

outword

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Syphilis is



Serious

24 Ocular Syphilis Cases Reported on West Coast

Syphilis can cause vision problems if left untreated - and even lead to permanent blindness.

LA County Department of Health officials must **DO MORE** to develop a strategic campaign to address the rise in syphilis cases and **DO BETTER** to educate health care providers and the public on this sexually transmitted disease. To locate a treatment center near you visit:

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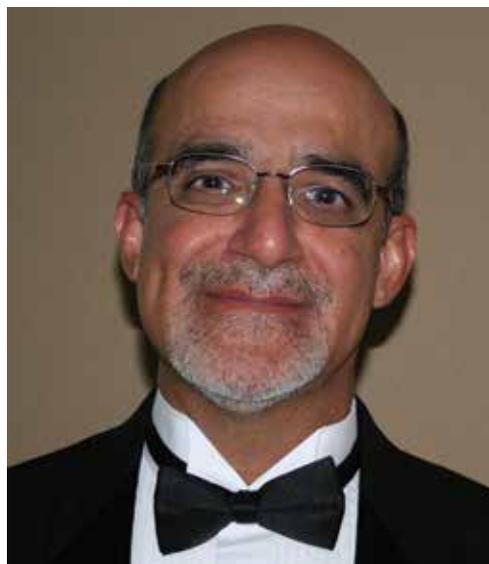
Remembering Gerald Louis "Gerry" Arredondo

Gerald Louis "Gerry" Arredondo, age 62, passed away at Kaiser Hospital, Roseville, on Sunday, April 10, 2016.

Born on December 12, 1953, in San Jose, he graduated from Mount Pleasant High School in San Jose and worked and lived several years in San Jose before settling in Roseville, 13 years ago.

He worked at the Lincoln Station of the United States Postal Service as a Rural Carrier, and was a member of the Sacramento Gay Men's Chorus.

Survivors include his partner, Michael Harrison; and his daughter, Nicole Terry and her husband, Leslie and children, Hannah and Madison; and his son, Niklaus Arredondo and his companion, Maria, and children, Soyla and Selma; and his parents, Jay and Mary Arredondo, and his sister, Betty Arredondo. In addition, he has several Uncles, Aunts and Cousins; and a wealth of people who call Gerry, their best friend for life.



Gerald Louis "Gerry" Arredondo

A funeral service will be held Tuesday, April 19, at 1:30 p.m. at Lind Brothers Funeral Home in Carmichael, with Robert Elster officiating.

Remembering Mark F. Cesa



Mark F. Cesa

Mark F. Cesa, a resident of Sacramento for over thirty years, passed away peacefully in Marina del Rey, California on April 1, 2016 from complications due to cancer.

He was known for his great sense of humor and a quick wit combined with an insightful intelligence that allowed for a capacity to always see and accept our humanity.

A memorial in his honor is planned in the McKinley Park Rose Garden at 33rd and H Streets in Sacramento, CA on Saturday, April 30, 2016 at Noon.

Mark Florian Cesa was born in 1954 and raised in Cleveland, Ohio and graduated from Ohio State University. In 1979, he moved to California to pursue a thirty-five year career in the healthcare information technology field while working with several companies.

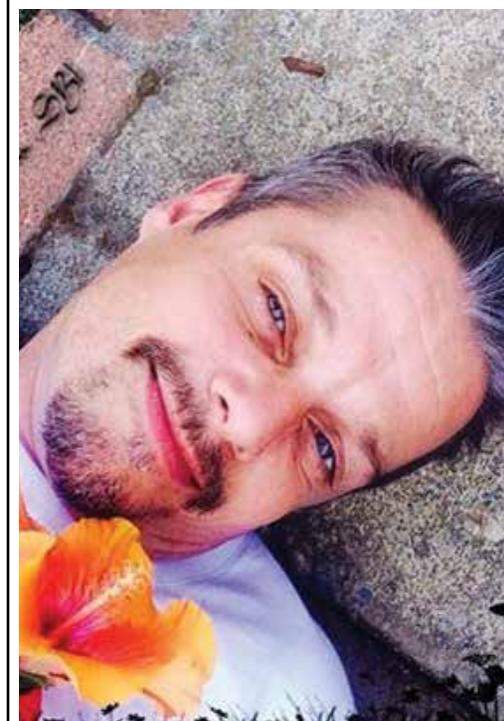
He is survived by a sister, Laura, and five nieces in addition to an abundance of friends. He was preceded in death by his mother, Lee, in May, 1985; father, Florian, in January, 1998; and another sister, Susan, in May, 1998.

Mark enjoyed optimism and joy into his final days with care from his beloved cat, Lee-lee and Companion Hospice of Southern California.

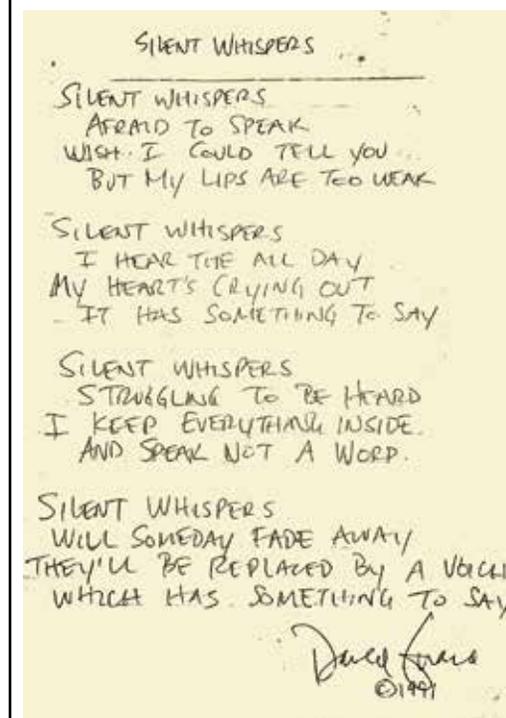
Remembering Daved Girard

My Beautiful Daved is gone and I am so heart broken. He was my partner of six wonderful years and my one true LOVE. I would like to share with you a poem that he wrote, so that you might know him better.

TJ Bruce



Daved Girard



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Mark Your Calendar Now for Paris 2018 – Gay Games 10

by *Connie Wardman*

Since the first Gay Games, held in San Francisco in 1982 thanks to founder Dr. Tom Waddell, the Federation of Gay Games (FGG) has continued to promote equality, diversity and inclusion in sports and culture.



Registrations for Paris 2018 – Gay Games 10 will open on May 16

ceremony will welcome all the participants to march in the Jean Bouin Stadium located in Paris. And all those attending will have access to an amazing selection of hotels, apartments and other accommodations across Paris.

The Paris 2018 organizing team includes former members of the Federation of Gay Games Board and leaders of the Paris sports and cultural community. With support from the City of Paris, the Ile-de-France region and the national Ministries of Sports, Culture and DIGES (the inter-ministerial delegation for large sporting events), Paris 2018-Gay Games 10 involves the entire Paris community as well as those across France.

Supporters known as “Gay Games Champions” are part of a global network located in every country to provide information about Paris 2018-Gay Games 10. The idea behind the Gay Games is to involve all who would like to part of this celebration of LGBT sports and culture. If you would like to be a Gay Games Champion, please contact the FGG at: contact@paris2018.com.

The Inclusion Paris 2018 foundation is raising funds for the Gay Games Scholarship Fund that helps bring athletes and artists to the Games. With the financial support from the foundation and the FGG, deserving economically-challenged candidates from under-represented populations and regions are identified and given a chance to participate.

To learn more about Paris 2018-Gay Games 10, take a look at the Paris 2018 brochure and presentation. Also watch the charming video, ‘Imagine Paris’ that will bring tears to your eyes and make you want to sign up right away.

Connie Wardman is editor in chief Compete Magazine, the world’s only sports diversity magazine. CompeteNetwork.com

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Over the years the Gay Games has grown into the world’s largest sports and culture festival open to all under the founding principles of Participation, Inclusion, and Personal Best.

Under the banner of those guiding principles, 15,000 participants will celebrate together in Paris, the world’s City of Light, taking part in a menu of 36 different sports, 14 cultural events and multiple conferences. Held by the FGG, the motto for the Paris 2018-Gay Games 10 is “ALL EQUAL,” reflecting the openness and inclusion of this important event.

Open to everyone, the Gay Games has no requirements or qualifications for people wanting to take part in this life-changing

event. Young or mature, experienced or novice, gay or straight, the Gay Games is for everyone. All participants will march in the Opening Ceremony as proud athletes or artists, sharing their experiences with the anticipated 15,000 attendees from around the world.

After two years of planning, registrations for Paris 2018-Gay Games 10 will open on May 16 and all those wanting to be part of the Gay Games will be able to sign up for their chosen sport and cultural events. Individual participants will then receive a transportation pass and a participation medal for being an important part of this exciting quadrennial event.

On August 4th the festive opening

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Statewide Transgender Movement Promotes Safety

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti has joined individuals from the transgender community, statewide LGBT organizations, local officials, civil rights groups, businesses, faith-based leaders and community members to launch Transform California – a statewide movement founded by Equality California and the Transgender Law Center to promote respect, understanding and safety for the transgender community.



Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti speaking at the launch of Transform California.

As part of the effort, coalition members signed a Transform California pledge – opposing discrimination against transgender people.

“California and its residents are known around the world for standing up for the values of tolerance and equality,” said Mayor Eric Garcetti. “Trans people should have the freedom to live their lives, to dream, and to plan for the future without worrying about their safety or basic rights. I am proud to add my voice to the broad coalition supporting Transform California, a new step in the march toward full inclusion for our trans brothers and sisters.”

According to the National Center for Transgender Equality, “transgender people face extraordinary levels of physical and sexual violence, whether on the streets, at school or work, at home, or at the hands of government officials. More than one in four transgender people has faced a bias-driven assault, and rates are higher for transgender women and transgender people of color.”

“My message today, is that there are still many ways in which the world we live in tells transgender people like me that we aren’t welcome. And I encourage folks to think about how it would make you feel if you or your child faced that kind of discrimination,” added Maria Roman, a community activist and transgender Californian. “Transform California is one important step toward bringing our communities together to ensure respect and dignity for all.”

Just recently in Los Angeles, a transgender teenager was purposely run over, and we’re mourning the loss of another young outwordmagazine.com

transgender woman, Quartney Yochum, who was murdered last month. Transform California is building a coalition of Californians committed to ending this violence and lifting up the voices and solutions of transgender people.

The statewide launch celebration in Los Angeles was held on the steps of Los Angeles City Hall and attended by more than 50 coalition members, including Pat Manuel, a transgender Californian, amateur boxer and small business owner; Maria Roman, a transgender Californian and community activist.

Following the Los Angeles launch, Transform California will host regional rallies throughout the state, which will be attended by organizations and individuals from vastly different landscapes, including civil rights organizations, business leaders, and local and state elected officials, among many others. While varied in background, the mission of every Transform California coalition member is the same: promote respect, understanding and safety for the transgender community, and oppose discrimination of all kinds.

“I hope you’ll join me by going to TransformCalifornia.com today and signing our pledge to make the Golden State a place where all people can feel safe and live free from discrimination,” added Pat Manuel, a participant in the Transform California Los Angeles rally.

For more information on Transform California or to sign the coalition pledge and join the movement, visit www.TransformCalifornia.org.



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Briefly Put

Circuit Court of Appeals Overturns Discriminatory Policy

The Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals confirmed on April 19th that transgender students who are restricted from using the bathroom consistent with their gender identity can sue under Title IX.

The court overturned a district court dismissal of a Title IX case by Gavin Grimm, a transgender boy who was prevented from using the boys' restroom. The Fourth Circuit court pointed out that the district court failed to defer to the Department of Education's established position that Title IX requires schools to ensure transgender students' restroom access. The following is NCTE's Executive Director Mara Keisling:

"We welcome this sensible and very important decision that promotes fairness and dignity for all students, by holding that a trans student who was denied access to a restroom has a valid Title IX claim," said NCTE's Executive Director Mara Keisling. "In light of this important ruling, we urge the U.S. Department of Education to swiftly issue guidance to all schools regarding their obligations under Title IX. We also press North Carolina legislators to heed this ruling by repealing HB 2, the state law that flies in the face of Title IX."

North Carolina is part of the Fourth Circuit, which issued today's ruling, and must follow or appeal the court's decision.

NCDP Launches Website Highlighting HB2's Economic Costs

The North Carolina Democratic Party has launched a website to highlight how Gov. Pat McCrory's job-killing discrimination law, HB2, is hurting North Carolina's economy. The site lists the more than 400 businesses and organizations that oppose HB2 and spotlights the many good-paying jobs put at risk by this bill.

"Governor McCrory's decision is costing our state good-paying new jobs - it's as simple as that. More than 400 employers have expressed opposition to HB2 and North Carolina's economy has already lost tens of millions of dollars thanks to Governor McCrory," said Kimberly Reynolds, Executive Director of the North Carolina Democratic Party.

NCDP's new website, businessesagainsthb2.com, also encourages people to take action and sign a petition calling for the repeal of HB2.

Target Says Transgender People Can Use Bathroom That Aligns With Their Identity

Minneapolis-based retailer Target has issued a statement saying that transgender people can use the bathrooms and fitting rooms in their stores that corresponds with their gender identity.

"We believe that everyone - every team member, every guest, and every community - deserves to be protected from discrimination, and treated equally. Consistent with this belief, Target supports the federal Equality Act, which provides protections to LGBT individuals, and opposes action that enables discrimination."

Defense Department Adds South Korea to List of Duty Stations Approved for Same-Sex Military Couples

The Republic of Korea (South Korea) has been added to the list of duty station assignments outside of the United States approved for same-sex couples.

Until the recent addition of Germany, and now South Korea, many same-sex spouses of U.S. service members were often denied "command sponsorship" to some duty stations overseas due to concerns that they were not covered under the Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) with the host nation. While opposite-sex spouses were able to accompany their service member to these new duty stations, same-sex spouses and their children were often left behind.

"A huge burden has been lifted off of the shoulders of so many of our military families," said American Military Partner Association (AMPA) President Ashley Broadway-Mack. "With thousands of service members stationed in South Korea, this was a serious concern that our families still faced after the successful repeal of 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' and the eventual recognition of same-sex spouses by the Department of Defense. This is incredibly welcome news for so many service members and their families who now don't have to go through extraordinary lengths to stay together."

South Korea hosts an estimated 30,000 U.S. military personnel.

Louisiana Gov's. Executive Order Protects LGBT Workers

Louisiana Governor John Edwards' has issued an executive order that protects state workers and contractors from being harassed or fired due to their gender identity or sexual orientation.

His executive order protects state workers and contractors from anti-LGBT discrimination and will help ensure that LGBT Louisianans have the equal protection under the law.

"Governor Edwards' leadership stands in stark contrast to the disingenuous arguments that we've heard from Republican leaders in North Carolina, in Mississippi, in Washington, DC, and elsewhere," said DNC Chair Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz. "We have seen Republican Governors cater to the most extreme voices in their party by signing anti-LGBT bills and we've seen the Republican National Committee endorse policies that would further target the LGBT community for discrimination. Sadly, anti-LGBT measures have become part of the standard Republican playbook. Discrimination is neither a 'right' nor a 'liberty.' Hatred holds our nation back, and creates divisions where none should exist."



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Dying to Live

Commentary by Mendy DeGennaro

There is a philosopher who believes that humans have addictions because no one has taught us how to dream better. While that theory may sound short-sighted it could, very-well, have truth to it.

It has taken me twenty-five years to get here, but I have finally arrived at a place of clarity in my life, and I feel like I've been given another chance.

Six years ago I walked into Transitions (then called Priorities) Clinic broken, broke and unable to finish anything I (ever) started. My girlfriend and I had been using and abusing Opiates of all forms for eight years and with many attempts at sobriety; nothing seemed to work.

So many detox centers boast patient success but they are very hard to qualify for. Often times they are at max capacity or the cost is way too expensive. So when I heard that there was an Opiate replacement therapy program in Oak Park that was completely patient focused and didn't charge large sums of money, I decided to give it a chance.

The week before I became a patient at Transitions I found myself desperate enough for a fix that I bought the only thing I could score: a Fentanyl Patch. I knew the dangers of this form of Opiate, so I kept my dose small.

Unfortunately, the only thing I remember is that I was awaked out of my comatose state – with a giant breath like it had been the only one for many minutes – by a pounding on my front door. My neighbor was screaming, saying that she found her husband cold and unconscious on the bathroom floor. I rushed downstairs and we called 911.

It was too late. He had been found dead: acute respiratory failure from a Heroin overdose. As I watched his wife, sobbing, mourning over Daren's cold body, I couldn't

help but think of what I had just put into my arm several minutes ago – which she had no idea of. But I knew, and I knew something had to change.

I was sick of being sick and tired of being tired. All familiar forms of therapy and recovery just didn't seem to do the trick. So I became a patient at Transitions Clinic, and the same week I decided to enroll into a Bachelor of Science in Human Services Program at a local college in Sacramento.

It was going to take me four years and some change to complete it, but I think I needed to prove to myself that I could finish something that I had started. Keeping my mind off of old habits and working on gaining some kind of work ethic was just what I needed.

My motto use to be "You've got to lose yourself to find yourself," and that is exactly the way I was living – I was losing myself.

Six years later, my girlfriend is now my wife, we are both sober and ready to build a family. I am pursuing a Master of Social Work program, hopefully in Policy.

I feel both thankful and encouraged that everyone at Transitions Clinic has always believed in me and hundreds of others – showing (reminding?) us that we can dream better.

Editors note: If you too are struggling with an addiction problem, or know of someone that is, Transition Clinic may be able to help. They are located at 3647 40th St. in Sacramento, and can be reached at 916-452-1068 or on the web at www.sacramentotransitions.com.

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Ashley Mathews and Mendy DeGennaro on their wedding day. Photo by Eleakis & Elder Photography.

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\$135,000 Raised To Keep Wind Youth Shelter Open

With the help of multiple local businesses, nonprofit organizations, the County of Sacramento and members of the community, Wind Youth Services exceeded its fundraising goal to keep the adolescent shelter open through the end of the year by raising over \$135,000 in the Goodwill Challenge.



Wind Youth Services helps children who are often escaping physical or sexual abuse, suffering from extreme poverty, abandonment due to their gender or sexual identity, or a combination thereof.

Answering the Goodwill challenge, multiple businesses, government agencies and community nonprofits stepped up and made significant donations to Wind on a live Good Day Sacramento segment on March 29th.

On-air donors included County Supervisor Phil Serna, Goodwill, SAFE Credit Union, TriCounties Bank, the Sacramento Region Community Foundation, the District Attorney's office and the McClatchy Company. Members of the community also called in donations during the event and online support for Wind's adolescent shelter shattered expectations.

The Wind drop-in center is often the first stop for a young Sacramento child who has become homeless. Wind's adolescent shelter offers safety and emergency shelter to nearly

100 Sacramento teens per year.

These children are often escaping physical or sexual abuse, suffering from extreme poverty, abandonment due to their gender or sexual identity, or a combination thereof.

"This is one of the most vulnerable homeless populations in the Sacramento area," says Suzi Dotson, executive director of Wind, "these at-risk young people are dependent on our services as they strive to move from homelessness to a stable living situation. This shelter staying open is so critical to these children and their futures."

Those wishing to continue supporting Wind Youth Services in its mission can donate directly at www.windyouth.org/ donate or checks can be mailed to Wind Youth Services, 8001 Folsom Blvd, Sacramento, CA 95826.

Stonewall Democrats Endorse Darrell Steinberg For Mayor



At their April 11th the membership meeting the Stonewall Democratic Club of Greater Sacramento voted to endorse Darrell Steinberg (center) for Mayor of Sacramento. Steinberg and Democratic candidate Angelique Ashby spoke to the membership and answered questions about their vision for Sacramento's future.

May 22nd

Run/Walk for Equality - 10:00am



\$35 Run (5k/10k)

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LGBT Sacramento Valley Veterans Stand Down

by Charles Peer

After leading the fight for LGBT Veteran's rights in Sacramento for over six years, and reaching many of its goals, the Sacramento Valley Veterans has decided to stand down, ending most of its activities.

The decision to end the group was based on declining membership and member participation in SVV events.

"We are stepping away with our heads held high and a great deal of pride, thankfulness, and cherished memories under our belts," said SVV President Michael D. Williams in a message to SVV members.

The accomplishments of SVV are many. As a Chapter of the American Veterans for Equal Rights (AVER), SVV was forefront in the battle to end Don't Ask, Don't Tell in Sacramento, providing a voice for local news organizations and representing LGBT Veterans at rallies, community meetings and events.

Former SVV President Tyson Redhouse, current President Michael D. Williams and Secretary Gene Silvestri were also frequent visitors to the State Capital, where they provided testimony before Senate and Assembly hearings on bills addressing LGBT Veteran issues.

SVV members were also involved with inclusive veteran issues, providing support at Veteran's Stand Downs for homeless veterans, Suicide Prevention Awareness for Veterans, speaking out on PTSD issues and they had the honor of serving as the leading Color Guard each year since the return of the Veteran's Day Parade in Sacramento.

Providing services to LGBT veterans was a core goal, and to that end, SVV helped veterans navigate through upgrading dishonorable discharges, often given to a service member because they were LGBT, which prevented many LGBT veterans from being able to access the Veteran's Administration's medical system and other Veteran programs.

Especially under the leadership of former soldier Silvestri, SVV has been very active in support of transgender service members, for both veterans and active duty members.

"Within the last two years, we have gone from transgender veterans not knowing how

to access care to even being fearful of stepping foot into a VA hospital, but by SVV participating on VA transgender-specific panels, speaking at mental health and primary care staff meetings and opening the line of communication with the Patient Advocate we have been able to make that process less intimidating, if not welcoming."

SVV was very active in Sacramento's LGBT community as well, and was the color guard at many functions in the community, including Sacramento Pride and Parade, Stonewall's Four Freedom Awards, Sacramento LGBT Center events and CGNIE Coronations and served as the color guard for Speaker Toni Atkins swearing in ceremony at the Capital.

SVV is standing down in strong financial condition, with no outstanding debts. Remaining funds in the SVV treasury, in accordance with its bylaws, will be donated to non-profits that have played an important part in the SVV's mission. \$525 donations each will be made to the Gender Health Center Transgender Veterans Group; the Sacramento LGBT Community Center; Placer County PFLAG and the Sacramento Veterans Stand Down Organization. Remaining funds will be given to AVER.

One of the primary goals of SVV has been to provide a space for camaraderie for LGBT veterans and active duty members. To continue with that goal SVV has started a meet up group for purely social interaction, and can be found at http://www.meetup.com/Sacramento-LGBT-Veterans/?set_mobile=off.

The SVV website, www.sacvalleyvets.com, will be converted and maintained as a purely resource driven platform, referring Veterans in need to safe, LGBT friendly, competent resources throughout the VA and VBA.

"We are very proud of all we have done and accomplished," said board member and former SVV President Tyson Redhouse.



Members of the SVV Color Guard at the 2015 Sacramento Pride Parade

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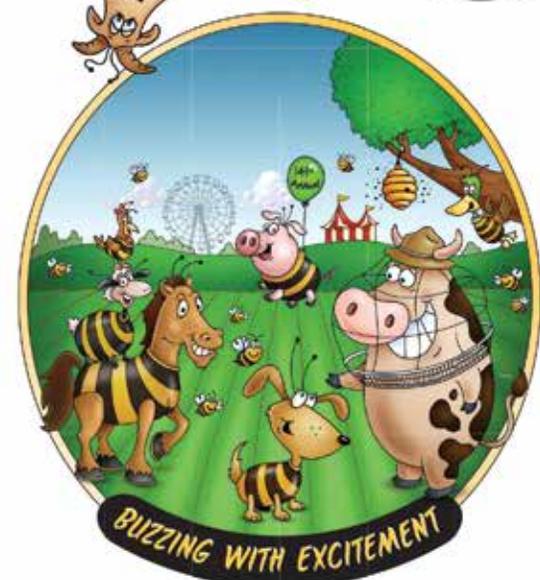
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DixonMayFair.com

For Mr. Bolt Leather 2016 Ray Sherwin, Leather Means Family

by Matthew Burlingame

From Tom of Finland to The Village People, the leather subculture has been a fundamental part of the LGBT experience since long before Stonewall jump-started the modern gay-rights movement.



Ray Sherwin, Mr. Bolt Leather 2016

For some the term “leather” may conjure images of hyper-masculine men strutting around in black vests, patrol boots and assless chaps with their hand poised readily on their flogging whip. But for Ray Sherwin, the current Mr. Bolt Leather 2016, leather means much more – it means “family.”

“I have found the leather community to be very open and accepting, though our common bond may only be the love of leather,” says Sherwin.

Sherwin left his hometown of Worcester, MA to join the Marine Corps. Now in his mid-30s he has lived in Sacramento for over a decade. It was here that he was first introduced to the leather scene by his partners Earl Grist and Jake Andersen. Andersen was the Mr. Bolt Leather titleholder in 2008.

“It was a combination of camaraderie and family along with uniforms and boots that made me truly embrace the community,” Sherwin says. “Definitely an odd combination but I couldn’t see my life without the leather community now.”

In August 2015 Sherwin competed in and won the Mr. Bolt Leather contest held each year by the Bolt Bar in Sacramento. Along with the title, Mr. Bolt Leather is

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expected to represent Sacramento and the Bolt at regional and national events. But most importantly they must be invested in the betterment of their local community which includes fundraising for Sacramento based charities.

Sherwin does his best to fulfill that obligation.

“Walk A Mile In Her Shoes and Sunburst Project are just a few of the charities that I have supported this year,” he says.

He also hosted a toy drive for “Mama’s Family” run annually by Sandy “Mama” Reinhardt, an icon in the leather community who is well known for her charitable work.

Outside of his life as Sacramento’s leading leatherman Sherwin works part-time as a “bearista” in a local coffee shop. Though he holds a degree in Interior Design, he is currently attending college to become a registered nurse. In his downtime, however, he can usually be found playing with his dog “Bess” and giant tortoise “Atticus.”

Currently Sherwin is attempting to raise funds for the expense of attending International Mr. Leather (IML) in Chicago the weekend of May 27. During the weekend he

and other contestants will compete to become Mr. International Leather, one of the most coveted titles within the leather world. With over 15,000 people expected to turn out for the event IML is one of the world’s largest leather gatherings.

But for Sherwin the desire to be named Mr. International Leather 2016 is not merely about winning another title.

“Winning would mean that my peers thought I would be the best candidate to actively represent the leather community worldwide for the coming year,” Sherwin explains. “If I win I will use the title as an opportunity to personally give back everything I can to the community that has embraced me.”

On May 21 the Bolt Bar will host an IML send off party for Sherwin.

“I am so thankful to those in the community who have supported my journey as Mr. Bolt Leather 2016,” says Sherwin sincerely. “I’d also like to thank the Bolt Bar for giving a home to the leather title and making it possible to for me compete.”

For more about IML visit imrl.com. To donate to Sherwin’s IML travel fund email MrBolt2016@SacBolt.com.

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Trans 9th Grader in NC Sends Open Letter to Gov. McCrory

Skylar Thomson, a transgender 9th grader from North Carolina, sent an open letter to Gov. Pat McCrory on April 18th, explaining what it's like to be a transgender student and asking the Governor to meet with him.

"Dear Governor McCrory:

My name is Skylar Thomson. I am 15 years old, I live in Eastern North Carolina, and I am a transgender boy. That means I was born a female and identify as a male.

I was in Raleigh for the debate on House Bill 2 on March 23. I was the only transgender student who got a chance to speak out against HB2, the so called "bathroom bill" that is supposed to keep everyone safe in bathrooms. But it doesn't keep everyone safe, especially people like me. Imagine yourself in my shoes, being a boy walking into a ladies room. It's awkward and embarrassing and can actually be dangerous. By putting this law in place you're putting kids like me in danger.

I've dealt with bullying my whole life. And now I feel that my own state lawmakers and governor are bullying me as well. I face daily harassment for being myself, everything from dirty looks to physical assaults. I don't report them because I know it will just make the other kids bully me more. In schools all over the place transgender kids go through the same thing every day. Because of the constant harassment, I have had more than one

transgender friend attempt suicide.

HB2 just gives other students all the more reason to hate us.

After my speech at the HB2 hearing, two people from your staff invited me to a private meeting. They said that you wanted to learn more about the difficulties transgender kids like me face. At the end of our meeting, I asked your staff if I could meet with you in person before you made your decision about HB2. I hoped that if we met you would see that I'm just like any other kid, a kid worth protecting. I wanted to tell you my story, really bad things that have happened to me that I'm not comfortable sharing in this letter and that should never happen to a kid. Your staff said they would try to find a way for us to meet, but we never did. You signed HB2 into law an hour later.

Governor, I would still like to meet with you if at all possible. My friends would like to meet with you too. We think that if you get to know us, you will work on helping to keep us safe in bathrooms and everywhere else we go.

Thank you for your time,
Skylar Thomson, 9th Grader"

Outword Salutes Sacramento's Rainbow Chamber of Commerce

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Don't Miss the 2016 Pacific Rim Street Fest

After a one-year hiatus, the 23rd Annual Pacific Rim Street Fest is scheduled to return to Sacramento on Saturday, May 14, from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

As in years past, the Festival will be celebrating and showcasing all facets of the Asian Pacific Islander cultures, but new this year is their location: they will be moving their event to Southside Park, a venue that offers ample room, much-appreciated shade, and convenient parking.

In 1993, the first Pacific Rim Street Fest was presented in Old Sacramento by restaurateur Frank Fat and community groups. With his ever-optimistic spirit, Mr. Fat was able to create a coalition of community leaders and succeed in seeing his dream of a street festival come to pass.

For more than two decades, the festival has displayed the richness and diversity of many Pacific Rim peoples through cultural programs, entertainment, art and food. The event also enhances the community's

knowledge of Asian/Pacific Island cultures in a fun and positive environment.

For more information, visit www.pacificrimstreetfest.com.



Kata Hay Looks Forward After Leaving *The Voice*

by Colt McGraw and Chris Narloch

Kata Hay, who was recently eliminated on *The Voice*, gained notoriety as the contestant who shared an onscreen lip-lock with judge Christina Aguilera after Aguilera coyly asked her, "Shall we make out now?"



Kata Hay

It wasn't Hay's first same-sex kiss, and the self-described "redneck" has been singing since she could talk. At age two, she begged her father to pay a \$50 entrance fee for a beauty pageant. She ended up winning that pageant and later started singing at fairs around Oklahoma, even performing at the "Rodeo Opry" with Blake Shelton.

When she was 13, Kata was urged by a young Kacey Musgraves to enter the National Yodeling Competition and ended up winning the crown for the next five years. Hay met her now ex-husband when she was 18 years old, and together they performed at Dolly Parton's Dixie Stampede and the Hatfield & McCoy Dinner Show.

After that marriage fell apart, she met her current girlfriend, Savanna. The couple recently moved to Nashville, where they work at the Wild Beaver Saloon. Kata enjoys hosting karaoke at the club, and she also enjoys people recognizing her from *The Voice*.

Outword's own Colt McGraw, a country

fan if ever there was one, recently spoke with Hay by phone and filed this interview.

I asked Kata if people ever compare her to other singers. She replied with, "Yes. Janis, Tanya and Wynonna." I'm guessing that this can be attributed to her wholesome country personality matched with her fiery rock performance style.

I asked Kata about her purpose for singing. She answered, "There's a message, but I'm not exactly sure what it is. I believe in treating people right."

I interjected, as I often do, "Like the Golden Rule?" She replied, "Yes, treat others the way you want to be treated." You can't argue with that.

"I want to write; I want to tell my story," Kata shared. She certainly has a story to tell. Just three years ago Kata's mother died, and her sister died seven years prior of cancer. Kata says that one of the biggest lessons that she's learned is, "If you feel something, say it, when you want to say it."

As for that memorable audition in which Hay received "mouth to mouth" from Aguilera, Christina told her, "If you pick me [as her coach] there's more of that to come."

Hay revealed that there have not been any other kisses; however, she is having a great time. She describes her experience on *The Voice* in one word: "Crazy."

You can find out much more about Kata on her website, kataandtheblaze.wix.com/katahay.

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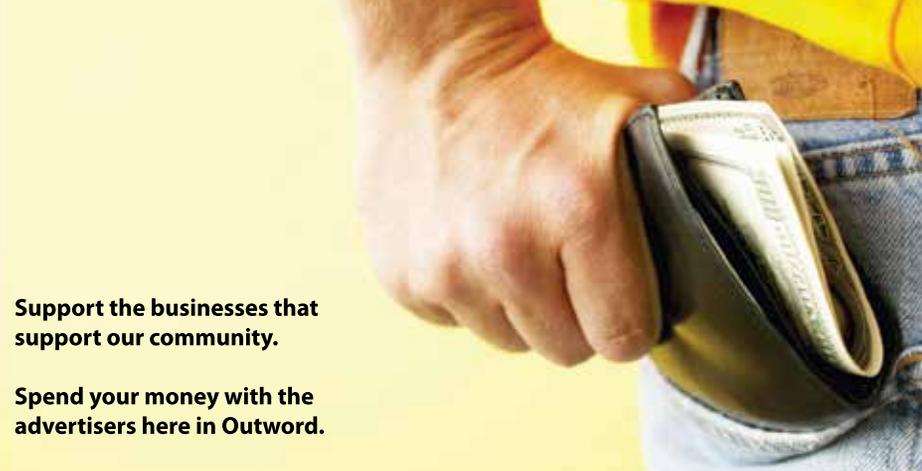
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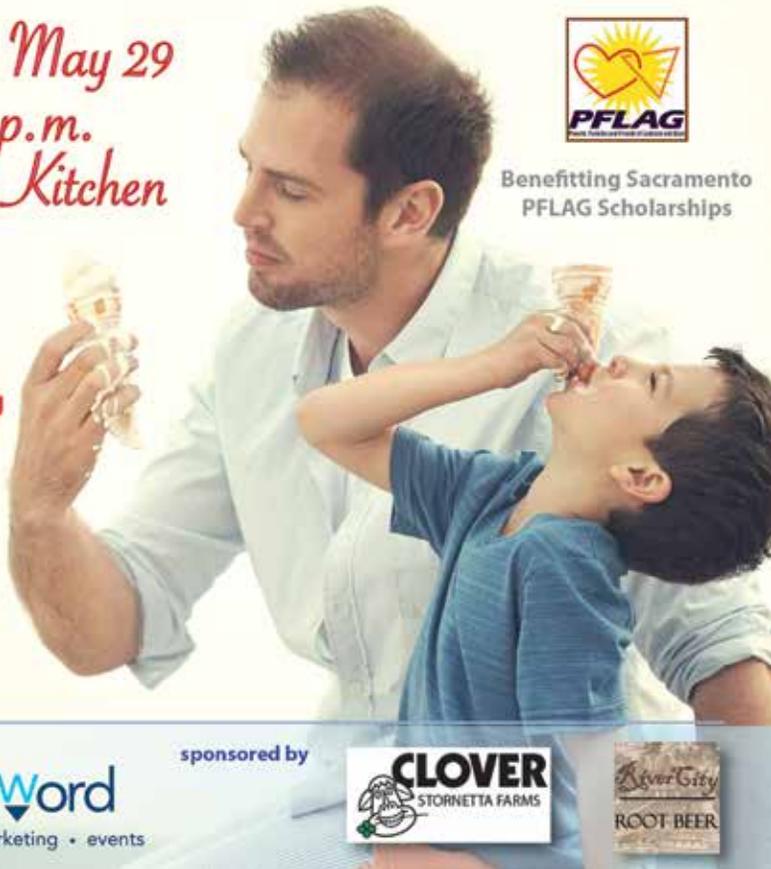


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Thanks to Hamilton, Alexander Hamilton Is a Hot Property

by Chris Narloch

Many famous folks are more popular dead than alive, but Alexander Hamilton's sudden popularity more than two hundred years after his death at the age of 49 is a phenomenon that can mostly be attributed to one man: Lin-Manuel Miranda.

Miranda, in case you haven't heard, is the driving force behind the mega-blockbuster musical *Hamilton* which is the hottest ticket on Broadway, having accumulated \$32 million in advance ticket sales to date.

The show, which Miranda created and stars in, tells the story of probably the most prolific of our founding fathers, Alexander Hamilton, who was the nation's first Secretary of the Treasury, was chief staff aide to General George Washington, founded the Federalist Party and the *New York Post*, and helped start the U.S. Coast Guard, among many other achievements.

While we wait for the musical to arrive on the West Coast – season tickets that include a national tour starting in San Francisco in March of 2017 are already on sale – there are several ways for those of us who have yet to see the show to enjoy a taste of the *Hamilton* experience.

The cast recording for the musical has been out for more than six months and recently cracked iTunes' top ten album chart after becoming the hottest cast album among teens and "tweens" since Disney's *Frozen*.

While you listen to that two-disc, 46-song CD, you can also leaf through the just-published coffee-table book *Hamilton: The Revolution*, by Miranda and Jeremy McCarter.

The impressive 288-page tome is sub-titled thusly: "Being the complete libretto of the Broadway musical, with a true account of its creation, and concise remarks on hip-hop, the power of stories, and the new America."

The new book will no doubt join Ron Chernow's 2004 biography *Alexander Hamilton* on the current bestseller lists, and

it deserves to. *Hamilton: The Revolution* is a lovingly crafted time capsule of the musical's journey to Broadway that fans can enjoy while they wait to see the show.

In Sacramento, we probably won't see a touring production of *Hamilton* come through town until sometime in 2019 or 2020 – but don't quote me on that. (I've been wrong before.)

Hamilton just keeps on breaking records; the show recently won the 2016 Pulitzer Prize for Drama, only the ninth musical in the history of the American theatre to do so, and it is a slam-dunk to win the Tony for Best Musical this June.

I snagged the next-to-last copy of *Hamilton: The Revolution* from the shelf of the Birdcage Barnes and Noble recently, and after this issue of *Outword* is put to bed, I will fly to New York City for my annual theater trip.

While I am on the plane, I plan to dig deeper into the new book, which is filled with gorgeous photos and insider anecdotes about the musical, whose tickets are being resold for hundreds and in some cases thousands of dollars.

Once I arrive in the Big Apple – and in between my other shows – I will begin playing the lottery. Not the New York Lottery, mind you, but the *Hamilton* lottery, which takes place before every performance of the sold-out show.

Two tickets to see the musical from the front row of the Richard Rodgers Theatre are available for just \$10 each (yes, ten dollars!) if you're one of the approximately ten lucky winners.

Wish me luck.



Lin-Manuel Miranda and the cast of *Hamilton*

Kevin Spacey and Don Cheadle Get Real

by Chris Narloch

Two of our finest actors, Kevin Spacey and Don Cheadle, have new movies in theaters, and in both cases, they are playing real people: Richard Nixon and Miles Davis, respectively.



Chris Hemsworth stars in *The Huntsman: Winter's War*

Read on for reviews of those two films as well as my thoughts on *The Huntsman: Winter's War*.

Elvis & Nixon

In December 1970, the King of Rock 'n' Roll traveled to the White House to request a meeting with President Richard Nixon.

What exactly transpired between the pair in the Oval Office is now the stuff of myth and legend, especially since both men are long dead, but this movie has fun imagining what might have happened.

The main reason to see *Elvis & Nixon* is to watch two great actors having a blast playing enormously famous folks.

Michael Shannon creates a wonderfully peculiar Elvis, even though he really doesn't look or sound anything like The King.

Spacey is even better as "Tricky Dicky" encountering, in Presley, a man who, by that point, is even more paranoid than the President (and future Watergate wacko).

Whether it's his Johnny Carson or his Bill Clinton, nobody (except for maybe Rich Little) does impersonations as well as Kevin Spacey, and he is also hilarious as Nixon, dismissing an underling with the insult, "What are you?! A fucking potted plant?"

Miles Ahead

The quietly powerful Don Cheadle is one of my favorite actors, and his artistry is on full display in this odd biopic of Miles Davis, the legendary jazz genius who died in 1991.

Cheadle directs and stars in the movie as the famous trumpet player, and the results are as strange as Miles Davis himself.

Concocting a wild story involving car chases and stolen session tapes, the fictionalized film is as impressionistic and outwordmagazine.com

unpredictable as Davis's best music. (It occasionally reminded me of one of those super-cool "blaxploitation" movies from the '70s.)

Miles Ahead won't be everyone's cup of tea, but the star is terrific here. The movie may not always be believable, but Cheadle as Miles Davis is completely convincing.

Now playing at Sacramento's Tower Theatre.

The Huntsman: Winter's War

If you enjoyed 2012's *Snow White and the Huntsman* as much as I did, you'll want to see this prequel/sequel, which affords his fans another opportunity to see Chris Hemsworth in action on the big screen.

Hemsworth is the closest we have to a living, breathing Viking come to life, and I will see him in anything. (I'd like to see him in nothing at all, if you know what I mean, but enough about my sexual fantasies.)

It's fun to watch Hemsworth's huntsman swing his axe once again, even though the movie isn't nearly as good as the first one, which starred Kristen Stewart as a surprisingly scrappy Snow White and Charlize Theron as the Evil Queen.

Stewart and her character are not around this time, but Theron is back on board, chewing the scenery deliciously, and she is joined by two other great actresses: Emily Blunt, as the queen's equally evil sister, and Jessica Chastain, as the huntsman's love interest.

Imagine a cross between one of Peter Jackson's middle earth movies and a live action, non-musical version of *Frozen*, and you'll have a pretty good idea of what to expect at *The Huntsman: Winter's War*. queen-sized catfights and super-cheesy CGI fun.

A Response To Those Who Tell Lesbians "It's Just A Phase."



Samira Mahboub and Ania Catherine, based on their experience as a couple and hearing comments such as "I don't get it, I'm just worried about you, it's just a phase," decided to call-out less visible and seemingly innocent discourses around romantic love between women with their new piece *Phase*. You can watch the short video at vimeo.com/160002900

Going for the Laughs with Comic Michael Patton

by Matthew Burlingame

"Guys who make fun of a girl for what she looks like without makeup deserve to have girls judge them by how small their dick is soft," jokes Michael Patton in his stand-up routine.

After winning the 2014 Sacramento Comedy Competition, the 26-year-old's comedy career has been on the rise with regular appearances at the Comedy Spot, The Punchline and Laughs Unlimited.

"The largest venue I've played is Tourettes Without Regrets," says Patton when asked about some of his more memorable appearances. "It's this amazing show in Oakland once a month and I performed there in their 4th of July show. It was in a wrestling ring and people were all holding sparklers so the building was filled with smoke and there was an insane amount of people packed in there. I don't know the specific number, but it was my largest audience by far."

Patton grew up a fan of stand-up comedy, citing Doug Stanhope, Dave Attell and Bill Burr as his absolute favorite comedians. But his own stand-up dream was almost derailed at a young age.

"I signed up to perform stand up at a talent show when I was in eighth grade, but backed out," recalls the Sacramento native.

But that dream would not fade and years later he would take the stage for his first attempt at doing what he loved. He describes his drive as "a need to talk about myself a lot."

"I love how awkward it gets sometimes,"

Patton says when asked his favorite thing about doing live shows. "Like when you think something is going to be funny, and it's not. Then you have to tweak it and rework it until it finally has the payoff you want"

Patton's routine mostly includes stories and observations from his real life adventures about the "dumb stuff I've done." But the comedian felt the authenticity of his act suffering when he talked about dating women.

"I have no idea how I lied my way through it," he reflects. "Even though I was out in almost every other aspect of my life I was terrified. Then one day at Luna's cafe I just went for it. It still stands out as one of my best/weirdest sets I've ever had."

While Patton is now open about his sexuality in his comedy, it is only a small part of his routine. He still, however, faces occasional backlash from audience members..

"I've had people who have felt the need to find me after shows and tell me I talk about it too much," he says, adding, "If there is a god I hope that he wouldn't care about my sexuality, but instead care about things like me giving Breaking Bad only two stars."

Follow Michael at twitter.com/michaelpatton



Michael Patton

CGNIE Crowns a New Emperor and Empress

Congratulations to Emperor 42 Santos Ashley St. James and Empress 42 Harmony Envy on their final walks, completing a successful year of fundraising, hosting community events and representing Sacramento's LGBT community. Congratulations also to the new Monarchs, Emperor 43 Jeo Treto and Empress 43 Taryn Thru-U, who were crowned at Coronation 2016 held Saturday, April 16th.



SCSO Caps 20th Season with European Masterworks and New CD Release

Conductor Donald Kendrick and the Sacramento Choral Society & Orchestra (SCSO) plan to cap their landmark 20th season with a performance featuring three contrasting choral orchestral works by Haydn, Vaughan Williams and Dvorák.



Conductor Donald Kendrick and the Sacramento Choral Society & Orchestra

But the celebration doesn't end there. The evening will also serve as a huge CD release party as the SCSO plans to unveil its ninth professionally mastered CD – Carmina Burana II – at this year-end performance.

Haydn's *Harmoniemesse* will serve as the evening's main musical fare, complemented by Vaughan Williams' *An Oxford Elegy*, and Dvorák's *Psalms 149* on the first half of the concert.

"The *Harmoniemesse* will bring back so many warm memories as this was the amazing work that we featured during our first self-funded European tour to Munich, Prague, Vienna, and Budapest in 2004," says Conductor Donald Kendrick.

Four outstanding soloists and narrator Phillip Rider will join the SCSO team on stage for this performance. "A post concert reception, projected supertitle translations, and Don Kendrick's electric and educational pre-concert talk at 7 p.m. will enhance the

evening's enjoyment for our concert attendees," added SCSO Board Member Charlene Black.

"Our new CD is a live recording of our very well-received Carmina Burana performance on March 5, 2016 at the Community Center Theater," said SCSO President James McCormick. "We're thrilled that the CD will also showcase the American premiere of English composer Jonathan Dove's *Psalms for Leo*. The amazing 12-page color CD insert promises to add great value to the CD itself."

SCSO European Masterworks will be performed on May 14 at 8 p.m. at the Sacramento Community Center Theater. Tickets are \$30 - \$45 with a 50 percent discount for students. For tickets, call the Sacramento Community Center Box Office at 916-808-5181 or visit sacramentochooral.com for both tickets and information.

Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson Are on the Hunt in STC's *Hound Of The Baskervilles*



Expect laughs and suspense as Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson investigate the legend of the *Hound Of The Baskervilles* in STC's new adaptation of the classic Victorian whodunit. Pictured are Conor Woods as Ticket Seller, William Elsmann as Sherlock Holmes, and Michael RJ Campbell as Dr. Watson. For dates and tickets, visit www.sactheatre.org. Photo by Barry Wisdom Photography.

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The Missing Generation Gives Voice to Longtime Survivors



Trailblazing transgender choreographer Sean Dorsey returns to San Francisco (May 5-7) on the 20-city tour of *The Missing Generation*, a stunning new dance-theater work based on oral history interviews with longtime survivors of the early AIDS epidemic. Visit www.seandorseydance.com.

A Queer Comedy and a Lesbian Documentary on DVD

by Chris Narloch

Must-see movies making their debuts on DVD include a gay comedy with an evangelical backdrop and a documentary about a forgotten lesbian artist.



Cole Doman (left) and Joe Keery in *Henry Gamble's Birthday Party*

Henry Gamble's Birthday Party

Chicago-based LGBT filmmaker Stephen Cone (son of a Southern Baptist minister) returns to the subject matter of evangelical America he previously explored in the award-winning indie film *The Wise Kids* with this entertaining queer comedy.

Henry Gamble's Birthday Party unfolds over the course of one eventful day in the life of 17-year-old preacher's kid Henry (played by newcomer Cole Doman), who has had to keep his homosexuality a secret from his family and religious community.

As day turns to night and clothes come off, Henry and his similarly closeted friend Logan struggle with their faith and their desire for earthly love.

After a New York City theatrical release and a year of film festival success, *Henry Gamble's Birthday Party* will be released via Wolfe Video on DVD and VOD May 3, 2016.

Packed In A Trunk: The Lost Art of Edith Lake Wilkinson

This is the fascinating true story of gifted lesbian artist Edith Lake Wilkinson, who was committed to an asylum in 1924 after objections had been raised about Edith's "close and constant contact" with her longtime companion Fannie.

Emmy-winning writer/director Jane Anderson (Edith's great niece), along with her spouse Tess, pieced together the mystery of Edith's buried life, and resolved to return her lost art to Provincetown, where she had been a part of the early art scene decades prior.

After a successful and award-winning festival run and an HBO broadcast in 2015, *Packed In A Trunk* was released April 26 of this year, on DVD and VOD by Wolfe Video. Don't miss it.



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