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My Campaign for Democracy launched an ad in Alabama, because we cannot let them get away with this. People in Alabama, and everywhere, need to know just how extreme these far-right Republicans are willing to go.



Gavin Newsom @GavinNewsom

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Proposed Bills Threaten the Safety of LGBTQ+ Youth by WEAVE

The impact of political discrimination, social stigmas, and intersectionality of marginalized identities puts the LGBTQ+ community at greater risk of sexual violence. This risk was obvious last year with a record-setting 510 anti-LGBTQ bills introduced into state legislatures resulting in the Human Rights Campaign to declare a National State of Emergency for LGBTQ+ Americans. The proposed bills threatened the safety of LGBTQ+ youth and increased violence towards the LGBTQ+ community. Nationwide, 70% of LGBTQ+ folks have been sexually harassed at work and 66% were afraid to tell their employer. Even with California's gender identity non-discrimination protections, the state ranks 3rd for highest number of fatalities in the LGBTQ+ community.

Sexual violence impacts LGBTQ+ survivors disproportionately higher than other communities. According to the Center for Disease Control, one in eight lesbian women, one in two bisexual women, two in five gay men, one in two bisexual men, and one in two transgender folks have experienced a form of sexual violence in their lifetime. While gender identity and sexual orientation are primary factors in these statistics, there are layers of identity such as race, ethnicity, language, and socioeconomic status that create further barriers to access care or intervention. For example, 53% of Black transgender women have experienced a form of sexual violence in their lifetime. The reality is that survivors are whole people with intersecting identities which can be barriers to reporting or accessing resources.

Barriers experienced by survivors of sexual violence may include fear of not being believed, fear of retaliation, and feelings of shame and guilt. LGBTQ+ survivors face additional barriers such as cultural heterosexism and gender-based violence. For example, if a person is not out to their family and friends, they may not feel that they can safely disclose their experience. Transgender folks fear gender-based violence from law

enforcement or medical providers if they report. Folks in the LGBTQ+ community who have experienced sexual violence and want to access care fear they will not be treated in a gender-affirming way.

Sacramento has one of the highest LGBTQ+ populations per capita, ranking 7th in major U.S. cities and 3rd in California. The LGBTQ+ community in Sacramento, and all over our country, need and deserve allyship and violence prevention more than ever before. So, how do we help the LGBTQ+ community and prevent sexual violence from ever happening?

First, educating the community on affirmative consent, what healthy relationships look like, and how to create inclusive environments for all is essential for future generations of LGBTQ+ folks. Second, educating community members and professionals on affirming and trauma-informed care for LGBTQ+ folks so that every survivor feels comfortable, safe, and believed. Third, changing the Sacramento community's culture to prevent violence for everyone and to see sexual violence as a community issue requiring a community response.

WEAVE, Sacramento's primary provider of crisis intervention services for folks experiencing domestic violence, sexual assault,

and sex trafficking, commits to these actions and provides services for all people and all identities. WEAVE has partnered with the Rainbow Chamber of Commerce, Midtown Association, and the City of Sacramento in promoting and offering WEAVE's free training program Pride, Pronouns, and Progress. The training provides an overview of LGBTQ+ identities, ways for establishments to have more inclusive language and practices, and how to support LGBTQ+ staff, clients, and customers.

To schedule a free training for Pride, Pronouns, and Progress, email Madeline Ng at mng@weaveinc.org. If you are a survivor in need of immediate support, WEAVE is here for you. Call WEAVE's 24/7 support and information line at (916) 920-2952 or visit weaveinc.org to use our chat feature.

This resource is supported in whole or in part by funding provided by the State of California, administered by the [California State Library](#) in partnership with the [California Department of Social Services](#) and the [California Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander American Affairs](#) as part of the [Stop the Hate](#) program. To report a hate incident or hate crime and get support, go to [CA vs Hate](#).

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Uniting for Impact: The Power of Sacramento's Big Day of Giving

staff writer

Sacramento's Big Day of Giving, often referred to as the Big Day of Giving or simply "Big DoG," is an annual 24-hour fundraising event that galvanizes the community to support local nonprofit organizations. Initiated to boost the non-profit sector and cultivate a culture of philanthropy within the Greater Sacramento region, this event has grown significantly since its inception. It offers a unique opportunity for charities to raise funds, gain visibility, and connect with new donors, all while engaging the community in a celebration of local philanthropic efforts.

The Big Day of Giving began as part of a National Day of Giving, but quickly tailored itself to focus on the specific needs and characteristics of the Sacramento area. Over the years, it has transformed into a community tradition celebrated every spring. Managed by the Sacramento Region Community Foundation, the event leverages the power of social media, local media, and community partnerships to engage the public's interest and drive donations.

Since its start in 2013, the Big Day of Giving has raised millions of dollars for local nonprofits. Each year, the amount raised has tended to surpass the previous year's totals, reflecting both the growing generosity of the community and the increasing number of participating organizations. This surge in funding is crucial for nonprofits, many of which rely on the Big Day of Giving as a major source of their annual fundraising.

During the Big Day of Giving, residents of the Sacramento area and beyond are encouraged to log on to a central website where they can find profiles of participating nonprofits. These profiles provide information about each organization's mission, impact, and fundraising goals. Donors can search for organizations by name, cause, or location, making it easy to connect with causes they care about.

The event not only facilitates one-time donations but also encourages setting up recurring donations and learning more about the ongoing needs of the nonprofits. Incentives such as matching funds and prize challenges add an element of excitement to the giving process, encouraging more participation and larger donations. Local businesses often contribute by providing matching grants or sponsoring specific aspects of the event, further amplifying the impact of individual contributions.

An essential aspect of the Big Day of Giving is its ability to foster a deeper sense of community. Schools, businesses, and individuals come together to promote and celebrate philanthropy. The day is marked by various events hosted by participating nonprofits and community groups, including fairs, open houses, performances, and more. These events provide an opportunity for

nonprofits to raise awareness about their work, connect with the community in person, and build lasting relationships with supporters.

The ripple effects of the Big Day of Giving extend beyond the 24-hour period of fundraising. The event helps build capacity for nonprofits by encouraging strategic marketing, donor engagement, and network building. It also sparks a



broader

conversation about the importance of philanthropy and community support in addressing local challenges.

Moreover, the visibility gained during the Big Day of Giving continues to benefit nonprofits long after the event has concluded. Increased awareness can lead to more volunteer sign-ups, broader advocacy, and enhanced community support. Additionally, the collective spirit of the Big Day of Giving often inspires year-round giving and involvement, reinforcing a cycle of generosity and support.

Sacramento's Big Day of Giving stands as a testament to what a community can achieve when it comes together to support its own. With each passing year, it not only raises significant funds for hundreds of nonprofits but also strengthens the fabric of the community by fostering connections and empathy among its members. As this tradition continues to grow, it promises to keep nurturing the region's spirit of generosity, making a lasting impact on the lives of countless individuals across Sacramento.

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Little Activisms by Judy Saint

You Can Help Put Up Swing State Billboards

You have a unique opportunity to help save our rights as LGBTQ+ citizens. And it's easy. Please allow me to invite you to join a project I'm currently involved in.

As you may know, the Freedom From Religion Foundation, which fights for separation of church and state, has a local chapter here, which I help lead. The Greater Sacramento Chapter of FFRF is initiating a nationwide effort to put up billboards in six 2024 swing states (Pennsylvania, Michigan, Wisconsin, Arizona, Georgia, and Nevada) before the November presidential election. These swing states are key in determining the outcome of the election and hence our rights going forward.

The stakes of this election are high for the LGBTQ+ community, as you surely know. We cannot lose the gains we have made, or the inclusive promises of this country.

In fact, this election threatens worse. It could upend our entire democratic system. It could welcome religion in our law-making. We have heard promises of gay encampments, riot control by military troops, retribution, and other dreaded authoritarian threats spoken repeatedly to riled crowds. We cannot allow fear and hatred to rule. This is not normal.

We must do what we can to preserve rule by democratic vote based on reason, empathy, and science, to preserve the inclusive, natural love of our country's best intentions. We must help candidates who defend our secular values and our democratic system of voting.

You can be part of this grassroots project.



Going Up In Swing States

- "Be a Voter" For every vote received by either candidate in 2020, someone did not vote. These billboards, placed in high population areas, aim to bring more voters to the polls. When more people vote, democracy wins.

- "Save Democracy" expresses our value of governing by "We The People". Let's not give away our republic to someone who has publicly claims he wants dictator powers and retribution, who openly undermines the idea of voting altogether, often praising dictators such as Putin and Kim Jong Un. It should be added that authoritarian countries do not benefit their citizens as well as democracies.

- Each state's name tells citizens of swing states that the whole country is counting on them.

You can only vote away your democracy once – you can never vote it back. Remember how we cheered the rioters of the "Arab Spring" uprisings? They wanted freedom but were unable to vote for it, so they had to take to the streets in bloody encounters. We have the chance to vote instead, to keep a dictator from being given the secrets and wealth of the country in the first place.

Please help us encourage more voters to engage in November to preserve our precious system and our rights.

How To Participate

Please help us put up these Swing State Billboards before the election! Checks may be made payable to Greater Sac FFRF. Mail to Greater Sacramento Chapter of FFRF, P.O. Box 2883, Rocklin CA 95677. Or you may donate online using PayPal <https://www.paypal.com/paypalme/SacFFRF>. Cut-off date is May 31, 2024.

Thank you for letting me share this project. You are why we do what we do, you are affected by what we do, and you can help what we do.

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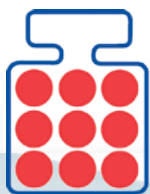
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Pride in the Least Likely of Places

by Chris Allan

While Sac Pride always offers fabulous festivity and a reminder of how relatively accepting our capital city is of queerfolk, we all know it's not that way everywhere.

Just east of us in Placer County, several school districts have debated forced-outing policies, book bans and other forms of classroom censorship. Further afield in California's "Danish capital" of Solvang, located in the notoriously conservative Santa Ynez Valley, the mayor of Copenhagen even weighed in on the city council's decision not to hang pride-themed banners downtown. Beloved LGBTQ+ ally Laura Carleton was murdered outside her rainbow-flag-flying bookstore last year in Lake Arrowhead, and don't get me started on the nastiness we've seen in OC's Huntington Beach.

So, if you're thinking of heading out of town during Pride month, or just want to be supportive of LGBTIQ+ events in more conservative areas, consider a "Destination Pride" outing. As queer communities continue to grow outside the usual urban zones into more rural and suburban areas, many of them have received pushback of one kind or another. Simply showing up in your sexiest inner/outer wear, waving a Progress Pride flag and whipping out your mobile wallet to support the local festivals can be a super act of solidarity.

Here's our curated list of Prides to consider supporting in 2024:

Regional

- Placer Pride, May 18, Roseville (facebook.com/PlacerPride2021)
- Woodland Pride Parade, June 22 (www.cityofwoodland.gov - special events calendar)

Nor Cal

- Lost Coast Pride, June 29-30, Ferndale (queerhumboldt.org/lost-coast-pride)
- Redding Pride, June 21-22 (norcaloutreach.org)

Central Valley

- Fresno Rainbow Pride Parade and Festival, June 1 (fresnorainbowpride.com)
- Stockton Pride, June 22 (stocktonpride.org/stockton-pride-2024)

Central Inland

- Brookdale Big Queer Weekend, June 22-23, Brookdale (www.instagram.com/brookdale_big_queer_events/)
- SYV Pride Festival, June 22, Solvang, (syvpride.org)

Eastern Sierra

- Eastern Sierra Pride Festival, June 1-2, Bishop (easternsierrapride.org/pride2024)

So Cal

- Lake Arrowhead Pride Weekend, June 28-30 (lakearrowheadlgbtq.org)
- OC Pride, June 1, Costa Mesa (prideoc.com)
- Pride by the Beach, June 1, Oceanside (www.pridebythebeach.org)



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The Sunburst Projects “Drag Your Balls” Golf Tournament: Swinging for a Good Cause

In Sacramento, a community comes together, golf clubs in hand, not just to play, but to strike a ball for change. On May 5, 2024, the Haggin Oaks Golf Complex will resonate not only with the thwacks of golf balls but with laughter and solidarity. The “Drag Your Balls” Golf Tournament, hosted by Sunburst Projects, infuses the traditional golf tournament with glittering gowns and the spirit of drag, transcending the game into a celebration of diversity and aid.

This event is not just a game of golf; it’s a statement, a parade of color and camaraderie against the sobering backdrop of HIV/AIDS. Sunburst Projects, standing as a bastion of hope for those affected, orchestrates this event annually, channeling the raised spirits into raised funds. The tournament kicks off with a 9:00 AM shotgun start, and the fairways will be far from usual. Drag queens will sashay alongside golfers, cheering and performing, bringing an unparalleled vibrancy to the greens.

The tournament is more than an athletic endeavor; it’s a day filled with activities – a buffet lunch, a no-host bar, a silent auction teeming with anticipation, and a drag show that promises not just to entertain but to encapsulate the triumphs of the human spirit. Tickets to the after-party are available even for those who prefer to admire the greens from a distance rather than play on

them, ensuring that everyone has a chance to be part of the merriment and mission.

At its core, the tournament and accompanying after-party are a fundraising powerhouse, with sponsorship slots and ticket sales channeling vital funds to Sunburst Projects. The non-profit organization is a pillar in the fight against HIV/AIDS, offering care, support, and educational services to individuals and families grappling with the disease. Through events like “Drag Your Balls,” they garner not just funds but awareness, breaking the stigma and fostering a community of support and empowerment.

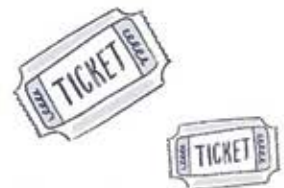
Awards will crown the day’s festivities, celebrating the furthest drive, the closest pin, and the top teams. But the real victory lies in the contributions made towards supporting those affected by HIV/AIDS, in the laughter shared, and in the barriers



broken down. It’s a testament to how sports, entertainment, and a collective heart can come together for a cause that transcends the individual and impacts the community.

As Sunburst Projects continues to provide a network of care, the “Drag Your Balls” Golf Tournament stands as a beacon

of inclusivity, fun, and charity. It’s an invitation – swing a club, don a sequin, place a bid, or share a dance; every action is a step towards a brighter, healthier future for those the organization serves. It’s not just about golfing; it’s about being part of a legacy of love, support, and resilience that Sunburst Projects upholds every day.



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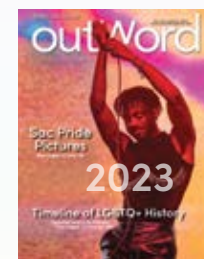
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10 years of uniting community **Davis PRIDE**

Davis Pride To Celebrate 10th Anniversary

words and image by Wendy Weitzel

The Davis Phoenix Coalition plans a month full of events to celebrate LGBTQ+ pride, beginning with its 10th annual festival on June 1. Activities also include a festival after party, fun run, skate and comedy nights, and plenty of drag queens.

The activities share the theme “Davis Pride – Because Yolo County is for Everyone!” It follows the Davis Phoenix Coalition’s recent lawn sign messages “Davis is for Everyone” and “Yolo County is for Everyone,” to counter the far-right actions experienced in the community.

The 10th annual Davis Pride Community Fair and Music Festival has a new location this year: Civic Center Park, at Sixth and B streets. The community-focused, family-friendly event includes a music festival, resources, vendors, food, drinks and more – from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, June 1. Headlining the musical lineup is Davis’ own Butterscotch, a Season 2 finalist on NBC’s America’s Got Talent. Other performers include Deuces & Diamonds in a special reunion performance, the Sacramento Gay Men’s Chorus, Team Davis

Singers, and the always popular Drag Revue. Other artists will be announced soon. There will be activity zones for children, teens and seniors.

After the festival wraps up at 5, revelers are encouraged to continue to the inaugural Davis Pride After Party, which will be from 6 to 11 p.m. on G Street, between Second and Third streets, downtown. That portion of the street is a pedestrian zone. DJ Mellax of Davis Rave Co. will spin dance tunes. Patrons may purchase food and drink from downtown Davis establishments.

The following day is the Run for Equality, starting at 8 a.m. on Sunday, June 2. It includes a 5K and 1K run/walk from Central Park, at Fourth and C streets. The run is the fundraiser that makes the festival possible. Registration is \$25 until May 28 and \$30 after. Visit <https://www.davispride.org/run>.



Runners get ready to start at the 2023 Run for Equality. This year’s run is June 2.

The following Saturday, June 8, is Skate with Pride. The free night will include a disc jockey, disco lights and food trucks from 7 to 9 p.m. Skating will be under the Davis Farmers Market Pavilion in Central Park, Fourth and C streets, downtown. Participants bring roller or in-line skates and wear colorful attire, skating to lively music.

The fun continues Friday, June 21 for Davis Pride Comedy Night, from 5:30 to 9 p.m. at Stonegate Country Club, 919 Lake Blvd. Presented by Laughs on the Lake, tickets are \$40 through April 30, \$45 May 1 through June 20, and \$55 on June 21. Visit <https://www.davispride.org/comedy> to see the lineup and purchase tickets.

On Thursday, June 27, Sudwerk Brewing Co. will be the venue for Drink with Pride and Drag Trivia, from 6 to 9 p.m. in the brewery’s beer hall at 2001 Second St. Trivia is \$15 to enter.

To set the tone for Pride month, volunteers will paint rainbow crosswalks around Davis’ Central Park between 6 and 9 a.m. on Sunday, May 26.

The Davis Pride committee is happy to help businesses show their colors and promote their pride events for June. Email admin@davisphoenixco.org.

June is International LGBTQ+ Month. Davis Pride events are coordinated by an all-volunteer community formed by the Davis Phoenix Coalition, a nonprofit that works to foster diversity, eliminate intolerance, prevent hate-motivated violence, and support LGBTQ+ youths in Davis and surrounding communities. The coalition was founded in the aftermath of a 2013 anti-gay attack on Davis resident “Mikey” Partida. Proceeds from Davis Pride events fund the coalition’s anti-racism and anti-bullying campaigns, support to LGBTQ+ youths and their families, and outreach with area police departments, churches and schools. To donate, go to <https://davisphoenixco.org/donate>.

For more information about the event, or becoming a sponsor, exhibitor or volunteer, visit <https://www.davispride.org/>. To learn details as they unfold, follow Davis Pride on Facebook and Instagram.

Liquia Therapy

May 10, 2024
5:30 - 7 pm

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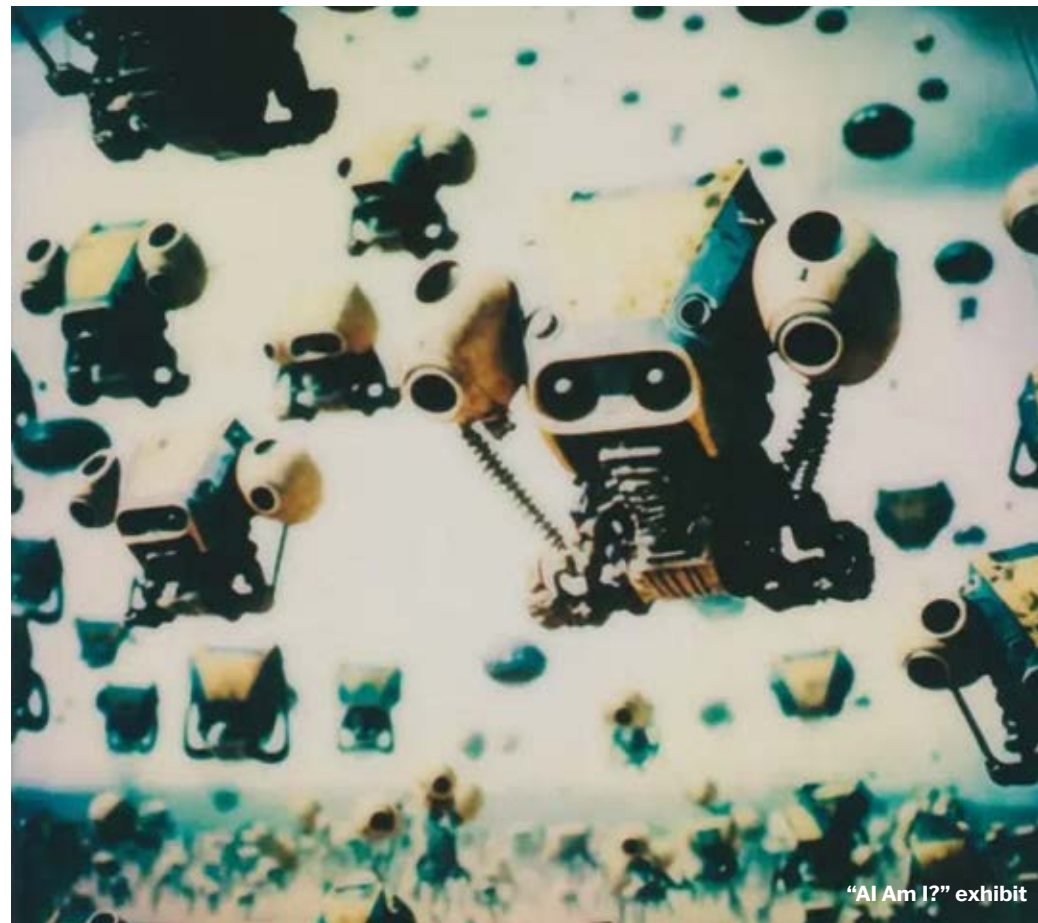
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Have You Seen “AI Am I”?

You have until this April 28 to see “AI Am I? ARTificial Intelligence as Generated by Alexander Reben,” a semi-interactive, fun-for-the-whole-family exhibit at Sacramento’s Crocker Art Museum.



“AI Am I?” exhibit

Artificial intelligence represents a seismic shift in automation not seen since the Industrial Revolution. While artists have responded to technological advancements throughout history, AI presents an unparalleled opportunity for artists to partner with machines possessing human-like creativity.

In his first solo museum exhibition, artist and MIT-trained roboticist Alexander Reben explores what our increasing symbiosis with technology might bring forth.

Also closing on April 28 is another cool exhibition, “Drawn to Beauty: Fifteen Years of Acquisitions for the Crocker Art Museum,” which celebrates the museum’s impressive collection of European drawings.

Thanks in large part to some of the Museum’s most generous donors, these gifts and purchases have brought new depth and breadth to the famed E. B. Crocker Collection, established in 1871, and to the history of European draftsmanship.

With carefully crafted nudes, exquisite pastel portraits, and enchanting watercolor landscapes, this exhibition showcases nearly four centuries of remarkable works on paper.

For more information about these and other current and upcoming exhibitions, please visit: www.crockerart.org



“Drawn to Beauty: Fifteen Years of Acquisitions for the Crocker Art Museum” exhibit

True-ish Tales to Stream Now

by Chris Narloch

The description “inspired by a true story” gives screenwriters a lot of leeway in dramatizing actual events, and the results can be wildly uneven. The superb shows described below may not be 100% accurate, but all three are enormously entertaining, and their quality honors the real people depicted.



Mary & George

If you have access to Starz, do not miss this very sexy new seven-part soap opera, a queer, quasi-historical British miniseries loosely based on Benjamin Woolley’s non-fiction book, “The King’s Assassin,” which describes an affair between King James I and George Villiers, 1st Duke of Buckingham.

The divine Julianne Moore stars as Mary Villiers, a scheming mother who basically pimps her son out to get closer to the King and raise her social standing at the beginning of the 1600s. The unbelievably beautiful Nicholas Galitzine costars as the pretty plaything who uses seduction to fulfill his ambitious mother’s wicked plan.



Shogun

The latest television adaptation of James Clavell’s beloved book is spectacular historical fiction at its finest, with stunning costume design, production design, cinematography, and locations.

The epic 10-part series, which you can watch on Hulu, details the collision of two ambitious men from very different worlds: John Blackthorne, a risk-taking English sailor who ends up shipwrecked in the land of the rising sun, and Lord Toranaga, a powerful magnate in feudal Japan.



We Were the Lucky Ones

This limited Hulu series is based on a fascinating true story about the Kurc family, Jews who fled and were separated after the Germans invaded Poland in 1939. The gripping six-part series is adapted from a novel by Georgia Hunter, who based the book on her family’s real experiences during the Holocaust. The miniseries, which is very moving, stars Joey King, Logan Lerman, and Robin Weigert.



“Civil War” & “The Long Game” Plus, 2 Netflix Movies Reviewed

by Chris Narloch

Since I am a big cheerleader for movie theaters, I have been very happy to see fans turn out for classic films back on the big screen, at local multiplexes and historic cinemas like the Crest and Sacramento’s Tower Theatre.

On May 5th, the Crest will screen “The Wizard of Oz,” and the same month, Tower Theatre is showing “The Third Man,” with Orson Welles, plus three great Hollywood musicals: “Funny Girl,” “Lady Sings the Blues,” and “On the Town.”

If older movies aren’t your thing, here are reviews of four new movies you can check out, two of them in theaters and the other two on Netflix.



Civil War

Moviegoers have always had an appetite for onscreen violence so I shouldn’t be surprised that “Civil War” is a big hit at the box office, and yet movies this depressing don’t usually perform well in theaters. Despite a talented director (Alex Garland) and an A-list cast (including Kirsten Dunst, Nick Offerman, and Jesse Plemons), what I found most shocking about this dystopian thriller was how often it fails to thrill.

Dunst plays a jaded war photographer on a very dangerous road trip with other members of the press who are trying to get to our nation’s capital before rebel forces reach the White House. In the not-so-distant future depicted in “Civil War,” the United States of America has become the divided and deadly states of America, and no one is safe, not even the President.

Dunst and her real-life husband (Plemons) are both terrific here, and their single scene together is very powerful, but the subplot involving another female photographer (a miscast Cailee Spaeny) is cliched and totally predictable. Even worse is the movie’s final sequence, a total bummer that is meant to disturb but instead reminded me of one of those Gerard Butler B-movie action flicks.



Society of the Snow

I am not wild about movies that involve cannibalism, but I finally got around to watching this Spanish film, which was nominated for an Oscar this year in the Best International Feature Film category, a distinction that I now realize it richly deserved.

Based on a 2009 book of the same name, “Society of the Snow” dramatizes the true story of a Uruguayan rugby team’s experience in 1972 after their plane crashed in a remote area of the Andes mountains and they had to resort to desperate measures to survive.

This tale has been told before on film and in print, but this Netflix movie is a definitive version, with a superb script, cast, and director.



The Long Game

I thoroughly enjoyed “The Long Game,” which is based on the true story of a group of Mexican American teens who encountered prejudice when they attempted to break the color barrier and play golf at a white country club where they worked as caddies. The San Felipe Mustangs, underdog golfers who lived in Del Rio, Texas, went on to become the 1957 Texas state champions.

It’s a shame that uplifting, smaller films like this feel-good movie receive little love from critics and half-hearted promotion within the industry. “The Long Game,” which stars Dennis Quaid, Cheech Marin, and Jay Hernandez, was still in a few Sacramento theaters as we went to press, but it may or may not be playing locally by the time you read this.



Shirley

I am old enough to remember when Shirley Chisholm announced her run for President in 1972, an event that felt like a miracle considering Chisholm was the first Black woman to run for a major party’s nomination for President of the United States, and the first woman of any color to run for the Democratic Party’s presidential nomination.

Since we currently have two old, straight, white men running for President of the United States yet again, now is the perfect time to revisit Chisholm’s bold move. This new biopic is straightforward and no classic, but it does have an excellent lead actress (Regina King), who turns in a stellar performance as Chisholm.

“Shirley” costars the late, great Lance Reddick, Lucas Hedges, Terrence Howard, Andre Holland, and Brian Stokes Mitchell. You can watch it on Netflix.

Dream Disco at its Finest

words by Ron Tackitt - photo by Ashley Osborn

While listening to one of the “chill” stations I have curated on Pandora, I kept hearing a familiar, soft voice fronting mellow songs that always have a relaxed beat but were never dull or repetitive. I finally started walking over to my phone to check out who Pandora was playing. Each time, it was Cannons. Never heard of them. But their songs were always interesting and clever.

Upon further research, I found out that they actually have four albums out. They are Los Angeles-based and considered an alt-pop band. Members consist of Ryan Clapham (guitar), Paul Davis (bass/keyboards) and Michelle Joy (vocals), and their latest offering is “Heartbeat Highway.” And now that I am more familiar with their catalog, I think this album is easily their best.

Some of their early efforts were not bad, but sometimes came across as unpolished. Their third album, “Fever Dream,” changed that, with solid songs, some even hitting on the charts, but “Heartbeat” takes the baton and runs with it.

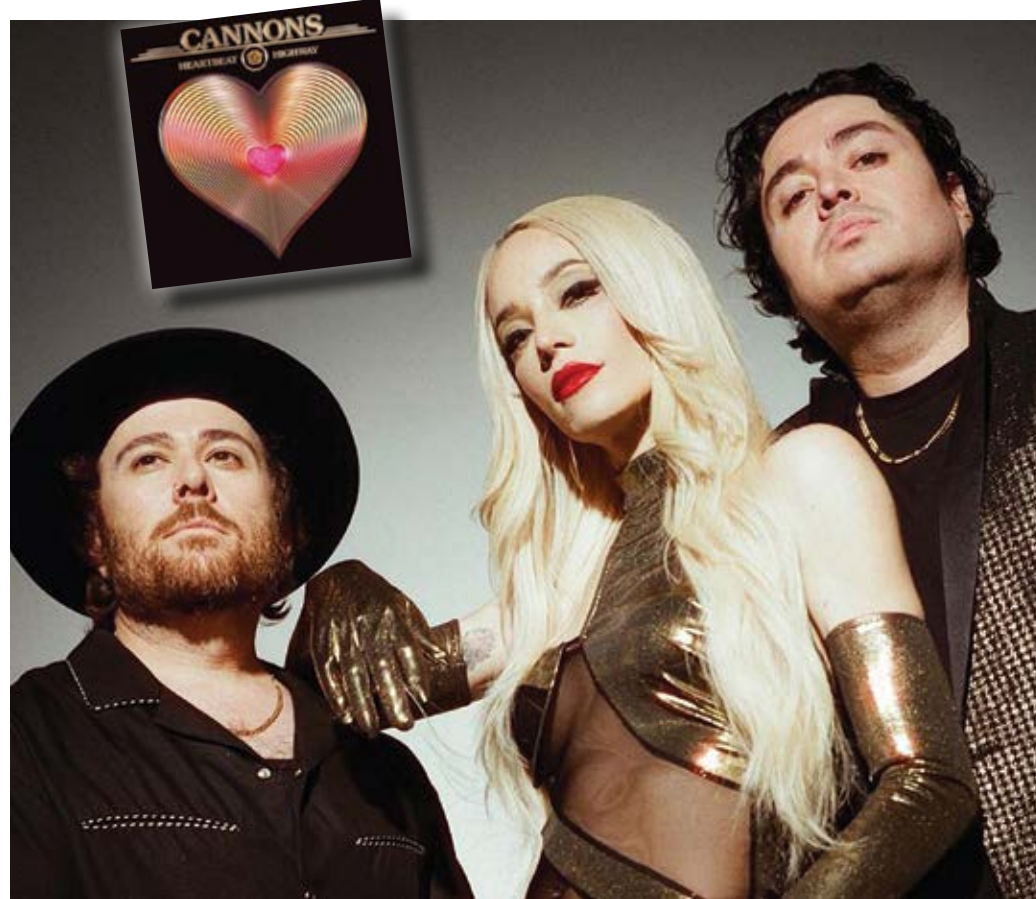
“Heartbeat Highway” is a very solid collection of pop songs, or as they have been called, Dream Disco. The title track is my favorite. It takes me back to times when I lived in LA, like when Michelle Joy sings about driving on the 405. The lyric “sooner, later, danger danger” is a fun way to bring up the realities of the relationship she is singing about.

There are several songs on this album

that have a familiar sound. Not derivative, but they will certainly remind an old music fan of hits from the past. “Loving You” starts out with friendly whistling and continues with old style disco clapping and ends with a couple of lone bass notes. “Can You Feel My Heartbeat” immediately takes me back to a time when “Baby Come Back” could be playing next on the radio. (Time to get out the roller skates?)

One of the best tracks has to be “Always Will.” It’s a sweet, immersive song with great use of an old-style organ but big open sound stage everywhere else. While Michelle hardly varies her singing style from track to track, this one is perfect for her. It is again familiar, yet new and fresh at the same time. I usually want to hear it at least twice each time it plays.

If you are into collecting some of your music on vinyl, both “Fever Dream” and “Heartbeat Highway” have been re-released on LP since the first set completely sold out. It is well worth the nostalgia to sit and listen for 20 minutes per side and melt into the music.



In conclusion, I found this statement about Cannons and thought it summed things up perfectly: “Heartbeat Highway LP,” the latest album by Cannons, is an intricate mosaic of sound that transports the listener on a journey through neon-lit memories and

future dreams. With its shimmering production and enigmatic vocals, the album stands out as a polished testament to the band’s evolution and a beacon of the synth-pop resurgence. Exactly.



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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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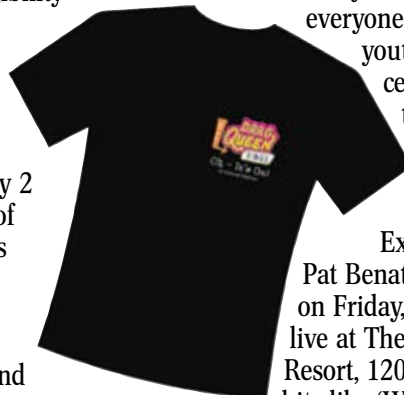
Out & About

with Matthew Burlingame

Between Big Day of Giving, NorCal AIDS Cycle, and any number of other upcoming spring events, the plethora of hands reaching out in earnest for our last few tuppence is incredible. For those with limited resources for donations, please consider the smaller nonprofits where every dollar can have two to three times the impact as it does for larger charities. But make sure you save a few bob for a few of the events below!

Rainbow Chamber Foundation offers scholarships to LGBTQ+ students in the greater Sacramento area. Apply now for 2024 scholarships: Palmer Family Healthcare Education, Rainbow Chamber Foundation, Culinary Arts, Residents & Fellows Debt Relief. Applications open April 15-Aug. 16. Don't miss out! For eligibility and details visit Rainbowchamber.com

Have a fabulous evening of Drag Queen Bingo on Thursday, May 2 as part of the Big Day of Giving celebration! This VIP Bingo Experience directly supports the Sacramento Rainbow Chamber Foundation and scholarship programs. Secure your seats today for an unforgettable event at Mango's on 1930 K St. Advance ticket purchase required, will include guaranteed seating, a souvenir T-shirt, hosted appetizers, early reception, photo opportunities and more! Rainbowchamber.com



Don't forget about the 8th Annual Senior Pride Fair sponsored by *Outword* at the E.M. Hart Senior Center, 915 27th St. on Thursday, Apr. 25 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Servant-hearts.org

Join the thrill at "The Scream Queens Gorelesque's Creepshow Cabaret" on Saturday, Apr. 27, with showtime at 8:30 p.m. Witness captivating performances by Onyx Ondyx and Sigourney Beaver. VIP entry starts at 7 p.m. Experience the eerie ambiance at the Historic Colonial Theatre, located at 3522 Stockton Blvd. Lovehorrorrevents.com

Harris Center presents "The Cher Show," a Tony Award-winning musical chronicling six decades of the iconic superstar's life. From her beginnings to her rise as a pop sensation, experience Cher's journey through 35 smash hits. Don't miss this fabulous production from May 9 to May 12, at Harris Center for the Arts, Three Stages at Folsom Lake College, 10 College Parkway, Folsom. Harriscenter.net

Discover one of the most powerful exhibits of the year at the Crocker Art Museum, 216 O St. Explore "America: From Civil Rights to the Bicentennial" and its impactful art reflecting racial identity and the fight for equality in the 1960s. On view until May 19, open Wednesday through Sunday. from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Don't miss this compelling exhibition. Crockerart.org

Join us for Black Family Day 2024! Celebrate Black culture and community at Black Family Day 2024 on the UC Davis Quad, 1 Shields Ave., Saturday, May 4 from 12-9 p.m. This free, family-friendly event features food, merchandise, speakers, and entertainment. Experience the resilience and diversity of Black culture. This is an event for everyone, families, children, elders, the youth. All forms of Blackness are celebrated, and there is no toleration of sexism, homophobia, transphobia, or xenophobia. Ucdavis.edu

Experience the legendary rock duo, Pat Benatar & Neil Giraldo, with Berlin, on Friday, May 10, at 7:30 p.m. Catch them live at The Venue, Thunder Valley Casino Resort, 1200 Athens Ave. in Lincoln. With hits like 'We Belong' and 'Love Is A Battlefield,' they promise an unforgettable night of rock! Thundervalleyresort.com



Pat Benatar & Neil Giraldo will be at Thunder Valley Casino Resort on Friday, May 10.

Join the United Courts of Sacramento, Stockton, Chico, and Redding for Coronation 51, celebrating Reign 50 from April 25 to April 28, 2024. Events include a Welcome Reception, Out Of Town Show, Hospitality, 51st Gala & Coronation, and Victory Brunch. Free entry to some events. Venue: Bear & Crown, Old Sacramento, 1022 2nd St, Sacramento, CA 95814.

Do you have events, birthdays, or announcements to share? Feel free to send them to matthew.burlingame@gmail.com.

28th anniversary

Please Support the Outword Rainbow Fund

For 28 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!

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

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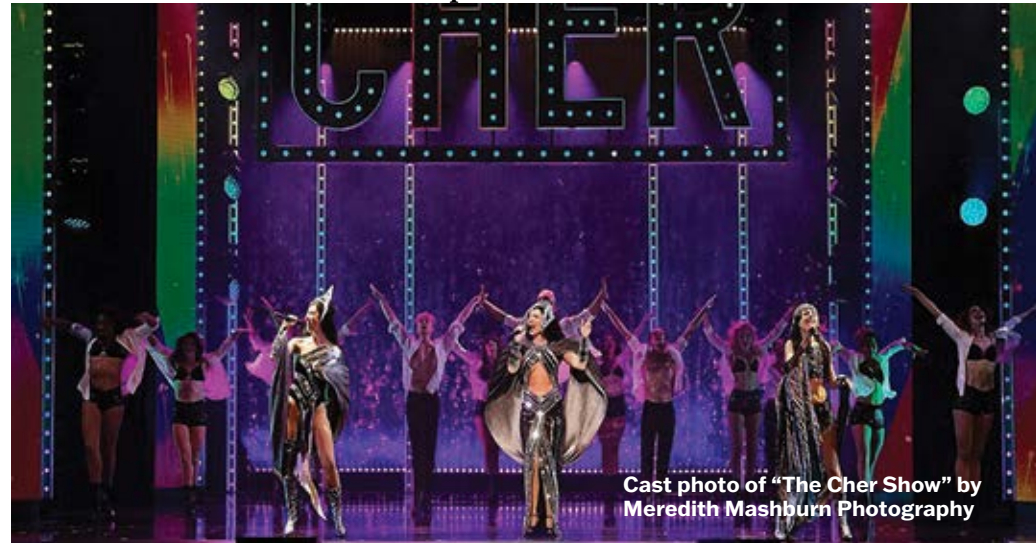
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NorCal Theater Bonanza by Chris Narloch

No obstacle – not even distance or crazy gas prices -- can keep a true theater queen from their appointed rounds. Here are three not-to-be-missed musicals being performed in Northern California that I hope to see soon.



Cast photo of "The Cher Show" by Meredith Mashburn Photography

The Cher Show

This non-union national tour, charting the life and career of the one-and-only, unstoppable pop-culture icon that is Cher, stops at over 50 cities across the United States.

Spanning 35 smash hits, six decades of stardom, and two rockstar husbands, "The Cher Show" opened on Broadway in December of 2018, following an out-of-town tryout in Chicago.

That Broadway production starred Tony winner Stephanie J. Block as modern-day Cher, alongside Teal Wicks and Micaela Diamond, who brought to life the early decades of the award-winning entertainer's career.

"The Cher Show" performs through May 12 at Harris Center on the Folsom Lake College campus. Visit: www.harriscenter.net



Photo of the original Broadway cast of "A Strange Loop" by Marc J. Franklin

A Strange Loop

Meet Usher: A Black, queer writer writing a musical about a Black, queer writer writing a musical about a Black, queer writer.

Winner of the 2022 Tony Award for Best Musical, Michael R. Jackson's Pulitzer Prize-winning, blisteringly funny masterwork exposes the heart and soul of a young artist grappling with desires, identity, and instincts he both loves and loathes.

Hell-bent on breaking free of his own self-perception, Usher wrestles with the thoughts in his head, brought to life on stage by a hilarious, straight-shooting ensemble. Direct from Broadway and the West End to San Francisco, "A Strange Loop" is the big, Black, and queer Great American Musical for all.

"A Strange Loop" performs through this May 12, at A.C.T.'s Toni Rembe Theater in San Francisco. For more information, go to: act-sf.org

Forever Plaid

This charming, Off-Broadway musical has been an audience favorite for more than three decades now -- and I have seen it several times -- but I never tire of the handsome quartet and the four-part harmonies that make up "Forever Plaid."

The show is a deliciously fun revue chock-full of pitch-perfect melodies delivered by the fictional foursome of Sparky, Smudge, Jinx and Frankie, who discovered that they shared a love for music and then got together to become their idols: The Four Freshman, The Hi-Lo's and The Crew Cuts.

Singing in close harmony, squabbling boyishly over the smallest intonations, and executing their charmingly outlandish choreography with overzealous precision, the "Plaids" are a guaranteed smash, with a program of beloved songs and delightful patter that will keep you laughing when you're not humming along to some of the greatest pop hits of the 1950s.

"Forever Plaid" performs through this May 5, at San Francisco's Gateway Theatre. Please visit: <https://42ndstmoon.org>

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Activating Taste Buds (ATB)

Living in Sacramento, it's easy to forget the plethora of quality restaurants, featuring amazing food, that surround us every day. However, a quick trip out of California is all you need to bring you back to what reality is for a lot of people. This is a tale of two "Jimmie's." Jimmie's Diner and Jimmie's Egg (yes, singular) in Wichita KS. My Aunt told me to have breakfast at Jimmie's Diner, but I first found Jimmie's Egg, so I ate there the first day because Jimmie's Diner did not come up in Maps... Look below, see if you notice a difference in the quality of food, prep and presentation. Obviously, Juimmie's Diner had much better food, along with a great old-fashioned diner vibe. The fact that the early bird special was only \$6.19 was outstanding. You read that right. That's half the price of breakfast at McDonalds here in Sac. What a difference 1672 miles can make.



Jimmie's Egg
Eggs Benedict with
Biscuit and Gravy



Jimmie's Diner
Early Bird Special
Eggs with Biscuit and Gravy
and Bacon

Eggheads Turn 30 At UCD

In celebration of the UC Davis Eggheads' 30th anniversary, the Manetti Shrem Museum of Art is offering free walking tours highlighting those iconic Robert Arneson sculptures, every Saturday, and Sunday in May.



Registration is limited to 20 people per tour with on-site signup beginning at 12:30 p.m. for the 1 p.m. tour and 2:30 p.m. for the 3 p.m. tour. Tours require walking approximately 1.5 miles and last about 1 hour.

You can start at the museum (where admission is always free!) with a visit to "Hatched: The Making of Robert Arneson's Eggheads," a pop-up display of Egghead maquettes in the lobby, and then visit the five Egghead locations around campus.

You'll hear Egghead lore and learn about how and why Arneson created the iconic sculptures and how they are cared for today. For more information about the Eggheads and other exhibits at Manetti Shrem, please visit <https://manettishremmuseum.ucdavis.edu>

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5/18	Placer Pride
6/1	Sonoma County Pride
6/1	Davis Pride
	◦ Community Fair and Music Festival (6/1)
	◦ Run for Equality (6/2)
	◦ Skate with Pride (6/8)
6/7	Pride Prom @ Ace of Spades ✨
6/8-9	LA Pride
6/8	Sacramento Pride ✨
6/22	Santa Monica Pride
6/22	Elk Grove Pride
6/29	San Francisco Pride
6/31-7/2	WEHO Pride
7/20	San Diego Pride
9/8	Oakland Pride
10/12	Tri-County Diversity Pride
10/31-11/3	Palm Springs Pride

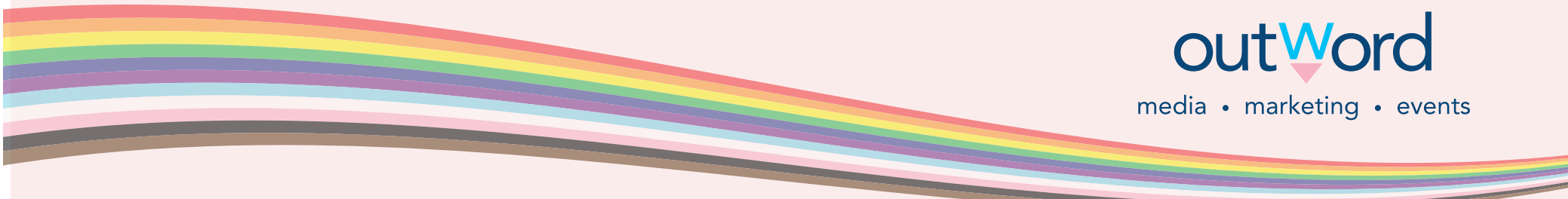


April

4/27	CGNIE- 51st Annual Gala and Coronation
4/30	Happy Hour at Bennett's - 2:30 pm - With Prime Timers

May

5/2	VIP Drag Queen Bingo - Big Day of Giving - Sacramento Rainbow Chamber
5/5	"Drag your Balls" Golf Tournament - Sunburst
5/9-5/12	Harris Center - "The Cher Show"
5/10	Liquid Therapy - Outword's Monthly Happy Hour @ Badlands ✨
5/11	Mondavi Center - The San Francisco Symphony
5/18	Spring Soiree - Wind Youth Services



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media • marketing • events

Contact Julie Ebe to get your events on the Calendar: Julie@Outwordmagazine.com



To email Fred - Scan QR code!

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THE DEPOT
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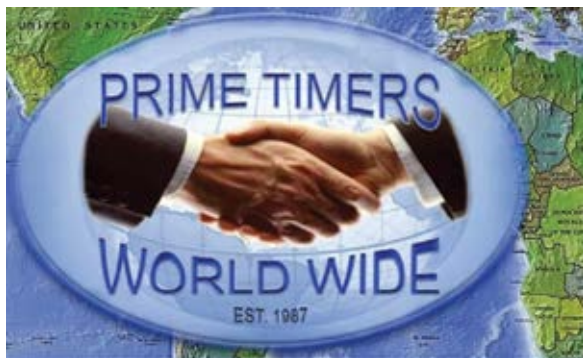
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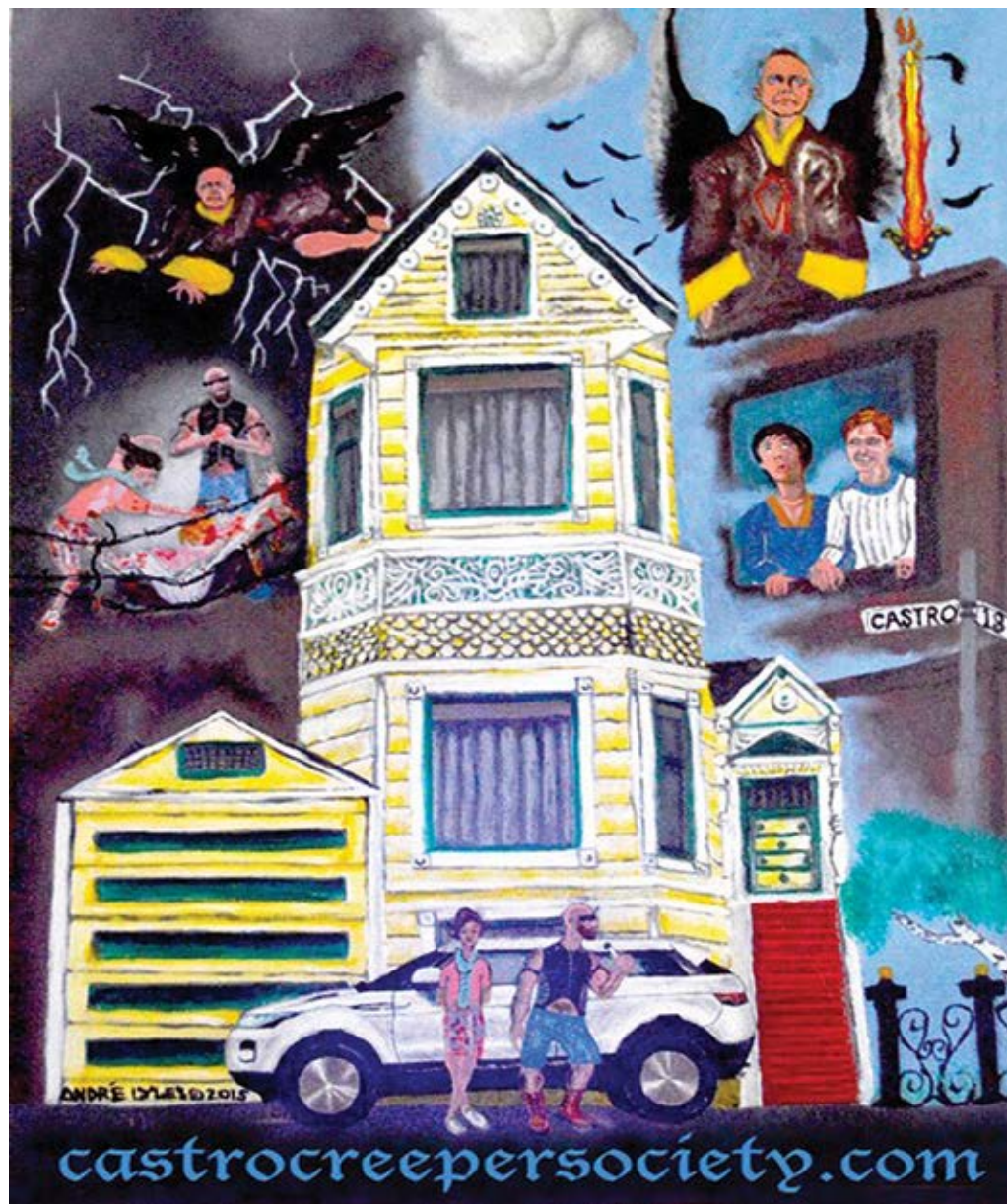
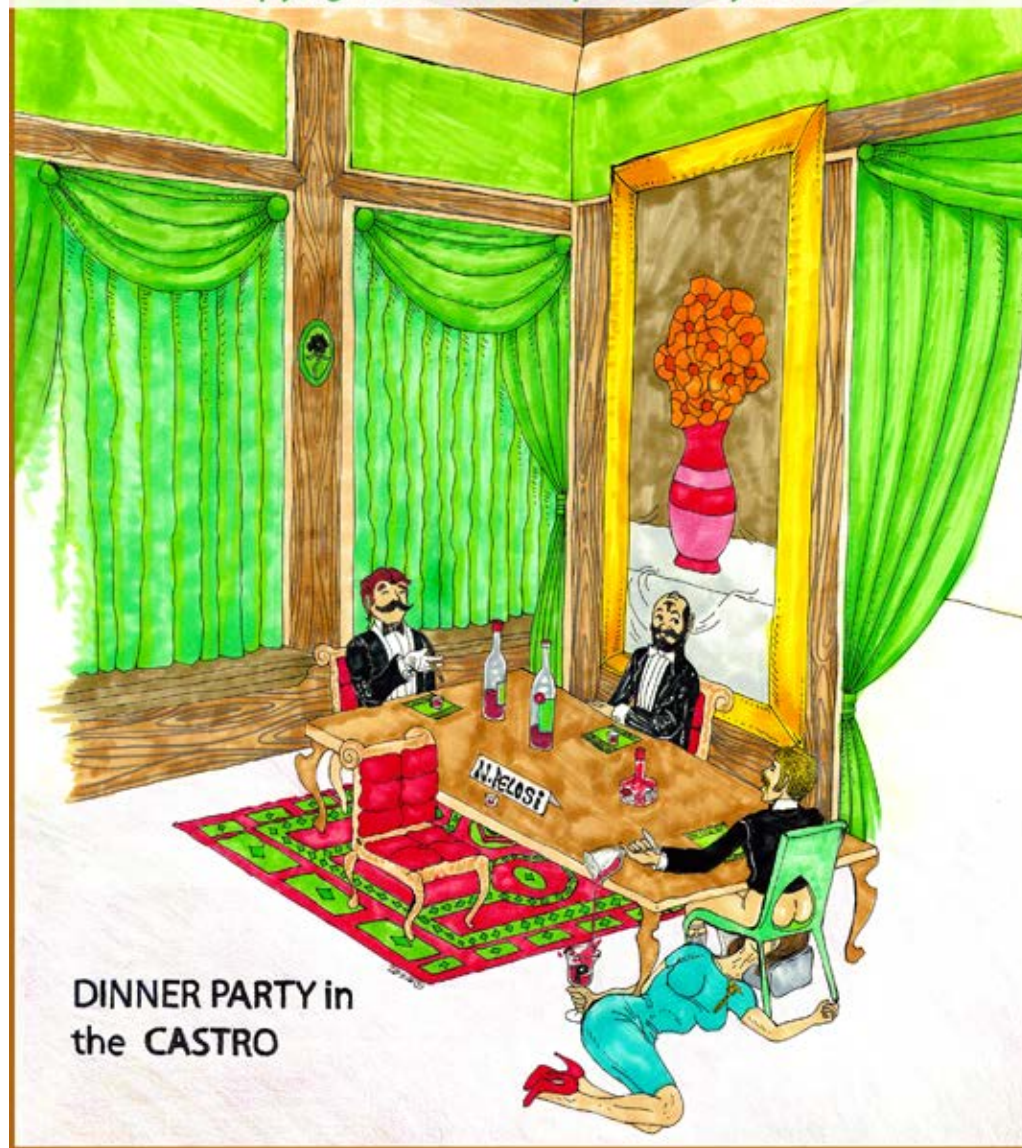


Prime Timers of Sacramento is a group of mature men (21+) who enjoy the social community that is thriving here in Sacramento.

All details can be found on our website, Facebook, or Meetup.com

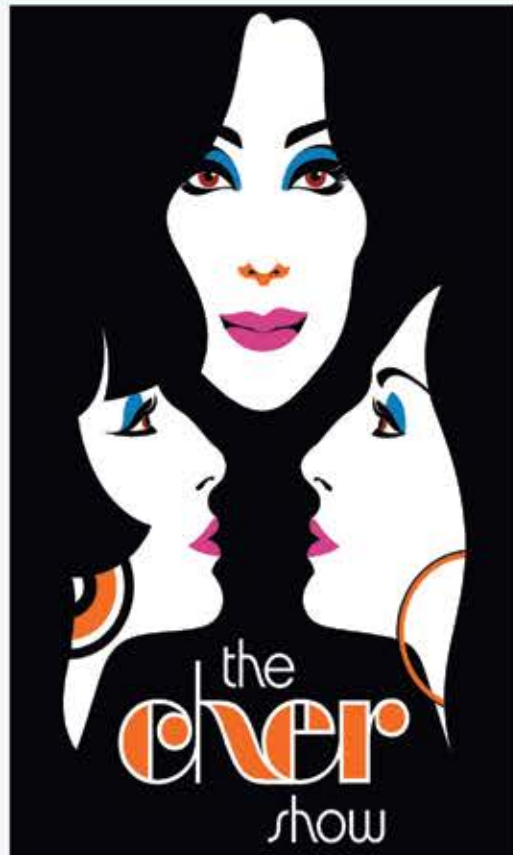
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UPCOMING EVENTS



The Cher Show – A New Musical

MAY 9-12, 2024

35 smash hits, six decades of stardom, two rock-star husbands, a Grammy, an Oscar, an Emmy... The Cher Show is the Tony Award-winning musical of her story, and it's packed with so much Cher that it takes three women to play her.



Nick Carter – Who I Am World Tour 2024

OCTOBER 19, 2024

Nick Carter quickly became an international pop superstar as the youngest member of the iconic boy band, Backstreet Boys. Since taking the world by storm in 1995, the band has sold over 130 million records. In 2002, Carter ventured into a solo career with his debut album, Now or Never, marking the beginning of a successful solo journey.



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