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A new frontier

Alphonso David, a veteran in the LGBT civil rights battle, takes over as HRC president

By James Russell, Page 8



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Dallas County signs declaration to end AIDS by 2030



Dallas County Judge Clay Jenkins

healthcare is a county, not a city, function. But area mayors did join Jenkins for the signing, as did Dallas County Health and Human Services Director Dr. Philip Huang.

The Fast-Track Cities Paris Declaration is a commitment by local governments to work collaboratively to end the HIV/AIDS Epidemic by 2030. The global partnership of 250 high burden HIV cities believes that when urban residents with HIV are better able to manage their diagnosis, the national outcomes are better.

Jenkins said the goal is for 90 percent of

Dallas County Judge Clay Jenkins signed Dallas County on to the Fast-Track Cities Paris Declaration to end the AIDS epidemic by 2030 today, (Monday, Aug. 26) at Communities Foundation of Texas.

Why did the county become a fast-track city?

Because in Texas, healthcare is a county, not a city, function. But area mayors did join Jenkins for the signing, as did Dallas County Health and Human Services Director Dr. Philip Huang.

The Fast-Track Cities Paris Declaration is a commitment by local governments to work collaboratively to end the HIV/AIDS Epidemic by 2030. The global partnership of 250 high burden HIV cities believes that when urban residents with HIV are better able to manage their diagnosis, the national outcomes are better.

Jenkins said the goal is for 90 percent of

people living with HIV to know their status and receive treatment. Recent studies have shown that when the viral load is undetectable, HIV isn't transmitted. The estimate is that only half of people with HIV in Dallas know their status.

"Dr. Huang and I have made signing this a top priority for Dallas County since he arrived six months ago. His understanding of the needs of this population and commitment to meeting those needs is already making a huge difference," Jenkins said.

— David Taffet

Norman becomes 1st city in Oklahoma to protect LGBT residents from discrimination

Allie Shinn, executive director of Freedom Oklahoma, has announced that the Norman, Okla., City Council voted on Tuesday night, Aug. 27, to approve comprehensive nondiscrimination protections for LGBT residents of the city in employment, housing and public accommodations.

The vote makes Norman the first city in Oklahoma to offer such protections.

"Congratulations are in order for this giant leap forward for our movement," Shinn said in an email announcing the vote. "This is a momentous occasion for Norman's LGBTQ population and an incredible model for

what is possible in a conservative state like Oklahoma."

Shinn also extended "huge thanks" to Norman Mayor Breea Clark, the Norman City Council and the city's Human Rights Commission "for their leadership on non-discrimination, and congratulations to Norman United for this incredible victory, obtained over years of organizing toward this moment."

Shinn added, "This is a moment to celebrate not just for Norman but for all of Oklahoma and our nationwide movement. Thank you to everyone who made this possible. This is a first for Oklahoma, but we know that there are many cities that will follow suit. Norman's leadership on this issue places it 0 at the forefront of the movement for LGBTQ equality in our state.

As the council prepared to vote on the ordinance, according to The Norman Transcript, Clark noted: "If you did not know, we are about to make history in the state of Oklahoma for being the most inclusive community in the state. Tonight, we are living our motto of building an inclusive community, but more so we are creating a model for other cities. We are providing you an ordinance and an example of what you can do and what should do."

The Transcript points out that the changes were made thanks to the work of Norman United and "other LGBTQ+ advocates" over the last several years.

The amendments updating the city's nondiscrimination ordinance passed on a vote

of 8-1, with Ward 6 Councilman Bill Scanlon casting the lone vote against the changes.

— Tammye Nash

Log Cabin E.D. resigns over Trump endorsement

The executive director of Log Cabin Republicans has resigned because she disagreed with the group's endorsement of Trump's re-election.

Jerri Ann Henry worked for marriage equality within the the Republican Party. When she was named to her current position less than a year ago, she became Log Cabin's first woman to serve as executive director.

Henry isn't the first to resign over the endorsement. Jennifer Horn resigned from the national board. Robert Turner, the president of Log Cabin's D.C. chapter vacated his position last week after the announcement.

And according to the Washington Blade, "Casey Pick, who once worked as programs director for Log Cabin, has repudiated the organization in a Facebook post."

During the 2016 Republican National Convention, Rachel Hoff urged the party to be inclusive of the LGBT community in its platform. The Blade reports she has also left Log Cabin over the Trump endorsement.

Log Cabin didn't endorse Trump in 2016.

According to Log Cabin spokesman Charles Moran, this year's endorsement came at the request of it chapters, as required in its bylaws.

— David Taffet

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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.

AUGUST

• Aug. 31: Donna Dumaë's Country Jamboree

Donna Dumaë, Empress XXIII of the United Court of the Lone Star Empire, presents "A Country Jamboree: The 22nd Annual Friends Helping Friends" event benefitting AIDS Services of Dallas, at the Dallas Eagle, 5740 Maple Ave. Line-up is at 6 p.m. and the show begins at 7 p.m. For information visit DallasCourt.org.

• Aug. 31: Rainbow Salsa classes

Puerto Rican style Salsa basic moves for singles and couples from 10 a.m.-noon at Trinity Metropolitan Community Church, 933 E. Ave. J, Grand Prairie. \$35 for four classes.

• Aug. 31: Fort Worth "Fifth"

Fort Worth social group meets the fifth Saturday of each month for food and fun. Check the group's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/groups/131006360969130 for details.

• Aug. 31: TAG Game Night

Tyler Area Gays holds Game Night from 6-9 p.m. For details visit Facebook.com/TylerAreaGays.

SEPTEMBER

• Sept. 2: Labor Day

• Sept. 3: Classic Chassis Car Club

LGBT car enthusiasts meet from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Ojeda's, 4617 Maple Ave. For more information visit ClassicChassis.com.

• Sept. 3: Prime Timers

First Tuesday lunch at 11:30 a.m. at Golden Corral, 3312 Forest Lane. For more information go to PrimeTimersWW.net/DFW.

• Sept. 5: Brewing Up Business

Kick start your morning and your business at 4000 Cedar Springs Road Site E, from 8:30-9:30 a.m. Develop new business relationships by giving your 30-second pitch and exchanging business cards. Brewing Up Business is held on the first Thursday of each month; hosted by: Crinkles and Co. admission is \$10 in advance and \$20 at the door.

• Sept. 5: Champions for Change

Rep. Colin Allred and state Reps. Julie Johnson and Jessica Gonzalez talk about the next steps in the fight for nondiscrimination protections in Texas and the U.S. at 6 p.m. at Resource Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road.

• Sept. 7: American Heart Association; Heart Walk

The Boston Heart Walk funds lifesaving

science. It also makes your heart healthier. Start a team today and you can pat yourself on the back and hug your heart at the same time. Join them for a one, three or six-mile walk along the Charles River Esplanade. Sign up at BostonHeartWalk.org.

• Sept. 7: A March to End Violence

Dallas Police Department sponsors a march to help end violence in the city and support those who have been victims. Meet at 9 a.m. in Deep Ellum at 200 N. Crowdus and march to 2639 Main St.

• Sept. 8: PositiviTEA

A Legacy brunch benefiting the Grace Project Women's Conference from 1-4 p.m. at The Mack Grand Ballroom at SMU, 3300 Dyer St. Tickets at Positivitea.com.

• Sept. 8: Prime Timers

Games at 2 p.m. hosted by Brian in Carrollton. For directions, call 214-218-0912. For more information go to PrimeTimersWW.net/DFW.

• Sept. 9: Creating Change Host Committee Meeting

The Task Force needs volunteers to plan the January 15-19 Creating Change Conference in Dallas. Committees include fundraising, special events, hospitality, recruitment. Dinner at 7 p.m. and meeting from 7:30-9 p.m. at Resource Center, 5750 Cedar Springs

Road. For more information visit CreatingChange.org.

• Sept. 10: Grief group

Grief group for persons who have lost a same-sex spouse meets the second and fourth Tuesdays each month from 6:45-8 p.m. at Resource Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road.

• Sept. 10: Pathfinders

Pathfinders group is a community resource for trans masculine individuals (including non-binary trans masculine people and binary trans men), age 18+ in the North Texas/DFW area. Meets the second Tuesday of every month from 6:30-8 p.m. in the Oak Lawn Library Auditorium, 4100 Cedar Springs Road.

• Sept. 10: Prime Timers

Dinner at 7 p.m. at Mei Mei Chinese Biffet, 10455 N. Central Expressway. RSVP. 214-218-0912. For more information go to PrimeTimersWW.net/DFW.

• Sept. 12: Chamber Business Connections Mixer

North Texas LGBT Chamber of Commerce business connections mixer from 5:30-7 p.m. at Te Deseo, 2700 N. Olive St.

• Sept. 13: LGBT Leadership Institute

The GLBT Chamber of Commerce Foundation Leadership Institute develops leadership skills for LGBT

7:30 p.m. and Saturday at 11:30 a.m. at Resource Center, 2701 Reagan St.; **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 Tuesdays at First Unitarian Church, third floor of the Hallman Building, 4012 St. Andrews; **Thrive support group** from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. followed by mixer every Monday at Resource Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road; **Lambda AA** meets at 7 a.m., noon, 6 p.m., 8 p.m. and 11 p.m. and has a men's meeting at 10 a.m. on Saturdays and meets at 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. on Sunday at 1575 W. Mockingbird Lane #625. 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.

and ally professionals and provides a historical view of the LGBT community in a nine-part program. Second Friday of the month from Sept.-May. \$1,500. Info at GLBTChamber.com.

• **Sept. 13: DFW Pride Happy Hour**
The DFW Pride Happy Hour a monthly networking and social event from 5:30-7:30 p.m. hosted by North Texas GLBT Chamber of Commerce Foundation, and is open for all to attend. For more information go to GLBTChamber.com.

• **Sept. 13: Luck Be A Lady**
Vampire Court of Dallas and The Bad Girls Club hold a casino night to support North Texas Coalition Against Human Trafficking from 8 p.m.-midnight at Viva's Lounge, 1350 Manufacturing St. Suite 120. \$20 at Eventbrite. DallasVC.org.

• **Sept. 13-15: Dallas Otter Weekend**
Second annual Mr. Dallas Otter Contest at 7:30 p.m. and Dallas Otter Weekend Kick-off Party at 10 p.m. at The Round-Up Saloon, 3912 Cedar Springs Road. Dallas Otter Art/Gear Clothing Exhibition at 8 p.m. and Fur Trade dance party at 10 p.m. at Dallas Eagle, 5740 Maple Ave. Sunday Funday and charity showcase at 3 p.m. at Woody's Sports and Video Bar, 4011 Cedar Springs Road. OtterWeekend.org.

• **Sept. 14: TAG Street Cleanup**
Wear closed toe shoes, sunscreen and bring gloves. TAG provides trash bags, grabbers and water. Meet at 9:30 a.m. in front of Tyler Public Library, 201 S. College Ave., Tyler.

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Alphonso David does Dallas

HRC's new president brings his years of experience in the fight for civil rights to the LGBT rights organization

JAMES RUSSELL | Contributing Writer
james.journo@gmail.com

Alphonso David, the new president of the Human Rights Campaign, visited two LGBTQ health clinics in two North Texas counties on Sunday, Aug. 18. That same day, he also met with transgender activists to talk about the recent spate of violence against transgender individuals, and he announced HRC's first Texas endorsements of the 2020 election cycle.

That was all before 3 p.m., and only his second week leading the nation's largest LGBTQ organization.

David, a black, gay civil rights attorney, took the helm of the nation's largest organization advocating for LGBTQ rights on Aug. 7. He is the first civil rights attorney and person of color to lead the organization.

David has bounced back and forth between the public and private sectors, working as a staff attorney at Lambda Legal, in multiple roles for New York's Democratic Gov. Andrew Cuomo, including as chief counsel, and in private practice.

David says civil rights law is his passion, and he has a winning record, battling discrimination against same-sex couples and people living with HIV, and writing New York's law legalizing same-sex marriage.

"I've been in the courtroom fighting for LGBTQ rights," David said during his North Texas visit. "This organization has done some litigation as well, but has been focused on legislation and electing people to office, and it has done a really tremendous job in doing that.

My task moving forward is to build on that foundation, expand the scope of



Human Rights Campaign President Alphonso David, left, was in North Texas recently to announce HRC's endorsement of Texas state Rep. Julie Johnson, third from left, and U.S. Rep. Colin Allred, right, as they begin their re-election campaigns. (Brandon Wade/AP Images for Human Rights Campaign)

the organization and really think about how we can represent all interests of the LGBTQ community," he said of HRC.

What's happening in Dallas, David said, "is a microcosm of what I've seen in other parts of the country. People of color in most cases don't feel that their interests are being represented." And he said, young men who have or are at risk of contracting HIV are not aware of the disease's impact, despite recent research breakthrough.

Meeting with local advocates and service providers creates a connection among the national and state and local groups, David said. Local organizational leaders agree.

"One thing that impressed me was his desire to listen to local concerns more than try to inject a national perspective," said DeeJay Johannessen, the executive director of Health Learning and Education Project, one of the two clinics David visited. "We look forward to working with the entire HRC team and welcome Alphonso to the cause."

David's meeting with transgender activists to talk about violence against transgender individuals — and especially black trans women — was private.

Eleven transgender women — all black — have been murdered this year. Among them were Dallas' Muhlaysia Booker, 23, who was shot to death May 18, about a month after video of her being beaten by several men in the parking lot at her apartment complex as onlookers laughed and jeered, and Chynal Lindsey, 26, whose body was found floating in White Rock Lake on June 1. Arrests have been made in both cases.

"[We are] going to be advancing additional programmatic initiatives that speak to marginalized communities within the LGBTQ community," David said in an interview with Dallas Voice. "But I have to say the organization has been doing that for some time. Part of the challenge is communicating that effectively to communities that are affected."

David's vision is one of the reasons the search committee selected him to succeed Chad Griffin, who expanded the organization's reach and doubled its membership.

"When the search committee met Alphonso, we knew he was someone special. We were all immediately struck by Alphonso's passion, dedication and his impressive history of being a force for



progress," said HRC Board of Directors Chairman-elect Morgan Cox, who co-chaired the committee. "And, we were inspired by his personal story, that he had left a war-torn country as a young boy, moving to the United States as an immigrant and a former refugee."

David is no stranger to either strife or privilege. He was born in the United States but raised in Monrovia, Liberia. His uncle, William Tolbert, was that country's 20th president. After more than a decade in office, Tolbert was overthrown and killed as part of a military coup. David's father was jailed but eventually spared by the new government.

The family moved back to the United States, settling in Baltimore. That's when David first got a real sense of being the "other." He was black, an African and an immigrant, and, he said, "I became the object of laughter and ridicule."

He was also gay. "It took me years to get to the point I could look myself in a mirror and see a friend," David said.

He studied law at Temple University in Philadelphia, clerked for a federal judge, was an adjunct professor and worked at private firm. Then in 2004, he joined Lambda Legal as a staff attorney, taking on LGBTQ and HIV/AIDS cases at the peak of the culture wars, with Republicans passing referendums banning same-sex marriages, and the legal community divided about taking the bans to court.

David gained a reputation as a fierce civil rights attorney, taking on adoption, HIV discrimination and other cases. Then he got a call enough he got a call from the government.

Former New York Gov. Eliot Spitzer wanted to recruit him.

"One of his commissioners recruited me to work at the division of human rights. They indicated that they were

Judge rejects effort to dead-name transgender assault victim

TAMMYE NASH | Managing Editor
nash@dallasvoice.com



Muhlaysia Booker

In a hearing held Thursday morning in the 195th District Court in Edward Thomas' trial on charges of aggravated assault, Judge Hector Garza on Thursday ruled that the victim in the attack, transgender woman Muhlaysia Booker, will not be dead-named and referred to as a man in the indictment against Thomas.

The charges stem from an attack last April in the parking lot of the South Dallas apartment complex where Booker lived. Booker was involved in a minor fender-bender accident in the parking lot, and the driver of the other vehicle refused to let Booker leave until she paid for any damages. A crowd soon gathered, and Thomas allegedly beat Booker so badly that she was left with a broken wrist and injuries to her face.

Video of the attack showing the gathering crowd laughing and jeering as Booker is beaten quickly went viral, helping focus national attention on the ever-growing threat of anti-transgender violence.

A month later, Booker was found shot to death, her body lying in the middle of an East Dallas street. Another man, Kendrick Lavar Lyles, has been arrested and charged with her murder.

Jayla Wilkerson, founder of Transgender Pride of Dallas and a former Dallas County prosecutor, attended the hearing Thursday. Of the ruling, she said, "I am relieved that the judge followed the law and is allowing the victim to be named as she was known to her community."

Phillip Clark, the LGBT liaison in the Dallas County District Attorney's Office, said prior to the hearing that the DA's Office does not yet have a specific policy established on how transgender people — either as victims or defendants — should be referred to during legal proceedings, in regard to their names and gender identities.

"It comes down to respect," Clark said via email. "There's not a policy on being respectful, because we all should always be respectful to everyone, without a

policy requiring it. But gender identity merits particular consideration, and our LGBTQ+ Task Force is looking into ways to respect a person's self-identification or wishes without impacting the integrity of a given case.

"Whether this results in a policy or a training or both, I do not yet know. But we know there is a need, and we know that the answer is not self-evident to many people in our office, hence the work toward a policy and/or training," he added.

Prior to the hearing, Wilkerson said that according to her understanding, the case against Thomas was originally indicted with Booker "identified by her previous name, or some portion thereof, rather than Muhlaysia. The prosecutors identified that error and filed an amended indictment to accurately identify the victim."

But, Jayla Wilkerson said, Thomas' defense attorney, Andrew Wilkerson, objected to the correction of Booker's name. He has, Jayla Wilkerson said, "made a habit of using this case as an outlet for his own anti-transgender bias and hatred," and has "engaged in misgendering and dead-naming the victim in social media posts and elsewhere from early into his involvement with the case."

Thursday's hearing, she added, "is just another attempt to disrespect, demean, and dehumanize a beautiful transgender woman of color who was later murdered on the streets of Dallas. The attitude and statements espoused by Andrew, and others like him, further embolden and perpetuate the hatred and violence faced by our family, and they cannot be tolerated."

JUDGE, Page 12

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Edyka Chilomé: holding a line

Poet explores art as
activism/activism as Joy

Editor's Note: This is the first in our semi-regular series of articles by Brandi Amara Skyy exploring our queer art through interviews, profiles and stories of Queer Creatives.

Growing up in South Texas, I was taught that dance and song heal the soul; food and family are always a reason to celebrate, and words and stories are balms to ease our aches and pains. These everyday occurrences filled with extraordinary beauty and magic became the roots and values of my art making.

As I was deciding which artist to interview to kickoff this new series on queer art and queer creatives, I kept returning to these roots. And when I saw that my friend and fellow Texas Woman's University alum Edyka Chilomé was going to be at Deep Vellum Books promoting and reading from her new book, *El Poemario del Colibrí / The Hummingbird Poems*, I knew immediately that she and her work were where this series needed to begin.

I first met Edyka at TWU when we both were getting our master of arts degrees in multicultural women's and gender studies. While our paths diverged after college, our art and activism often intersected.

Since graduating, Edyka has shared her poetry on Tedx stages, Lincoln Center in New York, on NPR and at the Texas Democratic Convention. While my work has always centered on queerness, drag and my LGBTQ community, I have always been drawn to Edyka because she and her work focus on the other third of me; the third, that in my own internal ranking of identities and 'isms,' always fell behind "queer" and "woman."



Brandi Amara Skyy
Queer Creatives



Edyka's work centers the voices of Mexican, Latina, Chicano people that are often drowned out, overlooked, pushed into "other" and "non-white" labels — or just flat-out erased. These — our gente — are not just the nucleus of her work, but her reasons for it.

"I come from a movement culture from Latin America that honors its cultural workers, memory keepers, artists as necessary and important for social change," Edyka says. "Both of my parents were/are migrant activists and organizers in their own communities. As a U.S.-born child of migrants, I saw the need for deep healing after so many generations of war and revolution.

"My art is how I hold the line for the heart of my family and my people." And these are a people who, under this current administration, are being herded and branded like cattle, thrown in cages,

blanketed in foil, and left to die — very real situations, with life-and-death consequences. How, then, can something as abstract as art impact and change a travesty like this?

The answer lies in this idea of art as "hold[ing] the line," where "the line" is equivalent to space: holding space, creating space, launching these and centuries of enslaved voices into privileged, white, heteronormative spaces.

Art as holding a line also means drawing a line and becoming a barrier, a wall, a border, as forces of racism, and extermination move in. This is a thread that is woven throughout all of Edyka's activism and work.

"When I choose to intentionally be witness and give testimony of my community's pain and resilience, I am adding to the survival of our consciousness and memory. Choosing to make art in this moment is me actively resisting the erasure of myself and my people by an illegal settler colonial state [the United States] that has always and continues to attempt genocide against us and the natural world."

But art is also more than just a border. Edyka continues: "As a queer woman of color with roots in the global south I recognize for one, my existence is resistance in this world. When I love and live in joy, I am healing all the trauma of my ancestors and am blessing my future generations."

Emotions of joy and love in our current state of political unrest and enslavement of our people seems contradictory. But

Edyka, and the work of other artists that I will profile later in this series, remind us that joy — like anger — is necessary to our cause, to our resistance — and to our sanity.

"I am excited for this book, because I was called to explore joy as a form of political resistance," Edyka said. That's "something I feel like we must remember as we are constantly inundated with some serious emotional turmoil."

And while joy as a valid and viable form of activism may seem like a new way of protesting and resistance, it's not. Octavia Butler used her joy in writing science fiction as her platform for activism. We, as a queer community, use

our joy as activism in the form of Pride, floats, rainbows and music and dance down the street every June in celebration and testament to our long-fought (and still fighting) journey.

With her new chapbook of poems, Edyka Chilomé is now part of lineage of art makers and activists who are exploring joy as activism — and as a potential release. As excerpted from the prologue of *El Poemario del Colibrí / The Hummingbird Poems*: "I have felt the essence of freedom, and I have found that it is joy. I believe it is through the labor of joy that all things are possible." ■

You can find out more about Edyka and her work at edykachilome.com. Celebrate the release of *El Poemario del Colibrí / The Hummingbird Poems* tonight (Friday Aug. 30, from 7-9 p.m. at Deep Vellum books, 3000 Commerce St. For information visit DeepVellum.org.

Political panel

Resource Center and Equality Texas host 3 freshmen reps to discuss advancing equality

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
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Cece Cox will moderate a panel discussion among three of the area's newest and most influential politicians — U.S. Rep. Colin Allred and state Reps. Julie Johnson and Jessica Gonzalez. All three were elected to office for the first time in November 2018. The panel discussion

is a partnership between Equality Texas and Resource Center.

Cox said she hopes to focus the discussion on what the community needs to do to promote equality on a state and national level. That involves breaking the Republican hold on the Texas and U.S. senates. Nationally, the Equality Act is pending in the House of Representatives and Allred is a co-sponsor.

Allred defeated 11-term congressman Pete Sessions who once declared there were no gay people living in his district. That district includes parts of Oak Lawn as well as much of North Dallas. Allred was recently endorsed for re-election by Human Rights Campaign.

Cox compared Sessions, who dismissed the LGBT community, to Allred who "shows up and engages with the community."

On the federal level, Cox said she'll ask about repairing some of the damage that's been done in areas such as transgender healthcare and military service.

Texas Monthly named Julie Johnson Freshman of the Year in the Texas House of Representatives.

"Julie had a great year in terms of representing the LGBTQ community," Cox

said and added that the way she and her wife, Sue Moster, presented themselves as they championed public education was some of the most successful outreach she's witnessed.

Moster became the first LGBT member of the Legislative Ladies, a non-partisan organization for spouses of legislators in Austin.

Johnson, who defeated the author of the previous session's bathroom bill, made statewide news for killing a bill that would have allowed discrimination against the LGBT community.

Along with four other LGBT members of the Legislature, she co-founded the first LGBT Caucus in Texas.

One of those other four was Rep. Jessica Gonzalez.

Gonzalez handily defeated 13-term incumbent Roberto Alonzo in a primary and then ran unopposed in the general election.

Cox called her "a tremendous champion for our community." Like Johnson, Gonzalez passed legislation in her first term in office, a rare feat for freshmen in the Texas Legislature.

"How exciting to have an LGBT Caucus," Cox said. "Remember Glen Maxey?"



Cece Cox

In 1991, Maxey became the first openly-LGBT person elected to the Texas Legislature and remained the one-and-only throughout his six terms in office.

"He had an uphill battle earning his colleague's respect," she said.

During this year's session, LGBT equality bills moved farther through committees than they have in previous years and Cox credits that to Gonzalez, Johnson and other members of the caucus.

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ALPHONSO From Page 8

looking for someone and had heard about me, and I thought, 'Well, that's cool,'" David said.

But still, he was hesitant — not because he feared Spitzer, a Democrat, would lead a military coup, but because the public sector was just not his wheelhouse.

Still, he took the gig anyway, and took his advocacy to the courtroom, eventu-

ally running the civil rights bureau for Cuomo, who was then attorney general.

"I thought that's it," he said when Cuomo was elected governor in 2010. "I'm done with government. I'll go back to the not-for-profit sector, the private sector."

But Cuomo was not done with David. If David joined the administration, Cuomo told him, he would get his own role

as the deputy secretary for civil rights, the first position of its kind in New York government.

David was pivotal in developing civil rights policies, including some of the most expansive protections in the country. New York State was leading on the to-do list of LGBTQ advocates: the state had banned so-called "conversion therapy" in minors, expanded Medicaid coverage to cover transition-related care, simplified the process of changing gender markers on birth certificates and expanded access to people living with HIV.

But now David was really, really done with government.

But Cuomo was still not done with David. "He said, 'I want you to become my chief counsel. And I became the first openly-gay counsel in the history of New York,'" David explained.

But the opportunity to lead HRC was too good to pass up.

Dallas was just one stop on David's tour of the country. Other stops included Richmond, Va.; Columbus and Cleveland, Ohio; Los Angeles; Las Vegas and Wilmington, Del..

"These were among the cities that connected Alphonso's and HRC's priorities as he steps into this new role, 'cities where pro-equality candidates are running for office; places where there is a large HRC presence; communities where there has been a history (or in Dallas' case, a recent history) of anti-transgender violence,'" according to HRC Deputy Communications Director Nick Morrow.



JUDGE From Page 9

From a legal standpoint, Jayla Wilkerson said, "the name of the victim is not even required for a proper indictment," and some cases are filed naming "unknown victim(s)" when a victim's identity cannot be determined.

"The defense attorney wants this document to read as though Thomas assaulted a man because he fears — or claims to fear — that the jury will be prejudiced against his client if the first thing they hear is that he was a man hitting a woman. The fact is, though, that he was a man hitting a woman."

The defense attorney's opposition to using Booker's proper name and gender identity in the indictment was "essentially asking the court to dead-name Muhlayisia" in an effort to "shift the narrative away from what actually happened" and present it instead as "a fight between two guys," suggested Cece Cox, chief executive officer for Resource Center.

"Dead-naming is just one more way in which transgender people are made invisible and are minimized," Cox continued. "This is not the direction we want to go in as a society. Instead, we should be respecting people's identities and we should be educating people about these issues so that we can get rid of the hate" that is at the root of anti-transgender violence.



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Dr. Marc Tribble and Dr. Donald Graneto named to D Magazine's Best Doctors in Dallas for 2017 in Infectious Disease and Family Medicine respectively.



Peter Triporo, NP named Top 10 in 2018 America's Top Nurse Practitioner Awards presented by Point of Care Network



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Words matter

What you say — or don't say — can change someone's life

I haven't seen John Vance in person in more than 30 years. Back in the mid-1980s, we worked together at a radio station in Ventura, Calif. We did the morning show — "McMurray and Vance" it was called. John became a good friend in the time we worked together.

Ventura was a beach city about an hour north of Los Angeles. We would take lunch at a place called "China Bay Surf & Taco," a hybrid surfboard store that also served food — the most amazing burritos and Ensenada-style fish tacos served by a guy from Puerto Rico.

China Bay had tile floors that were always sandy, because the beach was only a hundred yards or so from his door. Nobody wore shoes. It was run by Gil Sanchez, a feisty man built like a fire hydrant who loved the LA Raiders and had a heart of gold. Gil was like an uncle to us, and it was always an argument when we bought lunch, because Gil wouldn't take our money.

Vance and I would eat lunch and solve the problems of the world. Radio in Ventura paid starvation wages, especially when you consider what it cost to live there. But I remember those days as being some of the best.

Around 1990, John and I went our own separate ways. I left for Sacramento and more money; John went back home to Minnesota and became a fire fighter.

We still touch base from time to time. John is now the chief of the Minnetonka Fire Department. What an accomplishment! I don't know the guys in his department, but I would bet everything I have that they love him.

When I transitioned about seven years ago, it was no big thing. He was happy for me, and aside from using a different name and pronouns, our relationship had not changed a bit. Vance has a little of



Leslie McMurray
Accidental Activist

that Fargo (if you've seen the movie) midwestern accent and an easy laugh. And John Vance has never met a stranger. I follow John and the Minnetonka Fire Department on Twitter. They are often posting pictures of fires or calls they have been on or of kids touring fire stations. They often just post photos of cool things they are doing in the community.

Recently, I shared a picture and story from a fire department where, after firefighters responded to a call for medical aid, completed, a few of the guys stayed behind to help an elderly man at the apartment complex move some heavy items into a moving truck. I tagged Vance and said, "I saw this and thought of you."

He responded: "We (the FD) are really in the customer service business. We try to do the same — our people have shoveled snow off driveways and finished mowing lawns. I remember that book you gave me about Nordstrom and customer service. My philosophy on FD customer service started then. (Thank you!)"

I hadn't thought of that book in ages. This is one of those reminders that the things you say to people can have effects that you can't possibly imagine at the time. The book I was referencing was by Tom Peters, and, among many other things, it spoke of the obsessive custom-

er service that Nordstrom was/is known for. John and I had talked about how that concept can be translated to nearly any business.

John took that conversation to heart, and look at the legacy he has begun, far from Ventura where we met.

I've had the same thing happen in my life. A mentor of mine gave me several pieces of advice that I've taken with me and passed along. One vital piece of advice was to separate the urgent from the important. Especially in the age of multiple digital platforms all with "urgent" messages crying for attention, it's easy to forget the "important" stuff.

Sometimes "urgent" just has to wait. The message here is to use care and intention when we talk to others. Sometimes the right encouragement at the right time can last a lifetime or change a life.

On Sept. 25, 2000, Kevin Hines jumped off of the Golden Gate Bridge. He had dropped his classes at City College of San Francisco and then hopped on a bus to the bridge, sitting in the back of the bus and crying openly.

He said, "I actually had a pact with myself — this is something that many suicidal people do: If one person were to say, "Are you ok?" "Is something wrong?" Or "Can I help you?" I was going to tell them everything beg them to help me."

But no one spoke to him. Hines survived his leap that day, but I really wish someone had said something kind to that desperate 19-year-old kid.

The fact is, words matter. They cost you nothing, but they can and do save and change lives. We are all living proof, for better or worse.

Leslie McMurray, a transgender woman, is a former radio DJ who lives and works in Dallas. Read more of her blogs at lesliemichelle44.wordpress.com.



Renee Zellweger as Garland in 'Judy,' above.

Renee Zellweger as Garland in 'Judy,' above.

Reel love

29 films to look out for this fall

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor
jones@dallasvoice.com

The last week of August is usually the dead letter office of movies (unless you're talking art house films and documentaries; see sidebar, Page 15), but it's also the perfect time to look ahead to the most promising films set to release before the end of the year, when lots of prestige pictures make their debuts. And, as been the case in recent years, many are overflowing with queer content. Here are some of the titles we are most looking forward to from now 'til Christmas. (Release dates are local premiere dates subject to change.)

SEPTEMBER

It: Chapter Two. The kids are all grown up, and it's time to confront Pennywise again.

Brittany Runs a Marathon. Festival hit, the debut feature from out writer-director Paul Downs Colaizo.

The Goldfinch. Screen adaptation of the acclaimed novel about a boy struggling following the murder of his mother. Nicole Kidman and Sarah Paulson costar.

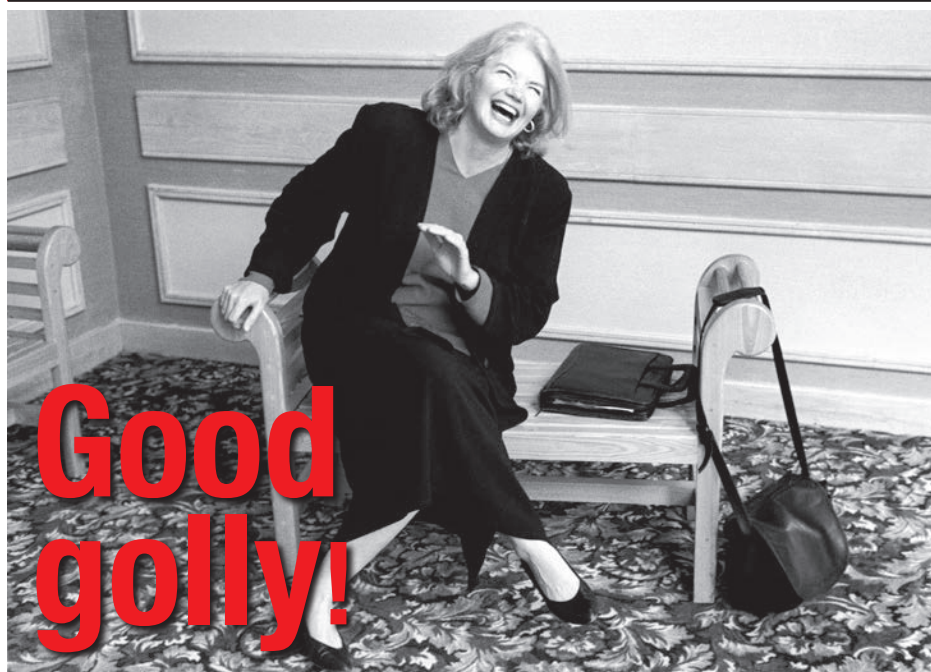
Linda Ronstadt: The Sound of My Voice. The gay documentary team of Jeffrey Friedman and Rob Epstein release this biopic about the 10-time Grammy winner.

Ad Astra. The long-delayed sci-fi epic starring Brad Pitt.

Downton Abbey. The feature film adaptation of the beloved TV series about the landed aristocracy in early 20th century England... and their staff.

Where's My Roy Cohn? The queer (but closeted) Machiavelli of American 20th century politics — a counselor to McCarthy and a young Donald Trump — is the subject of this documentary.

Judy. Renee Zellweger stars as the iconic star (and gay touchstone) Judy Garland. The trailers make it look superb.



Good golly!

Molly Ivins doc captures the genius of a Texas firebrand

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor
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There's something a little pandering about a documentary about a newspaper journalist being reviewed by *another* journalist — kinda like a rock star shouting "Dallas audiences are the best!" from the concert stage. What, we're gonna disagree? But even acknowledging inherent biases at work, the power of *Raise Hell: The Life and Times of Molly Ivins* lies firmly with the personality of its subject matter. For those who don't recall Ivins (shame on you), she was, for a brief generation, one of the most distinctive voices in political discourse the country had ever seen. She would probably even wince at the title "journalist" — she was closer to being "a newspaperwoman," or better yet, "a good ol' girl with a typewriter," conjuring her scathing witticisms about politicians with a Texas twang that was as scorching as it was hilarious.

Ivins came of age around the same time as Ann Richards, though each represented a different path along the same road — one in politics, one an observer of them. But they helped establish the image of the sassy, smart, disarming liberal unable to resist speaking truth to power.

And ohhh, the truths Ivins spoke. Her one-liners are on par with Oscar Wilde's — "Texas public policy is like

Hungarian wine — it does not travel well," she would drawl, or commenting on Dan Quayle that he was "stupider than advertised. If you put his brain in a bee, the bee would fly backwards." A character, a master, a raconteur.

She was also a disaster of epic, hubristic proportion. A heavy drinker prone to bouts of depression, she burned a lot of bridges ... some unnecessarily. She worked for half a dozen newspapers in her 40 years, never quite fitting in (the New York Times famously banished her from its Manhattan newsroom by "promoting" her to their "bureau chief" in Denver... where she was the *only* employee). She peppered her prose with seeds of Texana that forced the world to think of the Lone Star State as a place of unexpected erudition; could Jaston Williams and Joe Sears have existed without her? (Well, probably.)

Raise Hell captures Ivins' character so well, the first hour is a breathless roller coaster ride, so much you don't want it to end... and then, as Ivins' own life draws to a close (breast cancer killed her at age 62), the documentary slows down as well, into introspection. It becomes heartbreakingly sad, though perhaps just as inevitable — could she have continued much longer? What would the current state of influencers and fake news meant to a hard-scrabble girl like Molly?

"Texas is just like anywhere else, only more so," she would say. But nobody was quite like Ivins. I should know — game recognizes game. And she was the champ. ■

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Filmmaker Pedro Almodovar cast Antonio Banderas to play a brush-cut movie director — not unlike himself — in his latest, “Pain and Glory.”

■ LOVE From Page 14

OCTOBER

Joker. An origin story about Batman’s most celebrated rival. Stars River Phoenix and Brian Tyree Henry.

Lucy in the Sky. Natalie Portman portrays an astronaut transformed by her space mission once she returns to earth.

The Current War. A battle of invention between Tesla, Edison and Westinghouse.

Pain and Glory. The latest from queer Spanish auteur Pedro Almodovar, with stalwart Antonio Banderas playing a film director!

Gemini Man. Will Smith stars in Oscar winner Ang Lee’s latest, a sci-fi film about cloning.

Parasite. This year’s Palme D’or prizewinner at the Cannes Film Festival.

Maleficent: Mistress of Evil. Angelina Jolie returns as the Disney villainess.

By the Grace of God. Queer filmmaker Francois Ozon’s drama about three men bound by their victimization at the hands of a priest decades earlier.

NOVEMBER

Harriet. Cynthia Erivo stars as the famed abolitionist.

Midway. Gay director Roland Emmerich’s WWII epic.

The Report. Annette Bening is getting a lot of early Oscar buzz for playing Dianne Feinstein.

A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood. Tom Hanks stars in this biopic about Mister Rogers.

Frozen 2. Sequel to the hit animated film, starring Kristen Bell, Jonathan Groff and Adele Nazeem (aka Idina Menzel).

Charlie’s Angels. Elizabeth Banks directs this remake of the women-led actioner, starring Kristen Stewart.

The Good Liar. Bill Condon directs Ian McKellen and Helen Mirren in this thriller about a con man who gets conned.

Knives Out. Rian Johnson’s mystery thriller, with an all-star cast including Christopher Plummer, Chris Evans and Jamie Lee Curtis.

DECEMBER

Cunningham. A 3D documentary about gay choreographer Merce Cunningham.

■ LOVE Page 20

FUTURE FORUM

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Rife with clichés, 'Styling Hollywood' is for reality TV addicts only

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor
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Ever since the original *Queer Eye for the Straight Guy*, cheesy reality TV and homosexuality have been inextricably linked. I get it — reality TV breathes high-maintenance divadom, and gays, while we haven't cornered the market, certainly embody the lifestyle. At least, that's the stereotype. *Queer Eye* (the original and the remake) actually avoided those traps and those tropes, but they still linger out there: *Million Dollar Listing*, *Flipping Out*, *Shahs of Sunset*, *Most Eligible Dallas*, *The A List*, *Sheer Dallas*... Ugh. We all have a little drama in us, but according to Bravo, we can be reduced to two settings: Shady and slutty. (I'm only one of those.) The latest example: *Styling Hollywood*.

New to Netflix, this series follows

■ TROPE Page 20



Jason and Adair are just typically bitchy queens in this unambitious reality show that misses many opportunities to be more relevant.



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Out of character

Miata's new hard top model changes the narrative

CASEY WILLIAMS | Auto Reviewer
autocasey@aol.com

Back in 1989 at the Chicago Auto Show, Mazda ripped souls out of classic European roadsters and planted them in the refreshingly reliable MX-5 Miata. But the Miata has yet to conquer the near-luxury German roadsters from Mercedes, BMW and Audi. The next front is opened with the MX-5 Miata RF that flips its hard lid.

I love the Miata's manual cloth top that can be flipped back with one arm

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paddle-shifted 6-speed automatic transmission, but I would lose a lot of respect for you when one of the world's best 6-speed manual transmissions is available. Expect 26/34-MPG city/highway.

Driving the Miata is not centered on outrageous power; it's about the precision of tight steering and agile handling. The manual transmission is a model of mechanical delight. You just want

to find a sunny curvy road and drive, drive, drive.

I love the inherent simplicity of the Miata with a canvas roof, but the hard top changes its character. It's a car that enjoys Interstate travel and city commutes as much as free-breezing backroads. It's a sexy little car that I would enjoy owning very much. A base price of \$32,345, or \$36,005 as tested, puts it against the Mercedes-Benz SLC, Subaru BRZ, Toyota 86 and Nissan Z.

Follow the writer on YouTube @Auto-Casey.

in a fraction of a stoplight, but on the road, it has typical convertible road noise. Banishing all that is the RF's targa top — a one-button power affair that retracts behind the seats like a folding hardtop. In photos, the RF looks a little frumpy, but in the metal, it looks bad sexy.

My favorite view is from the rear three-quarter where you can see the wide curvy fenders draped over 17-in. gray alloy wheels. Up front, the angry air inlet echoes the first-generation Miata, but is flanked by LED headlamps and running lights. The fastback roofline gives the car an entirely different profile — much more mature.

Once pretzeled behind the wheel, the interior is pretty classy. I'm a big fan of the brown leather seats with baseball stitching. Large analog gauges, leather-wrapped steering wheel and God's shifter make driving a pleasure. Heated seats, automatic climate control, push button starting and Bose audio are above basic roadster specs — as are navigation and rain-sensing wipers. Enhancing safety are blind spot, lane departure and rear cross path warnings plus forward collision warning with city brake support.

Ergonomics are mixed. Large climate control knobs and air vents are excellent, and while the joywheel for the infotainment works well, it's awkward to reach if you have long arms. Given the easy reach to the monitor, a simple touchscreen would be better. I'm not sure why you have to click into a tuning mode every time you want to advance radio stations or songs in your music library. It's all so extra. At least there's a large cubby accessed between the seats and a reasonably sized trunk if you're packing duffle bags.

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Roy Cohn is the subject of a documentary.

■ **LOVE** From Page 16

Cats. Finally, the stage musical sensation comes to film, with Jennifer Hudson, Judi Dench and Jason Derulo in the cast.

Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker. 'Nuff said.

Bombshell. Charlize Theron, Nicole

Kidman and Margot Robbie star as Megyn Kelly, Gretchen Carlson and Kayla Pospisil, who took down Fox-News head Roger Ailes.

Little Women. Latest remake of the American classic, directed by Greta Gerwig (*Lady Bird*). ■

■ **TROPE** From Page 17

Jason and Adair, a pretty-cute African American couple who run an interior design-slash-personal styling business (huh?) in Los Angeles. They waste no time in throwing down the gauntlet: Within the first 90 seconds of the premiere episode (the full eight-ep series is now streaming), we are treated to a name-dropper's paradise of clients, acclaim and why Adair calls himself the better half of this duet, with lots of quick cuts and unnecessary camera movement. They also refer to their relationship *and* their profession as "a journey," which to me is the windowless panel van of reality TV. It's all about as authentic as professional wrestling, with all the Lycra and suggested homoeroticism. (Reality gays are "gay," but they aren't really sexual.)

It's too bad, because the presence of a black gay couple who work largely within the entertainment community's subset of people of color could genuinely resonate, the way *Empire* did before Jussie Smollett ruined everything. On the other hand, the mission of inten-

tional empowerment — "You *will* deal with my excellence, which makes me superior to everyone else in the room" — has the kind of smarmy arrogance that a well-reared Southern boy like myself always has trouble abiding. (My least favorite segment of every competition show from *Top Chef* to *Project Runway* is each contestant repeating, like rote, "I came here to win because I *am* the best".... followed, inevitably, by "you haven't seen the last of me" when they are booted off for losing.) But I'm also perpetually puzzled by the cognitive dissonance endemic to these shows of being both "the best and most acclaimed at what we do" and "we're trying to grow our brand and get our names out there." Which is it, guys?

All of these are elements in *Styling Hollywood*, but the fact the recitation of them sounds recycled from eight or nine dozen other reality series should tell you that this one hasn't moved the ball down the field at all. It's just more detritus floating through a vast ocean of "nothing's on." ■

Friday 09.06 —
Sunday 09.08

B. Moore Dance stages inaugural concert

Bridget L. Moore has choreographed for Dallas Black Dance Theatre, Bruce Wood Dance and others ... and now, for herself. Her newly-formed modern movement company B. Moore Dance makes its debut on the North Texas arts scene this week, with three chances to catch the newcomer. Each piece will revolve around themes of power, flux, resistance and surrender.

DEETS: Addison Theatre Centre, 15650 Addison Road. Friday–Saturday at 8 p.m., Sunday at 2 p.m. \$25–\$30. BMooreDance.org.



Saturday 08.31

All-male burlesque show makes h'istory

Rodd Gray has hosted countless shows as an emcee (under the nom-de-drag Patti Le Plae Safe), but he's stepping out of his comfort zone to

take on the role of producer, and for his inaugural production, he's going all male (big surprise). One Night of H'istory features a host of guys in the typically female-centric medium of burlesque, with all Texas-based entertainers including Gio, pictured, Josh Ayala, Ronnie Mercury, Bobby Barnaby and Alexander the Great.

DEETS: Viva's Lounge, 1350 Manufacturing St. 8 p.m. doors, 9 p.m. curtain. \$22 and up. VivasLounge.com.



Tuesday 09.03

Drag Racer Katya is a standup girl

As one of the standout characters from *Ru Paul's Drag Race*, Katya combined sass and female illusion on the runway.

But she's not just a glamour queen — she's also an actress and comedian. In *Help Me I'm Dying Here*, Katya portrays more than a dozen characters in a multimedia show that swings into the Majestic for a one-night-only performance.

DEETS: Majestic Theater, 1925 Elm St. 7 p.m. doors, 8 p.m. curtain. Eventbrite.com.

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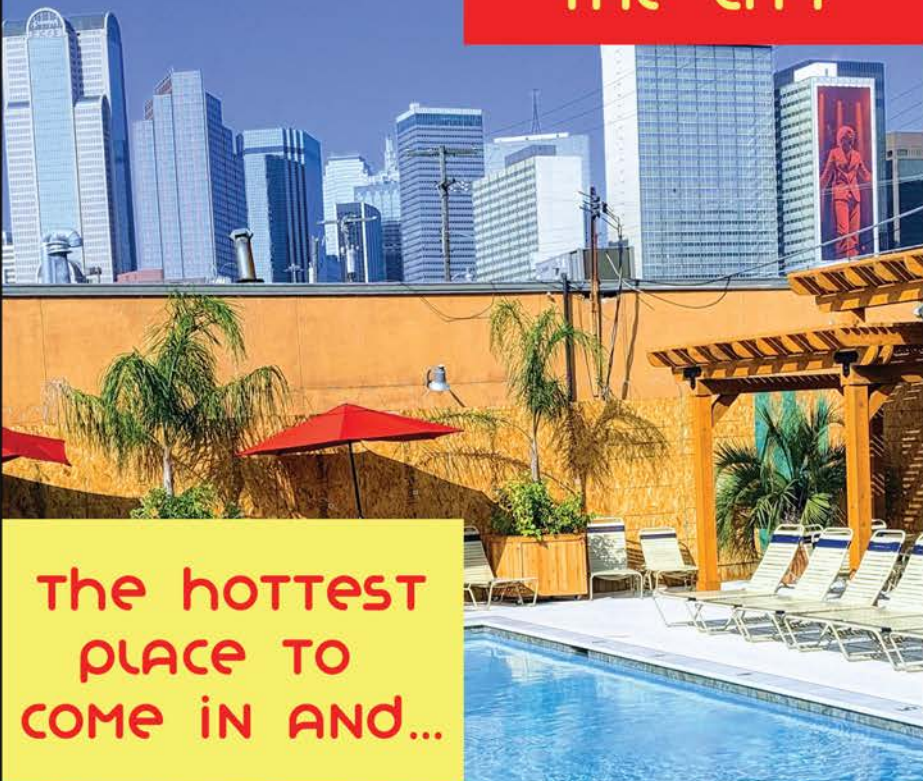


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calendar highlights

ARTSWEEK

THEATER

2019 Fort Worth Fringe Festival. Play fest featuring 15 selected acts, including the headliners *That Woman!* And *Bump!* Performances at the Fort Worth Community Arts Center, 1300 Gendy St., Fort Worth. Sept. 6–8.

A 3D Adventure. A new play by Matt Lyle. Circle Theatre, 230 W. 4th St., Fort Worth. Through Sept. 14. CircleTheatre.com.

What We Were by Blake Hackler. Second Thought Theatre concludes its 2019 season with this world premiere about three sisters coping with a history of abuse. A co-production with Fort Worth's Circle Theatre. Bryant Hall on the Kalita Humphreys campus, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. Through Sept. 21. SecondThoughtTheatre.com.

Latinadades: A Festival of Solo Shows. Presented by Cara Mia, including a show about a queer Latina (which runs through Sunday). Latino Cultural Center, 2600 Live Oak St. CaraMiaTheatre.org.

FINE ART

Dior: From Paris to the World. Retrospective of 70 years of the famed French design house. Dallas Museum of Art, 1717 Harwood St. Through Oct. 27 (extended). DMA.org.

Caravaggio: Martha and Mary Magdalene. A stunning work from 1598, on loan to the DMA through the summer. Dallas Museum of Art 1717 Harwood St. Free. Through Sept. 22. DMA.org.

SATURDAY 08.31

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.

BURLESQUE

One Night of H'story. All-male burlesque performance aimed at straight women and gay men. Viva's Lounge, 1350 Manufacturing St. 8 p.m. Tickets from \$22. VivasLounge.com.

MONDAY 09.02 —

LABOR DAY

CABARET

Mama's Party. Weekly cabaret night with special guest performances. Uptown Theatre, 120 E. Main St., Grand Prairie. 7:35 p.m. \$10.

TUESDAY 09.03

FILM

The Man Who Knew Too Much. James Stewart and the recently departed Doris Day in one of Alfred Hitchcock's colorful European adventures. Won the Oscar for the song "Que Sera Sera." 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

COMEDY

Katya: Help Me I'm Dying Comedy Tour. The Drag Racer performs a multi-character multimedia comedy show. Majestic Theater, 1925 Elm St. VIP meet and greet at 6 p.m.; doors at 7 p.m., show at 8 p.m. Eventbrite.com.

THURSDAY 09.05

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.

THEATER

Cats. Denise Lee plays Grizabella. Presented by The Firehouse Theatre, 2535 Valley View Lane. Sept. 5–22. FirehouseTheatre.com.

FRIDAY 09.06

DANCE

B. Moore Dance: 3D Vision. Bridget Moore, who has worked with Dallas Black Dance and Bruce Wood Dance, launches a new production from her own company. Addison Theatre Centre, 15650 Addison Road. Sept. 6–8. BMooreDance.org.

FESTIVAL

Dallas Chocolate Festival. The annual celebration of cocoa products returns. Fashion Industry Gallery, 1807 Ross Ave. Sept. 6–8. DallasChocolate.org.

this week's solution

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Cassie Nova

Having fun on The Strip
(and in bed)

Hello and good tidings. These past few weeks I have, for one reason or another, gone out quite a few times on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Those are usually my days off, and I try not to leave my little corner of the world if I don't have to. I learned something going out on those week nights: You can have a lot of fun. There is actually quite a lot to do on The Strip.

A few Wednesdays ago, Kylee O'Hara Fatal asked if I would be a guest judge for her Queer Off show. It is a *Drag Race*-style show but way more inclusive. The competition is open to everybody. There were drag kings and drag queens, male, female and non-binary. And before you say anything about the female-born drag queens, STFU ... seriously, their drag goes harder than most male-born drag queens. Those gals wear full wigs, pads and some absolutely sickening makeup. There is a lot those "boys" can learn from those "girls."

I know a lot of y'all don't get the females that do drag, but times they are a-changin'. I've heard people complain about 'why do they dress up', as they are already women? Bitch, please ... drag has evolved so much that drag nowadays looks nothing like a real woman but instead a hyper-stylized version of glamour, and I'm here for it. I honestly would rather see a female drag queen that kills it than a male drag queen stand there in a gown. For me it is all about entertainment value.

I know my history — I know that it was drag queens and trans women that started the entire gay movement, and I've heard people say that they will never understand the struggle we have gone through as gays. But that's just it: Most of the female drag queens are queer. But even if they are not, I welcome them. There is room for everyone at my table. There is so much divisiveness these days that anything that brings people together I can support. OMG! I didn't mean to go on such a rant, but I thought it was important to say.

Anyhoo, I had such a blast that Wednesday night. The Queer Off at Sue Ellen's is a great show. Those young entertainers put so much into that show. That week's theme was cartoon characters, and they had just about every character you could think of Velma from *Scooby Doo*, the three-eyed green alien from *Toy Story 2*, Helga from *Hey, Arnold!* and so much more. They were creative and inspiring. As an older drag queen, it is easy for me to fall into a rut and get complacent with my looks, but that night truly inspired me to try some new things.

That same night, my friends and I headed over to TMC to see Sasha Andrews' Fuego show. It is a Latin-themed dance competition. Lots of cute boys and the place is really hoppin' since the remodel. It has such a cool vibe, and if you are out on a Wednesday, you



are serious about your partying. We had a blast.

We ended the night at the Round-Up. I always have such a great time over there. Plus, the eye candy is more my type of viewing. I do love a cowboy with a bubble butt. I was surprised at how much fun can be had on just a random Wednesday. Find a reason to take off on a Thursday and take your ass out on a Wednesday; you won't be disappointed. Hell, Thursdays are fun, too. But I guess if you have the right friends, you can have fun at an insurance seminar.

Now let's help some friends and answer an email I recently received.

Dear Cassie, Would you like to increase the size of your penis?

Whoops, wrong email!

Hi Cassie, I have something weighing on my mind lately. I'm 33. My first serious boyfriend was the one I lost my V card to when I was 21. I exclusively bottomed for him for the years we were together. Now that I've been single for the better part of a decade, I've continued being a bottom when I have a hookup, and now I feel like it's too late to learn how to top just using one-night stands.

It's made me increasingly nervous as time goes on. What hasn't helped is that I haven't had a boyfriend in five or six years. How do I break in? Am I type-cast? Am I being too neurotic? Not sure how to move forward from here. Thanks for any advice you may have. Signed, a Topsyie Bottom!

Dearest Topsyie Bottom, What a great problem to have since you are in Dallas. We breed bottoms here like cattle. You can't throw a dildo without some Dallas bottom butt catching it before it hits the ground.

Seriously, I think I have a plan for you. Once you put it out there that you want to top, I think you will be very popular. If you are using Grindr or the other apps, tell the bottoms out there that you are new to topping and that you want to get better at it. Ask them if they can help you get better. I don't know of any self-respecting butt boy that wouldn't jump at the opportunity. Gouge as many rumps as you can, because practice makes perfect.

I know you are probably not exactly looking to be just some rando dick for the city, but maybe you are. Actually I kind of understand your situation more than you

know. When I first came out, I was only ever a bottom. I liked butt stuff, so I only ever wanted to do that. But as I matured and was in a relationship for a while... you do what you gotta do to keep things fresh, and I learned I liked topping, too.

I was worried I was no good at it as well, but the great thing about being with someone you love and trust is you can talk about it. Find out what worked and what didn't. I'm not sure I would have ever even started topping if I wasn't in a relationship.

You should view this time you are single as a period of self-discovery so that when you meet someone you really like, you have more to offer them as a versatile gay man. I know our sex life is better since we removed the labels about what we were doing and opened ourselves up to do more.

You are not being neurotic; you care. That is important. The fact that you care enough about being good for your partner, even if it is just a hook-up, means you are going to be just fine. Now get out there and get your dick wet... practice, practice, practice!

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



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- **515 Bar:** Customer Appreciation Day on Sunday.
- **Alexandre's:** Filter Kings on Saturday. Wayne Smith on Sunday. K-Marie on Tuesday. Vero Voz on Wednesday.
- **Cedar Springs Tap House:** Fish and Chips Friday at 11 a.m.
- **Club Changes:** 15th Anniversary Spectacular starring Divine Divas from 11 p.m.-1 a.m. on Friday.
- **Club Reflection:** Twisted Tuesdays at 11 p.m. hosted by Sapphire Tailor.
- **Dallas Eagle:** Mutt Mosh from 6-10 p.m. on Friday. United Court Presents Friends Helping Friends from 6-10 p.m. on Saturday. Dallas Diablos Cookout from 5-9 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Havana:** Nicky Lauren at 11 p.m. on Wednesday.
- **Hidden Door:** T-Bear Club Night from 7-10 p.m. on Wednesday.
- **Marty's Live:** Sexcapade Fridays hosted by Rudeboy Dallas and Nicole O'Hara Munro.
- **Pekers:** Totally Twisted Karaoke at 10:30 p.m. on Friday and Saturday.
- **Round-Up Saloon:** Dragula Watch Party at 8 p.m. on Tuesday. Line Dance Lessons with Yoshi at 8:30 p.m. on Wednesday and with Ray at 8:30 p.m. on Thursday.
- **Sue Ellen's:** DJ Sno White on Sunday. Vivienne Vermuth Presents Early Delights on Sunday. Tuesday Jam with Tyla and Ed.
- **The Rose Room:** Chevelle Brooks joins the Rose Room cast on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.
- **Urban Cowboy:** Mr. Wet & Wild Wet Boxer Contest Finals at 3 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Woody's Sports & Video Bar:** '90s Night at 9 p.m. on Monday; Show Tune Tuesday.

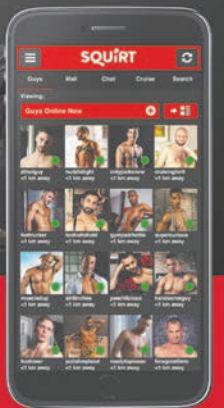
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Solution on Page 22

Across

- 1 Embarrass with porn, perhaps
- 6 "Dancing Queen" band
- 10 WNBA star Rebecca
- 14 Nephew of Donald Duck
- 15 Jacques of song
- 16 Doctor Zhivago
- 17 Young girl of old comics
- 18 Cotton pod at Tara
- 19 And others, for Caesar
- 20 Village People song with the line "Everybody is a star"
- 23 They work under

5-Down

- 24 Keanu's role in *The Matrix*
- 25 Went down on loudly
- 27 Big name in hair care
- 31 Elevator pioneer Elisha
- 32 With 46-Across, Village People song about invincible songs
- 34 Pockets stuffed with meat
- 38 Alt-rock genre
- 39 *The L Word*, and others
- 42 Rough stuff underground
- 43 Fosse field
- 46 See 32-Across
- 49 With mouth wide open
- 52 Bites the head off of, perhaps
- 53 Hit the skids

56 Places for

- Dr. Kerry Weaver
- 57 D.C. lobby group
- 58 Village People song about the Big Apple
- 63 Steamed up
- 65 Muscle Mary stat
- 66 Wet spot on a blanket of sand
- 67 Auction web site
- 68 Sailing the Pacific, e.g.
- 69 Flaming queen's quality
- 70 Ready to be eaten
- 71 Choose not to come
- 72 Not as many

Down

- 1 Weight loss product
- 2 Big asset
- 3 Rita Mae Brown, e.g. (abbr.)
- 4 Advice to a bottom who wants to be on top?
- 5 Dr. Kim, and others
- 6 Name on a column
- 7 Nags beat them
- 8 Village People producer Henri (1936-2019)
- 9 Closet-emptying cry?
- 10 Tough cleaner
- 11 Really queer
- 12 Burn on the rear of a steer
- 13 Lubricates
- 21 Rifles

22 Plumbing problem

- 26 Greek consonant
- 27 Reproduced without sex, for short
- 28 Teacher in *The King and I*
- 29 Soon, long ago
- 30 Orton's bathroom
- 33 Butter portion
- 35 Love yourself, with "off"
- 36 *Aida* solo
- 37 Religious splinter group
- 40 Acidity nos.
- 41 Lorca's guy
- 44 Tin roof animal of Tennessee?
- 45 Ghostbusters role
- 47 Set boundaries
- 48 Like some pricey items at Barney's
- 50 Britten's *Billy Budd* and more
- 51 Village People song with a Horace Greely quote
- 53 *Queen Christina* star
- 54 Rehoboth Beach setting
- 55 Aggressive sort
- 57 Like a Piper in a fairy tale
- 59 Anthem starter
- 60 Voyeur's confession
- 61 Kind of jack
- 62 North Sea feeder
- 64 Head job?

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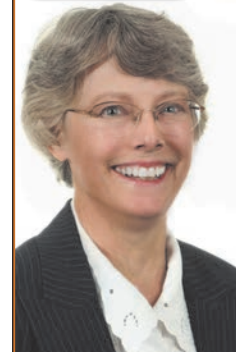
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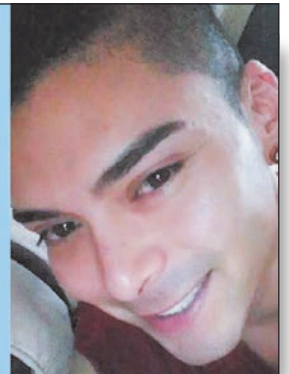
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