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Sacramento's Sisters Are Perpetually Doing Good

by Sister Defiance Royale

I was recently honored to address the crowd at this year's World AIDS Day in Sacramento and introduce our Order, "We are Sacramento's Capitol City Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, the Abbey of the Divine Light. We stand here humbled to be among the newest members of what is now a worldwide order of queer nuns."

Since the first appearance in San Francisco on Easter Sunday, 1979, the Sisters have devoted ourselves to community service, ministry and outreach to those on the edges, and to promoting human rights, respect for diversity and spiritual enlightenment.

We believe all people have a right to express their unique joy and beauty and we use humor and irreverent wit to expose the forces of bigotry, complacency and guilt that chain the human spirit."

Our overarching mission is "to promulgate universal joy and expiate stigmatic guilt"

Those original Sisters rose up in 1982 when San Francisco's health scene had hit

her the moniker "AIDS poster boy."

The article, about gays and AIDS, was the first time that the topics were handled in a fairly unbiased manner and that the entire nation was able to come face to face with AIDS.

Since then, sisters all over this country and around the world have continued to raise awareness and money for agencies that support people living with HIV. The Las Vegas Sisters run an AIDS drug assistance program to provide for people unable to obtain their medications. Today there are 77 houses and missions in the U.S. and internationally.

We 'manifest' in white face and in habit to draw attention to our message of joy and



Sisters Rae-Jing Morningwood, Defiance Royale and KoKo D'Amore at this years Rainbow Festival

crisis levels. STD's were spreading at a pandemic rate and the "gay cancer" was contaminating everyone with fear and prejudice.

Registered nurses Sister Florence Nightmare and Sister Roz Erektion joined with a team of Sisters and medical professionals to create *Play Fair!*, the first safer sex pamphlet anywhere in the world to use plain sex-positive language, practical advice, and humor. It was so well received that it went through a second printing within just a few months.

The first AIDS Candlelight Vigil in 1983 was orchestrated by the Sisters, and led by the banner "Fighting for our Lives." Sister Florence Nightmare, RN, was not only a health care professional, but an advocate for People With Aids and was herself HIV positive. She and her lover appeared on the August 8th cover of *Newsweek*, which earned

freedom from the guilt associated with stigma - not only of being gay/transgender/genderqueer, or having HIV, but also for body image issues, mental health issues and a host of things that society sees fit to saddle "the others" with.

Here in Sacramento we have held a summertime body positive swimming event for the past two years. Providing a safe and affirming space for body conscious individuals. We have adopted as almost a mantra, NO SHAME, NO GUILT.

The Capitol City Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence calls now upon the Divine Light in all and surrounding all of us to light our path, provide us with clarity of thought and purpose, and protection for our journey.

In the names of all men, all women and all the others.

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Obama Grants Commutation to Chelsea Manning

The Obama administration announced on January 17th the commutation of Chelsea Manning's sentence for disclosing classified information that raised public awareness regarding the impact of war on innocent civilians.

Manning will reportedly be freed in May 2017.

"I'm relieved and thankful that the president is doing the right thing and commuting Chelsea Manning's sentence," said Chase Strangio, a staff attorney with the American Civil Liberties Union's LGBT Project representing Manning. "Since she was first taken into custody, Chelsea has been subjected to long stretches of solitary confinement – including for attempting suicide – and has been denied access to medically necessary health care. This move could quite literally save Chelsea's life, and we are all better off knowing that Chelsea Manning will walk out of prison a free woman, dedicated to making the world a better place and fighting for justice for so many."

Manning, a transgender woman, is in the seventh year of an unprecedented 35-year



An artist's rendering of how Chelsea Manning sees herself by Alicia Neal, commissioned by the Chelsea Manning Support Network.

sentence and has been forced to serve her sentence in an all-male prison.

The ACLU previously filed a friend-of-the-court brief in support of the appeal of Manning's conviction, arguing that the prosecution of Manning under the Espionage

Act violated the Constitution because it leads to prosecutions where a court gives no consideration to the public interest.

The ACLU also argued that such cases give the government too much leeway to selectively prosecute disfavored speakers.

Nancy Hollander and Vince Ward, Manning's appellate counselors, said in a joint statement, "Ms. Manning is the longest serving whistleblower in the history of the United States. Her 35-year sentence for disclosing information that served the public interest and never caused harm to the United States was always excessive, and we're delighted that justice is being served in the form of this commutation."

The president's decision comes after an outpouring of support for Manning since her sentence and the ongoing mistreatment throughout her incarceration. In December, the ACLU and over a dozen other LGBT groups sent a letter to President Obama urging him to grant clemency to Manning, and an official White House petition with the same request secured over 100,000 signatures.

To read more about the case, visit aclu.org/cases/manning-v-hagel-et-al

LGBT Caregivers Support Group Forming

Have you unexpectedly found yourself in the role of Caregiver? Maybe for your aging parents, spouse, partner or friend? Being dropped into the role of full or part-time caregiving can come as quite a jolt, causing massive prioritizing in one's life along with a wide range of incalculable expenses and decisions.

It can leave both the caregiver and recipient of care, in crisis mode. From searching for services, providers, and support that are compatible to your unique needs, to living situations that are financially feasible to supportive resources.

For the LGBT person, finding the way through the maze comes with the added layers of the inevitable questions around our sexual orientation or gender identity, that seem to surface in every new chapter of life, and can be an overwhelming experience that begins with the puzzling questions of "Where do I begin? Who can I talk to? Where do I find help?"

The 'Silver Tsunami' is rapidly

approaching, with approximately 900 Greater Sacramento residents entering 'Senior citizens' status each month. The LGBT community is ill prepared and we are at a higher risk for falling through the cracks and being unprepared, than the general population.

Our community members often lack support from extended family and children, our social networks have diminished and we have not been proactive in seeking out supportive resources and services. Many lack adequate healthcare insurance coverage and far too often we have neglected our mental and healthcare needs.

The stigma of historic trauma still abounds

in the current population of aging LGBT people, noted by internalized fears around discussing our sexual orientation and gender identity. Many in our elder community are being forced 'deeper into the closet' for fear of discrimination and if they will be cared for with dignity and respect, as they become more dependent on others for care. .

The Wisdom Project = LGBT Elders of Servant Hearts has joined with Revere Court Memory Care of Chancellor Healthcare, to offer a monthly forum where many of these questions will be discussed and where we can share important resources for caregivers and elders alike.

LGBT Caregiver Support Group conversations will be the first Wednesday of each month, from 2:00 - 3:00pm at Revere Court, 7707 Rush River Dr. Sacramento. Our next gathering will be Wednesday, February 1st. For more details call Cathy at the Wisdom Project 218-760-2415 or email servant_hearts@hotmail.com.

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ACLU Acts to Block Discriminatory Court Order

The American Civil Liberties Union has filed a motion to stay a nationwide court order preventing the federal government from enforcing an Affordable Care Act regulation that protects transgender people and women from discrimination in healthcare.

The ACLU also asked the court to issue a formal ruling on its request to intervene in the lawsuit.

The lawsuit, *Franciscan Alliance v.*

regulation to prevent public and private healthcare providers, including hospitals and healthcare centers, from discriminating against transgender people and women.

Such discrimination may include harassment, refusal to perform essential healthcare services like reproductive or gender-affirming care, and denials of insurance coverage for essential healthcare services.

“Religious liberty does not mean the right to discriminate

or harm others. No one should live in fear of being turned away at a hospital because of who they are, and we’re ready to fight this decision sanctioning discrimination,” said Louise Melling, deputy legal director at the ACLU. “We won’t sit idly by while women and transgender people continue to see their rights come under assault.”

Kate Parrish, president of the Omaha, Nebraska-based River City Gender Alliance, said, “The judge’s court order direct attack on the transgender community’s right to function normally and safely in everyday life. Our access to medically necessary health care treatment is being restricted simply because of who we are.”

The ACLU’s motion can be found at www.aclu.org/legal-document/franciscan-alliance-v-burwell-motion-ruling-intervention-and-stay-preliminary.



Burwell, was filed by a group of states and religiously affiliated health care organizations that object to the regulation. They argue that they should be allowed to deny essential healthcare services and coverage to transgender people and women.

The ACLU originally moved to intervene on behalf of the ACLU of Texas and the River City Gender Alliance in September because the lawsuit seeks to undermine critical anti-discrimination measures and to allow religion to be used to harm others, including by denying medical care.

On December 31st, a federal judge issued a preliminary injunction halting the enforcement of the regulation, which implements Section 1557 of the Affordable Care Act, just hours before it was to go into effect. The nationwide injunction restrains the government from enforcing the

New Alliance Will Help House Victims of Domestic Violence

Next Move and WEAVE have announced that they have teamed up to provide shelter for women and families who are victims of domestic violence. Both organizations are committed to ensuring those in vulnerable living environments, including homelessness, move toward self-sufficiency and stability.



Next Move has space from a program that they no longer had funding for, and WEAVE has program funding but needs additional space to house their clients.

“Next Move’s mission footprint in Sacramento will be broadened by its relationship with WEAVE,” said Tricia Rosenbaum, Executive Director of Next Move. “In our region, it is well known that there is a significant gap in affordable housing availability. By partnering on this project, we will be able to help additional

clients that are in need of support – this is such a great win-win for our organizations.”

WEAVE will use the property owned by Next Move to house one or more families while they participate in WEAVE programs, and work toward a new life and a stable housing situation.

Goodwill Sacramento Valley & Northern Nevada, a partner of Next Move, invested over \$50,000 to refurbish the facility and prepare it for occupancy, which will be in January.

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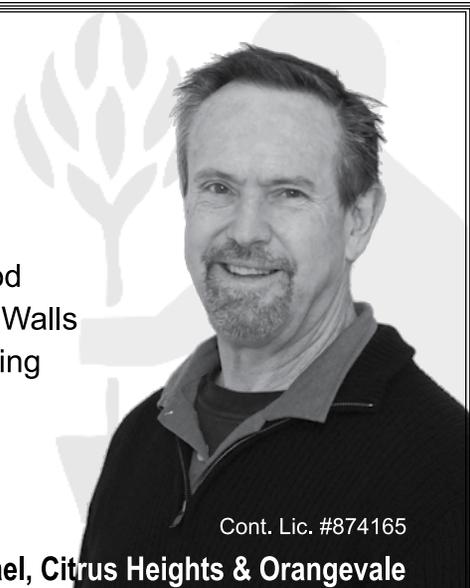
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I'm a Mama Dragon and We Give Great Mom Hugs

by Jody England Hansen

Eight years ago I was driving my son home from a high school activity. He asked if we could talk. He seemed so scared and that scared me. I could sense my father, who had died years before this, telling me, "He is telling you he is gay. It is all right".

I had a moment of peace before my son told me.

I said I loved him, no matter what. I know I also said plenty of stupid things. "How do you know?" "Are you sure?"

Instead of just listening, just appreciating the tremendous gift he had given me, the

About three years ago, I was invited to be a part of Mama Dragons, a support group of mothers with LGBT+ children. There were about 50 of us then, all of us Mormon. Then, we were turning to each other for support starting GSA groups in our children's schools. Or sharing ways to speak about LGBT+



Mama Dragon Jody England Hansen with her husband Mike and son.

trust of coming out to me, I was desperately trying to figure out why I hadn't known this about my son.

I tried to come up with the understanding, the knowledge, the insight that I had not had, to somehow fix myself and become the mom who would have known sooner, and helped him, sooner.

It took time for me to learn there was nothing to fix. I am a spiritual person. I pled for God to make the world safe, to make my son know he was loved, to make me the "right" kind of mom. But I received no answer.

Finally, after months of pleading, I was worn out. Then the thought came to ask a different question.

I asked, "Is he loved?"

I was immediately overwhelmed and filled with something I can only call love. I realized this was the answer. There was nothing to fix about me or my son. He is perfect, and loved.

I needed to live that. It is a journey. I gradually found resources. And I became a resource.

I was hungry for stories, to learn I was not the only one. Not the only mom to be clueless, to make so many mistakes. Not the only parent of an LGBT child who didn't know where to turn for information. Not the only one who was finally learning about the power of unconditional love.

awareness and safety. We were a support group for each other.

Now, there are about one thousand and fifty of us, worldwide, of many different faith backgrounds. We are a support group for each other, and especially for all children.

We have a private Facebook group where we can interact, educate, encourage, organize and listen. Many of us are public activists, working to create a world where all can live a strong, fulfilling life.

Last year, I spoke at an Inclusive Families Conference. There was a young man attending my session and afterwards, he told me about himself. He is a transgender man, 28, happily married to another man. I asked him how he was doing. He said he was doing well. He hesitated. Then he said his mom had not spoken to him in nine years. I held my arms out. I said, "I give great Mom hugs".

He said he was okay, but then leaned into my shoulder and arms. I held him for a long time. He said he didn't realize how much he needed that.

I asked him to please be patient with his mom, and that love will win out.

In the meantime, we are here for each other.

For more information on Mama Dragons, visit mamadragons.org or facebook.com/mamadragons/?fref=ts.

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Jai Rodriguez Has His *Queer Eye* On The Future

by Chris Narloch

We were supposed to be discussing his upcoming appearance at an AIDS benefit in the Bay Area, but former *Queer Eye for the Straight Guy* Jai Rodriguez wanted to talk about the election.

When we spoke by phone in mid-January, (then President-elect) Donald Trump had just insulted Meryl Streep, Alec Baldwin, and the entire cast of *SNL*, and Rodriguez wasn't having it.

Perhaps because he is so handsome, I wasn't expecting this triple-threat actor/singer/musician to be so informed and outspoken, but Rodriguez gave me an earful as we talked about his remarkable career, which has encompassed television, film, and the Broadway stage.

The 37-year-old performer currently calls Los Angeles home, when he's not on the road with work, and he has an impressive resume of guest-starring roles on many of the most popular shows on the small screen, including *Kingdom*, *Grace and Frankie*, *How I Met Your Mother*, *Grey's Anatomy*, *Nip/Tuck*, and *Bones*.

Rodriguez had just been to Starbucks when we spoke, and it may have been the caffeine talking, but he didn't hold back from telling me what he really thinks of *Queer Eye* – the show that made him a household name – and more pointedly, exactly what he thinks of Donald Trump.

Jai, the first time I saw you was in 2003 when you played the lead in the very fun, very queer Off Broadway musical *Zanna, Don't!* in New York. Do you remember that show?

Sure. I was doing *Zanna* at night and filming *Queer Eye* during the day. That wasn't my first musical though. I was the youngest person cast in a lead role in *RENT*, when I was 18. I played Angel.

Tell our readers about the benefit on Jan. 30 in San Francisco and about the important work that REAF is doing.

This is what's so great about the Broadway community. They have always rallied around supporting people who are less fortunate, whether it's through Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS or this benefit for the Richmond/Ermet Aid Foundation. Now that millions of people are faced with the prospect of potentially losing their health care benefits in 2017, especially those with HIV, which is clearly a preexisting condition, organizations like REAF are even more crucial. And so this benefit is a wonderful way that the average person who doesn't necessarily have a lot of money can simply buy a ticket for a very fun show and make a difference.

I know that you and Bruce Vilanch and Kim Nalley are headlining the benefit for REAF with the national touring cast of *Finding Neverland*, but tell folks who don't know what Broadway Backwards is, about the theme for the show.

It's a very clever idea. Essentially, the performers will sing numbers associated

with roles that they would never get cast in, whether it's the opposite sex, or a completely different type. So for me, I might be doing a leading lady number, like a big, bawdy broad number, and with the cast of *Finding Neverland*, it's a chance to see them performing outside the scripted show that they are currently touring in. The performers all donate their time, and it's for a great cause because REAF isn't only an AIDS organization, they also provide youth services, and they feed the hungry and homeless.

I think it's great that you make the time to help them out. In fact, I saw you at Club Fugazi last year when you hosted the first annual S.F. *Broadway Bares*, to benefit REAF. Did you have fun up there on stage with all those hot men and women in jock straps and G-strings? You had a lot less clothing on for that benefit.

(laughs) True. In fact, I hear they're doing it again this year. So it's time to stop eating and start working out more!

Are you allowed to tell me what you will be performing at *One Night Only* on the 30th? How Broadway backwards are you going to get?

I gave the organizers two numbers to choose from, and I honestly don't know yet which one I will be doing.

I guess it won't be Jennifer Holliday's "And I Am Telling You I'm Not Going"?

Wasn't that something? She dropped out of the inauguration and apologized to the LGBT community...

So where were you on Election Day?

I was at Revolver, a video bar in West Hollywood where I host karaoke night, and I was just shocked. I watched on the screens as our dreams were crushed. The racism, and misogyny, and homophobia, and transphobia that have come out of this candidate's camp will now be coming from the leader of the free world and his cabinet. For me, it was a struggle to try and stomach it because I always try to be pragmatic and see both sides. Donald Trump was on an episode of *Queer Eye*, and then we were on *The Apprentice* years ago, and I certainly never thought he would be where he is now. And to have him surround himself with the people he is hoping to have on his cabinet is scary.

I'm glad to hear you say that because I tend to be somewhat of a pessimist, or at least a cynic, and I think he is scary as hell. But I know people, even gay people, who think he might not be so bad.

I'm still sick to my stomach about it. You want to hear Trump condemn the hate-speech from the white supremacists and the racists who helped him get elected, and instead he's tweeting insults at Alec Baldwin



Former *Queer Eye for the Straight Guy* Jai Rodriguez.

and Meryl Streep. And another thing I don't need is Kellyanne Conway telling me what he really meant every time he puts his foot in his mouth...

Let's get back to entertainment, Jai, because I can feel my blood pressure about to spike every time I think about Trump.

(laughs) Okay.

You were a regular on one of my favorite recent sitcoms, *Malibu Country*. What was it like working with Reba and Lily Tomlin? I mean, c'mon.

It was magic. These are legends. Both of them are comedy gold. Reba can do take after take, and every one is completely different and hilarious. And when I did an episode of *Grace and Frankie* recently, Lily took me around the set and introduced me to Jane and everybody like I was her grandson.

You were also on several episodes of *Kingdom*, which stars the delicious Nick Jonas. I have not seen that series yet, but I read you played his physical therapist. Which I think is hilarious because that's every gay man's dream, right?

(laughs) Yes, and we had several suggestive scenes because his character was struggling with his sexuality, and I played a very out of the closet therapist who works on him. So I was very excited slash nervous because this was Nick Jonas from the Jonas Brothers. He wasn't on the radio yet as a solo artist at that time. But he's just such a great kid, and it was very cool for him to get behind the LGBT community and take on a

risky role like that when he knew he was a heartthrob for girls everywhere.

Before we end, I have to ask you about *Queer Eye*, since that put you in people's living rooms every week for five years. Do the *Queer Eye* guys ever get together anymore, and do you think there will ever be another reunion show?

The word I hear is that a popular digital network may be remaking it with a whole new cast. The original cast did reunite on Andy Cohen's show, and we did a 'Where Are They Now?' for Oprah. I'm even more proud of the show now, given the current political climate. We were the first all-gay cast on a weekly television show, and this was during the Bush presidency.

I'm almost nostalgic for George Bush now. Isn't that sad?

(laughs) To be honest, it wasn't so easy to start my acting career over again after doing reality TV, because once you are in that box, people tend to want to keep you there. I had to prove that I was more than just the "Puerto Rican Emily Post" from *Queer Eye*. But over the years, I have had literally hundreds of people come up to me and say that they watched the show with their parents and that we helped them come out of the closet. That makes it all worthwhile for me.

You can see Jai Rodriguez on upcoming episodes of *The Magicians* and *Grey's Anatomy* this spring. For more information about *One Night Only*, the benefit on Jan. 30 for Richmond/Ermet Aid Foundation, visit www.reaf-sf.org.

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Outword California Launch a Huge Success

by Fred Palmer, Publisher

We are so excited to enter our 22nd year in business and also to have launched our newest publication, *Outword California*. Since its launch on January 5, 2017, we have had an amazing response from the community, our partners and our clients, we could not be more pleased.

We just published our 568th issue of *Outword Magazine* in Northern California. For those of you locally who know me, you know I have spent the majority of my life as an LGBTQ activist and businessperson fighting for equality and participating in that process in any way I could make an impact while inspiring others to do the same.

I have personally served on numerous boards of directors in our community and volunteered an enormous amount of my time to support local, and regional, nonprofits. *Outword* has donated hundreds of thousands of dollars to numerous organizations both in and outside of the LGBTQ community. Some of these include several regional Pride organizations, Queer youth programs, suicide prevention, PFLAG, film festivals, HIV/AIDS services, LGBT chambers of commerce, scholarship funds, domestic violence and sexual assault programs and much more.

We are also very proud to represent many local organizations as their sales and marketing representative. In just a couple of months we will also host our 5th annual Sacramento LGBT Wedding Expo, and in November we hosted our annual Drag Queens on Ice fundraiser with the support of Downtown Sacramento.

Also worth a mention, is that more than \$150,000 has been raised and donated to a variety of nonprofits from our local Drag Queen Bingo, which was started in Sacramento by *Outword*, but is now run by the Sacramento Rainbow Chamber of Commerce.

Our dedicated team of staff, which include our editor, art director and a plethora of

extremely talented writers, all work to make *Outword Magazine*, something to help inspire, educate, enlighten and inform our readers.

This past year, many of us watched as anti-LGBTQ laws, hiding under the guise of religious freedom laws, have become a familiar battleground, and the results from the November election made these upcoming battles all too real, for all of us.

No matter what side you are on politically



The Russian River Is Now Airstream Cool

Let's face it, Airstream trailers are cool. They are iconic in their exterior design, and are a truly timeless embodiment of the American ideal of freedom and mobility.

So, given that, and the dream of looking out over the water, it's no surprise that you would want to spend a couple of weeks in an Airstream while on vacation. That is just what Airstream is hoping to help you do.

Airstream has just unveiled their newest Airstream trailer, the Airstream Classic. The Russian River area, that's like being in Santa Barbara. They are hoping you will enjoy the view, the opportunity to experience the outdoors and the opportunity to enjoy the camping for yourself or all of these great locations.

The Russian River Airstream campsite is located on the edge of the Russian River, which makes it a great spot for those who love the outdoors. The campsite has 25 large Airstreams specially designed for this job. It has a beautiful view of the river, and the Airstreams are fully equipped with everything you need for a great vacation. The Airstreams are fully equipped with everything you need for a great vacation. The Airstreams are fully equipped with everything you need for a great vacation.



From the pages of the Premier issue of "Outword California!"

we can agree that the results of this past election will, obviously, affect us for decades to come.

I vow to do a lot of soul searching, and somehow find the strength to be prepared for any challenge that might be coming our way.

It is my job, through *Outword* to inform, educate and inspire our readers, as the Publisher and as an activist. Now, more than ever we must work together as a community and utilize our voice, our time, our actions and any other power we have, including our significant buying power.

California is the 6th largest economy in the world, and is home to a very large LGBT population. California-based businesses like; the film and television industry, high tech,

advanced manufacturing, agriculture, wine production as well as travel and tourism all benefit from the power of the LGBT dollar.

According to Witeck Communications, the collective buying power of the LGBTQ community is now almost one trillion dollars (\$917 billion), and we can, and should, utilize that power to support the businesses that support our community and ask for our hard earned dollar.

Having said that, I am extremely proud to introduce you to *Outword California*, our new monthly, statewide publication that is available online, for free. It is our intention that this publication will service the LGBT community throughout the entire state of California, and I hope that you will enjoy what we have

upcoming in its digital pages.

Outword California will tap the experience of the 21-plus years that *Outword Magazine* has gained from servicing the Sacramento community to bring you LGBT news, unique stories, arts and entertainment, as well as celebrations of our community and our culture, each month, and in each issue.

Outword California is a free, online-only publication that does not require any registration, secret passwords, shot records or anything else.

Just click, read and enjoy. So, if you would, please take a moment to share us, like us and sign up, for free, to our email notification list, hosted by Constant Contact.

Members of our email list will automatically be entered to win fun, statewide prizes, like travel trips, concert tickets and other fun giveaways from our advertisers and supporters!

Also, as always, feel free to drop us a note and let us know your thoughts, ideas for future coverage/content, or to just simply let us know how we are doing.

We hope you continue to read *Outword Magazine* here in Northern California, in print or electronically, and we also hope that you enjoy *Outword California*.

Tom Hardy Has a Guilty Secret in *Taboo*

by Chris Narloch

My obsession with big-screen bad-boy Tom Hardy moved to the small screen this month with the premiere of *Taboo*, the actor's new limited series on FX.



Tom Hardy stars in *Taboo*

The eight-part series, set in 1814, begins with James Delaney (Tom Hardy) returning to Britain with fourteen stolen diamonds, after more than ten years in Africa.

Hardy's character resists pressure to sell an inherited plot of land in the first episode, the only one I had seen at the time I wrote this.

That episode sets the dark and brutal tone for the show, which was first broadcast on BBC One in the UK and is being shown on FX in the U.S.

Even after one episode, I'm hooked on *Taboo*, if only for Hardy, whose gritty character is hard to love but looks great in his long, black coat and stovepipe hat.

Handsome Hardy (*Mad Max: Fury Road*) wrote the original story for the show, which was created by Steven Knight, Tom Hardy and his father, Edward Hardy.

Taboo costars Oona Chaplin, Jonathan Pryce, and Edward Fox.

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Swanner & Judd Put the Bite in Movie Reviews

by Matt Burlingame

A teenager stands alone in a darkened courtyard. He sings the songs from the latest musical, dances to the tune playing in his head, and acts out scenes from his favorite plays.

To anyone walking by it may seem like just another teenager goofing off on his break from Birdcage Theater. But in his mind's eye, the audience he is performing for is on their feet and their thunderous applause is deafening.

That teenager would later pursue a career in film, write a series of award-winning plays and co-host both a television and radio show. But it's his love of movies that steered Sacramento's Tom Swanner into the role he is best known for today: a film reviewer.

Though his reviews started on a simple

After a moment of thought, "Actually that could be true."

The duo have kept up with the changes having been regulars on the long running Being Gay Today television show, a late night radio program, online syndication and an expansive following on social media.

"It does feel odd not being in print," reflects Judd. "In the past print was the medium that seemed to give the most legitimacy to whatever project you were doing. But these days, just social media alone has our reviews shared all over the globe



Brian Judd and Tom Swanner with Joseph Gordon Levitt during an exclusive interview for the 2005 film *Brick*.

scale with the Sacramento Valley Bears newsletter and the film selection committee for the Sacramento International Gay and Lesbian Film Festival, in 2004 Swanner was tapped by a start up LGBT publication to review films from an openly gay perspective.

Wanting to break out of the standard review format, the creative team at that paper came up with the idea of having a second reviewer watching the same film and printing both perspectives. Enter Brian Judd.

Judd, an Ohio native who along with his best friend moved to California in 1996, was a board member of the now defunct Lambda Players Theater along with Swanner. The two had vastly differing tastes in film and could often be heard bantering over the latest releases. It was a natural fit.

In September of that year Swanner and Judd became a team. Often referred to as a print version of Siskel and Ebert the two quickly developed their own style. Their conversational back and forth on the films quickly went from merely discussing the film to including personal jibes and jokes towards one another.

While Judd jokes about Swanner's bearish figure and a husband 20 years his junior, Swanner refers to his writing partner as bitter and chronically single.

Over a decade later, Swanner and Judd has evolved along with technology.

"When we began, the web was still more of a support tool for publications," says Swanner. "Now it's almost the other way around."

"When we began your husband was still in high school!" Judd quips.

"That's not true!" Swanner quickly defends.

literally within hours of posting them. It's wonderful and also overwhelming at times just how fast information spreads."

"Almost as fast as your legs," Swanner laughs.

"No comment," Judd responds.

Another piece of technology that has brought the two a multitude of followers is that of podcasting. In January 2014 Swanner and Judd Film Reviews Podcast launched with a 20-minute recording and a shoestring budget.

The budget hasn't changed, but the show has evolved into an hour of not just film reviews, but also DVD releases, television shows, music and of course the back and forth that made them a success to begin with.

"We've been very fortunate to not only be able to do something we both love for so long, but to see it grow to be embraced by so many," says Judd.

As the coming year sees the show expanding even more with possible syndication with podcast networks like Stitcher Smart Radio and Rainbowradio.fm the two are quick to praise those who have been with them since the beginning.

"The folks at Pride48 have been amazingly supportive," says Swanner. "We can't thank them enough."

Pride48 is a podcast-streaming network that also provides live streaming. The network also hosts a yearly LGBT podcasting convention in Las Vegas where for 48 hours network podcasters broadcast live.

To read reviews by Swanner and Judd, as well as to listen to their podcast visit swannerandjudd.com

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I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change Sings at STC

by Chris Narloch

After a nasty Christmas cold that lingered for several weeks, I'm still trying to get caught up on my theatergoing. I did manage to see one must-see show while I was recovering, and I urge you not to miss it before it leaves the wonderfully intimate Pollock Stage at Sacramento Theatre Company.



STC's *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change* starring Melinda Parrett, David Crane, Jake Mahler and Jennifer Morrison. Photo by Charr Crail Photography.

Among the intriguing local plays I plan to see in the coming weeks are *The Night Alive* by the great Irish playwright Conor McPherson, at Big Idea Theatre; Samuel D. Hunter's highly-acclaimed Off Broadway hit *The Whale*, at California Stage; and B Street Theatre's production of *Becoming Dr. Ruth*, about the world-renowned sex therapist.

I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change is the witty title of the show in question, a musical comedy born in 1995 that just happens to be the second longest-running Off Broadway musical in the history of American theater. (*The Fantasticks* is numero uno.)

A series of sketches set to song about love, sex, and romantic relationships, *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change* is the perfect entertainment for anyone who has ever loved and lost (and loved again). Which is to say, pretty much everyone.

Several of the skits are priceless, including a very funny first-date-from-hell

in which actors Melinda Parrett and Jake Mahler shine, and a clever sequence in which Jennifer Morrison and David Crane play a couple who meet and then contemplate pretending it's their umpteenth date so they can go directly to the make-up-after-breakup-sex.

There's a reason this show has succeeded all these years and it's mostly to do with the universality of its subject matter – anyone, LGBT or straight, of any color, can relate to the challenges inherent in looking for love – and partly thanks to the solid book and lyrics by Joe DiPietro and music by Jimmy Roberts.

This production's four-person cast is tireless and spot-on portraying a multitude of different characters, and director Jerry Lee gives them quite a workout in this fast-paced and very funny satire of modern marriage and dating rituals.

I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change plays through Feb. 12 at STC. For more information, visit www.sactheatre.org.

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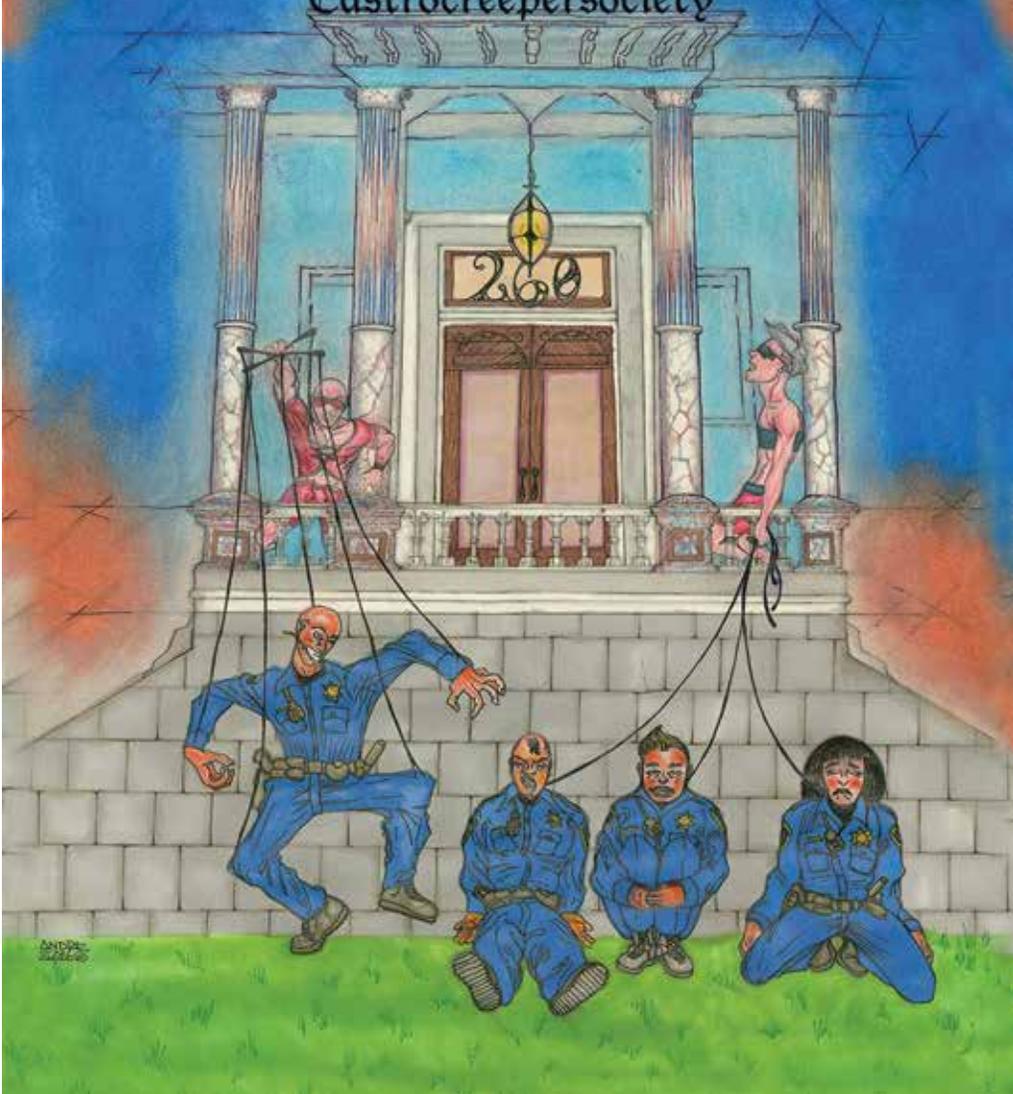
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Pictorial Representation of the treatment of S.F. Police Officers by San Francisco's Castro creepersociety



James McAvoy & Michael Keaton Act Up A Storm by Chris Narloch

Sometimes a performer can make a good movie a must-see with a performance that transcends the film around them. This is the case with two intriguing new movies starring, respectively, Michael Keaton and James McAvoy.

Split

This suspenseful thriller from M. Night Shyamalan may be the best thing he's done since 1999's *The Sixth Sense*.

Near the end, the movie goes too far over-the-top for my taste, and the unresolved conclusion screams for a sequel, but up until then it is a very successful showcase for the acting chops of Betty Buckley and, especially, James McAvoy.

Buckley, known more for her singing than her acting, has a large supporting role here as a doctor treating McAvoy's character for multiple personality disorder (also known by

Split is much better than most of the junky horror movies we get these days, and McAvoy is sensational.

The Founder

Michael Keaton plays Ray Kroc, the man who made McDonalds into the multi-billion dollar empire it is today, with such verve that you cheer his scheming character on and then hate yourself for it.

That makes Kroc, whose ethics were questionable at best, the perfect role for Keaton, who has made mischief lovable going back to the '80s, when he first commanded the big screen in *Night Shift*



James McAvoy and Betty Buckley star in *Split*

its clinical name, dissociative identity disorder).

Hence the title of the film, which allows McAvoy to play eight or nine different 'characters,' sometimes in the same scene. (He has 24 personalities total, but we don't see them all.)

McAvoy kidnaps three teenaged girls at the start of the movie, and the resulting guilt causes all hell to break loose inside his character's head.

Watching McAvoy slip effortlessly in and out of his different personalities, with their various gestures and facial expressions, is really something to see.

and, especially, *Beetlejuice*.

The Founder is the 'true' story of how Kroc, a struggling salesman from Illinois, met Mac (John Carroll Lynch) and Dick McDonald (Nick Offerman), who were running a burger operation in 1950's Southern California.

Kroc was impressed by the brothers' speedy system of making their food and saw franchise potential. Faster than you can say "Super size it," Kroc maneuvered himself into a position to be able to pull the company from the brothers, and the rest is fast food history.

The Founder doesn't fully capitalize on this juicy story, but Keaton has a blast in it.

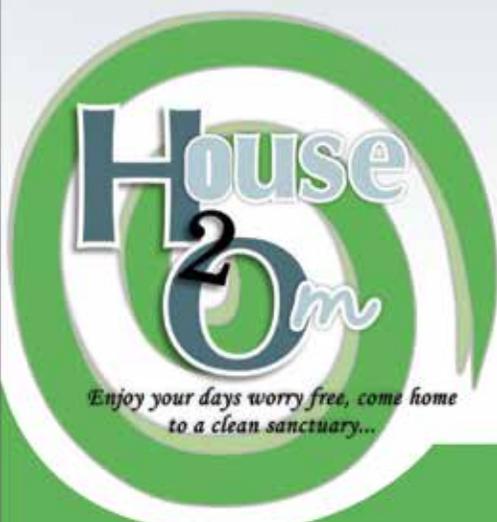
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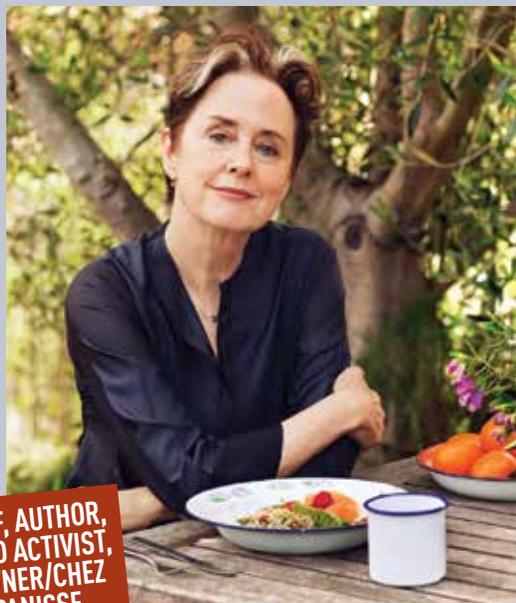
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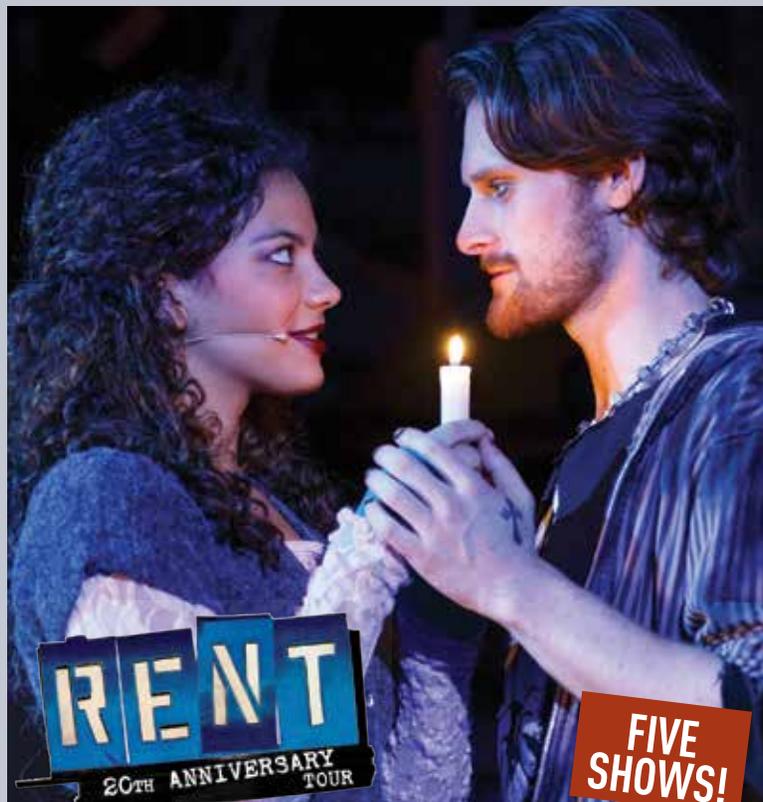
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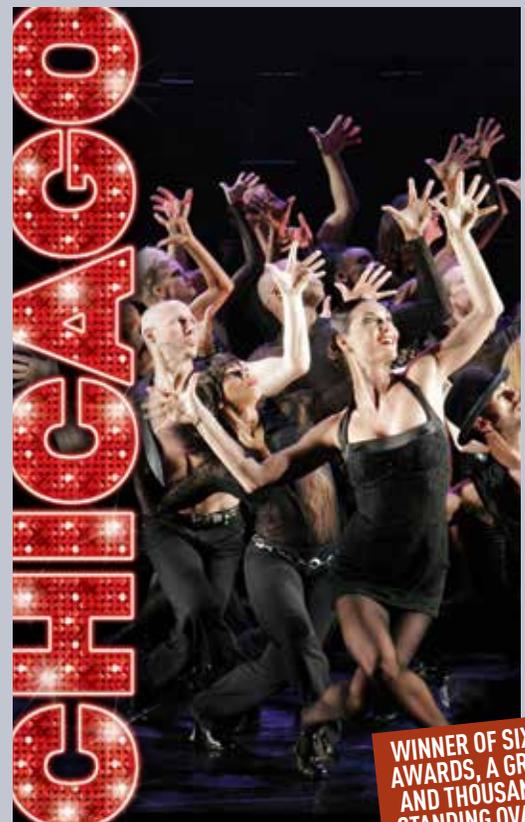


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3171 Riverside Blvd.
916-446-0203
www.smileartdental.com

DINING/BEVERAGES

ERNESTO'S
1901 16th St., 916-441-5850
www.ErnestosMexicanFood.com
IL FORNAIO
400 CAPITOL MALL, 916-446-4100
www.ilfornaio.com/sacramento
LUCCA RESTAURANT & BAR
1615 J St., 916-669-5300
www.LuccaRestaurant.com
SCOTT'S SEAFOOD GRILL & BAR
916-379-5995

ESTATE LAW

CORNERSTONE ESTATE LAW CORP.
1000 Q Street, Ste. 103
916-573-3095

FINANCIAL PLANNING

MIDTOWN FINANCIAL
Al Roche, 1330 21st St., Ste. 201,
916-447-9220 MidtownFinancial.net

HAIR

TRENDSETTERS
2115 J Street, Suite 102A
916-455-0514

HEARING

UNIVERSITY AUDIOLOGIC, INC.
Deborah Powell, M.S., 1325 Howe Ave., Ste.
101, 916-927-3137

HEATING & AIR

PERFECTION HOME SYSTEMS
916-481-0658
www.HotCold.com

HIV/AIDS SERVICES

AIDS HEALTHCARE FOUNDATION
www.AHF.org
CAPITAL CITY AIDS FUND
1912 F Street, 916-448-1110
CARES COMMUNITY HEALTH
1500 21st St., 916-443-3299
carescommunityhealth.org
GOLDEN RULE SERVICES
916-427-4653
www.goldenruleservicesacramento.org

INSURANCE

STATE FARM INSURANCE
Stephanie Slagel, 916-485-4444
StephanieSlagel.com

JEWELRY

STONEY FOLKS JEWELERS
916-363-0898

LANDSCAPING

DEMETRE LANDSCAPES
916-648-8455

LIBRARIES

LAVENDER LIBRARY
1414 21st St., 916-492-0558
LavenderLibrary.com
FRIENDS OF THE SAC. PUBLIC LIBRARY
8250 Belvedere, Ste. E,
916-731-8495

MEN'S CLUBS

STEVE'S
1030 W. 2nd St., Reno 775-323-8770
www.StevesReno.com

OPTOMETRY

CAMERON YEE, O.D.
6407 Riverside Blvd., 916-395-0673
DrCameronYee@aol.com

PET SITTING/CARE

GRATEFUL DOG
430 17th Street, Sacramento
916-446-2501
gratefuldogdaycare.com
LUCKY BUDDY PET CARE
916-505-4375 LuckyBuddyPetCare.com

PHARMACY

PUCCI'S PHARMACY
2821 J Street, Sacramento, 916-442-5891
www.puccirx.com

REAL ESTATE

BETTER HOMES & GARDENS
1819 K St. 916-491-1516
www.BHGHome.com/midtown
Joan Dunn, 916-716-5584
joan@joandunn.net
COLDWELL BANKER
Mark T. Peters, 916-341-7794
www.MarkPeters.biz

THEATERS & MOVIES

BROADWAY SACRAMENTO
MUSIC CIRCUS
916-557-1999
www.BroadwaySacramento.com
MONDAVI CENTER
1 Shields Ave, Davis, 530-754-5000
www.mondaviarts.org/events

World-Premiere of Comedy *Flim-Flam* in SF



In *Flim-Flam*, three actors, desperate for work, try commercials, theatre, and even movies of questionable repute — but all fails. So they take their show on the road hoping to find employment in America's heartland. There they discover an America redder than red and a society on the verge of implosion and despair. Set in the present day, this comedy speaks to the darkest psyche of a troubled nation. Theatre Rhinoceros at SF's Eureka Theatre, March 2nd through 18th. www.therhino.org

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PLUNGE

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 POOL PARTY
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FRIDAY FEBRUARY 10

FURR OCIOUS

DJ DOUG JACKSON

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 10
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 \$30 (INCLUDED WITH RUN PASS)
 WOODSTOCK BALLROOM, HARD ROCK HOTEL
 10:00PM - 2:00AM

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 11

RETRO SPLASH

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 11, 2017
DJ CHUB JIM
 POOL PARTY
 Sponsored by Hunter's Nightclub
 \$20 (Included with Run Pass) • 10:00AM-5:00PM

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 11

DISCO INFERNO

LIVE PERFORMANCE BY
 THE INCREDIBLE ALEX NEWELL

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 11
DJ MARY ALICE
 DOORS OPEN AT 9:30PM
 \$40 (INCLUDED WITH RUN PASS)
 WOODSTOCK BALLROOM, HARD ROCK HOTEL
 10:00PM - 3:00AM

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 12

REDEMPTION IN PARADISE

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 12, 2017
DJ CHUB JIM
 POOL PARTY
 \$20 (Included with Run Pass)
 10:00AM-5:00PM

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 12

GEAR PARTY

DJ MATEO SEGADE

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 12
 DOORS OPEN AT 9:30PM
 \$30 (INCLUDED WITH RUN PASS)
 WOODSTOCK BALLROOM, HARD ROCK HOTEL
 10:00PM - 2:00AM

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ALEX NEWELL

RECORDING ARTIST AND BREAKOUT STAR OF ALICE
 LIVE PERFORMANCE

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 DOORS OPEN AT 9:30
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 WOODSTOCK BALLROOM, HARD ROCK HOTEL

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