

# outword

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magazine  
sacramento

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# Convention Center Renovation Gets OK

The Sacramento City Council on at their Tuesday, May 30th meeting approved the go-ahead for project design to start drawing plans for a larger, more attractive and competitive Convention Center.

No major physical improvements have been made to the Convention Center in the last two decades.

The project expands building capacity, makes the building easier to navigate, expands the use of flexible space, upgrades the interior and technology and includes indoor/outdoor meeting and function areas.

“I’m extremely pleased with the hard work everyone has undertaken to get us to this point,” said Mayor Darrell Steinberg. “This plan will allow us to invest in the Sacramento Convention Center and other civic amenities in ways that go beyond simply updating and maintaining – so we are innovating and championing our natural assets like the riverfront to make Sacramento a true destination city.”

Specifically, the first phase includes expanded exhibit space, a new kitchen, additional meeting rooms, east lobby and a new west lobby in a 205,000 square-foot building. The project also includes an event plaza between the Center and the Community Center Theatre for convention functions or a community gathering place.

If the finance plan is approved by City Council later this summer, construction may start as soon as March of 2018 and wrap up in late 2020. The construction and other costs associated with labor, design and environmental review of the project is anticipated to be \$125 million for phase 1.

Staff will return to City Council in August with a framework for the financing of both phases 1 and 2 of renovation and expansion of the Convention Center.

# Years of Progress to End AIDS Now Threatened

commentary by MSMGF

Vital programming for gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men around the world will be slashed if the President’s proposed budget released earlier this week is approved.

Over \$1 billion in arbitrary cuts to global HIV programs at the State Department and USAID in the President’s budget would mean increases in avoidable HIV transmission and more unnecessary deaths.

The White House’s budget calls for an approximate 17 percent cut to components of the President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, a complete defunding of HIV at USAID, as well as deep cuts to other life-saving global health programs, including the prevention and treatment of tuberculosis – the leading killer of people with HIV – and family planning and reproductive health programs.

MSMGF joins partner organizations in the United States and around the world in calling on Members of Congress to continue long-standing bipartisan support for a comprehensive, stigma-free domestic and global AIDS response.

The White House’s Fiscal Year 2018 budget decimates years of US investment in the global HIV response and promotion of global sexual and reproductive health. Specifically, it proposes to cut:

- State Department HIV/AIDS funding by approximately 10 percent;
- The global AIDS programs at the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) entirely – a \$330 million cut;
- The Center for Disease Control’s (CDC) global AIDS budget;
- All funding for the International AIDS

Vaccine Initiative (IAVI); \$2.4 billion from the development assistance and economic support fund accounts, which would hamper the U.S.’s ability to support critical LGBTI rights programs abroad; and

Voluntary contributions to UN agencies – such as UNDP and UNAIDS – which would seriously threaten progress and commitments within those agencies to gay men and other key populations, as articulated by the Global Platform to Fast Track the HIV and Human Rights Responses with Gay and Bisexual Men.

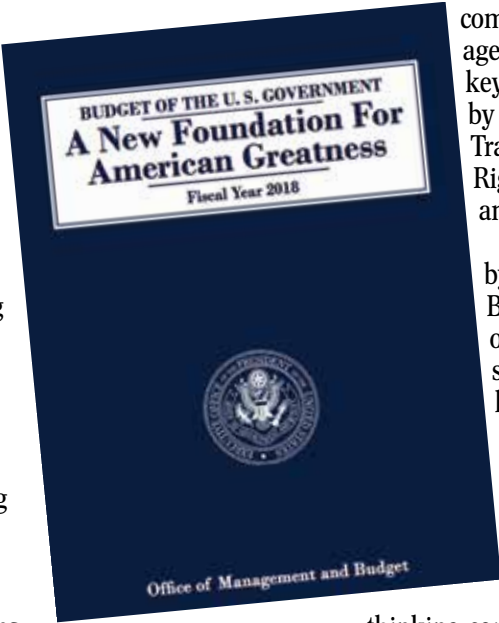
PEPFAR, formed in 2003 by President George W. Bush, is widely seen as one of the most effective and strategic programs the U.S. has ever undertaken. Combined with its investment in global health made through the Global Fund, the United States has a deeply rooted bipartisan, forward-

thinking commitment to global HIV treatment and prevention.

These proposed cuts to the foreign assistance account, which currently comprises less than one percent of the U.S. federal budget, would reverse progress made and be devastating to the health and safety of millions of people around the world.

MSMGF urges the Congress to reject Trump’s budget in the forthcoming appropriations processes.

*MSMGF is an expanding network of advocates and other experts in sexual health, LGBT/human rights, research, and policy, working to ensure an effective response to HIV among gay men and other men who have sex with men. We are directly linked with more than 120 community-based organizations, across 62 countries.*





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# Edie Windsor To Be Honored with Trevor Project's Icon Award

Marriage equality champion Edie Windsor will be honored with The Trevor Project's Icon Award at the 2017 TrevorLIVE New York fundraising gala on June 19 during the organization's annual New York signature fundraiser, TrevorLIVE.



Edith Windsor at a press conference following her SCOTUS hearing.

"Edie has proven herself to be a true pioneer in the fight for LGBTQ rights for decades," said The Trevor Project's Interim Executive Director Steve Mendelsohn. "She has fought relentlessly for marriage equality, and remains a trailblazer and inspiration to the LGBTQ community across the world. We're honored and delighted to present The Trevor Project's Icon Award to Ms. Windsor for exemplifying leadership with strength, poise, courage and fearlessness."

The case of *United States v Windsor* is arguably the most influential legal precedent in the struggle for LGBT marriage equality. In its landmark 2013 ruling in *Windsor*, the Supreme Court struck down Section 3 of the so-called Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) which by its terms had excluded gay couples from all the benefits and protections of marriage under federal law.

At the heart of *Windsor* is the principle

that gay people have dignity, and that the Constitution mandates that this dignity be respected equally under the law. Since *Windsor*, more than forty federal district court opinions and four circuit courts have held that the U.S. Constitution requires that gay people be allowed to marry.

"Being honored by The Trevor Project is a very big deal for me," said Windsor. "I'm thrilled and humbled to be recognized by an organization that does so much for our LGBTQ young people. The fact that The Trevor Project continues year after year to be there 24/7 helping prevent suicide and averting crisis gives us all a future we can believe in."

Fans and advocates will be able to experience the TrevorLIVE red carpet arrivals and show via Facebook livestream on the Trevor Project's Facebook page. For more information on TrevorLIVE New York, visit [ny.trevorlive.org/](http://ny.trevorlive.org/).

# Taiwan Votes to Legalize Same-Sex Marriage

The Judicial Yuan, Taiwan's highest court, has ruled that restricting marriage to only a man and a woman was unconstitutional, voting in favor of marriage equality and making history as the first Asian country to vote in favor of same-sex marriage.

The 14 grand justices on May 24th, demanded that current laws be amended within two years to allow for same-sex marriage, in the event laws have not changed in that timeframe, couples will be able to register their marriage anyway.

"This is a great victory for Taiwan and for all of Asia," said Jessica Stern, Executive Director of OutRight Action International. "Taiwanese activists have been campaigning for years to achieve this outcome and all of their efforts have paid off in full. Amidst conservative pushback against LGBTIQ rights and equality in other parts of Asia, this is much welcomed good news and reason to celebrate. Love trumps hate."

The ruling did not clarify whether the civil law will be changed or whether a new law will be enacted to allow for same-sex couples to marry. Activists in the country have been advocating for a change in the civil code. Regardless of how the laws will be changed the ruling is a guarantee for marriage equality for Taiwanese citizens.



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# Faith in America to Address Southern Baptist Convention

Faith in America has announced an unprecedented effort to focus the nation's largest protestant denomination on what they must be doing to not harm and, instead, protect America's teens and kids who are LGBT.



Faith in America has a simple, direct request: let's stop hurting yOur kids and teens.

Faith in America (FIA), an organization that exists to end religious-based harm to the LGBT community, believes Americans can no longer sit by while our children and teenagers are being hurt.

According to FIA, America's LGBT teens and kids are in crisis. For example:

LGBT kids raised in condemning religious families are eight times more likely to attempt suicide than their straight peers.

Nearly half of America's homeless youth are LGBT.

More than a quarter of LGBT youth say they have been personally bullied or harassed since the 2016 presidential campaign began, compared to 14 percent of non-LGBTQ youth.

FIA has launched a three-year program called "Save yOur Kids!" (SYK). The SYK project is developed to address religious-

based practices that condemn teens and youth, creating hostile environments both at church and home, places most needed by youth.

"This is a historic moment and we, at Faith in America, are taking action," says Mitchell Gold, FIA co-founder. "This is not about conflict and division. It is about speaking the truth, and standing up for our kids and teens being hurt. It is also about finding common ground around our children and youth."

Faith in America is in communication with Southern Baptist Convention leadership and a meeting is pending scheduling. While the SBC has initially articulated their disagreement with FIA regarding homosexuality as a sin, they also offered their desire to meet and find initiatives and ways forward that do not harm our youth.

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# Briefly Put

## Pride Foundation Awards \$438,000 in Scholarships to 108 Student Leaders

The Pride Foundation has announced scholarships to 108 students from Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington totaling \$438,000 – the largest total award in the organization's history.

Pride Foundation is the largest source of scholarships to LGBTQ students in the country. These scholarships, which range from \$3,000 to \$14,000, seed the next generation of leaders in the LGBTQ community and support remarkable students who are engaged in a range of studies that will benefit the LGBTQ movement and the world.

"These scholarships provide vital support to students who have often had to overcome enormous hurdles, both societal and financial," said Pride Foundation CEO, Kris A. Hermanns. "I look forward to seeing their impact on our community and our world and I am thrilled that Pride Foundation has the ability to provide substantial support to enable these students to achieve their dreams."

Learn more at [www.pridefoundation.org](http://www.pridefoundation.org).

## 141 Men Arrested in Gay Sauna in Indonesia

On 21 May 2017 at 8 p.m., 141 men were arrested by Indonesian authorities claiming they were engaging in a "gay sex party" at Atlantis Gym & Sauna in Indonesia's capital, Jakarta.

Those arrested were detained by the North Jakarta District Police. Indonesia does not have laws criminalizing homosexuality, except in the Aceh province, however the country does have severe anti-pornography laws which have been used to target LGBTIQ websites and activities.

In the past, the LGBTIQ community has experienced more tolerance in Indonesian society, but particularly over the past 18 months crackdowns have increased and the situation has become much worse for LGBTIQ people. LGBTIQ Indonesians are equal citizens and must not be singled out and oppressed simply for who they love or who they are.

## Texas Passes of Anti-LGBT Legislation

The Texas Senate voted to pass House Bill 3859 (HB 3859), a bill that would allow child welfare caseworkers and state-funded child adoption and foster agencies to impose their personal religious beliefs on children in their care and disqualify LGBT families from the State's foster and adoption system.

The Texas House of Representatives added an amendment to Senate Bill 2078 (SB 2078) that discriminates against transgender children in public schools.

"Fresh off its passage of the most anti-immigrant legislation in the nation, the Texas legislature this weekend turned its attention to targeting women and children," said Terri Burke, executive director of the ACLU of Texas. "With the passage of sweeping abortion restrictions and two measures authorizing discrimination against LGBTQ families and kids, our lawmakers seem determined to make discrimination Texas's chief export."

## Rev. Troy Perry to Receive Cuba's CENESEX Award

Rev. Troy Perry, founder of the Metropolitan Community Churches (MCC), is the first American citizen given Cuba's CENESEX award, presented to him at The 10th Cuban Gala Against Homophobia at the Karl Marx Theater in Havana May 12.

Rev. Perry was the first to perform same-sex marriages, co-founded the first LGBTQ Pride Parade in the world, and was invited to the White House by three American presidents.

"To say that I am honored to receive this award from CENESEX would be an understatement," Perry said. I am thankful that I've had the opportunity to visit Cuba and meet members of the Cuban" government as well as these wonderful citizens.

There are three Metropolitan Community Churches in Cuba.

## Native American Males Sought for HIV Prevention Study

The Virtual Two-Spirit project is a culturally-grounded, online HIV prevention intervention for Native American and Alaska Native men who have sex with men. The intervention facilitates positive sexual health behaviors and promotes HIV risk harm reduction strategies. Eligible participants who complete the three-week intervention and online assessments can receive up to \$190 in incentives.

The Virtual Two-Spirit intervention utilizes a computer downloadable virtual reality world, where participants create their own avatar and go through experiential modules in learning about HIV testing, harm reduction techniques, condom use and condom use negotiation, and behavioral role play.

The expected outcomes for participants who go through the intervention include: an increase in HIV testing, more reliable condom use, and awareness and practice of harm reduction behaviors. Results of this study will be used to further refine and tailor the intervention for a larger study.

To learn more about the study or to see if you are eligible, please contact [vr2s@uw.edu](mailto:vr2s@uw.edu) or 971-251-0402.



# Legends of Courage Film Project Debuts with *The Rosemary Metrailer Story*

by Bonnie Osborn

Just in time for Pride Month, Legends of Courage ([www.lavenderlibrary.com/legends\\_of\\_courage.html](http://www.lavenderlibrary.com/legends_of_courage.html)) will present its debut film, profiling pioneering civil rights attorney Rosemary Metrailer, on Saturday, June 24, at 7:30 p.m., at the Guild Theatre in Sacramento.

Admission is free, but seating is limited; please reserve tickets at [www.eventbrite.com/e/the-story-of-rosemary-metrailer-tickets-33496266234](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-story-of-rosemary-metrailer-tickets-33496266234).

Launched in 2013 by local filmmaker Dawn Deason and the late arts patron Camille Wojtasiak, the Legends of Courage project is designed to capture the voices of pioneering civil rights advocates who helped build Sacramento's LGBTQ thriving community.

*The Rosemary Metrailer Story* includes interviews with Metrailer's peers – Sacramento leaders who forged Sacramento's tradition of support for LGBTQ equality, including former mayors Phil Isenberg, Anne Rudin and Heather Fargo – and the many activists, such as former legislator Dennis Mangers, publisher Linda Birner and Democratic activist Laurie McBride, who helped blaze the trail.

Metrailer may be best known for her role as plaintiff's attorney in the infamous 1984 lawsuit filed by former Metropolitan Community Church (MCC) minister Jerry Sloan against televangelist Jerry Falwell. The conflict made national headlines, and the court awarded Sloan nearly \$9,000, including punitive damages, a portion of which became the seed money to found the Lambda Community Center, now the Sacramento LGBT Community Center.

The film places the civil rights accomplishments of Metrailer and her peers in the context of the social and political environment in Sacramento from the 1960s to the 2015 Supreme Court ruling legalizing same-sex marriage in the U.S.

"You can influence other people, about being outspoken, about what to believe in," says former Sacramento Mayor Anne Rudin in the film. "Rosemary did that. She didn't have to worry about, are they going to like me, or is this going to make me look bad? She said it, she did it, and



other people took courage from what she said and did."

Metrailer also is renowned in legal circles for her successful 1988 class action sex discrimination suit against McClellan Air Force Base (1988) on behalf of women employees. As a community leader, she founded Sacramento Area Community Women's Network, or SACWN, which continued in existence from 1984 till it was officially disbanded in 2007. Metrailer also is a founder of SacLEGAL, a local organization of LGBT attorneys. Today Metrailer lives quietly in Nevada City with her partner of nearly 22 years and spouse, Tina Costella.

In addition to the Metrailer film, the June 24 screening will include several short video interviews with prominent Sacramento LGBTQ leaders. Deason said the concept for the Legends of Courage project came from late co-founder Camille Wojtasiak, a professional financial advisor, arts patron and LGBTQ activist who died earlier this year. Wojtasiak's dream was to preserve the stories of the men and women who fought for LGBT equality.

Project supporters hope the Metrailer film is but the opening offering of the Legends of Courage series, Deason says. "Ideally, we would like to make one or two films per year, 30 to 45 minutes in length. There are so many stories to be told about how a small capitol city like Sacramento became a model in regard to LGBTQ

rights."

*The Rosemary Metrailer Story* was produced in association with Sacramento's Lavender Library, Archives, and Cultural Exchange and is made possible with support from California Humanities, a non-profit partner of the National Endowment for the Humanities, visit [www.calhum.org](http://www.calhum.org). Tax-deductible donations to the Legends of Courage project may be made to: Lavender Library, Archives, and Cultural Exchange for Legends of Courage, 1017 L Street, #540, Sacramento, CA 95814.

Any views, finding, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in *The Rosemary Metrailer Story* do not necessarily represent those of California Humanities or the National Endowment for the Humanities.

For more information about the Legends of Courage project, visit [www.lavenderlibrary.com/legends\\_of\\_courage.html](http://www.lavenderlibrary.com/legends_of_courage.html).

Bonnie Osborn is a writer and the owner of Writeaway Communications Services. She can be reached at 916-212-9110 or [Bonnie@WriteAwayCommunications.biz](mailto:Bonnie@WriteAwayCommunications.biz)

## Bad Jews & Hand to God Will Make You Laugh

by Chris Narloch

If you love to laugh, you are in luck this month, as two of Sacramento's esteemed local stages present very funny area premiere plays. Don't miss *Bad Jews* and *Hand to God*.

### Bad Jews

Capital Stage looks to have another big hit on their hands with *Bad Jews*, a New York Times Critics Pick to be directed by Amy Resnick, last seen at Capital Stage in *August: Osage County*.

Written by Joshua Harmon, *Bad Jews* will be the sixth and final production of Capital Stage's 2016-17 Season: Love + War, and will run from June 21-July 23,

The night after their grandfather's funeral, three cousins engage in a battle royale over a family heirloom. In one corner is the unstoppable and self-assured force of "Super Jew" Daphna, and in the other, the immovable and entitled object of her secular cousin, Liam.

And in the middle is Liam's brother, Jonah, [outwardmagazine.com](http://outwardmagazine.com)

trying to stay out of the fray. *Bad Jews* is billed as "a fierce, biting comedy about family, faith and what you choose to believe, when you're chosen."

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

### Hand to God

I have seen this one before, in its Tony-nominated many times over (including for Best New Play) Broadway production. It comes highly recommended for anyone who appreciates wild, *Book of Mormon*-style humor.

Robert Askin's hysterical black comedy, *Hand to God*, (currently being produced all over the country) follows the story of Jason and his demon possessed sock puppet, Tyrone, as they attempt to put on a puppet



A photo from the Broadway production of *Hand to God*

show for their church in Texas.

The puppet takes over Jason's life, and he can't be held responsible for the sacrilegious and sexual things that come out of its mouth. This is a tour de force role for the right actor, and a hilarious, risqué ride for the audience.

*Hand to God* plays June 11-July 23 at B Street Theatre. For more information, visit [www.bstreettheatre.org](http://www.bstreettheatre.org).

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# Celebrate Queer Cinema at Frameline41

by Chris Narloch

Frameline, the world's longest-running and largest showcase of queer cinema, has announced that Frameline41, 2017's San Francisco International LGBTQ Film Festival, will take place June 15-25 at various venues throughout the Bay Area, including the historic Castro Theatre.

With an expected attendance of 65,000 at its five theaters, including a full week of programming in the East Bay, Frameline41 will draw film lovers, media artists, and LGBTQ communities from across the globe to discover the best in queer cinema.

The 2017 slate proudly boasts 40 percent of its 147 films from women directors, and more than 19 countries will be represented, including Armenia, Cuba, Mexico, South Africa, Taiwan and Vietnam.

I was fortunate to get to preview two films from this year's lineup: *Freak Show*, a queer teen coming-of-age story starring Alex Lawther, Bette Midler, Laverne Cox, and



**Todrick Hall stars in *Behind The Curtain: Todrick Hall***



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Abigail Breslin, and *The Untold Tales of Armistead Maupin*, a dynamite documentary about the charming author of the *Tales of the City* novels.

Other tantalizing titles this year include *Becks*, a lesbian love story starring Christine Lahti and Lena Hall; *After Louie*, a May-December romance with Alan Cumming as the 'older man'; and *Girl Unbound*, which documents a gutsy Pakistani squash player who has been the target of Taliban death threats since she was a teen.

For the full Frameline41 lineup, visit [www.frameline.org](http://www.frameline.org).



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# Who Will Perform At SF Pride? ‘Betty Who’ Will, That’s Who!

by Chris Narloch

Don’t put those boogie shoes back in the closet just yet. Sac Pride 2017 may be a beautiful memory, but you can dance on over to the Bay Area for more gay-friendly festivities, including two not-to-be-missed shows by Betty Who.



Betty Who will be performing at San Francisco Pride.

Betty Who is the stage name of Jessica Anne Newham, an Australian singer-songwriter and musician based in the U.S. who is signed to RCA Records. Betty Who recently released her second CD, entitled *The Valley*, and she has been slaying audiences at pride events from coast to coast in support of that terrific disc. Betty Who will headline the SF Pride Main Stage on Sunday, June 25th. (The Main Stage features two days of powerful speakers and popular performers, including Cazwell, Marga Gomez, Cheer San Francisco, David Hernandez, San Francisco Gay Men’s Chorus, and Madame Gandhi.)

Betty Who will also perform at a ticketed event the night before her Main Stage appearance, when Audrey Joseph and Brian Kent Productions unite to present the biggest Pride party in San Francisco’s history, at the infamous Armory in San Francisco’s historic Mission District, on Saturday, June 24th. Jungle 1 Pride at the Armory is a 360-degree dance party event that has to be experienced to be believed. In addition to Betty Who, the night will feature celebrity DJs from around the world, turning up the heat from 9 p.m. until 4 a.m. For more information, visit [www.sfpride.org](http://www.sfpride.org) and [www.sfarmory.com](http://www.sfarmory.com).





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# Out & About

## We're Showing Our Pride!

Sacramento kicked off Pride Month with our annual Pride Festival and Parade on Saturday, June 3, with thousands of Festival goers enjoying the sunshine, reuniting with old friends and making new friends, getting to know the organizations that make our community great and enjoying some pretty wonderful entertainment. Here are some of the pictures of the day (next four pages).

*photos on this page by Joan Cusick - joancusick.com*

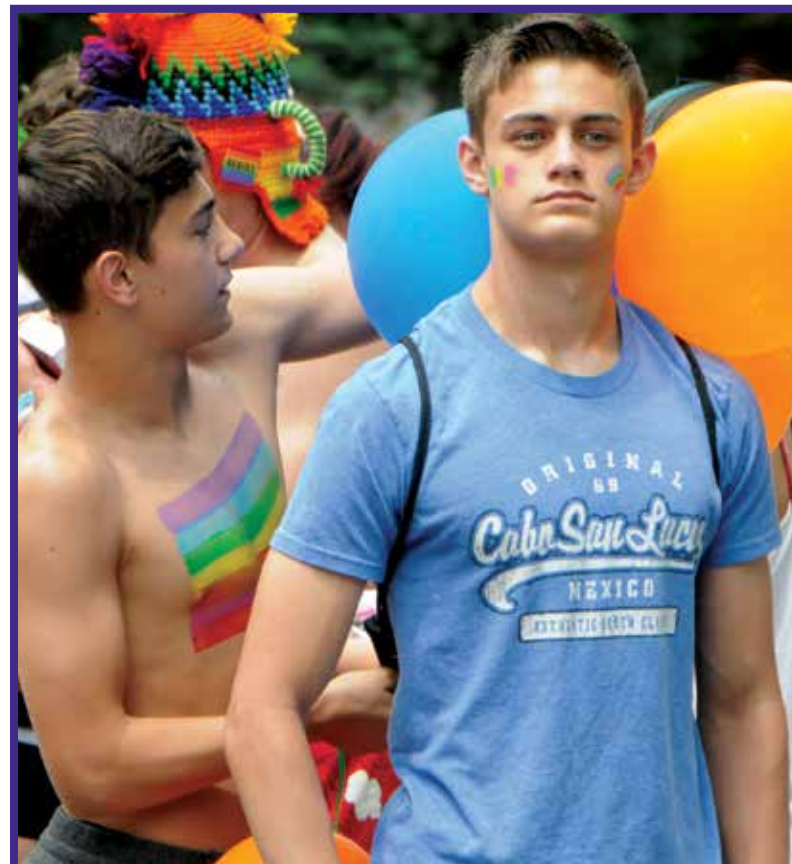
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# Out & About

photos on the next three pages by Charles Peer and Ron Tackitt





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# TCM Celebrates Pride Month With LGBT Dedicated Lineups

Turner Classic Movies (TCM) and FilmStruck will celebrate Pride Month this June with extensive movie lineups dedicated to exploring LGBT themes in cinema, honoring a number of LGBT actors and artists whose talents helped them overcome the roadblocks they faced because of their orientation or gender identity.



Rupert Everett and Colin Firth in *Another Country* (1984)

TCM will spotlight *Gay Hollywood*, hosted by entertainment journalist Dave Karger and author and historian William Mann, every Thursday in June, and FilmStruck will present a *Gay and Lesbian Cinema* showcase, hosted by film critic Alonso Duralde.

Before the 1969 Stonewall riots in New York City, Hollywood's LGBT community was forced to stay in the shadows, both on the screen and off. Depictions of same-sex love in the movies were rare and often coded, and members of the film industry were expected to draw a discreet veil over any such tendencies.

The sexual revolution and the increasingly visible LGBT-rights movement began to open up new opportunities for LGBT stars and stories to be brought out of the "celluloid closet."

TCM's *Gay Hollywood* will take a look at both open and closeted stars throughout film history, including:

- MGM star William Haines (*Just a Gigolo*, 1931) is considered the first openly gay Hollywood actor. For nearly 50 years, he shared his life with his partner, Jimmie Shields. And despite seeing his movie career end after refusing to give in to studio demands, he went on to enjoy an enormously successful career as one of Hollywood's most sought-after interior designers

- Some celebrities of the 1940s, though widely known to be gay, remained closeted during their careers, including composer Cole Porter (*Night and Day*, 1946) and actor Clifton Webb (*The Razor's Edge*, 1946)

- Several top male heartthrobs of the 1950s and '60s, including Rock Hudson (*All That Heaven Allows*, 1955),

Montgomery Clift (*Suddenly, Last Summer*, 1959) and Anthony Perkins (*Psycho*, 1960), were gay, although they remained closeted during all or most of their careers

- Two of America's finest playwrights were gay and had their seminal plays adapted for the screen, including Tennessee Williams (*Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, 1958) and Edward Albee (*Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*, 1966)

- Actress Linda Hunt (*The Year of Living Dangerously*, 1982) has been open about her marriage to her partner Karen Kline

- It may have taken him a while, but Oscar winner Joel Grey (*Cabaret*, 1972) eventually came out of the closet in 2015 at the age of 82

FilmStruck will explore the ways in which cultural and societal institutions have often suppressed sexual orientation over the course of history, including in the cinema. FilmStruck's *Gay and Lesbian Cinema* bundle will highlight movie depictions of same-sex love with a wide variety of films from different eras, including:

- *Parting Glances* (1986); *The Times of Harvey Milk* (1984); *Victim* (1961); *Another Country* (1984); and *The Watermelon Woman* (1996). "Our June programming lineups will show how stars and filmmakers from Hollywood and around the globe have navigated around the demands of societal restrictions to tell LGBT stories, while also celebrating some of the stars and artists whose careers have been affected – both positively and negatively – by views of their sexual orientation and gender identity," said Charles Tabesh, senior vice president of programming & production for TCM and FilmStruck. "We look forward to exploring their lives, work and sharing their stories with our fans."



# Super Women On The Silver Screen

by Chris Narloch

The *Bay Watch* boys are pretty much lost at sea, both critically and commercially, but women are roaring onto the big screen this summer in two big movies directed by and starring the fairer sex.

Read on for reviews of *Wonder Woman* – the first successful superhero movie to feature a feminist hero – and *Megan Leavey*, which tackles the true story of a U.S. Marine corporal who saved countless lives with the help of her bomb-sniffing dog.

## Wonder Woman

The first thing that must be said about the initial big screen version of *Wonder Woman* is that the movie is not a ‘chick flick.’

True, the film does feature a female star and director, but it also has all of the brains and brawn (and quality) that were missing from *Batman v Superman* and most of the other schlocky cinematic superhero sagas.

The movie’s action scenes kick butt as they should, but they don’t overpower the film, which has far more heart (and dare I say soul?)

to *Wonder Woman*.

The other secret weapon involved in *Wonder Woman* is its stunning star Gal Gadot, a former Miss Israel who was also an enlisted soldier in the Israeli Armed Forces before becoming a model and an actress. (Talk about a modern-day Renaissance woman!)

Robin Wright, David Thewlis, Connie Nielsen, and especially Chris Pine (as Wonder Woman’s ‘boy-toy’) are all wonderful as well, but it’s Gadot who has to carry the film.

We see the world of the movie, which is set during WWI, through Wonder Woman’s eyes. That fresh perspective allows the film to upend the cinematic status quo of similar blockbusters, in which the female characters are often ornamental.

There is nothing ornamental

Saturday, June 3 screenings of *Wonder Woman: An IMAX 3D Experience* to WEAVE (Women Escaping a Violent Environment).

You can still see the film at that theater but only until Thursday, June 8. Tickets are on sale at the Esquire IMAX box office and online at [www.imax.com/sacramento](http://www.imax.com/sacramento). After June 8, it will continue playing at multiplexes throughout the Sacramento area.

## Megan Leavey

In other female-centric movie news, this film, about a real-life warrior woman and her beloved bomb-sniffing dog, opens in theaters on June 9, 2017.

*Megan Leavey* is the sort of “based on a true story” patriotic picture that I usually hate, but in this case the movie was directed by a woman. That may have something to do with it turning into an honest tearjerker rather



Gal Gadot stars as ‘Wonder Woman’

than the usual comic book crap we often get at the movies.

*Wonder Woman* also has a sense of humor, which is a godsend in a summer blockbuster, and that’s thanks to a smart script by Geoff Johns and Allan Heinberg.

Best of all, the film has two wonder women in star Gal Gadot and director Patty Jenkins, whose only previous big-screen effort was the Oscar-winner *Monster* from 2003.

I don’t know why it took so long for Jenkins to get back to making movies again, but Warner Bros., the studio behind *Wonder Woman*, should throw as much money as necessary at the director to get her to sign on for the inevitable sequels

about this Wonder Woman, who enjoys every inch of her visual inspection of Pine’s character – the first mortal man she has ever seen – after he rises naked from a bathtub.

Gay men and straight women will especially love that scene, and, if they’re like me, they will enjoy the rest of *Wonder Woman* as well. In fact, everyone should see it.

The movie is probably a tad too long, and it concludes with a pretty generic big action sequence, but other than those critical quibbles, *Wonder Woman* is a perfect summer popcorn movie.

Note: The Esquire IMAX Theatre on K Street recently donated one dollar for every ticket sold for the

than a manipulative mess.

Director Gabriela Cowperthwaite allows the relationships in the film to develop with unusual sensitivity, including the central love story between “man and beast” (or in this case, woman and beast).

The movie also benefits greatly from a spunky lead performance by Kate Mara, who is almost as petite as Anna Kendrick (and somewhat resembles Kendrick).

Mara looks like she doesn’t weigh much more than the imposing German shepherd who plays Rex in the film, and that adds tension to the effective scenes in which Leavey slowly wins the ferocious animal’s confidence and later attempts to adopt him.

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# from this point forward Showcases UCD Students Art

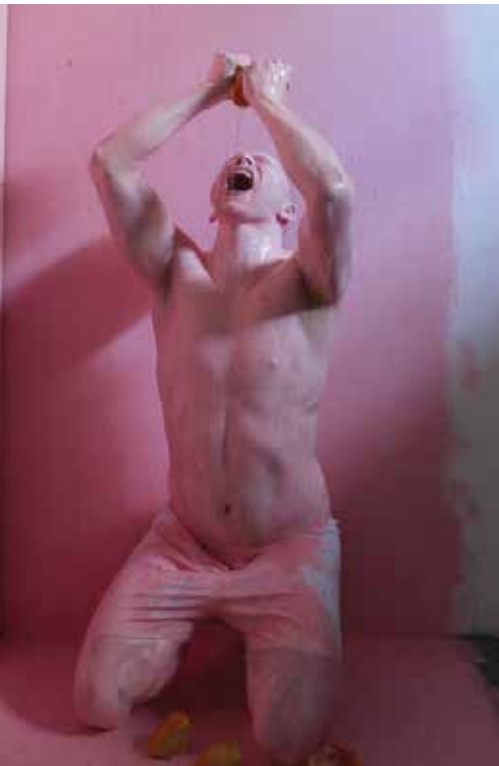
UC Davis is breaking down the walls of the exhibition box with *from this point forward*, a multidisciplinary exhibition by 28 graduate students that includes physical works by students in art, design and theatre, a sound installation, presentations by art history and history students, performances of works by composers, and readings by creative writers.

*from this point forward* is the first student show at the Jan Shrem and Maria Manetti Shrem Museum of Art which opened in November. The exhibition will be on display through June 30. The museum and all the programs are free and open to the public.

“UC Davis has a great tradition of coming together as a creative community to engage ideas and challenges,” said Rachel Teagle, founding director of the museum. “We saw this first student show as an opportunity to celebrate the makers, scholars and researchers across the arts and humanities who are part of that community, and to make their work accessible to all of our visitors.”

Some of what’s on tap in “from this point forward”:

- Design student Nikitaa Sivaakumar has prototyped an inexpensive solar light for developing countries.
- Theatre and dance MFA student Kristine Doiel is showing costumes she designed for the ancient Greek play *The Trojan Women*.
- Phil Acimovic, music composition doctoral student, has interviewed people about sounds and the memories and



Ben Ehrmann video performance (<https://vimeo.com/194777819>)



Costume for *The Trojan Woman* by Kristine Doiel

emotions they elicit to create an installation composed of snippets of the interviews and the sounds.

- Writer Chelsea Hicks Bryan turns part of her novel about a woman of mixed Native American and European heritage into a live retro radio-style program.
- Art history major Corrie Hendricks intertwines a hands-on knitting session with a discussion on crafting in today’s political climate.

- Art major Ben Ehrmann’s performance videos “embody a complex narrative of courageous, and at times, humiliating acts that include both violence and humor.”
- “The creative and scholarly works that make up ‘from this point forward’ will showcase each discipline and each student, and will, in the shared space of the museum, enter dialogue with the work of other disciplines and other students,” said Teagle. Visit [manettishremmuseum.ucdavis.edu](http://manettishremmuseum.ucdavis.edu)

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# Transitioning Together Is a Journey of Gender Discovery

reviewed by Terri Schlichenmeyer

Your hair is grayer than it was back then. You've both packed on pounds here and there, too. A few wrinkles surround your smiles, but that's okay – you're not fresh-faced kids anymore.

You've aged, you've softened and, in the new book *Transitioning Together* by Wenn & Beatrice Lawson, you've changed quite a bit.

Long before they met, Wendy and Beatrice had a lot in common: both came from families of similar sizes. Both had fathers that "didn't have a head for figures" and mothers who ran the family businesses. Wendy and Beatrice are both on the autism spectrum. The main difference: Wendy was a married woman.

They met one afternoon when Wendy, her husband, and their four children were living in the home of a "well-to-do" family that had just hired an au pair. The shy young woman didn't speak English and Wendy didn't speak Swiss German, but when Wendy was asked to help the girl to settle in, Beatrice proved to be a quick study. She easily learned a new language and she and Wendy forged a close friendship.

Both seemed only a little surprised when that friendship turned into love.

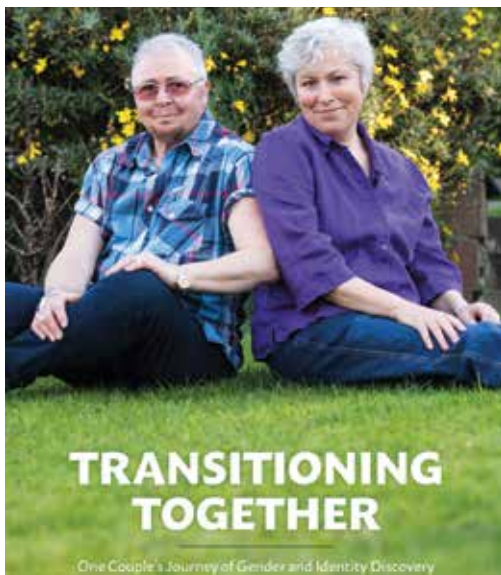
Wendy, who'd had health issues most of her life, never considered falling in love with another woman, but it felt right. Beatrice had an inkling that she was a lesbian but she shunned the word, afraid that it would "be an embarrassment" to her family. Even so, she settled into a relationship which was tender, and fragile from the start.

Wendy and her family moved from England to Australia as her abusive marriage was crumbling. Beatrice was unable to make the move with her beloved, due to Australia's immigration laws. They ultimately figured out a way to be together physically; once Wendy's divorce was final, they knew they'd be together legally as well.

But even after their wedding, Wendy wasn't happy. Never comfortable in her body, she felt sure that something was missing, so she sought her "tribe" before understanding that she needed to transition to become the man he'd always known he was.

And that was something Beatrice wasn't sure she could handle...

From its very beginning, *Transitioning*



*Together* is a tough read.

There's a lot of preliminary to wade through to get to the start of the actual story here, and then there's a lot of confusing set-up that identifies authors Wenn and Beatrice Lawson by their relative ages, rather than by name. While it's helpful, later, to have a change in font to delineate who is weighing in, you might continue to be baffled by the semi-linear nature of what is mostly Mr. Lawson's version.

Yes, tenacious readers who can bear with this dual memoir will get a double-edged peek at the emotional process of transitioning for both partners, through the added, unique perspectives of autism and age.

That's worth the patience – if you have it.

Indeed, this book could be more for professionals than for anyone else; general audiences may enjoy *Transitioning Together* – but only by a hair.

Terri Schlichenmeyer is an avid reader and owner of *The Bookworm Sez*, a self-syndicated book review column. She can be reached at [bookwormsez@yahoo.com](mailto:bookwormsez@yahoo.com).

## The First Ten Years of Hi-Fructose at Crocker

by Chris Narloch

The Crocker is wasting no time following up Chris Antemann's sexy and stunning *Forbidden Fruit* installation with another edgy and exciting exhibition, entitled *Turn the Page: The First Ten Years Of Hi-Fructose*.

*Turn the Page* celebrates the tenth anniversary of the popular art magazine, *Hi-Fructose*. Included are 51 of the most remarkable contemporary artists featured between its pages.

This one-of-a-kind exhibition brings together artists whose work is not usually shown together, although each one is a master of their media and among the best in their field.

*Turn the Page* offers the opportunity to view their work beyond the flat world of

paper and digital screens, allowing art lovers to connect one-on-one with some of the most significant art of our time and the cultural landscape in which it was created.

*Turn the Page: The First Ten Years of Hi-Fructose* opens June 11 and exhibits through September 17, 2017. (If you can get to the Crocker before June 25, you can check out *Turn the Page* and also catch *Forbidden Fruit* before it closes.)

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

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# Help Make a Difference at Concert For America

by Chris Narloch

If you're feeling blue about the current political climate in this country – I know I am – you can cheer yourself up with some great entertainment and also make a difference, when *Concert For America* comes to Northern California.



*Concert For America* is a rolling benefit that will fill San Francisco's gorgeous Curran Theatre with stars of film, television, music, comedy, and Broadway raising funds for five national organizations working to protect human rights. Starring Alan Cumming, Jane Lynch, Faith Prince, the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus and many more, *Concert For America* has been hailed by *The New York Times* as "striking for its emphasis on the importance of faith in the United States and optimism about its future." Created and hosted by SiriusXM's Seth Rudetsky and James Wesley, who also organized the "Broadway For Orlando/What

the World Needs Now is Love" recording, *Concert For America* debuted its monthly series to universal acclaim at The Town Hall in New York City, with the intent of going around the country every month for the foreseeable future with the same mission: to raise money and infuse our fellow Americans with hope and inspiration and the desire to become more active citizens. Proceeds from *Concert For America: Stand Up, Sing Out!*, on June 24, at 7 p.m., will benefit Southern Poverty Law Center, National Immigration Law Center, The Sierra Club Foundation, NAACP and National Coalition Against Domestic Violence. Visit [www.sfcurran.com](http://www.sfcurran.com).

# Women Rock This Year's French Film Fest

by Chris Narloch

Audrey Tautou is back this year as part of the lineup, and she is joined by seemingly every famous actress working in France. They are set to give this June's Sacramento French Film Festival a serious dose of 'girl' power.



Kristen Stewart stars in *Personal Shopper* at the SFFF

Although there is something for everyone at this year's Festival, the big screen at the historic Crest Theatre will definitely be dominated by women, including recent Oscar nominee Isabelle Huppert (*Things To Come*), Catherine Deneuve (*The Midwife*), Marion Cotillard (*From the Land of the Moon*), Juliette Binoche (*Slack Bay*), and the aforementioned Audrey Tautou (*The Odyssey*). In addition to those titles, which I have not yet seen, the Sac French Film Fest will also screen *Personal Shopper*, a fascinating ghost story that I have seen, which marks the second teaming of American actress Kristen Stewart (*Twilight*) and the great French director, Olivier Assayas.

LGBT movie fans will also want to see the Festival's beautiful Closing Film, *Heal The Living*, which includes a character who is having a lesbian love affair with a pianist. The previously mentioned *Slack Bay* is a hilarious and controversial comedy that also includes a dramatic love story involving a gender-fluid teen. There is even a highly acclaimed animated film this year – the recently Oscar-nominated feature *My Life As A Zucchini* – and at least one blast from the past, Max Ophuls' 1953 classic, *The Earrings of Madame de...* The 2017 Sacramento French Film Festival screens June 16-25 at the Crest and the Esquire IMAX theaters. For a complete list of this year's movies, visit [www.sacramento french film festival.org](http://www.sacramento french film festival.org).

## As Good As You Is a Witty, Lesbian Drama/comedy



*As Good As You* is about a bereaved woman searching for meaning and purpose in the aftermath of her wife's death, and is consistently tender in its portrayal of grief, even as the film becomes a kind of willful, triumphant comedy. Starring Raoul Bhaneja and Anna Fitzwater, the film makes its LA premiere on June 9th at Laemmle's Music Hall. Watch the trailer at [firstrunfeatures.com/asgoodasyou.html](http://firstrunfeatures.com/asgoodasyou.html)



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# How to Be That Guy's Go-To Booty Call

by Mikey Rox

We've all had that random hookup we hope comes back for more. Maybe they look incredible naked or throw down the good-good like Thor's magic hammer. Perhaps they give great post-bang convo or cuddle like an Olympic-level big spooner.

Whatever's got you giddy for that one-time fling, heed my advice on how to turn it into a regular thing:

## Be Available But Play It Cool

If you're lucky enough to get a ping for a repeat session, act natural, and quell your eagerness to respond immediately. Let the text sit for 15 to 30 minutes, then hit back that you're out with friends at the moment (people with active social lives are much more attractive than those loafing on the couch – to me at least), but suggest a time that you'll be home (even if you already are) an hour or two in the future.

Yes, playing this card may mean that the object of your ass-fection will move on to the next bro

on multiple occasions, good on ya; you're reaching pro status. But with that comes feelings a lot of times, and that scares some people. Don't catch emotions. Coyly let him know you're interested, but don't be desperate about it. Not the sex, not the "something more."

It may evolve into that one day, and you'll know if the sentiment is reciprocated (if you're self-aware, at least), but for now, go with the flow, let things happen, be easy breezy, my friend. You'll both have more fun that way.

## Remind Yourself That This Is Casual

If you find yourself developing more than lust for your now-frequent bed buddy, step back and assess the situation. Were you looking for a



in line or be unavailable when you finally are, but this strategy allows you to pick up around your place and it gives you some measure of control from the onset since he'll recognize that you're not going to drop everything to get him back in your bed.

If you're the one reaching out when you're thirsty, send one text – and one text only. He got it – even if he hasn't responded. Don't get all Glenn Close about your non-relationship by blowing up his phone. Nothing makes people run the other way faster than a creeper with boundary issues – no matter how beautiful or good in bed you think you are.

## Keep Yourself and Your Digs Presentable

I met a guy at a bar once with whom I got just drunk enough to go home. I very rarely go to their place, and his spot was a perfect example of why: Mattress on the floor, overflowing ashtrays next to the bed, the pungent smell of cat waste wafting through the barely furnished house. Totally turned me off. I couldn't jet quick enough.

I expect that you don't have this problem – I assume that most homos (even the younger ones) don't live in squalor – but if you look around your home and see anything that a guest might find offensive, like dishes piled high in the sink, a suspect odor, or a shit-stained toilet, clean it.

Visitors deserve to come into a respectable home, and failing to present yourself in a put-together manner basically says you don't give a fuck – about you or them.

## Show Your Interest, Not Your Desperation

If you've managed to get the dude in your bed

significant other when this started? Have they expressed a similar interest in you? Are you two on the same page, or is this just you getting ahead of yourself? Will this ruin the good thing you have? And what's his deal? Is his life messy? Are they double-double toil and trouble? Check yourself before you wreck yourself.

## Be Awesome in Bed

I'll be the first size-queen to tell you that you don't have to be hung like a college basketball player (the only reason I watch the games; it's March Madness in my pants) to be a boss in bed. I've slept with a few men lacking manhood who more than made up for it with their exceptional moves.

It's all about confidence, self-awareness, focusing on your strengths (maybe your make-out game is strong and they love to kiss), and giving that hookup what they want and need times two. Ask what they like and follow through. Just don't be weird, OK?

Personally I'm turned off by someone who's overly aggressive and/or too panty – at least at first; we can work up to the kink – and neither of those first-fuck habits will warrant a follow-up sesh. Play it safe (figuratively and literally) while building the foundation for anticipation of the next time. If it's memorable, they'll be back for more – guaranteed.

Mikey Rox is an award-winning journalist and LGBT lifestyle expert whose work has been published in more than 100 outlets across the world. He splits his time between homes in New York City and the Jersey Shore with his dog Jaxon. Connect with Mikey on Twitter @mikeyrox.

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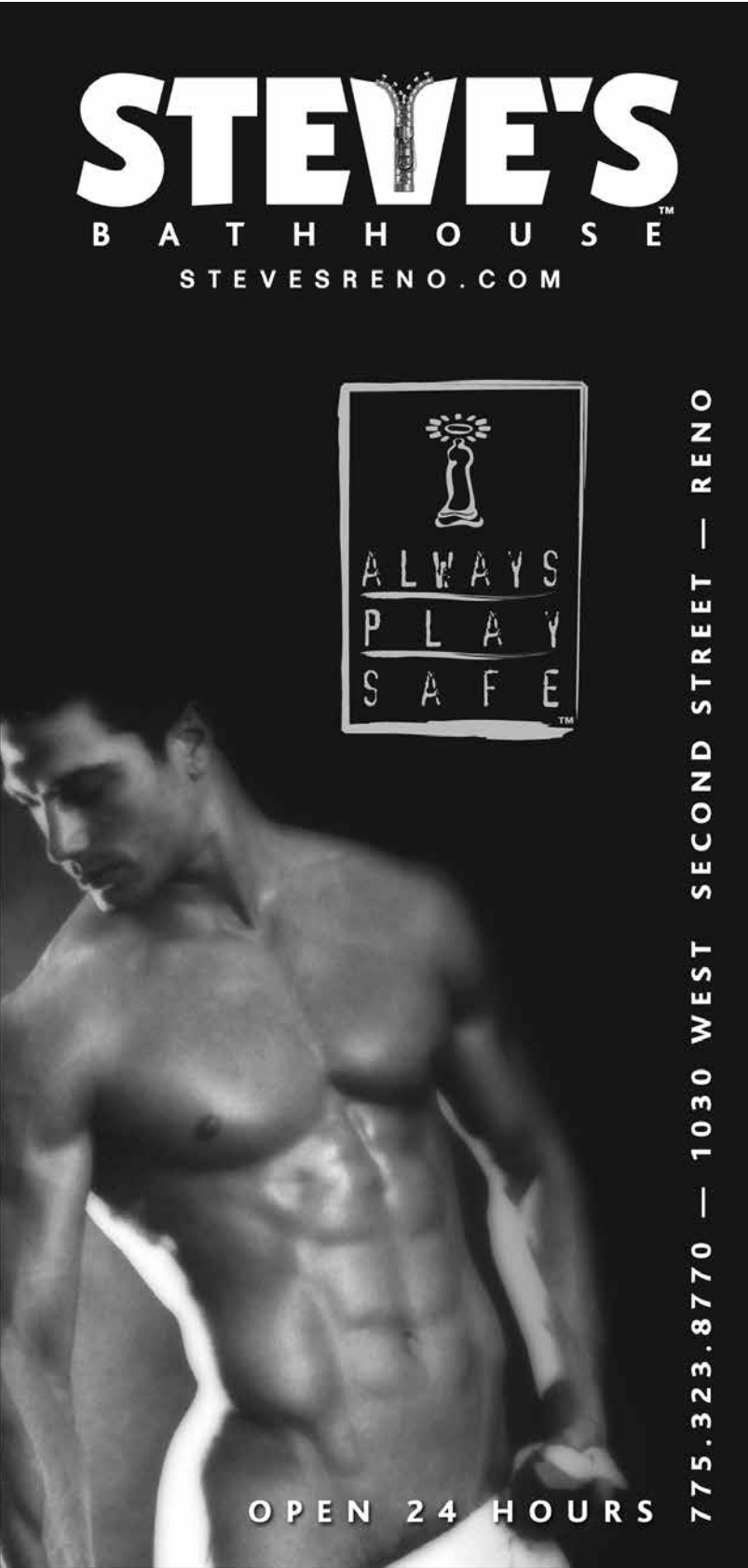
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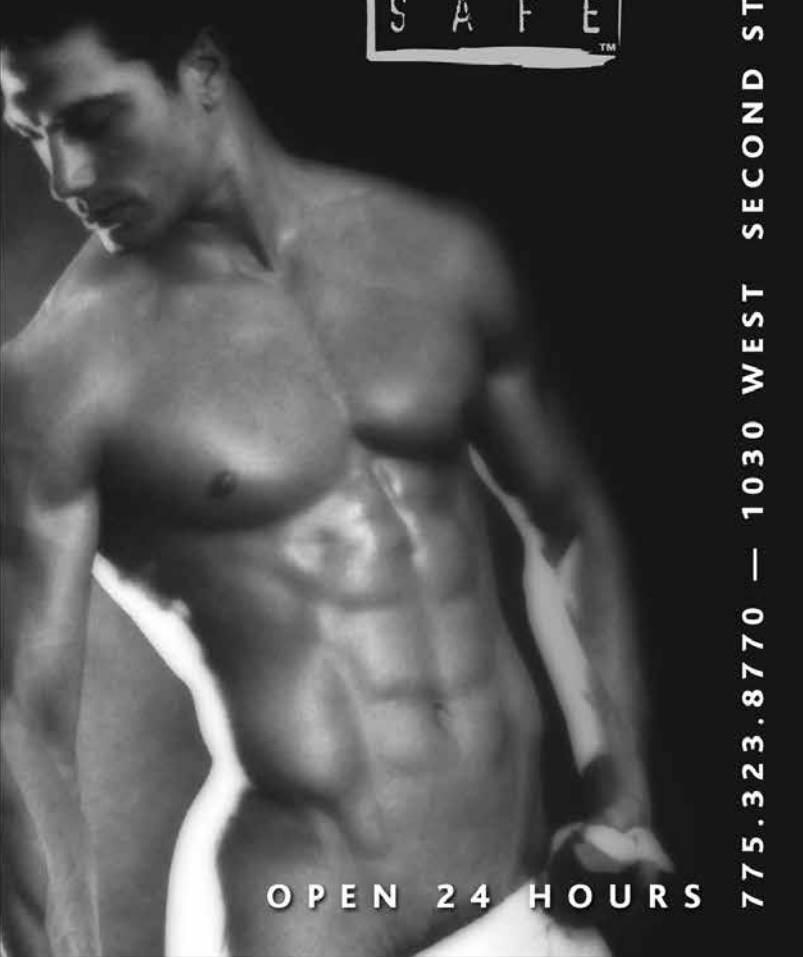
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## Billboard's Love Letters to the LGBTQ Community

As part of Billboard's 30 Days of Pride celebration this June, they asked numerous pop culture luminaries including Britney Spears (handwritten with photo proof), Barbra Streisand, Christina Aguilera, Celine Dion, Elton John, Liza Minnelli, Idina Menzel and many many others, to write 'love letters' to the LGBTQ community.

“What I envisioned being a simple letter to write is actually much harder than I expected, mainly because I keep asking myself, “how can I put into words the immense gratitude that fills my heart?” wrote Christina Aguilera. “I just can’t. And this community, this family of exceptional human beings mean so much to me I feel so much pressure to articulate my love for you all. Read them, along with great images, at features. billboard.com/love-letters-to-the-lgbtq-community/ and share your love letter to the community using #30DaysPride this Gay Pride Month.





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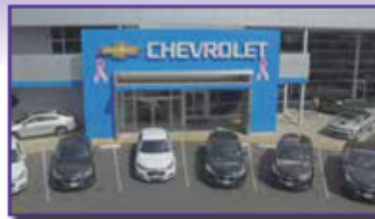


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**Lesbians have heightened risk of some cancers and higher rates of cardiovascular disease.**

**Gay men report more cancer diagnoses and lower survival rates, higher rates of cardiovascular disease.**

**Several studies found that overall, LGBT people smoke cigarettes at 1.5 to 2.5 times the rate of heterosexuals.\***

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\* Source: Health and Access to Care and Coverage for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Individuals in the U.S.

The Kaiser Family Foundation Issue Brief, January 2014



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