

# outWord

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is in the  
Air!*

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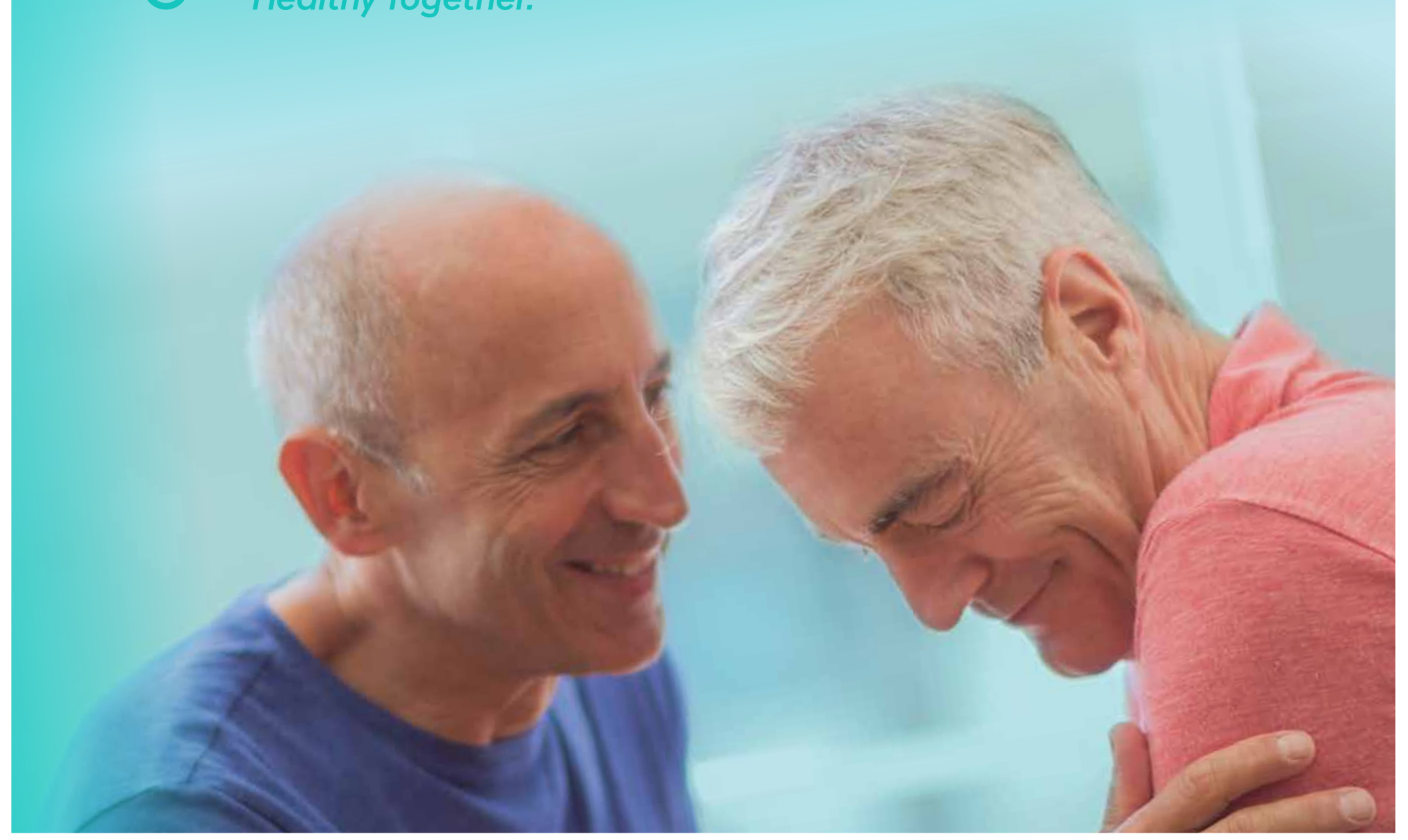


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# Sacramento Claims Lavender Heights as LGBTQ Central

The Midtown area of Sacramento commonly known as Lavender Heights, got formal recognition on Thursday, January 25th when street signs in the neighborhood were crowned with Lavender Heights signs, joining the Rainbow Crosswalk at 20th & K in marking the area as a home of Sacramento's LGBT Community.



State Senator Dr. Richard Pan along with Sacramento Vice Mayor Steve Hansen presenting a resolution to Diana DePaola, President of the Rainbow Chamber of Commerce and Chamber Past President and Rainbow Foundation Board Secretary Paul Weubbe.

A brief ceremony was held for the unveiling of the new sign toppers with State Senator Dr. Richard Pan and Sacramento City Vice Mayor Steve Hansen joining community leaders and organizations that helped bring the project to fruition.

Representatives from The Rainbow Chamber of Commerce, Prime Timers of Sacramento, The Sacramento LGBTQ Center, Visit Sacramento, the Midtown Association and business owners like Terry Sidie, who all helped make the sign toppers a reality, were on hand to unveil the Sign toppers, and there was a musical performance by the Sacramento Gay Men's Chorus.

The Lavender Height Street Sign Toppers, were approved by the Sacramento City Council in November 2017, and were installed at the intersections of 19th and K, 20th and J, 20th and K, 20th and L, and 21st and K Street, corresponding roughly to the area of Midtown Sacramento that has historically been home to many LGBT-owned clubs, restaurants, galleries and shops.

"The signage alerting visitors they are in Lavender Heights will attract more visitors, bring more traffic to local businesses, and capitalize on the LGBT tourism boom," said former Rainbow Chamber President Paul Weubbe, who helped lead a successful campaign to install the Rainbow Crosswalks at 20th and K in October 2015. "Even more importantly it will be a way of connecting with and instilling pride in future generations, as a symbol of the history and accomplishments of the leaders who have gone before us."

In recognition of the installation of the Sign Toppers, Senator Pan presented a Resolution from the State Senate signed by him and Assemblymember Kevin McCarty to the Rainbow Chamber of Commerce, noting that throughout the Chamber's history it has steadfastly pursued its goals of serving as leaders in the LGBT and broader communities and promoting economic development and improving the quality of life in the neighborhood and City of Sacramento.

# It Turns Out Sacramento Is Full of Queer Writers

And they've got some stories to tell. Joining forces as the The Queer Sacramento Author's Collective (QSAC) the group has grown to twenty-five members and has some impressive writing in their portfolio.

QSAC was started by three local authors in late 2016, Pat Henshaw, Christopher Koehler, and J. Scott Coatsworth, and they welcome writers of all genres and non-fiction from across the queer spectrum (and allies) and to join them.

The group meets bimonthly at Café Dantorels in Curtis Park on the last Saturday of the month, bring your ideas for new works to discuss with the other writers and help them workshop their ideas as well.

They are also planning a number of events this year to connect with Sacramento's queer community.

For starters, QSAC is holding a series of readings with the Lavender Library on February 23rd, May 25th, August 24th and December 7th. These milk and cookies readings start at 7 p.m. Friday nights, and they're a great way for you to meet Sacramento's local queer writing talent.

The group is also getting a booth at Sac Pride and the Rainbow Festival.

For more information about the group or these events, contact scott@mongooseontheloose.com.



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# Exhibit on Black History at the California Museum

The California Museum is bringing the traveling exhibit *And Still We Rise: Race, Culture and Visual Conversations* to Sacramento in celebration of Black History Month.

A survey of the African American experience from the 17th through 21st centuries, the exhibit covers 400 years of U.S. history as told through 67 quilts created by artists from the Women of Color Quilters Network.

Exploring topics including civil rights, race relations, border security, immigration and gender equality, the exhibit inspires reflection on issues still challenging

experience from the 17th to the 21st centuries, the quilts depict transformational moments in U.S. history sparking contemplation of social justice issues that continue to challenge America in 2018.

"The exhibition gives voices to personal, authentic and unique histories of African American men and women – from relating painful stories of enslaved ancestors, to highlighting contemporary political leaders



Detail of Peggy Hartwell's quilt *Lucy Terry Prince: The Griot's Voice*.

America in 2018 and inspires visitors to address them by standing up for their rights and the rights of others.

"We are thrilled to present *And Still We Rise* as the first temporary exhibition aligned with the social justice mission of the new Unity Center," said Amanda Meeker, California Museum Executive Director. "Each artwork in this exhibit depicts a chapter in our nation's slow and sometimes halting evolution toward a more equitable society. As we follow the quilts' storyline from the 1600s to today, we realize that each of us, in ways big or small, can help determine whether the next chapter is one of progress."

Curated by Women of Color Quilters Network founder Dr. Carolyn Mazloomi, the exhibit features 67 hand-crafted story quilts designed by fiber artists from California and across the nation. A narrative of the African American

and drawing attention to social challenges our nation continues to face today," said Dr. Mazloomi.

In addition to its historic and social justice themes, *And Still We Rise: Race, Culture and Visual Conversations* showcases quilting's enduring appeal as a uniquely American folk art. A range of techniques including free-motion quilting, embroidery, needlepoint, appliqué, fiber collage, fusing and hand beading are explored, along with a variety of textiles and materials, such as photographic transfers and found objects.

Initially open at the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center located in Cincinnati, in 2013, *And Still We Rise: Race, Culture and Visual Conversations* will be on view at the California Museum through Sun., May 27, as the last scheduled venue of its national tour. For more information, visit [www.cincymuseum.org/traveling-exhibits/and-still-we-rise](http://www.cincymuseum.org/traveling-exhibits/and-still-we-rise).

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# Syphilis and Other STD Rates Are Increasing in Sacramento

by Jim Austin, FNP

What is red, doesn't itch and can really ruin your weekend? It could be syphilis. Does it look like freckles suddenly on your chest? It could be syphilis. Did a sore just show up without an injury? It could be syphilis. And it could be time to go to the clinic for answers.



Janet Parker, Director of Marketing at One Community Health; Sacramento Vice Mayor Steve Hansen; State Senator Richard Pan, MD; One Community Health CEO, Christy Ward; Richard SooHoo, Chairperson of One Community Health Board of Directors; and Jason Vega, Member, One Community Health Board of Directors cut the ribbon marking the opening of the new Midtown Campus of One Community Health on January 23rd. One Community Health's mission, formerly CARES, is to create a healthier Sacramento by increasing access to care for all members of the community, regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, orientation, or ability to pay. Visit [onecommunityhealth.com](http://onecommunityhealth.com). Photo by Fred Palmer.

In health care, we are frequently stumped by not only the lack of symptoms of all STDs, but also the struggle for clients to access confidential services. It is human nature to want something to "just go away," especially if it is making us itch, burn and otherwise torment our bodies. STD's are troublesome as they also can hide among simple symptoms, or don't have any symptoms, and worse still testing is less than accurate.

Syphilis rashes are usually not itching or painful. The primary lesion doesn't usually hurt and when it heals, it is easy to assume it was just a simple skin blemish.

However, not acting on these symptoms leads to the risk of neuro syphilis which can cause blindness, deafness and meningitis.

We know that false negative testing results are approximately 25-30 percent. If there isn't a good sample, we won't have a good test.

Syphilis, the same as HIV has a long conversion widow; so testing may not pick up the antibodies that would trigger a positive test.

That is why health care providers must be as good as Sherlock Holmes to try and determine if someone should or shouldn't be treated. Public Health guidelines have always been clear when in doubt, consider if contact history or vague symptoms would be

better treated rather than waiting for test results. It is a balancing act that all providers must decide on how they will proceed.

I am just about to retire from almost 25 years of working in the public sector health services. For the past seven years, I have been at One Community Health, active with SacWish (which previously was STD Awareness workgroup) and also in Stanislaus County. These past two years in Sacramento have unfortunately seen a dramatic increase of Chlamydia, Gonorrhea and Syphilis. Of major concern to many health care professionals is the dramatic jump of Syphilis cases.

Sacramento has become a hot bed at this moment. Our rates of the big three infections are higher than the state average. For 2016, our community is in the top ten counties for all three (Chlamydia 8th, Gonorrhea 6th and Syphilis 10th). For our clinic, although 2017

figures are still being examined, it now looks like we had an increase of five percent more cases of Syphilis than in 2016. This year we have had more syphilis cases than Gonorrhea.

Jim Austin, FNP, is the Director of Nursing at One Community Health. He can be reached at [jaustin@OneCommunityHealth.com](mailto:jaustin@OneCommunityHealth.com) or [onecommunityhealth.com](http://onecommunityhealth.com).



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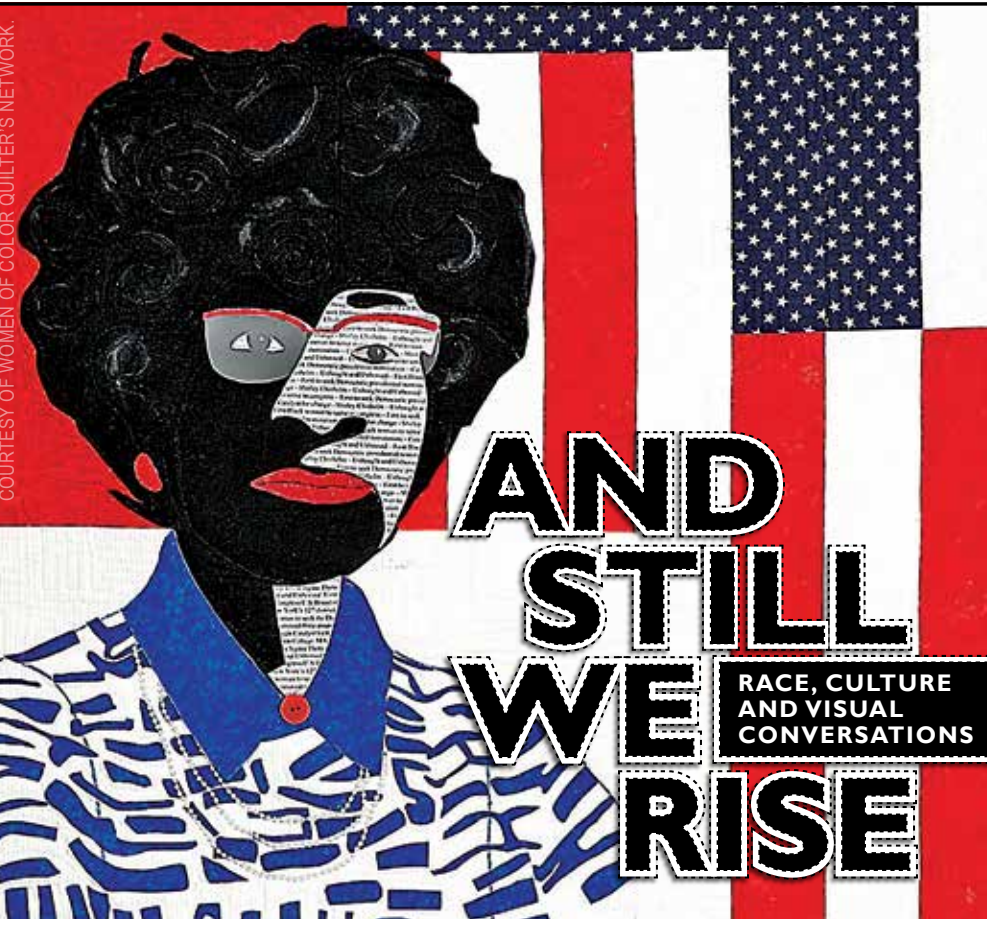
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# EQCA Endorses Gavin Newsom for Governor

Equality California has announced its endorsement of Gavin Newsom for California Governor. Newsom is currently California's Lieutenant Governor and previously served as the Mayor of San Francisco.

In a released statement, EQCA stated that they were fortunate to have a number of strong allies with longtime records of strong support for LGBTQ equality and social justice to choose from. However, in this race, one candidate stood out and the choice was clear.

The statement continued that based on the historical significance of his actions to support marriage equality in California, his longstanding commitment to LGBTQ civil rights and social justice throughout his public service career, his greater understanding of the challenges that face the LGBTQ community and his commitment to solving these problems with innovative ideas, specific policy solutions, and funding, Equality California strongly endorses Gavin Newsom for Governor.

"Advancing civil rights and social justice for LGBTQ people is one of the defining priorities for Lieutenant Governor Gavin Newsom," stated Rick Zbur, Executive Director of Equality California. "He not only stood up boldly and publicly for marriage equality when it was not supported by a majority of Californians and when doing so presented significant political risks, but he has continued to be one of our community's most dedicated champions in the years since, always on the forefront of the fight to

advance LGBTQ civil rights both within California and nationally.

"In our endorsement process, Newsom stood out in his understanding of the challenges and priorities of the LGBTQ community, including the need to address the disparities in health and wellbeing faced by LGBTQ people, including: extremely high rates of homelessness, violence, depression, suicide, substance abuse, poverty, school drop out, bullying and lack of acceptance, and lower rates of health insurance coverage. He presented specific policy proposals to address these needs, which are aligned with Equality California's organizational priorities and mission.

"Although a number of candidates have been strong allies of our community, Newsom's in-depth understanding and prioritization of our community's needs, his specific policy proposals to address them, and demonstrable and continuous record fighting for LGBTQ civil rights and social justice makes him the clear choice for the LGBTQ community for California Governor in 2018."

The California primary election will take place on June 5, 2018. California will elect a new Governor from among the top two primary candidates on November 6, 2018.

# The Alhambra Lives Again At The Tower

by Chris Narloch

When I was a kid growing up in Sacramento in the '60s and '70s, multiplex theaters were relatively new, and there were still a number of vintage movie palaces around town.



A view of the Alhambra Theatre during a screening of the 1936 film *Sutter's Gold*.

In addition to The Crest and Tower – which are still in business – I frequented the Village Cinema on Fulton Avenue and the Esquire Theatre on K Street, where the Esquire IMAX now stands.

No local theater could compare, however, to the spectacular Alhambra, which was situated on the street of the same name in midtown Sacramento where a Safeway now stands.

The Alhambra, which stood for almost fifty years between 1927 and 1973, has achieved legendary status among Sacramento residents who remember it, and it is the subject of a new documentary courtesy of the Center for Sacramento History, in

partnership with Matias Antonio Bombal, Chad E. Williams and executive producer Wendell Jacob.

You can revisit this jewel of our city's cinematic past when *Alhambra: Sacramento's Palace of Fantasy* screens twice, on the evening of Feb. 21, at the Tower Theatre on Broadway.

The documentary is a rare peek into Sacramento's past that tells, via interviews, pictures and newly-found movies, the story of Sacramento's beloved and lost Alhambra Theatre, a 1920s temple to movies, music and art for forty-six years.

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

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## Eddie Izzard Returns To Mondavi

by Chris Narloch

The last time Eddie Izzard played the Mondavi Center in Davis, it seemed as if half the UCD student body was in attendance. I'm not sure why the "kids" are crushing on the 56-year-old Izzard, but it might have something to do with his timeless talent and gender fluid fabulousness.



Eddie Izzard.  
Photo by  
Amanda  
Searle.

The multi-talented performer is a sought-after stand-up comedian, a highly acclaimed actor, and an outspoken writer and political activist.

Izzard's first book, *Believe Me*, was just chosen by Bill Gates as one of the "5 Amazing Books I Read This Year." Honest and generous, Izzard's *Believe Me* is an inspired account of a very singular life thus far.

Writing with the same candor and insight evident in his comedy, Izzard reflects on a childhood marked by the loss of his mother, attending boarding school, and alternative sexuality, as well as a life in comedy, film, politics, running, and philanthropy.

Izzard's *Believe Me* tour reveals the man behind the stand-up. The show is funny and emotional, with all of the fascination with the ridiculous that fans expect from an Eddie Izzard performance.

You can witness his brilliance firsthand when Eddie Izzard performs at Mondavi Center, on Wednesday, February 28, at 8:00 p.m. For more information, visit [www.mondaviarts.org](http://www.mondaviarts.org).

## Elton John's Farewell Tour Coming to Golden 1 Center

After more than half a century on the road and an unparalleled career that has redefined the cultural landscape and seen Elton John claim his place as a true global icon, the superstar has announced details of his final tour called *Farewell Yellow Brick Road*.

Kicking off in the U.S. on September 8, the tour will consist of more than 300 shows across five continents, with a stop in Sacramento at Golden 1 Center on January 16, 2019. These dates mark the superstar's last-ever tour, the end of half a century on the road for one of pop culture's most enduring performers.

Elton's new stage production will take his fans on a musical and highly visual journey spanning a 50-year career of hits like no one has ever seen before.

"Performing live fuels me and I'm ecstatic and humbled to continue to play to audiences across the globe," said Elton. "I plan to bring the passion and creativity that has entertained my fans for decades to my final tour. After the tour finishes, I'm very much looking forward to closing off that chapter of my life by saying farewell to life on the road. I need to dedicate more time to raising my children."

The news was announced to the world in the very manner that has defined Elton and his creative output over a dazzling career – innovative, daring and constantly taking bold strides into the future at Gotham Hall in New York City



Elton John's Farewell to the Yellow Brick Road tour ([www.youtube.com/eltonjohn](http://www.youtube.com/eltonjohn)).

([www.youtube.com/eltonjohn](http://www.youtube.com/eltonjohn)).

It was also announced that Gucci will be exclusively be designing Elton's *Farewell Yellow Brick Road* tour wardrobe. Resplendent at Gotham Hall in a bespoke outfit, Elton discussed his passion for the Italian fashion house which last year unveiled its S/S 2018 collection - designed by Creative Director, Alessandro Michele and inspired by Elton's inimitable style, referencing original items taken from his iconic style archives.

Tickets for initial shows go on sale to the general public beginning February 2 at 10 a.m. local. Tickets and VIP packages can be purchased at [EltonJohn.com](http://EltonJohn.com).



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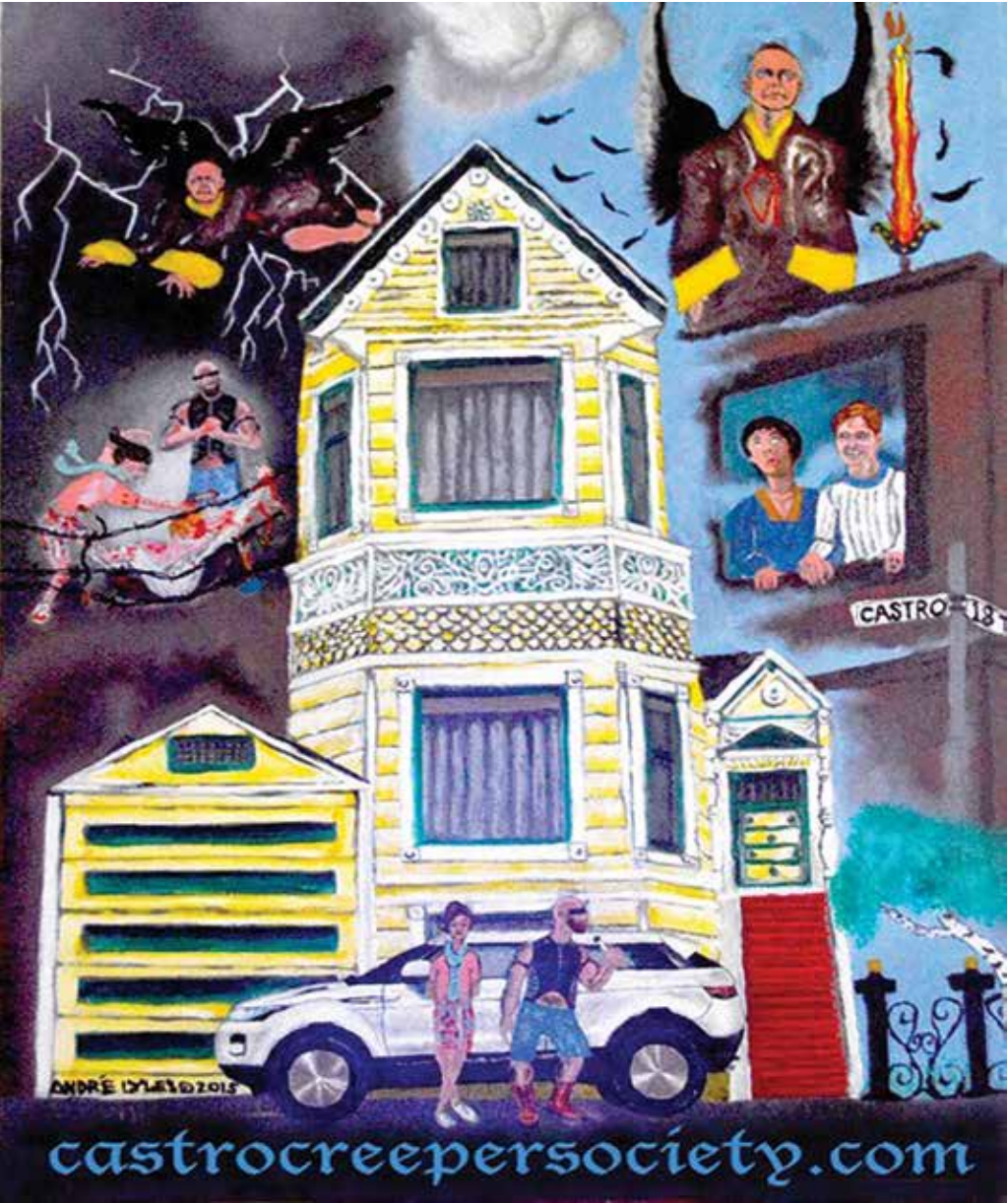


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# A Trio Of Must-See Movies by Chris Narloch

I am anxiously awaiting the arrival of three very different movies this month, and they feature, respectively, Marvel's first black superhero, Sacramento's hometown heroes, and a May-December love story.

**Black Panther**  
It will be worth paying a little extra to see this movie in IMAX during Black History Month, since the film represents Marvel's first movie devoted to a black superhero.  
Talented Chadwick Boseman plays the title character, and most of his costars are black as well, including Michael B. Jordan, Lupita Nyong'o, Danai Gurira, Forest Whitaker, Angela Bassett, Daniel Kaluuya, and Sterling K. Brown.  
I have high hopes for *Black Panther* since Ryan Coogler, a native of Oakland who went to Sac State and directed the highly acclaimed films *Fruitvale Station* and *Creed*, was behind the camera.  
You can see *Black Panther* at the Esquire IMAX beginning Thursday evening, Feb. 15. Visit [www.imax.com/imax-esquire-oo](http://www.imax.com/imax-esquire-oo).



Chadwick Boseman and Michael B. Jordan star in *Black Panther*.

**The 15:17 to Paris**  
This is the next movie to put Sacramento on the map, thanks to Clint Eastwood and the three hometown heroes who foiled a terrorist attack aboard a passenger



Spencer Stone costars in "*The 15:17 to Paris*"

train traveling from Amsterdam to Paris in 2015.  
The twist here is that Eastwood decided to cast the real guys in the film, and they are playing themselves. This is harder than it sounds, and we will have to see if the gimmick pays off for the movie.  
If anyone can pull it off, Eastwood can, and the film should at least get the facts straight, since it is based on a book written by Spencer Stone, Anthony Sadler, and Alek Skarlatos, with Jeffrey E. Stern.  
You can decide for yourself when *The 15:17 to Paris* opens nationwide on Feb. 9.  
**Films Stars Don't Die In Liverpool**  
This is a late arrival from last year that failed to receive any Oscar nominations but probably should have. Annette Bening is reportedly superb as real-life actress Gloria Grahame, a movie star from the '40s and '50s who found romance with a younger man before the end of her life, while living in England during the 1970s.  
The love affair should be entirely believable since the very handsome Jamie Bell, who was the original Billy Elliott in the 2000 film of the same name, plays the younger man.  
*Film Stars Don't Die In Liverpool* is scheduled to open at Sacramento's Tower Theatre on Feb. 16.

## The Absent Father Comes to the Guild Theater

*The Absent Father, the Wayward Son* is a story about David "DayDay" Williams, who has never met or seen his father in person, though the discovery of photos under his mother's bed affirm their resemblance.



Brandon Hughes in a scene from *The Absent Father, the Wayward Son*.

The highly acclaimed humorous and profound one-man play encapsulates the power of love and repentance in its 75 minutes and will be coming to the Guild Theater for a four-week run beginning Feb. 3.  
Written, directed, and performed by Brandon Hughes, the play centers on the protagonist David (DayDay), who learned the father he never met was spending the night in his home for years while he slept.  
This leads to David questioning his worth, resulting in a wayward life. At seventeen, David's mother reveals secrets about her relationship with his father, driving David to express his feelings about his mother, the father he never met, and how different his life would have been if he had.  
Laced with multiple characters (played by Hughes), *The Absent Father, the Wayward Son* will be performed through Feb. 25 at the Guild Theater, 2828 35th St., Tickets are \$25-\$30 and are sold through [brandonhughes.net](http://brandonhughes.net) and at Underground Books.

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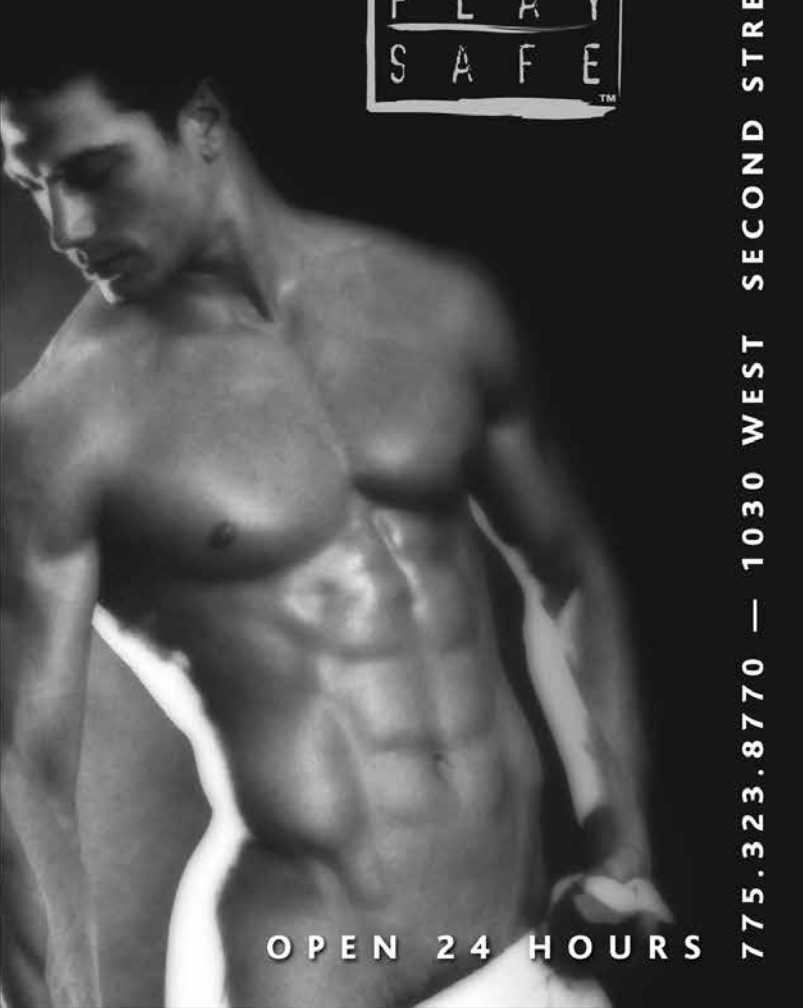
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*I'm Fine*, examines the darker, interior lives of a group of gay friends living in the otherwise sunny Los Angeles neighborhood of West Hollywood in 11 minute “pocket size” episodes. The series touches on subjects from Grindr to sex parties, to family and depression, while taking a fresh, honest, and humorous look at gay male relationships and friendship, and the often-blurry line between the two. Watch it on Dekkoo.com and see the trailer at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=raPdUi5skal](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=raPdUi5skal)



# See *Straight Camp* In Folsom

## Plus UC Davis Presents *Pippin* by Chris Narloch

Two promising-looking musicals open near Sacramento this month. You can drive to Davis and see a timely production of *Pippin* or make your way to historic Folsom for a musical about gay conversion therapy.

### Pippin

The award-winning musical *Pippin* receives a ripped-from-the-headlines staging when presented by the UC Davis College of Letters and Science's Department of Theatre and Dance.

The production will be directed and choreographed by Broadway veteran Mindy Cooper (*Chicago*, *Disney's Beauty and the Beast*), with music direction by our very own Graham Sobelman.

This production of *Pippin* is set in today's political environment of upheaval, which is its own special brand of circus.

Featuring a book by Roger O. Hirson and a score by Stephen Schwartz (composer/lyricist of *Wicked*), *Pippin* features a troupe of performers, led by a charismatic and manipulative Leading Player.

The son of a powerful politician, Pippin longs to find purpose, passion and adventure. Fresh from university, his colorful journey



Kylie Chan, Charlie Lavaroni, Michelle Lee and Ashley Worth in *Pippin*, Photo by Nicholas Yoon.

finds him going to war, exploring the joys of sex, opposing his father's tyranny, and possibly finding love with an attractive widow – all the while seeking his “corner of the sky.”

*Pippin* plays this Feb. 22 – Mar.

3, at the Main Theatre inside Wright Hall on the campus of UC Davis. For information, visit [arts.ucdavis.edu/event/pippin-musical](http://arts.ucdavis.edu/event/pippin-musical).

### Straight Camp

When high school basketball star Derik Nelson's parents think he might be gay, they whisk him off to Camp Son Beam, a “pray-away-the-gay” camp for sexually confused teens.

Pitted against the camp's bigoted and maniacal director, the campers must learn to overcome their differences, blur the line between ‘straight’ and ‘gay,’ and teach each other – and the camp staff – a valuable lesson about acceptance.

Written by Bill Counts, Annie McWilliams and Seth Fortna-Hanson, the musical is directed by Kale and Cory Coppin, who also wrote the show's music and lyrics.

*Straight Camp* plays through Feb. 18 at the intimate and charming Sutter Street Theatre in Folsom. For information, visit [sutterstreettheatre.com](http://sutterstreettheatre.com).

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