

dallas voice

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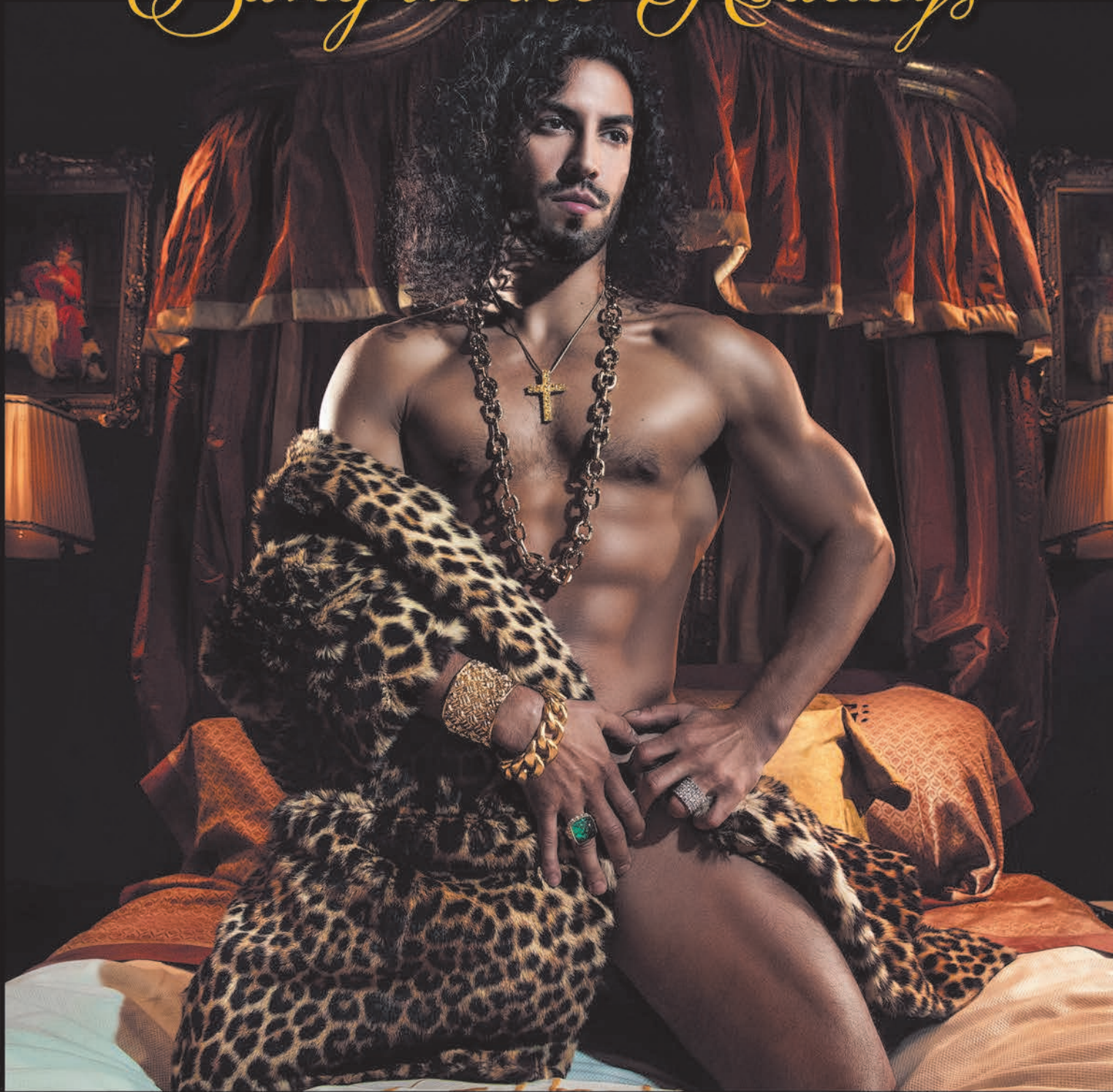


Holiday
Gift Guide
2019
Page, 20



JOE PACETTI'S
HIS WORLD COLLECTION

Bling in the Holidays



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8



10



14

headlines

■ TEXAS NEWS

- 8 Trans Day of Remembrance in Dallas
- 10 Meet the new head of Equality Texas
- 14 The life and art of Richard Curtin
- 16 HRC's new Texas state director

■ LIFE+STYLE

- 19 The Holiday Gift Guide
- 20 HGG: Body & Fashion
- 26 HGG: Home & More
- 27 HGG: Food & Drink
- 28 HGG: Pets, Kids & Fun
- 32 HGG: Adult

■ ON THE COVER

Raquel Blake. Photo by Tammye Nash. See Page 4 for details.

departments

- | | | | |
|----|----------------|----|-------------|
| 6 | The Gay Agenda | 31 | Best Bets |
| 8 | News | 35 | Cassie Nova |
| 18 | Voices | 36 | Scene |
| 19 | Life+Style | 42 | MarketPlace |

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Raquel Blake

This week's Dallas Voice cover girl is Raquel Blake, a drag queen artist who performs regularly at various venues across the DFW Metroplex.

Raquel started doing drag almost 10 years ago in Boston, Mass., where she is originally from. She worked there as show host and cast member at several different bars.

In 2011, Raquel says, she started falling in love with the drag scene here in Dallas and was amazed by the outstanding caliber of the entertainers here. So in 2013, she packed up and

"I love Dallas, and I love my crazy Dallas family!" Raquel declares. "Without the love and support from my fantastic family here in a Dallas, I wouldn't be able to be such a dedicated and hard worker."

You can catch Raquel Blake on stage Mondays at JR.'s in Cassie Nova's Freakshow, Tuesdays at JR.'s with host Bleach in the Double Trouble Tuesday Show, Thursdays at JR.'s in the Dreamgirls Show and two Fridays each month at the Red Goose Saloon in Fort Worth where she is host and show director for My Oh My, The Show.

On Sundays, she says, she's either catching up on her sleep or performing in a drag brunch show somewhere.

Follow Raquel on Instagram (@Raquel_Blake), on Facebook (Raquel Blake), on Snapchat (RaquelBlake3) and online at MyOhMyTheShow.com.

Raquel's nails for the cover photo were done by Mulan (@mulanalexander on Instagram), and her hair was by Sissy Wigs (@Sissywigs on Instagram).

The Rainbow Tree

Don't you just love the gorgeous, rainbow-colored Christmas tree featured on the cover of this issue of Dallas Voice? Don't you wish you had one of your own?

Well, your dreams can come true!

The Color Burst Rainbow Christmas tree, "a sparkling symbol of joy and unity," is 7 feet tall, and is available online at Treetopia.com, retailing for \$399.

And remember, you don't have to relegate your rainbow to just the month or two of the "holiday season" each year! It is, the folks at Treetopia note, "as versatile as it is vibrant" and "lends itself well to other celebrations throughout the year, be it birthdays, anniversaries or Mardi Gras." And we can't forget LGBT Pride Month or, of course, the LGBT high holiday of Halloween! Surely no LGBT home is complete without a festive Halloween Tree in October.

Oh hell, who are we kidding! Leave it up year-round and just switch out the decorations to match the season!



headed south to Dallas and within six months of moving here had been added to the cast at JR.'s.

"Since then," Raquel says, "I've been dubbed as one of the most booked queens in Dallas ... or PLAN B (when no other queen is available, there's always Plan B)!"

In the six years since she moved to Dallas, Raquel says, she has been given "some amazing opportunities" to travel and perform all over Texas and beyond, including Australia, California, Florida and Canada. And of course, she added, she has been thrilled to be "part of some amazing events held here in Dallas — DIFFA and Black Tie, just to name a couple."

instanTEA

DallasVoice.com/Category/Instant-Tea



Two men on the bench traveled to Dallas from Boston for Straight Pride. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

Straight Pride attracts a crowd of 2

Pride events always attract out-of-town crowds, and the Nov. 16 Straight Pride at Dallas City Hall Plaza was no exception. All two of the participants were here from Boston. Not even Teresa Stephens Richenberger from Liberty City, Texas, the local organizer with Protecting Our Next Generation, appeared at the event. About 20 protesters showed up at City Hall Plaza.

One of the two Boston participants claimed he was kicked out of his home as a teen and was fired from his job because he was straight.

The two organizers complained about fees the city was charging along with the permit that would have amounted to about \$12,000. They were shocked to learn from Jayla Wilkerson, a city attorney and trans activist, that a proposed trans march had to be canceled because they were going to be charged the exact same fees.

Reacting to a statement by Richenberger on Facebook that cities that are run by Democrats don't welcome free speech, Wilkerson suggested Dallas' LGBT community stage a Pride parade in her city and see just how welcoming they are.

— David Taffet

DMA's Arts & Letters Live announces 2020 lineup

Richard Blanco, the gay, Spanish-born American poet who was the fifth-ever to compose a poem to be read at a presidential inauguration, and out comedian Mo Rocca, are among the featured presenters lined up by the Dallas Museum of Art for its 2020 Arts & Letters Live series.

Rocca, who first shot to fame as one of the earliest "correspondents" on The Daily Show with Jon Stewart, will speak about his book *Mobituaries: Great Lives Worth Reliving* on Jan. 22. Blanco's poem *One Today*, about his journey as immigrant read during Obama's second inauguration, will talk about our shared identity as a nation on April 6.

Others set to appear during the 29th season of A&L are authors Tembi Locke (Feb. 18), James McBride (March 24) and

Paulette Jiles (April 21); cartoonist Roz Chast and writer Patricia Marx (Jan. 25); and queer humorist David Sedaris — a staple of the series — whose latest book is *Calypto*, will read from new and unpublished works on May 11.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

Salon Aura damaged in DUI crash, driver charged

One person has reportedly been arrested and charged with driving under the influence after he crashed his car into a salon located in the heart of the Cedar Springs Strip at about 1:15 a.m. Sunday, Nov. 17.

Salon Aura, 3910 Cedar Springs Road (next to The Round-Up Saloon), suffered extensive damage. Owner Darell McCurdy said he is "mostly concerned for my employees. They make their living from these chairs, and they all have clients booked."

On Tuesday, McCurdy said that the salon is open for business, even though they have no front windows. A rear entrance from the parking lot is open.

— Tammye Nash

BoA on Cedar Springs is vandalized

The Bank of America on Cedar Springs Road at Knight Street was vandalized at about 11:15 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 19 and Dallas Police responded to calls quickly.

Bank of America hasn't given Dallas Police any video of the incident.

There have been several other incidents of broken store windows in Oak Lawn in October, but according to a Dallas Police public information officer, this one doesn't seem to be related. The other incidents were committed by a homeless man with a hammer, according to one witness. This incident was rocks through the window.

Dewight Williams, 25, of Dallas was arrested Tuesday, Nov. 22, in the 3800 block of University Boulevard in University Park on a charge of soliciting without a permit. He is believed to be the man who broke the store windows in Oak Lawn and injured a woman with a hammer in October.

— David Taffet



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THE GAY AGENDA



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

NOVEMBER

• Nov. 22: Gay Chorus Deep South
Screening of the film about the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus' Deep South tour. Former Turtle Creek Chorale artistic director Tim Seelig will be in attendance from 6:30-9:30 p.m. at Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. \$10. Tickets at Eventbrite.com.

• Nov. 23: 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.

• Nov. 24: Prime Timers
Games hosted at a private home in Rockwall. Call for address and directions 214-218-0912. chapters.theprimetimersww.com/dallasfortworth.

• Nov. 26: 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. For more information visit MyResourceCenter.org.

• Nov. 28: Thanksgiving Celebration
Community Thanksgiving celebration. Food service from 2-6 p.m. and live entertainment at 3 p.m. at The Round-Up Saloon, 3912 Cedar Springs Road.

• Nov. 29: Diana Ross World AIDS Day concert
AHF and AIN host a free concert with Diana Ross, R&B singer KeKe Wyatt and singer Teyana Taylor at 7:30 p.m. at The Bomb Factory, 2713 Canton St. Admission is free but reservations are required. For reservations, visit EventBrite.com.

• Nov. 30: 6th Annual Salvation Sisters
The DFW Sisters will hold their sixth annual Salvation Sisters event, from 9:30 p.m.-1 a.m. on the corner of Cedar Springs Road and Throckmorton Street, in front of Hunky's. The Sisters will be ringing bells and raising money for the food pantry. For information visit DFWSisters.org.

DECEMBER

• Dec. 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.

• Dec. 3: Oak Lawn Committee meeting
Meetings of the organization that weighs in on development in Oak Lawn are open to the public at 6:30 p.m. at Melrose Hotel, 3015 Oak Lawn Ave.

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@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

• Dec. 3: Prime Timers
First Tuesday lunch at 11:30 a.m. at Golden Corral, 3312 Forest Lane. chapters.theprimetimersww.com/dallasfortworth.

• Dec. 3: Red Ribbon
Commemorate World AIDS Day at Red Ribbon presented by Dallas Red Foundation and Resource Center from, 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Hilton Dallas Park Cities, 5954 Luther Lane.

• Dec. 5: Brewing Up Business
Develop new business relationships by giving your 30-second elevator speech, exchange business cards and learn more about this month's sponsor at 8:30 a.m. at Crickles and Co., 4000 Cedar Springs Road Suite E. \$10 in advance. \$20 at the door. Free to LGBT Chamber members.

• Dec. 5: GLFD Holiday Party
Gay and Lesbian Fund for Dallas holds its holiday party to thank supporters from 6-8 p.m. at Musume sushi restaurant, 2330 Flora St. For information visit GLFD.org.

• Dec. 6: Federal Club
Holiday party. DFWFederalClub.org

• Dec. 7: Lost Souls Rugby Toy Drive and Tacky Sweater Contest
Lost Souls Rugby toy drive benefits Adelfa Botello Callejo Elementary School and the tacky sweater contest is just for fun from 6-9 p.m. at the Round-

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**

Up Saloon, 3912 Cedar Springs Road. RoundupSaloon.com.

• Dec. 7: Sleigh Ball
BearDance presents Sleigh Ball benefiting Resource Center from 9:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m. at Dallas Eagle, 5740 Maple Ave.

• Dec. 7-8: The Nutcracker
North Central Ballet presents The Nutcracker with discounts sponsored by Dallas Voice. With promo code: BALLET, buy one and get one half off at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday and 2 p.m. on Sunday at Will Rogers Auditorium, 3401 W. Lancaster Ave., Fort Worth. NorthCentralBallet.com.

• Dec. 8: The Dallas Way Winter Brunch

Annual brunch benefiting The Dallas Way hosted by Richard Shampain and Jeff Henderson from noon-2 p.m. at 4060 Cochran Chapel. \$50 reservation, \$60 at the door. TheDallasWay.org.

• Dec. 8: Prime Timers
Games hosted at a private home in Carrollton. Call for address and directions 214-218-0912. chapters.theprimetimersww.com/dallasfortworth.

• Dec. 9: Creating Change Host Committee Meeting
The Task Force needs volunteers to plan the January 15-19 Creating Change Conference in Dallas. Committees

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 trans activist **Jayla Wilkerson**; **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 am.-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 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 Illument** 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.

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.

• **Dec. 9: Black Tie Dinner Wrap Party**
Black Tie Dinner distributes checks to its 2019 beneficiaries from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Southside Music Hall at Gilley's, 1135 S. Lamar St. BlackTie.org.

• **Dec. 10: Prime Timers**
Dinner at 7 p.m. at The Dinner Table, 580 W. Arapahoe Road, Richardson. chapters.theprimetimersww.com/dallasfortworth.

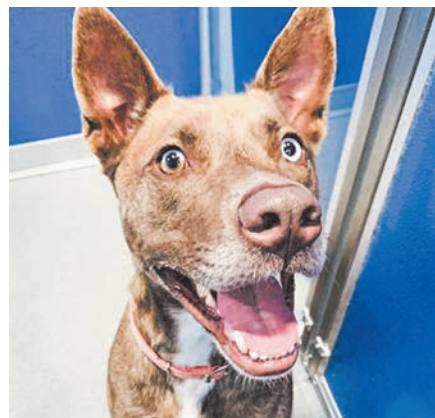
• **Dec. 10: Grief group**
Grief group for persons who have lost a same-sex spouse meets the second and fourth Tuesdays each month from 6:45-8 p.m. at Resource Center, 5750 Cedar

Springs Road. For more information visit MyResourceCenter.org.

• **Dec. 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.

• **Dec. 11: GALA holiday party**
GALA holds its holiday party and fundraiser with silent auction, raffle, photo booth, food and drink from 6-10 p.m. at event1013, 1013 E. 15th St., Plano. \$25 at GALANorthTexas.org. Raffle tickets \$5.

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Dallas marks Transgender Day of Remembrance

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Dallas Assistant City Attorney Jayla Wilkerson didn't pull any punches as she welcomed attendees to the Transgender Day of Remembrance services this week: "This has been a shitty year."

Wilkerson, who heads Transgender Pride of Dallas, and Cathedral of Hope's Transgender Council coordinated the Wednesday night commemoration held at the J. Erik Jonsson Library across the street from Dallas City Hall.

"This is an epidemic of violence," said the Rev. Erin Wyma as she introduced a short video remembering the 22 trans women killed in the U.S. since last TDoR.

What brought this year's ceremony so close to home was that four of the 22 murders reported this year were committed in Texas, and two of those murders — those of Muhlyasia Booker and Chynal Lindsey — took place in Dallas within just weeks of each other.

As the names of hundreds of transgender murder victims scrolled across a screen, participants read the names of the 22 U.S. victims, including each victim's date of death, age and how they were killed. Then presenters read a quote from a friend of each victim to remind everyone attending these were more than just victims; these were each women whom other people loved.

Stacey Monroe spoke at the event about her friend, Daniela Calderon-Rivera, who was shot multiple times at a



Erin Wyma, left, Ethan Avenzino and Jayla Wilkerson were among those at a vigil at Dallas City Hall, remembering victims of anti-trans violence. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

bus stop in Northwest Dallas on Sept. 20 — but survived.

Monroe said she was there as a "voice for someone who lives in fear" now after having fled Honduras because of violence against the trans community there. "She saw this as a land of opportunity. Then on Sept. 20, someone — a monster — tried to end her life for being trans."

Monroe called on the trans community and allies to do better.

Calderon-Rivera didn't attend. Monroe said it was because since her shooting, she's had trouble dealing with

crowds. And since her attacker is free after being released on bond, she fears being out in public.

"The emotional and physical damage is irreversible," Monroe said. "I fear for her safety."

Domingo Ramirez-Cayente was arrested within days of the attack on Calderon-Rivera and confessed to shouting gay and trans insults at Calderon-Rivera before shooting her. Before his victim was even able to leave the hospital, he was released from jail on a \$25,000 bond and soon after disappeared, possibly having fled the country.

On Thursday, Nov. 21, Monroe said, a rally was scheduled for 6 p.m. outside the Frank Crowley Criminal Courts to bring attention to the case. Specifically, she said, they're demanding Dallas Police Chief U. Reneé Hall and Sheriff Marian Brown work with the FBI and the Consulate of Mexico to find her attacker and bring him to justice. (The event was scheduled after Dallas Voice press time. Visit InstanTEA at DallasVoice.com for coverage.)

In addition, Monroe said, the group supporting Calderon-Rivera wants Dallas County Commissioners Court



Say Their Names

- Dana Martin
- Jazzaline Ware
- Ashanti Carmon
- Muhlaysia Booker
- Michelle "Tamika" Washington
- Paris Cameron
- Chynal Lindsey
- Chanel Scurlock
- Zoe Spears
- Brooklyn Lindsey
- Denali Berries Stuckey
- Tracy Single
- Kiki Fantroy
- Bubba Walker
- Pebbles LaDime "Dime" Doe
- Jordan Cofer
- Bailey Reeves
- Bee Love Slater
- Jamagio Jamar Berryman (Ja'leyah-Jamar)
- Itali Marlowe
- Brianna "BB" Hill (Breonna Be'Be Hill)

to review Judge Hal Turley's decision to set the bond in an attempted murder case so low. And finally, she said, once he's caught, Calderon-Rivera and her supporters want District Attorney John Creuzot to prosecute Ramirez-Cayente to the fullest extent of the law.

Although it wasn't noted during the ceremony, the event took place on the

library's seventh floor. That's where Dallas' original copy of the Declaration of Independence is housed, the only copy of the document west of the Mississippi.

After the event in the library, several dozen participants walked across the street to the steps of Dallas City Hall for a candle lighting ceremony, a re-reading of

TRANSGENDER, Page 12



Jayla Wilkerson, left and Stacey Monroe spoke at TDoR in Dallas. Members of DFW Sisters, below, also participated (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)



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art mashup

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Equality Texas hires a new CEO

Ricardo Martinez comes from Stand for Children and hopes his work helps the next LGBT generation

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Ricardo Martinez hasn't done lobbying work before, but his efforts helped repeal Arizona's No Promo Homo law. Born in Mexico City, Martinez grew up in New York and has lived in Phoenix for the last five years. But when the chance came along to lead Equality Texas, he knew he couldn't let that opportunity pass him by.

"The universe has a plan for me," Martinez said. "This is where I need to go next."

There is, he said, just something about Texas: "It's on the brink of change." He wants to help make that change happen.

Martinez wasn't looking for a job when Equality Texas contacted him about the position. He was working in Phoenix for Stand for Children. He was on the national staff but worked in the Phoenix office as director of constituent engagement.

Stand for Children is an organization that works to ensure all students have a fair shot at a quality and relevant education, Martinez explained, adding that how the organization does that looks different in different states. In Texas, Stand for Children works through the Home Visit Project to train and empower teachers to conduct relationship-building



Ricardo Martinez with his partner Kenny Dann looking over his shoulder. (Photo courtesy Ricardo Martinez)

home visits with their students' families.

Before moving to Phoenix, Martinez worked for GLSEN — the Gay, Lesbian, Straight Education Network — in New York City. He worked there as a generalist, advising chapters on organizing, fundraising, managing a board, engaging volunteers and more. Once he came to Arizona, he continued volunteering for the organization and became a local

board member.

As a GLSEN board member, Martinez helped work on the repeal of Arizona's "No Promo Homo" law, legislation that prevented teachers from including any positive representation of LGBT people in the classroom. That included leaving HIV education out of sex education curricula as well as preventing LGBT people from being represented.

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If you want students to be proud of who they are, Martinez said, they need to be represented.

"The law was being misinterpreted," he said and was under threat of being declared unconstitutional at the time of its repeal. It was repealed, he added, by building partnerships.

"Collaboration is everything," he said.

Martinez comes to Equality Texas at an opportune time in the Texas legislative cycle. He has a year to get prepared before the 2020 elections and then an additional two months before the next session starts.

Noting that Equality Texas is "an organization with a rich legacy," Martinez said he plans to spend his first three to six months on the job on an introduction tour and learning about Equality Texas.

His first year will be a time to learn and build, he said, and provide others outside the LGBT community with tools they can use to work on behalf of our community. Martinez said he'll use his first months to "build relationships with stakeholders" within the community, "do a lot of learning," and then "create a plan."



While he has more than a year to devise his legislative plan and has only

briefly met members of the Texas House LGBT Caucus briefly at Equality Texas' recent 30th anniversary celebration, he has ideas.

Martinez said he likes interim CEO Angela Hale's idea of "going on the offensive" by introducing comprehensive nondiscrimination legislation. Also on his list is protecting minors with a ban on discredited conversion therapy. Then he will spend much of his time "fighting off the bad stuff," something he learned during his years in Phoenix.

"GLSEN has a piece of my heart," Martinez said, and he'd like to see more chapters in Texas. Currently, the only active chapter is in Austin.

He said he needs to learn more about senior issues in the Texas LGBTQ community, and he is anxious to meet with Coalition for Aging LGBT, active in four North Texas counties, and other senior groups in Texas.

While in Austin for Equality Texas' 30th anniversary celebration, at which he was introduced to attendees, Martinez said he had a little time to search for an apartment with his partner, Kenny Dann. But for the moment, he'll be mov-

ing to Texas alone while Dann completes a building project in Phoenix where he is constructing several rental units. Dann hopes to join Martinez in Austin within six months.

Dann is also from New York, but the two met in Phoenix and have been together more than three years.

Martinez said he wasn't looking for a new job but was suggested for it by Andy Marra whom he met at a White House reception. He had been nominated as an emerging LGBT leader for his work with GLSEN and was one of between 30 and 40 other LGBT people between the ages of 17 and 30 chosen for the honor by President Barack Obama. At a reception held at Vice President Joe Biden's residence, Martinez said he met Marra who has since been named executive director of the Transgender Legal Defense and Education Fund.

Martinez said he wraps up his work with Stand for Children this week and then has a week to move to Austin before starting his new job.

"I don't know that I've experienced a city with a vibe like Austin," he said. "I'm incredibly excited." ■

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TRANSGENDER From Page 9

the names of those who were murdered in the U.S. and comments by members of the crowd.

One of the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence offered a prayer for trans women who have been attacked. One trans person talked about being estranged from family. Others spoke of living in fear, while Monroe said, "I see progress."

Since the massive surge of publicity surrounding Booker's and Lindsey's murders, as well as another attack on a Dallas trans woman in April, police have re-opened investigations into earlier cases. This week, Dallas Police asked for help in solving the 2017 murder of trans woman Armani Dante Morgan.

She was reported missing by her family on June 22, 2017. Just over a month later, her body was found near the 2900 block of Wilhurt Ave., an area west of I-45 and just south of Illinois Avenue that, police said, she was known to frequent.

Anyone with information related to her murder is asked to call Dallas police Det. Michael Yeric, Special Investigations Unit, at 214-671-3677.



Morgan is one of at least three transgender women known to have been killed in Dallas in the last four years whose murders remain unsolved. The others are Shade Schuler, whose decomposing body was found July 29, 2015, in a

field off Regal Row, and Brittany White, who was found shot to death in her car in a parking lot in far southeast Dallas on Oct. 21, 2018.

This year, in addition to the two Dallas murders, Tracy Single and Itali Marlowe

were killed in Houston. Worldwide, at least 331 transgender and gender diverse people have been murdered since the last Transgender Day of Remembrance.

In Dallas, Kendrell Lavar Lyles, 33, who had been arrested the previous day in connection with two unrelated murders was charged on June 12 for the murder of Muhlaysia Booker. Lyles remains in the Collin County jail.

Although Lyles was initially considered a person of interest in Chynal Lindsey's death, police on June 20 announced that they had arrested Ruben Alvarado, 22, and charged him with murdering Lindsey. Alvarado remains in the Dallas County jail with bond set at \$500,000.

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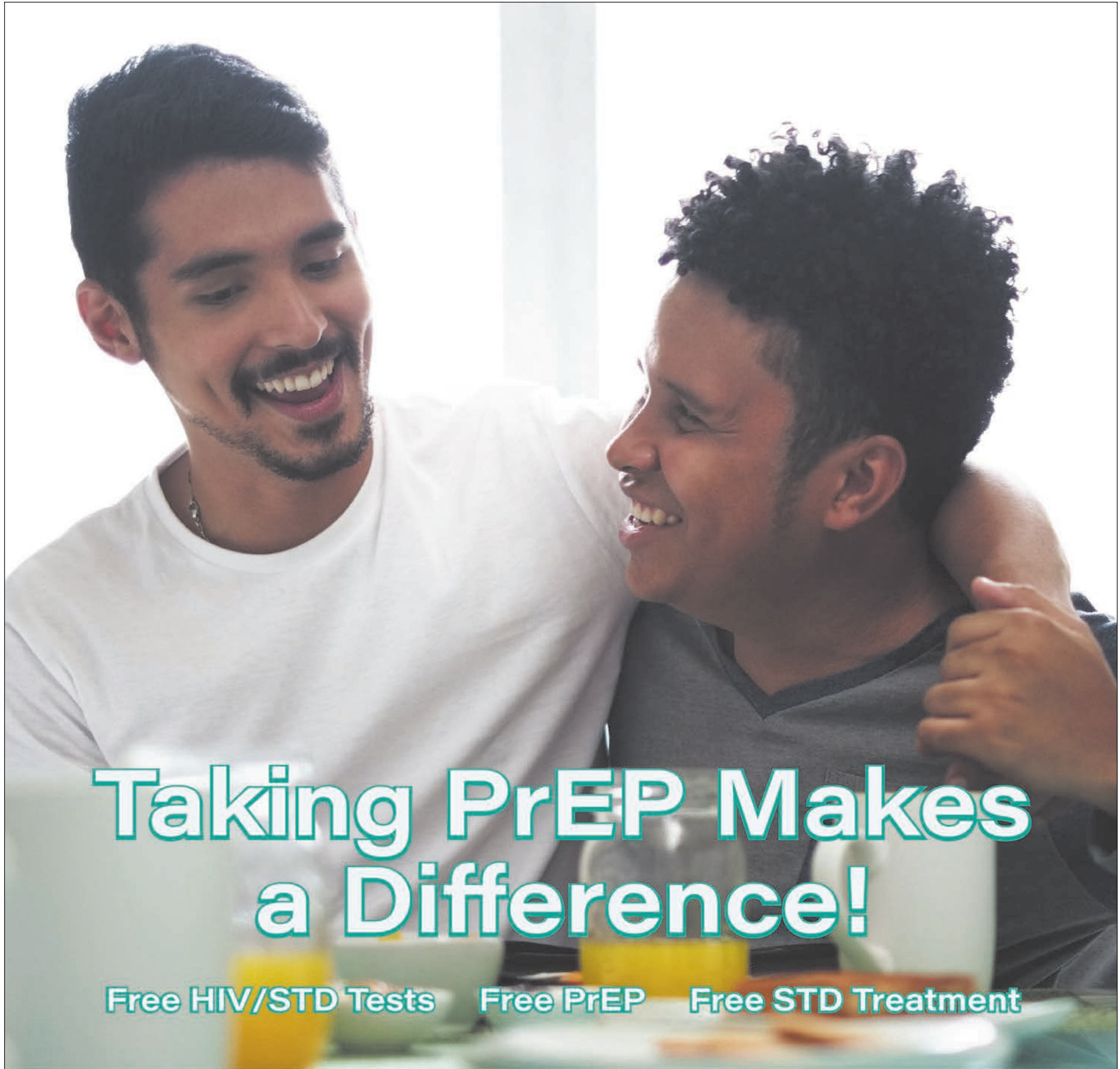


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On his own terms:

Richard Curtin's new artist life

The first time I met Richard Curtin, I was standing in line getting a sandwich at Buli. As I went to pay, I looked down at the tasty treats surrounding the register and saw a stack of CDs for sale. The CD was called *All The Lives Of Me*, and it was by an artist I did not know named Richard D. Curtin.

Each person pictured on the CD cover looked completely different from the other — a man with slicked-back long hair gathered in a ponytail wearing a tux and singing into a 1950s microphone; a trailer-park-looking drag queen; a biker who looked eerily like Meatloaf, and an average-looking guy in shorts next to his dog.

I thought to myself that it was so cool that Buli was supporting local artists and singers. What I didn't know was that the man, drag artist and artist pictured on that CD would become a prominent fig-



Brandi Amara Skyy
Queer Creatives

ure, friend and mentor in my life.

When most people hear the name Richard Curtin, they immediately think "Edna

Jean Robinson" — and vice-versa. Both names are attached to a rich drag legacy in Dallas.

Some immediately associate those names with his 16-year tenure as the Rose Room show director, or maybe with one of her kitschy songs — "Boobs for Christmas" or "Shopping." Maybe they watched Edna's Angels on a Thursday night at JR.'s. Or maybe they donated to or attended her annual *Edna Jean Trail-er Park Christmas* event benefiting Sam



Richard Curtin in his studio

Houston Elementary School that she started back in 1993.

Maybe the associations go further back, to *The Edna Jean and Pitiful Show* that ran from 1998 to 2000, or to the infamous drag queen mud wrestling.

There are so many wonderful events, shows, fundraisers, and memories that Edna is attached to.

I love and admire Richard for all of the above. But it is the one thing he has done off the stage, away from the spotlight and out of drag that inspires me the most.

In August of 2017, Richard decided to take a break from city life and move to West Texas and go back to school and get his master's degree at Sul Ross University in another art form, one that — along with singing, acting and drag — meant a lot to him: Painting.

I remember the first time I visited Richard's eclectic home. His walls were full of paintings from a variety of artists as well as his own 1991-95 HIV series, *Men and Women On The Moon*. His paintings outshone all the others. Each piece was colorful with big, bold strokes and a hint of surrealism masked as playfully distorted reality.

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They were good. His paintings now? Even better.

They tell the story of an artist who has learned how to see beyond the superficiality of his subject (and of life, really) and paint beyond those limits, the story of a raw talent that has learned how to control their gifts and make those restraints sing on the canvas.

I have not seen any of my friend's new paintings in real life, but I will finally have my chance at his first art show back in Dallas on Saturday, Nov. 23, at Cedars Open Studios.

And while I'm excited to see them all — the landscapes, the drag queen portraits of my friends and family — I have to admit, I'm most excited about seeing my own portrait.

When I sat for the photograph that would inspire his painting, I remember the energy of the room shifting when he picked up his camera. With each flash and direction, I become more and more captivated and more and more aware that I was in the presence of a great artist.

It wasn't something he or anyone else told me. It was something that I felt. If art recognizes art, then I was witnessing and experiencing first-hand the grandness, depth and scope of his artistry.

THAT was what he captured in the two-dimensional space of his painting of me — a deep respect and desire to be a better artist, because I was being photographed and painted by a great one.

And while I've seen photographs of the painting in progress, I have never experienced the finished painting in the flesh. And that's what I'm most excited about seeing.

Well, that and hugging the neck of my friend that I haven't seen in two years!

When I asked Richard what this art show is about, he said, "It's comprehensive of what I have been doing for the last three years of my life — living creatively!"

But I was even more curious to know — after knowing him only as a drag artist, singer and actor for so long — how long he had been painting?

He told me the story:

"I began to paint very early, 5-8 years old. My mother would give me cards, and I would copy the flowers on them

and make new cards for her.

"In the early '90s, AIDS was a huge influence in my early work. I started painting people living with and dying of AIDS. My first show exploring these themes was exhibited at the

Art House and Museum Gallery in Deep Ellum. It was a way for me to heal, to remember and immortalize their beauty.

"I was also giving AIDS a face that wasn't always a gay man. I painted women and straight couples. It was my therapy. It has always been my goal to retire and paint."

But it was his last sentiment that struck a resonating life/goal chord in me: "I intended to find fame and fortune and retire as the reclusive Greta Garbo and paint in my studio by the sea. I have sort of done that."

He is living his dream — a dream that, if I'm being honest with myself, has always been mine, too.

If this piece feels and reads like some kind of fangirl love letter, it is. There are very few people, let alone artists, left in this world like Richard. He is the quintessential Renaissance Man, a person who is great at many things — drag, singing, acting, comedy, painting. But he is also the kind of person that inspires us to evolve beyond our current situation, to take what could be one of the worst experiences in our lives and transform it into our greatest achievement.

Because that's exactly what he's done.

And out of all of Richard's legacy, out of the many things he has done or created, this show, in my humble opinion, is his magnum opus, his greatest show on earth thus far. Because it is the result of an artist who has seen and experienced so much life now living off the grid, giving the time, space and energy necessary to marrying all that experience, all the many mediums of art and characters that live inside him, and bringing it all to life in every brushstroke on canvas.

The result is the amalgamation of one of Dallas' most gifted multi-media artists, living creatively on his own terms. ■

Richard D. Curtin's show is happening Saturday, Nov. 23, 11 a.m. -6 p.m. at Cedars Open Studios Tour. CedarsOpenStudios.org.



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In it for the long haul



HRC's new Texas state director says the organization is dedicated to change in the Lone Star State

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

Dallas Voice: Rebecca, you recently joined HRC as the Texas state director. What's your background? Rebecca Marques: Before I came to Texas, I was a political organizer in North Carolina and Florida. While I was in Florida working one night, I saw something on Twitter about a filibuster in Texas. It was the infamous Wendy Davis filibuster, and I was hooked. Here I was, miles away in another state, following along to a fight in which I had no stake. But it was so moving. That filibuster brought me to Texas. It inspired me, seeing how many Texans were willing to show up and shake the halls of their Capitol.

Those same people who showed up by the thousands to protest this anti-abortion bill also came out to help us defeat the anti-transgender Senate Bill 6 four

years later. And they continue to show up against every discriminatory bill in the Texas legislature.

Many people like to write off Texas, but there is so much good that happens here and will happen here. I don't mind if something is hard if it's worth it — and Texas is definitely worth it.

Could you describe your role with the organization? As the Texas state director, I get to lead our efforts to advance LGBTQ rights on a local level, at the ballot box, at the state Capitol and in our communities. During the legislative session, HRC works closely with ally organizations to defeat any anti-LGBTQ legislation and promote LGBTQ equality.

We have an amazing on-the-ground team in Texas that truly reflects the diverse state we live in. In addition to staff, HRC has strong volunteer leaders in Dallas/Fort Worth, the greater Houston area, San Antonio and Austin. We'll leverage all of our support in the state to make sure Texas becomes a welcoming place for everyone.

What do you see as HRC's role in the upcoming 2020 election? What has the organization done at the grassroots level ahead of the elections? 2020 is going to be the election of a lifetime in Texas. We have a shot at creating a bipartisan, pro-equality majority in the Texas House. If Gina Ortiz Jones [in Congressional District 23] is elected, she will become the

first openly-LGBTQ member of Congress elected from Texas.

We have a real chance to make history here, and we've already begun working to make it happen. HRC has already endorsed Reps. Lizzie Fletcher and Colin Allred for re-election, along with congressional candidates Gina Ortiz Jones and state Rep. Julie Johnson.

strategy.

How do you foresee HRC's presence in Texas in 2020 and beyond? HRC has had a presence in Texas for many years. Recently, Texas became a priority state in Project One America, which means our commitment to Texas is strong and long-term. We will work very closely with our coalition and cross-movement partners as we increase our electoral and programmatic work across the state.

On a personal note, what do you do in your free time? Netflix.

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Recently, we endorsed Eliz Markowitz in the special election for Texas House District 28. Markowitz is the only pro-equality candidate in the race and is openly queer. We worked with our partners Equality Texas and Texas Freedom Network to get out the vote for Markowitz. Markowitz came in first [on Nov. 5] and made the runoff, which was a huge feat! We know that it's so important to build the support for Markowitz now, so we know that seat will flip in 2020. This will be a pivotal race if we are going to create a pro-equality majority.

What's your relationship with other LGBTQ groups in the state, like Equality Texas and, locally, with Resource Center? Do you engage in any intersectional work? We work closely alongside our state coalition partners Equality Texas, both in our legislative and electoral work. We've also been part of the "All in For Equality" coalition with partners Equality Texas, Transgender Education Network of Texas, Texas Freedom Network and the ACLU of Texas since 2017. Together, our organizations work both inside and outside the state Capitol to advance equality.

Planned Parenthood is also one of our most important partnerships. Recently in Houston, Planned Parenthood Gulf Coast launched their trans care services. We work with Planned Parenthood Texas Votes closely to coordinate on election

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Marc A. Tribble, M.D.

Donald A. Graneto, M.D.

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



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Tammye Nash Managing Editor ■ 113

Arnold Wayne Jones Executive Editor Life+Style ■ 129

David Taffet Senior Staff Writer ■ 125

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multimedia

Stephen Mobley Social Media Director ■ 123

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Brad Pritchett DVTV Host

Brandi Amara Skyy DVTV Host

Regina Lyn

circulation

Linda Depriter Circulation Director ■ 120

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■ commUNITYvoices

Not perfect, but ...

Are there issues with the Salvation Army? Yes. Does the local agency do its best for LGBTQ people? Also yes.

Within this diverse queer community, an annual holiday season tradition is being created. Mirroring retail, the push to accelerate our yuletide giving begins to surface earlier and earlier with each passing year. Here in Dallas temperatures have just dipped enough to bring us out of the heat advisories, so it's time to deck the halls and settle back for a warm winter's nap.

And as usual, 'tis the season to pass judgement on the Salvation Army's abhorrent treatment of the LGBTQ community.

Within the past five years, both the Washington Post and the Advocate have presented very reasonable views on this religious organization's efficacy in administering to the needs of homeless LGBTQ. In both articles, the accusations that the Salvation Army discriminates against us was presented, and those arguments are not without merit.

Religion and this community will always be in a convoluted relationship, with individuals that have chosen to live their lives openly and with integrity pitted against a system of belief garnered from spiritual teachings interpreted to reflect the prejudices and fear of the practitioners. No doubt, a portion of the Salvation Army's "soldiers" believe that homosexuality is a sin, and every person's natal gender assignment is sanctified by God.

So the question is, can someone who holds dear those values and beliefs truly deliver the Salvation Army's services and outreach to hungry and homeless LGBTQ? I say yes. It's possible.

It's likely that, without any supervision or training including cultural competency, these individuals probably deliver those services while being inappropriate and condescending to queer people. But that's not limited to the Salvation Army



Gary Bellomy
Contributing Columnist

all the subsequent visibility, we are subjected to such behavior daily.

This happens because companies, both big and small, do not train their employees on dealing with the LGBTQ community, and they do not monitor those employees' interactions with LGBTQ customers. Even major companies vetted by queer indexing continue to fail.

Most LGBTQ folks treat this discourtesy as if it is business as usual; yet, we take issue with the Salvation Army?

Could our persistence with this tribal tantrum directed at Salvation Army be some healthy outcry from us demanding we be shown respect? Would it not be more effective if we individually began addressing this disrespect in our own daily encounters? Companies — all companies — have to be held accountable. Venting your frustration at the errant worker serves no purpose. Demanding to speak to a supervisor and following up with calls and/or letters to the company has a positive influence.

Everything that is out there concerning the Salvation Army indicates that the organization is considering our criticism about how we are treated. That culture is adapting to the reality that we deserve dignity when accessing their services.

Can a religious organization guarantee that everyone in their employ adhere to those tenants? Not really. Religion is always the go-to for justifying poor behavior. But the Salvation Army is making it clear in all of their public declarations that the LGBTQ community is included in its mission and that they care about us. There is recent effort showing that employees are being educated and held accountable.

Like so many others, every year I used to trot out the same kind of cautionary

or any other social services agency. Still, in 2019, some 50 years after the birth of the LGBTQ civil rights movement and

advice about this organization, attempting to steer others away from donating during the holiday season. Thing is, I was wrong. At least, as far as the work being done by the Salvation Army in North Texas goes, I was wrong.

Two years ago, a former employee challenged my position on the issue after seeing my posts on social media. This individual had become a licensed counselor for battered women and worked at the Salvation Army. She invited me to meet with the local executive director, Blake Fetterman. I did, and I can tell you, Blake is the real deal. Under Blake's leadership, the Salvation Army here in Dallas provides the highest level of compassion for LGBTQ people. She claims that the national organization is catching up with the level of care offered here and that national leadership supports her entirely.

Over the years, I have worked with several good people that represented terrible organizations. Unfortunately, the good work they accomplished always evaporated when the individual left. But Blake has held her position for nearly 10 years now, which is a good sign. Every queer-affirming homeless project (like Oak Lawn Methodist Church) in the area supports Blake and the Salvation Army. Trans leadership attests that its shelter is the safest environment for trans women.

Due to its religious affiliation, Salvation Army will never be the perfect option for us as LGBTQ people. But it is the best solution we have now. And Blake and her team promise that those in our community that need Salvation Army's services will be helped.

I believe that we get lost in our own privilege sometimes when we start talking about this topic. We fail to realize that a homeless person cares far more about being dry, safe and warm than they do about our armchair political correctness. Several of us in this community have developed relationships with Blake Fetterman. I invite you to get to know her, too, and I urge you to support her work.

She is doing a stellar job protecting our most marginalized people. If we truly care about them, we must bend and work with the Salvation Army. If people cannot stretch like that, then maybe we can just silence the rhetoric while someone else helps.

Holiday Gift Guide 2019





Holiday Gift Guide 2019

BODY & FASHION



DIA DE LOS PRESENTS

A piece of jewelry, especially a ring, exudes subtext as a gift, especially during the holidays. But a skull ring from Lula B's gives you a little wiggle room — it's edgy and suggests a certain cool, but for your punk giftee or to suggest a sugar skull by way of Dia de los Muertos, this might suggest something more. Made of 925 sterling silver, this one-ounce ring makes a statement... without making a commitment.

\$65. Available at Lula B's (in the Design District and Oak Cliff) or LulaBsDallas.com.



TRAIL OF TS

Wanna know how you can really make America great again? Do your best to buy sustainable, U.S.-made products. American Backcountry puts out a collection of graphic T-shirts made using recycled materials and an environmentally-friendly dyeing process that infuses into the fabric, instead of just sitting on top of it, for endurance. And it makes sense they would care, since AB specializes in prints of national parks, trails and other outdoorsy themes, helped along by moisture-wicking technology that keeps you cool and dry even on a long hike.

\$25.99. Available at AmericanBackcountry.com.



BANGIN' BRACELET

Dallas jeweler Joe Pacetti knows quality and style when he sees it, and we can see it too in the luxurious, hand-dyed metal cuff from his collection of eye-catching accessories. The Japanese stingray leather's naturally-pebbled texture adds exotic elegance and shimmers like black pearls.

\$300. Available at JPacetti.com.



CAMO COMFORT

Oh, the weather outside is frightful, but you and your sweetie can stay warm inside — and look damn sexy doing it — in a pair of ribble camo longjohns from Addicted's Flammable Ice collection. These form-flattering tights have a soft, breathable accent running up the inside of the legs to a cushy pouch. Available in black and olive drab.

\$70. Addicted/ES Collection, 3926 Cedar Springs Road or at AddictedDallas.com.



PIECE OF CAKE

Underwear can (and should) be sexy, but why not also transform your underwear into funderwear? The Manbuns brand does just that, with hot boxer-briefs in four styles (Cheesy Burgers, Gone Bananas, Pineapple Paradise and Somewhere Over the Rainbows). Best of all, the price won't squeeze you too tight.

\$19.99. Available at Skivvies.com or MyManBuns.com.



ONESIE SINGULAR SENSATION

OK, we admit it: We love onesies, and we don't even have any toddlers. This hot fashion trend has expanded into all manner of styles, including a jaunty little reindeer that even Ralphie might proudly wear on Christmas morning. Of course, you can wear it out on The Strip or to any parties you fancy.

\$20. Available at Out of the Closet, 3920 Cedar Springs Road.



PLAYING FOOTIE

Women have long enjoyed access to thin socks with such low profiles you don't even know they are wearing them, and now Invisisox offers the same benefit to men (and women can use them, too). These footies fit comfortably over the sole, toes and instep, with rubberized portions to control slippage allowing you to wear loafers seemingly commando without chafing.

\$13.95 three pair. Available only at Invisisox.com.

CBD A-OK

Marijuana may not be legal yet in Texas, but CBD-based products sure are, and some have surprisingly useful therapeutic effects. Dr. Kerklaan makes a variety of creams and sprays to combat everything from PMS to general soreness. I can't speak to the efficacy of the PMS product, but rubbing a bit of the sleep cream on my forehead has facilitated my sleep cycle without any psychotropic interactions — just a refreshing eucalyptus and peppermint aroma to get high on.

\$40–\$68. Available at DrKerklaan.com.



THE SMELL OF TEXAS

We love all things Texas (except, sometimes, its politics), so it's no surprise we support all the clothing from Texas Standard, which is made in the Lone Star State and always arrives in a package redolent of a woody aroma. Well, they have turned that smell into the Signature Standard cologne, a fragrance for men that also contains hints of bourbon, lavender and geranium. It's a versatile, manly cologne great for day or night or any time of year ... just like the man in your life.

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HOME & MORE



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What smells better than hand-poured, all-natural candles fragrancd with high-quality scents? How about a new one every month? Vellabox is a candle subscription service that partners with many artisan chandlers from around the U.S. to curate a sensory experience, always accompanied by a small bonus gift. We love the aromas of Empathy, California “wine” candles (red and white!). Even the small one burns for 25 hours. That's a lot of nose pampering.

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Available at [Vellabox.com](#).



SHOE FETISH

What do you get the shoe-hoarder in your life who has every boot, slip-on, dock sider and Oxford on the planet? Why not a decorative set of vintage wood shoe forms from Dulce? These classic cobblers' tools are gussied up with their own acrylic heels, to give them the aura of sculpture.

\$140. Available at [Dulce Interior Consignment](#), 1208 N. Riverfront Blvd [MyDulce.com](#)



BACK FOR CHRISTMAS

It was just over a month ago that tornadoes devastated neighborhoods in North Dallas, including taking out North Haven Gardens. But the storied nursery will not be deterred. It's back the week of Thanksgiving selling poinsettias, tannenbaums and other holiday greenery. Some traditions just have a way of fighting through.

Prices vary. Available at [North Haven Gardens](#), 7700 Northaven Road or [NHG.com](#)



TAKE THAT TO THE BANK

Who says a piggy bank needs to look like a piggy? Why not, say, a poochie bank? That's exactly what the paint splatter statuettes from Interior Illusions are: Cute little coin holders with festive colors that are just as lovely as they are useful. Available in a variety of breeds... er, sizes and designs.

\$86–\$143. Available at [Outlines Men's Wear](#), 3906 Cedar Springs Road or at [OutlinesMensWear.com](#).



ALL THE MARBLES

The guys at Erdos and Ko know good design when they see it ... and when they sell it. We love tons of stuff in their World Trade Center shop, including this snazzy side table. Made of green marble with gold-leaf finish, the 15-in. diameter table stands 20 inches high and fits sharply with any decor.

\$595. Available at [Erdos and Ko](#), 2050 N. Stemmons Expressway #10014 or [ErdosAndKo.com](#).



FOOD & DRINK



CHASING A RAINBOW

In the wake of the Instagram-era, many folks like to immerse themselves in interactive pop-up exhibits, such as Dallas' Sweet Tooth Hotel or Candytopia, often posing for and snapping selfies. But it's not just big cities that have invested in such extravaganzas. Nestled off I-20 in Shreveport, La., stands Rainbow City, an enormous interactive art display that looks like a cartoon world.

This free pop-art exhibit, comprised of more than 40 colorful air-filled sculptures, will occupy Caddo Common Park, where the Shreveport Regional Arts Council recently held a Pride event within the display.

L.A.-based artists Arturo Sandoval III and Samuel Borkson spent several months planning and building the exhibit, an idea that stemmed from their desire to create an atmosphere able to unite diverse groups of people.

"Rainbow City was our vision for a communal experience," Borkson says. "It's just a welcoming, inclusive environmental installation. And doing it in Shreveport was special for us because it really nailed it home why we made that installation. And that's to bring people together."

Sandoval and Borkson first partnered in art about 18 years ago, titling their collaboration FriendsWithYou. Since then, they've fashioned works in sculpture, installation art, animation and spiritual engineering, among other media. Human connectivity often serves as a cornerstone in their works.

"When we started working together, we noticed that there was a lack of communal experiences," Sandoval says, "that culture in general had done away with a lot of the convergence points of people, which we saw as an intricate part of the human experience. We set out to almost like redesign some of those gatherings of sorts, and that's definitely one of the reasons why we created this experience."

For Rainbow City, their main goal was to evoke physical interaction between people and the exhibit, as well as connect them to others' similar experiences. Like other immersive pop-ups, visitors are encouraged to interact with sculpture pieces, and especially, each other.

"It's not so much about the actual object but it's really the space those objects contain and the people who are contained within it. And that's the real art," Sandoval says. "When we see people enjoying [our creations], then we feel like our work is actually alive."

— John Carder McClanahan

Through Dec. 8.
RainbowCityShreveport.com.



CAFE OLE!

A hot cup of coffee really hits the spot during the cold weather, but you can elevate your ordinary cuppa joe with a Cocoacino chocolate topper. Each disc of sustainably-sourced Beligan chocolate comes with a seasonal design and floats atop a frothy caffeinated cup... until the warmth of the coffee melts the disc and flavors your drink with rich cocoa flavor.

\$10 per six disc set. Available at Yelibelly.com.



TASTY ENERGY

A lot of us love energy bars for, duh, the energy... but the taste...? Often not so much. But bars from Kate's Real Food are moist, flavorful and organic-certified, made with ingredients like all-natural honey, coconut and chocolate. Among the offerings: Tiki Bar (mango and coconut), Stash Bar (hemp, flax and peanut butter) and Handle Bar (dark chocolate, almond and cherry). Each makes an ideal stocking stuffer

\$2.49/bar. Available at REI or KatesRealFood.com.

HAVE A SPRITZ

The Aperol spritz had been *the* cocktail of the last year or two, but there's no reason you have to go out to a bar to enjoy one, when you can make 'em at home with this combo pack of prosecco and the distinctive amaro liqueur. Just add ice, soda and an orange wheel to this kit from Sigel's.

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PET, KIDS & FUN



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You're out and proud — shouldn't your dog be? A rainbow collar from Doggie Den lets your pet be as Pride-tastic as a twink in a parade. Made with strong but soft nylon webbing, this printed fabric from Walk-e-Woo's is durable, being both water- and dirt-resistant. Available in S, M, L and XL.

\$22-\$25. Available at Doggie Den Dallas, 6444 E. Mockingbird Lane or DoggieDenDallas.com.



PET ART

Pets are like children, and any pet owner will appreciate some handmade primitive art courtesy of Kathy String Art. The wood, metal and string designs, each hand crafted with a unique, distressed individuality, includes a sentiment like "pawprints on my heart" or "rescued is my favorite breed." Designed to lay flat or free-stand on end.

\$13.99. Available at all area Hollywood Feed stores or HollywoodFeed.com.



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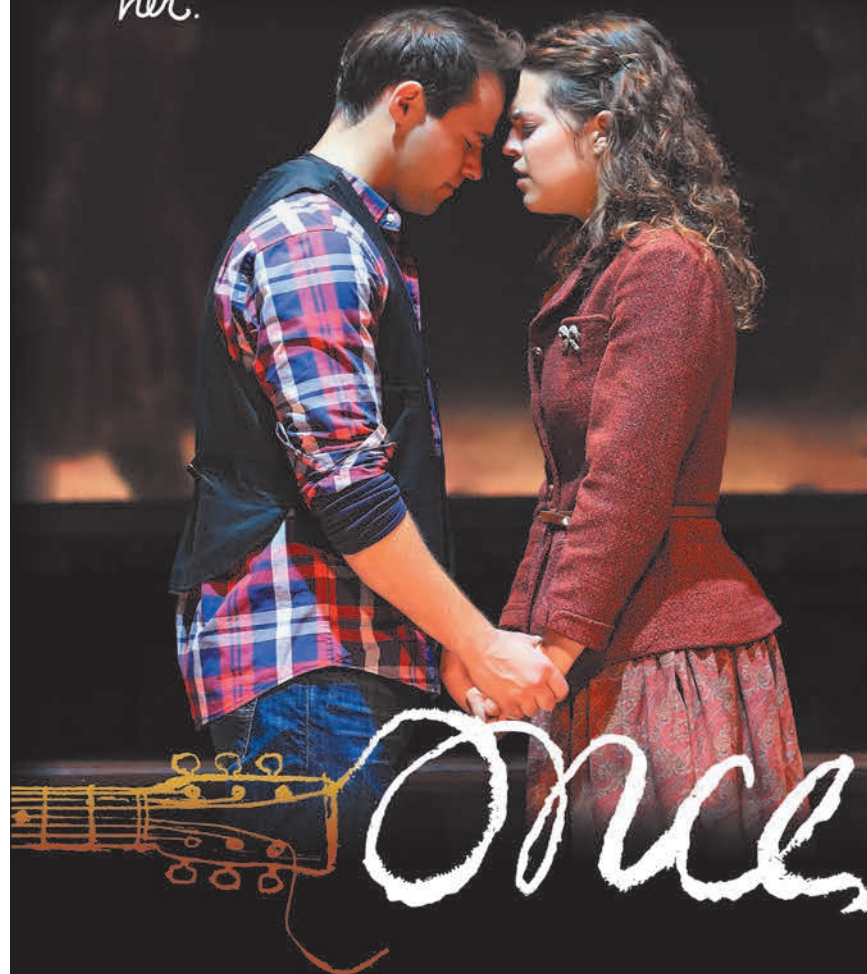
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**Tuesday 11.26 –
Sunday 12.08**

'Dear Evan' examines teenage mental illness

Dallas Summer Musicals begins its 2019–20 season with *Dear Evan Hansen*, a story about a teen's struggle to improve his

self-esteem. At the suggestion of his therapist, Evan Hansen writes a letter to himself describing the positive things he expects to happen during that day. But trouble brews after other eyes see the private letter, and a series of misunderstandings snowball. The musical, which won six Tony Awards including best musical and best score, dives into the turbulent waters of teen angst addressing subjects such as depression, anxiety and youth suicide.

DEETS: Music Hall at Fair Park, 901 First Ave. DallasSummerMusicals.org.



**Friday 11.22 –
Sunday 11.24**

Falling slowly back in love with 'Once'

The art house film *Once*, about a Dublin busker and an immigrant flower seller, was a surprise hit in 2007, even winning the Oscar for best song. But the stage musical did even better, taking eight Tonys including best musical. Set entirely in an Irish pub, it tracks the hesitant but charming relationship between the two and their friends, expressed through their dreams and music. It plays for one weekend only.

DEETS: Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. ATTPAC.org.



**Friday 11.22 –
Sunday 12.29**

Celebrate the holiday season with 'A Christmas Carol'

Charles Dickens' timeless classic returns to North Texas, courtesy of the Dallas Theater Center (as always). The crotchety loner Ebenezer Scrooge (Brandon Potter) loathes Christmas and kindness toward others. But with help from three unworldly spirits — each giving him a glimpse of his life past, future and present — Scrooge might realize the error of his ways in time to save him and Tiny Tim from a terrible fate. A cherished Dallas tradition, this production was adapted by Kevin Moriarty and directed by Joel Ferrell.

DEETS: Wily Theatre, 2400 Flora St. DallasTheaterCenter.org.

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For more gift ideas throughout the season, visit [InstanTea](http://InstanTea.com) at DallasVoice.com for suggestions up until Christmas week.



John D'Agata, co-author of the book 'Lifespan of a Fact' on which the play is based, will attend the Nov. 29 production at Stage West and host a post-show conversation.

ARTSWEEK

THEATER

A Christmas Carol. The holiday tradition, with Brandon Potter as Scrooge. Wyly Theatre, 2400 Flora St. Nov. 22–Dec. 29. DallasTheaterCenter.org.

Lifespan of a Fact. A play about the modern age of journalism, truth and artistic license. Stage West, 821 W. Vickery Blvd., Fort Worth. Through Dec. 8. StageWest.org.

Once. In a bar in Ireland, a busker and an immigrant navigate a romance. Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. Nov. 22–24. ATPAC.org.

Queen of Basel. At the high-falutin Miami art event, a privileged woman flirts with the help in a Darwinian battle of changing social mores. Hilary Bettis re-imagined Miss Julie in the Latinx world of contemporary America. Trinity River Arts Center, 2600 Stemmons Freeway. Nov. 21–Dec. 15. KitchenDogTheater.org.

The Thanksgiving Play. Undermain Theatre, 3200 Main St. Through Dec. 1. Undermain.org.

MONDAY 11.25

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 11.26

FILM

The Big Sleep. A classic film noir with Bogey. 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.

THEATER

Dear Evan Hansen. The Tony winner for best musical, about how a misunderstanding at a high school escalates. Fair Park Music Hall, 901 First Ave. Nov. 26–Dec. 8. DallasSummerMusicals.org.

**THURSDAY 11.28 —
THANKSGIVING DAY**

FRIDAY 11.29

THEATER

Noises Off. The best modern farce conceived, a behind-the-scenes look at a disastrous series of play rehearsals. Nov. 29–Dec. 22 (in previews through Dec. 1). Theatre 3, 2900 Routh St. in the Quadrangle. Theatre3Dallas.com.

DANCE

The Nutcracker. Texas Ballet Theater's annual Christmas show, Tchaikovsky's enduring holiday classic of beautiful music. Performed in both Dallas and Fort Worth. Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. Nov. 29–Dec. 8. ATPAC.org. Bass Performance Hall, 525 Commerce St., Fort Worth. Dec. 13–29. (The comic spoof *Nutty Nutcracker* is performed on Dec. 20.) BassHall.com. TexasBalletTheater.com.

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Cassie Nova

Dizzy queen —
and not in a good way

Hola peeps. Sometimes when I sit down to write this column it's easy, but sometimes I have to sit and stare at the screen until inspiration hits me. Usually I just write about whatever is going on in my life — unless, of course, I have little going on because, surprisingly enough, even though I'm a drag queen, I'm pretty boring.

But these past two weeks have been anything but boring. God, I can't wait to get back to boring. Let me explain ...

It all started about three weeks ago on a Monday evening. I was heating up some leftovers for dinner — I had made Chinese BBQ ribs for dinner a few days before and was excited to be eating them again. They were good af. So, as I was sitting down for dinner, I got a little dizzy. No big deal. It passed quickly, but I remember thinking, "That was weird."

Then later that night, while I was in the dressing room getting ready for my show at JR.'s, it happened again. I had to grab hold of my locker to keep from falling as my head spun. It lasted a little longer than the first time, but then it passed.

By then it was starting to freak me out. But the show has got to go on, so I pushed through.

During the show that night, I made jokes about me being dizzy and told everyone that if I fell out while in drag flip me over and cut my corset off by the strings. I can replace the strings, but corsets are expensive! Nervous laughter all around.

Then during my second performance, another dizzy spell hit. So I got off the stage and went to the back room. I passed the mic to Bleach and just stood there, head spinning. You remember that ride at Six Flags years ago? It was either called the Spinnaker or the Spindle Top, I don't remember. But it was a round room, like you were in a barrel, and it spun faster and faster, sticking you to the wall and then dropping the floor out from under you, so you are just stuck to the wall from the centrifugal force.

I felt like I had just gotten off of that ride, but the spinning in my head would not stop.

Then it started to affect my stomach. It started to churn as my head was spinning, so I inevitably had to hurl. I hate throwing up more than anything. I know, that's a stupid thing to say. Nobody likes to throw up.

My head was spinning; I couldn't walk without holding on to something to anchor myself, and I was throwing up. It was turning out to be a shitty night.

Luckily Sweet Mark, one of my best friends in the world, was still out. So he came backstage and walked me to the Rose Room dressing room. I knew I was leaving the show in good hands with Bleach to finish things out.

Back in the dressing room, the vomiting got worse, and so did the spinning. I had

had a few cocktails but not enough to make me sick like this. I started to think I had given myself food poisoning. I was sweating, spewing and spinning, but I had to get out of drag. It took a minute but I did it. Still, there was no way I was going to be able to drive myself home. So I left my car at work and went over to Sweet Mark's place to crash on his couch until I felt better.

Luckily, I grabbed a trash can from the dressing room, because as soon as we were in the car — RALPH! Then we got to his place ... on the third floor ... with no elevator ... and I collapsed on his couch. I called my husband and told him where I was and that I would Uber back to my car in the morning then get home as soon as I could. I laid there and tried to sleep. My friend Mark — this is why we call him Sweet — fixed me ice water, got me a cold wash rag and told me to wake him if I needed anything.

A few hours later, I woke to go to the bathroom to pee. The second I stood up the spinning returned, and I could barely walk. I knocked over anything in my path to get to the restroom, and I am sure I need to apologize to Sweet Mark and his roommate Justin, because I am positive I peed everywhere but in the toilet. I couldn't tell where I was aiming; I should have sat down to pee like the lady I pretend to be.

I laid back down, and my head continued to spin. And so did my stomach. I continued to vomit even after there was nothing left inside of me, and then I dry-heaved and hacked like I was dying. It was awful.

At about 6:30 a.m. I realized it was not stopping at all, and I really started to worry. I had Sweet Mark drive me to the emergency room at the hospital in Waxahachie, so I could be closer to home if I had to stay. I asked my husband Jamie to meet us there. I dry-heaved most of the way there, plus — you know Dallas traffic. I couldn't tell if it was minutes or hours, but that was a long ride.

Sweet Mark passed me to Jamie, and Jamie led me and my puke bucket into the emergency room.

I haven't been to the emergency room for myself since I was in the eighth grade and fell out of a tree and broke both of my arms. They got to me pretty quick this time because they thought I might have had a stroke. That is horrifying to hear. They did some kind of C/T scan, gave me fluids and



some nausea medication and did an EKG.

Eventually told me they didn't think it was a stroke but instead an inner ear infection. I was so relieved. They had me make an appointment to see a neurologist in a few days and sent me home. They told me to basically stay in bed and rest and eventually the spinning would slow down and stop.

I spent the next week doing very little. I couldn't drive; I could not walk without staggering like a drunk, and my stomach was queasy all the time. For the first five days, I couldn't even really watch TV without wanting to hurl. If you know me, you know that I watch a lot of television. I was in my own personal hell.

I hate missing work more than anything. I can't stand not knowing what is going on in my Rose Room. So on that Saturday night I tried to work. Big mistake. BIG. I got to the club, got completely painted and, 10 minutes before the show started, I started to vomit again. I thought I could push through the dizziness, and if I focused I'd be okay to work. I was wrong.

That will go down in my history as one of the worst nights ever. My head spun, and I threw up off and on until about 10 a.m. Sunday morning. It was horrible. I was hot; I was cold; I was seasick from my head spinning.

I was worthless.

The next Monday morning, I saw the neurologist. Apparently, I have something called Benign Positional Vertigo — something to do with crystals forming in the liquid in my inner ear, and when they hit sensitive areas, it makes me dizzy. I have an MRI scheduled in another week so hopefully they will know more then. It is so stupid — Cassie Nova has been taken down by being dizzy.

I have always been so independent and would rather do everything on my own, but this has humbled me. I am so thankful for my husband, my friends and my co-workers. This whole experience would have been so much worse without them.

I love being a couch potato, but being forced to be a couch potato is no bueno. Like I said, I can't wait to get back to being boring, although I will be even more thankful for every day that I get to feel normal again. The stage is my happy place, and not being there is fucking with me more than the vertigo. Hopefully I can get back to my normal soon. I will never take it for granted — ever. Every day, the spinning is slowing down more and more, but it's taking forever to stop.

Sorry for my bitch session but this is the only thing on my mind for three weeks now!

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



Salon Aura owner Darell McCurdy wants people to know the shop is open for business!

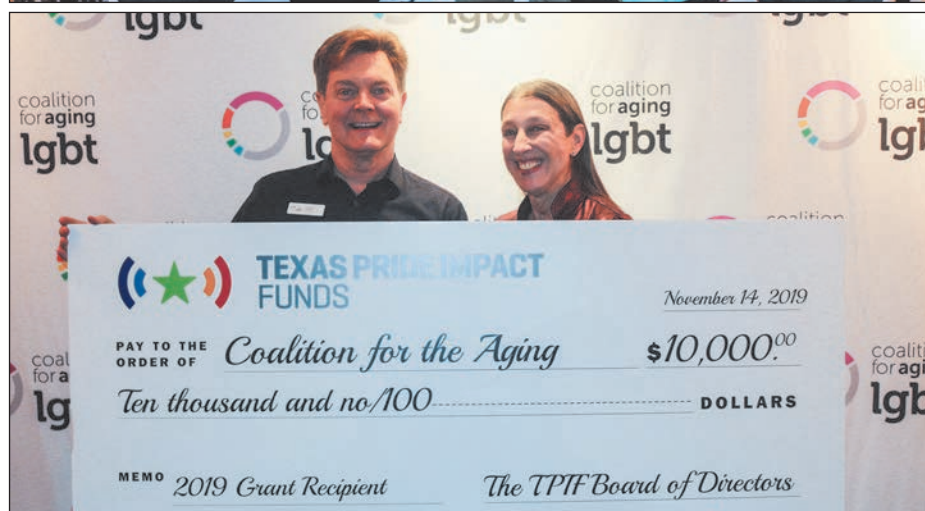
Making the SCENE the week of Nov. 22-28:

- **1851 Club:** Sapphire Davenport, Addison Foster and Mulan Alexander on Friday. Candi Carrol, Kristi Davenport and Jaden Davenport on Saturday. Tara St. Stone, Chanel St. Stone and Shelly von Miller on Sunday.
- **Alexandre's: 15-Year Anniversary** hosted by Kimberly Oliver on Friday. Chris Chism and The Band on Saturday. Wayne Smith on Sunday. K-Marie on Tuesday. Vero Voz on Wednesday. Chris Chism on Thursday.
- **Club Changes:** Miss Divine Divas Femme Fatale at 10:30 p.m. on Friday.
- **Club Reflection:** Tucker hosts Karaoke on Sunday from 9 p.m.-close.
- **Dallas Eagle:** Dallas Diablos's Third-Half Meet-Up from 2-5 p.m. on Saturday. Loaded featuring DJ Roland Belmares at 10 p.m. on Saturday. Mr. Olympus Leather from 4-8 p.m. on Sunday. Dallas Diablos Cook-Out from 5-9 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Havana: Pre-Thanksgiving Bash** with sounds by DJ Nonsense begins at 7 p.m. on Wednesday.
- **Hidden Door: United Court of the Lone Star Empire Club Night** at 7 p.m. on Wednesday.
- **JR.'s Bar & Grill: Krystal Summers or Raquel Blake** hosts *RuPaul's Drag Race UK Watch Party* at 8 p.m. on Thursday.
- **Liquid Zoo: Sapphire Davenport** hosts **Talent Night** with \$100 in prizes at 10:15 p.m. on Tuesday.
- **Magnum: El Jueves Latino** at midnight on Friday.
- **Marty's Live: Sunday Funday** with Chanel.
- **Round-Up Saloon: Oak Lawn Neighborhood Thanksgiving Celebration** from 2-6 p.m. on Thursday. *RuPaul's Drag Race UK Watch Party* at 9 p.m. on Thursday. *Lip Sync Battle* at 11 p.m. on Thursday.
- **Sue Ellen's: Chix** on Saturday. **10th annual Linda Lucky & Friends Christmas Toy Drive** benefiting Children's Health, Scottish Rite, Angel Tree and more, with live music from Barefoot Hippies and Bad Habits from 3-9 p.m. on Sunday.
- **The Rose Room: Blu Valentine and Tommie Ross** on Friday. Tommie Ross on Saturday.
- **TMC: The Mining Company: Trashy Tuesdays** at TMC.
- **Urban Cowboy: Time of the Month Drag Brunch** from noon-3 p.m. on Sunday. **Mister Texas USofA MI and Miss Texas USofA Diva Pageant** at 8 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Woody's Sports & Video Bar: Watch College Football** on Saturday afternoon.

Photos by Chad Mantoath and Nicholas Gonzalez

Coalition for Aging LGBTs' Harvesting Gratitude

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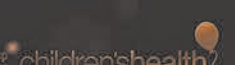
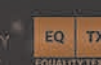


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Amber Briggie, Tracy James Jones, V Johnson, James Jackson and Stacy Monroe spoke on trans issues at Denton UU Fellowship. Photo by Kris Nikole



The men of Club Stallion



James holds down the fort at TMC

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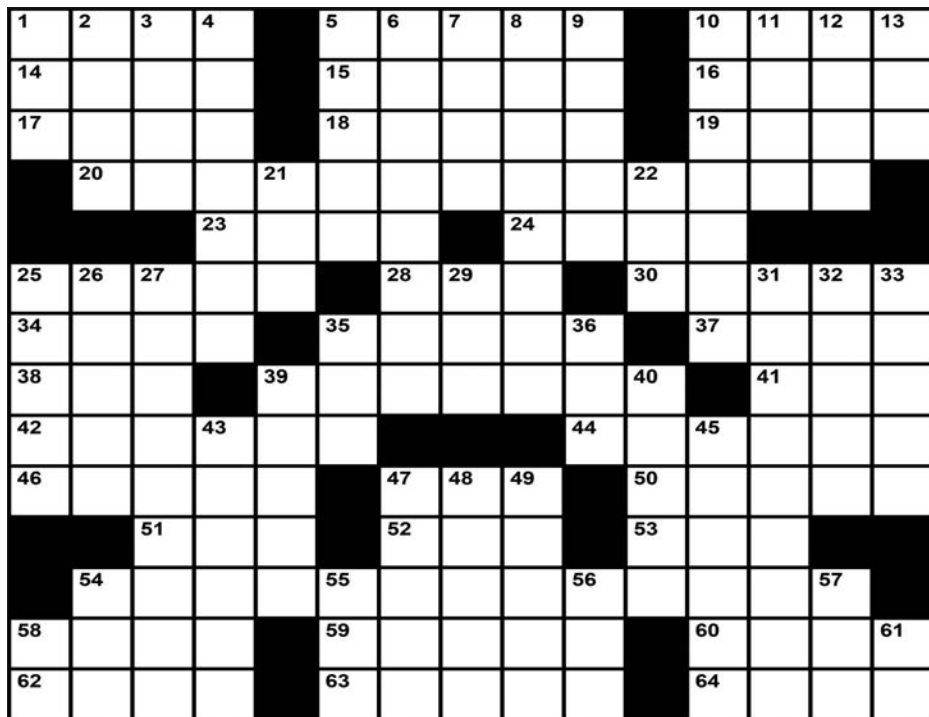
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Giant Actor



Solution on Page xx

Across

1 Traci Des Jardins, for one

5 Prodded, with "on"
10 Result of four balls
14 What "let" means to Mauresmo
15 Hit the road

16 *Lord of the Rings* singer
17 Hurler Hershiser
18 Opportunity for Glenn Burke

19 Negative word, for Gomer
20 Start of a quote
23 Head output
24 Gaza Stripper, e.g.
25 With 37-Across, source of the quote
28 Chem. pollutant
30 Rubbernecks
34 "Uh-oh!" to Shelley
35 *Robin Hood: Men in Tights*, for one
37 See 25-Across
38 Goal on a hole
39 Like Harvey Milk to Castro Street?
41 "___ was saying ..."
42 "Sure Feels Good Anyway" singer
44 Sounded like a pride of lions
46 "... to boldly go where ___ has gone before ..."
47 Chiding sound
50 "I'm all ears"
51 Big Gay ___, and others
52 Sodom suffix
53 '50s idol Hunter
54 More of the quote

58 Pasta tubes
59 Assumption of the virgin?
60 Takes to court
62 "Got it" to Ginsberg
63 Greasy spoon, e.g.
64 Phallic fishes
65 Phnom ___, Cambodia
66 Avoid going straight
67 Bites of Antony's girlfriend

Down

1 Early man's opening
2 Deli sandwich
3 *East of ___*
4 Sondheim musical
5 Make heady
6 Judy Garland song
7 Kotter portrayer Kaplan
8 She played Liane d'Exelmans in *Gigi*
9 Try to put a restraint on and narrow
11 Adult film store aisle
12 Ancient harp
13 Mary, of cosmetics
21 Meas. of a braggart?

22 Pester
25 Asian archipelago
26 You must remember this
27 *Peter Pan* cross-dresser
29 Whisper sweet nothings
31 Langston Hughes collection, with "The"
32 DeeJay Casey
33 Nastily derogatory
35 Oral input
36 Way out
39 Home for Troy Perry
40 "A ___ help you are!"
43 Dixie capital.
45 Salty tasting Asian body
47 Having a connection
48 End of the quote
49 Essential part of cornholing?
54 Baldwin staffer
55 "Livin' La ___ Loca"
56 Verb of Verlaine
57 Fox's cry
58 Get up and go
61 Sound of an inflated doll leak



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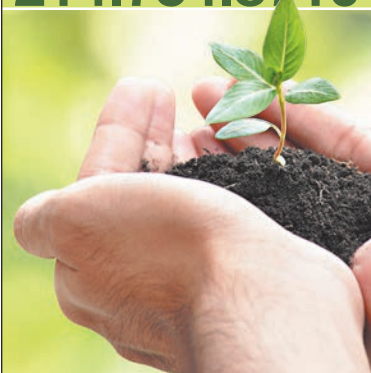
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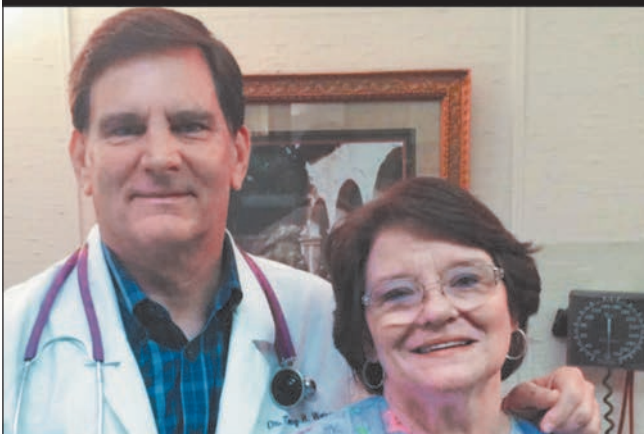
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