

# outword



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**Explore History  
& Art**  
*page 6*

**LGBT Sports  
Leagues Ready**  
*page 8*

**Wedding Expo  
Set for March 6**  
*page 11*

**Choreographer  
Alvin Ailey**  
*page 15*

**Lisa Fischer at  
Mondavi**  
*page 17*

**Raph  
Solo  
Releases  
"Star"**

*page 13*



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# Explore History & Art at Sacramento Museum Day

With 26 museums and local destinations participating, the 2016 Sacramento Museum Day is a popular cultural tradition designed to encourage all members of the community to experience the Capital City's incredible wealth of art, history, science and wildlife – at little or no cost.

To the delight of the greater Sacramento area community, the participating local museums will offer free or half-priced admission from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, February 6, during the 18th annual event.

Most of the more than 25 museums will offer free admission whereas two destinations located in residential areas – the Sacramento Zoo and Fairytale Town – will offer half-priced admission to offset parking and traffic control costs.

Presented by Bank of America, Sacramento Covered and Amtrak, Sacramento Museum Day is Coordinated by the Sacramento Association of Museums (SAM) and the Sacramento Convention & Visitors Bureau.

Additionally, many of the destinations are offering special activities during the day, including:

- The Aerospace Museum of California will offer a special "open cockpit" day where most aircraft will be open for viewing (weather permitting), a children's art contest and on-site exhibitors such as the Tuskegee Airmen;

- The California Automobile Museum will demonstrate how to make an 1850's small stationary steam engine run using compressed air (note that the Museum displays several early steam-powered automobiles in its collection), plus a hands-on stamping activity for kids that includes a small prize at the end;

- The Masonic Service Bureau will be on-site at the Powerhouse Science Center Discovery Campus providing free electronic fingerprints of children for their parents plus the Sacramento Public Library will have a booth and prize wheel on-site, and there will even be drop-in visits by local mascots;

- The Sacramento History Museum will offer their always-popular gold panning activities for kids outside in front of the Museum;

- Verge Center for the Arts will offer a Free Kids Clay Open Studio from 1 to 5 p.m. where children will receive basic instruction to play and create with clay.

"Every year is unique and offers exciting new discoveries for guests to explore on Sacramento Museum Day," said Sacramento Association of Museums Chair Lorili Ostman. "We'd like to thank our returning sponsors – Bank of America and Sacramento Covered – plus our first-time sponsor Amtrak for helping us to present this important event and introduce the community to the amazing array of arts, culture and museum offerings available in the greater Sacramento region."

While admission is free at most of the participating museums during Sacramento Museum Day, admission to two destinations located in residential areas are half-priced as follows: Sacramento Zoo is \$6 for adults, \$4 for children ages 2-11 and free for children under two; Fairytale Town is \$2.75 per person and free for children ages one and under.

More detailed information about participating museums, addresses, limitations, suggested parking and public transit options is available at [www.sacmuseums.org](http://www.sacmuseums.org) (click on "News & Events"), or by calling the Sacramento Convention & Visitors Bureau at (916) 808-7777.

In addition to Bank of America, Sacramento Covered and Amtrak, Sacramento Museum Day 2016 is proudly supported by active and engaged media partners including FOX40, KSEG 96.9 FM, Outword Media, Sacramento365.com and STAR 106.5 FM.



Get into art at the Crocker Art Museum on Sacramento Museum Day



# Railroad Museum Calls Out for Volunteers

If you are fascinated by railroading history and interested in working on a train, the California State Railroad Museum has a volunteer opportunity that can fill both of your passions.

California State Parks, the California State Railroad Museum and Old Sacramento State Historic Park (SHP) are now recruiting adults (18 or older) who are interested in volunteering to help communicate the West's fascinating heritage of railroading and the California Gold Rush.

For those interested, a special, drop-in Volunteer Open House is scheduled for Saturday, January 30, from 1 to 3 p.m. in the Stanford Gallery located at 111 I Street in Old Sacramento (next door to the California State Railroad Museum).

Volunteer applications are being accepted now through January 30 and will be followed by an interview process.

Each year, more than 500 men and women volunteer for the California State Railroad Museum's programs -- including weekend excursion train operations, track construction, restoration and maintenance, even clerical work.

A background in history is not required to become a volunteer. In fact, most of the volunteers in the popular program began with little knowledge of railroads or the Gold Rush.

As individuals become more familiar with the Museum's varied and frequent programs, many volunteers take on additional responsibilities, such as conducting research or giving talks to



Volunteer opportunities include working on the C. P Huntington, Southern Pacific Railroad Steam Locomotive No. 1.

community organizations. New docents can choose to work in the Museum interacting with visitors from around the world, working in the railroad restoration shops on rare and unique railroad equipment, work on the Sacramento Southern Railroad, or other jobs in this dynamic and fun environment.

Volunteering represents a serious commitment of at least 84 volunteer hours annually, but the hours are flexible and the rewards can be tremendous. Docents receive perks such as a discount at the Museum Store, preferential and/or early access to selected special events, and the pride of working at North America's finest and most visited railroad museum.

Volunteer applications can be downloaded at [www.parks.ca.gov/?page\\_id=25583](http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=25583) For more information, please call 916-445-0269.

# Spaghetti Dinner to Benefit Sac Gay Men's Chorus

Every four years, GALA Choruses plans a Choral Festival with LGBTQ groups and individuals from all over North America, and the Sacramento Gay Men's Chorus is hosting a Spaghetti Dinner to help them make the trip to the Festival in Denver.

In 2012, there were 112 choruses and 48 ensembles performing, with over 6,000 delegates attending. "SGMC is proud to represent Sacramento at this event!" said Corey Hubert of SGMC.

The Spaghetti Dinner will be at The Old Spaghetti Factory, 1901 J St., on Wednesday, February 3 with no-host cocktails at 6:30 p.m. and dinner from 7 to 9 p.m. Tickets are \$25 and will include salad, bread, and spaghetti with meat sauce, a soft drink and ice cream.

"We will have a door prize and additional raffle items," said Hubert, "and you never know when someone will break out in a song!"

Tickets are available at the door and online at [www.brownpapertickets.com](http://www.brownpapertickets.com).



"Some of our members are students, disabled and/or underemployed," said Hubert. "We need your help to ensure all of our members are able to attend. Your financial aid will help pay for registration fees, transportation, meals and housing. Please help ALL of us get to Denver!"

For more information about the Sacramento Men's Chorus, visit [sgmc.org](http://sgmc.org).

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# LGBT Sports Leagues Ready for Spring/Summer Play

Spring and summer are just around the corner, and Sacramento's LGBT sports leagues are stretching their muscles and getting ready for their new seasons, in every sport from softball to bowling.



Get in on the fun with the Sacramento Valley Gay & Lesbian Softball League, sign up and join a team like the vintage 2013 Sacramento Venom and — Play ball!

First to get started is the Sacramento Valley Gay & Lesbian Softball League. They will hold a signup and ratings clinic on Saturday Feb. 6 and Sunday, Feb. 21, both at 11 a.m., for new players to assess their skills at Tahoe Park, 3501 59th St.

Registration for returning players will be at a mixer on March 2 at the cornerstone, 2326 J St., at 7 p.m.

League play will begin on Monday, March 14 and games are played through June 6, all at the Sacramento Softball Complex, 3450 Longview Dr. in Sacramento.

For more information, visit [www.svgls.org](http://www.svgls.org).

The Sacramento Gay & Lesbian Tennis league will hold signups and evaluations for new players on Tuesday, March 1 and March 8 from 7 – 8:30 p.m. at the McKinley Park

Tennis Courts. There will also be open play during these evenings.

The league plays doubles and singles, and with four divisions based on skills levels, there will be plenty of opportunities for everyone to play. Partnerships for the doubles matches can be arranged.

Matches begin on Tuesday March 15 and end on June 7, with an Easter break on March 22, and Memorial Day break on May 31. There will also be practice play and lessons on Thursdays. All games and practices will be at the McKinley Park Tennis Courts.

For more information, visit [www.sgltennis.org](http://www.sgltennis.org) [www.facebook.com/groups/125646214186250/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/125646214186250/)

Sacramento's FrontRunners/FrontWalkers

don't really have a season, but as the weather warms up new runners and walkers are encouraged to join them.

They host runs/walks on Monday and Wednesday nights at 6:30 p.m. and meet at McKinley Park (behind the tennis courts) for their formal huddle. On Saturdays at 9 a.m. they meet at the Guy West Bridge at Sacramento State University for a run/walk along the American River. A social group as well, they often host dinners and BBQs.

Get more info at [www.frsac.org](http://www.frsac.org). Volleyball enthusiasts can play with the Sacramento Volleyball league. They offer open gyms throughout the year, summer grass tournaments, a fall league, and a national tournament in November. The open gym starts at 6:30 p.m. and teams for the night will be drawn up for games starting at 7:30 p.m. Get more info at [www.facebook.com/sacvball/about](http://www.facebook.com/sacvball/about).

Go-Bo bowlers have already started their spring bowling season, but as this issue of Outword hits the streets, they will only be about two weeks into their 14-week season, so there may still be opportunities to play, or even become a sub. The pins start falling at 6 p.m., Sunday evenings at Country Club Lanes, 2600 Watt Ave. Check them out at [www.go-bo.org/go-bo-league](http://www.go-bo.org/go-bo-league).

River City Bowlers are well into their winter season, but their may still be openings for players to fill in. Their summer season starts June 6th. Visit [www.rivercitybowlers.com](http://www.rivercitybowlers.com) for more info.

916'ers, Sacramento's LGBT Basketball League hasn't set the details for their upcoming seasons yet, so check in with them at [916ers.org](http://916ers.org) or [www.facebook.com/groups/916ers](http://www.facebook.com/groups/916ers).



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# Briefly Put

## Lawsuit Resolved on VA Benefits for Same-Sex Spouses

Lambda Legal and the American Military Partner Association (AMPA) announced on January 20th that they are concluding litigation against the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) following the VA's changes to its policies on benefits ending discrimination against veterans and their same-sex spouses.

The new policies are consistent with the June 2015 US Supreme Court decision in Obergefell that struck down marriage discrimination.

"We are very pleased that now, nationwide, gay and lesbian veterans who have served their country and risked the ultimate sacrifice for their nation – all while facing discrimination against them – will have access to deserved and long-awaited benefits," said Susan Sommer, Director of Constitutional Litigation at Lambda Legal. "Married veterans and their spouses, regardless of their sexual orientation or where they live, will now have the critical veterans' benefits they need to take care of their families."

The VA's guidance for the public is available at <http://www.va.gov/opa/marriage>.

## Secretary of Defense Will Make Final Decision On Transgender Military Ban By Spring

*The Washington Blade* is reporting that a Pentagon spokesperson has told them that "The transgender working group appointed by the secretary of defense will conclude its deliberations by the end of January and present its findings and recommendations directly to the secretary soon thereafter. The secretary will take whatever time he needs to analyze, evaluate, and discuss the Working Group's findings with his immediate staff and the senior leadership of the department. We do, however, anticipate a final decision from the secretary sometime in the spring."

In July of last year, Secretary of Defense Ash Carter made history with an announcement that the Department of Defense would finally update the outdated regulations that prevent open service by transgender service members and would take six months to assess the impact of the change and work out the details.

The working group started with the presumption "transgender persons can serve openly without adverse impact on military effectiveness and readiness, unless and except where objective, practical impediments are identified."

## Bette Midler to bring *Hello, Dolly!* back to Broadway

Bette Midler will return to Broadway in one of the most cherished musicals in theater history when she takes on the role of Dolly Gallagher Levi in Michael Stewart's (book) and Jerry Herman's (music and lyrics) masterpiece, *Hello, Dolly!*

Directed by four-time Tony Award winner Jerry Zaks, *Hello, Dolly!* will begin performances on Broadway on March 13, 2017, with an official opening night of April 20, 2017.

The iconic role of Dolly Levi in the musical was initially written for Ethel Merman, who turned it down. The star of the original Broadway production in 1964 was Carol Channing, and it became her signature role for decades. Barbra Streisand also immortalized Dolly on the silver screen in a 1969 film version.

Composer Jerry Herman has expressed how thrilled he is that Midler will usher Dolly into the 21st Century, and the Divine Miss M was similarly enthusiastic about taking on the famous role.

"I am looking forward to portraying one of the most beloved characters in all of American Musical Comedy, Dolly Levi, born Gallagher, in *Hello, Dolly!*" said Midler. "I know I'm going to have the time of my life, and I am so glad to be under the wings of Scott Rudin as Producer and Jerry Zaks as Director.

See you next year!"

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# New Rule Seeks to Assist Transgender Shelter Seekers

by Julie Gonen & Caroline Peattie

Last November HUD issued a proposed rule that formalizes the February 2015 guidance as part of the 2012 Equal Access Rule, clarifying that single-sex shelters receiving federal funds must respect the gender identity of all residents and provide access to sex-segregated shelters based on gender identity.

Once finalized, the protections for the safety and dignity of transgender people seeking shelter access will have the force of law.

The rule focuses on several points: All HUD-funded or HUD-insured housing must house transgender persons seeking shelter based on their gender identity; In some instances, an alternative accommodation may be made to ensure health and safety; and a new definition reflects the difference between actual and perceived gender identity and includes gender expression; and in order to help shelter operators accommodate transgender people, the prohibition on asking about gender identity is lifted – though this knowledge still cannot be the basis for discrimination.

According to a major national survey published by the National LGBTQ Task Force and the National Center for Transgender Equality, nearly 1 in 3 transgender people (29%) who tried to access a shelter were turned away outright.

Subsequent data released from follow-up

surveys revealed discrimination was even more pronounced among transgender people of color: for example, 40% of black transgender people who tried to access a shelter were turned away, and for those transgender people who were not turned away, a disturbing 42% said that at some point they had been forced to house with the wrong gender in order to obtain shelter.

In many cases these respondents were transgender women who, because of this discriminatory treatment, found themselves the only woman in a men's shelter.

Unsurprisingly, among those who stayed in a shelter where they were housed with the wrong gender, 25% reported being physically assaulted in the shelter, and nearly as many (22%) reported being sexually assaulted by either another resident or a shelter staff member.

Transgender people of color experienced this even more often: 32% of black transgender people reported being physically assaulted and about the same number (31%) reported being

sexually assaulted. Nearly half (47%) of all transgender respondents who accessed shelters left because of the treatment they experienced there—choosing the street over the danger, abuse, and indignity of the way they were treated in the shelter.

According to Hannah Hussey at the Center for American Progress, the experiences of homeless transgender youth reflect similar findings of lack of access to housing and services. Less than 1% of the youth in the United States identify as transgender; however, among homeless youth, 6.8% identify as transgender.

And a recent study by the Center for American Progress and the Equal Rights Center found that only 30 percent of shelters were willing to house transgender women with women. The study, which used test callers to inquire into the practices of 100 shelters in four states, found that shelters: refused services outright; misgendered callers; cited genitalia or surgery requirements as perquisites to placement consistent with gender identity; and cited the discomfort of other shelter residents as a basis for refusing placements consistent with gender identity.

Julie Gonen is with National Center for Lesbian Rights and Caroline Peattie is with Fair Housing of Marin. Fair Housing of Marin provides fair housing services in Marin, Sonoma, and Solano counties. If you feel you have experienced housing discrimination, please call them at 415-457-5025.

## Last Will and Testicle Is a Nutty Look at Cancer



**Last Will & Testicle** is a comedy webseries about a man who has a testicle removed because of cancer. It was written, produced, directed, and edited by Byron Lane after he found a lump on his testicle in August 2015. And while the laughs keep coming, it is also a serious look at cancer. Stream the six episodes at [www.lastwillandtesticle.com](http://www.lastwillandtesticle.com).

## Label Identity and Love Questioned in Her Story



Two captivating trans women in Los Angeles have given up on love, when suddenly, chance encounters give them hope in *Her Story*. Will they risk letting what they are stand in the way of being loved for who they are? You can watch the first six episodes of the groundbreaking new webseries at [herstoryshow.com](http://herstoryshow.com).

### Outword Salutes Sacramento's Rainbow Chamber of Commerce

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# 4th Annual LGBT Wedding Expo Set for March 6

Outword Media Marketing & Events Inc. and Details Details Events & Conference Planning will present the 4th Annual Sacramento LGBT Wedding Expo on Sunday, March 6, 12:00 noon to 4:00 p.m. at the Hyatt Regency Sacramento, 1209 L St., in downtown Sacramento.

"During the Holiday's and over Valentine's day many couples popped the question. We are so excited to bring the LGBT Wedding Expo to our community to help plan their special day "said Outword Media CEO Fred Palmer. "Wedding business is good business for everybody," Palmer continued. "Let's support the business' that supports our community year long!"

The LGBT Wedding Expo (SacLGBTWeddingExpo.com) will showcase area vendors who want to market their products and services to the many same-couples who are planning weddings.

Everything from florists, to DJs, to venues, and more. The festive event will include a fashion show of wedding couture designed specifically for LGBT couples presented by

House of Fashion; free wine and hors d'oeuvres tastings from vendors; and free raffle prizes.

Attendance is free and open to the public, and parking is a special flat rate of \$7 for attendees.

Palmer said vendor space and sponsorships for the LGBT Wedding Expo are filling quickly. Vendors who wish to exhibit at the Expo may contact Details Details at 916-443-3855 or e-mail kelli@details2.com. Exhibit space cost is \$300; additional charges will apply after February 5. Event sponsorships range from \$500-\$1200; contact Fred Palmer at 916-329-9280 for information.

Visit SacLGBTWeddingExpo.com for more information.

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# Raph Solo Releases “Star,” a Love Letter to His Mum

Raph Solo’s debut release from his third full-length album, *The Anonymous Icon*, is “Star,” a song of gratitude to his ‘Mum,’ the woman he says inspired him to be the man he is today.



Raph Solo

“Star is a tribute to the unsung heroes who do amazing things for other people,” explains Solo. “They do it, not for acclaim or acknowledgement, but simply out of love.”

The song is an early-eighties inspired up-tempo pop track with a slight Motown feel that showcases Solo’s wide harmonic range. It echoes the overall sentiment of *The Anonymous Icon*, his new album that celebrates authenticity at any cost.

“Star” is available on iTunes now and its steamy music video is available on YouTube.

“As a child, my dad fell ill with cancer and was unable to work,” remembers Solo from his home in the UK. “Mum nursed him for thirteen years while working to earn an income in order to hold our family together.

“Even as I became a man, Mum has been incredibly supportive,” he continues. “She gave me money to help cover studio costs. She allowed me to stay in her home for years, never once asking me to pay rent. I’ve always appreciated her, but now more than ever. She epitomizes the word ‘star’”

“Star” follows “Glass of Wine”, Solo’s hit dance record from last spring that celebrated spiritual growth.

“It’s interesting to hear how my music has evolved through the years,” he says. “My songs reflect the experiences I am having at the time of recording. Over the years, as I’ve found more and more happiness in my self, my sound has gone from Latin/eastern flavored ballads to up-tempo pop.

“I also get to the point more quickly in my songs these days,” he adds. “Probably because life seems more fast paced than ever before.”

Like many young people today, Solo juggles multiple plates in the air in order to get by. “I’m an indie artist with a forty hour per week day job.”

“But nobody knows that!” he laughs. At least they didn’t until now. “That’s why I felt like *The Anonymous Icon* was an appropriate title for the album.”

*The Anonymous Icon* includes many of

outwardmagazine.com

Solo’s previous releases, all re-digitalized and re-mastered for the album.

Along with the album release, Solo is unveiling a brand new music video that is as steamy and passionate as fans have come to expect from the young singer’s videos, but slightly different.

“I usually take centre stage in my music videos. This is the first one I take a back seat in.”

Solo is seen as a photographer, marvelling at the beauty of a female model, capturing her essence through images. The video ends with the female model hitting on him, and Solo revealing he is gay.

“It’s happened to me a couple of times in real life,” he explains. “Just goes to prove that you can never judge by appearances and there is no one stereotype for gay men in 2016.”

Today, Solo is a proud gay man with nothing to hide, but it wasn’t always that way. Just a few years ago, he fought his feelings for men and even underwent reparative therapy in an attempt to cure himself of his homosexuality.

In the end, it was even more damaging to Solo and his self-esteem. “It made me feel like a failure because no matter how hard I tried, I could not change my feelings.

“I strive to be 100% real. That’s the whole point of the video and my coming out at the end. It would be very different if I was playing a character in a movie but I’m not -- “Star” is a Raph Solo video.”

Solo takes it a step further, proudly wearing his birthday suit in the video. Yes, in the scene where he is holding the bright star, Solo has nothing on underneath.

“The filmmaker was straight so I’m not sure how comfortable he felt with me being naked under my star,” he laughs. But there was a deeper meaning to the scene. “A star is symbolic of the soul and the light is symbolic of the love we hold in our soul. There can be no darkness in the presence of light,” Solo says, adding:

“That’s why it’s important that we let all stars shine.”

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# Director Tom Hooper Was Determined to Get *The Danish Girl* Right

by Chris Narloch

In late 2015, I spoke by phone with Tom Hooper, director of the Oscar-winning films *The King's Speech* and *Les Misérables*, about his latest big screen effort, *The Danish Girl*.

Featuring another Academy award-nominated performance from Eddie Redmayne as Lili Elbe, one of the first identifiable recipients of sex reassignment surgery, *The Danish Girl* recently received a total of four Oscar nods.

The movie's 43-year-old director, who is London-born and Oxford-educated, told me he felt a tremendous responsibility to bring this little-known history to light and honor the woman who inspired his film.

Read on for my interview with Tom Hooper.

**Tom, I was very moved by this story, and I think your movie is very beautiful. How did you get involved in filming Lili's story?**

My casting director, who I've worked with since I was 21, suggested I read the script, and I absolutely fell in love with it, especially the love story between the husband and wife. The screenplay made me cry, which almost never happens, and one of the reasons I wanted to make the film was because so few people have ever heard of Lili Elbe. There is almost nothing on Wikipedia about her, and so I felt urged to redress this injustice in which this pioneer who should be more widely known has been marginalized by history. Like many people, I wrongly believed that Christine Jorgensen was the first person to receive sexual reassignment surgery.

**The film pays great respect to Lili and honors her experience as a trans person. Was it a challenge to pay that respect without turning her in to a saint or a politically correct poster child for the trans community?**

The challenge was really to tell her story accurately given the time in which she lived, because many of the details of her life are missing. The evolution of understanding on this issue has accelerated so much in recent years compared to the 1920s, when Lili began transitioning, that it was important to show how many of the doctors at the time had no compassion or even understanding of her condition. I wanted to depict her extraordinary courage in allowing a doctor to operate on her who had never attempted this type of surgery before.

**Gerda, the wife of Einar (who eventually became Lili), also demonstrated great courage.**

That's absolutely right. Gerda remained loyal to Lili, and she was totally understanding throughout all of the changes in their relationship.

**How lucky were you to get Eddie Redmayne to play the lead in your movie?**

Very lucky. He won his Oscar for *The Theory of Everything* two weeks into filming on our movie. He came back to the set



*The Danish Girl* director Tom Hooper

Tuesday morning after taking the weekend off for the Oscars, and we probably talked about it for five minutes or so, and then I looked at my watch and we went back to filming. I was struck by how unchanged Eddie was by winning the award. He has a genuine humility, and he just wanted to get down to work.

**You also have two of my other favorite young actors, Alicia Vikander and Matthias Schoenaerts, in the movie. Talk to me about the importance of casting.**

I had seen Alicia in *A Royal Affair* and thought she was amazing. I needed someone who could go toe-to-toe with Eddie Redmayne, and that is a tall order. The actress also needed to be able to project this bottomless pit of love and compassion for her partner, and I think Alicia pulled it off. And Matthias is a natural film star. He has such a great presence, and I was so pleased when he accepted the role.

**I personally think the best actor for a role should play the role, but lately there has been a lot of debate over whether trans characters should only be played by trans actors. Do you have anything to say about that?**

I think the culture is changing so rapidly that going forward there will increasingly be more opportunities for trans filmmakers and trans actors to have a voice in films. And I hope that the increased visibility will lead to more access to quality roles and quality projects by, for and about the trans community.

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Celebrating Black History Month:

# Choreographer Alvin Ailey

courtesy of LGBT History Month

“I am trying to show the world that we are all human beings and that color is not important. What is important is the quality of our work.”



Alvin Ailey and dancers with the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater

Alvin Ailey Jr. was an internationally acclaimed dancer and choreographer. He founded the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, a dance company hailed as an ambassador of American culture. Ailey formed a multiracial company and revolutionized dance, incorporating elements of ballet and jazz, along with modern and African dance, into his work.

Ailey grew up in Rogers, Texas, the son of a young, struggling single mother. His father abandoned the family when Ailey was six months old. In 1941, the family moved to Los Angeles, where Ailey met Lester Horton, who ran the first multiracial dance school.

Horton took Ailey under his wing, teaching him a variety of

dance styles and techniques. In 1953, Ailey joined Horton’s company. Later that year, he was named artistic director.

In 1954, Ailey made his Broadway debut dancing in “House of Flowers.” He also performed in “Sing, Man, Sing” with Harry Belafonte and in “Jamaica” with Lena Horne.

In 1957, Ailey established the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. The company’s premiere performance, “Blues Suite”—a riveting work reflecting the African-American emotional experience—defined Ailey’s theatrical and eclectic style.

A prolific choreographer, Ailey created 79 original works for his company. “Revelations” (1960), recognized as his signature piece, is

touted as the most-watched work of modern dance. “Cry” (1971), one of Ailey’s most successful works, was dedicated to his mother and African-American women.

In 1979, Ailey received the Springarn Medal for outstanding achievement from the NAACP. In 1988, he was recognized with a Kennedy Center Honors Award.

Ailey died at age 58 from complications of AIDS. In his memory, a section of West 61st Street in New York was named “Alvin Ailey Way.”

*A project of Equality Forum, LGBT History Month each October presents 31 biographies of Icons in the LGBT Community. You can read them, and watch videos, at [www.lgbthistorymonth.com](http://www.lgbthistorymonth.com)*

Celebrating Black History Month:

# Comic Jackie “Moms” Mabley

courtesy of LGBT History Month

“The good old days. I was there. Where was they?”

Born Loretta Mary Aiken, Jackie “Moms” Mabley was one of the first, most successful women to work in comedy. Mabley appeared on popular television variety shows like “The Ed Sullivan Show” and “The Smothers Brothers Comedy Hour.” A veteran of the African-American vaudeville tradition known as the Chitlin’ Circuit, the comedian overcame a tragic childhood (her parents were killed and she was raped) to become one of the raunchiest, most beloved comedians of her generation.

Known for wearing androgynous clothing, and later her signature housedress and floppy hat, she was the first comedian to incorporate outwordmagazine.com

lesbian stand-up routines into her act. She recorded more than 20 comedy albums and appeared in several films, TV shows and in clubs around the country. At one point, Mabley was the highest-paid comedian of the time, earning more than \$10,000 a week at the famed Apollo Theater in Harlem. She regularly tackled controversial material often deemed too edgy for many mainstream audiences. She helped break down color and gender barriers for the next generation of comedians.

When Mabley was 75 years old, she became the oldest living person ever to have a Top 40 hit in the United States with her cover of “Abraham, Martin and John.”

Mabley was the mother of six children, two of whom she gave up for adoption when she was still a teenager. She is the subject of the

Emmy-nominated HBO documentary “Whoopi Goldberg Presents Moms Mabley,” which explores her life, comedy and sexuality.





*A project of Equality Forum, LGBT History Month each October presents 31 biographies of Icons in the LGBT Community. You can read them, and watch videos, at [www.lgbthistorymonth.com](http://www.lgbthistorymonth.com)*





Moms Mabley

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# Satchmo Set to Stun in S.F.

by Chris Narloch

The time is March of 1971. Louis “Satchmo” Armstrong, the greatest jazz musician of the twentieth century, is backstage at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, preparing for what will be his last performance.

Though he was a radiantly optimistic man who was rarely seen in public without a smile, it turns out that there was more to “Satchmo” – much more – that few were privy to.

Starring OBIE Award winner John Douglas Thompson, *Satchmo at the Waldorf* is a raw, uncensored look at Louis “Satchmo” Armstrong’s meteoric rise to fame and his tumultuous relationships with his manager, Joe Glaser, and Miles Davis – all magnetically channeled by Thompson.

A tale of ambition and artistry set just four months before Armstrong’s death in 1971, *Satchmo at the Waldorf* offers viewers a complex, unforgettable glimpse into the heart and soul of one of history’s most iconic jazz legends.

Theater critic and playwright Terry Teachout’s acclaimed one-man show *Satchmo at the Waldorf* will be performed at A.C.T.’s Geary Theater in San Francisco through Feb. 7.

For more information, please visit [www.act-sf.org](http://www.act-sf.org).



John Douglas Thompson as Louis “Satchmo” Armstrong. Photo by T. Charles Erickson.

Note: For local theater coverage in Sacramento, please visit [www.outwordmagazine.com](http://www.outwordmagazine.com).

# Celebrate Valentine’s Day with Lisa Fischer at Mondavi

by Chris Narloch

If you saw the dynamite documentary *20 Feet From Stardom*, you already know what powerful pipes Lisa Fischer possesses. One of the legendary background singers featured in that marvelous movie, Fischer has performed with the Rolling Stones, Sting, Chris Botti and countless others.



Lisa Fischer

*20 Feet From Stardom*, which won the Academy Award for Best Documentary Feature in 2014, raised Fischer’s profile so high that she is taking her show on the road. Prepare to be riveted by her Valentine’s Day appearance in Davis, as the singer interprets classic songs from across the pop and rock universe.

A secret weapon on stage as well as in the recording studio, Fischer is widely known within the music industry for her astonishing range. She will bring that electrifying voice into the spotlight at the Mondavi Center for one night only, performing with Grand Baton, this February 14 at 7:00 p.m.

Visit [www.mondaviarts.org](http://www.mondaviarts.org).



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# The Crest, The Tower & The Finest Hours

by Chris Narloch

I am not ashamed to admit that I teared up a little when the Century Stadium “domes” at Arden and Ethan Way in Sacramento – where I spent many happy hours as a teenager seeing iconic movies such as the original *Star Wars* and *Rocky* films – closed recently, apparently to be replaced later this year by another cookie-cutter theater complex like the one right across the street at Arden Fair.

Ah, progress. I’m sure the new theaters will be state-of-the-art and all that, but it won’t be the same. The architecture likely won’t be as distinctive as the “domes,” which will soon be demolished to make way for new theaters and an expansion of the congested Howe ‘bout Arden shopping center.

Those distinctive structures with their rounded roofs were the perfect place to see a space opera like *Star Wars* since they always looked a little like flying saucers had landed in the parking lot.

Thank God I can still head downtown to see a movie at the Esquire IMAX or one of the historic theaters in midtown that isn’t the size of a shoebox. That would be the

### The Tower

If you’ve already seen the “roadshow” presentation of that crazy Quentin Tarantino flick at this theater, I recommend you come back in February to see one of the vintage films returning to their silver screen.

First up is *The Notebook*, on Monday, Feb. 1, followed by a new movie each Thursday in February: *Fargo*, *Saving Private Ryan*, *Pulp Fiction* and *Apollo 13*. Visit [www.readingcinemasus.com](http://www.readingcinemasus.com).

### The Finest Hours

If you must visit a multiplex, you could do worse than to catch the latest high seas survival story to make its way to the big screen.

I actually really enjoyed *The Finest Hours*,



Chris Pine stars in *The Finest Hours*.

Crest and the main auditorium at the Tower, where classic movies can still be viewed on a big screen.

### The Crest

In addition to a wide variety of live events, the Crest Theatre on K Street still shows movies – mostly older films, but not exclusively – such as *Sixteen Candles* starring Molly Ringwald, which will screen once on the evening of Sunday, February 14. Take your valentine to see a “brat-pack” classic on the big screen.

The other big news at the Crest is the annual salute to the Oscars, with the 2016 Oscar-nominated short films – animated, live action, and documentary – opening there on January 29 and continuing through much of February. Visit [www.crestsacramento.com](http://www.crestsacramento.com) for a complete schedule.

which is far superior to Ron Howard’s disappointingly dull ocean adventure *In the Heart of the Sea*, which bombed in theaters late last year.

Handsome Chris Pine and Eric Bana star as coast guard officers in Chatham, Massachusetts who undertake a daring mission to rescue 30 sailors from the SS Pendleton after a massive storm splits the tanker in two.

*The Finest Hours* takes the time to establish characters we care about before the disaster hits, so that the subsequent CGI-filled spectacle is both suspenseful and sympathetic.

The film, which is based on a true story, also benefits from committed work by its cast, including Pine, Bana, Ben Foster, Casey Affleck, and Holliday Grainger.

Note: For reviews of more new movies, please visit [www.outwordmagazine.com](http://www.outwordmagazine.com).



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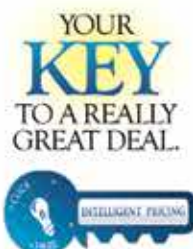
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