

Outword

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zine

romance is
in the air...

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Letters

Freedom to Marry Reception

Equality California and the Sacramento Gay & Lesbian Center are hosting a fund raising reception and discussion on California's fight for marriage equality on Thursday, Feb. 23 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

There will be hors d'oeuvres, wine from Ficklin Vineyards and beer from Hoppy Brewing Company. The cost for the reception is \$50 to benefit the G&L Center.

The reception will be held at the Kennedy Gallery, 1114 20th St. Please RSVP at 916-442-0185 or Ted@SacCenter.org

Sac G&L Center Adds New Board Member

The Sacramento Gay and Lesbian Center's Board of Directors has appointed Benjamin Phillips-Lesenana as their newest member.

"Benjamin is a terrific addition to the Center's Board of Directors. His energy and experience is exactly what is needed as we transform the Center into a pivotal and energetic force in the LGBT community," said David Heitstuman, President of the Center's Board of Directors.

"I'm encouraged by the boundless opportunities for the Center and its many programs that benefit our community," said



Benjamin Phillips-Lesenana.

"We are also asking the public to get involved as we move forward to re-imagine and reinvent the Center by volunteering and/or making a donation," said Heitstuman. "I encourage individuals who want to be involved to visit our Web site at SacCenter.org."

Fourth Annual QProm Set

Once Upon a Time is the theme for the 4th Annual QProm hosted by the Sac G&L Center and scheduled for March 17.

The Center is committed to providing a safe, alcohol and drug-free, social space for

Phillips-Lesenana. "I look forward to serving with this Board and working with our new Executive Director Shara Perkins Murphy."

LGBTQA+ youth to experience the same "rites of passage" enjoyed by their classmates and "where u can dress as u want, invite whom u want, and be whom u want!"

The evening will be filled with live entertainment and dancing, the selection of a Prom King and Queen and raffle prizes.

QProm will be held at Beatnik Studios, 2421 17th St. in Midtown from 7:30 to 11:30 p.m. Tickets go on sale Friday, February 10 and are \$10 in advance and \$15 at the door.

Visit www.saccenter.org or stop by The Center at 1927 L St. to purchase tickets.

Share Your Confessions

Dear Outword,

I am currently working on a book based around how secrets and confessions have changed or altered my life.

In between my short stories, I'd like to publish short and sweet anonymous confessions from your gay male readers.

I'm looking for confessions about love, sex, friends, family, church, religion, boyfriends, ex's, work, etc.

If you are interested in participating, please write me at fotosbyjoshy@yahoo.com.

Thank you,

Joshua

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Remembering Bob Delucia and Sonny Sorrells



Sacramento's theatre community has been saddened by the deaths of two of its brightest stars this January, Bob Delucia and Sonny Sorrells. Delucia was well known throughout the Sacramento community both as an actor and director, and served as mentor for many of Sacramento's current community theatre icons. His list of acting credits and Elly-awards is as extensive as the number of lives he touched. Sorrells moved to Sacramento from Hawaii in 2003 after a career in professional theatre that spanned the globe. Since moving to Sacramento he worked extensively with the now defunct Lambda Players, often portraying off-beat characters, which garnered him much critical acclaim as well as Elly nominations and awards. They will be especially missed by fellow actors and fans of the former Lambda Players, where they brought audiences a few tears and many, many laughs.

Question One Makes West Coast Premiere at the Crest



Question One, a newly released documentary on Maine's 2009 referendum battle over same-sex marriage made its West Coast premiere on February 1 at the Crest Theater. Joe Fox, the film's director was on hand for the screening that was sponsored in part by the Sac G&L Center, Equality Action Now, Sacramento Stonewall Democrats and the Sacramento Rainbow Chamber of Commerce. Pictured with Fox (center) are Dennis Mangers, who helped make the screening possible and the Center's Executive Director Shara P. Murphy and board members Rosanna Herber, David Heitstuman and Benjamin Phillips-Lesenana.

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Broad Coalition Launched to Repeal DOMA

A coalition made up of civil rights, labor, progressive, faith, student, health, legal, women's, and LGBT organizations have announced support of the Respect for Marriage Act – the bill to repeal the discriminatory so-called Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) that withholds federal protections and respect for legally married gay and lesbian couples.

The Respect for Marriage Act (H.R.1116 and S.598) enjoys broad support with a majority of Americans and has a record number of Congressional cosponsors with 136 in the House and 32 in the Senate.

"Because of the 'gay exception' created by DOMA, America's legally married gay and lesbian couples – including servicemembers risking their lives on the front lines for our safety – are treated as strangers under federal law, rather than provided the respect and protections federal law normally assures to married couples and their loved ones," said Evan Wolfson, founder and President of Freedom to Marry.

The Senate Judiciary Committee considered the bill with a hearing in July and subsequently passed the legislation out of committee in November.

"The federal government should not be in the business of picking which marriages it likes and which it does not, but that is exactly what DOMA does," said Joe Solmonese, Human Rights Campaign president. "The breadth and depth of this

coalition shines a bright light on the heart-wrenching discrimination against loving, committed families caused by DOMA."

DOMA denies legally married gay and lesbian couples any of the over 1,100 federal responsibilities and protections of marriage, including Social Security survivors benefits, federal employee health benefits for spouses, protections against spouses losing their homes in cases of severe medical emergencies, the right to sponsor a foreign born spouse for immigration, the guarantee of family and medical leave and the ability to file joint tax returns, among many others.

"This broad and diverse coalition has come forward to urge members of Congress to end the unfairness. In America, we don't have second-class citizens, and shouldn't have second-class marriages, either," said Wolfson.

Fifty-one percent of voters oppose DOMA while only 34 percent favor it, according to a March 2011 poll by HRC and Greenberg Quinlan Rosner Research.

A full list of the coalition members can be found at FreedomToMarry.org

NH Governor Pledges to Veto Marriage Repeal Bill

by Cameron Tolle

At his state-of-the-state address delivered January 31 in Concord, New Hampshire's Governor John Lynch reiterated that he will veto legislation to repeal marriage for same-sex couples.

Governor Lynch signed the freedom to marry legislation into law in 2009, and has since been vocal in his opposition at attempts in the legislature to repeal the state's marriage law – a law that surveys show has the support of 62 percent of voters in New Hampshire.

"We join our coalition partners in thanking the Governor for standing with the supermajority of Granite Staters who want lawmakers to end this senseless attack on

New Hampshire families," said Freedom to Marry's National Campaign Director Marc Solomon. "Governor Lynch is once again showing his leadership and commitment to the core New Hampshire value – and state motto – 'Live Free or Die.'"

The New Hampshire House is expected to soon vote on HB 437, the bill that would repeal marriage for gay and lesbian couples.

Cameron Tolle is the Online Campaign Manager for Freedom to Marry.

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Circuit Court Decides Not To Release Prop 8 Trial Tapes

The U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, which has been considering an appeal from a trial court ruling declaring Proposition 8 unconstitutional for more than a year, ruled that the videotapes of the trial will continue to be withheld from the public.

The Court's decision was released February 2, 2012, and was based primarily on its determination that Judge Vaughn Walker, who presided over the trial, had made a commitment to the parties that the recording would not be publicly released.

The trial examined each of the arguments in-depth, made by the opponents of same-sex marriage and the true motives of Prop 8's proponents for launching a campaign to deprive gay and lesbian couples of their recognized constitutional right to marry.

The nature of their arguments would be dramatically brought alive to the American people if they could see the testimony for themselves. Prop 8's proponents have fought tooth and nail to prevent the Ninth Circuit from allowing the videotapes being made public.

"Although the court's ruling focused on Judge Walker's use of the videotapes, it does

not alter the fact that, on an issue of this importance to loving same-sex couples and all those who care about equality, everyone should be allowed to see the testimony that Judge Walker relied upon to issue his groundbreaking ruling," said Love Honor Cherish Executive Director Eric Harrison.

This is only the first of several decisions in the *Perry* case that the three-judge panel of the Ninth Circuit will make. The panel must also decide if the proponents of Prop 8 have "standing" to bring the appeal, whether the trial judge, the Hon. Vaughn Walker, should have recused himself from the case because of his own sexual orientation, and, then, whether Judge Walker correctly concluded that Prop 8 violated the federal constitution.

If the panel decides that Judge Walker was right, it must also decide when to lift the stay on his decision and allow same-sex couples to marry once again in California. The court

gave no indication when it will decide any of these issues, and the losing side will likely continue to appeal to the Ninth Circuit en banc and all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court where the final outcome is uncertain.

Love Honor Cherish has called for a "backup plan" to ensure that, either through the court case or the ballot, same-sex couples will be able to marry no later than November 7, 2012. To that end, LHC is circulating a ballot proposition that would repeal Prop 8, while protecting religious freedom.

LHC plans to collect the necessary signatures and be ready to submit them if the court case is not successful and marriage equality is not restored in California by April, 2012.

Polling has demonstrated that the majority of Californians now support repeal.

"It is the moral obligation of every LGBT rights organization in California to do everything possible to end Prop 8 now," said Harrison. "If we're not prepared, we will have done a tremendous disservice to loving gay and lesbian couples, their families, and our youth."

HUD Enacts New Housing Anti-Discrimination Rules

The Obama Administration and Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Secretary Shaun Donovan have announced a new federal rule that will strengthen protections from discrimination in housing.

The new regulations were announced at the 24th National Conference on LGBT Equality: Creating Change, and will be officially published in early February and will take effect 30 days later.

"Today, I am proud to announce a new Equal Access to Housing Rule that says clearly and unequivocally that LGBT individuals and couples have the right to live where they choose," said Donovan.

The new rule prohibits owners and operators of federally-funded or federally-insured housing, as well as lenders offering federally-insured mortgages, from discriminating based on gender identity or sexual orientation. The rule also clarifies the definition of "family" to ensure that LGBT families are included in all HUD programs.

"This is a huge victory for transgender Americans and their



families who deserve equal access to affordable housing, and who, as a community, face higher rates of homelessness and poverty," said Masen Davis, Executive Director of the Transgender Law Center. "Having a home is fundamental to being able to care for yourself and your family. We extend our deepest thanks to HUD for working to create strong, sustainable and inclusive communities. We hope other federal agencies will follow suit, and put an end to discrimination."

In announcing the draft rules early last year, HUD cited The National Transgender Discrimination Survey conducted by NCTE and the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, showing that 19 percent of transgender and gender non-conforming people had been refused a home or apartment, and 11 percent had been evicted because of their gender identity or expression.

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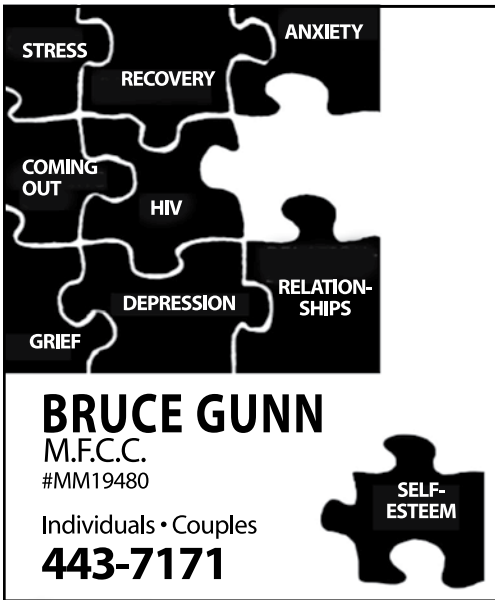
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Feds Motion to Dismiss in DOMA Case Denied

The U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California has rejected the federal government's request to dismiss the constitutional claims of gay and lesbian state workers who, together with their registered domestic partners, are excluded from equal access to California's Long-Term Care Program.

Judge Claudia Wilken issued the ruling in *Dragovich v. CalPERS*, a class action lawsuit challenging federal and state laws including the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) which regulate state-sponsored long-term care plans. These laws permit employees and an array of family members to join such plans, including opposite-sex spouses, but exclude the spouses and registered domestic partners of gay and lesbian workers

"Registering as domestic partners is the only legal status currently available to gay and lesbian couples in California," said Claudia Center of Legal Aid Society-Employment Law Center. "These couples have agreed to take on all of the obligations of marriage, and are entitled to fair and equal treatment from the federal government."

In finding that the exclusion may violate the equal protection and due process clauses of the United States Constitution, the court took note of discriminatory intent,

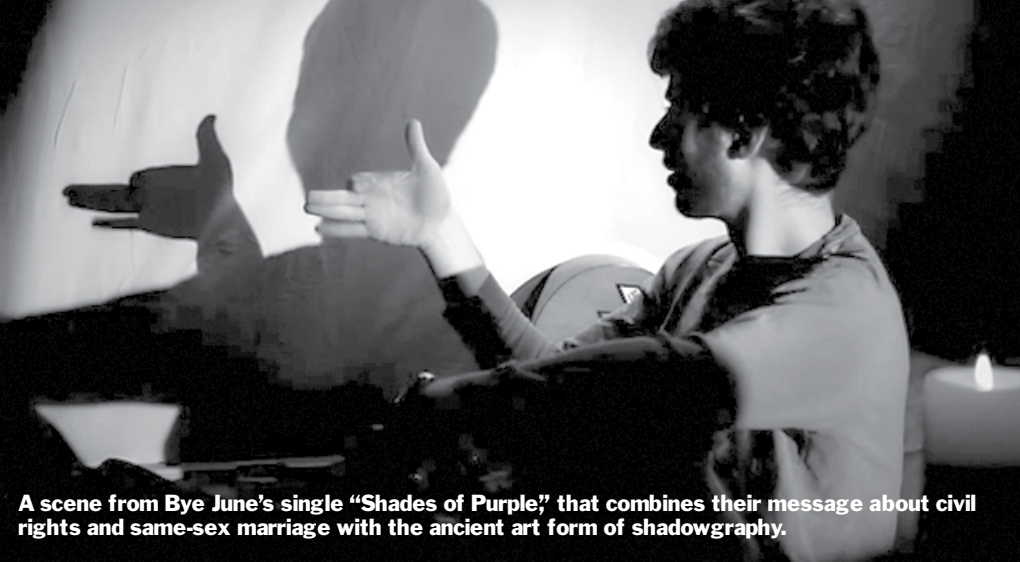
referring to a number of official actions taken by the federal government in opposition to the recognition of gay and lesbian couples in domestic partnerships.

These included the defunding of the District of Columbia's registry, and the enactment of the DOMA. Although the federal defendants asserted that the plaintiffs could not show animus, the opinion quotes from Congressional leaders who described domestic partnerships for gay and lesbian couples as "an attack on the family" and "abhorrent"

Last year the court rejected a similar motion to dismiss the claims of gay and lesbian state workers who were married in 2008 following the California Supreme Court's ruling that the state constitution mandated marriage equality and before the enactment of Proposition 8. Today's order considered for the first time the claims of couples who are in registered domestic partnerships with the state of California, but who did not marry in 2008.

Shadowgraphy Brings a New Vision to LGBT Rights

The band Bye June has teamed with world-renowned shadowgrapher Sati Achath in an innovative melding of state-of-the-art video technology and old world shadowgraphy, creating a unique and outstanding medium with a strong, but subtle message on gay rights and marriage.



A scene from Bye June's single "Shades of Purple," that combines their message about civil rights and same-sex marriage with the ancient art form of shadowgraphy.

The collaboration, "Shades of Purple," has just been released as a track in Bye June's new album *My Life is an Independent Film*. The band says that their social message about civil rights in general, and same-sex marriage in particular, is the premise of the video's story.

"We asked our fans to choose a track for a music video, and they voted online for this song," said Gil Kline, Bye June's vocalist. "I am very pleased, since this song has deep

SHADOWGRAPHY
continues on page 21

Outword Salutes Sacramento's Rainbow Chamber of Commerce

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Jean Paul Gaultier: From the Sidewalk to the Catwalk



The de Young Museum in San Francisco's Golden Gate Park is presenting *The Fashion World of Jean Paul Gaultier: From the Sidewalk to the Catwalk*, its first exhibition devoted to the celebrated French designer and his personal themes of "equality, diversity and perversity." Pictured are Pedro Almodóvar, Victoria Abril and Jean Paul Gaultier for the opening of *Kika*, directed by Almodóvar in 1993. The exhibition will be on view from March 24 through August 19. Tickets can be purchased www.deyoungmuseum.org

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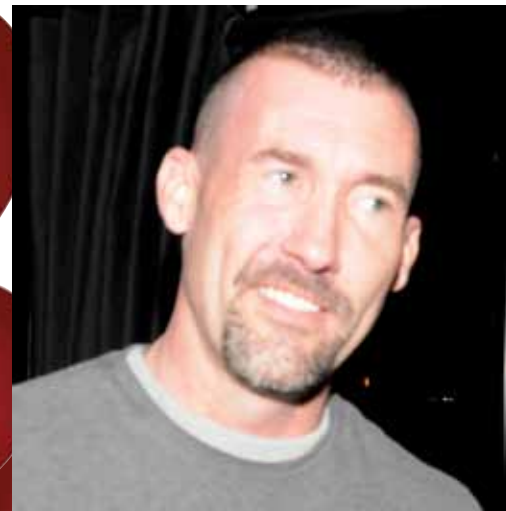
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Sacramento Author Pens Fantasy Novel *Veil of Fear*

by Matthew Burlingame

Zoey La Mar may seem to be an average eleven-year-old girl, but she is anything but ordinary. She has begun to experience not only a series of unsettling premonitions, but dreams about monsters that just may not be dreams after all.

Soccer and mall trips with the friends take a back seat as she finds herself dropped into the middle of long past family secrets and a world of magic and fantasy that changes her life – and that of her closest friends – forever.

Zoey Le Mar and the Veil of Fear is the first in a planned series of children's fantasy novels that places emphasis on both multicultural leading characters and young female heroines.

"I had a class in college where we were asked to think of female heroes in literature. After 15 minutes of brainstorming, our class came up with four – I, of course, added Nancy Drew," says author Michael Lopez. "Also, as an educator, I have seen first hand how important it is for young girls to have role models and heroes, to see and aspire to."

Lopez was an air force brat, spending most of his childhood traveling the globe until his family finally settled in Sacramento where he still lives with his partner of eight years. During his travels, Lopez developed a deep love of other cultures and their traditions, which fuel his drive to create rich, full characters of diverse backgrounds; an aspect he feels is still lacking in American literature.

"A few years ago, while teaching third grade, some of my female

students wanted to know where are the girls of color; the smart girls; the girl heroes and most importantly where is the combination of the three?" explains Lopez who has a bachelors in psychology and a masters in education. Seeing the need for children's literature that represents strong, female characters of diversity, Lopez began



Sacramento author Michael Lopez.

brainstorming – the result is *Zoey La Mar*.

"Zoey is an amalgam of several girls I taught in third grade," says Lopez. "All were spunky, athletic, curious and bright."

In Zoey's world is a rich cast of

characters including her two best friends Danielle and Lucy, brother Owen, classmates Tricky O'Leary and Rhea Khan. All characters spring to life, infused with true to life experiences by Lopez. "I put a lot of my experiences of family and friendship into my characters – the closeness and the friction. I take and use what's around me: the good, the bad, and the ugly. I like to keep my characters and situations real, honest and authentic."

More adventures for Zoey are on the way; Lopez is currently penning a sequel entitled *Zoey Le Mar and The Wrath of The Anasazi*.

"The most important thing I want to get across is for readers to see and experience strong, smart, brave and capable girls," says Lopez adamantly. "They are out there, and they need a voice and role models."

Zoey Le Mar and the Veil of Fear is available on amazon.com in both paperback and Kindle formats. and you can watch a trailer for the novel at www.youtube.com/watch?v=9ejbsAjQQIs.

Matthew Burlingame is an award-winning journalist and playwright in Northern California. You may contact him at matthew.burlingame@gmail.com.

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What better gift can you give your sweetheart than their own romance novel - starring you and them as you wind your way through night after hot, breathless night searching for true love and happiness?

Two sizzling new books offer you that opportunity: for men, *Hot Blooded*, a sizzling vampire romance about a mortal man and immortal creature risking their own destruction in order to fulfill their desires, and for women, there's *Seduction Games*, a light-hearted but touching (and steamy) tale set on a tropic island, where two contestants on a reality TV show fight and frolic in front of the cameras.

You co-author *Hot Blooded* and *Seduction Games* by selecting the two lovers, their best friends, and

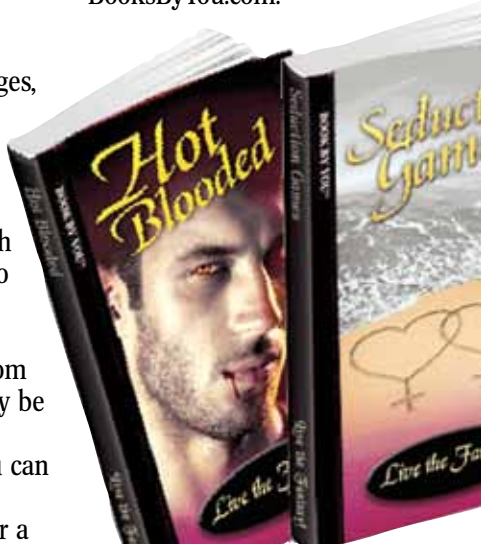
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Seduction Games is 200 pages, professionally bound, with 27 characteristics to personalize and a customized cover, and *Hot Blooded* is 195 pages, also professionally bound, with more than 30 characteristics to personalize and a customized cover.

Both books are available from Book By You, and while it may be a little late to order them for arrival by Valentine's Day, you can e-mail an excerpt from your personalized romance novel or a



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Oscar Night Sacramento Offers the Best Seat

The nominations are out, and the buzz is in the air for who's going to win Best Actor and Actress already, but one thing is for sure, you can catch all the excitement of Oscar Night 2012 at this year's Gala hosted by the Capital City AIDS Fund.

CCAF is shaking it up again, moving this year's event back to the downtown area.

"Guests will be wowed and entertained in the recently remodeled Hyatt Regency in downtown Sacramento," said Michael Sestak, Chair of

a
"The



Oscar Night Sacramento in released statement. Hyatt's \$4 million transformation is making it a hip/chic metropolitan hotel and nightspot, and the perfect spot to host Oscar Night Sacramento."

Doors open at 4 p.m. on Sunday, February 26, and guests will discover the Grand Ballroom transformed into a nightclub-style setting featuring the Silver Screen Lounge with 20 TV screens to see the live broadcast of the

Oscars from LA. Arriving guests will walk the red carpet

and sip champagne as the evening begins with passed hors d'oeuvres. Guests with dinner tickets will gather at reserved tables for a sit down dinner at 6:30 p.m., while guests with Lounge tickets will enjoy heavy appetizers and a dessert bar.

"A fabulous silent auction boasts of a trip to Hawaii, magnificent jewelry, exquisite wine experiences, and more," said Sestak. "So come early and stay late. Additional entertainment will include live performances by recording sensations Raquela "Tell It to My Heart" and Xavier Toscano "Do It all Tonight."

Lounge tickets are \$75. Dinner tickets are \$125 and tables of ten are \$1,250. Dress is cocktail elegant, to experience Oscar Night Sacramento in grand style.

All proceeds benefit Sacramento-area HIV/AIDS agencies. "With HIV infections on the rise and government budget cuts slashing local programs, CCAF needs your support more than ever," said Sestak.

To buy tickets, call 916-448-1110 or visit capcityaidsfund.org.



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Three New Cocktails for an Amorous Valentine's Day

Candy may be dandy, and liquor may be quicker, but to really set the mood this Valentine's Day, why not try combining the two? That's what Van Gogh Vodka is suggesting with two new cocktail recipes just in time for your romantic evening.

Of course, not all of us are just yet celebrating our newly found love, but don't despair, we've got a smokin' treat for you as well that is sure to brighten up your mood:



Dessert Fizz

Created by cocktail guru Jonathan Pogash

1 1/2 oz. Van Gogh Dutch Chocolate
1 large strawberry
Handfull of chopped mint leaves
1 tsp. Agave nectar
1/4 oz. fresh lemon juice
3 oz. sparkling wine or Champagne
Muddle the strawberry and mint with agave and lemon. Add Van Gogh Dutch Chocolate and strain into chilled Champagne flute. Top with the sparkling wine or Champagne. Garnish with a strawberry slice on the rim.



Smokey Rose

1-1/2 oz. Ron Abuelo Añejo
3/4 oz. Lemon juice
1/2 oz. Agave nectar
1/2 oz. Apple cider
4-5 Chunks of apple
1 Rosemary sprig
Muddle apple chunks in a shaker and then pour in rest of the ingredients. Shake and strain into a rocks glass filled with ice. Garnish with a sprig of rosemary and a slice of apple.



Dutch Tea

Created by James Labe
4 oz. Numi Chocolate Puerh Tea
2 oz. Van Gogh Dutch Chocolate Vodka
1 oz. Heavy Cream
Sugar
Steep 1 Numi Chocolate Pu-erh tea bag at normal strength with freshly boiled water for three minutes, then remove bag. Add Vodka and stir. Whip cream with a little sugar and float on top. Dust with Powdered Cocoa to garnish.



“One cannot **think** well, **love** well, **sleep** well, if one has not *dined* well.” ~ Virginia Woolf


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**Join PFLAG
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at the Opera**

Join PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) for a night at the opera on Wednesday, February 22 as Sacramento Opera presents a dress rehearsal of *Rigoletto*.



PFLAG will host a pre-reception at the Hyatt from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., followed by Verdi's opera, which will be performed at the Sacramento Community Center Theatre. Curtain time for *Rigoletto* is 7 p.m., and seating is limited.

The cost for this one night only event, which includes hosted appetizers and a cash bar, is \$50 per person. Advance purchase is required – please call PFLAG at 916-483-4788.

The regular run of *Rigoletto* is from February 24-26 at the Community Center. Conducted by Timm Rolek with the Sacramento Philharmonic Orchestra, and directed by Chuck Hudson, *Rigoletto* will star David Small, Katrina Thurman, Scott Ramsay, Andrew Gangestad and Buffy Baggott.

A popular favorite among seasoned opera lovers, and a great introduction to the art form for novices, *Rigoletto* is filled with unforgettable music and is considered to be one of Verdi's greatest works.

Based on a play by Victor Hugo, *Rigoletto* is a taut psychological drama with a shocking concluding twist. It will be sung in Italian with English supertitles. For more information, visit www.sacopera.org.

Entertainment

by Chris Narloch

Forbidden Broadway & In the Next Room

There's no shortage of first-class theater to be found in Sacramento this month, from the area premiere of a recent play by Sarah Ruhl to a brand new production of an off-Broadway smash at the Cosmopolitan Cabaret.

Forbidden Broadway

It's been a rollercoaster ride in terms of quality since the Cosmopolitan Cabaret opened in 2008, from the highs of *Forever Plaid* and *Late Nite Catechism* to the recent low point that was *Bingo! The Winning Musical*.

I am happy to report that the fine folks at the Cosmo Cabaret are back on track, beginning 2012 with a bang thanks to this hilarious show, one of their finest productions to date.

Featuring a quartet of superbly-talented performers, *Forbidden Broadway* is a sterling local production of the long-running off-Broadway hit that first began in a supper club on New York's Upper West Side in 1982 and ran for 27 record-breaking years before closing in 2009.

Updated regularly, *Forbidden Broadway* became a must-see each season in New York for tourists and theater queens desiring a more reasonably priced night of theater that spoofed the lyrics and storylines of those often overstuffed and overpriced Broadway blockbusters.

Equally fair game are the famous faces of Broadway, as well as the behind the scenes players; *Forbidden Broadway* has hilarious fun at the expense of Carol Channing, Mandy Patinkin, and Patti LuPone, who are all lovingly and skillfully skewered in this edition.

The entire cast of the Sacramento production, including Marc Ginsburg, Jessica Reiner-Harris, and Melissa Wolfklain, is dynamite, but if I had to single out one performer (always unfair when everyone is this strong), it would be Jerry Lee.

how much fun the show would have had with that Broadway debacle, which has gone on to become a huge hit despite numerous injuries and extensive litigation.

For more information about *Forbidden*

Broadway and the Cosmopolitan Cabaret, visit www.calmt.com.

In the Next Room or The Vibrator Play

I have been waiting anxiously for this comedy by the red-hot playwright Sarah Ruhl to open in Sacramento, and now that I have seen it I urge you to get tickets while you still can. *In the Next Room* plays through February 26 at Capital Stage on J Street.

Both a 2010 Pulitzer Prize finalist and a 2010 Tony nominee for Best Play, this very funny, provocative and moving work is based on the historical fact that in the 1880s, at the dawn of the age of electricity, doctors used vibrators to treat 'hysteria' in women (and some men).

Ruhl uses this fact as a backdrop for a hilarious satire of Victorian-era marriage and morality, including the sexual politics of the day, which were notoriously



Katie Rubin and Elena Wright contemplate the love machine in a scene from Capital Stage's production of *In the Next Room or The Vibrator Play* in performance through February 26. Photo by Charr Crail.

Lee's devastatingly funny send-up of Robert Goulet, complete with inky black wig and moustache, and a large adult beverage in hand, brought the house down, as a sloshed "Bob" tried in vain to remember his lyrics.

A gleeful sense of mischief is required to successfully pull off *Forbidden Broadway*. Lee and the rest of the cast, as well as director William Selby, clearly have that in spades, as evidenced by a very funny segment involving cast members in neck braces from Disney's *The Lion King* which was directed by Julie Taymor.

My only regret is that creator Gerard Alessandrini closed *Forbidden Broadway* before Taymor's *Spider-Man* musical opened in New York. I can only imagine



Marc Ginsburg, Jessica Reiner-Harris, Jerry Lee and Melissa Wolfklain in the Cosmopolitan Cabaret production of *Forbidden Broadway* running through March 18. Photo by Charr Crail.

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Oscar Shorts at the Crest

by Chris Narloch

Don't miss the Oscars telecast on Sunday, February 26. Billy Crystal is back as host, which should increase the laugh quotient considerably. To prepare for the Academy Awards, check out the nominated short films at the Crest, and if that's not your cup of tea, here are some other new movies currently in theaters.

The Crest

The 2012 Academy Award Nominated Short Films program offers viewers the rare opportunity to experience the year's best short films from across the globe, collected together in a special cinematic showcase that includes animated, live action and documentary shorts. Playing February 10-16.

Also coming to the Crest, a disturbing psychological thriller entitled *We Need To Talk About Kevin*, starring the great Tilda Swinton, and *In The Land of Blood and Honey*, from first-time director Angelina Jolie and set during the Bosnian War that tore the Balkan region apart in the 1990s. Both films are currently scheduled to open on February 17. Visit www.thecrest.com.

The Tower

It was still playing as I wrote this so it's probably not too late to catch *The Artist* at the Tower, before it wins the Academy Award for Best Picture.

Handsome Jean Dujardin could also win a Best Actor Oscar, although he'd have to beat

out the heavily favored George Clooney to do so. If you ask me, the adorable trained dog in the movie deserves a special canine Oscar for stealing the movie.

Mostly silent and entirely in black and white, *The Artist* is one of the most charming films of last (or any) year.

Next up at the Tower is *A Separation*, Iran's official entry in the Academy Awards and the likely winner for Best Foreign Language Film. This intense drama depicts the emotional trials of a once-loving couple torn apart by the wife's attempt to give their daughter a better life.

The Esquire IMAX

The Esquire IMAX on K Street in Sacramento opens *Journey 2: The Mysterious Island* on February 10. I haven't seen the movie yet, but it stars The Rock and features prehistoric creatures, mountains of gold, deadly volcanoes, and lots of 3D action. I'm there. Visit www.imax.com/sacramento.

At the multiplex

I just saw Daniel Radcliffe's first post-Potter film, *The Woman in Black*, and based on his fine performance in this creepy ghost story, I'd say he has a good chance of moving on with his movie career now that Hogwarts has closed. He looks even more dashing in his period clothes here, and with his white skin and dark stubble, downright sexy actually.

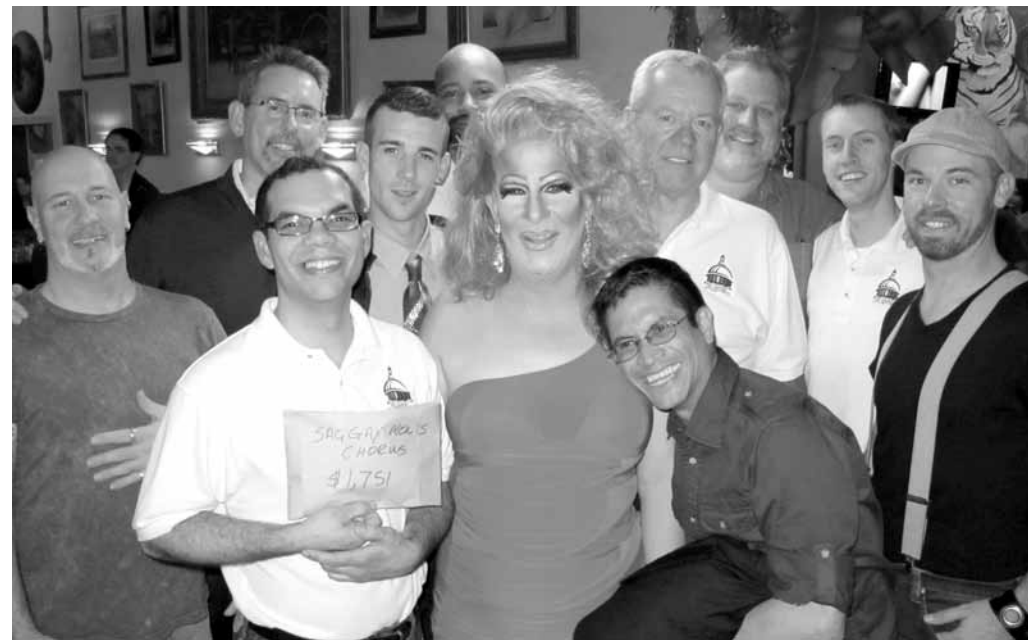
An attempt to resurrect the old Hammer brand of British horror films, *The Woman in Black* is a classy, PG-13 fright-fest that is surprisingly high on jolts and blessedly low on gore.

Two other titles currently in theaters are also worth your hard-earned money. *Red Tails*, a mostly entertaining popcorn-movie about the Tuskegee airmen, arrived just in time for Black History Month from executive producer George Lucas.

Even better is *The Grey*, an edge-of-your-seat, man *vs.* nature -- and man *vs.* beast -- action flick starring Liam Neeson and directed by Sacramento's own Joe Carnahan.

The
Word
is out.

Gay Men's Chorus Sings a Happy Bingo Tune!



Drag Queen Bingo Raises \$1,751 for Sac Gay Men's Chorus

It was another great night of Drag Queen Bingo, with Do Me Moore working her tiny-heiny off for a capacity crowd at Hamburger Patties. Thanks to the generosity of you amazing Bingo Players, \$1,751 was raised for the Sacramento Gay Men's Chorus, bringing the total raised from DQB to \$45,235. The next Drag Queen Bingo is March 1 at Hamburger Patties, hope to see you there! Until then, you can see some fun photos of the crowd at www.outwordoutabout.shutterfly.com/#:albumId=4570

MTV and LOGO to Air *It Gets Better* Special



Dan Savage, a syndicated columnist, author, co-creator of the *It Gets Better* Project and star of MTV's upcoming series "Savage U," will anchor a 60-minute *It Gets Better* special, which will spotlight the emotional and societal struggles many LGBT youth face. *It Gets Better* will air on both MTV and Logo on Tuesday, February 21 at 11:00 p.m. and will focus on the stories of three young people at a crossroads in their lives: a young man struggling to tell his family and friends that he is gay; a lesbian fighting for parental acceptance; a transgender man preparing to get married. Pictured is a scene from Lady Gaga's *Hair: It Gets Better* video.

Equality California and The Sacramento Gay & Lesbian Center Invites you to:

Freedom to Marry Reception
Thursday, February 23
5:30-7:30pm

Please join us for a discussion
of California's fight for marriage equality.

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Tickets: \$50
(Cost of ticket is a tax-deductible donation that will
benefit the Sacramento Gay and Lesbian Center.)

Please RSVP for this event by contacting the event coordinator at
Ted@SacCenter.org or (916) 442-0185.



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Outword
magazine

Calendar Feb.

compiled by Charles Peer

Thursday, 9

ARTIST MEET & GREET

Live demonstrations. 6 - 8 p.m. Kennedy Gallery, 1114 20th St. Info: 916-446-1522 kennedygallery.net

LES BALLETS TROCKADERO

Male dancers performs the full range of the ballet and modern dance repertoire, achieving high comedy by incorporating and exaggerating the foibles, accidents and underlying incongruities of serious dance. 8 p.m. Jackson Hall, Mondavi Center, UCD. Info: 866-754-2787 MondaviArts.org

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Feb. 11&12



CIRCA

Circus re-imagined as a contemporary art form, combining physically impossible skills with a poetic sensibility for new ways of experiencing the awe-inspiring world of circus. 8 p.m. Jackson Hall, Mondavi Center, UCD. Info: 866-754-2787 MondaviArts.org

JAMMIN' JO'S VAL'S DANCE

She's dusted off the turntable for a night of dancing to your favorites, with finger foods and a free CD. \$20. 7 p.m. Club 21, 1119 21st St. Info: JamminJo.com

DARWIN DAY

Dr. Peter M. J. Hess discusses the controversy surrounding evolution and creation. 2:30 - 4:30 p.m. \$10. John Smith Hall, La Sierra Community Center, 5325 Engle Road, Carmichael. Info: 916-447-3589 sacdarwinday.blogspot.com/

Sunday, 12

Monday, 13

STONEWALL DEMOCRATS

Join the LGBT Democrats for their monthly meeting, with guest speakers and discussions of current political events. Social, 6 p.m., meeting, 6:30 p.m. Radisson Hotel, 500 Leisure Lane. Info: 916-441-1787 SacStonewall.org

Friday, 17

ERIC OWENS, BASS-BARITONE

The American bass-baritone has carved a unique place in the contemporary opera world as both an esteemed interpreter of classic works and a champion of new music. 8 p.m. Jackson Hall, Mondavi Center, UCD. Info: 866-754-2787 MondaviArts.org

Saturday, 18

AFRICAN AMERICANS & RRS

Professor Theodore Kornweibel, Jr., author of *Railroads in the African American Experience: A Photographic Journey* shares how the history of American railroads is deeply intertwined with African-American history. 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. Railroad Museum, Old Sac. Info: 916-445-6645 californiastaterailroadmuseum.org

SACTO LOVES BEETHOVEN

The Sacramento Philharmonic performing his *Grosse Fuge* (Great Fugue), plus the West Coast premiere of Christopher Stark's *Promontories*, a musical interpretation of three Ansel Adams photographs. 8 p.m. Community Center Theatre. Info: 916-732-9045 www.sacphil.org

Saturday, 11

PT. REYES HIKE

Enjoy a variety of scenery, from the costal forest environment of the Bear Valley Trail, to sweeping ocean views along the grassy slopes of 1407' Mt. Wittenburg. This is a loop trail, with a gradual 1300 ft. ascent and steeper descent, approx. 7 miles total, so somewhat strenuous. G&L Sierrans. Info: 916-379-0724.

Sunday, 19

FRESH SF'S LAST T-DANCE

The Last Dance: A decade of men, music and magic, this immensely popular monthly gay dance club hosts its last event, with DJs Jamie J. Sanchez, Wayne G. and Mark Tarbox. 6 p.m. - 2 a.m. Ruby Skye, 420 Mason St., SF. Info: FreshSF.com

Monday, 20

SAC VALLEY VETS MEETING

Join this LGBT veterans and active duty group for their monthly meeting and get together. 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. The Lavender Library, 1414 21st St. Info: 916-436-7676 sacvalleyvets.wordpress.com

Tuesday, 21

PFLAG SACRAMENTO

Support group for parents and friends of LGBT. 7:30 p.m. St. Marks UMC, 2391 St. Marks Way. Info: pflagsacramento.org

Wednesday, 22

RIGOLETTO WITH PFLAG

A very unique opportunity to catch a dress rehearsal of *Rigoletto* performed by the

To Kill a Mockingbird

Based closely on Lee's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel, tackles issues of racial injustice and the loss of innocence are tackled in this American classic when a lawyer chooses to defend a black man facing charges of rape, and his young daughter learns lessons both sad and beautiful. Thru March 4. ARC Theatre, 916-484-8234 seatyoursself.biz/arctheatre



Sacramento Opera with the Sacramento Philharmonic, to benefit PFLAG. Plus a pre-reception with hosted appetizers (5:30 - 6:30 p.m. at the Hyatt.) 7 p.m. Community Center Theatre, 1301 L St. Info: 916-483-4788

CALENDAR

continues on page 21

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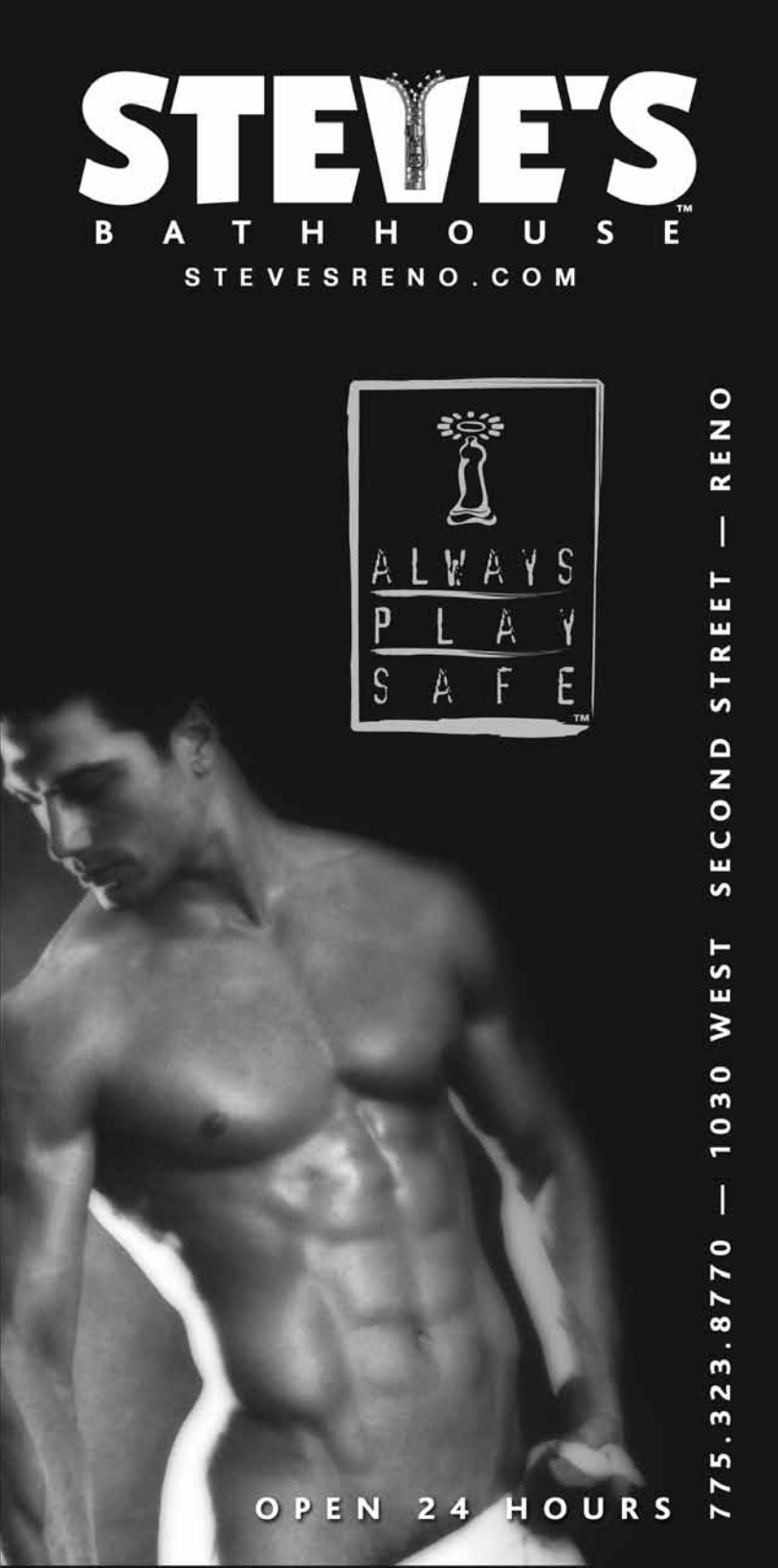
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Fall in love with *Love Story* all over again this Valentine's Day at this very special screening, featuring a live presentation by Ali McGraw, plus tribute performances including special guest Mx Justin Vivian Bond doing a “sorry” medley, live version of the “Theme from Love Story” sung by the evening’s hostette Katya Smirnoff Skyy and more. 8 p.m. Castro Theatre, SF Info: www.ticketfly.com 415-863-0611.

meaning and an important social message. Also, we were fortunate to have Mr. Achath on our team, he truly brought the characters to life.”

Achath is a world-renowned shadowgrapher. His shadowgraphy has been featured on *The Late Show with David Letterman*, CNN, ABC, CBS, and many other television channels in the U.S. and abroad. He was also a quarter-finalist in NBC’s 2008 *America’s Got Talent* contest.

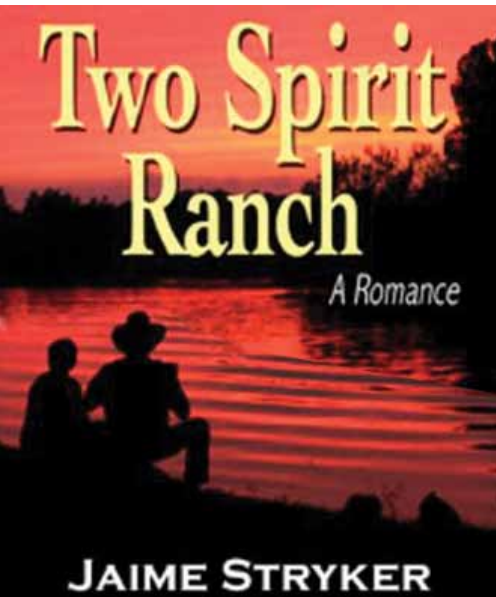
“Shadowgraphy is a very old art-form, and I am very excited to bring this art-form to a whole new generation,” said Achath. “I fell in love with this project for the music, message and medium.”

Bye June is a socially conscious band originally from the Washington DC area and features: Gil Kline, guitars, vocals, composition and lyrics; Gunner Sledgeski, drums; and Daniel McGreal, Bass.

You can listen to “Shades of Purple” and other Bye June tracks at www.byejune.com.

New Romance Novel Features Transgendered Heroine

Everyone needs a little romance in their life, and now after a year of unprecedented publicity regarding transgender issues in the entertainment and political worlds, the novel *Two Spirit Ranch*, a transgender romance, hopes to give an unconventional twist to a conventional tale.



Jaime Stryker’s novel follows a successful lawyer running away from her tumultuous life in New York City to Montana where she meets a handsome small town sheriff. But this otherwise traditional love story has a twist; the heroine is transgendered and fears not being loved for the woman she is. “Popular art reflects culture, and the past year brought transgender issues to the forefront,” says Stryker, who is a longtime fan of the romance genre. “It was simply time for a romance novel that also touched upon gender issues.”

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repressed and resulted in both men and women being kept in the dark with regards to their own bodies and physical desires.

The two juiciest roles are enacted by Katie Rubin, comic perfection as hysterical patient number one, and by Elena Wright, who movingly portrays the curious and ultimately adventurous wife of an uptight doctor. Her husband provides “electrical stimulation” in his private practice as treatment for various maladies suffered by patients, and his wife gradually realizes that she is missing out on the fun.

What is unique about *In the Next Room* is that it actually succeeds in saying something about sexuality, particularly female sexuality, and does so from a woman’s point of view – something we see far too rarely in the often male-dominated world of theater. Visit www.capstage.com.

Thursday, 23

FREEDOM TO MARRY

EQCA and Sac G&L Center are hosting a reception and discussion on California’s fight for marriage equality, with appetizers, wine and beer. \$50. Kennedy Gallery, 1114 20th St. RSVP 916-442-0185 Ted@SacCenter.org

Friday, 24

RIGOLETTO

A psychologically disturbing drama about a “corrupted clown who belittles the misfortune of others, and takes out a contract on his employer, who has designs on his daughter Gilda. Sacramento Opera with the Sacramento Philharmonic. 8 p.m. Community Center Theatre, 1301 L St. info: SacOpera.org

Saturday, 25

SNOWSHOE HIKE

Find your snowshoes, or rent some, for this moderate hike near Echo Summit, off Hwy. 50. Huff and puff through fluffy snow up a forested ridge to enjoy lunchtime views of Lake Tahoe. Then downhill to frozen Echo Lakes, passing snow covered cabins. Enjoy the winter wonderland! G&L Sierrans. Info: 916-379-0724

COLLAGE

A group for folks aged eight and older with one or more parents that are LGBTQ. Come and play games, make friends and plan fun activities. 2-4 p.m. Sac G&L Center, 1927 L St. Info: 916-514-2251 colage.org facebook.com/colage.sacramento

Sunday, 26

OSCAR NIGHT SACRAMENTO

Take a stroll down the red carpet for an enchanted evening with Oscar, plus fabulous silent auction, free champagne toast, live music and more. 4 p.m. \$75 or \$125. Hyatt Regency. Info: 916-488-1110 CapCityAIDSFund.org



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Sacramento Second Monday, 6:00-8:30pm. Sacramento SFF office. Call (916) 368-5114.

Nevada County First Wednesday, 6:00-9:00pm. Nevada City office. Call (530) 478-0900.

Placer County Third Thursday, 6:30-8:30pm. PlacerKids, Auburn. Call (530) 887-9982.

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Wonder Guide Orientations in January. For dates and times, call (916) 290-1206.

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Josh and Matthew Dilegame, who met over 10 years ago, had a strong desire to become parents. The couple selected to work with Sierra Forever Families and are now parents to two children who were living in foster care, Justin (7) and Joseph (5). Becoming parents opened up a whole new world for Josh and Matthew. They couldn't imagine life without their sons. Today, Josh, Matt, and the boys are eagerly awaiting the addition of a little sister to their family.

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