

# outword

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CIRQUE DU SOLEIL  
**ALEGRIA**  
IN A NEW LIGHT

Cirque du Soleil's "Alegria"  
Coming to Sacramento

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# Historic Appointment Of Karine Jean-Pierre As White House Press Secretary

**K**arine Jean-Pierre will make history by becoming the first Black woman, and first openly LGBTQ person, to hold the job of White House press secretary, President Biden announced recently.

"Jill and I have known and respected Karine a long time and she will be a strong voice speaking for me and this Administration," the president said in a statement.

Jean-Pierre will replace Jen Psaki, who was originally expected to serve for only the first year of Biden's term. New coronavirus variants and the war in Ukraine kept her in the job for several months beyond that self-imposed limit.

"She is passionate. She is smart and she has a moral core that makes her not just a great colleague, but an amazing Mom and human. Plus, she has a great sense of humor," Psaki said in a tweet of Pierre, now her top deputy in the White House press shop.

"Representation matters. She will give a voice to so many, and show so many what is truly possible when you work hard and dream big. And that matters. And we should celebrate that," Psaki said at the White House briefing on Thursday, while also touting Jean-Pierre's resume. "But I also want to make clear what all of her qualifications are. ... She comes to this job with decades of experience."



**White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre**

Psaki's last day on the job will be next Friday, May 13. She is expected to join MSNBC as an on-air commentator.

Jean-Pierre will take over the podium at a crucial phase in the Biden presidency, with the congressional midterms nearing and a presidential reelection campaign looming.

During the 2020 presidential primary, Jean-Pierre worked for the campaign of

then-Sen. Kamala Harris. She has been at the White House since the start of the Biden administration.

The 44-year-old daughter of Haitian immigrants will inherit a position that attracted intense scrutiny during the Trump administration. Psaki has tried to keep the White House briefings free of the kinds of dramatics that, during the Trump years, turned some journalists into celebrities.

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**Sunday, June 12**

Run/Walk, 8 a.m. (\$25-\$35)

Festival, music, vendors, crafts, 10 a.m. (FREE)



Central Park, Downtown Davis

More activities:

[DavisPride.org](http://DavisPride.org)



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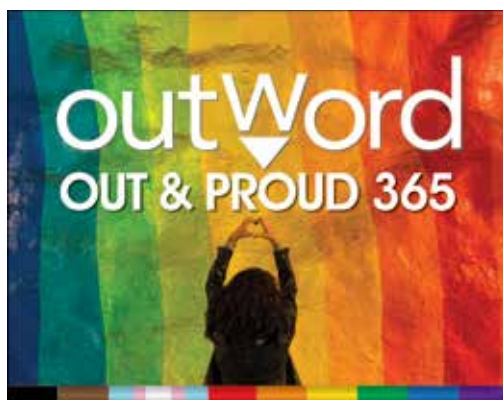
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## The Laurel Foundation To Host "The Art Of \_," An Online Art Auction, To Support Transgender Youth

The international online auction sponsored by Bonhams will feature over 75 contemporary paintings, sculptures, photographs and objects by internationally revered, industry renowned, and up-and-coming transgender/gender diverse or HIV+ artists.

As one of the nation's most comprehensive providers of mental health and support programs for children, youth and families living with and affected by HIV/AIDS, and transgender/gender diverse youth, The Laurel Foundation is thrilled to host its inaugural international online art auction, "The Art Of \_," from May 2 to May 13, 2022.

By merging some of the world's most iconic artists, such as David Hockney and Andy Warhol, with gallery favorites Debora Medici-Guetta, Frank Ockenfels, Luc Bernard, William J. O'Brien, Don Flood, and Salomon Khammi, alongside transgender/gender diverse artists Danielle Paris, Ayin Es and Rhys T Hansen, nationally recognized HIV+ artist Patrick Brown and up-and-coming artists Berit Mondale, Sam Culp and Kylie Ames, The Art Of \_ auction will support The Laurel Foundation's important

offering an inclusive environment where campers can meet adult mentors and role models, the camp's aim is to instill positive self-identity for all those who attend by building self-esteem and empowering attendees to build productive successful lives. The Laurel Foundation's year-round programs are cost-free and made possible through generous donations and—for the first time ever—The Art Of \_ auction.

Generously sponsored by Bonhams, to benefit The Laurel Foundation, the international online auction will feature more than 75 donated contemporary paintings, sculptures, photographs, and objects. Online bidding will open May 2nd at 1:00PM PST and close on May 13, 2022 at 1:00PM PST.

A special Viewing Party will take place on May 12th from 6:30-8:30PM at Bonhams, with a VIP viewing from 6:30-7:00PM to meet select artists

**The Art Of \_**

2 May 2022, starting at 16:00 EST  
Los Angeles

PREVIEW

AYIN ES

SPIN-FLIP

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mission, while building a platform for artists from within the community it serves, whose work deserves to be highlighted and celebrated by the broader arts community.

Celebrating 30 years of service, The Laurel Foundation offers vital mental health and support programs, as well as a gender-affirming community, at the forefront of its mission. Each year, it serves hundreds of low-income, at-risk participants through its Camp Mulberry and Camp Laurel day and resident programs. By

and celebrities. The event's Honorary Celebrity Host Committee includes Jamie Lee Curtis, award-winning actress, producer, director, author and advocate, and Carson Kressley of "Queer Eye for the Straight Guy" and "RuPaul's Drag Race." Tickets to the event range from \$40 (general admission) to \$125 (VIP admission).

To learn more about the The Art Of \_ auction, register for the auction, and/or purchase tickets to the May 12th event, visit: <https://laurel-foundation.org/theartof/>.

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# Sacramento County Project Celebrates 10-Year Anniversary Promoting Mental Health/Wellness

It has been 10 years since the launch of the Sacramento County Department of Health Services/Division of Behavioral Health Services “Mental Illness: It’s not always what you think” project. In that time, the project has worked to reduce stigma and discrimination surrounding mental health conditions, promote mental health and wellness and inspire hope for people and families living with mental health conditions.

In Sacramento County, it’s estimated that over 300,000 residents are living with a mental health condition. Nationally, approximately one in five adults will experience a diagnosable mental health condition during their lifetime. While education, support and treatment are available, two-thirds of these individuals do not seek support or treatment because they worry they will lose their jobs, friends or family, or be isolated because of the stigma and discrimination associated with having a mental health condition.

Mental health conditions, just like physical health conditions, are treatable, and recovery is possible when education and treatment is available, along with family, peer and community support. “As a gay Asian man living with depression, I struggled for many years trying to find out who I am and where I belong,” said Patrick Ma, a member of the Stop Stigma Sacramento Speakers Bureau. “If you are struggling, it’s ok to reach out and ask for help. There are plenty of resources available to you, and there are people who love and care for you.”

It is just as important as ever to support mental health and well-being by reaching out and maintaining connections with those who may be struggling – not only to support them, but also for your own mental health. Sending a thoughtful text, grabbing coffee, making a phone call, or setting up a video chat could make all the difference. Leading up to Mental Health Awareness

Month in May, join the “Mental Illness: It’s not always what you think” project to support the mental health of yourself and others, and help build understanding and hope within our community:

- Visit [StopStigmaSacramento.org](http://StopStigmaSacramento.org) to view a compiled a list of resources, help lines, online communities and tips to help us get through this together.
- Start meaningful conversations with family, friends or neighbors about how they’re feeling and remind them they’re not alone using the conversation starters available on [StopStigmaSacramento.org](http://StopStigmaSacramento.org).
- If you live with a mental health condition, or are supporting someone with a mental health condition, consider submitting a work of art to the project’s May is Mental Health Month Art Display. Submissions are due April 20 at 5 p.m.
- Join the Speaker’s Bureau or request a Speaker’s Bureau member for a virtual speaking event! Our Speaker’s Bureau is holding virtual events for Sacramento County residents and organizations! If you’re interested, please complete a speaker request form.

For more information on the “Mental Illness: it’s not always what you think” project or mental health resources, please visit [StopStigmaSacramento.org](http://StopStigmaSacramento.org) or search “Stop Stigma Sacramento” on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. This program is funded by the Sacramento County, Division of Behavioral Health Services, through the voter approved Proposition 63, Mental Health Services Act (MHSA).

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# Compassion Is Key To Breaking Pandemic Cycles Like HIV, COVID

by Wendy Weitzel

**H**IV and COVID-19 have a lot in common. Both are viruses that led to pandemics. And in each case, as the infections spread, so did the misinformation and hate.

A UC Davis virologist says we can learn from these experiences. “Even though the biology of the (COVID) virus is very different (than HIV), so much depends on how we respond to it,” said Koen Van Rompay, core scientist at the California National Primate Research Center.

The veterinarian’s research led to development of the top HIV treatment in the world: tenofovir. Recently, he studied COVID vaccines in infant monkeys – part of groundwork for Moderna’s preliminary COVID vaccine for human infants 6 months to 5 years old.

Van Rompay said these pandemics exposed weaknesses in our society, where some people put politics before facts. “We have to trust the research and the way it has developed.”

For International LGBTQ+ Month, local scientists and community activists see the celebration as a chance to strengthen community bonds, and acknowledge lessons learned.

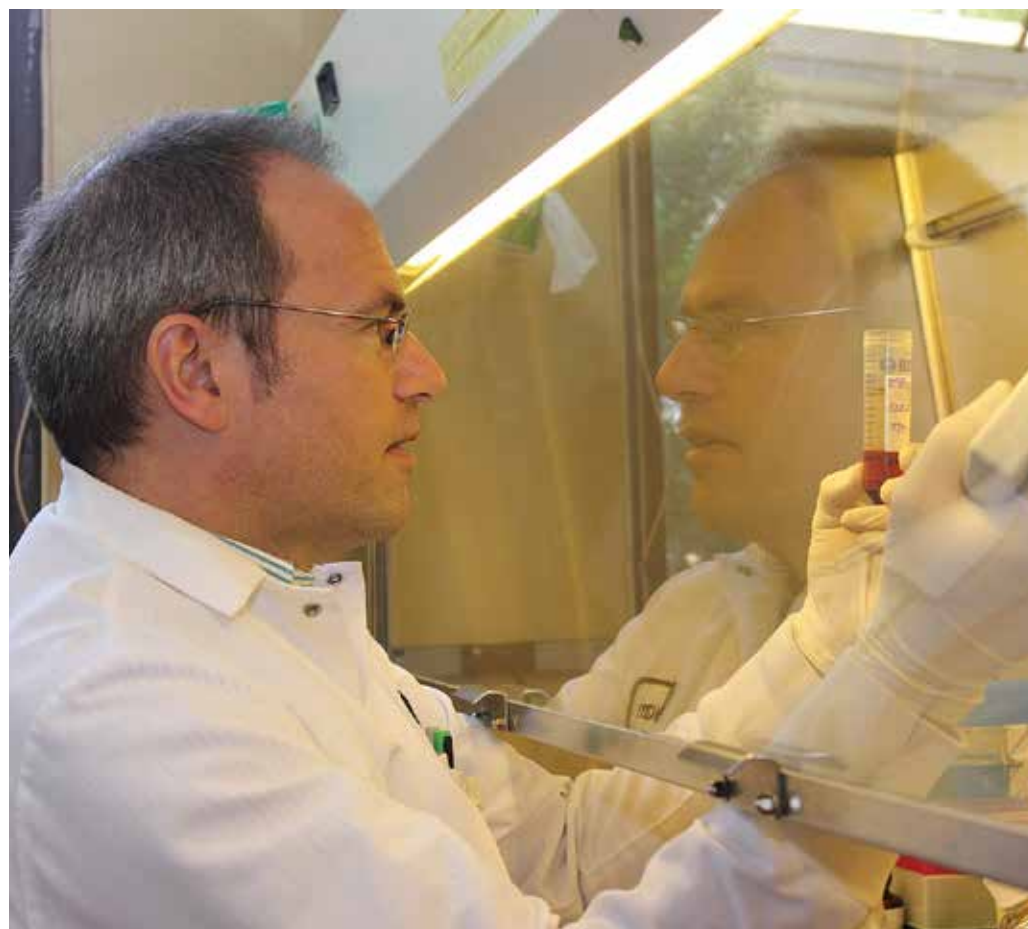
Davis Mayor Gloria Partida said there are uncanny parallels between the two health emergencies, notably in their social impacts. “Both pandemics have caused marginalized groups to be targeted,” she said, referring to

hate directed at Asians and immigrants as COVID-19 emerged, and at gay men for HIV. She said supporting – not stigmatizing – the victims, and discouraging misinformation are social ways to contain today’s pandemic.

She retired in 2019 from UC Davis, where she was a lab manager in the department of neurobiology, physiology and behavior. She founded the Davis Phoenix Coalition in 2013 after her oldest son, who is gay, was badly beaten in an incident classified as a hate crime. Two of her three adult children identify as LGBTQ.

For the eighth year, the Davis Phoenix Coalition is coordinating Davis Pride events. Partida said events like International LGBTQ+ Month in June, and the Davis Pride Festival (June 11-12), support community conversations and celebrations of diversity.

Van Rompay agreed. “We have to show compassion for others. It’s our power if we work together toward our future.” In 1999, he founded nonprofit Sahaya International, which aids education, social, medical and environmental projects in developing countries. In Sanskrit, “sahaya” translates to “help.”



**Veterinarian and virologist Dr. Koen Van Rompay poses at the California National Primate Research Center at UC Davis. (Courtesy photo)**

He said Princess Diana was an example of such empathy when, in 1989, she was photographed in a New York hospital picking up and hugging a 7-year-old boy who had AIDS.

Though there was lots of misinformation when HIV emerged in the 1980s, there was no internet to strengthen its reach. With COVID, “there is so much false information about vaccines and masking,” he said.

People need to be aware that their actions can hurt others. “Don’t believe everything you read on social media. Trust the scientists,” he said. “When my car breaks down, I don’t try to fix it. I take it to a specialist who has the knowledge and experience to deal with it.”

Young adults tend to have less fear of COVID, but they are not immortal, Van Rompay said. A caring community looks out for everyone, like those who are immunocompromised or too young to

receive a vaccine.

And we still don’t know the consequences. “Coming from a research point of view, there is more and more data coming out that people with mild symptoms still have the risk of entering long COVID – where it enters the brain,” he said.

Davis is fortunate to have the university, and the Healthy Davis Together free testing and vaccination program, Van Rompay said, calling it an example for the country.

“We’ve done a really amazing job but nothing is perfect.” Though hospitalizations have dropped significantly, we still don’t know the long-term effects.

Meanwhile, he’s masking in public indoor spaces, and hoping compassion is the biggest contagion.

To learn more about the Davis Pride events, including how to volunteer or become a sponsor, visit: <https://www.davispride.org/>

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# Santa Barbara to Sacramento Now on Southwest Airlines. Hello, Fun!

The coast is calling this spring, and travelers from Sacramento have new options to bring them closer to the sun and surf. The big news this June is a return to one of the California Central Coast's trendiest destinations and the addition of more flights to America's Finest City.



Southwest Airlines' new flight from Sacramento (SMF) to Santa Barbara (SBA) will take passengers to the coastal enclave nestled between the Pacific Ocean and luscious wine country in just over an hour. Santa Barbara's red tile roofs, white porticos and perfect climate has earned it the nickname, The American Riviera. The city has much to offer in terms of luxury resorts, upscale shopping and cutting-edge cuisine. Pack your hiking boots – or your wetsuit – and take advantage of epic hikes and kick-ass waves. And what's better than sunset over one of the most stunning coastlines of the west coast?

Santa Barbara's Funk Zone is a hip neighborhood where visitors can experience boutique tasting rooms, cafes, galleries, and shops. The Urban Wine Trail is made up of nearly 30 tasting rooms located within just a couple blocks from each other right downtown. Just outside the city limits, wine aficionados can immerse themselves in quintessential California Wine Country in the Santa Ynez and Santa Maria Valleys, both about a 45-minute drive through rolling vineyards. Closer to downtown, the areas of Lompoc and Los Olivos offer quaint tasting experiences as well. Flights begin on June 5.

SWA is also adding flights to San Diego (SAN) on its summer schedule. Also starting June 5, there will be 20 flights each way, every day between the two cities. Renowned for its idyllic climate, miles and miles of beaches and exiting family attractions, San Diego has something for everyone. Unique neighborhoods highlight the city's diversity

including Hillcrest and North Park, which are both known for the buzzing nightlife, as well as ethnically diverse restaurants, acclaimed wine bars and distinctive shops. It's not too early to think about San Diego Pride, starting on July 9. The weeklong event calendar is packed with parties, parades, a 5K run and lots of live music.

It's also a snap to get beyond California. Southwest also offers nonstop flights from SMF to Mexico's sandy beaches, clear waters, tequila shots and tacos! Los Cabos (SJD), on the southern tip of Baja California, is best known for its beaches and nightlife. Playa El Médano is Cabo San Lucas' main beach, with outdoor restaurants and numerous bars. After a day on the water or by the pool, the city lights up with vibrant bars, nightclubs and live music venues. San José del Cabo offers a quieter but no less exciting alternative to its lively sister city. There is no shortage of Mexican charm and Spanish colonial character here. The historic district bustles with galleries, culinary delights and the historic Mission San José.

Wherever your coastal dreams take you, SMF can get you there!

Thank you for flying from SMF! Please make sure you ARRIVE EARLY!

Mark Haneke is the Director of Air Service Development Marketing for Sacramento International Airport as well as a seasoned expert in air service development and a savvy world traveler. His travel column appears monthly in Outword to share news on new destinations from Sacramento International Airport, peppered with some of his own personal stories and travel recommendations.



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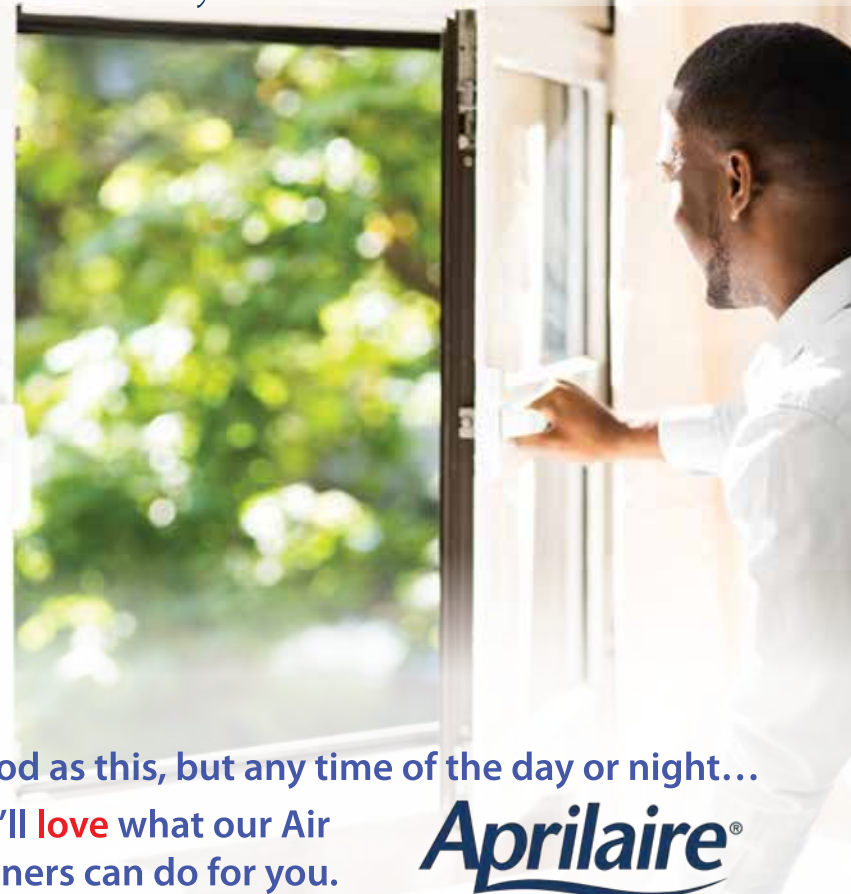


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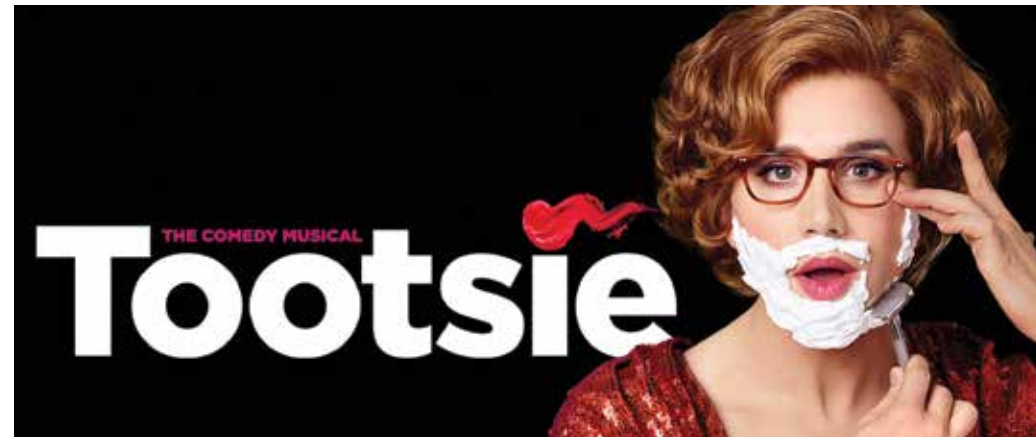
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## Two New Musicals Sing in Sacramento

by Chris Narloch

Lovers of musical comedy theatre have reason to rejoice this month as two new musicals laugh their way into Sacramento, with area premieres of “Tootsie” and “Clue” on local stages. Read on for more details.



### Tootsie: The Comedy Musical

One of my favorite modern movie comedies, 1982's “Tootsie” which starred Dustin Hoffman, Bill Murray, and Jessica Lange, is now a Tony Award-winning musical that will cross-dress into the hearts of Broadway fans during its first Sacramento engagement.

This laugh-out-loud love letter to the theatre tells the story of a talented but difficult actor who struggles to find work until one show-stopping act of desperation lands him the role of a lifetime, as an actress on a soap opera.

Santino Fontana won a well-deserved Tony in the Best Performance by a Leading Actor in a Musical category, and “Tootsie” also won that same award for Best Book of a Musical.

Los Angeles audiences are raving about the Broadway On Tour cast and production, which plays this May 17-22 at Sacramento's SAFE Credit Union Performing Arts Center. For tickets and more information, go to [www.broadwaysacramento.com](http://www.broadwaysacramento.com)

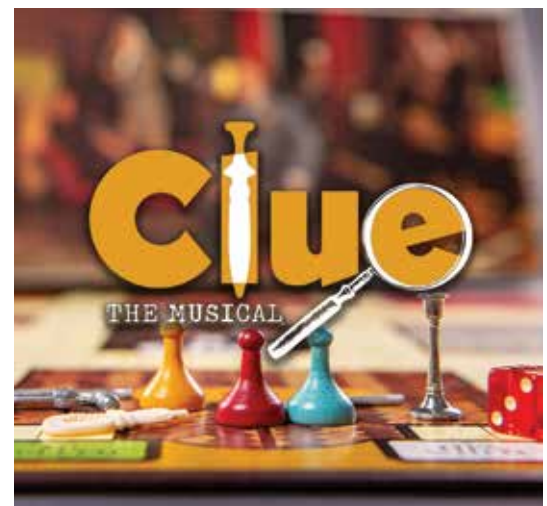
### Clue: The Musical

With a built-in audience comprised of fans of the classic board game Clue and the 1985 cult hit movie of the same name, “Clue: The Musical” will no doubt be a big hit for STC (Sacramento Theatre Company), where the new musical plays through this May 22nd.

This fun-filled show brings the world's best-known suspects to life and invites audience members to pick the who, what, and where cards and then play along to help solve the mystery: who killed Mr. Boddy, where in the mansion, and with what weapon.

There are over 200 possible solutions, but only one hard-nosed female detective is qualified to unravel the merry mayhem. Comic antics, interactive fun, and a possible surprise twist await you in this clever whodunit.

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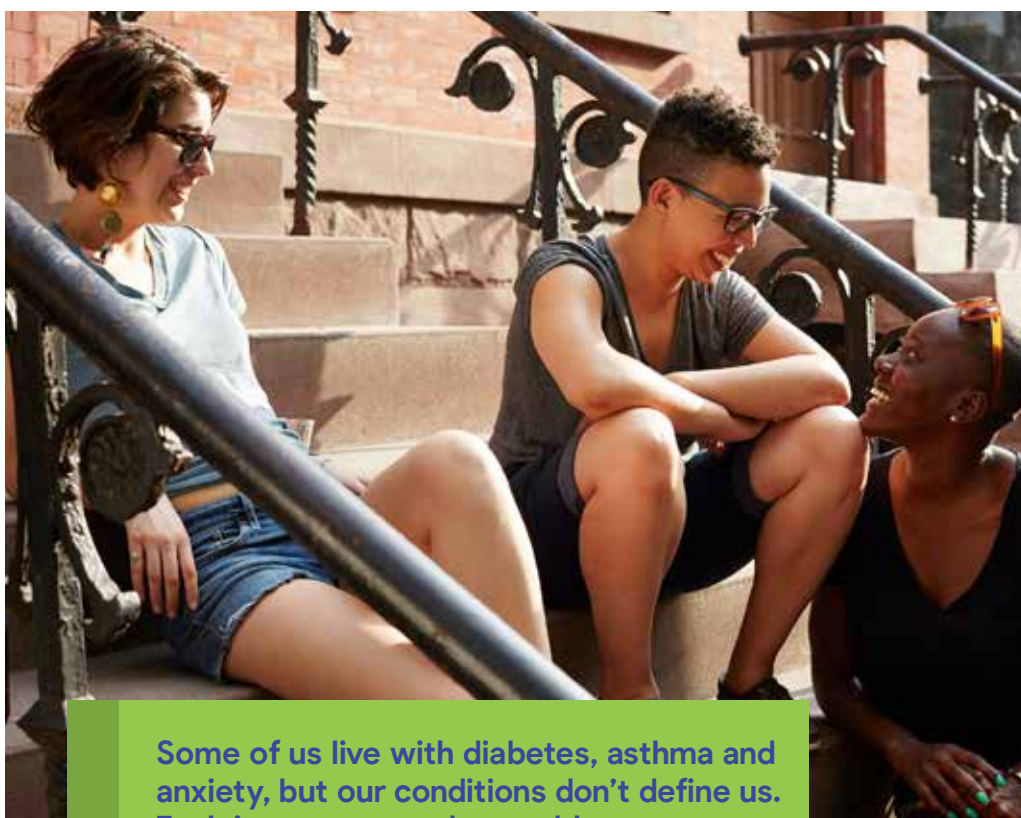
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# BENT

## SACRAMENTO

### LGBTQ FILM FESTIVAL

#### Greetings to all our Sacramento BENT LGBTQ Film Festival Family,

Thank you for attending and supporting the 2021 Film Festival. Unfortunately, 2021 was not the successful recovery year that we hoped we would enjoy. COVID has caused, and is still causing, problems for so many families, businesses, and nonprofits, including us.

Our attempt at a hybrid festival was not as successful as we had hoped despite all of our team's efforts at planning and advertising. Our online screenings were not as well received as they were in 2020, and our in-person screenings at the Crest were not well attended either. We understand and appreciate our festival family, and the choices you need to make you and your loved ones feel safe. We truly thank those of you who did attend in-person or online

Regretfully, our team has been reduced to only four members to put forth this annual event. Still, we have held on to bring you the best films, shorts, and documentaries for many years. And yet, the question "Are film festivals even relevant anymore?" has come up again. After two years of discussion and debate, it was decided at a recent board meeting that the film festival would start the process of closing down. It was not easy coming to this decision, and we did not take it lightly. The unfortunate truth is that it's time to say goodbye.

To finish things off, we will be doing two online screenings for Pride month with two of our most popular films from past festivals. The hilarious and bawdy CLOUDBURST, starring Academy Award winners Olympia Dukakis, and Brenda Fricker; along with the sexy and talented Ryan Doucette. Also the romantic comedy BIG EDEN, starring Arye Gross, Tim Dekay, and Eric Schweig. Our dates for the screenings are June 18th & 19th. Both screenings will be online at <https://bentlgbtqfilmfest.festivee.com>, and to show our appreciation, they will both be FREE. Please join us for a fond farewell as we close the BENT/SIGLFF Film Festival with online screenings and grateful memories.

#### BENT would like to thank the following:

**Founding Board Member:** Lou Camera

**Programming:** Michael Dennis - Film Festival Programming Chair, Mitch Da Re, Matt Ross, Rachael Hudson

**BENT Brand Identity & Design:** Kyle Peppers

**Golf Tournament:** Nora Williams - Golf Tournament Chair

**Outword Magazine** - Fred Palmer and Ron Tackitt for all their work, and support.

On behalf of myself, our current board members, past presidents, and past board members, and the countless volunteers whose hard work and dedication to this film festival we truly appreciate; and to our loyal fans, we owe you a debt of gratitude throughout the years for your support helping make this a wonderful and exciting journey.

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SATURDAY, MAY 14



**KAKI KING**  
SATURDAY, MAY 28



**LYDIA PENSE & COLD BLOOD**  
FRIDAY, JUN 03



**JOE CRAVEN & THE SOMETIMERS**  
SATURDAY, JUN 04



**JOE PURDY**  
MONDAY, JUN 13



**ACOUSTIC ALCHEMY**  
TUESDAY, JUN 21



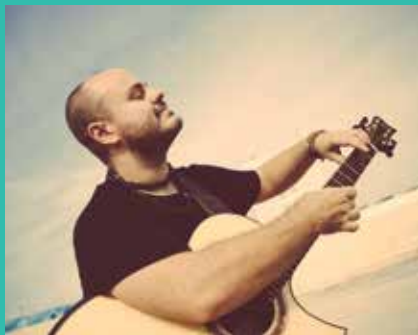
**CHERYL WHEELER**  
WEDNESDAY, JUN 22



**LOUIS PRIMA JR. & THE WITNESSES**  
FRIDAY, JUN 24



**LUNAFISH**  
SATURDAY, JUN 25



**ANDY MCKEE**  
THURSDAY, JUL 14



**JOE LOUIS WALKER**  
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**STROLL DOWN PENNY LANE**  
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SUNDAY, JUN 05 | CREST SACRAMENTO



**DEBBIE GIBSON**  
TUESDAY, JUN 21 | CREST SACRAMENTO



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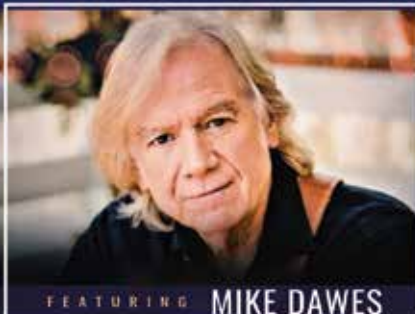
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**FRISCO KID (1979)**  
**STIR CRAZY (1980)**

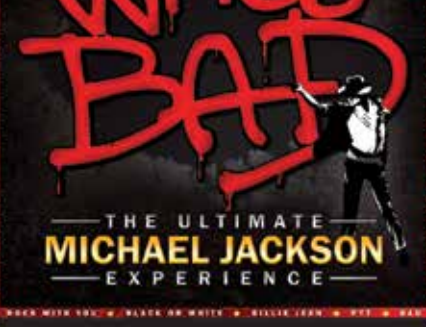
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**WEDNESDAY | AUG 17**

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**NATIONAL LAMPOON'S VACATION**  
(1983)  
FRIDAY, MAY 13, 7:00PM

**HE'S JUST NOT THAT INTO YOU**  
(2009)  
SATURDAY, MAY 14, 7:00PM

**FREE WILLY**  
(1993)  
SUNDAY, MAY 15, 3:00PM

**MORTAL KOMBAT**  
(2021)  
THURSDAY, MAY 19, 7:00PM

**SILENT HILL**  
(2006)  
FRIDAY, MAY 20, 7:00PM

**VHCREST PRESENTS: SUPER MARIO BROS**  
(1993)  
SATURDAY, MAY 21, 8:00PM

**THE WIZARD**  
(1989)  
SUNDAY, MAY 22, 3:00PM

**FREAKSCENE: THE STORY OF DINOSAUR JR.**  
(2021)  
THURSDAY, JUN 02, 7:00PM

**GENE WILDER DAY**  
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SATURDAY, JUN 18, 12PM-8PM

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Photos : Matt Beard  
Costumes : Dominique Lemieux

# “Alegría” Set To Take Sacramento By Storm

by Chris Narloch

**H**aving seen so many Cirque du Soleil shows -- I'm way into double digits now -- you would think that a new production would be old hat for me. The reverse is actually true. Since the level of quality is so consistently high with Cirque du Soleil, I look forward to each new creation by the fabulous French-Canadian performance troupe as if it was my first time.

If you have been fortunate to see a Cirque show, you know that the largest contemporary circus producer in the world is nothing like your grandparents' circus of yore -- there are hilarious clowns to be sure with Cirque du Soleil, but you never have to wonder if the animals are being mistreated since there are none.

This summer, Sacramento will host the

return of “Alegría,” a classic Cirque du Soleil show that has been reimagined for a new generation to fall in love with.

One of the most iconic Cirque du Soleil productions, “Alegría” is an uplifting, immersive experience that whisks audiences away to a mystical world sprinkled with visual poetry and acrobatic extravagance.

At the heart of a once-glorious kingdom that has lost its king, “Alegría” witnesses the power struggle at play between the old order and a new movement yearning for hope and renewal.

With its unforgettable soundtrack, exciting acrobatics, surreal costume designs, vibrant sets, and playful humor, “Alegría” joyfully touches the soul and lives up to its global reputation as a quintessential Cirque du Soleil spectacle.

First premiered in 1994, “Alegría” (‘joy’ in Spanish) has become one of the most beloved Cirque du Soleil shows by mesmerizing over 14 million spectators in 255 cities across 40 countries in over 19 years of touring. Its Grammy-nominated soundtrack -- featuring the iconic title track

“Alegría” - is still the most purchased and streamed Cirque du Soleil album to date.

In 2019, in celebration of its 25th anniversary, “Alegría” was restaged under the Big Top in a whole new light, ensuring that all its components - stage direction, music, acrobatics, sets, costumes, lighting & make-up designs - would be as inspiring for today's audiences as they were at the time of the original creation.

Reenergized by a cast of 53 acrobats, clowns, musicians, and singers, “Alegría” remains timeless and imbued with a joyous magical feeling.

To secure the best seats in advance of the July 28th opening of “Alegría” at Sacramento's Sutter Health Park, visit:

[www.cirquedusoleil.com/usa/sacramento/alegría/buy-tickets](http://www.cirquedusoleil.com/usa/sacramento/alegría/buy-tickets)



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## Kick Off Pride In Style At "Pride Cabaret"



If you were fortunate enough to attend the recent John Waters event at Sacramento's historic Colonial Theatre, then you know that the fine folks at Love Horror Events can really throw a party. This month, they team up with Scream Queens Gorelesque for the Sac debut of "Pride Cabaret," a fast-paced revue complete with horror-tinged comedy, burlesque, and plenty of drag. More than a dozen performers will take the stage on Saturday, May 28, at this year's "Pride Cabaret," including Samwell of "What What (In the Butt)" fame. Guests are encouraged to bring cash tips for their favorite performers, and tickets for the 18+ event are available at: [www.LoveHorrorEvents.com](http://www.LoveHorrorEvents.com)

## "GoGo For The Gold" On OUTtv



Looks like they grow 'em hot in Fresno, if this stud is any indication. 'Gama' is just one of the hunks competing to be crowned the next GoGo superstar on OUTtv's hilarious new competition series, "GoGo For The Gold." The show, which begins airing this May 13, features a wide range of body types from traditional masculine hunks to thick 'n juicy bears, smooth twink and even femme dancers who serve it up in heels. One of the contestants is a trans man. All are competing for a \$10k cash prize. For more information, visit [www.outtv.com](http://www.outtv.com)

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## “Playing With Myself” by Randy Rainbow

reviewed by Terri Schlichenmeyer

It takes two to tango. And foxtrot, and waltz, and polka, for that matter. You might dance in a circle with other couples but those are couples, remember, not lines of people boot-scootin’. No, it takes two to tango and spaghetti kiss and to sing a duet but, as in the new book “Playing with Myself” by Randy Rainbow, it just takes one to podcast.

People ask Randy Rainbow all the time if his last name is real. Yes, it is, he writes with glee, and it’s one of the best things his father ever gave him. Because, seriously, could there be a more fitting name for a gay “topical comedian”?

Being in the limelight has always been in Rainbow’s blood: he recalls staging a Disney play for neighborhood parents when he was very young. He was the lead actor, the director, the stage manager, and the costumer. His playmates were rather less-than-enthusiastic but the parents applauded, and Rainbow was hooked.

It probably helped that his mother was a big Broadway fan and so Rainbow grew up with show tunes. As an adolescent, he collected soundtrack CDs and, after he was introduced to “a form of religion that was... Barbra Streisand,” he collected videos of certain performances he grew to love best.



Also as an adolescent, he grew awkward. His other religion was crunchy snacks and he spent a lot of time in his room; his parents had moved the family from New York to Florida; their marriage was in shreds, and it took awhile for Rainbow to get his confidence back. Still, it wasn’t until he was in high school that he found that old rhythm, his scathing sense of humor, and a cadre of like-minded theater-and-drama friends.

After graduation, Rainbow returned to New York, where he ultimately found his community and sharpened his talent.

“Enter,” says Rainbow, “the 2016 presidential candidates.”

You didn’t really think “Playing with Myself” would be as hilarious as author Randy Rainbow’s videos, did you? Yes, this book’s funny but alas, not quite as LOL as his parodies.

You probably won’t mind, though: Rainbow’s biography is still plenty entertaining, nonetheless. From his first pair of Ruby shoes to the shoo-off he jokingly gives readers at the end, we get a peek at how he gained what he admits is “an encyclopedic knowledge of Broadway musicals,” how his sense of humor was honed, and how that all led to a library of YouTube bits that roast those in the news. Politicians seem to be special targets for Rainbow – not surprisingly, as you’ll see here – but anyone’s fair game for the needling.

“Playing with Myself” is slightly bruised by an overdose of name-dropping, the presence of which may surprise nobody. Still, if you don’t hate on that and you love a little faux-pearl-clutching, this book is two good to pass up.

# Maroon 5 To Open Hard Rock Sacramento's New Theater

## MAROON 5



The Grammy® Award-winning, multi-platinum band Maroon 5 are set to headline the grand opening of the brand new Hard Rock Live in Sacramento. The band will launch the opening of the 2,500-seat entertainment venue located in Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Sacramento at Fire Mountain, on June 3rd. Future artists scheduled to perform at the theater include Chris Rock, The Doobie Brothers, Il Divo, Richard Marx, and Chris Isaak. For information, go to: [www.hardrockhotelsacramento.com/live-event-calendar](http://www.hardrockhotelsacramento.com/live-event-calendar)

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## 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 response we have received 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](http://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](mailto:sales@outwordmagazine.com)*  
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**OutwordRainbowFund.com**

## A Trio of New Titles at The Tower

by Chris Narloch

Superhero cinema is alive and well, and Marvel fans will no doubt be flocking to see "Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness" which is currently playing on a gazillion screens worldwide, including Sacramento's Esquire IMAX Theatre on K Street, where it will reside until at least May 26th.

I was unable to see that movie before our deadline for this issue, but I have reviews of three other films, and all of them were still playing at Sacramento's Tower Theatre as I wrote this article.



### Firebird

"Firebird" has been called the Russian "Brokeback Mountain," and that is a pretty accurate description of this true tale of a passionate queer love story set during the Cold War of the 1970s, against the backdrop of a Soviet Air Force base in Estonia.

Sergey (Tom Prior), a soulful, young soldier who dreams of becoming an actor in Moscow, is counting the days until his military service ends. Then his life is turned upside down when he locks eyes with Roman (Oleg Zagorodnii), a sexy, enigmatic ace fighter pilot newly assigned to his base.

Driven by their undeniable attraction, Sergey and Roman navigate the precarious line between love and friendship at a time when Soviet men in uniform caught having a sexual affair was met with the severest punishment. As their friendship grows into love, the men risk their freedom and their lives to be together while living under a cruel Soviet regime.

A beautiful-looking movie with two handsome lead actors, "Firebird" is especially timely now, considering the recent return of the Cold War between Russia and the United States.



### The Duke

"The Duke" is the late director Roger Michell's ("Notting Hill," "Another Year") swan song, and it stars two of our finest living British actors, Academy Award-winners Jim Broadbent and Helen Mirren, who are both perfection in the movie.

The film recounts the true story of a 60-year-old taxi driver who stole Goya's portrait of the Duke of Wellington from the National Gallery in London in 1961 and then sent ransom notes saying that he would return it if the government agreed to provide television for free to the elderly.

A strange-but-true crime caper about the first (and only) theft in the Gallery's history, "The Duke" is moving, funny, and very entertaining.

### Petite Maman

The much-anticipated new film from Céline Sciamma ("Portrait of a Lady on Fire," "Girlhood"), "Petite Maman" is a sublime modern fairytale about the quiet wonder of mother-daughter relationships.

After the death of her beloved grandmother, eight-year-old Nelly meets a mysterious friend in the woods. Together they embark on a fantastical journey of discovery which helps Nelly come to terms with this newfound loss.

A favorite of the 2021 Berlin Film Festival, Sciamma's latest winner examines childhood, memory, and loss with a typically delicate touch, elegantly weaving together an enchanting and moving depiction of love and acceptance.

For current titles and showtimes, please visit: [www.angelikafilmcenter.com/tower](http://www.angelikafilmcenter.com/tower)

# Thank You Outword Supporters!

*Current as of February 22, 2022*

*Once again we would like to thank those that have become sponsors of Outword Magazine! Your contribution will help us keep the lights on and the closet doors wide open. Here are a list of our Sponsors at the level they participated, so far. We will continue to run this page, with any updates, for the next several issues.*

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## Out & About

With Matthew Burlingame

**T**urbulent is a good way to describe the current vibe of our world. Regardless of the where or the what, the effects are being felt by us all. As prices rise, fighting escalates and our rights quickly erode, it is up to all of us to speak out against the insanity. The best way to do this is by voting, and this is your friendly reminder that primaries are upon us. May 23 is the final day to register at [www.Elections.sacounty.net](http://www.Elections.sacounty.net)



After attending those marches and rallies and making your voice heard it's important to remember your self-care and that it's okay to have some fun as well.

A great way to kick back for a day is by attending Placer County Pride which launched two years ago before running headlong into the pandemic. This year we'll be doing PCP in person! The event will be May 21 at Royer Park in Roseville. Be a part of celebrating and supporting our LGBTQ community in Placer County. [Bit.ly/3Aup1sU](https://bit.ly/3Aup1sU)

Forget your troubles c'mon get happy for an hour! Outword's Monthly Liquid Therapy Happy Hour at Badlands, 2003 K St. is a perfect way to leave the world outside and just enjoy a few beverages and a chat with friends. And often a chance to win some pretty neat prizes! Join us Friday, May 13 at 5:30 p.m.

Sacramento is sold out of Lycra bike shorts this month as on Saturday, May 21, 2022 and Sunday, May 22, 2022 the NorCal AIDS Cycle rides again to raise money and awareness for HIV/AIDS service providers in the Sacramento Valley and beyond! With more than 17 years of raising much needed funds for Sacramento Valley's HIV/AIDS service organizations NCAC, its participants and donors represent a level of compassion and community support that makes this one of the most supported and loved events each year. [Norcalaidscycle.org](http://Norcalaidscycle.org)

The Sacramento Rainbow Chamber's Boas & Bow Ties Rainbow Masquerade Gala was quite a success. Part of which was due to the amazing entertainment provided by various performers, actors and ambience performers including Theresa Vann-Stribling, Shelly Irene, Nixy Cane, Sarah Ellen Rowland, Cynthia Hawes, John Smith and many more.

How will they top this in 2023?

In need of some networking? There will be plenty happening at the Rainbow Chamber In-Person Networking Mixer on May 17 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the Hyatt Regency Amourath Patio and Bar, 1209 L St. Tootsie ticket holders can grab a drink and stroll next door to enjoy the show. RSVP is required. Outdoor seating is available and masks are required indoors. [Rainbowchamber.com](http://Rainbowchamber.com)

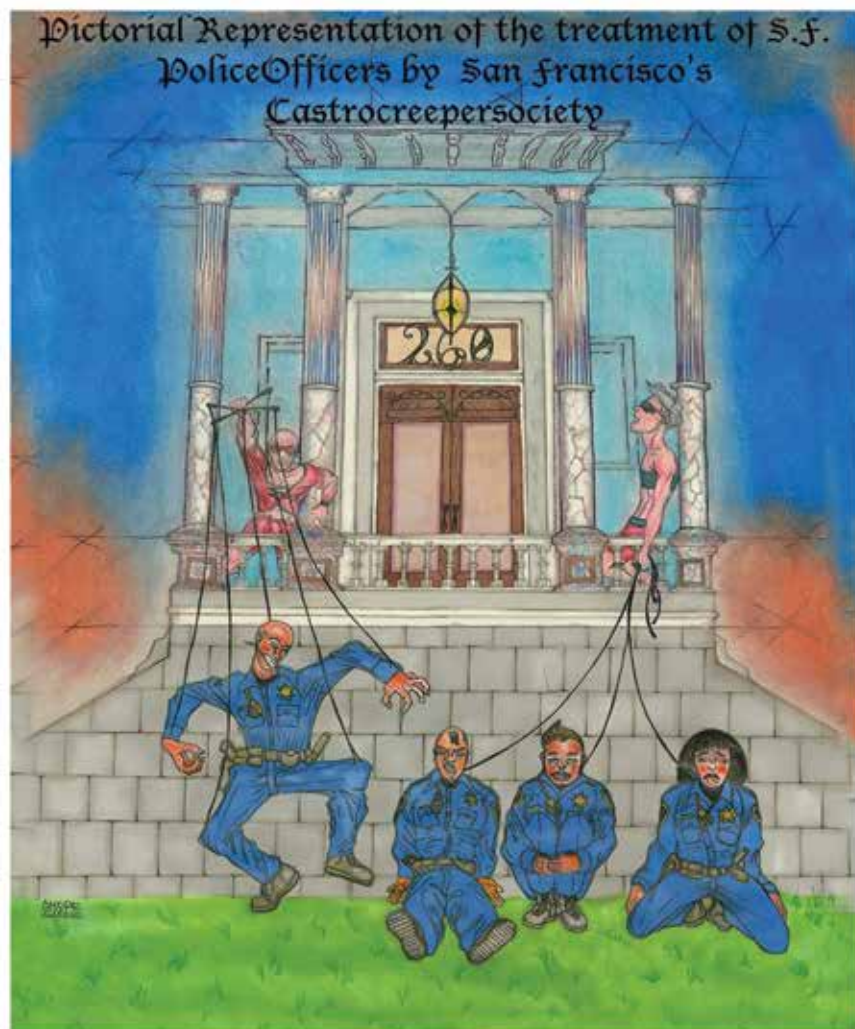
The hills are alive once again as Harris Center for the Arts is excited to welcome audiences and present live theater with one of the most beloved family musicals of all time. In partnership with La Mirada Theatre for the Performing Arts and McCoy Rigby Entertainment, The Sound of Music will perform Thursday May 19 through Sunday, May 22 at the Harris Center for the Arts. [Harriscenter.net](http://Harriscenter.net)

Parched? Thirsty Thursdays at Badlands, 2003 K St. features hot male and female go-gos all night long along with pop-up drag performances and a range of drink specials. [Badlandssac.com](http://Badlandssac.com)

Speaking of Badlands dancers, congratulations to Emerson Mercer who was selected for the musical "Broadway Bares" in San Francisco. Also happy 50th birthday to Taryn Thru-U on Friday, May 20.

Congratulations are also due to Clarmundo Sullivan of Golden Rule Services who was named as one of the International Court System's "50 Emperors of Distinction." The award acknowledges his 22 years of HIV prevention work and involvement with CGNIE.

Events? Announcements? Birthdays? Anniversaries? Send them to: [matthew.burlingame@gmail.com](mailto:matthew.burlingame@gmail.com).



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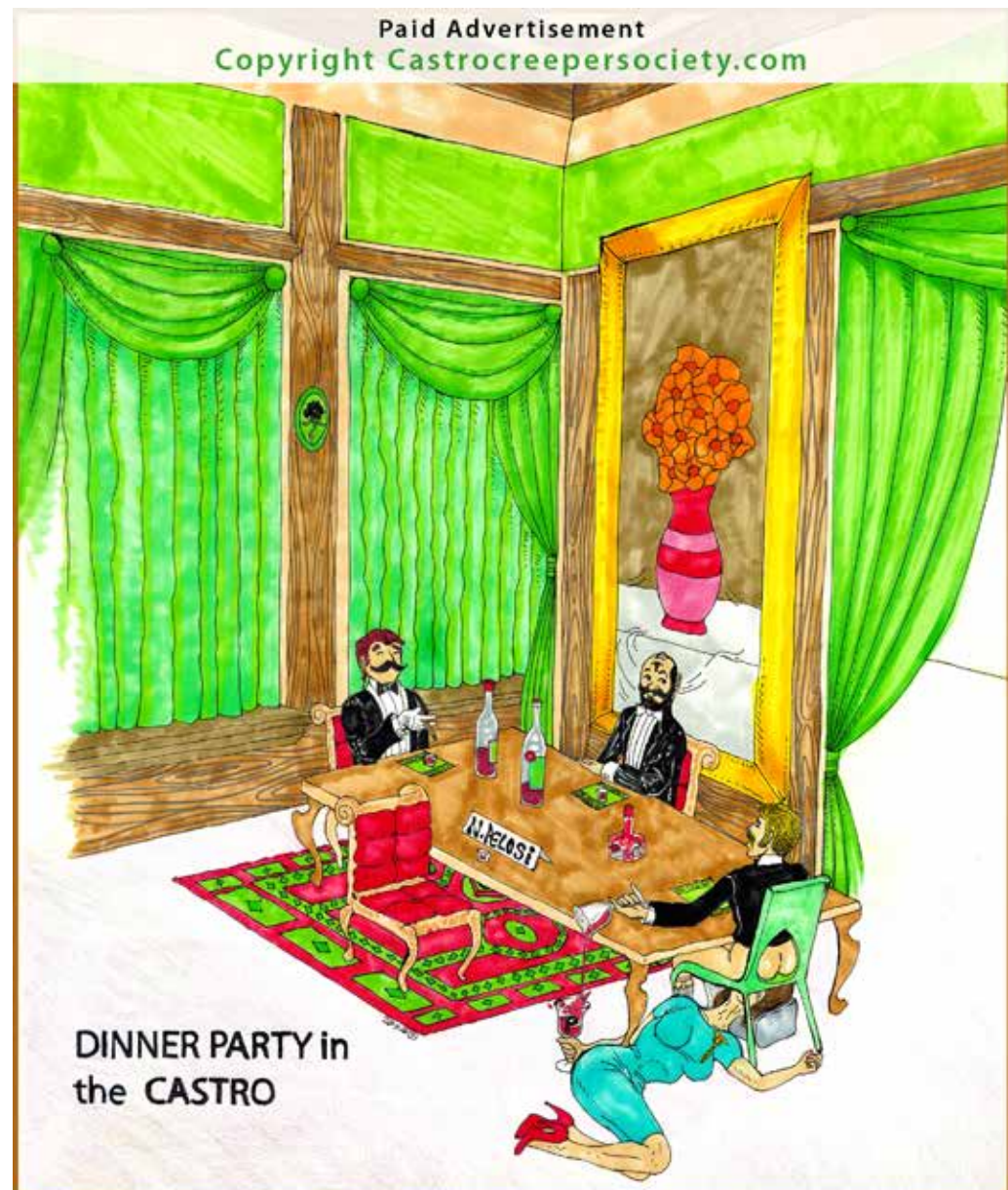

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