

dallas voice

The Premier Media Source for LGBT Texas | Established 1984 | DallasVoice.com | Volume 36 | Issue 1 | Friday, March 13, 2020



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Dallas Bears James Davenport, Andy Stark, Ryan Buggs and Jared Ray.
Photo by Tammye Nash.
Design by Kevin Thomas.

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New York state to allow trans minors to correct sex markers



Omar Gonzalez-Pagan

New York State officials on March 10 announced the state is changing its policy prohibiting transgender minors from correcting the sex marker on their birth certificates to reflect their gender identity.

The announcement comes in the wake of a federal lawsuit Lambda Legal filed against the state last month on behalf

of a transgender boy born in Ithaca, *MHW v. Cuomo*.

Omar Gonzalez-Pagan, senior attorney at Lambda Legal and counsel for the lawsuit, said in a written statement, "Every person should be recognized and respected for who they are. Today's announcement is a victory for all transgender people in New York."

Officials with the offices of Gov. Andrew Cuomo and Attorney General Letitia James today announced the policy change will take effect immediately.

— Tammye Nash

Resource Center receives grant for trans health program

In support of its mission of improving health and wellness in the LGBTQ community, Texas Women's Foundation awarded Resource Center a \$30,000 grant. For the third year in a row, the money will be used to further expand the Center's Gender-affirming Health Program and provide safe and affordable health screenings, HIV and STI testing and hormone replacement therapy for transgender women in a welcoming and inclusive environment.

For many transgender people in Texas, access to safe, affordable, and nonjudgmental treatment to medically transition can be a struggle. Resource Center's Gender-affirming Health Program takes the gender-specific needs and differences of transgender women into consideration.

More than 125,350 transgender people live in the state of Texas. In 2019, the Center's Transgender Health Program served 152 women.

— David Taffet

S. C. court rules anti-LGBTQ curriculum unconstitutional

The U.S. District Court for the District of South Carolina entered a consent decree on

March 11 declaring South Carolina's 1988 anti-LGBTQ curriculum law unconstitutional and barring its enforcement, according to a press release from Lambda Legal.

The court's decree comes two weeks after National Center for Lesbian Rights, Lambda Legal and private counsel Womble Bond Dickinson, Brazil & Burke and law professor Clifford Rosky filed a federal lawsuit challenging the discriminatory curriculum on behalf of the high school student organization Gender and Sexuality Alliance, as well as the Campaign for Southern Equality and South Carolina Equality Coalition, including their members who are public school students in South Carolina.

The statute prohibited any discussion of same-sex relationships in health education in public schools except in the context of sexually transmitted diseases.

Eli Bundy, a 10th grader who is the president of the Gender and Sexuality Alliance, an organization of high school students at a public magnet school in the Charleston County School District, said of the ruling, "I am very excited that this discriminatory law can no longer be enforced in South Carolina, and I hope we can continue to work toward a more accepting and equal state-wide community."

— Tammye Nash

National LGBT health orgs warn about COVID-19 risks for LGBTQ population

The National LGBT Cancer Network and Health Professionals Advancing LGBTQ Equal-

ity issued the following statement outlining how COVID-19 may pose an increased risk to the LGBTQ population and laying out specific steps to minimize any disparity:

As the spread of the novel coronavirus a.k.a. COVID-19 increases, many LGBTQ+ people are understandably concerned about how this virus may affect us and our communities. The undersigned want to remind all parties handling COVID-19 surveillance, response, treatment, and media coverage that LGBTQ+ communities are among those who are particularly vulnerable to the negative health effects of this virus.

Our increased vulnerability is a direct result of three factors:

1. The LGBTQ+ population uses tobacco at rates that are 50% higher than the general population. COVID-19 is a respiratory illness that has proven particularly harmful to smokers.

2. The LGBTQ+ population has higher rates of HIV and cancer, which means a greater number of us may have compromised immune systems, leaving us more vulnerable to COVID-19 infections.

3. LGBTQ+ people continue to experience discrimination, unwelcoming attitudes, and lack of understanding from providers and staff in many health care settings, and as a result, many are reluctant to seek medical care except in situations that feel urgent – and perhaps not even then.

In addition, there are more than 3 million LGBTQ+ older people living in the United States.

— David Taffet

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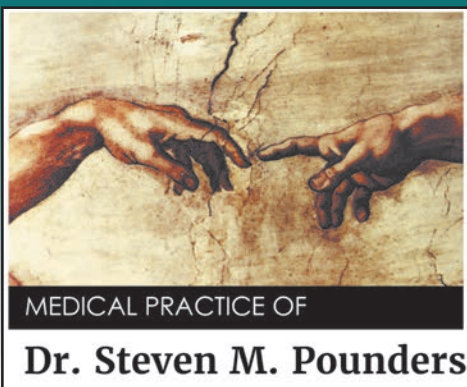
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THE GAY AGENDA



Have an event coming up? Email your information to Managing Editor Tammye Nash at nash@dallasvoice.com or Senior Staff Writer David Taffet at taffet@dallasvoice.com by Wednesday at 5 p.m. for that week's issue.

MARCH

- **Through March 15: TBRU XXV**
Texas Bear Round Up's theme this year is "A Roman Holiday." The Hyatt Regency Dallas, 300 Reunion Blvd. TBRU.org.
- **March 13: DFW Pride Happy Hour**
The LGBT Chamber of Commerce Foundation presents DFW Pride Happy Hour, hosted by TMC: The Mining Company, 3903 Cedar Springs Road. For information email lisa.howe@glbtchamber.com or call 214-865.7313.
- **March 13-15: Sweethearts & Orphans**
Classic Chassis Car Club visits Waxahachie's Sweethearts & Orphans car event. Info at ClassicChassis.com.
- **March 14: DFW Gaymers**
Game night for LGBTQ gaymers from 7:30-10:50 p.m. at Common Ground Games, 1328 Inwood Road.
- **March 14: Graffiti Arts Festival**
Spray can artists create billboard-sized murals, shop for crafts and eat from food trucks from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at 1953 Golden Heights Road, Fort Worth.

- **March 14: PrimeTimers**
Irish Fest at 10 a.m. at Fair Park. 214-218-0912.
- **March 14: Big Gay Pool Party**
Lifestyle brand Drag Star Diva hosts the first of its weekly gay pool parties at 1 p.m. at Bali Beach Club, 2508 Maple Ave. No cover. Valet available. BigGayPoolParty.com.
- **March 16: DIFFA Dallas' 30th Anniversary Celebration**
DIFFA Dallas celebrates its 30th anniversary with House of DIFFA Extravaganza, the annual black tie gala raising awareness and money for HIV/AIDS services. For tickets and information visit DIFFADallas.org.
- **March 16: Gender inclusive career workshop**
Navigating the workplace as a trans or gender variant person can come with questions and challenges. These free workshops empower with information on how to prepare, search, find, interview and land a compatible and inclusive job from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Resource Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road. Free.
- **March 16: Pride Festival tickets go on sale**
Tickets to the 2020 Pride festival on June 6 go on sale. Purchase tickets at DallasPride.org.

- **March 17: St. Patrick's Day**
- **March 18: PrimeTimers**
Lunch at 12:30 p.m. at Cheddars, 12355 Greenville Ave. 214-218-0912.
- **March 19: Born Perfect**
Panel discussion on reparative therapy at 7 p.m. at The Riveter, 3333 Welborn Ave.
- **March 19: GALA Happy Hour**
Happy Hour from 5:30-8 p.m. at Plano Super Bowl, 2521 Ave. K, Plano.
- **March 19: Log Cabin mixer**
Mixer featuring conservative drag superstar Lady Maga at 6 p.m. at Mattito's, 3102 Oak Lawn, Suite 144. LCRDallas.org.
- **March 19: Tarrant Stonewall membership drive**
TCU political science professor James Riddlesperger speaks at a membership drive hosted by Kelly Smith and Holly Edwards, 6508 Genoa Road, Fort Worth. TarrantStonewall.org.
- **March 20-26: LGBT Health Week**
- **March 20: Pride beneficiary applications due**
Deadline to apply to be a Pride festival beneficiary. Register by 5 p.m. DallasPride.org.

- **March 21: Boot Scootin' Gaybingo**
From 5-9 p.m. at The Rose Room, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. MyResourceCenter.org.
- **March 21: PrimeTimers**
Potluck at 7 p.m. Location and directions at 214-218-0912.
- **March 21: Golden Gays monthly brunch**
GALA third Saturday brunch for people 50+ at 11:30 a.m. at Norma's Cafe, 605 W. 15th St., Plano. GALANorthTexas.org.
- **March 21: Different Strokes Golf Association (DSGA)**
DSGA, the LGBTA golf organization begins its 23rd season at 10 a.m. at Cedar Crest, 1800 Southerland Ave. \$55 includes golf, cart, range balls and prizes. Information at DSGADallas.org or communications@dsgadallas.org.
- **March 21: DFW Gay for Good**
Volunteers will be helping Texas Trees Foundation nursery. Details, volunteer and find additional projects at GayForGood.org/dallas-fortworth.
- **March 22: PrimeTimers**
Games at 2 p.m. hosted in Carrollton. Location and directions at 214-218-0912.
- **March 23: Gender inclusive career workshop**
Navigating the workplace as a trans or

• **Weekly: Lambda Weekly at 1 p.m.** on Sunday on 89.3 KNON-FM with David Taffet, Lerone Landis and the late Patti Fink with this week's guest is trans mama bear **Amber Briggie and family**; **Silver Pride Project Coffee and Convo for LGBTQ+ seniors** meets Mondays from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at Oak Lawn Library, 4100 Cedar Springs Road, Tuesdays from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at Grauwlyer Park Branch Library, 2146 Gilford St. Wednesdays for Breakfast Club from 10 a.m.-noon at Reverchon Recreation Center, 3505 Maple Ave. and Thursdays for Rainbow Rec from 10 a.m.-noon at Reverchon Recreation Center, 3505 Maple Ave.; **Unwired Group of Crystal Meth Anonymous** meets

Sunday at 5:30 p.m., Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday at 11:30 a.m. at Resource Center, 2701 Reagan St. First Monday is birthday night at 5750 Cedar Springs Road; **Core Group Meeting** every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m.; **Fuse game night** every Monday evening except the last of the month at 8 p.m. at the Fuse space in the 3918 Harry Hines Blvd.; **FuseConnect** every Wednesday from 7 p.m. For more information call or e-mail Jalenzski at 214-760-9718 ext. 3 or Jalenzski@myresourcecenter.org; LGBT square dancing group **Pegasus Squares** meets the second and fourth Sunday from 2-4 p.m. at Grace United Methodist Church, 4105 Junius St.

For more info, email pegasussquares@gmail.com; **Dallas Frontrunners** meet for a walk or run at Oak Lawn Park, near the intersection of Turtle Creek and Hall Street, every Wednesday at 7:15 p.m. and every Saturday at 8:30 a.m.; **Leadership Lambda Toastmasters** practices and develops speaking and leadership skills from 6:30-8 p.m. on Mondays at First Unitarian Church, third floor of the Hallman Building, 4012 St. Andrews; **Thrive**, program of Resource Center for LGBTQ adults 50+ support group every Monday from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. followed by free lunch at Resource Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road; **Lambda AA** meets at noon, 6:30 p.m., 7:45 p.m. and 11 p.m. at St. Thomas the Apostle Church, 6525

Inwood Road. Call 214-267-0222 for details; **LGBT Sex Addicts Anonymous** meets at 6 p.m. every Friday at 1919 Independence St., Room 19, Plano. 972-316-9188 for details; **Leadership Lambda Toastmasters** gay-identified Toastmasters group meets from 6:30-8 p.m. every Monday at the First Unitarian Church, 4015 Normandy Road (does not meet on Mondays that are holidays); **United Black Ellument** hosts discussion on HIV/AIDS in the black community (UBE Connected) at 7 p.m. every fourth Tuesday of the month at 3918 Harry Hines Blvd.; **DVtv in Spayse**, news and entertainment discussion live streaming every Friday, 4-5 p.m., on the Spayse Station YouTube channel.

gender variant person can come with questions and challenges. These free workshops empower with information on how to prepare, search, find, interview and land a compatible and inclusive job from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Resource Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road. Free.

• **March 24: Family Night at Durkins**
GALA family friendly night, networking, socializing, happy hour, rock 'n roll and pizza with 10 percent going to GALA Youth from 5-8 p.m. at Durkins, 8930 Highway 121, McKinney. GALANorthTexas.org.

• **March 24: Get Centered tour**
Tour Resource Center and learn about its programs from 5-6:30 p.m. at 5750 Cedar Springs Road. MyResourceCenter.org.

• **March 24: Same-sex partner grief group**
Grief group for those who have lost a same-sex partner through death from 6:45-8 p.m. at Resource Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road.

• **March 26: Let's Talk with THRIVE**
Let's Talk event for LGBTQ seniors from 6-8 p.m. at Resource Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road. MyResourceCenter.org.

• **March 26: The Writer's Garret**
Beth El Binah President Christopher Manes reads from his new book Naming the Leper about his family's history with leprosy in the early 20th century in Louisiana. The Writer's Garret, 1250 Majesty Drive. WritersGarret.org.

• **March 27: LGBT Caucus**
The five founding members of the Texas House of Representatives LGBT Caucus hold a town hall at 5:30 p.m. at Resource Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road. Happy hour will take place after the event at a nearby location.

• **March 27-29: Unbreakable**
The Turtle Creek Chorale present Unbreakable, a new choral musical from Tony Award-winning composer Andrew Lippe at Moody Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. Tickets begin at \$25 and are available at TurtleCreekChorale.com.

• **March 27-29: Fan Expo**
Dallas Convention Center, 650 S. Griffin St.

• **March 28: AIDS Walk South Dallas**
Tenth annual walk steps off at 8 a.m. from Martin Luther King Jr. Recreation Center, 2922 MLK Jr. Blvd. Eventbrite.com.

Correction

Due to a typo, the article "The rainbow ballot" on LGBTQ voter turnout, published in the March 6 issue of Dallas Voice, quoted a Public Religion Research Institute study as saying that "66 percent, or one in three, Texans support LGBT rights." That should have read "66 percent, or two in three, Texans support LGBT rights."

pet of the week / BEAR



Meet **Bear**, a 7-year-old, male mixed breed dog weighing 88 pounds. He's a big, handsome guy with a great personality — friendly, outgoing and affectionate with all sorts of people. He

walks well on his leash, knows how to sit on command and appears to be housetrained. He's a senior gentleman, but he's still a strong and lively dog. He loves to be petted, play with toys and go for long walks. If you're looking for a handsome boy to keep you active, he's the one for you! Bear has been neutered and microchipped and has received all age-appropriate vaccinations. Come meet him today!

Bear is waiting for you at the SPCA of Texas' Jan Rees-Jones Animal Care Center in Dallas, 2400 Lone Star Drive (near I-30 and Hampton Road). Hours are noon-6 p.m. Sun-Wed and noon-7 p.m. Thurs-Sat. Regular adoption fees are \$150 for puppies and kittens aged 0-6 months and \$75 for adult dogs and cats aged 6 months or older. Fee includes spay/neuter surgery, age-appropriate vaccinations, a heartworm test for dogs six months and older and a FIV/FelV test for cats 4 months and older, initial flea/tick preventative and heartworm preventative, a microchip, 30 days of PetHealth Insurance provided by PetHealth, a free 14-day wellness exam with VCA Animal Hospitals, a rabies tag and a free leash. Call 214-742-SPCA (7722) or visit today.

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TBRU 25: The bears come to party



TAMMYE NASH | Managing Editor
nash@dallasvoice.com

The Texas Bear Round Up celebrates its 25th anniversary this weekend, and organizers say they are throwing the best round-up weekend so far.

From the Official Early-Bear Party held last Wednesday night at Dallas Eagle, through the special performance by Ginger Minj on Saturday night, all the way to the official after party, Double Trash Disco: TBRU Edition" on Sunday night, March 15 at Dallas Eagle — TBRU XXV: A Roman Holiday promises to be a party for the record books.

Members of Dallas Bears, founded around 1993, "saw these other bear clubs staging bear events," so a few members decided to attend "the granddaddy of bear events," the International Bear Rendezvous,

according to current Dallas Bears President Wayne Davis. That visit prompted the Dallas Bears to start their own event. And in 1996, the Texas Bear Round Up was born.

"They expected maybe 100 people to show up that first year, including the members of the Dallas group," Davis continued. "They ended up with nearly 300 people attending that first year."

But TBRU isn't just a party. It is and always has been "a party with a cause," noted Dallas Bears charitable events director Randy Flores. "TBRU is not just a party and celebration of who we are. We also raise money for our charities."

The first TBRU, which raised \$7,000 for AIDS Services of Denton County, was about three times bigger than organizers expected, and in the 25 years since, it has grown into the largest bear

event in North America.

"Last year," Davis said, "nearly 1,400 people attended. But our biggest year was 2016. We had about 1,900 people that year."

And as attendance has grown, so have the Dallas Bears' charitable donations. Last year, they donated a grand total of \$78,754 to six different community organizations.

Davenport said, "TBRU is operated solely by volunteers. And all the money TBRU brings in goes back to charity once the bills are paid. Everyone who puts this on every year volunteers their time and efforts throughout the year. I think that it is one of the reasons TBRU is so successful."

But what makes TBRU so popular and, as a result, so successful? Davis has an answer for that: "I think it's our hospitality. That's the basic word. We want to be as friendly as possible."

That was true in the beginning, Davis said, and it is true now.

"When TBRU started, the stereotypical bear didn't fit into the genome of the gay community," Davis said. "We had different body types, and bear events were a place of acceptance. TBRU



is that, too. People can come and relax and enjoy themselves and not have to deal with the stigma of body types or health issues.

"It's a very welcoming and open atmosphere, more so maybe than some other events," he said.

TBRU, Flores added, is "all inclusive; it's not just for bears, but also for the people who love bears and want to be part of the community. We include all, and that shows in the event."

TBRU, of course, is focused on gay men, and, Davis stressed, "we certainly welcome our trans brothers to participate. [Dallas Bears] membership voted on that, and we voted unanimously to always offer space and welcome [trans men] as members. I was very proud of our group for welcoming trans men unanimously that way."

When in Rome ...

Each year, Dallas Bears members suggest possible themes for the next TBRU, and for this year's event, organizers settled on "A Roman Holiday" as the theme.

TBRU 25, Page 11

BENEFICIARIES

Beneficiaries for TBRU 25 are Resource Center's Youth First program, the Greg Dollgener Memorial AIDS Fund and Dallas Hope Charities' LGBTQ shelter, the Hope Center.

SCHEDULE AND ENTERTAINMENT

Friday

- Paul J. Williams as Sister Helen Holy and her sidekick, Eleanor Roosevelt, host The 701 Club Friday at 2:45 p.m.
- Sister Helen Holy hosts the Bears Bingo game show at 4:30 p.m.
- The Mr. TBRU Contest at 7 p.m.
- BearDance: Gods and Gladiators from 8 p.m.-4 a.m. at S4.

Saturday

- Cock & Shop vendors market from noon-1:30 p.m.
- Naughty Bear Bingo game show at 1:30 p.m.
- TBRU Family Dinner at 5 p.m.
- Mr. TBRU Contest and Mini-Underwear Auction
- Ginger Minj Show: Big Gay Cabaret at 8 p.m. (See Page 12 of this issue for an interview with Ginger Minj.)

Sunday

- TBRU Big Texas Barbecue and Closing Ceremony at noon.
 - Official TBRU After Party: Double Trash Disco — TBRU Edition at 5 p.m. at Dallas Eagle.
- For a complete schedule of the entire weekend's events, visit TBRU.org.

BearDance 2020

BearDance Dallas kicks off TBRU 25 weekend tonight, Friday March 13, from 8 p.m.-4 a.m., at S4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. This year's BearDance theme is "Gods and Gladiators," tying in with the TBRU theme of "Roman Holiday."

Special guest for the event is Alyssa Edwards, the international drag superstar who calls Dallas home. DJs Tony Ruiz and Corey Craig provide the music on the main dance floor, while DJ Bird and DJ Decoding Jesus

are spinning upstairs in the Retro Lounge. The Opposites Attract mixer will be going on from 8-10 p.m.

Tickets are available for \$35, online at BearDance.org and TBRU.org, until 8 p.m. tonight. Tickets purchased in advance can be picked up at the BearDance table at the TBRU host hotel, Hyatt Regency Dallas. After 8 p.m., tickets are \$40, available at the door.

Proceeds benefit the TBRU designated beneficiaries, Resource Center's Youth First Program, Dallas Hope Charities Hope Center LGBTQ youth shelter, and the Greg Dollgener memorial AIDS Fund.

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COREY CRAIG

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Blowing doors wide open

Getting ready to perform at TBRU 25, Ginger Minj talks about how drag opened doors for her in the entertainment industry

TAMMYE NASH | Managing Editor

nash@dallasvoice.com

Joshua Allan Eads says he has been an actor and singer pretty much all his life. But it was his foray into drag and his drag alter ego Ginger Minj's stint on Season 7 of *RuPaul's Drag Race* and the second *Drag Race All Stars* that put him in the national spotlight — something that Ginger says has its advantages and its disadvantages. ■

Dallas Voice: I first heard about you through *RuPaul's Drag Race* (and I wanted you to win from the start), so let's get the obvious questions out of the way first. What was the best thing for you about being on *Drag Race*? And what about the drawbacks or disadvantages?

Ginger Minj: You're so sweet ... and you have terrible taste! Haha! No one can deny the power of the *Drag Race* brand. It reaches people all around the world and connects with them on such a deep, emotional level. I've always been an artist who isn't afraid to knock on doors until they open, but the platform *Drag Race* gave me has blown a lot of doors off their hinges! I'm being seen for projects that I never thought would be possible for me, and I've had a lot of incredible opportunities because of my time on the show.

It's a double-edged sword, though. Sometimes producers and casting directors don't see us as "real" actors/singers/artists, because drag is new and niche to them. I've been an actor and singer my entire life, whereas I've only been doing drag for 15 years. A lot of us have incredi-

ble professional skills outside of drag, and it can be an uphill battle trying to get the people in power to recognize that. But I've never been one to shy away from a battle!

Everybody always talks about how they were "edited to be..." a villain, a cry-baby, a bitch... whatever. Do you think that fans watching *Drag Race* are seeing the queens as they really are, their "true personalities," or does the editing make them come across as something else? What about you, personally? Did the editors treat you fairly? Everything I said on the show, I said in real life. I don't think I was treated or portrayed unfairly, but they've got to cram two or three days into 43 minutes, so they pick the most dynamic moments and tell the story from there. There are moments I wish they would have been able to give a little more context or backstory to, but that's not always possible. It's a high stress environment, a pressure cooker, and sometimes we crack! I own every moment for what it came across as, because I understand every moment for what it really was.

Do you have any advice for drag queens who want to be on *Drag Race*? What about advice in general for those who want to make a career out of drag? I always tell my drag kids that drag is what you make of it. If you put in the work, the work will always be there. If you want one moment of glory, more power to you! But if you want a long-lasting career, chase every opportunity, give 110 percent and treat people how you want to be treated!

I have to admit that I did not realize what an outstanding singer you are. I just watched the video of you singing for Harvey Fierstein, and I was blown away by your performance. Do you prefer to sing live or do stand-up comedy? Since you are a "real" singer, is it weird for you to have to lip sync? Thank you so much for that! Singing "I Am What I Am" for Harvey Fierstein was a life-changing event for me. It's the moment I'm most proud of in my entire career. It felt important and genuine, and I'm forever grateful to Logo and *RuPaul's Drag Race* for giving me that opportunity.

Art is art, and drag should always be fun!



I've been a performer my entire life. I was the epitome of a "theater geek" growing up, and I got into drag because I wanted to play the iconic women of musical theatre! The girls always had the best songs, the best roles and the best costumes! Treat every day like "all the world's a stage," and you'll find the fun in anything!

What does the aspect of drag bring to your performance as a singer and as a comedian? Do you think being known for drag opens doors for you as a singer and a comedian/actor? Or is the drag something you think you have to "overcome" to be taken seriously as a singer/comedian/actor? As I said, sometimes it's hard to be seen as anything other than a "Drag Queen." People aren't stupid; they're just uneducated, and it's up to us to help them learn! Drag is hugely popular right now, and people are trying to shove it into all forms of entertainment but usually as a quick gag for shock value or cheap laughs. Once they get to work with us and see that we have more to offer, it usually blows their minds and makes them realize what an asset we can really be to them.

My role in *Dumplin* started as a two-line, one-day gig, but once the writer and director got a sense of what I could do, they expanded my role and gave it more depth. We just have to keep working hard to prove ourselves!

I know you are from Florida, and when I watched the video of Michelle Visage performing your wedding at Drag Con, she mentioned the effect that the Pulse shooting had on you. Can you tell me a little about that? How did it affect you or change you? Those were my friends and my family, even the ones I didn't know, in a place that was like home to all of us. Pulse was one of the first clubs in the area to give me a chance when I was starting out. [It was] owned and run by good people who always put our community first. It was devastating that someone could come into OUR house and hurt OUR family, and there was nothing WE could do about it.

It hurt then and it still hurts now. But I have to say that the way our community has come together to fight back is incredibly inspiring. I love Orlando, and I'll never leave it, because everything here is such a part of me.

Going all the way back to the early days of "the modern gay rights movement" — Stonewall — the drag queens and the trans women have always been at the forefront of the movement in one way or another, whether they were throwing bricks at corrupt cops in Greenwich Village, or getting up on every stage possible to raise money for HIV/AIDS organizations. And yet, for a

BLOWING DOORS, Page 12

Coronavirus cancellations update

Officials with the World Health Organization this week declared the novel coronavirus, also called COVID-19, to be a pandemic as more infections are being diagnosed.

Major cancellations

- Dallas' annual St. Patrick's Day Parade set for Saturday, March 14, has been canceled.
- The NBA has suspended its season after a Rudy Gobert, a player with the Utah Jazz, tested positive for the virus.
- WNBA Commissioner Cathy Engelbert released the following statement on Thursday, March 12: The WNBA is currently not in season, but together with the WNBPA and teams, we have been in close communication and will continue to connect with and offer resources to players in the U.S. and those playing overseas."
- SXSW in Austin has been canceled and no refunds will be given. According to sales terms: "Any and all payments made to SXSW are not refundable for any reason, including, without limitation, failure to use credentials due to illness, acts of God, travel-related problems, acts of terrorism, loss of employment and/or duplicate purchases."
- Tickets may be used for future events up to three years.
- The Dallas Art Fair has been postponed from April 16-19 to Oct. 1-4.
- Singer Michael Bublé has postponed his concert tour that was set to begin March 17. The tour included an April 4 concert at Dickies Arena in Fort Worth. A spokesperson said tickets for the postponed concerts will be

honored on the rescheduled dates, which will be announced soon.

LGBT community cancellations

- Silver Pride is temporarily canceling all Coffee&Convo meet-ups at libraries and rec centers.
- Congregation Beth El Binah has canceled its March 14 Purim party. Shabbat services will proceed as scheduled.
- Legacy Counseling Center has postponed The Grace Project until fall.
- The AIDS Service Dallas' State of the Agency event set for April 14 has been postponed.
- The Transgender Career Fair has been postponed from March 31 to July 15.
- Educare has that its announced Compassion Fatigue Symposium, originally set for April 16, is being rescheduled for June 12. Officials said, "Given the severity of this unprecedented situation, we will be providing refunds to those attendees who cannot attend the Compassion Fatigue Symposium on June 12."

Making provisions

- From Dallas Pride: "Dallas Pride is moving forward with plans for our June 6-7 events. We are working closely with Fair Park and the City of Dallas Office of Emergency Management as we continue to monitor COVID-19 information from national, state and local health authorities, and will take steps as appropriate to help ensure the well-being of our staff, patrons and partners. We look forward to a fantastic event in 2020, and to sharing our celebration of love

with our supporters and allies."

- Cathedral of Hope: The Rev. Neil Thomas said church officials are taking precautions to limit possible exposure to the virus. Church doors will be open before and during services to avoid everyone touching door handles. Between services, the places most touched will be sanitized. The way communion is given will change.
- Abounding Prosperity: According to Associate Director Tamara Stephney, agency officials have posted universal precautions and are doing a daily deep cleaning.
- Legacy Counseling Center: Executive Director Melissa Grove said she is doing a coronavirus homeless supply drive. They're collecting canned goods and non-perishables for the 32 families in their housing program. The agency is accepting donations in the lobby from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Thursday. Clients coming for counseling are given hand wipes, and their temperatures are taken before their appointments. Grove said Legacy is setting up Telehealth, in case employees need to work from home or clients can't get out.
- AIDS Services Dallas: Agency officials are monitoring the situation but not making any changes to policies. They are doing deep cleanings at various properties.
- Prism Health North Texas: Clients coming in for medical appointments who have any symptoms will be given a mask at the door.
- Resource Center: No Resource Center events have been canceled at this time, but agency officials are monitoring the situation.



TBRU 25, From Page 9

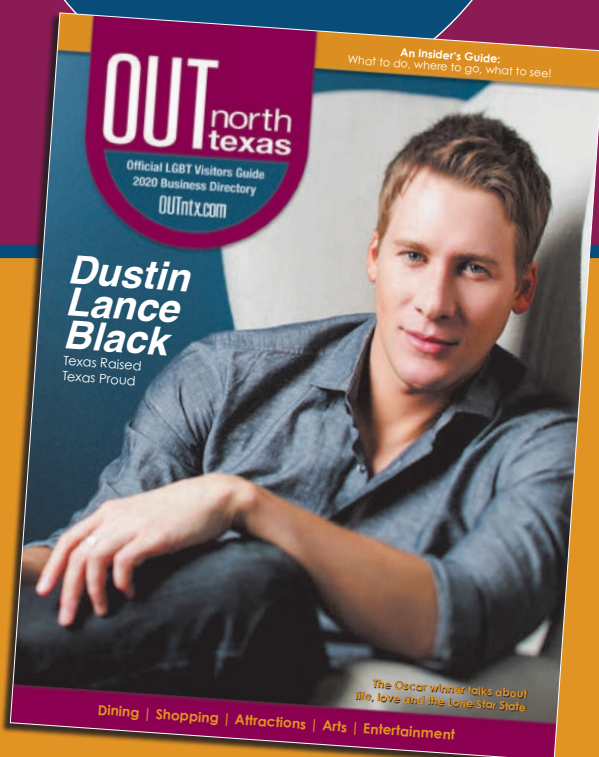
"We want to make it fun for people, so we'll be having toga parties and encouraging costumes — togas, gladiators, Roman soldiers," Davis said.

Davenport noted, "A lot of people have hand made their costumes, I hear. I chat with people on social media, and a lot of them have been sending previews of their costumes. It's going to be great.

Davis noted that bears and bear lovers from "almost all 50 states and 10 to 14 foreign countries" attend TBRU every year. Organizers had expected around 1,500 people to attend this year, which would be the largest attendance in the last three or so years. But, they noted, recent events surrounding COVID-19 — the coronavirus, which this week was declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization — could impact attendance.

Davenport said last week that concerns over the virus had already prompted "a couple" of the international guests to cancel their plans to attend. A ban on travel from Europe to the U.S., excluding the United Kingdom, could also affect numerous people's travel plans. ■

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A gay soldier's story of Vietnam and after

Larry Sanders writes about serving in the army, where he could have been arrested for being gay during a very unpopular war

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

The day Larry Sanders registered for the draft, one question buried in the middle of a long questionnaire smacked him in the face: "Do you identify as a homo-

sexual or ever had sexual feelings for persons of the same sex? YES NO." Sanders, who had just turned 18, lived in Arkansas. He noted there was no "maybe" or "unsure." Just "yes" or "no." Come out to the U.S. government or lie.

He knew that one little box could change his future. If he said yes, would he be arrested? At the time Sanders registered for the draft in 1967, no one was clear about what happened to someone who admitted being gay.

When I registered for the draft just a few years later, I was told not to say I

was gay, because they would make you prove it. How does someone not dating anyone "prove" they're gay? Well, I had a student deferment anyway, but Sanders decided to simply lie — although not completely.

He didn't really identify as homosexual. Had feelings? Sure, but he was young. He wasn't sure what those feelings meant.

Within weeks, Sanders was drafted and sent to basic training, then on to training to become a medic. By the end of the year, he found himself in Vietnam, getting there just weeks before the beginning of the Tet Offensive that escalated the war — and the anti-war movement at home.

Sanders, now a Dallas resident who's been with his husband for more than 40 years, took a writing class at a Dallas County Community College, and he wrote a short story for that class about arriving in Vietnam on the eve of the Tet Offensive.

He thought that would be it. But the next day, he wrote another story. Then another.

His collection of stories eventually grew into his newly-released book *Incoming! Memories of a Combat Medic Growing Up Poor Getting Drafted to Vietnam Coming Home and Coming Out*.

Like other Vietnam vets, Sanders didn't feel welcomed by the folks at home when he came back at the end of his tour of duty. And as a gay soldier, he didn't particularly relate to those who served with him.

So, for close to 50 years, he didn't talk about his experience in Vietnam very much.

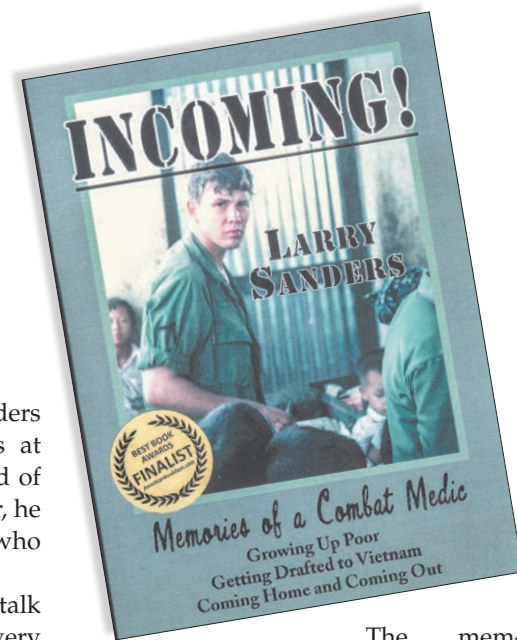
He said while he doesn't particularly feel as though he has PTSD, he has suffered from nightmares for years. Some of his bittersweet stories explain how he survived his year in Vietnam.

"My 'Go Dau Ha' Puppy" tells of the dog he adopted but then had to leave behind when his tour of duty ended. How could he bear to leave behind the dog that got him through the last few months of war? He writes that he looked her in the eye and told her he'd never forget her, then left her with a Vietnamese family.

But how could he leave his dog, I asked again. He answered, he just had to get out of there.

Other stories in the book are very short and simply describe a feeling. "The Smell" is one of those.

"There is a smell to death," Sanders wrote. "It's difficult to describe. You know it when you smell it. You want to run. You hope you never smell it again."



The memory of the smell of death has haunted Sanders for years, but he brilliantly describes it in just five short paragraphs.

And what about being a gay soldier in an army that forbade it? He said for his year in Vietnam, he mostly put that aside as a way to survive.

And survive, he did. He survived; he came home; he came out. Sanders earned his college degree on the GI bill, moved to Dallas, became an art director and met his husband. Then he and his husband opened a store in Deep Ellum.

But just when he finally was beginning to feel safe again, the AIDS crisis hit.

Sanders refers to those early years of the AIDS pandemic as his "second Vietnam." In 1991, his best friend had just died. "People were dying all around us, and no one knew who would be next," he writes. "It felt like Vietnam all over again."

Incoming! by Larry Sanders is available at Amazon. ■



BLOWING DOORS From Page 10

long time — and still to some degree — the "business gays" and the activist types have tended to look at drag as "embarrassing" or "stereotypical." Do you think that is changing now?

If so, why? I think it's changing in the sense that we are everywhere now: clubs, TVs, movies, libraries, etc., and more of mainstream America is seeing that what we do isn't something that needs to be feared or looked down on. We want the same things that everybody wants: love, respect and the right to be happy. Our community has fought so hard for so long to make the world a better, happier place for EVERYONE, because it's something

we want to share in ourselves. I've seen some very closed-minded people change their opinions when their hate is met with love and understanding.

I have always thought of drag as being something of a radical act, a special kind of activism. What do you think of the concept of drag as activism or a social movement? Do you think of yourself just as a performer, an entertainer, or do you consider yourself to be an activist, too? I think anyone who is different but refuses to be ashamed of that fact is an activist! If you stand up and refuse to be shamed for not fitting "the

mold," you are an activist. If you fight with whatever power you're given to make the world a better, more understanding place for the next generation, you are my hero.

Tell me about what you are doing now — besides coming to Dallas for TBRU, I mean. A new show? New music? Maybe something altogether new? There's so much cooking in this kitchen! TV, movies and a new album are all in the near future, and I recently started a new live theatre series in Orlando called *TVLand Live!* with my husband, CJ, and my best friend, Gidget Galore, where we take classic television shows and celebrate them from our own

unique perspective. It has surpassed our wildest expectations with our productions of *Golden Gals* and *Rozanne*, and the rest of the series is already getting great buzz! It's always nice when something that you're passionate about catches on with the community you love so much!

What do you want to talk about that I haven't asked about? What do you want your fans to know? Follow me on social media! If you see me out and about, come talk to me! I love you guys from the bottom of my foam-padded heart, and getting to know all of you has been the best part of this entire experience.

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■ commUNITYvoices

A leatherman amid the furies

In one of my past lives, I was a partner in a company that manufactured costumed characters — you know, those furry mascots you usually encounter at theme parks and sporting events. We designed and built a good number of the characters that populated parks in the 1970s and '80s, including Cyrus Cosmo at Six Flags and the Looney Tunes characters at Great America Parks.

Those costumes were colorful, furry and, although they gave a happy experience to park-goers, they were miserable to wear. Knowing that, it puzzled me that some folks would voluntarily wear these furry creations for fun, and it was even stranger to me that some found them to be not just furry and cuddly, but sexy and erotic.

And so, I was, frankly, surprised when my life journey led me to Texas Furry Fiesta — not just as a visitor, but a presenter.

For those who are unaware, Furry Fiesta is a convention of thousands (that's right, thousands) of "furries," their admirers and allies. There were, in fact, so many furries at the Furry Fiesta that they took over the entirety of the Hyatt Regency hotel in downtown Dallas.

Now, before you jump to the conclusion that all those fuzzy folk were there for kinky sexual highjinks, let me assure you: They were not. Many just love dressing up as cartoon characters and furring around. Many are children or teenagers who have fun expressing themselves through the persona (or "fursona") of the characters they wear, many of which they design themselves. There are dances, parties and workshops for furries of all ages.

And yes, there are also specifically adult sessions that are segregated by age requirements, because a good number of them do enjoy some furry sexual highjinks.

There was also a huge vendor market, with everything from fur suit makers to artists and designers. Additionally, there was an age-restricted art show and auction that put the whole "cute furry characters" in a far different light. Imagine Tom of Finland meets Walt Disney, and



Hardy Haberman
Flagging Left



you get the idea. Not surprising to me were the large number of LGBTQ-identified characters I met. There were also a significant presence

tendance. We had approximately 80-plus enthusiastic folks jammed into a conference room as we started the workshop, and more kept arriving right up until we closed the doors.

They were a young, energetic and engaged group of people, and only a couple were in their fur suits. Also surprising to me was how many of them took notes! I do a lot of presentations and workshops, but rarely have I seen anyone take notes.

Sex among furries is often called "muring," and those costumes with strategic access zippers designed to allow access to the sexy bits are referred to as "mursuits." I won't go into detail about our workshop, but I will say that the mursuits seem well adapted to kinky fun.

The most important lesson I learned from Furry Fiesta is that just because a group of people are marginalized because of their kink, that doesn't mean they don't have a culture and vibrancy of their own.

Coming from the LGBTQ community I understand prejudice. Coming from the leather community, I understand the judgement and discrimination folks heap on those who find their pleasures outside the mainstream.

But being allowed to get a glimpse from the inside of people whose personality expression is as radically different as that of the furries was a wonderful opportunity. I have a new appreciation for them and their particular kinks. I would not be surprised if a few furries started showing up at leather/kink events, and, frankly, I would welcome them. Their playful energy is something I miss in the leather world.

The leathermen and leatherwomen I first encountered over 35 years ago were hot and sexy, but they were also playful and rowdy. I see a lot of that in the furries I had the pleasure of meeting. Maybe we could all use a few hours in a fursuit to let our hair down and find joy in not just our sex and kink, but our lives.

Hardy Haberman is a longtime local LGBT activist and a board member of the Woodhull Freedom Alliance. His blog is at Dungeon-Diary.blogspot.com

The forgotten coast

Florida's Gulf-side Clearwater and Sarasota offer low-key adventures for beachcombers and ocean lovers of all kinds

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPHY

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor
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Florida. The name of the state conjures a host of images, from wild presidential elections to rocket launches and stories about, well, “Floridians.” When you think about the state as destination, however, chances are you think of three draws: The funkiness of Key West, the spectacle of Fort Lauderdale/Wilton Manors/Miami or the campy second-childhood playground of Orlando.

But Florida’s forgotten coast — along the Gulf of Mexico and Tampa Bay, straddling the Intracoastal Waterway — is not only fun and affordable but also welcoming to gay travelers, with draws from exquisite beaches to lively festivals and a happening social scene. Whether you center yourself in Clearwater or Sarasota 60 miles to the south, there’s an adventure to be had... albeit without the noise and pace of Miami or raucous families of Disney.

Going Clearwater

An unexpected gem of the central coast, Clearwater sits on the oceanside of a peninsula across from Tampa, its closest major airport. Perhaps best

known as the base of the Church of Scientology (Tom Cruise and John Travolta have places here; Hulk Hogan and Mario Andretti also call it home), the town is more centered on its beaches and boardwalk, which are vibrant yet convenient and manageable.

Although the town spreads the width of the peninsula, its entertainment district for visitors revolves around the narrow archipelago of barrier islands upon which is situated Clearwater Beach (divided into north and south neighborhoods).

Not a wild spring break kind of town like that *other* Floridian South Beach’ Clearwater’s version is actually a little lower-key than its North Beach, which has more shopping and clubs and is a marginally closer walk to Pier 60, the pedestrian walkway into the Gulf that’s a focal point of seaside social activity.

You’d be hard pressed to find a more appealing coastline in the continental U.S. From astonishing sunrises to breathtaking sunset vistas, the climate ranges from brisk to sultry with few extremes in between. The beaches are covered in fluffy, soft, white powder that is never

too hot to walk on barefooted, even in the swelter of summer. Called “sugar sand,” the city performs daily grooming that keeps it looking pristine. For the past seven years, they have even put on the Sugar Sand Festival, where a dozen-plus artists from all over the world — from St. Petersburg, Fla. to St. Petersburg, Russia — gather to build their artwork out of sand... and not just castles: The Great Pyramid, the Parthenon, the Statue of Liberty and more, have been spectacularly etched out of silica and water, the ultimate sustainable pop-up art exhibition, enthusiastically curated by founder Lisa Chandler. (Even when the festival isn’t taking place, you can rent a beachside cabana and people watch, tan or just vegetate.)

You can chill even more if you head out to Sandy Key, just a five-minute drive over the causeway, a relaxing perspective. The beach is just as soft and beautiful, but there’s more (and cheaper) available parking. The Marriott here, recently renovated, has spacious rooms and a staid but elegant vibe. Sandy Key is also the closest place where you can eat at Columbia Restaurant, a Sunshine

The sunsets on Clearwater Beach are breathtaking, above, while its annual Sugar Sand Festival brings in talented sculptors from around the world, opposite





State staple of Cuban-Spanish cuisine that originated in Ybor City in 1905. This old school eatery has the kind of menu where every recipe has a personal history, including its classic chopped salad, empanadas, “original” Cubano and a mango rum drink that was simply heavenly.

Beaches, of course, mean seafood, and seafood means fishing boats. For a brisk and exciting coastal adventure, I recommend a half-day fishing trip, which we took aboard the Super Queen (it costs about \$70). The excursion is about a five-hour commitment (7:30 a.m. to a little past noon, so you still have plenty of daylight left afterwards) with about two hours of deep-sea line fishing, but chances are you will successfully land a few fish. (Depending on the time of year, expect to catch anything from white grunts to red snapper and the Gulf signature seafood, grouper.) You can throw your catch back, or donate the caught fish to others on the boat who weren’t as lucky, or you can do what I did: Eat ‘em. The boat crew will clean them and hand you over the fillets, and several local restaurants offer a catch-and-cook service. I took mine to Cooters, a friendly sports bar that will turn your catch into a deep-fried po’ boy sandwich with slaw and pickle spear for under \$8. (Pro tip: You might wanna wear old or disposable clothes, and bring a towel and wet wipes, to minimize smelling of fish when you get back to your hotel.)

The boat ride out to the fishing spot has the added advantage of being a sightseeing tour where you might catch a glimpse of dolphins or manatees, which are fairly

common. But if you don’t like fishing, you can instead book a dolphin tour or a sunset party boat, where you can take in the aquatic fauna and vistas while getting tipsy and possibly enjoying a buffet. The marina, like the pier, is a popular place to simply explore on foot (it’s easy to walk between North and South Beach, wherever you stay.)

If you’re even more committed to experiencing the sea life of the Gulf Coast, check out the Clearwater Marine Aquarium. Less an aquatic zoo than an animal hospital and rehab center, you can assist trainers in feeding some of the bottlenose porpoises, pet stingrays as they glide underneath your fingers and even see a large nurse shark swim peacefully alongside other fish.

Options for accommodations are plentiful. The Edge Hotel boasts a glass-sided pool on the sixth floor overlooking the Gulf. Next door is the high-end Shepherd Hotel, or splurge on the impressive Opal Sands Resort. The Sandpearl Resort is home to a wonderful fine-dining restaurant, Coretta by the Sea, which even offers a totally affordable \$59 prix fixe four-course menu.

You can dine at sea level at the Island Way Grill near the aquarium, get lunch or dinner at Bob Heilman’s Beachcomber, or just pop in to Blackfins for a craft beer and fresh fish tacos.

The Pier 60 Sugar Sand Festival takes place April 10–26 in Clearwater. Sugar-SandFestival.com.

South to Sarasota

About equidistant south of Tampa (but with its own airport) is Sarasota,

■ **FORGOTTEN COAST** Next Page

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■ **FORGOTTEN COAST** From Previous Page
 but the two cities are divided by more than an hour's drive. About half the population of Clearwater and located inside the Intracoastal Waterway, Sarasota projects a lazier, cooler atmosphere as a hub for sightseeing and exploring, but also offers more gay-specific attractions and activities.

The so-called gay beach, North Lido, is a bit of a hike from downtown but worth an Uber ride. In addition to spacious beaches and people-watching, there's a concession and picnic area for grabbing a quick nosh between sunbathing sessions, and the beach is right on the edge of tony St. Armand's Circle, a lovely community with several dining options (including a branch of Columbia). For nightlife, you need to go further inland toward Gulf Gate Estates, where you can find the fun dick-dancer and drag bar Oasis, a hoppin' hang that's both divey and dance-y.

Even though he did not have a direct connection to Sarasota, the Harvey Milk Festival celebrates the gay pioneer with art, music and more. Now in its 11th year, the three-day event each May includes an outdoor music and



Daybreak is brisk and beautiful over the marina in Clearwater.

■ **FORGOTTEN COAST** Page 20

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A full-sized reproduction of Michelangelo's 'David,' above, is one of the amazing pieces of artwork at Sarasota's Ringling Museum; below, Oasis is the city's fun, divey gay bar.



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Oh, grow up



Feral children travel to an island where they never grow up in the ‘Peter Pan’ redux ‘Wendy,’ above; opposite, ‘Saint Frances’ is an unlikely buddy pic between a 6-year-old and her nanny.

Adulting intrudes on childhood spectacularly in ‘Saint Frances’ and ‘Wendy’

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor
jones@dallasvoice.com

I considered skipping the new film *Wendy* for one reason: I have reached an age where I was not certain I could tolerate one more iteration of *Peter Pan*. From the Disney animated version to *Hook*, the Dallas Theater Center musical *Fly, Peter and the Starcatcher*, *Finding Neverland*... enough already! Can't anyone find some other public domain property to exploit and explore?

One reason for my resistance is too many adaptations seem to miss the inherent darkness of the plot, thinking it to be a children's story. But consider: What kind of boy doesn't grow up, and lives in a place called "Neverland?" That's death, folks. And the adult Capt. Hook, stalked by a predator whose harbinger of his approach is the ticking of a clock? Well, could any metaphor for the Grim Reaper be more on-point?

But I'm so glad I *didn't* skip *Wendy*,



because it feels like the tale has finally found its best new life. Behn Zeitlin, the director and co-writer, has broken its code by refracting adult angst about getting older through the prism of a childhood fantasy. This *Peter Pan* isn't for — or even about — kids anymore than Fellini's *8½* is.

It starts in a lazy diner somewhere in the south. The Darling children — twins Douglas and James, and baby sister Wendy (Divine France) — dream of life beyond their truckstop. One night, seeing a mysterious figure scampering over



can change them from children to old folks. Indeed, when that fate befalls one of their crew, the plot takes a big twist... or maybe it's better to call it a hook.

Zeitlin's last film was the similarly-themed *Beasts of the Southern Wild*, and he revisits it stylistically as well: He prefers a jumpy, cinema verite style into which he seamlessly integrates gorgeous, naturally-seeming visual effects. He aims for a certain poetry of storytelling reminiscent of Terrence Malick, only with children.

And what children. France is a potent actress full of fire and charisma. Her persona contrasts spectactually to Mack, whose intense eyes and demeanor give him a mesmerizing quality. They are perfect instruments through which Zeitlin comments on the need to grow up, to age, to come to terms with adulthood and even death. Because that's what life is all about.



a locomotive, they leap onto the moving train and embark on their awfully big adventure.

The kid who lures them is Peter (Yoshua Mack), a tiny black boy with a face that shows experience. He takes them to a magical island where the children never age... at least until they stop believing in Mother, the enchanted undersea creature whose glowing light preserves them. They live a care-free but feral existence, that doesn't really seem to make sense; we never see them eating or drinking, and they resist too much introspection. Sadness

Bridget is the kind of screwed-up millennial who's both charming and frustrating — suffering from her own version of Peter Pan syndrome. Already in her mid-30s, she behaves like a 20something — temp jobs, one-night stands, an almost allergic reaction to responsibility. She's also funny and honest (*too* honest), someone we all recognize as a hot mess but whom we are pulling for. So when she lands, against all odds, a gig as a nanny to 6-year-old Frannie, it seems like she may finally be growing up.

■ GROW UP Next Page

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crafts festival, a dance, an art exhibit and community lectures and educational experiences, that coincides with the Sarasota Film Festival. (Sarasota's official gay Pride celebration takes place in October.)

Sarasota is also home to the Ringling Museum, one of the largest and most astonishing fine-art museums in the American South. Founded by circus magnate John Ringling, it not only has the foremost collection of big-top memorabilia and historical artifacts but also

masterworks of European art (including a full-scale reproduction of Michelangelo's *David*) and palatial grounds that you could wander for days without getting bored.

All that wandering will require body fuel, of course. If you're there on the weekend, don't miss the Farmer's Market for sampling tons of local products, from produce to honey. Other dining options run the gamut, from the open-air casual appeal of The Overton (good coffees, sandwiches, even spaghetti and meatballs) for lunch to the hipster-chic

locavore hang Boca (bloodys, frittatas flatbreads and succulent burgers) for brunch to the exquisite chef-driven dining of Melange, where craft cocktails occupy space alongside rabbit tacos, escargot-stuffed mushrooms and pear salad for dinner. ■

The Harvey Milk Festival takes place May 7-9 in Sarasota. HarveyMilkFestival.org.

ONLINE EXCLUSIVE
For a more extensive gallery of the Florida coast, visit DallasVoice.com

She certainly has been adulting a lot lately. She gets pregnant, and quickly terminates it, but continues to experience bleeding. The lesbian couple who are Frannie's parents zing her with passive-aggressive putdowns, though truthfully, she deserves most of them. "Would you have preferred never to have been born?" Bridget's mother asks? She thinks about it, but her answer is "no."

And therein lies the goody-sweet appeal of *Saint Frances* — a movie partially about abortion that's mostly a comedy, with a loveable loser as its lead. Kelly O'Sullivan, who plays Bridget, also wrote the screenplay, which gives the dialogue a lived-in quality — and not just when she's speaking it. Max Lipchitz as the schlubby good guy who fathers her child has a winsome likeability, and Charin Alvarez and Lily Mojekwu as the high-strung moms hit their marks. But if anyone upstages O'Sullivan, it's Ramona Edith Williams as the incorrigibly adorable Frannie — precocious but never cloying, her spirit unites the themes of parenthood expertly but subtly. They make a terrific team for this unlikely buddy picture.

The Hunt could benefit from growing up itself. On the surface, it's a fairly pro forma horror pic in the vein of *The Hunger Games* or *The Purge*: A dozen strangers given a few weapons who need to run while unseen people stalk them as prey. But the gag is that it's a satire: Liberal elites are hunting down right wing conspiracy nuts who post fake news and defend gun rights... well, how do they feel about the Second Amendment when *they* are the targets?

The problem lies in its message, which is muddled and confusing. Is the film anti-cancel-culture... but pro-violence? Do the hunted deserve what they get... or does this only prove they are right? The film is at both its best and its worst when it spouts off talking points ironically: crisis actors, deplorables, politically-correct tropes of all kinds. It lacks subtlety, but there are laughs. The problem is that we "get it" and the film overstays its welcome... although an explanatory flashback about an hour in actually succeeds in undermining our precepts and expectations. Ultimately, though, it's hard to know how to feel at the end. Ambivalence is one thing, but that's not the same as trying to have your cake and eat it, too. ■

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Saturday 03.14

Masked queer recording artist Orville Peck returns to Dallas

Orville Peck has had a banner year, what with the release of his hit country album *Pony*, his nonstop touring and especially all the buzz about his fringed Stetson that covers his face. But the out Canadian singer isn't done yet. His *The Road to Luck* Tour continues, with another stop into 2020. He stops off again in North Texas (he was here last October) for a set at Canton Hall on Saturday. Yee haw!

DEETS: Canton Hall, 2727 Canton St. 8 p.m. CantonHall.com.



Friday 03.20 – Sunday 01.31

Massive new DMA exhibition 'For a Dreamer of Houses' explores art and the spaces we occupy

Inspired by philosopher Gaston Bachelard's influential treatise *The Poetics of Space*, as well as recent acquisitions to its permanent collection, DMA contemporary art curator Katherine Brodbeck has assembled a new exhibition of 54 works from 35 artists entitled *For a Dreamer of Houses*. The large-scale collection of works, all evocative of our physical and psychological interaction with personal space, is a dazzling display that will be up through January 2021.

DEETS: Barrel Vault and Quadrant Galleries of the Dallas Museum of Art, 1717 Harwood St. \$9 special admission fee. Through Jan. 31, 2021. DallasMuseumOfArt.org.

Friday 03.20 – Sunday 03.22

Carole King musical 'Beautiful' stops in Bass Hall for one weekend only

You know you have a solid score for a musical when almost all the songs were written or co-written by Carole King, she of "Natural Woman"/"The Locomotion"/"You've Got a Friend"/countless more fame. The Tony Award-winning musical *Beautiful* superbly showcases her music, as well as her life's story. It returns to North Texas for one weekend only, with five performances.

DEETS: Bass Performance Hall, 525 Commerce St., Fort Worth. BassHall.com.



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ARTSWEEK

THEATER

American Mariachi. Set in the 1970s, Latinas hope to establish an all-girl mariachi band, even though no such thing exists. In this original musical comedy about family and culture. Wyly Theatre, 2400 Flora St. March 14–April 5. DallasTheaterCenter.org.

Come from Away. The Tony Award-winner for best direction of a musical, this unlikely crowd-pleaser is about the small Canadian town that hosted airline passengers diverted in the wake of the 9/11 attacks. Fair Park Music Hall, 901 First Ave. Through March 22. DallasSummerMusicals.org.

Mlima's Tale. Second Thought Theatre kicks off its 2020 season with this play by two-time Pulitzer Prize-winner Lynn Nottage about the black market ivory trade. Bryant Hall on the Kalita Humphreys campus, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. Through Sunday. SecondThoughtTheatre.com.

Playwrights in the Newsroom. Original play about journalism by Brigham Mosley and Janielle Kastner. Part of the Elevator Project. Studio at the Wyly Theatre, 2400 Flora St. Through Sunday. ATTPAC.org.

FRIDAY 03.13

DANCE

Alvin Ailey. Perhaps the most famous dance company in America performs three times over two days. Presented by TITAS/Dance Unbound. Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. March 13–14. ATTPAC.org

SATURDAY 03.14

COMMUNITY

FrontRunners. Gay jogging/walking group meets weekly at 8:30 a.m. in Oak Lawn Park at Hall Street and Turtle Creek Boulevard for a run along the Katy Trail.

CONCERTS

Orville Peck. The out country singer performs. Canton Hall, 2727 Canton St. 8 p.m. Ticketmaster.com.

MONDAY 03.16

CABARET

Mama's Party. Amy Stevenson's weekly show featuring talented singers. Mainstage, 222 E. Irving Blvd., Irving. 7:35 p.m. \$10

TUESDAY 03.17

FILM

Shadow of a Doubt. Another hit from Alfred Hitchcock — masterful, but less well-known than many, is this sinister thriller about Uncle Charley, who may be more devious than

he seems. Screens as part of the Tuesday Big Movie New Classic Series, which now includes a matinee. Landmark's Magnolia Theatre in the West Village, 3699 McKinney Ave. Screens at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY 03.18

COMMUNITY

FrontRunners. Gay jogging/walking group meets weekly at 7:15 p.m. in Oak Lawn Park at Hall Street and Turtle Creek Boulevard for a run along the Katy Trail.

WEEK 9: The Queer Off All Stars: The Winter Games. Contestants from season 1 and 2 return for this elimination-style talent show for the queer community. Sue Ellen's, 3014 Throckmorton St. 10:30 p.m.

THURSDAY 03.19

CABARET

Glitterbomb Denton. Weekly queer variety show with a new lineup every Thursday, now at a new locale and new time. Andy's Bar, 122 N. Locust St., Denton. 8 p.m.

FRIDAY 03.20

OPERA

Don Carlo. Verdi's family and religious drama. Presented by Dallas Opera. Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. March 20–28. DallasOpera.org.

this week's solution

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Cassie Nova

From weighted blankets to long red nails

Hello peoples. I hope you are enjoying this beautiful magnificent day. I actually woke up in kind of a “meh” mood today, so I am trying to fake my way into a great mood and have a fabulous and productive day.

I’m gonna fake it till I make it.

I slept great, so I can’t blame that. I have been sleeping really well as of late. I received a weighted blanket for Christmas, and I love it. I am a man of a certain age, and as we get older, we tend to need to get up and pee a lot. Since I got the weighted blanket, I guess I have been sleeping so soundly that either I can hold it longer, or I am in too deep a sleep to even think about peeing.

I don’t suffer from anxiety — well, only the normal amount anxiety, I would say — but if you have anxiety problems, you should seriously try a weighted blanket. There is something about the pressure on top of you that is so nice. You know when you go to the dentist, and they do an X-ray? And they put that lead vest on you to protect you from the radiation? I have always loved the way that felt. It’s so calming.

Most days, even my little Chihuahua Toby loves the weighted blanket. It takes him a bit to lift the blanket and get under it, but he will eventually get his adorable little ass under there. Some days you can kind of tell he just doesn’t have the energy, and so he just gets under the covers on Jamie’s side, instead.

I need to find a cover or duvet that fits over the blanket. It’s not like you can just easily throw it in the washer. The one I have is 45 pounds and is lots of small squares with BBs filling those squares. I am worried that during the summer it may be way too hot to sleep with my weighted blanket, but we like to keep the bedroom cold enough to hang meat in, so I should be okay. It does get a little toasty under the blanket, but if you are not tossing and turning, you really don’t realize it.

Not sure why I went on a weighted blanket tangent, but there it is. My “meh” mood is not from not sleeping; I sleeps good! Maybe I am hungry. I’m always hungry, and no, before you ask, I am not hung over. I did not have a single thing to drink last night — or for more than a week, actually. I have quit drinking for a bit. That might be the reason for my blah mood — my body is going into shock. It doesn’t know how to act without some Tito’s remnants in my blood stream.

Maybe I just need a Snickers. Or a Snickers martini. OMG! Did I just invent something fabulous?! I will let you know when I start drinking again in a few weeks.

OH SHIT! Maybe it is the Coronavirus! Actually, it’s more likely just freaking Texas allergies. I hate this time of year. All this tree sperm floating in the air is killing me. Every



year, because of sinus problems, I lose my voice and get an annoying scratchy throat that leads to a stupid cough. But right now, if you cough even the smallest bit, people look at you like you have the plague.

I cough into my elbow or a hankie like you are supposed to, but the looks I get — I feel like a leper. If I called in sick to work or quarantined myself everytime I had a sinus issue, I’d be homeless. Come to think of it, my mood is most likely caused by the stupid sinus medications. I’m always feeling discombobulated and off. I like that word — discombobulated. It sounds cooler than it is — discombobulated.

So, yesterday I tried to not touch my face — you know, because the news has everyone freaked out. I thought, let me just try not to touch my face while I am in the grocery store. It started off well; I got the

grocery cart, and I sanitized it. I used two of those wipes to really clean it. And I immediately rubbed my nose.

Dammit!

Let me start again; ten steps later I scratched my ear. Fuck!

The harder I tried not to touch my face, the more I touched it. I went through the same thing when I was 13 but with my penis instead of my face.

I bought a bunch of hand sanitizer and antibacterial soap to trick myself into thinking I am doing something. Maybe I should get those long-ass fake sculpted nails from the nail salon. I bet I would be much more aware of touching my face if I had those. But how do you wipe your ass with those on your hands?

Never mind; I don’t want to end up looking like that Peter Griffin meme where he

has the long red nails. Lord knows, I hate to look ridiculous. (That is sarcasm, ladies and gentlemen. Looking ridiculous is my bread and butter. So long red nails it is!)

I’m so gay I couldn’t even masturbate if I had long red nails. Not to mention, I might accidentally recircumcise myself. Although, it would be fun to file them while I am gossiping. I have always wanted to look like I work at the DMV.

Who would have thought that this column would have turned into weighing the pros and cons of having long red sculpted nails? I think I just put myself into a good mood! You just never know where the day is going to take ya. I hope you all make it a good day!

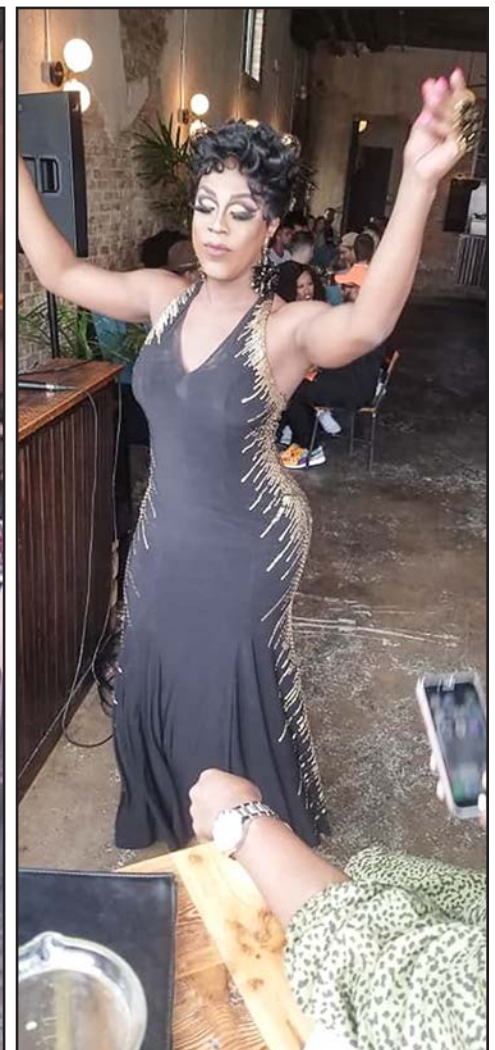
Remember to always love more, bitch less and be fabulous! XOXO! Cassie Nova

Booty's Drag Brunch



Making the SCENE the week of March 13–19:

- **1851 Club:** Candi Carrol, Addison Foster and Nia Courtland on Friday. Tara St. Stone, Shelly Von Miller and Sapphire Davenport on Saturday.
- **Alexandre's:** Perfect Mark & Mike MRF on Friday. Terry Loftis on Saturday. Wayne Smith on Sunday. K-Marie on Tuesday. Vero Voz on Wednesday. Chris Chism on Thursday.
- **Club Changes:** Turn Me Over, Kiss My Clover from 9 p.m.-1 a.m. on Saturday.
- **Club Reflection:** Mother Michial Community Awards at 7 p.m. on Wednesday.
- **Dallas Eagle:** TBRU 25 Bear of the Year Contest at 10 p.m. on Friday. TBRU 25 Clash of the Divas from 9 p.m.-2 a.m. on Saturday. TBRU 25 Supafly Trash Disco from 5 p.m.-close on Sunday.
- **Havana:** Sunday Funday with the Mayra D'Lorenzo Show at 4 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Hidden Door:** Firedancers' Spring Food Drive from 1-5 p.m. on Saturday. TGRA Presents Texas Slide Fundraiser at 7 p.m. on Saturday. S.L.U.T.S. Club Night on Wednesday.
- **JR.'s Bar & Grill:** RuPaul's Drag Race Season 12 Watch Party at 7 p.m. on Friday.
- **Marty's Live:** Marty's Game Night at 10 p.m. on Tuesday.
- **Pekers:** Miss Gay Texas Pageant System Presents Shamrocks Are Blooming benefiting Educare and GDMAF, with food at 4 p.m. and show at 5 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Round-Up Saloon:** Bear Happy Hour at 6 p.m. on Friday. Whose Game is it Anyway?, a weekly blast of fun with cash prizes, from 10:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m. on Wednesday. Lip Sync Battle at 11 p.m. on Thursday.
- **S4:** Opposites Attract Mixer from 8-10 p.m. on Friday. Beardance: Gods and Gladiators with special guest Alyssa Edwards from 8 p.m.-4 a.m. on Friday.
- **Sue Ellen's:** Barefoot Hippies at 3:30 p.m. and Jason Huff at 6 p.m. on Sunday. Comedy Open Mic from 8-11 p.m. on Monday.
- **The Rose Room:** Alyssa Edwards on Friday. Demi Sexton on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Jenna Skyy and USofA Pageants Present Miss Gay Dallas USofA at 11 p.m. on Thursday.
- **Urban Cowboy:** Imperial Court Presents The Red Ribbon Show at 6 p.m. on Saturday, and the In Town Show and Awards at 7 p.m. on Thursday.
- **Woody's Sports & Video Bar:** Celebrate St. Patrick's Day with happy hour at 8 p.m. and Showtunes all night beginning at 9 p.m. on Tuesday.



Archives for All Y'all planning meeting



Stoli Cocktail Classic

Photography by Gregory Martin for Stoli



Cynthia Smoot, Ken Weber, LaToya London



Kelly Zimmerman



Leann Berry



Stoli Cocktail Classic Participants



Rocky Ervin, Kelly Zimmerman, Ronnie Sky Mikyles



LeeAnne Locken, Patrik Gallineaux



T'Eric Thompson, Trevor Bomhoff, Cassidy Bower

Resource Center Young Professionals mixer

Photography by David Taffet



Peacock Theater

Photography by Leo Cusimano



Max of M*A*S*H*

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Solution on Page 22

Across

- 1 Cowardly lion actor
- 5 Lake ballet dancers
- 10 She played gay in *Silkwood*
- 14 Personal lubricant ingredient
- 15 Man of morals
- 16 Cocksure Aesop character
- 17 Green of *Buffy* fame
- 18 Furnish food
- 19 "It ___ Necessarily So"
- 20 Start of a comment about Klinger by Col. Potter
- 23 Bottom support
- 24 Small fry
- 25 Lily Tomlin's ___ *Me*
- 28 More of the comment
- 34 Conflict with boxers
- 35 NASDAQ rival
- 36 *Mamma ___!*
- 37 Prefix with type
- 39 More of the comment
- 40 *Of Thee ___*
- 42 Cold war prog.
- 43 Dench of *Notes on a Scandal*
- 45 Actress Chase
- 46 More of the comment

- 49 Favored by heaven
- 50 Rudy Galindo's milieu
- 51 It's hard and woody
- 53 End of the comment
- 60 Heal, like a bone
- 61 Moral code
- 62 Ready to go in
- 63 It comes before date?
- 64 Classic western
- 65 *The Bells ___ Mary's*
- 66 Have an opening for
- 67 Gaydar, e.g.
- 68 Umlaut pair

Down

- 1 Unit of flagellation
- 2 Toward shelter
- 3 *The ___ Baltimore*
- 4 Vacation spot in Delaware
- 5 Gives the ax to
- 6 Be ambiguous
- 7 Nick and Nora's dog
- 8 Coward of *The Scoundrel*
- 9 Fairies
- 10 Using the mouth a lot
- 11 Icy pellets
- 12 Marine eagle
- 13 Eligible for Soc. Sec.
- 21 Bonehead

- 22 Oscar winner Marisa
- 25 Bring shame to
- 26 *Zami* author Audre
- 27 Perfectly clear
- 29 Mauve hanky fetish
- 30 Colleague of Marlowe
- 31 Lips service?
- 32 Cries from the sties
- 33 Pester, as Jack to Will
- 38 Force out
- 39 Spots on TV
- 41 Movie where Cher played gay
- 44 Having no point
- 47 What some did at Stonewall
- 48 Gertrude with a beer mug?
- 49 Water near San Fran
- 52 Mike holder
- 53 A girl named Frank
- 54 Low-calorie
- 55 "Aren't ___ lucky one!"
- 56 *Star Trek* guy full of wrath
- 57 The 411
- 58 Ending with Pride
- 59 Goes down on
- 60 Toto's home st.

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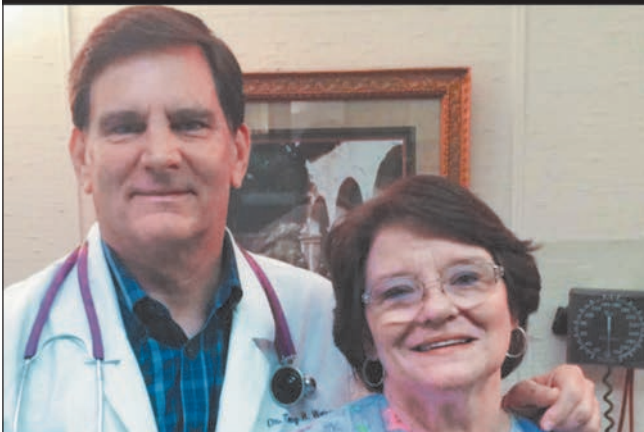
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