

# dallasvoice

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NATIONAL PRIDE  
TWENTY SEVENTEEN



## What is TRUVADA for PrEP?

TRUVADA for PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis) is a prescription medicine that is used together with safer sex practices to help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 through sex. This use is only for HIV-negative adults who are at high risk of getting HIV-1. To help determine your risk of getting HIV-1, talk openly with your healthcare provider about your sexual health.

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

## IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

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

#### Before taking TRUVADA for PrEP:

- ◆ **You must be HIV-negative before you start taking TRUVADA for PrEP.**

You must get tested to make sure that you do not already have HIV-1. Do not take TRUVADA 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 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:

- ◆ **You must continue to use 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:**

- Get tested for HIV-1 at least every 3 months.
- If you think you were exposed to HIV-1, tell your healthcare provider right away.

- ◆ **To further help reduce your risk of getting HIV-1:**

- Know your HIV status and the HIV status of your partners.
- Get tested for other sexually transmitted infections. Other infections make it easier for HIV to infect you.
- Get information and support to help reduce risky sexual behavior, such as having fewer sex partners.
- Do not miss any doses of TRUVADA. Missing doses may increase your risk of getting HIV-1 infection.

- ◆ **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:

- ◆ **Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** TRUVADA is not approved to treat HBV. If you have HBV and stop taking TRUVADA, your HBV may suddenly get worse. Do not stop taking TRUVADA without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to monitor your health.

### 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.
- ◆ **Also take** certain medicines to treat hepatitis B infection.

### 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. If you develop kidney problems, your healthcare provider may tell you to stop taking TRUVADA.
- ◆ **Too much lactic acid in your blood** (lactic acidosis), which is a serious but rare medical emergency that can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: weakness or being more tired than usual, unusual muscle pain, being short of breath or fast breathing, stomach pain with nausea and vomiting, cold or blue hands and feet, feel dizzy or lightheaded, or a fast or abnormal heartbeat.
- ◆ **Severe liver problems**, which in rare cases can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: 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, or stomach-area pain.
- ◆ **Bone problems**, including bone pain, softening, or thinning, which may lead to fractures. Your healthcare provider may do tests to check your bones.

**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.

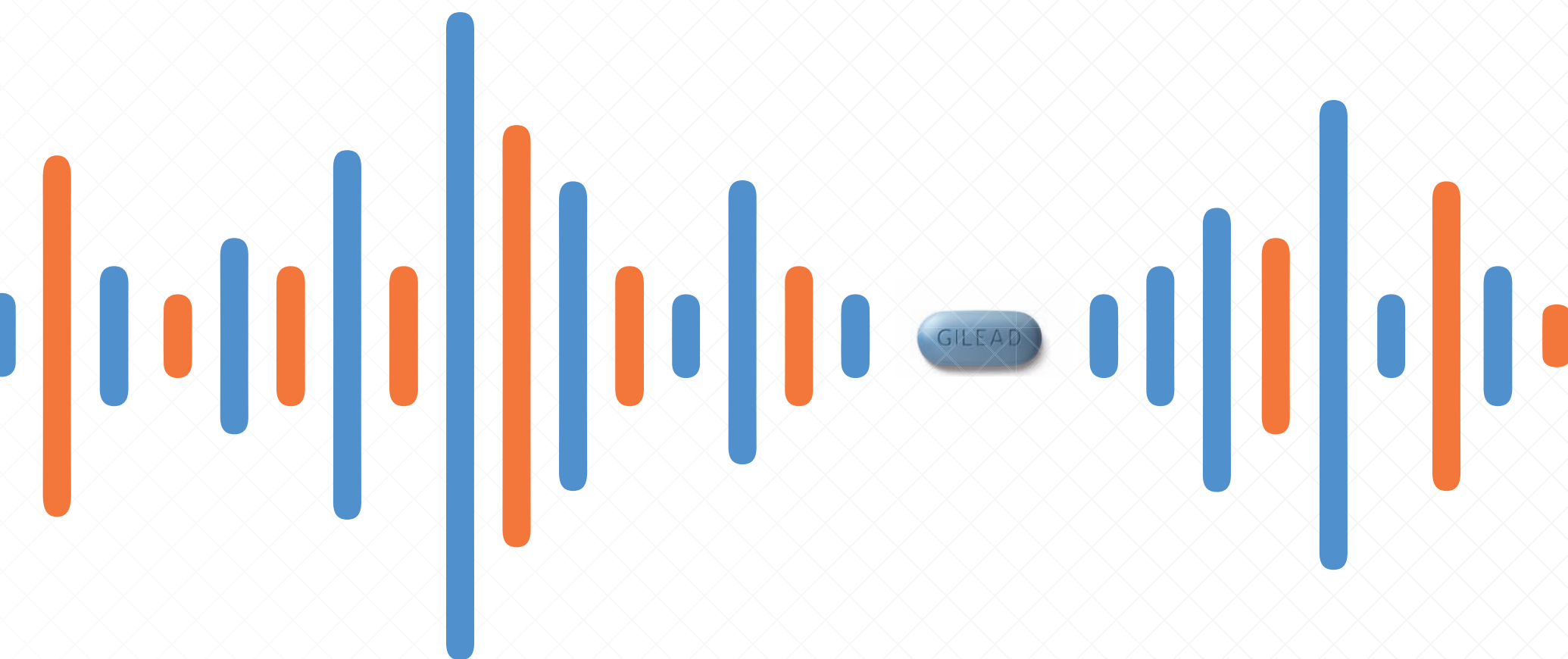
### What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking TRUVADA for PrEP?

- ◆ **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.
- ◆ **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.
- ◆ **If you are breastfeeding** (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed. If you become HIV-positive, HIV 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, your healthcare provider may need to check you more often or change your dose. These medicines include certain medicines to treat hepatitis C (HCV) infection.

**You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit [www.FDA.gov/medwatch](http://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**.

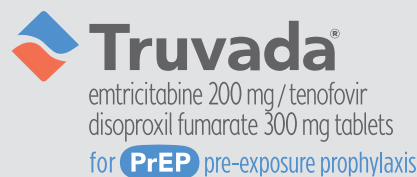
- TRUVADA for PrEP is only for **adults who are at high risk of getting HIV through sex**.
- You **must be HIV-negative** before you start taking TRUVADA for PrEP.

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

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## MOST IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT TRUVADA FOR PrEP

### Before starting TRUVADA for PrEP:

- **You must be HIV-1 negative.** You must get tested to make sure that you do not already have HIV-1. 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:

- **You must continue to use 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.** Get tested for HIV-1 at least every 3 months while taking TRUVADA for PrEP. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you think you were exposed to HIV-1 or have a flu-like illness while taking TRUVADA for PrEP.
- **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:

- **Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** TRUVADA is not approved to treat HBV. If you have HBV, your HBV may suddenly get 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.

## ABOUT TRUVADA FOR PrEP

TRUVADA for PrEP is a prescription medicine used together with safer sex practices to help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 through sex. This use is only for HIV-negative adults who are at high risk of getting HIV-1.

- To help determine your risk of getting HIV-1, talk openly with your healthcare provider 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 certain medicines to treat hepatitis B infection.

## 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.
- Use TRUVADA for PrEP together with condoms and safer sex practices.
- Get tested for HIV-1 at least every 3 months. You must stay HIV-negative to keep taking TRUVADA for PrEP.

## 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.

## 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.
- Too much lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis), which is a serious but rare medical emergency that can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: weakness or being more tired than usual, unusual muscle pain, being short of breath or fast breathing, stomach pain with nausea and vomiting, cold or blue hands and feet, feel dizzy or lightheaded, or a fast or abnormal heartbeat.
- Severe liver problems, which in rare cases can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: 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, or stomach-area pain.
- Bone problems.

**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.
- 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-positive, HIV can pass to the baby in breast milk.

### 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 FURTHER REDUCE YOUR RISK

- Know your HIV status and the HIV status of your partners.
- Get tested for other sexually transmitted infections. Other infections make it easier for HIV to infect you.
- Get information and support to help reduce risky sexual behavior, such as having 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. Talk to your healthcare provider or pharmacist to learn more, including how to prevent HIV infection.
- Go to [start.truvada.com](http://start.truvada.com) or call 1-800-GILEAD-5
- If you need help paying for your medicine, visit [start.truvada.com](http://start.truvada.com) for program information.



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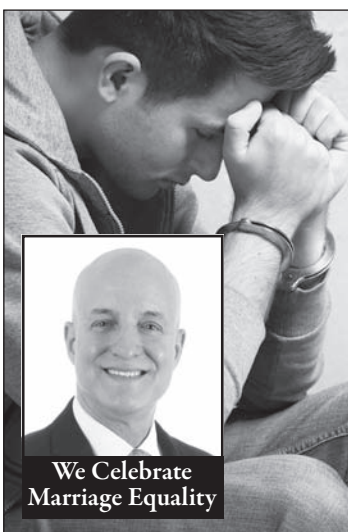
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Artist Yuriy Karabash hugs a family member of a victim at the Pulse nightclub, Monday, June 12, in front of his mural commemorating the one-year anniversary of the June 12, 2016, massacre that killed 49 at Pulse. (Joe Burbank /Orlando Sentinel via AP)

## Straus rejects bathroom bill

Speaker of the House Joe Straus, R-San Antonio, rejected the idea of passing a bathroom bill being pushed by the governor and lieutenant governor. The bathroom bill targeting the transgender community is included in a list of items the governor wants considered in the 30-day special session he called that begins in mid-July.

"We are starting to send the wrong signal about who we are as a state," Straus told school board members from across the state attending a conference in San Antonio.

Referring to the effect a similar law had on the North Carolina economy that has cost jobs in that state as well as lost North Carolina sports events and conventions, he said, "We seem determined to repeat the mistakes other states have made."

Under House rules, the Speaker can't prevent the bathroom bill from getting on the agenda, but he can maneuver debates, committee meetings and the order in which bills come to the floor to make sure it doesn't come up for a vote before the session ends.

— David Taffet

## Lesbian officer saves lives of congressmen

Once again, an LGBT person is credited with saving the lives of elected officials. Capitol Police Officer Crystal Griner, who is lesbian, is one of the heroes of the shooting at a baseball field in Virginia yesterday.

Griner was one of two officers who was at the field where Republican congressmen were practicing for tonight's game when a gunman began shooting at Republican congressmen. GOP House Whip Steve Scalise remains in critical condition after the shooting, but everyone on the field agreed the scene would have been a blood-bath without Griner's heroic action when she and another officer charged the gunman.

From a White House pool report: "The first couple also met with Capitol Police Officer Crystal Griner and her wife. They got the second bouquet of flowers."

In 2011, a gay man was credited with saving the life of Congresswoman Gabby Giffords. In that incident, intern Daniel Hernandez Jr., who is openly gay, was accompanying Giffords in her district where she was meeting constituents. When she was shot, Hernandez actions were credited with saving her life.

In 1975, a gay man was credited with saving the life of President Gerald Ford. Oliver Wellington 'Billy' Sipple was a decorated US Marine and Vietnam War vet who was gay. On Sept. 22, 1975, he bumped Sara Jane Moore as she fired a pistol at US President Gerald Ford in San Francisco, causing her to miss.

— David Taffet

## Resource Center speaks out against ACA repeal

Resource Center officials, along with representatives of 150 other organizations across the country, have signed a letter asking senators not to repeal the Affordable Care Act. The letter was written and sent by representatives of The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights based in Washington, D.C.

The letter points out that repeal and reduction in Medicaid would leave 23 million people without health insurance, including 14 million who would lose coverage immediately. The new law would impact especially "individuals and families living in poverty, people of color, women, immigrants, LGBTQ individuals, individuals with disabilities, seniors and individuals with limited English proficiency."

Medicaid, they point out, covers one in five Americans, one in three children and 10 million people with disabilities.

"We urge you to oppose any repeal of the Affordable Care Act, attempts to change Medicaid's open-ended funding guarantee into a block grant or per capita caps," they ask senators now considering a repeal of ACA that may be voted on before Congress recesses for the 4th of July.

— David Taffet



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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 incoming Dallas City Councilman **Omar Narvaez**; **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; **Lambda AA** meets at 7 a.m., noon, 6 p.m. 8 p.m. and 11 p.m. and has a men's meeting at 10 a.m. on Saturdays and meets at 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. on Sunday at 1575 W. Mockingbird Lane #625. Call 214-267-0222 for details; **DVtv in Spayse**, news and entertainment discussion live streaming every Friday, 4-5 p.m., on the Spayse Station YouTube channel.

## JUNE

- **Through June 18: Juneteenth** Dallas Southern Pride presents its Juneteenth Festival. See Pages 14 and 42 for more information.

- **June 16: Federal Club Mixer** DFW Federal Club and Human Rights Campaign host the Federal Club Mixer for Federal Club members, prospective members. LGBTQ adults and allies from 6-8 p.m. at the Dallas Holocaust Museum

Center for Education and Tolerance, 211 N. Record St., Ste. 100 Attendance is free but guests are asked to preregister online at [FCJuneMixer2017.eventbrite.com](http://FCJuneMixer2017.eventbrite.com). Free vodka will be served compliments of Equality Vodka.

- **June 16: Dallas Wings Pride Night** WNBA team Dallas Wings celebrate LGBT Pride Month with Pride Night during their game with the New York Liberty, 7 p.m. at College Park Center, 600 S. Center St. in Arlington. Tickets available at a discount price online at [DallasWings.com/Promo](http://DallasWings.com/Promo), using the code VOICE17.

- **June 16: Lunch and Learn** Abounding Prosperity presents Juneteenth Lunch and Learn on viral suppression from noon-2 p.m. at Marriott Suites Market Center, 2493 North Stemmons Freeway. Lunch provided free. RSVP at [tinyurl.com/m57hfn6](http://tinyurl.com/m57hfn6).

- **June 16: CineWilde** CineWilde presents "Gay Sex in the '70s" at 9 p.m. at Texas Theatre, 231 W. Jefferson Blvd. Includes discussion.

- **June 17: Operation Kindness** Alumni celebration and open house. A homecoming event for furry alumni — dogs and cats adopted from the no-kill shelter from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at Operation Kindness, 3201 Earhart Dr., Carrollton.

- **June 17: Summer Lovin' 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](http://MyResourceCenter.org/gaybingo).

- **June 17: Different Strokes Golf Association (DSGA)** Playdate open to all interested golfers, starting at 9 a.m. at Twin Creeks Golf Course, 501 Twin Creeks Drive, Allen. \$60 includes golf, cart and range balls. [DSGADallas.org](http://DSGADallas.org) or email [info@DSGADallas.org](mailto:info@DSGADallas.org) for information.

- **June 20: 'Moonlight' screening** Free Pride month screening of Moonlight sponsored by Coalition for Aging LGBT at 7 p.m. at AMC NorthPark 15, 8687 N. Central Expwy #3000. RSVP for free tickets at 844-418-2281.

- **June 20: Get Centered** Behind the scenes tour of the Resource



Dallas Wings guard Allisha Gray takes the ball down the court during the Wings' June 11 game against the Minnesota Lynx. The Wings celebrate Pride Night Friday, June 16, during their game against the New York Liberty. See listings for details. (Tailyr Irvine/Dallas Morning News via AP)

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

- **June 21: SMU Pride** SMU Pride, an affinity group for LGBTQ alumni of SMU, holds its kick-off meeting from 6-7 p.m. at 6200 N. Central Expressway, third floor. Interested alumni are invited to discuss the structure and objectives. For informations email [pride@alumni.smu.edu](mailto:pride@alumni.smu.edu).

- **June 22: Transgender Forum at City Hall** The City of Dallas LGBT Employees Association has invited guest speakers to educate and answer questions on transgender awareness and issues in the workplace. Refreshments. From noon-1 p.m. in the Dallas City Hall Auditorium, 1500 Marilla St.

- **June 23: Friday Night Trivia Fight** Legal Hospice of Texas and NexBank present a fundraiser that pits teams of eight against each other in a four-round trivia bout made up of crazy, fun categories and questions in this ultimate battle of wits from 7-10 p.m. at Fair Park, Hall of State, 3939 Grand Ave.

- **June 23: Gay Pride Shabbat** Congregation Beth El Binah, TE-LGBT and Temple Shalom LGBTQ Pride celebrate the ancient Jewish holiday Gay Pride Shabbat.

Pre-service Oneg Shabbat at 6:30 p.m., service at 7:30 p.m. at 11211 Preston Road.

- **June 23: Oak Lawn Band** Fourth annual March for Freedom Concert. This year's there is Express Yourself and will present its Pillar of Freedom Award to Don Jenkins aka Donna Dumae at 8 p.m. at the Latino Cultural Center, 2600 Live Oak St.

- **June 24: Queerbomb** From 5 p.m.-2 a.m. at RCB, 2617 Commerce St. A free Pride Month event.

- **June 24: Brave Spaces** The Humanities Division of the Dallas Public Library screens Human Rights Campaign's documentary Brave Spaces exploring issues of sexuality, faith and intersectional justice at 3 p.m. in the Erik Jonsson Dallas Public Library, First floor auditorium, 1515 Young St.

- **June 24: Spades & Waves** A day of lunch and cocktails on Cedar Creek Lake with proceeds going to HRC from 11 a.m.-8 p.m. with location provided upon RSVP. \$100. Room block under Human Rights Campaign for overnight stay at La Quinta Inn, 210 Heritage Parkway, Gun Barrel City.



• **June 25: TAG Picnic**

TAG — Tyler Area Gays — holds its annual picnic at Southside Park, 455 Shiloh Road in Tyler, from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. For information visit [TylerAreaGays.com](http://TylerAreaGays.com) or call 903-312-2081.

• **June 25: Divas and Desserts**

Ms. Texas Leather 2017 presents Divas and Desserts benefiting the charities of the United Court of the Lone Star Empire. A drag king and queen show accompanies desserts crafted by Chef Sharon Van Meter from 6:30-9 p.m. at 3015 at Trinity Groves, 3015 Gulden Lane. \$75. Tickets at [DivasandDesserts.com](http://DivasandDesserts.com). See page 20 for more information.

• **June 25: PriDenton 2017**

Denton Trans-Cendence, GlitterBomb, Oak Street Draffhouse, Outreach Denton, Pan Ector, Pride Alliance, Stonewall Democrats of Denton County and Texas Queerlesque Festival sponsor Denton's LGBT Pride Month celebration from 2-8 p.m. at Oak Street Draffhouse, 308 E. Oak St.

• **June 25: Fears for Queers LGBT Film Festival**

Seventh annual film festival includes

world premiere of Carlos Suarez's Thieves and benefits GALA Youth from 1-6 p.m. at the Texas Theatre, 231 W. Jefferson Blvd.

• **June 27: GALA Mixer**

Monthly family-friendly, networking, socializing mixer benefits GALA Youth from 5-8 p.m. at Durkins Pizza, 8930 TX-121 #594, McKinney.

• **June 29: LGBT loss support group**

Support group for LGBT people who have lost a same-sex partner or spouse at 7 p.m. at Oak Lawn Library, 4100 Cedar Springs Road.

**JULY**

• **July 1: Boom Goes the Dynamite**

Charity America show celebrating America's freedom benefits Rhonda Mae's Wall of Food, Tucker's Gift and the Texas Red Ribbon Wish Network at 7 p.m. at BJ's, 3215 N. Fitzhugh Ave.

• **July 7-9: Beyond Vanilla**

Judy Tallwing is the keynote speaker.

• **July 11: 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.

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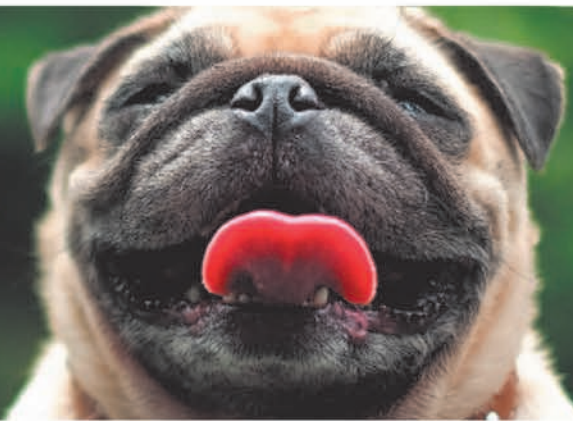


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# Pride by any other name



June is National LGBT Pride Month. But what does that really mean?

**H**appy Gay Pride Month. What are you doing to celebrate? Anything? What does Pride Month even mean to you?

Surely, we all know why we designate June as our LGBT Pride Month, right? It all goes back to that fateful night in 1969 — June 28, to be exact — when the gays and the lesbians and the drag queens and the transgender folk at Stonewall Inn, a gay bar in New York City's Greenwich Village, decided they were fed up with being harassed and arrested simply for who they were.

So when the cops raided the bar that night, the patrons fought back, setting out a series of riots that lasted several days. It was, as is generally acknowledged today, “the birth of the modern gay rights movement.”

And in a decade-and-a-half, a series of most propitious Supreme Court rulings



**Tammye Nash**  
Managing Editor

have been handed down in June, advancing the cause of LGBT by leaps and bounds and cementing June's status as Pride month. And all of them came on the same day of the month, too!

On June 26, 2003, the U.S. Supreme Court issued its ruling in *Lawrence v. Texas* that overturned the Texas sodomy law and declared all such antiquated statutes unconstitutional. Ten years later — June 26, 2013 — SCOTUS ruled in *United States v. Windsor*, overturning the section of the federal Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) that banned the federal government from recognizing same-sex marriages from local jurisdictions where they were legal.

That set the stage for the court's ruling two years later, on June 26, 2015, in *Obergefell v. Hodges* that declared marriage equality to be the law of the land.

And we can't forget what happened in Fort Worth on June 28, 2009 — the 40th anniversary of Stonewall — when Fort Worth

police and Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission agents raided a newly-opened gay bar called The Rainbow Lounge. That set off a new wave of activism in Fort Worth and has been a rallying cry for advocates of equality ever since. It was just 15 days ago, in the wee morning hours of June 1, that the Rainbow Lounge went up in smoke, victim, it seems, of faulty electrical wiring to the ice machine.

So yeah, it's easy to see why June is our Pride month — the month when cities paint the crosswalks in their gayborhoods in rainbow colors, and rainbow flags pop up everywhere. It's the month when Facebook adds a rainbow emoji to its “like button” options, and when Skittles, the “taste the rainbow” candy, goes white because “there's only room for one rainbow” in June.

June is the month of parades and festivals and marches. It is the month of Pride.

But what is Pride, really? What does it mean? How should we really be celebrating Pride? Does every body have to be proud the same way? Sometimes it seems like there are people who think that yes, there is only one way to celebrate and if you aren't doing it their way, you aren't a good gay at all.

Think about the rainbow flag, for exam-

ple. It's a rainbow and it's a flag — easy-peasy, right? Umm, no. Turns out it may not be so easy-peasy after all.

Apparently, the city of Philadelphia has just debuted a new rainbow flag, one that adds a brown stripe and a black stripe to the red-orange-yellow-green-royal blue-violet stripes as a way to expand its inclusivity and acknowledge the racial diversity of the LGBT community.

The response came fast and loud. And people were not happy! Good lord, you'd think the city of Philadelphia had issued a decree declaring that the Baby Jesus was actually a girl!

What I want to know is, what difference does it make, anyway? It's not like our modern six-stripe flag is the original rainbow flag. When Gilbert Baker originally designed the rainbow flag in 1978, it had eight stripes — hot pink atop the red and instead of today's one royal blue stripe, there was one indigo stripe and one teal stripe. The next incarnation was without the hot pink stripe, because they couldn't find any hot pink fabric!

And even now, while the six-stripe flag may be the norm, it's not the only one. We have rainbow versions of the U.S. flag, cir-





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9:00p – Oneg Shabbat hosted by  
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# Narvaez defeats incumbent

First openly gay member of Dallas City Council in a decade elected in run-off



Medrano, Omar Narvaez and Hunt

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer

taffet@dallasvoice.com

Omar Narvaez is one of the four newly-elected members of the Dallas City Council, making him the first openly-gay Dallas City Council member in more than a decade. Narvaez defeated incumbent Mayor Pro Tem Monica Alonzo in a June 10 runoff to become the representative for District 6, which includes West Dallas and the Design District as well as a few neighborhoods in North Dallas along Loop 12 and LBJ Freeway.

Narvaez's win makes him the first openly-gay person on the council since Ed Oakley left the council in 2007, and the first openly-gay person to represent District 6.

The election was unprecedented in another way: It was the first time incumbents — other than in District 3 — have lost re-election since the city was divided into 14 single-member districts in the early 1990s.

Of the four new council members, two

are former councilmen returning to their previous positions — Dwaine Carraway in District 4 and Tennell Atkins in District 8 — and two are newcomers — Narvaez and Kevin Felder in District 7.

Dallas allows a council member to serve four consecutive terms. Caraway and Atkins return to their seats after serving four terms and then sitting out an election. Felder replaces one-term incumbent Tiffini Young.

Narvaez said he ran a non-traditional race, finding solutions, not making promises. As he knocked on doors across the district and attended town hall meetings, he said he quickly learned to act as an incumbent, working with city hall and fixing problems.

Narvaez said he had three priorities in his campaign and will maintain those priorities as city councilman — housing, streets and public safety. Housing is becoming a problem across the city but presents a special challenge in District 6, especially in West Dallas neighborhoods closest to downtown.

## Housing

After the Margaret Hunt Hill Bridge opened, development exploded at the foot of the Trinity River crossing on the West

Dallas side. Restaurant incubator Trinity Groves brought traffic from across the region to an area that had been neglected for decades. And as people discovered its convenience to downtown, developers raced to build expensive mid-rise apartments.

As undeveloped land grew more scarce, developers offered homeowners buyouts. And renters were being forced out of their homes after the city condemned hundreds of properties owned by landlord Khraish Khraish, who hadn't maintained the homes to city code.

Incumbent Alonzo encouraged development in her district and welcomed the new jobs in the area. Candidate Narvaez said he listened to the residents who were losing their homes and were given no reasonable alternatives. He said he spoke to hundreds of people facing homelessness and intervened.

During the runoff election, Narvaez was seen brokering the deal that would allow 130 to 150 renters become homeowners. As of this week, Narvaez said, 70 families had already brokered their deals with Khraish.

Still, Narvaez said, "Some of the houses in the area will be razed because they're not in good condition."

So, the new councilman said, he spoke to

the local Habitat for Humanity, which has agreed to step in and build about 75 houses in the area. That will help some of the other families about to lose their homes.

While these properties are for lower income families, developers have been building more expensive homes.

"This will make West Dallas the first truly mixed income area in the city," Narvaez said, adding that that will make the area strong and stabilize neighborhoods.

Narvaez said he'll continue to encourage development in West Dallas but prefers apartments like those going up along Fort Worth Avenue that aren't displacing families who have lived in their homes for generations.

## Streets and public safety

Because of his work to find a solution to the housing crisis in West Dallas before coming into office, Narvaez said he found himself in an odd position.

"Residents were already calling me before the election to help find solutions," he said.

In a crowded race that began with six candidates, including an incumbent who had risen to the position of mayor pro tem,



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# Celebrating freedom

For Ahmad Goree, Juneteenth is the perfect combo of black pride, gay pride

TAMMYE NASH | Managing Editor  
nash@dallasvoice.com

Juneteenth is “the oldest known celebration commemorating the end of slavery in the United States,” according to the website, Juneteenth.com. It marks the day — June 19, 1865 — that Union soldiers led by Maj. Gen. Gordon

Granger landed in Galveston and announced that slavery was ended.

Yes, that announcement came more than two years after President Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation. But it marked, at least in Texas, the real beginning of freedom for the men and women brought to this country, or born here, in chains, to be bought and sold and used as property.

So the month of June is special to African-Americans in the South, especially those in Texas. But for LGBT and same-gender-loving African-Americans, the month is doubly special: it is also national LGBT Pride Month. That’s why, according to Ahmad Goree, Dallas Southern Pride’s annual Juneteenth celebration is one of the fastest-growing Black Pride events around.

Goree, communications manager for Dallas Southern Pride, said the Juneteenth party holds a special place in his heart.

“It’s really an enlightening activity,” Goree said. “I mean, it brings together Juneteenth and Pride Month. Those two connections are both really important to me, so celebrating them both at the same time — being African-American and being gay — it’s something I look forward to every year, somewhere

I can feel welcome and share experiences with people like me.”

Goree was born and reared in Dallas, graduating from Spruce High School in Pleasant Grove before heading east to Hawkins, just north of Tyler, where he attended Jarvis Christian College.

Along the way to earning his bachelor’s degree in history from Jarvis, Goree had the chance to spend time studying abroad in the Dominican Re-

public. It was, he said, “an amazing experience.”

“It was truly a life-changing experience,” Goree said of his time abroad. “I had the chance to learn so much about the Latin American culture. I learned so much about the way of living in a third-world country, and I really learned to appreciate so many of the things we take for granted here in the U.S. Like hot water, for example. That’s a luxury not everybody has in the Dominican Republic, and I learned to really appreciate it when I had the chance there to take a hot shower.

“It really was a special time,” he added. “I would tell everybody, any time you are able to experience another culture, take advantage of that chance.”

Goree said he really enjoyed the “high-end research on different topics, mainly politics and policy, that was required to earn his bachelor’s in history. He had the chance to intern for a U.S. congressman, and then he went back to school — this time at Dallas Baptist University — to get his master’s degree in political science.

For a young man who had come out as gay in high school, choosing “Christian” schools for his college education may seem like an odd decision. But Goree said he didn’t really have any difficulties at either school because of his sexual orientation.

First, he said, despite its name, Jarvis wasn’t the typical conservative “Christian” school. “The only thing ‘Christian’ about Jarvis was the name,” Goree chuckled. “And I wasn’t out there announcing to everybody that I was gay. People knew, though, and it wasn’t a problem.”

And at DBU, “I went to classes at night, so it wasn’t the same as being there all day every day. But DBU is a very political school, at least it was then. That was during the Kerry/Bush election, so I did have a lot of debates with some of my classmates — all around religion and politics and race issues.”

Fresh out of grad school, Goree went to work for the city of Dallas’ Environmental Health Services department, helping initiate an ex-offender re-entry program, helping those coming out of jail adjust to life on the outside again. From there, he went to work for state Sen. Royce West as a senior policy analyst in the lawmaker’s Dallas and Austin offices.

Then in 2008, Goree moved to South Carolina to work as a surrogate coordinator for Barack Obama’s first presidential campaign. It was, he said, “a dream come true. I had always wanted to work for a president.”

Currently, Goree works as chief of marketing and outreach and is a public information officer for the U.S. Small Business Administration, and he’s begun working on his doctorate in urban planning and public policy at the University of Texas at Arlington.

“I try to stay busy,” he said. “I love learning new things and being involved.”

That goes for his civic life as well as his career. Goree lives in DeSoto and serves on the DeSoto Citizens Council, an organization that promotes education among DeSoto High School students by raising money to fund scholarships for them. He also started an orga-

FREEDOM, From Page 29



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**Pride 2017**

# AP opens Hope Health Center



Abounding Prosperity CEO Kirk Myers, left, and HOPE Health's Dr. Chrisette Dharma. (Courtesy AP Inc.)

South Dallas agency plans a capital campaign to open health center to serve South Dallas

**DAVID TAFFET** | Senior Staff Writer

[taffet@dallasvoice.com](mailto:taffet@dallasvoice.com)

Abounding Prosperity, the South Dallas AIDS agency, is expanding its services by opening HOPE Health Center. The clinic, for now, is located on Harry Hines Boulevard in North Dallas, but Abounding Prosperity officials hope to be able to move it into the South Dallas area soon.

AP has purchased land near its home



office on MLK Boulevard, according to Special Projects and Programs Manager PJ Moton, and the agency will soon begin a capital campaign to build a new full-service clinic. The current clinic is in the office of Dr. Chrisette Dharma, whom AP has hired to administer its new program.

To start, Hope Health Center offers HIV testing, STD testing and treatment and PrEP for uninsured clients. PrEP, or pre-exposure prophylaxis, uses the HIV drug Truvada to prevent transmission of the virus. Without insurance, the cost of preventive treatment is out of reach of most people. Some insurance won't cover it or have high co-pays that keep it out of reach and some doctors refuse to prescribe it.

AP has received grants to kickstart the clinic and get more people in the African-American community, which has the highest rate of new HIV infections, on PrEP. According to the Texas Department of State Health Services, blacks make up only 11 percent of the population locally but they represent 38 percent of those with HIV. That is four times the rate for whites and Hispanics.

HOPE clinic will distinguish itself with its non-traditional hours, including evening hours on Wednesday, Friday and Saturday, hoping to attract clients who work during the day and are unable to take off and get to a doctor.

Although AIDS Interfaith Network pro-

vides transportation to doctors appointments, Moton said that service is provided in unmarked vans. "Having HIV is still a huge thing in marginalized communities," he explained.

Moton had been a Human Rights Campaign HIV360 fellow. During his fellowship, he wrote a grant and received money from the Elton John AIDS Foundation to fund the project and a grant from Toyota to get a vehicle to provide unmarked transportation.

An open house for the HOPE Health Center, 8877 Harry Hines Blvd takes place on June 23.

#### TIP

Moton said AP has also initiated its TIP — the Transgender ID Program. A transgender person on staff will walk trans clients through the process of changing their gender markers. That includes accompanying that person to court.

Without ID that matches gender presentation, most trans people have trouble getting a job or accessing services. In Dallas County, correcting IDs isn't difficult, but going to court for any reason can be daunting, especially for someone who's never been to a courthouse before. Many delay changing their gender markers or avoid going altogether.

Having someone who knows how to navigate the system makes the process much easier. ■



PJ Moton

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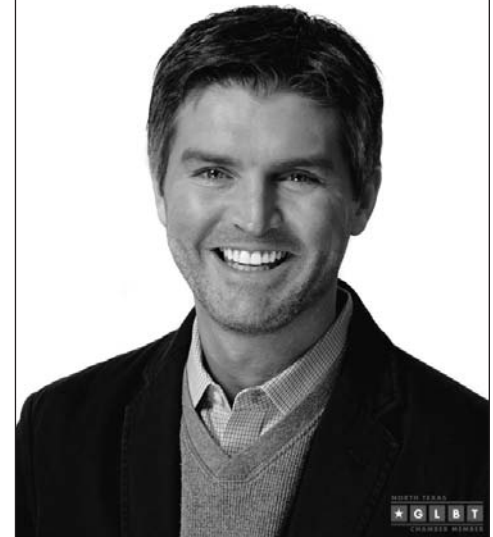
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# This isn't just monkey business

Money and The Bee T-shirt company stays rooted in community service

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer  
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Michael Albee and Frank Martinez started their t-shirt company — Monkey and the Bee — after “we started freaking out about how to pay for our wedding,” the men explained.

Martinez suggested Albee, a graphic designer, put his art on a t-shirt. And, Albee said, “We decided to go for it, see if there’s

an interest.”

They launched their company last December with one t-shirt design called Bear Hugs. It features two bears trying to hug, but their bellies get in the way. “Hug me,” says one bear and the other answers, “I’m trying.”

With the success of Bear Hugs, they added Big Banana, Let Them Have Cake and more.

In addition to online sales, Albee said they’ve been doing well at pop-up shops at the Round-Up Saloon where Martinez is a bartender, at the Dallas Eagle and at the Jewish Community Center.

While Albee had the bear community in mind while creating his designs — and they did very well at a vendor booth at Texas Bear Round Up — the shirts are reaching a much larger audience now.

At the JCC, Albee said, a seven-year-old told his dad, “I want you to get a Bear Hugs shirt so every time I see you I can give you a big hug.”

That pleased Albee, because his goal is for the designs to be fun, snarky and playful without being overtly sexual, even if they do have a certain appeal to the gay community.

“We play with innuendo without being sexual,” he said.

Albee said when it comes to making the business successful, he and his partner compliment each other. While Albee is concerned with good, original art, Martinez is interested in the quality of the t-shirt.

So six months into their company, is Monkey and the Bee helping pay for their wedding? Albee said they’ve sold \$15,000 in t-shirts in less than six months and

they’re less than a month away from their wedding.

But that doesn’t mean the wedding is paid for: “All the profits have been reinvested in the company, because it’s working,” Albee said.

So they’ve found other ways to pay for their wedding ceremony and reception. They chose Resource Center as their venue, noting that it was an obvious choice for them.

“The money for renting the space goes back into the programs of Resource Center,” Albee said, “so it was a no-brainer for us.”

Martinez is not only a bartender at the Round-Up, but president of REBA — Round-Up Employees Benevolent Association — an organization founded during the AIDS crisis that continues to help employ-



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ees through rough periods. He also runs the bar's Thanksgiving "feed the community" dinner.

"My heart is with the food pantry," Martinez said, and for the Thanksgiving dinner, he reaches out to Resource Center's clients.

Having their own company now, Martinez said, presents a special opportunity. "I always wanted to do something that mat-

neglected animals in East Dallas have been recipients.

In addition, the couple ran a Facebook Live auction. A local artist hand-stoned five shirts that sold to bidders who had shown up for the auction or were bidding online. Albee said in an hour they raised \$1,000, which they donated to Cyndi Lauper's True Colors Fund to end LGBT youth



Frank Martinez, in the Bear Hugs shirt, and Michael Albee started Monkey Bee Tees as a way to pay for their wedding. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

ters with a portion of the proceeds," he said.

So Albee designed a shirt called Love Unconditionally. Each month, \$5 from the sale of each one of those shirts goes to a different charity. The first month, proceeds benefitted a GoFundMe account set up for a Dallas assault victim. Since then, Resource Center, Legacy Counseling Center and Angie's Friends for abused and

homelessness.

Monkey and the Bee has already branched out beyond t-shirts. They now also offer a few phone cases and pillows sewn from fabric with their original designs.

To see Monkey and the Bee shirts, visit *MonkeyBeeTees.com* or visit their pop-up store at Bear Happy Hour from 6-9 p.m. on Friday, June 16 at the Round-Up Saloon. ■

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# Divas, desserts and Dawn

New Ms. Texas Leather sets out on new adventures in work, community service

**TAMMYE NASH** | Managing Editor  
nash@dallasvoice.com

"I'm in a funny position right now." And Dawn Knowlton isn't talking about just one aspect of her life when she says that.

It was almost four months ago now that Knowlton won the Ms. Texas Leather 2017 sash, shouldering the responsibilities that go along with that title. Being front and center of all the attention is one of the new and "funny" positions she finds herself in.

"I've been in the leather community since early 2000s, and I've always taken background roles, doing what needed to be done," but not in the spotlight, Knowlton explained. "I'm a worker bee. But I guess along the way, you just sort of naturally move up in the ranks. And last year, the night Mera [Tucker, Ms. Texas Leather 2016] won the title, she cornered me and said, 'You're next. Start getting ready.'"

She's still getting used to the being in the spotlight instead of behind it, but, Knowlton said with a grin, "I'm having a ball so far."

And while she's getting used to the spotlight, Knowlton will also be getting used to a new job — one she hopes will give her more free time to devote to her Ms. Texas Leather duties.

"My [previous] job as a chef on a food truck — it's called The Dock and it specializes in seafood, coastal dishes — has been a bit limiting," Knowlton said. "But I love it. I am going to miss it when I start my new job."

That new job is being head chef for AIDS Interfaith Network, a nonprofit that provides, among other things, a nutrition program for people with HIV/AIDS that includes breakfasts and lunches prepared and serve daily for clients that need nutrition assistance.

"I'm not sure what all it details," Knowlton said of her new job, a few days before she was set to begin. "There are a lot of



things about it I'm not familiar with yet. But they are willing to let me learn on the job. And I like the regular hours that come with it. That will let me get back to the bars, back to going to events and getting my face back out there."

Knowlton also plans to put her chef skills to good use in fulfilling her Ms. Texas Leather duties as well as in her "daytime job." But even that is a relatively new part of who she is.

Knowlton said she used to "work in finance, on a municipal bond trading desk. I loved it when I was doing it, but at the end of it, I was ready to move on to something else."

That "something else" was cooking, thanks in part to Mera Tucker.

It started, Tucker said, "about 10 to 12 years ago, when we all went to a party at Johnny Grey's house. I bequeathed her my old KitchenAid, then she quit her job and went to culinary school. And now, she's a chef." As Ms. Texas Leather, Knowlton has to do three primary fundraisers — two for community nonprofits and a third for the Texas Leather Productions travel fund. Knowlton plans to do one fundraiser to benefit Team Friendly DFW, a local HIV awareness organization. For the travel fund benefit, she wants to put together a cookbook. But first, she's staging Divas and Desserts.

"I have been fortunate to have Chef Sharon Van Meter as a mentor through the years," Knowlton said, explaining that Van Meter, a world class chef, is the manager and producer at 3015 at Trinity Groves, an event venue at the Trinity Groves, the trendy enclave of restaurants and shops at the western foot of the Margaret Hunt Hill Bridge.

"I've worked with her off and on since 2009, and I've gotten a lot of backbone and drive and chutzpah because of her," Knowlton said of Van Meter. "And now, she's opening up her venue to me, and she and her chefs will provide us with a variety of sweets and treats and signature cocktails" for the Divas and Desserts event.

That takes care of the desserts for the fundraiser. The United Court of the Lone Star Empire will be providing the divas,



Ms. Texas Leather 2017 Dawn Knowlton right, credits her friend, Ms. Texas Leather 2016 Mera Tucker, with prompting her to change careers and be a chef. (Tammye Nash/Dallas Voice)

Knowlton said, explaining that in addition to the sweets, treats and cocktails, those attending the event will be treated to a drag show featuring entertainers such as Donna Dumae, Patti Le Plae Safe, Lips Larue, Kourtney Wells, Fort Worth drag king Justin Kredible and more.

Some of the divas will be providing desserts, too, Knowlton said. Tucker will be

that.

"I'm not saying this is *the* break-through event, but I am hoping to bring the court and what they do in our community out to more of the general community," Knowlton said. "We want to get more funding in for the court and the things they do for the community. I think the straight crowds are looking for something different to do. I think we need to bring the drag shows out to the public. The LGBT communities have such deep pockets, but it would be nice to spread that cost out to new pockets, too."

Knowlton said she hopes that this event heralds a broader acceptance by the community overall, just like she's beginning to see in the leather community itself as she continues her journey and explores her changing identity.

For most of her life, she said, "I was for the most part straight/bisexual. Then menopause hit and, well, I don't know what I am now." She has a girl, and she has a husband, she said, adding that she sees herself as "genderfluid right now. I'm not a label person. I'm Dawn. I am just so casual that way."

"I think our community has never been more open," Knowlton continued. "But I also think, as with anything, we have factions that don't want that interaction to happen. Still, we're becoming a little more accepting. It's not so much how you identify now as how you act. If you do the work, you'll be accepted."

Knowlton, for her part, knows she has been, and still is "doing the work." And while she's not necessarily sure just where she's headed, she knows where she's been and she knows how she got here: "I wouldn't be where I am if not for my community," she said. "The day I walked into the leather community, I was not this person you see today, that's for sure. The community has molded me. It is still molding me."

## Divas & Desserts

Ms. Texas Leather 2017 Dawn Knowlton presents Divas and Desserts, an event benefitting the charities of the United Court of the Lone Star Empire, Sunday, June 25, 6:30-9 p.m. at 3015 at Trinity Groves, 3015 Gulden Lane.

The event will include confections, candies, cakes and signature cocktails crafted by the award-winning chefs for Chef Sharon Van Meter's 3015 at Trinity Groves event venue and a drag show featuring members and friends of the Court.

Tickets are \$75 per person, available online at [DivasAndDesserts.Eventbrite.com](http://DivasAndDesserts.Eventbrite.com) or at the door. Dallas Voice readers can get a discount on online tickets by using the promo code VOICE.

there with some of her famous Tucker Inn Cookies — and plans to have a special announcement to make, too. Former UCLE Emperor Ricky Matlock will be providing cake balls, and current UCLSE Empress Danielle Starr will be bringing cakes.

All of the proceeds, Knowlton said, will go to the United Court, which will in turn donate to its chosen charities.

Tickets for Divas and Desserts are \$75, available online at EventBrite — Voice readers can get a discount by using the promo code VOICE — and Knowlton acknowledged that seems a bit steep. "But it will totally be worth it," she declared.

Knowlton also hopes that Divas and Desserts will bring in a new audience for local drag performers. Van Meter's participation and her willingness to let Knowlton use 3015 at Trinity Groves should help with



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## Notice of DART Public Meetings

### D2 Subway Public Meetings

On behalf of the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) invites you to attend a public meeting to hear about progress on the Dallas CBD Second Light Rail Alignment (D2) Subway. DART has evaluated a short list of D2 subway alternatives and will be recommending a locally preferred alternative (LPA) this summer.

We need your input on:

- The remaining D2 Subway alternatives
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### Public Meetings

**Two Public Meetings will be held on Wednesday, June 21, 2017**

**At Sheraton Dallas Hotel (Austin Ballroom 2)**

**400 North Olive Street, Dallas, TX 75201**

**11:30 a.m. Open House and 12:00 p.m. Presentation**

**6:00 p.m. Open House and 6:30 p.m. Presentation**

The meeting room is located on second floor above Hotel Registration area. The Sheraton Dallas Hotel is located near the Pearl/Arts District Rail Station and the CBD East Transfer Center. Discount parking of \$12.00 is available in hotel parking garages (be sure to bring parking ticket to meeting). Self-parking entrances are located on Pearl and Olive streets. Additional parking available on surface-level lots near the hotel.

The same information will be provided at each meeting. Learn more and subscribe to project updates at [www.DART.org/D2](http://www.DART.org/D2) or contact DART Community Engagement at 214-749-2543.



Pride 2017

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Only time will tell if the similarities between Nixon in '72 and Trump in '17 will continue to play out

Watching the unraveling of Republican U.S. President Richard M.

Nixon's administration in the early 1970s surely seemed like a once-in-a-lifetime event. But now, 45 years later, some wonder if it could be happening again with President Donald J. Trump.

Just five months into Trump's first term, many people are speculating he might not even get to stay in office through his first term, let alone run for a second



David Webb  
The Rare Reporter



term in 2020. As unbelievable as it sounds today, it seemed even more incredible in 1974 when Nixon resigned in disgrace in the aftermath of the investigation known as Watergate.

Nixon, the 37th president and a Republican, fell from grace in his second term

and became the first president to resign after it became clear his administration had attempted to cover up his re-election campaign's involvement in the 1972 burglary of the Democratic National Committee offices. In that crime five men broke into the offices in the Watergate Complex to find damaging

information that would help Nixon defeat Democratic Party candidate Sen. George S. McGovern.

Most scholars agree that the burglary alone, financed by a secret slush fund created from campaign funds, did not take down Nixon. Efforts by the president and



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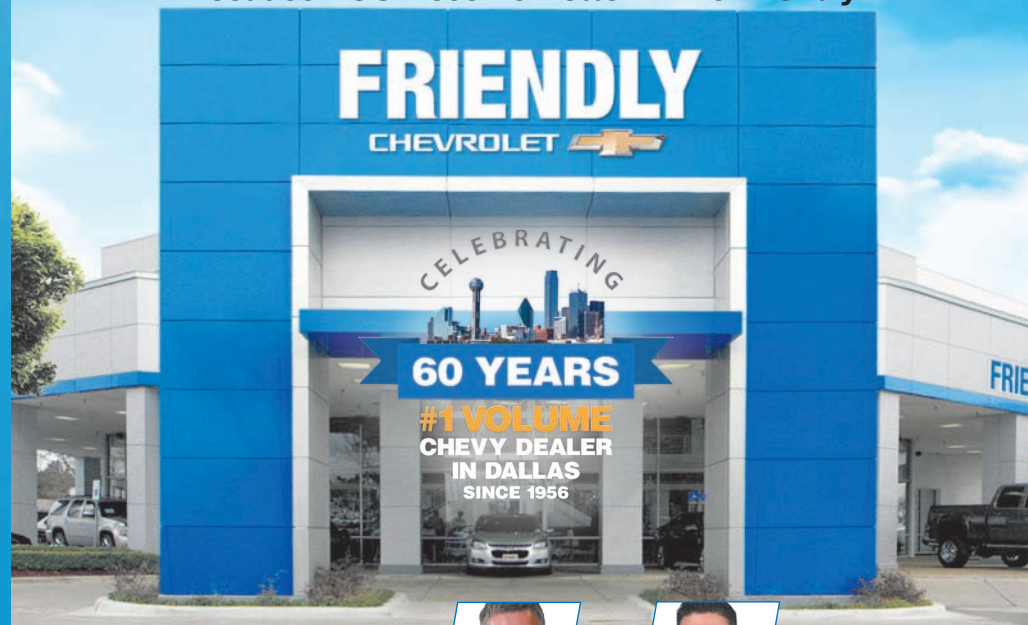


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his chief staffers to cover up the administration's involvement by interfering with investigations by the police, FBI, congressional committees and a special prosecutor amounted to obstruction of justice and resulted in the indictments of 40 government officials.

Nixon resigned Aug. 9, 1974, to avoid criminal charges and even more public humiliation. His successor, President Gerald R. Ford, fully pardoned him a month later on Sept. 8. But many other officials wound up serving time.

Now Trump, the 45th president and a Republican, seems to be embroiled in eerily similar circumstances as those in which Nixon found himself some 45 years ago.

U.S. intelligence officials confirm they believe — with certainty — that Russian hackers interfered with the 2016 presidential election by releasing information detrimental to the campaign of Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton. Congressional committees are investigating the alleged Russian interference; there is an FBI investigation also underway, and the Department of Justice has appointed a special counselor, former FBI Director Robert S. Mueller, to investigate the allegations and possibly prosecute anyone indicted in such

a conspiracy.

A month after Trump's inauguration, he fired his high-ranking campaign advisor and newly-appointed national security advisor, Michael T. Flynn, after questions arose about the veteran general's association with foreign governments and communications with Russian Ambassador to the U.S. Sergey Kislyak. Flynn allegedly lied to Vice President Michael R. Pence about the matter, and the president asked for his resignation.

Along with Flynn, other Trump campaign officials, including his son-in-law and husband of daughter Ivanka Trump, Jared C. Kushner, also face questioning by investigators about their contact with Russian officials.

In the past two weeks, former FBI Director James B. Comey testified before the Senate Intelligence Committee about Trump firing him, and Attorney General Jefferson B. Sessions also appeared before the committee a week afterwards, declining to answer many questions because it would be "contrary to long-standing Department of Justice policy" to reveal the content of the president's conversations with him. Under questioning from senators, Sessions would not characterize his refusal to answer as

"executive privilege," a concept that failed to protect Nixon from releasing tape recordings and other evidence during the Watergate investigation.

Comey testified that in a meeting shortly after Flynn's firing that Trump asked other officials, including Sessions, to leave the Oval Office, and that the president suggested he not investigate Flynn. Trump also asked if he personally was under investigation, he said. Comey also said that he viewed Sessions' involvement in his firing as improper because the attorney general had recused himself from any matters related to the Russian investigation because he served as an official advisor for the Trump campaign.

After Trump fired Comey, he told an NBC anchor in an interview he fired the FBI director because he was unhappy about the Russian investigation. The president previously hinted he may have tape recordings of his conversations with Comey.

Curiously, Sessions testified that he recommended Comey's firing in a memo at the request of Trump because he thought Comey had made errors in judgment about press conferences related to a separate investigation of former Secretary of State Clinton's email scandal. A senator pointed

out that Sessions had previously praised Comey in media interviews regarding the investigation of Clinton's emails, to which Sessions had little response.

Late last week, a friend of Trump's told reporters he suspected the president might be considering firing special counsel Mueller. Is there no end to the bizarreness?

It's no coincidence that television cable channels are frequently showing *All the President's Men*, the story of Watergate and how the media, particularly the Washington Post and other newspapers, revealed the conspiracy to the American public through dogged reporting. That reporting, of course, unleashed vicious criticism on the media by politicians and other government officials.

*Deja vu* appears to be the operative word here, and only time will tell if the investigation will come to be known to future generations as Russiagate, Trumpgate — or nothing much at all.

*David Webb is a veteran journalist with more than four decades of experience, including a stint as a staff reporter for Dallas Voice. In 2015, he received the Press Club of Dallas' Legends Award, bestowed in large part for his work with Dallas Voice. He now lives on Cedar Creek Lake and writes for publications nationwide.*



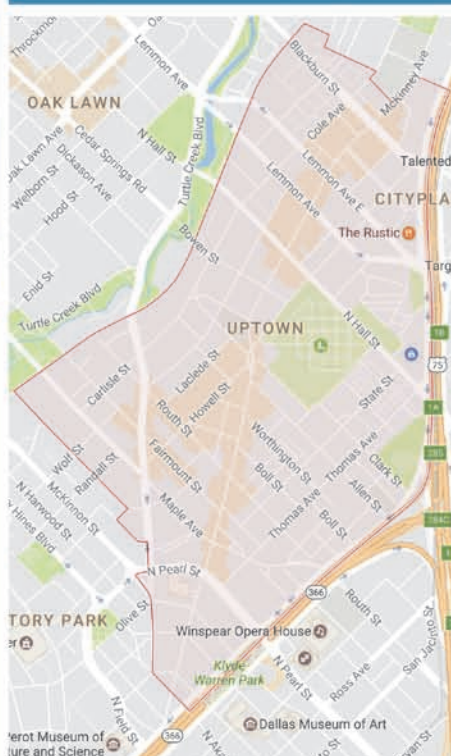
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**NARVAEZ**, From Page 12

Narvaez distinguished himself by running as if he were an incumbent. He said one voter told him he'd been registered for 10 years, but this was the first time he felt motivated to vote.

In addition to housing, Narvaez said he is concerned with streets and public safety. "Our streets are deteriorating," he said. "Some need to be completely replaced."

He said in his district, as well as in some other areas around the city, streets have been left untended for so long that resurfacing won't fix the problem. Some need to be completely ripped up and replaced.

Sidewalks and alleyways also need work, he said, and streetlights need to be updated and replaced.

Lighting also factors into the question of public safety, Narvaez said, adding that inadequate staffing for the Dallas Police Department and Dallas Fire and Rescue is problematic.

As the city's population has grown, Narvaez said, staffing levels at DPD and DFR have decreased, because the city trains offi-

cers, firefighters and EMTs who then flee to the suburbs where departments pay better and offer less-challenging positions.

In addition to new officers, Narvaez said, the city needs to improve equipment and upgrade a number of the city's fire stations. "911 needs to be looked at," he said, "as well as the antiquated emergency sirens."

## Business as usual — for now

For now, Narvaez plans to continue his day job working at Lambda Legal, an organization providing legal aid and advice to those in the LGBT community, where he recently changed positions and now serves as Texas policy advocate. Before, he was community educator, covering an eight-state area. The new position means he travels less.

How do they feel about having a co-worker on city council?

"Lambda Legal didn't endorse me, but my coworkers are very excited to have someone like me at the horseshoe in Dallas," he said.

Lambda Legal's interim regional director Chuck Marlett agreed: "We're excited and thrilled."

He said it was great to see someone from his organization advance to a key leadership role in the public arena, adding that Narvaez "will be a great asset to the city council."

Marlett said Narvaez's role as a policy advocate would translate well to city government, adding that his skills in consensus building, persuasion and teamwork are assets that will make him a leader on the Dallas City Council.

As for Narvaez's continued role at Lambda Legal, Marlett said, "We're still working it out," emphasizing that he meant nothing negative by that. The discussion, he said, only began after Narvaez's election victory.

Marlett said there's no inherent conflict between Narvaez's two roles, but "it just happened Sunday and we're still digesting it."

But, he stressed, "We're excited, and this is solid evidence of achievement for the LGBT community and the city of Dallas. It's all good news."

Dallas Gay and Lesbian Alliance Presi-

dent Patti Fink said it's important to have an openly LGBT person on council.

"He'll be a voice for all of us," she said.

She said it makes a difference when other council members know they're sitting next to a gay person and said not having an openly-LGBT person is like having an all-white council.

And that, Fink said, simply isn't representative of who we are as a city.

"Omar brings a unique perspective as a minority in multiple ways," Fink said. "He comes with the perspective of being a minority you can't teach somebody."

She said his experience with Lambda Legal should benefit everybody because his current job takes him out into the community speaking to people.

"He has his ears to the ground in District 6," Fink said. "That area is getting gentrified by the minute, displacing people just as [has happened] in Oak Lawn and Uptown."

Fink's one reservation about the incoming council is that three women were defeated in their re-election bids, leaving only two female members — Sandy Greyson and Jennifer Gates. She called that "disturbing."

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nization called Citizens Involvement which stages town halls to help people learn to be more involved in the government and civic life of their communities.

"One of the main things we talk about is how to serve on grand juries," he said. "A lot of people don't know that if you are old enough to vote, you can serve on a grand jury. They think you have to be a lawyer but you don't. And being on a grand jury is an opportunity to be a part of something, it's a place to start. We also talk about getting involved in other community events, about getting on boards and commissions and even running for office. But we start with the grand juries.

"People are always complaining about a lack of fairness" Goree added. "Well, let's stop complaining and start serving. It's a simple process, really. The opportunities to serve are out there."

Goree keeps busy in the LGBT community, too. He has worked with Stonewall Democrats and also with Abounding Prosperity Inc., a nonprofit founded in 2005 focused on providing services to address health, social and economic disparities among black men, with a particular emphasis on gay, bisexual

and male-to-female transgender individuals. It was his work with Abounding Prosperity — led by CEO Kirk Meyers — that prompted him to get involved with Dallas Southern Pride, also headed up by Meyers.

"I've always known about Dallas Southern Pride," Goree said. "I remember going out to the Metro in downtown Dallas when they had events there. Now it's under Kirk's leadership, and he is a mentor of mine and leader in the community. So when he took over, I wanted to be more involved.

"I think, by combining our skills, we can have a big impact, not just in the LGBT African-American community, but in the black community as a whole."

While Dallas Southern Pride has long been known for its annual Black Pride celebration held each fall, over the first weekend in October, now that the organization has taken over planning for the Juneteenth celebration, the summer event is quickly becoming DSP's main event.

"The whole idea of it is celebrating life and unity and freedom," Goree said. "Juneteenth is a significant event in Texas history, and it just so happens to be in the same month as Pride. It gives LGBT African-Americans a

chance to celebrate life and unity together and be comfortable doing it. Black LGBT people still have problems being within our own families, so Dallas Southern Pride's Juneteenth is a chance to come and celebrate together and be free, to feel free.

"There were times that I have experienced discrimination," Goree continued. "You know, being looked at a certain way because I am African-American. And I have experienced discrimination for being gay, even within the African-American community. I've had people make fun of me for being gay. But Juneteenth pulls us away from all of that. It gives me the chance to feel appreciated for being exactly who I am — for being African-American, for being gay."

The event, he said, "has the significance of freedom and unity. It is the chance to feel free myself and to see my brothers and my sisters — gay, transgender and lesbian — feeling the same way." ■



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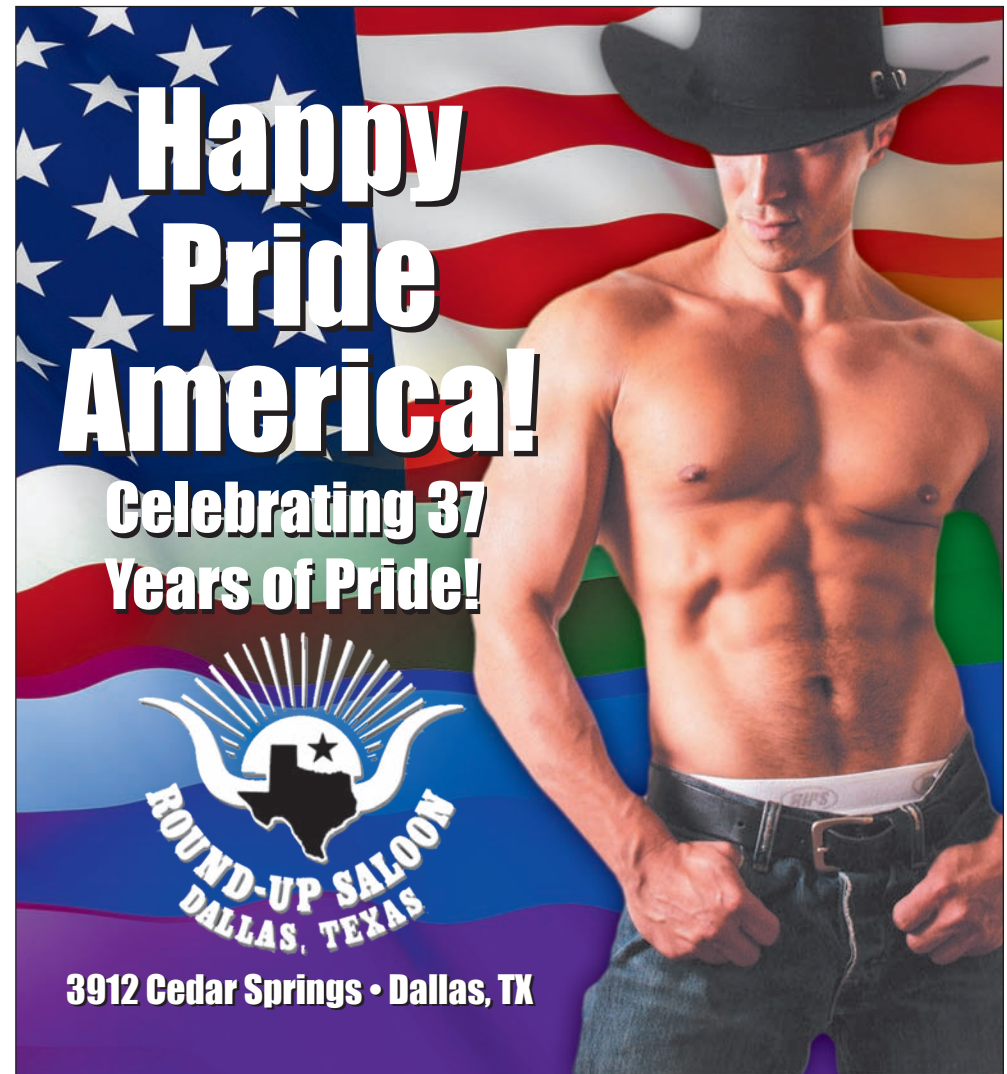
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# Art mecca

México City's LGBT art community lives up to its reputation.

**JESUS CHAIREZ** | Contributing Writer

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MÉXICO CITY — The 30th annual XXX Festival Internacional por la Diversidad Sexual (FIDS) (International Festival for Sexual Diversity (FIDS)) LGBT art exhibitions recently opened México City's Gay Pride 2017.

Though Dallas' Mexican art exhibition at the Dallas Museum of Art — México 1900–1950: Diego Rivera, Frida Kahlo, José Clemente Orozco, and the Avant-Garde — has garnered great reviews in the press and on social media, you won't be seeing anything like what México City's LGBT community has put together with FIDS. Why? Because of Dallas' plain ol' prudishness and censorship.

A lot of people in Dallas do not know that México City is a mecca in the art world, with the Los Angeles Times recently stating that ... “in recent years, Mexico City has become a regular pit stop for the art-world jet set, part of an international calendar that includes biennials in Europe and art fairs in Hong Kong.”

And México City's LGBT art community is unquestionably living up to its contemporary art world mecca reputation.

## Museo Universitario del Chopo

The first stop for FIDS is at the Museo Universitario del Chopo, known more simply as El Chopo. The exhibition is titled “Empezamos con un beso” (“We start with a kiss”), and it was very well attended opening night not only by art enthusiasts and drag queens but also by México City's LGBT political elite — because this exhibit is most political, very out.

Once the elevator doors open to the Arnold Belkin Gallery, one cannot help but be mesmerized by the diverse and well-spaced layout of the exhibit. There is sculpture, prints, paintings and mixed-media pieces by various LGBT Mexican artists.

While some contemporary artists shy away from their Mexican culture, others — such as Fabián Cháirez (no relation) — embrace it. In this exhibit, Cháirez, a well-known artist, includes Lucha Libre

(Mexican wrestling), a well-known aspect of Mexican culture. His “Desnudo Enmascarado” (“Masked Nude”) embraces the masculinity of wrestling while capturing the subtle softness of detailed male nudity.

Cháirez, who is bearded and already very tall for a Mexican, entered the the opening party in full drag wearing stiletto heels — larger-than-life femininity. It took awhile



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for him to make to his painting because almost everyone stopped him to take his picture. Once by his art, Cháirez did not disappoint, performing like he was on the red carpet, with gallery attendees acting like paparazzi.

Though this exhibit includes work depicting full male and female nudity, with some copulation, no one seemed uncomfortable. Some parents had their children in tow and no city official was trying to shut down this most sensual exhibition.

Garth Person, a Dallas/Las Colinas resident who happened to be in México City on business, made time to attend the show, saying that he “loved the creative freedom on display here.”

“I hope we could see something this progressive and controversial in Dallas one day soon,” Person noted. “México City has been putting on exhibits like this for 30

years now, and Dallas should take note.”

“Empezamos con un beso” runs through June 30.

## José María Velasco Gallery

The next stop on the FIDS tour is at the José María Velasco Gallery, a large warehouse space located in the working class neighborhood of Colonia Tepito.

The Tepito neighborhood is known for being rough and a haven for drugs dealers, and also as a neighborhood with more street altars to “Santa Muerte,” (Saint Death) than to the patron saint of México, the Virgen de Guadalupe.

LGBT visitors are mostly left alone here

and heels. The subject is standing in front of Mexican soldiers who are standing guard in front of the Presidential Palace in the heart of the city, El Zocalo, the town square.

Though I am very familiar with most aspects of gay culture and didn't think I would see anything I hadn't seen before, I couldn't help but be entranced by the large-scale, black-and-white, full-frontal photographs of men with vaginas. I had never seen a transsexual male nude before, and the photos made me stop and reflect on the challenges they face.

“Crisol de masculinidades; el espectro de la masculinidad en una exposición artística” runs through July 2.



— unless you're wearing lots of bling, then watch out.

The FIDS exhibit at the José María Velasco gallery is titled “Crisol de masculinidades; el espectro de la masculinidad en una exposición artística,” (“Crucible of Masculinities; The specter of masculinity in an artistic exhibition”).

The exhibit includes paintings, drawings and photography incorporating and conveying everything that is masculine in the gay world, and the art is arranged in various sections: Osos (Bears), Leather, Vaqueros (Cowboys), Chacales (dark skinned, rough-trade males that are gay, but often not into the gay culture) and Transexualidad Veronil (female to male transsexuals).

When you enter the gallery, you know the exhibit will be entertaining one of the first things you see is a photograph of a seminude male wearing only torn underwear

Both exhibits are well organized and embody the diverse gay Mexican culture that is often masculine with a touch of nelly. So if you are going to be in México City in the next few weeks, be sure to make time in your schedule to see one or both of these exhibits. It will be time well spent. ■

See more photos of the FIDS art work online at [DallasVoice.com](http://DallasVoice.com) and at Chairez's Flickr page, [Flickr.com/photos/jesuschairez/albums/72157684647742536](https://www.flickr.com/photos/jesuschairez/albums/72157684647742536).

Jesus Chairez is a former Dallasite now living in México City. He was the producer and host of North Texas first bilingual LGBT Latino radio show, *Sin Fronteras* on KNON 89.3 FM; from 1993 to 2005, and is freelancer writer and author of the book “*Queer Brown Voices*,” a collection of personal narratives of Latina/o Activism. Contact him at [facebook.com/JesusChairez](https://www.facebook.com/JesusChairez).



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PRIDE, From Page 10

cular rainbow pinwheel banners, pastel rainbow flags. We have a leather Pride flag — black and white and blue — and a trans Pride flag — light blue and light pink and white.

If Philadelphia wants to add a black stripe and a brown stripe to their rainbow, I say more power to 'em. It doesn't bother me, because it doesn't mean I have to do it, too.

And then there is the question of Pride parades. Lots of places — most, I guess — that have Pride parades hold their parades in June. The Dallas Pride parade, though, is always the third Sunday in September. Tarrant County Pride Week is the first week-end in October. Same with Dallas Southern Pride, our local black Pride celebration. Houston still holds its Pride parade at the end of June — and always on a Saturday night — but in Austin, the Pride celebration happens in August.

Lately, I've heard a lot of folks here in Dallas calling for the parade to be moved back to June, back to the roots of Pride. Why? Why can't we have our Parade in September? Does it make Dallas any less gay proud?

Oh, and don't even get me started on the whole corporate sponsors-no corporate sponsors debate! I understand the desire for a more grassroots Pride event that harkens back to the birth of the movement, when Pride was more riot than celebration. And I also understand the need for a celebration. As for corporate sponsors, who says corporate-types can't be proud, too?

It's not like Dallas doesn't celebrate June as Pride Month. I mean, thanks to Queer-Bomb, and this year, the Equality March organizers, we have Pride events in June, too. But why should we limit ourselves to just June? Why can't we spread our Pride out throughout the year?

Hell, I think we ought to have a Pride event every month of the year. Why not? I'm not just proud of my community and my LGBT family and myself just in June.

Here's the crux of the matter, at least for me: We are not all the same, and we don't need to be. That is, perhaps, the single most important tenet of our community, our identity: Diversity and inclusiveness. We all have the right — the responsibility, even — to be ourselves, to let others be themselves, and to celebrate and honor the beauty of us all.

So happy LGBT Pride everybody, this month and every month. ■

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# Pride: Let it shine

He may not have called it LGBT Pride, but Jesus wanted to celebrate who we are

**L**ike many folks, I have read much of the Bible hundreds of times, particularly the gospel texts in the New Testament — the recollections about the life and activities of Jesus on earth. Now, the religious values I was raised with convinced me early on that there was no room in any of these writings for a little gay boy like me; yet curiously, the gospels contain zero condemnation from Jesus regarding same-gender-loving or gender-variant folks.

I have spent the past two years at a progressive Christian seminary in Berkeley, Calif. There, I have poured through these sacred texts backward and forward and listened to seasoned Biblical scholars, social anthropologists, and queer theologians discuss the “clobber” texts, analyze the social locations of writers and ancient peoples, and explain the customs at the time these texts were written.

And more assuredly than ever, I know that all the scriptures used to condemn trans, gender non-conforming and gay and lesbian people have been warped and perverted to mean things they were never meant to convey, representing situations that in no way reflect who we are today.

Secretly, though, I have always longed to discover some fragment of a scroll, some writing, that contains words of Jesus himself affirming us outright so I can say to the Robert Jeffresses of the world, “See! When Jesus said love your neighbor as yourself, he really did mean all of us!”

But there is no such writing.  
Or is there?

Not until today had I realized that Jesus actually references Pride — you know, the feeling and the occasion where queer, les-



**Todd Whitley**  
Contributing Columnist

bian, gay, bisexual and transgender people proclaim and celebrate the uniqueness of their createdness.

Ok well, not literally. But I offer this verse for your consideration:

“You are the light of the world.

A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your [God] in heaven.” (Matthew 5:14-16)

When I read this verse earlier in the week, I heard it anew, as if with fresh ears. You see, I have long heard grumblings against the celebration of Pride (“Why do they have to celebrate being gay and throw it in our faces?!”) and its designation in the month of June — you know what I mean, the mantra of the “Well we don’t have a Straight Pride” folks. Yet once I emancipated myself from the bondage of socio-religious-imposed heteronormativity and gender performance, it did not take me long to understand why queer people finally burst into a 51-block march, dubbed the “Christopher Street Liberation Day” 47 years ago this month.

One cannot, it seems, actually be proud until you have first been liberated. Jesus, above all, knew this, and I believe he was also thinking about us when he said it!

And Pride — the month, the parade, the march, the feeling — is first and foremost about liberating yourself, about refusing to any longer hide your beautiful, God-created light beneath any bushel or behind any closet door.

If we indeed believe that each human being is “fearfully and wonderfully made,” as the Old Testament prophet Jeremiah proclaims, then it is easy to read the prophet Jesus’ words beyond evangelizing others to first being true to your authentic self and embracing your own light within.

My friends, regardless of who you love or how you express your gender — and particularly those of you who are a part of the rainbow family — be proud of who you are created to be and let your light shine boldly and fabulously! In this way — whether at a Pride parade or march, during Pride month, or all year-long — you are living out the words of Jesus to let your light shine so that the world has no doubt that the God who created the rainbow also created the children of the rainbow.

So let that light shine, glitter or sparkle, my family! And trust that if Jesus were around today, he would be marching alongside us, letting his light shine, and singing with us the words of a modern prophet, Sylvester, as an ode to our creator:

Oh you make me feel mighty real  
You make me feel mighty real  
Make me feel mighty real  
Make me feel mighty real  
Make me feel mighty real  
Make me feel mighty real  
I feel real  
I feel real  
I feel real  
I feel real

Local activist Todd Whitley will return this fall to Pacific School of Religion for his third year as a masters of divinity student studying sexuality and religion and spirituality and social change. He is a member of Cathedral of Hope UCC, is a father of four and grandfather of two, and will marry his partner Miguel Atkins this July. He blogs at theoddwhitley.com.



# The lives of the leftovers



Some long-term HIV survivors have thrived; others have not

I just finished watching the series finale of *The Leftovers*. I was drawn to this television show for a couple of different reasons. First, as with most every gay man watching, Justin Theroux had my attention with his now legendary jogging scene in his sweatpants (We are so predictable. I can probably lump a majority of the straight, female viewing audience into that equation, too). But beyond that riveting performance, he and the entire cast delivered stellar performances throughout the three-year run of the show.

For those of you not familiar with *The Leftovers*, it was a very dark portrayal what happens in the lives of those people left remaining after a large portion of their loved ones disappear suddenly, in the style of the biblical Rapture. Those remaining are the “leftovers.”

The actual disappearance is the show’s only similarity to the traditional fire and brimstone fairytale. (Spoiler alert: Armageddon never arrives to end the daily suffering of these characters. Instead, they are left to develop some very quirky coping skills to deal with the reality of their loss.)

This scenario, of course, hooked me, because I am a member of the generation of gay men, lesbians, straight allies and family members who endured the loss of so many lives in the 1980s and 1990s. In ways we would rather not admit we are the “leftovers” of the AIDS era.

We survived the devastation and crushing loss AIDS dealt this community. Yes, we have moved on in our lives. Effective drugs for treatment and prevention of new infection has slowed the ravages of HIV. We have learned to live with the gaps left in us where those that perished once dwelt.

But at what cost are we standing here today? Believe me when I say that cost is huge. Parts of us will ever remain broken.



**Gary Bellomy**  
Contributing Columnist

And in the quiet, in the still moments, each of us faces this fact.

As for me, I am one of those HIV-positive “leftovers” tagged “long term survivors.” I received my positive test results in 1984. But for reasons un-

known, I have managed to live with this virus, experiencing little of its damaging effects for at least 32 years, when so many others did not.

I could say it’s thanks to my healthy diet and exercise, but others with the same type of lifestyle died long ago. Maybe the single most significant factor is I did not rush to begin any of the early drug regimens when they became available. I was skeptical.

I saw too many friends panic when they discovered their status, grasping for any treatment that might save them. Once as healthy as I was, they withered under those treatments.

I have read several articles in recent years about the plight of others like me. And what I’ve read paints a grim picture. They show a group of people lingering outside of society’s norm — unhappy, unhealthy and out of step with the rest of the world.

This is unfortunate. In many instances, these people still cling to their identity as a person living with AIDS rather than seeing themselves as a person with HIV, a manageable chronic condition. Most of them went on disability years ago, abandoning viable careers because they believed their death was imminent. I said at that time that it was a bad idea, and I stand by that assessment today.

Some are facing determination of disability policies when they reach legal retirement age. Many of the men being chron-

icled would like to return to employment, but their skills are outdated. They’re bored. Often, they live in government-assisted housing that is dangerous and depressing. Others live in housing provided by AIDS assistance organizations where they are reminded daily of the morbidity rate of the HIV-infected. Not the most positive environment in which to dwell.

Collectively, they feel, accurately enough, that the lives they were dealt have been siphoned away in this strange limbo they accepted.

Make no mistake; I am not trying to crow about my superior abilities compared to other “long-term survivors.” I know full well how fortunate I have been with my own health.

As I said, I passed on early HIV medications. But over time I became complacent in monitoring my health. Asymptomatic for so long, I began to feel I was immune. I was foolish. I began drug treatment because a KS (Kaposi sarcoma) lesion developed on the lens of my eye. The drugs at that time were effective in dissolving that growth, and it has never returned. I know I would be dead without these drugs; so would every other person in my situation. The drugs have given many of us the opportunity to survive.

I can’t judge those who have had to live with very real HIV-related illnesses for decades. But it’s not clear that this is what happened with those I read about. Wasting their own lives while chaining themselves to a dead-end disability lifeboat is not their main concern; convincing themselves they are ill and have already lost the battle with HIV is what is lethal.

Many that bought into that toxic mindset perished quickly because of it. Other’s will continue for a spell longer, watching all of life’s meaning fade. That is what I believe is the true nightmare of this kind of existence. You are setting yourself up to die.

I don’t think this picture of “long-

termers” is accurate for a great many of us. It certainly, does not represent my life. Some of us have moved on with the other members of that generation of survivors. We certainly have had unique hurdles to master: decades of high insurance premiums to provide the costly drugs we require, dealing with prejudice concerning HIV in our workplaces and, at times, in our own community.

All of it became manageable somehow because we chose to press on along with the rest of humanity.

Plenty of us have had rich and rewarding lives. We held onto jobs. We stayed active. We risked involvement with new friends and new mates. We allowed others to bring happiness into our lives, and we slowly learned again to reciprocate.

We live in this world. We take what this life offers us today. And it is enough.

We don’t expect what was taken to be returned. We don’t allow the sorrow of the past to take hold of our souls. We make our way. We will continue to contribute. We have chosen to die with our boots on when that day comes. No one is sure how HIV will influence our more senior years. I remain hopeful.

HIV-negative gay men, lesbians and the straight people that supported us then and do so today did not retreat. Many would have liked to, I’m sure. It’s seems unfair that we were given an escape clause that would release us from the burdens life holds, because we owe it to them and to those who did not survive to continually find ways to live productive lives.

If this community can find ways to rehabilitate these men and return them to the light of present day, I will be there to reach out to them as well. We can never give up. HIV did not win the battle; we did. ■

*Gary Bellomy is a longtime Dallas activist working on issues of LGBT equality, HIV/AIDS services and family violence prevention. He is a war resister and a Trump resister.*





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# 'Hood' winking

How partners-in-life Douglas Carter Beane and Lewis Flinn became partners-in-crime by bringing a campy Robin Hood to life in DTC's world-premiere musical





Douglas Carter Beane smiles broadly as he walks into the rehearsal space at the Wyly Theatre, probably looking more upbeat than he has a right to. The Texas allergens are wreaking havoc with his pulmonary system and he's just a few weeks away from premiering a new musical — this time, one he's not only co-written — with his husband, composer-lyricist Lewis Flinn — but which he's also directing. And today, he has to cut 20 minutes out of the first act — “That’s always a nice feeling,” he sighs.

But in many ways, this is nothing new to Beane, one of the busiest and most prolific playwrights in America today. Early in his career, he was famed for the plays *As Bees in Honey Drown* and *The Little Dog Laughed* and the screenplay for *To Wong Foo, Thanks for Everything, Julie Newmar*. But the last decade has been a spurt of creativity: Books for the big Broadway musicals *Xanadu* and *Sister Act*; re-working Rodgers & Hammerstein’s classic *Cinderella*; even premiering another musical co-written with Flinn at the Dallas Theater Center (more on that later). He’s got three more projects on the burner after this one, which in some ways is his most personal: A musical adaptation of the Robin Hood legend called *Hood: The Robin Hood Musical Adventure*.

“I was drawn to these stories while I was reading them to my son and daughter as bedtime stories,” Beane explains. “Then I noticed how Robin Hood [as a symbol] was making the rounds in pop culture — at political rallies and such. And I became intrigued that this timeless character was such a contemporary touchstone.”

This was in the fall of 2014. Beane had only a vague image of what to do with the character. He started by researching Elizabethan-era English may-dances — “arc-free, unperformable pageants,” he jokes. From there, he pulled the stories his kids loved the most and which he felt resonated in the current culture, and weaved them into a plot.

“I thought it would just be a 90-minute play for schools, but as I got into it, it became richer and deeper. I said to Lewis, ‘I think this might be a musical.’”

Flinn, for his part, was slightly skeptical. The young cast who first workshoped the piece had very little singing experience.

“It would be challenging to write a musical for non-singers,” Flinn deadpans. But then he got inspired. “I approached it as a musical for the everyman — like the way

you could sing some songs in a pub or a bar. In that way, there’s an ease to it — all the songs are melodic with easy hooks.”

“Lewis said if everybody’s singing in a bar, it creates a joyful sound. So we wrote songs that sounded like contemporary folk songs like Mumford and Sons,” Beane adds.

The project really began to take off when Beane, Flinn and their kids moved to England for a year for the London open of *Xanadu*. As fate would have it, they were able to visit Nottingham and Sherwood Forest, and walk around old sites where the historical events are alleged to have taken place.

“We found Little John and Will Scarlet’s graves, as legend says they were,” Beane says. They also teamed up with the Royal Academy of Music, where the students really could sing. “Beyond what we started as sing-along songs, we saw there was a possibility with real singers to go to town on the material.”

Confident he had something, he called Kevin Moriarty, DTC’s artistic director, to pitch the idea. Beane and Flinn had debuted their updated Greek musical-comedy *Lysistrata Jones* (then called *Give It Up!*) at the Wyly in 2010, and had a great experience.

“Whenever a show [I wrote] plays Dallas, I get these reports, like ‘Dallas really gets you!’ So I always wanted to come back to Dallas. We had a truly wonderful time in shaping

[*Lysistrata*] to a future life.”

He offered the chance to debut *Hood* — which was still in its earliest stages — at DTC. “I said, ‘I think Dallas will get a kick out of this. It feels like a DTC show.’ Then within 48 hours, Kevin said, ‘You’re in the season!’ I knew he would love it — he loves iconic figures,” says Beane.

That lit a fire under Beane and Flinn to ready the show for its world premiere (it begins previews at the Wyly on June 27) — a process informed not only by them being a couple, but also because Beane is directing it as well.

This is, as noted, not their first teaming for musical theater — they previously collaborated on *Give It Up!*, eventually taking the show to Broadway. But that was more than seven years ago. Their kids are older now, with the demands that come with parenting. And getting a new musical off the ground is a monstrous undertaking in the best of circumstances. Now imag-

■ HOOD Page 48

**THE MERRY MAN** | Douglas Carter Beane stands among the creative puppets designed for his pared-down telling of the legendary hero of Sherwood Forest, ‘Hood.’ (Photo by Arnold Wayne Jones)

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# Serial offender

More than 20 years after it flopped at the box office, John Waters' cult fave 'Serial Mom' is back for a new generation

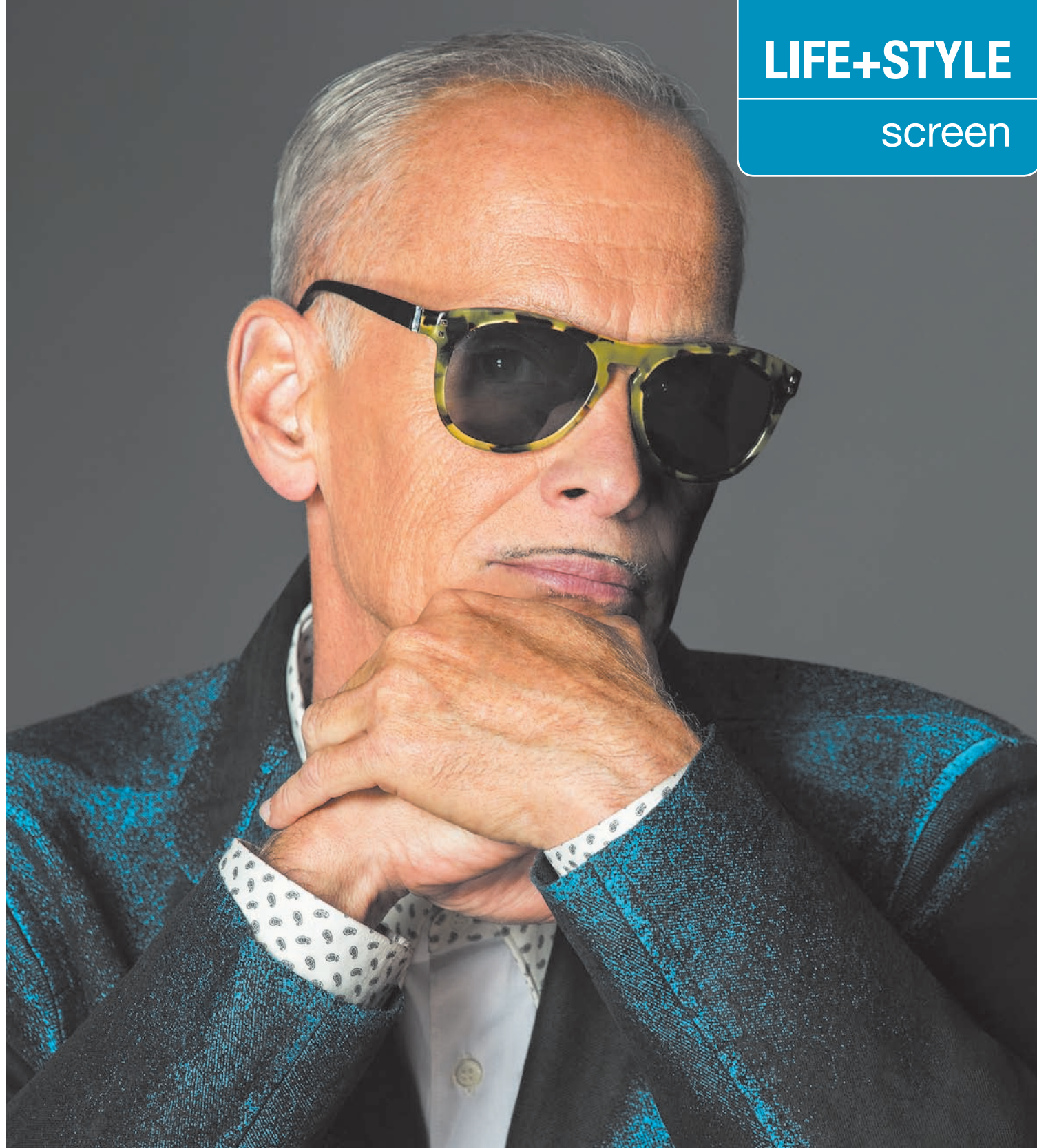
**H**as there ever been a better prank call than the one in *Serial Mom*? The wicked bit features Kathleen Turner as Beverly Sutphin, harassing her parking-spot-stealing neighbor, Dottie Hinkle (Mink Stole): "Is this the Cocksucker residence? Isn't this 4215 Pussy Way?"

In 1994, if you came looking for a raunchy, hard-R John Waters romp that challenged the mainstream paradigm while concurrently *being* mainstream (and also taking the piss out of those who wear white after Labor Day), you came to the right place. *Serial Mom* was the subversive auteur's biggest budgeted, most Hollywood-oriented film. Yet even at his most mainstream, Waters left his deliciously screwy smirk all over the film's obscene plot, which centered on a seemingly everyday wife and mother with a filthy mouth and a fondness for killing the morally inept. Get in the way of her birdwatching? Scissor attack! Cheating on her daughter? Fireplace poker through the back!

But the legendary mischief of that prank-call scene wasn't merely Waters' bawdy imagination at work — it was shaped by actual calls he'd made years before, says the director during a conversation timed to the release of Shout! Factory's new *Serial Mom: Collector's Edition*, the film's Blu-ray debut.

As shit-stirrers of the early '70s, Waters and Mary Vivian Pearce, his friend and a star in many of his wild capers (including 1972's *Pink Flamingos* and *Serial Mom*), grew up babysitting together. "We would call and torture people!" Waters says, in stitches. "We'd make prank calls, then the operator would call and cut the phone off. We used to call movie theaters all the time and say, 'What's playing?' And they'd say, *What's the Matter with Helen?* And we'd say, 'I don't know — she sick?!' And for *You Never Promised Me a Rose Garden*, we'd say, 'Yes, you did! You said I could have one last week!' We would just torture people! So that's where that came from. A little bit of truth."

Fortunately, not all of *Serial Mom* was baked in truth — for instance, the killings, though some especially gullible watchers



still believe Beverly Sutphin and her absurd murders actually happened ("They still say to me, 'Where is she today?'"). Waters *did*, however, study the subject of homicide in gory, real-life depth, sitting in on famous trials and obsessing over true-crime stories that would help build the basis for the black comedy and its murderous-mom debauchery. Elements of his own upbringing had an influence here, as well. Take that brilliantly twisted sequence during which an elderly lady bops along to *Annie* and then gets bludgeoned to death by Beverly's weapon of choice: a leg of lamb.

"That my mom always made a really good leg of lamb," Waters says, was his

direct muse, but subconsciously he was also channeling Roald Dahl's short story *Lamb to the Slaughter*, adapted in 1953 for *Alfred Hitchcock Presents*. In the episode, a housewife kills her husband with a frozen lamb leg.

"I watched that show all the time, and I remember that show later when people tell me," he says, "but I didn't consciously remember that when I was writing it. I wrote it because my mom always made a great leg of lamb. It had the right kind of bone."

So right, in fact, that, "I still have the rubber prop leg of lamb that she killed with sitting on my desk in Baltimore."

When the filmmaker leads live

commentaries of the film around the country, he says new generations of Waters enthusiasts are just as tickled by the lamb and prank-call scenes as they were upon the film's initial premiere, nearly two decades ago. "I'm really proud that all my movies still seem to play fine with audiences, even young audiences that weren't even born when I made these movies!" he says. "That's the ultimate test to me. People still laugh and they don't feel like it's old hat or 'I've seen this before,' so I'm always encouraged when I have a young audience. That's the only thing you can't buy, the one thing you can't fake."

LIFE+STYLE

screen



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# Instant TS

The activist and performer takes pride in being black and trans ... and will share that confidence at a gay Juneteenth celebration this weekend

**T**S Madison makes no apologies for being who she is ... and feels most people shouldn't, either. As an out, black trans woman who is upfront about her history as a sex worker, Madison has done what it takes to survive... and, finally, thrive.

The Miami native became an internet sensation with the popularity of her YouTube channel, in which she discussed transgender issues as well as working in "adult" industries. She parlayed her success as an entrepreneur into a brand that now encompasses hip-hop recordings, an autobiography, custom merchandise and personal appearances — including hosting and performing at Saturday's Juneteenth Unity Pool Party and Concert, sponsored by Dallas Southern Pride.

We tracked down Madison (from filming with RuPaul, no less) to discuss being a multi-minority, how she is continually "transitioning" and what to expect from her North Texas appearance.

— Arnold Wayne Jones



**Dallas Voice: When did you first suspect you were trans, and when was that in relation to knowing you were “different” — gay, bi, sexually ambiguous, etc.?** TS Madison: Listen, I knew I was trans when I first learned about the concept, around 17. I felt like me my mama were like the same. I wanted to know men like she knew men. I wanted to feel sex and love the way a man would give himself to a woman. Not just sexually — physically, emotionally, spiritually. Life was derived in Africa and I believe that black women are mother-earth and the closest thing to god. We look to our mothers or other black women in reverence and we want emulate that. That was my story. I wanted to be revered as a powerful figure that could transform the world by just my very presence.

**When did you transition?** People always ask me that. I think I never *stopped* transitioning. We all as human are on a constant transition. You want to know when I decided to be who I am on the inside — that is the question that should be asked! It started at about 17. I said to myself, “Girl, when are you going to grasp your own happiness?” I think we transwomen spend most of our lives being who others tell us we are. But we have to decide, “I am going to live my happiness and worry about someone else’s happiness later.” At 17 [is when] I started to put myself first.

**You include the letters TS in your name, which would seem to stand for “transsexual,” a word that is not preferred in the trans community. Is that a political statement in some way? How do you feel about the way trans people are discussed, especially in the black community?** I think that everyone has to respect everyone’s individuality. At one point, TS stood for transsexual. But now it’s a play on words for me — “tossed salad,” “too much stuff,” etc. I took that in as a part of my brand and built that. My mindset is why be natural when you can be supernatural. Everyone likes to blend in and I like to stand out. Trans has been seen as one voice, but we have to start treating transwomen like individuals. I am secure in who I am, I have been living in transition for more than 25 years. I know that going through this life is not easy, so I took what people tried to use against me and made my strength. Yes, TS Madison is a brand, but I am who I am. Just make sure the check clears!

**Here’s an impossible question to answer, but I’ll ask it anyway: What do you find harder in society at large — being trans or being a person of color?** Ahhhh! I think being a trans person of color. I cannot separate those identities — I am one of both. When you combine the two it makes it even more crazy. There are trans white people who will never share their privilege with trans girls of color. When people look at what I have, they say, “Oh, she was a sex worker!” [in a judgmental way.] No, I’m not a sex worker; I’m a businesswoman. You put “black woman” and “sex worker” in the same sentence, and people look at it as bad. But they forget that lots of white transwomen did sex work and are called “models.” I have received the bad end of the stick because by being both, not just trans or black. People need to understand that being a minority on both sides is extremely difficult. Sometimes

I want to run to my black people about how I’m treated as a transwoman... but I’m not accepted. I try to run to my trans people about the way black people treat me... but they can’t relate. So the identities are inseparable. I am black and I am trans and I have received the good and bad on both ends of that.

**What are your most concerning issues related to the LGBT and/or black communities?**

For me, it’s survival. There are a lot of trans people out there that don’t have work, education or a place to stay. People want to talk down about sex workers, but what people don’t understand is that everything requires money and the opportunities are not always there for transwomen to get adequate [pay and benefits]. I don’t discourage girls from sex work because I’ve been there, but what I do is open up a class or workshop on how to take lemons and make lemonade. I want to create programs to teach girls how to sharpen their crafts and use those skills to built businesses and brands of their own. It takes skills to do some of the things we have to do survive. Honey, sex work is customer service; scamming is accounting, logistics, event planning and everything else! I just want to show them the right way to use their skills and create legit lifestyles for themselves and their families. It takes skills. We need these girls to be business owners, bank tellers, etc.

**What do you consider your calling — musician, activist, entertainer, author, something else? What most defines your public life, what you want to be known for?** My calling is life coach. People who have watched me, watched me go from 0 to 60. You can listen to what someone has to say all day, but to watch someone live is another story, because you learn how they did it. People have been able to see me go from a crawl to a walk, honey — a strut, a sickening strut. I want to be an entertaining life coach.

**What will you be doing at Juneteenth? How familiar are you with the historical significance of Juneteenth in Texas?** June is Pride month above all — that we have every right and responsibility to be proud of who we are, *all* of who we are. I know that Juneteenth is also significant because of the notice of liberation to Texas slaves; it’s all about liberation, freedom — and, let me add, fun. And paying homage to people who fought and lost for us to have these days and times. I will be hosting Dallas Southern Pride’s Juneteenth Unity Festival and Concert, but throughout the day, I will be reminding people who and why we are celebrating. I will be encouraging people to live their most liberated life they can. I and will be turning the party up and out.

**What is the message you most want to impress upon your fans ... or even people who don’t know you?** I would like to leave the readers with this: You cannot look at your today and judge that as your tomorrow. There are a lot of people are looking at their “right now” and unable to see hope [for the future]. If I would have judged my “then” at the time, I would not see myself where I am now. I never thought I would be where I am today because I was stuck looking at where I was in life 10, 15 years ago. I had to let that go and imagine the life I wanted to live. That gave me the permission to start the journey of who I am today.



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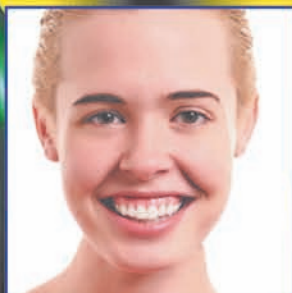
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L+S screen

## Comedy comida

Mike White and Miguel Arteta re-team for 'Beatriz at Dinner,' the best movie of the year so far



ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor  
[jones@dallasvoice.com](mailto:jones@dallasvoice.com)

The pairing of writer Mike White and director Miguel Arteta may be the most undervalued artistic partnership in Hollywood. From *Chuck & Buck*, their creepy gay stalker comedy, to Jennifer Aniston in *The Good Girl* and even Arteta directing several episodes of White's hippie-dippy cable sitcom *Enlightened*, they have a way of approaching unusual, specific stories where Arteta's cool hand guides White's quirky, uncommercial storylines to indie cred. (White also writes very commercial screenplays like *School of Rock*... which Arteta does *not* direct.)

I suspect their latest collaboration, *Beatriz at Dinner*, might be a tough sell, which is too bad, because it's the first great movie of 2017 — a complex, difficult-to-predict comedy of manners that slowly twists into a reverie about evil, mankind and the survival of the planet. And it all takes place over dinner.

Beatriz (Salma Hayek, in a career-defining performance) is a middle-aged animal lover, vegan and professional healer — Reiki, deep-tissue massage, good listener — whose pet goat has just been murdered by, she suspects, a grumpy neighbor. While making a house call for Cathy (Connie Britton), a long-standing client who lives in a luxurious gated oceanfront community in SoCal, Beatriz's car breaks down. Cathy invites Beatriz to join their small dinner party with some of her husband's colleagues. And thus begins a tense but illuminating evening of small-talk and big ideas.

White is a master at positing socially-awkward situations in the most confrontational and ambivalent ways. Then Arteta realizes them with sharp visual

clues and subtext. He often frames Hayek — clad in mom jeans, drab blouse and zero makeup — as small and physically removed from the colorful, cocktail-dependent social X-rays clucking about real TV stars. Beatriz (they never pronounce her name correctly, lazily resting on the Anglicized "Beatrice") prefers to discuss global warming, her dead goat, deforestation. When a Donald Trump-esque developer (John Lithgow) joins the party, bloviating about his latest shady business dealings, Beatriz focuses on the pain he brings to the world. You can't say she's a fun dinner guest, but you do want her on your side.

It's a challenge discussing the movie without giving away many of the subtle charms it packs into a lean 75 minutes. Beatriz is humorless but so morally centered she can silently intimidate these nouveaux riche one-percenters. If this were more apparently a psychological thriller or supernatural horror, you might expect Beatriz to go on a rampage of revenge. (It's a strange combination of Luis Bunuel's *The Exterminating Angel*, *Death and the Maiden*, *An Inconvenient Truth* and *The Help*.)

But White plays it close to the vest, commenting on how people talk past each other and don't really communicate, how social conventions may be what prevents real growth, how the sacred and the profane are at odds with each others and nobody wants to point that out. Led by Hayek's morosely focused performance, the result is a lovely, surprising, thoughtfully intimate dissertation on what it takes to make a difference as our world spins out of control.

Now playing at the Angelika Film Centers in Dallas and Plano.





Available on Blu-ray for the first time, the 1994 dark murder-comedy 'Serial Mom' is the latest vindication of the peculiarly original voice and artistry of gay auteur John Waters.

#### ■ WATERS From Page 40

Though it received a wide release, *Serial Mom* grossed a disappointing \$7.82 million domestically in 1994, "but still, I was used to that," says the director about its box-office performance. Its earnings, though modest, don't seem to reflect the fanbase the film has amassed in the years following its lackluster big-screen rollout, as fans have pressed Waters to deliver more mommy murders. Though he's written a book sequel to his Divine-starring *Pink Flamingos*, in addition to three developed but untouched sequels to *Hairspray*, it would be "kind of ballsy to be talking about a sequel to a movie that didn't do well. I like that idea, but it's hard to get meetings," Waters explains.

He has the pitch in his back pocket: It's a TV show, and Beverly would kill for politically correct purposes on a monthly basis. Imagine Beverly alive and kickin' and killin' in Trump's America. "There are so many reasons that she would have to kill," he says, based on the current sociopolitical climate.

"I still talk about it in interviews. Who knows — maybe this will make it happen. You never know. Did I ever think *Multiple Maniacs* would come out and get the best reviews? No! Did I ever think I would give a commencement speech that's now a book that just came out called *Make Trouble*? No! Things you think are gonna work, don't. Things you don't ever think are gonna be big, are. You just never know. You keep telling stories and some strike

a nerve and some don't, and some don't until way later."

If you were a curious-about-everything gay boy coming into his own in the '90s, odds are *Serial Mom* hit the pre-pubescent spot. I tell Waters the film was my introduction to his filmography. "I'm glad that you saw *Serial Mom* first and it sucked you in!" he says, laughing mischievously.

Though Waters' early career followers were almost exclusively the queerest of queers — you'd have to be broad-minded to watch Divine partake in buttplay with a rosary, a scene from *Multiple Maniacs* — films such as *Hairspray* and *Cry-Baby*, and then *Serial Mom*, courted a new wave of shameless rebels. Waters' mom thought *Serial Mom* was his best movie, and Waters agrees. Even Boy George got such a kick out of the comedy that he recited "cocksucker residence" on his own voicemail, which "really did make me laugh," says Waters, upon discovering the message after calling the pop icon.

"All movies, to be a success, have to appeal to a wider audience than just a gay audience," Waters says. "I'm not a separatist. I believe everybody should hang around together. My audiences ... I always want the people who have a good sense of humor. I don't care what they do with their vaginas or their noses or their assholes or their mouths. I don't care as long as they can do one thing with their mouth — laugh!"

— Chris Azzopardi



# Beyond the quilt

LIFE+STYLE

books

A new coffee-table book examines crafty gays making textiles ... and a difference



John Chaich vividly recalls the time he saw the AIDS quilt displayed in its entirety on the Mall in Washington, D.C.

“Witnessing that massive piece that was created by hours of love and handiwork solidified the power of what fabric and fiber and textile and making things by hand can mean to a community,” he says.

Chaich’s appreciation for textile crafts wasn’t newly-discovered then — he grew up with a mother and grandmother who quilted, knitted and practiced what were derogatorily referred to as “women’s work.”

“But as a gay man, I felt an affinity for women’s work, since I didn’t feel an affinity for working on the car with my dad or sports.”

The led Chaich — an independent curator by trade — to create the Queer Threads exhibit, which opened in New York in 2014, and has traveled to Baltimore and Boston since. “I get to develop projects based on my own curiosities, and I was drawn to fiber arts and crafts,” he says.

But it wasn’t until Dallas native Todd Oldham served as a “guest docent” when the exhibition was in NYC that Chaich realized the potential to turn his passion into a coffee-table

book. Dropping last month, *Queer Threads: Crafting, Identity and Community* is a collection of photos of many notable fiber arts, as well as interviews with the artisans — heck, call them *artists* — who are at the forefront of this growing movement.

“It was a tremendous honor for someone like Todd — known for items being handmade — to suggest the book,” Chaich says. He’s deeply gratified to bring this work to a larger public.

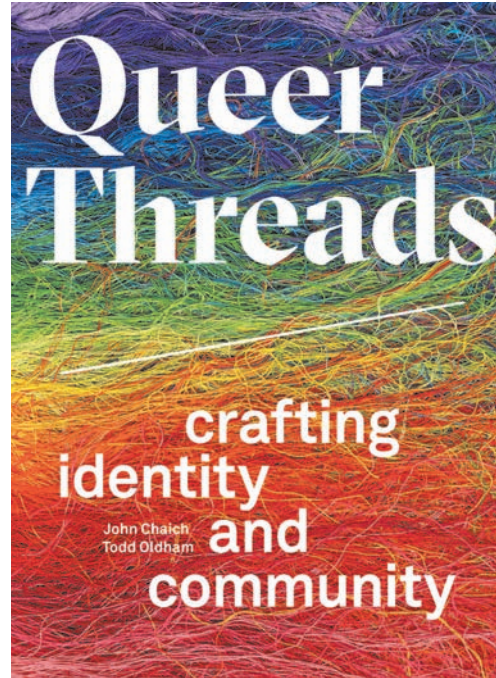
“The AIDS quilt was one of the most public and resonating and far-reaching [craft projects],” he says. “But within the larger art world, there has been a historic hierarchy and what is considered fine art versus craft or even design. There has been a schism of where fiber art is and where it can be shown. But more than ever, those walls are blurring. We are pushing those boundaries.”

How did he decide what to include in the book? That’s the best part.

“That’s a fun problem to have — keeping it to a manageable page count,” Chaich says. “There’s a tremendous wealth of talent. It keeps me inspired.”

— Arnold Wayne Jones

*Queer Threads* (Ammo Press), available online and at bookstores.





# Race and sex

'The Ada Decades' spans 70 years in telling a history of bigotry

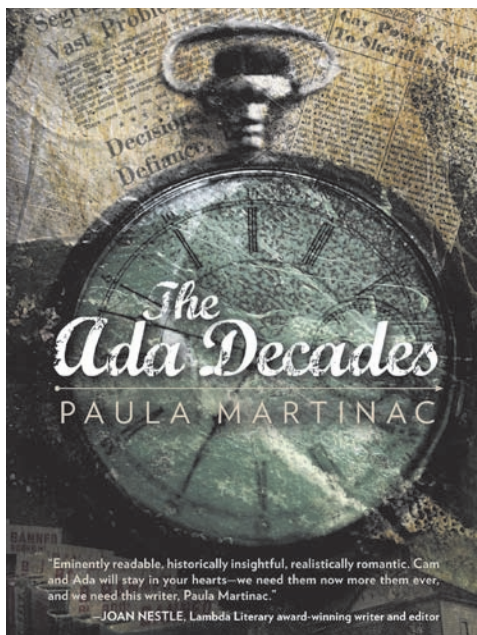
*The Ada Decades* by Paula Martinac  
(Bywater Books 2017) \$15.95; 165 pp.

Ada's daddy needed help around the house. Once, that was junior's job, but he was busy with high school things, so 12-year-old Ada fetched her daddy's tools ... which was what she was doing when she found an envelope with naked-lady pictures and a postcard of black men hanging from a tree. She took those pictures from the toolbox, even though she knew she shouldn't, and approached the only person she could trust: her school's librarian, who explained how things were before the war.

Ten years later, things were still that way. It was 1957 and, as Central Charlotte Junior High's new librarian, Ada watched, paralyzed, while police escorted the school's first black student down the halls. Ada embraced integration, but she hadn't known what to do. She wished she'd had the self-confidence of the English teacher, Cam Lively, who'd welcomed the frightened girl with a smile.

Ada understood fear. She'd always known she was different, but women weren't supposed to be *that way* about other women. She didn't know exactly how to say what she felt, but she knew it was wrong... that is, until Miss Lively invited Ada to a "book club" that was really just a gathering for gay men and lesbians. There, Ada found friends, a tribe and someone to love.

But Ada was from the wrong side of the tracks: Her parents were poor, and she



## DON'T JUDGE THIS BOOK BY ITS COVER

| Author Paula Martinac, below, has written a thoughtful, historically-set gay novel ... just don't call it a romance.

felt it. Cam came from money, and neither woman's family approved of the relationship. The pressures they felt in 1962 — the need to hide and keep quiet — were almost unendurable; indeed, some friends couldn't take it anymore. How much easier their lives would be if they could just be themselves!

Readers may notice the word "romantic" on the cover of *The Ada Decades*, but that's one of the lesser aspects of this novel. Yes, there's a bit of a love story here, but it's more historical fiction than anything.

Beginning with a young girl's early understanding of racial discrimination, Paula Martinac tells a multi-layered tale from the perspective of an often-humorous, rather prudish and complicated character. Spanning nearly 70 years, the story is appealing, surprisingly chaste and set within accurately-told historical events. But there's no *Forrest Gump* here: for Ada and Cam, the outside world is there for commentary, but not always for participation. Instead, Martinac's characters are everyday women, living pleasantly normal lives, and their story ends in a satisfyingly quiet way.

The cover of this book is no grabber — that's too bad, because the story itself *is*, starting on its first page. If you're in the mood for a nice, gentle surprise of a tale that lacks drama and graphic scenes, *The Ada Decades* will tick all the boxes. ■

— Terri Schlichenmeyer



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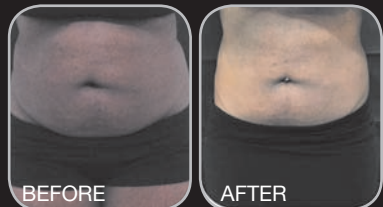
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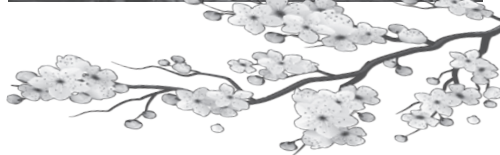
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Lewis Flinn, above, was inspired by the joyous sound of happy bar patrons singing folk songs in writing his score; opposite, Stefano Brancato and designer James Ortiz show off some of the puppets in the 'Hood.' (Photo courtesy Karen Almond)

## ■ HOOD From Page 38

ine coming home every night with your collaborator.

As it turns out, for this pair at least, that's not as daunting as it may sound — though Flinn quips that if he says anything wrong during the interview, "I'm sure I'll hear about it in the bedroom."

"We try to keep the work and the life separate so it isn't as if we are hashing ideas out over dinner," Flinn says. The beginning of the process was the toughest, since they were trying to integrate their ideas and make sure the tone is consistent.

"We bumped our way through it — Doug would write [scenes] and send me an email saying, 'Let's put a song here' and I'd email it back [with music and lyrics]. The awkward part in any collaboration is that first response. You're trying something new and waiting for the collaborator to say, 'That's the best thing I've ever heard!' ... and that's not always the response you get."

It helps that both are perfectionists who obsess over details.

"Lewis is very facile and quick on his feet. He does all his own orchestrations and vocal arrangements — he complains about it, but I don't think he'd be quite as happy if someone else did it," Beane says. "And he got to write in a folk vein and that's a different set of chops than the pop music he's been doing lately — madrigals, choral work... he gets to write a good,

saucy, double-entendre-laden madrigal."

While Beane hammers out the actual staging of the show, Flinn is busy fine-tuning the score.

"This is the first time as a major production with a full band," Flinn says. "For this version, I've added harmony parts and we have real singers. Last week, we cut a song and put in new stuff. We really do have a shorthand, so we can revise very quickly. I'll say, 'How about we extend a dance break here?' Then we get the kids fed and I have about 30 minutes before I turn into a pumpkin. At this point we're feeling pretty good about the show."

One thing that amazes even Beane is how, without employing any direct, contemporary references, his script manages to comment on the current culture. There are no modern references, although it is "in a language we have come to expect as Middle-Ages-speak from our *Game of Thrones* experience. But there are ways we can comment on today's world through that," he says.

Since he wrote it, Brexit happened, the presidential election happened and everything, it seems, has more meaning. "There's a scene where Prince John becomes King John and someone says, 'He's not *my* king!' I wrote that two-and-a-half years ago!"

He also enjoys executing the very specific concept he had for *Hood*.

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"This had a very definite concept so it helps the writing. It should feel like the actors wrote it themselves in the room," Beane says. Among the cast of 12, half are from Dallas, half New York; half are people of color, most are in their early to mid 20s... All very intentional. "We have 12 people telling a story that if Cameron McIntosh or Andrew Lloyd Webber or Harold Prince had done it would be a cast of 40," Beane says. "I like to remind audiences that they are in this event of seeing theater. And I am constantly reminding them of [the artifice]. Contemporary young people come in to tell the story by any means that they can — props that they find or make out of garbage; the costumes are all Etsy-like and handmade; we use a lot of puppets that are so peculiar and interesting-looking."

It might seem like a pared-down, small-cast, one-set, improv-like musical goes against the modern trend of technological whiz-bangery. But for Flinn and Beane, that's kind of the point.

"As the world gets more and more intel and computerized and metallic, we crave wooden things: Things that are ancient and tribal, like live theater. We want to celebrate that. The most important piece of stagecraft you can have is an actor playing an instrument and becoming a different person. There is nothing more exciting than a sword fight onstage," Beane observes.

"It's about getting back to truthful stories. These are old stories with moral twists in them. Imagine the day I turned the page and my kids found out Will Scarlet was Robin Hood's gay nephew. He's a fop, and he refuses to wear green in the forest — as he says, 'How will people notice me?' But he's a great fist-fighter. You can be a sissy and still beat the crap out of someone."

That's a vital message to convey in today's America, and one that has been around for centuries, if we only opened ourselves up to seeing it. The first line of the first song, Flinn states, *Welcome to the story we're about to tell / It's been told before and we hope we do it well.*

And nothing would delight them more than doing just that. ■

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# A bard day's night

A fictitious history of the musical ... and a classic that mastered the form

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor  
jones@dallasvoice.com

The Dallas Theater Center and Robin Hood aren't the only locals traipsing through the Middle Ages with musical abandon. Over at the Winspear, the national tour of *Something Rotten!* frolics across the Renaissance — or more accurately, the Renonsense — in this comic fantasy about the origins of musical theater.

It's 1595 London, and the Bottom Brothers, Nick (Rob McClure) and Nigel (Josh Grisetti) can't catch a break with their company of actors. All the oxygen in the room is being sucked up by that pretentious upstart Shakespeare (Adam Pascal), and they need a surefire hit. Nick stoops to asking a soothsayer, Nostradamus (Blake Hammond), to peek into the future and tell him what will be the Next Big Thing. When the answer comes back, "Musicals!," Nick is confused. But a few visions later — including numerous crossed-wires that result in a medley of musical phrases and iconic images from *West Side Story* to *Annie* to *Rent* to who-knows-what-else, we get a mini-history from Styne to Sondheim, with tons of prescient references to Rosenkrantz and Guildenstern and other characters the Bard of Avon has yet to conceive, weaving zingers from old tropes with modern twists.

*Something Rotten!* is one of the most joyously silly shows ever devised — like *The Drowsy Chaperone* and *The Producers*, it's a musical about musicals that reminds us how dumb musicals are ... and how we nevertheless love them. Watching it is like a two-and-a-half-hour nerdgasm for theater queens. There are so many inside jokes, just being in the audience should qualify as surgical experience.

I've rarely seen a more energetic cast that glories in camping it up with fey gusto, reveling in the plentiful double entendres in songs like "Bottom's Gonna Be on Top," "A Musical" and "Welcome to the Renaissance." (There's even a closeted



**OF CODPIECES AND PANTALOONS** | Nick Bottom (Rob McClure, center) confronts opposition for his new theatrical form, the musical, in 'Something Rotten;' opposite, Sweden swings with the sexual roundelet of 'A Little Night Music.'

Puritan secretly lusting for the very chorusboys he condemns.) Hammond and Pascal get the most scene-stealing moments, but McClure is a fireplug of charisma, and



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Grisetti's sad-sack poet has many slyly funny-touching bits. By the time of the big play-within-a-play showstopper, "Omelette" — this show's "Springtime for Hitler" — *Something Rotten!* has either won you over or worn you out. Whichever, you'll leave doubled-over and exhausted by laughing so much.

*Something Rotten!* makes fun of musicals, while *A Little Night Music*, now being revived at Theatre 3, comes from the mind of one of the great practitioners of the form, Stephen Sondheim. He and book writer Hugh Wheeler have taken filmmaker Ingmar Bergman's sexual roundel *Smiles on a Summer Night*, about the romantic entanglements of turn-of-the-century Swedish aristocrats, and turned it into a clever chamber musical, filled with wit and farce but made oh-so-elevated by its elegant wisdom. (Sondheim composed several musical rondos, which lyrically prefigure like the sexual revolving doors that define Act 2.)

If you're not familiar with the plot, successful middle-aged lawyer Fredrik (John Kuether) has recently married the teenaged Anne (Ellie Hertel), who would be better suited to Fredrik's son Henrik (Russell McCook) ... if only Henrik weren't a repressed seminarian. Into their town comes the famed actress Desiree Armfeldt (Jennifer Kuenzer), who years earlier carried on a torrid romance with Fredrik but has now settled into mistresshood with the brusque, dumb and jealous dragoon Carl-Magnus (Regis Allison)... much to the displeasure of his wife Charlotte (Ashlie Kirkpatrick).

Who will end up coupled? Can you go back again?

There are many themes and ideas beyond the apparent floating on the air of Sondheim's score.

Speaking of which, music director Scott Eckert has gingerly pruned Jonathan Tunick's famously lush orchestrations for the string-centric combo he has assembled and directs them expertly. Indeed, the only downside to listening to this rich music is that the musicians sometimes overwhelm the un-miked actresses, who, in theater-in-the-round, leave portions of the audience straining to hear Sondheim's witty lyrics.

The tendency of director Marianne Galloway to plant the actors in stationary positions during songs is one of her only missteps; the show is full of smart ideas, including the modern-dress chorus, who mingle with the audience and pop up like stage-door Johnnys to comment upon the action and interact with the principals.

Often, *A Little Night Music* is presented as a gauzy reverie of a time past, but Galloway's interpretation reminds us how relevant it still is, how current. She's ably aided by



standout performances from Kuenzer, Kuether and Kirkpatrick, who make this under-performed classic a lovely charmer.

*Something Rotten!* at the Winspear Opera House, through June 25. [ATTPAC.org](http://ATTPAC.org).

*A Little Night Music* at Theatre 3, through July 2. [Theatre-3Dallas.com](http://Theatre-3Dallas.com).

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# Singin' for suppers

Philanthropic chorus Resounding Harmony lends voices to benefit NTFB



Songs in the key of "eats" fill the bill at upcoming concert by Resounding Harmony, a 125-voice all-volunteer Dallas choir that sings to raise money for local charities.

Music, the Food of Love! is the theme for the event at Moody Performance Hall (the just-renamed Dallas City Performance Hall) in the Dallas Arts District on June 23. The concert honors the memory of WFAA food contributor and critic Stacy Fawcett, with ticket sales benefiting the North Texas Food Bank (NTFB). WFAA's out news anchor Ron Corning hosts.

Led by choral director Russ Rieger, the program will feature tasty numbers on a foodie theme, including "Food Glorious Food" from the musical *Oliver!*, composer John Rutter's complicated, comical "Banquet Fugue" and "Biscuits" by country star Kacey Musgraves.

"It's all kind of a tribute to the late Stacy Fawcett," says Resounding Harmony board chairman (and Rieger's partner) Mark Knight, who is also a founding member of the chorus. "Ron Corning was one of her best friends, and when we asked what we could do in her memory, he said her favorite charity was North Texas Food Bank." (Stacy Fawcett was murdered in her Plano home in 2016 by her 19-year-old son, who also stabbed to death his 17-year-old brother and then killed himself.)

The concert is the last event in Resounding Harmony's ninth season, though the group often pops up throughout the year at neighborhood festivals. The choir has raised more than \$300,000 for the Susan G. Komen breast cancer organization, Make-A-Wish, Wounded Warrior Dallas and other nonprofits. Choir members have also made and donated teddy bears to local

children's hospitals.

Many of the singers are culled from other music groups, including The Women's Chorus of Dallas, the Turtle Creek Chorale and church choirs, as well as simply being individuals who just enjoy harmonizing for good causes.

"They're the most generous people I've ever known. They often pool their pocket change to pay for concert hall rentals," says Knight.

Choir member Barb Bach used to sing with the Women's Chorus; now she's an alto with Resounding Harmony. "I jumped

at the opportunity to sing with them," says Bach, who works in real estate. "I can't give to every charity that I want to, but this is a way I can give back to the community. I really enjoy it. I'm a charter member. I've sung in every concert, and I was right there at the beginning."

The NTFB is a nonprofit that provides access to more than 190,000 meals every day for hungry children, seniors and families through a network of more than 1,000 programs and agencies across 13 counties. In 2016, NTFB provided some 70 million meals. The organization is well served by food drives, but donated cash provides increased buying power through co-ops, local farmers and food storage units. For every \$1 donated, NTSB says it can feed three people.

"Every dollar we can give through our concert's donations far exceeds what we could do with a food drive," Knight says. "To sing for a chorus that's changing lives, there's a little different feeling to that. We call it 'giving where we're living.'"

Something about that just hits all the right notes.

— Elaine Liner

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# Drawing Dallas

‘Melodic rapper’ Alonzo May has music in his blood

MARK STOKES | Illustrator  
mark@mstokes.com



**Name and age:** Alonzo May, 21

**Spotted:** Lakewood

**Occupation:** Musician

Alonzo was born in Dallas to an African-American father and a Mexican mother from the border-town of Laconia, Mexico. He is the oldest child, with two younger sisters.

**Musical roots:** Alonzo’s dad was a member of Shabazz 3, a hip-hop jazz group popular in the Dallas scene in the late 1990s/early 2000s. Music has always been his love for as long as he can remember and as he grew older he began to take it seriously and work harder with it.

Alonzo describes his own musical style as “melodic rap.” “My music is usually the story of a problem before it gets to the solution. If you would read the lyrics without any music, they would appear pretty dark or menacing, but with the music it sounds melodic.” He is inspired by artists such as Kurt Cobain and Green Day.

**Outside interests:** His music is hobbies include skateboarding, and writing poetry.

Alonzo plans to continue composing and recording his music, and to branch out into other venues of entertainment such as stand-up comedy. But wherever his future career choices may lead, they will always be based around his artistic integrity.

**Find him:** YouTube: Purp K. Twitter: @purpk



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Whoever said a compact fuel-sipping hybrid couldn't also be cool? Perhaps it needs to be aerodynamic, but it doesn't have to look like an out-of-control science project merged with some sci-fi future-set flick. An efficient little hybrid could just look like a crossover. And it could still have all of the technology and utility expected in a cutting-edge ride.

At least that's what Kia designers and engineers apparently thought as they conjured the Niro.

From the exterior, it looks like a smaller Sportage — wide stance, elegant forms and Kia's trademark tiger nose grille. Short overhangs and 18-in. alloy wheels add to its athletic appearance. Gray plastic cladding around the wheelwells and accenting the lower side sculpting protect the flanks while a luggage rack provides space for gear. LED taillamps and spoiler give followers a nice view.

The interior befits a smaller version of the Cadenza luxury sedan. Wide horizontal dash expanses hold the touchscreen for navigation and audio above controls for the automatic climate system. Harman Kardon premium audio, heated/ventilated leather front seats, heated leather-wrapped steering wheel and a power sunroof add luxury. Designers stepped up with contrasting blue stitching for the leather, piano black accents on the doors and console and blue surrounds for the air vents. Knobs and buttons feel precise. Engineers gave special attention to reducing wind, road and powertrain noise for tranquil traveling.

Safety was a priority, enhanced by Autonomous Emergency Braking, Blind Spot Detection, Rear Cross Traffic Alert, Lane Change Assist and Lane Departure Warning systems. Adaptive cruise control maintains a safe distance from other vehicles.

Beyond all of that, the Niro has a roomy and flexible interior. Rear seats fold down to provide a large flat floor for sports gear, plants, camping equipment or anything else you need to haul. Four passengers fit comfortably; five can squeeze in for short trips. From inside, the power monitor in the instrument cluster is the only real indication you're inside a hybrid — a very good thing.

Providing the gasoline-burning part of the powertrain is a 1.6-liter four-cylinder engine making 104 horsepower. It employs an exhaust heat recovery system to speed warm-up and reduce pollution. The electric portion is represented by a Lithium Ion Polymer battery located beneath the rear seats and driving a 43 horsepower motor between the engine and transmission. All in, the system delivers 139 horsepower and 195 lb.-ft. of torque for reasonably spirited acceleration. Fuel economy is rated a fantastically frugal

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The Niro's interior, above, is roomy and flexible, but it's the rarest of rare among hybrids: A fun car to drive.

52/49-MPG city/hwy. for base models, 46/40-MPG for Touring editions.

But driving a hybrid is rarely a fun experience. Kia eliminates the high-speed weedeater feel of continuously variable transmissions in most hybrids by installing a 6-speed dual clutch automatic transmission. Silent electric power gets you moving before the gas engine fires up, and the transmission shifts cleanly through its gears. Regenerative brakes, which replenish the batteries during deceleration, feel a little soft but do their job without drama.

The obvious competition for the Niro is the Toyota Prius, Chevy Volt and Hyundai Ioniq. You might also consider the Chevy Cruze Diesel. But none of these cars offer the refined style, interior space and 50-MPG offered by the Niro. A base price of \$22,890, or \$29,650 for our loaded Limited model, makes it a pretty good value, too.



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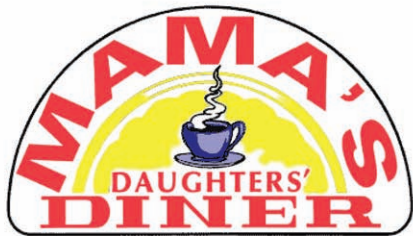
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# What's for dinner

Keeping track of new resto openings foodies are following



We're almost at the mid-point of the year, which means about half of the new restaurants that will open this year already have ... and many have snowballed in recent weeks (and some older restaurants are getting makeovers). In addition to still-new **Roux**, **Q Tacos at Macho Cantina**, **Junction Craft Kitchen** and **Nazca Kitchen**, here are some to keep on your foodie radar.

**Roti Modern Mediterranean.** The latest addition to Uptown's McKinney & Olive development is this Chicago-based fast-casual restaurant, which just opened this week. Named for the wheat flatbread (which is actually from India), the menu features traditional Middle Eastern-style dishes, like falafel, lamb meatballs and fresh feta. 2355 Olive St.

**Corrientes 348.** Taking over the Downtown space previously occupied by Stephan Pyles' eponymous restaurant, this Argentinean steakhouse opens for lunch and dinner on June 20. This will be its first U.S. location, so you can be among the earliest to sample the housemade empanadas, signature potato dish *papatasso* and of course aged beef. 1807 Ross Ave.

**District 30.** It's been Cyclone Anaya's and most recently Bite, but now the space off Oak Lawn in the gayborhood is a new craft kitchen and bar called District 30. Newly opened from lunch to late-night, it offers a large beer selection as well as gastropub-inspired dishes like lamb lollipops and ahi nachos. 3211 Oak Lawn Ave.

**The Brixton.** Full disclosure: Mohawked punk chef Patrick Stark launched his first restaurant menu at a tasting in the kitchen of my house. Well, he's progressed far be-

The first U.S. location of the Argentinean steakhouse Corrientes 348 opens Tuesday in the former Stephan Pyles space Downtown. Beef is clearly the focus.

yond that now. The Brixton is in soft-opening phase right now, but will launch its grand opening on June 23 with a gala bash featuring live music and DJ Serious. The menu will include flatbreads, craft cocktails and artisan "bites and nibbles." *The Shops at Legacy*, 5800 Legacy Drive, Plano.

**Windmill Lounge.** The Maple Avenue institution has a new owner, a new menu and new look, including elevated bar food like rich, four-cheese flatbread, thick Mexican potato skins and big, apple-glazed meatballs. 5320 Maple Ave.

**Salsera.** The Deep Ellum restaurant has just brought on a new chef, Armando Aguilar, who has refocused the concept to New American Cuisine. The new menu includes simple seasonal items like tuna tartare, housemade naan, pork-belly baos as well as vegetarian options. 2910 Elm St.

**Chelsea Corner.** The storied McKinney Avenue watering hole closed down, but then reopened early this year with new owners committed to recreating the fun, but improving on the cr-credible-ity of its food. 4830 McKinney Ave.

**Hat Creek Burger Co.** The Austin-based fast-casual hamburger joint known for local-sourcing as much from Texas as possible is expanding to North Texas with four locations scheduled to open, starting with McKinney in the fall, with Dallas, Rowlett and Allen locations soon to follow.

Also of note: Tickets for the annual Klyde Warren Park fundraiser food event, **Park & Palate**, went on sale this week at [ParkAndPalate.org](http://ParkAndPalate.org). The event takes place Oct. 13 and 14. And Sunday is Father's Day!

— Arnold Wayne Jones

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## Friday 06.16 – Saturday 06.17

### Bruce Wood Dance debuts new work at Journeys

It has been three years since the founder's passing, but the Bruce Wood Dance Project continues to innovate. Not only will the latest concert, called Journeys, celebrate North Texas native Bruce Wood by reviving two of his classic dances, but artistic associate Albert Drake has teamed with composer Joseph Thalken to stage a world premiere dance. Dallas Voice's Arnold Wayne Jones will be on hand at both performances to lead the post-performance discussion.

**DEETS:** Moody Performance Hall (formerly Dallas City Performance Hall), 2520 Flora St. 8 p.m. BruceWoodDance.org.



## Friday 06.16 – Saturday 07.22

### Shakespeare Dallas goes beyond the Bard with two productions

Shakespeare Dallas has usually limited itself to the 37 plays written by the Bard himself, but has occasionally expanded its scope, as with Edmond Rostand's *Cyrano de Bergerac* a few years ago. It's updating that trend with a new adaptation (by Octavio Solis) of Cervantes' famed novel *with Quixote*. But you'll have to wait until June 21 to see that — the season kicks off this weekend with a classic comedy by Shakespeare himself, *The Merry Wives of Windsor*.

**DEETS:** Samuel Grand Amphitheater, 1500 Tenison Parkway. 8 p.m. curtain. ShakespeareDallas.org.



## Saturday 06.17

### 'Sordid Wedding' gets Cowtown premiere

*A Very Sordid Wedding*, writer-director Del Shores' sequel to his popular *Sordid Lives*, has met with remarkable success in Dallas, playing at the USA Film Festival and extending a run at the Texas Theatre. But Fort Worth has get to get its own screening. That changes Saturday, with the premiere, sponsored by QCinema. Shores and producer/co-star Emerson Collins will be on hand to discuss the film ... and celebrate Pride.

**DEETS:** The Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth, 1300 Darnell St., Fort Worth. 1 p.m. \$20–\$100. QCinema.org.



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calendar highlights

## ARTSWEEK

### THEATER

**New Works Festival.** Kitchen Dog Theater presents its annual festival of new plays, including student works and staged readings. The centerpiece production is *Br'er Cotton*. Trinity River Arts Center, 2600 Stemmons Freeway. Through July 1. Kitchen Dog Theater.org.

**A Little Night Music.** Stephen Sondheim's classic musical comedy of provincial life in turn of the century Sweden. *Reviewed this week.* Theatre 3, 2900 Routh St. in the Quadrangle. Through July 2. Theatre3Dallas.com.

**Ann.** Linda Leonard as Texas Gov. Ann Richards. Presented by Stage West. Irving Arts Center, 3333 MacArthur Blvd., Irving. Through July 8. StageWest.org.

**Arsenic and Old Lace.** The Depression-Era dark comedy about murderous old ladies. *Final weekend.* Pocket Sandwich Theatre, 5400 E. Mockingbird Lane. Pocket-Sandwich.com.

**Brides of the Moon.** A futuristic feminist comedy by The Five Lesbian Brothers. A Pride Month production by Echo Theatre.

*Final weekend.* Bath House Cultural Center, 521 E. Lawther Drive. Bathhouse.dallasculture.org.

**Inherit the Wind.** The dramatization of the Scopes Monkey Trial, which received its world premiere in Dallas in 1955, directed by Kevin Moriarty. *Final weekend.* Kalita Humphreys Theater, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. DallasTheaterCenter.org.

**King o' the Moon.** The Apollo 11 moonlanding is the central focus of a family in this play by Tom Dudzick. Circle Theatre, 230 W. 4th St., Fort Worth. Through July 15. CircleTheatre.org.

**The Merry Wives of Windsor.** Shakespeare Dallas kicks off its 2017 with this comedy about Sir John Falstaff. Performed in repertory with an adaptation of Cervantes' *Quixote*. Samuel Grand Amphitheater, 1500 Tenison Parkway. June 16–July 21. 8 p.m. curtain. ShakespeareDallas.org.

**Native Gardens.** Two neighboring couples get into a comic peeing match over a fence. Addison



A mysterious man appears who may be an angel — or something else — in the revival of 'The Soul Gatherer' at Addison Theatre Centre's Stone Cottage Theatre.

Theatre Centre, 15650 Addison Road. WaterTowerTheatre.org.

**The Soul Gatherer.** Return of spooky play where audiences are left to guess at whether people are suffering from a mass delusion or are being visited by an angel ... or worse. Stone Cottage Theatre, 15650 Addison Road. Through July 2. MBSProductions.net.

### COMEDY

**A Brief, Endless Love.** A sketch comedy revue written by the talented Matt Lyle. *Reviewed this week.* Dallas Comedy House, 3025 Main St. Through June 24. 9 p.m. DallasComedyHouse.com.

### DANCE

**Bruce Wood Dance Project: Journeys.** This performance features two classics from the founder, as well as a world premiere by choreographer



Albert Drake and composer Joseph Thalken, and including a live orchestra. Dallas Voice's Arnold Wayne Jones will moderate the post-performance discussion both nights. Moody Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. 8 p.m. BruceWoodDance.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.  
**Iris Van Herpen: Transforming Fashion.** A must-see show of the designer's wondrous garments. Dallas Museum of Art, 1717 Harwood St. Through Aug. 20. 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.

**FRIDAY 06.16**  
**COMMUNITY**  
**Panoptikon.** The weekly retro disco dance party, presented by Lord Byron. Red Light, 2911 Main St. Doors 9 p.m.

**SATURDAY 06.17**  
**FILM**  
**A Very Sordid Wedding.** The Cowtown premiere of the new sequel to *Sordid Lives*, shot in part in North Texas. The Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth, 3200 Darnell St., Fort Worth. 1 p.m. \$20–\$100. Qcinema.org.

**COMMUNITY**  
**GayBingo.** This month's theme is Summer Lovin'. LeeAnne Locken is the special guest at this game and fundraising party benefiting Resource Center. Station 4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. 5 p.m. doors, 6 p.m. curtain. \$25–\$45. MyResourceCenter.org.

**FLAMENCO**  
**Ida y Vuelta Flamenco.** Traditional music and dance, featuring Luis Linares aka "El Tiburon." Poor David's Pub, 1313 S. Lamar St. 8 p.m. \$20–\$25. FLamencoFever.org.

**SUNDAY 06.18 —**  
**FATHER'S DAY**

**MONDAY 06.19**  
**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 06.20**  
**FILM**  
**An American in Paris.** Recently turned into a Tony Award-winning stage musical, this is the Oscar winner for best picture of 1951. 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.

**WEDNESDAY 06.21**  
**THEATER**  
**Quixote.** Shakespeare Dallas continues its 2017 with this stage adaptation of Cervantes' *Quixote*. Performed in rep with *The Merry Wives of Windsor*. Samueli Grand Amphitheater, 1500 Tenison Parkway. June 21–July 22. 8 p.m. curtain. ShakespeareDallas.org.

**THURSDAY 06.22**  
**DANCE**  
**Donkey Beach.** Danielle Georgiou Dance Group, which specialized in mixed dance-performance art meta-theater pieces, debuts this original work that touches on feminism and pop culture. Part

of ATPAC's Elevator Series. Hamon Hall inside the Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. June 22–25. ATPAC.org.

**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.

this week's solution

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**Cassie Nova**

(aka James Love)  
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# Cassie Nova

Cassie has some ideas

Hey, y'all. Have you ever had an idea of something that could possibly make you rich, or at least you thought, "This idea could change the world." Cuz I have them all the time. Most of them are complete bullshit but some of them I think are pretty good. I have often thought when I see something new, "Why didn't I think of that?" So I am going to share with y'all a few of my "genius" ideas. I figure I don't have the drive or know-how to bring them to fruition, so maybe someone else can.

First idea: There needs to be an exercise app for your phone that shows Death creeping up behind you and the only way to get away from it is to run from it... who am I kidding? *Walk*. Like with a Fitbit or something. The motivation is seeing Death getting closer if you don't move. The more you run, walk or exercise the further

you are from Death. We all know that not exercising will make Death come for you sooner but if I actually saw the Grim Reaper zeroing in it might make my fat ass get in gear.

Second idea — and this is kind of a serious one: Since there are so many wildfires and they spread so quickly — you know, like wildfire — many homes get destroyed. My idea is a giant fireproof blanket to cover your home. If you are in a fire zone, or if a wildfire is headed your way, it seems like there should be a way to protect your house. Yes, I know it would be expensive, but can you put a price on not losing everything you own? I'm not smart enough to know if it's even feasible, but in my mind there could be a company that sells them or rents them to folks in fire-prone areas. Even if it is just a crazy idea, who knows, maybe someone

can figure out a way to make it work.

Final idea: A shower garbage disposal. I'm not saying who, but I know people that would buy one. Look at me, always trying to better the world. If someone uses one of my ideas and makes millions... you owe me.

Now onto helping even more people.

*Dear Cassie, I'm a young 30-something gay man who is close to giving up on love. I've been catfished, used, stood up, overlooked, left hanging... the list goes on. My longest relationships never quite hit the one-year mark, each one ended by me because they were either emotionally uninterested, not who I saw myself with long-term or they were emotionally unstable.*

*I've been in Dallas almost 10 years now; and while there are a plethora of gay men here, I haven't really found many with whom I fit. Of course, I've had my fair share of tricks (who hasn't?), but I've had zero luck in finding someone decent and interested. I've been working on me (mentally/physically/emotionally) for some time now. I have all the things someone my age should have (job, car, place, etc.), and I think I'm a great catch. However, I'm starting to give up on love. It's easier to have a heart of stone than it is to think no one wants me. What should I do? Sincerely, Always Seeking Someone*

Dear A.S.S., I am going to give you a bit of advice I wish someone would have given me years ago when I was single: Give up! Stop looking. Make yourself believe that you don't need or want a partner. I know — it's easier said than done. But have you ever heard someone say, "You find someone when you stop looking?" There is a lot of truth to that. I think it stems from coming off as desperate; and if you are *always seeking someone*, you might be mistaken for desperate. When you want nothing more than to have a boyfriend and be in a relationship, it's easy for others to pick up on that and you end up settling for Mr. Right Now instead of Mr. Right. And Mr. Right Now is always a mistake. He is usually a douchebag that treats you awfully but you allow it just so you feel like "at least someone likes me."

I know that for me that was the truth. The thing that changed for me was a dog. For years I was bitterly single. I would go out all the time in hopes of meeting someone that could see past all the drag and bullshit and like me for me. I settled over and over for guys that were assholes just so I had someone to focus on, if only briefly. I know I came off as desperate. But when I got my first dog, Dax, I had a focus, I had a love. I had a man that needed and loved me unconditionally. He was my everything, so when it came to men, I didn't care as much about having one. Yes, I still wanted a boyfriend but I wasn't *desperate* for one. I wasn't so lonely, so without really know it I had stopped looking and then bingo, Jamie and I started dating and have been together ever since.

If that is not the case for you and you don't feel like you give off a desperate vibe, then



change your routine. Go out someplace you don't normally go. Smile at guys you like and talk to them. You don't have to hide behind an app. Go old school and ask someone out. Never give up on love but maybe don't put so much pressure on yourself to find it today! Good luck, Cassie.

*Dear Cassie, It's been awhile since I've been out to see a show or even just go out for drinks. But I adventured out to the Rose Room a few weeks ago and it really reminded me of things that make me happy. Over the past couple years, I have tried to discover who I was and what I wanted my purpose to be. So I took a step back from everything and focused on my job. I then started the emotional and nightmarish roller coaster of finding myself. I thought I had tough skin, but when I didn't feel support by those I felt close to me, I retreated. I felt like I had lost every friend and disappointed my family since they never want to visit or be a part of my world. I thought I had hit rock bottom. Slowly I've been taking breaths and stepping back into the life that once gave me happiness. So to make a long story short, I'm nervous of how people will react to the me that I have become. Any tips? Ways to keep a positive mindset? Sincerely, I hope they like me!*

Dear IHTLM, First off I want to say congratulations on working on yourself. Bettering and finding yourself are always a good thing. If you know what makes you happy then you know more than most. If you know your purpose then put a plan in place to go after what you want. The problem a lot of people have is that if they don't get what they want quickly they think the worst and sometimes stop going after what they want. If it is worth having, it is worth working for.

When it comes to your friends and family, make sure that you didn't push everyone away while you were working on yourself. You can't expect them to know your feelings if you don't tell them. People are stupid and sometimes you need to tell them exactly what you want them to know. You can't expect them to just know what you want. If you want them in your life more, invite them to do stuff with you but you have to be willing to do the same for them. Friendships and even family relationships go both ways. You have to be there for each other. Now, as far as how they will react to the new you, give them a chance. It's still you. Get out of your head and pursue your happiness.

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.







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Carolyn and Kathryn at DTC's Something Rotten



Poly party on The Strip

Making the **SCENE** the week of **June 16–22:**

**EDITOR’S NOTE:** In the Scene section in the June 9 issue of Dallas Voice, we inadvertently omitted photographer credits on photos from the Greg Dollgener Memorial AIDS Fund’s 2017 MetroBall. Photos of CeCe Peniston and Taylor Dayne were provided by Jason Skidmore. Photos of the MetroBall Logo, David Hernandez and friends and two men in MetroBall t-shirts with a member of the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence were provided by Eric Dickson with Arcus Media. We regret the error.

- **Alexandre’s:** **K-Marie** on Friday. **Chris Chism and the band** on Saturday. **Wayne Smith** on Sunday. **Walter Lee** on Tuesday. **Bianka** on Wednesday. **Chris Chism** on Thursday.
- **Club Reflection:** **Cookout** at 4 p.m. on Sunday. **Texas Gay Rodeo Association Terry Covington Show** at 6 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Dallas Eagle:** **United Court of the Lone Star Empire** presents **Empress Ball** benefiting SSC Fund at 7 p.m. on Saturday. • **Onyx:** **Central Southwest Chapter club night** on Saturday at 10 p.m. Purchase a pie to throw in the face of current and past emperors and empresses from 7-10 p.m. on Sunday.
- **JR.’s Bar & Grill:** **Cassie’s Freak Show** at 11 p.m. on Monday.
- **Liquid Zoo:** **Cher-e-oke** with **Wayne Smith** at 9:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Friday and Saturday.
- **Marty’s Live:** **Nina Bo’Nina Brown** with special performances by **Nicole O’Hara Munro, Blerach, Raquel Blake, Leyla Edwards** and **Mulan** meet and greet at 10:30 p.m. and show at midnight on June 17.
- **Round-Up Saloon:** **Bear Happy Hour** at 6 p.m. on Friday. **Project Funway** at 10 p.m. on Wednesday.
- **Sue Ellen’s:** **Mustache Envy** on Friday. **The Helen Hannas** on Saturday. **Bella and Darla** at 3:30 p.m. followed by **Tyla Taylor** on Sunday.
- **Urban Cowboy Saloon:** **Qlive** presents **Too Soon? Open mic comedy with a bite** with **Kyle and Todd** on Tuesday. **Give Back Wednesday** benefits **Help FTW.**
- **Woody’s Sports & Video Bar:** **Does Your Father Know?** Turnabout 2017 benefit for **Resource Center** at 8 p.m. on Sunday.

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



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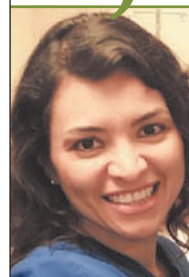
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Uncommon Bond

Solution on Page 61

- Across**

1 Muscle Mary stat

5 Current band of the past?

9 Looks straight in the eye, say

14 Biz boss

15 Vanilla

16 Give the slip to

17 Wang in fashion

18 \_\_\_ fide

19 It may filter out gay porn

20 Late actor who played Bond, with title

23 Where they yell "Cut!"

24 Ill-mannered oaf

25 Succeed against a homophobic incumbent

28 Love or Cox

32 Strokes from Spencer-Devlin

33 Bulb unit

34 Cheer for Lorca

35 Start of Rex Reed's description of 20-Across

39 Medium skill

40 Miss, to Mauresmo

41 Rear

42 Order more stock

45 Betrayer of Caesar, and namesakes

46 Wear too much
- Obsession, perhaps

47 "So \_\_\_"

48 End of description

53 Allstate rival

54 Buck heroine

55 Rep in the 'hood

57 *The Brady Bunch* episode

58 "\_\_\_ off to see the wizard"

59 Jane Spahr's last word, perhaps

60 Wave top

61 Scholarship criterion

62 *Boys Don't Cry* character
- 12 Falco of *The Sopranos*

13 30-day mo.

21 Cut of meat

22 Word before organ

25 Shoe part

26 Service a Dairy Queen?

27 Many go down on them

28 Simon of pop

29 Like a rare baseball game

30 Journalist Harris

31 Hoped for responses to come-ons

33 Like Ellen or Elton

36 Philip Johnson contemporary

37 Sweaty people use it

38 Like seamen

43 Planet out?

44 Stuffed shirt

45 Hit on the head

47 Proclaim loudly

48 Look lecherously

49 To be in Rimbaud's arms

50 Fox comedy with Jane Lynch

51 Humorist Bombeck

52 In the public eye

53 Part of cross-dresser

Joan's name

56 Sex orientation determiner, some say



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