released

This renowned jazz musician lived his life as a man and "married" several women. He was discovered to be biologically female upon his death.

#### 1965: Dewey's Coffee Shop Protest

One hundred and fifty "non-conforming" peo-

ple protested Dewey's Coffee Shop in Philadelphia because it refused service to young people who were dressing in clothing that did not conform to their gender. The protest led to an end of the discriminatory policy.

#### 1966: Transsexual Phenomenon published

Dr. Harry Benjamin published a seminal work that described the medical transition for transgender people. Benjamin helped Jorgensen in her transition and acknowledged her in the preface of the book: "Without Christine Jorgensen and the unsought publicity of her 'conversion,' this book could hardly have been conceived."

#### 1969: Stonewall Riots

The legendary seminal event of the LGBT civil-rights movement included members of the transgender community. The LGBT community resisted police abuse on the night after Judy Garland's funeral, which many attribute for the gayed nerves.

#### 1970: Street Transvestite Action Revolutionaries (STAR)

Started by transgender legends Sylvia Rivera and Marsha Johnson, STAR was an advocacy group for transgender people. Both Rivera and Johnson were rioters at the Stonewall Inn and helped usher in the tepid acknowledgment of transgender Americans as part of the gay civil-rights movement.

#### 1975: Minneapolis passes transgender legislation

Minneapolis becomes the first city to pass an anti-discrimination law protecting transgender people. That's right—Minneapolis, in 1975.

#### 1977: Renee Richards

The next transgender icon who pierced the American consciousness. Richards was an eye doctor who became a professional tennis player and challenged a ban that prevented her from



Laverne Cox on the cover of Time.

playing in the U.S. Open as a woman. The New York Supreme Court overruled the ban, making Richards the catalyst for a landmark decision concerning transgender rights.

#### 1986: FTM newsletter

Lou Sullivan published the FTM newsletter, which was later transformed by Jamison Green into FTM International, the world's largest information and networking group for female-to-male transgender people and transsexual men. Sullivan is credited with bringing female-to-male transgenderism to the forefront.

#### 1991: Rift with Michigan Womyn's Music Festival

Nancy Burkholder was removed from the Michigan Womyn's Music Festival when she was discovered to be transgender. The removal led to an annual protest by the transgender community, which continued through this year, when the festival ceased.

#### 1993: Brandon Teena

Teena, a transgender man, was murdered in Nebraska. The story of his journey and death was later chronicled in the Oscar-winning film Boys Don't Cry.

#### 1995: GenderPac formed

Transgender activist RiKi Wilchins formed the first advocacy group dedicated to gender identity and expression. The organization ushered in the period where the national transgender movement took hold.

#### 1999: First Transgender Day of Remembrance

The first Transgender Day of Remembrance honored those who have died due to anti-transgender violence. The commemoration was a direct result of the murder of Rita Hester in Massachusetts.

#### Transgender Pride flag created

Monica Helms created the transgender flag, saying, "The stripes at the top and bottom are light blue, the traditional color for baby boys. The stripes next to them are pink, the traditional color for baby girls. The stripe in the middle is white, for those who are intersex, transitioning or consider themselves having a neutral or undefined gender. The pattern is such that no matter which way you fly it, it is always correct, signifying us finding correctness in our lives."

#### 2002: Transgender legal-aid organizations established

The Sylvia Rivera Law Project in New York and the Transgender Law Center in San Francisco were created to advance transgender civil rights using the legal system.

#### 2003: National Center for Transgender Equality established

Activist Mara Keisling, with the support of other transgender activists, founded the organization dedicated to advancing the civil rights of transgender people.

#### 2006: California's Gwen Araujo Justice for Victims Act

AB 1160 passed into law prohibit the use of so-called "panic strategies" in criminal defenses. The legislation was named in the memory of a transgender teenager from Newark, Calif., who was attacked and killed in 2002. The law proved ineffective when tested during the murder trial for Larry King's killer.

#### First transgender person elected to state-

#### wide office

Kim Coco Iwamoto was elected to statewide office in Hawaii as a member of the Board of Education.

#### 2008: First transgender mayor in America

Stu Rasmussen became the first openly transgender mayor in America in Silverton, Ore. Rasmussen previously had served as the mayor prior to coming out as transgender. He prefers male pronouns but dresses as a woman.

#### 2009: Chaz Bono transition

A child of celebrities Sonny and Cher, Chastity Bono, transitioned to become a man. He chronicled his transition in a documentary, then went on to become a contestant on Dancing with the Stars as well as a transgender activist/spokesperson.

#### 2010: First transgender presidential appointees

President Obama appointed the first two transgender people in history. Amanda Simpson was appointed as senior technical adviser in the Commerce Department's Bureau of Industry and Security, and Dylan Orr was appointed as special assistant to the Department of Labor assistant secretary.

#### First transgender judge in the United States

Victoria Kolakowski became the first openly transgender judge in America, elected by the voters of Alameda County in the Bay Area.

#### New passport policy

The U.S. State Department announced a new policy eliminating the requirement for surgery to update gender markers on passports.

#### 2011: First NCAA trans athlete

Kye Allums became the first openly transgender athlete to play in the National Collegiate Athletic Association.

#### California's Gender Nondiscrimination Act

AB 887 passed into law, expanding the state's nondiscrimination laws to protect transgender people by including discrimination based on "gender identity and expression" as a type of "gender" discrimination.

#### New veterans policy

Veterans Health Administration (VHA) establishes a policy of respectful delivery of health-care to transgender and intersex veterans.

#### 2012: Matrix director transitions

Lana Wachowski came out as transgender while promoting her new movie Cloud Atlas. She is most noted for the Matrix trilogy created with her brother.

#### 2013: Official debut of gender dysphoria

The American Psychiatric Association debuted the term to describe those who deem themselves transgender.

#### 2014: Laverne Cox covers Time

The Orange Is the New Black star made headlines as the first transgender person to be featured on the cover of Time.

#### Women's colleges open doors

Mills College and Mount Holyoke allowed transgender women to enroll at their female-only institutions.

#### Gender identity protected in federal employment

The Department of Labor issued a rule banning discrimination based on gender identity in federal employment.

#### Surgery covered by Medicare

The Obama administration lifted a decades-old ban on using Medicare coverage for gender-reassignment surgery.

#### 2015: Caitlyn Jenner debuts

The former Olympic athlete and reality star came out as transgender, going on to be featured on the cover of Vanity Fair.

#### First trans national anthem singer

Breanna Sinclairé became the first transgender person to sing the national anthem at a professional sporting event at the Oakland Coliseum before the A's game with the San Diego Padres.

#### White House appointment

President Barack Obama appointed transgender attorney Shannon Price Minter to the President's Commission on White House Fellowships. Minter was the lead attorney arguing before the California Supreme Court to overturn Proposition 8.



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# Fourth 'Do Ask, Do Tell' looks at health disparities

BY GRETCHEN RACHEL HAMMOND

The fourth annual "Do Ask, Do Tell" symposium, held at Rush University Medical Center's Searle conference facility on Oct. 9, focused primarily on the health needs that LGBTQ and veteran individuals face while examining how to create welcoming and safe environments in the services available to them.

The symposium's co-sponsors included the Rush Road Home Program, the Tawani Foundation, The Edward Hines, Jr. Veterans Administration, the Rush LGBTQ Health Committee of the Diversity Leadership Council and the World Professional Association for Trans Health (WPATH).

Following the Color Guard that the Chicago chapter of the American Veterans for Equal Rights (AVER) provided and the national anthem sung by Jaimie Matthews, openly transgender Sgt. Shane Ortega provided the tenor of the day with his statements.

"There is a prevalence and need for post-traumatic stress disorder [PTSD] and anxiety care for our veterans," Ortega told Windy City Times. "Inclusion, cultural competency and sensitivity need to be integrated for transgender care for both actively serving guardsmen and reserve as well our veterans. Because of our professions, we are intrinsically trusted and valued as being not only knowledgeable and competent but also caring. As we go forward, our job is to look at these individuals and create a solution for problems. We're not there to be judge and jury but to continue on the humanist perspective of our society."

The Department of Defense (DoD) still denies open service for transgender members of the military. In July, Secretary of Defense Ashton Carter tasked a six-month working group to start "with the presumption that transgender persons can serve openly without adverse impact on military effectiveness and readiness."

Ortega—who created the first trans-military organization which was then part of Out-Serve—said that he finds the ban on United States trans service members "baffling."

"It's unfathomable that we are so caveman-like in our thinking," he noted. "We're the greatest country in the world, yet we can't acknowledge people for their gender and sexual-

ity. All this harping about bathrooms and gender neutral spaces is ludicrous and pedantic. If we stopped treating adult human beings like children, we wouldn't have child-like problems."

Ortega added that—despite his confident in forward progress for transgender soldiers in 2016—change, in terms of not only the military but the society it serves, hinges upon education "at every level from the top to the bottom to make sure we create positive waves outward."

One of the quintessential providers of that education has been the symposium's keynote speaker Professor and Associate Chair of Psychiatry at East Tennessee State University Dr. George R. Brown, MD, DFAPA.

With well over 110 published papers and contributions to 15 books along with his 2012 development of the largest database on transgender people in the world, Brown has forced open the door to quantifiable research into transgender issues particularly the health disparities faced by transgender veterans.

"From 2010 and earlier there is a grand total of three total papers," he told the audience. "Since that time a number of us have been working vigorously on producing more. It took 22-years to go from a [research] sample of eleven people to get to seventy. It shows how slow this field developed in terms of actual information, not anonymous survey data, which is not the data I need when I want to develop knowledge of health disparities based on actual human beings."

From the seventy people Brown talked to individually, he noted that "three quarters of folks were using hormones often obtained illicitly while on active duty. The majority received illegal health care through the VA [Veterans Administration] prior to 2011. Sixty-one percent endured suicidal thoughts. One in 10 had a potentially lethal attempt."

"We were able to confirm a substantial increase in [transgender] suicide risk behaviors compared to the general VA population and the US population at large," Brown added. "The rate was 20 times higher than the general VA population. That is the highest number for any sub-population studied in the VA. We need federal coverage for the entire range of



From left: "Do Ask, Do Tell" organizers and speakers Mandi Evanson, Tanya Friese, Cecilia Hardecker, Sgt. Shane Ortega, Lorry Luscri, Donna Kelly, George R. Brown and Christopher Nolan.

Photo by Gretchen Rachel Hammond

transgender healthcare, period. The DoD needs to move forward in 2016 with transgender inclusiveness. The time is right to do it and we need to do it now."

Tanya Friese, DNP, RN, CNL, USN (ret) serves as vice-chair for the Rush LGBTQ Health Committee of the Diversity Leadership Council.

"The military community has come-out in terms of gay, straight, trans—it doesn't matter. If someone's got your back in a foxhole that's all that matters," Friese told Windy City Times. "Service members both active and retired don't want to see other service members dishonored for no good reason. If you are just being yourself and doing your job, it doesn't make any sense."

Other speakers included Palm Center Founder and Executive Director Aaron Belkin, Ph.D., and Howard Brown Health Center Director of Geriatric Education Cecilia Hardecker, RN.

**For more information on American Veterans for Equal Rights (AVER), visit <http://aver.us>.**

**For more information or to get involved with the Rush LGBTQ Health Committee of the Diversity Leadership Council, contact committee chair Christopher Nolan at [christopher\\_nolan@rush.edu](mailto:christopher_nolan@rush.edu). For more information on the Tawani Foundation, visit [www.tawanifoundation.org](http://www.tawanifoundation.org).**

**For more information on WPATH and Rush**

**Road Home Program, visit [www.wpath.org](http://www.wpath.org) and [roadhomeprogram.org](http://roadhomeprogram.org), respectively. For more information on the Hines Veterans Administration, visit [www.hines.va.gov](http://www.hines.va.gov).**

## Oct. 15 is Nat'l Latino AIDS Awareness Day

Oct. 15 is National Latino AIDS Awareness Day (NLAAD). The 2015 theme is "You & I Will Defeat AIDS," or "*Tu y Yo Vamos a Derrotar al SIDA*."

According to AIDS.gov, The Latino Commission on AIDS (LCOA), the Hispanic Federation and many other organizations organize this day. The NLAAD campaign works annually at building capacity for non-profit organizations and health departments in order to reach Latino/Hispanic communities, promote HIV testing, and provide HIV-prevention information and access to care.

Spanish-language resources are at <https://www.aids.gov/federal-resources/espanol/>. More items are at [NLAAD.org](http://NLAAD.org) and <https://www.aids.gov/news-and-events/awareness-days/latino/>.

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WINDY CITY TIMES



# Victory Fund CEO talks organizing, post-marriage decision

BY MATT SIMONETTE

When the Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund came into existence 24 years ago, according to its president and CEO, Aisha Moodie-Mills, there were just about 10 out elected officials. Today, there are usually between 450 to 500 openly gay officials at any one time.

"That sounds like a wonderful growth, and we've reached a tipping point in our society with awareness of our issues—but there are 50,000 elected officials in this country, so 450 is just a small fraction," said Moodie-Mills, who is based in Washington, D.C., during a recent trip to Chicago. She manages a staff of 18 and a budget of about \$4 million.

Victory Fund is a political action committee dedicated to helping elect more elected officials who are openly LGBT. Moodie-Mills explained that the organization's mission is even more critical now that marriage equality is the law of the land.

"There are still 28 states in this country where LGBTs have no protections from discrimination," she said. "Those 28 states are what we call 'low-equality states.' ... What we know to be true is that every state that has passed, through their legislature, some kind of same-sex marriage recognition—or some kind of major LGBT equality measure—in its statehouse has only done so after it's elected an actual gay person to that statehouse. When LGBT persons are elected to office, they are driving the policies that impact our lives."

Victory Fund's next step is "amassing political power" to secure the community's gains



Aisha Moodie-Mills.  
Photo by Matt Simonette

and prevent conservatives from rolling those achievements back.

"We're interested in diversifying the pipeline of [LGBT] leadership," Moodie-Mills added. "You look around the country, and we don't have many people of color or many trans candidates running for office, so we try to focus on that [part of the] pipeline, and that helps us spot critical races that would be what we call game-changers."

Victory Fund is currently endorsing about 70 candidates across the country. Thirteen of those are what the organization calls "spotlight candidates," upon whom the organization focuses its resources and energy. Moodie-Mills explained, "We have a lesbian who could be the mayor of Salt Lake City Utah. We also have a trans woman who won a primary for the race of city council in Midvale City, Utah. We have another queer woman who is running to be mayor of Charleston, South Carolina—that would be a game-changer."

Moodie-Mills, who was appointed in March 2015, is the first woman, the first lesbian and the first person of color to head a national

LGBT-rights organization. She's focused many of her energies on ensuring that Victory Fund-sponsored candidates are aware of intersectionality, and can speak on LGBT rights as they overlap with other issues affecting the community, such as racism or poverty. After a mass shooting took place in a Charleston church in June, Ginny Deerin, the openly bisexual mayoral candidate whom Victory Fund was endorsing, was able to address the related issues head-on in her campaign.

"The way that we do our work has evolved, but the core of our mission is just as relevant as it's ever been," Moodie-Mills said.

## Trans murder is 20th this year

In Philadelphia, 22-year-old Kiesha Jenkins has been murdered—marking the 20th murder of a transgender woman this year in the United States, according to Advocate.com.

This latest killing comes less than two months after advocates confirmed what were then the most recent reports of murdered Black trans women, including Jasmine Collins of Kansas City, Missouri, and Keyshia Blige of Naperville, Illinois. Another Black trans woman, London Chanel, was found deceased shortly after midnight on May 18 in front of an abandoned North Philadelphia house after being stabbed twice.

Philadelphia Police Department's Office of Public Affairs spokesperson Ofc. Tanya Little said that several males attacked Jenkins, who was shot in the back while exiting her vehicle.

Twelve transgender women were reported as murder victims in 2014.

The Advocate article is at <http://www.advocate.com/transgender/2015/10/06/kiesha-jenkins-becomes-20th-us-trans-woman-murdered-year>.

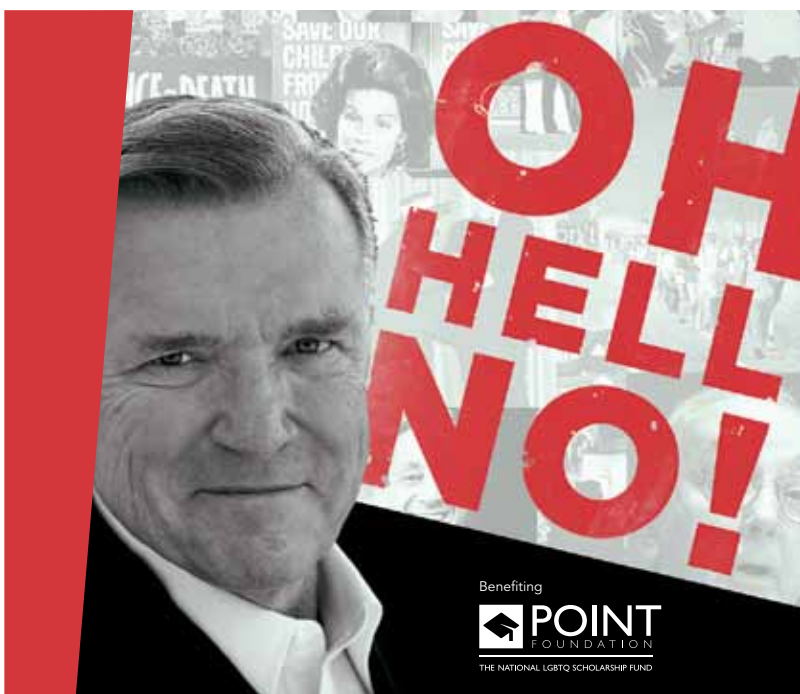
## Detroit mourns loss of gay man

The body of Melvin, an African-American gay male, was discovered shot to death Oct. 5, according to an Equality Michigan press release.

Melvin (whose real name WJBK has revealed as Gregory Daniels) was homeless, and often wore clothing typically worn by women to earn a living, causing early reports to identify him as potentially a member of the transgender community. Friends of Melvin, however, insist that he did not identify as transgender.

Yvonne Siferd, Esq., Equality Michigan's director of victim services, said, "Enough is enough. As mainstream communities use our lives and our bodies as political fodder and comedy, our people are dying in brutal and violent attacks."

[Editor's note: WJBK noted that a suspect has been arrested. The alleged shooter, 44-year-old Byron Lacey is facing murder and firearm charges that could result in life imprisonment. More info is at <http://www.fox2detroit.com/news/local-news/32145045-story>.]



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# Legacy Walk unveils five new bronze memorial plaques

BY MELISSA WASSERMAN

Chicago's Legacy Walk gained five new bronze memorial plaques that were unveiled in the Phase IV dedication ceremony on Oct. 10 in Boystown.

There are 35 plaques mounted on the rainbow pylons standing on Halsted Street. The five new inductees include The Pink Triangle, Billy Strayhorn, Rudolf Nureyev, Leonard Bernstein and Josephine Baker.

By coincidence, Legacy Project Executive Director and Founder Victor Salvo said this is the first year all of the inductees have come from the entertainment industry. The selection, he added, are also a diverse group.

The induction ceremony took the walking group of visitors North on Halsted Street to see each of the new plaques. At each stop, Salvo did the introductions; then, friends, relatives and bronze-plaque donors shared thoughts and personal anecdotes on each of the historic LGBT figures. High school students from gay-straight alliances around the Chicagoland area, including Lincoln Park High School and Lyon Township High School, read brief biographies before the plaques were revealed.

Usually, the dedication ceremony is held on National Coming Out Day (Oct. 11). However, the Chicago Marathon pushed the date this year.

"It's always important that we have the LGBT youth read the plaques and are here because so much of what we're doing is for them; to try to give them role models, to record history," Ralph Kennedy, president of Legacy Project's board of directors.

Each of the speakers and donors held a connection with a particular honoree. Some of those speakers included Legacy Project Board



Top: Dr. Paul Lisnek and kids at the Josephine Baker plaque. Above: The Leonard Bernstein plaque gets photographed. Below: Joel Hall and Victor Salvo at the Rudolf Nureyev plaque.



Billy Strayhorn Songs, Inc. President Alyce Claerbaut (right) speaks at the unveiling of the Billy Strayhorn plaque.

Photos by Melissa Wasserman

Vice President/plaque sponsor group spokesperson Paul Highfield; professor/author Dr. Danny M. Cohen; the Auditorium Theatre's Christina Bourne; Billy Strayhorn Songs, Inc. President Alyce Claerbaut; Joel Hall Dance Company Founder Joel Hall; WFMT Radio Executive Vice President/plaque sponsor Steve Robinson; Tom Batchell, the surviving partner of critic Andrew Patner; and author, WGN television/radio personality and plaque sponsor Dr. Paul Lisnek. Kennedy also said a few words during the walk.

"We try to get people that have personal connection in some way," said Kennedy.

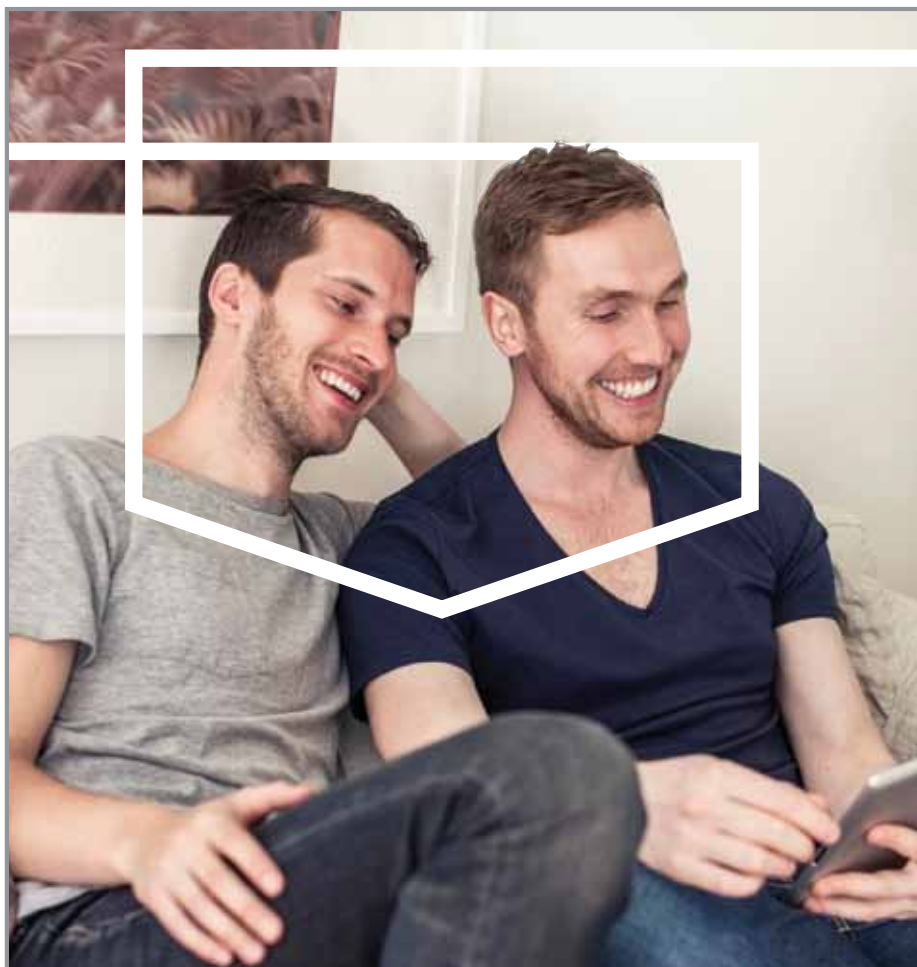
The Legacy Project represents history, but also takes steps into the future with new technology. Salvo explained visitors of the walk will be able to scan a code on the pylons and obtain more information about featured figures.

The walk ended with a new plaque in front of Center on Halsted, with the celebration concluding with a pizza party inside the Center. The celebration continues Oct. 17 with a celebration reception at Sidetrack at 2-5 p.m., with an admission of \$75. Scott Duff and Ellen

Miller from WCPT's "Out! Chicago" show are set to host.

"I think what we're doing is important," said Salvo, who hopes that, by 2020, there will actually be a brick-and-mortar museum. "We're trying to make history accessible in a way that it never really has been—anybody's history, let alone LGBT history."

For more information, visit [LegacyProjectChicago.org](http://LegacyProjectChicago.org).



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**HIV from cover**

but to the false friends that come along with them." And there were more consequences. One day he got bronchopneumonia, which almost killed him. That is when he discovered he was HIV-positive. He thought his life was over: He lost a lot of weight, spent a month in a hospital and wanted to go back to Mexico and die. However, his heart remained strong, and the support of his family was even stronger.

His aunt and role model, Josephine, encouraged him to fight for his life. She herself has survived several difficult diseases (including cancer) and surgeries, and took care of him for months in Chicago, until he gained some weight back and was able to walk again. Nowadays, Cano lives with her, her mother and their dogs—and he is immensely grateful with her for taking care of him, for remaining strong, for sharing her financial resources, her time and her energy. Cano is now in better shape—to the point where he is practically undetectable. In addition, he is a legal resident, and he has started working again in small temporary jobs in factories or as a waiter—flexible options that are not hard on his health.

Nonetheless, even though the virus is not the death sentence it was in the '80s, and the government helps people with HIV, he has argued it still has consequences. He has to take aggressive and expensive medications three times a day. He recently needed surgery to take away an infected fragment of his intestines. He also had to change his medications because they severely altered his digestive system. He has to deal with a list of more than 40 different pills and see which are the best for him: Some medications may cause allergic reactions or affect some organs, others are for patients with very particular characteristics, and some cannot be taken if other specific pills have been taken before. He deeply regrets not having been careful enough.

Cano is, in most ways, like most of us. He

Luis Cano.  
Photo courtesy of Cano



watches the news, goes grocery shopping, pays taxes and likes Meryl Streep, Ricky Martin, Brazilian telenovelas and Forrest Gump. But he also sees himself as a guinea pig, a statistic. He said he does not know if he should trust the pharmaceutical industry or his doctors (who he said tend to contradict among themselves).

However, Cano added that he no longer lives in denial or depression and that he enjoys life and tries to stay productive.

Cano—who feels that promiscuity is dangerous—said that real human relationships are precious, that being humble is vital, that education and information can never be enough,

that faith (in oneself, one's family and/or in a supreme force) may bring rewards and that the Latino community must keep strengthening with education.

For HIV services, visit ProjectVIDA.org; for specific legal issues, see AIDSLegal.com.

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Gregory Maire.

## PASSAGES

### Gregory Maire

BY MICHAEL HORVICH

Michael Horvich and Gregory Maire have lived and loved together in a committed, same-sex relationship for the last 40+ years. Sunday at 12 noon, Gregory Maire, diagnosed with young onset dementia/Alzheimer's and who had been living at the Lieberman Center for Health and Rehabilitation on the special memory care unit for the last 18 months, passed on to his next adventure on the other side of life as we know it.

Gregory lived with and Michael supported him through the diagnosis of young onset dementia/Alzheimer's for 12 years—and I mean they LIVED! They traveled the world, including stays

in Spain, France, several in Italy and several in Mexico. Gregory continued to be active in many charitable organizations, attended the Lyric Opera and other theater events, entertained, and spent full days enjoying Evanston, where they lived, and Chicago culture.

Gregory was not a victim of Alzheimer's; he was a hero in life. His calm, gentle, thoughtful demeanor never failed him and he gave his love to family and friends as freely and easily as ever. Recently, he developed a cough and cold that quickly developed into pneumonia. Midwest Hospice did a stellar job of keeping Gregory comfortable and supporting Michael as well in his understanding of the process of dying. Gregory's death was an easy one for him and in the fourth day of his coma, he was able to close his lips and give Michael one last kiss. There is magic in life ... and in death.

Gregory did his undergraduate work at Wesleyan University in Connecticut and he graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Harvard University. He retired from his architect and interior-designer firm, Gregory Maire Architect Ltd, in 2005. His homes and design can be seen in Chicago's Gold Coast and throughout the North Shore suburbs. His firm was the consulting architects for renovations at The Baha'i Temple in Wilmette. His international work reached as far as Saudi Arabia.

Gregory's homes range in style from modern to classical, and he was equally known for his historically accurate detail or innovative design. His work was published in a number of architecture and design magazines as well as The New York Times and The Chicago Tribune.

Earlier in his career, he was involved as a supervisor for an independent living house that is part of The Thresholds organization. In the past, both Gregory and Michael were involved with Horizons, which eventually became Center on Halsted. Gregory worked the hotline and facilitated coming-out groups. Gregory served on the board of DIFFA (Design Industry Foundation for AIDS) for many years and served as president as well. He worked *pro bono* for the

Ragdale Foundation in Lake Forest, Illinois, helping to design a disabled-accessible artist studio.

Talented and creative his entire life, painting became a relatively new venture for Gregory, and he was supported by teacher, mentor and friend Nancy Rosen. Gregory was very prolific with his work, which included abstract images, color and pattern study; he had several art shows, including one at Lincolnwood Village Town Hall Gallery and at the Lieberman Center.

Gregory was instrumental in helping create "Michael's Museum: A Curious Collection of Tiny Treasures," which went on to become a

permanent exhibit at Chicago Children's Museum on Navy Pier.

Gregory and Michael recently established the More Than Ever Education Fund (MTE), which will be administered by La Casa Norte, a non-profit supporting homeless youth and families. People who would like to make a contribution in memory of Gregory can make checks payable to La Casa Norte (MTE), 3533 W. North Ave., Chicago, IL 60647, or donate online at [www.lacasanorte.org](http://www.lacasanorte.org).

Arrangements by Cremation Society of Illinois, 773-281-5058 or [www.cremation-society.com](http://www.cremation-society.com)

## Out & Equal debuts company guidelines

Out & Equal Workplace Advocates, a non-profit dedicated to achieving LGBT workplace equality, debuted its Workplace Gender Identity and Transition Guidelines at the annual Workplace Summit, held this year in Dallas Oct. 5-8.

The publication will be available worldwide to companies seeking to fully understand how to best support their transgender and gender-diverse employees and co-workers.

The guidelines are available on the Out & Equal website (<http://www.outandequal.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/Out-Equal-Workplace-Transition-Guidelines-Full-Edition.pdf>). More than 3,000 people were slated to attend the summit.

## CAF's 30th-anniv. gala Oct. 15

The Chicago Abortion Fund (CAF) will hold its 30th-anniversary gala Thursday, Oct. 15, at 6:30 p.m. at the Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted St.

Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle will receive the Jean Peterman Access

Award, while Yamani Hernandez will be honored with the Reproductive Trailblazer Award. See <http://chicagoabortionfund.com/>.

## Positively Aware event Oct. 29

Test Positive Aware Network (TPAN) will be hosting a complimentary cocktail reception in commemoration of Positively Aware magazine's 25-plus years of HIV journalism.

The event, "Positively Aware: 25 Years and Counting," is open to the public and will take place on Thursday, Oct. 29, 6-8:30 p.m., at the Museum of Broadcast Communications, 360 N. State St.

The featured speaker for the evening will be Tony Mills, MD.

To RSVP for this free event, go to <http://www.kintera.org/AutoGen/Contact/ContactUs.asp?ievent=1146607&en=buKLI00HKaLUJaMKL9LRL6NUJJP6MStmJTI8PZIJRJaOPIb-KWKhPYImJVLgM6F>.

## Correction

In last week's issue, it should have been noted that Ron Nyswaner is the screenwriter (not director) of the movie Freeheld.

Windy City Times regrets the error.

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# viewpoints



**Dana  
RUDOLPH**

## MOMBIAN

### A change of season

I love the start of fall. It's still warm, but without the oppressive edge of summer heat. The nights are cool, and the air brings with it the smell of leaves about to change. It's my favorite time of year for bike riding, when I can pedal past the first hints of yellow and orange in the foliage and feel the change of season in my bones. We're at a seasonal change in LGBTQ equality, too, I thought to myself on a recent ride.

Marriage equality has been won, but we must now ensure our marriage rights are not curtailed through so-called "Religious Freedom Restoration Acts" in several states, which would give people the right to discriminate based on "sincerely held religious beliefs"—potentially impacting not only civil marriage licenses, but also adoption and foster care services, among other things. As we resist these bills, we must also work for the expansion of nondiscrimination laws, particularly in employment, housing, and public accommodation.

Another seasonal task will be to clarify and expand parentage laws that apply to the way we form our families, such as those related to surrogacy and de facto parentage (when a person assumes the role of a parent and holds the child out as their own). While parental rights and the need for children to have family sta-

bility have been closely linked with marriage equality, as was evident in just about every federal marriage ruling, marriage equality alone will not ensure every child is protected by legal ties to any and all parents.

This is evident in the recent case of a former couple in Maryland who planned a child together. The child was born in Washington, D.C., just a month after the city began allowing same-sex couples to marry. The new moms didn't marry for five months. They separated a year later and then divorced, and an appeals court in Maryland (where they live now) has upheld a lower court ruling saying that the nonbiological mother has no parental standing to seek visitation. A child born during a marriage is presumed to be the child of both parents, but that didn't apply here, said the court, because the child was conceived and born prior to the marriage.

This new season, too, brings with it a fresh breeze of awareness about transgender equality, as transgender advocates continue their work for nondiscrimination statutes, fair medical coverage, recognition of trans identities, and more. Back in 2014, Actor Laverne Cox graced the cover of TIME magazine with the headline "The Transgender Tipping Point." Perhaps it was—but I think things will tip further now that less of the LGBTQ community's energy will be focused on marriage.

A new season in our modern age also brings new media. I hope it continues the trend of a steady increase in LGBTQ representation across the spectrum. More and more shows feature LGBTQ characters, with an increasing range of racial diversity as well, according to GLAAD's 2015 Network Responsibility Index. Children's shows, especially for younger children, still lag that trend, however. On the day Sesame Street features a clearly LGBTQ character, then I'll know we've really made progress.

At the same time, a small but growing number of LGBTQ-inclusive children's books are de-

pecting a greater variety of family structures, gender identities, and racial diversity. Equally important, more books that are not "about" LGBTQ families—including some best-selling mainstream series—have started showing gay characters. Rick Riordan's wildly popular Percy Jackson series features a character, Nico di Angelo, who in the fourth book reveals he has a crush on protagonist Percy. Percy is straight and not interested, but remains completely accepting of his friend.

Even more unexpected, however, is representation in Dan Pilkey's popular elementary-grade series Captain Underpants, which is usually filled with the kind of sophomoric humor that makes my eyes roll. In his latest book, Captain Underpants and the Sensational Saga of Sir Stinks-A-Lot, Pilkey offers readers a glimpse of his two main characters in the future, writing, "Old George, his wife and their kids, Meena and Nik, sat on the couch, while Old Harold, his husband, and their twins, Owen and Kei, plopped down on the giant beanbag chair." It's not the set up for a joke—it's just a reasonable future for the characters. The most significant aspect of both Riordan and Pilkey's scenarios, I believe, is that they don't assume gay and straight are two separate worlds, but rather harmonious parts of the same.

A change of seasons indeed, I think to myself as I ride. On the final stretch back to my house, I do what I have loved doing since I was a kid: jam the bike into high gear and fly down a hill, seeing how far up the next hill the momentum will carry me. Inevitably, I have to pedal again, but I know I'll always make it to the top. LGBTQ advocates are carrying a lot of momentum from the marriage win. We'll have to pedal again, to be sure, but the top of the hill is in sight. It's a beautiful season for a ride.

**Dana Rudolph is the founder and publisher of Mombian (mombian.com), a GLAAD Media Award-winning blog and resource directory for LGBTQ parents.**

# letters

## Creating housing

Dear Editor:

The National LGBTQ Task Force is proud to sponsor and organize the 28th Creating Change Conference in Chicago, Jan. 20-24, 2016.

Since 1988, Creating Change has created the opportunity for thousands of committed people to develop and hone their skills, celebrate victories, build community, and to be inspired by visionaries of our LGBTQ movement and allied movements for justice and equality.

The primary goal of the Creating Change Conference is to build our movement's power from the ground up to secure our overarching goal of full equality, social justice and dignity for LGBTQ people in the United States.

As you can imagine, being part and attending the Creating Change conference is an opportunity of a lifetime.

We are writing you because we need assistance to make the Creating Change conference accessible to all community members. This

year, the Creating Change housing committee organized a community housing program to expand access to the conference. Our goal is to provide seventy-five no-cost housing options for conference presenters and attendees.

The Host Committee seeks Chicago-area housing hosts who are able to accommodate one or more Creating Change attendees in their homes. Community Housing hosts offer home hospitality to guests over Jan. 19-24, 2016. Hosts are not compensated for this act of kindness and generosity.

We ask for your assistance in providing an accommodation: a room, a bed, a couch; because it reduces the overall conference cost and increases the ability of the number of folks who can then attend. As a housing host you will be part of a larger Creating Change Host Committee community housing network and actively provide access to all community members to attend this very impactful event. Registration fees alone can be up to \$450. Travel costs vary greatly depending on distance and option. The Hilton Chicago offer a conference rate of \$139

for singles, but still may be too expensive for many.

The Creating Change Committees acknowledge the conference can be costly and offer scholarships to offset travel costs. Our response for the need for more affordable accommodations during the conference is reaching out to local community members like you.

Please take a look at our online community housing form through the link: [http://nglftf.convio.net/site/Survey?ACTION\\_REQUIRED=URI\\_ACTION\\_USER\\_REQUESTS&SURVEY\\_ID=2984&s\\_src=chhcc16site](http://nglftf.convio.net/site/Survey?ACTION_REQUIRED=URI_ACTION_USER_REQUESTS&SURVEY_ID=2984&s_src=chhcc16site) and complete the form if you can work with us.

If you would like to know more about the Creating Change Conference, visit <https://www.creatingchange.org/>.

Lynnea Karlic  
Creating Change 2016  
Community Housing Committee

# WINDY CITY TIMES

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# WINDY CITY TIMES

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Kanela's now in Streeterville.



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## 'Room' with a view

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Windy City Times reviews the production Marvin's Room.

Photo by Michael Brosilow

### BOOKS

## Gloria Steinem recounts 'Life on the Road,' legacy

BY SARAH TOCE

Decorated award-winning feminist icon Gloria Steinem hasn't released a book in over 20 years, but her new memoir *Gloria Steinem: My Life on the Road* is literally worth every second of the wait. The 81-year-old Women's Action Alliance founder is telling her own story from a uniquely different perspective—the driver's seat.

"I started the book at Hedgebrook—a writer's retreat on Whidbey Island near Seattle," she said. "Because I was on the road all the time, it meant that I worked on this book a month every summer and then didn't work on it for 11 months. It is no doubt a different book than

it would have been when I started it, but the general scope of the book was something I have always wanted to do—both because it's my life on the road and because I want to encourage the idea that on the road organizers even though we have the Internet and all the electronics in the world. Something happens when we're in a room together, as you know, that doesn't happen when you're on a screen or on a page."

Steinem's rapport with the open air extends further than an arm's reach.

"In a way, I suppose the road is to me what meditation is to sensible people," Steinem said. "It forces me to live in the present since I otherwise live totally in the future at this

point. It's so immediate and spontaneous—and unexpected."

The human interaction Steinem said she felt on the road was also unexpected.

"Given the general tenure of the press, which is to divide the country into two—into democrat or republican, right or left, for or against each issue—I'm always surprised, first of all, at how diverse views are, and secondly, how progressive they are, in fact," she said. "There's not just two views, there's six or 12, but for the most part, people are quite angered and alarmed about the division of wealth or about putting more people in prison than in any other country—or about state legislatures opposing abortion because the right wing win in Washington so now they're trying to win in state legislatures."

This broad landscape has given Steinem pause.

"I feel much better about the country from the bottom up than from the top down," she said. "Since we read about it from the top down, it's always something of a surprise when you wander around and just talk to people."

She said that one case in point involves Donald Trump and what she stated is his obvious disconnect with Middle America.

"Listen, as someone in New York who's been forced to watch Trump all these years, he is his own phenomenon," she said. "As we say in New York, he was born on first base and thinks he hit a home run. His father was enormously rich and successful. He himself has gone bankrupt four times. His name on buildings—he just leases his name. He doesn't actually build the buildings outside of New York. It's possible that people outside of New York are taking him way more seriously than he deserves."

Regarding the presidential race in 2016, Steinem sees a shoe-in.

"Hillary [Clinton] has more multiracial support than the other candidates," she said. "There's clearly nobody else in the race that has her experience, understanding or humanity. I think this time she could win. I did not think so in 2008—I thought it was too soon for a woman to win. Also, because she and Obama were identical on issues, and because Obama also represented an important first—it wasn't as dire by any means—but now it is dire."

Steinem further emphasized, "For the first year, people would say to me, 'Are you supporting Hillary or Obama?' and I would say, 'Yes.' I ultimately endorsed Hillary because she had way more experience—especially with the ultra-right wing—so I thought we could first have eight years of Hillary and then eight years of Obama, but I would be completely happy with eight years of Obama and then eight years of Hillary."

Women's reproductive rights are once again at the forefront of presidential debates as the nation gears up for 2016. Steinem recalled the

"pink flurry" that has been going on for generations.

"It [the fight over women's uteruses] will eventually come to an end," Steinem said. "It has been recognized for most of human history that women control their own bodies and decided whether and when to have children. Patriarchy, racism and all the hierarchical bullshit has been around for a long time and it's going to take a long time to uproot. Reproductive issues are at the heart of it. Reproduction is way more important than production—it should be the beginning of every economics course. You have to control reproduction in order to have soldiers and workers and so forth and to not force women to have children they don't want."

Steinem helped found the National Women's Political Caucus, a group that continues to work to advance the numbers of pro-equality women in elected and appointed office at a national and state level. She also co-founded the Women's Media Center in 2004.

"Incidentally, given the recent visit of the Pope, it's interesting that the Vatican approved of and even regulated abortion until the mid-1800s," she explained. "It only changed because Napoleon III made a deal with Pro Pius IX because Napoleon wanted more population growth and Pro Pius IX wanted the doctrine of Papal Infallibility, plus all the teaching positions in the French schools. It was a political deal and now it's treated as if it were always about morals. It's always been about power and about politics—and it still is—look where we are now in this country."

"We are majority non-European-American white country. The right wing, which bases its authority in sex and race, are in a panic because they see that this is happening. The first generation of a majority of babies of color has already been born. So they are against abortion, against contraception, against sex education in the schools, and against immigration because as the more honest of these groups—the Quiverfull movement—the white race is committing suicide, they say."

Steinem has a different viewpoint. "It seems to me to be very good that we're going to be a more diverse country—we'll understand the rest of the world better, but they have exactly the opposite view," she said. "They are in a deep struggle against abortion, sex education—everything we need to have reproductive freedom. Once we understand it's fundamental to everything else, I think we're less surprised that it continues."

After 30 years on the road, it must be frustrating.

"It is frustrating, but I am no longer saying, 'I can't believe we're fighting this battle' because it's a basic battle," she said. "Once



Gloria Steinem.  
Photo by Brian Kinyon

Turn to page 18



## THEATER REVIEW

**Ride the Cyclone**

Playwright: Book, music &amp; Lyrics by

Jacob Richmond &amp; Brooke Maxwell

At: Chicago Shakespeare Theater, Navy Pier

Tickets: 312-595-5600;

www.chicagoshakes.com;

\$30-\$48 (\$20 for under 35)

Runs through: Nov. 8

BY JONATHAN ABARBANEL

With *Ride the Cyclone*, Chicago Shakespeare Theater abandons classical drama to debut a reworked and expanded 2010 Canadian musical with a wonderful score and cheeky attitude, based on a macabre premise: six teens killed in a roller-coaster accident. There have been many real coaster disasters, but this one is fictional and timeless: It could be set in the 1950s, rather than the present, with its celebration of old-style amusement parks.

The tale is narrated by a sentient fortune-telling machine, The Amazing Karnak (nod o' the mechanical head to Johnny Carson), which predicts the date of someone's death and, therefore, isn't a family-friendly carnival attraction. Itself soon to die as a rat chews through its power cord, Karnak (the Amazing Masked Karl Hamilton) asks the newly deceased six to reveal their inner selves—which they do in a series of can-you-top-this songs—with one teen selected at the end to return to life. The style is theatrically self-referential and tongue-in-cheek, which is popular these days in shows as diverse as *Urinetown*, *Matilda* and *A Gentleman's Guide to Love & Murder*. It's a style that can be too precious, but isn't in this

**Ride the Cyclone.**

Photo by Liz Lauren

instance.

The teens include a straight-A, self-absorbed girl; the only gay boy in town; a disabled youth walking with braces (discarded once he's dead); a rapping immigrant tough-guy; a girl who's tired of being "the nicest girl in home-room;" and Jane Doe, a student decapitated in the accident and left without any ID. Their private identities are far-flung in spirit and style—the gay boy sees himself as a female French slut, the disabled boy as a great alien lover, Jane Doe as someone with a name and family—thereby inspiring an excellent pas-

sage pop musical score (music director Doug Peck, orchestrations Brooke Maxwell). The six teens—Karnak doesn't sing—perform the hell out of the spirited tunes, which channel rap, R&B, close-harmony, pseudo-folk and "Up With People" pep, among other musical flourishes. "The Ballad of Jane Doe" tops them all, the show's only slow song in 3/4 time, with coloratura embellishments (beautifully sung by Emily Rohm, with orchestral obbligato).

The score, performances and staging (directed and choreographed by Rachel Rockwell, whose mastery of musical theater continues to

grow) are top-notch but there isn't much depth here—it's more a series of solo spots—which may stand between *Ride the Cyclone* and a big future for this off-beat 90-minute show. The six victims are only randomly connected by all being members of a high school choir on holiday. Still, they are played with exceptional pizzazz by Rohm, Tiffany Tatreau, Lillian Castillo, Jackson Evans, Kholby Wardell and Russell Mernagh. Brilliant design work is present all around, too. Who remembers Riverview and "The Bobs?"

## THEATER REVIEW

**The Cheats**

Playwright: Hamish Linklater

At: Steep Theatre, 1115 W. Berwyn Ave.

Tickets: 866-811-4111

or www.steeptheatre.com; \$25-\$35

Runs through Nov. 7

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

Actor/playwright Hamish Linklater must have a thing for bears. Or at least using bears for audiences to puzzle over their symbolic meaning in his world premiere comic drama *The Cheats* for Steep Theatre.

Before *The Cheats* begins, Chelsea Warren's cozy upscale living room set with adjoining

terrace and views of palm trees through the window instantly suggests a wealthy home in California (which has a bear on its state flag). Then later there's a conversation between the married couple of professional actress Anne (Kendra Thulin) and teacher John (Peter Moore) about their across-the-way neighbor's cursive "B" ball cap (a vintage Chicago Bears football logo).

And then there's that neighbor himself that John has so obsessively been spying on while taking smoke breaks out on the terrace. Jonathan (Brad Akin) is a bearish and laconic film gaffer who owns an oversize dog that often gets loose whose name is, you guessed it, "Bear."

But as the plot unfolds on this midweek Halloween morning, it turns out that both Anne and John have previously encountered Jonathan and his wife, Susie (Julia Siple), and have guarded reasons why they haven't made a unified effort to reach out to their neighbors. So when Jonathan barges into their home, his alternately sad and menacing presence upends

**The Cheats.**

Photo by Gregg Gilman

the stable relationship between John and Anne as gnawing secrets and personal tragedies get forced out into the open.

Now some might find Linklater straining a bit too hard to make the plot mechanics of *The Cheats* work via so much coincidence and odd character choices—even though he says in the program notes that the play was inspired by real events. Yet *The Cheats* is more than re-

deemed by Linklater's astute observations of the banalities of everyday conversation and what people try to conceal when uncomfortable truths are pushed too close to the surface.

Director Joanie Schultz has found a cast that works very well to bring Linklater's vision to life. Akin's Jonathan in particular proves to be very fascinating as his manly and lumbering bearish presence changes the whole easygoing husband-wife dynamic of Thulin's Anne and Moore's John. The actors also do a great job of highlighting the class differences that Linklater brings up between the couples and how they take divergent approaches to mourning.

Now with *The Cheats*, Linklater could be commenting on how many married couples' animalistic natures are constantly wearing away at a monogamous façade. That's because in addition to all of the aforementioned bear references, there's also prominent and comical appearances of famous porcine characters from pop culture in the play, too. So in addition to all the bears, watch out for pigs in *The Cheats*, too.

## CRITICS' PICKS



**Disgraced**, Goodman Theatre, through Oct. 18. Wealthy New York attorney Amir Kapoor has changed his name to distance himself from his Moslem identity. A perfect storm—not all of his making—engulfs him when he's challenged as to who he is and what he believes in a production with lovely, centered performances. JA

**Funnyman**, Northlight Theatre, Skokie, extended through Oct. 25. Bruce Graham provides a great vehicle for actors George Wendt and Tim Kazurinsky to respectively play an aging comedian and his loyal agent as they face up to a changing entertainment landscape. SCM

**Sucker Punch**, Victory Gardens Theater, through Oct. 18. Roy Williams' searing portrait of South London slums during the Thatcher years focuses on a shabby boxing gym populated by passion-fueled pilgrims who fight in and out of the ring. MSB

**The Tempest**, Chicago Shakespeare Theater, through Nov. 8. Aaron Posner and Teller's adaptation of Shakespeare's lost-on-a-desert-island fantasy boasts so much kaleidoscopic dazzle that you'll want to see it twice, but you only have time to see it once, so don't wait. MSB

—By Abarbanel, Barnidge and Morgan

## THEATER REVIEW

**The (curious case of the) Watson Intelligence**

Playwright: Madeleine George

At: Theater Wit, 1229 W. Belmont Ave.

Tickets: 773-975-8150;

www.theaterwit.org; \$12-\$36

Runs through: Nov. 14

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

After the medley of ringtones spanning a century that signals the start of Madeleine George's new play, listen closely to the characters' names. It will postpone, if not altogether prevent, your contracting cognitive vertigo later on.

First—though not in order of appearance—there is Victorian industrialist-innovator Merrick, who longs for science to build him the perfect wife, and there is the presumably "imperfect" Mrs. Merrick, who worries about her husband's sanity. We also meet a Merrick run-

ning for public office in 2011, and his ex-wife Eliza, who is finishing work on a computerized android designed to serve as a service/comfort companion to the physically and/or emotionally impaired. Finally, we have four men who share a common cognomen: a) Dr. John Watson, chronicler of the legendary detective Sherlock Holmes, b) Thomas Watson, assistant to Alexander Graham Bell, inventor of the telephone, c) Josh Watson, the Dweeb Team tech that politician-Merrick hires to snoop on his former spouse, d) Eliza's prototype cuddly-buddy robot Watson, called so in homage to the superstar AI computer that kicked its flesh-and-blood opponents' butts on *Jeopardy*, the popular game show.

Playgoers unnerved at the prospect of careening through Stoppardian time-travels will be relieved to find their road that of a romantic comedy premised on foolish lovers yearning for the ideal mate, only to suffer existential cramps when granted their wish. Think for a minute—what if your partner could foresee your every desire, sometimes before you, yourself, register its existence? Would you be content to allow them to monitor

your moods or would such transparency render you vulnerable beyond the limits of your tolerance? Would freedom from the burdens of quotidian decisions impel you to accomplish more or lull you into comfortable passivity? Would you soon succumb to nostalgia for the endearing, if challenging, flaws that make us human?

As the author of *Seven Homeless Mammoths Wander New England* has noted before, this dilemma is nothing new, hearkening back to the myth of Pygmalion and Galatea. Revolutionary discoveries require genius, it's true, but as Tom Watson reminds us, earth-shattering deeds are rendered possible only with the help of numerous sidemen, backers, shleppers, fixers and hand-patters with identities now lost to history. Director Jeremy Wechsler has long recognized this wisdom (the cornerstone of all communal projects, including theater itself) and guides Joe Foust, Kristina Valada-Viars, Joe Dempsey and a legerdemanic creative staff in the lightning-transformative twists and turns of George's *Big Ideas Writ Small* with never a stumble or misstep.





**Marvin's Room.**  
Photo by Michael Brosilow

## THEATER REVIEW

### Marvin's Room

**Playwright:** Scott McPherson  
**At:** Shattered Globe Theatre  
at Theater Wit, 1229 W. Belmont Ave.  
**Tickets:** 773-975-8150;  
[www.theaterwit.org](http://www.theaterwit.org); \$33  
**Runs through:** Nov. 14

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

There are these two sisters, you see: Bessie is a fortyish spinster sharing a house with two elderly relatives, one of them bedridden after suffering a stroke 20 years earlier, the other mobile only through the grace of cyborg science. In stark contrast to this selfless nurturer devoted to the welfare of others is younger sibling Lee, who long ago fled the homestead to marry a romantic wastrel proving as deficient in parenting skills as his empathy-impaired wife. Bessie's contracting leukemia mandates three generations reuniting—but who will take care of her?

If you've never faced this kind of crisis personally, don't try to imagine your response. Medical progress and an aging baby-boomer demographic portend an increasing segment of our nation's population living with infirmities—numbers soon exceeding the available nurses needed to provide the attention they will require. Given the filial diaspora engendered by exhortations to individual independence fostered in the 1960s and '70s, Scott McPherson's optimistic portrait of a clan coming to the aid of its ailing kin nowadays seems—though perhaps not altogether fairy-tale fantastical—a

trifle idealistic, nonetheless.

This doesn't mean that McPherson's inept and/or unwilling tribe embraces its challenges eagerly—least of all the afflicted Bessie herself, whose reluctance to relinquish her managerial status makes for domestic upheaval no less problematic as the hesitation of her potential caregivers to assume responsibility for a bevy of adult dependents.

Plays dealing with these uncomfortable themes often take the easy road of amplifying the pathos of the situation or, alternatively, mining the icky minutiae of failing body functions for sitcom-slapstick giggles. Under the expert guidance of Sandy Shinner (who directed the premiere production in 1990), however, a cast led by Shattered Globe founding members Linda Reiter and Rebecca Jordan deliver unhurried text-based performances illuminating the human spirit dwelling even in the infantilized Marvin, whom we see only in shadow behind a screen, but who waves his arms and grunts in delight at the simple magic of a blinking flashlight.

Autobiography inevitably fades over time. Playgoers in 2015 do not concern themselves with whether Aristophanes wrote *Lysistrata* to impress a girl or Aphra Behn quarreled with her husband before penning *The Rover*. We may recall McPherson composing the play that would become his legacy while battling his own AIDS symptoms and those of his life partner, who would soon succumb to that then-fatal disease. However, audiences centuries hence will see only a warm-hearted parable of confronting mortality with courage, serenity and—yes, humor—surrounded by the unconditional love of loyal companions.

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Photo of Holger Badekow/Hamburg Ballet



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BOOK REVIEW

## Stonewall: Breaking Out in the Fight for Gay Rights

by Ann Bausum  
\$16.99; Viking; 120 pages  
BY TERRI SCHLICHENMEYER

Your favorite hangout isn't all that fancy. It's comfortable, though: you've got places to sit, flat surfaces for your stuff, and your friends are always around. Best of all, nobody says you can't be there; everybody's welcome all the time. It wasn't always that way, though, as you'll see in *Stonewall: Breaking Out in the Fight for Gay Rights*, by Ann Bausum.

There was a full moon that night, and it was hot.

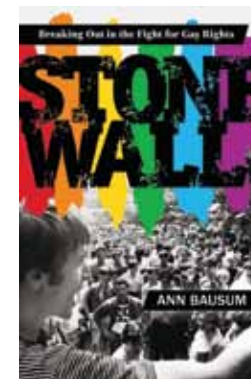
Not hot like you'd describe a person but "bestly hot," weather-wise—and it was hotter inside New York's Stonewall Inn.

For years, it'd been illegal in many cities to dance with someone of the same sex. With a few rare exceptions, being gay could get you fired from work, rejected by family, and generally ostracized; if you were a man wearing women's clothing, you could be arrested immediately. But the Stonewall allowed dancing, drinking, cross-dressing, and the police looked the other way because, says Bausum, the Mafia had ties to the Stonewall and bribes kept things running.

By June 1969, this covert freedom started causing problems: "closeted homosexuals" involved in an international bond scandal were spotted at the Stonewall by "organized crime operatives" with blackmail on their minds. The New York police department was ordered to close down the Stonewall. In the hot early morning hours of June 28, they raided the packed bar.

It didn't go well. As partiers and staff were arrested, a crowd

began to form to taunt police—and it grew as people ran to pay phones to call friends. Some of those arrested were freed; others were roughly handled. Bausum says that one of the latter, a lesbian, asked the crowd if they were going to do anything about it—and they did.



At first, pocket change rained down on the police, then pebbles, stones, bottles, and burning containers. Some of the officers took refuge inside the bar, awaiting back-up that

didn't arrive for nearly an hour as two thousand people raged on the streets. Riot crews eventually showed up, and were mocked.

The unrest, says Bausum, lasted several nights—but what lasted longer was that lesbians and gay men suddenly knew that they weren't alone.

Although it can become somewhat florid for the sake of drama, *Stonewall* is a nicely surprising book filled with history that few younger people may know.

The surprise comes in what author Bausum shares, which seems tame by today's news, perhaps even quaint: nobody was seriously hurt, and the single death was accidental and barely related. That almost made me afraid readers might forget that the riot marked the coalescence of activism for gay rights, but Bausum anecdotally reminds us repeatedly of Stonewall's importance. She then goes on to look at activism at other times in LGBT history.

This book is meant for teen readers ages 12 and up, but it might be a challenge for those on the younger end and it certainly can be enjoyed by adults unfamiliar with this event. If that's you, then *Stonewall* is rock-solid.

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# KNIGHT at the movies



BY RICHARD KNIGHT, JR.

## Chicago Internat'l Film Festival: LGBT highlights

The 51st anniversary of the Chicago International Film Festival is being celebrated as the fest kicks off Thursday, Oct. 15, with the Chicago premiere of the wacky French-Italian comedy *Mia Madre*, from actor-director Nanni Moretti—a movie that stars John Turturro (who are both expected to attend the gala red-carpet event).

The fest, which continues through Oct. 29, includes 13 entries in the festival's LGBT-themed section called Out-Look. Several of those, along with a vintage screening of particular note, are highlighted below:

**Carmin Tropical**—Director Rigoberto Perezcano's second feature is an intriguing variation on the typical murder mystery—and this one is set in Juchitan, a southern Mexican town that's home to a community of people who consider themselves *muxe* (mixed gender). Mabel, who is also *muxe* and has spent years away pursuing a career as a nightclub entertainer, returns when she learns of the disappearance of her friend Dani, another member of the trans community. But the police don't seem to get anywhere with their investigation, so Mabel decides to do a little investigating, with a sympathetic cab driver helping her. Though marred by a

voiceover that soon wears out its welcome, the final sequence is a doozy. In Spanish. Screening Oct. 17, 20, 23

**Carol**—The long-awaited film adaptation of Patricia Highsmith's classic 1952 novel of lesbian passion *The Price of Salt* is finally here. And the movie—scripted by Phyllis Nagy, directed by queer auteur Todd Haynes (*I'm Not There*, *Velvet Goldmine*) and starring Cate Blanchett and Rooney Mara as the mismatched lovers—sounds sensational. Returning to the artificial 1950s milieu he so brilliantly created in his 2002 masterpiece *Far From Heaven*, Haynes' film has received raves at its previous festival screenings. A CIFF Special Presentation screening will take place Oct. 28; Haynes is expected to attend.

**Eisenstein in Guanajuato**—Peter Greenaway—the English filmmaking provocateur most renowned for his controversial 1989 indie sensation *The Cook, The Thief, His Wife and Her Lover*—returns with his latest sensual broadside, a biopic about Russia's premiere filmmaker Sergei Eisenstein (*Battleship Potemkin*). When Eisenstein (Finnish actor Elmer Back) travels to Mexico to make a movie in 1931, he falls in love with his male guide, who takes his virginity and reinvigorates his creativity in the process. The movie's filmed with all the signature, audacious Greenway visual flourishes and copious amounts of full-frontal nudity. In English and Spanish. Screening on Oct. 27, 28

**Funny Girl**—Barbra Streisand cemented her superstardom, winning the Oscar along the way, with her 1968 film debut in William Wyler's old-fashioned musical biopic about legendary Ziegfeld Follies comedienne and singer Fanny Brice, whose bright stage persona masked the heartbreak she was suffering offstage when her marriage to chronic gambler Nicky Arnstein (the luscious Omar Sharif) went on the rocks. The stirring score includes "People," "Don't Rain on My Parade," "I'm the Greatest Star" and Brice's own signature song, "My Man." A restored print will be shown. Screening Oct. 17

**Henry Gamble's Birthday Party**—Chicago



James Franco, for his role in *I Am Michael*. Instagram photo

writer-director Stephen Cone again ponders faith and homosexuality, the same turf he explored in his critically acclaimed 2011 feature *The Wise Kids*. This time out, it's not just the teens who are questioning but their parents, too. It's 17-year-old Henry's birthday and it's pretty clear that the birthday boy (winningly portrayed by the adorable Cole Doman) is gay. However, whether he's ready to declare that to the world—let alone himself—is just one of the issues touched upon during the long afternoon and evening of the pool party attended by both friends and parents.

There are a lot of other troubled folks on hand and, as the party progresses (and a bottle of illicit wine gets drunk), secrets are revealed and lives are irrevocably changed. Although a tad melodramatic, Cone's sure touch with his actors (including a bunch from the Chicago theatrical community) is always a pleasure. Cone will attend the screenings Oct. 22, 23 and 24.

**I Am Michael**—James Franco plays gay again, this time as one-time gay-rights activist Michael Glatze, who renounced his homosexuality and became a conservative Christian and "ex-gay" therapist. Zachary Quinto plays Franco's long-suffering boyfriend Bennett in this true-life drama, based on a New York Times magazine article. Charlie Carver co-stars as the

boy toy who moves in with the couple, American Horror Story/Scream Queens actor Emma Roberts is the conservative Christian woman Michael eventually falls for, Lesley Ann Warren plays Michael's mother and Daryl Hannah plays a Buddhist monk. With this offbeat cast, out director Justin Kelly has the makings of the juiciest of biopics.

Although the film has its diverting moments at the outset, ultimately it's oddly flat and distant—owing perhaps to Kelly's insistence on handling Michael's transition so gingerly, apparently determined not to take sides. And for all of Michael's hand-wringing, the script never really gets beyond a surface explanation for his abrupt—and rather suspect—about-face. The film's greatest sin, though, is that we don't care much about Michael—gay or straight. Screening on Oct. 24, 27

**Women He Undressed**—From award-winning Australian director Gillian Armstrong (*My Brilliant Career*) comes this glitzy portrait of the celebrated costume designer Orry-Kelly, who hailed from tiny Kiama, Australia, and rose to the top of his profession, dressing generations of film icons from Ingrid Bergman to Marilyn Monroe to Shirley MacLaine, winning three Oscars in the process.

A gay man in a world where "gay" didn't exist, this exuberant, gossipy portrait of Kelly and Hollywood fashions through the decades also lifts back the curtain on the unspoken sexual politics of showbiz, from Marlene Dietrich to Cary Grant, who (according to Kelly's own unreleased memoirs) was his one-time lover. Lacking any documentary footage, Armstrong comes up with a dazzling solution: Hire actors to stand in for the droll raconteur Kelly and many of his famous colleagues and place them in artfully created simulations of the high-points of his storied life. The result is a colorful and delightfully entertaining exception to the usual talking-head documentary. Screening on Oct. 23, Oct. 28.

See [www.chicagofilmfestival.com](http://www.chicagofilmfestival.com).



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Suspense.  
Obsession.  
Abduction.

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## STEINEM from page 13

women seize control of the means of reproduction...it even sounds radical, doesn't it? Then in the long-term it's no longer possible to control the number of workers and citizens, nor is it possible to keep races separate—or castes as in India or classes—you don't control them."

Steinem told us what she anticipates her legacy might contain.

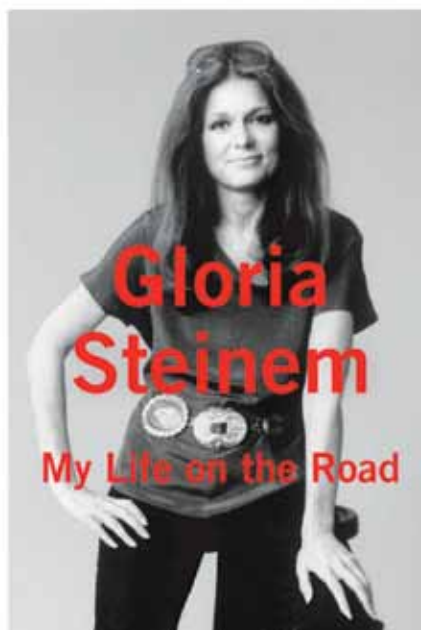
"I just hope I have said something or lived in a way that is useful," she said. "When I was thirtysomething, I wouldn't have believed that you and I would be talking about the same things that I am when I'm eightysomething. This country doesn't quite understand that you stay the same person—more or less. Not exactly the same, it's kind of like Russian dolls... our child self is there, and then our 20s self and our 30s self."

If you ask Steinem, life actually begins at 60. "I would not have believed that life after,

say, 60 ... I mean, 60 really began a great period because you are past the gendered part, or the part in which they try to make us be gendered from teenage to fiftysomething," she said. "In the same way that you, too, had the experience of being more free when you were seven or eight or nine and climbing trees saying, 'I know what I want.' Then adolescence descended upon us and we were pushed by society to behave in certain ways because of reproduction and because society is trying to get you to play a particular role in that period of time. But after 60, you're free again. It's like you're nine or 10 again—only now you have your own apartment. It's great. I would like people to know that."

**Steinem will appear with Roxane Gay at an event hosted by Chicago's Women & Children First on Thursday, Oct. 29, at The People's Church, 941 W. Lawrence Ave. Tickets are officially sold out for this event.**

**For more information about Gloria Steinem, visit <http://www.gloriasteinem.com>.**



**Tchindas.**  
Photo by  
Doble  
Banda

## Reeling announces festival winners

Reeling: The Chicago LGBTQ+ International Film Festival has announced its jury- and audience-award winners. They are:

—Narrative features: *Fourth Man Out* (Film), Ellen Page (Best Actress, for *Freeheld*) and the male ensemble in *Beautiful Something* (Best Actor)

—Documentary features: *Tchindas* (Best Documentary Feature Film) and *A Sinner in Mecca* (Documentary Activism Award)

—Audience awards: *In the Turn* (Audience Award for Best Documentary Feature) and *Freeheld* (Audience Award for Best Narrative Feature)

—Short films: *Showboy*, *Ma/ddy* and *big Time: My Doodled Diary* (Jury Award for Best Narrative Short (Golden, Silver and Bronze Reel, respectively)); *Tomgirl*, *11 Life Lessons from an Awesome Old Dyke* and *Gonna Sip That Sip*, *Hit That Dip: The Emerging Queer Hip-Hop Movement* (Jury Award for Best Documentary Short (Golden, Silver and Bronze Reel, respectively)); and *Bittersweet*, *Happy & Gay* and *Rites* (Jury Award for Best Best Animated/Experimental Short (Golden, Silver and Bronze Reel, respectively))

Visit [www.reelingfilmfestival.org](http://www.reelingfilmfestival.org).

## 'I Am the Queen' out on DVD, On Demand

Four women preparing for a transgender beauty pageant in Chicago's Humboldt Park, a predominantly Puerto Rican community, share their unique stories, in *I Am the Queen*.

The 75-minute documentary, co-directed by Henrique Cirne-Lima and Josue Pellot, was an official selection at the Chicago Latino Film Festival and is now out DVD and On Demand platforms.

*I Am The Queen* follows Bianca, Julissa and Jolizza as they prepare for the *Vida/SIDA Cacicca* Pageant under the guidance of Ginger Valdez, an experienced transgender mentor from the neighborhood. These trans women share stories of their transition, their relatives' varying reactions, and how they find support from within the community.

## Homolatte's anniv. show Oct. 20

Homolatte—called the longest-running queer-performance series in the country—will mark its 15th anniversary Tuesday, Oct. 20, at Big Chicks, 5024 N. Sheridan Rd., at 7:30 p.m.

The event (which Scott Free hosts and Lars von Keitz co-produces) will feature Congress of Starlings, Robert McDonald, Deb R. Lewis, Carrie Lydon and Dave Awl.

Homolatte started in October 2000 at the Willow Cafe on Thorndale Avenue, and was originally called "Grinder," as the owner thought "Homolatte" was too strong a name.

See [Homolatte.com](http://Homolatte.com).

IF THIS WAS A REAL KID ON THE STREETS, WOULD YOU HAVE EVEN NOTICED?

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# BILLY Masters

"You don't need to go to church to be a Christian. If you go to Taco Bell, that doesn't make you a taco."—Justin Bieber shares a bit of philosophy with the world. I think this may be from the Gospel According To Cheech. Or was it Chong?

Graham Norton recently bemoaned his single status in the UK press: "I would like to go out with someone my own age, but that seems impossible. Gay men my age don't want to date someone their age." Those gay men interested in younger guys apparently include Graham himself. The 52-year-old comedian's most recent relationship was a six-month stint with music exec Andrew Smith, who is 36. Perhaps the age gap was just a fluke. In 2013, Graham ended a two-year relationship with Canadian software designer Trevor Patterson. At the time of their breakup, Graham was 50 and Trevor was 30. Hmmm.

Normally, I wouldn't tackle a nude celebrity so early in the column, but how can I avoid Justin's beaver? The first shocker is that Bieber actually has a penis. Not only that, but it's kinda substantial—I mean, I wouldn't be bragging about it, but I also wouldn't be ashamed of it. Bieber's somewhat-estranged dad posted this on Twitter: "@justinbieber what do you feed that thing. #proud daddy :-)" If Justin's actually looking for a proud daddy, I think Graham Norton is available.

Justin's apparently not thrilled about his penis going public. His legal team is trying to squelch the pics and has started sending out cease-and-desist letters. This is exactly what you DON'T do if there is an alleged photo of you floating around. I taught this lesson to a notable television host when his ponderous appendage went public (courtesy of moi). If you ask for the photos to be taken down, you are admitting they are legit and just feeding the flame—as it were. For the time being, I'll continue to bring you every inch of Bieber on BillyMasters.com.

Many of my fans are quite smitten with Dancing with the Stars competitor **Alek Skarlatos**, one of three military men who thwarted a terrorist attack on a train in Paris. While we don't know much about the 22-year-old's sex life, one of his comrades from that train attack is in the news. **Spencer Stone** was out with four friends at Badlands, a popular gay nightclub in Sacramento. (It should be noted that this happened on a Wednesday night, when the club has quite a large straight crowd.) After leaving the club, his group was accosted by some other people on the street. While defending a female friend, Stone was reportedly stabbed multiple times by two men who fled in a Toyota Camry. While authorities are trying to piece together what happened, doctors worked diligently on Stone, who is expected to make a complete recovery.

**Meredith Vieira** and her panel of guests were discussing Ashley Judd's revelation that she'd been sexually harassed by a studio exec. **Lance Bass** said, "This also happens to men, too. I mean, it's a two-way street. It has happened to me. When I was 16, 17 years old, when we started, there was someone that we worked with that was inappropriately touching us. And I was even aware then, at 16, that this guy was a pedophile and he was touching me oddly. But I didn't feel victimized at the time because I was very aware of it." When asked if he ever spoke up, Bass said, "No, I mean, with the guys, we would talk about it. We'd kinda joke about it, but it's not a joking thing. But as a kid, I dunno,



Justin Bieber shows and tells.

it was just odd. But I'm glad that we were aware of it and we didn't feel victimized at the time." Is there anyone who doesn't think he's talking about Lou Pearlman? He might want to compare notes with Nick Carter.

Although I had a busy schedule, I managed to attend some of the Gay Days festivities in Anaheim. En route to the VIP cocktail party, I ran into the fabulous **Frank DeCaro** and his equally fabulous spouse, Jim Colucci. Once at the swanky soiree, I immediately found myself surrounded by **Alec Mapa, Ben Baur, Derek Hartley, Michael Urie, Jai Rodriguez, Emerson Collins, Blake McIver, Ronnie Kroell** and oodles of others. Most of us headed over to the Kingdom dance party, where the capacity crowd danced to the beat of the DJ extraordinaire, **Kimberly S.** For me, the highlight of the evening was **Well-Strung's** performance. These guys never disappoint—and their new CD, *POPssical*, is now available on their website Well-Strung.com.

A gay escort in England has been sentenced to 32 months in jail after blackmailing a client. The hooker, **John Walker**, had been paid \$3K to have sex and take drugs with a 49-year-old businessman last February. The next day, Walker texted the guy a photo of them in the hotel room, adding, "Ring me or I will call your wife." Walker demanded roughly \$4,500, which the victim wired into his account. Apparently that wasn't enough, because Walker then sent the wife a video of her husband wearing women's lingerie. The businessman came clean to his wife and sued Walker. In ruling against Walker, the judge said, "The complainant had been generous to you and that made you greedy. You embarked on a scheme to obtain money from him."

Lastly, we hear that **Valerie Harper** is not doing well. Ever since she collapsed backstage at the Ogunquit Playhouse in August, Harper has not been seen in public. In fact, the only word from her has been a post on social media refuting reports that she was in a coma. No one has had any direct contact with the beloved actress, leading people to believe that the post was not written by Harper at all, but by her husband, manager Tony Cacciotti. Our sources indicate that Harper's medical condition is grave. We're keeping her in our thoughts.

When I'm simultaneously too young and too old for Graham Norton, it's time to end yet another column. For the latest gossip, check out [www.BillyMasters.com](http://www.BillyMasters.com), the site that is old enough to know better. If you've got a question for me, send it along to [Billy@BillyMasters.com](mailto:Billy@BillyMasters.com), and I promise to get back to you before Bieber shows Graham his chalupa! Until next time, remember, one man's filth is another man's bible.



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# the DISH

Weekly Dining Guide in  
WINDY CITY TIMES

## Kanela Streeterville

BY SEBASTIAN SAENZ

Abandoning the warm blankets for a quick shower and the chaotic rush hours (especially if it's cold outside) is a major issue for non-morning people. A cure, however, has been discovered: a pleasing meal at **Kanela Breakfast Club-Streeterville** (500 N. Lake Shore Dr.; kanelabreakfastclub.com).

This newest Kanela location offers the same experience in terms of efficient and warm service as well as price/quality relationship as the other venues all over the Windy City. Patrons are able to get a vast breakfast (from 6 a.m. Mon.-Fri.), friends can meet for a delicious brunch and nine-to-fivers even have a late lunch alternative (until 3:30 p.m.). Conveniently located close to the busy Navy Pier, wise guests should be careful to plan their visit, particularly during weekends. Tables on the sidewalk and glass walls welcome growling stomachs to a friendly place.

Kanela's decor combines harmoniously the cozy atmosphere of wooden design with a trendy taste. The open kitchen does not make it any easier to



resist the scents, and the soft contemporary rock music soothes the ambience, allowing everyone to talk comfortably. Even the toilets are neat.

Here comes the tricky part: deciding. The extensive menu includes starters, coffees and juices, non-fat Greek yogurt smoothies, cocktails, savory dishes with eggs in almost any style, soups, salads, sandwiches, plenty of vegetarian plates and sins for those with a sweet tooth. (There's also a catering menu.)

The Skin Revive juice might be a tad acidic, but it is perfect to wake someone up thanks to its components of kale, pineapple, cucumber and lemon. However, for the ones who rather have a sweeter drink, the Strawberry-Orange juice blend might be a better choice.

As for the food, starting with the moist and sweet monkey bread with kanela, honey butter and walnuts will stimulate anyone's appetite (and sharing might be smart). The buttermilk-fried chicken and waffles—complete with sunny side up eggs,



The chicken and waffles (left) and exterior of Kanela Streeterville.

Photos by Andrew Davis

sriracha honey sauce and fresh fruit on the side—is very substantial and good, if not great.

The dish consisting of eggs over housemade chorizo with Chihuahua cheese—along with toast with strawberry jam, potatoes and fresh avocado on the side—is recommended for those who also enjoy spicy salsa verde. And in case anyone has room, the sticky Nutella S'Mores Waffle—with its crushed Graham crackers, caramelized marshmallows and chocolate sauce—will probably force the guests to ask for a wheelbarrow to transport themselves from the premises.

An extra cardio session is worth trying the good, tasty and affordable Kanela.

## nightspots the big TO-DO

OUR WEEKLY PICKS TO PLAN  
YOUR NIGHTLIFE CALENDAR



Miller Lite presents:  
Night of 100 Drag Queens:  
Queens At Play

Wed., Oct. 21  
& Thu., Oct. 22

Sidetrack, 3349 N. Halsted St.

Ferocious, fierce and fabulous queens from all over the state will be taking the Sidetrack stage for a production like no other to benefit Equality Illinois. This year's theme is Queens at Play. This year's performers celebrate games, dolls, toys, and all things play-ful with large production numbers featuring sexy dancers and outrageous costumes. For over 20 years, Chicago's longest-running drag benefit has celebrated the campy, the beautiful, the avant-garde and the just plain "sickening" Chicago drag community and Equality Illinois at Sidetrack.

Directed by Jeffrey Lynch and hosted by Dixie Lynn Cartwright and Alexis Bevels, Night of 100 Drag Queens features a who's-who of Chicago drag, including Chicago's own RuPaul's Drag Race favorites Dida Ritz, Monica Beverly Hillz (pictured at last year's event; photo by Kirk Williamson) and Jade Sotomayor. A special VIP reception allows you in early to grab the best seats in the house and enjoy the beautiful and hilarious Tequila Mockingbird as she sings live for your entertainment.

Two nights only: Wednesday, October 21, and Thursday, October 22, 2015.

VIP tickets are \$20 per person in advance or \$25 at the door. Doors open for VIP reception at 7 p.m.

General admission tickets are \$15 per person in advance and at the door. Doors open for general admission at 8 p.m.

Tickets are available online at [www.sidetrackchicago.com](http://www.sidetrackchicago.com) or can be purchased at Sidetrack.

—from a press release



## HYDRATE

Miss Richfield 1981 opens her big mouth, Friday, October 9.

Photos by Jerry Nunn



## TOUCHE

Hangin' during American Brotherhood Weekend.

Photos by Kirk Williamson



## RICKY MARTIN @ ALLSTATE ARENA

Many bon-bons were shaken, Sunday, October 11.

Photos by Jerry Nunn



## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

## Wed., Oct. 14

**Genderqueer Chicago** A grassroots group that works to create safe spaces for everyone to talk about, think about, explore and express gender. 7:00pm - 8:15pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted St.

**Aon forum on trans inclusion** Panel discussion on transgender inclusion in the workplace. Continental breakfast and networking session will take place 9:30-10 am., with a discussion/presentation at 10 am.-12 pm. LGBTQ-rights advocate and OUT & Equal board member Lori Fox will moderate the panel and present OUT & Equal's newly released "Workplace Gender Identity and Transition Guidelines." 10:00am - 12:00pm Indiana Room of the Aon Center, 200 E. Randolph St., Tickets: <http://SurveyMonkey.com/r/CWPAON>.

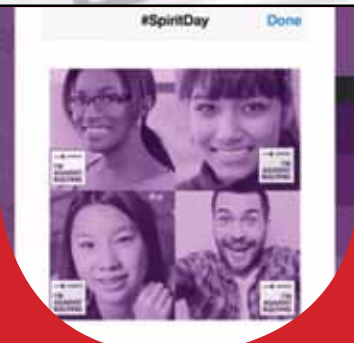
**A City Divided: Reimagining the Future of Race in Chicago** Chicago is one of the most diverse cities in the U.S. and the most segregated. Experts, including Natalie Moore, South Side Reporter for WBEZ, discuss Chicago's past, present and future. 12:00pm - 1:00pm Joffrey Tower, 10 E. Randolph St., Chicago <https://www.chicagoideas.com/events/597> Tickets: <https://www.chicagoideas.com/events/597>

## Thursday, Oct. 15

**Open Gym Volleyball** Every Monday and Thursday for 18 and over. All gender and experience levels welcome. Cost \$7/night or \$30/month. 6:00pm - 9:00pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted Chicago

**Queer Tango** A beginner and intermediate Argentine Tango class designed specifically for the LGBTQ communities led by Paola Borden (Second Place winner at the USA Championships for Argentine Tango in 2015). \$15. 7:00pm - 9:00pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted Chicago

**Girl Scouts** Girl Scouts serve all girls regard-

IN THE SPIRIT  
Thursday, Oct. 15

Many images are expected to go purple for Spirit Day, which supports LGBT youth. Image from GLAAD's website

less of race, religion, sexual orientation, national origin, economic status, or disability. Girl Scouts meeting are free, but fees may be required for supplies and uniforms. No one will be turned away if fees are not possible or reasonable for your family and interested scout. 6:15pm - 8:30pm Center on Halsted, 3656 N Halsted St.

**Knocking Up The Mob - Play** When a mildly effeminate, insecure, black, gay man impregnates an Italian mafia princess, he must convince her King pin father that he is straight or end up sleeping with the fishes. Gay Black playwright Rick Watkins wrote the production. Through Nov. 8.

Green House Theater 8:00pm - 10:00pm 2257 N. Lincoln Ave, Chicago, IL, (773) 404-7336 773-404-7336 <http://rickwatkinsproductions.com> Tickets: <http://rickwatkinsproductions.com>

**Millions to "go purple" on social media** Confront bullying as GLAAD launches #SpiritDay app in support of LGBT youth 10:00pm Online <http://www.glaad.org/releases/millions-%E2%80%9Cgo-purple%E2%80%9D-social-media-oct-15-confront-bullying>

## Friday, Oct. 16

**Bisexual Queer Alliance Chicago** Current and former board members will be joining to reflect on the organization and its history. In honor of LGBT history month, it's time to talk about Chicagoland bi history. 5:00pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted Chicago <http://www.centeronhalsted.org>

**By Women for Women - Center on Halsted's Women's Action Committee** A masquerade evening of music, drinks, and dancing. Performances by CoverGirls and Passistas Samba Dance Troupe, awards to be presented to: Rep. Kelly Cassidy and past owners of Women and Children First Bookstore, Linda Bubon and Ann Christophersen. Tickets \$65 online, \$85 at the door. 6:00pm - 11:00pm Greenhouse Loft, 2545 W. Diversey Ave, Chicago, IL 773-472-6469 Tickets: <https://community.centeronhalsted.org/BWFW>

**Man Cave** A peer lead group for individuals that were assigned female at birth (AFAB) AND ALSO who identify as either: FtM (female-to-male), trans\*masculine, genderqueer/non-conforming and masculine, or who are questioning their gender. We seek to provide a safer space for meeting, discussing, socializing, providing eldership, and the building of community. Free. 6:30pm - 8:30pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted

**Indigo Girls** Emily Saliers and Amy Ray touring for their their 14th album 7:30pm Genesee Theatre in Waukegan Tickets: <http://http://www.ticketmaster.com/indigo-girls-waukegan-illinois-10-16-2015/>

event/07004EF5DA1C3B3E

**The Out Candidate: An Evening With Joe Laiacona** Free and open to the public 18+ 7:30pm - 9:30pm Leather Archives & Museum 6418 N Greenview Ave.; <http://leatherarchives.org/events.html>

## Saturday, Oct. 17

**Depression & Bipolar Support Alliance (LGBTQ)** Support meeting to talk about illnesses, symptoms, treatment, doctors, and personal issues such as dating, relationships and work. Every Saturday. 11:00am - 12:30pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted St.; <http://dbsa-glbtc-chicago.com>

**The Legacy Walk** Hosted by OutChicago's Scott Duff and Ellen Miller, an afternoon of "Slushy Drinks", surprise guests, fabulous raffle prizes and a Silent Auction to benefit the Legacy Project's historic work. \$75 2:00pm - 5:00pm Sidetrack 3349 N Halsted St Chicago [http://www.legacyprojectchicago.org/2015\\_Dedication\\_Tickets.html](http://www.legacyprojectchicago.org/2015_Dedication_Tickets.html)

**TQI Lounge** Casual potluck, discussion, or outing for Trans\* (transgender, genderqueer, intersex). Free. 4:30pm - 6:30pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted Chicago

**HRC Chicago Gala Dinner & Silent Auction** Jim Obergefell, the named plaintiff of the U.S. Supreme Court case Obergefell, et al. v. Hodges that legalized same-sex marriage in the United States, will speak at the annual event with silent auction and black tie dinner. Questions to [hrcgala@hrcchicago.org](mailto:hrcgala@hrcchicago.org) 5:00pm Chicago Hilton, 720 S. Michigan, Chicago <http://www.hrcchicago.org/bot/wa/event?id=300733>

**50 States of Gay** Chicago's premiere LGBTQ sketch company GayCo Productions ([www.gayco.com](http://www.gayco.com)) unleashes its most patriotic sketch variety revue in its 19-year history, a completely unique sketch-variety hybrid experience. Through Oct. 31 7:30pm Under the Gun Theater, 956 W Newport Ave., Chicago Tickets: <http://GayCo.com>

## Sunday, Oct. 18

**The Lighthouse Church of Chicago** Multi-ethnic and LGBT-inclusive with Pastor

Jamie Frazier, 10:30am Uptown Underground, 4707 N. Broadway St., Chicago <http://www.lighthousechicago.org>

**Parents, Family, Friends and Allies of Lesbians & Gays (PFLAG)** Free. 2:00pm - 4:00pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted

## Monday, Oct. 19

**Transworks** Peer leaders run a job program for gender non-conforming community members in the John Baran Cyber Center. Walk-ins welcome. Free. 12:00pm - 2:00pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted St.

**Jenny Block, author of "O Wow! Discovering Your Ultimate Orgasm"** Book-signing and open discussion 5:00pm - 10:00pm The Pleasure Chest, 3436 N Lincoln Ave.

## Tuesday, Oct. 20

**Jenny Block, author of "O Wow! Discovering Your Ultimate Orgasm"** Book-signing and open discussion 7:30pm, Early to Bed, 5044 N Clark St.

**Homolatte anniversary show** Featuring Congress of Starlings, Robert McDonald, Deb R. Lewis, Carrie Lydon and Dave Awl. Hosted by Scott Free, co-produced by Lars von Keitz. 7:30pm Big Chicks, 5024 N. Sheridan Rd. <http://www.homolatte.com>

**Gay Dads Chicago** Peer discussion group run by and for gay men who are fathers. We are here to provide resources, friendship, socializing and dating opportunities. Free. Every third Tuesday of each month except holidays. 7:30pm - 9:00pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted

## Wed., Oct. 21

**Jerome Pohlen** Gay & Lesbian History for Kids: The Century-Long Struggle for LGBT Rights, with 21 activities. Reading and signing. A Read Local event 7:30pm Women & Children First Bookstore 5233 N Clark St Chicago <http://www.womenandchildrenfirst.com>

## DANCING ABOUT ARCHITECTURE

BY MARC 'MOOSE' MODER



## A bloody good halloween party playlist

We adults have now taken over Halloween from the children, making it one of the year's biggest party nights. That's where I come in. Every October, I try my best to help you with your Halloween party playlists and since this holiday falls on a Saturday, ain't no way you're getting a DJ.

Now, we all know the chestnuts: Ministry's "Every Day is Halloween;" Rockwell's "Somebody's Watching Me;" "Ghostbusters;" "Thriller;" "Bela Lugosi's Dead" by Bauhaus; Rihanna's "Disturbia" and variations on The Cure, Siouxsie and Marilyn Manson. But these will only get you so far, and you'll sound like every other girl in town with a punchbowl and fake cobwebs. Here are some quick thoughts to help your Halloween party playlists come life (or death, or whatever).

**Start with Soundtracks.** Halloween is not just about scary and spooky, but also about comedy and drama. It's a night of spectacle where all of us are characters in our very own private movie. And I'm not talking about soundtracks to The Exorsist or The Hunger (or even Hunger

Games). Anything from Shrek to Austin Powers (Mike Meyers fan obviously) to Star Wars to Warriors. It's all good. As long as the movie has memorable iconic tracks or scores, you're creating a mood that will bring back memories or even tie into certain costumes who show up.



The Lonely Island.

**Keep it Funny.** Don't be afraid to go for goofier or novelty hits. You'd never play "Gangnam Style," "Macarena" or "I'm Too Sexy" at a normal party. Those go way beyond ironic to embarrassing, but tonight they're fair game. A good novelty track (possible oxymoronic) brings out the silly in the silliest of evenings, and a good comedy track (Weird Al, Lonely Island, Dan Band) keeps a party light and filled with laughter.

**Break out of your usual genres.** Some will go with trance, some with goth, some 2007 era Britney Spears. All very scary, but think about different but dramatic arenas like psychedelic (13th Floor Elevators, Happy Mondays, LOVE), hard rock (Motley Crue, Rage Against the Machine, Quiet Riot, Def Leppard, Coheed and Cambria, Muse), or hip-hop, trap and grime (Salem, RL Grimes, vintage NWA or even Weekend has some creepier cuts outside of "Face").

If nothing else, you can't go wrong with tossing on a Grace Jones/David Bowie playlist and walking away. The king and queen of rock/pop drama never disappoint party guests and will always rule the night.

**DJ Moose spins all these and more at OTTER: Rock 'N' Whore Picture Show, Sat., October 17 at The SoFo Tap.**

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### DANCIN' FEATS

# 'Signifier' is full of firsts

BY SARAH TOCE

About a year after arriving in Chicago, choreographer Joanna Furnans is trying a whole bunch of things for the first time. Furnans' first attempt at creating an evening-length concert includes new collaborations, new sources of funding, and new initiatives.

Signifier, premiering Oct. 23 at Links Hall, includes dancing by Furnans, Hope Goldman and Julie Boruff, with lighting by Christine Shallenberg, a recent LinkUP artist whose credentials include five years as the lighting director for Merce Cunningham. Furnans is also collaborating for the first time with her partner, Christine Wallers, a visual artist creating scenic design for Signifier (Wallers' first scenic credit) made possible through a DCASE grant (Furnans' first), in a studio space Wallers and Furnans share in Ravenswood (a first for both women).

In an interview with Wallers and Furnans, they discussed the nature of their collaboration. While the scenic elements and the dance are being created side by side, Wallers began the work with a line of investigation completely unrelated to Signifier.

Wallers' initial spark was rooted in kumadori, a specialized stage makeup technique used in traditional Japanese kabuki theater. In kuma-

dori, the colors and patterns of actors' makeup represent qualities of the character they play. Wallers also became interested in how Japanese kimonos were constructed and folded to represent different classes, and the hidden language that could be determined by how it was worn. She saw parallels of this hidden language to gay culture in the 1980s and 1990s, when subtle jewelry or clothing choices were used to identify other gay people. While flashy fabric hidden within a kimono or a pinky ring don't resonate today as particularly rebellious—symbolism hidden within a subversive counterculture were bold assertions that carried potentially grave consequences.

"I'm not interested in any of that," said Furnans, whose dance is about deconstructing and reconstructing dance phrases with specific attention to how dance is gendered and sexualized in stereotypical and heteronormative ways. "The dancers [in Chicago] are awesome—they're just incredible—but there's a very heteronormative representation of how female dancers should be dancing," she said. Furnans is scrutinizing classical techniques such as ballet and contemporary dance, in part due to a realization that she was beginning to adopt some of these choreographic trends. She found that she was being influenced by a need

or desire to look "pretty," and as a technical, classically trained dancer was "getting trapped in [her] own picture of [her]self."

In creating Signifier and, in general, Furnans desires to make dances in which every movement is intentional, rather than defaulting to moves that are expected or commonly performed by others. She often looks to the clean and crisp lines and forms Merce Cunningham developed as inspiration because of his ability to "wipe the slate clean from the embellishment that makes movement gendered," she said.

"What are the signifiers in our techniques that make us read as feminine, feminized, sexualized... any of those things?" she asked. Then, after acknowledging the connotations of these movements, Furnans sought to figure out if she still liked and gravitated toward them as source material for her dances. On a larger scale, she hopes to prompt audiences and choreographers to evaluate our innate judgments and perceptions of these movements, and identify that we can choose to do something different.

In their discussions, Wallers felt that there were similarities in their ideas, because at the core both lines of investigation are rooted in representation. "I love that [Christine's] stuff is imbued in there," said Furnans, "but I'm not enacting any of that in the physicality. And that's ok... I gave her some parameters, the main one being that I didn't want any physical obstacles in the space. I didn't want to have to interact with anything. Her approach to [the] content is very different than mine, but I didn't

really care how that manifested." Wallers' ideas are shrouded within Signifier's scenic elements, providing fodder for multiple layers of meaning when a viewer interacts with it.

The two artists, however disparate in their interests, are perhaps more similar than different. Each skirts between avant-garde and classical artist communities as formalists who respect and observe the traditions of their respective art forms, while acknowledging that part of that tradition includes breaking the rules and rebelling against norms. Each desires to view and to make work that has a fresh approach and innovative edge, yet is intentional, rigorous, and displays a level of discipline that isn't always present among fringe artists and performers.

"There's a balance somewhere in there," said Furnans, although she isn't entirely confident that her work will resonate with the polar ends of this spectrum. "I made a dance that I think I would want to see," she said, and in a way, the women approach their work like a flash of red satin folded into a kimono. While rebellion may not be distinctly overt, it is subtly layered into the work like an intentional smirk.

**Joanna Furnans' Signifier premieres Oct 23-25 at Links Hall, 3111 N. Belmont Ave. Performances begin at 7:30 p.m.. Tickets are \$10-18; visit <http://linkshall.ticketfly.com>. This is a shared program with performance artist Joshua Kent and his new work, WATCHING ME/WATCHING YOU. Learn more about Christine Wallers at [www.christinewallers.com](http://www.christinewallers.com).**

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