

outWord



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Photo courtesy of Beat Box

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Vote on March Third

by Faith Colburn

Voting is unequivocally a civil rights issue. The right to vote is the cornerstone of our democracy and the fundamental right upon which all our civil liberties rest. Those of us with the privilege to vote have an obligation to participate in the California primary on March 3, 2020.



Voter suppression tactics are being used to silence some of the most vulnerable members of the LGBTQ+ community. In particular, voter ID laws that require voters to present a photo ID that matches their gender identity can block many transgender and gender-nonconforming people from voting. And, many transgender individuals fear the stigma they will face at the polling place if they do not have the "proper ID." Voter suppression remains rampant as certain parties and candidates threaten to strip away our most basic freedoms and protections. Nevertheless, we are determined as a community to ensure our needs are being represented.

According to CNN and the Wall Street Journal, six percent of the voting bloc in the congressional mid-term elections identified as LGBTQ+. This bloc -our bloc- will likely grow in 2020, not just in percentage but influence. Our level of engagement and participation will signal the values and policies that we stand for (and against). Our votes collectively send an undebatable statement of what we as a city, a county,

and a nation represent.

It can be very discouraging to try to keep up with everything that is going on in the world. It can be easy to simply look away and ignore the barriers that we ourselves may not face. But now is the time to rise as a collective movement to show this country who we are. We must rally together, not against hatred but around hope. A hope for a future where each individual can live their truth safely and with authenticity. A hope for a future that acknowledges and accounts for the intersectional factions of our identities.

Voting with hope means making thoughtful considerations to the candidates and ballot measures and their implications for our communities. It means committing to listening, learning, and educating ourselves. This is a serious responsibility and one that none of us should take lightly. So get informed and then cast your ballot. Vote for local, state, and national leaders who will amplify and elevate the platforms of our most underrepresented and disenfranchised communities. Vote like your life depends on it, because it does.

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Sharon Stone to Receive the Elizabeth Taylor Legacy Award

The Elizabeth Taylor AIDS Foundation (ETAF) today announced that Golden Globe® and EMMY® Award-winning actress, producer, activist and humanitarian Sharon Stone will receive the *Elizabeth Taylor Legacy Award* at the Foundation's inaugural fundraising gala The Elizabeth Taylor Ball to End AIDS on April 30, 2020.

The *Elizabeth Taylor Legacy Award* recognizes profound leadership in the fight against HIV and AIDS, recognizing individuals who have historically committed themselves to helping those affected by HIV and AIDS through various efforts from arts to policy to activism.

"I started my quest for a vaccine and a cure at the request of Elizabeth Taylor when she asked me to fill in for her at amfAR for one night in Cannes. That one night became a 22-year commitment of HIV/AIDS work, study, and fundraising around the globe and a full understanding of what commitment itself means," said Stone. "I ask all of you to join me in not only honoring this path which Elizabeth forged, but one which we as committed humanitarians must end. 770,000 people died of HIV/AIDS last year and one person every three seconds STILL gets HIV/AIDS. Please help us end Elizabeth's brave and incredibly daring and loving task and celebrate that commitment to life!"

Off screen, Stone's charitable foundations have given life and hope to people around the world. She has worked tirelessly to heighten awareness of HIV/AIDS as a threat to social and economic stability, and to underscore the urgent needs for continued AIDS research. Stone is dedicated to this cause, helping to raise hundreds of millions of dollars for the battle against AIDS.

Past recipients of the Elizabeth Taylor Legacy Award include Michael Jackson (2018), Elton John (2017), Whoopi Goldberg (2016), Nancy Pelosi (2015) and Aileen



Actress and Activist Sharon Stone

Getty (2014). The inaugural Elizabeth Taylor Ball to End AIDS will include a seated dinner for 350 guests, an exciting live auction featuring unique works of art and luxury experiences with Andrea Fiuczynski serving as auctioneer, live performance, and dancing. Guests will also be given a first-time up-close look at exclusive items from The Elizabeth Taylor Archive including highlights from Elizabeth Taylor's personal life, film career, and humanitarian legacy.

Sponsoring the event is American Airlines, ETAF's official airline.



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Why You Should Vote

by Jackie Smith

Webster's dictionary defines the term "Momentum" as:
a. *The force or energy exhibited by a moving body.*
b. *The driving force or advancing strength of a development or course of events.*



Pete Buttigieg and Jackie Smith

Since the first rock was thrown at Stonewall 50 years ago our community has been a relentless, *driving force of a course of events* that have led to greater equality. It has taken both the individual courage to come out and collective action to bring about changes. Each time one of us acts in small or large ways, each represent a moment that contributes to our moment(um).

Per CNN, "there are 11 million LGBTQ voters estimated nationwide. An additional 57 million "Equality Voters" have been identified. They are friends, family members and other allies who prioritize LGBTQ-inclusive policies when deciding which candidates to support." Collectively, Equality Voters accounted for 29% of the electorate, making it one of the most substantial voting blocs in the election. This is moment(um).

Elections are about the opportunity to build power and make change.

I like to remind people in 2004, as San Francisco's mayor Gavin Newsom pushed the city to issue marriage licenses to gay couples. It was a rebellious gesture at the time. Eleven years later, in June 2015, a majority of the Supreme Court justices ruled that gay marriage was a basic right too long denied.

Recent polls have shown that almost 65% of U.S. adults say same-sex marriages should be recognized by the law as valid--the highest percentage to date. This is moment(um).

The 2018 mid-term election has been called the Rainbow Wave. LGBTQ+ political candidates were on the ballots in 47 seven states, and over 150 of them were elected into office. The total number of elected LGBTQ+ officials in the US has reached almost 600. This is moment(um).

Gavin Newsom is now Governor of California and remains a leader of significant importance to the LGBTQ community. We elected our first LGBTQ+ statewide office holder and have an eight member LGBTQ Caucus in the State legislature. When elected to Assembly District 6, I will become the ninth member of the LGBTQ Caucus. This is moment(um).

The 2020 election includes our first openly gay candidate, Pete Buttigieg. His winning performance in the Iowa caucuses is a milestone moment for the LGBTQ community and all of America. This is moment(um).

Be a part of this moment(um) and VOTE.
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Capital City AIDS Fund Donates Condom Cart to CSUS

by Joyce Mitchell

Sacramento State University is now the owner of a new condom cart, designed and donated by Sacramento nonprofit Capital City AIDS Fund (CCAF) to help students protect their sexual health and well-being. Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs) are at an all-time high in Sacramento County, even reaching epidemic levels across California. According to Planned Parenthood, youth are especially hard hit by this epidemic.

Sacramento State University is now the owner of a new condom cart, designed and donated by Sacramento nonprofit Capital City AIDS Fund (CCAF) to help students protect their sexual health and well-being. Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs) are at an all-time high in Sacramento County, even reaching epidemic levels across California. According to Planned Parenthood, youth are especially hard hit by this epidemic.

In recent years, doctors report seeing the greatest increase in syphilis among people aged 15 - 44. In Sacramento County, cases

In California, Sacramento ranked fifth out of all counties in the state reporting Chlamydia infections.

The CSUS condom cart will be named soon but already is going to work. Right after being delivered, students were clamoring around it, selecting condoms of their choice. It contains bins on both sides to offer a wide variety of condoms and even includes a phone charging stations for students, providing yet another opportunity for young people to gather and talk about safe sex.

The Sac State condom cart is the third



are up significantly. And, unfortunately, condom use reportedly is down.

That makes the new condom cart donated to California State University, Sacramento (CSUS) by CCAF an important tool. It will traverse the campus, distributing to students condoms and sexual health information.

"It's important that we're educating our students about sexual health for them and their loved ones," said CSUS Student Affairs Vice President Ed Mills, PhD. "Taking care of our students is a huge part of our mission."

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) reported that it is alarmed that a third of all cases of gonorrhea in California are among young people. One of the CDCs biggest concerns is the reported decline in condom use.

Chlamydia is another STD on the rise in Sacramento County. Nearly twelve thousand people were diagnosed in 2018. That's a twenty percent increase from the year before.

rolled out, built and donated by CCAF. Part of the nonprofit's mission is a commitment to sexual health education and preventing new infections of STDs and HIV.

The first cart was donated to UC Davis a decade ago and called the Love Lab. It distributes one-hundred thousand free condoms annually.

Then, a few years ago, CCAF designed and donated a red customized golf cart to Sacramento City College. Students named it after their school mascot--Protect Your Panther.

All carts were designed and built by CCAF Board Member Ted Ross. "It felt so good delivering the cart to Sac State," said Ross. "Negotiating a cart for CSUS has been a work in progress for a number of years. Now that they have this cart to take around campus, the best part is knowing we've provided a time-tested and effective tool to help students."

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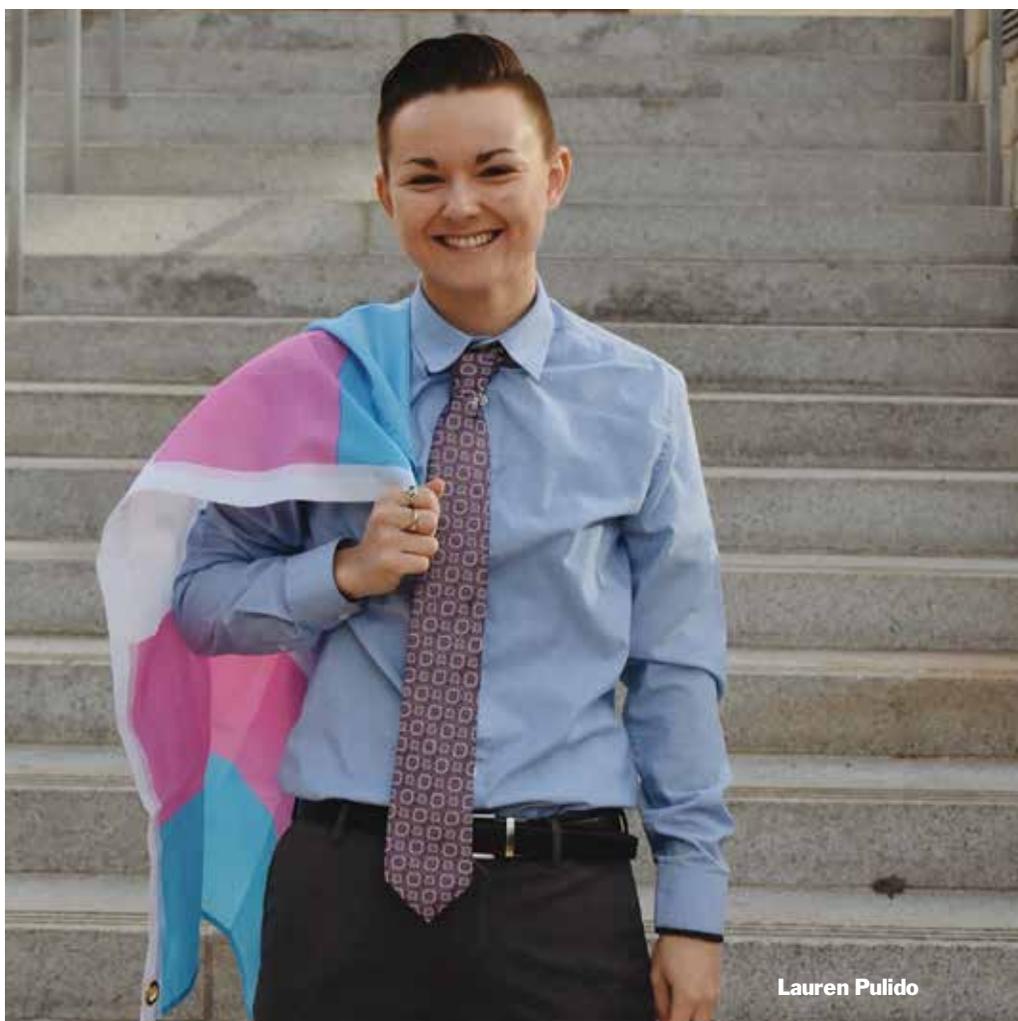


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The Power of Support

by Lauren Pulido

On February 13, 2020, a day before my 24th birthday, I started hormone therapy by taking testosterone and began my physical transition into being my authentic self. After three hours of post care instructions and guidelines of what I will be looking forward to for the rest of my life, I was finally able to embark on this new journey.



Lauren Pulido

Throughout those three hours I went through what felt like an eternity of thoughts of all these new indications of life that I would be experiencing along with a plethora of new emotions, which understandably brings a bit of fear. But the great thing about fear is that you hold the key to its entirety and you have the power to how much energy it possesses. If you can recognize that fear, you are exposing the power that it holds over you. My fear landed in uncertainty about what was awaiting me and needles. Yes, like shot needles. According to the American Psychiatric Association, 10 percent of Americans agree with me that this sort of phobia exists. Luckily for me, I have to take a shot every two weeks for the next few years and throughout my life from now on. So thankfully I get to overcome another withstanding fear of mine.

Throughout the next few years I will be going through a plenitude of bodily changes, but through a masculinizing lense. I have committed to going through male puberty at 24 years old, but better late than never when embarking on a journey you've waited your whole life for. What I have in the years to come will consist of an increase in acne and oily skin, facial and body hair growth, redistribution of body fat that will present a more masculine structure, my voice will drop and become

deeper, and I will experience an increase in libido. But that is just what's on the pamphlet Kaiser has given to me. My journey could consist of something entirely my own because of the inconsistency of nature and the misbelief of the universal experience of life. For this I am slightly fearful of this journey, but consequently my desire for this change runs deeper than my fears. When you have manifested something for your entire life, a small precarious fear seems nonexistent.

My support system has provided an abundance of relief and assurance for me through every step of this process. Without the love and support I have received from my community, my family, my friends, and my partner, this journey would have been extremely difficult. Establishing your support system is an extremely important and necessary product of life which is why we must all learn to spread more compassion and be altruistic while exploring life. We must protect our most vulnerable communities and support one another even if our experiences don't reflect similarly. Support doesn't have to come from someone who looks like you, support comes from what is inside of you and how you treat others in return. We have to be more willing to support one another and understand these beautiful separations that make our experiences unique.

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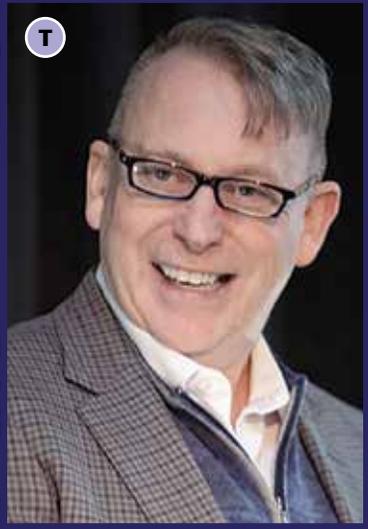
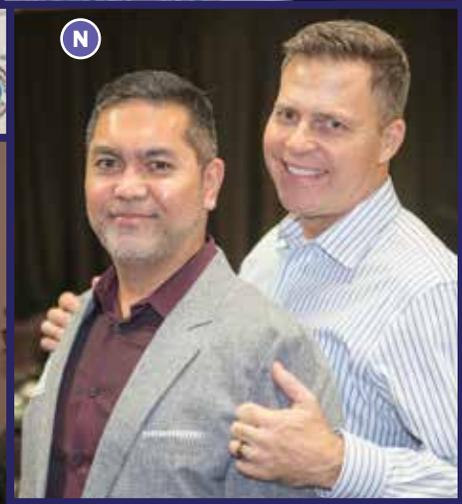
Out & About

The Business & Community Excellence Awards presented by the Sacramento Rainbow Chamber of Commerce and hosted by the Sacramento Association of Realtors were held on February 12, 2020. Awards were presented to David Heitstuman, *CEO, Sacramento LGBT Community Center*, SMUD, and Tina Reynolds, *Uptown Studios*.



Business & Community Excellence Awards

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Black LGBTQ History is American History

by Kristy Harris

As we move toward the end of Black History month, I'd like to reiterate some sentiments we have shared on the Outword Magazine social media accounts.

In each week of February, we highlighted the lives of four individuals who were not only black, but also LGBTQ. Black history is already something that isn't included enough in a public school standard curriculum, but even more overlooked is the history of Black LGBT people and their contributions to our world.

On February 10th, we honored George Washington Carver (scientist and inventor), Alice Walker (author, *The Color Purple*), Audre Lorde (poet and advocate), and Alvin Ailey (choreographer and advocate).

George Washington Carver promoted alternative crops to cotton (peanuts, for example) and developed methods to prevent soil depletion. Despite being blind in one eye, Alice Walker went on to create *The Color Purple*, for which she won a Pulitzer Prize for Fiction and The National Book Award for Fiction in 1983. Audre Lorde was able to weave her outrage at civil and social injustices with a unique inflection in her powerful poetry. In 1969, Alvin Ailey founded the Alvin Ailey American Dance Center, which became one of the most successful dance companies in the world.

On February 17th, we highlighted James Baldwin (American novelist, playwright, essayist, poet, and activist), Josephine Baker (dancer, singer, and actress), Langston Hughes (American Poet and Social Activist), and Linda Villarosa (American author and journalist).

James Baldwin was most famous for his insight on the issues of race, sex, and class distinctions. He famously said, "Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced." Josephine Baker became a civil rights activist when she refused to perform for segregated audiences (despite being offered \$10,000—in the 1950's—at a club in Miami). Best known as the leader of the Harlem Renaissance, Langston Hughes developed a

literary artform called Jazz Poetry, and then went on to write a weekly column in *The Chicago Defender* during the civil rights movement. Linda Villarosa is the former executive editor of *Essence* magazine, and her first novel, *Passing for Black*, is a fiction book that deals with the issues of sex, love, identity, and race.

On February 24th, we decided to spotlight people specifically who are/were artists and entertainers: Jean-Michel Basquiat (artist), RuPaul Andre Charles (actor, drag queen, and singer-songwriter), Meshell Ndegeocello (musician), and Wanda Sykes (actress and comedian).

Graffiti and mixed media artist Jean-Michel Basquiat expressed his views on wealth versus poverty and integration versus segregation through his paintings, poetry and drawings. RuPaul's impressive career began to take hold in the early 90's (Can you believe he'll be 60 this year?), but his latest series, Netflix's *AJ* and the Queen (already renewed for a second season), is in my opinion, one of his best works. Bassist and singer-songwriter Meshell Ndegeocello has been nominated for a Grammy Award ten times, and is credited for popularizing the neo-soul movement. In 2004, comedian Wanda Sykes was named one of the 25 funniest people in America. She is also known for her same-sex marriage activism.

Black History Month was first celebrated at Kent State University in 1969, and six years later it was recognized by President Gerald Ford, but we can choose to be aware of black history every month. Our black LGBTQ history is American history. I recommend doing an internet search on any of the people I have mentioned in this column to further familiarize yourself with their works.

You can follow us on social media on Instagram: @outword_magazine and on Facebook: facebook.com/OutwordMagazine.

Comedian Wanda Sykes



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Book Review:

“Name Drop: The Really Good Celebrity Stories I Usually Only Tell at Happy Hour,” written by Ross Mathews

book review by Terri Schlichenmeyer

Some people collect glassware. Others collect books or sweaters or Santa statues or fancy cars or any one of a million things there are more than two of. Scientists say that, as a species, we’re hard-wired to do it, even if you just collect friends. And in “Name Drop” by Ross Mathews, some of them might even be famous.

From the time he was a little boy growing up in a farm community in Washington state, Mathews wanted to have friends that were celebrities. He imagined what it would be like to hang out with them and gossip... and then it actually happened.

Now, he says he hates when people “name drop,” but “honey,” he has stories...

His celebrity circle started when he was an intern on The Tonight Show with Jay Leno, which sent him to report on the Olympics three times, which led him to start a blog, and that’s how he became BFFs with Rosie O’Donnell. They’ve been fast friends ever since, though it was she who “made” him “sleep with a Republican.”

He worked with Chelsea Handler on Chelsea Lately and because of where the show was filmed, he met and became friends with the Kardashians, who were filming their

reality show in the same building. The Chelsea gig also gave Mathews the opportunity to be on the sidelines when his beloved Seahawks won the Super Bowl in 2013.

That was the year he also got to play celebrity matchmaker.

He had a chance to meet two of the Spice Girls. He got a quick-click photo op with Celine Dion. He met Omorosa and scooped every rabid reporter on TV; he met “Liza with an OMG” and spent all night talking with Christina Aguilera.

But “not every celebrity story is going to end like a fairy tale where the famous person and I end up bonding...” says Mathews.

Especially when it’s Barbara Walters, Faye Dunaway, or



Elizabeth Taylor...

No doubt about it, “Name Drop” sure is fun.

It’s got the feel of a Friday night at your bestie’s house, where the snacks on the kitchen counter are bottomless and so are the Skinny ‘Ritas, and you scream yourself hoarse in mock horror and real laughter at the stories you’re told. It’s got the kind of gossip you want about the stars you love (or love to hate), spilled with a little snark and a charming amount of awe. It’s got an absolute (and absolutely relieving) sense that being famous sometimes doesn’t make a person act famous—although sometimes, it does. And it’s got “Rossipes” (Rossipes!) you can make to go along with your reading.

Like a red-carpet walk with a broken heel, though, “Name Drop” sometimes limps. Author Ross Mathews is funny and punny, but not both simultaneously: alas, the puns are too much, too overwhelming, so feel free to groan and ignore them. The dishy tales you get in this book are way more fun; in fact, if you love boy-meets-girl-celebrity tales, you’ll find that “Name Drop” is a great collection.

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Need an Easy Getaway? SMF Can Get You There!

by Mark Haneke

We've seen glimpses of spring around Sacramento this month and many of us are ready to shake off our cabin fever. Sacramento International Airport can help change your attitude with a change of scenery. The airport has an array of direct flights that can get you a fresh perspective in about two hours, making it the perfect way to kick off a weekend getaway.

Take a city break to Boise, ID, served by nonstop flights on both Southwest and Alaska Airlines, or Spokane, WA, served by nonstop flights on Southwest. Both cities are known for their vibrant art scenes and proximity to the great outdoors. Just minutes from Idaho's capital city, Garden City is a cultural hub brimming with museums, parks, wineries and breweries and almost all of it is accessible by bike along the city's famous Greenbelt. Both cities are located close to mountains, lakes

and rivers making them outdoor lover's paradises in any season. Spokane is home to renowned fine arts from galleries and museums to symphony and theater. The city is also home to perennial NCAA championship contenders - the Gonzaga men's and women's basketball teams.

If you're looking to escape the northern California chill, Phoenix and Long Beach are both easy flights from SMF. The Arizona capital can be reached via both Southwest and American Airlines and with its average temperature in the mid-70s in February and March it's a great choice for a warm weekend away. The city has a bustling nightlife, including the Melrose District on Seventh Avenue, a hub for LGBTQ+ businesses, clubs and some of the best places to dance in town.



Spokane, WA

Long Beach, accessed by nonstop flights on Southwest, is the ultimate California playground. Warm weather, long stretches of beach and one of Southern California's most diverse populations make this a perfect city

International Airport, Executive Airport, Mather Airport and Franklin Field Sacramento International Airport offers 175 daily nonstop flights on 14 domestic and international carriers to more than 40 nonstop destinations. In 2019, Sacramento International served over 13 million passengers, one million more than in 2018. The regional economic impact of the Sacramento County airport system is more than \$4 billion annually. For more information, visit sacramento.aero.

Thank you for flying from SMF! Please make sure you ARRIVE EARLY!

Mark Haneke is the Director of Air Service Development Marketing for Sacramento International Airport as well as a seasoned expert in air service development and a savvy world traveler. His travel column appears monthly in *Outward* to share news on new destinations from Sacramento International Airport, peppered with some of his own personal stories and travel recommendations.

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THURSDAY MARCH 5TH
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TUESDAY, MARCH 10TH
CHINATOWN (1974)
7:30PM



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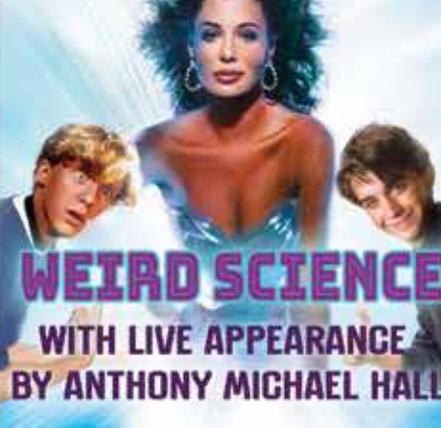
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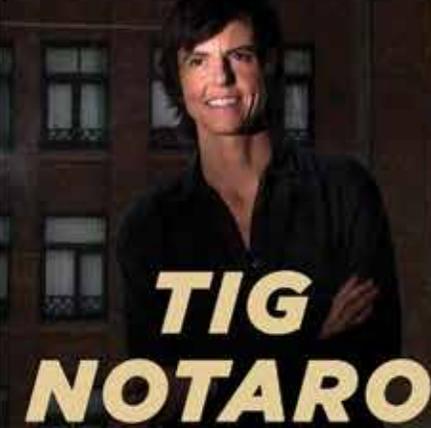
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BROADWAY
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Out & About With Matt by Matthew Burlingame

Thank you to everyone who came to February's Liquid Therapy Happy Hour. It was great to see so many familiar faces. There's a plethora of amazing events to keep us busy pre-pride season, so there's no excuse not to get out and support the community!

Sacramento has more divas than Cher has farewell tours. The Original Divas and King are returning for the CGNIE Divas Reunion February 29 at Faces NightClub, 2000 K St. The event will raise funds for local charities. CGNIE.org

Whether you're hungry or hangry a good soup can soothe the savage beast. Grab your friends, come eat soup and benefit the Sacramento LGBT Community Center at Queer Soup Night hosted by Solomon's Delicatessen, 730 K St. on March 1 from 4-6 p.m. Queer Soup Night began in Brooklyn in 2017 by a group of queer friends who wanted to make a positive impact in their community and now it's arrived in Sacramento. All are welcome and no one is turned away for lack of funds. Saccenter.org

It's time for Capitol Beer Fest 2020! If you're a fan of the brew, this is a must attend! Celebrating 10 years the event includes four hours of over 125 of the nation's best brewers, 20 food trucks and live music. It's all happening March 7 from Noon-4 p.m. at Capitol Mall. Get tickets ahead of time. Capitolbeerfest.com

The LGBT Elders Wisdom Project is hosting its 5th Annual Benefit Concert on March 7 at 7 p.m. at the FUMC Chapel, 21st & J Sts. See artists Clifford Shockney, Patrick Grizzell and Proxy. Must make reservations for this event. Moonservant-hearts.org

The uber popular Mama's Makin' Bacon Drag Brunch fundraiser for the Sacramento LGBT Community Center is back for its 10th annual event March 8 from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at 1215 J St. Highlighting drag culture unique to Sacramento by bringing in local kings and queens, this year's brunch has a nautical theme. Fair warning it does sell out quickly. Flowing mimosas, cocktails, mocktails, plus vegan bacon, and a drag show you won't believe! Saccenter.org

The Sacramento LGBT Center and Everyday Impact Consulting is still hosting Healing Circles through March 10. Find one to attend at Saccenter.org

A Bronx Tale is a crowd-pleaser taking place on the stoops of the Bronx in the 1960s, where a young man is caught between the father he loves and the mob boss he'd love to be. Bursting with high-energy dance numbers and original doo-wop tunes it is an unforgettable story of loyalty and family. The show runs March 3-8 at the Memorial Auditorium, 1515 J. St. Broadwaysacramento.com



Make sure you have your tickets for John Waters' "This Filthy World" tour at The Crest, 1013 K St. on February 28 at 7:30 p.m. See his rapid-fire one-man spoken word "vaudeville" act that celebrates the film career and joyously appalling taste of the man once called "The Pope of Trash." Crestsacramento.com

Don't forget the Gay As Fuk (GAF) circuit party on February 28 at Faces Nightclub, 2000 K St. where San Francisco DJ Aki will drop high-energy beats and club anthems while guest dancers set the mood. Faces.net

Wishing a speedy recovery to Michael "Misha Rockefeller" Kennedy's broken ankle. She's going to be in flats for a while! Congratulations to NCAC for an amazing and successful Crab Feed and a huge shout-out to the amazing volunteers.

Happy birthday to David Mejia, Joseph Ramos, Kay Crawford, Tom Lane, Curtis Hagen and all the other February/March birthdays!

Got events, birthdays, anniversaries or did something awesome happen to you recently? Let Matt know at matthew.burlingame@gmail.com.

SMALL MOUTH SOUNDS
By Bess Wohl

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Sonny & Cher, “Knives Out” & “Judy” Arrive On DVD

by Chris Narloch

The 2020 Oscars are history, but Bong Joon-ho must still be basking in the multiple award wins for “Parasite,” his masterful 2019 social satire, which made history as the first non-English-language film ever to win Best Picture at the Academy Awards.

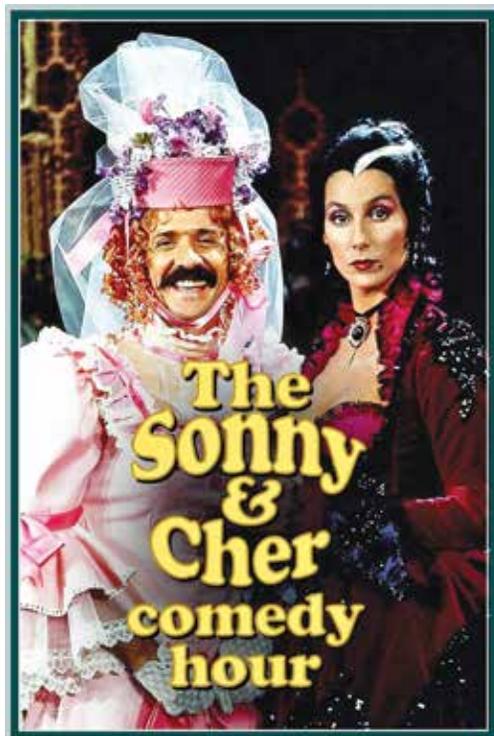
I was a big fan of Joon-ho long before he cleaned up at the Oscars, and I urge you to check out his previous movies, which are even weirder than “Parasite.” The director’s two prior films, “Okja” and “Snowpiercer,” can be found on Netflix, and earlier efforts such as “The Host” and “Mother” are available on other streaming services.

“Parasite” came out on DVD at the end of January, and several other Oscar-nominated titles are now available for rental and/or purchase, including “The Lighthouse,” “Knives Out,” and “Judy.”

I also recommend that Cher fans seek out the sensational Time Life DVD release of “I Got You Babe: The Best Of Sonny & Cher,” a 5-disc collector’s set of that pair’s classic TV show from the ‘70s. Read on for more details.

I Got You Babe

Long before “The Voice,” “American Idol” and “America’s Got Talent,” there were variety shows on network TV that entertained viewers with music and comedy and didn’t require anyone to vote or compete against each other.



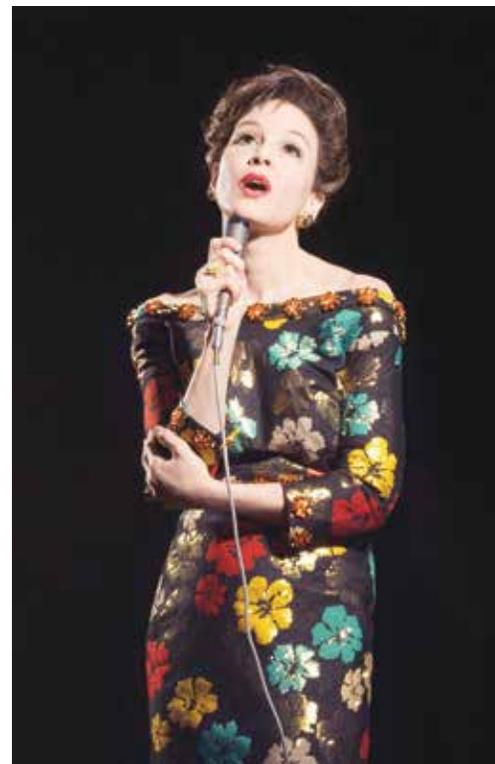
That format is pretty much dead today, but I miss it and my favorite of all the variety shows from the ‘70s was “The Sonny & Cher Comedy Hour,” which featured that famous couple trading insults and performing with the biggest names in show business at the time.

Sonny & Cher were must-see TV back in the day, and I am happy to report that Time Life recently released a DVD tribute to the colorful hippies turned pop stars, who transformed TV with Cher’s incredibly sexy Bob Mackie-designed costumes and Sonny’s goofball charm.

The new collection includes never-before-released episodes of “The Sonny & Cher Comedy Hour” plus a brand-new interview with the one-and-only Cher herself.

Judy

If you haven’t yet seen this terrific musical biopic about Judy Garland’s life and career, you are in danger of having your “gay card” revoked. As a longtime fan of Garland, I was very skeptical after Renee Zellweger was cast to play the iconic performer, but I was



Renee Zellweger plays Judy Garland in “Judy”

knocked out when I saw her Oscar-winning transformation.

Hopefully, “Judy” will introduce Garland’s genius to younger generations who didn’t grow up watching “The Wizard of Oz” on network TV every year like I did. Garland’s career was brilliant, and “Judy” (and especially Zellweger) pays proper respect to her memory.

Knives Out

Another DVD worth owning is this wonderful whodunit, which was a surprise hit at the box office after it opened last Thanksgiving. Movies with big, all-star casts can often be too much of a good thing, but “Knives Out” doesn’t waste its talented blend of newcomers and old-timers.

Director Rian Johnson brings just the right



Daniel Craig in “Knives Out”

balance of comedy and mystery to a very clever script, and who doesn’t love a movie about a bunch of greedy gold-diggers who get their comeuppance after the wealthy family patriarch (Christopher Plummer) croaks?

The Lighthouse

This deranged two-man freak-out starring Robert Pattinson and Willem Dafoe won’t be everyone’s cup of tea, but I loved its beautiful black and white cinematography and its bizarre tale about a pair of lonely lighthouse keepers who slowly go mad as a result of their remote isolation. Dafoe is amazing as always, but Pattinson holds his own and has a very intense nude scene that may shock his “Twilight” fans.



Robert Pattinson in “The Lighthouse”

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*Contest begins February 27th and ends March 7th. One winner will be chosen at random from contest entries.

Sacramento Fell In Love With Pete Buttigieg On Valentine's Day

words by Chris Narloch • photos by Chris Allan

Even a very small contingent of anti-Pete protesters couldn't dim the enthusiasm of nearly 4,000 voters that turned out in midtown recently to see (and hear) what all the fuss over "Mayor Pete" is about.



In truth, Pete Buttigieg is no longer the mayor of South Bend, Indiana, but if he was trying to live down his former image as a "gay mayor" it didn't show in Sacramento's Cesar Chavez Park, where Buttigieg brought Christopher Cabaldon out during the Presidential candidate's town hall rally, on Feb. 14.

The two gay mayors - Cabaldon is the current mayor of West Sac - are fast friends, and the pair participated in a cute Q&A on stage that included a question from Buttigieg's husband. Mr. Cabaldon asked, "What is it about Chasten that made you fall in love with him? Signed, Chasten, for Valentine's Day."

Buttigieg must have been in a romantic mood because he replied to the question extensively with a sweet and sincere recounting of the couple's successful first date and how Chasten's eyes and smile compelled him to "swipe right" in the first place. (The candidate called that decision "the most millennial thing I've done.")

The diverse crowd went wild for "Love Pete," and then it was back to less spontaneous (and more scripted) stump-

speech on a range of California-friendly topics such as gun legislation, criminal justice reform, and the legalization of marijuana.

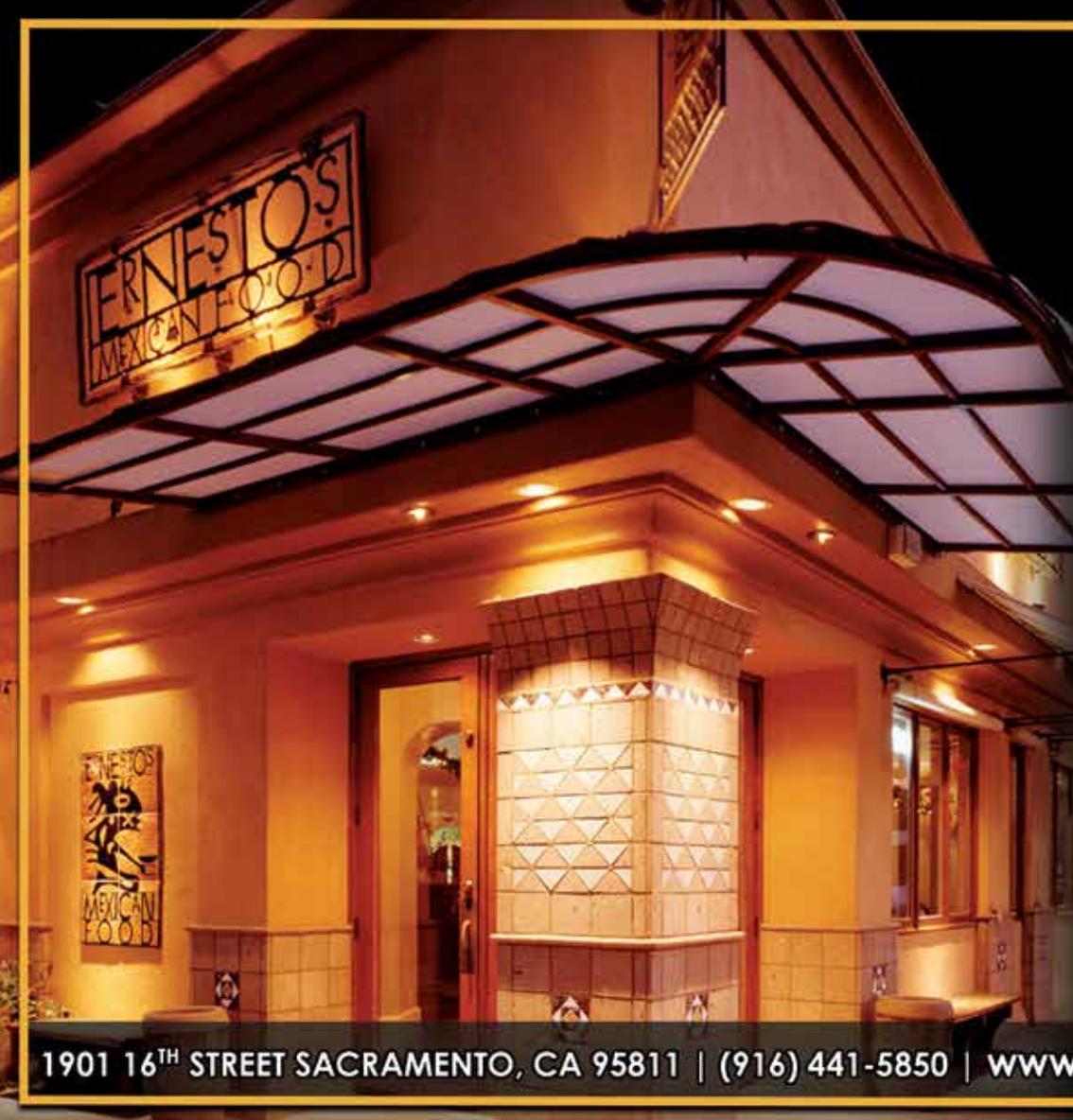
Pete's talking points were well received by the enthusiastic crowd, many of whom are clearly ready to see Buttigieg become the first openly gay U.S. President.

Married couple Steven and Nick Hernandez said they attended Buttigieg's rally in Sacramento to show their support for his candidacy and replied "Absolutely!" when asked if they would support Pete even if he were not gay.

Jerry Sloan, co-founder of the Sacramento Gay & Lesbian Center, said he had already voted for Pete in California's primary and praised Buttigieg's intelligence and facility with languages.

Healthcare is a top issue for him as well. "We need healthcare for everyone, rich and poor," said Sloan. Regarding Pete's campaign, he added: "It's great. It's not anything I think we expected to see this soon."

Don't forget to vote in California's primary election, on Tuesday, March 3.



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Cecile McLorin Salvant Returns To Mondavi Plus Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo

by Chris Narloch

Mondavi Center in Davis, the premier venue for performing arts in our area, has two great acts returning in March that are sure to have audiences cheering, when Cecile McLorin Salvant and then The Trocks bring their talents to town.

Cecile McLorin Salvant



Cecile McLorin Salvant

Cécile McLorin Salvant's "Ogresse" is an original song cycle that she created in collaboration with arranger and conductor Darcy James Argue.

This latest project from the two-time Grammy winner is a work both musical and narrative, a fairytale-like musical journey about a female ogre who falls in love with a man and, in the end, devours him.

Since the release of "Cécile," her 2010 debut album, Salvant has been wowing critics and audiences, including in her three Mondavi Center performances over the past four years.

Backed with a big band and ingenious arrangements by Argue, this parable that touches on race and gender with humor and insight is a landmark artistic statement for Salvant.

You can experience the sensational Cecile McLorin Salvant at Mondavi on Monday evening, March 9, 2020.

Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo

Celebrating more than 40 years of presenting their playful, but decidedly rigorous, view of traditional, classical ballet en travesti, the Trocks return to the Mondavi Center stage with their inspired blend of loving knowledge of dance, comic approach and the astounding fact that men can, indeed, dance en pointe without falling flat on their faces while dressed as the opposite sex.

From the early days of performing in late-late shows in off-off Broadway lofts to the stages of the Bolshoi and the Folies Bergère, this amazing company of professional male dancers has deservedly enjoyed both popular and critical success around the world.

Don't miss The Trocks in Davis, on Friday evening, March 13, 2020.

For more information and to purchase tickets to Mondavi Center shows, please visit www.mondaviarts.org.



Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo

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“The Call of the Wild” & More at the Movies

by Chris Narloch

The dog days of late winter are in full effect at movie theaters, as dud films like “Fantasy Island,” “Downhill” and “Dolittle” stink up cinemas while we wait for spring to (hopefully) bring some better pictures to screens. Check out the latest movie news below.



Harrison Ford and Computer in “The Call of the Wild.”

The Call of the Wild

Speaking of dog days, even the great Harrison Ford can’t save this sorry new screen adaptation of Jack London’s great novel about the bond between a sled dog and his adopted master (Ford), a prospector during the Klondike Gold Rush of the 1890s.

The problem isn’t Ford, who was born to play a crusty old “gold digger.” The error in judgment belongs to the producers and the director, who decided to use CGI to bring Buck the dog to “life.”

Lifeless is more like it, although children and the elderly may enjoy the film’s cutesy tone and fake-looking imagery. Ford is the most realistic thing in this version of “The Call of the Wild,” and Jack London is probably rolling over in his grave at what has been done to his classic book.

Crest Films

Sacramento’s historic midtown movie palace continues to show classic films on a regular basis, in between all of the concerts and other special events on their calendar.

“Citizen Kane,” one of the finest American movies ever made, and “Aliens,” James Cameron’s scary sequel to Ridley Scott’s original “Alien” film, will return to the big screen, each for one night only, in late February. The Crest will show “Pink Flamingos,” “Jesus Christ Superstar,” “Chinatown,” “The Princess Bride” and “E.T.” in March.

For dates and show times, visit www.crestsacramento.com.

Tower Movies

“Emma” opens at Sacramento’s Tower Theatre on Friday, Feb. 28, and “Ordinary Love” opens in March, both look very intriguing. The new version of Jane Austen’s “Emma,” directed by Autumn de Wilde, a renowned videographer and photographer, stars Anya Taylor-Joy and the great Bill Nighy.

“Ordinary Love” is an intense drama that has a promising cast headed by Liam Neeson and Lesley Manville, as a longstanding couple whose marriage is tested by the wife’s cancer diagnosis.

For more information, go to www.readingcinemasus.com/tower.



Jack Nicholson and Faye Dunaway star in “Chinatown.”



Lesley Manville and Liam Neeson In “Ordinary Love.”

Outword’s monthly Happy Hour



We will have special date night package prizes to Broadway Sacramento’s production of “Bandstand” and “Come from Away”! Each gift prize will include a pair of tickets to the show, a \$50 Melting Pot gift card and a variety of Broadway swag!



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The Season of Love Ushers in New Emotional Jams by Jimmy Newsum

As the spring season of love approaches, our favorite indie artists are pulling out some of their most gut-wrenching jams, guaranteed to pull at your heartstrings. Get out the tissues for your issues. Here are the top tracks and remixes climbing the music charts this month.

“Barracuda” Kristine W

With the help of her producer, John Keenan, Kristine W manages to reframe this classic rock single, first released in 1977 by Heart, into a modern-day gem. They brilliantly keep the song’s original magic while adding a bit of dance influence into the production. The original was written as a testament to Heart’s anger towards the music industry. Kristine decided to add it to her “Issues Episode 1: Love and Lies” album because its message fit perfectly with the vibe of her album. The biggest challenge was matching Ann Wilson’s incredible vocals. Wilson was 18 when she recorded the Heart single, hitting notes in the stratosphere. Kristine admits it took her three sessions, but she nails it big time. This is one of her standout singles.



Kristine W

To Let You Go” (about his friend committing suicide) and “Hurting” (about a friend who loses his husband to illness) reflect on all aspects of loss: the emptiness, hopelessness

“Don’t Leave Too Soon” Wils

Singapore pop singing sensation Wils – who revealed he was gay last year with his single, “Open Up Babe” – is back with a new album, “Don’t Leave Too Soon.” It features twelve inspiring tracks that shed light on the darker side of the rainbow. Songs like “Have

and rejection, as well as the courage and strength it takes to persevere after saying goodbye. His uplifting messages throughout this impressively produced album are a reminder to reach out to friends who may be in trouble and make sure they are okay. “Como Tu,” a song about living your authentic self despite what others think of you – that Wils sings in Spanish! – is a particularly moving track that will make hearts gush.

“Pieces: The Remixes” Avery Raquel

This teenaged contemporary soul phenomenon makes her club music chart debut with the incredible StoneBridge remix of her pop song “Pieces,” the second single from her “My Heart Away” album. Much like Taylor Swift’s best tracks, the emotion from the song stems from Avery’s own experience getting out of a relationship gone bad and reminds listeners that if you feel the need to remind yourself to be happy, then the relationship is toxic. The song has an 80’s Debbie Gibson retro sound with its horns and swinging beat. StoneBridge artfully keeps many of the magical elements from the radio edit yet makes the song his own with a high-energy beat. “Pieces” is different from any other tracks playing on dance floors today and that is what makes it so special.



Project Moses

“Missing Half” Project Moses

The out singer explores the tumultuous relationship he had with his now deceased father in this, his first single from his new visual album, “Better Man.” The ominous ballad is a love letter to his dad, meant to convey the sometimes-conflicting feelings many of us have for the people who raised us. Project Moses remembers his father as a strict disciplinarian who he admired and mimicked to earn his love. But as Project Moses matured and he could no longer ignore his truth, he says their values began to clash. The music video echoes the melancholy tone of the single. Shot mostly in black and white, it depicts Project Moses wandering in New York City. Everywhere he goes, he is haunted by shadows of his father. It’s a beautiful piece of work with a hopeful message that reminds us that our missing halves can be found within us.

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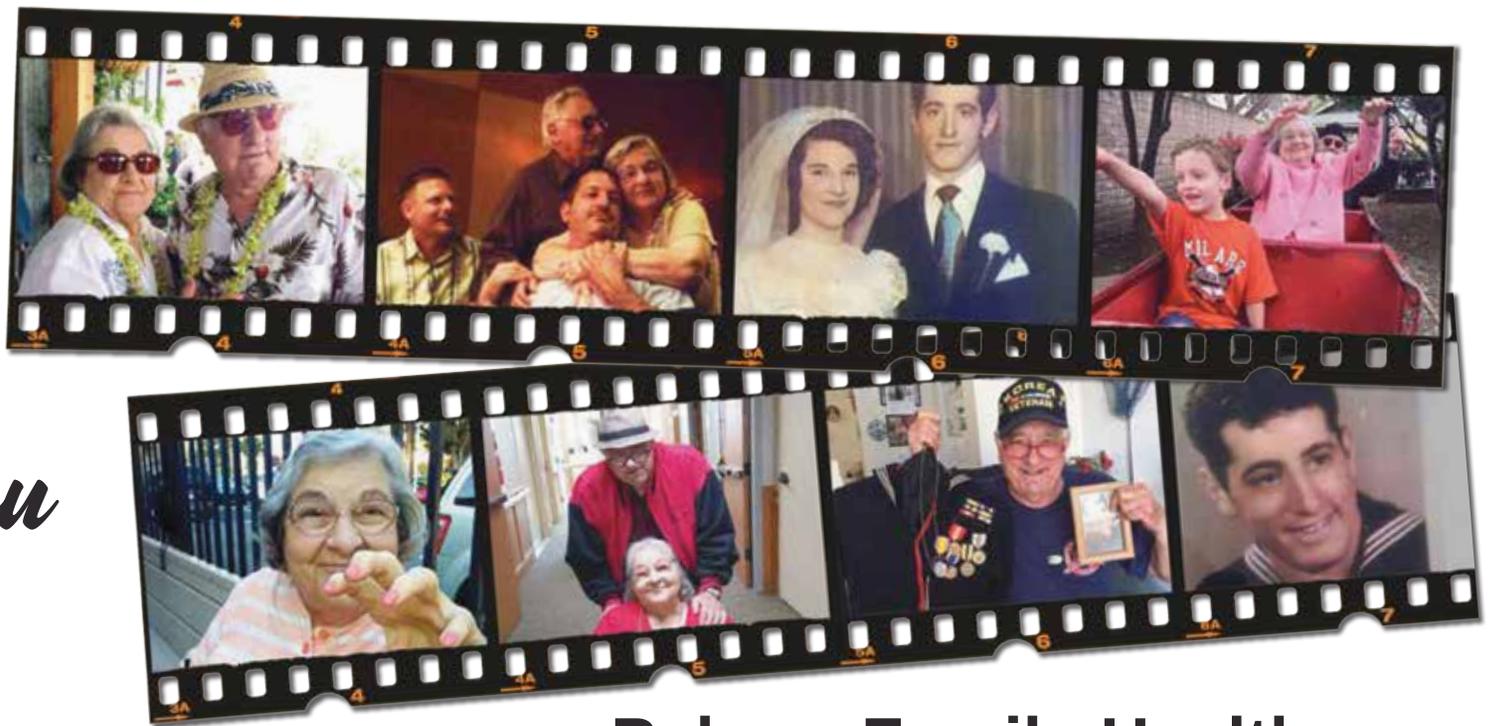
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“The Last Ship” Sails in to San Francisco Plus “A Bronx Tale” Sings in Sacramento

by Chris Narloch

Two new musicals come to Nor Cal stages this month, one of them co-directed by the great actor Robert De Niro and the other with a score by the brilliant singer-songwriter Sting.

A Bronx Tale

The great Jerry Zaks (“Hello, Dolly!”) and Robert De Niro co-directed this “Jersey Boys”-like musical about a young man torn between love for his straight-laced father and loyalty to a charismatic neighborhood mob boss.

“A Bronx Tale” was originally an autobiographical one-man show written and performed by Chazz Palminteri. In 1993, the play was turned into a movie starring De Niro and Palminteri, and this musical version debuted on Broadway in late 2016.

Featuring music by Alan Menken and lyrics by Glenn Slater, the show takes audiences to the stoops of the Bronx in the 1960s. Bursting with high-energy dance numbers and original doo-wop tunes, “A Bronx Tale” is an entertaining story about the importance of family.

“A Bronx Tale” plays March 3-8 at Memorial Auditorium, courtesy of Broadway Sacramento. For more information, go to www.broadwaysacramento.com.

The Last Ship

Another autobiographical work, “The Last Ship” is Sting’s very personal musical based on the rock star’s UK childhood home of Wallsend, which was hit hard by the closure of the town’s shipyard.

Sting was not originally in the show, but he did step in to one of the musical’s supporting roles after “The Last Ship” opened on Broadway in 2014. The singer will star as shipyard foreman Jackie White on tour in San Francisco and will perform the role at every performance.

A fictional story with a historical backdrop, “The Last Ship” follows Gideon (Oliver Savile), a prodigal son returning home after 17 years at sea to find that the local shipyard his town was built around is closing and Meg, the love he left behind, has moved on.

“The Last Ship” performs through March 22 at San Francisco’s Golden Gate Theatre, courtesy of Broadway San Francisco. For more information, visit www.broadwaysf.com.



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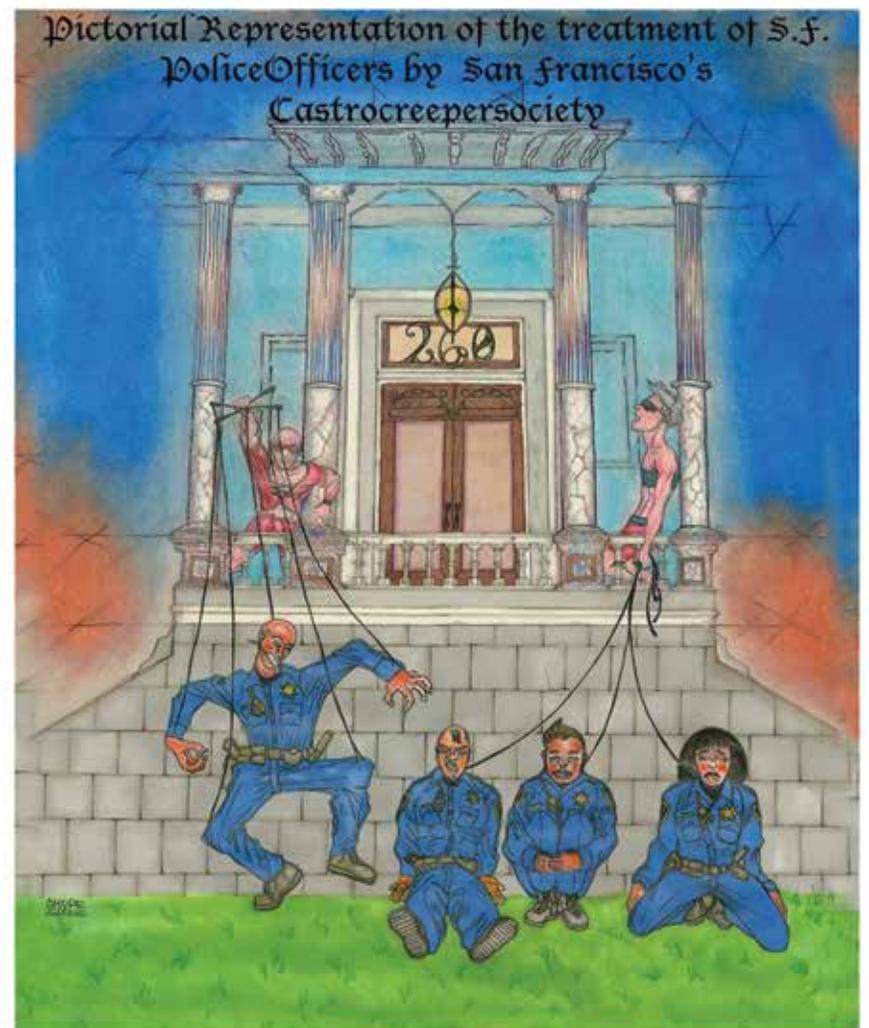
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