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Tax Plan Is a Devastating Hit to the LGBTQ Community

ot mincing his words, EQCA Executive Director Rick Zbur says the Senate and Congressional Republican Land is an ill-conceived, barely considered and massive tax bill that would benefit the top one percent of Americans and corporations at the expense of LGBTQ people, people living with HIV and AIDS, working families, students, and low-income people.

Nothing about this tax bill - including the process, the gimmicks, and the underlying economic assumptions - is equitable or right and Equality California strongly opposes it" Zbur said in a released statement.

The congressional Joint Committee on Taxation calculated that \$1 trillion would be added to Federal budget deficit over the next decade.

Particularly hard-hit would be millions of low-income LGBTQ people who rely on vital social programs to make ends meet because the tax bill contains deep, across-the-board spending cuts on Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (food stamps), Medicare and Medicaid, unemployment insurance, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) for poor seniors and people with disabilities, including those living with HIV and AIDS.

Equality California is also extremely concerned about a provision of the Senate bill which presents yet another attack on the Affordable Care Act, the Obama-era program that made it possible for millions of LGBTQ people to secure comprehensive, affordable and non-discriminatory health insurance for the first time. If the Senate tax bill is enacted as currently drafted, the individual mandate would be repealed, which would lead to an estimated 13 million people dropping from ACA coverage, and drastic spikes in insurance premiums.



Senator Harris Calls for United Fight for Civil Rights

T.S. Senator Kamala D. Harris delivered remarks at the Human Rights Campaign's (HRC) 21st Annual National Dinner, highlighting attacks on LGBT rights under the Trump Administration, and urging attendees to recommit themselves to fighting for the rights of communities everywhere including immigrants, women and people of color.

HRC's 21st Annual National Dinner, an event recognizing the LGBT community's history of progress and honoring champions of equality, was held Saturday, October 28, at the Washington Convention Center and drew more than 3,500 guests. Two-time Emmy Award-winning actress Uzo Aduba was also honored at the dinner. You can see a video of Harris's remarks at https://www.youtube. com/watch?v=K7YcrXAYwns&feature=youtu.

Key excerpts from Harris' remarks:

- From the United States Congress to the United States Census, LGBT rights are under attack. Under attack by a Justice Department that now stands on the side of discrimination instead of equality. Under attack by a Senate nominee who thinks homosexuality should be illegal, and a judicial nominee who says transgender-children are proof of "Satan's plan." And under attack by a Commander-in-Chief who wants to ban transgender troops who are willing to sacrifice their lives to defend our country.
 - We will leave no one to fight alone.

Together we'll fight for the equality of the LGBT community in all of its diversity. Together we'll fight to promote police reforms and progressive prosecutors, to prevent shootings like those that took Trayvon Martin or Philando Castile. Together we'll fight when Planned Parenthood clinics are being threatened to shut down. Together we'll fight for the DREAM Act. Call our members of Congress. And donate to HRC's Dreamers Fund. Because no one should have to hide, not in the closet or in the shadows.

 Let's be clear that this fight is about love of country. This fight is patriotic. And as I said at an HRC dinner 12 years ago, I believe there are two definitions of what it means to be a patriot. One describes those who condone the conduct of their country, whatever it does. The other is the kind I believe us all to be. The kind that fights each and every day for the ideals of our country. The ideals behind the Declaration of Independence, and the United States Constitution, and the Bill of Rights.





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The POZ 100: Celebrating Women & a Sacramento Hero

or the past eight years, the annual *POZ 100* list, produced by → POZ Magazine, has recognized 100 men and women who have been in the forefront, both globally and locally in the fight against AIDS/HIV.

This year that list is celebrating women, and one of the 100 is Sacramento's own Joyce Mitchell.

In the United States, women represent about a quarter of people living with HIV. Clearly, the idea that HIV affects only men who have sex with men is a myth. That said, because of this long-standing myth, women are often ignored or dismissed as an afterthought in the larger discussions surrounding HIV/AIDS.

The theme of this year's POZ 100 arose from the need to better spotlight the contributions of women in the fight against the virus. To that end, this year's list includes both women living with HIV and women who are HIV negative. The list includes women from across the country and from all walks of life. Some of them you may know, many of them you won't.



Joyce Mitchell

Here is the tribute that *POZ* wrote for Joyce Mitchell:

Joyce Mitchell – HIV Negative Sacramento, California

Iovce found herself at the forefront of HIV activism when she began to produce weekly segments on AIDS for Sacramento's KCRA-TV during the early days of the epidemic.

In 1995, she cofounded Capital City AIDS Fund (CCAF), a nonprofit organization focused on HIV awareness, prevention and education, of which she is now the chairperson. CCAF has raised more than \$3 million for local services and provides college scholarships to people living with the virus.

A five-time Emmy Award winner, she has produced numerous documentaries and stories about HIV, including AIDS in the 21st Century. For Joyce, "There is no turning back with this cause.

She recently joined POZ as a blogger. To read about the rest of the celebrated women, visit www.poz.com/article/2017-poz-100-celebrating-women.

Portions of this article and photo are courtesy of Poz Magazine

Toni Atkins Picked for Next Senate President Pro Tem

🕇 enate President Pro Tem Kevin de León announced on Dec. 7th that Senator Toni Atkins is the consensus pick of the Senate Democratic Caucus to succeed him as leader. The formal vote will be held in early January and the transition will be take place later in the year.

"Senator Toni Atkins is one of the LGBTQ community's most respected and effective leaders and her upcoming election as the Senate President Pro Tem breaks multiple glass ceilings," said Equality California Executive Director Rick Zbur. "Not only will she be the first woman to serve as leader of the California Senate, but Senator Atkins will also be the first LGBTQ person to serve in that role. This follows on her historic career in the Assembly where she became the first lesbian Speaker. Electing role models like Senator Atkins is important to the LGBTQ community because it sends a clear message to our community across the country, particularly LGBTQ youth, that LGBTQ people can achieve anything. By having a seat at the table, LGBTQ elected



officials can speak with their colleagues with authenticity and first-hand experience on issues that affect our community.

In her legislative career, Senator Atkins has championed groundbreaking bills that have advanced LGBTQ civil rights such as SB 179 (Gender Recognition Act of 2017), SB 310 (Name and Dignity Act), AB 1577 (Respect After Death Act), AB 1211 (Transgender Name Changes, Birth and Death Certificates) among many others.

In 2015, Equality California honored Senator Atkins with the Vanguard Leadership Award for her leadership and courage, which have inspired others to be more visible in their personal lives and active in their communities.

"We congratulate Senator Toni Atkins for another historic achievement," said Zbur. "We thank the members of the California State Senate for recognizing her extraordinary skill and leadership. We look forward to working with the incoming Pro Tem to achieve a world that is healthy, just, and fully equal for all LGBTQ people."



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Women's March Sacramento to Hold Anniversary March

Sacramento on January 21, 2017, Women's March Sacramento has been working towards getting out the vote in the 2018 midterm elections by community and youth engagement and amplifying messages of partner organizations that work to create social change.

WOMEN'S MARCH SACRAMENTO

To get that message out loud and strong, organizers for Women's March Sacramento have announced a march and rally on Saturday, January 20th, 2018. Themed *Hear Our Vote*, they invite you to make plans to join them and activate your community.

The mission of WMS is to harness the political power of women and their communities to create transformative social change. Women's March and WMS is a woman, femme and woman identified and led movement providing intersectional education on a range of issues and creating entry points for new grassroots activists and organizers to engage with/in local communities through training, outreach programs, and events.

The march in 2017 led the lead organizers of the WMS to focus on voter education, voter outreach, and voter

empowerment, and youth and community engagement, all encompassed in the message for this *Hear Our Vote*. Women's March Sacramento 2018, is part of a State and national movement to unify and empower those who stand for women's rights, human rights, civil liberties, and social justice for all.

The Women's March Sacramento 2018 is non-partisan and peaceful gathering that will give people the opportunity to unite in Sacramento, activate their communities and to stand in solidarity for the American values we represent.

Women's March Sacramento, *Hear Our Vote*, will be on Saturday, January 20th, 2018 gathering at 10 a.m. in Southside Park. The march kick off will be at 10:45 a.m. and proceed to the California State Capitol.

Visit www.womensmarchsac.com and www.facebook.com/womensmarchsac/.

Star Wars - The Last Jedi



Luckily, Carrie Fisher's scenes had already been shot before her untimely death a year ago, and "The Last Jedi" will reportedly mark Princess Leia's final appearance in a "Star Wars" movie. We can all enjoy that bittersweet farewell now that the movie has opened on the big screen. You can see it at a theater near you, including Sacramento's Esquire IMAX on K Street. For tickets, visit https://www.imax.com/imax-esquire-oo.





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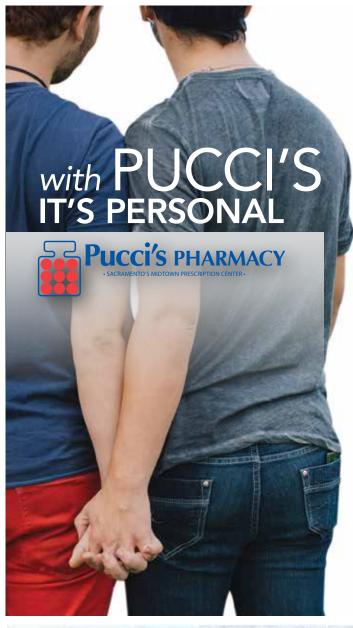
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Supreme Court Hears Case That May Decide the Future of LGBT Discrimination Law

he American Civil Liberties Union appeared before the Supreme Court on Dec. 5th in oral arguments for *Masterpiece Cakeshop v. Colorado Civil Rights Commission*, a case that will have widespread impact on the future of anti-discrimination protection in the United States.



The case centers on Charlie Craig and David Mullins, a gay couple who entered Denver bakery Masterpiece Cakeshop in 2012 hoping to buy a cake for their wedding reception. But before any specifics of design or other details could be discussed, baker Jack Phillips informed the couple that Masterpiece would not sell products to same-sex couples.

Craig and Mullins brought a complaint to the Colorado Civil Rights Commission, who found that Phillips had violated the state's anti-discrimination law. But Phillips continued to appeal the case, resulting in one of the most consequential civil rights cases of the 21st century.

At arguments, Justice Kennedy – who represents the court's swing vote – expressed concern for both sides of the case. He appeared to recognize the bakery's argument could undermine civil rights laws across the country. He also appeared to show concern about the expression, rights, and religious freedom of the bakery.

"It is hard to overstate the implications of this case," said David Cole, legal director of the ACLU, who argued on behalf of the plaintiffs today. "Jack Phillips has claimed he has a First Amendment right to discriminate against same-sex couples. He does not. Businesses open to the public may not choose their customers. These laws ensure that everyone, including gay people, have the freedom to walk into a business and know that they will be treated the same way. A decision against Charlie and Dave would allow businesses across the country to argue that they too can refuse service based on who the customer is. As we argued in court today, the justices have an obligation to defend the principle of equal dignity under the law for all Americans – including Dave and Charlie."

The Masterpiece Cakeshop case is one the most dangerous cases for the LGBTQ community in recent years. Rea Carey, executive director of the National LGBTQ Task Force described it in stark terms, "This case has the potential to roll us back more than a half-century to a time when LGBTQ people were in the closet, afraid to be ourselves. We refuse to return to those ugly days."

More information on the case can be found at www.aclu.org/cases/masterpiece-cakeshop-v-colorado-civil-rights-commission?redirect=cases/charlie-craig-and-david-mullins-v-masterpiece-cakeshop

Briefly Put

Federal Judge: Pentagon Must Allow Qualified Transgender Americans to Enter the Military

A federal judge has ruled that the military must move forward with previous plans to allow transgender individuals to enter the military starting on January 1, 2018.

The Trump administration is appealing the decision. The ruling clarifies an earlier decision in the case of *Doe v. Trump* that blocked President Trump's transgender military

"We're grateful for this judge's decision recognizing the fundamental principle that any qualified American – regardless of their gender identity – should be able to serve the country they love," said AMPA President Ashley Broadway-Mack. "This decision continues to give our military families hope that justice will ultimately prevail."

There are now two federal court injunctions against Trump's transgender military ban.

\$145 Settlement Reached in Canadian Government LGBT **Purge Class Action Lawsuit**

Following the official apology by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau for the state-sponsored, systemic oppression, and rejection of LGBTQ citizens, an Agreement in Principle was recently reached between counsel for the class members and the Department of Justice to settle the LGBTO Purge class action lawsuit.

The "LGBT Purge" refers to the Canadian government's systematic campaign between the 1950s and the 1990s to identify and purge lesbians, gay men, and those suspected of being gay from the Canadian Armed Forces and the Department of National Defence.

"It caused an enormous amount of pain, anguish and heartache to those impacted by this horrible movement initiated by the government," stated John McKiggan, partner at McKiggan Hebert Lawyers. "This purge, which lasted for decades, denied individuals their basic human rights and treated fellow Canadians like outcasts."

Supreme Court Passes on LGBT Government Benefits Case

The Supreme Court of the United States on Dec, 4th, 2017 decided to not consider the case *Pidgeon v. Turner*, in which the Texas Supreme Court held that LGBTQ couples are not automatically entitled to government benefits.

"SCOTUS's decision in this case upholds discrimination and opens legal avenues for those who want to chip away at LGBTQ equality," said DNC spokesperson Joel Kasnetz. "Through legislation or through the courts, this disgraceful decision by the Texas Supreme Court must be overturned. Democrats will continue to fight tooth-and-nail for LGBTQ equality in Texas and around the world."

Take Three Minutes To Tell The City How You Feel

The community is invited to take quick survey about quality of life in the Sacramento and budget priorities, through a city-wide survey of opinions about living in Sacramento and budget priorities for the Fiscal Year 2018-19.

The survey runs through Dec. 15 and you can take it online at https://sacramento.az1. qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8c89CfUmsaOqWUt

Assemblymember McCarty Calls for California Legislators to be Financially Liable for Sexual Harassment Claims

As the State Assembly looks into ways to further protect workers from sexual harassment and abuse, Assemblymember McCarty (D-Sacramento) has offered a number of reforms to increase accountability of elected officials and prevent sexual harassment in the workplace.

"The California State Assembly should look at the taxpayer funded payouts for sexual harassment – and explore holding perpetrators of sexual harassment more financially accountable. Why should taxpayers be on the hook for sexual harassment payouts, while wrongdoers walk away with no financial accountability? The State Assembly and the Joint Rules Committee should consider ways to recover financial damages from proven violators directly."

NGLCC Renamed "National LGBT Chamber of Commerce," Reaffirms Mission as Business Voice of LGBT Community

The business voice of the LGBT community, formerly known as the National Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce, has announced that the organization will formally shorten its name to its acronym "NGLCC" and be known as the, "National LGBT Chamber of

This change, which is accompanied by an organizational visual rebranding, moves to better include the bisexual and transgender members of the LGBT business community for which NGLCC has fiercely advocated over the past 15 years.

"The LGBT business community is stronger than ever and our organization must continue to evolve to be the best champion we can be for our businesses. That starts with ensuring every element of our brand demonstrates our commitment to all lesbian, gay. bisexual, and transgender entrepreneurs, as our new moniker of 'NGLCC: The National LGBT Chamber of Commerce' shows," said NGLCC Co-Founder & President Justin Nelson.



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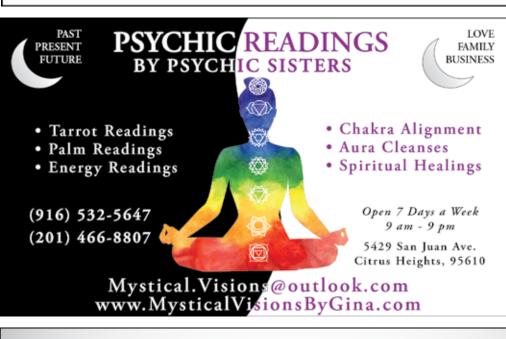
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Strengthening LGBTQ Immigrant Resources

espite divisive rhetoric and actions against immigrants and LGBTQ people coming out of the U.S. Capitol, local leaders are finding ways to bring diverse communities together, and the Sacramento LGBT Community Center is at the forefront of that effort.

On November 17, Sacramento LGBT Community Center Executive Director David Heitstuman and Lilián Ferrer, Consul General of Mexico in Sacramento signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), laying the foundation for collaboration to reach one very important services for the Mexican LGBTQ community.

During the ceremony, Lilián Ferrer, Consul General of Mexico stated, "For the Government of Mexico, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs it is a priority to ensure that the LGBT community is well served



Sacramento LGBT Community Center Executive Director, David Heitstuman and Lilián Ferrer, Consul General of Mexico

goal – strengthening the protection and promotion of the rights and interests of LGBT Mexicans in the Sacramento region.

During the ceremony, Heitstuman stated "The Center is pleased to partner with the Consulate of Mexico in Sacramento to increase understanding and inclusiveness in the services we each provide to LGBTQ Mexican nationals and Mexican Americans living in our region. It is our shared goal to ensure all people have a safe and welcoming place to call home and an opportunity to thrive. While President Trump works to build a wall, and puts up signs on our borders that say, 'you are not welcome here,' Mexico has put up signs in their Consulates that say, 'all are welcome here."

The MOU aims to strengthen the organizations' institutional relationship and fight prejudice and discrimination against LGBTQ people through education campaigns and workshops, cultural competency training for Consular staff, and forums aimed at improving access to

by all Mexican officials and to support the cause against discrimination and towards the recognition and acceptance of sexual preferences and orientations."

At the international level, Mexico has promoted at the UN Human Rights Council a resolution on nondiscrimination and non-violence based by sexual orientation or gender identity. In addition, an initiative has been introduced, to recognize gay marriage in Mexico and the Mexican Supreme Court has already resolved in favor of gay marriages so it is now a legal possibility in Mexico. It also authorizes adoption from gay couples.

This is not a new relationship for the Sacramento LGBT Community Center. In 2015, the Consulate General of Mexico in Sacramento began participating in Sacramento Pride, becoming the first consular office in the U.S. to do so. Earlier this year, the Consul General Lilián Ferrer received a Pride Award in recognition of the Consulate's and Mexico's progress toward LGBTQ inclusivity.

Crisis in Capitol Park

commentary by Edgar Sanchez

Tow that Gov. Jerry Brown has declared a state of emergency in response to the Hepatitis A outbreak that has killed at least 20 San Diegans, he may wish to examine his own backyard.

Capitol Park, the majestic 40-acre greenspace surrounding the State Capitol in Sacramento, has become a place where people defecate amid the trees and shrubs after hours, creating the same deadly health hazards as in San Diego.

The problem: The park's public restrooms maintain a rigid business-like schedule, staying open only in the daytime.

Those restrooms, in a tiny leaf-covered brick building south of L and 13th streets, are currently closed for an ongoing renovation that will cost more than \$268,000, according to the state Department of General Services. Additional costs are being negotiated by DGS, which administers the park at the direction of the Legislature's Joint Committee on Rules.

During the remodeling, four portable unisex restrooms have been clustered at the park for public use. The port-a-potties keep the same hours as the park's permanent restrooms - open 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekdays, and 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Those hours are too restrictive for a beautiful.

nearly slamming into the black wrought-iron door, which had been locked minutes before. "Holding" what needed to come out, he hastened away in frustration.

As a downtown resident I often exercise at Capitol Park, where I have seen the excrement left by people who had nowhere else to go at night. After the sun goes down, some park visitors do their private "business" behind buildings flanking the park.

In the daytime, of course, any Capitol Park visitor can use the restrooms inside the Capitol after clearing security, a time-consuming process that is not an option at night.

The fact that some Capitol Park visitors evacuate their bowels after dark in its hidden places "is a public safety issue," DGS spokesman Michael Liang acknowledged.

Doesn't that suggest expanding the bathrooms' hours?

"Again, this is a public safety issue," Liang responded without elaboration.

He emphasized, however, that the park's



historic landmark that draws visitors far into the night.

But changing the restrooms' schedule is not in the works.

Even after Brown's October 13 declaration, "there are still no plans to expand the (bathrooms') hours of operation at this time," DGS spokeswoman Monica Hassan recently said by e-mail.

This means the permanent restrooms will revert to the same, inhibitory schedule when they reopen by January - unless someone acts.

Why not extend the hours until at least early evening?

Unsanitary conditions - including lack of access to public restrooms and hand-washing facilities – have been blamed for the Hepatitis A outbreaks in San Diego, Los Angeles and Santa Cruz counties.

After-hour visitors to Capitol Park range from the homeless and dog walkers to joggers, tourists and cyclists. In one way or another, many are inconvenienced by the restrooms' pre-sunset lockdown.

One Saturday at roughly 4:10 p.m., before the renovation began this summer, I saw a welldressed man dashing toward the men's room,

permanent restrooms have been repeatedly vandalized, in their aging 350-sq.-foot building. Without saying so, he suggested that opening them at night would invite more vandalism.

The new toilets, urinals and wash basins will be stainless steel, with white epoxy coating.

An access sidewalk is being widened to help the facilities fully comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The park's restroom schedule is set by DGS's Capitol building management and the California Highway Patrol.

Since the CHP has more crucial duties, why not hire security guards to help safeguard the restrooms in the evening?

Part of their salary could be paid with contributions from Capitol Park users.

Aware that our downtown desperately needs public restrooms, Sacramento city and county officials are discussing ways to keep this region Hepatitis A-free. Capitol Park's administrators should join that conversation.

Edgar Sanchez is a former staff writer for the Sacramento Bee and the Palm Beach Post. This article originally ran in the Sacramento Bee at

http://www.sacbee.com/opinion/californiaforum/article183290211.html



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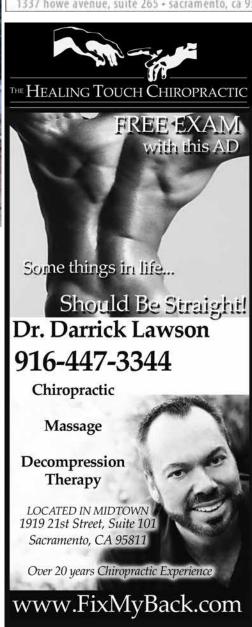
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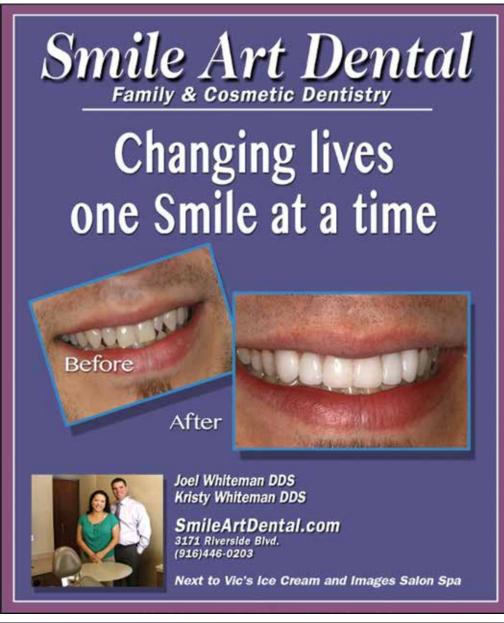


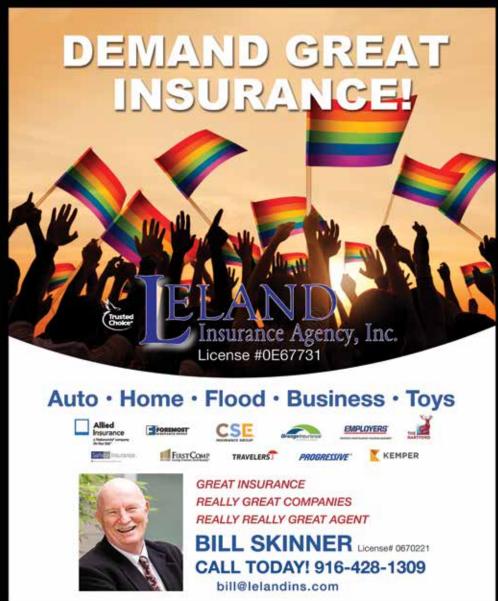
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Get Your Swagger On: Expressing Yourself Through Your Style

onathon McKim entered a personal style revamp contest with this plea: "I need my style revamp before they yank my 'gay card.' I dress like a straight guy. Please help!"

After winning the contest, Jonathon told his personal stylist, "I'm an architect with my own practice, yet I don't seem to fit the image. I dress more like a farmer than a professional, which is fine on the weekends, but can hurt during the week when I'm trying to attract new clients."

A handsome, single gentleman, Jonathon was also seeking to boost his love life by wearing clothes that show off his "assets," yet admitted that he didn't have a keen sense of how to do this.

After Maria Garcia, Personal Stylist and



owner of Fashion Groove showed Jonathon how to mix and match some of his current clothes, they went on a shopping trip with a specific list they made together. At first, he was nervous, but he eased into the adventure of finding his new gay-style clothes.

Here's what he had to say about his experience:

Did you meet your new style goals?

Yes, I'm very happy with my new wardrobe, and I've received multiple compliments regarding my new look. I have little doubt that the key to achieving this was Maria's ability to get me to step out of my comfort zone, which consisted of a lot of plaids and flannels.

How has your new style impacted you?

I look forward to getting dressed now, and when you're getting dressed at 4:30 a.m. to catch a train to San Francisco, you need something to get excited about other than coffee. I feel more confident, professional, and comfortable at work, which can often be a stressful environment.

I also feel more at ease around new people in social settings, less guarded, and I'm willing to open up and talk to strangers at great length. In the past, I've been shy and reserved, but now I feel like I bring a little swagger on when out in the world.

Would you recommend Fashion Groove?

I would! I had a great experience working with Maria, who was kind, understanding of my crazy work and travel schedule, and most of all, has a really great sense of fashion. Her willingness to work with me to find what makes me comfortable is unique and refreshing. She has a non-pressure approach, but is not shy about speaking up when something should go back on the rack.

Since many people stereotype the gay community as well-dressed, why not make it true?

As a proud member of the LGBTQ community, Maria believes that we are daring enough to be who we are, and to dress how we identify. We are self-expressionists that people recognize, celebrate and envy!

Schedule a 30-minute complimentary



"I look forward to getting dressed now, and when you're getting dressed at 4:30 a.m. to catch a train to San Francisco, you need something to get excited about other than coffee."

"In the past, I've been shy and reserved, but now I feel like I bring a little swagger on when out in the world."

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13Th Annual Dine Downtown Celebrates Sac Restaurants

acramento's favorite culinary celebration, Dine Downtown, is a A 10-day culinary celebration that benefits social service and food literacy programs presented by Eat Farm to Fork and the Downtown Sacramento Partnership.

A cost-effective and fun way for local foodies and families to explore downtown and midtown Sacramento's top restaurants, the 10-day dining extravaganza showcases chefs from 30 participating restaurants putting their culinary expertise to the test to create unique, 3-course prix fixe menus for only \$35 from January 12-21, 2018 on the

"Year after year, Dine Downtown provides a platform for the region to celebrate some of its top culinary talent while encouraging diners to explore new dining experiences and enjoy their favorite farm-to-fork menus,' said Kevin Fat, chief operating officer of The Fat Family Restaurant Group and board member of Downtown Sacramento Partnership. "Pair that with the social benefit and it's no surprise Dine Downtown continues to be a favorite event for our industry and community, alike."

Launched in 2005, Dine Downtown is designed to provide a significant boost for local restaurants during an otherwise slower period for the industry. In its 12-year run, the program has generated an estimated \$5 million in restaurant sales in the Central

Dine Downtown is more than just a foodie favorite and economic boost for local restaurants, one dollar from every Dine Downtown meal served is donated to food literacy and social service programs in the community. Last year, more than \$11,000

was raised to support programs like Food Literacy Center.

"Food Literacy Center is looking forward to another peachy-keen Dine Downtown!" said Amber Stott, executive director of Food Literacy Center. "Events like Dine Downtown are a great way to remind the region how important food literacy programs are, and the money raised during the 10-day celebration helps ensure these healthy programs are possible."

Participating restaurants include: Foundation Restaurant & Bar; Empress Tavern; Dawson's Steakhouse; The Melting Pot; Biba Restaurant; Rio City Café; The Porch Restaurant & Bar: The Firehouse Restaurant; Ten22; Esquire Grill; Paragary's; Skool Japanese Gastropub; Fat City Bar & Café; Frank Fat's; Downtown & Vine; Hook & Ladder Manufacturing Co.; Pilothouse at The Delta King; Cafeteria 15L; Iron Horse Tavern; Grange Restaurant; Ella Dining Room & Bar; Brasserie Capitale; Aioli Bodega Española; Kasbah Lounge; Sauced BBQ & Spirits; Punch Bowl Social; Bennigan's; Mayahuel; La Cosecha; The Red Rabbit Kitchen;

Menus and event updates will be announced before the end of the year on GoDowntownSac.com/DineDowntown. Diners are encouraged to tag their foodie photos with #DineDowntownSac for a chance to be featured in Dine Downtown promotions.

PBS to Stream *The Untold* Tales of Armistead Maupin

The Untold Tales of Armistead Maupin examines the life and work of one of the world's most beloved storytellers, following his evolution **L** from a conservative son of the Old South into a gay rights pioneer whose novels have inspired millions to claim their own truth.

Jennifer M. Kroot's documentary about the creator of Tales of the City moves nimbly from playful to poignant to wildly funny. With help from his friends – including Neil Gaiman, Laura Linney, Olympia Dukakis, Sir Ian McKellen and Amy Tan – Maupin offers a disarmingly frank look at the journey that took him from the jungles of Vietnam to the bathhouses of 70s San Francisco to the frontlines of America's ongoing culture war.

"Iennifer Kroot's documentary – alternately warm, heartbreaking, and laugh-out-loud funny - reveals how Maupin became one of the first gay writers to attain crossover status," said Lois Vossen, Independent Lens Executive Producer. "For those who know *Tales of the City* – the books or television series - the documentary offers a frank look at Maupin's unlikely personal trajectory. For those who don't, it's a fascinating outwordmagazine.com



The Untold Tales of Armistead Maupin

introduction to an extraordinary man and a crash course in the evolution of left-right culture clash that continues to this day."

Visit the *Untold Tales* page on Independent Lens, which features more information about the film. The Untold Tales of Armistead Maupin, winner of an Audience Award at the 2017 SXSW Film Festival, premieres on Independent Lens, Monday, January 1, 2018, 10:30 p.m. (check local listings) on PBS. The film will be available for online viewing on the site beginning January 2.

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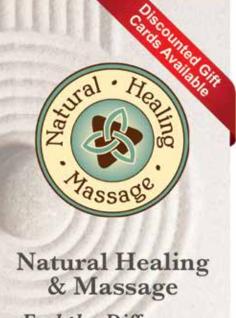
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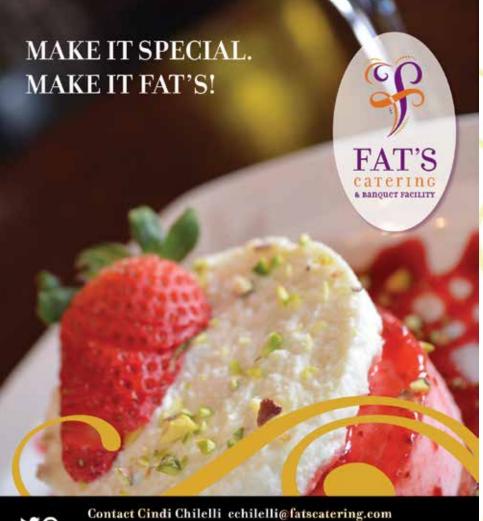
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Movie Lovers Go Loco For *Coco*

by Chris Narlock

It's that time of the year, when Santa Claus stuffs our stockings so full of year end films, that even a movie nut like me cannot possibly keep up with all of the new titles in theaters.

I haven't yet seen the new *Star Wars* flick – as of this writing – but here are some other cinematic suggestions to help you wade through all the Christmas coal in theaters this December.

Coco

Don't miss one of the best movies of the year, which is sure to bring Pixar its ninth win for Best Animated Film at next year's Oscars. *Coco* has already become the top grossing film of all time in Mexico and is raking in the pesos in the U.S. as well.

Featuring the voice talents of Benjamin Bratt, Cheech Marin, Edward James Olmos, and Mexico's own Gael Garcia Bernal, the charming and colorful movie has music, laughs, pathos, and gorgeous artwork – in short, everything moviegoers look for in a great animated movie.

The filmmakers spent years traveling in Mexico and researching the culture and customs behind that country's age-old Dia de los Muertos tradition, which provides the backdrop to the movie's sublimely sweet story about life, death, love and family. *Coco* is currently in wide release.

Darkest Hour

I haven't seen it yet, but the Oscar buzz has its money on Gary Oldman to win Best Actor next year for his reportedly towering performance as Winston Churchill in director Joe Wright's new film about the dire days leading up to WWII, when, as the new Prime Minister of Great Britain, Churchill had to rally his nation to go to war against Nazi



Germany. Even in the trailers, Oldman looks amazing – he is totally unrecognizable in gesture, voice, and physical appearance. Opens Dec. 15 at Sacramento's Tower Theatre.

The Shape of Water

Even more than the latest Star Wars movie, I am looking forward to this new film by Guillermo del Toro (*Hellboy, Pan's Labyrinth*), one of my favorite living movie directors.

A haunting story about a mute cleaning lady (the great Sally Hawkins) who falls in love with a scaly aquatic creature, *The Shape of Water* is already being touted as a potential Oscar contender for Best Actress, Best Picture, and multiple technical awards. Opens Dec. 15 at Sacramento's Tower Theatre.

Former Christian Rocker Comes Out on the Record

Trey Pearson is the former front man of the Christian rock band Everyday Sunday and recently came out of the closet to make national news. The announcement started a conversation after his television appearance on *The View*.

To the second of the second of

Trey Pearson. Photo by Megan Leigh Barnard

Pearson's "coming out" has since been covered by *The New York Times*, Billboard, CNN and more, as he became the #1 trending topic worldwide on Facebook.

Pearson cites his journey of coming out - from the initial fear to eventual freedom – as the inspiration that led to the creation of his debut solo pop album, *Love Is Love*, which was released on November 17, 2017.

The performer has also released a lyric video for his new song, "The Good Grief," which is about both the joy and pain that came with his coming out. You can watch the lyric video at youtu. be/3TNBCm11700.

With his band Everyday Sunday, Trey Pearson has sold hundreds of thousands of records and amassed millions of streams. He has scored five #1 U.S. singles and twenty Top 10 hits.

His song "Wake Up! Wake Up!" earned most-played Christian rock song of the year, and "Best Night of Our Lives" broke onto the coveted Billboard 200 chart. Pearson has toured in all 50 states and 20 countries.

More recently, the artist was nominated for a 2017 GLAAD Award for his appearance on *The View*. He has been performing at Pride Festivals all around the country, as well as with Kesha and Retty Who

Pearson released his debut solo single, "Silver Horizon," earlier this year. Visit www.treypearson.com.

Great New Music From British & Irish Artists by Chris Narloch

rom Ed Sheeran to Adele, British artists are killing it on the U.S. pop charts to an extent we haven't seen since the heyday of the Beatles.

In honor of the latest British invasion, I decided to put together reviews of new CDs by three talented London-born performers: Sam Smith, George Michael and Jessie Ware.

For good measure, I threw in the long-awaited and just-released disc by the Irish super group U2.

U2

Songs of Experience

This sequel to 2014's *Songs of Innocence* is a must for fans of this great band, whose fourteenth studio album is filled with vital, personal and political lyrics about the state of the world and the state of the band.

More political than its predecessor

- which was mostly about U2's adolescence
- *Songs of Experience* deals head-on with adulthood. Along with a more global



Glasshouse isn't as sharp as Devotion – it's more of a fan-only affair – but I thoroughly enjoyed hearing Ware's sultry voice again, especially on sexy songs such as "Your Domino" and "Stay Awake, Wait For Me."

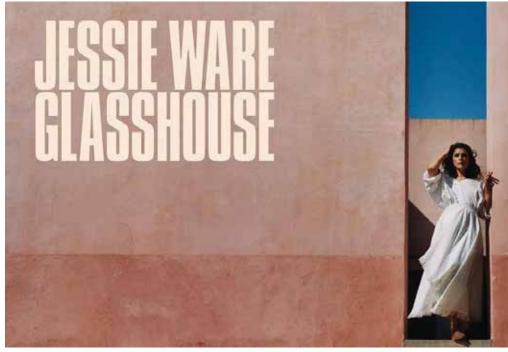
George Michael

Listen Without Prejudice Vol. 1

Sony recently released this essential, re-mastered version of Michael's second solo album, which was arranged, produced and almost completely written by the late artist himself, and confirmed him as a pioneering, agenda-setting artist.

If you already have the album's original release, you'll remember that it includes such terrific tracks as "Praying for Time" and "Freedom 90."

A re-mastered version of George's great 1996 *MTV Unplugged* performance, which includes songs from *Faith* and the singer's days with Wham! has also been made available as an album for the first time, as part of the deluxe box set, 2CD and digital editions of the new release.



viewpoint, the music on the new disc sounds more accessible than the tunes on *Songs of Innocence*.

U2 has always wanted to make popular music, and the more commercial sound of this record should please fans that prefer their early records, like *War* and *The Unforgettable Fire*.

The CD gets off to a bad start, however, with "Love Is All We Have Left" which features some ridiculous auto-tuned vocals that should have been left on the cutting room floor. (If ever there was a band that needs no auto-tuning, it's U2.)

Thankfully, "Lights of Home" (track two) and especially "You're the Best Thing About Me" (the third cut) turn things around in a satisfying way, as does the feisty fifth song on the record, "American Soul."

There are thirteen tracks on the standard edition of *Songs of Experience*, but I suggest you buy the extended CD, which features extra songs including a fun remix by Kygo of "You're the Best Thing About Me."

Sam Smith The Thrill of It All

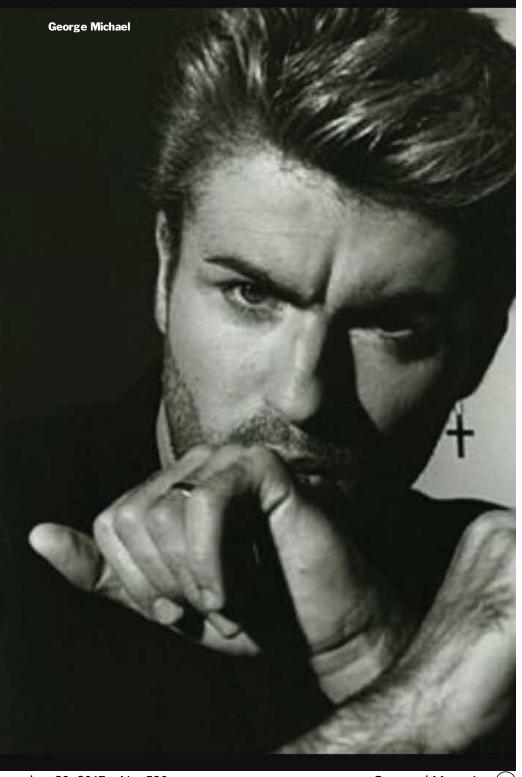
After several years off to decompress and kiss some boys after the enormous success of his debut CD, this blue-eyed, British soul singer is back in a big way, with a classic set of new songs that includes his current hit, "Too Good At Goodbyes," the powerfully gay-positive composition "Him" and a great collaboration with Timbaland entitled "Pray."

I wish *The Thrill of It All* contained a couple more up-tempo tracks, and Smith (like Sia) has a habit of sacrificing vocal clarity in favor of emotion, but those are quibbles.

This CD was worth the wait, and Smith's incredibly soulful vocals breath brilliant life into the passionate and purposeful lyrics.

Jessie Ware Glasshouse

This smooth soul singer is little known in the U.S., but she has a devoted fan base that appreciates her retro, classic r & b vibe. If you don't have her debut disc, *Devotion*, which was truly great, you should get it.



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Out & About

World AIDS Day Sacramento Sacramento commemorated World AIDS on Friday Dec. 1 with a candleight vigil at the

Sacramento commemorated World AIDS on Friday Dec. 1 with a candleight vigil at the Sacramento LGBT Center and a memorial at the First United Methodist Church where Pastor Rod Brayfindley led those in attendance in a "Speaking of Their Names" to remember those that Sacramento has lost to AIDS.

In an empowering evening, atists were asked to share their stories through their chosen medium of art, and the Sacramento Women's Chorus, pianist Cliff Shockney, musicians Coleen Chandler and Tandy Bowman, drag performer Relent Lace, and the SGMC's Boy Howdy.

The Capital City Sisters led the Candlelight Vigil March and artwork currated by Michael "Misha" Kennedy and Susan Nakamoto was on display. A speical thanks to Lily Andrews, Tandy Bowman, Patricia Coleman, Christopher Packey and Doug Treadwell for organizing a beautiful and serene commemoration.



























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The Great American Road Trip Is Getting a Lot Gayer

it Williamson's two-time Emmy-nominated LGBT series, EASTSIDERS, returns for a six-episode third season this month, picking up on Cal and Thom who, despite some confusing developments in their newly monogom-ish relationship, are determined to make things work.



After a challenging year in New York City, the guys hit the road back west to Los Angeles to pick up the pieces of their old life, however, nothing can prepare them for the unexpected twists and turns they'll face on the journey home.

> As they travel west, their tumultuous relationship is tested by an empty bank account, arguments about the future, and an encounter with a handsome drifter that tempts them to once again redraw the map of their relationship. Will this be the trip of their lives, or the end of the road for Cal and Thom?

Shot on location in New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, South Dakota, Wyoming, Montana, Idaho, Oregon, Nevada and California, season three of **EASTSIDERS** stars Kit Williamson as Cal and four-time Emmy Nominee Van Hansis (As the World Turns) as Thom.

It also features guest star appearances by Constance Wu (ABC's Fresh Off The Boat), Stephen Guarino (I'm Dying Up Here), Wilson Cruz (Star Trek Discovery), Brianna Brown (The CW's upcoming series Dynasty), Matt McKelligon (You're Killing Me), Colby Keller (High Maintenance), Willam Belli (Rupaul's Drag Race) and social media superstar Max Emerson.

"It's a difficult time to be LGBT in America right now, and I wanted to stick a rainbow flag in the tradition of the Great American Road Trip," says Williamson. "LGBT people have the same claim to the beautiful sights of this country as everyone else. By shooting with a skeleton crew we were able to take the characters out of their comfort zone in a way that few television shows have been able to."

The first two seasons of EASTSIDERS are available worldwide on Netflix, where they have been translated into a dozen languages. They are also available on DVD and digital platforms through Wolfe Video. *EASTSIDERS Season 3* will be available worldwide beginning November 28 on WolfeOnDemand.com and Vimeo, as well as through various streaming services including Amazon Video, Google Play and iTunes.

View the trailer now at youtu.be/ q2FgE7G4LAc. For more information, visit www.eastsiderstheseries.com.



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A Not-So-Silent Night with RPDR's Christmas Queens

The Christmas Queens are back and bigger than ever with a third album and a new music video. Get a taste of it at youtube.com/watch?v=ec9r9THD5eU&feature=youtu.be \$12.99 (\$5.99 rent) at www.vimeo.com/ondemand/christmasqueens.

A Toast to Tom of Finland

Tom was about pleasure and enjoying life, and a part of enjoying life involves indulging your sensual side and appreciating the finer things, so this wine is a perfect tribute - and tasty! \$24 tomoffinlandwines.. An official launch party will be held on December 14th at The Oasis in San Francisco.



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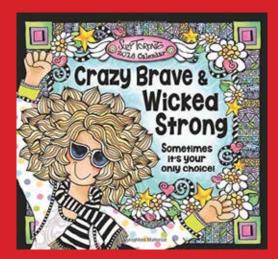


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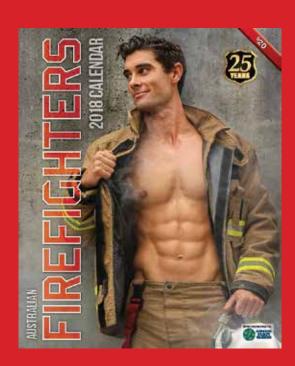


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Tom Goss 2018 Beefcake Calendar

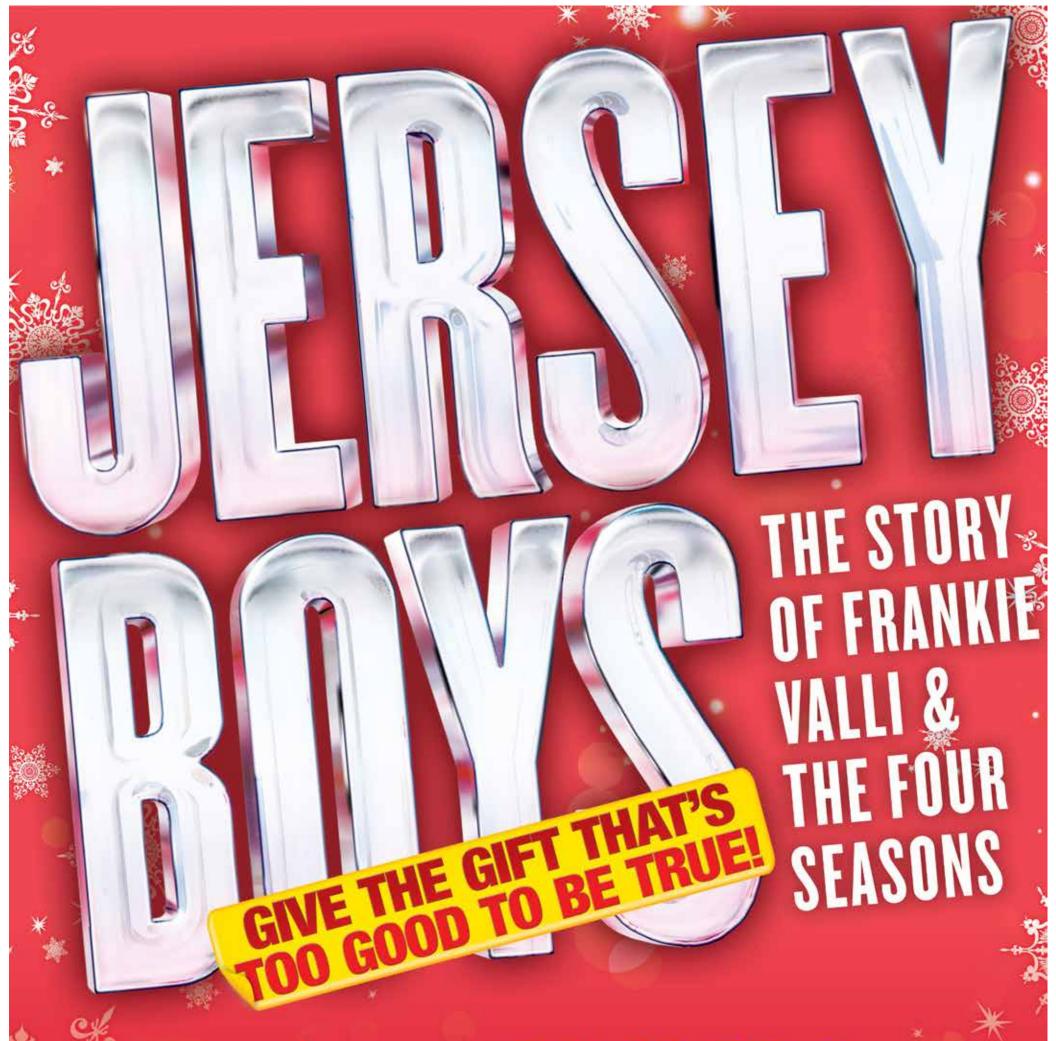
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Celebrate Chanukah with the *MeshugaNutcracker!* Live

n "enchanting festival of light-hearted glee and meaningful warmth" (LA Times) arrives in celebration of Chanukah when the musical comedy, *The MeshugaNutcracker!*, debuts in movie theaters nationwide on December 19, putting a unique spin on the classic Nutcracker ballet.



The MeshugaNutcracker! Kersh Branz Photography

"It's a show that's really never been done before," says Susan Gundunas, one of the stars of the ensemble cast. "Not just because there's finally a big, beautiful show about Chanukah in the same way there are big. beautiful shows celebrating Christmas, but also because the cast is singing an amazing challenging score that was originally intended for musical instruments! We get to sing the piccolo line and clarinet line of melodies you've had in your head forever but that have been wordless for hundreds of years. It's a real treat to sing such melodious, grand music."

The MeshugaNutcracker! showcases eight stories that pay tribute to the first celebration of Chanukah in the new state of Israel, as well as Judah Maccabee's triumphant saga and accounts of perseverance.

Written and directed by Scott Evan Guggenheim, Shannon Guggenheim and Stephen Guggenheim, the full-length musical comedy features the wonderfully silly sensibilities of the folklore of Chelm (a fictional town of fools), underscored by an invigorating Klezmer-ized orchestration of Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker Suite.

Alongside original lyrics in honor of Chanukah, *The MeshugaNutcracker!* includes theater box offices.

dancing dreidels, singing sufganiot and special guest stars bringing audiences delight as they celebrate this holiday season.

During this screening, Emmy Awardwinning and Broadway star Bruce Vilanch will appear on screen as a special guest.

"No matter what religion you are, no matter what you celebrate this time of year - it's about finding the light in people, finding light in yourself, letting the holidays truly illuminate everything around you," Shannon Guggenheim, lyricist and one of the coproducers, said. "And yes, it does sound schmaltzy but that's why we balance it with a lot of schmaltz in our show! That really is what we're trying to do: give families something bright and fun but also poignant and meaningful to celebrate this time of year."

Presented by Fathom Events, in partnership with Guggenheim Entertainment, *The MeshugaNutcracker!* will be shown in U.S. cinemas for one night on Tuesday, December 19 at 7:00 p.m. local

Tickets for The MeshugaNutcracker! can be purchased online by visiting www.FathomEvents.com or at participating

Britney Spears, Céline Dion, Demi Lovato and More Join Yann's Video To End Anti-Lgbti+ Violence In Brazil



Freedom to love is the theme of Igual, and Brazilian pop singer and activist Yann united some of the biggest artists in the world to raise awareness of the epidemic anti-LBGTI+ violence in Brazil. The song was composed by the singer himself and its accompanying music video features over 25 artistsand isnow available on Spotify and iTunes and can be seen at www.youtube.com/watch?v=N-RwY-d0Qo4



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Ring In 2018 with Beach Blanket Babylon

Steve Silver's Beach Blanket Babylon, San Francisco's hilarious pop culture musical revue, rings in the new year with special New Year's Eve performances that feature a pastiche of the best and worst of 2017 – Beach Blanket Babylon style.

Hailed as "a constant cascade of showstoppers" by the San Francisco Chronicle, Beach Blanket Babylon follows Snow White as she takes a fast-paced journey around the world in search of her "Prince Charming." Along the way she encounters a star-studded, ever-changing line-up of hilarious pop culture characters, including Donald and Melania Trump, Vladimir Putin, Beyoncé, Sarah Huckabee Sanders, Lady Gaga, Prince, Kellyanne Conway, Darth Vader (Steve Bannon), Jeff Sessions, Barack and Michelle Obama, Taylor Swift, Ivanka Trump, Bernie Sanders, Adele, Kim Kardashian and Kanye, Bill and Hillary Clinton, Oprah, and the Golden State Warriors.

There will be two special performances on Sunday, December 31, 2017 at 7 p.m. and 10:15 p.m. Guests at each show will receive champagne and truffles. The second show – ending at the stroke of midnight – will feature post-show dancing until 1:30 a.m.

Tickets (\$65 – \$210) are available online at beachblanketbabylon.com, by phone at 415-421-4222, or in person at the Beach Blanket Babylon Box Office (678 Beach Blanket Babylon Blvd. [formerly Green Street] San Francisco). Arrangements for groups of 15 or more can be made by contacting group sales at 415-421-6788.



The Drag Comedy Based on the Hit German Musical *Wenn Ediths Glocken Lauten* Comes to DVD/VOD



Edith loves to grumble throughout the most festive time of year — Christmas. So, Edith's best friends, Biggy and Jutta, manage to persuade her to spend a cozy South Berlin Christmas Eve together in this "drag-tastic" holiday comedy. Order online and watch the trailer at www.ariztical.com/filmsAZ/when_ediths_bells_toll.html

Food & Wine at Holiday Time! by Diana Kienle

ecember is upon us and seasonal celebrations abound. With gingerbread aromas and flavors. friends, family, and co-workers, it's time to set the table and enjoy one another, toast to the season – and of course, wine is a welcome addition to the holiday table.

As a starter, sparkling wines set a festive spirit and brighten any event. There are several types of sparkling wines, and their bubbles will set the stage for a festive mood. They can be modest in price or expensive.

One of my favorites is Prosecco, ranging in price from \$10 to \$25, and I have a preference for Ruffino. Cava is a Spanish sparkling wine and can be quite lovely and modest in price. There are several California producers of sparkling wine such as Roederer Estate and Mumm.

Of course, there is always Champagne. This is the proper name for sparkling wine from the Champagne region in France. One of my favorites is Veuve Clicquot Brut. And, of course, one could always splurge on a bottle of Dom Perignon.

A better question might be, what about the meal itself? What should be served that best pairs with the main course? Let's look at a few options.

Riesling is a wonderful partner for rich, gamey birds such as duck or goose. It's a counter balance to rich, salty meats and meat treatments like ham, sausage or

FEATURED MEMBERS

charcuterie. The wine tastes like fruits peaches and apricots – and has great acidity. Rieslings run from dry to very sweet, so make sure you find one with the appropriate level of residual sugar.

One of my favorites is Kabinett from Mosel Germany. Kabinett refers to the amount of residual sugar in the wine that makes it slightly sweet and delightfully easy to drink.

Gewurztraminer is a classic dry white wine that works well with rich dishes and rich fowl such as goose, duck, and turkey. A perfect match whether the prep is classic holiday or more like curried duck with lemon, honey and ginger. The nose on this wine is big - roses, lychees, gingerbread, orange marmalade, fruitcocktail syrup. Even with the sweetness of aroma, the wine is dry and naturally low in acid.

Viognier works as well to highlight the main course. It offers up stone and tree fruit flavors and can be enjoyed young. It partners well with holiday foods especially goose, turkey and honey glazed ham. The wine is usually fullbodied with apricot, honeysuckle and

If you haven't tried these wines before, please do. Get some help in making sure you get a good example of the varietal. The joy of wine is in the exploration.

Enjoy! Happy Holidays! Diana Kienle is a freelance writer and blogs about wine at www.dianaswineblog. com. She can be reached at diana@dianaswineblog.com.



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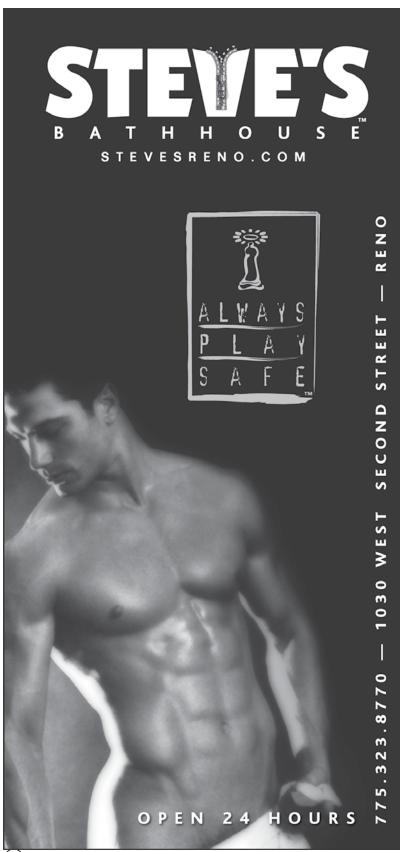


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