

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

VOL 31, NO. 25 MARCH 16, 2016 www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com



FREE LILLY Film director Lilly Wachowski comes out as trans in a WCT exclusive. Photo from Wachowsk



BOOKSTORE DRAMA

New About Face Theatre production explores race, sexuality and identity

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

About Face Theatre artistic director Andrew Volkoff and playwright A. Rey Pamatmat were initially reluctant to divulge just what troubling topics are explored in his 2014 play after all the terrible things I do, now receiving its Chicago debut courtesy of About Face Theatre.

"It's hard to talk about this play without giving away too much," Volkoff said. "It's one of those pieces that you follow along and then all of a sudden it changes direction in a way you didn't see coming. And then it changes direction again. I would describe it as a 'drama-thriller."

The play's premise sounds innocent enough. It focuses on a young gay writer named Daniel (Colin Sphar) who returns to his Midwestern hometown after college. Once there, Daniel takes a job at a bookstore owned by a Filipina woman named Linda (Lisa Tejero). Soon the two discover connections that go beyond their love of literature.

As a gay Filipino-American, Pamatmat makes it a point to include characters in his plays that reflect his own life. This was certainly reflected in Pamatmat's earlier acclaimed drama Edith Can Shoot Things and Hit Them, which received an acclaimed Chicago production last year by First Floor Theater.

Turn to page 20



ANDRA DAY Buzzworthy singer on the Grammys and her anthem "Rise Up." 25 Photo by Myriam Sa

BATTLE OF THE BALLOTS - CLINTON EDGES OUT SANDERS IN ILLINOIS - Foxx defeats Alvarez for State's Attorney - Meister loses for Clerk, other LGBTs win - Stratton defeats Dunkin, and more election news inside

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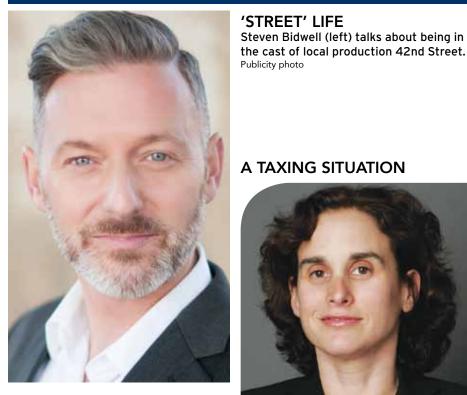
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TRUMP ROAST

RACE TO THE BTTM

THAT'S SHOW BIZ

Laith Ashley.

plus

In an op-ed, Andy Thayer and Roger Fraser discuss the significance of the Donald Trump rally shutdown.

The members of the unusual punk duo PWR BTTM discuss RuPaul, playing live and tourmates Ra Ra Riot.

Find out the latest about Tyler Perry, Matthew Morrison and trans model

DAILY BREAKING NEWS

A TAXING SITUATION

Steven Bidwell (left) talks about being in

'STREET' LIFE

Publicity photo



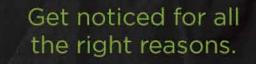
In Ask Lambda Legal, Senior Counsel Susan Sommer discusses taxes and same**sex marriage.** Photo from Lambda Legal

BEFORE AND LAUGHTER



The most recent "Out at CHM" event looked at comedy and the LGBT demographic. Photo of GayCo by Matt Simonette

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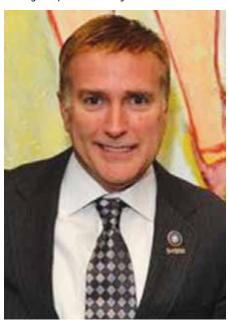
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White House petition demands gay diplomat's removal

BY MATT SIMONETTE

A group of anti-gay activists in the Dominican Republic has posted a petition on the White House's website demanding the ouster of the openly gay U.S. ambassador to that nation.

The anonymous petition, posted March 8, said that Ambassador James "Wally" Brewster promotes "an LGBT agenda inconsistent with the Christian cultural values and tradition of the Dominican Republic" in his official duties. Among the protesters' objections are Brewster's



Wally Brewster. Photo by Kat Fitzgerald

support of an LGBT Chamber of Commerce as well as his inclusion of his husband in official duties. As of March 9, 16,872 individuals had signed the petition. In order to compel a White House response, petitioners need to have 100,000 signatures; they'll have until April 7 to reach that goal.

The petition was originally reported March 9 in the Washington Blade.

Brewster, a Chicago businessman who was a key bundler in fundraising for President Obama, was appointed to the post in late 2013. He and

Puerto Rico upholds marriage ban

In Puerto Rico, U.S. District Court Judge Juan Perez-Gimenez, on March 8, upheld the commonwealth's ban on same-sex marriage, saying that last year's landmark Supreme Court decision on marriage rights doesn't necessarily apply to the unincorporated territory.

The judge upheld the same ban in 2014.

This time, Perez-Gimenez based his ruling on Puerto Rico's status as an "unincorporated territory" that "is not treated as the functional equivalent of a State for purposes of the Fourteenth Amendment."

In a statement, Lambda Legal staff attorney Omar Gonzalez-Pagan (disagreeing with the judge) said, "The fundamental right to marriage applies across the United States, in states and territories alike. This abhorrent and fundamentally flawed decision is out of step with the times and incongruent with the constitutional principles applicable to all persons in the United States, whether they live in a state or territory or whether they are straight or gay."

However, Puerto Rico Gov. Alejandro García

his husband, Bob Satawake, were married just hours after Brewster was sworn in for his position by Vice President Joe Biden.

March 16, 2016

Brewster has endured repeated anti-gay barbs from religious elements in the Dominican Republic since his appointment, especially from Cardinal Nicolás de Jesús López Rodríguez of the Archdiocese of Santo Domingo. At one point, the cardinal used the term "maricones" ("faggots") to publicly refer to Brewster.

Another petition, this one asking that Brewster be retained in the post, was issued March 9 and had 452 signatures as of press time. Posted anonymously, it stated that, "Though some believe [the Dominican Republic] to be a tolerant country, religious agendas are disrespectful to the culture and traditions of educated Dominican families."

The petitions followed a January demand that Brewster be declared "persona non grata" by the government for an initiative that anti-gay activists claimed would "turn our adolescents gay."

The White House is not backing down from its support of Brewster, however. "President Obama chose Ambassador Brewster to represent the United States government in the Dominican Republic because of his outstanding credentials, integrity and dedication to the advancing the interests of this country," said National Security Advisor Susan Rice in a statement. "He has the full support of this president, this White House and the entire U.S. government and I know he will continue to advocate tirelessly for the interests of the United States in the Dominican Republic.

"It is U.S. government policy to represent all Americans without regard to their race, ethnicity, religion, national origin, age, gender and sexual orientation," added Rice. "Bigotry in any form is against the universal values that we promote and does not support the social inclusion that we believe is important for a free society to succeed. We will continue to support Ambassador Brewster as he advances universal human rights."

Washington Blade's story is at http://bit. ly/1pydAf8. The original petition is at http://1. usa.gov/1W9nUE0, while the supporting petition is at http://1.usa.gov/1QN9Ywt.



Padilla has insisted that same-sex weddings will proceed, regardless of the judge's ruling, according to PinkNews. He said that equalmarriage case had already been concluded, with the U.S. Supreme Court and the First Circuit Court of Appeals both affirming that all U.S. citizens have a "fundamental right to marriage," including same-sex couples.

Read about the case at http://www.lambdalegal.org/in-court/cases/conde-v-rius-armendariz. The PinkNews article is at http:// www.pinknews.co.uk/2016/03/10/puertorico-governor-promises-equal-marriage-ishere-to-stay-despite-court-ruling-to-re-banit/.



Mixed Emotions

You became my best friend There was only me and you You're Chucky and I'm Billy Boyd Best pals to the very end

When I was down you lifted me up You went everywhere with me My right- and left-hand man Our connection sicker than two girl's one-cup

Night after night, day after day My family gets angry when we tango They do not understand why I hang with you

Never will they get how you make my inner pain go away

I would fall apart if I didn't have you by myside You hold me together

Help me be brave and not hide You're my on-the-go glue

With you goosebumps rise beneath my battered flesh

I despise the hold and power I have given to you Every time I try and walk away you

taunt and tempt me You're bad news and turn my body to mesh

I am addicted to you, your sharp personality can be sweet Then at times it turns bitter Like Sour Patch kid candy I know I have to let you go, but I can't People see the ugly scars you left on me Total defeat

I love you but I hate you

Where and who could I be without you in my life Probably a shook-up Sprite bottle with the top still on it Waiting to be released I love you, I hate you, and I don't want to let you go I hate you, I love you, my bloody pocket knife

Breezy Cephus is a homeless youth activist who helped coordinate the recent Windy City Times' LGBTQ Homeless Youth Summit. This is the first of a series of columns Breezi will be be contributing to Windy City Times.



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Gay man sues Chicago archdiocese for discrimination

BY MATT SIMONETTE

A Chicago man has filed a federal lawsuit against the Archdiocese of Chicago, claiming that he was unlawfully fired from his position at an Inverness church because he became engaged to his same-sex partner.

The suit was filed March 7 in the Northern District of Illinois Eastern Division.

Colin Collette was employed at Holy Family Parish, also named in the suit, for 17 years as the church's director of worship and director of media, but he was terminated in July 2014, shortly after announcing his engagement to his partner, William Nifong, via social media. The couple was eventually married in 2015.

The suit maintains that Collette met all job expectations, and that he was unlawfully fired on the basis of his sex, sexual orientation and marital status. He is asking to be reinstated to his job, and is seeking damages to cover front and back pay; benefits; compensatory and punitive damages; and legal fees.

Kokomo, Ind., passes pro-LGBT ordinance

In Indiana, the Kokomo Common Council voted March 7 (by a vote of five to four) to approve legislation that would protect LGBT citizens from various forms of discrimination, The Kokomo Tribune reported.

Among those voting in favor of the ordinance were Council President Bob Hayes and Vice President Mike Kennedy as well as members Steve Whikehart, Donnie Haworth and Janie Young. The city's Human Rights Commission is expected to uphold the ordinance.

The ordinance would protect LGBT residents in the areas of housing, financial institutions, employment, labor organizations, public accommodations and education.

http://www.kokomotribune.com/ See news/local news/common-councilvotes---in-favor-of-extending-lgbt/ article 4cb3560a-e4c9-11e5-811c-13c4661245fa.html.

Letter seeks to reject Title IX requests

A coalition of more than 80 LGBTQ, sports, religious and youth-advocacy groups signed on to a letter that has called on the NCAA to deny all 59 religiousbased institutions who have made Title IX requests to discriminate against LGBTQ youth.

In part, the letter says, "The NCAA through its member institutions sends a message about their core values of integrity, inclusive culture and sportsmanship."

More information about the campaign can be found at: http://www.soulforce. org/givebackix.

A full list of the organizations can be found at CampusPride.org/TakeActionNCAA. A few of the groups include Campus Pride, Soulforce, GLAAD, PFLAG National, Pride at Work, Center for Black Equity, Truth Wins Out and The Trevor Project.

"My hope is that we can come to some sort of agreement to get me back in church work," Collette said. "That has been my hope all along." Collette has not gone to work elsewhere since losing his job. He said that not only is he forbidden from returning to Holy Family, but that he now cannot work in any Catholic church.

The suit also maintains that Collette did not have a hand in determining liturgical or musical selections at the church. The case could call into question whether he was staff or clergy, and thus which employment discrimination rules apply to his position.

"Holy Family was unique in that there was an incredible amount of lay involvement," Collette noted. "My job was to empower and 'animate' them, to bring my expertise and research to



Colin Collette. Photo by Matt Simonette

give them what they needed, so that it was part of them and in the spirit of the liturgy of the community.'

The complaint alleges that Collette was shown emails written by Cardinal Francis George that said the termination was brought about because Collette entered into a "non-sacramental marriage."

Collette met with George about the matter in late 2014, but neither he nor George subsequently disclosed any results from the meeting; George died in April 2015. In Nov. 2015, the Archdiocese said that it would not be open to mediation over Collette's case.

Collette had previously maintained that not only was his job performance up to par, but that he and Nifong regularly socialized with Holy Family parishioners and the church's priest, Terence Keehan, before the termination. He said that he is still friendly with several members.

With changes going on throughout the Catholic church under Pope Francis, Collette added, the case "lines up with everything happening right now. It's time to be talking about this.

MEMORIAL



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Clinton, Trump and Duckworth among overall big winners

BY MATT SIMONETTE

Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump were the big winners in primary contests across five states March 15.

CNN called the tight race in Illinois for Clinton at 11:20 p.m. She had been called as the winner in Democratic primaries in Florida, North Carolina and Ohio, while Bernie Sanders was slightly ahead in Missouri. On the Republican side, Donald Trump won Illinois, Florida and North Carolina, and was leading in Missouri. Ohio Gov. John Kasich, meanwhile, took home a large primary victory in his home state.

One casualty of the March 15 contests was the presidential campaign of U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio, who dropped out of the race after failing to make a strong showing in his home state, Florida.

In a statement, Human Rights Campaign President Chad Griffin said, "From North Carolina to Florida to Ohio, fair-minded voters have begun unifying to ensure we are prepared to defeat whichever anti-LGBT candidate emerges as the Republican nominee. Tonight's decisive victories for Hillary Clinton in key states across the nation have put us closer to preserving a pro-equality White House come November. She has proven time and again that she will fight for the LGBT community—and we are proud to continue to fight alongside her to make sure no opponent of LGBT equality ever sets foot in the Oval Office."

U.S. Rep. Tammy Duckworth (D-8) will be the Democratic challenger for U.S. Sen. Mark Kirk's

ELECTIONS 2016 Mixed bag for LGBT candidates

COMPILED BY ANDREW DAVIS

The March 15 primary elections featured a number of openly LGBT candidates-with only those who were unopposed actually winning.

-Kelly Cassidy

Race: Illinois state Representative (14th District)

Result: She was unopposed in the primary election-and, so far, will be in the general election as well.

—Sam Yingling

Race: Illinois state Representative (62nd District)

Result: Yingling was unopposed in the primary, and Republican Rod Drobinski of Wauconda is, again, Yingling's opponent for the general election. Yingling prevailed in 2014.

seat in November. Duckworth handily defeated attorney and activist Andrea Zopp as well as state Sen. Napoleon Harris III. Kirk defeated his Republican challenger, James Marter, as well.

In her March 15 speech, Duckworth lashed out at Kirk for running negative ads, as well as reports that he would support Trump. She said. "We reject the politics of fear and division that have no place in this country."

Among contested Illinois seats in the House, U.S. Rep. Bobby Rush (D-1) fended off challenges from Ald. Howard Brookins and Patrick Brutus. Rush faces off against Republican August Deuser in November. Rep. Robin Kelly (D-2) won her primary challenges from Marcus Lewis, Dorian Myrickes and Charles Rayburn. She'll face John Morrow this fall.

In the 4th District, Rep. Luis Gutierrez beat activist-journalist Javier Salas, who ran due to his objections over Gutierrez's support of Chicago mayor Rahm Emanuel. Rep. Mike Quigley (D-5) was unopposed in the primary, but will face a Green Party challenger, likely Rob Sherman as of press time, in the fall.

Incumbent Peter Roskam (R-7) defeated Jay Kinzler, and will be up against Democrat Amanda Howland in November. Longtime 8th District Rep. Danny Davis defeated Thomas Day. Democrat Raja Krishnamoorthi appeared likely to defeat Michael Noland and Deborah Bullwinkel, as of press time; they were vying for Duckworth's current House seat. Krishnamoorthi would be up against Republican Pete DiCianni.

—Greg Harris

Race: Illinois state Representative (13th District)

Result: He was unopposed in the primary election-and, so far, will be in the general election as well.

—Jacob Meister

Race: Cook County Circuit Court Clerk Result: Meister-despite having the backing of the Chicago Sun-Times, the Chicago NOW PAC and a large coalition of Cook County-area Latino elected officials-lost to longtime (and

controversial) Clerk Dorothy Brown, and finished third behind Ald. Michelle Harris. —Ed Underhill

Race: Judge (Cook-6th Subcircuit-"A" vacancy)

Result: Underhill finished last in a threeperson contest against Anna Loftus and Carlos Claudio.

-Deidre Baumann

Race: Judge (Cook Circuit-Palmer Vacancy) Result: Baumann finished last in a three-person contest against Pat Heneghan and Susana L. Ortiz.

ELECTIONS 2016: JUDICIAL RACES **Most races feature** runaway victories

BY GRETCHEN RACHEL HAMMOND

In the March 15 Cook County Circuit Court judicial races, Rossana P. Fernandez stands to keep her 2015 appointment to the late Richard Elrod's position if all goes well in November. It was a much tighter race for Alison C. Conlon against challenger Michael I. O'Malley, but ultimately she prevailed.

With a long list of endorsements in her corner-including those from state Sen. Heather Steans and U.S. Rep. Jan Schakowsky-judicial candidate Aleksandra Gillespie secured an easy win against Thomas Maloney Cushing. Attorney Carolyn J. Gallagher emerged the

top of a five-person heap while Parillo Weiss, LLC partner Mary Kathleen McHugh won out against two other challengers.

Trial lawyer Susana L. Ortiz claimed that her work in some of the "toughest courtrooms in Cook County" would benefit the bench. It didn't hurt in a campaign against Pat Heneghan and Deirdre Baumann in which Ortiz took a win.

A former Review Board appointee of the Illinois Supreme Court, Daniel Patrick Duffy also took on and won against two other challeng-

The closest race of the evening was fought between Patrick Joseph Powers and Frederick Bates. At the time of publication, Powers had the slimmest of leads against his opponent.

ELECTIONS 2016: COUNTY RACES Foxx defeats Alvarez; Meister loses clerk's race

BY MATT SIMONETTE

In the conclusion of a heated primary contest, incumbent Cook County State's Attorney Anita Alvarez lost her re-election bid to political newcomer Kim Foxx March 15, Chicago Sun-Times called the race at 8:45 p.m. Attorney Donna More was also vving for the post.

Foxx, who was previously chief of staff to Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle, received the backing of the Cook County Democratic Party in the race, as well as considerable financial backing from, among others, openly gay activist and businessman Fred Eychaner. Her goals include a reduction in the Cook County Jail population and a more active engagement between county prosecutors and the community at large.

In her victory speech, Foxx, her husband and daughters by her side, congratulated Alvarez and More and noted that, for the first time, three women were vying to run the secondlargest prosecutors' office in the country.

"I recognize that elections and politics can get muddy and messy, but the stakes in this race were very high," Foxx said. "... The gulf between law enforcement and our community must be breached.'

Foxx has called for a special prosecutor to address police shootings. She told Windy City Times in February, "I believe there is an inherent conflict in the intimate relationship between police and the state's attorney, and it's not a nefarious relationship, it's necessary. It's where we get our cases from."

Alvarez has long been a controversial figure in Cook County politics, but criticism against her has been especially heated since last fall, when her office announced murder charges against CPD Officer Jason Van Dyke, who was accused of shooting Laquan McDonald, nearly a year and a half after the incident. On March 13, Daily Beast reported that the State's Attorney's Office had declined to pursue charges against officers involved in some 68 police shootings in the last seven years.

Speaking at the Palmer House Hilton, Alvarez thanked her supporters, adding, "While it's clear that my many years of service will come to an end ... we find ourselves in a climate of

Pfannkuche in November.

fice, which he contended had languished under Brown's watch. Brown next faces Republican Diane Shapiro in the fall.

contested so far for another term as Cook County recorder of deeds.

ELECTIONS 2016: STATE RACES Rauner funds can't help Dunkin in House race

BY GRETCHEN RACHEL HAMMOND

All told, March 15 was a rough night for Illinois Gov. Bruce Rauner and a moment to savor for House Speaker Michael Madigan, before the parties return to Springfield. But the impact may not be felt immediately, because 5th District state House primary winner Juliana Stratton, if she wins in November, won't be seated until early in 2017.

In a campaign with a level of vitriol matched in the extraordinary by more than \$6 million in spending, coupled with a Stratton endorsement from President Obama, Stratton sent incumbent Ken Dunkin packing in a runaway win-swift punishment for a man who sided with Rauner one too many times and was AWOL during a vital House vote.

Stratton was sure to thank Obama during her victory speech.

As well as keeping his own seat in the 22nd House District, Madigan also returns to Springfield to a House full of familiar faces, assuming their wins in November.

The 2nd District—a race between incumbent Theresa Mah and community organizer Alex Acevedo-turned out to be too close to call before Windy City Times went to press.

In the 4th District, incumbents Cynthia Soto gave challenger Robert Zwolinski a pasting. Sonya Harper was able to keep the 6th District appointment which she secured in 2015. In the 7th District, incumbent Emanuel "Chris" Welch scored a similarly easy win over Chris Harris.

John D'Amico took the 15th District for a seventh term, pending the general election. It was a little tighter for 26th District incumbent Christian Mitchell, who eventually prevailed in his rematch with challenger Jay Travis.

Thaddeus Jones, the incumbent in the 29th District, also won his primary race, with Kenneth "Kenny" Williams offering another token opposition.

Go to www.WindyCityTimes.com for updates on election information and more



Kim Foxx. Screenshot from WFLD-TV

change and a period of reform in the criminal justice system.

She admitted that she was probably "a poor politician" but said, "I am damned proud of the fact that I am a good prosecutor.'

On social media, activists—many under the #ByeAnita hashtaq—expressed excitement about the prospect of Alvarez leaving her post. BYP100 tweeted. "We do this for Rekia. We do this for Laquan, We do this for Ronnieman, We do this til WE free us." Activist Malcolm London tweeted congratulations to Black queer women who "did the most powerful organizing ... Hello Black queer women organizers who won today."

More, who has worked as prosecutor but more recently has been an attorney in the gaming industry, ran on a platform focused on reducing and prosecuting gun violence, proposing a dedicated "gun court" system in the county. Foxx will now face Republican Christopher

In other county contests, controversial incumbent Cook County Clerk of the Circuit Court Dorothy Brown fended off a challenge from openly gay attorney and activist Jacob Meister and 8th Ward Ald. Michelle Harris. Meister, who finished third, had promised to update the technology, policies and procedures in the of-

Incumbent Karen Yarbrough is running un-

Coalition protests Trump in Chicago; Trump backs down

Hundreds of people marched with the University of Illinois at Chicago Stop Trump—Chicago Coalition March 11, outside a planned rally by Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump at the UIC Pavilion. Meanwhile, inside, others protested, shouted and raised anti-Trump signs. All those protesters were enough to scare away Trump from the event, and the candidate cancelled his speech.

Trump claimed the cancellation was in consultation with police and security, but those entities said they never spoke to Trump about canceling the event. Chicago Police arrested several protesters.

LGBTQs with rainbow flags were among the masses of people protesting against Trump's positions against immigrants, Muslims, LG-BTQs, African-Americans and women, among others.

The group which organized the event, unaffiliated with any political party or elected official, "represents the voice of UIC students. By protesting, the coalition highlighted how Trump's dangerous rhetoric hurts them, their families, and their communities," they stated in a press release.

"Donald Trump's rhetoric incites hatred and violence," said UIC student Juan Rojas, one of the organizers of the protest. "We're standing

Cruz event as well At Chicago's Palmer House Hilton hotel on March 11, demonstrators protested an appearance by Republican presidential candidate Ted Cruz and Illinois Gov. Bruce

The protesters —which included leaders of the organizations ONE Northside, Citizen Action/Illinois and Illinois Alliance for Retired Americans— called on Rauner to make big corporations and the wealthy pay their fair share and stop cuts to services. The state has not had a budget for eight

Protesters at

Rauner.



RAUNER CUTS HURT THE HOMELESS

Protesters at Cruz/Rauner event. Photo from Hannah Gelder up and showing him UIC and Chicago reject his bigotry."

March 16, 2016

The protest started on the UIC Quad with a speaking program of student leaders. Led by students holding a banner reading "Trump makes America hate, our students make America great," the hundreds of participants then marched on Racine Avenue past the UIC Pavilion.

"UIC students place great importance on diversity, but Trump represents a threat to those values. This protest showed that his divisiveness has no precedent or place on their campus," they said.

Many non-UIC students were part of the coalition at the event.

See many more photos online at WindyCity-MediaGroup.com.



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Protesters at the Donald Trump rally.

Photo by Vern Hester

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Criticisms follow Clinton comments on Reagans and AIDS

BY MATT SIMONETTE

Activists, pundits and others were quick to decry March 11 comments by presidential candidate Hillary Rodham Clinton suggesting that Ronald and Nancy Reagan were positive forces for change in the war against HIV/AIDS, despite well-documented historical evidence to the contrary.

Clinton initially issued a brief apology for the remarks March 11 via Twitter, then a more extensive statement at medium.com the following day.

"Yesterday, at Nancy Reagan's funeral, I said something inaccurate when speaking about the Reagans' record on HIV and AIDS," Clinton said in the March 12 statement. "Since then, I've heard from countless people who were devastated by the loss of friends and loved ones, and hurt and disappointed by what I said. As someone who has also lost friends and loved ones to AIDS, I understand why. I made a mistake, plain and simple.

"... To be clear, the Reagans did not start a national conversation about HIV and AIDS. That distinction belongs to generations of brave lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people, along with straight allies, who started not just a conversation but a movement that continues to this day."

Clinton's first comments on the Reagans came in an MSNBC interview with Andrea Mitchell, wherein Clinton said that the couple had sparked a "national conversation" about HIV/AIDS. In reality, the opposite was true: The Reagan White House remained silent on HIV/AIDS, even after the epidemic had taken a devastating toll on thousands of Americans.

Numerous activists and commentators denounced Clinton's remarks and her initial, brief response. "Hillary's boo boo is not going to go away," wrote writer-activist Larry Kramer on Facebook. "Her 'apology' is an insult. And where are the gay staff working on her campaign? They should have warned the moment Nancy croaked."

Jennifer Brier, author of Infectious Ideas: U.S. Political Responses to the AIDS Crisis, wrote, "... I am not sure how [Clinton] is defining 'started' or 'national conversation,' but either way, Nancy Reagan did neither. Historians and biographers of President Reagan suggest that it was his wife who encouraged him to give his first (or second) speech about AIDS to AmFAR in 1987, but this was six years into the epidemic."

In a March 11 New Yorker piece, Michael Specter wrote, "The idea that Ronald Reagan finally did focus on AIDS, if only belatedly, is also a fiction. Reagan was outraged in 1986, when his Surgeon General, C. Everett Koop, one of the great heroes of the AIDS epidemic, issued a report that, as I wrote when Koop died, recommended a program of compulsory sex education in schools and argued that, by the

Trans person White House LGBT liaison

President Barack Obama has appointed Raffi Freedman-Gurspan as the White House's primary LGBT liaison—making her the first transgender person in the role, according to BuzzFeed. (In addition, The Jewish Telegraphic Agency has noted that Freedman-Gurspan is a Jewish native of Honduras.)

Last year, Freedman-Gurspan became the first transgender staffer appointed to the White House, working as the outreach and recruitment director in the presidential pertime they reached third grade, children should be taught how to use condoms."

Locally, activist Victor Salvo, who is executive director of the Legacy Project and had gone on record as a Clinton supporter, said, "Hillary Clinton helped fashion her husband's AIDS policies in the 1990s well-knowing the price that was paid—both political, and in terms of public health—for the federal government's failure to respond in the '80s. So she deserves every inch of the scorn being heaped on her, especially from those of us who have defended her bevond all reason. Her 'oops' about Reagan's AIDS legacy was the most egregiously hurtful thing anyone could possibly say about AIDS-where Reagan's inaction is an irrefutable fact of history. To even hint otherwise is like saying George Wallace was a staunch supporter of school desegregation.

"Hundreds of thousands of gay men got infected because the federal government refused to lift a finger to help educate about safe sex... an entire generation left to die in ignorance because Ronald Reagan and his people-including Nancy-thought we were expendable. For ANY Democratic politician to not have this information tattooed onto their brains is an OUTRAGE. As it is we have an education system that only gives AIDS about two sentences in today's textbooks-and the federal government emerges unscathed from that narrativedenying our children a full understanding of the most important socio-political event of the late 20th-century. Clinton's comments-however characterized—help perpetuate a factually false rewrite of the historic record.

"In the face of this, a 'Tweeted' apology that fails to acknowledge the community's rightful outrage is not an apology-it is a political calculation. I am tired of LGBT people always being expected to suck it up and turn the other cheek "for the good of the Party." Though I would certainly support Hillary Clinton in a general election against any Republican-I am not so sure she is getting my vote on Tuesday, even if I still feel she will be the strongest candidate against Donald Trump. This episode has cracked the lens through which I will forever view her, which is a shame considering that her actual record on AIDS over most of her career is quite good. This whole fiasco would never have happened if LGBT reality was not redacted from shared history.

Chicago activist Rick Garcia had also been a Clinton supporter but he said, even after the remarks, that he still thought she "is the only one who will preserve our gains and make sure we don't go back."

Still, Garcia said he was "dumbfounded" by the remarks, adding, "I was livid at Secretary Clinton's statements about the Reagans. That is not history. That is not fact. It is offensive to the people who know the history and know what happened. I was very upset.

"I'm not going to defend her, but what ${\rm I}$

sonnel office. Freedman-Gurspan previously served as the National Center for Transgender Equality's (NCTE's) policy advisor for the Racial and Economic Justice Initiative.

Mara Keisling, executive director of NCTE said, "President Obama has said he wants his administration to look like America, and they have moved to include trans Americans. Raffi's skills and personality make her the exact right person for this important job."

The article is at http://www.buzzfeed. com/dominicholden/white-appoints-firsttransgender-person-as-primary-lgbt-liai#. eha5w3myPD.



Hillary Clinton with Human Rights Campaign's Chad Griffin. Photo by Judy G. Rolfe

will say is, Secretary Clinton immediately understood the error of her ways and apologized. Her initial apology wasn't sufficient, but I have confidence in her and I still stand with Secretary Clinton. ... [Nevertheless] too many people died, and the Reagans said nothing and did nothing. To say that they started a national conversation is at best, wrong."

Clinton's entire March 12 statement, published at http://bit.ly/1Xo8VXU, follows:

On the fight against HIV and AIDS—and on the people who really started the conversation. Yesterday, at Nancy Reagan's funeral, I said

something inaccurate when speaking about the Reagans' record on HIV and AIDS. Since then, I've heard from countless people who were devastated by the loss of friends and loved ones, and hurt and disappointed by what I said. As someone who has also lost friends and loved ones to AIDS, I understand why. I made a mistake, plain and simple.

I want to use this opportunity to talk not only about where we've come from, but where we must go in the fight against HIV and AIDS.

To be clear, the Reagans did not start a national conversation about HIV and AIDS. That distinction belongs to generations of brave lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people, along with straight allies, who started not just a conversation but a movement that continues to this day.

The AIDS crisis in America began as a quiet, deadly epidemic. Because of discrimination and disregard, it remained that way for far too long. When many in positions of power turned a blind eye, it was groups like ACT UP, Gay Men's Health Crisis and others that came forward to shatter the silence—because as they reminded us again and again, Silence = Death. They organized and marched, held die-ins on the steps of city halls and vigils in the streets. They fought alongside a few courageous voices in Washington, like U.S. Representative Henry Waxman, who spoke out from the floor of Congress.

Then there were all the people whose names we don't often hear today—the unsung heroes who fought on the front lines of the crisis, from hospital wards and bedsides, some with their last breath. Slowly, too slowly, ignorance was crowded out by information. People who had once closed their eyes opened their hearts.

If not for those advocates, activists, and ordinary, heroic people, we would not be where we are in preventing and treating HIV and AIDS. Their courage—and their refusal to accept silence as the status quo—saved lives.

We've come a long way. But we still have work to do to eradicate this disease for good and to erase the stigma that is an echo of a shameful and painful period in our country's history.

This issue matters to me deeply. And I've always tried to do my part in the fight against this disease, and the stigma and pain that accompanies it. At the 1992 Democratic National Convention, when my husband accepted the nomination for president, we marked a break with the past by having two HIV-positive speakers—the first time that ever happened at a national convention. As First Lady, I brought together world leaders to strategize and coordinate efforts to take on HIV and AIDS around the world. In the Senate, I put forward legislation to expand global AIDS research and assistance and to increase prevention and education, and I proudly voted for the creation of PEPFAR and to defend and protect the Ryan White Act. And as secretary of state, I launched a campaign to usher in an AIDS-free generation through prevention and treatment, targeting the populations at greatest risk of contracting HIV.

WINDY CITY TIMES

The AIDS crisis looks very different today. There are more options for treatment and prevention than ever before. More people with HIV are leading full and happy lives. But HIV and AIDS are still with us. They continue to disproportionately impact communities of color, transgender people, young people and gay and bisexual men. There are still 1.2 million people living with HIV in the United States today, with about 50,000 people newly diagnosed each year. In Sub-Saharan Africa, almost 60 percent of people with HIV are women and girls. Even though the tools exist to end this epidemic once and for all, there are still far too many people dying today. That is absolutely inexcusable.

I believe there's even more we can—and must—do together. For starters, let's continue to increase HIV and AIDS research and invest in the promising innovations that research is producing. Medications like PrEP are proving effective in preventing HIV infection; we should expand access to that drug for everyone, including at-risk populations. We should call on Republican governors to put people's health and well-being ahead of politics and extend Medicaid, which would provide health care to those with HIV and AIDS.

We should call on states to reform outdated and stigmatizing HIV criminalization laws. We should increase global funding for HIV and AIDS prevention and treatment. And we should cap out-of-pocket expenses and drug costs—and hold companies like Turing and Valeant accountable when they attempt to gouge patients by jacking up the price of lifesaving medications.

We're still surrounded by memories of loved ones lost and lives cut short. But we're also surrounded by survivors who are fighting harder than ever. We owe it to them and to future generations to continue that fight together. For the first time, an AIDS-free generation is in sight. As president, I promise you that I will not let up until we reach that goal. We will not leave anyone behind.

Correction

In the March 9 issue, Ross Forman wrote the story about Anthony Alfano volunteering in Nepal.

Windy City Times regrets the error.

March 16, 2016

Trans student alleges anti-trans remarks from professor

BY GRETCHEN RACHEL HAMMOND

When Harold Washington College student Anadarith Hurtado submitted his proposal for a research paper to his English Composition 102 professor and Harold Washington Adjunct Lecturer Alonda McCree, it read "In a constitutional land known for equality, justice and freedom for the people, there are a group that seem not to feel the same equality, justice and freedom. That group being transgender individuals that feel their rights are violated day-by-day due to their inner selves born in the wrong body."

McCree returned it with her commentary in red pen. The words "transgender individuals" had been circled along with an arrow to Mc-Cree's statement: "These people don't have rights. They choose to be transgender. Pick another topic."

Hurtado, a transgender male, was stunned. "Wow," he wrote on his Facebook page on March 3, "seriously never imagined getting this kind of feedback from my professor."

He then went back to look at McCree's list of topic ideas for students to select.

Toward the bottom of a political and ideological Hobson's choice that included "pregnant women and their partners must participate in mandatory testing and finance classes before giving birth in order to keep their babies" and "parents who allow their children to become overweight and/or obese are exercising a form of child abuse and should lose their custodial rights" were "no one living in the United States can be eligible for government programs of any kind if they don't speak fluent English" and "homosexual couples should not receive the same marriage benefits as heterosexual couples."

March 16, 2016

Anadarith Hurtado Research topic paper English 102

"It was very disrespectful," Hurtado told CBS 2 News. "I'm trying to get my education and this is the type of feedback that I get. It's really hard."

McCree herself has received mixed feedback from her former students with one stating on Rate My Professors that she is "rude at times even though she doesn't notice she is."

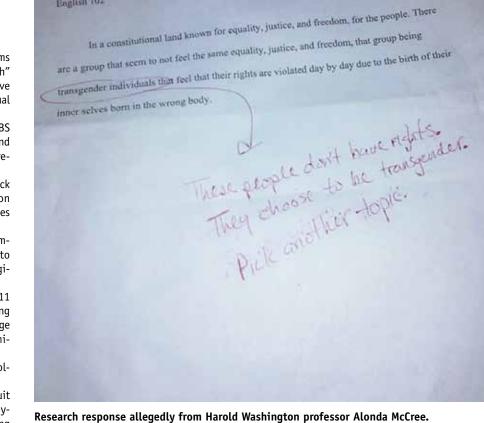
On her Facebook page in 2014, McCree complained about the ability of her students to submit their papers in an American Psychological Association (APA) format.

"What have they been doing for the last 11 weeks?" McCree wrote. "Obviously not working on these papers. I tried not to micro-manage them but I guess I gave them too much leniency. Struggles of a college professor."

Harold Washington College is part of City Colleges of Chicago.

In 2014 it was named in a federal lawsuit filed by a job applicant with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) alleging age discrimination.

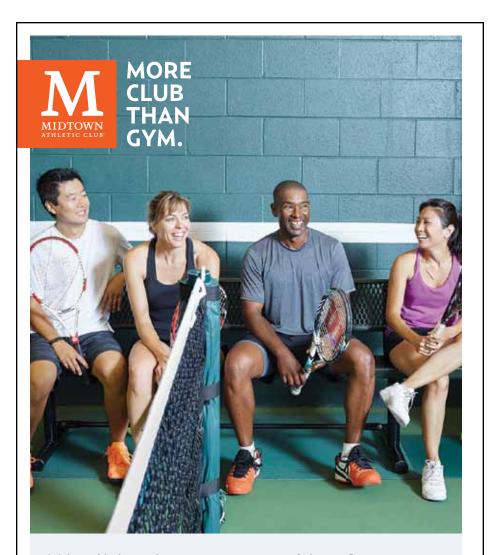
The school has a pride alliance on campus. Windy City Times reached out to City Colleges of Chicago regarding the incident with McCree The publication was told, in a statement, that it has "launched an investigation into an allegation of discrimination at one of our col-



leges. We cannot comment on an ongoing investigation, but should we determine any employee engaged in an act of discrimination, appropriate action will be taken."

The statement went on to assert that "City Colleges of Chicago maintains a strict, zero-

tolerance non-discrimination policy and does not discriminate on the basis of race, national origin, ethnicity, gender, age, religion, citizenship, sexual orientation, marital status, disability or handicap, or veteran status."



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WINDY CITY TIMES

Activist/scholar Richie keynotes International Women's Day event

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

To commemorate International Women's Day; the YWCA Evanston/North Shore, Northwestern University Women's Center, The Woman's Club of Evanston, Evanston Women's History Project, Frances Willard Historical Association, the League of Women Voters of Evanston and the City of Evanston co-sponsored a breakfast event featuring a keynote address, "Gender Violence: Addressing Injustice," by activist, author and scholar Beth E. Richie March 8 at First United Methodist Church in Evanston.

International Women's Day (March 8) is a global celebration of the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women as well as a call for gender parity in all aspects of life.

Richie is the author of Arrested Justice, Black Women, Violence and America's Prison Nation as well as a professor of African-American studies and criminology, law and justice at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC). She also wrote Compelled to Crime: the Gender Entrapment of Black Battered Women and has received the Audre Lorde Legacy Award from the Union Institute, The Advocacy Award from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and The Visionary Award from the Violence Intervention Project.

Following words of welcome and an introduction by Cece Lobin (Chicagoland area women's empowerment coordinator), Richie told the approximately 300 people in attendance that leaders like Lobin are essential to the work of promoting women's equality across the board.

Richie spoke about the way race/ethnicity and social position affect women's experiences of violence and incarceration worldwide.

"I began my academic and activist work over 30 years ago, working with local and national community organizations, to try and figure out the link between violence against women and the problem of mass incarceration ... the way that both affect women of color, queer people, poor people, immigrants and young people," said Richie.

Richie explained that amidst the conversation around racial justice, there are silos around gender and sexuality that included women, girls and gender non-conforming people who experience different kinds of oppression than men of color. She also noted the importance of reminding Black men that gender matters and white women that race matters.

"Today, the only way to challenge gender violence is to square it with racial inequality," said Richie.

Richie said that 1.3 million women each year report instances of gender violence. She noted that there are many forms of gender violence, including intimate partner violence, sexual assault/rape and stalking. Richie explained that many of these women lose days at work due to gender violence and that sometimes their injuries turn into permanent disabilities.

She noted that, of the women who experience gender violence, those who have less social power—such as poor women, women of color, undocumented women and members of the LGBTQ community—face a society where their voices are ignored.

Richie asked the audience to think about two things when considering the issue of gender violence: the country's status as a prison nation and carceral feminism.



Beth Richie. Photo by Carrie Maxwell

When talking about a prison nation, Richie said, "The way this country has divested from communities, particularly communities of color, in the areas of health and human services because we blame people for their problems contributes to this issue. ... We have new laws, new codes of behavior ... coupled with the ideology that suggests poor people, immigrants, Black/Latina women and trans people are undeserving of our help. Their rights are disregarded to protect others."

As for carceral feminism—defined as a feminist who believes that women who've been raped or have experienced other forms of male violence should be protected by the criminaljustice system—Richie noted that many times this doesn't happen, stating the criminal-justice system often ignores or criminalizes women who experience gender violence.

Richie explained that one such case of carceral feminism not working was in 2006 when a group of Black lesbians was violently attacked by a man in the Greenwich Village neighborhood of New York City. She noted that when they fought back, they were arrested and charged with a felony. This story was featured in the documentary Out in the Night.

During the Q&A session, Richie said she feels optimistic about the future. She explained that from what she's seen, people are ready to make a change for the better.

She also noted that despite what others have said, guns are dangerous and don't keep people safe.

At the close of the event, both Lobin and Richie put out a call to action for all attendees to get involved with this work in order to end gender violence and make the world a more equitable place for everyone.



Lisa Henry-Reid (left) and Storie Devereaux. Photo by Matt Simonette

Forum addresses delivery of HIV/AIDS services for women, girls

BY MATT SIMONETTE

A March 9 gathering in honor of National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day focused on delivering healthcare services to women and girls in need.

The forum, entitled "#BlackLivesMatter: Our Girls Matter," touched on providing healthcare services for teenage girls and young women, making PrEP more widely available for women and identifying and acknowledging patient's previous trauma in the delivery of services. The daylong event was held at West Point Missionary Baptist Church, 3556 S. Cottage Grove Ave.

Lisa M. Henry-Reid, chair of the Division of Adolescent and Young Adult Medicine at Stroger Hospital's pediatrics department, spoke about the importance of doctors communicating effectively and clearly with their younger patients. She said it's a skill many physicians don't have, and, as a consequence of their discomfort, they sometimes are uncomfortable speaking with teens and young adults about HIV/AIDS testing, or delivering testing results. Henry-Reid and a colleague remain on call in order to deliver results for physicians experiencing such reticence.

"Caring goes such a long way, and these people are not cared for" by many in the medical profession, Henry-Reid said.

Lisa Diane White, deputy director of the Atlanta-based organization SisterLove, Inc., spoke about PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis) and the protections against HIV infection that it can offer women. She said that myths about

Report: Justice system causes disproportional harm

A major report offers a comprehensive analysis to date of how LGBT people—particularly, those of color—face higher rates of incarceration and unfair treatment and abuse in the criminal justice system.

"Unjust: How the Broken Criminal Justice System Fails LGBT People" documents how pervasive stigma and discrimination, enforcement of laws and discriminatory policing strategies mean that LGBT people are disproportionately likely to interact with law enforcement and to have their lives criminalized. HIV and its transmission and prevention persist, but PrEP offers a way for women to take control of their own protection with some confidence—researchers estimate that PrEP offers protection against transmission in vaginal intercourse after 20 days of usage.

"Your toolbox needs to be filled with more than condoms," White said.

Michelle Hoersch, regional women's health coordinator for the Office on Women's Health, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, closed the day with a discussion of how a patient's history with trauma can impact their relationship to healthcare providers and suggested that the primary inquiry from provider to patient should shift from what is "wrong" with a patient to what has "happened" to her instead. That's especially important in relation to HIV prevention and treatment; engaging in high-risk behavior might be a response to trauma, Hoersch suggested. She added that the moment someone receives an HIV diagnosis also registers as a traumatic event for many individuals.

Cynthia Tucker, AIDS Foundation of Chicago's vice-president of Prevention and Community Partnerships, and Lady Carole Jakes of West Point Missionary Baptist Church gave opening remarks. Sanford E. Gaylord, regional resource consultant for the HIV/AIDS Regional Resource Network Program at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and Atara Young, co-chair of Black Treatment Advocacy Network, also spoke. The forum was moderated by Storie Devereaux of the Bassline Group.

The report also says that LGBT people are also treated unfairly once they enter the system, showing how they are disproportionately incarcerated and face abuse while incarcerated. Lastly, the report sheds light on the fact that LGBT people face unique and considerable challenges in the struggle to rebuild their lives after experiences with law enforcement—and particularly after time spent in a correctional facility.

The Movement Advancement Project and the Center for American Progress co-authored the report in partnership with Forward Together, JustLeadershipUSA and Advancement Project. It is available online at www.lgbtmap.org/criminal-justice.

Howard Brown Health to take over Englewood clinic

BY MATT SIMONETTE

Howard Brown Health, on March 10, announced that it would be taking over management of the HIV practice formerly operated by the Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH) at a clinic at 641 W. 63rd St.

The new operation will be Howard Brown's fifth facility in the city and should be open by May, according to officials. Dr. Maya Green, MD, who has been a physician provider at the Ruth M. Rothstein CORE Center, will be medical director.

David Munar, president and CEO of Howard Brown, said the arrangement makes sense both for his organization and underserved populations in the neighborhood.

"We've seen a surge of patients since the Affordable Care Act went into effect," he said, noting that Howard Brown's patient population went up 25 percent in 2014, and 20 percent in 2015. "We expect the number for 2016 to be about the same or more."

The new clinic would reduce strained capacities at Howard Brown's main clinic and allow local residents to be treated closer to home, he added. "Our goal is to see patients living and working all over the city."

Munar said that the city had been "pretty transparent" in turning over its practices to private providers such as Howard Brown, and that the new plan would reach more patients and cost less. The turnover came as the result of infrastructure challenges, many of which stemmed from difficulties in implementing and maintaining electronic medical records.

Chamber changes

The Chicago Area Gay & Lesbian Chamber of

Commerce, marking its 20th anniversary, is

changing its name. To mark the occasion, the

board of directors have decided to change

the name of the organization to more closely

align itself with and reflect the community it

serves. The organization's new name is LGBT

The Chamber was launched by Tracy Baim,

then-publisher of Outlines newspaper and now publisher of Windy City Times. Baim and

Kevin Boyer were its first co-chairs. Addition-

al co-founders were Tom Tunney, Carrie Bar-

nett and Art Johnston. All five started work-

ing together in 1995 to help promote small businesses in advance of the 1996 Democrat-

ic National Convention coming to Chicago. Baim wanted a group to follow on the heels

of the defunct Metropolitan Business Asso-

ciation, which had served businesses in the

"Our 20th anniversary is the perfect time to

reflect on two decades of accomplishments,

and also gives us an opportunity to reshape ourselves for the future," said Gerardo Ro-

driguez, the chamber's current executive di-

rector. "We've always been inclusive, but we

thought it was time to do something very

visible to show that inclusiveness to every-

one within our community, and to the great-

We're very proud of the progress we've made

as an organization over the past 20 years,

and this past year in particular," continued

Rodriguez. "Our partnership with SCORE,

launched in February 2016, and the first of

its kind in the nation, gives our members ac-

er business community at large."

Chamber of Commerce of Illinois.

include 'LGBT'

name to

1980s.

HOWARD BROWN HEALTH CENTER

David Munar. Photo from Munar

"The city really leveraged its facilities to help community partners," he added.

CDPH also implemented partnerships with University of Illinois-Chicago, which will manage HIV clinics in Uptown, South Chicago and Humboldt Park. CDPH Commissioner Julie Morita said that the number of patients receiving primary care from the clinics—about 500 would expand by over 800.

"The health department had made huge strides in increasing ways to improve access and do more," said Morita.

cess to the collective wisdom and guidance of many business leaders. Our ongoing collaboration with the Small Business Administration helps bring the resources of the SBA to our members. These partnerships, along with our vital and popular networking opportunities and other educational programs, serve to strengthen our member businesses."

"Along with our new name, we have major initiatives already in play that are designed to help our member businesses flourish," says Rodriguez. "In this anniversary year, our biggest initiative is to help member businesses that are LGBT owned get certified as an LGBT Business Enterprise (LGBTBE). This certification helps LGBT businesses gain access to corporate Supplier Diversity chains. We are the only organization in Illinois authorized to provide these certifications, which are managed nationally by the National Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce."

HRC launches business support of Equality Act

The Human Rights Campaign (HRC) announced the launch of HRC's Business Coalition for the Equality Act—a coalition of 60 major employers that have officially endorsed the bipartisan Equality Act.

With operations in all 50 states, headquarters spanning 22 states and a combined \$1.9 trillion in revenue, the companies that make up the coalition employ more than 4.2 million people in the United States.

HRC stated that a majority of states (32) still lack fully inclusive non-discrimination protections for LGBT people, and there are no explicit federal protections against discrimination.

Activist Dr. Quentin Young dies at 92

Dr. Quentin Young, known for his civilrights activism, passed away March 7 in Berkeley, California, The Chicago Tribune noted. He was 92.

Among other achievements, Young participated in one of the historic 1965 Alabama marches from Selma to Montgomery, and cofounded and was national chairman for the Medical Committee for Human Rights.

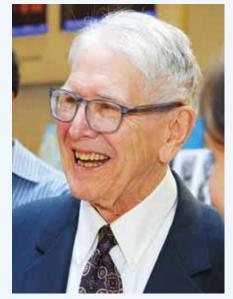
Young had a strong connection to Chicago. He graduated from Northwestern University Medical School in the 1940s, worked as a physician at the former Michael Reese Hospital on Chicago's South Side and was chairman of medicine at Cook County Hospital from 1971 to 1980. Overall, his patients ranged from Martin Luther King Jr. to Chicago figure Studs Terkel.

In 2014, Windy City Times profiled Young in connection with his then-new book, Everybody In, Nobody Out: Memoirs of a Rebel Without a Pause. Written in collaboration with Steve Fiffer, Young's memoir offers a rare glimpse inside the mind of a fearless advocate for a single-payer health system, following his path through the civil-rights movement on through his stint as the head of Cook County Hospital. It was noted that Young, who retired from private practice in 2008, treated HIV/AIDS patients, and prominently promoted prevention, most notably through safe sex.

Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle said in a statement, "I was saddened to hear of the death of Dr. Quentin Young. Dr. Young spent a lifetime devoted to progressive causes in the political, social and health arenas. A lifelong South Sider and former

WINDY CITY

GAY CHORUS



Dr. Quentin Young. Photo from the Health & Medicine Policy Research Group

Chairman of Medicine at Cook County Hospital, he was an early advocate of single-payer national health care and a relentless advocate of fairness and justice for all citizens. My condolences to his family."

The Chicago Tribune article is at http:// www.chicagotribune.com/news/ct-quentinyoung-dead-20160308-story.html. The Windy City Times piece on Young is at http://www. windycitymediagroup.com/lgbt/Retireddoctor-reflects-on-his-90-years-in-newbook/47674.html.

WINDY CITY

TREBLE QUIRE

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Tribune sports writer comes out, rips NFL'S homophobia

BY ROSS FORMAN

Chris Hine, the Chicago Blackhawks hockey beat writer for the Chicago Tribune, skated out strongly against questions to a prospect posed by an assistant coach for the Atlanta Falcons football team—and Hine came out as gay in the process.

Comcast SportsNet's "Breakfast on Broad" asked Ohio State University's Eli Apple what was the weirdest question he was asked during his interview at the NFL Combine, which is an annual skill audition and physical evaluation for players who have declared for the NFL Draft, which begins April 28 in Chicago. Apple is a top prospect and a potential first-round pick.

Apple reported that the Falcons' coach asked him, "So, do you like men?" and that reportedly was one of the first things he asked.

Atlanta head coach Dan Quinn later apologized for the question. "I am really disappointed in the question that was asked by one of our coaches," Quinn told the Atlanta Journal Constitution. "I have spoken to the coach that interviewed Eli Apple and explained to him how inappropriate and unprofessional this was."

Hine did what he does best—write—almost immediately after hearing about the question asked of Apple.

"After I got to think about [the coach's question], and the implications of what was being said, I started to get a little angrier about it," said Hine, 29, who lives in West Lake View and is in sixth year writing for the Tribune and his first full season as the Hawks' beat writer. He previously has covered University of Illinois football and basketball and University of Notre Dame football and basketball.

The Hawks, of course, are the defending Stanley Cup champion and have won the title three times over the past six seasons.

Hine, for the past couple of years, has wanted to write about gay rights, gay athletes' coming-out, homophobia and more, but he never pulled the trigger on those topics.

Hine came out full force, with the strength of slapshot, on March 9, critical of the question Apple faced—with his own personal comingout.

"I needed to say what was said," Hine said. Hine read about the Apple incident on March 3, started writing a column on the subject the next night and finished it the next morning. He then sent it to some colleagues for feedback. The story ran in the Tribune on March 9.

Hine said some at the Tribune knew he was gay before the story and he "never hid" his sexual orientation on social media, checkingin at gay bars for instance. "I never tried to hide [my orientation] from anybody ... I just reached a point in my life where I don't want to hide, or that I have to hide," he said.

Hine said the response to his public comingout has been overwhelmingly positive—from fellow journalists and readers. Other than a couple of negative emails and Tweets, the re-



Photo from Hlne

sponse has been 98 or 99 percent positive and supportive, he said.

Hine said that, "quite frankly" was not the response he was expecting.

"I was expecting a little more negative feedback, or people disagreeing with me. I was surprised [to receive] such support, and I'm very thankful for that," he said.

Hine has not had any response from the Blackhawks or any of its players, as of a few days after his coming-out ran in the paper.

Hine did give the team advance notice about the story and his coming-out, and since, "nothing has changed," he said. "That's exactly Hine said the question posed to Apple "does not promote an atmosphere of tolerance and acceptance, but rather, one of homophobia. When stuff like this happens, what needs to happen is, education [and] some counseling."

how I want it to be.

So, is the NHL ready for an openly gay player? "That's an interesting question ... I hope so," he said. "The NHL has worked with the You Can Play Project to promote a pretty solid atmosphere. I think the NHL has done a good job on that over the past couple of years.

"I do think it can happen, but I have my doubts that there are going to be several gay players or a wave of players coming out; I don't think we've hit that point, yet. I still think it takes a lot of courage and guts to come out, given their [often short] careers and the millions of dollars that are on the line, and [they] just don't know how players or coaches are going to react.

"There is a lot at stake, and I totally understand why gay athletes [don't want to come out]; I really do."

Hine came out to his parents at age 22 just before moving to Chicago from his native Pennsylvania, and then to his friends over the next year or so.

"It was a tough process [coming out], working up the nerve to do it, but everyone in my life has been very supportive of me; I'm very fortunate in that regard because it's not like that for all gay men," Hine said. "I couldn't have asked for more [love and support in my coming-out.]"

Hine said Chicago's gay scene is vibrant, full of life—"and for that I'm thankful that I life in Chicago, a city where people can express themselves without really having to hide it, which is a great thing."

Hine said his favorite Chicago gay bar is Replay Beer & Bourbon—with locations in Lake View and Andersonville—mostly because it has vintage video games.

<complex-block>

Pictured from left: Michelle Sanders (Silver Fork), Tracy Baim (750 Club), Jasean D. Purdis (Q-YES), Saulsberry, Alicia Vega (Q-YES), Barnes (partially hidden), Victor Salvo and Carrie Maxwell (Legacy Project), Meredith Montgomery (She Crew), Benson, Skinner-Ricketts, Nazy, and Renauda Riddle (Silver Fork/Center on Halsted). Photo by Emmanuel Garcia

SHE100 issues grants to five agencies

The Chicago-based SHE100, a donor-informed fund for LGBTQ organizations, hosted its annual grants giving event March 13 at Center on Halsted.

Grants ranged from about \$880 to \$5,000 for The Legacy Project, She Crew (a multidisciplinary journaling workshop for 12-14 year old girls), The 750 Club Apartment Adoption Project (for LGBTQ youth experiencing homelessness), Silver Fork at Center on Halsted (a culinary training program) and Q-YES (an LGBTQ youth spirituality group).

SHE100 organizers on hand to give out checks were Kelly Suzanne Saulsberry, Brooke Skinner-Ricketts, Maia Lis Benson, Angela Barnes and Nuha Nazy. Amy Bloom was out of town. Bloom, Barnes, Skinner-Ricketts and Benson founded the group.

WINDY CITY TIMES

WINDY CITY TIMES



in the LIFE Michael O. Rice II TEXT BY ROSS FORMAN PHOTOS COURTESY OF RICE

- Age 40
- Orientation Gay
- Relationship status
 Single
- Neighborhood
 Andersonville
- Job title HR Generalist
- CMSA title Treasurer and Open Sunday Softball commissioner
- Plays in CMSA Softball, football, volleyball (indoor

- and beach), ultimate and dodgeball • **Favorite pro athlete**
 - Michael Phelps • Favorite pro team Chicago White Sox
 - Most-used app Twitter
 - Uber or Lyft? Uber

• Little-known fact "When I'm not playing sports, I judge high school theater and speech."



Michael O. Rice II is set for his seventh season playing in the Open Sunday Softball league, run by the Chicago Metropolitan Sports Association (CMSA), with the first pitch set for May 1. He is a third baseman playing for the C-Division team called, Legion of Boom—and this is his first season as the league's commissioner.

Rice replaced Jack Neilsen, who held the title for the past eight seasons. About 750 players are expected this season on 45 talent-tiered teams, playing an 18-game, 10-week season through July 24, followed by two weeks of playoffs. That famous umpire call, "Play Ball," can't come soon enough for Rice and the mostly gay men who pitch, hit and run for fun and bragging rights at six north-side fields.

The focus this season is, simple softball, he said.

"We really want [softball] to just be about having a good time, so it's not so intense or structured and feeling like a chore," he said.

Rice said the league will have several preseason events, such as a signup party, which was held March 12. (Anyone who missed it and wants to play is still open to sign up, and future signup parties will be held.) There also will be a skills and pitching clinic on Sunday, April 3, 9 a.m.-12 p.m., at Margate Fields. Plus, there will be a kickoff party on Friday, April 22, at Empirical Brewery.

Rice said the drop in players and teams this season is partially attributed



to Father Time, and some teams are merging.

"We are very excited about the upcoming season and we, as the [league's] board, are putting things in place for everyone to have a fun, memorable season," said Rice who, as a CMSA softball player has won multiple championships, such as the 2012 open Sunday softball title.

"The thing that stands out to me [about CMSA,] particularly softball, is the friends I've made. Some of my teammates are some of my best friends."

Rice has played in softball tournaments across the United States, with CMSA teams and also in the annual Gay Softball World Series. He even carried the Chicago flag into the opening ceremony of the 2013 World Series, held in Washington, D.C., which he said was "awesome, a great experience, a great honor to represent the city."

"The ability to go out on a Sunday, be with my friends, play softball, have a good time, and watch everyone else have a good time ... that's what I enjoy most about the [Open Sunday Softball league]," Rice said.

The Open Sunday Softball League welcomes new players annually, including about 20 or so who have never previously played the sport, or it's been years or decades since they last used a glove. "We'll find a team for anyone who wants to play, so you can play, have a good time and improve your skills," Rice said.

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March 16, 2016

WINDY CITY TIMES



Dana



MOMBIAN Two books tell the stories of **LGBTQ** families

Stories have power. Two new collections of stories about the creation of LGBTQ families reinforce that point with two very different approaches.

Modern Families: Stories of Extraordinary Journeys to Kinship, by Joshua Gamson (NYU Press: 2015), is a collection of creation tales about Gamson's own family and several other LGBTQ families that he knows, woven together by insights on the meaning of families today and the intersecting and sometimes conflicting social, legal, and economic contexts in which we create them.

Gamson, a professor of sociology at the University of San Francisco, was motivated to write, he says, by people inquiring about his own family. Gamson, White and Jewish, and his biracial (Black and white) husband Richard had one child with a friend of Gamson's as their surrogate, and eggs from another friend. For their second child, they used a surrogate from an agency and eggs donated by a friend. While he sometimes bristled at questions about his family, he realized that "People really just wanted to know about origins: how a life and a family started when not everything was easy and scripted."

He was surrounded by such stories. In his immediate social circle were a single mother by choice who adopted a child from Ethiopia; a lesbian couple who used one woman's eggs while the other carried the fetus. fertilized from donor sperm; another lesbian couple co-parenting two adopted children (from Nepal and India) with a gay male couple; and a couple consisting of a woman and a transgender man, who started a family through private adoption.

He shares their tales with an engaging, gently humorous, and at times poetic style. At the same time, he also teases out the connections between individual family stories and the social systems in which they are immersed. "There is no separation between the ways we make our families and the various social hierarchies in which we all find ourselves," he says. His goal is not a systematic study, but rather an exploration of how these hierarchies—of gender, ethnicity, race and class-may affect our family-making and are illuminated by it in turn. Often-expensive assisted reproduction, for example, "facilitates the creation of some queer families even as it reinforces the distance between haves and have-nots."

This is not an "academic" book, however, despite Gamson's credentials. (It should not be confused with Modern Families: Parents and Children in New Family Forms, by Susan Golombok, also published last year and a worthwhile overview of current academic research.) Gamson places his book between what he calls "repro lit"—personal, honest accounts of starting families-and "repro crit"-often critical academic analyses of the institutional structures of family creation. The stories of the parents in his book, he says, cannot be understood outside their structural context—but also cannot be understood apart from the personal, intense, creative drive that motivated them to become parents in the first place. His deft blending of the two makes his book a must-read for anyone interested in families today.

This brings us to Journey to Same-Sex Parenthood: Firsthand Advice, Tips and Stories from Lesbian and Gay Couples, by Eric Rosswood (New Horizon Press: 2016), which lies more toward the "repro lit" end of the spectrum. It features stories of 19 couples (and coparenting units of more than two) telling us in their own words about the obstacles and triumphs of forming their families. A list of legal tips and questions to ask in choosing a parenting path add to its practical, how-to feel.

We meet parents from around the United States, as well as the United Kingdom, Ireland and South Africa. Their conversational and candid essays are grouped by type of family formation: Open Adoption, Foster Parenting and Adopting from Foster Care, Surrogacy, and Assisted Reproduction. Rosswood explains that he wanted to include all these approaches in one volume to help others who are starting their parenting journeys but unsure which way to go. After reading through these stories, prospective parents should indeed have a better sense of what's involved with each method and be better prepared to make their own decisions.

For each section, Rosswood provides a brief overview of what each path to parenthood involves. The section on "Open Adoption," however, is misleading. His introduction there implies that all open adoptions begin with the birth of the child. All of the stories in that section do involve parents who adopted new-



JOURNEY TO SAME-SEX PARENTHOOD

Firsthand Advice, Tips and Stories from Lesbian and Gay Couples



INTRODUCTION BY CHARLIE CONDOU

borns—but the fact is, open adoptions (which allow some form of association among the adoptive parent(s), birth parent(s), and child) can occur with children adopted at any age, as well as with those adopted from foster care (whom Rosswood puts in a different section). The section would have been better titled "Infant Adoption."

Nevertheless, many same-sex couples considering parenthood will find the first-person stories in this book immediately useful, both for their practical tips and for the comforting sense they convey that others have been there before.

Those seeking insight on how we LGBTQ families fit into larger social systems, however, but who want something more personable than an academic study, should turn to Gamson, who gives us thoughtful proof that the personal is indeed political. "Hyperintentional, inventive, and obstinate, the families wrote their own scripts," he says. The stories in both books help us to better understand-and to be part of-that creative process.

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

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Out in the open

Dear Editor,

For nearly five decades our great city has celebrated its Pride through multiple celebrations, most especially the Chicago Pride Parade, which is reportedly the largest such event in the nation.

For all these years, the Pride Parade has been organized by a dedicated group of volunteers under the leadership of a very fine gentleman. When he and his friends started the parade all those years ago, walking the streets displaying vour pride was dangerous—even life-threatening. Today it is the city's largest celebration.

For that, the LGBT community owes them a huge debt of gratitude.

Since the Pride Parade is now the city's largest annual event, it is time to consider bringing the management of the event out from the private living rooms of its volunteers and into a public not-for-profit. We should create an open and transparent venue for the entire community to be involved in not just the Pride Parade, which takes place on one day, but to organize Pride Month, with multiple celebrations and activities.

This new group could be managed by a diverse board of directors that represents the entire LGBT community, our allies, and the businesses and residents that graciously host our public events in their neighborhoods. The group would be able to solicit corporate sponsorships, and organize events throughout the entire City of Chicago, and perhaps also the suburbs, or even downstate communities.

Once this group is formed and organizes its first Pride celebration, it should announce its first grand marshal as Mr. Richard Pfeiffer, to whom we owe so many thanks for his years of service.

Thank you, Richard.

Sincerely, Clint W. Sabin Chicago



VOL. 31, No. 25, March 16, 2016 The combined forces of Windy City Times, unded Sept. 1985, and Outlines newspaper, founded May 1987.

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CIRCULATION DIRECTOR Jean Albright DISTRIBUTION: Ashina, Allan, Dan, John, Sue and Victor

WEB HOSTING: LoveYourWebsite.com (lead programmer: Martie Marro)

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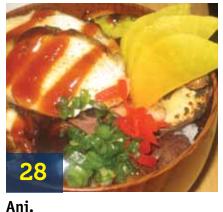
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SCOTTISH PLAY SCOTT

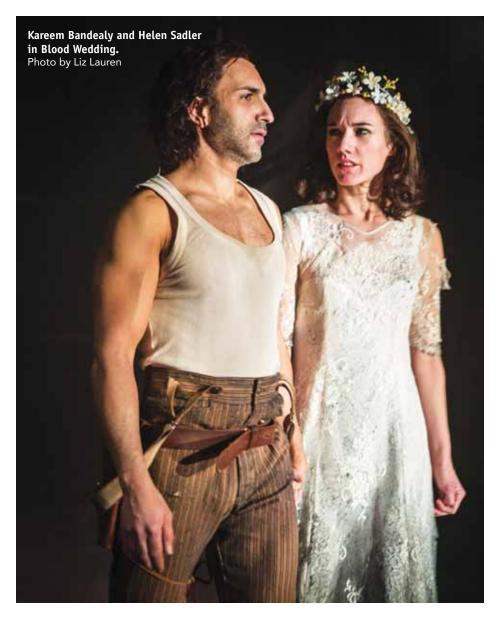
From designer to director

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

Daniel Ostling is known throughout the theater world primarily as a set designer, though he's also designed costumes and lighting, too. But now Ostling is making his Chicago directing debut with the 1933 tragedy Blood Wedding for Lookingglass Theatre.

Blood Wedding is Ostling's favorite play and he has long identified with its gay author Federico Garcia Lorca, who was executed in 1936 by fascist forces amid the Spanish Civil War. "It was like I had this artistic blood brother in Lorca," said Ostling about his first exposure to reading Blood Wedding on a flight while crossing Lake Michigan. "I had such a sort of visceral, immediate reaction as if someone had plugged me into the wall with his words."

Ostling has been an ensemble member with Lookingglass since 2003, and he is famed for his collaborations with Tony Award-winning director and fellow Lookingglass ensemble mem-





Field of dreams

Sally Field (with Max Greenfield) stars in Hello, My Name Is Doris. Photo by Aaron Epstein

ber Mary Zimmerman. Their projects range from the Chicago-to-Broadway transfer and revivals of Zimmerman's Ovid exploration Metamorphoses, to an upcoming new production of Dvorak's tragic fairytale Rusalka at the Metropolitan Opera.

Despite his long track record, it took some convincing on Ostling's part (plus a few artistic retreats and workshops) for the Lookingglass artistic brass to let him direct and design a production of Blood Wedding.

Ostling had only made his directing debut in 2011 for Two River Theater in New Jersey on a production of the revue Jacques Brel is Alive and Well and Living in Paris. Yet that assignment largely came about when the original director dropped out late in the game due to health reasons.

"It put the production in a strange position because my set had such a singular point of view that it would have been an uncomfortable thing for another director to walk into," said Ostling about his first crack at directing. "I just had the greatest time. I felt very at home and it felt really what I had been doing for the past 30 years as a designer, but it felt wonderful to have total control."

To research Blood Wedding, Ostling took a couple of trips to the Andalusia region of Spain to soak in the location and atmosphere to Lorca's rustic tale of lust, betrayal and revengeful murder. Nonetheless, Ostling decided not to use the play's original Spanish setting.

"When you do an older play, you try not as a museum curator to put onstage what someone has written but actually find the vibrating core of a play and make that as powerful as you can," Ostling said. "I was trying to find a way to make it more immediate."

So Ostling has reset his Blood Wedding to California's Central Valley in the late 1930s. He instead wanted Chicago audiences to hopefully have a closer sense of recognition to the drama.

"It needed to be rural and it needed to be a place where people were connected to the land and a place where there was real heat," Ostling said. "It's also a place where these different cultures came together—Mexicans from the

PFP's LezPlay Program unveils programming

Pride Films and Plays' (PFP's) LezPlay Program, led by PFP Artistic Associate Amber Snyder and company member Carolyn Reynolds, announced plans for a full year of Lez-Play programming in 2016.

—For the first time, PFP will sell an L Pass allowing admittance to two world-premiere productions: Raggedy And, running March 10-April 10, 2016 at Rivendell Theater, and south and refugees from the Dust Bowl and the settlers and Asians from the East. That created a very unique moment in time like Andalusia where you had the Moors from the south, the Roma people from the east and the Catholics from the north."

To help bring about his vision of Blood Wedding, Ostling is reteaming with costume designer and fellow Lookingglass ensemble member Mara Blumenfeld. He's also happy to have aboard composer Rick Sims, who is writing original music that is so crucial to Lorca's strange and symbolic lullabies that appear early in the play.

Ostling is also glad to be back in the Chicago area where he build his career as a designer and a professor at Northwestern University from 2003 to 2011. Ostling said he shocked many colleagues when he left his tenured position to move to San Francisco so he could live with his longtime partner, Leo Chang.

Ostling also revealed that he's taking fledgling steps as a playwright by adapting Andrew Holleran's 2006 novel Grief, which is about a middle-aged gay man mourning the loss of his mother. But now all of Ostling's attention is on Blood Wedding, and he hopes it will speak to many people, in particular LGBTQ audiences since he himself found such a deep connection to Lorca's life and work.

"The pain of 'the other' that [Lorca] felt as a gay man in Spain in the 1920s and '30s was not acceptable to the general population, so he uses this metaphor to find something that people can relate to—this pain of death that is universal and uses that to help the audience to understand the pain that he felt or any sort of marginalized people," Ostling said. "Not that [Blood Wedding] only works on that level, but I think anyone who is gay or lesbian who reads Lorca and his play will have a deep, profound sort of connection to these struggles."

Lookingglass Theatre's production of Lorca's Blood Wedding continues through Sunday, April 24, at Chicago's historic Water Tower Water Works, 821 N. Michigan Ave. Tickets are \$40-\$75; call 312-337-0665 or visit www.lookingglasstheatre.org for more information.

Resolution, running Oct. 10-Nov. 10, also at Rivendell.

—At the most recent LezPlay Film Festival, the audience favorite award went to Betty, by writer/director Kristiina Kello.

—Submissions for the 2016 LezPlay Contest are now being accepted. The contest seeks stories for stage and screen with lesbian characters or themes, written by womenidentified writers. (The entry fee is \$15 if the script is received by March 31, and \$30 if the script is received by April 30.) The entry form is at https://filmfreeway.com/festival/ LezPlay.

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16 **THEATER REVIEW**

Richard III Playwright: William Shakespeare At: Gift Theatre at the Steppenwolf Garage, 1624 N. Halsted St. Tickets: 312-335-1650;

www.steppenwolf.org; \$30-\$40

Runs through: May 1

BY JONATHAN ABARBANEL

To damn with faint praise, this Richard III kept me alert and entertained, but I think it's more the play itself—and the wily, demented personality of the title character-than the production. Yes, it's special and vivid when Michael Patrick Thornton as Richard rises from his real-life wheelchair to slowly stride backand-forth across the stage, assisted by stateof-the-art robotics strapped to his legs and torso (courtesy of the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago). It recalls how paralyzed Franklin Roosevelt mastered an arduous pseudo-walk, knowing he had to stand tall, guite literally, if he hoped to become President. Thornton's stunning walk shows Richard embracing the same idea: to rule a nation one must overcome physical weakness in a highly-visible way. It's striking, too, that Thornton's wheelchair represents humpback Richard's twisted, scoliotic spine.

Nonetheless, this production is uneven. Several actors deliver Shakespeare with power and clarity, notably Jenny Avery (as Elizabeth), Keith Neagle (Buckingham) and Shanesia Davis (as the prophetic harridan, Queen Margaret); but some supporting players sound like actorsin-training struggling with classical texts. Even Thornton seems uneven, often simply too conversational in this intimate 90-seat arena stag-

THEATER REVIEW

Jerusalem Playwright: Jez Butterworth

At: Profiles Theatre, 4139 N. Broadway Tickets: 1-773-549-1815; www.profilestheatre.org; \$35-\$40 Runs through: April 24

BY JONATHAN ABARBANEL

"Jerusalem" is the widely-popular British patriotic anthem which sings of "that green and pleasant land"—England, not the Holy Land with a symbolic tilt against industrialization.

Jez Butterworth's big, meaty play riffs on the anthem, drawing widely on English mythology (the giants who built Stonehenge, St. George the dragon-slayer) and traditional popular culture (Morris dancing and Yuletide pantomimes). It's a shout-out to old English

THEATER REVIEW Dangerous

Playwright: Tom Smith At: The Cuckoo's Theater Project at Prop Thtr. 3502 N. Elston Ave. Tickets: TheCuckoos TheaterProject.com; \$20 Runs through: April 3

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

The mind races at the potential approaches to a gay male version of Dangerous Liaisons, which is what Tom Smith's new play Dangerous aims to be for The Cuckoo's Theater Project.

Dangerous could have been a campy lampoon in the vein of drag and sex joke-filled works by Charles Busch or Dan Savage. The 1988 film classic is ripe for parody in the overly serious way that acclaimed actors like John Malkovich and Glenn Close portrayed scheming members of 18th century French society playing vicious games of sex and love. Or Dangerous could have stuck closer to values of rugged independence and attachment to the land paid for with ancient blood, and a cry against oppressive regulation and conformity. Butterworth all but says that England has lost its nobility and spiritual (distinct from religious) center and no longer is "this other Eden, demi-paradise" as Shakespeare called it in Richard II.

self-awareness and mocking duplicity-some-

times ironically comic—but when he needs to

express a mood other than anger (such as maj-

esty or desperation as his world implodes) he's

Sully Ratke's timeless costumes are neither

period-accurate (1480s) nor modern, which is

just fine-but they are odd, nonetheless. All

are in shades of gray, everyone is bare-armed

lacking.

past.

In all respects Jerusalem is extremely welldone-large ensemble cast, scenic design, props, funky costumes—but still presents problems. First, it's so very Anglo-centric that American audiences will not fully understand its cultural context. For instance, few will recognize that Thad Hallstein's utterly perfect scenic design incorporates a setting for a British holiday show, Babes in the Woods, which is thematically appropriate. Second, at three hours (two intermissions) it's self-indulgent writing, even though Butterworth and director Joe Jahraus never let it become boring or slow.

Third, the central character, who bears Butterworth's grievances and message, is so outrageously irresponsible that sympathizing with him (you choose: devil or angel) is difficult.

Johnny "Rooster" Byron (Darrell W. Cox) is fortysomething, lives in a trailer in the woods of 1990s Wiltshire (the English county where Stonehenge is located), has no visible means of support, has an illegitimate son, is a public drunken brawler and plies local teens/young adults with booze and drugs. No wonder local authorities plan to evict Johnny and bulldoze his woodsy rave spot, despite his deep local roots. Wiltshire born-and-bred, Johnny knows too much—literally and mystically—about his English turf.

Act I introduces Johnny and his aimless, unmotivated young adherents. Sorry, I have zero interest in yet another play about adolescent slackers. In Act II, Johnny channels Falstaff, Shakespeare's Dionysian pseudo-father figure

uploaded to amateur porn sites. But Smith doesn't infuse his drama as deeply as he could to show the modern world that we live in, or how people's online actions and personas can be used to destroy others' reputations or aspirations.

Director Mason Absher's bare-bones production either didn't have the budget or technological wherewithal to deploy projections to visually depict these mentions of social media, either. So what we get is a stop-start paced production with clunky scene changes.

Absher's casting choices are also questionable. Try as he might, James' Valmont doesn't come across as a credible serial seducer who can bed any man he chooses. The rest of the cast also seem hampered by their implausible characters who are either so innocent or so manipulative that there is little else for them to play behavior-wise.

Despite its potential, Dangerous is ultimately disappointing. The sex and relationship games played by modern gay guys aren't reflected in Dangerous, which looks backwards more than being an embodiment of today.

JR Lederle's lighting adds quality to the production, focusing audience attention and sometimes bathing Richard alone in color. It works well with the setting by Jacqueline and Richard Penrod, which surrounds the action (and audience) with trees on three sides and heavy curtains on the fourth, and covers the square-ish stage with faded keystone patterns. everything but the curtains in neutral colors. Kevin O'Donnell's music adds power to the show, as his compositions usually do.

and barefoot except Richard, and everyone Richard. The trimmed text, however, allows for sports dangling pearl earrings. Obviously, there a fast-paced and vigorous production, which is is a concept here worked out by Ratke and a saving grace.

who empowers social disorder, placing heart and liberty over Apollonian reason. This is more interesting. Cox allows us to glimpse Johnny's sporadic charm, encouraging the young'uns to be true to themselves, which most take as license to be quirky. In Act III, civic authorities and vigilante justice pursue Johnny. He doesn't deserve vigilante justice, but he's a train wreck who can't-or won't-clear his own tracks, a poor representative for the heroic ideals he believes he embodies.

Butterworth gives Johnny no way out. His time is over—just like the giants of his stories. Butterworth's bitter political pill is that Jerusalem has been destroyed, if it ever existed.

CRITICS' PICKS

The Hairy Ape, Oracle Theatre, through March 20. Eugene O'Neill's 1922 expressionist drama about the American underclass has been explosively reinvented and choreographed by director Monty Cole. Julian Parker powerfully plays the forlorn hero, steamship coal stoker Yank, with visceral support from a sharp fiveman ensemble. JA

Interrogation, The Artistic Home, through March 20. Scott Woldman's barrel of red herrings conceal the man behind the curtain from even the savviest playgoers in this crafty whodunit. MSB

I've Got the World on a String, City Lit Theater, through April 10. Harold Arlen's jazzy, bluesy, soulful melodies and toe-tapping tunes are showcased in a delightful revue, with lyrics by Yip Harburg, Ira Gershwin, Johnny Mercer, etc. JA

The Old Friends, Raven Theatre, through March 26. Horton Foote's old Texas dogs don't learn new tricks, they just keep repeating the old ones, but they sure make it fun to watch. MSB

> —By Abarbanel, Barnidge and Morgan

Christopher Hampton's 1980s stage drama Les Liaisons Dangereuses, which drew its inspiration from Pierre Choderlos de Laclos's original 18th century novel of the same name. A serious period drama with gay characters added to the mix might have been a fascinating historical view to homosexuality in centuries

Smith's ultimate approach to Dangerous is to update the action to 2010 New York by focusing on a clique of older A-list gays and the young and dumb twinks they manipulate. Hence we get Marcus (Shane Roberie) egging on the lothario Alexander Valmont (Marc James) to not only sleep with the inexperienced personal trainer Jason (Justin Dietzel), but to seduce the handsome in-training priest Trevor (Cory Lipman). Also in the mix is Valmont's sex buddy, Landon (Leo LaCamara), the music teacher Daniel (Joe Faifer) and the cancer-stricken Rosemonde (Rocco Renda).

Alas, Dangerous feels dated since Smith follows the earlier works' templates of plot, character and social mores so closely. Oh sure, the script does mention emailing, texting and spy webcams set up to capture trysts to be



what it is. The text is significantly cut (lots

of expository dialogue is axed) and the play

opens with a scene near the end, with Richard

on the eve of the battle in which he will die.

The play is seen, then, as Richard's flashbacks

as he replays his career in his mind, stopping

and resuming the action at will. I understand

that much, but I don't see that it reveals any-

thing new about the play or the character of

March 16, 2016

WINDY CITY TIMES

Delia Kropp and Katurah Nelson in Raggedy And. Photo by Paul Goyette

THEATER REVIEW

Raggedy And Playwright: David Valdes Greenwood At: Pride Films and Plays at Rivendell Theatre, 5779 N. Ridge Ave. Tickets: 800-737-0984 or www.pridefilmsandplays.com; \$22-\$27 Runs through: April 10

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

You can tell that David Valdes Greenwood had his heart in the right place writing his comicdrama Raggedy And. Unfortunately, Valdes Greenwood's preachy script and Pride Films and Plays' world-premiere production both fall short in execution.

Raggedy And deserves kudos for its attempt to raise awareness around gender-identity issues in regards to the play's central couple, a trans woman poet named Ondi (Delia Kropp) and her lesbian partner, Clem (Katurah Nelson). Yet the play also tries so hard to be all-inclusive to the extended LGBTQIA acronym that it soon comes off like a self-congratulatory exer-

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cise in political correctness.

The play begins with a rushed and clunky expository scene where Ondi and Clem's 22-yearold son, Ben (Averis I. Anderson), comes out to them as bisexual. Barely has this revelation registered when Ben brings home his first boyfriend, a high-powered Cuban-American Democratic political operative named Jayden (Manuel Ortiz) who later turns into the play's nominal antagonist.

Jayden apparently helped to mastermind the winning Democratic campaign for America's first female president (her initials are H.C.). Now Jayden is the primary planner for the presidential inauguration and he wants Ondi to write and deliver the ceremonial poem.

Ondi's should-I-say-yes-or-no dilemma dominates the first act, while the second focuses on how Ondi and her family try to take control of the conversation away from Jayden. He insists that Ondi be labeled as "trans" to raise positive awareness for the transgender community, but she would prefer to be identified simply as female since she transitioned so long ago.

Raggedy And's ultimate happy conclusion feels dramatically disingenuous since Valdes

A DAUGHTER

DISOWNED.

BETRAYED.

REVEALED

PLAYING

A CONSPIRACY

written by

directed by JONATHAN MUNBY

SHAKESPEARE

A MAN

Greenwood earlier referenced so many reallife safety concerns faced by people suddenly thrust into the harsh glare of a worldwide spotlight. There's also no mention of the aftermath—particularly of the inevitable vicious moralizing and scrutiny of right-wing media outlets to Ondi and Clem.

Cecilie Keenan's direction and casting for Raggedy And is also problematic. Kropp and Ortiz come out the best with well-rounded characterizations, but Anderson and Nelson struggle at embodying the dramatic moments that they're in. Nelson in particular acts as if she's just biding her time to deliver Clem's many comic zingers rather than being fully But then Valdes Greenwood's Raggedy And script isn't always the easiest to perform. It often feels more concerned with identity debates rather than offering up realistic characters and dialogue.

Raggedy And is valiant in the sense that it offers opportunities for diverse actors to perform a plot exploring the importance of self-definition with gender and sexuality. But Raggedy And probably would have been more powerful if it more honestly reflected our times of minority fear-mongering and political polarization rather than being the hopeful near-future fantasy it's content to be.

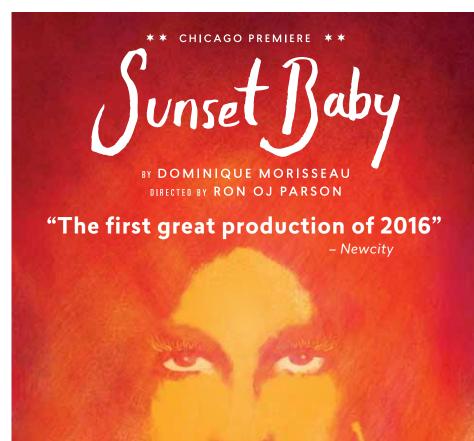


present.



The Windy City Gay Chorus and Windy City Treble Quire-making up the Windy City Performing Arts (WCPA)—tackle Carl Orff's famed 1930s cantata Carmina Burana, which features medieval poems in Latin, Middle High German and more. It's conducted by Windy City Performing Arts artistic director Paul Caldwell, who will depart later this year to lead the Seattle Men's Chorus and the Seattle Women's Chorus. Carmina Burana is performed at 5 and 8 p.m. Saturday, March 19, at the Chicago Temple, 77 W. Washington St. Tickets are \$30 for reserved seating if purchased in advance, and \$18-\$20 for general admission. Senior tickets are available for \$15 and \$10 for students or children. Call 800-838-3006 or visit www.windycitysings.org for more information.

Photo of Windy City Performing Arts Artistic Director Paul Caldwell courtesy of WCPA



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MUST CLOSE APRIL

March 16, 2016

John O'Hurley (center) in Chicago: The Musical. Photo by Jeremy Daniel WINDY CITY TIMES

April 8-May 15; www.porchlightmusictheatre. org

-Evita, Marriott Theatre, 10 Marriott Drive, Lincolnshire. Argentina's most iconic and controversial First Lady comes back to life in the round via Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice's 1970s pop opera. April 13-June 5; www.marriotttheatre.com

—**The Producers**, Mercury Theater Chicago, N. Southport Ave. A scheming Broadway producer and his awkward accountant try to make a fortune on a likely Broadway flop called Springtime for Hitler in this 2001 Broadway musical adaptation of Mel Brooks' classic film comedy. April 14-June 26; www.mercurytheaterchicago.com

—**The House of Blue Leaves**, Raven Theatre, 6157 N. Clark St. When it's the 1960s and a poor New York zookeeper just can't get a break, is it funny or tragic? Runs from April 26-June 18; www.raventheatre.com

—**The King and I**, Lyric Opera of Chicago, 20 N. Wacker Drive. The classic 1951 Rodgers and Hammerstein Broadway musical involving a Thai monarch and a headstrong schoolteacher gets the grand opera treatment in a production borrowed from the Theatre du Chatelet in Paris. April 29-May 22; www.lyricopera.org

—**Chicago: The Musical**, Cadillac Palace Theatre, 151 W. Randolph St. May 10-15; Seinfeld star John O'Hurley returns as the slick lawyer Billy Flynn in the national tour of Broadway's longest-running American musical. www.broadwayinchicago.com

Reviving some spring favorites

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

Classic, revival or just a play everybody knows and loves? Rather than quibble over definitions, just check out these spring favorites, okay?

—**The Matchmaker**, Goodman Theatre, 170 N. Dearborn St. There are all kinds of ways to choose a mate, and Thornton Wilder's comedy offered some lessons in how to do it before the musical version eclipsed its gentle wisdom. Runs to April 10; www.goodmantheatre.org

—**American Buffalo**, Mary-Arrchie Theatre Company at Angel Island, 731 W. Sheridan Rd. It's the last chance to see one of Chicago's longest-lived troupes show the kind of quality sustaining their 30-year career. Extended to April 17; www.maryarrchie.com

—West Side Story, Paramount Theatre, 23 E. Galena Blvd., Aurora. See the Jets take on the Sharks in this beloved 1957 updating of Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet by the creative team of playwright Arthur Laurents, composer Leonard Bernstein, lyricist Stephen Sondheim and original director/choreographer Jerome Robbins. March 16-April 24; www.paramountaurora.com

-Richard III, Gift Theatre at the Steppenwolf Garage, 1650 N. Halsted St. Micheal Patrick Thornton and an arsenal of state-of-theart disability aids from the Rehab Institute of Chicago make Shakespeare's biggest badass a Richard like you've never seen before and are unlikely to ever see again. Runs through May 1; www.thegifttheatre.org

—**Blood Wedding**, Lookingglass Theatre at the Water Works, 821 N. Michigan Ave. Runaway brides fleeing their intended at the very altar are not unique in western drama, but their flight was never so passionate as in Federico Garcia Lorca's steamy Andalusian fable. Runs through April 24; www.lookingglasstheatre.org.

—**Arcadia**, Writers Theatre, 325 Tudor Court in Glencoe. Tom Stoppard's seminal time-travel blend of science and romance inaugurates the snazzy new house that Michael Halberstam built. Runs though May 1; www.writerstheatre. org

—**The Adding Machine: A Musical**, The Hypocrites at The Den, 1333 N. Milwaukee Ave. Elmer Rice's expressionistic tale of Mister Zero, the tragic hero lost in an automated society, has remained fresh for nearly a century, and this musical adaptation is as relevant as ever. Runs March 29-May 15; www.the-hypocrites. com

—**The Life of Galileo**, Remy Bumppo Theatre Company at the Greenhouse, 2257 N. Lincoln Ave. Long before the controversy over climate change, Bertolt Brecht wrote of the clash between science and social authority. Runs March
28-May 1; www.remybumppo.org
—Dreamgirls, Porchlight Music Theatre at

— Dreamgirls, Porchlight Music Theatre at Stage 773, 1225 W. Belmont Ave. An African-

SPRING THEATER SPECIAL

New plays for the (early) spring season

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

Maybe you've liked the author's other plays, maybe the subject piques your interest or maybe somebody gave you the ticket and you figured, why not risk an evening on an unknown play? Whatever your reason, this is your chance to be among the first to see these premieres.

—**Midnight Cowboy**, Lifeline Theatre, 6912 N. Glenwood Ave. Not a stage version of the movie, but Chris Hainsworth's original adaptation of the novel by James Leo Herlihey recounting the tale of two lonely drifters. Runs through April 10; www.lifelinetheatre.com

—Raggedy And, Pride Films and Plays at Rivendell Theatre, 5773 N. Ridge Ave. It's customary for poets to read at presidential inauguration ceremonies, but the lesbian bard chosen to do the honors for our first woman prez (hey, it could happen) finds her family dynamics altered by the sudden scrutiny. Runs through April 10; www.rivendelltheatre.org

-Rolling, Jackalope Theatre Company at the Armory, 5917 N. Broadway. Bad enough being excoriated by the media, but Calamity West's erring journalist can't get no respect at home either. Runs through April 2; www. jackalopetheatre.org

—after all the terrible things i do, About Face Theatre at Theater Wit, 1229 W. Belmont Ave. A. Rey Pamatmat's young writer may not be the only pilgrim discovering he can't go home again, but you can always expect new insights from the author of Edith Can Shoot at Things and Hit Them. Runs March 17-April 10; www.aboutfacetheatre.com

—**Matilda the Musical**, Oriental Theatre, 24 W. Randolph St. Rock star Tim Minchin provides the score for this hit adaptation of Roald Dahl's tale of a super-smart British girl who uses her wits and other powers to triumph over her boorish parents and a bullying headmistress. Runs March 22-April 10; www. broadwayinchicago.com —**The Last Big Mistake**, Factory Theatre, 1623 W. Howard St. This gritty noiresque thrill-ride inaugurates Factory Theatre's brand-spanking new rehabbed home next door to the Red Line terminal. Runs March 25-April 30; www.thefactorytheater.com

American girl group from Chicago (modeled

loosely on The Supremes) experiences the ups

and downs of show business in Henry Krieger

and Tom Eyen's classic 1981 Broadway musical.

—Hazel: A Musical Maid in America, Drury Lane Theatre, 100 Drury Lane, Oakbrook Terrace. The 1960s TV sitcom that starred Shirley Booth as a saucy suburban maid now sings out in a world-premiere musical adaptation starring Klea Blackhurst. Runs March 31-May 20; www.drurylanetheatre.com

—**The Few,** Steep Theatre Company, 1115 W. Berwyn Ave. It's another homecoming for a prodigal son, but playwright Samuel Hunter is unlikely to make it a joyous reunion. Runs April 4-May 21; www.steeptheatre.com

—Mary Page Marlowe, Steppenwolf Theatre, 1650 N. Halsted St. It takes seven women to play the Ohio accountant constituting the title character of Tracy Letts' latest saga of the Midwest. Runs April 9-May 29; www. steppenwolf.org

—**The 180 Degree Rule**, Babes With Blades Theatre Company at City Lit, 1020 W. Bryn Mawr Ave. No one suspected that Chicago playwright Margaret (M.E.H.) Lewis would not live to complete her Stoppardian mystery involving a film scholar's search in 1960 for a director lost to history in Weimar Germany, but Barbara Lhota and the Babes With Blades have mounted a time-spanning epic combining cinema and live action. Runs April 16-May 27; www.babeswithblades.org

—**Sender**, A Red Orchid Theatre, 1531 N. Wells St. It's hard enough to confront your childhood errors, but Ike Holter's lone protagonist is returning from the dead and that's a much longer journey. Runs April 18-May 29; www.aredorchidtheatre.org.

-Bullets over Broadway, The PrivateBank Theatre, 18 W. Monroe St. April 19-May 1; A first-time Broadway playwright has to deal with gangsters to get his show produced in



Hazel's Klea Blackhurst. Photo by Brett Beiner Photography

this 2014 musical adaptation of Woody Allen's award-winning 1994 film comedy. It also features a hit parade of 1920s tunes. www. broadwayinchicago.com

—**Dry Land**, Rivendell Theatre Ensemble, 5775 N. Ridge Ave. Whatever your fantasies of teenage girls in locker rooms, you'll need to brace yourself for Ruby Rae Spiegel's fearless (and graphic) depiction of adolescents in trouble. Runs April 30-May 28; www.rivendelltheatre.org

—**Disenchanted!**, Broadway Playhouse at Water Tower Place, Chestnut St. Fairy-tale princesses of all sorts come back to life to tell their side of the story in this not-forkiddies 2014 off-Broadway musical making its Chicago debut. May 10-June 5; www.broadwayinchicago.com

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 \star \star \star \star (out of four) -Chicago Tribune

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Mary Page Marlowe

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CULTURE CLUB











DRAMA from cover

"It's very seldom that I write a play that doesn't include Filipino-American or Asian-American characters—that's my life experience," said Pamatmat, adding that it wasn't part of an overarching plan to bring Asian or queer diversity to new American dramas. "It's just natural for me to write from my own perspective."

With after all the terrible things I do, Pamatmat wanted the challenge of writing a thriller with just two characters and a single setting. There were also personal reasons why Pamatmat set his drama in a bookstore.

"In order to write the play, I was putting in things that were very familiar to me, things that I have a great affection for," said Pamatmat, who added that he loved working a job in a bookstore while he was an undergrad at New York University. "A lot of the set dressing was really to comfort myself as I was tackling uncomfortable topics."

Pamatmat eventually revealed that bullying was what he wanted to explore in his play, though not from the usual perspective taken in most literature or dramas.

"It was very seldom that anyone ever thought about what causes bullying, or explores the motivation of the bullies themselves," Pamatmat said. "I wanted to write a piece that was about that particular issue, but from the other side." "The bullying here crosses both culture and sexual orientation. That for me is really compelling," Volkoff said. "We think that we are living in a culture right now that is very focused on the result of bullying and what do we do for the victims of bullying in the world. I think Rey has taken a unique approach to that subject of bullying and making us see it in a different light."

When asked if the small cast and the single setting was another attractive aspect of producing Pamatmat's play, Volkoff only laughed because recreating a small-town bookstore onstage proved to be a big challenge. More than 120 boxes of books were bought from Half Price Books in Highland Park and Niles for Chelsea Warren's set design.

"We thought, 'What are we going to do with these books when we're done with them?' Because we don't have any space for this, so we've started looking into literacy programs and whatnot across Chicago. We're making sure that these books find new homes." Volkoff said. "Or maybe we should just have a book sale at the final show."

About Face Theatre's Chicago premiere of after all the terrible things I do continues through Sunday, April 10, at Theater Wit, 1229 W. Belmont Ave. Tickets are \$35 and \$20 for students and seniors; call 773-975-8150 or visit www.aboutfacethetre.org for more information.

a-ha greatest-hits CD out March 18

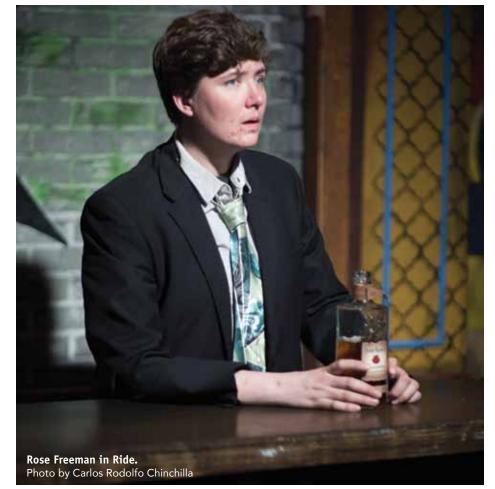
Time and Again: The Ultimate a-ha—a compilation of the Norwegian trio's greatest hits, as well as a selection of rare and unreleased remixes—will be out March 18, courtesy of Rhino.

The album contains music from Hunting High And Low (1985), Scoundrel Days (1986), Stay On These Roads (1988), East Of The Sun, West Of The Moon (1990), Memorial Beach (1992), Minor Earth Major Sky (2000), Lifelines (2002), Analogue (2005), Foot Of The Mountain (2009) and Cast In Steel (2015).

Highlights include the group's signature number-one smash "Take On Me," the Top 20 hit "The Sun Always Shines On T.V.," the Top 20 dance chart hit "Cry Wolf" and the James Bond theme "The Living Daylights."







THEATER REVIEW Ride

Playwright: Neil Connelly At: The Den Theatre, 1333 N. Milwaukee Ave. Tickets: 617-721-0675; thedentheatre.com; \$25 Runs through: April 3

BY JERRY NUNN

An Uptown bicycle shop is turned upside down following the death of owner, Cal, who was hit by a cab while on his bike.

Under the Rug Theatre Company has good timing with this show. The weather is changing and more bike riders are currently out and about in Chicago traffic. After seeing this play, hopefully, automobile drivers will check their blindspots even more frequently.

Setting the show in the Windy City gives the text an immediate recognition for Chicago audiences. Places and references are familiar and we are in on the local jokes. The set brings watchers right onto the stage to see the drama happen.

In this story estranged brother Danny and sister Molly return to discover their deceased brother's bike shop has a drunken lesbian named Quill living inside. Bike mechanic Riley and local hustler Dell have also become quite

Local actress to play Trump's 'daughter'

Lesbian Chicago-based actress/writer Fawzia Mirza is slated to play Ayesha Ali Trump, a character she portrays in a forthcoming Internet mockumentary series about presidential hopeful Donald Trump's theoretical Muslim daughter, according to NBC Chicago.

In a tweet, Ayesha posted, "I am not a part of the #RepublicanParty the #DemocratParty, or the #TeaParty—I AM PART OF THE CHAI PARTY http://www.facebook.com/ayeshatrump."

Mirza, who is Muslim, decided to start the project after Trump's statements on Muslims failed to attract the kind of reaction she was expecting.

The article is at http://www.nbcnews.com/ news/asian-america/muslim-actress-playillegitimate-muslim-trump-daughter-webseries-n531246. comfortable in the shop over the years during the time Cal was alive. This does not sit well with the conservative family and drama unfolds in every corner.

The cast tackles the cynical sense of humor from playwright Neil Connelly very well. There are lines like "all accidents are preventable that's why they are called accidents" that are preachy in content but somehow work.

The subject matter can be heavy at times, but the cast keep things rolling when the story becomes intensely fast from the start. Things slow down a bit towards the end but there are some nice moments between Danny (Todd Wojcik) and Quill (Rose Freeman) that tie things up. It is fun to watch Wojcik evolve his character throughout the experience at Brennan's Bikes. He shows that everyone can learn by moving out of their comfort zone.

There is a local lesson to be had, that if more Chicagoans perhaps venture out of their prospective neighborhoods they may discover a lot about themselves in the process. This group has put that idea into the work itself by enlisting a variety of local organizations and bike shops to help them out on this particular production.

People deal with death and society in many different ways and RIDE doesn't hit the brakes on that fact.

Jeff Awards to combine categories

The Jeff Awards Committee has determined that categories for new work and new adaptation will be combined so that all world premieres will be judged as either new plays or new musicals, a press release stated.

These categories are non-competitive and multiple winners are permitted.

The New Play category will consist of world premieres of both new plays and adaptations. The New Musical category will consist of world premieres of both new musicals and adaptations.

The new categories will become effective for non-Equity productions premiering on or after April 1, and for Equity productions premiering on or after Aug. 1.



Rendering of the interior lobby of The Yard at Chicago Shakespeare. Copyright Adrian Smith + Gordon Gill Architecture

New Shakespeare venue announced

Chicago Shakespeare Artistic Director Barbara Gaines, Executive Director Criss Henderson and Board Chair Sheli Z. Rosenberg were joined by Navy Pier, Inc. CEO Marilynn Gardner, Board Chair William J. Brodsky and Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel to announce the creation of a performance venue, The Yard at Chicago Shakespeare.

At a cost of \$35 million, the project repurposes components of the venue formerly known as Skyline Stage, located adjacent to Chicago Shakespeare. The vision for the new theater focuses on resourceful, sustainable and adaptive design.

Construction on the theater begins this spring; Chicago Shakespeare plans to stage its first production in The Yard in the 2017-18 season.

'Hillary and Clinton' casting announced

Victory Gardens Theater has announced casting for the next show of its 41st season, the world premiere of Lucas Hnath's Hillary and Clinton, which Artistic Director Chay Yew will direct.

The cast of Hillary and Clinton includes John Apicella (Bill), Cheryl Lynn Bruce (Hillary), Keith Kupferer (Mark) and Juan Francisco Villa (Other Guy).

Hillary and Clinton will run April 1-May 1, at the theater, 2433 N. Lincoln Ave. There will also be special events, post-show discussions and presentations centered on performances of Hillary and Clinton.

Tickets are \$15-\$60; call 773-871-3000, email tickets@victorygardens.org or visit www.victorygardens.org.

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March 16, 2016

WINDY CITY TIMES

"Dance Chicagoan of the Year" by the Chicago Tribune, recruited the same collaborative team as Power Goes to create a psychedelic landscape for her work, the centerpiece of which

in tandem with passages of "Inglash", a fabricated language. Seats are first-come, firstserved for this free performance.

Sakamoto find surprising similarities between butoh and hip-hop in Flash, The Dance Center of Columbia College Chicago's final engagement of the season. Multimedia and choreographic elements address social resistance and identity through the lens of two dance forms born out of postwar unrest. (1306 S. Michigan Ave., Colum.edu/dance-center)

Rhythm Project (CHRP) produces the 2nd annual Stomping Grounds Festival, a series of free performances featuring percussive dance companies in neighborhoods throughout the city. CHRP resident tap ensemble BAM! is joined by Ensemble Espanol Spanish Dance Theatre, Mexican Folkloric Dance Company of Chicago, Muntu Dance Theatre and the Trinity Irish Dancers. (chicagotap.org)

warts Hedwig Dances April 8-9 and Nomi Dance Company May 14. Hedwig's inner math geek emerges as artistic director Jan Bartoszek revives the stunning, origami-inspired ASCEN-Dance (2013), and premieres new work centering on triangles and the number three. Nomi's spring engagement recruited three choreographers to make or reimagine works inspired by late members of Chicago's dance community. (2936 N. Southport Ave., athenaeumtheatre. org)

-The Museum of Contemporary Art's Edlis Neeson Theater hosts choreographer-of-themoment Kyle Abraham April 28-May 1. Abraham's When the Wolves Came In is a comment on past and recent civil right movements. The recent MacArthur Foundation "Genius" investigates how far we've come, and how far we have to go, with fluid choreography that fuses contemporary and hip-hop dance. (220 E. Chicago Ave., mcachicago.org)

is visual artist Bob Faust's colorful and interactive "brascape". RockCitizen premieres May 5-12 at the Cultural Center's Storefront Theater. (66 E. Randolph St., theseldoms.org) —Across the street at the Chicago Cultural Center, Antibody Corporation's Adam Rose presents Versus April 28-30. The experimental choreographer/performance artist imagined Versus as an investigation of the moving body

-Choreographers Rennie Harris and Michael

-Running April 4-May 21, Chicago Human

-The Athenaeum Theatre hosts local stal-

Cerrudo's The Impossible with a world premiere season. Performing Frederick Ashton's version by the company's rehearsal director, Lucas of Prokofiev's eerie evening-length Cinderella, April is "Chicago Dance Month," founded as a the two weekends of performances May 11-22 Crandall. response to the abundance of dance perfor-Giordano's program will feature Chicagoan will be fun for the whole family. (50 E. Con-Brock Clawson's film noir inspired Sneaky Pete gress Pkwy., auditoriumtheatre.org) mances happening here each spring. while Visceral premieres new works by artistic -Chicago Tap Theater (CTT) premieres its With big touring groups rolling through town, director Nick Pupillo and Irish choreographer latest narrative tap performance Time Steps at and local companies finishing up their 2015-Marguerite Donlon. Two big tours roll through Stage 773 April 1-10. Known for their witty hu-16 seasons, there are a plethora of options throughout Chicago Dance Month and beyond. town to perform at the Harris in April: April mor and live music, CTT's "time travel love sto-5-6 features Brooklyn-based legendary chory" promises to induce foot tapping and smiles Especially prominent this spring are a number reographer Mark Morris conducting music as all the way home. Stage 773 also boats Tristan of tap and percussive dance performances. Here his dancers perform the acclaimed Dido and Bruns' The Adventures of Tapmap, a family-

> Justin Peck's Heatscape April 29-30. (205 E. Randolph St., harristheaterchicago.org) -The Auditorium Theatre at Roosevelt University hosts The Joffrey Ballet for its final engagement of the company's 60th-anniversary

> Aeneas, while the stunning Miami City Ballet

presents classic Balanchine works alongside

Dance COLEctive's 'Revelry' through March 20

BY LAUREN WARNECKE

is a smattering of the highlights:

-The Harris Theater for Music and Dance is

home for many of the larger companies' spring

engagements, including Hubbard Street Dance

Chicago March 17-20, Giordano Dance Chica-

go April 1-2 and Visceral Dance Chicago April

9. Hubbard Street brings back Gustavo Ramirez

Sansano's witty I Am Mister B and Alejandro

22

The Dance COLEctive (TDC) celebrates 20 years with Revelry/20 Years, a concert series March 11-13 and 18-20 at Links Hall at Constellation, 3111 N. Western Ave.

The program comprises premieres, works by current and former company members and reconstructed repertory by alumni and special guests.

TDC has commissioned San Francisco-based choreographer Margaret Jenkins to create a solo work for Cole. Former TDC company member Madelyn Doyle's Harsh Harmonies will also be part of the program; also, Doyle plans to set a revised excerpt of Cole's 2015 TDC premiere Creative Candor on her Repertory Dance Ensemble students from Riverside Brookfield High School, which they will perform during the second weekend of TDC's anniversary concert series.

Shannon Edwards, in her seventh season with TDC, presents her work There There (2009). The Second Line, by former dancer Katie Petrunich, is a celebratory manifestation inspired by New Orleans jazz funeral proceedings. Lastly, the program also includes two duets from Cole's 2001 TDC work Reel to Real, with alternating casts of current and alumni

dancers performing each weekend. General admission is \$20, and \$15 for students and seniors; visit linkshall.ticketfly. com/search/?q=revelry or call 773-281-0824.

Pride Films names contest finalists

Four new LGBTQ+ plays and one musical have emerged as finalists in Pride Films and Plays' 2016 Great Gay Play and Musical Contest.

They come from writers across the United States, and were selected by a reading team from across the country.

The finalists are:

—All-American Boy, by Donald Gecewicz —Another Horatio Alger Story, by Jason Jacobs

-Spectacular Brown, by Brian Pracht

-TBD (To Be Determined), by Paul Elliott -A Woman Onstage, book and lyrics by Ste-

phen deGhelder, music by Brad Simmons Those five scripts will be performed as enhanced staged readings at the Center on Halsted's Hoover-Leppen, 3656 N. Halsted St., on April 22-24. A performance schedule and slate of directors will be announced soon.

Tickets for the event are pay-what-you-can (\$10 suggested); visit www.pridefilmsandplays.com or 800-737-0984.

Harris gala event with Morris April 5

The Harris Theater for Music and Dance, 205 E. Randolph St., will host the gala event "Imagine the Celebration," which will be held on Tuesday, April 5.

friendly, comic book-inspired, crime fighting,

tap dancing superhero saga. (1225 W. Belmont

inspired evening-length work and companion

piece to the highly acclaimed Power Goes. Ar-

tistic director Carrie Hanson, recently named

-The Seldoms' latest is RockCitizen, a rock-

Ave., stage773.com/tickets)

The internationally renowned Mark Morris Dance Group and Music Ensemble will headline the evening with a performance of Dido and Aeneas. It will take place at 8 p.m.

The evening will celebrate the completion of the first phase of the "Imagine" campaign that made the renovation and expansion of the public space of the Harris Theater possible.

Tickets are \$125-\$250 each; vis-HarrisTheaterChicago.org it or http:// my.harristheaterchicago.org/single/SYOS. aspx?p=6773.

Chicago Dancers Union event April 21

Chicago Dancers Union (CDU) will honor Randy Duncan, Harrison McEldowney, and Jeremy Plummer & The Dance on Thursday, April 21, at Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted St., 6-9 p.m.

CDU mobilizes Chicago's dance community to support organizations and dance community professionals dealing with critical health issues—including but not limited to HIV/ AIDS—through dance.

Admission is \$25-\$125; visit http:// www.eventbrite.com/e/cdu-honors-randyduncan-harrison-mceldowney-jeremy-plummer-the-dance-tickets-22659155143?utm_ campaign=201308&ref=esfb&utm source=Facebookenivtefor001.



Randy Duncan. PR photo



CHM presenting 'Style' spring festival

The Chicago Humanities Festival has presented the full line-up for its inaugural spring festival, "Style." The title does not simply relate to fashion, according to a press release: "Style governs where writers break a line, how activists present and represent a movement, how we dance to the records, and which we spin over and over and over."

There will be more than 20 events April 28-May 1.

Style presenters range from Alicia Garza, one of the co-founders of #BlackLivesMatter, to fashion's Iris Apfel, and a number of First Lady Michelle Obama's fashion designers, including Isabel and Ruben Toledo, Maria Pinto and Rachel Roy. Pulitzer Prize winner Robin Givhan and inclusive retail and disability advocate Liz Jackson will also be presenting.

Others who will be at the festival include Huffington Post co-founder and editor-in-chief Arianna Huffington, writer Karl Ove Knausgaard, actress Mary-Louise Parker. Sunday, May 1, will feature three National Book Award winners: Robin Coste Lewis, winner of the 2015 poetry prize for the collection Voyage of the Sable Venus; James McBride, winner of the 2014 prize in fiction, now with a new biography of James Brown, Kill 'em and Leave; and Andrew Solomon, winner of the 2001 prize for nonfiction who latest book is Far and Away.

The full line-up for Style, the first Spring festival from the Chicago Humanities Festival, is available at chicagohumanities.org/style.

Lambda Literary finalists named

Finalists have been named for The 28th Annual Lambda Literary Awards ("Lammys").

They were chosen from a record 933 submissions (up from 818 last year) from 321 publishers. Pioneer and Trustee Award honorees, the master of ceremonies, and presenters will be announced in April. The winners will be announced at a gala ceremony Monday, June 6, in New York City.

There are 25 categories of awards, including erotica, poetry, romance, memoir/biography, graphic novel and science fiction/fantasy/horror, among others.

Just a few of the nominees include Mark Merlis' JD: A Novel (Gay Fiction); Mecca Jamilah Sullivan's Blue Talk and Love (Lesbian Fiction); The Gay Revolution: The Story of the Struggle, by Lillian Faderman (LGBT Nonfiction); Impersonation, by Joy Ladin (Transgender Poetry); Soy Lesbiana y Que! Out Latina Lesbians, by Nivea Castro with Geny Cabral (LGBT Anthology); Jerome Pohlen's Gay and Lesbian History for Kids: The Century-Long Struggle for LGBT Rights (LGBT Children's/Young Adult); and Fun Home, with music by Jeanine Tesori, and book and lyrics by Lisa Kron (LGBT Drama).

For more information and to buy tickets, visit LambdaLliterary.org/awards.

Lisa Rock to headline Carpenters concert

Lisa Rock will headline "Close to You: The Music of the Carpenters" on Friday-Saturday, March 18-19, at 8 p.m. the McAninch Arts Center's Club MAC, 425 Fawell Blvd., Glen Ellyn.

Karen Carpenter, with her brother Richard, topped the Billboard charts in the 1970s with more than a dozen number-one hits, including "We've Only Just Begun," "Rainy Days and Mondays," "Top of the World" and more.

Tickets are \$39-\$45; for tickets or more information, call 630-942-4000 or visit AtTheMAC. org.



Lisa Rock. Image from Club MAC website



Above and below: Some of Lili Elbe's works that's currently at Woman Made Gallery. Photos by Hal Baim

ART Woman Made exhibits works from 'The Danish Girl'

Woman Made Gallery, 685 N. Milwaukee Ave., has opened an exhibit of 15 restored pieces by Lili Elbe (born Einar Magnus Andreas Wegener, which is the name used to sign these paintings) called "One in Herself & Entirely Myself: A Solo Exhibition by Lili Elbe," with an opening reception held March 11.

Elbe's life has been dramatically portrayed in the movie The Danish Girl; Redmayne plays Elbe, receiving an Oscar nomination in the process. (Alicia Vikander won an Oscar for playing Elbe's wife, painter Gerda Wegener.)

The exhibit will run through Thursday, April 28.

Photo by Hal Baim See WomanMade.org.



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Kris Vire, Time Out Chicago

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tedious and talking about myself a wholly mortifying experience. I knew at some point I would have to come out publicly. You know, when

vou're living as an out transgender person it's ...

kind of difficult to hide. I just wanted—needed

some time to get my head right, to feel comfort-

After he had given me his card, and I closed

the door it began to dawn on me where I had heard of the Daily Mail. It was the "news" or-

ganization that had played a huge part in the

national public outing of Lucy Meadows, an

elementary school teacher and trans woman

in the UK. An editorial in the "not-a-tabloid"

demonized her as a damaging influence on the

children's delicate innocence and summarized

"he's not only trapped in the wrong body, he's

in the wrong job." The reason I knew about her

wasn't because she was transgender it was be-

cause three months after the Daily Mail article

And now here they were, at my front door, al-

"There's another one! Let's drag 'em out in the

Being transgender is not easy. We live in a ma-

jority-enforced gender binary world. This means

when you're transgender you have to face the

hard reality of living the rest of your life in a

I am one of the lucky ones. Having the sup-

port of my family and the means to afford doc-

tors and therapists has given me the chance to

actually survive this process. Transgender people

without support, means and privilege do not

have this luxury. And many do not survive. In

2015, the transgender murder rate hit an all-

time high in this country. A horrifying dispro-

portionate number of the victims were trans

women of color. These are only the recorded

homicides so, since trans people do not all fit in

the tidy gender binary statistics of murder rates,

And though we have come a long way since

Silence of the Lambs, we continue to be de-

monized and vilified in the media where attack

ads portray us as potential predators to keep

us from even using the goddamn bathroom. The

so-called bathroom bills that are popping up all

over this country do not keep children safe, they

force trans people into using bathrooms where

they can be beaten and or murdered. We are not

I'm out to my friends and family. Most people

at work know too. Everyone is cool with it. Yes,

predators, we are prey.

So yeah, I'm transgender.

And yeah, I've transitioned.

it means the actual numbers are higher.

came out, Lucy committed suicide.

open so we can all have a look!"

world that is openly hostile to you.

most as if to say-

But apparently I don't get to decide this.

Second Wachowski filmmaker sibling comes out as trans

able.

BY TRACY BAIM, WINDY CITY TIMES

The second sibling of the filmmaking duo known as The Wachowskis has come out as transgender.

Lilly Wachowski, 48, sibling of Lana, 50, came out in a statement to Windy City Times, after being threatened with outing by other media. Here is her statement:

"SEX CHANGE SHOCKER—WACHOWSKI BROTH-FRS NOW SISTERS!!!"

There's the headline I've been waiting for this past year. Up until now with dread and/or eye rolling exasperation. The "news" has almost come out a couple of times. Each was preceded by an ominous email from my agent—reporters have been asking for statements regarding the "Andy Wachowski gender transition" story they were about to publish. In response to this threatened public outing against my will, I had a prepared a statement that was one part piss, one part vinegar and 12 parts gasoline.

It had a lot of politically relevant insights regarding the dangers of outing trans people, and the statistical horrors of transgender suicide and murder rates. Not to mention a slightly sarcastic wrap-up that "revealed" my father had injected praying mantis blood into his paternal ball-sac before conceiving each of his children to produce a brood of super women, hellbent on female domination. Okay, mega sarcastic.

But it didn't happen. The editors of these publications didn't print a story that was only salacious in substance and could possibly have a potentially fatal effect. And being the optimist that I am, I was happy to chalk it up to progress.

Then last night while getting ready to go out for dinner my doorbell rang. Standing on my front porch was a man I did not recognize.

"This might be a little awkward," he said in an English accent.

I remember sighing.

Sometimes it's really tough work to be an optimist.

He proceeded to explain he was a journalist from the Daily Mail, which was the largest news service in the UK and was most definitely not a tabloid. And that I really had to sit down with him tomorrow or the next day or next week so that I could have my picture taken and tell my story which was so inspirational! And that I really didn't want to have someone from the National Enquirer following me around, did I? BTW—The Daily Mail is so definitely not a tabloid.

My sister Lana and I have largely avoided the press. I find talking about my art frustratingly



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Lilly Wachowski. Photo courtesy of Wachowski

thanks to my fabulous sister they've done it before, but also because they're fantastic people. Without the love and support of my wife and friends and family I would not be where I am today.

But these words, "transgender" and "transitioned," are hard for me because they both have lost their complexity in their assimilation into the mainstream. There is a lack of nuance of time and space. To be transgender is something largely understood as existing within the dogmatic terminus of male or female. And to "transition" imparts a sense of immediacy, a before and after from one terminus to another. But the reality, my reality is that I've been transitioning and will continue to transition all of my life, through the infinite that exists between male and female as it does in the infinite between the binary of zero and one. We need to elevate the dialogue beyond the simplicity of binary. Binary is a false idol.

Now, gender theory and queer theory hurt my tiny brain. The combinations of words, like freeform jazz, clang disjointed and discordant in my ears. I long for understanding of queer and gender theory but it's a struggle as is the struggle for understanding of my own identity. I have a quote in my office though by José Muñoz given to me by a good friend. I stare at it in contemplation sometimes trying to decipher its meaning but the last sentence resonates:

"Queerness is essentially about the rejection of a here and now and an insistence on potentiality for another world."

So I will continue to be an optimist adding my shoulder to the Sisyphean struggle of progress and in my very being, be an example of the potentiality of another world. Lilly Wachowski

Lilly Wachowski

E THEOUBIQUE

GLAAD and other LGBT organizations strongly condemn the outing of a transgender person

before they are ready to tell their own story. The Chicago-born Wachowskis are among cin-

ema's most prolific filmmaking duos. Lilly is a film and TV director and producer, plus screenwriter, comic book writer, video game director and writer. She has been married to Alisa Blasingame since 1991.

The Wachowskis first film together as directors was 1996's Bound, still known as a lesbian film classic. They are perhaps best known for their three-film Matrix series. Among their other films are V for Vendetta, Speed Racer, Cloud Atlas, Jupiter Ascending and the beautiful scifi series Sense8.

The siblings attended Kellogg Elementary School in Chicago's Beverly neighborhood, on the Far South Side, and graduated from Whitney Young High School in the city's West Loop.

After Lana Wachowski came out as a trans woman, she received the 2012 Human Rights Campaign Visibility Award, and in 2014 she received the Equality Illinois Freedom Award. Lana said about her HRC award: "There are some things we do for ourselves, but there are some things we do for others. I am here because when I was young, I wanted very badly to be a writer, I wanted to be a filmmaker, but I couldn't find anyone like me in the world and it felt like my dreams were foreclosed simply because my gender was less typical than others. If I can be that person for someone else, then the sacrifice of my private civic life may have value," as quoted in The Hollywood Reporter.

At the 2014 EI gala Lana said, "Fear is not something I let rule my life, but gratitude is." See Lana's EI speech here: http://www.windycitymediagroup.com/lgbt/Equality-Illinoisgala-celebrates-2013-looks-to-future/46153. html.

See the GLAAD Media Reference Guide on Transgender Issues here: http://www.glaad. org/reference/transgender.



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WINDY CITY TIMES

WINDY CITY TIMES

Miss Cassandra "Andra" Day is making a big

YouTube after a cover of Jessie J's "Momma

Knows Best" that eventually landed her a deal

Her album, Cheers to the Fall, was released

She sings on the soundtrack for the Nina

Simone documentary What Happened, Miss

Simone? and was featured on an Apple com-

mercial with the legendary Stevie Wonder for

She received two nominations at the 58th

Grammy Awards and performed a duet with El-

lie Goulding combining their singles together

last year and had Spike Lee directing the music

video for the first single, "Forever Mine."

a stunning look.

with Warner Bros.

'Someday at Christmas."

WCT: What is the inspiration for the song "Rise Up" that has been inspiring to so many people? The song "Rise Up" seems to

go hand in hand with so many LGBT anthems. AD: I think "Rise Up" resonates with so many people, including the LGBT community, because it talks about perseverance. It talks about persevering through struggle, criticism and rejection. It's a simple message of determination for yourself and others, and I think the simplicity of that is what resonates with people the most.

WCT: I just watched the Nina Simone doc. Are you a huge fan of hers? How intimidating is it to perform "Mississippi Goddamn" live?

AD: I'm a huge fan of Nina Simone. When we first performed Mississippi Goddamn I was very intimated. That song came off of the heels of the 16th Street Baptist Church bombing that happened in 1963, and was a direct outpouring of her anger with regard to that attack. It's a lot of emotion to sort of re-convey.

Unfortunately there are a lot of events that have happened recently that draw out those same emotions, and we also do a different rendition of the song, so instead of being intimidating, it becomes a new genuine experience.

WCT: You have a song in the Meru movie. Do you have more soundtracks in the works?

AD: There are a few things we are working on. I'm not able to talk about them right now, but I plan to dabble more in soundtracks and get more involved in pictures that I really believe in throughout my career.

WCT: Cheers to the Fall seems like a perfect live album. What is a live show like for people that haven't seen you yet?

AD: The live show is very raw, emotional and engaging. I've seen people connect with the music on such an intimate level. It's a chance to encourage people.

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splash in the music pool with strong vocals and dio City Music Hall. She is yet another success story straight from

Windy City Times before her arrival in Chicago. favorite part of touring?

Andra Day: My favorite part about touring is being on the road with my band. We have a which is what I call them. They tell me often

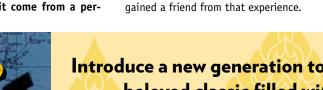
on love, correct? Does it come from a per-

age each other. It's pretty amazing. WCT: "Not Today" is about not giving up

Day recently rocked it onstage with other servation and a personal place. Witnessing my

artists such as Katy Perry and Elton John at a fundraiser for Hilary Clinton at New York's Ra-The singer answered a few questions for Windy City Times: Hi, Andra. What is your

unique comradery; everything is very natural. I also love meeting the fans, or "my family," how the music has effected them and I get to connect with them spiritually and emotionally. We'll talk, laugh and pray together; we encour-



write this song.

producer and his wife's marriage, through the

ups and the downs and them sticking through

it, was an inspiration for this song. Also, my

father's relationship with myself and my sib-

lings, and my mother's relationship with God.

These are all relationships that inspired me to

WCT: How was your Grammy experience?

Did you get to know Ellie Goulding a little

AD: It was amazing. I did get to know her

and I couldn't be happier that I did. We did our

own independent rehearsal before the official

Grammy rehearsals, and I swear we did more

laughing and clowning than work. She is an in-

credible talent and an incredible person. I truly

bit while working on that segment?



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Hello, My Name Is Doris; Eye in the Sky

Doris and drones

The two best movies opening this week star women—which is fantastic and rare. It's even better that one is 69 and the other is 70.

Although we've been told over and over again that age and experience are things to be discounted in our youth obsessed culture, rare exceptions to this prevailing "wisdom" suggest rather loudly—otherwise. Case in point: **Hello**, **My Name Is Doris**, starring Sally Field, and **Eye in the Sky**, starring Helen Mirren. These two completely different movies share one very strong component: They're driven by the tremendous performances of their stars, two women whose decades of hard work and innate talent dominate what in less experienced—and perhaps younger hands—wouldn't have been nearly as compelling and entertaining.

Sally Field's part in "Doris"—a bittersweet and, at times, far-fetched comedy from director Michael Showalter (American Wet Hot Summer), who co-wrote the script with Laura Terruso—is the much showier role. Without someone of Field's inestimable talents, eccentric Doris Miller could easily have come off as the caricature she must have seemed on the page. That's for good reason: Doris, a loner at the office who hides out in her cubicle, nevertheless is screaming out for the world to see her. With her bouffant hairpieces, her cat-eye glasses, colorful getups and penchant for picking up discarded retro items on the street, here is a woman who has been dying for years to connect with others.

Fate takes pity on Doris: In a crowded elevator on the way to work one morning, the aging wallflower is noticed by John (New Girl's Max Greenfield), a handsome charmer in his 30s who compliments Doris on her glasses and, soon after, is introduced as a new co-worker in her office. Doris, who has spent the last three decades taking care of her recently deceased mother, is suddenly free to pursue her infatua-



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tion with John.

Although best friend Roz (a very welcome Tyne Daly) is wary, Doris isn't about to be de-terred and, with the encouragement of Roz's 13-year-old granddaughter, she begins to make progress of a sort. John and his friends dig Doris' so-out-she's-in fashion sense (think Little Edie Beale of Grev Gardens) and her awkwardly blunt manner. Beneath the wacky set pieces the material daringly suggests (gasp!) that a sexual relationship between a much older woman and a younger man isn't a freakish impossibility. Field manages to offer shading and emotional pathos to the rather contrived Doris and Greenfield's winning work make the chemistry between the unlikely duo quite palpable. Hello, My Name Is Doris is a charming ugly duckling story with some surprising and very welcome turns.

Where Sally Field is lovably eccentric, Helen Mirren is cool, fierce and unflappable as British Colonel Katherine Powell waiting for permission to take out terrorists in Eye in the Sky, Gavin Hood's well-done thriller about drone warfare and its risks. The action happens in real time as Powell prepares to zero in on a terrorist couple hiding out in a house in Nairobi, Kenya. Then, a cyborg beetle—a flying surveillance camera flown inside the house by an operative on the ground nearby (the movie's creepiest device) reveals two other terrorists inside the house

LBTQ Council hosts Women's Day dance

The LBTQ Giving Council of the Chicago Foundation for Women (CFW) held its 2nd International Women's Day Dance March 12 at the National Museum of Puerto Rican Arts and Culture, 3015 W. Division St.

In addition to dancing to the music of DJ Tess (of Slo 'Mo) and DJ OCD, there were raffles, food and beverages. Funds raised benefit the LGBTQ community through the LBTQ Giving Council.

The event chair was Erica Steenbergen, with assistance from Eli Marsh, philanthropic education officer at CFW. Photos by Tracy Baim



strapping on explosives for a suicide mission. As Powell waits for permission from her superior (Alan Rickman, fantastic in his last screen role) to go from "capture" to "kill"—permission that involves ever-higher-ranking officials from Britain and the United States (the drone operator, played by Aaron Paul, is based in Utah)—a moral dilemma comes front and center.

A spunky little girl (Aisha Takow) is suddenly sitting right outside the house selling loaves of bread. The clock is ticking as the various officials argue about whether to go through with the drone strike. At such a moment, what should take priority? The survival of the little girl and other bystanders versus the lives of hundreds of innocent victims if the suicide terrorists leave the house and detonate the bombs in a public area. Although the film hedges its bets a little (the little girl is irresistibly cute with a full, pouty lower lip and wide, innocent eyes, for example) Eye in the Sky is ultimately a thought-provoking and very entertaining ride driven by Mirren's uncompromising performance.

Queer movies at the Chicago European Union Film Festival

The Gene Siskel Film Center's 19th annual Chicago European Union Film Festival is well under way. Each year, the fest presents Chicago premieres of dozens of hotly anticipated films and the wide-ranging assortment usually includes a batch of queer-themed titles (Summertime from France and Viva from Ireland having already screened). Two upcoming screenings (more in next week's issue):

B-Movie: Lust & Sound in West-Berlin 1979-1989 (Germany) (3/18 and 3/23)—B-Movie barely pauses for breath as its takes us on a wild ride through a tumultuous era, crammed with vivid characters (Nick Cave, Keith Haring, Gudrun Gut, Tilda Swinton, Blixa Bargeld, Christiane F., et al.) and galvanic music.

Therapy for a Vampire (Austria/Switzerland) (3/19 and 3/24)—This new twist on the vampire comedy centers on Sigmund Freud's iconic couch, which becomes a solace outside the coffin for elegantly weary bloodsucker Count Geza von Kozsnom. A love triangle soon becomes a quadrangle, and it's all set in stylish 1930s Vienna.

Complete schedule and show times at http://www.siskelfilmcenter.org/eufilmfest2016

'Carol' is here

My #1 LGBTQ film for 2015 was **Carol**—Todd Haynes' superlative adaptation of Patricia Highsmith's 1952 lesbian romantic classic "The Price of Salt." The film is now available on Bluray, DVD and digital download and is a must for your collection. There are movies in which the director's talent and breathtaking technique meld so seamlessly that we know that we are witnessing an instant classic and with Carol, which was scripted by out writer Phyllis Nagy, Haynes did just that.

Cate Blanchett and Rooney Mara (both Oscar-nominated for their performances), as the unlikely lovers, give complex performances; also, the film's sumptuous cinematography, costumes and production designer underscore Haynes' exactingly detailed approach. Watching Carol from a queer perspective is like witnessing an unearthed artifact of queer culture that one dreamed of but never hoped to see. The home edition includes a behind-the-scenes featurette and Q&A with the cast.

Upcoming movie calendar

Highlights from films opening in Chicago, March 18 and March 25 (some descriptions come from studio press materials):

--Chicago European Union Film Festival (now through 3/31)—See details above. http://www.siskelfilmcenter.org/eufilmfest2016

—**The Divergent Series: Allegiant** (3/18)— Part three of four in this teenage post-apocalyptic thriller series (set in Chicago) with plucky Tris (Shailene Woodley) and her hunky cohort Four (Theo James) leading the insurgents battle to save humanity.

-Eye in the Sky (3/18)-See details above. -RECOMMENDED: Hello, My Name Is Doris (3/18)-See details above.

—**Batman vs. Superman: Dawn of Justice** (3/25)—It's hunk vs. hunk, aka battle of the nipple ponies, when Ben Affleck (new to the cape and cowl), as Batman, embarks on a personal vendetta against Henry Cavill, returning as Superman.

—**Marguerite** (3/25)—In 1921 France, a wealthy woman (Catherine Frot) follows her passion to sing in front of audiences, but no one tells her how bad she is.

—My Big Fat Greek Wedding 2 (3/25)—Parenting and marriage is becoming tougher and tougher for Toula (Nia Vardalos) and her husband, Ian (John Corbett). Not only has their relationship lost some of its spark, but they're also dealing with a rebellious teenage daughter who clashes with Greek traditions. That's for starters. Lainie Kazan, Andrea Martin and Michael Constantine return for comic relief, and Rita Wilson (who also co-produced) and John Stamos join the fun.

—**My Golden Days** (3/25)—A middle-aged anthropologist (Mathieu Amalric) reminisces about family, school adventures, a student trip to the USSR and the love (Lou Roy-Lecollinet) of his life.



WINDY CITY TIMES

March 16, 2016





"I don't feel like they're out to get us. Every conservative guy out there believes in everybody's rights."—Thus sprach **Caitlyn Jenner**. I don't know why they haven't considered her as a host for Meet the Press.

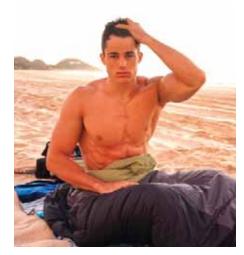
I start this week with a cautionary tale. I was recently wondering what to make for dinner. I looked in the freezer and found a chicken pot pie. I wasn't sure how long it had been in there, but how bad could it be? I put it in the microwave (in accordance with the instructions) and within a minute, dark black smoke came billowing out. My kitchen was filled with that kinda smoke that burns your eyes and throat. In the microwave, black flames appeared to be emerging from the center of my pot pie as if it were a portal to hell. My kitchen still smells like the site of a major blaze—and let's not even discuss what my microwave smells like. Far be it from me to bring legal action against Hungry Boy, but I do think this hungry boy deserves a new microwave-and perhaps a pot pie or two.

Poor Hillary really stepped in it. During an interview about Nancy Reagan, Clinton applauded the former first lady's "low-key advocacy' for HIV/ AIDS awareness by starting a national conversation." This statement was vastly different from some of the hatred being spewed on Facebook where the Reagans were (justly) chastised for dragging their feet when it came to addressing AIDS. Once informed of her enormous faux pas, Hillary issued a statement: "While the Reagans were strong advocates for stem cell research and finding a cure for Alzheimer's disease, I misspoke about their record on HIV and AIDS. For that, I'm sorry." Ironic that a former first lady said, "I'm sorry"-the very words AIDS activists had been waiting decades for Nancy to say.

If Hillary put her foot in her mouth, **Caitlyn Jenner** somehow fit in an entire hoof—and her stompers are the size of a Clydesdale's. (Finally: Cait is fair game!) I guess I wasn't surprised when Jenner jumped on the Hillary-bashing bandwagon: "If we're unfortunate enough to get Hillary as our next president, we need her on our side. Although she won't be—she couldn't care less about women." I'm curious—is there a single Republican candidate who cares about women? And are we now considering Caitlyn a woman? I am unaware of any gender-reassignment surgery, so while I'll go along with her being transgender, I'm sure to most Republicans, Jenner is simply Bruce in a dress.

Caitlyn then waxed rhapsodically about Ted Cruz-perhaps she knows something we don't. She said if he becomes president, she'd like to be the trans ambassador to the president of the United States—so now she's making up jobs! She may need one-the season premiere of "I Am Cait" brought in abysmal ratings. The network thinks Cait has alienated the LGBT audience. One of the people having problems is Jennifer Finney Boylan, who is a cast member and consultant. When Cait talked longingly about Cruz, Boylan hit her with a newspaper. Later, Jennifer said, "In terms of equality and dignity, the difference between Republicans and Democrats are night and day. I don't really get why you'd vote against your own civil rights." We'll see how long Jennifer lasts—or, for that matter, the show.

Every once in a while, I'm asked about those who came before me. Those who blazed the trail for gossipmongers everywhere. Those who have moved on to the great beyond. In this case,



Former math lecturer Pietro Boselli has a head for figures—and cuts quite a figure himself. Instagram photo

the great beyond is Palm Springs. And, while its inhabitants are not technically dead, they are enjoying a well-deserved rest. One of those residents is Ted Casablanca. For 20 years, Casablanca was a mainstay in the gossip world-first at Premiere magazine and then at E! Online. He also cut quite an appealing figure, with a posterior that kept more sailors snug than could fit into Natalie Wood's dinghy! According to a profile in my Southern California publication, Frontiers, Casablanca initially relocated to the desert to work on a juicy novel. While he promises the novel will come out later this year, he's already opened the Ted Casablanca Gallery—how do they come up with such inventive names? The art gallery has a reputation for edgy fare. Check him out if you're in the area. The line forms at the rear, I'm sure.

Our "Ask Billy" question came from Darin in Chicago: "Who is this hot Italian math teacher who I keep seeing online? My God—he's GOR-GEOUS."

Pietro Boselli is kinda Italian and kinda British and totally hot. He was born in Italy and discovered by Giorgio Armani when he was 6 years old (We're not even touching that.) He spent his teen years modeling and studying engineering. While pursuing a doctorate in mechanical engineering, he taught math at University College London. When some of his students found his modeling photos online, he quickly became known as the "World's Sexiest Math Teacher."

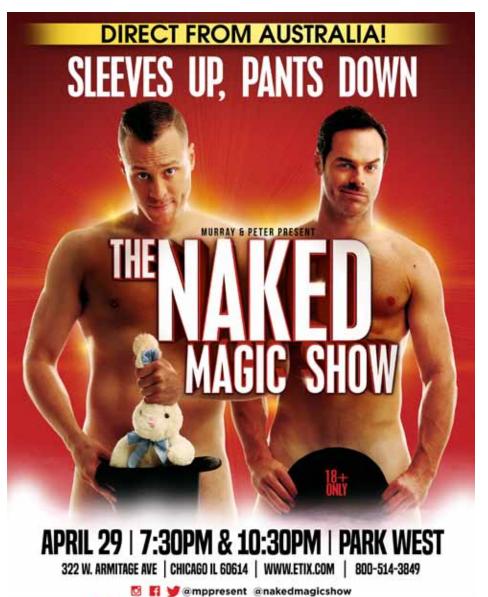
Since then, the 27-year-old has given up teaching and is embracing his 15 minutes by modeling all over the world. Lately, Pietro has been shooting Trippers for MTV, which brought him to the Gay Mardi Gras celebrations in Australia. He's very cagey about his romantic life, saying he is "unavailable." He's also said that his top three idols are Arnold Schwarzenegger, Oscar Wilde and the Rolling Stones—so take that any way you'd like. Since we have oodles of scantily clad shots of him, we'll post a bunch—as well as an underwear spread—on BillyMasters.com.

Since we don't want to deny you an unclad dick, we present former One Direction member **Zayn Malik**'s member. From the pics we've acquired, the one direction kinda curves slightly to the left. Allegedly, the photos stemmed from when he was dating Perrie Edwards last year. How they ended up in my inbox is unknown.

When I don't even have a pot (pie) to piss in, it's definitely time to end yet another column. Thank God the smoke didn't damage www.Billy-Masters.com, the site that sizzles. If you've got a question for me, send it to Billy@BillyMasters. com, and I promise to get back to you before Cait gets a job in Cruz's closet ... er, cabinet! Until next time, remember: One man's filth is another man's bible.







IN SALE NOW VIP MEET & GREET TIX ALSO AVAILABLE



Sashay in every Monday for the RuPaul's Drag Race viewing party. Photos by Jed Dulanas

Tortoise Club: checking in

A couple years ago, I checked out Tortoise Club (350 N. State St.; TortoiseClub.com), and was impressed with its seemingly oxymoronic combination of simplicity and sophistication, with food and service.

I'm happy to report that nothing's changedeven as movers and shakers have increasingly noted this place. (I overheard that former U.S. Treasury Secretary Tim Geithner recently patronized Tortoise.)

If anything, the dishes might be even better than I last remembered. The chicken-liver mousse (with cherry gelee and sourdough toast) was memorable, and the crab cake is pretty good, with the sriracha aioli just even to make it stand apart from offerings at other places. The pheasant pie-a seasonal favorite-was simply fantastic, and my tasty (and ginormous) lamb shank reminded me of the ribs the server brings out during the opening credits of The Flintstones cartoons.

Even the service was pretty impressive as our server, Marie, catered to practically every culinary whim we had. She was pretty knowledgeable about the dishes-and even if she didn't know something, she immediately asked the chef.

Definitely stop by this place.

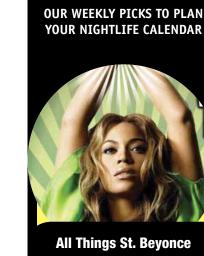


Photos by Verdell Shannon

Lamb shank at Tortoise Club. Photos by Andrew Davis



Congratulations to James Tyrcha, the new Mr. Leather 64TEN 2016, chosen at Jackhammer, Sat., March 12.



Wed., March 16, 9 pm Sidetrack, 3349 N. Halsted St. A special St. Pat's edition of the monthly Beyonce party, with videos, concert footage, comedy and showtune clips. Performances by DiDa Ritz. Beyonce dance-off contest with host Dixie Lynn Cartwright.



Illinois Leather Alliance contests

Sat., March 19 Leather Archives & Museum, 6418 N. Greenview Ave. Interviews, presentations and contest for Illinois Leather Sir/leather boy, Illinois Ms. Leather Pride, Illinois Master/slave, Illinois Bootblack and Illinois Puppy/Trainer.



CUN-TEA

Sun., March 20, 4-8 pm Manhole, 3210 N. Halsted St. A sickening afternoon teadance for boys, girls and industry. Hosted by gAy List Bus' Dougie Collins. Sound by Derrick Carter (pictured) and Dom Brown. Featuring Jade. Free before 5, \$7 cover after.

night<mark>/pot/</mark>

the DISH Weekly Dining Guide in WINDY CITY TIMES

SAVOR Ani; Tortoise Club revisit

BY ANDREW DAVIS

Ani (3056 N. Lincoln Ave.; AniChicago.com) is a tasty, education experience.

Owner/operator Ty Fujimura, who's also a certified sake professional, hosted a recent media tasting that introduced attendees to the ins and outs of rice wine as well as Chef Shin Matsuda's and Pastry Chef Erin Cade's excellent offerings.

The telegenic Fujimura discussed everything from the different types of sake to rituals such as overpouring so that the wine flows into the box that the glass is in (the overpouring being a symbol of generosity and hospitality).

From there, it was a culinary delight as patrons dined on various types of nigiri (a type of sushi that consists of raw fish over pressed vinegared rice), maki (sushi rolls), street fare (including a wonderful Amish chicken thigh with condiments togarashi and yuzu kosho), ramen (and don't skimp on that broth) and desserts (a wonderful sesame panna cotta and matcha milk cake).

Ani offers classes (including one on March 24)but whether it's in an organized class or on a date, you'll likely be schooled (in a delicious way).



Donburi of tori (grilled Amish chicken and seasonal vegetables) (above) and owner/operator Ty Fujimura of Ani. Photos by Andrew Davis





Wed., March 16

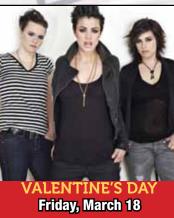
Chicago Foundation for Women 2016 Impact Award The 2016 Impact Awards celebrates five Chicago-area women and men for their dedication to increasing resources and opportunities for women and girls in the Chicago area. 6:00pm -8:00pm Venue SIX10, Spertus Institute, 610 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago Tickets: http://www.cfw.org/?event=2016-impactawards

The Legacy of Lois Lane - Women in a World of Superheroes A Conversation with Lauren Burke (Ladies' Night Anthology), Tim Hanley (Wonder Woman Unbound and Investigating Lois Lane), Anne Elizabeth Moore (Unmarketable, New Girl Law,), Caitlin Rosberg (Ladies' Night Anthology), and Katie Schenkel (justplainsomething. com), speak on heroines who have all too often been overlooked: fearless reporter Lois Lane, Wonder Woman, and a host of others. 7:30pm Women & Children First Bookstore 5233 N. Clark St.; http:// www.womenandchildrenfirst.com/ book/9781613733325

Thursday, March 17

"Unpacking the state budget crisis" webinar The proposed state budget con-tains an \$8 million slash to HIV funding line from the FY 15 budget. AIDS Foundation of Chicago policy expert Direc-tor of Government Relations Daniel Frey will discuss how this will affect millions of vulnerable Illinoisans. Register at the link. 9:30am - 10:30am Online https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1325121891279799554

Illinois Holocaust Museum features Leon Panetta, former Sec. of Defense The 2016 Humanitarian Awards Dinner honors humanitarian efforts and pays tribute to local Holocaust Survivors. Panetta will be



Hunter Valentine will perform at Reggie's Rock Club on its last tour before going on hiatus.

in conversation with J. B. Pritzker on current events, antisemitism, genocide and global politics. 5:30pm Hyatt Regency Chicago 151 E Wacker Dr.; Tickets: http:// www.illinoisholocaustmuseum.org

Pop Waits Participatory, clown provocation through song. Partners and performers Ma-lic White and Molly Brennan both struggle with depression and rely on music to vank themselves out of despair. Extended through March 19. Tickets are \$20, \$10 for students/seniors with ID, or pay-what-you-can on Thursdays. 7:00pm The Neo-Futurarium 5153 N Ashland Chicago Tickets: http://www.neofuturists.org

Chi-Town Squares Mainstream review with Therron Ricks "Centers Start Swing Thru" followed from 7:30 pm to 9:30 pm Mainstream/Plus Workshop & Dance with Mi-

chael Maltenfort. Celebrate St. Patrick's Day with Chi-Town Squares! Alternating Mainstream and Plus tips all night. 7:00pm Ebenezer Lutheran Church 1650 W Foster Chicago http://www.chitownsquares.org

March 16, 2016

Friday, March 18

Engendering Inclusion: Providing Affirming Services to Transgender and Gender Nonconforming Adults Registration Deadline: Wednesday, March 9, 2016. Instructor: Aren Drehobl. Tuition: \$150. CEUs: 6 9:00am - 4:00pm University of Chicago. School of Social Service Administration 969 E 60th St, Chicago Tickets: https:// evint-web.uchicago.edu/office2/cm.esp?i d=2009&pageid=_3E00TRPFC&showpage= coursedet&course=16SPGENDER&start=ei script

IL Leather Alliance meet and greet A chance to get to know the contestants and judges for this year's Illinois Leather Sir/ Leather boy, Illinois Ms. Leather Pride, Illinois Master/slave, Illinois Bootblack, and Illinois Puppy/Trainer. 9pm, Touche, 6412 N. Clark St., http://www.touchechicago. com

Materials Obsession artists' reception Diverse collection of works that share common beginnings in the artists' love for materiality. Exhibition of new work by Gina Lee Robbins, Bobbi Meier and Linda Abrams. Through April 30, 2016. Free. 6:00pm - 9:00pm Pink Gallery, 149 Har-rison St., Oak Park, IL http://www.gallerypink.co

Hunter Valentine "So Long For Now Tour" All-girl outfit known for VH1's Make Or Break: The Linda Perry Project and The Real L Word reality shows. Launching their EP, The Pledge, and touring for a last hoorah before hiatus. 8:00pm Reggie's Rock Club, 2105 S. State, Chicago 312-949-0120 http://www.huntervalentine. Tickets: http://www.ticketweb.com/ com t3/sale/SaleEventDetail?eventId=6379215 &pl=mp&dispatch=loadSelectionData

Lisa Rock performs "Close to You, Music of the Carpenters" Karen Carpenter and brother Richard captured the attention of a generation with their catchy pop music.

Rock is well known in the LGBT community doing sold-out shows with a warm tonal quality and four octave range allowing her to perform "We've Only Just Begun" and "Rainy Days and Mondays" as they were intended. \$45 table seating, \$39 theater seating. Two nights. Sold out. 8:00pm McAninch Arts Center's Club MAC, 425 Fawell Boulevard, Glen Ellyn http://www. atthemac.org/events/close-to-you-musicof-the-carpenters/#sthash.5q7V6sbr.dpuf

Saturday, March 19

Depression & Bipolar Support Alliance (LGBTQ) Support meeting to talk about ill-nesses, 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-glbt-chicago.com Save Your Voice for the Fight: Day of Silence Chicagoland youth leadership summits Day-long series of workshops and discussions for student groups to brainstorm and skill-share for different Day of Silence actions. Ends with a theatrical production of Totally True Voices, a play developed wholly on the lived experiences of Baker's Middle School students! 10:00am - 3:30pm Baker Demonstration School. 201 Sheridan Rd., Wilmette https://www facebook.com/events/866208316839109/ WCPA's Windy City Gay Chorus and Windy City Treble Quire perform Carmina Bura na Two performances of composer Carl Orff's spectacular operatic classic Carmina Burana. 5 and 8 p.m. First United Methodist Church, The Chicago Temple, 77 W.

Equality Illinois: Cherchez la Femme Woman-identified event with brunch buffet catered by R Public House, hand crafted cocktails, bingo with amazing prizes, and friends old and new. 11:00am - 1:00pm R Public House, Rogers Park, 1508 W. Jarvis Ave., Chicago 773-477-7173 Tickets: http://tinyurl.com/EI-Cherchez-la-Femme

Washington St., Chicago Tickets: http://

wcpacarminaburana.brownpapertickets.

Sunday, March 20

"Same Love, Same Rights" LGBT wedding expo LGBT-friendly vendors, grand-prize giveaway wedding for 30 guests, courtesy of Rev. Pamela Magnuson at Pine Manor www.GayWeddingChicagoSite.com. 1:00pm - 4:00pm Hard Rock Hotel Chicago 230 N Michigan Ave Chicago http:// www.samelovesamerights.com/index. php?option=com_content&view=article&id 186&Itemid=313.

Monday, March 21

Chats With Imani Rupert-Gordon and Kris-ten Kaza We chat with Imani Rupert-Gordon (Executive Director, Affinity Communi-ty Services) and Kristen Kaza (Senior Event Producer & Host, Slo 'Mo Party & No Small Plans Productions) about womanhood and femininity and how expressions of both impact one's experiences as a member of the LGBTQ community. \$5 suggested donation. 6:30pm - 8:00pm Center on Hal-sted 3656 N Halsted Chicago http://www. centeronhalsted.org/newevents-details. cfm?ID=11655

Tuesday, March 22 Tracy Chevalier, author Last Runaway, Girl with the Pearl Earring Reading, discuss ing and signing her new book, At the Edge of the Orchard, riveting drama of a pioneer family on the American frontier. Pick up books and tickets at bookstore. Ticketed event. If purchasing your guest's ticket online, please write companion ticket in the comments box. 7:30pm, The Swedish American Museum Center, 5211 N. Clark St. Chicago. http://www.womenandchildrenfirst.com

Wed., March 23

B-Movie, Lust and Sound in West-Berlin 1979-1989 Chicago European Union Film Festival includes LGBTQ-related films. Tonight, a wild ride through a tumultuous era, crammed with vivid characters and galvanic music 8:30pm Gene Siskel Film Center 164 N State St. Chicago http:// www.siskelfilmcenter.org

See



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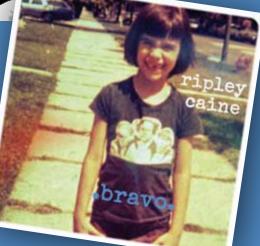
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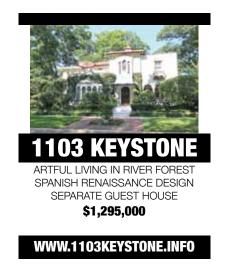
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Paula Poundstone.

Paula Poundstone in Skokie March 19

The North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie, will welcome comedian Paula Poundstone on Saturday, March 19, at 8 p.m.

Her most recent comedy CD, I HEART JOKES: Paula Tells Them in Boston was recorded during a performance at the Wilbur Theatre in the heart of the city and was released on April Fool's Day 2013. This was a follow-up to her successful first CD I HEART JOKES: Paula Tells Them in Maine, which was released in 2009. Poundstone is also a regular panelist on NPR's weekly news quiz show Wait, Wait ... Don't Tell Me.

Tickets are \$45-\$52; visit http://www.north-shorecenter.org/.

Blue Man Group's 'Three' out April 22

Blue Man Group will release its third studio album, Three, on Friday, April 22, as the act marks its 25th year.

Three, featuring 14 instrumental tracks, will be available from Rhino on CD (\$13.98) as well as on a digital format. "Giacometti," the first single from the new album, is available now as an instant download when pre-ordering Three from participating digital retailers, or it can be purchased separately.





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