

# outWord

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# Outword Staff

**PUBLISHER**  
Fred Palmer

**ART DIRECTOR/PRODUCTION**  
Ron Tackitt

**GRAPHIC DESIGN**  
Ron Tackitt

**EDITOR**  
editor@outwordmagazine.com

**ARTS EDITOR**  
Chris Narloch

**SALES**  
Fred Palmer

**CONTRIBUTING WRITERS**  
Chris Allan  
Matthew Burlingame  
Diana Kienle  
Chris Narloch

**PHOTOGRAPHY**  
Charles Peer  
Ron Tackitt

**ON THE COVER**  
Richard and Kenny enjoying the Rainbow Chamber of Commerce's "Boas and Bow Ties" fundraising gala.  
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**DISTRIBUTION**  
Kaye Crawford  
Michael Crawford

## ADVERTISING SALES

**Northern California**  
(916) 329-9280  
Fred Palmer

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## Outword Magazine Inc.

**Office**  
372 Florin Road, #133  
Sacramento, CA 95831

**PHONE: (916) 329-9280**  
**FAX: (916) 498-8445**

**www.outwordmagazine.com**  
**sales@outwordmagazine.com**

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## ACLU Film "Trans in America: Texas Strong" Wins Emmy

**A**t the News & Documentary Emmy Awards, the ACLU's film "Trans in America: Texas Strong" won the award for Outstanding Short Documentary. The film was distributed in partnership with CondeNast.



ACLU staff Molly Kaplan and Chase Strangio are credited as Executive Producers, and former staff Nora Wilkinson coordinating producer. Also named in the award are producers Lindsey Dryden of Little by Little Films and Shaleece Haas, and director Daresha Kyl who gave the acceptance speech. The film was distributed in partnership with CondeNast/them and has over 3 million

views. The film has also won a Webby for Best Video Documentary: Longform and the People's Voice winner in the same category, and was featured at SXSW.

In addition to Chase Strangio and Molly Kaplan, members of our Trans Justice team are engaging with people of faith and people in red states in conversations about discrimination

facing transgender people.

This work goes hand-in-hand with the ACLU's work in the courts, which we often discuss as educating courts on the lives of transgender people. This has been a part of the ACLU's strategy leading up to when our client Aimee Stephens will become the first plaintiff in a case involving the civil rights of transgender people before the Supreme Court.

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# Washington Blade To Celebrate 50Th Anniversary

Washington, D.C....The Washington Blade, the nation's oldest and most acclaimed LGBTQ newspaper, today announced the presentation of awards to two honorees at its 50th Anniversary Gala. The evening will celebrate the pioneering publication, which was founded in the aftermath of the Stonewall rebellion in 1969. The event will be held Friday, Oct. 18 at the Intercontinental Hotel at the Wharf in Washington, D.C.

Among those honored will be philanthropist Ariadne Getty and pioneering journalist Lou Chibbaro, who has covered the LGBT community for over 3 decades at the Washington Blade. Tickets are on sale now at blade50th.com.

"We are thrilled to honor these individuals for their diverse contributions to the LGBT community as we celebrate our 50th birthday," said Kevin Naff, editor. "From journalism to philanthropy, they exemplify everything we strive for at the Blade - to give back in some way to the larger LGBTQ community," concluded Naff.

"I am humbled to be receiving The Washington Blade Lifetime Achievement Award as we recognize and celebrate 50 years of Blade's pioneering, dedicated, accurate and insightful LGBTQ coverage. It is the go-to for readers who seek to be informed on all LGBTQ matters," said Ariadne Getty, President and Executive Director of the Ariadne Getty Foundation.

Lou Chibbaro: "It is truly an honor to be named a local Hero. As a news reporter who has covered local news for many years, my being in the news in a small way like this is new to me. But the work I've been able to

do in covering the news for the Washington Blade for many years has been possible because of the diverse and vibrant LGBT community that's been the subject of our local and national stories. Thus I share this honor with all of you who are part of that community."

Since 1969, the Washington Blade has covered the LGBTQ community of the metro D.C. area, nationally and internationally. Initially a local publication that covered and was a resource to the growing LGBTQ community in Washington, DC, one of several epicenters of the early gay rights movement, it has expanded over the past 5 decades to include coverage of political news and is currently the only LGBTQ source in

the White House press pool and is the only LGBTQ outlet in the White House Correspondents' Association.

The evening will include an entertaining and informative history of LGBTQ rights in D.C. and America as told through the Blade's one-of-a-kind 50-year archive with remarks from Blade publisher Lynne Brown and editor Kevin Naff.

"We look forward to celebrating the Blade's pioneering work and raising a glass to 50 years of progress," said Blade publisher Lynne Brown. "So many Washingtonians played a part in the Blade's growth, it's time we paid tribute to all of them."

"At a time when media, especially LGBTQ media, is challenged by the dizzying array of multiple platforms and ways to access information, The Blade is not only surviving, but thriving, as a respected and reliable source of the news the LGBTQ community is looking for," said Kevin Naff, editor. "The Blade is a go-to publication and site for news, investigative journalism, current and accurate stories for LGBTQ the community, by the LGBTQ community and we are thrilled to celebrate 50 years of service in this historic year," concluded Naff.



## Gender-Neutral Barbie Has Arrived

Mattel, the toy manufacturer of Hot Wheels cars and Barbie dolls, has launched its first line of gender-inclusive dolls designed to encourage more creative play for boys, girls and anyone identifying as both, neither or in-between.

The dolls will retail for about \$30 and are geared toward children ages 6 and older. They consist of a doll with no gender-identifying features and two hairstyle options - long or short - as well as a variety of outfits and accessories.

The Creatable World doll line, which launched this September, is designed to "keep labels out and invite everyone in by giving children the freedom to customize their characters," Mattel said in a statement.

The new dolls can be purchased at major retailers online, including Amazon, Target and Walmart



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# SMUD Partners With The Aerospace Museum Of California To Sponsor The Hubble Space Telescope Exhibit

SMUD announced a partnership with the Aerospace Museum of California and a \$50,000 sponsorship to host NASA's Hubble Space Telescope Exhibit for local students to experience a once-in-a-lifetime STEM education experience. The announcement came as dozens of area leaders, residents and children got a sneak peek of the exhibit as it opened its doors to the public for Fall 2019.



“This is an incredible opportunity to expose students to science, technology, engineering and math in a new and innovative way,” said SMUD CEO and General Manager Arlen Orchard. “Our goal is to help the museum inspire and expose students from all over the region to the expansive possibilities in STEM education and STEM-related careers, so they truly can reach for the stars.”

The exhibit features a scaled replica of NASA's Hubble Space Telescope and includes hands-on, interactive activities that allow students to explore the technology used in space to gaze at distant stars, planets and galaxies. They will also be able to learn about the new James Webb Space Telescope and how it will contribute to our knowledge into the future.

The exhibit will be on display through December 2019 and is expected to draw thousands of visitors.

In partnership with the museum, SMUD's goal is to reach 15,000 students with this STEM education experience, particularly those in

historically underserved communities. A large portion of the grant provides transportation funding for Title 1 schools, as well as FREE participation in the program; teacher membership; and continuing education resources.

“We're excited to host this amazing exhibit in California for the very first time,” stated Executive Director for the Aerospace Museum Tom Jones. “The Hubble Space Telescope exhibit is a perfect complement to our other artifacts that can help tell the story of aerospace from the beginning to well into the future.”

Funding for this project comes from SMUD's Sustainable Communities Initiative that seeks to leverage resources for community partners in order to provide increased access to employment, healthcare, STEM education and more. This is one of many projects that will enhance the Sacramento community.

For more information about SMUD, visit SMUD.org. For more information, visit aerospaceca.org.



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# Bringing a Little Warmth to Our Young LGBTQ+ Siblings

As the days get cooler and October is upon us, it's that time of year again when we all come together for a round of thought provoking and genuine LGBTQ+ films. The Sacramento BENT LGBTQ Film Festival is gearing up for its 28th Season this Oct 11 - 13.

While we gather at the Crest Theater and IMAX theatre during the run of the film Festival, let's remember those in need by donating to the 3rd annual coat drive for LGBTQ+ youth experiencing homelessness. Bent is proud to announce that this year's beneficiary will be the Short-Term Transitional Emergency Program (STEP) - the new LGBTQ+ housing program that The Sacramento LGBT Center just opened up this July - that helps serve LGBTQ+ young adults experiencing homelessness in the greater Sacramento area.

Volunteers from STEP will be on hand to collect coats, gloves, and hats to keep our younger unhoused siblings warm this winter. Coats are a necessity that should be accessible to all of our Sacramento community, and a new or gently used coat would help in this endeavor. This program provides a 24-hour shelter with an average 90-day stay that includes meals, clothing, and case management/housing navigation for transitional aged youth from the ages of 18-24 who have been recipients of a crime/violence.

Youth will receive assistance from a case manager, housing navigator, and advocates to obtain identification documents, access to medical and mental health services, and assistance with navigating next steps in their transition to more permanent housing. As the holidays are fast approaching, it's times like these that we think of family and friends during the holiday season giving to those who are in need is the greatest calling one can do!

**Here is a list of ongoing needs for the shelter: Paper towels, Pinesol, laundry detergent, dryer sheets, toilet paper, hand soap, Clorox wipes, mouth wash, hand sanitizer, deodorant, shampoo, conditioner, windex, hangers and school supplies**

If you would like to donate more in monetary contributions or for more information you can contact the Sacramento LGBT Community Center at 2012 K St, Sacramento, CA 95811 or (916) 442-0185

## Volunteers Needed To Help Kids Read

Local residents age 50 and up are needed this fall to help kids in kindergarten through third grade improve their reading through AARP Experience Corps, managed locally by United Way California Capital Region. To learn more and sign up to volunteer, visit [YourLocalUnitedWay.org/Experience-Corps-Literacy-Program](http://YourLocalUnitedWay.org/Experience-Corps-Literacy-Program)

"Kids who are not reading at grade level by fourth grade are more likely to fall behind in all subjects, including math and science, making them less likely to graduate from high school," said Stephanie Bray, president and CEO, United Way California Capital Region. "This corps of volunteers is essential to ensuring our community's kids are successful."

Volunteers serve at local schools approximately two days per week for two to three hours a day throughout the school year, tutoring and tracking progress for groups of two to three students for the year. Volunteers meet monthly to share best practices and receive literacy and classroom management experience. They receive training to become mentors and role models and to hone their skills to help students reach their reading goals.

Last year, United Way's AARP Experience Corps helped 415 students with reading - 62 percent of those who were reading below grade level improved their reading and literary performance. In 2018, program participant Robla School District reported more students meeting and exceeding

standards in English Language Arts compared to 2017 - the rate of annual increase was three times higher than state and county averages.

"The results are encouraging and worth the work," said Experience Corps volunteer Mary Ann Rider. "I never felt like I was cut out to be a teacher, but I felt prepared by the curriculum I had learned in our training. Plus getting to know the kids is fun. If you're looking for volunteer work, what's more important than helping a child learn to read?"

United Way California Capital Region is one of only seven nonprofits across the country helping to grow Experience Corps, the evidence-based AARP Foundation literacy program that improves the reading skills of children, enriches the lives of volunteer tutors and strengthens schools in local communities.

For nearly 100 years, United Way California Capital Region has brought local people together to make community change

**VOLUNTEERS**

*continues on page 26*  
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# Is PrEP Forgetting the LGBT Community?

by Mark Segal

If you're a member of the LGBT community, you're affected by HIV/AIDS in many ways. And if you needed information related to AIDS/HIV when the crisis emerged, there was only one reliable place that you could turn: your local LGBT newspaper, like this one. At that time, the mainstream media, even "The New York Times" and Philadelphia Inquirer, were derelict in their duties as media sources and journalists. If you needed to know where to receive treatment, what drugs were available to help, and new organizations that were formed to help support the fight, the only place you could find information on a regular, reliable basis was your local LGBT newspaper.

It was also in your local LGBT newspaper that you first read about the new drug called PrEP. The company that developed PrEP knew that among their markets was the LGBT community, so they made sure we received press releases about promising results from the drug during development.

The first marketing campaign benefited the gay community, our community, a community very much affected by HIV/AIDS. But you might have noticed it's no longer this way. These drug companies have a TV strategy now. Have you seen their commercials on FX or other TV channels?

It might not seem important to you that a drug company has decided to leave the LGBT media market and head to the greener pastures of mainstream media, but it is, because LGBT media will be writing about the long-term effects of PrEP, as we did with the first miracle drug, AZT. And it is LGBT media that will write about any new drugs that come along, and new drugs will come because advancements are always being made.

Why am I writing this? As someone who has seen this community grow for 50 years now, I've also watched as corporate America has woken up to how strong a buying market we are. I'm acutely aware of corporate responsibility to give back to communities that support their products, and I applaud the National LGBT Chamber of Commerce for educating us about economic equality. If our community is partially responsible for the success of a product, shouldn't the company support our community? Or, even more logically, shouldn't the company continue to seek people who need the product by advertising in a place that they trust?

A recent study from the Williams Institute points out, thanks to PrEP, there is a sexual revolution going on in our community. Doesn't that mean they have a responsibility to educate our community?

This is a discussion that many LGBT publishers have had in a changing media landscape. Looking back over 50 years of activism, including 44 as a publisher of LGBT media, I'm happy to see banks, communications companies, casinos and real estate companies in our papers. Do you know why we have so many companies in our papers? It's because of your strong voice and loyalty to companies that support our community. Think Absolut Vodka.

While we can easily find what the Swedish vodka company has done for the LGBT community and media for 25 years, especially in support of the HIV/AIDS community, can we say the same for companies who make PrEP or an economic powerhouse like Apple? I think you know the answer.

Maybe in my next 50 years of activism, I'll see an Apple ad in an LGBT newspaper. And maybe PrEP companies will come to the realization that you can't just blare ads on mainstream media and hope that people will pay attention. Our community takes LGBT media seriously because we take our community seriously. Our number one concern is educating the people we serve, something that PrEP companies seem to have, unfortunately, forgotten.

Mark Segal, PGN publisher, is the nation's most-award-winning commentator in LGBT media. You can follow him on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/MarkSegalPGN](https://www.facebook.com/MarkSegalPGN) or Twitter at <https://twitter.com/PhilaGayNews>.

## Friends of Sutter's Fort Present 10th Annual "The Haunted Fort"

Back by popular demand, Friends of Sutter's Fort, in partnership with California State Parks, is proud to present the 10th annual family-friendly experience "The Haunted Fort" on October 19 & 26, 2019, from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. each night.

Amid a dimly-lit backdrop, guests will have the special opportunity to explore the nooks and crannies of Sutter's Fort State Historic Park on their own and at their own pace while interacting with knowledgeable docents in period attire (who will share scary, spooky and sometimes disturbing details of pioneer life in the 1800s). In addition, visitors are encouraged to stroll the storied rooms and weathered courtyards of Sutter's Fort looking for fun Halloween themed hands-on activities that help demonstrate what life was like in the 1800s, including death and survival on the California frontier.

Appropriate for all ages, "The Haunted Fort" tickets are on sale now and cost \$8 per adult and \$5 for youth and children ages 5 to 17 (children under 5 are free). Proceeds from this special event benefit the ongoing efforts of Friends of Sutter's Fort to preserve and protect historic structures and artifacts at Sutter's Fort State Historic Park, and to engage visitors of all ages in meaningful educational experiences that bring history to life.

To purchase advance tickets or to find out more information about "The Haunted Fort" or other events and activities happening at Sutter's Fort SHP, please call 916-442-4966 or visit [www.suttersfort.org](http://www.suttersfort.org).





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# Out & About With Matt

by Matthew Burlingame

Pumpkin season is in full swing! Witches and fairies are everywhere—it's just like a night on Fire Island! It's been a hard summer for many and the welcoming magic of Autumn is in the air! So come out, come out wherever you are and embrace the joy of the new season!

HRC CELEBRATES 31ST ANNUAL

# NATIONAL COMING OUT DAY

HRC.org/ComingOut



Speaking of coming out, October 11 is National Coming Out Day and October 15 is National Latinx AIDS Awareness Day. HIV continues to be a serious threat to the health of Hispanic/Latino communities. Current statistics show Hispanics/Latinos accounted for 26% of new HIV diagnoses in the United States and its territories.

Presented by Northern California Black Hat Society come join the Full Moon Festival on October 12 at the Strad Meadery. Enjoy artisan vendors, tarot readers, speakers, live entertainment, music, raffles, food trucks and of course lots of awesome mead! This free event will also feature speakers and workshops by Carrie Rodriguez, Lisa Ludwig and Michael R. Gorman and Melissa Lockett with entertainment by musician Linda Michelle Hardy and fire dancers!

Can't handle the creatures of the night? No problem! Forget about the ghouls and come hang with us at Outword's Liquid Therapy Happy Hour at Badlands, 2003 K Street on October 11. We'll be kicking off the BENT Film Festival and celebrating Coming Out Day!

We're always told to respect our elders and now is a perfect chance to do just that with the Wisdom Project's first Elder and Youth Round Table. "Stonewall's Legacy Through the Generations" is a free event inviting brunch and conversation on October 12 from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church, 2100 J Street. Outword is proud to sponsor this amazing event. RSVP is requested. Servant-hearts.org

Can't attend the round table? Then make sure to attend the 6th Annual Senior Pride on October 22 from 2 - 5 p.m. and the Hart Senior Center's Redwood Room, 915 27th St. There will be a welcome address by Councilmember Steve Hansen, speakers, Sacramento LGBT history displays, over 30 exhibitors, music by Jazz-ination, light refreshments and door prizes. Servant-hearts.org

The 80s was the best decade for music,

right? Well give or take a decade, you can relive the best of the best on the dance floor at Sidetrax, 2007 K Street. on October 12 during the Decades Dance Party! 70s music at 7 p.m., 80s at 8 p.m. and 90s at 9 p.m. There will be a costume contest for each decade and proceeds will benefit the Rainbow Chamber's Scholarship Fund.

You are invited to learn more about the Sacramento LGBT Center's mission, impact on real people's lives and vision for the future at their Vision of Equality fundraising luncheon. The invitation says free, but bring your checkbooks and prepare to add some zeros as it's a fundraiser for their Get Centered program to kick off the year-end giving season. The event will be at Beatnik Studios, 723 S Street on November 6 from 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

The long awaited Broadway on Tour production of Dear Evan Hansen will be storming into the Memorial Auditorium January 15-26! Season Tickets go on sale October 25. Don't wait! Grab your seats and get those tickets! Broadwaysacramento.com

Bass-baritone Luca Pisaroni and Jonathan Ware on piano will be appearing at the Mondavi Center in Davis on Oct 17. Mondaviarts.org

Happy anniversary to Tom Erickson and James Ozanich, Felicity Diamond and Paul "Rusty Nails" Williams. Deepest condolences to Jason Lindo on the passing of his pup Charlie, and to Rich Jones on the passing of his kitty Punkin'. Our pup Tyson also crossed the rainbow bridge and will be greatly missed.

Happy birthday to Jeffry Davis, Carl Brooks, Keith Johnson, Larry Groves, Richard Munoz More, Jonathan Charron, Arturo Jackson III and those with upcoming birthdays.

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

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# Halloween Festival & Pooch Parade Calls-Out for Kids, Canines and Costumes

Plans are afoot for the Midtown Association to once again present the crowd-favorite Midtown Halloween Festival & Pooch Parade on Saturday, October 26, 2019, from noon to 3 p.m. at Marshall Park (915 27th Street).



Presented by Golden Pacific Bank and the Sutter District – with restaurants that include Barwest, Biba, Blue Cue, Centro Cocina Mexicana, Harlow’s Restaurant & Nightclub, INK Eats & Drinks, Paragary’s Midtown, Red Rabbit Kitchen & Bar, and Tea Bar & Fusion Café – the canine-friendly event is highlighted by the much-anticipated “pooch parade” scheduled to take place at 2 p.m. Four-legged friends will strut by on stage while competing in an entertaining costume contest that will include playful prizes for the winning pooches.

The ever-popular mobile off-leash “Pop-Up Dog Park” will be set-up to encourage canine-friendly communication for pooches 30 pounds or less (due to the structural limits of the fencing). Plus, a variety of free family-friendly activities will be available that include the following: face painting, a jump house, hands-on arts and crafts, and entertaining live music from The Hoots. Also, photo-friendly pet backdrops will be

available along with a fun pop-up portrait board.

Early that day, special and spirited activities will be available at the Midtown Farmers Market that takes place from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on 20th at J Street and extends beyond K Street. Costumes are encouraged and children of all ages are invited to join the fun. Then, many business near J, K and 24th Streets will participate in “Midtown Trick-or-Treat” by providing goodies for children in costume from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. that day.

“All year long, we’re excited to offer an inspired variety of creative and fun events in Midtown that are both family and pet friendly,” said Emily Baime Michaels, Executive Director of the Midtown Association. “And we’re especially thrilled to showcase our four-legged friends for this Halloween Festival & Pooch Parade that is so incredibly popular with the Midtown community.”

# Bobby Berk’s Furniture Line Is Now Available at AllModern.com



Bobby Berk is part of the makeover team in Netflix’s reboot of Queer Eye, now in its fourth successful season. Berk is the resident design expert and shows off his talent each issue with fabulously worked-over spaces that are revealed at the end of each show. Now Berk has a furniture line, with A.R.T. Furniture that is available for you to use in your very own renovation.

The entire collection can be viewed online at AllModern.com, where it is described as fresh, sophisticated and fun. His living room furniture contains “moody hues with touches of warmth.” The dining room furniture is described as “mixed-material magic - which includes the use of cane!” For the bedroom, “cozy and inviting vibes only.”

Viewing the collection reveals a nod to mid-century modern design, but not a slavish use of old design cues. There are clean lines, high quality materials and woods and fun touches that make the

collection stand out.

A standout favorite piece would be the Olafur Modular Sofa. It has a time-tested, clean, chunky design that will look wonderful for years to come, while offering a relaxed, comfortable place to hang out or watch a movie. Prices are in line with other higher end retailers with the Olafur three piece sofa coming in at just under \$2500, on sale, \$3650 normal retail.

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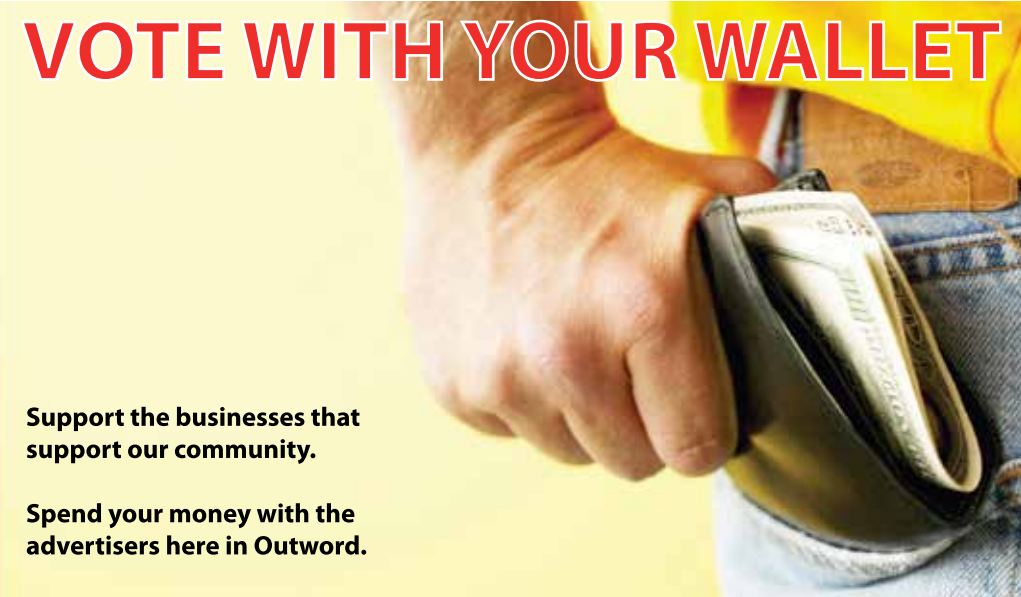
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# Mondavi Center

## PROUD to present >>



### Luca Pisaroni, bass-baritone and Jonathan Ware, piano

THU, OCT 17 | 8PM

Italian bass-baritone Luca Pisaroni, one of the most charismatic and versatile singers performing today, shares his distinct talent with the Mondavi Center audience. Since his debut at age 26 with the Vienna Philharmonic at the Salzburg Festival, led by Nikolaus Harnoncourt, Pisaroni has continued to bring his compelling artistry to the world's leading opera houses, concert halls and festivals. While he originally made his mark with Mozart, he has expanded his repertoire with signature interpretations of works by Beethoven, Schönberg, Rossini, Brahms, Bach and Mendelssohn just to name a few.



### Joshua Bell, violin and Alessio Bax, piano

SAT, NOV 2 | 8PM

With a career spanning more than 30 years as a soloist, chamber musician, recording artist and conductor, Joshua Bell is one of the most celebrated violinists of his era. Alessio Bax is known for combining exceptional lyricism and insight with consummate technique. *Gramophone* raves that Bax is "among the most remarkable young pianists now before the public."

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YSAÏE: Caprice d'apres l'Etude en forme de valse de Saint-Saëns

Full season listing and tickets: [MONDAVIARTS.ORG](http://MONDAVIARTS.ORG)

UCDAVIS

# Scary Movies For Halloween On DVD

by Chris Narloch

I like a good scare when Halloween time rolls around, but I prefer psychological horror and classic suspense movies to "slasher" films. Three fantasy-horror titles were recently released (or rereleased) on Blu-ray and are recommended below.

## Pan's Labyrinth

One of my favorite films by the great director Guillermo del Toro, 2006's "Pan's Labyrinth" is now available on Ultra HD Blu-ray from Warner Bros. Home Entertainment. A very dark fairy tale that won three Academy Awards, the movie follows a young girl who escapes her violent surroundings armed with only her brilliant imagination.



## Midsommar

If you enjoyed director Ari Aster's "Hereditary," which starred Toni Collette, last year, you'll want to see the director's latest blast of horror, which is now available on DVD and Blu-ray from Lionsgate. Florence Pugh is terrific as a woman who joins her boyfriend and his friends on holiday after a family tragedy. Our heroine finds even more tragedy while on vacation, after the group travels to a remote (and very strange) Swedish village for a midsummer festival. Definitely not for everyone, "Midsommar" is extremely violent and very disturbing.



Florence Pugh stars in "Midsommar"

## The Witches

The late great British director Nicolas Roeg, who died last year, made this terrific fantasy film with executive producer Jim Henson in 1990. A great Angelica Huston stars as The Grand High Witch in this tale of a boy turned mouse that must keep a secret coven of witches from taking over the world. The movie is available on a new HD Blu-ray at: [www.wbshop.com/warnerarchive](http://www.wbshop.com/warnerarchive).



# Having a Ball in Walla Walla!

words by Diana Kienle, images by Cathy Schwamberger

Recently, I had the pleasure to explore the exciting wine region of Walla Walla, Washington. This is an area that is literally exploding with new wineries and delivering great wine to please all. In just three days, we visited and sampled the wines of 11 different wineries.



Walla Walla is located in the South Eastern corner of Washington, east of the Cascades about 200 miles. The region is literally “high desert” (elevation about 1000 feet) as the Cascades form a rain shadow for the area. Rivers are the main source of water. Walla Walla has long been known as one of the most fertile agricultural areas in the nation, producing such crops as wheat, asparagus, strawberries and the famous Walla Walla Sweet Onions. The growing, shining star today though is the wine business.

So, what about the wine? Cabernet and Merlot are the leading red varietals and also gaining great attention for stunning Syrah. Chardonnay and Riesling are the leading white varietals of the area. The quality is compelling with many of the producers. It is a relatively young region yet many quality wines come out of the area. Wineries such as Cayuse, Leonetti, Doubleback, Force Majeure and Gramercy all call this area home.

Another key to these wines is price. I brought home well crafted, finely structured and luscious cabernet and red blends for less than \$75 a bottle. For highly rated wines,

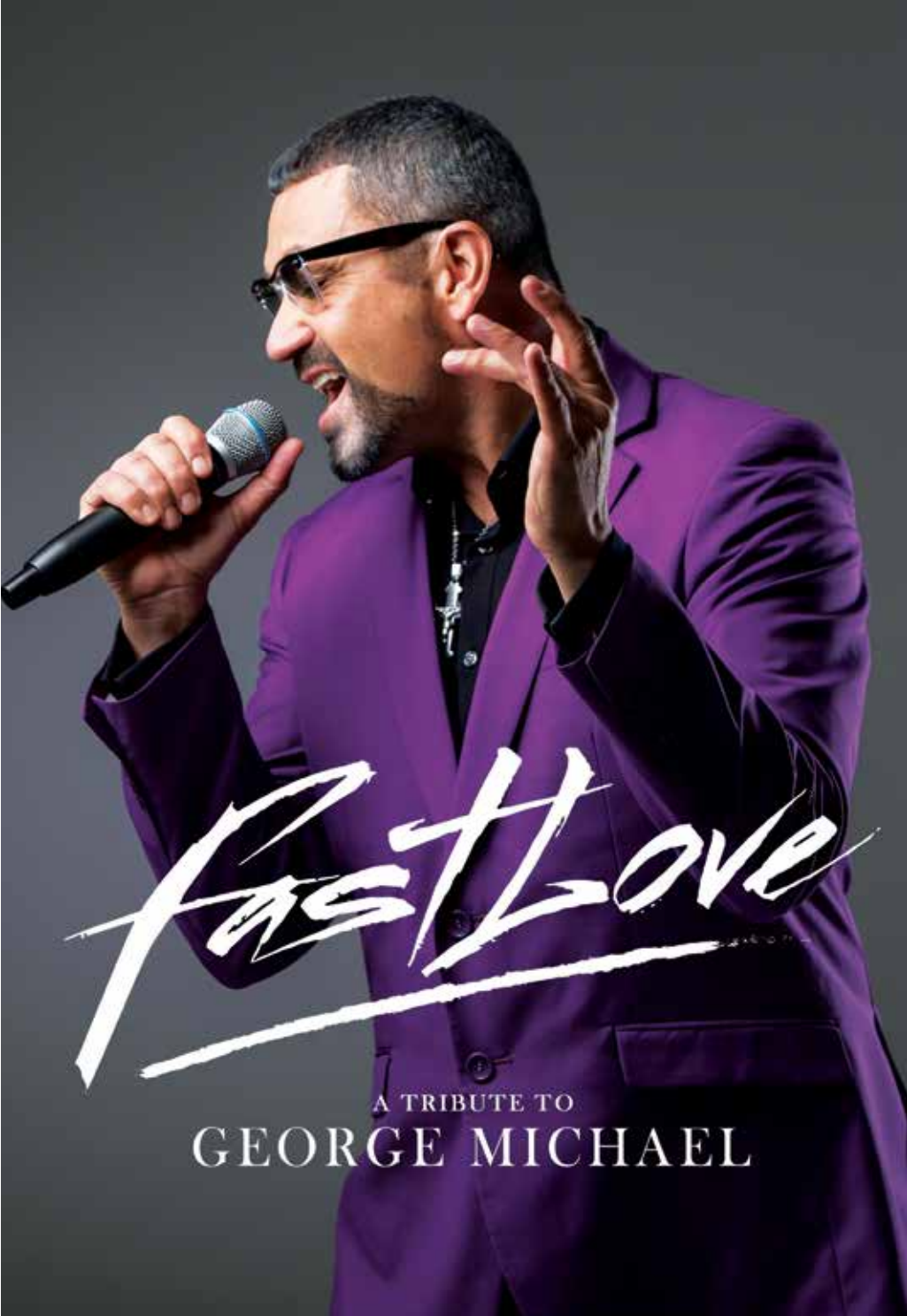
these prices are what I call a deal. For example, Abeja is another outstanding winery that calls Walla Walla home. Their 2016 Cabernet for me, was a real stunner. It was aromatic with loads of dark black fruit, smooth and supple on the palate for only \$60. The wine garnered a rating of 94 points by Wine Spectator and it clearly stood out in our tasting line up.

Other notable stops on our visit included Force Majeure, K Vintners, Corliss, Mark Ryan, and Walla Walla Vintners. Each visit presented a great introduction to the winery and a full experience of their wines. Be prepared, a visit to the city will keep you busy. There are over 140 Wineries, tasting rooms and wine bars in Walla Walla. In the Downtown alone, there are almost 30 different tasting rooms (all within walking distance of each other) that will welcome you to come in and taste through their portfolio. The other aspect worth mentioning is the price for tastings themselves. It is modest relative to Napa Valley and each one will give you the full experience of the wineries’ offering. Sound like a great place to visit? I think so!

Enjoy!



# GREAT SHOWS. UP CLOSE. IN FOLSOM!



A respectful and moving tribute to the late, great George Michael. Featuring all the greatest hits, from George’s solo career to the classic Wham numbers, including “Careless Whisper,” “Outside,” “One More Try,” “I’m Your Man!,” “Wake Me Up” and many more. It’s a musical journey from the moving “Jesus To A Child” to the celebration of “Don’t Let The Sun Go Down On Me”: the dancers are electric, the live band catches fire, and in the end, a great vocalist is fondly remembered.

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## Scare Up Some Ghostly Fun In Old Sac

In addition to Underground Tours offered throughout the year, Old Sac presents Ghost Tours in October that tell historic true macabre tales from the late 19th century.



While not paranormal in nature, the tours offer real stories of villainy, treachery, and murder ripped from Sacramento headlines of more than 150 years ago.

The tours take place in the Sacramento History Museum and the California State Park directly in front of the Museum and are a production of the Old Sacramento Living History Program, with generous help from California State Parks and the Sacramento History Museum.

Sacramento History Museum Ghost Tours are offered six times nightly on Friday and Saturday evenings, through Oct. 26.

Admission is \$18 per person, and Ghost Tours are not recommended for children younger than 8.

Reservations are recommended since tours are limited and do sell out. For more information, visit [www.sachistorymuseum.org](http://www.sachistorymuseum.org).

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# “Evil Dead The Musical” Comes Alive In Folsom

If you're in the mood for some good trashy fun this Halloween season, check out the blood-splattered spoof “Evil Dead The Musical,” now in its ninth year at Folsom’s Sutter Street Theatre.

“Evil Dead The Musical” takes all the elements of the cult classic films “The Evil Dead,” “Evil Dead 2,” and “Army of Darkness” and combines them for one of the craziest, funniest, and bloodiest theatrical experiences of all time.

Five college students go to an abandoned cabin in the woods and accidentally unleash an evil force that turns them all into demons. It's all up to Ash (a housewares employee, turned demon-killing hero) and his trusty chainsaw to save the day.

Blood flies. Limbs are dismembered. Demons tell bad jokes...and all to music. You don't need to be a fan of the “Evil Dead” movies to love this show. You don't need to be a fan of horror to love this show. You don't even need to be a fan of musicals to love this show.

As long as you like having fun, this show is for you. Plus, it's the only play with a “splatter zone” – a section of the audience that gets covered in fake blood.

“Evil Dead The Musical” is intended for mature audiences only and plays through Nov. 2, 2019. Get your tickets before they sell out, at [www.sutterstreettheatre.com](http://www.sutterstreettheatre.com).



The 2018 production of “Evil Dead The Musical” at Sutter Street Theatre in Folsom. Photographer: Allen Schmeltz





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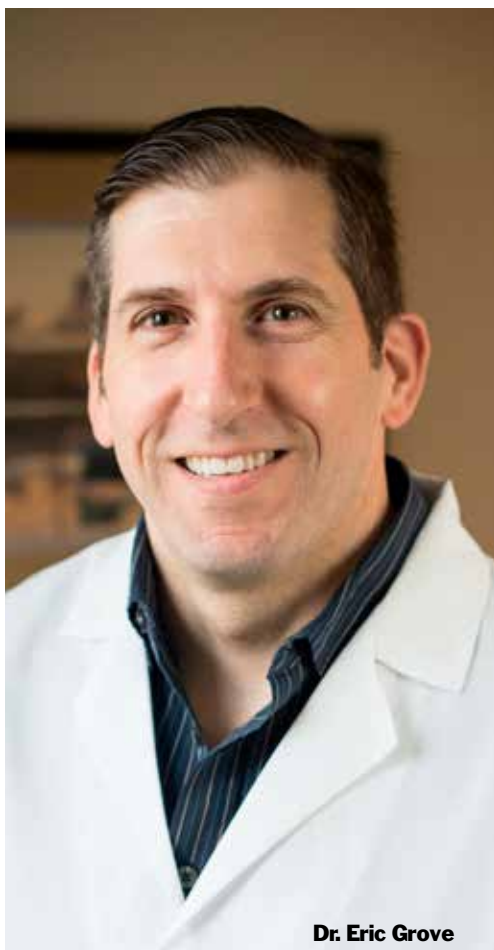
# SACBEN Spotlight

## Dr. Eric Grove, Dentist

Dr. Eric Grove is a dentist that brings a unique background and outlook to his profession. He started his career as an educator, teaching secondary science and among other subjects. While working in North Carolina he volunteered at a free dental clinic and discovered a new way to help people. Encouraged by the dentists that worked the clinic, he applied to Loma Linda University. He earned his DDS degree in 2009. Originally from northern California, he is happy to be back and practicing dentistry close to his home.

Dr. Grove joined the practice of Dr. Kendall Homer in 2012 and took over the practice in 2015. Dr. Homer continues to practice and they both share the pleasure of treating both long-time patients and new patients alike. Both doctors and staff are committed to providing great care in a warm and friendly environment.

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## J. Lo & The Joker On The Big Screen Plus “Downton Abbey” & “Ad Astra”

by Chris Narloch

It's only October, and the Oscar drums are already beginning to beat for Jennifer Lopez and Joaquin Phoenix. You can read reviews of their new films below, plus get my thoughts on “Ad Astra” and the “Downton Abbey” movie.

### Joker

After all of the pre-release publicity – much of it negative – that this movie has received from people who haven't even seen the film, it will be interesting to learn how audiences react once they actually watch “Joker.”

The movie will no doubt be polarizing, and I admit to having conflicting feelings about it myself, but I am glad it was made. (I also applaud Warner Bros. for releasing it rather than caving to pressure to shelve or censor the film.)

As with “Hustlers” (reviewed below), “Joker” is a flawed showcase for a monumental performance by an actor firing on all cylinders -- namely Joaquin Phoenix, who surprises me over and over again with the depth and commitment of his acting in almost every film he makes.

“Joker” is a cleverly written origin story for the villainous character from “Batman,” and if you thought Heath Ledger's take on the role was disturbing in Chris Nolan's “The Dark Knight,” well, that was a day at Disneyland compared to the new Joker.

Phoenix plays a loner who lives with his aged mother and gets fired



Joaquin Phoenix plays the title character in “Joker.”

from his job as a clown only to reinvent himself as an urban vigilante, after he is repeatedly bullied and beaten, first on the street and then on the subway.

Director Todd Phillips and his lead actor give the film (and its anti-hero) such a realistic look and feel that viewers may have a tough time shaking off the violence in the movie, which is far more disturbing than anything in previous comic book-inspired films.

The shallow action of most

superhero cinema is replaced with true psychological horror in “Joker,” and essentially what we are watching is the disintegration of a human soul as a man slowly turns in to a homicidal maniac.

As a reviewer, I see far too many movies that are formulaic and forgettable, but watching “Joker,” which is the furthest thing from an entertaining “popcorn movie” that I can think of, was a startling and memorable experience for this jaded movie critic.



Constance Wu and Jennifer Lopez star in “Hustlers.”

### Hustlers

Who will be the next actor to strip down on screen? First it was Channing Tatum, who showed off his beautiful body in not one but two “Magic Mike” stripper movies. Now, it's J. Lo's turn to strap on a g-string and display that plentiful posterior of hers.

“Hustlers” is based on a true story, and I wanted to like it, but

the movie's writer/director (Lorene Scafaria) at first sympathizes with her heroines – strippers who turn the tables on soulless Wall Street businessmen – and then pulls the rug out from under the audience to depict the women as equally corrupt.

The film may have a conflicted soul, but Lopez, who plays the

mastermind of the big con, is sensational. “Hustlers” is J. Lo's best work on film since “Out of Sight” and “Selena,” which were made more than twenty years ago, and her first scene in the new movie (which involves a stripper pole and very little clothing) is unbelievably sexy.

**BIG SCREEN**  
continues on nexts page  
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Rob James-Collier plays Thomas, the gay butler, in “Downton Abbey.”

### Downton Abbey

For fans of PBS’ “Downton Abbey,” the opportunity to see the show’s beloved characters – and the great, mostly British actors who play them – on a big screen amounts to sweet cinematic comfort food. The new movie is set two years after the TV show wrapped and concerns a visit by the King and Queen to the Crawley family’s estate in the Yorkshire countryside. Nothing

earth shattering happens, but those who loved the original – as I did – will get drunk on the familiar Merchant Ivory-ness of it all. I especially enjoyed the intriguing queer subplot involving Thomas, the gay butler played by the beautiful Rob James-Collier, and the great Maggie Smith is in fine form, as always, as the hilariously snarky Countess.

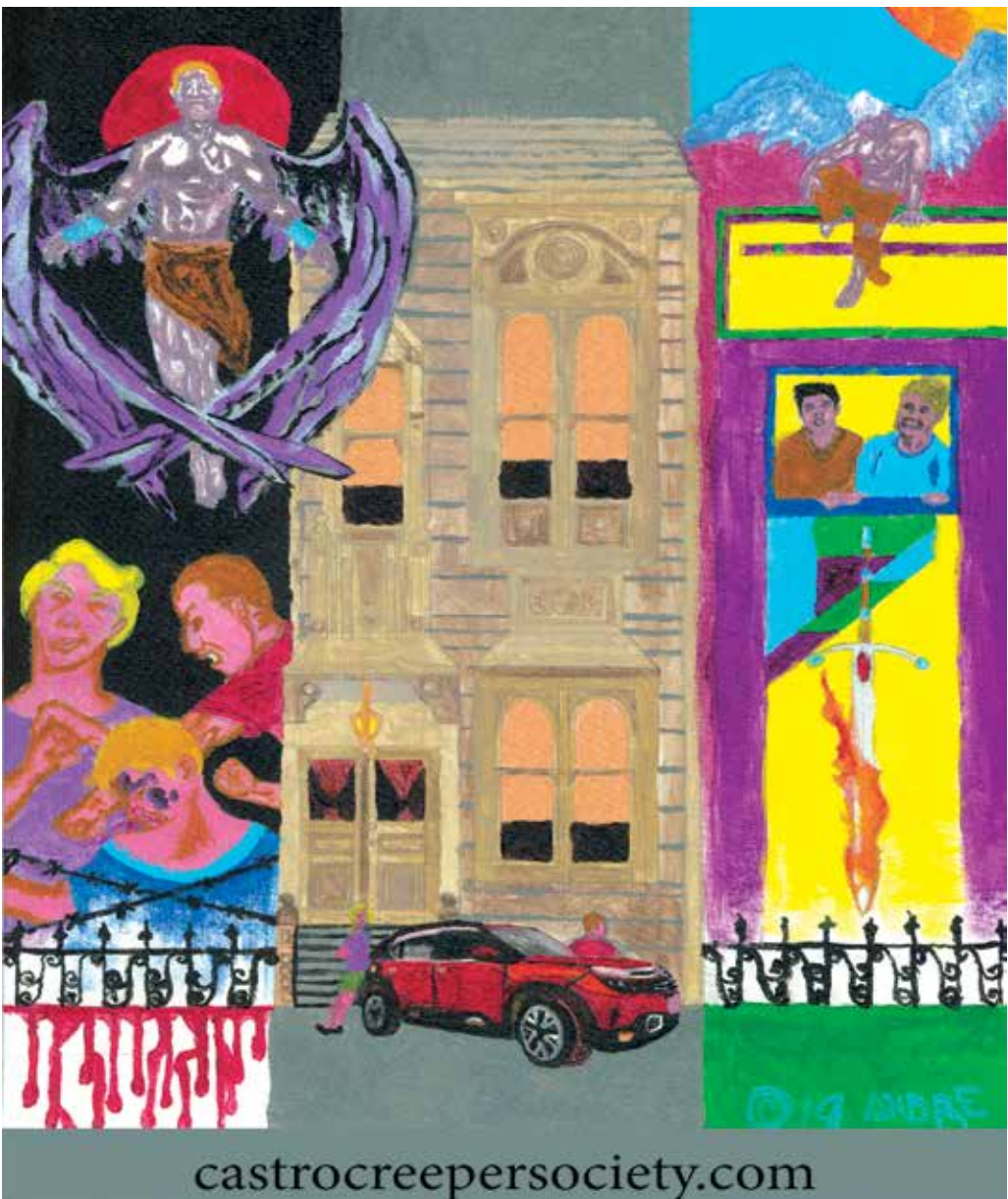
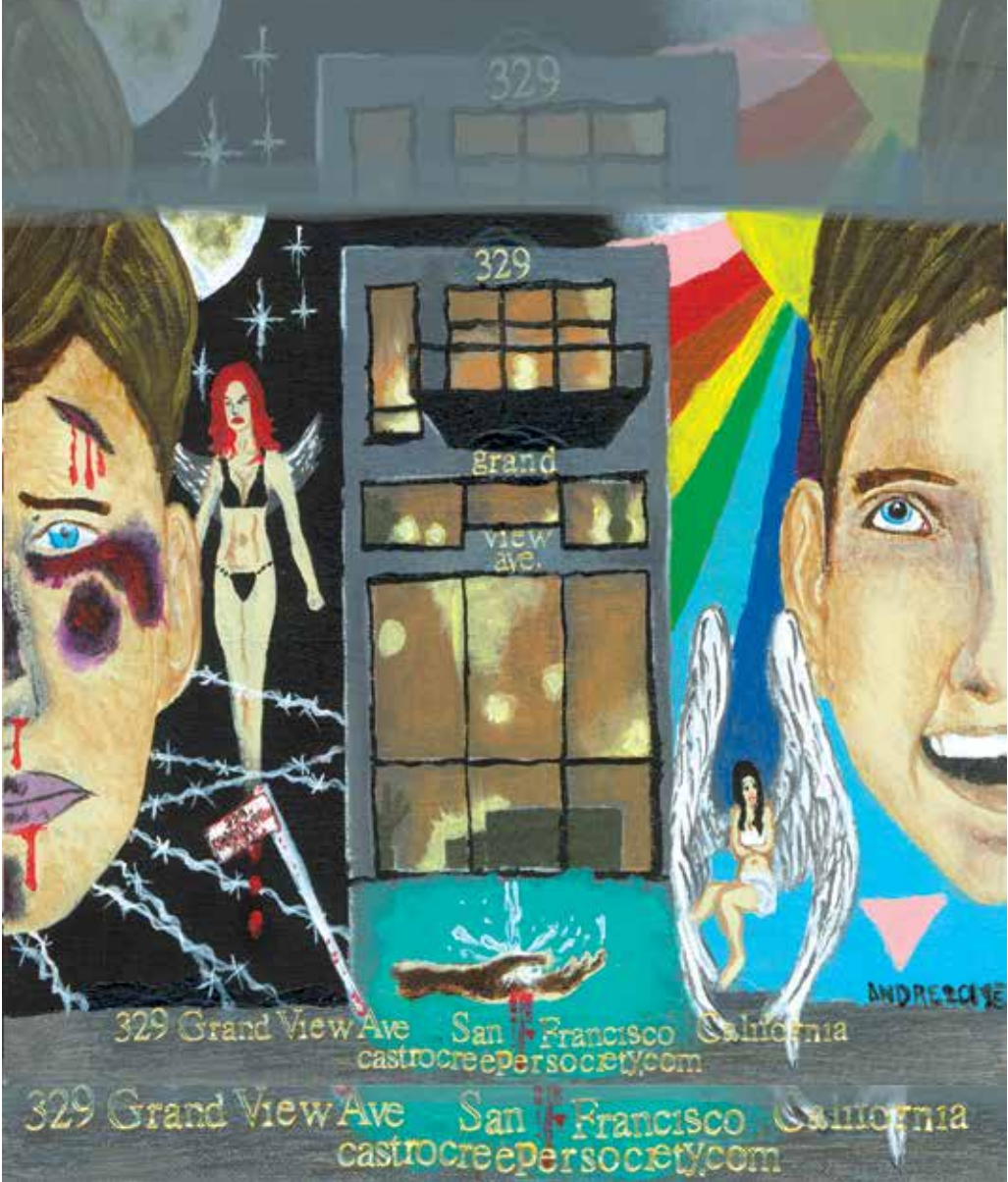


Brad Pitt stars in the cerebral sci-fi film, “Ad Astra.”

### Ad Astra

Brad Pitt can do no wrong in this critic’s book, and the handsome actor is on a roll this year thanks to back-to-back work with two of the finest American directors working today. This summer’s “Once Upon A Time... In Hollywood,” directed by Quentin Tarantino, gave Pitt the opportunity to kick some Manson family butt, and now in James Gray’s “Ad Astra,” beautiful Brad travels to outer space to find his

father, a fellow astronaut who disappeared while on a top-secret mission. Pitt’s character does a great deal of solitary soul-searching in “Ad Astra,” and the movie won’t be everyone’s cup of tea, with its long, hypnotic scenes and slower pace. I liked it, but the film is cerebral sci-fi and closer to moody movies such as “2001: A Space Odyssey” and “Blade Runner” than to fantasy sci-fi like “Star Wars.”





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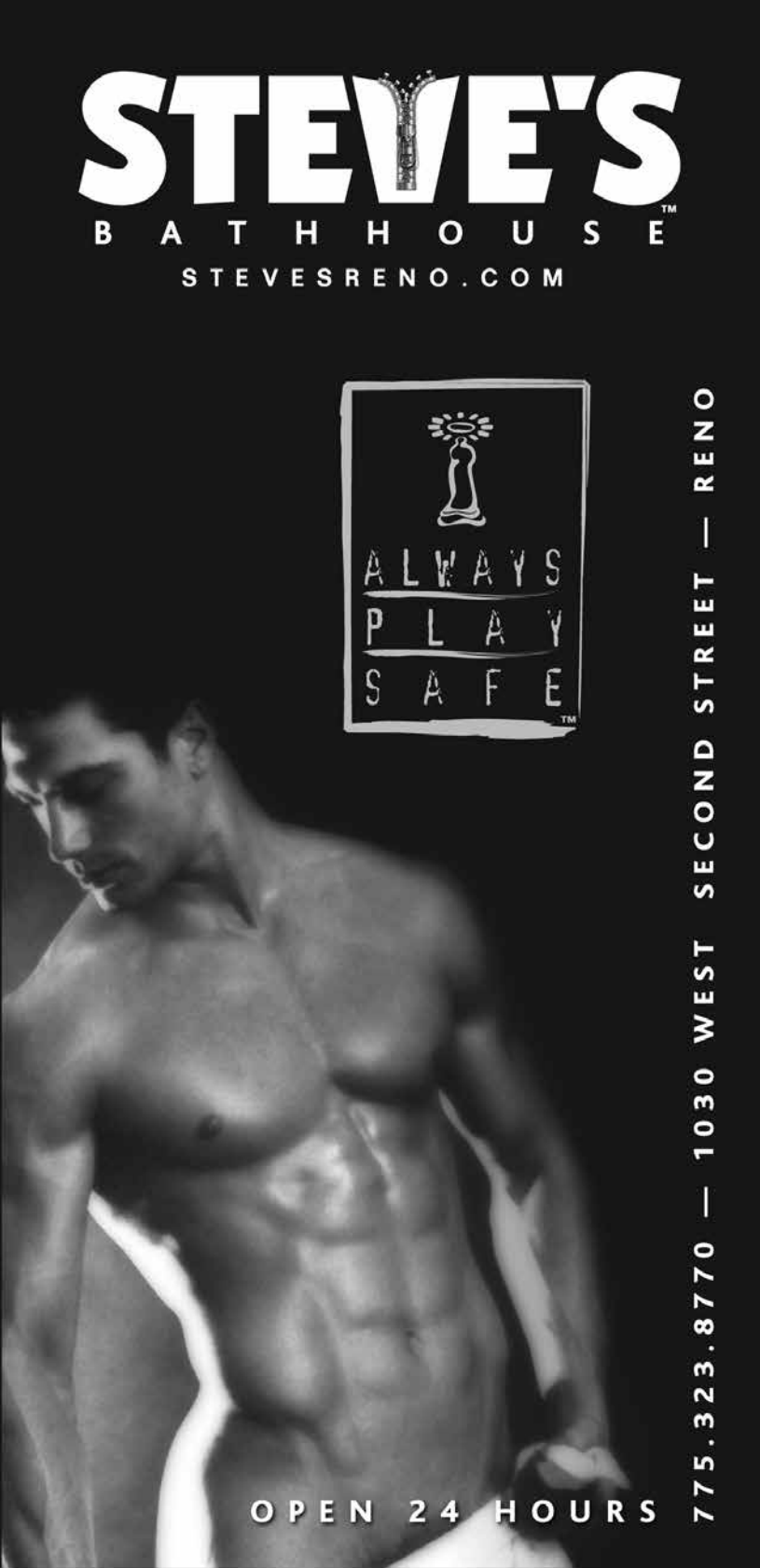
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*continued from page 8*

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