

outword

No. 516 • November 13, 2014 • outwordmagazine.com

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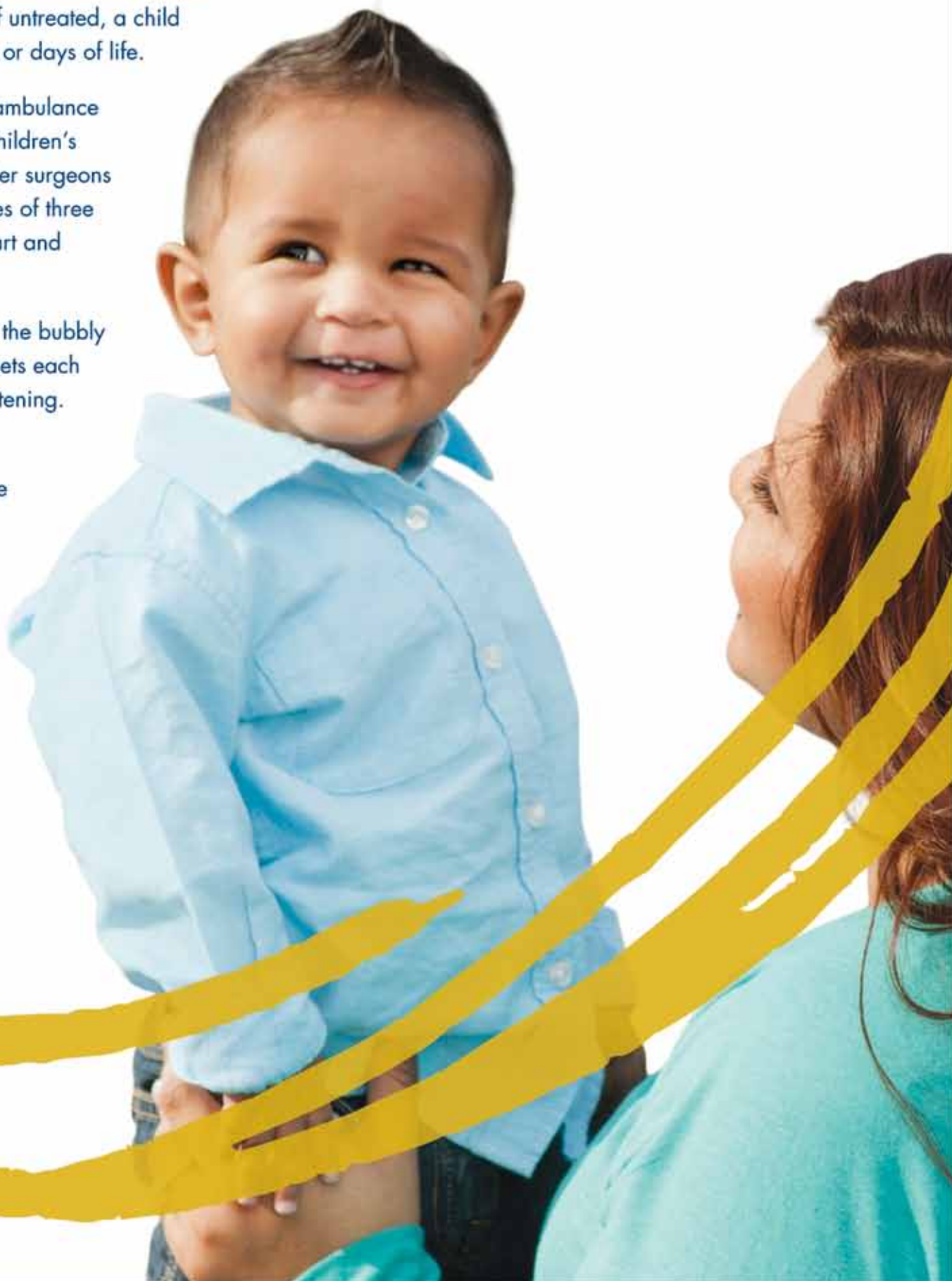
To see Xavier in action, you'd never guess he was born with a rare congenital heart defect that leaves one side of the heart severely underdeveloped. If untreated, a child rarely survives beyond the first hours or days of life.

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Breaking Barriers Set To Close Its Doors

After years of financial instability, mounting debt, and the loss of several large scale grants; Breaking Barriers Community Services Center (BBCSC), a small Sacramento HIV/AIDS services non-profit agency, will close its doors on Wednesday, November 26, 2014.

“Due to the effects of the economic downturn, Breaking Barriers fell on hard times and has been struggling to survive ever since,” said Sandré L. Nelson, BBCSC chairman and chief executive officer in a released statement announcing the closure. “Board and community members’ fundraising efforts just cannot solely continue to sustain the agency.”

For the past two years, BBCSC has been operating as a completely volunteer driven organization enduring on small grant funds and public donations.

“The volunteers and the community have worked hard to try and put the agency back on track but just could never get the positive momentum needed,” Nelson stated.

Nelson, who has been BBCSC’s Board President since January 2013, plans to take a breath after the closure and then work with some of the smaller HIV agencies in the area as a development officer. Other office volunteers have returned to school or work.

“Between our HIV and needle exchange services, we see up to 100 clients per month,” Nelson told *Outword*. “November will be an increase due to the food drive.”

Beginning November 25, BBCSC will direct clients to Cares Community Health, Golden Rule Services, or Harm Reduction Services.

“We are working with another agency to possibly transfer the testing services to help strengthen their services,” said Nelson.

BBCSC’s mobile testing van as well as other assets such as office furniture, will be sold off to help offset the cost of back rent. Two agencies are currently interested in purchasing the van.

The closure of Breaking Barriers has elicited praise and pledges of support from other agencies in Sacramento that provide similar services.

“Sacramento is losing an HIV/AIDS service provider that outreaches, tests and specifically addresses at-risk people,” Joyce Mitchel, the president of the Capitol City

AIDS Fund told *Outword*. “While the need for services remains great, HIV/AIDS is no longer as visible as it once was, and because we hear less and less about HIV/AIDS, funding resources are drying up. It appears that Breaking Barriers has fallen victim to that.”

“We certainly appreciated our partnership with Breaking Barriers and understand the difficult decisions its board faced as

project of River City Metropolitan Community Church. At the time, many people in the community were unable to seek treatment for HIV due to inability to get to the doctors. Breaking Barriers Community Services Center was formed to help people who were in that situation get the help they needed through the support of the community.

In 2000, BBCSC split off from the church and became its own organization. Around that same time there was also a large need beginning within the community for breast cancer services similar to the services provided for HIV, and the Breaking Barriers Breast Cancer Assistance Program was born.

BBCSC, located on 21st street in Sacramento, is currently collecting monetary donations and food for their annual Thanksgiving Food Drive. The food drive provides a full holiday meal for those with HIV/AIDS. For further information or ways you can help, please visit their website at www.breakingbarriers.org.

“The closing of Breaking Barriers is a tremendous loss of resources in the area of prevention and education,” said Mitchel. “CCAF will be stepping up its efforts to fill gaps in services. Specifically, in the area of education and outreach to youth through the distribution of free condoms and connection to testing services.”



BREAKING BARRIERS

community needs and funding streams have changed,” said David Heitstuman, president of the Sacramento G&L Center board of directors. “The community is grateful for Breaking Barriers’ efforts and we pledge to work with all stakeholders to address any voids this announcement may leave for those living with HIV/AIDS and work toward building a healthier community.”

Breaking Barriers was started in 1995 as a



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Elton John AIDS Foundation Grants Nearly \$1.5 Million

The Elton John AIDS Foundation (EJAF) has announced nearly \$1.5 million in new grants, including a new program aimed at addressing the rampant stigma against HIV-positive people and the LGBTQ community.

With this round of grant-making, EJAF is awarding seven new and six renewal grants that fund innovative projects addressing the health and human rights challenges facing LGBTQ people, and supporting cutting-edge advocacy work on drug policy and HIV decriminalization.

The new funding amounts to \$1.456 million, bringing EJAF's grant investments for 2014 to date to nearly \$2 million.

In particular, EJAF's new LGBTQ Community Initiative will engage directly

Foundation examined the understanding of HIV among gay and bisexual men, and their results further underscore the importance and timeliness of EJAF's LGBTQ Community Initiative. The survey revealed that few gay and bisexual men report discussing HIV with their friends and sexual partners, most are not getting tested for HIV as regularly as they should, and more than half report that their doctors have never recommended that they be tested for HIV and that they rarely ever



EJAF Chairman David Furnish, HRC President Chad Griffin and Sir Elton John at the 18th Human Rights Campaign National Dinner in Washington, D.C., on October 25, 2014. Photo courtesy B Proud/HRC.

with marginalized voices within the LGBTQ community to identify urgently-needed new approaches in the ongoing fight against HIV/AIDS.

Specifically, the Initiative will work to address the lack of knowledge surrounding HIV among gay Americans, to create a more transparent culture in LGBTQ communities affected by HIV, and to fight the severe lack of access to welcoming medical care available to LGBTQ people in the U.S.

"This has been a year of great triumphs for LGBTQ Americans. However, rates of HIV infection are still increasing in the community. That's why we are investing an additional \$1.0-1.5 million across our second and third grant cycles to support new, dynamic, innovative programs by LGBTQ organizations and organizations working to confront the AIDS crisis in the community," said EJAF Chairman David Furnish. "The health and equality of gay people will continue to be top priorities for the Foundation."

A recent survey by the Kaiser Family
outwardmagazine.com

discuss HIV with their doctors.

The Initiative also includes a particular emphasis on programs for transgender people.

"Transgender people are sidelined within the broader movement to end HIV and in the fight for expanded access to healthcare," said EJAF Executive Director Scott Campbell. "We look forward to working directly with advocates from the transgender community who can help us ensure that our grants continue to go where the need is highest."

"The Elton John AIDS Foundation is committed to confronting HIV/AIDS where it exists," said EJAF Founder Sir Elton John. "We recognize that the health needs and rights of LGBTQ people, and particularly transgender people, are critical components to ending HIV in the United States. The Foundation also recognizes the lack of funding and leadership in this area and is rising to the challenge to meet this need."

For more information, and for a complete list and descriptions of EJAF's 2014 round two grantees, please visit www.ejaf.org.

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Image from "Kurios"
Photo: Martin Girard / shootstudio.ca
Costumes: Philippe Guillotel © 2014
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ISSN # 1084-7618 United States Library of Congress

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Inconsistent Marriage Laws Cost Businesses \$1.3 Billion Annually

Freedom to Marry and Out & Equal Workplace Advocates have released a new report estimating that the remaining patchwork of marriage laws for same-sex couples across the United States costs businesses in the private sector \$1.3 billion every year.

Over the next five years, the private sector is expected to spend \$6.6 billion in order to accommodate laws that allow same-sex couples to marry in some states, but prohibit them from marrying in others.

"This authoritative report shows that marriage discrimination not only harms America's families, but America's businesses, imposing an unwieldy, expensive, and unnecessary burden on companies, employees and the economy," said Evan Wolfson, president of Freedom to Marry. "American companies are forced to navigate different marriage laws in different states as they try to do right by their employees and consumers. The country urgently needs national resolution in favor of the freedom to marry – whether from the appellate courts or the Supreme Court – to eliminate this drain on business resources and provide full and equal respect for employees and their families in all 50 states."

The largest portion of the financial burden is comprised of administrative and compliance-driven costs associated with establishing and maintaining benefits

policies and systems for same-sex couples in states with differing marriage laws.

"Today, 91 percent of Fortune 500 companies have non-discrimination policies for LGBT employees," said Selisse Berry, Founder and CEO of Out & Equal Workplace Advocates. "Many of these businesses also recognize that equal access to benefits is required to attract top talent. But same-sex partner benefits often come with additional tax burdens."

Among the other findings of the study:

- Every additional day of inconsistent marriage laws will cost the private sector \$3.5 million.

- Businesses could put the \$1.3 billion they spend navigating these laws toward the creation of almost 20,000 new jobs.

- As of 2014, 69 percent of large employers offered benefits equalization to couples in same-sex households. In the 2015 plan year, for the first time, a majority of all employers – 51 percent – will offer equal benefits to same-sex households.

To read the full report, visit freemarry.3cdn.net/facad4cfca211bbb5c_8pm6bp6n4.pdf.

KVIE Unveils New KVIE Gallery

KVIE Public Television has opened the new KVIE Gallery, with works from photographer Kurt Fishback as its inaugural exhibit. Additionally, the gallery will offer visitors a chance to view the art of past KVIE Art Auction award winners and California Masters.



Fishback, son of photographer Glen Fishback and namesake of Edward Weston, grew up as part of the photography community in northern California during the 1940s and 1950s. He began teaching photography in 1973, and continues to do so periodically. He is currently represented by Archival Gallery in Sacramento and Scott Nichols Gallery in San Francisco.

Following the Fishbeck exhibit, a solo exhibition will rotate every two months and will be curated by D. Oldham Neath, KVIE Art Curator.

"We are very excited at KVIE to have a gallery space to showcase the amazing artists who participate in the yearly KVIE Art Auction," said Neath. "The KVIE gallery allows collectors to view a body of work instead of a single piece from the Art Auction."

The KVIE Gallery is located at KVIE studios, 2030 West El Camino Ave., in Sacramento, and is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. For information about upcoming exhibitions, or to purchase displayed art, visit kvie.org/gallery/.

HRC Calls for Expanded Access to PrEP Anti-HIV Drug

The Human Rights Campaign (HRC), the nation's largest LGBT civil rights organization, has explicitly endorsed the use of Truvada for Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP).

When taken as prescribed by a knowledgeable healthcare provider, and paired with other safer sex practices, Truvada can reduce the risk of contracting HIV by upwards of 90 percent, according to a statement released by HRC.

"PrEP is a dose of hope, taken once daily. Today, there is an unprecedented chance to end the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the United States, in part through PrEP's aggressive prevention of new HIV infections," said HRC President Chad Griffin. "There is no reason – medical or otherwise – to discourage individuals from taking control of their sexual health and talking to their doctor about PrEP. Bold action must be taken to guarantee affordable access to this life-changing regimen."

It is important to note that HRC's recommendation applies especially to populations deemed most vulnerable to HIV infection. Truvada is not right for all individuals, and any medical decision should be made in concert with a knowledgeable healthcare provider.

HRC joins AIDS United and the Gay Men's Health Crisis Center (GMHC), as well as the

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the World Health Organization (WHO), in endorsing PrEP. HRC is pairing its announcement with new calls for insurers, regulators, and Truvada's drug manufacturer to take bold steps to reduce costs, educate the public, and adopt a goal of universal access for all medically-qualified individuals—regardless of socioeconomic background.

Read HRC's policy paper at the link below. Truvada does not provide protection against other sexually transmitted diseases. With STDs such as syphilis on the rise, and with their capacity to lead to life-threatening conditions if untreated, it's important for sexually active individuals to protect themselves and always engage in safer sex practices and get tested regularly.

"Affordable access to PrEP as a prevention option is essential if we are to beat this epidemic," Griffin said. "We've got to work together if we're going to seize this historic opportunity to change countless lives for the better."

For more information, visit <http://www.hrc.org>

Elevation Gay Ski Week Returns to Tahoe



Good friends, good snow and good fun are what ELEVATION Gay Ski Weekends are all about. Pictured here are revelers from ELEVATION Mammoth 2014, but the fun comes to Tahoe with ELEVATION Tahoe Feb. 5 — 8. Get the details at www.tahoegayski.com

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Briefly Put

6th Circuit Court of Appeals Overturns Lower Court Decisions Striking Down Marriage Bans

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit on Nov. 6, reversed the district court rulings of six cases from Ohio, Michigan, Tennessee and Kentucky. In each of these states, a federal judge had ruled in favor of marriage for same-sex couples and all six rulings were appealed to the Sixth Circuit.

The ruling essentially upholds marriage bans in Ohio, Michigan, Tennessee and Kentucky and denies same sex couples the right to marry or have their marriages recognized in these states.

"This decision is an outlier that's incompatible with the 50 other rulings that uphold fairness for all families, as well as with the Supreme Court's decision to let marriage equality rulings stand in Indiana, Wisconsin, Utah, Oklahoma and Virginia," says Chase Strangio, staff attorney in the ACLU LGBT Project. "We will be filing for Supreme Court review right away and hope that through this deeply disappointing ruling we will be able to bring a uniform rule of equality to the entire country."

Judge Affirms the Freedom to Marry in Missouri

On Nov. 7, U.S. District Judge Otrrie D. Smith ruled that denying marriage for same-sex couples in Missouri is unconstitutional. The ruling comes just two days after St. Louis Circuit Judge Rex Burlison also declared Missouri's ban unconstitutional, and a month after a state ruling which found that Missouri must respect the legal marriages of same-sex couples performed elsewhere. Today's victory in Missouri marks the third consecutive win in the 'Show Me' state in just over a month, with all three judges affirming that marriage discrimination is unconstitutional," said Marc Solomon, national campaign director of Freedom to Marry. "We encourage Attorney General Chris Koster not to appeal the ruling so that Missouri becomes the next state where loving and committed couples can share in the joy and dignity of marriage. Today's ruling adds to the powerful momentum of victories from a bipartisan array of federal and state judges as we work to secure the freedom to marry nationwide."

TLC Client Wins Workplace Discrimination Case

The U.S. Office of Special Counsel (OSC), an independent federal investigative and prosecutorial agency, has issued a groundbreaking decision that the Department of the Army engaged in unlawful discrimination in the case of Tamara Lusardi, a disabled veteran and a civilian employee of the Army who lives in Alabama.

Lusardi transitioned from male to female on the job, and her supervisor continued to call her "sir" and "he," and she was told that she could not use the same restroom as all other female employees.

The OSC ruling concludes that some of the most common forms of harassment faced by transgender people should be recognized for what they are: unlawful discrimination.

FLEX Spas Offer Free In-Home HIV Testing Kits

The AIDS Healthcare Foundation (AHF) is making free in-home HIV testing kits available through electronic vending machines located inside FLEX Spas, a national bathhouse chain with locations in Atlanta, Cleveland, Los Angeles and Phoenix.

The vending machines will feature OraSure Technologies' OraQuick In-Home HIV Test, the FDA-approved oral fluid rapid OTC HIV test that can detect antibodies to both HIV-1 and HIV-2 with an oral swab in as little as 20 minutes.

To access the complimentary testing kits, users will anonymously answer five demographic questions via an accompanying iPad kiosk and receive an access code to enter into the vending machine; users may receive up to two testing kits with each code.

Each kit will include information on HIV testing and care providers, along with AHF's 24-hour care hotline 213-304-8151.

A pilot program has launched inside FLEX Spa's Melrose Ave. location in Los Angeles.

Most Americans Say Employers Should Never Discriminate

A new national survey shows that most Americans simply don't believe that employer exemptions are justified when it comes to basic workplace safeguards for LGBT Americans. Slightly over half (55 percent) of all adults don't believe that any employers should be exempt if federal law were expanded to include protection from job discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

When asked specifically, some Americans do agree with certain exemptions. The latest survey shows only about a third (35 percent) of all adults believe churches or other houses of worship should be exempt, and three in ten (30 percent) believe privately held businesses with owners citing religious beliefs should be exempt.

The 2014 Out & Equal Workplace Survey was conducted online between September 10 and 17, 2014, by The Harris Poll in conjunction with Out & Equal Workplace Advocates and Witeck Communications.

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Nightcrawler Gets Under Your Skin by Frances Marlatt

Nightcrawler is a new thriller directed by Dan Gilroy and starring Jake Gyllenhaal, Rene Russo, Bill Paxton and Riz Ahmed.

Gyllenhaal blows us away as Lou Bloom, a poster boy for mental illness and a fascinating and utterly disturbing character. Taking place in Los Angeles, we watch as Lou struggles to become employed before finally settling on crime journalism.

Lou finds a passion within himself for filming and capturing scenes of crimes, car accidents, and other tragedies, also known as “nightcrawling.” As things progress, we learn that Lou is not only extremely motivated but frighteningly ruthless and will stop at nothing to get the most marketable footage.

We watch as he prowls the streets of Los Angeles like a hungry coyote, searching for a juicy tragedy he can capture on film and sell to a local news station. As this new profession gets riskier and darker, we watch as Lou loses control of himself and his motivations.

Gyllenhaal’s performance here is like nothing he has ever done. He completely transforms into his character and gives the audience an educational look into mental health and what can go wrong when



empathy is nonexistent, ambition is overflowing, and manipulation becomes a valuable skill.

This smart film not only shines a light on the media’s effect on society, but honestly and realistically highlights society’s somewhat embarrassing obsession with media.

This is an intelligent, thought provoking and ironically entertaining film that will

definitely make you think twice about slowing down to get a good look at the next car accident you come across.

Frances Marlatt is a Forensic Mental Health Worker in Sacramento with a passion for writing and an excessive love of great indie films. She can be reached at francesmarlatt@yahoo.com.

Note: For other reviews by *Outword* staff, please visit www.outwordmagazine.com.



The LGBT *Real Heroes* Is a Sexy New Superhero Comedy

You don’t have to wait for Batman and Superman to get it on anymore, because now you can watch *Big Shot*, a macho marksman who can’t get over the personal and professional breakup with his former “sidekick,” Sable, a single mom; Malibu Action Girl, a spoiled rich kid; Psychic Sam; and Rick & Josh, former teen superheroes trying to build a new life together. They all have powers and they all have issues in this comedy from Keith Hartman who brought you the wildly popular gay comedy *You Should Meet My Son!* Watch the trailer for *Real Heroes* at www.youtube.com/watch?v=vEO_1WXQvS8

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Birdman Soars Thanks to Its Oscar-Winning Editor Exclusive *Outword* Interview with Stephen Mirrione

by Chris Narloch

It's not a stretch to say that Michael Keaton has a good shot at winning an Oscar next year when those golden statuettes are handed out on Feb. 22, 2015.

I'm not the only critic predicting that Keaton will win an Academy Award for his stunning, career-defining performance in *Birdman*, the latest mind-bending movie from writer/director Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu.

Keaton's towering achievement is the result of great skill on the part of the actor and his director, but it's also thanks to the seamless, skillful work of the film's editors, Douglas Crise and Stephen Mirrione.

Mirrione is an Oscar-winning editor (for Steven Soderbergh's *Traffic*) who is sometimes referred to as George Clooney's go-to editor because he has edited five of Clooney's films.

In truth, Mirrione has edited multiple films for many of the finest directors currently working in Hollywood, including six for Soderbergh (*Ocean's Eleven* and both its sequels), three for Doug Liman (*Go, Swingers*), and four for Inarritu (*Babel*, *21 Grams*).

I recently spoke by phone with Mirrione, who spent over a decade living in Rancho Cordova, and we discussed his groundbreaking career in film, including the revolutionary, nearly invisible editing on *Birdman*.

How old were you when you first got interested in filmmaking and editing?

I took some film classes in college, and it was actually when I was working on my first documentary project that I really discovered what editing was and that it incorporated all of these skills that I had along with my love for storytelling. I read a lot and always loved fiction, and editing is really all about storytelling.

What was your big break in the business?

Swingers was the defining film as far as putting me on a new level career-wise. I had done a couple movies before that as an editor, but in the beginning of your career you're just taking projects to work and get experience. Once *Swingers* was bought and released and became a hit with critics, that's when the lives of everyone involved, changed overnight. I was able to get an agent at that point, and from then on every movie that I worked on was one that I wanted to work on, not just something that I had to work on.

Traffic was only your fifth film, and you had been editing

professionally for just five or six years when you won the Oscar, which is pretty amazing. What was your Oscar experience like?

It's something that's in the back of your mind of course, working in the film industry, but it's one of those ten or 20-year goals that I didn't expect to have happen so soon. But I knew that *Traffic* was a special project as soon as I read the script. That was my first introduction to awards season, so I was just along for the ride. And



Stephen Mirrione

Gladiator had been winning all the editing awards that season so I did not expect to win at all. It was a shock and a wonderful moment.

Do you think that editing by its nature is overlooked or taken for granted by people who watch movies?

A lot of times people don't really know how to ask questions about editing because it is an invisible art form in the sense that while you're watching a movie you're not really aware, hopefully, of a lot of things that the editor and the director are doing. Editors have a great deal of control and power over the finished product. We take the vast amount of material that has been shot, and it's our job to shape it in a way that propels the story. So you're choosing which takes to use and really assembling the footage, usually with the help of notes from the director, and sometimes the studio will also make suggestions.

Let me ask you about that, because I have heard horror

stories about films being taken away from a director and reedited by the studio brass. Have you ever had anything like that happen?

Generally speaking, everyone just wants to make a good movie, and that's the goal. The best directors know how to take suggestions from the studio and apply them in a way that doesn't compromise their vision of the film. Of course, the studio wants the film to succeed and make money so if they feel that something in the movie is too far out, they get worried that it will limit its box office.

Didn't you have to take your name off of one of your movies?

What happens is you sometimes get these new producers who want to get involved in making movies, and they have a lot of money, and then you realize that some of them don't really have much experience. I was involved in a situation with a financier who clearly, from my point of view, she didn't really see any difference between hiring a director to make a movie and hiring a contractor to redo her kitchen. It got so bad that the financier finally took the movie away from the director.

What was the movie?

The original title of the movie that I worked on was "The Convincer," and the movie that they put out was called *Thin Ice*. For some unexplainable reason, they agreed to put out a Blu-ray with the quote-unquote producer's cut of the movie alongside the original cut, and you can clearly see the difference in quality. All the critics agreed that the original film is vastly superior. But that's a very rare circumstance to have your name removed from a film.

And definitely not your experience on *Birdman*. You must be very proud of this film, Stephen.

Alejandro shot it in only 30 days. If you asked him, I think even he would say that he couldn't do it again, because of the complexity involved.

So how did you guys achieve that amazing fluidity, where the entire movie seems to go by like one continuous shot? It's almost like watching a dream.

BIRDMAN
continues on page 22
outwordmagazine.com

Jersey Boys, Ziegfeld Follies, Kate Hepburn and More on Local Stages

by Chris Narloch

The return of Broadway Sacramento and those Jersey Boys isn't the only theatrical news this month. Read on for other best bets currently gracing local stages.

Jersey Boys

I don't know when exactly the term "jukebox musical" was first coined, but I do know that this electrifying dramatic musical remains the template for shows like *Mamma Mia* that celebrate an artist's catalog of hit music.

Much more rich and realistic than *Mamma Mia*, *Jersey Boys* actually charts the history of the group it pays tribute to, and the timeless music of Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons never fails to disappoint.

Another plus is that they always seem to find some really sexy guys to perform such great Four Seasons songs as "Sherry," "Can't Take My Eyes Off You" and "Big Girls Don't Cry."

Clint Eastwood's recent big screen version stumbled at the box office (and with critics),

under the direction of Connor Mickiewicz.

I'm Getting My Act Together plays through Nov. 22. For more information, please visit www.newhelvetia.org.

Outside Mullingar

When it played in New York earlier this year, this highly acclaimed John Patrick Shanley play attracted a starry cast that included Debra Messing and Brian F. O'Byrne.

B Street Theatre has wasted no time getting this charming love story to Sacramento, and the local production features Dana Brooke and David Pierini as two lonely eccentrics who live next door to each other in rural Ireland.

With a land feud simmering between their families, the two have every reason to fear the worst. Add in a long kept family secret,



Nanci Zoppi, Maggie Hollinbeck and Lauren Parker in a rehearsal still for *I'm Getting My Act Together*.

but the *Jersey Boys* are back where they belong, on stage, at the Community Center Theater, through Nov. 22.

For more information, go to www.BroadwaySacramento.com.

I'm Getting My Act Together

This off-Broadway musical was a big hit at The Public Theater in New York City, opening in 1978 and running for 1165 performances.

The show's full title is *I'm Getting My Act Together and Taking It on the Road*, and that's a pretty accurate summary of its story, which follows a divorced singer's attempt at a comeback as she battles her (male) manager for control of her career.

It wouldn't be a stretch or a slight to call this a feminist musical, not only because of its subject matter but because there aren't many other shows with a book, lyrics and music all by women. (Nancy Ford wrote the music, and Gretchen Cryer gave birth to the show's book and lyrics.)

Featuring a to-die-for cast courtesy of New Helvetia Theatre, the Sacramento production stars Maggie Hollinbeck, Nanci Zoppi, Jerry Lee, Lauren Parker, and Tristan Rumery,

bristling comic dialogue and a heart as big as Ireland, and *Outside Mullingar* rises easily to an evening of theatrical enchantment.

Outside Mullingar plays through Nov. 23 at B Street Theatre. Visit www.bstreettheatre.org.

PLACAS: The Most Dangerous Tattoo

In street culture, placas (barrio slang for body tattoos) signify an individual member's unswerving loyalty to a gang, and also serve as a mechanism to create a new identity.

This new play, making its Sacramento premiere, is an intense examination of gang life and the risks of trying to escape it. Two performances only, November 14 & 15 at the Crest Theatre. Visit www.sfiaf.org/placas.

Sacramento Theatre Company

There are two intriguing upcoming events at Sacramento Theatre Company. *A Pretty Girl is Like a Melody*, the first 2014-2015 production in STC's popular Cabaret Series, pays tribute to Florenz Ziegfeld and the

STAGES

continues on page 22

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Let Comfort Food Chase Away those Cold Weather Blues

Now that fall has finally descended on Sacramento, it's time to start thinking about comfort food. You know, those dishes that warm and cheer you up on the inside, no matter how cold and gloomy it is on the outside.

Chief Kerry Alteiro, the chef/owner of Cafe Miranda, a unique, small-town restaurant in Rockland, Maine, knows the importance of these dishes, and has put together a new cookbook of his favorite recipes, *Adventures In Comfort Food*, filled with incredible, delicious and new recipes that will soothe your winter beast.

He has graciously shared with us his recipe for Aunt Fluffie's Pasta, a "cream of leftovers" dish that you can throw together on a weeknight. Still, it's memorable. It's got all the good stuff: browned butter, caramelized onion, lemon and cheese; cauliflower is the star.

Ingredients: Serves two

- 1 1/2 cup cauliflower, cut into forkfuls
- 1 stick of butter (yup)
- 1/2 lb pasta, preferably bowties, cooked
- 1/2 red onion, diced
- 2 tsp fresh garlic, minced
- 1/2 cup parsley, coarsely chopped
- 1/2 lemon
- salt, pepper
- Romano or parmesan cheese, grated

Method

Place a heavy 12-inch skillet over medium-high heat. Put in butter, onions, garlic and cauliflower. Partially cover the pan and simultaneously brown the butter, caramelize the onions and get the cauliflower cooked. It will take around 10 minutes. They are all kind of racing each other, so if the onions are browning but the cauliflower isn't tender, add a splash of white wine or water and cover until the cauliflower is steamed through.

Add the noodles and stir; heat through. Add parsley, squeeze in the lemon and stir. Turn the pasta out onto a warm platter.

Sprinkle with salt, pepper and cheese and get ready to enjoy

Recipe courtesy *Adventures In Comfort Food* by Kerry Alteiro, Page Street Publishing/October 2014.



One Weekend Only - A Night of LGBT One Acts

For those that like their theatre short and sweet, the Closet Door Theatre Company, Sacramento's only LGBT theatre group, has put together a lineup of one-act plays that are sure to please.

With an emphasis on comedy, it is the company's third annual presentation of one-acts, and features three plays by Northern California playwrights. The pieces will be directed by Matthew Burlingame, Closet Door's interim artistic director.

In *Home For The Holidays*, by Tom Swanner, Todd (Corey Morris) is expecting a holiday visit from his slightly-psychotic best friend Mo (Bethany Hidden-Cauley). But what he hasn't told his boyfriend, Dean (Eric Olsen), is that Mo is coming to try and make good on a promise from high school that they would get married if they are both still single at age 35.

Also by Tom Swanner, *The Sperm Bank* finds businesswoman Claire



(Bethany Hidden-Cauley) in a waiting room, looking through donor profiles. Two depositors, gay couple Max (Corey Morris) and Pete (Cimmaron Spell), strike up a conversation with her and try to convince her of a better way to get what she wants – if they can stop bitching at one another long enough.

The third one act, *Baby Christina* by Rodney "Rhoda" Taylor, finds Dennis (Ken Figeroid) trying to convince his best friend Patrick (Corey Morris) and their drag queen waitress, Shakyra, that he is ready to be a father.

Which might be easier if he hadn't brought his practice baby to join them over cocktails at the local dive bar.

The *One Weekend Only - A Night of One Acts* is one of Closet Door Theatre Company's largest yearly fundraisers. The show runs Nov. 14 & 15, at 7 p.m. at Mango's Annex Building, K & 20th Sts.

Take a Wine Adventure this Holiday Season at Home

There's nothing wrong with liking what you like, but you can't discover new favorites unless you try new things. When it comes to wine, you don't have to book a trip to Napa, the El Dorado Hills or even the Bordeaux region of France. You just have to be willing to try a new type.

"I became someone who decided to say 'yes' to many of the things I used to say 'no' to, which has enriched my life tremendously with adventure," says Howard Kleinfeld, author (as Howard K) of *Dial M for Merlot*, (www.DialMForMerlot.com), a lighthearted novel imbued with its character's passion for wine.

"With all the holiday parties and family gatherings, it's a great time of year to expand one's 'Wine-Q,'" says Kleinfeld, who offers the following suggestions.

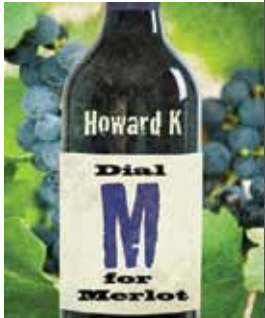
- If you like white zinfandel, consider a Riesling. White zin is the "Kool-Aid of wine," because it's sweet, and everybody likes sugar. But there are a number of wines at many price points that are also sweet and carry a much more interesting profile – a fuller body, honey and pear or apple notes and much more. Riesling and Gewürztraminer wines are a great place to start.

- If your go-to white wine is strictly Chardonnay, try a bottle of white from the Côtes du Rhône or a sauvignon blanc from just about anywhere. Chardonnay refers to a specific green-skinned grape and is grown all over the world, most notably in Burgundy, France. Côtes du Rhône is from the region of France of the same name and is usually made from a blend of grapes, none of which, are chardonnay.

"Sauvignon blanc can be like drinking passion fruit – not quite orange, cherry or lemon – just passion fruit," he says. "I'll never forget one time I had it with tuna sashimi. It was such a perfect pairing – these are the things that make life great."

- If you like Moscato before dinner, try

Sauternes or port wine with dessert. Again, sweet wines are popular, but Sauternes from the region of Bordeaux with the same name, has a distinct flavor because of a unique geographical attribute. Port, Portuguese fortified wine, and Sauternes are amazing with nuts, blue cheese and foie gras, or goose liver pâté, slathered on baguette.



Howard Kleinfeld, a full-time wine enthusiast, part-time foodie and first-time author.

- If you think it's time to outgrow merlot – try another merlot. Ever since the movie *Sideways*, merlot has gotten a bad rap. Yes, some varieties can be fruit bombs (and there's nothing wrong with that!), but others are deep, rich and structured. On a wide range of levels, merlot can provide a nuanced and rewarding experience.

"Don't be afraid to drink merlot just because you may have heard it's not hip," says Kleinfeld. "It can stand on its own and is also a big-time blending grape in some of the world's most famous wines. It's the king of the 'right bank' region of Bordeaux."



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Cirque du Soleil Celebrates 30 years with "Kurios"

by Chris Narloch

Cirque du Soleil will celebrate its 30th anniversary in 2014 with *Kurios* – *Cabinet of Curiosities*, its 35th production since 1984.

Written and directed by Michel Laprise, *Kurios – Cabinet of Curiosities* is a tale in which time comes to a complete stop, transporting the audience inside a fantasy world where everything is possible.

In this magical realm set in the latter half of the 19th century, reality is quite relative indeed, and our perception of it is utterly transformed.

In an alternate yet familiar past, in a place where wonders abound for those who trust their imagination, a Seeker discovers that in order to glimpse the marvels that lie just below the surface, we must first learn to close our eyes.

In his larger-than-life curio cabinet, the Seeker is convinced that there exists a hidden, invisible world – a place where the craziest ideas and the grandest dreams lie waiting.

A collection of otherworldly characters suddenly steps into his makeshift mechanical world and turns this world upside down.

With a touch of poetry and humor, and in an attempt to ignite the Seeker's imagination, his curios jump to life one by one before his very eyes.

The touring production of *Kurios*, which premiered to the world this past April in Montreal, will make its U.S. premiere under the iconic blue-and-yellow Big Top at AT&T Park in San Francisco, beginning November 14, and will play through January 18, 2015.

Tickets for *Kurios – Cabinet of Curiosities* range in price from \$53 – \$135 and are available by visiting cirquedusoleil.com/kurios or calling 1-800-450-1480.



Kurios – Cabinet of Curiosities

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Unravel the Mystery of *Snails in the Rain*



In this sexy, intelligent and emotional Israeli film set in 1989 Tel Aviv, a series of obsessive love letters from another man force Boaz to come to terms with his inner demons in order to finally accept his true self. Watch the trailer at www.youtube.com/watch?v=xj3TSin6jW4

The Dark Place Is a Sexy and Mysterious Suspense Thriller



Remembering your life in videographic detail could be a blessing or a curse, unraveling secrets that threaten to destroy you in this suspenseful thriller now available on DVD. Watch the trailer at youtube.com/watch?v=kez5gnzB7Qs&list=UUXbxUFqpifDSRdvxhpA_TSA.

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November 13, 2014 - November 27, 2014 • Volume 27 • Issue 21 • No. 516

Outward Magazine 17

Out & About

Halloween 2014 Was a Hoot

Halloween 2014 in Midtown Sacramento was all treats and no tricks, with fun costumes and hot guys and gals. You can see more photos, and download them for free, at outwordoutabout.shutterfly.com





You're Never Fully Dressed Without Sia

by Chris Narloch

I have no idea whether the latest big-screen version of *Annie* will fly or die – it doesn't arrive in theaters until December 19 – but the first video for the movie's soundtrack has been released, and it's a winner.



Jamie Foxx and Quvenzhané Wallis in a scene from *Annie*.

The new *Annie* soundtrack will arrive more than a month before the movie, on November 17, and it includes a couple hipper artists than you might expect.

In addition to songs from the movie by its stars Jamie Foxx, Cameron Diaz, Rose Byrne, and Quvenzhané Wallis, the soundtrack also features tracks by Sia and Beck.

The first video has Sia singing a fresh and fizzy new version of "You're Never Fully Dressed Without A Smile" that is a happy

change of pace for the "Chandelier" diva.

As is her way, we don't actually see Sia in the video, and the clip instead features the new Annie (Quvenzhané Wallis) and several of her pint-sized costars handing out paper smiles and lemonade to win over jaded New Yorkers at famous locations around the Big Apple.

You can watch the irresistible video on Vevo at smarturl.it/AnnieSiaSmileVid.

To learn more about the film and watch its trailer, go to www.Annie-movie.com.

Harvest Festival to Showcase Original Art & Crafts

Sacramento Harvest Festival returns to Cal Expo, November 21-23, to offer Sacramento area residents the best in holiday shopping, showcasing hundreds of vendors, exciting entertainment, unique food inspiration for Thanksgiving, and much more.



Throughout the weekend there will be high-energy live entertainment, featuring Fargo Brothers Band and Sister Swing. There will also be strolling entertainers, including Mama Claus & Eddie the Elf, Fables of the West, and WC Willy dressed as Santa hovering high above the festival on stilts. For more information please visit www.harvestfestival.com/sacramento/

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The First Time I Played the Adult Version of Twister... or Whatever

We kissed in the closet for exactly 6 minutes and 53 seconds
We were never really good at finishing anything
And we were never really good at saying so either
We were hands-in-pockets nervous
For exactly 6 hours and 53 minutes after
That was the most scared I'd ever been
That is
Until those first few seconds when I actually tried to let you in

I told you once that I was insecure
That I hated the way my body looked unclothed, unkind, especially in the spotlights of your naked hands
Where I'd stand
Exposed and trembling
Setting the earthquake of my body untouched in front of your science
Then I'd watch you size me up and wonder
If I'm a 7.2 or bigger
If I'm a World Series Bay Bridge destruction or bigger
If the hatred for my body was the same size as my human
Or bigger

We never really answered that last one
And you've been gone for far too long
I can hold a kiss through entire movies now
Well, maybe not TITANIC
But I've got an epic BRAVEHEART that won't stop trying
And I'm dying to tell you this
That it was never your fault
You are not the reason I carried my body image around in a body bag
You are not the reason we never had another chance to finish our 7 minutes

My body is
And it's learning how to forgive itself
With every new person that accepts the word genderqueer
That knows by ear the definition of B O I
That looks me in the eye and calls me they

And I told you once that it would be this way
That there would be a place for people like me
That I wouldn't always be carrying around the dead weight of my own reflection
And I hope that all of this is not too late for your listen

Because I also told you once
That I liked you
What I meant was
Close your eyes and don't open them
Until I'm done carving memory into your stare
So that you'll remember my naked
Without me ever having to prove I was there
But I can now


But I am now
So, open them

Jovi Radtke

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Birdman

continued from page 12



Michael Keaton in a scene from *Birdman*

Alejandro and the cast did a great deal of rehearsal before shooting so that everything was planned out in advance, very much like a play. Actually, that benefited the cast. They were able to shape their scenes and shape their characters more during the shoot because the takes are so much longer than in an average film. Ordinarily, the editor is doing a lot of that shaping in post-production. With *Birdman*, the degree of difficulty for the actors and the director was so much higher because you don't have the luxury of changing your mind or making a lot of adjustments during post.

Watching the completed film, it looks like every last detail must have been precisely choreographed. They must have done a lot of takes to achieve those lengthy scenes with all of those amazing

tracking shots.

Yes, Alejandro did a lot of takes, and the length of those takes is probably longer than you would think. We had our little tricks to be able to make the transitions longer or shorter, but he had it very meticulously planned out in advance of shooting, knowing that the audience would need those little moments of transition, those moments to take a breather.

You've already signed on for Alejandro's next film, right?

Yes, he just started filming. It's called *The Revenant*, and it stars Leonardo DiCaprio and Tom Hardy. It will be out on Christmas Day, 2015.

Note: "Birdman" is currently playing at Tower Theatre in Sacramento. Look for it to be a major contender at next year's Oscars.

Stages

continued from page 13

Ziegfeld Follies.

Broadway, as we know it, would not be the same without Ziegfeld's blend of sophistication, scandal and spectacle. Most famous for his revues and promotional genius, Ziegfeld blended drama, comedy, music, and (above all) beautiful women.

A Pretty Girl is Like a Melody: A Tribute to the Ziegfeld Follies performs on STC's Cabaret Stage, Nov. 13-16.

STC's Pollock Stage has the world premiere play *Kate*, which invites audiences to experience a side of Katherine Hepburn

they, perhaps, have never seen.

On New Year's Eve 1999, the legendary actress reflects on her life and her loves as she ponders, at age 92, what the future holds. The play is filled with fond memories, while also delving into uncharted emotional waters.

Kate: The Unexamined Life of Katharine Hepburn plays through December 14 at STC.

For information about both of these STC shows, go to www.sactheatre.org or call the Box Office at 916-443-6722.



Janis Stevens as Katharine Hepburn

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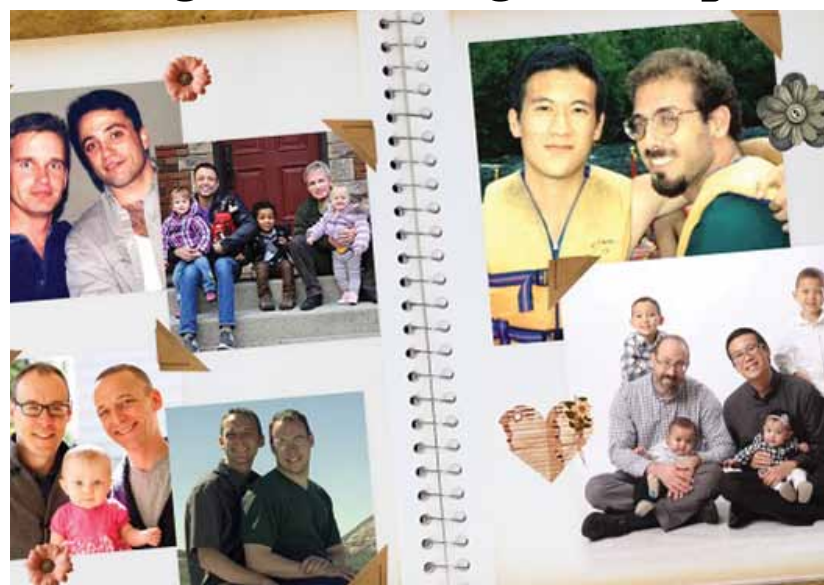
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Web Site Offers Advice on Starting and Running a Family



It takes hard work to maintain any loving long-term relationship. Every couple has ups and downs, but few will establish that rare rapport that can survive 10 years, 20 years, or a lifetime. If you've managed to stay a steady course as a childless couple, you have to wonder: Will rocking a cradle wind up rocking the boat? The answer is yes.

Adding a child to your dynamic will assuredly make waves in any relationship. But when GayWithKids.com spoke to men that started families after a particularly long time – following at least 10 years as a childless duo, for their purposes – a general consensus emerged. Having children has fortified, not weakened, these already strong bonds. The good news: Your best years may still be ahead of you. Learn more at GayWithKids.com.

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November 13, 2014 - November 27, 2014 • Volume 27 • Issue 21 • No. 516

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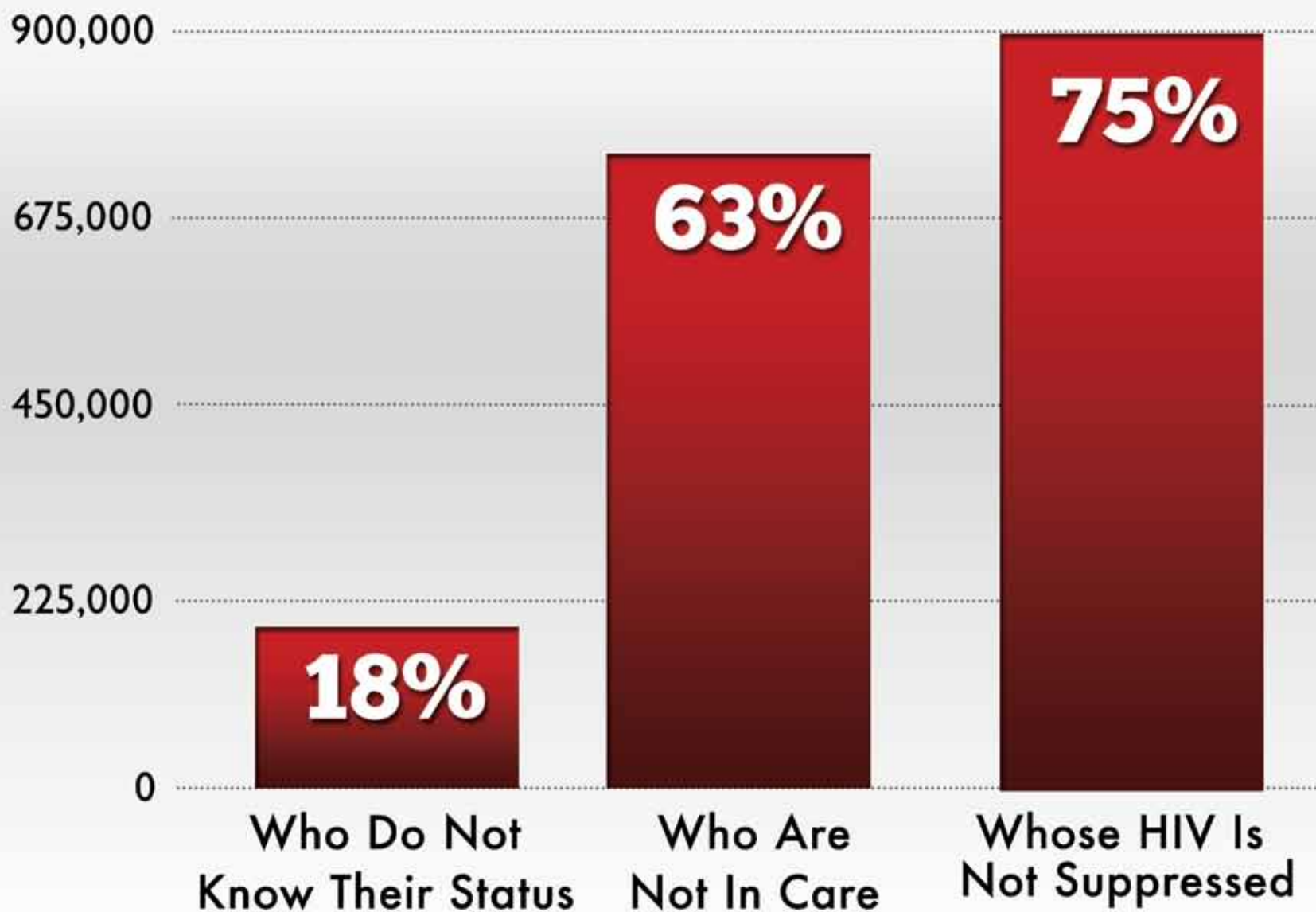
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*Source: CDC Fact Sheet - Stages of HIV Care
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