

dallasvoice

The Premier Media Source for LGBT Texas | Established 1984 | DallasVoice.com | Issue 24 | FREE | Friday, October 18, 2019



Monarchs of the Court

UCLSE Emperor,
Empress 44 prepare for
Coronation weekend

by Tammye Nash, Page 8

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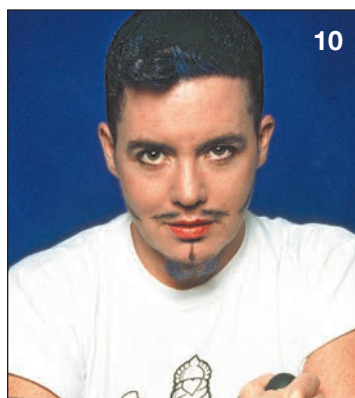
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UCLSE's Empress, Emperor 44
Penny Cilyn and Larry Carter.
Photo by Ron Comstock.
Design by Kevin Thomas.

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Family desperate for news of missing trans woman Pauline DelMundo



One month and two days after first losing contact with her, the family of transgender woman Pauline (Paula) DelMundo continues to search for their sister, and they are “pleading desperately” for the public’s help in finding her.

Pauline DelMundo, who lives in Tampa, Fla., was on her way to Cozumel, Mexico, via American Airlines on Saturday, Sept. 14, when she disappeared. But she called one of her sisters shortly before 6 p.m. that day, during a layover at DFW International Airport, saying that she had changed her mind and wanted to go back to Tampa and asking her sister to help her get a ticket back to Tampa.

That was the last time anyone in her family has heard from her.

Pauline had planned a 10-day holiday in Cozumel at the Iberostar Hotel. Hotel officials told the family Pauline never checked into the hotel, and American Airlines records indicate that she did not board the flight to Cozumel, nor has she

boarded a flight back to Tampa.

Video footage of Pauline at DFW International Airport showed her carrying a yellow Nautica trolley bag, Pauline’s sister Yolanda DelMundo told Dallas Voice. But the video shows her apparently deliberately leaving the bag unattended and walking away with just her wallet. The bag, however, has never been found.

Investigators checked routes Pauline might have taken to leave the airport in via a ride-share service or a bus but found nothing. They have been unable, however, to rule out the possibility that Pauline left the airport in a taxi cab, her sister said.

Also according to Yolanda, Pauline’s T-Mobile cell phone has been inactive since her disappearance, and there has been no activity on her bank account.

Anyone with information is asked to call the DFW International Airport police department at 972-391-7221 or 972-973-3553, or the Hillsborough County Sheriff’s Office in Tampa at 813-247-8000.

— Tammye Nash

Texas LGBT Caucus could gain a member in November

The Texas House LGBT Caucus could increase by one new member as a result of a special election in November.

Eliz Markowitz is the only Democrat running



in the Texas House District 28 race. She faces six Republicans. The top two vote-getters will face each other in a December run-off. Markowitz has been endorsed by the LGBT Victory Fund and the Human Rights Campaign.

District 28 is west of Houston, primarily in Fort Bend County. The incumbent, John Zerwas, R-Richmond, was appointed executive vice chancellor for health affairs for the University of Texas System. He resigned his seat on Sept. 30.

Victory Fund named Markowitz, who was raised in Sugar Land who currently works as an instructor, corporate training and author with Princeton Review, a “spotlight candidate,” which puts her in the top tier of its endorsed candidates and indicates the organization believes she has a good shot at flipping the district.

— David Taffet

Man who confessed to shooting trans woman has jumped bail

Domingo Ramirez-Cayente, the man



charged with aggravated assault in connection with the Sept. 20 shooting of Dallas trans woman Daniela Calderon, is on the run after being released on bond, according to Kimberlee Leach, director of communications and public information officer for the Dallas

County District Attorney’s Office.

“The magistrate set the bond too low,” Leach told Dallas Voice. “The magistrate set the bond at \$25,000 with no [electronic leg monitor].”

Ramirez-Cayente, a Mexican national, has a record of previous criminal activity and has, in the past, fled the country to avoid prosecution and then returned. Because of that, Leach said, “As soon as the DA’s office was made aware of the low bond, we moved to amend the conditions of bond to include a monitoring device.

“Unfortunately,” she added, “the defendant had already fled.”

Leach said that when Ramirez-Cayente is apprehended, the new conditions of bond, including that he must wear an ELM, will be enforced. “If he is even released on bond then, he will have to wear the monitor,” she said.

— Tammye Nash

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Fort Worth, TX
76110

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.

OCTOBER

• Oct. 18: DFW Federal Club Happy Hour

DFW Federal Club meets for happy hour from 6-8 p.m. at Souk, 3011 Gulden Lane, Suite 114. DFWFederalClub.org.

• **Oct. 19: Goosebumps Gaybingo**
Gaybingo from 5-9 p.m. at the Rose Room, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. Tickets at MyResourceCenter.org.

• **Oct. 19: Lez Talk Dallas**
Lez Talk Dallas conference featuring keynote address, panel discussions, workshops and networking from 8 a.m.-6 p.m. at Resource Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road. For more information visit LezTalkDallas.com.

• **Oct. 19: QueerBomb 2019**
Gates open at 6 p.m. The rally with speakers at 7:30 p.m. The liberation march at 8 p.m. The celebration from 9 p.m.-midnight at Deep Ellum Art Company, 3200 Commerce St. Free.

• **Oct. 19: Boo-lathon**
Animal Crusaders of Texas presents Pins 4 Paws Boo-lathon family bowling event. Silent auction, door prizes, raffles.

Prizes for best costumes, top scores. Free desserts. From 12:30-4 p.m. at Plano Super Bowl, 2521 Avenue K, Plano. Register at arcrescuetx.org.

• **Oct. 19: Fall Festival**
Free games, bounce house, face painting, indoor keno and card games, petting zoo and pet adoptions from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at Aley United Methodist Church, 1215 W. Cedar Creek Parkway, Seven Points. [Facebook.com/aleyumchurch](https://www.facebook.com/aleyumchurch)

• **Oct. 21: Stonewall Democrats of Rockwall**
Stonewall Democrats of Rockwall meets at 7:30 p.m. at Harry Meyers Community Center, 815 E. Washington St., Rockwall. For more information, contact Patti or Heidi at sdrockwall@att.com.

• Oct. 21- Nov. 1: Early Voting

• **Oct. 22: Family Night at Durkins Pizza**
GALA family night's 10th year of networking, socializing, happy hour, rock n' roll and pizza and 10 percent of proceeds benefits GALA Youth from 5:30-8:30 p.m. at Durkins Pizza, 8930 State Hwy 121, McKinney. For more information visit GalaNorthTexas.org.

• **Oct. 22: 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.

• **Oct. 22: Prime Timers**
Lunch at 12:30 p.m. at Asian King Buffet, 953 Melbourne Road, Hurst.

• **Oct. 24: Prime Timers**
Dinner at 7 p.m. at Flying Fish, 6126 Luther Lane. RSVP 214-218-0912. chapters.theprimetimersww.com/dallasfortworth.

• **Oct. 24: AIN presents Art+Fashion+Community**
Special art exhibition, fashion from local designers, drinks, bites and a silent auction of wearable T-shirts created by Texas celebrity designers and artists from 6-9 p.m. at Samuel Lynne Galleries, 1105 Dragon St. \$55. AINDallas.org.

• **Oct. 24: TPIF DFW Legacy Workshop**
Texas Pride Impact Funds planned giving discussion. Wine and light bites served at 6 p.m. at The Dallas Foundation, Old Parkland, 3926 Maple Ave., Suite 390. RSVP to info@TXPIF.org.

• Oct. 25: Last Day to Apply for Ballot by Mail

• **Oct. 26: Trans/SOFFA support group**
An open group for those who identify as other than their assigned birth gender,

significant others, friends, family and allies at 5 p.m. at Heart of the Matter Healing Center, 2060 N. Collins Blvd., Richardson.

• **Oct. 26: Spooktacular**
LGBT Chamber Foundation raises money for its scholarship fund with DJ Corey Craig, open bar, drag hostesses and costume required from 10 p.m.-1 a.m. at Park West, 4123 Cedar Springs Road. LGBTChamberFoundation.org.

• **Oct. 26: Silver Pride Halloween**
Food, beer, wine, games and fun at Silver Pride Project's Halloween Extravaganza. Come in your most exciting Halloween costume for a contest with prizes. If you are going to the Oak Lawn Block Party after you can leave your car parked at the library and ride share to the strip. From 6-9 p.m. at Grauwlyer Park Library, 2146 Gilford St. Free.

• **Oct. 26: DFW Federal Club luncheon**
Presentation on the impact of women leaders within HRC from 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at The Tower Club, Thanksgiving Tower 48th Floor, 1601 Elm St. Free for Federal Club members. \$35 for their guests. \$50 advance. \$55 at the door. \$10 self parking. Business casual. 2019OctLuncheon.eventbrite.com.

• **Oct. 26-27: Dallas Festival of the Arts**
Two-day arts festival featuring 185

Weekly: Lambda Weekly at 1 p.m. on Sunday on 89.3 KNON-FM with **David Taffet**, **Lerone Landis** and the late **Patti Fink**. This week's guest is Dallas City Councilman **David Blewett**; **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.; 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.

local and regional artists and crafters from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. on Sunday at Kidd Springs Park, 1003 Cedar Hill Ave. For more information visit DallasFestivaloftheArts.net.

• **Oct. 27: Prime Timers**

Games hosted in Hickory Creek by Chris and Robert. Call 214-218-0912 for address and directions. chapters.theprimetimersww.com/dallasfortworth.

• **Oct. 29: GayLFD Membership Reception**

The Gay and Lesbian Fund for Dallas holds its annual Membership Appreciation Reception from 6-8 p.m. at Daniel Padilla Gallery, 2629 N. Stemmons Freeway, #104. The event includes complimentary bites and beverages. For information visit GLFD.org.

• **Oct. 30: Resource Center Speakers Series**

UT doctoral candidate Chris Babits speaks about conversion therapy. A wine and light bites reception at 5:30 p.m. and speaker from 6-7 p.m. at Resource Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road. Free. RSVP to tfrank@myresourcecenter.org.

• **Oct. 30: THRIVE Zoo Outing**

Free outing for LGBTQ adults 50+ to the Dallas Zoo from noon-3 p.m. Must RSVP to THRIVE@myresourcecenter.org.

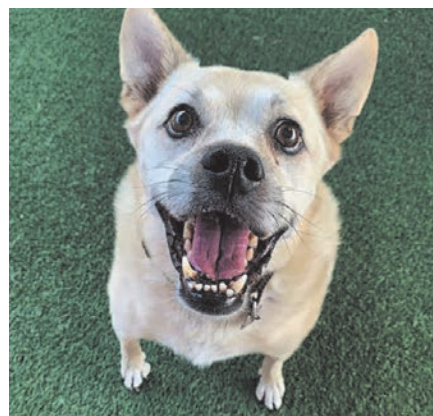
• **Oct. 31: Denton Halloween Fest**

Denton Pride Foundation presents Denton Halloween Fest with drag show, costume contest, music, food and vendors from 6 p.m.-midnight at North Texas Fairgrounds, 2217 N. Carroll Blvd., Denton. Free. DentonPride.com.

NOVEMBER

• **Nov. 5: Election Day**

■ **pet of the week / DELILAH**



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Reigning it in

Larry Carter and Penny Cilyn end their years as emperor, empress of the UCLSE

TAMMYE NASH | Managing Editor
nash@dallasvoice.com

It's been a busy year for Larry Carter and Penny (Gary Allinger) Cilyn, emperor and empress 44 of the United Court of the Lone Star Empire. And although the two will step down as reigning monarchs of the court in just over a week,

their duties to their realm will continue. "When we step down [as reigning emperor and empress], we become part of the College of Monarchs. We become the Dowager Emperor and Dowager Empress," the empress explained, adding that all who have served as emperor and empress in the past are part of the College of Monarchs. Their job is to act as counsel to the reigning monarchs and to review all applications for UCLSE membership.

But before they step down during Coronation 45 on Oct. 26, Carter and Allinger have a lot left to do, they said, to prepare for the gala weekend.

Becoming a member

People sometimes shy away from becoming UCLSE members because, Carter said, "People think being a member means always being in crown and gown. They think you have to be a drag queen or some kind of entertainer, but you don't have to be those things."

Allinger added, "When you apply for membership, you select the level of membership you are interested in. You can be a supporting member or you can go all the way up to joining the royal family." But if you want to eventually become the emperor or empress, you need to plan on being as active as possible within the organization.

Once you apply for membership, the membership votes on whether to accept that application. Once your application is accepted, you start helping raise

money. That means hosting your own fundraisers — be they drag shows or cook-offs or something else — and you participate in other people's fundraising events, too.

The final step in becoming emperor or empress of the Court is to campaign for the office and get elected. And those elections are something that sets the Court apart from most other organizations. Because in most organizations, officers are elected by a vote of the membership, but in the Court, the emperor and empress are elected by a vote of the community.

And voting is underway now to fill the offices of Emperor and Empress 45. In fact, the community's final chances to vote this year are tonight (Friday, Oct. 18) from 7-10 p.m. at The Dallas Eagle, 5740 Maple Ave., and tomorrow (Saturday, Oct. 19) from 1-3 p.m. at Resource Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road.

The reigning monarchs

Carter and Allinger were the only candidates last year for emperor and empress, when around 175 people cast ballots. But while it might seem they were shoo-ins to win, Carter explained that it isn't so cut and dried. A candidate has to receive at least 50 percent of the votes cast plus one more vote. And people who vote can cast a "no" vote. If the candidate doesn't hit the 50-percent-plus-one threshold, someone from the College of Monarchs steps in to serve as a regent for the year.

Carter and Allinger — know respectively as His Most Imperial Majesty, Emperor 44 of Dallas and All Northeast Texas, Larry Carter, and Her Most Impe-



The Imperial Family for the United Court of the Lone Star Empire's Reign 44 includes, seated from left, Empress Penny Cilyn Carter, Emperor Larry Carter; second from from left, Crown Princess Royale Nina Morgan, Crown Prince Royale Jonn Thurman, Queen Mother (and Empress XV and XVII) The Lady Margo, King Father (and Emperor XV and XIX) Norman; back from left, J.R. Duran King Father (and Emperor 33) and Queen Mother (and Empress XL) Anna Conda Carter.

Coronation 45 Events

While the actual Coronation of the United Court of the Lone Star Empire's new emperor and empress takes place on Oct. 26, the festivities begin tonight with the In-Town Show, the one show each year in which performers keep the tips they bring in to help cover their expenses during the year. Here is a schedule of events leading up to Coronation 45:

- **Oct. 18:** Coronation voting, 7-10 p.m. at Dallas Eagle, 5740 Maple Ave.
- **Oct. 19:** Coronation voting, 1-3 p.m. at Resource Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road.
- **Oct. 19:** In-Town Show, 6-10 p.m. at Dallas Eagle.
- **Oct. 23:** UCLSE Club Night, 7-10 p.m. at The Hidden Door, 5025 Bowser Ave.
- **Oct. 24:** Monarchs' Roast/Meet-and-Greet, 7-10 p.m. at Dallas Eagle.
- **Oct. 25:** Out-of-Town Show, 6-10 p.m. at Dallas Eagle.
- **Oct. 26:** Coronation, 4:30 p.m.-midnight, DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Dallas, Campbell Centre, 8250 N. Central Expressway. Tickets start at \$70, available online at DallasCourt.org.
- **Oct. 27:** Brunch, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., DoubleTree by Hilton.
- **Oct. 27:** Victory Party & Show, 3-9 p.m., Dallas Eagle.

For tickets to events and more details see DallasCourt.org.

rial Majesty, Empress 44 of Dallas and All Northeast Texas, Penny Cilyn Carter — began their reign last year with some very definite goals in mind. As they get ready to step down next weekend, they said they believe they have accomplished those goals.

"Our actual role is to spearhead the fundraising efforts, to manage fundraising events, and to mentor members. Our job is to guide the membership," Allinger said. And increasing membership has been one of their primary focuses over the last year.

"We have seen a real influx of new members as well as seeing some members who have returned," Carter said. "I think we can safely say we've had a record year in terms of membership, and that was one of our main goals."

Allinger continued, "Collectively, Larry and I have been members [of the Court] for many, many years. In fact, we first met each other at the beginning of [Carter's] membership, and we saw in each other the commitment to the community and the passion for helping others that we each already had."

Carter and Allinger pointed out that emperor and empress candidates do not — and in fact, are not allowed to — campaign as a team. They have each campaigned for office once before, and both lost. "But we came back and were blessed enough to be elected this time. And to be elected at the same time is even more significant for us," Allinger said.

The two started their reign with a mission, "and our fire, drive and passion for that mission has gotten stronger ever since," Allinger continued. "We are really proud of the membership growth we

Business Profile:

Avanti's Atelier

Everyone is welcome at this high-end Oak Lawn barbershop

ALEX GONZALEZ | Contributing Writer
alexgonzalez@localprofile.com

With barbershop culture re-emerging in the realm of men's grooming, men of all backgrounds, races and sexual orientations are looking for spots where they can get trimmed and faded. One of the newest shops in Oak Lawn, located at 3409 Cedar Springs Road, is Atelier, an elevated barbershop with luxury salon amenities. Owner Chris Avanti says Atelier cultivates a safe, inclusive environment for everyone who walks through the door.

Even though he is now one of Dallas' most sought-out barbers, Avanti's path to success hasn't been a smooth one. Before becoming a barber, Avanti had dropped out of high school, not knowing what was next for him.

"I dropped out because I couldn't focus," Avanti recalls. "I didn't feel challenged in school. I was really into art, and I would draw on a daily basis. After dropping out of high school, I went into the retail world, and I really couldn't hold a job for more than a month. I couldn't be told what to do."

Avanti eventually enrolled in hair school around the age of 20. He paid his way through school by working on cars, as he originally planned to be a mechanic. A week after graduating hair school, Avanti welcomed his first son.

"That put me in the mode where I needed a job," Avanti says. "No more bullshitting around."

Avanti had searched for jobs doing women's hair but had no luck landing one. He had cut men's hair throughout high school, so he eventually decided to stick to what he knew.

Avanti started working in a barbershop where, he says, he made "next to

nothing." But over the course of a year, he built a clientele then decided to open his first shop. That was in Cedar Hill in 2011.

But that venture didn't work out as planned, because most of his business partners were set in their comfort zones in Oak Cliff. So he left the Cedar Hill

4 News] was there waiting for me and asked 'Can you do an interview in 30 minutes?'"

Within an hour after the Fox 4 News interview, both NBC 5 and WFAA showed up to talk to Avanti, who insisted that the mural was simply art and that art is

barbershop environment devoid of the toxic masculinity often found in more "traditional" barbershops.

"The number one statement we get is, 'I felt like I walked into L.A.' Or 'I felt like I walked into New York.' That's what I wanted," Avanti says. "Every-



Chris Avanti, owner of Atelier barbershop in Oak Lawn, wanted to create a place where everyone felt welcome. (Photo by Victor Escandon)

shop and opened two barbershops in Bishop Arts: Kings Club and Members Only, the latter of which generated controversy with a mural of Lee Harvey Oswald on the side of the building.

"A lot of people don't know Lee Harvey Oswald lived two blocks from that shop," Avanti says. "I knew there was going to be controversy behind it. We were about a week in, and somebody made a negative comment on the Facebook page. That spiked the news interest.

"I walked into work one day and [Fox

meant to evoke emotions, whether they be good or bad.

Many people, though, weren't having it.

"They kept saying that I was glorifying [Oswald]," Avanti says. "And I said, 'You know, the Texas theater still sells memorabilia with Oswald's picture on it, right?' They have JFK tours that now come to see this mural and come to [Oswald's] house. But the difference between me and them is that I don't make money off of this, [and] they do."

At Atelier, Avanti has created a luxury

thing here is custom made, down to the barber chairs, down to the mirrors. You can't buy this at IKEA. Everything's been custom made."

Overall, Avanti is proud to own a business where anyone can come in and expect to feel welcome and accepted.

"I wanted a place where everybody could feel comfortable, no matter if you were from the LGBTQ community or not," Avanti says. "I want everybody to be united as one. Come in; enjoy some beer and wine; get your hair cut, and have a good time." ■

Our Genderqueer Art:

The work, life and art of Del LaGrace Volcano

Del LaGrace Volcano's "Self-Portrait With Blue-beard," larger image below, and Volcano's photo "Mo B Dick, Half & Half," smaller image below. (Photos courtesy of Del LaGrace Volcano)

Del LaGrace Volcano's *The Drag King Book* that they co-authored with Jack Halberstam changed my life. Not only was it the first (it was published in 1999) and only book of its kind, but it was the impetus and inspiration behind my desire to create an all-inclusive queer home and a body of work for female drag queens.

In fact, the majority of Volcano's work has had a huge impact on my queer formative years.

Their second book — co-authored with Ulrika Dahl — *Femmes of Power: Exploding Queer Femininities* along with its many essays, specifically "Copies without Originals: On Femme Drag," was the first time I saw my complete queer self — identity and performance — anywhere EVER.

Their 1998 "Half and Half" photograph of Mo B Dick is a time-stamp and reminder to us all even now, especially now, to never forget the subversiveness of drag, the political nature of art.

The beauty of Volcano's work is that without even knowing it, their work foreshadowed, not to mention helped, usher in all the conversations, art and movements we are now openly having about gender, gender binaries/dichotomies and living in the spaces between.

Much like the first queer creative I profiled for this series, Gloria Anzaldúa, Volcano's work has always existed and is most comfortable in what Anzaldúa referred to as the *nepantla*, the spaces in-between.

Del LaGrace Volcano was born intersex in 1957 in California. They were raised female from birth and made female their chosen perceived gender for 37 years. It was fear of adequacy that tethered Volcano to the gender binary for so long, a point on which they reflect in a 2019 interview with *The Guardian*. "I was in a liminal state with my gender: I was moving from being perceived as female to being perceived as male, but really I was coming to terms with the fact I was born intersex," they said.

It was in this crux of attempting to understand themselves that birthed Volcano's most culturally queer-significant self-portrait — "Self-Portrait With Blue-beard," which queers gender in a subtle yet striking way. The juxtaposition of Volcano's perceived masculinity, the facial expression and the blue mascara on both their hair and beard screams of the gender-queerness and fluidness that would, more than two decades later, become major topics in and outside of our LGBTQ community.

That is what makes it completely groundbreaking, as groundbreaking as the ideology behind it, especially considering the time period in which it arose.

Volcano didn't see themselves as going

from one gender to another; they didn't see themselves as transitioning. In that same *The Guardian* article, Volcano is quick to point this detail, saying, "I had no interest in moving from one fixed point to another." Instead it was at that moment documented, captured forever in a photographic memory that they decided to live outside the gender-binary.

When I asked Volcano what inspired their work back then and what inspires it now, they explained, "What inspired me back then is exactly what inspires me now: LIFE; my life and the people who populate it. Connecting deeply with others, through the medium of photography, is something I not only enjoy and am good at, but something I need to do for my mental, emotional, physical and spiritual health."

It is their desire for deep connection and art not only as a political act but also as a way to heal the self that can also be seen threading throughout their work



that draws me and many others to Volcano's work.

One of my favorite things that Volcano has ever written further expresses their desire for connection and inclusivity and can be found on their Facebook fan page: "I believe in crossing the line. Not just once, but as many times as it takes to build a bridge we can all cross together."

Together.

That's the spirit that makes Volcano's work so fascinating — the spirit of leaving none of us behind. By being a voice of the least-represented people in our queersphere, it is inclusive of us all.

As someone who has influenced my epistemology as a queer artist, when the opportunity arose for me to ask them what their number-one piece of advice would be for emerging queer artists, I took it.

They answered, "My number-one piece of advice for any queer person who wants to make art is to just do it. If you are afraid to do it, do it anyway."

"That requires courage, and you if cannot locate your courage, then either do some work on yourself so you can, or do something else."

They added, "Being an artist is something you do because you are compelled to make work, not because it will make you famous or rich. I've been making queer work for over 40 years, and just this month I have finally been funded! If you make political work that challenges the status quo don't expect to be financially rewarded."

The point, as I'm sure Volcano would agree, is to make art from your life that has the potential to change people's lives.

And to, hopefully, change your own. ■

Wedding announcement: Brown and Bright

Seth Brown and Eric Bright were married on Saturday, Oct. 5, 2019, at the Nasher Sculpture Center in downtown Dallas. Byron Crawford of Dallas officiated.

Their lavish, three-day wedding weekend began at the Adolphus Hotel in Dallas with a welcome reception in the French Room Parlor. Following the theme of “Eat, Drink and Be Married,” guests were greeted with specialty cocktails and the music stylings of the Mahogany Trio. After the couple made a grand stairwell entrance in shades of blue, rounds of toasts were shared by wall-to-wall family and friends.

The celebration continued Saturday morning with a mid-day brunch in the French Room and culminated with a stunning outdoor wedding under the stars at the Nasher Museum Sculpture Center. Guests were treated to all-day entertainment, with another grand entrance, the comedic stylings of Nanette Lee of Dallas and the musical talents of K Cooks of Dallas and Tomeka Williams of Seattle.

The garden at the Nasher Sculpture Center was decorated with elegant white lights and white roses, with crystal chandeliers hanging from the trees. The wedding cake was provided by Dallas Affaires Cake Co. Wolfgang Puck Catering provided an array of food, and the photo booth gave guests a chance to memorialize the event with fun, whimsical photos. Musical entertainment was provided by David Whiteman and the 16-piece King David Band. They closed out the evening with a confetti send-off as the newlyweds returned to the Adolphus in style via a white Rolls Royce.

They shared touching vows from their hearts, toasts from friends and family, and by the end of the weekend at the rooftop pool Sunday Brunch featuring True DJs of Dallas, it was clear that they have created an extended family based on love, with friends from various stages of their lives and various locations geographies that share their same values and support their relationship unconditionally. They made attendees feel as though this was a wedding for their extended family as much as for Seth and Eric.

The couple celebrated their honeymoon as well both of their birthdays in Greece,



spending two magical weeks on the Aegean Sea, island-hopping between Mikonos, Paros, Naxos, Santorini and on the mainland, Athens.

Brown, right, is the co-founder and chief marketing officer for the newly-launched e3 Group consulting firm. He graduated from the University of Oklahoma with a degree in arts and administrative leadership. He is the son of Beverly Brown of Oklahoma, and Eric Brown of Ohio.

Bright, left, is the vice president of merchandising at Game Stop Global Headquarters in Grapevine. He graduated from Otterbein University in Westerville, Ohio, with a degree in business and life science. He is the son of Flossie Bright and the late Leroy Bright, both of Pennsylvania.

Seth and Eric met in the fall of 2003 at a house party. For Seth, it was love at first sight and their first date was shortly after in Oak Lawn. Soon after, family ties were created and strengthened due to the untimely passing of Eric’s father, both traveling most of 2004 back and forth to Pittsburgh to help transition Eric’s mother into her own next chapter. Relocating to Dothan, Ala., Eric and Seth began building their first home together. During those years, Eric and Seth traveled widely, as their careers moved them across the country, from Washington to Arkansas to California, and finally back to Texas where it all began.

They built their second home together in Trophy Club, where they live today. Most evenings you will find Eric and Seth cuddled up watching movies or too much Netflix in their

home theater, but they do enjoy exploring the world together, traveling most recently to Jamaica, Mexico, Italy, Spain, Africa and Greece. They host a chef’s night quarterly where they invite friends, family and coworkers together to eat, drink and be merry with some of Dallas’ finest culinary and mixologist greats.

Their family unit remains their most important priority, as they continue to care for Eric’s mom. Every step of the way they strive to be good people and surround themselves with good friends. They have learned that relationships aren’t always easy, but they aren’t hard with the right person. As they continue to grow individually and collectively, their best is truly yet to come.

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REIGNING

From Page 8

have seen in the last year, and we are working to secure that mission and see it carry on for decades after us."

Carter said that adding new fundraisers and diversifying the kinds of fundraising events the court holds has been another goal that he and Allinger have accomplished over the last year, noting, "We had a record number of events this year."

Allinger added, "We had a lot of members who wanted to host fundraisers this

year, so we found every opportunity to capitalize on that. Attendance this year has been great."

Both Carter and Allinger are also quick to thank the businesses that helped make their year in the crowns a success. "In order to raise a dollar, we have to have someplace to do that," Carter said. "The Dallas Eagle is our home bar, and they have given us Sundays to hold events. It can be a struggle though, because a lot of the venues in town are not as willing to give up space for a drag show." Allinger added, "Or those other venues

already have other events planned. We have been blessed to have Dallas Eagle. They have been very flexible in working with us."

The Hidden Door also regularly hosts Court fundraisers.

A family affair

UCLSE is a family affair for Allinger and Carter in more ways than one.

Carter, who works as a regional sales manager and trainer for a specialty battery company based in California, is

married to Empress XXXVIII, Messy Panocha. His gay brother and his lesbian daughter and her partner are also members of the Court.

Allinger, a regional sales and marketing director for a national health care company, was a member of the Imperial Court of Nebraska, serving as emperor of that court before moving to Texas for the man she has been married to for 11 years.

While Carter and Allinger have chosen to be a team as emperor and empress, "we have taken it even further," Carter said, explaining that the Court in itself is a kind of extended family. The Court has a Care Team designed to help members that need help, and not just financial help, the monarchs said.

"We are a family that has joined together to protect and support each other," Allinger said. "For me, that's been the most fulfilling part [of my time as empress], that we have really built connections with people that will last and will endure."

If you want to become a member of the United Court of the Lone Star Empire and join that family, the two urged, "just reach out to someone who is already a member, either in person or through email on our website," DallasCourt.org.



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My 2 cents: Be kind

I'm no stranger to angry letters. When I worked as a morning radio show disc jockey, if you didn't push people's buttons on both sides of an issue, you were not doing your job. The worst sin was to be ignored.

Though we weren't really a "shock jock show," we had opinions and would occasionally receive hate mail for voicing them. Post 9/11, we received letters with white powder in them. The first one required a visit from the haz-mat team, but it turned out to be talcum powder.

One piece of hate mail in particular came from an attorney when I was on the air in Houston.

I had read a news story about a high school cheerleader who apparently hadn't been holding up her end of the cheering and sign-making chores — kind of a slacker cheerleader, if there is such a thing.

Well, the head cheerleader and her mom paid the slacker cheerleader a visit and over the course of their hour-or-so-long, late evening visit, proceeded to read this young girl the riot act. This was upsetting to the slacker cheerleader, so she and her mom filed a \$1.6 million lawsuit against the head cheerleader and the head cheerleader's mom.

Well, this story really set me off. The lawsuit seemed excessive to me, and surely wasn't the way such things should be settled, I felt. So, I railed on-air against a legal system that would permit such a thing.

The letter from the attorney I received in response was passionate and personal. He challenged me to join him at the Houston Law Library and read case law and rulings illustrating that I didn't know what I was talking about.

So I took him up on it.

See, this was a guy who disagreed with me. He had a point different from mine, and he was willing to discuss it and make his case. He wasn't challenging me to a duel, and he wasn't threatening my family.

So I joined him for lunch (he paid), and we spent four hours one afternoon going over civil lawsuits that had been decided. He even let me pick the ones



Leslie McMurray
Accidental Activist

to review; he wasn't cherry picking to make a point.

I learned a lot that day. Mostly I learned that, for the most part, I was wrong.

What this attorney was showing me was that a \$1.6 million lawsuit sounds sexy in the media, but it will never get to court. There are hundreds of instances involving serious injuries in which Texas juries awarded a more reasonable \$1,200. Not millions.

This brings me to a recent Sunday night football game in which the Dallas Cowboys played the Green Bay Packers. Up in Jerry's luxury box were former President George W. Bush and actor/talk show host Ellen DeGeneres, talking, laughing, presumably enjoying the game.

To see a lot of the social media reaction, you'd think Ellen had made a deal with the Devil.

Look, I'm well aware of Bush's track record while he was president. But maybe some of Ellen's wit and compassion rubbed off on him during that game. Ellen responded to the social media firestorm on her show by urging people to just "Be Kind."

I saw more than one post that interpreted that to be "Be Quiet." But I don't see it that way.

Here is a comment I've left on a few of those social media strings as a response. I'm not defending or condemning anyone, just making an observation about the kind of discourse that seems to be over-running social media but isn't helping anything:



"I don't limit myself to a list of friends who feed my echo chamber. I have learned more from those who disagree with me than I have from those who share what I already believe.

"If we are to pursue the full palette of diversity, everyone needs to be included. If a Republican wants to sit and have a civil conversation, bring it on! The toxic barrier that has been erected between 'Us' and 'Them' is manufactured; it's a tool used to divide.

"Let's get together and have some hard conversations and knock down the walls between us. If we really talk to one another we will all learn that we aren't so different after all.

"People change. I'm not the same person I was 20 years ago [and] I'm guessing Mr. Bush might have evolved as well.

"Kindness is not silence. It's civility. It's grace. It's compassion. It's something we could use more of.

"Kindness doesn't make me a push-over. I am an activist and an advocate. I am fierce in defense of our rights and protective of the most vulnerable. But sometimes, kindness can win you some pretty powerful allies.

"My two cents."

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.

Lingua franca

Gay stage director Paul Curran plumbs the political and social underpinnings of the comic fairy tale 'The Golden Cockerel,' as relevant today as a century ago

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor
jones@dallasvoice.com

Paul Curran remembers the first — and only — time he directed an opera in a language he didn't know. It was Foerster's *Eva*, with a Czech libretto, and while he understood enough to get by, he swore from then on, he would only direct a show

written in a language in which he is fluent.

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Not

that that requirement has proven a hindrance to his career advancement. A true polyglot, Curran speaks *nine* languages, including Russian ... which is what led him to take on Rimsky-Korsakov's comic masterpiece *The Golden Cockerel* for the Dallas Opera's historic 10th season at the Winspear.

This isn't Curran's first time with *The Golden Cockerel*; in fact, the current version is his adaptation of a staging he did for the Santa Fe Opera in 2017. But with each experience, Curran finds new avenues to explore.

"It's always exciting coming back to it — it's a great luxury and joy, especially with new singers. I love coming back to this," he says. During recent rehearsals, one of his stars — who has performed the opera many times — gave him a great compliment about his devotion to analyzing the text: "I feel as if it's new to me." That means they are doing something right, he says... and staying true to the vision of the piece.

"The text of this opera is perhaps



the most extraordinary I've ever come across because of its political and sexual content," he says. Although an opera buffa with a fairy-tale plot, *The Golden Cockerel's* reputation as a lightning rod for controversy dates to its origins.

"No fairy tale was written for the entertainment of children — that's nonsense," Curran says. "They were written as parables of modern life. I don't think there's any great theater piece that wasn't making a political comment on their present situation."

Pushkin wrote the original short story (after a Washington Irving poem) in 1834 as a critique of the militaristic Nicholas I. (Pushkin was exiled in part for its content.) Rimsky-Korsakov — who had announced his retirement in 1905 — decided to compose the operatic adaptation in 1906 in reaction to Nicholas II and the entire czarist regime. (The opera was almost immediately banned in Russia.)

Both story and opera are political satires about a lazy, fat potentate who cannot be bothered with the nuances of statecraft. He leads his country into a needless war with a perceived threat

on the Southern border. Oh, and he has idiot children with whom he foolishly entrusts functions of government.

"Here is a czar who wants to do nothing followed by a counsel of sycophants and two sons, one more stupid than the other, who give dreadful advice," Curran says in a mischievous Scottish brogue. "Sound familiar? ... *Of course* you have a parallel [to our current political climate]. What I *don't* believe is ramming it down people's throats. You're watching a fairy tale and think, wait a minute, this rings a bell. A piece like this is cyclical — it reminds us that history does keep repeating itself."

Indeed, it's the cultural references inherent in great works of literature that compel Curran to have an intimate understanding of the language in order to do his job properly.

"Directing is about the much larger picture," he says. "There is a grammar, a syntax [in all foreign languages] that is very different than English. We have to stop anglicizing things. You need to understand why the librettist and compos-

■ FRANCA Page 20



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Downtown haunts



Looking for a Halloween adventure? A ghostly pub crawl might scare up some fun

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor
jones@dallasvoice.com

In the grand scheme of things, Dallas is a comparatively new city. It was founded in 1841, more than 60 years after the Revolutionary War, when Eastern stalwarts like Boston, New York and Charleston were already a century into their histories. Even the Spanish and French didn't do much by way of settlements. We are, famously — or notoriously — a town with a limited appreciation for civic history.

Or so we often think. The Caddo Indians occupied this land for millennia before Europeans elbowed their way in, and even during our sesquicentenary of existence, a lot has happened... much of which we don't even know.

Which helps when you hear that on any Friday or Saturday night in Down-

town, you can take a walking tour of old haunts ... literally.

"A place doesn't have to be old to be haunted," our guide, a gusseted painted woman named Mercedes, informs the assembled group. "We don't know what happened [on the land] before." And sometimes we do. And it doesn't take much to bring out the spirits. Both kinds of spirits, in fact.

A combination pub crawl, local history lesson and search for the paranormal, Nightly Spirits walks you through a series of nightspots where you can enjoy booze, bluster and bygone eras. You don't need to be a believer to enjoy it, but it helps to be a drinker.

"The more you drink, the more interesting I am," Mercedes promises. She isn't wrong.

"Downtown is dead," people will say of Dallas nightlife. Possibly... but not just in the way you think.

"All of the bars we go to are actively haunted," Mercedes says. Anecdotal evidence can be pretty convincing.

Though never as rough and lawless as other Texas towns and beyond, Dallas was still part of The Old West, ever since a Tennessee lawyer decided an intersection of the Trinity River would be a good spot to set up a trading post. Rules soon followed. In the middle of the 19th century, you couldn't fly a kite in Dallas proper, or curse in a tavern, or bowl on a Sunday or hire a lewd woman to carry your beer. You could, though, own slaves until 1865 ... and the fact slaves revolted, burning the town to the ground in 1860, is often ignored by the history books. There's a lot of psychic energy in such a past.

Consider Dallas' history with Robert Johnson — perhaps the most infamously haunted musician of all time. Johnson was a guitarist of no particular skills until about 1936, when suddenly his mastery of the instrument gobsnacked all who heard him. In June of 1937, he recorded nearly half of the only 29 tracks which make up his legend at a studio in Dallas; within 14 months, he'd be dead of unexplained causes at the age of 27. Did he, as has been surmised, sell his soul to the devil for the gift of musical genius? The walls of a downtown recording studio may hold the

answer.

The old Scottish Rite building boasts a harmless residual haunting (a former caretaker who still seems to do his duties) while the First Presbyterian Church, founded in 1856, contains stories of its own. But to get the full effect, the tour specializes in tales told with the woozy glow of an adult beverage in your hand.

Green Door Public House. Although rebuilt in 2013, the site of this Downtown bar has its own troubled history. When the bar opened in July 2014, staff immediately began reporting paranormal sightings. A woman in Victorian clothes walks to the back ... and disappears. People report unexplained chills. My drink: Martin House IPA.

Hardwood Tavern. Though newer than Green Door — open just two years — employees report even scarier experiences, including banging noises. On a warm night, we sit on the patio while Mercedes tells the equivalent of campfire stories, among them the legend of the Lady of White Rock Lake, which has its origin as recently as the 1930's. My drinks: Tarantula Tequila Sour.

The Crafty Irishman. The Irish love their stories of the fantastical, and there



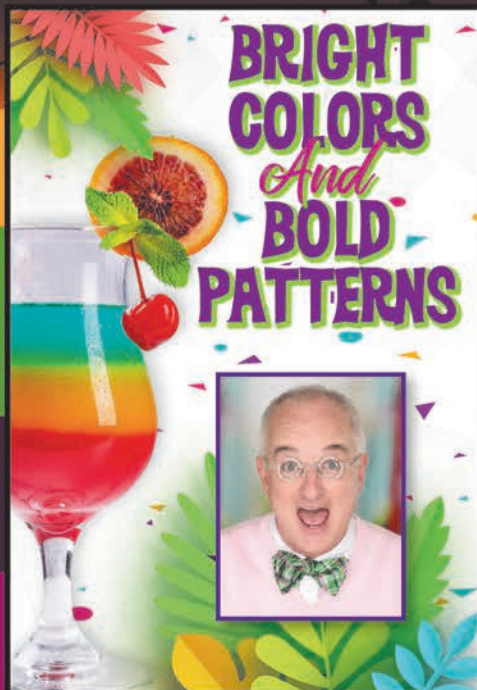
Mercedes escorts her guests through the eerie history of Dallas on weekly ghosts tours.

are some to share here as well in the refurbished Mercantile Building. My drink: Tullamore Dew and a side of Irish nachos.

Press Box Grill. Chances are you never have any reason to go to the far back room of this pub inside the Wilson Building, but if you do, you might notice the energy emanating from a boarded-up elevator shaft. It can't be anything, can it? My drink: Vodka and Sprite and shared plate of loaded potato skins.

Will you be convinced of an afterlife, or even just an occasional poltergeist, after a guided walk through town? Maybe not. Then again, listen to a Robert Johnson record and tell me something mystical isn't at work in the universe. Happy haunting.

Fridays and Saturdays beginning at 8 p.m. Reservations at NightlySpirits.com/Dallas-Ghost-Tours.



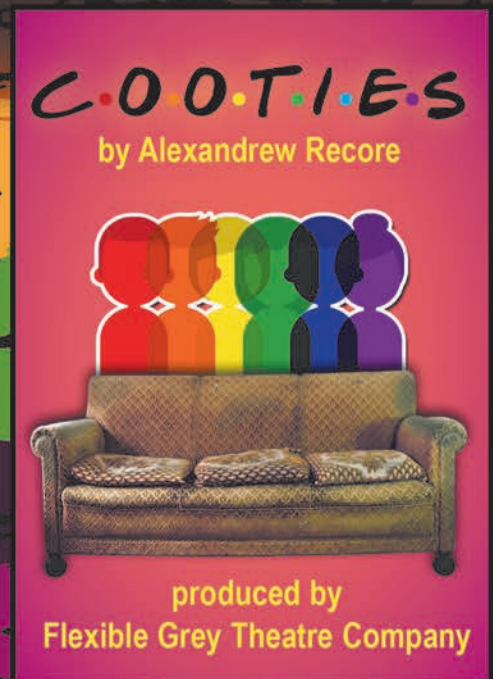
Written by Drew Droege
Starring Paul J. Williams
Directed by Marianne Galloway

Gay History Month Series

Uptown Players

Oct 18 - 28

Bryant Hall Stage
on the
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Ifly way too much, but sometimes the destination can be reached by car — preferably a very fast and comfortable one. So, which car to drive? A large luxury SUV would be great, but they're not fun-fast. A sports car is fast but not very comfortable. Coupes can be comfy and fast but aren't very practical. So, I settled for a top-flight five-door coupe. The 2019 Audi S5 Sportback was absolutely the right choice for an Interstate blitz.

'19 S5 SPORTBACK
Audi. 354 horsepower 3.0-liter TV6. 21/30-MPG city/hwy. Base/as-tested price: \$44,200/\$67,850.

It looks the part. That big Audi grille,

flanked by gleaming LED headlamps, flows back into neatly sculpted fenders filled with 19-in. alloy wheels. Red brake calipers add some glam. The side view is where the S5 Sportback separates from its siblings. A steeply raked rear roofline is pretty sexy — as is the wide rear fascia topped by a thin lip spoiler. It's like the Autobahn was diffused into a car.

Heated red diamond-stitched Nappa leather seats welcome you into a cabin stocked with suede door padding, drenching Bang & Olufsen audio, tri-zone automatic climate control and a power sunroof for those nice spring and fall days. Power open the rear hatch and flip down the rear seats to toss in a ridiculous amount of luggage. Let's be clear about one thing, though. It has five doors, and kids will fit in the back, but it's a bit snug for adults.

That won't matter if you're sitting in the front. Drivers get a heads up display, configurable flatscreen instrument cluster, adaptive cruise, active lane assist and top view camera. Navigation provides directions in the HUD and can throw a full map across the instrument screen. Infotainment is by Audi's MMI system, which means a console joy-wheel and dash screen. A small volume knob also functions as seek when slid sideways. It all looks very cool but also works well on the road.

You can kick it hard if you wish, but the S5 is best enjoyed flexing up and down the speed continuum. This isn't

a raucous V8-powered muscle car but rather a refined cruise missile propelled by a 3.0-liter turbocharged V6 delivering 354 horsepower and 369 lb.-ft. of torque. All of that oomph goes to the road through an 8-speed automatic transmission and Quattro all-wheel-drive. Auto stop/start enables reasonably frugal fuel economy of 21/30-MPG city/highway.

Still, the S5 can gather and dispense

■ COOL Next Page



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Sunday, October 27 | 1-5 p.m. | Free
GORDON PARKS

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CARTERMUEUM.ORG
#CARTERART

■ FRANCA From Page 15

er have written it in a certain way, why certain phrases are being used.”

“The big picture” seems baked into his bones. Curran started out studying ballet in London and Helsinki — in fact, it’s where he first learned Russian. (“My teacher was Russian, and once you’ve heard ‘pick up your fat Scottish ass!’ for the third time in the language, you learn it ... especially when accompanied by throwing a chair across the room,” he says.) He later attended drama school in Australia (graduating in the same class as Cate Blanchett), then landed his first big professional job: assisting a new, up-and-coming director named Baz Luhrmann.

“I was quite arrogant about it — when Baz asked me to assist him, I told him I’d think about it,” he laughs. Eventually, he said yes, and forged his own reputation; he was the director of the Norwegian National Opera for five years, and now is in-demand directing opera all over the world. (He previously helmed the world premiere of *Becoming Santa Claus* for Dallas Opera in 2015.)

Because of his facility with languages, Curran has focused his career on opera, but his approach to all stage work is

the same. “Here’s an advertisement: Paul would love to do another play,” he jokes. “The real difference between operas or musicals and straight theater is, in plays you get to create your own music because of the text, but in opera you’re given music to interpret. It’s a difference, but it’s not *much* of a difference.”

What does matter, however is, working with a good conductor, and he has nothing but praise for Dallas Opera music director Emmanuel Villaume.

“One of the joys in working with Emmanuel is his preparation and his knowledge and sophistication. He’ll always bring a philosophical/historical idea to any show we’re doing together. Emmanuel is the antithesis of the ‘maestro myth’ — he really is a man of great musical theater. Dallas is damned lucky to have him.”

Curran finds that magical combination of factors — cast, company, context — the secret to making his job worth doing.

“I would never direct a show unless I saw a reason for someone to spend money and time to see it,” Curran says. “It can’t be just entertainment — or, just as bad, intellectual masturbation. There has to be something more.” ■



■ COOL From Previous Page

speed with near abandon. Click down on the big pedal and the car leaps to triple digits as if lit from the rear. Passing left-lane slowpokes is child’s play. Hit the turbos and let Quattro shift power. Audi’s Drive Select system lets you configure the steering, throttle, and suspension from Comfort to Dynamic. Big brakes erase speed without drama. This car simply annihilates miles.

It turns out the S5 is a pretty comfy missile. The turbo V6, adaptive suspension, and all-wheel-drive would be fantastic even if they were under a buckboard, but the S5 spoils passengers with a cherry interior. It’s fast when you want it to be and frugal when you don’t. Pets and kids even fit in the back. While you can buy an A5 for \$44,200, an S5 with its full retinue comes to \$67,850. ■

Follow the writer on YouTube [AutoCasey](https://www.youtube.com/user/AutoCasey).

Saturday 10.26
– Sunday 10.27 j

World-class dance company
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favorite, the moves spun from the diverse
minds of Bodytraffic return in back-to-
back performances.

DEETS: Moody Performance Hall,
2520 Flora St. ATPAC.org.



LIFE+STYLE

best bets



Friday 10.25 – Saturday 11.02

DGDG debuts new musical at T3

The Bippy Boppy Boo Show haunts Theatre Too, Theatre 3's basement stage, in this new piece directed, choreographed and co-written by Danielle Georgiou, founder of Danielle Georgiou Dance Group. But this is not your typical Halloween season spectacle. Set in the style of a '60s variety show, *Bippy Bobby* features ghostly dancers conjuring fright in this spooky production, which runs two weekends only.

DEETS: Theatre 3, 2800 Routh St. in the Quadrangle. \$20.
Theatre3Dallas.com.



Wednesday 10.23

'Drag Race' winner to dazzle Bomb Factory

In 2017, Sasha Velour became "America's next drag superstar" after winning the ninth season of *RuPaul's Drag Race*. Now this sensational Brooklyn-based diva arrives in town for her one-queen show *Smoke & Mirrors*, in which Velour lip-syncs 13 sensational performances featuring the likes of Whitney Houston, Shirley Bassey, Nina Simone, Celine Dion and others. Don't miss this chance to see *Drag Race* royalty live.

DEETS: The Bomb Factory, 2713 Canton St. From \$17. 8 p.m. SmokeandMirrorsLive.com.



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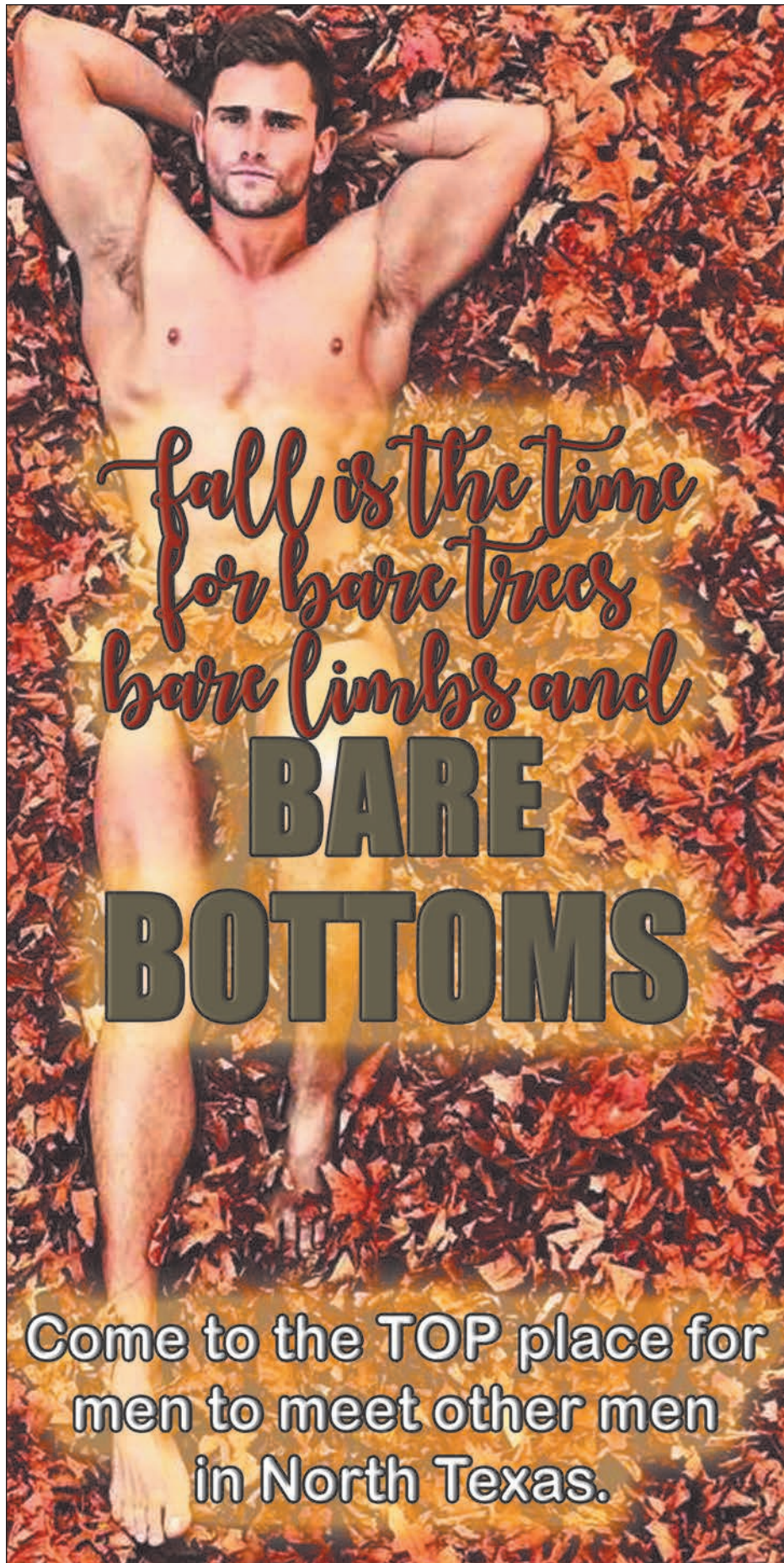
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calendar highlights



Texas Ballet Theater's production of 'Sleeping Beauty,' which opened in Dallas last month, returns for the remainder of its engagement at Bass Performance Hall in Fort Worth this weekend.

ARTSWEEK THEATER

Gay History Month Play Festival. Two one-act plays — Drew Droege's *Bright Colors* and *Bold Patterns* starring Paul J. Williams and Alexandrew Recore's *Cooties* — feature queer tales for Gay History Month, co-produced by Uptown Players and Flexible Grey Theatre Co. Bryant Hall on the Kalita Humphreys campus, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. Oct. 18–28. UptownPlayers.org.

Ann. One-woman show by Holland Taylor about former Texas Gov. Ann Richards. Kalita Humphreys Theater, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. Through Nov. 10. DallasTheaterCenter.org

Dracula. A feminist spin on the vampire story, from Michael Federico and Christie Vela. A world premiere. Theatre 3, 2900 Routh St. in the Quadrangle. Through Oct. 27. Theatre3Dallas.com.

In the Heights. Lin-Manuel Miranda's other hip-hop musical, set in a mixed neighborhood of Manhattan during a hot summer week. *Final weekend.* Wily Theatre, 2400 Flora St. DallasTheaterCenter.org.

A Love Offering. World premiere by local gay playwright Jonathan Norton. Directed by Tina Parker. Presented by Kitchen Dog Theater. Trinity River Arts Center, 2600 N. Stemmons Freeway. Through Oct. 27. KitchenDogTheater.org.

Two by Beckett. WingSpan Theatre, which has always focused on challenging plays that address gender issues, celebrates its 22nd season with two one-act solo shows by Samuel Beckett: *Footfalls* (with Jennifer Kuenzer) and *Not I* (with artistic director Susan Sargeant). Bath House Cultural Center, 521 E. Lawther Drive. Through Oct. 27. WingSpanTheatre.org.

What We Were by Blake Hackler. World premiere about three sisters coping with a history of abuse. A co-production with Second Thought Theatre, the production has moved to Circle Theatre, 230 W. 4th St. Fort Worth. Through Sunday. CircleTheatre.com.

The Wild Party. Bishop Arts Theatre Center presents the Andrew Lipka version (there is another by Michael John LaChiusa) of the famed Jazz Age poem by Joseph Moncure March about debauchery and murder. Bishop Arts Theatre Center, 215 S. Tyler St. Through Oct. 27. BishopArtsTheatre.org.



Uptown Players' Gay Pride History Month Festival gets underway this weekend.

OPERA

The Magic Flute. Mozart's quirky, colorful masterpiece about freemasonry. Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. Oct. 18–Nov. 3. DallasOpera.org.

BALLET

The Sleeping Beauty. Sir Ben Stevenson, TBT's artistic director, celebrates 50 years in the U.S. (and 16 seasons with TBT) with this production of a Tchaikovsky classic. Bass Performance Hall, 535 Commerce St., Fort Worth. Oct. 18–20. BassHall.com. TexasBalletTheater.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.

A Sampling of Contemporary

Portraiture. An exhibition of the work of five photographers producing compelling new examples of portraiture. Afterimage Gallery, 2613B Fairmount St. Through Nov. 4. AfterimageGallery.com.

MONDAY 10.21

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 10.22

FILM

Arsenic and Old Lace. One of the most successful plays of all time, about a pair of spinster sisters who "service" lonely men by killing them and putting them in the basement. Cary Grant is their hapless nephew. 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 10.23

COMEDY

Sasha Velour. The Drag Racer performs. The Bomb Factory, 2713 Canton St. Oct. 23. SmokeAndMirrorsLive.com.

THURSDAY 10.24

THEATER

Sister Act. Musical adaptation of the Whoopi Goldberg comedy movie about a woman hiding out from bad guys in a convent. Addison Theatre Centre, 15650 Addison Road. Oct. 24–Nov. 10. WaterTowerTheatre.org

FRIDAY 10.25

OPERA

The Golden Cockerel. Rimsky-Korsakov's seldom-performed comedy. Conducted by Emmanuel Villaume; directed by Paul Curran. Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. Oct. 25–Nov. 2. DallasOpera.org.

THEATER

Lizzie. The Fall River spinster murdered her parents... right? A musical. Bath House Cultural Center, 521 E. Lawther Drive. Oct. 25–Nov. 9. ImprintTheatreworks.org.

DANCE

BodyTraffic. Presented by TITAS/Dance Unbound. Moody Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. Oct. 25–26. ATTPAC.org.

this week's solution

T	V	S	E	T	E	P	P	S	A	M	E	N						
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Ask Howard

How to do the wrong thing right

What's the very luckiest trait to be born with? Great intelligence? Stunning beauty? Artistic talent? Or something more subtly admirable, perhaps — an indomitable spirit. Unbreakable religious faith. Dazzling wit. Perfect health. Sparkling vivaciousness. Or maybe even some diaphanously unique trait — the conviction of intuitiveness. The ability never to gossip. A will of iron-fistedness masquerading as diamond radiance.

Swell and lovely traits to be born with, all of them are; nonetheless, this trick question invariably always answers itself: 'tis better to be lucky than smart, better to be lucky than gorgeous, better to be lucky than talented. Naturally, everyone's lucky some of the time, some are lucky lots of times, and a rare few are even born cradle-to-tomb lucky!

Hollywood, in particular, has forever been infatuated with the latter. Can any of my dear readers name the movie, and its gay icon actress, who delivered this following line so fragrant of magnolia blossoms and deadly nightshade? "I didn't think about it much. If I had, I'd have known you'd die before I did. But I couldn't have guessed you'd get heart trouble so early and so bad: I'm lucky, Horace. I've always been lucky. I'll be lucky again." (For those of you drawing a blank... well, my advice is to hightail it out of Dodge. With any luck, when the Black Maria pulls up at 4 a.m. to revoke your gay card, none of the awakened neighbors will have to lay witness to your awkward betrayal of your brethren.)

Yes, boys, it may indeed be the black-hearted, backend of October, but as holidays go, Halloween flickers frighteningly hollow this season; apparently, there's not one interesting thing to say, or ask, about children knocking on the doors of perfect strangers asking for candy. The spookiest thing here of wonderment is what subterranean motives inspired these questions be penned at all? One flimsily attempts a bait-and-switch pity party for his giant schlong; another can't even retain the mean streets' horse-sense learned from a two-year-old's first lick at a wall socket; and (scariest of all three questions!) one heretic heathen actually ridicules his obligatory worship at the altar of the Bette/Joan/Judy Holy Hollywood Trinity! I mean, come on now? Let's just get clang, clang, clang, "What a dump!" went the happy trolley with a dozen pumpkin and four apple pies right to it.

Dear Howard: My husband, Mr. Walking Gay Cliché, himself, is addicted to the Davis/Crawford/Garland film repertoires—I mean, *hardcore* queen addiction. Like, say I scored 50-yard-line tickets to The Super Bowl, but TCM happened to be running yet one more triple-header of *Meet Me in St. Louis*, *Beyond the Forest* and *Mildred Pierce*. Guess whose two straight fathers-in-law would be "bonding" at front-row views to pro-cheerleaders' fake titties as I slowly glaze over,



for the 16th time, listening to Eve Harrington accept her Sarah Siddons Award? You think I'm kidding? Get this one. Just two days ago, I got in early from work only to discover missing from the garage's back wall my vintage-original, unopened box of both Luke Skywalker and Princess Leia... metal bikini Princess Leia, at that! And what had poached away their prime placements, you ask? Some ridiculous, old plastic-sealed, rotted movie costume — probably one of Judy Garland's wedding dresses, or some equally worthless "Golden Era" gown, with only a single provenance label, blurrily initialed with, "Hadrian/L.L.", to which Jay taunted from the kitchen, colander in hand, "Just five years, is all. Five years from now we can retire on that dress, and with enough money left over for you to acquire every first edition Princess Leia ever made." Question is, Howard, do I shoot him now, or wait 'til after he tells me where my sweet Leia is? — **Anonymous**

Dear Annoying: If your husband has what he says he does, then he's lucked across the long-lost holy grail of movie gowns. More copies of it were sold than any other dress in history — a full million, in fact, and this at the height of The Great Depression. Macy's of Herald Square, alone, during the spring/summer of '32, sold 50,000 of them. This iconic gown — a billowy stiff, white-ruffled/whipped-cream organdy confection of silk chiffon (something permitted only MGM's Adrian to daringly concoct) catapulted Joan Crawford into superstardom. Never was she more beautiful than in *Letty Lynton*, and

never has the movie been shown since — not in any theater, not on television, not on DVD. Nothing. Nowhere. A vengefully successful 1936 plagiarism suit barred all subsequent viewings forever from the public domain, until the year 2025: Adrian's original, fancifully-flounced organza sensation similarly vanished into puff of air, never to be seen since. Anon, just as your husband promised (the force be with him!) in but little more than five years' time your dick will be rubbed, daily rawer, even than when you were 12, so thrillingly vast shall be your trophy hoard of Collectors' Edition Leais — you lucky Jedi!

Dear Howard: I'm the unicorn of abstinent bottoms: Fate cursed me with something the size of a butane cannister between my legs (the six ounce kind — hardly the 3.61!). It's the length

of my femur! I'm the only bottom locked totally out my naturally given inclination within God's gay butthole binary. No matter how much of a "total top only" some dude is pulling my pants zipper down, I'm instantly forced to top him. Always! But then I guess nobody ever said life was fair, right? — **Hornless Toad**

Dear Fried Frog's Legs: Wrong! Nobody ever said that reverse-showboating becomes a harpy, horse-hung queen. That you insinuate somewhere out there exists a wretchedly miserable top saddled with always having to go just all-out-jackhammer using your misappropriated light switch — a drill zombie doomed to forever perform his best motion-of-the-ocean pyrotechnics with a toolbox promising him all the long-term potential bestowed a cha-cha queen met off Scruff? Yes, poor, poor miserably endowed you. I'm sure you can somehow figure out a way to pull that soapbox out from beneath your bed and stand on it — or, better yet, a sturdy crate of butane cannisters (the 6 oz. kind, not the 3.6). Not that it's any of my business, Frogmore, but just whatever are you lighting up over there at your place anyhow to necessitate any butane cannister's clean, yet super-intense heat? To my knowledge, their sole function is to refill hand-held torches grabbed from the headshop; and, correct me if I'm wrong, but doesn't everything "legally" smokable in Texas these days require all the complexity of a match? Junkie, get home, get some professional substance abuse help, and let's maybe, say, revisit your Curse

of The Tripod at a later, less cloudy date.

Dear Howard: My roommate tricks around a lot — like, every single night — then comes home with some little trinket or another that he didn't own when he left. "Look what I just found?" he'll grin, holding out a pair of gold cufflinks, a silver bracelet or once a genuine tortoiseshell shoehorn: "How lucky a find was that?" He's beautiful, too — stomp down gorgeous. So I dunno if men just give him these things as gifts, or if he just sorta borrows them a little while, but the only explanation he ever offers me is, "Look what I just found?" Howard, am I rooming with just petty thief, a prostitute or a psychopath? — **Avery**

Dear Very Innocent Fool: Yes. And make certain to keep anything you personally own and treasure out of Mr. Finder's-Keepers sightline: Dude, you're rooming with someone who possesses all the morals and warmth of a saber tooth jack-o-lantern. What the hell's wrong with you, anyhow? Is your last name Gump? This is *Handbook for the Homosexual Kindergartener* level stuff! Better wake the fuck up, Forrest, and start smellin' the sociopathy — quickly! 'Cause it's everywhere!

On a closing note to this orange-colored month, several sweet readers have inquired about the status of my ol' orange hellcat, Boo: This time last year, I waxed wanly about having found an abandoned little orange kitten 18 years previous out on the torn-up train tracks (now called The Katy Trail) abutting my apartment — the only outside world Boo had ever known to exist since was whatever he could peer over and glimpse down upon from his soothing, sunshiny spot atop our balcony. Yet, now suddenly, in Boo's dotage, we had to move temporarily.

"Temporary" be damned — any displacement rolls The Reaper's dice when dealing with a 104-year-old housepet: diabetic, arthritic, deaf, blind and incontinent, was Boo ultimately coaxed, confusedly, into his carrier (with a little help from the Bumblebee tuna) one late October's night last year, to our short-term digs and most certainly his ultimate demise: Adaptation is only for the young and the strong.

Well, the seasons have now come full-cycle again, my old apartment is glittering new again, and, indeed, there were lots of rough patches with more than a few iffy moments, but from his favorite balcony corner up in the sunshine of the only real world he's ever known, some things that go "Boo!" in the night only force the dark go brighter — lookie, lookie, lucky orange came in! Have a happy Halloween, guys!

P.S. "Yes, I did it. Do you hear me? I'm glad I did it. You dirty, filthy, groveling mongrel! If I have to hang for it, I'm glad I did it!" — Letty Lynton, the first character in cinematic history permitted to murder minus comeuppance, to her former paramour just as she fatally poisons him.

— Howard Lewis Russell

Send your questions to AskHoward@dallasvoice.com.

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Caven's Zombie Walk



Making the SCENE the week of Oct. 18–24:

- **1851 Club:** Jaden Davenport, Candi Carrol and Chanel St. John on Friday. Tara St. Stone, Barbie Davenport and Kristie Davenport on Saturday.
- **515 Bar:** Tap TV Trivia at 8 p.m. on Tuesday.
- **Alexandre's:** Anton Shaw Band on Saturday. Wayne Smith on Sunday. K-Marie on Tuesday. Vero Voz on Wednesday. Chris Chism on Thursday.
- **Cedar Springs Tap House:** The Darlin' Show with karaoke, games and live entertainment from 8-11 p.m. on Friday.
- **Club Changes:** Street Re-Naming Show to raise money to change the street name to honor Rhonda Mae at 9 p.m. on Saturday.
- **Dallas Eagle:** United Court of the Lone Star Empire Voting for Reign 45 from 7-10 p.m. on Friday. United Court In-Town show from 6-10 p.m. on Saturday. Onyx: Central Southwest Chapter Club Night at 10 p.m. on Saturday. Back to the '80s from 5-9 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Grapevine Bar:** Service Industry Night at 8 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Havana:** The Must Win Party: Dallas v. Philadelphia at 7:20 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Hidden Door:** United Court of the Lone Star Empire Club Night on Wednesday.
- **JR.'s Bar & Grill:** Dragula Season 3 Watch Party with Bleach at 7 p.m. on Tuesday.
- **Liquid Zoo:** Drag Brunch and Halloween Show with Kiana Lee and Ronnie Skyy Mikyles at 2 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Magnum:** DJ Enrique and the Boys of Magnum on Friday.
- **Marty's Live:** Chanel Champagne is the Queen of Monday Nights.
- **Pekers:** Karaoke starts at 10 p.m. on Friday and Saturday.
- **Round-Up Saloon:** Line Dancing with Ray at 8:30 p.m. on Thursday. Drag Race UK Watch Party at 9 p.m. on Thursday. Lip Synch Battle at 11 p.m. on Thursday.
- **Sue Ellen's:** Mustache Envy on Friday. Tyla and The Anton Shaw Band on Sunday.
- **The Rose Room:** Mr. Gay USofA Finals at 9p.m. On Friday. Pattaya Hart on Saturday and Sunday.
- **TMC: The Mining Company:** Trashy Tuesdays at TMC.
- **Urban Cowboy:** The Imperial Court de Fort Worth/Arlington presents Mr. and Miss Halloween Fantasy from 7-10 p.m. on Saturday.
- **Woody's Sports & Video Bar:** Showtunes at 9 p.m. on Tuesday. Karaoke at 10 p.m. on Wednesday and Sunday.

Scene Photographers: *Kat Haygood* and *Chad Mantooth*



Leslie Jordan



Robyn



Wine Walk



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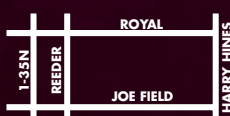


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Solution on Page 23

Across

- 1 Family room piece
- 6 Actor Omar
- 10 Pious ejaculation
- 14 Pat Benatar's "___ With Your Best Shot"
- 15 Voting group
- 16 Type of sci, in college
- 17 Old line for cockpit workers
- 18 Lorca's room
- 19 Partner of Circumstance
- 20 Mother of Mark, played by Sarah Gilbert
- 23 Target of malice, per Lincoln
- 24 Org. for narcs
- 25 Meryl Streep's *Out of ___*
- 29 Disney's Iago and others
- 33 Start of a quote by Mark
- 36 "Cool" amount
- 37 Barrie's Wendy, e.g.
- 38 Bit of grain for a stallion
- 39 Sappho's B
- 40 Officer in the navy (abbr.)
- 41 End of quote
- 45 Many a place near Aspen

- 47 Mishima and Ang Lee
- 48 Eligible for soc. sec.
- 49 Bear market order
- 51 How ABC described Mark before he came out as gay
- 58 Mostel of *The Producers*
- 59 *From Here to Eternity* setting
- 60 "A Boy ___ Sue"
- 61 The I in IHOP (abbr.)
- 62 Bottom
- 63 C-3PO, for example
- 64 Irate, with "off"
- 65 One-armed bandit's opening
- 66 Father of Chaz

- 12 Shade trees
- 13 Tuck's partner
- 21 Linguist Chomsky
- 22 Big name in soft balls
- 25 Media exec Roger
- 26 Meat cut
- 27 Portia de ___
- 28 Nurses stick these in us
- 29 Antifur org.
- 30 Greek edition of Oprah's magazine?
- 31 Tennessee tight end, e.g.
- 32 Does in
- 34 Eastern discipline
- 35 Mineo of movies
- 39 ASCAP alternative
- 41 Put out
- 42 They get attention in the shower
- 43 Chip's cartoon buddy
- 44 Word after Virgin
- 46 Harvey, in *Torch Song Trilogy*
- 49 Bonehead
- 50 Shoot off some hot stuff
- 51 Drag queen ___ Pool
- 52 Art Deco name
- 53 Male actor named Julia
- 54 Starch source
- 55 "It's showtime!"
- 56 Blood line
- 57 Cruising hazard
- 58 Blemish, in slang

Down

- 1 Sound of getting banged?
- 2 You need one to go to Rio
- 3 Have top billing
- 4 *Casablanca* croupier
- 5 Stamp of *Priscilla*
- 6 *The Wizard of Oz* dropout Buddy
- 7 Put in position
- 8 Teri of *The Fosters*
- 9 Series with gay veep Cyrus Beene
- 10 Come out
- 11 Shakespeare's Othello, e.g.



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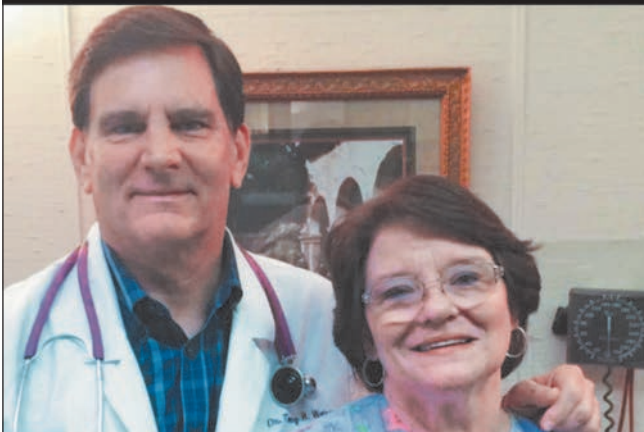
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