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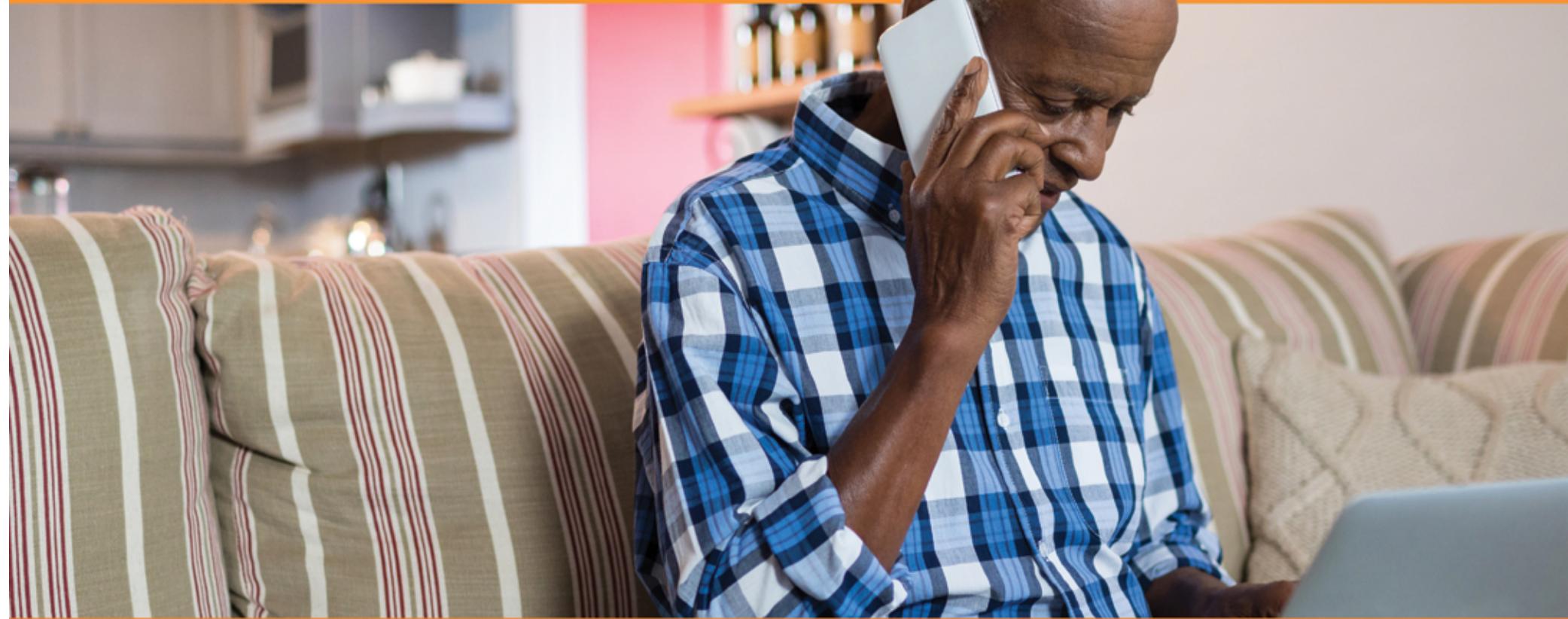
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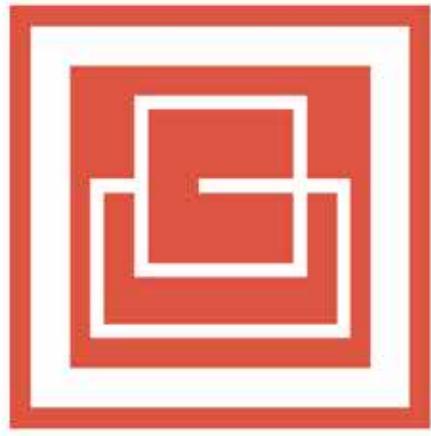
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In partnership with local chambers, the Sacramento Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce launched a Rapid Response web resource and a Rapid Response Business Triage Hotline. These tools are a collaborative effort between local chambers to provide a go-to place for businesses impacted by COVID-19 to navigate the local, state, and federal resources available to them.

FIND HELP AT: rapidresponse.metrochamber.org

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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
Faith Colburn
Diana Kienle
Chris Narloch
Lauren Pulido

PHOTOGRAPHY
Chris Allan
Charles Peer
Ron Tackitt

ON THE COVER

David Yost, the original Blue Power Ranger, doing his part to help control COVID-19.

DISTRIBUTION
Kaye Crawford
Michael Crawford

ADVERTISING SALES

Northern California
(916) 329-9280
Fred Palmer

National Advertising Representative
Rivendell Media
(212) 242-6863



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

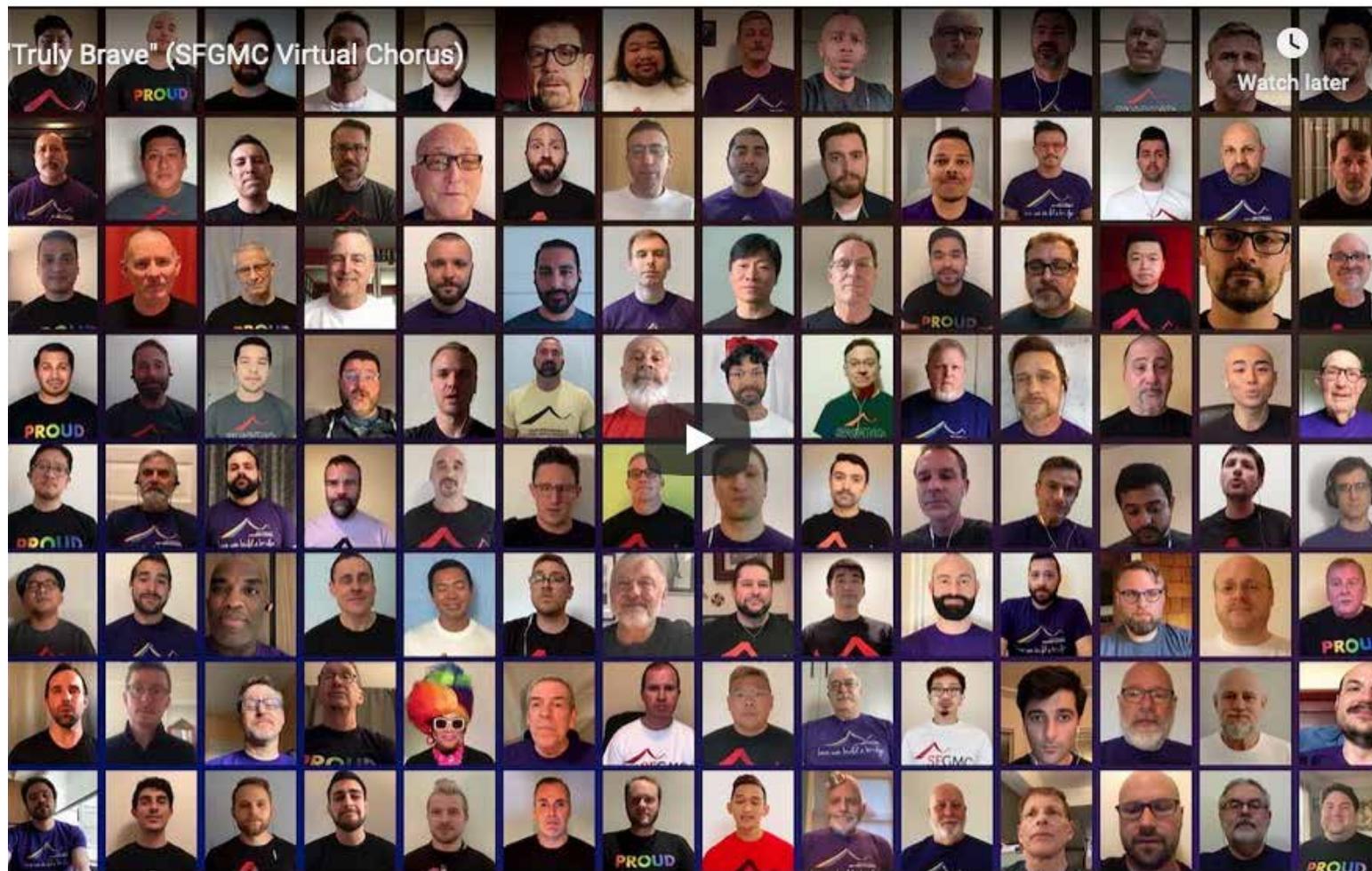
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Sacramento Rainbow Chamber of Commerce



San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus Launches "SFGMC TV" With Their First-Ever Virtual Choral Video

Today, San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus (SFGMC) Artistic Director Dr. Timothy Seelig and Executive Director Chris Verdugo announced the launch of SFGMC TV, a free online platform showcasing exciting performances, dynamic interviews, singer spotlights, and more.



The first-ever virtual choral video from the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus.

SFGMC TV will allow supporters to stay connected with the Chorus during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and beyond by offering content previously scheduled at the National LGBTQ Center for the Arts in a digital format. SFGMC TV is live now on sfgmc.org/sfgmctv.

SFGMC TV debuts with a video of "Truly Brave," dedicated to first responders and medical professionals working to fight the COVID-19 pandemic around the globe. This performance marks the first-ever virtually recorded piece in SFGMC history and features more than 150 members of the chorus.

SFGMC TV will feature four main channels: *Behind the Curtain*, *In Concert*, *Out in the Community*, and *Inside the Chorus*. *Behind the Curtain* is a continuation of the popular series previously held at the National LGBTQ Center for the Arts, offering interviews with notable performers and icons, including Andrew Lipka, Kristin Chenoweth, Stephen Schwartz, and Chasten Buttigieg. The online version debuts with two episodes, featuring Seelig and Verdugo in conversation with Broadway legend and Tony Award-winning actress Laura Benanti as well as Grammy, Emmy, and Tony Award-winning singer, actor, writer, and director Billy Porter. The *In Concert* channel will offer a

wide range of performances and concert footage; *Out in the Community* will feature educational content such as instructional videos from Seelig and curriculum from the RHYTHM (Reaching Youth Through Music) program; and *Inside the Chorus* features a behind-the-scenes look into the Chorus and its members.

"SFGMC thrives on connection, both within the Chorus during our rehearsal process and with our broader community through performance," said Seelig. "We are thrilled to provide a platform to connect us all digitally for the time being and beyond. We just couldn't go another moment without putting our music and activism out there for people to enjoy!"

Adds Verdugo: "In these challenging times, we choose to create and innovate with new programming to fulfill our mission and support our community at home and around the world. We hope SFGMC TV serves as a link to the artistry and creativity of the Chorus, special guest artists, individual singers, and student outreach programs, and help sustain our audience with joy, songs, and the strength of our ever-growing community."

New content will be posted every week and shared across SFGMC's social media platforms. For additional information and ongoing updates, visit www.sfgmc.org.

About SFGMC

Founded in 1978, SFGMC sparked a nationwide LGBTQ choral movement after its first public performance at a vigil on the steps of City Hall following the assassinations of Supervisor Harvey Milk and Mayor George Moscone. Since then SFGMC has been embedded in the fabric of San Francisco. It has soothed souls in pain, lifted spirits in triumph, and has remained a steadfast beacon of hope.

Under the leadership of Artistic Director Dr. Timothy Seelig, SFGMC has established a heightened level of performance standards bringing renewed audience and choral industry acclaim. Recent touring schedules, recordings, and outreach programs have broadened its impact and reputation in the community while maintaining its signature blend of humor, personality and ground-breaking performances. In 2019, SFGMC acquired a historic facility that has become its permanent home for rehearsals and offices. The building also serves as the first-ever National LGBTQ Center for the Arts, a community space for LGBTQ artists and arts organizations.

For more information on SFGMC, visit www.sfgmc.org

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Twitter: www.twitter.com/sfgmc
Instagram: www.instagram.com/sfgmc
YouTube: www.youtube.com/sfgmcvideo

Folsom Mask Makers Working to Meet Critical PPE Demands

Folsom Mask Makers is a rapidly growing group of volunteers responding to the current critical shortage of personal protective equipment (PPE) throughout the Greater Sacramento area.



Karen Hamer handing off customized masks to Folsom PD

This project, which was launched mid-March, creates DIY face masks for local hospitals, medical centers, other frontline healthcare workers, and community members as an additional layer of protection and, in some cases, as the only mask available to them.

Volunteers from Sacramento, Placer, and El Dorado counties are sewing, washing and ironing fabric, preparing sewing kits, and driving to pick

up and deliver materials and finished products. Many of the volunteers are themselves healthcare providers, working long shifts and then volunteering in this effort. More volunteers are needed and donations of materials such as elastic and 100% cotton fabric are greatly appreciated. For further information about volunteering and making donations, visit the Folsom Mask Makers Facebook page.

Gavin: A Leader of Significant Importance

by Jackie Smith,
Candidate for Assembly District 6

In February, I wrote an article about the importance of voting in the current moment in time. Elections are about the opportunity to build power and make change.

I reminded people in 2004, as San Francisco's mayor Gavin Newsom pushed the city to issue marriage licenses to gay couples. It was a rebellious gesture at the time. Eleven years later, in June 2015, a majority of the Supreme Court justices ruled that gay marriage was a basic right too long denied.

I said Gavin Newsom is now Governor of California and remains a leader of significant importance to the LGBTQ community.

A mere month later Gavin Newsom's bold leadership - sweeping social distancing measures, demands for action, pleas for aid and calls for shared sacrifice--has filled a national vacuum and, along with Governor Cuomo, defining the Democrats response to the pandemic.

Gavin said it best, "We can defeat this virus. But we can't defeat it unless we commit to fulfilling our individual obligations and our collective responsibilities to meet this moment. The stay-at-home orders are real. Let's meet this moment. Let's follow through. Halfway is no way."

New information is beginning to point to the same hopeful, but cautious, projection, California's curve may be starting to bend.

And, on Friday April 2, Dr. Deborah Birx, the U.S. coronavirus response coordinator, "praised California and Washington state for their social distancing efforts, claiming that they may have already slowed the spread of the virus and should serve as models for the rest of the nation."

In 2004, Gavin ignited a social movement that changed the hearts and minds of Americans. Today his decisive action is starting to slow the spread of the virus in our state and serves as a model for the rest of the nation.

I need to correct my statement. Governor Newsom is a leader of significant importance.

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Letter to the Editor from Sacramento Self-Help Housing

This year, Sacramento Self-Help Housing is celebrating 20 years of assisting those who are experiencing homelessness (or at risk of becoming so) to find and retain stable and affordable housing.



While our mission is a very difficult one under any circumstances, we never imagined the complexities we'd face with the COVID-19 crisis that has exponentially increased the needs of our most vulnerable individuals and families, including many in the LGBTQ+ community.

As the COVID-19 crisis deepens, each of us probably (and repeatedly) have calculated our personal financial resources to identify how long we could meet our financial obligations and maintain our households. But imagine for a moment the fear, uncertainty and increased issues for those experiencing or imminently threatened with homelessness. Also, consider how the social distancing orders in place have increased the challenges faced by those desperately trying to find shelter as well as our staff and volunteers who are working to move people off the streets or emergency shelters into permanent housing.

As an example, Sacramento Self-Help Housing's free Renters Helpline (available at 916-389-7877 Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.) is currently experiencing a significant uptick in calls. However, the helpline remains open and staffed with experts available to help with potential renter discrimination (oftentimes of particular interest to the LGBTQ+ community), tenant/landlord disputes, education on new laws about rent increase and "just cause" evictions, and temporary

moratoriums due to COVID-19.

At Sacramento Self-Help Housing, we urgently need your support so we can continue to provide this much-needed assistance to those who need it most in our community.

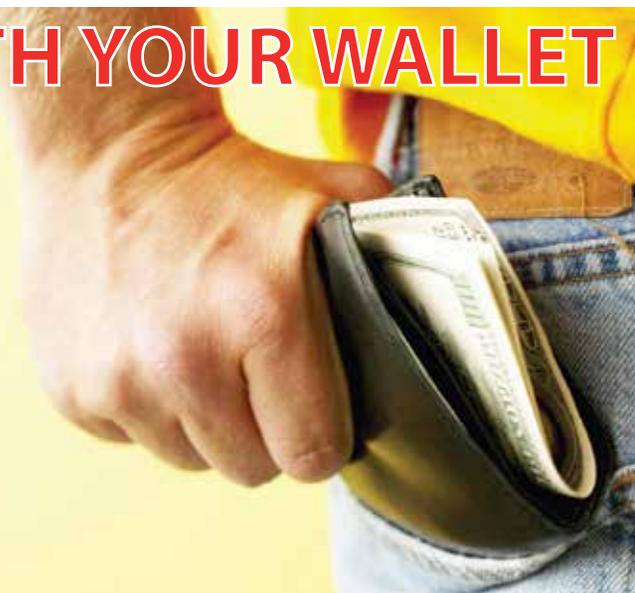
While volunteers and donations of goods are typically eagerly welcomed, we have been overwhelmed with an outpouring of these offers in recent weeks and staff currently is not available today to manage further material donations. At this unprecedented point in time when homelessness has soared, financial donations are critically needed and can be used immediately so that Sacramento Self-Help Housing can continue to increase our efforts on behalf of those who are experiencing homelessness or housing instability in our community.

We invite you to connect with us on social media (@SacramentoSelfHelpHousing or @SacSelfHelp) to stay informed about our programs and progress. And, if you're able, we hope you can support our work by making a financial contribution to help those most vulnerable. For more information, please visit our website, www.sacselfhelp.org or contact me directly at jfoley@sacselfhelp.org.

Thank you for your consideration and may you and yours remain safe and healthy!

Sincerely,
**John Foley, Executive Director
Sacramento Self-Help Housing**

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HIV Leadership Informs People Living with HIV About the Impact of COVID-19

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, 10 national, community-centered HIV service & advocacy organizations partnered to create a resource guide focused on supporting people living with HIV (PLHIV). The COVID-19 and People Living with HIV: Frequently Asked Questions document provides clear and culturally responsive information to ensure PLHIV and communities disproportionately impacted by HIV have a reliable resource for the latest information to help them protect and take care of themselves.

The resource guide reflects the clinical practices and information currently available put forth by the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC), the World Health Organization (WHO), the Infectious Diseases Society (IDSA), the HIV Medicine Association (HIVMA), health departments and other local, national, and global public health entities. The COVID-19 and People Living with HIV: Frequently Asked Questions document (<https://bit.ly/2z8B5FN>) will be updated regularly as more information is learned about COVID-19, the impact of co-infection of COVID-19 and HIV on PLHIV, and the development of available vaccines and treatments for this coronavirus.

“Our organizations agreed it was critical to develop a well-informed resource for people with HIV about COVID-19, and we therefore are pleased to release this document today,” remarked Murray Penner, Executive Director, North America, for Prevention Access Campaign/U=U. “People living with HIV have specific healthcare needs and are understandably anxious about our own health and that of our loved ones. We hope

that this factsheet will be helpful in providing accurate, up to date information about how the COVID-19 pandemic may affect our communities - and in sharing resources for support.” said Naina Khanna, Executive Director of Positive Women’s Network - USA.

“The organizations creating this much needed resource bring critical perspectives and expertise about the health and well-being of people living with HIV in this pandemic, and our partnership on it is a model for how our community can support each other in surviving the COVID-19 crisis,” said Jesse Milan, Jr., President & CEO of AIDS United.

List of collaborating HIV Service/Advocacy Organizations who created COVID-19 and People Living with HIV: Frequently Asked Questions (in alphabetical order)

AIDS United | HIV Medicine Association | Latino Commission on AIDS | NASTAD | NMAC | Positive Women’s Network - USA | Prevention Access Campaign | TransLatin@ Coalition | US PLHIV Caucus | The Well Project

Be the Change. Choose Gratitude.

Gratitude. A simple concept, but a complicated action. Finding gratitude can be challenging for some, let alone in the midst of a global pandemic. The whole world is upended, routines interrupted, lives impacted by degrees of loss - the last thing anyone wants to hear is ‘find gratitude’. But what if this is the time when we need it most?

Hear me out.

Some of us are generally positive, happy people, and this new way of life might be taking a toll. Hard to smile when you can’t hug your friends, have been abruptly removed from your work environment, or can’t seem to find toilet paper ANYWHERE (seriously, why?). As a perpetual Grat-istician (I just made that up, someone alert Urban Dictionary), I have found myself in the pits of despair, both recently and historically. Understandable, given the lemons that life is doling out right now. And there are tons of clinical studies regarding the effects of gratitude, but this is not a research paper and I am pretty sure we all have Google. Here’s my personal experience with finding gratitude amidst the global crisis.

Lemons. The State of California was placed on a Shelter in Place order (you may have heard about this new thing called the Coronavirus - she said dripping with sarcasm). This means I, like the rest of the state and most of the world, cannot leave my house. But you know what? I HAVE a house. I have a safe, warm place to stream all the Disney+ I want, and wash my hands a million times a day, while there are countless unhoused folks who don’t have such a luxury. That reframe? Definite lemonade.

Lemons. After only 75 days working at my dream career, I was furloughed due to the pandemic. After a good cry and some number crunching, I realized we will be financially ok (for a short while) and now I have all the time in the world to bake - my favorite hobby. I started a side business, delivering homemade baked goods to peoples doorsteps for both fun and income (happiness is an essential activity - fight me). And voila! Lemonade.

My point? We have the power to reframe most situations, no matter how seemingly bad. Some might take more time, more effort, more sugar - but it CAN be done. And now, both more than ever **and** just like always, we should look for the juicer and get to stirring. Don’t misunderstand me, humans would do well to find ways to reframe their thinking outside of pandemics and health crises. But for **now**, we can focus on finding ways to celebrate the little things in life, rather than getting angry about things we cannot control, right? Because life is less about what happens to you and more about how you choose to respond. And lemonade just isn’t going to make itself!

Be the change, choose gratitude.
Andrea Weathington - CPLO (Chief Pandemic Lemonade Officer)



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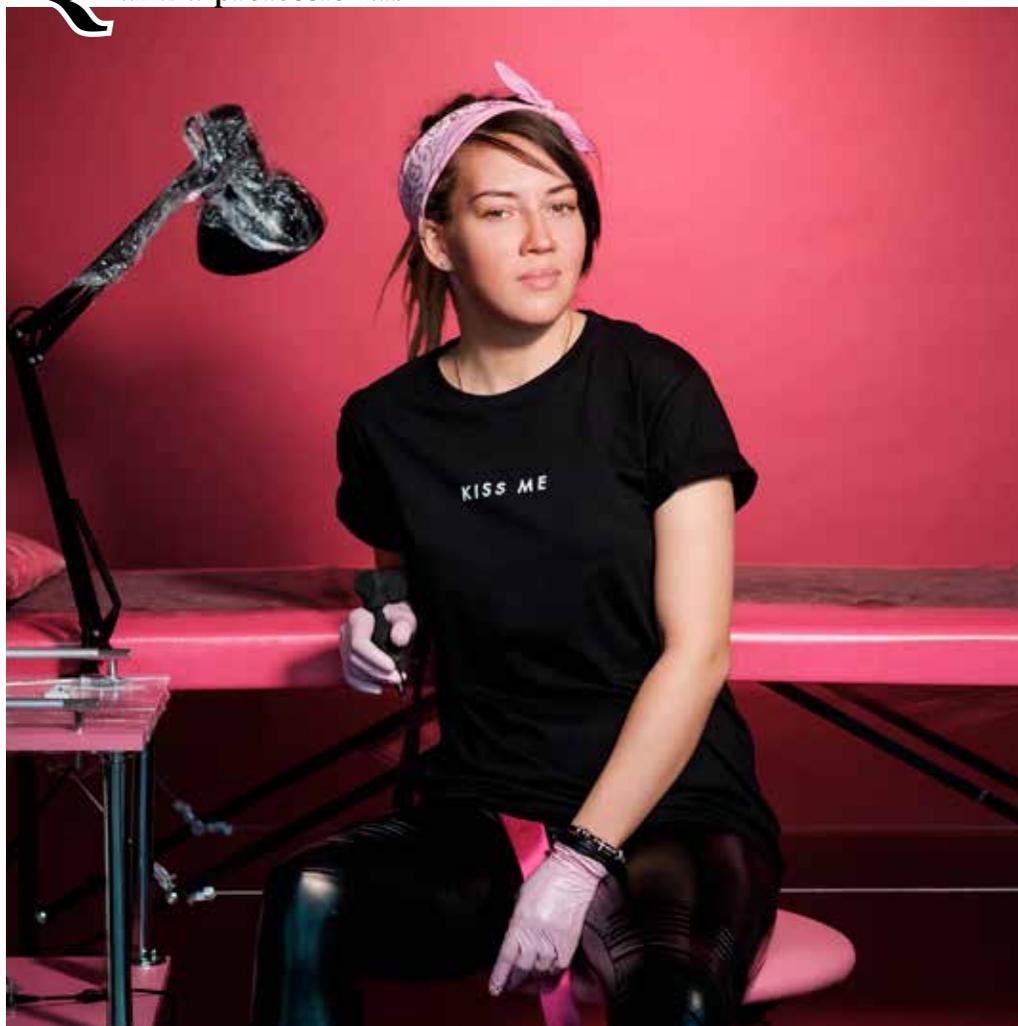


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Queerfessionalism

by Mari Wrobi
Pronouns: They/Them/Theirs

Queerfessionalism (n.) – the qualities and conduct expected of someone who is both queer and a professional.



Believe it or not, QUEER and PROFESSIONAL are not antonyms. That's not how it felt when I first started working as a social worker, though. Last year I got hired as a case manager for Sacramento's first (and only) shelter for LGBTQ youth experiencing homelessness. Part of my job consists of interfacing with community partners, attending meetings, and forming bridges between agencies. Coming from working as a barista, the expectations that these two jobs put on my presentation respectively could not have been more different.

Nobody blinked an eye when I, as a barista, came to work with dyed hair, an undercut, multiple facial piercings, and a button that said "My pronouns are they/them." But walking into a meeting with social workers who are business casual and sporting two cell phones and at least one briefcase with the same appearance is another story entirely.

At first, I thought I was doing something wrong. I stressed over fitting in with my new peers. It felt like I wasn't being taken seriously as a social worker, despite the importance of my position and the demographic I represent. It seemed like people would take one look at me and then immediately discount what I had to say. I wondered how I could change my appearance and presentation to be more digestible—if I should stop insisting my pronouns, if I should start dressing in slacks and a blouse, if I should dye my hair a "natural" color, or any other modification

that would get me the respect I felt I deserved.

This phenomenon is called *code-switching*, and it's something that queer professionals do every day. Code-switching is anything that includes alternating from one version of yourself to another depending on the social setting you're in. Hiding a "gay lisp", going "stealth" to pass as cisgender, dressing in a gender-conforming way, or not talking about your same-gender partner all fall into this category. The problem with code-switching is that it's typically rooted in stigma and prejudice. There's no actual reason why someone with a "gay lisp" or dyed hair should be patronized based on these things—and yet, because someone is inferred as LGBTQ, their voice is subsequently deligitimized.

The truth is, I would much rather be respected as myself—as vibrant and visibly queer as I am—than as someone I'm not.

Being a queerfessional means introducing my pronouns everytime I introduce myself and including my pronouns on my business cards and email signatures. It means wearing clothes that are gender-affirming, even if that might go against the expected "dress code". It means dressing in a way that's visibly LGBTQ so that my clients don't think there's something unprofessional or shameful about the way that they dress. It means not making assumptions about the personal lives of my clients, whether that be in the gender of their partner(s) or their own gender themselves.

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I've Found My Center. I've Found My Pride. Welcome to the Sacramento State PRIDE Center

by Bowen Neumann, (He/Him/His)

My journey with the PRIDE Center at Sacramento State started with my role as a Peer Counselor. I had selected the PRIDE Center as my number one choice because of my identity as a transgender man.



bathrooms on campus, books about the LGBTQ community and information regarding resources off campus. When you walk up to the PRIDE Center, you will always see a table with pamphlets displaying different resources on campus and throughout the community. Right inside the door there are cubbies for tampons, pads and condoms. Students don't have to ask for the items, they can come in and take what they need. This allows students to not feel ashamed about practicing safe sex or being in need of personal hygiene items.

The PRIDE Center is such a crucial resource for students to have on campus. It allows students who might feel unsafe, uneasy or afraid to come in and feel at home. As humans, it is so important to feel a sense of belonging and that is exactly what the PRIDE Center staff has done. For people



Bowen Neumann (He/Him/His), Staff Member at the Sacramento State Pride Center

I wanted to become more involved with the community and use my personal experiences to help students who found themselves in similar situations. I had always heard about the PRIDE Center, but I never fully understood how warm and welcoming the Center was.

I was placed at the PRIDE Center on campus for my Peer Counseling job. I was hesitant at first, not fully knowing what to expect. I was pleasantly surprised to say the least. My fears and anxieties were immediately diminished when I met my first team member. They were so warm and welcoming; instantly making me feel as if I was a part of their team. After that first encounter, I was continuously amazed with my cohort. The PRIDE staff consists of members who identify with the LGBTQ+ community and other staff that are strong allies for the community. There is nothing the PRIDE staff wouldn't do to help students in the center.

Melissa Muganzo is the PRIDE Center coordinator, and let me tell you, they know everything about anything. Melissa goes above and beyond to make sure that not only their team, but the students in the PRIDE Center feel seen, heard and supported through their individual journeys. With Melissa in charge, the PRIDE Center has become an incredibly safe zone for members of the LGBTQ community.

The PRIDE Center offers resources on and off campus. There are team members who have put together binders for scholarship information/applications, gender neutral

who struggle with their sexual identity or gender identity, it is so relieving to know that there is a safe space on campus where you can be surrounded by people just like yourself. Having the PRIDE Center on campus demonstrates what President Nelson preaches, we are all one big, Hornet family.

The PRIDE Center doesn't stop at helping students with resources on campus, the connections can carry off campus as well. Melissa works incredibly hard to ensure students' success. They are always open to reading resumes, helping with application and talking students through the next steps.

I was scared of being openly transgender. The PRIDE Center has changed that. The PRIDE Center, and centers like it, play a critical role in the development for our LGBTQ youth.

I could not be more proud or honored to be a part of the PRIDE Center team.

For folks who are wanting to be involved or see the incredible accomplishments the Sacramento State PRIDE Center Team has been working on, feel free to follow their Twitter and Instagram pages or check out the Sacramento State PRIDE Center Webpage for more information on the resources available.

Instagram: @sacstatepridecenter

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SGMC - 35 Years of Singing Out Loud and Proud

by Matthew Burlingame

After 35 years of singing out loud and proud the Sacramento Gay Men's Chorus (SGMC) rehearsal hall is silent in what should be a time of frenzied preparation for a series of summertime pride events and performances.



Founded in 1984 the SGMC has since become an integral part of the greater Sacramento LGBTQ community. Having grown to over 70 members the group has confronted intolerance and bigotry by providing a positive experience of our community.

But with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic and California's shelter-in-place order the organization which meets a minimum of once a week for rehearsal has been stopped from doing what they love most: singing together and sharing their music with our community.

"It's forced us to find new ways to be together and new ways to create together," says SGMC executive director Lynda Walls. "SGMC is all about community and suddenly we are separated. This chorus is a family. We support each other and depend on each other. Right now we can't be together but we're finding ways to gather virtually and make sure everyone is cared for."

Walls explains that SGMC is reinventing their gatherings with virtual and online tools for committee meetings, weekly game nights and group text chats. "We're reaching out to each other to make sure everyone has what they need. From rides to the grocery store to video chats for company—we're doing what we can to keep the community that is SGMC strong."

When the shelter-in-place order was enacted the group was already in rehearsals for their June show "Pop Royalty: A Star-studded 80s Review which has now been rescheduled to June 2021.

"Having to postpone our concert is disappointing as it is the highlight of our spring season and the 80s songs are so fun, but we've already secured the licensing, arrangements, sheet music, and such, so we have this to look forward to next year," explains Walls. "We also usually have a spaghetti feed fundraiser in late summer but at this point we just don't know if this will be possible. We're working on the preliminary planning and hoping for the best"

SGMC made the difficult decision to stop regular rehearsals in early March. Their priority is always the health and safety of our members. Soon after the group started using Zoom for virtual rehearsals but with more than 80 people it just wasn't possible in an online environment.

"A chorus needs the conductor and accompanist in the same room with the singers to have effective rehearsals—especially when learning new material as SGMC was at that time," says Walls. "We had a lot of awesome 80s hits to learn for the spring show."

So after postponing the June show the SGMC leadership began to brainstorm projects that were able to be completed in this unprecedented situation. "We're working on learning material for an online performance, choreography for some fun TikTok pieces and a few other surprises we'll roll out later this spring," Walls explains excitedly.

At this time their annual holiday show in December and annual crab feed "Crabaret" are still scheduled for later in the season along with annual recruitment drives.

With sixty percent of SGMC's revenue coming from contributed income and a large portion of that from fundraising events the group is already researching new approaches to fundraising as well as potential corporate and business sponsorships.

"We're also seeking grants that have been created in response to the impact this crisis is having on nonprofit organizations," says Walls. "Fortunately, SGMC leadership has been working for years to keep the organization in a financially sound position, so right now we're okay. We've been able to keep our small staff employed and make sure all our bills are paid. Our main concern at this point is not significantly drawing down our reserves."

The entire group is excited for the day when the pandemic has passed and they can get back out there and share our love and our music with Sacramento! Learn more at sacgaymenschorus.org

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House 2 Om Offers Household Cleaning Tips

Hello! In these crazy times everyone is looking for cost saving measures they can do themselves to keep up with their homes. We thought we'd start a weekly email blast with tips for our clients, and things they can do around their home.

We are always here for you, and are working hard to make sure our cleaners and clients are kept in the highest standards of cleanliness and safety.

Curious how? Give us a call!

Your grandma used it. And so did her grandma. Now it's time for you to discover one of the most popular cleaning staples around: vinegar.

From shower heads to soapy heads, copper to microwaves, vinegar (especially distilled white vinegar) is a versatile, environmentally safe alternative to store-bought cleaner – and it's inexpensive, too. Take a look at some remarkable uses for this cleaning wonder.

- 1. Window cleaner:** Mix equal parts of distilled white vinegar and water. Apply to windows with a sponge. Wipe clean using a squeegee. (Remember to wet the squeegee blade first so it won't skip.)
- 2. Blinds:** To clean washable blinds, mix 1 cup ammonia, 1/2 cup white distilled vinegar, 1/4 cup baking soda and 1 gallon of warm water. Using a sponge or cloth, wipe blinds with the mixture. Rinse with clear water.
- 3. Automatic coffee makers:** To dissolve minerals and oily buildup, fill the reservoir with white distilled vinegar and run the coffee maker through a brewing cycle. Empty the carafe. Rinse away vinegar residue by running a full reservoir of water through the brewing cycle. (As always, follow the manufacturer's care instructions.)
- 4. Kill grass:** Forget store-bought grass and weed killers. Pour full-strength white distilled vinegar on unwanted vegetation. Reapply as needed.
- 5. Keep cut flowers fresh:** Fresh flowers last longer if you add 2 tablespoons of white vinegar and 2 tablespoons of sugar to the water in a 1-quart vase. Trim stems and change the water every few days or when water starts to get cloudy.
- 6. No-wax floors:** For rinse-free cleaning, mop using a solution of 1/2 cup of white distilled vinegar to a half gallon of warm water. Change water as it gets dirty.
- 7. Microwave:** Boil a solution of 1/4 cup of white distilled vinegar and 1 cup of water in the microwave until steam forms on the window. Wipe away food residue.
- 8. Hair rinse:** After every few washings, remove shampoo buildup by rinsing hair with a solution of 1-2 tablespoons of vinegar (either white distilled vinegar or apple cider vinegar) and 1 cup of water. Adjust the amount of vinegar to suit your hair type – using less vinegar for dry hair and more vinegar for oily hair. A second rinse with plain water is optional. Hair will be silky and shiny.
- 9. Cleaner dishes and glasses:** For sparkling results, add 1 1/2 to 2 cups white distilled vinegar to the bottom of the dishwasher. Wash on regular cycle using the usual amount of detergent.



- 10. Copper, brass and pewter cleaner:** To effortlessly remove tarnish, apply a mixture of 1 teaspoon salt, 1/2 cup of white distilled vinegar and enough flour to make a paste. Apply to the metal and allow it to stand for 15 minutes. Rinse with clean water and polish with a soft, dry cloth. (The flour keeps the vinegar and salt in contact with the tarnished surface.)
- 11. Bathtub film:** Remove bathtub film by wiping it first with white distilled vinegar, then with baking soda. Rinse away grime with clean water.
- 12. Shower doors:** To prevent soap scum buildup, wipe shower doors with a sponge soaked in white distilled vinegar. There's no need to rinse.
- 13. Clogged shower head:** Use vinegar to dissolve mineral buildup in shower heads. Add a cup of vinegar to a plastic storage bag. Position the bag so the showerhead sits in the vinegar. Allow it to soak overnight. In the morning, remove the bag and turn on the shower to rinse.
- 14. Boiling a cracked egg:** When boiling a cracked egg, add some vinegar to the water – about 2 teaspoons to a quart of water. This will keep the white from seeping out.
- 15. Pet urine in carpets:** Blot up as much of the urine as possible by laying several paper towels over the area and walking on them (the extra pressure increases absorption). Replace towels and blot until most of the urine is removed. Before treating the area with vinegar, test for colorfastness in an inconspicuous place. If colors don't run, saturate the stain with a solution of equal parts white distilled vinegar and water. Allow it to sit on the area for 10 minutes. Blot as before, replacing towels as needed. When the carpet is mostly dry, sprinkle baking soda on the area. This will help absorb odors.

Vacuum in about an hour.

- 16. Bumper sticker removal:** To remove bumper sticker residue, saturate the area with distilled white vinegar. Bumper sticker pieces should peel off easily. Test first on an inconspicuous area of the car to make sure it doesn't damage the paint.
- 17. To soften a paintbrush:** Soak the paintbrush in hot white distilled vinegar until brush softens. Then wash with warm, soapy water.
- 18. Wine stains:** To remove wine stains from cotton, cotton/polyester and permanent press fabrics, it's important to treat the stain within 24 hours. Sponge white distilled vinegar directly onto the area until the stain disappears. Launder according to directions on care label.
- 19. Clothes rinse:** Remove dingy soap and detergent residue in clothes by adding a cup of white distilled vinegar to the final rinse. To remove soap residue from heavier blankets and quilts, add 2 cups of vinegar to the final rinse.
- 20. Deodorant and antiperspirant stains:** Rub the underarm areas of white or light-colored clothing with white distilled vinegar, and then launder as usual. If the stain remains after washing, do not machine dry. Re-treat the area with vinegar and place garment in the sun to bleach.
- 21. Keep colors from running:** To keep colored fabrics from running in the wash, first soak them for a few minutes in white distilled vinegar.
- 22. Setting colors:** When dyeing fabric, help set the color by adding a cup of white distilled vinegar to the water during the last rinse.
- 23. Unclog a steam iron:** To dissolve mineral residue in steam irons, pour equal amounts of white distilled vinegar and water into the water reservoir. Turn the iron to the steam setting and allow it to steam for five minutes in an upright position. Unplug and cool the iron. Empty the reservoir – and the dissolved minerals.
- 24. Clean a scorched iron bottom:** Heat equal parts of white distilled vinegar and salt in a small pan. Rub mixture onto the bottom of a cooled iron to remove scorch marks.
- 25. Scorch marks on clothes:** Dip the corner of a cloth in white vinegar. Rub lightly on scorched area of fabric. Wipe with a clean cloth. Repeat as needed.
- 26. Deodorize the kitchen drain:** To keep drains fresh, pour a cup of white distilled vinegar down the drain once a week. Allow it to sit for 30 minutes then flush with cold water.
- 27. Fruit-stained hands:** Wash berry-colored hands with vinegar to remove fruit stains.
- 28. Decalcify sleep apnea (CPAP) machines:** To remove calcium deposits in the reservoir, heat 1 3/4 cups of vinegar in the microwave for two minutes. Pour vinegar into the reservoir and replace the cap. Allow this to sit for one hour before pouring out the vinegar. (As always, follow the manufacturer's instructions for cleaning.)

A Breakthrough for Affordable Housing and Human Rights

by Roberto Jimenez

Most of the time, a groundbreaking is just a groundbreaking. This October, at 16th and F streets in Midtown Sacramento, Mutual Housing California will conduct a groundbreaking that will also truly be ground-breaking.



Lavender Courtyard by Mutual Housing will be the region's first nonprofit affordable housing community that will specifically be marketed for Sacramento's LGBT community. Last Tuesday, the state Tax Credit and Debt Allocation Committees snapped the final piece into the funding puzzle when they approved \$10.7 million tax-credit financing for Lavender Courtyard. Construction should begin in the fall on a development that satisfies every meaning of the words "essential business," with or without a coronavirus pandemic.

We don't have to tell you about the struggle older LGBT adults have faced over the decades in the straight world of elder care: isolation from family, abuse from their neighbors, degradation in an insensitive system. At Lavender Courtyard, Mutual Housing hopes to reverse this long-standing pattern by providing the residents of its 53 apartments with programs and services created to embrace the LGBT culture. This would be a fitting tribute to a vanguard generation that fought for and secured LGBT acceptance into mainstream American life.

Community development has long been the signature of the Mutual Housing program. Besides owning and managing 20 different properties, we provide resources to improve the lives of the people who live in them. Our community organizing teams also work with residents to foster civic engagement, connect them to services and programs and to make sure that their voices are heard at every level of government. I expect this to be a source of major excitement at Lavender Courtyard.

It's important to recognize that Lavender Courtyard reflects the reality in our society that politics matters.

The tax-credit allocation is the result of a government program that resulted from a compromise that took place nearly 35 years ago between Democratic congressional leaders and a Republican presidential administration. Another \$11.3 million in funding came from the California Multifamily Housing Program made possible by voter approval of the Proposition 1 housing bond on the 2018 ballot. And Lavender Courtyard has received strong backing, including \$1.9 million in financing, from the City of Sacramento, thanks to strong support from Mayor Darrell Steinberg and City Council member Steve Hansen, and others.

It hasn't been a completely smooth ride for any of our elected officials, but they responded largely due to the groundswell of activism from LGBT leaders and grassroots organizers.

From the time I became CEO at Mutual Housing California at the beginning of 2019, finding the funding to build Lavender Courtyard has been my top priority as well as that of our staff. I would also like to acknowledge and praise our Lavender Courtyard Leadership Team of community supporters that has steadfastly advocated for LGBT housing for older adults that led to last week's incredible breakthrough.

Now, it's time for all of us to break some ground - for affordable housing, and for human rights.



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COVID-19 & Passover 2020 - The Diaspora Year

by Corey Egel

As the song goes, “Pesach...Pesach time is here.” The Passover tune regales the symbols used to observe the holiday: matzah, wine, bitter herbs and so forth. It is a song that is belted out with “ruach,” with spirit, as we recall the Exodus of the Jewish people out of slavery from Egypt and the journey to freedom.

A time for family, traditions, and yes... plenty of food, Passover is my favorite holiday. However, for the first time in 23 years, I did not spend the holiday back home. Despite my family’s best efforts and determination, the Passover Seders - filled with their rituals and connections to the generations before us - had to be canceled due to COVID-19. In the Haggadah which contains the narrative of the Exodus out of Egypt, there is the recalling of the ten plagues that befell upon the Egyptians because the Pharaoh didn’t free the Jewish people from slavery.

The last plague occurred when the Angel of Death slayed all the firstborns of every household in Egypt. The Angel of Death passed over the homes that had been marked with lamb’s blood over the doorposts, saving the Jewish people. That night, the Jewish people may have been alone in their homes but were together in solidarity as a community. They were watching out for each other and the health/life of their loved ones by staying inside.

Just as the Jewish community avoided death thousands of years ago, those who chose to avoid group gatherings and stay home this year once again looked after the individual and collective health of the community. Perhaps, re-enacting a moment that will be looked upon in the future as one where we felt even more connected to our past.

While COVID-19 felt like the 11th plague by creating a modern-day diaspora, this year’s challenge only strengthened the resolve of many families to spend time with each other albeit through unconventional methods during the holiday. For my family, it meant 22 people across five states, three time zones and two coasts holding a Seder and having dinner via videoconferencing. As you can imagine with everyone spread across the country, there were some hiccups along the way such as getting everyone to figure out how to set up their cameras and audio, trying not to drown each other out while speaking, and of course the timing to

ensure everyone was in the same spot of the Seder. So, what typically happens when you bring family and friends together in the same room even if it is electronically.

Looking at that computer screen with so many people that I care about in front of me, a friend of mine put it best when she said, “Your family has such joy for Judaism and its traditions. Your



family dynamic hasn’t changed at all over the years.” That simple, but heartfelt sentiment was so reassuring...so comforting... an experience that I think many families, Jewish or otherwise, are striving for on a daily basis. The spirituality that lies within performing familiar rituals and traditions provides a connection with each other and the community. By creating a sense of normalcy in an otherwise disruptive time in our lives (while staying safe), it establishes a foundation that will get us through the days that lie ahead.

COVID-19 continues testing our resolve, but there is hope. At the end of the Seder, there is the phrase, “L’Shana Haba’ah B’Yerushalayim.” Next Year in Jerusalem. An expression of hope and for future redemption, I am confident many families also added the city where they hope to be next year - with their loved ones.



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In compliance with guidelines for public safety during the COVID-19 crisis, Friends of the Sacramento Public Library has cancelled its scheduled May Warehouse Sale. The Book Den remains closed until further notice, and we are not accepting donations at this time.

We miss our customers and volunteers, and hope that you are all safe and well. We will see you again when public health guidelines permit.

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Sacramento-Area Company Trekboxx Manufacturing Face Shields to Support Health Care Workers

Sacramento area company Trekboxx, which specializes in custom storage units for sport utility vehicles, is keeping their employees working by now converting its manufacturing facilities to produce protective face shields, at cost, for local healthcare providers treating COVID-19 patients. Trekboxx is using clear plastic sheet donated by Dart Container to construct the face shields. The first shipment of over 10,000 face shields was delivered to UC Davis on April 13.

"I saw a need locally and we wanted to do our part. Now is a time for us to do all that we can for those risking their health in order to save lives during the COVID-19 outbreak," said Trekboxx owner and founder, David Walter. "The least we can do is actively find ways to support health care workers, and we have already received support from partners like Dart Container."

Trekboxx is making the face shields at cost and keeping their employees working to make these shields during this crisis. Trekboxx is also providing on its website's call to action ways other companies can also produce face shields including a video explanation and more information on the face shield's design and material suppliers.

"We want to support what Trekboxx is doing to help protect and equip health care

workers," said Michael Westerfield, Director of Recycling for Dart Container. "It's each of us doing our part that will make a difference during this crisis."

Face shields produced at-cost by Trekboxx will be manufactured from twenty 1,500 lb. rolls of clear polyethylene terephthalate (PET) with 50% recycled post-consumer content.

Trekboxx is asking other businesses or residents who have a CNC router, laser, or plotter that want to help to contact them by email at faceshields@trekboxx.com. The community can also help the effort with a donation on their GoFundMe page.

For more information on Trekboxx, visit <https://www.trekboxx.com>, or on their face shield production, visit <https://www.trekboxx.com/helping-heros>.

Become A Member Of CA Auto Museum

by Chris Narloch

Like countless other institutions, Sacramento's California Automobile Museum needs your help at this difficult time, and car lovers can become a member of the museum and enjoy online videos and other benefits for as little as \$4 per month.



Marilyn Monroe in the 1951 Nash Rambler that is on display now at the California Auto Museum.

Before many businesses shut down as a result of the coronavirus, the CA Automobile Museum had just opened one of their most popular exhibits this February, a survey of famous vehicles from movies and TV shows entitled "Reel Cars" that was scheduled to run until July 6, 2020.

"Reel Cars" features, among other vehicles, a 1951 Nash Rambler convertible used by Marilyn Monroe to promote her movie "Monkey Business," a 1965 Dodge Coronet taxicab seen in

"Mad Men," a 1927 Studebaker that was featured in numerous silent films, and a 2016 Subaru BRZ from "The Fate of the Furious."

Hopefully, when our world gets back to some semblance of normality, "Reel Cars" will reopen and extend so that automobile aficionados can enjoy this fabulous exhibit.

In the meantime, you can get more information about membership or donate a car to support the museum at: www.calautomuseum.org

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Local Museums Say "Let's Get Virtual"

With popular museums and destinations temporarily closed and families currently sheltering-in-place, many local area museums have risen to the occasion and gone virtual with fun and FREE activities for families to do at home. While more educational, informational and amazing online offerings continue to be added each week, a sampling of the virtual activities include the following:

Aerospace Museum of California: Tapping into creative expertise provided by museum staff and team members, the Aerospace Museum offers hands-on activities and tutorials that are fun for children and families. Easy-to-replicate demonstrations are available on the museum's Facebook page @ AerospaceMuseumCA. For additional online events, including Hubble's 30th Birthday Celebration, please visit aerospaceca.org/events.

California Museum: Launched a new Distance Learning program providing educational materials for K-12th grade students aligned with Common Core and California State Content standards. A State Symbols Coloring Book and a series of five California Indians Oral History worksheets are currently available. Additional activities furthering learning on the state's diverse history, culture and arts are scheduled for release through the

Virtual art and gallery tours and activities for all ages are available on the museum's blog at www.crockerart.org/oculus, the Google Cultural Institute, on the museum's YouTube channel as well as on their social media channels @crockerart. The community is invited to spend "Thursday Nights In" this April with alternative ways to experience Crocker programs including a spring film series, ArtMix, and a pre-recorded Global Rhythms concert featuring Jessica Fichot. CrockerCon Goes digital on April 17 as the museum celebrates comic book art and family-friendly virtual cosplay; for more, please see the Crocker blog and social media channels for details and updates.

Museum of Medical History: Online users can access a virtual tour (originally launched 10 years ago) that highlights many intriguing medical artifacts and interesting tidbits at

The California Museum Launched a new Distance Learning program providing educational materials for K-12th grade students aligned with Common Core and California State Content standards.

end of the 2019-20 school year, both as downloadable PDF files and as paperless, shareable assignments in Google Classroom. For details or to access activities, visit www.californiamuseum.org/distance-ed.

California State Railroad Museum: Offers virtual versions of All Aboard for Story Time! on Mondays at 11 a.m. with local influencers reading children's railroad-related books via Facebook Live. Each week, live and previously recorded book readings are available for viewing on both the California State Railroad Museum & Foundation Facebook pages @ CaliforniaStateRailroadMuseum or @ CaliforniaStateRailroadMuseumFoundation.

Center for Sacramento History: Offers original film productions, a "Staff Favorites" section with new film clips updated regularly, and recordings of past Speaker Series events such as the following:

- "Devoted to the Union: Sacramento and the Civil War" by Dr. Glenna Mathews
- "The Time is Now: The Civic Life of Sacramento's Nathaniel Colley" by Dr. Mark Brilliant
- "Red Menace! The Sacramento Conspiracy Trial of 1935" by Dr. Kathryn Olmsted

To access the 100+ history-rich films and video clips, visit www.youtube.com/centerforsacramento.

Crocker Art Museum: Provides relaxing, refreshing and uplifting art experiences online.

http://www.ssvmmh.org/virtual_tour/FloorPlan.html. In addition, numerous articles on interesting aspects of medical history are available at www.ssvms.org/museum.aspx.

Sacramento History Museum: Offers a website and free app for iOS and Android devices that takes users on a journey through some of the more amazing moments in Sacramento's history. "Anytime Tours" feature 50-minute digital walking tours through the Historic City Cemetery and Old Sacramento Waterfront highlighted by 10 stops at each location. The tours can be accessed at www.sachistorymuseum.org or downloaded free of charge from the App Store or Google Play by searching Anytime Tours.

New programs are added each week and can be accessed at www.sachistorymuseum.org.

For more information about upcoming activities offered by Sacramento area museums, "like" them on Facebook at www.facebook.com/SacMuseums, follow them on Instagram and Twitter @SacMuseums or visit the user-friendly website at www.SacMuseums.org.

About Sacramento Area Museums (SAM)

Comprised of 30 greater Sacramento area museums working in partnership with Visit Sacramento, SAM's mission is to raise awareness of local museums by giving the community the opportunity to discover the region's fine art, history, science and wildlife treasures. For more information, visit www.SacMuseums.org.

Since We Can't Visit Italy, Bring a Bit of Italy to Your Kitchen

Who wouldn't love to sit in the sun at an outdoor café in Italy sipping a cool wine and eating a favorite Italian meal? Unfortunately, Italy is closed, and we can't leave our houses but that doesn't mean we can't create a bit of Italy ourselves.

Coleen Kirnan and Rhonda Vilardo, the owners, and hosts of Tuscan Women Cook, the unique and popular culinary vacation located in the heart of Tuscany, want to bring a bit of Italy to home kitchens during our time of quarantine. Tuscan Women Cook is about celebrating the food and culture of the Tuscan region of Italy ensconced in the charming village of Montefollonico.

So at the end of a long day of staying inside, unwind maybe with a glass of Italian wine and enjoy this easy recipe from the heart of Italy.



Bruschetta with Tomato and Basil

Bruschetta with Tomato and Basil Serves 4-6.

Bruschetta is an Italian antipasto of grilled bread rubbed with garlic and topped with a mixture of tomato and basil. It is perfect for using summer tomatoes for a simple appetizer or side dish.

This is a great recipe for an old, not stale, baguette. Dry the baguette in the oven if necessary. Save any leftover tomato mixture for the base of a delicious tomato soup.

Ingredients:

- 1 baguette, dried, sliced 1/4-inch on the bias
- 4 garlic cloves, two minced and two sliced for the bread
- 1 pint cherry tomatoes, quartered or diced, lightly squeezed to remove seeds and excess water
- 4-5 large basil leaves, chiffonade cut
- 1 small fresh or dried pepperoncino or a pinch of crushed red pepper flakes
- 1/3 cup or more of quality extra-virgin olive oil

Mix the tomatoes, minced garlic, pepperoncino, basil, salt, and pepper. Refrigerate for one hour to allow the flavors to meld together.

Lightly grill or toast the bread slices. Peel and slice the remaining garlic cloves. Lightly run the sliced garlic over the surface of the bread.

Place bread on a serving plate and cover each with the tomato mixture. Drizzle lightly with olive oil.

Recipe and photo reprinted with permission of www.TuscanWomenCook.com.

During each day of Tuscan Women Cook's week-long program, their group of 18 participants learn to cook authentic Italian recipes from some of the best cooks in all of Italy...the local grandmothers, or "nonnas." These extraordinary women teach their cooking classes sharing family recipes that have been handed down from generation to generation.

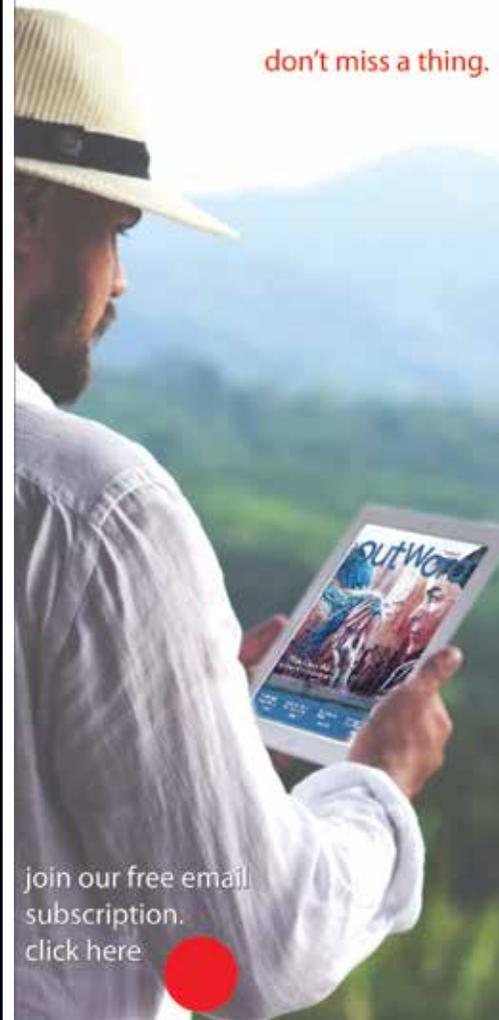
And after a day of cooking, eating, and wine tasting, participants are taken on shopping and sightseeing trips in the many beautiful villages and towns of Tuscany, with maybe a little more wine tasting and afternoon gelato sampling, ending each day with a memorable gourmet dinner in the region's top locales.

Los Angeles-based Coleen Kirnan and Rhonda Vilardo are two inventive business dynamos who decided to take a career risk that changed their lives. In 2016 they purchased Tuscan Women Cook, a career move that changed both of their lives personally and professionally.

For more information on Tuscan Women Cook, visit their website, www.TuscanWomenCook.com.

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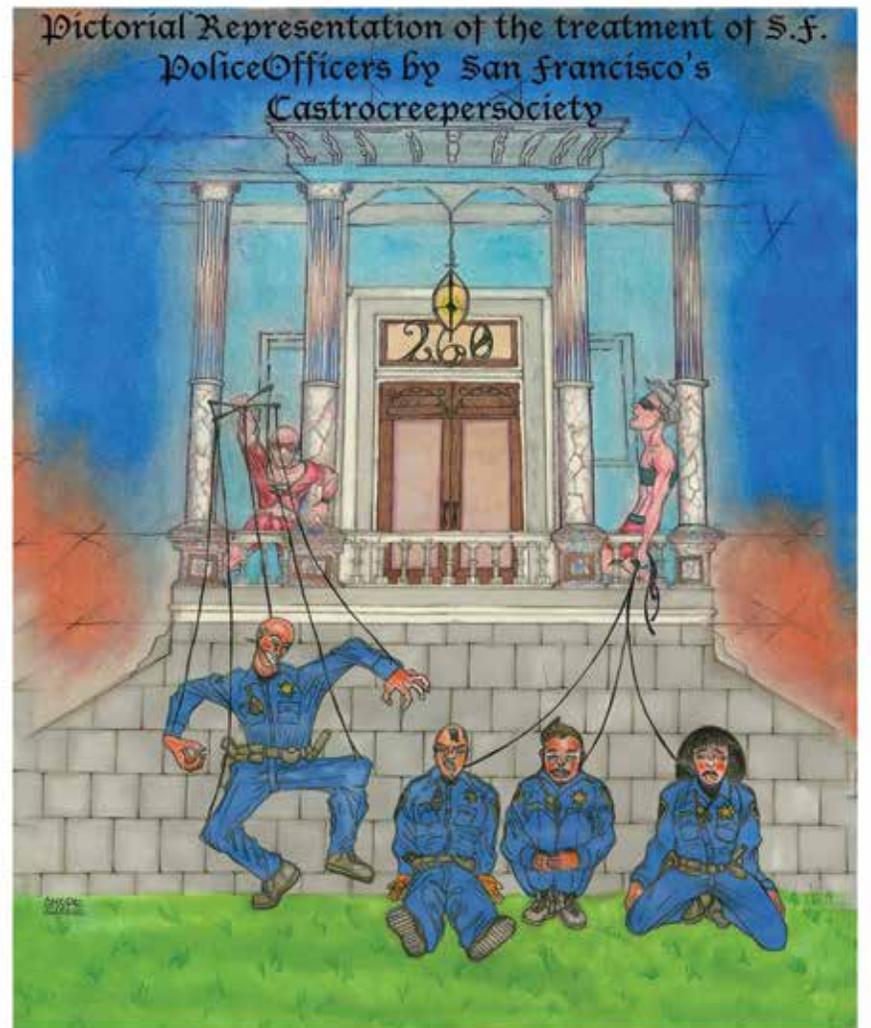
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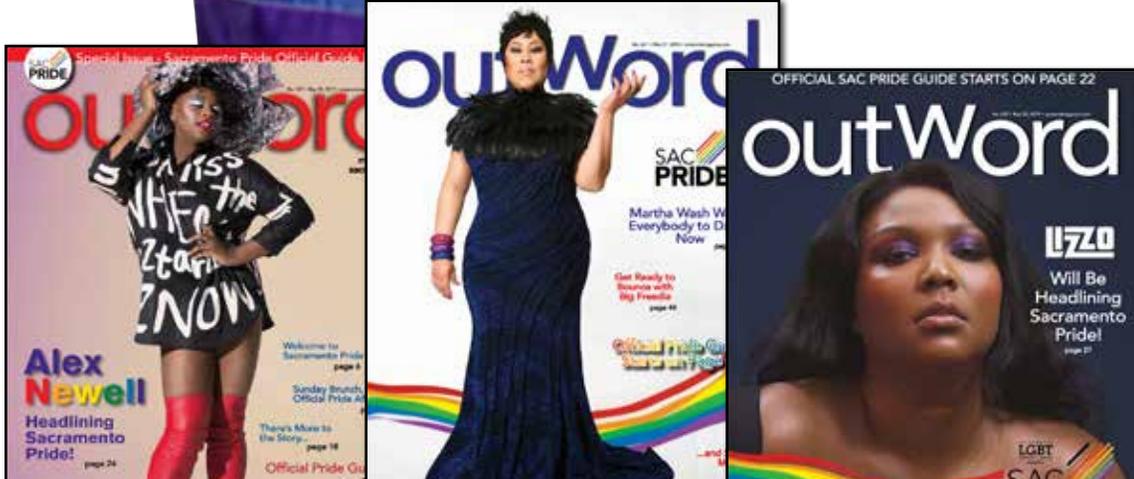
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New Music From Sam Hunt & Other Hot Country Hunks

by Chris Narloch

There are so many handsome and talented men making country music these days that I don't know where to begin: Keith Urban, Brett Eldredge, Tim McGraw, Jason Isbell, Thomas Rhett, and Dierks Bentley, to name just a few.

The arrival of his long-awaited second studio CD has brought sexy singer Sam Hunt ("Body Like A Back Road") back into the spotlight. Along with Mr. Hunt's "Southside," I also review recent releases by two other hot country hunks: Brett Young and Hunter Hayes.



Sexy Sam Hunt

Sam Hunt – Southside

This former college football player hails from Georgia originally, and he's one of the very best of the new breed of young Nashville crossover artists. Hunt scored a massive major label debut in 2014 with "Montevallo," a modern country masterpiece that spawned five hit singles.

The pressure was on for a successful sequel, and that explains why "Southside" took so long to be released, finally seeing the light of day this spring, more than five years after "Montevallo."

"Southside" isn't as great as that CD, but it's still a must for his fans, despite the lack of any A+ party tunes (like "Leave The Night On" from "Montevallo"). Instead, "Southside" includes the very sexy tracks "Body Like A Back Road" and "Sinning with You," plus a batch of terrific break-up songs such as "Downtown's Dead" and "Breaking Up Was Easy in the '90s."

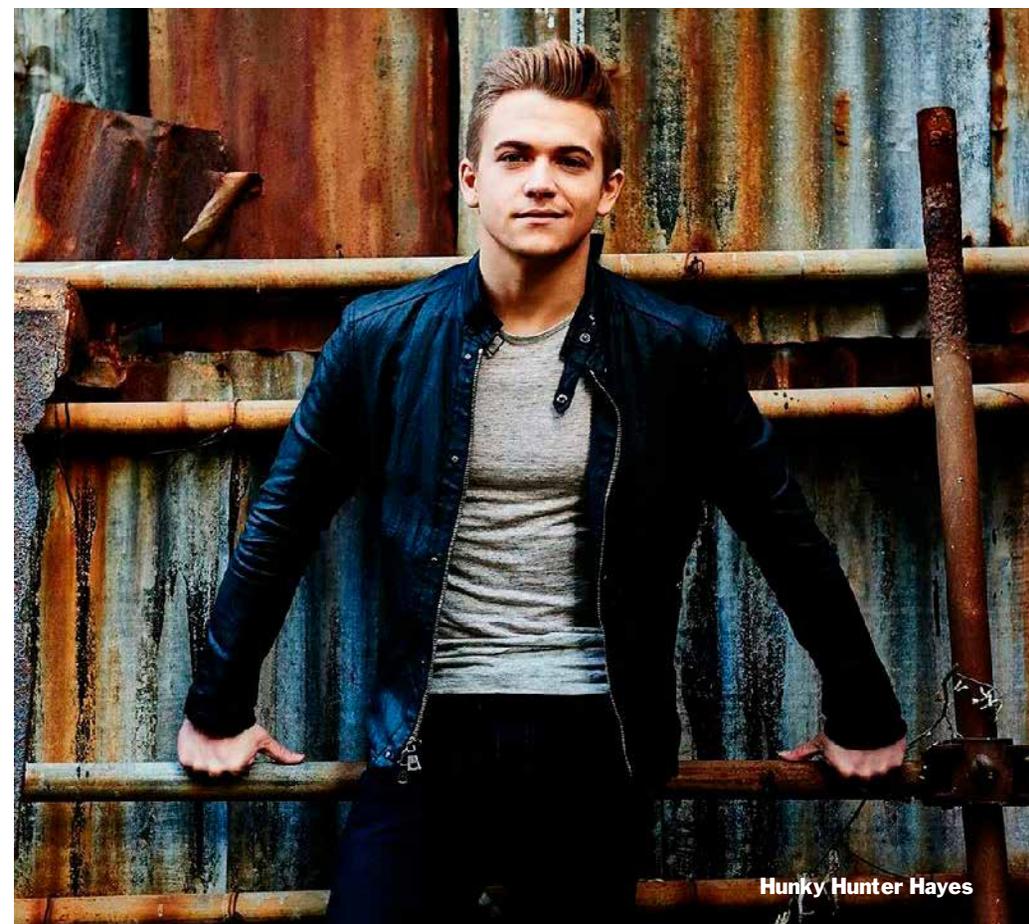
Hunt is now married to his "ex," and he closes the new CD with "Drinkin' Too Much," a direct plea to his now-wife to get her back, which actually worked. That song goes to nakedly emotional places that many mainstream male country artists would be scared to tread, and that fearlessness is what makes Hunt much more than just another hot country hunk.



Beautiful Brett Young

Brett Young – Brett Young

This 39-year-old singer-songwriter originally from Anaheim scored a huge hit in 2018 with "Mercy," the most beautifully crafted sad country song since Miranda Lambert released "Tin Man" in 2017. A heartbreaking, piano-based ballad that begs for mercy from a lover, the song established Young as a sensitive hunk with a heart of gold. The self-titled debut album that contains "Mercy" also features the hits "Sleep Without You," "In Case You Didn't Know" and "Like I Loved You." Young's follow-up CD, "Ticket to L.A.," is also a winner.



Hunky Hunter Hayes

Hunter Hayes – Wild Blue (Part 1)

This country-pop cutie-pie is a multi-talented 28-year-old singer-songwriter from Louisiana who can play 30 instruments. Hayes scored huge hits earlier in his career with the songs "Invisible," "I Want Crazy," "Wanted" and "Somebody's Heartbreak." He released this ten-track album digitally last August. An eclectic mix of soul-searching songs ("Dear God," "My Song Too") and upbeat anthems ("Heartbreak," "Madness"), "Wild Blue" is a solid CD that may not win the artist any new converts but promises to satisfy his devoted fanbase.

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Queer Movies To Watch At Home

by Chris Narloch

Whatever you do, don't watch "Contagion" right now. That fictional (but great) Steven Soderbergh film from 2011 predicted our current global pandemic with shocking accuracy, and I wish I could get its images out of my head now that many people infected with COVID-19 are essentially experiencing a real horror movie.

Soderbergh brought together an amazing cast of movie stars and then bumped them off one by one, but if you have never seen "Contagion" I recommend waiting until the worst of the pandemic has passed before sitting through its grim cautionary tale.

I'm sticking with more upbeat fare these days, including Lionsgate Free Fridays, a fun online film festival hosted by Jamie Lee Curtis and sponsored by Lionsgate that aims to recreate the communal theatrical experience with a free film each Friday streaming live on YouTube.

Ms. Curtis will share her own movie memories and will be joined by special guest celebrities and YouTube personalities. Most importantly, audiences everywhere will have the option to join Lionsgate in donating to the country's temporarily jobless movie theater employees.

Each week's night at the movies will also feature special programming and interactive opportunities for fans, like real-time fan chats via YouTube Live, live tweeting @Lionsgate and partners, and shared fan engagement opportunities in-show, including movie trivia, movie-themed challenges, and more.

The free movies that will live-stream on Fridays at 6:00 p.m. PT include "Dirty Dancing" on April 24, "La La Land"

on May 1, and "John Wick" on May 8. For more information, visit www.youtube.com/user/LionsgateLIVE

In addition to catching up on my spring-cleaning during the shutdown, I have also been catching up on the endless number of queer movies I receive to review. Here are a few of my favorites, in case you are looking for some LGBTQ+ content to enjoy.

Alex Strangelove

Not to be confused with "Dr. Strangelove," Stanley Kubrick's classic comedy and one of the finest American movies ever made, "Alex Strangelove" is a queer rom-com about a high school senior who plans to lose his virginity with his girlfriend and then falls in love with a guy. Alternately raunchy and charming – and sometimes both at the same time – this Netflix movie is fun for the whole (gay) family.

Papi Chulo

Matt Bomer fans should enjoy this DVD release from last November that features a strong performance by the actor and a very odd story about a gay weatherman who becomes obsessed with a middle-aged Mexican day laborer after an on-air breakdown. Uneven as the film is, "Papi Chulo" tells a unique tale, and Bomer throws himself in to his role as a

gay widower in denial over his grief.

My Days of Mercy

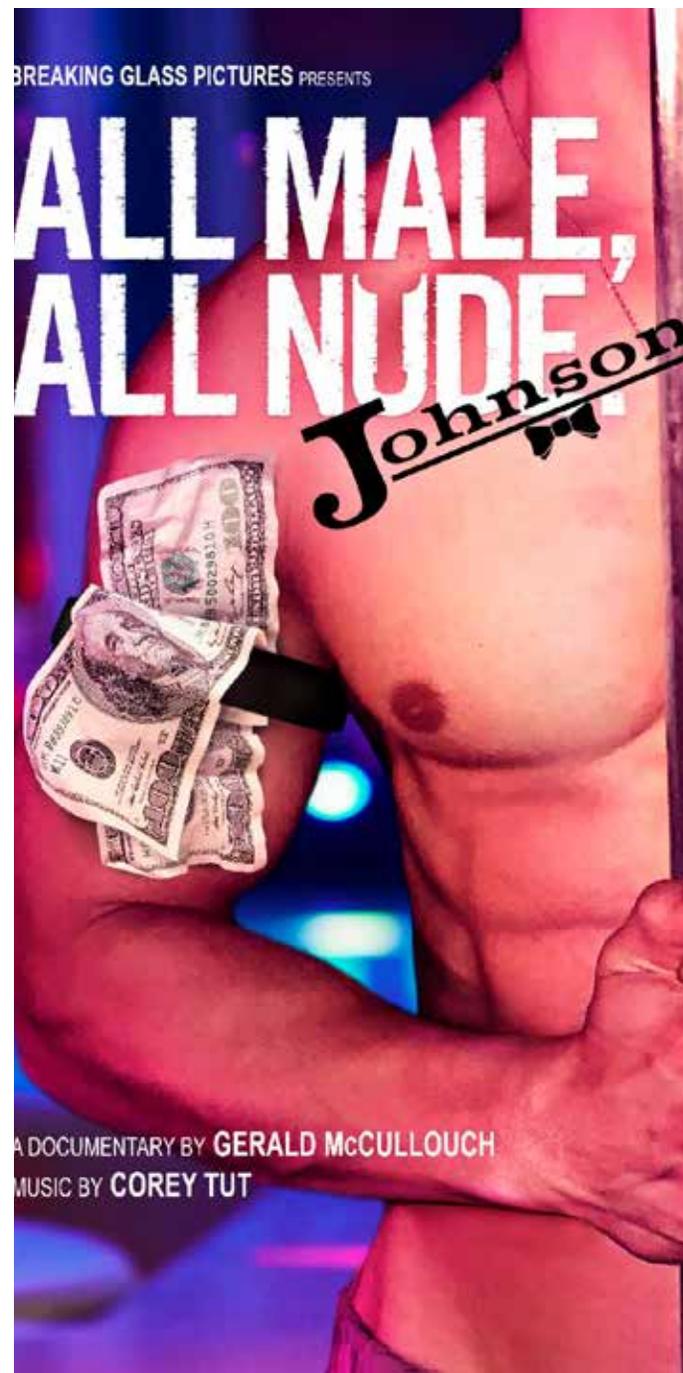
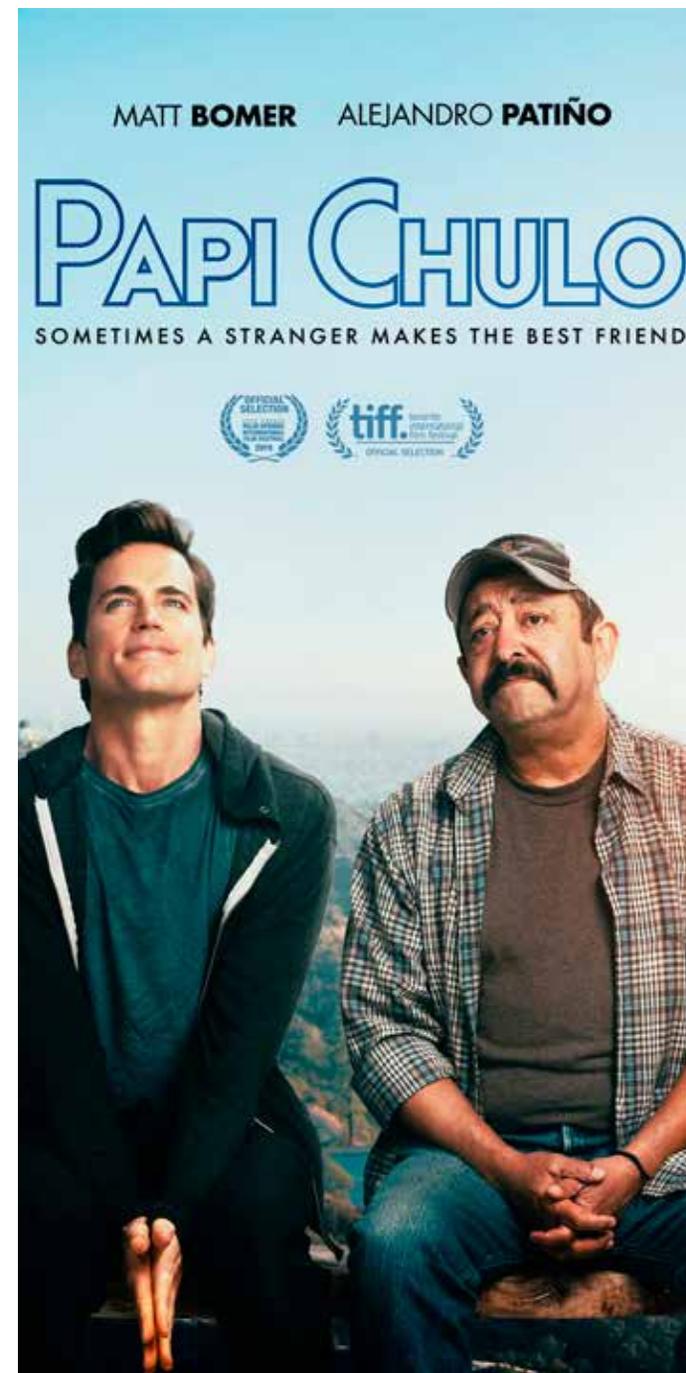
Ellen Page ("Juno"), who was so good in the recent "Tales of the City" reboot on Netflix, gives another powerful performance in this dynamite drama, which received a very limited theatrical release last summer. After a female activist protesting the death penalty (Page) befriends a woman with opposing views (Kate Mara), they begin a passionate relationship that tests their beliefs and their values.

Church & State

This superb documentary came out on DVD this January, and it follows an inexperienced gay activist who teamed with a tiny Salt Lake City law firm to topple Utah's gay marriage ban, which helped pave the way for a Supreme Court showdown. I didn't think my contempt for the Mormon Church could get any worse, but this fascinating film proved me wrong.

All Male, All Nude: Johnsons

The title says it all, and you won't be disappointed by this flesh-filled documentary about the colorful cast of characters who work at Johnsons, a gay strip club in Wilton Manors, Florida. The owner is a former stripper-turned-competitive-bodybuilder who plays mother hen to his dancers, including a fascinating fellow with an incredibly chiseled body who works children's birthday parties by day (dressed as Spiderman or Harry Potter) and then takes it all off at Johnsons at night.



Ryan Murphy Brings “Hollywood” To Netflix

by Chris Narloch

Now that we’ve all put that tawdry and trashy “Tiger King” show behind us, we can move on to the next viral hit series for these viral times, which – at least for gay viewers – will probably be Ryan Murphy’s “Hollywood.”

Murphy’s shows are hit-and-miss, but this one sounds especially promising, if only for its starry cast which includes Darren Criss, Patti LuPone, Mira Sorvino, Jim Parsons, Joe Mantello, and Dylan McDermott.

McDermott plays a character inspired by Scotty Bowers, the real-life Hollywood character whose gas station allegedly became a pick-up place for closeted stars during the ‘40s.

“Hollywood” will blend reality and fantasy in signature Ryan Murphy fashion to explore what Hollywood’s Golden Age would have looked like if the outsiders had been invited into the rooms where the decisions are made.

What if the person with green-light power was a woman? What if the screenwriter was a black man? What if the heroine was a woman of color? What if the matinee idol was openly gay instead of closeted?

Don’t miss Ryan Murphy’s “Hollywood” beginning May 1 on Netflix. For more information, go to: www.netflix.com/Hollywood



A still from Ryan Murphy’s “Hollywood”

Benjamin Scheuer Releases Trans-Positive Single

by Chris Narloch

Multi-talented singer-songwriter and off-Broadway playwright Benjamin Scheuer has released the touching track “I Am Samantha,” in celebration of his friendship with Samantha Williams, a transgender woman who Scheuer first met and befriended at a coffee shop in New York City.

After Williams jokingly mentioned that there were no songs with Samantha in the title, Scheuer vowed to rectify that situation. The rest is “herstory.”

To watch an interview about the genesis of “I Am Samantha,” go to: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w18_DPmxx9U&feature=youtu.be

You can also watch the official video for the song at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tQWwpzck8Tk&feature=youtu.be>

Benjamin Scheuer and Samantha Williams. Photo by Noa Griffel.



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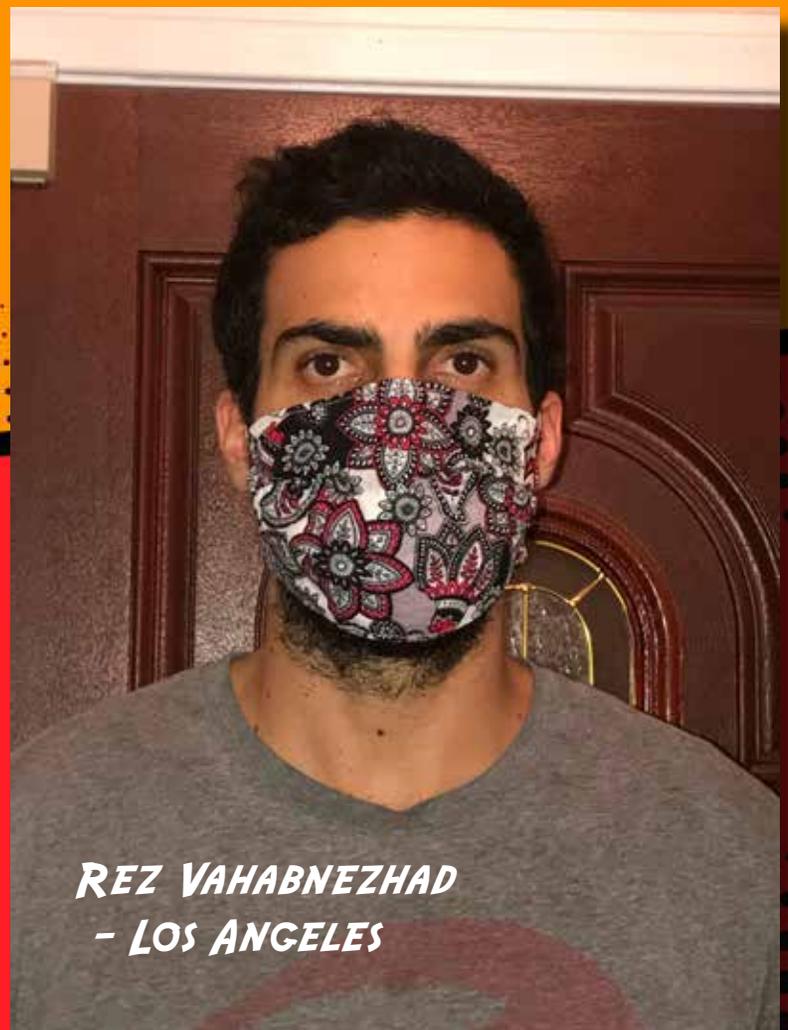
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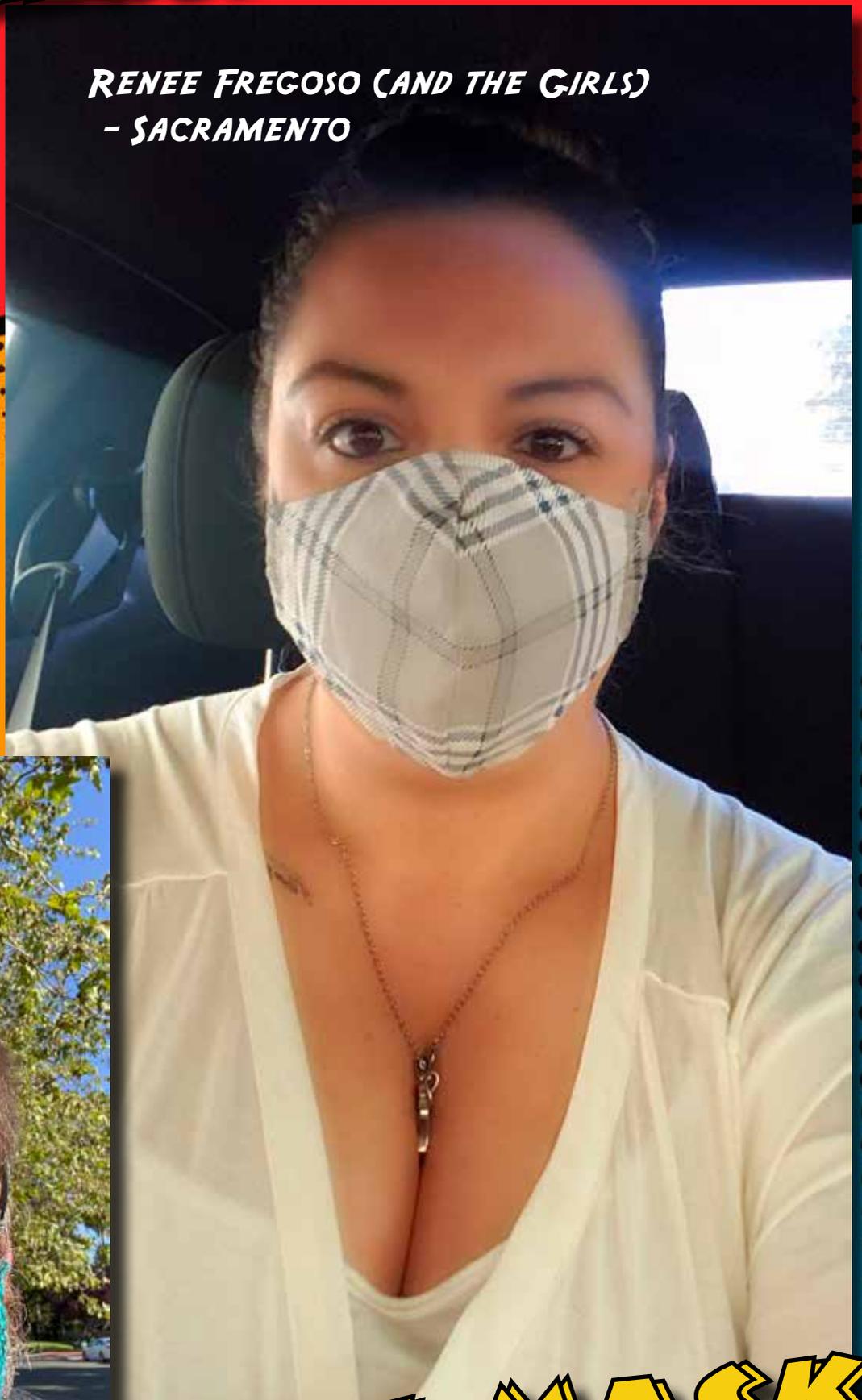
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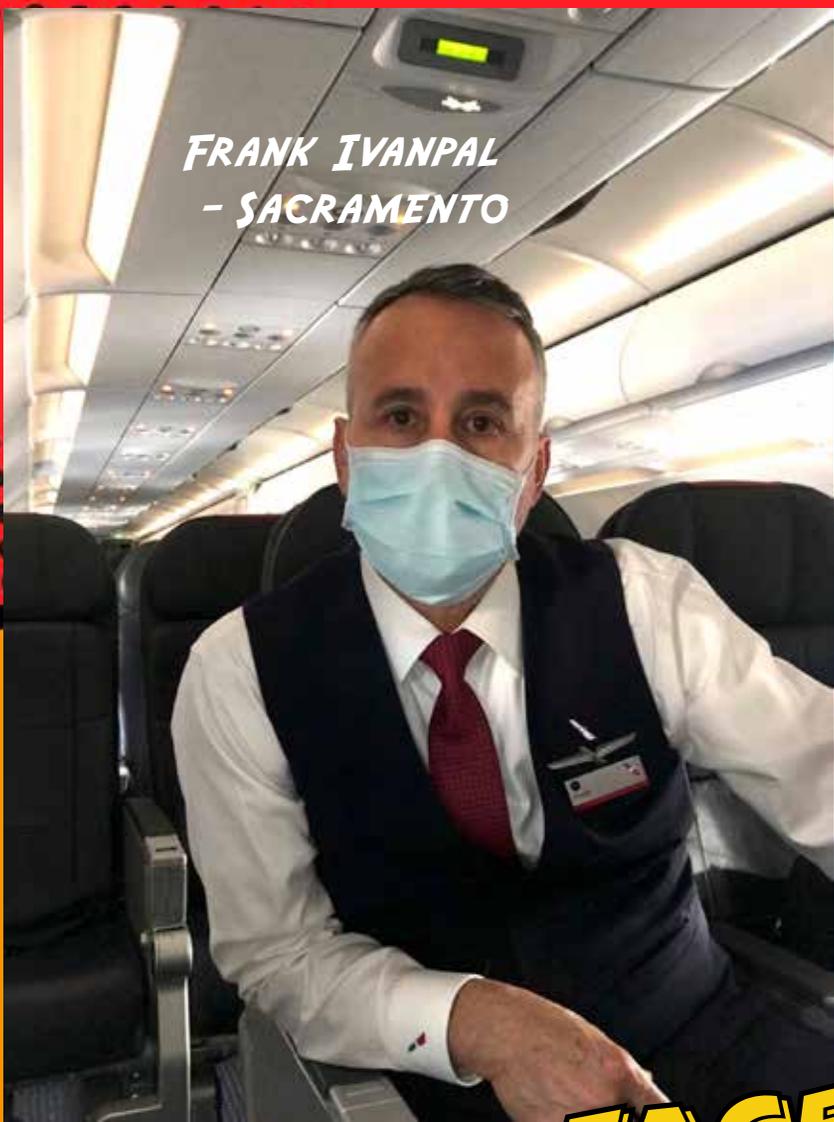
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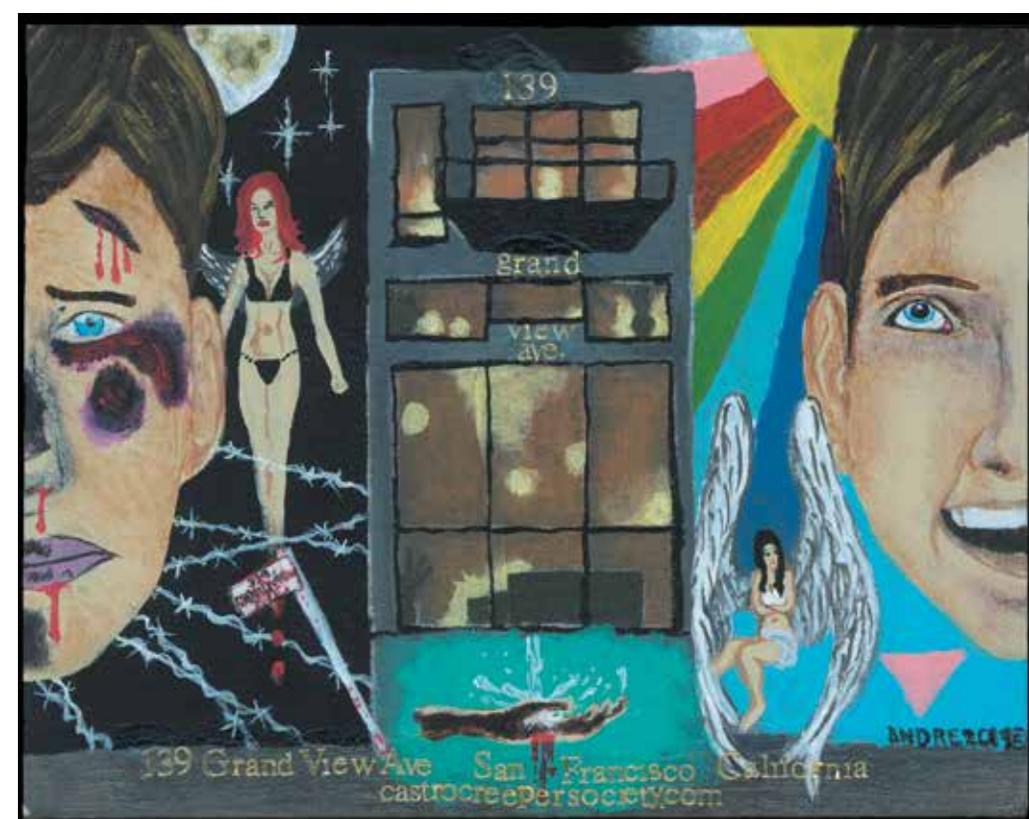
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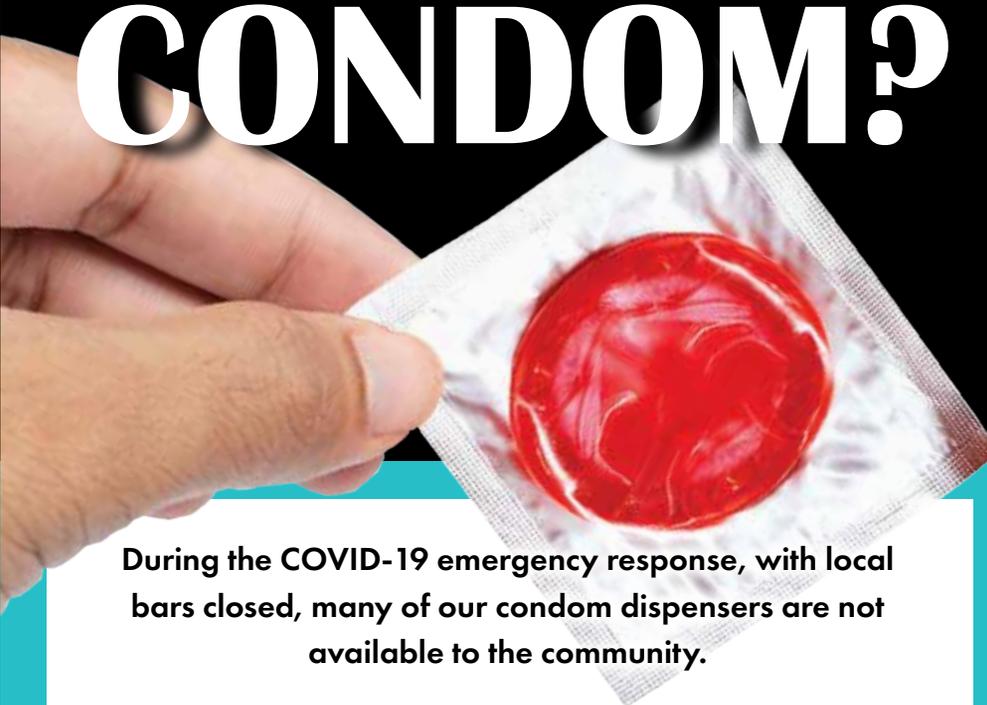
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As we come together during these extraordinary times, the *Play Safe Team* will continue to work diligently to ensure your safety.

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Aunt Suzies XXX Movie Reviews: Jury Duty (2011)

by Aunt Suzie

If you liked 12 Angry Men, you'll love 7 horny ones in the XXX film, Jury Duty. In this 2 hour and 15 minute full feature, you'll see the plight of a jury of 6 men as they decide whether or not an extremely dirty movie should be deemed a crime, or art.

The men introduce themselves, there is David Holt: A Retail Saleman, Dan Clark: A Public School Principal, Sam Calhoun: An IT Engineer, Todd Atkins: An Educator, Chuck Parker: A Handyman, and Ethan Hudson: a New Anchor for a local station.

The nerdy Dan Clark, played by Dirk Caber, elects himself as Foreman and then informs his new colleagues that this is a high profile case and will be staying in a local hotel, two to a room, for the duration of their deliberation. Things heat up rather quickly once the men are back in their hotel.

Sam (played by Bronson Gates) and Todd (played by Scotch Inkom) are paired up in a hotel room and things begin to heat up after Sam returns from his workout at the hotel gym. Todd notices there is a painting on the wall that seems to follow their every move, so he smartly covers the paintings' eyes so the two can continue their fling. This added an amazing moment of comedy, 10/10.

The next day, the men deliberate the case until it is time for lunch. Our foreman Dan decides he will skip lunch, but doesn't

know he's in for dessert with the security guard while his colleagues grab a bite. The chemistry between Dan and the hunky security guard is awkward at best, Dan doesn't quite know how to react to the advances in a fluid way, but what he lacks in confidence he makes up for in sock garters!

A few of Dan's fellow jurors come back from lunch early, only to hear the moaning of their foreman from the bathroom door. Once jury is back in session, the men wink and poke fun at Dan, which he almost has a nervous breakdown over before the session in through. In the final scene there is a big, and I mean big, secret that one of the jurors may just be in the porno in question! But that, you'll have to watch for yourself.

Overall, I would rate the script a 7/10, it is full of both semi-relevant plot, humor points, and downright awkward lines. Essential to a great dirty film! The acting? Overall, it's a 6/10, but there was a breakout star: Dan the Foreman as played by Dirk Caber! He goes straight from overly awkward to extremely dedicated in each scene in a way that flows perfectly. I recommend this movie if you're a fan of cop shows, or just really want to see too many sock garters.

A Still from the movie "Jury Duty"





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