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TGRA'S
Texas Traditions Rodeo
MARCH 31 - APRIL 2

Story on Page 8

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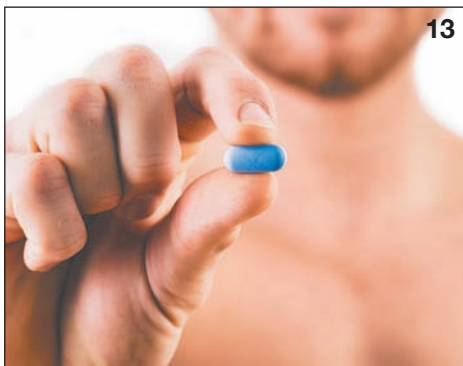
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TGRA's Texas Traditions Rodeo
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Appreciation: Rene Moreno, 1959–2017

There's a secret in the restaurant business that a lot of chefs can flambé cherries jubilee or bananas foster tableside, and many can toss around their knives like a magician in a side show. But when you wanna hire someone to run your kitchen, you ask him to cook an egg.

Flamboyance is great and showmanship is wonderful, but mastering simplicity is the true sign of talent. Can't cook a measly egg? You're all sizzle, no steak.

The same holds for a number of disciplines, not the least among them the craft of theater. I've seen directors crash chandeliers and fly helicopters and I've thought "Wow." But until you've seen a director who can break your heart and make you smile simultaneously while showing you an awkward Irish couple navigate their feelings for each other, or gasp at the humor and humanity of an octogenarian and his prickly relationship with a young gay man, you don't know what great directing means.

Rene Moreno directed *Outside Mullingar* and *Visiting Mr. Green* and dozen of other plays during his illustrious career. And damn, that man could cook an egg.

I first encountered Moreno as an actor. It was nearly 25 years ago I saw him in a minor role in Dallas Theater Center's production of *A Christmas Carol*, and he stood out — not because he used a wheelchair, but because he grabbed your attention. He made an impact as an actor — in the Dallas-filmed movie *Late Bloomers*, on Broadway in the original run of *Amadeus* (before the accident that paralyzed his legs), even in a late-career return to the stage as the title villain in *Richard III* — but his true calling was really behind the scenes.

It probably wasn't long after that *Christmas Carol* that he ventured into directing full-time, starting in 1996 with *Miss Julie*. He took to it like a duck to water.

What was that mystical conjuring that allowed him to extract such painfully beautiful performances out of any cast of actors he blessed with his touch? He could turn a seemingly mild comedy-drama like *Good People* into something profound; in my review, I noted it was "directed, as always, with deft understanding for the subtleties of humanity by Rene Moreno."

That was it, all the time. He knew the human psyche so intimately, he was able to coax out breathtaking work — not just from actors, but designers, too.

His prowess at storytelling was legendary. He could tackle massive American dramas like *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf* and *August: Osage County* with brilliance, spin back to adapting a Restoration comedy like *The Lucky Chance* to swingin' Mod London with light-footed farce, turn to a chamber comedy-drama like *The Trip to Bountiful* and manage to helm a Strindberg to rarefied heights. He wove the most exquisite tapestry of life, one where you never saw the seams.

So when word broke late Tuesday, March 28, that Moreno, who had undergone recent surgeries, has succumbed to a heart attack in the hospital, it didn't just feel like the Dallas theater community had lost an artist; it felt like the soul of all North Texas had been somehow vanquished.

In a region flush with amazing theater professionals, from actors to directors to producers, musicians and designers, I don't think anyone would disagree that Rene Moreno was nonpareil — not merely the best of the best, but virtually peerless. He had the incredible ability to elevate everyone in a show he was in charge of. (He won more Dallas-Fort Worth Theater Critics Forum Awards than I can count.)

"WaterTower Theatre Board and Staff offer their deepest condolences to the friends and family of René Moreno, Gregory Patterson, managing director at WTT, messaged me. Rene was a longtime colleague of WaterTower's and he will be greatly missed by all. Our thoughts and prayers are with the DFW theatre community as we mourn the loss of this great artist."

"It's an extraordinary loss," Susan Sargeant, founder of WingSpan Theatre Co., told me. "My heart aches." (Moreno's final directorial effort, WingSpan's staged reading of *Rose*, will proceed as planned this weekend at the Bath House Cultural Center.)

But it wasn't just that he was a director, but a consumer of theater. I last saw Moreno — whom I count as a personal friend (our birthdays were just days apart — both Geminis, which Rene found humorous) — watch a show a few weeks ago. We chatted that he was undergoing several surgeries; he seemed upbeat but a bit sanguine as well at the prospect.

Still, the heart attack at age 57 that took his life following, reportedly, a recent back surgery, came as a shock. The outpouring of grief on social media was immense, with condolences conveyed to his longtime partner, Charles McMullen.

Perhaps it was his comparative youth, or the suddenness, or the realization of the loss of his good humor, that surprised people most. But speaking personally, it feels deeper than mere loss. Rene Moreno was an authentic genius of his craft whose work transformed all who saw it. The cost feels incalculable.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

Begins Saturday, April 1st



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THE GAYAGENDA

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;** 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. LGBT square dancing group Pegasus Squares

OBITUARY

Chris Allen Liston passed away peacefully on Feb. 6, 2017, at Baylor Scott & White Hospital in Garland, with his partner of 32 years, Terence Avenedt, by his side.

Born Jan. 15, 1957, Chris was originally from Pt. Marion, Penn. He moved to the Dallas area in 1979.

Chris was a very kind and gentle person who loved animals. He devoted much of his spare time to caring for animals and

finding them loving homes.

In addition to his partner, Terence Avenedt, Chris is survived by his sisters, Lynn Liston Minor of Pennsylvania and Sharon L. Stepp of Washingtonb.

A celebration of life will be held Saturday, April 8, at 11 a.m. at White Rock Community Church, 9353 Garland Road in Dallas. Light refreshments and a time for visiting will follow. ■

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General Patton reporting for duty — the duty of love, that is! Patton is a friendly, 2-year-old domestic shorthair mix with orange tabby striped fur. So far, his life has been a bit of a wild ride, but he'd love for the next thing he conquers to be a home of his very own. He's very playful and quite the acrobat. He will snuggle up to anyone he meets and showers them with purrs. He is positive for FeLV, but he can still live a loving and happy life; he just needs to be the only pet in your home. General Patton has been neutered, microchipped, tested negative for FIV and has received all age-appropriate vaccinations. His adoption fee is only \$75, so come meet him today! #152041

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meets every Sunday from 3-5 p.m. at Dallas School of Burlesque, 2924 Main St #103; Dallas Frontrunners meet for a walk or run on the Katy trail at the Robert E. Lee statue in Lee park every Wednesday at 7:15 p.m. and every Saturday at 9 a.m.

MARCH

• Transgender Day of Visibility

In celebration of National Transgender Day of Visibility, Resource Center and Equality Texas host a Dallas screening of the National Geographic documentary, *Gender Revolution: A Journey with Katie Couric*, followed by a panel discussion. The event begins at 7 p.m. and center is located at 5750 Cedar Springs Road. Children are welcome, and a special space will be reserved for those not watching the documentary. For information call 214-540-4472.

• March 31: GALA Meet the Candidates

GALA (Gay and Lesbian Alliance) North Texas hosts a Meet the Candidate event featuring candidates for city council, school board and the Collin College board of trustees, from 6:30-8:30 p.m., at 4568 Southgate Drive in Plano. For information email info@galanorthtexas.org.

• March 31-April 2:

Texas Traditions Rodeo

Texas Gay Rodeo Association presents Texas Traditions Rodeo. Gates open at 11 a.m. at Diamond T Arena, 6900 E. Sherman Drive, Denton.

APRIL

• April 1: PrEP lunch and learn

Q&A with area medical professionals regarding the PrEP Process which includes the use of Truvada hosted by PrEP Warriors DFW at noon at Sue Ellen's, 3014 Throckmorton St. RSVP at [Eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com).

• April 7: GALA Meet the Candidates

GALA (Gay and Lesbian Alliance) North Texas hosts a Meet the Candidate event featuring candidates for city council, school board and the Collin College board of trustees, from 6:30-9 p.m. at 11083 Locksgire Drive in Frisco. For information email info@galanorthtexas.org.



Resource Center and Equality Texas host a screening tonight (Friday, March 31) of National Geographic's documentary, *Gender Revolution: A Journey with Katie Couric* (pictured). See listing for details.

• April 8: No Tie Dinner

This year's theme is An Artful Life, inspired by the pop artists. From 7-10 p.m. at Frontiers of Flight Museum, 6911 Lemmon Ave. \$75. Tickets at NoTieDinner.org

• April 8: Different Strokes Golf Association (DSGA)

Playdate open to all interested golfers, starting at 9 a.m. at Bear Creek Golf East Course, 4500 Bear Creek Court, Euless. \$60. DSGADallas.org or email info@DSGADallas.org for information.

• April 9: HER HRC — Sue Ellen's Throwback Party

HRC brings back the old Sue's with DJ, silent auctions, door prizes and games from 2-6 p.m. at TMC: The Mining Company, 3903 Cedar Springs Road. Includes the presentation of the DFW HRC Community Impact Award to Kathy Jack. General admission tickets are \$10 in advance at TinyURL.com/HerHRC2017; \$15 at the door. VIP tickets start at \$40.

• April 9: Mega March

March calling for immigration reform and an end to aggressive deportation efforts from 2-4 p.m. Line up on Ross Avenue at the Cathedral Shrine of the Virgin of Guadalupe and march to Dallas City Hall.

• April 9: Turtle Creek Association Tour of Homes

The Turtle Creek Association Tour of Homes takes place from 1-5 p.m., and features five Turtle Creek area homes — two single-family homes and two apartment/condominium homes. Tickets are \$50 for members, \$60 for non-members. For information call 214-526-2800.

• April 12: Resource Center Open House

Resource Center, at 5750 Cedar Springs Road, holds an open house from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Visitors can meet the staff, tour the community center and learn about Resource Center's programs and services.

• April 14: DFW Pride Happy Hour

DFW Pride Happy Hour, organized and maintained by TI Pride Network as a community service, takes place from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Cedar Grove, 4123 Cedar Springs Road, # 110. For information call 214-567-0592.

• April 15: Purple Gaybingo

Monthly fundraiser for Resource Center takes place from 6-9 p.m. at the Rose Room at S4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. 214-540-4458. MyResourceCenter.org/gaybingo.

• April 15: GALA Meet the Candidates

GALA (Gay and Lesbian Alliance) North Texas hosts a Meet the Candidate event featuring candidates for city council, school board and the Collin College board of trustees, from 3-5:30 p.m. at 601 Rouen Drive in McKinney. For information email info@galanorthtexas.org.

• April 15: Federal Club neighborhood social

• April 16: Easter in the Park

The Pooch Parade in Oak Lawn's Lee Park is an Easter tradition, but there will also be live music, an Easter egg hunt for the kids and an Easter Bunny. Visit LeeParkConservancy.org to register for the Pooch Parade; fee is \$10. Bring your picnic basket and lawn chairs. 1 p.m.; Pooch Parade at 2 p.m.

• April 19: Evening with the Judges

Dallas LGBT Bar Association hosts an Evening with the Judges, from 5:30-7 p.m. in Belo Hall at Belo Mansion, 2101 Ross Ave. Features Judges Roberto Canas Jr., Dennise Garcia, Maricela Moore, Tonya Parker and Ingrid Warren. Offers attending lawyers one-and-a-half hours of free continuing legal education credits. For information visit DGLBA.org.

• Business Professional Networking Event

The John Clements Agency and JNT Developers host a networking happy hour, 6-8 p.m., at Mitchell Gold + Bob Williams, at The Shops at Willowbend in Plano. RSVP by emailing brendasanchez@allstate.com or angela@jntdevelopers.com.

• April 20: Employee Resource Group Mixer

A cocktail reception for the leaders of local LGBT employee resource groups will be held from 6-8 p.m. at the Law Offices of Littler Mendleson, 2001 Ross Ave., Ste. 1500. RSVP by calling 214-880-8131.

• April 21: Federal Club mixer

The DFW Federal Club holds its April Mixer from 6-8 p.m. at a location to be determined. Visit DFWFederalClub.org or email co-chairs@dfwfederalclub.org for details.

• April 21: Compassion Fatigue Symposium

Ed-U-Care presents its sixth annual symposium from 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. at Lovers Lane United Methodist Church, 9200 Inwood Road. EdUCareDallas.com.

It's rodeo time!

Texas Traditions Rodeo

Schedule of events

Friday, March 31

8 a.m.

Horse check-in, Diamond T Arena

• 5-8 p.m.

Contestant, volunteer registration,
Diamond T Arena

• 7 p.m.

Red River Rodeo Association

Barrel Race, Diamond T Arena

• 8 p.m. : Mandatory new contestant
meeting, Diamond T Arena

Saturday, April 1

8 a.m.: Rodeo events begin

- ∞ Calf roping on foot
- ∞ Steer decorating
- ∞ Mounted break-away roping
- ∞ Team roping
- ∞ Steer Riding
- ∞ Grand Entry
(New TGRA titleholders
will be announced during the
Saturday Grand Entry)
- ∞ Rand saddle-bronc riding
- ∞ Chute dogging
- ∞ Pole bending
- ∞ Goat dressing
- ∞ Barrel racing
- ∞ Flag racing
- ∞ Bull riding
- ∞ Wild drag race

8 p.m. Oklahoma Tea Party, hosted by
Oklahoma Gay Rodeo Association,
at Mable Peabody's Beauty and
Chainsaw Repair,
1125 E University Drive in Denton.

Sunday, April 2

8 a.m.

Rodeo events begin (same order as
Saturday)

8 p.m.

Rodeo awards, Diamond T Arena



TGRA's Texas Traditions rodeo
comes out of the chute in Denton
this weekend

TAMMYE NASH | Managing Editor

nash@dallasvoice.com



The Texas Gay Rodeo Association has been staging rodeos in Texas since 1985. And this year's Texas Traditions Rodeo, being held Saturday and Sunday, at the Diamond T Arena, 6900 E. Sherman Drive in Denton, will incorporate all the elements of gay rodeo that fans have known and loved for those 30-plus years.

But there will be some new additions this year, too, noted TGRA State President

Tim Smith — additions that rodeo fans of all ages — and all sexual orientations — are sure to enjoy.

One of the biggest additions this year will be the advent of a new rough stock event called ranch saddle bronc riding.

Ranch saddle bronc riding, Smith said, was introduced to the gay rodeo circuit by a straight female competitor, and the Texas Traditions rodeo is the only the second rodeo on the IGRA — International Gay Rodeo Association — schedule to include it. The first one, he noted, was the Phoenix rodeo, but “that rodeo was rained out before the ranch saddle bronc riding could even buck out.”

In bareback bronc riding event, competitors ride without a saddle and are allowed to hang on to a lead rope with only one hand. If their free hand touched the horse they were disqualified. The more tradition-

al saddle-bronc riding event allowed the competitors to use a saddle, but they could still only hold the lead rope with one hand and couldn't let their free hand touch the horse.

But in ranch saddle-bronc riding, “there are a lot fewer rules,” Smith said. Riders use whatever kind of saddle they want, and they can grasp the rope with one hand, or use both. The object here, he explained, is to show out as much as possible.

“Maybe you want to hold the rope with one hand and wave your hat around with the other. Maybe you want to hold on with both hands,” Smith said. “The object is to show out as much as possible. Ranch saddle-bronc riding is much, well, showier. It's a very interesting event — let's just put it that way.”

This year's venue is also a bit different, Smith said, explaining that most of the past TGRA rodeos have been held in various city-owned facilities — Texas Horse Park in

Launching 'Pride'

Tavern Guild unveiling revamped DallasPride.org website on Saturday

TAMMYE NASH | Managing Editor
nash@dallasvoice.com



Michael Doughman

Dallas Tavern Guild, the association of LGBT bar owners that puts on Dallas' annual LGBT Pride celebration — the Alan Ross Texas Freedom Parade and the Festival in the Park — is launching the newly-remodeled DallasPride.org website this weekend, making all the information and application forms necessary to participate available.

"The new website goes live at 12:01 a.m. on Saturday, April 1," DTG Executive Director Michael Doughman said this week. "All the information about the parade, the festival and the Pride Guide will be online then — all the applications to be in the parade or have a booth at the festival or advertise in the Pride Guide.

"We're excited about having all that up online and ready to go," he continued. "We are expecting a lot of people to sign up [to be in the parade and have a festival booth]. But we have limited space and limited parade entries, so we want people to get their applications in early to make sure they have a spot."

This year makes a few dramatic changes for Dallas Pride: Instead of having the parade on a Sunday, followed by the festival, organizers this year are switching to a two-day format. This year, for the first time, the Festival in the Park will take place on Saturday, while the parade remains on Sunday.

Organizers have also changed the park gathering into a music festival, Doughman noted. "We are currently working on a two-stage set-up," he said. "One stage will feature all community, local talent. The other will have our headliners and featured entertainers."

Doughman said David Granger is booking all the talent. Entertainers who want to perform on the community talent stage will be asked to audition, and after auditions, the line-up for that stage will be announced.

As for the main stage, popular cover band Time Machine has been confirmed as the house band, but Doughman said the rest of

the line-up is still in the works. "We're not ready to announce the other main stage acts yet. But we definitely will have a full slate of acts on both stages all day long," he said.

Another change, Doughman said, is that this year at the festival, instead of food and beverage booths being scattered around the park, "we will have a food court, with the food booths in a central location and with multiple food choices. We are expanding the menu significantly this year. Instead of just the usual festival-type foods, we will have some healthy choices and some lighter fare, too. And there will be a beverage booth located at each end of the food court."

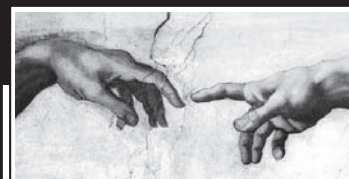
He also noted that in addition to the Family Pride Zone, which has been part of the festival for several years, the Teen Pride celebration — which has in the past been held on the same weekend as the Pride parade and the Festival in the Park, but at a separate location — will this year be part of the Festival in the Park.

"Teen Pride will have its own section of the park and will be part of the Festival, just like the Family Pride Zone," he said.

InterPride, the international LGBT Pride organization, has chosen "Viva la Vida" as the international Pride theme for 2017. But Dallas Pride organizers chose to go a different route.

"Our theme this year is 'Speak Up, Speak Out,'" Doughman said. "Some years, we have gone along with the international theme. But considering our current political situation in this country, we felt like this year's theme needed to be a little more urgent and a little more political, especially with the 2018 midterm elections coming up."

"We want our Pride this year to help rally our troops," Doughman said. "We want to do what we can to encourage people to get involved, to register to vote and then go and vote. If we do that, if we get involved and vote, then we can make some changes at the state level in 2018. And if we make that change at the state level, that will impact the situation on the national level in 2020."



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WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENT



Mr. Thom Kelley
and Mr. Steve Bailey

Mr. Thom Kelley and Mr. Steve Bailey announce their upcoming nuptials Saturday, April 8, 2017 in Las Vegas at the Viva Las Vegas Wedding Chapel.

Thom is employed by Ovation Travel and Steve is employed by BP as an HVC Manager for the lower 48 Onshore.

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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.

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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 for PrEP.

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

visit **start.truvada.com**

 **Truvada**® 
200 mg emtricitabine-tenofovir disoproxil fumarate 300 mg



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).



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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.

PrEParing to make a difference

Resource Center launching new PrEP clinic on Tuesday, hoping to stem the HIV infection rate

TAMMYE NASH | Managing Editor
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The best way to fight HIV is to keep individuals from ever contracting the virus. That's the idea behind PrEP — pre-exposure prophylaxis. And that's why Resource Center is launching a new PrEP Clinic.

Rafael McDonnell, communications and advocacy manager for Resource Center, said this week that the new clinic opens for business on Tuesday, April 4, and that its initial hours will be from 2-6 p.m. each Tuesday and Thursday.

Resource Center officials are already looking at expanding the clinic's hours, McDonnell said, because "we haven't launched yet, or even officially announced it, and we already have a waiting list.

"We'll probably add some evenings and possibly some Saturdays," he noted, adding that the center is contracting with Dr. Terry Watson, a retired local physician, to be the physician on staff.

PrEP, according to the Centers for Disease Control, protocol through which individuals at "a very high risk" for HIV take a daily regimen of HIV medicines to reduce their risk of becoming infected. Truvada — a combination of tenofovir and emtricitabine — when taken daily, can do just that, stud-

ies show.

"Studies have shown that PrEP reduces the risk of getting HIV from sex by more than 90 percent when used consistently," according to the CDC's website on PrEP. "Among people who inject drugs, PrEP reduces the risk of getting HIV by more than 70 percent when used consistently."

The CDC also notes that PrEP effectiveness decreases significantly when the medications are not taken consistently. And as McDonnell pointed out, it can't work if and individual doesn't take it.

He said that Resource Center has been "working on [launching a PrEP clinic] for about a year. It's an idea we've been kicking around for some time. We have looked at peer centers around the country and we've seen that many of them have become more active" in terms of promoting use of and offering access to PrEP."

The key to its effectiveness, McDonnell continued, is "getting the information out there. The studies show that one reason PrEP has not shown more progress [in stopping the spread of HIV] is that people don't know about it. They don't know about it from the patient's side, and they don't know about it from the physicians' side of the equation."

That's why, he said, Resource Center worked with Texas state Rep. Rafael Anchia to write HB 2006, which — if passed by the Legislature — would mandate that any person who tested negative for HIV be counseled regarding the availability and effectiveness of the PrEP protocols.

"HB 2006 is based on a California law," McDonnell said. "The whole idea is to get the knowledge about PrEP out there, at least on the patient's side of the equation, to make them think about whether PrEP is the right thing for them."

The first step in launching the clinic was the find the resources necessary to do so. A grant from the Texas Department of Health Services provided some of the funds the center needed to get the program up and running.

McDonnell said the doctor will evaluate each patient to see if PrEP would be a good strategy for them. If so, he will then

give them a prescription for Truvada.

Beyond learning about the availability of PrEP and getting the nec-



essary prescripion, the cost of the Truvada can be a stumbling block for many. According to the Drugs.com price guide, "the cost for Truvada oral tablet (100 mg-150 mg) is around \$1,564 for a supply of 30 tablets, depending on the pharmacy you visit. Prices are for cash paying customers only and are not valid with insurance plans."

Resource Center also has a plan for that, too, McDonnell said. The clinic will have "a counselor on staff to help you determine how your insurance would handle it and how much you would have to pay out of pocket. And then they'd help hook you up with the program offered through Gilead [the pharmaceutical company that manufactures Truvada] to help reduce the out-of-pocket costs."

McDonnell continued, "Some insurance companies list Truvada as a highest-tier prescription. Some consider it a specialty drug. But what we've found out from others is that the assistance program [through Gilead] is able to reduce that cost significantly.

"For those who may not have insurance or may not have a very high income, it could essentially be free," he said. "But it all depends on the insurance."

McDonnell is also quick to note that PrEP is much more than just a prescription for Truvada.

"There is a general protocol that goes with the prescription," he said, that includes the patient having bloodwork done ever few months to monitor for any side effects of the medications and for the presence of other sexually-transmitted diseases.

It also involves counseling on risk factors for patients and their partners.

McDonnell said that not everyone is a candidate for PrEP. There "certain medical disqualifiers," he said, "but the decision is best left to the doctor and the patient.

"This is about people taking charge of their health care. People have been doing that for some time in terms of knowing their status and using protection. This is another tool in that tool kit," McDonnell said.

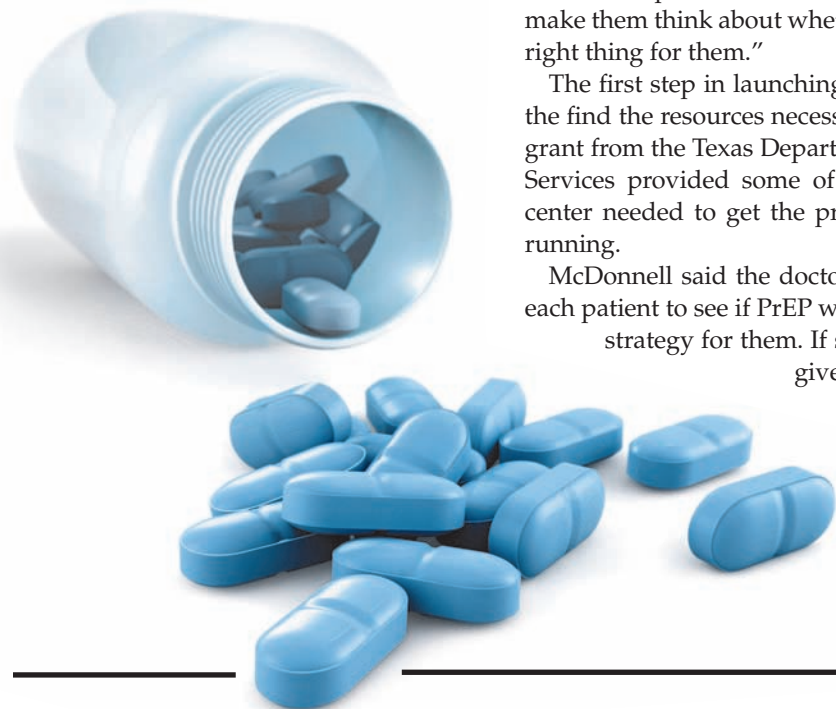
And Resource Center, he added, hopes that other agencies and organizations offering HIV services will PrEP and a tool in their tool kits, too.

"We are hoping that some other organizations here, maybe Dallas County, might consider starting their own clinics," he said. "Tarrant County already has a PrEP clinic. But Dallas County won't start one up immediately, and that's probably because of the money aspect.

"But starting next week, the county will be giving information on PrEP to [everyone who comes to them for testing and tests negative]. So I think we will start off seeing increased demand, and that can only be good news in terms of prevention of HIV."

The fact that Resource Center already has a PrEP clinic waiting list "shows there is a huge demand for this out there," McDonnell said. "We hope to be able to start filling that need, but we ask that people be patient as we roll this out. We want this to work as smoothly as possible."

For information or to get on the waiting list for Resource Center's PrEP clinic, call 214-540-4477.



Bathroom bill awaits House hearing

Despite opposition from Republican brass, bathroom brawlers refuse to let down

JAMES RUSSELL | Contributing Writer
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Two remarkable things happened at the Texas Capitol this week.

On Tuesday, March 29, Speaker of the House Joe Straus, a Republican, prevented three pre-filed amendments by arch-conservative Rep. Matt Schaefer, R-Tyler, from being heard on the floor. Schaefer's amendments were among the 30 that lawmakers tried to attach to the Railroad Commission's sunset review bill and included one requiring transgender men and women use public restrooms according to their biological sex and not their gender identity.

"The commission shall require that each multiple-occupancy bathroom or changing facility that is located in a building owned, leased or controlled by or otherwise under the authority of the commission be designated for and used only by persons of the same biological sex," the amendment read.

It was almost identical to Senate Bill 6, which recently passed out of the Senate on a 21-10 vote, with the support of all Senate Republicans and one Democrat.

The bill passed the Senate despite overwhelming opposition from the business community, celebrities and groups like Texas Welcomes All, a coalition of tourism and convention leaders from across Texas. They cited evidence of the economic fallout in North Carolina after a similar bill, HB 2, passed there last year to explain their opposition.

According to data compiled by Texas Competes, a group of businesses who oppose anti-LGBT legislation, economic fallout from North Carolina's similar law totals almost a billion dollars. A recent Associated Press report backed that claim.

Late Wednesday evening, legislators in North Carolina had reached a deal to repeal HB 2, but LGBT advocates opposed that deal, saying the measure repealing HB 2 still prevented local governments entities from passing statutes and ordinances protecting transgender people.

But opposition from the otherwise conservative business community apparently is of

no concern to Schaefer and others, who have alternative motives.

The amendment was a chance to get House members, including vulnerable Republicans, to vote on an issue that is a priority among social conservatives, including Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick.

But Straus refused to bring that amendment and others to the floor, saying they were not germane to the bill, prompting a tense exchange among Straus and Republicans Jonathan Stickland of Bedford, Briscoe Cain of Deer Park and Schaefer. When Schaefer asked if there is any guidance on when an amendment is germane, someone shouted, "When they're not crazy!"

But the brawlers insist they will be back for more. And they'll have plenty of opportunities, too, to continue their fight to segregate transgender people, including the Department of Transportation's sunset review bill.

But when SB 6 might get a hearing in the House remains unknown. In fact, it has yet to even be assigned to a House committee.

It's likely the bill will head to the House State Affairs Committee, chaired by Rep. Byron Cook, R-Corsicana, a Straus ally who has also expressed skepticism about the bill.

Cook narrowly won his 2016 Republican Primary election against an arch-conservative challenger. And his opponents have not let down this session. The pressure has been on Cook to hold hearings on bills, including a bill abolishing abortion even though Attorney General Ken Paxton has called the bill unconstitutional.

On Wednesday, March 29, the usually mild mannered Cook chastised a representative from Texas Values, an anti-LGBT organization.

The organization's policy analyst, Nichole Hudgens, was speaking against two identical bills allowing access to contraception for unmarried children. And Cook had had enough.

"I've never seen you, session after session, bringing positive solutions," Cook told Hudgens.

Later, he asked Rep. Sarah Davis, R-West University Place, if opponents of the bill, like Texas Values, offered to work with her to ease their concerns.

"Have they worked with you on the bill?"

Cook asked.

"No," Davis replied.

Equality Texas, the statewide LGBT advocacy organization, has listed 39 "supported" bills that have been introduced in this legislative session. Most of them would in some way prohibit discrimination against LGBT people or removed out-dated anti-LGBT laws — like the Texas sodomy law — from the books. One bill, introduced by Dallas Democrat Rafael Anchia, would require agencies providing HIV testing to give information regarding pre-exposure prophylaxis — PrEP — to those who test negative. (See related story on Page 13.)

Equality Texas lists 26 bills that would harm LGBT people and others, encouraging the community to take action against those measures. That includes SB 6, and SB 242, a measure introduced by Fort Worth Republican Konni Burton that opponents say would force school counselors to out LGBT students to their parents.

The Senate's State Affairs Committee — the same committee that sent SB 2 to the floor for a vote — on Thursday held hearings on SB 522, a measure that would, according to Texas Freedom Network President Kathy Miller, "permit county officials and employees to refuse to issue marriage licenses to couples to whom they have personal religious objections."

SB 522 is one of 15 so-called "religious refusal" bills introduced in this session of the Legislature.

"It's awful enough that this bill clearly targets same-sex couples. But the bill is so broad it would also allow public officials to discriminate against virtually any Texan," Miller said in an email. "This bill makes a mockery of religious freedom by allowing

State Rep. Matt Schaefer, R-Tyler, winks at state Rep. Matt Krause, R-Fort Worth, right, after Schaefer withdrew his proposed amendment regarding bathrooms at the Capitol in Austin, Texas, on Jan. 11, the second day of the 85th Legislature. Schaefer had proposed an amendment to House administration rules that would require people using bathrooms under the "jurisdiction of the House" to use the bathroom corresponding to their "biological sex." Schaefer eventually withdrew that proposal, but this week tried to tack a "bathroom" amendment onto the Railroad Commission's sunset review legislation. Speaker Joe Straus, however, shot down that effort. (Jay Janner/Austin American-Statesman via AP)

public officials to discriminate against virtually anyone who fails to meet their personal moral standards. That could include same-sex couples but also people who have been previously divorced, couples who have lived together outside of marriage, interfaith couples and many others.

"Even worse, taxpayers would be forced to continue paying the salaries of these officials when they refuse to do their jobs and even discriminate against those very taxpayers."

For Equality Texas' full list of supported and opposed bills, visit EqualityTexas.org.

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On marriage, being gay and asking your born-again parents for their blessing

I was never the kind of girl who daydreamed about her perfect wedding day — the perfect white dress, the perfect location . . . the perfect man.

Hell, I wasn't even the kind of girl who thought about getting married period. Marriage was an antiquated tradition that I never wanted to be a part of.

If I thought about marriage at all, it was only to contemplate what it would feel like to love someone so much that you willingly want to devote your entire being — your entire life — to that one person. I had never loved someone that much and wasn't even sure if I believed that kind of love existed.

Still, I would have my moments, like when I was watching a movie and all my convictions would melt away upon seeing a father walk his daughter down the aisle and "give her away."

Even for a hard-core nontraditionalist like me, there was something so symbolic in that scene, the idea of growing beyond what one had been and into a self-made life with another. It was a profound symbolism that had nothing to do with tradition and everything to do with me being a daddy's girl.

I love and respect my father so very much. He was the first person to teach me feminism — always telling me I could do anything boys could do and to never let my gender stop me from doing and becoming anything I wanted. He taught me the beauty and art of valuing people's diversity — including my own.

My mother was the first to be "born again," sometime in the late 1990s, early 2000s. Some things shifted, but her love and support never did.

My father was "born again" many years later, around 2013 if I had to guess. Someday I'll ask him to tell me his story. Right now, I'm not sure I want to know.

In 2015, he was ordained as a minister and now conducts funerals and marriages.

By the time I reached my mid-twenties, marriage had taken on a whole new meaning. It became a world for the privileged few who lined up according to someone else's definitions and beliefs. It became a world of protection under the law that I no longer had access to.

When Candace and I started getting serious about setting a date, every now and then I would allow myself to daydream



Brandi Amara Skyy
Contributing Columnist

about being the girl in the movies, arm-in-arm with her father, walking towards her future . . .

Then those scenes would be broken by my memory of a sticker my parents had on their

fridge. A sticker that, in the height of the 2015 gay marriage debate, gave me every answer I needed to know.



It was a foreshadowing that I refused to heed as a warning of reality; instead, I chose to cling on to my naive hope of love conquering all.

Candace and I weren't together in the same place on June 26, 2015, when the Supreme Court handed down its ruling and history was made as gay marriage became legal. But I ran home as soon as I could to be with her. That night, I celebrated at her well at JR's Bar and Grill and in the streets with hundreds of my closest Dallas LGBTQ family and friends.

It was the day that love won everywhere — except my own home.

Asking each other's family for our hands was extremely important to both of us. But when we sat down in our house to talk to my parents, my hands were shaking, and the pit that had made its bed in my belly began to grow.

I was nervous . . . and scared.

Scared that things were going to be said that would never be able to be taken back. Scared that I'd react in the manner of who I used to be rather than who I was now. Scared I already knew their answer and terrified to hear it said out loud.

My father was quiet for a second before speaking. What came out were words I expected to hear from my mother, but never from him:

"Our faith . . ."

"We love you. We love her. Separately. But as a couple, we can't . . ."

"We can't do that . . ."

" . . . between a man and a woman . . ."

There was no hate in his voice. No anger. Just jagged words that raked my ears as they went down and broke my soul when they landed.

My heart was shattered. I was shattered.

My mother cried. My father remained silent. Candace remained in a state of calm, but I could feel the fire of anger raging in my belly.

What happened next surprised me. Instead of rage, I returned his words and beliefs with love. How? Because I was sitting right across from it, from her, from Candace.

I was in the kind of love I hadn't believed existed. The kind of love that eases the pain of not being accepted or acknowledged by your own blood family.

And even though I wanted it all really badly — my parents' blessing, their presence at our wedding, the dream of my father walking me down the aisle — I didn't need it.

My parents' words had broken me, yet I remained whole.

I was whole because I already knew, loved and fully accepted who I was.

With each exchange of words with my parents, I walked myself further down the aisle away from the little girl seeking approval from her family and into the first energies of union with her, my future — a future my parents and many others may not agree with it, but one that is and always will be rooted and centered in love.

Love is never wrong.

Being who you are is never wrong.

Being who you are meant to be — who you are born to be — to be is never wrong.

But it's not easy.

I still hurt. I still cry. In fact, it's the hardest thing I've ever had to do.

But it's also been the most rewarding.

Because I have given myself permission to love who I love and be who I am, I have been blessed with so much love in return. And strength. And confidence.

You have your own unique coming out and growing into your future self story(ies). Find them, share them, and unleash your bold, beautiful, fully "out" self to the world.

We need it. I need it. ■

Brandi Amara Skyy is a drag artist who writes and plays in magic. You can find out more about her and many projects at brandi-maraskyy.com.



RODEO, From Page 8



Dallas last year, and before that, Fair Park Coliseum, Pasadena Fair Grounds in Houston and W.R. Watt Arena in Fort Worth. Expenses in such arenas tended to be higher, he said, while proceeds from food and beverage sales and parking fees went back to the city that owned the facility.

Diamond T, however, is privately owned, and it is specifically a rodeo venue. That means that costs are lower — TGRA doesn't have to pay to bring in dirt for the arena and then pay again to have the dirt removed, for example — and profits are likely to be significantly higher, because the proceeds from food and beverage sales and parking fees all go to TGRA, not to the arena owners.

That in turn allows TGRA to invite other nonprofit organizations to participate and to raise funds at the rodeo, too. For example, on Saturday Pegasus SlowPitch Softball teams will be operating the beer booths, and Cowtown Leathermen will be operating the food booths. Proceeds from sales go to TGRA, but the softball players and the leathermen get to keep whatever tips they bring in. On Sunday, Trinity River Bears will be operating the beer booths, and the food booths will be operated by a transgender organization based in Dallas.

Smith said that lower costs combined with higher expected revenue allowed TGRA to cut ticket prices to \$10 per person, per day. And still, he said, the rodeo should bring in plenty of money for TGRA, much of which will — as it always has been — be returned to the LGBT community.

"Last year, TGRA Dallas gave about \$21,000 back to the community. Fort Worth TGRA gave back about \$15,000," he said, adding that the lowest amount donated back last year by the five TGRA chapters — the other three are Houston, Austin and San Antonio — was about \$12,000.

Smith said rodeo organizers have also been thrilled with out easy it has been to work with the Denton community in planning the event. Local businesses and individuals have turned out to participate through sponsorships and other avenues, to the point that "all our buckles, all our ribbons are sponsored. All our chutes are sponsored."

"Denton has been amazingly supportive. We weren't sure how a gay rodeo would be received there, but we have just been amazed at the response," Smith said. "Juicy Pig Barbecue came to us wanting to be a sponsor. There are equine centers, insurance companies — just an amazing amount of support."

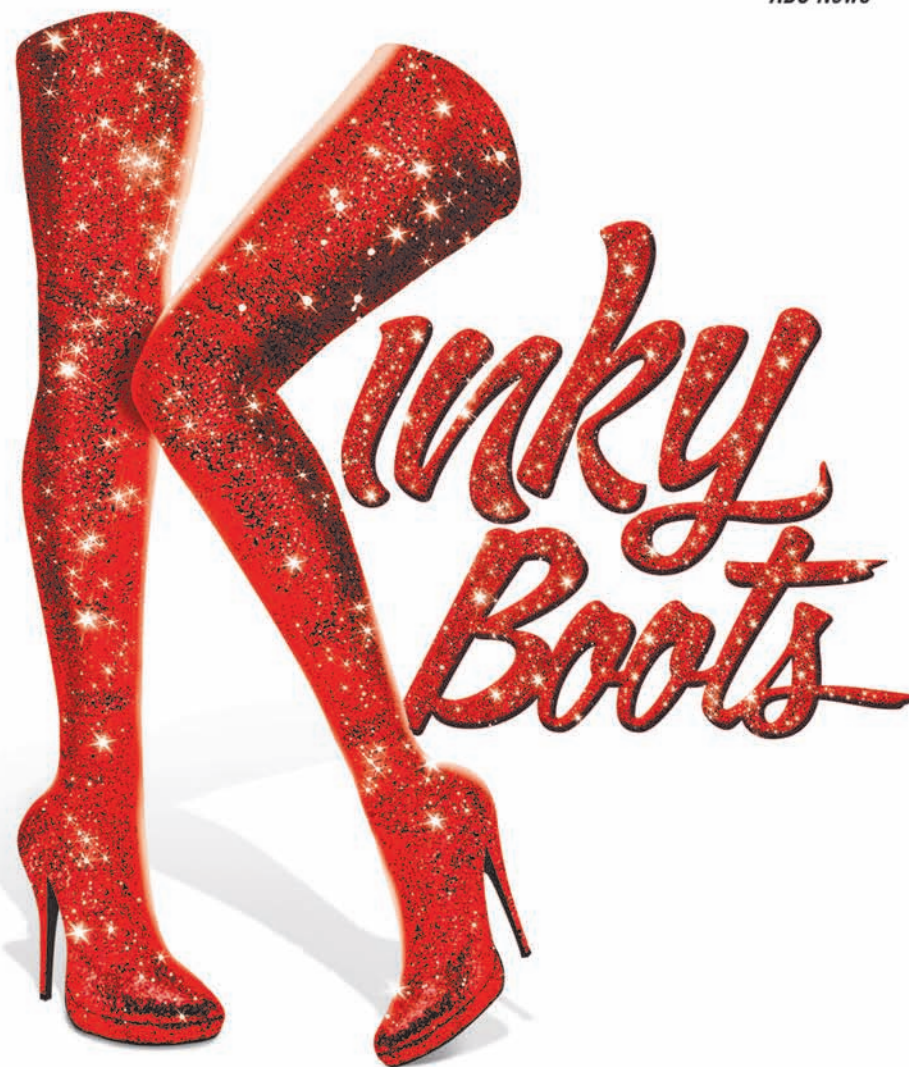
Smith also said he is happy to see support for and participation in gay rodeo events growing among mainstream rodeo fans and competitors. A man who owns the ranch across the road from the arena asked if he could hang his rainbow lights during the rodeo.

A man from Oklahoma contacted rodeo officials to see about paying for his son to enter the competition (the son, unfortunately, is only 15 and TGRA rules require competitors to be at least 18). A straight girl studying rodeo production at Tarleton State University in Stephenville will be coming in, Smith said, to intern with the TGRA rodeo producer as part of her studies.

And then there is Linda Brown of A Wizard's Spell Ranch in Burleson, who will be bringing her trained Gypsy Horses to the rodeo to perform. "She has just jumped right on the TGRA bandwagon," Smith said. "She's been amazing."

"We have quite a large number of hetero riders now — men and women. That's what we want," he said. "We want people to have fun."

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Let's hear it for the allies

Singer **LeAnn Rimes** and comedian **Kathy Griffin** are straight women who have made huge steps standing up for gay rights — and have been recognized as such with recent awards. We sat down with both to discuss their art and activism in the time of Trump **Interviews by Chris Azzopardi**

The moonlight can wait — LeAnn Rimes is busy fighting for our rights. On a recent afternoon, the country-prodigy-turned-genre-bender calls after finishing her daily meditation (hey, times are tough), a practice she started a year ago.

“Let me come back to life,” the 34-year-old Garland girl begins. Rimes then walks us through her devotion to LGBT activism; just last week, she was honored with the Ally for Equality Award at the 2017 HRC Nashville Equality Dinner. ■

Dallas Voice: Congrats on the Ally Award, LeAnn. LeAnn Rimes: Thank you! I’m very honored and very emotional, actually. I think I’ve cried a couple of times thinking about it. I know I’m gonna completely ruin my make-up on stage. I’ve won many awards, but nothing feels as good as when you’re being honored for your heart.

How does this honor feel compared to winning a Grammy? To me, it stands above everything. It’s different. Music is amazing — that is a part of my heart, obviously — but when you’ve left something behind on a different level than just creating music, it’s very special, so I’m very honored.

A gay couple recently got engaged at your London show. What was it like experiencing that and sharing that moment with your fans ... and can you find me a husband? [Laughs] I’m sure I can. It’s so funny: My mom’s always like, “Do you have

any straight friends?” I’m like, “I don’t think I do.” So, I’m sure I have a husband for you lying around somewhere!

But it’s amazing to be a part of someone’s memories like that. Music is so powerful, and I’ve always heard stories from people that I’ve been a part of their wedding or a funeral or whatever it may be, or they remember their first love or their first kiss because my song was on, so to be a part of someone’s fabric of their life is really beautiful. To have that happen live was very cool, and they were so sweet. Love is so beautiful, and to have them experience that with me, and for them to allow me to be even a part of that moment in their life, was pretty incredible.

Considering the resistance to marriage equality, do you see that moment as a political statement? Yes and no. Since 13, when I started, I’ve always been a huge supporter of the LGBTQ community, and I

Of course Kathy Griffin’s manager asks if our conversation is being recorded — have you heard her talk? Luckily, the celeb-skewering, gay-loving, Trump-hating comedienne’s filterless mouth moves at a meteoric pace, which is good news for anyone who wants to know her thoughts on basically everything: the practicality of celebrity activism, her idea for a *My Life on the D-List* spinoff and the surprising number of people she meets who say they’ve never encountered a gay person.

We caught up with Griffin, who discussed all the above just days after being honored with the Vanguard Award by the San Francisco Gay Men’s Chorus earlier this month for her ardent and unwavering role as an ally in the LGBT rights movement. “There is so much more to her [than people realize], including her tireless work behind the scenes,” says Tim Seelig, former director of the Turtle Creek Chorale and now artistic director of the SFGMC. “Her acceptance speech, while hilarious, was also filled with a deep knowledge of the political landscape. It was our honor to share this with her.

Read on for her insight into what the hell we do — and what she’s doing — now that Donald Trump is running this country. ■

Dallas Voice: I hear you gave an incredible speech at the 11th annual Crescendo Gala in San Francisco, where you were presented with the Vanguard Award. Kathy Griffin: I did give an impassioned speech. You know, we’re all very, very engaged right now, although the LGBT community is obviously used to being engaged, and now my call to action is to ask the LGBT community to help engage folks that have never been

engaged before. Know your local representatives. It’s all about the down-ballot. You know, stay galvanized. Learn from the Republicans. They stick together no matter what. We can’t be divided. We gotta all stay together. This is it. This is the big one.

You have two Emmys and a Grammy. How would you describe the way those industry honors feel compared to something like the Vanguard Award? This award feels

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special, because when I found out about the [San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus'] Lavender Pen Tour, I really thought that was a cool thing, as someone who is a touring animal like myself. I did 80 cities last year, and I'm doing 50 cities this year on my Kathy Griffin: Celebrity Run-In Tour to support my book. [Unfortunately, no Texas stops are currently on the tour.] And what's so cool is, when I heard that the chorus, which by the way is the oldest gay men's chorus in the world — they have a lot of street cred — were gonna purposefully go to every Trump red states, I was like, "OK, I gotta get on board." Because I go to those places on a regular basis! I said this in my speech, but I see the Confederate flags on people's garages when I'm driving gig to gig. What they're doing is kind of like what I do. I think it's so great, and I believe in many, many forms of activism, and it's such a brilliant idea for the chorus to go, "We're taking this on the road and we're just literally gonna be a road tour of gay men singing," so if anybody approaches them or has a problem with them, they're just gonna look like assholes.

What does it mean to you to be an activist and a celebrity with the kind of platform you have in the Trump era? I think people that believe in any kind of nuanced thought, who can handle a thought, know that, yeah, a celebrity can actually provide a real service for a cause. Celebrities sort of apologize all the time, but we're voting citizens like anybody else. I defend my right to speak about things as a celebrity or as an offensive comic or whatever you wanna call me. I've toured this country so many times, and I've also performed in Iraq and Afghanistan for the troops. I've performed in a prison. I've performed at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center. So I kind of feel that's what I bring to the table — that I'm really, really proud of. Every city has a different vibe. I can kind of tell in the first few minutes of the show what they're gonna be into. But some audiences really want to hear a lot of Trump material, some wanna hear a lot about my mom, some wanna hear a lot about, you know, my new neighbors Kim Kardashian and Kanye West [*laughs*], which is hilarious to all parties. My material is definitely new, so if you've seen me five months ago, five years ago or 10 years ago, you're definitely gonna see a new show. And even though I'm supporting the book, I'm not, like, just sitting there reading from the book. I'm doing all different stuff. Sometimes in my shows I'll actually talk about the kind of activism that I'm up to, and I'll try to make it funny. Like, I had a one-day show in Mexico, where, by the way, I spent the whole day apologizing to the whole country; I just walked around stage saying, "Lo siento [for] Señor Cheeto." But I bought a bunch of Mexican postcards and those, for example, are fun to mail to legislators that are maybe not helping the LGBT agenda. You can march, you can call, you can send letters, send postcards.

The cool thing is, we're no longer focusing just

on Trump. And also, I think we've written him off as just a crazy person. The other thing is, elections are every year. We have to stop thinking, "Oh, I'm just gonna be depressed till 2020" — no, no! If a celebrity says [something political], I love it. If Katy Perry can say, like, here's a way you can help — these are grassroots [efforts] and very much in tune with how the LGBT has been rocking it forever. I'm really tired of these people apologizing. It's important that the LGBT community keep standing strong. And what we're gonna hear a lot of is, "Well, you guys are single-agenda" — no, we're equality. Equality is for all. "Oh, a trans woman is gonna molest my kid." OK, hold back. The last thing a Jenny Boylan or even Caitlyn Jenner wants to do is go into a bathroom because they're gonna ... I mean, I can't even finish the sentence it's so ridiculous.

And also, by the way, there's a lot of comedy in that. There's a lot of comedy in how some of the Trump voters are kind of coming around a little bit, like not a lot, but some of them. I put a lot of thought into it when I do my messages or calls to action. I don't want to hit them over the head with it, but if you do it with humor — I still say the greatest protest sign I've ever seen is when my mom was in her wheelchair marching with me for the repeal of DOMA and her sign was, "Gay marriage — I'll drink to that." So, you know, we could use humor.

We need humor. I think you're absolutely right. The thing that I hear now as opposed to a year ago and certainly opposed to five years ago is overwhelmingly people saying, "Oh my god, I needed this laugh so bad," or, "I've been in a ball since the election," or, "I'm scared that my cousin is gonna be deported and I needed a night of laughs."

If Trump can get into office, anyone can, apparently. And now Oprah wants to run. If you could replace Trump with any celebrity in the world, who would you put in the White House? If I could replace Trump with any celebrity, I would replace him with a lady named Hillary Rodham Clinton! Because she fucking won. And it's hers. And she's a celebrity! Well, I mean the obvious joke is, I would put my dog Larry in the Oval Office and have a lot more confidence in [him] even though all he does is fart and eat and sleep.

Larry for president... and Anderson Cooper for V.P.? Yes! I actually think that works for both parties, because you don't want to make Anderson president because then that's gonna cut down on his modeling. And I want him to be able to take care of the wonderful Gloria Vanderbilt in the style to which she is accustomed for the rest of her life, which means forever. Gloria Vanderbilt for president wouldn't be bad!

Gloria and Anderson: 2021? I think that's got a mass appeal that you tapped into and this could be the new movement.

What did you think when you discovered that Kellyanne Conway was a former "comedian"? Well, she was at, like, a corporate party and she had to get up and



do standup. Look, Kellyanne Conway is the perfect example of somebody who's like a wet dream for me. I mean, first of all, everything about her is made for comedy. Everything from the lies that get more insane every day to her denials, which are hilarious, to the inauguration outfit, which still haunts me. My theory is maybe she got herself a vindictive gay who just said, "When you go to Gucci, buy the entire mannequin and wear the whole mannequin." You know how gay people can be — don't act innocent! It was a gay man with an agenda going, "I know how to make the real story here. We're gonna put Kellyanne Conway in a crazy ass red hat like she's in Devo. And then we're gonna give

her a Civil War jacket from Gucci that only fucking Rihanna could have pulled off, and then give her a matching handbag. And don't forget the gloves, because when she goes and hugs Steven Bannon you've gotta look at the red gloves and then the red alleged meth marks on his face and see which one strikes you as being more patriotic."

Let me just say: That is one gay agenda I am behind. And I am too, dammit!

Similar to what you've done as a touring act, and now what the SFGMC is also doing, *Queer Eye for the Straight Guy* is returning and going to red-state cities that need help. I mean, look, that's really the best thing we can all do right now, because we've all



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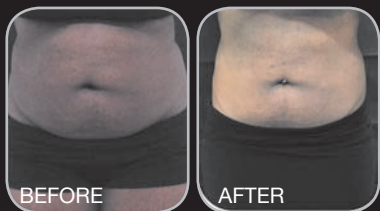


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Love takes many shapes in 'It Shoulda Been You' and 'Kinky Boots'



It's a wedding nobody seems to be glad about except the happy couple. Jenny (Jodi C. Wright), the plump, dour older sister of the bride, Rebecca (Katie Moyes Williams), is stressed with helping plan the wedding, while their mother Judy (Linda Leonard) keeps changing her mind about details... except she can't be bothered to learn the groom's name. (It's Brian, by the way, played by Matthew Clark.) His parents, George and Georgette (Bob Hess and Wendy Welch), aren't invested in the ceremony, either, and they might stop it, if either could sober up long enough to put a plan in place. Georgette is a clingy mom (she admits she tried to turn Brian gay by dressing him up as a kid and poisoning his mind about women) and George hasn't hugged his son in decades. When Rebecca's ex boyfriend Marty (Jacob

Grant) hears about it, he also wants to stop the wedding. But Rebecca and Brian seem determined to get hitched, with the support of her maid of honor Annie (Kimberly M. Oliver) and his best man Greg (Chris Ramirez).

You're probably expecting everything to culminate in wacky wedding (or not) at the end of Act 2 — cue the *finale ultimo*. But the nuptials are concluded before Act 1 ends... and that's when things really start to get crazy.

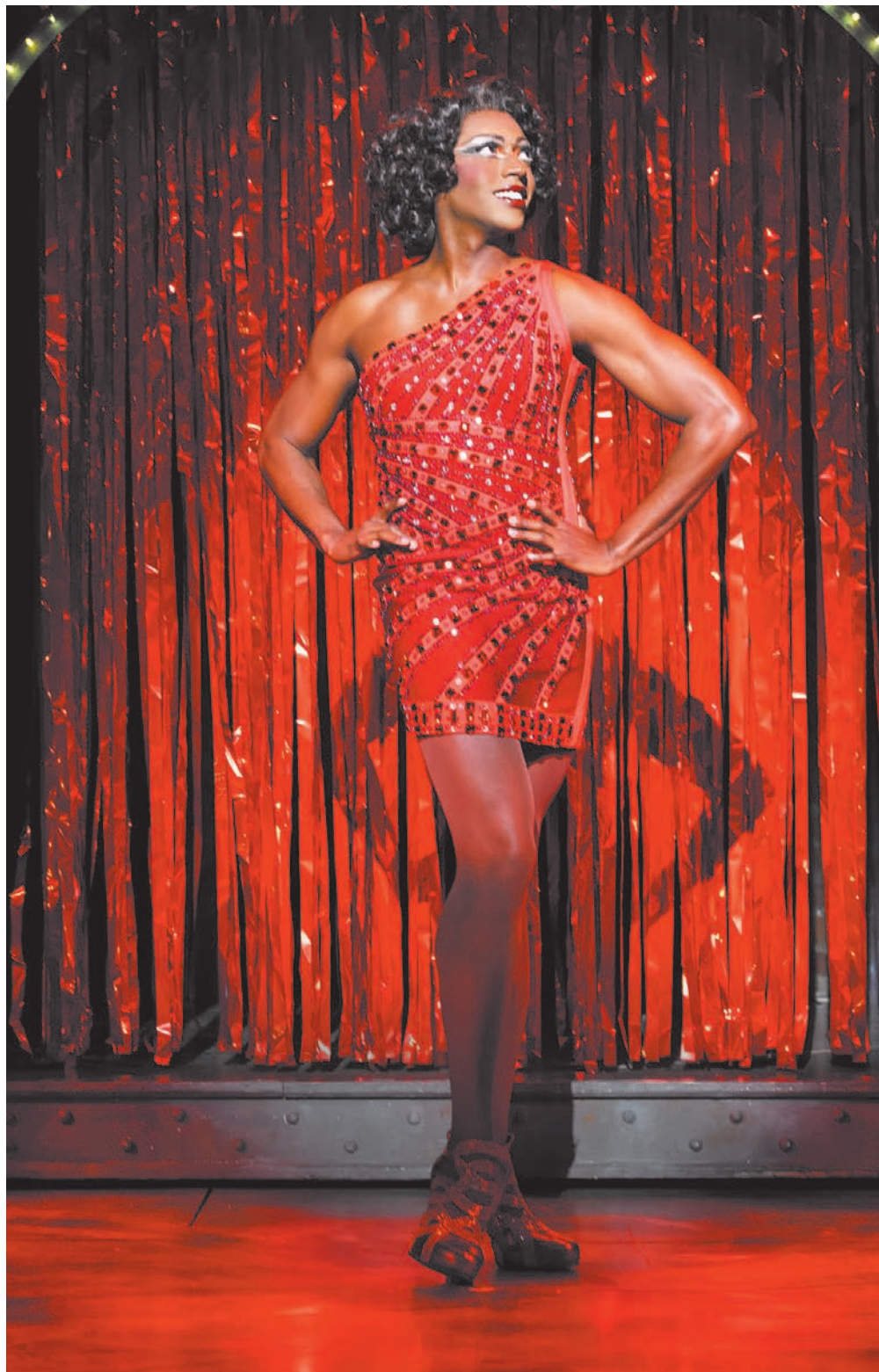
If you're a devotee of the output of Uptown Players, there may be a point early on where you wonder how *It Shoulda Been You*, their latest musical now playing at the Kalita Humphreys Theater, fits into their mission. But it does, trust me. And that's its surprising fun.

With its hotel setting and zingy one-lin-

IT SHOULDA BEEN YOU

Kalita Humphreys Theater, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. Through April 9. UptownPlayers.org.

Marty (Jacob Grant) is discouraged from interfering with his ex's wedding in 'It Shoulda Been You,' above; opposite, Lola (Timothy Ware) stands up as a proud drag queen in 'Kinky Boots.'



ers (at one point, Judy complains of Brian that “He’s so white bread, he sweats mayonnaise”), the script has the jaunty, almost retro sprightliness of a Neil Simon comedy. It’s fast-paced, but not an outright farce, so the humor derives as much from the characters as from the situations.

That’s a blessing and a curse sometimes in this show, whose plot is so diffuse and whose ensemble so evenly matched, you’re not quite sure what to make of it. Will this be an ugly-duckling-finds-love story? A mismatched-couple-surprises-everyone romance? A good-guy-wins-back-his-girl

comedy? A competing-moms catfight? The answer, as it turns out, is “Yes.”

Sharing more specifics would undermine the charming twists in the airy conception, a lighthearted romp of a musical that calls to mind *Tony and Tina’s Wedding* without all the meta-noise and spaghetti dinner. The score itself is a trifle. Some numbers tip their

hats to genre songs (Sondheim, the cheesy wedding ballad, even the blues), but even those that aren’t inherently memorable are made more so by the execution. Wright in particular delivers some diva-worthy belting that knocks her numbers out of the

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■ **FAMILY** From Page 26

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■ RIMES From Page 18

think maybe people would've thought from the outside looking in that I've always tried to make a statement about that, but for me it's just about love and it's about equality and it's about doing what's right and relating, human to human. It's really that simple. I don't understand why it's so complicated.

What prompted your passion for LGBT issues?

Well, first off, my uncle was gay and he passed away from AIDS when I was 11, so that propelled me, especially [living] in the South and [it] being such an aversion, like, this is a disease. I just wanted to run the other direction, and I just never quite understood it.

I remember meeting a lot of my fans who were young — my age — and I knew that they were gay, obviously. So, when I'd have fans come back and they were these young gay guys and girls, it was just something I related to. I just understood, especially being so young and being in the spotlight, because I was always judged and it was very intense in that way. So, in some ways, I understand some of that judgment from a different point of view, but it was just that they related to my music and I related to them. Something just clicked.

How did you reconcile your pro-gay stance with the fact that your outspokenness may vex your conservative fan base?

That's the thing: I was young and I was a country artist at the time, and that was when people were hiding it just to be an artist in

the country community, but it was something I dove right into. It felt very natural. It was about humanity, it was about love. To see people hiding it and to have known that people were hiding — people that I loved and cared about — and to see the struggle they were going through just to be an artist, I think that fired me up a bit. I've never really thought about it... but even before music, before fans, comes the humanity of everything and doing the right thing. That always comes first to me; my career comes second. The heart's what I wanna leave behind.

I've known publicists who've distanced country stars from LGBT press to avoid potentially alienating their conservative fans. Oh, yeah.

It still seems difficult for country artists to be gay-affirming. Even politically, it's interesting that while the entertainment industry as a whole has taken a stand against Donald Trump and his hateful rhetoric, country artists seem hesitant to do the same.

Yeah, even I don't like to get involved in all of that, although I have very strong opinions about it, obviously. I feel like... that's a hard one for me. I think people know, obviously, with my support of the LGBTQ community, where I stand, and I definitely don't support any kind of bullying or bigotry or anything that is not equality. I've definitely been shocked by a lot of things that I've seen. [Laughs] That's putting it lightly.

But you draw the line at making any politi-

cal statements? Yeah, I do, I think, at the moment. There might be a time when that changes, but for now, when I talk about things, I want to talk about them from a place of love because I feel like there's a lot of anger in this world right now. When I do speak about things... and I know I will... I'm sure I will in the future talk about political stuff, because I know myself, and I know there's so much stirring underneath that's inside of me that believes very passionately about certain things, especially about LGBTQ issues. So, I know that will happen. But I wanna always make sure I do it from a place of love because I think that's the only place to make change, that's the only way somebody's gonna listen.

Your new album, *Remnants*, makes many gestures and statements about love. Is this release your reaction to what's happening in the world right now?

With this album, I feel almost secondary to the message of the record. And with my last record [2013's *Spitfire*], I felt it was very much an artist making an album about their personal story. There's all of me all over this record, but I feel like a vessel for whatever decided to come out. And there was so much love.

We were taking a look at love from so many different angles — giving it, receiving it, standing up for it — and I guess it was kind of in response to what was going on, seeing so much negativity out in the world. I made a conscious effort as an artist this time to put



out something that could bring joy and make people think a bit. Like the line in "Love Is Love Is Love:" *I just want to start a conversation.*

What's the story behind "Love Is Love Is Love"?

I was at [producer] Toby Gad's house, and he just put on a groove and was playing this little melody, and I started singing "love is love is love is love," and that kicked off the song. Obviously, that [line has] been spread around social media and that's a big thing, and I guess it just stuck with me. And the LGBTQ influence — I wanted to take a stand on that in my own way. I felt like I wanted to stand up for love not in any political sense but maybe in more of a spiritual sense.

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decided to live in these weird bubbles, and this administration obviously has a different world or America or whatever they're doing. But the cool thing is, we're all here doing our thing, and that's what I love. The Gay Men's Chorus is going, "OK, this is our reaction; we're gonna go on the road and we're going to frickin' Trumpland." And I love that *Queer Eye* is like, "We're coming back, but we're not just coming back to Manhattan; we're going to the real America." It's gonna be amazing how many people are probably gonna look at them and go, "You're the first gay person I've ever met." And I love that to this day I'll hear that. I do meet-and-greets, say, at the casino, and to this day I'll have someone after a show say, "You know, I don't think I ever met a gay person before, but there seems to be a bunch of gay people at your show." And I always say, "You never met a gay person?" And they'll go, "Nope." And I'll go, "Well, do you go to church?" And then usually it's a little bit of a conversation ender, but I'm just saying, I'm out there in the real America, and I'm telling you, there are many, many people in the real America who think that they've never even laid eyes on a gay person. But we're all gonna get together and go, "Here we are. We're here, we're queer, don't fucking be scared of us."

Do you think it's time *D-List* makes a comeback, too? Well, I sort of would love to do something similar. I mean, the challenge is, would anyone really let me do a reality show? Because *D-List* really was unscripted, and now they're all scripted and you can see them reading a teleprompter in the interviews and stuff. I'd love to do, like, *D-List to Legend*, where I'm trying to become a legend and I'm trying to surround myself with, I don't know, Sidney Poitier, Mick Jagger and Cher. Like, all right, maybe I'm not A-list, maybe I'm B, but it's time for me to become a legend. I think there could be some comedy there. If nobody wants to do it, I'll just have to be a living legend in my mind and rock my 50-city tour and my bestseller, which Anderson Cooper told me he just read his section and then closed it.

If you do another reality show, can all your confessionals be like Mariah Carey's in *Mariah's World*, with the best lighting and on a settee? Oh my god. I love it. There's an example of a show that clearly had an agenda to be about her engagement to Packer and

then she starts banging the young, hot dancer — Tanaka or whatever his government name is — and then the show becomes about that, and then there's just a lot of scenes with a lot of airbrush, filters and lighting where Mariah is dancing on her private jet.

Speaking of divas, you're already besties with Cher. Who's another gay icon you wish you were chummy with? I've kind of met most of them by now. Cher is definitely the diva that I'm closest with, but I'm pretty close with Bette, and Bette is super cool, super hardworking and will say anything and yet she has a very classy side. Streisand is definitely a tough cookie and hard to have a conversation with, but being a gay boy, I just love her anyway. Liza is just a dream because she's just so Liza. But yeah, I love anything that brings divas together. I hosted *Divas Live* one time on VH1 and that was fantastic. It was like, I'd be in a van going to set — me, Katy Perry and Nicki Minaj and, you know, Sugarland.

Who do you plan on inviting to your *Fire Island* viewing party? Well, first of all, the gay mafia is real. I'm a product of it and it exists. So, actually, on the Twitter, I just got a tweet from Jai Rodriguez, the original *Queer Eye*, saying "overdue for a Kathy Griffin mafia night at her house," so it'll be Jai Rodriguez, Chris Colfer from *Glee*, Lance Bass and their plus-ones, and they'll all come over to my new house and we'll sit in my fabulous screening room... and then we'll watch *Feud*. But that's just a typical night for me.

***Feud* is so your show. You must be eating that up.** Oh, yeah. I'm eating it up almost as much as Jessica [Lange] and Susan [Sarandon] are eating up the scenery. Actually, we all have indigestion from how much eating of the scenery we're all doing.

Thanks for being on the frontlines of the gay movement. I feel we're all kind of re-energized. Our work is not done. But I couldn't feel like I was in better hands with the LGBT community. I always say this community knows how to litigate and get shit done and get moving and galvanized and get together when the rubber hits the road, and the rubber has hit the road, my friend. So, I'll see you at the next act of resistance... or we'll be sharing a jail cell. One or the other.

With a TV to watch *Feud*. That's all I ask.

Lisa Lampanelli at the Majestic Friday



Kathy Griffin isn't the only comic ally who talks about "her gays." Lisa Lampanelli, the insult comic supreme who has been called (affectionately) the Queen of Mean, has been a favorite of the queer crowd for more than a decade. You might not expect that, since she tosses around terms like "cornholers" and "butt bandits," but her genius is getting you to laugh along with her. (She usually ends her show by chastising anyone who takes her humor seriously.)

Lampanelli will unleash her hilarious venom at more than just the gays at a show March 31 at the Majestic. Come prepared ... to laugh.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

Majestic Theatre, 1925 Elm St. 8 p.m.
MajesticTheatreDallas.com/events.

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■ FAMILY From Page 23

ballpark.

Is there any greater treat than watching two distinguished pros like Leonard and Welch relish in their own *Feud*-like riffs. And Mikey Abrams was born to play Albert, the experienced wedding planner who magically seems to be three steps ahead of every crisis; he's a delicious mix of Jay Robinson's Caligula and Paul Lynde's Uncle Arthur with a cuddly element thrown in. I'm still puzzling over director/choreographer Ann Nieman's decision to maintain a foggy haze over the stage from start to finish, but add in a great discovery like Grant as the lanky and loveable Marty, and you have a winner. Break out the champagne.

A man in a depressed blue-collar town tries to find some way to raise money to keep his business afloat and his employees happy, and learns a lesson about acceptance and love along the way. Yes, we all love *It's a Wonderful Life*... but that's not it. Neither is it *The Full Monty*, though you'd be forgiven for thinking so. Did I mention drag queens? Well, it's not *La Cage aux Folles*, either. Nope, that's the plot of *Kinky Boots*, a joyous musical that wears its joyousness like a badge of honor. The Tony-winning show, at Fair Park through April 9, is a sequined message musical that tells us to believe in ourselves.

In some ways, that's the downside. Harvey Fierstein, who wrote the script, has a tendency to luxuriate in self-pity. From the young Charlie (Curt Hansen), who unwelcomely inherits a Northern England shoe factory on its last feet to Lola (Timothy Ware), a drag queen who may hold the solution to Charlie's financial problems, there's a mawkishness to these trials and tribulations. Fierstein seems to be writing for a mainstream audience he's trying to win over to progressive thinking, rather than preaching to the choirboys.

But if the script is problematic, the energy is infectious, fueled by Cyndi Lauper's Tony Award-winning score. Hansen has the cute looks and soaring voice of a boy-band frontman on solos like "Step One" and "Soul of a Man" and wins you over quickly. And from the thoughtful ballad "Not My Father's Son" (elegantly conveying what Fierstein clumsily pummels) that conjured "True Colors" to the ending anthem, *Kinky Boots* is at its best not when it's making a direct point, but when it sneaks up on you. Clad in a frock and heels, we see how Lola is a force to be reckoned with; but dressed as Simon, he's insecure and average. That's a lesson we all can appreciate.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

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Friday 03.31 —
Sunday 07.09

DMA's new exhibit is an unmissable taste of Mexico: 1900–1950

Augustin Arteaga has only been executive director of the Dallas Museum of Art since September, but already he has scored a major coup in the art world: An exhibition of major pieces from Mexico in the first half of the 20th century. A revelatory and massive collection, it makes its only U.S. stop after wowing Paris. And wowing it is. In addition to familiar works by the likes of queer artist Frida Kahlo (pictured), it also shows insight into the Mexican surrealism movement, the scope of work by Diego Rivera (known for his bold murals, but adept at other forms as well) and stunning discoveries of huge talents all but unknown in the U.S. Catch it while you can.

DEETS: Dallas Museum of Art, 1717 Harwood St. DMA.org.



Friday 03.31 —
Saturday 04.01

See Rene Moreno's final work at the Bath House Cultural Center this weekend

The North Texas theater community was stunned this week by the sudden death of acclaimed director Rene Moreno at age 57. His final work as a director was scheduled to open this Friday ... and as the saying goes, the show must go on. WingSpan presents a staged reading of playwright Martin Sherman's (*Bent*) play *Rose*, starring Barbara Bierbrier, about the life of a colorful character — much like Moreno himself.

DEETS: Bath House Cultural Center, 521 E. Lawther Drive. WingSpanTheatre.com.



Friday 03.31 —
Saturday 04.01

Alvin Ailey flexes its muscles

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater is often called one of the best black dance companies in the world, but that's not really true. It's one of the best dance companies, period. The storied troupe returns to North Texas for three performances (Friday and Saturday night and a Saturday matinee), featuring an amazing cast of incredible dancers. Don't miss it!

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



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calendar highlights



Queer filmmaker Xavier Dolan won the Grand Prix at Cannes and the French Cesar for best director for 'It's Only the End of the World.' That and other films will play this week at the Dallas International Film Festival, at the Magnolia Theatre and other venues.

ARTSWEEK THEATER

Rose. WingSpan Theatre Co. marks its 20th season of theater by, about and for women with a staged reading of this rarely-produced play, written by gay playwright Martin Sherman (*Bent*). Rose is 80, and has survived from the Russian pogroms to the colorful beaches of Miami. Barbara Bierbrier plays Rose; directed by the late Rene Moreno, who died suddenly this week. Bath House Cultural Center, 521 E. Lawther Drive. Three performances only: March 31 and April 1 at 7:30 p.m., April 1 at 2 p.m. WingspanTheatre.com.

...A Moment in the Life of Willa Dee Arvis. A drama set in 1942 about a mystery relating to two women whose husbands have enlisted to fight in World War II. Stone Cottage Theatre, 15650 Addison Road. Through April 23. MBSProductions.net.

Alhambra. Local theater artist Fred Curchack wrote and directed this new play, about two couples who take a tour of Spain's art scene, only to be confronted with the horrors of the treatment of Jews, Muslims, Roma and Christians. University Theatre at the University of Texas at Dallas, 800 W. Campbell Road, Richardson. Through April 9. AH.utdallas.edu/tickets.

Deer. A long-married couple's relationship takes a dark turn when on their boring trip to the mountains they accidentally kill a deer and set in motion an unusual series of events. A world premiere by Aaron Mark. Stage West, 821 W. Vickery Blvd. Fort Worth. Through April 9. StageWest.org.

It Shoulda Been You. A wedding is the backdrop for farce in this recent musical from Uptown Players. *Reviewed this week.* Kalita Humphreys Theater, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. Through April 9. UptownPlayers.org.

Kinky Boots. The stage musical of the indie film about how a drag queen saved a shoemaker and opened the eyes of a sleepy factory town. Winner of six Tonys, including score for Cyndi Lauper. *Reviewed this week.* Music Hall at Fair Park, 901 First Ave. Through April 9. DallasSummerMusicals.org.

Two Trains Running. One of August Wilson's Pittsburgh Plays (along with *Fences*) is this story about African-Americans making do in 1969. Jubilee Theatre, 506 Main St., Fort Worth. Through April 16. JubileeTheatre.org.

COMEDY

Haters Roast: The Shady Tour. Drag queens dish on each other in this comedy show featuring Bob the Drag Queen, Acid Betty, Kim Chi, Jinx Monsoon and more. House of Blues, 2200 N. Lamar St. 8 p.m. Ticketmaster.com.

DANCE

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. The famed company performs. Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. March 31–April 1. ATTPAC.org.

FINE ART

Mexico 1900–1950: Diego Rivera, Frida Kahlo, Jose Luis Orozco and the Avant-Garde.

A magnificent exhibition of nearly 200 works showcasing the impressive diversity — from realism to cubism to surrealism and even film — of Mexican art in the first half of the 20th century. Dallas Museum of Art, 1717 Harwood St. Through July 9. DMA.org.

Landscape Relativities: The Collaborative Works of Arnold Chang and Michael Cherney. This exhibition highlights the blurred line between photography and Chinese ink painting from two contemporary artists. Crow Collection of Asian Art, 2010 Flora St. Through June 25. CrowCollection.org.

FILM

2017 Dallas International Film Festival. The big film festival, which includes LGBT programming, a Texas competition, red carpets, celebrity appearances, awards and more, continues. Most screenings will take place at Landmark's Magnolia Theatre in the West Village, with additional screenings and events at the Angelika Film Center, the Texas Theatre and City Performance Hall. Through April 9. For a full schedule of events, visit DIFF2017.DallasFilm.org.

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TRAVEL SHOW THIS WEEKEND OFFERS GAY TRAVEL OPTIONS



The LGBT community loves to travel, but there's more to life than Olivia Cruises and time-shares in P'town. In fact, a lot more. Wanna know what the hot spots are, how to get discounts, when to book, where to stay and other tricks of the trade? Well, that's what the Seventh Annual Dallas Travel & Adventure Show is for. On April 1 and 2 at Dallas Market Hall, purveyors and experts — including NPR stalwart Rick Steves — will be showing their wares and sharing their knowledge about travel. Dallas Voice's Arnold Wayne Jones will also be on-hand Sunday at a panel specifically discussing gay travel. Doors open 10 a.m. Saturday and 11 a.m. Sunday, with one- and two-day admission tickets available at TravelShows.com/shows/dallas.

FRIDAY 03.31
COMMUNITY

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

SATURDAY 04.01
COMMUNITY

FrontRunners. Gay jogging/walking group meets weekly at 9 a.m. at the statue in Lee Park at Hall Street and Turtle Creek Boulevard for a run along the Katy Trail.

EXPO

7th Annual Dallas Travel and Adventure Show. Dallas Voice Executive Editor and travel writer Arnold Wayne Jones joins Rick Steves and other travel professionals at this expo. Dallas Market Hall, 2200 N. Stemmons Freeway. April 1–2. Travelshows.com/shows/dallas.

SUNDAY 04.02
WORSHIP

Dignity (LGBT Catholics). Worship the first Sunday of each month, led by ministers Cliff and Jon Garinn. Interfaith Peace Chapel (lower level), 5910 Cedar Springs Road. 6 p.m.

MONDAY 04.03
CABARET

Mama's Party. Local singer Amy Stevenson hosts her ongoing cabaret series, always with special guests and a good time. Uptown Theatre, 120 E. Main St. Grand Prairie. \$10.

TUESDAY 04.04
FILM

Blow Up. One of the seminal films of the 1960s, an influential artsy investigation into the meaning of perception. Screens as part of the Tuesday Big Movie New Classic Series at Landmark's Magnolia Theatre in the West Village, 3699 McKinney Ave. Screens at 7:30 p.m. and 10 p.m.

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

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THEATER

Electra. DTC artistic director Kevin Moriarty has adapted Sophocles' tragedy for an outdoor experience just as in ancient Greece, with the audience intimately involved in the production. Abbey Siegworth takes on the title role. Annette Strauss Square (beside the Winspear Opera House), 2403 Flora St. April 4–May 21. Start time will be after sundown (8:30 p.m.). DallasTheaterCenter.org.

WEDNESDAY 04.05
THEATER

Wiesenthal. A one-man show about the famed Nazi hunter, written by and starring Tom Dugan. Wyly Theatre, 2400 Flora St. April 5–8. ATTPAC.org.

THURSDAY 04.06
CABARET

Glitterbomb Denton. Weekly queer variety show with a new lineup every Thursday. Mable Peabody's Beauty Parlor and Chain Saw Repair, 1125 E. University Drive, Denton. 9:30 p.m.

FOOD

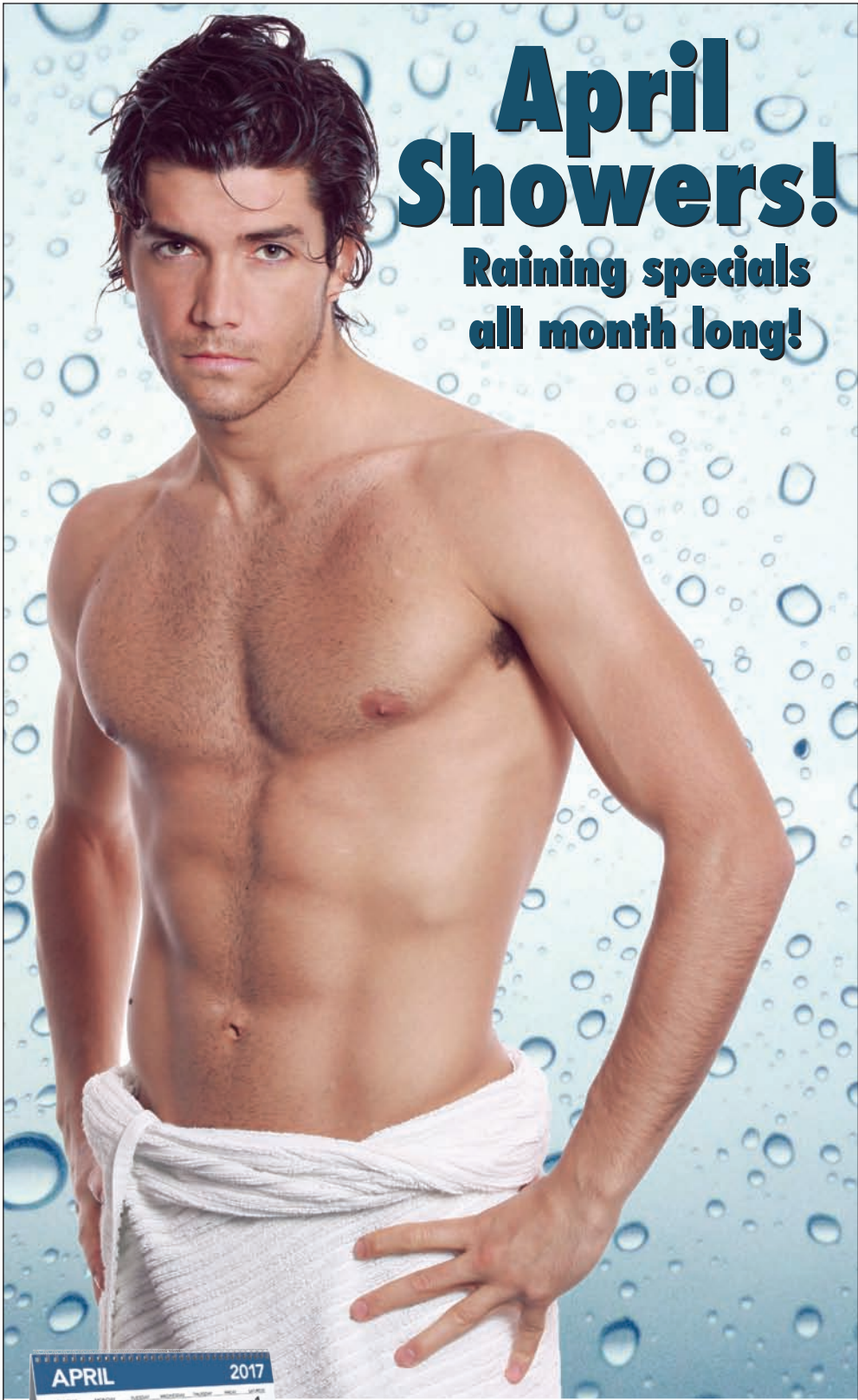
Savor Dallas. Return of the annual celebration of food, wine and spirits, including wine stroll, seminars and tastings. April 6–9. Visit DallasDallas.com for schedule.

this week's solution

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Cassie Nova

Cassie tells a 'Very Sordid' tale

Hey everybody. As many of you know, I have a small part in the sequel to *Sordid Lives*, *A Very Sordid Wedding*. I play Cassie Nova, a loud, rude drag queen. Huge stretch, I know. They had the premiere of the movie a few weeks ago in Palm Springs, complete with a red carpet. My husband and I decided to turn it into a vacation and spend the week in Palm Springs. It was awesome — I felt so young! Apparently, Palm Springs is a great place for the gays to retire. Why wouldn't you want to retire there? Great restaurants, shopping and weather, all with a small-town feel. Did I mention how beautiful it is? I love seeing mountains and hills

in the background of everywhere you looked. Hell, I have spent most of my life here and it ain't nuthin' but flat. So talk about a change of scenery.

The red carpet event was so much fun. I felt so fancy hobnobbing with Leslie Jordan, Caroline Rhea and one of my favorite people on the planet, Miss Dale Dickey. She was incredible in *Winter's Bone*, and so freaking hilarious on *My Name Is Earl* as Patty the daytime hooker. She is so damn good as Sissy in *Sordid Wedding*. She slayed it.

I was giddy as the movie started. I have been a rabid *Sordid Lives* fan ever since I first saw it like 16 years ago. The crowd was so into it, they cheered as each character walked on screen. I can't wait to see it again — I know I missed parts because I was laughing. There are even more great one-liners here than in the first one. In all

seriousness, I can't wait for everyone to see this film. If you liked the first one, you will love this one. The message the film delivers is so perfect in this time in our history. I can only imagine how many young people, struggling with faith and acceptance that this movie will help.

After the screening, they called the entire cast on stage for a Q&A. I fangirled out! Myself, Edna Jean Robinson and Ron Corning just kind of stood there hanging on their ever word. Del Shores has made a great movie. I feel lucky to have been a part of it. Y'all have gotta get your tickets to the Dallas premiere on April 21. It will be a star-studded event. I promise you will love it.

A superstar's work is never done so now I must put away my pen from signing autographs and patting myself on the back and help some folks.

Dear Cassie, So I'm in a predicament. I'm in a relationship of over two years. There's a guy I work with whose boyfriend I have fallen in love with. He has also fallen for me. We're both in relationships and really want each other. I'm so torn on what to do. We don't want our current parties to know or be jealous. We almost ran away together. He is far more attractive than who I'm currently with and I'm just so infatuated. Should I leave who I'm with, even if I don't go with this guy, simply with how I feel? Or is it all just a little crush I should ignore? I'm so confused! Signed, Should I stay or should I go.

Look bitch, if you are teenager I get your confusion. But if you are a grown-ass man looking for someone to give you permission to cheat, you will not find it here. You kind of come off like a piece of shit ready to throw away a relationship with someone (I assume) you have loved at some point for a shiny newer model. If you are unhappy in your relationship, or if you truly love this new guy, there should be no confusion. Ask yourself these simple questions. Are you happy? Do you love your boyfriend? Is this guy's dick worth hurting both of your boyfriends? I will give you props for at least asking someone's opinion instead of just cheating first and worrying about the ramifications afterwards.

If you are *not* happy with your boyfriend — if you don't love him enough *not* to cheat — move on. Respect him and respect yourself because I guarantee you: Karma is a cunt and she will do to you what you do to others. Good luck, Cassie.

Dear Cassie, I have lived in Dallas for over 20 years. Over the years, I have had more friends than I could even keep up with. For some reason, lately, friends seem to be in short supply. Admittedly, I have changed over the years — I no longer go out as much and maybe I'm even a bit more jaded when it comes to meeting new people. Because of a series of bad experiences, I often find myself questioning a potential new friend's intentions. Someone told me once that I have too many gay friends, I didn't know what to think about that. Could it be true? Most of my friends and acquaintances are gay. I am sure you are approached by many people who might like to become a bestie of Cassie. Perhaps their motives are authentic and often maybe not. How do you know when to let people in? If I only have gay friends, do I



need to look outside of my gay circle? Signed, Looking for fulfilling friendships.

Dear L4FF, My husband and I were just talking about this very subject. I've noticed that with me there is an ebb and flow to some of the communications with some of my friends and a constant with others. It's true that over the years, I have had plenty of people volunteer to be my best friend. I have people all the time tell me, "We are so much alike, we have the same sense of humor, we should hang out!" Sometimes, if the stars align, we become friends, but you can't force a friendship. You can fake one, and Lord knows I have done that. But to make a true friend, to have someone in your life you can always count on is special and cannot be forced.

We have all had so-called friends that end up just using you for one reason or another and that can make you weary of trusting new people. If you fear a friend might be trying to take advantage of your generous nature, never put yourself in a position to be used. Don't volunteer to pay for anything. If they can't afford to pay their own way, tell them you can reschedule for when they can afford it. They are your friends, not your responsibility.

Many people's friendships suffer when they get into a new relationship, so ask yourself, are you suddenly giving all of your time to your boyfriend and ignoring the friends that were there for you when you needed a friend? Friendships go both ways. You can't get mad at someone for not being there for you if you never make yourself available.

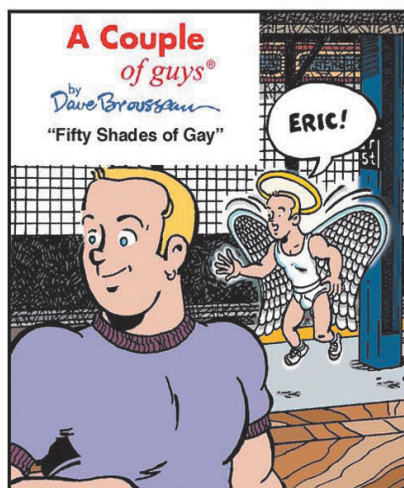
If you are part of a couple, invite another couple over for a game night or dinner. Find reasons to hang out with people you want to remain close to. I don't think there is anything wrong with having mostly gay friends. I don't think you should worry about that at all. Be friends with whoever you connect with.

We hang out with mostly gay people because that is what we have in common, but it is the individual you connect with, not their sexuality.

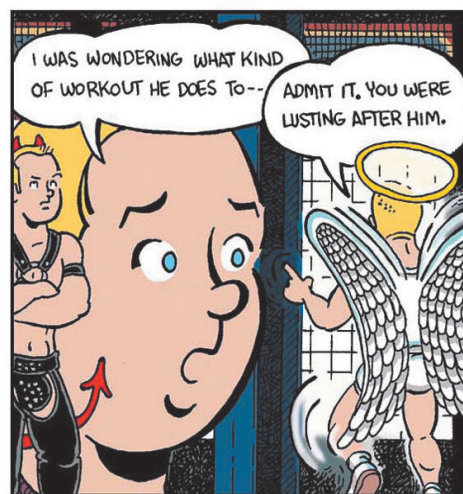
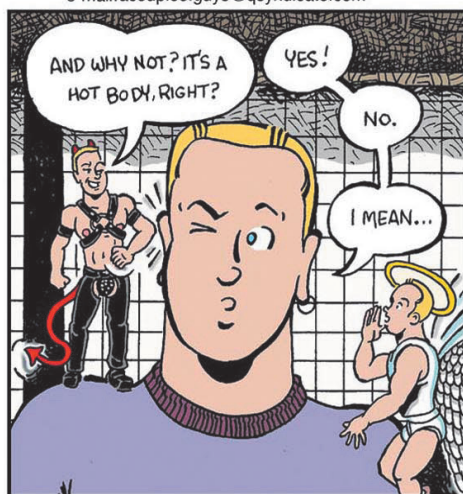
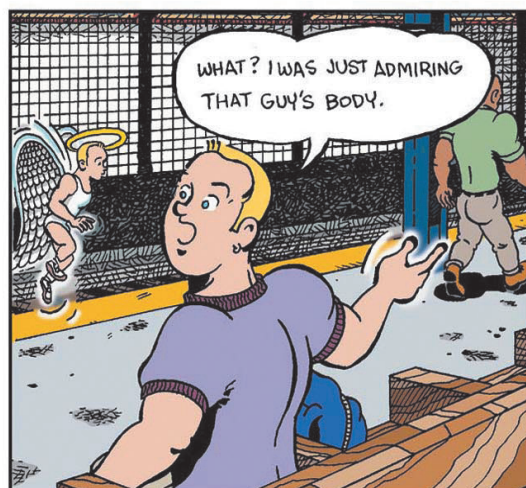
I am very lucky that I have an awesome group of friends. My close friends are more like family. But like all relationships you have to work at it. Make time for your friends. To be honest that is something I could work on myself. But if you are lucky, you have friends you can't wait to be around. I do; the hard part is finding time we can actually get together but it is always great when we find the time. Good luck and be the friend you want to have.

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

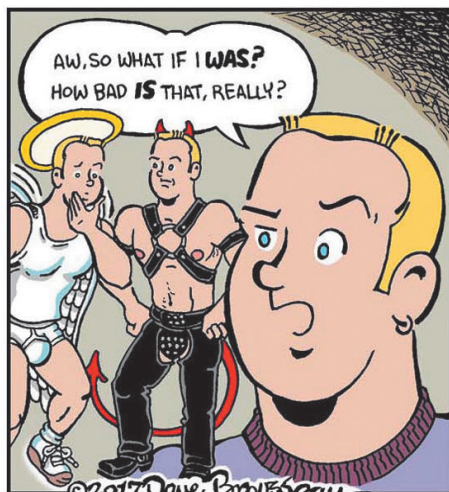
If you have a question of comment, email it to AskCassieNova@gmail.com.



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Friends at The Grapevine



Petey gets her kicks at The Grapevine

Making the **SCENE** the week of **March 31-April 6**

Alexandre's: **Filter Kings** on Saturday, Karaoke with **Wayne Smith** on Sunday, Broadway on a Tuesday with **K-Marie**, **Chris Chism** on Wednesday and **Spencer West** and **So Strung Out** on Thursday

Barbara's Pavillion: Thursday night Karaoke with **Double Dee** at 9 p.m. Cedar Springs Tap House: Hangover Brunch, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. Every Thursday is **Cher-E-Oke** with **Wayne Smith**, 10 p.m.-midnight.

Dallas Eagle: **Lip Sync Battle** — **Beyond Vanilla**, 6-10 p.m. Saturday; **Steven and Ronni's Trash Disco Wedding**, 4-5 p.m. Sunday.

JR.'s Bar & Grill: **Cassie's Freak Show** on Monday; **Krystal and the Cool Kids** on Tuesday, and **Dream Girls** on Thursday.

Liquid Zoo Sports Bar & Grille: Homemade fresh angus burgers and fries and karaoke seven nights at week at 9 p.m.

Marty's Live: Thirsty Thursdays with **Andy Phann**, with \$5 Fireballs, hot dancers and poker at 7:30 p.m.

Pekers: **Totally Twisted Karaoke** every Friday and Saturday night.

Rainbow Lounge: **The Illusions of Rainbow** Saturday night at 9 p.m., with **Ivanna Tramp** as Tina Turner, **Daphne Rio St. James** as Dolly Parton and **Chanel St. John** as Mary J. Blige.

Rose Room: Show times each Friday and Saturday at 11 p.m. and 12:30 a.m. Thursday's **Rising Star** shows at 11 p.m.

Round-Up Saloon: **Mancandy** on Sunday, with boys, booty and beats, and **Jeff Doll** spinning the hits from the 1970s, '80s, '90s and today.

Sue Ellen's: Your home for watching the **NCAA Women's Final Four** on Friday and Saturday, plus **Ciao Bella** at 10 p.m. on Friday, **Cherry Bomb** at 10 p.m. on Saturday, and **Kathy and Bella** at 3:30 p.m. and **Barefoot Hippies** at 5:30 p.m. on Sunday. Also on Sunday, the **Miss Gay Dallas State** and **State At Large** from 6-9 p.m. in the Music Lounge.

Zipperz: No Cover Monday with sounds by **Rudeboy Dallas** from 9 p.m.-2 a.m.

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



Mike and Joan at Zippers



Friends on The Strip



Friendly staff at The Round-Up Saloon



Sizing things up at The Round-Up Saloon



Having fun on The Strip



All smiles at Sue Ellen's



Dancing the night away at Sue Ellen's



Mindy and J.C. at Sue Ellen's

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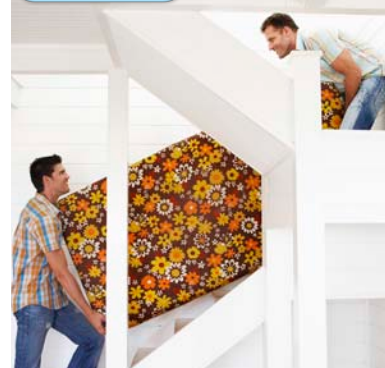
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Thirty-mile Zone and More

Solution on Page 29

Across

- 1 Like gay porn, to some
5 Sondheim's Sweeney
9 Place for a G-string
14 Carmela of *The Sopranos*
15 Switch ending
16 Prepare to get plucked
17 They poke around
18 Take another tour
19 Rob of *Melrose Place*
20 Anchor of ABC's *Good Morning America*
23 "___ the Top"
24 Tropical hurricanes
28 Sucked up
31 *Tales of the City* author
Armistead
32 Eat away at
35 Honest-to-goodness
36 Creator and managing
editor of TMZ
40 Club for Sheehan
42 River of Gay Paree
43 Rita Mae Brown's ___,
She Meowed
46 Oscar Wilde tragedy
50 Kisser of Scarlett in
Vicky Cristina Barcelona
53 Othello and more
55 MSNBC host of the
show that bears
her name
58 "Stop!" to pirates
61 Pancake topping

62 Stringed instrument of

- Shakespeare's day
63 One that ought to
be paddled
64 Where Boy Scouts
sleep together
65 Peace Nobelst Wiesel
66 Humped antelope
67 Estimator's words
68 Result of a split in a
religious body

Down

- 1 *Rescue Me* star Denis
2 Depp's cross-dressing
role
3 Mr. Ed's owner
4 Handle on a streetcar,
for Williams?
5 O-o-o-o-okla., once
6 It may get a licking
7 2008 flick about a priest
and a boy
8 Speechless Disney dwarf
9 "Queen of Soul"
Franklin
10 Home of the first openly
gay Miss America
contestant
11 Quick on the uptake
12 Photographer Corinne
13 House seat holders, e.g.
21 More up-to-date
22 Letters on a Johnny
Mathis record

25 What you do at the
other end

- 26 Vardalos of *My Big Fat Greek Wedding*
27 Where you can see
Baldwin do Trump
29 *Meet Me in St. Louis*
writer Brecher
30 Denials
33 Change color
34 David Hyde Pierce
and peers
36 One to blow on
37 Hans Christian of
fairy tales
38 Bambi's aunt
39 *Scooby-Doo* girl
40 Shakespeare's Puck, e.g.
41 Golden Girl
McClanahan
44 Tickled pink
45 Mythical bird
47 Loads
48 Vehicle for a moonshot
49 Like Mapplethorpe pix
51 F. Holland Day work
52 Moray seeker
54 Short partner
56 Part of Bob Mizer's
equipment
57 Lorre's detective
58 Crack pilot
59 Batman portrayer
Kilmer
60 Writer Castillo

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