

# outward

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**L A V E R N E  
C O X**

**Transcendent:  
A Memoir  
page 9**

**Turkey Bars  
LGBTQ+  
Cruise Ship  
from Ports  
page 5**

**X Games  
Sacramento  
Brings Inclusive  
Culture  
page 11**

**"Young  
Frankenstein"  
The Musical  
Arrives  
page 13**

**A Pizza  
Lunch Worth  
Sneaking  
Away For  
page 22**



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# Sacramento Stonewall Democrats Respond to Supreme Court Decision on Transgender Student Athletes

Jamarie Crawford, Stonewall Democratic Club of Greater Sacramento

The Stonewall Democrats are deeply disappointed by the recent decision from the United States Supreme Court upholding state laws that prohibit transgender girls and women from participating in girls' and women's school sports.



While the Court has spoken on the legal questions before it, our commitment to the dignity, safety, and equality of transgender people remains unchanged.

Every young person deserves the opportunity to learn, grow, and belong. For many students, participating in sports is about far more than competition. It's about teamwork, friendship, confidence, and being part of a community. No student should be made to feel unwelcome or excluded simply because of who they are.

Today's ruling is a painful reminder that the fight for LGBTQ+ equality is not over. Throughout our nation's history, progress has rarely followed a straight line. Every generation has faced setbacks that tested its resolve, and every generation has been called

upon to continue the work of building a more just and inclusive society.

The Stonewall Democratic Club of Greater Sacramento stands in solidarity with transgender youth, their families, educators, coaches, and every member of our community who believes that all people deserve to be treated with dignity and respect. We remain committed to advancing policies that protect LGBTQ+ Californians and oppose efforts to marginalize vulnerable communities.

Club President Neil Pople said "It's troubling that our nation continues to devote so much time and political energy to policing who a few children play sports with while far too many children are suffering from abuse, exploitation, poverty,

hunger, bullying, and violence. If our leaders are truly concerned about protecting kids, those are the crises that deserve our undivided attention."

To every transgender young person who may be reading today's headlines with fear or uncertainty, we want you to hear this clearly: You belong. You are valued. You are loved. This decision does not define your worth, and it will not diminish our commitment to standing beside you.

As we move forward, we call upon elected leaders, advocates, and community members to reject division and continue working toward a future where every person, regardless of gender identity, has the opportunity to participate fully and authentically in American life.

# Senator Wiener Blasts SCOTUS Decision Upholding Transgender Sports Bans

resource: The office of Senator Scott Wiener

The Supreme Court upheld a set of discriminatory state laws banning transgender people from participating in women's and girls' sports. Senator Scott Wiener (D-San Francisco) issued the following statement in response:

"In upholding trans sports bans, the Supreme Court has once again fueled the campaign to erase and dehumanize trans people. And the way the Court wrote the decision opens the door for other efforts to eliminate trans people

from public life.

"Banning trans young people from playing sports is cruel and discriminatory. Trans youth in sports are tiny in number – for example, fewer than ten NCAA athletes out of 500,000 – and they're harming no one.

"Just let these young people play sports. Just leave them alone.

"Trump and MAGA's crusade to kick trans youth out of sports is part of a culture war that uses trans people as political pawns to distract from these same politicians' failure to address the real issues harming people, such as the obscene cost of housing, health care, child care, and groceries. Instead they demonize trans people – 1% of the

population – as the cause of so many of society's ills.

"The deeply organized propaganda campaign to demonize and dehumanize this tiny population is unbelievably dangerous. It leads to violence against trans people and creates an atmosphere of fear and marginalization.

"To defeat MAGA's authoritarian playbook, we have to call their treatment of trans people what it is: a cynical distraction from the real problems facing our country with deadly consequences for vulnerable people.

"Trans people aren't going anywhere. And many of us will continue to stand up and have their backs, even when it's considered unpopular to do so."

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# Canada Day Pride

words and images by Chris Allan

As Americans marked July 4th last weekend, Andrew Larche had already brought his own brand of patriotism to Ottawa's July 1 Canada Day celebrations at LeBreton Flats – rainbow hat and all.

Among the speeches that punctuated the day, Prime Minister Mark Carney – in a Canada Day statement – offered a reminder of what much of Canada aspires to be: “There will always be forces that want to divide us. They forget this country’s founding insight: that unity is not uniformity, that our differences are strengths to nurture rather than risks to manage, and that our values serve as an unshakeable foundation.”



Andrew Larche, decked out in Canada flags and a rainbow-studded hat, celebrates Canada Day at Ottawa's Fête du Canada Day festivities



Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney greets supporters before taking his seat for Canada Day ceremonies, where he later delivered remarks.

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# Turkey Bars LGBTQ+ Cruise Ship from Scheduled Port Visits

Passengers aboard an upcoming LGBTQ+ cruise will have a different Mediterranean itinerary after Turkish officials refused to allow the ship to visit two planned ports, citing the country's "moral values" and "family values."

Atlantis Events, the world's largest LGBTQ+ vacation company, announced that its July 5-15 cruise aboard Virgin Voyages' Scarlet Lady would no longer stop in Istanbul and Kuşadası, Turkey. The company said it was informed by Turkish authorities that the ship would not be permitted to dock because it had been chartered for LGBTQ+ travelers.

According to Atlantis CEO Rich Campbell, the company spent weeks working through diplomatic channels and with local officials in hopes of preserving the original itinerary. Those efforts were ultimately unsuccessful, making this the first time in the company's 36-year history that it has been denied entry to a country specifically because of the identity of its guests.

Rather than cancel the voyage, Atlantis revised the itinerary to include new stops in Alexandria, Egypt, and Heraklion on the Greek island of Crete.

Broadway icon Patti LuPone, one of the featured entertainers on the cruise, expressed disappointment over the decision, saying she was "shocked" and "furious" that

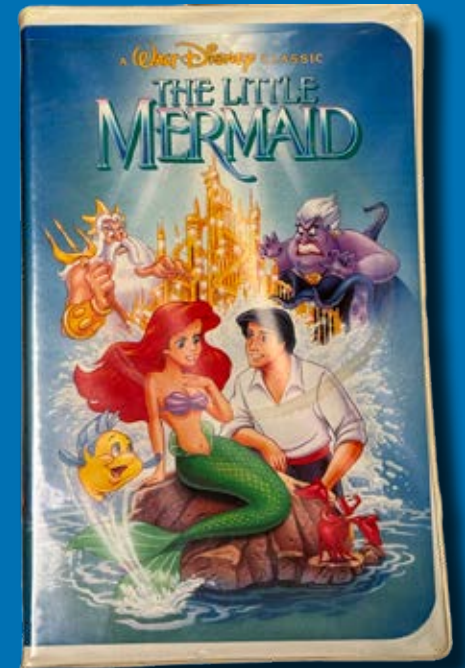


passengers were being turned away simply because they were part of an LGBTQ+ charter.

Turkey has become an increasingly difficult environment for LGBTQ+ people in recent years. Pride marches have frequently been banned or dispersed by police, and government leaders have repeatedly used anti-LGBTQ+ rhetoric in public statements. While same-sex relationships remain legal in Turkey, LGBTQ+ advocacy groups have reported growing restrictions on public events and visibility.

For many travelers, the decision serves as a reminder that while LGBTQ+ tourism has flourished around the world, acceptance is far from universal. Atlantis emphasized that its guests simply wanted to experience Turkey's history, culture, and hospitality. Instead, the company says they became the latest example of how politics and discrimination can still shape where LGBTQ+ people are welcomed.

# The List



- Brighter Days Ahead Foundation
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**LGBTQ+ Healthcare Advocates Host First-Ever Advocacy Day for Transgender, Gender-Expansive, and Intersex Youth at California Capitol**

words and image by Ariela Cuellar (she/they), Senior Communications Specialist, CA LGBTQ HHS Network

On June 23, transgender, gender-expansive, and intersex (TGI) youth from across California gathered at the State Capitol for the state's first-ever TGI Youth Advocacy Day, hosted by Rainbow Families Action, the California LGBTQ Health and Human Services Network, and Health Access. More than just another advocacy event, the day centered the voices of young people who are too often excluded from conversations about policies that directly affect their lives.

Throughout the day, TGI youth met with legislators and staff to share their experiences navigating healthcare, education, and the growing wave of anti-trans legislation and rhetoric. Rather than hearing about transgender youth from advocates or political commentators, lawmakers heard directly from the young people living these realities every day.

While youth met with elected officials, parents, caregivers, and community partners worked together to strengthen a statewide coalition dedicated to protecting TGI youth and expanding access to affirming healthcare and supportive policies.

The California Legislative LGBTQ Caucus also recognized several transgender



youth athletes and advocates, including AB Hernandez, celebrating their leadership and resilience amid increasing attacks on transgender people nationwide.

"For so long, conversations about TGI youth have happened without them, but today our young people spoke for themselves," said Dannie Cesena, Director of the California LGBTQ Health and Human Services Network. "The people most impacted by these policies deserve to be leading these conversations."

Arne Johnson, Lead Advocate at Rainbow Families Action, emphasized the importance of creating opportunities for young people to engage in the democratic process. "In a dark time for trans youth, opening doors for them to speak truth to power is good for the world, but also so good for them," Johnson said. "Our kids need to feel agency when so much is being taken away from them."

Youth advocates also urged lawmakers to strengthen protections for transgender inclusion in sports and called for a \$26 million state investment to help stabilize access to gender-affirming care across California. As federal attacks continue to create uncertainty for providers, patients, and families, advocates say California has an opportunity—and a responsibility—to uphold its commitment to being a safe haven for LGBTQ+ communities by ensuring TGI youth can access the care, support, and legal protections they need to thrive.

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# Attorney General Bonta Celebrates Supreme Court Victory Affirming Constitutional Right to Birthright Citizenship

California Attorney General Rob Bonta celebrated a decision by the U.S. Supreme Court affirming the constitutional right to birthright citizenship and striking down President Trump's executive order purporting to terminate that right. Attorney General Bonta co-led a multistate coalition in challenging the executive order just one day after the President took office.

"Today's decision affirms a foundational tenet of American democracy: that every child born in this country, no matter their background, is equal under the law and can pursue the American Dream," said Attorney General Bonta. "It's unconscionable that just hours after swearing to uphold the Constitution, President Trump attempted to rewrite history and the clear text of the 14th Amendment with an executive order seeking to end birthright citizenship. The Supreme Court's decision today is a reminder that, no matter what he might wish, Trump is not a king. I'm proud to have led a multistate coalition to defend birthright citizenship. Rest assured: we will continue to fight to uphold the rights and freedoms guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution against tyranny in all its forms."



A heartfelt thank you to the Lavender Library for proudly displaying the *Outword* logo in both their front window and at the front counter. Community partnerships like this remind us just how fortunate we are to have organizations that support one another and help keep Sacramento's LGBTQ+ community connected. The Lavender Library is much more than a place to peruse LGBTQ+ books—it's a welcoming space filled with history, culture, conversation, and resources that preserve and celebrate our community's stories. If you haven't stopped by in a while, visit their website for current hours and upcoming events, then take some time to explore everything they have to offer. While you're there, ask to see their collection of vintage *Outword* back issues—you might be surprised by how much local LGBTQ+ history is waiting on those shelves. [www.lavenderlibrary.com](http://www.lavenderlibrary.com)

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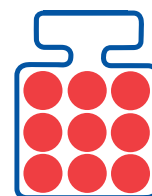
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# Drag Queen Bingo Raises More Than \$7,000 for Front Street Animal Shelter

words and photos by Julie Ebe

The Sacramento Rainbow Chamber's Drag Queen Bingo on July 2 was one for the record books. Before the doors even opened, the line stretched down the block as one of the largest crowds ever gathered for the monthly fundraiser. The excitement inside Mango's Burger Bar matched the scene outside, creating an unforgettable night of laughter, entertainment, and community.

Hosted by the fabulous DoMe Moore, the evening benefited Front Street Animal Shelter and raised more than \$7,000 to support its lifesaving work for Sacramento's homeless animals.

From the packed house and enthusiastic bingo players to generous raffle participants and sponsors, the community showed up in a big way. The incredible turnout was a reminder of what happens when people come together for a great cause and a great time.

Thank you to everyone who attended, volunteered, donated, and helped make the night such an overwhelming success. We'll see you at the next Drag Queen Bingo!



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# “Transcendent: A Memoir” by Laverne Cox

book review by Terri Schlichenmeyer



Laverne Cox  
Photo by Bret Lemke

Okay, let’s just say it: you’re tired of lies. They come from above, behind, from either shoulder. They’re repeated, laid out in a line, told as if they’re true but they’re not. You wish people would stop lying to you. As in the new memoir “Transcendent” by Laverne Cox, you wish you could tell the truth about yourself.

Sissy. If the bullies in the neighborhood weren’t constantly calling Laverne Cox that name, then Cox’s mother was. “Sissy,” was just one word, though; the others were worse. The boys would say those things while they beat Cox, when they could catch her. Her mother screamed them at her gentle child who didn’t like “boy” activities.

Even at eight years old, says Cox, “I was a prim and proper lady.” Despite the verbal abuse about her perceived feminine behavior and a furtive, failed attempt at conversion therapy, Cox’s mother sent her and her brother to the Alabama School of Fine Arts, where Cox learned to dance. It was a lifeline for her, and the talent gained there helped Cox get into college in Indiana.

From there, Cox expected to find fame and fortune in New York City. And yet, the abuse she suffered as a child held Cox back, and the words “There is something wrong with me” became a daily mantra.

“I didn’t know how to say it.” Cox says.

“I’m a girl.” There were therapy sessions to get to that point, as Cox learned the language and skills needed to speak the truth. Landing a sense of style helped, as did her brother’s support, a handful of friends, and happy, scent-infused memories of her mother’s make-up table.

At each step, Cox says, “I was expressing myself, I was also allowing myself to edge closer to my girlhood.”

Let’s start here: “Transcendent” is a difficult read – not for style, but for substance.

From her earliest memory of being sexually abused as a toddler; to verbal and physical abuse from many sources; to what, judging by photo captions, seems perhaps like forgiveness, author Laverne Cox glosses over nothing. Be ready, in other words, for pages and pages of memories that, like a roller-coaster, will make you cringe and want to hide your eyes, although doing so would be a mistake. The best part of this memoir is in its overall.

As this book progresses, Cox’s story does,

too. We see a child who knows a truth but has no words for it. The child becomes a teen with a bursting sense of self, then a young adult who craves love as she’s stretching her wings. By the time Cox advances to writing about her career and the abuse is (mostly) over, readers will breathe a well-deserved sigh of relief.

Whew, you’ve winced through a harrowing tale to reach a satisfying but not complete update.

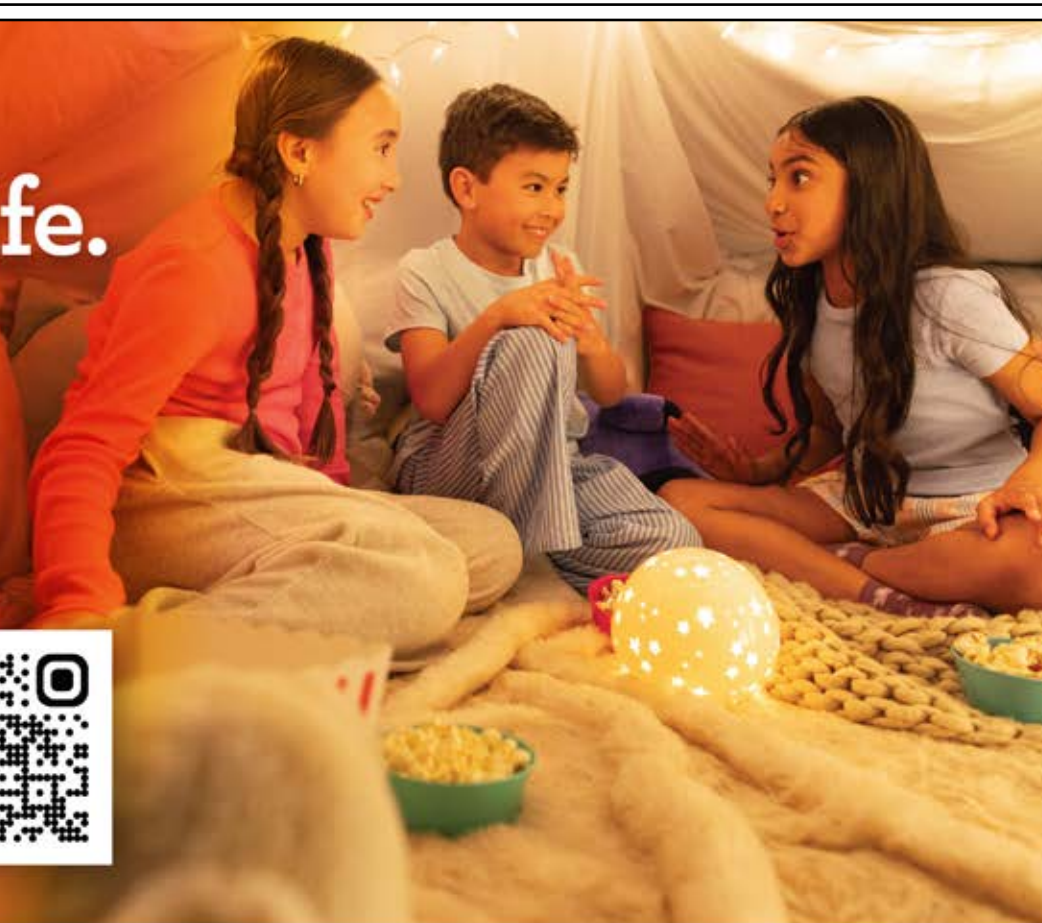
Fans of Cox’s work will want “Transcendent,” as will anyone who’s transitioned, is thinking about it, or loves someone who has. It’s a rough read, but a necessary one, then, and that’s no lie.

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# Sic! X Games Sacramento Brings Inclusive Culture And Top-Tier Competition

words and images by Chris Allan

From June 26–28, Cal Expo hosted the inaugural MoonPay X Games Sacramento, the first stop of the new X Games League (XGL) – a format pitting four franchise “XClubs” against each other for a season championship.

Title sponsor MoonPay, a crypto-payments company, transformed the midway behind Heart Health Park into a five-course action sports complex: Moto X Whip/Trick, BMX Dirt, Vert Ramp, Street Skate, and a BMX Park painted with a colorful pipe rendering of the Tower Bridge. Over three mild-weather days, Cal Expo hosted 18 finals, an X-Fest village, and weekend concerts headlined by Kaskade, Mustard, and Subtronics.

Today, action sports have become one of the most LGBTQ+-accepting spaces in competitive sports. Weeks earlier, Brazilian Olympic skateboarder Rayssa Leal, 18, made headlines confirming her bisexuality during Pride Month, joking to fans that she’d “shocked a total of 0 people.”

That same openness carried into the Women’s BMX Park field, anchored by two prominent out athletes: Hannah Roberts and Perris Benegas.

Roberts, 24, a six-time World Champion and Olympic silver medalist from Buchanan, Michigan, entered Cal Expo as one of the most decorated riders in history. For her, the acceptance she’s found in BMX has never wavered. “Action sports, in total – it’s really an inclusive group,” she told *Outword*. “As long as you like to ride, and you’re a good-hearted person, nobody really cares about anything else.” Asked whether that had changed since she turned pro at 12, Roberts shook her head. “I’ve never really had any issues.”

Sharing the field was Benegas, 30, the Reno, Nevada native whose riding has been defined by fluidity, control and effortless style. A fellow Olympic silver medalist, Benegas was accompanied by her wife, Mikaela. The two married just under a year ago. “Everyone’s very accepting and open,” Benegas said. “People just love you for who you are. It doesn’t matter who I love. They love me for who I am.”

Neither athlete pointed to a formal X Games inclusion policy, and the event’s media contact couldn’t point to one either. The acceptance both described seems to run by an unwritten rule rather than any official one. That ethos may trace back to the sport’s roots. Skateboarding and BMX both took shape as outsider pursuits in the 1970s and ‘80s, long before X Games gave them a mainstream stage in 1995 – leaving room for other kinds of difference to belong, too.

Benegas, who grew up driving between

Reno and Sacramento to ride, said the connection runs deep: “It’s pretty big. We used to drive out to Sac... it’s like coming home.” Asked whether visibility in one sport ripples into others, pointing to Leal’s news, she said, “Everyone’s got their own little culture, their own industry. But at the end of the day, we’re all in action sports, and I think everyone kind of supports each other.”

By the end of the weekend, Roberts was nursing a dislocated shoulder from a practice-session injury. She competed anyway, putting out a ferocious effort that earned her second place. Benegas closed out her clean, controlled runs with a fourth-place finish. Though both women compete head-to-head on the leaderboard, they represent a shared mindset that defines modern action sports. Rather than hiding their identities, they – and newly out voices like Leal’s – are simply authentic, proving that elite performance and genuine queer visibility thrive together.



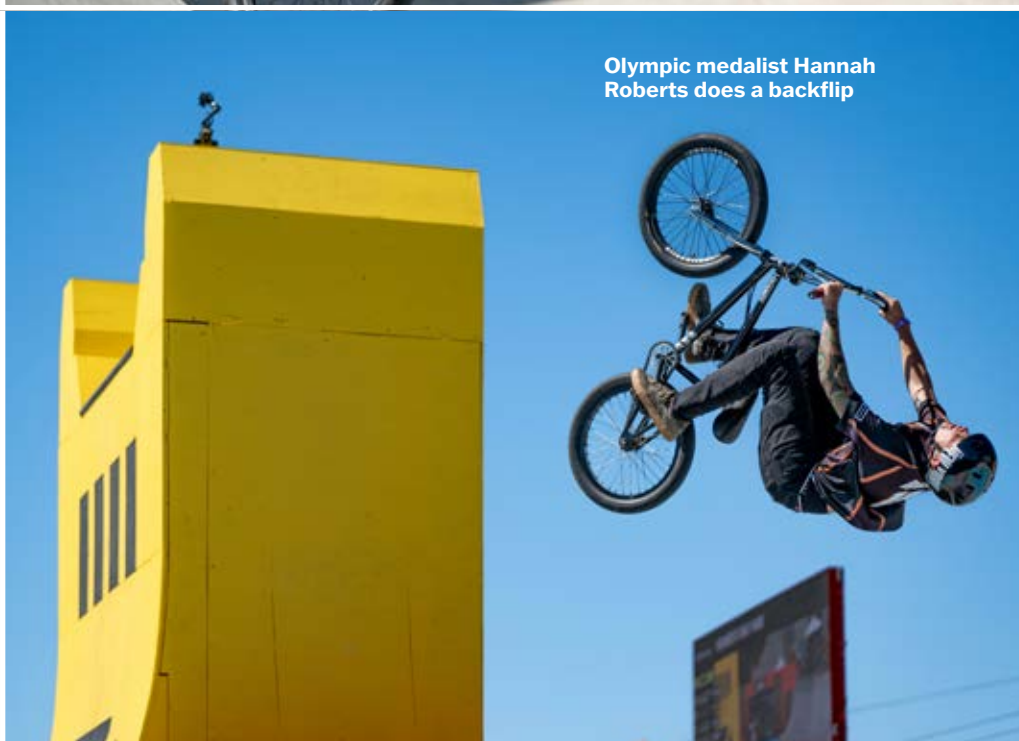
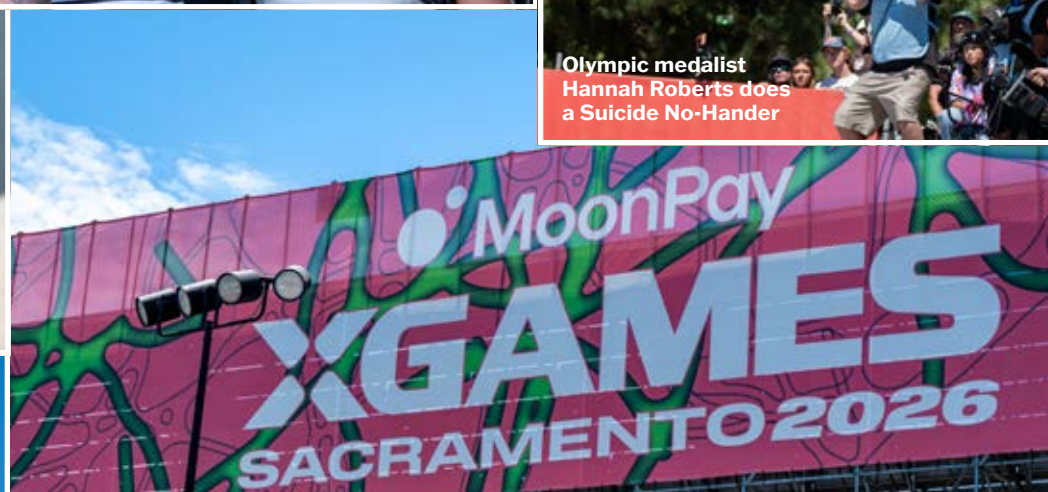
BMX World Champion and Olympic medalist Hannah Roberts



BMX World Champion and Olympic medalist Perris Benegas with her wife Mikaela



Olympic medalist Hannah Roberts does a Suicide No-Hander



Olympic medalist Hannah Roberts does a backflip



Olympic medalist Perris Benegas does a One-Handed Tabletop

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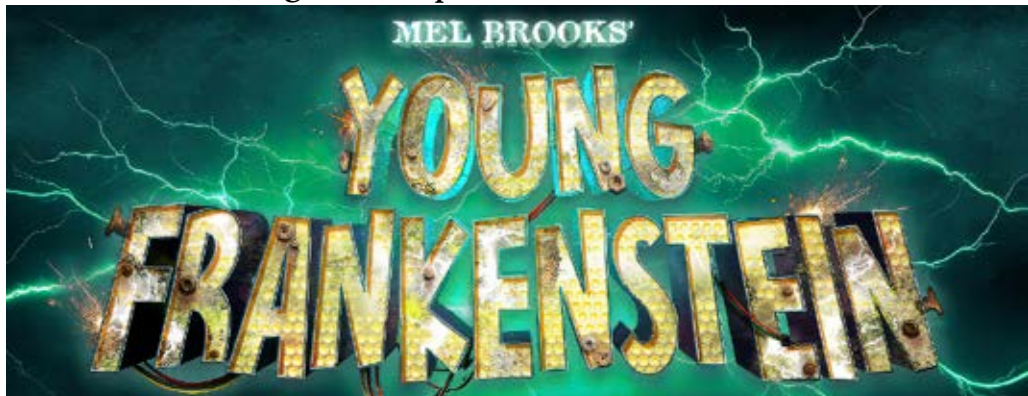




# “Young Frankenstein” The Musical Arrives

by Chris Narloch

Funnyman (and EGOT winner) Mel Brooks recently turned 100 years old, and he shows no signs of slowing down. The brilliant writer, director, actor and playwright will reprise his role as Yogurt in the upcoming sequel to 1987’s “Spaceballs,” Brooks’ beloved, big screen spoof of “Star Wars.”



My favorite film by the genius director of “Blazing Saddles” and “The Producers” is “Young Frankenstein,” Brooks’ hilarious satire of James Whale’s iconic horror film from 1931.

That 1974 film was a hit all over again when Brooks turned “Young Frankenstein” into a Broadway musical, which sings and dances on to the Broadway At Music Circus stage this month.

You are guaranteed a monstrously good time at this spectacular show, which includes all your favorite bits from Brooks’ film, plus show-stopping musical numbers, including “Transylvania Mania,” “He Vas My Boyfriend” and “Puttin’ on the Ritz.”

Brooks wrote all the music and lyrics for the stage version of “Young Frankenstein” and cowrote the book, so get ready to laugh your head off at this wickedly funny re-imagining of the Frankenstein legend.

The Broadway At Music Circus premiere of “Young Frankenstein” will perform this July 10 - 19 at Sacramento’s UC Davis Health Pavilion.

For more information and to purchase tickets, visit [www.broadwaysacramento.com](http://www.broadwaysacramento.com)

# “Hadestown” Is Heavenly

by Chris Narloch

I have seen the musical “Hadestown” several times now, and I never fail to be transported by this magical and moving theatrical masterpiece, which won eight Tony Awards in 2019 (including Best Musical) and continues to wow audiences around the world.



Later this month, you can watch a live theater capture from the West End production of “Hadestown” in the comfort of a movie theater near you, featuring five principal cast members from the show’s original Broadway production: Reeve Carney, André De Shields, Amber Gray, Eva Noblezada, and Patrick Page.

The genre-defying musical blends modern American folk music with New Orleans-inspired jazz to reimagine a sweeping ancient tale that takes audiences on a heavenly journey to hell and back.

Following two intertwining love stories - that of young dreamers Orpheus and Eurydice, and that of King Hades and his wife Persephone - “Hadestown: The Musical” will be presented in movie theaters for five nights only, beginning July 23.

For participating theaters, visit [www.fandango.com](http://www.fandango.com)

outwordmagazine.com

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## Capital Stage Blows Sh\*t Up

by Chris Narloch

The prolific local theater Capital Stage ends its current season with another two-hander, “The Two Kids That Blow Sh\*t Up,” which follows a pair of childhood friends from pre-teen years into adulthood and back again.



Jomar Tagatac and Rinabeth Apostol costar in “The Two Kids...” at Capital Stage.

Max and Diana know each other because one of their fathers had an affair with the other child’s mother when they were young, and the pair spend the ensuing decades trying not to fall in love with each other or repeat their parents’ mistakes.

Director Jeffrey Lo successfully navigates the play’s frequent shifts in time and place – no easy feat due to the non-traditional structure of Carla Ching’s play, which consists of sometimes bite-sized scenes that take the characters back and forth to different ages and points in their relationship and their lives.

Jomar Tagatac and Rinabeth Apostol work diligently to sell Ching’s story, but, for me, the repeated shifts in the character’s ages felt more like an acting exercise, and the gimmick of jumping forward and backward in time – as opposed to a chronological narrative – was more frustrating than illuminating.

Kudos to Capital Stage’s technical crew for pulling off a complicated production, and I should share that the rest of the opening night audience seemed to appreciate the play much more than I did.

“The Two Kids...” continues through July 26 at Sacramento’s Capital Stage.

Go to [capstage.org](http://capstage.org)

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## SF Mime Troupe in Davis

The San Francisco Mime Troupe (SFMT) will return to Davis this July for a free performance that asks the political question: How are we going to survive and rebuild in the rubble left from the economic, social, and psychological devastation of the idiotic kleptocrats?



Is it just us, or does it feel like everything is falling apart? AI robots, economic collapse, protesting frogs, people predicting the end of the world. This is not the future – or the democracy – we were promised.

But the real question is: When the current crises are over, will there be enough left to build something new out of this wreckage?

SFMT’s new summer show, “Wreckage: A Musical Tragicomedy,” will perform indoors this July 22, at the Richard Brunelle Performance Hall on the campus of Davis Senior High School.

For details, please visit [www.sfmt.org](http://www.sfmt.org)

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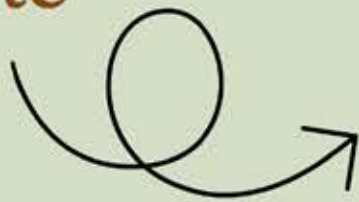
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# *Let's build a team!*

Something is stirring along the Delta...

At first, it's just a whisper.

A flash of leopard print. A suspiciously familiar red wig. Someone in a caftan asking where the mimosas are. A group of runners debating whether dressing as their favorite TV character counts as athletic wear.

Then suddenly... it's happening.

Dashin' Down the Delta is taking over on August 16, and this is not your average fun run. There are no stopwatches to impress. No personal records to break. No pressure. Just a morning packed with laughter, costumes, community, and a healthy dose of delightful nonsense.

Want to walk it? Perfect.

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Want to strut down the course like you're accepting an Emmy Award? We fully support that. Want to gather your friends and show up as the entire cast of your favorite TV show? Even better. And let's not forget the newest sensation sweeping the Delta... the Ms. Roper Romper Dash. Grab your brightest caftan, biggest jewelry, and most fabulous wig and join the growing crowd of Helen Ropers ready to make history one dramatic stride at a time.

Not a runner? No problem. Sponsor it. Cheer people on. Bring the family. Sign up the kids for the Delta Dashers Kids Run. Make a morning of it and stay for brunch afterward.

This event is about fun. Pure, unapologetic fun.

So start planning your outfit. Start recruiting your team. Start practicing your power walk.

Because on August 16, the Delta won't know what hit it.

Walk it. Run it. Strut it. Sponsor it.

Everything you need to know can be found at [DashinDowntheDelta.com](http://DashinDowntheDelta.com). Registration is open now.

The only question is...

Who are you showing up as?

*\*Make sure you add in that you are joining in the group on registration form.*



# “Masters of the Universe” Reviewed Plus, “The Elephant Man” at Tower

by Chris Narloch

Of course, the big movie news this month – aside from the return of Zendaya and Tom Holland in yet another Spider-man movie, on July 31 – is the release of Chris Nolan’s highly-anticipated, nearly-three-hour epic film of “The Odyssey,” which will open at Sacramento’s Esquire IMAX Theatre on July 16, in 70mm.

I haven’t seen either of those titles yet, but I did manage to watch the four films reviewed below.



## Omaha

This heartbreaking drama is available for home viewing now, and it’s a must-see if you like meaty stories about troubled families in crisis. John Magaro stars and gives a beautiful performance as a shattered father who loses his job and his house after his wife dies. He then decides to abandon his two young children in a hospital emergency room so that they will have a better life than he can give them.

Although the movie is not a true story, it was inspired by the disastrous fallout of an actual 2008 Nebraska “Safe Haven” law. The legislation accidentally created a legal loophole allowing parents to abandon children up to 19 years old without criminal prosecution, prompting a nationwide influx of parents leaving their children at area hospitals.

The film is not exactly a fun watch, but it is so well-written and performed that I highly recommend it.



## The Elephant Man

The Tower Theatre’s David Lynch retrospective rolls on until the end of July, and the next feature up is the director’s stunning historical drama about Joseph Merrick, a real-life British man who died in 1890 at the age of 27 due to complications from his extreme physical deformities.

The great John Hurt gives a towering performance as Merrick, and he is supported by a superb cast that includes Anthony Hopkins, Anne Bancroft, Wendy Hiller, and John Gielgud. One of Lynch’s finest films, the movie features Oscar-worthy make-up effects and beautiful black-and-white cinematography.

“The Elephant Man” will screen at the Tower this July 10–16.



## Masters of the Universe

The hunky British actor Nicholas Galitzine is the main reason to see the latest big-screen movie inspired by a popular series of comic books. The film is super-cheesy fun if you’re in the right mood – and if you don’t mind all the deliberately corny jokes in the overlong script.

He-Man (aka Prince Adam) gets separated from his magic sword at the start of the movie, but when he gets his super-powers back, he also acquires a golden tan, washboard abs, bulging biceps, feathered hair, and a short leather skirt that shows a lot of leg. In other words, the moviemakers were hoping to attract hetero fangirls and gay men in addition to the comic book crowd.

The film received a wide theatrical release, but it’s fading fast at the box office.

## Maddie’s Secret

Filmmaker John Early always wanted to play a blonde ingenue from a disease-of-the-week movie, so he decided to write, direct and star in this film about a sweet woman who washes dishes for a living, before stumbling into a career as an online food influencer who goes viral. Maddie’s sudden fame triggers long-buried trauma that leads to a secret battle with bulimia.

I can’t help but admire a certifiably bonkers film that isn’t afraid to go to the wall with its craziness, and this movie does just that, alternating between camp humor, silly soap opera and heartfelt drama. Mr. Early is very good as Maddie, and he is joined by a terrific supporting cast that includes Kate Berlant, Kristen Johnston, and Vanessa Bayer. “Maddie’s Secret” won’t be for everyone, but fans of truly bizarre and original cinema just might get a kick out of it.

“Maddie’s Secret” opened at Sacramento’s Tower Theatre on July 3.



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# Out & About with Matthew Burlingame

Pride month may be over, but our community's joy is more than a few summer days...it is a year long act of resilience. We continue to find strength through laughter, music, art and gathering together. Whether dancing, cheering at a drag show, exploring a festival or laughing until your sides hurt, these shared moments remind us why our community is so vibrant. So grab some friends, get out there and celebrate the joy that continues to bring us together.



## July 11

Plant lovers, this one's for you! Hella Plants Market returns Saturday, July 11 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 6151 H St. for a vibrant celebration of greenery, creativity and community. Browse an incredible selection of plants, shop local artisans, enjoy food, music and hands-on workshops, and connect with fellow plant enthusiasts. [Thehellaplantsmarket.com](http://Thehellaplantsmarket.com)

## July 12

Spice up your Sunday with Makeup & Mimosas: Drag Brunch with a Punch on Sunday, July 12 at noon at Punch Line Sacramento, 2100 Arden Way, Suite 225. Presented by Lolgbt+ Presents, this lively brunch combines dazzling drag performances, delicious food and plenty of laughs for an unforgettable afternoon. 18+. [Punchlinesac.com](http://Punchlinesac.com)

## July 9

Follow the Yellow Brick Road to the beloved musical fantasy "The Wiz" on Thursday, July 9 at 7 p.m. at Crest Theatre, 1013 K St. This dazzling 1978 reimagining of "The Wizard of Oz" stars Diana Ross and Michael Jackson in a soulful, unforgettable adventure through Oz on the big screen. [Cresttheater.com](http://Cresttheater.com)

Dust off your bell-bottoms and boogie shoes for 1970's Disco Fever Night on Thursday, July 9 from 8 p.m. to midnight at Parkside Sacramento, 715 K St. Presented by The Aesthetic Events, the 21-and-over dance party promises funky beats, glittering disco vibes and nonstop dancing inspired by the decade that brought us Studio 54. [Officialtheaesthetic.com](http://Officialtheaesthetic.com)



## July 16

Uncork your creativity at Tip N' Sip Paint Night on Thursday, July 16 from 6 to 9 p.m. at Two Rivers Cider Company, 4311 Attawa Ave. This colorful fundraiser invites guests of every skill level to explore the art of pour painting while enjoying cider, community and plenty of laughs. Benefiting Camp Gotalotgoion. [Tworiverscider.com](http://Tworiverscider.com)

## July 17

Adventure awaits at the Northern California Summer RV Showcase, July 17-19 at Camping World, 1039 Orlando Ave. in Roseville. Explore the latest RVs, score special show pricing and discover everything you need for your next road trip or camping adventure. Whether you're a seasoned traveler or dreaming of your first getaway, this showcase is packed with inspiration for life on the open road. [Campingworld.com](http://Campingworld.com)



## July 18

Molly Tuttle at Ace of Spades

## July 18

Step back into California's pioneer days during Demonstration Day at Sutter's Fort State Historic Park, 2701 L St., on Saturday, July 18 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. This hands-on family event brings history to life with blacksmithing, cooking, spinning, carpentry and other 1840s demonstrations. [Parks.ca.gov](http://Parks.ca.gov)

Molly Tuttle brings her electrifying blend of bluegrass, folk and Americana to Ace of Spades, 1417 R St., on Saturday, July 18. Doors open at 7 p.m., with the show starting at 8 p.m. A Grammy-winning guitarist and songwriter, Tuttle has become one of roots music's brightest stars. Expect jaw-dropping musicianship, soaring harmonies and an unforgettable night of high-energy performances from one of today's most exciting live acts. [Aceofspadessac.com](http://Aceofspadessac.com)



Joey Avery

## July 19

Catch one of comedy's fastest-rising stars when Joey Avery performs Sunday, July 19 at 7 p.m. at Punch Line Sacramento, 2100 Arden Way, Suite 225. Known for his sharp storytelling, quick wit and relatable observations on everyday life, Avery has become a favorite on the stand-up circuit. Expect a night of smart, laugh-out-loud comedy packed with clever insights, unexpected twists and plenty of memorable punchlines. [Punchlinesac.com](http://Punchlinesac.com)

*Do you have events, birthdays, or announcements to share? Feel free to send them to [matthewburlingame@gmail.com](mailto:matthewburlingame@gmail.com).*



Cool off and start the weekend at Liquid Therapy on Friday, July 10 from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at Badlands Sacramento, 2001 K St. Hosted by *Outword*, this longtime community favorite blends happy hour, conversation, prizes and plenty of laughs in a relaxed atmosphere. Grab a drink and catch up with friends at one of the area's most welcoming LGBTQ gatherings. [Visit their Facebook page](#) for more info.

Laugh until it hurts at Lady Business on Saturday, July 18 at 8 p.m. at Sacramento Comedy Spot, 1930 J St. Sacramento's longest-running all-femme improv show has been delighting audiences since 2010 with razor-sharp wit, fearless performers and hilarious audience-inspired comedy. Every performance is completely unscripted, guaranteeing a fresh, fast-paced evening of unexpected laughs and unforgettable moments. [Saccomedyspot.com](http://Saccomedyspot.com)



# Coming Soon...

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Artwork Deadline - August 17  
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Arts and Entertainment  
Artwork Deadline - September 14  
Online - September 24



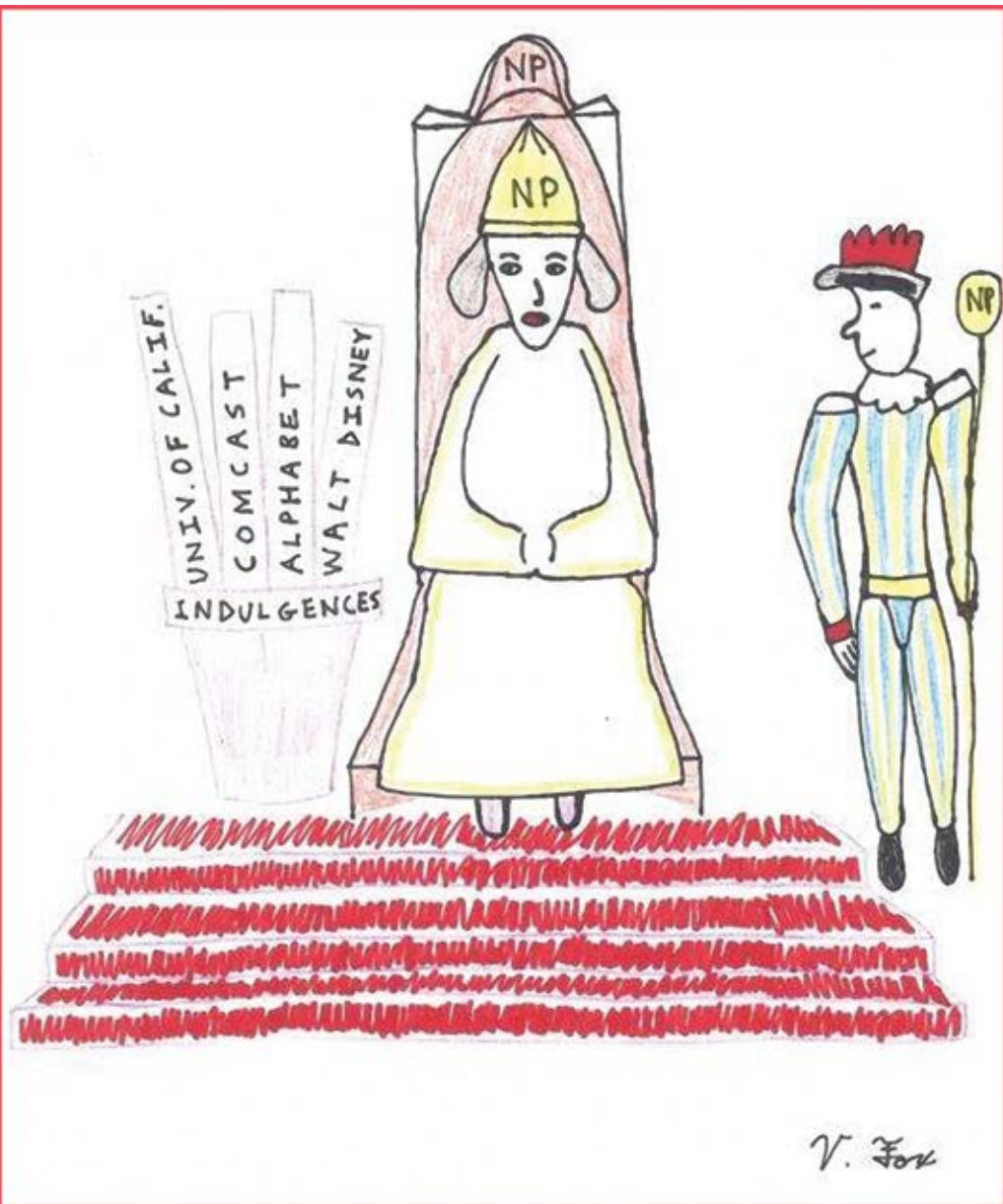
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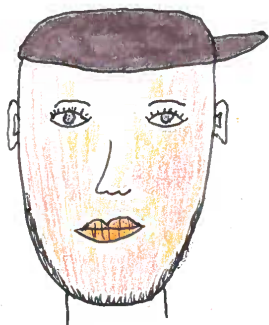
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## George Michael's Legendary Faith Tour Finally Heads to the Big Screen

Fans of George Michael will soon have the chance to experience one of pop music's most iconic concert tours like never before. "George Michael: The Faith Tour," a newly restored concert film that has remained unseen for nearly four decades, is set for a worldwide theatrical release later this year.

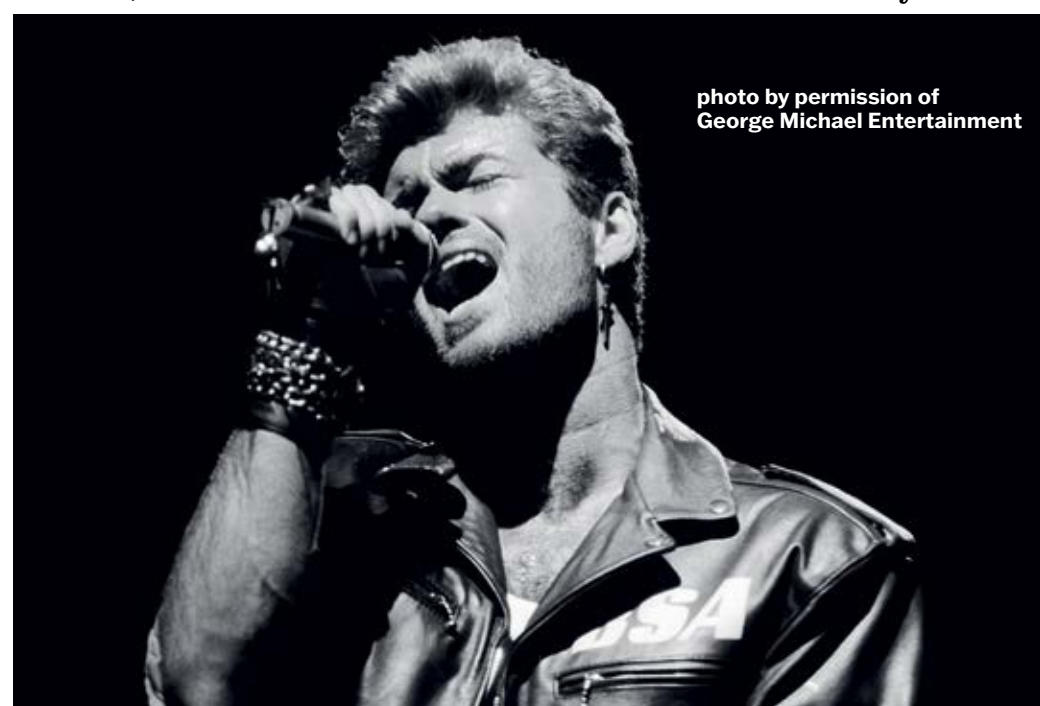


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George Michael Entertainment

Filmed during the European leg of the 1988 Faith Tour at Paris' Palais Omnisports de Paris-Bercy, the movie captures George Michael at a defining moment in his career. Fresh off the enormous success of his Faith album, the then-24-year-old performer had fully stepped out of Wham!'s shadow and established himself as one of the biggest solo artists in the world.

Directed by longtime collaborators Andy Morahan and David Austin, the film has been painstakingly restored from original 35mm footage shot with 14 cameras over two nights. The result is a vivid concert experience showcasing Michael's remarkable vocals, commanding stage presence, and the energy that made the Faith Tour unforgettable.

The theatrical event will open with a new short film by Mary McCartney, featuring previously unheard interview audio from George Michael, never-before-seen photographs by acclaimed photographer Herb Ritts, and behind-the-scenes footage from the "Faith" music video.

The release will be accompanied by The Faith Tour, an 18-track live album featuring previously unreleased performances spanning both George Michael's solo career and his Wham! hits.

Worldwide theatrical dates and additional release details are expected to be announced soon.

## WHAM! 10 Days in China Coming Soon

Sony Music Vision has announced "WHAM! 10 Days in China," a new documentary celebrating the band's groundbreaking 1985 tour of China. Arriving in theaters worldwide on July 28, the film explores the story behind WHAM!'s historic performances in Beijing and Guangzhou, making them the first Western pop group to perform in China.

Featuring newly restored and previously unseen archival footage, along with interviews from band members, crew, and fans, the documentary revisits a remarkable cultural moment when Western pop music met a rapidly changing China. More than just a concert film, it examines the intersection of music, politics, and cultural exchange through the eyes of two young artists at the height of their fame.

Andrew Ridgeley and the George Michael Estate say the film offers a fresh look at one of pop music's boldest international adventures. Following its theatrical release, "WHAM! 10 Days in China" will also air later this summer on the BBC.



Photo Credit: © Andrew Ridgeley, Big Geoff Overseas Limited, Robobuild Limited t/a George Michael Entertainment. Photograph(s) by Martyn Goddard.



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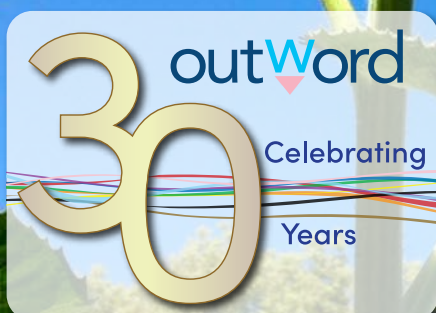
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We're proud of the role Outword has played in Sacramento for three decades, and we're committed to being here for many more. Together, we can make sure our stories continue to be told and our voices continue to be heard.

Thank you,  
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