

# WINDY CITY TIMES

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

**VOL 33, NO. 21** FEB. 7, 2018

[www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com](http://www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com)



**RAGTIME: THE MUSICAL**  
WCT reviews Marriott's version.  
Photo by Liz Lauren

17

# EQUALITY FOR ALL



**EQUALITY ILLINOIS**

PAGE 12

EI CEO Brian Johnson (from left), honoree Jim Bennett, and Camilla Taylor of Lambda Legal.  
Photo by Kat Fitzgerald

## Equality Illinois hosts 2018 Gala



**J.B. PRITZKER**  
Guv candidate talks LGBT issues, criticisms.  
PR photo

8



**SHANNON DOWNEY**  
Artist/activist on her craft.  
Photo by Gloria Araya

6



**WILL POWER**  
Trans director Will Davis on new project.  
PR photo

15



**ART SMART**  
Artist Julius DC Bautista part of new exhibit.  
Photo courtesy of Bautista

22

In adults with HIV on ART who have diarrhea not caused by an infection



## Tired of planning your life around diarrhea? Enough is Enough

Get relief. Pure and simple. Ask your doctor about Mytesi.

### Mytesi (crofelemer):

- Is the **only** medicine FDA-approved to relieve diarrhea in people with HIV
- **Treats diarrhea differently** by normalizing the flow of water in the GI tract
- Has the same or fewer side effects as placebo in clinical studies
- Comes from a tree sustainably harvested in the Amazon Rainforest

### What is Mytesi?

Mytesi is a prescription medicine that helps relieve symptoms of diarrhea not caused by an infection (noninfectious) in adults living with HIV/AIDS on antiretroviral therapy (ART).

### Important Safety Information

Mytesi is not approved to treat infectious diarrhea (diarrhea caused by bacteria, a virus, or a parasite). Before starting you on Mytesi, your healthcare provider will first be sure that you do not have infectious diarrhea. Otherwise, there is a risk you would not receive the right medicine and your infection could get worse. In clinical studies, the most common side effects that occurred more often than with placebo were upper respiratory tract (sinus, nose, and throat) infection (5.7%), bronchitis (3.9%), cough (3.5%), flatulence (3.1%), and increased bilirubin (3.1%).

**For Copay Savings Card and  
Patient Assistance, see Mytesi.com**

**Mytesi**<sup>®</sup>  
(crofelemer) 125 mg  
delayed-release tablets

**RELIEF, PURE AND SIMPLE**

### IMPORTANT PATIENT INFORMATION

This is only a summary. See complete Prescribing Information at [Mytesi.com](http://Mytesi.com) or by calling 1-844-722-8256. This does not take the place of talking with your doctor about your medical condition or treatment.

#### What Is Mytesi?

Mytesi is a prescription medicine used to improve symptoms of noninfectious diarrhea (diarrhea not caused by a bacterial, viral, or parasitic infection) in adults living with HIV/AIDS on ART.

**Do Not Take Mytesi** if you have diarrhea caused by an infection. Before you start Mytesi, your doctor and you should make sure your diarrhea is not caused by an infection (such as bacteria, virus, or parasite).

#### Possible Side Effects of Mytesi Include:

- Upper respiratory tract infection (sinus, nose, and throat infection)
- Bronchitis (swelling in the tubes that carry air to and from your lungs)
- Cough
- Flatulence (gas)
- Increased bilirubin (a waste product when red blood cells break down)

For a full list of side effects, please talk to your doctor. Tell your doctor if you have any side effect that bothers you or does not go away.

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.

#### Should I Take Mytesi If I Am:

##### Pregnant or Planning to Become Pregnant?

- Studies in animals show that Mytesi could harm an unborn baby or affect the ability to become pregnant
- There are no studies in pregnant women taking Mytesi
- This drug should only be used during pregnancy if clearly needed

##### A Nursing Mother?

- It is not known whether Mytesi is passed through human breast milk
- If you are nursing, you should tell your doctor before starting Mytesi
- Your doctor will help you to decide whether to stop nursing or to stop taking Mytesi

##### Under 18 or Over 65 Years of Age?

- Mytesi has not been studied in children under 18 years of age
- Mytesi studies did not include many people over the age of 65. So it is not clear if this age group will respond differently. Talk to your doctor to find out if Mytesi is right for you

#### What Should I Know About Taking Mytesi With Other Medicines?

If you are taking any prescription or over-the-counter medicine, herbal supplements, or vitamins, tell your doctor before starting Mytesi.

#### What If I Have More Questions About Mytesi?

For more information, please see the full Prescribing Information at [Mytesi.com](http://Mytesi.com) or speak to your doctor or pharmacist.

To report side effects or make a product complaint or for additional information, call 1-844-722-8256.



#### Rx Only

Manufactured by Patheon, Inc.  
for Napo Pharmaceuticals, Inc. San Francisco, CA 94105  
Copyright © Napo Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

Mytesi comes from the *Croton lechleri* tree harvested in South America.

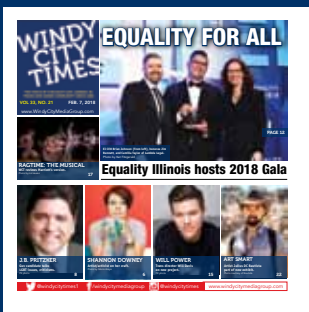
Please see complete Prescribing Information at [Mytesi.com](http://Mytesi.com).

## WINDY CITY TIMES

## INDEX

## DOWNLOAD THIS ISSUE

AND BROWSE THE ARCHIVES AT  
[www.WindyCityTimes.com](http://www.WindyCityTimes.com)



## NEWS

Passages: Owen, Cross, Piovsky	4
Jeanne Ives' anti-trans ad	5
'Craftivist' Shannon Downey	6
ELECTIONS: J.B. Pritzker	8
Black History Month event at the Center	9
ELECTIONS: Toni Preckwinkle	10
'Speak Truth to Power' event w/ Kerry Kennedy	11
Equality Illinois gala photos	12
Viewpoints: Abortion access piece	14

## ENTERTAINMENT/EVENTS

Theater: We're Gonna Be Okay	15
------------------------------	----



Theater reviews	19
-----------------	----

Artist Julius DC Bautista	22
Performer takes on Garbo, Hopper	23
HUMP film festival and Dan Savage	24
Movies: Talking w/ director of 'A Fantastic Woman'	25
TV: Mike Farrell—from 'MASH' to 'Versace'	26
NIGHTSPOTS	28
Classifieds; calendar	30

Above: WCT reviews *Women in Jeopardy*.  
 Photo from First Folio Theatre

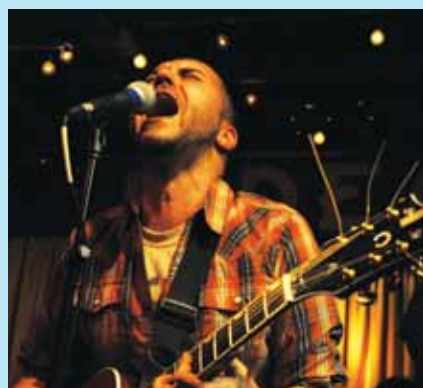
online exclusives at  
[www.WindyCityTimes.com](http://www.WindyCityTimes.com)



## THINK OF LARA

WCT talks with singer Lara Fabian, known for her song "I Will Love Again." PR photo of Fabian (left)

## MEOW MIX



Bent Nights looks at shows by Bad Bad Meow and Milky Chance.

Photo of Bad Bad Meow's Alen Kahn by Vern Hester

## LOVE ZONE

A mostly Valentine's Day-themed Five Worth Finding has some ideas for couples.

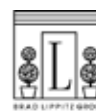
## THAT'S SHOW BIZ

Find out the latest about Oprah Winfrey, Lady Gaga and the movie *TransMilitary*.

plus  
**DAILY BREAKING NEWS**

We are proud  
 to announce the  
 Brad Lippitz Group  
 has navigated  
 to Compass.

COMPASS



Brad Lippitz  
 773.404.1144  
 bradlippitz.com  
 brad@bradlippitz.com

Compass Real Estate is a licensed real estate broker with a principal office in New York, NY and abides by all applicable Equal Housing Opportunity laws. All material presented herein is intended for informational purposes only, is compiled from sources deemed reliable but is subject to errors, omissions, and changes without notice. All measurements and square footage are approximate. This is not intended to solicit property already listed. Nothing herein shall be construed as legal, accounting or other professional advice outside the realm of real estate brokerage.



**Adrien Iris Pikovsky.**  
Photo from Cremation Society of Illinois, Inc.

## PASSAGES

### Adrien Iris Pikovsky

Pre-deceased by her parents and sister Sandra, Adrien ("A") Iris Pikovsky died on Jan. 29. She was 75.

Adrien was born Oct. 14, 1942, to Lee and Barney Pikovsky. Growing up on Chicago's West Side, she suffered from myriad health issues from the time she was a young child. Although these health issues and others plagued her throughout adulthood, she maintained a sunny disposition, a remarkable sense of humor, and a love of laughter (and hers was infectious).

A devoted lab tech and phlebotomist by profession, Adrien was a talented amateur photographer who also loved music, movies, jewelry, and the joy of the hunt at yard sales.

An out and proud lesbian, she believed it was important that everyone feel loved and cherished for who they are and, until the very end of her life, she often was a confidant and a source of inspiration for young gay people. In her last years, she resided at Wesley Place, a facility on Chicago's North Side, where she received the constant care she needed. Even there, Adrien's big heart and generous spirit touched the people she met, and she was much appreciated by both staff and other residents.

She is survived by her beloved partner Joan (and Joan's kids and grand-kids), niece Nicky, several cousins and many friends, including former partners.

A celebration of Adrien's life will take place in the spring or summer.

## PASSAGES

### Elizabeth E. Owen

Elizabeth E. Owen, passed away peacefully Jan. 27 at home in Chicago. She was 43.

She was born June 20, 1974 in McHenry, Illinois, to Edwin "Ted" Thompson and Barbara (Rein) Kimble. She received her associates degree from McHenry Community College, with continued education at College of DuPage.

Owen is survived by husband Blair Towne, loving mother, aunts Nancy and Jill, and the God-sent godfather, Kevin.

The family wishes to have a private memorial but any acts of kindness can be made to the American Cancer Foundation and the local chapter of PAWS. She was a proud member of the LGBT community and did wonderful service to the homeless community.



**Elizabeth E. Owen.**  
Photo from Kevin Mooney



**Darlene "Red" Cross.**

## PASSAGES

### Darlene 'Red' Cross

Darlene Lorraine Cross (also known as Red) was born to Louise and Richard Lee Cross Jan. 18, 1959, in Chicago. On Jan. 17, 2018 she peacefully departed this life with her beloved pet Tennifer by her side and her Unity Family Care Team.

Cross attended Chicago Vocational High School (CVS) on the South Side of Chicago during 1974-1977. Shortly after, she joined the U.S. Army where part of her time served was stationed in Frankfurt, Germany. Upon completion of her military service on July 20, 1980, she returned home to Chicago and began her College/University pursuits.

Darlene attended DePaul University, and graduated in 1986 with a bachelor's degree in computer science. She would later return to DePaul to complete her studies and receive her master's degrees and teaching credentials.

Cross' time in Chicago was full of family, friends and many gatherings with her Chicago crew. There were also many gatherings and volunteer works and community supports that she was actively

involved in, including Lesbian Community Cancer Project and POW-WOW, an African-American community arts organization. Some of were helped launched by her mentor and beloved friend, Jackie (Papa) Anderson, who preceded her only days earlier in death.

While Cross continued to live and work various jobs in her field in Chicago, she had not yet found her dream. In her true spirit of faith, love and determination to follow her dreams, in 2006, Cross headed to Fort Lauderdale. She found work and situated there for a bit more than a year. She would pack up once more to move to Maryland, where she found her dream job.

Cross was an associate professor at the Community College of Baltimore County where she taught Information technology and computer technology courses. She loved her mobile apps teams and when they would compete, she was so proud. She has also found her little slice of heaven in her dream home. She had a yard for her dog and room to grow her garden. And the space once again to plan gathering and soon welcome the Chicago crew to the new Maryland crew through her traditionally celebrated Pa-Pa party in honor of her father.

She had one more goal, and it was reached when she walked through the doors of Unity and met Rev. Sylvia Sumter. Unity became her Church and her spiritual family. She was truly happy.

In 2013, Cross was diagnosed with lung cancer. She was brave and up for the battle. It was aggressive, and she continued to pray and fight. She would say that God always knew when to put the right people in place just when she needed them most. Cross was a humble and grateful spirit and a true believer in God's will.

She leaves behind to mourn her brother, Gene Cross (Kay); her sister, Deborah Cross; her daughter, Kenya (Moya); nephews Terry and Eddie; and a host of great-nieces and -nephews as well as many friends across the globe.

"I miss you more than you know," Deborah said. "My heart aches to hear your voice. So glad we reconnected. You still will remain my little sister. Yes, you are gone. But I know if I live right and follow and trust in GOD's word, I will see you again. Rest In Heaven My Sister. Love Always."

## Reports: Robber met victims through Grindr

BY MATT SIMONETTE

Chicago Police Department issued a community alert on Feb. 2 warning the community of two armed robberies wherein the perpetrator met his victims through the Grindr hook-up app, met them at their apartments, then produced a knife and took their property.

The police report was first detailed in a CWB Chicago post on Feb. 2.

According to reports, the first incident occurred in Lincoln Square on Jan. 22, while the second took place in Uptown on Jan. 31. The perpetrator is a white male between ages 30-35 with short brown hair, 5'10 and weighing about

160 pounds.

Persons with information about the incidents should contact Bureau of Detectives-Area North at 312-744-8263.

CWB Chicago's post is at <http://bit.ly/2GNydgU>.

## Emanuel announces 'Getting to Zero' investments

Mayor Rahm Emanuel and the Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH) announced \$36 million in new HIV funding opportunities to support Chicago's "Getting to Zero" initiative that aims to effectively eliminate all new diagnoses of HIV in the city by 2027.

Last year, Emanuel joined CDPH and advocates

from across Chicago to launch the new Getting to Zero initiative. As part of that announcement, CDPH pledged to work with community groups to overhaul how federal grant dollars are distributed, ensuring greater alignment with evidence-based practices necessary to meet the ambitious goals outlined in Getting to Zero.

Funding categories for 2018 will include community development, healthcare access, housing, outreach and marketing, services for persons who use drugs, evaluation and quality management, and resource coordination.

In addition, all funding opportunities will focus on communities most impacted by HIV transmission, including members of the LGBT community, most especially younger African-American and Latino gay and bisexual men, as well as transgender women.

For more information, visit <https://www.aidschicago.org/page/get-involved/getting-to-zero>.



Jeanne Ives' anti-trans ad.  
Screen shot

## Gov. candidate Ives releases anti-trans ad

BY MATT SIMONETTE

Anti-LGBT gubernatorial candidate state Rep. Jeanne Ives (R-Wheaton) is running an ad mocking, among other groups, transgender Illinoisans.

The ad features what's intended as a comic depiction of a masculine man wearing a dress, "thanking" current Gov. Bruce Rauner for "legislation that lets me use the girls' bathroom."

As the supposedly transgender person speaks, a subtitle references the HB 1785 legislation, which Rauner signed in August 2017. That bill, sponsored by state Rep. Greg Harris (D-Chicago) and Sen. Toi Hutchinson (D-Olympia Fields), allows transgender Illinoisans to change their birth certificates without having to undergo surgery, and only circuitously affected trans persons and public accommodations.

Ives, who is challenging incumbent Rauner in the March 20 primary, has had a long history of opposing LGBT rights and other progressive causes. Among those also targeted in the ad are the Chicago Teachers Union, the immigrant community and women who have had abortions. During the campaign, Ives has steadfastly reiterated a message that the governor has betrayed his conservative supporters.

The governor's campaign responded to the ad, but did not comment on its substance, in a Feb. 2 statement: "Governor Rauner is the only candidate in either party who will take on Mike Madigan, cut taxes, and reform our state. Representative Ives has already admitted that she's not willing to take on Mike Madigan and will keep his 32% tax hike—not surprising given her history of

opposing property tax reductions. Looks like J.B. Pritzker has some competition as Mike Madigan's favorite candidate."

However, state GOP Chairman Tim Schneider called for Ives to pull the controversial ad, NBC Chicago reported. "There is no place in the Illinois Republican Party for rhetoric that attacks our fellow Illinoisans based on their race, gender, or humanity," he said. "Representative Ives' campaign ad does not reflect who we are as the Party of Lincoln and as proud residents of our great and diverse state." But Ives responded by saying the Illinois Republican Party is "an arm of the campaign of the man who funds it: Bruce Rauner."

Equality Illinois CEO Brian C. Johnson said, "We had hoped for a higher level of discourse from someone seeking the highest office in the state. At a time when our leaders should be bringing Illinoisans together, Jeanne Ives is launching a campaign of division and rancor. We need a governor who will stand up for all Illinoisans, not someone who will target transgender Illinoisans for her personal political benefit."

Colleen K Connell, executive director of ACLU of Illinois, said in a separate statement, "It is sad that a candidate for the office of Governor of Illinois would seek to divide voters by attacking our neighbors, friends and colleagues who are newcomers and refugees, those of a different race, those who are transgender and poor women in need of health care."

See the "Thank you, Bruce Rauner" ad at YouTube.com.

## Moreno, Lopez leave congressional race for Gutierrez successor

The contested race to succeed Democratic U.S. Rep. Luis Gutierrez in the 4th Congressional District got less crowded with Chicago Ald. Proco Joe Moreno (1st Ward) and Raymond Lopez (15th Ward) separately announcing their departures from the contest.

Moreno—one of 11 candidates who initially sought to replace Gutierrez upon his retirement—cited his responsibilities in his ward (such as affordable housing) as reason for leaving, the Chicago Sun-Times noted.

Lopez's move leaves with race without an openly gay candidate, as Ald. Carlos Ramirez-Rosa (35th Ward) withdrew in early January. The Chicago Tribune noted that Lopez said he wants to focus on local issues and on getting re-elected next year to a second City Council term.

Cook County Commissioner Jesus "Chuy" Garcia, La Casa Norte Executive Director Sol Flores and Chicago police sergeant Richard Gonzalez are still on the ballot for the March 20 Democratic primary. Mark Wayne Lorch is the only candidate in the Republican primary.

The Sun-Times article is at <https://chicago.suntimes.com>. The Tribune item is at <http://www.chicagotribune.com>.

## Mayor's HQ2 pitch includes LGBT policies

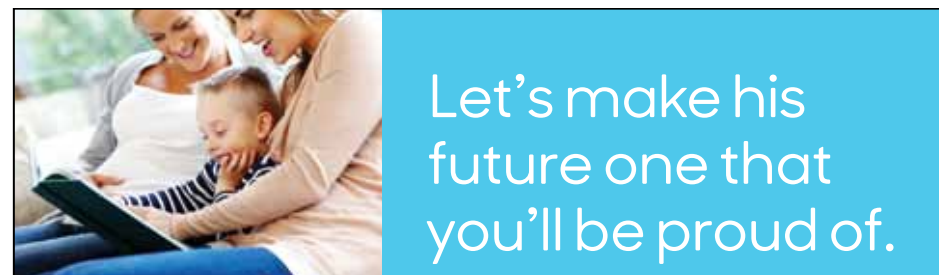
In making a pitch for Amazon's second headquarters, Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel touted the city's LGBT-inclusive policies, according to Crain's Chicago Business.

In part, Emanuel stated, "Chicago is committed to promoting and fostering equality, tolerance, inclusion and justice for every resident of our great city regardless of who they love or how they identify

"We were honored to receive a perfect score from the Human Rights Campaign on the 2017 Municipal Equality Index scorecard for the protections we offer LGBTQ employees, our strong enforcement of non-discrimination laws and the municipal services we offer to LGBTQ residents."

LGBTQ groups are urging Amazon to delete nine cities (including Indianapolis and Miami) from its short list of 20 spots because they are in states that allow people to discriminate against LGBTQ individuals in the areas of employment and public services.

The Crain's article is at [ChicagoBusiness.com/article/20180202/BLOGS02/180209980#utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=ccb-morning10&utm\\_campaign=ccb-morning10-20180202](http://ChicagoBusiness.com/article/20180202/BLOGS02/180209980#utm_medium=email&utm_source=ccb-morning10&utm_campaign=ccb-morning10-20180202)



Let's make his future one that you'll be proud of.

At MassMutual Illinois, we understand the unique financial needs of the LGBTQ community and can help you build financial strategies to ensure your loved ones are protected. For more than 165 years, MassMutual has helped policyowners on their quest for financial freedom.

[www.illinois.massmutual.com](http://www.illinois.massmutual.com)

Insurance. Retirement. Investments.

**MassMutual**  
Illinois



A general agency of Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Company (MassMutual), Springfield, MA 01111-0001. Local sales agencies are not subsidiaries of MassMutual or its affiliated companies. Insurance products issued by MassMutual, Springfield, MA 01111, and its subsidiaries, C.M. Life Insurance Co. and MML Bay State Life Insurance Co., Enfield, CT 06082. Securities offered through MML Investors Services, LLC, Member SIPC and a MassMutual subsidiary. Supervisory Office: 2650 Warrenville Road, Suite 100, Downers Grove, IL 60515-1748. 630-441-1000. As of November 2017, the Human Rights Commission announced that MassMutual scored 100 percent on its Corporate Equality Index (CEI), and was named a Best Places to Work. CRN202012-219051



@windycitytimes1



/windycitymediagroup



@windycitytimes

[www.windycitymediagroup.com](http://www.windycitymediagroup.com)

# Shannon Downey on artistic/activist 'craftivism,' other feats

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

Activism has always been a part of Shannon Downey's life, going back to her childhood outside of Boston.

"In elementary school, our home was the union organizing center for the labor movement," said Downey. "For months our house was filled with people strategizing, making signs, mapping out districts and planning protests for the fight against an anti-labor ballot measure. I remember how exciting it felt to be standing on the side of the road with a 'Vote No on #2' sign as people drove by and beeped to show their support. Having a voice felt good and I was hooked."



Shannon Downey.  
Photo by Gloria Araya

Largely in response to Trump's election win, Downey closed down her marketing company this past July after ten years and took on the role of Director of Development at Asian American Advancing Justice | Chicago, an organization working for racial equity. Downey is also adjunct faculty at Columbia College and DePaul University where she teaches business and leisure theory classes.

In addition to her day jobs, Downey has channeled her activism into "craftivism."

"Craftivism is hand-made representation of one's activism in engaging and unexpected ways for an intended goal and cause and my medium is embroidery," said Downey. "My personal brand of craftivism is built around action and outcomes. I create art to inspire, instigate, engage, inflame, empower and incite people into action. I want everyone to use their creativity to find their voice and then use it."

Downey's fiancé, Pearl Dick, is also an artist and co-founded Project FIRE (<https://projectfire-chi.com/>) where she works with young people who have been injured by gun violence. Dick teaches them glass blowing and entrepreneurship. Last year, Downey launched a craftivism project around gun violence that included over 200 embroidery pieces from around the world and hosted a gallery show in collaboration with Project FIRE. The event had over 500 people attend the opening and through the sale of the art, Downey raised over \$5,000 to fund Project FIRE's next semester.

"The most moving part was the letters I received with the submissions," said Downey. "Folks were so happy to have a way to do something that would have a real impact, an opportunity to take action. That is the very definition of craftivism for me."

Downey showcases her work on her website, Badass Cross Stitch ([BadassCrossStitch.com](http://BadassCrossStitch.com)). "Badass" is Downey's favorite word, she said.

"I love associating embroidery and cross stitching with the term badass because it creates a real sense of cognitive dissonance," said Downey. "I want folks to stop thinking about it as some precious or easily dismissed 'women's craft.' I started Badass Cross Stitch to inspire other people to join me on a journey to find digital/analog balance so they would put down their devices and create something meaningful, express themselves and say something powerful. I want an army of stitchers."

Her "Boys Will Be Boys" embroidery (that she made the night the Trump Access Hollywood tape was released) went viral and has been shared by celebrities such as Rose McGowan, Tracee Ellis Ross, Zoe Kravitz, Colin Hanks, Dita Von Teese, Amy Sedaris, Willow Smith, Padma Lakshmi and others.

"I thought for sure, this video was the smoking gun and he would never get elected after it was made public," said Downey. "My piece got some traction then but it got new life when a few celebrities shared it in response to Harvey Weinstein. It then became the illustration that hundreds of thousands of women used to share their #MeToo stories."

"That so many people around the world have used my art as the illustration to their own narratives is ... well, a feeling that is beyond words. To have created something that spoke so strongly to so many is a testament to our shared experience as female-identified people. They are finding ways to stand up and raise their voices. I want to do anything and everything I can to keep that momentum going."

Downey also has a blog called "Seriously Badaass Women" ([SeriouslyBadassWomen.com](http://SeriouslyBadassWomen.com)) that features the diverse, interesting, badass women she meets every day sharing who they are and what they believe in.



One of Shannon Downey's creations. Photo courtesy of Downey

When asked which Chicago artists inspire her, Downey highlighted the work Dick does as well as feminist artist Judy Chicago, Matthew Hoffman (the "You Are Beautiful" project), Natalie Boyett (Chicago Weaving School founder), Francine Turk and Shawn Smith.

Downey also did a The View-like queer-focused webseries, The Gay Agenda, with co-hosts Mary Morten, Jim Bennett and Tony Alvarado Rivera a few years ago, which she said was a rowdy good time.

When she is not working on her own craftivism or other work endeavors, Downey leads many free community embroidery/craftivism workshops.

"I am about to launch a bunch more for 2018 around the giant global craftivism project I have cooked up (<https://www.badassherstory.com/>)," said Downey. "My goals are to teach one million people to embroider and get over a million female-identified and gender non-binary folks to participate in my craftivism project. So everyone should go sign up right now."

## State travel/tourism conference in Chicago in Feb.

The Illinois Governor's Conference will hold three days of high-level speakers, educational panels and key networking opportunities in early 2018 in Chicago.

The 2018 Illinois Governor's Conference on Travel and Tourism will take place Feb. 26-28 at the Palmer House Hilton, 17 E. Monroe St. The event includes the nation's leading travel experts and a special LGBTQ breakout session. See <http://www.ilgovconference.com/schedule/>.

Cory M. Jobe, director of the Office of Tourism for the Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity, said in a press release: "Each year, the Illinois Governor's Conference is the place for an open exchange of ideas and setting the direction for the future of the state's tourism industry."

"The 2018 Illinois Governor's Conference in Chicago is going to be the best yet, featuring the nation's leading travel experts and speakers, and expert panelists who will share their knowledge of the latest travel trends and best practices in the industry. This year's Illinois Governor's Conference also offers plenty of networking opportunities and serves as a forum for connecting with colleagues and sharing ideas."

Register at <https://ww2.eventrebels.com/er/Registration/StepRegInfo.jsp?ActivityID=21586&StepNumber=1>.

## Jackie Anderson Scholarship Fund endowed at Roosevelt

Longtime Chicago civil-rights activist Jackie Anderson will be remembered in a more permanent way, after her passing Jan. 7. Her family has established a scholarship in her name at Roosevelt University. Thanks to initial donations, the \$5,000 scholarship is now endowed, but donations are needed to be used toward students.

Roosevelt University held a special place in Anderson's heart. One promise she asked Torrence (her grandson) to keep was to start a scholarship fund for young African-American female students to help continue their pursuit of higher education. She understood that \$1,000 could be the difference between degree completion and dropping out. Therefore, a donation to the Jackie Anderson Scholarship Fund is being sought by family and friends.

See <https://59965.thankyou4caring.org/cas> — in the tribute portion at the bottom, you can select the drop down to reflect that the gift is in memory of Jackie Anderson.

For more info on Anderson, see <http://www.windycitymediagroup.com/lgbt/PASSAGES-Jackie-Anderson-memorial-Jan-28/61699.html>.



# UBER

## Ride together

Get a reliable ride in minutes with  
the Uber app

Sign up with the code **WINDYCITYTIMES** at [Uber.com/app](https://uber.com/app)

First-time riders only. Not valid on UberCAB

## ELECTIONS 2018: GOVERNOR

# J.B. Pritzker discusses LGBT issues, opponents' criticisms

BY MATT SIMONETTE

Businessman J.B. Pritzker has been mounting an aggressive campaign to win the Democratic nomination for Illinois governor in the March 20 primary. Pritzker eventually hopes to eventually unseat incumbent Gov. Bruce Rauner, whose administration he has deemed “a complete failure.”

Windy City Times spoke with Pritzker about his campaign and work with the LGBT community.

**Windy City Times: Why did you decide to run?**

J.B. Pritzker: Everything that we care about is under siege by Gov. Rauner and his partner in Washington, D.C., Donald Trump. I often have said that we've got to overcome the racist homophobes in the White House—that's not just Donald Trump, but Mike Pence. I've tried harder than any of the other candidates to defeat Donald Trump and I think running for governor is a way for me to carry out my own values that my parents taught me, fighting for social and economic justice, starting at a very young age. Those are also the tenets of my faith. I began as a young kid, working with my mother, helping to elect progressive Democrats [and] fighting for LGBTQ rights at a very young age. I grew up in the heart of the gay pride movement in San Francisco, and I haven't really stopped fighting for those issues of economic and social justice since.

**WCT: What do you see as your biggest advantage in the election, and, conversely, your biggest challenge?**

JBP: The biggest advantage is that I've put together an organization focused on winning votes across the state. I'm not just running a campaign in Cook County and the collar counties—it's in all 102 counties across the state. From the beginning, I've organized the campaign to not just win in the primary, but to win in the general election as well. Oftentimes people organize campaigns to barely make it over the line in the primary, then they'll worry about the general election the day after the primary. I began by focusing this campaign entirely on beating Bruce Rauner. That is the number one endeavor here, that we've all got to rally around.

I think that the biggest challenge in this race is that I had to overcome two things. One was the fame and name recognition of one of my primary opponents, and then of course a governor who is well known. I was not as well-known as people might imagine. The second is that there are some pre-conceived notions that people have because there is one wealthy guy who is governor, who is a complete failure, and there is another wealthy guy who is president of the United States who is a complete disaster. So no doubt people wonder if somebody who is wealthy should serve in public office. For me, the race isn't about money, it's

about values—it's about fighting for social and economic justice.

**WCT: How do you respond to that criticism? It is a frequent comment by [opponent] Daniel Biss that your presence in the election, as well as that of Chris Kennedy, turns it into an “auction.” Likewise, Gov. Rauner's PAC suggested an “insider” status with the tape [of Pritzker speaking to former Gov. Rod Blagojevich] earlier in January.**

JBP: I think that telling people about my life's history, fighting for justice—[those are] important to get across. I think people do understand, as much as my opponents want to emphasize the negative. Whatever walk of life one is born into, the question ought to be asked: What did they do with the resources they had? What did they do to help other people, to make lives better across the state of Illinois? I think my record is unmatched among all the candidates that are running, including the current governor—especially the current governor—of creating jobs and economic opportunity, improving the education system, addressing poverty and fighting for civil rights. In all those areas, I have a record of accomplishment.

**WCT: What do you see as the two or three biggest issues facing Illinois at this point?**

JBP: I'll call them five issues. First, we have to provide a quality education for every child, no matter what zip code they live in. We have to create jobs in the state, after years of neglect from Bruce Rauner. We're in the bottom third of states in terms of job creation. We've got to expand health care and make it universal; I'm the only candidate who has a plan to do that. We've got to make sure that we're focused on economic justice in the forgotten communities across the state.

Once again, I've put forward a plan for jobs and economic development that's focused on those communities. Finally, we've got to fight for civil rights for communities in Illinois, to protect them from Donald Trump and Mike Pence as well as expanding civil rights, to make sure that we're doing the best we can, so that everyone's human rights are recognized as the most important.

**WCT: You already mentioned growing up doing LGBT-focused civil rights work. What kind of work and engagement have you had with the LGBT community overall?**

JBP: As a student, I was marching and rallying with the Chicago Pride Parade before it was a celebration. It was a protest march. Before Equality Illinois was called [what it is now], when it was the Illinois Federation for Human Rights (IFHR), I was engaged in trying to try to fight for LGBTQ civil rights.

For example, I have the support of [Equality Illinois co-founder] Art Johnston, one of the legendary and luminary leaders fighting for LG-



J.B. Pritzker.

Photo by Nina Matti

BTQ rights, because he knows that I was there in the earliest moments of the movement, engaging with the very first summit, for example, that was held by the [IFHR] in Springfield back in the early '90s. I've also gotten the support of [activist] Rick Garcia, another luminary in the community; he too has seen, over the years, the work that I've done.

[State] Rep. Greg Harris has spoken about the work that I did to attract the final votes that helped to pass the gay marriage bill in Springfield the last few years. Twenty years before it was legal, I hosted a gay wedding in my own home for two friends. I didn't do it to make a statement. I did it because I had two friends who were in love with one another and they wanted to get married and I wanted to be a part of that.

I was one of the first supporters of the first openly gay Cook County circuit court judge, Tom Chiola, as well as the first openly gay state legislator Larry McKeon. I helped to support the creation of the Center on Halsted. In all these ways, I've been an ally and friend, and I intend to stay that way if I'm elected governor.

**WCT: What do you see as the most important issues facing the LGBT community?**

JBP: We've got to stop the rise of anti-LGBTQ hate crimes. We've got to pass budgets that fund programs like the AIDS Drug Assistance Program, PrEP for Illinois, HIV testing, anti-bullying initiatives, and health and safety programs in the LGBTQ community. The budget of the state of Illinois is a moral document that speaks to the values of our government. The values of our government ought to be standing up for the LGBTQ community.

Of course, in particular, we need to stand up for the trans community, which has been so much under fire, particularly under Donald Trump. We've got to make sure that members of the community are safe, that they don't experience harassment. We need to train police, to make sure that the

trans community isn't disproportionately victimized, and create opportunities for inclusiveness.

If we really want to address these problems, we need to make sure that we have leadership in the next administration that comes from the LGBTQ community that sits in the highest positions in government. That comes back to the question of values and history. Does the person that you are electing for governor demonstrate that they are an ally, advocate or partner? I think people can run for office and promise things during a campaign that they have never demonstrated an interest in. That's okay, but it's far better to elect people who have demonstrated a real history in support of the community.

See [jbpritzker.com](http://jbpritzker.com). A 2017 Windy City Times interview with Pritzker is at [bit.ly/2BzY0Fo](http://bit.ly/2BzY0Fo).

## HIV-criminalization panel Feb. 15

Legal Health Council for Justice and TPAN will co-host “HIV Criminalization: Beyond Shame and Stigma” on Thursday, Feb. 15, at Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted St., 6:30-8:30 p.m.

“HIV Criminalization” will include panelist Dr. Trevor Hoppe of State University of New York (SUNY)-Albany, whose recently published book, *Punishing Disease*, addresses this topic. Other panelists will include Sex Workers Outreach Project's Caitlin Barlow; and Maurice Chapman: formerly of South Suburban HIV/AIDS Regional Clinics.

Legal Council for Health Justice's Justin Hayford will provide the introduction, and TPAN's Jeff Berry will be the moderator.

Admission is free; visit “HIV Criminalization: Beyond Shame & Stigma” on Eventbrite.com for more information.



# Artists mark start of Black History Month at Center on Halsted

BY BRONSON PETTITT

Black artists gathered at the Center on Halsted on Feb. 1 to commemorate Black History Month with "Quiet Storm: The Art & Times of Black LG-BTQ Life."

Chicago-based poet e. nina jay read from her book *Body of Rooms*, conveying how her various identities are like separate rooms in a house.

"Lesbian here, Black over here, woman over here. Every identity I owned or claimed lived in some separate room in this house that I am, that I've built over the years," she said.

jay also read *The World Wants You to Believe*, dedicated to her niece and nephew.

"You have a lot of reasons to believe in yourself. Your auntie believes in you. Every day of the year is your month, your Black History."

Dr. Johari Jabir, an African-American Studies professor at the University of Illinois at Chicago, performed a piano medley of Nina Simone's music and the Black American national anthem, "Lift Every Voice and Sing."

"My music comes from a vibrant Black working-class community," said Jabir, whose music is in-



e. nina jay at the event.  
Photo by Bronson Pettitt

fluenced by southern gospel.

Lens-based artist Darryl DeAngelo Terrell had his triptych photography on display, in which he turns his insecurities into strengths via alter ego Dion, "a gender non-binary Black, fat femme" who is "heavily desirable but does not give guys the time of day." In the triptych, Dion wears a tulle tutu, perched on a wicker peacock chair.

Next to him are two men "who would be the most attractive in Black queer culture—nicely toned, nice skin complexion, nice butts, whatever," presenting Dion "as if they were leopards in front of a king or queen."

## Woodward/Bernstein event Feb. 8 at NEIU

Journalism icons and authors Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein will participate in a conversation about current events as Northeastern Illinois University presents the third installment of the Daniel L. Goodwin Distinguished Lecture Series at 3701 W. Bryn Mawr Ave. on Thursday, Feb. 8, at 7:30 p.m. (book-signing at 8:45 p.m.).

It will be the first time the two have appeared together since the November 2016 election.

In the early 1970s, Woodward and Bernstein broke the Watergate story for *The Washington Post*, leading to the resignation of President Richard Nixon. The story set the standard for modern investigative reporting, for which they

The event also had materials on exhibit from the Gerber/Hart Library and Archives' Black History Month display, including Black lesbian literature from the 1960s, cassettes and VHS tapes by Black artists and magazines celebrating Black Pride from decades past.

The Center on Halsted will continue Black History Month with a showing of the movie *Kiki* at 6 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 16, at the South Side YMCA and a panel discussion, "Activism Then and Now" on Wed., Feb. 21, at the DuSable Museum of African American History.



Bob Woodward.  
PR photo

and *The Post* were awarded the Pulitzer Prize.

Dr. Katrina Bell-Jordan, interim dean of the school's College of Arts and Sciences, will serve as moderator on Feb. 8.

Admission is \$25; visit [neiu.edu/tickets](http://neiu.edu/tickets).

**Tucker, Inc.**  
ENGAGEMENT RINGS WEDDING BANDS  
JEWELRY FOR ALL OCCASIONS

5 S. Wabash, ste 507  
Chicago, IL 60603

IS

312.263.3315  
[tuckercompany@aol.com](mailto:tuckercompany@aol.com)

LOVE LOVE

Donald Strzpek  
Pregnant community member

WALK WRIGHT IN  
**WRIGHT PLUS**<sup>SM</sup>  
ARCHITECTURAL HOUSEWALK

Photo: James Confield

**BUY NOW AND SAVE!**

**SATURDAY, MAY 19, 2018 • OAK PARK, ILLINOIS**

"WRIGHT PLUS HAS LONG BEEN THE PINNACLE OF HOUSEWALKS IN OAK PARK AND, ARGUABLY, THE ENTIRE COUNTRY." —WEDNESDAY JOURNAL

Enjoy rare interior tours of privately owned homes and landmark buildings designed by Frank Lloyd Wright and his contemporaries in historic Oak Park. Tour magnificent spaces, experience history, and enjoy a festive day.

**FLWRIGHT.ORG | 312.994.4000** **Frank Lloyd Wright Trust**  
INTERNATIONAL GATEWAY TO WRIGHT'S CHICAGO

**ELECTIONS 2018:**  
**COOK COUNTY BOARD PRESIDENT**

# Toni Preckwinkle talks past accomplishments, future plans, soda tax

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

Toni Preckwinkle (D) has been the Cook County board president since 2010 and is running for a third term in the 2018 election. Her primary opponent is former Chicago Ald. Robert Fioretti.

**Windy City Times: Why did you decide to run again?**

Toni Preckwinkle: I have worked hard trying to reform Cook County government over the last eight years. In my view, it was important to continue that work for another four years to try and institutionalize some other reforms we have undertaken. We have worked hard to make our healthcare system sustainable and on criminal justice reform. Together, public health and safety are 90 percent of our budget so a lot of energy has gone into those two things.

**WCT: What are the three accomplishments you are most proud of?**

TP: I am really pleased that our public health system, which is half of our budget, continues to serve the people of Cook County. In the last four years, as a result of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), we have been able to add a managed care Medicaid expansion program called CountyCare that will have 400,000 members this year to the public health system (two hospitals and 16 primary care specialist clinics). Within CountyCare, every non-profit primary healthcare care facility (safety-net and academic hospitals) are a part of the network.

On the public safety side, when I was elected in 2010, there were nine to ten thousand people in the jails. Most of whom were there because they could not pay their bail, and the overwhelming majority of them were accused of non-violent crimes. When we started out, seven percent of the people were serving a sentence and the rest, 93 percent, were awaiting trial. Of those who were awaiting trial, 70 percent were for a non-violent crime. When we got the stakeholders together in March 2011 after our first budget cycle, to talk about public safety and how we could do better and measure our progress, the consensus was we needed to reduce the number of people accused of non-violent crimes who were awaiting the disposition of their cases in the jail. For two and a half years, though everybody from the Chief Judge to the Sheriff to the States Attorney to the Public Defender to the Clerk of the Court was committed to that goal, we still had roughly the same jail population. We asked for the Illinois Supreme Court's help in Nov. 2013 and they convened stakeholders with all of us working together ever since then, and now the jail population is down to below six thousand people. This is because fewer poor people await the disposition of their cases in the jail. We started out

with about two-thirds of the people who came into bond court having to pay 10 percent of their bond in cash and one-third of them were released on their own recognizance or under electronic monitoring and now it is the reverse. The result has been a dramatic decrease in the jail population.

Part of the rest of our budget deals with economic development, and in my past life I worked in the City of Chicago's Department of Economic Development. When I got elected to this job, I asked to have the bureau chief come and see me. There was no Bureau of Economic Development at the county level, so we put together the capital planning community development building and zoning folks into the newly formed Bureau of Economic Development. We started our own Council of Economic Advisors with a couple dozen corporate leaders who advise us on how we can better use our own resources internally but also to build relationships with the business community. As a result of the council, we convened the leaders of the seven county region and asked them if it was possible to work with them on economic development and how we would do it in December 2013.

Over the last four years, Cook, the City of Chicago, DuPage, Lake, Kane, Kendall, Will and McHenry have been working around truck-permitting. We are the capital of the Midwest, so there is a lot of intermodal traffic from train to truck and truck to train, plus a lot of long-haul truck traffic through our region and we are trying to synthesize truck permitting. Compliance has been difficult because every village, town, city and township had different rules so we have been rationalizing that system and make compliance easier. We are working with folks in the metal-working sector because each of the seven counties has a strong metal-working component in their economy. We picked that one to help increase capacity and vitality. We are working with small and medium-sized businesses around exporting because of our exporting initiative where we are trying to enhance more foreign investment opportunities. Those are the four economic things we are working on. It is called the Chicago Regional Growth Corporation non-profit and we just formally incorporated.

**WCT: What do you see are the most important issues still facing the county and how would you address them?**

TP: Continuing to work on the healthcare system. Also, address the issues of criminal justice because the criminal justice system in Cook County and elsewhere has a disparate impact on Black and Brown communities. Half of the county is Black and Brown but 86 percent of the people in our jail are Black and Brown with most of them



**Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle.**  
Photo courtesy of campaign team

being Black. It is a reflection of hyper-policing Black and Brown communities in Chicago and the pervasive inequities in our criminal justice system. That is something we need to try and address. I am grateful to all the work of the stakeholders, in particular the good work of the public defender and the states attorney, who have been driving our efforts to see that people are treated appropriately in bond court, which is the portal into the criminal justice system.

The Department of Economic Development supports affordable housing deals. They have been working closely with Cook County Housing Authority to provide affordable housing to our residents particularly in the southern and western suburbs.

The Department of the Environment and Sustainability has been working on reducing our greenhouse gas emissions and community solar projects.

**WCT: What additional measures would you advocate for to provide more transparency in how the county government is run?**

TP: We have done a lot of that work already. You can go online to find out who does our contracting and who their subcontractors are and how much of the contract that has been performed. There is a lot of transparency around our procurement process that did not exist when I came into office. We also have a lot of GIS data that is available to the public. Generally we put an emphasis on investment into information technology because in the past the county was negligent in making those investments.

My favorite story is shortly after I was elected, I went to bond court and discovered they were still recording judges orders on carbon paper. We invested millions of dollars in technology upgrades

across the county on everything from electronic medical records at the hospitals to a system in the public safety arena called the data bus where all the information related to our criminal justice system is available in one entity with only the appropriate people having access to certain data. We have been working on electronic data sharing among the stakeholders and that is true in terms of property taxation as well as public safety.

**WCT: What do you see are the most important issues or obstacles facing the LGBTQ community and how would you address them?**

TP: We have a president of the United States who thinks white supremacists are fine people, attacks immigrants, suggested Mexican immigrants are rapists and murderers and tried to ban transgender individuals from the military. There are a lot of challenges emanating from Washington, D.C. and I think it is important for local government officials to be aware of the environment they are in and make it quite clear that the intolerance that is coming from Washington is not welcomed here. We are going to try and be as inclusive as we can in the face of federal assault on people's rights.

**WCT: Now that it has been repealed, how do you feel about the soda tax?**

TP: Over the course of seven years, we closed budget gaps of more than \$2 billion, cut expenses by \$657 million, reduced our workforce by 15 percent and indebtedness by 11 percent. In November 2016, we made about \$65 million in cuts but realized we had a \$200 million shortfall and usually the way you beat those shortfalls are with property and/or sales tax increases. Out of our 17 commissioners, no one supported an increase in the property tax, two said they would support increasing the sales tax with only one saying she would vote for it.

We looked for other sources of revenue and Philadelphia had just enacted its sweetened beverage tax and there were other places in California, including Berkeley, that had the tax. We thought this would be a way to raise revenue. We know that sweetened beverages contribute to diabetes, obesity, tooth decay and other health risks. It was passed narrowly and I cast the deciding vote because, ironically, the late Commissioner Robert Steele (who would have been the ninth yes vote) was in the hospital challenged by his diabetes. The American Beverage Association had been running ads challenging the beverage tax. The pressure on the commissioners to repeal the tax was pretty intense and then this fall we had a difficult budget process where we had to make about \$200 million in cuts including laying off 321 people.

I would have preferred, if the commissioners would have supported it, to raise property taxes or even have an increase in the sales tax. The most progressive way to do it is to have a graduated income tax but that is not available to us. We need revenue to provide services and support the good work we do. I do not apologize for that. I always say if you want good government you have to pay for it. Sometimes, public policy is neither popular nor possible.

**For more information, visit <http://tonipreckwinkle.org/>.**

**To read the entire interview with Toni Preckwinkle, visit [WindyCityMediaGroup.com](http://WindyCityMediaGroup.com)**

# 'Speak Truth to Power' Midwest debut features Kerry Kennedy

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

On opening day of the Speak Truth to Power exhibit, Kerry Kennedy (Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights President) hosted a tour of the late Pulitzer Prize-winning photojournalist Eddie Adams' portraits featured in her book, "Speak Truth to Power: Human Rights Defenders Who Are Changing Our World," Feb. 4 at the Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center in Skokie, Illinois.

The exhibit showcases Adams' black and white photos of about 50 activist "upstanders" from over 40 countries and six continents who were doing this work at the time of the book's publication in 2000. These "upstanders" have defended justice in many areas including political rights, LGBTQ rights, freedom of expression, honor killings, demilitarization, environmental issues, mental health, children's rights and national self-determination.

The many activists featured include Vaclav Havel, the Dalai Lama, Elie Wiesel, Van Jones, Sister Helen Prejean, Marian Wright Edelman and openly lesbian Patria Jimenez, who was the first LGBT member of Mexico's legislature.

During the tour, Kennedy spoke about this year being the 50th anniversary of her father's assassination and the impact of having the exhibit at this moment. She explained that she met Adams when she worked as an editor at a news photography agency (where he worked as a photographer) when she graduated from college. When Kennedy decided to write the book, she asked him to take the photos while she did the interviews of the people being profiled.

In speaking about Jimenez specifically, Kennedy said when the book was published, it was a different time for LGBT rights.

"Patria is an extraordinary woman who was the first openly lesbian legislator in Mexico, and as a result her life was threatened," said Kennedy. "Because of Patria and others like her who were willing to stand up and stand out, life for LGBT people has changed, but we still have a long way to go.

"One of our more recent defenders, who is not in this exhibit, is Frank Mugisha, the leading LGBT activist from Uganda. Uganda passed a law two years ago that made homosexuality punishable with life in prison without parole. We partnered with him on the ground to overturn the law because Uganda was not complying with international norms under the International Declaration of Human Rights and we were successful.

"Someone we talk about in our education program is Jamie Nabozny who, as a young gay man, was terribly abused at his school and he eventually sued the school system successfully. His case changed the law so now the principals can now be held personally liable for failure to protect any student from harassment and I think that is a really strong example of someone who created



**Kerry Kennedy.**

Photo by Carrie Maxwell

change."

Following the tour, Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center CEO Susan Abrams welcomed the approximately 300 people in attendance (including Kennedy's brother, Illinois Democratic gubernatorial candidate Chris Kennedy, and U.S. Rep. Brad Schneider) to hear Kennedy speak about her childhood, the genesis of Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights and the Speak Truth to Power book/tour (including stories about some of the defenders in the exhibit). Kennedy said she learned a lot about human rights while growing up as number seven of 11 siblings (seven brothers and three sisters), drawing laughs from the audience.

She also told stories of the times when her mom Ethel would take her and some of her siblings to visit their dad when he was the United States Attorney General. Kennedy explained that there is an underground tunnel connecting the Department of Justice and the FBI. During one visit, Kennedy said her mom put a note in the FBI's suggestion box in the tunnel that read, "Get a new director." (At the time, the director was J. Edgar Hoover.)

"This was an early lesson about the importance of speaking truth to power," said Kennedy.

Kennedy explained how the deaths of her uncle (President John F. Kennedy), her dad and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. affected her as a young girl. She said life was hard after her dad's death.

"When you lose a parent at a young age [like I did], it leaves the work of love undone," said Kennedy.

Over the course of Kennedy's young life, she noted that she came in contact with people who

were experiencing human rights abuses. She explained that a good friend of hers was one of the first people in the U.S. to die of AIDS and he was gay and not out of the closet. Kennedy said everyone has those stories because all people experience love and suffering throughout their lives.

Kennedy said it was not until she spent a summer during college working for Amnesty International officials against El Salvadoran refugees in 1979 that she fully understood what it means to fight for human rights. She explained that someone gave her a copy of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and after reading it her life changed forever.

"I will leave you with this," said Kennedy. "When Daddy announced he was running for president 50 years ago, he said peace, justice and compassion toward those who suffer is what the United States should stand for."

A Q&A session followed Kennedy's talk.

Abrams urged attendees to #TAKEASTAND against current human rights violations through the museum's Take a Stand Center.

The exhibit will run through June 24. Other public events in conjunction with the exhibit will take place on future dates.

For more information, visit <https://www.iholocaustmuseum.org/speaktruthtopower/>.

## SHE100 issues new round of grants

Chicago-based SHE100, a donor-informed fund for LGBTQ organizations, announced its new round of grants at a ceremony at Center on Halsted Jan. 28. The agencies receiving funding were Masjid al-Rabia (\$2,000), Quare Square Collective (\$2,000) and Changing Worlds (\$6,000). Pictured are SHE 100 founders and members with representatives from the agencies.

SHE100 was founded by Angela Barnes, Maia Lis Benson, Amy Bloom and Brooke Skinner Ricketts—four Chicago activists who were trying to develop a way to collectively empower queer women in the LGBTQ community. They have given out more than \$30,000 so far.

See <http://she100.org/>.

Photo courtesy of SHE100



**SHE100 organizers with grantees.**  
Photo courtesy of SHE100

## Look Your Best in 2018!

- Botox \$10/unit
- Xeomin \$9/unit

## Freshenup.Life

Dr. David Rudziewicz

Schedule your appointment today at

**Freshenup.Life**

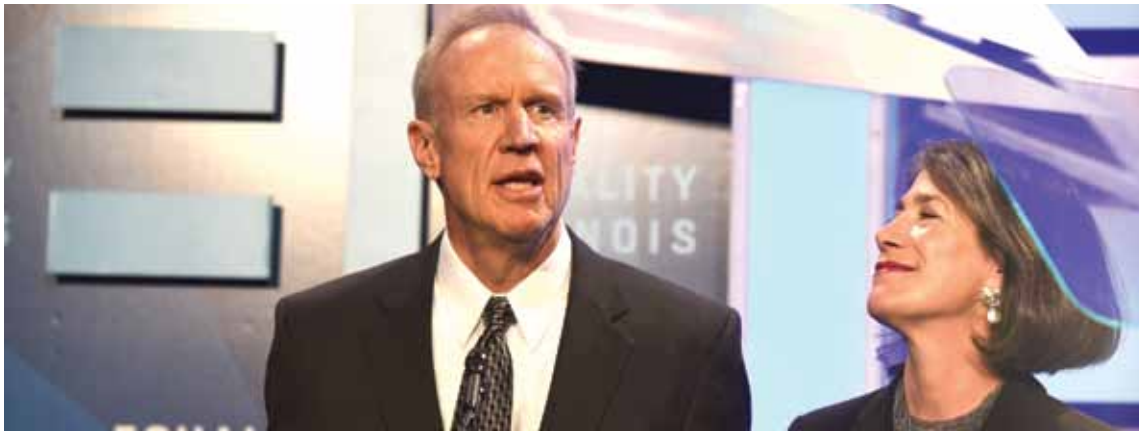
(Located in Pocket Suites)

2122 W. Belmont, Chicago

872-999-0110

**Always look your best!**





# Gov. Rauner, Mayor Emanuel open Equality Illinois gala

BY MATT SIMONETTE

Mayor Rahm Emanuel and Gov. Bruce Rauner set aside their continuing differences over the state of the state Feb. 3 as each presented welcoming remarks, as did Rauner's wife Diana, at Equality Illinois' 2018 fundraiser at the Chicago Hilton and Towers.

It was Rauner's first time attending the gala, though he has partaken in several meetings with Equality Illinois officials. The event was sold out, with nearly 1,500 attendees, according to Equality Illinois.

In his remarks, Emanuel spoke at length about Chicago's status as a sanctuary city he said was welcome to all, noting that city residents "are on a journey together for inclusiveness."

He added, "We will never undermine the values of inclusion."

Diana Rauner praised Equality Illinois' work

promoting "tolerance, equality and respect and dignity for every individual."

Gov. Rauner noted, "Justice, fairness, equal opportunity, equal treatment under the law—these are the principles that make America the beacon of hope for the entire world. Thank you for your dedication. Thank you for your leadership. Thank you for showing us how to treat each other with dignity and respect. Diana and I believe that fairness is in our DNA in Illinois."

Among the speakers who discussed their engagements with Equality Illinois were Tara Bell-Janowick of the Rainbow Cafe youth center in Carbondale, who said that, for her organization, "The vision of expanding through southern Illinois is being realized through our partnership with Equality Illinois."

State Sen. Toi Hutchinson spoke about being an ally to the LGBT community, noting that the time "feels heavy, but we will not give up. We

will not give in."

Grayson Alexander, a Loyola University freshman who was the first openly transgender page in the state senate, recalled being inspired to become politically active by the legislative push to make it easier for transgender Illinoisans to change the gender-markers on their birth certificates.

"I no longer wanted to watch," Alexander said. "I wanted to fight. ... With you all at my back, I can truly be free."

Equality Illinois co-founder Art Johnston remarked that, when he helped form the organization in 1991, "I could barely envision that I could look out on a room of nearly 1,500 individuals ... all gathered to demand full equality for LGBTQ Illinoisans."

But Johnston added, "This past year has reminded us how much we need each other to continue the fight forward."

Equality Illinois' CEO Brian Johnson spoke about the diversity of the LGBT community and denounced an anti-trans, xenophobic and racist campaign advertisement circulated by anti-LGBT Republican gubernatorial candidate state Rep. Jeanne Ives the previous day.

"You know that Jeanne Ives and those like her are flat-out wrong," he said.

Camilla Taylor, senior counsel for Lambda Legal, joined Johnson to present James Bennett, her former colleague, with the 2018 Freedom Award. She especially praised Bennett's work chairing the Illinois Unites for Marriage Coalition.

"He brought us together," Taylor said. "He never lost optimism."

Personal PAC President and CEO Terry Cosgrove presented the Business Leadership Award to Planned Parenthood of Illinois' President and CEO, Jennifer Welch, and her staff. He noted that organization's commitment to a wide spectrum of



Left: Gov. Bruce Rauner and First Lady Diana. Above: Mayor Rahm Emanuel. Photos by Kat Fitzgerald (www.MysticImagesPhotography.com). See more photos on page 27 and online at www.WindyCityTimes.com



Left to right: Trans youth Grayson Alexander; Rep. Juliana Stratton and J.B. Pritzker; Jazz Jennings.



Left to right: Group photo with Jim Bennett (sixth from right); Chilli Pepper.



Art Johnston, co-founder of EI, doing a toast.



**Above left: Having fun after the awards. Above right: Planned Parenthood was honored. Left: Volunteers. Right: Sen. Toi Hutchinson.**



**Above: Imani Rupert-Gordon, executive director of Affinity Community Services, with Sheila Simon, EI board member. Below: Reyna Ortiz, Jazz Jennings and Brian Johnson.**



healthcare services and, like Johnson, spoke of Ives' ad from the day before, which also mocked women who have had abortions.

"Let there be no doubt that the offensive ad that Jeanne Ives launched last night is an attack on all of us," Cosgrove said.

Transgender media personality and LGBT activist Jazz Jennings was presented with the 2018 Spotlight Award. In remarks, she expressed gratitude to her family, noting that, "They have gotten me down a path of unconditional love and allowed me to live my life authentically."

Other presenters and speakers included Affinity Community Services Executive Director Imani Rupert-Gordon; Equality Illinois board members Sheila Simon and Kevin Hauswirth; Board Chair Anthony D'Amato; Director of Civic Engagement Anthony Galloway; and activist Reyna Ortiz, who helped present Jennings her award. Greg Jones and Deralynn O'Connell of United Airlines, the

event's principal corporate sponsor, also appeared.

Among the elected and political officials—and candidates for elected office—attending and participating in the annual parade of politicians were U.S. Reps. Mike Quigley, Robin Kelly, Raja Krishnamoorthi and Brad Schneider; U.S. House candidates Sol Flores and Marie Newman; gubernatorial candidates state Sen. Daniel Biss, businessman J.B. Pritzker, activist Tio Hardiman, school superintendent Bob Daiber and physician Robert Marshall; Illinois Comptroller Susana Mendoza; Illinois Treasurer Mike Frerichs; Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White; Lieutenant Governor candidates Juliana Stratton, Litesa Wallace and Ra Joy; Attorney General candidates Scott Drury, Nancy Rotering, Renato Mariotti, Aaron Goldstein, Sharon Fairley, Jesse Ruiz, Kwame Raoul, and Pat Quinn; Cook County State's Attorney Kim Foxx; Cook County Board President Toni

Preckwinkle; Candidate for Cook County Board President Bob Fioretti; Cook County Treasurer Maria Pappas; Cook County Board of Commissioners candidate Don Miller; Chicago City Clerk Anna Valencia; Aids. Deb Mell, Scott Waguespack, Pat O'Connor, Tom Tunney and James Cappleman; Cook County Commissioner Bridget Gainer; Cook County Assessor Joseph Berrios; Cook County Clerk of the Circuit Court Dorothy Brown; Metropolitan Water Reclamation District President Mariyana Spyropoulos and Commissioners Debra Shore and Josina Morita; state Reps. Ann Williams, Sara Feigenholtz, Sam Yingling and Greg Harris; Illinois Senate President John Cullerton; Chicago Commission on Human Relations Commissioner Mona Noriega; Cook County Commissioner on Social Innovation Marc Loveless; and Judges Cecelia Horan, Robert Harris and Myron Mackoff in addition to many other candidates for judge and other offices.



**Gubernatorial running mates Daniel Biss (right) and Litesa Wallace.**  
Photo by Tracy Baim

#HireTrans

**I WANT FUTURE EMPLOYERS TO KNOW THAT I AM ADAPTABLE AND SELF-SUFFICIENT.**

ANGELINA N

**HIRE TRANS**

transhirechicago.org



**Activism meet-ups,  
personal book recommendations,  
weekly events, Kids Storytime, and more!**

**There are so many reasons to support  
Chicago's only feminist bookstore.**



**WOMEN & CHILDREN FIRST**

5233 N. CLARK  
CHICAGO, IL 60640  
(773) 769-9299

[womenandchildrenfirst.com](http://womenandchildrenfirst.com)





## viewpoints



**Jenna  
PROCHASKA**



**Ghirlandi  
GUIDETTI**

## Abortion access is an LGBTQ issue, too

This year, we are celebrating the 45th anniversary of the landmark Supreme Court decision *Roe v. Wade*, which affirmed that the Constitution protects the right to an abortion. Yet, the ability to seek out safe and affordable reproductive healthcare is still not a reality for many—including many LGBTQ people, who are often left out of conversations about abortion altogether.

In the past 45 years, state and federal lawmakers have passed hundreds of new laws severely restricting abortion access. As a result, many are forced to travel long distances, take time off work, and arrange for childcare in order to get an abortion. And, in the past year, things have gotten even worse. Members of the Trump administration have enacted blanket anti-abortion policies in federal agencies and attempted to block abortion access, including for many young immigrants. The Hyde Amendment also remains in place—meaning that Medicaid dol-

lars cannot be used to pay for abortions, and the promise of *Roe* remains out of reach for many low-income people throughout the country.

In the current landscape of new threats and restrictions on abortion access, LGBTQ people across the country face even more barriers when attempting to access such services. Public conversations and media coverage often frame abortion access issues as something that only affect cisgender heterosexual women. In reality, access to abortion affects individuals and families of all classes, races, religions, and also sexual orientations and gender identities. Framing abortion access too narrowly in our public discourse leads to gaps in access to affirming reproductive healthcare, where LGBTQ people can run into inaccurate assumptions about their relationships, sexual practices, or ability to get pregnant. Many medical schools fail to train their students how to treat LGBTQ patients, so doctors and healthcare systems often lack the knowledge and experience needed to provide truly inclusive and affirming care.

LGBTQ people living in the United States are significantly more likely to be uninsured, experience homelessness, and face discrimination in housing, employment, and places of public accommodation. Transgender individuals are particularly vulnerable to these experiences. At baseline, many LGBTQ individuals report facing discrimination in trying to access basic medical care.

According to a 2016 report from the National Center for Transgender Equality, one-third (33 percent) of transgender people surveyed who had seen a healthcare provider in the last year had at least one negative experience related to being transgender, such as being verbally harassed or refused treatment because of their gender identity. Additionally, nearly

one-quarter (23 percent) reported that they did not seek the healthcare they needed due to fear of being mistreated as a transgender person. Given that accessing the most routine healthcare is fraught with obstacles for LGBTQ individuals, it is not surprising that accessing abortion—which remains difficult even for non-LGBTQ individuals—can be nearly impossible.

To compound this, the Trump administration recently announced a new ‘conscience and religious freedom’ division at the Department of Health and Human Services—paving the way for more healthcare workers to refuse to provide specific types of care, like birth control and abortion, based on their religious or conscience objections. This new division further threatens access to care for all people and puts the LGBTQ population at an increased intersectional risk, as healthcare providers can object to both a patient’s identity and reproductive health requests. It has become all too common for commercial businesses to turn LGBTQ customers away because of who they are; but the consequences can be especially tragic when this discrimination occurs in the medical context—when someone is denied healthcare because they are LGBTQ.

In the current climate, it is critical that we all fight together for comprehensive access to reproductive healthcare for all.

**Jenna Prochaska works with the ACLU of Illinois Women’s and Reproductive Rights Project, which works to protect and expand access to critical healthcare services, including contraception and abortion. Ghirlandi Guidetti works with the ACLU of Illinois LGBTQ & HIV Project, which works to achieve complete LGBTQ equality and combats discrimination for individuals living with HIV.**

## Letters to the editor:

### Not GLAAD about resolution

The following is from a press release that LGBTQ media-advocacy organization GLAAD released:

GLAAD, the world’s largest LGBTQ media advocacy organization released the following statement in response to the Republican National Committee passed a resolution in support of President Trump’s discriminatory transgender military ban.

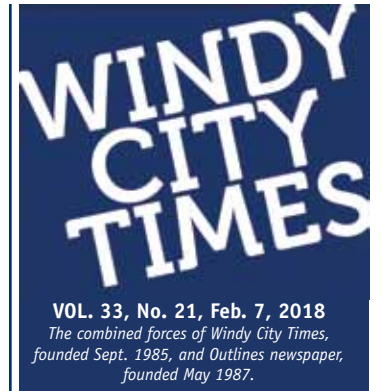
“President Trump’s bigoted proposal to purge qualified military personnel is in direct contradiction to the will of the American people and what’s

best for our nation’s security,” said Sarah Kate Ellis, president/CEO of GLAAD. “The fact that the RNC is siding with blatant discrimination over supporting the rights of brave Americans to serve our nation displays how toxic and deeply rooted the Trump Administration’s anti-LGBTQ ideology has become.”

Polling has shown that Trump’s proposed transgender military ban is opposed by the majority of Americans in all 50 states who believe transgender people should be allowed to openly serve their country. This month GLAAD released our annual Accelerating Acceptance report, a national survey conducted on GLAAD’s behalf by The Harris Poll, which found that LGBTQ acceptance is dropping at a time when anti-LGBTQ violence and discrimination are on the rise in our current political climate.

Trump’s policy to ban transgender soldiers from openly serving in any capacity with the U.S. military summarizes the full-scale attack on LGBTQ Americans by the Trump Administration. Since President Trump’s inauguration, the administration has stopped at nothing to erase LGBTQ acceptance from the federal government. This includes appointing the most anti-LGBTQ administration in recent memory, aggressively pushing religious exemptions that promote LGBTQ discrimination, and rescinding guidance that protects transgender students at their schools. GLAAD has cataloged every anti-LGBTQ action by the Trump Administration via our Trump Accountability Project.

**Send columns or letters to [Andrew@WindyCityMediaGroup.com](mailto:Andrew@WindyCityMediaGroup.com).  
Letters may be edited for brevity or clarity.**



**VOL. 33, No. 21, Feb. 7, 2018**  
The combined forces of *Windy City Times*,  
founded Sept. 1985, and *Outlines* newspaper,  
founded May 1987.

**PUBLISHER & EXECUTIVE EDITOR**  
Tracy Baim

**ASSISTANT PUBLISHER** Terri Klinsky  
**MANAGING EDITOR** Andrew Davis  
**ASSOCIATE EDITOR** Matt Simonette  
**BUSINESS MANAGER** Ripley Caine  
**DIRECTOR OF NEW MEDIA** Jean Albright  
**ART DIRECTOR** Kirk Williamson  
**SENIOR ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES** Terri Klinsky, Kirk Williamson, Amy Matheny, Scott Duff, David Strzpek, Kathy Breit, Andrew Kain Miller  
**NATIONAL SALES** Rivendell Media, 212-242-6863  
**SENIOR WRITERS** Bob Roehr, Tony Peregrin, Lisa Keen, Yasmin Nair  
**THEATER EDITOR** Scott C. Morgan  
**SPORTS WRITER** Ross Forman  
**ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT WRITERS** Mary Shen Barnidge, Lawrence Ferber, Jerry Nunn, Jonathan Abarbanel  
**COLUMNISTS/WRITERS:** Yvonne Zipter, Jorjet Harper, Charlsie Dewey, Carrie Maxwell, Billy Masters, Sarah Toce, Dana Rudolph, Melissa Wasserman, Joe Franco, Nick Patricca, Liz Baudler, Rex Wockner, Angelique Smith  
**SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHERS** Kat Fitzgerald, Hal Baim, Tim Carroll, Ed Negron  
**WEBSITE LISTINGS VOLUNTEER** Gene Naden  
**CIRCULATION DIRECTOR** Jean Albright  
**DISTRIBUTION** Ashina, Allan, Dan, John, Sue and Victor  
**WEB HOSTING** LoveYourWebsite.com (lead programmer: Martie Marro)

Copyright 2018 Lambda Publications Inc./Windy City Media Group; All rights reserved. Reprint by permission only. Back issues (if available) for \$5 per issue (postage included). Return postage must accompany all manuscripts, drawings, and photographs submitted if they are to be returned, and no responsibility may be assumed for unsolicited materials. All rights to letters, art and photographs sent to *Windy City Times* will be treated as unconditionally assigned for publication purposes and as such, subject to editing and comment. The opinions expressed by the columnists, cartoonists, letter writers, and commentators are their own and do not necessarily reflect the position of *Windy City Times*. Publication of the name, photograph, or likeness of a person or organization in articles or advertising in *Windy City Times* is not to be construed as any indication of the sexual orientation of such person or organization. While we encourage readers to support the advertisers who make this newspaper possible, *Windy City Times* cannot accept responsibility for advertising claims.

(773) 871-7610 FAX (773) 871-7609  
e-mail: [editor@windycitymediagroup.com](mailto:editor@windycitymediagroup.com) or  
[Andrew@windycitymediagroup.com](mailto:Andrew@windycitymediagroup.com)

[www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com](http://www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com)  
podcast: [WindyCityQueercast.com](http://WindyCityQueercast.com)

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

Windy City Times Deadline every Wednesday.  
OUT! Chicago’s LGBTQ Visitor’s Guide Online  
[www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com](http://www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com)



# WINDY CITY TIMES

# DIVERSIONS

THEATER • FILM • ENTERTAINMENT • SPORTS



28

LiqrBox.



28

Rent celebration at Sidetrack.



## Reagan ritual

19

Blind Date examines a 1985 meeting with Ronald Reagan and Mikhail Gorbachev.

Photo of Rob Riley (Ronald Reagan) and Deanna Dunagan (Nancy Reagan) by Liz Lauren

## Of bombs and men: Gender roles subverted in 'We're Gonna Be Okay'

BY KAREN TOPHAM

When Hawaii panicked because a government employee accidentally sent out warnings of an impending missile strike, very few considered such a thing unthinkable. Although it was a false alarm, the fact is that we're closer to nuclear war than at any time since the Cuban Missile Crisis, the topic of American Theatre Company's new play *We're Gonna Be Okay*.

Basil Kreimendahl, the play's author, said he was fascinated by the naïvete of people who would "duck and cover" and build bomb shelters in their backyards. "I was struck by the way they tried to recreate the nuclear family perfect life down inside these shelters—the innocence of it."

In the play, one of the suburban dads insists on building a shelter, talking the other into it. The whole endeavor, complete with lunches served al fresco by the wives and teenage children joining in the action, seems like a *Twilight Zone* version of *Leave It To Beaver*.

Director Will Davis—a trans man, like Kreimendahl—felt the play portrays an "almost terrifyingly heightened experience of American masculine and feminine roles. Basil writes from a queer lens about things we would see in a different way."

In this play, two of the members of the nuclear families are queer: the teenage boy is gay and the teenage girl is lesbian. Asked about how unusual it is to see this characterization in a play about the early '60s, Davis responded that the play is not literally about 1962, but "an idea of 1962: us in the present moment looking at 1962 through the lens of nostalgia."

Avi Rouque, the trans actor who plays the boy, Jake (a baseball player), agreed with Davis, feeling that this is true "especially for someone like me who is trans and non-binary and Latinx and has these things that I've worked hard for that any minute could be taken away. There's a mask energy that he puts on: I get that, the need to hide, escape from your authentic self or truth because you are not ready to go there." The character stands in stark contrast to Deanna, the teenage girl who is so comfortable in her skin that it's a non-issue in the play.

But the play's focus is on the parents, especially the men, and this Chicago-premiere version allows Davis and Kreimendahl the opportunity to play with the gender element in new ways. Davis noted that the original cast was "entirely white and cis" and that its "queer inside life could probably come a little closer to the front if the casting was different." So, as Kreimendahl said, it's been cast "with some subversion."

This goes far beyond casting a trans man as Jake. In this version, both fathers are played by women. Kreimendahl said he feels this will help the audience sense things in terms of gender and exploration of masculinity more clearly: "As a trans man of course I think I write a lot about this—curious about gender and how we perform it, what does it mean? What are some of the social constructs of gender?"

Rouque agreed that this is an important element of the play. "I was grateful to be able to bring my personal queer and trans experiences to the character," they said. "I get it: I kind of went through that myself in high school, that desperation to be normal. ... What is normal?"



Will Davis,  
director of  
*We're Gonna  
Be Okay*.  
Publicity photo

"Normal" is a word with little meaning *We're Gonna Be Okay*. With the threat of annihilation in the news and the ever-growing hole in the backyard for the bomb shelter, the world as these people have known it may have ceased to exist.

Davis said he likes to look at it as a metaphor: "On the one hand you have this sense of the end of things, and that's absolutely terrifying, but Basil has brought us the queering of that word 'annihilation': imagine a world in which we could topple or annihilate these tyrannical gender structures." In the shelter, he noted, entire new societal structures can be created. As one character notes, down there, "we are society." It's

said out of fear, but, Davis pointed out, "we can reconstitute [society] the way we want to."

He said he believes that the show has already found success in the growth it has provided to its cast. "One of the great gifts that I have right now in ATC is the number of times an actor is cast and they say, 'I've never been cast as \_\_\_\_.' [This company tries] to create that space for joyful representation that doesn't minimize the fullness of their identities. That is alive and well in every actor cast in this show."

And neither gender nor the threat of bombs has much to do with it.

## 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.

## IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

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

#### Before taking TRUVADA for PrEP:

- ◆ **You must be HIV-negative before you start taking TRUVADA for PrEP.** You must get tested to make sure that you do not already have HIV-1. Do not take TRUVADA to reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 unless you are confirmed to be HIV-negative.
- ◆ **Many HIV-1 tests can miss HIV-1 infection in a person who has recently become infected.** If you have flu-like symptoms, you could have recently become infected with HIV-1. Tell your healthcare provider if you had a flu-like illness within the last month before starting 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.**



# I'm courageous, not careless.

I know who I am. And I make choices that fit my life.


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.

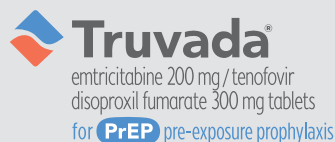
- ◆ TRUVADA for PrEP is only for adults who are at high risk of getting HIV through sex.
- ◆ You must be HIV-negative before you start taking TRUVADA for PrEP.

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

GILEAD

Learn more at [truvada.com](http://truvada.com)

 **Truvada**<sup>®</sup>  
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.



TRUVADA FOR PrEP, the TRUVADA FOR PrEP Logo, the TRUVADA Blue Pill Design, TRUVADA, GILEAD, and the GILEAD Logo are trademarks of Gilead Sciences, Inc., or its related companies. All other marks referenced herein are the property of their respective owners.

Version date: April 2017

© 2017 Gilead Sciences, Inc. All rights reserved. TVDC0159 07/17

## THEATER REVIEW

**Ragtime:  
The Musical**

Playwright: Terrence McNally  
 At: Marriott Theatre, 10 Marriott Dr.,  
 Lincolnshire  
 Tickets: [MarriottTheatre.com](http://MarriottTheatre.com) or  
[Ticketmaster.com](http://Ticketmaster.com); \$50-\$60  
 Runs through: March 18

BY BRIAN KIRST

Many of us add a little fiction to our facts. True stories arrive with exaggerations to make them more interesting. Even our lies can hint at a broader picture. Of course, few have combined real-life circumstances with imaginary happenings like E.L. Doctorow. His award-winning 1975 book *Ragtime* wove historical figures into a narrative with characters that he created, painting a picture of the beauty and tragedy of the early 20th century.

The 1998 musical adaptation of this work, naturally, is unable to capture the full scope of Doctorow's book. But by concentrating on a Black



Jonathan Butler-Duplessis in  
**Ragtime:  
 The Musical.**  
 Photo by  
 Liz Lauren

musician named Coalhouse Walker, Jr. and on the rich white family that becomes ingrained in his life, it definitely succeeds in rousing up the social and spiritual effects of its source. Indeed, the original production won multiple Tony and Drama Desk Awards, a testament to its power. Nicely, Marriott Theatre's current production of *Ragtime: The Musical* retains that impassioned drive, accentuated by sumptuous costuming and Broadway caliber production numbers.

Opening up on the observations of a powerful white fireworks magnate and his kin, there

are hints of change in the air almost immediately here. The restless, syncopated rhythm of ragtime music permeates society. Immigrants arrive in droves, seeking their fortunes. Soon, an abandoned baby is left under this well-to-do family's porch. The matriarch takes pity upon the boy and his mother, welcoming them into their home. Sarah, the child's mother, is nearly speechless with sorrow.

Eventually, the boy's father Coalhouse is making regular visits to the home, filling it with music and trying to win back Sarah's trust. Just as

all seems to be going well, acts of racist violence erupt, sending Coalhouse into a rampage and the extended family that has grown to love him into various modes of doubt, destruction and self-discovery.

Naturally, the majesty of such circumstances would seemingly be hard to capture in Marriott's theater in the round setting, but director Nick Bowling works with a precise eye here, layering multiple characters and chorus members with a deft touch.

Emotionally, he and his talented cast capture the overriding themes of the show and prove that, 20 years after its debut, they are still vital and prescient notions. Black blood is still being shed on our streets and our immigrants still fight daily to feel safe in their adopted home.

Of course, the words of legendary gay playwright Terrence McNally, who wrote the book, and the sweep of queer composer Stephen Flaherty's music add nuances and depth to every outsider portrayed here, whether it be acclaimed activist Emma Goldman or a poor Harlem barmaid joining in the big fight to be heard. Their contributions make this (and seemingly every) production of *Ragtime* forever universal.

## THEATER REVIEW

**Blind Date**

Playwright: Rogelio Martinez  
 At: Goodman Theatre, 170 N. Dearborn St.  
 Tickets: \$20-\$75  
 Runs through: Feb. 25

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

For as long as historical dramas have been written, their authors have struggled with the task of conveying the context of the events depicted to audiences who may be too young to remember them, too old to remember them accurately, or weren't paying attention while they transpired—all within the increasingly abbreviated perfor-

mance time dictated by the fashion of the day.

Narrative devices for accomplishing this orientation in 2018 mandate the inclusion of one or more scenes in which a) the opposing champions dismiss bystanders to grapple one-on-one with an honesty born of secrecy, b) their subordinates huddle around a conference table or swarm around a messenger and c) their female consorts exchange veiled insults, and—most important—each hero is assigned a sidekick to translate the lofty issues into earthy observations couched in a vernacular replete with pop-culture references immediately comprehended by rubes like us.

In Rogelio Martinez's play, the history covers a meeting held in the late autumn of 1985, the heroes are United States President Ronald Reagan and Soviet Union General Secretary Mikhail Gor-

batchev, the issue is the nuclear arms race, and the sidekicks are U.S. Secretary of State George Schulz and Soviet Minister of Foreign Affairs Eduard Shevardnadze. The language employed in the proceedings is sprinkled with phrases lifted from cinema classics, reflecting Reagan's previous occupation as a Hollywood film actor, as well as skirmishes over funny cocktail names, sartorial protocols and astrological advice.

The visual diversity evidenced in director Robert Falls' casting likewise ensures the array of balding gray-suited males dominating the stage picture remaining distinct from one another. This physical contrast serves Jim Ortlieb and Steve Pickering well in the roles of Shultz and Shevardnadze, who swap wry commentary on their respective bosses—played with boyish affability

by Rob Riley and William Dick (bellicosity being the province of their wives, as represented by Deanna Dunagan and Mary Beth Fisher)—with the nuanced delivery of tournament-doubles teammates.

However much we may chuckle at recognizing a quotation's provenance to be, say, Marty McFly, rather than Plato or Seneca, there is wisdom to be found in screenplays, too, as the final speech from *The Day The Earth Stood Still* amply illustrates when invoked at just the right juncture to remind us of the significant stakes in this micro-cosmic match.

## THEATER REVIEW

**Women in Jeopardy**

By: Wendy MacLeod  
 At: First Folio Theatre, 1717 31st St.,  
 Oak Brook  
 Tickets: 630-986-8067,  
[FirstFolio.org](http://FirstFolio.org); \$34-\$39  
 Runs through: Feb. 25

BY CATEY SULLIVAN

You can't fault the cast in First Folio Theatre's staging of Wendy MacLeod's *Women in Jeopardy*. But here's the thing: MacLeod takes a brutally misogynistic murder and treats it as a kooky comedy. There's nothing remotely amusing about a 22-year-old getting butchered, her dismembered body left outdoors to rot. There's something deeply wrong with wrapping a whacky rom-com around such an event.

*Women in Jeopardy* takes something that is a nightmarish reality in the real world and

dismisses with slapstick. That's not just offensive—it's harmful.

Directed by Janice L. Blixt, *Women in Jeopardy* is endurable only because of its top-notch cast. The actors are impressive, even within the confines of such a heinous script. The piece starts out with some promise. Longtime friends Mary (Amy Montgomery), Jo (Lydia Berger Gray) and Liz (Melanie Keller) are gathered for a night of wine and girl time.

There's trouble because Liz has brought her creepy new boyfriend Jackson (Joe Foust) along. Jo and Mary are horrified when they learn Jackson and Liz's 19-year-old daughter Amanda (Hayley Burgess) are planning a remote-wilderness camping trip that doesn't include Liz. (By the way, what woman would send her new boyfriend with her 19-year-old daughter on a camping trip together?) The camping trip sets up the second act for a prolonged sight gag involving sex in a pup tent that's amusing for about 20 seconds. It seems interminable.

Jo and Mary's fears are heightened when one of Jackson's staff—he's a dentist—vanishes.

Jackson was the last person to see her alive, when he loaned her the movie *Silence of the Lambs*. Liz insists Jackson is a wonderful guy and, no, it's not inappropriate in the least that loaned that film to one of his young, female employees. Also on the scene: Amanda's on-and-off boyfriend Trenner (Christopher Vizurraga), who has thing for Mary. Finally, there's Detective Kirk (Foust), a cop who happens to look exactly like Jackson.

There are some clever bits of dialogue. As Mary, Jo and Liz, Montgomery, Gray and Keller are wholly believable as women whose friendship has stood the test of time, along with various husbands, ex-husbands and boyfriends. Vizurraga is a hoot as Amanda's uber-chill boyfriend, and Foust has a lock on playing creepy/weird.

Still, there's no redeeming *Women in Jeopardy*. It's the wrong play at the wrong time. And if there is a right time for this piece, I cannot imagine when that might be.

## CRITICS' PICKS

**All My Sons**, Court Theatre, through March 18. When America's leaders are ethical and moral frauds, Arthur Miller's first great play (about personal integrity and war profiteering) is more pertinent than ever. The veteran cast is superb. JA

**Hint**, Steep Theatre Company, through March 3. Calamity West's thriller recounts the events surrounding five murders on a remote rural farm in 1922, but then challenges us to determine the identity of the perpetrator (revealing more about our fears in 2018). MSB

**Spark**, 20 Percent Theatre at the Flat Iron Arts Building, through Feb. 24. They're a far cry from Chekhov's bored Prozorov sibs, but Caridad Svitch is not a writer to traffic in stereotypes and gradually we come to share in the Gilmord sisters' hope for escape from the poverty and squalor of the tobacco fields. MSB

**Jitney**, Congo Square Theatre at the Athenaeum Theatre, through Feb. 11. Director Cheryl Lynn Bruce helms a powerful rendition of August Wilson's 1970s-set tale of unlicensed cab drivers struggling to make a living in Pittsburgh's Hill neighborhood. CES

—By Abarbanel, Barnidge and Sullivan

## THEATER REVIEW

## Fifty Shades of Shakespeare

Created and developed by: Jess Shoemaker  
At: Mary's Attic, 5400 N. Clark St.  
Tickets: RediscoverTheatre.com/  
fifty-shades-of-shakespeare; \$15;  
Runs through: Feb. 24

BY LAUREN EMILY WHALEN

Recent news is fraught with frightening stories about men (including our very own president) using their considerable power to sexually harass and abuse women and men. Celebrating sex as a consensual fun time is can be difficult, but not if you're (re)discover theatre.

Its Fifty Shades of Shakespeare, now in its fifth year, is a raucous yet responsible blast, filled with gender play, kink and various takes on intimacy through the eyes of the Bard of Avon. Now in its fifth year, Fifty Shades of Shakespeare encourages good sex, whatever that means to you, with a diverse quartet—or trio, as was the case on opening night—of talented, enthusiastic performers ready to take your Valentine's Day game



Courtney Abbott and Gabby Diaz in Fifty Shades of Shakespeare.  
Photo by Cody Jolly Photography

to the next level.

Director Lexi Saunders is a queer woman, and Fifty Shades' cast of four features two performers of color, two who are nonbinary and at least one who identifies as queer. At the beginning of the show, the performers (who've been bouncing around collecting sexy suggestions from audience members for their "Honesty Box") introduce themselves and their pronouns.

They emphasize enthusiastic consent: Audience participation is encouraged but not mandatory, and all you have to do is say "no," no questions

asked. Then the real fun begins: a bevy of Shakespearean love scenes from everything to Romeo and Juliet (the show's through-line) to Measure for Measure to A Midsummer Night's Dream. The audience helps "cast" the scenes—each actor knows every role—and after a quick fight/intimacy call, the performers are at hand, ready to play. But this isn't your mother's Shakespeare: At least two scenes involve BDSM and role play. (Opening night's involved a mermaid and a sailor.) Gender conformity is thrown to the wind, and there's copious PDA and impressive stage combat. The

result is a hilarious 75 minutes, enjoyable for any adult.

"Sex-positive" is a term thrown around a lot these days, and often misused, even abused, by the wrong people. Fifty Shades of Shakespeare does sex-positive right: establishing the ground rules in a light, fun way, before embracing the utter silliness that often ensues with "making love." Unlike Fifty Shades of Grey, this show presents BDSM as it should be—with knowing and enthusiastic participants who aren't afraid to use the audience-designated safe word. The actors are friendly, engaging and nimble, tossing off iambic pentameter and impressive moves and never missing an opportunity for a laugh, with a few moments of sweet and beautiful vulnerability along the way.

This February, both Shakespeare and sex are alive and well at Mary's Attic. Fifty Shades of Shakespeare makes for an excellent date night, Galentine's Day or solo activity, and holds up to multiple viewings. (Although the actors are the same, the roles they play change every performance.) Featuring plenty of representation, verse and even a little striptease, this hilarious send-up of classical text shows that sex can be simultaneously safe, respectful and fun.

## THEATER REVIEW

## Nice Girl

Playwright: Melissa Ross  
At: Raven Theatre, 6157 N. Clark St.  
Tickets: \$43-\$46  
Runs through: March 11

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

A woman 38 years old in 1984—when this play purports to be set—would have been born in 1946 and graduated from high school circa 1964. Since we are told that she was her family's second child, her now-"nearly 70" mother would likely have married during the mid-1940s. This hypo-

thetical timeline is important because Melissa Ross has a penchant for infusing her rom-com sensibilities with a hazy ambience suggesting narratives of far earlier vintage.

The target of the title sobriquet is Miss Josephine Rosen. By day, she's a secretary at an accounting firm in the unprepossessing village of Milton, just south of Boston; by night, she's a caretaker for her slovenly ill-tempered mom, having decades ago forsaken an art scholarship at Radcliffe to return home for a temporary stay that never ended. Illustrating the adage about the apple falling from the tree, we later learn that Mama Francine also once abandoned her career aspirations to settle down with her small-town sweetheart.

Other representatives of this unexciting land-

scape are Josephine's former classmate, Donny Moretti, who himself dropped out of college after impregnating his trophy girl friend and who now works in his dad's grocery store. Only Jo's co-worker, Sherry—a divorcee who gladly surrendered child custody to her ex-spouse, attends night-school classes at Beauty School and cruises single bars—refuses to succumb to the crippling inertia infecting her more privileged neighbors.

The agony of young people enamored of social mobility and seeking escape from stifling provincial environments has beguiled playwrights from Chekhov to Tennessee Williams, but Ross' invocation of motifs recalling milestones in North American literature (notably, Paddy Chayevsky's 1953 *Marty*) generates a chronological-cognitive dissonance that prevents playgoers with first-hand

memories of the era under scrutiny ever wholly committing to the author's dramatic universe, given its underlying assertion that girls who remain homebodies are ultimately rewarded with prince charming in a butcher's apron, while girls who embrace ambition/adventure are doomed to loneliness and rejection.

The actors of Raven Theatre Company extend unconditional compassion to stock characters easily bordering on stereotype, but a production as geographically-specific as this—did I mention the accurate-to-unintelligible "Southie" dialects, or the name-checking of indigenous Massachusetts communities?—deserves better than soap long divested of its sudsy attractions.

## THEATER REVIEW

## The Humans

Playwright: Stephen Karam  
At: Cadillac Palace Theatre,  
151 W. Randolph St.  
Tickets: 800-775-2000;  
BroadwayInChicago.com; \$25-\$98  
Runs through: Feb. 11

BY JONATHAN ABARBANEL

The Humans, a rare successful contemporary American drama, had its world premiere in Chicago at the American Theater Company before gaining Off-Broadway and Broadway success.

It's about the Blakes, an Irish-American family comprised of sixty-something parents Erik and Dierdre (Richard Thomas, Pamela Reed) from Scranton, PA, their adult daughters Aimee and Brigid (Therese Plaehn, Daisy Egan) and Erik's Alzheimer-addled mother, called Momo (Lau-

ren Klein). They gather for Thanksgiving at the slightly creepy Lower Manhattan tenement apartment (not yet unpacked/furnished) of Brigid and boyfriend Richard Saad (Luis Vega), presumably of Arabic heritage.

The middle-class Blakes are neither distinguished nor distinctive. The white-collar parents are observant Catholics who accept that their daughters are not (Dierdre goes on a bit but not heavily), and that Aimee is a Lesbian while Brigid lives unmarried with a non-Catholic and Momo is gaga. Things are tough at present. Attorney Aimee has lost her job, split with her girlfriend and faces surgery. Brigid also is out of work. Erik, too, has been fired for an affair with a female colleague at work. He and Dierdre are OK (he says), but the family house and vacation property must be sold to provide money to live on and care for Momo.

Any of these issues, singly, could be a play (and all have been) but The Humans doesn't dwell on them because it isn't about issues; it's

about the fabric of family life, woven with minutiae, from which we try to extract a bit of satisfaction while struggling to get along fiscally and emotionally. *Déjà vu*, the human comedy. As Aimee puts it in one of the funniest lines, should we "go through life unhappy alone, or unhappy with someone else?" Whichever, life and these characters go on.

The Humans plays out in real time (about 95 minutes) on a gritty two-level set (David Zinn) showing the oddly-duplexed apartment—tilted by settling and age—with a basement kitchen down a spiral staircase. Its shadows, faulty wiring, empty rooms, shocking noises and unexplained creaks and hums are a metaphor for our own interior landscapes. In the closing moments it quasi-mystically comes to embody Erik's personal failures and fears.

The fine six-person ensemble cast of this Broadway tour bravely delivers The Humans without microphones (as far as I could tell) in a theater far too big for it, and while the intimacy



The cast of The Humans.  
Photo by Julieta Cervantes

necessary for the play is lost, the words are not. The Humans is not especially profound compared to other family dramas (say, *Long Day's Journey Into Night*, *Death of a Salesman* or *Antigone*), in part because its story and characters never reach resolution, but it's as believable a depiction of real life as any I've seen, filled with truthful moments.



Keely Vasquez in *Merrily We Roll Along*.  
Photo by Michael Courier

## THEATER REVIEW

# Merrily We Roll Along

**Score:** Stephen Sondheim; **Book:** George Furth  
**At:** Porchlight Music Theatre at Ruth Page Center for the Arts, 1016 N. Dearborn St.  
**Tickets:** 773-777-9884 or [PorchlightMusicTheatre.org](http://PorchlightMusicTheatre.org); \$33-\$60  
**Runs through:** March 11

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

*Merrily We Roll Along* is a nearly forgotten musical where the songs are better known than the 1981 Broadway flop that spawned them. Think back to all the times you've heard lounge singers warble "Not a Day Goes By" or "Good Thing Going," or a gay chorus trying not to mess up "Old Friends" or "Our Time."

So thank your lucky stars that Porchlight Music Theatre has given *Merrily We Roll Along* another spin in a spectacular and genuinely moving revival. Not only can you treasure hearing Stephen Sondheim's brassy score in context with George Furth's revised 1994 book, you can judge for

yourself whether this sweet-and-sour look at creative New Yorkers' friendships falling apart is worthy of a redemption.

Porchlight artistic director Michael Weber finds a perfect framing device to tame the show's potentially confusing backwards trajectory (also a feature of Kaufman and Hart's 1934 play that inspired the musical). After catching a cable broadcast of his 1976 film *Darkness Before Dawn*, the leading man of composer and film director Franklin Shephard (a handsome and talented Jim DeSelm) flashes back to the turning points of his ruined relationships.

Weber's vision to firmly root the show to specific times and places is also greatly enhanced by the flood of doctored historical digital projections by designer Anthony Churchill, plus the parade of fun/glamorous period costumes by designer Bill Morey. Audiences claiming to be confused, as seen in the 2016 documentary film *The Best Worst Thing That Ever Happened* focusing on the original production, really can't complain here.

Weber and his amazingly talented cast clearly love this rich and challenging material. They all nearly fill in the missing blanks of Furth's very caustic script involving Frank's friends like the unbearably high-minded playwright Charley Kringas (a rightfully idiosyncratic Matt Crowle) and the alcoholic author-turned-critic Mary Flynn (a heartbreaking Neala Barron).

Other characters are also welcomingly complex. This is especially true of the ambitious Broadway star Gussie Carnegie (a seductive and resentful Keely Vasquez), and with Frank's betrayed first wife, Beth (a lovely Aja Wiltshire).

Yet the early anger injected into *Merrily We Roll Along* can be tough to initially warm up to. Yet the musical's backwards journey to more optimistic times make all the brighter and happier scenes much more weighted with rue and regret.

*Merrily We Roll Along* can emotionally sucker-punch audiences, especially those who are willing to look back at the missteps of their youth. Be thankful that Porchlight is giving *Merrily We Roll Along* another well-deserved chance to share its many musical glories.

## SPOTLIGHT

Rivendell's *Cal in Camo* paints a riveting portrait of the ravages of post-partum depression—something the CDC says affects some 900,000 women. While much of pop culture paints new motherhood as a glowingly maternal state of bliss, playwright William Francis Hoffman gives voice to the very different reality many women endure. Hallie Gordon directs a cast that features blistering performances by Ashley Neal and Keith Kupferer as, respectively, as a new mother and her newly widowed brother, both struggling to survive. *Cal in Camo* runs



through Feb. 17 at the Rivendell Theatre, 5779 N. Ridge Ave.; visit [RivendellTheatre.org](http://RivendellTheatre.org)  
Caption: Ashley Neal in *Cal in Camo*.  
Photo courtesy of Rivendell Theatre



@windycitytimes1

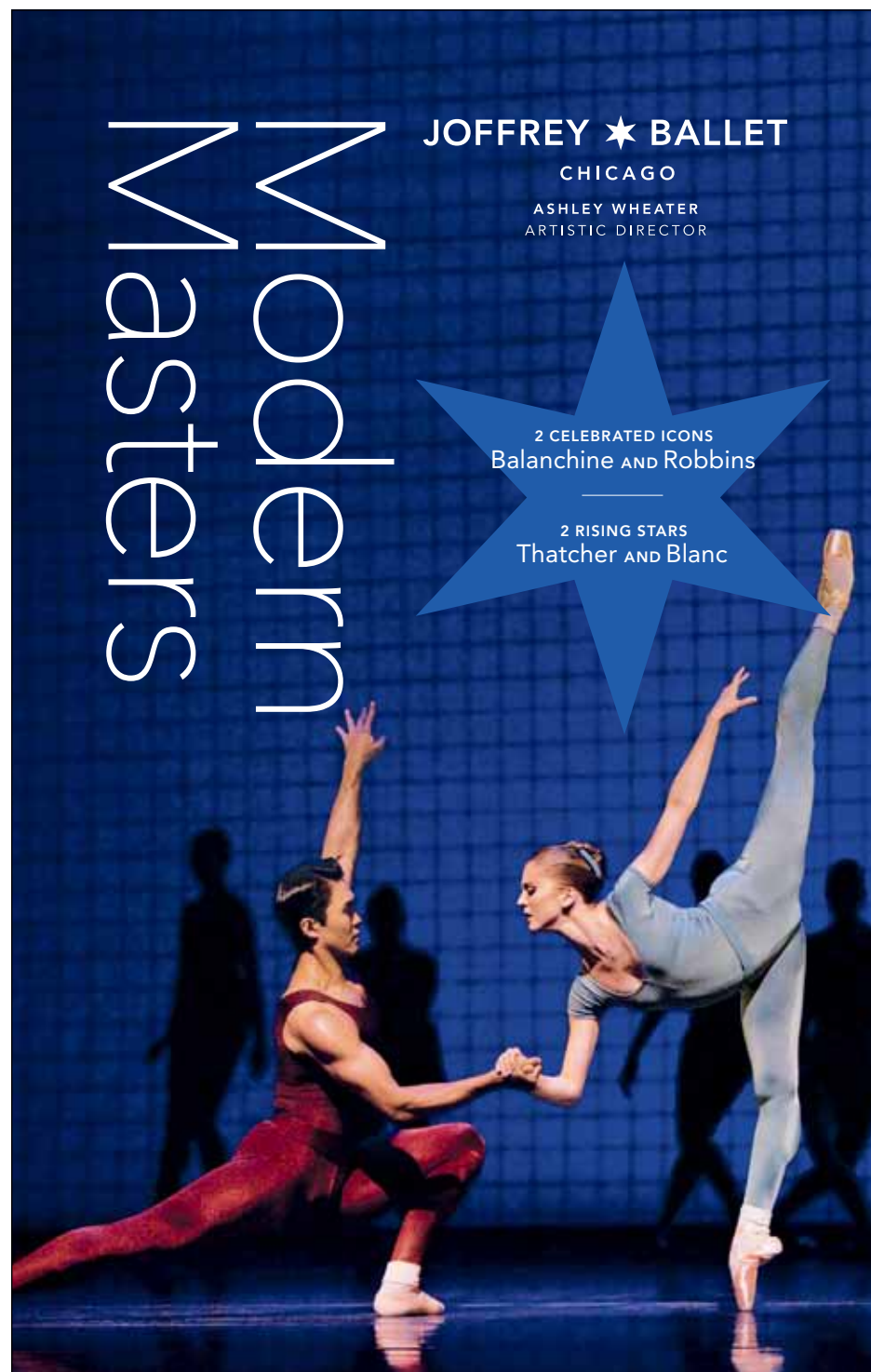


/windycitymediagroup



@windycitytimes

[www.windycitymediagroup.com](http://www.windycitymediagroup.com)



# Masters Modern

JOFFREY ★ BALLETT

CHICAGO

ASHLEY WHEATER  
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

2 CELEBRATED ICONS  
Balanchine AND Robbins

2 RISING STARS  
Thatcher AND Blanc

NOW-FEBRUARY 18 | TICKETS START AT \$34  
[JOFFREY.ORG/MASTERS](http://JOFFREY.ORG/MASTERS) | 312.386.8905

2017-2018 SEASON SPONSORS



PERFORMS AT:  
**AUDITORIUM THEATRE**  
of ROOSEVELT UNIVERSITY  
50 East Congress Parkway,  
Chicago

Thanks to Live Music Sponsor The Marina and Arnold Tatar Fund for Live Music.  
Carla Körbes & Bathkurel Bold/Pacific Northwest Ballet | Photo by Angela Sterling

# Openly gay man among those in exhibit featuring Black, disabled artists

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

Project Onward's "Honoring Legendary African American Artists: Distinct Portraits by disAbleD Artists" exhibition will be open to the public Feb. 16 to March 30 (with an opening reception Feb. 9).

Among the many Project Onward artists whose portraiture work will be featured is openly gay Julius DC Bautista, who is honoring contemporary visual artist Laylah Ali and mixed-media collage artist Mark Bradford.

Other Project Onward artist participants include George Zuniga (honoring Jean-Michel Basquiat), David Holt (Horace Pippin), William Douglas (Theaster Gates), Elizabeth Barren (Wangechi Mutu and Harriet Powers), David Hence (Elizabeth Catlett), Sereno Wilson (Chakaia Booker), Michael Hopkins (Palmer Hayden and Archibald John Motley Jr.), Jacqueline Cousins (Kara Walker), Andrew Hall (Kehinde Wiley), Alfred Banks Jr. (Kerry James Marshall), Blake Lenoir (Joseph Elmer Yoakum), Shandrewick Key (William Edmondson), William Douglas and Sheila Smith (Martin Puryear), and Michael Bryant (Sister Gertrude Morgan).

"Project Onward is always looking for ways to inspire our artists and provide a source of income for them and what better way than to honor their artistic forebears," said Executive Director Nancy Gomez. "Each one of those legendary artists tells a story through their lives and their art just like our artists. Through grants from The National Endowment for the Arts and the Chicago Community Trust, we were able to finance this exhibit of portraits for sale to the public."

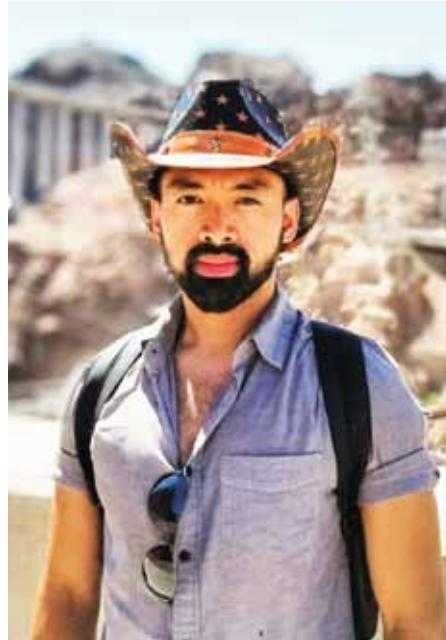
Bautista, who grew up in Chicago's western suburbs, honed his creativity outside of school by creating illustrations and written stories inspired by cartoons and comics.

"I read a lot of popular fiction books geared towards young adolescents, as well newspapers and magazines," said Bautista. "The commercial focus of magazine and journalistic photography have strongly influenced my eye for visual composition. The core of my paintings is a deep reliance on geometry and my understanding of psychology and various schools of philosophy."

In terms of how he describes his art to non-artists, Bautista explained that it constantly references binary and duality in which there is a continuous cycle where one becomes two and two becomes one. He said his work maximizes tension and he treats each piece like a contraption and visual ride through the use of colors and shapes.

When asked how he feels to be a part of this exhibit, Bautista said it is an honor.

"Growing up as a minority, there are parallels and commonalities between what I have experienced, and what the African American popula-



Julius DC Bautista.

Photo courtesy of Bautista

tion endures," said Bautista. "I believe there can always be more done to mitigate the negative perceptions of the South Side of Chicago. Most recently, I partook in a gig with EXPO Chicago, Palais de Tokyo and the DuSable Museum of African American Art, acting as a docent for their combined exhibition effort, The Singing Stones. I learned so much from both participating staff and guests attending the museum, about the history of the neighborhoods and various prominent figures in the community. It feels great to work on projects with noble and honorable causes, because working as an independent artist typically maintains a commercial feel."

Bautista explained that he got involved with Project Onward as a young artist to fill an emotional void and provide the structure and support independent artists struggle to find. He noted that due to the peers and mentors at Project Onward, he was able to confront the medical diagnosis he was given while in the military and identify everything that was wrong with that original diagnosis.

"There is comfort in acceptance, and that acceptance pushed me to explore my neuroses to a state of intimate comfort, to come to terms with my 'demons,'" said Bautista. "I came to accept that I have bipolar disorder, and after a year of taking proper medication and maintaining sobriety, I can say that I have never been more focused and content in my life. I attribute a lot of my stabilization to the Project Onward family, so I stay as active as I can in producing work for the

many projects and collaborations Project Onward commits to. Being able to return to a community is a blessing I try not to take for granted. That Project Onward can provide me an outlet for that is something I continue to cherish day to day."

In addition to his involvement with Project Onward, Bautista was also accepted into the UIC Studio Arts Program—which he called a revolutionary period because of the non conventional thought focused school curriculum. Bautista learned to approach art with an open mind and not be so technical.

"As an engineer in the military, my mind was trained to identify and isolate problem areas in a contraption and find opportunities for improvement," said Bautista. "As a student in studio arts, I learned to identify what works, and to analyze how and why, with the simple intent of acquiring another conceptual tool into my creative arsenal."

Bautista noted that his time in the military rarely influences his work these days, however, the maturity and discipline he gained there remains a part of how he operates, including being attentive to details and thorough in the planning and execution of his pieces.

## Chicago Auto Show Feb. 10-19

The next Chicago Auto Show will take place Feb. 10-19 at McCormick Place, 2301 S. Lake Shore Dr.

North America's largest auto show, the event spans more than 1 million square feet of floor space of the McCormick Place complex and displays multiple world and North American introductions and a complete range of domestic and imported passenger cars, trucks, sport-utility vehicles, minivans and concept cars.

Admission is \$13 for adults, \$7 for seniors age 62 and older as well as children ages 7-12, and free for children 6 and younger.

In addition to the public show, First Look for Charity will also take place. The black-tie-required affair will be Friday, Feb. 9, 7-11 p.m. There will also be two vehicle giveaways: a 2018 Ford Mustang or Expedition. Follow it at #FLFC18.

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

## 'Acrocats' at Siskel Feb. 9-10

The Gene Siskel Film Center, 164 N. State St., is showing the new documentary Samantha's Amazing Acrocats on Friday, Feb. 9, at 8:15 p.m. and Saturday, Feb. 10, at 3 p.m.

The 57-minute film centers on Princeton, Illinois-raised Samantha Martin and her life's mission training rescue cats for her own unique traveling cat circus. Director Jacob Feiring followed the circus for more than five years, chronicling Martin's struggle to maintain the show against formidable economic odds as well as personal issues of love, loss and fears for the future.

Feiring will appear for audience discussion at both screenings.

In terms of the world in general, Bautista said "in this time of political turmoil and economic disarray it is important that communities stay resilient and strong. Perhaps the most important lesson I have learned as an artist is that the reward does not come thru recognition, but through integration. As someone who grew up constantly feeling like an outsider, it is a blessing to know what it is like to be a part of a greater whole."

Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle, Cook County Commissioner John P. Daley and Alderman Patrick D. Thompson are set to appear at the reception, alongside guest artist Faheem Majeed and other dignitaries.

**Project Onward's "Honoring Legendary African American Artists: Distinct Portraits by disAbleD Artists" opening reception fundraiser will take place Friday, Feb. 9, 6-9:30 p.m., at Chicago's Bridgeport Art Center, 1200 W. 35th St., fourth floor. The exhibit will be open to the public Feb. 16 to March 30.**

**To purchase tickets (\$25-\$35), visit <https://www.projectonward.org/exhibitions>. For more information, contact 773-940-2992 or [info@projectonward.org](mailto:info@projectonward.org).**

Tickets to each screening—unless stated otherwise—are \$11/general admission, \$7/students, \$6/Film Center members, and \$5/Art Institute of Chicago (AIC) staff and School of the Art Institute of Chicago (SAIC) faculty, staff and students. See [SiskelFilmCenter.org/acrocats](http://SiskelFilmCenter.org/acrocats).

## Wanda Sykes performs 'The Other America'

Audible announced the release of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s *The Other America*, performed by Wanda Sykes, as a free download.

This speech is an early look at *The Radical King*, a collection of 23 of King's essays and speeches, curated and introduced by Cornell West as well as performed by people such as Levar Burton, Mike Coulter, Colman Domingo, Danny Glover, Gabourey Sidibe, Sykes and Michael Kenneth Williams.

The full collection will be available exclusively from Audible on April 3.

The free download is at [Audible.com/theotheramerica](http://Audible.com/theotheramerica).



## THEATER

# Golden Age Hollywood icons are reborn on the Chicago stage

BY JAMES R. WILKE

On Feb. 16-17 at the Athenaeum Theatre, two legendary women from Hollywood's Golden Age will return to audiences (and to life) in two Chicago theatrical premiere, 90-minute, one-woman musicals: *The Garbo The Musical*, and *Hedda! A Musical Conversation*. And with all the gay intrigue surrounding these two icons—silver screen temptress Greta Garbo and gossip columnist Hedda Hopper—Windy City Times talked with Chicago local creator/performer Jillann (Jill) Gabrielle to get the scoop.

A recent transplant to suburban Crystal Lake with her husband, Gabrielle has decades of musical theater, cabaret and solo performance experience under her belt, both locally and across the country. While she is the creator, performer and primary writer of both works, honed at smaller

conversations, Hedda will reveal this and other juicy bites from her life, and Gabrielle added, "She made herself a star on the backs of all these other stars with her exposure of all their peccadilloes." The play will also touch on Hopper's infamously conservative views.

Gabrielle cited many inspirations drawing her to these particular women's stories, including their strengths, struggles, interesting lives, and similar German-Swedish backgrounds to her own. Gabrielle noted, "I'm sophisticated, but I'm also like Mercedes. I have a foul mouth. And I'm a very domineering woman. But it works well for the stage."

Pre-recorded orchestral tracks will accompany Gabrielle's shows. And with song titles like "I Can Get Any Woman From Any Man (The Starfucker Song)" sung by Mercedes in *The Garbo*, or "Queen of the Quickies" and "Friendly Enemy



Jillann Gabrielle as Hedda Hopper. Photo courtesy of John Olson

venue performances over the past three years, she also collaborated with locals Michael Termine on the book/lyrics for *Hedda!* and Howard Pfeifer on the music and arrangements for both shows.

In *The Garbo*, audiences will find themselves holed up with Garbo in her later reclusive years at her "hodgepodge" east-side Manhattan apartment. The plot revolves around a nightmare Garbo has about two of the most pivotal loves of her life: conspicuous lesbian writer Mercedes de Acosta, and bisexual British designer Cecil Beaton. With quick changes, Gabrielle takes on all three roles as Garbo's nightmare unfolds.

Gabrielle said, "All of the secrets about Garbo come out in this piece." But as audiences will see, things don't work out so well in the end. "She found someone who was very willing and adoring in Cecil," Gabrielle added. "But he was a real cunt. And he gave it to her in the end by publishing his memoirs, as did Mercedes... So, it's really about love and betrayal and not being able to face who you are."

For *Hedda!*, audiences will join the Queen of Hollywood Gossip in her Beverly Hills living room during the peak of her reign from the mid-1940s through 1950s. Gabrielle said, "She's on the phone; she was notorious! She outed a number of people. She wanted to out Cary Grant, but Louis B. Mayer wouldn't let her do it." Through cheeky songs and

Rag" in *Hedda!*, Gabrielle's songs sound like just the sort of wit to appeal to LGBT audiences. Of Hopper, Gabrielle added, "She called everybody the 'Friendly Enemies.' And that was her life, giving everybody shit and having fun doing it!"

Apart from these performances, Gabrielle said she sees a future for *The Garbo* and *Hedda!* beyond herself. She said, "My goal is to get them to Broadway in small houses, with someone like Glenn Close playing both of them." Gabrielle hinted, however, that *Hedda!* could also be played by a man: "The essential story could be fabulous with a drag queen in it. Are you kidding? Oh, god, yes!"

And does Gabrielle have more original material in the works once *Garbo* and *Hedda!* hang up their hats? Well, aside from two screenplays she penned currently making rounds in Los Angeles, Gabrielle said of her next solo theatrical production, "My next piece is on Joan Crawford and Bette Davis, where I play them both. ... They are in purgatory, and their punishment is to share the same body." Sounds hot to me. Give 'em hell!

***Hedda!* and *The Garbo* open at 7:30 p.m. on Feb. 16-17, respectively, and run through March 17 at the Athenaeum Theatre, Studio Two, 2936 N. Southport Ave. For showtimes and tickets, visit [Athenaeumtheatre.org](http://Athenaeumtheatre.org).**

## CULTURE CLUB



## MOVIES

# HUMP days: Film festival celebrates amateur sex cinema

BY SARI STAVER  
BAY AREA REPORTER

A porn festival for people who don't like pornography?

That's how syndicated sex columnist Dan Savage described the HUMP! Film Festival, a two-day annual event coming to Chicago's Music Box Theatre on Feb. 16-17.

In a phone interview with the BAR to discuss the details of the upcoming program, Savage said it "showcases home movie erotica, amateur sex cinema, and locally produced pornography—all less than five minutes long."

"Essentially," said Savage, "HUMP! Consists of short dirty movies created by people who aren't porn stars but want to be one for a weekend."

Savage—a gay syndicated sex columnist, journalist and activist—has been producing the film festival since 2005, when it began in Seattle, Savage's home bases, where he is title of nane of paper. Now the editorial director of what—where he began as a what when—Savage has built a multi media empire, in an era when many of the papers who had purchased his column have gone out of business.

The filmmakers—and their film stars—"show us what they think is hot and sexy," said Savage. The program consists of shorts, "a carefully curated program" featuring "a cornucopia of body types, shapes, ages, colors and sexualities," he said.

The films "are united by a shared spirit of sex positivity," said Savage.

And for those who might want to chat with Savage about the festival or take a selfie with him, the festival director will be here each evening for a question and answer session after the XYZ minute program.

"HUMP! is a celebration of creative sexual expression," said Savage. "You may see films that shock you, that make you laugh or that turn you on," he said.

The festival's main mission, he said, "is to change the way America sees, makes, and shares pornography."

The festival producers encourage filmmakers to produce entries specifically for the festival, said Savage, pointing out that several films that premiered at HUMP! in previous years have been re-released and achieved "significant commercial success," he said. Most notable were the gay feature Lawnboy and the short mockumentary, "How To Get A Leg Up in Porn."

The festival opened its national tour in Seattle and Portland, where festivalgoers voted for their favorites, which are annotated on the program.

Among the winners at the 13th annual festival are:

—Best humor: "A HUMP! Public Service Announcement," which the program says is "educational and sexy"

—Best humor, runner up: "Dildrone," the story of a drone equipped with a dildo

—Best sex: "The Alley," featuring "tattooed strangers who find an extremely hot way to pass the time between a few spin cycles"

—Best sex, runner-up: "The Code," a film that "will convince you to never take Uber again" with a warning to not try what is described in the film on your LYFT home from the festival

—Best kink: "Paramnesia," featuring "kinky Tumblr girls who shot a Lynchian porn!"

—Best kink, runner-up: "Dark Room," which features hot bodies, great sex, and an end you'll



Kate McKinnon—now a Dorian Award winner.

## 'Vagina Melodies' Feb. 16-March 16

Corn Productions will run The Vagina Melodies on Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings at 8 p.m. on Feb. 16-March 16 at Conservatory, 4210 N. Lincoln Ave.. (It will also run on two Sundays—Feb. 18 and 25—at 6 p.m.)

The events are BYOB.

Tickets (\$10-\$15 each) can be purchased online at [cornsociety.org](http://cornsociety.org); reservations can be made by emailing [corntickets@gmail.com](mailto:corntickets@gmail.com).

## Chicago Theatre Week Feb. 8-18

Presented by the League of Chicago Theatres in partnership with Choose Chicago, Chicago Theatre Week is returning for its sixth year and



Dan Savage.  
PR photo

will take place Feb. 8-18.

Visitors and residents will again have the opportunity to choose from more than 120 productions and sample the range of theatrical offerings in Chicago.

Tickets are \$15-\$30 (or less) during this time. Just a few of the productions are YANK!: A World War II Love Story, A Moon for the Misbegotten, Blue Man Group, The Joffrey Ballet's Modern Masters, Late Nite Catechism, Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, and BREACH: a manifesto on race in America through the eyes of a black girl recovering from self-hate.

See <https://www.choosechicago.com> and <https://chicagoplays.com/theatre-week.html>.

## LGBTQA TV/film critics announce Dorian winners

GALECA: The Society of LGBTQ Entertainment Critics—composed of more than 200 LGBTQA entertainment journalists in the United States, Canada and United Kingdom—has announced its ninth annual Dorian Award winners.

This year's 26 TV and film categories (from mainstream to LGBTQ-centric) include inaugural awards for Supporting Film Performance. A handful of select recipients will join the group for GALECA's annual Winners Toast on Saturday, Feb. 24, in Beverly Hills, California.

Among the film winners are Call Me By Your Name (Film of the Year), Lady Bird's Greta Gerwig (Director of the Year), The Shape of Water's Sally Hawkins (Best Actress), Call Me By Your Name's Timothee Chalamet (Best Actor), BPM (Foreign-Language Film of the Year), mother! (Campy Flick of the Year), Jordan Peele (Screenplay of the Year, for Get Out) and God's Own

not soon forget"

—Annual jury award: "Bed Bugs," a story of "the ghost of boyfriend past who haunts a trashed mattress"

—Annual best in show: "Connection," a "coffee shot fantasy that turns a contemporary dance routine into one of the sexiest stripteases HUMP! Has ever seen"

Running the 60-city HUMP! Fest tour is an "unbelievable amount of work," said Savage. The tour will stop at such cities as Los Angeles, Pittsburgh, Cleveland, Montreal and Toronto.

Part of the appeal of the festival, he added, is that the films are "not dehumanizing," adding "Everyone in them wants to be in them. People do it for fun. Nobody is paid so audience members never have to worry [that people are working because they need the money]."

In addition to his current lineup of gigs, Savage said a "television project" is now under discussion, but cautioned, "I can't say anymore right now."

**The HUMP! Film Festival will take place Feb. 16-17 at the Music Box Theatre, 3733 N. Southport Ave. Visit <https://humpfilmfest.com/>.**

Country (Unsung Film of the Year), among others.

Television winners include Big Little Lies (TV Drama of the Year), The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel (TV Comedy of the Year), Nicole Kidman (Best TV Actress, for Big Little Lies), Kyle MacLachlan (Best TV Actor, for Twin Peaks: The Return), RuPaul's Drag Race (LGBTQ Show of the Year) and Feud: Betty and Joan (Campy TV Show of the Year), among others.

Other awards include the 'We're Wilde About You!' Rising Star Award (given to Chalamet), the Wilde Wit of the Year Award (given to Peele and Kate McKinnon), Wilde Artist of the Year (Peele) and the Timeless Star (Meryl Streep).

## Former 'Glee' actor dies at 35

Actor Mark Salling—best known for playing Puck on the Fox series Glee—was found dead near a riverbed in Sunland, California. He was 35.

Salling's death came as he awaited sentencing in a child-pornography case, after reaching a plea agreement in October. Salling pled guilty to possessing about 25,000 images of children engaged in sexual conduct, the U.S. department of Justice said in December.

He was slated to be sentenced March 7. According to Deadline, Salling faced a statutory maximum sentence of 20 years in federal prison, but as part of the agreement was expected to spend four to seven years in prison, followed by 20 years of supervised release and registry as a sex offender.

The Deadline article is at <http://deadline.com/2018/01/mark-salling-dead-glee-actor-child-pornography-1202274318/>.





Director Sebastian Lelio.  
Photo from Sony Pictures Classics

NUNN ON ONE: MOVIES

## Sebastian Lelio's 'Fantastic' project

BY JERRY NUNN

The new movie *A Fantastic Woman* stars Chilean transgender actress Daniela Vega, who plays Marina, the survivor of the death of her lover, Orlando. His family wants her to just go away quietly while she wants to fight for the right to mourn Orlando in this unpredictable story about discrimination.

This movie is currently nominated for an Oscar after the recent Golden Globe nomination for Best Foreign Film. Diversity has increased in the 90th Academy Awards with *A Fantastic Woman* along with Strong Island's Yance Ford being the first transgender director of a film to be nominated for an Oscar. Call Me By Your Name leads the LGBT pack of films with four nominations.

Windy City Times called the director of *A Fantastic Woman*, Sebastian Lelio, to discuss the creation of the film and his growing career.

**Windy City Times:** Hi, Sebastian. With you being the screenwriter, talk about the creation of *A Fantastic Woman*.

Sebastian Lelio: At the very beginning, it was a story about what would happen if the person you love dies in your arms. It would feel like the worst place in the world.

In the process of scriptwriting, the idea of this happening to a transgender woman popped up. That was an important moment in the process. I stopped writing because I don't live in Santiago. I live in Germany. I didn't know any transgender people in Santiago. I had the intuition that things had evolved, but I wanted to get rid of my

ignorance and see who was out there.

When we were looking for a consultant we found Daniela Vega. I wanted to learn what a transgender woman in contemporary Santiago was like. I was immediately fascinated by Daniela. I really liked her. She generously accepted to become our consultant and friend who we could talk to during the writing process.

When I finished the first draft, I realized I wanted to make the film, but not without a transgender actress. My dear cultural advisor was going to be the star of the film!

So that is how it happened. It was very organic. I didn't do casting or anything. It was always her, even when I didn't know it at the beginning.

**WCT:** Was it difficult to obtain the rights for "(You Make Me Feel Like) A Natural Woman" to be played in the movie?

SL: We had to pay. It wasn't particularly difficult, but not cheap either. It was important for me to have it. I love the song. It is straight forward in the way it is used. That is exactly what I like about it.

**WCT:** I saw Diabla is really the dog's name in the credits. How did the dog factor into the movie?

SL: We wanted to thank her especially. I really like animals in films. Every chance I have to incorporate animals I do it. They have a pure presence and it is like great acting.

In terms of the narrative, it is a necessary element because it was the only thing that she wanted to keep of his. It is not material, but more than that, more than his car or anything

like that. The dog is the only thing that doesn't judge her in the film. It hit me at a film festival and it made me sad. Everyone was so unraveled by her presence except for the dog. It was devastating because we can't even be like dogs. I started to look at it with a different light and thought, "We can at least be like dogs can't we? Come on!"

**WCT:** When Marina is jumping on top of the car, was that her *Jurassic Park* moment?

SL: [Laughs] I had never thought of that. That might be triggered because there is a presence of dinosaurs in the story. In the restaurant where she works the walls have dinosaurs.

The question is who are the dinosaurs? Who is the more evolved force? Maybe the dinosaurs are the ones inside the car.

**WCT:** I love that. What was the idea behind the taping of her face?

SL: I was looking for an original solution for the kidnapping moment. I wanted them to be very aggressive but not leave any marks. I thought deforming her face with Scotch Tape was a way to do that.

The whole scene is a projections of projections. You are seeing the secondary characters judging Marina. By doing that they don't reveal anything about her, but instead reveal aspects about themselves. We are projecting our own fears, desires, and fantasies upon them. We are judging everyone as well.

Sometimes Marina looks directly in the lens, maybe asking the spectators what they see. What are they projecting?

In that sense the formation of the Scotch Tape sequence is playing with that idea. That is what they see when they look at her, a deformed monster.

**WCT:** What would you like to see audiences get out of *A Fantastic Woman*?

SL: I want a strong cinematic experience. I want people to see a film, not a moral lesson or a cause film that will teach them something. If that happens that is one of the layers of it.

I wanted to make a genre film about a transgender character. It is really like a complex animal that operates in different directions. It flirts with different genres. It's a romantic movie that becomes a thriller, that becomes a character study. It has elements of fantasy, then becomes a ghost film. The film's own identity is in flux. It is deeply connected to its subject of style, to Marina.

I hope the journey is intense enough for the

spectator to go, "What was that?" in a good way when the film finishes. It offers enough space for viewers to step into everyone's shoes and to analyze the challenge from every possible angle. They can decide where they stand.

Besides that it offers the opportunity to connect with Marina. Despite your beliefs or political positions or what you think about sexual minorities, the film offers you a chance to empathize with Marina. Maybe after seeing the movie they will have empathy in places they didn't know they had.

**WCT:** What films do you have coming out

Turn to page 30

## Chicago Filmmakers moves into new home

Chicago Filmmakers has moved to its new home—a historic 1920s firehouse, fully renovated with classrooms, a screening room, office space and projection facilities—at 5720 N. Ridge Ave.

The organization purchased the building from the City of Chicago in February 2016 and—after extensive renovation, remodeling and construction—moved into its new home in late December 2017.

All classes are now held in the new firehouse location, and Chicago Filmmakers plans to resume regular films screenings in February.

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

## ALMA's 'Winter Salsa' Feb. 9

The Association of Latino/as Motivating Action (ALMA) will host its "2nd Annual Winter Salsa" on Friday, Feb. 9, at the Segundo Ruiz Belvis Cultural Center, 4046 W. Armitage Ave.

Among other events, awards will be given to Jessica Carrillo-Guerrero (Individual Community), MillerCoors (Corporate Community) and Vives Q (Community Organization). There will be food and open bar with, of course, live salsa.

See [ALMAWinterSalsa2018.eventbrite.com](http://ALMAWinterSalsa2018.eventbrite.com) and [ALMAChicago.org](http://ALMAChicago.org).

**ACADEMY AWARD® NOMINEE BEST FOREIGN LANGUAGE**

**"A FANTASTIC MOVIE. DANIELA VEGA IS FANTASTIC IN IT."**  
—A.O. Scott, THE NEW YORK TIMES

A FILM BY SEBASTIÁN LELIO

**A FANTASTIC WOMAN**

www.sonyclassics.com

STARTS FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9

Chicago MUSIC BOX THEATRE (773) 871-6604

Chicago AMC RIVER EAST 21 amctheatres.com

Evanston CENTURY 12 EVANSTON / CINÉARTS 6 & XD (847) 491-9751

VIEW THE TRAILER AT [WWW.AFANTASTICWOMAN.COM](http://WWW.AFANTASTICWOMAN.COM)

SONY PICTURES CLASSICS

THE NEW YORK TIMES Critics' Pick

## NUNN ON ONE: MOVIES

# Mike Farrell channels Chicagoan Lee Miglin in 'Gianni Versace'

BY JERRY NUNN

Gay executive producer Ryan Murphy is on a roll with his second installment of FX's *American Crime Story*. The first season's *The People v. O.J. Simpson* was a critical success, earning many awards including an Emmy and Golden Globe for Sarah Paulson, who portrayed Marcia Clark.

This year's *The Assassination of Gianni Versace* is based on Maureen Orth's book *Vulgar Favors: Andrew Cunanan, Gianni Versace, and the Largest Failed Manhunt in U.S. History*. The series examines Andrew Cunanan, played by actor Darren Criss in a possible career-making performance.

Mike Farrell is featured in one episode—titled "A Random Killing"—where he plays another victim of Cunanan: Chicago real-estate tycoon Lee Miglin, who is portrayed in this series as closeted. Farrell is most remembered for his character Captain B.J. Hunnicutt on *M\*A\*S\*H*, but he has had a vast array of television appearances. His work started back at *Lassie* and moves forward to shows such as *Providence* and *Desperate Housewives*.

He has executive-produced two films—*Patch Adams* and *Dominick and Eugene*, the latter which earned Tom Hulse a Golden Globe nomination.

**Windy City Times: Happy upcoming birthday, Mike!**

Mike Farrell: Thank you. You have done your research.

**WCT: What a career you have had over the years. Growing up in Hollywood paid off.**

MF: It was sort of like growing up in a lumber town, then working in the mill.

**WCT: How fun was it being on *I Dream of Jeannie*?**

MF: [Laughs] I was so green and wet behind the ears. I was just thrilled to be there. It was wonderful to look at Barbara Eden. That was the first time I had met Larry Hagman.

I had maybe one line and I don't remember what I had to say. I was probably scared stiff!

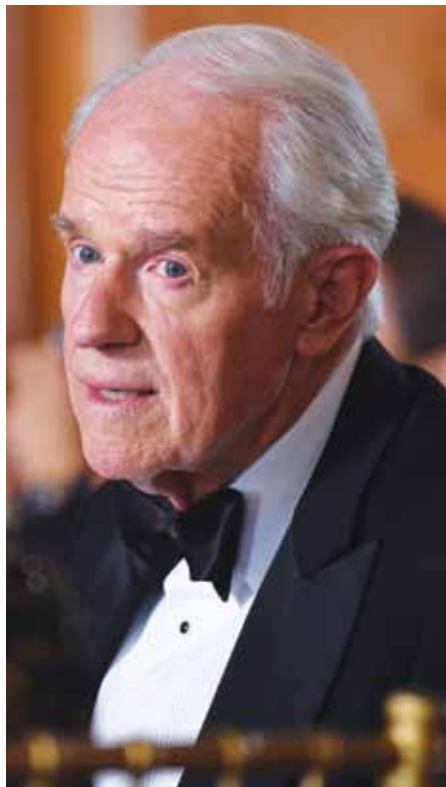
**WCT: Did they come to you about this role in *American Crime Story*?**

MF: Yes, they came to me. I was fascinated by this set of circumstances, and by the character. I had known very little about the story, but I thought it was really quite extraordinary. Ultimately it was an important story to tell. I was delighted to be a part of it.

**WCT: Did you study up on Lee Miglin?**

MF: You get the pages and they tell you what you need to know. I did some research. As you may know, there were some differing opinions on what happened and who he was etc.

He was not only complex to portray, [but] he was an important person and had a life that



Mike Farrell in *The Assassination of Gianni Versace*.

Photo courtesy of FX

people need to better understand. Back then and certainly today, while there is more understanding there is some cloudiness.

**WCT: Was this the first time you played a gay character?**

MF: Yes.

**WCT: Was this filmed in Chicago?**

MF: We did some, but it was backup work. Most of my scenes were filmed in Los Angeles.

**WCT: Was filming such a graphic scene a nightmare?**

MF: It was weird, I will say. I don't like being wrapped up like that.

**WCT: How was it working with Darren Criss?**

MF: He's terrific. He's really a nice young man and very talented. I confess to never having seen *Glee*. For someone that is relatively new to the business, he has a great presence, and had a good relationship with the crew. It was really fun to get to know him and see him work.

**WCT: Even on television it is interesting to see his interpretation.**

MF: I agree. It is an enormous task to pull off. From what I saw he really did a remarkable job.

**WCT: Did you know Judith Light [who plays Lee's wife, Marilyn] before this?**

MF: We had never met before. I had been an admirer of Judith for a long time, so it was thrilling to get to work with her and meet her.

**WCT: She's worked with the LGBT community for many years. Have you?**

MF: Oh sure. In the '70s, I was involved in a campaign out here in the early days when the Briggs Initiative was on the ballot to keep gay people from teaching. It was just awful.

The community needed someone who was straight to stand up. I became a spokesperson for the No on Proposition 6 campaign.

Ever since then I have had many friends in the community and have done a lot of work in support.

**WCT: Are you still doing your one-man show about global warming?**

MF: Yes. I am doing a benefit for the Sierra Club later in the year to do it. There's a DVD of it that different organizations use to show their groups the platy rather than having me go everywhere. I am often asked to do a Q&A afterwards, which is interesting.

**WCT: You have to perform it in Chicago.**

MF: That would be fun.

**WCT: Do you have a favorite M\*A\*S\*H memory?**

MF: They are almost all my favorites.

My favorite episode though was with an interview. It was an Edward R. Murrow-esque story we did. A newsman comes with his documentary

crew to the M\*A\*S\*H compound and interviews everybody. It demonstrated a mutual respect between the cast and the crew. The producers came to each of us with a little pad, questions, and a tape recorder. They just had us respond in character to the questions. That became the script for the show. It was a thrill.

Yesterday was Alan Alda's birthday and a bunch of us got together to celebrate him. He was out here on the coast because he has a part in a picture here. Almost 35 years after the show technically went off the air we will still get together whenever we can. It is like a family. We have a wonderful time.

**WCT: Are you working on producing any more movies?**

MF: Yes. I have a number of pictures that I would like to get done. You develop these things and it is a long process. The result is either the trashcan or the screen. You never know which it's going to be!

**WCT: You were in *The Red Road*?**

MF: Yes. It was series done for the Sundance Channel. I was in it for three seasons. It was shot in Atlanta, but set in New Jersey. It was about the tension between a Native American community and the people from the town.

**WCT: Jason Momoa was in that.**

MF: Boy, is he a big guy.

**WCT: He's Aquaman. He has to be big!**

**The Assassination of Gianni Versace: American Crime Story** airs every Wednesday on FX at 9 p.m.

## Several LGBT athletes in Winter Olympics

Several LGBT individuals from around the world will be competing in the 2018 Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang, South Korea, on Feb. 9-25, according to the Human Rights Campaign.

At the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi, seven openly LGBTQ athletes took part. All of them were women.

This year's competitors will include: U.S. freestyle skier Gus Kenworthy (who has competed previously, but came out in 2015), U.S. figure skater Adam Rippon, Austrian ski-jumper Daniela Iraschko-Stolz, Canadian pairs figure skater Eric Radford (who has competed previously, but came out in late 2014), Dutch half-pipe snowboarder Cheryl Maas and Dutch long-track speed skater Ireen Wust (in her fourth Winter Olympics).

Additionally, Australians Barbara Jezersek and Belle Brockhoff are expected to represent their countr, as the team is finalizing its roster. In addition, U.S. pairs figure skater Tim LeDuc is an alternate (along with skating partner Ashley Cain).

For more on the athletes, visit [HRC.org/blog/meet-the-openly-lgbtq-athletes-headed-to-the-winter-olympics-in-pyeongchang](http://HRC.org/blog/meet-the-openly-lgbtq-athletes-headed-to-the-winter-olympics-in-pyeongchang).

## Driehaus' 'The Art of Seating' Feb. 10-Aug. 11

The Richard H. Driehaus Museum, 40 E. Erie St., has announced the upcoming exhibition *The Art of Seating: 200 Years of American Design*, opening Feb. 10.

The exhibition will feature 37 examples of chairs created between 1810 and 2010 in the United States, and it will run through Aug. 11.

"Seating" focuses on a comprehensive private collection of iconic and historic chairs spanning from the mid-1800s to today's studio movement. Although all 37 pieces serve a familiar function, many of them take an unfamiliar form.

See [DriehausMuseum.org](http://DriehausMuseum.org).

## Same-sex wedding expo March 18

The 2018 LGBT Wedding Expo will be held Sunday, March 18, 12:30-3:30 p.m., at Hotel Chicago, 333 N. Dearborn St. It will be the 10th year for the expo in Chicago.

Patrons will be able to win a wedding worth \$2,500 for the couple and up to 30 guests at Pine Manor in Mount Prospect, Illinois. Also, there will be music, food samples and much more.

The event is free, but e-tickets are required; see [SameSexMarriageChicago.com](http://SameSexMarriageChicago.com).

# More from Equality Illinois' 2018 gala

Photos by Kat Fitzgerald ([www.MysticImagesPhotography.com](http://www.MysticImagesPhotography.com)). See more photos online at [www.WindyCityTimes.com](http://www.WindyCityTimes.com)



# the DISH

Weekly Dining Guide in  
WINDY CITY TIMES

## SAVOR

### LiqrBox; Good Stuff Eatery

BY ANDREW DAVIS

The best thing I can say about **LiqrBox** (873 N. Orleans St.; <http://liqrboxchicago.com/>) is that it can make you feel at least 20 years younger.

Why do I say this? It's because the clubrestaurant (with the upper club space open on weekends) exudes an unapologetically nostalgic vibe, with everything from '90s music piped throughout the first-floor restaurant space ("Don't go chasin' waterfalls...") to boozy concoctions served in juice boxes (yes, juice boxes)—and those drinks are pretty smooth, with Absolut Peach, for example, not that far removed from a Capri-Sun (making it a pretty tricky drink).

Guests enjoy the perks of a 4 a.m. liquor



The signature juice box at LiqrBox.  
PR photo

curfew, along with a full-service kitchen that serves shareable bites until 3 a.m. The food program is spearheaded by Mark Sparacino, chef/owner of the nearby Italian restaurant Prosecco.

At LiqrBox, though, Sparacino gets creative with traditional favorite snacks. He serves items such as (large) pizza rolls, shrimp corn dogs, Spaghetti Ohhhh's, creamy mac 'n' cheese served in a parmesan bowl and a loaf of cheesy bread—with part of it cut out to hold tomato soup. (I personally can't wait until LiqrBox hooks up with a delivery service.)

## Good Stuff Eatery

Top Chef alum Spike Mendelsohn is the mind behind **Good Stuff Eatery** (22 S. Wabash Ave.; [GoodStuffEatery.com/locations/chicago](http://GoodStuffEatery.com/locations/chicago)), a deceptively large spot that "serves delicious burgers, handspun shakes and handcut fries," according to its website.

Actually, I can't argue with any of those claims. The burgers are sizeable sandwiches, priced at \$6-\$8 each—and a few of the items pay homage to the restaurant's Washington, D.C., roots. (This Good Stuff is currently the only one outside of the D.C. area, and has artwork featuring the Blues Brothers to acknowledge its Windy City location.) Some of those offerings include the very tasty Michelle Melt (a free-range turkey burger with caramelized onions, Swiss cheese, ruby tomato and lettuce on a wheat bun—with "South Lawn herb garden mayo") and the Prez Burger—formerly known as the Obama Burger (burger with applewood bacon, onion marmalade, Roquefort cheese and horseradish mayo). Don't ask me what the Melania Melt might have.

There are other enticing options, such as the Big Stuff Bacon Meltdown and the Nashville Hot Chicken sandwich. (By the way, any of the burgers can be made with grilled chicken, for the more health-inclined.)

The milkshakes are worth mentioning as well. They come in flavors such as Toasted Marshmallow,



The giant cowbell at Good Stuff Eatery.

Photo by Andrew Davis

Salty Caramel Kiss, Cinnamon Crunch and Bipartisan Vanilla (which the general manager said is simply vanilla, despite its political name). The Milk & Cookies shake is a wonderfully viscous vanilla concoction that's topped with a couple Oreo cookies.)

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



**SIDETRACK**

525,600 (minus 525,589) pictures from the Rent showtunes night.

Photos by Jed Dulanus



## BILLY Masters

"We've only got five hits, so we have to fill in the blanks somehow."—Chynna Phillips, explaining the covers performed during a recent Wilson Phillips concert. In truth, the group had seven Top 40 songs, three of which went to number one.

And now, some good news—penis sizes are going up. Yes, according to a recent study, the penises are on the rise. What has caused this phenomenon is uncertain—as is the veracity of this report. There are so many holes to be filled, so to speak. How were the penii measured? Was it a self-reporting survey? Because if so, I don't buy any of it. Were the penii measured by the pollsters? Because if so, where do I apply for that job? While the polling method is unknown, we do know that when the study was done in 2016, the size of an average penis was 5.16 inches when erect. I don't know if this is a salient point, but it should be noted that these were UK penii. When the same research group did this recent survey, the average penis jumped to 6.1 inches. What could account for that increase of almost 24 millimeters? Maybe they just sent out hotter pollsters.

Whilst there is no penis competition in the modern Olympic Games, I'm sure a handful will be on display in the coming days. It may be the Winter Games, but since most competitors wear Lycra, dick slips are not just for summer anymore. As we previously reported, **Vice President Mike Pence** is leading the US delegation, something that doesn't please everyone. Echoing the sentiments of **skater Adam Rippon**, **skier Gus Kenworthy** said, "I feel the same way as him. I think it's not the person I would have expected, and I think it sends mixed messages because this is the first time we're seeing out US Olympic athletes competing in the Winter Olympics, and then we have someone leading the delegation that doesn't support that, and doesn't support the LGBT community, and has spoken against it. I think it doesn't send the right message. It's unfortunate, but it is what it is."

Before moving on, let's tie these first few paragraphs together as only I can. We've learned that the International Olympic Committee placed the largest order of condoms in Olympic history! Over 110K condoms were ordered, which means 37 condoms per athlete—which, over a two-week period, sounds about right to me. Spokesman Chung Geun-sik says he doesn't expect the athletes to use them all, saying, "Many will likely be taken home as souvenirs." That said, Olympic officials predict that this will be the "most promiscuous group of athletes in Olympic history." Apparently they forget that athletes in the first Olympics in ancient Greece competed in the nude!

While I typically would drop everything and jump on a plane to see a reunion of **The Go-Go's**, I had pressing business in California and couldn't get away. And so, while I may have been absent when the girls took to the stage of the Bowery Ballroom in New York City, ousted bass-



The "Ask Billy" question this week centers on New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady.

ist **Kathy Valentine** was back where she belonged—onstage between **Belinda Carlisle** and **Jane Wiedlin**. The classic lineup reunited for the official launch of the Broadway-bound musical, *Head Over Heels*, which is using the music of The Go-Go's. They rocked out to seven of their biggest hits (well, six of theirs, one of Belinda's) and the capacity crowd ate it up. The glitterati on hand included **Sandra Bernhard**, **Debbie Harry** and **Andy Cohen**. And then it was over ... or was it? Two nights later, they did a five-song set on the beach adjacent to the swanky Mandarin Oriental in Miami as part of the Broadway Across America conference—where producers promote their shows to theater owners around the country. Kinda premature for a show that's not even hitting Broadway until June, but it makes me happy. You can see footage from the NY show on [BillyMasters.com](http://BillyMasters.com).

By the way, when *Head Over Heels* hits Broadway, it will also make a bit of history. One of the leads will be played by **Peppermint**, a runner-up from *RuPaul's Drag Race*. With her casting, she'll be the first trans woman to originate a leading role on Broadway. However, she won't be the first "Drag Race" alum to hit the Great White Way. That honor goes to **Milan**, aka Dwayne Cooper, who appeared in *Motown: The Musical* and *Hairspray*.

Just to remind you how lucky we are to be living in the United States (even under the current administration), last week the first same-sex active-duty soldiers got married where they met—at West Point! **Daniel Hall** and **Vincent Franchino** are both captains, both Apache helicopter pilots, and both pretty hot. In case you're interested in how hot they look out of their uniforms, check out [BillyMasters.com](http://BillyMasters.com).

This column may be going to bed during the Super Bowl, but one of our readers is definitely up. Our "Ask Billy" question comes from Spencer on Cape Cod, who writes, "I know everyone goes crazy over Gronk's body, but I'm a Brady boy. Has Tom ever posed nude? Or have you ever come across any nude shots of him?"

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9  
**MARDI GLOW PARTY**  
DANCERS & GLOW PAINTING  
DIXIE LYNN CARTWRIGHT  
9PM-2AM

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10  
**MASQUERADE PARTY**  
FACE & BODY PAINTING  
DANCERS & BEADS  
9PM-3AM

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13  
**FAT TUESDAY**  
FACE & BODY PAINTING  
DANCERS & BEADS  
DRAG BY KHLOE & CHAMILLA FOXF  
HOSTED BY DIXIE LYNN CARTWRIGHT  
8PM-2AM

BACARDÍ SWEETHEART VODKA

3349 N HALSTED SIDETRACKCHICAGO.COM @SIDETRACKBAR NO COVER 21+ W/ID

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 14

ALL THINGS BEYONCÉ  
**SIDETRACK**

DANCE TO QUEEN B ALL NIGHT! 9PM-2AM NO COVER

ALL THINGS BEY CONTEST  
DANCE, SING OR LIP SYNC TO WIN PRIZES  
BEYLICIOUS DRAG BY  
DIDA RITZ, SAYA NAOMI & SASHA LOVE  
HOSTED BY DIXIE LYNN CARTWRIGHT

When I got this email, I had a vague recollection of some nude photos of **Tom Brady**. So what did I do? Went to the bible of nude photos of hot men—[BillyMasters.com](http://BillyMasters.com). I wrote a story two years ago about how the paparazzi got off some shots of Tommy while he was sunbathing au naturel in Positano, Italy. He certainly gives Gronk a run for his money in the ass department. As for the dick, it's grainy, but it appears to be above average.

When Brady's looking a bit deflated, it's time to end yet another column. Before wrapping up, I want to note the passing of a dear friend. **Rick McKay** was a writer, performer and filmmaker best known for his documentary *Broadway: The Golden Age*. In fact, when he used to come to LA and interview luminaries for the film, he would sleep on my sofa! Before you doze off, check out [www.BillyMasters.com](http://www.BillyMasters.com)—the site where most penises are above average. If you have a question, send it off to [Billy@BillyMasters.com](mailto:Billy@BillyMasters.com) and I promise to get back to you before I start my own survey! Until next time, remember, one man's filth is another man's bible.

LOVE THEM WITH LEATHER

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 15

LEATHER4TEN CHICAGO

6410 N. CLARK, CHICAGO, IL | 773.508.0900  
LEATHER4TEN.COM

# WINDY CITY TIMES COMMUNITY CALENDAR

## Wed., Feb. 7

**Author Presentation: Mary Wisniewski on Nelson Algren: The Accidental Feminist** Mary Wisniewski's new biography of novelist Nelson Algren. 7:30pm Women & Children First Bookstore 5233 N Clark St Chicago <http://www.womenandchildrenfirst.com/event/author-presentation-mary-wisniewski-nelson-algren-accidental-feminist>

## Thursday, Feb. 8

**Speak Truth to Power** Major touring exhibition based on the book, Speak Truth to Power: Human Rights Defenders Who Are Changing Our World, about activists working tirelessly to defend justice in political rights, freedom of expression, honor killings, demilitarization, environmental activism, mental health, children's rights, and national self-determination. 10:00am - 8:00pm, ongoing, Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center 9603 Woods Dr. Skokie, IL 60077 <https://www.ilholocaustmuseum.org>



## YOU AUTO KNOW Feb. 10-19

The Chicago Auto Show  
will run at  
McCormick Place.

Photo from the 2017 show  
by Andrew Davis

**Jonathan Zeng presents Songs that Speak** With Michael R. Oldham and Daniel Eastwood 7:00pm Chopin Theatre 1543 W Division St Chicago <http://www.JonathanZeng.com>

## Friday, Feb. 9

**ALMA's White Salsa** Celebrating over 27 years of community service. Honoring an individual and two organizations who have helped ALMA serve the needs of the Latinx LGBTQ community. Salsa dancing, great food and an open bar. \$50 - \$1,000 7:00pm - 11:30pm Segundo Ruiz Belvis Cultural Center, 4046 W. Armitage Ave. Tickets: <http://www.eventbrite.com>

**Yank! A WWII Love Story** Midwestern boy joins the Army during World War II, falls in love with another soldier and is introduced to the gay underground of the Armed Services through a journalist for the Army magazine YANK. Through Feb. 18. \$40 reserved seats, \$30 general 7:30pm The Buena, Pride Arts Center 4147 N. Broadway, Chicago <http://www.pridefilmsandplays.com>

**Abbie Gardner (of Americana chart toppers Red Molly) CD release** Award-winning songwriter and interpreter of folk styles, vocalist, and dobro player with new album Wishes on a Neon Sign. \$10 7:30pm Two Way Street Coffeehouse, 1047 Curtiss St., Downers Grove <http://www.twowaystreet.org/>

## Saturday, Feb. 10

**Frontrunners, Frontwalkers Chicago** Frontrunners, Frontwalkers Chicago Chi-

cago's LGBT running and walking club. Meet at the totem pole 9:00am Addison and Lakeshore Dr. <http://www.frwchicago.org>

**Chicago Auto Show** Largest auto show in North America. Through Feb. 19 10:00am - 10:00pm McCormick Place, Chicago Tickets: <https://tickets.drivechicago.com/>

**Story Time with Drag Queens: Valentine's Day Edition** Muffy Fishbasket and Ashley Morgan return for the wildly popular Story time with Drag Queens! This time, the queens will be reading books all about love. Please note: we ask for a \$1 donation per child for Story time. 11:30am Women & Children First Bookstore 5233 N Clark St Chicago <http://www.womenandchildrenfirst.com/event/story-time-drag-queens-valentines-day-edition-0>

**Old School Dance 2018** Affinity Trailblazers are presenting. Dance like noone's watching. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/old-school-dance-tickets-42279916368> 8 p.m., Caribbean Cove, 8020 S. King Dr.; <http://www.affinity95.org> Tickets: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/old-school-dance-tickets-42279916368>

**Asians & Friends Chicago** Doggie Style Chinese New Year's Dinner. Advance tickets available. 7:00pm Jade Court Res-

taurant, 626 S. Racine Tickets: <http://www.afchicago.org>

## Monday, Feb. 12

**TransSafe: Weekly Transgender Care Services** TransSafe is a once weekly service for transgender and gender non-conforming (GNC) individuals age 18 and up, providing a safe and trans affirming space where trans and GNC individuals can access referral and linkage to housing, medical, legal, employment, and HIV services. 2:00pm - 5:30pm Heartland Health Outreach Clinic, 4750 N. Sheridan Rd, 5th floor, Chicago 773-248-5200 x 412 <http://www.chicagohouse.org/transsafe-4/>

## Tuesday, Feb. 13

**Idea Potluck - Nice, single ladies: LGBTQ edition** Idea Potluck brings together several of Chicago's best and brightest, funniest and handsomest, wittiest and engaging-est for an evening of rapid fire musings on whatever they choose to muse upon. 7:00pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted Chicago <http://macncheeseproductions.com/offerings/potluck/>

## CLASSIFIEDS

### ADVERTISE HERE

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

### CLEANING SERVICES

**CHESTNUT CLEANING SERVICES:** We're a house cleaning service for homes, small businesses and small buildings. We also have fabulous organizational skills (a separate function at a separate cost that utilizes your assistance) for what hasn't been cleaned in many months or years due to long-term illness, depression, physical/mental challenges, for the elderly, if you have downsized and more. Depressed about going home to chaos? We can organize your chaos, straighten out your chaos, help you make sense of your chaos and finally clean what is no longer chaos. Can we help you? Bonded and insured. **Chestnut Cleaning Service: 312-332-5575. [www.ChestnutCleaning.com](http://www.ChestnutCleaning.com) (11/28/18-52)**

### COUNSELING & PSYCHOTHERAPY ARE YOU GOING THROUGH A DIFFICULT TIME?

Feeling overwhelmed, anxious or depressed? Is your relationship struggling? I can help you better understand these situations and create solutions for them. My practical approach entails a therapeutic alliance that is affirming, empathic, and interactive. **Michael J. Bland, Psy.D., LCPC. Northside location. 773-404-8161. [Michael@BlandTherapy.com](mailto:Michael@BlandTherapy.com), [www.BlandTherapy.com](http://www.BlandTherapy.com) (9/26/18-52)**

### CPA - TAX SERVICES

**CLIENT TAX SAVINGS IS MY PASSION!** Full-service CPA available for tax season individual and business tax filings. Reasonable rates including free year-round unlimited tax consultation. See my website for further money saving info at [www.michaelhinzcpa.com](http://www.michaelhinzcpa.com). **Michael Hinze, CPA 847-332-2300 [mike@michaelhinzcpa.com](mailto:mike@michaelhinzcpa.com) (4/4/18-13)**

### HELP WANTED

**ENTREPRENEURIAL SPIRITS WANTED.** Achieve Personal & Financial FREEDOM. Help us help you help others. It's what we do. Earn while you learn to invest VERY PROFITABLY in Real Estate. **For a brief online overview, call or text your name to 708-292-8778. (2/28/18-4)**

### HOME IMPROVEMENT & PAINTING

**WE MAKE HOLES IN DRYWALL GO AWAY** We also do Remodeling, Bathrooms, Carpentry, Tile Backsplashes, Painting. "A+" with BBB. Licensed-Bonded-Insured, One year Warranty. **Free Estimates! Andy OnCall 847-328-3100 [www.andyongcallchicago.com](http://www.andyongcallchicago.com) (2/15/18-60)**

### LELIO from page 25

next?

SL: I made a movie with with Rachel Weisz and Rachel McAdams called Disobedience. It is coming out in April.

**WCT: I interviewed Rachel Weisz last year for a different film. How was it working with her?**

SL: She was amazing. She's a magnificent actress. I really admire her. She is a producer of the

film as well and had the rights to the book. She was always attached to the project and was the main reason for me to say yes.

I just finished shooting a new version of my film Gloria with Julianne Moore. It was a joyful experience and will come out towards the end of the year. I am remaking my own film. It is like a cover of my own song!

**A Fantastic Woman opens in Chicago on Friday, Feb. 9.**

## CONNEXIONS

**THE LYSER FIRM**  
ATTORNEYS  
CRIMINAL DEFENSE ATTORNEYS  
Serving the LGBT Community for Over 30 Years

**TOUGH, EXPERIENCED AND DEDICATED**  
312-855-0875 | 221 N. LaSalle St., Chicago, IL  
[LysterFirm@aol.com](mailto:LysterFirm@aol.com)  
24/7 Emergency Phone : 847-309-7777

- State & Federal Courts
- Felonies & Misdemeanors
- Internet & White-Collar Crime
- All Drug Charges
- Sex Offenses
- Weapon & Gun Charges
- All Serious Traffic Offenses
- Drunk Driving
- Orders of Protection
- Expungements

Speak to an experienced  
attorney within minutes who  
will fight for you



## NEW DEVELOPMENTS! CALL FOR INFO TODAY



**BR** BETANCOURT  
REALTY

(773) 342-7211 [betrealty.com](http://betrealty.com)

## Winning Smile

Dental Group, L.L.C.



Dr. Polly Reese, D.D.S.

Dr. Robert Baima, D.D.S.,  
M.S. Periodontist, Implants

### NEW PATIENT SPECIAL

\$89 Cleaning, Exam, Cavity Detecting X-Rays  
(unless certain dental condition exist)

2500 Ridge Ave., Ste. 102, Evanston, IL  
847-869-1272 • [winningsmiledentist.com](http://winningsmiledentist.com)

## Ehrlich Dental

General & Cosmetic Dentistry

- Licensed Sedation Dentistry
- Check Out Our Reviews Online



Joshua H. Ehrlich, DMD

3118 N. Sheffield Ave.  
Chicago, IL  
(773) 935-0300

[www.EhrlichDental.com](http://www.EhrlichDental.com)



*Serving Lakeview & Beyond!*



ACHILLE BENKO & DUVALL  
BUSINESS SERVICES and CPAs

SERVING: ARTISTS  
PROFESSIONALS  
BUSINESS OWNERS

[www.abd-cpas.com](http://www.abd-cpas.com) • (847) 257-7330

# Mulryan & York

Attorneys At Law

4001 N. Wolcott  
Chicago, IL 60613  
(773) 248-8887

## ORTHOPAEDIC SURGEON

CAR ACCIDENT, WORK INJURY OR ORTHOPAEDIC INJURY

- BACK
- SHOULDER
- ELBOW
- WRIST
- HAND
- HIP
- KNEE
- ANKLE
- FOOT



GOLD COAST ORTHOPAEDIC SPINE AND HAND SURGERY  
ROBERT JAMES FINK, M.D.

Conveniently located at 7200 N. Western Ave., 2nd Floor

**312-654-8800**

[www.goldcoastorthopaedic.com](http://www.goldcoastorthopaedic.com)

¡Se habla Español!

## The Law Office of Roger V. McCaffrey-Boss, P.C.



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

- Business Organization
- Wills, Trusts & Probate
- Real Estate Closings
- Premarital Agreements

33 N. Dearborn St., Suite 800, Chicago, IL 60602  
**312-263-8800** [RVMLAWYER@AOL.COM](mailto:RVMLAWYER@AOL.COM)

## Alan Sanchez, CPA, P.C.

Accounting Services  
Tax Consultation/Preparation

3418 North Sheffield Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60657-8589

Telephone 773-871-1256  
[www.alansanchezcpa.com](http://www.alansanchezcpa.com)

## Ray J. Koenig III and Clark Hill PLC



PROBATE  
TRUSTS  
GUARDIANSHIP  
ESTATE PLANNING  
ELDER LAW

312.985.5938 | [rkoenig@clarkhill.com](mailto:rkoenig@clarkhill.com)

Clark Hill is a multidisciplinary, national law firm that draws on our attorneys' industry and policy knowledge, our deeply held shared values, and a global network of premier firms and advisors to provide innovative legal solutions and client-service excellence worldwide.

CLARK HILL

[clarkhill.com](http://clarkhill.com)

# NEW YEAR, NEW YOU

- ❖ Liposuction
- ❖ 3D Abdominal Etching
- ❖ Brazilian Butt Lift
- ❖ Butt Implants
- ❖ Buttocks Reshaping
- ❖ Gynecomastia
- ❖ Male Tummy Tuck
- ❖ Facial Surgery
- ❖ Nose Reshaping
- ❖ Prominent Ears
- ❖ Pectoral Implants
- ❖ Calf Implants
- ❖ Nipple Reduction

**DS** DAVID SHIFRIN MD  
PLASTIC SURGERY



**SPECIALS FOR  
WINDY CITY TIMES READERS:**  
Complimentary Consultations  
with Dr. Rosett  
(for a limited time)

**\$650 per syringe for dermal fillers  
\$12 per unit of Botox or Dysport  
Welcoming Dr. Rosett!!**

Award-Winning Plastic Surgery  
**DR. DAVID SHIFRIN**



**DR. BRIAN ROSETT**