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Young Readers Fund Honors Retiring Library Director Rivkah Sass

Rivkah K. Sass will retire as Director of the Sacramento Public Library at the end of 2021, but she will be leaving behind a legacy that will help early readers for many years to come. Friends of the Sacramento Public Library has launched a campaign to raise funds to endow the Young Readers Fund, honoring Rivkah Sass and nurturing early readers. Future Library Directors will be able to use income from the endowment to fund books, materials and innovative programs and technology for young readers.



Rivkah K. Sass will retire as Director of the Sacramento Public Library

The Friends' fundraising campaign kicked off on September 15 and will wrap up on December 31, with a goal of raising \$100,000. Find out more and donate at: saclibfriends.org.

"When we asked Rivkah how she wants to be remembered, she did not hesitate," said Friends President Karen Wilson. "For Rivkah, it's always been about the kids." The Friends are entering their sixth year of partnership with the Library on Book First, a program that provides a free book to kids in underserved schools, with 60,000 kids receiving books in the program so far. More than 180 schools will take part in Book First in the 2021-22 school year.

A former children's librarian, Rivkah has made Sacramento's library a national frontrunner in its work to support early learning. Her dedication to connect libraries with schools led to the creation of the Student Success card, which gives all students in a school district full access to the library's digital resources. The library's Summer Reading Program has seen a 400% rise in participation, with more than 33,000 a year people taking part.

In recognition of her leadership, the American Library Association awarded Rivkah its 2020 Charlie Robinson Award, given to a public library director who has been a risk taker, an innovator, or a

change agent. Sacramento Public Library is a regular recipient of national recognition.

During her 12 years of service as Library Director, Rivkah has been a determined advocate for library services. Some examples include:

- adding critical staffing to support youth,
- responding to the public's request to expand library hours, reworking limited resources to add more than 169 access hours across 28 locations,
- more than doubling funding for books and materials to meet community demand for a robust and diverse collection,
- leading the effort to launch the Career Online High School initiative at SPL, providing adults the opportunity to earn an accredited high school diploma.
- Introducing the Library of Things, allowing library users to check out everything from a GoPro camera to a ukulele to a leaf blower,
- introducing the I Street Press, making it possible for local writers to self-publish more than 34,000 books since 2011,
- installing makers spaces, which are creative spaces equipped with technology like 3D printers and sound equipment.

"Rivkah has done so much for our whole community, especially our children," Wilson says. "The Young Readers Fund gives the community a chance to say thank you, and keep her good work going."

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Gavin Newsom Obliterated The Republican Recall

Words by Chris Narloch, photo by Chris Allan

The day before the \$276 million CA recall effort went down in flames, leaving Republicans bereft, Outword sent our favorite photographer, Chris Allan, out to Mather airport to take photos of Governor Gavin Newsom and President Biden -- who flew into Sacramento on Air Force 1 to survey our state's fire damage and show his support for Newsom's bid to keep his job.

Props to President Biden and thanks to Gavin Newsom for saving CA from the homophobic "Black Trump" (Larry Elder).

Our photographer braved 100+ degree heat in a sweltering airport hangar to get this shot and other



pics of Biden and Newsom. You can read about Chris's Presidential press day and see all her wonderful photos at

www.imagesbychrisa.com
(Click on "President Biden Visits Sac" under the Blog tab.)

LGBTQ+ Community Partners,

My name is Phil Talbert. As your United States Attorney, I am the chief federal law enforcement officer in the 34 counties that make up the Eastern District of California. I want to ensure that everyone who calls this region home is free to be themselves without fear of intimidation or violence -- regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity. My office and I proudly stand with the LGBTQ+ community.

Phillip A. Talbert - He/Him/His
Acting United States Attorney

part of this effort, we are engaging with LGBTQ+ bar associations (professional associations for attorneys) and organizations such as Outword Magazine across the District.

We also regularly host educational events and diversity celebrations for our staff and partner agencies. Included in this effort were two recent educational events celebrating Pride Month 2021. The first focused on helping law enforcement better understand how it can support and respond to the needs of the LGBTQ+ community. The second, which was hosted in partnership with Lambda Legal and SacLegal, Sacramento's LGBTQ+ bar association, discussed legal issues and major Supreme Court cases affecting the LGBTQ+ community. Later this year, our office will participate in another educational event for the LGBTQ+ community and service providers.

In addition to inviting our staff, we extended an invitation to every federal, state, and local law enforcement partner in our 34-county district to attend these programs.

We strongly encourage diverse individuals to consider careers in the justice system so that we reflect the community we protect. If you or someone you know is interested in a career as a federal prosecutor, please consider attending our Future Assistant United States Attorney Academy. Through the Academy, we invite college students, law students, teachers, and attorneys into the federal courthouse for a half-day overview of the work and mission of the U.S. Attorney's Office, as well as career paths.

For more information about our office, our Hate Crimes Task Forces, or any of these programs, or if my office can otherwise be of assistance, please do not hesitate to contact our Community Outreach Specialist, Sean Vassar, at Sean.Vassar@usdoj.gov.

Very truly yours,
Phillip A. Talbert
Acting United States Attorney
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The COVID pandemic has brought unprecedented challenges across our country and in our communities. Our office remains open, our Hate Crimes Task Forces remain active, and investigating and prosecuting hate crimes continues to be a top priority for our office and our law enforcement partners. Hate crimes are particularly egregious because they impact not just the individual victim, but the entire community--our community.

These crimes often go unreported to law enforcement, leaving victims to suffer alone. We can only investigate and prosecute those crimes we are made aware of, so if you see something, please say something. That is the only way we can help.

If you are a victim of a hate crime or witness a hate crime, call 9-1-1 first. Please also report it to the FBI by calling 1-(800) CALL-FBI. This FBI tip line offers language translation services in many languages, and callers can remain anonymous if they wish to do so.

If you're interested in more information on federal, state, and local law enforcement efforts to keep our communities safe, I encourage you to consider virtually attending one of our Hate Crimes Task Force meetings in Sacramento or Fresno. Our Task Force meetings connect many diverse communities with law enforcement leadership throughout our region, providing an open line of communication and helping to ensure we can be proactive and focused in meeting the needs of those we serve.

My office, and the Justice Department nationally, are also actively working to improve the diversity of our workforce. As

Book Review: "Horse Girls: Recovering, Aspiring, and Devoted Riders Redefine the Iconic Bond," Edited by Halimah Marcus

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

You were determined not to get bit. But in a totally different meaning of the word, you were equally determined that your horse would accept one. Without a bit in his mouth, he wouldn't turn, slow down, or stop when you wanted to ride – and of course, as in "Horse Girls," edited by Halimah Marcus, the ride's the thing.

Or is a sense of freedom the best part of owning a horse? Many girls think so, while others just want their very own Flicka or Ginger or Pie. Whatever it is, Marcus says that there's a difference between "horse girls" and "a horsewoman." The latter, she writes, is "tough, no-nonsense... riding every day... unsentimental about horses but devoted to them for life" – unlike many of the women in this book who gave up riding as young women and re-established their love for it later in life.

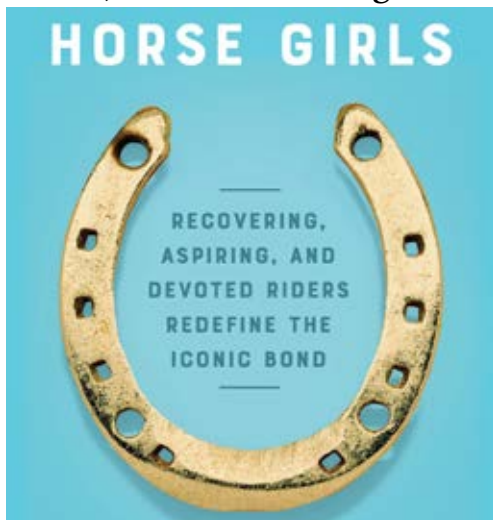
But what makes a horse girl?

Marginalization, in the stories here. These horse girls often felt shame for not fitting the norm, for being queer, Black, "chubby" or poor – but they still loved horses. Some of the writers are lesbians, but they didn't understand it until their girlhoods were over. Alex Marzano-Lesnevich writes of cross-dressing cowboys in history; Sarah Enelow-Snyder writes about Black cowboys and of "curly Afros shoved into unaccommodating cowboy hats." C. Morgan Babst writes of cruelty and anorexia, a two-pronged part of her childhood.

Horse girls worry. A lot. They worry about where their horses went after they were sold or given away. On the day she got it, Adrienne Celt worried about how she was going to bury her horse if it died. They worry about disappointing horse-loving parents, and they fret about the best way to introduce their daughters to riding.

They ride with joy. They met spouses through horses. They remember the smell of a box that once contained a plastic horse – because, says T Kira Madden, "the thing about a horse is, it's never about the horse."

Nope, it's also about stories. Fifteen of



them, to be exact, all inside "Horse Girls," but unless you're the horsey-type, you grew up in a saddle, or your shelves once held plastic 1:9-scale horses, you can just mosey along. In that case, you'll haaaaate this book and that's okay. It's not for you anyhow.

If you fit the former, though, pommel, stirrup, and all, then editor Halimah Marcus offers stories you'll devour, stories of loving horses, even when (especially when!) doing so made you an anomaly. There's strength in that but loss also looms large here, particularly loss of childhood, innocence, or imagination. Fortunately for many of these storytellers and for the readers invited along on this ride, though, recollections are resolved, reasons for them are reconciled, and the endings are mostly satisfying.

If you ever trotted around the yard, pretending to be a horse, or if you actually spent your girlhood in a saddle, this book will bring back memories. "Horse Girls" is a book you won't want to miss, not even a little bit.

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New Queer Books Reviewed

by Chris Narloch

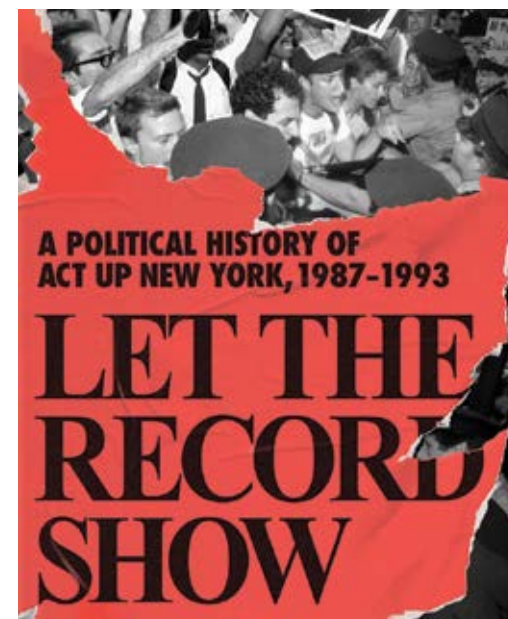
With cooler temperatures coming and rainy weather (hopefully) on the horizon, I start to think about curling up on the couch with a blanket and a good book. Here are two LGBTQ-friendly titles you may want to pick up (or download).

Let The Record Show

Sarah Schulman's definitive history of ACT UP (AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power) came out this May, and it's a fascinating chronicle of what really went on behind the headlines -- and behind the scenes -- with the group's New York City chapter, between 1987 and 1993.

Schulman reveals that during those early days of the epidemic, when the media covered the AIDS crisis and ACT UP, they largely ignored the contributions of women and persons of color and repeatedly put white males like the late, great activist Larry Kramer front and center.

"Let The Record Show" is an essential read for anyone who remembers (or missed out on) a time when the gay community was on fire with activism and had to resort to civil disobedience -- such as interrupting Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral -- to draw attention to the fact that people were sick and dying with AIDS, and the Reagan administration was doing nothing to stop it.



The Wizard of Pride

This new novel by Ryan Field is one of the oddest books I have ever read, but I simply could not put it down. A hardcore, gay male reimagining of the story of Dorothy and the Wizard of Oz is unique, ambitious, and probably blasphemous for many fans of L. Frank Baum's beloved books and the classic 1939 film they inspired.

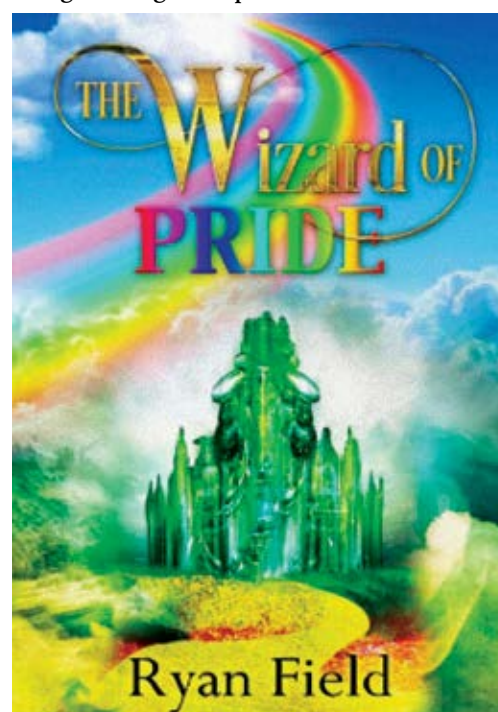
In Field's erotic retelling, Dorothy becomes Darius, the Tin Man is the Strong Man, and the Wizard of Pride reigns over a queer city of gender non-conformists.

Darius leaves his ranch in the town of Uranus (many bad puns intended) after his homophobic wicked witch of a neighbor catches him having hot sex with one of the farmhands.

Darius, with his dog Sparky in tow, then sets out on an odyssey of X-rated sex with the three male companions that he finds while on his way to meet the Wizard.

After Miss Glitz gives him a pair of silver stilettos, Darius also learns to embrace his queerness and shed his former shame.

Love it or hate it, I can guarantee that you've never read anything quite like "The Wizard of Pride."



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One of the performers in "Dear San Francisco" hangs out.

Don't Miss "Dear San Francisco: A High-Flying Love Story"

Out of the fog of 2020, Club Fugazi, the former home of the long-running show "Beach Blanket Babylon," reemerges with an acrobatic love letter to the beloved city of San Francisco. Created by Bay Area natives and modern circus collective The 7 Fingers co-founders Shana Carroll and Gypsy Snider, the intimate and immersive resident production will pay homage to the stunning beauty, storied characters, and astounding resilience of the City by the Bay. The world premiere of "Dear San Francisco: A High-Flying Love Story" begins previews this Sept. 22. For more details, please visit www.clubfugazisf.com/dear-san-francisco

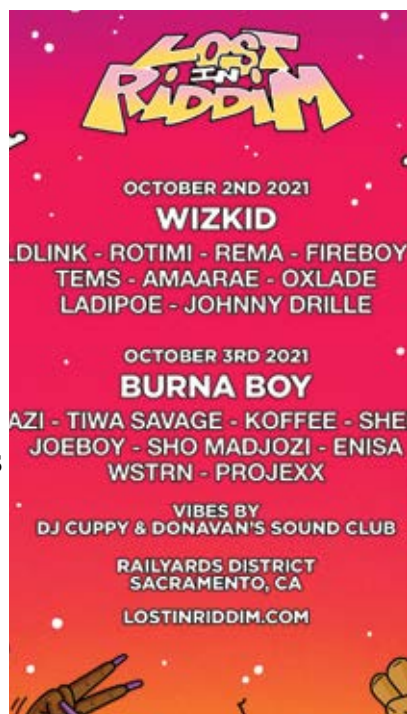


Rent A Circus...Or Join One!

If you've ever dreamed of running away to join the circus, now's your chance! Circosphere, a popular cirque-style group of performance artists, is back from a pandemic pause and ready to fulfill the entertainment needs for your next gathering. Based in the Bay Area, the talented troupe is also looking for new talent to perform with them at events around Northern California. BIPOC and LGBTQIA+ performers are highly encouraged to apply. To hire Circosphere or get more information about joining the entertainment company, please visit www.circosphere.com

Don't Miss "Lost In Riddim" This October

Lost in Riddim, a new indie music festival from the producers of the acclaimed boutique R&B festival Sol Blume, is set to kick off this fall in downtown Sacramento, on October 2-3. The inaugural festival will feature some of today's most sought-after afrobeats, dancehall and R&B artists, including co-headliners WizKid and Burna Boy, plus Goldlink, Rotimi, Mr Eazi, Rema, Tiwa Savage, Fireboy DML, Koffee, Tems, Shenseea, Amaarae, and more. The festival's founders are, in fact, first-generation African immigrants, which is why they were inspired to tap some of the continent's biggest acts to perform alongside popular Caribbean and Black artists. For more information, visit <https://lostinriddim.com/>



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Sympathy For The Devil On Netflix



Tasty Tom Ellis recently returned for a new season of “Lucifer,” the devilishly handsome actor’s popular series, which is billed as “slick irreverent exciting fantasy TV.” That pretty much sums up the show’s appeal. Based on a DC Comics character, “Lucifer” follows the Devil (played by Ellis), who abandons Hell for Los Angeles, where he runs the Lux nightclub, using the name Lucifer Morningstar, and becomes a consultant to the LAPD. Last season, Lucifer scored a promotion, but does he really want the job? Find out during the 6th season of “Lucifer,” now available on Netflix.

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Starting in October, the Book Den will be open from 9am to 1pm on Wednesdays, Fridays, and non-warehouse sale Saturdays

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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. 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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Convention &
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Kennedy Gallery is Full of Some of Northern California's Finest Artists

by Matthew Burlingame

Kennedy Gallery is full of works by some of the finest artists in Northern California. But the art extends far beyond the walls and display cases to the owner himself. Standing arms akimbo in an elegant full-sized pastel ball gown with full upswept hair topped with an eye-catching glittering tiara is owner Michael Misha Kennedy, who flashes a welcoming smile.

"I'm pulling double duty tonight," they say, referring to their role as the newly elected president of the Court of the Great Northwestern Imperial Empire (CGNIE).

This is a far cry from just a year ago when Kennedy Gallery stood on the precipice of permanently closing from the mandatory closures due to the COVID-19 pandemic. With the support of regular patrons, a new online store and the backbone of the gallery—its resident artists—the gallery not only bounced back but it thrived.

Kennedy Gallery has been a Sacramento institution for over 15 years thanks to Kennedy who has worked hard to provide a level of excellence in their award-winning gallery. Located in a renovated Victorian in the heart of midtown Sacramento the gallery features three floors of art and boasts over 20 resident artists.

"It's important to not only provide an enriching and enjoyable experience for art lovers and buyers," says Kennedy, "but to provide a safe and creative space for emerging artists."

But the gallery has done much more than merely display over 200 exhibits since its opening. It has also hosted over 3000 artists, countless events, meetings, micro-concerts, three weddings and won multiple "Best of Sacramento" awards. It has been hailed by PBS as "The Jewel of Midtown."

"Not bad for a gallery I was told would never succeed," laughs Kennedy.

In May of this year Kennedy and their gallery were honored by the Mayor and Council of the City of Sacramento with a well-deserved proclamation. "We do hereby recognize the 15th anniversary of the Kennedy Gallery on May 8th, 2021 and celebrates the Kennedy Gallery's great contributions made to our local arts community."

Also wanting to recognize its years of amazing work The California State Assembly presented a Resolution to the gallery as well.

In 2020 the gallery added an online purchase option. It hosts over 350 pieces available for purchase in the online store at any given time. During larger exhibits such as the annual Twenty20 show that number more than doubles.

"It's important for our customers to have the accessibility to purchase online particularly during a time like this," says Kennedy. "But it's an even more vital resource for our amazing resident artists. We're looking into updating the system for 2022."

The current exhibit "Coral Seas: The Heritage of Our Reefs" honors the majestic wonders of the underwater world and runs



Sept. 9 - Oct. 3 noon - 6 p.m. Thurs. - Sun., and opens at 10 a.m. for the Saturday Market.

In October the holidays will begin with the "Creepy & Crawly" exhibit, a Jim Ferry Retrospective in November and "Vintage Toys" in December rounds out the year.

The 2022 exhibit line up released this month includes some exciting new shows including "Unclothed: 2022 Nudes Exhibit," "Subjective Abstracts," "16th Annual Spring Flowers Show," "Annual Twenty20 Show," "Fairy Magic," "Pop Art Festival," "Take Me to the Zoo," "In a Surreal State," "The Art of Glass" and "Holiday Trees."

Through all of its successes Kennedy Gallery very proudly makes it known that it is an LGBTQ business, a BLM supporter and very involved in the Native American community. Kennedy and their resident artists have donated many pieces of artwork to charity functions over the years. The "giving back" page on the gallery's website lists close to 80 organizations and events that the gallery has supported.

"There are still many marginalized artists who struggle with being recognized on the same level as their mainstream counterparts," says Kennedy. "We are accepting of all artists and welcome submissions from everyone. But we also have a strong commitment to promoting and exhibiting LGBTQ and minority artists. It's important to keep telling our stories and making our voices heard in all artistic media for future generations to enjoy."

For more information about the gallery and its upcoming exhibits visit KennedyGallery.net



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Stonewall Foundation Announces Scholarships

The Stonewall Foundation of Greater Sacramento (SFGS) announced four new college scholarship recipients for 2021: The Sam Catalano Los Rios Community Colleges scholarships were awarded to Lovedeep Bains and Sasha Zabegalin; Catie Bussey and Alexander Willis were the recipients of the Laurie McBride memorial scholarships at California State University, Sacramento.

Zabegalin recently finished studies at American River College and has transferred to UC San Diego where he is majoring in cognitive science - machine learning. His career goal is to become a computer scientist researching artificial intelligence and to explore ways that we can better our communities using it.

"I can't wait to get involved with my campus's LGBTQ+ community, where I hope to make an impact as well," Zabegalin said about his transfer to UCSD.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has created an additional economic crisis for students by creating even more educational barriers such as unemployment, housing and food insecurity," said Dharia McGrew, SFGS board chair. "LGBTQ+ students are struggling more than ever; the scholarships we provide give these students the funds they need to continue their studies."

"With COVID-19, it has been hard to find my place with everything going on," Bains said about attending American River College during the pandemic. "I am optimistic that the fall semester will go a lot better. This money for once gives us a moment to just breathe."

Bains will be a junior at UC Santa Barbara majoring in political science with a concentration in international relations with a double minor in philosophy and applied psychology. Her career goal is "somewhere between becoming a lawyer and political scientist."

Bussey recently graduated from Sacramento State with a bachelor's degree in English and is currently enrolled at Sacramento State as a graduate student studying English composition, rhetoric, and professional writing. Bussey has demonstrated leadership in the LGBTQ community as a volunteer at the Sacramento LGBT Community Center and the organization's various support groups.

Willis is an applied mathematics major at

Sacramento State. Willis is also an active volunteer at the Sacramento LGBT Community Center and has been involved in events such as Mama's Makin' Bacon, Q-Prom, and Sacramento Pride.

The foundation, which is one of the newest and fastest growing nonprofits in the region, works to support the next generation of young leaders advancing equity and representation in the LGBTQ+ community. Founded by Sam Catalano, a longtime community leader and LGBTQ+ rights advocate, SFGS is celebrating its fifth cohort of CSUS scholars in addition to sponsoring leadership conferences for LGBTQ+ youth in several area K-12 districts, providing paid work internship opportunities for LGBTQ high school and college students and providing collaboration and networking for education professionals who work with LGBTQ youth.

The foundation also announced that their annual fundraiser, scheduled for Oct. 7, 2021, will be their first in-person event since the start of the pandemic. The outdoor fundraiser will include wine tastings from several LGBTQ-owned or operated California wineries with cheese and chocolate pairings as well as a virtual silent auction. The event will take place in the parking lot of Beatnik Studios, located at 723 S St., and will run from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. The annual event raises funds to support scholarships for LGBTQ+ students in the greater Sacramento area.

Ticket information, event details, and how to participate in the virtual silent auction can be found at www.sacstonewallfoundation.org. The SFGS continues to monitor the increase in COVID-19 cases in the region and may shift the event to a virtual platform should local infection rates not improve in the coming weeks.



Team Spotlight
Kristian Borofka, D.O.

Kristian Borofka was born and raised in Clovis, California, 3 hours south of Sacramento. She went to medical school at Touro University California after she completed a BS in Biochemistry at Santa Clara University. Her love and interest in medicine began long before her higher education; she was diagnosed with Celiac's disease (an autoimmune disorder related to a common food product-gluten) at the age of 16. This inspired her life-long interest in the interplay between lifestyle changes and physical and emotional health.

While in medical school and residency her passions grew and now encompass LGBTQ+, geriatric, and women's health issues. Her favorite part of medical practice is establishing relationships with her patients and families, and helping individuals better understand and manage their own health. Outside of medicine, she enjoys spending time with her family and friends, knitting, exercising and swimming, and cooking.



Fun facts about the doctor:

1. I have been with my wife for nearly a decade, and just had our first baby.
2. We have 2 fluffy cats (our first fur babies)!
3. I like to think I have a green-ish thumb (most of my plants live when I remember to water them).

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A Blockbuster Bonanza At The Esquire IMAX

By Chris Narloch

Cinematic size queens will have a field day in September and October as Sacramento's Esquire IMAX Theatre on K Street unleashes one blockbuster movie after another, week after week. Read on for details about which films made the cut.



Dear Evan Hansen

Movie musicals are always better on a big screen, and theater queens have been waiting patiently for the film adaptation of this Tony-winning Broadway blockbuster, which shot Ben Platt to stardom almost overnight. Platt reprises the role that won him a Tony, and he is joined by a powerhouse supporting cast that includes Julianne Moore, Amy Adams, Amandla Stenberg, and Kaitlyn Dever.

We shall see if this tale of a high school misfit whose little white lie spirals out of control on social media can translate to film. Darker musicals are almost always harder to pull off, but the assembled cast should at least be worth a watch, and the show has a lovely, moving score. "Dear Evan Hansen" opens on Thursday evening, Sept. 23.



Venom: Let There Be Carnage

My crush on Tom Hardy is undiminished, even after his last film, "Capone," which was godawful bad. Hopefully, his second Marvel movie, a sequel to 2018's first "Venom" film, will turn things around, although the trailer is pretty loud and obnoxious. I will reserve judgement until I have seen the entire movie though, since Hardy singlehandedly made the first film watchable despite an unoriginal script and pedestrian direction.

Andy Serkis takes over the reins as director this time, so hopefully the new "Venom" will be better than the old one. The CGI (and Woody Harrelson's villain) will surely be over the top, and it should be fun to see Hardy return to a character who is forever trying to control the monster inside himself. "Venom: Let There Be Carnage" opens on Thursday evening, Sept. 30.

No Time To Die

It seems like forever that we've been waiting for the new Bond film (reportedly, Daniel Craig's last), which was pushed back several times due to the pandemic. I have high hopes that it will be worth the wait, and the fact that the studio was willing to delay the release for so long instead of selling it to a streaming service is a good sign.

I had to laugh though when I googled the synopsis of "No Time To Die": "Recruited to rescue a kidnapped scientist, globe-trotting spy James Bond finds himself hot on the trail of a mysterious villain, who's armed with a dangerous new technology." Doesn't that sound like the plot of almost every Bond film ever made?

There is nothing wrong with familiar, cinematic comfort food, however -- if it's done well -- and "No Time To Die" has a talented director (Cary Joji Fukunaga) and a wonderful supporting cast that includes Rami Malek, Ana de Armas, Ralph Fiennes, Naomie Harris, Christoph Waltz, Jeffrey Wright, Lea Seydoux, and Billy Magnussen. The movie was also filmed with IMAX cameras. You can check it out beginning Thursday evening, Oct. 7.

For more information about all three films, visit www.imax.com/imax-esquire-00



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A Trio Of New Musical Movies

By Chris Narloch

Anybody who knows me will tell you that I love movie musicals. In fact, my addiction to films that sing and dance is so intense that I even own DVDs of “Nine” and “The Wiz,” two of the worst-reviewed major movie musicals of the last 50 years. Here are three new musicals looking to light up screens (and movie fans) this fall.



Everybody's Talking About Jamie

This not-to-be-missed movie is based on a smash British stage musical that was in turn inspired by a TV documentary about a real teenaged boy who was determined to make his dream of becoming a drag queen a reality.

Jamie New is a 16-year-old who doesn't fit in. Uncertain about his future, Jamie knows one thing for sure -- he's going to be a sensation. Supported by his loving mother and amazing friends, Jamie overcomes discrimination and bullying to step out of the darkness -- and into the spotlight.

Max Harwood takes over the role of Jamie in the film, and he's perfection. On screen, the upbeat songs pop like music videos, and the entire movie is incredibly entertaining and gay-positive. “Everybody's Talking About Jamie” is now available via Amazon Prime Video.

Come From Away

This superb Canadian musical was such a Broadway smash that it recently reopened in New York City and is also touring the country, in addition to premiering on Apple TV+ this September.

The filmed version was captured live and features the show's original Broadway cast, who pour their heart into a fascinating, little-known chapter of 9/11, when 38 planes were ordered to land unexpectedly in the small town of Gander in the province of Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada.

A rousing, cathartic true story, “Come From Away” finds hope amidst tragedy, as local residents come to the aid of scared, stranded travelers, sharing food and opening their homes to total strangers during one of the darkest times in America's history.

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Alfred Sisley (French, 1839–1899), *The Loing at Saint-Mammès*, ca. 1880. Oil on canvas, 15 x 22 in. Dixon Gallery and Gardens; Gift of Montgomery H. W. Ritchie, 1996.2.15.



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BroadwaySacramento.com

The Mondavi Center Returns To Live Performances

by Chris Narloch

After a lengthy timeout to keep their subscribers safe during the worst of the pandemic, The Mondavi Center in Davis has emerged with an exciting lineup of live events coming this fall and next year. Read on for my picks of the most queer-friendly shows currently scheduled during the 2021-22 season.

Mondavi Center UCDAVIS



Meow Meow

Circa

Virtuosic, next-gen circus ensemble Circa returns to the Mondavi stage with a new love letter to humanity, on Jan. 28. Following their global smash-hit "Humans," which appeared at the Mondavi Center in 2019, "Humans 2.0" takes full advantage of the proscenium stage. With ten of Circa's finest ensemble members, this new work continues pushing the boundaries of what circus and acrobatics can be. Intimate, joyous and searching, "Humans 2.0" finds the redemptive power in strength and fiercely celebrates what it means to be human, offering a message of hope as the world reels from pandemic fallout.

Fran Lebowitz

Every lesbian in Northern California will be at this show -- if they know what's good for them -- when one of our most sardonic social commentators commands the Mondavi stage, on Feb. 24. If you've seen her terrific Martin Scorsese-directed documentaries on Netflix, then you already know that Lebowitz is the queen of cultural satire and a true New Yorker -- tough, acerbic, and no-nonsense. Her pet peeves include tourists, adults who roller skate, and anyone who is unduly tan.

Meow Meow

If you've never seen the amazing Meow Meow live, you can rectify that situation next March 26 when the sensationally sexy singer, dancer and actress brings her singular style to the Mondavi stage. The Australian-born performer is a cabaret artist of the highest order who has been known to careen from French chanson to Radiohead without batting an eye. Always keeping her audience on the edge of their seats and in the palm of her hand, Meow will crack you up and then steal your heart.

David Sedaris

With sardonic wit and incisive social critiques, David Sedaris has become one of America's pre-eminent humor writers. The great skill with which he slices through cultural euphemisms and political correctness proves that Sedaris is a master of satire and one of the most observant writers addressing the human condition today. Sedaris will 'bring the funny' to the Mondavi stage on May 1, 2022.

For more information about these and other events, please visit www.mondaviarts.org



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New Queer Music Releases

by Chris Narloch

Elsewhere in this issue, there is an interview with one of my current favorite queer singers, Wrabel, who has a new CD coming out in late September that I plan to review this October, in tandem with Lil Nas X's "Montero" which was released right after our deadline for this issue. Here are four more gay-friendly artists with new music on the horizon -- or already out.

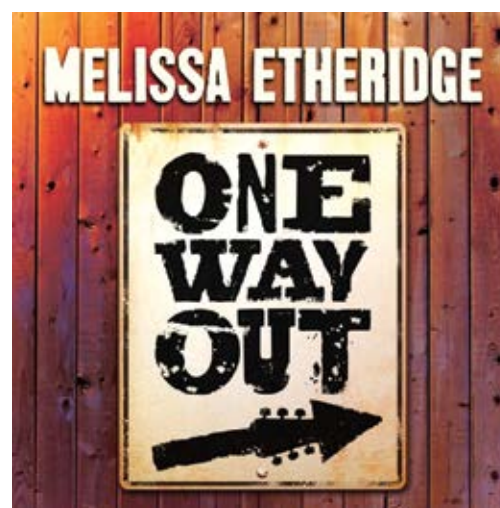
Brandi Carlile – In These Silent Days

The queen of queer Americana music will release her long-awaited follow-up to 2018's "By The Way, I Forgive You" on Oct. 1, and if the entire CD is as good as "Right on Time," the first single, then it should be another classic record for Carlile. The official track list consists of ten new songs, and the album reunites Brandi with the great producers Dave Cobb and Shooter Jennings. I can't wait.



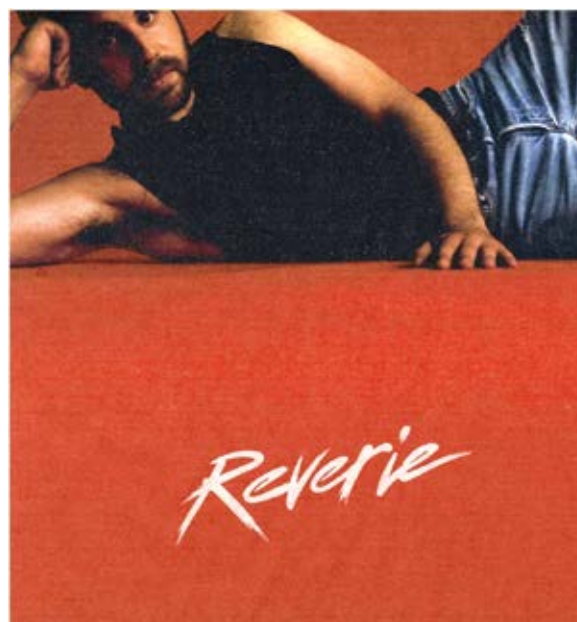
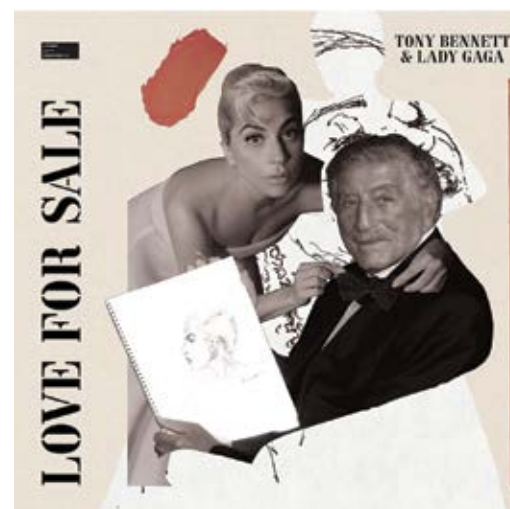
Melissa Etheridge – One Way Out

Our favorite lesbian guitar goddess is still rocking hard at the age of 60, after more than three decades playing rock 'n' roll. Her 2021 release came out on Sept. 17 and features seven new recordings, plus two songs captured live at the Roxy in Los Angeles in 2002. Even when her lyrics aren't classic, as with the new single "As Cool As You Try," Etheridge's fiery vocals and great guitar work knock your socks off.



Lady Gaga & Tony Bennett – Love For Sale

This second collaboration between Lady G and Tony B, which releases on Oct. 1, will be bittersweet indeed, since it will likely be the last, due to Bennett's current battle with Alzheimer's. Their first jazz album was surprisingly good, and I have no reason to believe that the pair won't hit it out of the park again. How can they go wrong with a tribute CD to Cole Porter that includes a dozen or so classics like "Let's Do It," "I Get a Kick Out of You," "Night and Day" and the great title song? I was lucky enough to see the pair perform live in Las Vegas, and they are magic together.



Ben Platt – Reverie

My apologies to Mr. Platt and his fans, but I did not care for the artist's new CD, which -- except for a couple fun, upbeat tracks -- suffers from sophomore slump. I had the good fortune to see Platt on stage in "Dear Evan Hanse," and I was blown away by his singing and his acting, but he is not a great songwriter -- not yet anyway. "Happy to Be Sad" and "I Wanna Love You But I Don't" are perfect examples of novice songwriter junk -- overly 'clever' lyrics that aim for depth but end up being cloying. Platt is very talented, but he should probably stick to singing other people's songs, and please God ditch the autotune next time.



Kennedy
GALLERY

2021

Creepy & Crawly
October

Jim Ferry: A Retrospective
November

Vintage Toys
December

2022

Unclothed: Nudes Exhibit
Jan. 6 — Feb. 6

TBA
Feb. 10 — Mar. 6

"Subjective" Abstract Show
Mar. 10 — Apr. 3

Blossomed: 16th Annual
Spring Flowers Show
Apr. 7 — May 8

2022 Twenty20 Show
Mini Masterpieces
May 12 — July 3

Fairy Magic: Exploring The
Ethereal & The Magical
July 7 — Aug. 7

Pop Art Festival
Transforming Commonplace
Aug. 11 — Sept. 4

Take Me to the Zoo
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In a Surreal State
Oct 6. — Nov 6.

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www.KennedyGallery.net

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Queer Cinema Returns To The Crest

by Chris Narloch

From left to right: "Jump, Darling" plays Saturday evening. "Aimee Victoria" plays Sunday evening. "See You Then" plays Saturday afternoon. "Pieces of Us" plays Sunday afternoon.

BENT SACRAMENTO LGBTQ FILM FESTIVAL

Sunday, October 10

BENT picks up on Sunday at 3:30 with a riveting 90-minute documentary about LGBTQ hate crime survivors who, by choosing to take their recovery public, inspire the survivor in all of us. The film takes us from NYC and Denver to India for interviews with, among others, trans activist and Stonewall riots survivor Victoria Cruz and Prince Manvendra Singh Gohil.

The 6:00 feature film "Sweetheart" is a funny movie from the UK about a socially awkward but environmentally conscious teen named AJ who is dreading her forced family vacation until she makes friends with a carefree female lifeguard. British humor abounds, and the cast of the 103-minute film is very good.

For my money, the better of the two shorts programs this year closes out the festival at 8:15 on Sunday evening. The eclectic mix includes titles from Pakistan, the UK, Brazil, France, and the U.S., and my favorite is probably UK director Joe Solomon's "Eve," about a bride-to-be who discovers right before her wedding that she is more attracted to women.

I was unable to watch the online-only feature "Landlocked," an 80-minute drama starring transgender actress Delia Kropp. The movie follows "a man who reunites with his estranged, transgender father as they journey to scatter his late mother's ashes off the Georgia coast."

For more information on this year's BENT LGBTQ Film Festival, including how to watch from the comfort of your own home, please visit <https://bentfilmfest.org/>

BENT 2021 (also known as the Sacramento LGBTQ Film Festival) returns to the historic Crest Theatre this October 9th for two days of international queer cinema that promise something for everyone.

With the pandemic still on many people's minds, the organizers of BENT have made the responsible and considerate decision to offer both in-person and virtual screenings this year, offering film fans a choice depending on their vaccination status and current level of comfort with crowds.

I will be masking up and attending the festival in person because there are several movies I want to see again, this time on a big screen rather than on my laptop. Below is a rundown by date of what you can expect this year.

Saturday, October 9

The first day of the festival kicks off with a 3:30 matinee of "See You Then," a fascinating dramatic feature that consists of a series of increasingly intimate conversations between two women who reconnect ten years after breaking up. Both actresses give outstanding performances, and I was impressed by this dialogue-driven but very absorbing story.

The mixed shorts program at 6:00 should appeal to anyone who enjoys mini movies. This collection of films is aimed at viewers of all persuasions and includes titles from Ireland, Korea, China, and France, plus several from the US of A. My favorite here is probably "As Simple As That," a 19-minute Brazilian short about a mother who discovers that her husband knows a thing or two about the subject, after she confesses her suspicion that their son is gay.

For reasons that are partly sentimental, "Jump, Darling," BENT's Saturday evening feature at 8:30, is my favorite film of the festival, although you must be in the mood for a drama with comedic moments that is also a real tearjerker.

In her final film, the late, great Cloris Leachman costars as the grandmother of the lead character, an actor turned drag queen who escapes the big city for a house in the country owned by Leachman's character, who is in decline.

There is a reason that Leachman had won nine Emmy awards and an Oscar at the time of her death earlier this year. From "The Last Picture Show" and "The Mary Tyler Moore Show" to Mel Brooks' movies and her recent TV sitcoms, the actress demonstrated great versatility with decades of wonderful work.

Even though Leachman is not the main character in "Jump, Darling," she might as well be, and there won't be a dry eye in the theater when the movie is over.



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The Quintessentially Queer Music Of Wrabel

By Christopher J. Beale

This past year has been so bizarre!" says gay singer-songwriter Stephen Wrabel -- better known as simply Wrabel. "Within two weeks of everything shutting down, people were like, okay, now you're going to get on Zoom and write songs. And I was like, "No way!"

Wrabel came to prominence as a songwriter in 2011 and 2012 after writing songs for artists like Phillip Phillips, Adam Lambert and Prince Royce. Later, as a singer-songwriter, he would collaborate with P!nk, Ellie Goulding, Idina Menzel, Ke\$ha, Backstreet Boys, Afrojack and more.

It's fair to say he has a process at this point, and Zoom was not a part of it. "I rely so heavily on the human connection of collaboration," said Wrabel. "But one day I decided I'm either going to watch movies at noon and eat Chinese food every day, or I'm going to do something." He did something.

"For the first time in so long I wrote by myself," said Wrabel. "I sat here with my dog and my guitar that I barely know how to play, and wrote..."

90 DAYS

Wrabel went through rehab twice before he turned 21. But in 2018, reality was looking pretty cool from his vantage point. "I got a tattoo," said Wrabel. "It's just a little stick figure standing that says 'present.'" After several ebbs and flows in his career he was finally doing something huge, and without the fog of drugs.

"I didn't want to forget what it felt like to be standing side stage with one of the biggest icons in the entire world about to introduce me," said Wrabel. That icon was P!nk. His first appearance was a surprise to set off a series of dates on the Beautiful Trauma World Tour. Once the music hit, that was Wrabel's cue to step into the light and sing '90 Days' while totally present and aware. It's a moment he recalls in vivid detail.

"If I'm just somebody that you're gonna leave / And you don't feel something when you look at me / You're holdin' my heart, mmm, whatcha say? / Just let me down slowly, I'll be okay" -- '90 Days' (Wrabel/P!nk).

11 BLOCKS

Wrabel recalls the first time he felt truly acknowledged as a singer in addition to a songwriter. It was in 2016 when he met L.A. Reid from Epic Records. His single '11 Blocks' got the label's attention and within weeks Wrabel was signed and the song was on the radio. The album art still makes him laugh: "Did I just draw a map to my ex's place and blow it up?" The single would solidify Wrabel's status as a visible queer recording artist.

As a songwriter, Wrabel has the ability to capture small but heart-twisting emotional moments and turn them into catchy pop lyrics that speak directly to the heart of what it is to be human -- topics like love, acceptance and breakups.

"But my mind won't stop, it's just 11 blocks / I know that you're home / 'Cause it's Friday night, you're not that type / I know that you're home" -- '11 Blocks' (Wrabel).

After the success of '11 Blocks', it was an EP, and promotional work, and Wrabel quickly got caught up in the industry machine. "It really hit me like, can we just take a break?" said Wrabel. The stress of promoting '11 Blocks' was in direct contradiction to his desire to work on his first full-length studio album. "I wanted to make a record." Around this time Wrabel entered rehab.

AN EPIC GOODBYE

"One day my managers came in to meet with me and my therapist, and I am like, "Oh God something is going down,"" said Wrabel. They'd been considering his concerns and talking with the label and getting nowhere. "We just wanted to tell you that we're leaving the label."

Wrabel decided on-the-spot to stay in rehab another month before re-starting his career as an independent artist. His experience walking away from this major label helped redefine what he really wanted to do with his music. So, he created his own label.

BIG GAY RECORDS

"Within two weeks, we're releasing a song because we love it, there's no big rollout plan, we're not posting teasers for a month and then releasing it," he says. "I wrote this song, we all love it, let's put it out! I was the gatekeeper."

"And now I'm more myself than I ever was / I'm happier than I ever was / And I've learned to let someone love me for me / Oh, since I was young" -- 'Since I Was Young' (Wrabel/Ke\$ha).

Today, Wrabel is the gatekeeper of his own career. He writes for who he wants, he performs where he wants, and he releases music when he wants.

Wrabel's official, full-length debut CD 'these words are all for you' drops this Sept. 24 via Big Gay/ Netzwerk Records.

Christopher J. Beale is a queer independent radio host, audio producer and journalist in San Francisco, CA. Check out his podcast "Stereotypes -- Straight Talk from Queer Voices" at StereotypesPodcast.org. Twitter and Instagram: @RealChrisJBeale.



Wrabel



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Alfred Hitchcock & Tammy Faye At Tower Theatre

by Chris Narloch

As fall approaches, superhero cinema subsides, and more serious films take over movie screens. Sacramento's Tower Theatre will host several intriguing titles this September and October. Read on for details.



Jessica Chastain (as Tammy Faye Bakker) comforts a man with AIDS in "The Eyes of Tammy Faye."

The Eyes of Tammy Faye

The 2022 Oscars are a long way off, but I wouldn't be surprised if Jessica Chastain receives an Academy Award nomination for her amazing transformation as Tammy Faye Bakker, in this wild biopic about the rise and fall of the famous televangelist couple who turned their Christian ministry into a crazy cash cow and then lost everything.

Even if you don't buy into the movie's sympathetic portrait of Tammy as a naif who put too much trust in her crooked husband -- Andrew Garfield plays Jim Bakker -- you can't help but marvel at Chastain's total commitment to the role.

The actress has Tammy Faye's girlish voice and giggle down pat, and she manages to emote and even sing through a ton of prosthetic makeup that turns her into a dead ringer for the Queen of PTL. "The Eyes of Tammy Faye" opened on Sept. 17.

Blue Bayou

This intense-looking drama tackles the hot-button subject of immigration with the story of a Korean adoptee raised in a small town in Louisiana, struggling to make a better life for his family, who learns that he could be deported from the only country he's ever called home. The lovely and talented Alicia Vikander plays his wife. "Blue Bayou" opened at the Tower on Sept. 17.

Titane

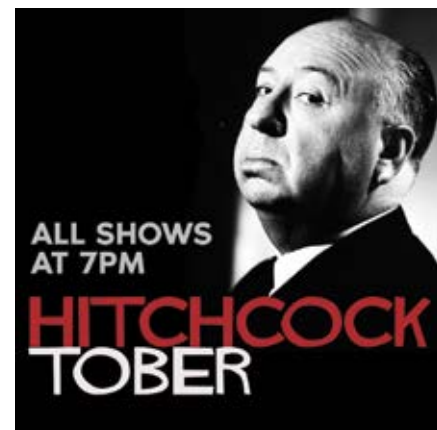
Fans of the bizarre movie "Raw" from a few years back have been waiting for director Julia Ducournau's follow-up, and, apparently, she has outdone herself again with this Cannes Festival award winner about a mentally ill woman who becomes pregnant after having sex with a car. The BBC called it "the most shocking film of 2021." You have been warned. "Titane" is scheduled to open on Oct. 1.

Lamb

Noomi Rapace, who was so good in the Swedish version of "The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo" and its two sequels, stars in this odd-looking foreign film about a childless couple in rural Iceland who discover a strange and unnatural newborn in their sheep barn. They decide to raise her as their own, but sinister forces are determined to return the creature to the wilderness that birthed her. "Lamb" is scheduled to open on Oct. 8.

Hitchcocktober

The Tower's annual salute to the Master of Suspense, director Alfred Hitchcock, returns this October with five famous films, beginning on Oct. 6 with "Rear Window." Another Hitchcock classic plays each Wednesday, culminating with a Halloween showing of "Psycho," one of the finest horror movies ever made, on Sunday, Oct. 31. The three movies in between are "North by Northwest," "Vertigo" and "Strangers on a Train."



For more information about movies at the Tower, visit
www.angelikafilmcenter.com/tower/

“Hamilton” Opens The SAFE Credit Union Performing Arts Center

by Chris Narloch



Photo by
Joan Marcus

It was worth the wait. With delays caused by a remodel of the old Community Center Theater and then the pandemic, it had begun to look like Sacramento would never get to see “Hamilton” live.

That all changed on the evening of Wednesday, Sept. 15th, when a superb touring production of Lin-Manuel Miranda’s Broadway phenomenon took the renamed (and beautiful) SAFE Credit Union Performing Arts Center by storm.

I attended a press performance on the 16th and was impressed by both the production and the spruced-up home for Broadway tours in Sacramento. Since I had seen “Hamilton” a couple times before, I was initially more interested in the remodel than the show.

My “Hamilton”-fatigue evaporated, however, after I saw (and heard!) the remarkable talent on stage, including two performers -- Donald Webber, Jr. as Aaron

Burr and Darnell Abraham as George Washington -- who blew me away.

As for the “new” theater, the best features are the greatly improved acoustics and easier access to the center seats in the orchestra where I usually sit. There are added bathrooms, more bars, and a lovely, spacious entryway, just inside the main entrance, which takes you to a beautiful new bar and a stunning staircase that leads to the main lobby.

You can experience both the remodel and “Hamilton” -- if you can find a ticket -- through Oct. 10. After that, the theater will host two more Broadway Sacramento productions later this year.

“An Officer and a Gentleman The Musical” plays Nov. 2-7, and “Roald Dahl’s Charlie and the Chocolate Factory The New Musical” performs Dec. 28-Jan. 2, 2022.

For more information, visit www.broadwaysacramento.com

Looking for More Fun Stuff to Do?

Be sure to check out Sacramento365, the region’s largest all-inclusive online arts and entertainment resource. Sac 365 pulls resources from Visit Sacramento projects, the City of Sacramento’s Convention and Cultural Services, and the Office of Arts & Culture (formerly the Sacramento Metropolitan Arts Commission). Sacramento365 is a multi-platform brand that allows users to search for, and add events to, its calendar, free of charge. With over 40+ categories, users of Sacramento365 can search for events by date, type, even by city and venue. Sacramento365 also manages/feeds into 12 other regional calendars including Capital Public Radio, City of Sacramento, Go Downtown Sac, Explore Midtown, Sacramento Area Museums, Memorial Auditorium, Visit Sacramento, and Folsom Presents. An individual or organization can directly enter their own event information via the website. Just go to the Submit Event button and follow the prompts. Visit www.sacramento365.com



The Year-Round Source for Events

The San Francisco Symphony Invites You To Hear Great Movies

by Chris Narloch

The SF Symphony’s 2021-22 film series kicks off this September with screenings of Rob Reiner’s “The Princess Bride” and Ron Howard’s “Apollo 13,” performed live to picture at Davies Symphony Hall in San Francisco. This season’s film programming also includes Richard Curtis’ “Love Actually,” Chris Columbus’ “Home Alone,” Robert Zemeckis’ “Back To The Future,” and the Wachowskis’ “The Matrix.” Special film presentations include Buster Keaton’s “The General” featuring organist Cameron Carpenter and “Get Happy: A Judy Garland Centennial Celebration.” Tickets for all performances are on sale now at www.sfsymphony.org



“Skyfall” is just one of the fine films being shown with a live score by the SF Symphony.

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By Diana Pretzlaff
Development Director, Sunburst Projects

Get your golf balls washed by Marilyn Monroe, Cher, Divine, Judy Garland and other surprise celebrities at the “Drag Your Balls” Celebrity Golf Tournament on Saturday, October 16, 2021 at the Haggins Oaks Golf Complex in Sacramento. The tournament will benefit Sunburst Projects, a local HIV/AIDS non-profit that has served low-income clients for nearly 40 years.

“We’ve got a hilarious event planned for golfers and non-golfers alike,” said Jake Bradley-Rowe, Executive Director of Sunburst Projects. “Drag queens impersonating celebrities will buzz around the course entertaining our golfers while they play 9 holes to support our agency. They will also perform a hysterical drag show at our After Party,” Bradley-Rowe added.

“Drag Your Balls” Celebrity Golf Tournament tickets are \$100 per golfer. Tickets include a 12:00 noon shotgun start, golf cart, green fees, and boxed lunch to enjoy on the course. Golf tickets also include entry to the After Party with appetizers, no-host bar, drag show, prizes, and a silent auction!

If you aren’t a golfer but you like a lively party, purchase a \$25 ticket to the After Party and join the fun! All activities are outdoors and Covid safe. This is sure to be a sellout event, so get your tickets now at www.sunburstprojects.org



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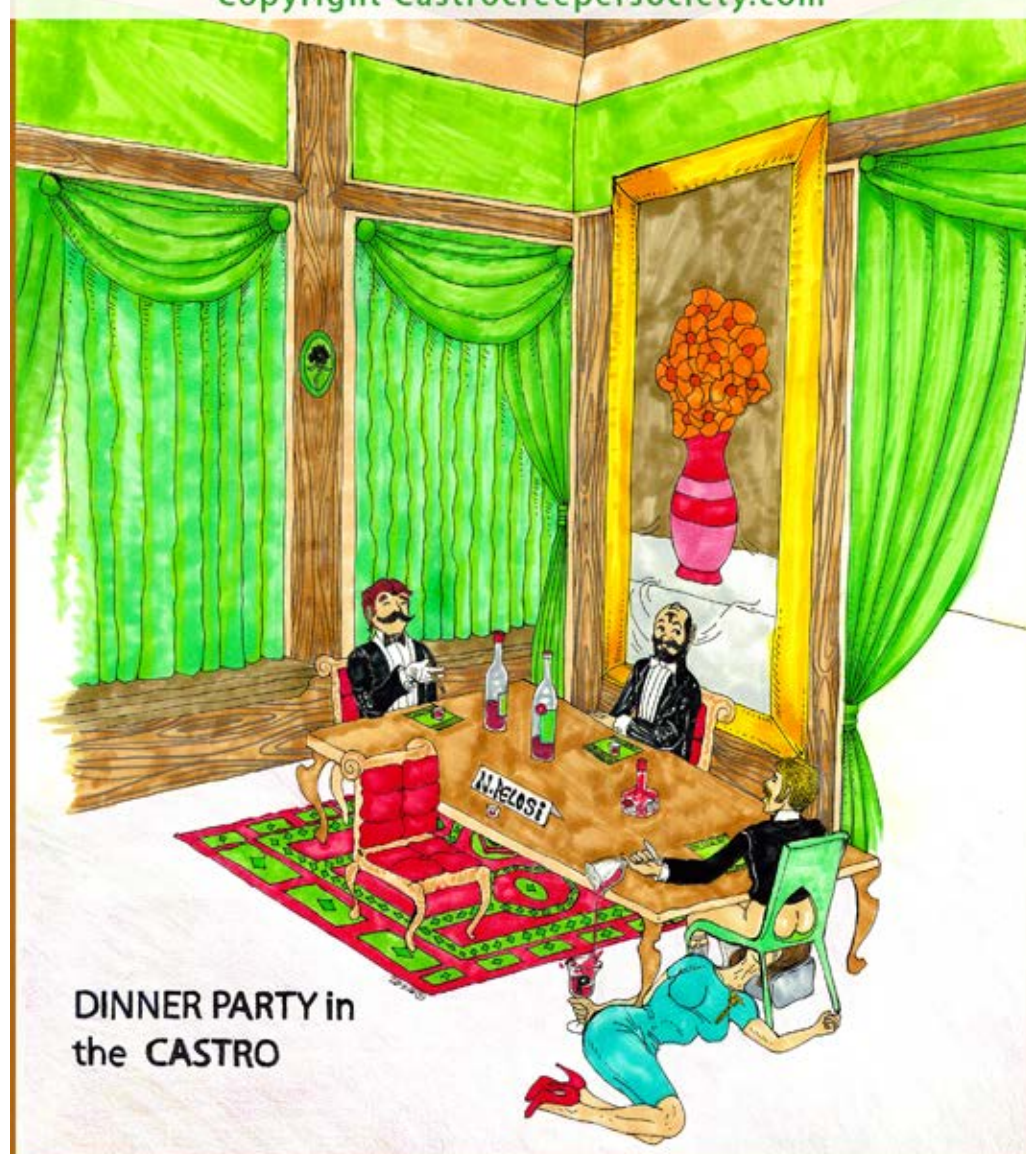
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