

Outword

Volume 26 • Issue 17 • No. 488 • September 12, 2013 • outwordmagazine.com

magazine

Fun Times in the
Gayborhood!

page 20



**New HIV Vaccine
Offers Hope**

page 5

**A Gay Gymnast & a
Lesbian Dilettante**

page 19

**The Wizard Of
Oz Gets IMAXED**

page 24





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Letters

Join the Center for a Friends & Family Picnic

Dear Outword Readers,

On Sunday, September 15th, the Sacramento LGBT Community Center will be hosting its Annual Friends & Family Picnic at the beautiful Natomas Racquet Club.

What better way to end the summer than socializing, swimming, painting, dancing, eating, and a whole lot more with our family and friends! This will be a day of fun for all ages, so mark your calendars, and invite your loved ones.

Tickets are \$12 per person or \$20 for two and \$30 for family/friends of four. There will also be \$1.00 raffle tickets. Ticket price includes food, drink, and activities.

Tickets can be purchased www.saccenter.org.

We look forward to seeing you on September 15, from Noon to 5 p.m.

Melanie Altaras, Communications Intern
Sacramento LGBT Community Center

NorCal AIDS Cycle to Distribute \$218,000

Demonstrating once again their pedal power, the NorCal AIDS Cycle (NCAC), an annual four-day, 330-mile cycling fundraiser, will distribute \$218,000 to 11 Sacramento and Northern California HIV/AIDS services organizations.

"As we kick off the 10th anniversary year of NorCal AIDS Cycle, it is so gratifying to know that the funds will support programs and services that otherwise might not be possible," said Emily Tsuchida, president of the NCAC board of directors and a nurse practitioner serving people with HIV/AIDS.

All cyclists, crew members and the community are invited to a check presentation ceremony at 6 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 18, at Mulvaney's B&L, 1215 19th St., in Midtown Sacramento.

For more information about NorCal AIDS Cycle, visit www.norcalaidscycle.org.

New HIV Vaccine Offers Hope

Sumagen Canada Inc. and Western University of Ontario have announced a vaccine for human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) that has proved successful in a Phase 1 clinical trial with no adverse effects in human patients.

Developed by Dr. Chil-Yong Kang and his team, the vaccine is the first genetically modified, whole-killed vaccine to be approved for testing in humans.



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In-Queer-Y Starts New Sac State Semester of Pride

You have questions? We have answers. Come listen to a panel of LGBTQ-identified people talk about their identities and experiences at In-Queer-Y, presented by the Sac State Pride Center.

In-Queer-Y will be on Friday Sept. 13 from 1:30 - 3 p.m. in Hinde Auditorium, in the University Union.

For more information, visit www.facebook.com/csuspride

Put Your Skills to Work in the Community

Dear Outword Readers,

The Sacramento LGBT Community Center needs dedicated and dynamic volunteers to help facilitate some of their community groups.

The Women's Group is in need of a facilitator with a mental health background and/or relevant group experience and the Wednesday night Youth Group, for ages 12 to 17, is in need of facilitators with experience working with youth in a community setting.

Seniors Together is seeking out elders interested in facilitating the group and supporting LGBT senior programming.

We also need Referral Services volunteers, who connect people in need with services and support.

Prospective volunteers must be at least 18 years of age. If interested, fill out a volunteer application and email a resume to volunteers@saccenter.org. Group facilitators will be asked to make a one-year commitment to the center.

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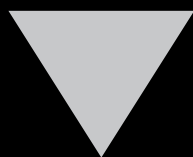
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Even in the Gayborhood, We Need To Be Careful Out There

At about 1:30 a.m. on Saturday, August 17, two men from our community were attacked at the Old Spaghetti Factory parking lot in Midtown. This attack came on the heels of a rash of robberies in the Midtown area.

The two men who were attacked suffered extensive injuries, but are now back home recovering both mentally and physically from the attack.

The Sacramento Police Department is seeking the suspects in the case, identified as five male Hispanic-Americans, wearing white t-shirts/jeans; one with poofy long hair pulled back; another with shaved sides. They may have been driving a white Chevy Impala.

Please contact the Sacramento Police Department if you have information regarding the incident or the suspects being sought, call 916-264-5471.

Hopefully, they will be caught. In the meantime, we need to be careful out there. If you are out late at night – or really, anytime – there are some precautions you can take, and here are some recommendations from the Sacramento Police Department.

- Plan your route ahead of time. Never walk alone at night; walk with a friend or your dog.
- Use well lit streets; not dark alleys or bushy areas.
- Carry signaling devices like shriek alarms or a whistle.
- Carry pepper spray.
- Be alert! Look behind you occasionally.
- Never ask for or accept a ride from a stranger.
- Don't carry large sums of money or wear valuable jewelry.
- Don't resist an armed robber. Hand over whatever is demanded quickly and quietly.
- Your life and safety are worth more than any personal property.
- As soon as possible, enter your car or home.
- If your car is not parked nearby in a safe location, consider taking a taxi to it, or having a friend drive you to it.

CGNIE Supports Local Charities



All of their hard work fundraising for local nonprofits came to fruition at this year's Rainbow Festival on Sept. 1, when the Court of the Great Northwest Imperial Empire presented a \$1,000 check to the Sacramento LGBT Community Center and another for \$500 to the Gender Health Center.



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Veterans Benefits Extended to Same-sex Married Couples

In the Obama administration's latest step to ensure equal treatment for same-sex married couples following the Supreme Court's decision to strike down a key section of the Defense of Marriage Act, U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder has announced that President Obama has directed the Executive Branch to take steps allowing for same-sex spouses of military veterans to collect federal benefits.

The new policy means that the administration will no longer enforce statutory language governing the Veterans Administration (VA) and the Department of Defense (DoD) that restricts the awarding of spousal benefits to opposite-sex marriages only.

The language, contained within Title 38 of the U.S. Code, has, until now, prevented the Executive Branch from providing spousal

benefits to veterans – and in some instances active-duty service members and reservists – who are in same-sex marriages recognized under state law.

In a letter to Congressional leaders, Holder stated that the President's decision was consistent with the Court's decision in *Windsor* in June.

"Although the Supreme Court did not directly address the constitutionality of the

Title 38 provisions in *Windsor*, the reasoning of the opinion strongly supports the conclusion that those provisions are unconstitutional under the Fifth Amendment," Holder wrote.

The decision not to enforce Title 38 aligns with the Obama administration's determination last year that two provisions of Title 38 that govern benefits for veterans and their families were unconstitutional as applied to legally married same-sex couples. At that time, the Attorney General informed Congress that the Department would no longer defend the Title 38 provisions, but that the Executive Branch would continue to enforce them.

Holder's announcement, made September 4, makes it clear that enforcement of the provision in Title 38 defining marriage as between a man and a woman will now cease.

The announcement comes after the House Bipartisan Legal Advisory Group (BLAG) recently decided to stop defending the Title 38 provisions in pending cases. In addition, last week, a federal district court in California held the Title 38 provisions unconstitutional on equal protection grounds.

After consideration of these developments and a recommendation by the Attorney General, the President directed the Executive Branch to cease enforcement of the Title 38 provisions, according to a statement released by Holder.

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From left to right Caín, Roque Lara, Everardo Robles and Ariel strolling around at Rainbow Festival.

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ISSN # 1084-7618 United States Library of Congress

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Briefly Put

Minnesota Supreme Court Refuses to Prosecute HIV+ Man

The Supreme Court of Minnesota has upheld a lower court's ruling that an HIV-positive man cannot be held criminally responsible for engaging in consensual sex after disclosing his HIV status to his partner.

In 2009, Daniel James Rick, who is HIV-positive, had a sexual relationship with another man, D.B., whose HIV status at the time was unknown. They mutually agreed to not use condoms. After the relationship ended, the state prosecuted Rick under Minnesota's "knowing transfer of a communicable disease" statute. At trial, the jury found that Rick had disclosed his HIV status but convicted him under an interpretation of the law that would make it a crime for individuals with HIV to have sex even after disclosing their status to their partner.

200,000 Signatures Delivered to Olympics Sponsor P&G

Julianne Howell, an LGBT resident from the Cincinnati-area, along with activists from the national LGBT advocacy group GetEqual, delivered more than 200,000 signatures from Howell's petition on Change.org to Procter & Gamble's corporate offices, urging the company, which is a major sponsor of the 2014 Sochi Winter Olympics and a major purchaser of advertising on state-run Russian television, to denounce Russia's recent crackdown on gay rights and to support LGBT Russians.

Howell's petition calls on major sponsors of the 2014 Winter Olympics to condemn legislation passed in Russia that criminalizes public support for LGBT rights. In addition to pressuring Procter & Gamble, Howell is also petitioning Coca-Cola, Samsung, Panasonic and VISA, and GetEqual has also been organizing actions and activism focused on additional corporate sponsors of the Russian games.

No Happy Uncovered Ending for Adult Film Actor

News reports are indicating that at least one adult film actor has tested positive for HIV and that the adult film industry has imposed an immediate halt to all adult film production in California until further notice.

"There is no happy ending to this story," said Assemblymember Isadore Hall, III (D-LA) "Exposing workers to this type of harm would not be accepted in any other industry in this nation."

Hall, who had authored AB 332, which would require frequent testing of STDs and mandatory condom use in adult films produced in California, said that adult film production should only resume with comprehensive workplace safety protocols in place, including requiring condom use in all California adult films.

Hall's bill did not pass the Assembly, but with a recent Federal Court decision in Los Angeles stating that requiring adult film performers to wear condoms is not unconstitutional, Hall has said that he will reintroduce the bill.

Gay California Mayor Rejected at Blood Drive

Evan Low, the openly gay mayor of Campbell, California, led a local blood drive in his city, but was turned away as a potential donor because of his sexual orientation under a FDA policy enacted in 1983 that bans all gay men from blood donations;

The American Medical Association, the American Red Cross, and the American Association of Blood Banks all support an end to the lifetime ban on gay male blood donations

"The current FDA policy that bars virtually all gay men from donating blood is a relic from decades past, and discriminates against thousands of eligible donors who only want to help their community and save the lives of others," said Low. Low has started a petition drive asking the FDA to remove the ban at www.change.org/gaybloodban



Evan Low

Nation's Oldest LGBT Bookstore, Giovanni's Room, for Sale

After 37 years at the helm of Giovanni's Room, owner Ed Hermance is retiring, leaving both the nation's oldest LGBT bookstore and its building up for sale.

Hermance, 73, has owned the independently run LGBT bookstore, nestled on the corner of Pine and 12th streets in Philadelphia, since 1976. Several years ago, the store had to replace an exterior wall that was in danger of collapse and the Philadelphia LGBT community raised more than \$50,000 for the project, an effort that Hermance said still resonates with him.

"The value of the buildings, whether I am renting or selling them, is going to the Delaware Valley Legacy Fund," he said. "I feel like I would like them to have it. This property was bought and paid for by the LGBT community so it is important for me for to give back to the community."

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Remembering Jose Julio Sarria

by CGNIE Emperor Gerald Filice

Legendary gay activist Jose Julio Sarria, died August 19, 2013, at the age of 90. Sarria founded the Imperial Court System in San Francisco, the oldest and one of the largest LGBT organizations in the world.

A World War II veteran, Sarria returned to San Francisco after the war and began working at The Black Cat nightclub (a well-known gay club), performing in drag.

Post-WWII San Francisco (and America generally) saw increasing pressure against gay establishments by the authorities, often including raids on clubs and arrests of patrons. Sarria cleverly resisted by including in his songs warnings about impending police raids.

Although it was a crime at the time for a man to impersonate a woman, he nevertheless wore drag, but attached a label to himself saying "I am a man." Sarria would often lead club patrons to the jail late at night where they would serenade gay men who had been arrested with "God Save Us Nellie Queens."

In 1961, Sarria ran for supervisor of the County of San Francisco, becoming the first openly gay person in the world to run for public office. Though he didn't win, he garnered a large number of votes, paving the way for his friend Harvey Milk, who won the

same election 16 years later.

At a ball sponsored by San Francisco's gay clubs in 1965, Jose was named "Queen of the Ball," but instead, he decided to be an "Empress," becoming Empress Jose I. This was in recognition of the legendary Emperor Norton, an eccentric 19th Century San Franciscan who named himself "Emperor of the United States and Protector of Mexico." Eventually, Empresses and then Emperors were selected annually, becoming the Imperial Court of San Francisco.

The Court system quickly spread to the Northwest, throughout California, and across North America, where there are now some 70 chapters in the U.S., Canada and Mexico. Sacramento's Court, the Court of the Great Northwest Imperial Empire (CGNIE), was founded by 1973. The current reigning monarchs, Empress Misha Rockefeller and Emperor Gerald Filice, are the 40th. Like all Imperial Courts, CGNIE raises large sums for charity every year, including to help the HIV/AIDS community; scholarships to help LGBT people obtain an education; and



CGNIE Emporor 40, Gerald Filice, with Jose Julio Sarria.

assisting other charitable organizations in the community. Empress Misha's charity this year is the Camellia Fund, benefiting the LGBT Community Center. Emperor Gerald's charity is the Emperor's Fund for Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Services, to make counseling more readily available and reduce the incidents of self-harm our community is experiencing.

Though little known outside the Imperial Court system, José was one of the most

significant LGBT leaders in history. His amazing sense of humor and fun-loving nature, which this writer personally experienced on several occasions, will never be forgotten. His courage and determination, often against daunting odds and challenges, make him a hero and role model for anyone of good will, and especially for all gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people, for whom he cared so much. We will miss him dearly.

SGMC Begins New Season with a *Cool Yule*

The Sacramento Gay Men's Chorus (SGMC) will kick off its 2013-14 concert season with *Cool Yule: A Big Band Theory*, giving their annual holiday show a 1950's Big Band flavor.

The *Cool Yule* show will begin the chorus' second season under the direction of Artistic Director Steven Johnson, an accomplished pianist, conductor and composer who also serves as director of music and worship at St. John's Lutheran Church in downtown Sacramento.

Under Johnson's leadership, the chorus has grown to 65 members. To continue that growth, the chorus will hold open auditions on September 12 and 19 from 7 to 9:30 p.m., at Pioneer Congregational Church, 2700 L Street. E-mail sgmcinfo@gmail.com to schedule an audition time.

"The chorus is beginning the year on a high note, coming off the most successful season in its

history full of energy and enthusiasm," Johnson said in a released statement. "The sound just keeps getting better, and the Sacramento community has discovered that this group puts on a heck of a good show, as evidenced by several sell-out performances this past year. Our goal for the coming season is to build on that momentum, continue to excel artistically, and create an exuberant, fun musical experience for our audience."

Cool Yule: A Big Band Theory will be performed on Friday, Dec. 6, at 8 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 7 at 8 p.m.; Sunday, Dec. 8 at 4 p.m., and Tuesday, Dec. 10, at 8 p.m. All four performances will be at the First United



The Sacramento Gay Men's Chorus with piano accompanist Kay Hight and Artistic Director Steven Johnson at a SGMC 2012 Concert.

Methodist Church, 2100 J Street, in Midtown Sacramento.

For more information about the Sacramento

Gay Men's Chorus, or to purchase tickets to the *Cool Yule: A Big Band Theory* holiday concert, visit SacGayMensChorus.org.

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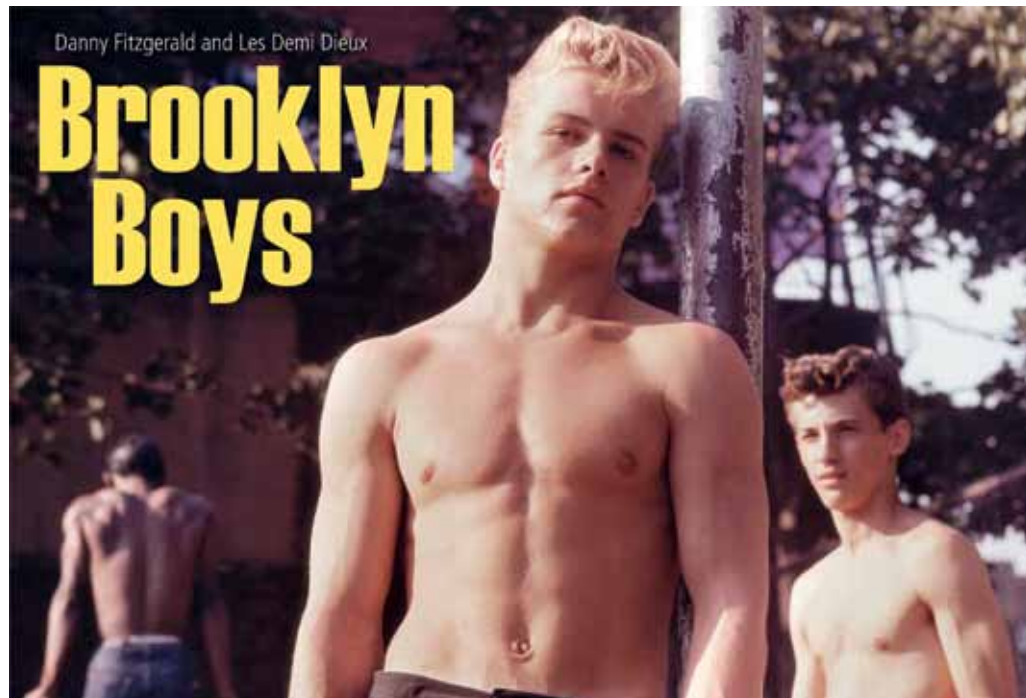
For many years, Cathy Speck, right, was known for her singing and music as a part of Duval Speck and The Essentials and LGBT activism. Then ALS spun her life in a different direction, and even though it has sapped her strength, her humor and wit are as strong as ever. Her latest project, "Die Laughing with Cathy Speck: The ALS Musical One Woman Show," showcases her message with laughter and love, and gives fans, another chance to share her music and humor. The show will be performed September 15 from 1 - 4 p.m. in Woodland. Visit community.als.net/dielauting for more information.

Young Frankenstein Stalks Folsom's Sutter Street Theatre



With such memorable tunes as "The Transylvania Mania," "He Vas My Boyfriend" and "Puttin' On The Ritz," *Young Frankenstein* is scientifically-proven, monstrously good entertainment. The show plays through Sept 29, and stars Anthony Raddigan, Christianne Klein, Mark Cornfield. Get the details at www.sutterstreettheatre.com.

The Art of Photography Captures a Time of Innocence




The photographs of Danny Fitzgerald are an undiscovered treasure, making him one of the great photographers of the 20th century, and the soon to be released *Brooklyn Boys* presents some of his work for the very first time since its creation in the '50s and '60s, showcasing the unbelievable intensity of his photography. This hardcover edition, filled with 160 pages of his work in full color will soon be available at Amazon.com.

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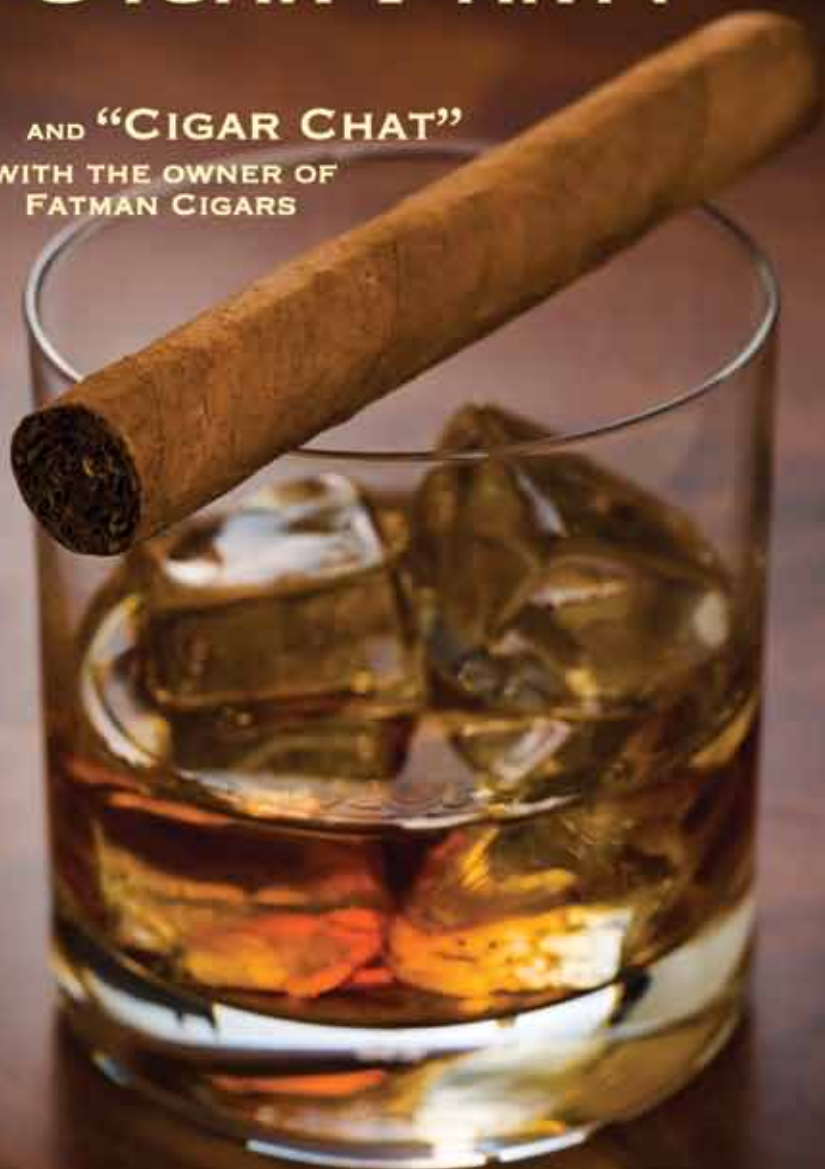
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Cheap Things To Do In The Bay Area

by Chris Narloch

An addiction to the arts can be expensive, as anyone knows who has forked over their hard earned money to see a big Broadway musical or to buy opera tickets or to see a big name artist like Lady Gaga.



for all the big art spaces including the de Young, the Legion of Honor and the Conservatory of Flowers.

As I was researching this very article, I stumbled on the just-released schedule for the 2013 Hardly Strictly Bluegrass Festival, happening the first weekend of October in Golden Gate Park.

Always an amazing free event, this year's three-day concert will feature Bonnie Raitt, Chris Isaak, Emmylou Harris, Steve Earle, Patty Griffin, Boz Scaggs, Bettye LaVette, Los Lobos, Natalie Maines, Steve Martin with Edie Brickell, Vince Gill and many more.

Visit www.hardlystrictlybluegrass.com to see the complete roster.



Since I am a certified entertainment junkie, I am always on the lookout for great deals and free stuff to do to offset the amount of money I (proudly but not always happily) spend on the arts.

One of the best "webstops" I have found is www.funcheap.com, a great site that has all the dope on free stuff to do in the Bay Area which, as most people know, can be a pricey place to visit.

You'll find information on free music, free movies, free fairs and festivals, free food and wine tasting events, and free museum days

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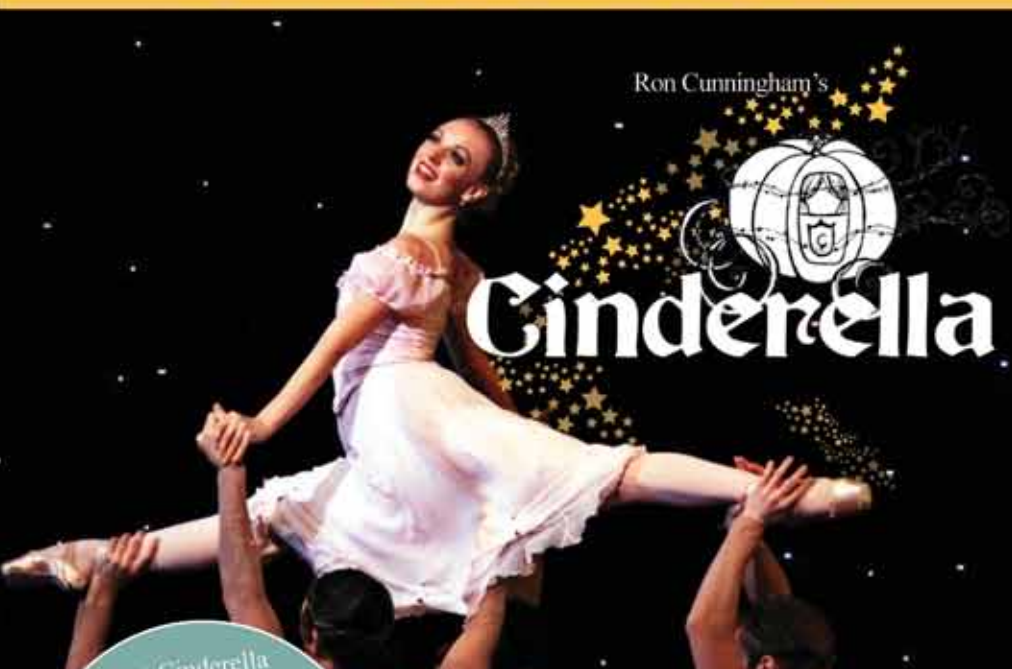
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A Gay Gymnast & a Lesbian Dilettante Two Recent Queer Books Reviewed

by Chris Narloch

I don't get much time to read novels anymore, but when I do I like to devour either a good meaty autobiography or a trashy potboiler. One of each is reviewed below.

Acrobaddict

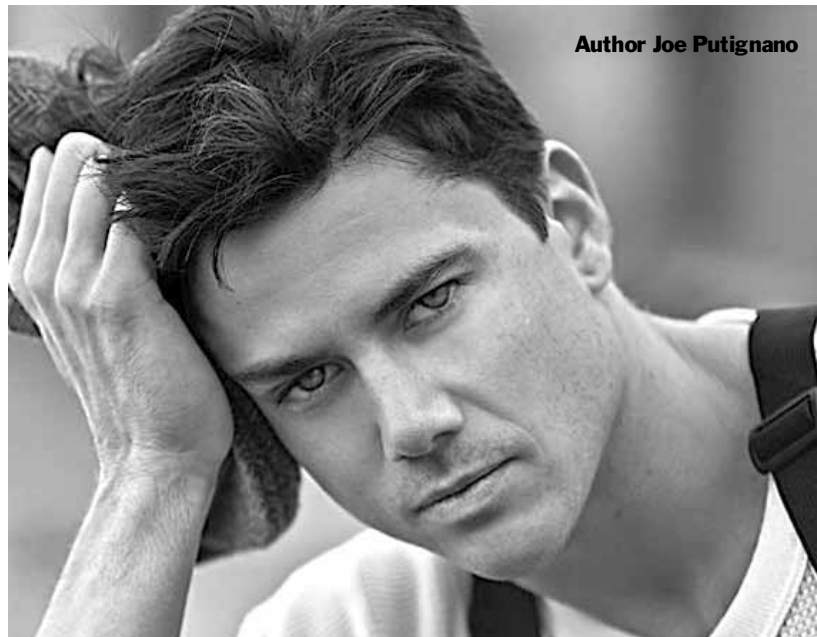
By Joe Putignano

If you ever wondered how in the world a gifted artist or athlete could throw away their gifts and become an addict, this harrowing memoir written by a world-class gymnast will spell it out for you.

Acrobaddict is a story about the close relationship between athletics and drug addiction – how the same energy, obsession, and dedication that can create an Olympic-level athlete can also create a homeless heroin addict.

Joe Putignano was a promising athlete whose life spiraled out of control after teenage drinking led to experimentation with harder drugs and ultimately to homeless shelters and a heroin habit.

The author explains in unflinching detail how he went from the U.S. Olympic Training Center to shooting heroin on the



Author Joe Putignano

job to being declared dead, in part due to his inability to accept his homosexuality.

As dark as much of his journey is, *Acrobaddict* is ultimately

hopeful since Putignano succeeded in recovery and has gone on to great success as a performer on Broadway and with Cirque du Soleil.

Maxie Mainwaring, Lesbian Dilettante

By Monica Nolan

Although I'm a card-carrying gay male, I have been known on occasion to enjoy a good lesbian pulp novel of the classic sort that Sacramento's own Ann Bannon pioneered back in the day.

Bannon's delicious 1960's pulp page-turners had lurid covers and funny titles such as *Women in the Shadows* and *Odd Girl Out*.

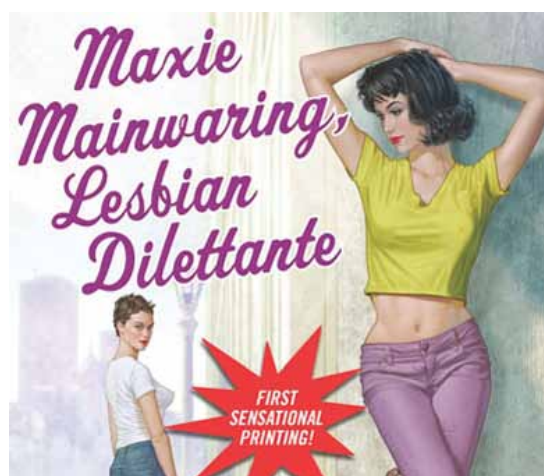
Monica Nolan's *Maxie Mainwaring* is a campy spoof of that genre, about an heiress whose family cuts off her allowance after she's caught kissing another

woman at the 1964 Daughters of the American Pioneers Spring Tea.

It isn't long before our hapless heroine is involved with the mob and dodging a murder attempt. She also falls for a sexy butch named Lon.

Maxie Mainwaring charms the pants off Lon and the other ladies in *Lesbian Dilettante*, and I found her pretty darn charming as well.

Note: The other nice thing about



this last book is the price. The day I looked on Amazon, the Kindle edition was going for just \$2.99.

Camellia Symphony Hosts Instrument Petting Zoo

The Camellia Symphony Orchestra is kicking off its 2013 with a free family concert designed to showcase the Symphony and introduce kids to the joys of music through its Instrument Petting Zoo, and opportunity to “meet and touch” the instruments that make up a symphony orchestra.

Back for his second season, Dr. Christian Baldini will be leading the orchestra for this season's concert series. New this season, the Symphony will be performing at the Sacramento City College Performing Arts Center.

The first concert in the series will be held Sunday, October 13 starting at 1 p.m. with the Instrument

Petting Zoo, followed by a one-hour family concert offering a variety of classical music selections from movie scores to highlights from the Season Concert Series.

Additional concerts will include performances of Beethoven's beloved *Ninth (Choral) Symphony*, Elgar's mesmerizing *Enigma Variations*, Bartok's powerful

Concerto for Orchestra and Stravinsky's most imaginative suite, from the ballet *The Firebird*.

For more information on these concerts or tickets sales for the Season Concert Series, visit CamelliaSymphony.org or call 916-929-6655.



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Out & About

Rainbow Festival 2013

The weather was perfect for this year's Rainbow Festival, held Sunday, Sept. 1, and you were all resplendent as you celebrated the end of summer. Thanks to Terry Sidie, Kenny Yerkes and TJ Bruce for organizing the event and the weekend of festivities, and to all the volunteers who made it all possible.



Conductor Michael Morgan Teaches It's Okay to Be Different

by Bonnie Osborn

As a gay African American conductor of classical music, and as someone who wanted to be a conductor since third grade, Michael Morgan knows what it's like to be a little “different.” It is a perspective the Music Director and Principal Conductor of Two in Tune, the newly formed merger of the Sacramento Philharmonic Orchestra and the Sacramento Opera, carries with him in his extensive work with youth music education programs.

“For my entire career I have always worked with youth orchestras,” Morgan says. “My main focus in arts education always has been finding minority kids who have that interest and aptitude, and making sure they can see a path from where they are to where we are on the stage.

“One of the things I always say to kids is, even if you are the only person interested in something, it's still legitimate. That whole piece of nonconformity is important to instill!”

Morgan recalls that nobody else in his third grade class was interested in being a conductor like he was. “That's the idea I am trying to spread when I make my appearances in schools, that it's just okay to go in your own direction, so I emphasize that in my own story.”

Born and raised in Washington, D.C., Morgan was part of a close-knit family and even today shares a tri-plex home with his sister and mother. Morgan's mother and grandmother both played piano, and his father bought a piano for their home from a neighbor who was moving.

While still in elementary school, Morgan had the opportunity to take after-school piano lessons, and it was there that his love of music and his ambition to become a conductor was born.

“Everything everybody does is a convergence of wanting to do something and being lucky enough to have the chance to do it,” he says. “I am like everybody else in that regard.”

After attending Oberlin College Conservatory of Music, and having had the opportunity to work with Leonard Bernstein, Morgan won first prize at the Hans Swarkovsky International Conductors Competition in Vienna in 1980 and became assistant conductor of the Saint Louis Symphony Orchestra. In 1986 he was named assistant conductor of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, where he served for five years before accepting the position of stage director with the Oakland East Bay Symphony. He is now in his 23rd year with the Oakland Symphony and in his 14th year conducting the Sacramento Philharmonic prior to its merger earlier this year with the Sacramento Opera.

The merger of the two performing arts organizations is expected to increase operational efficiencies and cut costs, an important consideration during a time when arts funding is increasingly hard to come by.

“Times are rarely wonderful in the non-profit arts, but in tough economic times it's especially hard to get people, businesses and foundations to



Conductor Michael Morgan will lead the newly formed Two In Tune, a merger of the Sacramento Philharmonic and the Sacramento Opera, in the Philharmonic's first concert of the season, *Here to Stay: The Gershwin Experience*, in October.

focus on the arts, because understandably a lot of attention goes to social services, where there is such dire need,” Morgan says. “But those of us in the arts community believe we have a much better community and place to live if you have the creativity and self-expression that is engendered by performing arts.

“If you want the whole community exposed to these really great fruits of civilization, then the cost has to be shared by the people who can afford to share it,” he says. “There are many studies that show that support for our arts education will keep some children engaged in school who might not otherwise remain. That's how I got started, because then every public school had music, and mine had orchestra. Lot of times now students don't get started in music until they reach high school.”

Morgan says he has never felt he had to hide his sexual orientation and that being gay has

never been an issue in his career; he has always lived in communities where there was a strong LGBT community.

Still the demands of his career may be in part responsible for the fact that he remains a bachelor. “It's not that I don't play well with others, but my job requires me to be surrounded by people, so when I go home I just become Garbo-esque: I just want to be alone, but you don't rule anything out; you never know who you are going to run across around the corner.”

The Sacramento Philharmonic and Opera kicked off its 2013-14 season this month. On Saturday, October 19, the organization will present a Sacramento Philharmonic Pops Concert, *Here to Stay: The Gershwin Experience*, at the Community Center Theater.

For more information about Two in Tune and upcoming performances, visit 2intune.org.

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Drama For Days In Sac – Plus *Best of Broadway* by Chris Narloch

Musical theater queens – and drama queens especially – will have plenty to pick from over the next month or so on Sacramento stages. Here’s a roundup of the most promising current and upcoming shows.

Other Desert Cities

The heaping helpings of praise this show has been receiving are justified. I haven’t actually seen the production at Sacramento’s B Street Theatre Mainstage yet, but I will be first in line after I put this arts edition to bed. I did, however, catch the play on Broadway, where Stockard Channing, Stacy

Keach, Judith Light and Rachel Griffiths had a field day with Jon Robin Baitz’ wickedly good dialogue in this surprisingly funny dysfunctional family drama. *Other Desert Cities* plays through September 29 at B Street Theatre. Visit www.bstreettheatre.org.



Jonathan Rhys Williams and Shannon Mahoney in a scene from *Clybourne Park*.

Clybourne Park

I saw this play in San Francisco a couple years ago and was blown away by the quality of the writing. The ingenious work by Bruce Norris is both a prequel and sequel (of sorts) to *A Raisin in the Sun*, imagining events that might have taken place both before and after the sale of a house in a “white” neighborhood to the black family in that iconic play.

The fine folks at Sacramento’s Capital Stage, who love a challenge, are tackling this one, and, after seeing their dynamite production of *The Elaborate Entrance of Chad Deity*, I have no doubt that they are up to the task. *Clybourne Park* plays through October 6, 2013. Visit www.capstage.org.

The Best of Broadway

This annual musical theater extravaganza routinely boasts the largest cast of any local show in Sacramento. This is *Best of Broadway*’s 40th anniversary, and David McDonald’s production returns to the Veterans Memorial Amphitheatre in Old Fair Oaks to mark the occasion.

Featuring one showstopper after another, the fast-paced revue showcases the finest numbers in song and dance from contemporary and traditional Broadway musicals. This year’s *Best of Broadway* production, entitled *Celebration!*, will play September 13 – 29. Visit www.bestofbroadway.org.



Dana Brooke, David Silberman and Stephanie McVay in a scene from *Other Desert Cities*, now playing at the B Street Theatre.

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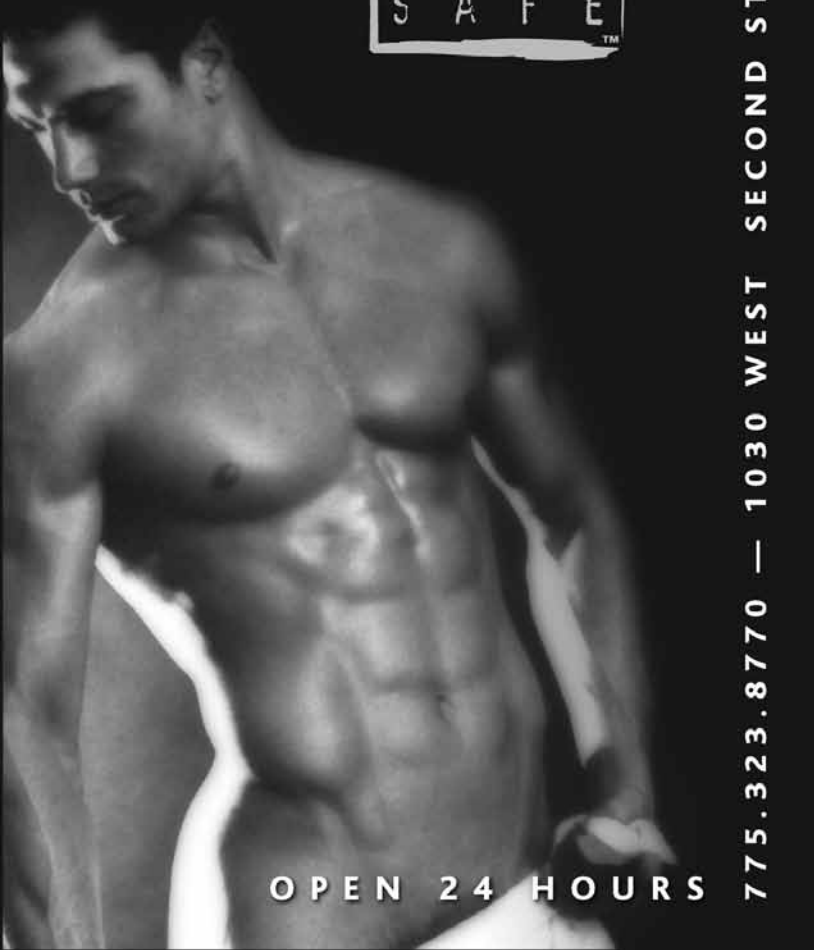
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Left to right: Jason Collins, Todd Woolman, Dinean Robinson, Wade Davis, Fallon Fox, Jarron Collins, Darnell Moore, Lillian Rivera.

Photo courtesy of Fred Says

Wade Davis Creating Positive Change

by Amy Jones, Jones Communication

ALTHOUGH A HULKING GUY WITH muscles comes to mind when you talk about football players from the NFL, Wade Davis Jr. will surprise you with his small size. But he'll surprise you even more when you learn about his character which is super-sized.

The former cornerback who played for the Tennessee Titans, Washington Redskins and Seattle Seahawks has demonstrated his off-field courage by publically announcing that he is gay. And since that recent announcement he has already made great strides forward for the LGBT community.

Formerly the assistant director of job readiness at Hetrick-Martin Institute, a non-profit that works for LGBT youth, he was just named the executive director of the You Can Play Project, the non-profit that takes a stand on the following: that locker rooms should be safe; that sports venues should be free from homophobia; and that athletes should be judged on talent, heart and work ethic, not sexual orientation. It sounds like the perfect fit for everyone concerned. Davis is a thoughtful, insightful and passionate man who is determined to create positive change.

This summer he launched his inaugural You Belong (YB) Camp for young LGBTQ athletes and their allies. Focused on basketball, this first camp was held in Chicago with 40 inner city kids in attendance. It attracted a wonderful assortment of LGBT athletes and advocates ready to help Davis change the world, including out NBA player Jason Collins and his straight twin Jarron, Fallon Fox, the first openly transgender professional mixed martial arts fighter and Anthony Nicodemo, a closeted gay basketball coach from New York who came out in June at the LGBT Sports Summit. There were also members of the Chicago-based Fred Says, a non-profit organization that supports the well being of HIV-positive adolescents.

Davis realizes how important sports can be for gay kids because it was football that offered him protection and comfort in his personal world. At age seven, the kid from Shreveport, Louisiana started playing football in the backyard with a game ironically called "smear the

queer." He said that as an athlete, "I worried about my teammates not accepting me and losing both their respect and my stature. Unfortunately, and embarrassingly, I became a bully in many ways in order to divert any attention on myself and any questions around my sexuality." But there's no question that he's been making up for his past indiscretions!

After a third knee injury, Davis decided to retire from the NFL. But what pushed him to come out was his partner not wanting to stay in the closet. Saying that he still hadn't "found the courage to own my identity in all spaces," his partner didn't demand that Davis come out but "he told me that the relationship he wanted for himself was one of openness and honesty." And he says all his former teammates have been amazingly supportive, some of them even wishing he had come out sooner so they could have supported him while he was still playing.

The You Belong initiative was the brain child of Davis and his business partner Darnell Moore. Both men are extremely passionate about youth leadership development and empowerment and they decided this was the perfect vehicle for combining that passion with the sports they also love. Davis says that "Everyone, and I mean EVERYONE, loves this idea and understands the importance of it, especially when you explain how the initiative works. It will allow straight allies and LGBTQ youth to co-exist in sports and educate and show each other love without any reservations. It's a beautiful thing."

He continued to say that he hopes the You Belong camps "transform the minds of young LGBTQ athletes so they can feel as if they belong in sports and leave each and every camp with a deeper sense of pride and purpose. I also hope the professional athletes that participate will become more involved within the LGBTQ community to understand the importance of connecting and giving back within our community as well."

Wade Davis may have been a cornerback in the NFL but he is quarterbacking a whole new game in the LGBTQ sports diversity movement. And there's room on this team for all of us to be active players.

The Wizard Of Oz Gets IMAXED

by Chris Narloch

Bigger is definitely better at Sacramento's Esquire IMAX, where cinematic size queens like me have recently enjoyed the likes of Henry Cavill (*Man of Steel*), Charlie Hunnam (*Pacific Rim*) and Matt Damon (*Elysium*) – hunky, shirtless and six stories high.



Dorothy Gale (Judy Garland) with the Munchkins in a scene from *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*.

The next "beefcake blockbuster" to get the IMAX treatment is the sci-fi action flick *Riddick*, starring Vin Diesel, playing through September 19 at the Esquire IMAX.

After that, my favorite movie of all time, *The Wizard of Oz*, takes over the IMAX and celebrates its 75th anniversary with Warner Bros. Pictures' brand new, re-mastered 3D version of the film.

Friends of Dorothy will be "off to see the Wizard" when the classic musical starring the incomparable Judy Garland returns to the big screen, for one week only, in the immersive IMAX 3D format, beginning September 20.

I can still remember the first time I saw *Oz* on television in the late '60s, back in the days

of three major networks and before home video, when the movie was shown only once a year on TV and watching it was a family tradition.

I am not ashamed to say that as a small-fry I peed my pants the first time Margaret Hamilton came on screen as the Wicked Witch, with her crazy cackle and that black hat and green skin.

Her performance remains one of the finest screen villains in the history of the movies, and I can only imagine what it will be like to see her, warts and all, on the gigantic IMAX screen in 3D. I'm 49 now, but I may need to wear Depends to the theater.

Visit www.imax.com/sacramento.

Upset Records Premieres First LP, *She's Gone*



Upset draws on snarky angst, punk simplicity and a delivery that masks angry and cheeky lyrics with a sweet-sung and wide-eyed inflection. The new LP *She's Gone*, opens with "Back To School!" and includes "Oxfords and Wingtips," a track that you can listen to at soundcloud.com/don-giovanni-records/upset-oxfords-and-wingtips.

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The Firebird Ignites Sac Ballet's New Season

The Sacramento Ballet is celebrating its 59th Season, aptly titled *Beauty, Bravura & Brilliance*, with five major productions that include classics by Co-Artistic Director Ron Cunningham, master works by the legendary George Balanchine and contemporary favorites by some of the world's most innovative choreographers.



A promotional image for Ron Cunningham's *The Firebird*, being performed by the Sacramento Ballet October 24 - 27.

The season also marks Carinne Binda's 25th Anniversary as Co-Artistic Director, and she has taken the lead in designing a season that is sure to exhilarate and inspire, presenting performances at the Community Center Theater (CCT), as well as a program of exciting new works at the Harris Center for the Arts (formerly Three Stages) at Folsom Lake College, and a wide variety of always-popular in-studio performances throughout the year.

The five CCT programs will be *The Firebird* in October, *Cinderella* in November, *The Nutcracker* in December, *Wild, Sweet Love* in February and *The Great Gatsby* in March.

Works with a contemporary slant will be presented at the annual *Modern Masters* performances in May at the Harris Center and the popular in-studio programs such as *Inside the Director's Studio*, *Red Hot Valentines*, performance previews and *Beer & Ballet* will be scheduled from September through May.

The year will kick off October 24 - 27 with *The Firebird*, a program of three works that hold many unique links to the classical dance and arts traditions of Russia, while still breaking new ground for their times.

The evening will include Artistic Director

Ron Cunningham's original versions of both *The Firebird* and *Rite of Spring*, and George Balanchine's well-known ballet *Rubies*.

The Firebird, whose music is based on traditional Russian folk melodies, is a classic translation of Russian folk tales to a dynamic and passionate stage production. George Balanchine is arguably Russia's most famous dance expatriate, and revolutionized the art of ballet in the 20th century.

2013 marks the 100th anniversary of the premiere in Paris of *Rite of Spring*. Its initial performances caused riots in the theatre and streets, as audiences were amazed (or outraged) by the newness of the concepts in both the music and the dancing.

Rubies epitomizes Balanchine's journey from the classical traditions of his homeland to the contemporary vision of his adopted country.

Subscription packages and single tickets are on sale now, with regular ticket prices ranging from \$15 to \$90, and children's prices up to half off.

For more information about *Beauty, Bravura & Brilliance*, visit the Sacramento Ballet's new website at www.sacballet.org.





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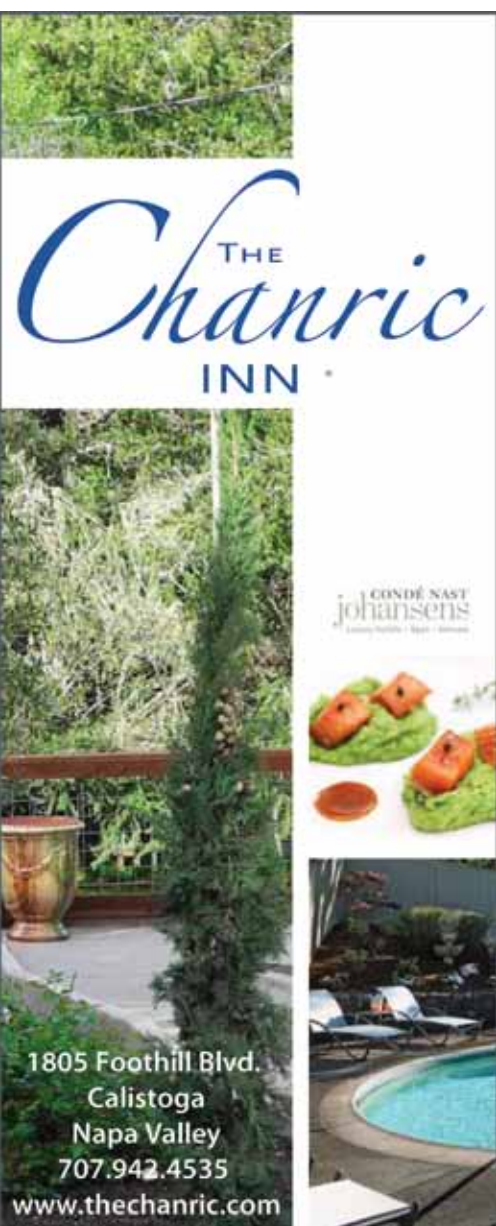
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Ray Eames, Henri Matisse & More

by Chris Narloch

What would an *Outword* arts edition be without art museums? Three of the best places to see fine art – The Crocker Museum and The California Museum in Sacramento and the Legion of Honor in San Francisco – will host intriguing exhibitions through the end of this year and beyond that are definitely worth seeing.

Emancipating the Past: Kara Walker's Tales of Slavery and Power

Artist Kara Walker is known for her powerful visual narratives exploring the intersection of race, gender, and sexuality. Her thought-provoking and raw approach to these issues has garnered the artist acclaim as well as controversy.

The graphic nature of the artist's work, both in content and format, moves from the wall to moving picture in this presentation of a silhouette, drawings, prints, and video.

Walker examines the psychology of slavery with "Emancipating the Past."

Examining the Past will be at The Crocker Art Museum, September 22, through January 5, 2014. For more information, visit www.crockerartmuseum.org.

Ray Eames: A Century of Modern Design

Explore the life and legacy of the Sacramento native who broke barriers for women in the arts, as The California Museum celebrates the career of Ray Eames.

Celebrating the centennial of the legendary

designer, this yearlong exhibition is the first to explore Eames' early life and work and includes over 100 original works and rarely seen artifacts from Eames Office and the Eames family's collections.

Co-created in partnership with Eames Office, which is well known for innovations in modern architecture, furniture, films, toys, photography, textiles and more.

Ray Eames: A Century of Modern Design is be at The California Museum, through February 23, 2014. Visit www.californiamuseum.org.

Matisse from SFMOMA

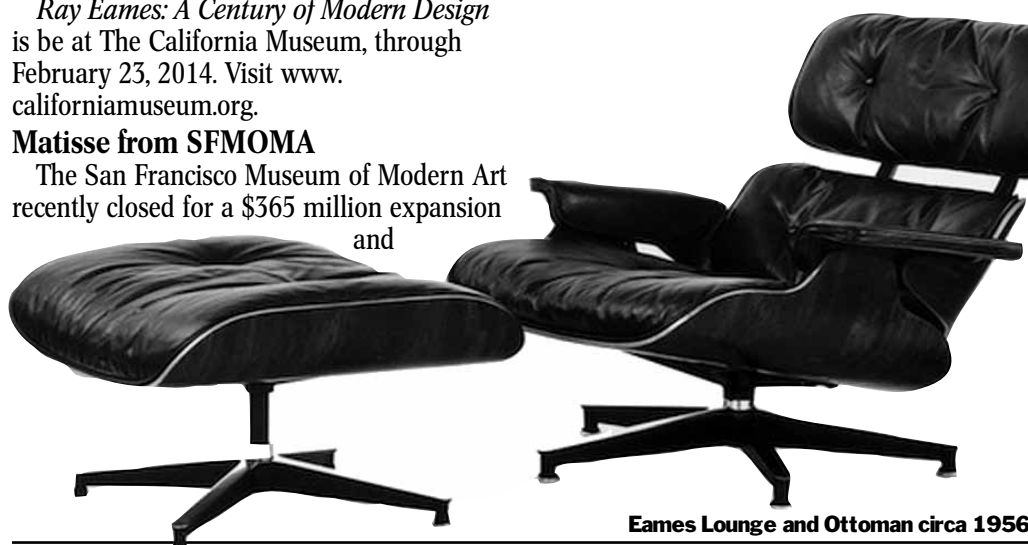
The San Francisco Museum of Modern Art recently closed for a \$365 million expansion and

remodel that won't be complete until sometime in 2016, but you can still view art from SFMOMA at other venues around the Bay Area during the closure.

One of the greatest of all French artists, Henri Matisse, will be the focus of this jewel-sized exhibition featuring 23 paintings, drawings, and bronzes from SFMOMA's internationally acclaimed Matisse collection.

Four important paintings and drawings from the collection of the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco will join the exhibition at the Legion of Honor, which traces four decades of Matisse's career.

Matisse from SFMOMA will be at The Legion of Honor, November 9, through September 7, 2014. Go to www.sfmoma.org.



Eames Lounge and Ottoman circa 1956

Beautiful - The Carole King Musical Premieres in SF

by Chris Narloch

In River City, the first show of our Broadway season won't arrive until early November, but it will be worth the wait to see *Priscilla Queen of the Desert The Musical*. Single tickets for the November 5 - 10 production of *Priscilla* at the Community Center Theatre are now available at www.BroadwaySacramento.com.

In the meantime, theater fans like me can look forward to the first show of San Francisco's Broadway Series, a pre-Broadway engagement of *Beautiful - The Carole King Musical*.

Long before she was Carole King, chart-topping music performer, she was Carol Klein, a Brooklyn girl with passion and chutzpah who eventually struck gold (and platinum) as one half of a very successful songwriting partnership.

King and her first husband, Gerry Coffin, wrote an amazing run of hits together, including such classics as "Will You Love Me Tomorrow," "Locomotion," "One Fine Day," "Up On The Roof" and "(You Make Me Feel Like) A Natural Woman."

Most of the those songs were performed by other artists, but King also wrote or co-wrote many of her own recordings, including "It's Too Late," "You've Got A Friend," "Where You Lead," "Smackwater Jack," "I Feel The Earth Move" and "So Far Away."

King's most famous album, "Tapestry," remains one of the most successful and acclaimed recordings ever released, and she is generally considered to be one of the finest singer/songwriters American popular music has produced.

Jessie Mueller will star as Carole King in the world premiere musical *Beautiful*, which begins performances on September 24 and plays through October 20, at the Curran Theatre in San Francisco, before it starts previews this November on Broadway.

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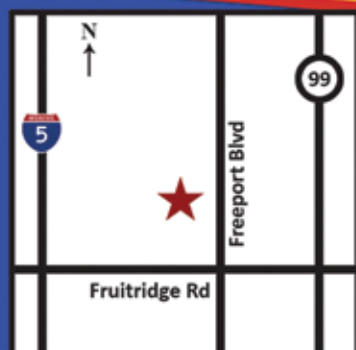
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