



outword

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Holiday
SHOPPING GUIDE

page 16

**Activities Planned
for World AIDS Day**

page 4

**Open Your Mind
and Heart**

page 14

**Casual Games for
the Closet Gamer**

page 18

**Pink Martini Pours
Holiday Cheer**

page 20

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Activities Planned for World AIDS Day 2015

World AIDS Day is held on the 1st of December each year and is an opportunity for people worldwide to unite in the fight against HIV, show their support for people living with HIV and to commemorate people who have died from AIDS.



Cares Community Health staff and volunteers passing out red ribbons.

Here in Sacramento, over a dozen community organizations are collaborating to provide a diverse and inclusive event to commemorate the day.

"With guest speakers, light refreshments, and our great community, we plan to have an evening that will continue the fight to end stigma, increase education, and empower the people in our community LIVING with HIV/AIDS," said Charis Packey, the Peer Health Advocate for the Sacramento LGBT Community Center who is coordinating many of the events.

The commemoration begins with a Candle Light Vigil starting at 5:30 p.m., at the Clunie Community Center in McKinley Park, 601 Alhambra St.

Following the vigil, a ceremony will be held inside the Clunie Center, with guest speakers West Sacramento mayor Christopher Cabaldon; Dr. Olivia Kasirye; long-term survivor and community activist Arturo C. Jackson III; and affected youth Alexis Gilbert and Nicholaus Johnson. Rob Stewart, KVIE's rob on the Road, will emcee the ceremony which will run from 6 to 8 p.m.

Additional events hosted by Cares Community Health include:

Passing Out Red Ribbons

On November 30th (4 - 6 p.m.) and the

morning of December 1st (7 -9 a.m.) Cares Community Health staff and volunteers will be promoting World AIDS Day and passing out red ribbons on the corners of 21st & P and 21st & N Street. There will also be a bowl in the Cares reception area with red ribbons for people to come pick up on Nov 30 & Dec 1.

Turning Facebook, Twitter & Instagram Red

To promote World AIDS Day and HIV/AIDS awareness, Cares Community Health will be launching a campaign to have users of Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram red for the week of World AIDS Day. Starting November 27, check out Cares' profiles on the following sites for instructions:

Facebook: facebook.com/carescommunityhealth

Twitter: twitter.com/carescommhealth

Instagram: instagram.com/carescommunityhealth

World Aids Day Memorial Tree

Cares Community Health will have a lighted birch tree in the main lobby for people to hang a red ribbon on as well as write the name of a loved one that they've lost to HIV/AIDS on a tag they can also hang on the tree. The tree will stay up for the month of December. In 2014, there were over 500 tags and ribbons placed on the tree.

For more information, visit www.SacWorldAIDSDay.org.

Coming Out with a Little Help from Your Friends



A hilarious mash-up of man-child and coming-out comedies, **4th Man Out** examines a small-town, blue-collar guy who lets his friends know he's gay - and what happens when they try to help him find a boyfriend. The film will hit VOD and Theaters on February 5, www.gravitasventures.com.

Four Steps on the Path to Ending HIV in Sacramento

by Janet Parker-Seychelles

We can end HIV. We can do it in Sacramento and around the world. In the past this has been a wish or dream, but now it is real. We can end new cases of HIV.

Cares Community Health, partnering with a group of health and social service providers, is determined to make that a reality in the Sacramento area. They are joining with cities like New York, San Francisco, Denver and others in stating a commitment to end HIV.

Some cities have set specific milestones for their programs. These milestones include having 90 percent of those with HIV know their status, 90 percent of those who know they are HIV+ in treatment and 90 percent of those in treatment having their viral load suppressed – all by 2020. We at Cares embrace those goals as well.

There are four steps that are needed to end HIV.

1. Widespread use of PrEP. PrEP is the use of HIV medications for people who do not have HIV to prevent them from getting HIV. This is known as pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP). It has been proven to be an extremely effective way to reduce the likelihood of HIV transmission, and is most effective when combined with other prevention efforts, including using condoms and counseling. Many insurance plans and Medi-Cal will cover the cost of PrEP medications.

2. Use of PEP. Post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) is an effective method of preventing HIV infection after a possible exposure from a known source. PEP therapy must begin within 72 hours after a risk event and typically consists of daily prescribed HIV medications for four weeks.

3. Keeping the HIV Virus under Control. We've known for several years that for those living with HIV, daily use of prescribed

medications makes it possible to manage the infection. HIV medications prevent HIV from dividing and spreading in the body and nearly eliminate the risk of transmitting the infection to another person. It is vitally important that people with HIV stay in medical care.

4. Testing – it is critical in ending HIV. It is important that people at risk of HIV infection get tested on a regular basis. Here is the recommended frequency:

- If you are gay, bisexual, or if you are a man who engages in sexual contact with other men, every three to six months.
- If you inject drugs, every three to six months.
- If you have unprotected vaginal or anal sex with multiple partners, every three to six months.
- If you do not find yourself in any of these categories, you are at decreased risk for HIV. The testing recommendation is once every year.

Free HIV testing is available throughout the Sacramento area. Cares Community Health offers HIV and STD testing free of charge. See www.carescommunityhealth.org for more information.

We can end HIV by using PrEP and PEP when needed, by keeping HIV+ people in medical care, by testing people at risk for HIV and by working to end the stigma of HIV infection.

Janet Parker-Seychelles is the Director of Strategy and Market Development at Cares Community Health. She can be reached at CaresCommunityHealth.org, where you can find additional information, and would like to remind you to visit CondomFinder.org.

Reception Held to Support Hansen Re-Election Bid



Eric Jensen and Ted Ross opened their home on November 12 to the community for a reception and fundraiser for Sacramento Councilmember Steve Hansen's re-election. Their house was where Hansen launched his 2012 campaign. Pictured are Hansen, Rosanna Herber, former President Pro Tem of the California Senate Darrell Steinberg and Dennis Mangers who attended the reception. Get involved at www.steve4sacramento.com.

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Making the Transition to a Forever Family

This article is a prospective father's experience as he and his husband adopt a child from foster care.

After settling on the decision to pursue adoption through the foster care system we spent a lot of time trying to grasp the various time-frames and requirements.



We seemed to mostly understand that after training we'd enter the home study phase where a Sierra Forever Families social worker would analyze every aspect of our lives and home. Afterwards we'd wait for the right child(ren) to come along and then they'd move in and we'd live happily ever after.

Life has a way of never being that simple. One part of the process we didn't give much thought to was the transition period of an older child from their current placement into a perspective foster-adoptive placement. In our minds this would happen overnight. Now here we are having just had our little guy finally move into our house and we're incredibly thankful for the transition period.

This boy was lucky enough to be in a temporary foster situation that was willing to be patient and see him through a positive transition. Though he wasn't the right fit for them, they care about his success and worked with his social worker to develop a month-long plan to slowly introduce him to life with us.

The first week involved a long trek up to his county of residence where we spent three days with him. It included lots of time at parks where his energy seemed to vastly outpace ours, and a lot of early dinners at restaurants before returning him home each evening.

Week two included the addition of him staying overnight in our hotel room. I didn't fathom how precious those quiet moments

of reading a book before bed would be while watching his little eyes get heavy with sleep.

Thankfully things continued to go well (not perfect, mind you, but still very positively). The weekly phone calls between social workers coordinating his services and needs continued. The third week involved a weekend at our house. This was a big test of how he would respond being away from everything he knows and how he'd integrate into our daily lives rather than feeling like we were on vacation.

By week four the transition plan was mostly in place, his belongings were set up in his new room at our house, his new school was ready and finally, after one final long trek, we were able to bring Him. Home.

Now I've come to see the transition period not as a hindrance to keep us from moving on with our lives but as a necessary step not only to help prepare his little heart to move into our home but also to help us process the tremendous amount of change that goes from being childless and free to putting his needs first.

The whole process really does work. Training. Home study. Matching. Connection. Transition. This gives me hope that the road ahead will continue to be worth it and this beautiful boy now sleeping in his bed will be with us. Forever.

For more information on adopting a child from foster care, contact Sierra Forever Families at 916-368-5114 or visit us online at sierraff.org.

RainbowPAC Endorses Councilmember Steve Hansen



The Rainbow Chamber of Commerce's Political Action Committee has endorsed Sacramento City Councilmember Steve Hansen for re-election in 2016. The non-partisan RainbowPAC works to endorse and support candidates who are both supportive of business-friendly policies and who embrace diversity and inclusion. Visit rainbowchamber.com/about-the-rainbowpac. Pictured are Michael Sestak, Paul Weubbe, Bonnie Osborn, Hansen, Diana Rogalski and Richard Hernandez.

Briefly Put

Rule Proposed to Protect Transgender People in Shelters

The Department of Housing and Urban Development has proposed an important rule requiring shelters to treat transgender people according to their gender identity in emergency shelters.

This rule updates HUD's Equal Access Rule from 2012, which prohibits federally-funded housing from discriminating against transgender, as well as lesbian, gay and bisexual, people. The new proposed rule requires sex-specific shelters to house transgender people according to their gender identity rather than their birth sex.

"Transgender people's lives are at risk all over the country today because shelters refuse to house them appropriately," said NCTE Deputy Executive Director Lisa Mottet. "This action by HUD advances a common-sense approach that has worked in many communities for over a decade."

Jim Obergefell Endorses Hillary Clinton

Jim Obergefell, the lead named plaintiff in the landmark marriage equality case that went before the U.S. Supreme Court, has endorsed Hillary Clinton citing her commitment to fighting discrimination in the LGBT community. On June 26, 2015, he prevailed and the Supreme Court ruled marriage equality a constitutional right.

"We have fought to not only change laws, but to change hearts, and now we need a President who will help us fight to eliminate the injustices that occur regularly in our community, and the best person to do that is Hillary Clinton," said Jim Obergefell. "Hillary is a proven leader who will not only ensure that states are implementing marriage equality, but will work to end discrimination in our community whether it's by passing the Equality Act or through state measures."

National LGBTQ Task Force Names New Trans/Gender Non-Confirming Justice Project Director

The National LGBTQ Task Force has announced that Victoria Rodriguez-Roldan has joined the organization as the new Trans/Gender Non-Confirming Justice Project Director.

"As a trans woman and as an activist who has spent much of my life dedicated to the rights of the trans community, I am honored to be joining the National LGBTQ Task Force. I look forward to helping achieve justice and equality for the trans and gender non-conforming community. I look forward to ensuring that the movement is a truly inclusive one to all trans people, such as trans women of color, gender non-binary people, trans people with disabilities, and others," said Victoria Rodriguez-Roldan.

Congress Forms New Transgender Equality Task Force

The Congressional LGBT Equality Caucus has announced the creation of the new Transgender Equality Task Force, to be chaired by Rep. Mike Honda (D-Silicon Valley).

The Task Force will work to develop legislation and other initiatives to ensure that transgender people have equal access and treatment under the law.

"This week, as we seek to raise awareness of the issues facing the trans community, it is important to renew our commitment to help trans individuals be free of the fear of violence or bullying just for being who they are," said Representative Honda.

Condoms in Porn Initiative Cleared for Nov. 2016 Election

Safer sex advocates affiliated with AIDS Healthcare Foundation (AHF), and the group, FAIR (For Adult Industry Responsibility), have announced that the office of California Secretary of State Alex Padilla has completed and cleared a random sample of voter signatures on The California Safer Sex in the Adult Film Industry Act.

The statewide ballot initiative would expand the power of Cal/OSHA and local California public health departments to enforce condom use on adult film sets throughout the state. The measure is intended to prevent thousands of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) that occur among performers each year in the industry and comes after nearly two dozen adult performers became HIV-infected while working in the industry between 2004 and 2014.

"We are extremely pleased to learn that Secretary of State Padilla has cleared the signatures on the California Safer Sex in the Adult Film Industry Act, our statewide ballot measure regulating condom use and safer sex practices in California's adult film industry," said Michael Weinstein, president of AIDS Healthcare Foundation and the citizen proponent of the state measure.

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Just Say No – To Bad Wine

by Diana Kienle

Travel and being on the road can be tedious at times. While many hotels do their best when it comes to wine, many fall short. It can be a real challenge to get a good glass of wine at the hotel bar.



Ordering wine by the glass in the restaurant can be frustrating as well. I have had some experiences that have taxed my taste buds.

Recently, I was staying at a hotel in Los Angeles, and their steakhouse had a Wine Spectator Award of Excellence. I was by myself and ordered a glass of wine off the wine list that touted a Washington wine from a very good vintage.

There was good crystal on the table. I was expecting a great glass. Upon arrival, the wine had no aromatics; the taste was flaccid

and bitter. This was unacceptable.

What do you do? You let the server know that the wine is bad and ask for a fresh glass – which I did. The server brought the new bottle – a vintage two years younger than indicated on the wine list – and opened it at the table.

Aha! There was some fruit in the wine, yet it was very tight. Well, at least there was flavor in the second glass.

Don't accept wine that has seen its prime – days before you got there. Ask the server how long the bottle has been open. Feel confident in sending back wine that's past its prime.

Be aware that wine lists – even those with Wine Spectator Awards of Excellence – are

not always representative of what they are pouring and you should inquire about the year.

Bottom line, if you don't like the wine because it's spoiled, don't accept it. It's your money, your palate, and your pleasure.

Another challenge on the road, besides wine that has been open too long, is the overly generous server. I had the occasion in another hotel to get the bonanza pour. The server only wanted to be of service and take good care of a customer, yet it was almost undrinkable.

As you can see in the picture, the server filled the glass (a water glass) all the way to the brim. Swirling was not allowed on this day! This is a more delicate situation.

Here is someone trying to do you a favor and be generous with a pour, but it makes the wine hard to enjoy. This time, I did not send it back or make a comment. She meant well!

Diana Kienle is a freelance writer and blogs about wine at www.dianaswineblog.com. She can be reached at diana@dianaswineblog.com.

Exploring Adolescent Sexuality Through Art

As a teenager growing up in a conservative city in Australia, Derek Sargent struggled to find reference points that clarified his personal perception of the world.

The lack of representation of queer adolescents and reinforcement of conventional gender roles in the mainstream media bothered Sargent, who began using his artwork to make sense of the world around him and give a voice to a taboo subject.

"When I was growing up in the 90s, queer imagery for adolescents was non-existent. As a queer adolescent viewing pop culture you would have to look at the imagery which was made in a heteronormative context and twist it to fit into your own perspective," says Sargent.

The talented artist, from Adelaide, South Australia, has focused his sculpture and installation work on the formative years of adolescent development and favors queer imagery as a way to highlight the overlooked themes of adolescent sexuality and identity.

"I don't think many artists are exploring this area," Sargent says.

"While there are many artists exploring sexuality and gender, the moment of adolescence and sexual awakening is skipped over. It's something that isn't really talked about."

The images of adolescents used by Sargent in

his sculptures and installations are mostly stills and video footage taken from movies and television because the issue of photographing children remains contentious.

His progressive work has earned him a host of awards, including the prestigious 2016 Samstag Scholarship from the University of South Australia.

The upcoming year will be busy for Sargent.

On top of the Samstag Scholarship, he will be undertaking the NARS Foundation International Artist Residency Program in Brooklyn, New York.

While Sargent acknowledges that socially progressive work is inevitably going to spur reactionary backlash, he remains unconcerned that he may ruffle a few conservative feathers.

"There is always going to be opposition to anything breaking the heterosexual narrative, but thankfully over time these religious and bigotry groups are slipping into the minority."

"There is nothing I can really do to persuade someone with a pre-determined agenda against anything queer, but I do see my work exploring more than just queer adolescence. I hope my work reflects the human yearning to feel



Derek Sargent and his installation (cropped)
Allure Me.

connected to others; a universal experience that anyone can connect to."

Sargent aims to use his artwork to encourage people to face the underlying fear of adolescent sexuality and identity, and give a voice to those who have previously felt oppressed by heteronormative ideals.

"The more something is in sight of society the more something becomes accepted. I like to think I'm just playing my very small part in that."

Sargent is unsure of how his work will be received in the United States, but says that one of the strengths of his work is the raw honesty it conveys.

"I'm putting part of myself into my work and trying to be as honest as I can. I think to be successful you need to stay true to yourself, be as least pretentious as possible and you'll find your place."

To view more of Derek Sargent's art and videos, visit www.dereksargent.com.au.

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POZ Magazine Announces “Poz 100” For 2015

POZ magazine has announced the sixth annual POZ 100, recognizing individuals who have been living with the virus since before effective treatment was available, and have remained active in the fight to end the epidemic, including three Sacramentans.

“Living with HIV has changed tremendously in the past three decades, with advances in treatment being the biggest factor,” said Oriol Gutierrez, POZ editor-in-chief. “But today, we face challenges we never imagined. One example? As of 2015, half of the population living with HIV is estimated to be over 50, while our knowledge of aging with HIV remains insufficient. We also face ongoing challenges in prevention, vaccine and cure research,” he continued.

Among this year’s POZ 100 honorees are three Sacramentans, profiles here courtesy of POZ Magazine:

Jolene Ford: As a clinical case manager at Sunburst Projects, Jolene empowers children, youth and families living with and affected by HIV. Sunburst Projects provides mental health services, family-centered case management and HIV-positive support groups, among other services, to enhance the lives of the HIV community. Jolene overcame addiction and incarceration to return to school and thrive, completing her associate’s degree in chemical dependency, bachelor’s degree in social work and master’s degree in social work in just eight years. Jolene chooses this work because she understands exactly how important it is for the HIV community.

Arturo Jackson III: After seroconverting in the early ’80s, before HIV even had a proper name, Arturo worked 13 years at the San Francisco Department of Public Health. He witnessed thousands die, while he remained relatively healthy. Arturo committed himself to documenting the realities of the epidemic. At the height of “gay panic” he was the HIV/AIDS editor for San Francisco’s Sentinel newspaper. In 2002, Arturo earned his master’s in social work. Since then, he has helped seniors faced with elder financial abuse, and he managed Open Arms, a homeless shelter for people with HIV. He has



Three Sacramentans were honored on POZ magazines 6th annual POZ 100 list, Jolene Ford, Arturo Jackson III and Acintia Wright. Images courtesy POZ magazine.

also been a social worker at Inland AIDS Project. In 2008, he co-founded Strength in Numbers Sacramento. Lately, he has hosted a monthly potluck for HIV-positive people at the local LGBT center.

Acintia Wright: She’s the education, testing and outreach coordinator at First Step Wellness Center, but Acintia’s HIV advocacy extends throughout California (the state legislature recognized her for community involvement) and all the way to Ethiopia (where she helped set up the CDC’s HIV prevention program Sister to Sister). Back home, she’s an ally with Positive Women’s Network-USA, she co-founded the Woman 2 Woman support group for African-American women, she’s the previous chair of the Faith-Based Action Coalition, and she’s a ministry leader at Chosen Few Ministry. Oh, and one other thing: She’s the very proud mother of four college graduates.

Also honored are Grammy-nominated jazz musician Fred Hersch, 1980s pop singer Sherri Lewis, artist Hunter Reynolds, HIV researcher Perry Halkitis, Elizabeth Taylor AIDS Foundation managing director Joel Goldman, activist Larry Frampton (a.k.a. Cowboy Larry), fundraiser Stephen Hartley (a.k.a. drag performer Kitty Litter), and the dynamic duo of documentarian Grissel Granados and her activist mother, Silvia Valerio.

Go to poz.com/100 to see this year’s full list.

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What Is your Favorite Family Tradition for the Holidays?

Asked at the Rainbow Chamber's November Mixer



Cathy Perry

Everyone gathering around the Christmas tree in their pajamas with multiple generations. It's a wonderful time of gathering and just being in our PJs and opening gifts.



Mike Tentis

For Thanksgiving my partner and I have hosted for decades Orphans Thanksgiving where we invite people who don't have local friends and family into our home for dinner.



Ranveer Singh

On Christmas Eve we make homemade cookies for Santa.



Ruth Mitchell

Home made cinnamon rolls. We make a big production of it. We love them and they are yummy!



Sandy Tracy

Our Hispanic tradition is making tamales. The whole family makes them and we exchange all kinds of loving and tender moments and that's our holidays.



Michael Sestak

Since our family is split up geographically, our tradition is to fly to Salt Lake City and then fly to Orange County to see all the family in one weekend.

Yes, Sacramento, There Is a Santa Claus

by Matt Burlingame

Do you believe in Santa Claus, one of the most beloved holiday icons for both children and adults throughout the western world and a representation of seasonal joy and the true spirit of giving?

It stands to reason that someone who values those ideals would desire to share them with others. This is something local community member Ron Mullins has done for over 28 years.

"At 16 years old I had an idea," says Mullins, who moved to Sacramento from Roseville at age 21. "I bought a Santa suit with my birthday money and made a beard out of white fake fur. I told my family that I was working that day and couldn't attend the annual gathering of the extended family. Then I came unannounced in full Santa garb and passed out presents. The children beamed, everybody was so excited and I was hooked! It was that Christmas Eve that I knew true magick (sic)."

Mullins continued the tradition until it eventually branched out beyond just family to also include fundraisers, photo ops and appearances with the Sacramento Gay Men's Chorus.

In 2008 he began work at a job that allowed him to grow out his beard. The days of being a pretend-beard Santa were behind him. It was then that he became a registered member of the International Brotherhood of Real Beard Santas (IBRBS), and in 2012 started working as Santa commercially.

Some may think all there is to being Santa is strapping on the red and white suit over a couch pillow and bellowing "Ho Ho Ho" in a deep voice. But being a true Santa is a much under appreciated art form that includes learning proper beard lightening and care, make-up, costuming and knowing how to connect not only with children, but the inner child within us all.

"I didn't realize how involved it could be till I started getting professional with beard styling and the expensive Hollywood suit – it really enhances the experience," says Mullins who takes over two hours to transform into what is called a proper traditional Santa. "I even use peppermint essential oil to make

me smell like candy canes."

"Santa is the last bit of fantasy we are allowed to believe in before we grow up," muses Mullins. "The looks on the children's faces when they see the beard and feel that they are meeting the big guy for real is priceless."

The positive energy is very habit forming. One year a class sang "Santa Claus Is Coming To Town" to me. The look of excitement and the effort they put into singing in unison was humbling and adorable."

When he's not playing Santa or spending time with Keith, his partner of 16 years, Mullins writes for a lifestyle magazine and works to educate city, county and state politicians on behalf of cannabis patients. He is also an avid toy collector and cosplayer.

"I'm planning on branching out and using my status as an ordained minister to do cosplay weddings," he says. "Imagine getting married by Santa, or Gandalf or a Jedi Master!"

For the next few months, however, Mullins will be bringing joy to Sacramento as Santa, including to grown-ups who want their own photo with the man in red.

"I've been perfecting the Santa Selfie and it's quite a hit," he explains. "Watch for me at the skating rink and other holiday events and follow my hashtag #SacSantaSelfie."

Some may think believing is just for children, but with Santas like Mullins there is no doubt that the spirit of Old St. Nick is alive and well in the hearts of all.

To learn more about Ron Mullins go to northpolenorcal.blogspot.com, email him at northpolenorcal@gmail.com or call 916-247-8118.

Matthew Burlingame is an author (Sorry Charley!), playwright (Paperclip Messiah), prodigious podcaster and freelance writer in Sacramento. He can be reached at matthew.burlingame@gmail.com.



When he's not busy in the workshop, Santa (Ron Mullins) is often out putting smiles on everyone's face and helping raise funds for local nonprofits like he did at this year's Gay Skate Night.

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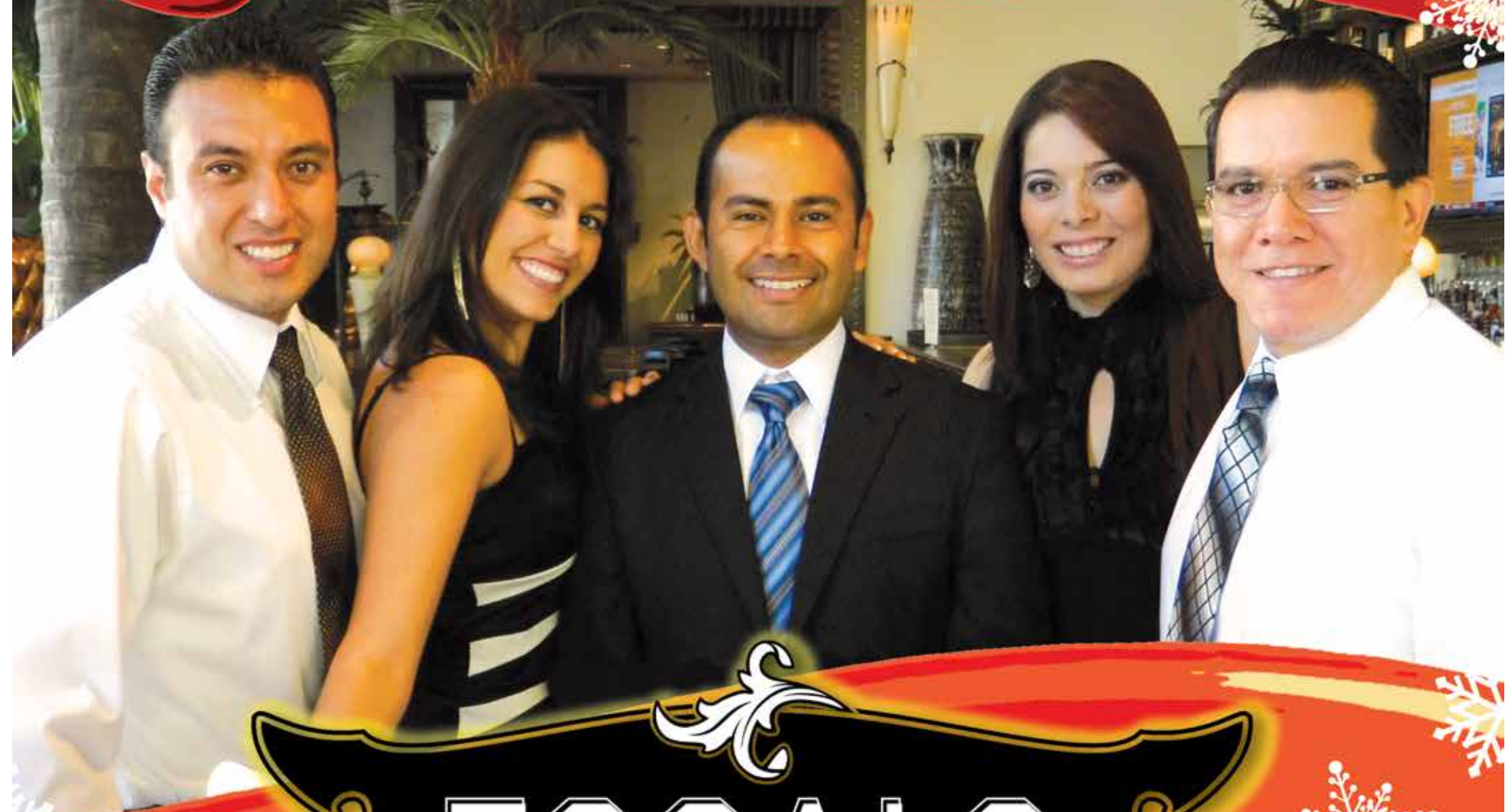
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Badass Monster Killer Actor Returns to Sacramento

by Matt Burlingame

There are not many who are brave enough to follow their dreams. Leaving everyone and everything they've known behind on the chance that what they are seeking is truly at the end of the rainbow they chase.

Two years ago independent-film actor West Ramsey did just that.

In Sept. 2013 Ramsey left his job of 13 years with the State of California, sold his house, and moved to Portland, Oregon to pursue a career in independent film.

While Sacramento also has a thriving independent film community, the Sacramento native admits the move was about more than just casting opportunities.

"I was being cast in films and working for the state," he explains. "Essentially I had two full time jobs. I needed a change. I wanted an adventure."

Before his film career began, Ramsey was a well-established figure in community theatre. Starting his foray onto the stage in 1991 in a production of *You're A Good Man Charlie Brown*, he went on to work with companies such as Volcano Theater Company, Garbeau's Dinner Theater, Magic Circle, DMTC and Runaway Stage.

He also served on the board of the now defunct Lambda Players, where he starred in multiple productions including *Baby With The Bathwater*, *Opening Lines* and *Carhops in Bondage*.

"Theater pretty much encompassed me for years," says Ramsey. "Acting, building sets, running light and sound equipment, working on theater boards. Pretty much anything there was to do theatre-wise, I did it."

But his desire to be in films was never truly left behind.

"One day I was on the phone with my friend Jeanie and she told me she was going to be a zombie in a local film," Ramsey recalls. "I asked her to take me with her. It was a short film called *Raise the Dead*, part of a three segment feature film. I also got cast as a curator of evil artifacts in another segment of the film. I had a brief appearance in the third segment with Richard Mull (Bull on *Night Court*) and got to hang out with him at a horror shop in the Bay area. I

haven't stopped playing zombies or filming since."

Ramsey has now appeared in over 100 film projects including 26 feature films, 42 short films, and numerous music videos, commercials and other projects.

He just completed work on an upcoming feature film in which he plays a gay mobster who has a thing for high priced chocolates. He was also cast in a new film called *GLARE* which begins filming in spring 2016.

On Dec. 3 Ramsey returns to Sacramento for the world premiere of TFO Productions' *Badass Monster Killer* directed by Darin Wood. The movie is described as "a freaky, funky thrill ride with demonic pimps, Kung Fu super foxes and terrible sanity-shattering extraterrestrial horrors from beyond space and time."

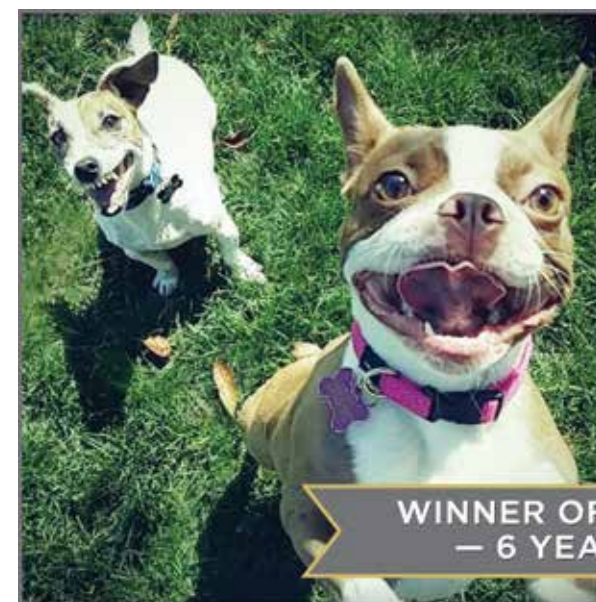
While the film is not an IMAX production, the screening will take place at the IMAX Theatre, 1121 K St. The film is unrated and contains gratuitous violence, nudity, language, and other mature themes not suitable for children. Ramsey plays the part of a "dumb thug" named Roach Hogan.

When asked what his dream role would be the actor responded, "Anything directed by John Waters, Quentin Tarantino or Peter Jackson." Given Ramsey's track record for finding his rainbow's end, that dream doesn't seem unrealistic.

To learn more about West Ramsey, go to westramsey.com. To learn more about the *Badass Monster Killers* premiere go to badassmonsterkiller.com.



West Ramsey. Photo by Wendy Gregory Photography.



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Open Your Mind and Heart This Holiday Season

commentary by Holly Maholm

Nearly everyone has seen some version of that well-known Christmas movie featuring Scrooge and Tiny Tim and the three Christmas Ghosts who helped Scrooge find his Christmas Spirit again.

Today, we don't suffer as much from the lack of charity by the rich like Scrooge, but what would ring true today would be that same coldness we saw in Scrooge's heart.

There were people in need that holiday season, but – to Scrooge – that was “not his problem.” And today, there are people just like Scrooge who ignore the message of Christmas, and tell themselves “It's not my problem.”

We see all too often that there are families we know where a young son has come out to his parents as gay, and in response, he has been told “You're not my son.”

Or another child who has struggled and finally worked up the courage to tell his parents “I feel I am a girl – like I was born in the wrong body.” And too often, that child will be turned out of the house, and told not to come back until she is ready to live the kind of life her parents think she ought to live.

All too often, such a child is told, “We don't approve of your lifestyle.” As if a child with a heart and soul and spirit – who loves Christmas and remembers many happy times around the tree – is nothing but a “lifestyle.”

As if being true to who you are, and knowing your authentic feelings, and refusing to live a lie or pretend to be someone you are not, is just a “lifestyle” as easily changed as that miserable haircut you got last year, when you went to that new stylist who had no clue.

Now, this Christmas, I wonder – if you were to be visited by one of these famous Christmas Ghosts, how would you respond? Would you find kindness and generosity in your heart? Perhaps one of those Christmas Ghosts might show you a young person who is facing challenges and barriers in his life. Maybe a young man who has come out as gay, or a friend from school who is lesbian, or even a teenage girl who has declared herself transgender.

Would you know what to do to help such a young man or woman? What if – one of those guests was a member of your own family? Or a loved one of a family member?

There are places you can go, and people who will help you, where such a young person can get help.

• There is PFLAG – which is “Parents and Friends of Lesbian and Gays.” There are chapters in many cities, and they are always happy to welcome someone who needs their help and



Holly Maholm

fellowship.

• here are many local LGBT centers across the U.S. They are experienced and well-informed about challenges that young adults – and others – who are LGBT face every day.

• Many colleges and universities in the U.S. have LGBT Centers for students, but often those centers are open to working with LGBT youth from the area who are near college age and who might benefit from attending their meetings and networking with students at their school.

By the end of *A Christmas Carol*, Scrooge rediscovered the true meaning of Christmas, and he opened his heart – and his pocketbook! – to help Tiny Tim walk again.

Could you find that same generosity this year? Or will you need a visit from one of those Christmas Ghosts to show you how to share your love with those in need?

Holly Maholm is a transgender woman who was born John S. Oney. She began her transition to living full-time as a woman in 2013. She is the author of several stage and screen plays and two novels: When Once I Lived (2011), and Brave in Ribbons (November, 2015). She lives in Cleveland, OH and is an active member of the local LGBTQ community. For more information please visit www.hollymaholm.com.

Maroon 5 to Open Golden 1 Center's Entertainment Lineup



Multi platinum-selling and Grammy Award-winning rock band Maroon 5 has been announced as the opening show at the Golden 1 Center – the future home of the Sacramento Kings, currently under construction. “World-class entertainment will have a new home in downtown Sacramento,” said Kings Owner and Chairman Vivek Ranadivé. “Amazingly passionate fans, next-generation acoustics, and an iconic setting will ensure that Golden 1 Center will become a must-play for artists and entertainers of every genre. Hosting Maroon 5 during our opening week, one of the world's most popular acts, is a great indicator of what's to come.” Tickets for the Oct. 15, 2016 performance are available at www.livenation.com.

The Golden Girls: The Christmas Episodes Returns



San Francisco's top drag comic performers, D'Arcy Drollinger (Rose), Matthew Martin (Blanche), Holotta Tymes (Sophia) and Heklina (Dorothy) ring in the holiday with hilarity, good clean fun and a bit of sass in two episodes from *The Golden Girls* TV show live on stage for Xmas. Twelve performances only, Dec. 3 - 20. www.eventbrite.com/e/golden-girls-christmas-show-2015-tickets-18418946565. Photo by: Mr. Pam.

Liz in September Set for DVD Release



Based on the classic lesbian play, *Last Summer at Bluefish Cove*, the gorgeous drama, *Liz in September* stars Latina lesbian supermodel Patricia Velasquez. Now available on DVD at Wolfe Video. Watch the trailer at www.youtube.com/watch?v=oz8726FkYGU

Oh Come All Ye Not-So Faithful

seasonal commentary by D.E. Bell

I don't bow my head in prayer at funerals. I don't utter the word 'God' or 'Jesus' except in common expression or when swearing. I'm not a Christian or a Jew or a Muslim. I'm not a Goddess lover or an Earth-Firster either.

I fall into that category of the unattached-spiritual-void, a place where a lot of people go to rest their weary brains from the great mass of religious beliefs that wash over us every day.

Some of us are confused or even angry, and rather than slip into an uncomfortable pew, we stand back from the raging battles of which religion is the "real" one and whose God is better than anothers, and watch the world tear itself apart. Religious zealotry is more common than kindness and that's worrisome.

But here's the rub; I love Christmas. I don't mean that I embrace the meaning of the holiday for the sake of Baby Jesus, Mother Mary and the rest, I love the pageantry of the holiday. All the gaudy, glittering, moreness of it that swamps the media with toy commercials and new technologies to purchase and wrap up in pretty paper.

I L-O-V-E it and while it may send the wrong message to people who don't know me, I will decorate my house with twinkling lights, unpack my Santa collection and set up not one but THREE decorated trees in

my house every year until I am too exhausted with age and decrepitude to hang a single glass ornament.

Then, I want all my beautiful decorations to follow me on a separate slap into the cremation oven and be packed in the same box with my remains. Sprinkling all that glittery dust somewhere is my idea of an afterlife!

Christmas has come so far from its originating meaning that for many, myself included, it's just a bright and shiny holiday devoid of religious meaning; a day to hug family and friends, have a little nog and exchanges love and presents.

I say "Merry Christmas" and "Happy Chanukah" and mean it. I don't find any inconsistency in that, but if it bugs you, I also say "Happy Holidays."

Oh, and I especially like "Happy Christmas", it sounds so Harry Potter.

I appreciate the right to celebrate a religion, and in more serious moments, feel jealousy that I can't find faith myself, but hey, that's the way the Christmas cookie crumbles. Happy Christmas!

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If your man is a bit on the Wookiee side, this may be the perfect gift for him. A man's facial hair is different from the hair on his head, and it's important that what he uses to wash and care for his beard every day does the job for both the hair and the skin on his face. bluebeardsoriginal.com



Cooking naked seems to be the in thing – but let's face it, when cooking bacon, you just might need a little extra protection. Check out the armor and other bacony goodies at www.Store.BaconSalt.com



The new TIANI 24k boasts a decadent ring of 24 karat gold, making it the most luxurious remote-controlled massager in the world, plus it comes with "Couples' Insurance," if you break up, they'll send you a new one! www.lelo.com/tiani-24k.



Now that Sacramento will become the home to a professional rugby team at Bonnie Field, it may be time to start practicing your scrum moves. The team still needs a name and play will start in April.



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Holiday Gift Ideas



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'Tis the season to sip eggnog, sing carols, and of course... decorate your Christmas tree! Keep the holiday spirit alive for longer with Hang 'em & Hatch 'em Christmas Eggs! Need a visual? Visit hatchems.com



Our second favorite GMC has a brand-new holiday recording, with many of your holiday favorites, such as "Carol of the Bells," "Auld Lang Syne," "Silent Night," "Coventry Carol," "The Little Drummer Boy," "Ding! Dong! Merrily On High" and "Lo, How A Rose E're Blooming." www.sfgmc.org



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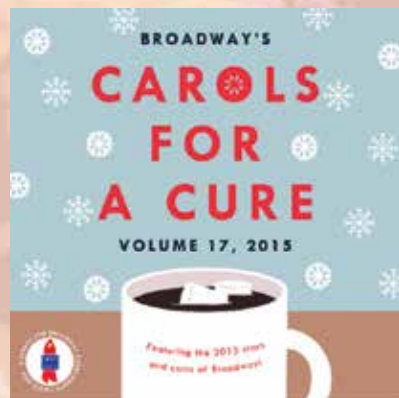
Here are some out of this world gifts that are sure to please any *Star Wars* fanatic this holiday season – including beer steins and force-stirring coffee mugs. Look for them on Amazon.



Our favorite GMC is going just a lil' bit country for their annual Holiday Show scheduled for Dec. 4 - 8. Roundup your tickets at sacgaymenschorus.org



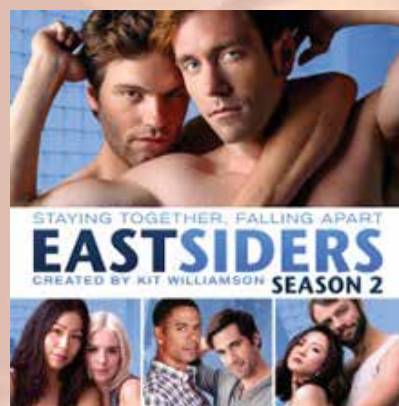
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Casual Games for the Closet Gamer

by Leroy Jenkins

Gaming has changed from the light-hearted days of Atari and Nintendo, to hardcore games like *Halo* and *Call of Duty*, and back again.

Now players can experience their favorite games on the go, with mobile versions of popular gaming experiences, as well as episodic series that play out like a drama on consoles and PCs.

Life is Strange

Life is Strange is for the casual gamer that also enjoys a dramatic adventure, and maybe a little teenage angst too. The game is a five part episodic series that sets out to revolutionize story-based choice and consequence gaming by allowing players to rewind time and affect the past, present and future.

You are Max, a photography senior in Arcadia Bay, Oregon, who saves her old friend Chloe by discovering she can rewind time. The pair soon finds themselves exposed to the darker side of the city as they uncover the disturbing truth behind the sudden disappearance of a fellow student.

Meanwhile, Max begins to have premonitions as she struggles to understand the implications of her power. She must quickly learn that changing the past can sometimes lead to a devastating future.

From DONTNOD Entertainment and Square Enix, *Life is Strange* is available on PC, PlayStation 3, PlayStation 4, Xbox 360 and Xbox One and is \$4.99 per episode; \$19.99 for a Season Pass.

Lara Croft GO

Fans of the classic Tomb Raider games and puzzle gamers of all kinds can rejoice as Square Enix recently launched the now critically acclaimed *Lara Croft GO* – a turn-based puzzle-adventure set in a long-forgotten world.

In this fan-adored mobile game, players can explore the ruins of an ancient civilization, discover well-kept secrets and face deadly challenges as

they uncover the myth of the Queen of Venom.

Lara Croft GO is the second game after developer Square Enix Montreal's previous hit, *Hitman GO* and follows the developer's tradition of distilling classic franchise into attractive and fun mobile experiences.

Lara Croft GO is available on iOS, Android and Windows Phone for \$4.99.

Hitman GO

Hitman GO is a puzzle game that distills the highly popular elements of the *Hitman* franchise into a cohesive and entertaining mobile game.

Players use the touch screen controls to guide Agent 47, the main character of the *Hitman* franchise through a series of grid-based levels. The game, which is similar to chess, is great for the *Hitman* fan on the go, as players can assassinate their target, distract enemy patrols and collect briefcases to maximize their rating for completing each level, all from their mobile phone.

Hitman GO is available on iOS and Android for \$4.99.

Heroes Reborn: Enigma

The first-person action-puzzle mobile game, *HEROES REBORN: Enigma* follows Dahlia, an evolved human with incredible powers, as she attempts to escape captivity at a secret government facility called The Quarry.

The game's basic structure is to unlock new levels by figuring out puzzles. There are a total of 32 levels, each increasing in difficulty, where Dahlia utilizes her abilities to get out of various rooms and move to the next level.

HEROES REBORN: Enigma is available on iOS and Android for \$4.99.



A scene from *Life is Strange*.

SGMC Presents *He! Ha! Ho! A Down-Home Holiday Show*

The Sacramento Gay Men’s Chorus launches into its fourth decade of entertaining the Sacramento region with a brand new concert, *He! Ha! Ho! A Down Home Holiday Show*, that continues their tradition of blending unique entertainment and musical excellence.

The Sacramento Gay Men’s Chorus launches into its fourth decade of entertaining the Sacramento region with a brand new concert, *He! Ha! Ho! A Down Home Holiday Show*, that continues their tradition of blending unique entertainment and musical excellence.

“Join the chorus as they head on down to Aunt Pearl’s for her annual holiday shindig,” said the chorus’ Jason Pettit in a released statement. “The gang and Aunt Pearl are all happier than a two-tailed puppy whenever they get a chance to sing their holiday favorites!”

Included in those favorites are “Sleigh Ride,” “Hard Candy Christmas,” “Go Tell It On The Mountain” and “I’ll Be Home for Christmas,” among others.

“There’s nothing like coming home for the holidays with your chosen family and friends,” said Pettit. “The Chorus rounds

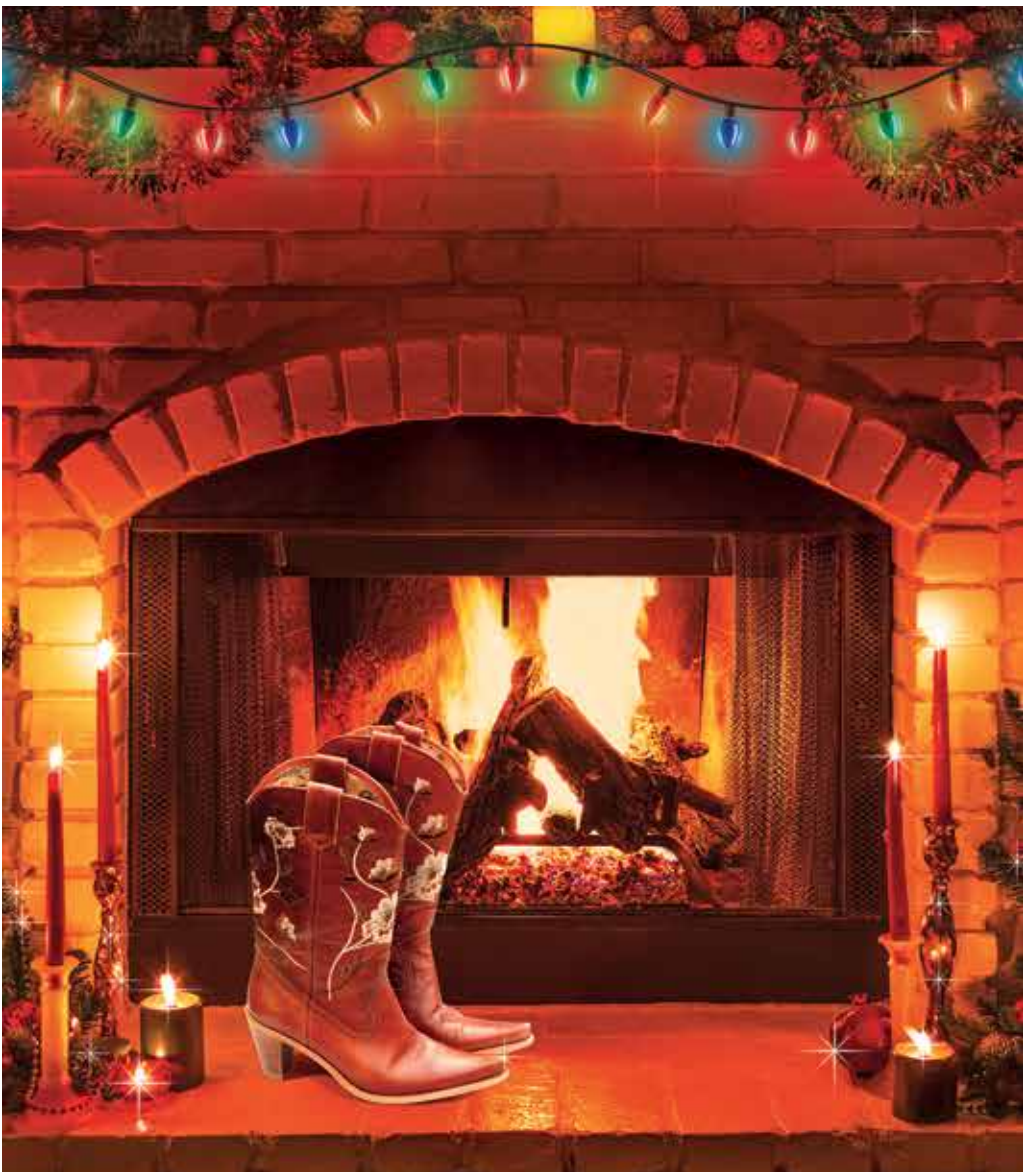
out the evening as they raise their voice in song and demonstrate a clear dedication to fine musicianship through a collection of beautiful choral pieces.”

The second half of the program includes songs such as “I Saw Three Ships,” “Ubi Caritas” and “A Silent Night” along with selections from the SGMC small ensemble, Boy Howdy, and other featured performers.

“This year’s holiday show offers our audience family a chance to laugh, reflect, hope and rejoice as we all come together to celebrate the season and our community with song,” said Pettit.

He! Ha! Ho! A Down Home Holiday Show performance dates are December 4th and 5th at 8 p.m.; December 6 at 3 p.m.; and December 8th at 8 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church, 2100 J St

For tickets and more information, visit SacGayMensChorus.org.



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Pink Martini Pours Holiday Cheer into Mondavi Center

by Chris Narloch

Unparalleled purveyors of an eclectic, multilingual blend of cosmopolitan sounds, Pink Martini is set to deliver a festive holiday concert featuring beloved songs from around the globe, this December at the Mondavi Center in Davis.

Led by bandleader Thomas Lauderdale, the “little orchestra” draws inspiration from music all over the world, crossing genres of classical, jazz and old-fashioned pop.

This holiday performance will include tracks from their popular holiday album, *Joy to the World*, which featured chestnuts like

“White Christmas” alongside Hebrew prayers, Chinese New Year tunes and a samba-inspired version of “Auld Lang Syne.”

Pink Martini will perform one show only, at 7 p.m. on Sunday, December 6. For more information, visit www.mondaviarts.org.



Pink Martini

Two Musicals Worth the Trip to SF

by Chris Narloch

Two smash hit musicals are having their Bay Area premieres this December: a stage version of the beloved holiday film *A Christmas Story*, and *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder* which won four Tony Awards, including Best Musical, at the 68th Tony Awards.

A Christmas Story: The Musical

I was skeptical that this musical version could capture the charm of *A Christmas Story*, which is my favorite holiday movie, until I saw it on Broadway a few years back.

For the two or three of you who haven't seen the film – which is always on heavy rotation on cable every holiday season – the story takes place in the 1940s in Indiana and focuses on a child named Ralphie, who wants a Red Ryder BB Gun for Christmas.

The show leaves out none of your favorite moments from the popular comedy film. They just get turned in to show-stopping song and dance numbers with titles that will be familiar to any fan of the movie: “Red Ryder Carbine Action BB Gun,” “You'll Shoot Your Eye Out,” and “Up on Santa's Lap.”

For fans of the film, the musical is a must-see. *A Christmas Story: The Musical* plays December 9-13 at the SHN Orpheum Theatre in San Francisco.

A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder

This hilarious and inventive new musical is based on a novel that also inspired the classic 1949 British film *Kind Hearts and Coronets*, which features a tour de force performance by the great Alec Guinness.



Gentleman's Guide tells the uproarious story of Monty Navarro, an heir to a family fortune who sets out to jump the line of succession by – you guessed it – eliminating the eight pesky relatives who stand in his way.

Those eight unlucky souls – of different ages and sexes – are all played by one lucky actor, in a role that is catnip for any musical comedy theater performer. (The brilliant Jefferson Mays won a well-deserved Tony for his performance in the original Broadway production.)

This very funny farce plays December 1-27 at San Francisco's Golden Gate Theatre.

For more information about both these shows, visit www.shnsf.com.

Seasonal Sounds On CD

by Chris Narloch

Since I am a sucker for the holidays, one of my favorite articles to write each year is this survey of recently released holiday music.

While 2015 isn't a great year for new seasonal sounds, I did round up two excellent CDs to review, plus one that should be melted down and turned into something useful.

Broadway's *Carols For A Cure Vol. 17*

This annual charity disc is a must for any fan of musical theater and holiday music. Featuring new recordings by the Broadway companies of the 2015 season, *Carols For A Cure* benefits the great organization Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS.

The terrific 2-CD set boasts 19 selections, including seasonal chestnuts like "Joy to the World" (*Hamilton*), "Go Tell It on the Mountain" (*Finding Neverland*), and "Ave Maria" (*Wicked*), plus original compositions such as "Home's with You" from the folks at *Fun Home* and "A Crunchem Hall Christmas" courtesy of the cast of *Matilda*.

Carols For A Cure is available at www.broadwaycares.org.

Sharon Jones & The Dap-Kings – *It's A Holiday Soul Party*

I recently experienced Sharon Jones and her amazing band live at the Mondavi Center in Davis,

and the group's first holiday release is just as great as that concert.

The disc features fabulously funky versions of holiday favorites such as "White Christmas," "Silent Night," and "Silver Bells," plus delicious Dap-Kings originals like "Funky Little Drummer Boy," and a tasty track co-written by Jones entitled "Ain't No Chimneys In The Projects."

Kylie Minogue – *Kylie Christmas*

My vote for the worst holiday release of 2015 is this disappointing dud by Kylie Minogue, who I regard as the Aussie Britney Spears -- and I don't mean that as a compliment.

Minogue employs a bizarre array of duet partners that includes the late, great Frank Sinatra, talk show host James Corden, and the Godfather of Punk himself, Iggy Pop, who is given almost nothing to do on a brain-dead bubblegum bomb entitled "Christmas Wrapping."

Minogue commits the cardinal sin of recording Christmas classics made famous by superior singers such as Eartha Kitt ("Santa Baby") and Chrissie Hynde ("2000 Miles"), whose original versions are timeless and untouchable.



See A Movie This Holiday Season

by Chris Narloch

Hollywood always saves the best for last, and this season the end-of-year holiday releases and Oscar-friendly films are already looking surprisingly good.

Read on for details about three promising motion pictures currently in theaters.

Creed

The *Rocky* saga was the last franchise I wanted to see rebooted, and yet -- surprise! -- the newest installment in the Rocky Balboa story turns out to be very, very good indeed.

Creed gets a welcome African-American spin, courtesy of a hot, young director named Ryan Coogler (*Fruitvale Station*) and a hot, young actor named Michael B. Jordan (*That Awkward Moment*).

Jordan superbly plays Apollo Creed's son, who enlists his dad's most famous opponent to be his trainer, and Sylvester Stallone slips into that role effortlessly, giving a soulful performance that is the best acting he has done since the original *Rocky*.

Spotlight

The Oscar race begins with this bracing dramatization of the scandal uncovered by The Boston Globe that cracked open a history of pedophile priests inside Catholic churches in Boston.

It sounds like a depressing subject for a film, but director and co-screenwriter Thomas McCarthy does such a fine job laying out the story without sensationalizing it that the quietly powerful movie ends up being thoroughly entertaining.

The cast could not be better, beginning with Michael Keaton, Mark

Ruffalo, Rachel McAdams and Brian D'Arcy James as the reporters who broke the story. Liev Schreiber and Stanley Tucci are also excellent.

As a lapsed Catholic who still takes my elderly, widowed mother to services every Sunday, I found the movie enlightening, essential and totally horrifying.

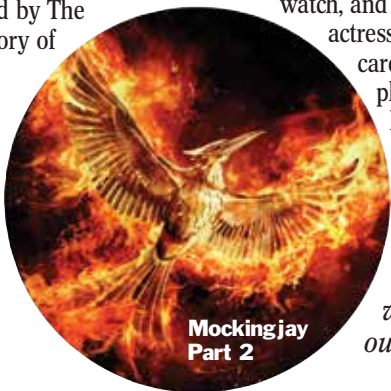
The Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part 2

I wasn't able to make it to the press screening for this one because *Spotlight* was the same night, but I will be lining up to watch it at Sacramento's Esquire IMAX Theatre, just as soon as I put this issue of *Outword* to bed.

It will be worth the price of admission just to see Elizabeth Banks back in her flashy drag as Effie Trinket, probably my favorite character in the movies. Banks looked pretty drab in the mostly dull next-to-last movie, but clearly the moviemakers saved the real fireworks for this final film.

Jennifer Lawrence is always fascinating to watch, and no matter what the actress does for the rest of her career, she can be proud of playing one of the most kick-ass female roles in movie history.

Note: For more reviews of new movies on the big screen, please visit www.outwordmagazine.com.



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Railroad Museum Opens High-Speed Rail Exhibit

The California State Railroad Museum is debuting an all-new, interactive exhibit titled Fast Tracks: The World of High-Speed Rail that will feature a high-speed train simulator with interactive controls and a digital projector that will allow museum guests to simulate the experience of piloting a modern high-speed train.

Museum guests will also have the unique opportunity to board a life-size mockup of a high-speed train to experience the point-of-view of a passenger and learn more about the technology that makes it happen.

In addition, the exhibit will include interactive maps that show high-speed rail throughout the world, video elements, and models and representations of differing approaches to high-speed rail design.

The new exhibit is aimed at helping museum visitors gain a better understanding of the history of high-speed rail throughout the world, and explores the following

Taiwan and Turkey.

What Makes it High-Speed: High-speed rail uses an integrated system of specialized rolling stock (rail vehicles) running on dedicated tracks, with a "blended" approach sometimes enabling HSR trains to reach city centers on tracks shared with other trains. It uses steel wheels running on steel rails – with electricity delivered via overhead wires for power – to operate significantly faster than traditional rail traffic.

Here and There, But Not Everywhere: High-speed rail systems generally operate in areas of relatively high population density.



themes:

The Pursuit of Speed: From its beginnings in the early 19th century, railroad technology was developed to move people and goods quickly and efficiently. The breathtaking speeds of today's high-speed rail would have been unimaginable by the builders and dreamers who originally developed rail networks across the world in the 19th and 20th centuries.

A Leap of Speed: The world's first high-speed rail system opened in Japan in 1964, with specially-built "Shinkansen" trains running between Tokyo and Osaka at a top speed of 130 mph. European countries, plus Great Britain and the U.S. were next to develop high-speed rail corridors, followed in more recent years by South Korea, China,

Traffic congestion and environmental concerns are among the factors that influence where High-Speed Rail corridors are planned and built.

The Fast Tracks: The World of High-Speed Rail exhibit is made possible by generous and involved partners that include the California State Railroad Museum Foundation, JR East (East Japan Railway Company) and Siemens.

The "Fast Tracks" exhibit will remain on display at least through December 2016. Railroad Museum admission is \$10 for adults, \$5 for youths (ages 6-17), and children ages five and under are free.

More information about the California State Railroad Museum is available at 916-323-9280 or www.csrmmf.org.



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Xenia

This wild movie follows two young brothers in search of their birth father, across the colorful landscape of Greece. Dany, 16, leaves Crete to find his brother Odysseus who lives in Athens, and they journey to Thessaloniki where they think their father is living.

When the handsome Odysseus isn't protecting his day dreaming, gay younger brother, he auditions for the television talent show "Greek Star," where he pursues his fantasy of becoming a singer.

Xenia is a comic and touching road trip of two brothers connecting and searching for their dreams.

Mala Mala

This critically acclaimed documentary explores the intimate moments, performances, friendships and activism of

trans-identifying people, drag queens and others who defy typical gender identities in Puerto Rico.

The film features Ivana, an activist; Soraya, an older sex-change pioneer; Sandy, a prostitute looking to make a change; and Samantha and Paxx, both of whom struggle with the quality of medical resources available to assist in their transition.

Mala Mala was hailed as "sensitive and thoughtful" by the *New York Times* and was the winner of the audience award for documentary film at the Tribeca Film Festival.

Liz in September

Every year, Liz, a hardcore womanizer, celebrates her birthday with her friends at a Caribbean beach retreat. This year might be the final celebration as she is quite ill, a fact she hides.

When Eva, a young, emotionally wounded woman and outsider arrives, Liz seduces her. But the ingenue is deeply wounded by the recent death of her young son, and nothing turns out as expected.

The encounter between these two opposite women changes their lives, setting new perspectives where love, life, and death play out as simple steps of nature.

Sac Philharmonic & Opera Breaks Subscription Record

The Sacramento Philharmonic & Opera have announce that due in part to the wildly successful attendance of their second concert of the Resurrection season, they have broken a 10 year subscription record high, including a 60 percent increase in subscriptions since the 2012-2013 season.

The Sacramento Philharmonic & Opera believes that the increase in the past three years is extremely significant because it highlights the substantial shift away from previous structures.

"We believe this considerable shift illustrates the hard work that has taken place over the past year. The community has embraced the new Sacramento Phil & Opera, and their phenomenal support is deeply gratifying. It shows we are working uniquely and independently of the past to create a legacy of classical music for the future," said Alice Sauro, Executive Director of the Sacramento Philharmonic & Opera.

The Sac Phil & Opera has been committed to unique community engagements such as art invasions along with arts education in schools. Their new programming, while both diverse and challenging, has created great interest that continues to drive season subscriptions.

"We couldn't be more thrilled - this is something that Sacramento hasn't seen for over a decade," said Sauro. "We are bringing an entirely new and unique experience to our

patrons through our free art invasions, educational outreach, and spectacular concert offerings. We believe this is why people want to subscribe. They're saying, 'we are all in'.

Sac Phil & Opera has also announced of the "Fortissimo Challenge." Through the generous gift of \$100,000, from an anonymous patron, every dollar donated will go towards the match. "In Italian, Fortissimo means 'Very Loud,' and our goal is to have those who want to support us, show their excitement for the season as loudly as possible!" said Sauro. "This is a great way for the community to give back and know that their dollar goes even further."

The funds raised through the "Fortissimo Challenge" will go towards programming, art invasions, and supporting the 2015-2016 season.

For more information on the Fortissimo Challenge or on how to give, visit sacphilopera.org and it is not too late to become a subscriber to the remaining five concerts of the season. Please call the box office at 916-808-2000.





VISIT North America's most-popular railroad museum, open daily 10 a.m.-5 p.m. (except Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day)—no matter what the weather!

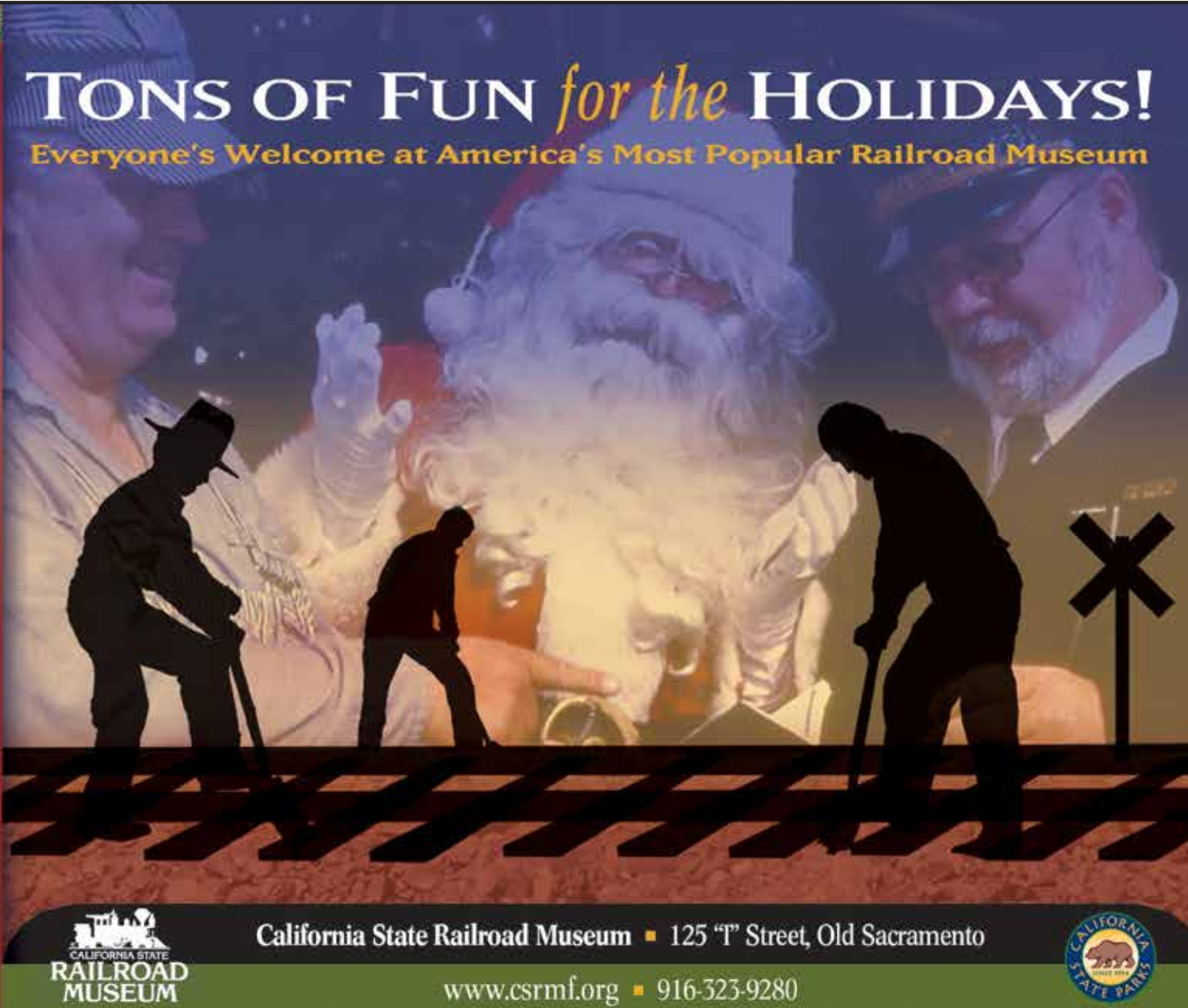
EXPERIENCE an American icon—the priceless, golden "Lost Spike!" Learn how railroads have helped develop California into a trend-setting land of opportunity. Visit the *STEM Learning Experience*, a toy train layout that is perpetually under construction. Operate a High Speed Rail simulator and learn the history of high speed rail and how it works in our new exhibit "*Fast Tracks: The World of High Speed Rail*".


DELIGHT at seeing numerous model train displays during the magical *Small Train Holiday* on Thanksgiving Friday & Saturday (11/27-28). Plus, be sure to visit our new art exhibit "*California Railroad Landscapes: Original Oil Paintings by Rod R. Aszman*".

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Out & About

Gay Skate Night, Drag Queens on Ice

This year's Gay Skate Night was a huge success! Held Wednesday, Nov. 18 it was the largest Gay Skate Night yet, and raised \$1,820 for the Sacramento Gay Men's Chorus, The NorCal AIDS Cycle and Golden Rule Services.

Hosted by *Outword* and Downtown Sac, the event was held at the Downtown Sacramento Ice Rink at the corner of 7th & K Sts. Special thanks to our Skating Drag Queens Domemore, Felicity Diamonds and Chantall and to Santa and to all you wonderful Skate Peeps who made it all possible.

There's plenty of more ice skating nights ahead, so head on down to the rink and have some fun, visit downtownsac.org. Photos by JoanCusick.com. See more photos and download them for free at www.OutwordMagazine.com.



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Baritone Marco Vassalli poses in a Roman Bath in an ancient amphitheater at Gennes, France for The 2016 Barihunks Charity Calendar that features eighteen of the hottest singers in opera and musical theater from nine different countries. The calendar is available at LULU.com and raises funds for the Foundation for the Advancement of Baritones (F.A.B.) and to support young artists. Photo by Barihunks.

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FRIDAY FEBRUARY 5

PLUNGE 1.0

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 5, 2016
DJ CALLAHAN
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Sponsored by the Bear Cave-Pomona
\$20 (Included with Run Pass) • 10AM-4:00PM

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 6

RETRO SPLASH

RETRO SPLASH POOL PARTY
DJ CHUB JIM
SATURDAY FEBRUARY 6, 2016
\$20 (Included with Run Pass) • 10:00AM-4:00PM

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 7

REDEMPTION IN PARADISE

REDEMPTION IN PARADISE POOL PARTY
DJ ERIC ORNELAS
\$20 (Included with Run Pass) • 10:00AM-4:00PM
SUNDAY SUPER BOWL BEER BUST
DJ CALLAHAN AND MORE
\$10 (Included with Run Pass) • 4PM-8PM

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 5

INFERNO

LIVE PERFORMANCE
BY DADDY B

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 5
DJ BYRON BONSAI
\$20 (Included with Run Pass)
WOODSTOCK BALLROOM, HARD ROCK HOTEL
10:00PM - 2:00AM

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 6

FURR DCIOUS

LIVE PERFORMANCE
BY KRISTINE W

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 6
DJ DOUG JACKSON
\$40 (Included with Run Pass)
WOODSTOCK BALLROOM, HARD ROCK HOTEL
10:00PM - 2:00AM

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 7

THE LEATHER BALL

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 7
DJ ROKE CABRERA
\$25 (Included with Run Pass)
WOODSTOCK BALLROOM, HARD ROCK HOTEL
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DADDY B
IN CONCERT

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DOORS OPEN AT 9:30

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Kristine W
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SATURDAY FEBRUARY 6, 2016
SHOW TIME 11:30 PM
DOORS OPEN AT 9:30

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