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ue 33 | FREE | Friday, December 25, 2015

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Local Actor of the Year



Out actor Jussie Smollett,  
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**GENVOYA.com**

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®)
- pimozide (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

**Genvoya™**  
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Design by Kevin Thomas

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## instantTEA

[DallasVoice.com/Category/Instant-Tea](http://DallasVoice.com/Category/Instant-Tea)

### Man attacked leaving the Round Up Saloon on Saturday night

A man was attacked behind the Round Up Saloon on Saturday night at about 10:30 p.m., according to Dallas Police Department Assistant Chief Randall Blankenbaker, who oversees the investigations bureau. The man left through the back door and was walking to his car. Police were unsure of the exact location.

The man, 54, was not identified. Police haven't interviewed him in person yet. Although he was attacked on Saturday, he didn't file a report until Monday, after co-workers encouraged him to notify police.



Randall Blankenbaker

He identified the attackers as two white men, about 35, about 5'9" and 6'4" who approached him from behind and threw him to the ground and began kicking him. No other weapons were involved. One suspect used anti-gay epithets, so police are classifying this as bias motivated. The two men robbed the victim before fleeing. What was taken was not released.

Blankenbaker said police actively canvassed the neighborhood today and are asking for anyone who witnessed the crime to come forward.

The description of the suspects in this case resembles attackers in an assault that took place on Sept. 9 in the 2700 block of Douglas Avenue,

Police are counting this as attack No. 14 since September, although other assaults and robberies have taken place since September that were unreported to the police.

— David Taffet

### Ex-boyfriend given life sentence in murder of Tyler trans woman

Carlton Champion, 21, was sentenced to life in

prison for the murder for Ty Underwood on Dec. 18. He was also given a \$10,000 fine.

In the sentencing phase, the prosecution called two witnesses including Underwood's mother.

The day before, Champion was found guilty in the January 2015 murder of Underwood, a trans woman from Tyler.

Champion was a football player for Texas College in Tyler. He was arrested about two weeks after the murder and charged with shooting her twice. The two had been dating.

The trial lasted three days and deliberations took less than two hours. After the verdict, Carlton shouted in court, "I'll be back on the streets" and was restrained by deputies.

The defense called no witnesses but said the prosecution didn't prove its case.

Of the 27 murders of trans women of color that have been documented in the U.S. this year, this may be the only one that resulted in an arrest and conviction.

— David Taffet

### Reparative therapy organization ordered to close

After court in New Jersey ruled that "reparative therapy" offered by JONAH — Jews Offering New Alternatives for Healing — is fraudulent, the group will stop operating and pay victims and legal fees.

JONAH was a reparative therapy organization run by Orthodox Jews that claimed to turn gay men straight. Its founder, Arthur Goldberg, sold more than \$2 billion in fraudulent municipal bonds in the 1980s. Facing life in prison, he pleaded guilty to lesser counts and only served 18 months in federal prison.

He founded JONAH after his son came out. Goldberg has no degrees in counseling.

In June, a New Jersey jury convicted Goldberg of consumer fraud.

The settlement approved late last week required Goldberg and his partners to close. JONAH's online presence must be removed within 30 days and the corporate entity must be dissolved within six months.

The defendants must pay \$3.5 million in legal fees to the plaintiffs. The plaintiffs will also be reimbursed for money they paid the sham therapy organization.

JONAH appealed mostly to Orthodox Jews, the only branch of Judaism that doesn't embrace its LGBT members and celebrate same-sex marriage.

— David Taffet



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## THE GAY AGENDA

Have an event coming up? Email your information to staff writer James Russell at [russell@dallasvoice.com](mailto: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; **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](mailto:rramirez@myresourcecenter.org).

### • 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](http://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](http://TheGrapevineBar.com).

### JANUARY

• **Jan. 7: Trans Pride Initiative Board Meeting** Open to the public. 6:30 p.m. at Brazos Room, Center for Community Cooperation, 2900 Live Oak Street. For more information e-mail Nell Gaither at [nell@tpride.org](mailto:nell@tpride.org).

### • Jan 12: Survivors Offering Support

Support group meeting for survivors of violent attacks meets every second Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. Resource Center, 2701 Reagan.

• **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

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## pet of the week / HANK

**Hank**, a handsome two-year-old hound, is a big, strong boy and very vocal. Since hounds like Hank have loud barks, he won't be a good fit for apartment living. He'll need a house with a yard, and regular walks or jogs. He is learning his manners, and already knows how to sit and how to wait to be fed. He will benefit from crate training or a confined area when you are gone.

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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On Jan. 17, the Dallas Voice hosts two workshops, a party and exhibit to help couples plan their weddings at Renaissance Dallas Hotel. The largest wedding expo in Texas includes exhibitors, entertainment, free cake and more.

Texas. 6:30-9 p.m. at Park Place Volvo, 3515 Inwood Road.

• **Jan. 17: The Wedding Workshop**

The Same-Sex Marriage 101 and Creating a Budget 102 workshops run by wedding industry experts will ensure your wedding is a success. 9-11 a.m. at Renaissance Dallas Hotel, 2222 Stemmons Fwy. Sponsored by Dallas Voice. To register and for more information visit [TheWeddingPartyExpo.com](http://TheWeddingPartyExpo.com).

• **Jan. 17: The Wedding Party and Expo: A LGBT Community Event**

The largest wedding expo in Texas includes exhibitors, entertainment, free cake and more. 1-5 p.m. at Renaissance Dallas Hotel, 2222 Stemmons Fwy. Sponsored by Dallas Voice. Admission and parking are free with registration. To register and for more information visit [TheWeddingPartyExpo.com](http://TheWeddingPartyExpo.com).



2016 is only a week away. Among the local haunts ringing in the New Year are Two Corks and a Bottle and The Grapevine Bar. Two Corks and a Bottle hosts a party from 8 p.m.-1 a.m. with complimentary entertainment and a potluck dinner. The party starts at The Grapevine Bar at 7 p.m., with special guest DJ Christopher J from Los Angeles, and Berlin, featuring Terri Nunn. Cover is \$1. Check with your favorite party spot for details of their New Year's Eve plans.

• **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.



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# New blood donor rules, no real change

Only gay men who have been celibate for at least a year are eligible to donate

**DAVID TAFFET** | Senior Staff Writer  
taffet@dallasvoice.com

The Food and Drug Administration issued new rules on blood donation by gay men this week, changing a 30-year-old policy disqualifying any man who has ever had sex with another man from donating blood in the U.S.

The new policy says men must wait 12 months after their last sexual contact with another man, mirroring blood donation rules in place in Great Britain and Australia, among other countries.

The FDA sets national standards for blood donation.

The ban on gay men donating blood was put in place near the beginning of the AIDS crisis, once it was understood that the virus causing AIDS could be passed through blood transfusion.

While most news reports of the policy change have claimed gay men may now donate blood, the new rule may add bisexual men who have had sex exclusively with women over the past year to the donation roles as well as that small portion of the gay male community that is celibate.

Gay men will only be allowed to donate blood if they claim to have abstained from sex for more than a year.

One of the safest groups of gay men to include in the donor pool would be married same-sex couples who test HIV-negative and are monogamous. But those couples are automatically excluded under the new policy.

Married heterosexual men who claim they are monogamous, however, are welcome to donate.

Before any blood is used, it is tested for a number of different pathogens, including HIV. According to FDA spokeswoman Tara Goodin, it can take up to nine days after contact for current tests to find HIV in the blood.

Dallas Voice spoke to Goodin on Tuesday. Goodin said she would refer additional questions to another spokesperson who didn't send answers to written questions before press time.

AIDS Arms Executive Director John Carlo said human testing catches HIV infection in seven days and hematological testing is even faster.

While he called the new rule a step in the right direction, he said asking about behaviors is not a way to keep the blood supply safe.

"Because you're gay or bi doesn't mean you're going to pass HIV through a blood transfusion," he said. "And there are many people who are not gay living with HIV."

He compared blood donation by a gay couple and a heterosexual couple.

"Chances are the gay, monogamous couple knows their HIV status," he said, while a straight couple is much less likely to have been tested or know their status. That would be dangerous to the blood supply, if all blood weren't tested.

Carlo questioned whether the one-year waiting



period was just a time period people understood and was therefore used to make people feel safe.

Lambda Legal Midwest Public Information Officer Graciela Gonzalez said the new rules are "still discriminatory" and "doesn't make the blood supply any safer." She said basing the safety of blood on what people self-report is ridiculous.

Scott Schoettes is Lambda Legal's HIV project director and a senior attorney. He said if blood banks are going to rely on self-reporting, it should be about behaviors, not categories.

"We need a donor questionnaire that gets at individual risk assessment," he said.

There's no reason to exclude all gay men, he said. But there may be reasons to exclude people who engaged in anal sex during a certain period of time prior to donation. That exclusion should apply to men or women, gay or straight.

"Of course they don't want to ask those questions to the general public," Schoettes said.

He said he doesn't believe the restrictions are really about HIV anymore.

"It's about the next transfusion-transmittable



Scott Schoettes, Lambda Legal HIV Project Director

infection," he said. TTIs, he explained, are blood-borne pathogens that can be transmitted.

Schoettes said the fear is those infections will originate in the gay community. But all donated blood is screened for Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C and West Nile Virus, and none of those originated in the gay community.

"Although the new policy is completely misguided, there's a concern people will create a policy in their own head," Schoettes said.



John Carlo, AIDS Arms Executive Director

He said it will take time for local blood banks to ramp up to the new policy.

"Some people will lie," he said. "The worst thing that could happen is if there's any uptick in HIV in the donor supply — even if it's caught and the blood isn't used."

He discouraged gay men from trying to donate blood.

"Comply with the policy — as misguided as it is," he said. ■



# MEI results released

Dallas, Austin score 100;  
FW gets 99

**TAMMY NASH** | Managing Editor  
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The Human Rights Campaign Foundation has officially released its 2015 Municipal Equality Index, and as expected, the Metroplex's two largest cities scored well on the national organization's annual survey.

Despite concerns that Dallas might lose points after city officials released initial MEI results to the press back in October, before the scores were finalized, Dallas was one of 47 cities or municipalities nationwide to receive a perfect score.

Across the Trinity, Fort Worth received a near-perfect 99. But David Mack Henderson, president of Fairness Fort Worth, questioned the survey's accuracy and its usefulness.

"We're losing sight of real advances for our people when the insatiable sell rests upon a quick score. 'Give me a number. 100! Woohoo! We're perfect!' Or, '99, ah shucks, just a tiny blemish,'" Henderson said. "Yet hovering beneath those perfect and near perfect scores, one finds that a city is missing such crucial coverage as trans benefits, a human relations commission or anti-bullying protection for children."

A statement released by HRCF announcing the new MEI numbers notes that the number of cities receiving perfect scores has "more than quadrupled" since the first MEI was released in 2012. "Today, at least 32 million people live in cities with fully-inclusive local protections that are not guaranteed by the states in which they live," according to the statement.

The statement also notes, however, that criteria for earning points has changed, and that since the Supreme Court decision in June legalizing same-sex marriage, the criteria no longer include relationship recognition, instead "placing greater emphasis on non-discrimination protections."

"Key findings" highlighted in the survey include the fact that "every region in the country boasted at least one 100-point city, showing commitment to LGBT equality in all regions of the country. In addition, 66 cities — or 16 percent of those surveyed — offer transgender-inclusive health care options to employees.

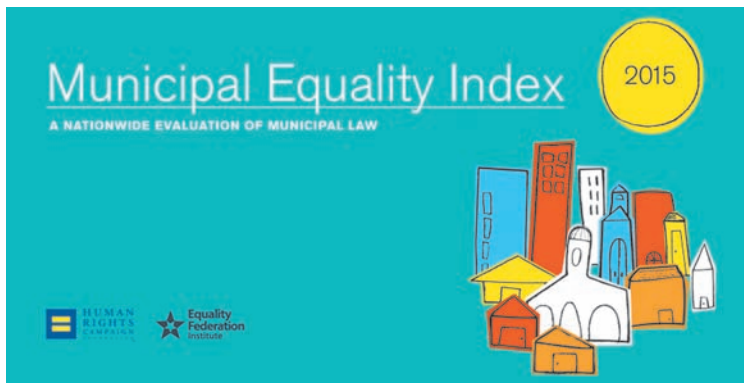
The average city score was 56 points, and 25 percent of the cities surveyed scored more than 78 points. Only 5 percent scored less than 10 points.

The survey included all 50 state capitals, the country's 200 largest cities and the five largest cities in each state, plus the cities home to the two largest public universities in each state and 75 cities that have high proportions of same-sex couples.

The MEI surveyed 23 cities in Texas. Of those, two — Dallas and Austin — received 100 points, and Fort Worth claimed 99 points. Four of the Texas cities surveyed received 0 points.

The cities in the survey are evaluated in five major categories: Non-discrimination laws, the municipality as an employer, municipal services, law enforcement, and relationship with the LGBT community. Cities were also able to earn "bonus points" in most categories.

Dallas scored 84 points out of 100 in the main categories, but earned 18 bonus points to put the city over the 100-point mark (no scores over 100 were awarded). Big D lost six points under the "municipality as an employer" category for not of-



fering transgender-inclusive insurance options.

Dallas scored only six of 16 points under municipal services, losing five points each for not having a human rights commission and not having an LGBT liaison in the mayor's office. But the city won bonus points for being a welcoming place to work, having an enforcement mechanism in the rights ordinance, providing services to the LGBT youth and elderly populations, providing services to people with HIV/AIDS, having openly elected or appointed city officials and being pro-equality despite restrictive state laws.

Fort Worth scored 86 points and 13 bonus points. Cowtown also lost 6 points for not having trans-inclusive insurance options, and for not having an enumerated anti-bullying policy in its schools (a point of contention for Henderson who said that the city has no control over school policies and that Fort Worth ISD does, indeed, have enumerated anti-bullying policies and was one of the first school districts in Texas to do so).

Under "relationship with the LGBT community," Fort Worth received only four of five possible points for "leadership's public position on LGBT equality," and only two of three possible points for "leadership's pro-equality legislative or policy efforts." The city received bonus points for being a welcoming place to work, for having a human rights commission, providing services to LGBT homeless people and those with HIV/AIDS, and for being pro-equality despite restrictive state laws.

Austin scored 95 points and 16 bonus points, losing points only for not having an LGBT liaison in the mayor's office.

Texas cities receiving scores of 0 were College Station, Irving, Lubbock and Mesquite. ■

For complete results, visit [HRC.org/Campaigns/Municipal-Equality-Index](http://HRC.org/Campaigns/Municipal-Equality-Index).

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ERIN WHITNEY, HUFFINGTON POST





# Hate crime survivor ends year as new dad

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer  
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Burke Burnett and Justin Carrier end 2015 by becoming new dads for the second time this year. New son Cody was born on Dec. 20. His older brother is just 10 months and three days older.

Burnett and Carrier met in 2012 and were married in November 2014. They found out they were going to be dads for the first time on the way home from their honeymoon, Carrier said.

The couple had both sons through private adoption.

After Caleb was born in February, Burnett said, they weren't planning to have another right away.

But they received a call from the adoption agency over the summer and the couple said the connection with the second mother a "perfect match," even though, Carrier noted, "That was faster than we planned."

They have accompanied the birth mom to every medical appointment since the fifth month of the pregnancy.

Cody was born healthy and went home with Burnett and Carrier on Tuesday, Dec. 22, two days after he was born.

Burnett, seriously injured in an anti-gay hate crime near Paris, Texas in 2011, is a cofounder of the new support group for survivors of violent crime: SOS-Survivors Offering Support.

Four years ago, Burnett was at a party when he was attacked by three men who stabbed and beat



Burke Burnett, left, holds his son Caleb, 10 months, who is intent on pulling the hat off his new baby brother, Cody, held by Burnett's husband, Justin Carrier. Cody was born Sunday, Dec. 20.

him with a broken beer bottle, then threw him onto a fire and left him to die.

The three men were arrested, convicted and are serving time in prison.

Burnett's story went from local to regional as Dallas Voice and other local media picked it up. Burnett credits Dallas media calls to Paris police for getting the attackers arrested and prosecuted with hate crime enhancements.

Despite the closure Burnett described at having his attackers arrested and the crime prosecuted, he said the year after the attack was a dark time for him. He recovered, first physically and then men-

tally. And rather than stay in Paris, Burnett moved to Dallas, where he met Carrier.

Four years after the attack, Burnett had moved on in his life. He and Carrier were married in November 2014, and three months later, in February 2015, Caleb was born.

Then in September this year, on the same day as the Dallas Pride parade, Blake Rasnake was attacked in Oak Lawn by a group of men hurling anti-gay epithets and wielding a baseball bat. Less than two weeks later, Michael Dominguez was attacked on Cedar Springs Road.

In hearing the news of these attacks, Burnett re-

lived his own nightmare.

Burnett decided to attend a meeting with police that took place at Resource Center early in October. That's where he met Rasnake and Dominguez. As the attacks on gay men in Oak Lawn continued, the three survivors decided to step up and offer support to other victims.

Thinking back on his own experience, Burnett wanted to make sure the current survivors knew they'd get through the trauma. He wanted to offer some guidance he never got.

The Texas Crime Victims Services division of the state Attorney General's office helps survivors with hospital bills and other expenses that result from an assault, but, Burnett said, he procrastinated about filing for compensation. He wants to make sure current victims receive the assistance and encouragement they need to have their hospital stays — that in at least one case resulted in a day in an ICU unit — covered.

As the attacks have continued, Burnett continues offering his shoulder to those who've needed it.

In December, SOS met for the first time to allow those affected by the recent violence in Oak Lawn and others who've survived violent crime to get together, share their experiences and talk with other people who understand their situation.

But for this week, Burnett isn't thinking about violent crime. He's thinking about the responsibility of raising his second son.

So what do Burnett and Carrier have planned for the new year? More kids in the near future?

"I think we're going to chill out for a little bit," Burnett said. ■

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# PrEP: The Revolution That Didn't Happen

In July 2012, the FDA approved Truvada for the prevention of HIV (PrEP). It was hailed by CDC and many activists as a prevention revolution. CDC recommended that 500,000 gay men take the drug which it recently raised to 1.2 million. Gilead Sciences, the maker of Truvada, has spent millions funding community groups to promote the drug and more money enticing doctors to prescribe it. Thousands of articles have been published about PrEP. Two and a half years later according to CDC only 21,000 people are on the drug in the United States. Any objective observer has to conclude that most patients don't want to take Truvada and doctors are not recommending it.

The failure of PrEP to catch on isn't the biggest problem. The big problem is that CDC has abandoned promoting other prevention methods such as condoms. STD rates which indicate high levels of unprotected sex are soaring across the board and yet budgets for the diagnosis and treatment of STDs are being cut. Funding for HIV testing, outreach and linkage to care are flat or declining.

We know that when people with HIV are treated and their virus is brought down to undetectable levels they are rendered non-infectious to others. Yet, in the United States only about 30% of the HIV infected population have their virus under control - a very bad situation.

AHF has made clear that we believe that PrEP is a good solution for individuals who have multiple partners and never use condoms. However, we do not believe that it is a proven public health solution. How long will it take for CDC to catch on to the failure of this strategy? In the meantime, our country is unprotected against the spread of HIV and other STDs.

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Filmmaker Steve Pomerantz is working on a documentary about the recent attacks in Oak Lawn and how the community is responding

**TAMMYE NASH** | Managing Editor  
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Steve Pomerantz has a story to tell about the recent rash of attacks on gay men in Oak Lawn, and he plans on telling it in a feature-length documentary now in the works, through his A Story To Tell Productions. His working title is *Taking Back Oak Lawn*.

It all started, Pomerantz said this week, in early October when he attended a rally organized by local activist Daniel Scott Cates in response to the attack on a gay man named Blake, which happened the evening of Sept. 20, following the Alan Ross Texas Freedom Parade.

Media attention on that attack brought to light other attacks that had happened earlier in September, and Cates organized the gathering under the rallying cry of "Take Back Oak Lawn." It was a moment that opened Pomerantz's eyes.

"I was just very moved by everything I saw and heard that night at that rally," he said. "Michael Dominguez, who was one of the first victims, spoke that night, and it really made me think about what was happening."

The attacks have continued, the 14th such assault happening Dec. 19, based on police reports, and that doesn't count incidents that were not re-

# A story unfolding



ported to police. There have been numerous community meetings and other rallies since that first gathering in early October, as the community's outrage and calls for action have both increased. But it was that first rally that set Pomerantz on his path.

Pomerantz describes himself as a grassroots documentary filmmaker with "a few short documentaries" to his credit. He said that he had stepped away from filmmaking for a while, but attending the October rally "really lit my creative spark again."

"I was thinking originally about doing just a short documentary about what is going on, and about the formation of SOS," the Survivors Offer-

ing Support group that was formed by Dominguez and other survivors of violent attacks.

"But I have been to all the meetings, all the rallies, and I have met with most of the victims of the attacks and interviewed them," Pomerantz continued. "Right now, I have eight to 10 hours of footage, that's more than enough for a feature-length documentary."

Initially, Pomerantz said, he planned for his documentary primarily to promote SOS and the activists working to bring these attacks to the public's attention.

"I talked to Daniel Scott Cates and [rally organizer] John Anderson. I talked to the victims of these recent attacks, like Michael Dominguez. I talked

to Burke Burnett, who survived an anti-gay attack in Paris, Texas a few years ago. I talked to Lee Daugherty," who owns Alexandre's and who has been working to help get the city to respond, Pomerantz said. "You have these people who have been so influential in the response and most of them didn't know each other when it all started."

"It was a story about how these strangers were thrown together and all used their different strengths to create a response."

But Pomerantz isn't looking back on an event or series of events that have already happened and retelling that story. Instead, he is trying to recount a story that is still unfolding.

"The story is changing every day, and so the documentary is changing, based on what's happening," Pomerantz said. "It's all very organic. This story, really, is telling itself, and I am just here to get the details right."

Pomerantz has already finished two trailers for the film, both available for viewing on YouTube, with links on Pomerantz's Facebook page, Facebook.com/aStorytoTellProduction. He said he intends to have the film finished in April, and intends to take it on the film festival circuit — "both LGBT and mainstream." He also hopes to get the film distributed "either online or in theaters."

"I do everything myself, shooting the footage and editing it all. And the editing process is taking a bit longer than I thought it would, just because the story is changing as we go along," he said. "It's a very basic story, but at the same time, it is very complicated. And I want to make sure to get it right."

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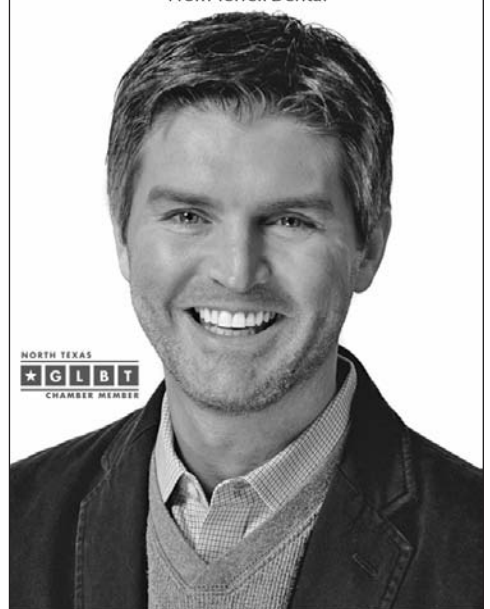


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# Trinity MCC temporarily relocates after fire

Community support helps congregation cope

**JAMES RUSSELL** | Staff Writer  
russell@dallasvoice.com

An accidental fire at Trinity Metropolitan Community Church in Grand Prairie following the church's Sunday, Dec. 13 service may not have damaged much, but it caused a lot of problems for the LGBT-affirming church ahead of a busy Christmas season.

According to the Rev. Curtis Smith, who has served as senior pastor of the church for the past 14 years, a candle inadvertently left lit caused the fire. Only a display table and surrounding furnishings in the leased space were damaged, and fortunately, no one was in the building at the time.

Congregants may be temporarily displaced, but the damage has not prevented them from worshipping, however. On Sunday, Dec. 20, they gathered in their building's parking lot, meeting at 11 a.m., the normal time, just like any other Sunday.

On Christmas Eve, the church met again in the parking lot for midnight services.

Insurance will cover the structural damage and

loss of the furnishings. But the church still has to cover the deductible and other incidentals.

"We are so blessed that a witness, reported seeing the flames through our glass front doors and that the Grand Prairie Fire Department responded so swiftly and appropriately," Smith said in a statement.

He estimates clean up and repairs will cost between \$15,000-\$20,000. The church is currently taking donations for its building fund to cover those costs.

Smith said the community has been gracious in supporting the church, with both the Grand Prairie Chamber of Commerce and the local municipal airport giving the congregation support and space during the clean-up.

"Trinity MCC has faced other tough moments in our 32 year history, and God always provides through the faithfulness of our people and our community," Smith said.

In the mid-1990s, Smith said, the ceiling collapsed and water severely damaged the facility. They also had to sell their building due to cost overruns.

But each time the church has rebounded.

"It's a tough time for the church. But we're re-



silient," Smith said.

"It is important we continue focusing on doing our acts of love and good deeds, and not give up meeting together, but encourage one another all the more as we wait for return of Jesus or the slow process of restoration whichever comes first," Smith said, paraphrasing the church's favorite scripture, Hebrews 10:24-25. "We covet your prayers and would love to have you join us in

worship soon."

For updates check the church website at [TrinityMCC.org](http://TrinityMCC.org).

*Schedule: The church meets 11 a.m. on Sunday, Dec. 27 at Mixed Up Burgers at the Grand Prairie Municipal Airport, 3116 South Great Southwest Pkwy, Grand Prairie. The church meets on Sunday, Jan. 3 at 11 a.m. at the Grand Prairie Chamber of Commerce Board Room, 900 Conover Dr., Grand Prairie.*

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# ■ commUNITY voices

# Trump's no savior

Playing at politician, candidate has adopted an old — and dangerous — trick

There is a technique politicians have used over time to gain favor from the masses, and it's pure evil and morally bankrupt.

It can also be lethal.

It's called the Karpman Drama Triangle.

Here's the gist of it: You, the politician, create an enemy that will, you declare, endanger the very people who's support you are seeking. You then position yourself as the savior, the person who has not only identified that enemy, but is also best equipped to deal with them and keep the helpless, frightened populace safe.

Hitler did a masterful job of this. So did Ronald Reagan (evil empire anyone?).

Donald Trump is trying, but he's a mess. He sees enemies everywhere — Mexicans, blacks and now Muslims.

My Facebook page has been quite divided on this subject, and that both surprises and bothers me.

I disagree with Trump's suggestion of "Bombing the Shit out of ISIS." Don't get me wrong, I find what ISIS is doing sickening. I find religious extremism disgusting — but not just the Muslim brand, the Christian brand as well.

But you can't bomb an ideology. There are innocent civilians there, and they don't deserve to have the shit bombed out of them.

Hearing people cheer at Trump's comments gave me chills — the bad kind.

Do y'all not see the ridiculous hypocrisy at work here? The whole constitutional "Freedom of Religion" thing means everyone's religion, not just yours.

It's not a violation of religious freedom when you want to ban Muslims from a business or force them to wear a marking of some kind, but it's religious persecution when Christians are inconvenienced in some way?

The same rules should apply to all. We are not a Christian nation. Our Constitution forbids the establishment of any religion.

Trump says stuff like some jerk 13-year-old kid. He's all reaction and bravado with no thought for the consequences.

Those that cheer him are like the mindless followers in middle school that echoed the venomous comments of the 13-year-old brat. I don't want that kind of person in the White House.

Another example of this "Unholy Trinity" is the opposition to HERO — the Houston Equal Rights Ordinance. Once again, religious bullies painted transgender women as the enemy, and only these so-called religious leaders had the solution to "saving" women and children from attack in spaces where they seem most vulnerable.



**Leslie McMurray**  
Accidental Activist

Forget the fact that this just doesn't happen.

On the other hand police officer Daniel Holtzclaw in Oklahoma City has been sentenced to 263 years in prison for using his authority as a cop to rape and sexually abuse and humiliate women. It's just

the latest example of abuse of authority. Last month, an Associated Press investigation found that, between 2009 and 2014, nearly 1,000 police officers nationwide were either decertified or lost their badges for crimes like rape, sexual shake-downs and possession of child pornography.

So yeah, tell me again how trans women put other women and children in danger by using the bathroom.

These lies hurt people. How can church leaders preach the gospel on Sunday and lie like vermin the rest of the week and not see the hypocrisy? How can they deny safety to refugees based solely on their religion and then take a tax exemption for their church and lobby so hard for their own "religious freedom?"

How can they not see this? Or maybe they just don't care.

I am against extremism in any form. My mom used to remind me often, "Everything in moderation."

As for Mr. Trump, I am in a state of utter disbelief that any rational person takes him or anything he says seriously. Five lousy minutes on the Internet found a cornucopia of sites that fact-check the sewage that spews forth from his mouth.

One so-called "stat" the Trumpmeister tweeted recently was that 81 percent of murders of white people were committed by blacks. The organization he sourced doesn't exist. Another agency — one you may have heard of called the Federal Bureau of Investigation — said the number is closer to 15 percent.

This is just hate mongering on Trump's part, and it needs to stop.

There is plenty wrong with America that is real and can be verified. There is no need to make stuff up. But what Trump is doing is worse than just lying; he is ginning up hate and manufacturing enemies that don't exist.

Trump isn't anyone's savior. He is an egotistical loudmouth who says the first thing that pops into his head. He panders to a dangerous base of people with no respect for the truth, who are seemingly ready to grab a pitchfork and a torch and hurl themselves against some refugee from a third world country because they worship a different version of the same God.

Really?

We are less than a year away from electing our next president. When we cast our vote, we are telling the rest of the world what kind of country we are. I'm hoping that the answer is that we are a country that is compassionate yet strong, respectful of all — a country that understands that freedom for one means freedom for all. ■



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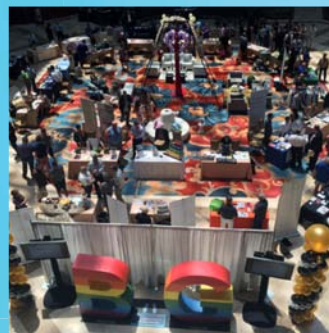
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# The year in entertainment

LIFE+STYLE

year in review

Critical rankings of the best of 2015 in screen, stage, tube/online and books ... plus our local Actor of the Year



ARNOLD WAYNE JONES

Executive Editor

jones@dallasvoice.com

2015 YEAR IN REVIEW

SCREEN

NEW YORKERS CHECKING EACH OTHER OUT | Onscreen, Rooney Mara and Cate Blanchett portray lovers in the 1950s in 'Carol,' left, while onstage, Sterling Gafford and B.J. Cleveland hide their relationship in the 1940s in 'The Nance.'



2015 YEAR IN REVIEW

STAGE

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES

Executive Editor

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As 2015 drew to a close, it became clear that this was a solid year for good movies — many from unexpected corners. Who knew, for instance, that studio-led crowdpleasers like *The Force Awakens* or *Mad Max: Fury Road* could convey touching moments amid the mayhem, or that a coming-of-age flick could make you re-examine the genre entirely.

We found comedy in global economic collapse, empathy inside the head of a tween girl, affection for a lesbian grandmother helping her granddaughter afford an abortion and survival of a bear attack feel as visceral as the real thing. Kudos, 2015 — you managed to keep us rapt.

10. *Me and Earl and the Dying Girl*. The most authentic coming-of-age story in a while was this satisfying tearjerker without the cloying nature, about a teenager's last year in high school, his chill but nerdy friend and the "good deed" they undertake that transforms them both. It's a movie for film lovers ... and just warm-hearted people in general.

9. *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*. A worthy successor to *Episodes IV, V and VI* — and a welcome palate-cleaner to the aftertaste of *Episodes I, II and III* — Jar-Jar Abrams (err... J.J.) crafted the ideal fanboy sci-fi adventure with enough chick-flick updating to secure new converts. Part sequel, part remake, part pastiche, *Episode VII* reminds us that it's still possible to be amazed and moved by supersaturated Hollywood enter-

tainments. The Force is strong in this one.

8. *The Big Short*. By the time you wrap your mind around the thrust of this film — that its "heroes" are the savvy Wall Streeters who accurately predict the worst financial crash since the Great Depression (thus, their victory is our collective disaster) — you're already too committed to rooting for them. Not that they are to blame: The damage caused by the greedy investment banks was all but irreversible anyway. Steve Carell's quirky performance adds just the right jolt of Noo Yawky attitude, but co-writer/director Adam McKay proves comedies can be just as emotionally rich as dramas ... it's a comedy, right?

7. *Mr. Holmes*. The year's best performance came from Ian McKellen, playing the (fictional) Sherlock Holmes as if he were, in fact, a real detective who gave up crime solving after one particularly fraught case. Set in the 1940s, and directed by Bill Condon, it's a fascinating companion piece to *Gods & Monsters*, as a man on the brink of senility discovers — before it's too late — hope and purpose.

6. *Inside Out*. What's it like being a teenaged girl? No film, animated or live-action, has delved so smartly into that question as this Pixar installment. While *Inception* was about forming an architecture in the world of dreams, *Inside Out* gives shape to the life of the subconscious mind

■ SCREEN Page 24

Without doing an exact count, I would hazard to guess that I saw fewer stage productions in North Texas in 2015 than I did the year previously, but probably saw more excellent theater than at any time in recent memory. That's sometimes the nature of the lively arts: A rising tide lifts all boats (there's no denying that, following heavy losses with the deaths of Jac Alder, Nye Cooper, Terry Dobson and others, the theater community bounced back in a quasi act of defiance). Uptown Players has a legendary season (even its bonus spoof show, *Gilligan's Fire Island*, was among its best), but Dallas Theater Center offered three world premieres, Kitchen Dog made good use of its new temporary space and Lyric continued to make us wonder when the regional Tony Award will finally be presented. Kudos, guys — we couldn't imagine a better way to end the year.

10. *Pippin* (Dallas Summer Musicals/Performing Arts Fort Worth) The best touring production of the year (and there were several good ones, including a rich, Broadway-bound *Sound of Music*) is this enchanting revival of the Stephen Schwartz/Bob Fosse time-capsule from the 1970s, made fresh and engaging by an exceptional cast that included the original Pippin (John Rubenstein) now as Charlamagne, and former sexpot Adrienne Barbeau astonishing as Pippin's grandma.

9. *The Show About Men* (DGDG). To be hon-

est, the original description of this combination play/dance/performance art piece left me wondering whether it was gonna be self-indulgent navel-gazing or have any greater merit, and *boy* was there merit! Hilarious, moving, confessional — and, yes, underground-edgy — this hybrid work from Danielle Georgiou, Justin Locklear and their cast of men made audiences reconsider definitions of masculinity without getting preachy.

8. *Grand Hotel* (Lyric Stage). I practically reserve at least one slot each year for Lyric Stage, which produces the kind of large-scale musicals like no place else in America (and we mean nowhere). There are actually two spots this year, with *Grand Hotel* — a rarely-performed portmanteau musical with scope and characters to go on for days — making the first appearance on the list. Such magnificent singing and characterizations (especially from Christopher J. Deaton, Mary-Margaret Pyeatt and Andy Baldwin) made 1920s Berlin soar.

7. *The Down Low* (Audacity Theatre Lab). Danny O'Connor's experimental play — the venue was the director's living room in East Dallas; the audience at each performance barely the size of the cast — makes for an uncomfortable two hours of absurdist comedy about a closeted gay man, the dead African-American in his bedroom as well as spies, stoners and who-knows-what else.

6. *The Totalitarians* (Kitchen Dog Theater).

INDEX TO THE YEAR IN REVIEW: ENTERTAINMENT: Screen • Page 20 .... Stage • Page 20 .... Actor of the Year • Page 21 .... Tube/Online • Page 22 .... Books • Page 25

NEXT WEEK AND BEYOND: Arts/Culture/Sports .... Auto .... Dining .... Music ... PLUS THE TOP NEWS STORIES OF 2015



Peter Sinn Nachtrieb's eerily timely dissection of a political campaign — with a brain-dead but incidentally evil candidate (Tina Parker) that hits surprising success with meaningless Trump-like rhetoric — gave us the funniest production of the year.

5. *The Flick* (Undermain Theater). A finalist for the Pulitzer Prize, *The Flick* is a play about movies ... that's just as much about the close-knit trio of people onstage and how they interact.

4. *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* (Uptown Players). John Cameron Mitchell and Stephen Trask created this meta-musical, a real-time concert by a notorious transgender East German pop star who was dumped by her lover once he became too famous to be "gay." It's a thrilling piece of rock opera given heft by great characterizations (from Kyle Igneczi and Grace Neeley as his side

man), directed with boundless energy by Jeremy Dumont.

3. *South Pacific* (Lyric Stage). Rodgers & Hammerstein are still the masters of musical theater, who transformed Vaudeville revues into socially-aware portraits of the American (and human) experience. Lyric did it up right with this full-on revival, starring Janelle Lutz as a naïve farm girl given lessons in life when she falls for a mysterious and sexy plantation owner in a war-torn island nation. It felt as fresh as it must have to audiences 60 years ago.

2. *Colossal* (Dallas Theater Center). Kevin Moriarty transformed the space of the Wyly Theatre into a bleachers-filled football stadium in this world premiere work about a young man felled in a fluke accident on the field who has a

■ STAGE Page 23

## ACTOR OF THE YEAR

As I write every year: This is my favorite piece to do each December, a remembrance of all the talented individuals who work so diligently in the footlights to entertain us in live performances throughout the year. Because live theater is temporary, these folks leave their art to our memories, and the least we can do is say "thank you — we remember."

We remember, for instance, a host of "pairs" from this year, such as **David Lugo** and **Anthony Fortino**, playing a father and his devoted son in *Catch Me If You Can*, a mediocre musical transformed by director Cheryl Denson — and its stars — into the whiz-bang showstopper of the summer. The duet of **Angel Velasco** as a self-absorbed gayboy and **Mikey Abrams** as a lustful Thurston Howell III in the campy spoof *Gilligan's Fire Island* had us howling in the aisle.

**Brigham Moseley** and **Van Quattro** appeared in separate one-man shows at the second annual Dallas Solo Fest (both self-written: Moseley's *Mo[ur]ning After* and Quattro's *Standing Eight Count*), giving us hope for the success of this re-emerging genre. The wonderful presence of **Grace Neeley** is all that kept **Kyle Igneczi's** star turn in *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* from being a solo show, but they worked magic together.

The women teamed up successfully, too. **Cara Statham-Serber's** hilarious take on a less-than-great mom, and **Kennedy Waterman's** mature, rooted role as her common-sensical daughter, were the highlights of *Harbor*. **Sherry Ward** dominated the stage in a compelling role as a prickly lesbian college professor in Echo Theatre's *Precious Little*, though **Lisa Fairchild** gave her a run for her money in the same show. **Tina Parker** and **Leah Spillman** made for a funny twosome, allowing craven powermongering to get the better of them, in the political comedy *The Totalitarians*, one of Kitchen Dog's best shows. (**Max Hartman** and **Drew Wall**, as the men trying to stop them, were just as good.)

**Tiana Johnson's** charisma in *The Mountaintop* stole focus away from the main character (Martin Luther King, guys!) and kept our eyes lasered in on her from start to finish. **Amber Devlin** committed similar larceny in Theatre 3's production of *Picnic*. In a play that oozes sexual desire, her randy schoolmarm was the comic and tragic center of the piece. And **Christopher J. Deaton's** tender yet sultry performance in *Grand Hotel* enchanted audience members.

But four other actors really stood out for me in



2015. **Sterling Gafford** burst on the scene in two memorable roles — as the Gentleman Caller in Tennessee Williams' *The Glass Menagerie*, and as the object of affection for the incomparable **B.J. Cleveland** in Uptown Players' *The Nance*. Indeed, in any other year, these two would be neck-and-neck for my highest accolades (Cleveland, a previous winner, was brilliant, as always). Then there was that work by **Janelle Lutz** in Lyric Stage's buoyant production of *South Pacific*. Lutz impressed audiences last year as Judy Garland in *The Boy from Oz* (and she'll play Garland again in a different show in 2016), though her Nellie Forbush — corny, ebullient, unexpectedly racist — almost single-handedly propelled a great show.

But one performance from early 2015 lingers in my memory. I saw Zoe Caldwell portray Medea onstage in Robinson Jeffers' classic adaptation of the great tragedy, but **Sally Nystuen Vahle**, pictured, more than equaled her. True, it's one of the great roles for any actress, but how many can sear it into your memory so viscerally nine months later? Vahle already has a well-earned rep as one of North Texas' premier talents, but that performance made her Dallas Voice's 2015 Actor of the Year.

— A. W.J.



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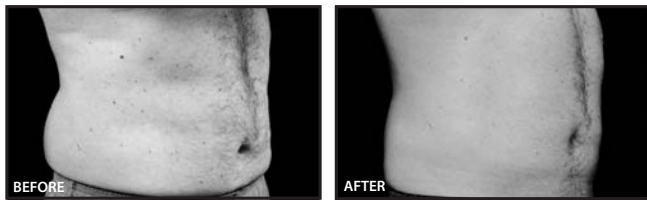
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L+S year in review

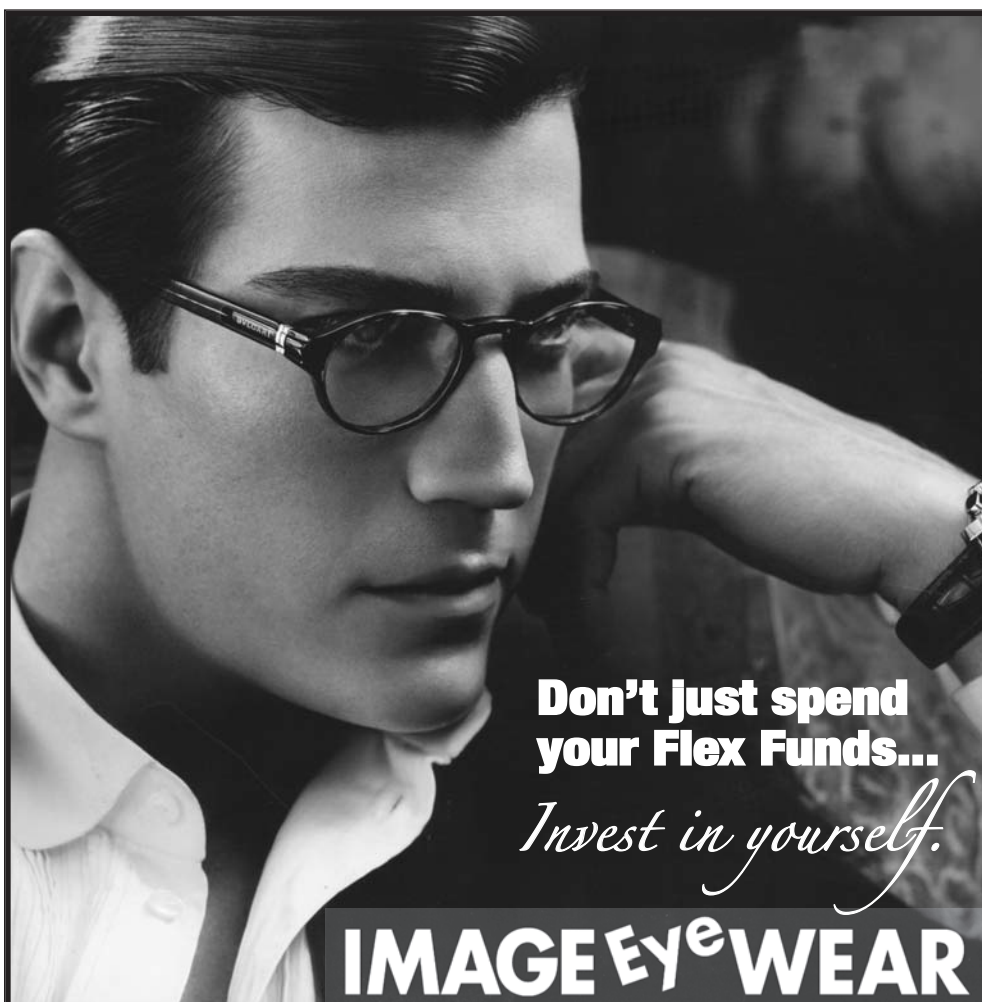
# Tube stakes

The best (new) things on TV ... and the Internet



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Dallas Voice has referred to its television coverage as “Tube” for decades — long before YouTube, XTube and the tubes over which we stream entertainment were conceived. So it makes sense that we broaden the definition of what Tube coverage is strictly from what you see on cable and Netflix to the whole panoply of entertainment that comes directly to your portable device. So, our Year in Review roundup this time includes a hodgepodge of things we watched in 2015 — broadcast, streaming, on Facebook and Twitter. The scope was amazing. (We limited the traditional Tube shows to new series, to narrow the universe a little.)

2015 YEAR IN REVIEW  
TUBE/ONLINE

10. *The Muppets* (ABC). Maybe it's the inner-child in all of us that makes *The Muppets* irresistible after more than 40 years. This reincarnation — moved from a Vaudeville house to the set of a late-night talk show — shows the Henson Creature Shop still knows comedy, and how to convince audiences that foam rubber frogs have real emotions. (Cheers, too, for Fozzie's gay joke: “When your online profile says you're a ‘passionate bear looking for love...’ you get a lot of wrong responses.”)

9. *The Jinx: The Life and Deaths of Robert Durst* (HBO). Few documentaries have uncovered the truth as dramatically as this miniseries from Andrew Jarecki, which profiled the strange,

cross-dressing Texan who chopped up his neighbor but claimed self-defense. The finale, where Jarecki accidentally recorded Durst on tape confessing to murder, was the most compelling moment of television most people have ever witnessed.

8. *Documentary Now* (IFC). *The Jinx* wasn't the only documentary that had us delighted, although the spoof series *Documentary Now* — from Fred Armisen, Bill Hader and Seth Meyers — entertained for completely different reasons. In six episodes, the improv comedians skewered half a dozen “classic” documentaries with humorous twists (the best was the first: *Grey Gardens*, which morphs slowly into *The Blair Witch Project*). It was nerd humor for movie geeks.

7. *Serial* (Podcast). One final documentary makes the list, but this one a treat for the ears, not the eyes. The emergence in late 2014 of the Podcast Serial, chronicling the journey of Adnan Syed who seemed to have been railroaded into a murder conviction years ago, practically put Podcasts on the map. It returned just a few weeks ago with Season 2, which delves deeply into the facts and psychology of Bowe Bergdahl, the soldier captured by the Taliban — was he a traitor, a deserter, or a hero? We can't wait to hear it all.

6. *Matt Ballasai's Whine About It* (Buzzfeed). The BuzzFeed employe uncorks a bottle of wine and gets progressively drunker while railing about everything from “ways to ‘win’ at Thanksgiving dinner” to “the worst things about holi-

**STREAM QUEENS** | Taraji P. Henson and Jussie Smollett from ‘Empire,’ top; James Wright creamed over a store-bought pie, opposite top; and gay ambush interviewer Billy Eichner, opposite below.





day office parties."

5. **Billy Eichner** (YouTube). Eichner's mad-man-on-the-street ambush interviews combine the out comedian's manic friendliness with his sense of outrageous camp as he corners unsuspecting pedestrians and quizzes them about minutiae.

4. **Gary Janetti's Twitter feed** (Twitter). The *Vicious* creator and *Will & Grace* producer tweets his bitter-queen observations constantly, with 140 characters full of venom and oh-no-he-didn't humor.

3. **Patti LaBelle's Sweet Potato Pie** (YouTube). Vlogger James Wright has recorded his ravings for a while, but he hit the stratosphere when he bought a Patti LaBelle Sweet Potato Pie at Walmart and ate it live on camera, offering his review... which turned into an orgasm of culinary conversion, and put a pastry on the damn pop culture map.

2. **Empire** (Fox). Taraji P. Henson as Cookie became our favorite hero-villain, and Jussie Smollett an instant icon of the gay community, when Fox released this nighttime soap opera set in the world of hip hop music — an African-American *Dallas* with gay sex. I don't use the term "guilty pleasure," but if I did, the definition would have a picture of this show, co-created by out producer-director Lee Daniels.



1. **The Unbreakable Kimmie Schmidt** (Netflix). Tina Fey may be this generation's most distinctive comic voice, as she proved on NBC's *30 Rock* and confirmed with this Netflix series about a girl kidnapped and imprisoned by a cult leader for a decade, only to emerge Rip Van Winkle-like and determined to make a new life for herself. Titus Burgess provides exceptional comic support, but the writing and tone are the stars. ■

#### ■ STAGE, From Page 21

lot more to hide than his disability. Tender and sexy, thrilling and thoughtful, Colossal turns a curious eye at the intersection of sports, art and sexuality.

1. **The Nance** (Uptown Players). Chauncey (B.J. Cleveland) is one of the true headliners of the fast-disappearing burlesque circuit, a comic genius renowned for his performance of "The Nance," the flamboyant and suggestive gay character. He's also secretly queer (and openly

Republican), hiding in plain sight while he seduces budding hustlers back to his apartment for hook-ups. When he meets a young man (Sterling Gafford) whose guilelessness intrigues him, Chauncey discovers love ... but at an immense cost. Douglas Carter Beane's hilariously heartbreaking period piece — part cabaret, part *Sunshine Boys*, all soul — was the year's most breathless wonder, staggeringly well-directed by Bruce R. Coleman and performed exquisitely by Cleveland, Gafford and the entire cast. It was 2015's highlight in a theater. ■

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Leo DiCaprio spars with two terrifying beasts (a grizzly and Tom Hardy) in 'The Revenant,' opening Jan. 8.

■ **SCREEN**, From Page 20

with emotional resonance.

5. *Mad Max: Fury Road*. Six months before *Star Wars* introduced us to the female Jedi master Rey, George Miller intrigued us with his feminist Road Warrior epic, an eye-popping-yet-humane fossil-fuel burner that all but revived a long-lamented franchise with intelligence but no lack of testosterone.

4. *Tangerine*. Director Sean Baker's guerrilla indie — famously shot entirely on an iPhone 5 with a few cheap attachments — is more than its reputation as the "future of cinema" avatar would imply. He's composed a deeply vibrant and entertaining look at two transgender prostitutes (newcomers Mya Taylor and Kiki Kitana Rodriguez) who live out and proud, no matter how hard it is ... and still seem to come out on top in their own way.

3. *The Revenant*. Let's just be clear: We are in an age where, if you can imagine it, a director can make it real ... at least if that director is from Mexico. Following the Oscar directing wins for *Gravity*'s Alfonso Cuarón and last year's *Birdman* boss, Alejandro G. Iñárritu, comes yet another stunner from Inárritu ... and unlike *Birdman* (set almost entirely within the confines of a cramped Broadway theater), this one takes advantage of the expanse of Big Sky country circa 1830. Based on actual events, it features Leonardo DiCaprio as the survivor of a brutal and amazing bear attack, who manages to seek revenge on the turncoat (Tom Hardy, the most chilling villain of the year). It's *Moby-Dick* in the snow, and never short of eye-popping.

2. *Spotlight*. Journalism has rarely been so provocatively and thrillingly portrayed as it is in Thomas McCarthy's dissection of the Boston Globe's investigation into the depths of the Catholic priest sex abuse scandal. A thinking-man's thriller as compelling as *The Silence of the Lambs* (not to mention *All the President's Men*), it's a film that portrays heroism as a daily chore, elevated by Oscar-calibre work from Michael Keaton and Liev Schreiber.

1. *Carol*. Todd Haynes' period drama about the tentative but passionate relationship between two women in 1950s New York is certainly one

of the best acted, written and directed dramas of the year ... and by a nose its best overall film experience, full of detail, subtlety and elegance. Cate Blanchett is amazing, and Rooney Mara matches her emotional valley-and-hill equally.

**Nos. 11–20:** *Iris*; *Bridge of Spies*; *Steve Jobs*; *Legend*; *Anomalisa*; *Infinite Polar Bear*; *Dope*; *Youth*; *A Gay Girl in Damascus*; *The Amina Project*; *Grandma*.

**Memorable performances:** The men: Ian McKellen in *Mr. Holmes*; Mark Ruffalo bloviating affectionately through *Infinitely Polar Bear*; Jake Gyllenhaal amazing in the otherwise unwatchable *Southpaw*; Michael Fassbender as *Steve Jobs*; Tom Hanks and Mark Rylance in the retro Cold War thriller *Bridge of Spies*; Michael Keaton and Liev Schreiber in *Spotlight*; Michael Caine and Harvey Keitel in career-best work in *Youth*; Leonardo Di Caprio in *The Revenant*; Tom Hardy, stellar in both *The Revenant* and *Legend*; Eddie Redmayne as a transgender pioneer in *The Danish Girl*; Idris Elba in *Beasts of No Nation*; Rick Springfield surprising everyone in the otherwise blah *Ricki and the Flash*. ... The women: Cate Blanchett and Rooney Mara in *Carol*; Lily Tomlin in *Grandma*; Julianne Moore and Ellen Page in the disappointing *Freeheld*; Alicia Vikander in both *Ex Machina* and *The Danish Girl*; Meryl Streep in *Ricki and the Flash*; Kiki Kitana Rodriguez and Mya Taylor in *Tangerine*; Amy Schumer in *Trainwreck*; Charlotte Rampling in *45 Years*; Saoirse Ronan in *Brooklyn*.

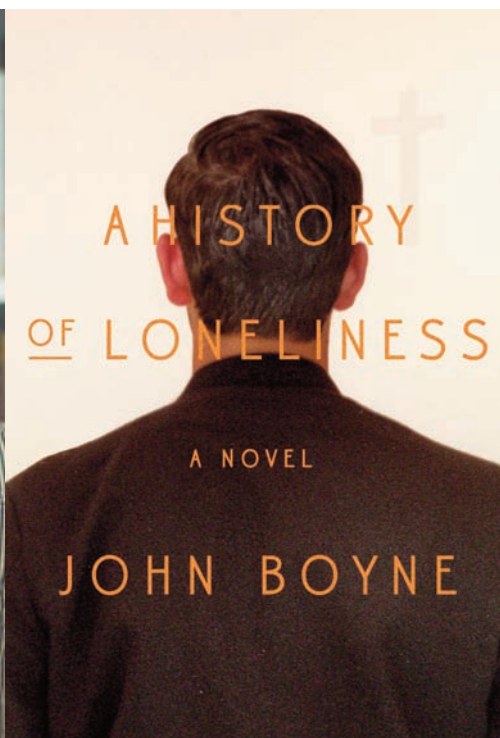
**The worst: My Bottom 10**

10. *Trumbo* and 9. *Concussion* (preachy "message" movies that never get off the ground ... and feature surprisingly lame performances); 8. *San Andreas* (yet another silly disaster movie); 7. *Spy* (a "comedy" that never lets Melissa McCarthy loose); 6. *Focus* (0 for 2 for Will Smith); 5. *Southpaw* (this paw was way too heavy-handed) 4. *Jupiter Ascending* (the Wachowskis try for a comic sci-fi ... but no one "got" the comedy); 3. *Burnt* (overbaked but underdone); 2. *Ricki and the Flash* (lame family dramedy) 1. *Pawn Sacrifice* (check and mate in this ponderous look at troubled chessmaster Bobby Fischer). ■



# Page turners

The best reads in fiction, nonfiction and kid-lit in 2015



As you look back over your year, there are a lot of things you notice. You had fun... you had some really great meals with really great friends ... and especially in my case, there were books. Out of more than 120, here are the ones that stood out in 2015 (many with LGBT themes, characters and authors).

## FICTION

I always loved author John Boyne's books; in fact, *The Absolutist* is one of my Top Five Ever. But *A History of Loneliness* has to be right up there. In this book, a priest explains his relationship with a colleague who always seems to be moved around from parish to parish. What's wrong will slowly dawn on you, but our narrator is a little slower on the uptake. What happens will make you want to crawl into bed and cry for an hour.

In *One Night* by Eric Jerome Dickey, a woman who has nothing left to lose meets a man who has everything in life. She needs money. He decides that *he* needs *her* and they embark on a one-night stand that's almost unbearably taut. I loved the mixture of this book: psychological, erotic and sass.

Also tightly written is *The Magician's Lie* by Greer Macallister. It's the story of a small-town sheriff who finally captures a killer who's been on the loose for some time. She's a slippery one — an illusionist — and he hopes she'll offer a confession. Instead, she tells him a story. The sheriff doesn't know what's lie and what's not ... and neither will you in this wrap-you-up tale with an ending you totally won't see coming.

**GOOD READS** | John Boyne, as usual, offered up one of the year's finest novels.

Remember what it was like to be a kid? You'll revisit it again in *My Grandmother Asked Me to Tell You She's Sorry* by Fredrik Backman, the story of a 7-year-old who loses her grandmother. Else is precocious, Granny was her only real friend and she was somewhat of a rascal. And as proof of that, before she dies, Granny leaves Elsa with an assignment. Part fantasy, part childhood, all charming, this book from the author of *A Man Called Ove* is a wonderful winner.

*The Hired Girl* by Laura Amy Schlitz might be found on the Young Adult section of your bookstore or library, but I definitely thought it was more of an adult novel. It's the story of a teenager who leaves her family because her father is abusive, and she moves to Baltimore to become a housemaid.

It's 1911, she's Catholic, but her new employers are Jewish and the learning curve is steep. There's adventure, heartbreak, romance, and history here — and yes, you can still share it with your favorite teen...

## NONFICTION

You may find *Dead Wake: The Last Crossing of the Lusitania* by Erik Larson on other Best Of lists this year, and for good reason. This is a historical account of the sinking of a ship but there's more: Larson is known to tease a story out, adding small side notes and spinning off in ways that enhance the tale he's telling. That makes for a fascinating, heart-pounding true account you won't want to put down.

■ **BOOKS** Next Page

3 reserved tables remaining for NYE, call for info.

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■ BOOKS, From Previous Page

**Bobby Wonderful: An Imperfect Son Buries His Parents** by Bob Morris made me laugh and made me cry .... a small creek. It's the story of Morris' mother, her life and her death, and the relationships she had with her family. It's also a gay man's love letter to his very supportive Mom, and it definitely lives up to its name: it's wonderful.

Though it may sound odd, *Rain: A Natural and Cultural History* by Cynthia Barnett put me in a good mood when I read it, maybe because it was as refreshing as its subject. Here, Barnett

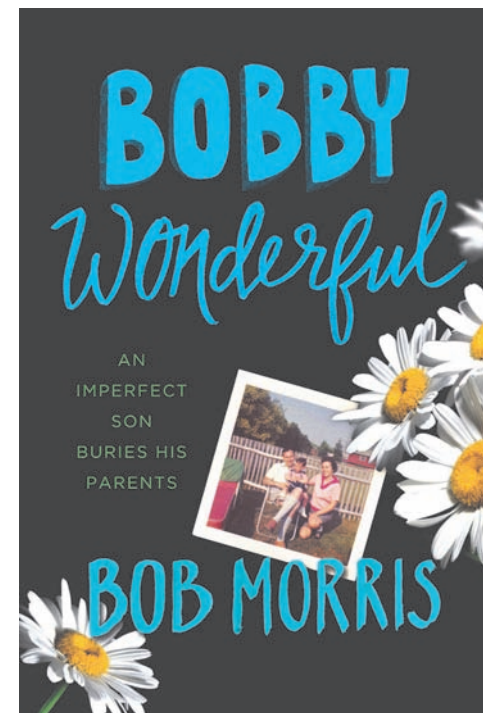
writes about all aspects of that stuff that falls from the sky — historically, culturally and meteorologically speaking — and she sprinkles readers with facts, disasters and sunshine. This book simply made me happy, which is why it's on this list.

As a lover of All Things Scandalous, I found *Good Mourning: A Memoir* by Elizabeth Meyer with Caitlin Moscatello to be absolutely delicious. After Meyer lost her father, a high-powered lawyer, she realized that she was rather fascinated with death, just a little bit. So she marched into one of Manhattan's premiere funeral homes, asked for a job and ended up being

Gay author and memoirist Bob Morris' non-fiction book about burying his parents evokes a river of tears.

a funeral planner (think: services that are anything but dead). I loved this book for its behind-the-scenes peeks, and for the tales that only an insider can tell.

There's a tie for the last slot on this non-fiction list: I loved *Rosemary* by Kate Clifford Larson for its jaw-dropping look at history, the Kennedys, and power gone wrong. I also couldn't put down *Lights Out* by Ted Koppel, a cautionary, scare-the-daylights-out-of-you book on



what could happen if our electric grid and internet infrastructure are attacked by terrorists.

KID-LIT

If you ever had an imaginary friend, then *The Imaginary* by A.F. Harrold, and illustrated by Emily Gravett, is a book to read ... or to give to your 9-to-12-year-old. It's the story of a little girl who, of course, has an imaginary friend she loves. But one day, they come to realize that the imaginary friend isn't the only Imaginary around — and the newcomer could mean danger. This is an adventurous book with a hint of thrill and a sweet ending that adults and kids will love.



I loved, loved, loved *Spelled* by Betsy Schow, a fairy-tale-ish book that's part *Cinderella*, part *Wizard of Oz*. It's the story of a spoiled princess whose parents have sheltered her, and who've also chosen her new husband. Problem is, she doesn't want a husband and when she throws a Royal Fit, all spell breaks loose. This is a great young-adult book, but it's one that grown-ups will get a kick out of, too. Pay close attention to the language, and you'll be captivated. And finally, *Lillian's Right to Vote* by Jonah Winter & Shane W. Evans really captured my attention this year. It's a picture book that tells the story of an elderly woman and the first time she steps up to cast a vote. As she travels to the polling place, every step reminds her of the steps taken by others so she can exercise a privilege that others didn't always have.

Happy reading!

— Terri Schlichenmeyer

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Saturday 12.26  
— Sunday 01.03

## Lone Star Circus revisits gypsy roots with Zingari

It's not secret that the original European circuses of traveling entertainers were typically populated by the Roma people — often called gypsies. Zingari — the name of this season's incarnation of the Lone Star Circus — is Italian for "gypsies," which returns to the Rosewood Center for Family Arts for a two-weekend run, as always, right during the Christmas/New Year's window. The show features jugglers, acrobats, clowns and even trained house cats. You heard right. So enjoy this family-friendly (and often quite exhilarating) collection of contortionists, Hula Hoops and more.

DEETS: Rosewood Center for Family Arts,  
5928 Skillman St. \$22–\$48. DCT.org.

## LIFE+STYLE

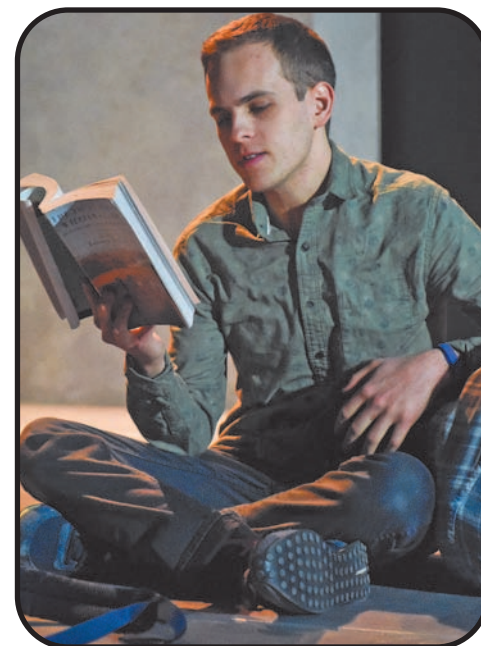
### best bets

Saturday 12.26 —  
Sunday 01.31

### Gay-themed comedy-drama 'Clarkston' continues at Wyly

A lot of plays and musicals wind up this weekend — many, of course, with holiday themes — but not so *Clarkston*, the world-premiere running for another full month in the 99-seat studio space at the Wyly Theatre. Genius grant honoree Samuel D. Hunter explores the complex relationship between a presumptuous, openly-gay kid of privilege and the closeted, troubled young man he meets while working at Costco. (Look for our full review of the show online.)

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



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## calendar highlights

**Editor's note:** Be aware that over the holidays, many groups and institutions may modify or cancel hours or events. Call ahead before planning.

### ARTSWEEK

#### THEATER

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

**A Christmas Carol.** Dallas Theater Center's 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. *Final weekend.* Wyly Theatre, 2400 Flora St. DallasTheaterCenter.org.

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

**The Beulaville Baptist Book Club Presents: A Bur-Less-Q Nutcracker!** The annual hilariously campy comedy about a small town that hires strippers to perform Tchaikovsky. Presented by MBS Productions. *Final weekend.* Stone Cottage Theatre, 15650 Addison Road, Addison. 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. *Final weekend.* Cox Building Playhouse, 1517 H Ave., Plano. Theatre-



**POST-XMAS DRAG** | Dragging a little after Christmas? Well, try sharing that with Jenni P and a flavorful meal as Dish in the ilume. Sunday is the final Drag Brunch of the year. (Photo by Kevin Marple)

Britain.com.

**Clarkston.** Dallas Theater Center presents this world premiere from gay playwright Samuel D. Hunter, about a relationship between workers in a Costco. 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.



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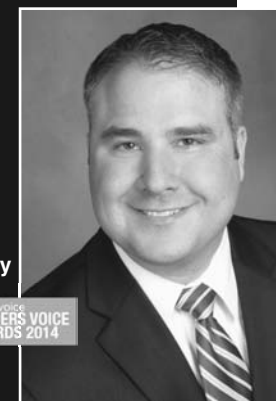
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**CIRCUS**  
**Lone Star Circus.** The return of the holiday tradition, a classic assemblage of clowning, acrobatics and feats of derring-do. Rosewood Center for Family Arts, 5928 Skillman St. Dec. 26-Jan. 3. DCT.org.

**BALLET**  
**The Nutcracker.** Texas Ballet Theater's annual classic from Tchaikovsky, choreographed by Ben Stevenson. *Final weekend.* Bass Performance Hall, 525 Commerce St., Fort Worth. 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 12.25 — CHRISTMAS DAY**

**SATURDAY 12.26**

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

 **browse**  
For a more complete Community Calendar online, visit [Tinyurl.com/dvevents](http://Tinyurl.com/dvevents).

 **submit**  
To submit an item for inclusion in the Community Calendar, visit [Tinyurl.com/dvsubmit](http://Tinyurl.com/dvsubmit).

**SUNDAY 12.27**  
**DINING**  
**Dish at the ilume Drag Brunch.** Jenni P hosts this monthly combo brunch and drag show, with seatings at 12:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. Three-course meal \$30. Dish, 4123 Cedar Springs Road.

**TUESDAY 12.29**  
**THEATER**  
**Death is a Bad Habit!** Pegasus Theatre, renowned for its patented In Living Black and White shows, returns for an historic 30th anniversary season with this world premiere murder mystery-comedy featuring the bumbling part-time detective Harry Hunsacker. Eisemann Center for Performing Arts, 2351 Performance Drive, Richardson. Dec. 29-Jan. 24 (in previews through Dec. 30; opening night gala on New Year's Eve). PegasusTheatre.org.

**THURSDAY 12.31 — NEW YEAR'S 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.

**FRIDAY 01.01 — NEW YEAR'S DAY**

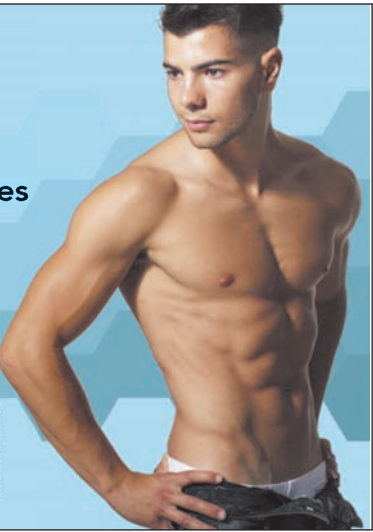

this week's solution

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# Cassie Nova

## Remembrance of Christmases past

Merry Christmas, bitches! Or Happy Holidays if you are one of those assholes. I don't get offended by any religious greetings from well-wishers. It all basically means something positive so don't get your panties in a bunch cuz someone says something other than what you celebrate. If someone told me Happy Hanukah, even though I'm not Jewish, I would just say thank you and be appreciative of the good tidings. I don't need to see a Christmas tree on a red cup to know what Christmas means to me. So to all you uptight, easily offended folks out there, unclench your assholes and loosen up.

Speaking of assholes, I have another Christmas story for you.

Once upon a time, I was a young pretty gayby ex-

cited to celebrate Christmas with his first boyfriend. This was B4CN (Before Cassie Nova). His name was Chris and he was cute. He moved in with me on our first date because of his awful mother, the villain in this fairies' tale. Her name was Giesla (pronounced Geeze-La, like some backwards fancy goose). She was a big, mean, German lady with a very heavy accent. She found out about our date and told Chris that if he went out with me that he could not come home. He was 19 and still lived with her.

With no regard to the fallout from going out with me, he picked me up for our first date. We had a great time, it was exactly what you would want from a first date. We had a nice dinner, we held hands and we made out. I had butterflies. And not once did he mention what his mother had said. When he dropped me off back at my apartment, I told him to call me when he got home. He said, that might be a problem because as of today I am homeless. I was like *Whaaaaa?* He told me what she said and of course I made him stay with me. I made him sleep on the couch because I really liked him. (FYI, if I didn't really

like him, we would have done it on the first date. I was weird that way.)

Chris lived with me for a month before he and his Smother came to an understanding. He told her he was gay and had a boyfriend and if she couldn't accept that, then he was gone forever. She said she would try if he would just move back home. I know it just ate her up inside thinking of all the sex her son was having with a guy. It still tickles me.

When Chris first introduced me to his bitch of a mother, she could not hide her disdain for me. She looked at me like I was the half a worm you find when you bite into an infested apple. She said hello to me then yanked him into the other room. She didn't even try to lower her voice when she told Chris, "This is who you leave me to be with? He look like girl — not even pretty girl! Oh, Chris, you can do so much better!" I was like, who does this bitch think she is? I walked into that other room and told Chris I was leaving. Mom was like, "Why you mad?" as if I hadn't heard everything she had said about me. So I left and Chris followed.

Chris wanted so badly for me and his mother to get along, and I actually wanted her to like me. I knew how important it was to him, so I decided to make the effort. He asked if I would come over and spend Christmas day with them. It was right after Thanksgiving, so I had less than a month to come up with a gift that she would like and make her like me. My relationship with Chris was getting serious and it looked like we were going to have to deal with each other, whether we liked it or not.

I racked my brain for a gift that an old world German lady might like, then it hit me. My great-grandmother, a very old lady that we called Mummo (I have no idea why we called her that, we just always had) crocheted the most beautiful blankets. I thought that would be perfect. Her blankets took a while to make so I got her the yarn in the colors of Giesla's bedroom immediately. Her bedroom colors were an awful shade of mauve and peach but I figured that old bitch is gonna love it ... and, by default, love me. I knew that this much thought, effort and planning would win her over.

It usually takes months to make a queen-sized crocheted blanket, so Mummo got help from every family member that could crochet. At one point, about a week before Christmas, my mom told me that poor arthritic Mummo had been working almost nonstop with help from my grandma and a couple of my aunts to get this blanket made in time. Thinking back on this memory makes me miss that old lady. Our Mummo could be mean but family was everything to her. She could have easily said "no" to making that blanket, but she made it a priority just because I asked.

I picked up the blanket on Christmas Eve and it was beautiful. I found a big box, wrapped it and put a huge bow on it. Chris told me his mother was going to love it. I couldn't wait for her to open it and see how much love went into this awesome gift.

Chris's mother told him exactly what she wanted



for Christmas: Carolina Herrera perfume. So he got her this beautiful gift set of the perfume she had asked for. It also had powder and body wash or something like that. It was not cheap, especially for a 19-year-old. I remember we had to drive to three different malls looking for the stuff. He was so relieved and excited when we finally found it. He knew his mother was going to love her gifts and his boyfriend and his mother were finally going to like each other. He said it was going to be a memorable Christmas. And it was.

We showed up on Christmas morning and I went into it with a great attitude. That did not last. She was mean to Chris. She called him an idiot for spilling eggnog on his sweater. She called him an idiot for unwrapping a gift the "wrong way." (Apparently she wanted to save the wrapping paper but couldn't because he ripped into his gift like a "fucking idiot!" Her words.)

Chris, trying to put his mother in a better mood, told her to open the gift he got for her. She opened it and yelled, "*Oh no no no Christian*, you fucking idiot, I told you I wanted the big bottle!" I was appalled. Poor Chris just said he was sorry and he would take it back and get it right next time. He said, "Just wait till you see what James got you, you are going to love it." I shook my head and said, "No she ain't. I didn't get her anything! I completely forgot to get you anything. Sorry. I must be an idiot, too." Chris looked at me and I just shook my head. She did not deserve to get such a great gift from anyone.

That was one of the longest afternoons of my life. The food was awful and the conversation was worse. I am not a good actress and could not fake a good mood — I tried, but my overly dramatic eye rolls give so much away.

When I got home, I called Mummo and told her I loved the blanket way too much to give it to anyone. I told her I would keep it forever and even now, on cold nights, I still use it. It is not the prettiest of colors but it is one of my most prized possessions.

Chris and I were not together long after that Christmas. I hope he was eventually able to distance himself from his Grinch and find some happiness. I know I did. Happy New Year, everybody!

Love more, bitch less and be fabulous! XOXO, Cassie Nova

If you have a question or comment, email it to AskCassieNova@gmail.com.







Making the **SCENE** the week of Dec. 25-31:

- **Alexandre's:** Lucky Peterson on Friday. **Filter Kings** on Saturday. **Chris Chism** on Wednesday. **Cold Heat** on Thursday.
- **Brick/Joe's:** Charity Case, Nicole O'Hara Munro, Raquel Blake and more on New Year's Eve. VIP tables and advance tickets on sale.
- **Changes:** DMIX69 Experience at 7 p.m.-midnight on Sunday.
- **Club Reflection:** Trinity River Bears meeting at 2:30 p.m. and cookout at 4 p.m. on Sunday.
- **JR.'s Bar & Grill:** Dream Girls special event with Alexis, Daphne, Raquel, Fantasha and Kandy on Wednesday. New Year's Eve celebration on Thursday.
- **Pekers:** Linze Serell and Sable Alexander with Gabrielle Diamond, Reva Denae, Harley Madison, Onyx Anderson, Delta Priestly and Kamrun Hunter starting at 9 p.m. on Thursday.
- **Round-Up Saloon:** 2016 Mardi Gras Masquerade New Years Eve with catered food service from 8 p.m.-midnight and breakfast from midnight-2 a.m. \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door. Party favors and a cash balloon drop.
- **Sue Ellen's:** Alys Black Band on Saturday. Kathy and Bella at 3 p.m. and Marisela Trio at 6 p.m. on Sunday. Mi Diva Loca New Year's Eve disco show on Thursday.
- **The Rose Room:** Christmas Show with Cassie, Jenna, Valerie, Sweet Savage, Krystal, Layla and Asia on Friday. New Year's Eve in the Rose Room with Cassie, Asia, Kelexis, Valerie, Krystal, Layla and Jenna on Thursday.
- **Urban Cowboy Saloon:** New Year's Party begins at 9 p.m.
- **Woody's Sports & Video Bar:** New Years Eve party with complimentary champagne, noise makers, party hats and buffet.

To view more Scene photos, go to [DallasVoice.com/category/photos](http://DallasVoice.com/category/photos). Scene Photographer: *Winston Lackey*.







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God who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." God said to me: "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life." **Revelation 21:5-6**

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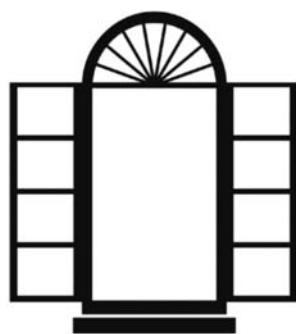
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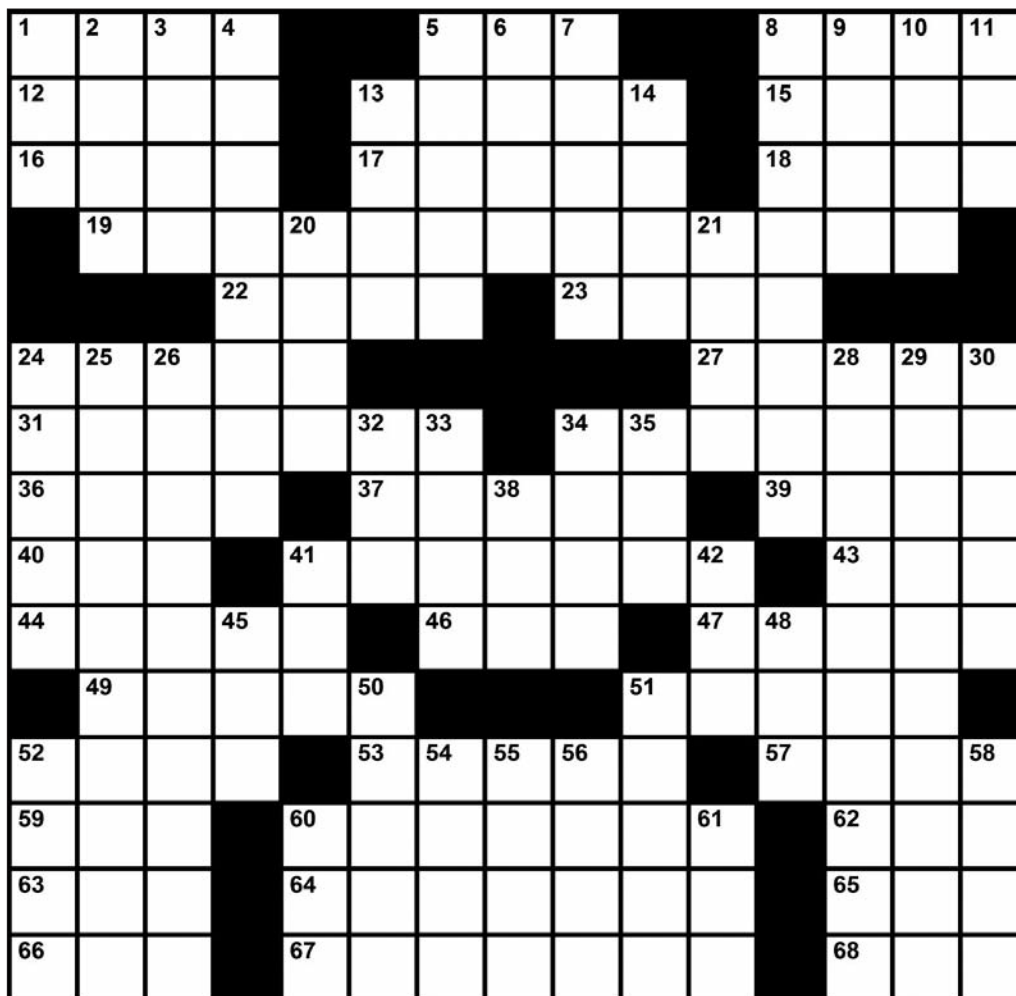
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## q-puzzle



## Gender Fluidity

Solution on page 29

#### Across

- 1 Manger for Mary's boy
- 5 One of two ways
- 8 *Ed Wood* role
- 12 Cole Porter's Indiana hometown
- 13 Slice of wry
- 15 Go off, on Broadway
- 16 Judy Garland, to many
- 17 Words before "music," to Britten
- 18 In the pink
- 19 Beginning of why Stella considers herself to be a woman, on *OITNB*
- 22 Peter and more
- 23 *Pretty in Pink* setting
- 24 Shoe part
- 27 Straight men fear to drop them in the shower
- 31 Put down
- 34 Event requiring metal balls
- 36 Thumbs-down votes
- 37 Come slowly closer
- 39 "The thing with feathers" in a Dickinson poem
- 40 Giant outfielder Mel
- 41 More of Stella's reason
- 43 Cruising area
- 44 Ready to hit the sack
- 46 More of Stella's reason
- 47 Emulated Miriam Margolyes
- 49 Grout may separate them
- 51 Ejaculate, e.g.

- 52 With 57-Across, actress who plays Stella

- 53 Military doctor
- 57 See 52-Across
- 59 Univ. e-mail ending
- 60 End of Stella's reason
- 62 Third degree, often
- 63 Reno action
- 64 Some money from Melissa to Tammy Lynn
- 65 Warts prefix for Harry Potter?
- 66 Wall St. group
- 67 Thaw with Nureyev's land
- 68 Frat hazing prop

#### Down

- 1 Inflation meas.
- 2 Perform a decorator's task
- 3 Do some pressing work
- 4 Places where you never get to second base
- 5 Releases from bondage
- 6 Campus mil. org.
- 7 Coming soon
- 8 Huge thing
- 9 Digital-rectal, for example
- 10 Tomlin of *Grandma*
- 11 Didn't fast
- 13 ID for Sandra Scoppettone
- 14 Cole Porter's "Brush Up \_\_\_\_ Shakespeare"

- 20 Prison part
- 21 Matching notes for Bernstein?
- 24 "Lead \_\_\_\_ into temptation"
- 25 Shakespeare's "To thine own self be true" and such
- 26 Render unto Caesar, e.g.
- 28 Smee's version of "epiphany" in *Hook*
- 29 Hand job at times?
- 30 Home extension
- 32 Gaydar, for example
- 33 \_\_\_\_ Mae Brown
- 34 Kind of gin
- 35 Rooster in drag, seemingly
- 38 Hollywood VIP
- 41 Inspired writing
- 42 Type of sucker
- 45 *In the Steps of Mr. Proust* author Stanley
- 48 Scar, in *The Lion King*, for example
- 50 Word from Tom Bianchi, perhaps
- 51 Hound's trail
- 52 "Queen of Country" McEntire
- 54 Put out
- 55 Bas relief of Eleanor's husband
- 56 Lay \_\_\_\_ the line
- 58 Beat, but barely
- 60 "When I was a \_\_\_\_..."
- 61 Easter egg application





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