

outword



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The lives we touch inspire us

A tumble during tee-ball practice led to Francesca's first cancer diagnosis at age 6. X-rays revealed a bone cancer that afflicts only three in every million children. With chemotherapy, a titanium prosthesis and Francesca's own determination, UC Davis specialists saved her life and limb.

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Today the high school senior is also a dancer, artist, writer – and an accomplished public speaker about cancer awareness. One of her many life goals? To become a pharmacist, so she can help ease suffering for others.

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Announcements

Pride Awards Rescheduled for June 24

Dear Outward Readers,
We received a huge response to the nomination process for our first PRIDE Awards, and we are thrilled to see so many worthy individuals being recognized by their peers for their contributions to the community.

In order to properly give them all thoughtful consideration, we had to postpone the event and have rescheduled the PRIDE Awards for June 24, from 5:30 to 7:30pm at the Hyatt Regency.

One thing is for sure, Sacramento is full of amazing community leaders who have a lot to be proud of.

Watch for more information on the event and get your tickets at SacramentoPrideAwards.com.

Thank you,

Sacramento LGBT Center

Addiction Support Available Five Times a Week from Center Groups.

The LGBT population experiences a disproportionately high rate of substance abuse, and it is estimated that 20-30 percent of gay and transgender people abuse substances, compared to approximately nine percent of the general population.

To help address the problem, the Sacramento LGBT Community Center hosts addiction recovery groups each week to support a healthier community. All groups are open to anyone affected by substance abuse.

The meetings are: Midtown Alcoholics Anonymous, Tuesdays, 7-8 p.m. and Fridays 6:30-7:30 p.m.; Over the Rainbow Narcotics Anonymous, Tuesdays, 7-8 p.m., Sundays 7-8 p.m., Thursdays 6:45-7:45 p.m. and Sundays 7-8 p.m.

Visit SacCenter.org for more information.

SIGLFF President Succumbs to Cancer

by Ken Pierce

John "Todd" Lohse-Edwards passed away early Tuesday morning 5:30am, April 29, 2014 with his loving husband Tyler Edwards-Lohse at his side. Todd passed at Kaiser Morse, which is the same hospital where he was born on February 18, 1969.

Todd served on the Board of the Sacramento International Gay and Lesbian Film Festival since 2009 and became President in 2010. The non-profit organization brings LGBTQ films to Sacramento and raises funds for scholarships and for other worthy non-profit organizations in the LGBT community.

Todd's vision for the coming years was to expand the festival; bringing quality films to the local community while maintaining an affordable admission price of \$10 and extending outreach to other individuals and organizations to improve the environment in which we all live.

Much of the hard work Todd did behind the scenes went unnoticed, but the continued success of the festival owes much to Todd's commitment and effort.

Both Todd and Tyler have always worked side-by-side as REALTORS, serving residential buyers and sellers in the greater Sacramento area; with the S.I.G.L.F.F. organization; and as co-founders of Pride Media, serving as co-hosts on the region's very first LGBTQ radio program.

After meeting in San Francisco's Castro District, followed by a decade of mutual commitment, Todd and Tyler were officially married the same day that California's ban on same-sex marriage was lifted. The happy couple was among over 16 other same-sex marriages performed that same afternoon.

Tyler's status as Todd's husband ultimately did give him important rights and decision-making abilities during Todd's illness.

Back in November, 2013 Todd announced on his Facebook page that he had recently learned of his terminal diagnosis and that the cancer was already "widespread and had moved into



my brain". He concluded in typical Todd fashion, "My vision is affected but I still look great!"

Since receiving that diagnosis, husband Tyler took care of Todd until just a few days before his passing when the decision was made to admit him to the hospital. Tyler stayed by Todd's side to the very end.

In addition to Tyler, Todd is survived by his mother and father, as well as three sisters, one brother, two nieces and two nephews. He is preceded in death by their son, Aidan Parker Edwards-Lohse.

In lieu of flowers Todd wanted the community to contribute to the Todd Lohse-Edwards Memorial Fund established by SIGLFF in his honor c/o account #7015824424, Wells Fargo Bank, 5660 Freeport Blvd., Sacramento, CA. Your donations are tax deductible.

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As We Celebrate Our Pride, Let's Not Forget Russia's Campaign of Hate

by Mike Bahr

As most of the world moves forward toward gay equality, Russia is seemingly heading backward. Antigay sentiment and legislation are spreading rapidly throughout the country, and the Kremlin has chosen the LGBT community as its scapegoat in a populist campaign against supposedly decadent "Western" values.

There are ominous signs of much worse to come. Violent attacks against Russian gays are more and more common and videos of young LGBT people being taunted and tortured have been widely distributed on the Internet. Nearly any public discussion of gay equality is a crime.

In his new documentary, *Campaign of Hate: Russia and Gay Propaganda*, Michael Lucas shines a light on Russia's homophobic state of affairs and law against "gay propaganda." Sobering accounts from LGBT Russians and their families and not-so-fun facts about the Kremlin's long-term, intensifying atmosphere of hate make this a compelling watch and call to arms.

Taking a break from promoting the film, Lucas discussed his project with me.

Why was it important for you to make *The Campaign of Hate*?

Ever since my years as a confused gay child in the former Soviet Union, it has been my dream to show the world what it is like to belong to the LGBT community in my former homeland. The recent explosion of antigay legislation and violence there has made this a more urgent project than ever. There was a lot of attention to this issue prior to the Olympics, and that attention must continue. The world has seen bits and pieces, but we don't have the full picture of what the LGBT community in Russia is going through. That's what I hope to show in my film.

Growing up in Russia, what was it like to realize that you were gay?

It was very confusing at first, because there was no sexual education in school – not even for heterosexuals. I had no idea why I was attracted to guys, but I always knew that I was different from most of the other boys. At the age of 15 or 16, I looked up "homosexual" in a Russian encyclopedia, and saw that the term was associated with evil. Gays were classified as perverts, and

gay sex was a criminal act that could land you in jail for up to three years. It was a traumatizing to read. But some time later, I read in a Soviet newspaper that homosexuals were supposedly being glorified in the West. The article was written in a negative way, of course, but it wound up giving me hope. I realized then that there were many places in the world where being gay was not such a terrible thing. From then on, I dreamed of leaving Russia.

Were you able to come out to your family or friends?

After reading that article about homosexuality in the West, I did come out to my family and some friends. I was the only openly gay teenager at my university. I was proud and confrontational.

Was it dangerous to be open about your homosexuality?

If you talk about your LGBT identity openly, or display same-sex affection in public, you are at risk of being targeted by gangs, beaten up and sometimes thrown in jail for a while. The police are not sympathetic to gay victims. There can also be a fine involved, because public affection with a person of the same sex can, according to the new laws in place, be considered "gay propaganda" and a menace to children.

How did you choose the people profiled in *The Campaign of Hate*?

We found them through various channels: Facebook profiles, word of mouth, and connections through friends in Russia.

Which story in the film speaks most to you?

I had a different reaction for every story. I was disgusted by the ignorance and hatred expressed by many of the random Russian people that we interviewed in the streets. But I continue to be amazed and inspired by the intelligence and bravery of journalist and activist Masha Gessen.

What challenges do to the children being raised by gays and lesbians in Russia face?

It's very difficult for kids. They are often harassed and bullied at school. More importantly, they also live under the constant danger that they could be taken away from their parents. Under the new law, gay parents are theoretically exposing their children to "gay propaganda" every day. That's why Masha Gessen and her partner recently moved to New York City. They were afraid they would lose their children if they

Union, all of my relatives are in the United States or Israel.

What can Americans do to stop the campaign of hate in Russia?

We must do everything we can to keep these issues in the public eye and to pressure our government to do as little business with Russia as possible. We need to pinch their pockets.

Do you have any hope that public opinion towards homosexuality will one



Michael Lucas with Masha Gessen's family.

stayed in Russia, and they were right to be.

Where can Russian gays and lesbians go? Is there a safe haven?

As Masha says: "To the airport." Those who do not have the means to leave are increasingly at risk.

Where does the hate stem from?

The Russian government is looking for a new enemy to distract its people from real problems like corruption and unemployment. The scapegoats used to be the Jews, but most of them left after the collapse of the Soviet Union. And so the Russians have moved on to the LGBT community, which coincides well with Putin's cynical campaign of Russian nationalism. Homosexuality, according to this line of attack, is a sign of "Western decadence" and an enemy of "traditional Russian values."

Do you still have family in Russia?

No. Like most Jews from the former Soviet

day change in Russia?

In the long run, I hope that Russia will join the rest of the developed world in changing its attitudes toward LGBT rights. But I am a practical person, and I don't see that happening in the near future. For now, it's only getting worse.

Do you expect another cold war between the USA and Russia?

Judging by the latest developments in the Ukraine, absolutely. The civilized, tolerant values of the West are at odds with the increasingly backward and barbaric attitudes of modern Russia, which is really a throwback to the worst parts of the Soviet era. The campaign against LGBT people there is a symptom of a larger disease that is certain to keep spreading.

Michael Lucas' *Campaign of Hate: Russia and Gay Propaganda* is available on DVD at Amazon.com (\$17.99).

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Bill to Modernize Birth Certificates Passes Assembly

Assembly Bill 1951, that would allow birth certificates to reflect two mothers and two fathers, as well as a gender-neutral parent option has passed the Assembly.



Assemblymember Gomez at a press conference discussing the impact of AB1951.

The bill was authored by Assemblymember Jimmy Gomez (D-Los Angeles), and passed the with bipartisan support on May 8.

"I want to thank my colleagues in the Assembly for their support," said Assemblymember Gomez. "I urge the Senate to recognize the importance AB951 for families across our State and ask for their support."

According to the 2010 United States Census Bureau there are 594,000 same sex- couple households and of that number 115,000 households reported having children.

Currently, birth certificates require parents to select "Mother/Parent" and "Father/Parent" which at times, forces same-sex parents to inaccurately place a partner's name in the "father" or "mother" field. AB 1951 would allow each parent to select "Mother," "Father," or "Parent."

AB 1951 now moves to the State Senate. The bill is sponsored by Equality California, and includes support from the ACLU, Courage Campaign, The City of West Hollywood, the City of Los Angeles and the Mayor of Los Angeles.

Utah Freedom to Marry Launches Ad Supporting Gay Son as 10th Circuit Court of Appeals considers Utah case



Freedom to Marry and Utah United for Marriage has released an ad featuring the family of Drs. Wendy Matis and Dale Smith of Millcreek, talking about their support for their gay son and marriage for same-sex couples in Utah. The ad can be found at www.UtahUnites.org/Smiths.

Remembering Harry "Harry O" Bohannon

02/14/1952 - 04/29/14

On April 29, 2014 Sacramento lost Harry "Harry O" Bohannon, a Sacramento icon to heart failure. Harry bartended for over 30 years, most of which was with FACES Nightclub as the Lead Bartender.

He was the friendly face that everyone looked for when they walked in the door, exuding an ease that always made everyone



Harry "Harry O" Bohannon

feel warm and welcome as if they were coming into his own home to relax and have a drink. Before FACES he also worked at The Rose, Broadway LTD, The Buffalo Club and the original Bojangles on Folsom Ave.

Harry was born on February 14, 1952 in Sacramento and raised in Sacramento. He graduated from Casa Roble High School in 1971.

Terry Sidie, owner of FACES, said that Harry was the best bartender that ever worked for him and will also be the best bartender that this town has ever seen.

Harry was a genuine true friend both to FACES and the community and was always supportive of community charity events. A foundation in his name will be called the "Harry O Foundation," and disbursements are planned to be made every Rainbow Festival starting in 2015 with monies going towards Children's Heart Research and the SPCA.

FACES Nightclub, 2000 K St, will be hosting an open memorial on Monday, May 26, at 3 p.m. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend to remember this wonderful man.

Harry you are greatly missed.

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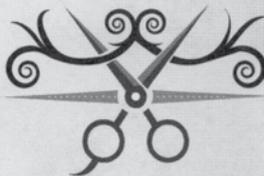
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Briefly Put

Respect After Death Act Passes Assembly

Assembly Bill 1577, by Speaker Toni Atkins, which would require death certificates to reflect the decedent's gender identity passed by 61-3 in the Assembly on May 15, with bipartisan support.

"Once we are deceased, we are often at the mercy of others to treat us with dignity," said Speaker Atkins (D-San Diego). "The very least we can do is ensure individuals are given basic human dignity by honoring their authentic selves when they pass so that more pain is not inflicted upon grieving loved ones or the community."

Under this bill, authorities completing death certificates would be required to record the decedent's sex consistent to other official documents, such as a birth certificate or driver's license, if those have been legally changed to reflect a gender transition.

AB 1577 will now move to the Senate.

Idaho Ban on Same-Sex Marriage Ruled Unconstitutional

U.S. Magistrate Judge Candy W. Dale ruled that Idaho's discriminatory state constitutional amendment denying same-sex couples the freedom to marry in Idaho and respect for legal marriages between same-sex couples violates the U.S. Constitution.

Judge Dale is the latest of more than a dozen federal and state judges to rule in favor of the freedom to marry in recent months.

"The court was right to strike down this discriminatory law," said Monica Hopkins of the ACLU of Idaho. "All loving and committed couples deserve the recognition and the peace of mind that comes with the protections that only marriage can provide."

NOM Denied Right to Defend Oregon's Marriage Ban Case

After no one – literally no one – would defend Oregon's constitutional amendment blocking same-sex couples from marrying, the D.C.-based National Organization for Marriage went to court on May 14, hoping to step in to uphold it.

Judge Michael McShane denied the NOM's motion to intervene in Oregon's consolidated marriage equality case – *Rummell vs. Kitzhaber* and *Geiger vs. Kitzhaber* – saying "this is an Oregon case, and it will remain an Oregon case."

Judge McShane could rule any day on the larger question of whether Oregon's exclusion of same-sex couples from marriage is unconstitutional, as attorneys in the case have argued.

Federal Action Urged to Address Pervasive Punishment and Imprisonment of LGBT People and People Living with HIV

LGBT people and people living with HIV (PLWH) face discrimination at all stages of the criminal legal system, according to a new report published by the Center for Gender and Sexuality Law at Columbia Law School that offers comprehensive federal policy recommendations to address cycles of criminalization and discriminatory treatment faced by PLWH and LGBT people.

"The principles that define our nation's character do not tolerate racial bias, nor do they tolerate bias against members of any community," says Ben Jealous, former President of the NAACP who contributed the preface for the report. "Existing research indicates that LGBT people and PLWH are overrepresented in all aspects of the penal system. ... a crisis that is too often ignored, even by people of good conscience."

The report is available at web.law.columbia.edu/gender-sexuality/roadmap-change.

Arkansas Judge Strikes Down Marriage Ban

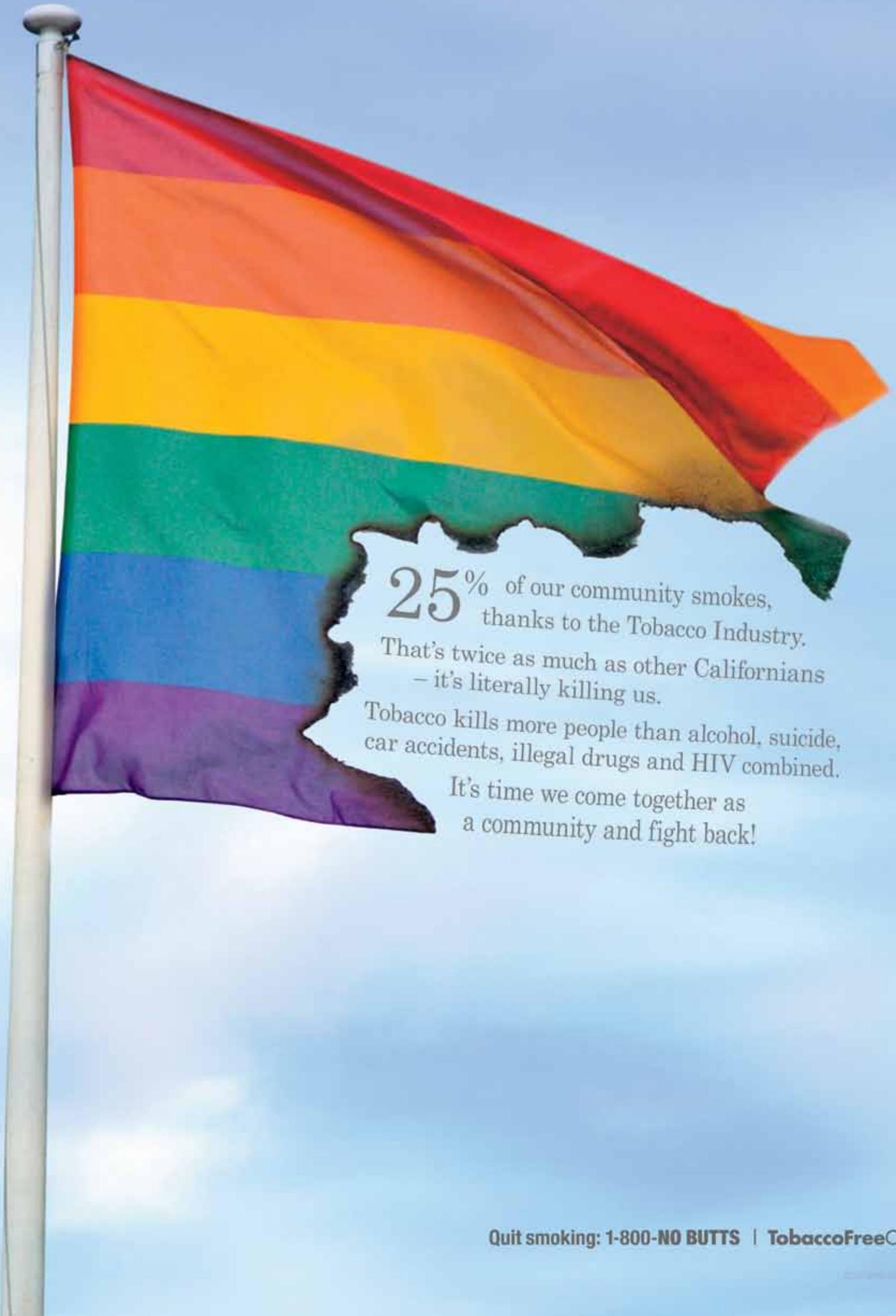
Judge Chris Piazza of Arkansas upheld same-sex couples' freedom to marry, striking down the state's discriminatory constitutional amendment and becoming one of more than a dozen judges to rule in favor of the freedom to marry since last year's Supreme Court decision in *U.S. v. Windsor*.

"Today (May 9) a state circuit judge in Arkansas ruled in favor of the freedom to marry, the latest in a unanimous wave of favorable rulings from more than a dozen state and federal judges across the country in recent months," said Evan Wolfson, president of Freedom to Marry. "Judge Piazza held that there is no good reason for discriminating against couples and their loved ones just because they are gay."

Oregon Family Council Suspends Discrimination Campaign

The Oregon Family Council has announced that they would not be moving forward with IP 52 – the measure that would allow businesses to discriminate against gay and lesbian couples.

"We are thrilled that the Oregon Family Council has suspended their IP 52 effort, likely realizing Oregonians wouldn't support a measure that would allow discrimination," said Mike Marshall, campaign manager for Oregon United Against Discrimination, "Thanks to the incredible outpouring of early opposition to this measure ... Oregonians have realized that this measure would allow businesses to discriminate against people because of who they are and whom they love. And discrimination is just wrong."



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Countdown To The 2014 Tony Awards

by Chris Narloch

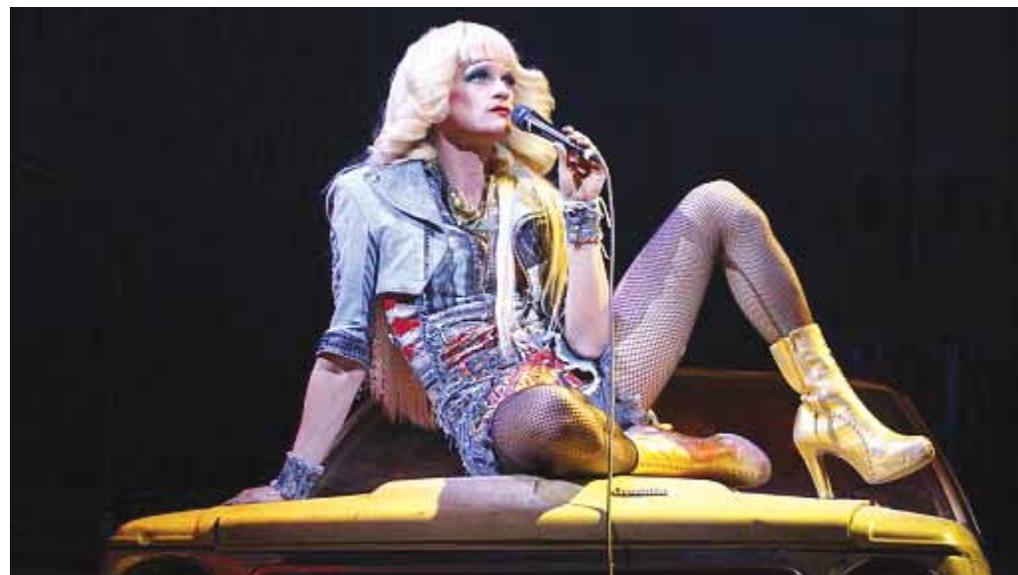
Wolverine is back – or rather, hunky Hugh Jackman – as host of the 2014 Tony Awards, to allow recent host Neil Patrick Harris to rest his voice and (hopefully) enjoy a potential Tony win for his critically acclaimed starring role in the Broadway revival of *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*.

That hit show is currently packing them in eight shows a week, and Harris is singing his heart out to standing ovations that no doubt helped the musical receive multiple Tony nominations, including one for Best Musical Revival.

Jackman was a perfect host in the past

Terrence McNally's *Mothers and Sons*, about the relationship between a gay man and his mother, played by the Tony-nominated Tyne Daly.

One of the most exciting categories this year is Best Performance by an Actress in a Leading Role in a Musical, with a tight



Neil Patrick Harris in a scene from the Broadway production of *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*.

– remember him teaching Sarah Jessica Parker to dirty dance like Peter Allen – and I have no doubt he will again lend movie star charisma to the telecast.

Neil Patrick Harris isn't the only potential gay Tony winner this year. Among those tipped for awards at the biggest night on Broadway, gay British actor and television personality Stephen Fry is also nominated for his role as Malvolio in a revival of *Twelfth Night*.

And Rosie O'Donnell already knows that she will be going home with the Isabelle Stevenson Award, given to a person in the theatre who has made a substantial contribution to humanitarian work.

Elsewhere, Harvey Fierstein's drag drama *Casa Valentina*, about straight men who cross-dressed in the Catskills in the '60s, was nominated for Best Play this year, as was

race between Kelli O'Hara (*The Bridges of Madison County*), Sutton Foster (*Violet*), Jesse Mueller (*Beautiful – The Carole King Musical*), Bridget Davies (*A Night With Janis Joplin*) and the red-hot Idina Menzel (*If/Then*).

As for the nominated shows, *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder* leads all musicals with 10 nominations, including Best Musical, Score, Book and Direction.

Among the non-musicals, James Lapine's dramatization of *Act One*, Broadway legend Moss Hart's celebrated autobiography, took the most nominations (five).

The Tony Awards telecast will be presented live on CBS, on Sunday, June 8. For a complete list of the 2014 nominees, please visit www.tonyawards.com.



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NorCalAIDS Cycle Raises \$333,000

The cyclists and support crews of the 2014 NorCal AIDS Cycle completed their four-day ride through the Sacramento valley, riding triumphantly back into Sacramento for a victory celebration at Cesar Chavez Park. The Ride began in Folsom on Thursday, May 15 and 80 riders, 50 support crew members, with the help of major sponsors, NCAC raised over \$333,000 to help support local AIDS charities and services. <http://norcalaidscycle.org>



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www.facebook.com/PrideAwards

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Tom Goss Releases New Album *Wait* in Time for Sac Pride Appearance



Just in time for his return engagement at Sac Pride, Tom Goss has released his newest album, *Wait*, that once again teams him up with Matt Albert. You won't have to wait to catch a glimpse of it though, you can watch the video for the single "Illuminate the Darkness" online at youtube.com/watch?v=eVDIKw_jtbs. Either way, be sure to catch Tom live at Sac Pride on Saturday, June 14.

Capturing the History of the City By the Bay – In a Hat!



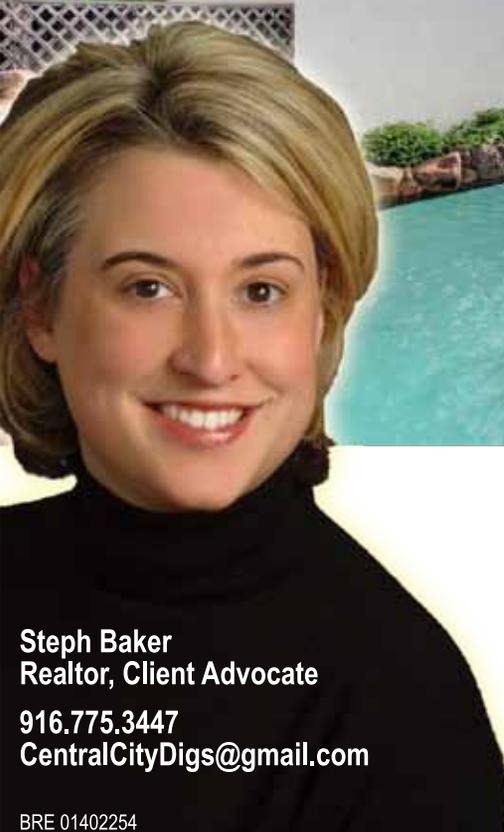
In a truly only in San Francisco experience, the city's history is on display, as well as other iconic scenes, in an exhibit of over the top hats from the creative genius of Steve Silver and worn over the years in productions of the hilarious review *Beach Blanket Babylon*. The hat on left is circa 1978 while the one on the right is 1999. You still have time for a trip to the city to see *Hats Off to 40 Years of Steve Silver's Beach Blanket Babylon*, in a selfguided tour through various SF locations, as well as attend a commemorative 40th anniversary special public celebration at San Francisco's City Hall on Friday, June 6, beginning at noon. For more information, visit www.beachblanketbabylon.com.

Pearls Over Shanghai Extended



The 5th Anniversary Revival Production of *Pearls Over Shanghai*, the comic mock-opera about white slavery, opium dens and miscegenation set in the colorful world of 1937 Shanghai, has been extended thru June 28. Pictured here are John Flaw, Eric Tyson Wertz and Steven Satyricon. Photo by David Wilson. for ticket information, visit <http://thrillpeddlers.com>.

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Where to Find Your Pride!

Sacramento Pride is just around the corner, but there are many other Pride Festivals and Parades events in the Rainbow State, along with other pride related events. Here are some you should add to your don't miss list.

Sonoma County will be celebrating their pride in the beautiful riverside setting of Guerneville from May 30 - June 1. With the theme "Free to Be," there will be a parade down main street on Sunday (11 a.m.), followed by a Pride Village on the downtown plaza (noon - 3 p.m.) and a family pool party at the Rio Nido Roadhouse (noon - 4 p.m.) For the full schedule of events, visit www.SonomaCountyPride.org

The Last Sunday in June is the newest offering from The Closet Door Theatre Company. Friends drop in to watch the annual Gay Pride Parade through New York's Greenwich Village, leading to conversations about relationships, self-acceptance and the very meaning of what it is to be gay.



Plays May 30 to June 21 at Midtown's Geery Theatre. Visit ClosetDoorTheatre.org.

The Sacramento Gay Men's Chorus will be making their second full concert appearance at the Crest Theatre on June 6 & 7, and their concerts are certainly something for Sacramento to be proud of. This year's concert is *Come Together - A Tribute to the Beatles*, featuring some of the Fab Four's greatest hits. Three shows only, so get your tickets early at SacGayMensChorus.org

Dykes of the Left Bank is the subject of author and playwright Cherie Gordon's slide show and lecture about the 50-year-period of artistic flowering in Paris, and some of the most gifted female writers and artists of the time including Gertrude Stein and Alice B. Toklas, Djuna Barnes, Janet Flanner, Natalie Barney and Romaine Brooks, who were all decades ahead of their time in liberating themselves, living openly as lesbians and creating a communal culture. June 7, 7 p.m. The Lavender Library, 1414 21st St.

LavenderLibrary.org.

Jennifer Hudson and Azealia Banks are the headliners on Saturday, June 7 at **LA's TLGB Pride Celebration**, but the fun starts on Friday June 6 with a Transgender Social. Held in West Hollywood Park, the main Festival begins on Saturday (noon to midnight) Saturday, June 7 and concludes on Sunday (11 a.m. - 11 p.m.) The parade starts at 11 a.m.



Sunday and mostly goes down Santa Monica Blvd. Visit LAPride.org.

The Cartoon Art Museum in SF is hosting their first annual **Queer Comics Expo**, inviting attendees to dress up, draw, meet artists, mingle with Queens, watch demonstrations, join conversations and learn about the fierce LGBTQ world of comic books. Wuvable Oaf creator Ed Luce will be the featured artist. 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. on Sunday, June 8. CartoonArt.org

Art Mix Pride at the Crocker Art Museum takes to the air with the high-flying, mind-bending feats of Body Waves of Topsy Turvy Queer Circus, live music, local drag divas, a short film showing from the vaults of SIGLFF and an art exhibit featuring local artists hosted by the Sac LGBT Community Center. You can also explore the galleries with curators on guided tours of works by

LGBTQ artists in the Crocker collection and collaborate to create the Sacramento LGBT Community Center Pride Parade float. And to make it even more festive, there will be drink specials under \$5 all night. The fun is from 5 - 9 p.m. on Thursday June Visit CrockerArtMuseum.org.

Frameline 38, the San Francisco International LGBT Film Festival kicks off 10 days of films, parties and events on June 19 with *The Case Against 8* and concludes on June 29 with the German coming of age comedy *I Feel Like Disco (Ich Fühl Mich Disco)*. Get the full lineup and order tickets at Frameline.org.

The Lesbian and Gay Chorus of San Francisco and the San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Freedom Band will be holding their annual Pride Concert, this year entitled

Together Strong, on Saturday June 14, featuring Joe "Trauma Flintstone" Wicht and Jefferson Packer, bass. Info at annualprideconcert.com.

The San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus will also be strutting their stuff at *DAZZLE: Broadway... Our Way*, featuring unforgettable renditions of songs from current and classic Broadway shows, including

Phantom of the Opera, *South Pacific*, *Kinky Boots*, *The Book of Mormon* and more with special guest Laura Benanti. June 25 - 27 at the Nourse Theater in San Francisco. Get the details at SGGMC.org.

Color Our World with Pride is the theme for **San Francisco's 2014 Pride Celebration and Parade**. The Saturday, June 28 (noon - 6 p.m.) Main Stage line-up will be home grown, featuring the best of local musical talent and cultural performances, while on Sunday, June 29 (11 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.) up-and-coming cutting-edge talent and world-renowned performers will entertain throughout the day. It all happens at Civic Center Plaza next to City Hall. Get the full run down of entertainers, emcees, dignitaries and speakers at SFPride.org.

PRIDES continues on page 19

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Entertainment

SGMC's *Come Together* Evokes 'British Invasion' Era

In commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Beatles' historic appearance on *The Ed Sullivan Show*, the Sacramento Gay Men's Chorus is presenting *Come Together*, a multi-media concert that will feature the chorus' interpretation of Beatles favorites against an original compilation of vintage still photos and video footage of Beatle-mania and U.S. popular culture of the last five decades.

Come Together – A Tribute to the Beatles, will incorporate the sights and sounds of the 1960s as well as historical images of Sacramento's own mophead LGBT community. Performances will be at 8 p.m. on Friday, June 6, and at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. on Saturday, June 7, at the Crest Theatre in Sacramento.

Photos and video will be displayed on a

bass.

The multi-media production will include footage and still photographs from the U.S. Civil Rights and gay rights movements of the 1960s, images from rallies and rock festivals, and scenes paying homage to the era of the Beatles invasion, the overwhelming excitement of American



stage backdrop of multiple 70-inch screens suspended behind the chorus. Featured Beatles songs include "We Can Work It Out," "This Boy," "Hard Day's Night," "Yellow Submarine," "When I'm 64," "You've Got to Hide Your Love Away," "Nowhere Man," "Hard Day's Night," "Hey Jude," "Imagine" and many more.

"The music of the Beatles is quite diverse, and it speaks to us on many levels," said chorus Artistic Director Steven Johnson. "The chorus has really enjoyed working on this show. I have particularly enjoyed sharing this music with the younger members of the chorus, many of whom were not familiar with the Beatles. Regardless of one's age, we think that *Come Together* is going to be a real crowd pleaser."

Come Together will feature soloists, a capella groups, and the nearly 70 voices of the full chorus. A special "Come Together Combo" has been assembled to accompany the chorus and includes SGMC's own Kay Hight at the piano and Harley White, Jr. on

audiences and the frenzy that energized the early '60s.

Other images will depict the struggle for LGBT equality, including images of same-sex weddings and commitment ceremonies set to the songs "We Can Work It Out" and "This Boy," LGBT parents and kids set to "Hey Jude," and celebrations of being gay and gray with "When I'm 64."

Choreographer Darryl Strohl is creating and teaching both the "choralography" – the movements of the chorus – and the choreography for the onstage dancers, many of whom the Elly Award winning choreographer worked with on shows with Runaway Stage Productions.

Tickets for *Come Together – A Tribute to the Beatles* are \$25 for General Admission and \$40 for VIP reserved seating, and are available online at www.sacgaymenchorus.org/buy-tickets.php.

For more information about the Sacramento Gay Men's Chorus, visit sacgaymenchorus.org.

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Test Explores the Early Days of AIDS and Taking "the Test"



Taking the "Test" was an emotional decision in the early days of AIDS, and this visually stunning, beautifully choreographed, and powerfully moving story set in the San Francisco modern dance scene of 1985, catches the fear that gripped the community in the early years of the AIDS epidemic, but also its hope, humor, visual beauty and musical relief. You'll have to travel to the Bay Area to see it in limited engagements beginning June 6, and soon for online streaming. Visit www.testthefilm.com.

Godzilla Stomps into the IMAX Plus *Belle*, *Neighbors* & *Chef* Reviewed

by Chris Narloch

If temperatures continue to heat up, you'll want to grab a friend, purchase some popcorn, don't forget to cool off with an ICEE, and check out one of the following films, now playing at a theater near you.

Godzilla

An unusually good, international cast is on hand to watch Godzilla scorch the earth (and ultimately save mankind from other, nasty flying monsters) in this epic, so-bad-it's-good monster movie.

Bryan Cranston and a very bad wig kick things off over in Japan, where a nuclear power plant is beginning to rumble due to seismic activity. Or could it be caused by something more sinister?

Nuclear destruction, a global cast with crazy, competing accents, monster on monster action, and a poorly-wigged bald man. I must be in bad movie heaven.

Aaron Taylor-Johnson in *Godzilla* (2014)



Alas, as is the current blockbuster trend, *Godzilla* goes on a little too long, but eight-year-old boys (and those of us who are still eight-year-old boys at heart) will enjoy this expensive-looking special effects extravaganza.

Gay men will especially like hunky Aaron Taylor-Johnson, an English actor who plays the male lead in the movie, complete with tight shirts and big guns.

Have a couple beers or smoke some pot before you watch it, and the cheesy fun will look even better.

Godzilla opened at Sacramento's Esquire IMAX on May 15. Visit www.imax.com for more information.

Belle

If you've had enough of superheroes and monster movies, check out this lovely, smaller-scale historical drama about the illegitimate mixed race daughter of a Royal Navy Admiral who was raised by her aristocratic (white) great-uncle and his wife after her father died.

Considering the time period was the 18th Century, and Britain was still involved in the nasty business of slavery, the story of Dido Elizabeth Belle is a remarkable one, and this handsome production honors her story with great tact.

A beautiful young actress named Gugu Mbatha-Raw portrays Belle, and she is ably-supported by a crack cast of British veterans that includes Tom Wilkinson, Emily Watson, Miranda Richardson, and Matthew Goode.

Belle is a very moving and beautifully made true story, and I hope that it doesn't get completely lost amid all the big, bad blockbusters.

Neighbors

After those *High School Musical* movies ran their course, Zac Efron made a series of occasionally impressive indie films that attempted to establish the handsome young actor as a serious thespian.

Unfortunately, none of those movies made any money, and so he hit the gym and is now starring in crass comedies such as *That Awkward Moment* (from earlier this year) and *Neighbors* which, not surprisingly, have done better at the box office.

I don't have anything against crude movies involving drug and alcohol use and sex, but give

me a story that is half-way believable, at least, and some characters that I can admire or identify with or in some way root for.

In *Neighbors*, everyone is a frat kid at heart, and the young married breeders with a baby who take on the Greeks next door are just as stupid and annoying as their neighbors.

I wanted them all to fall in a hole, to be honest, and the only time the movie comes alive is when Seth Rogen appears to stray from the script and lets loose with ad-libs that are funnier than anything the screenwriters came up with.

Chef

This charming indie flick should have foodies and the farm-to-fork crowd salivating in theaters across the land.

I know that after *Chef* was over, all I wanted to do was find the nearest restaurant with an authentic Cuban sandwich. (If there are any in Sacramento, let me know.)

Written and directed by Jon Favreau (the first two *Iron Man* movies), *Chef* casts Favreau himself as Carl Casper, who quits his job at an upscale L.A. restaurant after tangling with the owner (Dustin Hoffman) and a ruthless food critic (Oliver Platt).

Our talented chef eventually finds himself in Florida restoring a food truck, and then he hits the road to become his own boss, with a little help from his friend (John Leguizamo), his ex-wife (Sofia Vergara) and his son.

It all goes down very easy - if more than a little predictably and implausibly - but I enjoyed this modest movie on its own terms.

Chef boasts a terrific cast - Bobby Cannavale and Scarlett Johansson show up as well - and a lot of delicious-looking food. It may well be the "food porn" sleeper hit of the summer movie season.

Prides

continued from page 15

There will be plenty of **Pride Marches** in the city, with the main event happening on Sunday, June 29, beginning on Market and Beale and proceeding west on Market to Eighth Street. The Parade will kickoff promptly at 10:30 a.m. Look also for **Dyketopia, the Dyke March and Rally** on Saturday, June 28. Visit www.thedykemarch.org for times and locations. There should also be a Trans March, but as we go to press, the details have not been announced. Visit their website to get updates, TransMarch.org. The name has changed and San Jose Pride is now **Silicon Valley Pride**, but the fun will

be just as big. This year's the festival will be a one-day event taking place on Sunday, August 17, at Discovery Meadow in San Jose, and will feature local and national entertainers, vendors, food, and fun. To honor the almost 40 year history of SJ Pride, they are reintroducing the Rally at St. James Park on Saturday, August 16. More details at www.svpride.com.

Don't worry, we are not forgetting **Sacramento Pride**, look for all the Pride events happening in Sacramento in our Sacramento Pride issue, coming out June 12!

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Cool Off with a Weekend Get-away in Carmel

As Sacramento's summer weather starts to heat up, it may be time to think about a quick trip to the coast to cool off. The Monterey Peninsula is beautiful at this time of the year, and while not truly known as a gay destination, it does offer a casual and romantic get-away for you and the someone special in your life.



Cafe in Carmel-by-the-Sea

In Carmel-by-the-Sea, the Theis family is celebrating more than six decades of European hospitality at its beautiful Bavarian-inspired Hofsas House Hotel (www.hofsashouse.com), which is as charming as the town itself. With firm roots in the past, the family is looking toward the future by keeping abreast of guests' every need.

Once in Carmel, they recommend that you park the car and explore the scenic beauty on foot or by bike. Here are their recommendations for the ten best Best things to do in Carmel without a car.

1. Walk on the beach and finish your night with wine and food over a beach fire. Fires are allowed on Carmel Beach south of 10th Avenue (Beach fire rules: ci.carmel.ca.us/carmel/index.cfm/residents/city-services/beach-rules/).

2. Rent bikes at Bay Bikes (www.baybikes.com) and get a challenging workout up and down Carmel's hilly back roads. Or, stick to the flatland and cruise by the beach for a wave-side bike ride. For the experienced rider, take it up a notch and bike 17-mile Drive into Monterey and back for an all-day outdoor adventure

3. Arrange a surf lesson for half of the day at Carmel Beach, southbaysurfriders.com. A professional surfer will take you out and ensure a safe and enjoyable time learning to surf Carmel's amazing waves!

4. Carmel Wine Walk-by-the-Sea – stroll to 12 different wine tasting rooms and taste a flight of Monterey County grown grapes. Purchase a Wine Walk Passport at the Hofsas House for \$50 and it includes nine tastings. Because of the cool air, Chardonnay and Pinot Noir are some of the best.

5. Bus ride (Route 22) down PCH to Big Sur and back, stop at Point Lobos, Rocky Point, Andrew Molera State Park, the town of Big Sure, and Nepenthe.

6. Take a 20-minute stroll down to the Carmel Mission and tour the Carmel Mission Museum (www.carmelmission.org/museum/).

7. Bus ride ("Grapevine Express" Route 24) to Carmel Valley and back, stop at Chateau Jullien, Mid-Valley, and Carmel Valley Village. Finish the day with free wine tastings at various partnering tasting rooms in the town of Carmel, courtesy of the Hofsas House.

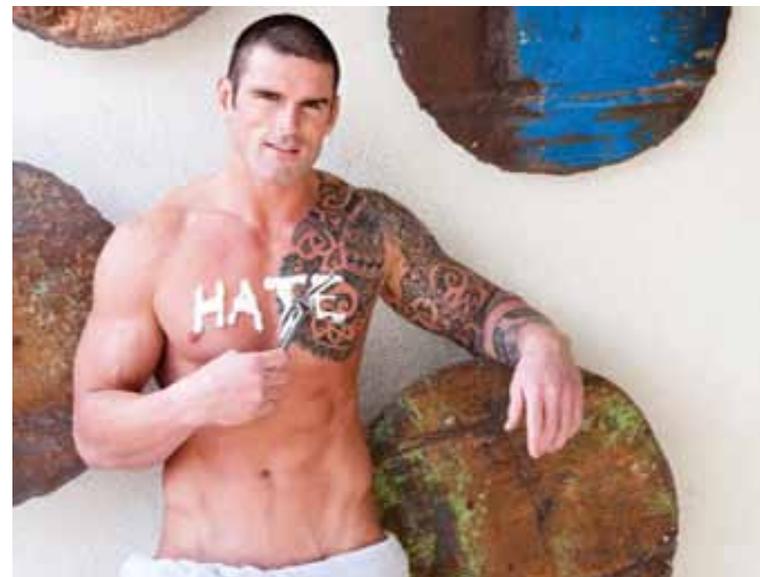
8. Go on a Carmel Walks (carmelwalks.com/) tour to learn about the history of Carmel and some of our unique City ordinances.

9. Combine the food, wine, chocolate and history of Carmel by taking the Carmel Food Tour (www.carmelfoodtour.com/).

10. Learn about the famous poet, Robinson Jeffers, by taking the Tor House Tour <http://www.torhouse.org/>.

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The Top 7 Things Health Care Reform does for the LGBT Community

Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered Americans can enjoy new rights and protections under the Affordable Care Act. The Supreme Court's June 2013 ruling overturned part of the Defense of Marriage Act, which also closed some disparities for the LGBT community. Now, same sex marriages are recognized under federal law, bringing health care benefits to LGBT Americans.

- **You cannot be turned away or charged more because of your sexual orientation or gender identity.**
- **Insurers cannot limit how much they'll spend on your medical care - over a year or over a lifetime.**
- **You cannot be denied coverage or charged more because of any pre-existing conditions such as HIV or AIDS.**
- **Same sex couples can name a representative to make medical decisions on a patient's behalf.**
- **Hospitals must allow visitation by a same sex partner.**
- **Legally married same-sex couples can receive health insurance tax credits, even if their state does not recognize same-sex marriages.**
- **Hospitals must allow visitation by a same sex partner.**
- **Under the new Medicaid expansion, many LGBT Americans will now qualify for Medicaid.**

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