

WINDY CITY TIMES

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Mayor Lori Lightfoot.
Photo by Hal Baim



PAGE 4

HERSTORIC

HILLARY CLINTON
Speaks at Heartland Alliance event.
Photo by Sarah Matheson



16

CAPITAL IDEA
Advocacy Day takes place in Springfield.
Photo of Justin Dejong, Greg Harris and Kevin B. Morrison by Vern Hester



8

STAGE LEFT
WCT offers its annual summer theater/dance preview.
Photo of Tarell Alvin McCraney from Steppenwolf's Ms. Blakk for President by Juli Del Prete



29

Lori Lightfoot becomes first Black female—and first openly LGBT—mayor of Chicago

2018 IML top three and IMBB.
Photo by Verdell Shannon



Special preview of the big leather fest in town for Memorial Day

IML WEEKEND

PAGE 41


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for 35 years in LGBTQ media

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INDEX

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NEWS

Lori Lightfoot's historic mayoral inauguration	4
Buttigieg and homelessness in South Bend	6
Advocacy Day in Springfield brings out activists	8
Chicago alleges bias by Nashville employer	14
Lurie, DCFS ID'ing LGBTQ+ youths in foster care	18
Gender-expansive youth symposium	20
Boystown's rainbow crosswalks	21
Viewpoints: King; Rudolph	22

ENTERTAINMENT/EVENTS

Theater reviews	24
Summer theater/dance specials	26
Ani DiFranco talks at WC&F event	31
Summer movie preview	32
Market Days acts announced	33
NIGHTSPOTS	43
Classifieds	45
Calendar	46

REMAINING 2019 WINDY CITY TIMES PRINT DATES:

June 5	Aug. 7	Oct. 30
June 19	Aug. 21	Nov. 13
June 26	Sep. 4	Nov. 27
July 10	Sep. 18	Dec. 11
July 24	Oct. 2	Dec. 25
	Oct. 16	

online exclusives at
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GO WEST

Portland, Oregon (left), offers a mix of intriguing attractions.

Photo of the Portland Japanese Garden by Jamie Francis/Travel Portland

'EYE' HOPES



As part of his 10 Questions series, Vic Gerami talks with original Queer Eye for the Straight Guy co-host Jai Rodriguez.

Photo by Adam Bouska

MEDIA MATTERS

In an op-ed, Morgan Lee talks about LGBTQ+ representation in media.

THAT'S SHOW BIZ

Find out the latest about Megan Rapinoe, Dionne Warwick and Matt Bomer.

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Lori Lightfoot waves to the crowd, with wife Amy Eshleman and their daughter Vivian.
Photos by Hal Baim

Lightfoot sworn in as Chicago mayor

BY MATT SIMONETTE

Attorney Lori Lightfoot became the 56th mayor of Chicago the morning of May 20.

Accompanied by her wife and family, Lightfoot was sworn in during a ceremony and presentation at Wintrust Arena in the South Loop. She is the first Black woman, as well as the first open member of the LGBT community, to be the Windy City's mayor.

In a stirring inaugural address, Lightfoot reflected on her victory and listed a number of changes she planned to work toward.

"You voted for change and I plan to deliver change to our government," said the new mayor. Lightfoot said that she was "humbled" and "hopeful" about the occasion. Fighting back tears, she introduced her mother and siblings.

"Mom, most importantly, you and dad taught me that I could be anything that I wanted to be," said Lightfoot.

The central conceit of the her address was reimaging the four points of the Chicago star to signify four key values: safety, education, stability and integrity.

Lightfoot promised to spearhead a mayor's office for public safety, which would be dedicated, among its directives, to fixing integration with mental health services and fostering better relations between police officers and community members.

Affordable housing was a key factor when Lightfoot delineated her plans for the "stability" category. She called out developers who'd benefitted from tax increment financing deals only to avoid onsite affordable-unit obligations by paying into the city's affordable housing trust fund instead. Lightfoot also pledged to work for a solution to the city's pension crisis.

After the ceremony, Lightfoot was scheduled to have an afternoon-long open house in her new office on the fifth floor of Chicago City Hall. She was also scheduled to sign her first executive order, which would in large part eliminate the

longstanding tradition of aldermanic prerogative, wherein aldermen have unchecked power to approve or reject various projects or activities within the ward.

Indeed, during her address, Lightfoot received the most thundrous applause when she addressed the integrity of the city and referenced aldermanic prerogative: "Stopping it isn't just in the city's interest, it's in the City Council's interest as well," she said. "... Aldermen will have a voice, not a veto."

Lightfoot also spoke about homelessness and poverty at length in the address, including remarks about both gay and transgender young people experiencing homelessness.

Lightfoot entered the electoral field early in May 2018, when it was assumed that she'd be running against an incumbent Mayor Rahm Emanuel. But Emanuel announced in September 2018 that he wouldn't be seeking a new term, opening up the floodgates to well over a dozen mayoral contenders. Nevertheless, Lightfoot mounted an aggressive campaign and landed an impressive victory in the runoff election the evening of April 2, capturing both about three-quarters of the vote—and what she called a mandate for change in city government.

She spoke on May 20 against the longtime dictum that Chicago City Hall was not ready for reform: "Get ready, because reform is here."

Steppenwolf Theatre ensemble member Amy Morton was the master of ceremonies that morning. Incoming Chicago City Council members, incoming City Clerk Anna Valencia and incoming City Treasurer Melissa Conyers-Ervin were also sworn in. Valencia took her oath from openly lesbian Associate Cook County Circuit Court Judge Mary C. Marubio.

Rev. Beth Brown of Lincoln Park Presbyterian Church delivered the prayer for peace.

Numerous political officials joined Lightfoot and the city officials on stage, among them Rahm Emanuel; Gov. J.B. Pritzker; Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle, Lightfoot's opponent in the runoff election; former Mayor Richard M. Daley, making a rare public appearance; State Senate President John Cullerton; and U.S. Sens. Tammy Duckworth and Dick Durbin.



Lightfoot administration names City Council leadership

Recently elected Chicago Mayor Lori E. Lightfoot announced her proposal for City Council committee leadership, which now includes Ald. Tom Tunney (44th Ward) as vice mayor—making it the first time LGBT individuals are simultaneously the city's mayor and vice mayor.

The proposal includes:

—Ald. Scott Waguespack (32nd Ward) as chair of the Committee on Finance;

—Ald. Pat Dowell (3rd) as chair of the Committee on Budget and Government Operations

—Ald. Gilbert Villegas (36th) as chair of the Committee on Economic, Capital and Technology Development

—Ald. Tom Tunney (44th) as chair of the Committee on Zoning, Landmarks and Building Standards

—Ald. Susan Sadlowski Garza (10th) as chair of the Committee on Workforce Development

—Ald. Howard Brookins (21st) as chair of the Committee on Transportation and Public Way

—Ald. Michelle Harris (8th) as chair of the Committee on Committees and Rules;

—Ald. Walter Burnett Jr. (27th) as chair of the Committee on Pedestrian and Traffic Safety;

—Ald. Nicholas Sposato (38th) as chair of the Committee on Special Events, Cultural Affairs and Recreation;



Ald. Tom Tunney has been proposed as Chicago's newest vice mayor.

Photo by Matt Simonette

—Ald. Michael Scott Jr. (24th) as chair of the Committee on Education and Child Development;

—Ald. Matthew O'Shea (19th) as the chair of Committee on Aviation;

—Ald. Chris Taliaferro (29th) as the chair of the Committee on Public Safety;

—Ald. Harry Osterman (48th) as the chair of the Committee on Housing and Real Estate;

—Ald. Roderick T. Sawyer (6th) as the chair of the Committee on Health and Human Relations (formerly the Committee on Human Relations);

—Ald. George Cardenas (12th) as chair of the Committee on Environmental Protection and Energy (formerly Committee on Health and Environmental Protection); and

—Ald. Emma Mitts (37th) as chair of the Committee on License and Consumer Protection.

The proposal includes several changes to the committee structure, including the creation of a new Committee on Ethics and Good Governance, with Ald. Michele Smith (43th Ward) as chair; the creation of a Committee on Public Health and Human Relations and a Committee on Environment and Energy, which were previously one combined committee; and the creation of a Committee on Contracting Oversight and Equity to focus on matters relating to minority and women-owned business contracting, with Ald. Carrie Austin (34th Ward) as chair.

Also, Ald. Brendan Reilly (42nd) will serve as president pro tempore while Ald. Gilbert Villegas (36th) will serve as floor leader.

Lightfoot names senior staff, finance positions

Mayor-elect Lori E. Lightfoot made the first announcement of key members of her administration's leadership team.

The senior staff announced May 15 will be part of the team responsible for carrying out the vision and values that will guide the Lightfoot administration.

The mayor-elect announced the following positions:

—Jennie Huang Bennett, chief financial officer;

—Maurice Classen, chief of staff;

—Mark Flessner, corporation counsel;

—Taylor Lewis, director of scheduling and advance;

—Dan Lurie, policy director;

—Celia Meza, mayor's counsel and senior ethics advisor;

—Candace Moore, chief equity officer;

—Susie Park, budget director;

—Anel Ruiz, press secretary; and

—Marielle Sainvilus, communications director.

Additional staff announcements will be made over the next several weeks.

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Pete Buttigieg and homelessness: Advocate on slow South Bend response

BY MATT SIMONETTE

Presidential candidate Pete Buttigieg cites the revitalization of South Bend, Indiana, which he largely stewarded, as a prime reason he should be elected president.

But one organization head serving persons experiencing homelessness in South Bend maintains that city officials have offered relatively little help to his clients during Buttigieg's tenure.

"The mayor has not pushed for anything that we see to help the homeless problem here in the community," said John Shafer, who heads and co-founded the South Bend-based nonprofit Michiana Five for the Homeless. "If nothing else, he's aggravated the problem, and the city just continues to harass the homeless."

Shafer, who is gay, has been active in efforts to assist persons experiencing homelessness in Chicago as well as South Bend and other Indiana cities. He maintains that the South Bend response has been neglectful at times and needlessly aggressive at others.

"The shelter is full—we have one emergency shelter—and yet the homeless can't start a temporary tent for too long of a time before they are evicted and forced to move," Shafer said. "The issue of homelessness here continues to remain ignored."

Buttigieg has enjoyed widespread popularity in South Bend during his tenure. When he ran for re-election in 2015, he carried about 78 percent of the vote; and residents have largely met his efforts to revitalize South Bend with enthusiasm.

Buttigieg also usually confesses to his errors in judgment. For example, he acknowledged overly aggressive and insensitive components of South Bend's popular "1,000 Homes in 1,000 Days" initiative that put the pressure on homeowners to repair blighted homes or face the prospect of demolition, for example. He also apologized for saying publicly that "all lives matter" before realizing that the phrase had heavy anti-Black connotations.

Buttigieg's husband Chasten has spoken about



Rodney Rabel (left) and John Shafer, co-founders of Michiana Five.

Photo courtesy of Shafer

experiencing homelessness when he was a student. Shafer told Windy City Times, however, that Buttigieg's administration has not followed through on addressing the homelessness issue in South Bend.

"We don't know if the police and code enforcement, who continue to harass the homeless, are acting independently or on the wishes of the mayor," Shafer said. "But we certainly know that the mayor never stopped them, has never apologized for them, has never interfered. He won't; he wants to stay out of the picture."

Shortly before Buttigieg officially kicked off his 2020 presidential bid in April, the situation came to a head when a longtime encampment was vacated after a local developer purchased the lot upon which they were living.

Shafer recalled, "During the winter, there was always a homeless encampment, even though, right next door, there was a building being used for weather amnesty. Prior to the winter, there had always been an encampment there, for as long as we can remember. Now that it is owned

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Advocates meet with Will Guzzardi (above) and Mary Flowers (this photo).
Photos by Vernon Hester

LGBTQ activists travel to Springfield for Advocacy Day

BY VERNON HESTER

On May 15, Equality Illinois hosted the annual Advocacy Day in Springfield, Illinois, in partnership with other statewide LGBTQ organizations. The daylong event featured a training session, brief meetings with state legislature members, and an LGBTQ-focused reception with Gov. J. B. Pritzker.

For years, Advocacy Day has presented the LGBTQ community the chance to meet with state lawmakers and lobby for initiatives that will ensure that Illinois will remain one of the strongest states in the country for LGBTQ equality and inclusion.

The bills that lobbyists spoke with lawmakers about included HB 246 (a pending bill that would ensure the inclusion of LGBTQ contributions in the history curriculum taught in Illinois public schools), HB 2665 (an AIDS Foundation of Chicago initiative that would align Illinois law with federal guidance regarding access by youth to preventive health care) and SB 1319 (which would help cultivate an affirming environment for LGBTQ older adults, many of whom

face unique challenges as they age because of their identity.). Two other bills included in lobbying efforts were SB 1378 (which would establish non-discrimination protections in jury selections for LGBTQ Illinoisans) and SB 556 (which would designate single-occupancy restrooms in public spaces as gender-neutral).

After meeting at the Wyndham Hotel in downtown Springfield, participants from Chicago and throughout the state were greeted with encouragement from Equality Illinois CEO Brian C. Johnson, AIDS Foundation of Chicago President/CEO John Peller, and Pride Action Tank Executive Director Kim Hunt.

Peller said, "This is the day when we prove that we are everywhere, in every city, every township, and every county in the state of Illinois." Lamont Robinson Jr.—who sponsored HB 2665 and is the first openly gay African-American state representative in Illinois—said, "Me, [out legislators] Greg Harris and Kelly Cassidy ... we cannot do the work alone, which is why this day is so important." On his pending bill he spoke about how the legislation could impact the alarming HIV rates

Turn to page 9

Tracy Baim's contributions to news and journalism have provided a foundation for Chicago's LGBTQ community.

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Tracy Baim and Pride Action Tank's Executive Director Kim Hunt attending a Pride Action Tank breakfast and fundraiser.



On the road to advocate with Anthony Galaway (left) and Kevin B. Morrison.

ADVOCACY DAY from page 8

in the Black and Brown communities, saying, "It is a bill that can change the direction of our community."

After a brief training session, participants headed to the State Capitol for short meetings with public officials and legislators. Among those who participants were able to speak with were State Rep. Diane Pappas (45th District), State Sen. Emil Jones III (14th), State Rep. Will Guzzardi (39th) and State Rep. Mary E. Flowers (31st). Equality Illinois Advocacy participants also mingled with and supported lobbyists for Planned Parenthood who were also speaking with lawmakers.

After the lobbying event, participants headed

to the governor's mansion for a reception and panel discussion. Pritzker led the dialogue for the panel, which included Dr. Jonna J. Cooley Ph.D., director of The Phoenix Center in Springfield; Erik Glenn, of The Chicago Black Gay Men's Caucus; Kenny Martin-Ocasio, senior vice president of Community, Integration, and Health Services at ALMA (The Association of Latinos/as Motivating Action); and Springfield small-business owner Shayla Pfaffe.

Other participating LGBTQ organizations included Affinity Community Services, ALMA Illinois, The LGBT Chamber of Commerce of Illinois, Peoria Proud, The Phoenix Center, Prairie Pride Coalition (Bloomington/Normal Illinois), The Rainbow Cafe (Carbondale Illinois) and WPT (East St. Louis).



Above: Otis Mack (right) meets with Emil Jones III. Below: Ken Mejia-Beal (center) with Planned Parenthood advocates.



Erik Glenn (center) speaks at the reception with Kenny Martin-Ocasio (left) and Governor J.B. Pritzker.



WRIGHTWOOD

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ABOUT FACE

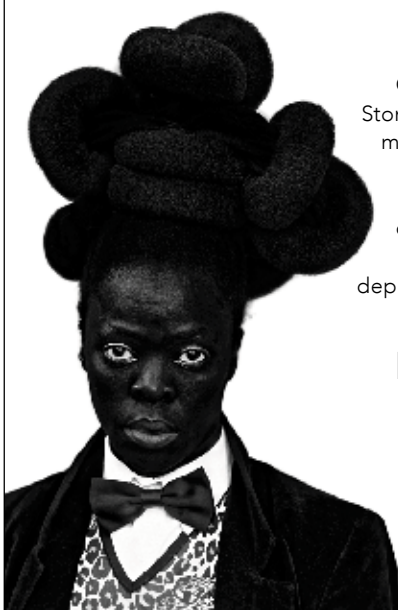
STONEWALL, REVOLT AND NEW QUEER ART

Commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall Rebellion, which spurred the ongoing movement for LGBTQ rights, Wrightwood 659 presents *About Face: Stonewall, Revolt and New Queer Art*. The new exhibition features contemporary works by US and international artists, altogether providing a nuanced depiction of the evolving meaning of queerness.

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U.S. House passes Equality Act

BY MATT SIMONETTE

The U.S. House of Representatives passed the Equality Act 236-173 in a May 17 vote.

The legislation, which is H.R. 5 and was introduced by U.S. Reps. David Cicilline (D-Rhode Island) and Brian Fitzpatrick (R-Pennsylvania), codifies protections against discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity within existing non-discrimination frameworks, such as the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Cicilline first introduced a version of the Equality Act in 2015. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi had long promised to introduce the Equality Act this session.

Among the Illinois House delegation, votes were split along party lines, with all Democratic members voting in favor of H.B. 5. Among those affirmative votes was 3rd District Rep. Dan Lipinski, who has frequently opposed pro-LGBT legislation and is facing aggressive opposition from his rival in the last Democratic primary, Marie Newman, who has already made known that she is running again.

Other affirmative votes included U.S. Reps.



Among the representatives who voted for the act were (left to right) Lauren Underwood, Bill Foster and Sean Casten.

Photo from 2018 Aurora Pride Parade by Tracy Baim

Bobby Rush (1st), Robin Kelly (2nd), Jesus "Chuy" Garcia (4th), Mike Quigley (5th), Sean Casten (6th), Danny Davis (7th), Raja Krishnamoorthi (8th), Jan Schakowsky (9th), Brad Schneider (10th), Bill Foster (11th), Lauren Underwood (14th) and Cheri Bustos (17th).

Republican "no" votes included U.S. Reps. Mike Bost (12th), Rodney Davis (13th), John Shimkus (15th) and Adam Kinzinger (16th). One other Republican, Rep. Darin LaHood (18th), did not vote.

Politicians and advocates praised the House vote, but acknowledged the opposition the Equality Act is expected to face in the Republican-controlled Senate.

Taiwan becomes first Asian country to OK marriage equality

On May 17, Taiwan's legislature became the first in Asia (by a vote of 66 to 27) to fully legalize same-sex unions.

The law—which allows for same-sex couples to apply for "marriage registration" as part of "exclusive permanent unions"—came a week before Taiwan's codes barring same-sex mar-

"Today, on International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia, House Democrats passed the Equality Act to ensure that LGBTQ+ Americans are protected by the same federal civil-rights laws that protect their straight and cisgender counterparts," said Quigley in a May 17 statement. "I am committed to working with my colleagues to put pressure on Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell to bring this critical legislation to the floor of the Senate for a vote. And I will never stop fighting for LGBTQ+ Americans."

Lambda Legal Interim CEO Richard Burns said in a statement, "We call on the Senate to give the Equality Act the full, fair and comprehensive consideration it deserves. The Equality Act addresses the inadequate patchwork of protections that vary from state to state with a broad federal statute protecting LGBTQ people across the country and throughout their daily lives."

riage would have been automatically dropped by court order, The Washington Post noted.

In addition to recognizing same-sex marriages, the vote gives couples many of the tax, insurance and child-custody benefits available to opposite-sex married couples.

Thailand has proposed a law to recognize civil partnerships; however, same-sex unions remain illegal elsewhere in Asia. The Netherlands was the first country to recognize same-sex marriage, in 2001.

The full Post article is at <https://www.washingtonpost.com>.

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Chicagoan alleges discrimination by Nashville employer

BY MATT SIMONETTE

A Chicago man has sued his former employer in federal court, alleging that he was dismissed from his pharmaceutical research position after he came out to co-workers.

Researcher Guy Stehley alleges that he was dismissed from Nashville-based Sarah Cannon Research Institute (SCRI) because of his sexual orientation and age. He was employed by SCRI from October 2016 to June 2017.

According to a suit filed in November 2018 in the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, Stehley was both subjected to unreasonable work expectations and routinely ignored by colleagues after he came out to them in February 2017. He is now asking for compensatory and punitive damages, and other forms of relief from the court.

SCRI attorneys are asking the court to dismiss Stehley's claim in a hearing the morning of May 16.

"I was stressed," Stehley said. "I was overworked, and my boyfriend at the time was worried about me. ... I have seven documented instances where I was treated differently than my straight colleagues."

According to Stehley, after he went to work at SCRI, he and a supervisor determined that he'd been given one-and-a-half times the normal workload of a full-time employee. The company was slow to rectify the matter, and it was only exacerbated after he came out to colleagues and superiors, Stehley alleges. He additionally maintains that a superior moved their office to more closely surveil Stehley's work activities.

Stehley said that he's pursuing the case for



Guy Stehley.

Photo by Andrew Davis

three reasons: "Number one, it's wrong; number two, I want this to be broadcast so that if anybody in that company—or any company—feels the same way, they'll stand up; and a distant third is a monetary settlement."

In a statement to Windy City Times, SCRI's Chicago attorney, Craig Thorstenson, said, "My client fosters a culture of inclusion, compassion and respect, including non-discrimination policies that support LGBTQ+ individuals. We disagree with the allegations Mr. Stehley has made, will defend our position and look forward to presenting our side through the legal process."

SCRI's motion to dismiss the case was scheduled to be heard May 16.

Ex-officer charged in A'ville incident

Eric Elkins—a now-retired Chicago police sergeant who was under investigation and who had a history of sexual-abuse allegations—is among two people charged in an Andersonville aggravated-battery incident that took place Sept. 29, 2018.

Windy City Times reported last year that gay couple John Sherwood and Tomasz Stacha were suing Elkins and Oak Park Police Department officer Dwayne Jones as well as Jeffrey Rodriguez and Giovanni Rodriguez (listed as Jones' friends, according to an OakPark.com item) after reportedly being attacked by the group at the nightclub @mosphere.

Now, according to a Chicago Police Depart-

ment press release, Elkins (listed a resident of Fort Lauderdale, Florida) and Giovanni Rodriguez (of Chicago) have been charged with two felony counts of aggravated battery/great bodily harm as well as one felony count of aggravated battery in a public place.

The press release's narrative stated that, in September 2018, Elkins and Giovanni were involved in an argument with three male adults inside an establishment located in the 5300 block of North Clark Street. Elkins, Giovanni and the victims exited the establishment and were involved in a fight on the sidewalk. The three male victims were transported to area hospitals with non-life-threatening injuries.

Elkins and Giovanni were placed in custody May 6 after turning themselves into the Bureau of Detectives-Area North.



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Hillary Clinton headlines Heartland Alliance benefit

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

Former senator, secretary of state and presidential candidate Hillary Clinton was the keynote speaker at Heartland Alliance's annual Power of Healing benefit May 14 at the Palmer House Hilton.

The event celebrated the work of the 32-year-old Marjorie Kovler Center—one of the first facilities of its kind in the United States. The center provides mental and medical health and social services to survivors of torture. Annually, more than 350 survivors from 60 different countries receive services from the center. This year, Heartland Alliance honored Marjorie Kovler Center Founder Peter Kovler with its Robert H. Kirshner

Award for Global Activism.

Heartland Alliance International (HAI) Executive Director Surita Sandosham spoke about the 400,000 people around the world the organization has served this year. Sandosham said she was troubled by the death of a Nigerian transgender woman for living as her authentic self and the impact it had on the entire LGBTQ community in that country. She explained that HAI works in over a dozen countries around the world and the Kovler Center has served 5,000 survivors of torture from 80 countries since its founding.

"There is so much work that lies ahead," said Sandosham. "Hundreds of refugees arrive in Chicago every year and it is estimated that 44 per-

cent of them have experienced torture. The need for our services has outpaced our capacity."

A video featuring survivors of torture and Kovler talking about the center and what it means to him was shown ahead of host committee member Daniel Kirschner's (Robert's son) remarks on the origins of the award and why it was named after his activist father. Kirschner also presented Kovler with a painting (the award) done by a former Kovler Center client from Ecuador.

Kovler spoke about the current indifference by many people to authoritarian governments that use torture and the anti-immigrant sentiments from segments of American society. He said how important it is to fight back against these things with places like the Kovler Center. Kovler called Clinton one of the great patriots of the United States due to her many years of public service and more recently, opposition to what this current administration is doing to harm groups of people based on their identity.

"We are a part of the fight for human rights," said Kovler.

Marjorie Kovler Center Former Senior Director



Hillary Clinton at Heartland event.
Photo by Sarah Matheson

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Dr. Mary Fabri and torture survivor, former Kovler Center client and Fabri's friend Adriana (who told her story in a video) took to the stage. Fabri encouraged people to visit the center and said it needs major repairs. She asked attendees to consider donating more money to help with these efforts.

Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker—prior to introducing Clinton and speaking about her public service record since she was a young woman—said he is proud to lead a state that calls HAI home. Pritzker said he is both saddened by what is happening around the world and in the United States and also heartened by the work HAI does across the board.

Clinton (who received a standing ovation) said it was an "extraordinary evening" and to "never forget the obligation we have as human beings to do all that we can to reduce the threat of and reality of torture anywhere in the world." She explained that she was grateful to be here to honor Kovler because of his dedication to ending torture and healing survivors.

"Since 1987, the center has stood as a bulwark against hate [with the work they do]. ... As Mario Gonzalez says, 'This is not charity—this is solidarity,'" said Clinton.

Clinton outlined all the services the center provides, most importantly its role as a "beacon of hope for the 7 million victims of torture worldwide ... and empowers survivors to become agents of change."

Speaking about the world today, Clinton said the center's work has taken on a new urgency these last few years due to the rise of hate groups and individuals both in the United States and around the world.

Clinton said fear cannot determine the future because this country is a place of "dreamers and strivers and democracy and its ever expanding purpose."

"We have to say in a clear voice that physical and mental torture is wrong," Clinton said.

See <https://www.heartlandalliance.org/>.

Dear Tracy,

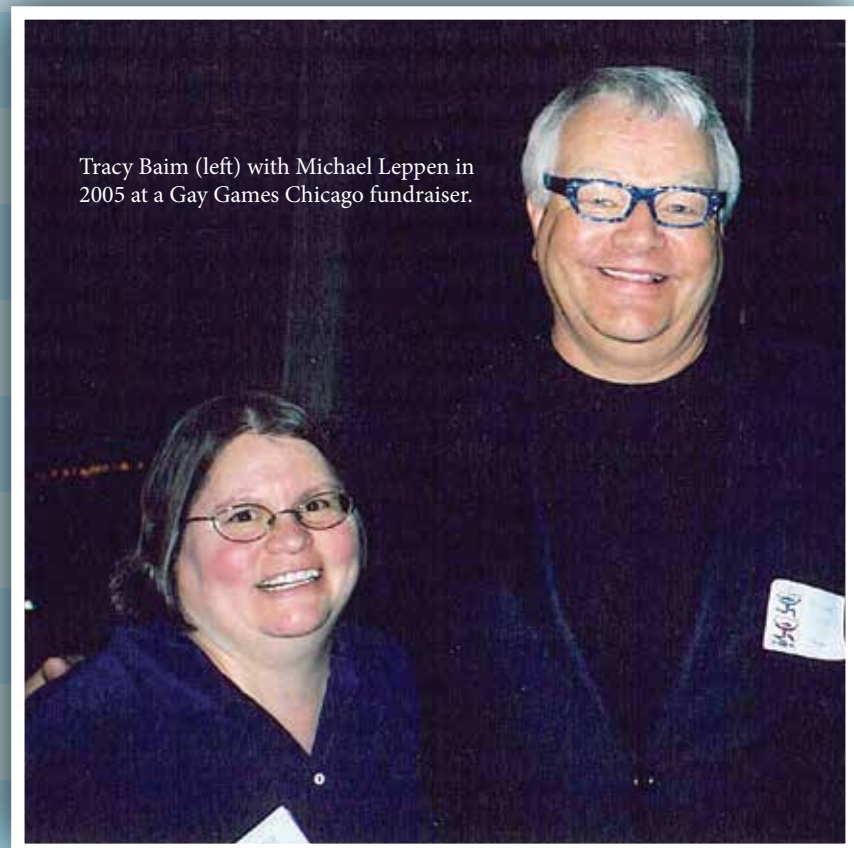
You are my friend, my mentor and my colleague. Thank you for your constant support, love and friendship. You have been with me through the best of times and through the worst of times. Through it all, we keep smiling and going on. You have been a beacon light for our community, leading the way with so many projects and endeavors. You have guided me through issues I need to see, know and learn about.

I enjoyed our many projects we worked on together. It may be a challenge, but you always made it fun.

Thank you for the gift you have given to the LGBTQ community, but most importantly, thank you for being my friend.

XOXO,

Michael Leppen



Lurie Children's, DCFS identifying LGBTQ youths in foster-care system

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago (Lurie Children's) and the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) are teaming on a research study to identify LGBTQ youth who are in foster care so they can get as much accurate data as possible and provide vital support to this population.

Dr. Kirsten Simonton, Lurie Children's Division of Child Abuse Pediatrics attending physician, is the principal investigator of the study—the ALLIED (Advancements Leading to LGBTQ Improved Experiences in DCFS) Project.

Simonton explained that the first step is to gather perceptions of LGBTQ-identified youth with current or prior DCFS involvement regarding how gender identity and sexual orientation can be assessed safely and accurately within the child-welfare system. To reach out to LGBTQ youth who are currently or have been in DCFS custody, Simonton and her team have created a flyer that they are distributing state-wide to agencies and individuals who interact with this population.

To participate one must be at least 12 years



Dr. Kirsten Simonton.
Photo courtesy of Lurie Children's Hospital

Buttigieg formed a working group of about 20 stakeholders, who met over the course of eight months and developed a 50-page report that Shafer said disregarded the past suggestions.

"That 50-page report proposed a gateway center and \$1.5 million was put into the 2018 budget to create that gateway center," he added. "None of that 50-page report has ever been talked about since. Nothing in it has ever been put in place. It was a complete waste of time. The gateway center only becomes a topic when something like this last evacuation of the tent city is brought to surface in the local media."

The center would house persons experiencing homelessness, offer wraparound services and be an intake center where other persons could be linked with scattered-site beds. A local community college donated several trailers to the city to aid in homelessness advocates' efforts; those have gone unused, Shafer said.

Shafer said he was looking forward to "a new mayor." A primary election was held May 7 to determine who'd be the contestants in the final contest to replace Buttigieg; Republican Sean Haas will be up against Democrat James Mueller, who has both close ties with and an endorsement from Buttigieg.

Shafer hopes circumstances change for the persons for whom he advocates: "These people are trying to survive, and the simple solution is give them housing and give them shelter."

Windy City Times asked both Buttigieg's campaign as well as the South Bend Mayor's Office for comment. Neither had replied as of press time.

old, be in the custody of DCFS currently or within the last 10 years and self-identify as LGBTQ—this includes being attracted to people of the same gender and/or gender-expansive, transgender, nonbinary and/or gender-questioning.

The study team is conducting one-on-one interviews with youth to understand what language and questions to use in assessments of gender and sexual identity, what would maximize the safety of these assessments, what is important regarding privacy and confidentiality of this information and what youth believe the risks and benefits are of DCFS having this information.

Multiple studies have shown that LGBTQ youth are overrepresented in the foster care system across the U.S. where they are estimated to comprise up to 30 percent of the approximately 400,000 youth in the system. This is compared to the approximately 5 to 7 percent of the general population that identifies as LGBTQ.

The Williams Institute, Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, and the Child Welfare League have determined that LGBTQ youth are more likely to experience discrimination, placement instability and leave foster care without a forever home than their non-LGBTQ peers.

According to Simonton, there is currently no systematic agency-wide strategy within DCFS to assess gender identity or sexual orientation among youth in care other than self-disclosure. Simonton said this results in large under-detection of LGBTQ youth and reduced ability for DCFS to follow best practices when it comes to the specific issues LGBTQ youth in foster care face.

"Developing a safe and effective strategy within DCFS to identify LGBTQ youth is not only important to understand epidemiology and the magnitude of this issue, but it is also a critical step in recognizing what their experiences are,

what resources they need, how their outcomes compare to other youth in foster care and how any risks or negative outcomes can be mitigated," said Simonton. "The study team will be traveling to conduct interviews at a location of convenience and safety for participants, and incentives are provided to any individuals who participate in interviews."

To participate in the study or for more information, call or text Lurie Children's Clinical Research Coordinator Elizabeth Charleston at 773-340-3147 or email echarleston@luriechildrens.org.

Boystown art gallery being sold

The Lake View art space The Leigh Gallery is being sold.

According to BizBuySell.com, the asking price for the 1,250-square-foot space, established in 2005, is \$180,000 (including inventory).

The sale of the gallery, at 3306 N. Halsted St., will include cabinets, file drawers, a 10-foot-long solid wood display table, chandelier, bench, chairs, shelving and some inventory. Most of the pictures are on consignment, and most artists are willing to stay with a new owner.

The commercial condo is for sale as well, for \$414,900.

Jean Leigh, the owner, is retiring and planning on moving to Wisconsin with her wife. Leigh and the gallery were recently profiled in Windy City Times: <http://www.windycitymediagroup.com/lgbt/Jean-Leigh-runs-Boystown-gallery-for-everyone/64110.html>.

More of the items at the gallery can be seen at TheLeighGallery.com.

BUTTIGIEG from page 6

property, there will no longer be a tent city, and it limits where our homeless can go."

Schafer acknowledged "It is [the owner's] right—it is his property. So the police informed them that they had to be out of there by Monday at 8 a.m. They are now all scattered. Wherever they go, eventually they will be pushed out again. We see that as a continuous cycle for the last many years."

He recalled a similar eviction in fall 2017, when an encampment arose under a bridge. Shafer's organization provided wooden skids upon which the residents could place their belongings and sleep. The city forcibly evacuated the residents and destroyed the skids one month before indoor cold-weather shelter was even made available.

Buttigieg's administration has also been criticized for not following through with recommendations from homelessness and housing-instability experts.

Also in 2017, advocates and stakeholders brought to town Thomas Rebman, a prominent homelessness-solutions expert based in Florida.

"He came to the city and spoke on two separate trips, at his own expense, for four days, holding different meetings and sessions, with stakeholders and city officials," said Shafer, who added that a representative from the mayor's office was in attendance at all the meetings.

"The city basically responded, 'Thank you but no thanks, for your time and solutions—we're going to handle it our way,'" Shafer said.



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Chelsea Manning back in jail

On May 16, U.S. District Court Judge Anthony Trenga ordered Chelsea Manning back to jail after the transgender former U.S. Army intelligence analyst again refused to cooperate with a grand jury investigating a release of documents by WikiLeaks, NBC News reported.

Trenga had Manning remanded and sentenced her to pay \$500 per day if she does not comply in 30 days, and \$1,000 per day after 60 days. Manning's term could be up to 18 months.

Earlier this month, Manning was freed after serving more than two months in a Virginia jail after refusing to testify before a previous grand jury in the WikiLeaks case.

The NBC News item is at <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/chelsea-manning-says-won-t-testify-wikileaks-despite-risk-she-n1006501>.

Lesbian CEO to speak on food distribution

BY MATT SIMONETTE

Beth Ford—president and CEO of Arden Hills, Minnesota-based Land O'Lakes, Inc.—will speak on Thursday, May 23, at noon at a meeting at the Executives Club of Chicago.

The meeting will take place at the Standard Club, 320 S. Plymouth Ct.

Ford, who is lesbian, will address food distribu-

tion in the face of population growth and changes in agricultural practices.

According to a statement, Ford “will discuss disruption in the food industry, investments in AgTech, and research recently sponsored by the company to better understand consumer and producer mindsets.”

Ford has previously held posts at Mobil, PepsiCo and Scholastic.

For information, visit <http://www.executives-club.org/programs/upcoming/beth-ford/>.

Honorary Pride Parade grand marshal named

PRIDEChicago has announced that the honorary grand marshal for this year's Chicago 50th Annual Pride Parade will be newly elected Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot.

According to a press release, “Lightfoot is well known to the public who in record numbers voted for her in the mayoral election.

“Her background and vast experience in both federal positions and local positions with previous administrations is also part of the public record. Mayor-elect Lightfoot will be marching near the front of the parade (directly behind the front banner and color guard carried by the Scout troops) as her predecessors, Mayors [Richard M.] Daley and [Rahm] Emanuel, did as well. She is the first open lesbian mayor in the City of Chi-

cago's history.”

Announcements have been previously made regarding other marshals: Youth Grand Marshal Molly Pinta; Legacy Grand Marshals Joel Hall, Jim Flint and Marge Summit; and Organizational Grand Marshal Indivisible, organizers of Aurora's Pride Parade.

Richards heading Northalsted alliance

BY MATT SIMONETTE

Kevin Richards—who came on board as executive director of the Northalsted Business Alliance on April 1—has been meeting with Halsted Street businesses and other community stakeholders as he settles in to his new position.

Northalsted held its first annual meeting under Richards' watch May 7. Among the large scale projects on the organization's docket are rainbow-themed crosswalks, the first of which are to be dedicated May 30, and a 25 percent-expansion of Chicago Pride Fest.

Additional goals for the organization include efforts to increase daytime foot traffic and expand Halsted Street's Halloween celebration.

A native of Chicago's southwest suburbs, Richards worked previously for the Streeterville Chamber of Commerce and Edge Alliance.

“Boystown is a model for the LGBT community,” he said. “It's where we go to celebrate.”

Gerber/Hart exhibit to focus on LGBTQ activism

Gerber/Hart Library and Archives, 6500 N. Clark St., will run the exhibit “Out of the Closets & Into the Streets: Power, Pride & resistance in Chicago's Gay Liberation Movement” starting Saturday, June 1 and running through September.

The 1969 riots that began at New York City's historic Stonewall Inn are widely considered to be the catalyst for the nationwide gay liberation movement. However, the landmark event initially went unnoticed in Chicago, where a convergence of increased police harassment and homophile activism had collided earlier at the 1968 Democratic National Convention, mobilizing the gay community.

Coinciding with the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall riots, this exhibit traces the gay-liberation movement's presence in Chicago from its beginnings in the late 1960s to the city's first large gay rights protest in 1977 at the historic Medinah Temple in downtown River North.

An exhibit open house will take place Saturday, June 15, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Admission is free. “Out of the Closets” will be one of several exhibits to view, with others including “Gay is Good: Homophile Activism before Stonewall,” “SportsDykes & GirlJocks” and “LGBTQ Slogan and Pride Parade Pins.”

See GerberHart.org.

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Youth group hosts gender-expansive services symposium

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

Illinois Collaboration on Youth (ICOY) held a day-long gender expansive services symposium May 13 at the Chicago Teachers Union. The day focused on how girls and gender non-conforming youth are impacted by the juvenile-justice system.

One of the breakout sessions under the Pathways into the Juvenile Justice System for Girls and Gender Non-Conforming Youth umbrella was "Homelessness, The Sex Trade and Survival 'Crimes.'"

are, including robbery, hopping the turnstiles at CTA stops and other coping mechanisms young people use to survive.

Maley said young people experiencing homelessness turn to the sex trade and survival crimes to meet their basic needs. She said the juvenile-justice system taking them into custody perpetuates the cycle of homelessness and poverty—and that leads them to do more things that cause them to keep going in and out of the system. Maley explained that many young people experience homelessness due to unsupportive parents so they take the risk of living on the streets or



From left: Latonya Maley, Laurie Schaffner, Antonio Gray, Ka'Riel Gaiter and Eilene Ladson. Photo by Carrie Maxwell

ICOY Trauma Specialist Eilene Ladson moderated the session, which featured panelists such as Broadway Youth Center Director Latonya Maley, University of Illinois-Chicago Sociology & Gender and Women's Studies Associate Professor Dr. Laurie Schaffner, artist/community advocate Antonio Gray and Youth Empowerment Performance Project (YEPP) Community Engagement Coordinator Ka'Riel Gaiter.

Ladson asked the panel about the connection that homelessness, the sex trade and survival crimes have with each other.

Gray spoke about being a transient youth who did not engage in the sex trade, emphasizing that systemic oppression is why some people become homeless and engage in both the sex trade and survival crimes—due to the lack of resources, oppressive policies and lack of knowledge and structure. Gray explained what survival crimes

couch surfing and dropping out of school.

Gaiter explained that homelessness leads to survival skills that are not translated to the wider world and that makes it harder for those people to navigate the rest of the world. He said these youth's development is interrupted due to them experiencing homelessness and that can affect them for the rest of their lives unless they get the support they need.

Schaffner spoke about the higher number of queer and disabled youth who experience homelessness compared to the wider population. She calls it the juvenile legal system not the juvenile-justice system because it is not set up to help young people. Schaffner explained that she interviewed over 250 youths experiencing homelessness in Chicago and they said they engage in drug dealing, robbing, trespassing, loitering and the sex trade. She said places of business even

call the authorities on them for stealing electricity when they would be charging their phones.

Ladson asked about the sex trade being framed as sex trafficking where there are victims when that is not the case for everyone involved.

Gray said that, for a number of LGBTQ youth he knows who are involved in the sex trade it is empowering for them; however, he added if they had access to queer-focused resources in their neighborhoods on the South and West sides, they might not engage in it.

Gaiter explained that he was a part of the sex trade from ages 11-17, adding he did it because he was looking for a place to sleep. He also said that, for some, engaging in the trade is a way to avoid systems that may have an even more negative impact on their lives, like DCFS.

Maley spoke about beauty being a commodity and using one's body to get the resources they need to survive. She also spoke about the danger involved in street-based sex work.

The conversation also focused on policies and systems that perpetuate going into the juvenile-justice system.

Gaiter said positive changes can happen if young people are at the table while Gray explained that identifying as cisgender heterosexual white man for the most part makes one immune to having the same behavior criminalized than any other group of people.

Maley explained that the recently enacted

FOSTA/SESTA law that led to a ban on sex trade ads on Craigslist and Backpage did not stop the practice, it just made it go underground.

Schaffner said the United States has a long history of laws regulating sex and none of it has worked.

The day also featured welcome addresses by LGBTQ and chronic illness communities accessibility consultant Chuck Bernsohn who spoke about respectful and kind language choices and ICOY Juvenile Justice Coordinator Bex Leon who talked about framing the conversation.

"I was glad to see the interest in the topic of gender-expansive services from across systems and communities," said Leon. "I hope this conversation will serve as an entry point for many into creating and reimagining a world without the policing and punishment of gender non-conformity—a conversation which must center the voices and perspectives of young people most affected by the juvenile-justice system. ICOY has been excited to be involved in helping to nurture this conversation as it is essential to improving outcomes for children, youth and families in Illinois."

Some of the other breakout sessions included "The School/Prison Nexus," "Domestic Violence, Abuse and Trauma," and "The Revolving Door Between Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice."

See <https://www.icoyouth.org/>

LGBTQ veterans' group holding Memorial Day events

On Saturday, May 25, the Chicago Chapter of the American Veterans for Equal Rights (AVER) will be the only LGBTQ unit to participate in the City of Chicago Memorial Day Parade. The AVER color guard will step off from Upper Wacker Drive and State Street at 11 a.m.

On Sunday, May 26, the chapter will also conduct an Allen Schindler Remembrance ceremony with graveside honors for the Navy Radioman Petty Officer Third Class, who was murdered Oct. 27, 1992, by shipmates for being gay. The event will take place Calvary Cemetery, Steger, IL 2 p.m. Contact Jim Darby at 773-752-0058 for information.

On Monday, May 27, AVER will gather at the monument at 3600 N. Halsted St. to honor and remember all LGBTQ military members and veterans at 11 a.m.

Find the Chicago chapter of the AVER on Facebook and at <http://www.averchicago.org/>.

Emanuel, Cappleman celebrate project

As one of his last official acts, now-former Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel joined Ald. James Cappleman (46th Ward) and the Chicago Department of Transportation (CDOT) for the

ribbon-cutting of the Broadway Streetscape Project, marking a major milestone in the revitalization and rebirth of the Uptown Entertainment District.

The ribbon cutting took place in a new pedestrian plaza at Broadway Street and Racine Avenue in front of the Riviera Theater. The plaza features a large sculpture of a color wheel, reflecting the diversity of the community.

Public transit in Uptown will be enhanced by the planned renovations of the Lawrence and Argyle CTA stations, part of a \$2.1 billion initiative to expand the North Side capacity of the CTA's Red and Purple lines.

Legacy Project event June 5

The Legacy Project will kick off Pride Month on Wed., June 5, 7-8 p.m., at Sidetrack, 3349 N. Halsted St., with Stonewall veteran Tree Sequoia.

According to an organizational press release, Sequoia has been tending bar at the Stonewall Inn for 50 years—and the third night of this job was when the famous uprising happened at this bar.

Sequoia will sit with Chicago historian and Legacy Project co-founder Owen Keehnen about June 28, 1969 and about the role our bars have played in the history of the LGBTQ-rights movement.

The program will conclude with a Q&A. See LegacyProjectChicago.org.



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Chicago's Boystown sports rainbow crosswalks

Chicago's Boystown neighborhood has added a little color, thanks to rainbow pride crosswalks.

Initiated by the Northalsted Business Alliance, the rainbows will adorn 14 crosswalks on east-west streets parallel to Halsted from Melrose north to Bradley, excluding Addison.

Thirteen of the crosswalks will feature the rainbow design that represents diversity and has become an inclusive symbol of the worldwide LG-BTQ+ pride movement since the 1970s. The 14th crosswalk will be dedicated to the transgender community. The blue, pink and white stripes found on the transgender flag will be located on Melrose south of the Howard Brown Health Center.



This photo: Rainbow crosswalk at Halsted and Roscoe streets in Chicago's Boystown neighborhood. Left: Trans flag crosswalk at Halsted and Melrose. Windy City Times photos



New national report details police's transgender policies

BY MATT SIMONETTE

A newly released report documents the troubled relationship between transgender Americans and the police departments charged with protecting them.

"Failing to Protect and Serve: Police Department Policies Towards Transgender People" newly

released by the National Center for Transgender Equality, notes that "many members of our communities continue to be affected by disproportionate contact with, and often by bias and abuse within, policing and the criminal justice system."

The report noted that about 57 percent of respondents said that they would be uncomfortable contacting the police for help. As such, the authors said their goal was producing recommendations promoting stronger and fairer policies with regards to transgender citizens.

The report examines the intricacies of Chicago Police Department's (CPD's) policy on transgender interactions, and details a number of

shortcomings. Among those are no recognition of non-binary persons within the scope of the policy; unclear rules with regards to the gender of officers carrying out searches; minimal safety requirements surrounding the transportation of prisoners; and no explicit policy prohibiting sexual misconduct.

Additionally, the policy does require CPD paperwork to list a person's current name, but as an alias. Gender is listed on the basis of government ID, except in cases where the prisoner has undergone surgery.

The report also notes that CPD policy requires officers to address the public with the names

and pronouns they currently use, and prohibits immigration status from interfering with police action.

Authors determined that only nine of the 25 police departments profiled included gender identity and/or expression in their non-discrimination policy. They added that, "The better non-discrimination policies explicitly prohibit profiling, harassment and invasive questioning as types of harassment."

The report can be viewed at <https://tinyurl.com/yyl6nx3j>.

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viewpoints


**Mark S.
KING**

Five reasons the Gilead deal is a steaming pile of Truvada

Gilead Sciences, the pharmaceutical that makes Truvada, the only FDA-approved drug for PrEP, is having a great week in the public relations department. First, Gilead announced they were surrendering their patent for Truvada a year early, and now Federal officials have announced that Gilead will donate enough Truvada for 200,000 people in the United States.

Don't fall for this. Gilead is engaged in a brilliantly self-serving marketing ploy and dressing it up like charity. Their deeply entrenched ownership of our governmental and community HIV response is as clear as ever. This ownership isn't absolute; there are activists and national community leaders who see this ploy for what it is. #PrEP4All has met the news with great skepticism, and national non-profit leaders, who depend upon Gilead funding, have damned the announcement with faint praise.

Here are five reasons why Gilead is simply building profits and ignoring pleas to do some real good.

1. Gilead is offering no-cost Truvada for 200,000 when it could make it affordable for everyone.

It costs Gilead pennies to make Truvada. It charges \$20,000 a year for it. If Gilead really wanted to end this epidemic—and make no mistake, they have the ability to fundamentally alter the trajectory of HIV in the United States—then it would lower the price of Truvada across the board, for everyone. And by lower, I mean by a lot.

And the math is way off. We don't need 200,000 more people on PrEP. We need a million more people on PrEP.

Did I mention that Gilead will claim many, many millions of dollars in lost revenue on their corporate taxes as a result of their generosity?

2. Gilead is only providing Truvada for non-insured persons. People with insurance need it just as much.

There are people with health insurance who still face barriers to PrEP. They have high deductibles and co-pays, for instance, or they take one look at the bureaucracy of prior authorizations and co-pay assistance cards and just give up.

3. Gilead's big donation creates new customers for its new PrEP drug, Descovy.

This might be Gilead at their most vile. By offering free Truvada to 200,000 people, they are creating a customer base for the arrival of their new drug, Descovy, which awaits FDA approval for use as PrEP.

Descovy does not cause the side effects that Truvada patients have had. Gilead knew about the Truvada side effects years ago, but they waited all this time to introduce Descovy because they wanted to run out the clock on Truvada's patent, yes, even

while knowing Truvada was causing debilitating side effects in thousands of people along the way. This is just another chapter in the rich, sick history of Gilead's corporate profiteering.

4. Gilead is unloading an obsolete PrEP drug and charging full price for its new one.

Once Descovy is FDA-approved next year for PrEP, Gilead will have an additional 200,000 new Truvada customers that they can try and talk into taking their new, improved version. For which they will be charging the full price of \$20,000 per year.

5. The Truvada-as-PrEP patent belongs to U.S. taxpayers. Where are the royalties we deserve?

This brings us to the topic Gilead really, really wants everyone to stop talking about. The patents for Truvada-as-PrEP belong to the United States taxpayers because the research was done by the CDC, not Gilead. Considering Gilead makes \$3 billion a year on the sale of Truvada, those royalties could fund our national HIV prevention response. The CDC will not discuss this.

Oh, and the CDC owns patents to Descovy-as-PrEP, too. Don't expect all the #PrEP4All activism to fade when Truvada goes generic. It won't.

Gilead is hoping that its one-day headline about its Truvada donation will appease critics of their profiteering. It does not. And from what I am hearing, there are many more headlines to come in the days ahead.

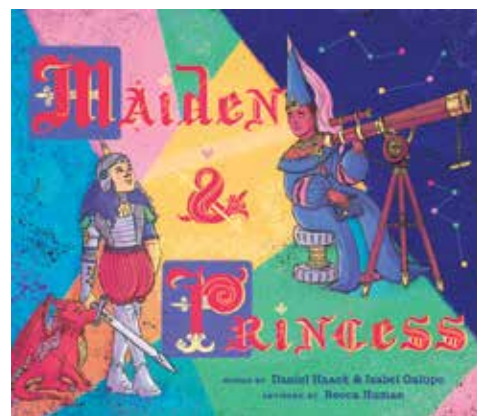
Mark S. King is a GLAAD Award nominee for his blog, My Fabulous Disease, and author of A Place Like This, his memoir of Los Angeles during the dawn of AIDS.


**Dana
RUDOLPH**

MOMBIAN Princess, maiden fall in love in new children's book

A maiden falls in love with a princess at a multiracial royal court in a delightful new children's book that adds to the growing number of LGBTQ fairy tales.

Maiden & Princess—by Daniel Haack and Isabel Galupo, and illustrated by Becca Human—is the third book to come out of the partnership between LGBTQ media advocacy organization GLAAD and Bonnier Publishing USA, following Haack's Prince & Knight and Jack (Not Jackie), by Erica Silverman. In the latest work, a king and queen host a ball to find a bride for their son the prince. One maiden, however, the prince's erstwhile battle companion, "wasn't that excited." She views him as a brother—but when she meets his sister, the princess, something different happens. They spend the evening talking under the stars, and even the king and queen can see they are "the perfect pair."



Maiden & Princess.
Photo courtesy of GLAAD

The royal family members all are Black and their court is broadly multiracial. That's a refreshing change from many a U.S.-published fairy tale. The maiden has lighter skin than the princess, though she isn't necessarily White. The costumes take much from the European Middle Ages and Renaissance, but a variety of headdresses and jewelry among the people at court seem to hint at several cultures (some echoing vaguely African and South Asian styles) within this fantasy world. The palm trees that decorate the court also indicate this isn't meant to be set

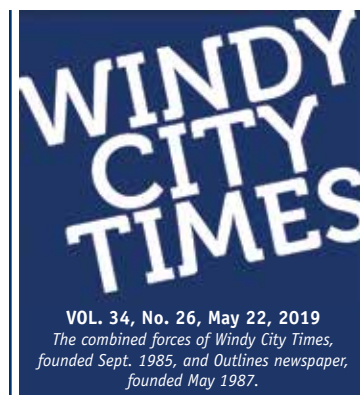
in the Europe we know.

While both the princess and maiden are equally active in playing games, wielding swords, and riding dragons, the maiden usually favors pants and the princess wears dresses, a nice nod to varieties of gender expression. The princess also seems to have an interest in astronomy (she is depicted using a telescope to view the stars), which gives the book bonus points for showcasing women in science, even in a pre-modern world. The maiden's pet dragon, who appears without dialogue in many scenes, adds an extra touch of whimsy.

It is also commendable that the two women don't rush to be wed. After the ball, they "filled their days together" and "faced adventure head-on" until "the day finally came" for them to marry. This reviewer has always worried that the "love at first sight and immediate marriage" trope of many a fairy tale (queer or not) gives children unrealistic expectations about relationships. The pace here seems much more prudent, without bogging down the narration.

This is a welcome addition to the genre of LGBTQ-inclusive fairy tales (which began in 2002 with King & King, by Linda de Haan and Stern Mijland, and now includes numerous titles) and to books about strong women in control of their lives and loves.

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



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LA HAVANA MADRID

ONE OF MANY
REVIEWS IN THIS
WEEK'S PACKED
THEATER ISSUE

PAGE 24

Sandra Delgado in La Havana
Madrid.
Photo by Joel Maisonet

THEATER REVIEW

Next to Normal

Book and Lyrics: Brian Yorkey;

Music: Tom Kitt

At: Writers Theatre, 325 Tudor Ct., Glencoe

Tickets: 847-242-6000 or WritersTheatre.org;

\$35-\$80

Runs through: June 16

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

Writers Theatre in Glencoe scored an artistic coup by luring back director David Cromer to stage *Next to Normal*. This Pulitzer Prize and three-time Tony Award-winning 2009 musical is Cromer's first Chicago-area production since he won the 2018 Tony Award for directing *The Band's Visit* on Broadway.

And Cromer's powerful take on *Next to Normal* does not disappoint. Cromer has assembled a diverse cast who can all vocally and dramatically take on the emotional wallops of composer Tom Kitt and librettist Brian Yorkey's a nearly sung-



Keely Vasquez and Liam Oh in *Next to Normal*.

Photo by Michael Brosilow

through musical.

Next to *Normal* swirls around the suburban mother Diana Godman (Keeley Vasquez), who struggles with prescription drug regimens for her bi-polar diagnosis. Diana also manifests upsetting feelings around her eldest child, Gabe (Liam Oh), whom we gradually learn is not all that he seems.

Diana's architect husband, Dan (David Schlumpf), is extremely supportive, though also arguably overprotective and controlling. Meanwhile their high school-aged daughter, Natalie (Kyrie Courter), starts to rebel once she starts falling for her stoner classmate, Henry (Alex Levy).

Also in the mix are Diana's two doctors: the distant and calculating "psychopharmacologist" Dr. Fine and the more probing therapist Dr. Madden (both doubled up incisively by Gabriel Ruiz).

Under Cromer's astute direction, the whole cast delves into the anger and hurt of their characters without ever going overboard. Music director Andra Velis Simon also does great work in helping the cast to navigate this big sing of a show.

THEATER REVIEW

The Crowd You're In With

By: Rebecca Gilman

At: AstonRep Theatre Company at

Raven Theatre, 6157 N. Clark St.

Tickets: 773-828-9129 or AstonRep.com; \$25

Runs through: June 16

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

On its surface, Rebecca Gilman's 2007 drama *The Crowd You're In With* seems slight. It's just a 75-minute one-act featuring three couples and a close stoner friend at a North Side backyard barbecue on July 4, 2007, in Chicago.

But by its end, *The Crowd You're In With* is tinged with anger, hurt and regret. Like the Bob Dylan

song "Positively 4th Street"—hinted at in the title and mentioned in the text of the play—Gilman's drama emphasizes how friendships and relationships can be broken up over differing opinions and resentments.

The Crowd You're In With comes off more as a period piece now, but AstonRep Theatre Company's revival at Raven Theatre still resonates. The central conflict hinges on heterosexual couples arguing over the pros and cons of having children. Barbecue hosts Jasper and Melinda (Martin Diaz-Valdes and Sara Pavlak McGuire) are in their thirties and mixed about trying to have a child. Meanwhile, their close married friends, Windsong (Maggie Antonijevic) and Dan (Nick Freed), are already seven months along with the pregnancy of their first child.

The first major clashes come with the arrival of Jasper and Melinda's landlords, Tom and Karen

(Javier Carmona and Lynne Baker). These sixty-something lefty crusaders are unapologetic in their childlessness, and they take an instant disliking to Dan over his 2000 presidential vote for Ralph Nader.

The late arrival of the free-wheeling pot dealer Darcy (Erin O'Brien in a gender switch from the originally named Dwight made with Gilman's permission) doesn't add too much to the drama. Yet it's clear that Darcy will likely be dropped as a close friend once the others take on more parental responsibilities.

Director Derek Bertelsen works well with the emotional highs and lows of the cast, with each actor bringing out what makes their characters simultaneously endearing and/or annoying. Yet the production could use some fine tuning in terms of making the dialogue less stilted and to flow more conversationally.

THEATER REVIEW

La Havana Madrid

Playwright: Sandra Delgado

At: Teatro Vista/Collaboration at the

Den, 1333 N. Milwaukee Ave.

Tickets: TheDenTheatre.com; \$30-\$60

Runs through: June 22

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

This joint production of the Teatro Vista and Collaboration theater companies premiered in March 2017 at Steppenwolf's 1700, where it sold out its run in one day. Three months later, the remount in the Goodman's Owen likewise set audiences to scrambling for tickets despite multiple extensions. The current incarnation, its third, looks to prove likewise successful.

So, what is this show that playgoers just won't let go, whose every departure elicits entreaties for a swift return, and whose presentation in-

volves music, dancing and vivid recollections of days gone by?

Who would have guessed it to be a saga of divisive displacement, cultural diaspora and a long history of migration precipitated by hostile strangers—and just to ensure that we understand the irony, author Sandra Delgado reminds us that the theater where we now view it was once host to a very different population.

The actual Havana Madrid was a loft located at Belmont and Sheffield avenues, now occupied by Milio's Hair Salon, but during the 1960s housing a community center for Caribbean immigrants fleeing political, economic and/or ethnic oppression. The United States provided refuge, but as quickly as its new citizens settled in new homes, they would be forced to abandon them by corporate developers, armed not with guns this time, but with "gentrification."

Our anthropological tour is conducted in a series of personal anecdotes recounted by characters based on real-life Chicago personalities (many of whom were in attendance on opening

night). Their testimony includes a Cuban "Pedro Pan" child relocated to Evanston in 1951, a pair of newlyweds married in a church-to-church "proxy" ceremony, an angry adolescent-turned-photojournalist, a car salesman-turned-radio celebrity, and an itinerant string-bass player now serving as leader of the band providing the music for us.

That's right—the music. Delgado is not content to merely tell "our story," but also recreates the Havana Madrid in the Den's Heath Mainstage, whose dimensions approximate those they duplicate more closely than previous auditoriums, and thus easily accommodates Roberto "Carpacho" Marin y Su Super Combo, (featuring Carol McPherson on dancing trombone) and Delgado herself as guest vocalist/emcee, along with hoofers Victor Musoni, Marvin Quijada, and Tommy Rivera-Vega burning up the floor with Wilfredo Rivera's choreography. Oh, and did I mention the evening's agenda including several "dance breaks" for playgoers to salsa in the aisles?

Cromer and set designer Regina Garcia ground everything more in reality rather than following the abstracted visual approach in previous *Next to Normal* productions. They do so by creating a collage-like unit set of stylish interiors and furniture that looks torn from the pages of *Architectural Digest*.

Yet the musical's often alarmingly trippy sequences come to life via Keith Parham's focused and colorful lighting design. And though some of the lyrics sound garbled or overpowered at times by the band (always an issue with rock musicals), the bulk of the score pulses through via the sound design of Chris LaPorte and Ray Nardelli.

One decade on, *Next to Normal* feels timely as ever. And watching this great contemporary musical at Writers Theatre also feels very subversive.

The woes and wealthy income bracket of the fictional Goodman family onstage could easily mirror many a real-life family in the surrounding North Shore. So be prepared for some unsettling grief and trauma as *Next to Normal* allows you to peek behind one troubled family's well-kept facade.

The production also looks suitably like a cramped Chicago back yard, thanks to Jeremiah Barr's set design and Samantha Barr's sun-setting lighting design. Yet with such close proximity to an elaborate grill, you almost feel that some sizzling noises should have been cooked up by sound designer Melanie Thompson.

In *The Crowd You're In With*, Gilman emphasizes how important (and difficult) it is to find your own tribe of friends and companions. Even if you all largely agree, undiscussed issues can do irreparable damage, which makes the play such a cautionary and upsetting tale.

CRITICS' PICKS

Late Nite Catechism, Royal George Theatre, open run—On May 26th, Vicki Quade and MariPat Donovan's internationally acclaimed solo show celebrates its 26th-year anniversary with a return to 1993 admission prices for 26 chosen congregants. *MSB*

Noises Off, Windy City Playhouse, through May 26—Successful farce requires truthful characters first and silliness second. American theater artists rarely understand this, but director Scott Weinstein and his capable farceurs do, so see them while you can. *JA*

First Love Is the Revolution, Steep Theatre, through June 8—Star-crossed species are a metaphor for many things as a boy and (real) fox fall in love, with disastrous consequences. Devon de Mayo directed this convincingly-acted, non-realistic drama. *JA*

Hamlet, Chicago Shakespeare Theater, through June 9—Nonagenarian Mike Nussbaum's gravedigger singing "Isn't It Grand, Boys" is only one of the delightful surprises distinguishing this streamlined CST production from the classroom classic you thought you knew. *MSB*

—By Mary Shen Barnidge
and Jonathan Abarbanel

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THEATER REVIEW

The Killing Game

Playwright: Eugene Ionesco, translated by Helen Gary Bishop

At: A Red Orchid Theatre, 1531 N. Wells St.

Tickets: 312-943-8722;

ARedOrchidtheatre.org; \$30-\$40

Runs through: June 23

BY JONATHAN ABARBANEL

In the '50s-'60s, you couldn't escape French-Romanian absurdist playwright Eugene Ionesco (1909-1994).

His one-acts were the daily bread of university and community theaters; his longer works—such as *Rhinoceros* and *Exit the King*—were staged in Paris, London and New York with stars such as Zero Mostel and Laurence Olivier. This play was new in 1970—about when Ionesco's star began to wane.

In it, a swiftly-killing plague of unknown origins has struck town and blame quickly follows: it's the poor, the immigrants, the rich, the empowered; it's a government plot; it's divine punishment. People say "It has nothing to do with us" and "We haven't done anything wrong." Doctors declare death itself doesn't exist if people follow proper hygiene, and then the doctors drop dead. A review of a 1987 Chicago production called it a metaphor for AIDS.

Not seen locally in a dozen years, *The Killing Game* now fits our increasingly tribal contempo-



The Killing Game cast.
Photo from Fadeout Foto

rary world, and our own nation where the Donald promotes divisiveness and fear. Still, *The Killing Game* is hard to swallow—as much as one can

admire this energetic production—because classic absurdist comedy no longer is in vogue.

The play is ostentatiously literate, using the

medieval Dance of Death for inspiration and echoing end-of-civilization stories such as *Lord of the Flies*. It's often amusing and witty, especially when Ionesco plays with words, language and meanings. But it also is circular and repetitive, hammering home a few points in multiple parallel situations. Also, U.S. audiences generally prefer realism in theatre with sustained characters with whom they can empathize; but *The Killing Game* is none of that, with a sketch-like sequence of changing scenes and characters. Perhaps wisely, A Red Orchid performs a crisp translation of the play as a long one-act.

A really wonderful director, Dado, has staged this production with great imagination and vitality, incorporating musical chants (medieval reference), props shaped like body-part props (there's just a touch of cannibalism) and video (Michael Shannon cameo) among other devices. The ensemble of 13 actors—none of whom play a specifically named character—performs with energy and surprising focus given the play's checkerboard structure. Near the end, an ancient couple appears, oblivious to the death around them, enthusing about love and the world's beauty ... which seems to be the plague's antidote. If only it were that simple!

The Killing Game will not suit all tastes, but it should be seen. Absurdism as a style of theater remains far more popular in Europe than it ever was in the United States, so this production is a good way to broaden one's theatrical horizons. It's thoughtful, immensely theatrical and an ambitious choice for A Red Orchid.

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THEATER REVIEW

The Winter's Tale

Playwright: William Shakespeare

At: Goodman Theatre, 170 N. Dearborn St.

Tickets: \$20-80; GoodmanTheatre.org/
thewinterstale

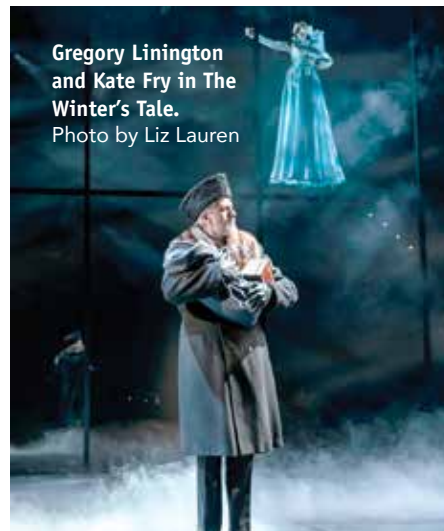
Runs through: June 9

BY LAUREN EMILY WHALEN

Why *The Winter's Tale*? Robert Falls may not know.

In an interview with the *Chicago Sun-Times*, director Falls confessed he's unsure what exactly the play is about. The first half of *The Winter's Tale* is a lightning-quick revenge tragedy; the second half a romantic comedy with music and wacky antics galore. Climactic scenes involve a bear and a statue. Yet *The Winter's Tale* is a favorite of many Shakespeare fans (this critic included), for its tragicomic take on jealousy, forgiveness and redemption. Goodman Theatre's production is a masterpiece of storytelling that's equal parts shadow and sunshine, bringing home the healing power of love.

The Winter's Tale kicks off with casual banter between Leontes, King of Sicilia (Dan Donohue), his pregnant wife Hermione (Kate Fry) and their best friend, fellow ruler Polixenes (Nathan Hosner). Suddenly—very, very suddenly—Leontes becomes convinced that the unborn child is not his own, and that Polixenes and Hermione are not only having an affair but plotting to kill him. Though wise Paulina (Christiana Clark) tries



Gregory Linington and Kate Fry in *The Winter's Tale*.
Photo by Liz Lauren

to talk sense into the jealous king, a series of tragic events ensue. Sixteen years later in the land of Bohemia, teenage Perdita (Chloe Baldwin)—whose name means “lost”—embarks on a romance with prince-in-disguise Florizel (Xavier Bleuel) despite the meddlings of Florizel's father and his counsel Camillo (Henry Godinez).

Are these two stories related? One hundred percent.

The Winter's Tale isn't produced often, though at least two non-Equity Chicago companies (Otherworld Theatre and Odd's Bodkins) presented the play in the past year. Perhaps the tide is shifting: though the name recognition isn't that of

Romeo and Juliet, and the plot is frequently odd, *The Winter's Tale* has a timely quality that Falls expertly illustrates at every turn. Leaders ruled by emotion rather than logic, well-meaning but forever-gullible citizens and women who persist despite every possible obstacle: it's all there. Thanks to Falls' thoughtful staging (supplemented with Tommy Rapley's whimsical choreography) and the work of his design team (especially Ana Kuzmanic's vivid costumes and Richard Woodbury's haunting original score), the story is both accessible and magical.

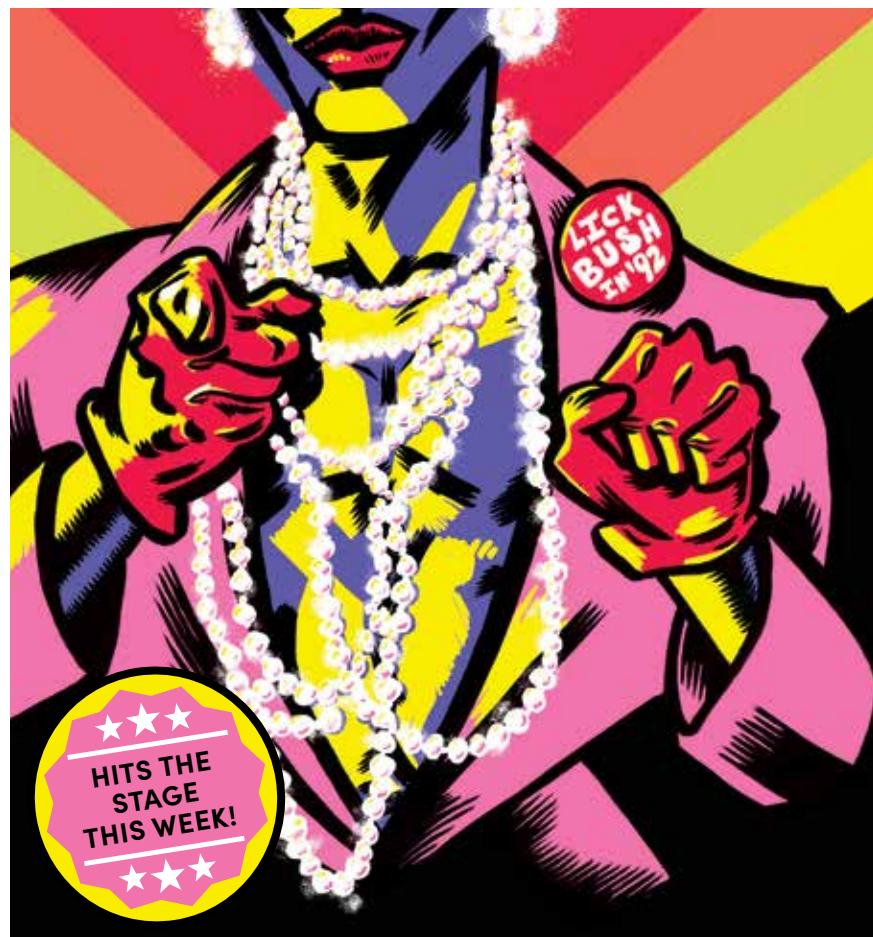
The Winter's Tale was one of Shakespeare's final plays, and both Goodman and Falls do the

Bard proud. Though every character (and blood-thirsty mammal) is well-cast, standouts include Hosner's charismatic yet moody Polixenes, Charlie Herman's beloved young prince Mamillius and Baldwin's sweetly inquisitive Perdita. Even commedia-esque petty thief Autolycus is given a likable country-twang makeover thanks to the always delightful Philip Earl Johnson. Goodman's reimagining of this underrated classic is both a thought-provoking look at the lies we tell ourselves and a sweeping affirmation that love does indeed conquer all. Whether you are a *Winter's Tale* newbie or a diehard supporter, you're in for a treat.

 **SPOTLIGHT**

“Caged Miami Heat” and “Murder on the Sicilian Express” are the deliciously irresistible titles of **The Golden Girls: The Lost Episodes, Vol. 3**, currently running at Mary's Attic in Andersonville, and presented (as ever) by Hell in a Handbag Productions. David Cerda and David Lipschutz are the authors and Miles Brindley is the director of these newly-discovered or recovered or stumbled-upon episodes of the beloved 1980s sitcom. The cast features old favorites David Cerda, Ed Jones, Grant Drager and Ryan Oates as (respectively) even older Dorothy, Rose, Blanche and Sophia. It's amazing to think that Betty White, the original Rose, still walks among us at 97. You'll have fun, too, with a drink under your belt at Mary's Attic, enjoying *The Golden Girls* all over again for the first time. Tickets: HandbagProductions.org

Photo by Rick Aguilar Studios



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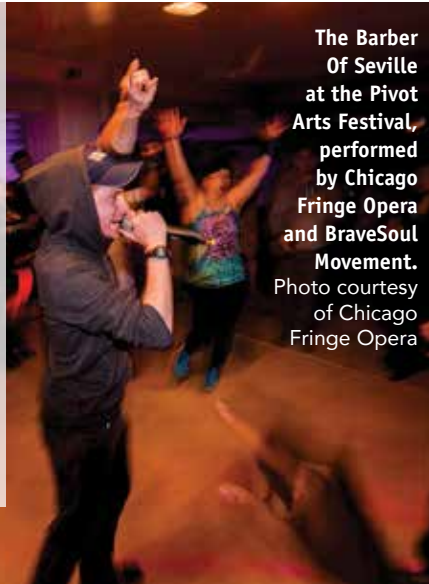
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SUMMER DANCE
FEATURE

Ballet to boogie: Summer dance in Chicago

BY JOHNNY NEVIN,
KRISTI LICERA AND
JONATHAN ABARBANEL



The Barber
Of Seville
at the Pivot
Arts Festival,
performed
by Chicago
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Movement.
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BY *traci godfrey*

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Over the last 35 years, Chicago has developed into one helluva dance town, and things don't slow down in the summer as some dance events move outdoors, just as theater performances do.

The chronological listings below are only a sampling of what dance has to offer this summer. Far more complete information is available at SeeChicagoDance.com, a comprehensive dance info source. Or, you might check out DancerMusic.com, the knowledgeable blog by this story's co-writers, Johnny Nevin and Kristi Licera.

—**Pivot Arts Festival**, May 31-June 9—A “hip-hopera” by Chicago Fringe Opera and BraveSoul Movement, Search Party by Ellen Kilmurray, works-in-progress by Po'Chop, Courtney Mackedanz, Jenni Lamb and Ethan Parcell are just a few events classified as “dance” in this cutting-edge, eclectic, genre-defying annual festival which also has categories labeled theater, music, kids, celebrations and more ... and each one is a world premiere. Locations vary, mainly in Edgewater. Tickets: \$10-\$15; PivotArts.org

—**Trifecta Dance Collective**, Mosaic and In.Grained, June 1, Athenaeum Theatre—Trifecta Dance Collective completes its fourth season with a collaborative evening of dance and theatre, with special guests Cocodaco Dance Project and documentary theatre company Erasing the Distance. The Athenaeum, of course, is one of the city's premiere dance venues, and a great place to see dance. Tickets: \$20; TrifectaDance.org

—**Concert Dance Inc.**, Ravinia Festival, Bennet Gordon Hall, June 1-2—Iconic choreographer Venetia Stifler and her Concert Dance Inc. continue a long association with the Ravinia Festival. Their 2019 program offers a setting of Aaron Copland colorful tone poem “El Salon Mexico,” plus a Stifler world premiere, “Dances with Words and Music,” which takes inspiration from another legendary dancer, the late Ruth Page. Tickets: \$12; Ravinia.org (no lawn seating), or ConcertDance.org

—**Hubbard Street Dance Chicago**, Summer Series, June 6-9, Harris Theater—Everybody knows this company: It's world-famous, the members are good and belong to Chicago, and it has long have been one of Chicago's most multicultural troupes! Some of us are old enough to remember when Hubbard Street founder Lou Conte was a chorus boy at the Candlelight Dinner Playhouse. The troupe now is under artistic director Glenn Edgerton, who has selected works by Alejandro Cerrudo, Crystal Pite and Brian Brooks for this program. Tickets: \$25-\$110; HubbardStreetDance.com

—**Chicago Tap Theatre (CTT)**, Saving the World, Stage 773, June 8-30—It's the world premiere of a story show, a tap-dance opera concerning our ever-more-frequent natural disasters and those who seem to profit from them, performed to live music. Imagine tap/rhythm dancers as tornados and tsunamis! CTT is an imaginative, high-energy, high-quality group of artists that is always great to see. Tickets: \$30-\$40 chicagotaptheatre.com

—**Natya Dance Theatre**, The Internal Geometry, Links Hall, June 14-16—Artistic director Hema Rajagopalan—founder of the company 45 years ago!—creates a world premiere, using classic Indian dance-theater techniques called Bharata Natyam, gifted to humanity by the Hindu gods. Natya Dance Theatre has credits ranging from the Salt Lake City Olympics, to New York's World Music Institute, to performing with Yo-Yo Ma. Tickets: \$10-\$40; Natya.com

—**Ensemble Espanol Spanish Dance Theater**, Flamenco Passion 2019, North Shore Center for the Performing Arts in Skokie, June 14-16—This highly regarded troupe soldiers on following the February death of founder Libby Komaiko, who founded the company in 1975. Ensemble Español performances are visually stunning, and explore a different but engaging style of choreography built from

Flamenco based movement, all accompanied by live music, often vocal as well as instrumental in the broad Flamenco tradition. Tickets: \$20-\$50; EnsembleEspanol.org

—**Cerqua Rivera Dance Theatre**, American Catracho, Studio5 (sic), Evanston, June 26—Life partners Joe Cerqua and Wilfredo Rivera have been expanding artistic limits for 20 years now, blending exceptional dancers (Rivera's lookout) with great fusion music (Cerqua's lookout). This one-off is part of CRDT's Inside/Out series of works in process, offering performance excerpts from a major work (three years in development) to premiere this fall. Tickets: \$8 advance, \$15 door; CerquaRivera.org

—**Chicago Summer Dance**, Spirit of the Music Garden, Grant Park, June 27-Aug.24—It's your turn to boogie (and waltz, polka, samba, fox trot, jitterbug, mambo, etc.) as the City of Chicago offers two months of outdoor dancin' to 48 different live bands and DJs, Wednesday-Sunday nights, all on a restored vintage 4,900-square-foot dance floor! Admission is free. Music schedule: Chicago.gov/city/en/depts/dca/supp_info/chicago_summerdance.html

—**Dance in the Parks**, July 19-27—There will be dance performances in 14 city parks, from La Villita in South Lawndale (July 9) to Armour Square in Chinatown (July 20) to Indian Boundary Park in West Rogers Park, all at 6:30 p.m. This is the easiest dance concert ever, with performances by dancers who's company seasons doesn't extend through the summer. They're outside, easy to watch and FREE (!), and you can come and go as you like. It's a great way for a family to sample some dance, and maybe it's a pretty cool first date, too. Info: DanceInTheParks.org

—**Dance for Life**, Auditorium Theatre, Aug. 17—This 28th annual fundraiser, presented by Chicago Dancer United, brings together a truly amazing range of Chicago's best dance troupes and best dancers in an always-outstanding night of dance for a great community. FYI: There also are Dance For Life events June 23 at the Baton and July 28 at Hubbard Street Dance Chicago. Buy the most expensive ticket you can afford! \$15-\$650; ChicagoDancersUnited.org

—**Chicago Dance Crash**, Lil Pine Nut, Ruth Page Center for the Arts, Aug. 23-31—This is the world premiere of a new story show—which is the current dance term for a longer piece with a narrative line—choreographed by artistic director Jessica Deahr and KC Bevis, to a heavily hip-hop recorded score. Tickets: \$25; chicagodancecrash.com

Advocate premieres homelessness doc

Community advocate Neil Karski debuted his locally produced Faces Uncovered: Shattered Lives—about Chicagoans experiencing homelessness—at an event held May 16 at Center on Halsted's Hoover-Leppen Theater.

Karski, who is founder of the local organization Street Samaritans, spent months on the film, completing it for under \$1,500.

“I ended up buying a lot of Chipotle for people,” he said during a question-and-answer session after the screening.

Karski was joined in the forum by television personality Whitney Reynolds and Hope Pavich, executive director of the community organization Care for Friends.

During the discussion, Karski and Pavich discussed the need to acknowledge the humanity of persons experiencing homelessness, who all too often feel erased by society. Karski said that he emphasized that point by repeating footage of his subject's faces.

“What I wanted to showcase was the raw story,” Karski said. “Everybody has a story.”

—*Matt Simonette*

SUMMER THEATER FEATURE

Saving precious daylight: Summer theater in Chicago



Bristol Renaissance Faire.
Photos courtesy of Mika
Snodgrass Hufford

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

The days are growing longer and the midyear solstice is only a few weeks away.

It must be time for Shakespeare-under-the-stars and pre-show picnics on the green, but as we regard all this wide-awake time we are saving, why not make a day of it? The city and environs offer plenty of opportunities for soaking up fresh air and Vitamin D in addition to iambic verse. (In light of recent summer climate conditions, however, pack a sweater and umbrella, just in case).

—**Oak Park Festival Theatre**, June 15-July 21, at Austin Gardens at 157 Forest Ave. in Oak Park: Before you seat yourself amid the giant oaks of Austin Gardens to enjoy your Trader Joe's boxed supper and BYOB adult beverages (permitted for an hour surrounding curtain rise and call) in anticipation of Wendy Robie's star turn as Elizabeth Rex, work up an appetite with a stroll past Frank Lloyd Wright's architectural treasures or pay homage to the protagonist of Pamplona at 339 Oak Park Avenue, the birthplace of Ernest Hemingway. OakParkFestival.com

—**Bristol Renaissance Faire**, July 6-Sept. 2, exit off I-94 in Kenosha, Wisconsin: The 30-acre site provides ample scenery for Game of Thrones cosplay (make sure you peace-tie those swords, though) to enhance the Elizabethan period-fantasy experience, but when the evening draws nigh, consider a side excursion to explore Kenosha's Italian community, whose cultural influence dates from the 1800s and the migration to industries linked by the Great Lakes waterways. The clubhouse of the Italian-American Society, founded in 1923, serves dinner to the public, and you can finish off your visit with a stop at Tenuta's Grocery and Cardinali's Bakery for hard-to-find foodstuffs. RenFaire.com

—**Midsommer Flight**, July 7-Aug. 24, at various locations: The city sites where this free touring company will be performing *The Tempest*, include the Chicago Women's Park and Gardens at 1801 S. Indiana Ave., only steps away from the landmark Prairie Avenue district, where you can gaze enviously upon the mansions of yesteryear's one percenters. If flora and fauna is more to your

taste than conspicuous consumption, however, you can choose one of the performances in Lincoln Park, just a short promenade away from the lakefront's open-air zoo and gardens both sheltered and sunshiny. MidsommerFlight.com

—**First Folio Shakespeare Festival**, July 13-Aug. 18, at Mayslake Peabody Estate at 31th St. and Rte. 83 in Oak Brook: The Folio will be taking next summer off for repairs and rehab on their stage in the wooded glens of Francis Stuyvesant Peabody's 1921 Tudor-revival country home in the Mayslake forest preserve, but this year, playgoers who missed the Babes With Blades' thrilling production of *Henry V* in 2017 can see Diana Coates repeat her critically acclaimed performance as the hero of *Agincourt*. FirstFolio.org

—**Chicago Shakespeare in the Parks**, July 18-Aug. 18, at various locations: Chicago Shakespeare Theater's free 75-minute production of *The Comedy of Errors* tours the urban regions from Loyola Park to the north, Columbus Park to the west, Calumet Park to the south and even ventures outside the city limits to Aurora's Riveredge Park—who said a getaway from the same-old-same-old had to involve transcontinental slogs? ChicagoShakes.com

—**Shakespeare's Motley Crew's Midsummer Madness 7**, July 19-Aug. 25, at Horner and Winnemac parks: We can be heroes just for one day when the songbook of the late David Bowie provides the agenda for this planks-and-passion company's collection of Shakespeare's Greatest Hit Singles—uh, scenes—at this annual family-focused neighborhood fair. Horner Park is situated only a few blocks from the end of the North Shore Channel Trail running from Evanston to Lincoln Square, so consider renting divvy bikes instead of fussing over parking space. SmcPlays.org

—**The World of Faeries Festival**, Aug. 3-4, at Vasa Park, 35W217 Route 31 in South Elgin: Whether your fairy fantasy runs to Oberon, Tinkerbell or Nuala, you will find like-minded revelers celebrating it with music, crafts, fire-eating, rope-walking, acrobatics, swordplay and sorcery along the shores of the picturesque Fox river. TheWorldOffaeries.com

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SUMMER THEATER FEATURE

Destination theater: Light up the skies!

BY JONATHAN ABARBANEL

Summer is when theater moves outdoors to mate with picnics, wine, sun and stars. Indeed, dozens of Midwest theaters operate only in the summer, and several are destinations all by themselves.

Theaters highlighted below all are within an easy day's drive of Chicago and near outstanding vacation attractions. The theater experience can be part of a getaway that comes with a Victorian B&B, river rafting or hiking. Theaters are listed by state: Illinois, Wisconsin, Michigan and Indiana. Prices quoted are adult single tickets (less booking fees). All theaters offer various discounts, passes and subscriptions. Theater websites are chock-full of info about dining options, accommodations and things to do. Please remember: outdoor venues may require bug spray, sunblock for matinees and something warm against the chilly night air.

Illinois

—**Illinois Shakespeare Festival**, Bloomington, June 27-Aug. 10—For its 42nd season, Illinois Shakespeare Festival (ISF) presents *As You Like It*, a media-saturated modern version of Julius Caesar (called simply Caesar) and an adaptation of Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*. Performances are outdoors at Tudoresque Ewing Manor, with lovely gardens, picnics and roving pre-show musicians. Stay two days, see three plays and enjoy Bloomington's Victorian architecture, freshly-sourced restaurants, friendly B&Bs, country antiques and tour the Beer Nuts factory. Tickets: \$20-\$55; illinoisshakes.com.

—**Little Theatre-on-the-Square**, Sullivan, June 5-Aug. 25—Founded in 1957 by the son of a farming family, the Little Theatre is the only Equity troupe between the ISF (see above) and St. Louis. Now a non-profit company, it offers musicals in classic summer stock two-week runs, among them *Million Dollar Quartet*, *The Little Mermaid*, *Newsies* and *The Full Monty*. There also are daytime shows for kids. The 420-seat indoor, air-conditioned Little Theatre fronts a real Victorian town square in Illinois Amish Country, close to Lake Shelbyville recreations and the Lincoln shrines. Tickets: \$37.50; thelittletheatre.org.

—**Timber Lake Playhouse**, Mt. Carroll, May 30-Sept. 22—Close to historic Mississippi river towns (Savannah, Galena), Mississippi Palisades State Park and Apple River Canyon State Park, Timber Lake Playhouse has offered summer stock musicals and plays since 1962 in a casual indoor pavilion with a Broadway-sized stage. The 2019 line-up features two-week runs of *Man of La Mancha*, *Into the Woods*, *Steel Magnolias* and *Newsies* among six shows in all. Tickets \$30; timberlakeplayhouse.org.

Wisconsin

—**American Players Theatre**, Spring Green, Wisconsin, June 8-Nov. 17—40th season! Ameri-

can Players Theatre (APT) is one of America's leading destination theaters, close to Frank Lloyd Wright's Taliesin, the Wisconsin River (canoeing, fishing, swimming), Tower Hill State Park and Spring Green's country charm and fine restaurants. APT's beautiful grounds offer free parking, picnic tables and gas-fired grills. Plays are in an 1100-seat outdoor amphitheater and a 200-seat indoor air conditioned space. Among the nine works for 2019 are *Twelfth Night*, *She Stoops to Conquer*, *Macbeth* and plays by August Wilson, Ibsen, Shaw and Tennessee Williams. Tickets: \$52-\$88 (discounted 20% through June 7); americanplayers.org.

—**Door Shakespeare**, Bjorklunden Estate, Baileys Harbor, Wisconsin, June 19-Aug. 24—Since 1995, Door Shakespeare has offered outdoor classics on the wooded grounds of a 400-acre former private estate on the so-called "quiet side" of Wisconsin's Door County peninsula, due north of Chicago on Lake Michigan. The grounds offer walking trails, a garden and picnicking. This season's rotating repertory is *Henry V* and *The Merry Wives of Windsor*. Tickets: \$32; doorshakespeare.com.

—**Northern Sky Theater**, Peninsula State Park, Fish Creek, Wisconsin, June 12-Aug. 24—Also in Door County, Northern Sky has offered family-friendly, 90-minute musicals since 1990. For 2019: *We Like It Where?* (about a town left off the Wisconsin state map), *Dairy Heirs* ("family farming moo-sical") and *Windjammers* (1876 setting inspired by Great Lakes sailing stories). Peninsula State Park on Green Bay has camping, hiking, biking, golf, swimming and a 1880s lighthouse. There's an entrance fee for day-trippers/campers, but it's free to enter just for the evening show. Tickets: \$22-\$30; northerskytheater.com. A Sept.-Oct. indoor season continues in nearby Ephraim, WI.

—**Peninsula Players**, Fish Creek, Wisconsin, June 18-Sept. 20—Even more Door. Since 1935, Peninsula Players (PP) has presented classic summer stock with a resident company. For 2019: *A Trick of Light* (world premiere comedy), *A Murder Is Announced* (Agatha Christie whodunit), *Ghost the Musical*, *Silent Sky* (drama) and *George Washington's Teeth* (comedy). PP is summer home for many familiar Chicago stars such as artistic director Greg Vinkler. Directly on Green Bay, PP has plenty of free parking, gardens, picnic grounds, a bar, perfect sunset views and a nightly post-show bonfire. Tickets: \$39-\$48 (2018 prices); peninsulaplayers.com.

Michigan

—**Barn Theatre**, Augusta, Michigan, June 4-Sept. 1—Classic summer stock for 73 years! The Barn—it really IS an old dairy barn—is a non-profit organization where youthful apprentices work alongside veteran Equity guest artists. For 2019: *Sweeney Todd*, *Big*, *Steel Magnolias*, *Mamma Mia* and *Evil Dead the Musical* among



Timber Lake Playhouse.
Photo from Timber Lake

eight shows in all. Also, the Barn's bar hosts a nightly post-show cabaret. *Tiny Augusta* is halfway between Kalamazoo (home of Gibson guitars) and Battlecreek (home of Kellogg's), which have the nearest decent amenities. Tickets: \$39-\$48; barntheatreschool.org.

—**Lakeside Shakespeare Company**, Frankfort, Michigan, July 23-Aug. 2—Popular Chicago actor Elizabeth Laidlaw founded this company in 2003, offering FREE summertime Shakespeare. For its 16th season, Lakeside Shakes presents a gender-switch *Two Gentlewomen of Verona* and *The Rover* (17th century swashbuckler by Aphra Benn). Performances are at Tank Hill (picnics encouraged) in Frankfort, which isn't far from Sleeping Bear Dunes National Seashore and Traverse City. Free (donations are accepted); lakesideshakespeare.org.

—**Mason Street Warehouse**, Saugatuck, Michigan, June 21-Sept. 1—For 2019, the Mason Street Warehouse (within Saugatuck Center for the Arts) presents three-week runs of *In the Heights*, *Unnecessary Farce* and *A Gentleman's Guide to Love*

and *Murder*. Twin beach towns Saugatuck and Douglas are popular holiday spots with Chicago's LGBTQ communities, boasting numerous galleries, excellent restaurants and B&Bs. Town traffic is heavy and parking is limited, so plan carefully. Tickets: \$41.50-\$57.50; masonstreetwarehouse.org.

Indiana

—**Round Barn Theatre at Amish Acres**, Napanee, Indiana, May 24-Oct. 13—This beautiful, unusual 1911 round barn is part of the much-larger Amish Acres Historic Farm & Heritage Resort (restaurants with hearty meals, lodging, shops, buggy rides, historic buildings, Amish lifestyle demonstrations). You can do the whole shot, a dinner/show combo or just see the professional production. Summer shows include *Freaky Friday* (musical), *Big River*, *Anne of Green Gables* (musical) and *Plain & Fancy*. Two more shows extend the season to Dec. 31. Tickets (show only): \$32.95; amishacres.com

Pridefest Milwaukee set for June 6-9

Pridefest Milwaukee (#Stonewall50) will take place June 6-9 at Henry W. Maier Festival Park, and this year's line-up includes Kim Petras, Greyson Chance, *Dragapalooza!* (featuring Trixie Mattel) and more than 100 LGBTQ artists on eight stages.

Some of the other highlights will include:

—Hip-hop, spoken word, stand-up comics and the best female musicians in Wisconsin at the *Wom!nz Spot Lounge & Cafe*;

—Comedy, cabaret and theatrical productions on the Rainbow Stage, including a live stage

performance of Hedwig and the Angry Inch;

—Magicians, mermaids, living statues and story hour at the Children's Stage; and

—Fitness activities at *PrideFit*, the South End Sports Zone and the *PrideFest Milwaukee Open Grass Volleyball Tournament*.

Also, *PrideFest* will present the 2nd Annual Ride with Pride—the nation's largest LGBTQ-themed motorcycle run—on Saturday, June 8, along with the 1st Annual Bicycle Pride Ride & Rally.

This year's festival theme, "RISE!" honors the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots of 1969, where LGBTQ liberation and pride started.

See PrideFest.com.

SUMMER THEATER FEATURE

Turn up the heat: Summertime LGBTQ theater

BY STAGEDOOR JONNY

We all know that a high percentage of LGBTQ folks are theatergoers, and not just the opera-and-musical-theater queens. (May they live long and prosper.)

There are opera-and-musical-theater kings as well. Whatever/whomever you are, we suspect there's something for every he/she/they among you in the following selection of theater productions over the summer months. They embrace not only who we are, but also the diversity of our many communities.

—**Steamworks: the Musical**, Annoyance Theatre, through Aug. 9 (Fridays only)—This Annoyance hit, set in the well-known Boystown bathhouse, has been revamped with new songs and characters as it tells the story of new-in-town Sweet Young Thang who thinks he'll find true love at the tubs. Well, he finds LOTS of things there! Tickets: \$24; TheAnnoyance.com

—**Falsettos**, Nederlander Theatre, May 28-June 9—The 2016 revival of this iconic gay musical makes a brief stop. James Lapine (book) helped composer William Finn shape three earlier one-act plays into this 1992 Tony Award winner about neurotic Marvin and his ex-wife Trina, his son Jason, his lover Whizzer, his psychoanalyst Mendel and his two lesbian neighbors. What, no dog? Mostly comedy, but with moments of introspection. Tickets: BroadwayInChicago.com

—**Ms. Blakk for President**, Steppenwolf Theatre, through July 12—This world premiere about our very own Ms. Joan Jett Blakk (Terence Smith) and her 1992 Presidential campaign is co-authored by award-winning writer Terrell Alvin McCraney, who also plays Ms. Blakk/Smith. Tina Landau is co-author and director in what may be the very gayest, most out and out-there work Steppenwolf ever has staged. About time, too! Tickets: \$30-\$99; Steppenwolf.org

—**Desire in a Tinier House**, Pride Films & Plays, May 30-June 29—This world premiere by Ryan Oliveira concerns lovers Trevin and Carlos and what it takes to maintain their life together now and as time passes, bridging large social and cultural differences. It's love at first sight, but that doesn't make anything easier. Topher Leon directs. Tickets: \$15-\$40; PrideFilmsAndPlays.com

—**The Second City's Salute to Pride**, The Second City, June 4-26 (Tuesday and Wednesdays only)—For Pride Month, the world HQ of improvised comedy theater offers an all-new, all-queer variety show, with Lucy Stooles hosting and all-



Tarell Alvin McCraney of *Ms. Blakk for President*. Rehearsal photo by Juli Del Prete



Max von Essen and Nick Adams in *Falsettos*. Photo by Joan Marcus

LGBTQIA+ cast directed by Mick ("Mr. Annoyance") Napier. In the UP Comedy Club (entrance at 230 W. North Ave.). Tickets: \$26 & \$36; SecondCity.com

—**Sweet Texas Reckoning**, Artemisia Theatre at The Den, June 7-30—Chicago premiere of Traci Godfrey's award-winning comedy about a Lone Star State mother, the daughter she thinks should marry her childhood sweetheart and the daughter's wife Mom doesn't know about. Artemisia artistic director Julie Proudfoot directs. Tickets: \$25; ArtemisiaTheatre.org

—**Hedwig and the Angry Inch**, Theo Ubique

Cabaret Theatre (now in Evanston), June 14-July 28—An intimate cabaret take (much like the original Off-Broadway production) on this familiar rock tale by Stephen Trask (music & lyrics) and John Cameron Mitchell (text, and the first Hedwig), with Will Lidke as Hedwig. One wonders when a trans artist will play the role. Tickets: \$39-\$69 (show only or dinner & show), \$5 discount through June 9; theo-u.com

—**The Drag Seed**, Hell in a Hand Basket at Mary's Attic, July 5-Aug. 25—This musical world premiere from David Cerda and Scott Lamberty is their definitely-unauthorized parody of *The Bad*

Seed, the 1950s melodrama (play and film) about a perfect little girl with a murderous secret. Of course, the girl now is a boy who wants to be the perfect little drag girl. Tickets: \$27 (previews are less); dragseedbrownpapertickets.com

—**20/20**, About Face Youth Ensemble at Leppen Theatre, Center on Halsted, July 12-15—The annual show by the About Face Youth Ensemble always is a scintillating and heartfelt venture. Turning the Leppen Theatre into a club atmosphere, the Youth Ensemble uses 20/20 vision to explore the last 20 years of LGBTQIA+ history. Tickets: \$20; AboutFaceTheatre.com

—**All That He Was**, Pride Films & Plays, Aug. 10-Sept. 9—Writers Cindy O'Connor and Larry Todd Cousineau have updated their award-winning 1993 AIDS-era musical, and Chicago will see it first, directed by Cousineau himself. In this unusual piece, the hero/narrator already has died of AIDS, and his circle of friends and family cannot see or hear him. People still are dying of AIDS in the United States, so *All That He Was* shouldn't be just a history lesson. Tickets: \$30-\$40; PrideFilmsAndPlays.com

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SUMMER MOVIE PREVIEW

Summertime brings out the big guns—to no one's surprise

BY JERRY NUNN

Summer is heating up at the movies and thanks to Avengers: Endgame, things are off to a good start as far as ticket sales. While the Avengers can't go back in time to really face off with Avatar in terms of theaters and pricing, this superhero fable is the highest-grossing film this year (and it's already edged Avatar domestically).

Shout! Factory is celebrating Pride month with four new releases: To Wong Foo Thanks for Everything, Julie Newmar, Jeffrey, Can't Stop the Music and Boom! There's something for everyone with new special features, including commentary by filmmaker John Waters for Boom!

Marvel Studios President Kevin Feige has said there are two openly gay characters that will be revealed soon. Will this be shown in the upcoming Spider-Man movie, or will viewers have to wait longer?

Here's a look at some upcoming summer releases in the next three months. Keep in mind all release dates are subject to change and are focused on Chicago screenings.

June

—**Papi Chulo** (June 7): Out actor Matt Bomer wrestles with his lover's death in an unpredictable tale set in Los Angeles where Bomer's character Sean hires a middle-aged migrant worker to fix more than just his deck.

—**Late Night** (June 7): A late-night talk show host hires the first and only female staff writer to change the game in Late Night. Lesbian and Golden Globe winning director Nisha Ganatra works overtime for the film that was a Sundance favorite.

—**Dark Phoenix** (June 7): After 20 years of X-Men movies, Sophie Turner plays Jean Grey who rises from the ashes to burn the team of mutants.

—**Men in Black: International** (June 14): A gender switch for one role in the latest Men in Black movie has Tessa Thompson fighting aliens alongside Chris Hemsworth.

—**The Dead Don't Die** (June 14): There sure are a lot of celebrities in the small town of Centerville with the new zombie flick, The Dead Don't Die. Selena Gomez, Chloe Sevigny and Tilda Swinton are all part of the cast trying to survive.

July

—**Spider-Man: Far from Home** (July 2): Comic fans are still recovering from Avengers: Endgame as Spider-Man swings in for more cash this summer.

—**The Lion King** (July 19): Beyonce is expected to slay at the box office in the new virtual production of The Lion King.

—**Once Upon a Time in Hollywood** (July 26): Will Quentin Tarantino depict the closeted Hol-

lywood community in his new film that stars Brad Pitt and Leonardo DiCaprio?

August

—**The New Mutants** (Aug. 2): Just add water and there's a whole new batch of X-Men ready to fight with their uncanny powers. While her Game of Thrones sister recently ruled the roost as Dark Phoenix, Maisie Williams follows that up by playing the young mutant Wolfsbane.

—**Good Boys** (Aug. 16): Seth Rogen is one of



Spider-Man: Far From Home.
Courtesy of Sony Pictures

the producers for the film Good Boys involving three six graders and a lot of raunchy humor and adult toys.

—**Brittany Runs a Marathon** (Aug. 23): Jillian

Bell plays Brittany, a woman living in New York ready to change her life. Look for a gay supporting character and plenty of jogging inspiration.

Ani DiFranco talks new memoir at Women & Children First event

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

Women & Children First hosted a reading and conversation with singer-songwriter and social justice activist Ani DiFranco focused on her new memoir, No Walls and the Recurring Dream, May 10 at Wilson Abbey.

Music critic and author of Night Moves and The First Collection of Criticism by a Living Female Rock Critic Jessica Hopper served as the event's moderator. Hopper was previously MTV News music and executive editor and Pitchfork and Rookie editor among other professional endeavors.

"We are one of the last remaining feminist bookstores in North America," said Women & Children First Co-owner Sarah Hollenbeck.

Hollenbeck explained that an audio recording will be available on the bookstore website for those who could not attend this sold-out event. She spoke about what DiFranco has meant to her as well as her achievements over her 30 year career including selling 5.5 million albums through her own Righteous Babe label and the release of her 20th album.

Comedian, author and bitches gotta eat blogger Samantha Irby came to the stage as a surprise guest to speak about why DiFranco's work inspired her and how she encountered her music for the first time as a young person.

"The queer in her saw the queer in me," said Irby.

DiFranco received a standing ovation and rapturous applause as she took the stage.

Due to the state of reproductive rights/freedom being under attack across the country, DiFranco chose to read from the reproductive system section of her book that includes her first relationship when she was a teenager and he was an adult, her visit to the Buffalo, New

Ani DiFranco (left) with Jessica Hopper.
Photo by Rebecca Russell



York Planned Parenthood to be put on the pill so she would not get pregnant, going off the pill because her health was being compromised and the pregnancy at age 18 that resulted from that decision and getting an abortion and the relief she felt afterward because she could keep working as an artist.

Hopper opened the conversation by talking about how DiFranco's work is steeped in truth-telling and asked how that helped her write the book.

DiFranco said on the first day she went into the studio to record the audio book panic set in because it finally became real to her. She explained that when she was writing the book she would, like she has done with her songs, "pretend no one was listening long enough to say the real shit" about her life.

The conversation delved into DiFranco's writing process with Hopper asking whether she had a rubric for what would be included in the book, how she handled revising and if she was surprised with the person she saw on the page.

DiFranco spoke about the outline/proposal she wrote for the publisher which she cannot remember any details.

"When I sat down to write I was just winging it like I always do, spleen forward process with as little thinking as possible," said DiFranco.

She said the process was "completely intuitive and a random feeling."

During the revising stage, DiFranco explained that the thing she was the most surprised with was the level of survival that has been threaded through her life because she always thought of her journey as an invincible girl who traverses the world.

"In looking at my story, it was all about self-defense," said DiFranco.

In terms of how DiFranco wrote the book, she said it was "totally haphazard" and mostly done at her kitchen table over a two year period.

"It was the most comfortable place for me and where I could stay in touch with my kids, stir the thing, answer the email and steal little moments to write the book," said DiFranco.

Revisiting parts of her earlier life led to "moments of great trepidation" because the remembering process is hard for her.

DiFranco also talked about how having her kids has changed the way she navigates through life because being a parent is a big responsibility; however, she said living in fear is still intolerable for her because it makes her angry. She said she strikes a balance between these two ways of being these days.

Hopper asked if any other people's memoirs were helpful.

DiFranco singled out Miles Davis' which she called intense and Dr. Willie Parker's Life's Work: A Moral Argument for Choice which "shed the final vestiges of someone else's voice and allowed me to write my book in my own voice."

During the Q&A session, DiFranco was asked about the Prison Music Project she has been working on with collaborator Zoe Boekbinder.

DiFranco explained that the songs, poems and raps were written by men in prison (many of them serving life sentences) and most are sung by women. She said it will be released sometime later this year.

Hollenbeck told Windy City Times that they have many signed copies of DiFranco's book available for purchase.

Jake Shears, Sheila E., Steve Grand part of 2019 Market Days lineup

CHICAGO—The Northalsted Business Alliance (NBA) brings the beats to Boystown for this year's Northalsted Market Days, set for Aug. 10-11. The fest returns with five stages of non-stop entertainment, shopping, food and more.

Music icon Shelia E., Jake Shears, Steve Grand, Deborah Cox and Brian Justin Crum (America's Got Talent) are among the popular acts slated to perform. Popular local and national acts complete the line-up.

Formed in 1980, NBA represents more than 100 businesses along the Halsted Street corridor. The organization hosts major events throughout the year including Chicago Pride Fest, Northalsted Market Days and the Halloween Parade. For information about NBA visit Northalsted.com.

Here is the slate of performers:

Saturday, Aug. 10:

Addison North Stage

2-3 p.m.: Shelia E.
4:45-6 p.m.: Deborah Cox
9 p.m.-9:45 p.m.: Jake Shears

Nissan Partners of Progress (Roscoe)

1:15-2:45 p.m.: ABBA Salute
3:15 p.m.-4:15 p.m.: Emily Blue
5-5:45 p.m.: Steve Grand
6:15-8 p.m.: Hello Weekend
8:30-10 p.m.: Cat Fight

Aldine Jazz Stage

1-2:30 p.m.: Molly Farrelly
3-4:30 p.m.: BMR4
5-6:30 p.m.: Meghan "Big Red" Murphy
7-9 p.m.: Feathered Beaus

Sunday, Aug 11:

Addison North Stage

2-2:45 p.m.: Daya
4-4:45 p.m.: Cupcakke
9-10 p.m.: Icona Pop

Nissan Partners of Progress (Roscoe)

1-2 p.m.: Chicago Gay Men's Chorus
2:30 p.m.-3:45 p.m.: ABBA Salute
4:15 p.m.-5 p.m.: Brian Justin Crum
5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.: Rod Tuffcurls
8 p.m.-9:45 p.m.: 16 Candles

Aldine Jazz Stage

1-2:30 p.m.: Kiki & D
3-4:30 p.m.: The Flat Cats
5-6:30 p.m.: Elaine Dame
7-9 p.m.: Lynne Jordan & The Shivers

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BOOK REVIEW Gender Identity: Beyond Pronouns and Bathrooms

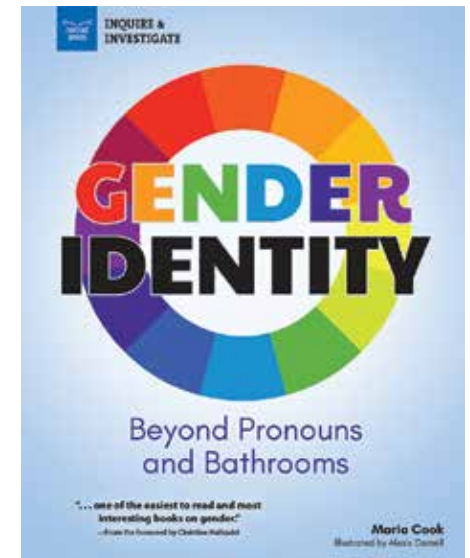
by Maria Cook
\$22.95; Nomad
Press; 128 pages

REVIEW BY LAUREN EMILY WHALEN

What exactly is gender? How does one determine pronouns, for themselves and others? And why, exactly, is the bathroom debate such a big deal?

Nomad Press is an educational publisher specializing in books aimed at school-age children, and features free materials for teachers on their website, nomadpress.net. From robotics to feminism to Vietnam, nothing is off-limits. The publisher encourages kids of all ages to seek information and ask questions, both on their own and with the aid of parents and educators.

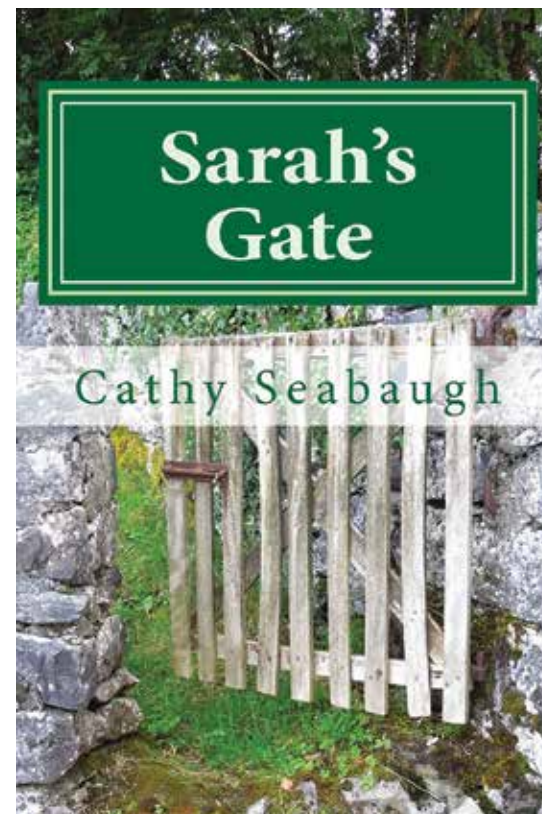
Gender Identity: Beyond Pronouns and Bathrooms is their latest offering, out everywhere April 16. Ostensibly for ages 12-15, the book is a colorful illustrated primer outlining everything from the life of Lili Elbe to the Compton Cafeteria Riots, up to the rise of transgender celebrities like Laverne Cox. Though 15-year-olds may find the tone a bit immature, Gender Identity is a gentle but thorough resource for younger readers looking to define their own identities or understand others, and for adults who want an easy-to-



follow guide to transgender history.

Remember the social studies and history textbooks of the 1980s and '90s, with bite-sized paragraphs, colorful graphics and a glossary at the end? Author Cook uses this accessible model throughout seven chapters, outlining the history of transgender identity and advocacy while highlighting important facts and figures. Adult readers may be surprised at some of the information: for example, it was only last year that the World Health Organization declared gender dysphoria a sexual health condition, as opposed to a mental

Turn to page 45



Cate McGuire's life in Chicago was fulfilling, successful and nearly all she ever dreamed for herself.

Big-city journalist from a small, rural community, she felt like an integral part of the world, a contributor to society. Her beautiful life partner was igniting change through the public school system. They were happy. Life was good. Cate learns she does not always get to write the story the way she wants it to go.

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JUNE (various dates, to be announced)

- **CENTER ON HALSTED** - During Pride Month, the Center will feature a variety of different LGBTQ+ events. 3656 N. Halsted St. in Chicago. www.centeronhalsted.org

JUNE (various dates, to be announced)

- **GERBER/HART LIBRARY and ARCHIVES** - During Pride Month, the library will host several events and displays, including one display that contains all the Pride pins (buttons) since the first parade in celebration in 1970. The pins are being provided by the library and PRIDEChicago (parade coordinators). 6500 N. Clark St. in Chicago. www.gerberhart.org

JUNE (various dates, to be announced)

- **WOMEN & CHILDREN FIRST BOOKS** - During Pride Month the bookstore will host various events. 5233 N. Clark St. in Chicago. www.womenandchildrenfirst.com

JUNE (various dates, to be announced)

- **CHICAGO PUBLIC LIBRARY** - During Pride Month, the library will host various events at the main library and branches throughout Chicago. www.chipublib.org/events

JUNE (various dates, to be announced)

- **CHICAGO COALITION OF WELCOMING CHURCHES** - During Pride Month, the coalition and some of their member churches will sponsor church services and various other events at numerous locations in the metro Chicago area. www.chicagowelcomingchurches.org

JUNE 1 - NORTH SHORE PRIDE

FEST - 7th annual event in downtown Highwood, Illinois, by Celebrate

Highwood. A benefit for the LGBTQ North Shore School District 113 Spectrum Club. The full day of activities will feature a Pride Family Picnic, Family-Friendly Drag Show and Taste the Rainbow (adult-only pub crawl) that includes pubs and restaurants. www.CelebrateHighwood.org

JUNE 1 - EXHIBIT

- "About Face: Stonewall, Revolt and New Queer Art" will feature historical and contemporary works by international artists that, viewed together, provide a nuanced picture of the evolving meaning of queerness. Location: Wrightwood 659 at 659 W. Wrightwood Ave. in Chicago. Wrightwood 659 is hailing the Stonewall Rebellion—which spurred the modern-day LGBTQ- rights movement—with a major exhibition marking the 50th anniversary of that historic event. (Exhibit will run May 22 - July 20). Curator is Jonathan David Katz, Ph.D, visiting professor, Gender, Sexuality & Women's Studies, University of Pennsylvania and Chair, Doctoral Program in Visual Studies, University at Buffalo. Tickets: online only, starting May 13, and may be purchased for \$20 throughout the run of exhibition. A limited number of free tickets are released each Monday for the current week. Walk-ins are not accommodated. Tickets: www.wrightwood659.org/events

JUNE 1 - EXHIBIT OPENING

- "Out of the Closets and into the Streets: Power, Pride & Resistance in Chicago's Gay Liberation Movement" by/at Gerber/Hart Library and Archives, 6500 N. Clark in Chicago. 7 PM. Opening tickets start at \$15. Drinks and desserts will be served. (After opening night, the exhibit will run through Sept. 19 for free). The exhibit will trace the Gay Liberation Movement's presence in Chicago from its beginnings

in the late 1960s to the Anita Bryant protest in 1977. Opening night will feature remarks by Gary Chichester, co-founder of the gay liberation group, the Chicago Gay Alliance, and the exhibit's curators. www.gerberhart.org info@gerberhart.org

JUNE 1 - OUTING

- by Chicago Prime Timers to meet for lunch at Old Town Ale House, then visit the Old Town Art Fair or Old Town Garde Walk. Noon. All welcome. www.ChicagoPrimeTimers.org

JUNE 2 - BUFFALO GROVE INAUGURAL ILLINOIS PRIDE PARADE (& FESTIVAL)

- 1st Pride Parade for Buffalo Grove, Illinois. Coordinated by Pinta Pride Project, an organization formed by Molly Pinta, a 12-year-old LGBTQ youth with help from her friends and family. Molly attended last year's first Aurora Pride Parade and was so impressed that she wanted to coordinate a parade for her town, too. The parade will feature more than 80 organizations with floats, walkers, trolleys, etc. 10 AM to Noon. A post-parade Festival will take place at noon in Mike Ryalko Park featuring entertainment, food trucks, drag entertainment, a D.J., a beer & wine tent, vendors, etc. www.pintaproject.com

JUNE 2 - EQUALITY ILLINOIS

PRIDE EVENT - at Venue West, 221 N. Paulina in Chicago. 11 AM to 1 PM. \$35 supports the LGBTQ Civil Rights work of Equality Illinois. The event includes a guest speaker, brunch stations, coffee, Bloody Marys, mimosa bars and entertainment. www.equalityillinois.us/events/2019-pride-kickoff-brunch

JUNE 2 - TELEVISION SHOW

- "The Day it Snowed in Miami" 5 PM on

channel 11.2 WTTW Prime. The Dade County/Anita Bryant issues in Miami in the 1970s that affected the gay movement at that time and for years after. (Repeated twice on June 12) For exact times go to www.wttw.com/programs

JUNE 2 - TELEVISION SHOW

- "Penny: Champion of the Marginalized" 6:30 PM on channel 11.2 WTTW HD. This documentary deals with the life of Penny Cooper, a celebrated criminal defense attorney, art collector supporter of female artists and protector of the underdog. (Repeated twice on June 12) For exact times go to www.wttw.com/programs

JUNE 4 - BUSINESS EXPO

- "Chicago Pride Business Expo" hosted by the LGBT Chamber of Commerce of Illinois and the Mid-America Club at The Mid-America Club, 200 E. Roosevelt Rd. in Chicago. 5:30-7:30 PM. To register as a vendor and for more information: www.LGBTCC.com

JUNE 4 - TELEVISION SHOW

- "Stonewall Uprising" 7:30 PM on channel 11.1 WTTW HD. When police raided the Stonewall Inn, a popular gay bar in NYC on June 28, 1969, the street erupted into violent protests that lasted for the next six days. The Stonewall riots, as they came to be known, marked a major turning point in the modern gay civil-rights movement in the U.S. and around the world. (Repeated at 11 PM). www.wttw.com/programs

JUNE 6 - TELEVISION SHOW

- "Vicious" 6 PM and 6:30 PM on channel 11.1 WTTW Prime every Thursday in June. Elder gay couple and their friends. (Repeated at 11 PM on June 6 & June 9 at 5:30 PM.) www.wttw.com/programs

JUNE 8 - MOKENA PRIDE FEST - 2nd annual event hosted by Instill Pride and Southwest Suburban Activists organizations at Yunker Farm in Mokena, Illinois. Noon to 8 PM. The festival includes live entertainment, LGBTQ+ speakers, drag performers and shows, food vendors and trucks, children games play area, local arts and crafts, etc. www.instillpride.org or www.facebook.com/instillpridechicago; instillpridechicago@gmail.com

JUNE 8 - OUTING - by Chicago Prime Timers to see "Six" musical at Chicago Shakespeare Theatre, Navy Pier. 6 PM. All welcome. www.ChicagoPrimeTimers.org

JUNE 8 - OPALGA'S DONUT DAY - Volunteer with Oak Park Lesbian and Gay Association (OPALGA) and PFLAG to make and sell donuts at Oak Park farmer's market as a fundraiser for OPALGA's scholarship fund. 3:30 AM to 1:30 PM. Location provided upon registration. www.opalga.org Sign up and information : seangus67@gmail.com (Steve Angus).

JUNE 8 - STORY TIME - with Drag Queens at Women & Children First Books, 5233 N. Clark in Chicago. 11:30 AM. For more information: www.womenandchildrenfirst.com wcfbooks@gmail.com 773-769-9299.

JUNE 9 - AURORA PRIDE PARADE - 2nd annual parade coordinated by Indivisible Aurora. Noon. www.aurorapride.org or facebook.com/aurorailpridefestival/

JUNE 9 - OPEN SOCIAL/BUFFET DINNER - by Chicago Prime Timers at Ann Sather restaurant, 909 W. Belmont in Chicago. 6 PM. All welcome. \$20.00. www.ChicagoPrimeTimers.org

JUNE 9 - BOLINGBROOK PRIDE COMMUNITY PICNIC - 2nd annual event hosted by Bolingbrook Pride. Noon to 6 PM at James S. Boan Woods. Picnic includes puppy rescue/animal adoption, LGBTQ resource tent, LGBTQ story telling, art activities, library bus, Mom/Dad/Clergy Hug tent. Family friendly activities. Food and alcohol available for purchase.

JUNE 9 - LGBTQ FAMILY PICNIC DAY - at Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted St. in Chicago. Noon to 5 PM. \$15 per family. RSVP. www.centeronhalsted.org

JUNE 9 - PRIDE MOVIE NIGHT - "Signature Move" directed by Jennifer Reeder at Gallagher Way (next to Wrigley Field), 3635 N. Clark St. in Chicago. Gates open at 6 PM. Movie starts at 7 PM. Free admission. Guests encouraged to bring take-out food from Gallagher Way restaurants. NO outside alcoholic beverages permitted. Beer, wine, non-alcoholic beverages, candy, popcorn and other snacks are for sale in the park. Guests are welcome to bring blankets if they prefer to lay on the grass. Full Spectrum Films developed four distinct themed movie nights to highlight producers, writers, directors and actors with ties to Chicago minority filmmakers and highlights themes not typically seen on the big screen. (To be presented once a month at Gallagher Way, including: July 8: Women in Film Night; Aug.12: Chicagoland Shorts Night; Sept. 9: LatinX Shorts Night). www.Gallagherway.com; info@gallagherway.com; 773-388-8260.

JUNE 9 - WOODSTOCK PRIDE - 10 AM to 5PM includes a festival in Historic Woodstock Square and a parade. www.facebook.com/woodstockpride or www.woodstockilchamber.com/events/register/9647; WoodstockPride@gmail.com

JUNE 10 - PRIDE OPEN MIC - Annual event hosted by Sappho's Salon at Women & Children First Books, 5233 N. Clark St. in Chicago. 7-9:30 PM. For more Information about cost, featured performers, food/drink, open mic requirements, etc. www.womenandchildrenfirst.com; wcfbooks@gmail.com; 773-769-9299.

JUNE 12 - DISCUSSION - "Quiet as a Riot" by the Chicago History Museum. One of their "OUT at CHM" events. 6:30 PM. Admission: \$20/\$15 for members and students. Details of event will be forthcoming. www.ChicagoHistory.org

JUNE 12 - CORONATION - "Coronation of the Cacique King & Cacia Queen of the Puerto Rican

People's Parade 2019" coordinated by the Puerto Rican Cultural Center-Vida/SIDA at the Baton, 4713 N. Broadway in Chicago. Information: Ricardo Jimenez at ricardoj@prcc-chicago.org; 773-698-7438.

JUNE 12 - GATHERING - "Gay Women's Gathering: An Evening on Lesbian Pregnancy" sponsored by the Family Equality Council at Women & Children First Books, 5233 N. Clark St. in Chicago. For more information: www.womenandchildrenfirst.com; wcfbooks@gmail.com; 773-769-9299.

JUNE 14 - TELEVISION SHOW - "Terrence McNally: American Masters" 10 PM on channel 11.1 WTTW HD. Explore four-time Tony-winning playwright Terrence McNally's six groundbreaking decades in theater. The film delves into McNally's pursuit of love and inspiration, LGBTQ activism, triumph over addiction and the power of the arts to transform society. (Repeated June 19 at 3 AM). www.wttw.com/programs

JUNE 15 - BBQ - "Flag Day Beer Bust & BBQ"- Annual fundraiser for American Veterans for Equal Rights (AVER) at Replay Bar, 3439 N. Halsted St. in Chicago. 3-7 PM. \$10. www.averchicago.org; jamesdarby@aol.com; 773-752-0058

JUNE 15 - EXHIBITION OPEN HOUSE - A free exhibition open house at/by Gerber/Hart Library and Archives, 6500 N. Clark St. in Chicago. 11 AM to 3 PM. Exhibits will include: "Out of the Closets and into the Streets: Power, Pride & Resistance in Chicago's Gay Liberation Movement," "Gay is Good: Homophile Activism before Stonewall," "SportsDykes & GirlJocks" and "LGBTQ Slogan and Pride Parade Pins." Additional one-day exhibits for the open house will include an exhibit of large and oversize items and an interactive exhibit of publications from Special Collections (items going back to the 1950s that you can pick up and look through. www.gerberhart.org; info@gerberhart.org

JUNE 15 - OUTING - by Chicago Prime Timers at Johnny's Beef and Gyros dinner at 5:30 PM, followed by a trip

over to Windy City Gay Chorus concert at DePaul Center at 7 PM. All welcome. www.ChicagoPrimeTimers.org

JUNE 15 - LGBTQIA PRIDE STORY TELLING SHOW - "You're Being Ridiculous" at Women & Children First Bookstore, 5233 N. Clark St. in Chicago. 7 PM doors open; 7:30 PM show starts, \$10 suggested donation. For more information: www.womenandchildrenfirst.com; wcfbooks@gmail.com; 773-769-9299.

JUNE 15 - PARTY - "Pride on the Fox" Second Annual Pride celebration at Bleuroot, 98 W. Main St. in West Dundee, Ill., for drinks and dancing. 8 PM. www.facebook.com/prideonthefox

JUNE 15 - PRIDE BRUNCH - "50 and Forward in Solidarity and Strength" by the Chicago Coalition of Welcoming Churches (CCWC) at Grace Lutheran Church, 1430 South Blvd. in Evanston. 10 AM to Noon. Free; donations welcome. Consisting of 80+ Open and Affirming congregations in the Chicagoland area, the CCWC will hold a (light) brunch to celebrate Pride Month and provide an opportunity for celebrating our past and joining together to build a stronger, more inclusive future. www.chicagowelcomingchurches.org; info@chicagowelcomingchurches.org

JUNE 15 - PRIDE CHORAL CONCERT - "Colors of Us" by the Windy City Gay Chorus and Windy City Treble Quire at Gannon Concert Hall of DePaul University, 2330 N. Halsted in Chicago. 7 PM. Songs of inspiration are more important now than ever. The choruses will perform an eclectic variety of songs, that will touch and inspire, reassuring the audience of their cherished place in the community and giving the audience hope to face the challenges before them. Tickets: Advance from DePaul Ticketing office; \$35 reserved seating, \$20 general admission. At the door: \$25 general admission; \$15 seniors 65+; \$10 students w/ID and young people 6-17, free for children (5 and under). www.windycitysings.org

JUNE 15 - PRIDE CONCERT - "We Sing What Sparkles" Choral concert by the Artemis Singers, Chicago's Lesbian Feminist Chorus. Location: First Unitarian Church, 5650 S. Woodlawn in Chicago. 7-10 PM. Cost: Donation (sliding scale): \$20 in advance; \$25 at door. Seniors/students/children 12 and younger: \$15. 773-764-4465; info@artemissingers.org; www.artemissingers.org

JUNE 16 - OUTING - by Chicago Prime Timers to see Cirque du Soleil's Volta under the big top at Soldier Field Parking Lot. All welcome. 1:30 PM. www.ChicagoPrimeTimers.org

JUNE 16 - CABARET SHOW - "Mad About the Boy" - A Celebration of Sir Noel Coward with Robert Rodi at the Pride Arts Center, 4139 N. Broadway in Chicago. 6:30 PM. For the 50th anniversary of Noel Coward's knighthood, Rodi looks back at the extraordinary career, trailblazing style, enduring influence, "...and above all his songs that rival Cole Porter's for emotional range and irresistible melody." Featuring "Mad Dogs and Englishmen," "A Room with A View," "If Love Were All," and many others. He's joined by Julian Chin on piano and Matt Gold on bass. https://allevents.in/chicago/mad-about-the-boy-with-Robert-Rodi-/200016899080228

JUNE 16 - TELEVISION - Independent Lens # 1820- "Real Boy" at 6 PM on 11.2 WTTW Prime. This is a moving and interesting story of a family in transition that follows the transition of trans teen Bennett as he navigates adolescence, sobriety and the physical and emotional ramifications of his changing gender identity. Through the process, his mother Suzy makes her own transformation, traveling a difficult road toward accepting that the daughter she raised as Rachael is now her son Bennett. Filmed over four years, "Real Boy" is a love story about a mother and son who rediscover connection with each other and find support from their communities. (The show will be re-aired June 21 at 10 PM on WTTW HD). www.wttw.com/programs

JUNE 18 - WORKSHOP - "What Do You Want To Be When You Grow Up?" Maybe you aren't sure what your

dream job is. This workshop could help you identify your special skills and define your new direction, allowing you freedom to explore. Facilitated by Judi Lansky of Lansky Career Consultants. Loop location. 6:30-8:30 PM. Reservations required, NO COST. www.lanskycareerconsultants.com; jlansky@lanskycareerconsultants.com; 312-494-0022

JUNE 18 - TELEVISION SHOW - "The Lavender Scare" 9 PM on channel 11.1 WTTW HD. This show delves into the firing of thousands of federal workers in the 1950s that stirred outrage in the gay community. (Repeated on June 19 at 7 AM & 3:30 PM on WTTW Prime and June 20 at 1:30 AM & June 22 at 3:30 AM, both on WTTW HD). www.wttw.com/programs

JUNE 19 - PAPERBACK LAUNCH PARTY - "Tinderbox: The Untold Story of the Upstairs Lounge Fire and Rise of Gay Liberation" by Robert W. Fieseler at Women & Children First Books, 5233 N. Clark St. in Chicago. 7 PM. For more information: www.womenandchildrenfirstbooks.com; wcfbooks@gmail.com; 773-769-9299.

JUNE 19 - TRANS COMMUNITY ICE CREAM SOCIAL - 4th Annual event on Center on Halsted's rooftop deck, 3656 N. Halsted St. in Chicago. 5:30-7:30 PM. Join Chicagoland's trans community and celebrate Pride Month, meet new friends, listen to live music from Lakeside Pride and enjoy complimentary ice cream. FREE; no RSVP required. www.centeronhalsted.org

JUNE 19 - OUTING - by Chicago Prime Timers to see "Ms. Blakk for President" at Steppenwolf Theatre. Beverages afterward at the theatre cafe and nearby gay bar. All welcome. www.ChicagoPrimeTimers.org

JUNE 20 - TELEVISION SHOW - "Coming Out: A 50-Year History" 8 PM 11.1 WTTW HD. Transgender teen Jazz Jennings narrates this one-hour documentary exploring the exploring the history of public gay identity in the LGBTQ+ community, from the '50s through today. This show is repeated on June 23 at 6 PM on 11.2 WTTW Prime). www.wttw.com/programs

JUNE 20 - TELEVISION SHOW - "Out & Proud in Chicago" 9 PM on 11.1 WTTW HD. Encore presentation of the critically acclaimed show filmed several years ago featuring historical coverage of LGBTs in Chicago. Narrated by Jane Lynch. www.wttw.com/programs

JUNE 21 - SENIOR PRIDE PARTY - at The Breakers at Edgewater, 5333 N. Sheridan Rd., 3rd Floor, in Chicago. 2-3:30 PM. Entertainment, appetizers, drink. FREE. www.seniorlifestyle.com/property/the-breakers-at-edgewater-beach douano@seniorlifestyle.com

JUNE 22 - CHICAGO PRIDE FEST - A street festival with vendors and entertainment by the Northalsted Business Alliance (NBA). 11 AM to 10 PM. Location: Halsted (from Addison to Grace) in Chicago. \$10 suggested donation, all ages. Two-day festival continues on June 23. For updated information: www.northalsted.com

JUNE 22 - THEATRE/SOLO PERFORMANCE - "You Only Live Once More: Pride Spectacular" (4th Annual) by Solo Crowd at The Frontier, 1106 W. Thorndale Ave. in Chicago. 11 PM (doors open: 10:45 PM). FREE: BYOB. Solo Crowd returns with their LGBTQIA+ pride-themed installment of their bi-monthly salon, where a dozen performers, writers and artists create autobiographical solo performances. We are us, we are you, and there is no fourth wall, so come live with us once more! www.facebook.com/SoloCrowdChicago; SoloCrowdChicago@gmail.com

JUNE 23 - CABARET - "50 Years of Pride—A Cabaret" at the Pride Arts Center, 4139 N. Broadway in Chicago. https://allevents.in/org/pride-films-and-plays/2609752

JUNE 23 - CHICAGO PRIDE FEST - A street festival with vendors and entertainment by the Northalsted Business Alliance (NBA). 11 AM to 10 PM. Location: Halsted (from Addison to Grace) in Chicago. \$10 suggested donation, all ages. Updated information: www.northalsted.com

JUNE 23 - TELEVISION SHOW - "Man in the Orange Shirt" on Masterpiece at 9:30 PM on channel 11.1 WTTW HD.

Two love stories—sixty years apart—chart the changes and challenges in gay lives in England, from the era of jail terms to the onset of dating apps. (Repeated on June 25 at 2:30 AM). www.wttw.com/programs

JUNE 24 - TELEVISION SHOW - POV: "Gospel of Eureka" 10 PM on 11.1 WTTW HD. (No information on this Point of View program on WTTW.com/programs).

JUNE 25 - VETERANS SALUTE - "Salute to LGBT Veterans" by the American Veterans for Equal Rights (AVER) at Daley Plaza, 50 W. Washington at Clark in Chicago. Noon to 1 PM. 773-752-0058. No cost. Public is invited. JamesDarby@aol.com; www.averchicago.org

JUNE 26 - AWARDS CEREMONY - "30 Under 30 Awards" by Windy City Times (WCT). Reception: 5:30 PM; Program: 6-7:30 PM. The awards honor 30 outstanding young (under 30 years old) LGBTQ+ individuals and allies who have made substantial contributions to the Chicagoland LGBTQ+ communities. WCT Managing Editor Matt Simonette coordinates the awards program for the paper. Polo Cafe, 3322 S. Morgan St. Information: matt@windycitytimes.com

JUNE 27 - DISCUSSION - "Tell Me About It" authors Sukie de la Croix and Owen Keehnen discuss their new oral history book, "Tell Me About It: LGBTQ Secrets, Confessions and Life Stories" 6:30 PM. Gerber Hart Library & Archives, 6500 N Clark St. in Chicago. www.gerberhart.org

JUNE 28 - FESTIVAL - "Chicago is a Drag Festival" with RuPaul's Drag Race winner Raja and Tiffany Pollard, plus a wide variety of performers at Cheetah Gym parking lot, 5248 N. Clark in Chicago. 4-11 PM. www.chicagoisadrag.com

JUNE 28 - OUTDOOR WOMEN'S MUSIC & ENTERTAINMENT FESTIVAL - "Backlot Bash 2019". Location: 5238 N. Clark in Chicago (behind Cheetah Gym). The 16th Annual festival continues on June 29 and June 30. More information: backlotbash@yahoo.com; www.backlotbashchicago.com

JUNE 28 - PRIDE CELEBRATION
- Annual Pride celebration by the Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted St. in Chicago. Noon. 773-472-6469; mail@centeronhalsted.org; www.centeronhalsted.org

JUNE 28 (& 29) - SHOW - "(P)ride (C)omedy (P)arty - Pt.2" by GayCo Productions at Playground Theatre, 3209 N. Halsted St. in Chicago. 10 PM. Cost: \$15. www.gayco.com

JUNE 28 - TELEVISION SHOW - "Lorraine Hansberry: Sighted Eyes/Feeling Heart" on American Masters. 9 PM on channel 11.1 WTTW HD. The first black woman to author a play on Broadway, the award-winning Raisin in the Sun. The documentary is the first in-depth presentation of Hansberry's complex life, using her personal archives, including home movies and rare photos as source materials. The film explores the influences that shaped her childhood, future art and activism. It also shows her lifetime commitment to fighting injustice and explores her concealed identity as a lesbian and the themes of sexual orientation and societal norms in her works. (Repeated on June 30 at 2 AM.) For other showings go to www.wttw.com/programs

JUNE 29 - DYKE MARCH CHICAGO
- Annual event. For more information: www.facebook.com/dykemarchchicago

JUNE 29 - JOLIET PRIDE FEST - at Bicentennial Park, 201 W. Jefferson, in Joliet, IL, Noon - 4pm. Food, music, vendors. Family-friendly. www.jolietpridefest.org

JUNE 29 - RUN & WALK - "Proud To Run"- 38th Annual event includes 5K and 10K and half-marathon. The half-marathon is at 7 AM; the 10K and 5K at 8 AM from Montrose Harbor. Benefit for community organizations including About Face Theatre, Gender Cool Project, H.O.M.E. (Housing Opportunities and Maintenance For the Elderly) and the LGBT Chamber of Commerce. The event is presented in association with Frontrunners/Frontwalkers Chicago. For fees, exact location and registration information: www.proudtorun.org or www.frontrunnerschicago.com/proud-to-run/

JUNE 29 - NAVY PIER PRIDE - "Navy Pier's 4th Annual Pier Pride" at 600 E. Grand in Chicago. Noon. Performers, booths, etc. to be announced. Presented by American Airlines. This all-day event will feature family-friendly activities in honor of the LGBTQ+ communities. More information to be announced. www.navy pier.org/event/pier-pride/

JUNE 29 - FEST - Pride in the Park Chicago. Coordinated by Dreambrite (Dusty Carpenter, a manager at D.S.Tequila Company on Halsted Street heads the group). Location: Grant Park at Butler Field. Includes entertainers and food vendor. Time: 1-10 PM. General

admission: Tickets will start at \$50 and VIP tickets start at \$100. Kids under 11 will be admitted without a ticket, but must be accompanied by a ticket holding adult, with a limit of two kids per adult. A portion of all ticket sales to Pride in the Park Chicago will be donated to the Center on Halsted. Additional contributions will be made to Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago and Stonewall Sports Chicago, who will be donating their time working at the festival. For more information: www.prideintheparkchicago.com

JUNE 30 - FESTIVAL - "Pride North"- live entertainment, dance floors, DJs, food and drinks for purchase, etc. Day one of two-day festival. Location: Glenwood Ave. between Morse and Lunt in Chicago. Right off the Morse stop on the CTA Red Line. www.pridenorth.com; www.facebook.com/pridenorth626

JUNE 29 - OUTDOOR WOMEN'S MUSIC & ENTERTAINMENT FESTIVAL - "Backlot Bash 2019." Location: 5238 N. Clark in Chicago (behind Cheetah Gym). The 16th Annual festival continues on June 30. More information: backlotbash@yahoo.com www.backlotbashchicago.com

JUNE 30 - PRIDE PARADE - Chicago 50th Annual Pride Parade coordinated by PRIDEChicago group. Noon. 773-348-8243; PrideChgo@aol.com; www.ChicagoPrideCalendar.org

JUNE 30 - PARADE COVERAGE ON TELEVISION - Every year ABC-7 Chicago tapes a portion of the Pride

Parade for airing later on parade day. For more information: https://abc7chicago.com

JUNE 30 - OUTDOOR WOMEN'S MUSIC & ENTERTAINMENT FESTIVAL - "Backlot Bash 2019." Location: 5238 N Clark in Chicago (behind Cheetah Gym). More information: backlotbash@yahoo.com; www.backlotbashchicago.com

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JUNE 30 - WRESTLING MATCHES - "Rise—Pride & Joy" - A Pro-Wrestling Celebration of Pride! presented by Pro-Wrestling Tees at Logan Square Auditorium, 2539 N. Kedzie Blvd., in Chicago. 5-8:30 PM. Must be 21 yrs. old+; \$20./\$60. Event features men vs. men, women vs. women and intergender matches. http://risedtwa.ticketleap.com

JUNE 30 - CHICAGO BLACK PRIDE - There will be various events starting this week for the LGBTQ+ Black communities and allies. www.windycityblackpride.info or www.facebook.com/events/2263449637270256 ; 404-246-9000.

Chicago Pride 2019



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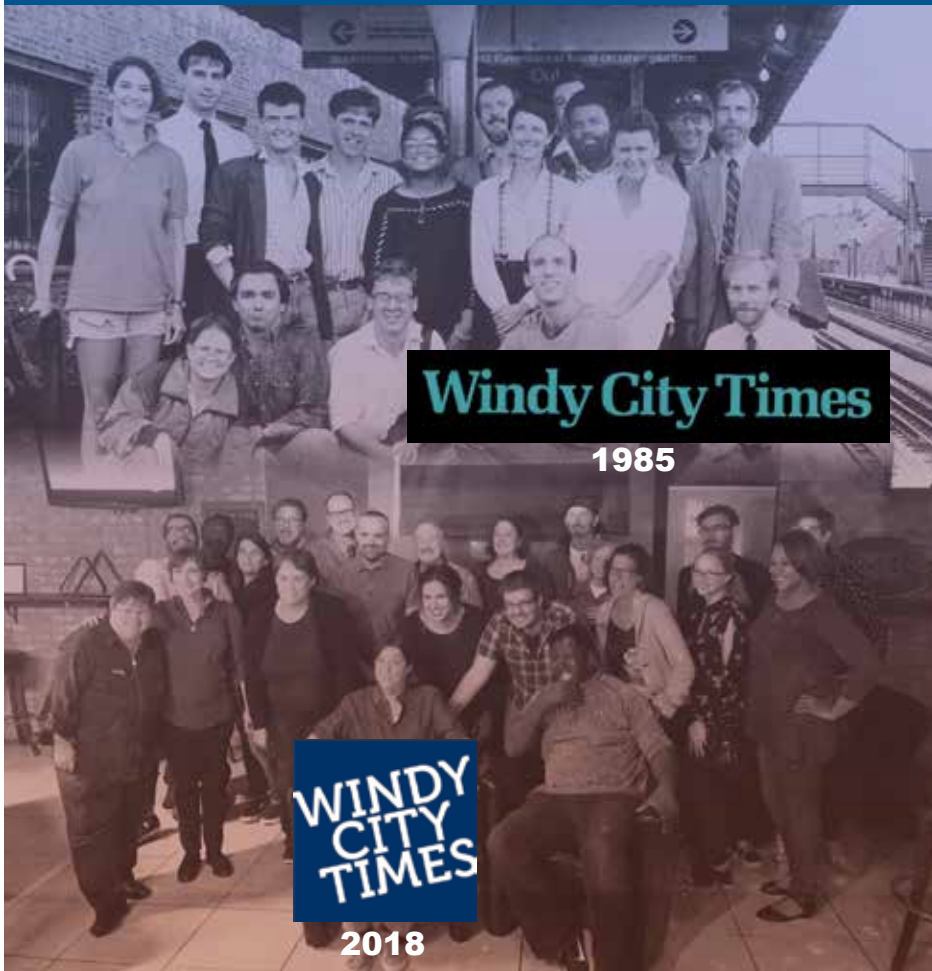
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EVENTS CALENDAR

Wednesday, May 22

Best of Chicago Welcome Party

Hosted by Mr. Chicago Leather 2019 Saber Onyx. 9 p.m., Touche, 6412 N. Clark St.

Incoming Dance Party w/ DJ Jerry. A welcome party for those first to come ... to IML. Jackhammer, 6406 N. Clark St.

Men's Room 9 pm, Sidetrack, 3349 N. Halsted St.

Thursday, May 23

IML Opening Ceremonies Ticket Packages available Ticket Sales Desk at Congress Plaza Hotel, 1st floor. Event includes the introduction of judges, contestants and number selection. Doors open at 7:30 p.m., show begins at 8 p.m. Venue SIX10, 610 S. Michigan Ave., www.imrl.com

Invasion w/ the men of

M.A.F.I.A & CumUnion XXX fisting demo at 11 pm. Featuring FFurryStud & HungerFF. DJ Alex Cabot. Steamworks, 3246 N. Halsted St.

RuPaul's Drag Race Viewing Party/ Pop Rocks

RuPaul's Drag Race 8-10 p.m. Then Pop Rocks party until close. Sidetrack, 3349 N. Halsted St.

Bear Welcome Party 9 p.m., Touche, 6412 N. Clark St.

Friday, May 24

IMBB: Spitshine: The Bootblack Party Join the contestants for this year's International Mr. Bootblack. 10 p.m. - 2 a.m., Florentine Room, 3rd Floor, Congress Plaza Hotel, 520 S. Michigan Ave., www.imrl.com

Leather Pig Daddy III Hosted by Trenton Ducati. A benefit for Leather Archives & Museum. 9 p.m., Touche, 6412 N. Clark St.

GayVN Grabbys Party 6-9 pm in the Glass Bar. Sidetrack, 3349 N. Halsted St.

Brüt: International Mr. Leather DJs Peter Napoli and Dan Darlington. Brought to you by Hedonic Productions. 10 pm - 4 am, Fantasy Nightclub, 3641 N. Halsted St., Tickets: www.brutparty.com

FuKR Chicago Jock/gear/fetish party. DJs Jesus Pelayo, Max Bruce and Milty Evens. \$15 pre-sale at thedifparty.com. 10 pm - 4 am, Jackhammer, 6406 N. Clark St.

Saturday, May 25

IML: Pecs and Personality IML contestants are judged on their appearance and stage presence. Doors open at 7 p.m., contest begins at 8 p.m. Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University, 50 E. Congress Pkwy., www.imrl.com

ONYX Dance: APEX The 2019 ONYX IML Dance. A dark room pulsating with hot music, hot dancers and hot leatherfolk. Free transportation from the Congress Hotel beginning at 9:30 p.m. 10 pm - 2 am, The Bottom Lounge, 1375 W. Lake St., www.imrl.com

Furball Chicago DJs Ralph Rosario and Jesse Mercado. \$16 in advance; \$20 at the door. 11:30 pm - 4 am, Metro Chicago, 3730 N. Clark St., https://metrochicago.com/event/furball-chicago-3/

Chicago Bear & Cub Contest/ Bears & Gear Party See who will be chosen as the new Mr. Chicago Bear. 9 p.m., Touche, 6412 N. Clark St.

Stoli Big Deck Party See the biggest deck in town. Party in the sunshine with Stoli. Open at 1 p.m. Sidetrack, 3349 N. Halsted St.

Wet & Wild DJ Jesse Mercado. Steamworks, 3246 N. Halsted St.

DILF: IML Edition The party for mature men and the men who want them. 9 pm, The Sofo Tap, 4923 N. Clark St.,

Make Out Party w/ Sappho, Karsten Sollors and Nark. 10

pm, Jackhammer, 6406 N. Clark St.

Sunday, May 26

IML: International Mr. Leather Contest Doors open at 5 p.m., contest begins at 6 p.m. Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University, 50 E. Congress Pkwy., www.imrl.com

IML: The Victory Party Celebrate the new IML and IMBB with DJ/producer Tony Moran. Presented by Circuit Mom. Tickets available at www.imrl.com and The Men's Room Chicago. 9 p.m., House of Blues, 329 N. Dearborn St.

GROWLr BBQ 1-3 pm. 4923 N. Clark St.

CUNTea: IML Edition Sounds by Dan Darlington (Brüt), Dom Brown (Porn and Chicken) and Karsten Sollors (Black & Blue Ball). 5-10 p.m., SpyBar, 646 N. Franklin St., Tickets: www.getcuntea.com

Super Ripe Party Cut loose after the big contest. Dim lights and hot go-go dudes. 10 p.m., Touche, 6412 N. Clark St.

CumUnion party \$20, 7-11 pm, Jackhammer, 6406 N. Clark St.

Singlet Sunday Singlets and gear in The Hole. 11 pm, Jackhammer, 6406 N. Clark St.

Leather Queen! Special IML edition with DJs Derrick Carter, Mystic Bill, Michael Serafini and Garrett David. 9 p.m. - 4 a.m., SmartBar, 3730 N. Clark St.

I Am Elle Presented by Slo 'Mo Party and Futurehood. DJs Petty Crocker, Audio Jack, Mister Wallace and Fee Lion. Hosted by Kristen Kaza & Mister Wallace. 9 p.m. - 4 a.m., Metro Chicago, 3730 N. Clark St.

Monday, May 27

IML: The Black & Blue Ball IML's official closing party. DJs/producers Tom Stephan and Karsten Sollors. Tickets available at www.imrl.com and The Men's Room Chicago. 9 pm - 3:45 am, House of Blues, 329 N. Dearborn St.

The Sofo Tap: Recovery Party Open at noon. \$4 all whiskeys, \$4 Stella drafts, \$5 22 oz. Long Islands. The Sofo Tap, 4923 N. Clark St.

Monday at Sidetrack Big D Party: Deck, Daddies & Dancing 1-5 pm. Free BBQ Noon-3. Showtunes 8 pm - close. Sidetrack, 3349 N. Halsted St.

Beer Bust/Cookout/Survivor Party \$1 drafts all day. Memorial Day cookout 3-7 p.m. Survivor Party starts at 10 p.m. Touche, 6412 N. Clark St.



Windy City Times is proud to partner with International Mr. Leather. For more info, pick up our official guide to IML 2019, available at a number of community locations and online at www.windycitymediagroup.com/pdf/IMLGUIDE_2019_web.pdf

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BILLY Masters

"Yes, I admit I was stalking Lou Pearlman into the bathroom!"—**Ashley Parker Angel** on how he met Pearlman and got cast on "Making the Band". He also was cast in Lou's private shower videos, but we'll get to that.

I recently told you that presidential hopeful **Pete Buttigieg** planned to make a stop in Provincetown this summer. I can now confirm that he'll be turning up during the busiest weekend—Fourth of July! His free rally will take place on July 5th at Town Hall (there will be a high-priced fundraiser afterward). Since this is one of the biggest gay party weekends in the world with an assortment of scantily clad men of all ages, please be aware that a thong is not appropriate attire for any political rally on Cape Cod that does not include a member of the Kennedy family.

The Chinese parent company of **Grindr** has agreed to sell the popular gay hook-up app after the U.S. Committee on Foreign Investments deemed it a "national security risk"—which says more about the Trump administration than anything in the Mueller Report! CNN reports that Kunlun Tech has agreed to sell the app by June 30, 2020. "Until then, the firm says Grindr will not transmit any sensitive information to China, though it is not clear how that will be enforced." I don't know about anyone else, but I won't be cruising Grindr when I'm at Panda Express!

I did finally watch *The Boy Band Con*. The **Lou Pearlman** documentary was produced by **Lance Bass** for YouTube. Without a doubt, there is an interesting, almost compelling, story there—but it's not in this documentary. It's unfortunate because obviously the powers-that-be snagged some great interviews and got access to lots of footage and songs. But either you know how to construct and tell a story, or you don't.

On the other hand, there's **Still Laugh-In: The Stars Celebrate**, which dropped last week on Netflix. The almost unbearable three-plus hours of taping at the Dolby Theatre were magically distilled into an entertaining one-hour special, ending with a number of priceless outtakes. I should confess that I am prominently seen sitting in the front row with **Norman Lear** and *Laugh-In* creator **George Schlatter**. (Stills can be found on BillyMasters.com.) To share a lesson in Television 101, I'll repeat a story from the taping. About two hours into the show, a weary Lear leaned over and said to Schlatter, "Can you believe—we created being funny on television?" A just-as-weary Schlatter replied, "Yeah, and they're KILLING it!" He added, "But we can fix it in post". Let that be a lesson to all of you out there—having great material is important, but you need someone really talented to make it watchable.

Last week, **John Mayer** was on SiriusXM with **Andy Cohen** and shared a "clickbait story"—meaning it's so salacious, people will click on it. He provided the headline: "How **Shawn Mendes'** underwear ended up in John Mayer's hotel room." Yes, I'd click on that—but I'd also know it would end up being some innocuous anecdote. One day,



Chris Hemsworth (in *Avengers: Age of Ultron*) is about to go undercover in a special way, **Billy** says.

Photo courtesy of Marvel Studios

Mayer was in the studio with Mendes. Shawn asked Mayer, "Hey, man, do you think you could, like, Postmates underwear? Can I Postmates underwear? I'm out of underwear." Since I'm not of the iAnything persuasion, I had to look up "Postmates". Be that as it may, Mayer said he'd be happy to ask his assistant to go shopping for undies. The assistant came back with a dozen pairs of various size Medium boxer briefs in a bag (not a CK in the bunch). They finished up in the studio, and Shawn left...sans undies. So Mayer brought the underwear back to his hotel room. The end. What I got out of this story is that nobody wants to be in possession of underwear John Mayer was anywhere near—even underwear still in its package.

Speaking of packages, we hear that **Chris Hemsworth** is gearing up to play a stripper in an upcoming \$40-million flick for Paramount. Down Under Cover will find Hemsworth and **Tiffany Haddish** playing police detectives who team to crack a string of casino heists. The main suspects are a group of Aussie male strippers—kinda like *Thunder From Down Under*. So, naturally, Hemsworth has to go undercover as a stripper. Is it just me, or does this sound like a gender-bending take on *Miss Congeniality*? Not that I'm complaining. The film was announced last week at the Cannes Film Festival and will begin shooting in February.

One of the best things I saw last year was **A Very English Scandal**, a three-part miniseries from the BBC. (You can watch it on Amazon.) I highly urge you to check it out, not only for the outstanding performances by everyone (especially **Hugh Grant** and **Ben Whishaw**, who won a Golden Globe), but also for the crackerjack true story which was riveting. Much of the credit goes to **director Stephen Frears** and **writer Russell T Davies**, who also brought us *Queer as Folk* as well as pivotal work on *Doctor Who* and *Torchwood*.

This leads us to our "Ask Billy" question from Thom in Baltimore: "What is this new show that **Russell Tovey** is in? He said it had graphic gay sex, so I don't want to miss it."

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Stoli BIG DECK PARTY

SUNDAY MAY 26 / OPEN AT 1PM

SHOW TUNES 5-10PM

POP FAVORITES 10PM-2AM

MONDAY MAY 27 / OPEN AT NOON

COMPLIMENTARY BBQ

12-3PM (WHILE SUPPLIES LAST)

BIG D PARTY: 1-5PM
DECK, DADDIES & DANCING

SHOW TUNES 8PM-2AM



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Tovey is in a new BBC series called *Years and Years*, written by Russell T Davies. (HBO will run it at a later date.) The first episode takes place in the near future, after Brexit and during Donald Trump's second term (God forbid). What Tovey said was, "Everything has to be shown because, otherwise, if you don't show diversity, if you don't show gay sex, if you don't show men in love, or women in love, or whatever, then how the hell do you normalize it?" I note he didn't mention that the show also features a sex robot! As to the gay sex scene in question, it comes toward the end of the first episode and, well, check it out on BillyMasters.com.

When robots are worried about the size of their packages, it's definitely time to end yet another column. With May Sweeps over, everything hits an inevitable lull. So it's the perfect time to check out BillyMasters.com—the site that never disappoints. If you have a question for me, send it along to Billy@BillyMasters.com and I promise to get back to you before I run the inevitable scandalous photos from Buttigieg's Ptown rally! Until next time, remember: One man's filth is another man's bible.

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the DISH

Dining Guide in
WINDY CITY TIMES

SAVOR

Bonci Pizza; Bernie's Chicago

BY ANDREW DAVIS

Cash isn't accepted—and pizza is purchased by weight.

Those are just two of the more unusual concepts you'll find at **Bonci Pizza** (161 N. Sangamon St. and 1566 N. Damen Ave.; <https://bonciusa.com/>), a spot that may challenge patrons on a variety of levels.

The pizza is served Roman-style, meaning that the pies are large, rectangular items that are cut with scissors, adjusting to the size you desire.

Then, your items are weighed.

That might be the first hurdle for guests. Another may be the variety, not just of the toppings (which include everything from



Bernie's Burger.

Meghan Leigh Photography

potatoes to anchovies to bell peppers—but not on the same pie) but also regarding the fact that a pie that's available one day might not be available the next. (Typically, there are 12-15 pizzas available daily.) Talk about mixing it up!

However, all of these potential difficulties are negated by another fact: The pizzas are wonderful. If you're not sure about how something might taste, you can opt for a sliver—but chances are you'll love what you taste. On the flip side, you

can get slabs of pizzas you know you'll like.

And the fact that there are different (locally sourced) toppings every day can provide a sense of anticipation for the different. After all, isn't variety the spice of life?

I can't wait to return to Bonci. It initially threw me off, but lives should be shaken up once in a while—even if it's just a little bit.

Bernie's Chicago

The last time I visited **Bernie's Chicago** (660 N. Orleans St.; <http://bernies-chicago.com/>) in an official capacity, it was called Bernie's Lunch & Supper, servers (purposely) wore tags that didn't match their actual names—and my dining companion had an unforgettable reaction when he mistook a bed of salt for rice.

Well, a few years later, all those things have changed (the last possibly because of a different person dining with me). However, one thing hasn't been altered: the high quality of the food.

The menu isn't the largest or most exciting—but the items there are done very well. Even the bread and butter (with oil and tomato jam among the other options) make for a nice starter. Small-plate items include an impressive charcuterie board, a sizable avocado toast and a elote dish (sauteed corn, spicy mayo, cotija and cilantro) that my friend liked so much that she took an

extra serving home.

Entrees consist of tried-and-true items like brick chicken, red snapper and shortrib gnocchi—featuring tender beef, firm pasta and well-cooked spinach. And my friend ate her Bernie's burger—composed of a blend of pork belly, shortrib and onion—with relish (pun intended). And definitely don't pass on dessert, especially the cheesecake. (A S'mores dish is another option.)

As for cocktails, they have very intriguing names, like Napalm in the Morning, The Root of All Evil and Mood Indigo. I had the very tasty Bobbin for Bourbon (Breckenridge Bourbon, apple butter, lemon and cinnamon 11th Orchard seasonal bitters). It's a great way to top an evening—especially if, for some reason, you decide to pass on the sweets.

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



JACKHAMMER



The River City Bears raised \$1,300 for charity at their jock auction. That's a good bear!
Joseph Stevens Photography



SIDETRACK

Cher-ing is caring at their special Sunday Funday After Dark release party.
Joseph Stevens Photography



PROFILE BY
TONY PEREGRIN

DRAG PROFILE OF THE WEEK DANIKA BONE'T

NAME

"Danika—because it is close to my birth name, an Bone't because it's my drag mother's last name."

FIRST DRAG PERFORMANCE

"I started doing drag in 2013 for Baton Rouge Pride and the first number I ever performed was 'Don't Cha' by The Pussycat Dolls."

DRAG INSPIRATION

"Roxxxy Andrews and Latrice Royal, because they prove that being plus-size should never hold you back; it should be an asset in your career."

GO-TO NUMBER TO SLAY A CROWD

"'Diva Dance' from The Fifth Element, because I sing it live—and sometimes people don't even realize that until halfway through the song!"

FUTURE PROJECTS

"I want to put more live theater into drag, so I'm working on a drag-cast version of a full musical."

FUN FACT

"I don't drink that much, which is blasphemous for a drag performer!"

WHERE CAN WE CATCH YOU

"I host karaoke on Sundays from 7-11 pm, Bingo on Mondays from 9 pm-1 am and Twisted Tuesdays with shows at 12:30 and 1:30— all at Charlie's Chicago, as well as random shows throughout the city."

SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook: Danika Bone't
Instagram: @danikabonet
Twitter: @DanikaStanika

Photo by
Danika
Bone't

BOOK REVIEW from page 34

illness.

Gender Identity hits all the important points of transgender history—the life of Christine Jorgensen, the first American to medically transition, as well as the Stonewall Riots, initiated by trans women of color Sylvia Rivera and Marsha P. Johnson—and supplements with information that isn't as widely known. There's a sober reminder of the demise of Brandon Teena, a young transgender man in Nebraska who was the subject of the Oscar-winning 2000 film *Boys Don't Cry*, and more uplifting passages about the rise of social media in helping young trans people feel seen and understood.

But the book isn't a dry tutorial. Far from it: Cook's writing is both informative and engaging, favoring short declarative sentences and vivid descriptions. Illustrator Alexis Cornell, a graduate of the prestigious Center for Cartoon Studies, enhances the narrative with a snappy and fun comic strip at the beginning of every chapter. Vocabulary lists, discussion questions and suggestions for activities and further research pepper the pages, and the ebook edition contains QR codes that link to primary sources. Most significantly, *Gender Identity: Beyond Pronouns and Bathrooms* encourages communication, respect and acceptance at every turn—and that is perhaps its greatest lesson of all.

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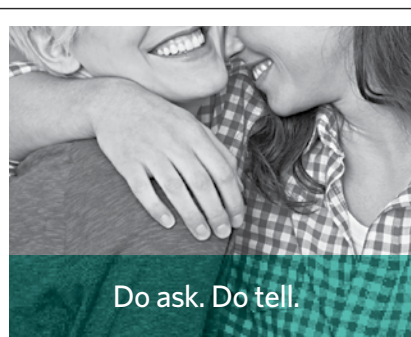
ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMMUNITY YARD SALE Huge community yard sale! Sunday June 9th, 9am-3pm. 4250 N. Marine Drive, south tower driveway. 20+ vendors. Great bargains. Household, furniture, art, antiques, fitness, clothing, books, jewelry and much more! (6/5/19-2)

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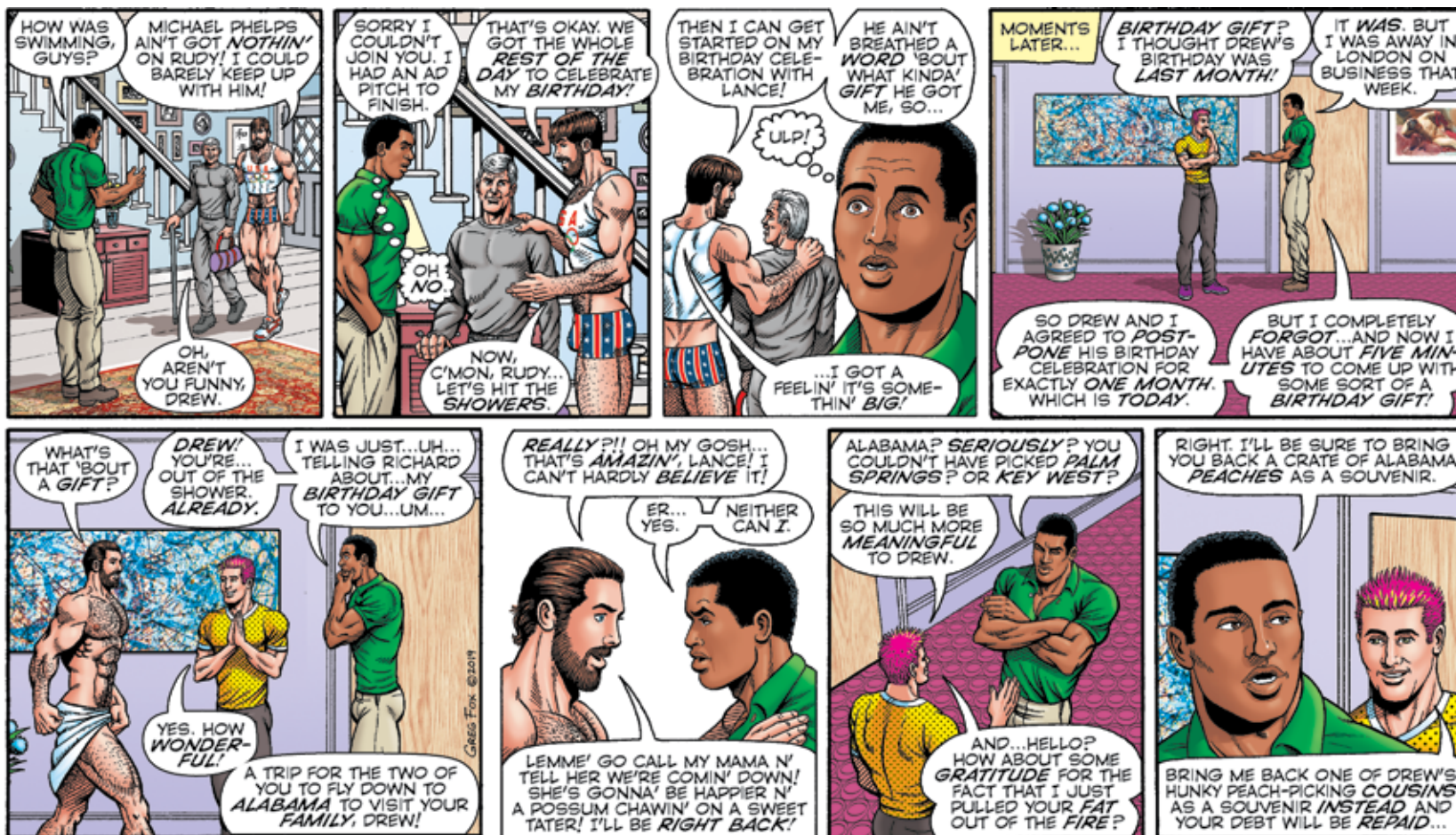
PIANO WITHOUT STRESS! Who says it's harder to learn music as an adult? You just need someone to show you how. I've been helping adults play piano since 1991. **myron@myronsilberstein.com www.myronsilberstein.com (6/26/19-4)**

SPIRITUALITY

DIGNITY/CHICAGO Supporting LGBTQIA Catholics, their committed relationships, families, friends + allies. Mass Sunday at 5pm, 3344 N Broadway, Chicago. **Visit www.dignity-chicago.org for more info. (10/30/19-13)**

KYLE'S BED & BREAKFAST

by Greg Fox



WINDY
CITY
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CALENDAR**Wed., May 22**

About Face: Stonewall, Revolt and New Queer Art Major exhibition marking the 50th anniversary of that historic event. Exhibition comprises historical and contemporary works by international artists that, viewed together, provide a nuanced picture of the evolving meaning of queerness. Through July 20. Tickets are available online only. A few free released each week. 9:00am - 9:00pm Wrightwood 659, 659 W. Wrightwood Ave. Tickets: <http://tickets.wrightwood659.org/events>

Tracy Baim's 35th Anniversary in LGBTQ Media Tracy started her work as a journalist in May 1984 at GayLife newspaper, going on to co-found Windy City Times in 1985. Funds raised will go to funding LGBT journalists at Windy City Times. [Note: At the link if you do not have PayPal, scroll down to the button that says Pay with Debit or Credit Card. You do not need PayPal to contribute.] 6:00pm Sidetrack 3349 N Halsted St Chicago <http://windycitymediagroup.com/donate.php>

Thursday, May 23

Beth Ford, of Land O'Lakes, speaking on food distribution The president and CEO of Arden Hills, Minnesota-based Land O'Lakes, Inc., who is lesbian, will speak at a meeting of the Executives Club of Chicago on food distribution in the face of population growth and changes in agricultural practices. 12:00pm Standard

**LEATHER OR NOT**
May 23-27

Hundreds will attend
International Mr. Leather,
headquartered at The
Congress Hotel.
Photo by Verdel Shannon

Club, 320 S. Plymouth Ct. <http://www.executivesclub.org/programs/upcoming/beth-ford/>

International Mr. Leather Details online 10:00am - 4:00am. Through May 27. Congress Hotel, 520 S. Michigan Ave http://www.windycitymediagroup.com/pdf/IMLGUIDE_2019_web.pdf; IMRL.com

Chicago House Music Conference and

Fest Free industry workshops and panel talks throughout the building. Through May 25. 6:00pm - 9:00pm Chicago Culture Center, 78 E. Washington https://www.chicago.gov/city/en/depts/dca/supp_info/hlp.html

Point Foundation Event for Scholarships for LGBTQ students Meet other professionals interested in empowering the next generation of LGBTQ leaders through scholarship, community service, leadership training and development. Free. Register online 6:00pm - 8:00pm The Roof Crop, LLC, 1516 W. Carroll Ave. <http://pointfoundation.org/Chicago19>

Friday, May 24

Cirque Du Soleil, Volta First show 4 p.m. \$49. Through July 6. 8:00pm Soldier Field 1410 Museum Campus Dr Chicago. Visit CirqueDuSoleil.com.

Saturday, May 25

International Mr. Leather Details online 10:00am - 4:00am Congress Hotel, 520 S. Michigan Ave http://www.windycitymediagroup.com/pdf/IMLGUIDE_2019_web.pdf

City of Chicago Memorial Day Parade American Veterans for Equal Rights (gay veterans) are the only LGBTQ unit to participate. Find American Veterans for Equal Rights on Facebook. 11:00am Step off from Upper Wacker Dr. <http://www.averchicago.org/>

Love, Lust & Legacy: 40 Years of Queer Service to the Cause with Del LaGrace Volcano Del LaGrace Volcano will discuss their work-images that are not only documents of a "queer time and place" but also testaments to love, lust and burning desire. 4:00pm Wrightwood 659, 659 W. Wrightwood Ave <http://Wrightwood659.org>

Sunday, May 26

Allen Schindler Remembrance Ceremony Chicago Chapter of American Veterans for Equal Rights renders graveside honors for Navy Radioman Petty Officer Third Class, murdered Oct. 27, 1992 by shipmates for being gay. See Facebook 2:00pm Cemetery, Steger, IL <http://www.averchicago.org/>

All the World's a Stage II art exhibition reception Artists examine the evolution of Chicago area theaters from past to present (including vaudeville stages, silent pictures, live performance venues and motion pictures. Through July 28. Free 2:00pm - 4:00pm Devonshire Cultural Center, 4422 Greenwood St, Skokie <http://anatomicallycorrect.org>

Monday, May 27

Honoring LGBTQ military members and veterans Memorial Day ceremony at the monument honoring LGBTQ military members and veterans. Find American Veterans for Equal Rights on Facebook 11:00am 3600 N. Halsted St, Chicago <http://www.averchicago.org/>

Thursday, May 30

Out of the Office Begin Pride month on the rooftop and support Affinity Community Services at the same time. \$15 - \$50 5:00pm - 8:00pm The Godfrey Hotel, 127 W Huron St., 4th Floor <http://www.eventbrite.com/e/out-of-the-office-2019-tickets-60414632793>

Friday, May 31

West Side Story Tony and Maria are two wide-eyed teenagers from opposing gangs who fall in love. As their friends and family battle with one another, Tony and Maria long for "a place for us..."

somewhere." Through June 2 7:00pm Lyric Opera Civic Opera House 20 N.Wacker Dr. Chicago <http://www.west-side-story.chicago.com>

Saturday, June 1

Chicago Alternative Comics Expo (CAKE) Workshops, exhibitions, panel discussions, and over 150 carefully curated vendors, independent artists and publishers in rows of decorated tables lining a sunny, open gymnasium. Concludes June 2. 150+ vendors. Free. 11:00am - 6:00pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted Chicago <http://www.cakechicago.com>

Out of the Closets and into the Streets: Power, Pride & Resistance in Chicago's Gay Liberation Movement Remarks by Gary Chichester, co-founder of the gay liberation group the Chicago Gay Alliance, and the exhibit's curators. Opening Sept. 19, free. 7:00pm Gerber Hart Library and Archives 6500 N Clark St Chicago <http://www.gerberhart.org>

Sunday, June 2

Equality Illinois Pride Event Guest speaker brunch station, coffee, Bloody Mary, mimosa bars, entertainment. \$35 supports the LGBTQ civil rights work of Equality Illinois. 11:00am - 1:00pm Venue West, 221 N. Paulina St., Chicago <https://www.equalityillinois.us/events/2019-pride-kickoff-brunch/>

Asians & Friends Dim Sum Regular First-Sunday-of-the-Month Dim Sum 12:30pm Furama 4936 N. Broadway, Chicago <http://www.afchicago.org>

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