

# Outword

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**THE  
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ISSUE!**





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# Letters

## Help End Bullying in Sacramento School Districts

Dear Outword Readers,

On a daily basis, LGBT students are harassed in Sacramento schools, as well as many straight kids.

Part of the problem is that California's bullying laws are not fully implemented. With your help, Stonewall plans to work with local school boards to address the bullying problem.

Help us reach our goal of raising \$2,500 to support school board members in Sacramento that will take a stand against bullying. With your support, Stonewall will work with our elected school board members to:

1. Improve implementation of bullying policies and procedures
2. Implement the FAIR Act to include LGBT history in K-12 education

To meet our goals, we must support school board members that support our goals. The funds will be used exclusively for this project. You can help directly by going to [Secure.Actblue.com/contribute/page/endthebullying](http://Secure.Actblue.com/contribute/page/endthebullying)

I don't know about you, but I still remember being bullied in school. Now that I am able to do something about it, I'm stepping up and doing my part.

**Mario Guerrero, President  
Sacramento Stonewall Democratic Club**

## Film Director to Speak at Lavender Library

Director Cindy L. Abel will be on hand to discuss her film *Breaking Through*, a documentary on confronting the demons that stand in the way of living life fully, told by politicians who ran openly LGBT campaigns – and won.

Abel previously served as Co-Chair of the Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund, Vice-Chair of Atlanta Film Festival 365 and Vice President of Communications of Women in Film & Television Atlanta.

This event will be at The Lavender Library, 1414 21st Str. from 6 - 8 p.m., in a casual setting with refreshments served by the Spectrum Committee as a part of Sierra Colleges Pride Days. [www.facebook.com/LavenderLibrary](http://www.facebook.com/LavenderLibrary)



## Breaking Barriers Starts Holiday Food Drive

Dear Outword Readers,

It's that time of year again! Breaking Barriers is going to be collecting food to deliver to local people living with HIV/AIDS in our area this holiday season.

You can help in three ways:

1. Make a monetary donation in person at the Breaking Barriers Office or online. Each food basket costs us \$25 to make, but any amount helps!

2. You can bring nonperishable food items to our offices, 2210 21st St., we are accepting food 12 to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday in the office and other times by appointment.

3. You can drive food out to clients on the days that we are making deliveries for both holidays. We can accommodate almost any schedule and we'd love to have you on the team!

If you have any questions or would like to participate in this years drive, please contact our offices at either 916-447-2437 or via email at [outreach@bbcs.org](mailto:outreach@bbcs.org).

**Sandré L. Nelson, President,  
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# Rainbow Chamber Names Business Leader of the Year



**S**tephanie Slagel, a State Farm Insurance agent based in Carmichael, has been chosen as the Sacramento Rainbow Chamber of Commerce Business Leader of the Year.

The award recognizes an individual who has had leadership success within his or her business and the business community as a whole, as well as leadership success within the Sacramento LGBT community, and who serve as a role model for the entire community.

"The Sacramento Rainbow Chamber has been and continues to be a valuable resource to me, both personally as well as professionally," Slagel said. "I am so appreciative and humbled by this honor."

Slagel has been with State Farm since 1986 and opened her own office in Carmichael in 2002. She is a long-time member of the Rainbow Chamber of

Commerce, has served as RCC Board secretary, and was 2009 gala chair.

"We are most proud to name Stephanie Slagel 2013 Business Leader of the Year," said Chamber President Michael Sestak. "She is one of our most active and influential members."

In addition to her participation with the Chamber, she currently serves on the board of the Kiwanis Club of Carmichael and is a member of E-Women Network.

Slagel was honored at the Chamber's gala event, Gay-sino Royale, held September 17 at Vizcaya. For more information about the Chamber, visit [RainbowChamber.com](http://RainbowChamber.com)

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# Sacramento LGBT Center Seeks Board Applications

**T**he Sacramento LGBT Community Center Board of Directors is currently looking to expand its membership to include expertise in the areas of accountancy/financial oversight, real estate, media, law, faith communities, HIV & mental health, youth, and senior services, amongst other fields of expertise.

Board applicants should be willing to be an active participant in fundraising, community engagement, and mission actualization, and community members are also being sought to join the budget and finance committee and event planning teams. "The Center has made tremendous strides over the past two years to improve our financial sustainability, develop quality

programming, and engage with our entire community," said Board President David Heitstuman in a released statement. "As we continue to progress toward our long term strategic goals, we welcome additional expertise and experience that will help the organization grow and better serve our entire community"

Applicants are asked to make an

investment of time, whether it's 60 minutes or 60 hours.

"We need your skills and expertise as a board member, committee member, or volunteer to support dozens of programs and more than 50,000 service visits every year," said Heitstuman. "Together we are the connection for those newly coming out, newly moving to Sacramento, in need of services, and wanting to make connections that build community.

For more information go to [SacCenter.org/](http://SacCenter.org/) board. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis and consideration of applicants will begin November 1 for terms beginning January 1, 2014.

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# Governor Signs Several Bills Impacting LGBT Community

**G**overnor Jerry Brown has signed several bills into law that were authored by Senator Mark Leno (D-SF) and Assemblymember Tom Amiano (D-SF) this legislative session that have a direct affect on the LGBT community.

Signed were:  
SB 249 (HIV Coordinated Care and Confidentiality) helps HIV and AIDS patients coordinate care as they transition to new providers under federal health care reform. The bill also updates the state's

confidentiality requirements for HIV tests to ensure that all existing and new testing types are protected.

AB 652 specifies that homelessness, in and of itself, is not a sufficient indicator of child

abuse or neglect, so that mandated abuse reporters can help homeless youth without turning them into the system they are trying to avoid. This bill is seen as important to LGBT youth forced out of their homes.

AB 868 requires training in LGBT cultural competency and sensitivity for judicial employees involved in family law matters.

**IMPACTING**  
*continues on page 22*

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# Briefly Put

## Paris to Host Gay Games X

The Federation of Gay Games has announced that Paris, France was chosen over fellow finalists Limerick and London to host the Gay Games X, the 2018 edition of the world's largest LGBT sporting and cultural event open to all.

Paris proposed a wide range of sports in quality venues, many of which offer good visibility for the event. French LGBT sport organizations already have a great deal of experience hosting international multisport tournaments, and their LGBT community presents outstanding cultural events.

The ninth edition of the quadrennial Gay Games will be held in Cleveland and Akron, OH August, 9-16, 2014. For information, visit [www.gg9cle.com](http://www.gg9cle.com).

## SF LGBT Heritage Project to Pinpoint Historic Sites

The SF Historic Preservation Fund Committee has awarded a grant to the GLBT Historical Society to develop a comprehensive study of places associated with LGBT history in the city. The project will be unveiled November 14 at a public workshop where community members will be invited to contribute their own stories about meaningful LGBT places.

"We are particularly interested in hearing from people with information about sites important to LGBT communities of color, transgender people, the bisexual community and others who are underdocumented in LGBT history," Graves adds.

For more information, contact Watson and Graves at [sflgbthistory@gmail.com](mailto:sflgbthistory@gmail.com).

## Adidas America Endorses Oregon Freedom To Marry

Adidas America has announced its endorsement of the Freedom to Marry and Religious Protection Initiative that would make it legal for same-sex couples to marry in Oregon.

"Marriage is an important, individual choice that should be extended to everyone. It is time to recognize this important human right by affirming the freedom to marry for same-sex couples in Oregon," said adidas America Vice President Paul Ehrlich.

Adidas is the largest business to join Oregon United for Marriage's effort to secure the freedom to marry on the ballot in November 2014. The Portland Trail Blazers and the Portland Timbers, both adidas partners, announced their support of this initiative last week. Visit [OrUnited.org](http://OrUnited.org).

## New Jersey Supreme Court OKs Same-sex Marriage

The New Jersey Supreme Court has upheld a lower court's decision to proceed with marriages for same-sex couples on Oct. 21. The state asked to delay the weddings until the case Garden State Equality v. Dow proceeded through the appeals process. The Courts decision, handed down October 18, denies that request.

On October 21, Governor Chris Christie withdrew his appeal the lower court. "Governor Christie apparently knew he was fighting a losing battle in continuing to fight against marriage equality in the Garden State, and rather than engage in legal gymnastics, decided to plant himself on the right side of history," said Gregory T. Angelo, Executive Director of Log Cabin Republicans.

## Michigan Gay Marriage Ban Will Go to Trial

In June, U.S. District Judge Bernard Friedman refused to toss out a lesbian couple's lawsuit challenging the state's ban on adoption by unmarried couples. Citing the June U.S. Supreme Court decision that recognized legally married gay couples, Friedman concluded the plaintiffs are "entitled to their day in court and they shall have it," at an expected court date in late February.

Supporters of the marriage equality had hoped for an earlier decision. The women want the right to pursue their dream of having a family while the state's position is that only men and women can marry and have children. "I have to decide this as a matter of law. I intend to do so," Friedman said.

As of now the status quo remains: no gay marriage in Michigan.

## ACLU Asks Federal Court to Strike Down Utah Marriage Ban

The ACLU of Utah has submitted a "friend of the court" brief in support of a case challenging Utah's ban on marriage for same-sex couples. The ACLU brief calls for a heightened level of scrutiny to be placed on any law that discriminates against same-sex couples and their families.

"The past few years have seen an amazing push forward in the fight to achieve equality for every family," said Joshua Block, staff attorney with the ACLU LGBT Project. "We are proud to stand with our allies in Utah and across the country to ensure that couples in all 50 states have the freedom to marry."

The brief can be found at: [www.aclu.org/lgbt-rights/kitchen-v-herbert-amicus-brief](http://www.aclu.org/lgbt-rights/kitchen-v-herbert-amicus-brief).



# LGBT Center's Executive Director Resigns

**S**hara Perkins Murphy has resigned as the Sacramento LGBT Community Center's Executive Director, after leading the Center for the past two years and helping to guide it towards strong financial growth and renewed relevancy in the community.

In speaking of her resignation, Murphy told *Outword* "Earlier this year, I approached the board with a proposal to bring in professional staff with expertise in program

development and fundraising. We evaluated some amazing professionals for those slots. With the strategic direction of the board, the new team should experience the same level of growth and success we saw between 2011 and 2013." Over the past few months, Murphy has been reducing her time at the Center and the executive director position has moved to a coordinated team structure. "My service to the center has been an honor. We've stabilized and professionalized our board of directors. We've maintained and improved our communication via Facebook, Twitter, our weekly newsletter and

an interim program director and operations manager, and a structured front office service referral program."

At the Center's annual planning retreat earlier this year, the board of the Center set a goal to expand the operational capacity of the Center. "With the final position of a fund development professional almost filled, Shara has completed what she set out to accomplish," the Center's statement

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Shara Perkins Murphy has been an elegant and effective spokesperson for the Sacramento LGBT Community Center during her tenure as its executive director, advocating and speaking out for not only for marriage equality and LGBT rights, but also on bullying, youth homelessness and seniors. An ally of the LGBT community, she has often been its spokesperson at rallies, press conferences and meetings, and has received many well earned accolades, including being presented the Community Service Award, presented to her at EQCA's 2013 Sacramento Equality Awards by EQCA's Vice President Susan McCabe.

development and fundraising. We evaluated some amazing professionals for those slots. With the strategic direction of the board, the new team should experience the same level of growth and success we saw between 2011 and 2013."

Over the past few months, Murphy has been reducing her time at the Center and the executive director position has moved to a coordinated team structure.

"My service to the center has been an

community outreach. Our record number of volunteers and contributors are feeling better connected and appreciated. The center has regained strength as a central, starting point for support, resources and community."

"Thanks to Shara Murphy's leadership as executive director over the past couple years, the Center has grown in stature and organization," said the Center's Board President David Heitstuman in a statement on their web site. "For instance, we now have

continued. "We remain grateful for her energy and commitment to the Center and to the community we serve. Shara will always be a treasured friend of the Center!"

"This is not the end of my involvement with our LGBTQIA community. Or with the center, for that matter. I'm appreciative that I could shepherd the organization through this time of growth. Besides, something tells me David Heitstuman will quickly convince me to volunteer!"

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# Military Ball to Honor Service Members and Veterans

Active duty service members and veterans will be honored for their service at a Military Ball, hosted by the Court of the Great Northwest Empire (CGNIE) College of Monarchs.

Conceived of by CGNIE Emperor Billy Ray Parrish, an Army veteran, the ball will be held Friday November 15 at the Tsakopoulos Library Galleria and will feature live and local entertainment, guest speakers, dancing, hors d'oeuvres and a no-host bar.

A black tie event, service members and veterans are encouraged to wear their uniforms. The ball is a benefit for the CGNIE College of Monarchs and the Sacramento Valley Veterans.

"The Sacramento Valley Veterans is pleased and honored to be the beneficiaries and co-sponsors of the first Military Ball hosted by the CGNIE's College of Monarchs," SVV's President Michael D. Williams told *Outword*. "We are proud to stand with the many veterans within the Court, as well as the family and friends that have stood behind and next to us. The Court's 'come as you are, express as you choose, and be loved in your own skin' attitude aligns directly with SVV's open arms, open hearts policy."

Tickets are \$40 for general admission, \$30 for veterans w/ID card and \$20 for active duty w/ID card. Doors open at 6 p.m. and the Ball begins at 7 p.m. at the Tsakopoulos Library Galleria, 828 I St. Tickets and more information are available at [www.CGNIE.org](http://www.CGNIE.org).



# Over 250 Artists Expected at Sacramento Arts Festival

The Sacramento Arts Festival turns "sweet 16" this November with three days of food, fun and fine arts, all happening at the Sacramento Convention Center.

225 of America's best contemporary craftspeople and fine artists will be on hand offering more than 15,000 original works, just in time for some early holiday shopping.

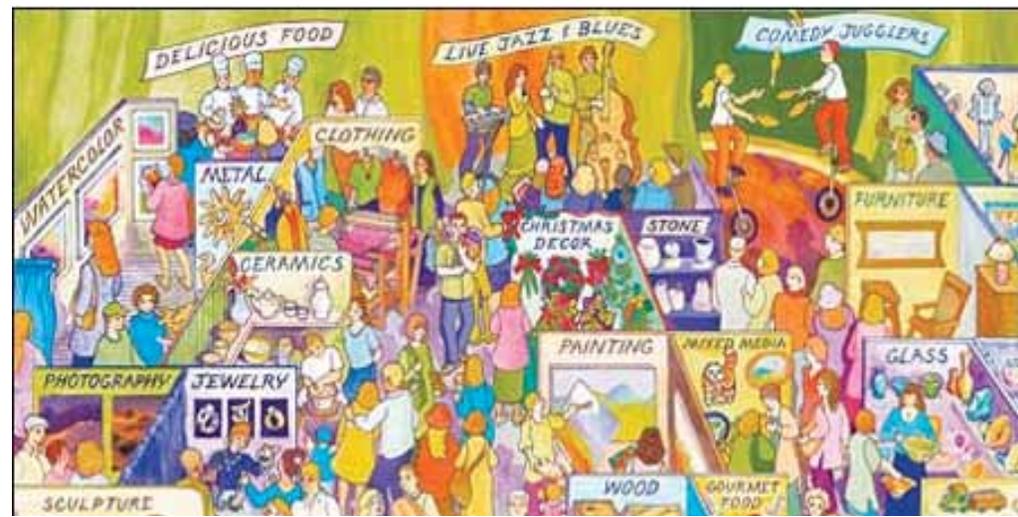
The event has become not only the premier art and craft show in Sacramento, but is also developing into one of the top art festivals in the country.

Exhibitors are selected for the originality and quality of their work, and festival

visitors have the opportunity to meet and talk with these talented artists and craftspeople about how they make their unique items.

Food and drink will be available, as well as continuous live jazz, blues and comedy entertainment.

The Sixteenth Annual Sacramento Arts Festival is scheduled for November 1-3. For more information, please visit [www.SacArtsFest.com](http://www.SacArtsFest.com).



## Outword Salutes Sacramento's Rainbow Chamber of Commerce

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## WHY SHOULD YOU ADOPT ME?

With a twist on our usual "Person on the Street" feature, we went down to the Front Street Animal Shelter to get these cuties to tell us why you should adopt them. All of these guys are available for adoption, visit the Front Street Animal Shelter at 2127 Front Street or online at [www.cityofsacramento.org/generalservices/animal-care/](http://www.cityofsacramento.org/generalservices/animal-care/). All photos by Bobby Mann.



### ROBIN



"Because I can sit next to you while you drink a Belgian Beer this Octoberfest." – Robin is a stray Belgian Malinois, approximately five years old.

### GALVIN



"We may be the same color, but pumpkins can't purr." – Calvin is a five-year-old domestic short hair orange tabby.

### PRECIOUS



"Isn't my name reason enough? And I'll go slow on our walks so you can keep up with me." – Precious is a 14-year-old lab mix with plenty of love and good health!

### LULU AND DAISY



"We're not Siamese, but the best things do come in pairs." – Lulu and Daisy are still kittens at 6.5 months old and are a bonded pair of sisters.

### MAUI



"Because when you give me a tummy rub it makes YOU feel so good!" – Maui is a four-year-old American Staffordshire Terrier.

### BULLDOG PUPPIES



"Why? – Come on, just look at us!" – These puppies are growing strong in foster care, but will soon be old enough for adoption, as will their mom.

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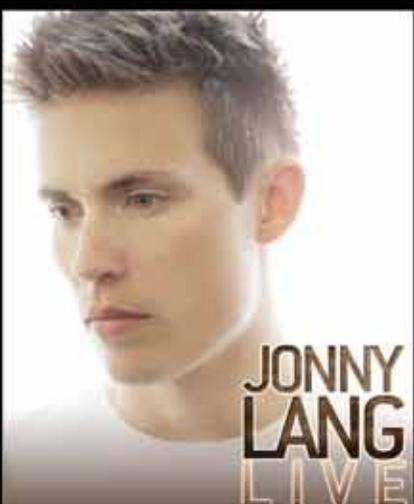
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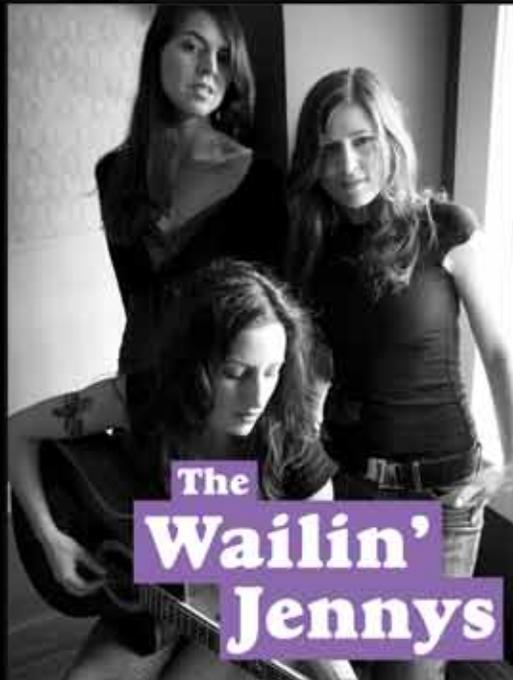
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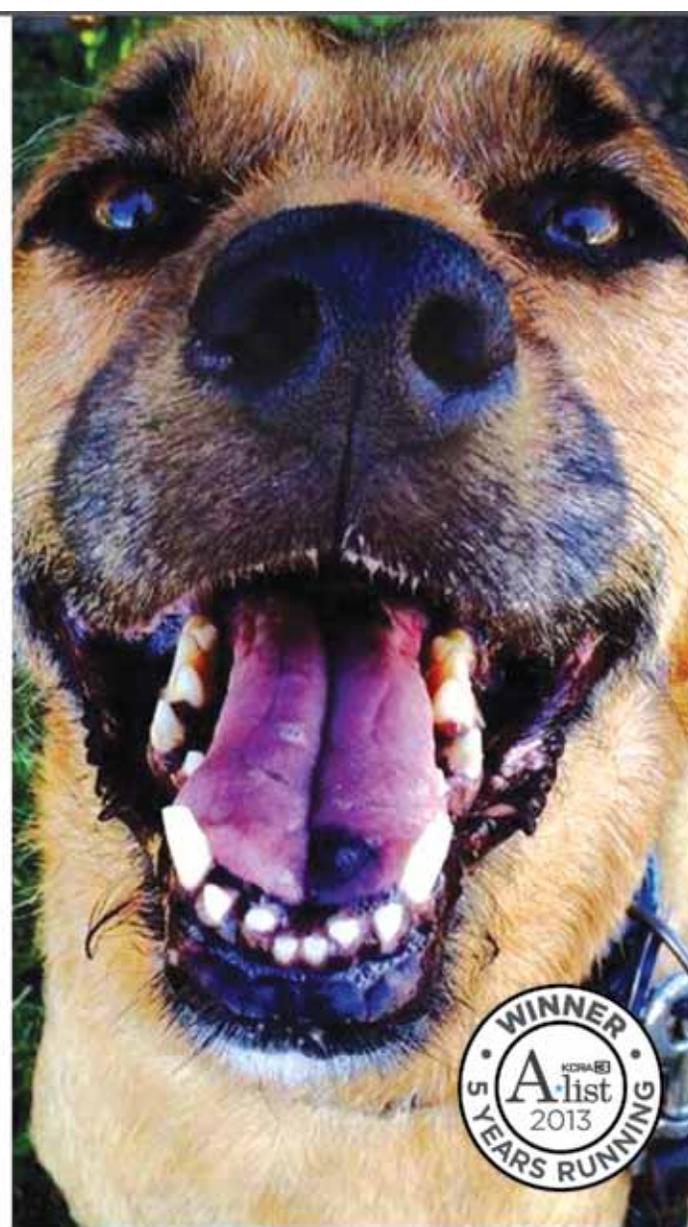
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# A Pot of Gold at the End of the Rainbow Festival



Terry Sidie, the long time — 26 years! — organizer of the Rainbow Festival, didn't trade in his cowboy hat for a Leprechaun's green top hat, but on behalf of the Rainbow Festival 2013 and CGNIE, he distributed \$13,000 to local charities and non-profits. Checks were presented to: UC Davis Children's Hospital, \$2,000; Sunburst Projects, \$1,500; Breaking Barriers, \$2,000; WEAVE, \$1,000; ACT, \$1,000; Fairy Godfathers' Fund, \$1,500; Gender Health Center, \$1,000; and the Sacramento LGBT Community Center, \$3,000. Sidie, who was celebrating his birthday, also thanked the many organizations and sponsors — and especially the volunteers — that made the Festival such a success. The checks were presented on October 15 at Head Hunters.

## New Documentary Highlights Struggles of Gay Candidates



In *Breaking Through*, a feature-length documentary, openly LGBT elected officials tell their stories of self-doubt and triumph, revealing a deeply personal, rarely seen side of politicians and gay people. The film will be making its northern California premiere during Sierra College's Pride Days, November 5 - 7. Visit [SierraCollege.edu/PrideDays](http://SierraCollege.edu/PrideDays).

## Freedom to Marry Partners with Graphic Novel *Fifth Beatle*



Freedom to Marry has formed a partnership with *The Fifth Beatle*, a graphic novel examining the life of legendary Beatles manager Brian Epstein, the brilliant visionary who discovered the Beatles and led them on the path to international stardom even as he struggled with his own sense of belonging: he was gay when it was a felony; he was Jewish during a time of anti-Semitism; and he was from Liverpool, then considered a dingy port town. The book is scheduled for release on November 19 by Dark House Comics. Visit [TheFifthBeatle.com](http://TheFifthBeatle.com)

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# BEHIND DAVE PALLONE'S MASK

by Connie Wardman

If you don't recognize Dave Pallone's name, you're either too young or you've never been fired from a job because of your sexual orientation. Dave has been an LGBT activist since 1989, the year he was fired from his professional career as a major league baseball (MLB) umpire because he was gay.

Although Dave was fired over 20 years ago, don't be fooled into thinking that his story is simply an historic event that has no relevance to professional sports today. Homophobia in sports is still a reality that keeps practically all gay professional sports figures closeted during their playing days.

Dave has become a leader for change in passing non-discrimination laws that protect jobs for LGBT employees and their right to earn an honest living. And this spring, he was one of 26 LGBT and straight individuals inducted into the inaugural class of the newly-opened National Gay and Lesbian Sports Hall of Fame in Chicago.

Umpiring his first game at age 19, he turned his passion to umpire into an 18-year professional career, 10 of them in MLB. As one of only eight umpires hired to replace striking umpers in 1979, Dave's entry into MLB wasn't pleasant. He was called a scab and union buster by umpers and fans alike, a situation that left him vulnerable to the on-going anger of the remaining umpires following the strike.

Once called the "most hated" person in MLB, Dave actually received death threats after an emotionally-charged fight in 1988 with Pete Rose, then managing the Cincinnati Reds. Calling Met's hitter Mookie Wilson safe at first, Rose rushed from the dugout to argue the call. Tempers flared and when Dave's back was turned, Rose pushed him. Then the fans got involved and, taking Rose's side, they threw everything they could get their hands on at Dave — food, drinks, programs, bottles, even a boom box.

But like so many gay athletes, Dave felt he had to live a lie to match the macho image people in pro sports are expected to exhibit. Unfortunately, someone who knew about his sexual orientation decided to "leak" Dave's story to the *New York Post* for \$100. And to make it more salacious, he added that Dave was also tied to a "teenage sex ring."

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Getting off the plane at LaGuardia, someone handed Dave the *Post* containing the story that publically *outed* him — this is how everyone, including his family, found out he was gay. Thoroughly investigated on the sex ring charge, he was found totally innocent but the damage was done. MLB officials came to the conclusion that his conduct was "unprofessional" and that he was now *unable* to "fulfill his duties" — they fired him outright.

Stunned and upset, Dave said it felt like he had been "psychologically raped," contending that his only offense was being controversial ... and gay. Yet at the same time he felt like a 2,000 pound weight had been lifted off him — paradoxically, he actually felt a sense of relief.

At that time New York state didn't have non-discrimination laws in place to protect him and his job so Dave began writing his autobiography with Alan Steinberg, "Behind the Mask: My Double Life in Baseball." The book became both a *New York Times* best-selling autobiography and an international best seller that the *NY Times* Book Review dubbed "an emotional memoir."

Dave and his partner Keith have been together now for 18 years so there is a happy ending to his personal trials. But Dave remains frustrated that while everyone rallies around same-sex marriage, there are still 28 states in the U.S. where you can be fired for being lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender.

The legislation to protect jobs for LGBT employees was first brought up in the 1993 Congress. Still finding it hard to believe that this important bill hasn't been passed by every state in the U.S., Dave wants to be sure that the current drive for equality includes passing non-discrimination legislation so people's jobs are safe.

In retrospect, Dave says at this point in his life "I have come to realize I could not be more at peace with my life." May we all be so fortunate!

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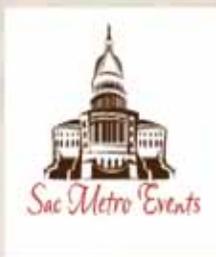
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## Plenty of Scary Thrills Available this Halloween

**D**o you know why warlocks can't have babies? Because they have Halloweenies. Well, if lame jokes don't scare you enough, here are some spooktacular Halloween events that might.

**HalloWind Ghoulapalooza** is hosting a party on Oct. 25, at the Citizen's Hotel, to benefit Wind Youth Services. There will be food, cocktails, dancing a raffle and costume contest. Ghouls will start arriving on the Blood-red carpet at 7:30 p.m. for a chance to win a \$250 best contest prize ([windyouth.org](http://windyouth.org)).

**Ghost Tours & Spookomotive Train Rides** will be spiriting you out of old Sacramento from the Sacramento History Museum, Oct. 11 - 26, ([HistoricOldSac.org](http://HistoricOldSac.org)).

**Winnie the Witch & The Hobbit** will have their way with you for three nights of trick-or-treating and family fun at Fairytale Town's annual Safe & Super Halloween on

the rage in London and Paris in the early 20th century.

Closer to home, **Evil Dead the Musical** is haunting the Sutter Street Theatre stage, just watch out for the blood splash zone ([SutterStreetTheatre.com](http://SutterStreetTheatre.com)) and **The Trash Film Orgy** featuring **Creepshow** is returning to The Crest on Oct. 31 ([TrashFilmOrgy.org](http://TrashFilmOrgy.org)). And of course, you can't have a Halloween without a "Step to the Right and a Step to the Left," and nobody does **The Rocky Horror Show** better than Green Valley Theatre Company, so come see what's on the slab ([GreenValleyTheatre.com](http://GreenValleyTheatre.com)).

As kids, probably nobody scared us more than Uncle Walt, so it will be a **Dirty Disney**,



San Francisco's Thrillpeddlers' **Shocktoberfest** is a campy way to get your boo-on.

Oct. 25 - 27. ([FairytaleTown.org](http://FairytaleTown.org)).

One scare you don't need, is a DUI. So the **Booze Busters** are offering free rides home on Halloween night from any bar or restaurant in Sacramento after 10 p.m. on Thursday, October 31 to 4 a.m. Friday, November 1. Contact Yellow Cab Company of Sacramento at 916-444-2222. Availability might be limited, but just tell them the ride is on **Berg Injury Lawyers**.

**Apocalypse** is the theme for two nights of parties at **FACES**. There will be costume contests with themes ranging from zombies to exotic and groups, with \$6,000 in prizes on Oct. 26 & Oct. 31 ([Faces.net](http://Faces.net)).

If you like to get the Dicken's scared out of you on stage, there's some scary stuff going on in SF. Check out Thrillpeddlers' **Shocktoberfest 14: Jack the Ripper**, an evening of horror, madness, spanking and song commemorating the 125th anniversary of the Jack the Ripper murders in London ([Thrillpeddlers.com](http://Thrillpeddlers.com)). Also, **Grand Guignol, A Theatrical Halloween Event** ([GrandGuignolSF.com](http://GrandGuignolSF.com)) is inspired by the naturalistic horror stage shows that were all

**Twisted Childhood Memories** party this year at **Badlands** ([BadlandsSac.com](http://BadlandsSac.com)) starting at 9 p.m. on October 26. There will be a costume contest with \$1,000 in cash and prizes, so come dressed up as one of your favorite scary Disney villains.

For all you teenage werewolves, Bojangles at **Headhunters** is hosting an 18+ **Halloween Sexy, Slutty Party** on Oct. 30 and for all the living dead well past 18, The Bolt

If **Haunted Houses** are what tickle your aorta, they say the ghosts are real at **Preston Castle** in Ione. For those paranormally challenged, visit [PrestonCastle.com](http://PrestonCastle.com). Closer to home, the spirits of early Sacramento pioneers will guide you to your doom at Sutter's Haunted Fort ([SuttersFort.org](http://SuttersFort.org)), or you can catch the train to Zombieville, a 75 minute ride on a zombie killing machine and get fitted with your own laser rifle and join the **Zombie Train Militia** ([zombietrain.com](http://zombietrain.com)). **Boo at the Zoo** will feature superheroes, princesses and ghosts for two nights of ghoulish safe, family-friendly fun on Oct. 30 & 31. ([SacZoo.org](http://SacZoo.org))

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## Margaret Cho and *Mother* Are Coming to Sacramento

by Colt McGraw

It could be said that Margaret Cho's been there and done that, but like all great comics, she is constantly reinventing herself and her comedy, and now the comic wonder woman is making her return to the Capital City with her newest stand-up comedy show, *Mother*.

You may be thinking that the title refers to Cho's relationship with her mother, and of course it does, but that's not all. I was able to capture some of her time recently and talk with her about the new show, her career and her work for marriage equality.

"People have started referring to me as a Mother in comedy and I'm kind of a maternal figure, so it made sense for me to call the show *Mother*," she told me. "My mother has had a huge influence on my career so this show has numerous meanings. It's about my mother and my own motherhood."

Most of us know Cho from her string of hit comedy specials, television roles and of course for her relentless fight for equality. Personally and professionally she believes she represents all of America, but she has also faced discrimination and has forged steadily ahead.

Her depth in character and experience in diversity took growth as a small child she explained. "I grew up and went to grammar school on Haight Street during the '70s. There were old hippies, ex-druggies, burnouts from the '60s, drag queens and Chinese people. To say it was a melting pot - that's the least of it. It was a really confusing, enlightening, wonderful time," she said.

The last time I saw Cho in Sacramento was shortly after Proposition 8 passed. She, Gloria Allred and many other dignitaries were attending a rally on the capital steps in front of a crowd of nearly 5,000 in November, 2008. Cho rallied them with comments such as "Stop this holy insanity" and "A true Christian is supposed to love everyone and Jesus was probably gay." She even sang a fun and controversial song that you can

watch at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=2sw4yYLpgeQ](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2sw4yYLpgeQ).

Anticipating her return, Cho recognizes the progress made in California and the progress still needed around the country for gay marriage. "It will be a very triumphant return, but it's a



Margaret Cho with two of her biggest fans.

complicated issue. We have made major strides but still don't have gay marriage in Atlanta, where I currently live."

Cho has been recognized and awarded for her advocacy from groups such as GLAAD, and



rightfully so. "It's really tremendous and humbling to be recognized by these groups, but it's really just in my nature."

Cho also shared with me her deep affection for her other great love, animals. Like any mother she treasures these relationships.

"My pets are the most important relationships in my life. I feel humans need animals and we owe them so much. They enrich our lives to a great degree."

In regards to the bear skin cover photo: "It's a fake bear skin," she said. "It would be weird if it were a real one. I just thought it would be a great glamor shot. We did it in my house and it was simply fun to do."

Cho will return to Sacramento to perform *Mother* for one night only, and has fond memories of the city. "When I was younger, I came to Sacramento a lot as a comic. I lived a lot of years working there and loving it. It'll be nice to return."

If you've never seen Margaret Cho live, this is your chance to enjoy an evening full of rich and

CHO

continues on page 22

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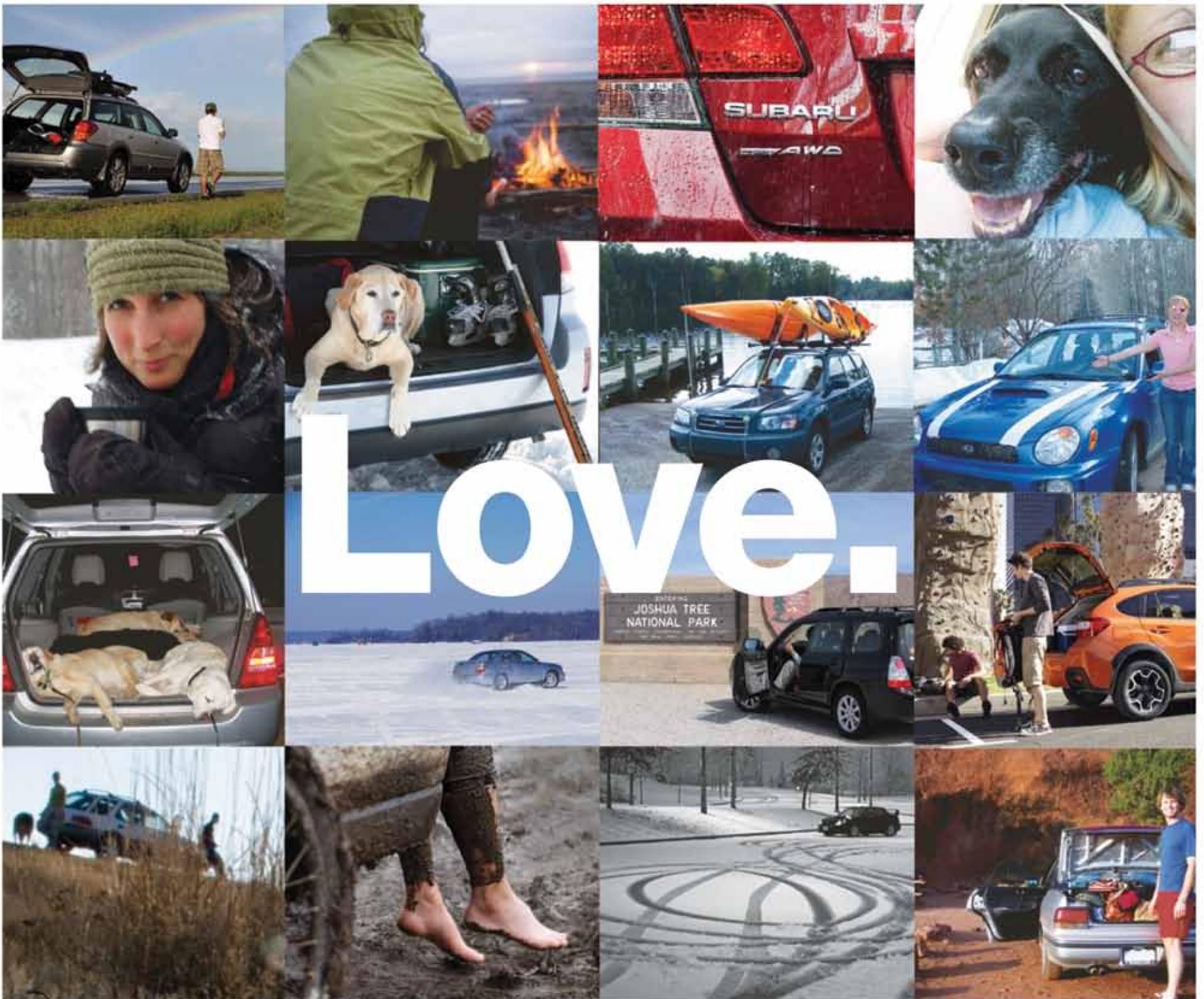
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# Kimberly Peirce Takes *Carrie* Back to the Prom

by Chris Narloch

**K**imberly Peirce, the acclaimed director who steered Hilary Swank to her first Oscar for *Boys Don't Cry*, may at first seem like an odd choice to remake the classic 1976 shocker, *Carrie*.

Directed by Brian De Palma and based on Stephen King's novel, the original film begins and then later climaxes with the humiliation of a young woman.

On the other hand, the movie is unusually women-centric for a mainstream horror film, which may explain why an openly lesbian director would be interested in taking a crack at such risky, challenging material.

The relationship between Carrie and her mother is complicated and intense, and the characters that really matter in the movie – from the sympathetic gym teacher to the two classmates intent on helping or hurting our heroine – are female.

Peirce is notoriously careful about picking her projects, and *Carrie* is only the third feature film she has made in 15 years of filmmaking.

I spoke with the director by phone recently, and she had a great deal to say about her new

turn the tables on her mother, and the power between them shifts.

**Carrie's powers are front and center in your movie...**

Yes, and that was intentional because I really saw it as a fight to the death between Carrie and her mother over Carrie's desire to use her powers. Her mother and society are saying, "No, you can't pursue that. It's wrong." And Carrie is saying, "No, it's not wrong, and there are other people like me." It's very similar to a gay person trying to come out, and society and maybe their family are telling them it's wrong.

**Are there any similarities between Carrie and Brandon Teena in *Boys Don't Cry*?**

I think so. Carrie wants to embrace her powers because they set her apart and make her special, and yet she also wants desperately to fit in and date and go to prom and not be a misfit. Brandon

Carrie director Kimberly Peirce



take on *Carrie*.

**I thought that the relationship between Carrie and her mother had real weight and depth in your movie, and so the ending is even more tragic this time around.**

Thank you. I'm glad you picked up on that. I went back to the original novel, and it's really about Carrie White, this misfit girl who wants love and acceptance but has all these obstacles both at home and at school to getting it. That's the story that I fell in love with, and it's really a mother daughter relationship at its heart and soul.

**Have De Palma or Stephen King seen your version yet, and if so what do they think?**

I haven't had a chance to share it with them yet, but hopefully when I get to New York I can do that. I'm friends with Brian, and I'm eager to show it to him.

**I know this isn't an anti-bullying message movie, but it really struck me watching your film how Carrie is bullied from all sides, both at school and at home. And her mother is just as bad if not worse than the girls at school.**

That's right, and the action hinges on her ability or inability to control her powers when they come. She's not powerless anymore once she discovers her telekinesis, and I found that fascinating. It's like someone discovering his or her sexual orientation or gender identity and realizing, "This is what I'm supposed to be. This is what I'm supposed to do." Carrie is then able to

Teena tried to fit in to this heteronormative world and pass as a boy, but then there's the danger of being exposed and having society react very negatively and violently, which is also what happens between Carrie and her mother.

**Speaking of power, are you prepared for the clout in Hollywood that may come your way if *Carrie* blows up at the box office?**

Look, I want my movies to do well. Who doesn't? At the end of the day, it's about entertaining people, moving them. As a director, you want to feel like you've done your job well, especially if you're a woman. We have some amazing women working in the business now. Kathryn Bigelow is brilliant. There's Catherine Hardwicke and Jane Campion. But the percentage of women directors is still a fraction of what it should be, so when one of our movies is a hit, or when Kathryn Bigelow wins the Oscar for Best Director, that's a big deal...

**Another big deal is that you're getting married, right?**

Yes, we're engaged. We're just trying to work it out. We're so lucky that she's on a tenure track position at San Francisco State. We just have to work out, with Immigration and all that, how we should handle it. Because now things have changed since gay people can actually get married, and they can give each other green cards. (Peirce's partner is Evren Savci, an Assistant Professor of Gender Studies at S.F. State.)

## Tie the Knot to Support Why Marriage Matters New Mexico



**Tie The Knot**, founded by the star of *Modern Family* Jesse Tyler Ferguson and his husband Justin Mikita, has released a New Mexico-themed bowtie, the "The Patricia Michaels," for purchase online designed by renowned Taos Pueblo Designer Patricia Michaels. Visit [TieTheKnot.org](http://TieTheKnot.org)

## Festival Favorite *Naked As We Came* Coming on DVD/VOD



A thoughtful depiction of one family's struggle to come to grips with their past before it is too late, *Naked As We Came*, was one of the top films in the 2013 LGBT film festival circuit. The thoughtful and sensitive exploration of strained family dynamics, with plenty of "eye-candy," will be available on VOD starting Dec. 3 and DVD in January. Visit [NakedAsWeCameTheMovie.com](http://NakedAsWeCameTheMovie.com).

## After Rome Bringing BULLY PROOF Tour to Sacramento



The five young and talented members of After Romeo, Devin Fox, Jayke Purdy, Drew Scott, TC Carter and Blake English, will be joining forces with the international anti-bullying organization Defeat the Label for the nationwide BULLY PROOF Tour coming to Sacramento's Downtown Plaza on December 14. For more information on the tour, visit [www.bullyproofour.com](http://www.bullyproofour.com), and check out After Romeo's latest video *Free Fall*, at [youtu.be/5hQuYJw3Y](http://youtu.be/5hQuYJw3Y).

**T**he curtain has fallen on the 2013 Sacramento International Gay & Lesbian Film Festival, but it won't be long before the programming committee begins again, poring over hundreds of potential movies for SIGLFF 2014. (No rest for the wicked, as I always say.)

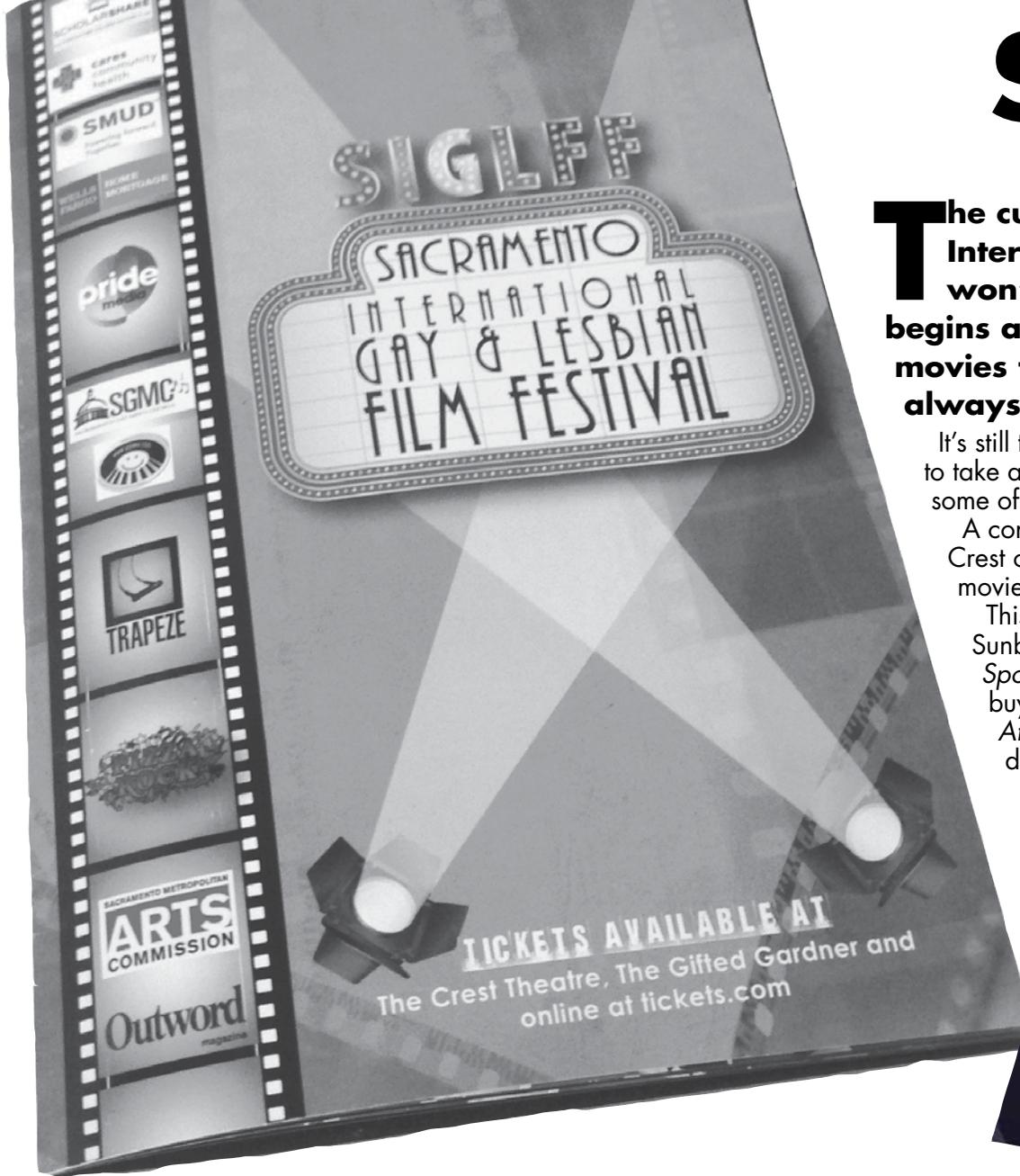
It's still too early to talk about next year's SIGLFF, however, so we decided to take a look back at this year's Festival, using interviews I conducted with some of the folks whose movies were screened at the Crest.

A conservative estimate of approximately 1300 movie lovers packed the Crest over the course of this year's three-night Festival, enjoying 17 or so movies and short films from around the globe.

This year's community beneficiaries were Staging A Miracle and Sunburst Projects. By audience vote, the most popular short film was *Spooner*, a hilarious mini-movie about a gay male couple attempting to buy a new bed, and the winner of the favorite feature was *Who's Afraid of Vagina Wolf?* a very funny movie about a lesbian trying to direct a low-budget film. That hit starred Guinevere Turner, Carrie Preston, and Agnes Olech.



Agnes Olech, the star of *Who's Afraid of Vagina Wolf?* and David Wernsman and Kate Logan of *Kidnapped for Christ* with SIGLFF Programming Chair Michael Dennis and SIGLFF Board Members Tyler Edwards, Todd Lohse (president), Natalie Fernandez (secretary) and Scott Brozak (treasurer). Photo by Jennifer Hatton.



## A conversation with Agnes Olech

I spoke with the 29-year-old Olech before her film screened at the Crest and filed this interview with the former resident of Orangevale, who plays the stunning blonde that ends up with the heroine of the movie.

**I know you live in Los Angeles now, Agnes, but tell me about your Sacramento connection.**

Sure. I'm originally from Poland, and my entire family immigrated to Northern California in 1994 because we had an uncle here in Sacramento. My parents live in Cool now, and they'll be here at the Crest tonight.

**How thrilling is that for the family to see you on the big screen so close to home, and in this beautiful theater?**

It's so frigging exciting you have no idea, to be home and have everyone here with me at the Crest. I've done a ton of 'indies' and television and commercials, but it's so hard to get these small films into mainstream theaters

or even into festivals now. So this will be their first time seeing me on a big, big screen. So now maybe they'll be like, "She is serious. She's made it." And a lot of my friends from when I lived here are coming, and my little brother who is 13 will be here.

**What else have you done besides the fabulous *Who's Afraid of Vagina Wolf?***

I was on *Workaholics* on Comedy Central. I did *Rules of Engagement*. My first big show was *Reno 911* which was probably one of the best things that ever happened to me because the cast was just great. I was so nervous, but everyone there was so wonderful to me, and I learned so much doing that

show. Coming up, I will be on episode eight of a new ABC show called *Intelligence*, so look for me on that.

**When did the acting bug bite you?**

I went to Casa Robles, and I did a lot of plays in high school beginning when I was 15 or 16. And I just remember getting this rush from it, so after high school I moved to Long Beach, when I was 19, not really knowing how far it was from L.A. I lasted about three months in Long Beach because I would have a five-minute audition in Hollywood, and it would take me two hours to get there from where I lived.

**Did you do commercials?**

Yes, I still do. I have one for Kohl's coming out soon, and that's how I started out. I got a commercial agent, and that was my way in. I urge anybody who is starting out to do commercials. The money is good, it's fun, and only a couple days work usually. I also did short films, like for AFI or whatever, just to get experience in front of the camera. And I started taking acting classes and improv classes at Second City, which was such a great experience.

**How did you get the role in *Who's Afraid of Vagina Wolf?***

My representation sent me an email about the auditions, and I saw the title and I was mad at first. "Why are you sending me out on this stuff? It sounds like a porno!" And then I read the role, and I really fell in love with the character because she's not like anything I usually get offered. I was number 72 I think — the last person they saw that day, and Anna, the director, and I just clicked. Julia, the character I play in the movie, has this sweetness and innocence that I love, and working with Guinevere Turner and Carrie Preston and Janina Gavankar was so great.

**How did you get your SAG card?**

It was on a Jodie Foster movie called *Flight Plan*. They needed an actress who could play a flight attendant with a Polish accent. I had one line, like half a day's work. I didn't get to meet Jodie, but I got my SAG card. I was so naïve and green that I didn't even know how lucky I was.



Following the showing of *Who's Afraid of Vagina Wolf?*, the film's star Agnes Olech answered questions from the audience. Photo by Jennifer Hatton.

## Kidnapped for Christ - A Second Look

My next trio of interviews was with the folks involved with *Kidnapped for Christ*, the documentary-in-progress that had a free showing at this year's SIGLFF. I sat down with the talented young director, Kate Logan, her producer and writer, Yada Zamora, and one of the subjects of her film, David Wernsman, a 24-year-old gay man who was sent to Escuela Caribe, an evangelical "reform school" in the Dominican Republic, by his parents, and against his will after coming out to them, when he was only 17.

### What kind of abuse did you suffer at the school, David?

They would exhaust you with work, like cutting tall grass with a machete for hours to the point where your arms were so tired you couldn't even pick up a pencil. You had a few seconds to be up in the morning or you got push-ups, which were punishment for everything under the sun. And we got "swats" as punishment.

### What was your 18th birthday like in this hellhole? It must have been hard not having your friends and family around for such a milestone.

They announced it that Sunday at chapel, and I think I got to choose what we had for dinner. And I got a 20-minute phone call with my parents, instead of only 10 minutes, but always with somebody listening in.

### Have you forgiven your parents for sending you to Escuela Caribe, and have they ever apologized to you?

I have forgiven them, but we are not talking right now. I am living in Phoenix as a gay man and trying to get into medical school, but they still don't accept my homosexuality.

### Is this your first film, Kate?

Yes, my first full-length film. It started as a student project in 2006, and seven years later, I'm almost finished

with it. I had heard about this great school, that they were helping kids so I decided to profile them. And that's why they originally let me film.

### Then you met David and the other kids and found out what was really going on?

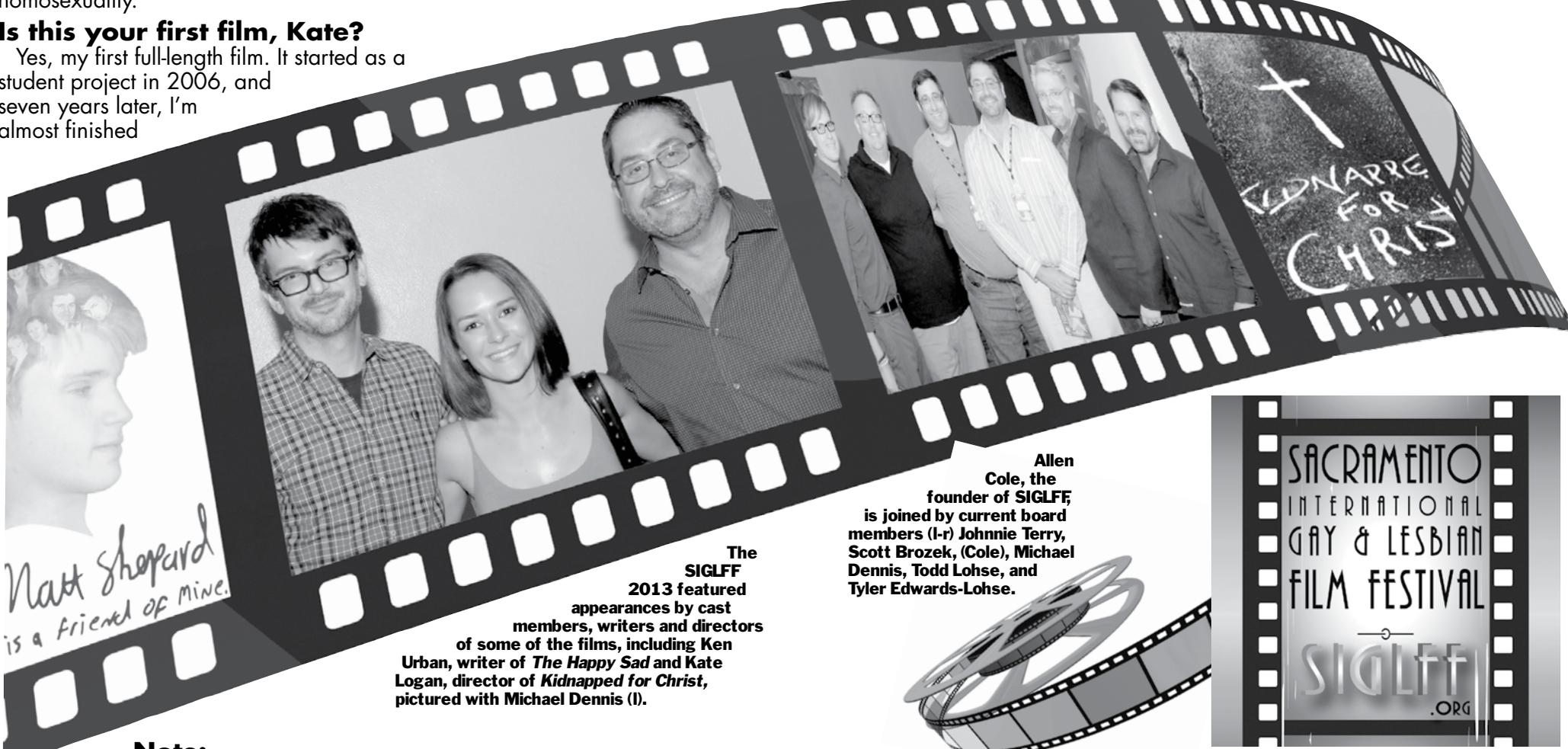
The fact that these "therapeutic boarding schools" exist offshore and without any real oversight was alarming to me, and they don't allow unmonitored contact with friends or family, which is a huge red flag. The school was really good at manipulating parents into thinking that this was the last chance for their kids to straighten out.

### When did you come on board, Yada, and what is your role in the movie?

I came on board in 2011, after the footage in the Dominican Republic was shot, and Kate and I worked together and followed the story to its fruition because the story hadn't really ended until last year. That's why the movie took so long.

### This was sort of a dry run at the Crest? Where do you go next with the film?

Well, we're hoping for Sundance or maybe Palm Springs. That has yet to be determined, but the goal for the film is to have a theatrical release worldwide after the festival circuit, and then we will be on DVD eventually. The movie deals with LGBT issues, but we also feel that it is a universal story that needs to get out there so we want as many people as possible to see it.



Matt Shepard is a friend of mine.

The SIGLFF 2013 featured appearances by cast members, writers and directors of some of the films, including Ken Urban, writer of *The Happy Sad* and Kate Logan, director of *Kidnapped for Christ*, pictured with Michael Dennis (l).

Allen Cole, the founder of SIGLFF, is joined by current board members (l-r) Johnnie Terry, Scott Brozek, (Cole), Michael Dennis, Todd Lohse, and Tyler Edwards-Lohse.



### Note:

If you enjoyed the films at this year's Festival, you can keep the glow going via another acclaimed movie, *Matt Shepard is a Friend of Mine*, which is showing at the Crest one time only, on Saturday, November 3, at 2 p.m.

Mention SIGLFF and get \$2 off the general admission of \$10 at this special screening of a new documentary directed by Michele Jouse that interviews the people who knew Shepard personally, including close friends and family.

Jouse was herself an actual close friend of Matt's, and the documentary represents her feature film debut after a decade of directing, producing, and editing in Los Angeles.

*Matt Shepard is a Friend of Mine* is an intimate portrait of Shepard as he was, featuring previously unseen home videos and photographs of the young man

who would become an iconic figure in gay history.

The filmmakers spoke with everyone from Matt's childhood friend, Tim Galles, to Matt Galloway, the bartender who was the last to see Matt at the Fireside Bar where he met his murderers.

The documentary had its world premiere at the 2013 Mill Valley Film Festival recently, to mark the 15th anniversary of Shepard's death and to celebrate his life.

Stick around for a Q&A with friends of Matt and members of the production team after the screening.

Tickets are available at [www.thecrest.com](http://www.thecrest.com). For more information about the film, visit [MattShepardIsAFriendOfMine.com](http://MattShepardIsAFriendOfMine.com).

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## Impacting

continued from page 5

AB 1266, the School Success and Opportunity Act, clarifies what schools must do to be in compliance with existing state laws banning discrimination against transgender students.

"Our office presented a diverse group of bills to Governor Jerry Brown this year, and I am pleased to have his support on many of these measures that will improve our state and help Californians in their daily lives," said Senator Leno, D-San Francisco.



## Cho

continued from page 14

diverse humor. She will be at The Crest Theatre at 8 p.m. on Saturday, November 2. For ticket information, visit Tickets.com or call 916-44-CREST.

Though this show is sure to fill you with laughter, don't forget all that she has given to our community and country as America's Mother of Comedy! Learn more about her at Chocho.com.

Colt McGraw is a freelance writer in Sacramento, and frequent contributor to Outword. He can be reached at mrcoltmcgraw@yahoo.com.

## New Mr. Bolt Leather Chosen

Congratulations to Vincent Deleon, the new Mr. Bolt Leather 2014. Deleon was chosen to represent the Bolt Bar and Sacramento's leather community at a contest held Saturday, October 19 at the Bolt and has also earned the right to compete in the International Mr. Leather Contest in Chicago in May.



Mr. Bolt Leather 2014 Vincent Deleon is congratulated by former Mr. Bolt Leathers Robert Brooks, Miguel Rubio and Dave Stewart.



The four Mr. Bolt Leather 2014 contestants were Vincent Deleon, David Do, Matt Bunch (1st Runner Up) and Jason Huff-Cook (2nd Runner Up)

## Cazwell and Elvis Send in Selfie for Outword's Pet Issue



OK, we really just wanted another cute dog picture for our Pet Issue, and who could resist Elvis' brown eyes — not to mention Cazwell's chest. But really, the pic is to promote Cazwell's new single, *No Selfie Control*, a heartfelt track from the superfly gay rapper that pokes fun at America's obsession with the selfie. Check out the video at Cazwell.com. Photo by Marco Ovando.



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