

# WINDY CITY TIMES


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

**VOL 34, NO. 20** FEB. 27-MARCH 12, 2019

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## THROUGH THE LENS

Mapplethorpe film coming to Chicago.  
Photo courtesy of Samuel Goldwyn Films



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## SHERO WORSHIP

Artemis Singers to honor amazing women.  
Photo courtesy of the Sister Singers Network



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## 'LOVE' POWER

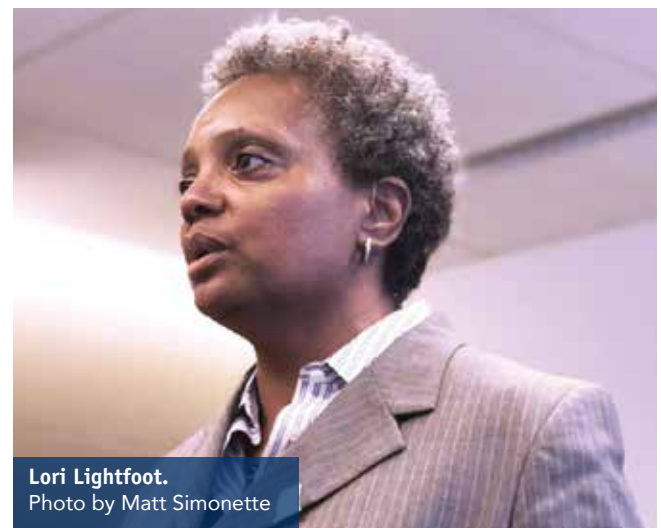
Film looks at local trans women, like Eisha Love.  
Photo by Vee L. Harrison



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**Toni Preckwinkle.**  
Photo from campaign team



**Lori Lightfoot.**  
Photo by Matt Simonette

# HEADED TOWARD HISTORY

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## Lightfoot, Preckwinkle to battle in mayoral runoff



WINDY CITY TIMES' LGBTQ WEDDING & SPECIAL EVENTS GUIDE  
NINTH EDITION February 2019

WINDY CITY TIMES' LGBTQ WEDDINGS & SPECIAL EVENTS GUIDE  
NINTH EDITION - INSIDE!

## A WHOLE NEW WORLD

The Baton moves to a new venue



Chilli Pepper performs at The Baton.  
Photo by Jean Albright

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online exclusives at  
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### HE'S STILL STANDING

WCT attended Elton John's farewell concert—and shares a few thoughts about his legacy.

Photo by Kevin Mazur/Getty Images for Rocket Entertainment

### THUNDER CONTROL



Nafessa Williams plays lesbian superhero Thunder on the show Black Lightning.

Photo courtesy of the CW

### G. WHIZ

WCT talks with Barton G. Weiss, the visionary behind the new Chicago spot Barton G. The Restaurant.

### THAT'S SHOW BIZ

Find out the latest about Miley Cyrus, Karamo Brown and Amy Winehouse.

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# Lightfoot, Preckwinkle to battle in mayoral runoff

BY MATT SIMONETTE AND  
ANDREW DAVIS

Chicagoan Lori Lightfoot, the first Black lesbian mayoral candidate in the city's history, won the Feb. 26 general election. She had won about 17.69 percent of the vote as of 10:30 p.m. in an incredibly crowded candidate pool—armed with a smaller financial war chest than many of her competitors—so she'll face off April 2 against runner-up candidate Toni Preckwinkle, who garnered about 15.95 percent of the vote.

About 95.36 percent of precincts had reported by press time.

In her victory speech, accompanied onstage by her wife and daughter, Lightfoot asked: "So what do you think of us now?"

Lightfoot announced her candidacy in May 2018, long before Mayor Rahm Emanuel announced he'd be leaving office in 2019, setting into motion a contest that saw well over a dozen mayoral candidates enter the field. A former prosecutor who headed up the Chicago Police Board, Lightfoot is running for office for the first time.

"As an LGBTQ-plus person, I thought about running for mayor when no other LGBTQ-plus person had ever made the ballot," said Lightfoot in her Feb. 26 remarks.

"This election is about whether we are resigned to the status quo or resolved to fight for what's right," she added. "This election is about leaving the crumbling machine in the past, once and for all, and demanding an independent, accountable City Hall that serves the people. It's time to bring it home."

She also spoke about her roots, and how her family's experiences when her brother was incarcerated influenced her world-view: "It's not every day that a little Black girl from a segregated steel town makes the runoff to become the mayor in America's third largest city."

Lightfoot acknowledged her support from Equality Illinois PAC and Victory Fund. Those organizations wasted no time in announcing their congratulations in statements.

"While we wait for every vote to be counted, we are incredibly thrilled with the votes that have come in," said Equality Illinois CEO Brian Johnson. "We congratulate Lori Lightfoot for advancing to the April 2 run-off election and her historic candidacy as the first-ever openly queer person to run for mayor of Chicago. That is a significant milestone in Chicago and Illinois history. Representation matters. Now, let's bring it home on April 2 and elect Lori Lightfoot mayor of Chicago."

"Despite not having a legacy last name or a rolodex of rich friends, Lori's fighting spirit and ability to transcend the murky machinations of Chicago politics has made the unlikely a reality—and Chicagoans will be better for it," said Annise Parker, Victory Fund's president and CEO. "While Lori is determined to improve the lives of all the city's residents—whether downtown or on the

South Side—the historic nature of her candidacy provides Chicagoans the rare opportunity to bring fresh perspectives and experiences to city hall."

In her speech Feb. 26, Preckwinkle came out swinging in remarks, denouncing Lightfoot for having accepted appointments in Mayor Rahm Emanuel and Mayor Richard M. Daley's administrations.

She added, "I'm not afraid of big challenges and hard work. ... My entire career has prepared me for this moment. ... This race is not about me; it's about all of us. It's about our shared vision for this city."

## City clerk

Anna Valencia was against two candidates who had removals pending—so she received all the votes.

## City treasurer

In a competitive race, Melissa Conyers-Ervin and Ameya Pawar are headed for an April 2 runoff.

## Aldermanic races:

With all 50 Chicago City Council seats up for grabs, it was a mixed bag for incumbents and challengers—and one for LGBT candidates as well. (Results with asterisks denote races with LGBT individuals involved.)

To win a Chicago race outright, a candidate must win more than 50 percent of the vote. If that does not happen, each race will go to an April 2 runoff between the top two finishers.

NOTE: These results are as of 10 p.m. on Feb. 26. Results will be updated online as they are finalized.

—1st Ward: Incumbent Proco "Joe" Moreno was upset by challenger Daniel La Spata 61 percent to 39 percent, losing the seat he has held since 2010. Both had been in the news lately—La Spata for a controversial photo, and Moreno for an alleged false police report.

—2nd Ward: Incumbent Brian Hopkins was unchallenged.

—3rd Ward: Incumbent Pat Dowell easily defeated challenger Alexandria Willis.

—4th Ward: Incumbent Sophia King easily defeated Ebony D. Lucas.

—5th Ward: Incumbent Leslie Hairston is apparently headed for a runoff against William Caloway.

—6th Ward: Incumbent Roderick T. Sawyer snagged 51 percent of the votes, besting two challengers.

—7th Ward: Incumbent Gregory I. Mitchell rolled over two other candidates, including well-known activist Jeddiah Brown.

—8th Ward: Incumbent Michelle Harris easily dispatched three challengers.

—9th Ward: Incumbent Anthony Beale also defeated three people.

—10th Ward: Incumbent Susan Sadlowski Garza won over Bobby Loncar.

—\*11th Ward: Openly gay David Mihalyfy fell to incumbent Patrick Daley Thompson.

—12th Ward: Incumbent George Cardenas had just more than 50 percent of the vote against three challengers.

—13th Ward: In a controversial and closely watched race, incumbent Marty Quinn rolled over challenger David Krupa, 85 percent to 15 percent.

—14th Ward: In another race engulfed in controversy, incumbent Ed Burke had more than 55 percent of the vote against two challengers.

—\*15th Ward: Openly gay incumbent Raymond Lopez had four challengers—and is headed toward a runoff against Rafael Yanez, even though Lopez got 49 percent of the vote.

—16th Ward: Incumbent Toni Foulkes had five challengers—and finished second to Stephanie Coleman to force a runoff, but the results showed she has work to do.

—17th Ward: Incumbent David Moore easily defeated Raynetta Greenleaf.

—18th Ward: Incumbent Derrick Curtis easily won over Chuks Onyezia.

—19th Ward: Incumbent Matthew O'Shea easily defeated David Dewar.

—20th Ward: Nine people competed to succeed embattled Ald. Willie Cochran, who is facing federal criminal charges. Jeanette B. Taylor and Nicole Johnson are apparently headed for a runoff.

—21st Ward: Incumbent Howard Brookins Jr. (46 percent) seems to be headed to a runoff against Marvin McNeil (25 percent).

—22nd Ward: Four people were in the race to succeed another embattled politician: retiring Ald. Ricardo Munoz. Michael Rodriguez won more than 60 percent of the vote to take the seat.

—23rd Ward: Silvana Tabares, a former state representative, was just appointed alderman of this ward last year (replacing retired Ald. Mike Zaleski)—and she easily beat challenger Paulino Villarreal.

—24th Ward: Incumbent Michael Scott Jr. defeated three people: Creative Scott, Toriano Sanzone and Traci "Treasure" Johnson.

—25th Ward: Another ward, and there's another retiring politician—in this case, Ald. Danny Solis, whose situation has been in the press extensively. Out of five candidates (all millennials) aiming to succeed Solis, Byron Sigcho-Lopez and Alex Acevedo will face off April 2.

—26th Ward: Incumbent Ald. Roberto Maldonado appeared to have held on to his seat against challenges from Theresa Siaw and David Herrera.

—27th Ward: Incumbent Ald. Walter Burnett defeated challenger Cynthia Bednarz.

—28th Ward: Ald. Jason Ervin retained his seat after challenges from Miguel Bautista, Jasmine Jackson and Beverly Miles.

—29th Ward: Ald. Chris Taliaferro defeated challengers Dwayne Truss and Zerlina Smith.

—30th Ward: As of press time, a run off seemed likely between Ald. Ariel Reboyras and challenger Jessica Gutierrez, daughter of former U.S. Rep. Luis Gutierrez. A second challenger, Edgar Esparza, came in third.

—\*31st Ward: Ald. Milagros Santiago seemed likely to be in a runoff with challenger Felix Cardona, Jr. Openly gay challenger Colin Bird-Martinez came in third.

—32nd Ward: Incumbent Scott Waguespack, who has been a prominent player in the Council's

Progressive Caucus, ran unopposed and will retain his seat.

—\*33rd Ward: A runoff seems likely, with lesbian Ald. Deb Mell garnering 41 percent of the vote. Opponent Rossana Rodriguez Sanchez came in ahead of Mell, with 42 percent. A third candidate, Katie Sieracki, got 17 percent of the vote.

—34th Ward: Ald. Carrie Austin defeated challenger Preston Brown, Jr.

—\*35th Ward: Incumbent Ald. Carlo Ramirez-Rosa, who is openly gay, defeated Amanda Yu Dietrich.

—36th Ward: Incumbent Gilbert Villegas, who ran unopposed, will retain his seat.

—37th Ward: Ald. Emma Mitts defeated challengers Tara Stamps and Deondre Rutues.

—38th Ward: incumbent Nicolas Sposato ran unopposed and will retain his seat.

—39th Ward: A runoff contest between candidates Samantha Nugent and Robert Murphy seems likely. Casey Smagala and Joe Duplechin also competed for the post.

—\*40th Ward: A runoff contest seems likely between Ald. Patrick O'Connor and challenger Andre Vasquez. Other candidates included Ugo Okere, Dianne Daleiden and Maggie O'Keefe. O'Keefe identifies as queer.

—41st Ward: Ald. Anthony Napolitano defeated Tim Heneghan.

—42nd Ward: Longtime incumbent Brenden Reilly ran unopposed and will retain his seat.

—43rd Ward: Incumbent Ald. Michele Smith will likely be in a runoff with challenger Derek Lindblom. Other candidates included Leslie Fox, Jacob Ringer, Steven McClellan and Rebecca Janowitz.

—\*44th Ward: Longtime Ald. Tom Tunney, the first openly gay official on the Chicago City Council, held onto his seat after a challenge from Austin Baidas, who is also gay, and Elizabeth Shydowski.

—45th Ward: Ald. John Arena was defeated by challenger James Gardiner; Marilyn Morales and Robert Bank were also in the race.

—\*46th Ward: Openly gay Ald. James Cappleman appeared to be headed for a runoff election with Marianne Lalonde as of press time. Erika Wozniak Francis, Justin Kreindler, Angela Clay and Jon-Robert McDowell also challenged Cappleman for the post.

—\*47th Ward: Outgoing Ald. Ameya Pawar's seat will go to the winner of a runoff election between Matt Martin and Michael Negron. Eileen Dordek, Angela Maloney (who is a lesbian), Heather Way Kitzes, Gus Katsafaros, Thomas Schwartzers, Kimball Ladien and Jeff Jenkins were also in the race.

—48th Ward: Incumbent Ald. Harry Osterman will retain his seat, having defeated challenger David Earl Williams.

—\*49th Ward: Longtime incumbent Ald. Joe Moore was defeated by an aggressive challenge from lesbian candidate Maria Hadden, who garnered about 64 percent of the vote.

—\*50th Ward: Ald. Debra Silverstein, the incumbent 50th ward council representative, defeated her challengers Andrew Rowlas, who is gay, and Zehra Quadri.

## New evidence may support Smollett

There is evidence that reportedly supports embattled actor Jussie Smollett—and that disputes allegations he paid two brothers \$3,500 to help stage his Jan. 29 hate attack, Page Six noted, citing TMZ.

A check showing that amount and made payable from the Empire star's account to one of the men, Abimbola Osundairo, also has "5 week Nutrition/Workout program (Don't Go)" written in the memo line. "Don't Go" is the song for which Smollett was going to film a music video.

Also, some texts between Smollett and Abimbola in the days before the attack involved a workout/nutrition program.

However, Chicago Police Superintendent Eddie Johnson said on the national talk show Good Morning America on Feb. 25 that authorities have additional evidence against Smollett.

Smollett is charged with felony disorderly conduct for allegedly filing a false police report. Smollett surrendered to authorities at 5 a.m. in Chicago on Feb. 21. Judge John Fitzgerald Lyke Jr. released Smollett on \$100,000 bail after scolding him while noting that the actor is presumed innocent.

The full article is at <https://pagesix.com/2019/02/24/jussie-smollett-reportedly-has-evidence-to-dispute-police-claim/>.

## Pro-LGBT leaders viewing new Trump effort with suspicion

The Trump administration announced it will lead a global campaign aimed at decriminalizing homosexuality worldwide—but many are eyeing the move with suspicion, LGBTQ Nation reported.

The move is seen as an effort to shame Iran for human-rights violations.

Human Rights Campaign Senior International Policy Advocate Jeremy Kadden said in a statement that Windy City Times obtained, "Donald Trump and Mike Pence have turned a blind eye to a campaign of violence and murder targeting LGBTQ people in Chechnya that has stretched on for two years."

"They have turned away LGBTQ people fleeing violence and persecution and sent them back to countries that criminalize them, and have consistently worked to undermine the fundamental equality of LGBTQ people and our families here at home from day one. If this commitment is real, we have a lot of questions about their intentions and commitments, and are eager to see what proof and action will follow."

Trump's presidency has been marked by repeated human-rights violations and non-stop attacks on the LGBTQ community. Richard Grenell, Trump's openly gay far-right ambassador to Germany, will lead the initiative.

The LGBTQ Nation item is at <https://www.lgbtqnation.com>.



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Photos (from left): Bar Roma, Vincent, Lady Gregory's.

## This Week's Featured Properties



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**2432 N. Surrey Ct.**  
**\$2,550,000**

Ideally located on an oversized 30x140 lot on a one-way street in Lincoln Park, this custom Metzler-Hull solid-masonry house, designed by noted architect Dan Wheeler, reflects a rare & impressive attention to detail in its design, construction & finishes. Dreamy yard, three car garage.



**1829 W. Evergreen Ave.**  
**\$1,950,000**

Behind a classic facade and set on an oversized 25' x 150' lot, this dynamic modern sensation is the essence of Wicker Park: unconventional, wildly exciting, and filled with cool surprises at every turn. Best location across from park.



**1213 W. Roscoe St.**  
**\$1,099,000**

Fantastic Southport Corridor value! This architectural statement house designed by Marcel Freides centers on a spectacular 3-story atrium with light streaming in from skylights above.



**900 N. Lake Shore Dr., #1805**  
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COMPASS

# New film sparks talk on broken justice system for local trans women

BY VEE L. HARRISON

Eisha Love is a 29-year-old trans woman with profound stories to tell about her life in Chicago and its justice system. Her life is under current reconstruction after being incarcerated. And now, there's a documentary that tells her story and exposes lack of justice in Chicago when it comes to trans women, specifically trans women of color.

"The documentary reflects me trying to get back on my feet," said Love at the screening of *Chicago Love*, a documentary about trans women in the Windy City. "Now, I want to be a voice for other trans women in Chicago who has been abused by the justice system. These topics are not just about women in Chicago, these injustices happen to trans women around the world."

*Chicago Love* highlights things about injustice toward trans women in Chicago, especially those with criminal records, like Love. The documentary touches on situations like instances when some trans women are held without trial, put in unsafe jails and experience discrimination in court.

On Feb. 20, the American Civil Liberty Union of Illinois (ACLU) hosted a screening and discussion on *Chicago Love*—one part of the three-part documentary series called *Trans In America*. The event took place at the Chicago Urban League that evening, with nearly 70 people in attendance. A panel discussion after the film featured other transgender Chicagoans speaking on injustices their community experiences in society, especially within the workforce and criminal justice system.

"It's clear that transgender individuals and non-binary individuals are under across the country and this has really ramped up during the Trump administration," said Max Bever, communications director at ACLU Illinois.

"It is very important for the ACLU to highlight people of all ages and from all walks of life in this documentary series," said Bever. "It is im-



Eisha Love at event.

Photo by Vee L. Harrison

portant for us to help people tell their stories. We are highlighting the many areas that need to improve where we need real legislation and real policies to be able to help these issues including housing, job discrimination, police interaction and much more."

## Pioneering trans singer Jackie Shane dies at 78

Jackie Shane—a Black Canadian transgender soul singer who found fame in nightclubs in 1960s Toronto and who had a Grammy-nominated record in her 70s—has died in Nashville at age 78, *The New York Times* reported.

Shane was born in Nashville on May 15, 1940, and grew up as a Black transgender child in the Jim Crow South. However, she made her name after she moved to Toronto around in the late 1950s.

Shane said she identified as female starting at 13, but throughout her 1960s career she was

publicly referred to as a man. Speaking to *The New York Times* in 2017, she said she sometimes described herself to peers as gay.

She is commemorated on a massive 20-story musical mural in Toronto with other influential musicians, including Muddy Waters, B.B. King, Ronnie Hawkins and Gordon Lightfoot, according to Billboard.

Several celebrities and organizations noted Shane's passing.

It is not known if Shane had any immediate survivors. Queer singer Janelle Monae tweeted, "LONG LIVE JACKIE SHANE." The pro-LGBT organization GLAAD tweeted, "Rest in peace, Jackie Shane. Our hearts are with Jackie's loved ones."

The *New York Times* article is at <https://www.nytimes.com>.

## New book details secret gay life of Eisenhower advisor

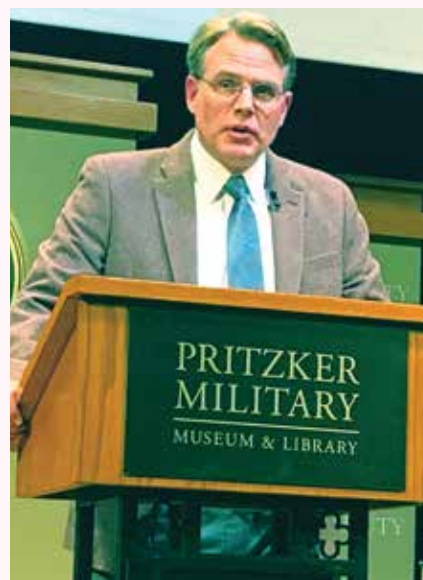
BY JAKE WITTICH

President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed Executive Order 10450 in April 1953, effectively banning gay people from working in the federal government. While thousands of gay men and women lost their jobs in what's now known as the "Lavender Scare," one closeted gay man, Robert Cutler, sat atop the National Security Council, having helped draft the order.

Cutler's sexual orientation comes to light in a new biography, *Ike's Mystery Man: The Secret Lives of Robert Cutler*, by Peter Shinkle, Cutler's great-nephew. Shinkle, a reporter of 19 years at various news outlets, shared details of Cutler's dual life during a book talk Feb. 12 at the Pritzker Military Museum and Library.

Shinkle said he first learned of Cutler's secret sexual orientation in 2006 when asking his mom and aunt what they knew about their uncle.

"I was shocked," Shinkle said. "He was a friend and advisor of President Eisenhower in the 1950s, an era in which homosexuality was widely condemned. It was viewed as criminal, a disease, a dangerous sign of subversion and kept in the closet. Could it be true that a top aide to Ike was gay?"



Biographer Peter Shinkle.

Photo by Jake Wittich

Cutler was a retired brigadier general who served in the U.S. Army in World War I and World War II. Following Eisenhower's inauguration, Cutler proposed reform of the National Security Council, which Eisenhower approved, appointing Cutler as the nation's first ever National Security Advisor, Shinkle said. In this role, Cutler helped shape U.S. strategy during the Cold War.

According to Shinkle, Cutler got involved

with the Eisenhower's political organization while on the campaign trail in 1952. He helped Eisenhower secure the Republican presidential nomination and was hired to write speeches and deal with other matters.

Shinkle said that during the campaign, Cutler met a young speechwriter and secretly gay man Steve Benedict, and the two became close friends. Shinkle said he met with Benedict in 2008 while researching Cutler's life, and Benedict gave Shinkle a set of Cutler's private diaries. Inside was the key to the family secret.

The diaries revealed that Benedict had introduced Cutler to another young gay man, Skip Koons, a former Navy intelligence officer who Cutler hired as a staffer for the National Security Council, Shinkle said. Cutler quickly developed romantic feelings for Koons, beginning "the greatest adventure of my life," he wrote.

Shinkle said his biography follows Cutler's secret life as a gay man and contributions to the Eisenhower White House, showing how the two stories were intertwined. For instance, Koons and Benedict eventually fell under investigation for homosexuality under the same executive order that Cutler helped draft five years earlier, Shinkle said.

"The ultimate lesson to be drawn from this sorry saga is that politicians may seize upon a vulnerable minority, drum up fears about them and use those fears to their own political advantage," Shinkle said. "Furthermore, even those who by reason of their personal or professional experience should know better, can stand by silently as tremendous wrongs unfold."

*Ike's Mystery Man: The Secret Lives of Robert Cutler* was published Dec. 4, 2018, by Penguin Random House and can be purchased online at <https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/books/577223/ikes-mystery-man-by-peter-shinkle/9781586422431/>.

## Mario Treto Jr. named state real-estate director

Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker's administration announced the next set of state directors—including Mario Treto Jr., who will serve as the director of real estate for the Illinois Department of Financial & Professional Regulation, according to a release from The Attorneys at Walczak Hernandez, P.C..

Treto is the third Latinx and second openly LGBTQ state director appointee.

Treto—currently deputy city attorney for the City of Evanston—will head regulation of the State of Illinois' real-estate industry, overseeing professional education, licensure, regulation and discipline for nearly 100,000 licensees working in six real estate related professions. His final appointment is pending confirmation approval from the state Senate.

He received his Juris Doctor from the Indiana University Maurer School of Law and his bachelor of arts in biology and psychology from Washington University in St. Louis.

## HRC, UConn release Black LGBTQ youth survey

The Human Rights Campaign (HRC) Foundation, in partnership with the University of Connecticut (UConn), released the Black & African American LGBTQ Youth Report, a groundbreaking resource detailing the experiences of Black LGBTQ youth.

The report analyzes responses from nearly 1,700 young people ages 13-17 who participated in HRC's online 2017 LGBTQ Teen Survey.

The survey release comes as the HRC Foundation's sixth annual Time to THRIVE conference opens in Anaheim, California. At the conference, the report was presented by HRC President Chad Griffin on Feb. 15; additionally, it will be the topic of a panel featuring Black HRC Foundation youth ambassadors on Feb. 16.

Among other things, HRC and researchers at the University of Connecticut found that:

—More than three-fourths of Black and African-American LGBTQ youth who responded to the survey have heard family members say negative things about LGBTQ people, and nearly half have been taunted or mocked by family for being LGBTQ;

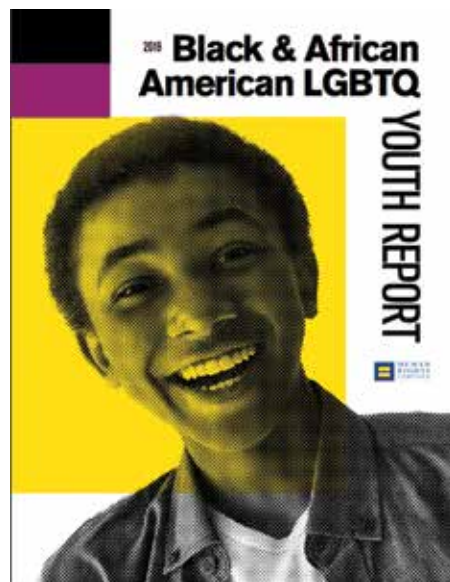
—Eighty percent "usually" feel depressed, down, worried, nervous or panicked. Nearly half feel critical of their LGBTQ identities; and

—Sixty-three percent of Black and African-American transgender and gender-expansive

youth try to avoid using the restroom during the school day.

In addition to conference attendees, these findings will inform a variety of HRC Foundation programs for youth and youth-serving professionals, including the HRC Foundation's HBCU Program, Welcoming Schools and All Children-All Families programs.

The report is at <https://www.hrc.org/resources/black-and-african-american-lgbtq-youth-report>.



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# Clarence Darrow Symposium in Chicago on March 13

CHICAGO—The annual Chicago tradition marking the anniversary of the death of famed Chicago attorney Clarence Darrow will take place Wed., March 13—and will mark the 95th anniversary of the Leopold-Loeb murder case, which raised profound and disturbing questions about social class, criminal psychology, morality, justice, and mercy that are still relevant and thought-provoking today.

Darrow successfully defended Nathan Leopold and Richard Loeb from a possible death sentence after they confessed to the brutal murder of 14-year-old Bobby Franks in the spring of 1924.

This year's Darrow symposium will, for the first time, be celebrated in a two-part format, beginning as usual Wednesday morning at the Clarence Darrow Bridge in Hyde Park at 10 a.m. with a flower-tossing ceremony to commemorate Darrow, including remarks and a dramatic reading. The annual Symposium on topics relevant to Darrow's life and work will be held Wednesday evening at 6 p.m. at the Newberry Library, 60 W. Walton St., where author Nina Barrett will give a talk based on her recently published book *The Leopold and Loeb Files: An Intimate Look at One of America's Most Infamous Crimes*.

Barrett's talk will explore Darrow's role in defending Leopold and Loeb.

Both events are sponsored by The Clarence Darrow Commemorative Committee, whose mission is to honor and remember the life, work, values, and philosophy of famed Chicago lawyer Clarence Darrow (1857-1938). Particular emphasis is placed upon Darrow's devotion to the American ideal of the universal application of the rule of law for the protection of all persons and causes, no matter how unpopular.



Author Nina Barrett.  
PR photo

For many decades the Committee has gathered admirers, academicians, judges, lawyers, advocates, and fans on the anniversary of his death to summon his spirit by throwing a wreath into the water at the bridge in his beloved Jackson Park, where he once, as a bet, said his spirit would

return if it turned out that communication was possible from the afterworld. To ensure that his spirit does, in fact, return, the Committee then organizes a Symposium to discuss a topic that would have been dear to Darrow's heart.

Here is further information about both events:

—The short commemoration with flower-tossing, brief remarks, and dramatic reading of Darrow begins at 10 a.m. just east of the Clarence Darrow Bridge in Jackson Park. (The bridge is under construction.) The Darrow Bridge is behind the Museum of Science and Industry: Driving south on Lake Shore Drive, pass the light at 57th Drive and turn right at the next light [Science Drive]. You will come almost immediately to Columbia Drive. If you turn left and follow Columbia Drive there is parking near the bridge. This event is free and welcome to the public and flowers are provided for participation in the tossing ceremony.

—6-7:15 p.m.: Symposium at the Newberry Li-

brary, 60 W. Walton St.: This event is free and open to the public. Copies of *The Leopold and Loeb Files* will be available for purchase and signing. Register using this online form by 3 pm Wed., March 13. Doors open half an hour before the program begins, with first-come, first-served seating for registered attendees. If space permits, walk-ins will be admitted 10 minutes before the event starts.

People with disabilities and other accessibility concerns can request to be seated first. To reserve an access-friendly space in the room, first register using the link above, then email [publicprograms@newberry.org](mailto:publicprograms@newberry.org) at least 48 hours before the event. Seats arranged in this way will be held until 10 minutes before the event starts.

For more information, see <http://www.facebook.com/DarrowBridge-georg-207085072651434/> or [DarrowBridge.org](http://DarrowBridge.org), or call 773-387-2394.

## Navratilova dropped for anti-trans comments

Pro-LGBTQ organization Athlete Ally has dropped lesbian tennis icon Martina Navratilova from its advisory board after the 18-time Grand Slam champion wrote an anti-trans op-ed in London's *Sunday Times*, *Sports Illustrated* reported.

Navratilova criticized the rules regarding transgender women in athletics in her op-ed and called their participation in female events "cheating and unfair."

"Athlete Ally unequivocally stands on the side of trans athletes and their right to access and compete in sport free from discrimination," Athlete Ally said in a statement. "Martina Navratilova's recent comments on trans

athletes are transphobic, based on a false understanding of science and data, and perpetuate dangerous myths that lead to the ongoing targeting of trans people through discriminatory laws, hateful stereotypes and disproportionate violence."

However, some people have spoken out in support of Navratilova. Billie Jean King, another legendary lesbian tennis player, tweeted, "@Martina has long been an LGBTQ champion. I know she cares deeply for the transgender community. However, instead of conjecture, let's listen to the science behind transgender women competing fairly in women's sports. Science is the true arbiter." Navratilova retweeted this post, saying, "Thanks Billie!"

The *Sports Illustrated* article is at <https://www.si.com/tennis/2019/02/20/martina-navratilova-athlete-ally-transphobic-comments-lgbtq-op-ed>.

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## Scholar D'Emilio looks back at '80s AIDS crisis

BY MATT SIMONETTE

Scholar-author John D'Emilio spoke Feb. 21 at Gerber/Hart Library and Archive about AIDS activism in the '80s and '90s.

The talk, AIDS and Its Impact: 1981-1992, was third in a four-part history lecture series that D'Emilio has been presenting at the library, where he serves as board president.

He recapped how politics shifted towards the right in the late '70s and '80s, fueled both by a surge in evangelical Christianity and a mistrust of big government. As a result, the AIDS crisis was largely met with ambivalence, if not outright hostility, from the government, media and general public as it came to the fore in the LGBT community in the '80s.

Among topics D'Emilio additionally touched upon in his discussion were actor Rock Hudson's disclosure that he had AIDS; right-wing efforts to isolate persons with the infection; widespread mobilization by the lesbian community; and the rise of ACT UP.

"Today it's hard to remember and completely grasp that there was a time when AIDS was new and almost completely unknown," he said.

D'Emilio's lecture series, LGBTQ Activism Through the Years, concludes Thursday, Feb. 28, at Gerber/Hart Library and Archives, 6500 N. Clark St., at 6:30 p.m. For more information, see gerberhart.org.

## Night Ministry proposes Crib move to Bucktown

BY MATT SIMONETTE

The Night Ministry, the Chicago-based advocacy for person experiencing homelessness, announced Feb. 22 that its Lake View facility for young adults, the Crib, will likely be leaving for a new location in the Bucktown neighborhood.

Plans are still in the proposal stages for the move, which would allow the organization to have separate facilities for sleeping, eating and relaxing. In the current location, the same space is used for all three activities. Additionally, the new location, at 1735 N. Ashland Ave., would house administrative offices for The Night Ministry. Officials anticipate that client capacity will remain about the same.

The Night Ministry is still seeking the necessary permits for the new location, and the Crib will be at the Lake View location until the Bucktown facility opens.

"The move is about providing the guests whom we serve at The Crib with a more dignified housing experience as called for in our strategic plan," said Paul W. Hamann, president and CEO of The Night Ministry, in a statement. "It will allow us to address challenges we face in the current location, where a single 900-square-foot basement room serves multiple purposes, including dining, sleeping, and relaxing."



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## viewpoints

LEE  
LYNCH

## THE AMAZON TRAIL Wasted years

Donna Festa is a 54-year-old white woman. The corporation that owned her plant shut it down. Bam, just like that. She'd worked there for 22 years. Before that, she'd been with the same company since graduating from high school.

The day it happened, six months ago, Donna\* stood outside the grimy red brick building in shock. It would have been one thing if they'd fired her. They couldn't; she was good at her job and almost any job they threw at her. She had to be. Once Donna turned fifty the big bosses moved her around the factory floor like a piece of worn furniture until she was nothing but splinters. They swept her out to the street with the push broom she'd so often used.

The splintering only began there.

Of all the inequities that exist in the United States, age discrimination is one of the least acknowledged. How many of us, when we first entered the workforce, were intolerant of co-workers with white or even gray hair.

At my first job I was a file clerk. Mrs. Pelkey, in my eyes, was in her 80s, but was probably in her 60s—a gaunt woman whose white skin practically blended with her white hair. She supervised two of us, both 17 years old. Francisca and I were, if not what my Nana would call holy terrors, then one file card short of it. Quietly, except for the giggles, we made fun of Mrs. Pelkey. She was our cruel entertainment as we

sat at our table eight hours a day, facing frowny old Mrs. Pelkey, itching, for my part, to get downtown where the gay kids were.

With exceptions, old people in the workplace were joke fodder, disrespected, resented. And so we are today. It feels different on this end.

Marion was a petite, white-haired, African-American woman with perceptive, kindly eyes. I was in my 30s by then, she in her 60s, at least. Our jobs were burnout-stressful. I asked her once why she hadn't retired and she just laughed. Marion was sprightly, knew the most obscure of regulations, stayed attuned to everything around her at all times, and could solve any problem, no sweat. Her staff might bitch about her vigilance, but no one made fun of that woman.

For me, lesson learned. Elders could be like Marion: competent, respected and appreciated.

When Donna Festa fitted all the splinters of herself back into place the best she could, she bought some dye and covered up her hard-earned gray hairs. The Employment office swarmed with new layoffs. Her first unemployment check was about the amount of her rent. Her girlfriend of many years lived separately, bringing up three granddaughters.

Donna was highly motivated to find a job and confident her work record and skills would make for a quick hire. The economy, she read, was on the upswing. She went to the job seeker training, completed her first-ever resume, and attended every interview offered.

Meanwhile, she talked to everyone she knew, learned the Employment office computers, and introduced herself at every, mill, warehouse, and manufacturer in the area—then out of the area, although the cost of gas was going to be a problem.

Six months later, her unemployment ended. She felt herself splintering again. What was she doing

wrong? Was it her resume? Because she was gay? Were immigrants taking all the jobs? Didn't companies want skilled and experienced applicants anymore?

She asked at the employment office if it was because she was over fifty. The worker told her, "The Age Discrimination in Employment Act forbids age discrimination against people who are age 40 or older." She laughed in his face. "Who's enforcing that?" she said. "Do you think I'm a damn fool?" She was considered uncooperative and advised nothing more could be done for her.

There was a McDonald's near the Employment office. A few of her former workmates, all close to her age, would grab a dollar coffee, then sit around for an hour and talk about what they saw on the news, who they heard got hired on where. All the hires were younger people.

They were scared. Baby boomers had had it all. Now employers were avoiding them. Avoiding their predictable medical costs. Suspicious anyone even close to fifty wouldn't pull her weight on the job. They told one another they felt like ghosts. They all had a friend who traded in a stick house for a motorhome and followed seasonal work around the country. This wasn't the middle and old age they'd envisioned. None of them wanted to work in the relentlessly demanding Amazons of the world where they'd be fighting robots for their jobs.

Walmart offered Donna, now 55, a cleaning job. What the hell, she thought. Push-brooms had become her specialty. She took it until something better came along...

*\*Donna Festa is fictional figure drawn from a number of people in similar circumstances.*

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2/19

## letters

### To the trans community

Dear editor:

The Rainbow Sash Movement believes we are community, and that includes transgender individuals. I recognize that our community at times is messy; however, its soul is good. Many in our community live in privilege without recognizing it. Certainly, this has been so throughout our relatively short public socio/political/religious history.

We—in the LGBTQA movement and community—have, at times, stumbled in our journey for human dignity by forgetting the other. This speaks to our

human frailty regardless of who we are.

In short, we have been messy in how we deal with each other and, at times, forgetting that Jesus Christ has many faces, and it is up to us not to forget who our neighbor is: a child of God. We have to learn holy patience and respect as we educate each other.

"Love your neighbor" is the basic blueprint of our relationship with God. Biblically, God never said, "I will fix all your brokenness; rather, that God would be with us in our brokenness." What is important is that we actively listen to each other when we tell our stories, and be able to learn as we listen. Our differences should be cause for hope.

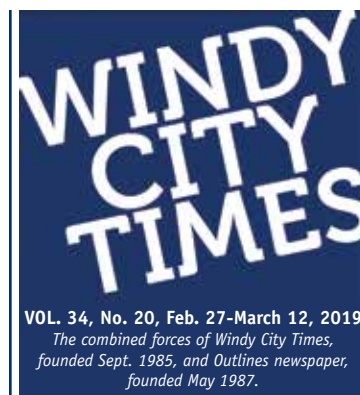
The message I wish to convey to the trans commu-

nity is that we are all family. Family does not ignore family member's needs and wants. The key is to be found in listening, dialogue, education and focusing on the common ground/good.

Transgender people are not only part of this community. They are a part of who we are as human beings and community. Without the presence of the transgender community, we are not a community nor are we complete.

Joe Murray  
Executive Director  
Rainbow Sash Movement (GLBTQA Roman Catholics)

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



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WEB HOSTING LoveYourWebsite.com (lead

programmer: Martie Marro)

PRESIDENT Tracy Baim

(773) 871-7610 FAX (773) 871-7609

Editorial: [andrew@windycitymediagroup.com](mailto:andrew@windycitymediagroup.com)

Sales: [terri@windycitymediagroup.com](mailto:terri@windycitymediagroup.com)

Calendar: [calendar@windycitymediagroup.com](mailto:calendar@windycitymediagroup.com)

Circulation: [jean@windycitymediagroup.com](mailto:jean@windycitymediagroup.com)

Art/ad copy: [kirk@windycitymediagroup.com](mailto:kirk@windycitymediagroup.com)

Theater: [cateysullivan25@gmail.com](mailto:cateysullivan25@gmail.com)

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WINDY  
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## ARTS+THEATER

WEEKLY

Photos by  
Vernon Hester

## Gallery opening celebrates trans art

BY VERNON HESTER

On Feb. 14—in commemoration of Valentine's Day—The Chicago Therapy Collective presented the final exhibition of its series "Trans Art Is."

The show, titled "Trans Art Is: Love and Liberation," shone a spotlight on intimacy, sexuality and liberation while showcasing photography, sculpture, painting and clothing designed and created by transgender and gender non-conforming (T/GNC) artists. The show also featured live music, poetry and spoken-word performance as well as an open market with snacks and libations, and participation from Early To Bed. The event took place at the Andersonville Galleria, 5247 N. Clark St.

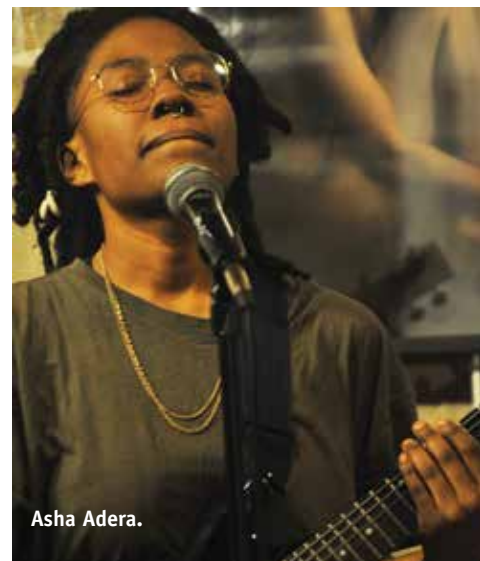
Artists featured in the show included Evan Fusco, Leo Williams, Bun Stout, Pascale Jarvis, Jean Sonderand, Malachi Lily and Alloiza Mari, among others. Musical performances included a solo electric performance by Asha Adera and a rap performance courtesy of CJ Run.

The show was the final installment of a six-month series of art exhibitions, with all funds going toward funding the next generation of Trans Art Is exhibits, local trans employment initiatives, and education and outreach support for businesses and organizations striving to be more inclusive.

The collective is a grassroots non-profit organization composed of trans and gender non-

conforming members, trans-affirming healers, therapists, and loved ones who seek to create more safe and inclusive communities for T/GNC community members.

The show is slated to run until March 31, with the current series finale set for a show celebrating Trans Day of Visibility at The Chicago Magic Lounge. For more information, visit the Chicago Therapy Collective's website at [ChicagoTherapyCollective.org](http://ChicagoTherapyCollective.org).



Asha Adera.



Artist: Bun Stout.



Curator Ken Folk.

Chicago Therapy  
Collective co-founder  
Iggy Ladden.

Artist: Pascale Jarvis.



## THEATER REVIEW

**Munsterspiel**

Playwright: Gregory Peters

At: Berger Park Coach House,  
6205 N. Sheridan Rd.Tickets: BrownPaperTickets.com/  
event/3907064 or 800-838-3006

Runs through: March 16

BY PAIGE LISTERUD

In an era of “fake news” and the day-by-day perpetual fact-checking of every presidential tweet, just how subversive or liberating is the punk/Dadaist/Surrealist motif that nothing is true?

Munsterspiel, by The Plagiarist’s Artistic Director Gregory Peters and directed by Jack Dugan Carpenter, gives us an alternate narrative to the received history of the 1534 Anabaptist rebellion in Munster. That received, legitimate, imperialist history recounts a rebellion that began with fervent, religiously-sanctioned release, not just from the corrupted Catholic faith, but also from class structures and private property, only to end in religious demagoguery and despotism and, ultimately, in violent destruction from its surround-



Sean McGill and Jessica Saxvik in *Munsterspiel*. Photo by Joe Mazza/Brave Lux

ing enemies.

Munsterspiel encourages its audience to think differently, although not necessarily truthfully, about that history. Indeed, in Dadaist/Surrealist style, it pokes fun at its own “truthiness” with anachronisms, time travel, intersection of different space/time realities and characters, and an ominous, unseen, hegemonic force that exists to squelch all variation, revolt, or alternative to its

overwhelming power.

All that the radical Anabaptists of Munster have for their defense is the Word/Logos of God, simply and joyously expounded upon by former baker and itinerant Anabaptist preacher Joe (Tony Kaehny). Of course, this Anabaptist communist revolution cannot be allowed to succeed. So, its most immediate enemy, the Prince Bishop Waldeck—played with greasy, debauched conviction by Patrick Zielinski—flees Munster with the intent to return with an army to lay siege and take back the city once under his thrall.

Waldeck is assisted by Artemis (Jessica Saxvik) a spy and assassin who does not work for him or even the Catholic Church. Instead, the chilly Artemis serves the eerie Unseen Hand, a collective entity existing beyond space/time, so taken with its own fresh forays into theories of advertising, it assigns “Invisible Touch,” the Genesis’ pop tune, to be her theme music.

Who says the Unseen Hand can’t make mistakes? Although, the bigger mistake seems to be Joe’s, when he goes out to meet the Prince Bishop’s army nonviolently, accompanied by a paltry retinue of 12 men holding bouquets of roses, only to be slaughtered, his head set on a pike and his genitals nailed to the city gate.

Into his shoes steps a former tailor and itiner-

ant co-preacher John (Sean McGill), based upon the historical Jan van Leiden/John of Leiden. Gregory Peter’s John is a holy fool, guided and guiding more by nonsense, riddle and prophecy than mundane sense or, possibly, scripture—yet he is a fool who sees through the foolery and deception of others.

It’s precisely with John that Peter’s script falls short of its promise. For no matter what charm, earnestness and beguiling foolery Sean McGill delivers his performance, the lines themselves fall short of anarchic release and diversion. All in all, this is still a play in need of development.

That’s not to say the show is without wit or memorable performances. Grace Hutchings’ portrayal of Hille, a young girl who offers herself on a mission to assassinate Waldeck, Judith/Holofernes-style, is heartbreakingly empathetic and real. Joe Feliciano’s depth of performance as Bernie, the Anabaptists’ one pragmatic religious leader, evolves ever more uneasily and darkly in that pragmatism as the play progresses.

The outcome of the siege of Munster is dark beyond dark. Munsterspiel tries to give the rebellion—if not a happy ending—then a saucy ending and a last laugh. Let’s hope it’s enough for the next revolution.

## THEATER REVIEW

**Twilight Bowl**

Playwright: Rebecca Gilman

At: Goodman Theatre, 170 N. Dearborn St.

Tickets: \$10-45;

Goodmantheatre.org/twilightbowl;  
312-443-3800

Runs through: March 10

BY LAUREN EMILY WHALEN

Small towns in the Midwest are their own animal. In some ways, like the happy families in Tol-

stoy’s Anna Karenina, they’re all alike. There’s not much to do, other than drink and go to church (not at the same time. Usually). Classmates are often the same from the first day of kindergarten to high school graduation. And after that—well, it all depends on your parents and the path they have set for you since you were small.

The trick to writing about small towns is encompassing all of this without pointing fingers. Showcasing the various people that actually do exist—the very religious, the college-bound, the working and the screwed—without relegating them to stereotypes. Putting oneself into their shoes without being a tourist, opting for nuance over pigeonhole. Rebecca Gilman’s *Twilight Bowl*

does all of this and more, perfectly capturing the essence of the Midwestern young woman: searching and questioning, swapping stories with her friends while constantly wondering, what the hell am I doing here?

Goodman’s world premiere is set entirely in the title location: Regina Garcia’s flawlessly designed set. The *Twilight Bowl* is where everyone congregates, to celebrate various milestones, to reunite when it’s been too long, to welcome back its hometown heroes. In the beginning, a group of friends gather after closing to send off Sam (Beca Savoy), who’s going to Ohio State on scholarship, and Sam’s cousin Jaycee (Heather Chrisler) who’s going ... somewhere very different. Span-

ning three years, *Twilight Bowl* discusses opioids, terminations and multilevel marketing schemes through the eyes of Sam, Jaycee and their friends, including friendly yet watchful college dropout Brielle (Mary Taylor), devoutly Christian Sharlene (Anne E. Thompson) and hardworking Clarice (Hayley Burgess), who takes on extra work to afford a space of her own.

*Twilight Bowl*’s cast and creative team is entirely female, along with Gilman and director Erica Weiss. According to Gilman, this was at her insistence and fully supported by the Goodman. In fact, *Twilight Bowl* was a commission for a university theater consortium who wanted a play about women in their twenties. Try to think of the last play you saw that could claim any of the above. Most likely, it’s nearly impossible.

Men come up during the course of *Twilight Bowl*, in the form of absent fathers and ex-boyfriends. But these young women have much more on their plates: finding their place in the world, whether that’s a giant university or their hometown. For everyone except Sam and Jaycee, leaving isn’t really an option, and any self-discovery takes place between shifts. Gilman’s realistic dialogue deftly explores class and privilege between jokes about masturbation (surprise—women talk about it, too!) and confrontations with Sam’s new friend Maddy (Angela Morris), a visitor from Chicago-land’s tony North Shore.

Gilman, Weiss and the ensemble display a deep understanding of not only young women, but these specific characters. With its perfect balance of comedy and tragedy, *Twilight Bowl* is an essential part of Goodman’s season and the theatrical canon as a whole. In short, this play should be produced and performed everywhere, offering city folk a glimpse into a whole other universe and small-town survivors an opportunity to feel seen. “I don’t always like these characters,” I told a friend after curtain call. “But I know them.”

## THEATER REVIEW

**An Inspector Calls**

Playwright: JB Priestley

At: The Yard at Chicago Shakespeare  
Theater, 800 E. Grand Ave.Tickets: 312-595-5600 or  
ChicagoShakes.com; \$46-\$88

Runs through: March 10

BY SARAH KATHERINE BOWDEN

U.S. audiences find comfort in watching the British upper class, especially in decadent period dramas that involve solving murders.

By the end of any mystery import from across the pond, the criminal is headed to jail, and everyone still has tea and crumpets, class status undisturbed. Not so in J.B. Priestley’s *An Inspector Calls*, coming to Chicago Shakespeare Theater from London’s National Theatre. When a policeman arrives at the door in this production, the entire class system goes haywire, and one comfortable family learns how much their

ill-considered actions affect others.

Inspector Goole (Liam Brennan) descends on the Birlings house one foggy night in 1912 with questions about a recent suicide victim named Eva Smith. Arthur (Jeff Harmer), the family patriarch, sees little reason to care that the young lady used to work in his factory. His daughter Sheila (Lianne Harvey) learns that she got the young woman sacked from her next job, and while she feels bad about the circumstances, little can sway her mother Sybil (Christine Kavanagh) or her immature brother Eric (Hamish Riddle) into immediate sympathy. Sheila’s fiancé Gerald (Andrew Macklin) has a secret connection of his own to Eva, and before night’s end, everyone will have to answer for some form of crime.

Director Stephen Daldry, perhaps best known for his work on *Billy Elliot* the film and *Billy Elliot: The Musical*, spares no one’s imagination in creating a metatheatrical experience that piles endless elements on top of Priestley’s play, hoping to expand the script beyond its Christie-like plotting and standard realism. A trio of

unnamed and silent urchin children watch the proceedings, taking stock of Goole’s maneuvers against the Birlings, but never explaining their presence. Deafening music meant to evoke BBC radio dramas of yesteryear come courtesy of Stephen Warbeck’s composition and Sebastian Frost’s sound design. And Ian MacNeil’s set evokes a bombed out post-war England, with the family’s overgrown doll house sitting on skeletal foundations. Simply put, there is a lot going on here, and none of these elements elevate an unobtrusive script with tension or engagement.

Priestley’s purpose is to condemn the family for its lack of social responsibility, but his story has not aged well. His point is poised for the times we live in, but there is nothing for the audience to wrestle with onstage. We know that the idle rich think of no one but themselves. The technical magic on display, along with fine, felt performances by Brennan and Harvey, does not make up for the unessential alienation of Daldry’s production. Comfort is not on offer here, but neither is true insight.

## CRITICS' PICKS

**Mojo Mickeybo**, Irish Theatre of Chicago at the Davis Cinema, playing February 27-28 only. Owen McCafferty's account of his boyhood in the slums of Belfast incensed its real-life counterparts, but Seanachai Theatre's 2009 hit production give Chicago audiences reason to welcome back Rob Kauzlaric and Dan Waller repeating their roles as the luckless Irish lads. MSB

**Girl in The Red Corner**, Broken Nose Theatre at the Den, through March 2. Move over, Rocky! Stephen Spotswood paints a vivid picture of Mixed-Martial Arts matches where rust-belt women rage in the cage while searching for autonomy, self-esteem and economical security. MSB

**The Father**, Remy Bumpo Theatre Company at Theater Wit through March 3. We've all seen plays written from the safe perspective of doting relations, but do you have the courage to experience geriatric dementia from the viewpoint of the parent suffering the loss of his mental facilities? MSB

**Requiem for a Heavyweight**, The Artistic Home, through March 31. Not a single punch actually lands in Rod Serling's tough-tender tragedy, but never has boxing been more brutal than in this production featuring Mark Pracht in a star-making performance as a down-on-his-luck prizefighter. MSB

—by Mary Shen Barnidge

## THEATER REVIEW The Total Bent

**Playwrights:** Stew and Heidi Rodewald  
**At:** The Den Theatre, 1616 N. Wells St.  
**Tickets:** HavenTheatreChicago.com; \$35  
**Runs through:** March 10

BY SEAN MARGARET WAGNER

Haven Theatre and About Face Theatre's *The Total Bent* is what comes from combining a dab of everything on your artists' pallet.

It's beat poetry, gospel, blues and psychedelic flutes. The same goes for tone; director Lili-Anne Brown keeps us volleying between total exuberance and total despair. The production delivers standout performances and compelling music, and makes sure you are not so deep in the narrative that you miss dozens of modern-day Easter eggs. *The Total Bent* wants us to examine Black fame and the threads of injustice that are laced through it, and ask how anyone could survive it.

One one corner there's a Bluntgomery, Alabama, television preacher named Papa Joe Roy (Robert Cornelius), and his gospel band. They're staging a comeback that'll help the public forget the disgrace of his fake faith healing, but he won't be involved in any civil-rights boycotting. He'll disparage white folks in the privacy of his own home, maintaining the Black status quo.

And in the other corner, there's Joe's son, Marty (Gilbert Domally), who wants to push boundaries; he's the one putting words to his father's music. His music goes from trolling Bluntgomery's white



**Breon Arzell, Robert Cornelius and Michael Turrentine in *The Total Bent*.**

Photo by Austin D. Oie

believers with songs like "That's Why He's Jesus and You're Not, Whitey" to weird soaring music that questions god, sex and gender norms. Marty seduces annoyingly posh London record producer Byron Blackwell (Eric Lindahl) to make his album, and recruits Abee (Breon Arzell) and Andrew (Michael Turrentine), two shmoe who wandered in, to sing backup. The further Marty runs from Joe's idea of Godly entertainment, the more similarities we start to notice.

The humor is sharp and the music has the po-

## 'FACES: Out and Proud' debuting March 1

The Center on Halsted is presenting "FACES: Out & Proud," an exhibition of the fine art photographs by Chicagoan Chuck Kramer.

The show will open Friday, March 1, and run through Wed., April 10, in the third-floor gallery at the Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted St. The March 1 opening reception will be 6-8 p.m. It is open to the public, and there is a

tential to hit you, no matter where you stand on gospel, rock or psychedelic overtures. The house band led by Deacon Charlie (Jermaine Hill) on piano and Deacon Dennis (Frederick Harris) on organ treats audiences to a sampler platter of songs that get too raunchy, manic and subversive for their own good. (You might hate yourself when a song titled "I'm Thankful for Slavery" stays lodged in your head.) Arzell utilizes the small space with expert choreography.

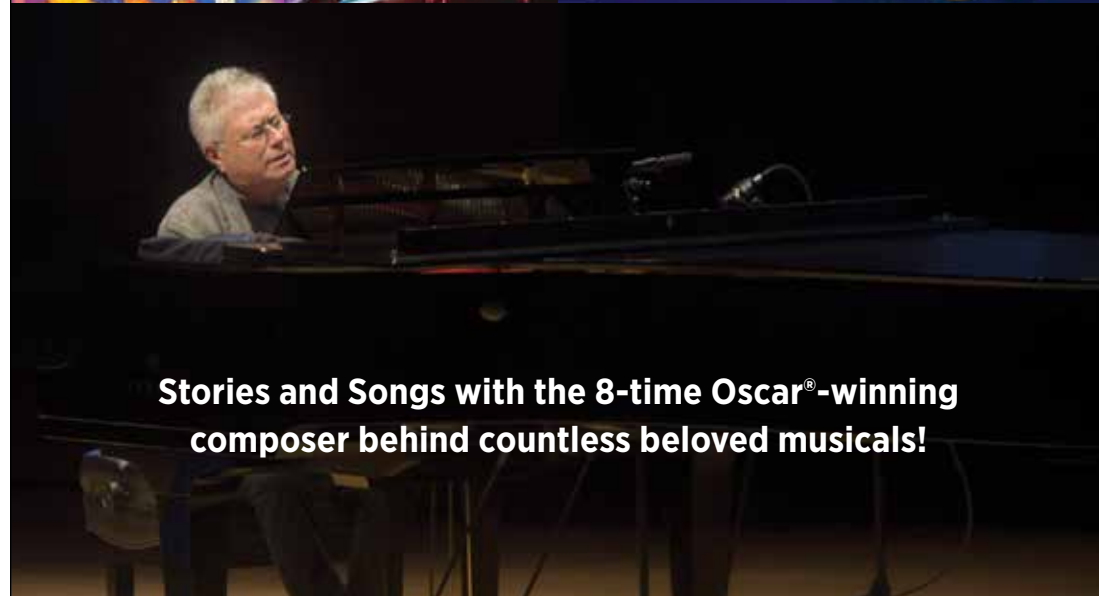
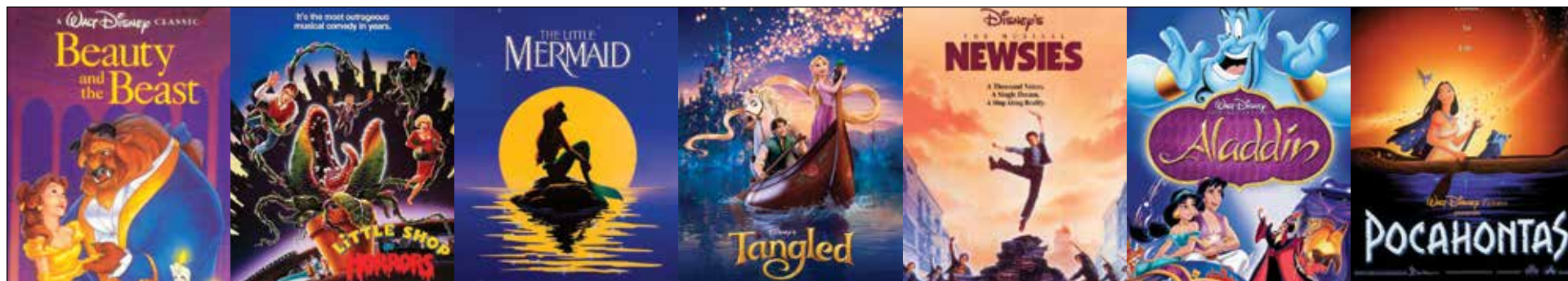
As Blackwell, Lindahl is such a smarmy, demanding, undercutting little whitesplainer, you can't wait for him to leave. (Don't worry; that's the point.) But the true heavyweights of *The Total Bent* are Gilbert Domally, as Marty Roy, and Robert Cornelius, as Joe Roy. Domally tiptoes carefully around his queerness and ferocity, until the force of his true nature gets pressed to vinyl and thousands of Londoners can't get enough. As Joe, Cornelius has contempt and mistrust for a changing world. He scolds Marty and his community in song, but it only seems to backfire.

cash bar and a \$5 suggested donation. (All proceeds go to the Center on Halsted.)

"FACES: Out & Proud" is a collection composed of 22 portraits—shot on the go—that capture Chicago's LGBTQ community in day-to-day life.

Artists Frame Services, Calo Restaurant, True Muse Inc and Windy City Times, in part, are sponsoring the exhibition.

Kramer's work is available online at [ChuckKramerPhotography.smugmug.com](http://ChuckKramerPhotography.smugmug.com).



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Matt Smith as Mapplethorpe.  
Photos courtesy of Samuel Goldwyn Films

## MOVIES

# 'Mapplethorpe' brings controversial photog to the big screen

BY ANDREW DAVIS

Mapplethorpe is a movie starring Matt Smith (Doctor Who) as the controversial photographer Robert Mapplethorpe that will start running in Chicago on Friday, March 1.

The film covers the rise of the maverick shutterbug whose black-and-white photographs documented the homoerotic, BDSM culture in the 1970s. (Note: The film does not shy away from showing these photos, so there is a lot of nudity.) Windy City Times recently talked with Nate Dushku—an openly gay actor who (along with actress sister Eliza and others) helped produce this film.

**Windy City Times: I knew that you acted, but producing is a new venture for you. For those who may not know, what exactly does a producer do?**

Nate Dushku: Yeah—producing actually feels like an extension of acting. Going to the undergraduate program at NYU for acting, I have loved that. But it's all about telling a story, and you hope the story is told correctly from every angle. So producing felt very natural and great—but I was a little nervous because it was my first time producing a feature film.

As for what a producer does, there are books by Christine Vachon—who, at one point years ago, [was connected] to the Mapplethorpe book, but it didn't move forward—that taught me a lot. Basically, if something goes wrong, it's your fault. [Laughs] So many things can happen in production; that's just the way the world works. It was shot in 19 days, so it was shorter than usual, but it was in New York City and a tighter budget—so we condensed everything.

Producers do everything, and I was involved from day one. So it was reading the first script and identifying there was a story there, getting [approval] from the Mapplethorpe Foundation, getting the script ready to the point where we could have an actor on board, getting funding—but my strong point was in the story and casting, and getting us off on the right point. Then, everything else starts coming at you from every angle, and you have to work as a team to mitigate any damages.

Robert Mapplethorpe was a young artist, and so many people can identify with the journey of a young artist breaking out of the mold to go after your dreams. He did end up becoming part of the leather subculture, but people have told us that we nailed it with this film—and some of them have had tears streaming down their faces. However, other people have said it didn't hit upon this aspect of the story or they thought it should've done something else—comparing it to the HBO documentary, which was great but seemed clinical.

I'm proud of the human aspect of our movie. Robert's family—the ones I talked with, anyway—had very nice things to say about the movie, which I'm sure was challenging for them to watch.

And Robert is at the center of culture wars today. In Portugal, there was an exhibit where they pulled some of his pictures. It's wild: It's 30 years later and some people still can't handle some of his images, even though you have penises on Greek statues. It's an interesting time.

**WCT: Those images are very prominent in the**

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movie. Was anyone hesitant about using the more provocative images?

ND: There was some hesitancy. The movie ended up unrated, and people say you have to have an R rating or [lighter] to make money. At first, we thought we shouldn't use some of the harder photos—but then we realized that was the whole point; if you don't put them in the film, you can't tell the whole story. People will consider them

controversial, but that's not anything new. We had to be true to Mapplethorpe.

**WCT: There was a quote in the movie that Mapplethorpe says: "I'll never know what it's like to be 50." [Note: This quote was stated in the '70s—long before his HIV diagnosis.] Did he actually say that?**

ND: I can't say 100 percent if that was a quote that came directly out of his mouth. What that came from was people he knew—that he had that James Dean attitude: "I'm a young, rebellious, passionate person and I could die young, like James Dean." It was the way he perceived himself at that point in life.

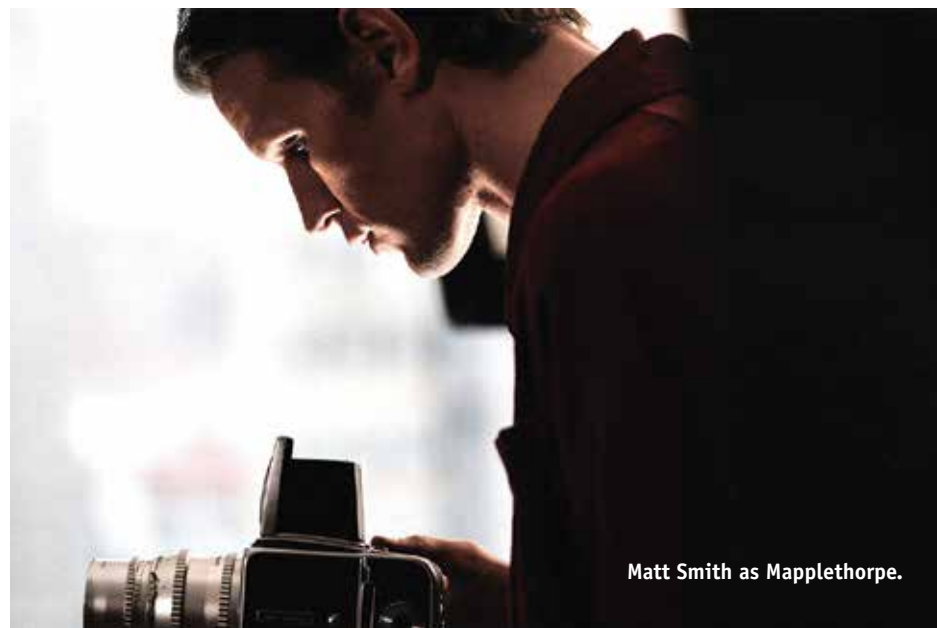
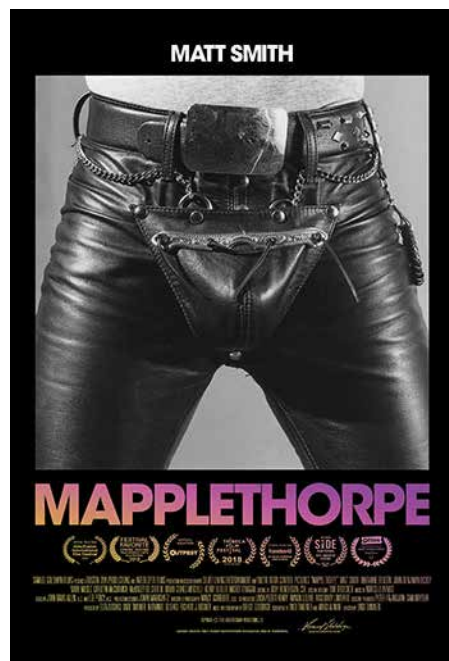
**WCT: Yeah. It's along the lines of that "live fast, die young" mentality he had.**

ND: Yes—that's it! That's the phrase.

**WCT: And Matt Smith seems to really lift this movie, and he seems to throw himself into this movie. How was he chosen?**

ND: He is a dream. We reached a point where we needed the right actor; we tried to go with a couple huge names, and they were either attached to giant films with great directors, or they didn't necessarily want to play this role. The casting director asked if we had considered Smith—but we didn't know if he'd be a great fit.

Matt read for the role—and he wanted it. The reading sealed the deal; every producer's and director's jaw dropped. We thought this was a transformative thing for him. He's just the consummate professional, and he was just laser-focused. For us, the moment was that first day he slid on the leather pants outside the museum—it was him: the voice, the swagger. And certain



days were not easy for him; there would be a day in which we'd shoot something from 1968 and something from the early '80s.

**WCT: What do you hope people take away from this movie?**

ND: You want it to be an ad for the artist. Robert wanted to be an artist. He wanted to live his life the way he wanted to live—and his passion and sexuality were on display. I hope he inspires people. For me, it's important for people to know who the trailblazers are—the ones who allow us

to be who we are today.

Also, not everybody really knows what happened with AIDS; it was a holocaust, of sorts. People were kicked out of their homes and were living downtown. A generation of artists is gone—and it's really important for people to know what happened.

Mapplethorpe will run at the Gene Siskel Film Center, 164 N. State St., starting Friday, March 1. See SiskelFilmCenter.org.

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## MUSIC

# Artemis Singers chorus celebrates inspiring women

BY MELISSA WASSERMAN

In honor of herstory, Artemis Singers begins Women's History Month with a concert Sunday, March 3, at the Irish American Heritage Center titled "Sheroes: Women Who Inspire Us."

Founded in 1980, Artemis Singers is a Chicago-based lesbian, feminist chorus that specializes in performing music written or arranged by women. The nonprofit chorus is made up of women singers from diverse backgrounds who are dedicated to "effecting positive change in cultural attitudes toward women and women artists," according to an organizational press release.

"It's important that we've been doing it," said "Sheroes" Co-Artistic Director Katy Clusen, of Artemis Singers having a repertoire intentionally full of women's works throughout its entire existence. "It's important to say that the voices of women need to be amplified and need to be an example for other groups within the larger musical community of our city and of our country. It's stunning to me when I will look at a program and see no women composers on a concert and I'm proud that we do sing music written and arranged by women and that we can be an example for a way of doing programming that is unique, but also really important."

The chorus is open to all women singers and sets out to provide creative opportunities for women interested in all aspects of choral production, including song writing, arranging, performance lighting, choreography, audio, artistic direction, stage management and vocal instruction.

"Women composers, women musicians are just overlooked," said Hilary Marsh, the other "Sheroes" co-artistic director. "Women singers are overlooked, women are overlooked. So, it's an important commitment to make."

Artemis Singers also earned its spot in Chicago's Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame (now Chicago LGBT Hall of Fame) in 2008. Throughout the year, Artemis Singers performs two concerts with performances at different events and guest performances at other groups' concerts around Chicago.

"Artemis is all volunteer run and it's much more democratic and consensus driven," said Marsh of the chorus' operation and song selections. "And so, that colors how we work in so many ways."

"Sheroes" will feature a variety of songs honoring women such as Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Eleanor Roosevelt, Harriet Tubman, Joan of Arc, World War II-era women and Mississippi sharecropper and civil-rights activist Fannie Lou Hamer.

During the concert, audience members will hear



Artemis Singers.

Photo courtesy of Sister Singers Network

a program with songs ranging from Eleanor Roosevelt's quotes and written letters that form the lyrics of "The Beauty of Your Dreams," by Seattle composer Joan Szymko; to the Chicago premiere of "Won't You Marry Me Ruth Bader Ginsburg?," by Ann Reed; to "Girls and Airplanes," a tribute to World War II-era women breaking down barriers by Nashville composer Anne E. DeChant; to the humorous "Big Butch Woman," by Martha Brown; and more.

"We're celebrating the sheroes that are among us and who are us," said Clusen. "For many in the chorus, we are each other's sheroes and so this past summer we chose music that represents different women from across history. ... It's a really broad way of looking at what makes somebody a sheroe in the eyes of someone else."

"Some of our concerts are really political and they're about 'rise up, act up' and those really important messages," said Marsh, who brought the "Sheroes" idea forward. "This one is also an important message, but something positive to hang our hats on. It's about celebrating something as opposed to protesting something. I just felt like it was the right time for that and there are so many songs out there that honor sheroes, whether it's a famous woman or parts of our community or even the sheroes in ourselves."

The event will also feature guest artist Kru Maekdo, who will speak about her Chicago Black Lesbian photo archives exhibit on display, which both Clusen and Marsh described as "powerful";

and Anna DeShawn, founder of E3 Radio, an on-line radio network that produces radio streams from a queer perspective and president of the board of directors of Affinity Community Services.

Additionally, audience members will have the option to do more than just enjoy the event's artistic talents. During the performance they will have the opportunity to honor their own sheroes. People can send in a photograph and caption identifying women who have stood as a personal hero and have had an impact on their own lives by Feb. 25 to [pr@artemissingers.org](mailto:pr@artemissingers.org) (with "sheroes" in the subject line).

"I want people to recognize the heroes that we often lift up," added Clusen of the event. "I hope that people will learn about some new sheroes that they may not know a whole lot about... I think we want people to be feeling lifted up, to be feeling a positive sense of self when they leave, to know that their actions can also be seen as acts of heroism and that we are an interwoven web and we need one another in each other's lives and this is an opportunity for us to come together and to celebrate that and to sing about it and show it in this lovely space we'll be performing in [on] that March Sunday kicking off the International Women's Month."

For more information on Artemis Singers, visit [ArtemisSingers.org](http://ArtemisSingers.org). To purchase tickets to "Sheroes: Women Who Inspire Us," visit [oursheroes.brownpapertickets.com](http://oursheroes.brownpapertickets.com).



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LAKESIDE  
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# Green Book and actors Malek and King among those taking home Oscars

BY MATT SIMONETTE

The 91st Academy Awards, despite one of the most tumultuous lead-ups in the Motion Picture Academy's recent history, was nevertheless a streamlined, relatively-quick affair that delivered several surprises on Feb. 24.

Several entertainment pundits and critics were largely unable to make a prediction for Best Picture in the weeks before the ceremony. The Academy's ultimate pick, Green Book, did stir up some controversy afterwards; a number of actors and production personnel of color were honored throughout the evening, so choosing Peter Farrelly's film—from a largely-white production team—seemed for some some critics to be a throwback.



Among those who won Academy Awards for LGBT characters were Mahershala Ali, named Best Supporting Actor for portraying Dr. Don Shirley in Green Book and Rami Malek, for his turn as Freddie Mercury in Bohemian Rhapsody. In his speech, Malek noted the importance of the positive reception for a major studio-produced film depicting the life of a gay man who was also an immigrant: "It's proof that we're longing for stories like this."

The Best Supporting Actress Oscar went to Regina King for If Beale Street Could Talk, which was adapted by writer-director Barry Jenkins (Moonlight) from gay writer James

Baldwin's fifth novel of the same name. Olivia Colman won Best Actress for The Favourite; that accolade came as a shock to many, as some critics expected Glenn Close to take the Oscar home for The Wife. Colman seemed to be among them—her seemingly shellshocked reaction delighted the audience.

Two notable wins among creative personnel were Ruth Carter and Hannah Beachler, who won for Black Panther's costume design and production design respectively; they were the first Black women ever to win in those categories. Carter acknowledged director Spike Lee in her remarks. Lee, in the audience thanks to his film BlacKkKlansman's four nominations, gave Carter her start with his second feature, School Daze.

Lee won his first Oscar for co-writing BlacKkKlansman's script. Barbra Streisand introduced a clip from that film to herald its Best Picture nomination.

Among the musical performances Feb. 24 were Lady Gaga and Bradley Cooper sharing the stage for the song Shallow, from Cooper's A Star is Born remake, and Bette Midler, who performed The Place Where Lost Things Go from Mary Poppins Returns accompanied by her frequent collaborator, Marc Shaiman. Shaiman, who is gay, composed Mary Poppins Returns' score. Jennifer Hudson also performed the song I'll Fight from the film RBG.

## 'LGBTQ Motherhood Tales' in March-April

"Stories in the Spotlight: LGBTQ Motherhood Tales"—a free workshop/performance series at Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted St., room 204—will take place on Mondays at 7-8:30 p.m. on March 4-April 8.

The performances (five-to-10-minute stories) will take place Monday, April 29, 7-8:30 p.m. inside the Center's third-floor theater space.

During the series, playwright Susan Lieberman will teach techniques for writing effective autobiographical anecdotes.

## Chicago Polar Plunge on March 3

Registration for the 19th annual Chicago Polar Plunge is now open to all.

The Chicago Polar Plunge will take place at North Avenue Beach on Sunday, March 3, and helps to support the activities and events enjoyed by the 7,500 athletes of SCC/Special Olympics Chicago.

Registration is available by visiting ChicagoPolarPlunge.org. Registrants are asked to raise a minimum of \$200. New in 2019, high school students and younger will be able to participate at a reduced minimum donation of \$100. Registered plungers also have the opportunity to create their own fundraising page to help jump-start their efforts.

In the last several years, the Chicago Polar Plunge has become one of the most popular winter events in Chicago, with participation from Mayor Rahm Emanuel; late-night talk-show host Jimmy Fallon; actors Vince Vaughn and Dax Shepard; musician/artist Lady Gaga; the casts of Chicago Fire, Chicago PD, and Chicago Med; and personalities from The TODAY Show.

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## BILLY Masters

"I'm not crying because I'm on my period or anything. I can't believe a film about menstruation won an Oscar!"—**Rayka Zehtabchi** during the acceptance speech for Best Documentary Short Subject for *Period. End Of Sentence.*

Another Oscars go down in history as ... well, the word that springs to mind is "uneventful." You know you're in trouble when it took a quip about the female menstrual cycle to grab the attention of this very sexually active gay man. Speaking of being grabbed, I couldn't help but notice that none of the four winners for *Bohemian Rhapsody* thanked the person responsible for those wins. So I'll say it—thank you, Bryan Singer.

An Oscar highlight was the performance by **Queen**. And even I learned something. Did you know that **Adam Lambert** was in *Bohemian Rhapsody*? He's the guy who hooked up with Freddie Mercury in the truck-stop restroom. Since he's now lead singer of the band, it's like he had sex with himself—probably not the first time.

It seems each year notable people are inevitably omitted from the "In Memoriam" segment, and this year was no different. Egregiously absent was **Carol Channing**, who was also an Oscar nominee! And, where was **Kaye Ballard**? Oh, the humanity! I can understand skipping **Sondra Locke**—they probably wanna stay on **Clint's** good side!

Let me give some advice to all singers out there. When the note is flat, you know what doesn't help cover it up? Holding it longer and screaming. And, for heaven's sake, learn the lyrics. It's pretty obvious who is hugging the Teleprompter for words and who is actually connecting with the song and the audience.

After **Jussie's** "attack," there was some speculation that it was a drug or sexual hookup gone wrong (and after seeing those pics of the brothers on BillyMasters.com, I can picture that). But there is a case in the news which is a gay hookup and a drug situation gone wrong. This is regarding **KTLA's Chris Burrous**. At the end of last year, the anchor was found unresponsive in a Glendale motel. Turns out, the married father had hooked up with a guy through Grindr (they'd played together before) and met at the motel. Allegedly, Burrous got there first, set up the room with what is called "DJ-style lighting," and had S&M toys—including a leather mask he was wearing. Otherwise, he was nude when his playmate arrived. Reportedly, the 43-year-old newsman had inserted a rock of crystal meth in his ass, gave his partner some GHB and was using poppers. Later, he inserted a second rock you-know-where. Then ... well, let's just say his paramour turned him into a human puppet. Unbeknownst to the partner, Burrous had at some point vomited in his mask, and you know what that means—no refund. Let this be a lesson for you: When you're gonna do a Kukla, Fran and Ollie impersonation, have 911 on speed dial!

Last week, I accompanied **Jenifer Lewis** to



**Adam Lambert (above)** got some action in a movie, **Billy** says.

Photo by Jerry Nunn

the *Essence Black Women in Hollywood Awards*. When asked how she felt, Jenifer said, "Well, I'm honored. I'm honored to be honored." Now, who else could pull that off? Her award was presented by original Dreamgirls **Sheryl Lee Ralph** and **Loretta Devine**, along with Jenifer's daughter, Charmaine. The other honorees were **Regina Hall**, **KiKi Layne** and **Amandla Stenberg**. Some of the people in attendance were my dear **Sherri Shepherd**, **Angela Bassett**, **Iyanla Vanzant**, **CCH Pounder**, **Regina King**, **Spike Lee**, **Billy Porter**, **Congresswoman Maxine Waters** and even **Puff Daddy** (who I was sitting next to). The event was hosted by **Kelly Rowland**, who remembered me from hosting LA Pride. How did this little white boy from Boston end up in the middle of a gala event celebrating Black women? Dare to dream.

Despite the wattage of the room, Jenifer managed to weave her unique magic, steal the show and touch upon a story we covered earlier. "I was asked on the carpet so many times, 'What do you think, Miss Lewis?' I have no comment. Today is a day to celebrate. But this is what you will be hearing tomorrow." She then sang her latest song: "Before you lie to us, remember Rosa sat on that bus. Before you tell your tale, remember Mandela sat in that jail. Before you do anything, remember Dr. Martin Luther King. Before you connive and steal, I dare you to Google Emmett Till. Before another dawn, and I speak to everyone, remember whose shoulders you stand on."

The next night, I was with another white boy with more than a bit of Black in him. The incomparable **Sam Harris** (assisted by the phenomenally talented pianist **Todd Schroeder**) was featured in concert at the Catalina Bar & Grill in Hollywood and, my God, he just gets better and better. He's so good, he almost pisses me off! So many highlights, but I think having him re-create the opening number from *The Life* knocked me out the most. It took me back to seeing the show on Broadway—a show that had a first act that lasted almost two hours! But, here's the thing: Any amount of time you can spend with Sam is never enough. Thanks to **Chris Isaacson** for continuing to produce such great events in Hollywood.



Upcoming concerts include **Brian Justin Crum** on March 7, **Joey Arias and Sherry Vine** on April 7, **Anthony Rapp and Adam Pascal** on April 15 and 17, and the fabulous **Erich Bergen** on April 24-25. Get more info at [ChrisIsaacsonPresents.com](http://ChrisIsaacsonPresents.com).

Last week, we lost acclaimed fashion designer **Karl Lagerfeld**. He was 85. There was much speculation about where his vast fortune would end up. Turns out, his primary beneficiary is Choupette, his beloved cat. The bequest is not without complications. According to French law, pets cannot inherit cash. "Well, it's lucky I'm not French then," Lagerfeld told an interviewer this past year. Touche!

When I'm being catty, it's definitely time to end yet another column. Didya notice there were lots of trains and capes during this awards season? And that's just on Billy Porter! You can keep track of this Billy by heading over to BillyMasters.com—the site that is honored to be honored. If you have any questions, you can drop a note to [Billy@BillyMasters.com](mailto:Billy@BillyMasters.com) and I promise to get back to you before Adam Lambert has another bathroom hookup. Until next time, remember: One man's filth is another man's bible.



# the DISH

Dining Guide in  
WINDY CITY TIMES

## SAVOR

### Boleo; The Whistler

BY ANDREW DAVIS

It's interesting to see the Loop during the week. As soon as five o'clock hits, droves of people leave the office-laden area as quickly as possible to head for relaxation, family or one of a thousand other reasons.

However, the drawback to this daily mass exodus is that people often miss gems like **Boleo** (122 W. Monroe St.; BoleoChicago.com), the rooftop bar that adorns the top of the Kimpton Gray Hotel.

Of course, during the winter, the top of Boleo is closed. However, the space still radiates a coolness of its own, bathed in neon blues and pinks—but there's also a heat generated from everything from the spot's impressive drink lists and cuisine offerings to the nonstop dance music (although, sadly, there's no dance space—although it's understandable, with Boleo on top of a hotel).

The food and drinks reflect a primarily Latin American influence, with cocktails such as the Agave Especiado (nutmeg-infused casa noble reposado, vida mezcal, anise, clove bitters and Jamaican #1 bitters), the delightful and visually vivid Dancehall President (Banks 7 rum, novo



**Boleo's tuna tartare.**

Photo by Andrew Davis

fogo graciosa, blackberry lychee, pineapple, lime and black lava salt) and, of course, the pisco sour—which originated in Peru. There are also many options regarding beer, wine and spirits (the latter including varieties of pisco, cachaca, rum, vodka, rum and more).

The culinary offerings—by David Wang, the spot's chef de cuisine—is spot-on and delicious from beginning to end. Stop by during happy hour (4:30-7 p.m. weekdays) and take advantage of such delicious anticuchos (meat dishes/skewers) with varieties such as gamba (prawns) and char siu (a sumptuous pork belly).

The hits keep coming with items such as ceviche de meagre (a tangy dish that's almost too aggressively flavored), a stunningly presented tuna tiradito (sliced yellowfin tuna, pineapple, aji amarillo and puffed shrimp), yucca fries with aioli and elote fritters that I could've eaten all

night.

And even the desserts are top-notch. The chocolate mousse bomb consists of Peruvian chocolate, puffed quinoa, aji amarillo chocolate cake and hibiscus—and the wonderful ice cream has variations like vanilla cajeta and mazamorra morado (the latter tasting like Christmas).

So before hitting home from a long day at work, take time and unwind at Boleo. You'll be glad you did.

#### The Whistler

The decade-old Logan Square spot The Whistler (2421 N. Milwaukee Ave.; <https://whistlerchicago.com/>) has entertained patrons—and now there's a new reason to hit the space, as Marina Holter has brought her innovative ideas as head bartender.

There are several cocktails that will acquaint your taste buds to new and intriguing combinations of ingredients. For example, the Opening Credits cocktail has a fat-washed, popcorn-infused Fino sherry that gives the drink a strong buttery taste. Clear the Air has a smoky high-proof mezcal mixed with blanc vermouth and Luxardo bitters—and Holter even made me a pineapple-and-honey-infused mocktail that made me long for summer.

So while enjoying one of the many forthcoming shows at The Whistler (which, honestly, is a bit smaller than I envisioned—but no less enjoyable), take in one of Holter's concoctions. (By the way, the drink menu varies daily, so you may have to order a couple of the previously mentioned items off the menu.)

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



PROFILE BY  
TONY PEREGRIN

**DRAG PROFILE OF THE WEEK**  
**KAT SASS**

#### NAME

"My name is Kat Sass and I'm a beautiful pony. Before drag, I did drag musicals and one of our reviewers described me as "evincing weapons-grade sass." I liked it a lot—I think it conveys my raw power and inherent silly playfulness that generally accompanies it."

#### FIRST DRAG PERFORMANCE

"I began drag about four years ago accidentally. I was cast as a drag queen in a show and T Rex, Kim Chi and Shea Coulee came to see me and afterward T Rex pulled me aside and told me I was a drag queen for real and to do her Pre Show (The show she had before Crash Landing). I performed a hysterically weird striptease out of a NASA spacesuit and got cast in Drag Matinee and haven't looked back a minute since."

#### DRAG INSPIRATION

"My drag inspirations are my mom, my grandmother, Shakespearean heroines, Kabuki, Christian Religious paintings and Orthodox iconography, Madonna, Alexander McQueen, Gaga's bombastic honesty onstage, and lately, Dolly Parton."

#### GO-TO NUMBER TO SLAY THE CROWD

"'It's Not Right But It's Okay' (Thunderpuss remix) or the Ursine Vulpine version of 'Wicked Game.' I broke my foot four months ago and could no longer prance but I could still tell a story and be emotionally present, so I started choosing more intense, emotionally complicated pieces and prayed that I could be accountably, emotionally honest onstage and still be entertaining."

#### FUN FACT

"On the internet, a lot of people think I'm a man. (I've got broad shoulders—I can't help it.) I am gender-nonconforming and I'm so thrilled we have some language to describe now how I've always felt inside."

#### WHERE CAN WE CATCH YOU

"Berlin, every third Friday for my super experimental drag rave all-gender show with Lucky Stiff called Goddess; I'm a cast member with T Rex's Drag Matinee. I also perform at The Darling, Untitled, Meeting House Tavern and The Drifter."

#### SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook: /ihatekatsass

IG: @kat.sass

Twitter: @ihatekatsass



## THE BATON

Half a century of show! The Baton celebrates 50 years at one of their final shows in its West Loop location. Follow Jim Flint and the ladies of The Baton into the next half-century at the grand opening of their new location, 4713 N.

Broadway, this Friday, March 1.

Photos by Jean Albright

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Melissa Morley and Emily Vanhoff

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## HELP WANTED

**COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER** All Chicago is seeking a Communications Manager to provide leadership on the creation of communication strategies, develops and executes workplans/projects to more fully engage our community partners and Chicago's Continuum of Care to prevent and end homelessness. **For more info about this opportunity visit [www.allchicago.org/Careers](http://www.allchicago.org/Careers) (3/27/19-4)**

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**GRANTS MANAGER** All Chicago is seeking a Grants Manager dedicated to preventing and ending homelessness. As a key team member, the Grants Manager will be challenged by managing the entire grants process, prospecting and cultivating relationships. **For more info about this opportunity visit [www.allchicago.org/Careers](http://www.allchicago.org/Careers) (3/27/19-4)**

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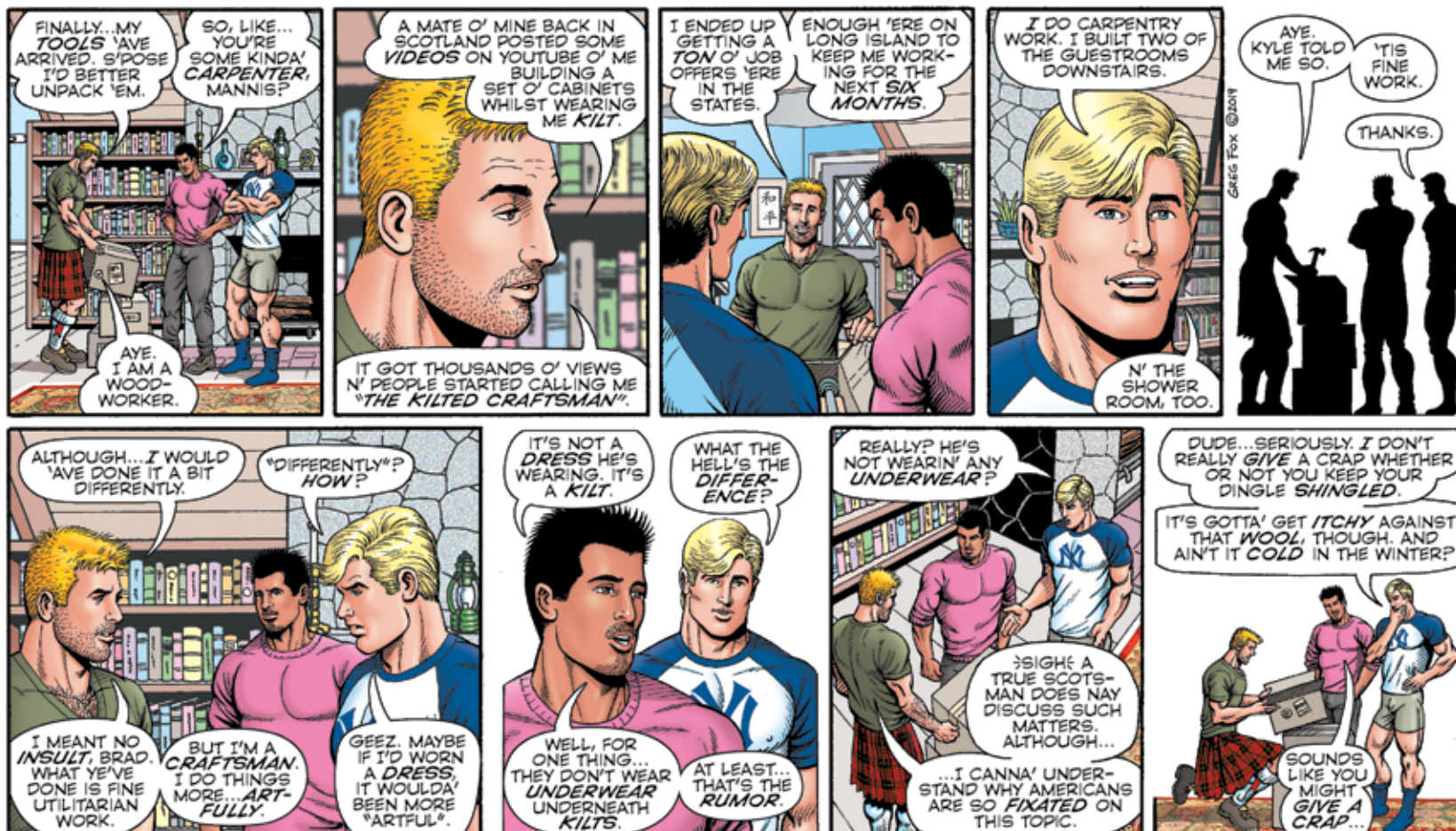
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# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

## Wed., Feb. 27

**Chicago Feminist Film Festival** Columbia College Chicago hosts fourth annual through March 1. Opening night, Chicago premiere of documentary *Be Natural: The Untold Story of Alice Guy-Blache* (first-ever female film director) with narration by Jodie Foster. Director Green present for talkback 6:30pm Film Row Cinema of Columbia College Chicago 1104 S Wabash 8th Floor Chicago <http://chicago-feministfilmfestival.com/>.

## Thursday, Feb. 28

**LGBTQ historian John D'Emilio** A talk on LGBTQ history and key issues since the mid-1990s with comments, discussion, and questions to follow. Free. 6:30pm - 8:00pm Gerber Hart Library and Archives 6500 N Clark St Chicago <http://www.gerberhart.org>

**THE GOLDEN GIRLS: The Lost Episodes - The Valentine Edition** Poor Dorothy can't find a date for the Sadie Hawkins dance at the Miami Senior Center. When Rose sets her up with a man with a colorful past, the evening takes a turn for the bizarre.. Through Sunday, March 10, 2019 8:00pm Stage 773 1225 W Belmont Chicago (773) 327-5252 <http://www.handbagproductions.org/>

## Friday, March 1

**FACES: Out & Proud opening reception** Fine art photographs by Chicagoan Chuck Kramer. Twenty two portraits-shot on the go-capture Chicago's LGBTQ



## DRAG RULE March 1-2

Chicago Gay Men's Chorus' "Lipstick & Lyrics" will take place at the Annoyance Theatre.  
Photo by Jerry Nunn

community in day-to-day life. Through April 10. Third-floor gallery. Cash bar. \$5 suggested donation 6:00pm - 8:00pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted Chicago <http://ChuckKramerPhotography.smugmug.com>

**Bible Bingo: Interactive Comedy with Bingo & Trivia** Vicki Quade, known for Late Nite Catechism. Prizes. \$16. Find Bible Bingo on Facebook 8:00pm Royal

George Theatre 1641 N Halsted St Chicago

**Lipstick & Lyrics: Band Together** Chicago's largest live-singing drag show returns with songs of protest to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Stonewall with selections that furthered civil rights toward equality for all. First show 8 p.m. 10:00pm. Continues March 2 at the same times. The Annoyance Theatre 851 W Belmont Ave, Chicago Tickets: <http://www.cgmc.org/>

## Saturday, March 2

**Fruiting Bodies** Solo exhibition by Andrew Bearnot with archival objects from the LA&M collection, important artifacts from Chuck Renslow and Sam Steward, personal erotic correspondence collection of Robert Gaylor (recently acquired). Through May 12. 18+ 11:00am - 5:00pm Leather Archives & Museum 6418 N Greenview Ave Chicago <http://www.leatherarchives.org>

**AIDS Survivor Syndrome Support Group** A new support group for survivors of the AIDS crisis. Questions to Joe K - a.s.s.g.chicago@gmail.com 12:30pm - 2:00pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted Chicago <http://www.centeronhalsted.org/newevents-details.cfm?ID=15999>

## Sunday, March 3

**Artemis Singers celebrates our Sheroes** Celebrate our our heroes, our SHEroes cabaret-style. Special guests. Artemis Singers is Chicago's Lesbian Feminist Chorus singing music written or arranged by women since 1980. Discounted tickets for students, seniors, and children. Time:TBA Irish-American Heritage Center <http://Artemissingers.org>

## Monday, March 4

**Stories in the Spotlight: Motherhood Tales writing workshop** Writing workshop/performance at Center on Halsted for LGBTQ women raising kids. Through April 8, Room 204. (Performance of 5-10 minute stories Monday, April 29th 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.). Free. Questions to [susanlieberman17@gmail.com](mailto:susanlieberman17@gmail.com) 7:00pm - 8:30pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted Chicago

## Tuesday, March 5

**OUTspoken** OUTspoken occurs on the first Tuesday of every month, new storytellers, stories from the perspective of LGBTQ persons Doors 6pm 7:00pm Sidetrack, 3349 N Halsted St., Chicago <http://www.sidetrackchicago.com>

**Homolatte: Queer Words and Music** LG-BTI community event created for writers and musicians to showcase their talents. Tonight Beyza Ozer (spoken word), Emilie Modaff (music). Hosted by Scott Free. Free admission. 7:30pm Big Chicks 5024 N Sheridan Rd Chicago <http://www.homolatte.com>

## Thursday, March 7

**Southern Comfort** Heartwarming musical with a lush folk/bluegrass score based on the award-winning 2001 Sundance Film Festival documentary. Trans man in rural Georgia attempts to live his life as fully as possible with those he loves while they struggle with will inevitably come. Through March 31. \$40/\$30/\$25 12:00pm Broadway Theater, Pride Arts Center, 4139 N Broadway 866-811-4111 Tickets: <http://www.pridefilmsandplays.com>

## Friday, March 8

**Chicago Leather Women's Cruise** Wear leather, rubber, latex, fetish. All women, butch, femme and non binary welcome. 8:00pm - 10:00pm Starts at Touche, 6412 N. Clark <http://touchechicago.com>

## Saturday, March 9

**Inspire & Empower: Women Creating Change in Their Communities** In celebration of International Women's Day, Heaven Gallery invites ten women working toward positive change within their communities to speak about their respective projects. 11:00am Heaven Gallery 1550 N. Milwaukee Ave, 2nd Floor <http://heavengallery.com>

**The Rest I Make Up, Dyke Delicious Series** When a playwright stops writing due to dementia, a friendship with a young writer reignites her visionary creative spirit. 7:00pm Chicago Filmmakers 5243 N Clark Chicago <http://Chicago-Filmmakers.org>

**Take the Stage Gala, Lakeside Pride Music Ensembles** Fundraiser for the of mission of fostering acceptance and understanding of the LGBTQ community through the universal language of music. \$125. 7:00pm - 10:30pm Jay Pritzker Pavilions, 201 E. Randolph St. Tickets: <http://www.eventbrite.com/e/take-the-stage-gala-tickets-52071253521>

**5th Annual International Women's Day Dance** LGBTQ Giving Council of Chicago Foundation for Women hosts. DJ Sandra Suave, open bar by Sidetrack, light bites by Simply Delicious \$50 early registration; \$65 regular 7:00pm - 11:00pm National Museum of Puerto Rican Arts and Culture, 3015 W. Division St. [http://www.cfw.org/dance\\_registration/](http://www.cfw.org/dance_registration/)

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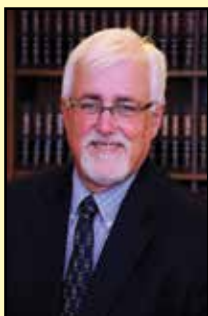
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