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**2021 PRIDE ISSUE
THEMES ANNOUNCED!**

MAY 27



**CALIFORNIA
PRIDE**

JUNE 10



LOCAL HEROES

JUNE 24

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Davis Pride Festival Set for June

The rainbows will return this year, with a modified Davis Pride Festival in June. Events include live music, drag queens, Rollerblading and more.

While organizers finalize the details, here's an outline of the plans so far:

Thursday, May 27: At 10 a.m., Davis Phoenix Coalition representatives will speak at the virtual Davis Chamber of Commerce meeting. The presentation will offer practical tips on how businesses can be welcoming to LGBTQ individuals. Participants will receive a rainbow poster to hang in store windows that show their support of Davis Pride.

Sunday, May 30: Volunteers will paint rainbows on the crosswalks surrounding Central Park. Painting will begin at 5 a.m. on Sunday, May 30 and continue until about 11 a.m. To volunteer, go to <http://bit.ly/rainbowcrosswalks>. Meanwhile, the city will hang Davis Pride rainbow banners throughout town, on display throughout June.

Business owners are asked to show their support by hanging a rainbow flag poster in their window. Posters will be free, and available by emailing admin@davisphoenixco.org.

Saturday, June 12: Davis Pride plans a Rainbow Skate Party — an evening of inline skating under the Farmers Market pavilion, 401 C St. in Davis. Watch for details and times.

Sunday, June 13: Davis Pride teams up with the Davis Craft and Vintage Market in Central Park, 401 C St. The Davis Pride Festival will provide entertainment from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., including live bands and a drag queen revue. The craft fair, traditionally on the first Sunday of the month, is returning for a second fair in June, on the second Sunday. Health guidelines require participants to have tickets (donation-based) and assigned seating. More information will be available soon.

Friday, June 25: Rainbows will light up the monthly Bike Party Davis ride. Participants will gather at 7 p.m. at the north end of Central Park. The ride will go from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. on an easy, 8-mile loop through town.

June is National Pride Month. Davis festivities are traditionally celebrated in May,



Davis Pride volunteers spray temporary chalk paint on a sidewalk on Fifth Street in Davis in May 2019.

when UC Davis students are still in school. With Aggies doing online learning, this year's event is in June. The 2020 event was virtual. Some virtual activities will be part of this year's celebration as well. Stay tuned for further information.

Davis Pride is produced by Davis Phoenix Coalition, a nonprofit that works to foster diversity, eliminate intolerance, prevent hate-motivated violence and support LGBTQ+ youths. The coalition was founded in the aftermath of a 2013 anti-gay attack on Davis resident "Mikey" Partida. Proceeds

from Davis Pride support the coalition's anti-racism and anti-bullying campaigns, support to LGBTQ+ youths and their families, and outreach with area police departments, churches and schools. To donate, go to <https://davisphoenixco.org/donate>.

The Davis Pride Committee is looking for stories of pride resilience. If you have one to share, email admin@davisphoenixco.org. To follow details as they unfold, visit <https://www.davispride.org/>, and follow Davis Pride on Facebook and Instagram.

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More Than Half of Generation Z Gay, Bisexual Teenage Boys Report Being Out to Parents

A majority of gay and bisexual Generation Z teenage boys report being out to their parents, part of an uptick in coming out among young people that researchers have noted in recent decades, according to research published by the American Psychological Association. However, stigma and religious beliefs still prevent some young people from disclosing their sexual identity.

This study offers a glimpse into the coming out practices of Generation Z, those born between 1998 and 2010, a group that researchers are only beginning to study.

"This study is encouraging in that it shows that many teens, including those under 18 years old, are comfortable with their sexuality," said lead author David A. Moskowitz, PhD, assistant professor of medical social sciences at Northwestern University's Institute for Sexual and Gender Minority Health and Wellbeing. "At the same time, we must be cautious, as the data also point to some of the same barriers and discrimination that previous generations have faced. Work still needs to be done."

In the study, published in the journal *Psychology of Sexual Orientation and Gender Diversity*, researchers examined survey data from 1,194 13-to-18-year-old boys, all of whom identified as gay, bisexual or as being attracted to people regardless of gender. The data were collected as part of an HIV prevention study between January 2018 and January 2020.

Participants were asked demographic questions, such as their race and age, and social questions such as their religious affiliations and the frequency with which they attended religious events. They were also asked to respond on a scale of 1 to 4, with 1 being strongly agree and 4 being strongly disagree, to a series of statements to gauge their attitudes about their own sexual identities. These statements included, "Sometimes I think that if I were straight, I would be happier" and "If there were a pill to make me straight, I'd take it." They were also asked a series of questions, such as,

"How many times has someone chased you because of your sexuality?"

Researchers found that 66% of those surveyed were out to their mothers or other female parental figures and 49% were out to their fathers or other male parental figures. In the 1990s, in contrast, an estimated 40% of adolescent boys were out to their mothers and less than 30% were out to their fathers, according to the researchers.

The study also found that white participants were more likely than Black participants to be out to a parent or parental figure. Those identifying as gay were more likely to be out to a parent than bisexuals or those unsure of their sexuality. Participants who said they were not religious were more likely to say they were out to a parent than teens who identified as religious. Teens who were not fully accepting of their identity were less likely to come out than those who embraced their identity.

"This gives us an understanding of the factors that move teenagers to share this type of information with the people closest to them," said Moskowitz. "We can now compare these practices with how other generations deal with these issues and think about what it all means for future generations."

More study is needed to fully understand how this generation views sexuality, according to the researchers.

"An important next step would be to determine the coming out practices of females in this age group," Moskowitz said. "This study provides a roadmap for such an effort. In the meantime, these findings should be helpful to those who work with teenagers identifying as sexual minorities."

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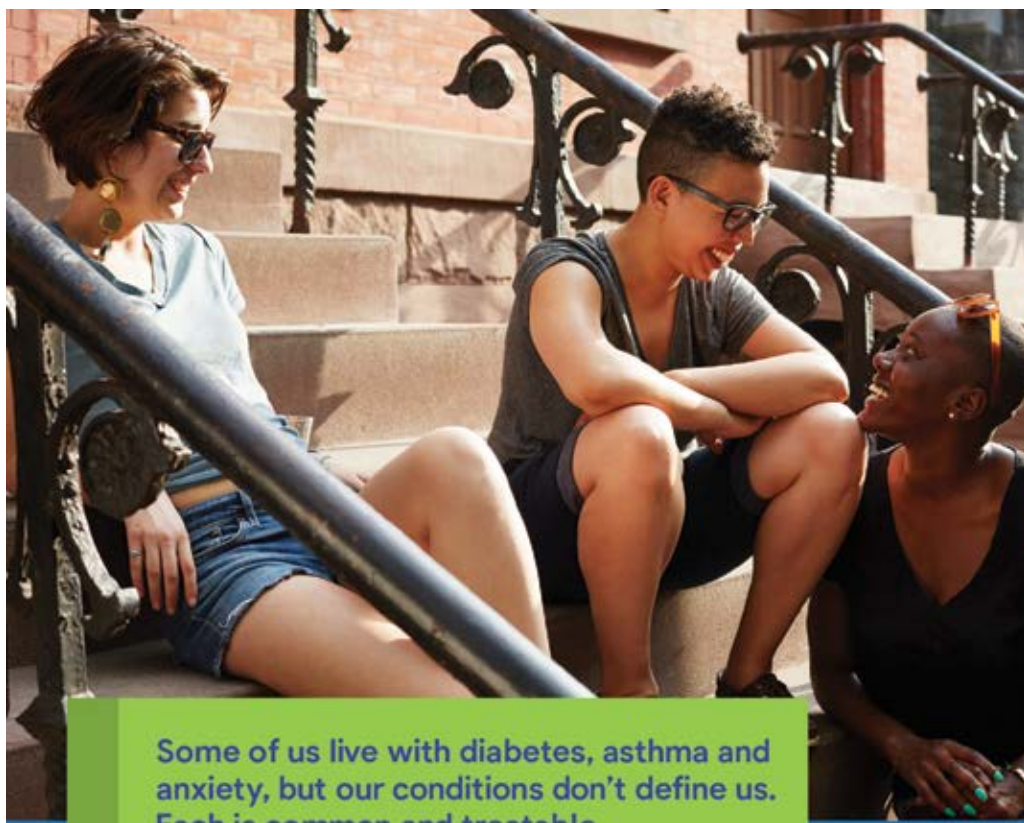
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"Pride In A Box" Brings LGBTQ+ Pride Home, Providing Decor and Joy for At-Home Celebrations

Brand|Pride is proud to announce the official launch of Pride in a Box! Pride in a Box is an at-home Pride kit that guarantees to bring fun, joy and unicorn love into your home! For 20 years, Brand|Pride has been guiding brands on LGBTQ+ promotional items and helping brands show their support for the LGBTQ community.



Pride month is a vital and joyous time for the LGBTQ+ community, and that joy does not have to be compromised because most in-person celebrations have been cancelled. Let us bring Pride to you!

Pride in a Box offers a convenient way to get unique Pride products to celebrate at home or virtually with friends and family. Our fantastical Pride boxes officially launch on April 21 and can be ordered from www.PrideinaBox.com

The COVID-19 pandemic has drastically changed the way Pride is celebrated. Though physically gathering in the way we're used to is not possible, the reasons Pride is celebrated and our community and allies gather have not changed. The LGBTQ+ community has come together during these uncertain times to build support networks and solidarity, working for our collective health and wellbeing, and continuing to fight for equality.

Pride in a Box is a community focused and centered effort. "At Brand|Pride we are constantly seeking out LGBTQ+ and minority owned businesses to work with. We want products by us and for us, which is why we're thrilled that 95% of the Pride in a Box

items are designed and sourced through LGBTQ+ suppliers. The LGBTQ+ community is vast, diverse, and beautiful, and we hope Pride in a Box can offer some happiness and connection in this unprecedented time in our lives", says CEO Elise Lindborg.

Altering the way celebrations occur is just one of many ways we have learned to adapt and thrive. The strength of the LGBTQ+ community is at the core of all Pride celebrations, regardless of where they take place. "Pride has always been about unity. For us, Pride in a Box is another way to foster that unity, even if we need to be apart for our health and safety. This is our way to bring a little bit of Pride to your home, a reminder that Pride isn't just a single month of the year but something we feel 365 days of the year", says Lindborg.

Importantly, Pride in a Box recognizes that not all LGBTQ+ people have the luxury of celebrating in this way. In April, May, and June, \$2 of the sale of each Pride in a Box will be donated to Black & Pink, a prison abolitionist organization seeking to liberate LGBTQ+ people through the abolishment of the criminal punishment system.

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MSRP:	\$52,175
Dealer Discount:	\$3,750
Sale Price:	\$48,425
2020 National Retail Consumer Cash:	\$1,750
CA CCAP 2021 Bonus Cash:	\$500
Chrysler Capital 2021 Bonus Cash*:	\$500
CA 2021 Retail Bonus Cash:	\$1,000
National 2021 Retail Bonus Cash:	\$1,000
2021 Returning Lessee:	\$500

\$43,175

11 at this net cost

\$11,000 Net Savings!

EXAMPLE: STK/VIN#: 64045D-718025

*Must finance through Chrysler Capital on approved credit.

New 2021 1500 Laramie Crew Cab 4x4



3.0L V6 Turbo Diesel Engine Gen 3, 8-Speed Automatic 8HP75 Transmission, ParkView® Rear Back-Up Camera, Full-Speed Forward-Collision Warning Plus, Dampened Tailgate, Tire-Fill Alert, Active Front Air-Dams, 2nd-Row In-Floor Storage Bins, 18-Inch x 8.0-Inch Aluminum Painted Wheels and so much more.

MSRP:	\$60,030
Dealer Discount:	\$5,000
Sale Price:	\$55,030
2021 National Retail Bonus Cash:	\$1,000
Chrysler Capital 2021 Bonus Cash*:	\$500
CA BC Memorial Day Retail:	\$2,000
2021 Returning Lessee:	\$500

\$51,030

3 at this net cost

\$9000 Net Savings!

STK/VIN#: 63699D-703224, 637090-703234, 63730D-703233

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New 2020 Compass Sport 4x2



2.4L I4 Zero Emission M-Air Engine w/ESS, 6-Speed Aisin F21-250 Gen 3 Automatic Transmission, Speed Sensitive Power Locks, ParkView® Rear Back-Up Camera, Steering Wheel Mounted Audio Controls Tilt/Telescope Steering Column, 16-Inch x 8.5-Inch Styled Black Steel Wheels and so much more.

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\$7,532 Discount OFF MSRP

1 at this net cost

\$17,988

STK/VIN#: 61230D-257846

New 2020 Renegade Latitude 4x2



2.4L I4 Zero Emission M-Air Engine, 9-Speed 948TE Automatic Transmission, Electronic Stability Control Electronic Roll Mitigation All-Speed Traction Control Speed Control Push-Button Start, A/C Auto Temperature Control w/Dual-Zone Control Premium-Wrapped Steering Wheel Steering Wheel Mounted Audio Controls, 17-Inch x 7.0-Inch Aluminum Wheels and so much more.

MSRP:	\$26,135
Dealer Discount:	\$8,000
Sale Price:	\$18,135
2020 National Retail Consumer Cash:	\$3,000
CA BC Retail Consumer Cash:	\$500
Chrysler Capital 2020 Bonus Cash*:	\$750
CA 2020 Retail Bonus Cash:	\$500
National 2020 Retail Bonus Cash:	\$500
2020 Returning Lessee:	\$500

\$8,000 Discount OFF MSRP

4 at this net cost

\$18,135

STK/VIN#: 60916D-L54099, 60940D-L54089, 61746D-L88184, 61747D-L88590

New 2021 Cherokee Latitude FWD



2.4L I4 Zero Emission MultiAir® Engine w/ Start/Stop, 9-Speed Automatic Transmission, Rain-Sensitive Windshield Wipers, Anti-Lock 4-Wheel Disc Brakes, Blind-Spot and Cross-Path Detection, Lane-Departure Warning Plus, 17-Inch x 7.0-Inch Painted Aluminum Wheels and so much more.

MSRP:	\$28,425
Dealer Discount:	\$3,750
Sale Price:	\$24,675
2021 National Retail Consumer Cash:	\$2,600
Chrysler Capital 2021 Bonus Cash*:	\$750

\$6,500 Net Savings!

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5 at this net cost

\$21,925

EXAMPLE: STK/VIN#: 61879D-134303

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MSRP:	\$40,965
Dealer Discount:	\$1,450
Sale Price:	\$39,515
2020 National Retail Consumer Cash:	\$3,050
2020 Returning Lessee:	\$500
2020 Bonus Cash:	\$1,000

\$6,000 Net Savings!

1 at this net cost

\$34,965

STK/VIN#: 61783D-223380

New 2021 1500 Bighorn/Lonestar Quad 4x4



5.7L V8 HEMI® MDS VVT eTorque Engine, 8-Speed Automatic 8HP75 Transmission, Electric Parking Brakes, Ready-Alert Braking, Rain-Brake Support, Tire-Fill Alert, Electronic Roll-Mitigation, Trailer Sway Damping, Hill-Start Assist, 18-Inch Full-Size Steel Spare Wheel and so much more.

MSRP:	\$48,095
Dealer Discount:	\$3,750
Sale Price:	\$44,345
2021 National Retail Consumer Cash:	\$1,750
CA CCAP 2021 Bonus Cash:	\$500
Chrysler Capital 2021 Bonus Cash*:	\$500
CA 2021 Retail Bonus Cash:	\$1,000
National 2021 Retail Bonus Cash:	\$1,000
2021 Returning Lessee:	\$500

\$9,000 Net Savings!

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3 at this net cost

\$39,095

STK/VIN: 63696D-646387, 63719D-646385, 63735D-646384

New 2021 1500 Tradesman Crew Cab 4x4



5.7L V8 HEMI® MDS VVT Engine, 8-Speed Automatic 8HP70 Transmission, Trailer-Tow with 4-Pin Connector Wiring, 7 Pin Wiring Harness, Locking Tailgate, Anti-Lock 4-Wheel Disc Brakes, Electronic Stability Control, 20-Inch x 8.0-Inch Aluminum Wheels and so much more.

MSRP:	\$46,490
Dealer Discount:	\$4,500
Sale Price:	\$41,990
2021 National Retail Consumer Cash:	\$1,000
Chrysler Capital 2021 Bonus Cash*:	\$750
2021 Returning Lessee:	\$500

\$6,750 Net Savings!

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12 at this net cost

\$39,740

EXAMPLE: STK/VIN#: 62897D-513258

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MSRP:	\$48,120
Dealer Discount:	\$300
Sale Price:	\$48,820
2021 National Retail Consumer Cash:	\$1,950
Chrysler Capital 2021 Bonus Cash*:	\$750

\$3,000 Net Savings!

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2 at this net cost

\$46,120

STK/VIN#: 63726D-689663, 63904D-689666

New 2021 2500 Laramie Crew Cab 4x4



6.7L Hemi Cummins Turbo Diesel Engine, 8-Speed Automatic 69RFE Transmission, Supplemental Front Seat-Mounted Side Air Bags, 3.73 Axle Ratio, Front and Rear Park-Assist System, Traction Control, Trailer Sway Damping, Trailer Brake Controller and so much more.

MSRP:	\$76,995
Dealer Discount:	\$3,500
Sale Price:	\$73,495
2021 Returning Lessee:	\$500

\$4,000 Net Savings!

3 at this net cost

\$72,995

STK/VIN#: 63681D-570745, 63682D-570746, 63973D-570744

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Graton Resort & Casino Welcomed as Annual Title Sponsor and Host of the 2021 Sonoma County Pride Re-Imagined Parade

Sonoma County Pride (SCP) is pleased to welcome back Graton Resort & Casino as Annual Title Sponsor of this year's Pride celebrations and host of this year's unique re-imagined "Beyond the Rainbow Drive-Through Parade" on Saturday, June 6. A keystone of this year's month-long celebration, the design of this parade event acknowledges and respects the need for COVID-19 safety and social distancing by re-imagining the event as a drive-through experience. Organizations and individual contingents will occupy defined spaces for their stationary displays (floats) and celebrants, allowing attendees to drive along the parade route and experience the excitement and community of Pride in a unique and unprecedented manner. A streaming soundtrack will be available to guide and entertain parade-goers as they make their way through the space.

According to SCP, "our goal is to have no more than 20 to 30 contingents made up of local LGBTQI organizations, allies, and Sonoma County Pride sponsors. Each group will occupy a designated area in the large outdoor lot at the south end of the property to stage their stationary 'float', with mindful limits on the number of people allowed on-premise. As in our traditional parade, Sonoma County Pride 2021 judges will judge and choose the winning parade displays for 2021, to be announced during one of our live streams."

Greg Sarris, Chairman of Graton Resort & Casino, is happy to offer the Resort's support

for Pride and the Sonoma LGBTQ community again this year. "Graton Resort and Casino is honored to be the Annual Title Sponsor of 2021 Sonoma County Pride. Our core values are fostering compassion, inclusiveness and understanding of all citizens in our community. I am always adamant in making sure that the LGBTQ community is not only represented but protected. As I have said before, the only thing we don't tolerate here at the casino resort is intolerance."

Grace Villafuerte, Vice President of SCP, echoes Sarris' sentiment in looking forward to another year of their support and

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cooperation. "We are so grateful for Graton Resort's continued commitment to the LGBTQ community of Sonoma County, and their ongoing support for Sonoma County Pride, which allows us to offer a month-long series of events, that we hope will provide comfort during a time of uncertainty, a renewed sense of community, and enjoyment and peace throughout June."

Christopher Kren-Mora, President of SCP, is confident that this adaptation to the usual Pride festivities will be a fun and memorable experience for all. "Sonoma County Pride is proud and grateful to announce that Graton

Resort & Casino has determined once again to partner with our organization in presenting events for 2021 so that SCP is able to continue to be a beacon of education, solidarity, equality and unity to the community. Graton Resort & Casino has been a supporter and major contributor to Sonoma County Pride and the LGBTQ community for since it opened in 2013."

Join the excitement of the "Beyond the Rainbow Drive-Through Parade" Saturday, June 6, from 11am to 2pm. To reserve your time block or have your own float or display in the parade visit SonomaCountyPride.org

Sac Zoo Welcomes Rowdy & Zig Zag

By Chris Narloch

The Sacramento Zoo is proud to welcome nearly-four-year-old cheetah brothers, Rowdy and Zig Zag, to their newly-renovated habitat near the back of the zoo. Formerly the Australia habitat, the space received some nice upgrades prior to the cheetahs' arrival, including lovely green grass, heating elements under their arched shade structures/shelters, and a glass panel for up-close viewing. "The boys" arrived from Wildlife Safari in Winston, Oregon, this April 11 and are now on view to the public. For more information, please visit www.saczoo.org



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I Found My Heart in Sacramento

By Damond Sladen
Pronouns: They/Them
Instagram: @mythanedame

Growing up in the East Bay I was an hour away from San Francisco, known in many ways for being the pinnacle of LGBTQ+ rights, news, fashion, lives, and really the West Coast's LGBTQ+ everything. As a trans queer kid growing up in a conservative, suburban area I was traumatized and shaken to my core when the brutal murder of Gwen Araujo, a Trans Woman, happened in my town. This tragic story really catapulted me into self-discovery and coming into my own identity as a Black, Trans masculine, queer person. With San Francisco often thought of as the heart of gay culture, being so close to me, this really seemed in many ways like the ideal place to start my journey.



I started frequenting San Francisco more once I became a sophomore in high school especially since I was the president of the GSA at my high school. This was a huge time of firsts for me; First time attending Q-prom, first queer kiss, first heartbreak, first shot of testosterone, first time attending an LGBTQ+ conference, first time becoming an advocate through the GSA network advisory board, first time being a camp counselor for the camp I went to as a participant years before, and my first experience being a facilitator conducting many workshops about being a queer foster youth. This boi was out there making moves, I thought I was living my dream and nothing could compare to working and living near San Francisco; a little safe haven I could escape to where I felt like I was at home and I belonged. I was surrounded by a city that was plastered with rainbow flags, signs, and paintings as far as the eyes could see.

Fast forward five or so years and I currently live in Sacramento; moving to any city that wasn't near the Bay Area was scary because I was so used to being close to a safe haven of the queer community. I was scared to leave my comfort zone of being so close to San Francisco and refused to let my guard down and get my hopes up

that anything could compare. San Francisco had a huge impact on my life to the point where I had subconsciously set myself up for disappointment by not allowing myself to marvel in the beauty of the cities I stayed in and how some of them had LGBT affirming spaces.

I am surprised and happy to say I was wrong, downtown Sacramento has a mini version of San Francisco. It too is a safe haven, that is maybe not as well known to the world but, I love it and consider it home in many ways. Just as San Francisco had rainbow flags and queer art so does Sacramento; I see places queer youth can go when there's nowhere else to turn, where they can be themselves and be free without the burden of conforming to society. Sacramento has The Sacramento LGBT Center, The Gender Health Center, Lavender Library and many more locally owned shops that are riddled with rainbow flags, queer art, and affirming messages in their windows.

The queer youth in me that was so scared that I would never find another safe haven like San Francisco, with a warm heart is happy to report that Sacramento, even though not as big as San Francisco still has a mighty impact, an impact is just as powerful even in a small city.

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LGBTQ Travelers Lead the Way in Reconnecting with the World

Travel has always been a high priority for LGBTQ travelers. With so many ready to travel in 2021, it's no surprise that the top destinations right now are countries that are both LGBTQ friendly and offer the opportunity to reconnect with nature, such as Tahiti and Iceland.

"They are among the most resilient and loyal segment, traveling more frequently than non-LGBTQ travelers," according to John Tanzella, President of IGLTA (International LGBTQ+ Travel Association). "Travel really feels like part of our DNA in many ways - the need to seek out and find welcoming places to spend our time and money."

A recent study by the IGLTA Foundation underscores the resilience of the LGBTQ market and their eagerness to travel. In April, 73% of global respondents said they plan to take their next major vacation before the end of 2021.

Miami based Source Events, the leader in LGBTQ luxury travel, sees Tahiti growing in popularity, with this year being their third voyage. "After a year at home, our travelers want to reconnect with the world in a new way," says Craig Smith, President and Founder of Source Events. "Our guests are attracted to the spirit of Tahiti, its turquoise lagoons, world-class snorkeling and striking volcanic peaks. They want more intimate voyages, which is why we again chartered Windstar's Wind Spirit. With the luxury of just 120 guests, travelers can

experience the magic of Tahiti from the privacy of their own private yacht. Activities such as morning yoga, meditation and enrichment talks are like having a personal retreat at sea."

Olivia Travel, which caters to the women's market, has also seen a marked increase in bookings, underscoring the resilience of the LGBTQ market. "Olivia guests are ready to travel again! With a sold-out charter to Tahiti on Windstar in September of 2021 and another charter scheduled for late July in 2022, Tahiti has always been at the top of our guests' list when it comes to picking their next vacation," said Judy Dlugacz, President and Founder of Olivia Travel.

Tahiti has practically eliminated Covid, averaging just three cases per day, prompting its reopening as of May 1st. "We are delighted to welcome travelers back," said Kristin Karlson, managing director of Tahiti Tourisme North America. "Our travelers can be assured that the legendary beauty and hospitality of The Islands of Tahiti remains unsurpassed and can be enjoyed safely with effective health measures in place."

With so many special celebrations having been



put on hold during the past year, "We have many guests celebrating milestone birthdays and anniversaries, and we even have a couple getting married," adds Smith. The Dreams of Tahiti Cruise, sailing September 16-23, 2021 will also mark another milestone. "There was nowhere else in the world where we would celebrate Source Events' 20th Anniversary. We've timed the cruise so that we'll be hosting a Full Moon Celebration Feast on Bora Bora, one of the most beautiful islands in the world."

For further information, or to make reservations, please visit www.sourceevents.com or call (305) 672-9779. The Dreams of Tahiti Cruise itinerary may be viewed at <https://sourceevents.com/journey/full-moon-tahiti-cruise-12/#overview>.

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A Quartet of Queer Movies

By Chris Narloch

Queer movies come in all shapes and sizes these days. Some feature queer characters, others are made by queer filmmakers, and some include queer performers. All three of those scenarios are represented in the movie reviews below.



Ed Helms and Patti Harrison costar in "Together Together."

Together Together

Funnyman Ed Helms is known mainly for raucous comedies such as "The Hangover," but he is also a serious actor, and he gets to show that in this very sweet comedy about a middle-aged, single man who bonds with the surrogate he hires to help him become a father.

The pair are not "together together" in a romantic sense, but they do love each other, and the film raises interesting questions about surrogacy and whether a straight man and woman who love each other can be "just friends."

Writer-director Nikole Beckwith handles both her jobs with aplomb, and she has boldly and successfully cast a trans actress (the terrific Patti Harrison) as Helms' lovely and funny surrogate.

"Together Together" is available to rent via VOD (Video On Demand) and was still playing at several local theaters as I wrote this. Don't miss it.



Rosamund Pike and Peter Dinklage costar in "I Care A Lot."

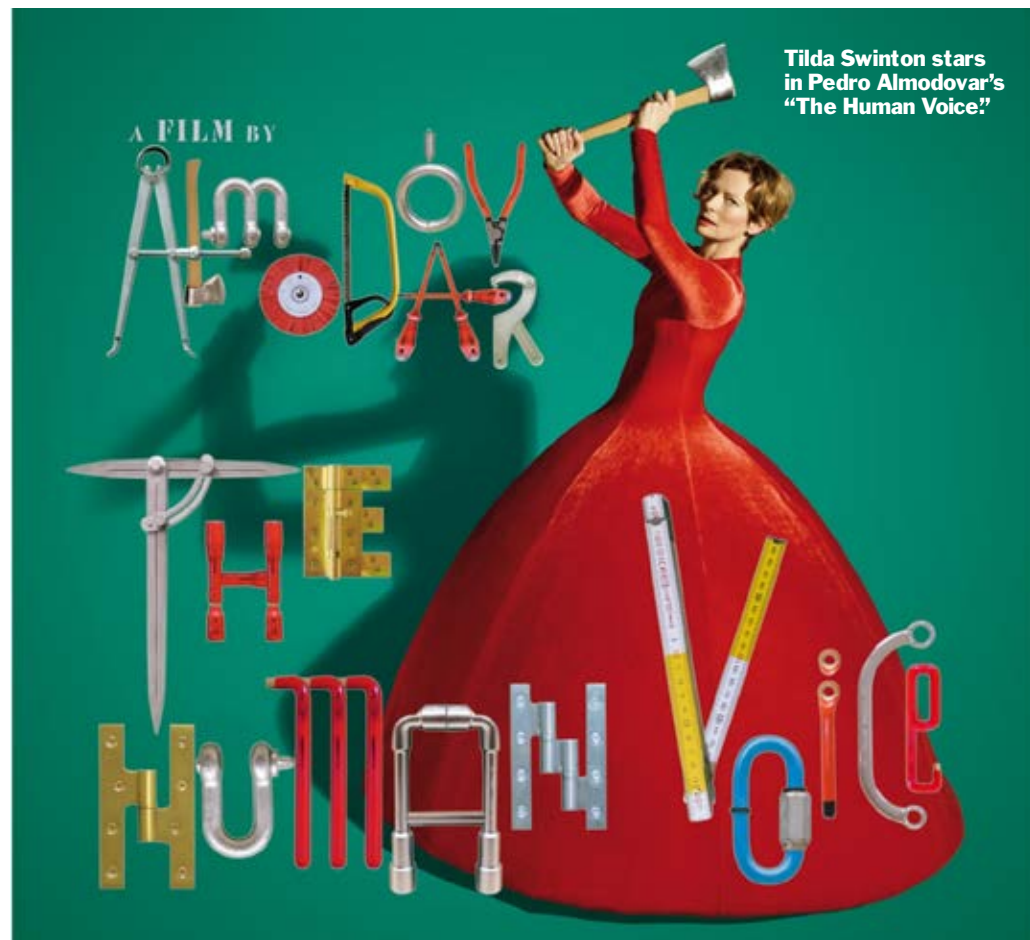
I Care A Lot

This nasty little thriller is unique in that it centers around a lesbian couple (played by Rosamund Pike and Eiza Gonzalez) whose con involves defrauding senior citizens of their homes and independence.

After several years of watching earnest, politically correct lesbian dramas, it was sort of a kick (at first) to see a queer couple who are very "bad girls." Unfortunately, writer-director J Blakeson didn't know when to quit, and the movie becomes increasingly absurd and over-the-top, despite its first-rate cast.

In addition to tough performances from Pike and Gonzalez, "I Care A Lot" features fine work from Dianne Wiest, and another badass turn by Peter Dinklage, as a fellow criminal determined to get revenge on the women who committed his perfectly healthy mother (Wiest) to a care home.

"I Care A Lot" is available on Netflix.



Tilda Swinton stars in Pedro Almodovar's "The Human Voice"

Almodovar Movies

One of my favorite living filmmakers, Spain's Pedro Almodovar, who is openly gay, has a wild new short film in theaters. Entitled "The Human Voice" and starring the great Tilda Swinton, the 30-minute movie is paired with a digitally restored re-issue of one of the director's funniest and finest films, "Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown."

"The Human Voice" provides Swinton with the perfect showcase for her entire range of emotions, and the film is basically a lengthy phone call between her desperate character and the ex-lover who has recently left her alone in the home they shared.

Swinton makes her character's pain palpable, and then she proceeds to buy an axe and a can of gasoline. I won't tell you what happens after that, but you can see for yourself when this fascinating film opens at Sacramento's Tower Theatre, on Friday, May 14.

For more information, visit www.angelikafilmcenter.com/tower



The cast of "Fried Green Tomatoes"

Fried Green Tomatoes

This delicious 1991 dramedy returns to theaters thanks to TCM Big Screen Classics but only for two nights, this May 12 and 13.

Two legendary actresses, Kathy Bates and Jessica Tandy, round out a remarkable cast in this sweet story about an unhappy housewife (Bates) who befriends an older lady in a nursing home (Tandy) with a story to tell.

If the movie were made today, it would probably be more honest with regards to the (obviously lesbian) relationship between the two young women played by Mary-Louise Parker and Mary Stuart Masterson in the film's flashbacks.

Still, "Fried Green Tomatoes" is a pleasing slice of cinematic comfort food. Tickets for the film's 30th anniversary events are available now at www.fathomevents.com

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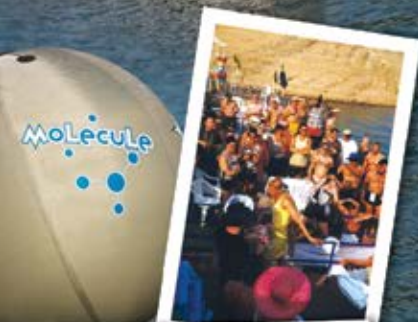
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Take A Trip Back To The '70s With Netflix & "Halston"

By Chris Narloch

Look closely and you'll see that the man on the far left in this photo isn't the real Halston but Ewan McGregor playing the legendary clothing designer. The limited series "Halston" follows the fashion icon as he leverages his single, invented name into a worldwide fashion empire that's synonymous with luxury, sex, status and fame, literally defining the era he lives in – 1970's and '80's New York City – until a hostile takeover forces him to battle for control of his most precious asset, the Halston name. The Netflix series premieres May 14, 2021. For more information, visit www.netflix.com/halston



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The Futuristic Disco Of Dua Lipa

By Chris Narloch

It's hard to believe that the 25-year-old pop princess Dua Lipa, who is British, was born in 1995, fifteen years after the unofficial "demise of disco" in 1980. So complete is the singer's grasp of late '70s dance music and culture that she's like a glorious flashback to the days of disco balls and Donna Summer.



Dua Lipa and two of her dancers from "Studio 2054"

I was a queer teenager during that era, so I remember it well and have great nostalgia for the much-maligned musical genre that spawned "Saturday Night Fever" and The Village People.

During those glitter-filled, gold-chained glory days, disco reigned supreme and saturated the culture for several years before AIDS spoiled the party and then rap music took over.

If you weren't there, it's hard to fully understand what disco meant to the gay community in those days. Songs like "Don't Leave Me This Way" and "I Feel Love" promoted musical and sexual freedom for a generation of queer men and women who had grown up in the closet.

Of course, dance music has never really gone away -- it's just been reinvented and renamed as house music, or EDM, or whatever the kids are calling it these days -- and artists such as Dua Lipa and the Swedish singer-songwriter Robyn are now embracing disco and bringing it into the 21st century.

Dua Lipa reportedly has a fascination with the heyday of disco and Studio 54, the nightclub in New York City that became the number one disco destination in the United States during the late '70s.

I recently watched "Studio 2054," Lipa's livestream concert from last November, which allowed the artist to perform music from her brilliant current album ("Future Nostalgia") live, after her concert tour was postponed due to the pandemic.

The entire sexy show -- all 90 minutes -- is now free to watch on YouTube, and I urge every dance music fan who has been missing the disco ball to check it out.

Dua Lipa definitely gets her dance on in "Studio 2054," which is a big-budget, non-stop disco party, complete with flashing neon lights, dozens of professional dancers, and choreographed production numbers.

Filmed on custom built sets in a large warehouse rather than on a concert stage, "Studio 2054" is part rave and part Soul Train (or American Bandstand) episode, with hot young men and women on roller skates and a disco beat that almost never stops.

Dua Lipa likes to dress in form-fitting, body-baring outfits that show off her long legs, but (thankfully) she knows how to be sexy without taking it too far.

The singer gets cozy with Miley Cyrus and Kylie Minogue during "Studio 2054" and also invites FKA Twigs, Elton John, Bad Bunny, and J Balvin to her disco party.

Watching "Studio 2054," I marveled at how Lipa and her producers have updated and refreshed disco while staying true to the hot, hedonistic spirit of the music. Hits like "Levitating" and "New Rules" are unbelievably catchy, and "Don't Start Now" is unusually deep for a dance song.

Unlike some modern pop music, there's nothing jaded or cynical about Dua Lipa, and I can't wait to see the singer live after her tour finally gets underway this September. Until then, we can enjoy the disco divinity of "Future Nostalgia" and "Studio 2054."



Company's Comin'...How Y'All Doing?

By Chris Narloch

At 66, the irrepressible Leslie Jordan is funnier and more famous than ever. The gloriously gay actor and raconteur packs a lot of talent in to his 4' 11" frame, and his fans can rejoice that Jordan has both a brand-new book and his first country-gospel album just out.

How Y'All Doing?

The hilarious star of "Will & Grace," "Southern Baptist Sissies" and "Sordid Lives" has put his pink pen to page before, but this is Jordan's first book since the pint-sized performer "went viral" thanks to the addictive Instagram videos he released during the pandemic.

Subtitled "Misadventures and Mischief from a Life Well Lived," Leslie Jordan's latest memoir is designed to lift our spirits during

church as a boy. "Company's Comin'" is not a comedy album but a sincere and touching attempt by Jordan to reconnect with the faith music that he grew up with.

Although he is not what one would call a born singer, Jordan can carry a tune, and the 14-song record is entertaining (if uneven) because his team has chosen great songs and surrounded him with the very best singers and musicians in Nashville, where the album was recorded.



these dark days.

"How Y'All Doing?" is a collection of intimate and memorable essays recounting the odd and unforgettable events in the life of a unique talent who has known highs and lows, from winning an Emmy to getting sober after battling drug and alcohol addiction.

Whether he's writing about his brush with a group of ruffians in a West Hollywood Starbucks, or the unexpected phone calls from legendary Hollywood star Debbie Reynolds that helped heal his strained relationship with his mother, Leslie infuses each story with humor and heart.

The book is an authentic, warm, and joyful portrait of a true Southern charmer.

Company's Comin'

Jordan, who was born in Chattanooga, TN, is country to his core, and he grew up singing many of the classic hymns on this album in

Most of the songs are done as duets or trios so that Jordan gets the vocal support he needs, and his singing partners on the disc read like a who's who of classic country: Dolly Parton ("Where the Soul Never Dies"), Brandi Carlile ("Angel Band"), T.J. Osborne ("In the Sweet By and By"), Ashley McBryde ("Working On A Building"), and Tanya Tucker ("When The Roll Is Called Up Yonder").

Pearl Jam's Eddie Vedder (!) even shows up to duet with Jordan for "The One Who Hideth Me," but my favorite track on the album is definitely "Farther Along," which teams Leslie with the heavenly voices of Chris Stapleton and his wife, Morgane.

Jordan seems inspired by the bluesy brilliance of the Stapletons, and he delivers his strongest vocal on "Farther Along," a great gospel lyric that is perfectly produced on "Company's Comin'."

Dolly Parton Has A Comic Book?

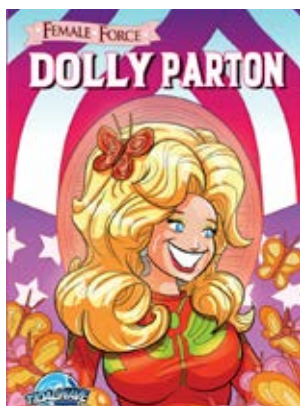
By Chris Narloch

If donating \$1 million to vaccine research and conquering the worlds of music, movies and TV weren't enough, the one and only force of nature that is Dolly Parton now has a comic book.

TidalWave Comics is proud to announce the recent addition of a Dolly Parton comic book to its popular "Female Force" series focused on women who make an impact around the world.

"Female Force: Dolly Parton" was written by Michael Frizzell, with art by Ramon Salas, and the 22-page comic book is available both digitally and in print. A hard cover edition will also be offered with a cover by famed comic book artist Dave Ryan.

The "Female Force" imprint features prominent and outwordmagazine.com



influential authors, business executives, entertainers, journalists, politicians, and activists. This latest biographical comic book

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Michael B. Jordan Flexes His Action Movie Muscles Again

By Chris Narloch

Not surprisingly, action movies were the first blockbusters to show up on the big screen as more theaters have reopened after being shuttered over the last year. “Godzilla vs. Kong” recently cleaned up at the box office, despite initially being available on HBO Max, and then “Mortal Kombat” joined it in theaters.



Jamie Bell and Michael B. Jordan star in “Without Remorse.”

I did enjoy parts of that noisy and cheesy Godzilla film, but I couldn’t bring myself to see “Mortal Kombat.” Call me a movie snob, but I don’t need to pay to watch a glorified video game on the big screen.

I also chose to skip the recent box office champ “Demon Slayer,” an animated action/fantasy film from Japan that looks like an inferior rip-off of a Miyazaki movie, judging from the trailer I saw.

I do love a great action flick though, and I can’t wait for George Miller’s next “Mad Max” movie, which is reportedly in the works.

Unlike many film fans though, I was not waiting for the expanded version of Zach Snyder’s 2017 superhero flick “Justice League,” which recently divided critics and movie lovers when it was released earlier this year at a whopping four hours long.

When a friend asked me if I had seen the epic, director’s cut of “Justice League,” I just

laughed. Why on earth would I want to watch a twice-as-long version of a bad movie that I could hardly sit through when it was “only” two hours long?

Speaking of bad action movies, sexy Michael B. Jordan has a new one bearing the awkward title “Tom Clancy’s Without Remorse,” which is now available courtesy of Amazon Prime Video.

Jordan kicks butt in the film’s action scenes, and he is suitably intense as an elite Navy SEAL out for revenge after his pregnant wife is murdered. The problems I have are with the film’s been-there-done-that, Cold War thriller script and its pedestrian direction, which lacks any discernible style or personality.

If you are a hardcore action fan with a couple hours to kill who loves stuff like “John Wick” or “Taken,” and you already have Prime Video, then “Without Remorse” is the movie for you.



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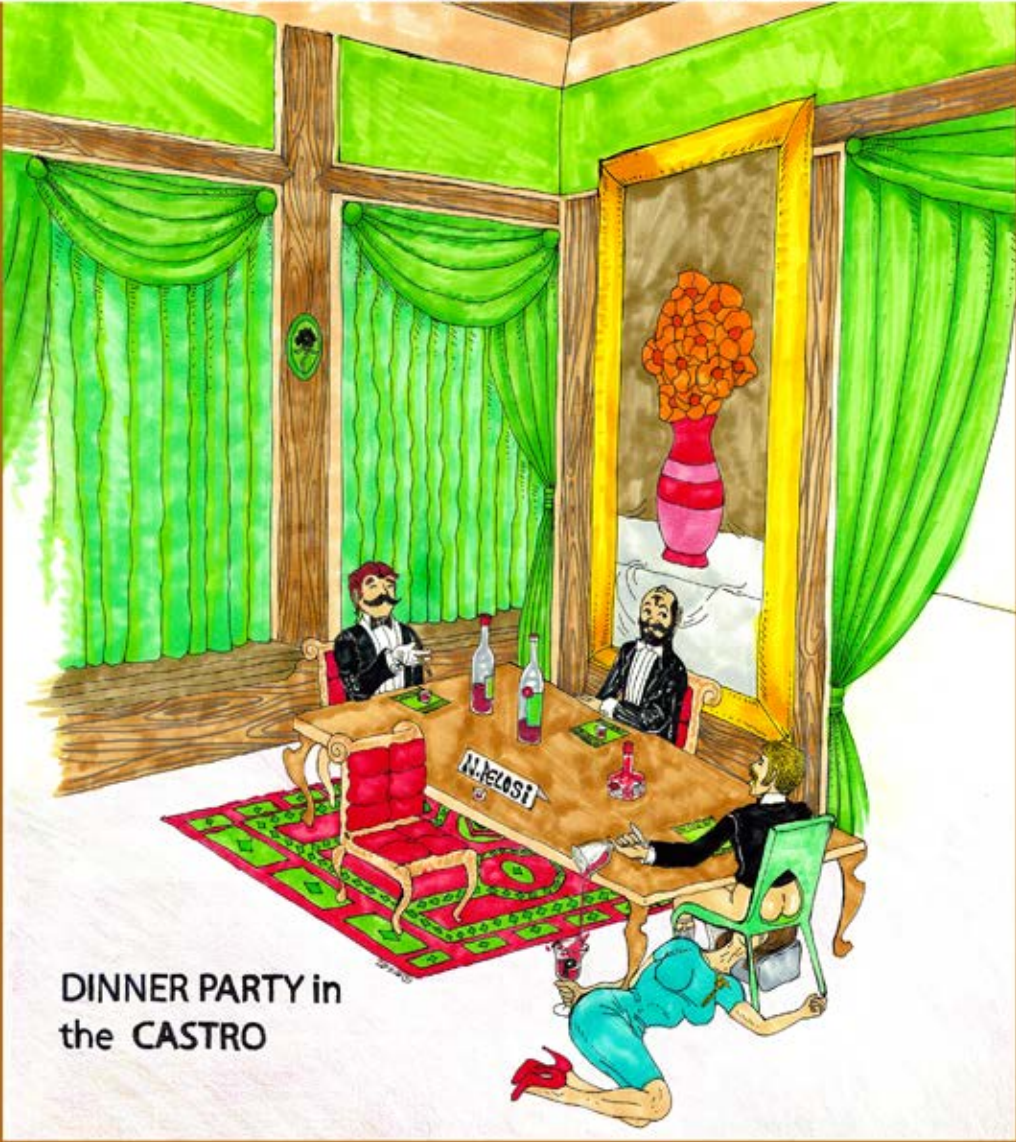
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DINNER PARTY in the CASTRO



Andrew Shayde Takes on Discovery Channel's "Naked and Afraid"

Andrew Shayde traveled from his hometown of Lexington, Kentucky, to a remote area in Limpopo, South Africa, where he and a partner had to work together to survive 21 days in the wild. His partner, Elizabeth Hensley from Ashville, New York, had to build their shelter, make fire, and boil their water which they got from a small muddy pond that also served as their bathtub. During the course of their challenge, they had to ward off bugs like scorpions and blood-sucking ticks and be wary of the predators that would circle their shelter at night like leopards and baboons. Andrew is one of only six openly LGBTQ+ survivalists to take on "Naked and Afraid" across 12 seasons.

"My experience was very real. Nothing was staged. Animals don't work for the production team. If they want to eat, they will eat you," said writer Andrew Shayde. "The danger was real. I joke, it's not fun unless your life is in danger!"

Andrew Shayde is also a former contestant of the Emmy-winning reality TV series "The Amazing Race," works for the nonprofit Arbor Youth Services which helps at-risk and queer youth in Lexington, KY, and wrote graphic novel series like "Monsters Among Us" and "Stormy Daniels: Space Force." Shayde has been a panelist at events such as New York City Comic Con.

"I grew up in Scouts, but it never felt like a comfortable place despite my love for the outdoors," Andrew said. "I would hear leadership throw out words like 'faggot' and 'pussy,' and being young and in the closet, it led me to quit Scouts, something I loved. This challenge was a chance for me to get back into the wild all these years later."

"I don't know that the outdoor world, like backpacking and camping, has felt very welcoming to minorities. It's time we change that," Andrew added.

"Naked and Afraid" season 12, episode 10 will air on April 18th, on the Discovery Channel. It is currently available, on Discovery+.

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