# No. 508 • July 10, 2014 • outwordmagazine.com

An Innovative Car Worth Waiting For



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# **Congratulations to the 2014 PRIDE Award Recipients!**

We appreciate the contributions you make to our Sacramento LGBT community and are grateful for your leadership and dedication. These awards serve as a token of appreciation and gratitude for your hard work. We look forward to your future successes!



From left to right PRIDE Award Recipients: David Larson, Michael Kennedy, David Heitstuman (non-recipient Board President), Clarmundo Sullivan, Paul Do-Me Moore Crouch, Amy Williams, Alejandro Contreras, Michael D. Williams, Jodi Hicks, Tre Borden, Tina Reynolds, Justin Knighten, Jo Michael, Jonnie Terry, and Kaye Crawford. Recipients not pictured: Jennifer Hatton, Julie Kennedy, Scott Patterson, Emily Rymland, Jessica Zaker, and Daniel Zingale.

Thank you to everyone who attended in support, sponsored the event or became a monthly contributor of the Sacramento LGBT Community Center. Your contributions to the Sacramento LGBT Community Center help make a safer, more welcoming, culturally rich, equal and stigma free community for us all.

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# Announcements

# Sac LGBT Center Is Hiring an Operations/Office Manager

Dear Outword Readers,

Felicia Johnson, our operations manager, who has been part of the Center family since she started attending our youth group many years ago is leaving the post at the end of this month to work with her family's business.

We will miss her dearly and are in search of a new operations and office coordinator.

The position reports to the Executive Director and supports the senior management team with front office coordination, facility management, marketing and communications, administrative HR, and fundraising assistance.

Ideal candidates will have at least 2-3 years of related experience, the ability to manage multiple projects simultaneously and meet deadlines, exceptional organizational skills, strength in empowering volunteers, and demonstrated integrity, compassion, and the capacity to exercise discretion and good judgment when working independently and as part of a team.

Full time, non-exempt, \$12-14 per hour. For a full description and to apply go to SacCenter.org/careers.

Sacramento LGBT Center

# More than 100,000 Letters Sent to Legislators

**Dear Outword Readers**,

The counting for July is not over yet, and yet, we have already delivered over 100,000 of your letters to our California state legislators since the beginning of the year.

For those of you who made that possible, I thank you from the bottom of my heart for your loyalty and dedication.

A really high percentage of the bills we have worked on have been approved each time they were voted on. We can't claim sole credit for that, but I bet the shear volume of mail we are delivering has something to do with it.

I believe, the more mail we deliver, the more effective we are. So, I hope those of you who have been faithfully responding to our alerts will continue to do so, and those who have not been responding will start doing so now.

It's easy and effective. Find out how you can make a difference at www.CalComUI.org Again, thank-you for your support.

Boyce Hinman California Communities United Institute

# Seeking Submissions from Feminine LTQ Women

Dear Outword Readers,

I am seeking to compile at least 50 stories for publication to express how you navigate life as Queer or Lesbian Femme.

Stories submitted can be in the form of a poem, a review or analysis of a particular situation, or of an ongoing situation or lifestyle.

This call for submissions will culminate in the printed publication of *Voices de Queer Femmes*, and may include original visual art, poetry, song lyrics and mixed media, but we're particularly interested in poetry, personal narratives/essays, creative nonfiction, social commentary submissions.

Deadline for Submissions is July 31, 2014. Send your questions and submission to ms\_vihil@yahoo.com with the subject line as follows: Voices de Queer Femmes submission.

Thank-you for sharing your voices.

Ms. Vihil Heather Vigil, MBA

# Wisdom Project for LGBT Seniors to Hold Open House

The Wisdom Project, a new program at the E. M. Hart Senior Center designed to serve the LGBT elder population of the greater Sacramento area, is holding an Open House - Community Gathering for LGBT elders, allies and care providers on Wednesday, July 30, from 2 – 4 p.m. in the Redwood East Room of the Center, located at 915 27th St.

There will be an LGBT Senior cultural competency presentation by a SAGE Educational Ambassador, and representatives from local organizations and agencies that serve aging seniors and LGBT elders will provide overviews of what they offer and participate in the information fair that will follow.

For more information, please call or email Cathy at 218-760-2415 or cathy.perry@att. net or www.servant-hearts.org.

# President Says He Will Sign Executive Order Protecting Trans Federal Workers



Speaking at the White House LGBT Pride Reception on June 30, President Barack Obama announced that he will sign an executive order barring gender identity discrimination for federal employees. "... I've asked my staff to prepare a second executive order so that federal employees — who are already protected on the basis of sexual orientation — will now formally be protected from discrimination based on gender identity as well!" No timetable for the order was announced. Pictured with the President is Jim Darby. (Official White House Photo by Pete Souza).

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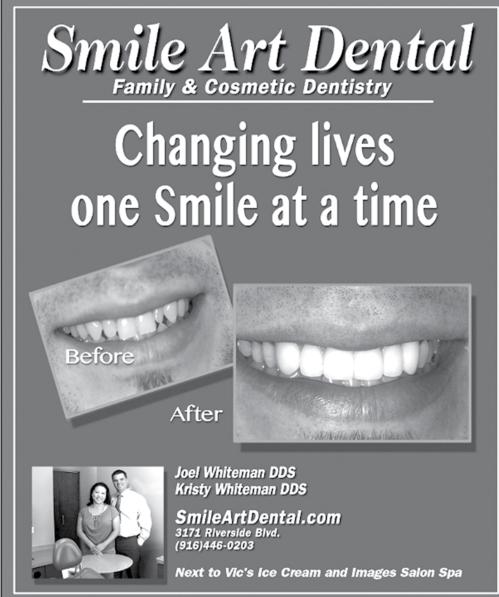


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www.outwordmagazine.com sales@outwordmagazine.com

ISSN # 1084-7618 United States Library of Congress

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# Coloring Our World with Pride by Corey Egel

ride is a hyperkinetic celebration of the GLBTQI community's shared history, accomplishments and continuing strides toward equality. Perhaps, best exemplified in 2013, when just days before San Francisco Pride, Prop 8 was overturned and the U.S. Supreme Court struck down the Defense of Marriage Act, setting the stage for a fabulous weekend in the City.

So, how do you top a party like that? By Coloring Our World with Pride!

With that theme, San Francisco Pride 2014 marked its 44th year with a spectacular parade featuring as Grand Marshals TV personality Ross Mathews, author and transgender rights activist Janet Mock, and Roberta Kaplan, who helped defeat a portion greater whole. We are a vast group and our needs and struggles vary.

Each letter of GLBTQI represents a separate entity of individuals - Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning, Intersex. Among us there are families, partygoers, activists, people who aren't "into the scene," individuals who are still coming out, and so

Heights in Sacramento or any other gay area across the country, these places should hold special meaning. In many instances, it is where we volunteered time at a LGBT Center sponsored event, participated in a rally, or, yes, excitedly scurried to meet up with friends for a drink during happy hour.

The commonality – that camaraderie which exists in these havens allowed us to explore our identities in a safe environment, become comfortable in our skin, and form strong bonds with people in the community. That commonality is being challenged by apps such as Grindr, Scruff, Jack'd, Hunters (and the list goes on) that permit users to order-in, with many people now choosing to stay home and subsequently weakening our



of the Defense of Marriage Act. Former U.S. Representative Barney Frank also made a special appearance along with a contingent of California politicians.

As always, there was plenty of dancing, drinking, and yes, eye-candy galore, with a line-up of attractions that was to be expected, after all, it is what makes Pride, well, Pride!

There was also a cameo appearance by something that hides in the shadows of our daily lives, but which manifests itself during this annual event: Camaraderie.

The gav community uses the term "community" quite a bit, but in reality, we are fragmented microcosms that make up a forth.

As a "community" we are struggling to maintain our identity. After valiantly striving for equality, and achieving greater success, we are becoming homogenized with the rest

Recent articles in the Los Angeles Times and Huffington Post have pointed out how gavs and lesbians now feel greater acceptance outside the boundaries of gay neighborhoods. The value is priceless, but the significance is meaningless unless we remember whom we are and where we came from.

Whether it is the Castro, WeHo, Lavender

connection with the community and one

Perhaps we don't need these events or neighborhoods to validate who we are anymore, but we shouldn't take for granted that they existed - and do exist - and that we, too, identify ourselves as GLBTQI.

Regardless of our gender, age, or relationship status, during Pride we come together and acknowledge a singular, unifying moment. It is important to show our pride not just once a year, but to come together as a community, support and love each other, celebrate and embrace each other as a whole - coloring our world with pride every day of the year.



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# **Senate Committee Approves Condoms in Adult Films Bill**

Legislation by Assemblymember Isadore Hall, III (D - Los Angeles) to require documentation of condom or other personal protective equipment use in California produced adult films, and mandatory employer paid STD testing of adult film actors was approved on June 25 by the California State Senate Labor & Industrial Relations Committee.

Today, the members of the Senate Labor & Industrial Relations Committee overwhelmingly saw beyond the adult film industry's flaccid misinformation campaign and took decisive action to protect these actors in the workplace."

AB 1576 passed on a vote of three to one and now heads to the Senate Appropriations Committee for further action.

# **U.S. Conference of Mayors Calls on U.S. Supreme Court to Promptly Rule in Favor of the Freedom to Marry**

At its annual meeting in Dallas on June 23, the U.S. Conference of Mayors overwhelmingly passed a resolution calling on federal courts, including the U.S. Supreme Court, to expeditiously bring an end to marriage discrimination against gay couples nationwide.

Mayors from states that still ban marriage for same-sex couples, including Arizona, Texas, Ohio, Colorado, Missouri, and Georgia, were among those who led passage of the resolution.

"From small towns to big cities, America's mayors know that including gay couples in the freedom to marry does nothing but strengthen families and communities for all," said Evan Wolfson, president of Freedom to Marry. The full text of the resolution can be found at www.freedomtomarry.org/2014ConferenceofMayors

# NCLR Campaign Says "All LGBT Kids Are #BornPerfect"

The National Center for Lesbian Rights has launched a new campaign, #BornPerfect: The Campaign to End Conversion Therapy, to end the dangerous practice of conversion therapy in five years.

Anti-LGBT voices have stepped up their support for conversion therapy, the vile practice used by some unethical counselors and therapists to try to change someone's sexual orientation or gender identity, the NCLR said in a released statement.

We will not stop until LGBT people – and especially LGBT children – are no longer stigmatized and harmed by this destructive practice," said Kate Kendell, Esq., NCLR's Executive Director.

To get the facts, and support the campaign, visit www.NCLRights.org/BornPerfect.

# **Federal Judge Strikes Down Kentucky Marriage Ban**

Republican-appointed U.S. District Judge John G. Heyburn in Louisville ruled on July 1, that Kentucky's constitutional amendment banning same-sex couples from the freedom to marry is unconstitutional. Heyburn was appointed by President George H. W. Bush in 1992, on the recommendation of current Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell.

The ruling follows Heyburn's earlier February ruling that stated that Kentucky must respect the legal marriages of same-sex couples performed outside of Kentucky. That case will be heard by the 6th Circuit Court of Appeals on August 6, 2014.

The July 1 decision was put on hold pending appeals, leaving it unclear when Kentucky couples will be free to marry. Kentucky Gov. Steve Beshear said the state will appeal the

# U.S. Supreme Court Denies Challenge to "Ex-Gay" Therapy Ban

The Supreme Court has refused to review a lower court ruling upholding California's ban on gay "conversion therapy," allowing the law to stand. The court let stand a 2013 federal appeals court ruling that the California law does not violate the free speech rights of people who seek the therapy or of the counselors who offer it.

"Today's decision provides important momentum in the fight to protect Americans from the disastrous consequences of so-called 'ex-gay' therapy," said Truth Wins Out Executive Director Wayne Besen. "It's remarkable that, in 2014, there are still people out there fighting to preserve a practice that is known to lead to depression and even suicide in patients, all in the name of extremist, religion-based bigotry. In California, the Supreme Court just stopped them in their tracks."

# Social Security Defines Policy for Same-Sex Couples

Social Security has published new instructions that allow the agency to process more claims in which entitlement or eligibility is affected by a same-sex relationship, letting the agency recognize some non-marital legal relationships as marriages for determining entitlement to benefits.

The new policy also addresses Supplemental Security Income claims based on same-sex

encouraged to apply now at www.socialsecurity.gov/same-sexcouples.

If a person believes he or she may be entitled to or eligible for benefits, they are

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# **Governor Signs Leno's Freedom to Marry Bill**

he California Legislature passed on June 30 legislation authored by Senator Mark Leno that brings state law in line with court rulings that recognize marriage for same-sex couples, and Governor Jerry Brown signed the Bill on July 7.

While both the California and U.S. Supreme Courts have affirmed the right for same-sex couples to marry, current state laws have not been revised to reflect these changes. Senate Bill 1306 makes those important updates.

"In historic fashion one year ago, the U.S. Supreme Court restored the right of every loving couple to marry in California," said Senator Leno (D-San Francisco). "Today we are sending a bill to the Governor's desk ensuring that this landmark decision is clearly reflected in our state laws."

On June 26 of last year, the U.S. Supreme Court let stand California's prior ruling on the unconstitutionality of Proposition 8, which prohibited same-sex couples from marrying. With that decision, Prop. 8 was abandoned, and the 2008 California Supreme Court decision giving same-sex couples the right to marry was reinstated.

SB 1306 updates state law as was directed by the 2008 In Re Marriage Cases decision from the state Supreme Court. It replaces references to "husband and wife" with gender-neutral language, such as "spouse," in order to recognize all married couples. The bill is co-sponsored by Attorney General Kamala D. Harris, Equality California and the National Center for Lesbian Rights



gender."

have the exact same rights and

responsibilities under the law, regardless of

"While we have achieved many milestones

Calif. State Senator Mark Leno (D-SF) marching with his contingent in the 2014 SF Pride Parade. Photo by Corey Egel.

(NCLR).

"We are grateful for Senator Leno's legislation that will ensure the fair and equal treatment of all married couples in California," said National Center for Lesbian Rights Executive Director Kate Kendell. "Although there is no question that samesex couples can marry in California, the discriminatory language that remains on the statutory books creates confusion about the rights of same-sex couples. This bill makes it clear to everyone that same-sex couples can marry and that all spouses

LGBT people – including the freedom to marry for same-sex couples – it's important that we completely erase discrimination from the books," said Rick Zbur, executive director-elect of EQCA. "This important bill does just that, ensuring that California statutes fully reflect and respect the freedom to marry for same-sex couples. We applaud Senator Leno for authoring this important legislation and are proud to be a sponsor of it."

Senator Leno's marriage bill officially becomes law on January 1, 2015.

# California Assembly Honors LGBT Leaders

**Assembly Democratic Caucus.** 

The California State Assembly held a ceremony on June 23 sponsored by the California LGBT Caucus honoring several leaders in the LGBT community, including: Rick Wells, President and COO of Golden State Warriors; Tom Ammiano, Assemblymember (17th District); John A. Pérez, First Elected Gay Speaker of the Assembly (53rd District); Kate Kendell, Executive Director of the National Center for Lesbian Rights and several others. Pictured are Assemblymember Richard Bloom (D-Santa Monica), Assemblymember Rich Gordon (D-Menlo Park), Actor George Takei, Assembly Speaker Toni G. Atkins (D-San Diego), and State Senator Mark Leno (D-San Francisco). Photo Courtesy



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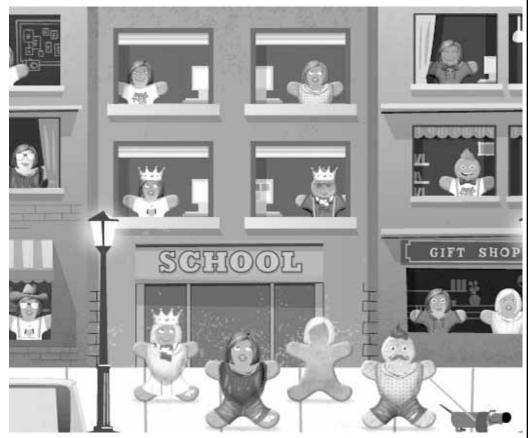




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# **Gender-Bread World Helps LGBTQ Youth Sort It Out**



Ithough exploring one's sexual identity can be an ongoing process, it can be particularly complex for LGBTQ youth. The Canadian Gender-Bread web site is designed to help young people understand gender identity and aspects related to gender in a fun, interactive way. Visit www.kidshelpphone.ca/Teens/YourSpace/Gender-Bread-World.aspx.

# Nation's First Substance Abuse Treatment Program Tailored for LGBT Opens

rmed with compelling new data the Hazelden Betty Ford Foundation, the nation's leading addiction treatment provider, has developed an innovative treatment model specifically for the millions of LGBT people who seek lifelong freedom from substance abuse.

The new program, based on data from the Butler Center for Research, sets a new standard for a special population. "New data suggests LGBTQ individuals come to treatment with deeper and more complex trauma than many non-LGBTQ individuals," states Audrey Klein, Ph.D., executive director, Hazelden Betty Ford Foundation's Butler Center for Research.

"LGBTQ clients benefit from treatment that is integrative, affirming and tailored to their needs," said Buster Ross, director, Hazelden Betty Ford Foundation's LGBTQ-Integrative Treatment Program.

According to the data, 92 percent of LGBTQ clients come to treatment with a co-occurring disorder. LGBTQ clients are: Nearly twice as likely as heterosexual clients to report physical and emotional abuse; Three times more likely to have a history of sexual abuse; Significantly more likely to suffer from depression and anxiety; More likely to be dependent on more than one substance; More likely to suffer a mental health illness in addition to substance abuse; and Significantly more likely to report previous detoxification and inpatient treatment.

The program focuses on co-occurring mental illness and trauma. It addresses the trauma of living closeted, of family and religious rejection, and of physical and emotional antigay abuse – issues not previously addressed by other addiction treatment programs.

Using an LGBTQ-specific curriculum, every part of the program considers LGBTQ needs. To help LGBTQ clients overcome internalized homophobia and shame, the program creates a supportive environment in a predominantly heterosexual setting.

"We find opportunities for LGBTQ clients to experience community support and validation, imperative to successful recovery," Ross says.

For more information, visit www.hazelden.org/lgbtq or call 866-866-4662.

# Outword Salutes Sacramento's Rainbow Chamber of Commerce

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# Finally, An Innovative Car Worth Waiting For by Ron Tackitt

Then you think about it, very little true innovation comes from the current auto industry, even worldwide. Maintaining the status quo is easy and all that is necessary to please most consumers is to release incremental upgrades to what amounts to pretty old designs.

the Model X is projected to go from 0 to 60 in the same amount of time as a gasoline powered Porsche. Tesla also claims that when you are not hauling around people, the X will hold as much cargo as a standard mini van.

promising delivery soon. The car will be made here in California. That it will be bolstering our economy as well as changing the rules of a tired industry, is refreshing to know

The X will set you back close to \$50,000,

Every once in a while though, a car model comes along that should make us all stand up and take notice.

The upcoming Model X, from Tesla Motors, is one of those vehicles. Unfortunately it won't be an inexpensive vehicle, but the things that can be learned from this machine could very well change the industry.

All the normal basics are there: Four tires, brakes, seats, etc., but the amount of thought that Tesla has bestowed upon them is really amazing.

First off, the Model X will be an electric car, not some wildly complicated hybrid that may or may not actually produce real-world benefits.

The Model X will drive all four wheels all the time, not only because it helps with road holding and safety, but because it will have two motors, one for each axle, doing the work.

This means that there is no transmission hump going down the center of the car. Which means more room inside, for all seven of the passengers, and more room for luggage and stuff, too.

To get all of those people in the vehicle, Tesla completely redesigned the way the rear passengers get in and out; using doors they call "Falcon Wings."

This may sound a bit funny or pompous, but once you actually see them, they are not only very cool, but they just make a lot of sense.

They lift up and out of the way in much less space than a conventional door can. Plus, they are tall enough, when open, for a person to stand upright underneath them.



They will also open fully in a standard height garage. Take a look at the motion graphic on Tesla's web site (http://www.teslamotors.com/modelx). They are very cool.

For those who are reading this and thinking that hybrids and electric cars are slow, boring vehicles, you should know that These are just some of the highlights that I am fully impressed with. The fact that the X is also an amazingly beautiful vehicle is just fat-free, carb-free gravy over the top of something already delicious.

The Model X is not on the road yet, but Tesla is taking advance orders and is

but true innovation is rarely cheap. However, here is to hoping that its very presence will help the rest of us, when its great design spurs other car companies to try a little harder.

You can get more information from Tesla's web site, www.teslamotors.com/modelx.

# Five Dances Captures the Beauty & Emotion of Dance



Jonah Bokaer, a choreographer renowned for the physical clarity and rigorous beauty of his dances, created a new dance in five sections that would include a challenging solo for Ryan Steele's character Chip (pictured). The coming-of-age tale, *Five Dances*, is a visually sensual glimpse of life and first love in New York's downtown modern dance world. *Five Dances* has a runtime of 83 minutes and is not rated. Bonus features include Director's Commentary and Deleted Scenes. www.wolfevideo.com.

# Sac's Auto Showrooms Remembered in CAM Exhibit



Just about mid-September every year, Sacramento's auto showrooms were the place to be as they presented the new year's models. Those showrooms, like this 1959 image of the Vogel Chevrolet showroom at 16th & I Streets, are featured in a new exhibit at the California Auto Museum. You may have even had lunch in one of them recently! The exhibit runs through November 30 at 2200 Front St. Get more info and a peek at some fun photos at www.calautomuseum.org.

# Getting There on Family Trips Really Can Be Fun by Jason Arriola and Will Regan

Then taking your family on a road trip this summer, make the most of it by preparing for some on the road fun. With the right tricks and tools, the road trip can be just as enjoyable as the main destination.



Comfort is key when it comes to a family road trip so as long as everyone is comfortable, you should be ready to have a good time! Here are five summer travel tips for avoiding tired, cranky kids and making the road trip pleasant for all:

# Stay hydrated and bring snacks

Sounds simple, but keeping tummies full is a way to avoid cranky kids (adults, too!). It's extremely important that everyone stays hydrated in the summer so bring lots of water bottles as well.

Pack plenty of snacks for the road so you don't have to make a pit stop every time someone says they're hungry. Some snacks that are good for a road trip are granola bars, fruit, cereal, crackers and sandwiches.

# Plan some entertainment

Everyone gets bored when they're stuck in a car for long periods of time. You don't want your kids complaining and constantly asking, "Are we there yet?", so keep them entertained with creative games and some travel toys.

You can come up with interesting games everyone can play based on the other cars around you and the sights you see alongside the road. Each child can also bring their own travel bag of toys to keep them busy.

# Make a scrapbook

Making a scrapbook to remember your fun family road trip is something you can work on with the kids. Take pictures of interesting things you see or funny family selfies in the car.

Try to pick up a small souvenir like a postcard or sticker at every roadside attraction or gift shop you stop at and include it in your scrapbook. It's a creative

activity to keep the kids entertained and also a great family keepsake at the end of the trip.

# **Bring some electronics**

Normally it would be a good idea to put aside your electronic devices to spend more time with the family, but while you're on the road, having a tablet device and some smartphones can actually help pass the time and provide entertainment.

Download some apps before you go like iExit to give you information on gas stations and shops at all different exits. Also, bring a few portable car chargers so you can keep the devices juiced up so they're always ready for use

# **Get your rest**

Sleepy, cranky kids can be a nightmare to deal with on a long road trip. If your kids are still at an age where they have naptime, schedule the road trip during their naptime so they can more easily fall asleep in the car.

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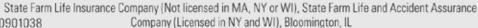
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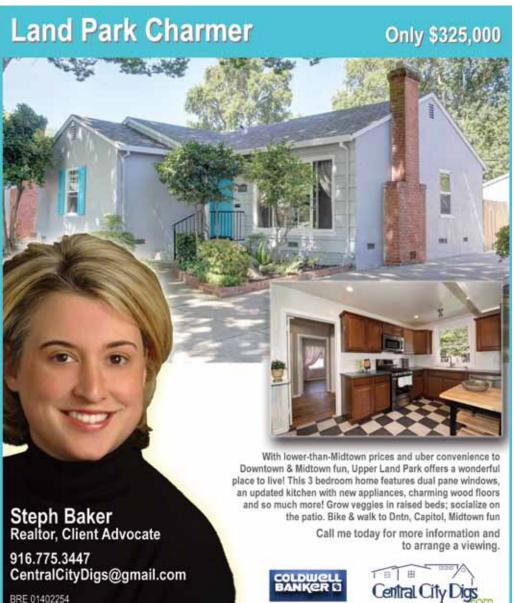
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# **Know Your Rights if Texty Timmy** Crashes Your Summer Road Trip by Yoon-Woo Nam and Jeffrey R. A. Edwards

**¬** veryone loves summer because it means summer vacations, and **▼** you're excited about that road trip to Palm Springs you've had **⊿** planned for months. However, between Sacramento and pool party paradise is 500 miles of highway, replete with potential hazards: SUVs, long-haul trucks, tour buses, odoriferous cattle and ubiquitous speeding motorists.

Undoubtedly you are a safe driver who never sends texts messages or looks at your friends' Instagram accounts from behind the wheel, but there are many who do and they cause car

If the misfortune of a collision befalls you on the trip and it is caused by the negligence of another, the excitement of a summer road trip may be over for you, but luckily you live in California where you and your domestic partner or spouse are protected under the law.

In the event you fall prey to a negligent driver, you have the right to recover against the motorist for your physical and emotional injuries, property damage, loss of wages, and pain and suffering. You may even be able to recover against your own automobile insurance policy if you purchased adequate uninsured/underinsured

In California, your partner or spouse may also have their own claim against the negligent driver for the injuries you sustained, and by extension,

A loss of consortium claim exists when a non-injured partner or spouse suffers a loss of conjugal society, comfort, affection, moral support and the household services of their injured

partner or spouse due to the negligence of a third-party. California loss of consortium claims apply even if you and your partner are in a domestic partnership instead of a

So, if you find yourself laid up in bed with casted appendages because a texting teen smashed into you and your car, you can feel a little less badly that your spouse is out in the backyard tending the garden and digging the weeds in 100 degree heat that was your responsibility before the accident.

This is because your spouse may have a loss of consortium claim against Texty Timmy for the domestic havoc he has caused your spouse for the next six weeks, including making dinner every night, driving Junior to each and every one of his practices, missing out on Friday Date Nights or the annual couples' cruise to Baja with you.

Yoon-Woo Nam and Jeffrey R. A. Edwards are attorneys at the law firm Mastagni Holstedt (www.mastagni.com) in Sacramento and members of Sacramento Lawyers for the Equality of Gays and Lesbians (SacLEGAL), Sacramento's LGBT bar association. They can be reached at SacLegal.org.



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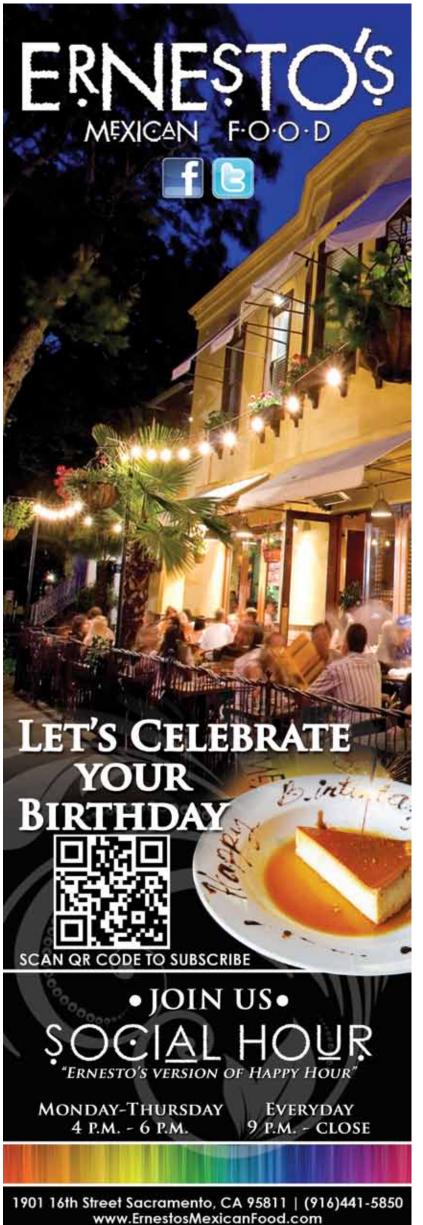


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# **Hot Air Soaring Over the Napa Valley**

ne of the things on many peoples "Bucket List" is Hot air ballooning. Luckily we live just an hour or so away from one of the most amazing places to do it, Napa Valley. Believe it or not, the first to fly in hot air balloons in 1783 were actually a duck and a rooster, and then convicted criminals until they perfected it and made it safe.



Peter and Fred, ready to soar!

Today, you can soar safely and quietly in one of the many gondolas that hold up to a dozen or more people. It actually is one of the safest forms of flight, and they say, the most dangerous part is getting in and out of the gondola.

The trip starts early in the morning when the air is calm and cool with a glass of Champagne and morning snacks at a meeting place in Napa. Then we are escorted off to a field where the balloons are already being prepared and filled with the hot air. The process and preparation in of itself is a unique experience. The balloons are filled with giant fans, blowing air, and a burner heating up the air to fill the balloon and then lifting it securely over the gondola.

Next up, time to climb into the basket as the ground crew holds the ropes as the balloon gets ready to go. The burner blasts several more times to heat the air and before you know it you are up, up, and away. At first, it is a slow rise and you pay attention to the burner, then suddenly silence and you are high above the ground.

Once the balloon was in the air, the team that set up the balloon now became the chase team as they followed the balloon in a van, not knowing really just when, or where, it would come back down.

The ride lasts about an hour and you get some pretty amazing views of the sunrise on the Napa Valley, and its many wineries. Get ready to take some amazing photos. Besides your own camera, the pilot has an iPad and a camera rigged onto a line several feet away from the balloon. This allows him to get some great shots of the guests.

The pilot takes the balloon to different levels to to get some great photos of the valley from many different perspectives. My favorite was being able to see into everyone's backyard and get some cool landscaping ideas. The residents in this area are used to seeing balloons in the air and riders peeking into their lives, and some actually waved up to us, too, and even a few dogs barked as we passed their yards.

As our time ran out, our pilot spied a few good places to land and gently took us past some tree tops, actually scraping them, as he said, to clean the bottom of the gondola, and then landed us in a large park. Landing too, like the entire ride, was exhilarating and quiet.

After some photos, we were back in the van for a ride to our final stop, our Champagne Brunch with all the guests. This truly was an amazing morning.

To book your trip, contact Napa Valley Balloons at 1-800-253-2224 http://napavalleyballoons.com

www.universityaudiologic.com

# **Pushing Your Limits on the Sacramento Speedway**

Then most conversations turn to cars these days, the subject often seems to be centered on electrics, hybrids and MPGs. For a lot of us though, including Sacramentan Brian Judd, there is still a need for speed – and power.

Brian fills that need with his 2013 Dodge Challenger SRT Core, which he lovingly calls Cherry Darling, The Red Demon.

"I fell in love with the Challenger in 2006 when Dodge debuted the car as a concept," Brian told *Outword* in a recent conversation about his love for big and fast cars. "I've always been a fan of 1970's Detroit steel. Cars from that decade were all about excess, in both horsepower, engine size and exterior measurements."

In the 1980s and 1990s cars shrunk in every aspect and in the 2000s, coupes became rare and coupes based on full-size sedans became almost unheard of and that is why he was excited when the Challenger debuted. It was a full-size coupe, with a V8 and a year later, a manual transmission.

"To me, it was the perfect car because there is nothing else like it," he said. "It's a direct descendant of those 70s muscle car heydays. I chose mine, specifically, when Dodge announced the Core line. It's got the big HEMI and none of the fancy electronics or leather upholstery."

This is the first muscle car that Brian has owned, but growing up his dad had a tricked Ford Falcon and early 70's Plymouth Fury III. His mother also appreciated muscle cars and drove a bright red 1964 Impala SS, with a Hurst manual.

"We would go to car shows all the time," Brian reminisced. "Before the Challenger, I had a Miata, which was a fun car to drive. I'd take it on the twistiest mountain roads I

could find. I actually miss the car a lot. It was underpowered, but when I floored it, I could almost hear the car say, 'Weee! This is fun!' When I floor the Challenger, it roars and says 'Someone is going to die!' – That's thrilling, too, but in a different way!"

Brian doesn't let all that muscle go to waste either. And while guiet back streets have a certain appeal, he prefers to flex the muscle at the Sacramento Speedway.

"On Wednesdays it's amateur night -- at least that's what I call it," he says of the Speedway. "I like it because I can go and have fun and go fast. The Challenger is too powerful to open up on the highway, so this gives me a chance to do that."

Describing the Speedway he says that the people there are very friendly and are out there to have fun, too. "There's these two older guys there, one drives a Ford Fusion the other a Mitsubishi Montero – both are stock family haulers, but their reaction times are amazing," he says. "I've raced against them and I'm looking at their rear bumper before I've even taken my foot off the clutch."

Brian has only taken the Challenger out to the Speedway a couple of times, but he is very satisfied with the results. The Challenger's 392 HEMI, for metric folks, that's a 6.4L engine, puts down 470 ft-lbs of torque and 470 horsepower.

"I also like that it's a simple, naturally aspirated, push-rod engine, he says of the Challenger. "Everything is becoming turbocharged and supercharged these days,



Brian Judd's 2013 Dodge Challenger SRT Core resting after showing its muscle on an empty desert road near Vanishing Point in the Palm Springs area that had his passenger griping the dash so hard he almost left finger dents! (That's him in the background, on the walk of shame,)

and I think that's great, but I wanted something old fashioned."

Another feature he likes about the Challenger is the Launch Control. "Basically when I turn launch control on. I can floor the gas and the car will hold engine RPMs at a set speed until I dump the clutch and the car takes off. The car was specifically built for the track. The transmission was taken from the Viper, and all the parts have been strengthened to handle the load spikes from hard starts."

Now before all you E-Types – and I'm not talking Jaguars – get all excited, Brian does have a sensibility about fuel mileage, and the cost of keeping his Red Demon fed. So when it comes to trips to the grocery store and commuting to work, he takes his other prize ride, a 2013 Genuine Stella.

Some would say it's a knockoff of the Vespa P series, but it's actually built by a factory, on the same machinery, that Piaggio licensed to build Vespas in the 80s," he says. "I love it. It's my daily driver, and at 90 mpg, \$3 of gas lasts me all week!"

Still, it is the Speedway that gets his heart pounding.

"I've drag raced, and I've been out at Thunderhill Raceway in Willows - but that wasn't racing. That was track time offered by the SRT brand to all owners of new SRT cars," he said. "I got the chance to take a Challenger, Charger, 300 and the SRT Jeep on the big track and small motocross tracks.

"I learned a lot about my car, and my limits versus its limits – currently my limits are a lot lower than the car's! There are competitive racing schools that I'm saving my pennies for though."

# **Are You Ready for Driverless Cars?**

by Roddy Scheer and Doug Moss

ust a decade ago most of us wouldn't have dreamed we'd live to see driverless cars whisking people around, but things are changing fast and analysts now think they will be common by 2020 and account for the majority of cars on the road by 2040.

And with Google's recent unveiling of its latest prototype - complete with no pedals or steering wheel - the future is indeed closer than we ever

Proponents argue that driverless cars – also called "autonomous cars" -are inherently more sustainable than their manned counterparts. For one, they say, once they are widely available many of us will forego owning our own cars in favor of car-sharing, whereby the autonomous vehicle comes to you, charged and ready to go, as

Thus, the result could be far fewer cars on the road than today. According to Steve Gutmann of the Seattle-based sustainability think tank Sightline Institute, such a car-sharing scenario would also obviate the need for many parking

Today the typical private car spends upwards of 90 percent of its time parked. Once we have more driverless cars, we'll need far fewer parking spaces, leading to less land being paved and reducing storm water runoff and heat island



A prototype of Google's driverless car has been navigating the streets of many

effects accordingly.

The networked brains of these vehicles will also reduce inefficient routes and decrease overall driving time, leading to better air quality and lower carbon emissions.

Also, the increased safety of driverless vehicles - they obey speed limits, can sense people, bikes and other cars coming toward them, and accelerate and brake much more gradually than human drivers - will mean that the cars can be lighter and require far fewer resources in manufacturing, reducing their overall environmental impact even further.

On the flip side, the advent of driverless cars means that many of us now not able to drive because of age or physical handicaps will be able to use these cars to get around, potentially leading to an increase in the number of cars on

Chandra Bhat of the Center for Transportation Research at the University of Texas points out that just because a car is driverless doesn't mean we'll want it to be smaller, lighter and more fuel efficient. He fears that driverless cars will engender a return to larger vehicles because people will want "more comfortable space" when they are free to stretch out, relax, read, videochat, text or even nap during their trips.

He adds that driverless cars could lead to more urban sprawl as car commuting becomes more

tolerable without the hassle of actually driving.

Bhat also wonders what will become of the public transit systems we've invested so heavily in if driverless cars offer the same advantages – using the time en route to do whatever one pleases - with the added benefit of privacy and route/timing flexibility.

Today, four U.S. states – Nevada, Florida, California and Michigan – allow driverless cars on their public roads for the purpose of testing; several other states are considering similar allowances. Likewise, in 2013 the United Kingdom began allowing the testing of driverless cars on its public roadways.

Besides Google, several leading automakers and other companies have developed their own prototypes. Car enthusiasts can expect to see such examples from the likes of Mercedes-Benz, General Motors, Nissan, Toyota, Audi, Volvo, Tesla and others at auto shows over the next few years, and can look forward to getting "behind the wheel" of one within a decade.

Whatever happens, it certainly is going to be quite a ride.

Roddy Scheer and Doug Moss write and edit EarthTalk and E - The Environmental Magazine (www.emagazine.com). They can be reached, and answer your questions about the environment, at earthtalk@emagazine.com.

# Monty Python Back in Theaters - Plus by Chris Narloch

ere at *Outword*, we strive to bring you the finest (and most eclectic) entertainment options available locally – everything from the Monty Python reunion to films from Japan. You are hereby alerted.

Sacramento Japanese Film Festival

Celebrate a decade of fascinating films when the Sacramento Japanese Film Festival returns to the Crest Theatre for the festival's tenth anniversary on Friday, July 18.

Seven films over three days are scheduled this year, including anime (*Colorful*), a Cannes Film Festival award winner from 1963 (*Harakiri*), a recent profile of musician Jake Shimabukuro (*Life on Four Strings*), an odd couple, road movie (*Sake Bomb*), and a winner of 11 Japanese Academy Awards (*Rebirth*).

Single tickets are only \$10, or you can purchase an All Festival Pass for just \$35. The Sacramento Japanese Film Festival runs July 18-20 at the Crest. Visit www. SacJapaneseFilmFestival.net.

**Monty Python Live (mostly)** 

Join Monty Python comedy legends, John Cleese, Terry Gilliam, Eric Idle, Terry Jones and Michael Palin as they reunite on stage for the first time in over three decades for a special, historic event.

Subtitled *The Last Night of Monty Python* and *One Down, Five to Go*, the final show of their run will be broadcast live on Sunday, July 20 from London's 02 Arena. It promises to be the comedy event of the year.

At a combined age of just 358, John Cleese, Terry Gilliam, Eric Idle, Terry Jones, and Michael Palin once again perform some of their greatest hits, with modern, topical, Pythonesque twists.

*Monty Python Live (mostly)* will beam to select cinemas nationwide on Sunday, July 20 at 11:30 a.m. with rebroadcasts on Wednesday, July 23 and Thursday, July 24 at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets are available now at participating theater box offices and online at www.FathomEvents.com.

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

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# The Go-Go's, Scandal & The Motels Come to Sac by Chris Narloch

Baby boomer rock and pop fans will represent when the *Replay America* tour stops in at the Thunder Valley Casino Resort in Lincoln on Saturday, July 19, for one show only.



The impressive lineup for *Replay America* includes radio stalwarts from back in the day, including The Go-Go's with Belinda Carlisle ("We Got The Beat"), The Motels with Martha Davis ("Only the Lonely"), Scandal featuring Patty Smyth ("The Warrior"), Cutting Crew ("Died in Your Arms") and Naked Eyes ("Always Something There to Remind Me").

This outdoor show begins early, at 6 p.m., to allow all the bands to play their numerous hits.

For more information, please visit www.thundervalleyresort.com.

# **New Film Shows How to Get the Go-Go Boy**



We've all dreamed about getting that sexy go-go boy, and now we can see how it is done as Tanner Cohen ("Were The World Mine") stars as a shy college student who invents a fake documentary project to get close to Go (Matthew Camp), a NYC go-go dancer he is infatuated with in *Getting Go, The Go Doc Project*. The film debuts digitally on July 8 before arriving on DVD August 5 from Wolfe Video. Getting Go, the Go Doc Project has a runtime of 91 minutes and is not rated. Bonus features include a Q&A with the filmmaker plus a Photo Gallery: "Getting Matthew Camp." www.wolfevideo.com.





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# **Beautiful Men Make Beautiful Music** Sam Smith and Matt Goss Reviewed by Chris Narloch

wo beautiful male singers released their U.S. debuts recently, which would not be noteworthy if it weren't for the fact that both CDs are as lovely as the men who made them.

Matt Goss is straight. Sam Smith is gay. Both their discs are terrific.

# **Sam Smith – In The Lonely Hour**

I am in love with Sam Smith, and apparently a lot of other people are, too. The 22-year-old British singer-songwriter recently charted three singles in the Top 40, including his own current smash, "Stay With Me," and two songs credited to other artists (Naughty Boy's "La La La" and Disclosure's "Latch") on which he is the vocalist.

Apparently, great soul music really is born



out of pain because Smith's debut CD, which was inspired by his unrequited love for another man, is the best chronicle of singer, Adele, released her gazillion-selling album 21.

passion into his vocal for "Stay confessional, but that track isn't the only great song on In The Lonely Hour.

Your Lover," "Like I Can," "Lay Me Down" and "Life Support."

the extended version of the CD. which has four additional tracks not on the original release, two of which ("Restart" and "Make It To Me") are essential.

# Matt Goss - Life You Imagine

but his music swings like Sinatra's, and he has been accurately compared to the similar-sounding Michael Buble. (If you like Buble, you're going to love this guy.)

boy-band from the late '80s that I had never heard of, Goss now spends much of his time in Vegas, where he headlines his own residency at Caesars Palace.

For his first U.S. album, Goss hooked up with the best in producers, Ron Fair (Lady Gaga, U2), who recorded the CD at the iconic Capitol Studios in Los Angeles with a 16-piece band and 32 strings.

A superb sampling of big band swing and soulful pop, Life You Imagine is a highly-

heartbreak since that other great British soul

Smith pores so much pain and With Me" that it feels naked and

Smith also scores with "Leave

In fact, you'll want to purchase

I don't know if Matt Goss wears contacts or what, but this velvetvoiced, Las Vegas crooner has the most beautiful blue eyes since, well, Ol' Blues Eyes himself, Frank Sinatra.

Goss doesn't look or sound like Sinatra,

The former front man of Bros, a British

polished and highly-entertaining CD





featuring ten tracks, eight of which were written or co-written by Goss himself.

He has a knack for writing original songs that sound like standards, and the pristine production really makes them pop.

Highlights include "Lovely Las Vegas," a terrific tribute to Sin City that was inspired by the Rat Pack, "All About The Hang," "Mustang," "Evil" and "When Will I Be Famous."



Sam Smith

# Songs From An **Unmade Bed Debuts** in Sacramento

on't miss the Northern California premiere of Songs From An Unmade Bed, a one-man musical about the romantic life of a gay man living in the "big city."

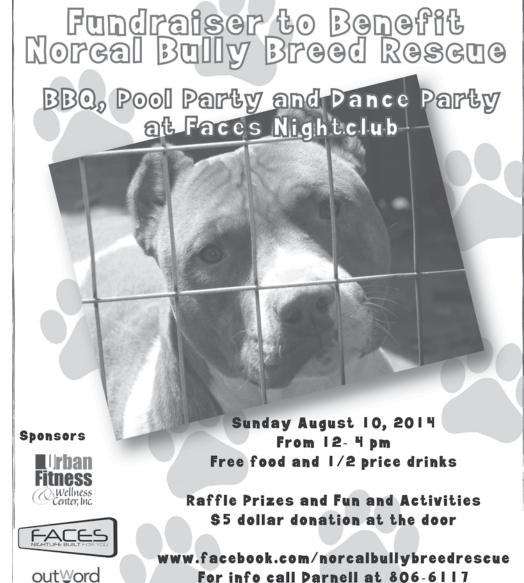
With lyrics by Mark Campbell, this theatrical song cycle utilizes one lyricist and 18 composers (one per song) to create a unique theatrical event that is funny, poignant and ultimately hopeful about love.

Composers include Debra Barsha, Mark Bennett, Peter Foley, Jenny Giering, Peter Golub, Jake Heggie, Lance Horne, Stephen Hoffman, Gihieh Lee, Steven Lutvak, Steve Marzullo, Brendan Milburn, Chris Miller, Greg Pliska, Duncan Sheik, Kim D. Sherman, Jeffrey Stock and Joseph Thalken.

Director Jouni Kirjola, fresh off *The* Submission, is collaborating with star Connor Mickiewicz (the Artistic Director at New Helvetia) and music director Graham Sobelman for this "solo" show.

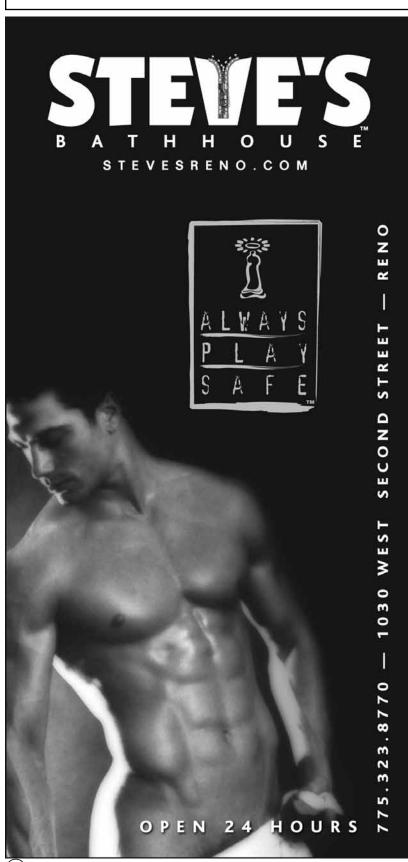
Performances will run for two weekends only, July 10-20, at the New Helvetia Theatre on R Street in Sacramento.

For more information, visit www.newhelvetia.org.





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media · marketing · events

# Melissa Etheridge and Cheyenne Jackson Sing with the S.F. Symphony by Chris Narloch

ately, everyone who is anyone has been collaborating with symphony orchestras, from art rockers like Peter Gabriel and Sting to more mainstream pop performers such as George Michael.

This month, two of our favorite gay artists, Cheyenne Jackson and Melissa Etheridge, join forces with the S.F. Symphony for separate, not-to-be missed musical events in San Francisco.

Francisco to lead the S.F. Symphony audience on a walk down cinematic memory lane.

Join Jackson as he sings tunes from classic American films, including "Moon River"



# Melissa Etheridge

Iconic rock singer-songwriter and guitarist Melissa Etheridge joins the San Francisco Symphony for two hot summer nights this July.

With her soulful lyrics and raspy, Joplinesque vocals, Etheridge is known for mixing the emotion of confessional music with the heart and soul of rock 'n' roll.

Performing classic hits like "Come to my Window" and "I'm the Only One" alongside material from her latest studio album, this Oscar and two-time Grammy award winner comes together with the San Francisco from *Breakfast at Tiffany*'s, "A Little Less Conversation" from *Live a Little, Love a Little*, "Luck Be A Lady" from *Guys and Dolls*, and more.

Edwin Outwater conducts the symphony for this event, which will include performances of the famous overtures from the films *Gypsy* and *Funny Girl*.

Jackson will be joined on stage by Sacramento's own Broadway baby, Faith Prince, star of such Broadway musicals as Bells Are Ringing, A Catered Affair and The Little Mermaid.

The evening will also include a special



Symphony for a fiery live performance, to be conducted by Sean O'Loughlin.

Melissa Etheridge – Greatest Hits and More will be performed twice, on Wednesday, July 30 and Thursday, July 31, in San Francisco.

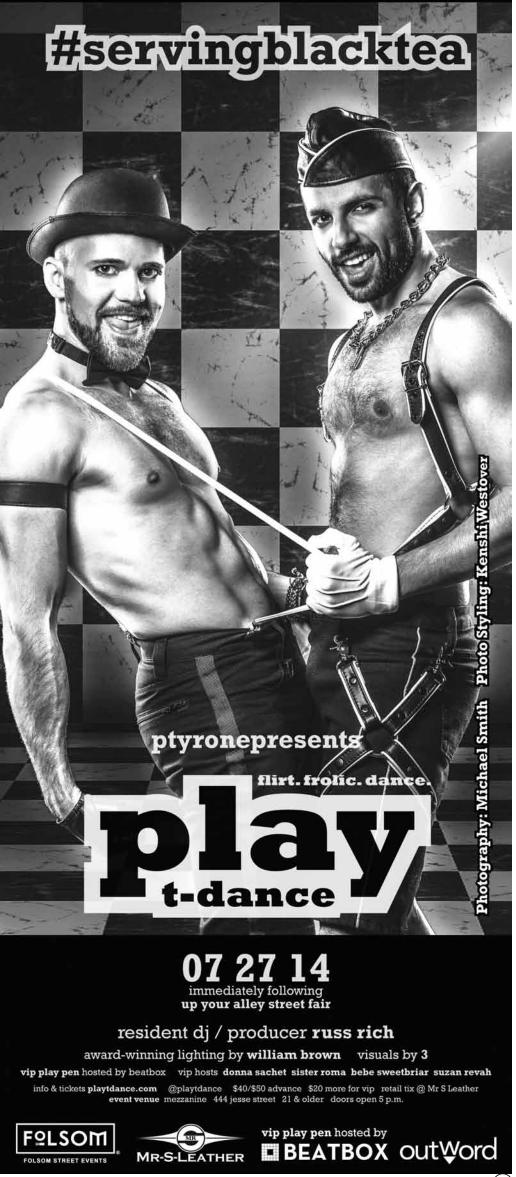
# **Cheyenne Jackson**

The multi-talented actor, singer, and songwriter Cheyenne Jackson returns to San

appearance by another special guest, *Rupaul's Drag Race* finalist Courtney Act.

Hello Gorgeous! – Cheyenne Jackson Goes to the Movies will be performed twice, on Thursday, July 24 and Friday, July 25, in San Francisco.

For more information about both artists' appearances with the S.F. Symphony, please visit www.sfsymphony.org.



official up your alley® closing party

# **Take a Hairy Trip Through Time**



Over the past 100 years, men's hair and facial styles have changed, not to mention fashion, and Gillette Razors lets you take a look back at those styles through their fast paced video 100 Years of Hair. It's just under a minute, so take a look at www.youtube.com/watch?v=h16y4m2TJsg

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# **Cutting Through the Red Tape to Get Your Music Heard**

In order for DJ and remixing/producer dynamo Joe Gauthreaux to get his music out there – his way – he had to add record mogul and artist to his resume and launch his own music label, Prop D Recordings. The results speak for themselves with Prop D's first single release, "Bye Felicia."

"I wanted a way to cut through the red tape and avoid third parties from interfering with my creativity," explains Gauthreaux on his decision to launch Prop D Recordings (the name is short for Proposition Dance). "It's so easy to make music now, and quality music at that. Goyete created 'Somebody That I Used To Know' all by himself in his basement. He inspired me to take my music into my own hands."

"Bye Felicia", an expression of dismissal that was first heard in the motion picture, having a good time. "When I go into the booth or a recording studio, I always remind myself to keep it fun. Club music should be an escape."

He has brought his unique sound to parties throughout the world, headlining nearly every major festival event including White Party Miami, Winter Party and NYC Pride – earning him the title of "Hottest DJ of the Year" from *Out Magazine*.

He began releasing his own remixes eight years ago and in that time, has worked with



DJ Joe Gauthreaux. Image by Eli Hue Photography.

Friday, and made popular by Nene Leakes on the Bravo TV show, *The Real Housewives of Atlanta*, is a throwback to 90s house. The song features vocals by Mitch Amtr@ck, an artist best known for his recordings with late house music great, Peter Rauhofer.

Gauthreaux plans to unleash a diverse range of dance music through Prop D Recordings: everything from vocal, tribal house, to EDM, to crazy club bangers. "I genuinely love all kinds of dance music," he says. "I'm always incorporating new beats and sounds to keep the momentum up on my floor. I'll do the same with the label. The worst thing a DJ or record head can do is get stuck in a certain sound for too long. Music is constantly changing and evolving. If you don't change with it, you'll get left behind."

He's already proven his willingness to adjust. The label was originally scheduled to release "All This Time", a song Gauthreaux co-wrote with singer Jared Bradford, as its debut, but friends and colleagues convinced him to shelve it temporarily in favor of "Bye Felicia."

"I was outvoted," he admits. Gauthreaux strives to keep everyone many of the leading dance artists including Kristine W, Jeanie Tracy, and Tony Moran. Three years ago, Joe Gauthreaux began taking on mainstream projects with pop acts like NeYo, The Wanted, Melanie Amaro, and even Justin Bieber.

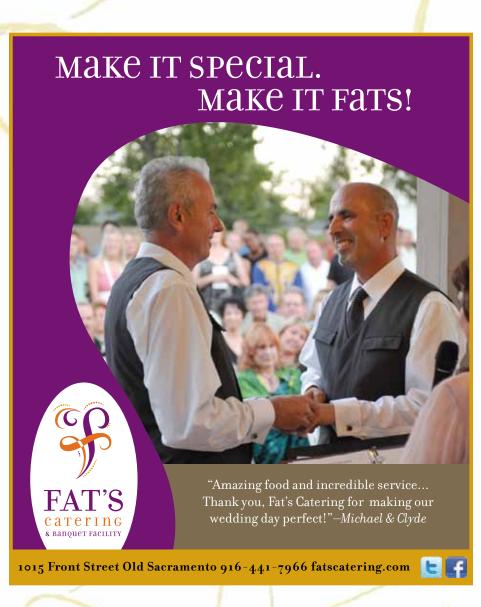
He sees Prop D Recordings as the next step in his evolution as a dance artist. He expects obstacles, including making money in an industry consumed by free streaming, but he's not worrying about it – yet. "Right now I just want my music to be out there. I'll figure out a way to get rich later," he laughs.

No new artists are being signed to the label, but Gauthreaux would like to see that happen in time. For now, efforts will be concentrated on upcoming collaborations with heavy hitting producers like Tony Moran.

"In the end, just making quality music and having my own label is what makes the most sense for me right now," he says.

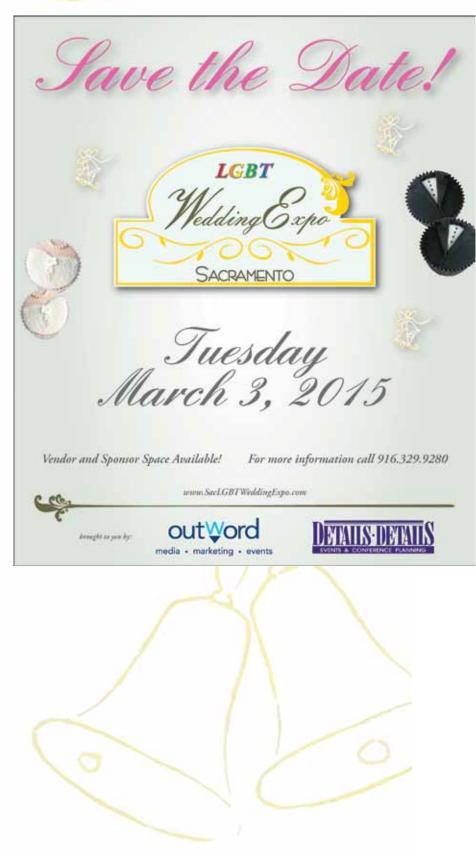
"Bye Felicia" from Prop D Recordings is available on iTunes and all major online retailers now.

Visit facebook.com/PropDRecordings.





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