

# outword

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# **Time to Get Covered**

he COVID-19 pandemic highlighted stark disparities in access to healthcare and economic opportunity for many groups in the country, chief among them being our LGBTQ+ community.

Research from the Kaiser Family Foundation and the Human Rights Campaign Foundation reveal a challenging road ahead as LGBTQ+ people are more likely to live in poverty and work in industry sectors where they are at higher risk of exposure to COVID-19. Additionally, many LGBTQ+ individuals lack access to adequate medical care, paid medical leave, and basic necessities during the pandemic.

However, there is some good news on the healthcare front.

Covered California, the agency that administers the Affordable Care Act in this state, has been fervently promoting a historic increase in the financial help available to help millions of Californians get quality health insurance coverage. The new American Rescue Plan is lowering health insurance premiums to levels never seen before. With the pandemic easing in America but far from over, having affordable, quality health coverage is more important than ever.

Right now, as a result of new financial help provided through the American Rescue Plan, nearly 700,000 Californians are enrolled in a quality, name-brand health plan for as little as \$1 per month. Others are getting richer benefits for less than \$100 per month, but only if they sign up for health coverage

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through Covered California. In addition. consumers who are directly insured through a health insurance company can switch to a Covered California health plan and could save up to \$700 per month on their health coverage - giving them more money to put toward food, housing, their business, retirement, or other needs.

Special enrollment is underway and lasts through Dec. 31, but those who sign up by June 30 will have coverage starting July 1.

This help couldn't have come at a better

In Watsonville, Santa Cruz County, Mona Dietz and her wife Marriane Skiscim are benefiting from generous subsidies from the Affordable Care Act and the American Rescue

Both retired and are on fixed Incomes. The couple were paying hundreds of dollars a month for health coverage until an insurance agent directed them to Covered California.

"We had good plans, but they were costly," Dietz said. "(Our agent) took us to the Covered California website, and -- boom! - we saved all this money. It was amazing.

Skiscim pays about \$20 per month for a Blue Shield plan similar to the more expensive one she bought outside of Covered California. Dietz pays about \$12 for a Kaiser

"And it's even better than my former employer-backed plan," Dietz said.

The new financial help provided by the American Rescue Plan is a positive step forward, says a Covered California partner.

"As a queer woman of color working in the health field, I see the disparities in my community and other marginalized communities," said Elena Carrillo, project manager for Sacramento Covered, a nonprofit that assists individuals and families with navigating the healthcare system. "This is without a doubt the most accessible and most affordable year for people to purchase a health plan through Covered California. Although there are still many challenges to overcome, every Californian is that much closer to having affordable coverage because of the American Rescue Plan," Carrillo said.

So agrees Robbie Rodriguez, program

director with Equality California, a non-profit civil rights organization that advocates for the rights of LGBTQ+ people in the state.

Through Covered California, many LGBTQ+ Californians qualify for quality, affordable health insurance," Rodriguez said.
"This is especially important because COVID-19 has had a detrimental impact on LGBTQ+ workers causing countless to lose their employer-provided coverage.

Rodriguez said the LGBTQ+ community has long faced increased health disparities due to various factors, including higher rates of chronic health conditions including HIV, cancer, diabetes and mental health issues. Many LGBTQ+ people have also delayed or refused to seek medical treatment as a result of past negative and even hostile experiences from providers when trying to access healthcare.

"And finally, there is the cost of healthcare," Rodriguez said. "Thankfully, the Biden-Harris Administration's American Rescue Plan has expanded the Affordable Care Act for the first time by extending financial help. Now during Pride Month – is the perfect time to care for ourselves and find the right healthcare plan."

Covered California offers 11 brand-name health plans throughout the state, including: Anthem Blue Cross, Blue Shield, Chinese Community Health Plan, Health Net, Kaiser Permanente, L.A. Care, Molina Health Care, Oscar, Sharp, Valley Health Plan, and Western Health Advantage (plan availability varies by region).

"The new and expanded financial help provided by the American Rescue Plan can help people throughout California get covered and stay covered by lowering their premiums and putting money back into their pockets," said Peter V. Lee, executive director of Covered California. "But in order for many people to make the most of those savings. they need to act before the month ends.

Those interested in learning more about their health coverage options for Covered California and Medi-Cal plans can also:

- Visit www.CoveredCA.com.
- Find local help with certified enrollers who provide free and confidential assistance over the phone, virtually or in person, in a variety of languages.
- · Have a certified enroller call them for free help with Covered California's "Help on Demand" feature.
- Call Covered California at (800) 300-1506.





## The New Marsha P. Johnson Center South

If you're in the South area, be sure and stop in to the Marsha P. Johnson Center South, a second location serving Sacramento's LGBTQ community. The new Center, located at 7725 Stockton Blvd., also provides counseling, support, youth services, advocacy and much more. For hours and more information, please visit www.saccenter.org *Photo by Chris Allan*.



# DoorDash & The Okra Project Feed Black Trans People

Statistics show that 34% of Black trans people live in extreme poverty. Now, thanks in part to a generous donation from DoorDash, The Okra Project will kick-off Dinner On Us, from August 16 through December 16, in order to feed the Black Trans community by providing takeout and delivery meals, focusing on the holiday season when the need is often very high.

The Okra Project is the brainchild of Ianne Fields Stewart, and before the pandemic, her mission was to hire Black trans staff to visit the homes of Black trans people in need and cook healthy, home-cooked, and culturally specific meals for them on site.

Stewart wanted to take the exclusivity and luxury of an exclusive experience, like having a personal chef, and make it available to the most marginalized in our community. The caveat was also to have that chef look, love, and live just like the Black trans people they were preparing meals for.

The Okra Project will share more than \$18,000 of their gift from DoorDash with other organizations that provide support through social justice, housing relief, help with discrimination in the workplace, support for sex workers, and other trans-friendly services.

For more information, please visit www.theokraproject.com





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# It's A DRAG-IVERSARY! Lotus Party, Sacramento!

By Lauren Pulido (He/They)

onathan Schick is a proud queer and non-binary, Asian American drag performer since 2018. They reintroduced themselves to Sacramento and our local drag scene as "Lotus Party" in July of 2020, bringing joy to all who have had the honor to experience her riveting magic. This revisioning comes from a dark place in Lotus' life where they needed a reminder to proceed with joy on their own terms, live for themselves, and of course, always have fun and "Lotus party".

As humans, we are always in the process of evolving and becoming. "When you focus on you, you start to focus on what you want to be for yourself. Lotus is a further extension of myself."

Lotus was raised in a multi-racial home in California and comes from an 'Americanized Eurocentric' and Vietnamese background. They were raised primarily by their mother's conservative family who followed traditional Vietnamese ideologies, particularly when it comes to gender. Still, their biracial upbringing left Lotus feeling like they lost out on both cultures and wishing they were able to take part and learn more of their traditional Vietnamese heritage.

Lotus' background knowingly seeps into their aesthetic as a performer. Her art is influenced by steamline hyper feminine traditional asian style with usually very long flowy hair and a love for draping fabric and kimonos. Her dance style can also give credit to her heritage with her love for eastern dance that accentuates slow, long flowing movements and graceful elegant strides.

Drag can also be revolutionary, uplifting, and holds an extremely close relationship with activism. As queer people, we know all too well the daunting pressure society's critiques can hold and the resilience and strength it takes to

withstand that pressure.

To quote the incomparable Lotus Party: "Drag performers have to pioneer themselves or push themselves to a limit that it is beyond accepting and to a place of queer understanding. Drag performers and queer individuals act as intermediaries for multiple fronts. We bridge art, music, sexuality, gender expression, acceptance, and more. I myself as a queer, Asian American drag queen find myself as the middle ground for a lot of intersections. Not quite Asian. Not quite American. Not quite male/masc. Not quite female/fem. There's a certain beauty and mix of happiness and sadness that queer people experience in that isolation of uniqueness. Not quite fitting the mold but magically so."

As a performer, Lotus believes it is an obligation for those who are visible to utilize their platform to speak up for others that may not have the opportunity to do so. As a queer, Asian American voice, Lotus found it crucial to bring awareness to and highlight the Asian American violence happening in 2020 by creating a music video for "Max's Drag Show," a local drag competition. The drag community in Sacramento never stops its advocacy or being an accomplice for social justice causes. Lotus Party and her drag sister Mya Lusion have also hosted



Pictured: Lotus Party He/She/They IG & FB: @LotusParty Venmo: LotusHausParty CashApp: \$LotusParty

pop up potlucks for LGBTQ+ youth and families in Placer county.

"Find the people that are meant for you, find the people that nourish you." Sacramento's drag family has made the biggest difference for our queen. Displaying multiple facets of yourself through art can be extremely vulnerable and raw. Lotus has been able to use drag to work through more serious emotions while having the support of her close-knit drag family along the way. Lotus feels a sense of comradery in being able to share such deeply personal pieces of herself with others, especially her drag family that has created space for each other to do so openly and free of judgement. Special shout out to her chosen drag family Mya Lusion,

Mercury Rising, Aurora Lot Moore, Apple Adams, Eden, and many more that welcomed her with open arms to the Sacramento drag community.

You're probably thinking, how can I support incredible artists like Lotus? Well, here's how:

Follow their social media and stay up to date on their merchandise and upcoming events! Support their shows! Catch our local artists at LGBTQ venues such as Faces or Badlands and new drag venues such as Capitol Garage, Cycle Bar Midtown, and Wednesday's at the Revival bar above the Sawyer.

Lotus and Mya have also created a whole new drag show in Folsom that is expanding drag and acceptance to a new audience. You can see them at Powerhouse Pub in Folsom for their brand new show!



#### Emotional support for COVID-19 and what comes next.

As our lives slowly return to normal, it's understandable to still feel stressed and anxious. While getting vaccinated and wearing a mask can protect our physical health, our emotional wellbeing is still vulnerable. Old worries and questions have simply turned into new ones. Is it safe to return to work? Can my kids go back to school now? Where do we go from here?

You are not alone. CalHOPE offers free tips and tools, including a Warm Line and live chat, to help you manage stress and navigate emotional changes. Connect with us now to talk to someone who understands how you feel and can offer support.

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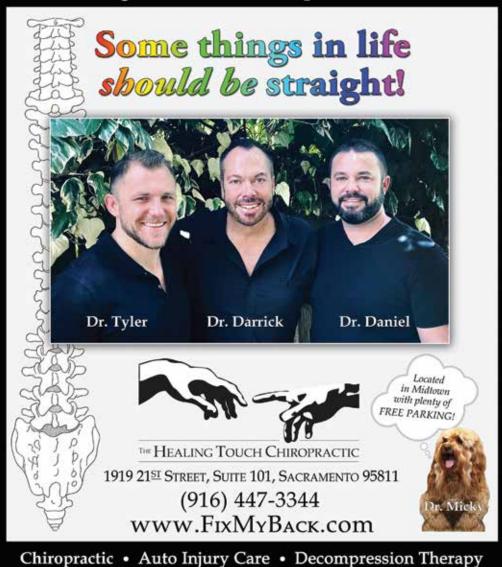


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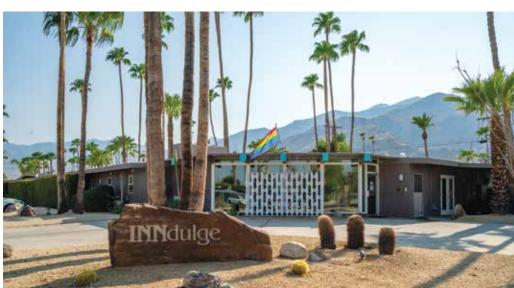
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# **Proof of Vaccination Now Required at INNdulge Palm Springs**

he City of Palm Springs announced that proof of vaccination is required to enter bars or restaurants. Though hotels were excluded from the mandates, INNdulge, a gay resort in Palm Springs, is now requiring proof of vaccination at check-in. "We made this decision for the safety of our staff and guests," says INNdulge owner Jon Jackson. "The gay community is full of high risk individuals, whether because of age, HIV status or other health issues. This is simply the right thing to do.".

Mr. Jackson encourages everyone in the gay travel community to make proof of vaccination standard practice.













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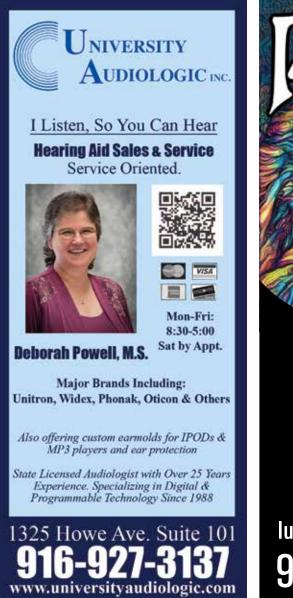
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# **RuPaul Reveals First Wax Figure Out of Drag at Madame Tussauds Las Vegas**

Tis time to 'sissy that walk' down Madame Tussauds Las Vegas' Rainbow Runway. RuPaul revealed a new wax figure at the must-see attraction on the Las Vegas Strip. The all-new experience invites guests to 'meet' and take cues from the most commercially successful drag queen of all time, RuPaul.

This is the second time RuPaul has been honored with a wax figure. The first was revealed in 2000 at Madame Tussauds New York and made history as the first drag queen wax figure created by Madame Tussauds. RuPaul says his new figure is important for a different reason, "It's special because I'm doing this one out of drag. This is my male persona, which in recent years has become just a famous as my drag persona."

"RuPaul is an icon," said Brittany Williams, spokesperson for Madame Tussauds Las Vegas. "We're thrilled to have the opportunity to create an exclusive experience that allows guests to playfully interact with one of the most influential people in the world in a way that's only possible at the world's greatest wax museum."

To create RuPaul's figure more than 200 measurements were taken during a "sitting" to ensure Madame Tussauds Las Vegas captures every unique detail. His eyes, hair and skin were each color matched by studio artists and were used as a reference during the creation of his figure. Guests who visit Madame Tussauds Las Vegas will experience



"Mama Ru" deliver an exclusive abridged masterclass as they sashay down the illuminated Rainbow Runway in the ultimate catwalk moment.

The American actor, model, singer, songwriter, television personality and author is widely known as the executive producer and host of the reality competition series RuPaul's Drag Race, for which he received five Primetime Emmy Awards. RuPaul was also included in the annual Time 100 list of the most influential people in the world.

Madame Tussauds wishes a 'condragulations' to RuPaul on his latest figure and all he has accomplished. Glamazon's can get ready for their trip down the Rainbow Runway by heading to https://www.madametussauds.com/las-vegas/.

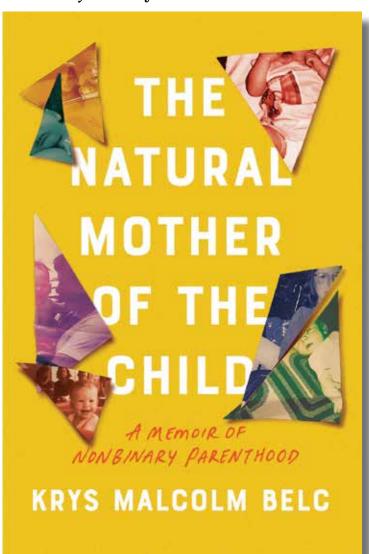




# Book Review: "The Natural Mother of the Parent: A Memoir of Nonbinary Parenthood" by Krys Malcolm Belc

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

It's really very common. Giving birth is so common, actually, that someone does it in the U.S. nearly eleven thousand times a day – which means that it's really not much of a big deal, unless it's *your* baby.



In that case, it's a one-of-a-kind miracle and, in the new book "The Natural Mother of the Child" by Krys Malcolm Belc, it's an answer, and a whole lot more questions.

They had wanted their children to be close in age.

That was the plan – Irish Twins, they called them – but when Krys Belc went to the birth clinic, visibly pregnant with Samson and toting five-month-old Sean, the child of his partner, Anna, women in the clinic's waiting room stared. Or were they, like Belc's neighbors, staring because Belc looked like a pregnant man?

Yes, Belc inherited his father's looks. He feared that he might've inherited his father's temper, too; sometimes, Sean was too much and being neither mother nor father, Belc was often unable to comfort the boy.

Belc didn't particularly enjoy being pregnant; in fact, it brought old memories and new notions to surface. Absolutely, he grew up loved and maybe a little protected, but he wanted what his brothers had; he was sure his mother once harbored hopes of sharing a pregnancy with him, but not anymore. And then it happened: seeing the newborn son he made, made Belc realize that he needed to become the person he always knew he was.

A few months after Samson was weaned, Belc began taking testosterone.

How does one say goodbye to breasts that fed a beloved son? Belc didn't want his, but finding the right decision was unsettling. How does a grown son reconcile himself to the idea that his father won't hug him anymore? Sadly, Belc's father was generally awkward around him since his transition. How can nonbinary parents not get frustrated at the loops of paperwork to protect their parenthood? "Natural mother," indeed. And how can

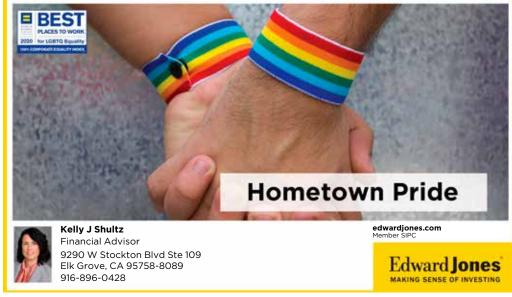
anyone ever fully

thank those who helped make them parents?

If ever there was a book that turned itself in circles to get to the right ending, "The Natural Mother of the Child" is it – and that's not unpleasant.

Nothing and everything in this book is black and white; it's calm and turbulent, surefooted and not. Author Krys Malcolm Belc takes readers on a journey to fatherhood that started when he was a girl, envying his brothers without knowing exactly why, giving readers a distant, poignant sense of something wanting. That feeling trails throughout Belc's story, as we wait for what we know is coming and it's worth it: after his account of pregnancy and the self-consciousness of being mother-not-mother, his decision to transition solidifies like a ship through fog.

Look at "The Natural Mother of the Child" first as a parenting book, because that's exactly what it is: the story of learning enough about one's self to be a good parent. As for the trans part of this memoir, that's icing on a cake that's uncommonly good.









# YEARS

# Please Support the Outword Rainbow Fund

For 26 years, we have been Sacramento's resource for LGBTQ+ information, politics, entertainment and we have helped connect and maintain our community.

Because of the continuing trauma being caused by COVID, many of our advertisers are doing everything they can to stay afloat - that includes Outword Magazine. At the onset of the pandemic we changed our distribution model to an online-only affair. That helped us weather the storm, but we have since returned to both online as well traditional, printed copies. Thankfully, the responce we have recieved after returning to print has been fantastic!

Once again we are asking that you, our readers and advertisers help us with a contribution that will be used to help keep the presses rolling. This money will assist with publishing costs, both in print and online, and help pay our staff, distribution costs and a few of our writers, among other things.

We have established OutwordRainbowFund.com for our readers and/or local businesses, should you wish to support us. If you consider us a valuable and vital resource for our LGBTQ+ community, please send some financial Love. As a Supporter, at any level, we will give you a listing in our full page ad with the Supporter level you are in, in upcoming issues (see next page for the list of those that have already contributed). If you have any questions, or comments, please feel free to drop us an email: sales@outwordmagazine.com

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# **Three To See At The Cinema**

By Chris Narlock

Thick so much content coming at us from all directions, it can be a challenge to figure out what to watch and what to avoid, especially since the most heavily hyped films and shows are often nowhere near as good as the smaller gems that receive little or no promotion. Here are three such movies that I can recommend without reservations.



CODA

The title of this charming family drama refers to a Child of Deaf Adults. Played in the film by the terrific Emilia Jones, seventeen-year-old Ruby is the sole hearing member of a raucous deaf clan. She is basically the family interpreter, and her life revolves around working on her parents' struggling fishing boat every morning before school. Ruby discovers she can really sing after joining her high school choir, and faster than you can say "conflict" our young heroine has to choose between loyalty to the family business and leaving home to attend the Berklee College of Music. There are half a dozen dynamite performances in "CODA," including sensational work by Marlee Matlin and Troy Kotsur as Ruby's parents, by Daniel Durant as her brother, and by Eugenio Derbez as Ruby's demanding choir teacher. Funny, realistic, and intensely moving, "CODA" is a winner from start to finish. The movie was still playing at Sacramento's Tower Theatre when I wrote this review, but if you can't find it on the big screen, you can watch "CODA" on Apple TV+.

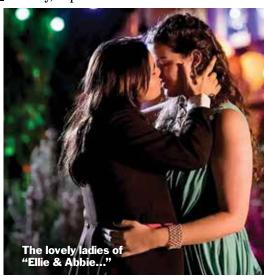


#### Ellie & Abbie (And Ellie's Dead Aunt)

This very sweet rom-com from Sydney-based writer-director Monica Zanetti has a crazy premise that shouldn't work but somehow does: when high school senior Ellie needs help navigating a crush on a female classmate, her dead aunt -- who was a queer activist -- comes back to life to give her advice. "Ellie & Abbie..." was a film festival favorite, and you can see why. Equal parts touching and funny, the film has a fine cast, two spunky heroines, and something I haven't seen before -- a lesbian fairy godmother ghost. The movie is scheduled to open in theaters and on VOD this August 27th.

#### The Lost Leonardo

This edge-of-your seat documentary chronicles the real-life, art world mystery behind the Salvator Mundi, the most expensive painting ever sold -- at \$450 million. From the moment the painting is bought for \$1,175 at a New Orleans auction house, and the restorer discovers masterful Renaissance brushstrokes under the heavy varnish of its cheap restoration, the Salvator Mundi's fate is sealed by an insatiable quest for fame, money, and power. As its price soars, so do questions about its authenticity. Is the painting really a rare work by Leonardo da Vinci or just a fantastic fake? Unravelling the hidden agendas of the richest people and most powerful art institutions in the world, "The Lost Leonardo" reveals how truth becomes secondary when art collectors are obsessed with discovering, owning, or profiting off a potential masterpiece. "The Lost Leonardo" is currently scheduled to open at the Tower on Friday, Sept. 3.





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We will continue to run this page, with any updates, for the next several issues.

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3.6-Liter V6 24-Valve VVT Engine, TorqueFlite® 8-Speed Automatic Transmissi Sport Mode, Performance Steering, Performance Suspension, Anti-Lock 4-Wheel Disc Performance Brakes, Remote-Start System, Push-Button Start, Active Head Restraints, Electronic Stability Control, 20-Inch x 8-Inch Satin Carbon Painted Wheels and so much more.

MSRP:	\$34,430
Dealer Discount:	\$450
Sale Price:	\$33,980
2021 National Retail Consumer Cash:	
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CA 2021 Bonus Cash:	\$1,000

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#### New 2021 Cherokee Latitude Lux FWD



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MSRP:\$33,575
Dealer Discount:\$2,000
Sale Price:\$31,575
2021 Returning Lessee:\$500
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STK/VIN# 62609D-55508, 63712D-564038, 63917D-564020

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..\$42,935 ...\$4,750 ..\$38,185 Sale Price:... 2021 National Retail Consumer Cash: ...\$500 ...\$750 \$1,000 2021 National retail Consumer Casi Chrysler Capital 2021 Bonus Cash\*: CA 2021 Retail Bonus Cash: 2021 Returning Lessee: CA 2021 Bonus Cash: National 2021 Bonus Cash:

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MSRP:	46,770
Dealer Discount:	\$3,750
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2021 National Retail Consumer Cash:	\$1,500
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2021 Returning Lessee:	\$500
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net cost STK/VIN# 64012D-721562, 64036D-726152, 64037D-726153

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# **2021's Best Cities for Hipsters**

Prooklyn is widely accepted as the hipster capital of America, but hipsters can find vintage apparel, craft beer, and progressive thoughts in plenty of other cool cities.

So where are eccentric nonconformists most likely to thrive today?

LawnStarter ranked 2021's Best Cities for Hipsters by comparing the 150 biggest U.S. cities on 23 anti-mainstream factors – from the number of thrift stores, farmers markets, and record stores to urban gardening- and biking-friendliness.

Check out the 10 best (and 10 worst) cities for hipsters below, followed by some highlights and lowlights from our report.



**Highlights and Lowlights:** 

San Francisco: The New Hipster Capital? Step aside, Brooklyn. San Francisco is our No. 1 Best City for Hipsters and for good reason: The city known as "Baghdad by the Bay" (because of its rich cultural diversity) appropriately snags position No. 2 in Culture and the top spot in Lifestyle. It also boasts the highest number of uniquely San Francisco quirks ("local flavor" amenities).

Unfortunately, the city's hipster fashion sense is slightly mediocre (No. 30) due to its poor performance in thrift-store access (No. 104). Clearly, most San Franciscans prefer new and shiny over shabby and chic.

Where the 415 really sparkles: sustainability – the city ranks No. 1 in eco-consciousness, biking-friendliness, and car-free living. If you're a hipster with a soft spot for the environment, San Francisco deserves to be on your short list.

**Keeping Portland Weird:** If you've ever visited Portland, Oregon – or watched an episode of "Portlandia" – then it's no surprise that Stumptown comes in at No. 2.

Long regarded as a hipster hub, the city where you'll find the dream of the '90s very much alive

#### 2021's Best Cities for Hipsters

Rank	City
1	San Francisco, CA
2	Portland, OR
3	Oakland, CA
4	Fort Lauderdale, FL
5	Jersey City, NJ
6	Tempe, AZ
7	Huntington Beach, CA
8	Honolulu, HI
9	Providence, RI
10	New Orleans, LA

offers everything a hipster needs to exist: easy access to vintage clothes and vinyl records (No. 4 in both metrics), vegan and vegetarian food (No. 2), specialty coffee (No. 3), and craft beer (No. 1).

Prefer to get around on a unicycle? Move to Portland, No. 2 for both biking-friendliness and car-free living. And if the city's tattoo parlors run out of ink, cycle on over to Salem (No. 14 for tattoo-parlor access) – Google says you can get there in just over 5 hours, but you'll need at least two wheels.

It's Not Hipper in Texas: If you prefer to stick to the rivers and the lakes that you're used to, head on over to Texas.

Five of our bottom 10 cities hail from the Lone Star State, including Fort Worth at No. 142 (sorry, Funkytown), Corpus Christi at No. 143, El Paso at No. 146, Laredo at No. 147, and Amarillo finishing dead last. Overall, the state fared the worst in our ranking.

In fact, nearly all Texas cities in our ranking landed in the bottom third. Austin, once popular among hipsters but now a yuppie and tech hotbed, is tops among Texas cities at No. 64. East Sixth remains the last hipster stronghold in the city, but plans to restore Austin as "hipsturbia" are in the works, so hold your breath, yuppies.

Bottom line: You're still likely to find far more cowboy hats than fedoras in Texas, and vintage clothing more often means well-worn jeans here.

Our full ranking and analysis can be found here:

www.lawnstarter.com/blog/studies/most-hipster-cities/

# Billie Jean King Is "All In" With Her New Book

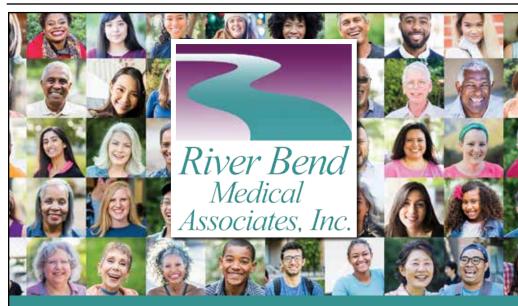
By Chris Narloch

Billie Jean King's landmark Battle of the Sexes tennis battle against Bobby Riggs occurred in 1973 when I was just 10 years old, but I remember it like it was yesterday. That seismic event was a watershed moment for women's rights, for the tennis world, and for female athletes everywhere.

One of the finest tennis players ever, King has a new memoir just out that sheds light on her lifelong activism, which really got going in the early '70s when she carved out a career on the courts at a time when that was essentially impossible given the extreme sexism propagated by a maledominated tennis establishment.

King, whose testimony in front of Congress in 1972 helped Title IX get passed, makes it perfectly clear with "All In" that her work as an activist is still not done. The struggles for parity and inclusivity remain ongoing challenges for women in all sports, and the current focus on athletes' mental health (and their relationship with the media) makes this wonderful book especially timely.





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#### Upcoming Sale Dates:

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Appointments can be made by calling (916) 731-8493 between 9am and 12pm or email macsa46@gmail.com.

Sale times are 9-11am, 11-1pm, and 1-3pm.

Donations are now being taken on Wednesdays and Saturdays, donations can not be accepted the week before a warehouse sale (dates listed above). Hours are 9am to 12:00pm. If you have a donation you can come without an appointment. Large donations are welcome, but please call or email us in advance so that we can ensure storage space, as all donations are quarantined for 24 hours. Specific donation dates are listed on our website.

(www.saclibfriends.org).

If you have any questions, please email macsa46@gmail.com. You can also call the Book Den, 916-731-8493 between 9am and 12pm. Please be patient - we are an all-volunteer organization and not in the office past noon most days...





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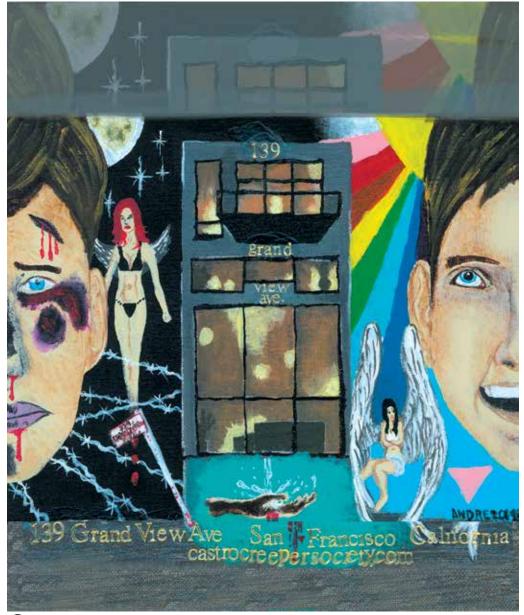
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# **LA Pop Art Salutes David Bowie with Unique Line of Branded Apparel**

A Pop Art proudly announces that it has entered into a partnership with The David Bowie Estate to celebrate his legacy with an all-new collection of "word art" apparel.

Bowies' passion for visual imagery was the inspiration for this collection of unique LA Pop Art hand drawn word art designs. The distinctive apparel collection is launched with several of the most iconic images in David Bowies catalog. The first design of the collection reimagines the Classic Bowie logo using some of his most popular song titles. In addition to the Logo, LA Pop Art has also recreated the iconic Aladdin Sane album cover simply out of the word Bowie over and over resulting in a breathtaking artistic masterpiece.

"There are Rock Stars, and there are Rock Gods – David Bowie is one of the few artists in history that's both", said LA Pop Art company founder Joseph Leibovic "We are so honored to put this collection out for his ever-growing fan base. The words that create our designs are used to add another layer of an emotional connection for the fans."

The deal was facilitated by Perryscope Productions, in collaboration with Epic Rights.

David Bowie is the latest addition to LA Pop Art's Rock Legends Collection, which also spotlights such mega band partners as AC/DC and KISS.

LA Pop Art merchandise is available in Men's, Women's and Kids' sizes at Lapopart.



com, Macys.com, Amazon.com and other selected quality retailers.

#### **About LA Pop Art:**

LA Pop Art is the exclusive home to unique "Word Art" apparel that combines the visual images of pop culture's most celebrated icons with the language that made them famous, creating unique works of art.

The company creates text-based artwork, entirely drawn by hand, using the ancient technique of micrography, an art form of writing text in very small letters to form the illusion of an image.

LA Pop Art has been featured in magazines, movies, TV shows and in major art collections and exhibits. To learn more visit lapopart.com.

# **Capital Dance Project (CDP) Returns to the Crest Theatre this September**



don't get much lovelier than the handsome local dancer and choreographer Anthony Cannarella, who will be joined by 30 or so other artists, when Capital Dance Project (CDP) returns to the Crest Theatre this Sept. 18 and 19 for the 6th edition of "Behind the Barre: Made in Sacramento!" While you wait for the live show, you can check out CDP's sexy dance videos and get more information about the talented troupe at www.capitaldanceproject.org





For more information contact us at 916-329-9280 or fred@outwordmagazine.com



## **Two Marvelous Musicals On Blu-ray**

By Chris Narloch

udy Garland, Frank Sinatra and Gene Kelly were three of the biggest stars in movie musical history, and their timeless talents are on glorious display in two classic films recently released on Blu-ray. Read on for details.

#### **In The Good Old Summertime**

The one and only Judy Garland made many great musicals, and she is almost always the best thing in them, as is the case with this good -- but not great -- musical remake of Ernst Lubitsch's classic romantic comedy film, "The Shop Around the Corner.

Garland and Van Johnson play competitive coworkers who harbor a secret attraction for each other. Can you guess the identities of their mystery pen pals? The movie features the hilarious Buster Keaton in a supporting role and includes first-rate songs such as "I Don't Care," "Meet Me Tonight in Dreamland" and the movie's classic title tune.





#### Take Me Out to the Ballgame

Back in the day, this was billed as "MGM's Gay Technicolor Musical!" long before the term "gay" was co-opted by the queer community. I would argue that any movie with the hunky Gene Kelly and sexy Frank Sinatra singing and dancing and looking fine together qualifies as gay in every sense of the word, even though the handsome devils find love with the ladies by the end of the film.

Sinatra and Kelly play baseball players who dream of performing in vaudeville -- how gay is that? -- and Esther Williams is their team's owner. Featured tunes in this terrifically entertaining movie musical include "The Right Girl for Me" and the film's famous title song.

To purchase these and other classic movies, visit https://wbshop.com/warnerarchive



# **Marilyn & Me**

n her final film, Marilyn Monroe gave a young photographer his big break - this is their story.

"Marilyn & Me" is the intimate story of a legend before her fall and a young photographer on his way up. With more than 100 images, including rare outtakes from the set of Marilyn Monroe's last film, the result is a real and unexpected portrait of the star in her final months.

Lawrence Schiller. Marilyn & Me - Hardcover, 200 pages, US \$70

www.taschen.com

# **Unreleased Music From Streisand & Prince**

By Chris Narloch

rtists (and especially record companies) love to release special editions of albums that are already out, with bonus tracks newly added, or entire albums of unreleased music that were shelved for whatever reason.

Of course, marketing any album - and sprucing up previously recorded material before it can be marketed -- involves some expense, but booking time in a recording studio and making new music is almost always more expensive than releasing old stuff.

When fans finally hear this long-awaited "lost" material, their reactions can range from disappointment to dismay, and I felt some of that -- as well as moments of real pleasure -listening to the new "unreleased" records from Prince and Barbra Streisand.

#### Prince -- Welcome 2 America

Sadly, we will never know if Prince intended this album to see the light of day or not, but for fans of his remarkable talent, it will be worth a listen to hear flashes of that old Prince magic, even though "Welcome 2 America" often sounds unfinished and rough around the edges.

The album was recorded in 2010 and then shelved, and I have to admit that I can see why Prince chose to leave it in his vault. Even though His Royal Badness unleashes his fantastic falsetto and his glorious guitar on several tracks, most of the songs are pretty weak.

Things get off to a shaky start with the album's slow, spoken word title track, a dud that tries and fails to say something serious about America. (For me, Prince was always at his best when he was sexy and/ or ready to party.)

Things don't really begin to click until track four ("1,000 Light Years From Here") which at least has a catchy chorus and great backing vocals. "Hot Summer" is even more addictive and probably could have been a hit if it wasn't so repetitive.



Elsewhere, "When She Comes" doesn't live up to its provocative title, and "One Day We Will All B Free" boasts a positive lyric but is unremarkable musically.

For my money, the two finest tracks on "Welcome 2 America" are "Yes," an energetic rock cut that is short and sweet at just under 3 minutes, and "Stand Up and B Strong," an inspirational song that comes together in a way that most of the rest of the album does not.

#### Barbra Streisand -- Release Me 2

This CD is a sequel to "Release Me," a truly great album of rare and unreleased studio recordings that came out in 2012. While the new disc is not as good as the original, "Release Me 2" contains several treasures for diehard fans of Barbra Streisand.

Rather than cohesive albums of material meant to be released together, both "Release Me" records are compilations of songs recorded at different periods in Streisand's career. As I said in 2012, even Barbra's rejects are better than most other artists' keepers.

Like Prince, Streisand is famous for her perfectionism, but, unlike The Purple One, Streisand is still here to fuss over her music, and she was very much involved with the curating and polishing of "Release Me 2" which is probably why this is a much better album than "Welcome 2 America."

Streisand kicks off the CD with its finest track, a beautiful lyric by Burt Bacharach and Hal David entitled "Be Aware" that sounds like it could have been written by Stephen Sondheim. The year was 1971, and the recording finds the singer at the height of her vocal artistry.

I wish I could report that everything on "Release Me 2" was at that same level, but I will admit to being bored by songs from Randy Newman ("Living Without You"), Barry Gibb ("If Only You Were Mine") and Carole King ("You Light Up My Life") that unfortunately are not among the greatest compositions by those often-great songwriters.



That said, Streisand is such an amazing singer, that even when her material is less than stellar, it's still fascinating to listen to her phrasing and her interpretative skills, which are all her own.

Your reaction to Streisand's duet with Kermit on "Rainbow Connection" will probably depend on whether you enjoy Jim Henson's froggy singing voice or not. The other big duet here, "I'd Want It To Be You" with Willie Nelson, didn't work for me. (Streisand is many things, but a country singer is not one of them.)

There are, however, two other tracks, in addition to "Be Aware," that make this disc a must-have for Streisand fanatics. Both "Sweet Forgiveness" and "Once You've Been In Love' are perfectly suited to Streisand's voice, and those big, dramatic ballads allow her to emote as only she can.

# **Cinderella Revisited**

By Chris Narloch



Tark your calendars for this September 3, which is the date that Amazon Prime will premiere a new movie version of Cinderella," starring Camila Cabello as the title character and the great Billy Porter as her Fairy Godmother. The inspired, color-blind and gender-blind casting of Porter should make up for the fact that Pierce Brosnan has been cast as the King. (Hopefully, the tone-deaf Brosnan will not sing much or – if we're lucky – not sing at all.) The rest of the cast is first-rate: Idina Menzel is Cinderella's Evil Stepmother, Missy Elliott is the Town Crier, Minnie Driver is the Oueen, and James Corden plays one of the three miceturned-footmen.



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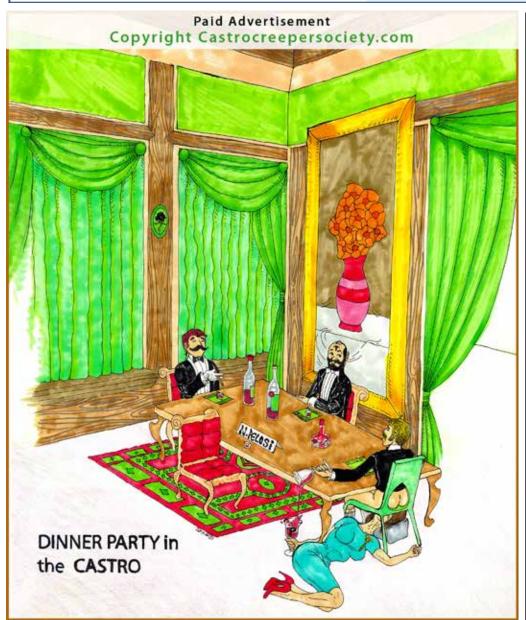
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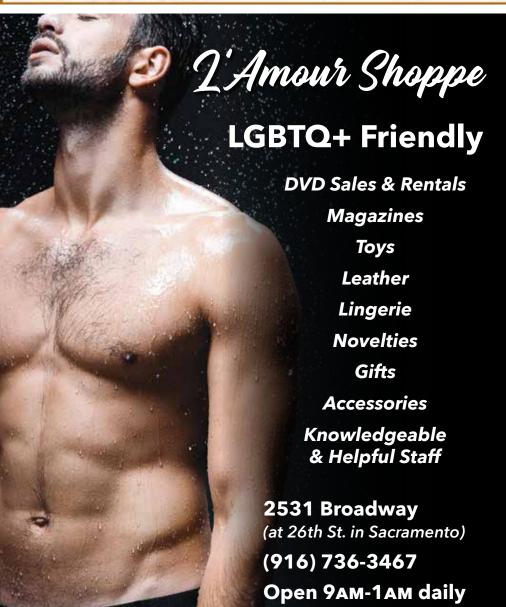
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# **Men at Work: Miami**



here hasn't been a good male stripper movie since Channing Tatum took it off in those "Magic Mike" flicks -- until now. The hit Dutch comedy "Men At Work: Miami" follows a down-on-his-luck dancer who dreams of opening a male strip club in Miami. The R-rated film is funny and very steamy, and it's currently playing for free on the streaming site Tubi, in an English-language dubbed version. Viewers can watch Tubi content on the web at http://www.tubi.tv/



# **Check Out A Show At CalCap Studios**

By Chris Narloch

here hasn't been a thriving arts community in Rancho Cordova (where I live) until recently, when the California Capital Film Office (CCFO) moved into the beautiful Old Mills Winery building on Horn Road -- near Bradshaw and Highway 50 -- and opened a new theater for live performances.

That historic, 100-year-old structure is now home to CalCap Studios' Black Box Theatre, Sacramento's newest live performing arts venue, which will specialize in solo shows and small character-driven plays, as well as twice-monthly performances by a newly formed Improv group, The Cordova Players.

CalCap Studios is a division of CCFO, and the Black Box is a not-for-profit, versatile, and intimate theatre with seating for up to 65 patrons. This July, the space hosted a sold-out weekend of performances of "Billie: Backstage with Lady Day," a one-woman show about Billie Holiday.

Moving forward, CCFO plans to produce a film festival this fall, and the Black Box Theatre will continue to offer performances almost every month for the remainder of the year. Read on for details about the next two productions.



#### Wild Son: The Testimony of Christian Brando

Acclaimed actor John Mese brings to town his acclaimed, one hour, one act, one-man show, which tells the story of Marlon Brando's troubled, headline-making son, Christian Brando, in his own words.

Written by Champ Clark, "Wild Son" is the heartbreaking story of a father and son on a collision course under the white-hot glare of Hollywood celebrity. Mese's portrayal of Brando has been described as "mesmerizing." Plays the weekend of August 27-29.

#### Freeze!

Movie star Tom Sizemore ("Saving Private Ryan," "Pearl Harbor") comes to town to star in this play about a fateful meeting between a white police officer, the black owner of a small corner market, and a younger black man, inside a completely looted store during an uprising in South Central L.A.

Local actors Tory Scroggins and Tarig Elsddig will costar with Sizemore in "Freeze!" which sounds incredibly timely and intriguing. Writer/director Richard Broadhurst's play runs Sept. 10-19

For information about these and other CalCap Studios productions, visit www.calcapstudios.com  $\,$ 



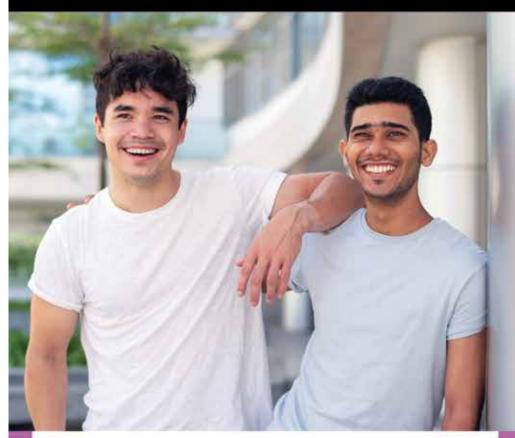
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