

WINDY  
CITY  
TIMES

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

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EDIE WINDSOR

Icon is among notable LGBT passages of 2017.  
Photo of Windsor and with Jim Obergefell in  
Philadelphia in 2015 by Tracy Baim

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NEW DIRECTION

Leather Archives & Museum welcomes  
new director, Gary Wasdin.  
Photo courtesy of Wasdin

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GOING SOLO

Jamie Black among those  
in one-person shows.  
PR photo

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David Munar (left) and Mario Treto of Howard Brown.  
Photo by Matt Simonette



TALKIN' 'BOUT  
AN EVOLUTION

PAGE 8

Howard Brown Health leaders plan for future



HOT LEATHER

Film spotlights Tom of Finland

PAGE 18

Actor Pekka Strang as Touko Laaksonen in the film Tom of Finland.  
Photo by Josef Persson



## WELCOME, DR. BRIAN ROSETT!

Dr. Brian Rosett is excited to come home to Chicago to join Shifrin Plastic Surgery. An accomplished surgeon, Dr. Rosett has performed thousands of cases and has a proven track record of helping patients realize their best vision of themselves.

His return to the Midwest comes after an advanced fellowship in Los Angeles, where he worked with some of the very best surgeons in Beverly Hills. There, he also subsequently trained with one of the most regarded facial plastic surgeons in the United States, honing his aesthetic surgical skill and brings many of the field's newest techniques back to the Midwest.

During his plastic surgery training at the University of Illinois-Chicago, Dr. Rosett performed nearly twice the number of cases required by the American Board of Plastic Surgery, affording him a broad range of operating competency in the realms of both aesthetic and

reconstructive surgery.

Additionally, his medical background includes five years of general surgery residency at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit and medical school at Rush University in Chicago. Having grown up in the Windy City, he brings an earnest Midwestern sensibility to both the office and the operating room.

At the center of his medical philosophy is the belief that strong communication leads to the best outcomes. From consultation all the way through post-operative recovery you can expect Dr. Rosett to be engaged and easily accessible for any questions or concerns.

His patients often remark that his kindness and demeanor helped ease the stress and fear that can sometimes come with surgery. Dr. Rosett's hope for every patient is a surgical success that boosts their self-esteem allowing them to live more confident and fulfilling lives.



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Above: WCT reviews the production Bye, Bye, Liver.  
Photo by Patrick Lothian

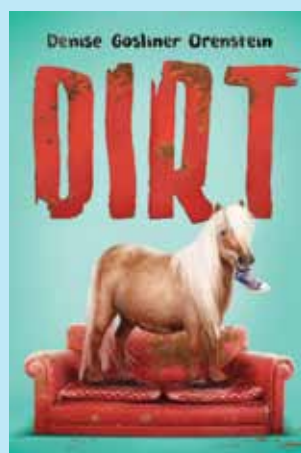
online exclusives at  
[www.WindyCityTimes.com](http://www.WindyCityTimes.com)



## DOCTOR, DOCTOR

WCT's "In the Life" series profiles local fertility specialist Dr. Juan Alvarez (left).  
Publicity photo

## SEASON'S READINGS



WCT takes a look at the best fiction, non-fiction and kids' books of 2017.

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## MASTERS OF TEXT

Billy Masters starts the year with gossip and his trademark humor.

## THAT'S SHOW BIZ

Find out the latest about Manila Luzon, Ben Platt and Marvel Comics.

plus  
**DAILY BREAKING NEWS**



# Looking back: National news of 2017

COMPILED BY ANDREW DAVIS

The past year was jam-packed with events and people that ranged from the seemingly trivial to the life-altering. Here's a rundown of some of them that affected/involved the LGBTQ+ community:

—**#MeToo:** In October, publications reported that film producer Harvey Weinstein allegedly lured women into hotel rooms and bars, and sexually harassed or assaulted them—and actress Alyssa Milano (one of Weinstein's accusers) started a movement by women and men who posted stories of being the victims of sexual harassment or assault, all using the hashtag #MeToo. By the year's end, dozens of powerful men in entertainment, business, politics and the news media (involving everyone from Kevin Spacey—who made the mistake of coming out as gay while being charged with pedophilia—to Matt Lauer) have been publicly condemned for alleged misconduct.

—**Trump card:** Donald Trump was sworn in as the 45th president of the United States on Jan. 20, stressing the "America First" mantra that led him to defeat Hillary Clinton in November 2016. Trump, of course, proved to be extremely controversial, earning the ire of most of the LGBTQ+ community for declaring a ban on transgender individuals serving in the military and backing homophobic Republican U.S. Senate candidate Roy Moore from Alabama. However, courts have ruled that trans individuals could openly serve as of Jan. 1, 2018, and Democrat Doug Jones defeated Moore in a December 2017 special election.)



South Bend, Indiana, Mayor Pete Buttigieg. PR image



Officer Crystal Griner, who helped save lives in Virginia.

—**March on:** The day after Trump's inauguration, more than 600 women's marches took place around the world, including one in Washington, D.C., that drew approximately a half-million individuals.

—**Moonlight sonata:** In one of the biggest Oscars snafus ever, presenters Warren Beatty and Faye Dunaway bungled the awarding of the Best Picture Academy Award, naming *La La Land* as the winner, when it was actually *Moonlight*—a film that focused on a Black gay man.

—**Being first:** New York City native Sara Kelly Keenan (who prefers female pronouns) was granted the first intersex birth certificate in the United States.

—**Chelsea lately:** Before leaving office, President Barack Obama commuted Chelsea Manning's sentence for disclosing classified information that raised public awareness regarding the impact of war on innocent civilians. Manning, a transgender woman, was in the seventh year of a 35-year sentence and was in an all-male prison.

—**Senseless:** Almost 30 transgender individuals were murdered in the United States in 2017. Among the victims (almost all of whom were individuals of color) were Jamie Lee Wounded Arrow, JoJo Striker, Kenne McFadden, Chay Reed, TeeTee Dangerfield, Stephanie Montez and Brandi Seals.

—**Dear, Mr. President:** In an open letter to President-elect Trump, 156 elected officials expressed grave concerns about his Cabinet appointees, and implored Trump to "be a president for all Americans." The letter was signed by U.S. Reps. Sean Patrick Maloney and Mark Pocan, as well as openly LGBT mayors, state legislators, city councilmembers and other LGBT elected officials.

—**Scout standing:** The Boy Scouts of America said it would begin accepting members based on their gender identity, allowing transgender boys to join. Previously, the organization relied on an individual's birth certificate to determine eligibility for its single-gender programs. The new policy took effect immediately, and affected Cub and

Boy scout troops.

—**Heavens to Betsy:** Betsy DeVos was confirmed as the U.S. secretary of education thanks to a tie-breaking vote in the U.S. Senate courtesy of Vice-President Mike Pence. Pro-LGBT groups criticized the confirmation, as DeVos did not directly answer (during her confirmation hearing) if she would take action if religious schools expelled LGBT students. Later in the year, she rescinded the Obama-era Title IX guidance to schools on dealing with sexual assault on campus.

—**Backlash:** President Trump cited violence against LGBT people as part of his justification for signing an executive order that would bar people from several Muslim-dominated countries from entering the U.S. for at least 120 days. However, immigration-rights activists would have none of that, as protests sprang up across the country. Just before Christmas, U.S. District Judge James Robart imposed a nationwide injunction that blocks restrictions on reuniting refugee families and partially lifted a ban on refugees from 11 mostly Muslim countries.

—**Out of Sessions:** Jeff Sessions was confirmed as the U.S. attorney general—another move that elicited criticism from the LGBT community. Among other things, Sessions had repeatedly supported laws that criminalize LGBT activity, using discriminatory laws to harass LGBTQ Alabamans and blasting the *Lawrence v. Texas* decision, which finally ended the criminalization of same-sex relationships.

—**For Pete's sake:** Openly gay South Bend, Indiana, Mayor Pete Buttigieg withdrew his bid to lead the Democratic National Committee—a race Tom Perez ultimately won—acknowledging his steep odds of winning and saying he wants to help unite the party.

—**Grimm news:** The United States Supreme Court, on March 6, sent a closely watched case involving trans student Gavin Grimm back to a lower court. The court was scheduled to hear *Gloucester County School Board v. G. G.* March 28, but remanded the case to the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, asking the appellate court to reconsider the case "in light of the guidance document issued by the Department of Education and Department of Justice on February 22, 2017." Grimm vowed to keep fighting.

—**Rocky Mountain high:** A federal district court judge ruled that a Boulder County property owner violated both the federal Fair Housing Act and the Colorado Anti-Discrimination Act when she refused to rent a housing unit to Lambda Legal clients Rachel and Tonya Smith, a same-sex couple, one of whom is transgender, and their children.

—**Fair and Jess:** The Democratic National Committee (DNC), for the first time ever, hired an out lesbian at its chief executive officer, appointing the former head of EMILY's List to the top leadership position. The DNC named Jess O'Connell as CEO after she served four years at EMILY's List, which seeks to elect pro-choice women to public office.

—**Going, going, gone:** Six members of the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS (PACHA), on June 13, resigned from their posts, citing President Donald Trump's supposed indifference to the issue as their reason. Among those council members was Scott Schoettes, who is

counsel and HIV project director for Lambda Legal. In late December, fired the remaining members of PACHA, reportedly informing them without explanation with a letter delivered by FedEx.

—**Life saver:** One of the two members of the U.S. Capitol police credited with preventing a June 13 shooting on an Alexandria, Virginia, baseball field from turning into a massacre is a member of the LGBTQ community. According to a White House pool report, President and First Lady Melania Trump "met with Capitol Police Officer Crystal Griner and her wife, [receiving a] bouquet of flowers." Officer David Bailey was the other policeman.

—**Law and border:** A group of 16 transgender and gay migrants from Central America on Aug. 10 sought asylum in the United States. The migrants—from Nicaragua, Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala and Mexico—called themselves the first Trans Gay Migrant Caravan of 2017. They left Mexico City and walked and used buses and other forms of transportation to travel to Nogales, Mexico, which is on the Arizona-Mexico border.

—**Tragedy in Virginia:** On Aug. 12, a rally turned tragic in Charlottesville, Virginia, as hundreds of white nationalists, Ku Klux Klan members and neo-Nazis clashed with counterprotestors—and a car plowed into crowds, killing one counterprotestor and injuring 19 others. Va. Gov. Terry McAuliffe declared a state of emergency during the "United the Right" rally, and LGBT groups decried the violence.

—**Wes slide:** A married Republican lawmaker with a long history of campaigning against LGBT rights resigned after being caught having sex with another man in his office. Wes Goodman, a congressman from Ohio, has trumpeted his support for "a committed natural marriage," which he defined as a heterosexual union.

—**End of the line:** The U.S. Supreme Court ruled that it would not hear lesbian Jameka Evans' employment discrimination case, which would have provided a test of whether federal law against sex discrimination applies to sexual orientation as well.

—**Natural election:** In November, 55 percent of the 72 openly LGBT candidates in national elections won their races. These included lesbian Jenny Durkan, who handily won election as mayor of Seattle (replacing openly gay mayor Ed Murray who resigned in September after allegations surfaced from five men who said Murray sexually abused them as teenagers); and Danica Roem, a trans candidate who won a stunning victory to the Virginia House of Delegates against a long-time incumbent who had made a name for himself trying to ban transgender people from public restrooms. Also, Minneapolis made history, making Andrea Jenkins the first openly trans woman ever elected to the city council of a major U.S. city.

—**Not a piece of cake:** During oral arguments for *Masterpiece Cakeshop v. Colorado*, U.S. Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy appeared to favor the idea that a business could simply claim a vague religious belief hostile to LGBT people to gain a right to refuse service to them. The decision in that case—and future prospects for Kennedy's record on LGBT record—will be revealed sometime in 2018.

See the entire list of national events online at [WindyCityMediaGroup.com](http://WindyCityMediaGroup.com).

# Looking back: World news of 2017

COMPILED BY ANDREW DAVIS

—**Channel one:** South Africa's first LGBT video-on-demand (VOD) channel launched. PrideTV content manager Joanne Raphael Katz said, "PrideTV reverses the trend to restrict access to LGBT themes by South African and African broadcasters."

—**Game over:** The quadrennial World OutGames (to be held in Miami) was cancelled May 26—the day before the opening ceremonies were to be held—with hundreds or thousands of participants en route or already in South Florida. Social media was abuzz with irate, profanity-spewing participants from around the world who were upset about the cancellation.

—**Nikki situation:** In reaction to Nikki Haley's confirmation as the United States ambassador to the United Nations, OutRight examined her responses to questions during her Senate confirmation hearing and questions for the record about protecting LGBTI rights internationally, a press release stated. Jessica Stern, executive director of OutRight Action International, said in part, "I am reassured that Governor Haley condemned discrimination on any basis. ... At the same time, I can't help but notice that Governor Haley didn't

say the words lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or intersex."

—**By George:** Darren Salter—senior coroner for Oxfordshire, United Kingdom—stated that late singer George Michael died from natural causes. The "Faith" singer, 53, was found at his home on Christmas Day 2016, and apparently had a heart condition.

—**(Hong) Kong of the road:** Hong Kong was chosen to host Gay Games 2022, edging Washington, D.C. and Guadalajara, Mexico. Paris is hosting the games in August 2018, and the Federation of Gay Games convened to hear the pitches of the finalists and make a selection in the French capital.

—**Chechnya crisis:** Human Rights Watch reported that authorities in Chechnya rounded up, beat, and humiliated dozens of gay or bisexual men in an apparent effort to purge them from Chechen society. Chechen leader Ramzan Kadyrov denied the wrongdoing. U.S. Ambassador Nikki Haley was among those condemning the attacks.

—**French twist:** Xavier Jugele—the 37-year-old police officer murdered in the April 20 Islamic State attack on Paris' Champs-Élysées—was openly gay and an advocate for LGBTQ rights.

—**Out of Africa:** Nigerian prosecutors charged



Artem Kolesov.

Photo by Andrew Davis

53 men with conspiracy to organize a gay wedding and related crimes punishable by up to 14 years in jail.

—**I'm coming out:** Artem Kolesov, first violinist of Chicago's Yas Quartet, was outraged by reports of gay oppression in Chechnya—so he decided to publish a video testament on being young, Russian and gay.

—**Leo, political:** Leo Varadkar assumed office as Ireland's Taoiseach, after a confirmation vote in his favor. Varadkar was elected as leader of the governing political party Fine Gael, replacing Enda Kenny, who departed the role after 15 years. As he took office, the new leader (who is Indian) became only the fourth openly gay head of government in recent global history.

—**It's still standing:** The Elton John AIDS Foundation, marking its 25th anniversary, raised more than \$4.3 million at its 2017 annual New York Fall Gala to support HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, supporting services, and advocacy programs across the United States, the Americas and the Caribbean.

—**Talking 'bout a resolution:** All 193 United Nations member-states adopted the Olympic Truce Resolution maintaining language protecting against discrimination based on sexual orientation. The resolution—which passed by consensus—included the contested reference to non-discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation in the Olympic Charter.

—**Back and forth:** In May, Bermuda approved same-sex marriage. However, by December, a bill to ban same-sex marriage and establish domestic partnerships was passed by the parliament—and now awaits a signature from the governor.

—**With this ring:** After years of debate, Australia's Parliament has voted to legalize same-sex marriage, becoming the 24th country in the world to do so. By the end of the year, the continent witnessed its first same-sex wedding.

See the entire list of world events online at [WindyCityMediaGroup.com](http://WindyCityMediaGroup.com).

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## WINDY CITY TIMES

Windy City Times is collecting reader input for the upcoming 2018 election primary in Illinois.

This data includes reader priorities on the races, the issues, and a straw poll on the governor's race.

The survey link is here, and deadline is Jan. 15, one survey per person:

<https://tinyurl.com/WCTReaderSurvey>

If you are a candidate for any office in Illinois, we also invite you to complete one of our two candidate surveys.

For all candidates except judicial, deadline Jan. 10:

<https://tinyurl.com/WCT2018Survey>

For all judicial candidates, deadline Jan. 10:

<https://tinyurl.com/WCTJudicialSurvey>



# 2017: Local LGBT passages

COMPILED BY MATT SIMONETTE

Chicagoan Richard W. Burke died peacefully at his home on Jan. 17 from complications due to multiple system atrophy. He was 66.

Olga "Augie" Flanigan, of Augie & C.K.'s Bar, passed away unexpectedly Feb. 5. The bar, an important part of lesbian life for years, was located at 3726 N. Broadway.

Yvonne Hudson, a co-founder in 1965 of the Black women's group Sons of Sappho, at the time one of the only organizations for gay women on the South Side, died in February. She was 80.

Fernando Ponce Jr.—or "Junior," as his family and friends called him—died on March 9 of complications resulting from leukemia. He was 19.

Longtime Touche bartender Alan H. Portnoff passed away on March 10 after a prolonged battle following heart surgery. He was 66.

Joseph W. Sikorovsky, a 20-year Lake View resident, passed away March 12. He was 60.

John Cepek—an LGBT ally, through the group PFLAG, formerly known as Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, who suffered a brain injury Feb. 27 while traveling with his wife Char—died March 15 at age 69.

Chuck Hyde, 55, a longtime general manager of Sidetrack bar in Chicago, passed away April 6 in Florida of heart disease.

Mel Wilson, 74, one of the co-founders of the Oak Park Lesbian and Gay Association, died in April after a years-long battle with severe pulmonary disease. He was among the most important LGBTQ activists in Oak Park history, having helped make that west suburban village among the most progressive in the state.

Flavio Acosta, who among other accomplishments, a deacon at Good Shepherd Parish Metropolitan Community Church, passed away May 21

in Aurora, Illinois. He was 86.

Jerry Dean Bowman, 62, of Springfield, died June 3. Bowman was a leader and pioneer in the statewide efforts to secure marriage equality.

Chuck Renslow, 87, died in June after multiple long-term health issues. Renslow reigned over a seven-decade empire, starting more than two dozen businesses—bars, discos, photo studios, health clubs, bathhouses, gay magazines and newspapers, hotels, restaurants and bookstores. He fostered organizations and dealt with Mafia and police payoffs, the Chicago Machine, anti-gay government policies, and controversy within the gay community.

Leather activist Daddy Orchid (Drea) passed away in 2017. Daddy Orchid was a scholar, teacher, published author, and community patron whose quiet support and keen wisdom has at various times undergirded the lives and work of individuals and groups in the many outposts of the Leather world that she touched.

Jeremy Begy, an original member of the Chicago Dragons gay rugby team, passed away at his North Side residence on July 18. He was 41.

Thomas Spencer Duffield Bowyer, 83, "Spence" or "Bow," passed away peacefully on Aug. 4 in Chicago.

John Charles Power, 74, died Aug. 23. Power was active in Chicago gay rights and social service organizations, among other accomplishments in advancing LGBT equality.

Donald Dennis Virgil Jr., "Donnie," 51, a longtime Lake View resident, server and bartender, most recently at Second Story Bar, passed away unexpectedly Sept. 5.

David Wilshire—who, at one point, owned Chicago's Cheetah Gym—passed away in California, where he had been living for several years, on Sept. 5.



**Chuck Renslow.**

WCT archival photo

Scott Barnes died Sept. 9 while at the Out at the Park Six Flags Great America event in the Chicago suburbs. He was 50. Barnes was the web content specialist and SEO editor for the American Medical Association (AMA) and a renowned professional photographer.

Longtime North End manager and bartender George Nichols passed away Sept. 12. He was remembered by friends and loved ones as someone who could put people at ease and had "the gift of gab."

Karen Knudstrup passed away Sept. 16 at age 78. Knudstrup was a Chicago Symphony chorister and an opera singer with Lyric Opera of Chicago as well as a teacher at Phillips and Marshall High Schools and Kenwood Academy.

Pastor Megan Jane Jones, 49, co-director of the Naming Project—whose mission is to create places of safety for youth of all sexual orientations and gender identities where faith is shared and healthy life-giving community is modeled—passed away unexpectedly Sept. 19.

Chicagoan William "Bill" Gutrich, 67, passed away Sept. 29 at his home after a short fight against cancer.

Russell "Russ" Pryga, 52, died Sept. 30; he was 52. He spent many hours volunteering at "GroceryLand," a food pantry for those with HIV/AIDS, and other charitable organizations to ensure he helped make a difference to those in need.

Scott Reichelsdorf died Oct. 24 from Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD). He was 57. Reichelsdorf was the event planner at J&L Catering, where he produced several galas and events.

Darlene R. Stille, 75, died Oct. 28 of colon cancer in New Buffalo, Michigan. She and her partner of 40 years, Cynthia Marquard, lived together in Chicago for many years and were instrumental

parts of the LGBT business, philanthropic and advocacy communities.

Donalou Hendon, 46, died Nov. 10. Hendon was the co-owner of Forest View Lounge Bar and Grill in Forest View, Illinois with her life partner of 16 years, Marge Bellisario.

Kelsey Murphy Miles, 26, cherished daughter of Kay Miles and Deb Murphy, passed away unexpectedly Nov. 12, 2017, in Los Angeles. She and her mothers were part of a precedent-setting case in Illinois adoption history. In 1995, the family, joined by another family, helped win the right of unmarried couples to have the same adoption rights as single parents and heterosexual married couples.

Martin "Marty" Enright, 85, died Nov. 29 of pancreatic cancer. Enright, along with his partner George Brophy, co-owned iconic western casual-themed Buddies' Restaurant & Bar in on Clark Street in Lake View.

World War II veteran Ed Zasdil died peacefully at home on Dec. 8 at the age of 93. Zasdil enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1943 at the age of 18 and served with the U.S. Army Band during his two years. He was a long time member and past treasurer of the Chicago Chapter of the American Veterans for Equal Rights (AVER).



## PASSAGES

### Gerald Eisel

Gerald Lester Eisel, an architect, passed away Dec. 23, 2017, peacefully at home. He was 75.

He was the beloved husband/partner of 36 years to James Kevin Custard; and the dear brother of Marilyn Harris, Dan (Donna) Eisel, Greg (the late Barbara) Eisel and Kathy (Chuck) Marshall. Gerald was also a loving uncle, cousin and friend.

He was preceded in death by siblings Howard (Teresa), Jackie, Bob (Louise), Vicki (Robert) and Karen.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in his name to the American Cancer Society, Cancer.org, or to Chicago's local PBS affiliate at WTTW.org.

There will be a celebration of Gerald's life on Saturday, Jan. 13, 4-7 p.m. (remembrances begin 5 p.m.) at the family home.

For information contact Cremation Society of Illinois at 773-281-5058 or Cremation-society.com.

# Notable 2017 national deaths

COMPILED BY ANDREW DAVIS

—**Bishop Eddie Long:** Long, the controversial leader of one of the nation's largest megachurches, died at age 63. He was a preacher who led an infamous march against same-sex marriage and denounced homosexuality. However, in 2010, he also settled a lawsuit filed by four young men who said he pressured them into sexual relationships; terms of the settlement were never disclosed.

—**Stuart Timmons:** Timmons—known for chronicling the history of gay Los Angeles in the book *Gay L. A.: A History of Sexual Outlaws, Power Politics, and Lipstick Lesbians*, co-authored with Lillian Faderman—died Jan. 14 at age 60.

—**William A. Norris:** Norris—a former federal appeals court judge who, in 1989, wrote an iconic ruling on gay rights (in the case *Watkins v. United States Army*), long before same-sex marriage entered the lexicon—died at age 89.

—**Gilbert Baker:** Baker—best known for creating the LGBT symbol known as the rainbow flag—died in his sleep in New York City's Harlem neighborhood at age 65. Baker's first flag (which had eight colors, but which now has six, after pink and turquoise were dropped) flew over the 1978 Pride festivities in San Francisco.

—**Lil Peep:** Rapper Lil Peep died at age 21. The musician, who came out as bisexual in August, amassed a cult following for his genre-melding of hip hop and emo music, and released his debut album *Come Over When You're Sober (Part One)* in August.

—**Michelle Rounds:** Rosie O'Donnell's ex-wife died at age 46 of an apparent suicide.

—**Sheila Abdus-Salaam:** The first African-American woman to serve on New York state's

highest court was found dead in the Hudson River. She was 65.

—**Edie Windsor:** Windsor, a lesbian activist who was a pioneer for LGBT rights and brought down the anti-gay Defense of Marriage Act, died at age 88. Windsor was best known for being the plaintiff in the lawsuit that led to U.S. Supreme Court's landmark decision in 2013 striking down the Defense of Marriage Act, which prohibited federal recognition of same-sex marriage. That ruling was the precursor for the 2015 Obergefell decision extending marriage equality nationwide.

—**Hugh Hefner:** Hefner—the famous and controversial Chicago-born *Playboy* magazine editor who for decades threw lavish parties, lived a glamorous Hollywood life, and interacted with celebrities, civil-rights leaders and journalists—died at age 91. Hefner was also known as an advocate, fighting for LGBT, women's and civil rights and taking public stances on such issues as marriage equality and transgender rights.

—**Pastor Megan Jane Jones:** Jones, 49, was co-director of the Naming Project, whose mission is to create places of safety for youth of all sexual orientations and gender identities where faith is shared and healthy life-giving community is modeled.

—**Charles Shively:** Shively, one of the pivotal figures in the Gay Liberation Movement, died at the Cambridge Rehabilitation and Nursing Home, in Cambridge, Massachusetts, at age 79. At the 1977 Boston Gay Pride march, Shively became infamous for his burning of the Bible—as well as his insurance policy, Harvard diploma, and teaching contract—as a protest against oppressive institutions.

—**Debra Chasnoff:** Academy Award-winning documentary filmmaker and activist Chasnoff,



Wanda Sykes, Judy Shepard and Edie Windsor (who passed away in 2017) in Philadelphia in 2015. Photo by Tracy Baim

60, died of metastatic breast cancer at her home in San Francisco. Known as "Chas" by almost everyone, she was nationally known as a visionary filmmaker and an LGBTQ rights champion as well as a social-justice educator.

—**John Paul De Cecco:** De Cecco, a professor emeritus at San Francisco State University and longtime scholar in the field of human sexuality, died at his home at age 92.

—**Liz Smith:** Longtime gossip columnist Smith, who started her column at the *New York Daily News* more than four decades ago, died at age 94. She came out as bisexual in her 2000 memoir *Natural Blonde*—something she dubbed "gender neutrality." Among other honors, GLAAD awarded her with its Vito Russo Award in 2001; she won an Emmy for her reporting in 1985.

—**Jim Nabors:** Jim Nabors—a singer/actor best known to many as the lovable television

character Gomer Pyle—died in Hawaii at age 87. Nabors' husband, Stan Cadwallader, confirmed the death to the Associated Press.

—**Nelsan Ellis:** Ellis, best known for playing gay cook Lafayette Reynolds on HBO's *True Blood*, died at age 39. Ellis, who was born in Harvey, Illinois, was also in the Oscar Best Picture nominee *The Help* alongside Octavia Spencer, Viola Davis and Emma Stone.

—**Cardinal Bernard Law:** Law—the former archbishop of Boston whose failure to stop priests from molesting children led to the worst crisis in U.S. Catholicism—died in Rome, where he was archpriest of the Basilica of St. Mary Major, at age 86. The pope said nothing about Law's death during his weekly general audience; also, in a condolence letter, he made no direct mention of the cardinal's tenure in Boston.



## Self-Empowerment Group

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# Howard Brown Health's CEO, board president speak on its evolution

BY MATT SIMONETTE

When David Munar took the reins at Howard Brown Health in 2014, the health agency was recovering from an extended period fraught with management issues, financial difficulties and low employee morale. Under Munar's watch, Howard Brown Health eventually received a coveted Federally Qualified Health Center designation.

The agency could now compete for funds that, along with additional monies made possible by the Affordable Care Act, brought on an aggressive expansion greatly increasing the organization's footprint across the Chicago region.

Windy City Times spoke with Munar and Howard Brown Health Board President Mario Treto, who began his term in 2017, to discuss the work that has gone into the agency, and the work that lies ahead.

**Windy City Times: David, how has Howard Brown changed in the time you've been here?**

David Munar: Our system of care has certainly improved. We're seeing more people. We've more than doubled in size in terms of patients relying on Howard Brown for services. We've improved the financial standing of the organization and are in a better position financially. We actually have about 54 days of cash on hand in reserves, which is one measure of operating revenue. Services and staff size have increased. We're citywide, with sites from Rogers Park to the South Side. We've also earned recognition from the federal government, approving Howard Brown as a Federally Qualified Health Center, which is a notable

distinction that has also helped us grow dramatically.

**WCT: After your hiring, there was a great deal of excitement since the Affordable Care Act (ACA) was on its way, and that would help fuel much of Howard Brown's expansion along with the accreditations. How do you see this current hostility toward the ACA from the federal government, and work your way around that?**

DM: The uncertainty around federal policy on ACA appropriations has been constant, particularly since the presidential election. We've been monitoring [both] policy development and funding development closely. It's been difficult to predict, at least from the business side.

About 35 percent of our patients have Medicaid. Not all of them are ACA-expansion, but the majority are. We've done some scenario-planning around that. If the Medicaid expansion were to go away, that could mean a loss in revenue for us of 10 or 15 percent. It could be anywhere around a 9 million [dollar] loss of services. It's a worry, and we have been thinking about how we would reposition ourselves around that. A 10 percent loss in revenue would mean fewer services.

**WCT: Mario, what made you decide to join the board and eventually become its president?**

Mario Treto: I'd moved back to Chicago and went to my old health provider and had an unpleasant experience when I'd decided to come out to them. I did some research on my own—I was living in the suburbs at the time—and I was



Howard Brown Health's David Munar (left) and Mario Treto.  
Photo by Matt Simonette

looking for a place that provided LGBTQ culturally competent health care. I was fortunate to find Dr. Al Torrence's name, so I set up a visit with him, and was really just blown away by the quality of care that I received. I saw him as his patient for a while, and then, after a few visits, he asked if I'd ever thought about joining the Howard Brown Health board. The thought hadn't occurred to me at the time. I did some research and applied.

When it was time for Duke [Alden, the previous board president] to step down, I did some self-reflection and thought it was a good way to step up my service in volunteering for the organization. Also it was a way to work with good-quality people on the board and the executive leadership team.

**WCT: How has Broadway Youth Center been doing in its new location?**

DM: The BYC's new home has been phenomenal. It has achieved and exceeded what we've wanted it to do. One of the motivating factors to move BYC was that we had insufficient space, and the wrong kind of space.... It was not sufficient for what we needed. So we built out the space to provide all our service-lines concurrently.

MT: It really becomes a one-stop shop and really shows our commitment to focusing on LGBT youth and the youth of our community. If you look at it from an architectural standpoint, it's bright, warm and inviting—it really encourages people to stop by.

**WCT: Speak a bit about the women's health operations here.**

DM: Our strategic plan makes a commitment to reinvigorate women's health. We have a new women's health director, Amy Miller, who's very dynamic. We've been doing drop-in nights—evening hours, no appointment needed—where we do all our clinical lines, social services and

cultural services. ... Our strategic plan asks the organization how we should be reaching out to expand those services, particularly through the LGBT community, so we've been working with the Morten Group [consultancy] to do a needs assessment.

**WCT: How have services for transgender and intersex persons progressed?**

DM: We just completed a five-year project with the federal government, focusing on systems of care to support care-adherence for transgender women of color living with HIV. These were pilot programs developing service models that could be replicated after the grant ends. Through that, we have integrated trans cultural competency throughout the entire agency. ... We're now seeing about 3,500 trans patients in clinic—about 10 percent of our patient base identifies as transgender of gender non-conforming.

**WCT: David when you took over, interventions such as PrEP [pre-exposure prophylaxis] and TasP [Treatment as Prevention] were not as well-known as they are now. How have those affected the HIV-treatment and -prevention strategies at Howard Brown?**

DM: Our HIV program has really flourished, and it follows the scientific progress around HIV. Today we're one of the nation's leading prescribers of PrEP, and we've seen some data that says, on a national basis, we're about 10 percent of PrEP prescriptions in the country. Chicago is doing much better at helping people who are at risk of infection benefit from PrEP. Howard Brown has really been at the core of that. We've about 4,000 patients we've started on PrEP, and we do a lot of PrEP counseling. At the beginning, it was about whether PrEP is a good choice; now it's mostly

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## Trump fires remaining HIV/AIDS council members

BY MATT SIMONETTE

President Donald Trump has fired all of the members the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS without explanation, according to reports.

Chicago-based Lambda Legal attorney Scott Schoettes, who had previously resigned from the council along with several other members, posted to Twitter on Dec. 28 that the remaining members of the council had been let go.

Schoettes said on the post, "Remaining #HIV/AIDS council members booted by @realDonaldTrump. No respect for their service. Dangerous that #Trump and Co. (Pence esp.) are eliminating few remaining people willing to push back against harmful policies, like abstinence-only sex ed."

The move is not unprecedented for a presidential administration, but one of the newly-terminated council members questioned the timing in an interview with Washington Blade.

"It is common for appointees to be terminated and for folks to kind of want their own people in," said Gabriel Maldonado, CEO of the Riverside, Calif.-based LGBT and HIV/AIDS group Trueevolution. "I think where the discrepancy comes in is why a year later, No. 1? Two, many of us, our terms were over earlier this year and we were sworn back in, and three were stayed on nearly four months after an executive order was signed

continuing the council."

Health providers and advocates in late December were alarmed by reported suggestions to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) discouraging the use of several terms and words, among them "transgender" and "evidence-based," so HIV/AIDS advocates will surely be watching the Trump administration's next actions regarding the council closely.

Washington Blade's article on the firings is at <http://bit.ly/2DuyTW6>.

## Second court rejects Trump trans military delay

A new ruling (issued Dec. 22) dealt another blow to the Trump administration's efforts to bar transgender people from joining the military starting Jan. 1.

The new D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals order came a day after the Virginia-based 4th Circuit similarly rejected the Trump administration's request to block U.S. District Judge Colleen Kollar-Kotelly's ruling allowing the enlistment.

Trump announced over the summer transgender troops would no longer be allowed in the military.

In a statement, GLAD Transgender Rights Project Director Jennifer Levi said, "There is no justification for any more delay. The military is ready, the country is ready, and the courts have weighed in. Qualified transgender people are ready to sign up and risk their lives in defense of the nation. Our country needs them. It's time to let them

serve."

"Today is a significant victory for transgender service members across the country," said Equality California Executive Director Rick Zbur in a separate statement. "We thank our brave plaintiffs, our lawyers at the National Center for Lesbian Rights (NCLR), GLBTQ Legal Advocates & Defenders (GLAD) and Latham & Watkins LLP, and Attorney General Xavier Becerra for this win. This ruling along with the others in similar cases affirms the fact that transgender troops deserve to be treated with honor, dignity and respect."

## Town Hall Apartments to open waiting list

Heartland Housing and Center on Halsted have announced that on Saturday, Jan. 13, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., the waiting list will open for Town Hall Apartments, the Midwest region's first LGBTQ-friendly, affordable senior housing development.

This is the first time the waiting list has been opened since the launch of Town Hall Apartments, located at 3600 N. Halsted St., in September 2014.

According to a press release from the Center on Halsted, "The need for LGBTQ-friendly senior housing was proven when Town Hall originally reached full occupancy within the first two weeks of opening in 2014. In addition, Heartland Housing received more than 400 applications during that first year.

"The announcement to open the waiting list has been greatly anticipated by the more than 50,000 LGBTQ seniors in Chicagoland, of which

approximately one in five live in poverty."

The Center's Senior Program resides in the first floor of Town Hall, which used to be a police station.

Interested persons are urged to bring current and valid identification to register for the waiting list.

## HOWARD BROWN from page 8

about the insurance and the financing.

**WCT: What vision do you each have for Howard Brown over the course of the next five years, with and without an ACA?**

**DM:** Howard Brown will continue, with or without it. The amount of charity care we provide and the range of services we provide may be affected if there is no ACA, but we also still believe that there is bipartisan support for the community health center networks across the country, because we're one of 4,000 around the country. There may be changes, but we're braced for change.

**MT:** It was exciting to open up our Englewood and Hyde Park locations. There was a need we were able to meet by expanding down south. My personal goal would be to expand to the West Side. ... I'm excited that we're going to be open to a new location in Fall of 2018 in Humboldt Park, to reach out to other community members. In continuing these relationships, we're pretty fortunate to have elected officials who are supportive of Howard Brown, as well as [other] community members and companies.

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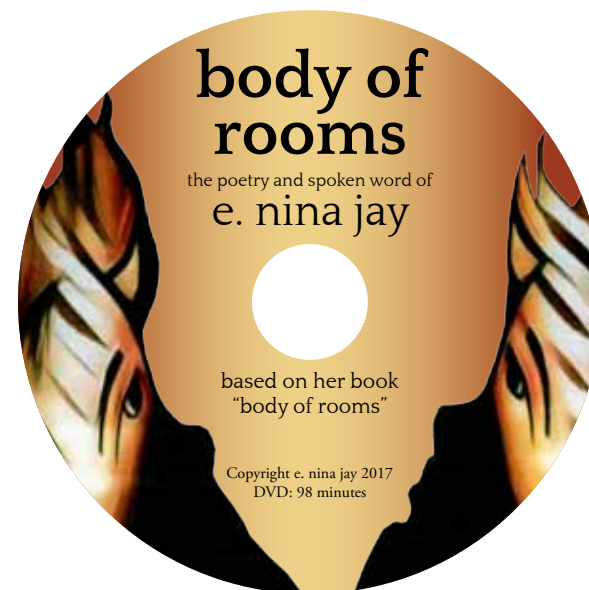
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**e. nina jay** is a Black, Lesbian, Woman Writer who uses poetry as a tool of survival & to break silences around all forms of violence against gurls & womyn, with particular focus on the intersections of race, sexuality & poverty. As a survivor of incest & rape, e nina jay believes womyn & gurls can create powerful community to fight against the violence and constant degradation that weaves itself into every facet of our lives, by breaking silences and unraveling shame.



## viewpoints


**Robert  
GAROFALO**

## Words have consequences

Words matter in science—and in politics. We recently heard deeply troubling stories about the possible censorship of words at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). For many of us in the HIV/AIDS community, this is not the first time words have been used to marginalize and divide us. In 2003, I was a new faculty member at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine and Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago (then Children's Memorial Hospital). I had just submitted my first grant application to the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to study the health risk behaviors and HIV prevention needs of LGBT youth, specifically young gay men. At that time, very few people were doing NIH-funded work in this area.

I recall sitting at my desk when the phone rang. It was an NIH Program Officer. "I am calling to help you," they said, but refused to identify themselves. "If you want to get your grant funded you will remove the words 'LGBT' and 'gay,' and replace them

with something less controversial." When I asked why, they hung up.

I followed the anonymous voice's recommendation and replaced the words with the term, "vulnerable." NIH approved the grant, and my career and my grant (Project Q) moved forward. To this day I have no idea who called me, but I think back to how courageous it was to make that call. I owe that person a great deal of thanks for their courage, even though they remained anonymous.

Soon afterward, in April of 2003, an article in the New York Times shined a light on censorship in NIH grant applications. The article discussed how scientists were being advised to avoid certain politically "controversial" or "sensitive" terms. One researcher had been told his application needed to be "cleansed" of such words as "gay" and "transgender" if he wanted to win approval. I knew I was not alone.

And let's not forget the early years of the AIDS epidemic, when the Reagan administration was virtually silent for much of the 1980s. The President himself refusing to even say the word "AIDS" and Republican congressmen's demonizing of words resulted in the federal government failing to respond to the greatest public health crisis of our time.

So when I heard that the Washington Post reported on possible censorship—this time at the CDC—it was triggering. This time, though, the censored words included "transgender," "fetus," "evidence-

based," "science-based," "diversity,"—and yes, "vulnerable." It brought me back to that moment in 2003. Except this time, it is the words themselves that warn of a bigger story—of a bigger problem. For in 2017, it is not simply a cultural war on HIV/AIDS or on those of us who are LGBT, but an assault on the entire scientific community and the scientific process.

Those were scary times. While I had no voice or power back then, I do now. Although it remains unclear to what extent the censorship story is true or widespread, we will NOT go back to being silenced. Words shape policy, which affect all of us. We will NOT go back to being silenced and forgotten. Whether in the 1980s, in 2003, or today, we must be willing to fight back for all those who are "vulnerable" and against those who would use words to justify their actions and to deny who we are.

**Robert Garofalo, MD, MPH, is a noted doctor and researcher specializing in HIV medicine and the care of gender non-conforming children and transgender adolescents.**

**He is the editor-in-chief of the academic journal Transgender Health. Garofalo is also vice chair of the board of TPN, a community-based HIV/AIDS service organization in Chicago. These are not the opinions of Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine or Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago.**


**Dana  
RUDOLPH**

## MOMBIAN 2017: Good news, bad news for LGBTQ families

Was 2017 a good year for LGBTQ parents and our children? The political situation in the United States was grim, but we also saw progress in some areas.

In perhaps the biggest win for LGBTQ parents this year, the U.S. Supreme Court in June overturned the Arkansas Supreme Court in *Pavan v. Smith*, a case involving two married, two-mom couples who had children with the help of anonymous sperm donors. The Arkansas court had argued that nonbiological mothers have no right to be on birth certificates, which are purely about biological connections; the U.S. Supreme Court disagreed.

The *Pavan* decision then impacted a September ruling of the Arizona Supreme Court, *McLaughlin v. Jones* (*McLaughlin*), where a biological mother was trying to claim that her ex, the nonbiological mother, was not a parent and had no right to seek custody of the child they conceived through assisted reproduction. The court cited *Pavan* in ruling for the nonbiological mother's parenthood.

Two similar cases are pending decisions in their respective state supreme courts, *Turner v. Steiner* in

Arizona and *Strickland v. Day* in Mississippi. Cathy Sakimura, family law director of the National Center for Lesbian Rights (NCLR), told me in July that "*Pavan* requires states to apply all the benefits of marriage equally to same-sex spouses, including questions about parental rights, so it has a huge impact on these pending cases." Here's hoping.

In a win that didn't cite *Pavan*, though, the Vermont Supreme Court ruled in December in favor of Sarah Sinnott, a mom whose former partner sought to stop her from seeing their daughter. The girl had only been legally adopted by the partner, although they had planned for and were raising her together. The couple was not married, and a lower court had said Vermont law only recognized parentage by married parents or those with a genetic connection to the child. Luckily, the state's highest court disagreed.

Three same-sex couples also finally won a case in the Nebraska Supreme Court, in April, that they had brought in 2013 against the state's ban on "homosexuals" becoming foster parents. The ruling meant that gay men and lesbians could in theory now be treated equally in foster care placements in all 50 states—but read on.

The biggest setback this year was the continued advance of so-called "religious freedom" laws that allow child-placement agencies to discriminate against LGBTQ prospective parents and others if serving them conflicts with the agencies' religious beliefs or moral convictions. Michigan, Mississippi, North Dakota, and Virginia had such laws already; in 2017, similar bills passed in Alabama, South Dakota and Texas. Some of these laws also allow agencies to refuse to serve certain children, to deny children services to which the agency objects (like hormone

therapy, contraceptives, or affirming mental health care) or force them to undergo discredited "conversion therapy," as the Human Rights Campaign detailed in a recent report.

Additionally, a bill introduced in the U.S. Congress in April, the Child Welfare Provider Inclusion Act, would enshrine such laws on the federal level. An opposing bill, the Every Child Deserves a Family Act, would block them, but it likely stands no chance in this Congress, despite being an important sign of support for our families.

This year's election also saw big wins for queer candidates—including several who are also parents and/or grandparents. They include Jenny Durkan, mayor of Seattle; Danica Roem, elected to the Virginia House of Delegates and the first transgender elected official in Virginia; and several others elected to city councils and school boards. Kudos to them for showing us how to balance parenting and service.

And another lesbian mom showing service to our country, U.S. Air Force Brigadier General Kristin Goodwin, became the new commandant of cadets at the Air Force Academy in May.

Representation of LGBTQ families in the media also continued to move forward. In August, the cable channel Disney Junior featured its first two-mom family, on the award-winning show *Doc McStuffins*. Creator and Executive Producer Chris Nee, herself a lesbian mom, named the moms after Edie Windsor and Thea Spyer, the women at the heart of the U.S. Supreme Court Windsor decision that revoked part of the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA). Their (fictional) kids were named for queer icons Gertrude Stein and

The logo for Windy City Times, featuring the words "WINDY CITY TIMES" in a large, bold, sans-serif font. Below the logo, it says "VOL. 33, No. 16, Jan. 3, 2018" and "The combined forces of Windy City Times, founded Sept. 1985, and Outlines newspaper, founded May 1987."

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## Oh, 'Boyz'

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Windy City Times reviews the production *Altar Boyz*.

Photo of Frankie Leo Bennett by Cody Jolly

### SCOTTISH PLAY SCOTT

## Solitary refinement

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

Solo shows abound around Chicago this January.

Former Saturday Night Live alumna Julia Sweeney is work-shopping standup comedy shows called *Older and Wider* in Judy's Beat Lounge at The Second City starting Jan. 12. Also kicking off that same date is Lifeline Theatre's presentation of the 21st annual Fillet of Solo Festival, which runs through Jan. 28. And solo shows are a part of Curious Theatre Branch's 29th annual Rhinoceros Theater Festival, which begins a six-week run starting Jan. 13 at Prop Thtr.

But three separate solo shows this January are likely to be of interest to members of the LGBTQ community—particularly the last three letters of the inclusive acronym in terms of characters and/or artists who self-identify as bisexual, transgender and queer.

### Marital mystery

Playwright Daniel Noonan is open about his HIV-positive status. Born with severe hemophilia, Noonan became infected through a blood transfusion in the early 1980s before there was a test to identify the HIV virus.

Noonan dramatized a character living with similar circumstances in his 2005 comic drama *Out Among the Dragons*. He has also often incorporated characters living with chronic conditions in his other work.

But now Noonan has moved on to write the solo show—with a self-descriptive title—called *Blue Over You* (A Mysterious One-Man Love Story With Musical Bits). It stars Equity actor Michael Joseph Mitchell as Francis, a married bisexual whose wife has mysteriously disappeared.

"[Francis] has dated both men and women," Noonan said. "That was just more interesting

to me for this particular piece to have a character that does have a more fluid sexuality. I just thought that was who Francis was."

With *Blue Over You*, Noonan is teaming up with director Sarah Whitney to launch a new Evanston-based theater organization called Spot On Company. The solo aspect of the play was an artistic exercise, but it also made financial sense.

"I read the play *I Am My Own Wife*, and I really enjoyed it and thought about the challenge of writing a one-man show," Noonan said. "And also I did want something that would be easy to be produced."

Spot On Company's world premiere of *Blue Over You* (A Mysterious One-Man Love Story with Musical Bits) plays from Friday, Jan. 5, through Sunday, Jan. 28, at Northminster Presbyterian Church, 2515 Central Park Ave., Evanston. Tickets are \$20-\$25. Visit [BlueOverYou.com](http://BlueOverYou.com).

### Questioning gender roles

Back in 2004, transgender writer and actor Jamie Black performed *Living Inside Myself* at the former Bailiwick Repertory Theatre. It was an autobiographical solo show focusing on Black's male transition process.

But now Black is ready to perform the latest iteration of his solo show called *It's my Penis (And I'll Cry if I Want To)* at the Pride Arts Center. Rather than solely focusing on being trans, the play is a humorous and thoughtful look at the need to shift societal gender roles.

"I hate coming up with titles and I was on a time crunch with MPAACT's solo jams [where the play was first developed]. They needed a title and they needed to get it in for brochures," Black said. "It's my Penis (And I'll Cry if I Want To) was just one of those things that popped into my head and it actually summarizes what I'm talking



Jamie Black, of *It's my Penis (And I'll Cry if I Want To)*.  
Publicity photo

about—the fact that as a man, I am not expected to show emotion, be vulnerable, or cry because that's not masculine. But that's who I am."

Black loves performing his own material, though he is open to doing other theater work. For example, Black recently appeared in Carla Stillwell's satire *Burf of Nation*, or *From Covfefe with Love* for MPAACT.

"As long as I'm not touring my own show, I'm absolutely open to doing other theater," said Black, noting that he has been included in a minority casting database. "A lot of theater administrators are opening their minds as to who can play what role, and that has resulted in a lot more audition requests for me, which is awesome."

*It's my Penis (And I'll Cry if I Want To)* plays from Friday, Jan. 5, through Sunday, Feb. 11, in The Buena space of the Pride Arts Center, 4147 N. Broadway. Tickets are \$25. Call 800-737-0984 or visit [PrideFilmsAndPlays.com](http://PrideFilmsAndPlays.com).

### Queering Frank Lloyd Wright?

In the world-premiere show *The New Prairie School*, performance artist Corey Smith aims to "queer up" the late, great American architect Frank Lloyd Wright.

"I'm very interested in the process of taking down great men. Wright as an architect is seen as one of the first 'starchitects' whose personal-

ity was outsized as his buildings," said Smith, noting his collaborators Ethan T. Parcell and Claire Saxe are also closely involved in the piece. "I'm not interested in perpetuating that myth. I'm interested in 'othering him.' I'm interested in queering his work and looking at it from a queer perspective."

Never mind that the father of Prairie Style architecture was notorious in the media for abandoning his Oak Park family and work studio in 1909 to run off to Germany with a mistress. Instead, Smith wants to explore the more progressive aspects of Wright's approach to building to suit surrounding landscapes.

"I'm also interested in this tension between my identity as a Midwesterner and my identity as a queer person—what the relationship is between those places is and can we make the Midwest a place for radical ideas for queerness, for progressive thought and action sort of a more equitable society," Smith said. "I think that there's connections here. The houses that Wright builds and the ideas behind them can be brought into the 21st century in a progressive lens."

**The world premiere of *The New Prairie School* plays 7 p.m. Friday-Sunday, Jan. 12-14, at Links Hall, 3111 N. Western Ave. Tickets are \$10-\$25, depending upon income; visit [Linkshall.org](http://Linkshall.org) or [Ticketfly.com](http://Ticketfly.com) for more information.**

## What is TRUVADA for PrEP?

TRUVADA for PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis) is a prescription medicine that is used together with safer sex practices to help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 through sex. This use is only for HIV-negative adults who are at high risk of getting HIV-1. To help determine your risk of getting HIV-1, talk openly with your healthcare provider about your sexual health.

Ask your healthcare provider if you have questions about how to prevent getting HIV. 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.

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- ◆ **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 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:

- ◆ **You must continue to use 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:**
  - ◆ Get tested for HIV-1 at least every 3 months.
  - ◆ If you think you were exposed to HIV-1, tell your healthcare provider right away.
- ◆ **To further help reduce your risk of getting HIV-1:**
  - ◆ Know your HIV status and the HIV status of your partners.
  - ◆ Get tested for other sexually transmitted infections. Other infections make it easier for HIV to infect you.
  - ◆ Get information and support to help reduce risky sexual behavior, such as having fewer sex partners.
  - ◆ Do not miss any doses of TRUVADA. Missing doses may increase your risk of getting HIV-1 infection.
- ◆ **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:

- ◆ **Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** TRUVADA is not approved to treat HBV. If you have HBV and stop taking TRUVADA, your HBV may suddenly get worse. Do not stop taking TRUVADA without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to monitor your health.

## 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.
- ◆ **Also take certain medicines to treat hepatitis B infection.**

## 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. If you develop kidney problems, your healthcare provider may tell you to stop taking TRUVADA.
- ◆ **Too much lactic acid in your blood** (lactic acidosis), which is a serious but rare medical emergency that can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: weakness or being more tired than usual, unusual muscle pain, being short of breath or fast breathing, stomach pain with nausea and vomiting, cold or blue hands and feet, feel dizzy or lightheaded, or a fast or abnormal heartbeat.
- ◆ **Severe liver problems,** which in rare cases can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: 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, or stomach-area pain.
- ◆ **Bone problems,** including bone pain, softening, or thinning, which may lead to fractures. Your healthcare provider may do tests to check your bones.

**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.
- ◆ **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.
- ◆ **If you are breastfeeding** (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed. If you become HIV-positive, HIV 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, your healthcare provider may need to check you more often or change your dose. These medicines include certain medicines to treat hepatitis C (HCV) infection.

**You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit [www.FDA.gov/medwatch](http://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.**



# We're open, not unprepared.

**We know who we are.** And we make choices that fit our lives.


**TRUVADA for PrEP™** is a once-daily prescription medicine that can help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 when taken every day and used together with safer sex practices.

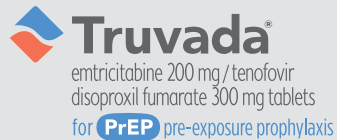
- ◆ TRUVADA for PrEP is only for adults who are at high risk of getting HIV through sex.
- ◆ You must be HIV-negative before you start taking TRUVADA for PrEP.

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

GILEAD

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 **Truvada®**  
emtricitabine 200 mg / tenofovir  
disoproxil fumarate 300 mg tablets  
for **PrEP** pre-exposure prophylaxis



(tru-VAH-dah)

## MOST IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT TRUVADA FOR PrEP

### Before starting TRUVADA for PrEP:

- **You must be HIV-1 negative.** You must get tested to make sure that you do not already have HIV-1. 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:

- **You must continue to use 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.** Get tested for HIV-1 at least every 3 months while taking TRUVADA for PrEP. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you think you were exposed to HIV-1 or have a flu-like illness while taking TRUVADA for PrEP.
- **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:

- **Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** TRUVADA is not approved to treat HBV. If you have HBV, your HBV may suddenly get 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.

## ABOUT TRUVADA FOR PrEP

TRUVADA for PrEP is a prescription medicine used together with safer sex practices to help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 through sex. This use is only for HIV-negative adults who are at high risk of getting HIV-1.

- To help determine your risk of getting HIV-1, talk openly with your healthcare provider 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 certain medicines to treat hepatitis B infection.

## 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.
- Use TRUVADA for PrEP together with condoms and safer sex practices.
- Get tested for HIV-1 at least every 3 months. You must stay HIV-negative to keep taking TRUVADA for PrEP.

## 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.**

## 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.
- Too much lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis), which is a serious but rare medical emergency that can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: weakness or being more tired than usual, unusual muscle pain, being short of breath or fast breathing, stomach pain with nausea and vomiting, cold or blue hands and feet, feel dizzy or lightheaded, or a fast or abnormal heartbeat.
- Severe liver problems, which in rare cases can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: 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, or stomach-area pain.
- Bone problems.

**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.
- 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-positive, HIV can pass to the baby in breast milk.

### 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 FURTHER REDUCE YOUR RISK

- Know your HIV status and the HIV status of your partners.
- Get tested for other sexually transmitted infections. Other infections make it easier for HIV to infect you.
- Get information and support to help reduce risky sexual behavior, such as having 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. Talk to your healthcare provider or pharmacist to learn more, including how to prevent HIV infection.
- Go to [start.truvada.com](http://start.truvada.com) or call 1-800-GILEAD-5
- If you need help paying for your medicine, visit [start.truvada.com](http://start.truvada.com) for program information.



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Version date: April 2017

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## THEATER REVIEW

## Blue Man Group

Created and written by: Matt Goldman, Phil Stanton and Chris Wink

At: Briar Street Theatre, 3133 N. Halsted St.

Tickets: [BlueMan.com/chicago](http://BlueMan.com/chicago); \$39-99

Runs through: Ongoing

BY JAMES R. WILKE

Performance art, street act, vaudeville show, drum session, sketch comedy, tech fair, carnival party, science experiment, rock concert, alien sighting ... Briar Street Theatre's Blue Man Group is all these things and more, wrapped tightly into a one-and-a-half hour, roller-coaster-paced production unlike anything you'll see anywhere else. Revolving around the explorations of three blue-skinned, bald, humanoid, gender-neutral figures—silent yet with a penchant for making percussive sounds and communicating through their eyes—Blue Man Group makes for a truly unique variety entertainment.

The show evolved out of street performances



Blue Man Group.  
PR photo

developed by Matt Goldman, Phil Stanton and Chris Wink in the late '80s in New York City. These became so popular that a full-length show was launched in 1991, to such acclaim that it now has permanent productions in six cities, including Chicago, along with a world tour. Indeed, with its bright neon colors, glow-in-the-dark effects, multi-sized TV screens, camera crew and rock instrumentals, Blue Man Group feels like a vintage MTV music video come to life. Those of

us who grew up in the '80s-'90s will be reminded of things like Tron and Cyberpunk movies, Max Headroom, Atari games and Twinkies in your lunchbox.

Yet part of the timeless delight of this show, and perhaps why young audiences continue to connect, is that Blue Man Group also asks enduring questions we were taught to abandon in early childhood, like, "What happens if I pour watery paint all over a drum kit and hit it with sticks?"

## THEATER REVIEW

## Altar Boyz

Playwright: music by Gary Adler and

Michael Patrick Walker, book

by Kevin Del Aguila

At: Theo Ubique Cabaret Theatre at

the No Exit Café, 6970 N. Glenwood Ave.

Tickets: \$34-\$39

Runs through: Jan. 14

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

It's said that God—or gods, for you polytheists—moves in mysterious ways, but since history records the sacred and profane often meeting in mutual accord, the phenomenon of Christian rock

is no more mysterious than the revivalist wave of the 1970s following Andrew Lloyd Webber's pop-oratorio passion play. Indeed, the propensity of teenagers for embracing religious fervor as an escape from hormonal confusion can be observed in cultures throughout the world.

Therein resides the conceit lending Kevin Del Aguila, Gary Adler and Michael Patrick Walker's musical its connection with audiences in 2017 who may have forgotten, or remained oblivious, to fads of decades past.

The Altar Boyz (the spelling of the name being our first clue to chronological origins) are a quintet of young male vocalists occupying the genre dubbed "Boy Bands," their pristine image intensified by a repertoire of soft-rock ditties featuring quasi-ecclesiastical lyrics. Being young

and male, though, their concerns cannot help but mirror those of their secular kin, with the language of the gospels offering the sole acceptable means of expressing their anguish—restrictions leading to such anomalies as a coming-out song substituting the word "Catholic" for "gay," or a smitten swain proclaiming his attraction to a girl by confessing to conflicted thoughts regarding his pledge of pre-marital chastity. More serious issues are suggested by an orphan's quest for his birth parents and a last-ditch exorcism.

Walker, Adler and Aguila are content to leave the double entendres to *our* ribald sensibilities, however. Playgoers less inclined toward Book of Mormon-styled pottymouth are free to enjoy the exuberant goodwill invoked by the five warblers assembled under the leadership of directors

Courtney Crouse, Jeremy Ramey and Sawyer Smith as they effortlessly conceal the complexity of bell-tone harmonies and precision-drill choreography beneath a veneer of youthful vulnerability.

The electronic device on the stage purporting to measure the number of saved souls in the room might have been funnier at the show's premiere in 2005 (when covert surveillance was the stuff of fantasy) but, by the end of the evening, when the roll is called up yonder, we are ready to be counted among those who make such joyful noise.

## CRITICS' PICKS

**Puff: or Believe It or Not,** Remy Bumpo Theatre Company at Greenhouse Theater, through Jan. 7, The "well-made" lay may have once been dismissed as formulaic, but this frothy madcap farce of high-society lovers and liars wholly redeems the genre. MSB

**Red Velvet,** Chicago Shakespeare Theater at Navy Pier, through Jan. 21. Not many people know that Ira Aldridge was the first non-white actor to play Othello the Moor—under considerable protest from Shakespeare's countrymen—but Lolita Chakrabarti restores his place in history.

**Sammy: A Tribute to Sammy Davis, Jr.,** Black Ensemble Theater, through Jan. 21. The demographic diversity of the audiences at Black Ensemble attest to the universal appeal of the entertainer whose career spanned three generations and virtually every branch of show business.

**Wicked,** Oriental Theatre, through Jan. 21. The 2003 Broadway blockbuster is back in Chicago, but now its political relevance is much more frighteningly uncomfortable in light of the current occupants of the White House. Be awed by the Oz-inspired spectacle while also mulling over its Wicked's important messages. SCM

—By Abarbanel, Barnidge and Morgan

## THEATER REVIEW

## Bye, Bye, Liver

Playwright: Written and performed by the ensemble

At: Byron Hatfield Productions at The Public House Theater, 3914 N. Clark St.

Tickets: \$18-\$22

Runs through: Open run

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

No bachelorette parties were in evidence the week before Christmas, but two birthdays were being celebrated at this outpost for entertainment focused on the consumption of alcoholic beverages—comedy sketches based in time-travel adventures tracing the same bar-room pick-up line to Paleolithic cultures, or a visit from the spectral sorceress of Blackouts, along with games called "Drunken Karaoke" and

"Name That Drink."

Has it really been more than 10 years since Byron Hatfield premiered his guzzle-and-guffaw concept as a BYO late-nite romp in Bucktown's now-defunct Gorilla Tango cabaret? The formula that spawned an empire encompassing a cozy resident playhouse in Lake View and franchises in eight cities shows no sign of abating in its appeal to young urbanites on small budgets in search of a few giddy laughs.

Heralding the revue's milestone is Drunken Karaoke's formerly live-action clue to guessing the song now supplied by sound-bite of amateur vocalists wearing headphones and caroling along to tunes only they can hear, selected among such categories as "Pump You Up" and "Choreography for Ants." (To ensure intergenerational inclusion, the "Easy Ones for the Slow Kids" inventory lists top-40 hits like Toto's "Africa.")

Name That Drink challenges a player to discern the source of the intoxication described—

absinthe fueling a hallucinogenic scenario, for example. A correct answer mandates everyone in the room toast the victor, while an erroneous one—say, declaring, as one contestant did, *butterscotch schnapps* to be the tippie of choice at soccer games—condemns the culprit to swallow both his pride and a portion of his potation.

Preventing the evening from dissolving into chaos are a quick-witted ensemble adept at maintaining control of even the most ribald spectators ("We are *not* holding auditions tonight" the biggest of them proclaims), nor does the bibulous premise entail tactics likely to endanger vulnerable strays from the Wrigleyville district to the south on Clark Street. Teetotalers, designated drivers and just plain unthirsty revelers may enjoy their soft and fizzy libations with no fear of harassment or ridicule. Indeed, the production company's record of support for the American Liver Foundation attests to its safe approach to recreational imbibing. Bottoms up!



Amber Wagner in Turandot.  
Photo by Todd Rosenberg

## OPERA REVIEW

### Turandot

**Libretto:** G. Adami & R. Simoni;

**Composer:** Giacomo Puccini

**At:** Lyric Opera of Chicago at Civic Opera House, 20 N. Wacker Dr.

**Tickets:** 312-827-5600 or

**LyricOpera.org; \$20-\$349**

**Runs through:** Jan. 27

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

Italian composer Giacomo Puccini died in 1924 before completing his grandiose Chinese fable Turandot, leaving Franco Alfano to finish it. But, oddly, this hasn't stopped Turandot from gaining an firm spot in the standard operatic repertoire.

Neither has Turandot's dramatically dubious libretto hindered audiences from embracing it. I personally have never bought that the exiled prince Calaf would pass over the loyal love from the slave Liù in favor of the bloodthirsty title Beijing princess (especially one who has her suitors beheaded if they can't correctly answer her trio of enigmatic riddles).

But what ultimately makes Turandot worthwhile is Puccini's gorgeous music. (The soaring Act III aria "Nessun Dorma" is virtually on every greatest opera hits compilation.) It's a score that revels in exotic colors and heart-stirring bombast.

The Lyric Opera of Chicago's past three gos at Turandot (1992, 1997 and 2006) featured the abstracted Asian construction paper cut-out designs of famed British artist David Hockney. So

clearly it was time for a different Turandot.

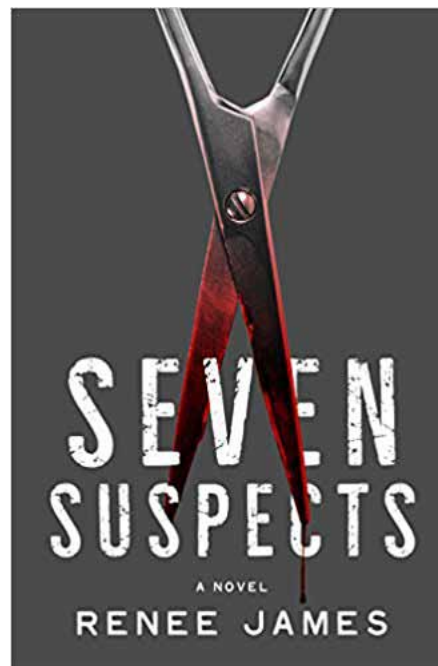
The new-to-Chicago production, designed by Bliss Hebert and Allen Charles Klein, doesn't have the same cultural cachet or complexity to its look. And that's even with an omnipresent sculptural dragon and an oversized orb for video projections. Yet it's something different and delivers an eye-ful while functionally fitting the work's demands.

Maybe it was all those raked steps that made director Rob Kearley's production on its December opening something of a cautionary exercise to the performances and music-making in the pit. There wasn't anything out of place in conductor Andrew Davis solid reading of the score, but it could have used extra "oomph."

In the title role, U.S. soprano Amber Wagner powered through the treacherous passages to make for a commanding princess who doesn't want to be dominated by men. As Calaf, Italian tenor was a stock and face-front performer who ultimately got the job done, even though he broke character to take a bow after his famous aria.

Much more interesting stage performances came from the goading and homesick administrators Ping (Zachary Nelson), Pang (Rodell Rosel) and Pong (Keith Jameson). Italian soprano Maria Agresta made a respectable Liù, though it will be exciting to see how hometown soprano Janai Brugger interprets the same role later.

Overall, the Lyric's new Turandot fills all the necessary prerequisites for a grandiose opera occasion. However, it could do with more dramatic heart and verve to make it something special.



## BOOK REVIEW

### Seven Suspects

By Renee James

**\$26.95; Oceanview**

**Publishing; 310 pages**

**REVIEW BY JOE FRANCO**

The world of fiction is filled with voices. It's a realm of stories and each one is told in a different way through a new set of eyes. Renee James's second book, Seven Suspects, re-introduces us to a new voice—that of a transgender woman named Bobbi Logan.

James is likely not the first trans woman to write in the voice of the same, but she is to my knowledge one of the best trans woman writers currently honing her craft. Without giving too much away, Seven Suspects features Logan, who is a trans woman stylist and salon owner in Chicago's Gold Coast. Her rather abrupt personal style is immediately apparent, as is her knack for offending all with whom she interacts. Eventually she realizes she is being stalked and has flashbacks to another incident of stalking and rape. She has her suspects. Logan must work against time to find out who is stalking her—and why—in order to protect her niece and family from a deranged lunatic.

Almost immediately, James' unique voice shines through. The protagonist sees a cis woman in her shop and remarks at her natural beauty: "I sigh. What must it be like to be so perfectly female?" Immediately, we know who Logan is and what her greatest lament in life is. The readers are also brought into the inner sanctum of the author's own desires and thoughts. Although James is clear that Bobbi Logan is not exactly based on her life, there is a modicum of truth that permeates the narrator's voice.

There are also numerous allusions to the transperson's problem of permitting their own personality to interact with others. Dressing and finding one's own self through an environment that is both hostile and curious is something

many cisgender folks simply do not have to encounter in the same way. Logan remarks about the very first outfit she wore when she came out as a woman: a mini-dress and fishnets. "That was my adolescent period, and I never wore the outfit again, but I keep it as a reminder not to judge too harshly my transgender sisters who are coming out now, for the first time, and have to pas through that stage too." In no other work of fiction can readers hear the real voice of a trans woman who still struggles with her identity and who is deeply aware of that struggle in every other transgender person alive.

The fictional Logan, like any transgender individual, faces hardships that their cis counterparts can perhaps sympathize with but may not fully understand. Logan speaks to her niece and to all of us who were bullied in junior high when she says, "You have to decide for yourself who you love and who you're loyal to, even if the cool kids give you a hard time about it." Logan later must confront one of her own bullies. One cannot read the exchange without the certainty that this has happened to James herself: "If I had a quarter for every time someone has called me exactly that, exactly a dickless fucking queer, I could by an



Renee James.

Publicity photo

island in the Caribbean, not that I want one. It doesn't bother me at all." We are reminded that anger and hatred can make even the most beautiful person hideous.

It isn't just the bullying or the recognition that she is trans that makes Seven Suspects a truly enjoyable read. The book is funny, frightening, mysterious and familiar all at the same time. There is a voice and a perspective that seeps into every corner of the book. You cannot quite explain it but would need to read the book for yourself to understand why Logan is in her own right a fascinating woman. She is vulnerable, strong, soft, icy, warm, loyal, curious and vivacious. Logan is a woman and her story is one worth reading.

## SPOTLIGHT

Welcome in the new year with a load of LGBTQ laughs courtesy of comics, musicians, storytellers and more appearing in **The Kiki: Queer Comedy and Variety**. It's hosted and produced by Scott Duff and Megan Brennan, and on the bill for the early January edition are Clare Austen-Smith, Meghan Sullivan, Marla Depew and Brittany Meyer. The Kiki: Queer Comedy with Variety is 7 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 3, at Transistor, 5224 N. Clark St. No admission charge and BYOB. For more information on the venue, call 312-631-9408 or visit TransistorChicago.com.



*Editor's note:* Scott Duff is a senior account executive for Windy City Media Group.

Caption: Scott Duff in a previous appearance for The Kiki: Queer Comedy with Variety. Photo by Paul Lampasano



# Leather Archives & Museum welcomes new executive director

BY MELISSA WASSERMAN

Starting 2018 with a fresh start, Gary Wasdin steps in as executive director for the Leather Archives and Museum (LA&M) this month.

Wasdin was born and raised in Jacksonville, Florida, where he developed a love for the beach. His love for travel shows through his life's experience. After earning a bachelor's degree in theater from Augusta College, Wasdin went to graduate school at Southern Connecticut State University, where he earned a master's degree in library science and a second master's degree in English. Currently, he also writes porn fiction.

Having been an avid reader, Wasdin said he was drawn into the library profession for more non-book related reasons. He recalled as he was working on his master's degree, technology was becoming more developed in libraries and he had always had an interest in technology and what libraries were doing to make more materials available digitally, including with special collection materials.

"I've been able to work in so many different kinds of libraries—university libraries and public libraries [as well as] public service and special collections and archives—so it's just a really cool profession because there's so many different kinds of jobs that you could do that take you in interesting new places," said Wasdin.

Wasdin also said the feeling of inclusion is also what attracted him to libraries as a child.

"Growing up, trying to figure out who I was, it took me a while to figure out that I was bi," he explained. "But I knew I was very different from my family, and the public library kind of was a place where I could go and find out about people like me, and I could read and look up things and answer questions for myself—and I think a lot of kids have that experience. That's the great thing: Kids still have that experience in libraries."

He has worked in libraries across the country, including in New York, Alabama and Washington State. His time as library director at Washington's King County Library System (where Seattle and Bellevue are, among other cities) was cut short due to some personal photos/information that was online.

"The board was made aware of some personal photos and information about me that existed online that they felt would possibly reflect poorly on the library," Wasdin explained. "While I disagreed, I respected their position and resigned amicably to allow us all to move on."

Before moving to Chicago and starting with LA&M, Wasdin lived in Omaha and worked as a senior consultant with DeEtta Jones and Associates. In this role, he did different projects for both public and academic libraries around the country, as well as strategic planning, organiza-

tion development, leadership training, diversity and inclusion training.

"I think honestly what kind of inspires me is this idea of inclusion," Wasdin said of his work with libraries. "Making space at the table for everyone and for everyone to have a voice and that's represented both in the way that we make ourselves accessible to anyone, so anyone could walk into a library, no matter who you are or where you come from, and access the resources there. Also in the kind of materials that we collect that represent all different voices and people from different backgrounds and things that are

controversial."

It was when Wasdin was living in New York City in 2001 that he became involved in the leather community; he described it as a personal journey. He had always been interested in living life "on the fringe, outside of the norm," Wasdin explained, the first time that he wore leather, was about hyper masculinity that comes from leather, the history that it represents and the sense of belonging that it can create.

As Wasdin gets ready for his new role, he expressed excitement and he is thinking about how to really get to know the communities that support and use the LA&M.

"You look at what the Leather Archives and Museum is doing and what they've been doing throughout their history and it really is that same idea of inclusion—of being a voice for groups, for organizations, for individuals that are often marginalized and forgotten about in society," said Wasdin. "To be able to work for a place that continues to do that in a very different way, that



Gary Wasdin.

Photo courtesy of Wasdin

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**Jakob Oftebro and Seumas F. Sargent in Tom of Finland.**  
Photo by Josef Persson

MOVIES

## 'Tom of Finland':

# New film reveals the man behind the leather

BY TONY PEREGRIN

Tom of Finland, a new biopic from Finnish director Dome Karukoski, charts the evolution of Touko Laaksonen from a covert erotic illustrator—known for his graphite drawings of well-endowed men with supernaturally swollen biceps—to a world-renowned artist who became a rallying point for the freedom of sexual expression in the 1970s and beyond.

Laaksonen (1920-1991), better known by his the name “Tom of Finland,” went from well-hung images celebrated in the gay underground to being well-hung in prominent U.S. galleries, including MOMA in New York and the Museum of Contemporary Art in Los Angeles. In 2014, Laaksonen’s work was even featured on postage stamps in Finland, a country that had previously outlawed homosexuality during the artist’s young adult life.

Tom of Finland—a primarily Finnish language

film with English subtitles—spans almost half a century and covers five main segments of Laaksonen’s life: World War II, post-war when he shared a flat with his very conservative sister, his love affair with the male dancer Veli, coming to the United States and the AIDS epidemic.

“At first it felt like quite a huge challenge and responsibility to tell the story of this extraor-

dinary man,” said popular Finnish actor Pekka Strang, 40, who portrays Laaksonen in the film. “But once we started shooting, I only focused on the part, just like any other part I’ve done before. Otherwise, [the performance] would have become more statue-like than that of a real human being.”

Strang, who was cast very early in the devel-



**Pekka Strang in Tom of Finland.**  
Photo by Josef Persson

opment of the film, flew to the Tom of Finland Foundation in Los Angeles in 2016 to research Laaksonen’s life and work.

“Of course, I knew something about the art, but I knew very little about the artist himself,” said Strang, who is married to a woman. “During the casting process, and especially after I had been given the part, I started to research as much as I could about Touko/Tom, meeting members of the foundation, meeting his friends, and reading and watching some rare interviews. As described to me by his friends and people close to him, he was kind, talented, and beloved by his family.”

“We aimed to tell the story of the man behind the art and of his life and struggles and achievements,” added Strang. “For me, the biggest question that still remains is how this boy—born in a small town in the 1920’s in a very conservative country and age—became the visionary artist who started a sexual revolution.”

Even the journey itself, from Finland to California, brought the actor closer to the illustrator.

“It was the first time I visited Los Angeles and driving in a cab through the city I felt that I recognized all the buildings and the beautiful light as seen in so many movies,” he said. “For Touko, it must have been like arriving into a dream to see his work drawn during the dark times in Finland, enjoy themselves out in the light—proud, happy and without boundaries.”

Once Laaksonen’s work was picked up by an L.A.-based publisher, the artist found commercial success.

In 1973, Laaksonen left his full-time position at the Helsinki office of McCann-Erickson, an international advertising firm and began publishing his illustrations full-time. In 1979, he co-founded the Tom of Finland Company, and in 1984, the Tom of Finland Foundation was established with the mission of preserving and exhibiting homoerotic art.

The biopic is Finland’s official submission to the 90th Academy awards for Best Foreign Lan-

Turn to page 22

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## Amazing Kale Burger to close

Evanston's The Amazing Kale Burger, 741 Howard St., is closing its doors on Sunday, Dec. 31, according to the restaurant's Facebook page.

Windy City Times profiled transgender owner Brandon Byxbe, who established that “combined a hipster hangout with a Barnum and Bailey Circus, and served variations on only one dish: a veggie burger,” according to the publication. An interview with Byxbe is at [WindyCityMediaGroup.com/lgbt/DISH-Brandon-Byxbe-All-hail-the-kale-king/53239.html](http://WindyCityMediaGroup.com/lgbt/DISH-Brandon-Byxbe-All-hail-the-kale-king/53239.html).





Sarah Paulson.  
PR image

## Steppenwolf to honor Sarah Paulson

Steppenwolf Theatre Company announced Golden Globe- and Emmy-winning actress Sarah Paulson as the 2018 honoree at the annual Steppenwolf Women in the Arts fundraising luncheon on Monday, Jan. 22, at 12 p.m. at the Radisson Blu Aqua Hotel, 221 N. Columbus Dr. (The VIP reception will begin at 11:30 a.m.)

Paulson will join Steppenwolf Artistic Director Anna D. Shapiro for a conversation about her career both on-stage and on-screen as well as her impact as a leader in her industry.

On stage, she has appeared in productions including the title role in Lanford Wilson's Pulitzer

Prize-winning play Talley's Folly; Cherry Orchard, with Alfred Molina and Annette Bening; and Broadway's The Glass Menagerie alongside Jessica Lange.

On television, she has been in American Crime Story: The People v. O.J. Simpson as well as multiple seasons of American Horror Story. Her upcoming television and film projects include American Crime Story: Katrina; Gary Ross' Ocean's 8, the female-driven spinoff of Ocean's Eleven; and M. Night Shyamalan's Glass.

Individual tickets start at \$250; VIP tickets begin at \$500. Contact Steppenwolf's Special Events Department at 312-654-5632 or special-events@steppenwolf.org.

## Podcast to detail Mattachine history

Mattachine, a 10-episode serialized show available free on iTunes Jan. 4, will follow the true story of the secret Mattachine organization that catalyzed the U.S. LGBTQ-rights movement in 1950.

From a spark of inspiration in 1920s Chicago, through secret speakeasy-style meetings that brought together anonymous gay individuals, the program will open FBI case files to journey through the McCarthy-era paranoia and the witch hunt that pulled the communist queer activists apart, scattering the seeds of the movement.

Listeners may listen to the trailer and subscribe now on iTunes or other podcast-playing apps. Follow the show on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram @mattachinefiles, and explore resources and other details at MattachinePod.com.

## LEATHER from page 16

in some ways, than what I've been doing in other kinds of libraries, but at the same time it's the exact same thing and that's creating that inclusive environment where we're collecting and preserving the history of often marginalized groups."

On social media, community members have expressed a range of opinions—both negative and positive—about Wasdin taking on this role, having been selected over two local candidates.

"There is a positive side to all of this and that's how passionate people are about this organization and that means a lot because this is a privately funded membership-based organization and people care about it and it is very personal to the people who are involved with it," Wasdin said. "So that's great even if some of the things are hard to hear, it's still coming from a really good place and from a place of passion for what LA&M means to its community and also a lot of the concerns represent real issues that have been around for quite a long time."

Wasdin said his mission is to be able to demonstrate his skills and ability to lead the organization, while earning the people's trust and respect.

"To be honest with people, it's going to take time and it's not something that's going to be done by the end of January, but we want people

to hold us accountable for it and want people to have those high expectations for us," Wasdin said.

Some of the existing concerns, he notes, center around the lack of diversity in almost every aspect of the LA&M, including the board, membership, the representation of women, of people of color, the collection and the exhibitions. He added that he hopes people will give him time to address issues and take the opportunity to get to know him.

"My main focus is really on first and foremost coming in and spending the time listening to what these concerns are," said Wasdin. "A director should be coming in listening and learning from the people around him or her and working with the staff, the community, the members, listening to what their priorities are, what their issues are, what their passions are and the director's job is really to sort of take all of that together and to create that sharedness and pull all of those ideas together."

"Nationally, my primary focus is making the Leather Archives and Museum more visible and accessible to a much larger audience," said Wasdin, adding he wants people to know the research collections and the importance of preserving these collections and how they are used.

For more information on the Leather Archives and Museum, visit [LeatherArchives.org](http://LeatherArchives.org).

## Sessions put trans stories in spotlight

Just for transgender participants, "Stories in the Spotlight" lets people transform important moments into stories that professional actors will perform onstage.

Playwright Susan Lieberman teaches techniques for writing effective autobiographical

anecdotes in this six-week, free-of-charge workshop at Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted St.

Delia Kropp and other theater artists will present the stories to an invited audience at Center on Halsted's Hoover-Leppen Theater. Sessions will be 7-8 p.m. on Jan. 8, 15, 22 and 29 as well as Feb. 5 & 12, with the performance on Feb. 19.

Contact Lieberman at [susanlieberman17@gmail.com](mailto:susanlieberman17@gmail.com); also, see <https://www.facebook.com/events/154226931876144/>.

## MOMBIAN from page 10

Brandon Teena. This wasn't the first time a Disney show has depicted a two-mom family (that honor goes to Disney Channel show Good Luck Charlie in 2014), but it was the first for the younger age range.

LGBTQ parents also were represented in several advertisements and catalogs from major brands this year, including Target and the Gap, with two moms; Google Home, with two dads; and Vicks India and Baby Dove, with transgender moms. Campbell's V8 +Energy Drink also sponsored a video on Pop Sugar from the two-mom family behind the video blog Team2Moms.

There were also more than 30 books published this year that included LGBTQ families—mostly for kids, with a few parenting guides and memoirs

as well. (Visit Mombian.com for the list.)

In other media coverage, spouses and dads Ben and Daniel Bowman were part of PeopleTV's Family Portrait video series on "the diversity of modern families" this November. And in December, the Good Housekeeping website ran a profile of Casey Brown, a gender nonbinary blogger and parent. If this venerable publication (which my grandmother read) is publishing such content, I think that queer parents are definitely making strides in visibility and acceptance.

Will these steps forward in representation be enough to counterbalance the efforts of those who oppose us? Stay tuned for 2018.

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



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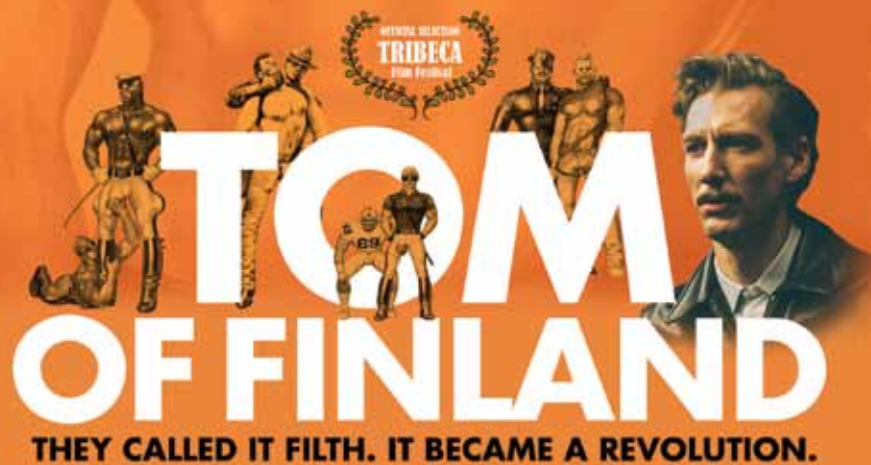
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# the DISH

Weekly Dining Guide in  
WINDY CITY TIMES

## SAVOR

### STK Chicago; honeygrow; Stock and Ledger

BY ANDREW DAVIS

There are old-school steakhouses—and then there are spots like **STK Chicago** (9 W. Kinzie St.; <http://togrp.com/venue/stk-chicago/>).

In fact, on the restaurant's website it says, "Not Your Daddy's Steakhouse"—and the One Group spot aims to live up to that with modern architecture, lithe bodies (on patrons and employees) and even a DJ. All of this adds up to what some consider to be the best (and the worst) touchstones of the River North Area. (Fortunately, the beat wasn't really thumping on the weeknight my dining companion and I were there—but I'm sure the music is turned up on the weekends, and I can only imagine what New Year's Eve was like.



Short rib with jalapeño grits at STK.

Photo by Andrew Davis

As for the cuisine, a cursory online look revealed a variety of enticing items (although, interestingly, no prices), so I was really looking forward to checking out the scene and the cuisine. As for the food, it ranged from meh to "Wow!"—although the final bill for two people (more than \$400 for the several items, with a couple wine pairings) had us saying "wow" for other reasons.

Regarding most items, STK hit the nail on the head. The Caesar salad was done quite well (and more spots mess up this simple dish more often than you might think), and the restaurant definitely knows what it's doing when it comes to beef. The steak was expertly done, and the shortrib (with jalapeño grits) was my favorite dish of the night.

And the desserts—oh, the desserts. The budino

was good, but the donuts and the warm baked cookies (with chocolate sauce, vanilla ice cream and caramel) were absolute delights.

In fact, the only major culinary shortcoming was with the tuna tartare, which was artfully done—but which also sat in a pool of soy sauce; maybe drizzling it with the sauce would be better. A minor snafu occurred with the salmon, which was slightly overcooked.

So, overall, I do recommend STK. I think it should be visited at least once—to check out the scene and try the shortrib and a dessert item, if nothing else. But be sure to save your pennies.

(By the way, STK also isn't like a lot of other steakhouses in that it has a dress code. Guys don't necessarily need to wear suits, but extremely casual dress may result in you being barred from entering. Welcome to River North—although you can bypass the scene by using Caviar.)

#### honeygrow

The fast-casual spot **honeygrow** (<https://www.honeygrow.com>) originated in Philadelphia in 2012, but has definitely made its mark in Chicago, with locations at 179 N. Morgan St. and 70 E. Lake St.



Sour cherry barbecue at honeygrow.

PR photo

Culinary director Chef David Katz offers everything from sustainably raised meats to sauces and dressings prepared from scratch daily. Produce is always fresh (as honeygrow stores do not own freezers), and are sourced locally and seasonably as often as possible.

This all goes toward dishes that are prepared quickly and that are pretty tasty. Patrons use kiosks to order dishes (a rapid development that certainly reflects the times) that include stir-fry and salad options as well as a honeybar choice (which features fresh fruits, local honey and toppings such as local plain yogurt, dark chocolate chips, coconut shavings and house made whipped cream). Thankfully, people have the option of paying with cash.

My result was a roast-pork stir-fry that was absolutely delicious and filling, although somehow I made room for my honeybar (all fruit—and chocolate chips). However, I have to hurry back for that pork dish, as it's seasonal and will be gone by early January (and, of course, it's the only one that's leaving the menu). I suggest you give honeygrow a try.



Salmon coca at Stock and Ledger.

Photo by Andrew Davis

#### Stock and Ledger

It may seem fitting that a restaurant named **Stock and Ledger** (70 W. Madison St.; <https://www.stockandledger.com>) has opened in the Loop.

However, here's the lowdown on the name: "Stock" pays homage to Chef Laura Piper's personalized menu, with "stock" as the base of her contemporary American and classic dishes. "Ledger" refers to the accounting term and Piper's business partner Rodd Goldman, an accountant-turned-restaurateur.

And as for the lowdown on the dishes: It's an intriguing melange of simple, straightforward dishes with locally sourced ingredients. (Sources include Three Sisters Garden and Genesis Farms, Piper told Windy City Times.)

Cocktails pay homage to the Loop, with drinks such as The Bull, The Bear and Write-Off, among others.

Starters include offerings such as spicy fried potatoes (with the kick being hit-or-miss) and a very pleasant smoked trout that should be tackled like a salad, I quickly learned. Speaking of salad, the salt-roasted beet item is a nice surprise, combining French feta, citrus, kale, pepita granola and cumin vinaigrette.

Cocas are Piper's take on the open-faced sandwich—and they're meant to be eaten with a knife and fork, as entrepreneurs (neatly) try to clinch those business deals. Among the variations are grilled chicken, pot roast, lamb kafta (reflecting Piper's time at a Lebanese restaurant) and smoked salmon; we tried the salmon (with whipped horseradish cream cheese, radishes, pickled red onion, hard-boiled egg, capers and baby kale) and absolutely loved it.

Entrees include a delightful chicken Kiev and a wonderful baked penne (with bacon!) that was just gooey enough to make it sinful.

Several desserts are also offered, including a pear-and-apple crumble, flourless chocolate cake and a cranberry shortcake that was probably the tarest item I had in 2017—and I actually mean that in a good way.

I can't wait to try The Lunchroom, a large fast-casual space adjacent to Stock and Ledger that will open in early 2018.

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



## SIDETRACK

Having funsie in their One-One-Onesies,  
Monday, January 1.

Photos by Jerry Nunn





44 years after its opening, Chicago bathhouse Man's Country closed its doors permanently on January 1, but not before one last huge blow-out New Year's Eve party. The party, fittingly named Loose Ends, was the second of its kind (the first go-round happened in late November).

In opposition to the men-only vibe prevalent over the four-plus decades of its run, the venue welcomed all members of the community to experience this space one last time before its demise.

The 13-hour party featured music from local DJs Michael Serafini, Harry Cross, Eris Drew and L.A. Olympics, as well as Detroit's Jeffrey Sfire and Boston's Dee Diggs. Drag performances from The Vixen, Lucy Stooile, Bambi Banks and Abhijeet kept the spirit of the crowd pulsating all night—and morning—long.

Photos by Jerry Nunn



**BILLY Masters** returns to this space next week.

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# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

## Wed., Jan. 3

**Golden Girls, the Lost Episodes, holiday edition** Campy parody of one of TV's most beloved sitcoms with Dorothy, Rose, Blanche, Sophia will feature the best of the original run - plus a new holiday-themed episode. Will run in conjunction with the return of Red-Hosed Reindeer. \$25. or VIP \$35. 7:30pm Mary's Attic 5400 N Clark Chicago 800-838-3006 Tickets: <http://www.handbagproductions.org>

## Thursday, Jan. 4

**American Veterans for Equal Rights** Chicago Chapter of American Veterans for Equal Rights, the national organization of LGBT veterans formerly known as Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Veterans of America (GLBVA). 7:00pm Center on Halsted 3656 N. Halsted St., Chicago <http://www.averchicago.org/>

**New Town Writers' Workshop** Participants are asked to bring copies of their work so other writers and listeners may more easily follow the texts. Easily accessible by the Brown Line (Western



## FEEL THE 'BURN' Saturday, Jan. 13

**Black Youth Project 100 (BYP100) co-founder Charlene Carruthers will speak at Burning Bowl 2018.**  
Photo from BYP100

stop) Western bus lines 49 and 49B, the 79 Montrose bus and 81 Lawrence bus. Plenty of parking. Note earlier starting and ending time. 6:30pm - 8:30pm Sulzer Regional Chicago Public Library 4455 N Lincoln Ave

## Friday, Jan. 5

**Blue Over You** (A Mysterious One-Man Love Story with Musical Bits), starring theater veteran Michael Joseph Mitchell. Through Jan. 28. \$20-\$25 7:00pm Northminster Presbyterian Church, 2515 Central Park Ave., Evanston 800-737-0984 Tickets: <http://BlueOverYou.com>

**Book Launch Party: A Conspiracy of Stars**, by Olivia A. Colee Octavia has always dreamed of becoming a whitecoat, one of the prestigious N'Terra scientists who study the natural wonders of Fa-loiv. So when the opportunity arises she leaps at the chance. 7:30pm Women & Children First Bookstore 5233 N Clark St Chicago <http://www.womenandchildrenfirst.com/event/book-launch-party-conspiracy-stars-olivia-cole>

## Saturday, Jan. 6

**Frontrunners/Frontwalkers** Chicago Frontrunners, Frontwalkers Chicago Chicago's LGBT running and walking club. Meet at the totem pole 9:00am Addison and Lake Shore Dr., FRFWChicago.org

## Sunday, Jan. 7

**Sober Horizons Group of Alcoholics Anonymous** All persons with a desire to stop drinking are welcome. 9:30am Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted St., <http://www.chicagoaa.org/about-caso>

## Wed., Jan. 10

**Author Reading: Ann M. Martin in conversation with WBEZ's Greta Johnsen** For this free event, Johnsen will interview author Ann M. Martin about her young adult novel Rain Reign, new in paperback. 7:00pm Women & Children First Bookstore 5233 N Clark St Chicago <http://tinyurl.com/ybburnv2>

## Thursday, Jan. 11

**Book Launch Party: The Hope Store**, by Dwight Okita Two Asian American friends, Luke and Kazu, discover a bold new procedure to import hope into the hopeless. They vow to open the world's first Hope Store. 7:30pm Women & Children First Bookstore 5233 N Clark St Chicago <http://tinyurl.com/yd3yn9ou>

## Friday, Jan. 12

**The New Prairie School** Through theater, dance, electroacoustic music and poetry, performance artist/composer Corey Smith celebrates the 150th anniversary of Frank Lloyd Wright's birth and explodes Midwestern architecture into something queer and weird. Through 7:00pm Links Hall, 3111 N. Western Ave. Tickets: <http://Ticketfly.com>

**Artists' Gallery Opening** LGBTQ Artists Gallery Opening Exhibit. The opening night event is the official premiere of the work by artists Marcus Sisler &

Patrick Lyne. Reception will include a cash bar. \$5 suggested donation. 6:00pm - 8:00pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted Chicago <http://www.centeronhalsted.org/newevents-details.cfm?ID=14639>

**the kates** Chicago comedian and kates cast member Amy Sumpter hosts the all female comedy showcase. Second Friday of every month. \$10. 7:00pm The Book Cellar, 4736-38 N Lincoln Ave.

## Saturday, Jan. 13

**Burning Bowl 2018** A community "burns" so it can intentionally and confidently move into the future. BYP100 director Charlene Carruthers and Drum Divas. <http://www.affinity95.org>

**Artemis Singers concert: "Rise Up"** Local lesbian feminist chorus will present a call-to-action concert of progressive music with guest artist Melanie DeMore and students from Evanston Township High School. 7:00pm ETHS, 1600 Dodge Ave., Evanston. Tickets: <http://www.riseup2018.brownpapertickets.com>

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## TOM OF FINLAND from page 18

guage Film, an Oscar category with entries from 92 countries this year.

"It is a huge honor and recognition for the artist, Tom of Finland, that our country submitted our movie to the Oscars," said Strang. "One of Toukos desires during his last years was that he would be considered a real artist in his homeland. This, unfortunately, didn't happen before he passed away. I hope the leather community feels the movie is a celebration of the culture and heritage of Tom. His drawings have been such an inspiration for pop culture and pop icons all over

the world."

Oscar nominations will be announced Tuesday, Jan. 23.

Some reviews of the Tom of Finland biopic have noted its lack of male nudity and depiction of gay sex, which may surprise some audience goers particularly given the subject matter of the film. Variety called the movie's "sexual beigning of the story's colorful sexual content a predictable pitfall of this mainstream biopic format." Despite any of the film's perceived shortcomings, however, Strang hopes audiences are inspired by the movie.

"I hope they leave the cinema with a sense of

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