

Volume 26 • Issue 23
No. 494 • December 12, 2013
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www.outwordmagazine.com
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ISSN # 1084-7618 United States Library of Congress

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Benefit to Fund Alzheimer's Film *Remember Isobel*

In the winter of 2012, *Remember Isobel*, playwright Sarah Barbulesco's story of a lesbian couple coping with a parent with Alzheimer's, was brought to the stage here in Sacramento as a live theater production. Since then, *Remember Isobel* has been attracting attention in Hollywood and plans to produce the feature film in summer 2014 have begun to fall into place.



A promotional trailer for the upcoming film *Remember Isobel*, the story of a lesbian couple and their family coping with Alzheimer's, can be seen at www.youtube.com/watch?v=hnuuW-5-7ng&list=HL1368503774. Although the film has not been cast, the trailer (filmed in Sacramento) features Dante Weeks, Lois Ewing, Scarlet O'Connor, Elise Hodge (who will be retaining her role in the feature) and Nick Kennedy.

Producer Chadwick Struck was brought onto the project in spring 2013 and, shortly after, notable Executive Producers Alfred Molina (*Spiderman 2*), Michael Badalucco (*The Practice*), and Don Most (*Happy Days*) have come on board.

In addition, the film has received fantastic support from key members of the Alzheimer's community including Susan Galeas and Jean Dickinson (president and vice president of the Southland Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association, respectively) as well as actress Nancy Daly (team coordinator of Artists & Actors to End Alzheimer's), all of who are also executive producers for the film.

Some other notable name actors have shown interest in the lead roles of *Remember Isobel*, however, official casting for the film will not commence until spring 2014.

The fundraiser, A Night To Remember is the next step in the journey towards producing *Remember Isobel* the feature film, which is now slated for principal photography in summer 2014.

Some of Sacramento's most valued benefactors will be in attendance at the event to experience a night of live entertainment, fine dining, and interactions with celebrity guests, including Executive

Producer Don Most.

Entertainment will range from musical and dance performances (including an appearance from the well-known and alluring belly dancing group of Hot Pot Studios) to presentations by the Alzheimer's Association. Attendees will also be given the opportunity to view a screening of the *Remember Isobel* promotional trailer as well as participate in a Q&A with Writer/Director Sarah Barbulesco, and producers Elise Hodge and Chadwick Struck.

There will be opportunities for attendees to donate to and show support for the production of *Remember Isobel* throughout the evening. Representatives from local TV station Access Sacramento will be present and other members of the press have been invited to attend.

Reservations to attend the event range from \$100-\$500. Interested parties should contact Sarah Barbulesco at sbarbulesco@mimbolide.com or 530-400-7619 to be added to the limited invite list.

A Night to Remember, a philanthropic evening to support Alzheimer's benefit feature film *Remember Isobel*, will commence at 6:30 p.m. on December 18, at the Northridge Country Club, 7600 Madison Ave., in Fair Oaks.

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Red Dress Party Raises \$23,000



Besides being the Social Event of the Year – and a lot of fun – this year's Red Dress Party also did a lot of good. Pictured here, RDP organizer David Heitman (l) is presenting a check to the Sacramento LGBT Center's Evan Brienza, Glenda Corcoran, Felicia Johnson, Roger Freeman and Donny Vasquez for \$20,000. The RDP also presented a check to Sunburst Projects for \$3,000.

Sacramento Commemorates World AIDS Day 2013



World AIDS Day 2013 in Sacramento got off to an early start on December 1 in Davis when 79 cyclists and 68 crewmembers launched the inaugural Sac Valley World Aids Day Bike Ride. The ride raised \$2,518.63 that Breaking Barriers and Sahaya will share. Next year's ride is already scheduled for November 30, 2014. Visit wadrideresac.org.

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LGBTQ Congregation Knows the Meaning of Christmas

by Dr. Larry R. Hygh, Jr.

Raised in Texas in a first generation Chinese household, Tim Lee describes his upbringing as traditional and fundamental when it comes to religion. Lee, now an active United Methodist in a LGBTQ friendly congregation, wants his two boys to grow up knowing Christmas as the historic birth of Jesus Christ.



Lee, 42, and Larry Engelhardt-Lee, 48, have been married since October 2008. For five years, the couple have been parents to Wolfy, 7, and Hunter, 5. Lee is a physician and Engelhardt-Lee is a realtor and although not a churchgoer, he supports raising the boys in church.

Lee's childhood in South Dallas during the Christmas season was filled with Christmas worship, plays and special mid-week services. "We did practice opening the presents on Christmas morning and getting money from our relatives in the form of the Chinese red envelopes," he said. "A mix of Western and Chinese culture with the wrappings of our faith and church."

Lee also has fond memories of watching Christmas movies, *Frosty the Snowman*, *Rudolph* and all Claymation movies.

Lee and Engelhardt-Lee put up six Christmas trees in their home during the holidays. "We want our kids to enjoy all this

season has to offer including the shopping merriment, the movies, the decorations, all within moderation of course. I want my boys to understand why I celebrate the birth of my Christ, and not as a historic day."

Lee says, "At this season, there are those who feel more empowered to act on their personal crusade and lash out against our community (LGBTQ) – most of the vehement responses are from those who claim to follow and love God." He added, "If anything, our LGBTQ community has learned that we don't live our lives to make the public happy." Lee says, "We live for ourselves and our families and friends."

Lee challenges the LGBTQ community to create families from treasured and honored friends, from adoptions and from unconventional means. "They are just as legitimate as any traditional family," he says. "I say we celebrate this season bringing joy to those who love us and in whom we find

strength and true support."

Lee is an active member of The Table at Central United Methodist Church in East Sacramento where he leads the church's small group ministry. Twenty-five percent of the membership of The Table identifies with the LGBTQ community.

The Rev. Linda Dew-Hiersoux is a co-pastor of The Table. Dew-Hiersoux says, "Our church community has many contours." Dew-Hiersoux says many people come to The Table because they have been burned by church or religion in the past. "We are grateful to be a place where God's love is for all," she said.

Dew-Hiersoux describes the holidays as "extra weighted" for LGBTQ Christians whose families do not sometimes recognize

"At this season, there are those who feel more empowered to act on their personal crusade and lash out against our community (LGBTQ)..."

Tim Lee

or affirm their right to love who they love. "It feels as though they are expected to only bring 'part' of themselves to the table," she said.

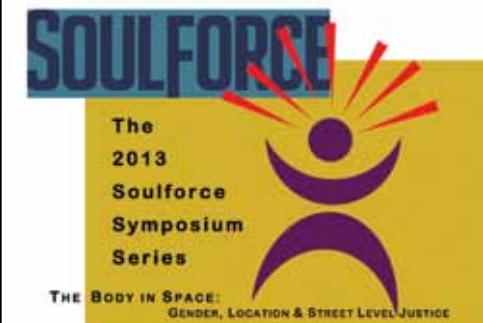
"We (The Table) watch over each other in love by practicing our faith," says Dew-Hiersoux. "During the holidays this means that people have a place to talk about how they plan to navigate those places of origin called 'families' – therefore, we do our best to listen to each other, and to hold each other gently in love as we live together in God's community."

Lee says, "I try to harmonize my religious beliefs, my same-sex lifestyle, my medical career, and my family life and distill it into loving my God and doing no harm."

Larry R. Hygh, Jr., Ed.D. is a West Sacramento based religious communicator for a mainline Protestant denomination.

Soulforce Symposium to Examine the Body in Space

The question of how gender is constructed, practiced and policed, based on location, privilege and the physical body will be explored in a free half day symposium "The Body In Space: Gender, Location, and Street Level Justice."



The symposium will be held Saturday, December, 14 and will offer workshop sessions, a keynote by Sam Noir/S. Dennison, JD, a public address by Soulforce Executive Director Rev. Dr. Cindi Love, and a performance event in the evening.

The symposium will address what kind of community dynamics produce healthy, positive, and justice-seeking results by and for oppressed communities and how we might look to models of street-level justice for methods by which to eliminate inequalities for LGBTQ people. Themes will center on identifying fundamentalism (white supremacy, patriarchy and colonization) as oppressive forces and intersectional justice training.

The symposium will be at St. Marks UMC, located at 2391 St. Marks Way, downstairs in McMurdo Hall from 9 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. with coffee and snacks provided.

For more information, please contact Esmé Rodríguez, Program Director, Soulforce at esme@soulforce.org.

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Briefly Put

NIH to Increase Funding Toward a Cure for HIV/AIDS

At a White House conference held Dec. 2 to mark the 25th annual World AIDS Day, President Obama announced that the National Institutes of Health plans to redirect AIDS research funds to expand support for research directed toward a cure for HIV.

NIH plans to invest an additional \$100 million over the next three fiscal years on this increasingly promising area of HIV/AIDS research.

"Although the HIV/AIDS pandemic can theoretically be ended with a concerted and sustained scale-up of implementation of existing tools for HIV prevention and treatment, the development of a cure is critically important, as it may not be feasible for tens of millions of people living with HIV infection to access and adhere to a lifetime of antiretroviral therapy," said Anthony S. Fauci, M.D., director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases. "Our growing understanding of the cellular hiding places or 'reservoirs' of HIV, the development of new strategies to minimize or deplete these reservoirs, and encouraging reports of a small number of patients who have little or no evidence of virus despite having halted antiretroviral therapy, all suggest that the time is ripe to pursue HIV cure research with vigor." Visit www.oar.nih.gov, or www.niaid.nih.gov

CDC Says HIV Risk Lower When Men Know Their HIV Status

A new analysis of data from 20 major U.S. cities reveals continued signs of sexual risk among gay and bisexual men, but shows dramatically lower sexual risk among those who accurately know their HIV status. The findings were in CDC's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report.

In 2011, 33 percent of HIV-positive men who have sex with men (MSM) who were unaware of their infection had unprotected anal sex with someone they believed was HIV-negative or whose status they did not know. However, men who accurately knew they were HIV positive were 60 percent less likely to report recent unprotected anal sex with someone of a different HIV status – with 13 percent reporting this behavior.

Statement by the President on the HIV Organ Policy Equity (HOPE) Act

President Signs Law Allowing HIV+ Organ Donations

President Obama has signed into law the HIV Organ Policy Equity (HOPE) Act, a bipartisan piece of legislation that allows scientists to carry out research into organ donations from one person with HIV to another.

Organ transplants from people with HIV have been illegal, however, the potential for successful organ transplants between people living with HIV has become more of a possibility and the HOPE Act lifts the research ban, and could lead to life-saving organ donations for people living with HIV.

"Improving care for people living with HIV is critical to fighting the epidemic, and it's a key goal of my National HIV/AIDS Strategy," the President said in a released statement. "The HOPE Act marks an important step in the right direction, and I thank Congress for their action."

Colorado Court Rules Bakery Illegally Discriminated Against Gay Couple

A Colorado judge on December 6, determined that a Lakewood bakery unlawfully discriminated against a gay couple by refusing to sell them a wedding cake.

David Mullins and Charlie Craig visited Masterpiece Cakeshop last year, with Craig's mother, to order a cake for their upcoming wedding reception. Mullins and Craig planned to marry in Massachusetts and then celebrate with family and friends back home in Colorado. Masterpiece owner Jack Phillips informed them that because of his religious beliefs the store's policy was to deny service to customers who wished to order baked goods to celebrate a same-sex couple's wedding.

"Being denied service by Masterpiece Cakeshop was offensive and dehumanizing especially in the midst of arranging what should be a joyful family celebration," said Mullins. "No one should fear being turned away from a public business because of who they are. We are grateful to have the support of our community and our state, and we hope that today's decision will help ensure that no one else will experience this kind of discrimination again in Colorado."

How to Survive a Plague to Air on PBS



With unfettered access to a treasure trove of never-before-seen archival footage from the 1980s and '90s, filmmaker David France puts the viewer smack in the middle of the controversial actions, heated meetings, heartbreaking failures and exultant breakthroughs of heroes in the making. The film, *How To Survive A Plague*, will be shown on *Independent Lens*, hosted by Stanley Tucci, on KVIE 6 on January 3, 2014 at 2 a.m., so set those recorders! (or KQED 9 on Mon., January 6, 2014, at 10 p.m.) Photo courtesy of *Independent Lens*.

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Cha'Quitta Hutchison



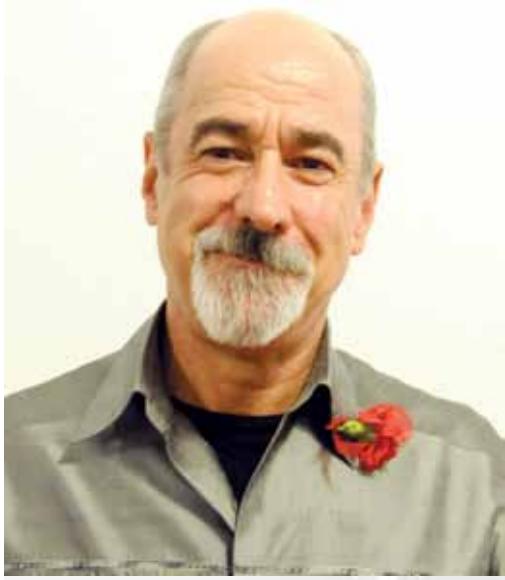
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Tandy Bowman



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Steven Clouse



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Erasure's *Snow Globe* Reviewed

Gay-Friendly Duo's New Xmas CD

As always, there were many new seasonal CDs released this year, with everyone from Mary J. Blige to the late Mae West joining the Christmas club. Even former American Idol runner-up Crystal Bowersox got into the act, with a holiday single entitled "Coming Out For Christmas" that truly celebrates equality for everyone.

I'll post a longer article online with reviews of new seasonal CDs from Kelly Clarkson, Il Volo and other artists, but I wanted to first spotlight one of the most unique holiday discs released this year, Erasure's "Snow Globe."

Erasure - Snow Globe

Leave it to this gay-friendly duo to release a non-traditional seasonal CD. Would we expect anything else from the great Andy Bell and Vince Clarke?

The guys who kept queer audiences dancing for decades return with a holiday gift to their fans, and the resulting CD is the best thing they've done in years.

Rather than try to tweak their sound in order to sound like every other seasonal CD – which sinks so many similar sets – the boys have made a disc that actually sounds like a new Erasure album, with dynamite tracks like "Loving Man," "There'll Be No Tomorrow" and "Make It Wonderful" that would fit nicely on any of their records.

The excellent "Bells Of Love" kicks things off in high style with a decidedly secular statement of purpose that encourages acceptance and love over blind religious faith. (You probably won't hear that



sentiment on anybody else's holiday CD, and that's why I love Erasure.)

Not every track on "Snow Globe" is holiday-driven, but even the ones that are sound like vintage Erasure, including a fun, electronic cover of "The Christmas Song" and their oddly compelling version of "White

by Chris Narloch

"Christmas," which sounds as if it's coming out of an old music box.

I especially admire the duo's traditional take on "Silent Night" which features a gorgeous vocal that finds Andy Bell getting in touch with his inner choirboy.

If you liked Erasure back in the day and

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Hobbit Sequel Hits The Big Screen

Peter Jackson, the king of the fantasy blockbuster, is back with *The Desolation of Smaug*, his sequel to *The Hobbit*. The highly anticipated holiday release opens on Friday, December 13, in regular theaters and IMAX.

The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug is the second in a trilogy of films adapting the enduringly popular book *The Hobbit*, by J.R.R. Tolkien.

The three films tell a continuous story set in Middle-earth 60 years before *The Lord of the Rings*, which Jackson and his filmmaking team brought to the big screen in the blockbuster trilogy that culminated with the Oscar-winning *The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King*.

While I am forbidden to review the new film until it officially opens, I can share the

basic information provided in the press kit.

The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug continues the adventure of the title character Bilbo Baggins as he journeys with the Wizard Gandalf and thirteen Dwarves, led by Thorin Oakenshield, on an epic quest to reclaim the Lonely Mountain and the lost Dwarf Kingdom of Erebor.

Having survived the beginning of their unexpected journey, the Company continues East, encountering along the way the skin-changer Beorn and a swarm of giant Spiders in the treacherous forest of

by Chris Narloch

Mirkwood.

After escaping capture by the dangerous Wood-elves, the Dwarves journey to Laketown and finally to the Lonely Mountain, where they must face the greatest danger of all, the Dragon Smaug.

Ian McKellen returns as Gandalf the Grey, with Martin Freeman in the central role of Bilbo Baggins, and Richard Armitage as Thorin Oakenshield. The supporting cast includes Benedict Cumberbatch, Lee Pace, Luke Evans, Evangeline Lilly and Orlando Bloom.

Under Jackson's direction, *The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug* was shot in 3D and will be released in High Frame Rate 3D (HFR 3D) in select theaters, as well as in other 2D and 3D formats, and IMAX.

Production took place at Jackson's own facilities in Miramar, Wellington, and on location around New Zealand.

Because size matters, especially when it comes to blockbusters like *The Hobbit*, I recommend you see the movie at the Esquire IMAX on K Street in Sacramento. For more information, visit www.imax.com/sacramento.

Note: For reviews of movies currently in theaters, please visit www.outwordmagazine.com.



A scene from *The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug*.



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Angels In America Kicks Off TAAC's 2014 Season in a Big Way

By Bonnie Osborn

The Alternative Arts Collective is preparing to kick off its 2014 season with an all-stops-out production of Tony Kushner's Pulitzer Prize-winning 1993 play, *Angels In America: A Gay Fantasia on National Themes*, opening January 2, 2014.

Founded in 2009 by Artistic Director David Blue Garrison, the Alternative Arts Collective produced its first true season in 2013 encompassing seven varied shows, ranging from Shakespeare's *Taming of the Shrew*, set in an Astro-Turfed trailer park, and ending with Ibsen's *Doll House*, which opens later this month, and one staged reading.

"I think that after coming out of 2013 and having accomplished so much, having done so many plays, I wanted to open 2014 with something equally huge, something to get the community and the actors excited about, and it did," Garrison says.

Kushner's play, which also has been made into a television mini-series and an opera, is big: a two-part show containing a total seven hours of dialog so big that the two parts are performed on different nights.

Garrison's plans for the production are big as well, including staging that includes knocking a hole in a back wall to construct a New York City brownstone stoop and removing six seats to extend the front stage out into the audience. The set will be created by TAAC Technical Consultant Richard Spierto, who is also devising the special effects for the Angel's dramatic appearance at the end of Part 1, "so that the audience can't wait to see Part 2," Garrison says.

The show is written for eight actors, with each actor playing two or more characters, most of whose lives are touched in some way by HIV/AIDS. Main characters include Prior, a gay man with AIDS, played by Garrison; Joe Pitt, a married, closeted gay Mormon; drag queen Belize, Prior's best friend and former lover; closeted gay lawyer and former federal prosecutor Roy Cohn, based on the real Roy Cohn; the ghost of Ethel Rosenberg, who in real life was convicted and executed as a Communist spy; and of course the fierce Angel of the title, who dramatically crashes through Prior's bedroom ceiling. The plot is revealed as the various characters converse, over time revealing how all are connected.

"I think it is the best American play of the last 50 years, maybe the last century," Garrison says.

"It's extremely emotional; you really have to find a group of people that are willing to give up so much time out of their schedules, but also to access those kinds of emotions. We do have a cast that can do it."

Garrison and several members of The Alternative Arts Collective are children of Roseville's Magic Circle Theater, which closed down in 2009; others from the local theater



David Blue Garrison, the founding Artistic Director of The Alternative Arts Collective, will be starring as Prior, as well as directing Tony Kushner's *Angels in America*.

community have joined the company since it relocated from Roseville to its Blue Box Theatre in Sacramento.

"My first time performing was in a children's show at Magic Circle Theater in Roseville, and I basically never left that theater," Garrison says. "I was there more than I was at home." By the time he reached high school he had performed in some 50 shows. As a high school senior he directed *Steel Magnolias*, becoming the youngest director ever to receive an Elly Award. He took over the directorship of Magic Circle's Teen Master Workshop annual production right out of high school, where he continued until forming his own company in 2009.

One performance of *Angels In*

America will be performed as a "triathlon," with a break between acts for a plated dinner. Proceeds from the \$25 admission will benefit the Rainbow Chamber Foundation's Scholarship program.

The Alternative Arts Collective production of *Angels In America* will play at the Blue Box Theatre, corner of Oxford Street and Lea Way, with gated parking on Calvados. Part One: *Millennium Approaches* will open Jan. 2 and close Jan. 18; Part Two: *Perestroika* will open Jan. 30 and close Feb. 15, 2014. Tickets can be purchased online at brownpapertickets.com, keyword: TAAC Angels In America. For more information about TAAC, visit [www.taactheatre.com](http://taactheatre.com) or call 916-538-8013.

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There'll be Treasure Ho! and lots of laughs, too, when Clara and Fritz, Peglegs Tchaikovsky and Pirate Captain Drosselmeyer sail the Black Sugar Plum searching for gold in the waters off the Yerba Buena as the SFL&G Chorus' annual Dance-Along Nutcracker takes a trip to the Caribbean. Only four performances, Dec. 14 & 15, and they always sell out - so get your tickets soon. *Nutcrackers of the Caribbean*, sflgb.org

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Buddy Holly, George Bailey & David Sedaris

by Chris Narloch

There's something for every theatrical taste on local stages this holiday season, whether you prefer laughter, music or you want to be moved to tears.

It's A Wonderful Life (The Musical)

Local theatrical treasure Jerry Lee as George Bailey? Count me in.

The beloved Christmas classic, shown every year on television, goes from screen to stage in this tuneful new version presented courtesy of STC (Sacramento Theatre Company).

Did you ever wonder what the world would be like if you had never been born? The hero in *It's A Wonderful Life* finds out thanks to an angel-in-training who gives our suicidal hero a new lease on life.

This Northern California premiere musical stars Jerry Lee as George Bailey, Jackie Vanderbeck as Mary Bailey, Gary S. Martinez as Mr. Potter, Michael RJ Campbell as Uncle Billy, Jim Lane as Clarence, and Ed Brazo as Mr. Gower.

It's A Wonderful Life plays through Sunday, December 22 at STC. Visit www.sactheatre.org.



Aaron Wilton in a scene from *The SantaLand Diaries*. Photo by Kevin Adamski. Visit CapStage.org

The SantaLand Diaries

Fans of David Sedaris' wicked sense of humor will want to check out the homosexual humorist's theatrical love letter – or poison pen letter? – to the holiday season.

The SantaLand Diaries was originally an essay inspired by the diminutive Sedaris' actual stint as a Christmas elf in "SantaLand" at Macy's department store.

If you thought the Santa Claus scene in *A Christmas Story* was a trip, wait until you get a load of the hilarious misadventures of one Crumpet the Elf.

Capital Stage gives audiences the much-needed gift of laughter this holiday season with their production of *The SantaLand Diaries*, which plays through December 29. Visit www.capstage.org.

Buddy – The Buddy Holly Story

This is not a holiday show per se, except that it is playing during the holiday season as Broadway Sacramento's post-Christmas theatrical offering.

In his short life, and even shorter career, the iconic rocker Buddy Holly set the music world on fire and forever changed the face of rock and roll.

Buddy – The Buddy Holly Story charts the singer's meteoric climb, legendary adventures and tragic fall on the fateful day the music died.

Armed with a Fender Stratocaster guitar, his signature specs and a charismatic blend of rockabilly swagger, Buddy Holly lives again on stage in a jukebox musical fully loaded with all the hits.

Buddy features all the songs that fans of his music know by heart, including "Peggy Sue," "Oh Boy," "That'll Be the Day," "Well All Right," "Not Fade Away" and many more.

Buddy – The Buddy Holly Story plays December 27 – January 2 at the Sacramento Community Center Theater. Please visit www.BroadwaySacramento.com.

For more theater coverage, please visit www.outwordmagazine.com.

14th Annual NYE Sky Spectacular Will Dazzle

With exciting new elements and entertainment plans in place, visitors to Old Sacramento will be dazzled and delighted during the 14th Annual New Year's Eve Sky Spectacular celebration along the historic waterfront.



STERLING MUNKSGARD PHOTOGRAPHY

Nashville recording artist McKenna Faith will be one of the featured performers at this year's New Year's Eve Sky Spectacular in Old Sacramento.

Produced by the Sacramento Convention & Visitors Bureau and sponsored by Sacramento365.com, the free community celebration will include two stunning firework shows at 9 p.m. and midnight, interactive family fun and games, food and drink vendors, and live musical acts on both the streets and the stage throughout the evening from 6 p.m. to 12:30 a.m.

The 2013 New Year's Eve Sky Spectacular event will offer kid-friendly programming, lively street entertainment and live music provided by the popular Radio Disney Road Crew, the ever-energetic Natomas Drumline, Nashville recording artist McKenna Faith and the Northern California-based funk and soul phenomenon, Joy & Madness band.

In addition, the magical and electrifying "Theatre of Lights" will wrap up the holiday season with two final – and free – performances at 7 p.m. and again at 8:30 p.m. on K Street (between Front & 2nd Streets).

For the main events, the highly-anticipated firework sky concerts will hold some real surprises this year with multiple launch sites and exciting new choreography elements.

Guests will enjoy two memorable yet different firework shows as part of the high-energy community celebration. The 9 p.m. show, lasting just over 15 minutes, will be choreographed to this year's biggest hits while the midnight show will bring in the New Year rocking out with classic rock favorites.

"This year's shows promise to be the best yet with new multiple launching locations as well as structural based displays that will wow the senses!" said the events organizers.

The New Year's Eve Sky Spectacular will take place rain or shine. In preparation for the evening activities, the Tower Bridge will be closed to vehicle traffic from 7:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. For additional safety, the bridge will be closed to pedestrian traffic for 30 minutes leading up to and after each of the two firework shows.

Also, the midnight sky concert will be simulcast live on The Eagle 96.9FM. For more information about times, locations, hotel recommendations or other event details, call 916-808-7777 or visit www.nyesacramento.com.

Womyn's Group Sets Out on New Path

The Sacramento LGBT Community Center's Womyn's Group is currently working on growing and progressing in a new direction.

Starting in January we will be moving to a new day, time and format. In light of this, we are asking for your help! We want your input on what you would like to see happen with the Womyn's Group as we move forward in

our new direction.

What should the Womyn's Group include or not include? What has your experience been like in the past? What would you like to see in the future?

We are completely open to change and welcome any and all suggestions and feedback. We are very excited for potential growth. We have a wonderful and supportive group and are very excited to build on the foundation we've made together.

Visit SacCenter.org.

Celebrate The Holidays With Straight No Chaser & Sac Ballet

by Chris Narloch

So many events – so little time. I couldn't begin to list all of the worthy performances and productions happening in and around the Sacramento area this holiday season, but here are two separate (and intriguing) events that caught my eye.

Straight No Chaser

If you watch the local PBS station, you've no doubt seen the tuneful and entertaining group of guys who call themselves Straight No Chaser.

A professional a cappella group that originated in 1996 at Indiana University, Straight No Chaser is yet another YouTube success story.

In 2006, a 1998 video of the group performing "The 12 Days of Christmas" gained widespread popularity on the web and subsequently led to a five-album record deal with Atlantic Records.

The group is named after a famous album by Miles Davis and consists of ten handsome gentlemen who take their music very seriously, even if their shows are intended to be serious fun.

Straight No Chaser will play two performances at the Crest on Saturday, December 28, as part of their "Under The Influence North American Tour," which features a cappella takes on hits by artists like Adele, Jason Mraz, Seal, Stevie Wonder, Phil Collins, Dolly Parton and others.

Go to www.Tickets.com.



The men of *Straight No Chaser*.

The Nutcracker

At least five performances of Sacramento Ballet's *The Nutcracker* will feature live music this year, thanks to the participation of the Sacramento Philharmonic.

The best known and most beloved of all Sacramento arts traditions during the holiday season, *The Nutcracker* is a true spectacular that features Ron Cunningham's

memories for over two decades.

As an added bonus, Kirsten Bloom will come out of retirement this year for one performance only, playing the Sugar Plum Fairy, on December 22 at 5:30 p.m.

Ron Cunningham's *The Nutcracker* plays the Community Center Theater through December 23. Please visit www.sacballet.org for more details.

Palm Springs White Party Changes Dates



The organizers of the Palm Springs White Party, billed as the The Largest Gay Dance Music Festival in the World, have changed the date for this year, and it will be the last weekend in April, April 25 - 28. Celebrating its 25th anniversary, White Party is upping the ante with an event line-up of ICONIC proportions. Get the details at www.jeffreysanker.com

Outward Salutes Sacramento's Rainbow Chamber of Commerce

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Merry Holidays!

All of us at Outword would like to wish you the very BEST for the Holidays and a truly gifted New Year!

Look for us, after a short Winter break, on newsstands January 9, 2014.

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Holiday Shopping Ideas by Ron Tackitt

I thought I would compile a short list of items I thought were cool, and would love to see one or two of them under my tiny, fiber-optic Christmas tree. Most of these things are gender-neutral, but that doesn't mean you couldn't wrap it in a pretty little package to give to your boyfriend... hope this list helps with your last-minute shopping.

As a relatively new home owner, I love Home Depot gift cards. Ok, Ace Hardware or Lowes work just as well, but in Sacramento it seems there are Home Depots around every corner. Sure, a gift card is a little impersonal, but do you really want your flannel-wearing babe to have to stand in the return line, being ogled by all those construction workers? www.homedepot.com



For the person putting together a home, you might also try looking at some second-hand shops, like Scout Living in Midtown. They specialize in Mid Century Modern (like) items, everything from wall units to figurines. Of course their inventory is always changing, but you



just might stumble upon that perfect present. Scout Living can be found at 1215



Home Depot

18th Street, in the heart of Midtown.

How about an Artisan Aspen Wood iPhone 5s cover? Woodsy, earthy and

iPhone look like it belongs in that cabin in the forest. They are only \$50, but you should be able to find them on sale for about half that - and who doesn't like half off? www.styleshug.com/others/artisan-collection-iphone-5-aspen-wood.html

Keeping with the wood theme, there are some really cool clocks/alarm clocks that appear to made of a solid block of wood, but when turned on, mystically show the clock digits right through the wood. Very cool, very modern and start around \$40. www.touchofmodern.com

There is no better gift for your favorite butch than a Subaru. They are affordable, authentically reliable and most of all, practical. It just so happens that Subaru has recently updated its popular Forester for 2014 with a shiny new model that has been

winning rave reviews - including SUV of the Year by *Motor Trend* magazine. With better fuel economy, larger cargo area, more back seat legroom and a better transmission, what could say "I Love You" better than one of these babies? www.elkgrovesubaru.com

A friend recently gave me some great advice: "If you have to go to the gym everyday, and you hate it, spend some money and get a really great set of headphones." That may not sound all that life-changing, but he was completely correct. Headphone/Earbuds can get very pricey these days, and you rarely get a chance to hear them before you buy. But they would make a great stocking stuffer or budget friendly gift. Just make sure you can return them if you don't like them, and I would stick with an established audio brand, like Yamaha or Sennheiser. www.sennheiser.com

So, most of you are

taking pictures these days almost exclusively with your phone's camera. They have improved dramatically over the years, but unless you have the perfect circumstances,

the pictures they take are pretty average. For someone looking for, per FujiFilm, "The quality of a digital SLR in a compact body" there are slew of new, incredibly small bodied, interchangeable lens cameras that are just hitting the market. One of the best, and coolest looking, is the FujiFilm X-M1. It's a retro-styled camera that is packed full of the latest modern conveniences, like wireless image transfers. However, don't be fooled by their small size, the pictures they take could embarrass cameras costing much more.

Don't expect these compact cameras



FujiFilm X-M1

to come cheap though, the X-M1 starts around \$600. www.fujifilmusa.com

For the budding gourmet chef in your life, why not get them a very special frying pan? Sexy, huh? Seriously, though, Swiss Diamond makes a line of non-stick skillets that actually uses tiny diamonds to reinforce the non-stick surface. They are made of professional weight cast aluminum, and the 12.5" pan comes with a glass lid that has a very clever steam vent. The 12.5" will set you back about \$170, but once you experience the way your scrambled eggs just slide out of the pan, you'll be in love.



Swiss Diamond

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Grindr Users List Best of 2013 & Predictions for 2014

Our friends at Grindr, the premier all-male geo-social network app, tapped its massive user base to reveal this year's Best of 2013 Awards, with Grindr users from the U.S., U.K. and Australia weighing in on everything from their favorite song, to the gay icon of the year to the biggest comeback of 2013.

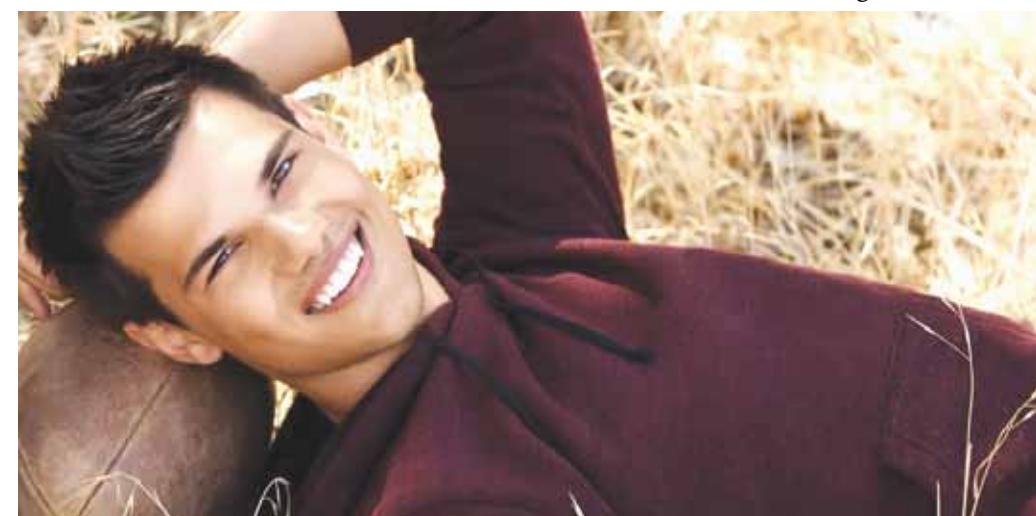
Grindr guys were also surveyed on their predictions for next year on topics such as 2014's biggest celebrity train wreck, the hottest gadget, and the next celebrity to come out of the closet.

The winners of Grindr's Best of 2013 Awards are:

- Gay icon of the year: Neil Patrick Harris
- Straight ally of the year: Lady Gaga
- Best coming out story: Wentworth Miller
- Enemy of the LGBT community: Vladimir Putin
- Best song of 2013: "Same Love," by Macklemore and Ryan Lewis
- Best movie of 2013: *Gravity*
- Best TV show on air: "Modern Family"
- Most wanted man in the Grindr cascade: Channing Tatum
- Best comeback of 2013: Netflix
- Social blunders: Miley Cyrus' twerking
- Biggest loss of 2013: Cory Monteith
- Next celebrity to come out: Taylor Lautner
- Hottest gadget of 2014: iPad Air
- Next state/country to legalize gay marriage: Florida
- Next celebrity train wreck: Justin Bieber
- What will become obsolete: Facebook



Grindr users were surveyed between November 14 and November 20, 2013 to cast their votes on the Grindr Best of 2013 Awards. To learn more about Grindr, visit grindr.com.



Grindr users have picked Taylor Lautner as the next celebrity to come out, but that might just be a lot of wishful thinking.

Award Winning Pit Stop Sets Release Dates



Pit Stop tells the parallel stories of two gay men in a small Texas town who meet for a one-nighter and face the possibility that they might just be meant for each other. The award winning and LGBT Film Festival favorite will be available across all digital platforms beginning January 7, before debuting on DVD February 4. Visit WolfeVideo.com.

A graphic for a marriage seminar. It features two figures in white wedding attire on the left, a red background with three women in white dresses on the right, and a central text area.

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