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- ★ **Reviews of *The Force Awakens* and more!**
- ★ **Gay filmmaker Andrew Haigh on *45 Years* and *Looking***
- ★ **Nick's big brother — Joe Jonas: The gay interview**



★ **The Hollywood Issue** ★

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Please see Brief Summary of
Patient Information with important
warnings on the following pages.

Brief Summary of Patient Information about GENVOYA

GENVOYA (jen-VOY-uh)
(elvitegravir, cobicistat, emtricitabine, and tenofovir alafenamide) tablets

Important: Ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist about medicines that should not be taken with GENVOYA.

There may be new information about GENVOYA. This information is only a summary and does not take the place of talking with your healthcare provider about your medical condition or treatment.

What is the most important information I should know about GENVOYA?

GENVOYA can cause serious side effects, including:

- **Build-up of lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis).** Lactic acidosis may happen in some people who take GENVOYA. Lactic acidosis is a serious medical emergency that can lead to death. Lactic acidosis can be hard to identify early, because the symptoms could seem like symptoms of other health problems. **Call your healthcare provider right away if you get any of the following symptoms, which could be signs of lactic acidosis:**

- feel very weak or tired
- have unusual (not normal) muscle pain
- have trouble breathing
- have stomach pain with nausea or vomiting
- feel cold, especially in your arms and legs
- feel dizzy or lightheaded
- have a fast or irregular heartbeat

- **Severe liver problems.** Severe liver problems may happen in people who take GENVOYA. In some cases, these liver problems can lead to death. Your liver may become large and you may develop fat in your liver.

Call your healthcare provider right away if you get any of the following symptoms of liver problems:

- your skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow (jaundice)
- dark “tea-colored” urine
- light-colored bowel movements (stools)
- loss of appetite for several days or longer
- nausea
- stomach pain

- **You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or severe liver problems if you are female, very overweight (obese), or have been taking GENVOYA for a long time.**

- **Worsening of Hepatitis B infection.** GENVOYA is not for use to treat chronic hepatitis B virus (HBV). If you have HBV infection and take GENVOYA, your HBV may get worse (flare-up) if you stop taking GENVOYA. A “flare-up” is when your HBV infection suddenly returns in a worse way than before.
 - Do not run out of GENVOYA. Refill your prescription or talk to your healthcare provider before your GENVOYA is all gone.
 - Do not stop taking GENVOYA without first talking to your healthcare provider.
 - If you stop taking GENVOYA, your healthcare provider will need to check your health often and do blood tests regularly for several months to check your HBV infection. Tell your healthcare provider about any new or unusual symptoms you may have after you stop taking GENVOYA.

What is GENVOYA?

GENVOYA is a prescription medicine that is used without other HIV-1 medicines to treat HIV-1 in people 12 years of age and older:

- who have not received HIV-1 medicines in the past **or**
- to replace their current HIV-1 medicines in people who have been on the same HIV-1 medicines for at least 6 months, have an amount of HIV-1 in their blood (“viral load”) that is less than 50 copies/mL, and have never failed past HIV-1 treatment

HIV-1 is the virus that causes AIDS.

GENVOYA contains the prescription medicines elvitegravir (VITEKTA®), cobicistat (TYBOST®), emtricitabine (EMTRIVA®) and tenofovir alafenamide.

It is not known if GENVOYA is safe and effective in children under 12 years of age.

When used to treat HIV-1 infection, GENVOYA may:

- Reduce the amount of HIV-1 in your blood. This is called “viral load”.
- Increase the number of CD4+ (T) cells in your blood that help fight off other infections.

Reducing the amount of HIV-1 and increasing the CD4+ (T) cells in your blood may help improve your immune system. This may reduce your risk of death or getting infections that can happen when your immune system is weak (opportunistic infections).

GENVOYA does not cure HIV-1 infection or AIDS. You must stay on continuous HIV-1 therapy to control HIV-1 infection and decrease HIV-related illnesses.

Avoid doing things that can spread HIV-1 infection to others:

- Do not share or re-use needles or other injection equipment.
- Do not share personal items that can have blood or body fluids on them, like toothbrushes and razor blades.
- Do not have any kind of sex without protection. Always practice safer sex by using a latex or polyurethane condom to lower the chance of sexual contact with semen, vaginal secretions, or blood.

Ask your healthcare provider if you have any questions about how to prevent passing HIV-1 to other people.

Who should not take GENVOYA?

Do not take GENVOYA if you also take a medicine that contains:

- alfuzosin hydrochloride (Uroxatral®)
- carbamazepine (Carbatrol®, Epitol®, Equetro®, Tegretol®, Tegretol-XR®, Teril®)
- cisapride (Propulsid®, Propulsid Quicksolv®)
- ergot-containing medicines, including: dihydroergotamine mesylate (D.H.E. 45®, Migranal®), ergotamine tartrate (Cafergot®, Migergot®, Ergostat®, Medihaler Ergotamine®, Wigraine®, Wigrettes®), and methylergonovine maleate (Ergotrate®, Methergine®)
- lovastatin (Advicor®, Altoprev®, Mevacor®)
- midazolam, when taken by mouth
- phenobarbital (Luminal®)
- phenytoin (Dilantin®, Phenytek®)
- pimozone (Orap®)
- rifampin (Rifadin®, Rifamate®, Rifater®, Rimactane®)
- sildenafil (Revatio®), when used for treating lung problems
- simvastatin (Simcor®, Vytorin®, Zocor®)
- triazolam (Halcion®)
- the herb St. John’s wort or a product that contains St. John’s wort

What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking GENVOYA?

Before taking GENVOYA, tell your healthcare provider if you:

- have liver problems including hepatitis B infection
- have kidney or bone problems
- have any other medical conditions
- are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if GENVOYA can harm your unborn baby. Tell your healthcare provider if you become pregnant while taking GENVOYA.
Pregnancy registry: there is a pregnancy registry for women who take HIV-1 medicines during pregnancy. The purpose of this registry is to collect information about the health of you and your baby. Talk with your healthcare provider about how you can take part in this registry.
- are breastfeeding or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed if you take GENVOYA.
 - You should not breastfeed if you have HIV-1 because of the risk of passing HIV-1 to your baby.
 - At least one of the medicines in GENVOYA can pass to your baby in your breast milk. It is not known if the other medicines in GENVOYA can pass into your breast milk.
 - Talk with your healthcare provider about the best way to feed your baby.

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. Other medicines may affect how GENVOYA works.

Some medicines may interact with GENVOYA. **Keep a list of your medicines and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist when you get a new medicine.**

- You can ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist for a list of medicines that interact with GENVOYA.
- Do not start a new medicine without telling your healthcare provider. Your healthcare provider can tell you if it is safe to take GENVOYA with other medicines.

How should I take GENVOYA?

- Take GENVOYA exactly as your healthcare provider tells you to take it. GENVOYA is taken by itself (not with other HIV-1 medicines) to treat HIV-1 infection.
- GENVOYA is usually taken 1 time each day.
- Take GENVOYA with food.
- If you need to take a medicine for indigestion (antacid) that contains aluminum and magnesium hydroxide or calcium carbonate during treatment with GENVOYA, take it at least 2 hours before or after you take GENVOYA.
- Do not change your dose or stop taking GENVOYA without first talking with your healthcare provider. Stay under a healthcare provider's care when taking GENVOYA.
- Do not miss a dose of GENVOYA.
- If you take too much GENVOYA, call your healthcare provider or go to the nearest hospital emergency room right away.
- When your GENVOYA supply starts to run low, get more from your healthcare provider or pharmacy. This is very important because the amount of virus in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time. The virus may develop resistance to GENVOYA and become harder to treat.

What are the possible side effects of GENVOYA?

GENVOYA may cause serious side effects, including:

- **See “What is the most important information I should know about GENVOYA?”**
- **Changes in body fat can happen in people who take HIV-1 medicine.** These changes may include increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck (“buffalo hump”), breast, and around the middle of your body (trunk). Loss of fat from the legs, arms and face may also happen. The exact cause and long-term health effects of these conditions are not known.
- **Changes in your immune system** (Immune Reconstitution Syndrome) can happen when you start taking HIV-1 medicines. Your immune system may get stronger and begin to fight infections that have been hidden in your body for a long time. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you start having any new symptoms after starting your HIV-1 medicine.
- **New or worse kidney problems, including kidney failure.** Your healthcare provider should do blood and urine tests to check your kidneys before you start and while you are taking GENVOYA. Your healthcare provider may tell you to stop taking GENVOYA if you develop new or worse kidney problems.
- **Bone problems** can happen in some people who take GENVOYA. Bone problems may include bone pain, softening or thinning (which may lead to fractures). Your healthcare provider may need to do tests to check your bones.

The most common side effect of GENVOYA is nausea.

Tell your healthcare provider if you have any side effect that bothers you or that does not go away.

- These are not all the possible side effects of GENVOYA. For more information, ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist.
- Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

General information about the safe and effective use of GENVOYA.

Medicines are sometimes prescribed for purposes other than those listed in a Patient Information leaflet. Do not use GENVOYA for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not give GENVOYA to other people, even if they have the same symptoms you have. It may harm them.

This Brief Summary summarizes the most important information about GENVOYA. If you would like more information, talk with your healthcare provider. You can ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist for information about GENVOYA that is written for health professionals.

For more information, call **1-800-445-3235** or go to **www.GENVOYA.com**.

Keep GENVOYA and all medicines out of reach of children.

Issued: November 2015

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16



20



24

headlines

■ TEXAS NEWS

- 12 Out LGBT candidates file to run
- 14 Mesquite ordinance protects LGBTs
- 16 Susan Hawk addresses hate crimes

■ LIFE+STYLE

- 20 Best movies of the holiday season
- 24 Joe Jonas on gay clubbing and more
- 26 Andrew Haigh is *Looking* back

■ ON THE COVER

A long time ago, the gayest couple in a galaxy far, far away
Cover design by Craig Tuggle.

departments

- | | | | |
|----|------------------|----|-------------|
| 10 | The Gay Agenda | 31 | Calendar |
| 12 | News | 35 | Jenny Block |
| 18 | Community Voices | 36 | Scene |
| 20 | Life+Style | 40 | Classifieds |

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A fire damaged Trinity MCC this week, but services will be held Sunday.

Small fire creates big hassle for Trinity MCC

A fire at Trinity Metropolitan Community Church in Grand Prairie may not have damaged much, but it caused a lot of problems for the LGBT-affirming church ahead of a busy Christmas season.

The Rev. Curtis Smith, pastor of Trinity MCC, believes a candle inadvertently left aflame from the Sunday worship service was the cause of the fire. It damaged a display table, surrounding furnishings and room in the space they lease.

Insurance will cover the structural damage and loss of those furnishings but the deductible and other incidentals will need to be met.

The damage will not prevent the congregation from worshiping this coming Sunday, however.

They will meet in the parking lot for worship at the normal time. Bring your own lawn chairs. An alternative location has been reserved if the weather is bad outside.

"Your prayers and attendance at this week's worship service will be the biggest help, but we would also appreciate any donation you make to our Building Fund to cover our deductible and other incidentals we will likely incur," Smith said.

Trinity Metropolitan Community Church is located at 933 East Avenue J in Grand Prairie. For more information visit TrinityMCC.org.

— James Russell

Drug company extortionist Martin Shkreli arrested

Martin Shkreli, the former hedge fund manager who bought the drug company that pro-

duced Daraprim, a life-saving AIDS medication, and jacked up the price of the drug from \$13.50 per pill to \$750, has been arrested on securities fraud charges.

The charges are unrelated to the manipulation of drug prices, but are instead tied to a former drug firm he headed and his former hedge fund. Federal investigators charged him with taking company stock and using proceeds to pay off unrelated personal debts, calling what he did a shell game. Shkreli denies the charges.

After Shkreli raised the price of Daraprim, which treats toxoplasmosis, by 5,000 percent, he promised to cut the increase in half. Then he reneged. When Hillary Clinton tried to intervene, he dismissed her attempts with a tweet: "LoL," he wrote.

— David Taffet

Resource Center's Cece Cox receives distinguished alumni award from SMU Law

There's no doubt Resource Center CEO Cece Cox does a lot for the Dallas-Fort Worth LGBT community. So it may come as no surprise being awarded for it.

Today the SMU Dedman School of Law announced Cox is the 2016 recipient of its Distinguished Alumni Award for Public Service.

"Congratulations to Cece Cox for being named the 2016 distinguished alumna for public service. She is a great alum. We're thrilled she's being honored," said Lynn Dempsey, spokesperson for the law school.

Cox, who graduated in 2004, said she was humbled and honored by the recognition.

"The law degree and legal education have been very helpful," Cox said.

She credits mentors and friends like Rebecca Garza Greenan, who was the director of the school's Public Interest Program and now serves as assistant dean of students at UNT's College of Law, associate professor of law and sponsor of the LGBT law student group Bill Bridge and senior associate dean for academic affairs and Richard E. Lee Endowed Professor of Law Elizabeth Thornburg.

Cox is also excited for another reason.

"My mom and dad are coming. I'm super excited," she said.

Cox will receive the award on Feb. 4, 2016.

— James Russell

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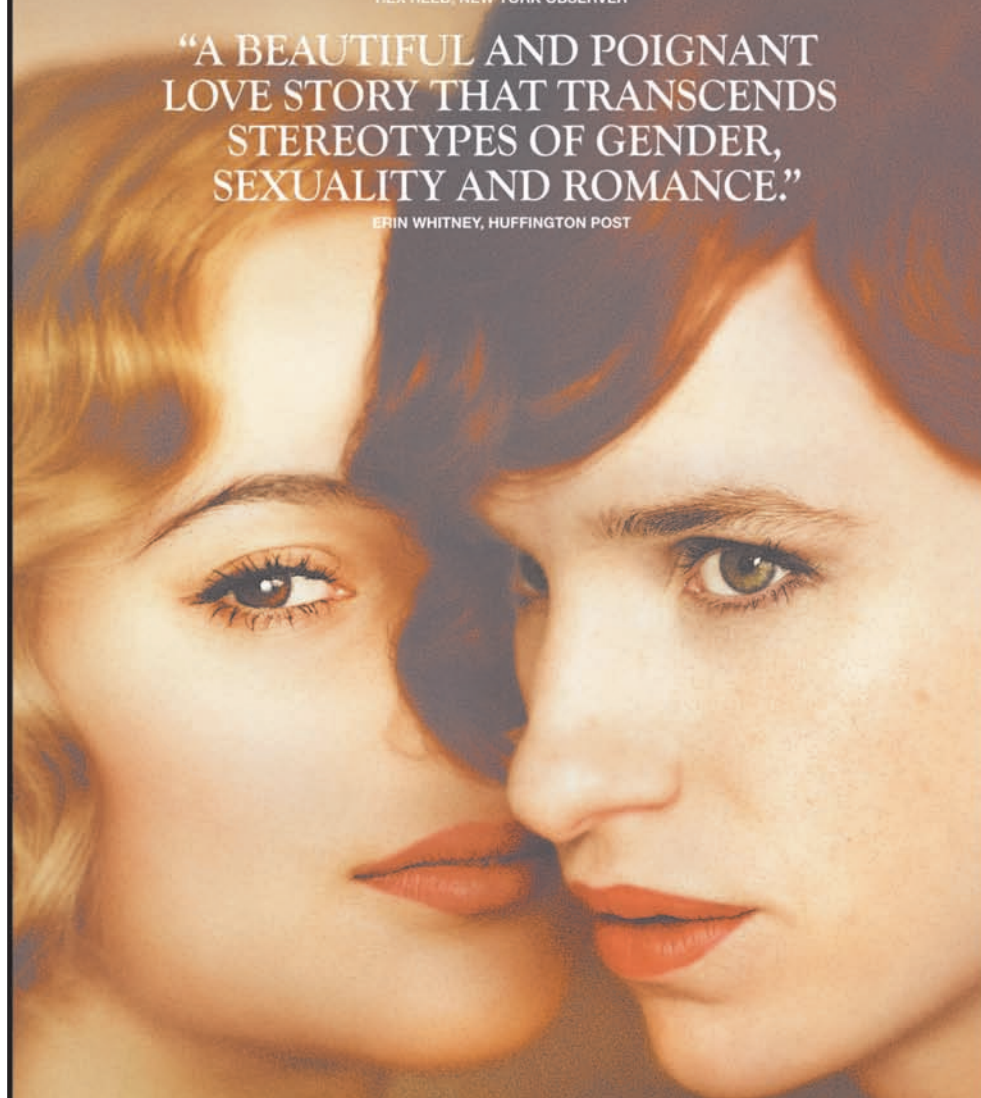


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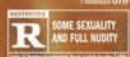


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Obituaries

Donald Groves

Donald Groves, 77, died Sunday, Dec. 6, at home in Dallas after a long battle with dementia and esophageal cancer.



He was born on Dec. 21, 1937 to Ross and Elvina Groves in Viroqua, Wis., where he acquired his small-town values of love of life and caring for your neighbor. Groves spent his early academic years in a one-room schoolhouse, attended Lutheran College, spent two years playing French horn in the United States Army band, and started a long career in the automotive business at Humphrey Chevrolet in Milwaukee, Wis. He later went to work for General Motors in Detroit and traveled across the country as an automotive accountant before being transferred to Dallas.

He enjoyed making and keeping many friends wherever he worked before retiring. Friends referred to him as Pied Piper or Auntie Mame because of his generosity, kindness and warmth. Whether he was making new friends wherever he visited or rolling coins for the Salvation Army at Christmas, there was never a doubt that any family member, friend or stranger would go overlooked or without.

When he was not working, Groves enjoyed dining out and attending theater and the opera in Santa Fe, N.M. He supported the United States Olympics, the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and the Associates of the Restored Temple Theatre, in Viroqua, Wisc.

His parents, Ross and Elvina, his sister Betty Heltne and his brother Phil, preceded him in death. He is survived by his husband and partner of nearly 50 years, Jay Stankiewicz, his loving sister Rachel Lehmann and her husband Ed, his sister-in-law, JoAnn and nine nephews and nieces. His smile, the sound of his voice and the music he made will forever be missed.

Larry (Laverne) Don Symns

Larry (Laverne) Don Symns, 73, died Nov. 6 in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. He was born in Dallas on June 22, 1942.

Laverne was a very kind and happy person. He came out in Dallas in the early 1970s and made many long lasting friendships too numerous to mention. He blessed us with his presence for 73 joyous years. All who knew him will miss his smile, laugh and genuine friendship. His friends will always love him.



pet of the week / TIPPY

Tippy is a four-month-old golden shepard and weigh 29 pounds. I'm a puppy with energy to spare! I can sometimes get too excited when it comes to play, and need to continue working on my manners so that I'll grow into a responsible adult dog. I'm very smart though, and will benefit from continued training. Come play with me.

Other pets are available for adoption from Operation Kindness, 3201 Earhart Drive, Carrollton. The no-kill shelter is open six days: Monday, 3-8 p.m.; closed Tuesday; Wednesday, 3-8 p.m.; Thursday, noon-8 p.m.; Friday, noon-5 p.m.; Saturday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; and Sunday, noon-5 p.m. The cost is \$110 for cats, \$135 for kittens, \$150 for dogs over 1 year, and \$175 for puppies. The cost includes the spay/neuter surgery, microchipping, vaccinations, heartworm test for dogs, leukemia and FIV test for cats, and more. Those who adopt two pets at the same time receive a \$20 discount.



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THE GAY AGENDA

Have an event coming up? Email your information to staff writer James Russell at russell@dallasvoice.com by Thursday at 10 a.m. for that week's issue.

DECEMBER

• **Weekly: Lambda Weekly** every Sunday at 1 p.m. on 89.3 KNON-FM. This week, horror film festival winners and an open house. Bring a toy by the studio and watch the show; **United Black Ellument** hosts discussion on HIV/AIDS in the black community at 7 p.m. every second Tuesday of the month at 3116 Commerce St., Suite C; **Fuse** game night every Monday evening but the last of the month at 8 p.m. at the Fuse space in the ilume, 4123 Cedar Springs Road, Apt 2367; **Fuse Connect** every Wednesday from 7 p.m. at the Fuse Space. For more information call or e-mail Ruben Ramirez at 214-540-4500 or rramirez@myresourcecenter.org.

• **Through Dec. 19: Team Friendly DFW's Warm Hearts, Warm People Coat Drive** New HIV/AIDS awareness group hosts a holiday coat drive benefitting Youth First, Legacy Counseling Center, Trinity MCC in Arlington and The Cenikor Foundation in Fort Worth. Drop locations include Dallas Eagle, Cedar Springs Tap House, Trinity MCC and Legacy Counseling Center. For more information or to donate visit TeamFriendlyDFW.org.

• **Dec. 18-20: Turtle Creek Chorale presents Home** The Turtle Creek Chorale's annual Christmas concert. City Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St.

Thurs.-Sat. At 7:30 p.m. Sun. at 2:30 p.m. Tickets at TurtleCreekChorale.com.

• **Dec. 19: GEAR holiday mixer** Refreshments and heavy hors d'oeuvres will be served. Young trans adults ages 18+ from Youth First's Gender Identity group will be invited, so no alcohol will be served. 6-8 p.m. at Youth First, 3918 Harry Hines.

• **Dec. 19: Winter Solstice Celebration** Labyryth Walk Coffee House presents music, dance, storytelling, wild bird exhibition and more from 6-9:30 p.m. at Unitarian Universalist Church of Oak Cliff, 3839 W. Kiest Blvd. Free.

• **Dec. 20: Tarrant County Gay Pride Week Association Meeting** Tarrant County Pride's monthly meeting at 3 p.m. at the Barron House at Celebration Community Church, 908 Pennsylvania Ave., Fort Worth.

• **Dec. 20: TAG (Tyler Area Gays) Sunday** Brunch moves to The Corner Bakery, 3306 Troup Highway in Tyler, beginning at 11 a.m. For information call 903-312-2081, email info@tylerareagays.com or visit TylerAreaGays.com.

• **Dec. 24: The Group** Support group for black men who have sex with men living with HIV meets every second and fourth Thursday of the month from 7-9 p.m. at a private location. For more information call 214-455-7316.

• **Dec. 24: Christmas Eve service** 5 p.m. and 11 p.m. at Northaven United Methodist Church, 11211 Preston Road.

• **Dec. 24: Christmas Eve service** 7 p.m. bilingual and 9 p.m. and 11 p.m. English service at Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road.

• **Dec. 24: Christmas Eve candlelight service** 11 p.m. At Celebration Community Church, 908 Pennsylvania Ave., Fort Worth.

• **Dec. 24: Chinese food and a movie** Congregation Beth El Binah goes out for a traditional Jewish Christmas Eve dinner at Thairrific. OK, so it's not quite Chinese food. 7 p.m. 4000 Cedar Springs Road, Suite E.

• **Dec. 31: Two Corks and a Bottle** Two Corks and a Bottle, 2800 Routh St., Ste. 140, hosts a New Year's Eve party, 8 p.m.-1 a.m., with complimentary party favors, a potluck meal and complimentary toast at midnight. Live music with Mary Lee on guitar. For more information call 214-871-WINE or visit TwoCorksAndABottle.com.

• **Dec. 31: New Year's Eve at The Grapevine Bar** The Grapevine Bar, 3902 Maple Ave., hosts its Retro New Year's Eve Party, beginning at 7 p.m., with special guest DJ Christopher J from Los Angeles, and Berlin, featuring Terri Nunn. Cover is \$1. For information visit TheGrapevineBar.com.

JANUARY

• **Jan. 12: SOS-Survivors Offering Support** Survivors of violent criminal attacks meet in a support group. 7 p.m. at Resource Center, 2701 Reagan St.

• **Jan. 15: Little Black Dress preview party** Designers for the 10th annual Fashion CITED show are having an LBD competition to see whose dress is best. Complimentary valet, food and drinks. Benefits Legal Hospice of Texas. 6:30-9 p.m. at Park Place Volvo, 3515 Inwood Road.

• **Jan. 17: The Wedding Workshop: An LGBT Community Event** Three-hour workshop features wedding industry experts to create a personal action plan for couples' wedding day from 1-5 p.m. at Renaissance Dallas Hotel, 2222 Stemmons Fwy. Sponsored by Dallas Voice. Free. To register and for more information visit LGBTWeddingWorkshop.com.

• **Jan. 22: Our Bodies Our Lives 2016** Reproductive rights continue under attack. Dale Hansen and Amy Vanderloef appear from 6-8 p.m. DJ Jonathan Graham spins for a dance party from 8-10 p.m. Seven for Parties, 150 Turtle Creek Blvd. RSVP on the group's Facebook page.

FEBRUARY

• **Feb. 6: Dash for the Beads** Mardi Gras festival with 5K fun run, one mile walk, costume contest, beer garden with live music. 9:30 a.m. at Kidd Springs Park, 711 W. Canty St.



Dallas activist Michael Robinson last weekend delivered a donation of canned goods collected in Dallas to the Tyler Area Gays organization in Tyler to help with the East Texas group's annual Holiday Canned Food Drive. Lee Daugherty, owner of Alexandre's bar on Cedar Springs, helped coordinate the donations in Dallas. On Sunday, TAG holds its Sunday Brunch at The Corner Bakery.



Filing ends for March primaries

Numerous LGBT candidates file for office up and down the ballot

JAMES RUSSELL | Staff Writer
russell@dallasvoice.com

The deadline for individuals to appear on the March 1 primary election ballot ended Monday, Dec. 14.

Now the race to March 1 begins.

That's when primaries for the two main parties, Democrats and Republicans, take place. (The Green and Libertarian parties both hold their nominating conventions later in the year.)

While many political junkies have their eyes on the presidential race, plenty of other offices are up for grabs, too. That includes all Congressional seats and state house seats, as well as other statewide offices, such as the office of railroad commissioner where Republican incumbent David Porter withdrew at the last minute.

Numerous state senate seats and state board of education seats are up for grabs as well.

In Harris County alone, seven LGBT candidates are vying for offices ranging from Congress to county commissioner. Pat Bryan is an out gay man running against incumbent Republican Rep. Ted Poe, a rabidly anti-LGBT legislator.

Bryan, in an e-mail to the Houston Chronicle, described himself as the "gay, recovering alcoholic, ex-convict with Asperger's syndrome running for Congress to defeat Ted Poe in the Texas Second Congressional District. So you can

see I do not have many secrets."

Jennifer Rene Pool, who is transgender, is vying for a seat on the Harris County Commissioners Court. She previously was a candidate for Houston City Council.

Down the ballot, voters will decide contested races for county commissioner, treasurer and a number of judicial seats as well.

Given Texas' deeply Republican tilt, the balance of power may not change. But another shift is occurring for sure: the number of out lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender candidates vying for office is increasing. An informal count of out candidates this cycle is near 20.

That includes two incumbent Democratic state legislators, Reps. Mary Gonzalez of El Paso and Celia Israel of Austin. Gonzalez is running for her third term and faces a primary opponent. Israel, who is running for her second full term, is unopposed in her primary but will have a Republican challenger.

Additionally, two out candidates are running for open state house seats. Democrat Ruby Resendez, the former director of the San Antonio LGBT Chamber of Commerce, is running for an open San Antonio House seat being vacated by Rep. Trey Martinez Fischer, who is running for Senate.

Huey Rey Fischer (no relation to Rep. Fischer) is running to replace retiring Rep. Elliot Naishtat, a longtime representative who withdrew his candidacy and announced his re-

tirement on Friday, Dec. 11.

Fischer, who identifies as queer, is the son of an undocumented immigrant who has been actively involved in Democratic politics and is a former legislative staff member. He cites former state Rep. Glen Maxey, an out gay Austin Democrat, as a model legislator.

If elected, Fischer would be the youngest member of the Texas Legislature and the third out member in the chamber along with Israel and Gonzalez.

"I'm not only looking to fill Naishtat's shoes but to keep pushing the ball on progressive causes. I'm going in with all my heart," Fischer said.

Those progressive causes include LGBT issues.

"We need to give communities the flexibility to enact nondiscrimination ordinances and end employment discrimination. We need to tackle violence targeting the LGBT community. We need to tackle LGBT youth homelessness. We have [to try to] end gay conversion therapies," Fischer said. "Marriage equality was a huge step for LGBT equality, but we can't forget other issues."

He sounds just as passionate about other progressive issues as well like increasing the minimum wage, lifting restrictions on access to abortion and make college more affordable.

"I come from a working class background. My mom is undocumented. At the end of the day poverty is at the core of



Huey Rey Fischer



Rep. Mary Gonzalez



Ryan Minyard



Dallas Sheriff Lupe Valdez is seeking a fourth term.

every single issue, like racism and classism. We need more people who get what it means to take care of working class Texans."

The race may be packed with viable candidates, but Fischer's not going negative.

Fischer, who served as president of the University of Texas at Austin chapter of the University Democrats, is confident he will win the packed March primary, the main battle in this solidly Democratic district.

"I'm excited about the race," Fischer said. "It's gonna be fun. I'm gonna stay positive."

In Dallas County, out lesbian Sheriff Lupe Valdez is running for re-election. She is unopposed in the Democratic primary but will face one of three Republicans in the November general election.

And in a last minute twist, incumbent County Commissioner Theresa Daniel will face first-time candidate and out gay man Ryan Minyard.

Minyard, who is 28 and an Alabama native, filed 30 minutes before the filing deadline at Dallas County Democratic Party Headquarters.

Before moving to Dallas a few years ago, he

mulled a bid for county commissioner in Alabama, where he is from.

"I looked at running [in Alabama] but was bullied out of it," Minyard said. "I told myself never again."

But of all races, why county commissioner?

"There are not a lot of things you can do. It's not necessarily about policy but administration," Minyard said. "I've seen people abused in the county and not know where to go. I want to see the court have an open door policy where people express their concerns in an open forum."

Running as an openly gay man certainly means Minyard would advocate for the LGBT community, but he would support other issues, too.

"Dallas County may be Democratic and have a lot of accepting people, but it still matters I'm gay," Minyard said. "There are still people who are anti-gay here. It shouldn't have a huge impact when it comes to how things are done. If my orientation has a positive impact, then good. If it has a negative impact, so be it. I'm gay, but I'm also so much more." ■

Openly LGBT Candidates

Dallas County

Sheriff Lupe Valdez, *Democrat*

Ryan Minyard, *Democratic candidate challenging County Commissioner Theresa Daniel*

Harris County

Dakota Carter, *State Board of Education, District 6*

Randy Roll, *Harris County District Judge, 179th Judicial District*

Josh Verde, *Harris County 215th Judicial District*

Daryl Moore, *Harris County 333rd Judicial District*

Kim Ogg, *Harris County District Attorney*

Jenifer Rene Pool, *Harris County Commissioner, Precinct 3*

Pat Bryan, *Democrat challenging incumbent Congressman Ted Poe*

Elsewhere

State Rep. Celia Israel, *Democrat from Austin*

State Rep. Mary Gonzalez, *Democrat from El Paso*

Huey Rey Fischer, *Democrat running for open Austin House seat*

Ruby Resendez, *Democrat running for open San Antonio House seat*

Pat Bryan, *Democrat challenging incumbent Congressman Ted Poe*

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Mesquite passes nondiscrimination ordinance



Rafael McDonnell

Dallas suburb only protects LGBT employees from discrimination

JAMES RUSSELL | Staff Writer
russell@dallasvoice.com

It passed with little fanfare, but it is official: the city of Mesquite now protects LGBT applicants and employees from discrimination.

But getting that information was quite a struggle for Rafael McDonnell, advocacy and communications manager for Resource Center.

He didn't even know when it passed.

"Something happened, it's just not clear what or when," McDonnell said of the Mesquite council's vote.

After reading a Dallas Morning News article in June noting that Mesquite was one of many Dallas suburbs considering extending employment protections, McDonnell asked the city for clarification, according to e-mails he provided to Dallas Voice.

But he hit a dead end.

Rick French, director of human resources

and civil service for Mesquite, told McDonnell in an email, "It is my understanding that you have communicated with the city of Mesquite to assist with our non-discrimination policy. The city of Mesquite recently completed an open request for proposals to secure the services of legal counsel that specialize in employment law. As a result of that process we entered into an agreement with the firm providing the optimal proposal. We believe we have this matter sufficiently addressed and we appreciate your interest in the city of Mesquite."

McDonnell said he was confused by city officials' failure to release information on the ordinance and by their failure to reach out to the LGBT community for help.

"The guy could've just Googled us," McDonnell said.

On Friday, Dec. 11, McDonnell checked with French again.

Did Mesquite approve the change to the city's nondiscrimination policy? Did he have a copy of the proposed ordinance?

Yes, French wrote. A law firm chosen through a request for proposal process worked with the city attorney's office to draft and implement a proposal.

Wayne Larson, manager of communica-

tions and marketing for the city of Mesquite, was able to produce the ordinance when Dallas Voice requested it, although it took some digging, and some clarification between both parties.

The city's ordinance protects applicants and recruits from discrimination based on a variety of classes, including sexual orientation and sexual identity.

After reading the ordinance, McDonnell, had both criticism and praise for it.

"It's always good when a city adds nondiscrimination protections," McDonnell said. "It shows the organization is doing the right thing."

But when it came to the language, and the phrase "sexual identity" in particular, McDonnell had reservations: "I'm concerned the language they used is imprecise at best and inaccurate at worst."

The city also should have asked the LGBT community to contribute as well, adding that his interaction with city officials rubbed him the wrong way.

"The letters reflect poorly on the customer service. No one should get a response that dismissive," he said, referring to French's email to him. "I'm concerned about their LGBT employees, given the dismissiveness." ■

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Hawk: Oak Lawn attacks are 'personal'

D.A. addresses concerns about prosecuting attacks as hate crimes

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

In a Monday night, Dec. 14, meeting at Cathedral of Hope, Dallas County District Attorney Susan Hawk addressed a crowd already jittery from a series of attacks in the neighborhood and frustrated by a recent meeting with representatives of the FBI and Department of Justice who refused to address ongoing investigations.

But Hawk's approach was different. She said she lived on Rawlins Street at Wycliff Avenue and had always felt safe in her community — until someone was attacked two blocks down Rawlins, where, she said, she walked her dog every night.

Because of that, she said, the attacks are very personal to her. "This concerns me too," Hawk

said. "I walk by there every single day."

While the D.A.'s office can't investigate crimes or make arrests, Hawk said if police make an arrest and give her evidence that allows her office to pursue hate crime charges, she definitely will.

To make the point that her office is serious about the Oak Lawn attacks, Hawk brought with her more than 15 assistant district attorneys and investigators.

Police officials at the meeting wanted to make the community knows Dallas PD is investigating recent attacks while providing as much protection in the neighborhood as possible. Northeast Patrol Division Chief Katrina Shedd attended the meeting with more than 10 officers and detectives.

Sheriff Lupe Valdez also attended, bringing with her four members of her staff.

Hawk said that while there's little her office can do to help police other than assure them she plans to prosecute these cases when a suspect is caught, she does want the police and the community to know her office is concerned.

"We talk about these cases on a daily basis," she said.

D.A. Susan Hawk said every day she walked her dog near the spot where a gay man was attacked.
(David Taffet/Dallas Voice)



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She also made a promise to the community: "If an individual targets a group because of who they are, I promise you [this] office will prosecute to the fullest extent of the law."

Randy Blankenbaker, assistant chief with DPD's Northwest Patrol Division, updated those attending on the investigation, saying there's no evidence at this time indicating the recent attacks in Oak Lawn are gang-related. He also said police have tried tracing phones, which have been the only items stolen in several cases, but that hasn't turned up any leads.

"We've done all those things and more," Blankenbaker said.

He also addressed what he described as the appearance of an initially slow response by police. Before police saw the attacks as related, he said, several more took place. Then, as police started investigating, they connected the more recent attacks with several other incidents that took place before the attack on the day of the Alan Ross Texas Freedom Parade, the incident that first began focusing attention on the situation.

Hawk also said she understands the damage that simply throwing out crime statistics can do to victims.

"The crime rate's down," she said. "Victims don't want to hear that."

Burke Burnett, a survivor of an anti-gay hate crime in Paris, Texas several years ago, said he appreciated the D.A.'s approach.

"A victim wants to hear what's being done on his case," Burnett said. "They want to see justice done."

Instead of focusing just on the current cases,



Burke Burnett



Dallas P.D. Asst. Chief Randy Blankenbaker

Hawk discussed how to lower the crime rate "looking down the road."

As a former judge, Hawk said, she's witnessed first hand that mass incarceration doesn't work.

She said when young, first-time offenders are put into prison where they are surrounded by felons, they learn more criminal behaviors. Once they get out, they won't be able to work, will always require government assistance and will live in poverty.

"What if we take a fraction of the money we spend prosecuting and incarcerating, and put

them back on track?" Hawk suggested.

She said she's started a one-year program for these young, non-violent, first-time offenders. If they graduate from the program, their record will be expunged.

In the only reference Hawk made to her own bout with depression last summer, she said she's started a similar program for non-violent offenders suffering from mental illness.

"I know first-hand how an untreated mental issue can affect your life," she said. "I believe getting well is a right every person should have."

Reseachers with the University of North Texas previously studied outcomes from a similar group Hawk had instituted as a judge. They found that highest-risk offenders who went through Hawk's program had a 70 percent lower rate of recidivism, compared to similar offenders not in the program.

Jesse Tafalla asked about victims or witnesses having to show identification when reporting crimes or appearing in court. Hawk said no one in the D.A.'s office would ask for documents before interviewing a victim or witness or before bringing them into court to testify. Police representatives attending the meeting all agreed they never ask for documents, but only want crimes to be reported and witnesses to come forward.

When asked about other crimes, Hawk stayed on the topic of hate crimes. Rafael McDonnell, Resource Center communications and advocacy manager, pressed Hawk on the probation given to the murderer of Janette Tovar, a trans woman. Hawk answered that the case involved domestic violence.

Although Hawk's office has met with representatives of the trans community to explain the plea, McDonnell said his question was more to give Hawk the opportunity to address the community.

Overall, his impression of the meeting was positive.

"She wants to do right by the LGBT community," McDonnell said. "This meeting was a downpayment to further engagement."

McDonnell said he invited her to tour Resource Center and hopes she'll find time sometime in January.



Left to right Annamia Santamaria, CMA, Adean Kingston, MD, Tiffany DeAppolonio, RN, Morgan Hendricks

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■ commUNITY voices

Who is radicalizing the terrorists?

After the Dec. 2 terrorist attack in San Bernardino, the press and others are looking to find a moment when the two shooters were “radicalized.”

We look for someone to blame for their actions, as if they were inoculated with the Terrorist Virus. Perhaps there was an imam at a mosque that preached hatred of Americans and they were so moved by his speech that they decided to go out and build pipe bombs and start arming themselves.

So what does this have to do with us? (By “us,” I mean LGBTQ Americans.) Probably not much, yet we live under threat of terror against our community every day.

Take the lovely woman in Pennsylvania, Kathryn Knott, who is shown on tape bashing a gay couple. Her words are pretty terrifying: “You dirty fu**ing fa**ot. Is that your f**king boyfriend? F**king fa**ot, f**king fa**ot, fu**ing fa**ot.”

Why is no one asking when she was “radicalized”?

What church did she attend where the preacher’s words managed to instill such hatred? What denomination preached violence against LGBTQ people? What did her parents do to encourage her?

Then there is the recent case of Marcel Schoeman, a personal trainer from London who was assaulted by a man in a car yelling, “You fag**ot ... queer” while trying to run him down.

When was that driver “radicalized”? What group did he belong to that instilled such hatred



Hardy Haberman
Flagging Left

bashings in Oak Lawn have effectively terrorized the Dallas LGBTQ community. But because they haven’t come from stereotypical “terror” groups, we reclassify them as assaults or robberies. Because the terror does not affect the general population, authorities give these incidents less attention.

Geoffrey Hubbard was not just the victim of a hate crime, he was a victim of terrorism. Terrorists using bats, box cutters and fists are waging a fear campaign in Dallas, and yet we don’t ask where these attackers were “radicalized.”

People like Robert Jeffress of the First Baptist Church of Dallas saying that acceptance of homosexuality and attacks against those who express their biblical view of marriage will “pave the way for that future world dictator, the Antichrist, to persecute and martyr Christians.” He then goes on to equate the current “persecution” of Christians to the Nazi Holocaust.

that he terrorized and tried to kill a gay man?

It is tempting to blame mosques for all terrorism. But we ignore the platforms where anti-LGBTQ hate is spewed.

Hate crimes are terror in my book; the recent spate of

I would say that is pretty radical!

How many of his flock have been radicalized? Why isn’t the First Baptist Church of Dallas on the terror watch list?

The simple answer? Because Jeffress is white, straight and, supposedly, Christian.

Far from being persecuted, white American Christians hold all the cards, and they are dealing them out to favor their cause while instigating acts of hatred and violence with impunity.

The shootings at the Colorado Springs Planned Parenthood clinic by accused Robert Dear were the work of a very angry man. He claims he was a “warrior for the babies” and he was “radicalized” by the very kind of rhetoric preached from pulpits of fundamentalist radical churches and from politicians.

These people are being motivated to commit terrorist acts, but with the exception of Chris Cuomo on CNN in an interview with Carly Fiorina, the press refuses to raise the question.

Well, I am not afraid to raise it.

When will we start pointing the fingers at people who motivate hate crimes and terrorism who are not Muslim? When are we going to hold up the mirror to American society and recognize that we are often our worst enemy?

When are we going to ask our political leaders if they realize their bombastic rhetoric is “radicalizing” people? When are we going to ask our clergy, and specifically fundamentalist evangelical Christian pastors, how do hate filled sermons teach us anything about the “Prince of Peace”?

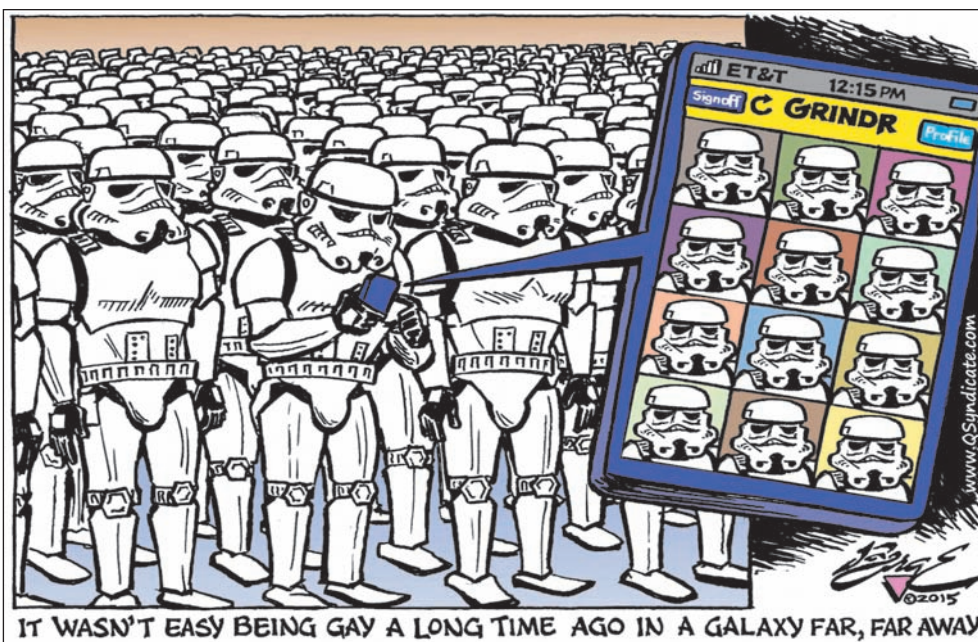
As Christmas approaches, I am reminded that it is this special time of year that Christians celebrate the light of peace coming into a broken world. Is it too much to ask for our radical fundamentalist brothers and sisters to start following the example set by the figure whose birth they celebrate?

Perhaps it is time to try another kind of radicalization. Perhaps it’s time to show the kind radical compassion and acceptance that can help heal our world instead of dividing it.

It’s a radical concept to stop using fear as a motivation and start using love and compassion as the key movers. It’s a radical concept to ask politicians, preachers and pundits to take responsibility for the acts of the listeners they inspire.

It’s a radical idea, but I believe it is something our community, our country and our world need right now.

Hardy Haberman is a longtime local LGBT activist and board member for the Woodhull Freedom Alliance. His blog is at DungeonDiary.blogspot.com.



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ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor
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It's not an accident that so many good films get released in a telescoped window of time in between Thanksgiving and New Year's. The studios often know when they are sitting on gold (film festivals can give them a heads-up), and they save the best for last ... to woo critics, Academy voters and audiences with more than the usual amount of free time on their hands.

But not all of the movies are gems — some are meant merely to be crowd-pleasers, some are so specialized they won't necessarily appeal to all tastes and some hit it on all cylinders ... including at least one (or two!) with strong LGBT issues. Here, then, is my primer for the films of the season.

Star Wars: The Force Awakens

A masked, black-cloaked villain... a mystical, reclusive Jedi... a sorry-ass Millennium Falcon... a planetary-sized killing machine... an heroic droid carrying secret plans, all set to a thrilling John Williams score. It sounds like the original *Star Wars* (later rechristened with the subtitle *Episode IV: A New Hope*), right? But I assure you, these images dominate the latest entry in George Lucas' iconic space opera. You're probably sick of all the hype, but the fact is: *The Force Awakens* is everything it promises to be — everything you want it to be ... and more. And no one is more delightfully surprised than I.

The last time director J.J. Abrams got his paws on a sci-fi franchise — *Star Trek* — he did a sly bit of tap dancing to make the original characters relevant again, with an outright reboot that nonetheless clung to the past by purporting to follow a separate timeline. As entertaining as the film was, it was also a cheat: If you can just reinvent the past and the future (but still cast Leonard Nimoy!), you're not being fair.

He couldn't get away with such underhandedness with *Star Wars* (Lucas, unlike Gene Roddenberry, is still around), so he did the next best thing: He took the finest elements from *Episode IV* through *VI*, shuffled them around a bit, and cooked up a soufflé of the new and the familiar, of old friends and new leaders.

The plot is right out of a Saturday morning serial: A map to the whereabouts of Luke Skywalker, the last surviving Jedi, has been placed in a droid found by Rey (Daisy Ridley), an orphaned scavenger on a remote desert planet. She teams up with a pilot, Finn (John Boyega), the first-ever stormtrooper with a conscience, to escort the droid to the Rebellion leadership, and defeat the First Order, Nazi-like descendants of the Dark Side of the Force. They escape in a rat-trap cargo vessel called you-know-what, whose former pilot (Harrison Ford... *C'mon!*) and first-mate track 'em down.

There are more than a few plot holes. How, in the 30 years since the Jedi returned, did they fall into disfavor again? Why are the

rebels still "rebels?" How does the First Order afford such expensive hardware? *Stop asking those questions!* This is action-adventure with a soul, the ultimate marriage of chick-flick and nerdgasm that provides a love story (just try *not* choking up when Han and Leia reunite) and parent-child dynamics that delves into something primal. *Star Wars* was the defining pop culture touchstone of my generation; it feels like *The Force Awakens* could be the same for post-millennials.

Exquisitely paced and seamlessly weaving beautiful visual effects, it's perhaps the most heartfelt action movie ever made, though in part for reasons that go beyond what's on the screen. After Lucas' trilogy of bloodless but technically proficient prequels, it's like the best family reunion imaginable ... and may, in fact, be better than all of them. We're home, guys ... 33 years late, but we're home.

(Now playing in wide release.)

The Danish Girl

In the 1920s, Einar Wegener (Eddie Redmayne) was a celebrated painter of landscapes, applauded by society and beloved by his wife Gerda (Alicia Vikander). Einar's paintings had truth in them ... an achievement made all the more remarkable because Einar hid a dark secret. When Gerda teases it out of him, asking him to



'THE DANISH GIRL' | Eddie Redmayne plays early transgender pioneer Lili Elbe, but Alicia Vikander almost steals the show in this engaging but aloof biopic. Look for our exclusive interview with Vikander on DallasVoice.com later this week.

model for her portrait in women's clothes, her paintings, and his suppressed identity as a transgender woman (of course, there was no term for it at the time), emerge. Finally they can both have what they want ... but at a price.

The Danish Girl is the most serious, respectful and reserved portrayal of gender identity you could possibly imagine, which is exactly where it goes wrong. The director, Tom Hooper, has made the *Masterpiece Theatre* version of the wrenching, bloody, horrific process of sexual reassignment. It needs to be less *Downton Abbey* and more *Downtown Shabby*.

Not that *The Danish Girl* fails because it isn't *Tangerine* (though that's part of it); it doesn't really fail anyway. What it does is take the calculated approach of portraying the trappings of gender dysphoria. Because the people themselves didn't have the language to discuss it, there's amazingly little discussion of it at all. Redmayne — his face a nondescript sea of freckles, teeth and pale skin — is a blank canvas on which Hooper paints his alter ego, Lili Elbe (historically, one of the first successful sex-change patients). But there's so much dignity at work (the sets and costumes practically demand Oscar nominations) that the more I think about the film, the less favorably disposed to it I become. There's no powerhouse moment, no startling revelation... unless you count Vikander's performance as Gerda. Especially during the first half, the film belongs to her. She's a potent on-screen presence (as anyone who saw her in *Ex Machina* can attest) who dominates our attention. She's the driving force of the film's heart — perhaps the real Danish girl it should be about. (Now playing in limited release.)

The Big Short

Considering how important the financial markets are to, well, the world, it's scary how nobody really seems to know what they are doing. Want to create a drug to fight HIV? Regulators will test it for years to make sure there aren't serious side effects; want to bundle junk bonds together and sell them to ignorant investors? No one cares so long as it makes money. And the

side effects can be far more devastating.

Around 2005, only a few Wall Streeters bothered to look at the new-fangled instruments call "credit default swaps," which looked secure (mortgages! Who doesn't pay their mortgage!) and realized that these were time-bombs for the national real estate market to crash. No such thing had ever happened before, so no one thought it could this time. But the speculators were willing to take the risk. They bet *against* the market — known as selling short — and paid premiums to investment banks, waiting for the inevitable to happen ... and make a shitload of money when the bottom fell out. Which it did.

The Big Short is a remarkable movie for many reasons, not the least of which is it's a comedy about one of the great tragedies of the last 50 years. *Trillions* of dollars in wealth disappeared practically overnight. But the speculators weren't the bad guys; there were the Cassandras of Wall Street, predicting doom while nobody listened ... and they cleaned up as a result.

Another reason *The Big Short* delights is that the writer-director, Adam McKay, is best known for the *Anchorman* movies. (He even casts alum Steve Carell as an obnoxious but socially-conscious investor in a scenery-chewing role, and gets comedic light out of Christian Bale and Ryan Gosling.) That gives a silly energy to what could be a grim, ominous movie about complicated business terminology (see *Margin Call*) instead of the raucous, guerrilla-toned dark absurdism in front of us. We laugh a lot ... the laughter of the damned.

(Opens Dec. 23 in wide release.)

Concussion

You never fully appreciate the skill it takes to make a convincing lone-hero-against-the-establishment story until you see it done badly. On the heels of one of the best (see *The Big Short* above) comes this disastrously pompous and humorless drama with a terrible name. Whereas *The Big Short* explores how greed blinded supposedly smart guys to the carelessness of their

■ **FORCE** Page 28

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All grown



Nick's older brother Joe Jonas, on gay clubbing, 'flattering' advances & how a reunion of Brothers could happen

Nick Jonas isn't the only one going to gay clubs like a good ally — his older brother, Joe, enjoys a night out with the gays too. And the best part? Sometimes they even go together. As if that wasn't enough, Joe is taking his new sound to the clubs with a disc drenched in the disco-funk sounds of the '70s. His latest post-Jonas Brothers endeavor, SWAAY, features South Korean guitarist JinJoo, bassist / keyboardist Cole Whittle and drummer Jack Lawless. Collectively, they're known as DNCE.

We caught up with the band's frontman, Joe Jonas, to discuss his mission to "encourage people to be themselves," recent talks with Nick regarding a Jonas Brothers reunion and how he's "accidentally" wandered into gay clubs.

— Chris Azzopardi

Dallas Voice: Why disco? Joe Jonas: It's something I grew up listening to quite a bit; it was always played in the house. My dad grew up in the '70s and always really loved everything funk and disco, and it was the one style of music that all of us in DNCE loved. It helped us embody what this has become — this kind of disco-rock-pop stuff that we were able to brew up.

Considering the genre's ties to your childhood, do you get nostalgic performing this music? Sometimes, yeah. I feel like when I perform these songs it's a new experience every time, because you're playing the same songs but seeing the reactions of different audiences. So sometimes it brings me back, but for right now it's kind of a whole new experience all over again.

Disco is obviously steeped in gay culture. Have you ever gotten down to some disco at a gay club? I went to a gay club with Nick a few months ago — it was really fun! And actually, I was really impressed by the DJ. He played everything and was all over the map. His musicality was really great, and we just had a great time.

Was this your first time at a gay club? Well, I've accidentally gone to gay clubs before! [Laughs] I think that's happened to a few people. But, you know, it was cool. We went out with some of our friends who are gay. I just think we live in a world where obviously it's not a big deal and you can have fun wherever you go and make the best of it.

How do you accidentally end up in a gay club? Being in Europe and not being able to read any of the signs and just stumbling into what you think is a regular club. You're like, "Oh, OK. Here we go."

At what point did you realize the club was gay? Getting hit on by more men than you would usually get hit on by.

What is that experience like for you? It's flattering. I don't mind... if someone is nice. And it's been cool to see at these concerts, too. A lot of guys come out to the shows and I love that. They rock out; they have fun. And I feel like the music is helping people express themselves in a way. I'm seeing people with glitter on their face, with the brightest colors. I love that we can encourage people to be themselves.

up

LIFE+STYLE profile



How does your experience with DNCE compare to Jonas Brothers? The fan base is older now, and there are college kids and some adults, and it's cool to see that. I was in Toronto recently, and I had a DJ gig after the show, and I would say 80 to 90 percent of the audience came to the DJ gig. It's cool to see that they're all down to hang — and that they're obviously old enough.

In 2014, Nick said he didn't feel Jonas Brothers did enough for their gay fans. What's your take on that? Maybe it was just our age, but I would agree with Nick. We maybe didn't reach out as much as we probably could have. I hope now we can encourage other straight guys to have a voice as well. I care too much about my friends who are gay and fans who are gay to be quiet about it.

And now, having friends who are gay and touring in these different markets and seeing that DNCE has gay fans coming out to the shows, it's awesome. I just hope that with my new music — and like Nick — I'll be able to reach out in my own way and really get people to feel comfortable. That's what we're trying to do, especially with DNCE. It's like its own party, and we invite everybody.

How aware were you of a gay following while in Jonas Brothers? We would see gay fans here and there come to shows, and we were always very happy to say hi, and [be] loving. It always made us happy. And like, you'd see a sign or two that would say something kind of funny. I can't remember what they said off the top of my head — a lot of them were always making me laugh, and they were flattering, too.

You recently tweeted a photo of you in a feather

boa while in Texas. What's the story behind that? Oh, wow, I don't even remember. But I'm definitely the risk-taker out of the brothers and have been for many years, and so I don't remember all the crazy and wacky things that I've done. I definitely really don't let anything hold me back these days.

Is that because there's less to hold you back?

Definitely, yeah. I feel like it's nice to be able to have a voice in the music industry but also be able to express that voice and not really feel shy about that or feel like you're not supposed to say this or say that. Obviously being in the situation that my brothers and I were in for so many years — we didn't have anyone in particular saying, "Don't do this, don't do that," but you just have that in the back of your head because you're a bit worried or nervous that you might say or do something that could set off fireworks.

You hear so many stories about child stars, and we see so many of them not make it. How did you survive those childhood years, and what advice would you give someone as young as you were? Man, it's definitely difficult. The first thing is remembering that you're not crazy for thinking or doing the things you wanna do. It's really important to be your own artist and be creative, and if you wanna be a certain way or if there's a style of music you wanna go with, take that journey. It's difficult because you think you know everything, and then there are times you're told you know nothing, so I think you just have to learn and take time to understand who you are as a person and who you are as an artist. Soon

■ JONAS Page 30

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'Looking' back

LIFE+STYLE

profile

Out filmmaker Andrew Haigh, on the upcoming 'Looking' finale and how his buzz-generating hetero-marriage character study '45 Years' is really a sequel to 'Weekend'



STILL LOOKING | Charlotte Rampling is generating Oscar buzz for her role in gay filmmaker Andrew Haigh's latest effort.

LAWRENCE FERBER | Contributing Writer
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In 2011, openly gay writer/director Andrew Haigh made a splash in the film world with *Weekend*, an instant LGBT film classic about a pair of gay men, Russell and Glen, who meet, fuck and connect deeply over the titular time frame yet part by the end. (Dallas Voice named it one of the top 10 films of the year.)

The bittersweet film and its characters resonated so strongly that many fans have hoped for (and stirred rumors about) a sequel. Haigh, though, thinks that might already be the case.

"I'm convinced that *45 Years* is the sequel to *Weekend*," Haigh insists, referring to his long-awaited follow-up feature.

He must be joking ... right? After all, *45 Years* — based on a story by David Constantine, "In

Another Country" — stars Charlotte Rampling and Tom Courtenay as Kate and Geoff Mercer, a childless couple in their 70s about to celebrate their 45th wedding anniversary. When a letter arrives, informing Geoff that the body of his previous lover, Katya, has been found in Switzerland, where she went missing decades back, he becomes possessed by her memory, while Kate makes a discovery or two that threaten to undermine their relationship.

"In a weird sense *Weekend* and *45 Years* are similar films dealing with similar issues and themes," Haigh explains, "just in a very different context. Certainly Glen might not tell Russell about his past, because when they met he was trying to redefine himself. Every time you forge a relationship, you say, 'I get to start again and show you the person I want to be.' If there's something in your past you want to put behind you, there's a chance you might not discuss or talk about those things and suddenly 15, 20, 30 years have gone by. The tragedy of *45 Years* is this couple does love each other, but this thing has come up and made the ground incredibly unstable and fall away. And it doesn't need to."

Courtenay, who played gay in 1983's *The Dresser* opposite Albert Finney, and Rampling, a muse to gay French arthouse director Françoise

Ozon (*Under The Sand*, *Swimming Pool*), snagged Silver Bear awards for their performances at the Berlin Film Festival in February and are being touted as possible Oscar contenders. (The film has been released in L.A. to qualify for an Oscar bit, but won't open until early next year in Dallas.) "I would love to see Tom and Charlotte get nominated," Haigh opines. "Of course, it would be amazing and they're incredible in it, but its such a strange world, the whole kind of Oscar talk. You just need to let it happen and if it does [win] it's a lovely pleasant surprise."

Happily married to author Andrew Morwood (they've been together for a decade), Haigh got his start as an assistant editor for director Ridley Scott. He first came across "In Another Country" thanks to its publisher, who also sent over the story on which Haigh's 2009 short film, *Five Miles Out*, was based. Haigh made his feature debut that same year with a documentary, *Greek Pete*, about a London rent boy, but only got around to reading Constantine's story when shooting *Weekend* a couple of years later.

"It lodged itself in my brain," he recalls. "I was like, this is the film I want to make next, and even though people tried to convince me not to do it, to make another LGBT-themed film, I decided to do *45 Years*." (He's currently at work on

another non-gay project, *Lean on Pete*, an Oregon-set coming of age story adapted from a 2010 Willy Valutin novel.)

Like Haigh's previous works, *45 Years* is distinguished by long takes, naturalistic dialogue and even a sex scene ... although nothing quite so explicit as the blowjob famously depicted between Jonathan Groff's Patrick and Raúl Castillo's Richie in the first season of HBO's *Looking*, which Haigh created and directed. Indeed, dressed in a flannel shirt, bearded, having coffee at NYC's hip Marlton Hotel, the personable British filmmaker could easily blend in with the characters from the series, which ties up its two-season run with a special finale movie in April 2016.

"There's a very good trick to make a blowjob look real, but I'm not going to tell you what it is because everyone will steal it!" Haigh laughs. "It's very simple, and I actually discovered it on *Weekend* and I've used it for every blowjob scene I've done since. But the thing is — and I know this sounds pretentious — I don't think of sex scenes for the sake of sex scenes. There has to be some fundamental story point, something happening between these two characters or chang-



online exclusive

The Hollywood Issue continues online, with interviews with Sarah Paulson, Alicia Vikander, Judith Light and more, available now and coming online all next week.

■ HAIGH Page 30

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■ **FORCE**, From Page 21

own actions, and *Spotlight* pitted crusading journalists against the entrenched hierarchy of the church in the most Catholic city in America, *Concussion* suggests that only one doctor ever drew a connection between getting hit in the head and brain injuries, and how the NFL is the most demonic organization in this side of SPECTRE.

The lone-wolf hero is Bennet Omalu (Will Smith), an idiosyncratic Nigerian pathologist who draws a link between former football stars who got bashed in the noggin repeatedly for 15 years and their cognitive problems late in life. I won't deny the historical bona fides of the story — I assume Omalu really did encounter resist-

ance from the Powers That Be when he tried to warn of the long-term dangers of professional football — but as with the tobacco lobby, I don't think anyone *really* ever thought he was wrong.

That's not good enough for writer-director Peter Landesman (who also wrote last year's heavy-handed *Kill the Messenger*), who piles on the syrupy dialogue that serves only two purposes: First, to explain how incredibly perfect and great Omalu is in every time aspect of his life, and second, how deeply corrupt everyone else in the world is, for no apparent reason. (Omalu is forced to pay for testing out of his own pocket because a colleague, who's also a football fan, doesn't want him proving that his hero died of anything other than natural causes ... *why?*) It

Also on the radar

Youth. In an idyllic resort in the Swiss Alps, a renowned but retired composer/conductor (Michael Caine) is approached by Queen Elizabeth's emissary — will he conduct his famed *Simple Songs* for a command performance? Meanwhile, a hot young actor (Paul Dano) prepares for his new role in what promises to be a terrible movie. And a respected filmmaker (Harvey Keitel) brainstorms to finalize his masterpiece, set to star his longtime muse (Jane Fonda). Director Paolo Sorrentino (*The Great Beauty*) cribbs liberally from his fellow countryman Federico Fellini for this reverie about art, life and creation, with an engaging, lopey energy, spot-on performances, a haunting score and breathtaking scenery. It's not the most exciting film of the season, but it may be the most thoughtful. (Now playing in at the Angelika Film Centers.)

The Hateful Eight. Quentin Tarantino returns to the post-Civil War wilderness with his follow-up to *Django Unchained*, which hits theaters in two forms: A three-hour-plus road show edition (coming Christmas Day, complete with overture, intermission, entr'acte and additional footage) and a shorter-by-20-minutes-or-so "basic" edition. (Read the full online Dec. 21; road show edition opens Dec. 25 in limited release; expands in January.)

The Revenant. Although it doesn't open until Jan. 8, the epic you need to put on your radar is this amazing achievement from the Oscar-winning director Alejandro G. Inarritu. (Read my full review Jan. 8.)



'THE BIG SHORT' | Steve Carell chews up the scenery with Ryan Gosling in this sadly hilarious look at the economic crisis. Opens Dec. 23.

might be tolerable if the film weren't so relentlessly dour, with Smith's accent coming and going as often as GOP hopefuls on the debate stage. I'd prefer to be beat on the head than sit through this again.

(Opens Dec. 25 in wide release.)

Joy

Joy is two movies in one package — the first half a quirky, humorous character study of a

working-class family; the second a female-empowerment anthem about household gadgets. If those don't sound entirely compatible, you've keyed into the primary disappointment of this sprightly but ultimately unsatisfying comedy.

It's the 1980s, and Joy Mangano (Jennifer Lawrence) is a working mother of two with a pushy dad (Robert DeNiro), a neurotic mom (Virginia Madsen), a caring grandma (Diane Ladd) and clingy ex-husband (Edgar Ramirez),

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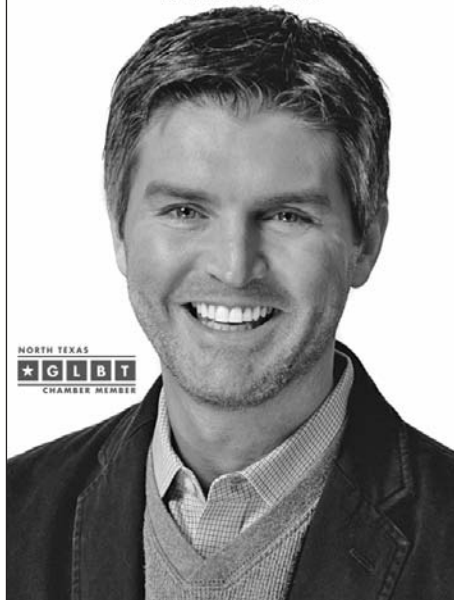
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struggling to keep it all together. As her mom gets lost in cheesy soap operas that start to take on a life of their own, Joy schemes for a way out. And then she comes up with one: a self-wringing mop. If she can just get folks to believe in her product, she's sure she can make a million ... perhaps even selling it on this new-fangled cable channel called QVC.

The portion of the film where Joy is trying to succeed has all the elements of a rags-to-riches success story (and anyone who's used the mop in the intervening decades knows she was onto something) with a goofy charm and airiness not usually seen in films from David O. Russell since *Flirting with Disaster*. But it makes the same mistake *Concussion* makes: Becoming excessively simplistic in pitting Joy against the rest of the world. Indeed, a key scene in the climax, in which she confronts a "rich businessman from Dallas," looks like it was set in Waxahachie circa 1915, or a *Simpsons* episode with the Rich Texan yee-hawing with a caricature drawl. Really, guys? The clichés might not have been so offensive if the bit worked; it's never a good thing when you're watching a scene and think, "I could write that better."

(Opens Dec. 25 in wide release.)

Carol

Director Todd Haynes' best film, *Far From Heaven*, was a tribute to the 1950s melodramas of filmmaker Douglas Sirk, with a gay twist: A prim housewife tortured by the upheaval caused when she discovers her husband practiced "the love that dare not speak its name." Well, that *was* Haynes best film; now that honor belongs to *Carol*, a sort-of companion piece that explores the anatomy of a same-sex romance in an era when homosexuality was still

criminal and stigmatizing (i.e., pre-2005 ... though in this case 1952).

It's Christmastime, and young Therese (a brilliantly understated Rooney Mara) is working as a shopgirl at a Midtown department store. Her eye is caught by a glamorous, slightly mysterious customer, Carol (Cate Blanchett, exuding perfection). Carol casually drops a glove on her way out; Therese mails it to her; Carol thanks her with an invitation to lunch... and so goes the tentative courtship between a divorcee who knows what she wants and an ingénue just beginning to understand her feelings aren't wrong.

It's difficult to tell at first what direction *Carol* is going to head in; will it be a self-destructive thriller, a gauzy romance, a banal potboiler? That makes the film's progress tense yet woozy, as a true relationship blossoms, even as Carol's ex-husband (Kyle Chandler, exuding milquetoast petulance) interferes with some dire consequences.

One thing that makes *Carol* so magnificent — in addition to the performances, Haynes' deliberate but subtly exhilarating direction and Ed Lachman's gorgeous cinematography — is Phyllis Nagy's exquisite script, which roils with double meaning but never becomes heavyhanded. (*Concussion*, are you listening?) And unlike *The Danish Girl*, which takes primness to extremes, *Carol* packs an emotional wallop, and resolves its unresolvable story (this is the 1950s, after all) with honesty, realism and emotional satisfaction. Few period dramas are as precisely envisioned as this; it feels like a time machine that takes you fully to another time and place, dropping you into the emotional lives of people you know. Carol is truly one of 2015's unmissable artistic achievements.

(Opens Dec. 25 at Landmark's Magnolia.)



PLAN YOUR VIEWING

Our directory of movie openings

New this week

Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Road Chip (wide release); **Sisters** (wide release); **Star Wars: The Force Awakens** (wide release); **Youth** (Angelikas)

Dec. 23

The Big Short (wide release)

Dec. 25

Carol (Magnolia); **Concussion** (wide release); **Daddy's Home** (wide release); **The Hateful Eight** (road show edition, Angelika Mockingbird Station; main-

stream edition goes wide Jan. 1); **Joy** (wide release, pictured above); **Point Break** (wide release)

Jan. 8

The Revenant (wide release); **Peggy Guggenheim: Art Addict** (Angelika Mockingbird Station)

Jan. 15

Anomalisa (Angelika Mockingbird Station)

Feb. 5

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L+S profile

■ HAIGH, From Page 26

ing something. In *Looking*, the scene between Patrick and Richie is incredibly important to their relationship at that moment. In *45 Years*, it's about something happening between Kate and Geoff's relationship."

As for Haigh's signature long takes — he doesn't shoot cutaways or "coverage," as it's known in industry-speak — he explains that "it's about making a commitment early on to the visual style, and for me it's worked well and gives the actors more freedom and lets them realize what they do in that moment is actually going to end up being in the film and not cut to pieces."

Indeed, *45 Years*' most talked about moment is its final shot, a sublime *tour de force* that plays out during The Platters' "Smoke Gets In Your Eyes." About 10 takes were shot, the last of which was ultimately used and conveys everything the film is about through Rampling's face and body language, while allowing for audience members' personal interpretations of what's happening beneath the surface.

"You get radically different interpretations of the film in general," Haigh admits. "It's always to me the point. The whole film is about revealing things but not everything, and it allows you to throw yourself in and come up with your own interpretation based on the kind of person you are."

For Haigh, HBO's cancellation of *Looking* last March due to disappointing ratings — the show that helped popularize the term "Truvada whore" ("Not sure if that's a good thing or bad thing!" he laughs) — could only be interpreted as a painful decision. Yet he maintains that the network offered to wrap up the show with a 2016 special from the get-go. "I would have been very sad if Season 2 didn't get wrapped up," he notes, "because Patrick was in flux making poor



FINALE, FINALLY | What happened to Patrick and Richie on 'Looking'? Haigh's upcoming HBO movie will tie up loose ends.

decisions and I wanted to finish his story. They wanted the show as much as we did to have a ending."

While Haigh doesn't share specifics about what will transpire in the finale, he does admit that had the show continued for more seasons, he would have entertained a crossover with HBO's *Girls*, and for that matter, an actual *Weekend* sequel of sorts.

"I always thought that would be quite fun if we got to season five and had nothing else to talk about!" he grins. "Like Lena Dunham's Hannah turns up in S.F. and hangs out with Patrick for a while, or Patrick goes to New York and bumps into Marnie. I also might have got *Weekend*'s Russell and Glen to be in the background of a shot, like sitting in a bar somewhere in the Mission. Nobody would have spoken to them, but you'd have been like, 'Look, they met up again!' If for some reason we have a *Looking* Christmas special 10 years from now, maybe I can put *Weekend* in there at the same time." ■

■ JONAS, From Page 25

enough, you'll start to realize it's OK to be you and to really be whoever you want to be. You'll see that people prefer that more than a cardboard cutout.

From your recent breakup with Gigi Hadid to your new blue hair — how do you handle the constant interest regarding every facet of your life? It's pretty funny. I think I've learned to laugh it off when sometimes they like to create their own stories ... even out of your hair.

Ha, is the blue hair not a story? I don't think so! I just did it because I wanted to do it — there really wasn't a deeper meaning to any of it, which is why I think it's really funny. They make it something. I could be frustrated or I could be mad about that, but I just laugh it off. I've learned to handle it better over time. And it's never always been that easy; there are moments that have been difficult for me. I've read stuff or something I would say was taken out of context and that's tough, obviously, but as you get older you get better at it and you go, "I know the truth."

So having blue hair isn't the empowering post-breakup moment that the media is making it out to be? I like having blue hair. I don't think I feel any different; it was just a spur-of-the-moment decision anyway. But I'm not gonna react or go after the press about it because I just find it funny.

Will you and Nick — and even your other brother, Kevin — ever do anything musically together again? I would say so. Nick and I have a few ideas to work with other artists who we really like. There are a couple of artists out there that we think are really incredible that we'd like to work together with. And then, there's always down the road. We don't really ever wanna say never to anything just because there could be something that comes along our way that we might say, "You know, let's try working on this song together." It's tough to say that we'll never do it because who knows.

What would reunite you? Time itself. Seeing where things will lead us. It's easy to say we're done and that we're never doing it again, but then we both look at each other and go, "We obviously get along." And who knows — years from now we could be like, "All right, let's make a record." It could easily happen. ■

Friday 12.18—Sunday 12.27

Go nuts with Texas Ballet Theater

Tchaikovsky's *The Nutcracker* is perhaps the most beloved of all ballets, and a holiday staple for more than a century. As always, the Texas Ballet Theater is presenting a Ben Stevenson staging of the gorgeous show, that for many exemplifies the season. But it's not all serious art going on at Bass Hall — on Dec. 18, a one-night-only

performance replaces the traditional choreography as TBT puts on *The Nutty Nutcracker*, a zany take on the original. (In addition, there's still time to see MBS Productions' own annual spoof, *Beulaville Baptist Book Club Presents A Bur-Less-Q Nutcracker!* at the Stone Cottage Theatre in Addison.)

DEETS: *Nutty Nutcracker*, Dec. 18; traditional *Nutcracker*, through Dec. 27. Bass Performance Hall, 525 Commerce St., Fort Worth. TexasBalletTheater.org.

Bur-Less-Q Nutcracker, Stone Cottage Theatre at the Addison Theatre Centre, 15650 Addison Road. Through Dec. 27. BurlesqueNutcracker.com.



LIFE+STYLE

best bets

Tuesday 12.22

See Ralphie shoot his eye out on the silver screen

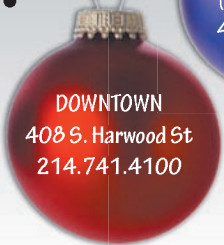
When *A Christmas Story* came out in theaters in 1983, it was a modest success at best. But over the decades — and owing to TBS' marathon running each Dec. 25 — it has become one of the classic movies of the season. But you don't have to wait until Christmas Day, or even watch it on a TV. You can see it projected onto the big screen at the Magnolia on Tuesday at the weekly Big Movie, sponsored by Dallas Voice.

DEETS: Landmark's Magnolia Theatre, 3699 McKinney Ave. in the West Village. 7:30 p.m. and 10 p.m.



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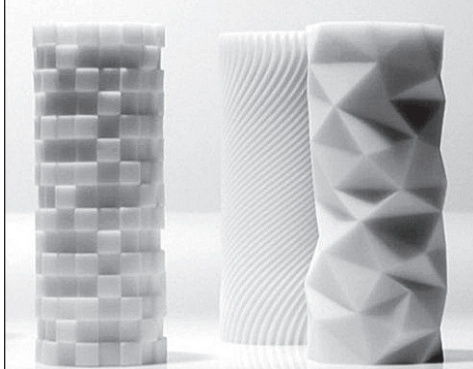
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calendar highlights

ARTSWEEK

THEATER

Jersey Boys. The hit musical about the Four Seasons, with a classic pop score. Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. Through Dec. 27. ATPAC.org.

A Christmas Carol. Dallas Theater Center begins its annual presentation of the Dickens classic, adapted by Kevin Moriarty, this time directed by company member Christina Vela and starring Hassan El-Amin as Scrooge. Wyly Theatre, 2400 Flora St. Through Dec. 26. DallasTheaterCenter.org.

Elf. The Will Ferrell Christmas movie comedy adapted as a stage musical. Presented by Dallas Summer Musicals. *Reviewed this week. Final weekend.* Fair Park Music Hall, 901 First Ave. DallasSummerMusicals.org.

Do You Hear What I Hear? A Jubilee Christmas. A heart-warming story about the meaning of the holidays. Jubilee Theatre, 506 Main St., Fort Worth. Through Dec. 27. JubileeTheatre.org.

The Beulaville Baptist Book Club Presents: A Burlesque Nutcracker! The annual hilariously campy comedy about a small town that hires strippers to perform Tchaikovsky. Presented by MBS Productions. Stone Cottage Theatre, 15650 Addison Road, Addison. Through Dec. 27. BurlesqueNutcracker.com.

King Arthur. Theatre Britain presents its annual panto, a cross-dressing, comedic, campy take on a traditional story, this time, the legend of Camelot. Cox Building Playhouse, 1517 H Ave., Plano. Through Dec. 27. Theatre-Britain.com.

Miracle on 34th Street. Janelle Lutz, the reigning star of North Texas stages, returns in Dallas Children's Theater's adaptation of the warm holiday classic, with Francis Fusellier as Kris. *Final weekend.* Rosewood

Center for Family Arts, 5938 Skillman St. \$15-\$28. DCT.org.

Hershel and the Hanukkah Goblins. A playful take on the holidays for the family. Final weekend. Amphibian Stage Productions, 120 S. Main St., Fort Worth. AmphibianStage.com.

Black Nativity. A holiday tradition at TeCo Theatrical Productions, an abridged adaptation of Langston Hughes' Christmas story told from the POV of the African diaspora. *Final weekend.* Bishop Arts Theater, 215 S. Tyler St. TeCoTheater.org.

The Totalitarians. Regional premiere by gay playwright Peter Sinn Nachtrieb, a dark comedy about politics. Presented by Kitchen Dog Theater their new space in the Design District. *Final weekend.* The Green Zone, 161 Riveredge. KitchenDogTheater.org.

Clarkston. Dallas Theater Center presents this world premiere from gay playwright Samuel D. Hunter, about a relationship between workers in a Costco. *Reviewed this week.* Wyly Theatre, 2400 Flora St. Through Jan. 31. DallasTheaterCenter.org.

PERFORMANCE

Peter Pan 360. A theatrical-stunt-circus hybrid, this multimedia presentation combines J.M. Barrie's story with high-wire acrobatics and CGI projections inside a 100-foot-tall structure in Downtown Dallas. ThreeSixty Theatre, 2450 San Jacinto St. Through Jan. 3 (extended). ATPAC.org.

CONCERTS

Turtle Creek Chorale: Home. The TCC's annual holiday concert, with guests including Denise Lee. City Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. Dec. 18 and 19 at 7:30 p.m., Dec. 20 at 1:30 p.m. TurtleCreekChorale.com.

online exclusive

Read up-to-date theater reviews of local shows online at DallasVoice.com.

BALLET

The Nutcracker. Texas Ballet Theater's annual classic set to the score of Tchaikovsky, choreographed by Ben Stevenson. Bass Performance Hall, 525 Commerce St., Fort Worth. Through Dec. 27. 877-828-9200. TexasBalletTheater.org.

FINE ART

Jackson Pollock: Blind Spots. An exclusive exhibit of the innovative American painter's late work, a departure from his classic "drip" paintings, but also showing the span of the artist's work. Dallas Museum of Art, 1717 Harwood St. Through March 20. Special exhibit fee. DMA.org.

Castiglione: Lost Genius. Masterworks on paper from the Royal Collection. Kimbell Art Museum, 3333 Camp Bowie Blvd., Fort Worth. Through Feb. 14. Free. KimbellArt.org.

Gustave Caillebotte: The Painter's Eye. Kimbell Art Museum, 3333 Camp Bowie Blvd., Fort Worth. Through Feb. 14. \$18. KimbellArt.org.

N.S. Harsha: Sprouts, reach in to reach out. A site-specific mural, the first in Dallas for the Indian artist, transforms the main corridor of the DMA. Dallas Museum of Art, 1717 Harwood St. Through Feb. 21. DMA.org.

International Pop. A survey of pop art, the distinctive modern movement of the 1960s. Dallas Museum of Art, 1717 Harwood St. Through Jan. 17. DMA.org.

FRIDAY 12.18

COMMUNITY

Panoptikon. The weekly retro disco dance party, presented by Lord Byron. Red Light, 2911 Main St. Doors 9 p.m.

BALLET

The Nutty Nutcracker. In addition to their more traditional ballet, Texas Ballet Theater will also perform this zany, one-night-only presentation. Bass Performance Hall, 525 Commerce St., Fort Worth. Dec. 18. TexasBalletTheater.org.

CONCERTS

The Ten Tenors. The international singing group returns to North Texas with their Home for the Holidays Tour.



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THE TEN TENORS | The international music group brings its holiday show to North Texas for a one-night-only concert Dec. 18.

Verizon Theatre, 1001 Performance Place. Dec. 18. AXS.com.

West Village, 3699 McKinney Ave. Sponsored by Dallas Voice. Screens at 7:30 p.m. and 10 p.m.

SATURDAY 12.19

SPORTS
FrontRunners. Gay jogging group meets at 8:30 a.m. at the statue in Lee Park for a run along the Katy Trail.

THURSDAY 12.24 — CHRISTMAS EVE

CABARET
Judy Chamberlain Jazz. The jazz vocalist's weekly cabaret performance in the back room of Zippers Hideaway, 3333 N. Fitzhugh St. 9 p.m.

TUESDAY 12.22

FILM
A Christmas Story. See the holiday classic on the big screen! Screens as part of the Tuesday Big Movie New Classic Series at Landmark's Magnolia Theatre in the

FRIDAY 12.25 — CHRISTMAS DAY

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Girl on Girls

Jenny Block: A chosen family — even a virtual one online — is there for you when you need them

I'm not sure how far back the idea of a chosen family goes, but it's an idea I wholeheartedly love. I'm a lucky girl. I have a sister I adore; a dad to whom I am very close; and even though my mom and I have our issues (and we live rather far apart), she's in my life. Not everyone can say that, especially in the LGBT community.

I have been lucky to travel extensively and meet all kinds of amazing people ... and, in large part due to social media, I have had the honor and joy of building a chosen family from among these folks. Although very much a virtual one in some ways, they are my family nonetheless.

When the chips are down, I can post status updates online about how I'm feeling and my virtual family turns out instantly and in droves, with kind words and generous thoughts. When I get hateful comments on an article I write, I can share the link and they rally around me to shame the trolls. When I get amazing news, I can spread the word virtually and they all celebrate with me.

For all the bad you can say about social media, it's hard not to cherish the good when it comes to allow-

ing us to connect regularly with ease with the people we choose to love regardless of bloodlines and distance.

I wonder what it must be like to have no choice in who your "family" is. How stifling and scary. What if they hate you or you hate them? Or what if you don't even hate them but simply feel no connection to them?

Surely this is the case for some, even today. But it was certainly the case in days gone by when there was basically no way to connect to people who weren't an arms-length away. So the fact that we are able to reach out across the virtual abyss and connect with exactly who we want to, precisely when we want to, is incredibly powerful.

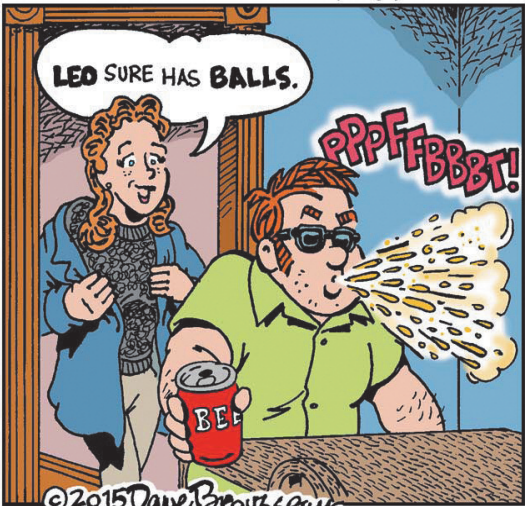
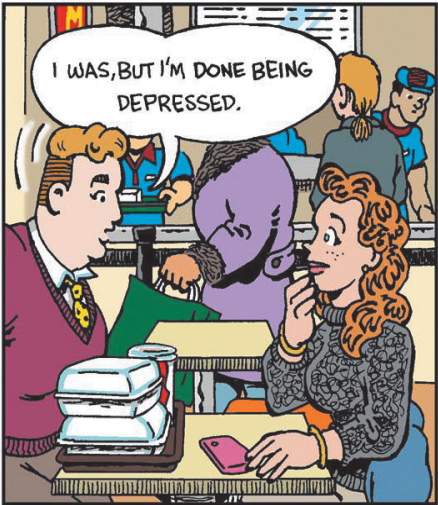
Of course, if we simply use social media to share cat photos or show off carefully curated, insanely fake lives, well, then social media is a problem. Just like if we use it for bullying or judging people or fear-mongering, then social media is a downright evil. But if we instead choose to use it to stay in touch with those who have touched our lives and who we hold near and dear despite the miles, I think that's a remarkable thing.

And, yes, I know. There is the phone and texting and email. But are you really going to text or call or email everyone, all the time with the kind of regularity social media affords?

One of my besties, Kelly, lives far away. We text regularly. But social media allows us to stay in each other's lives daily in a way that texting couldn't possibly do unless we quit our day jobs to text all day long.

We can watch one another's days and share

I wonder what it must be like to have no choice in who your 'family' is.



events and jokes and links and see what one another's friends are up to. She is a wildly important member of my chosen family and I can't imagine if we didn't have social media to track the pulse on one another's lives.

That's the thing: You can hate technology for all its foolishness or even its potential for evil or you can embrace it and use it for good. Use it not to curate a seemingly perfect life, but instead to create a truly perfect chosen family.

Photo courtesy StephGrantPhotography.com

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For a more complete Community Calendar online, visit Tinyurl.com/dvevents.

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this week's solution

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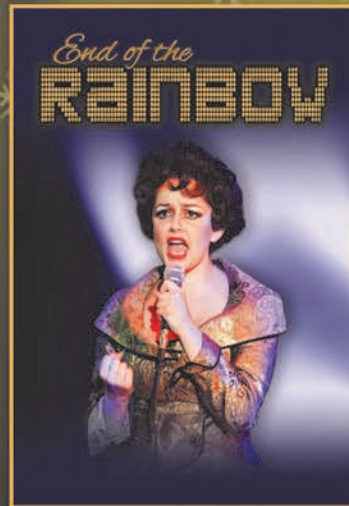
Making the **SCENE** the week of Dec. 18–24:

- **Alexandre's:** Stephanie Sallie on Friday. Mi Diva Loca on Saturday. Chris Chism on Wednesday. Alicia Silex on Thursday.
- **Brick/Joe's:** Talent night and spotlight showcase hosted by Loretta Armani Mack with \$150 in prizes at 11:30 p.m. on Sunday. Home for Christmas show and celebrate Raquel Blake's birthday. Showtime at 7 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Club Reflection:** Cowtown Leathermen cookout at 4 p.m. on Sunday. Texas Gay Rodeo Association annual Cowtown Christmas Show at 7 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Dallas Eagle:** DFW Leather Corps club night on Friday at 7 p.m. MasT Dallas meeting on Saturday from 2–4:30 p.m.
- **Round-Up Saloon:** Bear Happy Hour from 6–9 p.m. on Friday.
- **Sue Ellen's:** Chris Chism Band on Friday. Ciao Bella on Saturday. Kathy and Bella from 3–5 p.m. and Bad Habits from 6–9 p.m. on Sunday.
- **The Rose Room:** Special Christmas Eve Show with Layla, Kelexis, Valerie, Asia, Jenna and Krystal on Thursday.
- **Woody's Sports & Video Bar:** New York Jets at Dallas at 7:25 p.m. on Saturday. Woody's fifth annual Favorite Things with Jada Fox and giveaways at 8 p.m.

To view more Scene photos, go to DallasVoice.com/category/photos. Scene Photographer: Chad Mantooth and Winston Lackey.



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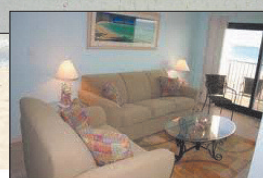
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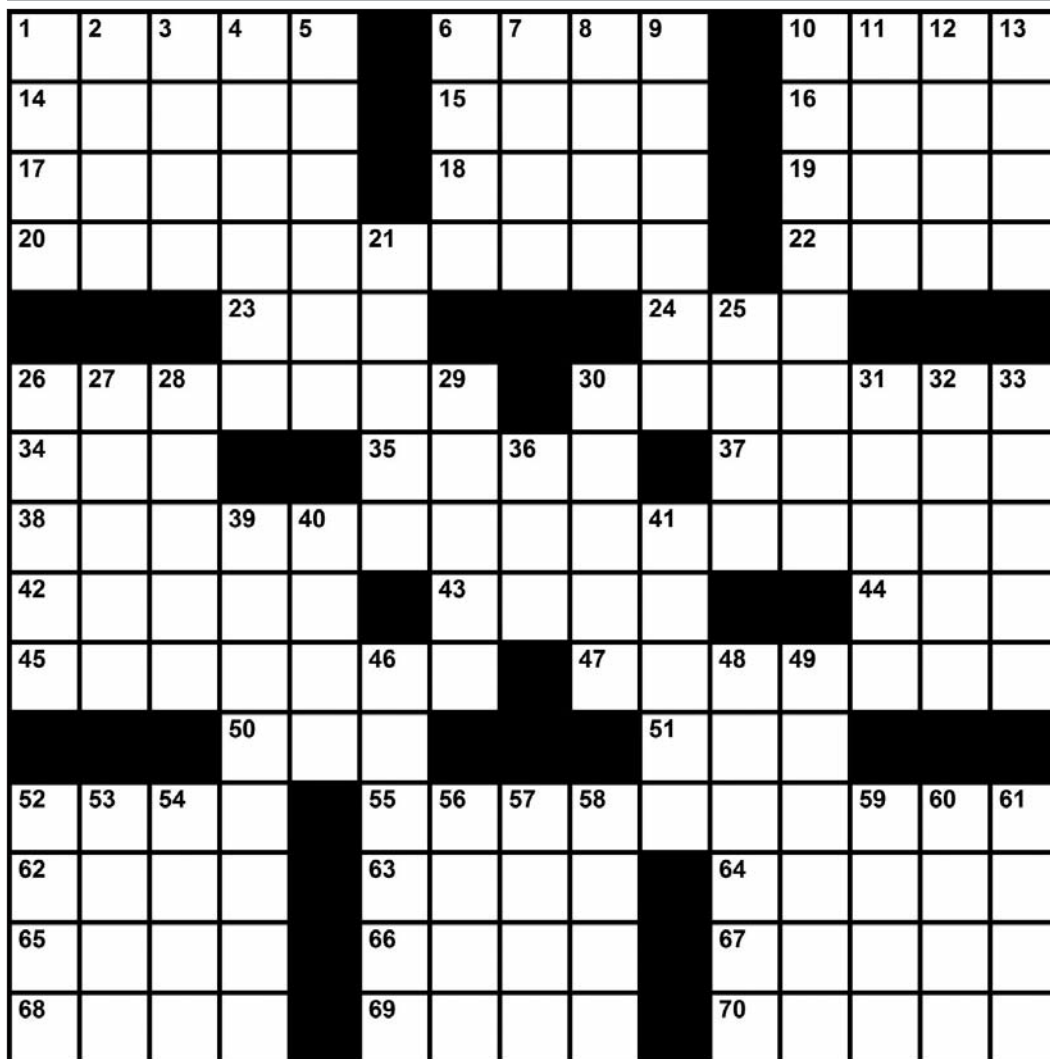
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q-puzzle



Grandma

Solution on page 35

Across

- Log Cabin Republican's poster word
- Verlaine or Rimbaud
- Merry escapade
- Not a fave of those who want less beans
- Vaulted area at the Cathedral of Hope
- In a bit, to the bard
- Dress with a flared bottom
- Lawrence of Arabia director David
- Sheltered spot
- Grandma portrayer, in *Grandma*
- Character of 20-Across
- The Buckeyes, for short
- Wayside retreat
- McKellen's *X-Men* role
- Dancer Duncan
- Physicians' org.
- What have we here
- Memorial of coming out of Egypt
- Daughter of 20-Across, in *Grandma*
- Kofi of the UN
- Melville tale
- Cotton gin inventor Whitney
- Like Mary or Peter
- Defeat at tilting
- Cole Porter's "___ Love You?"

51 Bit of grain for a stallion

52 Character of 38-Across

55 She plays Deathy, in *Grandma*

62 Whitman's "Sometimes With ___ Love"

63 Come out

64 Partner of doom

65 Owner of a gay dog on *South Park*

66 Lesbian poet Gidlow

67 *My Fair Lady* lady

68 "YMCA," for one

69 Straight, in a bar

70 Kildare and Aramis, to Richard Chamberlain

Down

- Jerusalem server
- Eddie's part in *The Danish Girl*
- Disney's ___ and the *Detectives*
- Deep crack in Mother Earth
- Dangerous fly
- ___ Springs
- Autobahn auto
- Morales of *Resurrection Blvd.*
- Amelie Mauresmo's game
- The color purple, pale version
- Like a thermometer that tastes funny
- "___ Tide!" (Alabama cheer)

13 Spanking spot

21 "___ sight!"

25 Sally Ride's org.

26 Heather's parents

27 Big name in refrigerators

28 "With parsley," for Craig Claiborne

29 George Burns film

30 "All I Ever Need ___" (Sonny & Cher hit)

31 More queer, but not less straight

32 Old Hollywood movie centers

33 Bill T. Jones' partner Zane

36 "___ Spartacus!"

39 Making yams sweeter

40 Keen on

41 GLAMA award, e.g.

46 Myles of poetry

48 Closet triangle

49 Verdi opera

52 *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* creator
Whedon

53 "Render therefore ___ Caesar ..."

54 *Giant* James

56 Trucker's shaft

57 Kind of plastic

58 State of fifty million Frenchmen

59 Shakespeare's was "mortal"

60 Seep slowly

61 Opening day, briefly



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