

Special Issue

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outword

*Always
believe in
Love*
page 16

Premarital Agreements
Are an Act of LOVE
page 5

Three Perfect Days in Sonoma
page 10

Out & About with
Matt Burlingame
page 19

Queer-ish Valentine's Gifts for
the Queers You Love-ish
page 22

An Apocalyptic Queer
Love Story
page 26

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Tina Reynolds and Kate Moore on their wedding day.
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A Seat at the Table Books in Elk Grove announced as first-ever ABC10 We Stand for You Business of the Year

ABC10, a TEGNA-owned media station, in partnership with local Chamber of Commerce organizations, is proud to announce A Seat at the Table, a family-owned bookstore, cafe, and community hub in Elk Grove as the first-ever winner of the ABC10 We Stand For You Business of the Year award. The prestigious award – which was accompanied by a check for \$5,000 from ABC10 – was announced and presented at a networking mixer at Harlow's in Midtown Sacramento on January 26, 2023. Launched in March 2022, the community-driven awards program is designed to recognize outstanding local businesses that are making an impact in their neighborhoods and contributing to the success of the Greater Sacramento region.

As background, A Seat at the Table Books opened its physical store in November 2021 after being founded as a pop-up concept in January 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic. The local owners worked to create a space that is much more than a traditional bookstore. A Seat at the Table Books is an engaging community space where everyone feels welcomed, included, safe, and celebrated. In addition to reading and story time related activities, the bookstore also offers a robust and varied activation schedule that includes school fundraisers, Dungeons & Dragons nights (open to beginners), LEGO and doodle clubs, teen council leadership building activities, a family movie night, and more. Other unique highlights of A Seat at the Table Books include its Poetry Nights and Rising Stars Speaker Series that help to elevate marginalized voices plus its Free Books for First Graders, a program designed to ensure a range of diverse, engaging chapter books get into the hands of all 5,900 first graders in the Elk Grove Unified

School District.

"We are so honored and humbled to receive the ABC10 We Stand for You Business Award of the Year," said Emily Autenrieth, Owner and Founder of A Seat at the Table Books. "As we look ahead to our second year in business in

To be considered for a future Business of the Month recipient, involved community members are encouraged to nominate exemplary local businesses working to make the community a better place. Close associates of the business such as an employee, client, banker, attorney,



A SEAT AT THE TABLE BOOKS & COFFEE

2023, this award gives us pause to reflect on the impact we hope to have and the people we hope to empower through the power of books and community. Small businesses can only succeed when their communities rally around them and we are thrilled that ABC10 and our regional Chambers of Commerce have placed such value on the impact of locally owned businesses like ours."

or other advisors may nominate. Business owners can also self-nominate, and a business does not need to be a member of a chamber to be nominated. For more information about eligibility, criteria and/or to nominate a business for an upcoming monthly award, please visit www.abc10.com/businessofthemonth.

All ABC10 We Stand for You business award recipients are chosen by an involved group of local business and Chambers of Commerce leaders that include representatives from the Sacramento Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce, Sacramento Rainbow Chamber of Commerce, Sacramento Black Chamber of Commerce, Sacramento Asian-Pacific Chamber of Commerce, Sacramento Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, and California Capital Financial Development Corporation.

To learn more about A Seat at the Table Books, please visit www.aseatatthetablebooks.org. And, for more about ABC10 and its mission, or to watch award-winning special reports and other exemplary news stories, please visit www.abc10.com or www.youtube.com/ABC10. In addition, ABC10 can be live streamed via the ABC10+ app on Roku and Amazon Fire.

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Premarital Agreements Are an Act of LOVE.

Melinda Levy
Melinda Levy Law

Why would I want to write an article about Premarital Agreements in the LOVE issue of *Outword Magazine*? Because I am a buzzkill? Nope. Because I like seeing people get divorced? Nope.

In fact, I love romance. I love weddings. I love LOVE. I also love being prepared.

My message today is about preparation. We plan for the expected and prepare for the unexpected. Significant is the difference between the words PLAN and PREPARE.

We already prepare for the unexpected with car and health insurance. We keep extra water and canned foods on hand in case of a disaster. We don't "plan" to have a car accident, a broken arm, or to be in an earthquake. We prepare. Preparation gives us peace of mind. A Premarital Agreement is a preparation tool for your future marital relationship.

A Premarital Agreement, when agreed upon in mediation in a thoughtful manner, is an act of love, designed to prepare both spouses for the financial changes that occur during marriage, and to provide peace of mind. Having a mutual understanding about financial perspectives and objectives is a benefit for any marriage.

You may ask, "If it is so important, Melinda, then why doesn't everyone have a Premarital Agreement in place?" I believe this is partly because there is an unfair stigma around "prenups" in society. But it is also because in the throes of wedding planning, who wants to talk about the question, "What if we divorce?" It can be a difficult shift of attention and emotion but it doesn't have to be difficult if both parties see the benefits of having this important conversation and deciding if they want to prepare in advance. These decisions are easier to talk about before a marriage than in the heat of heartbreak.

Divorce commonly occurs because of unexpected financial incompatibility, realized over time. California is a community property state, which means that the earnings, assets and debts acquired during the marriage are generally owned by both parties equally. "Separate Property" is generally defined as an asset or debt acquired before the date of

marriage or after the date of separation, and assets received by one party as a gift or by way of inheritance. Many people wish they had known more about how the law characterizes assets and debts before they married so they could have avoided unwanted financial conflict.

Even with a Premarital Agreement in place, a divorce may have the potential for difficult conversations, especially when children are involved. It's in the best interest of the children if the divorcing couple realizes in advance that their marital relationship simply transforms into a co-parenting relationship. We help "soon-to-be co-parents" work together to find solutions and resolve conflict in their newly reorganized family.

At Finding Common Ground Mediation and Law Services, we mediate Premarital Agreements and also work with couples to navigate the tricky waters of divorce. We care about our clients and believe mediation is the best way to handle family law matters. If you are planning to tie the knot, come see us to learn about how marriage will change your financial future and let us help you decide whether a pre-marital agreement makes sense. If you are married and wish you had considered a premarital agreement, it is possible to create a post-marital agreement after the honeymoon is over. Finally, if you have decided to separate or divorce, we offer a sane passage. Our clients avoid court and the stress of long-lasting litigation, using an efficient and confidential process.

Gillian Brady and Melinda Levy are both 20+ year attorneys and neutral mediators. As attorney mediators, Gillian and Melinda provide legal information so their clients can make well-informed decisions.

Please note that nothing in this article should be construed as legal advice applicable to your specific situation. If we can answer any questions, please call Melinda at 916-835-5635 for a free consultation.

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Community Call-Out for Participation in Photography Month Sacramento in April 2023

Led by Viewpoint Photographic Art Center – a non-profit organization located in Midtown Sacramento – and in collaboration with many involved partners including the City of Sacramento and Sacramento365, Photography Month Sacramento is scheduled for April 2023. First launched in 2018, the month-long event is highlighted by a variety of diverse and eclectic events that include special exhibits, receptions, photo shoot meet-ups, workshops, lectures, photo shoot gatherings, and more. Photography Month Sacramento creates a shared platform for galleries, museums, educational institutions, libraries, retail establishments, photographers, and patrons to celebrate and elevate the art of photography. Interested participants are encouraged to create and/or highlight their own activations to help showcase the art of photography.

How to Get Involved: Businesses, Museums & Organizations

Involvement in Photography Month Sacramento for businesses, museums and organizations is free and easy. The regional showcase offers a great way to highlight visually enticing photographic programming already in place (maybe by incorporating a fresh visual element or hosting a special activation), introduce a concept in the planning stages, or create something unique to engage enthusiasts and connect with new audiences throughout the region.

How to Get Involved: Photographers

Photography Month Sacramento is open to everyone – professional and amateur photographers alike – and offers wonderful opportunities to launch and/or exhibit photographic work, or to create a grassroots collaborative exhibit with friends interested in the visual arts. Those interested are encouraged to get creative and plan individual activations and/or contact favorite local coffee houses or restaurants to see if they might host an exhibit or reception in April 2023.

Once any photography-related concepts are confirmed by businesses, organizations, museums or individuals, Photography Month Sacramento participants are asked to post information details about any upcoming events here, a community curated calendar that is connected to and supported by Sacramento365.com.

To explore available sponsorship opportunities or find out more detailed (and continually updated) information about Photography Month Sacramento 2023, visit www.photomonthsacramento.org.



The Casa de Espanol exhibit and reception in 2022.

Celebrate Black History Every Month

With recent attempts at BIPOC voter suppression and censorship of African American studies gaining traction in some red states, the celebration of Black History Month takes on more urgency than ever this year.



Lucky for us, Sacramento's premier destination for Black theater, Celebration Arts, celebrates Black history all year round with thought-provoking and entertaining stage productions that are accessible to theater fans of all races and colors.

"Direct From Death Row – The Scottsboro Boys," by Mark Stein with music and lyrics by Harley White, Jr., is the perfect work to honor Black History Month, and this fascinating play with music and dance will be performed by Celebration Arts this Feb. 10–March 5 at the St. HOPE Guild Theater in Oak Park.

The play is a satirical retelling of the tragic tale of nine Black teenagers who were falsely accused in 1931 of raping two white women on a train in Alabama. The Chicago Sun-Times called the play "a masterful work." For more information, please visit: www.celebrationarts.net



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Three Perfect Days in Sonoma

words and photos by Fred Palmer & Peter Milinazzo

Outword Magazine loves all things food and wine. We recently had the opportunity to explore Sonoma, both the town and county, and discovered a few phenomenal spots for memorable meals, great wine, and some amazing art to share with and inspire you to explore one of the gems of Northern California.

Sonoma offers premium wineries, first class restaurants, excellent accommodations, pampering spas, eclectic shops, a breathtaking natural landscape to explore, and even thought-provoking art. Like us, many of our readers spend time in Guerneville and Coastal Sonoma, so it was great to get a first-hand reminder of how wonderful the town of Sonoma and surrounding area still are.

We had an easy Friday afternoon drive and upon arrival at our hotel, the legendary and historic Fairmont Sonoma Mission Inn, we were greeted at the front courtyard with a lovely glass of sparkling wine from the hotel’s “Champagne Bar” bicycle cart. Entering the courtyard, we were immediately taken in by the tranquil grounds, which featured a grand fountain and seating arrangements around fire tables. The lobby was both luxurious and cozy, centered around an expansive hearth and warm fire that beckoned us. Our room, a King Spa Suite, was no less impressive, and featured a fireplace in front of a comfortable settee, and a deep, jetted soaking tub, which we enjoyed each night after “grueling” days of wine tasting, restaurant-going, and art appreciation. The Fairmont Sonoma Mission Inn is situated over natural mineral hot springs, and offers a large thermal mineral pool to all hotel guests. Unfortunately, our three perfect days were booked so solid, we didn’t get the opportunity to partake in the spa, but we think that a separate trip should be planned. Perhaps we’ll emulate guests at “The White Lotus” – and never leave the property! www.fairmont.com/sonoma
Social: @fairmontsonoma



Fairmont Sonoma Mission Inn



A Very Pangloss Welcome



After check-in we utilized the resort’s complimentary car service, and headed to our first destination, Pangloss Cellars, a gorgeous stone-walled tasting room on Sonoma’s main square. We are definitely not wine experts, but living in Northern California, we know what we like, but still learn something with each new tasting. Pangloss Cellars furthered our education with their knowledgeable staff. Our wine educator, Stephen Caletges led us through our tasting experience; he was the perfect blend - like a fine wine - of connoisseurial knowledge and hospitable host. Pangloss offers several tastings options; we enjoyed the 6-flight Optimist Tasting, and the 5-flight Classic Tasting, along with an impressive Cheese and Charcuterie Board. (Next time we’ll try the Caviar Board.) We especially enjoyed their 2019 Charles Vineyard Pinot Noir, and it was fun to compare two of their 2016 Cabernet Sauvignon, each made in the same process, but produced in two different Sonoma County vineyards. The next time you are in Sonoma, be sure to make some time to savor an experience at Pangloss Cellars. panglosscellars.com/
Social Media: @panglosscellars



Pangloss Cellars

After our tasting at Pangloss, we headed back to the Sonoma Mission Inn, and had an amazing dinner at Santé Restaurant. Santé is a recipient of the AAA Four Diamond Award and a Michelin Star. There were many tantalizing options from which to choose, and we opted to begin with Miyagi Oysters from Marin. We continued with an amazing Butter Lettuce and Chicory Salad, an alchemy of blood orange oil and crispy shallots, punctuated by fresh herbs, and the subtle crunch of sea salt. A velvety Artichoke Mushroom Ravioli with a delicate cream sauce followed. We finished with the Seared Black Cod with a heavenly Mole Beurre Blanc Sauce, courtesy of a Sous Chef’s treasured family recipe. Condé Nast Traveler said, “it’s worth a special trip just to eat here,” and we couldn’t agree more. We took dessert – Salted Caramel and Dark Chocolate Torte - and a glass of port to our room to enjoy by the fireplace after relaxing in our en suite deep soaking tub.

We also enjoyed Sante for our breakfast each day, and their many fresh and delicious offerings meant some difficult decisions, but no wrong choices. We especially enjoyed their Smoked Salmon and Potato Latkes platter and large bowls of Mixed Fresh Berries. The attentive, friendly and professional service was stellar, both for our dinner, and during our morning meals. We absolutely enjoyed our conversations with all the staff, especially Ana our server in the mornings, as well as Lynne, the AM hostess, who has worked on the property for decades, and who shared some of her local knowledge to enhance our stay.

After breakfast on Saturday, we toured Buena Vista Winery, founded in 1857. Their website states that, “before there were vineyards in every valley north of San Francisco...there was Buena Vista.” The Old Barrel Tour intertwined California and local history as we sipped various vintages, including a barrel taste, and meandered through 2 historic buildings, which included the oldest wine cave in the state and culminated in a multimedia presentation on the history of winemaking focusing on the many tools used by vintners over time. buenvistawinery.com/



Buena Vista Antique Wine Pulls



Our next stop was a truly fabulous brunch at the El Dorado Hotel and Kitchen. Joel Hoachuck, the GM, greeted us with Peach Bellinis, followed by their perfectly crisp and balanced Truffle Fries, and fresh Shrimp Ceviche. Next up Garden Salad, which was strewn with crisp, spiralized butternut squash, punctuated by pickled red onion and goat cheese, crowned by a superbly seared salmon steak-with its crisp skin giving way to an impossibly buttery center. Our Filet Mignon and Eggs was both perfectly charred and medium rare, and was served with creamy roasted Yukon potatoes. We somehow made room for a decadent Molten Chocolate Cake with Vanilla Ice cream and hot, fresh-made Churros as the ideal vehicle for a Dulce de Leche. Biggest regret: skipping the Fettucine Carbonara with Poblano Cream, so we must come back to indulge again. The dining room and patio are modern, inviting, and buzzing with energy, and the service was efficient and friendly. eldoradosonoma.com/

Amazing cuisine at the El Dorado Hotel and Kitchen



That afternoon we enjoyed a tasting at Corner 103. Upon arrival we were greeted by Lloyd Davis, Proprietor and Vintner, who was our personable guide for our tasting experience. Lloyd, whose professional career began in New York banking and finance, followed his passion for wine to award-winning success in Napa and Sonoma, and to found Corner 103. He is committed to making wine approachable to all, encourages guests follow their own palate rather than rely on “experts.” He has pared down the experience to eliminate the superfluous and focus on the wine – they offer personalized table service (no wine bar), limited to 3 parties at a time. It is no wonder that USA Today named Corner 103 one of the 10 best tasting rooms in the country, and Lloyd has received a Pride Business Leader Award from the North Bay Business Journal, as well as recognized for increasing visibility for Black winemakers in Sonoma County. A must-visit for any trip to Sonoma. corner103.com
@corner103

Saturday Evening included a VIP Opening Reception at Sonoma Valley Museum of Art (SVMA) and dinner at Hopmonk Tavern. The SVMA event was packed to celebrate the beautiful and thought-provoking Native American Art exhibition “We Are Still Here: Pomo Artists and Our Cultural Landscape,” juxtaposed with the stunning new collection of photos by Judy Dater: The New Californians. svma.org

Dinner at Hopmonk Tavern offered a change of pace and taste to shift from wine to beer, paired with delicious, hearty and casual fare, and presented by our friendly and vivacious server, Janelle. They offer an extensive mix of house, local, and international beers on tap, in addition to a vaired list of bottled beer (and of course, wine). We dined in the tented biergarten among a mix of weekend visitors and locals alike. hopmonk.com/sonoma

Our final day in Sonoma was set aside to engage in a tour with Active Wine Adventures, led by founder Sorel Klein in 2016, who is a deep well of local knowledge collected from over 20 years living full time in the Napa-Sonoma region, and via family roots that stretch back five generations in the Napa Valley. Over his years living in the area, and since establishing his company in 2015, Sorel has toured and garnered experience of over 250 wineries in both Sonoma and Napa, including countless “hidden gems” and exclusive tasting rooms. Sorel offers too many tours to name here, but include “Art and Wine Tours, Hike and Wine Tours (both easy and challenging), Sonoma Roots Wine Tours that focus on generational wine-making families, Custom Wine Tours, and more. On our Art and Wine Tour, we appreciated Sorel’s friendly shepherding through Sonoma to discover the DiRosa Center for Contemporary Art, and Imagery Winery, which bookended a break for an included lunch at Carneros Resort and Spa Market.

Imagery Estate - Art & Wine Tour Active Wine Adventures



Art at DiRosa



Outdoor art at DiRosa

We have driven past the DiRosa Center for Contemporary Art on hwy. 12 a million times and never knew what was there: the largest collection of local art in the country, housed in modern steel and glass architecture as well as situated in the landscape of a 1700-acre nature preserve. The collection offers an eclectic, whimsical, and sometimes irreverent walk through the SF and Bay Area art scene of the last 60 years.

Imagery Winery, so named because an artwork is chosen from a competition for each vintage and varietal produced, is known not only for their art, but also for producing single-grape varietal wines, as well as for employing bio-dynamic winemaking practices. We began with a Brut Rose and toured their gallery of commissioned pieces before settling into a private room for a guided Reserve Tasting flight by our new gal-pal, the fabulous and friendly Sandi Bell, Assistant Tasting Room Manager. We enjoyed some traditional blends, including a GSM and Bordeaux style offerings, interspersed with a delicious Tempranillo and discovered a new variety: Toraldago.

Thank you to Sorel and Active Wine Adventures for leading us to new discoveries – we look forward to booking another tour the next time we visit.

www.activewineadventures.com/art-wine-tours
www.dirosaart.org
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As Sacramentans, we enjoy a plethora of culinary pleasures, but be sure to get out and partake in the exquisite experiences available just down the road in Sonoma.

Celebrate Black History Month with “Motown Legends”

Black History Month is the perfect time to enjoy a concert celebrating one of the cornerstones of American soul music, namely the Motown Sound. You can do just that when Nathan Owens’ Motown Legends bring a 2-hour tribute show to the Auburn State Theatre this month. The high energy, soulful song and dance revue plays all your favorites from The Four Tops, The Temptations, Smokey Robinson and more, with tribute artists portraying Stevie Wonder, Michael Jackson, Diana Ross, and other performers from the Motown era. Visually, they move and groove, and musically, they’re totally smooth. Nathan Owens’ Motown Legends performs on Saturday evening, Feb. 18. Please visit: www.auburnstatetheatre.org



Nathan Owens Motown Legends

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Recently we had to say Farewell to not only a member of the community, but a friend, a work companion, and to some an amazing lover. Kate Moore will be missed by all of us. She touched the lives of so, so many. We hope the images here reflect just how much love she inspired and also freely gave. Rest in Peace Sweet Angel.
Thank you to everyone that contributed images for this layout.



Kate Moore
My dear, sweet wife, Kate Moore, passed away on January 25 just two weeks shy of our 18th anniversary. I have experienced many loves, adventures and losses in my life, but this one has knocked me for a loop.

Kate was a pistol- she fought so hard against all the hate against HIV/AIDS in the 80s and 90s, she set up rallies to fight for equality for LGBTQI people, she marched and wrote and supported others all along her journey.

And she loved and she lived a big life. If you knew her she would brighten a room with her smile and help a joke with her easy laugh.

Words and memories make me cry in this moment so I want to share a letter that was sent to Kate before she passed from Denny Mangers.

“The most constructive thing I can do right now is to express to you, how very much I appreciate how you’ve lived “your one wild and precious life” and who you’ve been and are as a person.

Professionally, you’ve developed a strong reputation as a creative force in our community. You were very young to have accomplished what you did on behalf of several broadcasters in Sacramento for which you provided graphic and production design. And you won awards deservedly for the original and exceptional videos and documentaries you produced.

And you certainly contributed a great deal over the years to the success of Uptown Studios as you developed and grew its capacity for commercial video development. But for many of us, your most significant contribution to our community and our activism on behalf of civil and human rights will be your creation of “The Latest Issue”. It was a pivotal time for us, and you sensed a need to support our activism by keeping the larger community informed, inspired and motivated to remain proud and empowered to take initiatives against hate, bullying and discrimination. At the same time, it was entertaining and its reporting on our activities in the community reminded us that being gay is not just a matter of sexual orientation but an invitation to live, love and have fun as our authentic selves.”

Here is to a life well lived, filled with love, laughter and adventure - and to being hell-bent to create change in our community.

Kate Moore - the love of my life.
1961 - 2023

Best,
Tina



(Written before she passed)
Dear Kate,

I hope that you know how much you have meant to me. I have loved you since I first met you. You were ALWAYS so sweet and kind to me! I always credit you with the “Saving of Outword!” and for teaching me how to take on the task of putting the paper together. I would never have been able to succeed without your guidance.

But, more importantly, I have valued and loved the friendship you have offered me. Again with the always sweet, always caring! You light up any room you enter, and I have loved seeing you, hugging you and saying Hello.

I’m not wise enough to give Worldly Thoughts, but I’d like to say I understand where you are, and love and support you all the more. There comes a time. There should come a time, for all of us, and who better to know than ourselves? I’d like to think that you are on the cusp of another amazing journey and that hopefully our spirits will meet again. Whatever that looks like.

I love you, Dear Sweet Kate and will miss you terribly.

Ron

Somewhere in the universe a light shines bright upon us as we have lost a beautiful person on this physical earth. Kate Moore was that shining light for decades fighting for equality, she was a voice during the early years of LGBT activism, during the HIV AIDS crisis, marriage equality and for the last 18 years at the side of another amazing activist , her wife Tina.

I met Kate back when she owned the LGBT publication The Latest Issue some 30 years ago. I saw an ad in her paper by SMUD that offered \$50 to haul away your old refrigerator. I called to have my garage fridge taken away and thanked SMUD for supporting the local LGBT publication and told them their ad dollars worked. I immediately called the paper and Kate answered, I told her thanks for what she does and about my conversation with SMUD. We had a brief conversation and she invited me for coffee, we hit it off and the next 28 years are part of our history. For those of you who knew Kate, she had a smile that would light up the room and a laugh to match, she made us proud to be who we are and shout it loud for all to hear. During our friendship we had some laughs and lots of tears, we had celebrations and obstacles of all types, health issues and remarkable recoveries too, just too many details to list.

Kate came in and out of my life several times over the decades and was always a true friend, she rescued me several times and I am grateful for her love. My favorite quote from her was one time she was assisting Outword rebrand and saw how much we eat compared to her eating like a bird, we offered to go out to lunch and while she was eating her half a bagel from the morning meeting she said “ You guys eat A Lot “ something we joked about often. I have more fun memories with this women than you can imagine and will miss her so very much.

Our hearts go out to her and her family and mostly to her wife Tina Reynolds.

Love,
Fred



“The Great Kate”

I will always be grateful for the encouragement Kate gave me when I first started working for her at The Latest Issue, over thirty years ago. I still have a thriving career in queer journalism all these years later, as a result of the opportunity she gave me in the early ‘90s. The Latest Issue, Kate’s “baby,” was the launching pad for a love of writing for the queer community that has impacted and improved my life in more ways than I can count. Kate’s passion for activism inspired me, and I will carry that spirit with me for as long as I am at Outword and as long as I am breathing. It was a blessing to work with her and learn from her and know her.

Chris Narloch
Arts Editor
OutWord



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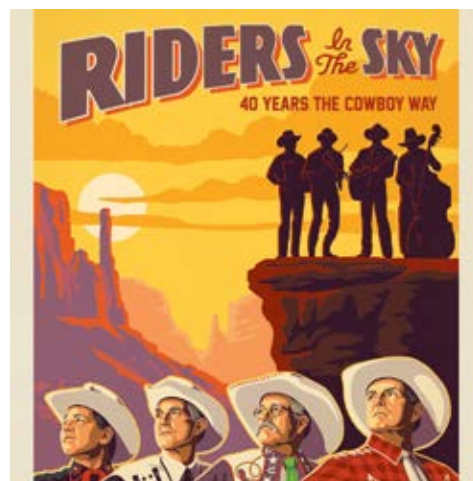
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FRIDAY | FEB 17



SATURDAY | FEB 18



SUNDAY | FEB 19



WEDNESDAY | FEB 22



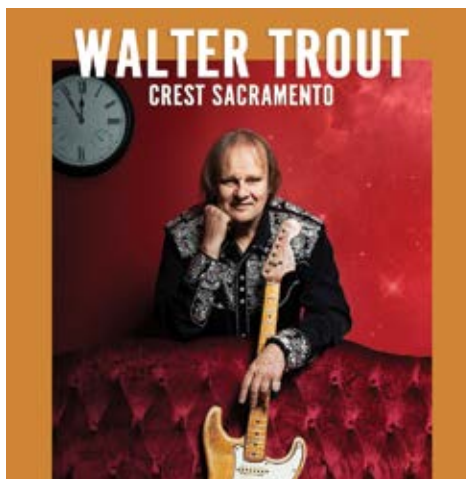
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SUNDAY | FEB 26



FRIDAY | MAR 03



THURSDAY, FEB 9, 7:00PM



MONDAY, FEB 27, 6:00PM



SUNDAY, MARCH 5

1PM ANIMATION
3:45PM LIVE ACTION
6:45PM DOCUMENTARY

FRIDAY, MARCH 10

6PM ANIMATION
8:30PM LIVE ACTION

SATURDAY, MARCH 11

1PM DOCUMENTARY
4:45PM LIVE ACTION
7:45PM ANIMATION

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Out & About with Matt Burlingame

Valentine's Day is here and I just know I'm going to get a big box of See's candy from my Sweet Babboo! Forget diamonds and designer luggage just give me some See's and I'm yours! Well, that and maybe season tickets to Broadway Sacramento. Of course with the price of eggs these days it might be smarter to ask for one of those large 60 packs! In the meantime remember that Sacramento has plenty for you to offer your own Sweet Babboo this year!

Join us Friday, Feb. 10 at 5:30 p.m. for the Outword & Badlands Liquid Therapy Happy Hour at Badlands Sacramento, Sacramento, 2003 K St. Escape the cold and come enjoy drink specials, music videos, giveaways, and friends.

We need as much laughter as we can get these days and on Friday, Feb. 17 at 9 p.m. Queermedians is giving you just that at the Sacramento Comedy Spot, 1050 20th St. #130. Hosted by Melissa McGillicuddy, with Jack Marie, Mike Whitaker, and Sydney Stigerts, come experience the best LGBTQ stand-up comedy in Sacramento and the Bay Area. Saccomedyspot.com



Empress Tavern, 1013 K St. will play host to the February Networking Mixer for the Rainbow Chamber on Tuesday, Feb. 21 at 7 p.m. Whether you're wanting to collaborate with business leaders or are new in town and would like to meet locals, these monthly mixers are a great way to do both while enjoying hosted appetizers and craft cocktails. Guests are always welcome. Free for members and \$10 for non-members. Rainbowchamber.com

Not everyone likes their Valentine's Day with flowers and chocies. Some like to let the madness take control! Saturday, Feb. 11 at 8:30 p.m. the place to be is the Valentine's inspired shadow casted showing of The Rocky Horror Picture Show with Amber Sweets! Complete with a costume contest, virgin sacrifice, cascading toilet paper and audience participation props! Ditch the cliché

and celebrate Valentine's Day at the Historic Colonial Theatre, 3522 Stockton Blvd. Lovehorrevents.com

This month's ArtMix theme at the Crocker Art Museum, 216 O St. is Mardi Gras! Let the good times roll with this celebration of colorful costumes, music and dance, indulgent food and drinks that will remind us that there ain't no party like a Mardi Gras party! ArtMix is Thursday, Feb. 9 at 6 p.m. Crockerart.org

Holy sweet potato! Whether you like them boiled, baked, mashed, hashed, fried or pied, you'll be steamed if you miss the 34th Annual Sweet Potato Festival! Saturday, Feb. 11 from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. at the Sam and Bonnie Pannell Community Center, 2450 Meadowview Rd. This is a free event with lots of food, activities, music and fun! Don't miss the sweet potato pie contest! Svs-ncnw.org

Grease is the word and you better recognize! First performed in 1971 it's been a stage musical with two revivals, a film and thousands of performances around the world. If you've never experienced the true joy of this musical then here's your chance! The Harris Center, 10 College Parkway in Folsom presents six outstanding performances of Grease Feb. 16 - 19. Harriscenter.net

Kennedy Gallery's "Butterfly Dreamscape" exhibit by artist Judith Monroe's was so popular it was held over for a second month! One of the most majestic and fantasy inducing creatures in existence takes flight into the spotlight at Kennedy Gallery, 1931 L St. through the end of February. Kennedygallery.net

Please join us in sending condolences to those who were close to Palma Arreola who passed away in December.

Events, birthdays, announcements? Send them to matthew@hengemedia.com.



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“Clyde’s”&“Mean Girls” By the Bay Plus, “The Chinese Lady” at CapStage

by Chris Narloch

The best theater makes you think while it entertains, and I have a trio of terrific examples of just that in this article, with my reviews of three stage productions currently wowing audiences in Northern California.

Clyde’s

If you want to see a great (and surprisingly funny) play about how difficult it is to integrate back into society after being incarcerated, drive over to Berkeley, and check out this wonderful new work by Lynn Nottage, probably my favorite living Black playwright (now that August Wilson is gone).

Nottage has a remarkable ability to entertain and educate without being preachy, and she hits the bullseye with this superb story of four former inmates – all but one Black -- who work in the kitchen of a truck stop diner famous for its sandwiches.

The main conflicts in the play arise from the horrible way the kitchen staff are treated by Clyde, the cruel woman (herself formerly incarcerated) who owns and manages the restaurant with an iron fist.

One of the many points made by the play is that some folks transcend their time in prison and become better people after they get out, while others, like Clyde, do not. Although “Clyde’s” is not a polemic, Nottage makes it clear, as she did in “Sweat,” that she has less sympathy for management than for workers.

Every member of the five-person cast of “Clyde’s” gets their moment in the spotlight and delivers the goods, so I’m not going to single anyone out, but I will say that this play desperately needs to be turned into a movie, and Tiffany Haddish needs to play Clyde, a hilarious harridan if ever there was one.

“Clyde’s” performs through this Feb. 26 at Berkeley Rep. Go to: www.berkeleyrep.org



Mean Girls

Fans of the movie “Mean Girls,” a beloved 2004 teen comedy that was written by Tina Fey and starred Lindsay Lohan, will want to see its new Broadway musical version, which was also written by Fey and is currently on tour, with a stop in San Francisco.

If you’ve seen the movie, you’ll recall that it follows Cady, a teenaged girl who tries to fit in at her new high school after her parents move to a Chicago suburb from Kenya, Africa. Cady falls in with the titular mean girls for a time, losing herself and her misfit friends, before rejecting shallowness and getting the boy of her dreams.

The musical preserves the positive aspects of the film and features a fresh-faced, hard-working, and very talented cast. Fey’s book is better than the score, which is more memorable lyrically than musically, despite being belted out with verve.

If you enjoyed the stage musical of “Legally Blonde,” don’t miss this similarly upbeat show. The best thing about “Mean Girls,” on film and on stage, is how it embraces being an oddball and rejects being a bully, an important message that is sadly still urgent in 2023.

“Mean Girls” performs through this Feb. 26, at the Golden Gate Theatre. Visit: www.broadwaysf.com

The Chinese Lady

Closer to home, Sacramento’s Capital Stage has this timely and terrific play inspired by the life of the first known female Chinese immigrant to the United States.

In 1834, Afong Moy was brought from Beijing to America and put on display as the “Chinese Lady.” Over the next 45 years, she performed in a side show for the American public that both defined and challenged her own view of herself, while witnessing stunning changes surrounding what it means to be American.

We all know the horrible history of racism in the U.S. as it pertains to Native Americans and African Americans, but I was not as aware of the disgraceful treatment that Chinese Americans have sometimes endured, until I was enlightened by this play.

What is even more remarkable about “The Chinese Lady” is how entertaining and clever it is, thanks to playwright Lloyd Suh and to Rinabeth Apostol, a superb actress who gives a very skillful and poignant performance as the title character.

“The Chinese Lady” plays through Feb. 26. Please visit <https://capstage.org>

outwordmagazine.com

ANOTHER COVID CASUALTY



Both Gloria and I were excited about transferring ownership of STYLEYES to her as I semi-retired, but upon further examination and discussion we determined that it just did not make fiscal sense.

Throughout the pandemic we were touched by how supportive and loyal our customers were, but the reality is that we have never recovered and store revenue continues to be 30% lower than pre-pandemic, and I just can’t, in good faith, sell Gloria a business that has lost money for three years in a row.

I am not in a position to continue to operate at a loss and after discussions with my accountant, reluctantly, decided to close the doors after 22 years servicing Sacramento’s eyewear needs.

Details are still being finalized, but tentatively our doors will close on April 1st.

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Details concerning storage and access of patient records and referrals will follow in the next few weeks.

Queer-ish Valentine’s Gifts for the Queers You Love-ish: 2023 Ed-ish

by Mikey Rox

Spread the love this Valentine’s Day with these festive, fun and sometimes frisky gifts to fill all your special someones’ (hey, we don’t judge) hearts with happiness and felt appreciation.



Love Script Pillows
PillowScript’s royal-hued love script pillows – in muted green, red, blue or gray – imbue your personal space with optimism, openness and a velvety softness smoother than Cupid’s bare bottom. \$50, PillowScript.com

Power Flowers
If Miley can buy herself flowers, so can you: Treat your resilient self to Perfect Plants’ bounty of blooms – including houseplants, trees, shrubs, hedges and a wide selection of coveted Drift rose bushes – that’ll keep your space fresh long after love stales. \$40+, MyPerfectPlants.com



Tale as Old as Time
At once slim and sleek, the Vincero Kairos and Eros Petite mesh and leather-banded watches look stunning on a beauty or a beast. \$99-\$178, VinceroCollective.com

All the Restaurants
Former New Yorker magazine editor turned self-taught artist John Donohue recognizes that most Americans’ first dates take place at restaurants (Starbucks is #1 while In-N-Out Burger clocks in at #2, according to a survey of Clover app users), which is why he’s made it his mission to commemorate the occasion with signed, limited-edition prints of your fave romantic dining destinations, including Manhattan’s 12 Chairs Café and Abilene Bar, Jaleo in D.C., and London’s Noble Rot. \$95, AllTheRestaurants.com

Playboy Pleasure
One might assume that a synonymous-with-sex brand like Playboy would already have a leg (or two) up on the adult-toy industry, but its recently launched, first-foray Playboy Pleasure line couldn’t be rushed: The inaugural collection includes vibrators with heating, tapping and thrusting functions; a spinning butt plug; multi-motor cock rings; toys with flickering tongues; solo strokers, and a first-of-its-kind flapper shaft for the G-spot. You’re gonna need a bigger tarp. \$26-\$200, LoversStores.com



Lace Charms
Customize your kicks with splashes of sparkle when you outfit their laces with burnished beads and baubles – like Lace Charms’ Digital Pink Bundle, featuring gold stars and rosy bling-blings – fit for sneakerhead kweens and king-kings. \$30-\$75, LaceCharms.com

Happy Juice
You’ll get your lips kissed when you twirl a Sunkist on the stylish Verve Culture artisan citrus juicer (available in gold, rose gold, and black), your new go-to hand-operated appliance that gilds the lily of an already decadent holiday brunch in bed. \$98-\$150, VerveCulture.com



Fondue Feasts
You dip, she dips, they dip bite-size savories and sweets into BOSKA’s cheese and chocolate fondue sets equally suited for a sophisticated date night at home or as the centerpiece of a ‘70s-inspired Galentine’s party. Better dust off the orgy lamp. \$33-\$44, USA.Boska.com



Covered in Love
Kisses and hugs and on-the-couch snugs are instantly cozier in Sunday Citizen’s XOXO throw or the Mamas Blanket x Calhoun & Co.’s pink-and-red girl-power blanket for wrapping up near-and-dear babes and broads. \$170, SundayCitizen.co; \$138, AustinMotelStore.com



Chinola x Vesta Chocolate
Skip the Stover’s and improve your chocolate-gifting game with limited-edition Chinola bonbon and ganache chocolates, the melt-in-your-mouth collab between Dominican-sourced Chinola Passion Fruit Liqueur and Vesta Chocolate, co-founded by Chef Roger Rodriguez. \$25-\$48, VestaChocolate.com



Gas You Up
Motivational neon signs that empower you to “Rise & Grind,” “LISTEN TO YOUR HEART,” “Hu\$tle,” and “BE A BAD ASS WITH A GOOD ASS” not only add pops of radiating light and liveliness to your home and office, but they just might reduce your therapy bill too. \$200-\$600, CustomNeon.com



One Love
Dateless for V-Day? Toast your single status – self-imposed independence should be celebrated (just ask Shakira) – with a bottle of Beau Joie Rosé Champagne and poppable Doughp cookie dough bites, in upbeat flavors like Cinnamonood, Brownie Beast, Cookie Monsta, and Red Velvet Vixen. \$135, TotalWine.com; \$12-\$16, Doughp.com



Big AND Beautiful
Lizzo launched a thousand hips with her body-positive lyrics and lifestyle, and you can continue that self-satisfying trend with Le Chic Miami’s hand-painted, more-to-love basswood Venus hoop earrings, available in three everywoman skin tones. \$27, LeChicMiami.store

Bye-Bye Dry January
Build a more discerning home bar in 2023 with a curated selection of luxury liquors, including Empress 1908 and Jaisalmer gins, Rampur Double Cask and Bearface Triple Oak whiskies, Tequila Ocho Plata, and L’etoile du Nord vodka. Prices vary, Drizly.com; TotalWine.com
Jaisalmer Gin Negroni
1.25 oz Jaisalmer Indian Craft Gin
1 oz Camapri
.75 oz Cocchi Torino Vermouth
Combine all ingredients in a mixing glass. Add ice and stir until proper chill and dilution are achieved. Strain into a double rocks glass. Add a few large pieces of clear ice. Garnish with an orange twist.

Mikey Rox is an award-winning journalist and LGBT lifestyle expert whose work has been published in more than 100 outlets across the world. Connect with Mikey on Instagram @mikeyroxtravels

Celebration Announcements!



I am Tami McNeil and she is Amanda Cooper. We met 4 yrs ago on TINDER. Amanda had recently relocated to California from Alaska. She worked for FEMA and was constantly deployed which made dating and learning a new city extra challenging. Amanda was assigned to the Camp Fire in Paradise which kept her close enough to home that she could actually date seriously. In early November 2021 we were on a trip to Turks and Caicos where I had planned to surprise Amanda with a proposal. Unfortunately a couple beat me to it and got engaged. Amanda looked at me and said, “don’t do that. Beach proposal is so cliché.” So I panicked. When we got home we had professional pictures planned at Royer Park. So I hired Lekker Events to help me pull off a surprise proposal. Amanda was certainly surprised but she did say YES! we are getting married Oct 7, 2023 at Wolfe Heights in Sacramento and cannot wait!



My fiancé and I got engaged in September and a friend sent the link to share. My name is Sharlett OConnor and my partner is Helen Maderazo. Helen and I met in 2011 and reconnected in 2021. We got engaged at the spot of our very first date in Auburn, California and we’ll be married September 22, 2023. I am a Sacramento native and she has lived in Sacramento off and on for many years. We love all of Sacramento’s bike trails, kayaking on the river, and hiking nearby.

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[image] Alexander McQueen (British, 1969–2010). Four-panel minidress, Crystal kaleidoscopic print blazer, and Multicolor silk math print kaleidoscope dress from Natural Distinction, Un-natural Selection, Spring/Summer 2009 and Plato’s Atlantis, Spring/Summer 2010. Photo by Barrett Barrera Projects. Courtesy of Barrett Barrera Projects & RKL Consulting



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An Apocalyptic Queer Love Story Plus, Three More Movie Reviews

by Chris Narloch

Two very different new movies in theaters feature queer couples, and I also review two terrific nominees for this year's Academy Awards.



Knock at the Cabin
The handsome actors Jonathan Groff and Ben Aldridge, both gay in real life, play a queer couple, who must make a horrible choice, after four strangers invade their remote vacation cabin in this new movie. The gay dads, who have an adorable little Asian daughter, can save humanity if they sacrifice one member of their family.
What starts out as an apparent home invasion turns into an apocalyptic nightmare because of ominous visions experienced by the quartet of trespassers. Don't let anyone tell you what happens or how the movie ends, as this is M. Night Shyamalan's finest film since his first, 1999's "The Sixth Sense."
The director has made a lot of bad movies in between that film and this one, but Shyamalan finally has a strong script (based on a book) and an exceptional cast again. The depiction of the queer couple is unusually detailed and touching for a horror thriller, and the supporting cast -- especially Dave Bautista, Rupert Grint, and Kristen Cui, who plays the daughter -- is dynamite.
Once you swallow its crazy premise, this movie is intense, suspenseful, and very moving. "Knock at the Cabin" is currently in wide theatrical release.



Of an Age
Another queer couple takes center stage in this sweet Australian movie. The modest tearjerker follows the rollercoaster love story between a Serbian-born amateur ballroom dancer and his friend's older brother.
Thrown together by chance, the two young men have a hot affair, part, and then reconnect years later, realizing that they should have been together all along. Is it too late for their love? You'll just have to see for yourself, when "Of an Age" opens at Sacramento's Tower Theatre, on Feb. 17.

"Movies" continues on page 28

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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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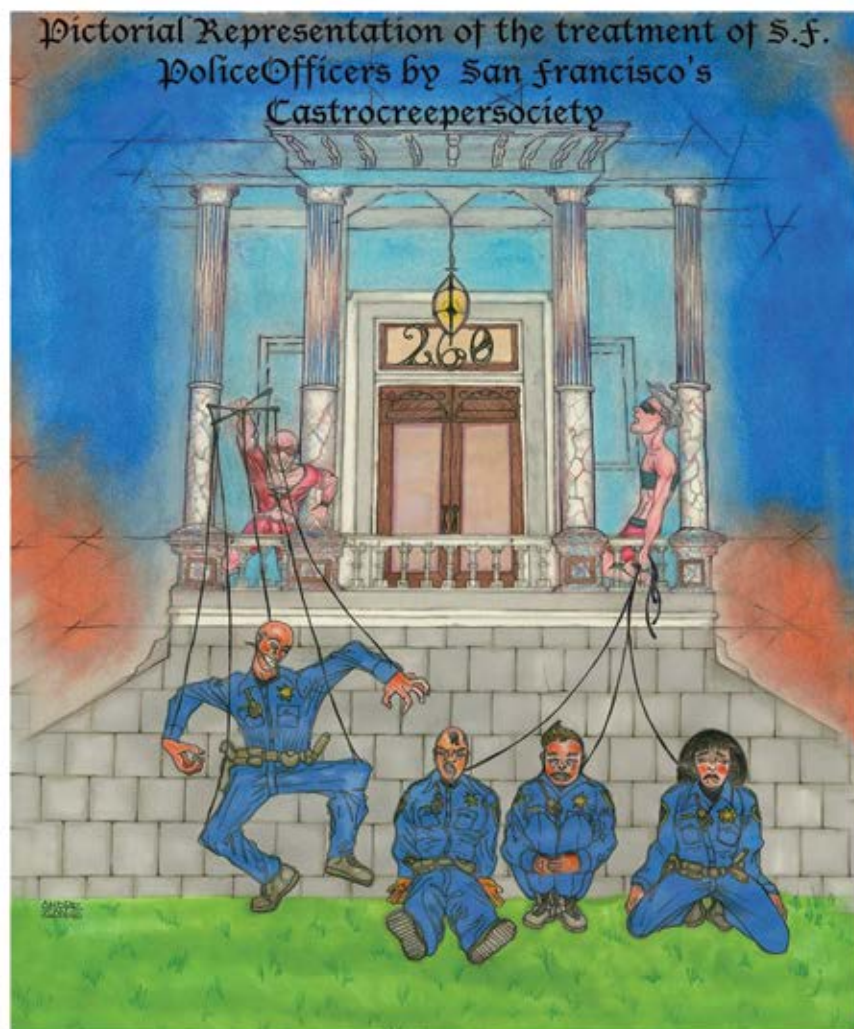
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Movie Reviews continued from page 26



Living

A great script and a first-rate director can make you see an actor in a different light, and that was the experience I had watching this excellent British drama, which features a superb, Oscar-nominated performance by the great Bill Nighy, who most people know from awful movies such as “Underworld” and “Love Actually.”

“Living” is about making the most of the time a person has remaining, as we learn early on that Nighy’s character is terminal and is desperate to leave a legacy before his previously unremarkable life is over.

“Living” is a beautiful testament to the human spirit and to the idea that it’s the quality of a person’s life (rather than its length) that really matters.



EO

After I tell you what this incredible movie is about, you might not want to see it, but I assure you it is one of the finest films of this or any year.

“EO” follows a grey donkey with very expressive eyes whose adventures while roaming the countryside bring him in to contact with humans, some of whom treat him well and others who do not.

“EO” is essentially about how domesticated animals are at the mercy of humans. I never thought I could get so attached to a donkey, but EO’s soulful eyes speak volumes and make a viewer want to be a better human.

Poland’s nominee for this year’s Best International Feature Oscar, “EO” deserves to win that award, thanks to its hypnotic cinematography, brilliant direction, and a stunning score.

“EO” and “Living” were still playing at Sacramento’s Tower Theatre as we went to press.

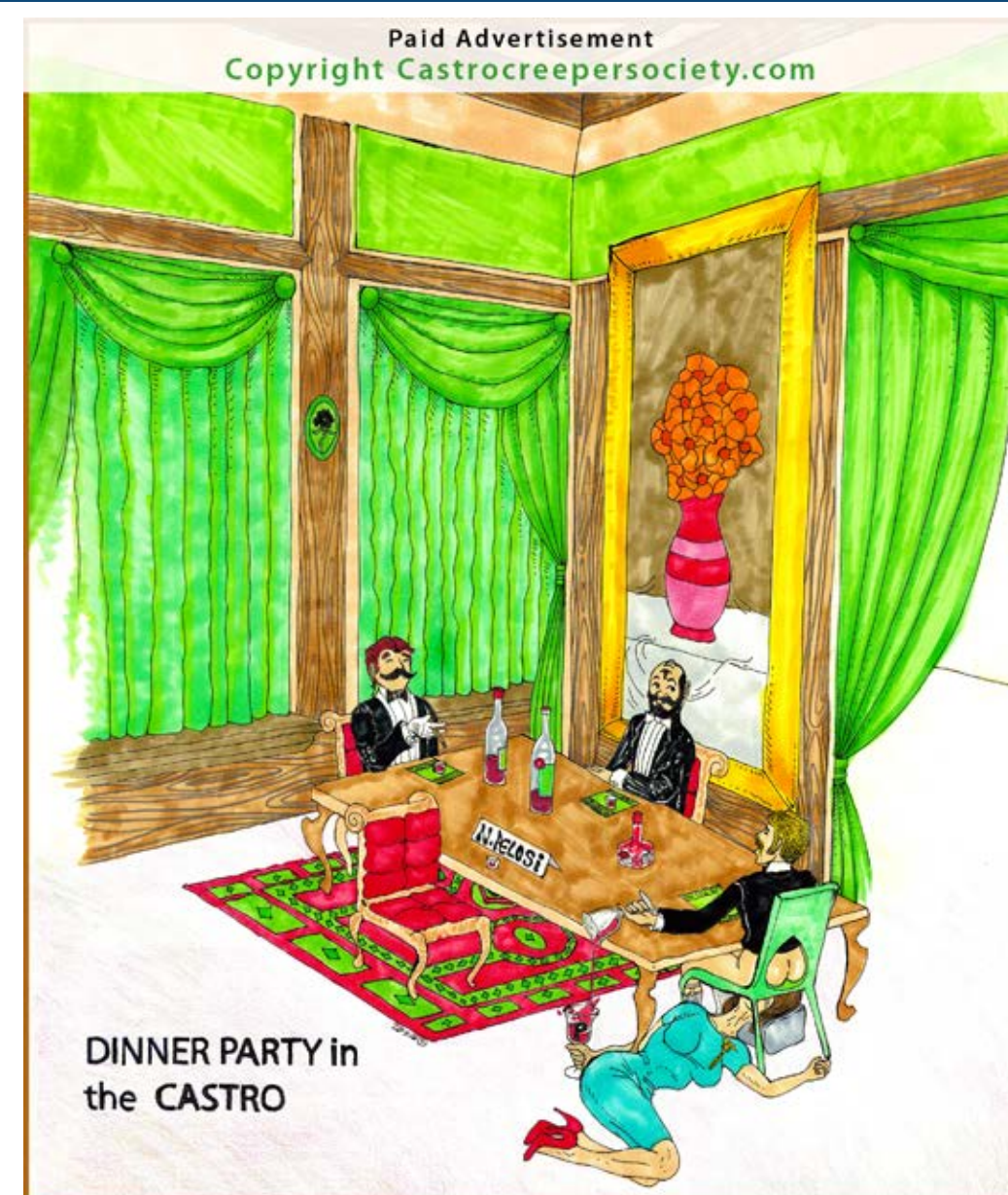
A Conversation with Rita Moreno in Berkeley

Few Hollywood icons can say that they still have a thriving career at the age of 91 -- if they are even still alive -- but Rita Moreno is a true living legend, with a new movie in theaters (“80 For Brady”) and an unstoppable talent.



You can see the trailblazing Puerto Rican performer and hear her speak about her amazing life and seven-decade career when the triple threat talent and EGOT winner graces the stage of Zellerbach Hall on the UC Berkeley campus, in conversation with Dania Matos, the university’s Vice Chancellor for the Division of Equity & Inclusion.

Ms. Moreno will talk about her struggles with racism and sexism in the entertainment industry and share memorable moments from her personal life, on Sunday afternoon, Feb. 26. For more information, please visit <https://secure.calperformances.org/events>



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