

outWord

No. 629 • July 25, 2019 • outwordmagazine.com

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www.outwordmagazine.com
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ISSN # 1084-7618 United States Library of Congress

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CWDA Executive Director Frank Mecca Appointed to Governor's Homelessness Advisory Body

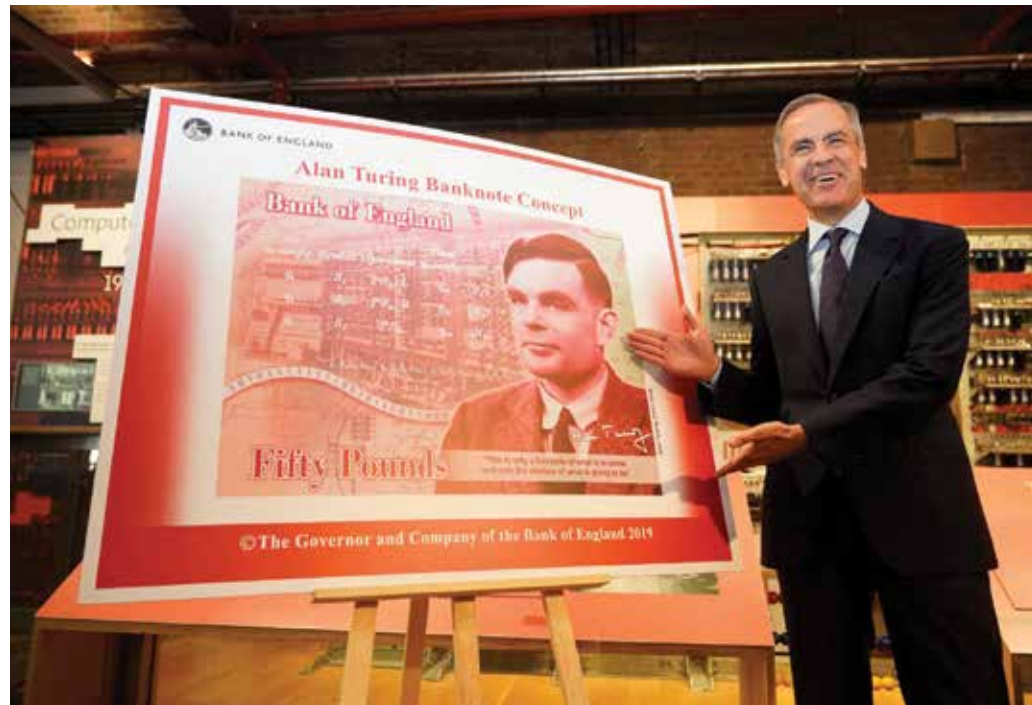
The County Welfare Directors Association (CWDA) is proud to announce that Governor Newsom has appointed CWDA executive director, Frank Mecca along with other statewide experts and local leaders to advise him on confronting the homelessness crisis in California. The group, chaired and co-chaired by Sacramento Mayor Darrell Steinberg and LA County Supervisor Mark Ridley Thomas, will hold convenings around the state in an effort to combat the homelessness epidemic.

"I am honored to have been chosen to join this group of thought leaders and experts and am looking forward to hit the ground running to find solutions that will make real differences in people's lives," said Frank Mecca. "Governor Newsom's announcement today demonstrates a keen understanding that successfully fighting California's complex homelessness crisis will take interdisciplinary coordination, regional collaboration, and focus on early intervention and prevention"

Mecca has served as CWDA's executive director for nearly three decades, leading the organization's advocacy and policy efforts that have shaped programs and

services that help California's most vulnerable to thrive. In recent years, CWDA has focused on solutions across our programs that intervene and prevent homelessness in order to support the needs of a growing number of clients facing housing insecurity. A crucial part of the prevention efforts in our programs has been the collaboration with other organizations in the broader homelessness continuum. He also serves as treasurer on the board of the Sacramento LGBT Community Center which has developed and implemented a number of programs aimed at combating homelessness in the LGBTQ community.

Codebreaker Alan Turing Will Be on Britain's New 50-Pound Currency



Mark Carney, The Governor of the Bank of England, reveals Alan Turing as the new face of the £50 note. "This is a much deserved accolade for one of the greatest minds of the twentieth century," said LGBT activist Peter Tatchell who helped organize the effort to get Turing on the bank note. "Turing's Enigma code-breaking helped defeat the Nazis and thereby shortened the Second World War, saving millions of lives. As a pioneer of computing science, his theories laid the foundation of the modern world, including everything from the internet and email to mobile phones, space exploration and life-saving medical technologies."

Weave Trains Lavender Heights Bar Staff to Identify Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence

The Lavender Heights district is a pillar in Sacramento’s nightlife industry, bringing thousands of people of all ages, gender identities, and relationships to the city each month. The district is not only at the center of the LGBTQ+ community, but also Sacramento’s Second Saturday events that have become a major draw to the area each month. Patrons can easily hop from one establishment to the next to make for a fun-filled night.



However, with this robust nightlife scene comes increased risk for sexual assault and intimate partner violence. To help make Lavender Heights nightlife more safe and fun for all, on Monday, July 8, WEAVE - Sacramento County’s rape crisis center - provided its “Safe Night Out” training program to Lavender Heights establishments hosted at Mango’s. The program trained over 15 bar staff representing six area bars and clubs how to identify the warning signs of intimate partner and sexual violence at their establishments, as well as give them effective intervention tools if they suspect any of these types of violence.

Safe Night Out started in February and was originally designed to allow any bar or club to host and attend each training. While trainings are still open to any bar staff who’d like to attend, WEAVE found that offering a

district-specific focus was a more effective way to ensure patron safety at all bars in a given area, and allows districts to tackle their unique needs and issues.

Now, thanks to increased community interest and sponsorship by the City of Sacramento’s Community Development division, WEAVE is able to provide Safe Night Out trainings at additional bars and clubs in Sacramento in an effort to keep the city safe.

When it comes to assault, it could happen in or outside of an establishment. Bartenders are trained to keep an eye on bathrooms and discreet locations, check in with patrons to see if they are having a good time or have had too much to drink, and help patrons find their friends or a safe and discreet way to escape a perpetrator when needed.

The LGBTQ+ community experiences intimate partner and sexual violence at similar and sometimes higher rates than others, and may not report assaults out of fear of harassment by law enforcement, judgement or not being believed, concern of loss of friends, and a reluctance to draw negative attention to the community. It is critical that staff at LGBTQ+ establishments understand how to safely and appropriately identify warning signs, provide for the safety of patrons, and support those who are harmed.

For those who would like to participate in or schedule an upcoming Safe Night Out training, contact Shelby Vice at svice@weaveinc.org. If you or someone you know need’s support, visit www.weaveinc.org or contact WEAVE’s 24-Hour Support & Information Line at 916-920-2952 anytime.

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Mark Your Calendars for Boas & Bow Ties on 9-19-19

by R. Paul Villaluz Weubbe

Shake off your fabulous boas and pick out your dashing bow ties, get ready and come dressed to the nines on Thursday, September 19, 2019 for the Sacramento Rainbow Chamber of Commerce and Rainbow Foundation's annual gala, Boas & Bow Ties. 300+ members of the LGBTQ and allied community are expected to attend THE premiere LGBTQ gala of the year.

The evening is a celebration of the year's successes, including a cocktail hour, dinner and program, silent and live auctions. We also honor the 2019 Business Leader of the Year, award scholarships to students who are our future leaders and members of the workforce, and most importantly, a chance for old and new friends to mix and mingle!

We're excited to have radio personality Kory, of Mix 96, serve as the Master of Ceremonies; Reichen Kuhl, the CEO and Founder of LeaseLock as well as the winner of Season

4 of "The Amazing Race" providing the keynote address. The dynamic talents of Rogue Music Project and DJ Jammin' Jo will ensure to keep the audience entertained throughout the evening.

Tickets are now available at \$150 each, and we expect another sold out room. Additionally, there are plenty of sponsorship opportunities, with levels ranging from \$5,000 Diamond, \$2,500 Ruby, \$1,500 Sapphire, \$1,000 Emerald, and \$500 Pearl, all with their own unique benefits and number of guests per table. Additionally there are the Table Sponsor at \$1,200 and Half Table Sponsor at \$600, as well as advertising options.

These sponsorship opportunities are an excellent way to further promote your business as well as support the Rainbow Foundation's mission to preserve, educate, and display the heritage of Sacramento's LGBTQ community. The scholarship program contributes more than \$15,000 a year to students who attend college or trade school, and it supports programs and

services for community. Fernanda Mendoza, a student at UC Berkeley and scholarship recipient last year states: "By giving me this scholarship, you all are supporting me not just financially, but emotionally as you all believe in me to be worth supporting. I am beyond grateful for the help you are all giving me to turn my passion into a career. Thank you for validating my hard work and dedication and for placing your trust and support for my future. Thank



you,

Rainbow Chamber Foundation!"

Perennial supporter and past attendee Stephanie Slagel of State Farm says of the event: "The Rainbow Chamber Foundation has provided so many students with an opportunity to pursue their passions and the number of students who have benefitted continues to grow each year. I have been a proud supporter and sponsor of the annual gala since its inception in 2007, and will continue to do so because not only do the students benefit, but so does our community. It's a win-win for everyone!"

Find out more about the event's sponsorship opportunities, purchase tickets, or any other details by visiting the Boas & Bow Ties webpage at bit.ly/rcc-bbt. Registration and Reception starts at 5:00 p.m. with dinner and program starting at 6:30 p.m. Come out and join us in black tie (optional) at the fabulous Hilton Sacramento Arden West, 2200 Harvard St. in Sacramento on 9-19-19 and have a ball!



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GLAAD gets an “F” for Stonewall 50

guest commentary by Mark Segal - Philadelphia Gay News

The 50th anniversary of the Stonewall riots have passed, and as an integral part of the anniversary and the 50 years leading up to it, I have an inside track and knowledge as to who the players are and how they did their jobs for our community. Two organizations failed our community this year. That failure leads to misinformation of our history, and professional organizations should preserve our history, not revise it.

The worst offender? GLAAD

The organization that is supposed to monitor and provide LGBTQ information to the media, the organization that claims to be a resource to TV networks, contributed a media guide to Stonewall 50. The history it provided of our community was misleading and left out important elements of the event as well as the resources to cover them, which left larger media on their own. Of the 50 or so people who are documented as participating in the stonewall riots and the first gay pride, none, to my knowledge, were contacted by GLAAD for their knowledge of history or to be utilized as a resource or even as a fact checker.

Maybe it's ageism or GLAAD's need to use celebrities rather than the rank and file of our community, but those of us who were at Stonewall, created Gay Liberation Front from the ashes of Stonewall, created the first gay youth organization, created the first LGBT Community Center and the first Gay Pride March were all ignored by GLAAD. Those, like myself, who were young and among the first to end invisibility by the media are all still alive but ignored. The people that made it possible for GLAAD's existence were neglected – a lack of professionalism in their supposed area of expertise.

Mainstream media wanted to understand how coverage had changed in 50 years. From GLAAD, they received a false timeline and a lack of resources. Media sources actually did the homework and changed GLAAD's timeline, making a mockery of the LGBT org's so-called "guide."

On page one of that guide is a picture and message from GLAAD's president and CEO, Sarah Kate Ellis, that includes only two lines regarding the history of Stonewall and states,

"This guide is intended to help journalists cover Stonewall 50 with fairness, depth and accuracy."

GLAAD's failure is obvious with the guide's inaccuracies, historic omissions and lack of resources. GLAAD gets an F.

Next on the list is an organization I didn't expect: SAGE.

SAGE, which was created to work with LGBT seniors, held a number of events centered on Stonewall's 50th anniversary. One was planned by GLF, and SAGE gave the resources to make it a success, but SAGE's other events had a notable exception: basic research was not done. This resulted in embarrassment, as people who claimed they were at Stonewall were not, nor did they have even the slightest connection. Anyone who was old enough to have been alive during the riots, regardless of whether they actually participated, was served up on a panel. Now that's ageism. Historic details that were inaccurate were put on the record.

The best example: A woman who previously stated she was at Stonewall changed her statement while on a panel and said she was there the second night with Marsha P. Johnson. She said they were being chased and were trapped in a cul-de-sac while police attacked them, and she explained their dramatic escape. A great story, but the cul-de-sac she claimed was on Gay Street, and Gay Street is not a cul-de-sac, a detail that anyone who is familiar with the area knows. Marsha never mentioned that event any time in her life, and the story trivializes her. It also allows seniors they serve to be set up for ridicule.

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Beazer Homes Debuts It's First Neighborhood At The Cove

Beazer Homes is announcing the grand opening of the models for Artisan at The Cove on Saturday, July 27 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. This 80-acre master-planned community is located three miles north of downtown Sacramento, Calif. and features a resort-inspired, socially connected lifestyle in four distinct neighborhoods, each with architecturally rich, intelligent urban design. This highly desirable location will be home to 590 residences, offering single-family and townhome living.



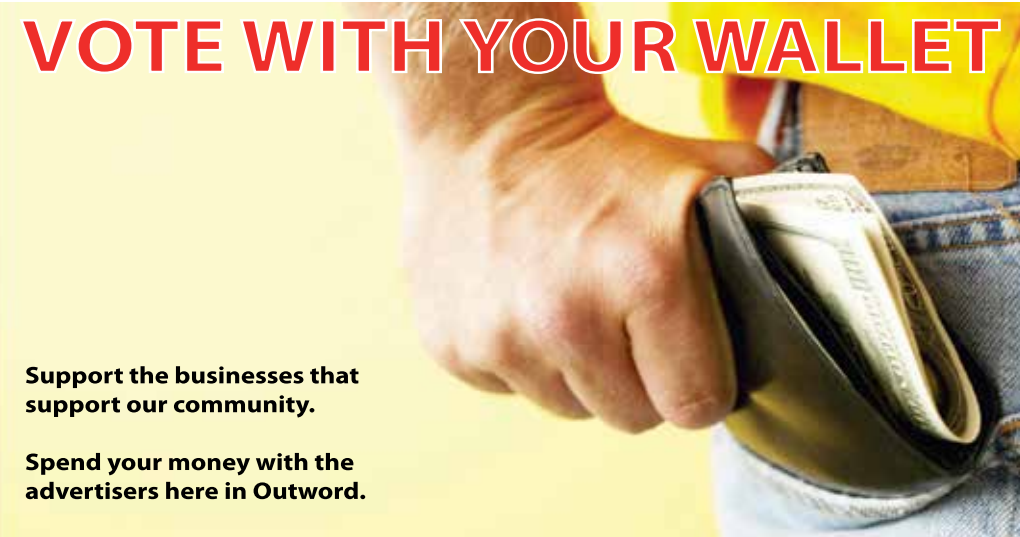
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Our Best Of survey is a fun way to see what you like here in this wonderful little city of Sacramento. This year we received more than double the responses of any other year and there are some new names that made the list. But it is also interesting to note that some of the “old tried and true” favorites either remained on this list or returned after being bumped by last year’s answers. Again, this is just for fun and there will not be any gold statues given away at a fancy dinner (maybe next year!). We would like to thank everyone that took a moment to fill out the survey and let us know what you favor. Here is what you told us you like... and then some.



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Tie - Zelda's and Pizza Rock
- Best Meal for Two Under \$100**
Lucca
- Best Meal for Two Over \$100**
High Steaks Steak House @ Thunder Valley



HOME

- Best Neighborhood to live in if you are LGBT**
Midtown
- Best Place to Walk Your Dog**
Land Park
- Best Place to Get Home Furnishings**
Tie:
IKEA and Ashley Home Goods
- Best Place to Get Yard Items**
Green Acres
- Best Place for DIY Supplies**
Lowes
- Best Place to Meet a Hot LGBT Person**
Badlands



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OUT & ABOUT

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Lucca
- Best Place to Get a Cheap Cocktail**
The Merc
- Best Place to Get a Cocktail (any price)**
Liquid Therapy
- Best Place to Get a Glass of Wine**
Tie: 58 Degrees and Revolution
- Best Place to Get a Martini**
Lucca
- Best Bartender**
Eric @ Badlands/Depot
- Best Drag Performer**
Tie:
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Out & About

photos by Charlie Peer

On Friday, July 12th, Outword's Monthly Happy Hour, Liquid Therapy was held at Badlands. We welcomed a very special guest: comedy writer, songwriter and actor Bruce Vilanch. Following happy hour, we were treated to the Court of the Great Northwest Imperial Empire (CGNIE) Christmas in July Show. During the Christmas in July show, charity disbursements checks were given to The Sunburst Project (\$4,000) and to the Mustard Seed School (\$7,000) for homeless children.





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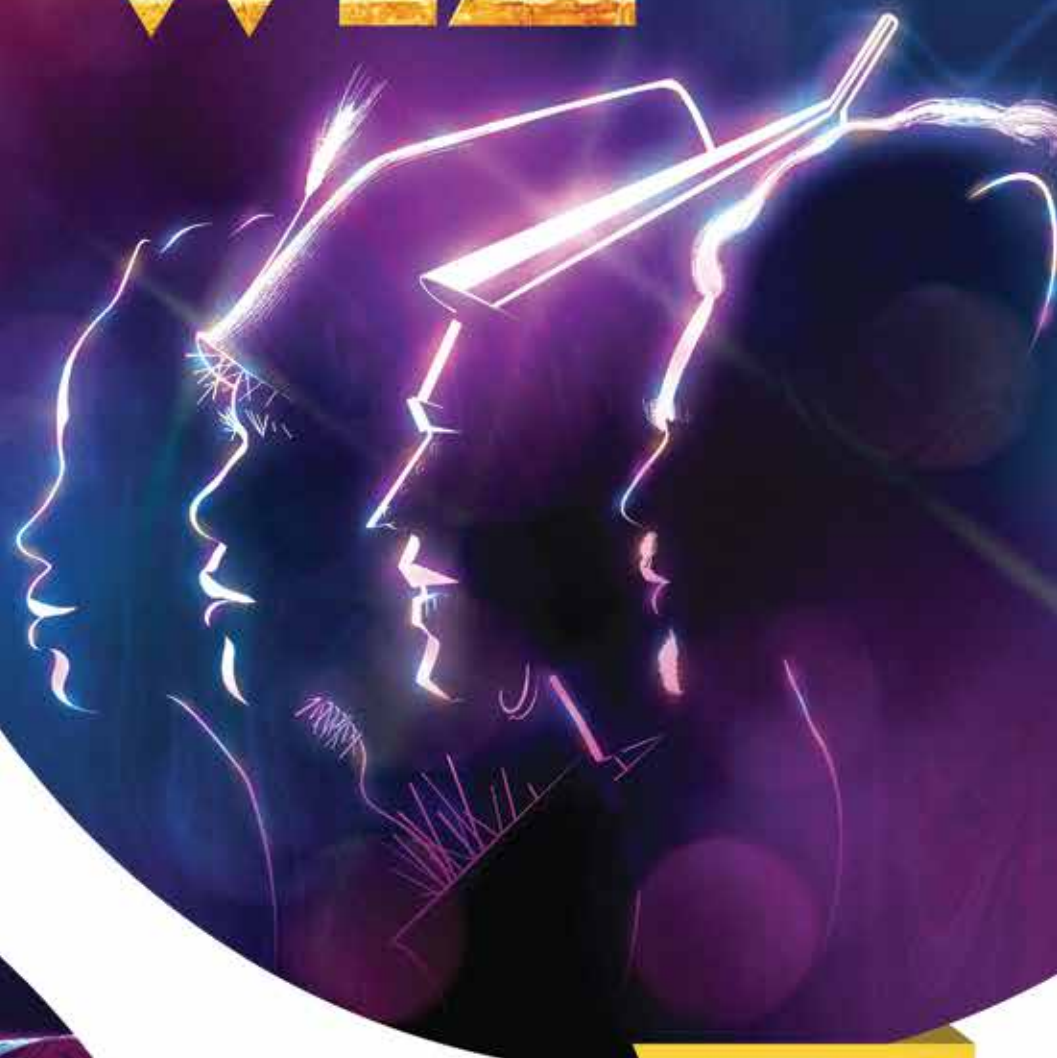
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A Wine and Dine in Liechtenstein

photo and words by Kristy Harris of cavegrrl.com

Personally, there is nothing that makes me feel more free than the opportunity to travel. The ability to pick a place on the map, book a flight, select a hotel, and plan all the wonderful sights and restaurants I'll visit during my trip.



To celebrate the Fourth of July this year (and also as a belated birthday present), my husband and I traveled to The Principality of Liechtenstein (a country who is currently celebrating its 300 Year Anniversary). Liechtenstein is the world's sixth smallest country positioned between Switzerland and Austria. The primary language spoken is German, and its capital is Vaduz. Vaduz is also the location of Schloss Vaduz (Vaduz Castle) and the home of the Prince of Liechtenstein and his family.

The Residence Hotel is also located in Vaduz almost directly below the Prince's Castle, and it's the hotel we chose for our home base as each of the four days of our vacation, we planned to drive into different countries for the day and return to Vaduz at night to stay.

The first day of the trip, we flew into Zurich (Switzerland) from San Francisco on a non-stop flight, rented a car, and drove about 90 minutes to Vaduz. Not only is the Prince's house in Vaduz, but he also has a winery there, and that evening, we walked from our hotel room to the winery, The Hofkellerei of the Prince of Liechtenstein, to attend an all-you-can-eat grill buffet featuring an all-you-can-drink wine tasting.

It was surreal to spend Independence Day at such a magical place. Guests of the event along with my husband Andy and myself were given a welcome toast and seated at tables outside within feet of the rosebush-lined vineyard. We were then dismissed table by table to fill our plate in the buffet line. There were many different items from which to choose: sausages, hamburgers with speck and cheese, steak, fish and shrimp, sauces to dress them, multiple salads, roasted potatoes, breads, and rolls.

I was very excited to taste the wines of


another country besides the United States, Italy, or France. Now it was time for an Austria and Liechtenstein degustation. (Tip: degustation means tasting in German. Put that together with "wein" to say "wein degustation" and you'll be off to having fun and making friends!) At the BBQ they were pouring many wines, but I'll mention one in particular called Zweigelt, because it's Austria's most planted red wine grape, and not widely known in the United States amongst non-wine geeks. The varietal is a cross between Blaufränkisch and St. Laurent, and is described as similar to a Pinot Noir.

I'll also add that the Princely Winery includes this Vaduz location "Herawingert", and Domain Wilfersdorf in Austria (why I noted Austria above). Other wines the locations produce are Zweigelt Rosé (what I drank most of that evening, because rosé all day in summer!), Grüner Veltliner, Riesling, F.L. Classique (sparkling wine), Merlot, Chardonnay, and many more.



For dessert, there were multiple flavors of gelato, cheesecake, Linzer torte, petit fours, macarons, tiramisu. No one left hungry, as after dessert, the chefs brought out more plates of sausages and meats as we all lingered on the patio enjoying the wines and the perfect weather.

I've never been to heaven, but this al fresco wining and dining experience with views of the Princely vineyard and the mountains must have been close. It had only been a month prior that I had found the BBQ event on the Hofkellerei's website and told my husband about it. I couldn't believe I was finally sitting there, and that it was only the first day of our vacation!

The next day would be wine tasting in Switzerland. Until then...prost!





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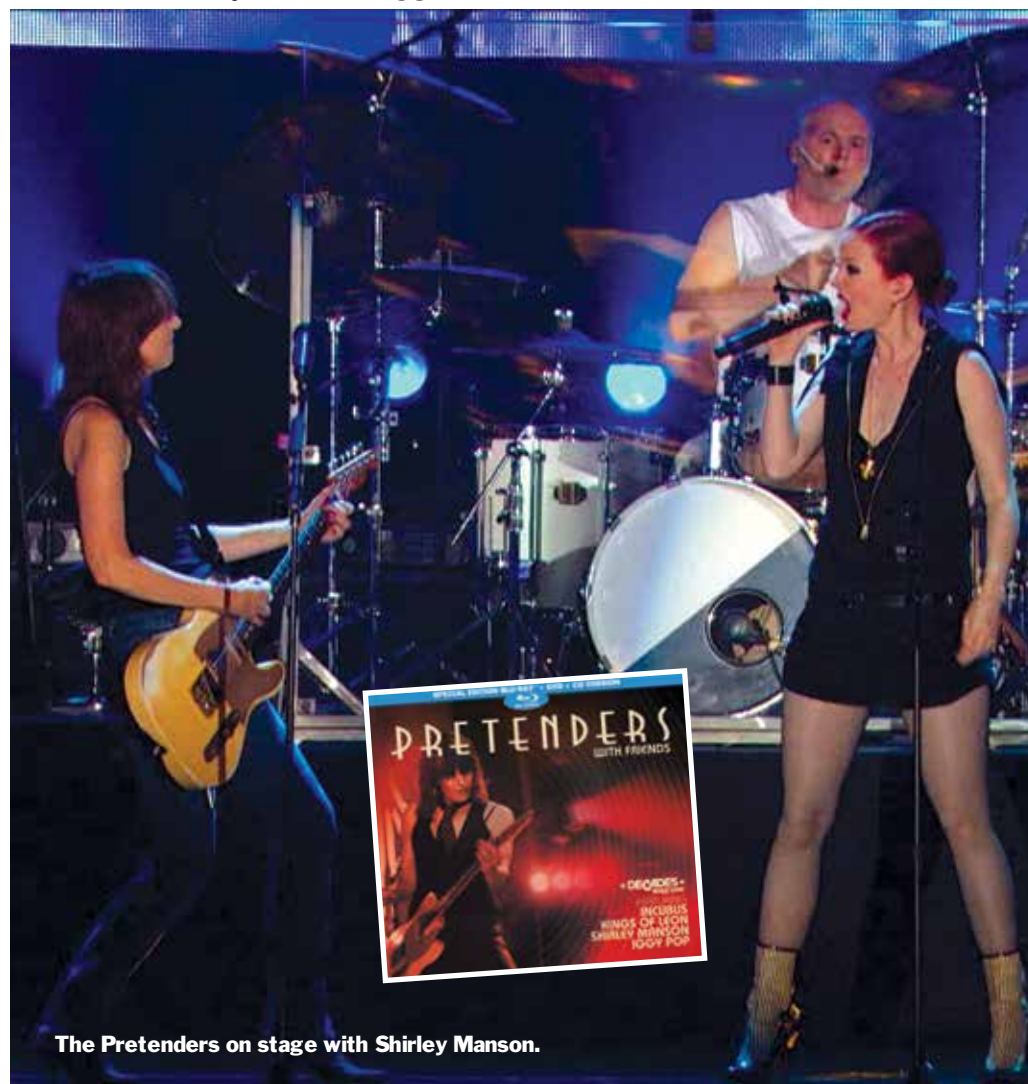


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Chrissie Hynde Is The Great Pretender

by Chris Narloch

Of all the great female rockers from the 20th Century still out on the road – including Bonnie Raitt, Pat Benatar, Joan Jett, and the Wilson sisters of Heart – Chrissie Hynde of The Pretenders may be the biggest bad-ass of them all.



The Pretenders on stage with Shirley Manson.

Hynde is the vocalist and a guitarist for one of the finest indie rock bands of the rock era, and she has a career-capping concert film now available on DVD and Blu-ray that combines her classic hits with a few songs by newer artists she admires, such as Incubus, Shirley Manson (from Garbage) and Kings of Leon.

The concert disc, entitled "Pretenders With Friends," also features Chrissie trading vocals with the one and only Iggy Pop – the legendary punk rocker is now 72 but as spry as ever – who gives the 67-year-old Hynde a run for her money on "Candy."

Hynde is beloved by rock music fans around the world and also by queer fans, who appreciate her ballsy, no-bullshit attitude and her band's classic songs, which run the gamut from political ("Middle of the Road") to sexual ("Brass in Pocket").

The outspoken, no-holds-barred rocker is twice divorced from men but decidedly gay-friendly, and it wasn't hard for me to find a 2006 Billboard interview online in which she said, "Gays saved America."

Hynde went on to explain: "All across America, with gentrification, it was the gay community that had the vision, means, taste, fortitude and determination to carve something out and save what was left of

these cities. No one else got it. They were all out in their condos, out in the suburbs, getting far away from the blacks."

The Pretenders, a post-punk rock band that formed in 1978 at the height of the disco period, lost two original members to drugs along the way but retain their lead singer and main songwriter in Hynde.

I had the good fortune to see Hynde live again, for the first time in many years, at Sacramento's Golden 1 Center, when The Pretenders opened for Stevie Nicks on her solo tour a few years back.

Nicks was terrific too, but Hynde stole the show with a fierce set that took me back to The Pretenders' peak period in the '80s. The rocker is also on fire in "Pretenders With Friends," showing much younger performers like Ms. Manson and the guys from Kings of Leon how it's done.

Even in her late 60s, Hynde is tough and sexy, wearing tight jeans and a little vest in the new concert film, with her dark hair still in her eyes.

"Pretenders With Friends" contains live versions of "Back on the Chain Gang," "Talk of the Town," "Up the Neck," "Message of Love," "Precious," "Mystery Achievement," "Brass in Pocket," "Middle of the Road," and more. The Blu-ray/DVD/CD is out now.

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Recent CDs From Linda Ronstadt Reviewed

by Chris Narloch

Along with Chrissie Hynde of The Pretenders (who is on our cover), Linda Ronstadt was one of my favorite singers when I was in high school. In the '70s and '80s, there was nobody who could touch her for sheer eclectic versatility.



A rare public appearance by Linda Ronstadt, with Emmylou Harris and Dolly Parton, from February 8, 2019

Arguably the most genre-hopping artist in pop music history, Ronstadt has recorded three albums of big band music over the course of her career and also sung opera, country, pop, rock, jazz, and traditional Mexican folk songs.

Sadly, Ronstadt can no longer sing, after being diagnosed with Parkinson's disease in 2012, but we still have her glorious recordings from back in the day, plus three newer releases, of music that was made before she retired.

In early 2014, Rhino Records released "Duets," a fun repackaging of hits recorded over the course of Ronstadt's career with famous folks such as Bette Midler ("Sisters"), James Taylor ("I Think It's Gonna Work Out Fine"), James Ingram ("Somewhere Out There"), Aaron Neville ("All My Life," "Don't Know Much"), and others.

The Complete Trio Collection, a deluxe 3 CD set of the recordings made during sessions for her two country albums with Dolly Parton and Emmylou Harris, is also

essential listening, especially for fans of Ronstadt's country roots.

Released by Rhino Records in late 2016, that gorgeous, sprawling collection includes such classic tracks as "My Dear Companion," "My Blue Tears," "Do I Ever Cross Your Mind," and "After the Gold Rush."

Finally, in February of this year, Rhino put out the terrific "Live In Hollywood," a first-ever official live disc for Ronstadt, featuring a dozen dynamite songs the singer recorded during a 1980 concert, when she was at the height of her popularity.

Listening to "Blue Bayou," "Just One Look," "I Can't Let Go," "It's So Easy," "Hurt So Bad," "Poor Poor Pitiful Me," "You're No Good," "Faithless Love," and "Desperado" again, on "Live In Hollywood," I was reminded once more why I fell in love with Ronstadt in the first place.

Note: Just before we went to print, it was announced that Linda Ronstadt is one of the lucky artists who will be celebrated when the Kennedy Center Honors are handed out later this year.

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Out & About With Matt

by Matthew Burlingame

As August approaches all the stores will soon be putting out Halloween and Christmas decorations months early. While basic bitches will take to social media lamenting about it being too soon and writhing in hellfire over the coming season of pumpkin spice everything the rest of us will use our mindfulness skills to keep on enjoying the summer!

The best way to do this is kicking off a mental health weekend at Outword's Liquid Therapy Monthly Happy Hour at Badlands, 2003 K St. Drink. Come hang with awesome people, dance, get drink specials and win awesome prizes! We'll see you there on August 9!

No one wants bingo unless it's hosted by drag queens these days and the best place for that is at Mango's Sacramento, 1930 K St.

the PFLAG Sacramento Ice Cream Social. I had envisioned poodle skirts and extras from Peggy Sue Got Married but it was a really fun event with many familiar community faces and amazing prizes! Come enjoy root beer floats, fun with friends and local community members on July 28 from 2-4 p.m. at the Elks' Lodge #6, 6446 Riverside Blvd. There will also be entertainment, games, local resources for families and raffle



on August 1 at 7 p.m. This month's Drag Queen Bingo event will be benefiting BENT: Sacramento LGBTQ Film Festival. Rainbowchamber.com

Congratulations to the Christmas in July event which raised over \$3,600 for local shelter animals. Also to CGNIE which disbursed checks to Sunburst Projects and Mustard Seed School Sacramento in honor of their 30th Anniversary.

Sacramento has always had a rich history of art and theater. Over the recent years it has also become home to some of the leaders in the national queer authors scene. The Queer Sacramento Authors Collective (QSAC) will be holding their monthly meeting on July 27 at 2 p.m. at Cafe Dantorels, 2700 24th St. Also join their Summer Milk & Cookies Reading at the Lavender Library, 1414 21st St. on August 30 at 7 p.m. www.qsac.rock

NorCal AIDS Cycle (NCAC) will host their 2019 Check Distribution on August 13 from 5:45-7:45 p.m. at Mulvaney's Building & Loan, 1215 19th St. Meet the beneficiaries, learn about the services and celebrate the momentous efforts of so many amazing individuals that made this amazing event the success it was. A cash bar and food will be available for purchase.

Thinking of being part of next year's NCAC? Come to the 2020 Recruiting Event on August 8 starting at 5 p.m. at Old Soul @ 40 Acres, 3434 Broadway. Talk with riders and crew and find out what it takes to be a part of this amazing annual event!

Last year I had the opportunity to attend

drawings. All proceeds go to PFLAG Sacramento Follansbee-Hansen Youth Scholarships.

While Guys And Dolls plays through July 28 at Broadway At Music Circus, tickets are on sale for The Wiz running August 6-11. The Tony-winning Best Musical retelling of L. Frank Baum's novel The Wizard of Oz, follows Kansas farm girl Dorothy on her fantastical journey through the magical land of Oz. The score by Charlie Smalls, mixes rock, gospel and soul and promises to have the audience jumping to their feet and dancing. broadwaysacramento.com

If ice cream socials and theater aren't your thing, and you're looking for something a bit more adventurous consider coming out to the Bolt Camp Out on August 10. The event starts at 2 a.m. and offers S'mores, music and more. Get there early to... ahem, pitch your tent. The Bolt Bar, 2560 Boxwood St. Sacbolt.com

Happy birthday to Nate Feldman, Charlie Peer, Marc Koenigsberg, Bethany Hidden, Marsha Swayze, Kyle House, Ova D'Rainbow, Stens S Christensen, Brandon Herbert, David Kwong, Dawn Deason, Brian Judd, Bradley Moates, Gayle Pitman, James Corey Wagner, Jason Phillips, Khimberly Marshall. Also belated Anniversary wishes to Nate Feldman and Christopher Parker. And healing wishes to John L. Bryan.

Got events, birthdays, anniversaries, or did something awesome happen to you recently? Need to send thoughts and prayers? Let Matt know at matthew.burlingame@gmail.com. Check out his books at JustKissTheGuy.com

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"Guys and Dolls" & "Shakespeare in Love" on Local Stages

by Chris Narloch

This month I spotlight the latest classic musical to play Broadway At Music Circus, a searing African drama at Celebration Arts, and Green Valley's stage version of an Oscar-winning film.

Guys and Dolls

A high-rolling gambler attempts to woo a strait-laced missionary in this romantic comedy classic. Set in the 1940s in New York City's unsavory Hell's Kitchen neighborhood, gangsters, gamblers and showgirls go for broke in the game of love and marriage.

Considered by many to be the quintessential musical comedy, "Guys and Dolls" is a multiple Tony Award-winning show with an infectious score by Frank Loesser that includes the timeless songs "Luck Be a Lady" and "Sit Down, You're Rockin' the Boat."

A first-rate cast, including Lesli Margherita, Lenny Wolpe, Ron Wisniski, Carlos Lopez, Jerry Gallagher, Edward Watts, Evan Harrington, and Michael Paternostro, stars in "Guys and Dolls," which plays the Wells Fargo Pavilion through July 28 only, courtesy of Broadway At Music Circus. For more information, visit www.broadwaysacramento.com.



The cast of "Shakespeare in Love" courtesy of Green Valley Theatre Company

Shakespeare in Love

The Oscar-winning movie is now a popular stage play, and this production is courtesy of Green Valley Theatre Company, which is currently performing in Roseville.

Young Will Shakespeare has writer's block, until he finds his new muse, Viola, who will stop at nothing to appear in his next play.

Against a bustling background of mistaken identity, ruthless scheming and backstage theatrics, Will's love for Viola quickly blossoms and inspires him to write his greatest masterpiece.

"Shakespeare in Love" performs at the Roseville Tower Theater through August 11. For details, go to www.greenvalleytheatre.com.

Eclipsed

I was lucky to see this powerful play a few years back in New York City when Lupita Nyong'o starred in it, and now it has made its way to Sacramento, at Celebration Arts.

Written by the talented playwright and actress Danai Gurira ("The Walking Dead," "Black Panther"), "Eclipsed" follows the captive wives of a Liberian rebel officer, who draw on reserves of wit, strength and compassion to find their destiny.

The play unearths the wreckage of war and celebrates women who navigate and survive the most hostile of circumstances.

"Eclipsed" is now playing, through August 11. Visit www.celebrationarts.net



Don't miss Tony nominee and quintessential Broadway song-and-dance man Tony Yazbeck, who will bring his acclaimed one-man show, "Both Feet Off the Ground" to Feinstein's at the Nikko in San Francisco for two performances only, this August 16-17. For additional information, visit www.feinsteinssf.com.



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“The Lion King” Roars Again

by Chris Narloch

“The Lion King” roars back on to the big screen this month, in a new CGI-driven incarnation that looks photo-realistic. In addition to that Disney blockbuster, theater screens will be showing a new Quentin Tarantino film, and an indie movie with Awkwafina.



A still from Disney's new movie, “The Lion King”

The Lion King

How many times can Disney go to the well with this beloved property, which has spawned three different animated movies, a truly great stage musical, and now a “live-action” feature film?

Julie Taymor’s fantastic Broadway musical is still my favorite version of the story, by far, but the new movie is worth seeing for its remarkable voice cast and for its interesting look.

To be honest, I had to get used to seeing realistic-looking animals talk and sing in a movie, which has been done before, of course, but never on this scale. CGI has advanced to the point that the new film looks like one of those Disney nature documentaries has been turned in to a musical.

The realism of the scenes involving the hyenas and Scar makes the movie too intense for very small children, and I was disappointed that the musical elements have been mostly downplayed in favor of action scenes this time around.

Still, there is no denying the fact that Beyonce, Seth Rogen, Donald Glover, John Oliver, Chiwetel Ejiofor, Keegan-Michael Key, Alfre Woodard, and especially the great James Earl Jones “kill it” with their voice work. Plus, the film looks amazing.

Once Upon A Time In Hollywood

There was no advance press screening of this title in Sacramento before it opened in theaters, but I will gladly pay to see the new Quentin Tarantino flick, which costars Brad Pitt and Leonardo DiCaprio.

It’s 1969 Los Angeles, where everything is changing, as TV star Rick Dalton (Leonardo DiCaprio) and his longtime stunt double Cliff Booth (Brad Pitt) make their way around an industry they hardly recognize anymore.

The ninth film from the writer-director features a large ensemble cast that includes Margot Robbie, Dakota Fanning, Luke Perry, Al Pacino, Kurt Russell, Bruce Dern, and Lena Dunham, and multiple storylines -- in a tribute to the final moments of Hollywood’s golden age.

“Once Upon A Time In Hollywood” opens wide on July 26.

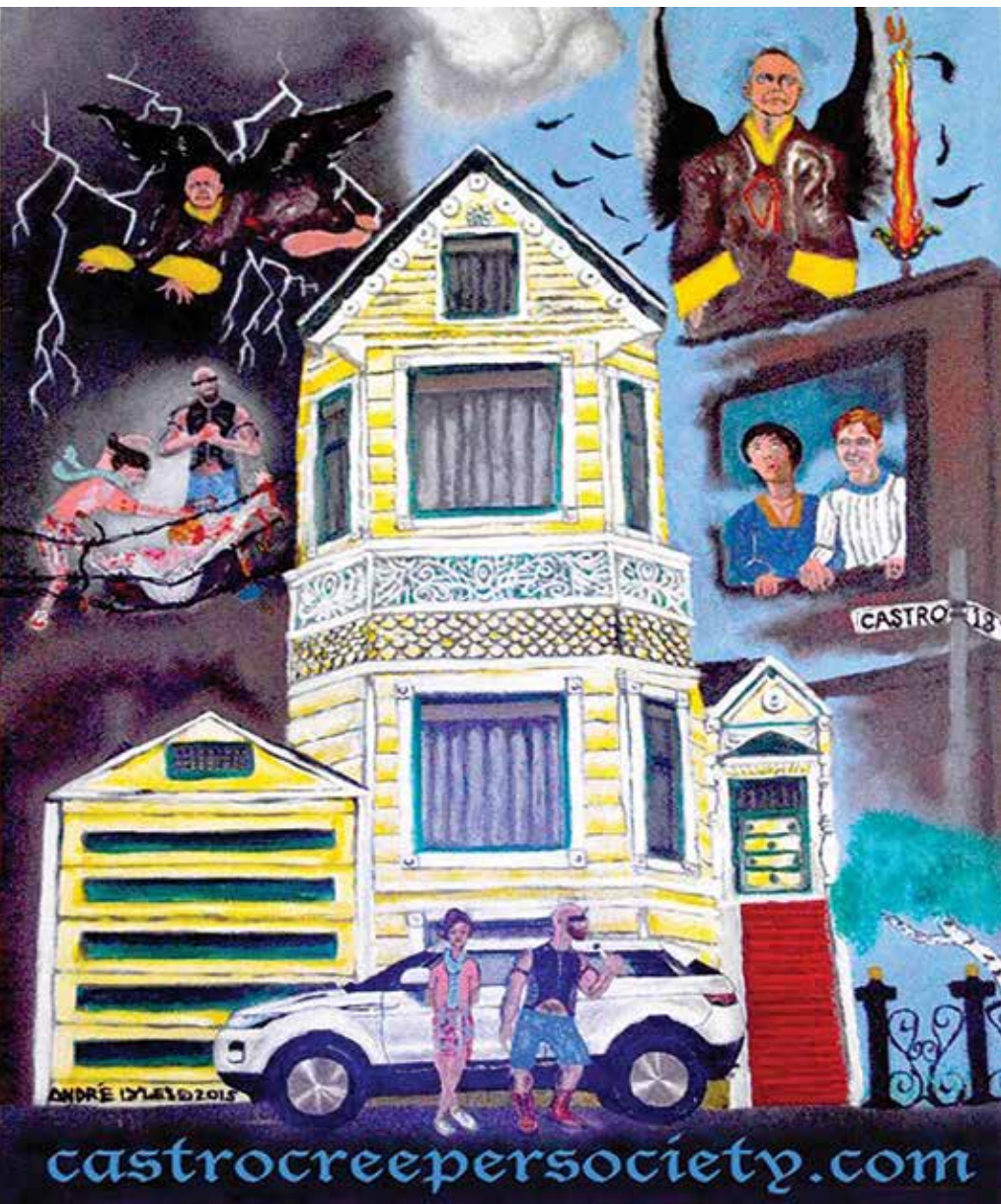


The Farewell

She could have played it safe and signed on for a bunch of crass commercial comedies after her sudden success, so I applaud the talented actress Awkwafina for instead following up her big hit comedy “Crazy Rich Asians” with a much smaller indie drama about death and family.

I haven’t seen “The Farewell” yet, but the film is getting great reviews for its bittersweet story about a family that plans a fake wedding in order to reunite everybody one last time before their grandmother – who does not know she is terminal – dies.

“The Farewell” is currently scheduled to open at Sacramento’s Tower Theatre on July 26.



Laugh Your Head Off At “The Play That Goes Wrong” by Chris Narloch

If theatrical slapstick like “Noises Off” and “One Man, Two Guvnors” is your crazy cup of tea, then get thee to the SHN Golden Gate Theatre in San Francisco between August 13-18, 2019 for the riotous run of the Broadway hit, “The Play That Goes Wrong.”

Backstage bedlam and front-stage frenzy are the order of the day at this hilarious Tony Award-winning comedy co-written by Mischief Theatre company members Henry Lewis, Jonathan Sayer and Henry Shields.

“The Play That Goes Wrong” introduces audiences to the Cornley University Drama Society, who are attempting to put on a 1920s’ murder mystery; but as the title suggests, everything that can go wrong...does, as the accident-prone thespians battle on against all odds to get to their final curtain call.

The Broadway production of “The Play That Goes Wrong” opened at the Lyceum Theatre on April 2, 2017 and by its closing on January 6, 2019, had played 27 previews and 745 performances, making it the 2nd longest running show in the history of the Lyceum Theatre.

Not yet done with New York City, “The Play That Goes Wrong” officially re-opened Off-Broadway on February 20 of this year at New World Stages, where it is still playing.

Awarded the 2015 Olivier Award for Best New Comedy, “The Play That Goes Wrong” is now in its fourth year in the West End, is currently on a 30 week UK tour, and is playing

on six continents. (The producers have avoided Antarctica for fear of a frosty reception.) It is a remarkable rags-to-riches story for a play that started its life at a London fringe venue, with only four paying members of the

public at the first performance. It has gone on to play to an audience of over 2 million people around the world. Tickets for the strictly limited one-week engagement of “The Play That Goes Wrong” can be purchased at www.shnsf.com.



Evan Alexander Smith and Brandon J. Ellis star in “The Play That Goes Wrong.” Photo by Jeremy Daniel

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Out & About

San Diego Pride shared some great photos of their two-day festival with us, from four different photographers - in no particular order: Carlo Toribio (CT), Michael Huete (MH), Vanessa Dubois (VD) and Daniel Knighton (DK). Looks like it was a great time!

San Diego Pride 2019



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VD



VD



VD



MH



DK



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Giveaways tonight will include a gift package with a restaurant gift card and a pair of tickets to Broadway Sacramento at Music Circus' production of, "Hamilton" creator, Lin-Manuel Miranda's "In The Heights"!



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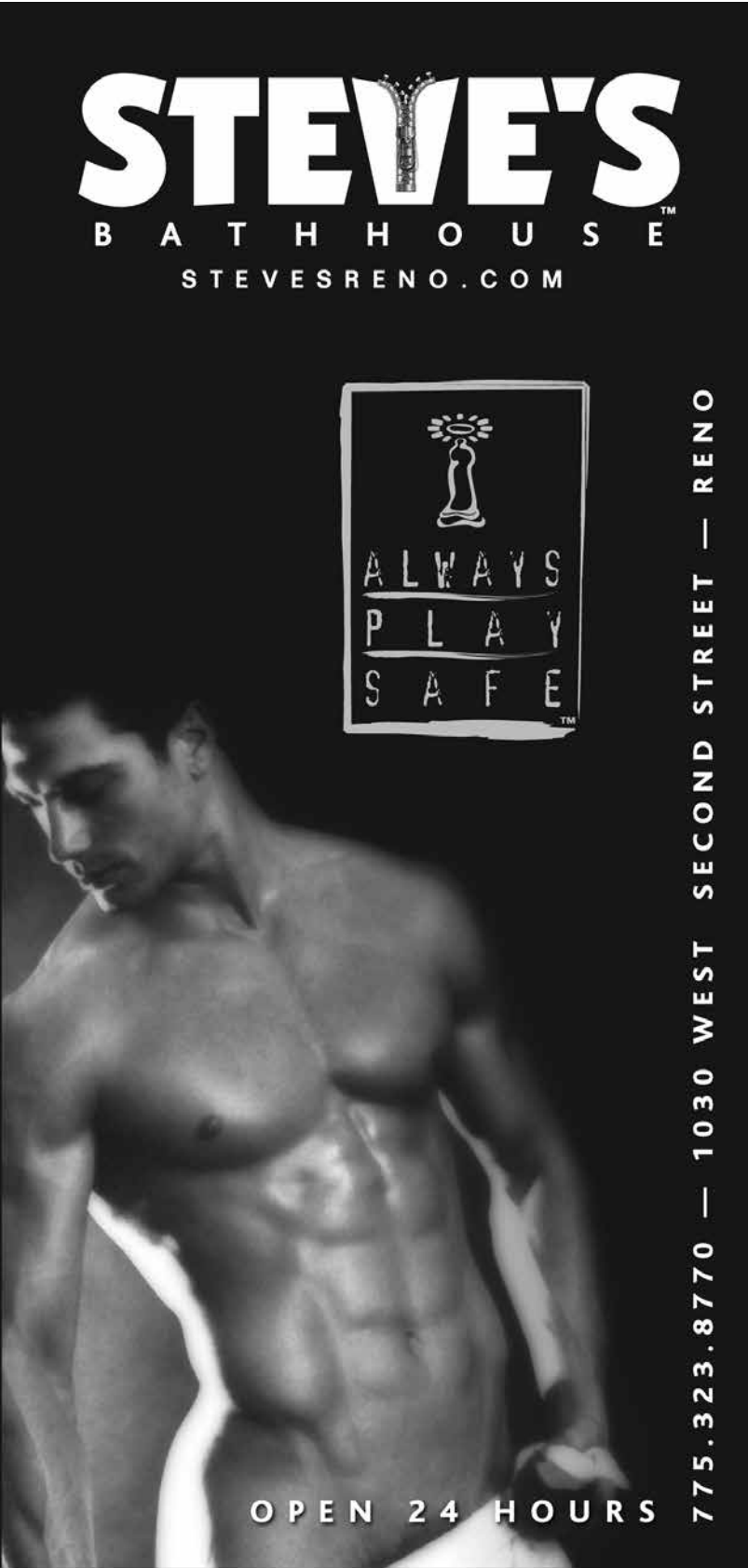
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“Behind the Barre” Returns This August

Capital Dance Project (CDP) is celebrating five years of innovative programming this August with an expanded artist residency program, performances, and Outreach efforts, culminating in the fifth annual production of “Behind the Barre” at the historic Crest Theatre.

CDP, an independent collective of 21 professional ballet dancers, has selected 11 artistic collaborators to participate in “Behind the Barre” this year, and the choreographers and collaborators are all local artists representing Sacramento’s creative and thriving arts scene.

Visual artists Sunya Whitelight, Raphael Delgado, Dan Tran, Karina Johnson, Melissa and Melinda Arendt; digital media artists Brandon Manning, David Stone, Alex Trulijo; and Celtic band Stepping Stone, and bassist and singer Casey Lipka, will work directly with CDP’s resident choreographers to create integrated art installations, newly composed music performed live, and digital landscapes presented on the Crest screen for an impressive multi-media dance performance.

With a mission to uplift the spirit of the Sacramento community through the performing arts, CDP has committed to offering 300 youth from under-served communities free tickets to attend “Behind the Barre.” For many, it will be their first time attending a live performing arts event.

Tickets for “Behind the Barre,” on August 16 & 17 at the Crest, start at \$25 and are available at www.capitaldanceproject.org.

CDP will also present its third annual “Sensory Friendly Dance Program” for individuals with autism to have unprecedented access to dance, at The Sofia on Capitol Avenue, on Sunday, August 18. Tickets for this performance are just \$5 and can be purchased at https://bstreettheatre.org/buy-tickets/?show_id=34113.

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