

Outword Celebrates 21 Years!

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An Open Letter to the CDC on PrEP

Four years ago on July 16, 2012, the Food and Drug Administration approved use of Truvada for the prevention of HIV, which is also known as Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP)¹. In a report released by Gilead Sciences on June 20, 2016, they revealed the following information:

1. 49,148 total cumulative prescriptions for Truvada as PrEP have been filled based on data reported by 82% of all pharmacies. While it is unknown how many people who were originally prescribed the drug are still on it, based on adherence information in previous studies, no more than half the people actually took the drug on any type of consistent basis². Therefore, we estimate that about 25,000 are still taking Truvada for prevention. Of these patients 79% were men or about 20,000.
2. We are assuming almost all of these 20,000 are men who have sex with men (MSM). Studies estimate that there are 4,875,000 MSM³—or 3.9% of the 125 million adult men in the US. As a result, we can conclude that less than .04% of MSM are taking Truvada for PrEP. CDC has suggested that 1.2 million men⁴ should be on PrEP but doctors and patients are not responding to that call in large numbers. PrEP cannot be a major factor in preventing HIV when so few people are on it. On the other hand recent studies indicate that 60% of MSM use condoms regularly⁵, based on last sex among HIV-negative MSM.
3. African-Americans are 12% of the US population but are 44% of new HIV infections⁶. However, they are only 10% of people on PrEP. Young people are most at risk for new HIV infections, but made up only 7.6% of PrEP prescriptions. Whites represent 27% of new infections but made up 74% of those on PrEP. The men who are taking PrEP are those least at risk from HIV.
4. PrEP does not protect people from STDs. The rapid rise in rates of STDs such as syphilis, chlamydia and gonorrhea⁷ indicate that fewer people are using condoms and suggesting the need to reinvigorate safer sex campaigns, which have suffered greatly as a result of the CDC's almost exclusive focus on PrEP.
5. The wide-scale advertising promotions of Truvada for PrEP by AIDS organizations and community groups funded by the manufacturer Gilead Sciences gives the impression that PrEP is very popular even though the raw numbers tell another story. Based on the large number of men who say they are on PrEP on hook-up sites such as Grindr, it would appear that they are seeking unprotected sex whether they take the drug or not.

The CDC is the national agency responsible for the prevention of HIV and other STDs. As such, we call on you to re-balance your prevention efforts to align with what patients want and need so that we can achieve better success in preventing new infections.

Thank you.
AIDS Healthcare Foundation

¹Food and Drug Administration. (2012). FDA approves first drug for reducing the risk of sexually acquired HIV infection. Retrieved online: <http://www.fda.gov/NewsEvents/Newsroom/PressAnnouncements/ucm312210.htm>

²Cohen SE et al. (2014). Implementation of PrEP in STD Clinics: High Uptake and Drug Detection Among MSM in the Demonstration Project. 21st Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections (CROI). Retrieved online: <http://www.croiconference.org/sessions/implementation-prep-std-clinics-high-uptake-and-drug-detection-among-msm-demo-project>

³Jones JM. (22 June 2016). Same-Sex Marriages Up One Year After Supreme Court Verdict. Gallup. Retrieved online: <http://www.gallup.com/poll/193055/sex-marriages-one-year-supreme-court-verdict.aspx>

⁴Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (24 November 2015). Transcript for CDC Telebriefing: Daily Pill Prevents HIV – New CDC estimates underscore the need to increase awareness of a daily pill that can prevent HIV infection. Retrieved online: <http://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2015/t1124-hivprep.html>

⁵Paz-Bailey G et al. (2016). Trends in condom use among men who have sex with men in the United States: The role of antiretroviral therapy and sero-adaptive strategies. AIDS.

⁶Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (November 2015). Diagnoses of HIV Infection in the United States and Dependent Areas, 2014. Retrieved online: <http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/pdf/library/reports/surveillance/cdc-hiv-surveillance-report-us.pdf>

⁷Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (17 November 2015). Reported Cases of Sexually Transmitted Diseases on the Rise, Some at Alarming Rate. Retrieved online: <http://www.cdc.gov/nchhstp/newsroom/2015/std-surveillance-report-press-release.html>

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Cabaldon Runs Unopposed for West Sacramento Mayor

by Jonathan Taylor

Christopher Cabaldon is evidence of the progress made in LGBT equality in California, nationally and around the world. Part of a first generation of LGBT elected officials, Cabaldon was the first mayor directly elected in West Sacramento in 2004 and has remained mayor since.



In what may have been one of the shortest mayoral campaigns in West Sacramento history, Mayor Christopher Cabaldon (center) met with supporters for his reelection bid on August 11th at the Bike Dog Brewery in West Sacramento. Days later it was announced that no one was running against him for mayor. Pictured with the Mayor are Jesse Kaplan, Israel Hernandez, Sacramento Stonewall President Jann Dorothy and SCUSD Board Member Jay Hansen.

This year, for his reelection, he will get to skip most of the fundraising events that take up so much time, because he is running unopposed, with strong support from the community and acknowledgement of a job well done.

Under his leadership, one of the most significant changes in West Sacramento since 2000 has been the economic growth and housing development of the city. Currently, there are plans for several housing developments, two hotels, two bridges, and completion of "The Barn" events center, all of which could come to fruition in his next term.

"Raley Field was one of the most important tipping points (in that progress), it was my first project as mayor," Cabaldon told *Outword*, reflecting on how the stadium has improved not only the image of West Sacramento, but spurred growth in many other ways.

Mayor Cabaldon speaks fondly of West Sacramento, noting that it is a "Unique

challenge and opportunity. "West Sacramento is hungry and there is interest in new things," he said. Since becoming Mayor, the city has added a library and community college.

He believes it is his job to help create conditions for development. "There is not a lot of money, so it is important to attract investors with pro-growth policies." His approach is to solve "real problems with real people," community members, developers, and business people.

One area of pride for the Mayor is that West Sacramento is a safe city and statistics show lower rates of crime than the state average. That doesn't mean that the city doesn't have problems though, and when asked about a recent case involving gang injunctions and the enhanced sentence of a 14 year-old because of gang affiliation, the Mayor said; "West Sacramento has a gang injunction, but there are only 30 to 35 people on the list. The list is based on the suspect's criminal record not profiling."

Mayor Cabaldon commented on how West Sacramento, being a new city founded in 1987 in Yolo county, is often neglected in funding measures, but has recently received Federal approval for a \$500,000 levee rebuilding project that will be a focus in his next term.

As mayor, Cabaldon has championed one of the most significant LGBT civil rights resolutions in the U.S., the Conference of Mayors Resolution 46. The adopted resolution calls for support for marriage equality, opposing hate crimes, employment nondiscrimination, and the repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell." In addition, he is a member of the League of California Cities, founded Pacific Asian and Gay/Lesbian Caucuses, and published a column "Gay marriage, a question of justice," about Marriage Equality in 2013.

Mayor Cabaldon says he has faced opposition being an openly gay elected official. "I came out after being elected Mayor, it has strengthened the community. There has been support and some opposition. Many support me politically even though there is some opposition to my sexual orientation."

The White House and United States Conference of Mayors have recognized Cabaldon's successes in education. Universal preschool is one of his most noted accomplishments; "Over a decade ago, many doubted the plan, and no city near our size had attempted it. This gives families preschool options whether grants are available or not, providing availability for everyone," he said.

When asked about LGBT rights in California he said; "Cities are no longer the focus of LGBT rights in California. The focus is now federal equality. We need to, focus nationally, and federally, on housing, employment, benefits and helping people in other states, like North Carolina, Mississippi, Alabama, etc."

Jonathan Taylor has written for Examiner.com and Stonewall Democrats Quarterly and is an LGBT political and economic writer, with a B.S. in Accountancy from University of Phoenix, and a Master of Legal Studies from Drexel University.

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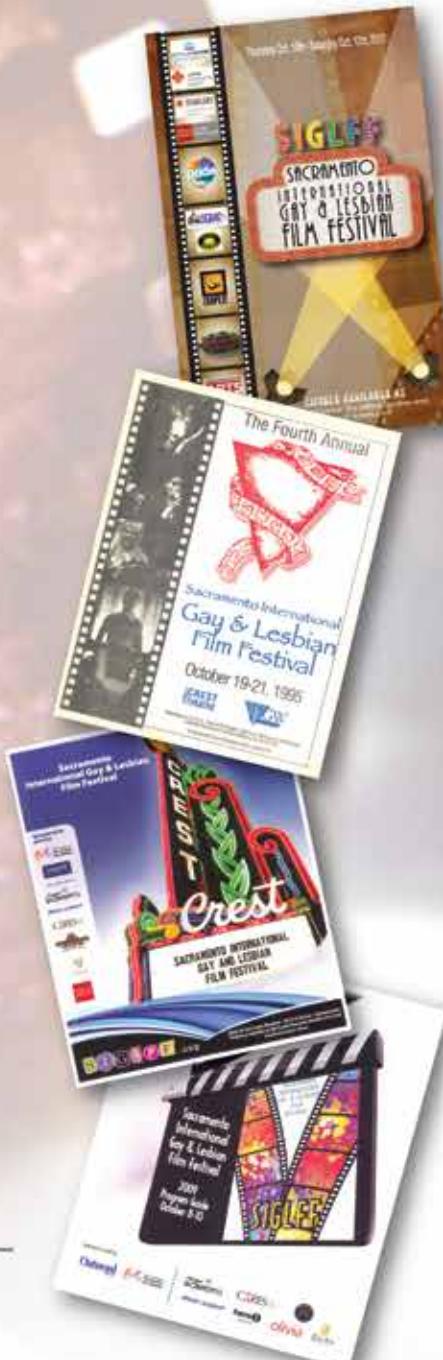
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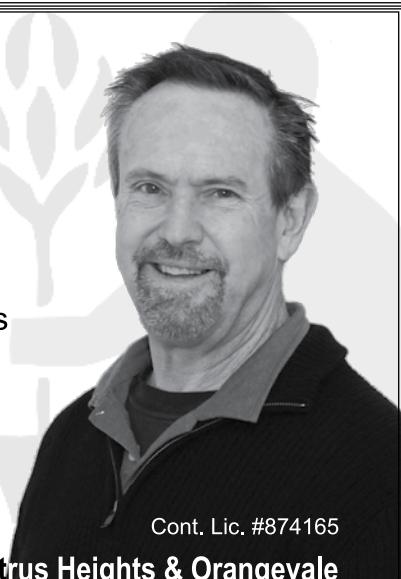
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EQCA-Sponsored Blood Ban Resolution Clears CA Senate

The California Senate on August 11 passed a bipartisan resolution calling for an end to federal blood donation policies that discriminate against men who have sex with men (MSM).

Senate Joint Resolution (SJR) 26, calls upon President Barack Obama to compel the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to repeal current Food and Drug Administration (FDA) blood donor policies that discriminate against LGBT people, and instead, direct the agency to develop science-based policies that utilize individual behavioral risk.

SJR 26 is authored by California Senate President Pro Tem Kevin de León (D-Los Angeles) and Assembly Republican Leader Chad Mayes (R-Yucca Valley) and sponsored by Equality California.

SJR 26 urges the President to endorse blood donation eligibility policies based on modern understanding of HIV and that assess behavioral risk rather than using blanket discrimination based on sexual orientation and outdated assumptions and fears. It requests that President Obama direct the FDA to develop policies in alignment with that approach.

Despite modern technology that makes HIV detection easily achievable and extremely accurate, the FDA currently prohibits a man from donating blood if he has had sex with another man anytime in the last 12 months.

The American Public Health Association has stated that the FDA has provided no scientific rationale to justify the 12-month deferral policy. Currently, medical technology can identify within seven to 10 days with 99.9 percent accuracy whether or not a blood sample is HIV-positive. The chance of a blood test being inaccurate

within the 10-day window is approximately one in 2,000,000.

"When so many otherwise eligible gay and bisexual men who wanted to donate blood after the recent tragedy in Orlando were turned away, the need to reform the FDA's outdated policy on blood donation once again became painfully clear," said Rick Zbur, executive director of Equality California. "A gay man in a monogamous relationship who has repeatedly tested negative for HIV is prohibited from giving blood, while non-LGBT men who engage in high risk behaviors are allowed to donate. We urge the FDA to develop risk-based blood donation policies based on modern science and individual behavior instead of stereotypes, stigma, and fear."

Equality California also has retained a lobbying team which is advocating with federal lawmakers and FDA officials to revise the arbitrary and outdated policies that discriminate against LGBT people.

"The basis of our current standards for determining blood-donor suitability was developed decades ago at a time when our knowledge of HIV and our detection methods were limited," said Senator De León. "Since then, time and science have marched on and so must our policies."

According to the Williams Institute at the UCLA School of Law, lifting the federal lifetime deferral policy on blood donation by gay and bisexual men could generate some 615,000 additional pints of blood annually nationwide, and an additional 75,000 donated pints in California.

Aussie LGBT Thriller *Downriver* Is a Chilling Mystery



James (Reef Ireland) has just been released from prison after serving time for drowning a little boy when he himself was just a child. The boy's body was never found, and James, guilt-ridden and still haunted by questions about what really happened that day, returns to the rural community where the crime took place and undertakes a quest to find the body. Available on demand and DVD. Watch the trailer at www.youtube.com/watch?v=98m9GXxPB4I

Workplace Inclusivity Can Drive Performance

commentary by Brian Putler

The LGBT community has seen tremendous progress in recent years, from the Supreme Court support of marriage equality to the 2016 Olympic World Games in Rio sporting a record number of out athletes. These public displays of progress overshadow subtle yet imperative changes made where most people spend their waking days – the corporate workplace.



As a gay professional, I've lived through shifts within the corporate world, from hostility toward the gay community to a form of tolerance where it was polite to avoid talking about it, to now working for a company that is leading the charge with inclusive and supportive policies that empower employees to bring their whole selves to work.

Indeed, there has been a shift in the workplace and corporate culture in the past few decades that highlights inclusivity, which may not be quite as obvious to those outside of the gay community.

When I began my career in Sacramento during the mid-1980s at a conservative law firm, being gay was not a safe topic for discussion. I was afraid for anyone to know I was gay and lived with another man as I feared the reactions would be negative for my career. I didn't know what the consequences would be if someone found out, and I lived with this fear every day.

When I left the firm, I let it be known that part of the reason I was leaving was because of the workplace environment and the anxiety it created in me. As I anticipated, some of the attorneys were accepting and supportive and wished me well, but many weren't and didn't. I ultimately left the firm for a state job in the early 1990s as I believed the state would be a more tolerant employer, and it was.

This move, from being closeted in the workplace for survival to now being in a totally inclusive work environment with my current employer, Bank of America, has had an enormous impact on my performance and ability to thrive professionally.

Hiding who I was required vigilance and energy, preventing me from showing my full potential at work. I withdrew from social opportunities and kept a low profile – continually plotting an exit strategy. None of these things increased my productivity, professional development, or success.

I know I'm not alone in witnessing this change from corporate closet to full workplace acceptance. A study in 2001 by the Human Rights Campaign showed how just over half of Fortune 500 companies included sexual orientation in their nondiscrimination policies, and only a handful included gender identity.

However, the same study was done by HRC a decade later in 2011, showing that 93 percent of such companies included sexual orientation and 75 percent included gender identity in their nondiscrimination policies. That's a huge shift in the climate and resources available to LGBT employees in the corporate workforce.

I've spent most of my life in Sacramento, graduating from law school at the University of the Pacific in 1985. I have worked over 35 years in law and state government, and since 2014 I've been at Bank of America, a company that prides itself on promoting equality.

Fortunately for me, my current workplace actively promotes and celebrates workplace diversity as important and beneficial to all. As one of the first financial institutions to incorporate sexual orientation and gender identity into its nondiscrimination policies and to offer comprehensive domestic partner benefits, the support given to its LGBT employees is extensive.

We even have an Ally Network of employees who openly support LGBT colleagues, with more than 15,000 visible allies in 1,000 cities in 30 countries across the globe.

As I reflect on where I began my career to today, I am grateful to work in an environment that does more than merely tolerate employees, but rather fully embraces the notion that employees can only be at their best when free to be themselves.

What a change.

Brian Putler is Senior Vice President, Public Policy for Bank of America, based in Sacramento.

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Historic Home Tour Features Julia Morgan House

The 41st Annual Historic Home Tour showcases the Elmhurst neighborhood with its architectural gems, such as the Julia Morgan House, includes Mediterranean, Tudor Revival, Craftsman, and Victorian style architecture, all under a canopy of large elm, ash and oak trees.

The shady residential neighborhood (bounded by Highway 50, Stockton Boulevard, V Street, 2nd Avenue, and 59th Street) has never before been the site of the Sacramento Historical Home Tour, which this year will be held on Sunday, September 11, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Julia Morgan, the first woman licensed to practice architecture in California, is considered America's greatest female architect. Best known as the designer of Hearst Castle, Julia Morgan also designed

dedicated to preserving Sacramento's irreplaceable historic places and encouraging quality urban design through advocacy, outreach and activism.

To purchase tickets online, visit [www.PreservationSacramento.org/hometour/](http://PreservationSacramento.org/hometour/) and click on the Buy Tickets button. The tour costs \$35 on the day of the event, or \$30 in advance.

For an even better deal, be a docent! Docents, who work a two-hour shift in one of the tour homes, pay \$10 for a ticket. Sign



some West Coast public buildings and distinguished homes, such as the Mediterranean mansion that tour-goers will be able to access.

University Enterprises, Inc. maintains the Julia Morgan House Event and Conference Center – the only Julia Morgan-designed home in Sacramento.

Sponsored by Preservation Sacramento (PS), formerly the Sacramento Old City Association (SOCA), this event will give tour-goers inside access to Elmhurst homes. PS is a citywide nonprofit organization

up as a docent by contacting volunteer coordinator Vickie Valine, 916-442-1160 or vvaline@cwo.com.

To begin the tour, stop by the PS ticket booth on the T Street median (between 40th and 42nd streets), to receive a program and a wristband, needed for entry into buildings on the tour.

In conjunction with the home tour, a free street fair will include local contractors and artisans; businesses, artists and craft persons; and nonprofit, advocacy and history organizations.

Take My Wife Comedy Series Debuts on Seeso



Take My Wife, a half-hour, single-camera original series, follows a young lesbian couple (Cameron Esposito and Rhea Butcher) as elements of their domestic life intersect with the underground standup showcase they co-host. Watch the trailer at www.youtube.com/watch?v=D05IZ0iNbNg www.seeso.com

Walk With Sacramento's Stars

Most people have seen or at least heard of the Hollywood Walk of Fame, which comprises more than 2,500 five-pointed terrazzo and brass stars embedded in the sidewalks along 15 blocks of Hollywood.



Olympic gold medalist Debbie Meyer

Later this month, Sacramento will get its own starry sidewalk to showcase some of our area's greatest entertainers, athletes, artists, scientists, and business people.

The Sacramento Walk of Stars will honor the world-class accomplishments made by those who call or once called the Sacramento region home.

On Wednesday, August 31, Sacramento will host the inaugural Walk of Stars events featuring 2016 inductees Debbie Meyer (Olympic swimmer), Gregory Kondos (visual artist), LeVar Burton (actor and activist), Dr. Ernie Bodai (surgeon and advocate), and Timothy B. Schmit (bass player and singer for the Eagles).

Inductees, lead sponsors, and program



Get High With Cheech & Chong in Jackson

by Chris Narloch

Here at *Outword*, we don't really run medical marijuana ads very often, but a certain member of the staff has been known to light up on occasion. He will no doubt be happy to hear that veteran duo "Cheech & Chong" – the undisputed Kings of Cannabis Comedy – are still on the road and still getting high.

Grammy nominees Cheech Marin and Tommy Chong defined an era with their hilariously satirical, counter-culture comedy act, which led to nine successful comedy albums and eight hit films, including the infamous 1978 movie *Up in Smoke*, which grossed \$100 million at the box office.

In recent years, Tommy Chong has battled prostate cancer and before that he spent time in federal prison for selling drug paraphernalia, but the trailblazers of "toking out" are back together again and will appear in concert at Jackson Rancheria, on Friday, September 16 at 7:00 p.m.

Follow the large cloud of pot smoke over the parking lot to get to the show. For more information, visit www.jacksoncasino.com.



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Out & About

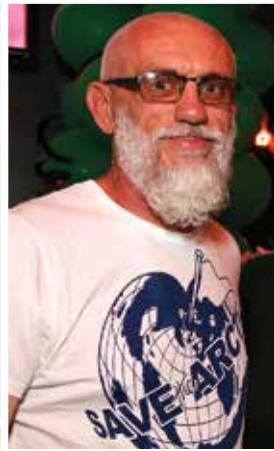
Outword Celebrates 21st Anniversary

What a ride it has been! Years ago, Fred Palmer started *Outword*, and for all of those 21 years since, we have worked to bring you the news that effects the LGBTQQIA community (although back then, there were less letters in that acronym.)

Along the way we have shared good news and bad news with you – but always with the belief that our community's struggle for equality was right and that we would win. And in so many ways we have! There are still battles to be fought, especially Transgender community and workplace equality across all 50 states, and we will continue to work here until those battles are also won.

Along the way we have also brought you the lighter news of our community from theatre to sporting events, profiles of those individuals in our community who make a difference and the organizations that have made Sacramento a better place for the LGBTQQIA.

You can't celebrate 21 years without a party though, and so we invited our friends to a birthday bash held on Tuesday, August 21 at Sidetrax. Thanks to Lucca's, Hot Italian Pizza and the staff at Sidetrax for some amazingly delicious food and to Joan Cusick (our photo booth operator) for taking these wonderful pictures of you celebrating with us.

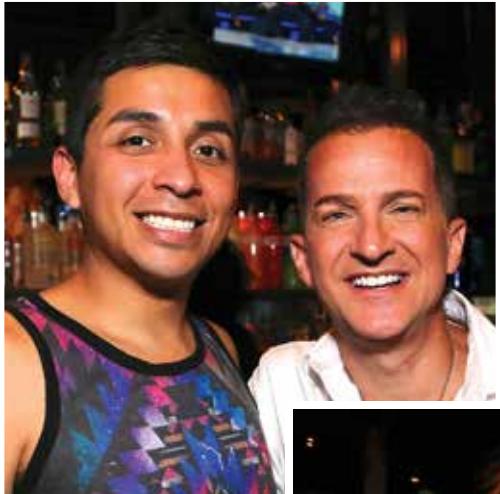


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FOUREVER1 Will Perform at Sacramento Rainbow Festival

by Jamie Booth

As FOUREVER1, identical quadruplets Jodi, Catherine, Christina, and Janelle Pyfrom aim to conquer the music charts with "All About Tonight," their high-energy pop single that encourages fans to step out of their comfort zones.

The empowering track by the sister group discovered on YouTube, is executive produced by *American Idol's* Randy Jackson, and the girls will perform the Bimbo Jones remix of the track at Sacramento's Rainbow Festival on Sunday, September 4th.

We spoke to Janelle, the self-described "mother" of the sister group.

Fifth Harmony has LA Reid. FOUREVER1 has Randy Jackson. How important is it to have celeb muscle backing you up in pop today?

Janelle Pyfrom: It is very important because we, as artists, can learn so much from them. They share their experiences in the music business and pass their

but it's different now because there's more negotiation and a greater understanding that certain decisions now affect us as a group.

Let's talk about "All About Tonight."
When you guys were working on it, did you know right away it would be your first release?

We immediately fell in love with the song. We knew right away that it was the perfect track to introduce the world to FOUREVER1 because its all about having fun in the midst of all the stress. We always try to be positive about life in our music.

Will this be your first time performing the song in Sacramento?

Yes. We are super excited about it. We love



FOUREVER1

knowledge down to us so we're able to make better choices.

What's the best thing about being a quadruplet?

You're never alone. We are always there to support each other no matter what. It's a bond that can't be broken.

Worst part?

Finding yourself as an individual. Everyone treats us as a unit and we have come to believe it. All we know is each other. We struggle trying to find our own identities.

Have you ever wanted to shave off all your hair just to be a little different from your sisters?

(Laughing) No! The closest we ever get to that is dying our hair different colors. We try to express our individuality in the way we dress and act.

What have you learned from being in a girl group together?

Launching FOUREVER1 taught us the importance of respecting each other's opinions and also, allowing each other to contribute her ideas to the group. Our parents raised us to be very close and growing up, we always respected each other

traveling and discovering new places. It's always such a thrill.

Where have you been so far?

This month, we performed in Los Angeles, Miami, and Las Vegas. The crowds have been amazing, dancing with us, taking photos and just having a great time. It's awesome to see because in the end, that is why we sing: to make people happy. We can't wait to celebrate the rainbow in Sacramento.

FOUREVER1 Perform Sacramento Rainbow Festival (2000 K Street) Sunday, September 4th at noon. Visit FourEver1.com.

Also in the entertainment lineup for this year's Rainbow Festival are: Ab Soto, a queer artist and musician whose work complicates the boundaries of fashion, performance and identity; singer Kym Sims, whose singles "When U Look," "Take My Advice" and "Move Your Feet" have been dance club hits; and Deborah Cox, a chart topping R&B singer-songwriter and actress, best known for her 1998 song "Nobody's Supposed to Be Here."

The Sacramento Rainbow Festival will be held on Sunday, September 4th from noon to 6 p.m. at the corner of 20th & K in Midtown Sacramento.



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The Northern California premiere of this daring new musical, a dramatic retelling of the tragic Victor Hugo classic. Setting the tale of love, vengeance and compassion to one of the most sweeping scores ever written, it's the only stage collaboration between Alan Menken (Disney's *The Little Mermaid*, *Beauty and the Beast*) and Stephen Schwartz (*Wicked*, *Pippin*). Music Circus is one of just three companies selected by Disney Theatricals to stage the musical this season; previously produced only twice in the United States.



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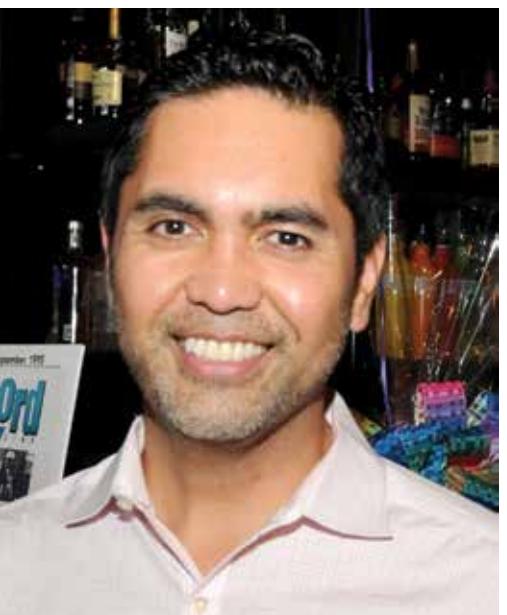
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What were you doing in 1995, the Year Outward Started?

Asked at Outward's 21st Year Anniversary Party held at Sidetrax Lounge.



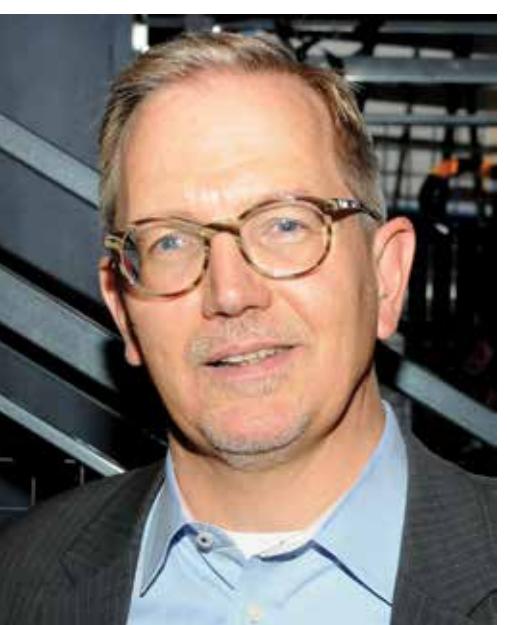
R. Paul Villaluz

In 1995, I was going to San Francisco City College and dating my first boyfriend.



Diana Madoshi

I was struggling with a small business, getting involved with women's history events and working with SETA to stop violence against women.



Alan LoFaso

On August 16, 1995, I was working to get a Domestic Partner Health Care bill off the Assembly floor so that it could be vetoed by Governor Pete Wilson.



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A poster for the Sierra Stampede Rodeo 2016. It features a cowboy silhouette, a large steer skull, and a horse. The text includes "CAPITAL CROSSROADS GAY RODEO ASSOCIATION", "IS PROUD TO ANNOUNCE", "SIERRA STAMPEDE RODEO 2016", "SEPTEMBER 17TH AND 18TH", "CENTRAL PARK HORSE ARENA, RIO LINDA CA", and logos for THE BOLT, FACES, GRA, and BADLANDS. At the bottom, it says "More Info: www.capitalcrossroads.org".

Princess Mononoke & American Graffiti at the Crest Plus Meryl Streep, Jeff Bridges & Chris Pine at Tower

by Chris Narloch

August ordinarily comprises the dog days of summer, cinematically-speaking, as the studios dump their second and third-rate releases into theaters while families finish up their vacations and the kids get back to school.

Not so this summer, in which August movies such as *Hell or High Water* and *Florence Foster Jenkins* are offering a solid alternative to comic book crap like *Suicide Squad*.

Park, and I can testify that Streep has a lovely voice in real life.)

Hell or High Water is set mostly in poor, rural Texas, but Jeff Bridges – an L.A. baby who is the son of television actor Lloyd

college.

The director assembled one of those dream casts in which almost every actor is a future star. In addition to Dreyfuss, the film helped boost the careers of



Meryl Streep as Florence Foster Jenkins

If you want to beat the heat during the final months of summer, head over to the Crest and the Tower Theatre for some air-conditioned sweet relief.

Tower

Two old pros are showing the kiddies how it's done over at the Tower Theatre, where 67-year-old Meryl Streep and 66-year-old Jeff Bridges are offering master classes in film acting via their respective movies, *Florence Foster Jenkins* and *Hell or High Water*.

The absurdly talented Streep plays the real-life no-talent of the title in *Florence Foster Jenkins*, which follows a tone-deaf opera singer who makes it all the way to Carnegie Hall, thanks to an enabling husband (a sensational Hugh Grant) and her gay accompanist (Simon Helberg), who conspire to keep the wealthy woman "in the dark" about her vocal incompetence.

Jenkins' story (or this film's version of it anyway) turns out to be surprisingly moving, and Streep's hilarious caterwauling is yet another example of her amazing skill and technique. (I once saw the actress sing the lead role in *Mother Courage* in Central

Bridges – fits right in. He gets the laid-back, no-rush attitude of the Lone Star State just right, and his Texas Ranger character is sarcastic as hell.

Bridges gets some great lines and a great character to play here, and the movie is an absolute must-see for anyone who can appreciate a meaty family drama involving two bank-robbing brothers (Chris Pine and Ben Foster, both superb) that Bridges sets his sights on catching before retirement.

The entire supporting cast rises to Bridges' level, and director David Mackenzie is totally adept at both action sequences and intimate, character-driven moments between desperate men.

Visit www.readingcinemasus.com/tower.

Crest

If you've never seen 1973's *American Graffiti* on the big screen, you're in for a rare treat when this midtown movie palace screens George Lucas' iconic coming-of-age comedy, which all takes place in one crazy night in Modesto, circa 1962, as Richard Dreyfuss' character cruises his small town one last time before heading off to

Harrison Ford, Cindy Williams, Ron Howard, Suzanne Somers, Paul Le Mat, Candy Clark, Mackenzie Phillips, Charles Martin Smith, Bo Hopkins, and Kathleen Quinlan.

Throw in Wolfman Jack and an amazing soundtrack filled with oldies and you have a sweet and soulful slice of cinema from the man who would go on to direct *Star Wars* four years later.

American Graffiti plays at 7:00 p.m. on Sunday, September 4.

The Crest continues to pay tribute to the great Japanese animator Hayao Miyazaki, this time with two showings of that director's 1999 masterpiece, *Princess Mononoke*.

Anti-war and pro-ecology, *Princess Mononoke* is an epic fantasy film that was mostly hand-drawn and is filled with ancient gods and legendary warriors.

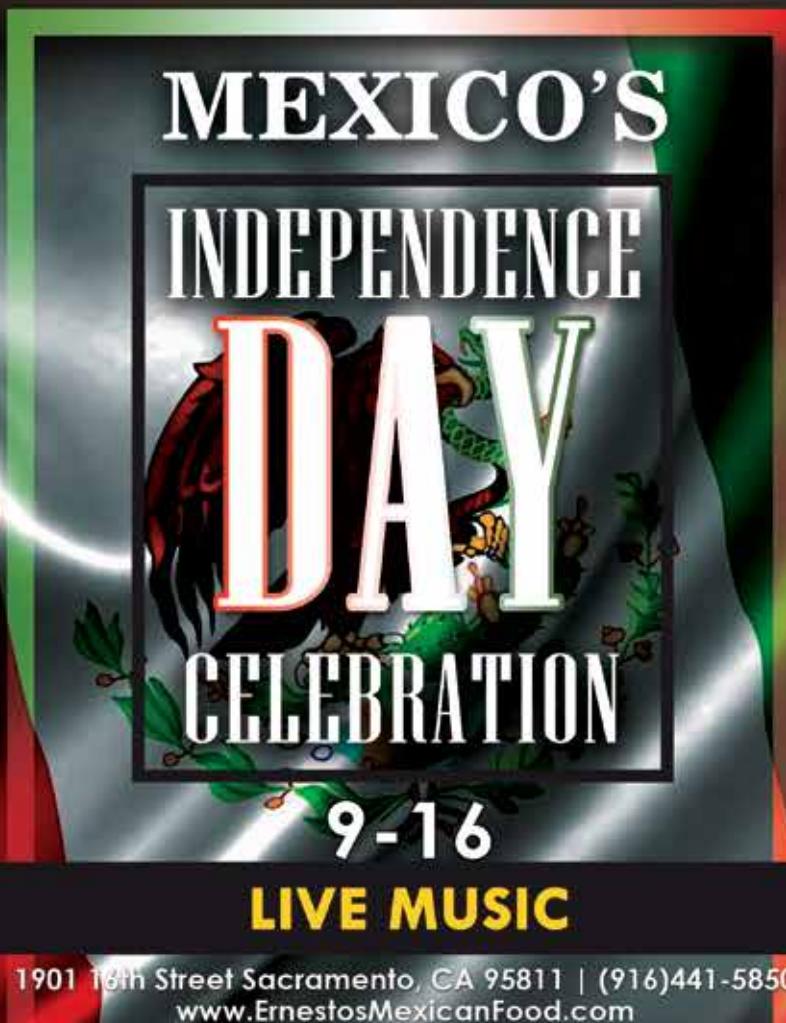
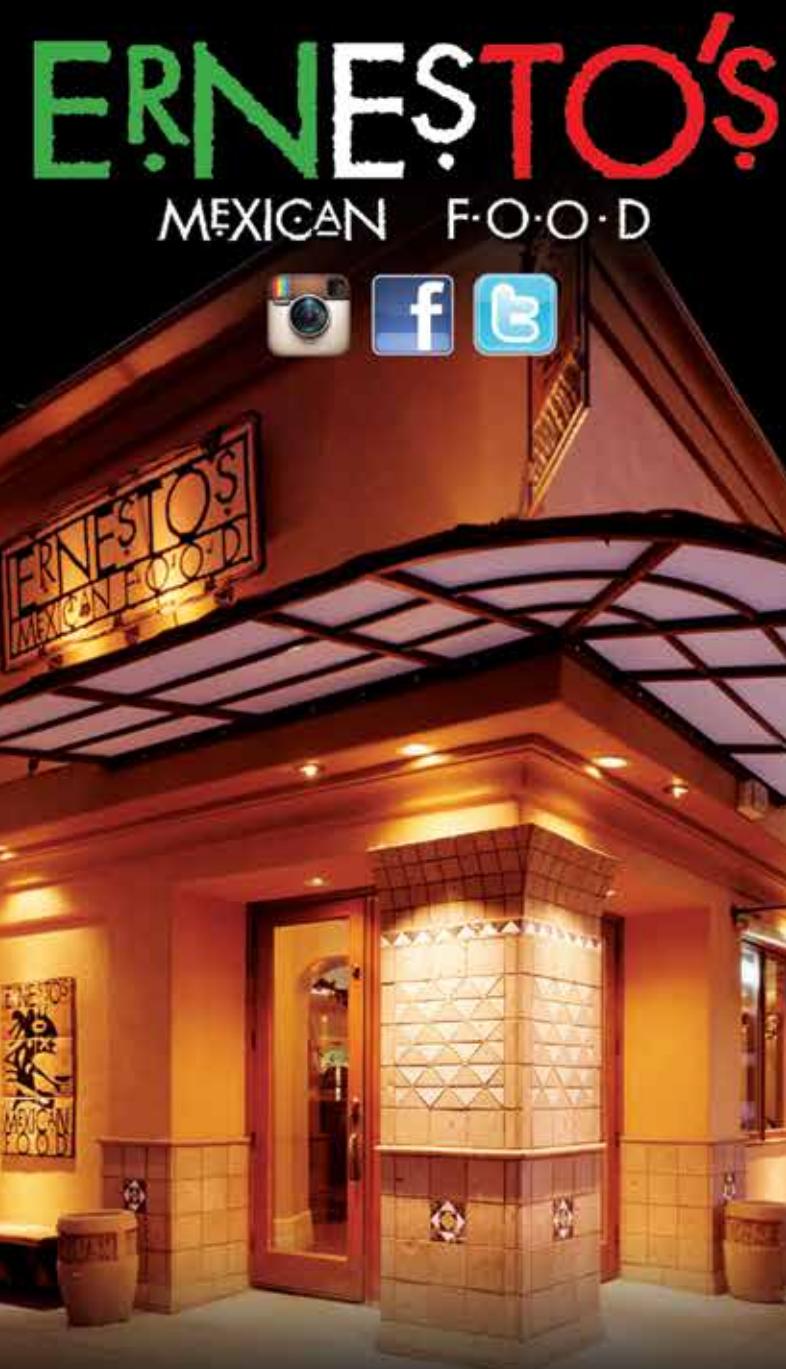
Shown in 35mm with English subtitles, *Princess Mononoke* will screen twice at the Crest, at 4:00 and 7:00 p.m., on Sunday, September 11.

Visit www.crestsacramento.com.

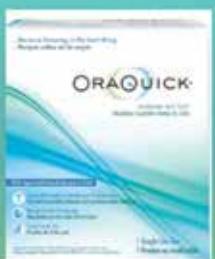
For reviews of more movies currently in theaters, please visit www.outwordmagazine.com.

Cirque du Soleil's TORUK – The First Flight Coming to Golden 1 Arena

Inspired by James Cameron's *AVATAR*, *TORUK – The First Flight* transports you to the world of Pandora. Through a riveting fusion of cutting-edge visuals, puppetry and stagecraft buoyed by a soaring cinematic score, Ralu and Entu, two Omaticaya boys on the brink of adulthood, fearlessly decide to save the Tree of Souls, and go on a quest high up in the Floating Mountains to find the mighty red and orange predator that rules the Pandoran sky. Performances are November 30 – December 4 and tickets can be purchased at www.cirquedesoleil.com/toruk. Photo by Errisson Lawrence © 2015 Cirque du Soleil.



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The Jazzy Side of Leslie Odom, Jr. on CD

by Chris Narloch

Wisenly capitalizing on his Tony and Grammy wins for *Hamilton*, Leslie Odom, Jr., who until recently played Aaron Burr in that Broadway blockbuster, has rereleased his excellent solo CD from 2014 this year.

The self-titled disc's ten terrific tracks showcase a different side of Odom, Jr., with the edgy (for Broadway) hip-hop soul and pop of *Hamilton* replaced by jazz arrangements and classic songs from the Great American Songbook.

To Odom, Jr.'s credit, the singer didn't record Broadway's greatest hits on his debut disc, as many new musical theater stars do; instead, the artist has hand-picked a gorgeous grab-bag of songs that show off his smooth, velvety voice.

Showcasing his upper register to great effect, Odom, Jr. tackles such optimistic titles as "Look For The Silver Lining" and "Cheer Up Charlie."

The singer then offsets his natural optimism and tears your heart out with



Leslie Odom, Jr.

moving renditions of "Autumn Leaves," "The Party's Over," and "Nobody Knows You When You're Down & Out."

Don't Miss ArtJam & ArtMix

by Chris Narloch

Sacramento just seems to be getting more artsy by the minute, with incredibly popular events like the recent Art Hotel, as well as growing excitement over the art to be installed in and around the new Golden 1 Center.

Read on for information about two not-to-be-missed local arts events happening in late August and early September.

ArtMix

Bust out your cape and tights, and get ready for a galactic good time at the Crocker's fourth annual ArtMix Crocker Con.

This is your chance to meet local comic book artists and writers, check out dozens of vendor booths, enjoy out-of-this-world live performances, and sample the work of independent game designers.

Have a blast at character karaoke and enjoy the Crocker's first-ever masquerade parade and dance off, plus a jam comics session and a mix-and-mingle scavenger hunt.

All ages are welcome on Thursday evening, September 8. Please visit www.crockerartmuseum.org.

ArtJam

Art collector and auctioneer David Sobon is one of the organizers of Sacramento's first-ever Mural Festival, which began August 20 in midtown as a dozen or so artists from in and around River City were invited to transform blank walls downtown into murals.

Sacramento Mural Festival will include lectures and tours, and the weeklong festivities will conclude with ArtJam, an after-party atop the parking garage at 21st and L streets the evening of August 27.

Tickets for ArtJam can be purchased at www.friendsofsmac.org, and moneys raised will assist in funding local schools' arts education programs.

More information is available online via the Festival website: www.sacramentomuralfestival.com

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Colvin & Earle at the Crest

Two of America's finest troubadours have teamed up and are touring together, and they will grace the stage of Sacramento's Crest Theatre this September.

Shawn Colvin and Steve Earle, masters of folk and Americana music, recently released *Colvin & Earle*, the first collaborative effort by two friends who have been recording great music separately



Shawn Colvin & Steve Earle

for decades.

Produced by the great Buddy Miller, and recorded in his living room studio, the disc contains six original tunes co-written by the singers plus covers of classics by

the Rolling Stones ("Ruby Tuesday") and Emmylou Harris ("Raise the Dead").

An evening with Colvin and Earle promises to be a rich and rewarding musical experience. The pair will share the stage performing songs from their new album and extensive catalogues as well as some of their favorite songs by other classic songwriters.

Don't miss their show at the Crest on Tuesday, September 13. For tickets, visit [www.crestsacramento.com](http://crestsacramento.com).

An Evening with Molly Ringwald Comes to Rocklin

Golden Globe nominated actress and jazz musician Molly Ringwald descends into Rocklin's Quarry Park Amphitheater to perform hits from her debut jazz album, *Except Sometimes*. Billed as "An Evening with Molly Ringwald," her Rocklin appearance will feature a rare joint performance with her father, Sacramento jazz legend, Bob Ringwald.

"This is going to be a wonderful evening and amazing experience for jazz and music lovers across the region," said Karen Garner, Rocklin's director of Recreation, Arts, and Event Tourism. "We're honored to deliver this rare father/daughter appearance with Molly and Bob. We recognize it's something truly special when two legends in their own right come together to perform."

Molly Ringwald acts, writes books, and sings jazz. Since her debut Jazz album *Expect Sometimes* was released in April 2013, Ringwald and her band have performed more than 200 concerts in seven countries.

An actress of stage and screen, Ringwald earned a Golden Globe nomination at age 13, and went on to star in numerous films, including the iconic films *Sixteen Candles*, *The Breakfast Club*, and *Pretty in Pink*. On stage, Ringwald starred in Broadway productions of the Pulitzer Prize winning *How I Learned to Drive*, the revival of *Cabaret*, the Tony-nominated *Enchanted April*, and the West End production of *When Harry Met Sally*.

Placer County resident and former co-founder of the Sacramento Traditional Jazz Society, Bob



Molly Ringwald

Ringwald, has been a staple artist in the California Jazz scene for over 40 years. Performing his classic ragtime style all over the world, Bob Ringwald has been influential in forming and inspiring many popular jazz acts during the course of his career.

The concert, which also features a special opening set by the Peter Petty Revue, will be held on Saturday, September 17. The gates open at 5:00 p.m. Concert goers can expect an enchanting outdoor show experience under the stars, complete with food trucks, vendors, and a fun atmosphere.

Tickets start at \$39 and are on sale now at www.MollyRingwald.Eventbrite.com.

Two One-Man Shows at B Street

Whether your theatrical tastes run to musical revues or more dramatic fare, you'll find it this month on local stages.

B Street Theatre

Just as soon as I put this issue of *Outward* to bed, I plan to head over to B Street Theatre to check out their current offerings, two highly acclaimed one-man plays.

Every Brilliant Thing has been described as "the most hilarious show you'll ever see about depression."

Dave Pierini stars as a dutiful son who tries every brilliant thing to make his ailing mother feel better, including making a list of the things that make life worth living.

Every Brilliant Thing plays through September 18 at B Street.

I did see *Satchmo at the Waldorf* when it played at A.C.T. in San Francisco last season, and if B Street's production is even half as good it will be brilliant.

In this tour-de-force one-man show, trumpeter and jazz legend Louis Armstrong comes to life as he tells his story from his room at the Waldorf Astoria.

Jahi Kearse stars as Armstrong in Terry Teachout's widely praised meditation on the musician's life and career.

Satchmo at the Waldorf plays through September 17 at B Street.

For more information about both shows, visit www.bstreettheatre.org.

A Grand Night for Singing

The two key ingredients for a first rate revue are taste and imagination. Those qualities abound in this innovative musical celebrating the last three decades of the magical collaboration of Rogers and Hammerstein.

Treat yourself to the glorious songs from *The Sound of Music*, *Oklahoma*, *South Pacific*, *The King and I*, and many others, as Fair Oaks Theatre Festival and American River College Theatre present *A Grand Night for Singing* under the stars, at the Veterans Memorial Theatre in Old Fair Oaks through September 18.

For more information, visit www.fairoakstheatrefestival.com.



Jahi Kearse in *Satchmo at The Waldorf*.
Photo by Rudy Meyers.

Outward Salutes Sacramento's Rainbow Chamber of Commerce

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Author Jake Biondi Discusses His Popular BOYSTOWN Books

The wait is over and fans of Jake Biondi's *Boystown* series of books can now discover what happened to their favorite *Boystown* characters whose lives were hanging in the balance at the end of the fourth book.

The *Boystown* series has a fascinating history. It began as an online story released in installments, each ending with a cliffhanger that left readers wondering what would happen to their favorite characters.

Enthusiastic *Boystown* fans from all over the world petitioned Biondi to release the installments more quickly; they simply couldn't wait to find out what happened next. Overwhelmed by and grateful for the fans' responses to the series, Biondi began to write more quickly and also began to publish the series in book format, and the *Boystown* series has grown from one to five books in just three short years.

Boystown follows the lives of members for the feuding Mancini and Ciancio families (and their friends), who live in Chicago's famed Boystown neighborhood. The series has become popular with fans due to its memorable characters and the constant twists and turns in its plot lines. Think *Queer as Folk* meets *Revenge*.

Biondi loves interacting with fans of his series, who may reach him through the website BoystownTheSeries.com. *Outword* reached out to him there:

"I am so grateful for my readers and their positive response to the series," said Biandi. "I regularly receive notes from fans that are connecting with the characters and want to know what the future holds for them. The broad appeal of the book series is incredible. *Boystown* has a really diverse audience."

When asked about the fifth *Boystown* book, Biondi said, "I think the word I'd use to describe the new book is 'more.' It's the longest book in the series so far, so there's more for readers to enjoy – more romance, more friendship, more suspense, more drama, and certainly more twists and turns. I think readers will be surprised and excited with each turn of a page."

Biondi promised that readers won't be disappointed. "Season Five picks up right

where book four left off and reveals the deaths of at least two major characters. While I won't reveal who lives and who dies, I will say this: lives and relationships will be forever changed." Biondi added that *Boystown* Season Five continues the storylines from the first four books while introducing new ones – and some great new characters, too.

Biondi is working with two television producers who are interested in bringing the *Boystown* series to TV. He remains optimistic that fans all over the world will soon be able to watch their favorite *Boystown* characters in action on television. Gay Media Reviews stated, "This series could completely be made into a television series and I believe that it should be as when reading this series I actually felt that I was watching a drama TV series."

The *Boystown* series is available at bookstores across the country as well as on amazon.com, bn.com, and iTunes. *Boystown* is available in paperback, audio book, and all e-book formats. Readers may order autographed paperback copies of the books directly from BoystownTheSeries.com.



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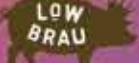
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