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Friday, May 12, 2017

## Bear necessities

TBRU 2017 welcomes

## Leslie Jordan

Page 9





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

### Rep. Linda Koop votes for anti-semitic bill

State Rep. Linda Koop, who is Jewish, voted for HB 3859, an antisemitic bill that will fund religious adoption agencies while giving the the right to refuse service to Jews, Muslims and LGBT people among others.

Fellow Dallas Republican Jason Villalba voted against the bill.

Parents seeking to adopt children in Texas could soon be rejected by state-funded or private agencies with religious objections to them being Jewish, Muslim, gay, single, or interfaith couples, under a proposal in the Republican-controlled Legislature, Associated Press reported.

HB 3859 would allow religious-based adoption and foster agencies that contract with the state to discriminate in two ways. Agencies would be able to discriminate against qualified prospective parents including LGBT couples, interfaith couples, single parents, married couples in which one prospective parent has previously been divorced and Jewish or Muslim parents. The bill would also allow those agencies to refuse to place LGBT kids.

"Say you call an agency and say, 'I'm Jewish,' and it's a Catholic agency and they hang up on you," Suzanne Bryant, an Austin-based attorney who specializes in LGBT adoptions, told the Houston Chronicle. "The bill says you can be referred to another agency, but there's no mechanism to set that up."

Texas has 70,000 kids who need homes.

— David Taffet



ed down yesterday (Wednesday, May 10) by a federal grand jury. The federal indictment, which says the suspects "caused bodily injury because of [victims'] sexual orientation, supersedes local charges.

The four suspects posed as a gay man to find their four victims, who invited the "gay man" from the app to their homes. Instead of a gay man, the victims found themselves faced with the four suspects who assaulted them, restrained them with tape and taunted them for being gay. The victims were then robbed and their cars stolen.

If the four suspects are convicted on federal hate crime charges, they face fines up to \$250,000 and sentences as stiff as life in prison. They've also been charged with conspiracy, kidnapping, carjacking and possession of a firearm while committing crimes.

— David Taffet

### Lakewood Brewing Company is new title sponsor for Dallas Pride parade

Officials with Dallas Pride, Dallas Tavern Guild and with Lakewood Brewing Company have announced that Lakewood Brewing has joined this year's Dallas Pride celebration as title sponsor for the Alan Ross Texas Freedom Parade, set for Sept. 17.

Jeremiah Wallis, vice president of sales for Lakewood Brewing, said his company is "extremely thankful to have the opportunity to partner on this message of equality and [we] thank the community for all they have done. Whether it's pint nights at Cedar Springs Tap House, 'Loving Great Beer Together' events at TMC: The Mining Company or dance-offs [for charity at the Round-Up Saloon], we've felt welcomed as partners."

Wim Bens, founder and president of Lakewood Brewing, added, "At Lakewood Brewing, we want to show our support to a community that has taken care of us since day one."

When asked about the announcement, Dallas Tavern Guild Executive Director Michael Doughman said, "I and the entire Tavern Guild are very excited about this new partnership."

— Tammye Nash



### Frisco men charged with hate crimes

Four Collin County men have been charged with anti-gay hate crimes after using the Grindr app to target gay men that they then assaulted and robbed.

Anthony Shelton, 19; Nigel Garrett, 21; Chancler Encalade, 20; and Cameron Ajiduah, 18, all from Frisco, used Grindr to contact gay men in Plano, Frisco and Aubrey in January and February and then attacked the men because they were gay, according to an indictment hand-

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# dallasvoice

The Premier Media Source for LGBT Texas



## Our journey for equality continues...

Dallas Voice celebrates 33 years serving the North Texas LGBT community.

As I walk through the halls of our office, I feel pride in the accomplishments we have witnessed over the past 33 years. We have come a long way since the AIDS epidemic and sodomy laws that took a devastating toll on our community. Looking back is beneficial; understanding the path we took to get here is vital.

Over the past few years, we have made major strides toward full equality with the Supreme Court's ruling on marriage equality, and we have seen a major shift in the acceptance of our community. But the fight for equality continues.

I am moved every day by the passion I see in our staff. I am proud of their accomplishments and their dedication. In looking back over our years of coverage, I realize that we have a very cohesive community. Every day our readers turn to our print and our online publications for in-depth, comprehensive LGBT news and entertainment relevant to them and their families.

Dallas Voice has always embraced change, but in our 33 years, we have never wavered in our commitment to being a community newspaper that fights for equality every day. We look forward to another 33 years of serving as your Voice in North Texas.

We are all grateful for our dedicated readers and advertisers who help us give a voice to the LGBT community. We have come a long way together in the fight for equality... and the journey continues.

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Publisher, Co-Owner



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## THE GAY AGENDA

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

• **Weekly: Lambda Weekly every Sunday at 1 p.m. on 89.3 KNON-FM.** This week's guest is **Erin Moore**; **United Black Ellument** hosts discussion on HIV/AIDS in the black community (UBE Connected) at 7 p.m. every fourth Tuesday of the month at 3116 Commerce St., Suite C; **Core Group Meeting** every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m.; **Fuse** game night every Monday evening except the last of the month at 8 p.m. at the Fuse space in the Treymore Building, 4038 Lemmon Ave, Suite 101; **FuseConnect** every Wednesday from 7 p.m. For more information call or e-mail Jalenzski at 214-760-9718 ext 3 or [Jalenzski@myresourcecenter.org](mailto:Jalenzski@myresourcecenter.org). LGBT square dancing group **Pegasus Squares** 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.; **Leadership Lambda Toastmasters** practices and develops speaking and leadership skills from 6:30-8 p.m. on Tuesdays at First Unitarian Church, third floor of the Hallman Building, 4012 St. Andrews.; **Gray Pride** support group from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. followed by mixer every Monday at Resource Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road; **DVtv in Spayse**, news and entertainment discussion live streaming every Friday, 4-5 p.m., on the Spayse Station YouTube channel.

### MAY

#### • May 12: DFW Pride Happy Hour

Texas Instruments sponsors the gathering from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Resource Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road.

#### • May 12: Founders Day


AIDS Services Dallas celebrates its 30th anniversary from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. in the Revlon Apartments Courtyard, 720 N. Lancaster Ave. (See story Page 8.)

### pet of the week / NAME


Meet Moyet, a 3-year-old, brindle pit bull mix weighing 52 pounds, and with a darling personality. She came to the SPCA of Texas on Feb. 18 when she was rescued by an animal cruelty investigator. She loves going on walks and adores being petted even more. She's a total sweetheart, and a pro at snuggling. She's gentle, calm and easy going so she'd be a great companion for everything from just hanging out to morning walks around the neighborhood. Moyet has been spayed, microchipped and has received all age-appropriate vaccinations. Her adoption fee is only \$125. #152570

Moyet is waiting for you at the SPCA of Texas' Jan Rees-Jones Animal Care Center in Dallas, 2400 Lone Star Drive near I-30 and Hampton Road. Hours are noon-6 p.m. Sunday-Wednesday and noon-7 p.m. Thursday-Saturday. Regular adoption fees are \$250 for puppies, \$125 for adult dogs 6 months or older and kittens 0-6 months, \$75 for adult cats 6 months or older and \$50 for senior dogs or cats 7 years or older and VIP dogs and cats (available for adoption for 30 days or more.) Fee includes spay/neuter surgery, age-appropriate vaccinations, a heartworm test for dogs six months and older and a FIV/FeLV test for cats 4 months and older, initial flea/tick preventative and heartworm preventative, a microchip, 30 days of PetHealth Insurance provided by PetPlan, a free 14-day wellness exam with VCA Animal Hospitals, a free year-long subscription to Activ4Pets, a rabies tag and a free leash. Call 214-742-SPCA (7722) or visit today.





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• **May 13: Lambda Legal women's event**  
For information call 214-219-8585.

• **May 13: Strutt Your Mutt**  
SPCA event to end animal cruelty.  
Festivities begin at 7:30 a.m. 5K at 8:30 a.m.  
3K walk/run at 9:30 a.m.  
Trinity Groves. \$35.

• **May 13: Gray Pride Senior Prom**  
Fifty Shade of Gray Pride is the theme of  
the senior prom for anyone 50 and  
older from 7-11 p.m. at Resource  
Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road. \$10.  
FiftyShadesGPProm.eventbrite.com.

**May 13: Different  
Strokes Golf Association**

Playdate open to all interested golfers,  
starting at 8 a.m. shotgun start at Plantation  
Golf Club, 4701 Plantation Lane, Frisco. \$65.  
Golf, cart range balls and breakfast tacos  
included. DSGADallas.org or email  
info@DSGADallas.org for information.

**May 13: Fairway to Equality Tarrant  
County kickoff party**

Fairway to Equality golf tournament's  
Tarrant County kickoff party from 1-4  
p.m. at Legal Draft. FTE Golf Tarrant  
County Kick Off Party, 500 E. Division St.,  
Arlington.

• **May 13: KNON exhibit  
and music festival**

This exhibit focuses on the early days of the  
community radio station. Lambda Weekly  
is one of just a few of its original shows still  
on the air. Local bands from a variety of  
genres perform from 3-9 p.m. at  
Texas Musicians Museum,  
222 E. Irving Blvd., Irving.

• **May 13-14: Faith**

Turtle Creek Chorale Chamber Chorus and  
Camerata present Faith at 7 p.m. at Hamon  
Hall in the Winspear Opera House,  
2403 Flora St. TurtleCreek.org.

• **May 15: Promise House Golf Classic**

The 19th annual golf classic benefiting the  
Oak Cliff agency that houses homeless  
youth including its new LGBT home.  
The event begins at 1 p.m. at Bent Tree  
Country Club, 5201 Westgrove Drive.  
For information contact jessica.wickizer@  
promisehouse.org or 214-941-8578 ext. 257.

• **May 16: LifeWalk kickoff party**

Fun, food, music, auctions from 6:30-9 p.m.  
at Taboo Lounge. 1418 N. Riverfront Blvd.  
For information visit LifeWalk.org.

• **May 16: Get Centered**

Behind the scenes tour of the Resource

Center led by CEO Cece Cox from 11 a.m.-  
noon at 5750 Cedar Springs Road.

• **May 16: Stonewall Democrats**

Cocktails at 6 p.m. and meeting at  
6:30 p.m. in the Vixin Lounge, Sue Ellen's,  
3014 Throckmorton St.

• **May 18-21: TBRU 22: Boot Camp**

TBRU 22 moves to the Hyatt Regency,  
300 Reunion Blvd. (See story Page 9.)

• **May 18: Rainbow LULAC 4871**

Rainbow LULAC welcomes its new officers  
and new district board and holds an open  
forum on SB4, the new sanctuary cities law  
at 6:30 p.m. at Havana lounge,  
4000 Cedar Springs Road.

• **May 18: Org-y 2017**

"Org-y 2017," a cook-out and meeting for  
LGBTQIA organizations and organizers  
to help plan the 2017 QueerBomb Pride  
month event set for June 24, from 7-9 p.m.  
at 1607 Kings Highway. Food and drinks  
will be provided. Applications for vendor  
and organization booths at QueerBomb  
will be available. To make a donation visit  
GoFundMe.com/queerbomb2017.

• **May 18: GALA Happy Hour**

GALA North Texas hosts its Third  
Thursday Happy Hour from 5:30-8 p.m. at  
Sheraton McKinney, 1900 Gateway Blvd.  
For information email galantx.org.

• **May 19: Federal Club mixer**

Visit DFWFederalClub.org or email  
co-chairs@dfwfederalclub.org for details.

• **May 19: Community  
Forum on Youth Homelessness**

Third annual community forum on  
homelessness features Dr. Ashley Lind, CEO  
of Promise House to discuss what youth  
homelessness looks like in Dallas  
and ways in which we can prevent and  
end youth homelessness. 9 a.m. at  
J. Erik Jonsson Central Library, 1515 Young St.

• **May 19: Ruby City**

Dallas Red Foundation presents Ruby  
City: You're not in Dallas anymore at  
8 p.m. at 7 for Parties, 150 Turtle Creek  
Blvd. \$35 advance and \$50 at the door.  
DallasRedFoundation.org

• **May 20: Celebrate Golf 2017**

Celebration Community Church hosts  
Celebrate Golf 2017, one of the church's  
biggest annual fundraisers, at Pecan Valley  
Golf Course, 6400 Pecan Valley Drive in  
Fort Worth. The event includes food, fun,  
fellowship and golf. Call the church at  
817-335-3222 for information.

## Daily Show creator appearing in Fort Worth



**L**izz Winstead with two of her fellow Lady Parts Justice League comedians will be in Fort Worth on Friday, May 18, volunteering at the Whole Women's Health clinic and performing that night at the Ridglea Room.

Lizz Winstead was a comedian specializing in political humor when she moved to New York City and got a job as a segment producer for Jon Stewart's old show. That led to her signing with Comedy Central where she pitched a comedy news show as an alternative to the 17 newsmagazines already on the air.

"They kept saying, 'OK,'" she said. "So I kept barfing out things I thought about in my underwear. I never thought my dream show would be my first show."

But it was. And when they asked her what she wanted to call the show, she thought it would be on every day so she said how about *The Daily Show*? Again they agreed and hired Winstead as its first head writer. When the show premiered, there was a writing staff of six. Today, *The Daily Show* has twice that many.

Winstead stayed about three years before moving on to do a show for Oxygen and made some pilots before launching Air America, the liberal radio network.

She followed her Air America stint with a year-and-a-half of performances Off Broadway and then a book deal; *Lizz Free Or Die* was released in 2012.

About that time, laws limiting reproductive rights were passing around the country, so Winstead launched the Lady Parts Justice League, "a combo of writers, comics and activists who make funny videos of hypocrisy," Winstead said. Using humor and outrage, they raise funds for women's clinics, visit the clinics and, while they're in town, volunteer there.

In Fort Worth, Winstead, Joyelle Johnson (who has opened for Dave Chappelle) and trans comic Ian Harvie (who has appeared on the series *Transparent*) will volunteer at Whole Women's Health. Winstead said this clinic never had a fence for privacy and security. They just put one up, and Winstead and her Lady Parts Justice League volunteers will be there whitewashing it and planting a garden.

That night, Winstead, Harvie and Johnson will perform at the Ridglea Room off Camp Bowie Boulevard. The show's a pre-kickoff to their national Vagical Mystery Tour that begins in Atlanta on June 2. Winstead said she loves having local material to include in her act, so she's excited about coming to Texas where we have "a sea of crazy." ■  
*Ridglea Room, 3309 Shady Side Trail, Fort Worth at 7 p.m. on May 18.*

— David Taffet



# AIDS Services Dallas turns 30

After a rough start, ASD has provided housing for thousands

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer  
taffet@dallasvoice.com

**A**IDS Services of Dallas marks its 30th anniversary with its Founders Day commemoration in the garden of Revlon Apartments today (Friday, May 12). CEO Don Maison sat down recently to talk about the agency's rocky beginnings as ASD prepared to mark this milestone.

ASD started as an employment project. After Phil Gray was diagnosed with AIDS in 1985, he opened Oak Lawn Mail and Message Center — in a space now part of S4 on Cedar Springs Road — where he employed people who had lost their jobs because of health issues related to AIDS or because of discrimination. The project collapsed when Gray committed suicide as his own struggle with the disease became too great for him. But his work to create the PWA Coalition survived.

Under the lead of Mike Merdian, who was already involved in the PWA Coalition, and Daryl Moore, PWA Coalition then became a program of Oak Lawn Counseling Center. They knew housing was an issue for people living with AIDS, so they rented two houses on Nash Street, now known as the Inwood Road entrance to Cathedral of Hope. The houses were approximately where the new Resource Center stands. But after they rented the homes and fixed them up, the landlord evicted them.

Evelyn Petty, who had a real estate investment company in Oak Cliff, heard about what happened and approached Merdian and Moore, arranging to sell them a 22-unit rooming house and hold a lien on the property, Maison said. That property, now known as Ewing House, was the first of four properties now owned by the agency.

Merdian and Moore knew they needed to incorporate the organization, but then things went from bad to worse. The purchase of the property was mostly funded by an anonymous donation of \$175,000; then Dallas Voice discovered that the money had been embezzled from First Texas Savings Association by a former branch manager, Patrick Debenport.

Fortunately, as the coalition's resource director, Mark Rogers, explained to the Voice a few months later, they had reached an



Don Maison, CEO of AIDS Services of Dallas, speaks during a Founders Day event at Revlon Apartments in 2015, as the agency's founders — Daryl Moore and Michael Merdian — look on from a photo behind him. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

agreement and the embezzled money "is now considered a loan. We have a formal note and we're paying the money back with interest."

Reports at the time made it sound like the two sides just came together and agreed on amicable terms. In reality though, it took intervention from then-state Sen. Eddie Bernice Johnson to get it done. A nurse before entering politics, Johnson fully understood the need for the facility, and her staff found three attorneys, including Maison, to represent the agency.

PWA Coalition received a grant in 1988 to hire an executive director, and Merdian prompted Maison to apply and the coalition's board, after considering about 100 applications, offered him the job. The original building, then called A Place for Us and now known as Ewing House, opened as protesters with signs declaring "Keep Oak

Cliff Clean and Healthy" and "No gays/AIDS colonies" picketed outside.

One of the protester's fears, they claimed, was that the coalition's housing program

## Founders Day Awards

- Phil Morrow Memorial Award: Matejek Family Foundation
- Daryl Moore Memorial Award: Jim Apken
- Special Recognition for Outstanding Support: Wayne Thomas, Douglas Cheatham & Mark Hendon, Kansas State University, Rich Perry, Lee Daugherty, Helen Goldenberg, Lori Davidson, Grupo de Oracion, Liz Maverick.

for people with AIDS would damage their property values. The irony of their protests wasn't fully apparent to Maison until years later when he was putting together property to build additional housing units: The

first lot he acquired for \$2,000, the second for \$3,000. But getting the third piece of property was tougher.

When his offer was refused, Maison spoke to the property owner, who didn't know who Maison was, and who pointed to Spencer Gardens, a facility built by ASD for families affected by HIV, to show how much the neighborhood has increased in value. ASD did acquire that last lot, but it cost four times as much as the second lot, and Maison realized he was penalized for his own success in upgrading the area.

ASD acquired the dilapidated Revlon Apartments in 1988, out of foreclosure. But three arson fires at Ewing within five months, causing \$220,000 in damage, closed Ewing for 11 months until repairs were completed, delaying the remodeling work at Revlon.

During the darkest days of the AIDS

AIDS, Page 11



# TBRU 2017: Calling all bears

TAMMYE NASH | Managing Editor  
nash@dallasvoice.com

Bigger and better. Those are the key words for Texas Bear Roundup 2017, which kicks off on Thursday, May 18, with registration, the Military Ball and uniform contest and more.

This year for the first time, TBRU has one host hotel — the Hyatt Regency Downtown — large enough to hold all the attendees and their events, instead of everyone being scattered among several smaller host hotels.

And this year's headlining entertainer is a bigger name than in previous years: Leslie Jordan, star of *Will & Grace*, *Sordid Lives* and *A Very Sordid Wedding*, will be performing his latest one-man comedy show, "Straight (?) Outta Chattanooga" on Saturday night.

Wayne Davis is president of Dallas Bears, the organization that puts on TBRU each year. He noted this week that TBRU — the largest bear event in the country — is about two months later than usual this year. The reason for that, he added, is one of the "big" changes.

"Usually, TBRU is in March, right around spring break time. But we've moved to a new host hotel, the Hyatt Regency Downtown, and we weren't able to get the usual time," Davis explained. "We got a four-year contract, and because of scheduling the first two years TBRU will be in May, and the last two years we'll move back to the traditional March date."

Getting the contract with the Hyatt Regency is a coup for TBRU, Davis said. "This is our first time to just have one host hotel, and it's been a long-time dream to have a host hotel large enough to have everyone under one roof."

The Hyatt's ballroom and event space is also "more than we even need," with plenty of room for all the TBRU events.

Davis said he and some other Dallas Bears members met Jordan in Lexington, Ky., when they went there for the North American Bear Weekend.

"That's our sister event, the second-largest bear gathering behind ours. Leslie Jordan was there, doing his show, and all the Dallas Bears that were there just loved it," Davis said. "Then we got to meet him when

we went through the autograph line. We told him who we were and about TBRU, and he said right then, 'I want to come to Dallas. I want to perform at TBRU.'"

Davis said that TBRU organizers are "really excited" to have Jordan performing his show for the Dallas event. He really is amazing, and our Dallas audience will love him."

Davis said Jordan's show is open to the public, and tickets are \$40, available online at TBRU.org.

Davis noted that TBRU organizers are also thrilled to have Dallas comedian Paul J. Williams returning to host "our traditional Bear Bingo" as Sister Helen Holy. As of Wednesday, May 10, 1,360 people had already registered for TBRU, and Davis said he expects attendance to end up being between 1,500 and 1,700. But one thing that isn't bigger this year, he said, is international attendance.

"We usually have people from all over North American and 15 or 16 foreign countries. But our international attendance has really dropped this year. We've heard from a lot of the men, especially in Mexico and Canada, that they just don't feel safe or comfortable coming this year because of the political climate in our country.

Davis said TBRU is once again partnering with Bear Dance, taking place Friday night, May 19, at S4 and featuring Alaska

Thunderfuck 5000. A new partner this year, though, will be Cathedral of Hope, which is hosting a seminar on transgender issues the same weekend. "Instead of trying to do our on workshop on transgender issues, we are directing people to the one at Cathedral of Hope," he said. "We do have trans people in the bear community, and they are totally welcome at TBRU."

The deaf community is welcome as well, he said, noting that there are special events planned for the deaf bears attending the weekend. "Our deaf bear community is really growing. The Dallas Bears membership actually pays for an ASL interpreter for all our meetings and for all the TBRU events," Davis said.

Davis stressed that while TBRU is designed with bears in mind, "it's not just for bears. We have all kinds of people and their admirers that come for the weekend. They come because it is fun, and because it's for a good cause. The money we raise goes to our charities — this year, Resource Center's Nutrition Program, the Greg Dollgener Memorial AIDS Fund and the Sharon St. Cyr Fund. This is a party with a purpose. It's a family reunion for bears all over the country, and we're ready for the fun to begin."■

Registration for TBRU 2017 is still open. For information and a complete schedule of events, visit TBRU.org.

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# Making a heart a home

Alex Prins hopes the video he made to honor his adoptive parents can help others like him find the homes they deserve

**C.J. HARDEE** | Contributing Writer  
cjhardee@wildbluewriter.com

What is it that identifies you? Is it your hair color, the city you grew up in, the car you drive? Is it your sexual identity, or perhaps the origin of your last name?

For Alex Prins, it was not his career as a real estate agent, his home in Dallas or even being part of the LGBT community that defined the depth of who he was. At the prime age of 30, Alex was on a search for something more, something deeper —



something even more personal.

In the late 1980s, Lois and Richard Prins ran a foster care facility out of their home in Chicago. They were intent on always instilling in the kids that lived with them, no matter how long or how short of a time they were there, the ideal of what a home was all about.

When Alex came to live with the Prins around the age of two, he quickly saw that the feelings of acceptance and love were the foundation of the home.

There was a time when the Prins had eight children living with them, children of every ethnicity and background. The Prins adopted Alex, along with five others of their foster kids, and they then decided to move out of Chicago to small town in Mississippi. Raising the five kids as their own and showing them the utmost love that was inside them, they always taught their children that they could be whomever they wanted to be, that nothing was impossible or too far out of reach.

Acceptance and support were — and are — the backbone of the Prins family.

At an early age, Alex began to realize that

he was gay. But he was terrified to tell his parents, even though they were so open and accepting. There is never any guarantee how someone will react to that news, so Alex decided it was easier to remain distant, to not be home for dinner and to be a little rebellious.

But when he was 19, tragedy hit and circumstances forced him into the coming out that he had dreaded his entire life. His boyfriend at the time was killed in a car accident. He knew that something so personal and so real would tear him apart, and he needed the love and support of his mother and father, love and support he had pushed aside for so long.

Despite his fears, Alex's parents remained the same loving, accepting and understanding people they had always been. In fact his mother said that they were not even surprised, that they had always assumed.

Finally, the fear he had lived with was gone. He was able to be completely open and free in his sexual identity, but the questions of what to do with his life were hanging over him.

The fearless and encouraging upbringing that Lois and Richard instilled on him, that he could be whomever he wanted to be, always rang in his ears. So after two failed business start-ups and years working for a plastic surgeon, Alex began searching — searching for his purpose, searching for his calling.

Searching. Listening. Meditating. Hoping.

Then a stranger confronted him in New Orleans, asking what he wanted out of life and challenging him to go the distance, and Alex mentioned that he had thought about giving real estate a try. "Why not?" the stranger asked. And that day, Alex looked up real estate classes online.

He soon found what it was that his life was meant for: bringing people to find and make their very own home. He found his calling in real estate.

After receiving his real estate license in Dallas, Alex went to work with Coldwell Banker and realized something that had never occurred to him before. He realized that for the first few years of his life, he'd faced so much uncertainty — about his future, about where his home would be — and it wasn't until he went to live with the Prins that he found what a home truly was.

When he made his very first sale in real estate, he handed the keys over to the first-

time homeowner, who responded, "Wow, I have a home now." Those words sparked a light in Alex: He wanted to find a way to find true homes for children in the foster care system.

So he had the idea but didn't yet know how to put it into action. Then he turned 30, and as he looked back at his life, he realized that his happiness and his success all started when he found his home with the Prins.

They were the people he had always known as his parents, that had been there for him through all the years of longing and striving, that had always been his support and his encouragement.

The Prins were the ones who had taken a foster child with an uncertain future and had given him direction, a path full of light and hope.

And he wondered: how could he ever thank them for all they had done? How could he put 30 years into a single sentence, a single moment? How could he ever put into words the abundance of an open heart?

He let all these questions run through his mind, and what came out was unexpected.

They say a picture is worth a thousand words, so Alex decided to try to express his love for his parents through pictures. With nothing more than an app on his smart phone, he put together a Mother's Day gift of grand proportions: a video that shows pieces of his heart, that gives insight to his future and shows the certainty of his past. This video, titled *Make A Heart A Home*, is



dedicated to the mother that raised him, who accepted him with open arms just as he is, who opened up her heart and her home and invited him in.

Alex's dream for this documentary-style short-film is to bring hope to kids and families, to bring awareness to children who are looking for a home to belong, too. He hopes to help them find the kind of acceptance and love he found.

With a montage of family photos from the early to mid-1990s, the video shows the Prins household full of children of different nationalities and heritages as Alex's voice-over explains, "I finally decided to take a DNA test to find out some of my genetics, but when I got the results I realized that when I look in the mirror, I see you."

With support from his employer, Coldwell Banker, and the Dallas adoption agency Hope Cottage, Alex hopes to make this project grander than the YouTube video he has created. He wants it to go beyond





AIDS, From Page 8



crisis, 25 percent of the money used to operate AIDS agencies came one dollar at a time, often raised by drag shows and other events in the bars. At ASD, supper clubs fed the residents dinner some nights. Mark Shekter's Meals on the Move, or MOM, delivered lunch. And Petty, the real estate investor who helped them acquire the Ewing property, was there daily, feeding the residents. Residents' meals, Maison told the Voice at the time, were available at no charge, "as best we can provide them."

During those dark days, Petty told Maison, "Stick it out. It'll get better." When he asked Petty why she was so dedicated to the ASD residents, she explained that her son had committed suicide, and she believed it was because he was gay. When she developed cancer in the early 1990s having no one to care for her, Maison and his staff moved Petty into Revlon for the last few months of her life.

In 1992, ASD applied for a U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development grant to develop Hillcrest House and moved forward with plans to build Spencer. Hillcrest House opened in 1996 and Spencer in 1998. About five years ago, ASD fully paid off its properties.

Residents pay a portion of their income in rent. They're expected to work if they're able and to share in community chores, decision-making and responsibilities.

When Ewing opened, residents who had resources paid between \$150 and \$275 per month. Those who had no other way to pay — which included most residents whose savings were quickly drained by medical bills — relied on what Dallas Voice at the time called "County Welfare," which provided \$200 a month.

When Maison was hired in 1989, ASD had a staff of five, including Mike Anderson, a straight man with nonprofit experience that Merdian hired to be Maison's assistant director. Maison was annoyed he wasn't given the opportunity to select his own assistant, but Merdian convinced Maison to at least meet Anderson.

Maison said he and Anderson met on Cedar Springs Road, and Anderson asked Maison to introduce him to all of the merchants along the strip. That's when Maison knew he couldn't have chosen better himself. Anderson retired in 2012 after 23 years at ASD.

"In all that time, we never had a disagreement," Maison said.

Neither Moore nor Merdian lived to see what became of their early efforts. Both died of complications from AIDS — Moore in 1988 at age 27 and Merdian in 1993 at age 36.

Maison is now CEO of ASD and is the longest-serving executive director of an AIDS agency in the U.S.

One challenge facing the agency today is something the founders never planned for — parking. Holding back tears while thinking of the thousands of residents who have lived at one of the four properties over the years, Maison said now people are living, going back to work — and they need cars. He compared that to his first few years when he struggled to feed everyone and pay the utility bills and lost residents every week to AIDS.

"Some weeks we would lose four or five people," he said.

This week ASD marks its 30th anniversary with its Founders Day commemoration from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. on May 12 in the Revlon Apartments Courtyard at 720 N. Lancaster Ave.

Reporting by Dennis Vercher from 1988-1993 in Dallas Voice contributed to this article

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# ■ commUNITYvoices

# Hey right-wingers, it's about HATE, NOT tutus



Asked by a group of high schoolers to share his thoughts about the LGBTQ community, Sen. Mike Enzi, R-Wyo., said something stupid: “I know a guy who wears a tutu and goes to bars on Friday night and is always surprised that he gets in fights. Well, he kind of asks for it.”



D'Anne Witkowski  
Creep of the Week

So many problems with his statement. First, does he really “know a guy” who wears a tutu to bars every Friday? That seems oddly specific. And why did Enzi’s brain immediately go to “guy in tutu” when reaching for an example of a gay man?

Also, does a guy wearing a tutu ask to get punched just a like a woman wearing [fill in the blank with literally any item of clothing you can think of] deserves to get raped?

Enzi has since apologized to anyone who was offended, but conservative commentator Erick Erickson was quick to come to Enzi’s defense.

Erickson wrote on his blog The Repugnant\*, “If a guy walks into a bar in Wyoming wearing a tutu, he’s probably going to get punched [...] and yes, the dude wearing the tutu should

ers some of the responsibility. He should have known better.”

Erickson, who refers to the LGBTQ community as the BLT&GQ community (Get it? It’s a sandwich and a magazine. It is a very hilarious joke), writes that he’s “not condoning violence or even endorsing it. It’s just the reality of our world.”

But condoning violence is exactly what he’s doing. He’s saying men in tutus — a.k.a. homos — will get punched because men who don’t wear tutus — a.k.a. heteros — are driven to uncontrollable rage by such a sight and there’s nothing anyone can do so we must accept it.

“I’m really damn tired of all the people running around making other people extremely uncomfortable then screaming about their rights and privileges when called out,” Erickson writes. “If you want to go around making people uncomfortable, you’ve got the problem, not the rest of us.”

Actually, if you respond to being “uncomfortable” by balling your fist and smashing it into someone’s face, you definitely have a problem. That’s not normal. It’s demeaning to claim that men inherently lack self control or the ability to choose any response to discomfort other than violence.

Erickson has a message for “liberals in their coastal bubbles.” He says, “We are a culturally heterogeneous nation with diverse cultural norms. If a guy walks into a bar in Wyoming wearing makeup and a tutu, he’s probably go-

ing to be asked to leave, if not picked on or punched. If you don’t like that, don’t go to a bar in Wyoming wearing a tutu.”

This is, of course, easier said than done. Because gay men don’t really run around in tutus, but men who are perceived as gay have a much greater chance of being beaten or killed. Women who are perceived as transgender even more so.

LGBTQ people have gained much visibility and that visibility has translated into some important legal and civil rights victories. But it also comes at a price. A price that Enzi and Erickson cheapen when they dismissively talk of “tutus.”

Erickson may believe that staying safe is as simple as never leaving your house or not living openly about who you are. But I doubt that’s a restriction he would stand for in his own life. ■

*\*Editor’s Note: Right after going to press we learned that Erickson’s blog is actually called The Resurgent, not The Repugnant. We do not regret the error.*

*2nd Editor’s Note: Wyoming is where Matthew Shepard was beaten to death in 1998. He was not wearing a tutu.*

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



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# Soul searcher

Tony Award winner Billy Porter talks arts activism, his play on 'the lost generation' of gay men... and returning to 'Kinky Boots'

Iconic soulstress Nina Simone questioned her place in the world as a black woman after learning of four young African-American girls who were killed in the bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Ala., in 1963. She responded defiantly with "Mississippi Goddamn," a political anthem that acknowledged, "All I want is equality for my sister, my brother, my people and me."

Sociopolitical demonstrations have long been woven into various musical genres — even Katy Perry's ironically shiny single, this year's "Chained to the Rhythm," underscores, like "Mississippi Goddamn," continued minority suppression.

In 2013, Billy Porter left his mark on socially-conscious art while originating the role of Lola, a drag queen who finds common ground with a shoemaker in the Broadway musical *Kinky Boots*. The role garnered him a Tony. This year, just days before Donald Trump's inauguration, Porter married his longtime partner, Adam Smith — in part because he wondered if he would be able to after Trump took office.

But acts of sociopolitical defiance in the face of a minority-deserting administration extend also to his latest album, *Billy Porter Presents: The Soul of Richard Rodgers*. Among the classic selections: the hopeful "Edelweiss" from *The Sound of Music*, intentionally released as the album's first single on Trump's Inauguration Day. We asked him about that, and what else he has cooking. ■

— Chris Azzopardi





**Dallas Voice: Why end the album with “Edelweiss”?** Billy Porter: If you’ve ever seen *The Sound of Music*, “Edelweiss” is the song they sing as they try to escape Austria during the Nazi regime. I was making a very specific statement about Inauguration Day — that we need to pray and we need to engage, and we need to be visible and we need to be like that Edelweiss flower and still bloom in the darkest of times, in the coldest of times.

**What’s your past relationship with Richard Rodgers’ music?** He is from the Golden Era of musical theater, when musical-theater music was what was on the radio. He had managed to crack through the Zeitgeist in a way that not a lot of composers can because still, even to this day, his music is very popular, so everybody knows a Richard Rodgers song. When you hear how we deconstruct the material and try to update it for a new millennium, you’ll hear them in a totally different way than before.

**Which song of Richard’s do you feel closest to?** Probably “Edelweiss,” just because it means so much every time I sing it, and it makes me feel like I’m contributing. For some reason, society today thinks that artists should just shut up and not talk about politics, and I don’t really understand that, because we’ve always been the people who illuminate — we speak truth to power in creative ways and create conversations and can change hearts and minds. So I’m going back to that. You know, I’m just interested in the president not lying. I’m just interested in that. To go from what we had to this is just horrifying.

**As a recently married man, how does it feel to be “official” in Trump’s America?** Well, you know, we got married before he took office for that very reason, because we just wanted to make that clear. I mean, it’s weird because it’s my job, you know? My job is to try to reach across and speak to people who we don’t normally speak to and come to an understanding. Music is universal, and it breaks down walls and barriers.

**You say it’s your “job” to reach across the aisle — does that feel even truer after doing *Kinky Boots*?** Yeah, because when I was doing *Kinky Boots* the first time, it was about being in the middle of change that was moving in our direction. Now, it’s about making sure our rights don’t get rolled back. It’s a different climate. It’s a lesson in understanding that it’s ongoing and forever. You have to fight for the rights and then defend the rights forever. If we didn’t learn that before, we know it now.

**Are you going to any red-state cities on this tour?** This first leg, yeah, I am. I’m going to Florida and Indiana, and some other places all over the country. I’m excited to do it because I lead with love, and I feel like no matter what disagreement there may be, I’m leading with love. I’m here to hear you. I’m here to talk about it. And I’m here to actually have

rational conversation.

But I’m not interested in having *irrational* conversations, and that needs to get called out. I think we have sort of begun the first steps of doing that — recalibrating. The press thought he was such a joke that they didn’t pay attention to him, really, and then he got away from us, and the world is in chaos. So, it’s a far more political show than I have been doing recently.

**Political how?** I have some protest music in the old-school tradition of the ones who came before me, like the Nina Simones, the Harry Belafontes and Curtis Mayfields — that movement of music that was about educating and speaking truth to power and making sure our voices were being heard. That kind of art needs to come back.

**Tell me how you wound up re-imagining these songs within an R&B framework.** It just kind of came together. It started out as an idea. We did a concert back in 2009 at a theater in Los Angeles, where the focus was deconstructed arrangements. We went from jazz all the way through to modern hip-hop, and so when the album came around, I thought we should really focus on being fresh and innovative in terms of sound. I thought the R&B and soul versions of these was something we hadn’t really heard a lot about.

**In the early aughts, you told *The New York Times* that you’re one of few Broadway performers to have an R&B album.** That’s why I did this album, because that’s really the biggest point I’m making: which is, we sing like this. We do it like this. And we do it eight times a week. So, wake up and listen, ‘cause this album stands up next to any R&B soul album ever made. It stands up to it, and I know that. The new album, I’m really proud of it. We just need to embrace it and write more material now, and I think *Hamilton* kicked that door down. I’m writing a contemporary-gospel musical right now — we have to show up and create the material.

**How did the idea come to you?** I’ve always wanted to do it; I just needed a way in, because religion can be so polarizing. How do we remain authentic to the genre while embracing people who don’t necessarily believe in the language of the doctrine that gospel music sort of came out of? How we tell it — telling the audience and teaching them how to hear it, teaching how to watch it — is very important. How do we teach people how to watch us? How do we teach people how to hear us that embraces them and not makes them feel alienated? The focus is love. That’s what’s in the room, and it doesn’t matter what life you live outside of there. We’re talking about us right here, right now. I don’t know if that’s gonna work, but that was the way that I could write it. And it’s not about religion at all, by the way. It just happens to exist inside of the music that represents religion.

■ SOUL, Page 20



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Photo by Joan Marcus

**L+S** stage

# Happy endings

‘Into the Woods:’ Out music director Evan Rees leads a fairy tale life

**EVAN'S BACK:** Conductor Evan Rees sits at the piano throughout the performance of the new minimalistic staging of ‘Into the Woods,’ which settles into the Winspear this week

**SCOTT HUFFMAN** | Contributing Writer  
[Scott\\_in-dallas@yahoo.com](mailto:Scott_in-dallas@yahoo.com)

Ordinarily, conductors of musicals perform their duties with their backs to the audience and their heads barely visible, standing vigil in an orchestra pit. But that’s sooooo last millennium. In a new production of Stephen Sondheim’s *Into the Woods*, created by the Fiasco Theater and coming to the Winspear for a run starting this week, out music director and pianist Evan Rees is put squarely onstage throughout the entire two-and-a-half hour performance.

“It’s a big part of the set,” Rees says of the show’s upright piano, where he sits and plays. “It gets used a lot and climbed on and all sorts of stuff. And I’m playing it mercilessly the whole time.”

This is just one element of this version of the hit riff on fairy tales, which has been hailed for its minimalism. The show employs only a handful of actors, most of whom take on multiple roles. The set, costumes and props are simple and understated, a creative decision that makes the show almost entirely actor-driven and encourages audience imagination. But these artistic decisions should come as no surprise from

a theater company that is widely known for its Shakespeare productions.

“I think what makes this interpretation special is that we’ve done away with a lot of the spectacle,” Rees explains. “What you are left with is the beating heart at the core of the show. And it really lays bare all of the human experiences that are going on with these characters. I think it makes it that much more relatable and also moving.”

Without question, *Into the Woods* — with music and lyrics by Sondheim and book by James Lapine — is an intricate show. It interlocks aspects of several familiar fairy tales and explores multiple themes.

For this reason, it is difficult for Rees to pinpoint one part of the story that most resonates with him ... or even to pick one song that is his favorite.

“I feel like one of the most amazing things about this show is that depending on where you are in your life, or even where you are in your day or your week, there is something different for you to cling to,” Rees says. “One of the reasons I’m not even close to being bored with the show is that every day something slightly different about the show hits me in a

## INTO THE WOODS

Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. May 16-28. [ATTPAC.org](http://ATTPAC.org).





different way.”

For Rees, the most exciting part of working with this particular company is the idea of being fully immersed in the production. By performing alongside the actors, he feels his involvement is more than simply musical. In fact, Rees is the only person who never once leaves the stage during the entire performance.

“I guess for me, being able to actually be up onstage with the actors makes it a much more visceral experience so that it almost allows me to feel like I’m a character who is contributing,” Rees says. “It’s amazing and something that you really don’t get as much if you are just in the pit.”

But this level of involvement also exacts a physical toll. Every performance requires high levels of focus, energy and intensity. And the score is not exactly an easy one to play.

“This production in particular is exhausting,” Rees explains. “When we are on the edges of the stage — not in the scene that’s happening — we are making sound effects or playing instruments. And when [the actors] are not doing that, they are watching and throwing all their focus into the show.”

While *Into the Woods* does not directly address any LGBT issues, Rees finds that many of the show’s messages have universal appeal. One in particular is the theme of community. While the show’s characters spend a great deal of time bickering, they ultimately learn that to solve their problems they must work together.

“I think something really important to the gay community is just that — the idea of community,” Rees says. “I think sometimes we struggle with making sure that we are coming together and being inclusive of everybody. That’s one of the things the show really drives home. The idea that you have to come together and let everyone contribute what they can contribute and find your way out of the woods, so to speak, as a team.”

As for finding success in musical theater, Rees offers simple guidance. Once again, he emphasizes working as a community.

“The best advice is just to be nice and to be a good person,” Rees says. “Especially in theater, if you are not nice or you are unpleasant to be around, nobody wants to work with you. And why should they? You create this collaborative art. It’s not about you or anyone else, it’s about what you are creating together.” ■

# Hollywood Feed



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# Chevy, side by side

How 2 Chevrolets — the Malibu and the Cruze — approach fuel efficiency

**CASEY WILLIAMS** | Auto Reviewer  
autocasey@aol.com

If Chevrolet is not among the auto brands that come immediately to mind when thinking of fuel-efficient hybrids and diesels, adjust your brainwaves. Recent romps in the Malibu Hybrid and Cruze Diesel were convincing.

## Chevy Malibu Hybrid

One of the most fuel-efficient cars you can buy is the Malibu Hybrid. While not a plug-in, it leverages battery and motor technology developed for the Chevy Volt extended-range electric vehicle and Bolt EV.

It's powered by a lithium-ion battery pack that can ease the car up to 55 miles



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Getting 49 mpg isn't the end of the technology for the Malibu, just the beginning; the Cruze offers surprising smoothness for a Diesel.

per hour on electricity alone (for short distances). As the battery depletes and speed increases, the 1.8-liter four-cylinder engine automatically starts to continue your journey. All in, the powertrain delivers 182 horsepower and 277 lb.-ft. of torque for smooth spirited performance. Regenerative brakes recover energy, enabling 49/43-MPG city/hwy.

That's not where the technology show ends, either. The car also comes with a standard rear vision camera and 4G LTE Wi-Fi hotspot. Apple CarPlay and Android Auto compatibility make connecting smartphones easy. It can be optioned with Bose audio, heated leather seats, automatic climate control and wireless phone charging, too.

While some hybrids look like ugly blobs, the Malibu Hybrid projects elegance with its split Chevy grille, 17-in. alloy wheels, creasing of bodysides that hint at classic-era fenders and fastback roofline. Interiors are graced with stitched dash materials, large touchscreen, and ample space for five.

Safety was not forgotten; the Driver Confidence Package adds city-speed front automatic braking, front pedestrian detection/braking, side blind zone alert, and lane keeping assist. Forward collision alert, rear cross-traffic alert and following distance indicator are also part of the safety suite.

Whether creeping through city traffic or fast-footing it on the freeway, the Malibu Hybrid is a fly ride. A base price of \$28,750 makes it relatively affordable, but if you prefer your efficiency with a side of diesel, keep reading.

#### Chevy Cruze Diesel

To get hybrid fuel economy without batteries and

motors, go diesel — as in the Cruze TD (for Turbo Diesel, of course). It's a satisfying car to pilot.

The heart and soul of the Cruze TD is a 1.6-liter four-cylinder turbo diesel engine generating 137 horsepower and 240 lb.-ft. of torque — all routed through a 9-speed automatic transmission. Fuel economy for our car is rated 31/47-MPG city/hwy, but achieves up to 52-MPG hwy with a manual transmission. And it's not just about power. A turbo diesel is enjoyable to drive because it offers low-end torque for dep muscles and smooth turbo boost under throttle. It's like feeling your mama's heart beating while sailing by the wind. The suspension offers the right balance of comfort during cruising and firmness when shoved through corners.

It's also chic with brown heated leather seats, brown stitched coverings on the dash and doors, and chrome detailing around every vent. A heated leather-wrapped steering wheel adds comfort. It's also loaded with technology that includes a 7-in. touchscreen with Apple CarPlay and Android Auto compatibility, Bluetooth, rear USB for charging and 4G Wi-Fi hotspot. Bring all of your gear, connect and go.

Styling is handsome. The fender crease in front is a little odd, but 16-in. alloys and arching roof work well together. Deep bodylines add character. For those who want a car that looks "green," the Cruze shares themes with the plug-in Chevy Volt.

Diesels can be noisy, but the Cruze TD is smooth, quiet and outfitted more like a small luxury sedan than a basic fuel miser. Passengers are pampered like they bought a \$35,000 Audi, but will only pay \$27,395 for a car like ours. ■

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■ SOUL, From Page 14

**How far into it are you?** I just finished the first draft, and I'm writing it with [gospel performer and composer] Kurt Carr. We got about 17 songs, which is good. I also have a play that's in development at the Public Theater about what I call "the lost generation" of gay men my age — 47 — who came out in the '80s and went straight to the frontlines to fight for our lives and here we are 30 years later. Those of us who survived have PTSD and we know how to fight a lot, but we don't really know how to live. I'm excited to be talking about that in creative ways.

**Both of these pieces sound very close to you.** Yeah. Very, very, very close.

**This piece on the lost generation — what's**



**your role in its development?** I wrote it. It's in development right now, so it's the very beginning stages. But I'm also sort of speaking about it because that's how shit happens — you gotta speak it into action.

**Do you ever miss *Kinky Boots*?** I do. Especially now, because I feel like doing *Kinky Boots* in this political climate is an act of resistance. And it's the best kind, because, once again, it reaches out with love. It leads with love — it's art, so it opens up a different side of the blinds. People hear differently, people see differently.

**Do you have any interest in ever returning to that role?** I do, and I may at some point in the very near future. And that's all I'll say about that!

**Late last year Vice President Mike Pence attended a performance of *Hamilton* and actor Brandon Victor Dixon spoke out during the curtain call about whether this administration will protect minorities. If Pence attended *Kinky Boots*, how do you think you would've handled the situation?** I think Brandon was unbelievable. It's like, you represent us, you work for us and I hope that you remember that. There are a lot of people who are nervous about what you may or may not do. The politics you ran on do not feel like they include us, so we just want you to know that as you move forward. Remember us.

The thing about Trump's response was, you can't be a dictator, boo. You can't. We're not gonna do that. Whatever it takes, we've done it before, so pull it together, people, and let's start fighting. We gotta come together.

**Visit [InstanTEA at DallasVoice.com](http://InstanTEA.atDallasVoice.com) to read more interviews we conducted with musicians this week.**

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**Thursday** 05.18 —  
**Sunday** 05.21

**LIFE+STYLE**

best bets

**Texas Bear Round Up celebrates  
22nd event with Boot Camp**

The Texas Bear Round Up — one of the biggest bear events in the country — is an annual gathering of bears, wolves, otters and their admirers, put on by the Dallas Bears. This year's event arrives two months later than usual, with the theme Boot Camp. The meet-and-greet begins on Thursday, with parties, dinners, excursions and more all weekend long. Soldier up and have fun!

**DEETS:** Host hotel is the Hyatt Regency Dallas. For calendar of events and locations, visit [TBRU.org](http://TBRU.org).



**Friday** 05.19

**Think pink with the Dallas Red  
Foundation's Ruby City party**

The Dallas Red Foundation — a nonprofit ASO that raises money for Legacy Counseling Center and Founders Cottage — holds one of its signature parties, honoring Lifetime Achievement Award honoree Joe Pacetti. Ruby City: You're Not in Dallas Anymore features reigning Miss Red Jada Pinkett Fox, and appearances by Raquel Blake, Gloria Devine and DJ Stevie Ray at the cocktails-and-bites event. Tickets are just \$35 in advance.

**DEETS:** 7 for Parties, 150 Turtle Creek Blvd. 8–11 p.m. \*7 p.m. entry for VIP ticketholders). \$35–\$100. [DRFRubyCity.eventbrite.com](http://DRFRubyCity.eventbrite.com).

**Saturday** 05.13

**TITAS' annual Command Per-  
formance Gala highlights the  
best of the season and more**

There's still one more show in TITAS' 2016-17 season, but it's still the perfect time to celebrate what the organization does throughout the year. The annual Command Performance Gala features a host of special performances — some artists doing encores from the season, some doing original works commissioned for this event, including pieces from choreographers like Dwight Rhoden, Mia Michaels, Jessica Lang and Twyla Tharp.

**DEETS:** Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. 7 p.m. [ATTPAC.org](http://ATTPAC.org).

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## calendar highlights



Lucrecia Waggoner's exquisite arranged ceramics go on exhibit Saturday at Laura Rathe Fine Art in the Design District, with an artist's reception on opening night.

## ARTSWEEK 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. Through May 21. Start time will be after sundown (8:30 p.m.). DallasTheaterCenter.org.

**Trevor.** Kitchen Dog Theater has been itinerant for a few years (thank goodness they will be opening their own permanent space next year) and this time, they turn up at the Wyly Theatre for a short run of this play, a dark comedy about a chimp (played by Max Hartmann) at the center of a controversy. *Final weekend.* Studio Theatre at the Wyly, 2400 Flora St. KitchenDogTheater.org.

**Legally Blonde: The Musical.** Theatre Arlington, 305 W. Main St., Arlington. May 12–June 4. TheatreArlington.org.

**A Man of No Importance.** The newish Brick Road Theatre in Plano presents the charming chamber musical about a gay man deeply in the closet with B.J. Cleveland in the lead. *Final weekend.* Cox Playhouse, 1509 H Ave., Plano. BrickRoadTheatre.org.

**Susan and God.** The 1937 stage version of one of the films Joan Crawford made at MGM. *Final weekend.* Theatre 3, 2800 Routh St. in the Quadrangle. Theatre3Dallas.com.

**Disney's The Little Mermaid.** The charming stage adaptation of the movie musical, written by Dallasite Doug Wright. *Final weekend.* Casa Manana, 3101 W. Lancaster Ave., Fort Worth. CasaManana.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.

## FESTIVALS

**37th Scarborough Renaissance Festival.** The annual faire that takes you back to 17th century Europe features vendors, performances and cosplay. Scarborough Faire Grounds, FM 66 in Waxahachie (exit 399B off I-35). Weekends through May 29. SRFestival.com.

## FRIDAY 05.12

### COMMUNITY

**DFW Pride Happy Hour (formerly Hi Tech Happy Hour).** Monthly queer mixer sponsored by the TI Pride Network, and open to everyone. Resource Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road. 5:30–7:30 p.m.

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

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## SATURDAY 05.13

### DANCE

**TITAS Command Performance Gala.** The annual fundraiser and showcase of dance, presenting artists from the current season and beyond. Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. 7 p.m. ATPAC.org.

### FINE ART

**Lucrecia Waggoner: Stardust.** The local artist, who works in artfully and intricately planned ceramics and fine minerals, opens her latest display with an artist's reception May 13, 5–8 p.m. Laura Rathe Fine Art, 1130 Dragon St. Through June 17.

## SUNDAY 05.14 —

### MOTHER'S DAY

#### FILM

**The Golden Age of Mexican Cinema at the DMA.** A new, free program screens films from the 1930s–1950s. Dallas Museum of Art, 1717 Harwood St. For a complete schedule, visit DMA.org.

## MONDAY 05.15

### 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 05.16

### FILM

**Gaslight.** Ingrid Bergman's breathtakingly modern and delicate performance, which won her an Oscar, is only one of the joys in the moody Victorian film noir from George Cukor. Great work also by Charles Boyer and a young Angela Lansbury. 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.

### THEATER

**Inherit the Wind.** The dramatization of the Scopes Monkey Trial, which received its world premiere in Dallas in 1955, directed by Kevin Moriarty. Kalita Humphreys Theater, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. May 16–June 18 (in previews through May 25). DallasTheaterCenter.org.

**Into the Woods.** Stephen Sondheim and James Lapine's updating of fairy tales. *See story Page 16.* Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. May 16–28. ATPAC.org.

## THURSDAY 05.18

### 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.

### THEATER

**Fresh Reads: A Festival of New Plays.** Pegasus Theatre presents this festival of new comedies, including a gay update on Little Red Riding Hood.

Bath House Cultural Center, 521 E. Lawther Drive. May 18–27. PegasusTheatre.com.

## FRIDAY 05.19

### FESTIVAL

**Taste of Addison.** Annual foodie fest featuring many area restaurants. Addison Circle Park, 4970 Addison Circle Drive. May 19–21. \$15–\$30. TasteAddisonTexas.org.

## this week's solution

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



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



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# Cassie Nova

Everyone's stupid sometimes

Hey, all. You ever have one of those weeks that remind you of how stupid you really are? I have for sure had those, including this week. Let's start with last Monday. I was getting ready for my show at JR.'s and I stepped into the bathroom to put on my pads. It's a simple routine: I tuck, put on a pair of tights, stuff my padding *into* my tights and then put two more pairs of tights over that. It's exhausting, but it must be done. This week, it was the same routine ... only I dropped my second pair of tights into the toilet... and I had not flushed yet. I trashed them — they were looking a little worn anyway — and opened a brand new pair of tights... which I dropped on the floor. I bent over to pick them up, but am too close to the wall and bumped my ass, propelling me forward. I hit my head on the other wall. I felt stupid and embarrassed so I told no one of the huge knot on my dome. Wearing a wig that night was a constant reminder that I am an idiot.

Later in the week, I was super excited to be going to see *Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2*. The theater we go to in Mansfield has recently become one of those assigned-seating theaters, which I love — you can run late but know that your seat will be there and waiting for you (at least if you order your seats online, like we always do). My husband and I have a specific row we like to sit in — the first row behind the rail, in the two middle seats. I ordered four seats and invited our good friends Tyler and Brandon to join us.

The night was lovely. We had dinner at one of my favorite restaurants, Fish City Grill, and took our time getting to the movie theater. We get there just as the lights are about to go down but there are these people sitting in our seats. I was about to throw a fit when it was called to my attention that our seats were row A when I had meant to get seats on row E. My face cracked and my heart sank. We went to our horrible seats in the front row, which I bought the day they went on sale to make sure we got to sit where we like. I reclined my seat, looking almost straight up. I couldn't do it. I was about to just get a refund and leave but we brought friends so I pulled it together and went and exchanged our seats for some a little further back. I felt so stupid. I was literally the first person to buy tickets to that showing. I had our pick of any seat in the theater and my dumb ass somehow chose the front fucking row. Who does that? And who could watch a movie five feet from a giant screen anyway? Why is there even a row there? Where we ended up sitting was not ideal, but we had great company and we loved the movie film so we ended up having a great night. But it could have been better if I wasn't so stupid.

Thinking about it now, I realize I have had many such stupid moments over the years. When I was in seventh grade, we were supposed to sign up for a club. They had so many fun clubs to join — an A.V. club, a cooking class, astronomy even a wood-working club. My best friend Adam and I both saw the club we wanted to join: pottery. We thought, how fun, we get to work with clay and make stuff. We told his brother and got a couple of other friends to sign up for the same club. It was going to be awesome.

We showed up that Wednesday after lunch

but there were no clay or pottery wheels in sight. It was just a normal, boring old classroom, and the teacher was a nerdy, short, well-dressed fella. (Thinking about it now, he was definitely gay. I think his name was Mr. Ward.) Anyway, the teacher was *so* excited to see that so many people had signed up for his club. I asked, "When do we get to play in the clay and make stuff?" He kind of laughed and said, "This is the *poetry* club, not *pottery*. This school doesn't have a pottery club."

I don't know if it was a mass hallucination or if we all only saw what we wanted to see, but Adam and I were blamed for the whole debacle. I was the first to say pottery, though. Because of my fuck up, we had to spend an hour every other Wednesday writing, reading and performing poems. I was pissed off and felt so stupid that I just copied down song lyrics whenever we had to write our own poems. Mr. Ward praised me for my beautiful poem called "I'm Free." I took a chance that he didn't listen to much Kenny Loggins and prayed that he didn't have the *Footloose* soundtrack. When he asked if he could publish it in our schools paper, I humbly and shyly declined. Yes, I am stupid *and* a plagiarist, but I didn't need the world to know it. Until now. Sorry, Mr. Ward.

If you have had really stupid moments, and we all have, I'd love to hear about them. Mostly so I don't feel so bad. Send me your stupid stories or ask for some advice to AskCassieNova@gmail.com, like these folks below.



Dear Cassie, I've been a huge fan of drag shows ever since I saw my first one 40 years ago. After enjoying shows around the country over the years, I can honestly say that you and the entire cast of the Rose Room are the best in biz. How has the art of drag changed from when you first started to the current state of performance now? Any anecdotes from the Donna Day period of the Rose Room back in the '80s/'90s? Signed, Longtime Fan.

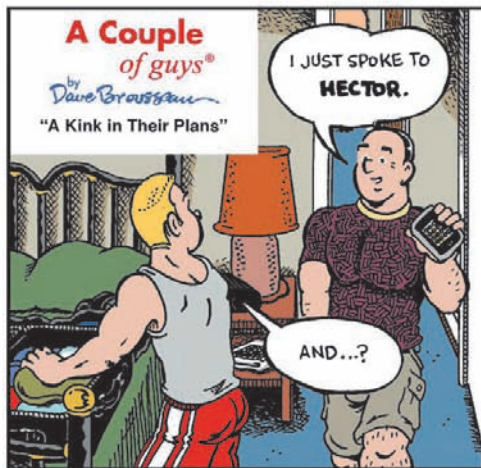
Thanks, LF, I appreciate your kind words. Drag certainly has changed and evolved over the years. I loved how much acceptance we have seen for drag recently, partially because of *RuPaul's Drag Race*. When I first started, drag had its fans, but there was still a sense of separation, even from the gay community. It is still there, but more and more people are seeing it for what it is: an art form. One of the bad things to come out of this instant gratification culture we live in is that many young drag queens learn makeup on YouTube and think that being pretty is all it takes to be in show. Many of the prettiest queens on *Drag Race* are horrible when they are booked in the clubs — not all of them, some of them kill it onstage, of course. I just don't like these queens with huge egos and little actual talent other than looking cute. Dance, sing, be funny — just *do* something.

We are lucky here in Texas, especially Dallas. We have had some of the greatest ever who live and show their talents here. Coco, Tasha Kohl, Naomi Sims, Whitney Paige and so many more have paved the way for the showgirls of today. The art has changed but masses are still entertained.

I do have a few good Donna Day stories; here is my favorite. For you young'uns, Donna was one of the original Rose Room cast members. She was a big girl, wore false teeth and could be meaner than a viper, but she was also one of the most generous, funny and caring cunts I have ever known. When I was a newbie to the Rose Room cast, at Christmas I gave all of the other girls a set of candles that sat on glass pillars. Donna said she loved it, thanked me and took it home. A few months later on my birthday, I walk into the dressing room and there is a beautifully wrapped gift from Donna sitting at my station. I open it and it is the candles I gave her for Christmas. I said, "You bitch, I gave this to you." She said, "No I bought that just for you." I flipped the box over and on the bottom it said "To Donnas from Cassie." She just laughed and said, "Sorry, girl!" I miss her!

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

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







Jordan and Zach at Alexandre's



BJ's NXS! dancer Sunel Molina shows off his Readers Voice Award for Best Exotic Dancer.



Handsome staff at The Round-Up Saloon



AB and Orlando on the patio at Havana's



Networking at the North Texas GLBT Chamber of Commerce event



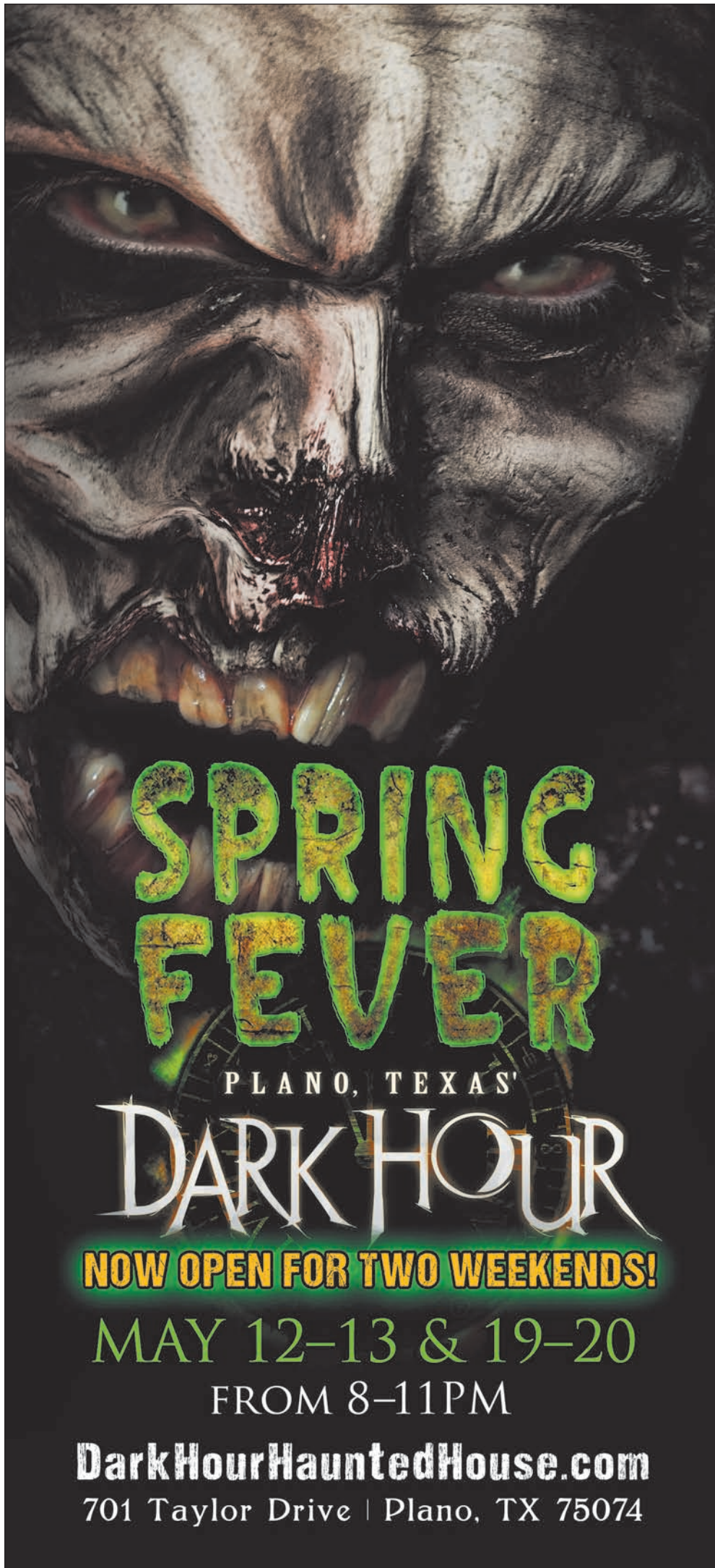
Jay and Larry on The Strip

Making the **SCENE** the week of **May 12-18:**

- **Alexandre's:** Chris Chism and the Band on Friday. Stephanie Sallie on Saturday. Wayne Smith on Sunday. K-Marie on Broadway on a Tuesday. Bianka on Wednesday. Chris Chism on Thursday.
- **Club Changes:** The Divine Miss Divas Show at 10 p.m. on Friday.
- **Club Reflection:** TGRA Cookout at 4 pm on Sunday.
- **Wall of Food Show** at 8 pm Thursday
- **Dallas Eagle:** Discipline Corps club night on Friday. NLA-Dallas club night on Saturday.
- **JR.'s Bar & Grill:** Cassie's Freak Show at 11 p.m. on Monday.
- **Rainbow Lounge:** Selena at 9 p.m. on Saturday.
- **Round-Up Saloon:** Round-Up Employee Turnabout presents: Bearded Ladies from 8-11 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Sue Ellen's:** Ciao Bella on Saturday. Bella & Darla at 3:30 p.m. followed by Bad Habits on Sunday. Open mic night with Bella & Izzy on Wednesday.
- **Urban Cowboy Saloon:** TGRA Show from 7 – 9 pm Saturday
- **Woody's Sports & Video Bar:** Dallas Woody's XP Upper C presents Extra Innings with raffles from 4-7 p.m.
- **Zipper's:** Sounds by Rudeboy Dallas from 9 p.m.-2 a.m. on Tuesday.

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





Smiling faces on The Strip



Paul at TMC: The Mining Company



One for all and all for one on The Strip



Striking a pose on The Strip





Live music jamming at Sue Ellen's



Getting friendly on The Strip



Enjoying the evening at Sue Ellen's

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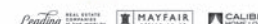
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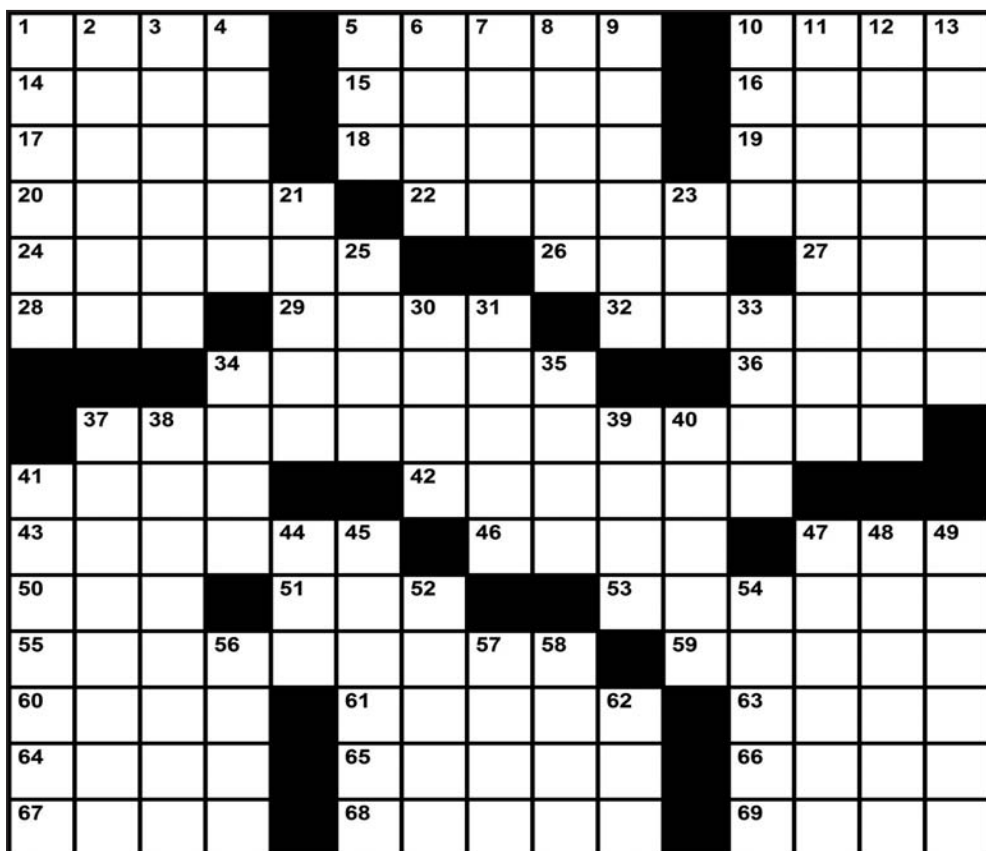
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## In So Mandy Words

Solution on Page 23

### Across

- 1 Scottish head covers  
 5 *The Wizard of Oz* dropout Buddy  
 10 BenGay target  
 14 Sinead O'Connor's country  
 15 Frida known for self-portraits  
 16 Fruit \_\_\_\_ (gay district)  
 17 Plot unit  
 18 Big name in fairy tales  
 19 "\_\_\_\_ want is a room somewhere ..."  
 20 "Mandy" singer Manilow  
 22 Start of a quote from 20-Across made at the 2016 Ella Awards  
 24 Battery terminals  
 26 *Diff'rent Strokes* actress Charlotte  
 27 Sgt. or corp.  
 28 M. Hirschfeld's land  
 29 PAC of seniors  
 32 Performed wrongly  
 34 Experiencing REM, maybe  
 36 Guitarist Townshend  
 37 More of the quote  
 41 Head for the hills  
 42 Syracuse setting  
 43 15-Across, for one  
 46 Dorothy's dog

- 47 Von Trapp rank in *The Sound of Music* (abbr.)  
 50 Join the Kneelers  
 51 Sch. for Rev. Spahr  
 53 Win the favor of  
 55 End of the quote  
 59 Manager Kief, husband of 20-Across  
 60 Just one of those things  
 61 Not erect  
 63 Women on top, at times  
 64 Green stones material  
 65 "Over my dead body!"  
 66 "Hold your horses!"  
 67 Nonheterosexual conception  
 68 SNL's Cheri  
 69 Inn inventory

### Down

- 1 Dip it in your cup  
 2 Hard to know  
 3 "Snow White" fairness judge  
 4 Mortimer, with a wooden head  
 5 Heart test  
 6 Adriatic seaport  
 7 Tough guy penetrator  
 8 Recipient of Bugs' kisses  
 9 Negative to a dominatrix  
 10 What there oughta be  
 11 Strainer in Feniger's kitchen  
 12 Jeremy Irons' Rome, in *The Borgias*  
 13 *Modern Family* installment  
 21 It helps a baker get it up  
 23 Island necklace  
 25 Barneys event  
 30 Cincinnati team  
 31 Itty-bitty, to Baudelaire  
 33 Able to bend over  
 34 Start to climax  
 35 A little, to Leonard Bernstein  
 37 Male prostitute's discharge?  
 38 Cockpit reading  
 39 Trifling amount  
 40 "\_\_\_\_ Comes Mary" (The Association)  
 41 Barkless pooch  
 44 Digits used to "render unto Caesar"  
 45 Selena's music style  
 47 Some like it hot  
 48 Early release  
 49 No-tell motel meetings  
 52 Choral work  
 54 Country house, to Nureyev  
 56 Top draft level  
 57 Center of activity  
 58 Glenn Burke, formerly  
 62 Bi plus one

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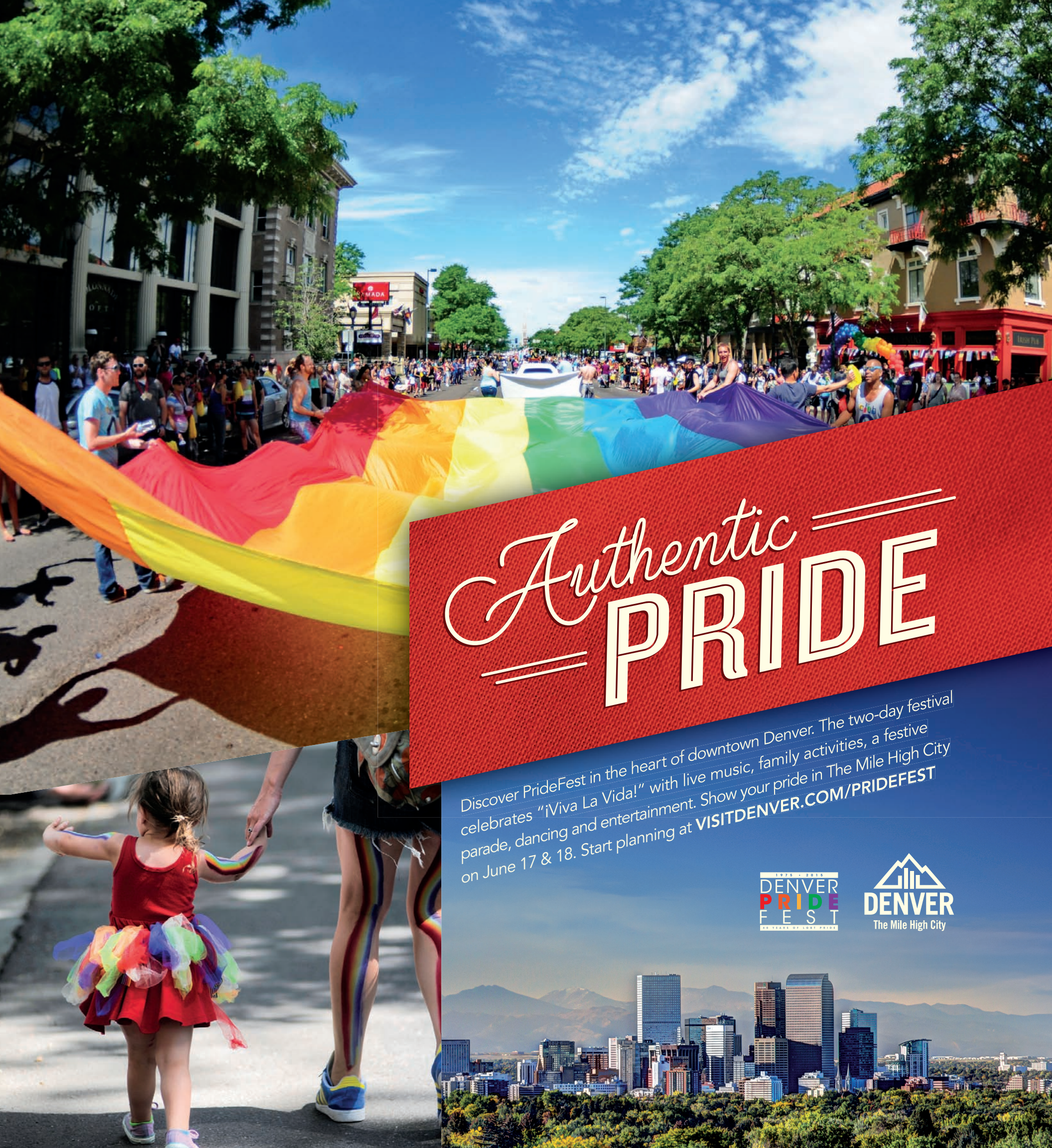
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