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Sacramento's RainbowPac Endorses 15 Candidates

RainbowPAC, the non-partisan political action committee of the Sacramento Rainbow Chamber of Commerce, endorsed 15 candidates in 2018 state and local races at an endorsement event held March 7 at Sierra 2 Center.



Dennis Mangers, Michael Sestak, RainbowPAC Chair Robin D. Shofner, Dr. Darrick Lawson and Sacramento Councilmember and endorsee Jay Schenirer

Candidates in 14 races, or their representatives, spoke to the gathering. Following candidate presentations and audience discussion, Rainbow Chamber members in attendance voted on endorsement, with a 60 percent majority required for endorsement.

U.S. Congress, 4th Congressional Dist.
Jessica Morse

California Attorney General
Dave Jones

California State Assembly, District 6
Jackie Smith

Sac. County Supervisor, District 2
Patrick Kennedy

Sac. County Board of Education
Bina Lefkowitz (Area 1)
Nate Pelczar (Area 2)

Nevada County Sheriff
Shannan Moon

Elk Grove Mayor
Steve Ly

SMUD Board, Ward 4
Rosanna Herber

Sacramento City Council
Angelique Ashby (Dist. 1)
Jay Schenirer (Dist. 5)

Davis City Council, At Large
Gloria Partida & Mark P.E. West

San Juan School Board, At Large
Zima Creason

Twin Rivers School Board, Area 3
Rebecca Vella Sandoval

In the Sacramento County District Attorney race, neither Anne Marie Schubert nor Noah Phillips received the required 60 percent vote for endorsement.

Visit RainbowPAC on Facebook to see more event photos.

Court Rules Civil Rights Act Covers Sexual Orientation

A federal appeals court on Feb. 26th handed down a victory for lesbian, gay, and bisexual people, affirming that workplace discrimination based on sexual orientation is illegal under federal law.

The full Second Circuit Court of Appeals issued the ruling on the scope of the Civil Rights Act in *Zarda v. Altitude Express, Inc.* The Department of Justice had weighed in on the side of the employer, arguing sexual orientation is not protected under Title VII's definition of sex.

The American Civil Liberties Union filed a friend-of-the-court brief opposing along with several other organizations.

"Today's decision is a victory for lesbian, gay, and bisexual workers across the

country," said Ria Tabacco Mar, staff attorney with the American Civil Liberties Union's LGBT & HIV Project. "There have now been two federal appeals courts to recognize what we've always known – that discrimination based on sexual orientation is in fact discrimination, and that there is no room for it in the workplace. This decision is also a repudiation of the Trump administration's Justice Department, which has insisted that LGBT discrimination is acceptable under federal law."

PFLAG Celebrates 45th Year of Leading on Family Acceptance

On March 11th, PFLAG—the nation’s first and largest organization uniting families and allies with LGBTQ people celebrated 45 years since its founding in New York City in 1973.

Jeanne Manford, elementary-school teacher and mother of renowned gay activist Morty Manford, marched by her son’s side in the 1972 Christopher Street Liberation Day March – a precursor to NY Pride – carrying a homemade sign that said, “Parents of Gays: Unite in Support of Our Children.”

When she was surrounded by people at the end of the march, asking her to speak to their own parents, the idea for PFLAG was sparked and nine months later, with support from her son and husband, Jules, the first meeting of PFLAG was held on March 11, 1973 at the Metropolitan-Duane Methodist Church in Greenwich Village (now the Church of the Village). Approximately 20 people attended.

Over the past 45 years, PFLAG (formerly an acronym for “Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays” but changed to simply PFLAG to reflect its longtime inclusion of bisexual and transgender people – one of the first organizations to do so – in 1993 and 1998, respectively) has grown into a national organization with nearly 400 chapters across 49 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and on a U.S. military base in Germany, with hundreds of other family and ally organizations around the globe, all inspired or quietly supported by PFLAG.

Since its founding, PFLAG has helped hundreds of thousands of families learn how to support their LGBTQ children and loved ones, expanding to include similar work with loving allies who are also invested in equality for LGBTQ people. This doesn’t include the possible millions across continents who have used and tailored the model to make them culturally appropriate for their locales.

“PFLAG has had a revolutionary impact on parenting and family values and practices in the U.S. and around the globe,” says Dr. Jaime M. Grant, new Executive Director of PFLAG National, the national organization that supports and resources the grassroots



PFLAG chapter network. “Simply put: Family acceptance saves lives.”

The numbers bear this out: According to The Family Acceptance Project at San Francisco State University, highly rejected LGBT young people were more than eight times as likely to have attempted suicide; nearly six times as likely to report high levels of depression; more than three times as likely to use illegal drugs; and more than three times as likely to be at high risk for HIV and STDs. However, when families are even slightly more accepting of their LGBTQ loved ones, it will significantly reduce harm and risk.

“PFLAG is saving lives, including in my own family,” says longtime PFLAG mom, and now chapter leader and National board member, Marsha Aizumi. “My work with PFLAG has allowed me to help my Asian Pacific Islander LGBTQ community which often suffers in silence and isolation. My own transgender son is now a chapter leader himself! After years of agoraphobia before coming out as trans, seeing my son thriving as a confident leader has brought me so much pride.”

PFLAG is constantly on the forefront, ensuring that LGBTQ people are accepted and supported in order to live, love, learn, work, pray and play equally, fairly, and safely. To find a chapter near you and join in the celebration, visit pflag.org/find and www.pflagsacramento.org

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Kate Kendell Steps Down from The Job of a Lifetime

by Kate Kendell, Esq., NCLR Executive Director

Leading the National Center for Lesbian Rights (NCLR) has been the job of a lifetime. I feel extremely honored to have held this position and privileged to have experienced the countless moments of joy and awe that have forever changed our lives as LGBTQ individuals.



Kate Kendell of NCLR celebrates the 2008 marriage equality decision

After 22 years, with a full and grateful heart, I will step-down as the Executive Director of NCLR at the end of this year.

I never imagined I would live in San Francisco or lead an organization at the forefront of the fight for LGBT civil rights. I grew up Mormon in Ogden, Utah, was the eldest of three and the first to go to college in my family.

Growing up, my parents never talked politics or current events. I never saw my Dad reading a book or newspaper. We never traveled out of the country or even east of Colorado. We went on an airplane once.

I could only dream of one day being a lawyer and I was sure that my sexual orientation would make it impossible for me to get a job. I most certainly never

dreamed I would be the executive director of NCLR, nor that I would hold such a role for 22 years.

But I did and I have.

At a moment filled with both promise and challenge for the multiple movements that impact LGBTQ people, NCLR has never been more important. To lead this next phase of our progress, I believe it is the right time to welcome a new generation of leadership to chart and lead a bold and fierce future.

I feel enormous gratitude to have been a part of the NCLR legacy, part of the history of the fight, still on-going, for full lived justice for all LGBTQ people. I am forever beholden to you all for making me better. The honor, truly, has been all mine.

Dearest staff, board, colleagues and

generous supporters of NCLR, I am forever indebted for the opportunity you have given me. From a full to bursting heart, thank you for your steadfast support of me, NCLR and our vision of what the world can be. The road ahead will be both challenging and filled with possibility. The needs of our community will be both pressing and complex. But you can rest assured that NCLR will be here, rising to the moment as we have for 41 years. Your continued support will assure that we meet every challenge head on. We have much more to do and more history to make.

With mad love and respect,

Kate


Editor's note: This is an excerpt from Kate's Blog announcing her retirement. The full statement can be read at www.nclrights.org/the-job-of-a-lifetime/

Sacramento Equality Awards to Honor Sacramento's Best

The Sacramento Equality Awards are a time to celebrate and recognize community leaders, local supporters, elected and appointed officials and policy makers, who inspire and empower us in our movement to resist hate.

This year's inspirational honorees include California Attorney General Xavier Becerra, "We Said Enough" activist Adama Iwu, the Capitol LGBTQ Association and community leader Cathy Schwamberger, who is also an accomplished photographer who's photos often appear in *Outword*.

The 2018 Sacramento Equality Awards will be at the Crest Theatre on Tuesday, April 10. For tickets and more information, visit www.eqca.org/equality-awards/sacramento/



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Sacramento Pride Is Making Big Changes for 2018

commentary by Lantz Nalagan

Each June, the Sacramento LGBT Community Center hosts Sacramento Pride to commemorate the Stonewall Riots of 1969, which mark the origin of the modern LGBTQ rights movement, and this year there are several changes in the works to make Sacramento Pride even better.

Pride marches, parades, and festivals across the country have evolved to both commemorate the struggle of the Stonewall Era and celebrate the progress we've made in the fight for equality in the decades since. In Sacramento Pride's 36 years of existence, it has grown to become our region's largest celebration of diversity, advocacy, and community building, hosting more than 15,000 people in 2017 on Capitol Mall.

For 2018, we are making some changes to Pride to re-center its roots as a platform for advocacy and provide opportunities for more

authentically engage folks that represent the incredible diversity of our community. The movement began when drag queens, transgender women of color, and queer folks from all walks of life stood up against oppression and we are looking for folks who believe in the values of equality and justice to join us in continuing to build Sac Pride as a beacon of hope for future generations.

With each passing day, our rights are being eroded and the freedom to be recognized and equally valued that leaders of the Stonewall Era fought so hard for is



Jacquelyn Foust and Lantz Nalagan of the Sac. LGBT Center. Photo by Tia Gemmell.

community engagement. This year, the Pride Festival and March will move from the traditional one-day Saturday event to Sunday, June 10.

This change of day will open up the weekend schedule for additional advocacy and community building activities, including the Center's annual Pride Awards event, leading up to the Festival on Sunday, as well as address some logistical conflicts faced with the addition of the new Golden 1 Center and associated traffic control plans downtown.

Additionally, after many years of partnership with Fred Palmer at Outword Media and Kelli Hannaford at Details Details, who as contractors were instrumental in Pride's exceptional growth on Capitol Mall, the Center has hired a full-time Events Manager to provide our community year-round support for our many annual events including Pride.

"We cannot thank Fred, Kelli, and the entire Pride Committee enough for their tireless efforts to bring a sense of safety, love, family, activism, and celebration to our community at Pride year after year. We truly appreciate their continued commitment to support Sacramento's LGBTQ community," said David Heitstuman, the Center's executive director.

We have also opened up the Pride planning committee to new volunteers who want to help take Pride to the next level of excellence and we are hoping to

under attack. One day of Pride each year is not enough to combat this eminent threat and we believe more opportunities for visibility, advocacy, and community building, leading up to Pride and throughout the year, will help create a Sacramento Region where LGBTQ people are not only safe and welcome, but able to thrive.

We are proud to introduce Jacquelyn Foust, Events Manager at the Sacramento LGBT Community Center who will be working with the event committee to plan Sac Pride 2018. Jackie comes to the us from Capitol Campaigns, where she worked with some of the region's strongest LGBTQ allies and progressive electoral candidates. She was also a key organizer with the Whole Earth Festival in Davis and has worked as a sexual assault and domestic violence advocate at UC Davis.

We are very excited to have Jackie join the Center's team and if you are interested in joining her on the Sac Pride Committee or volunteering at one of the weekend's events, please look for more information at sacmentopride.org or email jacquelyn.foust@saccenter.org.

Lantz Nalagan is the Development Manager for the Sacramento LGBT Community Center. He oversees the fundraising, events, and communications of the Center to support its mission to create a region where LGBTQ people are not only safe and welcome, but able to thrive. More info at www.saccenter.org.

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Sacramento Kings Celebrated Their Fifth Equality Night

by Chris Narloch and Chris Allan. Photos by Chris Allan

The Golden 1 Center took on a rainbow glow on Wednesday evening, March 7, when the Sacramento Kings invited several local LGBTQ advocates, community members and partners to the team's fifth Equality Night, during a game with the New Orleans Pelicans.

John Torres, an openly gay man, sang the national anthem, and Capital Cheer Elite Storm – members of Pride Cheerleading Association – took to the court at halftime with a special performance.

Through the Kings Foundation, the LGBTQ Community Center served as the evening's 50/50 beneficiary, with an information kiosk at Section 111.

The Kings Foundation also presented the Capitol LGBTQ Association and their leadership with the team's Equality Award, honoring their hard work as the first LGBTQ Association to support and educate legislative staff in the nation.

Equality Night is part of The Sacramento Kings' mission to assist diverse and inclusive organizations throughout the region working to enhance the lives of the people the franchise engages.

"Our mission to serve as an agent of

change in our community continues as we open our doors with a warm welcome to Sacramento's LGBTQ leaders and change-makers," said Sacramento Kings Chief Operating Officer Matina Kolokotronis. "We're honored to work with the diverse groups that represent the region throughout the season."

Beyond the basketball court, the team looks for unique ways to support Sacramento's LGBTQ community – from marching in the Sacramento Pride Parade to profiling LGBTQ athletes and leaders, supporting local causes and welcoming entertainers and organizations to use the team's NBA stage.

When the team opened Golden 1 Center in 2016, it was the first arena in the world to fully accommodate transgender guests with 23 all-gender restrooms as directed by the organization's progressive leadership, reflecting Sacramento's inclusive values.



Terrence McNally, Peter Pan & Amazing Grace

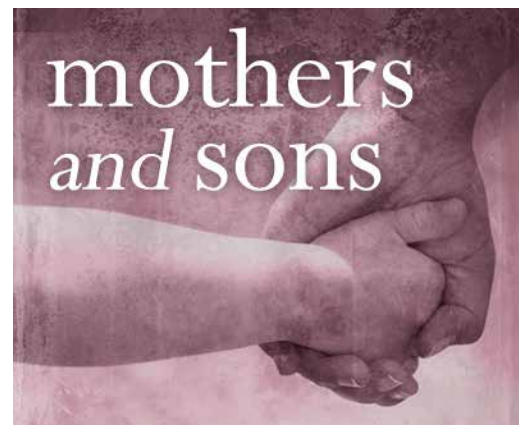
by Chris Narloch

There is no shortage of promising musicals on Sacramento stages this spring as Broadway Sacramento presents the audience-pleasing hit *Finding Neverland* and Folsom's Harris Center hosts the soul-stirring show *Amazing Grace*.

If musicals aren't your bag – and even if they are – you will want to make time to see the not-to-be-missed gay play *Mothers and Sons* at Sacramento Theatre Company (STC).

Finding Neverland

Directed by visionary Tony-winner Diane



Paulus and based on the critically acclaimed, Academy Award-winning film of the same name, *Finding Neverland* sets the incredible true story behind one of the world's most beloved characters, Peter Pan, to music.

Frustrated playwright J.M. Barrie summons the courage to become the writer – and the man – he yearns to be after a chance meeting with a beautiful widow and her four young sons.

Delighted by the boys' high spirits, Barrie conjures the magical world of Neverland and finds the inspiration to write a play unlike anything high-society London theatergoers have ever seen.

Finding Neverland will play April 10-15 at Sacramento's Community Center Theater. Visit www.BroadwaySacramento.com.

Amazing Grace

The fascinating true story behind "Amazing Grace," one of the world's most beloved songs, is captured in this hit Broadway musical, which will have six

performances this spring in Folsom.

"Amazing Grace," a song that many people associate with the Civil Rights movement, was actually written in the 18th century by an Englishman who worked in the slave-trading business.

In the musical *Amazing Grace*, John Newton is torn between following in the footsteps of his father – a slave trader – or embracing the more compassionate views of his childhood sweetheart.

Newton embarks on a perilous voyage on the high seas, accompanied by his slave, Thomas. That journey finds John in his darkest hour, a transformative moment of self-reckoning that inspires a blazing and timeless anthem of hope.

Don't miss *Amazing Grace* at Folsom's Harris Center, March 29-April 1. Visit www.HarrisCenter.net.

Mothers and Sons

This award-winning play by Terrence McNally, one of America's finest gay playwrights, makes its Sacramento debut at STC this month.

McNally, who created the books for the musicals *Kiss of the Spiderwoman* and *Ragtime*, was also the playwright for *The Ritz*, *Master Class* and *Love! Valour! Compassion!*

Mothers and Sons follows a woman, Katharine, who pays a surprise visit to Cal, the ex-partner of her late son – a victim of AIDS who died twenty years earlier. Cal is now married and has a child.

Challenged to face how society has changed around her (and without her), generations collide as Katharine attempts to separate fantasy from fact so that she can forgive her son, reconcile with Cal, and understand the full life the two men shared together.

Mothers and Sons plays March 22 – April 30. Visit www.sactheatre.org.

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Kathy Griffin Returns with *Laugh Your Head Off* Tour

She speaks! After a year of national scandal and following a sold-out run of stand-up shows and rave reviews around the globe, Kathy Griffin is returning with the much-anticipated North American continuation of her “Laugh Your Head Off” World Tour to the United States, Canada, and Mexico.



Kathy Griffin returns with her *Laugh Your Head Off* tour.

Armed with the story of the now infamous and controversial photo (yes... THAT photo), the fiery redheaded, award-winning, American comedian is bringing the story of the photo heard 'round the world and the fallout that followed, along with breaking down everything in the pop-culture landscape from Trump to the Kardashians.

Griffin tells all in this more than 2-hour no-holds-barred show in the raw, honest, and engaging way fans have always loved about her. The North American stint of the *Laugh Your Head Off* tour begins Friday, May 25th in Toronto, and comes to San Francisco on June 14th.

“Donald Trump will not survive the live and hilarious indictment I will be bringing down on his orange head. Did I say head?” Griffin said.

“To all of you in North America who have been sending so much love and

support, now's your chance to show it. Buy a ticket for one of these tour stops and I promise you won't be disappointed.

“You're gonna get the whole story. We will talk about THE photo that sparked a conversation around the world, how my mom Maggie still watches Fox News and thinks I might be in ISIS, and hell, I'll even walk you through my interrogation by the feds. You're not gonna get that story anywhere else! Oh, and did I mention that my next door neighbors during this whole ordeal are none other than Kim Kardashian-West and Kanye Kardashian-West?”

Griffin continues, “My show isn't for the faint of heart so leave your kids at home. My motto is ‘Funny First’ But don't worry, we've got some serious smack talking to do about everything and everyone,” before adding, “with love, of course.”

For more information on Kathy, please visit www.KathyGriffin.com.

The Arsonists: “God's Just Jealous, He Can't Set a Fire and Make It Look the Way We Do”



Set deep in a Florida swamp, *The Arsonists* is a father-daughter tale of grief, loss and redemption when starting over means setting fire to what you know and love. Rich Hebert & Megan Wicks star in the Capital Stage production through April 15 Capstage.org, and you can listen to music from the show at the arsonists.bandcamp.com/album/the-arsonists-music-for-the-play-by-jacqueline-goldfinger. Photo by Charr Crail.

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Out & About with Matt

by Matthew Burlingame

Raining one day and hot the next, Sacramento is alive and buzzing as Spring descends upon us and Easter is just around the corner, a good time to reflect on what's been happening and what's coming up (down?) with those raindrops.

That means it's time for the 9th annual Easter Egg Hunt for Dogs to benefit RedRover which helps animals rescued from disasters or neglect, domestic violence victims seeking safety with their pets and animals with life-threatening illnesses. Don't forget your camera for photo opportunities with the Easter Bunny. Check out eventbrite.

Which is another reason to get involved with local HIV/AIDS fundraisers such as NorCal AIDS Cycle, happening May 10-13. Cyclists and Crew will be traveling 300 miles to raise money and awareness for HIV/AIDS service providers in the Sacramento Valley and beyond, Whether you donate to a registered Cyclist or Crew Member, or



com for info and tickets.

If you're looking for something more traditional, check out LGBT affirming St. Mark's United Methodist Church which has Easter Sunday services at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. 2391 St. Marks Way.

If something more activist is your thing, on March 24 at 10 a.m. join March For Our Lives Sacramento at the California State Capitol to bring attention to gun violence issues in solidarity with the students of Douglas Stoneman High School in Florida. #Neveragain

After the march head over to the Lavender Library (LLACE). One of Sacramento's best LGBT resources for community history, they house every issue of *Outword* ever printed! After you're done catching up on all 21 years of back issues, join LLACE for Drag Queen Storytime March 24 at noon. A local drag

register to come along on the adventure, your contribution will go a long way.

Being deaf or hearing-impaired can be isolating, but being deaf and LGBT can be even more so. A social group for deaf and hearing persons who know ASL and identify as trans, non-binary, queer, LGBT+ or allies are invited to Temple Coffee Roasters, 2829 S St., on March 31 5-9 p.m. to connect with new friends.

We have some amazing people in our community! Including local award winning author and professor Gayle Pitman who celebrated Women's History Month with a reading from her well-known alphabetical primer on feminism for teen girls, *Feminism from A to Z*. The gathering presented a look at history, current events, and action exercises to show readers how to take feminism to a higher level.



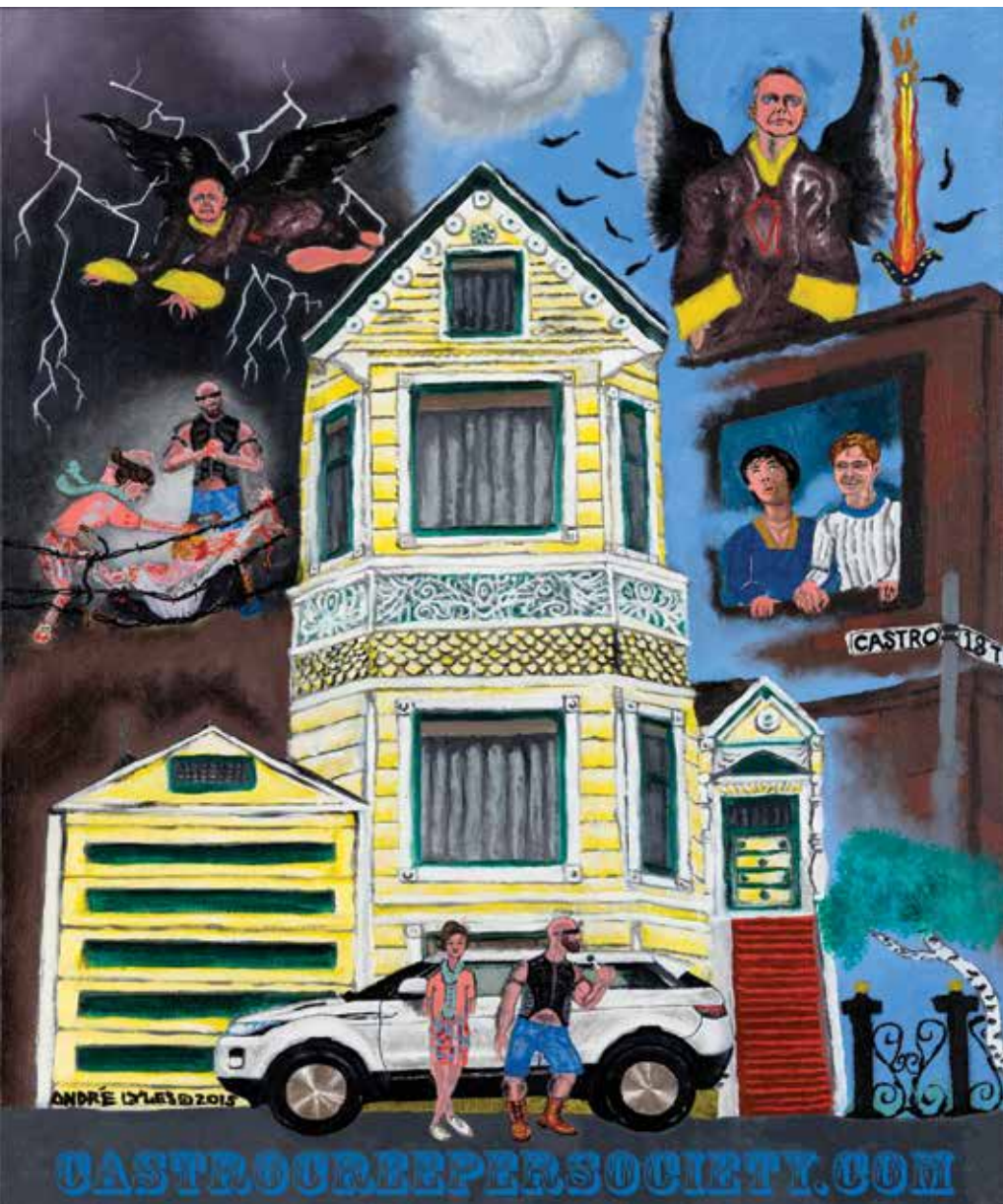
performer will be reading their favorite LGBTQ children's books out loud for Queer Families. Event is all for ages and will be free thanks to a grant from the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence. Visit lavenderlibrary.com for more information.

National Youth HIV & AIDS Awareness Day (NYHAAD) pops up on April 10. NYHAAD educates the public about the impact of HIV/AIDS on youth and highlights the work youth do to strengthen the fight against the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Youth aged 13 to 24 accounted for 22% of all new HIV diagnoses in the United States. Most of those new diagnoses among youth (81%) occurred among gay and bisexual males while young black/African American and Hispanic/Latino gay and bisexual males are especially affected.

Speaking of the amazing community members, on March 13 Jen Ikemoto raised over \$4,700 St. Baldrick's by shaving her head to fight childhood cancer. Her over 24 inches of long, luxurious hair of was donated to Locks of Love which provide disadvantaged children wigs free of charge. "I couldn't have done this with all of your support, especially that of my love Rachel," says Ikemoto.

Sincerest condolences out to community member Paul Curtis who's beautiful Mother passed away on the morning of March 12, 2018.

Let Matt know what's Out & About with you. Send him short notes of your accomplishments, funny happenings and upcoming events to matthew.burlingame@gmail.com.



A New Take On *Tomb Raider* Plus A Food Film Fest In Sac

by Chris Narloch

The beautiful Swedish actress Alicia Vikander, who won an Oscar for her performance in *The Danish Girl*, has taken over the role of Lara Croft from Angelina Jolie in the new *Tomb Raider* film.

Read on to find out if you should give that reboot the boot or plunk down your hard-earned cash and see it. I also write about Wes Anderson's next movie and an upcoming film festival in Sacramento that puts the spotlight on food literacy.

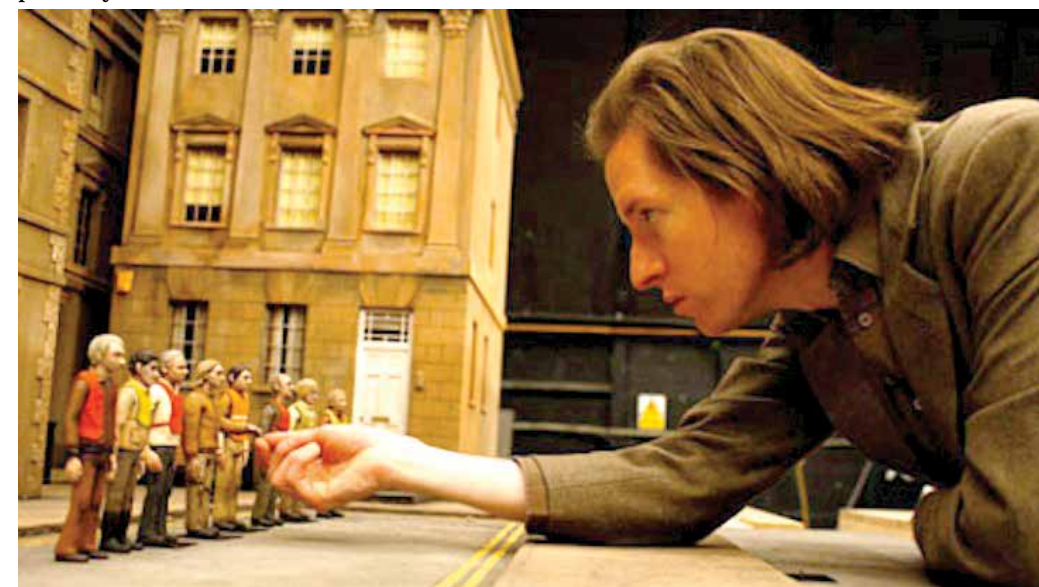
Tomb Raider

If you are a fan of the Tomb Raider video game (I am not) or a fan of actress Alicia Vikander (I definitely am), then you will probably want to see her latest movie.

and flies to Trash Island in search of his bodyguard-dog, Spots.

There, with the assistance of a pack of newly found mongrel friends, he begins an epic journey that will decide the fate and future of the entire Prefecture.

The movie's amazing voice cast includes Bryan Cranston, Edward Norton, Bill Murray, Jeff Goldblum, Greta Gerwig, Frances McDormand, Scarlett Johansson, Harvey Keitel, F. Murray Abraham, Yoko Ono, Tilda



Director Wes Anderson has returned to stop-motion animation for *Isle of Dogs*

All others are advised to steer clear of director Roar Uthaug's disappointing installment in this feminist film franchise, about a young woman who embarks on a perilous journey to a mysterious island in the hopes of finding her missing father.

In addition to her dad, Lara Croft unfortunately also finds boring, cardboard villains and cheesy, recycled-looking special effects.

That's too bad because Vikander, petite as she is, is a real firecracker in the role, throwing herself into the action with absolute conviction and looking both fierce and sexy.

Perhaps the producers can hire better screenwriters and a more competent director next time and give this talented actress a production worth her time and effort. *Tomb Raider* is currently in wide release.

Isle of Dogs

I am very much looking forward to the new film from Wes Anderson, his first stop-motion animated feature since the delightful *Fantastic Mr. Fox* a decade ago.

Isle of Dogs tells the story of Atari Kobayashi, 12-year-old ward to corrupt Mayor Kobayashi. When all the canine pets of Megasaki City are exiled to a vast garbage-dump by executive decree, Atari sets off alone in a miniature Junior-Turbo Prop

Swinton, Ken Watanabe, Liev Schreiber and Courtney B. Vance.

Isle of Dogs is scheduled to open at Sacramento's Tower Theatre on March 30. **7th Annual Sacramento Food Film Festival**

Created in 2012, the Sacramento Food Film Festival was born from the idea that we must educate the public about our food system, and work collaboratively to create positive change.

The Festival seeks to bring to our region educational films that are otherwise ignored by traditional theaters - and to create a community dialogue to improve food literacy.

The Sacramento Food Film Festival celebrates food and drink paired with films about our food system. This year's Saturday Night Shorts event features an all-star cast of chefs pairing bites with short food films from America's Farm-to-Fork Capital.

The Opening Night film screening at Lucca restaurant on April 11 is already sold out, but, as I wrote this, tickets were still available for Saturday Night Shorts on April 14 at Sacramento's Colonial Theatre and for something called Broccoli HQ Night on April 21.

For more information and to purchase tickets, visit www.foodliteracycenter.org/film-festival.

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New Music from David Byrne and Calum Scott

by Chris Narloch

This month I shine the musical spotlight on Calum Scott, a twenty-something, British singer who is just starting out, and on David Byrne, a sixty-something, New York-based artist who has been making music professionally for more than 40 years.



Calum Scott. Phot by Calvin Aurand.

Calum Scott – *Only Human*

This 29-year-old, openly gay singer-songwriter from Northern England was a semi-finalist on *Britain's Got Talent* and had a big hit with his self-released cover of Robyn's electro-pop masterpiece, "Dancing On My Own."

As a huge fan of Robyn, I am partial to her original version, but Scott gets points and props for successfully reinventing that classic song with his lovely, stripped-down version.

Only Human, Scott's debut full-length disc, includes both his slowed-down take on "Dancing On My Own" and a fun remix of that song with Tiesto.

The other dozen or so cuts are heartfelt, polished pop songs that successfully showcase Scott's gorgeous voice, which sounds equally at home on ballads ("You Are The Reason," "If Our Love Is Wrong") and upbeat tracks ("Give Me Something," "What I Miss Most").

David Byrne – *American Utopia*

David Byrne has his biggest hit in 25 years with "Everybody's Coming to My House," the infectious first single off his new CD, *American Utopia*.

If you saw his bizarre, barefoot performance of that song on Stephen Colbert's show recently, then you know that the shape-shifting art rocker and former front-man of Talking Heads is as relevant and brilliant as ever.

"Everybody's Coming to My House" is a hit because it sounds like vintage Talking Heads circa

1983, the year "Burning Down The House" was released. If only there were more tunes like it on Byrne's latest CD, which is a hit-and-miss affair that will undoubtedly grow on me with time.

Byrne's first solo disc in 14 years – he is 65 now, believe it or not – *American Utopia* finds the artist attempting to locate and spread happiness amid the chaos of modern life.

The new CD's ten tracks are part of a larger multimedia project entitled *Reasons to Be Cheerful* which attempts to spread positivity, something Byrne achieves with the first single and also on "Every Day Is A Miracle," my second favorite song on the disc.

Here's just one example of the wonderfully wacky songwriting on "Every Day Is A Miracle," which couldn't have been written by anyone but David Byrne: "The mind is a soft boiled potato / a jewel in a chocolate shell / I staple my love to your heart dear / with memories and beautiful smells."

Despite his optimism, Byrne hasn't lost his dark side, as proven by track 7 ("Bullet"), which features a disturbing lyric that follows the trajectory of a bullet passing through a body.

There is more light than dark on *American Utopia*, however, and the



David Byrne. Photo by Jody Rogac

CD concludes with a lovely song entitled "Here" that wonders how our brains process the world. Byrne knows he doesn't have the answers, but he remains a singular artist who is always asking questions about the world around him.

NBC to Air *Jesus Christ Superstar Live* Easter Sunday

by Chris Narloch

With TV viewers binging and watching their favorite shows on demand, there aren't too many huge events that engage millions of viewers live anymore, with the exception of the Super Bowl and the Oscars.

Jesus Christ Superstar Live, from the folks who brought us live TV productions of *The Sound of Music* and *Hairspray*, will air on Easter Sunday evening and promises to be must-see viewing.

Featuring an impressive cast that includes John Legend as Jesus, Sara

Bareilles as Mary, and the one-and-only Alice Cooper as King Herod, the casting feels just right for a new version of the iconic musical by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice.

Instead of the Broadway treatment employed for previous

theater events on TV, producers promise that this one-night-only production of *Jesus Christ Superstar* – one of the first "rock operas" – will be staged as a live concert, with 32 musicians, a multi-level stage and an audience of 1,300 people, including a mosh pit.

Jesus Christ Superstar will be staged in an amphitheater-like setting inside the cavernous New York State Armory in Brooklyn by the highly acclaimed theater director David Leveaux and will air live on the East Coast (and on tape delay in other time zones) on April 1.

Alejandro Bulgheroni Estate Is a Class Act

by Diana Kienle

There are over 500 wineries in the Napa Valley, and you can walk in and taste the wine of almost 90 of those wineries; another 270 plus will welcome you by appointment.

There is wide variability in what you can experience with each and every one of those tasting visits. This is a very good thing as it begs us to explore.

This past week, that journey took Cathy and I to a new and emerging winery in St. Helena named Bulgheroni Estate (www.bulgheroniwine.com), and each aspect of the visit was executed with class. From the very beginning to end, it was gracious and relaxed, informative and interesting and the wines – well they matched all aspects of the endeavor. They were well structured and balanced with expressive fruit and a long finish.

As we approached the winery to park, our host, Anthony, greeted us. He awaited our arrival with wine in hand to introduce us to the property, show us the vineyard and share the history of the setting. There were gorgeous rows of manicured vines spread out in a bucolic setting. This set the tone for our visit.

We walked through the winery to see many different types and sizes of fermentation tanks, and then we walked into the barrel room. All along the way,

Anthony shared the history and the commitment of the owner, which is to produce world-class wine.

Alejandro Bulgheroni is not new to the

wine business, as he owns wineries across the globe. One thing is clear in his new venture in Napa – it is a commitment to quality. Every step of the way, it is done with class with the intent to produce extraordinary wines.

The wines we tasted were their cabernets from 2014. Anthony shared these with us in a relaxed, comfortable setting, allowing us to have our own experience of the wine. He is a certified sommelier and that added to our appreciation of the tasting.

These cabernets were rich and lush on the palate with great body and depth. The fruit from this vintage was purchased from top vineyards in the valley and is very approachable now. The 2015s will be from the property and available soon.

It is my reading from the *Wine Advocate* and *Vinous* that led me to this winery and it was well worth the time. This is an ambitious enterprise that will only get better with each vintage as the top-flight team bring their energy to the property and the wine.

Enjoy!

Diana Kienle is a freelance writer and blogs about wine at www.dianaswineblog.com. She can be reached at diana@dianaswineblog.com. Photos by Cathy Schwamberger.



Diana Kienle in the Bulgheroni Estate tasting room with Estate Director Anthony Wahington. Photo by Cathy Schwamberger

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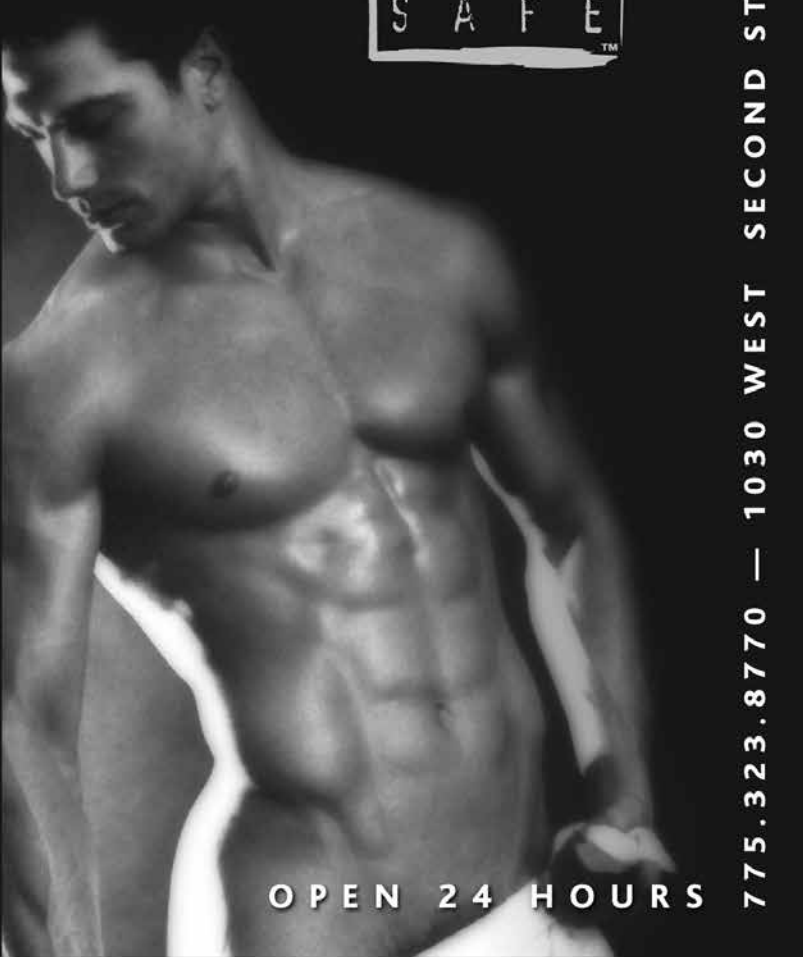
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Sac Ballet Presents *Carmina Burana & Serenade* *by Chris Narloch*

Carmina Burana, featuring Ron Cunningham's epic, larger-than-life spectacle set to the soaring music of Carl Orff, is the signature masterwork of the Sacramento Ballet. It will be paired with George Balanchine's Serenade this March for an intense experience not soon forgotten.

Complete with full chorus and live orchestra for all performances, *Carmina Burana's* erotic passion promises to ignite the senses, and Sac Ballet's dancers will be joined by guest soloists J. Raymond Meyers (Tenor), Matthew Hanscom (Baritone) and Carrie Hennessy (Soprano).

George Balanchine's famous quote, "see the music, hear the dance," is eloquently illustrated in *Serenade*, his first great masterpiece created on American soil. With Carinne Binda's coaching and Sac Ballet's supremely talented dancers, this will be one of the most elegant pieces Sacramento Ballet can offer.

Tickets are still available for these not-to-be-missed Sac Ballet performances, March 23-25, at Sacramento's Community Center Theater. For more information, visit www.sacballet.org.



**Carmina Burana. Photo
by Keith Sutter.**

Four Actresses. Two Tragedies. One Show.

Something wicked this way comes ... wickedly clever that is as Theater Galatea's groundbreaking new production of William Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar* and *Macbeth* are performed in two acts with only four female performers.

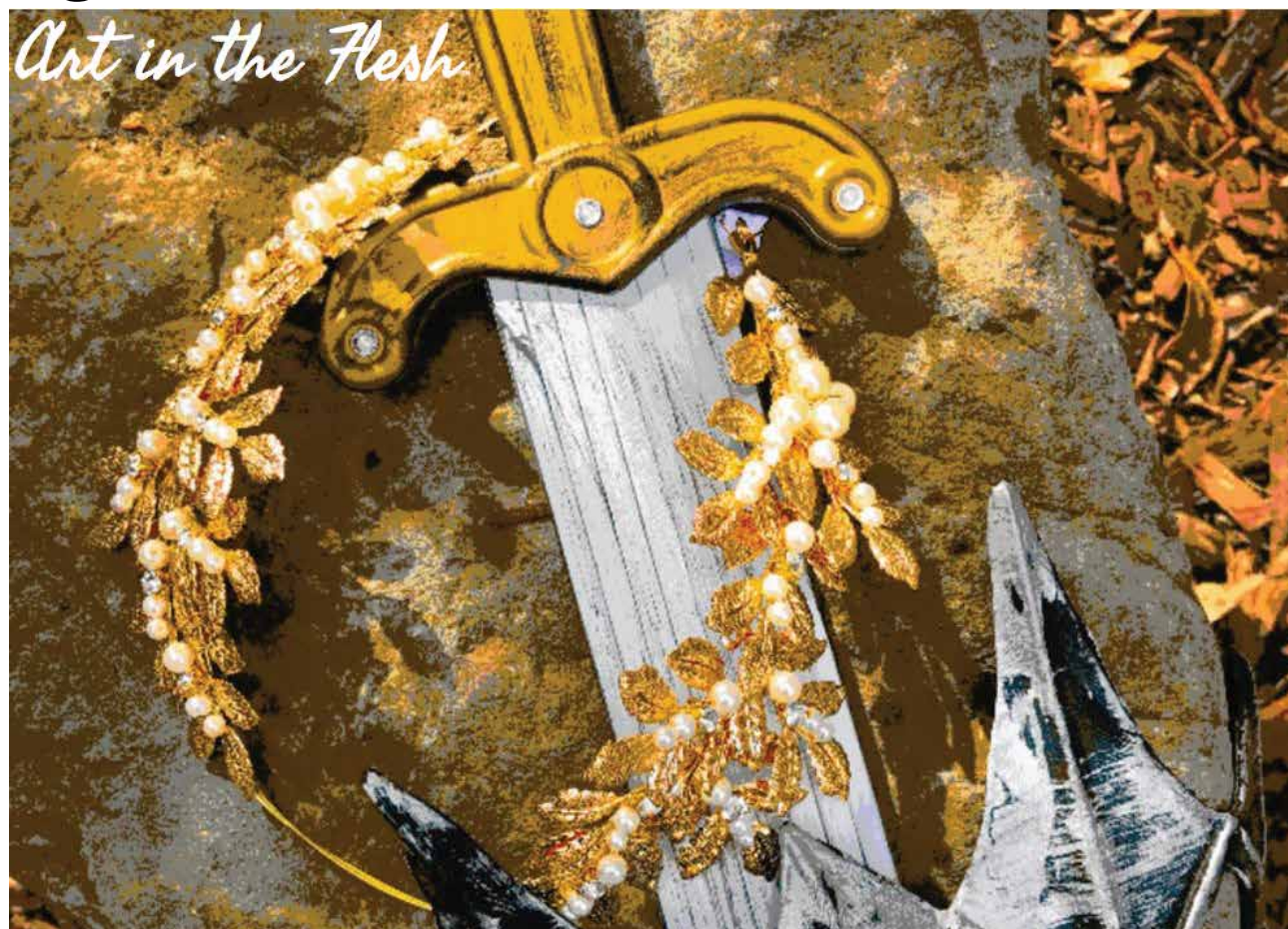
"We're all getting to play characters we would never otherwise get to play," says Theater Galatea co-founder Jessica Laskey, a regular on Sacramento stages who will play the title role in *Macbeth* and Marc Antony in *Julius Caesar*. "Who could resist that kind of acting challenge?"

"Why shouldn't these amazing actresses have the opportunity to perform such iconic Shakespeare roles?" says director and co-founder p joshua laskey, who adapted both plays into a pair of one-acts separated by an intermission.

Following the theater company's successful production of *Hamlet* in 2014 that featured only four actors and minimal props, Theater Galatea decided to stick with their barebones formula – inspired by a street performance the Laskeys saw while living in Paris – to allow audience members to revel in Shakespeare's iconic stories.

Local favorites Kelley Ogden (co-founder of KOLT Run Creations), Kellie Yvonne Raines (Big Idea Theatre, KOLT) and Analise Langford (Woodland Opera House, Fair Oaks Theater Festival) round out the four-woman cast.

Macbeth and *Julius Caesar* play March 29 through April 7. For tickets, visit www.theatergalatea.com. The William J. Geery Theater is located at 2130 L Street.



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