

# Outword

magazine

No. 496 • January 9, 2014 • [outwordmagazine.com](http://outwordmagazine.com)

ANNUAL  
HEALTH  
&  
BODY  
ISSUE

Gay Ski  
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in Tahoe

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# Guest Commentary

## Welcome to 2014 *by Ron Tackitt*

Everyone knows that the start of the new year is a good time to start doing the certain somethings that you have been meaning to do, but just never have gotten around to. For a great many of us that certain something is lose some weight.

It's an often elusive goal that a lot of us just don't seem to have the tools necessary, or the desire, to do what it actually takes - or a mix of both.

I have been "trying" to lose weight for years, but don't want to take on a diet plan that is unreasonable for everyday living. I haven't reached my goal weight, but over the years I have been (slowly) changing my eating habits and caring, for the most part, about what I am putting into my body.

Please know I am not a nutritionist and I am not prescribing a plan and diet for you. What I have done is cut out most heavily processed foods at home. I hit the farmer's market on Sunday morning and buy all the groceries I can, there, then head over to Trader Joe's to finish off the items on my list that I couldn't get at the market.

It has been years since I ate some canned chili or something like that, and these days, if I have a serious craving for something like that, I can make something that is much, much better.

My biggest diet issue are carbs. All the filling, cheap foods I love are on the No-No list. I still eat mashed potatoes, pasta, and chips, but I try to be conscious about how much I eat and I try to buy less harmful versions, like wheat pasta.

I am no saint when it comes to eating, but I am trying to retrain myself so that I don't feel deprivation and spend a week eating at Willy Burger every night. I have some vices I still need to free myself from, like breakfast

sandwiches and diet soda, but, like I said, I'm working on it.

The other necessity of life that I am not warm and fuzzy about, is working out. Doc says I should do something that gets my heart rate up for at least thirty minutes - although new studies show that for someone of my age, that should be at least an hour. Anyone that knows me knows that I hate going to the gym. I just hate it.

The only good thing I can say about going is that it makes me relax and not beat myself up if I go. However the fact is, it really doesn't matter if I like going to the gym or not. My body needs it, and will respond to the exercise even if I'm in a pissy mood while working out.

I'm also working on forgiving myself for getting fat. It's something I allowed to happen and I didn't respect myself enough to be fearful of the permanent damage I was causing. Some people, affectionately, call me a bear, and I do fit the description. But if I want to live longer, I can no longer sit around and allow my body to work overtime trying to cope with an extra serving of mac and cheese.

So, at new years, I don't tend to change my behavior simply because we have come around to another January 1. However, maybe this year I should. Maybe I should get serious about being healthier and not do things that I know are no good for me.

After all, if I won't take me seriously, how can I expect anyone else to?

# Letters

## LGBTQ People of Color Filmmaker Workshop

The Sacramento LGBT Community Center and QueerFest Productions are holding the Queer Women of Color Media Arts Project's Film & Freedom Academy, a free four-day Filmmaker Training workshop at the Center January 25-28.

Designed to develop and nurture the creativity of emerging LGBTQ media artists of color, the workshop will cover composition & framing, camera settings and technical aspects of filmmaking, lighting and sound basics, shooting logistics and time management, and introduce participants to Final Cut Pro and the editing process.

By the end of the workshop the participants will have created three to five new films reflecting the experience of LGBTQ people of color!

For more information visit [qwocmap.org](http://qwocmap.org).

## Gay Games Offering Athletic Scholarships

The 2014 Gay Games is offering a participation scholarship for those who wish to be part of the event but don't have the financial means to attend.

There are a limited number of scholarships available, ranging in estimated value from \$750 to \$1,350. The scholarships will be given out based on financial need.

Interested parties can download the application online at: <http://bit.ly/GG9ScholarApp>. The deadline to apply is 15 Feb. 2014. Those awarded scholarships will be notified by 1 April 2014.

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ISSN # 1084-7618 United States Library of Congress

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# Supreme Court Halts Utah Same-Sex Marriages

The U.S. Supreme Court On January 6, granted a request from Utah's attorney general to temporarily put a halt to marriages for same-sex couples.

The Utah attorney general had asked for marriages to be suspended while the state appealed a federal court's ruling striking down the state's ban on marriage for same-sex couples.

"Despite today's decision, we are hopeful that the lower court's well-reasoned decision will be upheld in the end, and that courts across the country will continue to recognize that all couples should have the freedom to marry," said Joshua Block, staff attorney with the American Civil Liberties Union Lesbian Gay Bisexual and Transgender Project.

The challenge to the law was brought by three Utah couples - Derek Kitchen and Moudi Sbeity; Karen Archer and Kate Call;

and Laurie Wood and Kody Partridge - who either wished to be married in Utah or were legally married elsewhere and wanted their home state to recognize their marriage. The couples were represented by the law firm of Magleby & Greenwood.

"The huge response that we have seen since the federal court's ruling shows how important the freedom to marry is in the state of Utah," said John Mejia, legal director of the ACLU of Utah. "Though future marriages are on hold for now, the state should recognize as valid those marriages that have already been issued, and those couples should continue to be treated as married by the federal government."

The ACLU filed a friend-of-the-court brief in the case and has brought federal constitutional challenges of its own against similar laws in Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Virginia, and Oregon. Following the Supreme Court's decision striking down the federal Defense of Marriage Act - a case in which the ACLU served as co-counsel to Edie Windsor - the ACLU launched the Out for Freedom campaign to achieve the freedom to marry for same-sex couples across the country.

For more information on this case, please visit: [www.acluutah.org/legal-work/current-cases/item/574-kitchen-v-herbert](http://www.acluutah.org/legal-work/current-cases/item/574-kitchen-v-herbert)

# School Board's Decision Moves Us Forward

commentary by Gayle E. Pitman, Ph.D.

By now, you've probably heard that the Sacramento City Unified School District Board of Education unanimously approved a transgender and gender-variant student policy. I - along with about two dozen other people - spoke in support of the policy.

The vote was taken, and the crowd burst into thundering applause. It was an exciting moment, and a true victory in the transgender rights movement.

However, not everyone who attended was in full support. Although the negative comments were few, they all revolved around similar themes, such as these:

"I'll have to watch a guy get undressed next to me."

"Teenage boys will be allowed to sneak into the girls' bathroom."

"This policy opens the door for predators."

These comments probably sound familiar, especially if you've been following the efforts to overturn the School Success and Opportunity Act (AB 1266). They're incredibly effective, which is why anti-LGBT groups crafted them in the first place. Why is that? Because they use fear-based messaging, and they pit one marginalized group against

another.

Let's start with fear - and roll back the clock to 2008. According to a Los Angeles Times analysis, in the final weeks of the Proposition 8 campaign, parents with children under the age of 18 ended up being the swing vote - all because the Yes on 8 supporters saturated the airwaves with fear-based television ads targeting children. We're talking about more than 687,000 voters who changed their minds because of those ads. Fear worked then, and it's being used again now.

Then there's the power of infighting, an age-old strategy used for centuries to block progressive change. A recent example involves the National Organization for Marriage, which deliberately - and effectively - drove a wedge between gays and communities of color in order to overturn same-sex marriage rights in Maine.

Social psychologists - and political activists - know first-hand that pitting one marginalized group against another destabilizes them both, preventing them from building coalitions and strengthening their political power.

Create fear, and divide and conquer - two powerful political weapons. They've worked extraordinarily well in the past. But these tools are starting to fail, as our collective communities become stronger and more collaborative. Fear is an illusion, merely smoke and mirrors.

As Audre Lorde once wrote, "Without community, there is no liberation." With strength and collaboration, we make policies, and we move forward.

Gayle E. Pitman, Ph.D., is a psychology professor at Sacramento City College and teaches classes on gender and sexual orientation. She is the author of "Backdrop: The Politics and Personalities behind Sexual Orientation Research," and she is working on an upcoming book titled "Fringe: On the Edges of the Mainstream Gay Community." Her blog can be found at [activevoicepress.wordpress.com](http://activevoicepress.wordpress.com). She can be reached at [pitmang@scc.losrios.edu](mailto:pitmang@scc.losrios.edu).

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# Briefly Put

## San Diego Pride Gives \$146,000 In 2013

San Diego Pride has announced that the organization's charitable giving in 2013 totaled \$146,000, a marked increase over the organization's giving in the previous year.

"Our greatest drive is to not only celebrate our diversity, but to enhance the wellbeing of our community," said Pride General Manager Stephen Whitburn. "We take great pride in supporting more than forty LGBT-serving organizations this year, and we will work to grow that support even more in the future."

## PA Governor Backs LGBT Non-discrimination Protections

Tom Corbett, the Republican governor of Pennsylvania, announced Wednesday, Dec. 18, that he supports the long-stalled effort to instate nondiscrimination protections for LGBT Pennsylvanians.

Corbett said he is coming out in support of HB 300 – which would amend the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act to add sexual orientation and gender identity as classes protected from discrimination in employment, housing and public accommodations – after learning the federal government did not offer such protections.

The legislation has been stalled for years but was reintroduced this spring with a record number of cosponsors and joint bipartisan prime sponsors. Antigay Rep. Daryl Metcalfe, chair of the State House Government Committee, pledged to block the legislation from a hearing and Corbett said he didn't know how to circumvent Metcalfe.

Attempted arsonist pours gas on Neighbours nightclub, sparks flame

## No Injuries In NYE Arson Attempt at Seattle Gay Club

About 750 New Year's Eve revelers at Seattle's popular LGBT nightclub Neighbors were able to escape without injury from an attempted arson fire, that was set on the stairwell to the second floor club, minutes after the Champagne toasts, balloon drops and NYE Kisses brought in 2014.

Seattle police said an attempted arsonist poured gasoline in the stairway just after midnight, lit the gasoline and left. The fire was quickly discovered before it could spread beyond the stairway and was put out with a fire extinguisher, and the club's sprinkler system.

Seattle Arson Bomb Detectives (ABS) responded after being notified by SFD Fire Investigators. No suspect information is available. Damage to the club was estimated at \$6,000.

## Good Morning America Host Robin Roberts Comes Out

Making an emotional Facebook posting marking the 100-day milestone of a successful bone marrow transplant for her blood disease myelodysplastic syndrome, ABC News journalist and the co-host of *Good Morning America*, Robin Roberts announced publicly for the first time on Sunday, Dec. 29, that she is in a long-term same-sex relationship.

"I am grateful to God, my doctors and nurses for my restored good health. I am grateful for my sister, Sally-Ann, for being my donor and giving me the gift of life. I am grateful for my entire family, my long-time girlfriend, Amber, and friends as we prepare to celebrate a glorious new year together."

Roberts and her partner, Amber Laign, a massage therapist, have been together for 10 years. Roberts is also a breast cancer survivor.

## Australia High Court Overturns Law Allowing Gay Marriage

Australia's High Court has overturned legislation allowing gay marriage in the Australian Capital Territory (ACT). The ACT parliament passed a bill in October making the territory the first part of Australia to legalise same-sex weddings.

However, the national government challenged the decision, saying it was inconsistent with federal laws, and the Courts Dec 12 decision invalidates the marriages of 27 couples who married since the law came into effect.

The court said the issue should be decided by parliament, which in September 2012 voted down gay marriage legislation.

## U.S. Olympic Delegation Will Include Openly Gay Athletes

Saying that "The U.S. Delegation to the Olympic Games represents the diversity that is the United States," the Obama administration has announced the official delegation to the Sochi Games that includes several openly gay athletes.

Former Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano will lead the U.S. delegation in the opening ceremonies along with tennis champion Billie Jean King and figure skater Brian Boitano, who has just recently come out. Ice hockey player Caitlin Cahow, who is also openly gay, will be a part of the closing ceremony delegation.

"One of the things I'm really looking forward to is maybe some gay and lesbian athletes bringing home the gold or silver or bronze, which I think would go a long way in rejecting the kind of attitudes that we're seeing there," The President said in an August press conference. "And if Russia doesn't have gay or lesbian athletes, then that would probably make their team weaker."



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# Mr/Miss/Ms Gay Sacramento Crowned



Bebe Sweetbriar

**Congratulations to Miss Carriage the new Miss Gay Sacramento, April Rain the new Ms. Gay Sacramento and Matt Papiernak the new Mr. Gay Sacramento. The newly elected title holders won their place in the CGNIE family at a pageant and ball held Jan. 4 at St. John's Lutheran Church that included performances by Unmata, Verbatim, Reverberation and Hot Pot Studios with emcees Bebe Sweetbriar and Raquela.**



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**Quote Worth Repeating**  
"We have too big of a government. I'd like it to be less in control of our lives," said Wooters, 57, a mother of four and grandmother of nine. "We are adults," she said. "We can make wise decisions with our money," rather than have the federal government dictate insurance choices and dole out more assistance to those who "want everything for free."  
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# Health, Body & HIV

Elsewhere in this issue, we featured a story on Magic Johnson and how his HIV has effected his life and how he has learned not only to live with it, but to thrive. There are hundreds of people right here in Sacramento that are HIV+ also of course, and one of them wanted to share his thoughts on his newly discovered status as HIV+.

His name is Andrew Gibout, and here is the letter that he wanted to share with our readers:

"I had the honor of singing with the Sacramento Gay Men's Chorus at an LGBT Center event for World AIDS Day, and I am compelled to 'come out' again.

I am HIV positive.

I was diagnosed at Lancaster, PA Gay Pride in the summer of 2012. I had been tested rather regularly, so I know that I have been living with HIV for about two years. It has changed my life and was a startling reminder that this pandemic is still active.

I gave into all of the stigma at first. I felt unworthy of life and happiness, unlovable, dirty. I am blessed to have been seven months sober at the time and surrounded by an amazing support group who loved me back to life.

While my disease is manageable (one pill a day), it is still not something that anyone should

have to live with. We can prevent the spread of it NOW by knowing our status and taking the needed to steps to stay healthy.

That's not everyone's story, and since immersing myself in a dynamic community of beautiful, whole people living with HIV/AIDS I have met some who upon diagnosis were already in the range of full-blown AIDS.

To be frank, safe sex wasn't on my radar. I was still young and invincible. But safe sex needs to become the norm, not the exception. We need to educate ourselves on the facts and spread that information to others, lest history be doomed to repeat itself.

I'm grateful to be in excellent physical health, but I caught it early. I'm grateful that I didn't spread my HIV, because my sexual partners were all tested after I found out and came out negative. We were lucky.

The fact of the matter is that, whether I like it



Andrew P Gibout. Photo by William Woods.

or not, I've become the face of HIV. It is a part of my story, and if that story can help others then it is my responsibility to share it.

If you're out there and scared to get tested or if you're newly diagnosed, TRUST that you are NOT ALONE! There are people who love you, and we can all stay healthy for the ones who care for us, rather than staying sick out of fear of those who may pass judgement.

Thank-you to all of the amazing people in my life who have stood by me through it all!"

Andrew P Gibout

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## Sacramento Church Welcomes LGBT Community

Sierra Arden United Church of Christ has formally declared itself open and affirming to all, and that "all means all," the Rev. Ginny Curinga, the Church's Pastor said in a statement announcing the decision.

Sierra Arden United Church of Christ is part of a national coalition of "Open and Affirming" churches that welcome all persons regardless of age, race, gender or sexual orientation who seek a spiritual community.

This is yet another step for the church, which traces its lineage back to the UCC Congregational denomination which has played a major role in the struggle for social justice.

Major milestones in the UCC's history include: involvement in the abolitionist movement to end

slavery, when many UCC churches served as way stations in the Underground Railroad and established the first school in America



Sierra Arden United Church of Christ Pastor Rev. Ginny Curinga says the church campus looks like and acts like a mission, welcoming all.

for freed slaves; in 1853 Congregationalists ordained the first woman as a Christian minister and in 1972 the UCC ordained the first openly gay minister, Rev. William R. Johnson; in 1976 The UCC elected the first African-American leader of a mainline Christian denomination; and in 2005 the UCC became the first large U.S.

denomination to support marriage rights for same sex couples.

Sierra Arden is located at 890 Morse Avenue at the corner of Morse and Northrop Avenues in the Arden-Arcade area of Sacramento. Sunday service is at 10:00 a.m.

For more information, please call SAUCC's pastor, Rev. Ginny Curinga at 916-483-5501 or visit the church's website at [www.sierraardenucc.com](http://www.sierraardenucc.com).

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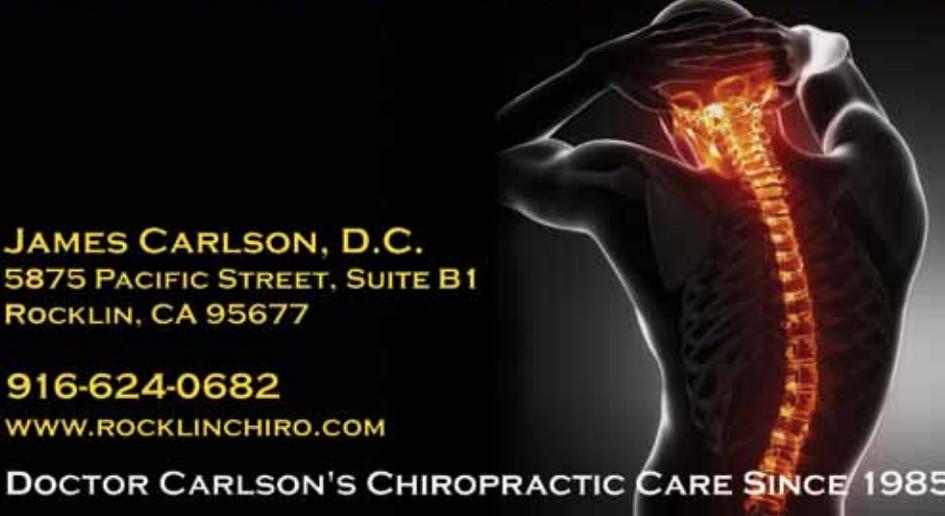


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# Super Simple Chicken Soup

by Ron Tackitt

As I have mentioned before, the less processing that goes into the food that I eat, the better. Canned soups, stews and chilies, with their almost other-worldly type texture and consistency - not to mention flavor - are now on my to avoid list.



Sure, this recipe is not as easy as popping open a can, but it hardly takes a gourmet chef to whip up a batch of soup that is sure to impress, and when you are feeling under the weather, well, I think it helps that, too.

- 1 large Yellow Onion - chopped
- 1 Bell Pepper (optional) - chopped
- 1 small bag of Mini Carrots
- 4 stalks of celery (look for the precut and cleaned if you are short on time) chopped
- 3 Golden Potatoes - I like these because they don't break down so easily - cut into half inch chunks. I like to leave the skins on.
- 6 - 8 Chicken Breast Tenders - Trader Joe's sells a large bag of frozen for \$7 - thaw and cut into bite size pieces.

- 1 One Quart box of Chicken Stock (organic, free range if possible)
- Olive Oil
- Salt
- Pepper
- Various Spices - like Italian Seasoning

In a medium size stock pot (5 qt) heat up a drizzling of olive oil, then add all the vegetables. Sprinkle with salt and pepper. The salt will help pull the juices from the veggies. Cook on med for about five minutes or until the onions start to look translucent and the celery begins to soften.

Add the chicken chunks. Cook mixture until the chicken is cooked. Then add the potatoes and the chicken stock. Make sure the the liquid level covers the all the ingredients, if not, add a little bit of water. Add Italian Seasoning (if you like). Cover and continue to cook on medium for about 40 minutes, until the potatoes fall apart easily. Always keep an eye on a pot of boiling food.

There should be enough soup for six, hearty servings. Total cost of ingredients: about \$15, making the cost per bowl of \$2.50 each.

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# Elevation:Tahoe and Snowball Bring Gay Ski Weekends to Tahoe

If the snow gods cooperate, this could be one of the best ski seasons ever at Lake Tahoe, with two new LGBT Ski Weekends planned, both being presented by experienced and well known promoters.

First up is Elevation:Tahoe, and if that name sounds familiar it is because it is being presented by Tom Whitman & flip, the same folks who have brought the highly successful Elevation:Mammoth to Southern California for the past 11 years and Elevation:Utah to Park City, Utah for the past three years.

Elevation:Tahoe is the new kid in the family, but drawing on their experience at Mammoth and Park City, it should hit the ground slushing.

Their first annual North Tahoe gay ski

week will be stamped with the same blend of sporty days and sexy nights that have been the hallmark of the ski events at both Mammoth and Park City, and will be held February 6 - 9 at Tahoe's Squaw Valley.

Home to the 1960 Winter Olympics and with 3,600 skiable acres across six peaks, 43 lifts and over 270 trails, Tahoe's Squaw Valley is one of the largest ski areas in the United States. The mountain also features the Gold-Coast Funitel: a beefed-out gondola system you won't find anywhere else in the country.

The weekend will include seven events over four days, filled with friendly faces, full drinks and zero attitude. Meet on the mountain and mingle at après-ski. Flirt a little. Smile a lot. Conquer the slope together by day. By the time night falls you aren't surrounded by strangers, you're dancing with friends.

For a full lineup and schedule, as well as ticket and host hotel information, visit [www.TahoeGaySki.com](http://www.TahoeGaySki.com)

If spring skiing is more your style, Snowball, Gay Snow Weekend scheduled for March 7 - 9, should be just about perfect for you.

If you've ever been to the City for



LGBT Skiers will have plenty of opportunities to enjoy the snow at two Gay Ski Weekends planned for the Tahoe area. Photos courtesy of Gus Presents.

Colossus, then Gus Presents is a familiar name for you, and you know Gus knows how to party!

Gus will be combining his obsessive love of snow with his epic passion and talent for throwing parties with all the legit gay winter jocks and ripped circuit boys from around the globe coming for an action packed weekend the likes of which Squaw Valley has never seen.

Planned activities include dance parties

and après-ski mixers, mountain-guide hosted board and ski groups based on ability, a high camp lunch hosted by the Truckee Snobros, downhill "drag" races, ice skating and fire side lodge shenanigans that offer a lifetime of memories.

The DJ and party line-ups will be announced soon, so check out [SnowballTahoe.com](http://SnowballTahoe.com) for all the details, including tickets and host hotel accommodations.



These skiers were in Apres Ski mode at Elevation:Utah 2013. Photo courtesy Tom Whitman.

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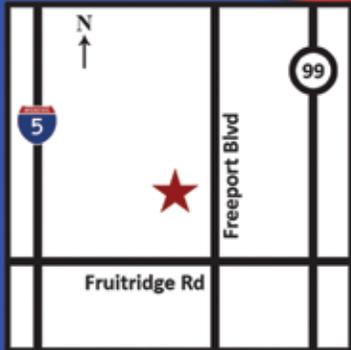


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# LGBT Wedding Expo 2014 Will Help Couples Plan a Perfect Wedding

by Bonnie Osborn

A little over a month after the U.S. Supreme Court overturned California's anti-gay marriage ban last June, thousands of guests and hundreds of vendors celebrated the victory at the first Sacramento LGBT Wedding Expo at the Red Lion Hotel Woodlake in Sacramento.

The event was a roaring success, covered widely in local print and broadcast media, and resulted in many happy new relationships between wannabe brides and grooms and scores of caterers, wedding planners, wedding venues, photographers, fashion designers, florists and more, all eager to help make wedding dreams come true!

On Tuesday, February 18, the presenters of LGBT Wedding Expo 2013, Outword Media Marketing & Events Inc. and Details Details Events & Conference Planning, in partnership with the Sacramento Rainbow Chamber of Commerce, will stage an encore performance.

The second Sacramento LGBT Wedding Expo will again be hosted by Red Lion Hotel Woodlake, located at 500 Leisure Lane, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Many attractions that made the Expo such a hit in 2013 will return in 2014, including the LGBT Bridal Fashion Show, presented by House Of Fashion and featuring models from our local LGBT community. Also featured will be dueling DJs, wine tastings, hors d'oeuvres and wedding cake tastings, door prizes and much more.

Laurie Friedman, owner of Davis-based Friedman Photography, is a wedding photographer with over 12 years experience photographing both straight and same-sex weddings. She attended the

August Expo and is already registered for the February event.

"I have done a number of wedding fairs and decided to do the LGBT Wedding Expo in August, as I'm definitely gay-friendly, and had the best time I have ever had at a wedding fair, without a doubt!" Friedman said. "The spirit was upbeat and happy, and everyone kept pinching themselves realizing that same-sex weddings were now legal in California, and that we had come so far, long before anyone thought we would be at this point. Simply put, the whole event was wonderful."

California is home to an estimated 1.1 million LGBT adults, according to UCLA's Williams Institute, nearly 200,000 of whom are already part of a same-sex couple. Over the next three years, some 37,000 California same-sex couples are expected to marry, at an average cost of more than \$9,000 per wedding, according to the International Gay & Lesbian Travel Association.

The added business revenue generated by same-sex weddings is estimated at \$492 million over the

co-producer of the annual Sacramento Pride Festival, and a straight supporter of LGBT equality, said once same-sex marriage was legalized, many Sacramento-area couples decided to take time to plan the weddings of their dreams.

"After so many years of waiting, many gay and lesbian couples want to make the most of this once-in-a-lifetime occasion. For that reason, we think attendance at this Wedding Expo may be even bigger than it was in August," she said.



One of the highlights Sacramento's LGBT Wedding Expo 2013 was a fashion show featuring both women's and men's attire, presented by House Of Fashion and featuring models from our local LGBT community.



Guests at Sacramento's LGBT Wedding Expo 2013 were able to talk with caterers, wedding planners, wedding venues, photographers, fashion designers, florists and more, all who were eager to help make their wedding dreams come true!

next three years. Metropolitan Sacramento has one of the largest LGBT populations in the United States proportional to its size – about 9.8 percent of total population, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

Market research indicates LGBT consumers prefer to do business with companies that demonstrate their support for LGBT equality by advertising and marketing to LGBT people – even if the cost is higher. For all those reasons, same-sex marriages are a promising potential business opportunity for scores of companies in the wedding business.

Kelli Hannaford of Details Details,

Outword CEO Fred Palmer said vendor space for the 2014 Expo is filling fast. "We timed this second Expo so that couples can get engaged on Valentine's Day 2014 and come to our Expo just four days later and get started making their wedding plans.

"Last year's Expo attracted not only LGBT couples, but also lots of singles hoping to meet the perfect partner, and a lot of our straight allies who simply wanted to celebrate our right to marry. It turned out to be a great party, and we invite everyone to join us again in 2014."

Vendors who wish to exhibit at the Expo may contact Details Details at 916-307-5130 or e-mail kelli@details2.com. Exhibit space cost is \$300; after February 7, cost is \$350. Members of Sacramento Rainbow Chamber of Commerce receive a \$25 discount. Event sponsorships are \$1,000 each; contact Outword Media at 916-329-9280 for information.

Admission to attend the Expo is free. Visit SacLGBTWeddingExpo.com for more information.

Bonnie Osborn is a writer and the owner of Writeaway Communications Services. She can be reached at 916-212-9110 or Bonnie@WriteAwayCommunications.biz

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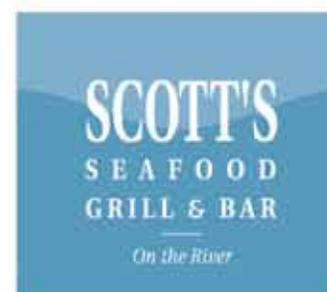
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## Sexy Scarlett Johansson Heats Up *Her* & *Don Jon*



Scarlett Johansson

**S**exy, curvaceous women sometimes don't get taken seriously in the acting department, even when they do fine work. Actresses like Scarlett Johansson tend to get labeled as sex symbols or compared to other hot blondes like Marilyn Monroe.

In Johansson's case, the actress has had to venture to Broadway to be taken seriously, a plan that successfully netted her the Tony for Best Performance by a Featured Actress in a Play for the 2010 revival of Arthur Miller's *A View From the Bridge*.

A talented singer, model and actress, Johansson has recently announced her interest in directing in the future, and I suspect she will excel at that as well. Read on for my thoughts on her two latest projects, one currently in theaters and the other newly available on DVD.

### Her

This fascinating film stars Joaquin Phoenix as a lonely guy who falls in love with his Siri-like Operating System, which, not surprisingly, is played by Scarlett Johansson, one of the few actresses who could make audiences believe in the movie's timely, brilliant premise.

*Her* takes our love for our gadgets to its ultimate, empty extreme, and both Phoenix and Johansson, who is never seen, are perfect as the happy "couple."

There has even been talk of Johansson being nominated for an Oscar for this performance, which would be a first since the Academy has never nominated a performer who wasn't visible on screen, despite deserving work by any number of actors in animated movies over the years and especially by Andy Serkis, who is amazing as the voice of Gollum in Peter Jackson's recent Tolkien adaptations.

I doubt the Academy will nominate Johansson, but she is remarkable in *Her*, reminding us with her every word that sex appeal has as much to do with confidence

and attitude as with looks.

The warmth and expressiveness in the actress's familiar, husky voice is able to convince us that Phoenix could fall in love with a "machine," and viewers will likely fall in love with Johansson right along with him.

### Don Jon

No slouch himself in the sex appeal department, handsome Joseph Gordon-Levitt cast Johansson as his character's dream girl in *Don Jon*, the actor's first attempt at directing a feature, which is now available on DVD.

The result is an interesting storyline that plays with the different ways in which men and women fantasize about each other.

The hero, played by Gordon-Levitt, views Johansson's character as a "10" based on his addiction to the shallow standards of porn. Not to be outdone, Johansson automatically projects the role of Prince Charming on to Gordon-Levitt as a result of her character's obsession with romantic Hollywood movies.

This is an interesting premise for a screenplay, especially coming from a heterosexual male movie star as young as Gordon-Levitt. He also scores points for writing two meaty roles and giving them to two fine actresses, Johansson and Julianne Moore.

Both women deliver for their novice director, and Johansson is especially good in the funny scene in which she lets her boyfriend know that his desire to clean his own floors makes him less sexually attractive.

*Note: For reviews of other movies currently in theaters, please visit [www.outwordmagazine.com](http://www.outwordmagazine.com).*

## Liberace Presents in Folsom – Plus *Closer Than Ever* at STC

**A**fter all of the holiday shows close, many local theaters enjoy a hard-earned hibernation in January. Still, I managed to find two new, must-see productions that I will be checking out just as soon as I snap out of my fruitcake and eggnog-induced hangover.

### Liberace Presents

If you've never been to the charming little theater on Main Street in Old Folsom, consider a trip to see Sutter Street Theatre's current production, *Liberace Presents*, which sounds like a winner.

Spend an evening with one of the most flamboyant entertainers of all time, as Liberace hosts his own special along with celebrity guests including Carol Burnett, Rodney Dangerfield, Judy Garland and others.

John Wilder, who has performed, by invitation, as "Li" at the Liberace Museum in Las Vegas stars in the show, which is perfectly timed on the heels of the highly-acclaimed, award-winning HBO movie about the closeted gay pianist.

*Liberace Presents* plays through January 26 at the Sutter Street Theatre in Folsom. For more information or to purchase tickets, call (916) 353-1001.

### Closer Than Ever

Robert Marra directs Andrea St. Clair, Nicholas Adorno, Kristen Heitman, and Jerry Lee in the musical *Closer Than Ever*, which features music by David Shire (*Big the Musical*) and lyrics by Richard Maltby, Jr. (*Miss Saigon*).

Told entirely through songs, *Closer Than Ever* has an ambitious score that deals with challenging topics like aging, unrequited love, second marriages and mid-life crises.

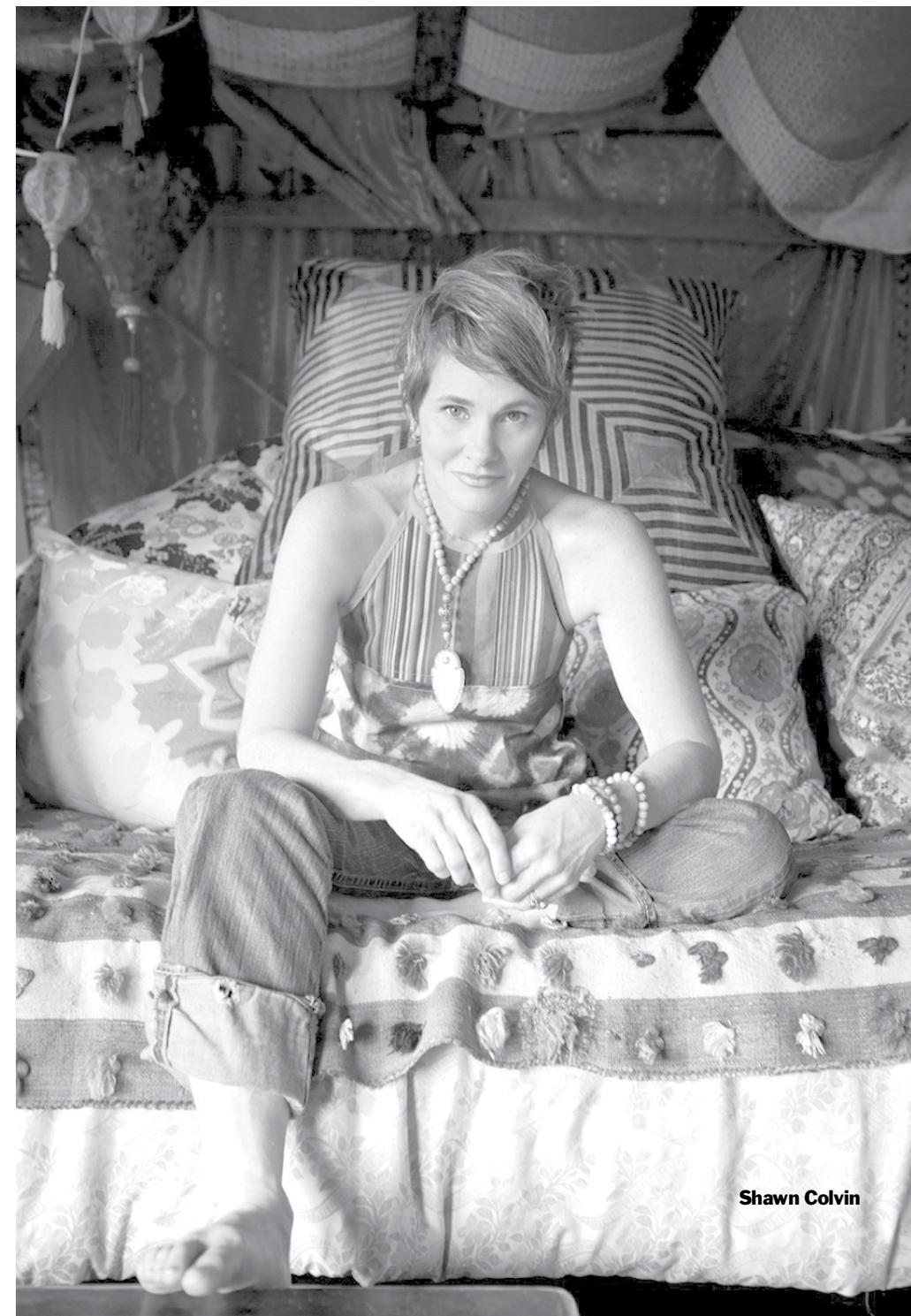
Inspired by real-life experiences and stories from their friends, *Closer Than Ever* won Maltby and Shire the Outer Critics Circle Award for Best Off-Broadway Musical.

See *Closer Than Ever* on the Pollock Stage at Sacramento Theatre Company (STC) through February 16. Visit [www.sactheatre.org](http://www.sactheatre.org).



Connie Mockenhaupt as Carol Burnett, and John Wilder as Liberace in a scene from *Liberace Presents*. Photo by Allen Schmeltz.

# Entertainment



Shawn Colvin

## Shawn Colvin, Jonny Lang at the Crest

by Chris Narloch

While the number of movies shown at the Crest has decreased over the last year, the frequency of great live shows at that K Street venue continues to increase.

In coming months, the historic theater will host concerts by artists ranging from David Lindley and Don McLean to Ani DiFranco and Ladysmith Black Mambazo.

In January alone, Tommy Emmanuel and David Garrett are scheduled to appear at the Crest, and the two artists below will also bring their unique musical artistry to the venue's stage.

### Shawn Colvin

One of my favorite singer-songwriters, Shawn Colvin is a throwback to the golden era of '70s pop, when artists like Joni Mitchell, Fleetwood Mac and Jackson Browne were writing and performing literate and often highly personal pop music that was also commercially successful.

I don't like to talk about "the good old days" because every era has its pluses and minuses, but I grew up listening to James Taylor and Carly Simon and other artists whose music is similar to Colvin's.

Nowadays, you have to listen to oldies stations to hear that kind of music, and albums like *All Fall Down*, Colvin's excellent 2012 release, rarely receive the sales and airplay they deserve.

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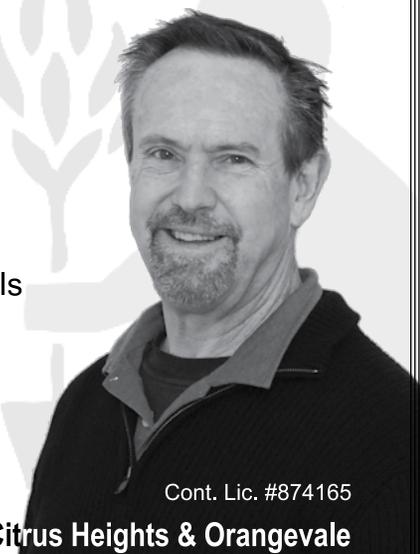
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# Leftover Christmas Turkeys – Four Foul Films Reviewed

by Chris Narloch

They say it's tough for women to age in Hollywood, where sexism and ageism are rampant. Having sat through some of the duds that came out this Christmas, it would appear that it's also no box of chocolates for middle-aged male movie stars.

## Tyler Perry's *Madea's Christmas*

Do we really need to be told – in the title – that this is *Tyler Perry's Madea's Christmas*? I mean, was there a bidding war for the script? Was there a long-forgotten silent film with the title "Madea's Christmas," and we didn't want people to be confused, as happened with *Lee Daniels' The Butler*? I don't think so.

If I had made a movie this bad, I wouldn't want my name anywhere near it. Perry's *Madea* character can be funny, albeit in small doses, as a supporting player in some of his comedies. As the main draw, the thin, one-note characterization becomes very tiresome very quickly.

Yet the entertainment conglomerate that is Tyler Perry continues to release one mostly awful *Madea* movie after another, never screened for critics because the director feels he cannot get a fair shake.

If Perry could either write or direct competently, he might have a case, but *Tyler Perry's Madea's Christmas* is so shoddy that even his loyal fans must feel burned.

## *Grudge Match*

If seeing 70-year-old Robert DeNiro pummel 67-year-old Sylvester Stallone in the

ring sounds like movie heaven, then this is the film for you.

Why was this dud released at Christmas? Nothing warms the holiday heart like two former box-office heavyweights trashing their greatest roles in a purported comedy, I guess.

*Grudge Match* attempts to pay tribute to *Rocky* with a couple half-hearted scenes involving drinking raw eggs and boxing raw meat in a walk-in freezer, but this kind of homage only serves to remind you that *Rocky* was a superior film in every way.

Don't even get me started on DeNiro, who has no excuse for signing on to this cheesy gimmick disguised as a movie. I mean, he's the guy who played Jake frigging La Motta in *Raging Bull*, for God's sake. What was he thinking?

## *47 Ronin*

A revenge story set in the world of Japanese samurai was probably not the best choice to try to resuscitate Keanu Reeves' movie career. Tom Cruise tried that a number of years ago, and it didn't work for him either.

Reeves made a fine documentary recently about the conversion of moviemaking from

film to digital, and I thank him for that, but he needs to get back to acting in smaller films rather than these astronomically budgeted "blockbusters."

The success of *The Matrix* movies is eons ago in Hollywood years, where you are only as hot as your last movie. *47 Ronin* is so

family of his African-American girlfriend over dinner with some of the most racist jokes I have heard on screen in many a moon.

There are other longer bits that also should have been nixed, like the entire section of the movie in which Ron Burgundy goes blind, as well as the sub-par sub-plot involving saving a shark.

The ten years in between movies was either too long or not long enough for the lightning of comedic inspiration to strike again.

The original *Anchorman* was light on its feet and flew by, but *Anchorman 2* goes

on and on and is easily twenty or thirty minutes too long.

As other critics have noted, the promotional run-up to this film's release, including stunts like Will Ferrell actually assuming on-air news duties in character as Ron Burgundy, was funnier than the film itself.

*Chris Narloch is Outword's Arts and Entertainment Editor. You can reach him at Chris@OutwordMagazine.com. For reviews of good movies currently in theaters, please visit www.OutwordMagazine.com.*



serious and dull that it makes me think that it might be time for Reeves to make another comedy. The actor was really quite charming in *Something's Gotta Give* and those *Bill & Ted* movies.

## *Anchorman 2*

I wanted to love this movie, and the audience at the promotional screening I attended was so primed to bust a gut that they laughed even at scenes that were absolutely not funny, like the one in which Ron Burgundy deliberately offends the

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Brian@BrianMcMartin.com

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## Chili Chefs Ready for Winter Chili Cookoff



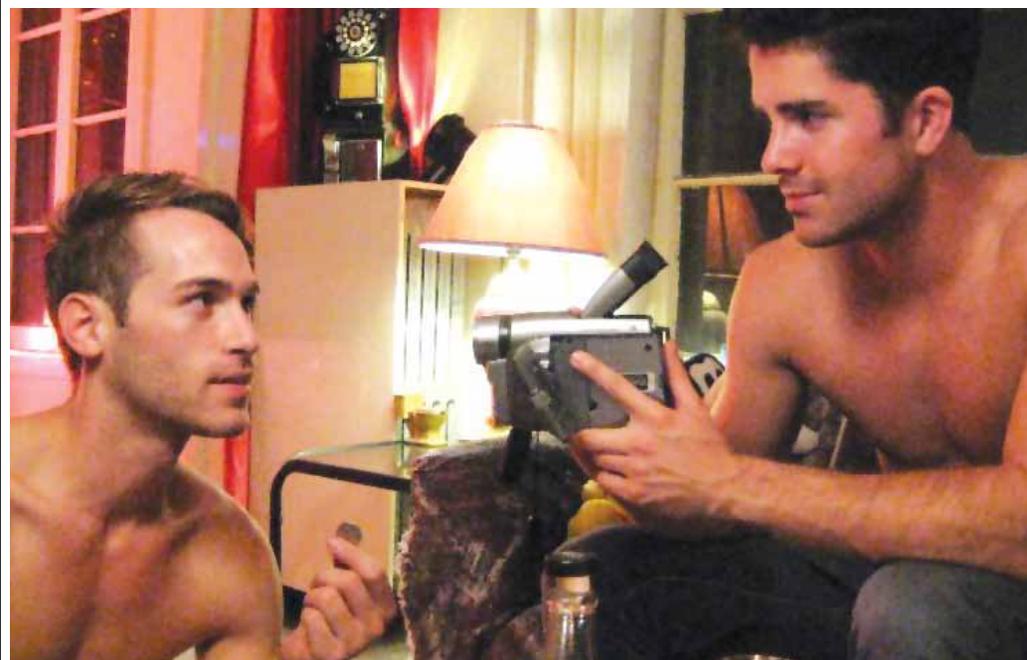
The Capital Crossroads Gay Rodeo is hosting a 4 Season Winter Chili Cookoff at the Bolt Bar on Jan. 11, starting at 7 p.m. Enter the Cookoff and you could win a prize, but the best part is that for only \$5 you get a sampler plate with salad and cornbread. get the details for entering at [Butch4d@aol.com](mailto:Butch4d@aol.com). The Bolt Bar, 2560 Boxwood St. 916-649-8420 [SacBolt.com](http://SacBolt.com).

## Openly Gay Contestant Vies for *King of the Nerds*



Xander, a 27 year-old openly gay vlogger and graphic designer, who lost 100 pounds by playing a popular dance video game, will be among the 11 competitors set to participate in the ultimate nerd-off, testing their mettle in Robot Dodgeball, Nerdiocart and a Science Fair. The fun begins January 23 at 10 p.m. on TBS.

## Straight Men and the Men Who Love Them 3 Released



The exploration of relationships and attraction among straight men is at the heart of this collection of four international shorts that chronicles the pitfalls and pleasures of fluid sexuality in men. Pictured here is a scene from *Quarters*. Watch the trailer at [www.ariztical.com](http://www.ariztical.com)



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[www.SacLGBTWeddingExpo.com](http://www.SacLGBTWeddingExpo.com)

Beginning with her wonderful debut disc, 1989's *Steady On*, Colvin's songwriting skills and her integrity as a musician have never wavered, not even during the period when she hit it big with the Grammy-winning song, "Sunny Came Home."

Her appearance at Sacramento's Crest Theatre on Sunday evening, January 12, promises to be one of the year's highlights for area music fans.

**Jonny Lang**

This handsome singer-songwriter doesn't look like a blues artist, but when his voice and his guitar begin to wail, you will believe in the power of the blues.

Former days of drug and alcohol abuse

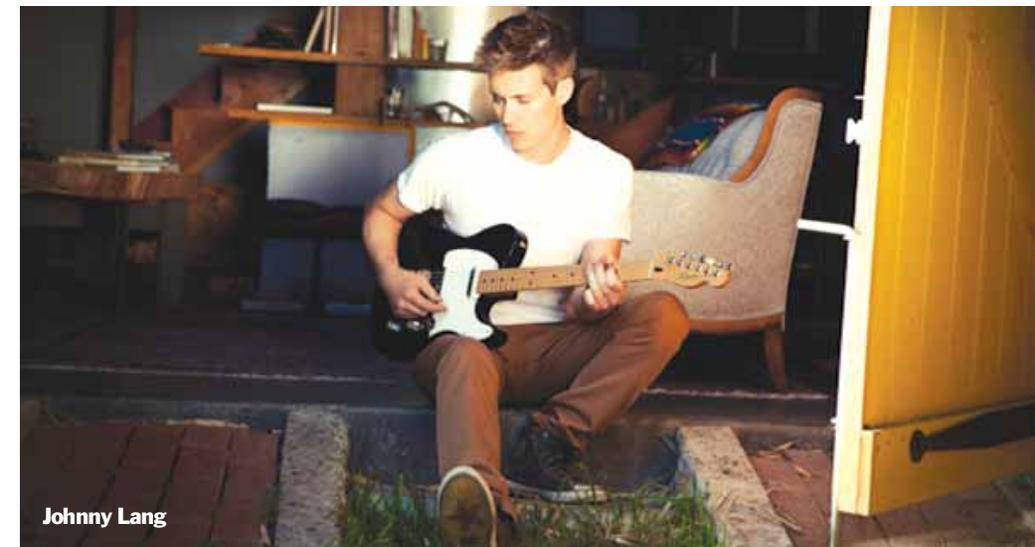
have been replaced by a clean, Christian lifestyle, but Lang has lost none of his edge. His voice and his guitar playing are as raw as ever.

A prodigy, Lang began playing the guitar at the age of twelve and later was known to amaze friends and neighbors with his Jimi Hendrix-style take on the National Anthem.

In recent years, Lang has toured with everyone from the Rolling Stones, Buddy Guy and Aerosmith to B.B. King, Jeff Beck and Sting.

Jonny Lang will perform at the Crest on Tuesday, January 21.

For more information on events at the Crest, please visit [www.thecrest.com](http://www.thecrest.com).



Jonny Lang

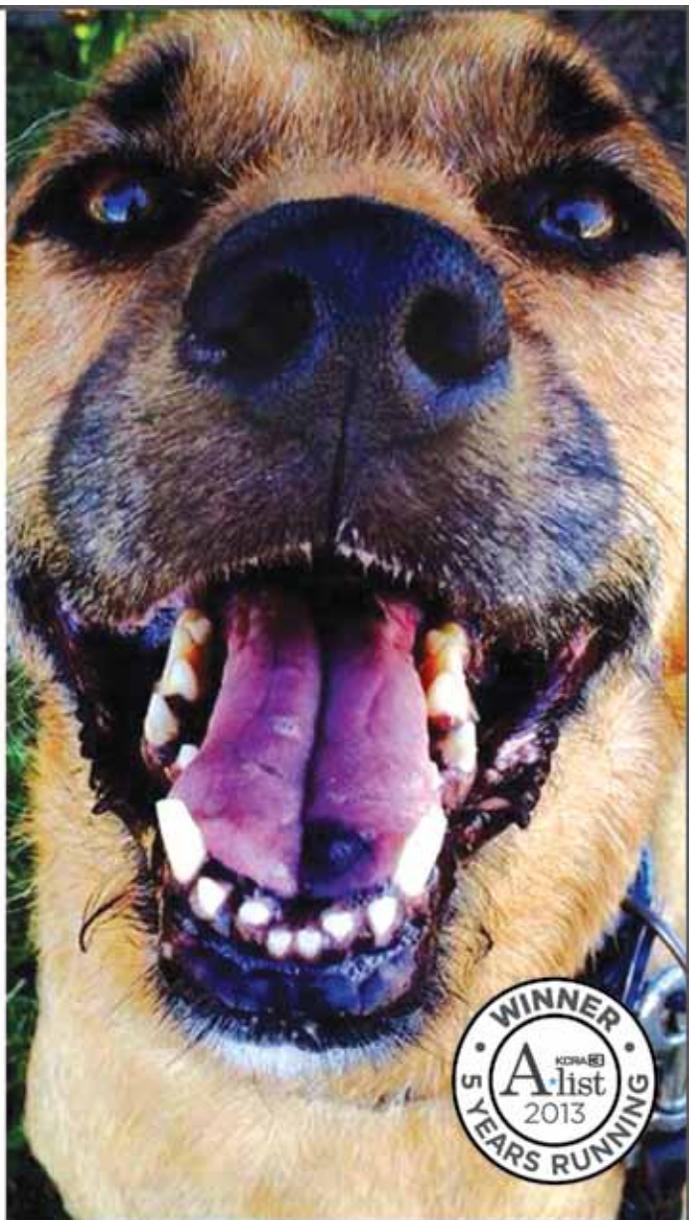
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# MAGIC JOHNSON

## Keeping His Promise

by Connie Wardman

**M**agic Johnson is a true basketball legend – he really did make magic on the court when he had the ball. As we celebrated World AIDS Day this month, much of what the public knows about HIV/AIDS, safe sex and HIV testing is the result of Johnson keeping the promise he made on November 7, 1991. It was on this date he made his historic announcement that he was HIV positive and was retiring from basketball immediately.

During his announcement he shared that his newly-pregnant wife Earlitha (better known as "Cookie") and their unborn son, the future Earvin Johnson III (now known as EJ) were not affected. At that time few men and women were contracting HIV from heterosexual sex. The general belief was that HIV/AIDS was strictly a disease of gay men and intravenous drug users. There was also a universal belief that if you did contract HIV, you were automatically facing a horrible death from AIDS; there was nothing that could be done to combat or prevent it from taking its inevitable course.

During his striking announcement Johnson declared that he would devote himself to HIV education, that he would dedicate his life to "battle this deadly disease." Although it was a major story at the time, its impact was so dramatic that ESPN included it in their 2004 list of the most memorable moments of the past 25 years. It really became a wake-up call for mainstream America, jerking us out of our complacency and illusion that HIV/AIDS only happened to those "other" people. But it also made a public hero out of Magic Johnson who had finally admitted that his HIV positive status was the result of unprotected sex with multiple sex partners during his basketball career.

While many individuals make heavy duty promises in a moment of crisis, not everyone follows through with his or her promise. But Magic Johnson kept his promise and has become a true hero not just to sports lovers but also to untold numbers of people with HIV who saw someone living with HIV, not dying from it. In addition to



Magic Johnson at dedication of World AIDS Museum  
Photo courtesy of World AIDS Museum

being a hero to the original generation of those afflicted with HIV/AIDS, he has also become a hero to new generations of young people who have been born with HIV. They have benefitted from his honesty as well as his education and advice on practicing safe sex.

And this year, the 21st anniversary of his HIV announcement, Johnson helped dedicate the space for the World AIDS Museum and Education Center in Fort Lauderdale and presented the museum with one of his Los Angeles Laker jerseys. In his dedication remarks he said "When I first started treatment years ago, it was 15 pills three times a day. ... But now it's pills once a day." Johnson said the fact that the museum exists is proof that "the world has also begun to combat the stigma of HIV and AIDS. ... We've all got to work together and that's the key."

For the LGBT community, Johnson will most likely be remembered and honored for his openness and acceptance of his gay son, EJ. In April when TMZ released video of EJ and his boyfriend walking on LA's Sunset Strip, a media storm ensued. And rather than run from the press, Johnson did multiple interviews where he said that he and his wife Cookie "couldn't be prouder of him. Cookie and I love EJ and support him in every way," he told TMZ. "We're very proud of him."

In addition to being a great basketball player, Johnson is a man who loves his family, a man who faces the adversity and challenges in his life head-on and then works to make the world better as a result of what he's learned from them. He is the loving, accepting and proud father that every young LGBT person deserves growing up – he is proud of his gay son and willing to say so publically. A powerful ally for the LGBT community as a whole, Johnson continues to make Magic – this time in the court of public opinion by helping to eliminate the stigma attached to being HIV positive.

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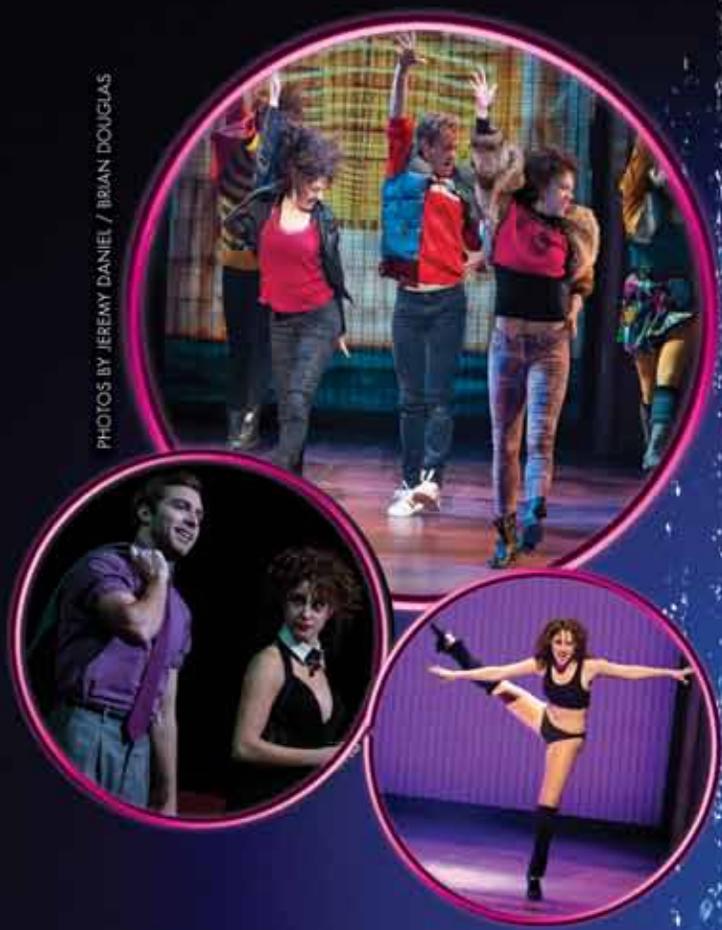
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