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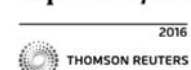
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Paul Lewis Holiday Gift Project distributes 1,000 gift bags

GLBT Chamber seeks Business Excellence Award nominations

The North Texas GLBT Chamber of Commerce is seeking nominations for its 2016 Business Excellence Awards. The Business Excellence Awards recognize the accomplishments of outstanding businesses, individuals and organizations that have had a positive impact on the North Texas GLBT community.

Nominations, which may come from anyone in the community, are open from now until Monday, Jan. 30, and can be submitted at GLBTChamber.org. Awards will be given in several categories including Business of the Year, Emerging Leader, Extra Mile—Community Service, Member Service, Corporate Ally and Supplier Diversity Champion.

Business Excellence Awards will be presented at the Celebration of Excellence Dinner on Friday, April 28. More details about the dinner will follow.

— David Taffet

Omar Narvaez running for Dallas City Council

Lambda Legal community educator and former Stonewall Democrats President Omar Narvaez is running for Dallas City Council District 6. He is challenging three-term incumbent Monica Alonzo. If she wins, this would be her final term in office due to term limits. Narvaez currently serves on the Dallas County Schools board.

While it's unusual for a candidate to unseat an incumbent on Dallas City Council, Councilman Scott Griggs won his seat against incumbent Dave Neumann.

In a break from council tradition, District 14 Councilman Philip Kingston endorsed Narvaez. In a Facebook post, Kingston wrote, "I endorse Omar Narvaez for D6. Please send me Omar. I want to work with him."

Kingston wrote that he was endorsing him as a private citizen and in his official capacity as city councilman, which, he said, are about the same thing. Alonzo supports the tollroad in the Trinity River. Kingston and Narvaez opposed it.

District 6 includes most of West Dallas but also includes The Design District and two small wedges into North Dallas: South of I-635 from I-35 to Marsh Lane and the Bachman Lake neigh-

borhood, where a majority of the district's votes are cast.

— David Taffet

Taylor Dayne and Cece Peniston signed for Metro Ball

Dance-music icons Taylor Dayne and Cece Peniston, along with American Idol favorite David Hernandez, will headline for the 12th annual Metro Ball.

Metro Ball, the main fundraiser for the Greg Doll-gener Memorial AIDS Fund, will be held on June 2 at S4 on Cedar Springs Road. In addition to musical talent, the event features surprise guests, a DJ-dance party, and an art and gifts silent auction.

Over the past two decades, MetroBall has raised more than \$500,000 and assisted more than 3,000 people with HIV/AIDS. GDMAF partners with other HIV agencies to provide emergency financial assistance to people living with HIV/AIDS.

Dayne has enjoyed Top 10 hits over three decades, selling a combined 75 million singles and albums along the way. With the release of her first two albums, 1988's Tell It to My Heart and 1989's Can't Fight Fate, Dayne racked up three number 1 singles: "Tell It to My Heart," "Love Will Lead You Back" and "Prove Your Love to Me." On Broadway, she starred in Elton John's Aida.

Peniston's first single, "Finally," thrust her into the international spotlight and she has continued her success ever since. She continued to achieve Billboard Top Ten Pop chart status with singles including: "We Got A Love Thang," "Keep On Walkin'," "I'm Not Over You" and "Lifetime To Love." Her numerous awards include: Billboard Best New Artist and Best New Song of The Year; ASCAP Song of The Year, Pop Songwriter of The Year, and Most Performed Song of The Year; Annual Winter Music Conference's Best New Dance Artist, Best Dance Artist Solo and Best 12" Dance Record.

David Hernandez gained national attention with his powerful voice and affable personality as an American Idol finalist. He began acting and singing at age six, starring in musicals and performing with various theatre companies throughout Arizona. As a teenager David began writing original music and recording his material. President Barack Obama invited him to sing at the Inaugural Kick-Off Celebration ball in 2008.

Tickets are \$30 in advance.

— David Taffet



**COMING
December 30!**



**Year in
Review**

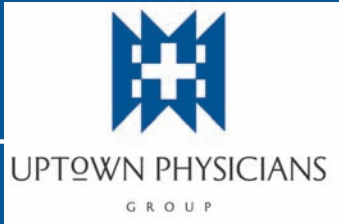


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December 15, 2016: Last day to enroll in or change plans for coverage to start January 1, 2017.

January 1, 2017: 2017 coverage starts for those who enroll or change plans by December 15.

January 31, 2017: Last day to enroll in or change a 2017 health plan. After this date, you can enroll or change plans only if you qualify for a special enrollment period

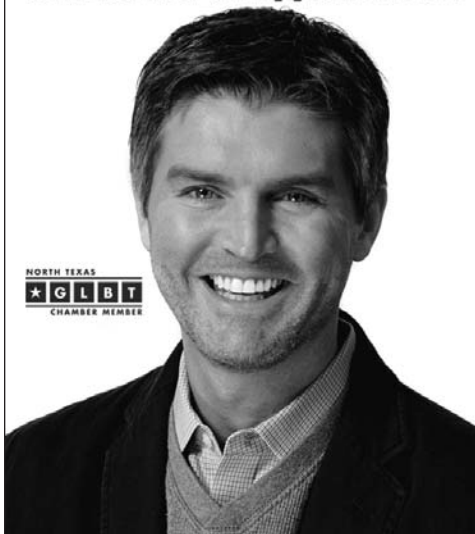
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THE GAY AGENDA

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

• **Weekly: Lambda Weekly** every Sunday at
1 p.m. on 89.3 KNON-FM. This week's guest
is **Erin Moore**; **United Black Ellument** hosts
discussion on HIV/AIDS in the black
community (UBE Connected) at 7 p.m.
every fourth Tuesday of the month at
3116 Commerce St., Suite C; **Core Group**
Meeting every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the
month at 7 p.m.; **Fuse game night** every
Monday evening except the last of the month
at 8 p.m. at the Fuse space in the Treymore
Building, 4038 Lemmon Ave, Suite 101;
FuseConnect every Wednesday from 7 p.m.
For more information call or e-mail
Jalenzski at 214-760-9718 ext 3 or
Jalenzski@myresourcecenter.org.

DECEMBER

• **Dec. 24: Christmas Eve Service**
CSLDallas, a center for spiritual living that
teaches "science of the mind" spirituality,

will hold a Christmas Eve Service to celebrate
the Living Spirit, featuring music guests
Andrew Tinker, harpist Geoffrey Ricketts and
an ensemble led by Lainey Bernstein, plus a
message from Dr. Petra Weldes and the
Rev. Karen Fry. For information call
972-866-9988, email info@csldallas.org
or visit CSLDallas.org. 6 p.m. at
4801 Spring Valley Road #115.

• **Dec. 24: Chinese Food and a Movie**
Congregation Beth El Binah has a traditional
Jewish Christmas Eve dinner at 4:30 p.m.
at Royal China, 6025 Royal Lane.

• **Dec. 24: Christmas at Northaven UMC**
Christmas eve services at 5 p.m. and 11 p.m.
and Christmas morning at 11 a.m. at
11211 Preston Road.

• **Dec. 24: Christmas at Oak Lawn UMC**
Christmas Eve services with candlelight and
Holy Communion at 5 p.m., 7 p.m. and 11
p.m. Christmas day with Holy Communion
at 10 a.m. at 3014 Oak Lawn Ave.

• **Dec. 24: Christmas at Celebration
Community Church**

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Happy Holidays from Dallas Voice

Christmas eve services at 9 p.m. and 11 p.m. at 908 Pennsylvania Ave., Fort Worth.

- **Dec. 24: Christmas at Metropolitan**

Community Church of Greater Dallas
Christmas eve service at 7 p.m. at 1017 S. Elm #105, Carrollton.

- **Dec. 24: Christmas at the Episcopal Church St. Thomas**

Christmas eve service at 8 p.m. and morning service at 10 a.m. at 6525 Inwood Road.

- **Dec. 24: Christmas at Agape MCC**

Christmas eve at 7 p.m. at 4615 E California Parkway, Fort Worth.

- **Dec. 24: Christmas at Promise UCC**

Christmas eve at 7 p.m. at 2527 W. Colorado Blvd.

- **Dec. 24: Christmas at Cathedral of Hope**

Christmas eve at 7 p.m., bilingual at 9 p.m. and candlelight at 11 p.m. Christmas Day at 10 a.m. at 5910 Cedar Springs Road.

- **Dec. 24: TAG Christmas Party**

Tyler Area Gays host their annual Christmas Party from 7 p.m.-midnight at a private residence. Bring snacks and spirits. For location and other information email Tyler_Area_Gays@mail.vresp.com.

- **Dec. 25: Christmas**

- **Dec. 26: Charitable Mondays**

A portion of sales will go to Shared Housing Center. Tell server you are participating from 3-7 p.m. at Savor Gastropub, 2000 Woodall Rodgers Freeway, Klyde Warren Park.

- **Dec. 31: New Year's Eve**

Find your party and party safely.

- **Dec. 31: Once in a Blue Moon dance**

New Year's Eve party for women from 7 p.m.-midnight at DanceMasters Ballroom located at 10675 East Northwest Highway, Suite 2600B. \$25.

- **Dec. 31: Masques at Midnight**

Formal gala and awards evening hosted by Tarrant County Pride, including presentation of the Spirit of Pride Awards, from 7 p.m.-1 a.m. at DFW Airport Marriott South, 4151 Centreport Drive, Fort Worth. Tickets range from \$125-\$1,600. For information visit Facebook.com/TCGPWA.org.

JANUARY

- **Happy New Year**

- **Jan. 1: Bowl Burning Ceremony**

CSLDallas, a center for spiritual living that teaches "science of the mind" spirituality, will

hold a New Year's Day Bowl Burning Ceremony from 11:15 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at CSLDallas, 4801 Spring Valley Road, Ste. 115. A bowl burning ceremony is intended to help participants become clear in their intentions and then release old habits that stand in the way of accomplishing them. For information call 972-866-9988, email info@csldallas.org or visit CSLDallas.org.

- **Jan. 12: Little Black Dress Party**

The FashionCited preview party that benefits Legal Hospice of Texas from 7-9:30 p.m. at Goodson Acura, 4801 Lemmon Ave. Tickets are \$25 at the door, and include food, drinks and music. For information call 214-521-6622 or email kamesha@legalthospice.org.

- **Jan. 16: 12th Annual MLK Symposium**

The Dallas Institute of Humanities and

Culture holds the 12th Annual MLK Symposium from 7-9 p.m. at Dallas City Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. The theme for this year's event is "MLK's Legacy: Issues of Social Justice in the 21st Century," and it will focus on ensuring equality under the law and civil rights for all citizens. Keynote speakers will be Jelani Cobb and Alicia Garza. To register or for more information call 214-871-2440 or visit DallasInstitute.org.

- **Jan. 17: Stonewall elections**

Stonewall officer elections at 7 p.m. at Sue Ellen's, 3014 Throckmorton St.

- **Jan 20: Protest at the Inauguration**

Protest on Inauguration Day Against War, Racism and Inequality from 7 a.m.-5 p.m. at Freedom Plaza, 14th St NW & Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington, D.C.

- **Jan. 21: Women's March on Austin**

The Women's March on Austin, a sister event to the Women's March on Washington, is taking place in D.C. from noon-6 p.m. at the Texas State Capitol, 1100 Congress Ave., Austin.

FEBRUARY

- **Feb. 25: Dash for the Beads**

5K and 10K run, 1K walk and festival at Kidd Springs Park, 711 W. Canty St.

MARCH

- **March 20: Advocacy Day in Austin**

Speak to your legislators. GALA North Texas will sponsor buses to Austin. Texas State Capitol, 1100 Congress Ave., Austin.

For those looking for an LGBT-friendly church holding Christmas Eve services, check our Gay Agenda listings. And for our Jewish readers, check the listings for information on Congregation Beth El Binah's traditional Jewish Christmas Eve dinner at Royal China, followed by a movie.

Putting the government on notice



Women's March on Austin, along with marches in D.C. and around the globe, intend to send a message on equal rights as Trump takes office

TAMMYE NASH | Managing Editor
nash@dallasvoice.com

Organizers are expecting between 10,000 and 15,000 people to converge on the Texas State Capitol on Saturday, Jan. 21 for the 2017 Women's March on Austin.

The event is "a sister march" to the national Women's March on Washington, D.C., being held the same day to support the rights of women and other minorities as the country's liberal and progressive populations brace themselves for the presidency of Donald Trump. The marches in D.C. and Austin — and cities in at least 41 U.S. states and 15 foreign countries — take place the day after Trump's inauguration.

"We're doing this to send a message to the incoming administration to let them know we are here, we have a strong voice. We want them to know we are strong and we are watching," said Austin march organizer Melissa Fiero. "We do

not intend to allow the rights and privileges for all marginalized communities we have fought so hard for to be pushed back.

"The guiding principle for the marches," she added, "came from Hillary Clinton's words: 'Women's rights are human rights.'"

And although the events are called women's marches, Fiero stressed that the marches are open to all people, and that organizers would love to have more input and participation from other minority communities — especially the LGBT community.

Fiero said that while the idea started as a national march in Washington, D.C., "not everybody can go to D.C. So we wanted to have something here, in our own state capital, to send that same message not just to D.C., but to the political leaders right here in Texas."

The 86th Texas Legislature, still under Republican control, convenes on Jan. 8. Numerous anti-LGBT bills have already been pre-filed, and Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick has said that passing an anti-transgender "bathroom bill" similar to North Carolina's notorious and costly HB 2, is one of his priorities in this legislative session.

Organizers of the Austin march — and others around the country and beyond — are "just a group of people who came together out of an ini-

tial grassroots response to the election in November," Fiero said. "It is a broad group, covering all ethnicities and beliefs. And our goal is to make this event as inclusive as possible, as beneficial as possible to as many different people as possible.

"It all arose out of a group of women frustrated with the outcome of the election, but it is open to all. It is intended for and open to anyone who is concerned about the rights of all marginalized people in this country."

Fiero said Austin march organizers are "meeting as often as possible and handling the logistics and fundraising" to stage the event. "The city of Austin has worked so well with us. Everything is lined up and ready to go there [in terms of permits] for the marches. The people at the Capitol are also working with us, and everything is on track."

Fiero said marchers in Austin will gather on the grounds of the State Capitol, on the south side of the property, facing Congress Avenue. The march begins at noon and participants will moved down Congress across 6th Street to La Vaca, then turn back across 11th Street and on to the Capitol grounds.

She said it should take about an hour and a half for the march to return to the Capitol grounds, and that there will be music perform-

ances there to entertain the marchers who get there first as they wait on the rest of the crowd to reach the site.

"When everyone has made it back, we'll have a rally, with six to eight speakers telling the stories of why we're concerned about potential setbacks under this administration," Fiero said. "They'll also be there to give people information and ideas on what they can do after the march to push the movement forward and keep our message in the forefront."

Travel to Austin from various cities around the state for the march is being coordinated online through CrowdTrip.com. Cost from Dallas is about \$31. To find the information, enter the search parameters, starting with a leave-from-Dallas date of Jan. 21.

For information on the Women's March on Austin, visit MarchOnAustin.com or email Fiero at MarchOnAustin@gmail.com.

For information on the March on Washington, including charters to D.C. from different regions, visit WomensMarch.com. The site includes links to information on travel, and to sites with information on all the sister marches planned around the country, including a second Texas march planned for Jan. 21 in Brownsville, at 11 a.m. at Linear Park. ■

Don't set negative goals

A counseling tune-up may be just what you need to help you start the year right

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

For some of its clients, Legacy Counseling Center has become a home base. And Legacy's Executive Director Melissa Grove said this is a time of year when she sees a number of clients come back for what she calls a little tune-up. It's a great way to start a new year with the right frame of mind, she said.

When people are first diagnosed with HIV, many make Legacy their first stop. Dallas County's health department refers every person it diagnoses to the agency, just to make sure they

start off on the right track.

"We help a lot of people just get over the shock of being told they're positive," Grove said, adding that counseling can help set the right frame of mind to start the medications and begin to live a healthy life with HIV.

Another first step is for those newly diagnosed to learn how to talk to other people about being HIV-positive, who to tell and when to tell them.

Grove said many Legacy clients come in for just one or maybe a few sessions to get their lives headed back on the right path.

"But then life happens," she said. "A loss. A job lost. Different things can bring you back to therapy to get you back on track."

She said Legacy is a safe and supportive place to go. It is certainly isn't the only choice people in the community have when looking for a therapist she acknowledged. But she urged those looking elsewhere for counseling to start by getting a referral and then interview the therapist before making any commitment. Make sure that person understands HIV and is sensitive to LGBT issues.

Grove said she takes time every December to evaluate her life, figure out what's working for her

and what's not and makes plans for the coming year.

"I love resolutions," she said, but added that resolutions don't work for most people because they're negative.

Maybe you're addicted to Grindr, or you need to lose weight, get more exercise, spend less, drink less — those are all negative things and are the resolutions that are usually broken.

"Therapy can help you work through things that are not productive in your life," she said.

Grove said addiction to Grindr has become a common issue and suggests the real issue may be that you've never had love and don't know how to find it. Just putting the phone down won't address the underlying problem.

"Many gay men I've worked with are dealing with shame," she said. "Even if you're out, you haven't necessarily worked through all your stuff."

Counseling, she said, is one of the many tools to use to address what's not working in your life.

But she also suggested a better way to think about making New Year's resolutions: Instead of those punitive resolutions like eating fewer snacks

to lose weight or saving some money by not shopping so much, set positive goals and make positive resolutions.

Make a list of books to read, places to visit, people you want to see or things you want to do.

Getting out and doing more things you want to do may be just the remedy for too much drinking. When you're busy, you might not think about shopping to buy something that makes you feel better for just a short time.

And when you're out doing things and meeting people, you might meet someone with similar interests rather than hoping that the next hook-up on Grindr will somehow be a match.

But even if the goal is to sit down and read a book you've been meaning to tackle, you can proudly check that one off your resolution list and continue the year accomplishing other things you want to do.

Grove said to ask yourself a couple of questions: Are you happy with the path you're on? Are you getting everything out of life that you could?

If not, she suggests, a little counseling tune-up may be just the answer to help you figure out how to get where you want to be. ■

Karen Estes was an ally before there was a word for it



Her name won't appear on any buildings, though she clearly helped build them

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Former Resource Center co-Executive Director Karen Estes died on Dec. 16 following a brief illness.

Estes was a straight ally of the LGBT, but she had been an ally since the 1980s — before the term was used to describe the straight people who backed the LGBT community.

"At times, she was a stronger supporter of the LGBT community than we were," said her co-executive director, Jamie Shield. When the gay community was focusing all its attention on AIDS, Estes pushed DGA to include an LGBT focus in its work, he added.

William Waybourn, an early leader of Dallas Gay Alliance that created what is now known as Resource Center, said Estes was never interested in getting credit for all the work she did for the community, but her involvement was tremendous.

"Her name won't appear on any buildings, though she clearly helped build them," he said.

Waybourn met Estes in 1985 when he was managing DGA President Bill Nelson's bid for Dallas City Council. Estes was working for Nelson's opponent.

"Despite our roles in opposite campaigns, we shared late night or early morning meals at the neighborhood Dennys," Waybourn said.

The political rivalry, he said, was never personal.

"Because Bill and Karen both shared a commitment to neighborhood issues, after the election — and Bill's loss — she hung around as a member of our circle," Waybourn said. And when Nelson ran again in 1987, she was firmly in his camp.

Soon after the election, and a second loss, Nelson's partner Terry Tebedo was diagnosed with AIDS. Tebedo, Nelson and Waybourn ran a store called Crossroads Market on the corner of Cedar Springs Road and Throckmorton Street then, and Tebedo had to leave the business due to his illness. Nelson left to take care of him.

"No one asked Karen Estes to help," Waybourn said. "She just showed up one day and went to work, occupying a desk in the back of the store."

And she worked there without being paid. Estes was a contractor, so she ran her business from her desk in the store, but worked countless hours for Crossroads Market as well as DGA and the AIDS Resource Center.

Back then, AIDS Resource Center was officed in space on Cedar Springs Road that is now occupied by Out of the Closet. After an arsonist burned the center's offices, along with adjacent stores and the Round-Up Saloon, Waybourn said Estes had the organization up and running within hours.

"Karen made a call to the Communications Workers of America, who showed up seemingly unannounced to install a new phone system in a building one block away [that is now the Nelson-Tebedo Clinic]," Waybourn said. That meant clients could call to learn the food pantry survived and how to make donations.

Estes also helped John Thomas find new property and negotiate the Center's purchase of 2701 Reagan Street from Dallas Metropolitan Community Church (now known as Cathedral of Hope). She became a Resource Center staff member after the purchase to help renovate the aging buildings and repurpose them from a church into offices and a community center.

"The renovation was a major undertaking, and Karen Estes' role was not only to manage it, but also keep costs in line," Waybourn said. "That meant a lot of phone calls to individuals and businesses for donations of equipment, materials and money."

He said her voluminous Rolodex of contacts was extremely valuable.

After John Thomas, Resource Center's first executive director, retired due to his own battle with AIDS, the board made a disastrous choice in its selection of the organization's next leader. When that person resigned, the board turned to Shield and Estes to run the organization as co-executive directors.

AIDS Services Dallas CEO Don Maison recalled a conversation he had with Estes at the time during which he asked her, "How will that even work?"

But it worked for almost five years. Shield oversaw the programs and Estes took care of facilities and financials. Although the team had been tapped to serve as interim directors while the board did a national search, the duo worked so well together that after a year the board named them permanent co-EDs.

After a few years of working together in one cramped office that was too small for even one person to operate in efficiently, Maison said disagreements did arise. Rather than compete against each other to become sole executive director, Estes and Shield chose to resign together, giving the agency a year's notice.

Mike McKay, who was executive director of AIDS Outreach Center in Fort Worth at the time and later Resource Center CEO, worked with Estes as the

Tanqueray AIDS Ride from Houston to Dallas folded. He and Estes then created The Lone Star Ride Fighting AIDS to fill the fundraising gap when the Tanqueray AIDS Ride collapsed, and they asked Maison to bring ASD in as part of the event.

Maison said he'd known Estes since before the AIDS crisis and described her as a lot of fun.

"One time we got the numbskull idea to study Thai — until we found out how many consonants they have," he said. Instead they enrolled in a class at El Centro and took Spanish 2. Because El Centro

is a two-year college, the Spanish department only offered up to second level, but he and Estes learned that different professors taught different areas of Spanish, so they repeated Spanish 2 classes a number of times.

Waybourn described Estes as a person who brought stability to the community. "Her personality brought a measure of safety and comfort during the worst of times," he said. "Karen Estes used her grit and her wit to get things done."

And, he added, she never asked for credit for everything she did.

Estes never saw the new Resource Center that opened in May or the renovation.



tion of the property at 2701 Reagan — now the Health Campus — that was completed last month.

"I asked her to please go see the new center, telling her how proud she would be of what they had accomplished," Waybourn said. "You should go, I said, because you helped make it happen."

Estes told him with tears in her eyes, "I don't think I could get past the front door. Too many memories, too many memories."

"No honors will be bestowed upon her," Waybourn said, "but clearly we are honored by her service and sacrifice."

What is TRUVADA for PrEP (Pre-exposure Prophylaxis)?

TRUVADA is a prescription medicine that can be used for PrEP to help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 infection when used together with safer sex practices. This use is only for adults who are at high risk of getting HIV-1 through sex. This includes HIV-negative men who have sex with men and who are at high risk of getting infected with HIV-1 through sex, and male-female sex partners when one partner has HIV-1 infection and the other does not.

Ask your healthcare provider if you have questions about how to prevent getting HIV-1. Always practice safer sex and use condoms to lower the chance of sexual contact with body fluids. Never reuse or share needles or other items that have body fluids on them.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

What is the most important information I should know about TRUVADA for PrEP?

Before taking TRUVADA for PrEP to reduce your risk of getting HIV-1 infection:

- ◆ **You must be HIV-negative.** You must get tested to make sure that you do not already have HIV-1 infection. Do not take TRUVADA for PrEP to reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 unless you are confirmed to be HIV-negative.
- ◆ **Many HIV-1 tests can miss HIV-1 infection in a person who has recently become infected.** If you have flu-like symptoms, you could have recently become infected with HIV-1. Tell your healthcare provider if you had a flu-like illness within the last month before starting TRUVADA for PrEP or at any time while taking TRUVADA for PrEP. Symptoms of new HIV-1 infection include tiredness, fever, joint or muscle aches, headache, sore throat, vomiting, diarrhea, rash, night sweats, and/or enlarged lymph nodes in the neck or groin.

While taking TRUVADA for PrEP to reduce your risk of getting HIV-1 infection:

- ◆ **You must continue using safer sex practices.** Just taking TRUVADA for PrEP may not keep you from getting HIV-1.
- ◆ **You must stay HIV-negative to keep taking TRUVADA for PrEP.**
- ◆ **To further help reduce your risk of getting HIV-1:**
 - Know your HIV-1 status and the HIV-1 status of your partners.
 - Get tested for HIV-1 at least every 3 months or when your healthcare provider tells you.
 - Get tested for other sexually transmitted infections. Other infections make it easier for HIV-1 to infect you.
 - Get information and support to help reduce risky sexual behavior.
 - Have fewer sex partners.
 - Do not miss any doses of TRUVADA. Missing doses may increase your risk of getting HIV-1 infection.
 - If you think you were exposed to HIV-1, tell your healthcare provider right away.
- ◆ **If you do become HIV-1 positive, you need more medicine than TRUVADA alone to treat HIV-1.** TRUVADA by itself is not a complete treatment for HIV-1. If you have HIV-1 and take only TRUVADA, your HIV-1 may become harder to treat over time.

TRUVADA can cause serious side effects:

- ◆ **Too much lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis),** which is a serious medical emergency. Symptoms of lactic acidosis include weakness or being more tired than usual, unusual muscle pain, being short of breath or fast breathing, nausea, vomiting, stomach-area pain, cold or blue hands and feet, feeling dizzy or lightheaded, and/or fast or abnormal heartbeats.
- ◆ **Serious liver problems.** Your liver may become large and tender, and you may develop fat in your liver. Symptoms of liver problems include your skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow, dark “tea-colored” urine, light-colored stools, loss of appetite for several days or longer, nausea, and/or stomach-area pain.

- ◆ **You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or serious liver problems** if you are female, very overweight (obese), or have been taking TRUVADA for a long time. In some cases, these serious conditions have led to death. Call your healthcare provider right away if you have any symptoms of these conditions.
- ◆ **Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** If you also have HBV and take TRUVADA, your hepatitis may become worse if you stop taking TRUVADA. Do not stop taking TRUVADA without first talking to your healthcare provider. If your healthcare provider tells you to stop taking TRUVADA, they will need to watch you closely for several months to monitor your health. TRUVADA is not approved for the treatment of HBV.

Who should not take TRUVADA for PrEP?

Do not take TRUVADA for PrEP if you already have HIV-1 infection or if you do not know your HIV-1 status. If you are HIV-1 positive, you need to take other medicines with TRUVADA to treat HIV-1. TRUVADA by itself is not a complete treatment for HIV-1. If you have HIV-1 and take only TRUVADA, your HIV-1 may become harder to treat over time.

Do not take TRUVADA for PrEP if you also take lamivudine (Epivir-HBV) or adefovir (HEPSERA).

What are the other possible side effects of TRUVADA for PrEP?

Serious side effects of TRUVADA may also include:

- ◆ **Kidney problems, including kidney failure.** Your healthcare provider may do blood tests to check your kidneys before and during treatment with TRUVADA for PrEP. If you develop kidney problems, your healthcare provider may tell you to stop taking TRUVADA for PrEP.
- ◆ **Bone problems,** including bone pain or bones getting soft or thin, may lead to fractures. Your healthcare provider may do tests to check your bones.
- ◆ **Changes in body fat,** which can happen in people taking TRUVADA or medicines like TRUVADA.

Common side effects in people taking TRUVADA for PrEP are stomach-area (abdomen) pain, headache, and decreased weight. Tell your healthcare provider if you have any side effects that bother you or do not go away.

What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking TRUVADA for PrEP?

- ◆ **All your health problems.** Be sure to tell your healthcare provider if you have or have had any kidney, bone, or liver problems, including hepatitis virus infection.
- ◆ **If you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant.** It is not known if TRUVADA can harm your unborn baby. If you become pregnant while taking TRUVADA for PrEP, talk to your healthcare provider to decide if you should keep taking TRUVADA for PrEP. **Pregnancy Registry:** A pregnancy registry collects information about your health and the health of your baby. There is a pregnancy registry for women who take medicines to prevent HIV-1 during pregnancy. For more information about the registry and how it works, talk to your healthcare provider.
- ◆ **If you are breastfeeding** (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed. The medicines in TRUVADA can pass to your baby in breast milk. If you become HIV-1 positive, HIV-1 can be passed to the baby in breast milk.
- ◆ **All the medicines you take,** including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. TRUVADA may interact with other medicines. Keep a list of all your medicines and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist when you get a new medicine.
- ◆ **If you take certain other medicines** with TRUVADA for PrEP, your healthcare provider may need to check you more often or change your dose. These medicines include ledipasvir with sofosbuvir (HARVONI).

You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit www.FDA.gov/medwatch, or call 1-800-FDA-1088.



Please see Important Facts about TRUVADA for PrEP including important warnings on the following page.



Have you heard about

TRUVADA for PrEP™?

The **once-daily prescription medicine** that can help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 when used **with safer sex practices**.

- TRUVADA for PrEP is only for **adults who are at high risk of getting HIV through sex**.
- You **must be HIV-negative** before you start taking TRUVADA.

Ask your doctor about your risk of getting HIV-1 infection and if TRUVADA for PrEP may be right for you.

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(tru-VAH-dah)

IMPORTANT FACTS

This is only a brief summary of important information about taking TRUVADA for PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis) to help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 infection. This does not replace talking to your healthcare provider about your medicine.

MOST IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT TRUVADA FOR PrEP

Before starting TRUVADA for PrEP to help reduce your risk of getting HIV-1 infection:

- **You must be HIV-1 negative.** You must get tested to make sure that you do not already have HIV-1 infection. Do not take TRUVADA for PrEP to reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 unless you are confirmed to be HIV-1 negative.
- **Many HIV-1 tests can miss HIV-1 infection in a person who has recently become infected.** Symptoms of new HIV-1 infection include flu-like symptoms, tiredness, fever, joint or muscle aches, headache, sore throat, vomiting, diarrhea, rash, night sweats, and/or enlarged lymph nodes in the neck or groin. Tell your healthcare provider if you have had a flu-like illness within the last month before starting TRUVADA for PrEP.

While taking TRUVADA for PrEP to help reduce your risk of getting HIV-1 infection:

- **You must continue using safer sex practices. Just taking TRUVADA for PrEP may not keep you from getting HIV-1.**
- **You must stay HIV-1 negative to keep taking TRUVADA for PrEP.**
- **Tell your healthcare provider if you have a flu-like illness while taking TRUVADA for PrEP.**
- If you think you were exposed to HIV-1, tell your healthcare provider right away.
- **If you do become HIV-1 positive, you need more medicine than TRUVADA alone to treat HIV-1.** If you have HIV-1 and take only TRUVADA, your HIV-1 may become harder to treat over time.
- **See the "How to Further Reduce Your Risk" section for more information.**

TRUVADA may cause serious side effects, including:

- **Buildup of lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis),** which is a serious medical emergency that can lead to death. Call your healthcare provider right away if you have any of these symptoms: weakness or being more tired than usual, unusual muscle pain, being short of breath or fast breathing, nausea, vomiting, stomach-area pain, cold or blue hands and feet, feeling dizzy or lightheaded, and/or fast or abnormal heartbeats.
- **Severe liver problems,** which in some cases can lead to death. Call your healthcare provider right away if you have any of these symptoms: your skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow, dark "tea-colored" urine, light-colored stools, loss of appetite for several days or longer, nausea, and/or stomach-area pain.
- **Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** If you have HBV and take TRUVADA, your hepatitis may become worse if you stop taking TRUVADA. Do not stop taking TRUVADA without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to check your health regularly for several months.

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

ABOUT TRUVADA FOR PrEP (PRE-EXPOSURE PROPHYLAXIS)

TRUVADA is a prescription medicine used with safer sex practices for PrEP to help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 infection in adults at high risk:

- HIV-1 negative men who have sex with men and who are at high risk of getting infected with HIV-1 through sex.
- Male-female sex partners when one partner has HIV-1 infection and the other does not.

To help determine your risk, talk openly with your doctor about your sexual health.

Do NOT take TRUVADA for PrEP if you:

- **Already have HIV-1 infection or if you do not know your HIV-1 status.**
- Take lamivudine (Epivir-HBV) or adefovir (HEPSERA).

POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF TRUVADA FOR PrEP

TRUVADA can cause serious side effects, including:

- Those in the "Most Important Information About TRUVADA for PrEP" section.
- New or worse kidney problems, including kidney failure.
- Bone problems.
- Changes in body fat.

Common side effects in people taking TRUVADA for PrEP include stomach-area (abdomen) pain, headache, and decreased weight.

These are not all the possible side effects of TRUVADA. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you have any new symptoms while taking TRUVADA for PrEP.

Your healthcare provider will need to do tests to monitor your health before and during treatment with TRUVADA for PrEP.

BEFORE TAKING TRUVADA FOR PrEP

Tell your healthcare provider if you:

- Have or have had any kidney, bone, or liver problems, including hepatitis infection.
- Have any other medical conditions.
- Are pregnant or plan to become pregnant.
- Are breastfeeding (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed if you become HIV-1 positive because of the risk of passing HIV-1 to your baby.

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take:

- Keep a list that includes all prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements, and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist.
- Ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist about medicines that should not be taken with TRUVADA for PrEP.

HOW TO TAKE TRUVADA FOR PrEP

- **Take 1 tablet once a day, every day,** not just when you think you have been exposed to HIV-1.
- Do not miss any doses. Missing doses may increase your risk of getting HIV-1 infection.
- You **must** practice safer sex by using condoms and you **must** stay HIV-1 negative.

HOW TO FURTHER REDUCE YOUR RISK

- Know your HIV-1 status and the HIV-1 status of your partners.
- Get tested for HIV-1 at least every 3 months or when your healthcare provider tells you.
- Get tested for other sexually transmitted infections. Other infections make it easier for HIV-1 to infect you.
- Get information and support to help reduce risky sexual behavior.
- Have fewer sex partners.
- Do not share needles or personal items that can have blood or body fluids on them.

GET MORE INFORMATION

- This is only a brief summary of important information about TRUVADA for PrEP to reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 infection. Talk to your healthcare provider or pharmacist to learn more, including how to prevent HIV-1 infection.
- Go to start.truvada.com or call 1-800-GILEAD-5
- If you need help paying for your medicine, visit start.truvada.com for program information.



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Brian Brown: NOMing the globe

National Organization for Marriage is back, and taking its hate worldwide

They're baaaaaaack! The National Organization for Marriage is back, that is. Though they never really went anywhere. They were just stuck in place for awhile during the Obama administration.

But now that the United States has elected a bigoted rage-baby to be our next prez, NOM President Brian Brown can't wait to get the anti-gay engine restarted. In fact, Brown has such a raging boner for hurting LGBTQ people that he's taking his fight global.

Now, I know what you're going to say: "But Trump vowed to protect LGBTQ people from hateful foreign ideologies! He said it himself at the Republican National Convention!"

Tis true! But he also said he'd jail Hillary Clinton and now he says, "We don't care." So I don't know, maybe a lot of the things he says are ... what's the word for it? Oh yeah: craven bullshit lies.

So, yeah, I don't expect to see Trump don a rainbow cape and come to the rescue of LGBTQ people any time soon.

Anyway, back to Brown, who announced on International Human Rights Day (because of course) the formation of the International Organization for the Family (IOF). According to Brown, IOF is "a coalition of allies to take the worldwide lead in fighting for marriage, religious liberty, parental rights, the truth of gender and other issues central to the pro-family movement."

In other words, it's a coming together of smaller hate groups across the globe to form one big hate group. Like Voltron, only instead of fighting evil space robots he fights lesbian moms and gay new-llyweds and transgender people trying to pee in privacy.

"With the advent of IOF," Brown wrote in a message on NOM's blog, "NOM will be able to focus all our efforts here in America, where we have tremendous opportunities to reshape the culture and legal climate for marriage. We look forward to working with President-elect Trump, the Congress and our allies in Washington and the states to pursue a wide ranging agenda on behalf of our issues."

Now, I don't know if Trump will actually work with NOM to dismantle LGBTQ rights because



D'Anne Witkowski
Creep of the Week



I'm not sure Trump cares that much (Note: Not giving a shit is not the same thing as being pro-LGBTQ, no matter how many times he spits that acronym into a microphone).

But it really doesn't matter. Congress is full of NOM's friends, as are many state governments. We will no doubt see a sustained effort to erode LGBTQ gains. Most likely transgender and genderqueer people will be hurt the most as "the bathroom wars" continue to rage.

And whether you're the butchest gay man or the most lipstick of lesbians, this is your fight, too. Because, make no mistake, people will die. If not here in the U.S., then certainly in countries where being LGBTQ is already criminalized and punishable by prison or death.

By stoking the flames of hate across the globe IOF is just asking for blood on their hands.

You may recall the 2014 "kill the gays" bill introduced in Uganda, inspired in part by anti-gay American evangelicals who visited the country and lectured on the evils of homosexuality. The death penalty portion of the bill was changed to life in prison, by the way, which is hardly an improvement. This is but one example of what IOF will likely spur under Brown's leadership.

LGBTQ people and our allies must remain vigilant. What Brown and his anti-gay ilk aren't counting on is that their fight to take away our rights will be much harder than their fight against us ever gaining them in the first place.

Be the resistance you want to see. ■

D'Anne Witkowski is a poet, writer and comedian living in Michigan with her wife and son. She has been writing about LGBT politics for over a decade. Follow her on Twitter @MamaDWitkowski.

The power of 5

Dezman Lehman's road from closeted Pentecostal church kid to out-and-proud pop singer **Dezi 5**

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor
jones@dallasvoice.com

Imagine growing up surrounded by music, but unable to embrace it. Now imagine the same thing, only with your sexual orientation. That's the background Dezman Lehman faced.

Although not reared by his mother, she "was still in my life" and the first gifts of music she gave Lehman were CDs of Mary J. Blige and Toni Braxton ... not that he could listen to them.

"I grew up with my grandmother and it was all gospel," he says. Lehman had to listen to his beloved R&B in secret, if at all; for a while, he sang at church, but his voice changed and "I was very shy about it. So I joined the band and played the clarinet." You can't play a woodwind *and* sing, so that seemed cut off for him. Similarly, he felt removed from his sexuality.

"For a long time, I'd been wanting to be a singer but was afraid to be one because [I thought], 'No one wants a gay singer.' There weren't any to look up to in any pocket of where I grew up. I felt I couldn't sing anymore."

But sing he does. Earlier this month, Lehman — known professionally as Dezi 5 — won Best Live Act at the 28th annual Dallas Observer Music Awards, finally authenticating a long journey of self-discovery.

And therein lies a tale....

As a kid in South Dallas, Lehman felt early on that he didn't fit in. His grandma encouraged him to play the piano, but balked at allowing pop music played in her house.

"I was in the closet about being a funk fan ... but also about my sexuality," he jokes. "I had a coming out as a singer [before coming out at gay]!"

Dezi 5 (aka Dezman Lehman) won Best Live Act from the Dallas Observer, validating his long journey from church misfit to legit musical artist. (Photos; Arnold Wayne Jones)



Being gay was definitely not an option, either. "I grew up as a black gay man in a Pentecostal church where a minister talked about gay men as fags," he says. "I was worried that I would be judged as 'this gay guy.'" (He was even the subject of a gay-conversion-esque intervention "because they 'found a demon in me.'")

His flamboyance has always made it difficult for him to hide his light under a bushel. One time, he recalls, his grandmother let him go shopping for whatever he wanted. He bought what he thought was "a cute silk shirt, but everyone laughed at me." In high school, "all of my friends would be making out in the living room and I'd be in the bathroom singing to the soundtrack of *Lady Sings the Blues*."

College opened his eyes to more possibilities. He was awarded a partial music scholarship to Florida A&M to play clarinet, but "being a music major, I still had to take fundamentals of voice. And my voice teacher told me, 'You can fucking sing!'"

Music ended up being a key that unlocked several doors. After college, Lehman moved back to Dallas but "knew that there was something missing from my life," Lehman says. "But when I embraced my orientation, I realized: It just takes power do so whatever you want to do."

He set about forging his future, rather than letting it tick by. He put together a jazz band that would play neo-soul (Jill Scott, Chaka Khan) at Brooklyn; he then got a gig at a now-shuttered venue called Pearl at Commerce, singing Sinatra and The Great American Songbook. But his accompanist dropped out, and he couldn't get a gig without live music. He decided it was time to reinvent himself, first by adopting the name Dezi 5.

"I found out about this from Erykah Badu — that the No. 5 means power," he says, "and I needed that power to give it that *oomph*."

Dezi 5 was originally a solo act, though he would bring a variety of set musicians into the mix and created his version of psychedelic rock inspired by Jim Morrison, Jimi Hendrix and the like. But his ultimate aim "was to integrate my music scene with the LGBT scene."

At age 26, Lehman renounced his Christianity and determined to "crucify my insecurities. [After that], I was born again with this new sense of spirituality and art and life and humanity and the music of the universe," he says.

He's committed to unifying his love of artistry in all forms with his passion for music ... and like any gay man, he has Lady Gaga and Madonna to thank for it.

"I watched an interview with Madonna and she said that in the 1980s the artist could not flourish without the musician and the musician could not flourish without the artist," he recalls. And while he came to Gaga late (he didn't learn about her until *Born This Way*, he admits), he was impressed by her devotion to both fashion and

music. "She is so free about who she is — that was a call I had to listen to."

Lehman has imparted this philosophy to the Deep Ellum scene, and "they ate it up," he says. (The award — plus four other nominations — supports that conclusion.) But it's a disappointment to him that he hasn't made the same impact in the gayborhood.

"I performed at Alexandre's at Halloween last year — my debut on Cedar Springs," he says. "It was a good gig — I did pop tunes, David Bowie, my thing. But I got on top of the bar and those girls were like, 'We don't want your feet where we drink!'" he laughs.

He loves pop and dance music, but says, because he's black, "they think I'm gonna be singing hip-hop or R&B. But all I really want is to be known as a Dallas artist, and make timeless music. You want things to last. And I stand out like a motherfucker."

Finally, he's at a place where he's comfortable being that. All artists have to be themselves — it's really all they have. ■



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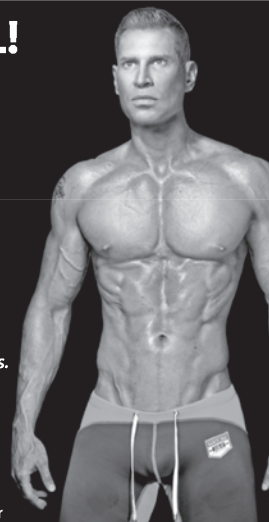


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It's showtime!

The annual flood of Christmas movies is upon us, starring 'Passengers,' 'Assassin's Creed,' 'Sing,' 'Fences,' 'Lion' ... and many more

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor

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The year got off to a slow start for the movies, with only *Deadpool*, *The Jungle Book* and *The Lobster* resonating much, but then things started to look up late summer and early fall. Now with the Christmas movie-watching season in full swing, there are practically dozens of new releases (some of which won't debut locally until 2017) to occupy your post-shopping, post-unwrapping, post-Obama entertainment hours. Some, of course, are better than others...

Sing

On the original *Muppet Show*, a motley assemblage of anthropomorphized creatures — a frog,

a pig, a bear, an eagle and something called a Gonzo — struggled to make their oddly-outdated Vaudeville-style theater a going concern each week, despite A-list guest stars to help them wow audiences. But who even knows what Vaudeville is anymore?

That's the dilemma posed to Buster Moon (Matthew McConaughey), a starry-eyed koala running a once-grand show palace that has fallen on hard times, largely because of his Broadway Danny Rose-esque inability to pick a hit. The keep the bank from foreclosing (echoes of Cher's *Burlesque*??), he makes a last-ditch attempt to conduct a singing competition to get butts in the seats ... only a typo threatens to tank



LIFE+STYLE

screen

ALL RIGHT ALL RIGHT ALL RIGHT | Matthew McConaughey voices Buster Moon, the starry-eyed koala trying to save his theater in the charming meta-musical 'Sing.'

the deal, and producing something viable seems more daunting than he imagined.

This modern-day Muppet-like adventure — rendered in colorful animation with amazing energy and panache — is the feel-good meta-musical of the year. The audition sequence is jam-packed with hilarious (and occasionally brilliant) vocal performances, from a cast that includes Reese Witherspoon, Taron Egerton, Scarlett Johansson and Jennifer Hudson. But as tuneful and fun as it all is, there's a sweet-natured soul to the film. The characters — from a beset mama pig to a sensitive gorilla trying to break away from his family's criminal past to a shy elephant with great pipes but debilitating stage fright — are so sharply drawn by director Garth Jennings, you can't help but cheer everyone on.

Though not a Pixar film — it comes from the folks responsible for the *Despicable Me* franchise — it has the same slick and savvy understanding of just how far to push a gag while still remaining true to the characters ... even characters who shouldn't exist together in the world. And the selection of songs, including many contemporary pop hits from the likes of Ariande Grande, Lady Gaga and Carly Rae Jepsen, show a knowing understanding of what kids today want to hear.

That may be the smartest thing about it.
(Now playing in wide release.)

Passengers

In the future, colonizing new worlds has become so routine that thousands of people pay good money to go to sleep for a century and awake from hibernation on a new planet with a new life. And nothing ever goes wrong... until it does. Jim Preston (Chris Pratt) awakes from his pod 90 years too soon — an impossibility, but a reality — and with no access to crew and an unhelpful automated customer-service system (it seems not too much has changed in the future), he's forced to live out his trip alone, with no one but an android bartender (Michael Sheen) for company.

Jim struggles with whether he should awake another passenger — Aurora Lane (Jennifer Lawrence), with whom he has become infatuated — but of course he does. His sanity demands it. But how do you condemn another person to a lifetime of near-solitude?

You're never quite sure what direction *Passengers* is headed — will it become a monster movie à la *Alien*, a technology-gone-bad thriller (2001), a

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HIT AND MISS | The inane 'Assassin's Creed,' above, fails on every level; meanwhile 'Passengers,' opposite, take the sci-fi genre to unexpected places.

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stir-crazy-in-space mystery (*Moon*), a problem-solving survival tale (*The Martian*), a moody secrets-of-the-universe thriller (*Sunshine*) ... or something else, from *Planet of the Apes* to *Event Horizon*? So many possibilities, which makes it all the more refreshing that director Morten Tyldum (*The Imitation Game*) and screenwriter Jon Spaihts (*Prometheus*, *Doctor Strange*) have put together something entirely unexpected: A romantic comedy-drama laden with complicated morality.

Near-future sci-fi traditionally addresses ethical dilemmas, but usually in a cursory way (cloning, for instance, in *The 5th Day*), but *Passengers* doesn't dismiss it like a side dish but makes it the main course: How far would you go to combat your own loneliness? Does your sanity trump someone else's life? If Jim's pod could malfunction, is there something bigger at work? And it tells this story with humor and a lot of chemistry among the actors. (Pratt gets *two* butt-shot scenes — totally value-added filmmaking.)

In just three years, Pratt has gone from the loveable goofball on *Parks & Rec* to the top buffed-out movie star of the decade, and *Passengers* continues his trajectory as the approachable-but-sexy hero. The success of this film depends on your willingness to empathize with all of his decisions (from trying to re-hibernate himself to debating the rightness of his choice). And Lawrence needs to seem *worth* his efforts, which she does. Sheen, though, almost steals the show with his scenes as Arthur the automaton.

I won't ruin the third-act development and how it impacts the story. Suffice it to say the romance escalates, plateaus and resolves amid

some lovely special effects (it's one of the best art-directed films of the year) that, until the end, you can't wholly predict. It's wonderful to be along for the ride.

(Now playing in wide release.)

Assassin's Creed

There's always something a bit unsettling about seeing A-list actors in crappy B-movies. It's one thing for Robert Downey Jr. to lead an all-star cast in big-budget summer tentpole franchise; it's another to see Michael Fassbender and Marion Cotillard — who paired up last Christmas for *Macbeth* — slum it in the painfully-scripted, sluggishly-paced, inanely preposterous boondoggle that is *Assassin's Creed*. (For the record, I didn't *like* their *Macbeth*, also from director Justin Kurzel, but it had pedigree.)

Unlike *Passengers*, whose premise is fantastical but which sticks close to the emotional truth of the characters, *Assassin's Creed* presents a stupid premise, dumbly executed and impossible to connect with. (It starts with an informational scroll, which hasn't been anything but lame since *Star Wars*.) In 1492, a group called The Assassins secretly protected mankind from the efforts of The Knights Templar. The Templars seek the legendary Apple of Eden, which contains a roadmap to mankind's violent nature; control the Apple, and you end warfare (while simultaneously depriving all humans of freewill).

An assassin named Aguilar (Fassbender) was the last known person in possession of the Apple; now 500 years later, his direct descendant Cal (Fassbender again) has in his DNA the "memories" of his exploits. A Templar scientist (Cotillard) hooks him up to a machine to extract those memories, find the present-day resting place of the Apple and enslave mankind for her

father (Jeremy Irons).

Even if you accept the idea with a straight face, it's muddled and as pure a McGuffin as ever there was one. It plays not as a grand mission but as Dan Brown Lite: A quest that feels pointless and silly, derived in a convoluted way. (If they just wanna know where the Apple is, why start at the beginning of Aguilar's mission, and not just cut to the chase?) In that way, and many others, *Assassin's Creed* feels like a video game (it is, though I didn't know it until the end credits), and like many games-turned-feature-films, it's witless and "safe" (tons of violence, but not too much blood — we need that PG-13 rating to bring in the teen boys!). You'll see more harrowing action and fighting on *American Horror Story* or *The Walking Dead*; you'll feel the grit of Medieval adventure more profoundly in *Game of Thrones*. If TV does this stuff, and does it better, why venture out to the theater?

To their credit, Fassbender, Cotillard, Charlotte Rampling, Brendan Gleason and Michael Kenneth Williams do their best to invest seriousness into the idiocy; Irons has been slumming it in overwrought sand-and-sandal epics for years, from *Dungeons & Dragons* to *Eragon* to *The Borgias* — he's adept by now at purring bad dialogue like a pro. But they can't rescue a plodding, predictable movie like this, one where everyone walks on breezeless roofs when they are supposed to be in hiding. You feel every minute of this murky, dull fiasco.

(Now playing in wide release.)



Fences

August Wilson's Pittsburgh Cycle is one of the most monumental achievements in modern theater: Ten plays, written over 20 years (the last just before Wilson's death in 2005), each set in a different decade of the 20th century, each reflecting something meaningful about the black experience, from jazz to Jim Crow to business and politics. The most acclaimed of these, *Fences*, was written in the 1980s but set in the 1950s.


It dealt with Troy Maxson (Denzel Washing-

ton), a late-middle-aged garbage collector and his aspirations for personal advancement, but also a good life for his son Cory (Jovan Adepo). Troy had a shot at a baseball career, but segregation and troubles with the law kept him illiterate and bitter, and he won't let Cory pursue his dreams of a college football career. That creates a rift between father and son, exacerbated by tension with Troy's devoted second wife (Viola Davis), his son from a prior relationship (Russell Hornsby) and even a mistress Troy hides from

everyone, even his best friend Bono (Stephen McKinley Henderson).

Fences as a play is set almost entirely in the backyard of the Maxsons' tract house in Pittsburgh; the problem with the movie, which Washington also directs, is that it barely breaks free of its stage roots. Washington — who, along with Davis, won a Tony for his performance in the 2010 Broadway production — seems wed-

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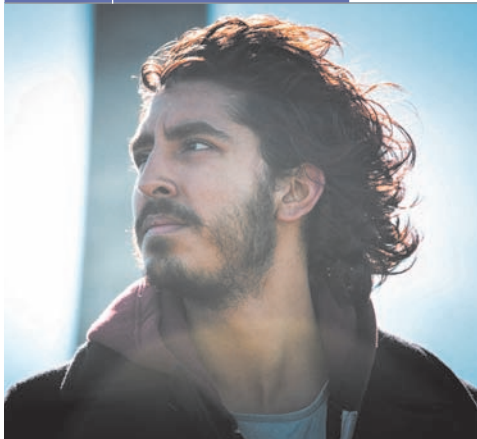
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LOST BOY | Dev Patel plays an adult looking for what happened to his family in the lump-in-your-throat drama 'Lion.'

served by a constricting visual style and too-talky exposition. Rather than worry about what it doesn't do, however, better to bask in what it does so well.

(Opens Christmas Day at the West Village's Magnolia Theater.)

Lion

Saroo (Sunny Pawar) is a 5-year-old boy living a hard but amazingly happy life in the provinces of India, with a caring brother and devoted mother. Then he's accidentally lost in Calcutta, forced to find his way on the streets — taken in and eventually adopted by an Australian couple who look after him as their own. Saroo lives a good life, but 20 years later, as a young man (Dev Patel) he yearns to find out what happened to his biological family. He sets out on a journey to rediscover his past and give meaning to his future.

Based on Saroo Brierley's own memoir, this beautiful and emotionally satisfying motion picture never fails to leave a lump in your throat. With great performances by Patel, Pawar and Nicole Kidman as Saroo's adoptive mother, it's harrowing and hopeful — like the holiday season itself.

(Opens Christmas Day at the Angelika Mockingbird Station.)



PLAN YOUR VIEWING

Our directory of movie openings

Note: Some films received limited releases in New York and Los Angeles to qualify for the Academy Awards, but roll out later in North Texas. The local release dates are listed.

Already opened

Sing (wide release); **Assassin's Creed** (wide release); **Passengers** (wide release; read our interview with stars Jennifer Lawrence and Chris Pratt only at DallasVoice.com); **Collateral Beauty** (wide release); **Rogue One: A Star Wars Story** (wide release).

Dec. 23

Why Him? (wide release, pictured; read our in-

terview with co-star Megan Mullally online at DallasVoice.com).

Dec. 25

Fences (Magnolia); **Lion** (Angelika).

Jan. 6

Hidden Figures (wide release); **A Monster Calls** (wide release); **Live by Night** (wide release).

Jan. 13

Patriots Day (wide release); **Silence** (wide release); **20th Century Women** (limited release).

Beyond

Julietta (Jan. 20); **Paterson** (Jan. 20); **Toni Erdmann** (Jan. 27).

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Monday 12.26

Eat, drink and be Mary with 'Meatball Seance'

We've written about actor/performance artist John Michael Colgin in the past — he played the title role in *Gilligan's Fire Island* and has explored his own bad habits in several solo shows. But the death of his mom left him feeling a little lost — especially her meatball recipe, which he wants to recreate to impress a new boyfriend. You can help him channel his mom (and just get a post-Christmas laugh) at a workshop staging of his newest one-man show, *Meatball Seance*, at the Margo Jones Theatre. It's a pay-what-you-can show, a "happening" and after, a Cowboys watching party.

DEETS: Margo Jones Theatre, 1121 First Ave. 7 p.m. MargoJonesTheatre.com.

Tuesday 12.27 —
Sunday 01.01

Lone Star Circus returns to DCT

For about a decade now, the week after Christmas has been a great time to feel like a kid again ... or, if you have kids, share the magic of the circus with them. The Lone Star Circus' annual holiday spectacular — this year called *La Fete* — returns, thanks to the Dallas Children's Theater. From hand-balancing to quick-change acts to juggling, a dog act and the comedy of ringmaster B.J. Cleveland, it's a whimsical and delightful family outing.

DEETS: Rosewood Center for Family Arts, 3928 Skillman St. \$22–\$48. DCT.org.

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ARTSWEEK

NOTE: DUE TO THE HOLIDAYS, SOME NORMALLY SCHEDULED EVENTS MAY BE CANCELLED.

THEATER

The Book of Mormon. The Tony favorite continues its limited run. Winspear Opera House, 2401 Flora St. Through Dec. 31. ATPAC.org.

A Christmas Carol. The Dallas Theater Center's annual holiday show, this time with Sally Vahle in the role of Scrooge. Wyly Theatre, 2400 Flora St. Through Dec. 28. DallasTheaterCenter.org.

The Beulaville Baptist Book Club Presents: A Burlesque Nutcracker! The hilarious comedy about strippers mistaken for ballet dancers returns. Presented by MBS Productions. Addison Theatre Centre, 15650 Addison Road. Through Dec. 26. BurlesqueNutcracker.com.

Gloria. The regional premiere of this Pulitzer finalist about the cutthroat world of magazine publishing. Studio Theatre of the Wyly Theatre, 2400 Flora St. Through Jan. 22. DallasTheaterCenter.org.

Santa Claus: A New Musical. The legendary gift-giver gets his own musical, developed locally in a world premiere. *Final weekend.* Casa Manana, 3101 W. Lancaster Ave., Fort Worth. CasaManana.org.

Sister's Christmas Catechism: The Mystery of the Magi's Gold. It's *CSI: Bethlehem* as a Catholic nun solves the biblical mystery: Where did the gold that the three wise men brought to the manger go? *Final weekend.* Addison Theatre Centre, 15650 Addison Road. WaterTowerTheatre.org.

The Sleeping Beauty. An original English panto, a beloved holiday tradition, skewers a familiar fairy tale

with cross-dressing and comedy in a family-friendly way. Cox Building Playhouse, 1617 H Ave., Plano. Through Dec. 30. Theatre-Britain.com.

CONCERTS

Dallas Symphony Christmas Pops. The annual concert series of carols, classics and sing-alongs. Meyerson Symphony Center, 2301 Flora St. Through Dec. 18. MyDSO.org.

BALLET

The Nutcracker. Texas Ballet Theater's annual production of Tchaikovsky's classic Christmas ballet. *Final weekend.* Bass Performance Hall, 535 Commerce St., Fort Worth. TexasBalletTheater.org.

FRIDAY 12.23

DANCE

Hip Hop Nutcracker. The classic modernized with a rollicking score, live violinist and DJ. Eisemann Center, 2351 Performance Drive, Richardson. 8 p.m. EisemannCenter.com.

SATURDAY 12.24 — CHRISTMAS EVE

SUNDAY 12.25 — CHRISTMAS DAY

WORSHIP

Services. See our calendar of services in The Gay Agenda, Page 8.

MONDAY 12.26

THEATER

Meatball Seance. John Michael Colgin lost his mother a few years ago. Now, he needs help conjuring her meatball recipe so that he can impress his new boyfriend. This workshop production of Colgin's 7th solo show will be a tryout, followed by a potluck after-Christmas dinner (BYOB) plus Dallas Cowboys watching party. It's pay-what-you-can. Margo Jones Theatre, 1121 First Ave. 7 p.m. MargoJonesTheatre.com.

TUESDAY 12.27

CIRCUS

Lone Star Circus: La Fete Holiday Spectacular. Dallas Children's Theater again presents this annual tradition, a family-friendly Cirque du Soleil-type showcase of gymnasts, clowns, contortionists and more. Rosewood Center for Family Arts, 5938 Skillman St. Dec. 27–Jan. 1 (multiple shows per day). DCT.org.

THURSDAY 12.29

CONCERTS

Mannheim Steamroller Christmas by Chip Davis. Grammy winner Chip Davis features Mannheim Steamroller's holiday classics in a 30-year tradition for the season. Bass Performance Hall, 535 Commerce St.,



Former Dallasite John Michael Colgin returns for a one-night-only, pay-what-you-can workshop of his latest solo show, 'Meatball Seance,' Monday at Fair Park's Margo Jones Theater.

Fort Worth. 7:30 p.m. Tickets from \$50. BassHall.com.

FRIDAY 12.30

THEATER

Robert Earl Keen. The famed Texana musician returns with his eve-of-New-Year's-Eve show, featuring his cult classic "Merry Christmas from the Fam-O-Lee" and other songs. Bass Performance Hall, 535 Commerce St., Fort Worth. 7:30 p.m. Tickets from \$55. BassHall.com.



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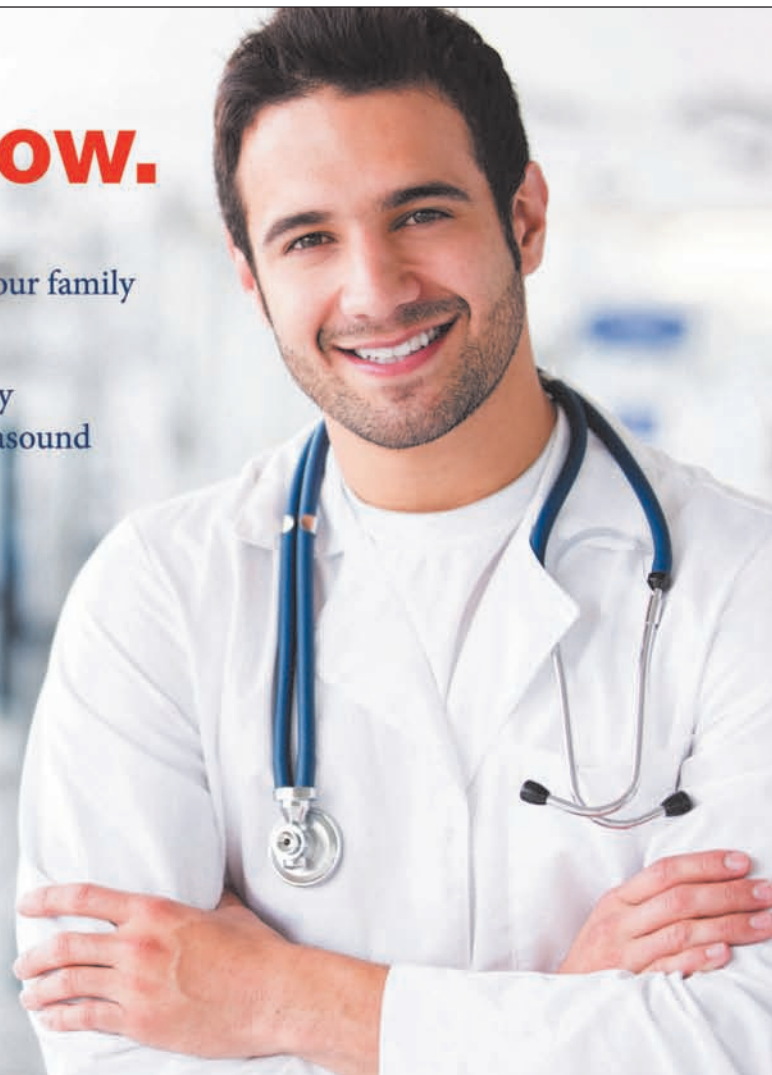
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Cassie Nova

Happy Holidays, bitches! You be you

Hello world, and Happy Holidays. I hope you are all enjoying this festive time of year. My December got off to a wonderful start. A few years ago I was put in charge of a fundraiser for Sam Houston Elementary. They have a Secret Santa program that we donate to. Imagine, a Monday night drag show to raise money for the children to have a great Christmas.

We call it Cassie's Freakmas show and my friend Chad and myself spend weeks before asking local businesses for donations to be raffled off at our show. And boy did our community come through! We had gift cards from just about every restaurant in the area, gift baskets and all kinds of cool stuff for our raffle. We auctioned off Stars tickets, a Jeremy Michael Calhoun bow tie, a GoBone — seriously, so many cool prizes.

Hell, we even had a gallon of Spunk lube that came with a dispenser. I'm sure the bottom that won that will stay well-lubed all year.

I posted on Facebook and advertised at the shows that I wanted everyone to wear a onesie; I was thoroughly surprised at how many people came out sporting the coolest in sleepwear. I was a yeti, we had a few green Grinchies, Minions, snowmen, Eeyore, polar bears and even the bunny costume from *A Christmas Story*. It was awesome. (The crew at JR.'s even dressed in onesies and looked adorable. They will give me shit forever for making them dress up but I think secretly they loved it, too.) It meant a lot to me that not only did so many people come out to support our cause and help out one of the poorest schools in the district, but that they came out decked out and full of the holiday spirit.

We were already on track to raise more than we did last year but then I was presented with a check for \$5,000 from the fabulous Mark Cuban. I love that man. We raised a total of \$7,265 — not too shabby for a Monday night. Speaking of, thank you to every one of

the 17 queens that came out and performed for free out of the kindness in their hearts. I love you.

This week, I talked to my cousin who is a small-town Texas sheriff. We have been close most of his life (I think I am six or seven years older). He called to talk about his 15-year-old stepson. His wife told me a few years ago that they think their son is gay. She asked, if it turns out he's gay, what should we do? How should we handle it? I told them to just let him know that he is loved and that y'all will be there for him. Let him know that his home is his home and just because he's gay that will not change, neither will your love for him.

He called to say that their son came out to them that night. He did exactly like I said and told the boy he was loved and being gay doesn't change anything. But he also told the kid about how hard things got for me when my family found out I was gay, and that coming out in high school will not be easy, especially in Texas. As he was telling me this, I choked up.

He asked if I had any advice to pass on. I told them to tell him to be careful — just because you see a lot of gay acceptance on TV does not mean you will get the same treatment in your town. I don't want to tell him to hide who is, but maybe tone down the "gay" for safety reasons. I also said to have the "sex talk" with him. He might not be able to get pregnant, but STIs and HIV are still something he should worry about. If he's having sex, tell him it needs to be safe sex. Making sure he has access to condoms doesn't mean you approve of him having sex but it does let him protect himself if it does happen.

It truly is a different world we live in. I can't imagine coming out to an accepting family at 15. I reminded my cousin that his parents were the first people in our family to make me feel loved after my big "outing." He learned to accept people from his mom and dad and now applies it to his life. I am very proud of him.

I'm on a roll, let's help someone else.

Dear Cassie, I am a gay man that came out a little later in life. I was married with a wife and kids but always knew I was gay. Once my kids were grown and out of the house, I filed for a divorce. I wanted to divorce my wife years before, not just because I was gay but because she is just awful. A complete bitch.

It took a lot for me to come to terms with who I am and accept and love myself enough to leave her. Our divorce was brutal and once she found out I had come out, her dislike for me turned to venomous hate. My son and I always had a great relationship until recently. Last week he sent me an email stating that for him to be healthy, he could no longer be part of my life. I am heartbroken and don't know what to do. I know this is his mother's doing. Do you have any advice on how I should handle this? Thank you, J.J.

Dear J.J., First off I want to say congratulations on living your truth and finding the strength to come out. I feel I was very lucky not to have had to struggle or question my sexuality such that I ended up married to a woman so I can't imagine your inner struggle. I know you had to make a lot of tough decisions.

Divorce is never easy, even on grown kids. When my parents divorced, even though I was very young, I felt like I was stuck in the middle, both sides wanting me to side with them. It's awful. It sounds like it can be just as rough for an adult.

My advice where your son is concerned is to do like



Michelle Obama says: "When they go low, we go high." Email your son back and say, "I am sorry you feel that way, I love you and I will be here when you need me." Your son will come around in time. He probably feels his mom needs him right now more than you do. A mother's guilt can be relentless.

My advice where your wife is concerned, is to do like Cassie Nova says: "Give that bitch a flaming bag of dog poo for Christmas!" Seriously, there sounds like there is plenty of hurt to go around. Stay strong and give it some time. Hopefully your son will realize you need each other regardless of his mother. Good luck, Cassie.

I hope you all have a wonderful and holiday. Remember to love more, bitch less and be fabulous! Merry Christmas! XOXO! Cassie Nova.

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



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V	O	T	E	H	O	N	E	Y	A	R	K	I
D	D	E	T	O	T	E	S	A	T	O		
S	E	R	F	S	S	E	A	N	H	A	Y	E
I	A	M	S	A	O	T	O	M	E			
A	D	D	R	E	S	S	R	Y	E			
M	E	G	A	N	M	U	L	L	A	L	L	Y
R	O	B	E	D	A	L	A	I	I	A	M	B
B	U	R	T	E	L	F	I	N	E	C	C	E
I	R	A	S	S	L	A	N	G	R	E	A	D



The Tuesday Teaase(rs) at Sue Ellen's



LIFE+STYLE
scene



Walking and talking on The Strip



Friends out for an evening on The Strip

- Making the **SCENE** the week of Dec. 23–30:
- Cedar Springs Tap House: **Geeks Who Drink Trivia** at 7 p.m. on Tuesday.
 - Club Changes: **The Divine Miss Divas Show** at 10 p.m. on Friday.
 - Dallas Eagle: DJ Benson on Saturday. **Line dance lessons** with Yoshi at 7 p.m. on Thursday.
 - Hidden Door: Congratulations on celebrating your **37th Anniversary**.
 - JR.'s Bar & Grill: Opens at 7 p.m. on **Christmas Day**. **Cassie's Freak Show** with Fantasha, Mulan, Rocky and Marriassah on Monday.
 - Liquid Zoo: **Cher-E-Oke** with Wayne Smith at 9:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Friday and Saturday.
 - Pekers: **Ugly Christmas Sweater Karaoke** at 9:45 p.m. on Saturday.
 - Rainbow Lounge: **Christmas Eve Pajama Party** on Saturday. **Best Christmas Pajamas Contest** on Saturday.
 - Round-Up Saloon: **Christmas Eve Howdy Hour** at 8 p.m. **Country music** til late and **high energy music** til later.
 - Sue Ellen's: Opens at 7 p.m. on Sunday. **T&A Karaoke** on Monday. **Tuesday Tease** on Tuesday. **Open Mic** with Kathy & Bella on Wednesday.
 - The Rose Room: **Christmas Eve** with Kelexis, Cassie, Jenna, Krystal, Layla, Asia and Kira on Saturday.
 - Two Corks and a Bottle: **Show Tune Night** from 7-10 p.m. on Wednesday.
 - Woody's Sports & Video Bar: **Detroit at Dallas** on Sunday at 7:30 p.m.

Scene Photographers: *Kat Haygood and Chad Mantooth*



He said yes! Newly-engaged on The Strip



Looking lovely on The Strip



Hugging it out on The Strip



Showing some skin at Club Stallions



Smiles and cocktails at BJ's NXS!



Dancing men at BJ's NXS!



Getting in the holiday spirit, with elves, drag queens and caroling at Woody's



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Cocktail hour at Zippers



Friends hanging out at Zippers

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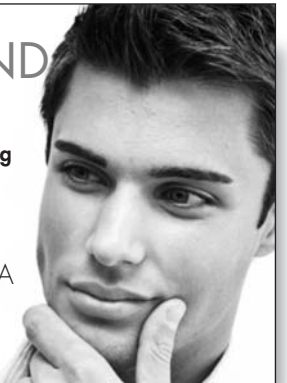
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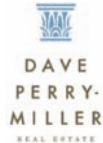
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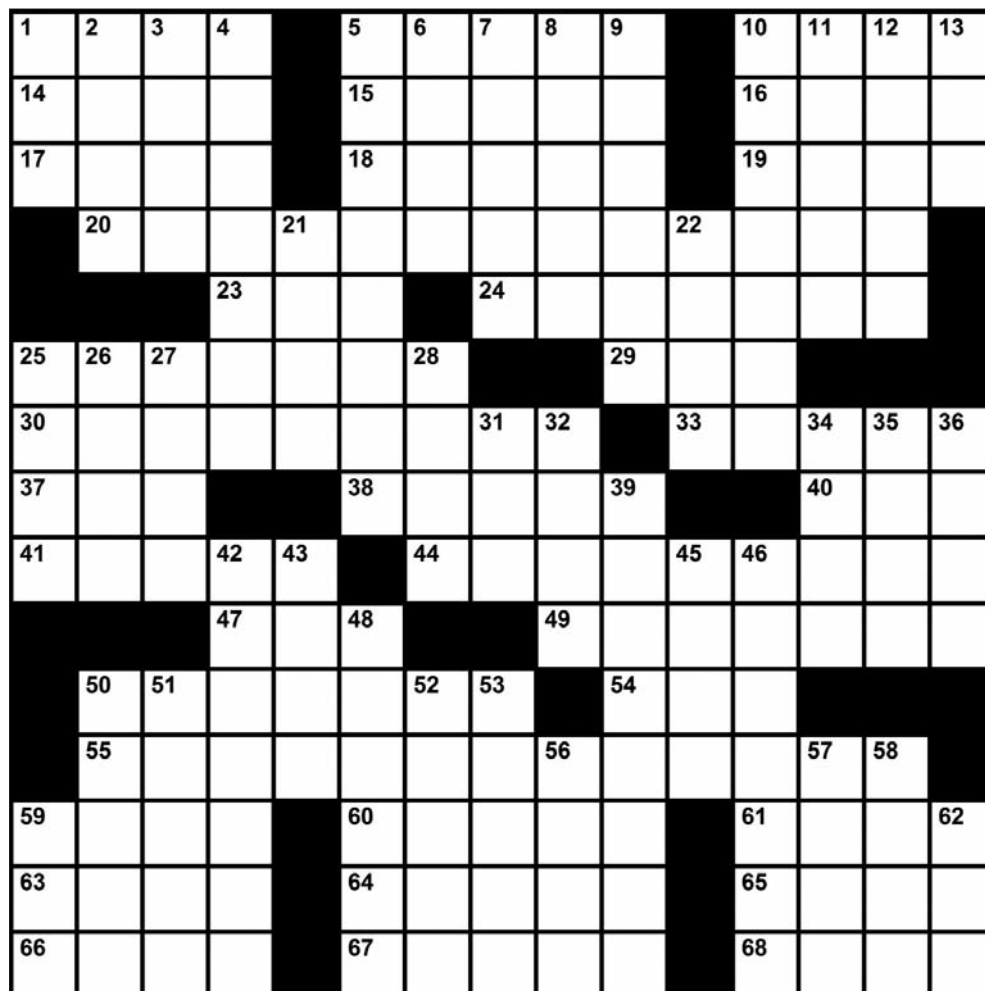
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q-puzzle



Messing Around the Set

Solution on page 24

Across

- 1 Tickle pink
5 Milano opera house,
with "la"
10 Paquin of *True Blood*
14 Protected from the wind
15 Fondled rudely
16 Pride member
17 Pole, for example
18 You must remember this
19 Men on top, perhaps
20 Will portrayer in 30-Across
23 Battery size
24 Sudden body fluid emissions
25 Confection with nuts
29 Fed. retirement gp.
30 Clinton ad that sparked talk
of a *Will & Grace* revival
33 Alan who played
Grace's dad
37 JFK preceder
38 Drags
40 From ___ Z
41 Bottom workers
44 Jack portrayer in 30-Across
47 Descartes's conclusion
49 Prince's island partner
50 Lincoln's Gettysburg
comments

- 54 Seed spilled by some farmers
55 Karen portrayer in 30-Across
59 Frat toga
60 Part of a religious title
61 Shakespeare's foot
63 "I Say a Little Prayer for
You" writer Bacharach
64 Fairylike
65 "___ homo!"
66 Accts. for the future
67 Language like "bull dyke"
68 Enjoy Forster

Down

- 1 Carrier to Copenhagen
2 *Legally Blonde* character
3 At the ready
4 Family member, to a
homophobe
5 Musical co-starring
David Hyde Pierce
6 Branch of math, briefly
7 Aerial defense acronym
8 Fruit in a slot machine
9 Is nuts over
10 Palace, to Othello
11 Em's Dorothy
12 Hidey-holes
13 Part of Q and A (abbr.)

- 21 Not Prot.
22 Flat top in high places
25 Top drawers?
26 Straddled one's mate
27 Anatomical passage
28 Mireille of *The Killing*
31 Summer along the Seine
32 Simpatico sounds
34 Boxing win
35 Bit from Ted Casablanca
36 What Sam twitched on
Bewitched
39 Like an angry dog
42 Has ants in one's pants
43 Ramirez of *Grey's Anatomy*
45 Georgetown athlete
46 Designer's studio
48 *American Beauty* director Sam
50 Illicit love affair
51 Messing around the set
of 30-Across
52 Like Trump's hands?
53 Infection fighter
56 Reclined, for Nathan?
57 Brown hanky code
symbol for uncut
58 Village People hit
59 Baseball card stat
62 Night spot?

ONE



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