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magazine

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Treasures of Golden Myanmar *(November 2015)*

Panama Canal Adventure Cruise *(December 2015)*



Letters

Plans Underway for Sacramento Q-Prom

Prepare yourself for a night of music, dancing, and masquerade themed splendor at the Sacramento LGBT Community Center's 7th annual Q-Prom.

This event is open to LGBTQ youth and allies (ages 13-21) and provides a fun and authentic prom experience in a safe and accepting atmosphere.

So, put on your best duds, bring your friends and be there for a fun-filled evening sure to create some lasting memories!

The Q-Prom will be held April 10, from 7 p.m. to midnight at the Tsakopoulos Library Galleria. Advance tickets are \$10 online at qprom2015.bpt.me or at the Center; \$15 at the door.

We aim to ensure a safe experience for everyone and there will be zero tolerance for drugs or alcohol.

Judy Shepard to Attend Commemoration

On Thursday, April 2, from 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m., U.S. Attorney Benjamin B. Wagner will host Judy Shepard at a special commemoration of the 5th anniversary of the passage of the landmark Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr., Hate Crimes Prevention Act.

Refusing to let Matthew's senseless and tragic murder define his life, Ms. Shepard has traveled across the nation and around the world, speaking to audiences about what they can do as individuals and as communities to make this world a more accepting place for everyone - regardless of race, religion, ethnicity, sex, gender identity, or sexual orientation.

The commemoration will be at The Well, Terrace Suite, CSUS, 6000 J St. Seating is limited and free parking permits are available to registrants by email at Sean.Vassar@usdoj.gov or 916-554-2907.

PBS Web Series Explores Issues Surrounding Sexuality and Gender Identity



In the first episode of *First Person*, a new PBS web series, Skylar Kergil a transgender artist, activist and YouTuber, talks about his experience documenting his transition from Female to Male on YouTube. New episodes will run every other week at FirstPersonPBS.org.

Anti-gay Initiative Shows Need for Initiative Reform

Dear Outword Readers,

I am writing to ask your help. Recently, a ballot initiative was filed with a provision that said LGBT people should face the death penalty.

Clearly, these types of ballot measures should be of concern to all fair minded people. A petition (www.ipetitions.com/petition/protect-civil-rights-chng-the-california-ballot) has been established to ask the California Attorney General, Assembly Speaker and Senate President to address the issue of ballot initiatives that infringe upon the civil rights of anyone.

For example, a ballot measure to deny women equal pay, Latinos the right to vote, or a particular group to practice their religion.

All could be placed on the ballot if someone paid \$200 and was able to collect the required signatures. Shouldn't all ballot measures have a pre-qualification to ensure that they do not produce an unconstitutional law that infringes upon the civil rights of others?

Thank-you,

Stamp Corbin

Help for Married Same-Sex Couples: "Don't Leave Money on the Table"

Know Your Rights/California, is hosting a town hall series to discuss social security and the LGBT community

"There is a substantial amount of money on the table in Social Security benefits for LGBT couples and their children. It's time for same-sex married couples to access these long denied financial benefits," said Ari Gutiérrez Arambula, of the National Committee Foundation.

In Sacramento, the Town Hall Meeting will be held April 9 from 7 - 8:30 p.m. at the Pioneer United Church of Christ, 2700 L St and will be hosted by the Sacramento LGBT Community Center.

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Rights Extended for Workers In Same-Sex Marriages

Workers in legal, same-sex marriages, regardless of where they live, will now have the same rights as those in opposite-sex marriages to federal job-protected leave under the Family and Medical Leave Act to care for a spouse with a serious health condition.

The U.S. Labor Department announced a rule change to the FMLA on Feb. 23 in keeping with the U.S. Supreme Court ruling in *United States v. Windsor*. That ruling struck down the federal Defense of Marriage Act provision that interpreted "marriage" and "spouse" to be limited to opposite-sex marriage for the purposes of federal law.

"The basic promise of the FMLA is that no one should have to choose between the job and income they need, and caring for a loved one," said U.S. Secretary of Labor Thomas E. Perez in announcing the rule change. "With our action today, we extend that promise so that no matter who you love, you will receive the same rights and protections as everyone else. All eligible employees in legal same-sex marriages, regardless of where they live, can now deal with a serious medical and family situation like all families - without the threat of job loss."

Enacted in 1993, the FMLA entitles eligible employees of covered employers to take unpaid, job-protected leave for specified family and medical reasons. Employees are, for example, entitled to take FMLA leave to care for a spouse who has a serious health condition. Millions of workers and their

families have benefited since the FMLA's provisions became effective and even more American families will benefit as a result of the rule.

Today's rule change updates the FMLA regulatory definition of "spouse" so that an eligible employee in a legal same-sex marriage will be able to take FMLA leave for his or her spouse regardless of the state in which the employee resides. Previously, the regulatory definition of "spouse" did not include same-sex spouses if an employee resided in a state that did not recognize the employee's same-sex marriage. Under the new rule, eligibility for federal FMLA protections is based on the law of the place where the marriage was entered into. This "place of celebration" provision allows all legally married couples, whether opposite-sex or same-sex, to have consistent federal family leave rights regardless of whether the state in which they currently reside recognizes such marriages.

For additional information on the FMLA, including information and fact sheets on the revisions, visit www.dol.gov/whd/fmla/spouse/index.htm.

LGBT Concerns Raised About Trade with Brunei & Malaysia

Co-Chairs of the Congressional LGBT Equality Caucus, have sent a letter to President Barack Obama asking for clarification on the inclusion of Brunei and Malaysia in the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) negotiations.

The letter, sent February 18, was signed by U.S. Reps. Mark Pocan (D-WI), David Cicilline (D-RI), Sean Patrick Maloney (D-NY), Kyrsten Sinema (D-AZ) and Mark Takano (D-CA).

According to the lawmakers, these two countries are responsible for severe human rights abuses, including adopting penal codes permitting the imprisonment and physical harm of LGBT people.

In a similar situation last year, the United States Trade Representative (USTR) announced action to revoke the Republic of The Gambia's trade preferences, previously enjoyed under the African Growth and Opportunity Act of 2000 (AGOA), after Gambia implemented a law criminalizing homosexuality, targeting individuals perceived to be LGBT with harassment, detention and life in prison.

The lawmakers said in the letter: "In light of the decision to end trade preferences for Gambia, we write today to ask for clarification on the inclusion of Brunei and

Malaysia in the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) negotiations. ... It seems inconsistent for the United States to expand trade privileges to [Brunei and Malaysia] while taking action against Gambia."

Brunei continues to move forward with full implementation of a strict penal code mandating the stoning to death of LGBT citizens; similarly, Malaysia has not taken action to end its persecution of LGBT individuals.

Despite these abuses, the Administration continues to include them in negotiations around the TPP and lists them as intended signatories to the trade agreement.



Briefly Put

Sen. Lara Calls for Review of Bar Membership for Attorney Pushing Anti-LGBT "Sodomy Suppression Act"

Appalled by reports that a member of the California State Bar is leading an effort to pass an anti-gay ballot initiative calling for LGBT people to be "...put to death by bullets to the head...", Senator Ricardo Lara (D-Bell Gardens) sent a letter to the State Bar asking whether the proponent, Matthew McLaughlin, is violating the "good moral character" clause required for Bar membership.

"Qualification to become a licensed attorney includes not only educational requirements and an examination, but also requires demonstrated 'good moral character.' This includes that those seeking admission to the Bar demonstrate 'respect for and obedience to the law, and respect for the rights of others and the judicial process.' I support freedom of speech but calling for state sanctioned execution of a protected class calls into question the proponent's character and judgment. I call on the State Bar to review whether Mr. McLaughlin's actions violate his membership to the State Bar."

Same-sex Marriage Now Legal in Finland

Finland President Sauli Niinistö has signed into law a same-sex marriage bill that squeaked through the Finnish Parliament by a vote of 105 to 92 in November. The legislation won't come into effect until March 1, 2017, making Finland the last Scandinavian country to change its marriage definition to include same-sex partnerships.

The new law also gives homosexual couples the right to adopt children, and had been endorsed by the head of the Finnish Lutheran Church, touching off heavy backlash and a mass exodus from the official state church, with almost 8,000 people officially resigning from the state-supported Lutheran Church, citing disapproval of the archbishop Kari Mäkinen's support for same sex-marriage.

Congressman Lowenthal Named Vice-Chair Of House LGBT Equality Caucus

Congressman Alan Lowenthal has been named as a vice-chair of the U.S. House of Representatives LGBT Equality Caucus.

"I am honored to serve in a leadership position on the LGBT Equality Caucus. For my entire adult life, I have fought to defend the basic human rights of equality and equal treatment for all people," said Lowenthal. "While we still have a long journey ahead, in a short space of time, we have made tremendous strides towards full equality and acceptance of the LGBT community."

As a member of the caucus leadership, Congressman Lowenthal will also serve as a co-chair of one of the caucus' newly-formed Equality Caucus Task Forces, which are being created to focus caucus leadership expertise to address specific needs of the LGBT community. The membership of the individual task forces will be announced by the caucus in the near future.

VA Tells Lesbian War Veteran: Your Family Doesn't Count

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is requiring a female Iraq war veteran, Melissa Perkins-Fercha, to pay back her federal veterans benefits tied to her legal wife and daughter because the state of Texas does not recognize her same-sex marriage.

"I was shocked, angry, and hurt all at once," said Melissa Perkins-Fercha, an Iraq war veteran. "Who are they to tell me that my marriage is not valid and my daughter is not mine? More importantly, how does the rest of the federal government recognize my marriage and daughter but the Department of Veterans Affairs does not?"

In August of 2014, The American Military Partner Association filed a lawsuit against the Secretary of the VA challenging the VA's regulations. The challenge is now pending in the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit.

"Equality Without Exception" Chosen as Theme for SF Pride

The SF Pride membership has chosen the theme "Equality Without Exception," developed both as a protest and an opportunity to place a spotlight on the use of religious exemptions to anti-discrimination laws and the Affordable Care Act.

Crafted by board members Donald Wagda and Joey Cain, "Equality Without Exception," is in response to laws that are being considered - and passed - across the country that allow exemptions from equality laws based on religious or personal beliefs.

For more information visit SFPride.org

Principles For HIV Criminal Law Reform Released

In the wake of recent court decisions rejecting several applications of the criminal law to people with HIV, the Positive Justice Project (PJP) has released a set of principles to guide the modernization of state HIV criminal laws across the country.

"Ending criminal prosecutions based on HIV or other health conditions is a vitally important part of a sound, public health approach to ending the epidemic," said Kim Miller of the HIV Medicine Association (HIVMA).

Currently, 32 states have criminal laws that punish people living with HIV for conduct that would be legal if they did not get tested and did not know their HIV status. The Guiding Principles for Eliminating Disease-Specific Criminal Laws call for modernization of existing laws, and can be read at www.hivlawandpolicy.org.



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First U.S. Special Envoy for LGBT Rights Appointed

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry has made history by appointing veteran diplomat Randy Berry as the first Special Envoy for the Human Rights of LGBT Persons. In this newly created role, Berry will lead efforts by the U.S. government to defend the rights of LGBT people worldwide.

greater protections for the human rights of the LGBT community, it is not, cannot be, nor has it ever been alone in doing so. It will take the entirety of our efforts to see progress and I look forward with enthusiasm, with hope, with optimism, and

Berry, a veteran diplomat with the U.S. State Department, was previously the consul general to the Netherlands and has overseen the United States' consulates in the Netherlands since 2012. Beforehand, he was stationed in New Zealand and Nepal, and has also served in Uganda and Egypt, both of which have recently launched anti-LGBT efforts.

"Defending and promoting the human rights of LGBT persons is at the core of our commitment to advancing human rights globally – the heart and conscience of our diplomacy," Secretary of State John Kerry said in a statement. "That's why we're working to overturn laws that criminalize consensual same-sex conduct in countries around the world."

At a welcoming reception on February 27 at the White House with his partner Pravesh Singh, and their two children, Berry spoke of the love that he shares with his partner: "This love still stands ground for imprisonment, harassment, torture, and far worse in too many places around the world. That is a violation of human rights. It is a violation of human rights by the standards set forth by many of our allies



Newly appointed Special Envoy for the Human Rights of LGBT Persons, Randy Berry, with Secretary of State John Kerry at a White House welcoming reception.

and partners around the world, and it is a violation of human rights by the standard of the universal declaration. We can and we must do better. Lives, futures, hopes and dreams depend on that ... That's also why this type of role is needed.

"Though government bears special responsibility in pursuing change and

with commitment to working with you to build a more positive future for the young LGBT person out there who sees no hope, who sees no opportunity, who sees no safe space. My children deserve a better world than that, as do all children, regardless of where they live, who they are, or who they love."

Sign-up for Rainbow Softball League Spring Season

The Sacramento Rainbow Softball League, put together by a group of softball friends and enthusiasts, is now taking player registrations for their third season of softball.

Rainbow softball is open to everyone, co-ed, LGBT and friends, all ages and all levels of playing experience, including those who have never swung a bat and those who think they are Babe Ruth.

"The Rainbow League is simply about getting outside, staying active, making new friends, playing some softball, and most importantly, having some fun!" said Rian Troth, one of the league's founders.

Registration for the spring season can be

done in a couple of ways. You can go to the website: www.scsclassic.com click on the Sacramento Rainbow Softball logo and open the member registration form. Simply fill it out and email to rynsac@sbcglobal.net.

If you have enough people who want to play together and form their own team, feel free to send in a team roster.

The league will also be hosting a Registration Day at Grant Park located at 21 and C Streets, on Sunday March 22 from

noon to 2 p.m. Member registration forms will be made available to you, registration fees collected and the field will be open to come on out and play some softball.

All games are at Grant Park on Sundays for one hour each. The eight week season starts Sunday April 12, and the registration fee is \$25 per player and includes your team shirt.

Please sign up early as teams fill up fast. In addition to players we are always looking for coaches and volunteers.

If you have any questions or for more information go to www.scsclassic.com or email rynsac@sbcglobal.net.



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Real Talk: Getting Real About Our Safety

by Lisa Thew

President Obama recording an anti-violence PSA for the Grammys tells us two things. First, that we can be grateful we've reached a point where we're able to have these public discussions. Second, that this problem is truly epic and it's time to get real about it.

"It's not OK, and it has to stop," he said.

This was not only an important and refreshing public validation of the plight of those affected by violence, but it was also a call to action and the beginning of a larger conversation.

We've evolved to the point of embracing the need for victim support services in our communities, which is more than we could say just a few decades ago. Now, it's time to take the next step, towards victim prevention.

We need to stop the cycle of allowing violence to occur and picking up the pieces afterwards. But, we need to do it collectively. We say to victims "Call this hotline," or "Seek help at this shelter," which is great advice, but, what we don't say is "Take a self-defense class," or "Learn to use non-lethal defense weapons."

What we have failed to say loudly up to this point is that it is each and every person's right and within their ability to protect and defend themselves from harm. So, let's do this...

Let's start with simple awareness.

When we have a situational awareness of our surroundings, nine times out of 10, we see trouble coming. When we're aware, we notice the shady looking dude in the dark corner scoping us out. When we're aware, we notice the person who's been following about 10 steps behind us for more blocks than is comfortable. When we're aware, we notice the car that pulls into the practically empty parking lot while we're walking to our car. When we're aware, we notice things.

Try to describe the last person that gave you pause while you were out and about. What were they wearing? How tall were they? What did they weigh? What did their face look like; eye color, facial hair, structure? What was their hair color and style? Did they have any scars or tattoos? What kind of car were they driving; make, model, year, color, distinguishing marks?



Common sense is more important than muscles for staying safe on the streets.

How accurate can you be? These are the things we have to think about when we find ourselves in a potentially sketchy situation. Details.

Details will make the difference between catching the guy that attacks you or not. When we observe our environment and notice things, especially potential threats, we're giving ourselves the advantage in any situation that comes our way. So, let's begin by taking our collective heads out of our phones and having a look around us!

What are some of the behaviors that predators watch for when targeting their victims? Check back next month! Until then, stay safe out there!

Real Talk is a monthly column dedicated to issues of safety and self-defense. Lisa Thew teaches group and private women's self-defense courses throughout the Northern California area. She received her instructor certification through R.A.D. (Rape Aggression Defense) Systems in 2004 and currently owns and operates Sacramento-based Diamond Defense (A Girl's Best Friend)-Self-Defense Training & Tools for Women & Girls. She can be reached at www.diamonddefense.com.

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Studies Reveal the Efficacy Of Antiretroviral Medicines in Preventing New HIV Infections

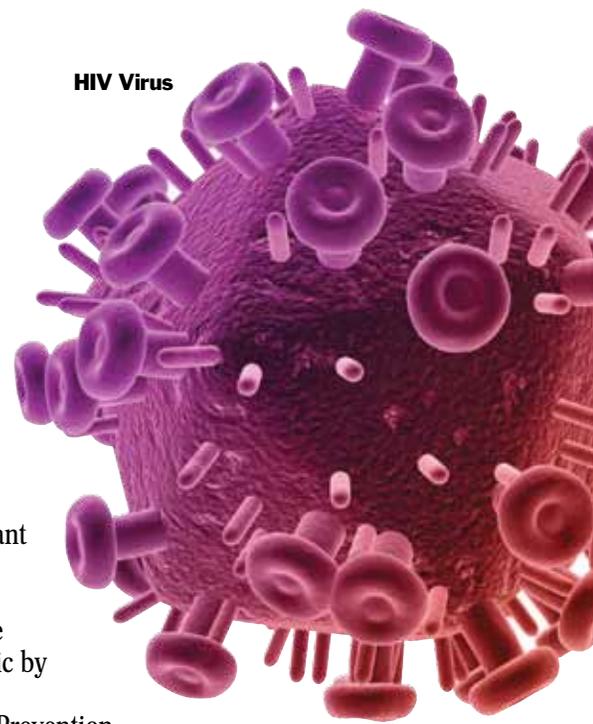
Results from two scientific trials presented at the 2015 Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections (CROI) held in Seattle, demonstrate that the antiretroviral medicines tenofovir and emtricitabine, when used as pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), are 86 percent effective in preventing new HIV infections among men who have sex with men.

A third study showed 96 percent efficacy in preventing new HIV infections when the HIV-negative person in a serodiscordant couple (where one partner is living with HIV and the other is not) had access to PrEP and the HIV-positive partner had access to antiretroviral therapy.

"These new results are a significant breakthrough in advancing efforts to provide effective HIV prevention options to men who

have sex with men and to serodiscordant couples," said Michel Sidibé, Executive Director of UNAIDS. "The results are timely and important and will advance global efforts to end the AIDS epidemic by 2030."

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention has released a 60-second video outlining the study results and the importance of getting people into treatment. To view the video, visit www.youtube.com/watch?v=sj48fpiUG8E.



Bill Requires Equal Medical Coverage by State Contractors

Senator Mark Leno has introduced Senate Bill 703 that would prohibit state agencies from doing business with companies that fail to offer transgender employees the same health care coverage and benefits they provide all other workers.

The bill builds on existing California law that requires gender nondiscrimination in employee benefits. Specifically, it prohibits a state agency from entering into a contract in the amount of \$100,000 or more with any company that does not offer equal benefits based on an employee's gender identity.

"California law already stipulates that employers cannot deny transgender people health care and other benefits, but a loophole in state law allows companies that contract

with the state to refuse equal health coverage," said Senator Leno, D-San Francisco. "This bill closes that loophole."

Equal benefits laws, starting with San Francisco's landmark equal benefits law passed in 1996, are credited with the rapid expansion of benefits for LGBT employees and creating a marketplace for insurance companies to start offering policies providing benefits for same-sex couples.

"Denying transgender people equal

access to health care puts us at serious risk for negative health outcomes and financial hardship," said Kris Hayashi, Executive Director of Transgender Law Center.

"Providing equal benefits will help protect transgender workers and our families. It also makes economic sense for the state and employers, which will benefit from increased employee morale, productivity and retention."

SB 703 is co-sponsored by Equality California (EQCA), the National Center for Lesbian Rights (NCLR) and Transgender Law Center and was introduced on Feb. 27. The bill will be heard in policy committees in the Senate this spring.

Guidelines Set for Homeless Transgender People by HUD

by Boyce Hinman

Homelessness is a chronic problem for many transgender people. According to the National Transgender Discrimination Survey, nearly one in five transgender people (19 percent) have been homeless due to discrimination or family rejection.

Given this particularly cold winter in parts of the country, living on the streets can be awful, even fatal.

Too often, when a transgender person asks to stay overnight in a homeless shelter, they get grilled about their sexual anatomy and medical history. Too often a male to female transgender person is denied admission by a women only shelter. Since they are women, dressed as women, staying in a men's homeless shelter would be inappropriate. Female to male transgender people face similar problems.

Now, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has issued guidance to homeless shelters and other housing programs that serve homeless people. The HUD guidance tells shelters to honor

Too often, when a transgender person asks to stay overnight in a homeless shelter, they get grilled about their sexual anatomy and medical history.

transgender people's self-identified gender in accessing housing and programs.

The guidance says providers may not ask questions or otherwise seek information or

documentation concerning the person's anatomy or medical history.

This could benefit a lot of transgender people in California. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, there are 9,185,102 adults in California, and the Williams Institute reports that .3 percent of those adults (or roughly 116,000) are transgender. If 19 percent of these transgender people are homeless, that means a little over 22,000 transgender Californians may be homeless each night.

People whose rights have been violated by a homeless shelter can submit a complaint to HUD by calling 800-669-9777. Hearing impaired people can call TTY (800) 927-9275. They may also call the Transgender Law Center at 415-865-0176 or the National Center For Lesbian Rights at 415-392 6257.

Boyce Hinman is the founder of the California Communities United Institute. He can be reached at b.hinman@calcomui.org or calcomui.org. Join their mailing list at <http://bit.ly/yZbxKC>.

LA Pride Set to Celebrate 45th Anniversary This June

This June, the world's first Pride Parade, LA PRIDE, will set the stage for an epic 45th Anniversary celebration in West Hollywood to continue the fight for equality, celebrate diversity and bring the TLGB community together as one voice.

Originally, marking the one-year anniversary of the Stonewall riots in New York, LA PRIDE's core mission, 45-five years later, remains the same.

For three days, starting June 12 and ending June 14, LA PRIDE returns with its signature Music and Arts Festival featuring live concerts, art and culture exhibits, community events along with the iconic PRIDE Parade which brings hundreds of thousands to the streets of West Hollywood.

In 1970, a year after the modern LGBT liberation movement was launched by the rebellion at the Stonewall Inn on New York's Christopher Street, activists around the country were thinking of ways to mark the anniversary. Los Angeles LGBT community leaders, Reverend Troy Perry, Reverend Bob Humphries and Morris Kight stepped up and created the world's first Pride Parade.

"At the time we had no idea what we were creating, we just wanted to acknowledge a courageous group that stood up to being bullied by police," said parade founding father, the Reverend Troy Perry. "It was a microcosm of what was taking place throughout the country and we thought, what better way to make noise, get attention and excite our community than by dressing up and putting on a parade?"

The original parade was met with many obstacles including permit denials and police hostility but the organizers persevered, along with the help of ACLU and several community organizations which helped to push the parade forward.

Originally taking place in the streets of Hollywood, the first parade included thousands of community participants who chanted "two, four, six, eight, gay is just as good as straight" down Hollywood Boulevard while holding signs calling for equality and justice.

Today, the annual LA PRIDE Parade

attendance has grown to hundreds of thousands, regularly pulls in major celebrity participants and performers, and takes place over a three-day period in West Hollywood. The celebration includes an unrivaled TLGB music and arts festival and incorporates a combination of both ticketed and free-to-all-ages experiences.

With the celebration continuing to grow year after year, it attracts some of the best performers from new up-and-coming acts to Grammy award winners and is supported by major brands such as Wells Fargo, Anheuser-Busch and Delta Air Lines.

While the mood of the weekend is celebratory, the non-profit organization which produces LA PRIDE, Christopher Street West, continues to focus on supporting the community through various programs including grants, non-profit partnerships and sponsorships and even low-income housing for people living with HIV/AIDS with Casa Del Sol, an APLA partnership.

In addition to community outreach, Christopher Street West has used the massive exposure that LA PRIDE receives to raise awareness around social issues that affect the community from Transgender equality to community diversity and acceptance.

"While a lot has certainly changed for our community since the original Pride Parade took place, there are still many issues that affect basic TLGB equalities. It's because of these issues that Pride events are just as relevant now as they were when they started 45 years ago," says Co-President Patti DiLuigi. "What hasn't changed is our ability to celebrate our community, our diversity and the core of what it means to be TLGB," said Co-President Steve Ganzell.

A full schedule of event dates, times and descriptions can be found by visiting: www.LAPRIDE.org.

First Privately-Owned LGBTQ Center in U.S. Opens In WeHo



Home, a privately-funded help center serving the LGBTQ community and its allies by offering free support - including legal, mental health and vocational services - to those in need has been opened in West Hollywood by Nir Ziberman, who converted one of his three men's retail shops to create the space. For more information on Home visit www.facebook.com/wehohome.

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Visit the New Castro!

Castro Street is new, shiny and bright and more fun than ever to visit. The now internationally famed rainbow crosswalks at Castro & 18th are worth a trip into the City. Selfies of you and your friends in the rainbow crosswalks will be sure to be shared by your friends and make your page explode with "likes."

New, extra wide sidewalks are now brimming with outdoor café seating, trees and leaning posts to watch the neighborhood cruise by. An extra touch of pride is added to the nightlife with cascading colors of LED lights washing the sidewalks with all the

neighborhood as home through the decades, Castro Street's first appearance in American popular culture, and the important role the neighborhood has played in LGBT history.

"Each fact tells us something fascinating about the neighborhood," said Andrea Aiello,



Photo by Rick Gerharter

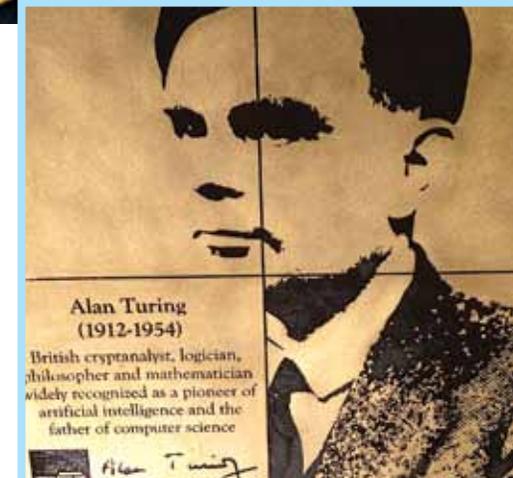
colors of the rainbow.

The sidewalk is also awash in both LGBT history and the history of the neighborhood. Rainbow Honor Walk bronze sidewalk plaques honor 20 self-expressed LGBT heroines and heroes who made significant contributions in their fields. Some of these brave individuals include:

- Alan Turing - whose life is now memorialized in the Academy Awards Nominee for Best Picture, *The Imitation Game*,
- Del Martin - American feminist, gay rights activist who along with her lifelong partner, Phyllis Lyon, founded the Daughters of Bilitis (DOB) in San Francisco in 1955.
- Christine Jorgensen - first widely known person to have sex reassignment surgery, in this case male to female.
- Sylvester James - American disco star, soul singer, drag artist, his anthem record, "You Make Me Feel (Mighty Real)" was inducted into the Dance Music Hall of Fame.

Then, journey to the past as sidewalks speak to the neighborhood's rich and diverse history. Twenty panels chiseled into the sidewalk tell the story of the famed neighborhood, beginning with the era of the indigenous Yelamu people through recent years, when the Castro became world-renowned as a beacon for LGBT freedom.

Those who take the walk will learn a wide variety of facts about the area, including: the origins of the names Castro and Noé; the many different communities that claimed the



One of the Rainbow Honor Walk bronze sidewalk plaques, this one for Alan Turing. Photo by Rick Gerharter.

Executive Director of the Castro/Upper Market Community Benefit District, which funded the project. "Some will make you smile, but others will bring back emotional memories. History is not always pleasant, and we didn't shy away from that."

The new, improved Castro Street is certainly worth a visit or two. The summer months will also feature *Live! In The Castro*, in the Jane Warner Plaza (Castro & Market) bringing live performances on Saturday and Sunday afternoons ranging from bands to soloists, to live theatre. If you're lucky you'll catch a flash mob!

To stay informed of the *Live! In The Castro* schedule, follow the Castro/Upper Market Community Benefit District (Castro CBD) on Twitter, @visitthecastro and "like" us on facebook, facebook.com/castrocbd.

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Out & About

Putting on the Bibs for Charity at the NCAC Crab Feed

It was a sold out crowd for the 2015 NCAC Crab Feed held Feb. 28 at the West Sacramento Civic Center Galleria. West Sacramento Mayor Christopher Cabaldon hosted the event, and thanked the organizers, the sponsors, all those who attended for helping to raise funds for needed HIV/AIDS charities and services, and especially to all the volunteers who kept that crab coming and helped raise over \$22,000! See more photos and download them for free at OutwordOutAbout.shutterfly.com.



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The Ultimate Must-see Must-experience Dinah Ever

A quarter-century ago, Mariah Hanson did more than just kick-start her Dinah, she also, and most importantly, launched what would become her enduring legacy to both the city of Palm Springs and the LGBT community.

That's right, the legendary Club Skirts Dinah Shore Weekend is turning twenty-five and taking the event to a new zenith April 1-5.

From a small, one-night event at a Palm Springs museum with 1,500 participants twenty-five years ago, to booking lavish locations at deluxe hotels over five days of epic pool parties and world-class entertainment, The Dinah has evolved into one of Palm Springs' and the Coachella Valley's largest tourism boosters.

Today, Club Skirts Dinah Shore Weekend rallies some 15,000-plus attendees not to mention major corporate sponsors, and has cemented its status as the undisputed biggest lesbian event of its kind in the world.

A cultural phenomenon that has not only reached epic proportions but has as well continuously been transforming lives and making a difference in and for the LGBT community, The Dinah offers an unparalleled one-of-a-kind experience for myriads of women who come every year from all over the world to enjoy the freedom to be who they truly are, and gain, as well, a tremendous amount of self

worth.

And 2015 will be no different! Now ready to soar to new heights, the 25th installment of The Dinah is already expected to be one of the major highlights of the 2015 Palm Springs festival season.

The ultimate must-see, must-experience Dinah ever is once again delivering a spectacular slate of legendary headliners, rising pop stars and celebrities.

Pop sensation and 2015 Grammy nominee Meghan Trainor known for her infectious hit "All About that Bass" headlines The Dinah during the Black Party held Saturday, April 4 at the Palm Springs Convention Center.

Also set to top the bill at the epic lesbian party is international Billboard Top 40 superstar Christina Perri, the extraordinary voice behind the hits "Jar of Hearts" and "A Million Years" who headlines the White Party on Friday, April 3 at the Convention Center. Joining them are pop music's new "it" girls Bebe Rexha and Ivy Levan.

The Dinah 2015 will also be rocked with special performances by club diva Crystal Waters ("100% Pure Love", "Gypsy Woman"), disco legend Rose Royce ("Car

Wash"), and Holy Child, Olivia Sommerlyn, and E11even.

On the comedy front, "The Dinah Comedy Night" hosted by Suzanne

hottest girls in the world, the epic five-day world-renown weekend has it all.

"The Dinah has certifiably come to represent an ever-growing movement that



Photo by by Peter Szabadi

Westenhoefer will be headlined by Dana Goldberg, Gloria Bigelow and Dinah Leffert.

With non-stop action, the house-packed crazy wild pool parties, the sexiest go-go dancers, the best DJs, the spectacular entertainment, the celebrities, plus the

has crossed over to mainstream bringing more and more visibility to the lesbian community – one that had never existed before," Hanson said. "Club Skirts Dinah Shore Weekend is not just breaking grounds, it is making history!"

Get all the details at www.TheDinah.com.

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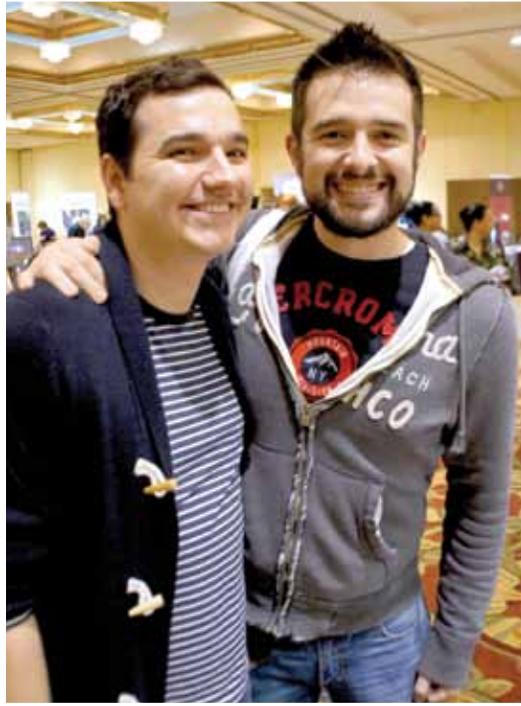
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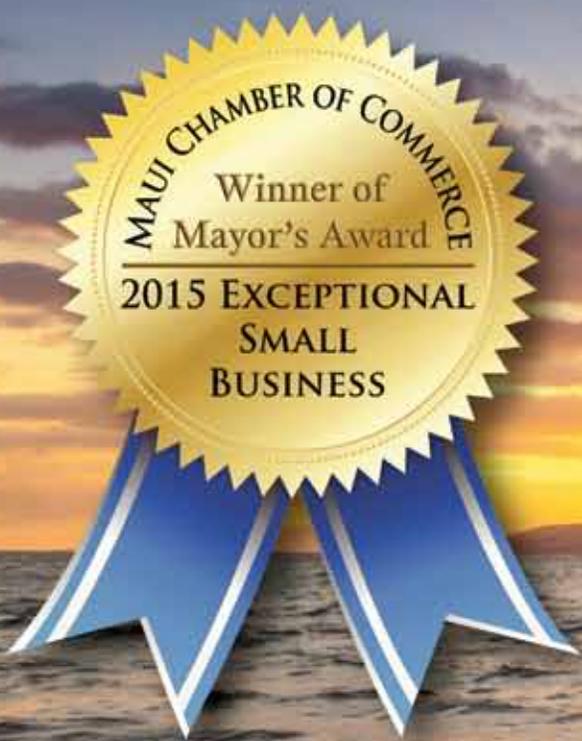
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Out & About

Love Was in the Air at the Third Annual LGBT Wedding Expo

The Third Annual LGBT Wedding Expo, co-produced by *Outword Magazine* and *Details Details*, was held on March 3 at the Red Lion Hotel Woodlake. Loving couples who were planning their weddings at the free event were treated to a fashion show featuring the gowns and formal wear of House of Fashion Bridal Salon and Tuxedo, and were able to talk with photography services, floral services, wedding planners, local restaurants, and wineries and breweries to help plan their special day. A portion of the proceeds from the expo went to benefit the Sacramento LGBT Community Center.





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It's Never too Early to Plan for a Winter Holiday in the Czech Republic

story and photos by Dr. Darrick Lawson & Dale Howard

This past Christmas and New Year season we travelled through Central Europe, and for the genuine winter experience – something Sacramento can't offer – the Czech Republic stands out.

After enjoying a nearly a week in a near-empty and mostly closed Budapest, our journey continued with a brief, but wonderful stop in Vienna, and then on to Cesky Krumlov, about five hours from Vienna by train.

As the snow got heavier, the trains got smaller, until finally we were on a one-car train with mostly locals. Cesky Krumlov is a town of barely 15,000 people, which became abundantly clear as we pulled our bags across snow covered train tracks to a waiting taxi and headed to the Hotel Ruze.

Even arriving at night, the town was one of the most beautiful that we've ever seen - especially in a snowstorm. It is situated in a nearly 360-degree bend of the Vltava River with hills on both sides.

Inside the bend is the main part of the old city with St. Vitus church capping the hill, and on the outer side of the river is the immensely imposing Krumlov Castle. The city gleams at night with excellent lighting, and even in heavy show with 10-degree weather, we immediately went out for an hour-long stroll.

As was our experience throughout the trip, even in this small community the Christmas

market was open with offerings of hot wine, Grogg, grilled sausages, and - our personal favorite, chimney cake, which is freshly made dough that is wrapped around what looks like a rolling pin, slathered with butter and then roasted on a spit over hot coals. The end result is something close to heaven with a hole in the middle.

The sites in the town are few, as it's the town that is the main attraction – followed



Darrick and Dale enjoying the falling snow in Prague.

closely by the food and the people, but it is a must see if you are within striking distance.

From there, we made our second visit to Prague and the Alchymist Nosticova Hotel,

Prague Castle, St. Vitus Cathedral, the Charles Bridge, and many others, but we opted to stop at some less visited sites on this visit. The highlight was a visit to the Jewish Quarter – one of the best-preserved



The town square in Cesky Krumlov

which is one of our favorites. Prague is a joy in any season, but if you can get there in a snowstorm, it is truly delightful.

The residents of Prague have adapted to the harsh winter and you can dine outdoors even in five degree weather. With heaters above and below the tables, and hot wine in your belly, there's no need to worry about the weather.

We returned to the prime sites, including

in Europe - with many synagogues, a fascinating cemetery, and a holocaust memorial to the more than 70,000 victims from the city.

In short, the Czech Republic will warm your heart even in the cold, and we hope to return.

Dr. Darrick Lawson and Dale Howard are Outword's favorite travel writers and can be reached at yellowdog04@hotmail.com.

Travel Alert Issued for LGBTQ Travelers to Georgia

GetEQUAL Georgia and Rise Up Georgia, both statewide grassroots social justice organization working toward the full equality of all LGBTQ Georgians, on March 5, issued a "travel advisory" to any LGBTQ person planning to travel to the state of Georgia.

The travel advisory comes as the Georgia General Assembly is moving forward with two companion bills – House Bill 218 and Senate Bill 129 – that would allow the state government, corporations, and privately-owned businesses to discriminate on the basis of their "strongly held religious beliefs."

The bill, though intended to target LGBTQ residents of the state, could potentially lead to

unsafe situations for a wide range of individuals, including women, children, religious minorities, communities of color, or anyone else who an individual might want to target for discrimination.

According to a statement released by the organizations, the bills will have wide-ranging negative consequences, which bill sponsors are trying to keep under wraps. In fact, the Senate

version of the bill was recently passed out of committee during a bathroom break, when all Democrats were out of the room, in order to have the votes necessary to move the bill forward.

As a result, GetEQUAL and Rise Up Georgia are advising all travelers, especially LGBTQ travelers, to avoid traveling to the state if at all possible. Georgia is the corporate headquarters of Fortune 500 companies like Delta Airlines, Home Depot and Coca Cola and while these companies came out in opposition to a similar bill last legislative session, they have not publicly expressed opposition to the bill this year.

"Georgia should be about supporting

families but, instead, this bill targets families like mine," said Nelini Stamp, co-director of Rise Up Georgia. "How can I expect my mothers to be safe when they visit Georgia if our state cements discrimination into law?"

Jessica Fisher, a Georgia native and lead organizer with GetEQUAL Georgia, said, "The problem with this bill has nothing to do with religious freedom – that's covered, assured, and protected in the First Amendment. The problem is lawmakers who wish to use their religion as a means for justifying discrimination against large communities of people – women, people of color, immigrants, and the LGBTQ community. A more honest name for this bill would be the Peach State Hate Act."

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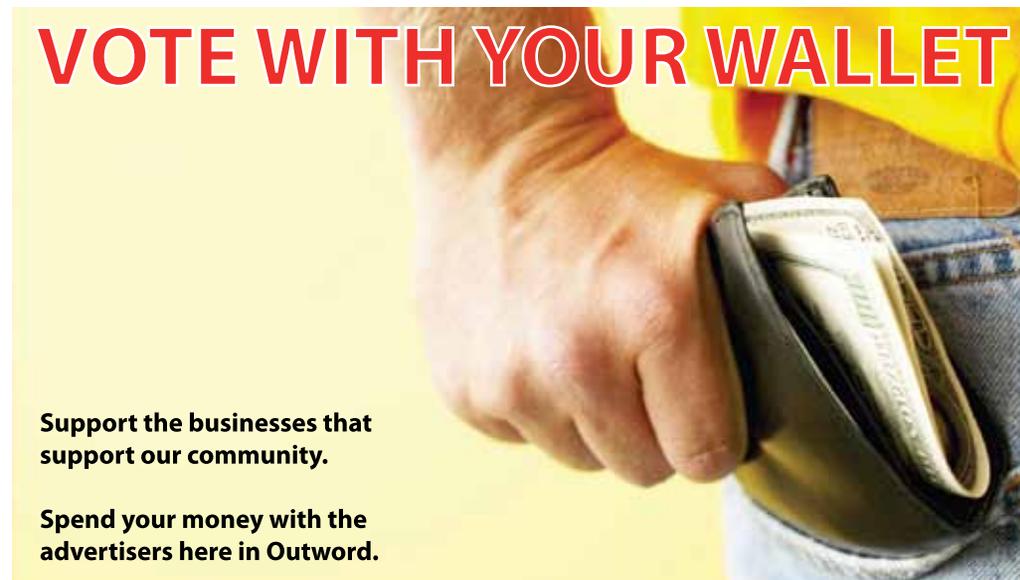


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TRAVELING

Le Rêve and Showstoppers Are Must-See Vegas Shows

by Fred Palmer

My fiancé and I were able to get away for a four-day weekend to Las Vegas not long ago, and since we had not been there in some time, we made the most of the trip! While in Vegas we caught two fantastic shows, at the Wynn.

Here's how it went.

Le Rêve - The Dream

First we hit *Le Rêve - The Dream*, which has been playing at the Wynn since 2005. This is truly one of the best shows that I have ever had the pleasure to experience. It is a mix of thrilling acrobatics, dancing, high dive and synchronized swimmers. There is a constant parade of more than 90 athletes and about 86 of them are hot guys shirtless and wet, need I say more?

The theater is set up so that there is no bad seat in the house. The lower seats are in the splash zone and there is also a VIP indulgence experience for a bit more that includes plush seats, a bottle of Champagne and chocolate truffles.

This show has been voted Best Production in Las Vegas for several years in a row and once you see it, you'll see why.

The main character is a captivating, gorgeous woman in a little red dress that falls into a dream state and experiences "life." Life, in her dream includes many moving objects, massive trees rising out of the water with acrobats flying off of it, comedy characters performing magic, lots of sounds and lights.

Oh, and did I mention the 86 ridiculous well built hot guys that seem to continually

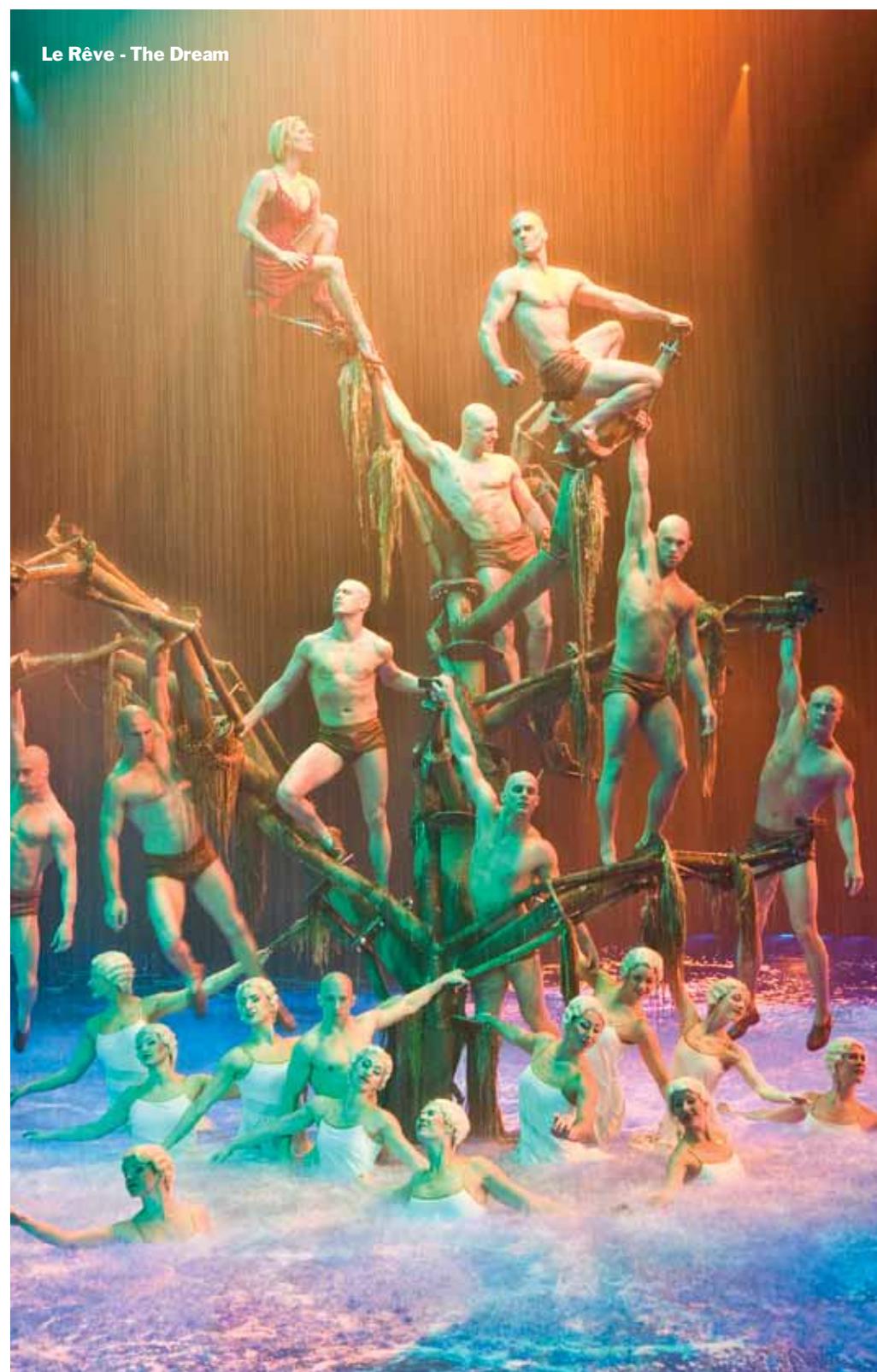
jump out of the sky into the water? Plus the women are not bad either as they too do acrobats above the water stage, Tango dance and even do an underwater synchronized swim act, in red high heels. The women who is having the dream that is *Le Rêve*, is having quite a great time in her dream.

Everywhere you look, at every moment, there are cast members coming into the theater from above and below, in and out of the water, appearing disappearing and reappearing.

Over the years the producers have made some tweaks to the show and most recently they added a \$3 million sequence involving fire and water shooters. The newly added four-minute sequence comes just before the show's existing finale. Audiences will see 16 fire shooters as well as water cannons firing more than 100 feet into the air. It was a spectacular show, and well worth the somewhat lofty price of admission.

Ticket prices are \$105 (Splash Zone), \$134 (Premium Seating), \$159 (Dream Seating) and \$195 (VIP Indulgence Package), plus service charge and tax. Le Rêve - The Dream performs Friday - Tuesday at 7 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.

For more information please visit www.wynnlasvegas.com or call 702-770-WYNN.



Showstoppers,

Next up was *Showstoppers*, also at the Wynn.

Take 66 singers and a full 31 piece orchestra performing a collection of over 20 songs from a variety of Broadway hits and what do you get? *Showstoppers*, of course! Recently opened, in December of 2014, this new show is sure to please also.

Voted Best New Show in Las Vegas, Steve Wynn's *Showstoppers* is a big hit.

"In the 45 years I've been doing this, I've never felt as proud or as satisfied with any project I've ever been involved with as much I am with this one," said Steve Wynn, chairman and CEO of Wynn Resorts. "I was beginning to miss the magic and delicious joy of watching gifted artists perform with great music, and so I hope the public loves the show as much as I do."

The inspiration for the show was when Wynn created a birthday present performance for his wife that resulted in what is now this amazing show.

Each act is filled with fantastic costumes and musical numbers from many

memorable classic Broadway shows. The hosts of the show come on stage and talk about their experiences in Broadway shows as they take you into each act with energy and talent.

As the curtain goes up on each act you enjoy fantastic sets from *Chicago*, *A Chorus Line*, *Cabaret* and more. The production value of this show is incredible and there is never a dull moment, as they go from one act to another!

Ticket prices are \$100, \$125 and \$150 plus Live Entertainment Tax (LET) and can be purchased through the Wynn ticket office, by calling 702-770-9966 or visiting www.wynnlasvegas.com. Groups of 10 or more receive 10 percent off show tickets and can be reserved by calling 702-770-3724 or emailing small.groups@wynnlasvegas.com.

Showstoppers performs Tuesday through Saturday at 7:30 p.m. with a second performance at 10 p.m. on Friday. No performances on Sunday and Monday. All guests must be five or older; children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult.



Showstoppers



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TRAVELING

When in Vegas, Tour the Grand Canyon by Helicopter *by A. Fred Palmer*

Last summer I went on an Alaskan cruise and one of the highlights of my trip was supposed to be a helicopter ride to the top of a glacier, unfortunately due to weather, it was cancelled. So when I had the opportunity to do a helicopter ride over the Grand Canyon and Hoover Dam, I jumped on it!

One of the most exciting ways to see the Grand Canyon and Hoover Dam is by air and of course by helicopter. The views are breathtaking, while you fly over the area you can see millions of years of work as the Colorado River



carved out the great canyon. The geological formations and layers upon layers of history are awe-inspiring.

There are several companies to choose from and you can do a helicopter, or a plane ride that includes the Grand Canyon, Hoover Dam, and some of the helicopter rides include a landing and a champagne picnic at the bottom of the Grand Canyon, too.

We did some research and chose a company called Papillion, which in French means butterfly. It has a great safety record and is one of the longest in operation, since 1965. We booked well in advance, which I highly recommend, as tours can sell out. Papillion has a fleet of 48 aircraft and offers a variety of more than 40 exhilarating tours. Of course the prices vary, and you can choose a tour duration of 45 minutes to several hours, depending on the package.

Our trip started very early in the morning, with a pick up directly at our hotel. It was great to have Papillion staff pick us up so we did not have to worry about getting in our rental car and finding exactly

where we were to go, especially since we were up late playing in the Vegas strip.

It was a short ride out to the airport in Boulder City and to the helicopter field, where we were checked-in quickly and effortlessly. First we watched a short safety video and then were taken out to meet the pilot.

The pilot was knowledgeable and gave us an overview of expectations, plus the upcoming highlights we could expect to see. It

the window. The view from the front of the copter was spectacular!

The Helicopter has three seats in the front, one of them for the pilot of course and four seats in the back. Request the front seat for an added bonus and you will have a bit more privacy and that wonderful, unobstructed view. The extra cost of \$50 is very worth it. However, they will have to approve your request, and it may not be available to everyone, based on your weight, I am told.



certainly didn't hurt that the pilot was cute too!

Each of us was fitted with a headset and microphone so we could not only hear the pilot talk about and point out highlight, but also so that we could ask questions of the pilot.

First we flew over the Hoover Dam and the lake while the pilot informed us of some history of the area, including of course, some drought statistics.

I was fortunate enough to get a seat in the very front of the helicopter, and from there the windows provided a nearly 180 degree field of view and unobstructed sights. I obviously took tons of pictures as well as video and even took a few photos of my feet, which looked like they were dangling in the cockpit over

At one point I actually forgot that there were people in the seat behind us until someone handed me their camera to take a picture from the front seat. The view from the entire helicopter was amazing and it truly is one of those experiences that you just cannot describe in words or share with photos. This is something that needs to be on everyone's bucket list!

No matter what you select you will be very happy that you made this part of your Las Vegas vacation, take a morning to get away from the strip and do something you will remember for the rest of your life.

Papillion tours can be booked on line at www.papillon.com or with their friendly staff toll free at 888-635-7272 or 702-736-7243 local.

Let KÀ Guide You to Your Spiritual Duplicate

by Fred Palmer

KÀ, the resident show at the MGM Grand, is an unbelievable experience, and even as you enter the theater you begin to become a part of the show.



Cirque Du Soleil's KÀ

In each corner of the theater are huge metal structures with characters appearing and swinging into the audience, while other characters are in the theater crouching on top of seats yelling at each other in a strange language. You immediately notice the costumes as the characters come to life.

The stage itself is also incredible. It is built to rotate and move 360 degrees and, at times, you actually forget that it is a stage at all, as it transforms into a cliff, a boat and a beach. It is in constant change as the rest of the show captures, and holds, your attention. The stage also displays an incredible video projection that reacts to the artists touch while they perform acrobatics.

The show's title, KÀ, is inspired by the ancient Egyptian belief in the "ka," an invisible spiritual duplicate of the body that accompanies every human being throughout this life and into the next.

KÀ is one of the only Cirque Du Soleil shows that has a discernible storyline. An entire journey of an empire unfolds as two twins are separated from their tribe.

Eighty-six artists from around the world,

defy gravity with a blend of acrobatics, martial arts, and even puppetry. As with all Cirque Du Soleil shows, the lights, the music and the costumes are one of a kind and part of the experience.

One of my favorite parts of the show, other than the acrobats on the moving stage, is when one of the twins and her nursemaid are on a beach and giant, bright sea-creature puppets come to life.

The storyline is fun and exhilarating as each of the twins encounters a coming of age as they learn about their life, and the lives of others. As the story unfolds, they each face life's battles with their other tribe members.

KÀ performs at 7 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays, and is dark on Sundays and Mondays.

To reserve tickets call 866-774-7117 or 702-531-2000, or go to www.ka.com or www.mgmgrand.com.

Tickets are: Adults: \$69, \$99, \$125, \$150 (plus tax); Children (ages 5-12): \$34.50, \$49.50, \$62.50, \$75 (plus tax). Tickets are available 120 days in advance of the performance date.

Kiss All the Bullies Goodbye



Pop recording artist and philanthropist Sir Ivan has released a new single titled "Kiss All the Bullies Goodbye." The track features vocals by chart-topping singer Taylor Dayne and lyrics that condemn bullying and encourage people to be different and tolerant. To watch the "Kiss All the Bullies Goodbye" video, go to www.youtube.com/watch?v=jz-7LfMHyZM.

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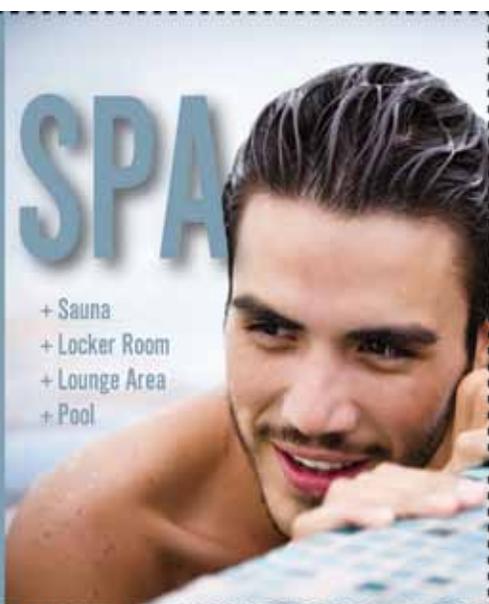
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Madonna, Ricky Martin & Jimmy Somerville CD Reviews Of Three Gay-Friendly Artists

by Chris Narloch

Queer music kicks into first gear this month with three high profile CD releases, from Jimmy Somerville, Ricky Martin and Madonna.

Madonna – *Rebel Heart*

They can leak her music, but they can't keep a bad girl down.

The Material Girl returns with her strongest set in years on *Rebel Heart*, whose deluxe, explicit version features 19 new songs plus a second disc with six more tracks.

(That's a lot of Madonna for your money, and that is the version of the CD I am reviewing here.)

Madge may have tumbled during a recent live show, but her disc gets off to a smooth start with the catchy dance single, "Living For Love."

Other hypnotic, synth-based highlights include "Wash All Over Me," "Inside Out" and "Illuminati." I also enjoyed the one-two punch of "Iconic" and "Heartbreak City," back-to-back stunners that are probably my favorite cuts on the album.

Where the record goes wrong, as is often the case with

CD, the continued artistic relevance of her new music came in to question.

But with Lady G temporarily moving on from dance music to jazz (with Tony Bennett) and Broadway show tunes (at the Oscars), Madonna has once again timed her disco queen comeback at the perfect moment.

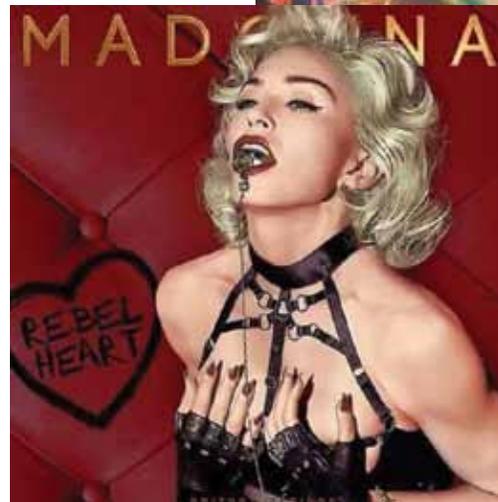
With *Rebel Heart*, she slides back into her throne with mixed, but mostly positive results.

Jimmy Somerville – *Homage*

The original lead singer of the all-gay group "Bronski Beat" and a successful solo artist in his own right, Jimmy Somerville keeps the disco fires burning on his new CD.

Appropriately titled *Homage*, this tribute to dance music was produced by John Winfield and features 12 new tracks.

Somerville cruises through songs such as "Freak" and "Travesty" on autopilot, but on standout cuts like "Lights are Shining" and "Overload," he



takes fans right back to the days of polyester pants and poppers.

Ricky Martin – *A Quien Quiera Escuchar*

Since I don't speak Spanish, I didn't really understand a word of Ricky Martin's new Latin disc, but as a very handsome, gay, Puerto Rican man he never fails to speak my language.

Love songs and lots of 'em. That much I understood from Mr. Martin, whose seductive vocal style is very much intact on this, his tenth solo album and his first since 2011.

The regular version has 10 songs, and there is also a deluxe version with another three tracks.

On the cover, the singer's lips are parted, and Martin's shirt is open to show off his hairy chest. I don't care whether he sings in English, Spanish or Martian – this guy speaks the language of love.

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Dame Edna Hangs Up Her Wig on Farewell Tour

by Chris Narloch

If you've never had the Dame Edna experience, this month may be your last chance, as Dame (aka Barry Humphries) is capping 50 years of bravura showmanship with a celebratory series of shows in San Francisco this month, as part of her side-splitting, historic final tour.



Dame Edna

Dame Edna's Glorious Goodbye - The Farewell Tour gives fans the chance to bid adieu to the incomparable Dame Edna, a purple-rinsed Melbourne "housewife" and one of Australia's greatest entertainment exports.

Surrounded by spectacular sets and dancers, Dame Edna keeps her audience enthralled with sparkling wit, mischievous wisdom and razor-sharp banter.

Her not-to-be-missed *Farewell Tour* plays March 17 - 22 at the SHN Orpheum Theatre.

For details, please visit the official *Farewell Tour* website: www.dameednafarewell.com. For ticket information, go to www.shnsf.com.

Beatles Multi-Media Tribute *Rain* Features Songs not Previously Performed Live - Even by the Beatles!



Rain: A Tribute To The Beatles is a live multi-media spectacular that takes you on a musical journey through the life and times of the world's most celebrated band, delivering the hits "I Want To Hold Your Hand," "Hard Day's Night," "Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band," "Let It Be," "Come Together," "Hey Jude" and more. Presented by Broadway Sacramento at the Sacramento Community Center Theater for a limited engagement, eight shows only, from March 17 - 22. Visit BroadwaySacramento.com.

Eric Orner's Now *Completely Unfabulous Social Life*



The Mostly Unfabulous Social Life of Ethan Green, Eric Orner's groundbreaking comic strip debuted in 1990, and now, for the first time, every subversive, laugh-out-loud funny, and occasionally surreal episode from the gay everyman's 15 years in print is in one deluxe collection. Available at northwestpress.com/shop/the-completely-unfabulous-social-life-of-ethan-green/.

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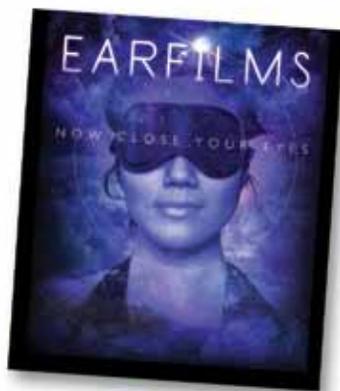
Best known for a film career that includes *A Room with a View*, Sands was "apprenticed" early in his career by Nobel Prize-winning playwright and poet Harold Pinter. This extraordinary collaboration became the foundation for this rich, humorous solo show, a celebration that brings Pinter—the man—to life through a half century of his poetry and prose.

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Into The Woods & Kiss Me Kate Arrive on DVD

by Chris Narloch

Since there is a month for almost everything these days, I am christening March “Movie Musicals Month,” as several high-profile Hollywood musicals are being released on DVD, including *Kiss Me Kate in 3D* and *Into The Woods*.

Into The Woods

Sondheim fans were split on the merits of Disney’s big-screen version of the composer’s famous fractured fairytale musical, but I was pleasantly surprised by Rob Marshall’s lavish, all-star movie.

To start with, you couldn’t ask for a better cast than the one assembled: Meryl Streep was deservedly Oscar-nominated for her show-stopping turn as the Witch, Johnny Depp nailed his big number as the Wolf, and everyone from famous faces like Chris Pine, Emily Blunt, and Anna Kendrick to unknowns such as Lilla Crawford (*Red Riding Hood*) and Daniel Huttlestone (*Beanstalk Jack*) did excellent work in the film.

Into The Woods is based on a Tony-winning musical in which Cinderella, Little Red Riding Hood, Jack, and Rapunzel find their fates intertwined with a humble baker and his wife whose longing to have a child sends them on a quest to reverse a witch’s curse.

Among the bonus features, Meryl Streep performs a compelling new song that was cut from the film before its theatrical release this past Christmas.

That never-before-heard composition, entitled “She’ll Be Back,” was penned especially for the movie by Stephen Sondheim and James Lapine, and is included on the movie’s Blu-ray combo pack, available March 24.



Billy Magnussen and Chris Pine star in *Into The Woods*



Lilla Crawford and Johnny Depp star in *Into The Woods*

Kiss Me Kate 3D

Kiss Me Kate, one of the jewels in the Warner Bros. film library, joins the previously released *Dial M For Murder* and *House of Wax* as the third restoration by the famed studio of films originally shot in 3D.

Viewers can now experience the 1953 movie version of Cole Porter’s classic musical starring Howard Keel, Ann Miller and Kathryn Grayson exactly the way it was seen in its 3D release in theatres 62 years ago.

Kiss Me Kate is part of Warner Bros. Home Entertainment’s Blu-ray Musicals Collection, which also contains a 2D version of *Kiss Me Kate*, and *Singin’ in the Rain*, along with *The Band Wagon* and *Calamity Jane*, both making their Blu-ray debuts.

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Mexican Folk Tales & Italian Opera On Local Stages

by Chris Narloch

Both California Stage and B Street Theatre are taking on premieres with their current shows, so check out one or more of these eclectic theatrical offerings now playing.

Italian Opera

California Stage launches the West Coast premiere of its zany send-up *Italian Opera*, featuring some of Sacramento's best comic talent, including Michael RJ Campbell and Janet Motenko. No opera composer is safe in this zany musical romp.

Local playwright Leslie Lewinter-Suskind's wacky lampoon roasts the art of opera, the business and everything in-between. The operetta sets desperate housewife Lucrezia

(Katherine Cooper) opposite shameless philanderer Nemorino (Michael RJ Campbell) in a plot to drag Lucrezia's inattentive husband Mario (Jonathan Blum) back into bed.

But when the suspicions of Nemorino's simpering spouse Vestalina (Naomi Wilson) are aroused, helped in no small part by the wily maid Zerbinetta (Janet Motenko), chaos ensues.

Italian Opera plays through March 22 at the California Stage Theater R25 Arts Complex in Midtown Sacramento. Please visit www.calstage.org.

B Street Theatre

First up at B Street is *Dia De Los Cuentos*, a world premiere play for the whole family written by Buck Busfield, Jerry R. Montoya and David Pierini.

Four classic folk tales – by turns funny, touching and sometimes spooky – are brought to life with music and dance in a celebration of California's Hispanic heritage.

Dia De Los Cuentos plays through March 29. Children's tickets are only \$15, and this show is recommended for ages 5 and up.

Next up at B Street is the West Coast premiere of *Oblivion* by Carly Mensch, who is best known for her writing on the hit television show, *Weeds*.



Dia De Los Cuentos

Oblivion takes a comedic look at the nature of belief and the importance of human connection with a moving story about faith and family in the 21st century.

Pam and Dixon are two uber-hip Brooklynites who have chosen a more agnostic approach to parenting. However, the

tables turn when their 17-year-old daughter, Julie, decides to become a Christian and their open-minded facade comes crashing down.

Oblivion plays through April 19. For more information about both shows, please visit www.bstreettheatre.org.

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Out & About

Drag Queen Bingo Raises \$966 for the Lavender Library

We had another great night of Drag Queen Bingo on March 5 at Mangos, and thanks to Rusty Nails and all you wonderful bingo players, we raised \$966 for the Lavender Library and Cultural Exchange. We have now raised over \$95,691 for local charities and non-profits. We're taking our show on the road, and the next DQB will be at the G Street Wunderbar, 228 G St. in Davis to support Davis Pride. But don't worry, we will be back at Mangos in April! see more photos and download them for free at OutwordOutAbout.shutterfly.com



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Chappie, Cinderella & Josephine Baker on the Big Screen

by Chris Narloch

In February, both Kevin Costner and Julianne Moore had two films in theaters simultaneously. This month, it's Dev Patel's turn to go head to head with himself at the multiplex, and his dueling movies, *Chappie* and *The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel*, are very different experiences indeed.

The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel

Another sequel to a movie that in no way needed a sequel, this thin and forgettable film is noteworthy only as a showcase for a group of mature stars who also happen to be some of the finest actors in the business.

It's so rare to find a movie with this many great older performers in it that I hate to be too unkind to the film, but I do feel that the likes of Judi Dench, Bill Nighy, Richard Gere, and Maggie Smith (!) deserve better than the warmed-over shenanigans in *The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel*.

Dev Patel runs around like crazy trying to keep the hotel (and the movie) afloat, but he can't make up for the fact that the most interesting character from the first film, a gay man played by Tom Wilkinson, is missing in action after kicking the bucket in the original movie. As it turns out, Wilkinson was the lucky one.

Chappie

I remain a Neill Blomkamp fan, even after sitting through this loud, misguided and failed attempt at recreating the magic that was Blomkamp's *District 9*, a far superior example of a sci-fi/action movie with a conscience.

This time out, the very talented Sharlto Copley plays the titular hero, the first robot that can think and feel. Chappie becomes the subject of a tug-of-war between his creator (Dev Patel), who wants to teach him to paint and write poetry, and a trio of criminals who want to use him for their own nefarious purposes.



Dev Patel and Hugh Jackman star in *Chappie*

To begin with, there are way too many villains in this film – including cardboard characters played by Sigourney Weaver and Hugh Jackman and two rival sets of gangs – and they all get too much screen time.

If the film had really been about the relationship between Patel's character and Chappie, Blomkamp might have had something. As it is, the movie climaxes with a heavy-handed, noisy and violent battle between 'bots that had me thinking I was watching one of Michael Bay's god-awful *Transformers* films.

Cinderella

I wasn't able to preview it before our

deadline, but the new big-screen version of this famous fairy tale has a promising pedigree, including direction by Kenneth Branagh and a star turn by Cate Blanchett as the evil stepmother.

The Disney production also looks like a

princess and pose for photos in front of a Cinderella backdrop.

Tickets are available for purchase at the theatre box office or online at www.imax.com/sacramento.

Zouzou at the Crocker

Elsewhere in Midtown Sacramento, the Crocker Art Museum will present a very rare screening of *Zouzou*, a classic film from 1934 starring the late, great Josephine Baker, on Sunday, Mar 22, from 2 – 4 p.m.

Baker plays a young woman who attempts to help her childhood love prove his innocence after he's accused of murder, in the first major motion picture to star an African American woman.

Zouzou is being shown in conjunction with the exhibition *Toulouse-Lautrec and La Vie Moderne: Paris 1880 – 1910*, on view February 1 through April 26. The movie will be introduced by film critic/historian extraordinaire Matias Bombal.

Visit www.crockerartmuseum.org.

Led Zeppelin on movie screens

The magic and excitement of one of the world's greatest rock bands comes to select cinemas for a special one-night event as Fathom Events' "Classic Music Series" continues with *Led Zeppelin* on Monday, March 30 at 7:30 p.m.

Featuring vintage footage spanning the legendary band's entire career, *Led Zeppelin* will give fans a larger-than-life concert experience featuring songs from their celebrated catalog, including "Whole Lotta Love," "Rock And Roll," "Kashmir," "Stairway to Heaven" and many more.

For more information about this and other Fathom Events, including the 30th Anniversary Celebration of the Brat Pack classic *The Breakfast Club*, please visit www.fathomevents.com.

Why Am I Only Attracted to Younger Guys?

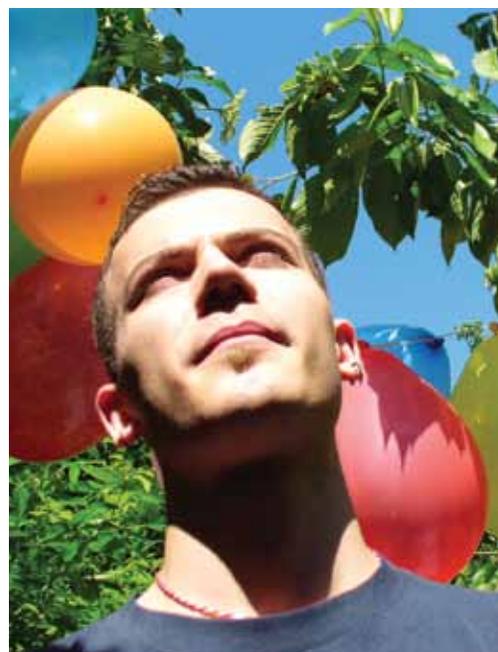
by Tom Moon, MFT, *The Examined Life*

I recently received this question: "I'm a 42 year old man who's never had a relationship that's lasted longer than a few months. That's because I'm only attracted to really good-looking, muscular guys in their early twenties.

"Could a sex therapist help me understand why I only like younger guys and make me start to be more attracted to guys closer to my own age so that I'd have a better chance of finding a partner?"

My answer to him was that in my experience, fundamental sexual turn-ons usually don't change much once they're established. They sometimes evolve over time, but that's an organic process that happens by itself. It won't happen because you make a "rational" decision that it would be more convenient if you liked something different.

Therapy doesn't have much effect on your turn-ons: learning "why" may increase self-understanding but is unlikely to change the sexual attractions themselves. Most of the therapists I know would probably encourage you to work toward acceptance of your sexuality as it is and focus on how to make it work for you, rather than try to change it. If young guys float your boat, you're probably always going to be



attracted to youthfulness.

I don't share your pessimism about the possibility of finding a younger partner. I know a number of couples who have been together for some years, with age differences ranging from 19 to 25 years, and as far as I can tell, these relationships are doing well.

While most gay men do want to connect with people in their own age group, a minority has always been interested in men who are older or younger, and it just isn't true that these relationships can't work. And while many young men (and lots of older ones, too, by the way) aren't interested in settling down with one guy, it's untrue and ageist to assume that they all feel that way.

Maybe your real obstacle is something else. Do you actually want a relationship? When you say that you aren't interested unless someone is a 10 do you mean that your idea of a relationship is hot sex for the rest of your life with some who is perfect? That's a great fantasy, but it's never going to happen. For one thing, your perfect 10 will inevitably get older. Even while he's young you'll wake up with him some rainy Tuesday morning when you're both in a bad mood, and he just won't look like the fantasy lover of your dreams.

If you do want to find a real relationship you'll need maturity, flexibility and realism in your

approach. What if you meet someone who's older than you prefer, but looks youthful, or has youthful energy? What will you do if you meet someone who is "only" a 6 or a 7 but is also loving, relationship-oriented and interested in you? Will you reject him out of hand?

Finally, is sexual attraction the only criterion that matters to you in considering a potential partner? Unless you go beyond merely being dazzled by good looks you're likely to keep just having brief sexual flings, and the reason won't be the shallowness of your partners but your own lack of depth.

How much do you value qualities like loyalty, honesty, kindness, respect, affection and generosity of spirit? These are some of the character traits that keep a relationship going past the initial sizzle phase.

You'll probably have more luck if you notice these qualities in men as much as you notice their bodies; and if you value them enough to seek to develop them in yourself.

Tom Moon, MFT, is a writer and a licensed psychotherapist in private practice in San Francisco for over 30 years. He can be reached at 415-626-1346, examlife@aol.com or tommoon.net or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/TomMoonMFT.

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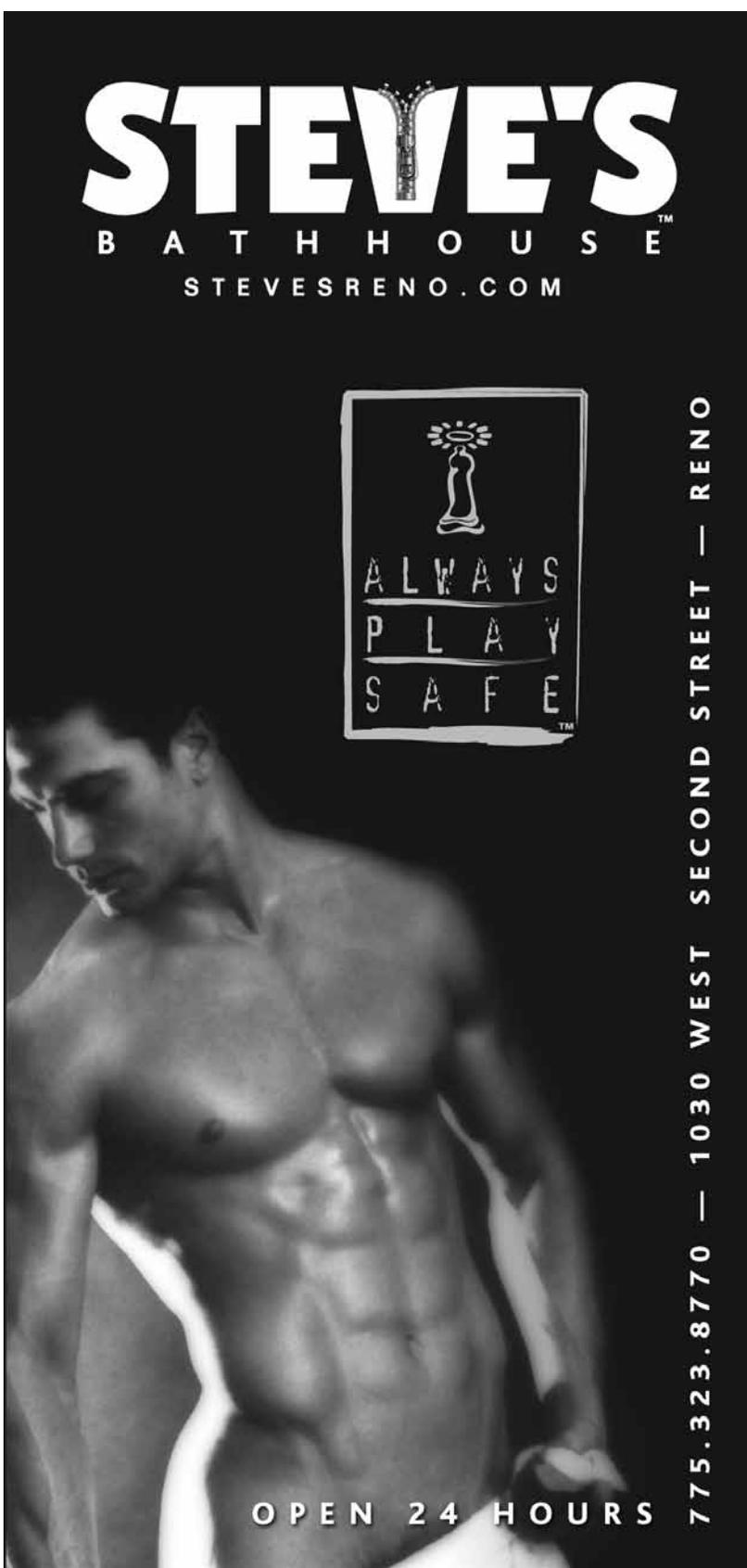
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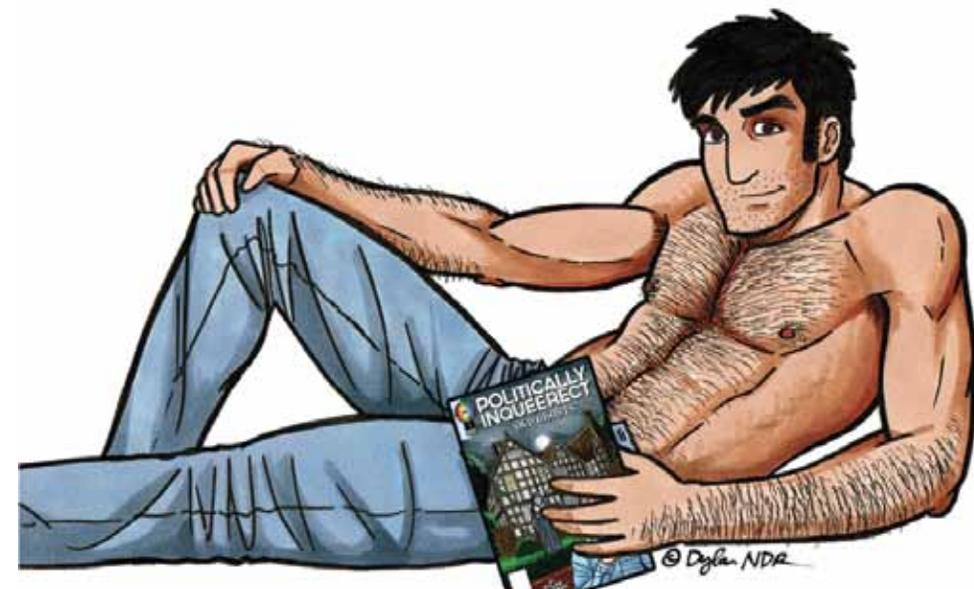


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