special issue

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

outWord

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SIGLFF
SACRAMENTO INTERNATIONAL LGBTQ FILM FESTIVAL
returns

page 14

Trans Beauty On LOGO page 12

The Return of "Will & Grace" page 13

B'way Sac Has A Beautiful Season page 18

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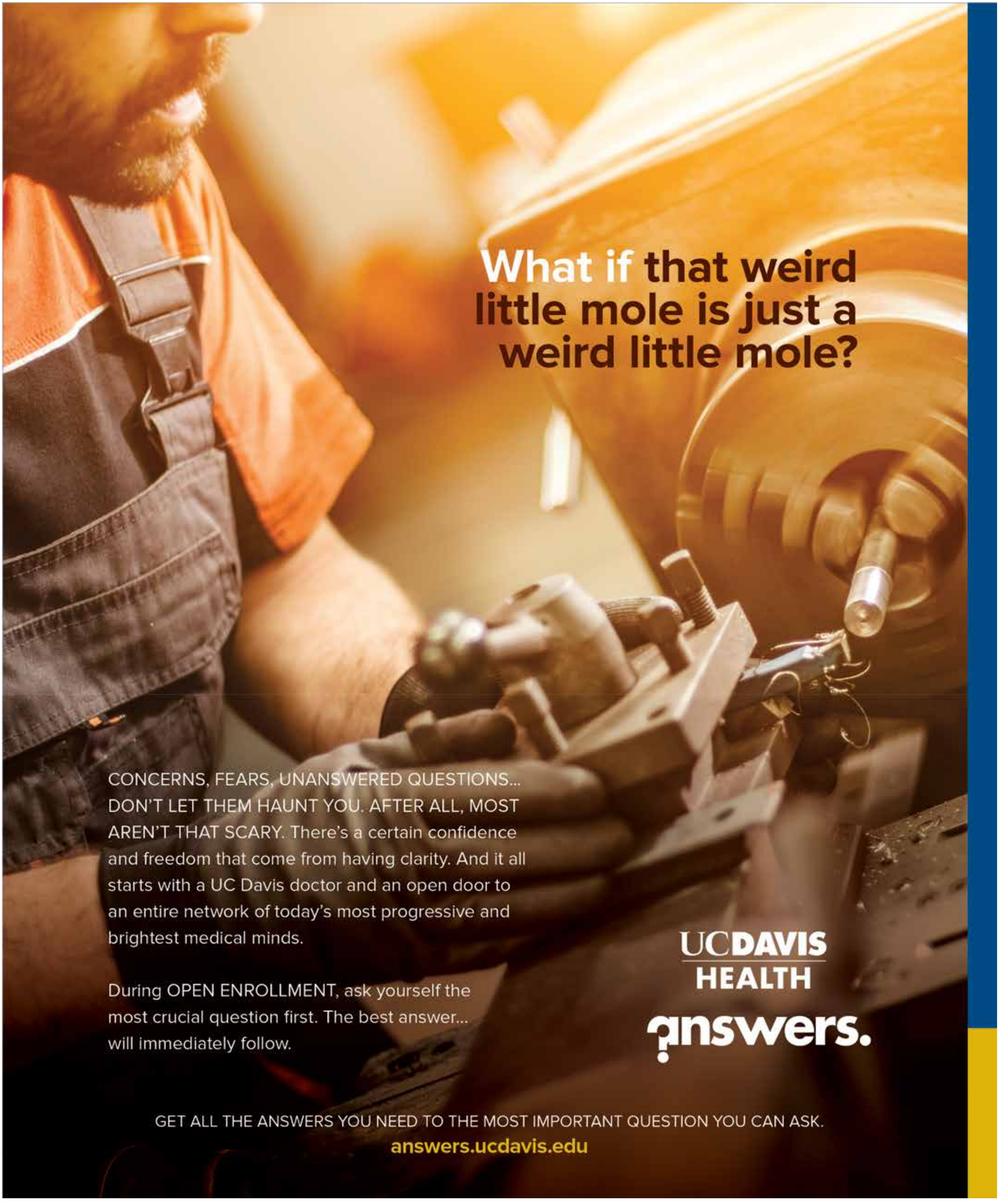
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ON THE COVER
SIGLFF returns.
Movie stills shown, top to bottom, left to right: *The Lavender Scare, The Death And Life Of Marsha P. Johnson, Signature Move, Curmudgeons, The Blondes (Las Rubias), Britney-Holics Anonymous - A Spear-Itual Awakening*

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SIGLFF Coat Drive Brings a Little Warmth to Our Youth

While you gather with friends at the Crest Theater and settle down with a soda and popcorn for the Sacramento International LGBTQ Film Festival, SIGLFF asks you to remember those in need through the 2nd annual Starbucks Pride Alliance coat drive for LGBTQ Homeless Youth.

Once again Starbucks Sacramento Pride Alliance will be working with SIGLFF to provide much needed coats for Wind Youth Services, serving homeless teens in the greater Sacramento area during the film festival.

The Starbucks Pride Alliance is a company operated partner network for LGBTQ partners and allies working to affect positive change within the communities they serve. The Pride Alliance strives to cultivate an equitable, dynamic, and supportive environment for LGBTQ partners, allies and customers.

As youth homelessness grows in our community, so does the need to address the issue proactively. The Wind Youth Center needs your help to make positive changes in the lives of the youth they serve.

Wind's homeless Street Outreach Program, the only one in Sacramento, is designed to reach homeless youth where they are, build trusting relationships, and encourage them to access other resources, with an overarching goal of moving them from homelessness to a stable living situation.

Wind's Street Outreach Program, offers homeless youth: Shelter; Sack lunches; Transportation; Personal hygiene packs; First aid supplies; Referrals & connections to other resources; and HIV and STD testing and counseling.

"This year during the film festival, SIGLFF is asking patrons to bring in coats, scarves and gloves to help our young LGBT siblings keep warm during the winter months," said Scott M. Brozek, SIGLFF Co-Vice President. "On behalf of the SIGLFF board and the organizations I would like to thank you for your generosity."

For more information, visit SIGLFF.org.

Kept Boy Is Funny, Outrageous, Witty and Chock-Full of Insightful, Heartfelt Humor

***Kept Boy* follows interior designer/reality show star Farleigh Knock, who has a knack for keeping beautiful things, like adonic Dennis, around his home. But when Fairleigh gives Dennis an unthinkable ultimatum for his 30th birthday, to get a job or get out, Dennis goes from Kept Boy to Lost Man. This dark gay comedy that shows that life with a sugar daddy is bittersweet is available August 8th on DVD at bgpics.com and through iTunes, Amazon Instant, Google Play, Vudu, and through your local cable provider.**

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Dining Out for Life Sets New Goal for Its HIV Fundraising

The 3rd annual Sacramento/Davis Dining Out For Life fundraiser will return Thursday, October 12th. This year, 13 establishments will participate by donating a percentage of their proceeds on that day to Sunburst Projects.

Since 1982, Sunburst Projects has worked to eliminate the stigma and discrimination associated with HIV/AIDS, while providing families and children the necessary services to further their quality of life. The local agency offers support services, programing, and more to clients living with and affected by HIV/AIDS.

One great thing about the event is all that public has to do to participate and give back is dine out at a participating location. Participants such as Kupros and New Helvetia Brewing are coming back for a second year to donate their locations and raise money for this incredibly important cause. Other participating restaurants include six local Chipotles, Adamo's Kitchen, Pushkin's Restaurant, Lucca Restaurant, Bj's Restaurant and Bar and Badlands.

Diners will have the opportunity to make an additional donation and be entered into a drawing featuring a large number of prize items such as appliances, hotel stays, spa treatments, gift cards, gym memberships and more.

In 2017, Sunburst Projects hopes to raise $12,000 to $15,000 from restaurant and diner donations, as well as cash and in-kind sponsorships.

"We are proud to present Dining Out For Life again this year," said Zoe Fishman, Community Events Coordinator at Sunburst Projects. "Guests at restaurants dine out for a very important cause and love knowing they are giving back just by eating. We hope to have a large turnout of patrons supporting a great cause by enjoying fantastic food and company."

The event helps bring new customers into neighborhood restaurants and gives everyone an opportunity to make a contribution just by having breakfast, lunch, or dinner with friends. With the exception of a small licensing fee, all money raised will be used locally.

"Despite the significant gains in combating and preventing HIV, it remains deeply stigmatized in the U.S. and here in Sacramento, said Erika Navaro, Sunburst Projects' Director of Operations. "Stigma and fear remain some of the largest obstacles to HIV prevention and care. Sunburst Projects works to make sure children, teens, and families living with HIV and AIDS are provided with the resources and mental health support to have the best quality of life possible. We provide programing for our clients to gain education, care, and a sense of community. The staff at Sunburst Projects is passionate and enthusiastic about this work, but we need resources to continue to provide these services. We so appreciate the community coming out on October 12th and helping us improve the lives of those living with HIV/AIDS."

Sponsors for this event include Capitol Graphics, *Outword Magzine*, PharmBlue, Tito's Handmade Vodka, Krave, and BarkThins.

For a list of participating restaurants in the Greater Sacramento area, visit diningoutforlife.com/sacramento or sunburstprojects.org.

See Historic Treasures at the Sacramento Archives Crawl

In celebration of National Archives Month, archives and special collections libraries from throughout the region are showcasing their rarely-seen holdings during the 7th annual Sacramento Archives Crawl.

The theme for the event this year is It Came from the Archives!? The Crawl will be held on Saturday, October 7, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and is free and open to the public, at four host locations: the California State Archives; the California State Library; the Center for Sacramento History; and the Sacramento Public Library.

The 2017 Archives Crawl includes the free presentation titled "The Anomalies" by Andrew McLeod of Confluence Tours. McLeod will explore the depths of unexpected stories found in Sacramento archives at 11 a.m. and again at 2 p.m. at the Sacramento Public Library.

The Archives Crawl will again also feature a *History Scavenger Hunt*, where students and adults answer questions about the documents and artifacts on display at the four crawl locations. Those correctly answering ten of the clues are then eligible to enter a drawing for a chance to win one of nine Samsung Tab 4 Nooks.

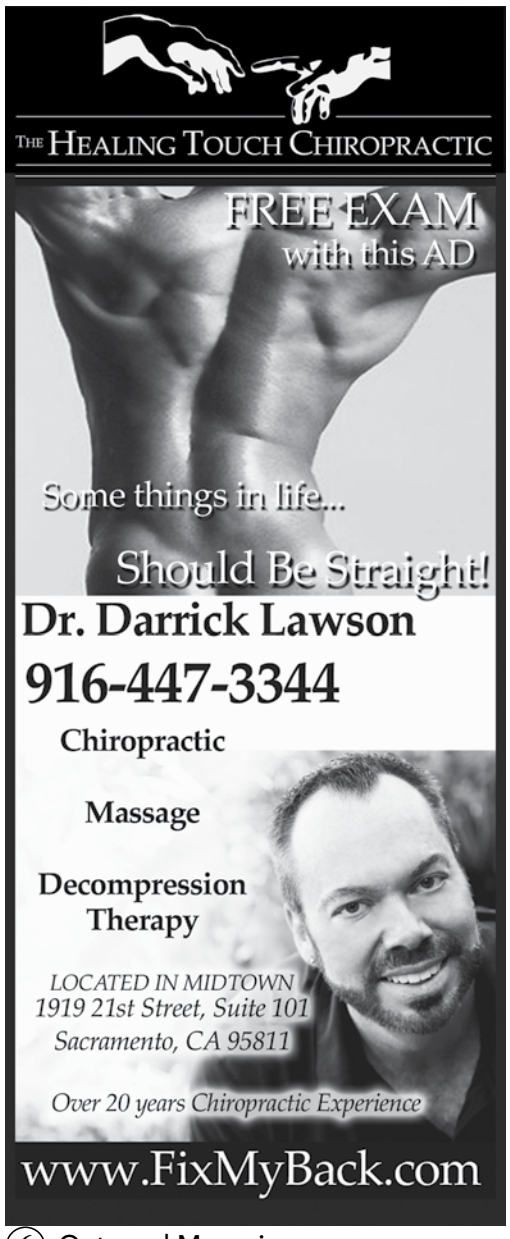
A sampling of the items on special display for the event this year include bizarre vintage trademarks and historic records and artifacts relating to crime and punishment (California State Archives); photographs and books about California characters Emperor Norton, Death Valley Scotty and Sarah Winchester as well as unusual ephemera including a Richard Nixon shower head and photos from California's mystery spots (California State Library);.

Archival treasure hunters from a previous Archival Crawl examine some of the rarely seen artifacts while keeping an eye out for clues in the History Scavenger Hunt.

Free Archives Crawl passports will be given to guests as they visit the first host institution of their choice. The passport provides a map of the event and information about the participating institutions.

Event attendees who get their passport stamped at three of the four host sites will be given a set of limited-edition commemorative coasters. The coasters celebrate the *It Came from the Archives!?* theme with photographs of weird and odd-ball Sacramento. Free transportation between host locations will be provided via transit buses; free parking is available only at the Center for Sacramento History.

For more information about the 7th Annual Sacramento Archives Crawl, please visit www.sacarchivescrawl.com. The event is part of Archives Month, a nationwide celebration held each October to raise awareness of the value of archives and to recognize the archivists who bring the past to the present. For information about other events in California, visit www.calarchivesmonth.org.



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Briefly Put

Resolution Condemning Chechnya Violence Against Gay Men Clears California Legislature

The California Legislature has passed a resolution calling on Congress and the president to condemn violence against gay men in Chechnya. Assembly Joint Resolution (AJR 16), by Assemblymembers Evan Low (D-Silicon Valley) and Jordan Cunningham (R-Templeton) and sponsored by Equality California, also calls on the president to encourage immigration authorities to grant asylum and refugee status to LGBTQ people and others fleeing persecution.

"LGBT Chechens are being attacked because of who they are and who they love. We must take action now to condemn the human rights abuses, assist those fleeing persecution, and prevent further violence," said Low, Chair of the California Legislative LGBT Caucus.

After attempts to organize an LGBTQ pride event in April in the Chechen capital, Grozny, some 100 gay men were rounded up and arrested. Some of those allegedly detained say they were beaten and tortured at a detention center. Three men died. Rather than address the violence, Chechen President Ramzan Kadyrov has denied the existence of LGBTQ people in Chechnya, saying that their families would themselves murder them if they did exist.

Elton John AIDS Foundation to Celebrate 25 Years & Honor Sir Elton John During Annual New York Fall Gala

On Tuesday, November 7, 2017, the Elton John AIDS Foundation (EJAF) will host its annual New York Fall Gala commemorating the Foundation's 25th year and honor Founder Sir Elton John. President Bill Clinton, Governor Andrew M. Cuomo, Sharon Stone, and others will pay tribute to Elton John's achievements as a philanthropist and humanitarian.

The legendary Aretha Franklin will be the special musical guest, along with performances by violinist Joshua Bell and Broadway's The Lion King, featuring Heather Headley. Neil Patrick Harris will host the event.

For tickets (good luck!) visit ejaf.org.

LGBTQ Data Collection Bill Passes Legislature

The California Legislature has passed a bill that would require that certain state employment and education agencies collect demographic data about LGBTQ people whenever they collect data about other demographic groups.

Assembly Bill 677, authored by Assemblymember David Chiu (D-San Francisco) and sponsored by Equality California, would help ensure that state programs meet the needs of the LGBTQ community. The bill passed the Assembly on concurrence and now heads to the Governor's desk.

"I want to thank all of my colleagues in the Legislature for understanding the obstacles facing LGBT communities and to help create informed policies to eliminate educational and employments disparities," said Assemblymember Chiu. "Good information will move us closer to full equality."

ACLU Challenges Discriminatory Practices in Michigan's Foster Care System

The American Civil Liberties Union and ACLU of Michigan on Sept. 20th filed a lawsuit in federal district court challenging Michigan's practice of permitting state-contracted child placement agencies to reject qualified same-sex couples based on the agencies' religious beliefs.

The lawsuit was filed against the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services and the Michigan Children's Services Agency on behalf of families turned away from child placement agencies because of religious objections to same-sex relationships, and Michigan taxpayers whose money is going toward funding these agencies. The lawsuit argues that the Constitution does not permit state-contracted, taxpayer-funded agencies to use religious litmus tests in screening prospective foster or adoptive parents for children in the state foster care system, or to discriminate against same-sex couples, denying children access to good families.

The lawsuit argues that this practice violates the Establishment and Equal Protection Clauses of the Constitution.

California Legislature Passes Bill Creating Non-Binary Gender for State Identification Documents

The California Legislature has approved a bill that would make it easier to change gender markers on state-issued identification documents as well as create a gender-neutral, non-binary category in addition to "male" and "female." Senate Bill (SB) 179, authored by Sens. Toni Atkins (D-San Diego) and Scott Wiener (D-San Francisco) and sponsored by Equality California and the Transgender Law Center, would make California the second state in the country, after Oregon, to legally recognize a nonbinary gender.

"Many of us have an ID that matches our gender presentation, and so showing it is hassle-free," said Sen. Atkins. "But for Californians who have an ID that does not match their gender presentation, showing it at airports, in shops or to law enforcement can be extremely stressful and lead to harassment or a delay in completing a transaction. It doesn't need to be this way. SB 179 will make things a lot easier for our transgender, nonbinary and intersex friends and neighbors."

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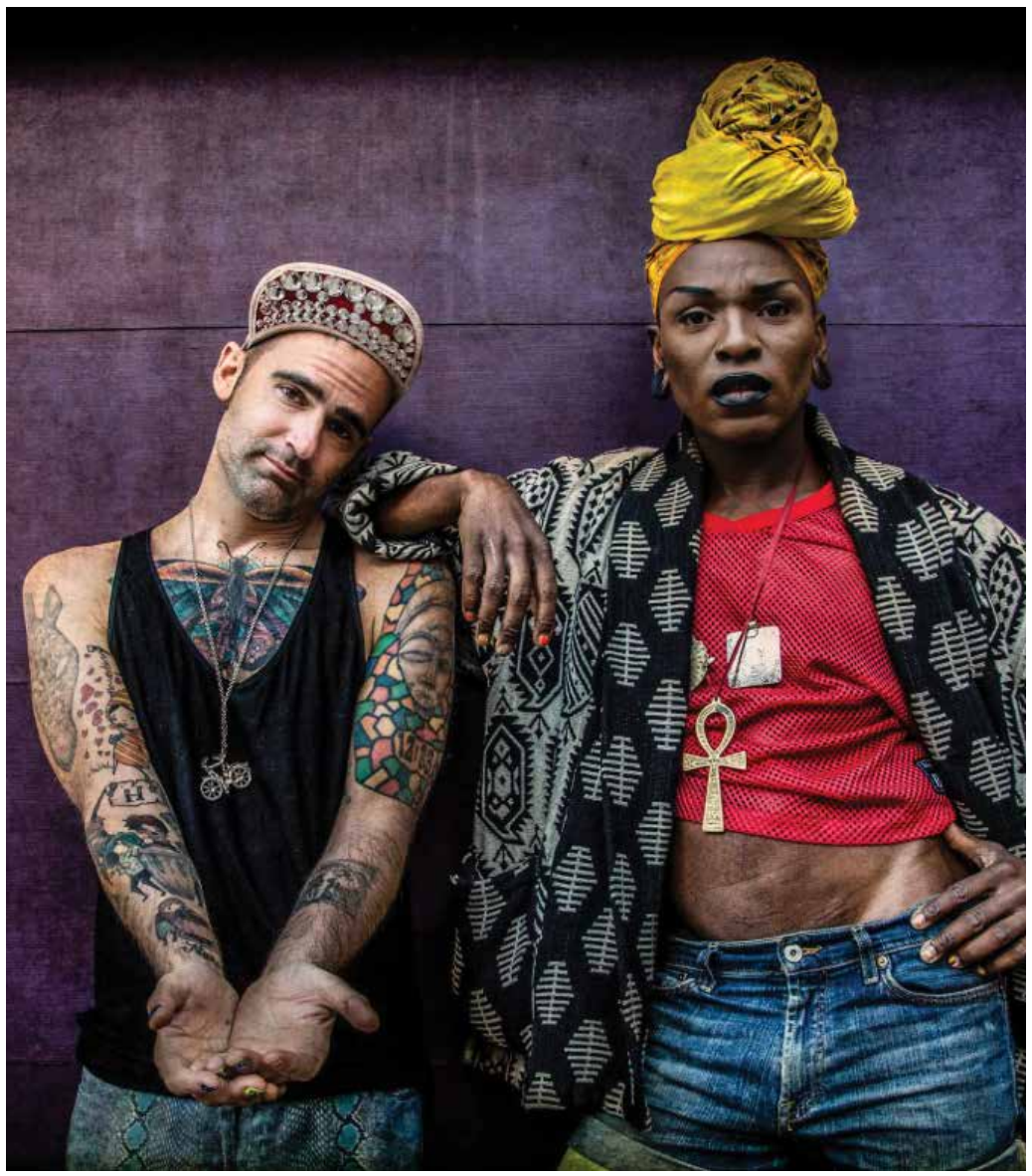
Double Duchess to Headline Red Dress-Dress Red Party

Sacramento's Red Dress–Dress Red Party is kicking up the entertainment this year with the San Francisco duo Double Duchess, whose big beats and playful narratives transcend genres and genders through live experience and high-energy delivery.



davO's and Krylon Superstar of Double Duchess

Slated for Oct. 7th at Badlands, the 6th annual Red Dress–Dress Red Party is an HIV/AIDS and LGBTQ health fundraiser, with the theme for this year "What's your Story?" in honor of the diverse life experiences within our community.

Guests are encouraged to continue challenging stereotypes by wearing a red dress or dressing in all red, whichever is comfortable for them, to symbolize solidarity with those living with HIV/AIDS and raise awareness of the vast health disparities experienced by LGBTQ people.

Bringing Double Duchess to the party will definitely liven things up. DD's Krylon Superstar's mesmerizing voice and performance art genius, coupled with davO's emceeing and production deftness, delivers a raw and campy electronic sound. Double Duchess' musical influences include Baltimore club, booty breaks, and ballroom house, all wrapped in a world of couture fashion.

"We hope you will be part of this uniquely fun night, united by two causes: to raise HIV/AIDS awareness; and support the ongoing work of the Sacramento LGBT Community Center's health and wellness programs for the most marginalized members of our community," said Lanz Nalagan, Development Coordinator for the Center in a released statement. "You'll help us prevent new infections, distribute safer sex kits, provide referrals to affirming healthcare and insrance providers, educate the community on PrEP, and lead peer support groups."

General admission tickets are $40 (limited to 75 tickets, $55 door price) with entry at 9 p.m. and include one complimentary alcoholic beverage, light snacks and desserts. Or you can go for the VIP package for $85 ($100 door price) with express entry at 7 p.m. and special VIP extended entertainment starting at 7:30 p.m. and two complimentary alcoholic beverages, a VIP gift and access to the hosted VIP area including premium hors d'ouevres, desserts, and drinks.

Advance tickets are available at www.sacramentoreddressparty.org Use the promotional code "TODAY" for $15 off VIP and GA tickets until September 30th.

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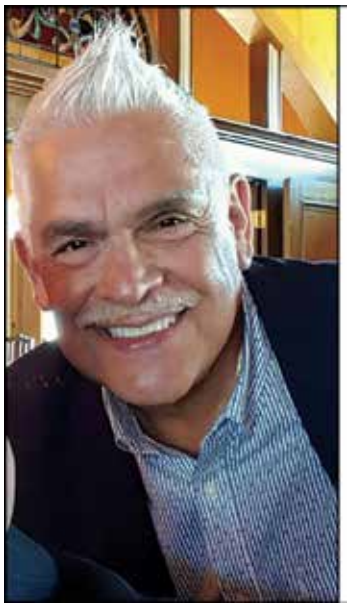

Thank You!

It has been my privilege to serve as President of Sacramento Rainbow Chamber of Commerce for 2016-17!

Thanks to all of you who participated, volunteered, donated and partnered with us, and I look forward to continuing our work to create a diverse and inclusive business community.

Best Wishes to Incoming President Joy Reinhardt and the 2017-18 Board of Directors! Our Chamber is in good hands!

Richard A. Hernandez
Immediate Past President

Sacramento Rainbow Chamber of Commerce

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City College's *The Servant of Two Masters* Is the Grand-daddy of all Modern Farces

City Theatre is begining its 2017-18 season with Carlo Goldoni's commedia dell'arte masterpiece, *The Servant of Two Masters*. Watch as Truffaldino trys to out-wit masters, mistresses, lovers, lawyers, and meatballs in this slapstick comedy. Plays through Oct. 14 at the Art Court Theatre at Sacramento City College. Pictured are Allison Bento Murphy as Smeraldina, Bert Andersson as Truffaldino and Meghan Cazadio as Beatrice. Photo by Bruce Clarke. CityTheatre.net

Third Age - Onstage To Perform Live Readings of Vintage Scripts for Radio Broadcast

From *Boston Blackie* to Agatha Christie's *Case of the Careless Client*, Third Age - Onstage, a group of senior actors, will be recreating the golden age of radio comedies and dramas before a live audience - with sound effects and all - for broadcast on KUBU-FM (96.5). Plans are also to broadcast orignal works from local writers and tightly written tales in 10 minutes or less.

The Normal Heart Coming to SF's Theatre Rhinoceros

Larry Kramer's *The Normal Heart* is a searing drama about the public and private indifference to the AIDS plague and one man's lonely fight to awaken the world to the crisis. Plays Nov. 3 - 25, at The Gateway Theatre in SF. Visit TheRhino.org for more information. Photo by David Wilson.

Rainbow Chamber Raises $22,600 for Scholarships

The Sacramento Rainbow Chamber of Commerce held its 15th Anniversary Crystal Gala on Thursday, Sept. 14, at Dante Club, raising $22,600 for the LGBT business organization's youth scholarship program.

The event honored 2017 Business Leaders of the Year Steven Walker, founder and CEO of computer managed services company Fast Break Tech, and Jason Russell, owner of Russell CPAs. The now-married couple, who first met at a Rainbow Chamber event in 2005, was instrumental in professionalizing the Chamber in its formative years. The award marks the first time the Chamber has named two recipients to receive the annual honor.

"Together, Jason and Steven did so much to build a solid foundation for our Chamber," said Chamber President Richard Hernandez. "The growth, the community partnerships, our advocacy and legislative work–none of it would be possible had they not put the organizational infrastructure into place."

Also honored was Lori Okamoto, SMUD Supplier Diversity Advocate, who received a special Leadership in Action Award.

The keynote address was presented by Sac State President Robert Nelsen, who administered the oath to the incoming 2017-18 Chamber Board of Directors. The 2017-18 officers are President Joy Reinhardt; Vice President Dana Vendley-Fogle; Treasurer Don Hunt; Secretary R. Paul Villaluz. Board members at large for 2017-18 are Joel Hockman, Fred Palmer, Jenee Rawlings, Alfonso Sanchez, Robin Shofner and Angie Straub of FiveFour Marketing.

Diana DePaola and Amy Medina will serve as co-chairs of the Rainbow Chamber Foundation, the Chamber's 501(c)(3) affiliate, which administers the scholarship program.

The Rainbow Chamber Foundation awarded scholarships for the 2017-18 school year to nine recipients: Marshall Dankbar, Junior, Sac State; Augistine Garcia, SCOE; Nyree Hall, 2nd year Master's student, Sac State; Jaela Harding, Freshman, University of Southern California; Travis Legault, Junior, Sac State; Kenneth McBride, sophomore, UC Merced; Reina Miller, 2nd year, Lincoln Law School; Heidi Nguyen, freshman, UC Davis; and Vanessa Vallarta, Sierra College.

Following the "Black Tie with a Twist"-themed dinner and awards program, guests continued the evening with a Studio 54 VIP After Party

The Sacramento Rainbow Chamber of Commerce is a regional chamber serving LGBT business owners and professionals across the Sacramento Valley, as well as straight allies who support its mission of fostering a prosperous, diverse and inclusive business climate.

For more information about the Sacramento Rainbow Chamber of Commerce, visit www.rainbowchamber.com.

Remembering Edie Windsor

Edith "Edie" Windsor was the lead plaintiff in the Supreme Court case *United States v. Windsor*, a landmark legal victory for marriage equality.

Windsor was a former top-ranking technology manager at IBM, where she began her employment in 1958. In 1987 the National Computing Conference honored her as a Pioneer in Operating Systems.

In 1963 Windsor met Thea Spyer, a psychologist, in New York. The two began a lifelong relationship, which they hid from their employers for many years. The couple were engaged for 42 years.

When Spyer was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis, Windsor became her caregiver, eventually entering a domestic partnership with her in New York in 1993. Because the state did not yet offer same-sex marriage rights, the couple wed in Canada in 2007, two years before Spyer's death.

The couple's inability to legally marry prompted Windsor to publicly advocate for marriage equality and to take her case to court. No stranger to LGBT activism, Windsor provided leadership in numerous LGBT organizations and regularly participated with Spyer in history-making LGBT rights events.

In New York, Windsor volunteered for East End gay organizations, the LGBT Community Center, and the 1994 Gay Games. She helped form Old Queers Acting Up, an improv group that uses comedy to address social issues, and she served on the board of the Services & Advocacy for GLBT Elders (SAGE).

Windsor's court battle propelled her into the national spotlight. When she filed a lawsuit in 2010, she sought to claim the federal estate tax exemption for surviving spouses. Although she

Edith "Edie" Windsor

and her partner were legally wed in Canada, the U.S. Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) limited the federal definition of "spouse" to heterosexual unions only. In 2013 the Supreme Court ruled in Windsor's favor, overturning Section 3 of DOMA and setting a precedent that laid the groundwork for national marriage equality. Shortly after the 2015 Supreme Court decision in *Obergefell v. Hodges* that legalized same-sex marriage in the United States, Equality Forum honored Edie Windsor's contributions with the 20th Annual International Role Model Award.

Windsor's story is featured in the 2009 documentary "Edie and Thea: A Very Long Engagement." Windsor died in New York in 2017. She was 88.

This remembrance is courtesy of www.lgbthistorymonth.com. LGBT History Month is in October, visit their website for the biographies of the 2017 31 Icons.

Trans Beauty Is Always In Fashion At LOGO

The models of New York Fashion Week have taken their final sashay, but thanks to Logo you can celebrate diversity and the models who transformed the runway in the new feature *Made to Model: Trans Beauty in Fashion*, a long-form digital original that is streaming exclusively on LogoTV.com.

The models in *Made To Model: Trans Beauty In Fashion*.

With a unique look inside the world of fashion through the eyes of a trans experience, *Made To Model: Trans Beauty In Fashion* brings together generations of models for a discussion on their shared experiences and a photoshoot with Drew Elliott, *Paper Magazine*'s Chief Creative Officer and panelist on VH1's *America's Next Top Model.*

"We are proud to showcase diversity and social issues within the LGBTQ space, and in this important political climate, it's crucial for trans voices to be heard," said Sarah DeFilippis, Executive Producer of *Made To Model* for Logo/VH1. "These extraordinary models are breaking the glass ceiling and showing the world how beautiful the trans community is."

Made To Model: Trans Beauty In Fashion brings together some of the pioneers of the transgender modeling community, along with up and coming talent, for an iconic photoshoot, including: Carmen Carrera; Crimsona Kaiser (also known as Crimsona R. Amistad); Geena Rocero; Lauren Foster; Leyna Ramous (also known as Leyna Bloom); Maya Monès; Rain Dove; Torraine Futurum; and Tracey Africa Norman.

Learn more about the models and watch *Made To Model: Trans Beauty In Fashion* at www.logotv.com/shows/made-to-model.

The *Birmingham Blues* Are Coming

We've all seen them. They are in every major city and every small town – under freeway overpasses and the doorways to abandoned buildings, but how much do we really know of their lives? How much should we know?

Birmingham Blues is a dramatic play about a disgraced doctor's fall into the shadow world of the homeless and her journey toward redemption that gives us some insight into their lives, their struggles and their dreams.

The play is a gritty, provocative, darkly humorous look at a community of society's abandoned misfits living beneath a railroad trestle in Birmingham, Alabama, a familiar sight found in most American towns and cities.

Its characters portray the perseverance, courage, generosity, humor, lies and thievery necessary to survive their desperate and often dangerous circumstances and was written by Charlotte Higgins, whose work has been published and produced in New York, San Francisco, Nashville, the Midwest and throughout the Bay Area.

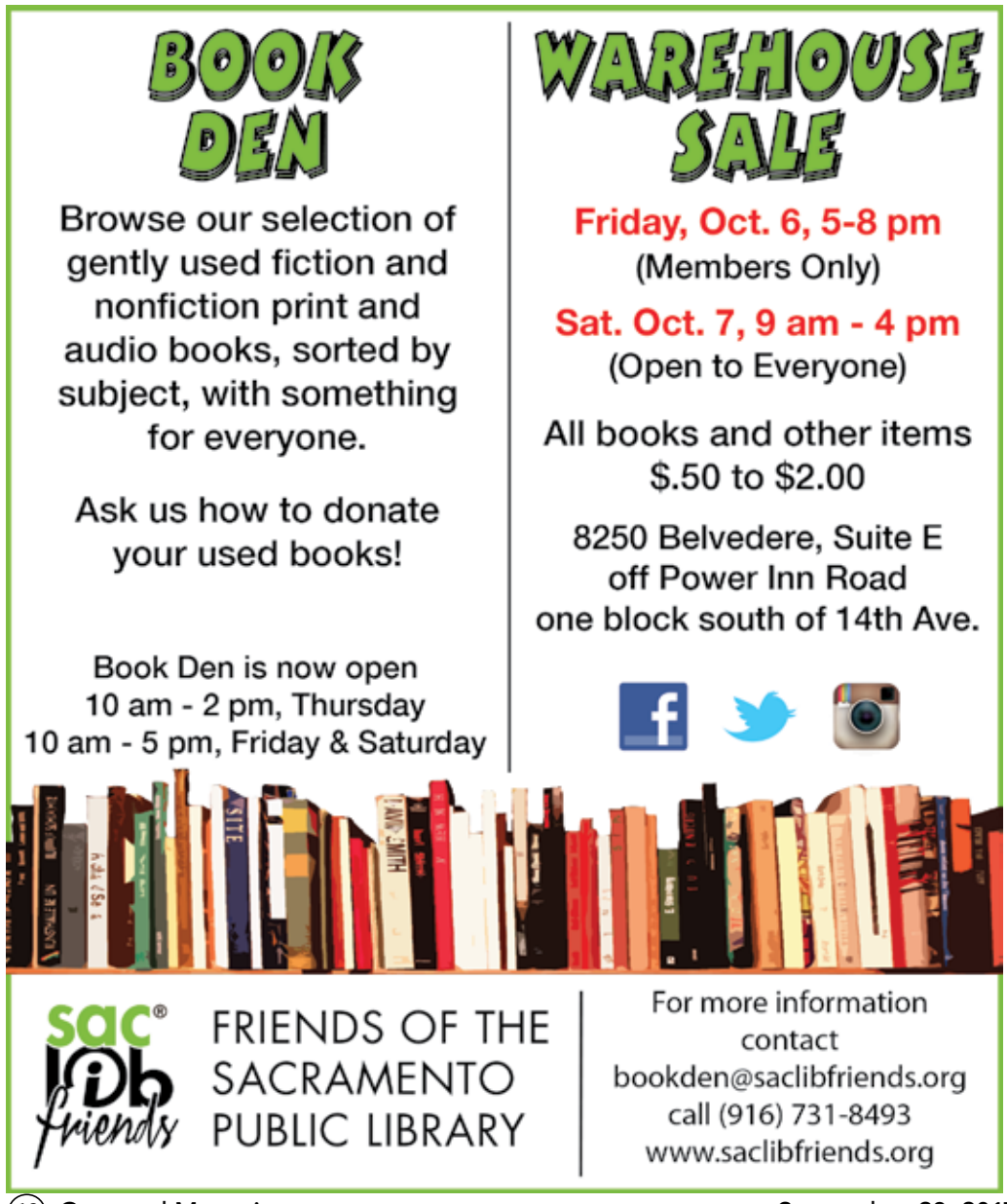
An out lesbian, her play *Alabama Bound* played to sold-out audiences in Sacramento and San Francisco and went on to acclaim at the NYC Fringe Festival.

The play will be directed by Maggie Upton, a regionally acclaimed director and actress and recipient of Sacramento Area Regional Theater Association's Lifetime ELLY award and will feature Jody Klemens, Cameron Johnson, Karen Kearney, Vincent Chiesa and Steve Buri, who will play a young homeless gay man.

A portion of each ticket sold will go to two organizations which work with the homeless: El Dorado Community Foundation's new S.H.A.P.E. (Spreading Hope and Prosperity in El Dorado) fund and Sacramento's St. John's Program for Real Change.

Birmingham Blues plays for three weekends, October, 13th through the 28th at The Wilkerson Theater, 1725 25th St.

For more information and tickets, http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/3057790



Must-See TV For The LGBT

by Chris Narloch

Does *Will & Grace* still translate in an era of Grindr and gay marriage? That is the question that will be answered on Sept. 28, when one of the gayest (and most popular) sit-coms ever returns from the television graveyard for a much-hyped reboot.

(Since this issue of *Outword* 'comes out' the same day as the premiere of *Will & Grace*, many of you may have already seen the show's first episode or two and made up your minds by the time you read this.)

That beloved sit-com brings back all four original cast-members plus the same creative team, so I am optimistic that the tale of two gay men and their fag-hags will be evergreen – and funny as hell.

It should be worth watching if only to see Megan Mullally slip back into her Karen 'drag'. For me, Mullally's shallow, self-centered lush was always the best part of the original show.

There is so much queer content on television (and especially cable and streaming) these days, that *Will & Grace* will have to really be on its game to stand out. Here are some other gay-friendly shows I am excited about:

American Horror Story continues to hold my interest, thanks to openly gay actors such as Cheyenne Jackson and, especially, Sarah Paulson, who takes center stage this season as a lesbian who has a nervous breakdown after Donald Trump wins the White House.

Alison Pill is also excellent as Paulson's partner, and *American Horror Story: Cult* brings back the killer clown motif from a previous season. (Killer clowns seem to be everywhere these days, on the big and small screen.)

How to Get Away With Murder returns on Sept. 28 as well, and if you've ever seen that ABC series, then I don't have to tell you how much gay trouble the show gets into.

Empire will have returned also by the time you read this, complete with Taraji P. Henson's delicious character Cookie – who's sassier than a drag queen – and openly gay actor Jussie Smollett's portrayal of her gay son.

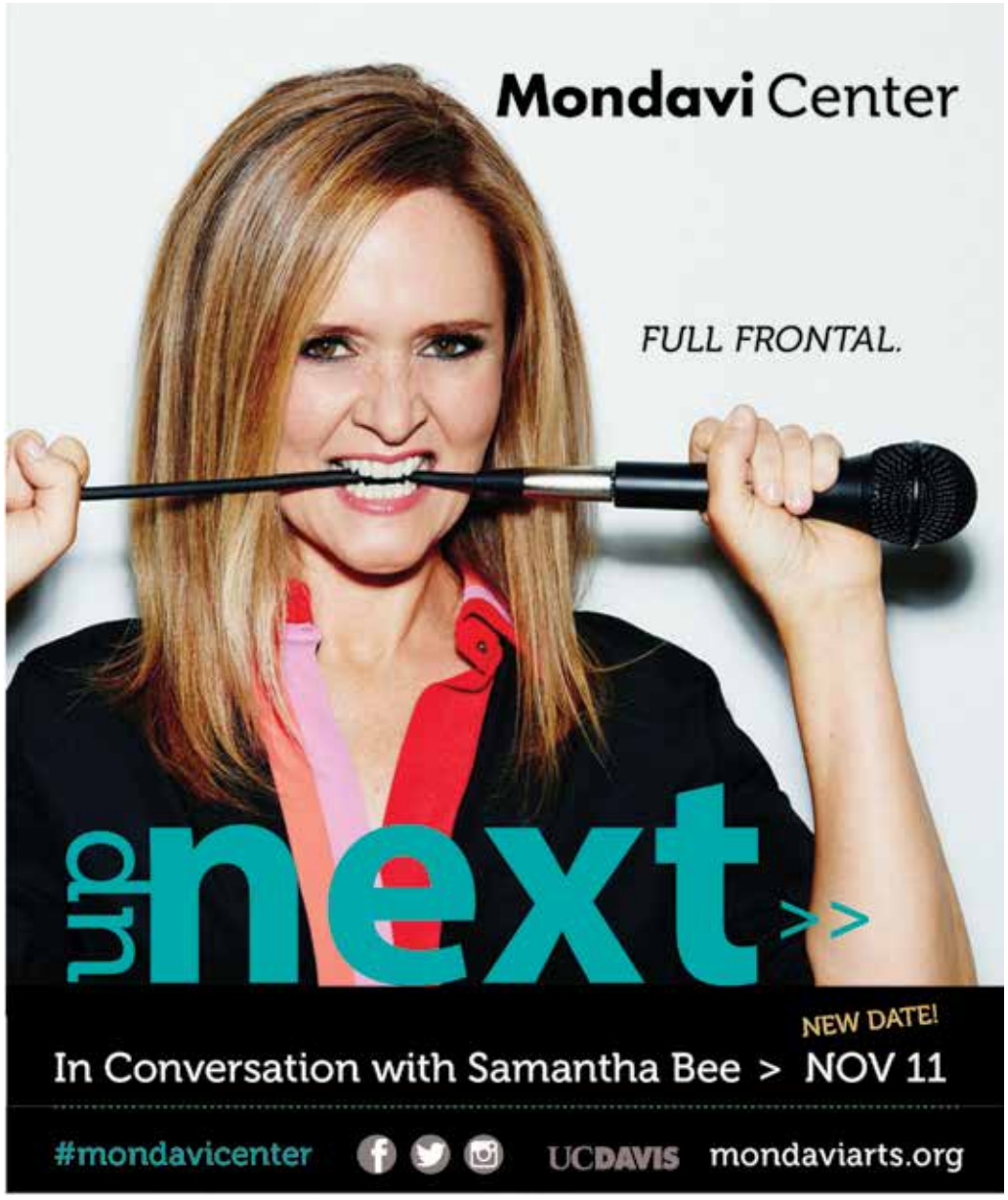
The fourth season of *Transparent* begins this month, featuring Jeffrey Tambor's award-winning work as Maura, the patriarch turned matriarch of the hilariously dysfunctional Pfefferman family.

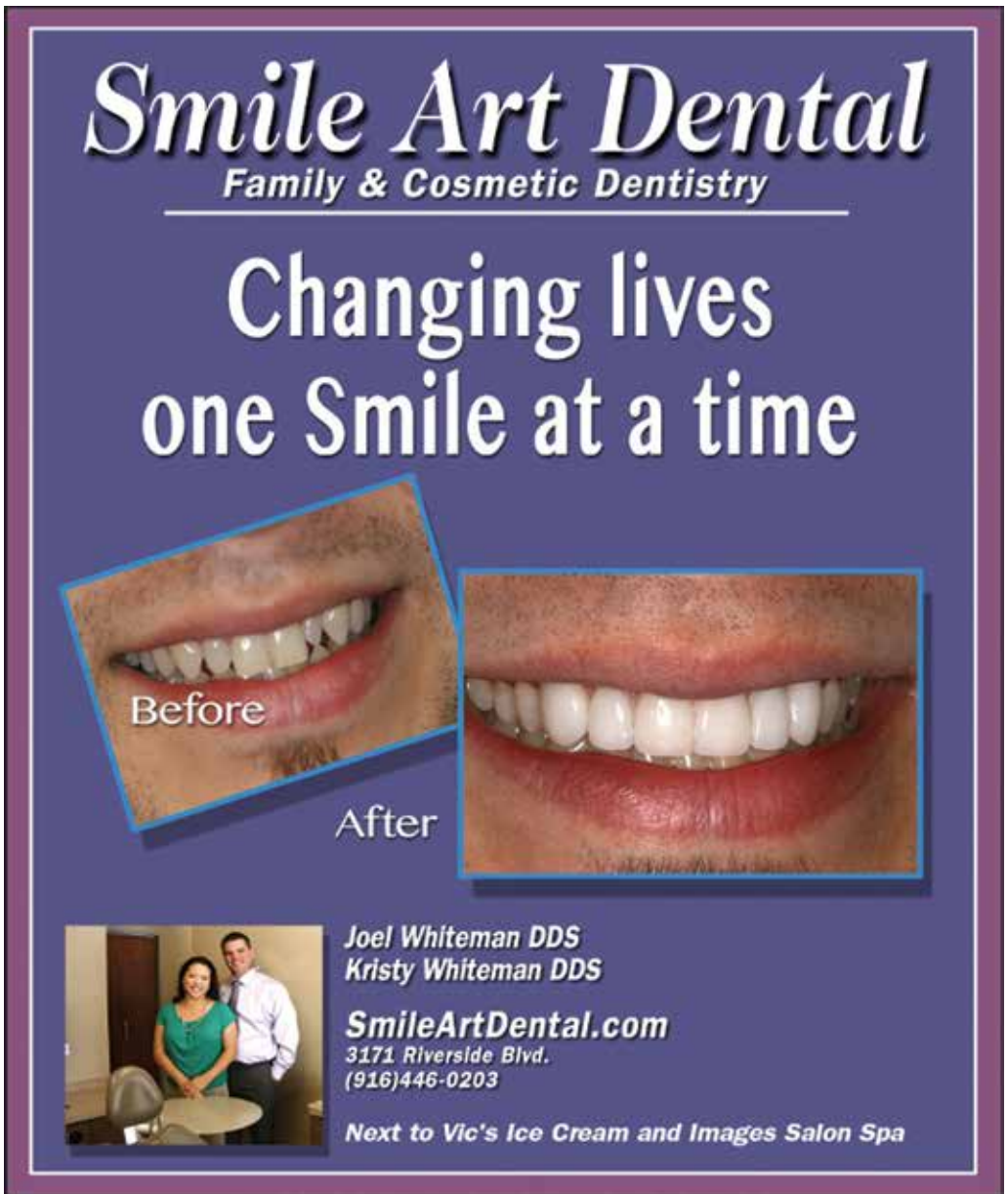
Lovers of prime-time soap operas are sure to enjoy the CW's upcoming remake of *Dynasty*, which premieres Oct. 11 and includes the Carrington clan's gay son, Steven.

Director Jane Campion returns with a new season of *Top of the Lake*, a moody mystery on SundanceTV that stars Elisabeth Moss. Fresh off *Big Little Lies*, the great Nicole Kidman joins the cast this year, playing a late-in-life lesbian.

Finally, I am totally hooked on *The Deuce*, HBO's high-profile new show that stars a superb Maggie Gyllenhaal as a Times Square hooker who graduates to porn during the swinging '70s.

Although the show doesn't have much queer content as of yet, *The Deuce* costars the always gay-friendly James Franco as twin brothers.





Queer Films Return To The Crest For The 26th Year

by Chris Narloch

SIGLFF comes back to the Crest the second weekend of October and brings with it a new name for Sacramento's annual queer film festival. The new branding is only one of several developments that should make this year's event even more of a must-see than usual.

The Sacramento International Gay & Lesbian Film Festival (SIGLFF) has changed its moniker to the Sacramento International LGBTQ Film Festival in order to better reflect who we are as a community.

What won't change is the level of cinematic quality that attendees of the Festival have come to expect, and additionally, this year's slate of films is likely the most ambitious in the history of SIGLFF, with more programs over its three days than ever before.

Famous names (and faces) such as Alan Cumming, Margaret Cho, Laura Linney and Armistead Maupin will grace the Crest Theatre's historic big screen during this year's Festival, and organizers have also promised surprise guests and participating filmmakers will be in attendance that weekend.

In all, eight separate programs comprised of six feature-length films and 16 short films will be showcased this October, and variety is the name of the game.

"For 26 years SIGLFF has brought quality films that explore the LGBTQ culture," said Jennifer Hatton, SIGLFF Board Member and Programmer. "This year is no different, from comedies and documentaries to character-driven dramas, SIGLFF continues to enrich the Sacramento Valley with films that both inform and inspire. It's a wonderful community-building event that everyone I know looks forward to year after year."

The Festival opens on Friday evening, Oct. 13, with *Alaska Is a Drag*, in which writer-director Shaz Bennett has expanded her own short film into a rousing and crowd-pleasing full-length feature that is described as the queer lovechild of *Rocky* and *Hedwig*.

Bennett will be in attendance on Opening Night for a post-screening Q&A after *Alaska Is a Drag*, a movie that should have universal comic appeal for audiences of all ages, genders, and orientations.

That same evening, the Festival will present the first of the weekend's two mixed shorts programs, which are always popular, crowd-pleasing events. (The second mixed shorts program will be shown on Sunday afternoon.)

The next evening, Saturday, Oct. 14, will find the Festival showcasing both its 'unofficial' men's and 'unofficial' women's features, in back-to-back programs at the Crest.

Signature Move, directed by Jennifer Reeder and starring the sexy and talented Fawzia Mirza, is first up this evening, with local Sacramento comedienne Elisia Gonzales performing a short stand-up comedy set prior to the film.

Signature Move is the story of two first generation immigrant women whose one-night stand turns into something more. Complications ensue as they try to navigate their respective cultures.

After Louie, an engaging inter-generational love story starring Alan Cumming, Zachary Booth, Wilson Cruz and with Mx. Justin Vivian Bond, is the second feature on Saturday night.

SIGLFF26 also has three fascinating documentaries this year, including *The Untold Tales of Armistead Maupin*, a terrific tribute to the author of the beloved *Tales of the City* series of novels.

Lovers of non-fiction films should also enjoy *The Death and Life of Marsha P. Johnson*, which looks at the legacy and mysterious death of a transgender pioneer.

The Festival concludes on Sunday evening, Oct. 15, with another not-to-be-missed documentary, *The Lavender Scare*, which tells the McCarthy-era story of an unrelenting campaign by the federal government to identify and fire all employees suspected of being homosexual.

Josh Howard, the director of *The Lavender Scare*, will be in attendance at the screening, and festival organizers are thrilled to close SIGLFF26 with this timely and important film.

"As a State employee, I am so happy to be living and working in the liberal and accepting state of California," said SIGLFF Board Chair Michael Dennis. "*The Lavender Scare* is critically important to Sacramento audiences."

For all these wonderful, essential films, Festival patrons can give thanks to Kevin Schaub, this year's Programming Chair, for his input in helping to select the finest queer movies around.

Schaub has joined forces with SIGLFF for the first time this year, and he brings years of experience with San Francisco's Frameline film festival, which is the largest LGBTQ arts event in the world.

"I think audiences are really going to be knocked out by the programs at this year's Festival," said Schaub. "And new this year, our Audience Awards carry cash prizes for the winning filmmakers ($750 for Best Feature and $500 for Best Short Film). Your votes really count so come out to the Crest and enjoy these great films together, as a community."

For more Festival information and tickets, visit www.siglff.org.

A Muslim lesbian from Chicago falls in love with a female wrestler in Signature Move.

Wes Hurley's *Rusalka* is part of SIGLFF's Friday night shorts program

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Lady Gaga **adorns a wall outside Sacramento's Golden 1 Arena. Artist Christina Angelina created the work of art as part of the 2017 Wide Open Walls Mural Festival.**

The State of the Arts in Sacramento

by Chris Narloch

When I was growing up in the suburbs of Sacramento in the '70s, arts and culture meant a trip to the often-sweltering Music Circus tent at least once each summer, followed by a mandatory performance of *The Nutcracker* in December.

I hated both, because I was too young to appreciate the talent onstage – and because I was forced to go by my parents.

Yet something from those childhood treks to the theater must have stuck with me, since my business card at *Outword* now reads "Arts Editor".

I am a firm believer in funding the arts in schools and throughout the community, and I am very happy to be living in Sacramento at a time when lawmakers and many locals share my passion for the Arts.

The latest local arts-related development was approved by the City Council while we were putting this issue of *Outword* together, and their support for a new science museum would utilize a long-shuttered PG&E power plant on the banks of the Sacramento River, near downtown, that has been an eyesore for many years.

The initial phase of the proposed museum includes a planetarium and 50,000 square feet of exhibit space that would replace the existing Discovery Museum on Auburn Boulevard.

The Powerhouse Science Center is only one of many exciting arts-related developments in Sacramento, which hosted a high-profile mural festival this summer known as *Wide Open Walls* that created close to 40 new public artworks on buildings around the city.

M5Arts also returned in 2017 with another temporary, large-scale art installation, *ArtStreet*, which proved as popular as their *Art Hotel*, the 2016 event that put M5Arts on the map and took the Sacramento arts scene by storm.

In addition to all the free, public art, Sacramento residents have access to world-class art museums such as the California Museum, the Crocker, and the newer Manetti Shrem Museum in nearby Davis, plus such cool gallery spaces as Kennedy Gallery, Sol Collective, Verge Center for the Arts, and many, many more.

To be fair, there have always been talented artists in Sacramento, so what makes this an especially thrilling time for the arts scene here is the engagement of both civic leaders and local citizens who are determined to provide more funding and more visibility for the local arts.

An example of that commitment was this August's reopening of the Red Museum, a "DIY" arts and music space housed in an old warehouse at 15th and "C" Streets that had been shut down by the city for building and code violations.

Rather than allow the venue to close permanently, Mayor Darrell Steinberg and City Councilman Steve Hansen got behind an effort to keep it open, and then members of the IBEW Local 340 union volunteered over several weeks to update the warehouse's dated electrical systems.

That type of synergy is what is bringing the Sacramento arts scene into the 21st Century, and it was also on display in 2016, when the old Fremont School building on "N" Street became the E. Claire Raley Studios for the Performing Arts, thanks to a combination of private and public donations.

CLARA, the nickname for that beautiful beehive of arts activity downtown, currently rents space to Sacramento Ballet, Capital Stage, Alliance Francaise de Sacramento, McKeever School of Irish Dance, and Voices of California, among other local arts organizations.

Whether it's the world-class talent selling out the Golden 1 Arena when the Sacramento Kings aren't playing, or a local, emerging rapper performing at Red Museum, I urge you to make time and enjoy the vibrant arts scene Sacramento has to offer.

And just for the record, I still revisit Ron Cunningham's superb production of *The Nutcracker* every few years as an adult, and I almost never miss a Music Circus show now that its productions are presented in the air-conditioned splendor of the Wells Fargo Pavilion.

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Broadway Sacramento Has A *Beautiful* New Season

by Chris Narloch

If ever there was a theater season worthy of being subscribed to, Broadway Sacramento's upcoming slate of shows is it. The capital region's premier theatrical institution has presented touring Broadway musicals locally since 1989, and it has hit the bulls-eye for its 2017-18 season, which features six sensational shows.

Sarah Bockel as Carole King in the Broadway Sacramento presentation of *Beautiful – The Carole King Musical* at the Community Center Theater Nov. 1 – 12, 2017. Photo by Matthew Murphy.

The tuneful, Tony-winning Carole King musical *Beautiful* will get the ball rolling in early November and will be followed next January by the hilarious Shakespeare spoof, *Something Rotten!*

In late January-early February, the classic jukebox musical *Jersey Boys* returns, and it will be followed by *The Book of Mormon*, another blockbuster that not everyone got to see last time it was in town.

The final two shows of the season, as with *Beautiful* and *Something Rotten!*, are brand new to Sacramento: the Peter Pan origin-story musical *Finding Neverland* and an exceptional stage adaptation of the timeless movie musical love letter to dance and France, *An American in Paris*.

(L to R) James Clow as Don Kirshner, Andrew Brewer as Gerry Goffin, Sarah Bockel as Carole King, Jacob Heimer as Barry Mann and Sarah Goeke as Cynthia Weil in the Broadway Sacramento presentation of *Beautiful – The Carole King Musical* at the Community Center Theater Nov. 1 – 12, 2017. Photo by Matthew Murphy.

I spoke with Richard Lewis, President and CEO of Broadway Sacramento, recently, and he could barely contain his excitement over the upcoming Broadway series, which is already selling like hotcakes.

Your first musical of the new season, *Beautiful*, is not the household name that *Hamilton* is, but it should be. Tell our readers why they should see the show, Richard.

It's the music they grew up with, and the really amazing thing that you discover is all of the stuff she wrote before the *Tapestry* album. So it's about Carole King and her life, which had definite ups and downs. It wasn't always roses for her, but she was able to write so many incredible songs over the course of it.

Any other favorites among the shows this season for you personally?

An American in Paris is a gorgeous work. The choreography is stunning, and the entire show is just a feast for the senses. That's why it's going to be here for two weeks at the end of the season. If I feel and my marketing department feels that we have a show that can really sell a lot of single tickets, then we book it for two weeks.

Do you think *Something Rotten!* will do well here?

I think so. If you loved something like *Spamalot*, and you want to laugh your head off, then you will love *Something Rotten!*

Do you ever book a show sight unseen? Because occasionally Broadway Sacramento will present something like *Dirty Dancing* or *Flashdance* that has not yet made it to New York.

I try to see everything that is out there because I'm a Tony voter. So I get to New York three or four times a year to scope out shows for the next several seasons. In the case of The *Bodyguard*, which we had this last season, I saw it in London and said 'ok', but you actually nailed it there with the two shows you mentioned. Both *Dirty Dancing* and *Flashdance* I had to book sight unseen, but that is very rare that we would do that.

Do you ever feel like you sort of can't win when it comes to putting the jigsaw puzzle of a season together? By that I mean some people want to see the greatest hits over and over again, and other people hate it when there are repeat shows…

I always say that when I put together a season where everybody likes every single show, then I can retire. It's just not possible to please everyone. With *Jersey Boys* and *Book of Mormon*, for example, you already know that some people aren't going to like the language in those shows, and they have both been here before. So this year, we are offering the option of purchasing a five-show subscription with one of the repeat shows, a four-show subscription with only the new shows, or all six shows.

Any favorite shows you weren't able to get?

I tried to book *Fun Home* and *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* for this upcoming season, but neither show was going to be on tour long enough for us to make it work.

You must be excited about the upgrades that are finally going to happen inside the Community Center Theater?

Our final show of the 2018-19 Season will conclude in early June of 2019, and after that the Community Center Theater will undergo an $84 million transformation project that will include audience amenities such as a major expansion to the lobby, many more women's restrooms which is going to be a huge improvement, and ADA compliance of 100 percent thanks to a more traditional seating configuration that will give us a couple of aisles and then a cross-aisle in the middle.

Will you be looking at doing smaller shows in the Memorial?

Well we certainly wouldn't do a huge show like *Lion King* in the Memorial, but remember that theater is also going to get a $16 million renovation of its own before we move in. There are several shows now where the band is incorporated into the onstage activity so something like that might be perfect for the Memorial Auditorium, where we will present our 2019-20 Season, while the transformation goes on at the Community Center.

Finally, I have to ask the $64,000 question. Will the renovations affect or postpone when we get *Hamilton* in Sacramento?

I have a plan for when I would like "Hamilton" to happen here, but I just can't reveal it now because it's not confirmed yet. But it will be announced well in advance of the actual run.

For more information about Broadway Sacramento, visit www.californiamusicaltheatre.com.

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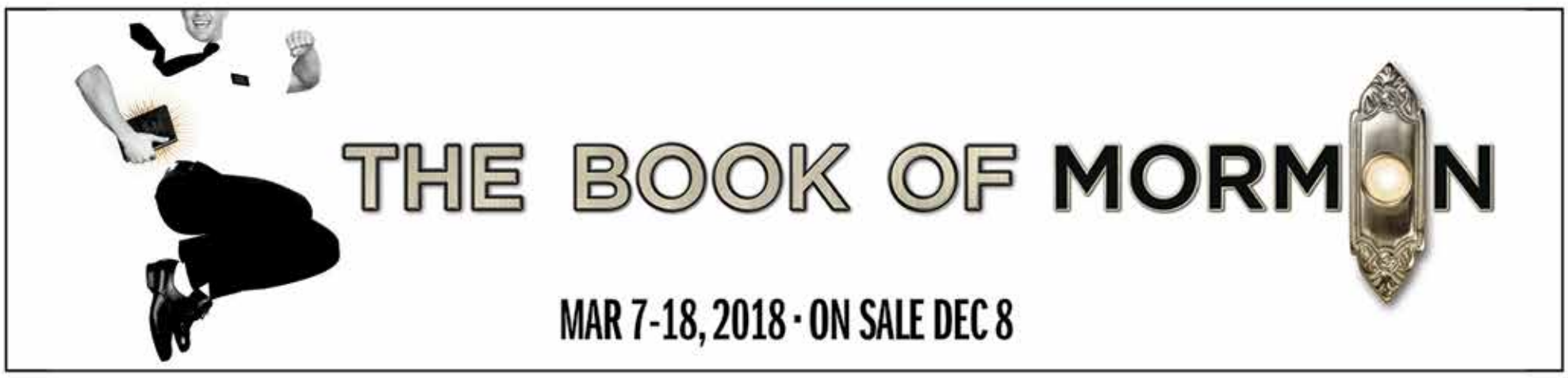
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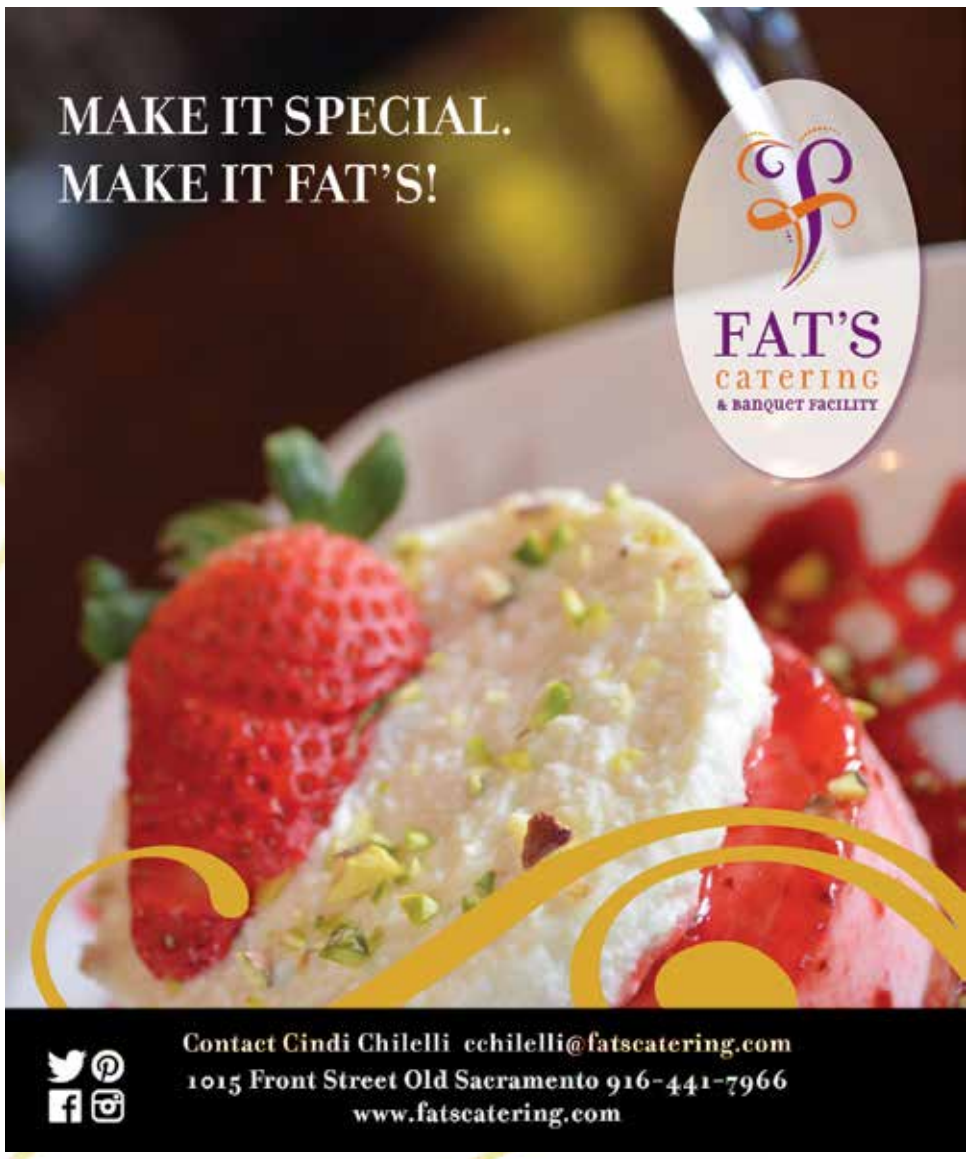


Equally Wed Can Help Make Your Vows Wow

reviewed by Terri Schlichenmeyer

Your beloved asked. And you said "yes." That's all it took: so simple, yet so momentous and now you're getting married. That's nothing new these days; LGBTQ+ couples have weddings all the time, so how do you make yours special?

With help from the new book *Equally Wed* by Kirsten Palladino, your vows will wow.

Like many people, Palladino grew up dreaming of The Perfect Wedding. She could just picture it – but making it happen started out wrong: when she got engaged to her now-wife, Maria, and went looking for help getting started, she could only find books for straight couples. That was definitely not going to work, so the Palladinos created an online wedding magazine, and this book.

So you just got engaged. As you might guess, there's a lot of planning that goes into a wedding, starting with whom (and how) you tell about it. Palladino advocates being gentle with family members who may feel uncomfortable. She says, "… give them some time" and know how to decide to invite them or not.

Time management will be your friend in this process, so find a system that works for you and be faithful to it. Keep phone numbers, contracts, ideas, lists, worksheets, and budgets in the same place, and keep track of all gifts received. Take a look at Palladino's list of possible items needed, then remember that nothing there is mandatory.

Decide on the kind of wedding you want, the venue you've dreamed about, and the size of your ceremony. Remember that age and gender of attendants isn't cast in stone, and the only requisite for attire is comfort. Know what questions to ask the "wedding pros" you need to make your day special: a planner, photographer, videographer, the officiant, baker, bartenders, and your DJ.

Remember that flowers are optional or you both can carry bouquets; in fact, your decorations and what you carry down the aisle can be anything unique to the two of you. Personalize the ceremony in ways that make you happy; there are all kinds of options and it's your wedding.

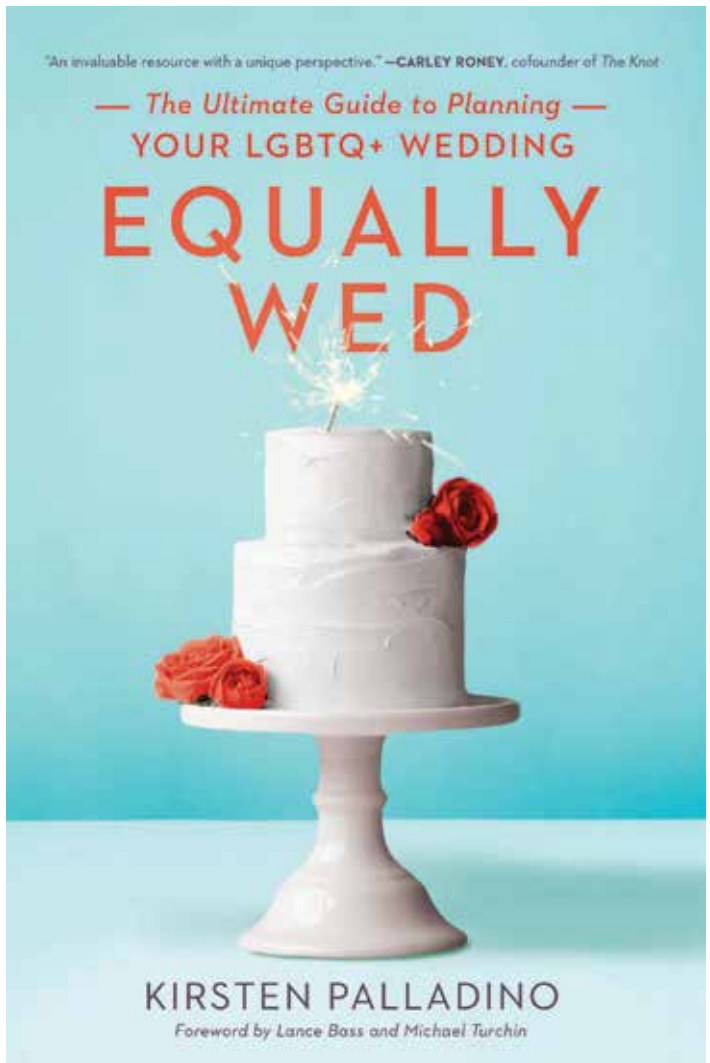
Ever since you were small, you've dreamed of getting married but, if you don't have a model to follow, it can be hard to know where to start and where to get what you want. *Equally Wed* shows prospective "grides" and "brooms" the path.

Beginning with gender-neutral terms for wedding participants, author Kirsten Palladino progresses through the year-plus-long preparations for the Perfect Wedding, and beyond. Prospective newlyweds will find lists and bullet-points that are useful and reminders for things they may never have considered, including ideas that may seem to fall into an "over-the-top" category.

Still, Palladino stresses that individualization is what makes a wedding special and that "Something will go wrong on your wedding day," but nobody can ruin it unless you let them.

This is an easy-to-use book that covers all bases, from "will you?" to "I do." If there's a wedding in your future and you need a starting point, *Equally Wed* is a big "YES!"

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.



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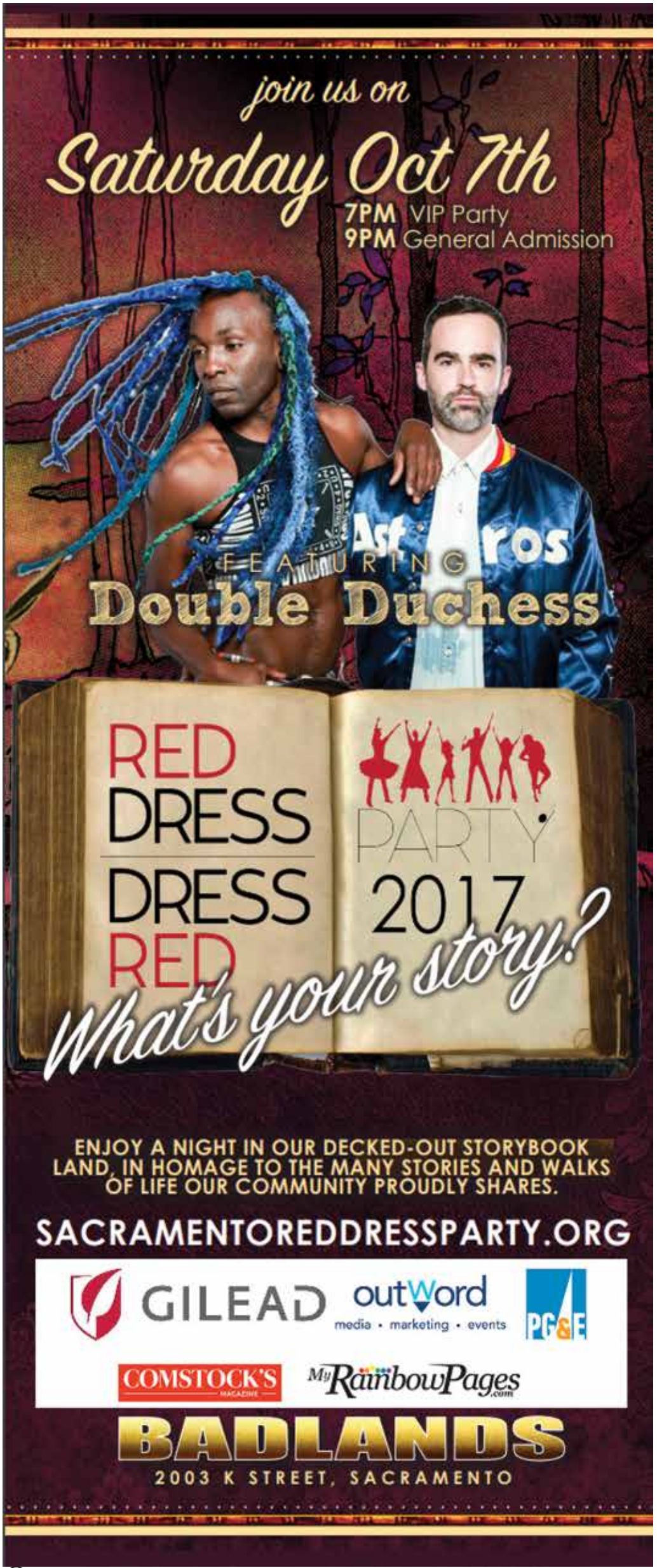
***Equally Wed* author Kirsten Palladino. Photo by Our Labor of Love**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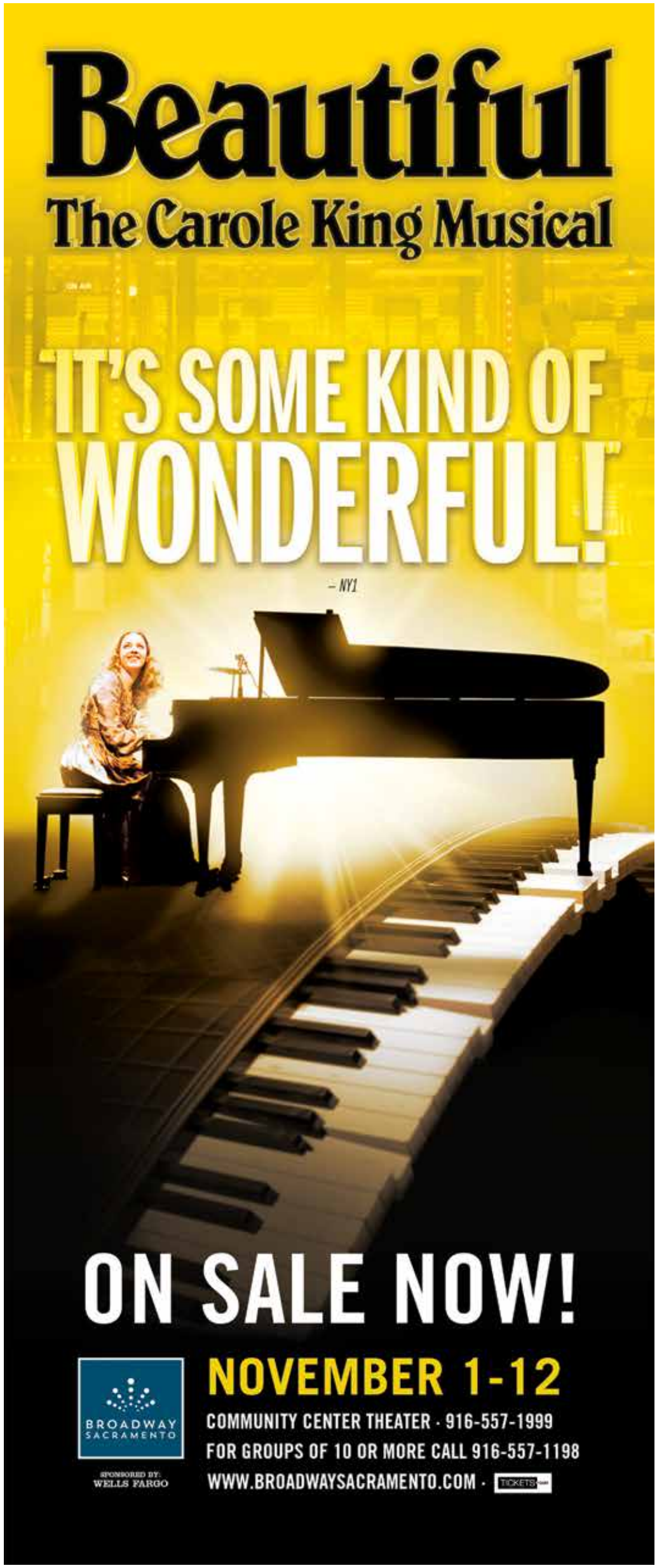
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Soulful Brit Susie Wilkins Releases New EP

On her new EP, *She Got Me Good*, Susie Wilkins conjures up a powerful new sound by bringing together two very distinct forces.

With her nuanced lyricism, the London-based artist instills each track with a soulful vulnerability true to her classic singer/songwriter sensibilities. At the same time, with each song fueled by Wilkins's fierce vocal presence, *She Got Me Good* is the first release to capture the vitality of her live performance.

Wilkins started writing songs at the tender age of 14 and debuted at the Hong Kong Fringe Club's Open Mic Night while still 16. Her impressive vocal talent and maturity as a performer garnered rave reviews, and she quickly established herself as a dominant force on the Hong Kong music scene.

Eventually, the allure of a new challenge brought her back to London, where she became a regular favorite at world famous venues, toured with Joe Jackson, and generated a passionate and loyal following across Europe and Asia.

Susie's diverse musical influences are reflected in her remarkable versatility as a singer-songwriter. Just as comfortable in front of a piano as she is with a 4-piece rock band, her songs are at once touching, powerful and enchanting, and always refreshingly raw.

Susie's voice combines a staggering range and technical ability with a rare emotional intensity that bares her life and emotions and invites audiences to feel her world.

Visit www.susiewilkins.com.

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The Hound Barks Up The Wrong Tree In Debut Single

Can't Let You Go, the first single from out singer The Hounds' upcoming album, is electronic pop with a passionate, heartfelt message about the dangers of a toxic love.

The Hound. Photo by Jeremy Lucido

Written and produced by the artist, The Hound admits to being in a low place in life when creating the song. "I didn't know what I wanted anymore," he explains. "I was very depressed and found myself in an incredibly toxic relationship with someone who suffered extreme highs and lows, and I was coming to terms with the fact that just because its love, doesn't make it right. People also love heroin and meth, and he was definitely like a drug to me. It took everything falling apart for me to finally walk away."

Along with the track, The Hound has released a music video that stars gay adult film performer Adam Ramzi as his ex-boyfriend. The Hounds' "Can't Let You Go" is available on iTunes, Spotify and all digital platforms. The music video is available at www.youtube.com/watch?v=dMBOBno9YWs&feature=youtu.be.

"One of the lyrics that means the most to me is 'I could see the end, but it was easier to pretend, that we'd make it out alive and I wouldn't lose a friend,'" continues The Hound from his LA home. "There's this awareness that the relationship would eventually fall apart, but until it did, things could be swept under the rug."

"My songs are about my life and the lessons I've learned," he explains. "Being human means making mistakes. There are going to be times we make decisions even though we know they're wrong. There are going to be times we hear that voice of reason and consciously choose to ignore it.

"One thing I have learned is that whether it's with a lover, a friend, or family, relationships define us. Sometimes it's the people who have been in our lives the longest that we need to walk away from. The change can be difficult, and we struggle with who we are without them. The worst ones can be impossible to let go of."

It's a theme he explores in the *Can't Let You Go* music video, co-directed by The Hound and Adrian Anchondo and starring adult film performer Adam Ramzi.

The video draws inspiration from Alanis Morissette's "Your House." "I wanted the viewer to think at first, that they were watching me moving around my apartment, burdened by memories. Suddenly, they realize that it's not my place, that I've broken into the home of my ex who is now with someone else."

The music video – banned from advertising on Instagram for being "too sexually explicit" – features choreography by Andrew Pearson and some incredible dance moves by Ramzi.

"Adam brings the relationship to life in the video," says The Hound. "There were a few scenes that we kept doing over and over again and it got so very real. I could tell we were both channeling some true life experiences. We were both very vulnerable during the shoot, and I think maybe I fell in love just a little bit. I mean, you've seen his other work, right?"

Could it be The Hound has found his next big mistake?

The Hounds' "Can't Let You Go" is available on iTunes, Spotify and all digital platforms. The music video is available on Youtube. Visit https://www.thehoundmusic.com

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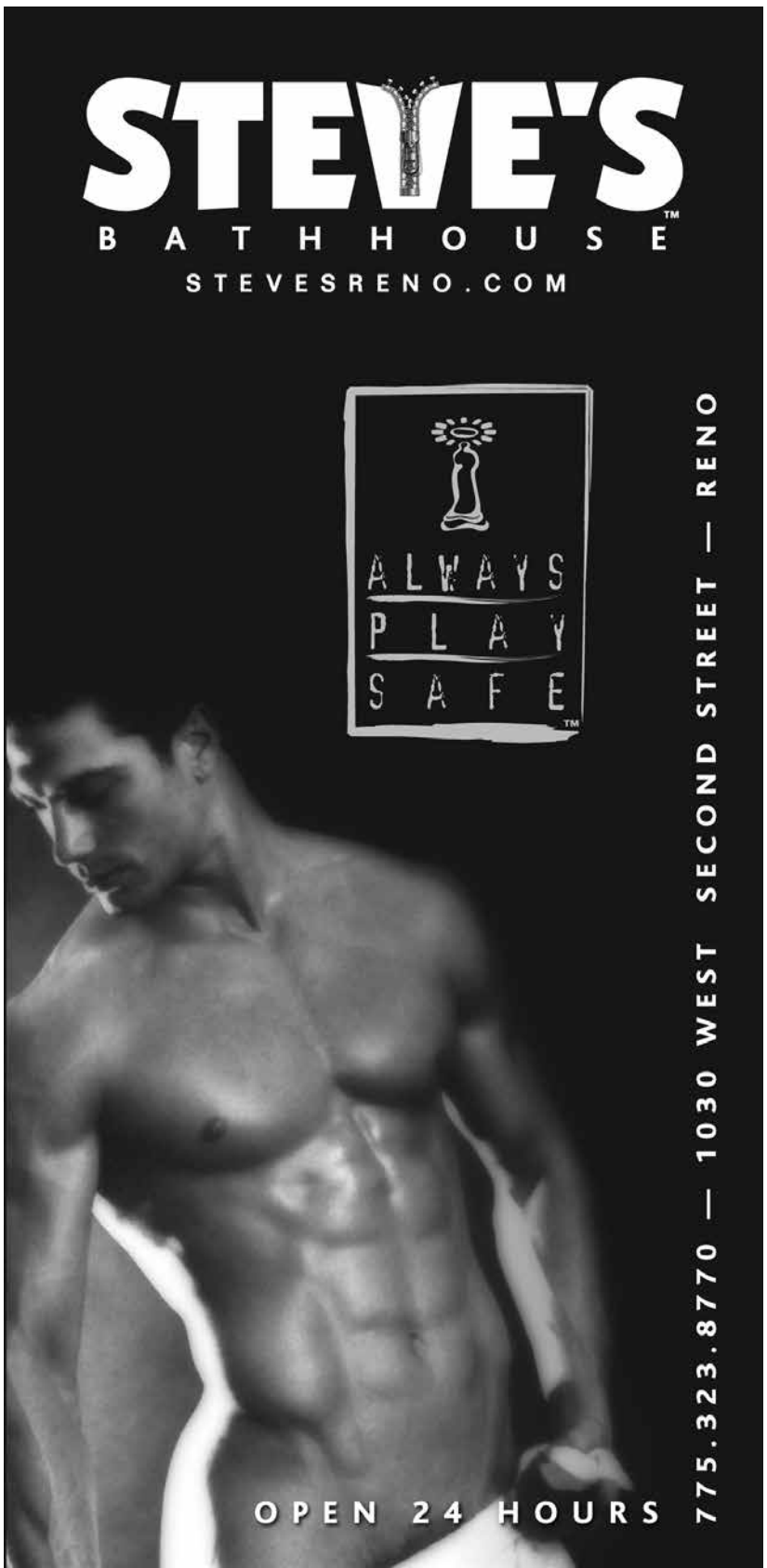

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