

Christina Kahrl.
Photo courtesy of Kahrl



GOOD SPORT

Christina Kahrl preps for move, larger role at ESPN

BY ROSS FORMAN

Chicago is losing a staunch LGBT activist with national ties—one who also can and does talk about the blistering fastballs from Aroldis Chapman, a World Series star for the Cubs this fall, and the home-run heroics of Kris Bryant, also a 2016 Cubs sensation.

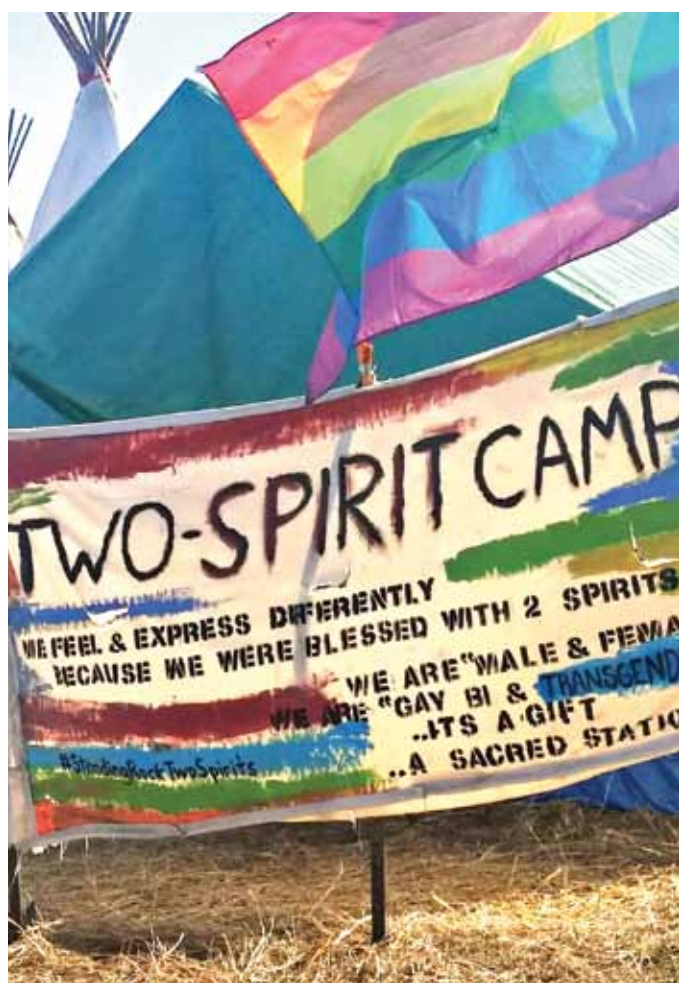
Christina Kahrl is taking a bigger part in the sports scene. Kahrl, who has lived in Chicago's western suburbs and South Side as well as Rogers Park (the latter since 2007) is moving to Bristol, Connecticut, to work at ESPN's corporate headquarters. She has been a writer-editor for ESPN.com, but has been promoted to senior editor. Her new gig will entail more

editing year round, more long-term planning and, obviously, less time at Wrigley Field and Guaranteed Rate Field (formerly known as U.S. Cellular Field, or its common nickname, The Cell), respective homes of the Cubs and White Sox.

"As much as we love Chicago, there's no question that I'll be able to do so much more there than I could working remotely on the editorial side of things," said Kahrl, one of the most high-profile transgender individuals in the mainstream sports world. She has been married to Charley Mae Wanamaker, who works in property management, since 2014.

"[The move] also means the virtual end to what reporting I was able to do for ESPN from Wrigley, or The Cell, or other

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TWO SPIRITS AT STANDING ROCK

See inside for interviews from the Standing Rock pipeline protests.

Photo from Alicia Crosby

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NUTCRACKER

Christopher Wheeldon's new production is reviewed.

Photo by by Cheryl Mann

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GLITTER GLAM

Center on Halsted hosts women's gala.

Photo by Kat Fitzgerald

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DEREK RADFORD

Dies at age 32.

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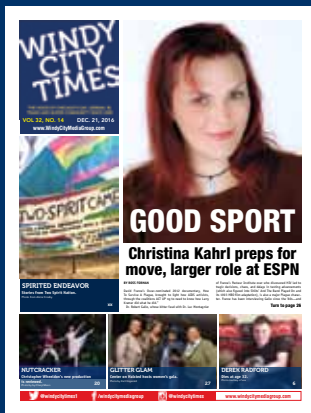


Photo of The Other Cinderella by Michael Courier

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ROHM, IF YOU WANT TO
 Elisabeth Rohm (left), known from TV's Law & Order, plays a sinister minister in the LGBT-themed movie Love Is All You Need?
 Image from Genius Pictures

HORSING AROUND



Louisville, Kentucky offers everything from great food to horse racing.
 Photo by Jerry Nunn

TECH AND CALL



Northbridge Technology Alliance links tech and social-justice issues.
 Photo of CEO Kathy Flint by Stacyc Flint

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 Windy City Times talks with Spa Night director Andrew Ahn and actor Esteban Andres Cruz.

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 WCT reviews the book Elizabeth and Michael, by Donald Bogle.

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Sleep-in to benefit Chicago youth homeless agencies on Feb. 24

With winter already spreading its arctic grip across the Chicago area, more than 20,000 young adults and students are looking for a permanent home, not just overnight shelter.

In response to this housing crisis, a region-wide "sleep-in" will be held in Chicago's South Loop Friday night, Feb. 24, to benefit 13 organizations providing shelter, drop-in space and advocacy for youth experiencing homelessness in the region.

This is the second event raising funds for these agencies. The first was held during a blizzard in November 2015, and raised more than \$44,000.

The Out in the Open Sleep In will be held at Second Presbyterian Church, 1936 S. Michigan Ave. While the first event was held outside on Montrose Avenue near Lake Michigan, this year, the event is moving inside to save on expenses and difficulty in permitting for outside overnight events in the city.

"The first event showed just a small example of the difficulties faced by people living outside during the winter," said Tracy Baim, Windy City Times publisher and executive producer of the event. "There was a blizzard and frigid temperatures, and many people were unable to make it through just that one night outside. Imagine what it is like to live this way 365 nights a year."

The event works like other pledge-related events. People sign up for teams that select which agency they are raising funds for. Individuals can join any team to benefit any of the partner agencies. Team names should also include the beneficiary agency (example: Rise

Up for BYC).

This year, the event is also able to accommodate satellite events anywhere, with people creating their own event in the city or suburbs, and selecting which agencies to raise funds for. This is perfect for schools, religious organizations or families to build their own Sleep In and be part of the benefit, connecting through live social media posts during that evening.

Attendees will hear from individual teens and participate in a variety of activities. There will also be dozens of entertainers performing during the event.

This year's partner agencies are The 750 Club Apartment Adoption Project, AIDS Foundation of Chicago, Broadway Youth Center of Howard Brown Health, Center on Halsted, Chicago Youth Storage Initiative, El Rescate, La Casa Norte, LYTE Collective, New Moms, The Night Ministry, Pride Action Tank, Teen Living Programs and Unity Parenting.

The event is hosted by Pride Action Tank, AIDS Foundation of Chicago, Edelman, Agency EA, Windy City Times newspaper and Second Presbyterian Church, along with a wide range of other partners.

To donate or sign up for the inaugural event as well as to learn more about individual teen's stories, visit <http://sleepinchicago.org/>.

To volunteer or for information on team signups, contact Jackie Thaney at JThaney@aidschicago.org.

For information on sponsorships, email Tracy Baim at editor@windycitymediagroup.com.

Facebook invite: <https://www.facebook.com/Sleep-In-Chicago-1473953326244549/>



Rabbi Rachel Weiss.
Photo by Matt Simonette

Weiss officially installed as JRC rabbi

Hundreds attended the installation service of Rachel Weiss in her post as rabbi at Jewish Reconstructionist Congregation in Evanston on Dec. 16.

Weiss, who is lesbian, was previously associate rabbi at Congregation Beth Simchat Torah in New York City but is an Evanston native. Among those in attendance at the event were Chicago Teachers Union President Karen Lewis, Evanston Mayor Elizabeth Tisdahl and U.S. Rep. Jan Schakowsky, who delivered opening remarks.

Photo by Matt Simonette

GUEST COLUMN

BY KATE PIECHACZEK



My Buddy

One night while my mom was tucking little 6-year-old me into bed she told me she had something very important to say.

"Well Kate, you know when babies are born they are a boy or girl, right?" I nodded. "Well, some people feel that how they look on the outside doesn't match how they feel on the inside. Does this make sense to you?"

I shook my head no.

"So sometimes when they get older and realize that they can change their bodies to match what they feel on the inside. For example, your Aunt Nancy was born a girl but she always felt differently. She never liked to wear dresses that Yaya would make for her and would insist on wearing boys clothes. So now she is older she has decided she is going to start transitioning into a boy. She will start to look a little different, her voice will start to get a little deeper and she might start to grow some facial hair," I giggled at the thought of my aunt with a beard or mustache.

"Aunt Nancy is very nervous about changing, but what is going to make her happy is our support and unconditional love. Do you have any questions?"

"So when I get older I could become a boy if I wanted?" She smiled and nodded. "So is Nancy going to be my uncle now and is her name still Nancy?"

"Yes, so now you will call her Uncle Quinn and Uncle Quinn wants us to refer to her now as a he or a him not, a she or a her."

"That's so cool how you can just change your whole you." She smiled and giggled.

Learning that my aunt was now my uncle was something that seemed normal to me. The way my mom had explained seemed so simple for everyone to understand, but later on in life I learned that that was not the case.

Going to pride parades was something that always gave me so much joy. I have been marching in the Chicago Pride Parade every year since I can remember. Every year I always feel a surge of joy and emotions seeing so many people gather and celebrate something so special, but different. Before the parade starts my mom and I walk around and look at all of the floats. While marching I'm always cheered on by people on the sidewalk; they always ask my sisters and I for hugs and high fives. They shout out that our parents raised us right and how they are so proud of us. Being surrounded by all of the cheerful people was always my favorite part of the year. I always felt that the positive energy could never end. I remember at my first parade that one of the men marching with us came up to me towards the end of the route and told me something that always stuck with me.

"Alright, when we get to the end we are going to see some ugly people. Just keep smiling and don't give them any attention. They might yell at you and say some mean things, but remember that you have a big voice and you are doing the right thing, standing up for those with a quiet voice," he said.

As we approached the end I heard shouting through megaphones and saw signs being waved. When the protesters came into sight I tried not to look but I couldn't resist. I noticed parade-goers waving their rainbow flags in front of their faces and people shouting things in hopes to change the protester's opinions. I admired these people for their courage to stand up to someone who thinks so little of them.

Throughout my life I was very close with my uncle, he would always call me his "little buddy" and whenever we went to visit him in Michigan there would always be something fun to do. One day he came over to our house and told me we were going on an adventure. He dragged me out of the house and lead me to the swingset. He went on about a legend of the baby unicorn with a broken horn who had lost its mother and that it was spotted in Elmhurst near our garage. At first I didn't believe him but after searching in a pile of wood sure enough there it was, a little music box with a white unicorn laying on top with a chipped gold horn. He told me that he would let me keep it if I promised to love it forever and give it a nice home. We pinky promised and raced each other to the back door.

On Oct. 31, 2010, my mom told me that she had to go to visit my grandma to help her with something and that she would be back soon. Since it was Halloween, I was so excited to go trick-or-treating with my sisters and my neighbors. It was getting close to the time we were set to go out and my mom still wasn't home. I was starting to get nervous, I always went trick-or-treating with my mom.

The next day my mom still wasn't home, now I was really worried and all I could think about was if she is alright. Around 2 o'clock the office called Mrs. Bradley's third grade class and asked me to collect my things and come to the office because I was going home for the day. When I walked into the office I was so relieved to see my mom standing there smiling with her arms wide open. She held my hand as we walked to the car. I asked her why I was going home and she told me,

"Just 'cause I love you."

When she opened the back seat door I hopped in and noticed my uncle Tom sitting in the passenger seat. He greeted me with a warm smile and I immediately knew something was off. Uncle Tom lived all the way in California. What was he doing in Elmhurst? All I could think of was a business trip for the reason he'd be here but something still seemed off.

When we arrived home, my mom called my sisters and I to the living room. Next to her sat my dad and Uncle Tom. She had a solemn look on her face. She told us she had something very important to say. Those were not the first time I had heard those words but, I knew that this time the news wouldn't be as joyous.

"We have all had accidents before," my mom



Quinn Collins,
two weeks
before he died.
Photo courtesy
of Arlene Collins

started. "Sometimes accidents happen to us and they happen to people we know and love." I sat listening intently. "A few days ago someone we know and love very much got into a car accident." All I could think of was that my grandma was okay and that whoever it was is still alive and only injured. "Uncle Q pulled over to the side of the road because he was starting to get sleepy. Since it was dark out another car did not see him and crashed into him. Uncle Quinn passed away."

At first, I didn't have a reaction. I didn't understand that meant he would be gone forever. I didn't cry at all when my mom first told me, or after the funeral. It wasn't until a few years later, when I actually needed him, that I cried.

On Nov. 6, I stepped into the funeral home and was hit by the strong smell of flowers. I walked over to my grandma where she knelt in front of the open casket sobbing. I had no idea what to

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PASSAGES

Derek Radford dies at 32

BY ROSS FORMAN

Derek Radford, who worked for several years at Pingpong Restaurant in Chicago's Boystown neighborhood, passed away Nov. 20 at hospice in Orlando, Florida, from renal failure. He was 32.

Radford, a St. Louis native who was openly gay, had been hospitalized since July, first with a gallbladder infection. His longtime friends, Linda and Beth Bax, were by his side when he passed.

"He didn't want people to know he was sick and took on quite the battle [as] an example of his strength," said friend Jimmy Kays, of Chicago. "He was sick [for the] majority of this last year and was awaiting a transplant."

Andrea Kline met Radford through a mutual friend, and the two quickly became inseparable. "We never had a dull moment," Kline said. "We were both free spirited, goofy [and] enjoyed laughing a lot."

Kline said that Radford previously worked at Abercrombie and Fitch, and they went together to 18-and-older gay clubs.

"The song 'Sandstorm' [by Darude] will forever remind me of him," Kline said, "that kind of techno song; we got pulled over [once] in his mom's [car] listening to that [song] super loud."

"He would come over randomly; my mom thought he was hilarious because he would do kart wheels and hand stands in my living room."

Radford was Kline's high school prom date. "I will forever cherish going to prom with my best friend," she said.

Radford enjoyed dancing and during his brother Jim's wedding, Derek was dancing with the new bride and her 2-year-old daughter, Reese.

Radford was inspired by the teachings of Buddha and Eastern philosophies. Also, Radford enjoyed making furniture out of discarded junk and he had a passion for decorating.

Radford enjoyed traveling and has been all over the world, his brother Jim said. "I actually have a travel urn for his remains, so I can take him and leave a part of him in the places that I visit."

Jim added, "I never thought I would only get to have my brother for 32 years. If I have learned anything from losing him, it's to tell the people you love that you love them every single day. And, treat those different from you with kindness and love because everyone deserves to feel loved."

Annye Magdic met Radford in 2013 and said he had an "amazing spirit."



Derek Radford.

"Derek loved life; he loved laughing; he cherished his friends and always made sure you knew it," Magdic said. "I know he enjoyed great food and conversation and could make some great dishes as well. He was so well rounded, generous and always there to listen. His loyalty as a friend was something I will truly miss. I'm so fortunate to have done some really fun things with him."

"Derek's best traits were his humility and his sense of humor. He will always be one of the funniest people I have known."

"I will forever cherish the amazing nights, candle-lit dinners [shared], art walks, watching sunsets on the roof, dancing until it hurt and laughing with you until we cried. Thank you for teaching me about real friendship and for being you."

Gina Hausmann was friends with Radford since preschool.

"He was always a vibrant, charismatic guy with a big heart," Hausmann said. "I remember one year I received a red cape-like jacket for Christmas and Derek called me 'Little Red Riding Hood' in it and would put it on and chase me and my friend Sheenah around the playground."

Radford attended Fort Zumwalt South High School in Saint Peters, Missouri.

"His sunny disposition was always a ray of light," Hausmann said. "He was the type of

person that, if you were having a bad day, he'd listen open-mindedly with a caring heart."

Radford attended Fort Lauderdale Art Institute in the mid-2000s after time at the Art Institute of Chicago.

"I met him while working at a trendy Asian bistro [in Florida]. It was a fun group; we were mostly young students and would often go out after shifts," said Nikki Braverman.

"Everyone gravitated towards Derek; he was strikingly good-looking, hilarious, creative and fun. More importantly, he was an amazing friend, not only to me, but lots of people. He was special."

Radford first moved to Chicago in 2003 after graduating from high school.

"Nights out with [Derek] were always a good time; his energy was contagious and he was so witty. I loved his dry humor, his smile, his laugh, his stories," Braverman said. "During that time, I had my own set of obstacles and he was a great friend through it all."

"Even with all the years that have gone by,

PASSAGES

Arlo Andrade-Janzen

BY MATT SIMONETTE

A memorial for Arlo Andrade-Janzen will be held Wed., Dec. 28, in the Grand Ballroom of the Carlton Hotel, 1110 Pleasant St., Oak Park, 5-9 p.m.

Andrade-Janzen died in Denver on Dec. 7 after being in hospice care for 11 months. He was born with HIV in 1986 and had spent many years with his family in the Chicago area.

"Over the summer, we started noticing more of the decline," said his mother, Eva Janzen Powell, who lives in Oak Park. Both she and her son were diagnosed with HIV in 1987, along with her first husband.

Powell, who remarried after her husband passed away, became active in HIV/AIDS causes. But over the years her son struggled with adherence to his medications.

"He had a very difficult time committing to taking it as he needed to, long-term," she said. "About a month or two is all he could do. Like a good number of people with HIV, he suffered from deep depression and extreme anxiety. These extreme mental-health illnesses prevented him, a lot of the time, from just maintaining a healthy regimen and lifestyle."

Powell admitted that many people in her son's life didn't understand the commitment that antiretroviral medications require.

"They didn't understand the type of support Arlo needed to do that," she added. "But I think that many of his friends in Denver supported him. I don't think his friends there gave him pressure about that. I was just amazed by the love his friends there had for him."

Andrade-Janzen had moved to Colorado because of that the ease in accessing medicinal marijuana in that state.

"He was relying on that [in Illinois] to help with appetite and alleviating pain," she said. "...When he lived here, he became a student of marijuana and cannabinoids. He was very well-educated in it, and further educated himself [in Colorado]. Just this past summer, he received his license from the state of Colorado to be an employee in a dispensary, but by then his health was failing too much to work."

One dream was to "own a small piece of land in the mountains," Powell added. "It would have been a small house for him to live in, and a place for him to grow his own plants."

Another longtime dream of Andrade-Janzen's was to be a movie critic.

I'll never forget our friendship and it holds a special place in my heart."

Beth Bax has been best friends with Radford since 1984 and they were next door neighbors for about 10 years. "Derek was my soulmate, my very best friend," she said. "He made my childhood and my life what it was. So much of my history is connected to him. In the 32 years I spent with him, I do not ever remember being bored. He was creative, caring, fun [and] funny."

"He was the truest of friends, the kind of person you felt lucky to have as your friend."

Radford is survived by his mother, Delilah; his father, James Jr., brother James III, sister-in-law Hillary, two nieces (Reese and Elle), paternal grandparents Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Chance, and a large extended family in Missouri, Illinois and Florida.

Jim Radford said that, if anyone would like to make a donation in Derek's name, please do so to a charity that helps gay youth.



Arlo Andrade-Janzen.

Photo from Eva Janzen Powell

"He was a huge movie buff, especially horror movies," recalled Powell. "After he was in Denver, before his health declined, he wanted to go to film school there. He was writing a screenplay with a friend. He had started working on it here in Oak Park, before he went out there."

As his health declined, Andrade-Janzen's goal was to live until his 30th birthday on Sept. 20, which he celebrated with family members.

"Despite this very dark side he, had he also had this lighter side, and this amazing sense of humor," Powell recalled. "He did poetry. His use of words, when he talked, were always amazing. Just an interesting, brilliant guy."

In lieu of flowers and gifts, people can make donations in Andrade-Janzen's honor/memory to the Pediatric AIDS Chicago Prevention Initiative (PACPI). Donations can be made online at PregnantAndPositive.org or by mail 200 W. Jackson Blvd., Chicago, IL 60606.

Corrections

Last week's article "Right-wingers speak out against gay IHRC members" erroneously referred to the Illinois Policy Institute, not the Illinois Family Institute.

Windy City Times regrets the error.

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Progress Bar/minibar owner passes away

BY MATT SIMONETTE

Robert Brumbaugh, owner of Progress Bar and minibar in Lake View, as well as Phoenix Bar and Nightclub in Elk Grove Village, has passed away, according to reports.

Brumbaugh died in Fort Lauderdale the week of Dec. 6, where he owned another bar. No funeral services are currently planned, according to John Freed, a longtime friend of Brumbaugh's.

"Every time that I saw him, he was on his way down to Florida to scout properties," said Freed, who had known Brumbaugh since high school. "We were both closeted kids at New Trier East at Winnetka. We used to sing showtunes in harmony together. That may have been a clue. 'Bosom Buddies' was a particular favorite."

Freed recalled Brumbaugh's drive, which was apparent even in high school. "We had a public radio station at our high school. They turned him down to be a station manager, so he went to a radio station, WYEN, and he became a disc jockey, eventually their drive-time disc jockey. He was working full-time, in radio, at the age of 16."

Brumbaugh had been married with a family, but when he came out in his forties, "He bought all these bars and came out with a bang," Freed recalled. "I'd walk with him down Halsted and every other person would be saying, 'Hi, Rob.' 'How're you doing, Rob?'"

Freed recalled Brumbaugh as someone who was generous and "whose smile could light up a room. He was a great friend. He also had big ideas and was very determined, and if you tried to get in his way, he did not take well to it."

Indeed, Brumbaugh had legal difficulties in 2011, shortly after he purchased the building where Progress Bar now stands. The owner of Cocktail, the bar that previously occupied the space, sued Brumbaugh, alleging that he conspired to ruin the bar's reputation and drive it out of business. Progress Bar opened in 2013 and Brumbaugh purchased Minibar in March,



Robert Brumbaugh.

Photo from Wesley Hentges

2016. He opened Phoenix Bar in 2013 as well.

Brumbaugh worked in advertising prior to being a bar owner. Freed said Brumbaugh was a person who kept the different parts of his life compartmentalized, adding "He had the 'advertising agency' side of his life and the 'gay' side of his life, and never the two shall meet."

Freed recalled further, "He and I reconnected at our 30th high school reunion. We talked about what it was like to be gay at a public high school in the '70s."

He and Brumbaugh remained in touch after that. "To his friends, he was extremely, reliably loyal. To his enemies, watch out."

PASSAGES

Cameron Campbell

Cameron Joseph Campbell—a librarian, devout Buddhist, collector of East Asian art and former Jesuit Priest who was a native of Frankfort, Michigan and formerly of Los Gatos, California—passed away peacefully at his home in Chicago's Rogers Park neighborhood on Dec. 10. He was 70.

After earning his B.A. and M.A. from St. Louis University, and his M.Div from the Jesuit School of Theology at Berkeley, Cameron worked toward a Ph.D. in comparative literature before earning his M.A. in library science from the University of Chicago (UChicago).

He headed UChicago's Regenstein Library's Serials Indexing Department and Northwestern University School of Law's Special Projects Department. He retired as director of indexing for the American Theological Library Association.

Cameron was the cherished husband of Daniel von Brighoff; beloved brother of Carolynne (Frank) Satow; loving uncle of Sunda (Jeff) Egli and Jason (Sierra) Satow; great-uncle of Dakota Egli and Shane and Cameron Satow; and loving son of the late Joseph Mortimer Campbell and Margaret Smeltzer Campbell.

Cameron will be deeply missed by the Brighoff and Immer families, Barbara Kemmis and Gina Medalle, and many others.

Memorial services in Chicago and Oregon and are being planned for early 2017.

Contributions may be made in his name to Buddhist monasteries ShastaAbbey.org or GampoAbbey.org, or to the charity of one's choice.

Arrangements by Cremation Society of Illinois, 773-281-5058 or Cremation-society.com

Activist Sue Purrington dies

BY MATT SIMONETTE

Sue Purrington, a longtime activist in Chicago progressive politics, and an aide to Ald. Leslie Hairston, passed away after a brief illness Nov. 28. She was 78.

A native of Athens, Ohio, Purrington was involved with a great deal of Hyde Park-based activism and was also a former executive director of the Chicago chapter of the National Organization for Women. She was also active with the Congress of Racial Equality in Chicago.

During her time at NOW, she was a strong ally in the fight for LGBT rights in Chicago.

Purrington also was active in the 1992 U.S. Senate run of Carol Moseley Braun, for whom she was ultimately a legislative aide.

Hairston told the Hyde Park Herald that Purrington "was the epitome of a Hyde Park resident, she actively engaged in her community and politics. You could call her at a moments notice day or night, and she would be there. Everybody knew Sue. ... My heart is empty right now. ... She will truly be missed."

Trudy Ring, who is a former Outlines reporter and is currently copy chief at the Advocate, said, "Sue was a tireless and inspiring activist with a long history in feminism and other progressive causes. I learned a lot from her when I was a volunteer and board member at Chicago NOW in the late '80s and early '90s. We need more people like her, especially in today's political climate."

Hyde Park Herald's article is at <http://bit.ly/2hypp0X>.

Equality Illinois to honor Noriega, Cosgrove Feb. 4

Chicago Human Relations Commissioner Mona Noriega and Personal PAC CEO Terry Cosgrove will be the 2017 recipients of the Equality Illinois Freedom Award for their lifelong commitment to fighting for the civil rights and personal freedoms of all Illinoisans.

The recognition will be made at the Equality Illinois 2017 Gala, the Midwest's largest LGBTQ formal celebration. It will be held on Saturday, Feb. 4, at the Hilton Chicago, 720 S. Michigan Ave.

In addition, Equality Illinois will honor the Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago with its Business Leadership Award.

Starting as a citizen activist in the late 1970s, Noriega organized events to help women build their community and was a trailblazer for advocacy for Latina lesbians. In 1993, she went to work for Lambda Legal and, in 2011, Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel appointed Noriega to serve as chair and commissioner of the Chicago Commission on Human Relations.

Cosgrove is president and CEO of Personal PAC, the Illinois political organization that focuses on electing pro-choice candidates in the state. He got his start in advocacy in the 1970s when he worked for a tenants' rights organization in Champaign-Urbana while also active in the gay and lesbian rights movement. He also serves as commissioner on the Illinois Commission on Human Rights, appointed by Gov. Pat Quinn in 2011.

More than 1,400 attendees, including more than 100 political figures and community VIPs, are expected to celebrate the accomplishments that advanced LGBTQ rights over

the last year and hear a call to arms about the challenges that remain in our fight for full equality for all Illinoisans.

More honorees and details about the Equality Illinois 2017 Gala will be announced in the weeks ahead. Tickets and more information about the gala are available at Equality-Illinois.org/2017-gala.

Report looks at LGBT social-justice groups

The 2016 National LGBT Movement Report, now out, provides a comprehensive and standardized look at LGBT movement's finances across LGBT social-justice organizations that focus on broad LGBT advocacy, issue-specific advocacy, legal advocacy, and research and public education.

The 36 organizations profiled represent 45 percent of the budgets of all LGBT social-justice organizations.

This new report, by the Movement Advancement Project (MAP), shows an increase in revenue of 8 percent overall, including 5-percent growth in individual donor revenue from 2014 to 2015. Cumulatively, the 36 participating organizations had combined 2016 budgets of \$188.8 million, a 14-percent increase from their 2015 actual combined expenses.

Fundraising status and staff composition (by race, gender identity, age and more) are among the factors examined.

Some of the organizations in the report include Transgender Law Center, Point Foundation, Equality California, GLSEN, GLAAD, the Human Rights Campaign and Foundation, and the National Center for Lesbian Rights.

The 2016 National LGBT Movement Report is at lgbtmap.org/2016-national-lgbt-movement-report.

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ON THAT.



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TRIUMEQ is a once-a-day pill used to treat HIV-1. In some people, TRIUMEQ should not be used by itself. Take TRIUMEQ exactly as your healthcare provider tells you.

APPROVED USES

TRIUMEQ is a prescription HIV-1 (Human Immunodeficiency Virus-type 1) medicine used alone or with other antiretroviral medicines to treat HIV-1 infection in adults. HIV-1 is the virus that causes AIDS. TRIUMEQ is not for use by itself in people who have or have had resistance to abacavir, dolutegravir, or lamivudine. TRIUMEQ should not be used in children under the age of 18.

TRIUMEQ does not cure HIV-1 or AIDS. You must keep taking HIV-1 medicines to control HIV-1 infection and decrease HIV-related illnesses.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

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

TRIUMEQ can cause serious side effects, including:

• **Serious allergic reactions (hypersensitivity reaction)** that can cause death have happened with TRIUMEQ and other abacavir-containing products. Your risk of this allergic reaction to abacavir is much higher if you have a gene variation called HLA-B*5701. Your healthcare provider can determine with a blood test if you have this gene variation. **If you get symptoms from 2 or more of the following groups while taking TRIUMEQ, call your healthcare provider right away: 1. fever; 2. rash; 3. nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, or stomach pain; 4. generally ill feeling, extreme tiredness, or achiness; 5. shortness of breath, cough, or sore throat.** Your pharmacist will give you a Warning Card with a list of these symptoms. **Carry this Warning Card with you at all times.**

If you stop taking TRIUMEQ because of an allergic reaction, never take TRIUMEQ or any other abacavir- or dolutegravir-containing medicines again. If you take TRIUMEQ or any other abacavir-containing medicine again after you have had an allergic reaction, **within hours** you may get **life-threatening symptoms** that may include **very low blood pressure** or **death**. If you stop TRIUMEQ for any other reason, even for a few days, and you are not allergic to TRIUMEQ, talk with your healthcare provider before taking it again. Taking TRIUMEQ again can cause a serious allergic or life-threatening reaction, even if you never had an allergic reaction to it before. **If your healthcare provider tells you that you can take TRIUMEQ again, start taking it when you are around medical help or people who can call a healthcare provider if you need one.**

• **A buildup of acid in your blood (lactic acidosis).** Lactic acidosis can happen in some people who take TRIUMEQ. This serious medical emergency can cause death. **Call your healthcare provider right away if you** feel very weak or tired; have unusual muscle pain; have trouble breathing; have stomach pain with nausea and vomiting; feel cold, especially in your arms and legs; feel dizzy/light-headed; or have a fast/irregular heartbeat.

• **Serious liver problems** can happen in people who take TRIUMEQ. In some cases, these serious liver problems can lead to death. **You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or serious liver problems if you are female, very overweight (obese), or have been taking nucleoside analogue medicines for a long time. Call your healthcare provider right away if you get any of the following signs or symptoms:**

○ yellow skin, or the white part of the eyes turns yellow (jaundice); dark urine; light-colored stools; loss of appetite for several days or longer; nausea; pain, aching, or tenderness on the right side of your stomach area

• **Worsening of hepatitis B virus in people who have HIV-1 infection.** If you have HIV-1 and hepatitis B virus (HBV), your HBV may get worse (flare-up) if you stop taking TRIUMEQ. A "flare-up" is when your HBV suddenly returns in a worse way than before. Worsening liver disease can be serious and may lead to death. Do not stop taking TRIUMEQ without first talking to your healthcare provider, so he or she can monitor your health.

• **Resistant hepatitis B virus.** If you have HIV-1 and hepatitis B, the hepatitis B virus can change (mutate) during your treatment with TRIUMEQ and become harder to treat (resistant).

• **Use with interferon and ribavirin-based regimens.** If you're taking TRIUMEQ and interferon, with or without ribavirin, tell your healthcare provider about any new symptoms. Worsening of liver disease that has caused death has happened in people infected with both HIV-1 and hepatitis C who were taking antiretroviral medicines and interferon.

Who should not take TRIUMEQ?

• **Do not take TRIUMEQ if you:**

- have the HLA-B*5701 gene variation
- are allergic to abacavir, dolutegravir, or any of the ingredients in TRIUMEQ
- take dofetilide (Tikosyn[®])
- have liver or kidney problems

What are other possible side effects of TRIUMEQ?

- People with a history of hepatitis B or C virus may have an increased risk of developing new or worsening changes in certain liver tests during treatment with TRIUMEQ. Your healthcare provider may do tests to check your liver function before and during treatment with TRIUMEQ.
- When you start taking HIV-1 medicines, your immune system may get stronger and begin to fight infections that have been hidden in your body for a long time. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you start having new symptoms after you start taking TRIUMEQ.
- Changes in body fat can happen in people who take HIV-1 medicines.
- Some HIV-1 medicines, including TRIUMEQ, may increase your risk of heart attack.

The most common side effects of TRIUMEQ include: trouble sleeping, headache, tiredness

These are not all the possible side effects of TRIUMEQ. Tell your healthcare provider if you have any side effect that bothers you or that does not go away.

What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking TRIUMEQ?

• **Before you take TRIUMEQ, tell your healthcare provider if you:**

- have been tested and know whether or not you have a gene variation called HLA-B*5701
- have or have had liver problems, including hepatitis B or C infection; have kidney problems; have heart problems, smoke, or have diseases that increase your risk of heart disease such as high blood pressure, high cholesterol, or diabetes; drink alcohol or take medicines that contain alcohol
- are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if TRIUMEQ will harm your unborn baby
- are breastfeeding or plan to breastfeed. **Do not breastfeed if you take TRIUMEQ**
- **You should not take TRIUMEQ if you also take:**
 - abacavir (EPZICOM[®], TRIZIVIR[®], or ZIAGEN[®])
 - lamivudine (COMBIVIR[®], Dutrebis[™], EPIVIR[®], EPIVIR-HBV[®], EPZICOM, or TRIZIVIR)
 - emtricitabine (Emtriva[®], Atripla[®], Complera[®], Stribild[®], or Truvada[®])

Important Safety Information continued on next page

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If you don't have prescription coverage and can't afford your medicines, visit ViiVHealthcareForYou.com or call the ViiV Healthcare Response Center 1-877-844-8872



“We’re
**MOVING
 FORWARD**
 with **TRIUMEQ.**”

Peter
 Diagnosed with
 HIV in 2015



Garland
 Diagnosed
 with HIV
 in 2016



Leopold
 Diagnosed with
 HIV in 2003

Jeannette
 Diagnosed with
 HIV in 2011



Jack
 Diagnosed with
 HIV in 2010



Real patients with HIV-1 taking TRIUMEQ as of 2014
 or later. Individual results may vary.

Individuals compensated for their time by Viiv Healthcare.

• **Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take,** including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements (for example, antacids or laxatives; vitamins such as iron or calcium supplements; anti-seizure medicines; other medicines to treat HIV-1, hepatitis, or tuberculosis; metformin; methadone; or St. John's wort). Some medicines interact with TRIUMEQ. **Keep a list of your medicines to show your healthcare provider and pharmacist. Do not start taking a new medicine without telling your healthcare provider.**

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

Please see Important Facts about TRIUMEQ on the following pages.

Ask your doctor about

 **Triumeq**[®]
 abacavir 600 mg/dolutegravir 50 mg/
 lamivudine 300 mg tablets

learn more at triumeq.com

 **Triumeq**
 abacavir 600 mg/dolutegravir 50 mg/
 lamivudine 300 mg tablets
 (TRI-u-meck)

IMPORTANT FACTS

This is only a brief summary of important information about TRIUMEQ and does not replace talking to your healthcare provider about your condition and your treatment.

MOST IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT TRIUMEQ

TRIUMEQ® may cause serious side effects, including:

- **Serious allergic reactions (hypersensitivity reaction)** that can cause death have happened with TRIUMEQ and other abacavir-containing products. Your risk of this allergic reaction to abacavir is much higher if you have a gene variation called HLA-B*5701. Your healthcare provider can determine with a blood test if you have this gene variation. **If you get symptoms from 2 or more of the following groups while taking TRIUMEQ, call your healthcare provider right away: 1. fever; 2. rash; 3. nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, or stomach pain; 4. generally ill feeling, extreme tiredness, or achiness; 5. shortness of breath, cough, or sore throat.** A list of these symptoms is on the Warning Card your pharmacist gives you. **Carry this Warning Card with you at all times.**
- **If you stop taking TRIUMEQ because of an allergic reaction, never take TRIUMEQ or any other abacavir- or dolutegravir-containing medicines again.** If you take TRIUMEQ or any other abacavir-containing medicine again after you have had an allergic reaction, **within hours** you may get **life-threatening symptoms** that may include **very low blood pressure** or **death**. If you stop TRIUMEQ for any other reason, even for a few days, and you are not allergic to TRIUMEQ, talk with your healthcare provider before taking it again. Taking TRIUMEQ again can cause a serious allergic or life-threatening reaction, even if you never had an allergic reaction to it before. **If your healthcare provider tells you that you can take TRIUMEQ again, start taking it when you are around medical help or people who can call a healthcare provider if you need one.**
- **Build-up of lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis)**, which is a serious medical emergency that can lead to death. **Call your healthcare provider right away if you have any of these symptoms:** feeling very weak or tired, unusual muscle pain, trouble breathing, stomach pain with nausea or vomiting, feeling cold (especially in your arms and legs), feeling dizzy or lightheaded, and/or a fast or irregular heartbeat.
- **Serious liver problems**, which in some cases can lead to death. **Call your healthcare provider right away if you have any of these symptoms:** your skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow (jaundice), dark “tea-colored” urine, light-colored stools (bowel movements), loss of appetite for several days or longer, nausea, and/or stomach pain on the right side.

You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or severe liver problems if you are female, very overweight, or have been taking nucleoside analogues for a long time.

- **Worsening of Hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** If you have both HIV-1 and HBV, your HBV may suddenly get worse if you stop taking TRIUMEQ. Do not stop taking TRIUMEQ without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to check your health regularly for several months.
- **Resistant HBV.** If you have HIV-1 and HBV, the HBV can change (mutate) while you're on TRIUMEQ and become harder to treat (resistant).
- **Use with interferon and ribavirin-based regimens.** Worsening of liver disease that has caused death has happened in people infected with both HIV-1 and hepatitis C virus who are taking antiretroviral medicines and are also being treated for hepatitis C with interferon with or without ribavirin. If you are taking TRIUMEQ and interferon with or without ribavirin, tell your HCP if you have any new symptoms.

ABOUT TRIUMEQ

- TRIUMEQ is a prescription HIV-1 medicine used alone or with other antiretroviral medicines to treat HIV-1 infection in adults. TRIUMEQ is not for use by itself in people who have or have had resistance to abacavir, dolutegravir, or lamivudine. TRIUMEQ should not be used in children under the age of 18.
- **TRIUMEQ does not cure HIV-1 infection or AIDS.** You must keep taking HIV-1 medicines to control HIV-1 infection and decrease HIV-related illnesses.

DO NOT TAKE TRIUMEQ IF YOU

- have a certain type of gene variation called the HLA-B*5701 allele. Your HCP will test you for this before prescribing treatment with TRIUMEQ.
- are allergic to abacavir, dolutegravir, or any of the ingredients in TRIUMEQ. See the full Medication Guide for a complete list of ingredients in TRIUMEQ.
- take dofetilide (Tikosyn®). Taking TRIUMEQ and dofetilide (Tikosyn) can cause side effects that may be life-threatening.
- have liver or kidney problems.
- If you also take: abacavir (EPZICOM, TRIZIVIR, or ZIAGEN); lamivudine (COMBIVIR®, Dutrebis™, EPIVIR®, EPIVIR-HBV®, EPZICOM, or TRIZIVIR); emtricitabine (Atripla®, Complera®, Emtriva®, Stribild®, or Truvada®) abacavir (EPZICOM, TRIZIVIR, or ZIAGEN)

BEFORE TAKING TRIUMEQ

Tell your healthcare provider if you:

- have been tested and know if you have a particular gene variation called HLA-B*5701.
- have or had any kidney or liver problems, including hepatitis B or C virus infection.
- have heart problems, smoke, or have diseases that increase your risk of heart disease such as high blood pressure, high cholesterol, or diabetes.
- drink alcohol or take medicines that contain alcohol.
- are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if TRIUMEQ will harm your unborn baby.
- are breastfeeding (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. **Do not breastfeed if you have HIV-1** because of the risk of passing HIV-1 to your baby.

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take:

- Keep a list that includes all prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements, and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist.
- Ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist about medicines that should not be taken with TRIUMEQ. **Do not start taking a new medicine without telling your healthcare provider**

MEDICINES THAT MIGHT INTERACT WITH TRIUMEQ

- antacids, laxatives, or other medicines that contain aluminum, magnesium, sucralfate (Carafate®), or buffered medicines. TRIUMEQ should be taken at least 2 hours before or 6 hours after you take these medicines.
- iron or calcium supplements taken by mouth may be taken at the same time with TRIUMEQ if taken with food. Otherwise, TRIUMEQ should be taken at least 2 hours before or 6 hours after you take these medicines
- anti-seizure medicines: oxcarbazepine (Trileptal®), phenytoin (Dilantin®, Dilantin®-125, Phenytek®), phenobarbital, carbamazepine (Carbatrol®, Equetro®, Tegretol®, Tegretol®-XR, Teril®, Eptol®)
- any other medicine to treat HIV-1, medicines used to treat hepatitis virus infections (such as interferon or ribavirin), a medicine that contains metformin, methadone, rifampin (Rifater®, Rifamate®, Rimactane®, Rifadin®), St. John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum*)

POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF TRIUMEQ

TRIUMEQ can cause serious side effects including:

- See “What is the most important information about TRIUMEQ?” section
- Changes in liver tests.
- Changes in your immune system
- Changes in body fat
- Some HIV-1 medicines including TRIUMEQ may increase your risk of heart attack.

The most common side effects of TRIUMEQ are: trouble sleeping, headache, and tiredness

These are not all the possible side effects of TRIUMEQ. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you have any new symptoms while taking TRIUMEQ.

Your healthcare provider will need to do tests to monitor your health before and during treatment with TRIUMEQ.

You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

GET MORE INFORMATION

- Talk to your healthcare provider or pharmacist
- Go to TRIUMEQ.com or call 1-877-844-8872, where you can also get FDA-approved product labeling

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April 2016 TRM:4MG

Vigil organizers demand release of Chelsea Manning

BY GRETCHEN RACHEL HAMMOND

The wind chill on Dec. 17 was well below zero when more than a dozen people gathered on the corner of Roscoe and Halsted streets in Chicago's Lake View neighborhood.

They all agreed that the biting cold was inconsequential in comparison to the suffering experienced by Chelsea Manning, the 29-year-old U.S. Army whistleblower who faces 32 more years of incarceration at Fort Leavenworth prison after she provided WikiLeaks with classified information that included the torture of detainees in U.S.-run jails in Iraq, the indiscriminate murder of civilians in Iraq and Afghanistan, questionable arrests and detention of suspects at Guantanamo Bay and U.S. operations against United Nations leadership.

The vigil was just one of a series held across the United States and internationally, including the cities of Boston, London and outside the maximum-security prison at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

They were timed to coincide with Manning's birthday and included a final appeal to President Barack Obama to commute Manning's sentence to time served before he leaves office in January 2017. It is perceived that the incoming Trump administration will not likely display any show of mercy.

"Chelsea Manning is the longest serving whistleblower in U.S. custody today," Chicago

vigil organizer and co-founder of the Gay Liberation Network (GLN) Andy Thayer said. "She has suffered as a transgender woman. She has been abused by the military while often in solitary confinement. She has unfortunately tried to take her life and has been punished by the military for doing this."

Thayer added that Manning's contributions through the leaked documents and video footage and during her incarceration are "immeasurable."

"She is probably the most impactful LGBTQ activist today," he said. "She has [exposed] U.S. war crimes [committed] by both the George W. Bush and Barack Obama administrations and she exposed that the Obama administration knew about the impending 2009 coup in Honduras that resulted in the murders of thousands of activists."

"We're requesting that Barack Obama do the right thing on behalf of this whistleblower," GLN member Roger Fraser asserted. "[Manning] is a person who, according to the Human Rights Watch, is a victim of torture. This is a person who, instead of being chastised and punished, should be honored because there was a promise [made to] the American people by Barack Obama in 2008 that his administration would be one of transparency and that he would be respectful of those people who stepped forward to be whistleblowers against the corruption and cover ups that our military has tried to



Attendees at the Chelsea Manning vigil.

Photo by Gretchen Rachel Hammond

accomplish in the Middle East."

Among those who joined Thayer and Fraser were two former U.S. service members.

"In 1996, I was a whistleblower about widespread misconduct in Navy Recruiting Command, but was covered up," said Carl Nyberg, who served in the U.S. Navy from 1985 through 1996. "One of the things that gets said about Chelsea Manning is that she should have followed procedure and the chain of command. I did that and it doesn't work. When you are a whistleblower, it's not like they send you a legal defense team saying, 'You can do this or that.' Chelsea Manning did the right thing."

Fellow veteran Charles Clarke described Manning as a personal hero.

"I think she is a hero to everyone out here," he added. "She is being punished because she is right. As a military veteran who enlisted in the United States Air Force after 9/11, I lost two years of my life on a failed project. Chelsea is a hero because she prevents others from falling into the same trap that I and so many

others fall into when they're asked to put their conscience on the line by killing for a project that they don't understand and that they don't even have access to the underlying motivations for. Her sacrifice is not for nothing."

Schock pleads not guilty to charges

Former U.S. congressman Aaron Schock (R-Ill.) has pled not guilty to federal charges that he improperly used campaign and taxpayer money to fund a lavish lifestyle.

Schock, 35, is accused of using campaign accounts and his U.S. House office budget for personal expenses; said expenses included travel and even rent payments. He resigned from Congress in March 2015.

Schock's trial date has been set for Feb. 7.

Objection to Tendam candidacy dropped

BY MATT SIMONETTE

An objection to the candidacy of openly gay Evanston Ald. Mark Tendam (6th) in that city's mayoral race was dropped at a Dec. 16 meeting of the Evanston Local Election Board.

Tendam's candidacy, along with that of two other opponents in the race, was challenged by resident William Arndt, a contributor to Ald. Brian Miller (9th), who is also running for mayor, on the basis of the election dates indicated on nominating positions. Arndt alleged that Tendam and his opponents had filed to run specifically in the City's April general election and did not specify running in a February primary, which is necessary should a certain number of candidates file.

At a previous local election board meeting, Tendam explained that he had indeed accounted for the dates in his candidate's filing, leading to Arndt's dropping his opposition Dec. 16.

The local election board is composed of Mayor Elizabeth Tisdahl, City Clerk Rodney Greene and Ald. Ann Rainey (8th). Tendam and Miller's other opponents include former Evanston Township Supervisor Gary Gaspard and consultant Steve Hagerty.

Tendam, a city council member since 2009, is the first openly gay individual to run for Evanston mayor.

Vatican reaffirms ban on gay priests

On Dec. 7, the Vatican declared that "persons with homosexual tendencies" cannot become Catholic priests.

This development reaffirms a 2005 policy. The document, entitled "The Gift of the Priestly Vocation," was drafted by the Vatican's Congregation for Clergy; it is meant to offer guidelines for priestly formation.

Pope Francis approved the document, according to a letter signed by Cardinal Beniamino Stella, who heads the clergy office.

In a statement, New Ways Ministry Executive Director Francis DeBernardo said, in part, "Pope Francis has a lot of explaining to do by [approving] the newest Vatican instruction that reaffirms a 2005 ban on gay men becoming priests."

"Pope Francis' famous 'Who am I to judge?' statement in 2013 was made in response to a question about gay men in the priesthood, and that response indicated very plainly that he did not have a problem with a gay priest's sexual orientation, as long as 'he searches for the Lord and has good will.'"

New Ways Ministry is a Catholic ministry of justice and reconciliation for LGBT Catholics and the wider church community.

"This document is extremely disappointing in its approach to gay men called to be priests," said Marianne Duddy-Burke, executive director of DignityUSA—an organization of Catholics committed to equality for LGBT people in the church and society—in a separate statement. "It is not at all what anyone expected from the 'Who am I to judge?' pope."

Munro has GoFundMe campaign for gender confirmation

Chicago activist/entertainer Angeliqe Munro has launched a GoFundMe campaign for gender-confirmation surgery consideration.

Per her website, "Angeliqe's Kitty Fund," she states, "I met with an Healthcare Advisor from Howard Brown Health Center and we contacted my insurance agency they will consider me to have GRS (Gender Reassignment Surgery) and all I will be responsible for only \$6000."

She also had an anonymous donor who is willing to match up to \$2,178 for funds raised between Dec. 17 and Dec. 20, at 5 p.m.

The page is at <https://www.gofundme.com/2jq5er4s>.



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Stories from Two Spirit Nation

BY ALICIA CROSBY

Windy City Times had the privilege of interviewing some indigenous Two Spirit and non-indigenous LGBTQIA siblings at Standing Rock's Two Spirit Nation Camp.

The camp was established to give the indigenous Two Spirit and their queer, trans and gender-nonconforming allies a protected and sacred space to cultivate communal bonds within the larger Standing Rock community.

Much like the larger Oceti Sakowin Camp it was housed in, Two Spirit Nation drew individuals from all around the world who graciously shared their experiences as a means to elevate the concerns and perspectives of those who are too often marginalized and silenced. Here are some of their stories:

Name: DeLesslin aka Roo

Pronouns: He/Him/His

Age: 25

Current Location: Washington, D.C.

What drew you to Standing Rock?

I'm from the Catawba Indian Nation in South Carolina. We are people of the river so I felt strongly connected to this struggle, this prayer. The Catawba Indian Nation has lived along the Catawba River and, starting in 1904, some dams and powerplants started being planted along our river which polluted it. We can no longer fish there or get water from our river like we used to. My tribe is trying to find ways of combating that and heal the river. I just saw what was happening here and thought that this would be a great place to pray for the water and also to see ways of bringing that advocacy [present at Standing Rock] home to our reservation.

How did you hear about the Two Spirit Nation Camp?

So I'd seen it on Facebook but actually wasn't planning on coming to this camp. I was actually going to go to the international indigenous Youth Council because that's where I had connections. But at orientation my friend Rebecca, who is an organizer in Baltimore and a member of the Cherokee Nation, suggested that I come to the Two Spirit Camp. I came over during their morning meeting when they were assigning tasks and I said I'll just help out; it sort of just evolved from there.

What has it meant for you to be a part of Two Spirit Nation?

I grew up in a very very very conservative environment in South Carolina going to this very conservative Christian School for 13 years so my sexuality and spirituality has been thoroughly condemned throughout most of my life.



Delesslian aka Roo.

Photo from Alicia Crosby

Going to college, I found myself, but really within wider non-indigenous LGBTQIA communities. So coming here and being a part of the Two Spirit Community that's focused on indigenous people has been really healing. It's also opening up some wounds and showing me where I need to heal some more in the future. It's amazing how Candy (the current Two Spirit Camp Leader), the council members, and elders take care of this group—I've never seen anything like it before.

What has your participation been in the camp overall?

Mostly just labor, which I love doing. I just want to be as helpful as possible since I'm only here for such a short time. It's been really amazing because the leadership has done such a good job of making sure that things are really indigenous centered. On Thursday, all the council members were out and Jane Fonda comes up and says "I have some Thanksgiving food for you" and she was directed to me because I was the only Indigenous person around at the moment; it was such a small thing but it was amazing that they actually asked.

What has it meant for you to be in a place where your indigeneity and your sexual and/or gender identity were centered?

So I'm contrasting this with a conference that I went to in DC last week held by the Atlantic—it's the LGBTQ summit that they did. I walk in and it's almost entirely white men, presumably rich, discussing things that are relevant to them. That was a space where my identity was completely de-centered and I asked

what is this incredibly rich community doing for queer youth on reservations. A lot of people don't know but a lot of indigenous communities have had to declare states of emergency because of the number of suicides the youth are attempting and we know that the majority of them are Two Spirit, or LGBTQIA, youth. So going from that space where I have to speak up, fight, and still be ignored to coming here where centering [Two Spirit] identity is exactly what they're doing has been important.

What do you feel that you'll carry with you from this space?

So my community has moved pretty far away from traditional ceremony and prayer; it's like 95-percent Mormon now. Being here and learning some of the ceremonies I know feel more in control of how I can keep my spirit healthy as well as that of the people around me and the land. I've been so thankful for how much I've been learning here because a lot of knowledge has been shared.

What do you think the wider LGBTQIA community could learn from the Two Spirit Community?

The thing that I really adore about Two Spirit spirituality is, for one, there's this narrative of progress in LGBTQ communities that says things are getting better and will if we just keep investing in the settler state. I really love my Two Spirit identity because it refocuses me and says to indigenous communities that this is not getting better, we're still in the middle of the many apocalypses that indigenous people have been facing. So I think that our knowledge of history and long memory are both really valuable and other LGBTQIA communities that don't have that connection with their histories because of colonization and diaspora. I also really appreciate Two Spirit spirituality because it's not just about the individual which is the discourse you see elsewhere; we're only Two Spirit because we're in community with the rest of our people. So that means as a Two Spirit person I can't stop fighting for the rights of my elders, the rights of my cousins and their children, my disabled relatives—it allows me to express myself and keep my community close.

Name: Rachel

Pronouns: She/They

Age: 28

Current Location: Maine

What drew you to Standing Rock?

My sweetie, their name is Lynn, came here a couple of months back and helped with building some of the first parts of Two Spirit Nation. They told me that it was a place I needed to see and a place where I could get some things done. I was really scared to come here for various reason but I was convinced by people in my life that this was good place to be and to be of service.

It's hard to justify doing something like this. It felt, at first, to be sort of frivolous; it isn't but it felt that way—like I was cheating in

some way from "real" life and being a "responsible" adult and all that. It was hard to realign to be a part of something bigger and to do what you can to help out. To be frank, there a lot of white people here and I feel like the indigenous folks are going through a ridiculous amount of emotional labor; anything I'm able to do to take something off their plates makes this worthwhile.

What has it meant for you to be a part of Two Spirit Nation?

I love this camp! Since I've been here I've felt the strongest sense of family that I've had in a long time. I came here without much in means of spirituality and being asked by the Lakota to be in prayer and be in ceremony every day and to do everything in prayer has really changed my perspective on that. I start every day with prayer, end everyday with prayer, and in my actions I've found myself stop rushing...and let myself get into [what I'm doing].

From the first days here, there have been offers of hugs, offers of space, offers of food and a sense of wanting to build a community. There's a sense of Two Spirit Nation being cohesive. We have our routines, we have our ways



Rachel.

Photo from Alicia Crosby

of doing things. I find it really calming to know that we have the leadership that we do and that when things do arise, they are dealt with in a very kind way.

What has your participation been in the camp overall?

The wider camp I haven't explored much as I'm not a fan of crowds; I've gone to things when there aren't a lot of people there. Camp is huge and there are so many things going on. Getting to hear the horses, the songs, the drums every night has been such a pleasure and an honor. Being so close to the medical tent means that I've taken better care of my health than I might have done otherwise. I've been to [Facebook] Hill and have really appreciated how everyone's been working together to get the word out.



Two Spirit Nation camp.

Photo from Alicia Crosby

What do you feel that you'll carry with you from this space?

The number one thing that I'll take back is that it's important to slow down. [It's important] to take things with time, take things with thought and really allow the heart to guide you versus letting the mind just rush. That's not something that I've put time into in my life and that's something that I will be taking back. [I'll also take] the connections I've made here and the importance of building community, the importance of building people up.

What do you think the wider LGBTQIA community could learn from the Two Spirit community?

One of the things that I really enjoy is that first indigneous voices are raised, then by the voices of [people of] color and then finally by white allies. Giving space to make sure that concerns are addressed in that way ensures that the people who need to step forward are given the space to do so and the people who need to step back are reinforced in that stepping back. I think that it's important that as we move forward we make sure that the voices that haven't been heard, are.

Name: Michal

Pronouns: He/Him

Age: 22

Current Location: Wheaton, Illinois

What drew you to Standing Rock?

Seeing a lot of the videos and the photos as well as hearing what the people here were going through, the struggle, is what brought me here. As a Christian, I wanted to be with people who needed it and stand with those who were on the margins of our society. I wanted to stand with them in their fight for their land, clean water, and clean resources.

How did you hear about the Two Spirit Nation Camp?

Being a gay man, seeing a rainbow flag, was great. I had a friend who came last week who asked me if I had heard of Two Spirit Nation

or knew what that was. He said that I should check out the camp and encouraged conversation. So I thought I'd stop in, help out, and see what I could learn.

What has your participation been in the camp overall?

I'm here using my body, using what I have to give in standing with my brothers and sisters that I've met to the best of my ability. I'm working to bring those stories back [through photography].

What has it meant for you to be a part of Two Spirit Nation?

I think it's been encouraging seeing the ways that the Two spirit have created space for themselves and have stood and said 'we are here and a part of this larger nation and land'. The ways that they've proudly stood have meant for me. There's something to that, saying that I am here and am standing for what is right. That's been really encouraging to see and learn.

How do you hope to elevate the concerns of the Two Spirit Nation in your home community of Wheaton?

It's very difficult. People [at Wheaton College] don't always humanize those with these experiences, those who are gay, LGBTQ, who are Two Spirit and so it's easy for them to think of this as an idea or a stance to make. Through some of the photos I'm taking and through the stories that have been shared with me, I hope to bring that back to Wheaton and say that these are [real] people, they aren't ideas that you are taking a stance against or for. These are people who are just like you as much as the people near you that you see. Just because you don't see them doesn't mean that they don't exist; they have lives and beauty in them to be revered and respected. My goal at Wheaton is to help humanize [this experience] and share the voices that feel [like they've gotten] lost. That's not to say Wheaton is a bad place. There are a lot of allies. There are a lot of people willing to listen, willing to learn.

Council approves LGBT-friendly residences

BY MATT SIMONETTE

The Chicago City Council, on Dec. 14, approved borrowing of \$16 million for LGBT-residences in Logan Square.

The complex, located at 2033 N. Milwaukee Ave., will be named after LGBT- and housing-rights activist Robert Castillo and his husband, fellow activist John Pennycuff, who passed away in 2012.

The project has been championed by Ald. Joe Moreno (1st), who at the meeting both said the project was a worthwhile use of Tax Increment Finance money and praised Castillo's activism, according to DNA Info.

The seven-story building will have 88 units and 2,400 feet of retail space. It is the second LGBT-friendly affordable housing facility in the city, after the Town Hall apartment complex in Lake View. But the Logan Square complex will not be aimed specifically at senior residents as Town Hall is. Ald. Tom Tunney (44th) said at the Dec. 14 meeting that Town Hall has a waiting list of 400 residents.

At the May 21 unveiling of the project's plans—held at the pizzeria where the complex will one day stand—Castillo reflected on what it means for him and the memory of his late husband.

"Obviously, this is bittersweet," he said. "A lot of friends posted that they wish John were here to see this. Obviously, I wish John were here. But this is a legacy to all the work that he's done, not only for the LGBT community but also the Logan Square community. We were born here, we did a lot of our activism here, and a lot of our community work [here], so I think it's fitting that there will be LGBT-friendly affordable housing in Logan Square in our honor."

The complex will be named The John Pennycuff Memorial Apartments at Robert Castillo Plaza and will be financed through the use of TIF funds from the existing Milwaukee-Fullerton TIF district, as well as Chicago Housing Authority (CHA) funds, tax credits and private funding.

DNA Info's story is at <http://dnainfo.com/2gCg6fA>.

'Burning Bowl' Jan. 7

Affinity Community Services will hold its annual Burning Bowl ceremony on Saturday, Jan. 7, 1-4 p.m., at 5700 W. Midway Park.

The keynote speaker will be Department of Children and Family Services Statewide LG-BTQ Coordinator Jane Kelly. Poetry will be provided by e. nina jay, and Jace Smith will give a musical performance.

Email maria.glover.wallace@affinity95.org or visit Affinity95.org for more information.

Church looks for praise leader

Lighthouse Church—a multi-ethnic, LGBT-inclusive church located at 4707 N. Broadway—is looking for a vocalist to be its praise/worship leader for the church's 11 a.m. Sunday service.

The leader will report to the lead pastor. The position will be 20-25 hours per month, and pays \$300 monthly.

Interested candidates should email resumes as well as audio and/or video clips of performances to pastorj@lighthousechicago.org. Visit <http://conta.cc/2hPKBnr> for more information.

viewpoints



**Nadine
SMITH**

The Trump era: Where do we go from here?

We are in a dangerous moment right now in this gap between the election and inauguration day. It is a dangerous moment because it has a lulling effect.

The TV still works, the ebb and flow of daily life continues and President Obama remains a comforting presence in the White House. Things look the same and the wheels have not come entirely off the wagon ... yet. This calm before the storm can trick us into indulging in magical thinking:

"It won't be that bad. He met with Al Gore and that actor who loves the environment, right? America is still essentially the same. Besides, there really isn't much we can do or someone somewhere would have done it."

Not true.

The unsettling preview of a Trump presidency his cabinet picks have provided is nothing compared to the brutal reality of it actually arriving next month. He and his fact-free administration will act as though they have a mandate (from God if not the voters). He has surrounded himself with white-power fanatics, Christian Dominionists, and other zealots who believe they are anointed by God to reclaim America for white Christian families headed by godly men with obedient wives.

Do not believe they are incompetent to execute their plans because they are "in over their heads." They have no intention of playing by rules of law or custom. It will be 100 days of shock and awe. They intend to break as much as they can and leave us scrambling from one fire to the next.

They hope to goad us into violence. They want to fight us on that field. In addition to an assault on free speech, they will deepen the call to mob violence among their supporters as an arm of enforcing their politics and policies. They will cultivate racial and religious division. Violence of any sort allows them to restrict, inflame, instill fear and divide.

In the face of that, you will be heartbroken by the willingness to fall in line of some folks you thought would fight back. Some of the people whose anti-Trump posts you have shared before and since the election will change their tone and renounce their critiques when the power dynamic recalibrates their personal risk/reward formula.

And as much as I loathe what they may unleash domestically, the greatest danger is entrusting a nuclear arsenal to an insecure, unstable, thin-skinned liar who thrills at hurting people he thinks have slighted him. That racist and Russian handlers may guide his trigger finger is all the more catastrophic. The stakes are higher than ever for all of us, for our children and grandchildren and our planet.

So, what must we do?:

—Remember the majority of voters rejected Trump.

- Confront bigotry every single time.
- Engage in mass public resistance.
- Leverage economic pressure.
- Crowd-source a safety net.
- Commit to non-cooperation.
- Build community.

Remember the majority of voters rejected Trump.

Hillary Clinton received more votes than President Obama did in 2012. Beyond that, third-party candidates garnered a larger than usual slice. Trump will assume office with the lowest approval rating in history. It is important to remember and remind each other of this fact.

Confront bigotry, every time.

First and foremost we cannot give an inch to those who feel empowered to unleash hate violence toward immigrants, religious or racial minorities, women, the disabled, etc. ... In every city, we need people who will denounce the act publicly, clean up the graffiti, sweep up the broken glass, go to the hospital, write letters to the editor, sit with the family ... whatever it takes to say this is not acceptable and you are not alone.

They seek to isolate and divide and make us fear each other. We have to have a strategy that becomes a habit to counter that. Otherwise, the stories we share of hate violence serve to instill terror, not resolve. Do it even when you are tired or you've had a rough day and think you've done enough. Be visible as a person committed to standing up to bigotry and street harassment and violence. @SafetyPinBlue is one campaign and there are others. The point is it will become harder to stand up and you must cultivate courage.

Engage in mass public resistance.

Yes, march on DC, not just once. But march on the state capital, too. Show up like never before to press local elected leaders to oppose monstrous policies. We need to have an American Uprising that signals to the world this is an aberration that will not stand.

Leverage our economic clout.

Boycotts brought down Apartheid and Jim Crow. Those of us who reject Trump have enormous economic clout and we are damned fools if we don't use it right now. Don't give money to those who are organizing to take away your liberty, your rights, your safety and that of your neighbors. This is an area our organizations need to show more leadership on and we as individuals must have the discipline make our message clear.

The EPA may gut environmental policies but we can punish those who continue to endanger our planet and we can reward green innovators.

They may repeal hard-fought civil-rights protections but we can refuse to buy from retailers and producers who discriminate.

Crowd-source a safety net.

We will need to look out for each other. If they proceed with their plans, the government will abandon its duty "to provide for the general welfare" of the people. Vital services will be cut. Healthcare gutted. Children will go to school hungry with no meal made available. We

can't replace an entire government infrastructure but we have resources. Volunteer and donate to organizations that provide food, shelter and healthcare to those in need. Grow food. Share more.

We will need to look out for each other.

Commit to non-cooperation with evil.

Don't help. Challenge. Oppose. Resist. Speak up. Go on strike. Gum up the works in ways public and private. Don't help oil the machinery of fascism.

- Build community.
- Who brought Trump to power?
- Third party spoilers?
- Bernie Bro hubris?
- Hillary campaign smugness?
- White identity politics?
- A protest vote gone awry?
- Voter suppression?
- Russian interference?

Okay, so here we are. It isn't that the answer doesn't matter, it just matters less than what we do now.

Somehow, we have to find common ground with enough people who don't believe America is a white male Christian nation of subservient wives and incurious children where you should be thankful for a below-subsistence wage at a company that is free to pollute your air and water and burn the planet while insisting your taxes pay for the cleanup. So we need to find that common ground and make the personal political. As many as 30 million Americans may lose all or part of their healthcare if Obamacare is truly repealed.

We need to form deeper alliances beyond left and right politics with the army of people, including many who voted for Trump but are about to get hit. "I told you so" is not a strategy and indulging in schadenfreude will doom us all.

And building community is also about building the community of friends and mentors and nourishing yourself with art and music and joy and love. Be there for fellow resisters. Hug, laugh, strategize, commiserate. Be kind. Don't spiral into despair.

It is easy to become the frog, slowly boiled a degree at a time as we are pressured to accept as normal what ought to be unthinkable.

Each of these strategies could be a post in and of itself. Turning them from an outline into action will require us to work and brainstorm together. I hope you will join in this conversation.

Nadine Smith is the co-founder and CEO of Equality Florida, the state's largest organization dedicated to ending discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. A former award-winning journalist turned organizer, Nadine was one of four national co-chairs of the 1993 March on Washington.

She was part of the historic oval office meeting between then-President Clinton, the first such meeting between a sitting president and gay community leaders. She is a member of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights Florida Advisory Committee, a Florida Chamber Foundation Trustee, and served on President Obama's National Finance Committee. She lives in St. Petersburg with her wife, Andrea, and son, Logan.

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'The Other Cinderella' puts a spin on the classic tale.

Photo by Michael Courier

SCOTTISH PLAY SCOTT

Rodell Rosel: What a character

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

Gay Filipino-American tenor Rodell Rosel would be the first to admit that his comic costume is not at all flattering as the lascivious lackey Monostatos for the Lyric Opera of Chicago's new production of Mozart's *The Magic Flute*. Rosel has to sport both messy hair and a padded paunch.

But at least Rosel, a self-described "gym mouse" on social media, didn't have to smear on green face paint like he did when he played the same role five years ago in the Lyric's final revival of the late German director August Everding's 1986 production.

"In other productions of *The Magic Flute*, they always try to paint Monostatos black, green, orange or different colors," said Rosel, commenting on how some directors skirt around some the politically incorrect characterizations and views toward minorities and women in the 1791 opera.

For gay Australian director Neil Armfield's new take on *The Magic Flute* for the Lyric, it's to present it as if a group of kids living in a progressive Chicago suburb in the early 1960s are staging the opera in and around a family's house. Visually it's clear that Disney animated films have influenced the homemade-looking costumes to illustrate the fairytale aspects of Mozart's opera.

"In this production, I have really bad hair and a mask on. So they portray that anyone who has a mask, we should be cautious with," Rosel said, noting that *The Queen of the Night* and her *Three Ladies* also sport veils of sorts.

"So it has nothing to do with color of skin," Rosel said. "The kids show that if you are not true to yourself or if you're going to deceive

people, you put on a mask and that represents being a villain."

Originally from the Los Angeles area, Rosel and his husband make their home in Chicago's Buena Park neighborhood. Rosel says they like experiencing four distinct weather seasons, and also the fact that they don't need to drive everywhere.

Living in Chicago has also been particularly beneficial for Rosel's jet-setting career as an opera singer. Being centrally located in the Midwest with two major airports has been great for flying off to auditions and performances around the country.

But in particular, the Lyric has been very good for Rosel since he has performed 21 roles for the company starting in 2005. That was the same year Rosel joined up for a two-season stint in the Lyric's Ryan Opera Center for young artists and also when he was named a Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions Grand Prize winner. Most recently, Rosel played the dwarf Mime in the Lyric's season-opening new production of Wagner's *Das Rheingold* by British director David Pountney.

Although Rosel possesses a lirico-spinto voice suitable for leading tenor roles, he has strategically steered his career toward what are known as "character tenor" roles that often have a more nasal sound. This decision was made largely on the advice of his long-time singing teacher Timothy Mussard.

"In the current climate of opera, what also matters is presentation and how you look or match with other singers they consider," Rosel said. "Because of my size and even my ethnicity, and the combination of both, I would have a very challenging path if take the path of leading tenor because I would be competing

and Ben Fuchsen left due to significant life changes—leading the board of directors "to dissolve Oracle and grant its assets to other important nonprofit institutions dedicated to making art accessible to all."

However, there is one last goal: "In our final effort to achieve this mission, Oracle will be distributing our remaining physical and monetary assets to arts organizations with a plan to provide accessible art to the public. We ask theater and performance companies with 501(c)(3) status to submit a one-page letter requesting funds for a free night of programming in their upcoming season. Visit PublicAccessTheatre.org for more information."



Rodell Rosel (center) in *The Magic Flute*.

Photo by Todd Rosenberg

with other tenors who have the other qualities of what might be a 'leading tenor look.'"

So Rosel augmented his vocal skills by working on things like stage presence, acting and dancing to make him more hireable as a character tenor. The fact that Rosel has jobs booked as far in advance as 2020 is a sign that he's in demand.

Yet Rosel stresses that he maintains his leading tenor voice by doing repertory selections in recitals and concerts. He will also take on leading roles for smaller opera companies when given the chance. For example, he made his role debut as Don José in *Carmen* for Center Stage Opera in Los Angeles County.

"I'm waiting for that opportunity for them to take a chance on me—to hear me sing the non-character repertoire and see if I'm capable of it," Rosel said. "Once they've heard you mostly sing character roles, they assume that it's the only thing you do. But I'm one of those character tenors who has always been reviewed for my singing."

Rosel also makes a point to collaborate strongly with makeup artists so he isn't just pigeonholed in operas that call for Asian characters like *Madama Butterfly* or *Turandot*.

"I have one of those faces where they put

something on and I transform into different looks. People don't even recognize me," said Rosel, noting that he's played Italian characters in works like *Der Rosenkavalier* and the world premiere of *Great Scott* by gay collaborators Jake Heggie and Terrence McNally. "I'm thankful that I have those features and bone structure to go from one character to another."

In terms of dream roles for the future, Rosel would love to tackle Herod in *Salome* or Nemorino in *The Elixir of Love*. He would also love to take on the challenge of donning drag to play *The Witch* in *Hansel and Gretel*.

"I love being able to fully access my vocal ability," Rosel said. "But of course I always love doing character roles. We make the leads look good and make the audience sympathize for the leads. That's our goal."

Eight performances of the Lyric Opera of Chicago's new production of Mozart's *The Magic Flute* remain at 7:30 p.m. Jan. 6, 14, 17 and 27 with 2 p.m. matinees Jan. 8, 12, 22 and 25. Performances are at the Civic Opera House, 20 N. Wacker Dr., and it's sung in German with projected English translations. Tickets are \$20-\$299; call 312-827-5600 or visit LyricOpera.org/Flute.

Oracle to cease operations

Oracle Productions will cease operations by the end of December.

The current performance series *QUEER, ILL + OKAY* (produced with Joe Varisco and Art AIDS America Chicago), which closed Dec. 17, was the final program on Oracle's stage.

A press release noted how difficult 2016 has been for Oracle. Among the hurdles "was the need to find a new home after losing our longtime space of 11 years at 3809 N. Broadway due to condominium development." Also, executive producers Brad Jayhan-Little

What is TRUVADA for PrEP (Pre-exposure Prophylaxis)?

TRUVADA is a prescription medicine that can be used for PrEP to help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 infection when used together with safer sex practices. This use is only for adults who are at high risk of getting HIV-1 through sex. This includes HIV-negative men who have sex with men and who are at high risk of getting infected with HIV-1 through sex, and male-female sex partners when one partner has HIV-1 infection and the other does not.

Ask your healthcare provider if you have questions about how to prevent getting HIV-1. Always practice safer sex and use condoms to lower the chance of sexual contact with body fluids. Never reuse or share needles or other items that have body fluids on them.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

What is the most important information I should know about TRUVADA for PrEP?

Before taking TRUVADA for PrEP to reduce your risk of getting HIV-1 infection:

- ◆ **You must be HIV-negative.** You must get tested to make sure that you do not already have HIV-1 infection. Do not take TRUVADA for PrEP to reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 unless you are confirmed to be HIV-negative.
- ◆ **Many HIV-1 tests can miss HIV-1 infection in a person who has recently become infected.** If you have flu-like symptoms, you could have recently become infected with HIV-1. Tell your healthcare provider if you had a flu-like illness within the last month before starting TRUVADA for PrEP or at any time while taking TRUVADA for PrEP. Symptoms of new HIV-1 infection include tiredness, fever, joint or muscle aches, headache, sore throat, vomiting, diarrhea, rash, night sweats, and/or enlarged lymph nodes in the neck or groin.

While taking TRUVADA for PrEP to reduce your risk of getting HIV-1 infection:

- ◆ **You must continue using safer sex practices. Just taking TRUVADA for PrEP may not keep you from getting HIV-1.**
- ◆ **You must stay HIV-negative to keep taking TRUVADA for PrEP.**
- ◆ **To further help reduce your risk of getting HIV-1:**
 - Know your HIV-1 status and the HIV-1 status of your partners.
 - Get tested for HIV-1 at least every 3 months or when your healthcare provider tells you.
 - Get tested for other sexually transmitted infections. Other infections make it easier for HIV-1 to infect you.
 - Get information and support to help reduce risky sexual behavior.
 - Have fewer sex partners.
 - Do not miss any doses of TRUVADA. Missing doses may increase your risk of getting HIV-1 infection.
 - If you think you were exposed to HIV-1, tell your healthcare provider right away.
- ◆ **If you do become HIV-1 positive, you need more medicine than TRUVADA alone to treat HIV-1.** TRUVADA by itself is not a complete treatment for HIV-1. If you have HIV-1 and take only TRUVADA, your HIV-1 may become harder to treat over time.

TRUVADA can cause serious side effects:

- ◆ **Too much lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis),** which is a serious medical emergency. Symptoms of lactic acidosis include weakness or being more tired than usual, unusual muscle pain, being short of breath or fast breathing, nausea, vomiting, stomach-area pain, cold or blue hands and feet, feeling dizzy or lightheaded, and/or fast or abnormal heartbeats.
- ◆ **Serious liver problems.** Your liver may become large and tender, and you may develop fat in your liver. Symptoms of liver problems include your skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow, dark "tea-colored" urine, light-colored stools, loss of appetite for several days or longer, nausea, and/or stomach-area pain.

- ◆ **You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or serious liver problems** if you are female, very overweight (obese), or have been taking TRUVADA for a long time. In some cases, these serious conditions have led to death. Call your healthcare provider right away if you have any symptoms of these conditions.
- ◆ **Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** If you also have HBV and take TRUVADA, your hepatitis may become worse if you stop taking TRUVADA. Do not stop taking TRUVADA without first talking to your healthcare provider. If your healthcare provider tells you to stop taking TRUVADA, they will need to watch you closely for several months to monitor your health. TRUVADA is not approved for the treatment of HBV.

Who should not take TRUVADA for PrEP?

Do not take TRUVADA for PrEP if you already have HIV-1 infection or if you do not know your HIV-1 status. If you are HIV-1 positive, you need to take other medicines with TRUVADA to treat HIV-1. TRUVADA by itself is not a complete treatment for HIV-1. If you have HIV-1 and take only TRUVADA, your HIV-1 may become harder to treat over time.

Do not take TRUVADA for PrEP if you also take lamivudine (EpiVir-HBV) or adefovir (HEPSERA).

What are the other possible side effects of TRUVADA for PrEP?

Serious side effects of TRUVADA may also include:

- ◆ **Kidney problems, including kidney failure.** Your healthcare provider may do blood tests to check your kidneys before and during treatment with TRUVADA for PrEP. If you develop kidney problems, your healthcare provider may tell you to stop taking TRUVADA for PrEP.
- ◆ **Bone problems,** including bone pain or bones getting soft or thin, may lead to fractures. Your healthcare provider may do tests to check your bones.
- ◆ **Changes in body fat,** which can happen in people taking TRUVADA or medicines like TRUVADA.

Common side effects in people taking TRUVADA for PrEP are stomach-area (abdomen) pain, headache, and decreased weight. Tell your healthcare provider if you have any side effects that bother you or do not go away.

What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking TRUVADA for PrEP?

- ◆ **All your health problems.** Be sure to tell your healthcare provider if you have or have had any kidney, bone, or liver problems, including hepatitis virus infection.
- ◆ **If you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant.** It is not known if TRUVADA can harm your unborn baby. If you become pregnant while taking TRUVADA for PrEP, talk to your healthcare provider to decide if you should keep taking TRUVADA for PrEP. **Pregnancy Registry:** A pregnancy registry collects information about your health and the health of your baby. There is a pregnancy registry for women who take medicines to prevent HIV-1 during pregnancy. For more information about the registry and how it works, talk to your healthcare provider.
- ◆ **If you are breastfeeding** (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed. The medicines in TRUVADA can pass to your baby in breast milk. If you become HIV-1 positive, HIV-1 can be passed to the baby in breast milk.
- ◆ **All the medicines you take,** including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. TRUVADA may interact with other medicines. Keep a list of all your medicines and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist when you get a new medicine.
- ◆ **If you take certain other medicines** with TRUVADA for PrEP, your healthcare provider may need to check you more often or change your dose. These medicines include ledipasvir with sofosbuvir (HARVONI).

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

Please see Important Facts about TRUVADA for PrEP including important warnings on the following page.



Have you heard about

TRUVADA for PrEP™?

The **once-daily prescription medicine** that can help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 when used **with safer sex practices**.

- TRUVADA for PrEP is only for **adults who are at high risk of getting HIV through sex**.
- You **must be HIV-negative** before you start taking TRUVADA.

Ask your doctor about your risk of getting HIV-1 infection and if TRUVADA for PrEP may be right for you.

visit start.truvada.com

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IMPORTANT FACTS

This is only a brief summary of important information about taking TRUVADA for PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis) to help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 infection. This does not replace talking to your healthcare provider about your medicine.

MOST IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT TRUVADA FOR PrEP

Before starting TRUVADA for PrEP to help reduce your risk of getting HIV-1 infection:

- **You must be HIV-1 negative.** You must get tested to make sure that you do not already have HIV-1 infection. Do not take TRUVADA for PrEP to reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 unless you are confirmed to be HIV-1 negative.
- **Many HIV-1 tests can miss HIV-1 infection in a person who has recently become infected.** Symptoms of new HIV-1 infection include flu-like symptoms, tiredness, fever, joint or muscle aches, headache, sore throat, vomiting, diarrhea, rash, night sweats, and/or enlarged lymph nodes in the neck or groin. Tell your healthcare provider if you have had a flu-like illness within the last month before starting TRUVADA for PrEP.

While taking TRUVADA for PrEP to help reduce your risk of getting HIV-1 infection:

- **You must continue using safer sex practices. Just taking TRUVADA for PrEP may not keep you from getting HIV-1.**
- **You must stay HIV-1 negative to keep taking TRUVADA for PrEP.**
- **Tell your healthcare provider if you have a flu-like illness while taking TRUVADA for PrEP.**
- If you think you were exposed to HIV-1, tell your healthcare provider right away.
- **If you do become HIV-1 positive, you need more medicine than TRUVADA alone to treat HIV-1.** If you have HIV-1 and take only TRUVADA, your HIV-1 may become harder to treat over time.
- **See the "How to Further Reduce Your Risk" section for more information.**

TRUVADA may cause serious side effects, including:

- **Buildup of lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis),** which is a serious medical emergency that can lead to death. Call your healthcare provider right away if you have any of these symptoms: weakness or being more tired than usual, unusual muscle pain, being short of breath or fast breathing, nausea, vomiting, stomach-area pain, cold or blue hands and feet, feeling dizzy or lightheaded, and/or fast or abnormal heartbeats.
- **Severe liver problems,** which in some cases can lead to death. Call your healthcare provider right away if you have any of these symptoms: your skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow, dark "tea-colored" urine, light-colored stools, loss of appetite for several days or longer, nausea, and/or stomach-area pain.
- **Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** If you have HBV and take TRUVADA, your hepatitis may become worse if you stop taking TRUVADA. Do not stop taking TRUVADA without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to check your health regularly for several months.

You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or severe liver problems if you are female, very overweight, or have been taking TRUVADA for a long time.

ABOUT TRUVADA FOR PrEP (PRE-EXPOSURE PROPHYLAXIS)

TRUVADA is a prescription medicine used with safer sex practices for PrEP to help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 infection in adults at high risk:

- HIV-1 negative men who have sex with men and who are at high risk of getting infected with HIV-1 through sex.
- Male-female sex partners when one partner has HIV-1 infection and the other does not.

To help determine your risk, talk openly with your doctor about your sexual health.

Do NOT take TRUVADA for PrEP if you:

- **Already have HIV-1 infection or if you do not know your HIV-1 status.**
- Take lamivudine (Epivir-HBV) or adefovir (HEPSERA).

POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF TRUVADA FOR PrEP

TRUVADA can cause serious side effects, including:

- Those in the "Most Important Information About TRUVADA for PrEP" section.
- New or worse kidney problems, including kidney failure.
- Bone problems.
- Changes in body fat.

Common side effects in people taking TRUVADA for PrEP include stomach-area (abdomen) pain, headache, and decreased weight.

These are not all the possible side effects of TRUVADA. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you have any new symptoms while taking TRUVADA for PrEP.

Your healthcare provider will need to do tests to monitor your health before and during treatment with TRUVADA for PrEP.

BEFORE TAKING TRUVADA FOR PrEP

Tell your healthcare provider if you:

- Have or have had any kidney, bone, or liver problems, including hepatitis infection.
- Have any other medical conditions.
- Are pregnant or plan to become pregnant.
- Are breastfeeding (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed if you become HIV-1 positive because of the risk of passing HIV-1 to your baby.

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take:

- Keep a list that includes all prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements, and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist.
- Ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist about medicines that should not be taken with TRUVADA for PrEP.

HOW TO TAKE TRUVADA FOR PrEP

- **Take 1 tablet once a day, every day,** not just when you think you have been exposed to HIV-1.
- Do not miss any doses. Missing doses may increase your risk of getting HIV-1 infection.
- You **must** practice safer sex by using condoms and you **must** stay HIV-1 negative.

HOW TO FURTHER REDUCE YOUR RISK

- Know your HIV-1 status and the HIV-1 status of your partners.
- Get tested for HIV-1 at least every 3 months or when your healthcare provider tells you.
- Get tested for other sexually transmitted infections. Other infections make it easier for HIV-1 to infect you.
- Get information and support to help reduce risky sexual behavior.
- Have fewer sex partners.
- Do not share needles or personal items that can have blood or body fluids on them.

GET MORE INFORMATION

- This is only a brief summary of important information about TRUVADA for PrEP to reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 infection. Talk to your healthcare provider or pharmacist to learn more, including how to prevent HIV-1 infection.
- Go to start.truvada.com or call 1-800-GILEAD-5
- If you need help paying for your medicine, visit start.truvada.com for program information.



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THEATER REVIEW

Pygmalion

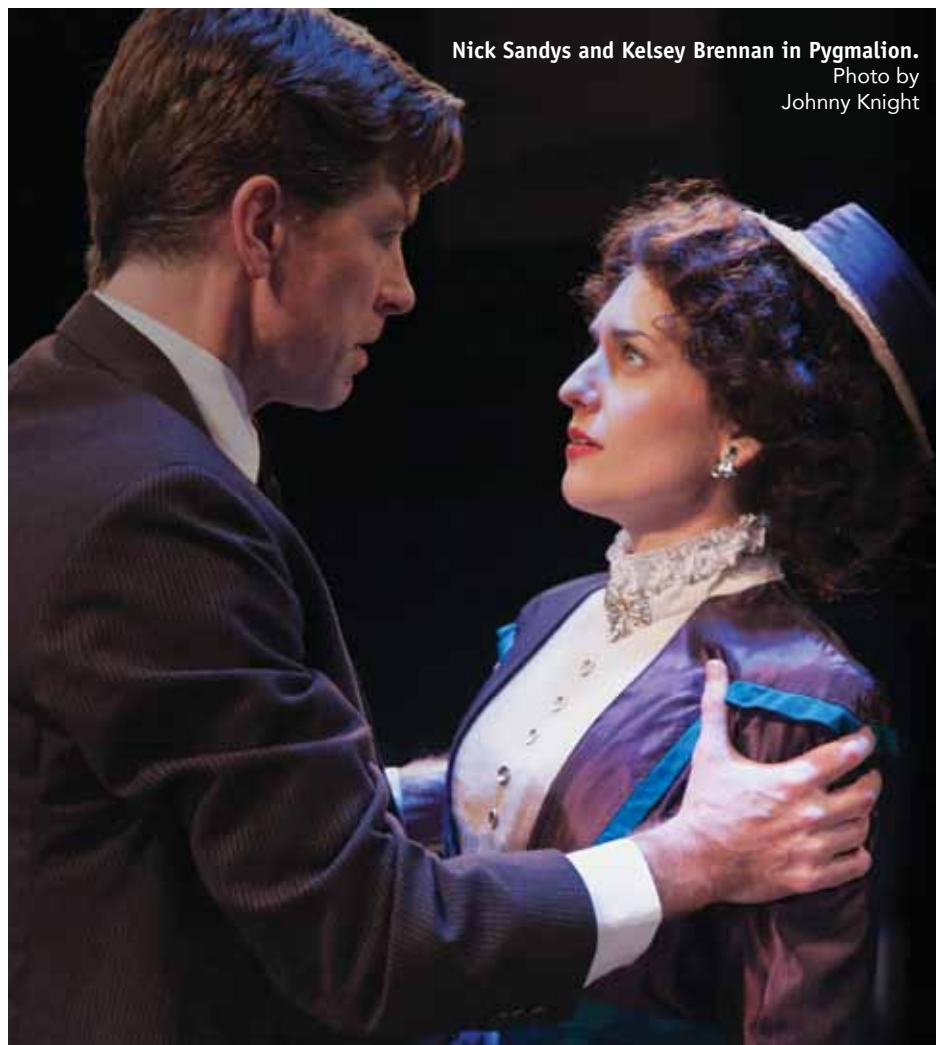
Playwright: George Bernard Shaw
At: Remy Bumppo Theatre Company
 at the Greenhouse, 2257 N. Lincoln Ave.
Tickets: \$42.50-\$52.50
Runs through: Jan. 8

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

The musical adaptation of George Bernard Shaw's play was a romantic comedy because that's what musicals do best, but because musicals also require Big Stars to draw audiences, its leading male was old enough to be the leading female's grandfather, setting a perplexing precedent for decades to come. The Remy Bumppo Theatre Company, however, returns to the play that Shaw wrote for its text.

The story is still that of the girl from the London slums looking to improve her lot and the professor who re-invents her as a high-society lady simply by altering her speech, but playgoers are quickly deterred from focusing on the sexual element in this relationship. (Indeed, modern audiences may be surprised by the extent to which the teacher and his sponsor are compelled to deny any unsavory intentions toward their pupil.) In this production, the implementation of their scheme is instead presented as a lesson in diverse—and just as often, contradictory—lifestyles.

Thus, the educated Henry Higgins, whose hobby enables him to augment his inherited income, exercises his privilege through slovenly grooming habits, vulgar language and



Nick Sandys and Kelsey Brennan in *Pygmalion*.
 Photo by
 Johnny Knight

an incorrigible disregard for polite discourse, adopting more circumspect habits only when his mentorly capacities mandate a show of civility. By contrast, as the ambitious Eliza's education progresses, she becomes increasingly convinced that independence, if not prosperity, comes easier to hardscrabble working-class women like herself than to her patrician sisters whose options are even more circumscribed. (Observing the offspring of a family blue of blood and thin of purse, whose only escape from poverty is to marry well, she declares "I sold flowers. I didn't sell myself.")

Kelsey Brennan renders up a suitably charming and slyly perceptive Eliza, while Nick Sandys' home-grown English accent continues to make him the go-to actor for brainy-Victorian-Brit roles. Their incisive repartee is tempered by commentary from Annabel Armour as Higgins' formidable mother, Laurie Larson as his practical housekeeper and Peter A. Davis as his associate Colonel Pickering, Shaw's portrait of the true gentleman (to whom all men are gentlemen and all women, ladies).

Hindsight informs us that a World War will soon demolish superficial barriers based in economics and ancestry—a theme that director Shawn Douglass underlines by framing our play in the wistful reminiscences of an older Eliza—but in the meantime, we can applaud the enthusiasm with which the sheltered Eynsford-Hill siblings embrace that same young upstart's street vernacular (including an obscenity never before uttered on the stage until the play's premiere), much as the youth of later eras would eagerly affect the argot of ghettos and juke joints.

THEATER REVIEW

The Other Cinderella

Playwright: Jackie Taylor
At: Black Ensemble Theater,
 4450 N. Clark St.
Tickets: \$55-\$65
Runs through: Jan. 8

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

Once upon a time, an ambitious young girl living in the projects vowed to escape poverty for a better life, so she wrote a musical about an ambitious young girl living in the Projects who vows to escape to a better life. Is there a theatergoer in Chicago who doesn't recognize

in this story Jackie Taylor, founder and artistic director of Black Ensemble Theater (BET), or the show that launched a thriving company still drawing audiences after 40 years?

The source of our play's story is the Eurocentric tale of a poor girl whose beauty and virtue—with the assistance of some supernatural intervention—are rewarded by marriage to a king's son. In the realm of *Other*, however, Cinderella is an abused daughter forced to drop out of school in order to serve as housekeeper for a stepmother who favors her own kin over the foster child she disparages at every opportunity. The family dynamic of *Other's* Royal Highnesses is no less troubled, what with the heir to the throne's antipathy for social banter with the opposite sex, despite pressure from his gruff sire to choose a consort. Our story,

in Shakespearean tradition, also features commoners—an immigrant traveler, a refined palace servant and a newly hired Court Page from the 'hood.

The current production reflects the evolution of a script keeping with the times over four decades: the question of the prince's sexual orientation is addressed overtly, if briefly, before being dismissed as irrelevant to his ability to rule. The party-crasher is, as in the original, Dorothy of Kansas, who not only secures the Otherese citizenship she seeks, but also wins the heart of the strait-laced royal valet. This interracial romance makes for the excision of "White Girl Blues" from the 2016 playlist, but it introduces several new songs to augment favorites, like Cinderella's poignant "Don't Bring Me No Souvenirs" and Fairy Godmama's Carib-

bean-tempo "You Make De Wish." Robert Reddick's stage band is still worth its weight in gold—and speaking of gold, Rueben Echoles' shimmering gowns for Cindy and her sorceress-benefactor are fully as enchanting as befit their magical manufacture, as is this year's Idris Elba-lookalike limo-driver.

A cast encompassing BET regulars as well as relative newcomers (notably, Kyle Smith as the streetwise Page), likewise, generate warmth and effervescence with never a trace of fatigue. First-time audiences at Black Ensemble may be initially startled at the broad, almost cartoonish, tone of this Chicago holiday celebration—but what are fairy tale fantasies for, if not unstinting cheer to chase away winter's darkness?

THEATER REVIEW

The Christians

Playwright: Lucas Hnath
At: Steppenwolf Theatre,
 1650 N. Halsted St.
Tickets: \$20-\$89
Runs through: Jan. 29

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

When a church leader undergoes a crisis of faith, the wise course is usually to take some time away from his duties in order to contemplate the source of his conflicts, and if, after a period of self-examination, he feels he can no longer fulfill his responsibilities to his congregation, he is well-advised to resign his office. Not Pastor Paul, though; when God speaks to him—telling him that Heaven is not a gated community, but a place of eternal welcome for all mortals, even non-Christians hitherto condemned to hellfire—he promptly informs his hundreds of followers that they are now to embrace his message of unconditional love.

Playwright Lucas Hnath has obviously read Ibsen's *An Enemy of the People*, and understands the irony of a right-minded man conceiving a right-minded plan, then going about announcing it completely wrongly. Our



Tom Irwin in *The Christians*.
 Photo by Michael Brosilow

devout shepherd's error is not in seeking to banish the threat of punishment as an inducement to righteousness, but in failing to anticipate how this reversal of a restrictive doctrine will affect his flock. Thus, when his newly adopted beliefs are questioned by his bewildered associates, he is unprepared to answer their queries, instead allowing himself to be cornered into making statements patently absurd on their surface, intensifying the confusion arising from his perceived betrayal. As attendance at Sunday services

dwindles, even his wife laments the possibility that "we may not be together forever" (and when she says "forever," she's not just talking about *this* lifetime).

Many theatergoers will have already struggled to reconcile the contradictions of religious exclusivity and arrived at a resolution, if only to surrender to Divine Mystery. Those of scholarly bent may detect in Hnath's parable the classical progress of a tragic hero's hubris leading to his downfall, while smug secularists proclaiming themselves above such theological wrangles may nevertheless find lessons in Paul's account of his trials applicable to leaders in other arenas.

Tom Irwin is Steppenwolf's current face of Clueless White Male Privilege (Paul's assistant minister takes his superior to task for the latter's easy path to unquestioning acceptance of a gospel that others have sacrificed mightily to attain) and knows by now not to rely on cheap stereotypes for audience sympathy. So do the stalwart band of dissenters portrayed by Glenn Davis, Shannon Cochran, Robert Brueler and Jacqueline Williams under the direction of K. Todd Freeman. However uncomfortable their arguments might make you—the excellent choir offers rest breaks over the 80-minute brain workout—you will leave with an appreciation of the role religion plays in our society today.

CRITICS' PICKS



Crazy for You, Drury Lane Theatre, Oakbrook Terrace, through Jan. 8. The Gershwin brothers' showtunes once lifted spirits during the Great Depression. These songs are once again put to expert and escapist use. SCM

Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley, Northlight Theatre, Skokie, through Dec. 24. This is no ordinary fan-fiction, but a sequel to Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* grants bookish middle-sister Mary Bennet her due while remaining faithful to the conventions of Regency romance. MSB

Twist Your Dickens, The Second City and Goodman Theatre, through Dec. 30. This side-splitting spoof of Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* is back for its third year. It prominently features plenty of improvised bits drawn from audience suggestions to increase the non-stop humor. SCM

Uncle Philip's Coat, Solo Celebration at Greenhouse Theater Center, through Dec. 31. The season isn't all holly and ivy: Matty Selman's tale of immigrant survival will warm your heart like the ancient garment protecting his eccentric mentor. MSB

—By Abarbanel, Barnidge
 and Morgan

DANCE REVIEW

Christopher Wheeldon's Nutcracker

Choreographer: Christopher Wheeldon
 At: Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University, 50 E. Congress Pkwy.
 Tickets: 312-386-8905;
 Joffrey.org; \$35-150
 Runs through: Dec. 30

BY LAUREN WARNECKE

A decade in the making, the Auditorium Theatre was teeming with excitement as patrons filed in on Dec. 10 for the world-premiere performance of Christopher Wheeldon's *Nutcracker*, with the Tony Award-winning ballet star serving as choreographer.

A smoky haze circles an image of the highly anticipated ballet's title, projected onto the main curtain and in front of which emerged Joffrey's leadership: artistic director Ashley Wheater and executive director Greg Cameron. As with anything this big, it was a struggle to get to this place. The \$4 million price tag, coordinating collaborators from around the world, and dealing with inevitable changes and challenges ... Joffrey quite literally made the impossible possible.

Wheeldon's *Nutcracker* is re-imagination of the classic ballet that has become a U.S. holiday tradition, of which the most noticeable change is the main character's socioeconomic status. Marie (known as Clara in many versions) is no longer a rich girl attending a party in her rich parents' stuffy German living room; instead, Wheeldon has moved the setting to the winter before the 1893 Great Columbian Exposition, Chicago's World's Fair.

Marie (danced by the blithe Amanda Assucena) and brother Franz (up-and-comer Dylan Sengpiel) live with their single mother, a sculptress portrayed by Victoria Jaiani, in a shanty



Victoria Jaiani and Miguel Angel Blanco in Christopher Wheeldon's *Nutcracker*.
 Photo by Cheryl Mann

house near the fairgrounds. The party scene is ever as it was, although the guests are simply dressed and the joy and cheer of the Christmas season is created by pulling bits and scraps together—making due and making magic with the help of "The Great Impresario of the Fair," a Daniel Burnham-type character danced by Miguel Angel Blanco and the jovial replacement for other *Nutcracker*'s creepy Uncle Drosselmeyer. With his plucky apprentice Peter (Alberto Velazquez), an adorable children's cast and a clever new musical arrangement featuring a trio of musicians playing onstage for the group dances, the modesty of this party scene does not take away from its complexity and charm.

Throughout the creative process, Wheeldon gave reassurance that certain elements omnipresent in every *Nutcracker* would remain, and he kept his word that the tree would grow (it did), there would be mice and snowflakes (there were), and the *Nutcracker* doll would transform into a handsome prince (quite handsome). Changing the setting of the ballet created a through-line to this story that usually isn't there, providing much-needed context.

It makes sense that a Rat Catcher (Rory Hohenstein) looming around the fairground would become the Rat King in Marie's dream. It makes sense that Marie's journey to a magically finished summer fairgrounds is via boat in a frigid Lake Michigan with ice and snow all around and a frosty Chicago skyline behind. It makes sense that the Kingdom of the Sweets is now the fair's national pavilions with archetypal variations from around the world. It even makes sense that Buffalo Bill Cody (hilariously portrayed by a boot-scootin' Dylan Gutierrez) takes up the former Russian nuggat music with his three harlots and some impressive lassoing.

For the most part, the changes are refreshing and welcome, but for one: At the top of act two, we see Marie's mother transformed into the Queen of the Fair, representing the Statue of the Republic, a 65-foot gilded bronze beauty that welcomed visitors to the fair. The character replaces the Sugar Plum Fairy (and that's all fine), but her variation is plucked from the grand *pas de deux* and placed quite unnaturally into the second act's opening. The *grand pas' adagio* does eventually happen, with the Moth-

er/Queen of the Fair figure dancing an exquisite duet with the Impresario. It's an honestly glorious bit of choreography—perhaps the best in the ballet—but where it goes from there alters the plotline of the ballet. *Nutcracker* is supposed to be a coming of age story for Marie, but as the curtain falls, the scene implies that mom got her man, and they all lived happily ever after, and that doesn't sit right with me.

In fact, the whole second act falls a teensy bit flat, but only in comparison to the rich and magical first. There seems an over-reliance on Ben Percy's projections to infuse the fairground with the wonder and delight it requires, and when compared to the flawless collaboration merging light/projection/prop/scenery/puppets/costume and dancing in the magnificent transformation and battle scenes of the first act, it feels as though the team may have simply run out of time. These are really (really) picky things to say, and I don't mean to imply that the ballet is anything other than supermagical. After all, the World's Fair wasn't done when it opened, either, but managed to delight its audiences.

On stage for the curtain speech, Wheater spoke of how Wheeldon's *Nutcracker* is a testament to the founding principles of Robert Joffrey's company, which was and continues to be about transforming and expanding ballet as an art form with a spirit toward innovation. That's all true, but I would argue that Joffrey's *Nutcracker* (which enjoyed its final performance last season) was wholly conventional, perhaps because he knew it had to withstand the test of time.

Will Wheeldon's ballet hold up as well as Joffrey's did, or will the novelty wear off? Only time will tell, but one thing is very clear: This is Chicago's *Nutcracker*. It is as rich and beautiful and complicated and resilient as our city. As things are tweaked, refined and finished, and as the dancers begin to live in this new and quite difficult choreography and let it breathe, like a fine wine, I imagine this *Nutcracker* will only improve with age.

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ever-masterful lighting...whimsical puppetry"

— Chicago Sun-Times

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50 East Congress Parkway, Chicago

The Joffrey Ballet | Photo by Cheryl Mann

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Book focuses on trans college student inclusion, experience

BY MELISSA WASSERMAN

College is already a difficult transition for most and Dr. Z Nicolazzo, Ph.D. (preferred pronouns: ze and hir) focuses on being transgender in college with hir first book *Trans* in College: Transgender Students' Strategies for Navigating Campus Life and the Institutional Politics of Inclusion*.



Dr. Z. Nicolazzo.
Photo from Northern Illinois University

with transgender college students. Nicolazzo explained ze is focused on how transgender students can be understood through affirmative- and resilience-based approaches.

Previous research or scholarship that has been done, Nicolazzo said, has been deficit-based and has focused on ways that trans students are hurt, harmed, harassed and/or how they are not matching up to their cisgender

Nicolazzo is assistant professor in the Department of Counseling, Adult and Higher Education and faculty associate in the Center for the Study of Women, Gender and Sexuality at Northern Illinois University (NIU). Hailing from New Hampshire, ze has traveled around the country, earning hir Ph.D. in student affairs in higher education and graduate certificate in women's, gender, and sexuality studies from Miami University; M.S. degree in college student personnel from Western Illinois University; and a B.A. in philosophy from Roger Williams University.

Nicolazzo identifies as a non-binary trans fem individual. Before going back to start hir doctoral work full time, ze was working at the University of Arizona as a coordinator in the fraternity and sorority programs office. It was during that time ze came into hir own trans identity. Ze described it as a gender-binary office on a college campus and it was at a time when the state politics were quite dangerous for people on the margins.

"I didn't really have an understanding of what transgender even meant when I was in college, so clearly I couldn't identify in that way, and so I wanted to think about what it would be like to be trans in college," Nicolazzo said of hir experience, which is how ze got into hir area of interest. "That led me to the works I did with my participants to collect data and write this book. On top of that, I really wanted to do it from an affirmative perspective; to think about what are the ways that we're already succeeding because we know, anecdotally, that trans people are successful. What I was wondering is how can we problematize and think about what's wrong with our college environments, rather than saying what's wrong with trans people."

Nicolazzo's research focuses on gender, broadly, but specifically the work ze does is

or non-trans peers in college environments. Ze added there is also some scholarship that is not empirical and not research-based and there is a body of research that focuses on LGBT populations, but the "T" portion is small or non-existent.

"The work that I'm doing is trying to use appreciative inquiry models," said Nicolazzo. "I'm really looking at research with trans students, trying to think about how is it that we are making our own way and creating college environments that work for us when the environment was never really built with us in mind."

Trans in College: Transgender Students' Strategies for Navigating Campus Life and the Institutional Politics of Inclusion* was published in November 2016.

It includes Nicolazzo's personal gender journey, a review of literature about trans people in education, the research Nicolazzo did alongside nine transgender students at one particular Midwestern, urban institution and the participants' perspective, particularly if they were to imagine they had a captive audience of non-transgender students, faculty and staff, what they would say to them. This last piece, Nicolazzo added, was to give those transgender college students the final say because most of the time, trans students do not get the final word.

"The book itself is certainly for the educational community," said Nicolazzo. "I'm certainly writing toward faculty and staff of colleges, but the book is, I'm hoping, equally for trans students as well. So, my hope is trans students will be able to find this book, will be able to pick it up and will be able to see themselves reflected in the pages and might be able to help them feel less alone and a little more connected to community."

Ze did an 18-month study with these nine transgender college students. Ze described this

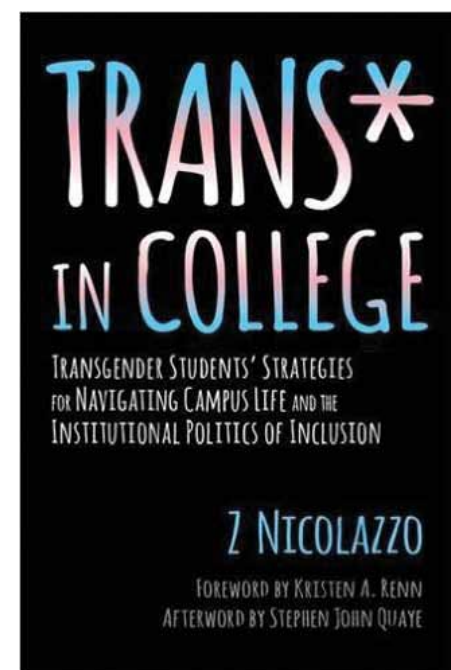
research as ethnographic. Throughout, it is about how transgender college students navigated their environment successfully (however they define that notion of success).

"In some ways, I'm really excited to be the increase in visibility in trans lives and also thinking about the kind of plurality of our lives, but in other ways, I'm realizing that that visibility has an increased threat or harm in some ways," said Nicolazzo.

Nicolazzo remembered feeling alone and unable to come out at work when ze realized hir transgender identity. Taking a friend's advice, ze took to reading books by trans people, especially transwomen to get a sense of who ze was, a sense of what ze could be and who hir community was. Ze added, because of that experience and the research collected through hir doctoral program and dissertation process, ze wanted to be able to give back to students who also might be feeling similarly.

"For me, when I think about teaching, it's important to make sure that I'm talking about gender in expansive ways, even when the topic isn't solely gender," said Nicolazzo. "It's important for me to have trans authors and scholars represented through my syllabi and it's important to recognize that. It's important to talk about how gender mediates different topics we're discussing."

"I hope and I want for trans people to feel seen in ways that we largely haven't been seen through educational literature and really through literature, broadly speaking," said Nicolazzo. "I'm very excited for people who read the book to meet these participants."



These participants are fantastic people and my hope is that folks who are not transgender will listen to the participants and will think more critically the way they need to. I think we need to unlearn the ways that we've been taught about gender. So, my hope is that people who aren't trans will continue to unlearn all of these binary notions of gender and that we will be able to work together to create more inclusive environments."

To learn more about Nicolazzo, visit: <http://znicolazzo.weebly.com>.



SPOTLIGHT

See out 2016 with **Die Fledermaus**, one of the world's favorite comic operettas. With rousing party scenes, luscious waltzes by Johan Strauss II, and plenty of adulterous shenanigans and practical jokes, *Die Fledermaus* has proven itself time and time again to be a frivolous favorite for New Year's Eve. Light Opera Works' English-language production plays 2 p.m. Dec. 26, 28 and Jan. 1 with 8 p.m. evening shows on Dec. 29, 30 and 31 at Northwestern University's Cahn Auditorium, 600 Emerson St., Evanston. Tickets are \$34 to \$98; call 847-920-5360 or visit LightOperaWorks.com.

Alicia Berneche is Rosalinda in Light Opera Works' *Die Fledermaus*. Photo by Rich Forman



Non-gender binary actor in 'Billions'

Actor/performer/director Asia Kate Dillon has become the first non-binary gender-identifying actor to ever be cast in a major television series.

Dillon was recently cast in the role of Taylor, a non-binary gender-identifying character in Showtime's *Billions*.

Born and raised in Ithaca, New York, Dillon studied at the American Musical and Dramatic Academy (AMDA) in New York City, graduating from the Studio Program. Eventually, Dillon landed roles on TV shows such as *Orange Is the New Black*, *Master of None* and *Younger*. In early 2016, they co-founded MIRROR/FIRE productions, and currently serve as a producing director of the company.

Dillon is at @AsiaKateDillon on Twitter and @heeeysia on Instagram.

National Geographic examines the 'gender revolution'

The January 2017 issue of National Geographic, which focuses on "the gender revolution," features a 9-year-old transgender girl who is believed to be the first trans person on the 128-year-old publication's cover.

"The best part of being a girl," says Avery Jackson in the accompanying caption, "is, now I don't have to pretend to be a boy." Jackson began her transition at age 4, and her parents have become her staunchest advocates.

In connection with this, a two-hour documentary, *Gender Revolution: A Journey with Katie Couric*, will premiere Monday, Feb. 6.

The January issue will be available on print newsstands beginning Dec. 27 and online in its entirety at NatGeo.com/gender-revolution on Jan. 3.



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BOOK REVIEW

Eleanor Roosevelt and Lorena Hickok's love affair

BY FRANK PIZZOLI

We like our history in a straight line. Yet, time and again twists and turns throw us off.

Sue Quinn's remarkable new book *Eleanor and Hick: The Love Affair That Shaped a First Lady* helps readers unravel the complicated, but loving, relationship between Eleanor Roosevelt, wife of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, and Associated Press reporter Lorena Hickok, known as a lesbian during her professional years.

Quinn's account is based on the letters between Eleanor and Hick, as she was known, released 40 years ago—10 years after her death, as called for by Eleanor's estate. Hickok covered Eleanor during the last months of FDR's 1932 presidential campaign, when, according to Doris Kearns Goodwin in *No Ordinary Time: Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt: The Home Front in World War II*, she "fell madly in love with her." At the 1933 inauguration, Eleanor wore a sapphire ring Hickok had given her.

Herein is the significance of Quinn's contribution to the Roosevelt canon: She ably dismantles the first book written after release of the sumptuous letters.

In 1980 author Doris Faber, who was, Quinn says, "shocked" at the letters' content in her account of their relationship in *The Life of Lorena Hickok: E.R.'s Friend*. Faber denies any sexual dimension between the women. In fact, when their letters were released in 1977 and Faber began her manuscript work, she begged librarians to seal them back up. That two women—a first lady—might have a passionate relationship was just too much for her. Researcher Leila J. Rupp criticized Faber's argument, calling her book "a case study in homophobia" and arguing that Faber unwittingly presented "page after page of evidence that delineates the growth and development of a love affair between the two women."

"Attitudes change. I re-examined their relationship. After all, they gave each other satisfaction and joy," Quinn said.

Hickok encouraged Eleanor to hold her own press conferences for women journalists. To turn her daily letters to her into Eleanor's famous "My Day" newspaper column. "Hick helped

Eleanor find her voice," Quinn explained.

When their relationship flourished, many female activists in the Democratic Party of the 1930s were lesbian. "Women who loved women were all around Eleanor," Quinn says.

And Eleanor did have her challenging sorrows.

Hired in 1914, her social secretary Lucy Mercer and FDR kindled a relationship thought to have first sparked in 1916. In 1918, Franklin traveled to Europe to inspect naval facilities for World War I. He returned sick with pneumonia in both lungs. That's when Eleanor discovered a packet of love letters from Mercer in his suitcase. She offered him a divorce which he refused. FDR's mother, Sara Delano Roosevelt, was adamantly against their divorcing, sure it would end his political career. She threatened to cut him off from the family fortune if he chose to do so.

Goodwin summarized their letters thus: Hick longed to kiss the soft spot at the corner of Eleanor's mouth; Eleanor yearned to hold Hick close; Hick despaired at being away from Eleanor; and Eleanor wished she could lie down beside Hick and take her in her arms. Day after day, month after month, the tone in the letters on both sides remains fervent and loving. She concluded, however, that "whether Hick and Eleanor went beyond kisses and hugs" cannot be known for certain, and that the important issue is the impact the close relationship had on both women's lives. In contrast, a 2011 essay by Russell Baker reviewing two new Roosevelt biographies in the *New York Times Review of Books* stated, "That the Hickok relationship was indeed erotic now seems beyond dispute considering what is known about the letters they exchanged."

Eleanor also had a known relationship with FDR's bodyguard, Earl Miller. They swam together, went horseback riding and had long drives. No one knows for sure if they were sexual.

"The relationship between Eleanor and Hick was very important to both of them," Quinn says. "It was a deep and loving relationship."

Readers can decide for themselves how to label Eleanor and Hick's love for each other. History is not a straight line.

'Gender Breakdown' Feb. 16-March 19

Gender Breakdown—Collaboration Theatre Company's first world premiere of 2017, that's a response to the lack of gender equity on and offstage—will take place Feb. 16-March 19.

According to the Dramatist's Guild, only 14 percent of plays produced in regional theaters were by U.S. white women in 2015. Only 3.4 percent were written by U.S. women of color.

Dani Bryant is the creator and Erica Vannoni is the director.

Gender Breakdown will be presented in The Vault at Collaboration Studios in the Flat Iron Arts Building, 1579 N. Milwaukee Ave. Single tickets to performances are \$20-30 (\$10-\$15 for students, educators and industry); visit Collaboration.org or call 312-226-9633.

Victory names new managing director

Victory Gardens Theater Artistic Director Chay Yew and Board President Steven Miller have announced that Erica Daniels will be

the company's new managing director.

Daniels' tenure will begin Jan. 2.

A graduate of Northwestern University, Daniels began her tenure at Steppenwolf in 2001 as casting director; she was subsequently associate artistic director at Steppenwolf Theatre Company. Most recently, she was president of Second City Theatricals, where she shepherded a remount at Hubbard Street Dance as well as new collaborations with Woolly Mammoth Theatre, Slate and The Kennedy Center.

See VictoryGardens.org.

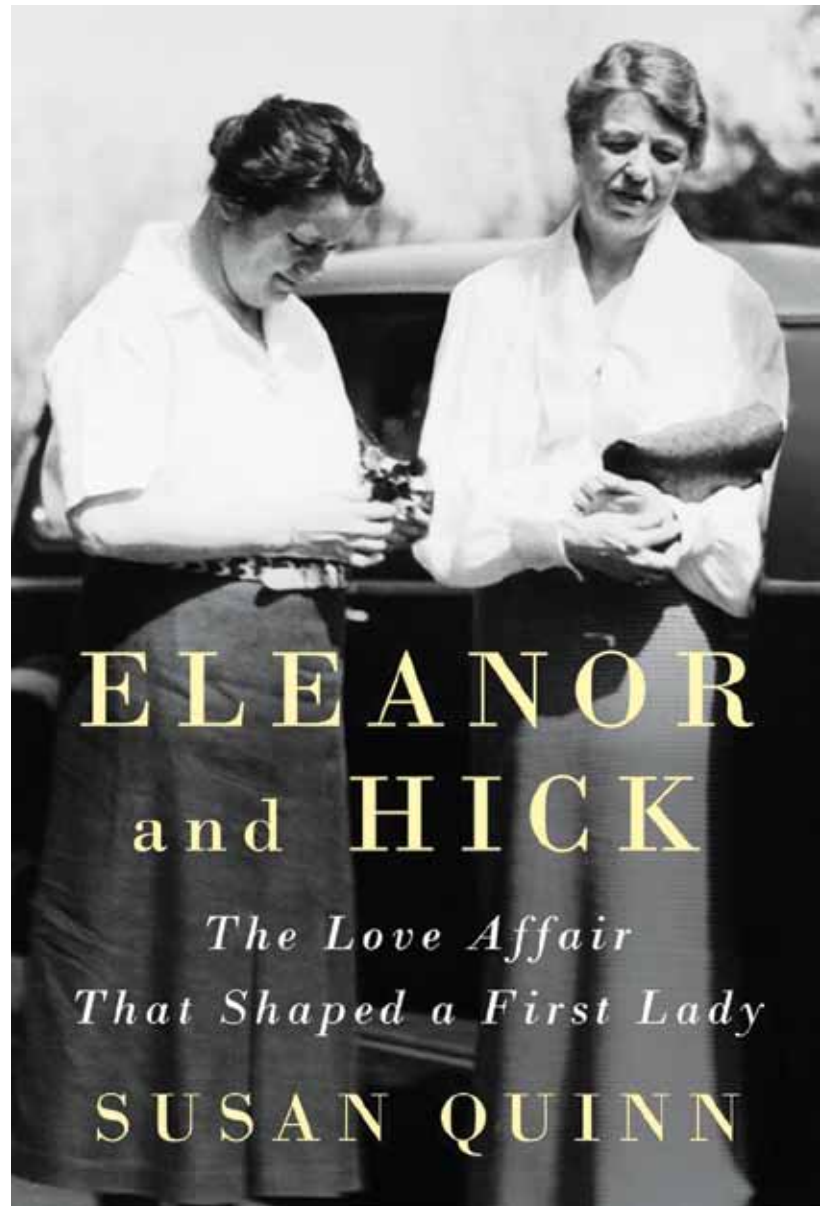
'Alabama Sky' Jan. 12-Feb. 12

Court Theatre, 5535 S. Ellis Ave., is presenting *Blues for an Alabama Sky*, by Pearl Cleage.

Blues for an Alabama Sky will run Jan. 12-Feb. 12. Ron OJ Parson is directing.

In the production, three people (Angel, Guy and Delia) try to make their dreams come true while living during New York's Harlem Renaissance in the midst of the Great Depression.

Admission if \$38-\$68, with prices varying between previews and the regular run; see CourtTheatre.org or call 773-753-4472.



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Elliot Wake.
Photo by Wake

Trans author Elliot Wake on new book, 'Bad Boy'

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

USA Today best-selling author Elliot Wake has written a new book *Bad Boy*, which will be available for purchase on Tuesday, Dec. 6. This is the fourth book Wake has written over the past two years.

"*Bad Boy* is a story about a transgender man struggling to define his masculinity in an underworld full of toxic men and toxic women," said Wake. "Renard's [Ren] transition from female to male is depicted in full detail. Nothing is left out. This is not the glossed-over, 30 minute makeover transition narrative that the mainstream media puts forward. This is gritty, raw and real."

In terms of how Ren dovetails with his own life, Wake said the character was a guinea pig because he wrote it before he began taking testosterone.

"I channeled all my fears and hopes about hormone replacement therapy (HRT) into him," said Wake. "In a way I visualized him as my 'trial run' on testosterone. I lived vicariously through Ren, forcing myself to confront the most terrifying and exhilarating aspects of HRT. When I finished the first draft, I still wanted testosterone. So I started my physical transition as I began working on draft two. Funny thing, my educated guesses about how T would change me—physically, emotionally, socially—were mostly spot-on."

"I can promise you that [this novel] is unlike any you've read before," said Wake's editor Sarah Cantin in her letter at the beginning of the book. "Elliot wrote the first draft of *Bad Boy* before coming out to me as a trans man, and before he began hormone replacement therapy. I was immediately bowled over by Ren. I had never encountered a character quite like him and I was amazed by the psychological and emotional acuity with which he was drawn. When Elliot share his news with me, Ren made even more sense. As Elliot began his transition, I watched as the novel, and his writing, evolve in surprising and beautiful ways."

"I'm incredibly proud of Elliot for breaking new ground with this story. More importantly, I'm grateful to him for pushing me, as his editor, to constantly question my own internalized assumptions about gender and sexuality, and to read, and live, with an open mind and heart."

Wake's previous books—*Unteachable*, *Black*

Iris and *Cam Girl*—were written under his former name: Leah Raeder.

"My first novel, *Unteachable*, is a forbidden romance between a high school teacher and an 18-year-old film student," said Wake. "Black *Iris* is about a queer girl who takes elaborate, painstaking revenge on everyone who bullied and wronged her in high school and *Cam Girl* is about a queer artist who deals with a life-changing disability, and how that forces her to see the world afresh, including her sometimes-girlfriend/sometimes-BFF."

When asked if he plans on changing the name on his other books to his chosen name, Wake explained that he doesn't consider his birth name a "dead name."

"Leah Raeder is who I was for 33 years," said Wake. "I respect and honor that part of my life. It made me who I am today."

Wake was born in 1982 and grew up on the South Side of Chicago.

"My parents divorced when I was young and I was raised by a single mother on welfare," said Wake. "Since we were broke, my main form of entertainment was the library."

Wake worked in graphic design for a number of years but his childhood dream was to become an author.

"My love for books started when I was little," said Wake. "I could read by age 3 and when I began school, they double-promoted me from first to third grade because my reading level was far beyond my age. I devoured any book I got my hands on. My favorites were big, meaty fantasy epics brimming with new words to look up in the dictionary. Sometimes I read the dictionary for fun. I was that kind of kid. I remember sitting at my mom's desk and signing my name on sheets of loose leaf notebook paper, practicing for the author signings I dreamed of doing someday. Thirty years later, that dream is a reality. It's pretty wild."

Wake said that becoming a best-selling author for *Unteachable* changed his life and enabled him to pursue writing full-time as well as attract the notice of agents and publishers. In addition to his best-selling author status, Wake's two other books were recognized with starred reviews in *Publisher's Weekly*. Recently, *Bad Boy* got starred reviews from both *Kirkus* and *Booklist*.

"I'd written other novels before, but never sold a manuscript," said Wake. "Publishing folks said they loved my writing but couldn't

find a home for my work. So I gave up and self-published *Unteachable*. It went viral, was picked up by a traditional publisher, and suddenly I was part of the industry that had rejected me so thoroughly for so many years. Getting picked up by a traditional publisher has opened many doors for me. Now I'm able to write risky, daring books about LGBTQ+ charac-

Artemis Singers show on Michigan Womyn's Music Festival in Jan.

Artemis Singers, Chicago's lesbian feminist chorus, will present "Wanting the Music: A Choral Musical of the Michigan Festival," Saturday, Jan. 28, and Sunday, Jan. 29, 2017.

The Michigan Womyn's Music Festival was a woman-only event held in the woods of Michigan for just one week every year from 1976 through 2015.

The festival was also controversial because of its definition of "woman," which was not inclusive of trans women. Though organizers claimed in later years not to enforce any formal policy banning trans women, there were years-long protests and boycotts based on the fest's approach to trans women.

The concert format connects songs from festival artists, including Cris Williamson, Ferron, Melissa Ferrick and Toshi Reagon, with an original story and songs by Artemis Singers members Allison Downing and Lorraine Edwalds.

"Having the festival end in 2015 was a deeply emotional experience for women who are part of the lesbian community," explains Edwalds, who attended the Michigan Womyn's Music Festival for 27 years. "With this performance, we honor the musicians who formed the heart of the festival community over the years."

"Our lives changed so much in the years that we had Michigan," Edwalds recalled. "How lesbians are accepted, how they're able to have children, the expectations they have for their relationships are very different now

ters with the backing of an editor who believes in my work and my voice. These books may not hit bestseller lists so easily, but they're making a difference out in the real world. Every time I get a letter from a queer reader who says, 'your book changed my life,' I know this labor is worth it."

When Wake isn't writing he likes to play video games and calls himself a Minecraft fiend. He also does weightlifting and being dapper.

"Minecraft is like digital Lego for grown-ups," said Wake. "Games like Minecraft teach you to solve problems creatively. There is no single solution to any issue; it's limited only by your imagination. Often I'll sit down to play and incidentally solve plot problems once my creativity has limbered up."

Wake noted that in order to understand his fashion sense, one must visit his Instagram page at <http://www.instagram.com/elliottzero>. He said that part of his transition involves educating himself about menswear. Wake explained that men's fashion has helped him see himself as a man and the world see him that way as well.

In terms of the wider world, Wake noted that transgender issues are all over the news of late.

"Trans people are fighting for basic human rights at the highest levels of the law," said Wake. "We're painted as heroes or monsters, depending on which narrative we need to fit. But we're really just ordinary people who happen to have an extraordinary condition. Being transgender is a huge part of my life, especially this early in my transition, but it's not the most interesting thing about me. I'd like to think my writing, my voice and my service to others are the things I'll be remembered for. I'm just another human struggling to make sense of this brutal, beautiful planet. In the end, I'm not so different from anyone else."

Wake will be holding a reading and book signing for *Bad Boy* Jan. 19 at the DePaul University Barnes and Noble store, 6-8 p.m. See LeahRaeder.com and <https://twitter.com/ElliottWake> for more information.

than when the festival started. I hope by creating this fictional story we can remind women of all we've been through."

Several Artemis Singers members and composers from other feminist choruses created the arrangements of iconic festival songs. Rachel Alexander, lead carpenter for MichFest for many years, arranged Nedra Johnson's "August Moon," a song written specifically about the festival in 2014.

Vendors who participated in the festival over the years will have booths in the balcony that people can visit before and after the January 2017 show. There will also be a wall where concert attendees can share their memories of the festival, which will be shared on the Artemis Singers website after the performances complete.

Artemis Singers will perform at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 28, 2017, and at 1:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 29 at the Irish American Heritage Center, 4626 N. Knox Ave., Chicago.

Tickets for "Wanting the Music" are a suggested donation of \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door for adults. Tickets for seniors age 65 and older and for children age 12 and younger are a suggested donation of \$15. To purchase tickets, go to <http://artemiswantingthemusic.brownpapertickets.com/>

For additional concert information, directions to the venue, or to volunteer to be a part of the event, email info@artemissingers.org or call 773-764-4465.

Founded in 1980, Artemis Singers is composed of women with diverse backgrounds who are dedicated to effecting positive change in cultural attitudes towards lesbians and women artists. Performances highlight historical, political and personal events important to women.

See ArtemisSingers.org.

MOVIES

Susan Nussbaum on Hollywood's 'Code of the Freaks'

BY GRETCHEN RACHEL HAMMOND

It's Oscar-baiting season—the time of year when Hollywood heaves out its best scripts, actors, directors, costume, set and make-up artists all in the hope of winning the statue next February.

Some of Hollywood's most exploitative Oscar-beggars have discovered that if you make a film about a person with a disability starring a cisgender A-lister who Method acts their way through two-plus hours of gut wrenching line delivery while punching various parts of their non-CGI-contorted body for added dramatic effect, the Academy is guaranteed to smile kindly upon them and so yield extra gold in future Blu-ray sales.

However, those who actually live with disabilities have seen enough and they want moviegoers to know why.

A Kickstarter campaign launched by filmmaker Salome Chasnoff, UIC faculty members Alyson Patsavas and Carrie Sandahl alongside acclaimed writer Susan Nussbaum aimed to raise the \$30,000 needed to make the documentary Code of the Freaks "a blistering critique of Hollywood representations of disabled characters that gives the mic to some of Hollywood's most incensed and ignored critics—actual disabled people."

Nussbaum is an award-winning author and playwright. At 24, she was struck by a car and became wheelchair-bound for the rest of her life. An impassioned activist for all but particularly the disabled, Nussbaum's book Good

Kings, Bad Kings won her the 2012 PEN BELL-WETHER Prize and critical acclaim.

Nussbaum spoke with Windy City Times about Code of the Freaks and what she and her talented ensemble hope to accomplish with the film.

Windy City Times: You are raising money for this documentary at the perfect time of year in the film world.

Susan Nussbaum: They love inspiration this time of year, and inspirational disability films are among their favorites.

WCT: You noted on Kickstarter that even an uplifting message about a disabled person's life can be damaging.

SN: I think the uplifting part has a lot to do with certain formulas that Hollywood employs when it's using a disability-themed story or narrative and there's various ways in which they do it. Often, at the end, the disabled character is cured so they've been normalized. Or, at the end, the disabled character is killed and the non-disabled protagonist has been taught a good lesson from the disabled character and will now go on to be a better person. There's all sorts of outcomes: the disabled character being the villain is very common.

This kind of imagery has nothing to do with the lives of people with disabilities and, when we [disabled people] see these kinds of things in movies, we think, 'What are they talking about? That has nothing to do with my experience.' I am a human who is struggling to survive day-to-day as we all are. There are times that I will go to a movie with a disabled character and be just horrified by what I see.



Susan Nussbaum. Photo from Nussbaum

I don't want the lights to come up because I feel ripped off and damaged and I don't want people to come up to me and get in my face and say, 'It's great to see you out of the nursing home.' There's a lot of micro-aggressions that are a result of what people learn about us in the movies.

WCT: I recall when the David Lynch film The Elephant Man came out, the BBC documentary QED noted that neurofibromatosis sufferers (one of Joseph Merrick's earliest theorized diagnoses) were traumatized by it, thinking that was the life they were bound to lead. It also led to a dramatic increase in bullying. Is that generally the rule?

SN: Non-disabled writers, producers, directors and actors all put their own narrative on these characters. They imagine, incorrectly, that all that disabled people are, by definition, miserably unhappy when, in fact, the misery part comes as a result of systemic conditions that are oppressive. In the health care system, they are very objectifying, humiliating—these are things that still go on and don't end.

There is a real problem with the kinds of perspectives of the people who make these films. They don't know anything. They may do their research. They may talk to some doctors or they might go and 'observe' disabled people at hospitals, institutions; all these horrible places and that's where they get their ideas.

WCT: In your book, one of the antagonists says, 'I can be a good king or a bad king.' When we talk about Hollywood filmmakers focusing on disabilities, are they all bad kings? Is that over-generalizing?

SN: No, I don't think it is. It goes way beyond stereotyping. There are parallels in the way African-Americans were portrayed, or LG-BTs. There needs to be input, in a substantial way, from writers and directors and performers who are actually disabled. Right now, there is no place in Hollywood for a disabled person.

WCT: There have been one or two exceptions. Marlee Matlin comes to mind. But there have been points in her career where it seems she has been exploited sometimes even for comedy.

SN: I cannot even begin to imagine what Marlee had to put up with as a deaf actor in Hollywood.

WCT: In your life, finding your way following the car accident, when you see these films, do you feel like they trivialize your own journey?

SN: It's not so much a trivialization as it is the way the public is taught to view what is best when dealing with 'the problem of disabled people.' In the [Clint Eastwood] film Million Dollar Baby, it was made acceptable to

Turn to page 27

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM YOUR PETS AND WINDY CITY TIMES

- ANNIE**: A dog wearing a green and white Christmas hat and a green garland.
- B.E.**: A small dog wearing a red and white winter hat.
- FRANKLIN**: A French Bulldog wearing a red and white winter hat.
- BOWIE & TOPO GIGIO**: Two dogs, one wearing a blue hat and the other a red hat.
- LOLA**: A dog wearing a white winter hat and a red scarf.
- OOLY**: A dog wearing a white winter hat and a red scarf.
- OLIVIA**: A dog wearing a red and white winter hat.
- GRETA**: A dog wearing a red and white winter hat.
- DOZER**: A dog wearing a red and white winter hat and a red scarf.
- SIMON**: A dog wearing a red and white winter hat.
- QUIMBY**: A dog wearing a red and white winter hat.
- MACI & TIOGA**: Two dogs, one wearing a red and white winter hat.
- MARGOT**: A dog wearing a red and white winter hat.
- MAXI BLUE**: A dog wearing a red and white winter hat.
- DOTTY**: A dog wearing a red and white winter hat.

KAHRL from cover

ballparks, [but] I'm excited about the opportunities and challenges that [the move] will give me as I help take a larger role as part of the team planning ESPN.com's national coverage. In particular, I'll be working with ESPN.com's Insider assets, [such as] Buster Olney, Keith Law and Jim Bowden, which is particularly exciting."

Despite her professional joy, the personal move saddens Kahl. "There's no place I'd rather be in the country, but ESPN has proven reliably reticent to move the whole shindig here for my benefit," she said with a hint of humor. "I've left before and come back, so never say never."

Kahl said she'll miss the neighborhoods the most, plus the people and the ballparks. Rogers Park, in particular, "because where else can you get a great neighborhood, great beaches, great Mexican food, and a quick ride to Wrigley on the EL, all in one," she said.

Kahl's passion and pride in Chicago aren't lost on her, knowing she once swore she'd never move to the Windy City. That was, mind you, some 30-plus years ago.

"I'm still amused by the fact that when I came here from California as a high school senior to check out college campuses, I came in Febru-



ary [and] experienced the [cold and snowy] weather," she said. "Then the University of Chicago made me an offer I couldn't refuse, and I learned what Nelson Algren meant when he wrote of Chicago, 'Like loving a woman with a broken nose, you may well find lovelier lovelies, but never a lovely so real.'"

Kahl said her list of Chicago memories is long, such as:

- Having kids in the neighborhood learn her dog's name (Argentina).

- Having her favorite taqueria cater their wedding.

- Doing pregame/postgame shows for CLTV in the 1990s.

- Choking up the first time she came back to Wrigley Field after moving away, "because while I might be agnostic on Cubs/Sox, I love that ballpark."

- Interviewing guys like Lorenzo Cain or Ron Washington in the visitor's dugout at The Cell.

- Hours spent in Powell's Books, looking for

finds.

- The pizza at R Public House.

- Having Charley teach Argentina to swim on a warm moonlit spring night.

- Brunch at Wilde along Broadway.

- The memories of now-closed restaurant Erwin.

- The morning after the Cubs won.

- The day after Obama was elected president.

- The weeks of planning for the night Kahl and others challenged the discriminatory anti-trans door policy at Hunter's Night Club in suburban Elk Grove Village.

- The snowy night she nearly had to take a baseball bat to a UPS drop box trying to get a marked-up, line-edited draft of the 1997 Baseball Prospectus inside it.

She officially leaves Chicago in February.

So Christina, what about the Cubs' 2016 World Series title?

"It was something I predicted before the season [started], but that's pretty unremarkable," she said. "The rebuild has been a long, slow-motion act of accumulated dominance. That wave hasn't crested, and this team will win multiple titles over the next five years. But even more amazing was that they didn't just win, they—and the [Cleveland] Indians—gave us one of the most memorable World Series ever. If it had been a four-game romp, like the [New York] Yankees' obliteration of the [San Diego] Padres, or the White Sox' stomp of the [Houston] Astros in 2005, how memorable would that have been, beyond it ending mentions of the damned goat?"

Kahl will, after the move, remain on the board of the National Lesbian and Gay Journalists Association, and added that she's looking forward to some of the things that the group will be able to do with ESPN and other major media organizations in the future. "On the state and local level, I have no idea [what's ahead in regard to LGBT advocacy] beyond volunteering to help the folks already there, doing whatever I can, and hopefully having the time to give outside of work. That said, much like Illinois, Connecticut is in pretty good shape as far as legislation and civil equality.

GUEST COLUMN from page 4

do, I had never been to a funeral, I had never experienced death in my family before. I took a seat in the back of the room and prayed. I prayed that God would watch over my buddy in heaven. I walked around the room and looked at all of the pictures set up. I saw a picture of me and Uncle Q where we shared the same expression with our mouths wide open looking surprised. That had always been my favorite picture. I wanted to go back to that day and find out why we were so happy. I wished that I could've made more time and made more memories with him.

In the days leading up to his funeral, I sat out of recess to prepare a speech about my beloved uncle. When it was my turn my mom gave me a warm smile and nodded from the other side of the room. I placed the unicorn music box from so many years ago on the podium and began my speech. My knees were shaking and I felt my face getting warm. When I finished my family was in tears and I received applause from everyone. When I walked back to my seat next to my dad he gave me a reassuring hug and told me Q is so proud and is smiling down from heaven. I touched the horse's broken horn remembering that day.

I am so grateful to have had someone like Quinn. He taught me to always be accepting, empathetic, and unique. I never would have learned these things without Q. He gave me so much joy and helped me find my interests and passion here in life. Through all of my memories with Q he has taught me to be my best self.

For an article on Quinn Collins, who died at age 38, see <http://www.windycitymediagroup.com/lgbt/Transgender-PFLAG-inspiration-killed-in-car-accident/29439.html>.

Kate is a 15-year-old freshman in high school who lives in the Western suburbs of Illinois. She has a passion for music and especially enjoys performing and singing. When asked to write an essay in English class about a person or experience that changed her life, Kate wrote this essay about her Uncle Quinn "Q" Collins.

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Center holds 'Glitter Glam' gala

Center on Halsted's Women's Action Committee hosted "By Women for Women: Glitter Glam Comedy Jam" Dec. 17 at the Center.

Tamale Sepp hosted the event, which featured comedian Mimi Gonzalez, with tunes from DJ Gemini Jones and jazz with Lakeside Pride.

Photos by Kat Fitzgerald (www.MysticImagesPhotography.com)



NUSSBAUM from page 25

kill the disabled character one week in, before she'd had time to even speak to another disabled person. The story was manipulated in a way that the disabled character herself begged to be euthanized. It was only after great soul searching that the Clint Eastwood character decided to kill her. I think that it let the audience off the hook. I think people found that inspirational and so uphold the disabled character as an example of courage because she chose to kill herself rather than live that 'unlivable life.'

That's something you end up struggling against—the notion that your life is somehow not as desirable as it would be if you were 'normal.' It is not acceptable that our lives are seen as so burdensome; that they must be burdensome to us. They aren't but these are the kind of narratives that non-disabled people find romantic about disability. The death of a disabled person is much more exciting than imagining the life of a disabled person. When I became disabled, I remember thinking, 'What do I know about disabilities?' All knew was what I remember from the movies. I ran through that imagery in my mind and the first character I thought of was Quasimodo and Baby Jane and how she tortured her invalid sister. So all of this imagery ran deep for me and did more to mess with my mind than anything. People know nothing about us and they don't understand that life is hard but it is good.

WCT: So it seems like the seed of Code of the Freaks was planted a long time ago. When did the idea to make the documentary take shape?

SN: Salome [Chasoff], Alyson [Patsavas], Carrie [Sandahl] and I all knew each other. I was working with a disability rights organization at the time. Because of my love of movies, I decided to string together a bunch of small clips. A lot of people came to watch the result. They were mostly disabled people and it was mind-blowing because they had never really been able to put together the fact that there

were that many movies that were so dangerous, absurd or hilariously off-the-mark. Like any group of people who discover new ideas, the knowledge takes the shame off you and places it where it belongs.

WCT: The name of the documentary is taken from the Tod Browning film Freaks. Do you believe that Hollywood filmmakers are purveyors of a modern-day carnival sideshow?

SN: I haven't gone that far, but I think you're right. I think we are seeing disabled people acted out on the screen and the imagery is made for gawking purposes; for the majority of people who are not disabled to think, 'Wow. That's not me. I feel good because I'm so lucky.'

WCT: Will the documentary offer any solutions to either filmmakers or filmgoers?

SN: What we're doing is raising questions that have never been raised. We want to encourage people who see a film about a disabled person to step back, think about what they're seeing and ask themselves, "What is the message? What does that have to do with the lives of actual people?" I believe that real change happens from the ground up. Hollywood's not going to change. So we need to see that there is a problem and realize how horribly isolating and unfair it is to imagine what a person's life experience is from watching a movie. The movies are not the place to find out. They don't require a lot of thought or questioning. They push buttons and give you what you came for but it is a thought-free way of looking at it.

We should, all of us, know that popular entertainment is going to give us just enough information to keep us happy. There are loads of alternative ways to get your information but you have to be careful about that too. Most people don't want to discriminate but we live under an economic system that encourages us to categorize and that's what we're used to. It complicates everything.

Update: Almost 400 supporters pledged \$35,433 for this project, surpassing the \$30,000 goal.

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Dixie Lynn Cartwright.
Photo by Jacob Bjorge



NUNN ON ONE: THEATER

Dixie Lynn Cartwright comes out of the closet

BY JERRY NUNN

Drag personality Dixie Lynn Cartwright stars in *Barney the Elf* this holiday season. The story follows Santa Claus passing away and his wicked son taking up the historic job. Barney the Elf flees his northern home afterwards and winds up in a drag bar. The jokes begin as Bar-

ney tries to save the day while learning about love and makeup.

Cartwright's credits include *Snow White* and the *Seven Drag Queens*, *The Bitchfest Club* and *Scream Girls*. She currently hosts shows at the bars *Sidetrack* and *Berlin*.

Windy City caught up with Cartwright's alter ego, Drew H. Nixon, at a coffee shop recently.

Windy City Times: So I read that we went to the same college: Western Kentucky University.

Dixie Lynn Cartwright: Did you? Were you a Hilltopper for Christ?

WCT: I climbed that hill! What did you study in school?

DLC: I started at a Southern Baptist college in Mississippi—you know, with self-hatred and all that stuff. I have a twin brother who is a pastor. I was studying vocal performance there. Needless to say it did not go well. When I slept with all the closeted boys it was time to leave, so then I studied special education at Western. I taught for eight years after that.

Dixie took off and, with the late nights and early mornings, I couldn't teach anymore.

WCT: So you only do Dixie now?

DLC: No. I tried for six months, then needed health insurance. I work for a STD call center now. I get benefits there working 30 hours a week. I also get benefits from my partner.

WCT: You perform regularly at Sidetrack, right?

DLC: I am their go-to. I feel bad for the people that don't enjoy me because any big event at Sidetrack I will be there!

WCT: You are really quick. I was impressed with your hosting the other night.

DLC: Thank you. You are so correct! I really turn it on. In every day conversation I am kind of a dud. It is a tears-of-a-clown kind of thing.

WCT: Where did the name "Dixie Lynn Cartwright" originate?

DLC: I started doing drag with the Chicago Gay Men's Chorus when I first moved here. It was a way to meet people. When I would speak I would get nervous and my Southern accent would explode all over the place. I figured I had to be a Southern character and Dixie is the most southern name in the world.

My mother's middle name is Lynn, like every Southern woman. They all have three names.

I tacked Cartwright on at the end because I am always right!

WCT: How long have you done drag?

DLC: Just a few years. I would do it once a year for the chorus. Regularly I started two years ago.

WCT: You have come a long way.

DLC: Thanks to the Chicago drag community. They are so supportive of one another. I owe big props to Trannika Rex. She runs this town, let's be honest.

Since RuPaul's *Drag Race* many queens burn out and are a dime a dozen. I feel like *Sidetrack* has kept me afloat.

WCT: Would you want to perform on Logo's Drag Race?

DLC: Yes. That is an instant career. I'm bidding my time. I don't want to be the first to go home, so I want to be really good.

WCT: Talk about Barney the Elf.

DLC: I did the show last year. It was a sold-out run. They extended it for even more performances. It is based on the Will Ferrell movie *Elf* but our elf is gay. Santa dies and Santa Junior is a huge homophobe. Barney is kicked out for being gay. He comes to Chicago and works at a gay bar, where he meets me. My name is Zooney and I play a drag queen. We have a little romance.

It goes back and forth from Chicago where Barney finds out who he is, to the north pole where Santa Junior is a slave driver. The stories then collide.

It is a musical parody so all of the songs are from past musicals like *Wicked*. We just change the words.

WCT: What is the difference from last year's production?

DLC: Last year, we had a drag queen chorus but this year they have been removed and Mrs. Claus is telling the story. Maggie Cain plays her and has been in everything. A lot of character comes out of her and she is wonderful.

Barney is played by Bryan Renaud. I wasn't sure what it would be like with the writer being in the show. He is totally down to play with the part. He didn't have a lot of experience as a drag queen so he let me shape her. What Dixie does at the gay bar in the show is what I do at Sidetrack. They really let me play with the audience. Bryan's voice is butter.

WCT: Do you sing a solo?

DLC: I do. I have a big giant ballad in the middle when I upset Barney. It is from *The Wedding Singer* musical called "Come Out of the Dumpster" but my version is "Come Out of the Closet." It is so sweet.

I sing "Last Christmas" but with different words like "I saw daddy f--king Santa Claus."

WCT: Oh, my: fun for the whole family...

DLC: Last year we did have a woman bring her two kids but they stopped her at the box office to tell her it is an adult-themed show. She got her money back but wrote a negative review online: "I brought my kids, they said it wasn't for kids. I got money back, not happy."

WCT: She should have done her research.

DLC: And sentence structure escaped her!

WCT: I just saw Rudolph at the Chicago Theatre, and it was so gay.

DLC: I feel like all Christmas shows are gay. Ours is just way more open about it and has songs about boners.

Can queer holiday cheer save Christmas? Find out as Barney the Elf plays now through Sunday, Jan. 1, at the Greenhouse Theater, 2257 N. Lincoln Ave, upstairs studio, at 8 p.m. Thurs. through Sat. and Sun. at 3 p.m. Visit GreenhouseTheater.org or call 773-404-7336 for ticket information.

the DISH

Weekly Dining Guide in
WINDY CITY TIMES

SAVOR
Acadia

BY ANDREW DAVIS

With most of the profiles in this column, I'm fortunate enough to go to restaurants through arranged visits. This allows me to sometimes interview chefs and related staff, but also puts the onus on restaurants to really bring their A-games to warrant positive outcomes (although they should do that for everyone, anyway).

I wrote the preceding bit because one gets the impression that Acadia (1639 S. Wabash Ave; AcadiaChicago.com) brings its A-game with every patron.

Acadia was one of the few restaurants in Chicago to garner two Michelin stars when the latest ratings were released (with only two spots,



Pre-dessert of pear (left) and mini-macarons at Acadia.

Photos by Andrew Davis

Alinea and Grace, getting three stars)—and it's easy to see why.

The restaurant has two options if you're in the dining room: five- and 10-course options. (The front bar has a separate menu, including the acclaimed burger.) Drinks started well, with me getting a refreshing Bosc Pear mocktail and my friend getting a kicky, truffle-garnished cocktail called *Death by Astonishment*.

Calling our dinner five courses is a bit deceptive. There were canapes, and even a pre-dessert palate cleanser of pear. Some of the many highlights included mini-sandwiches (lobster roll, ra-



zor clam, etc.), Thai peanut soup with a mirepoix delicately set in a spoon, Deer Island lobster surrounded by onion petals, chestnut puree with black truffle (probably my favorite), Berkshire pork belly with saffras and butternut squash, and elegantly presented macarons.

The only drawback is that the stereotype of small dishes at upscale spots rings true here—although I understand the point is to savor each bite. One dish consisted of a single small rabbit-pheasant ravioli (and the server poured chicken consomme over it).

However, there's no mistaking that the experi-

ence at Acadia was very elegant, and highlighted by impeccable service (with servers bringing a brand-new napkin each time someone leaves the table, and with them even asking if they should call taxi service). Go if you have a big celebration—you'll be impressed.





"It takes me a long time to get mad, but when I get mad, I'm an Italian. I was just in Italy. I'm no different from anyone else over there, you know what I mean? And they're just talking normally. They're not having a fight—they're just paying for bread!"—**Patti LuPone** attributes her fiery temperament to her ethnicity.

A few months ago, **Zsa Zsa Gabor** allegedly told husband **Prince Frederic von Anhalt** that, for her 100th birthday, she'd like to move back to Budapest. Alas, she was at her Bel Air home when she died at 99. I met Zsa Zsa many times, and she was everything you'd want her to be—grand, gorgeous and ridiculously over-the-top. Although she lived in the United States for more than 70 years, she was known for her thick Hungarian accent and calling everyone "Dahlink." Although she had numerous film credits, I'll be curious to see if she makes the Oscars' "In Memoriam" segment.

Donald Trump is having a heck of a time booking talent for his upcoming coronation ... er, inauguration. So far, the biggest name he's got is **Jackie Evancho**, often touted as an opera singer, but to the best of my knowledge someone who has never sung an operatic aria in her life. But didya know that she has a trans sister? And Jackie is her strongest supporter. "She told me she was transgender, and I was actually very happy for her because she finally found herself and can be who she wants to be." In addition to singing the national anthem at the inauguration, Evancho will also sing a duet with **Andrea Bocelli**. But, shhh, nobody tell him—he thinks he's singing for Hillary!

As the studios are trotting out their best and brightest for Oscar consideration, the Academy has made an unprecedented ruling. Former RuPaul's Drag Race contestant **Kelly Mantle** is the first person ever to be eligible to be nominated in both the Best Supporting Actor and Best Supporting Actress category. Huh? Mantle appears in *Confessions of a Womanizer*—a film I've never heard of, but it just had Oscar-qualifying screenings in LA. In the movie, Kelly plays a transgender prostitute named Ginger—sidebar, why do these hookers always have a name like Ginger or Cinnamon? You'll never see a transgender prostitute named Susan or Claire! Anyhoo, director and writer Miguel Ali lobbied the Academy on Mantle's behalf. He felt that because Mantle is "gender-fluid," s/he should be submitted in the supporting acting categories for both genders. The Academy agreed. Ali says, "To the best of my knowledge, this is the first time in Oscar history that a person will be considered for an acting Oscar in both gender categories. I firmly believe that our androgynous/transgendered acting community is the most untapped resource in Hollywood. We need to bring them more attention, and by doing so, we will create more empathy for our androgynous/transgendered brothers and sisters."

Perennial Oscar nominee **Eddie Redmayne** recently made a startling revelation—he's seen **Prince William's** willy. Let that sink in—he's seen the penis of a future King of England. Apparently, Eddie and Willie were classmates at Eton College. While he doesn't go into details regarding how he glimpsed the crown jewels, the two played rugby together and, presumably, showered together—as boys in British boarding schools oft do. Since we don't want you to feel left out, you can check out William's willy on BillyMasters.com.



Eddie Redmayne (above) has gotten up close and personal with the future king of England.

Photo of Redmayne in *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them* by Jaap Buitendijk

com—the site fit for a king or a queen.

This is it: the final installment of **Billy's Holiday Gift Giving Suggestions**. Our first gift is not only fashionable but practical. Say you work with a particularly sexy colleague. In most offices, it's frowned upon to touch yourself (or others) inappropriately. But that won't be an issue if you are wearing **The Jerk Shirt**. Yes, it's exactly what you think it is. This shirt has a built-in arm, so you can pleasure yourself without anyone being the wiser—although perhaps the 2.0 model should come equipped with a specimen bottle and a squeegee! Proving the manufacturers are thinking of everyone, the hand comes in a variety of skin tones—light, beige, tan, and dark. Grab one (so to speak) at TheJerkShirt.com. And you can see a video of it in action on BillyMasters.com.

Tippi Hedren was one of the first legendary ladies of the silver screen that I met in Hollywood. And she's also been the most consistently charming. She lights up a room and has a never-ending supply of scintillating stories that involve people from Hollywood's golden age. Even closer to her heart is the Shambala Preserve, which she founded to protect wild animals. She's brought her two passions together. Tippi: A Memoir was just released, and it is a page-turner. And a portion of the proceeds will help continue to fund Shambala for years to come.

One of my favorite people in the world is **Charles Busch**. The legendary trailblazer has been touring the country with former porn god **Tom Judson** entertaining the masses with their cabaret act. So it was only logical that their collaboration was immortalized for all posterity. *Charles Busch Live at Feinstein's/54 Below* just dropped (as the kids say), and it's a captivating collection of songs and stories. Would that it were a DVD. But, well, a CD is better than nothing. What you really ought to do is see the duo live—perhaps at 54 Below on New Year's Eve. But the next best thing is buying this CD at BroadwayRecords.com.

In a very brief "Ask Billy" question, Gary from Chicago writes, "When I saw *Hamilton*, there was a guy in it who looks exactly like **Brent Corrigan**. Is it him?"

You are quite right—the resemblance is remarkable. Alas, it's not Brent Corrigan. The guy in question is **Thayne Jasperson**, who you may remember from his time on *So You Think You Can Dance*. I don't know much about Thayne except he is extraordinarily talented. When he got the chance to play King George II, **Lin-Manuel Miranda tweeted**, "The craziest person in *Hamilton* got to play the craziest part (I love you 4ever @thaynejasperson)." And, yes, Thayne is gay and he's hot, as you will see on BillyMasters.com.

When I'm bringing you the Brent Corrigan of Broadway, it's time to end another column. If you need a last-minute gift that works well with *The Jerk Shirt*, consider giving someone a membership to www.BillyMasters.com, the site that always delivers. Whether you're a member or not, feel free to send your questions to me at Billy@BillyMasters.com and I promise to get back to you before Trump tries to grab Evancho's sister's pussy! Until next time, remember, one man's filth is another man's bible.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Wed., Dec. 21

Youth Work It For youth, ages 13-24, support around job interview etiquette, email etiquette, creating or updating a resume, and researching and applying for vocational or educational opportunities. Free. 3:30pm - 5:00pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted Chicago <http://centeronhalsted.org/newevents-details.cfm?ID=13280>

Genderqueer Chicago A discussion based group for genderqueer and nonbinary transgender related topics, open to all (with the exception of reporters and researchers), but with an emphasis on being an intersectional safer space for nonbinary trans people. 7:00pm - 8:15pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted Chicago <http://centeronhalsted.org/newevents-details.cfm?ID=11456>

Songs From My Holiday Closet "HoliGay" music featuring the original songs of Larry Todd Cousineau. Revue created by the award-winning lyricist, stars LT Cousineau, Ashlee Hardgrave, and Musical Director (and multiple Jeff Award nominee) Jimmy Morehead. The clever tunes feature the music of composers Jake Anthony, Russ Coutinho, Bill Johnson, James Morehead, Cindy O'Connor, Mike O'Mara and Patrick Sinozich. 8:00pm Uptown Underground 4707 N. Broadway, Chicago http://www.uptownunderground.net/ox_portfolio/songs-from-my-closet/

Mom Genes Presents: Moms On Ice! Stand-up from: Adrienne Gunn (the kates), Jerry Tran (Tuxedo Cat Comedy), Addie Blanchard (Sorry Not Sorry, Hellcat Amazons, MKE). Headlining Whitney Chitwood. The Great Ghouldini will serenade with some carols. 8:00pm Cafe



'MISS' TLETOE
Friday, Dec. 23

Entertainer Miss Fozzie will host her holiday special at Charlie's.

Photo courtesy of Miss Fozzie

Mustache, 2313 N. Milwaukee Ave.

Thursday, Dec. 22

Senior Voice Opportunities for new and seasoned LGBTQ advocates to learn from one another and special guest speakers about political, cultural, medical, and socioeconomic concerns of the LGBTQ community. Space limited. Interested patrons must contact Britta Larson, Director Senior Services, at BLarson@CenteronHalsted.org or by phone. 10:00am - 11:30am Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted Chicago 773-472-6469 ext. 445

Friday, Dec. 23

Lincoln Park Zoo Lights LGBT Meetup Organized by LGBT Neighbors In Bridgeport Chicago 6:00pm - 9:00pm Lincoln Park Zoo, 2200 N. Cannon, Chicago <https://www.facebook.com/events/980339265405494/>

Affinity Community Services CAN TV Series 4th Friday of the month discussing the needs of LGBTQ communities of color! 6:30pm - 7:00pm CAN TV

Miss Fozzie Holiday Show She's BACK Miss Fozzie and her Floozies. Holiday Show seating at 11pm. Show will start at 11:30pm. No Cover 11:00pm Charlie's Chicago, 3726 N Broadway; CharliesChicago.com

Saturday, Dec. 24

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

Christmas Eve with Santa The big guy stops by to play with the naughty boys. Touche 6412 N Clark St Chicago <http://http://touchechicago.com>

Sunday, Dec. 25

aChurch4Me Sunday Worship Service A place to find peace, comfort and prayer 11:00am aChurch4Me, 7366 N. Clark St., Chicago <http://www.achurch4me.org>

Monday, Dec. 26

Transworks Peer leaders run a job program for gender non-conforming community members in the John Baran Cyber Center. Walk-ins welcome. Free. 12:00pm - 4:00pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted Chicago <http://centeronhalsted.org/newevents-details.cfm?ID=13271>

Thursday, Dec. 29

Nutcracker Director Ashley Wheater brings unique, inclusive perspective on dance, reflecting the diversity of America with its company, audiences, and repertoire. Through Dec. 30 7:00pm The Joffrey Ballet 10 E Randolph Chicago <http://www.joffrey.org>

Friday, Dec. 30

Charles III Charles. Camilla. William. Kate. Harry. One family holds the future Of Great Britain in its hands. But what will it be? 2015 Olivier Award: Best New Play. Through Jan 14. 7:30pm Chicago Shakespeare Theatre 800 E Grand Ave Chicago 312-595-5600 <http://chicagoshakes.com>

525,600 Minutes: A Cabaret Pride Films and Plays welcomes members of the Chicago Cabaret Professionals. Year-end show includes host Denise McGowan Tracy, Joan Curto, Beckie Menzie at the piano, Jordan Phelps, currently one of the stars of PFP's production of PRISCILLA: Queen of the Desert, Peter Rugar, Sarah Conrad, Filipe Carrasco, and Joseph Alvey. \$35/\$25 7:30pm Pride Arts Center, 4139 N Broadway, Chicago, 1 800 737 0984 <http://pridefilmsandplays.com>

Saturday, Dec. 31

Black & White Party! Back Lot Bash & The L Stop present women's NYE countdown 7:00pm Lark, 3441 N Halsted St., Chicago Tickets: <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/2721532>

New Year's Eve Celebration at Sidetrack Champagne Toast at midnight. \$25 advance tickets available from bartender or online. Doors open 7pm. 7:00pm Sidetrack 3349 N Halsted St Chicago <http://www.sidetrackchicago.com/>

Legacy Project New Year's Eve Benefit General Admission Ticket Registration includes guaranteed entry, party favors, and a complimentary champagne

toast at Midnight 7:00pm - 1:00pm Sidetrack 3349 N Halsted St Chicago Tickets: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/new-years-eve-at-sidetrack-with-the-legacy-project-tickets-29709451770>

D.S. Tequila NYE 2017 Bash Each ticket includes access to the patio, southwestern buffet, 4 hour open bar, party favors, DJ, and more! 8:00pm - 3:00am DS Tequila Company 3352 N Halsted St Chicago Tickets: http://www.dstequila.com/nye-2017.html?mc_cid=d7180c9221&mc_eid=2a3c8a2949

FitzGerald's New Year's Eve party Expo '76 & the Total Pro Horns plus special guest Kelly Hogan (SideBar) 9:30pm FitzGerald's 6615 Roosevelt Rd. Berwyn, IL 60402 <http://www.ticketweb.com/snl/VenueListings.action?venueId=32814&pl=>

Sunday, Jan. 1

aChurch4Me Sunday Worship Service A place to find peace, comfort and prayer 11:00am aChurch4Me, 7366 N. Clark St., Chicago <http://www.achurch4me.org>

Asians & Friends Dim Sum Each first Sunday of the month 12:30pm Furama 4936 N. Broadway Chicago <http://www.afchicago.org>

Thursday, Jan. 5

Bowie Ball Celebrate the legend, the chameleon, and the man... David Bowie. Glam it up, dress like a dandy and love the alien with some glitter on top. Performances by: Lucky Stiff, Discord Addams, Queerella, Kat Sass. Mistress of Ceremonies: Lucy Stooles. DJs Heaven Malone, Mae West. Bowieoke at midnight. Reduced cover till 11pm 10:00pm - 4:00am Berlin Nightclub 954 W Belmont Ave Chicago Tickets: <http://BowieBall.com>

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