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First female DPD chief appointed

City Manager T.C. Broadnax on Wednesday, July 19, announced that U. Renee Hall will become the first female police chief in the city's history. Hall is deputy chief of the Detroit Police Department, where she directed the city's Neighborhood Policing Bureau.

"I am honored to be chosen to lead the Dallas Police Department at this critical time in its history," said Chief Hall. "I look forward to building on the successes of the past, preserving community trust and ensuring the safety of our officers and the entire Dallas community."

More than 55 community and business leaders participated in panel interviews of the top seven candidates, a process Broadnax described as diverse, inclusive and participatory.

Hall has a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Grambling State University and master's degrees in security administration and intelligence analysis from the University of Detroit Mercy. A graduate of the FBI National Academy, she also completed the Police Executive Leadership Institute and is a member of the International Association of Chiefs of Police.

As deputy chief in Detroit, Chief Hall developed and implemented comprehensive community policing and mentor programs, forged partnerships and established trust within minority communities while also building strong relationships between officers of all ranks and community stakeholders. Under her leadership, the city of Detroit experienced a 40-year low in homicides and double-digit reductions in violent crime for three consecutive years.

Her responsibilities also included oversight of police services for six precincts and 720 sworn and non-sworn personnel.

Hall is expected to begin her duties as Police Chief on Sept. 5.

— City of Dallas press release

HRC phone banking continues; volunteers needed

As Texas lawmakers prepare to convene in Austin for a special session that will once again include efforts to pass an anti-trans bathroom bill, the Human Rights Campaign/DFW continues its phone banks, and they are looking for volunteers to participate.

Those who volunteer for the phone banking will be calling Texans in the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex to remind them to call their state representatives and senators and voice opposition to the bathroom bill and other bad legislation, according to HRC field organizer Criss Ruiz.

Phone banks will be in operation from 4-8 p.m. at the Dallas County Democratic Party headquarters, 4209 Parry Ave., on July 25, Aug. 1, Aug. 8

and Aug. 15.

For information, email Ruiz at CrissRuiz@hrc.org.

— Tammye Nash

Jeffrey Payne announces run for Texas governor

Dallas businessman Jeffrey Payne on Friday, July 14, announced that he is running for governor of Texas, challenging Republican incumbent Greg Abbott, who he characterizes as a "disaster for Texans" and a governor who "offers nothing in the way of new ideas."

"Texas needs a governor who believes in real Texas values, like integrity, honesty, freedom and independence," Payne said in a statement announcing his candidacy. "It's time we stopped wasting our time and money on silly legislation and start investing our time finding ways to help Texans, their families and businesses prosper."

Payne pointed to his history of success as a



businessman — from his respected court reporting firm, to his real estate dealings and his thriving nightclub, The Dallas Eagle. The candidate said he makes no secret of his active involvement in the Dallas LGBT community or his history as a former International Mr. Leather, a title that gave him a platform to promote many charity events.

He also said that his philanthropic work reflects his commitment to helping others not just in the LGBT community, but the greater Texas community, as well. He founded the Sharon St. Cyr Fund, an organization that assists people in obtaining hearing aids and provides grants for sign language interpreters at public events.

Payne, born in Maine, lost his mother when he was 3, and he spent much of his childhood in an orphanage before entering foster care at age 15. From that point on, he said, he was driven to succeed no matter what the circumstances. By age 23 he owned Payne's Fine Jewelry, which marked the beginning of a series of successful ventures — ventures that were interrupted suddenly when Hurricane Katrina whipped out everything he had built up in New Orleans, where he lived.

Undeterred, Payne relocated to Dallas and started over again.

Payne said Texas has been good to him, and he believes it's time he returned that good fortune. He has chosen to run for the governor's office because he holds a strong commitment to real Texas values and truly believes he can make a positive difference in Texas politics as usual.

"It's time we stopped letting the Republican Party run unopposed in this state," Payne declared. "We need a governor who is not a career bureaucrat, but one with real world experience and dedication to making Texas a better, safer and healthier place for all Texans."

— Tammye Nash

SNEAK PEEK

Join us for the first glimpse into this year's highly anticipated Black Tie Dinner while enjoying refreshing cocktails at our **open bar** graciously provided by our liquor sponsors and sweet treats that will leave you begging for more. It's the best way to kick off the weekend with friends and family while supporting our fabulous beneficiaries.

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THE GAY AGENDA

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

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

JULY

- **Through July 23: The Eclectic Anniversary Art Auction**

As part of its 47th anniversary celebration, Cathedral of Hope is transformed into an art gallery featuring a collection of original 20th and 21st century movie posters and art, including Texas artists and commissioned works. CathedralofHope.com/47years.

- **July 21: Ice Cream Social**

Silver Pride Project holds a getting to know you ice cream social from 2-5 p.m. at



Milo Cox is co-producer of the 2nd annual Texas Queerlesque Festival, which begins Thursday, July 27, and will emcee the Friday portion of the weekend-long event. See listings for details

Senior Source, 3910 Harry Hines Blvd.

- **July 21: Federal Club mixer**

Mixer for LGBT adults and allies from 6-8 p.m. at Savor Gastropub, 2000 Woodall Rodgers Freeway.

- **July 22: Pride festival auditions**

Audition to perform on the community stage at the Sept. 16 Pride festival in Reverchon Park from 1-4 p.m. in the Rose Room, 3911 Cedar Springs Road.

- **July 22: TAG screens A Very Sordid Wedding**

Tyler Area Gays hosts a screening of Del Shore's new movie, *A Very Sordid Wedding*, at 8 p.m. at Liberty Hall, 103 E. Erwin St. in Tyler. Tickets are available online at LibertyTyler.com/events/

- **July 23: The Wedding Party & Expo**

Dallas Voice presents the third LGBT Wedding Expo to connect businesses with couples who are planning a wedding. Vendors include bakers, car services, caterers, clergy, florists, formal and bridal wear, jewelers, musicians, photographers and videographers, printers, venues, destinations and more from 1-4 p.m. at Hilton Anatole Hotel, 2201 N. Stemmons Freeway. Free. bit.do/wpexpo2017.

- **July 23: A Very Sordid Wedding**

Screening of the film followed by Q&A with Ann Walker, Emerson Collins (producer), Rosemary Alexander, Newell Alexander and Del Shores at 5:30 p.m. at Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. Tickets at CathedralofHope.com/47years.

- **July 24: HRC Monday**

Finn Jones of Trans-Cendence International and Jade Lenore of Black Transwomen discuss transgender civil rights followed by candlelight vigil for trans lives lost this year at 7 p.m. at Chino Chinatown, 3011 Gulden Lane #110.

- **July 24: Multi-Candidate Meet & Greet, Collin County**

Dani Pellett, candidate for Texas' District 32 congressional seat, hosts a multi-candidate meet-and-greet for Collin County from 7-9 p.m. at 281 Paddock Trail in Fairview. For information email Dani@DaniForCongress or call 802-392-DANI.

- **July 25: Grief Support Group**

Grief support group for LGBT people who have lost a same-sex partner meets from 7-8 p.m. at Oak Lawn Library, 4100 Cedar Springs Road.

- **July 27: Book signing**

Randy Schmidt signs copies of his new book *Dolly on Dolly* at 7 p.m. at Interabang Books, 10720 Preston Road. (See story, Page 13.)

OBITUARY



Robert Lee Covington Jr., 54, formerly of Jonesboro, Ark., entered into the life eternal on Friday, July 7, 2017.

Lee was born on Sept. 1, 1962, to Robert Lee "Skip"

Covington Sr. and Anita McFarlin Covington of Jonesboro, Ark. He was raised as a member of First Christian Church and graduated from Jonesboro High School in 1980. Lee briefly attended Arkansas State University before obtaining a degree from Texas Christian University in 1985.

He began his career working for General Dynamics in Fort Worth before he found a passion for interior design, a field in which he worked many years in Fort Worth, Little Rock, Jonesboro, before the profession eventually brought him back to his final residence in Dallas.

Lee was a quality man in all that he did

and finally realized the best quality of all was found in the church. For the past several years, Lee has served as the executive assistant to the senior pastor at Cathedral of Hope United Church of Christ in Dallas.

Lee had many good qualities; he was prompt, professional and immaculate in everything he did. In his later years, Lee found entertainment, pleasure and a supportive community in the church. He enjoyed time with his family and friends and was loved by many. His impeccable appearance was usually accompanied by a signature smile and laugh that was instantly recognizable to those that knew him.

Lee was preceded in death by his grandparents, WB "Bud" Covington, Marzelle Rees Covington, Winston O. McFarlin and Helen McFarlin; an aunt, Diane Noah, and an uncle, Steve Covington.

He is survived by his mother and father, Robert and Anita Covington Sr. of Jonesboro; a sister and her husband, Kathleen and Harold Copenhaver of Jonesboro;

a niece, Lauren Nunnally (Michael) of Jonesboro; nephews, Austin Copenhaver and Myles Copenhaver of Jonesboro; a grand-nephew, Landry Nunnally of Jonesboro, and many other family and friends from his hometown.

He is also survived by his partner, Lee R. "Mack" McLeod of Dallas, and numerous friends and co-workers in North Texas, and by a cousin, Jason Hurley, and his husband, Benjamin Owen, of Tyler.

There will be a memorial service on Saturday, July 22, at 1 p.m. at Cathedral of Hope United Church of Christ, 5910 Cedar Springs Road in Dallas.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to assist in funding one of Lee's passions, the new entryway at Cathedral of Hope United Church of Christ. Checks may be made payable to Cathedral of Hope UCC, 5910 Cedar Springs Road, Dallas, TX 75235 and marked "Entrance Project." Each donor will be acknowledged in the Weekly Bulletin at Cathedral of Hope UCC.

• **July 27-30: 2nd Annual Texas Queerlesque Festival**

The 2017 Texas Queerlesque Festival brings in six headliner performers and others for the one-of-a-kind Unicorn School with a series of 12 workshops, networking events and after-parties. Performance styles will include burlesque, drag, aerialists, performance troupes and more. The public can get information on the artists, producers, schedules and more online at TexasQueerlesqueFestival.com.

• **July 27: Peeling back the curtain**

Stories you haven't heard. Tour the clinic and hear about programs you made possible through LifeWalk and other donations. Beverages and hors d'oeuvres served from 6-8 p.m. at Prism Health North Texas, Oak Cliff Clinic, 219 Sunset Ave #116A.

• **July 28: Last Bag Standing**

Corn Hole Tournament with two-person teams. \$50 entry fee. Hosted by Chad West and Chris Moffett. Prizes. Proceeds benefit Hogg Elementary School. From 7-10 p.m. at BBBop, 828 W. Davis St. DashfortheBeads.org/last-bag-standing.

• **July 29: Different Strokes Golf Association (DSGA)**

DSGA proudly celebrating its 20th anniversary season has a playdate open to all interested golfers at 10:08 a.m. at Luna Vista Golf Course, 11223 Luna Road. \$55 includes golf, cart and range balls. A cookout and pool party at a nearby member's home follows. Info at DSGADallas.org or info@DSGADallas.org.

• **July 29: Pride festival auditions**

Audition to perform on the community stage at the Sept. 16 Pride festival in Reverchon Park from 1-4 p.m. in the Rose Room, 3911 Cedar Springs Road.

• **July 29: Gay For Good**

G4G will be serving food, water and busing tables at The Stewpot from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sign up at GayForGood.org/dfw_g4g_the_stewpot

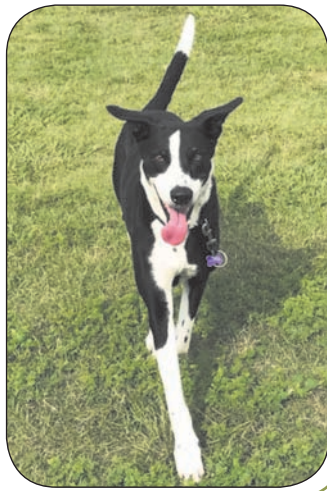
• **July 29: Texas Latino Pride pool party**

DJ Charlie Phresh, photo booth, catered bites and open bar at TX Latino Pride's pool party from 3-8 p.m. at 13339 Pandora Drive. \$25-50. Facebook.com/TexasLatinoPride.

pet of the week / LEROY

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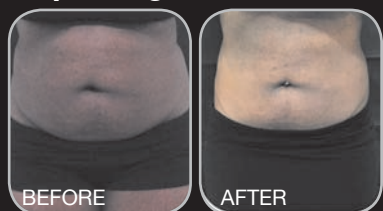
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And so it begins

Special session kicks off in Austin as hundreds rally outside the Capitol

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

The special session of the Texas Legislature that convened this week in Austin offers some interesting parallels to what's going on in Washington.

In D.C., Republicans control both houses of Congress and the White House and still can't pass much of anything. In Austin, Republicans control both houses of the Legislature and the executive mansion, and Gov. Greg Abbott had to call a special session to keep the Texas Medical Board, and four other commissions from sunseting.

While lawmakers are in Austin again to pass legislation to enable doctors to continue practicing legally in the state beyond Sept. 1, Abbott thought it would be a good idea for them to pass bills to take away cities' rights to regulate trees on property within the city limits, to propose more bathroom bills, to rein in unions further, to nibble away even more at a woman's right to choose and a variety of other insidious new pieces of legislation.

But can any of it pass?

Many Democrats in the Texas House don't think so. Versions of all of the proposed bills were introduced in the regular session of the Legislature and got nowhere.

State Rep. Eric Johnson, D-Dallas, said all the special session does is give Republicans more time. But, he said, "Time doesn't cure bad leadership."

To ensure every piece of bad legislation passes, the Senate has chosen to suspend rules on posting info and on public hearings.

In the House, state Rep. Tony Tinderholt, R-Arlington, tried to outmaneuver Speaker of the House Joe Straus, complaining from the House floor that some bills had been assigned to committees chaired by Democrats. He wanted to know if those bills could be brought to the floor even after

they die in committee.

But Straus didn't give Tinderholt a direct answer. He said that would be a question for the parliamentarian and explained that the bills in question were sent to committees chaired by Democrats because those were the appropriate committees for those bills. Straus didn't change the rules for the lower house.

Among the bills Tinderholt was, no doubt, referring to were the various bathroom bills targeting transgender people.

"Appropriate" is exactly what Straus meant when he assigned those bills to committees where he assumes they will die. Last week, Straus said he didn't want to be responsible for any suicides that resulted from passing anti-transgender legislation.

Johnson noted that other Republicans have also expressed opposition to the bathroom bills, using a business argument. On Monday, Dallas City Councilwoman Jennifer Staubach Gates held a press conference in Austin, with Visit Dallas CEO Phillip Jones, to warn about the amount of tourism and convention business the state will lose if any of these bills are passed.

But Straus, Johnson said, was the first Republican in Austin that he knew that used the moral argument that discrimination is simply wrong and could have dire consequences for transgender people.

About 1,000 attended a rally outside the Capitol on Tuesday where different speakers addressed different issues expected to come up during the special session.

The variety of issues represented was apparent from the variety of signs and T-shirts. Planned Parenthood was represented, while education was paramount to demonstrators holding "No vouchers" signs. A group called United We Dream represented undocumented Texans.

Local control was on the minds of many. A "Tree lives matter" sign referred to a bill to prevent cities from regulating trees on private property. The representative who filed the bill was fined when he cut down a large tree on his property without a city permit.



Equality Texas CEO Chuck Smith (David Taffet/ Dallas Voice)



Union representatives protested a bill that would prevent the Texas State Comptroller from withholding money from public employees' paychecks.

But the Rev. Carmarion Anderson, who is transgender, got the largest ovation from the diverse crowd when she denounced the bathroom bills and talked about hate crimes that target trans women of color.

"These bills are about using us," she said. "Tokenizing us. Not protecting us. These bills give permission to commit a hate crime."

By the end of her rousing speech, she had non-LGBT people chanting "Trans lives matter."

State Rep. Chris Turner, D-Arlington, concluded the rally, offering some statistics: "Texas' economy dropped from number 3 to 21 since Abbott took office," he told the crowd.

Turner also said that the mortality rate for mothers in childbirth in Texas is the worst in the developed world and Texas tuition rates have increased 147 percent in 15 years.

The special session lasts 30 days. Johnson said whether or not any of the right-wing agenda passes, Abbott and Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick "brilliantly figured out this no-lose political maneuver to create primary issues."

Republicans not voting for these issues are already being threatened with primary challenges. ■



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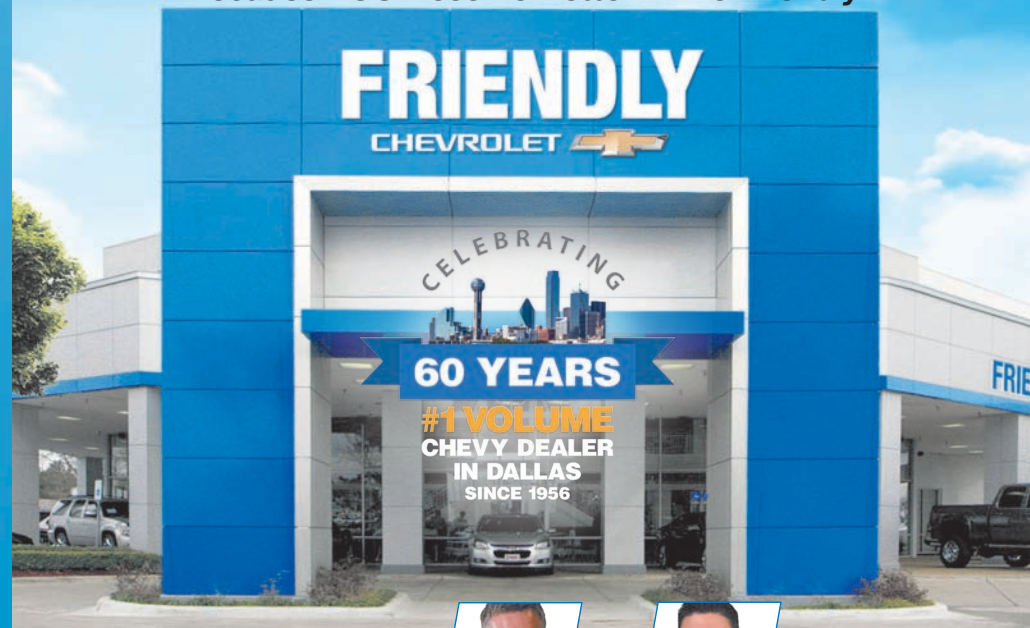


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Not your grandma's wedding expo

TAMMYE NASH | Managing Editor
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These days, bridal expos are a dime a dozen. But the third annual Wedding Party and Expo, taking place Sunday afternoon, July 23, at the Hilton Anatole Hotel, ain't your grandma's show.

This is an LGBT community event, created and presented by Dallas Voice, so expect a wedding expo that's a step above the ordinary.

"We're gay, so of course we're going to make this a real party," said Voice Publisher Leo Cusimano. "It's going to be informative and useful, of course. But it's going to be a ton of fun, too. It says it right there in our name: 'Wedding PARTY.'"

But there was more behind the impetus

EXPO, Page 12

Expo vendors offer wedding ideas

Vendors offering everything from traditional to creative to make your wedding memorable

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Worried about whether your florist will object to your "lifestyle" or that your baker will back out at the last minute because his religion says same-sex marriage is bad? Well, the vendors participating in the The Wedding Party and Expo at the Hilton Anatole on Sunday, July 23, are eager to help make your wedding memorable.

Wedding officiants, venues, caterers, dance instructors, DJs and formal wear vendors will all be represented. Frosted Art Bakery and Studio, whose cake baker Bronwen Weber has been named one of the world's best cake decorators by The Food Network, is among those vendors, giving you a chance at a "celebrity sighting," too.

Destinations for wedding, transportation to get there and where to stay will also be part of the mix. And if putting it all together yourself seems daunting, event planners that can do all that for you will also be on hand. And while we couldn't profile every vendor, here's a look at a couple of the folks who will be there to make the day special.

Specialists

Sarahbeth Marshall offers edible thank-you gifts and an entertaining dessert option for a wedding.

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Her facility is open for tastings and a class to teach you to “savor the flavor,” Marshall said, teaching fans how to tell the difference between a Hershey bar and a fine chocolate with a red raspberry taste. For that upscale bridal party, she said, Yelibelly offers a tasting of fine chocolate and liquor.

For an interesting dessert option, Marshall offers an interactive, liquid nitrogen dessert bar. In front of your guests’ eyes, she’ll make ice cream in about a minute and a half. The liquid nitrogen freezes the ice cream quickly, giving it a consistency somewhere between yogurt and butter cream cake icing. She said it’s a lot easier than a hand-crank ice cream bucket that takes at least half an hour of work.

“This makes it light and fluffy,” she said, and because of the flash-freezing process, she can even use alcohol, which usually doesn’t freeze.

“My favorite is bourbon-infused,” she said, which has a “smoky and oaky flavor.”

Marshall will have samples of everything at the Expo.

Wedding planner

Maybe the idea of putting a wedding together yourself is daunting. Maybe you’re afraid you’ll encounter some of those homophobic florists who would rather ruin your day rather than sell you some flowers.

Danielle Hasting, owner and event director of One Fine Day, may be just who you’re looking for. Her resume includes planning a Laotian/Jewish wedding. For the Jewish side of the family, she said, the reception had to be strictly kosher. But a Laotian ceremony includes a pig roast. Hasting said she was able include both traditions that respected both sides of the family.

One Korean groom approached her with similar concerns. Hasting said she knew she was doing her job and had done her homework when he told her she was more Korean than he was.



“I’m a skilled logistics coordinator,” Hasting said.

She said she earned her title as The Red Dragon by handling difficult, situations like the time she dealt with a men’s store that wouldn’t accommodate one bride who wanted to wear a tuxedo because they didn’t know how to measure her. She began renting her own tuxes specifically for



Danielle Hasting of One Fine Day.

VENDORS, Page 12



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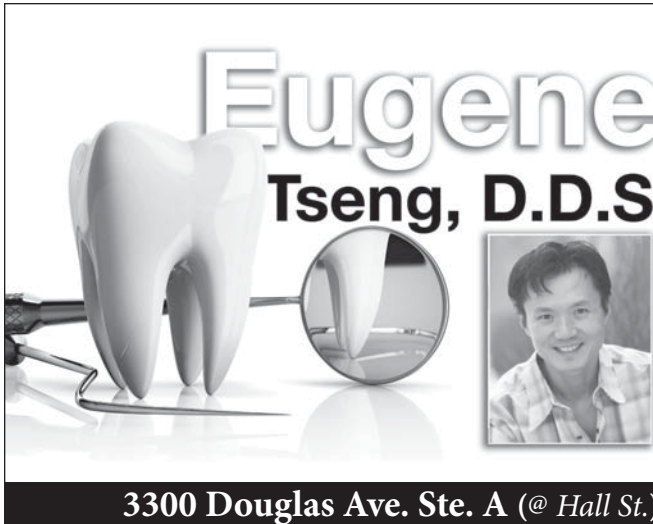


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EXPO, From Page 10

to create this event than just a chance to have a good time.

"With the U.S. Supreme Court ruling on marriage equality in 2015, we saw a real need in our community, and it was important to us to find a way to fill that need," Cusimano said, explaining what prompted Dallas Voice to create the expo.

"I mean, same-sex marriage is now legal in this country, but that doesn't mean all the discrimination ended," he added, pointing to a Colorado case headed to the Supreme Court involving a baker who refused to bake a wedding cake for a gay couple.

"When the Supreme Court handed down the Obergefell ruling two years ago, 60 percent of Americans supported marriage equality. That's a significant majority," Cusimano said. "But that still leaves 40 percent who oppose it."

"That same ratio is reflected among wedding services providers, so we wanted to create an event that allows same-sex couples — and others who believe in equality — a chance to interact with service providers that actually want their business and will treat them fairly," he said.

The Wedding Party and Expo is the largest LGBT wedding show in the region, Cusimano said. More than 65 exhibitors will have booths at the expo, including community organizations and businesses as well as those offering wedding-related services,

he noted.

Vendors include providers specializing in audio/visual and staging, bakeries, caterers, venues, decorators, entertainment, florists, formal wear, officiants, jewelry, photography, wedding and event planners and more.

There will be live music, free cake and other food samples, a cash bar featuring mimosas, a wedding reception featuring the music of the No Limits band, and more.

"And this isn't just for those planning weddings," Cusimano said. "These are event planners and service providers, so if you have an anniversary or a big birthday party or some other special event coming up, come see us on Sunday. You'll find what you need at our party."

The Wedding Party and Expo takes place in the Coronado Ballroom at the Hilton Anatole, 2201 N. Stemmons Freeway, from 1-4 p.m. Sunday. Admission is free, although those attending must register first. You can register online in advance by visiting DallasVoice.com and clicking the link in the upper right-hand corner of the home page, or register at the door on Sunday.

Parking for the event is also free.

Hilton Anatole is presenting sponsor and host for the event. A Very Special Day AV/sound/staging and wedding planning company, is the main stage sponsor.

Register at bit.do/wpexpo2017



VENDOR, From Page 11



Yelibelly specialty gifts for the wedding party. (Courtesy Yelibelly)

event.

Hasting summed up her job as simply helping the couple put on the event they want: "Two people figure out what their needs are and I make it happen."

Hasting said she'll have her Access 360 available at the wedding expo. It allows the couple to stand on a platform as the slow-motion video camera rotates around them. She has an editor that adds music, creating a video great posting on social media.

One Fine Day is the only company in Texas offering Access 360, Hasting said.

Hasting said because she

brides.

And she wondered about bridal stores that couldn't deal with two brides buying dresses. That's double the sale for just one

works with lots of same-sex couples, her contracts don't list bride and groom but just asks for the signatures of the wedding couple.

Hello, Dolly

Denton writer compiles interviews that trace the career of Dolly Parton

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

In the Ladies Home Journal, Jim Jerome described Dolly Parton as Patsy Kline in Jessica Rabbit's body. What editor Randy L. Schmidt learned, though, as he compiled interviews with Parton from the late 1960s through today for his new book *Dolly on Dolly*, was that Parton herself considered her public persona as something of a character.

She was never offended by the "dumb blonde" label because, as she said, "I'm not dumb and I'm not blonde."

"She's so down to earth," Schmidt said of the country superstar.

Schmidt found almost 100 interviews from sources like The Tennessean, Nashville's daily newspaper that interviewed Parton early in her career, to Rolling Stone and Playboy, which spent a couple of weeks with her to write about the singer in depth.

A more recent interview by Chris Azopardi first appeared in Dallas Voice. Schmidt culled the interviews so that information doesn't overlap and so that, taken together, it traces Parton's career.

By the mid 1970s, Parton had done about

everything she could in country music and began to cross over into pop. Porter Waggoner warned her she'd never be able to do that, but she replaced her band, played in places like New York and San Francisco and began becoming a gay icon.

If there was any doubt about her appeal to the LGBT community, the movie *Nine to Five* sealed the deal. The story of women who work for a large company and were never be promoted because of their gender subconsciously appealed to the gay community, many of whom had been passed over for promotions or fired because of who they were.

And if *Nine to Five* wasn't enough, Parton followed that role up with a starring part in *Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*.

Over the years, Parton has changed the way she talks about her long-term marriage. Some have even thought she was lesbian with a husband as a beard to placate her country fans. She tells Playboy she was reluctant to do that interview because of how some of her fans would react.


The interviews Schmidt chose to use barely overlap, so taken together they tell Dolly's story in her own words. Some interviews and articles he found had one particular gem, so he excerpted a paragraph and included them as a 'Dolly Diamond' after a related full interview. A longer one addresses the Dolly lesbian rumors that accused Parton of paying off her husband Carl to remain married and "keep his mouth shut."

Schmidt, an elementary music teacher in Denton, said compiling the interviews and seeking permission for their use took about two years and fit in nicely with his teaching schedule. Previously he edited a similar book of interviews with Judy Garland.

As he's out promoting the Dolly book, he said, he's waiting for his next subject to find him.

Randy Schmidt speaks and signs copies of his book at 7 p.m. on July 27 at Interabang Books, 10720 Preston Road.





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Pro business? Not any more

With the Texas State Fair coming along soon, I started wondering, what if Big Tex were to suddenly change his welcome speech: “Howdy Folks! Now take your business Elsewhere!”

After listening to the condescending tone of Texas State Rep. Scott Sanford, R-McKinney, during a recent Facebook Live roundtable hosted by CBS 11, I couldn’t help but ask, when did Texas Republicans lose their “pro business” stance?

I was part of a six-person panel moderated by Jack Fink, CBS 11 political reporter. Maintaining my composure during the onslaught of hate wasn’t easy.

Considering the bathroom bills filed and awaiting debate in the Legislature’s special session, SB4 (the “show me your papers” bill) and bills seeking to undo protections in non-discrimination ordinances, like the one Dallas has in force, it seems that while Republicans for ages have trumpeted “local control,” saying cities across Texas could govern themselves better than state lawmakers, they have now had a change of direction. Now it is Texas Democrats that are fighting against anti-business legislation.

Pro discrimination? Not a Texas value, according to the 1,300 businesses that Texas Competes says have signed a letter opposing discrimination in the Lone Star State. Yet Rep. Sanford claimed that these business leaders didn’t know what they were signing.

I don’t even know where to start with that ignorant and insulting statement.

IBM took out a full-page ad in the Dallas Morning News, San Antonio Express-News and Austin American Statesman opposing any legislation that discriminates against transgender Texans. They also dispatched key executives to Austin to try to put a stop to this bill. That sounds to me like they knew exactly what they were signing.

Sanford’s arrogance in taking business for granted could come back to bite him. Hard.

And IBM isn’t alone; companies ranging from Dow Chemical to Nordstrom to United Airlines, from LaQuinta Hotels to Sea World, Dell, Allstate and Hewlett Packard — along with more than a thousand others — have signed on to stand against discrim-



Leslie McMurray
Accidental Activist

ination. If Texas isn’t careful, other states will be only too happy to take a bite out of our No. 4 ranking among top states for business.

Actually, that No. 4 ranking doesn’t tell the whole story. Ok, so Texas ranks No. 1 in workforce. But if the members of that workforce don’t feel accepted and protected, they will go elsewhere.

And when you look a little further, Texas ranks middle of the pack in economy (No. 25) and lower in terms of quality of life (No. 37). We are No. 34 in education and, perhaps most telling, No. 24 in business friendliness.

So legislators take note: If you are going to vote in more legislation that discriminates against a quality workforce, brace for impact. It won’t be fun.

Rep. Sanford was correct in pointing out that North Carolina is No. 5 on the list, implying HB2 — North Carolina’s infamous bathroom bill — didn’t have the economic impact critics predicted it would. Then Sanford claimed Texas would be unaffected as well. But Phillip Jones, CEO of Visit Dallas, disagreed, saying that the full impact of HB2 has yet to be felt as conventions and conferences are booked well in advance.

If, as Sanford says, there was no economic backlash against HB2, that makes me wonder why it was repealed (if only half-way and haphazardly).

Maybe because the NFL, NBA, NCAA and more than 100 performing artists threatened to leave North Carolina off of their list as possible site for high-profile events. Losing the NBA All-Star game was one thing, but losing NCAA tournament games in a hoops-crazy state like North Carolina was unacceptable.

The simple fact is, discrimination is just plain bad for business. It’s also not a “Texas Value.”

Obviously, Rep. Sanford holds the truth

in the same “high regard” as does Donald Trump. In addition to lying about businesses not knowing what they signed, Sanford claimed that affirming care by parents of transgender kids is “child abuse.”

This has been proven false. His assertion that parents push gender identity on kids is just plain ignorant. The best parenting permits children to be who they are. Denying their identity leads to tragic outcomes.

During the discussion, I pointed out that there are thousands of homeless children in Texas, many of them on the street because of parental rejection. I suggested Sanford worry less about where children pee and maybe concern himself with where they sleep.

But my suggestion fell on deaf ears.

Sanford, who is a Baptist executive pastor in addition to being a state representative, did express the need to protect college codes from sexual assault on college campuses. I suggested he start with Baylor. (Was that wrong?) He was being a good Republican, mouthing the same tired (and discredited) tropes about trans people that could have come from Dan Patrick’s hand up his back or the playbook from hate group Family Research Council.

Texas Republicans seem nostalgic for the days of Jim Crow laws. Have we learned nothing? Diversity and equality are good for business, good for building strong communities and a recipe for strong growth.

All of this noise about bathroom bills, repealing non-discrimination ordinances and replacing them with “religious freedom” license to discriminate bills are the death throes of a dying breed of dinosaurs known as the Republican Party. The rifts we are seeing now will only grow wider as those on the extreme ends draw their final lines in the sand.

Texas Republicans used to be thoroughly pro business. But now, other than discrimination and separation, I can’t figure out what else Republicans are for.

Seriously, 2018 can’t come soon enough. Texas deserves better. ■

Leslie McMurray, a transgender woman, is a former radio DJ who lives and works in Dallas. Read more of her blogs at lesliemichelle44.wordpress.com.



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Building a 'Wall'

WaterTower's new artistic director chooses as her first production a rollicking history of Stonewall

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor
jones@dallasvoice.com

Whenever an arts organization brings in a new-comer to lead it, there's an expectation that fresh blood equates with fresh ideas ... and sometimes radical rethinking. The decision by Addison's WaterTower Theatre to tap Chicagoan Joanie Schultz to take over for longtime artistic director Terry Martin was a leap of faith for both: Schultz had never led a theater company as AD before, and WTT was looking to expand its footprint in North Texas theater. Sometimes, the new guy — or new woman — dips a toe into the waters gingerly, but Schultz has decided to dive in.

Her first production as a director — a bowshot to signal her lively approach to making theater — was to replace the planned summer musical, Sondheim's *Sunday in the Park with George*, with something far more radical: *Hit the Wall*, a play about the Stonewall Riots that triggered the

modern gay rights movement.

Replacing a musical by a beloved icon of American theater with a rarely-performed, politically charged retelling of liberation? It's not as crazy as it sounds... or at least, Schultz didn't imagine it would be so.

"When we knew we were going to reprogram the summer show, we went to the [usual suspects]. I was looking for something uplifting and inspiring [to replace Sondheim], something that would attract a young, excited crowd," she says. She then remembered *Hit the Wall*, which she first encountered about five years ago in Chicago.

"I knew it would be a good summer show. What struck me when I saw it was the unique storytelling — a hybrid between being a rock concert and a play. It has characters, but it's the feel for the passion, the spirit underneath it [that captured me]," Schultz says.

HIT THE WALL

Addison Theatre Centre,
15650 Addison Road.
July 28–Aug. 20.
WaterTowerTheatre.org.

She also realized at the time she first saw it how little she actually knew, as a straight woman, about its subject matter.

"I remember not knowing a darned thing about Stonewall," she admits. "I had heard the words but didn't really know what happened. I was shocked that a major historical moment in America" was not more widely known. "Stonewall is not being taught in our history classes, though for sure it should be." It would, she thought, be a good way to start her tenure at WTT.

But the journey has been more uphill than she expected.

"When I picked it, I hadn't moved to Texas yet," she says. "It was a huge hit [in Chicago]," so she anticipated an easy sell. "It's been more challenging for my audience than I anticipated. Some people have said, 'Haven't we heard so much about Stonewall?' But we have a cast full

■ WALL Page 20

Joanie Schultz, WaterTower Theatre's new artistic director, aimed for a diverse and authentic cast for her first show as a director here, the hot-button play-with-music 'Hit the Wall.' (Photo courtesy Karen Almond)

A FIT of peaks

Festival of Independent Theatres roars in its opening weekend



WingSpan's latest play by Edward Albee, 'Finding the Sun,' is an absurdist success.

We've seen plenty of plays and movies in which a beautiful, healthy female actor pretends to have a serious illness. Think Cynthia Nixon as the cancer patient in *Wit*, Diane Keaton as a leukemia sufferer in *Marvin's Room* or Mary Tyler Moore as the quadriplegic in *Whose Life Is It Anyway?* It is a rare and startling thing then to watch Dallas theater star Sherry Jo Ward act the saga of her own ongoing struggling with Stiff Person Syndrome in her dazzling new one-woman show titled *Stiff* at the Festival of Independent Theatres at the Bath House Cultural Center.

Stiff was one of four short plays leading off the first weekend of the four-week fest, and it was by far the standout. Ward, 40, delivers her one-hour monologue from a big orange armchair, her long legs stretched onto a matching ottoman. Only a few years ago, audiences saw her in the leading role in WaterTower Theatre's production of *August: Osage County*, bounding up and down a three-story set. Now because of the stiffening of her muscles,

just one of the symptoms of the incurable autoimmune disease she was diagnosed with, Ward is unsteady on her feet. She has tremors. Her speech is slowed and sometimes slurred.

In her play, Ward doesn't ask for pity — she demands it, wondering why pity has gotten such a bad rap. Pity helps, she tells us, as does medical marijuana, crying with her physical therapist and figuring out new sex positions with her husband of 18 years. "When you don't feel good, you do whatever you can to feel better," she says.

Stiff is hilarious, bold, informative, fanciful (she practices an imagined interview with Diane Sawyer) and never, ever too heavy. Exquisitely written and performed by Ward (who was directed by Marianne Galloway for Risk Theatre Initiative), it is an hour you won't soon forget. The standing ovations it's earning at the Bath House are a reminder to all of us that sometimes just standing up is a victory. *Performed July 22 at 2 p.m., July 27 and Aug. 5 at 8 p.m.*

■ FIT Page 20

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- ◆ Donnie Bro
Booth #20
- ◆ Joche W. E
Booth #2

Wedding Exhibitors

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Formal Wear

- ◆ Dapper Pins & Cuffs
Booth #205
- ◆ Bridal Gown Rental & Sales
Booth #400

Jewelers

- ◆ Dapper Pins & Cuffs
Booth #205
- ◆ Sam's Fine Jewelry
Booth #112

Photographers

- ◆ 2nd2Nunn Photography
Booth #209
- ◆ Justin Yoder Studios
Booth #303
- ◆ Lyncca Harvey
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- ◆ Party Animals LLC
Booth #105
- ◆ Photobomb DFW
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- ◆ Alternative Wedding
Services
Booth #107
- ◆ Lisa Foster Minister
Booth #208
- ◆ Royal Lane Baptist Church
Booth #406

Transportation | Limos

- ◆ ECS Transportation Group
Booth #109
- ◆ Prime Limo & Car Service
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Booth #301 | 402
- ◆ Donnie Brown Weddings
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- ◆ Howard Brown Events
Booth #111
- ◆ Joche W. Events
Booth #215 | 314
- ◆ MyGayWedding.com
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- ◆ One Fine Day LLC
Booth #401
- ◆ Ring Thing Events
Booth #102

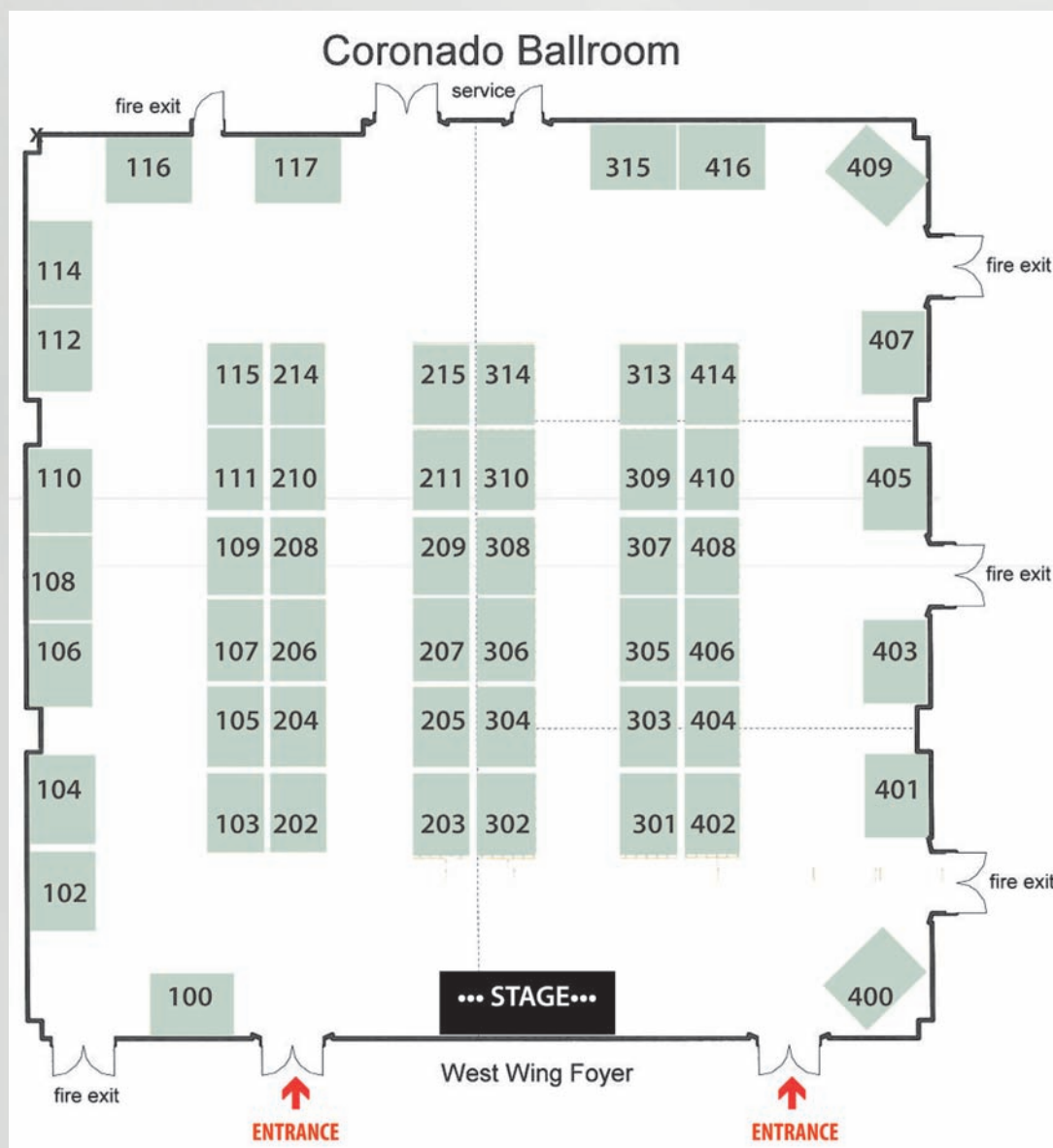
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I know why 'La Cage' birds sing

Uptown Players finds the human connection in a camp classic

In a world of *Kinky Boots*, *Priscilla Queen of the Desert*, *The Producers* and more, it can be a challenge to wrap your mind around the idea that, in 1983, *La Cage aux Folles* was absolutely revolutionary. There had been gay characters on Broadway before, and drag queens, and musicals with cross-dressing. But a story focused on a stable, middle-aged, married gay couple (one of whom we might call trans by today's standards) that paints a sympathetic portrait of same-sex parenting? Unheard of.

Georges (Bob Hess) runs a St.-Tropez nightclub whose star, Zaza, is also Georges' longtime partner Albin (Mikey Abrams). Albin is what we might call "high-maintenance:" temperamental, flouncy, self-involved, vain ... but also tender and nurturing. So when their son Jean-Michel (Georges' biological offspring from a hetero one night stand 25 years earlier) announces his engagement to a girl whose

parents are right-wing homophobes, and asks that Albin "disappear" for the family dinner, feelings are hurt, courage is found, honor is restored ... and the bigots get their comeuppance.

It's a predictable froth, a pink meringue served with a dollop of bitter queen... I mean, cream. The entire point is to empower and reaffirm to the crowd the normalcy of even the most outrageous "lifestyles." Albin, for all his flamboyance, is a traditionalist, perhaps having more in common with his future in-laws than anyone can fathom.

The production by Uptown Players now at the Kalita concentrates on the human scale of the story; despite the showgirls and feather boas and artifice, at heart this is a chamber comedy — a dinner farce where dessert is served with every course. Hess and Abrams make for a charming couple, all lived-in affection. When Hess' Georges shames Jean-Michel (a lanky, honey-voiced Seth Womack) with

LA CAGE AUX FOLLES

Kalita Humphreys Theater,
3636 Turtle Creek Blvd.
Through July 30.
UptownPlayers.org.



Georges (Bob Hess, left) and Albin (Mikey Abrams, far right) try to fool their prospective in-laws in the musical farce 'La Cage aux Folles.' (Photo courtesy Mike Morgan)

the touching ballad "Look Over There," even Ted Cruz might get misty. Hess' coolness contrasts to Abrams' over-the-top *joie de vivre*.

But in this version, much of the supporting cast gets to shine as well. In addition to Womack, Alex B. Heika's frenetic houseboy Jacob steals every scene he's in, and the six actors portraying Zaza's back-up dancers, Les Cagelles, execute some dazzling choreography and inhabit their

characters with minimal dialogue.

The book (by Harvey Fierstein) was written with a different audience in mind; it touches trippingly but not deeply on issues that have somehow become more hot-button in the interim. And Jerry Herman's score alternates between bombast and bathos. But who the hell cares? Sentimentality has its place, and that place is in a lavish summer drag show with heart. ■

— Arnold Wayne Jones

■ WALL From Page 16

of some younger people who didn't know much about Stonewall before embarking on this. It has caused a lot of conversation around our theater" — which, Schultz says, is ultimately the role of theater in the life of a society.

It has also plunged her headfirst into the North Texas theater community, which has turned out to be a positive experience for her.

"I had to do the casting very quickly, because I was still not [living full-time in Dallas]. We had 100 actors come out on the first day — 100 truly good actors. And it's a complicated play in terms of casting, trying for as much authenticity as possible — not just racially, but eight out of the ten roles are queer characters," and she wanted to reflect that diversity as well.

"This is a really different kind of play to ask people to come in for — I wonder how much some of the actors code-switch to present themselves professionally and not be bitchy, and then I'm asking them for just that," she laughs.

Assembling the design team presented its own issues. The lighting designer has been a mainstay at WTT, and working with him has shortened her learning curve in dealing with the theater's unique space. But she took a chance in hiring as her scenic designer a third-year candidate for



Joanie Schultz

master of fine arts at SMU to design her first solo show.

"I wanted to give someone new a chance to bring an exciting, younger voice to the stage," Schultz says. She also hired a trans man to write and perform the music for the show (it's not a musical but has a rock element that is essential, she explains). Combining new voices with established artists is part of the collaborative process that Schultz enjoys in the craft of theater. And the controversies and hiccups embolden her more than they intimidate. That is, she feels, the very point of the endeavor.

"This is an exciting moment for us to do this play," she says. "I've been really working with the folks here to push our version of *Hit the Wall* so that we really push it over the wall." ■

■ FIT From Page 17

An audience fave from FIT 2007, Matt Lyle's silent-film-onstage *The Boxer* is back with its original cast of Bootstraps Comedy Theater darlings, including onstage keyboard whiz B. Wolf and percussion/banjo/mandolin/sound-effects master Johnny Sequenzia. Like a live-action Buster Keaton comedy, this hour of light pantomimed-to-music storytelling finds a Depression-era down-and-out (Kim Lyle) pretending to be a man so she can fight-coach a bantamweight pugilist (Jeff Swearingen) in his face-off with a brute (Ben Bryant). Punctuated with perfectly timed physical shtick and black-and-white "training montage" bits (from a decade ago but the actors haven't changed much, darn them), *The Boxer* is still a comedy knockout. *Performed July 20 at 8 p.m., July 28 at 8 p.m. and Aug. 3 at 8 p.m.*

WingSpan Theatre Co. director Susan Sargeant has a thing for Edward Albee. She just gets his plays and insists that we should, too. With *Finding the Sun*, a rarely-produced 1983 Albee one-act set on the beach, we're almost convinced there's something to love about obtuse, interwoven conversations among four troubled couples. Two of the women (Robin Clayton, Catherine DuBoard, both excellent) are married to gay men (Mat-

thew Stepanek, Ian Mead Moore) who'd rather be with each other. An older couple (Ethel Stephens, Jerry Crow) are facing mortality with bitter resignation. A mother (Charlotte Akin) contends with a sexually precocious teenage son (the terrific David Helms). Back and forth they go, playing verbal beach ball (sometimes with a real beach ball) full of Albee's dark wit on the topics of love and aging, illuminated in the yellow glow of the searing summer sun. *Performed July 20 at 8 p.m., July 29 and July 30 at 5 p.m. and Aug. 4 at 8 p.m.*

Echo Theatre was the odd one out on FIT's first weekend with its absurdist, impenetrable *Trace of Arc* by Ali Smith (adapted and directed by Kateri Cale). Two shopworkers (Natalia Borja, Abigail Palmgreen) carry out mundane tasks as their boss (Octavia Y. Thomas) barks orders. A shopper (Allyn Carrell) speaks only in TV ad slogans — "Everything's better with Bluebonnet on it." And now and then a woman named "Conscience" (the marvelously animated Pam Myers-Morgan) interrupts to announce that "a terrible play is going on!" She's not lyin'. *Performed July 22 at 5 p.m., July 23 at 2 p.m., July 29 at 8 p.m., and Aug. 5 at 5 p.m.*

— Elaine Liner

Bath House Cultural Center, 521 E. Lawther Drive. Through Aug. 5. FestivalOfIndependentTheatres.com. ■



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One of the best parts of my job is discovering all the dynamic new people, places and things expected to interest the LGBT community. Every once in a while I stumble upon a few gems that catch my fancy — hopefully they will catch yours, too.

REVRV LGBT streaming service. You have to tip your feathered caps to Netflix, Hulu and other popular streaming services for providing (for the most part) satisfying LGBT programming options, like trans creator Jill Soloway’s award-winning *Transparent* at Amazon. But now you can effectively eliminate all the hetero noise clogging up your queues and go full “queerated content” thanks to REVRV, the first dedicated LGBTQ+ digital streaming platform. Available on Apple TV, Chromecast, Roku, plus iOS and Android devices (with Pluto.tv and Amazon Fire capabilities coming soon), REVRV, which recently celebrated its first anniversary, features original content like *3030*, a series about platonic black lesbian roommates living in Las Vegas; the newly added Bob the Drag Queen comedy special, *Suspiciously Large Woman*; as well as international shows

and movies, like the subtitled *Free Fall*, characterized as “the German *Brokeback Mountain*.” Spoiler alert: They bang in the woods using nature’s lube.

OUTshine on the Sea. Earlier this year I attended the 10-day OUTshine LGBT film festival in Miami, which featured some of the best LGBT films I have ever seen (not an exaggeration; find French-Canadian film *1:54* and have a box of Kleenex handy). So I’m pretty pumped for OUTshine on the Sea, the fest’s seven-night Eastern Caribbean Cruise (hitting Nassau, Punta Cana and St. Thomas), from Feb. 17–23, 2018, aboard Celebrity Equinox. If you’re a film and cruise lover — two of my favorite things! — pack your movie-marathon sweatpants and let’s gain 10 pounds of popcorn weight on the open ocean together.

Hornet app. If you’re fed up with all the blatant racism on your gay dating/hookup apps, take a break and zip into Hornet, a gay social-networking app oddly popular in France, Russia, Brazil, Turkey and Taiwan (you want to expand your horizons, right?), but whose user base is consistently

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growing here at home. Aside from finding likeminded men nearby (the app includes a GPS component like Gindr and the gang), you can tap into and share LGBT-focused new stories on its companion website UnicornButty.com; discover local queer hotspots around your home and when you're traveling; and keep your social calendar lit with curated homocentric events.

Handmade Sexy Time. My boyfriend and I are adventurous, especially when it comes to our bodies and bedroom activity, and we had an arousing at-home date night with Haus of Betch's hand-crocheted jock straps. It was like Captain America himself was calling me hither in his blue three-starred weiner basket (sorry, no photos) and an arts-and-crafts project making vibrating dildos of our own dicks with kits from Clone-A-Willy. The latter was a bit stressful because the process moved ultra-fast — we had to get and stay hard while mixing the plaster at an exact 90 degrees and cast our cocks in under three minutes! — but we shared laughs along the way, amazing sex afterward, and now we've got life-size replicas of our own wieners that we'll probably just use to go fuck ourselves whenever we have a tiff. (Sorry, still no photos).

— Mikey Rox

BOOK REVIEW: Wedding belle

***Equally Wed* by Kirsten Palladino, foreword by Lance Bass and Michael Turchin (Seal Press 2017) \$17.99; 263 pp.**

Like many people, Kirsten Palladino grew up dreaming of The Perfect Wedding. She pictured it, but making it happen started out wrong: when she got engaged to her now-wife, Maria, and went looking for help getting started, she could only find books for straight couples. That was definitely *not* going to work, so the Palladinos created an online wedding magazine ... and eventually this book.

So what if *you* just got engaged? As you might guess, there's a lot of planning that goes into a wedding, starting with whom (and how) you tell about it. Palladino advocates being gentle with family members who may feel uncomfortable. She says, "give them some time" and know how to decide to invite them or not.

Time management will be your friend in this process, so find a system that works for you and be faithful to it. Keep phone numbers, contracts, ideas, lists, worksheets, and budgets in the same place, and keep track of all gifts received. Take a look at Palladino's list of possible items needed, then remember that nothing there is mandatory.

Decide on the kind of wedding you want, the venue you've dreamed about, and the size of your ceremony. Remember that age and gender of attendants isn't cast in stone, and the only requisite for attire is comfort. Know what questions to ask the "wedding pros" you need to make your day special: a planner, photographer, videographer, the officiant, baker, bartenders, and your DJ. Remember that flowers are optional or you both can carry bouquets; in fact, your decorations and what you carry down the aisle can be anything unique to the two of you. Personalize the ceremony in ways that make you happy; there are all kinds of options and it's



your wedding.

Ever since you were small, you've dreamed of getting married but, if you don't have a model to follow, it can be hard to know where to start and where to get what you want. *Equally Wed* shows prospective "grides" and "brooms" the path.

Beginning with gender-neutral terms for wedding participants, Palladino progresses through the year-plus-long preparations for the Perfect Wedding, and beyond. Prospective newlyweds will find lists and bullet-points that are useful and reminders for things they may never have considered, including ideas that may seem to fall into an "over-the-top" category. Still, she stresses that individualization is what makes a wedding special and that "Something will go wrong on your wedding day," but nobody can ruin it unless you let them.

This is an easy-to-use book that covers all bases, from "will you?" to "I do." If there's a wedding in your future and you need a starting point, *Equally Wed* is a big "Yes!"


— Terri Schlichenmeyer

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Friday 07.21

And your new Miss Gay Texas America is...

... Well, that's what we will all find out when the finalists perform at the Rose Room tonight. All week long, contestants have been competing for the direct, state-wide preliminary to Miss Gay America, now in its 45th year. The current titleholder, Sofia Anderson, will be on hand to help crown the new queen. The theme for the night is Queens on Fire... and for Texas in the summer, that's no exaggeration.

DEETS:

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MissGayTexasAmerica.com



LIFE STYLE

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Saturday 07.22

Dave Koz and Larry Graham Jr. go Side by Side at Meyerson

Out saxophonist Dave Koz has been performing his brand of jazz for decades. Now the Grammy nominee teams up with bassist/vocalist Larry Graham Jr. (Sly and the Family Stone) for a new tour, called Side by Side, which be-bops into the Meyerson on Saturday for a one-night-only performance.

DEETS: Meyerson Symphony Center, 2301 Flora St., 7:30 p.m. Meyerson. DallasCultural.org.



Sunday 07.23

Do you hear wedding bells? If you're at the Anatole on Sunday, probably

Same-sex marriage has been the law of the land for more than two years, but that doesn't mean engaged couples know everything they need to about how to get hitched — where, when, how much, etc. So Dallas Voice has once again gathered dozens of top vendors in the same place to share knowledge, information and ideas for planning your nuptials ... or just deciding if you even want to get married one day. There will be cake, a cash bar and best of all: it's free to park and attend.

DEETS: Hilton Anatole Hotel, 2201 M. Stemmons Freeway. 1-4 p.m. Tickets and parking info at BIT.do/epexpo2017.

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Eight small companies perform for the 19th annual fest. *Reviewed this week.* Bath House Cultural Center, 521 E. Lawther Drive. Through Aug. 5. BathHouseCultural.com.

The Bodyguard. Deborah Cox stars in this stage adaptation of the hit film. *Reviewed this week.*

Presented by Dallas Summer Musicals. Fair Park Music Hall, 901 First Ave. Through July 30. DallasSummerMusicals.org. Bass Performance Hall, 525 Commerce St., Fort Worth. Aug. 1–6. BassHall.com.

La Cage aux Folles. The groundbreaking musical about a gay couple with a straight son forced to “straighten up” for his fiancée’s conservative parents. Presented by UptownPlayers. *Reviewed this week.* Kalita Humphreys Theater, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. Through July 30. UptownPlayers.org.

Divine — Live at the Boom Boom Room. A new play by Benjamin Lutz, about the famed drag queen. Margo Jones Theatre inside the Magnolia Lounge at Fair Park, 1121 First Ave. Through July 30.

DivineLiveAtTheBoomBoomRoom.bpt.me.

Disaster! Seth Rudetsky and Jack Plotnick developed this musical that parodies disaster movies. *Final weekend.* Trinity Arts Theater at Bedford Boys Ranch, 2819 Forest Ridge Drive, Bedford. OnstageInBedford.com.

Hood. A world premiere musical about Robin Hood, by Douglas Carter Beane and Lewis Flinn. Wyly Theatre, 2400 Flora St. Through Aug. 6. DallasTheaterCenter.org.

The Bible: The Complete Words of God

(Abridged). Amphibian Stage Productions presents the return engagement of this comedy. 120 S. Main St., Fort Worth. Through Aug. 13. AmphibianStage.com.

Finding Neverland. Stage musical adaptation of the Oscar-winning film about the inspiration for *Peter Pan*. Presented by AT&T Performing Arts Center. *Final weekend.* Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. ATPAC.org.

The Life and (Cruel) Times of Conchita

Zaragoza: A Mambo Musical. Comedy by Mark-Brian Sonna about a Mexican girl obsessed with being the next big star in America... despite being undocumented. Studio Theatre at Addison Theatre Centre, 15650 Addison Road. Through Aug. 6. MBSProductions.net.

The Merry Wives of Windsor. Shakespeare Dallas kicks off with this comedy about Sir John Falstaff. Performed in repertory with an adaptation of Cervantes’ *Quixote*. *Final weekend.* Samuell Grand Amphitheater, 1500 Tenison Parkway. 8:15 p.m. curtain. ShakespeareDallas.org.

The Necessities. A world premiere from local gay playwright, director and actor Blake Hackler, about four strangers in a small Texas town whose lives converge. Closes Second Thought Theatre’s season. Joel Ferrell directs. Bryant Hall on the Kalita Humphreys campus, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. Through July 29. 2TT.co.

Quixote. Shakespeare Dallas continues its 2017 with this stage adaptation of Cervantes’ *Quixote*. Performed in rep with *The Merry Wives of Windsor*. *Final weekend.* Samuell Grand Amphitheater, 1500 Tenison Parkway. 8:15 p.m. curtain. ShakespeareDallas.org.



‘The Bodyguard’ continues its run at Fair Park Music Hall.

Sex with Strangers. Two writers end up sharing a remote location in this comedy, presented by Stage West. *Final weekend.* Stage West, 821 W. Vickery Blvd., Fort Worth. StageWest.org.

FINE ART

Sopheap Pich. The Cambodian sculptor’s work, including the massive *Rang Phnom Flower*, on

display at Crow Collection of Asian Art, 2010 Flora St. Through Jan. 7, 2018. CrowCollection.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.

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July 28 Musical Workshop 5-7pm

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FRIDAY 07.21

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

SATURDAY 07.22

CONCERTS
Dave Koz and Larry Graham Jr.: Side by Side Tour. Jazz saxman Dave Koz and bassist/vocalist Larry Graham Jr. (Sly and the Family Stone) perform. Meyerson Symphony Center, 2301 Flora St. 7:30 p.m. Meyerson. DallasCultural.org.

SUNDAY 07.23

COMMUNITY
The Wedding Party & Expo. Dallas Voice presents this annual celebration of same-sex marriage with vendors, planners and information, plus cake and entertainment. Parking and tickets are free; cash bar. Hilton Anatole Hotel, 2201 N. Stemmons Freeway. 1–4 p.m. Tickets at BIT.do/wpexpo2017. TheWeddingPartyExpo.com.

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

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MONDAY 07.24

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 07.25

FILM
Cat on a Hot Tin Roof. Elizabeth Taylor tries to get Paul Newman to stop lusting after his dead lover. 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.

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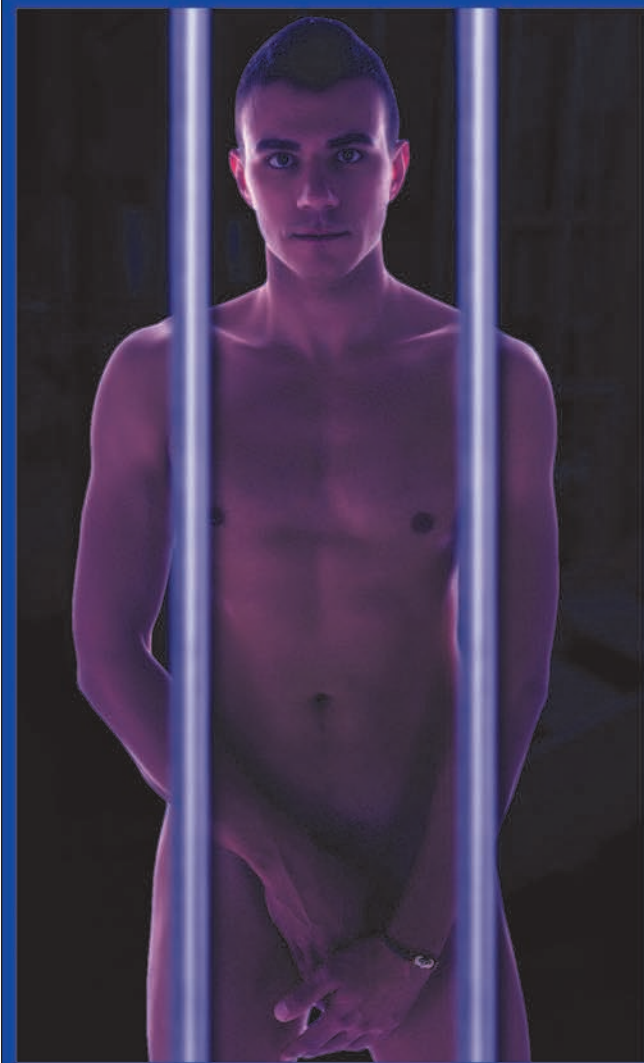


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Cassie Nova

Cassie admits it: She is a tech addict

Technology was created by the devil. This past week, I have Hulked out twice and almost killed a few people and all because my computer, Wi-Fi and DVR all went kaput at the same time. I like to think of myself as a calm, rational person, but when every electronic device in your house revolts, it's hard not to take it personally. Last Tuesday something evil happened. Either an alien pulse, lightning bolt or something more sinister plunged my household into the dark ages of 10 years ago.

My husband and I went immediately into action to try to remedy the eerie quiet of our home. He called Dell tech support for the computer, and I called AT&T Uverse for everything else. Our only ray of hope was that our cellphones still worked. I was shown just how serious this mess was when I asked Alexa for some help, and she basically said, "You are on your own, faggot!" Alexa and I have gotten close since she showed up at Christmas. I play *Jeopardy* every day with her, she sets timers and alarms to help me out, she plays me music all day. But on this day, I felt abandoned.

If you have ever called tech support, you know how frustrating it can be. It took forever before I got to speak to an actual person, and then we had to repeat almost everything. When I get upset, I sound real country and he is in India, so we both had to work hard to understand the other. He ran some diagnostics and I restarted things over and over again, and after two hours he basically said what I already knew: That my shit was broke and they would have to send over a repair guy. He said it would be two days before they could get someone over here. With no other options, I agreed and

we set up a time for the repair guy to come by.

I looked at my husband and said, "Oh my god, what are we going to do for two full days? Talk to each other? Have adult conversations at dinner? Entertain ourselves?" Fuck that. I went immediately to Walmart and bought one of those digital antennas so we could at least watch regular local channels. Nope, those things are worthless — plenty of channels but they all stop and start, then freeze up and make it impossible to watch anything. We had to resort to watching DVDs like poor people. Like *poor* people, I tell ya! If as they say, what doesn't kill you makes you stronger, I must look like a bodybuilder.

The tech support guy said the repairman would be by on Thursday between 8:30 and noon, so I set an alarm to make sure I was up and ready when he got here. He was coming to release me from this hell. Well I waited ... and waited ... noon came and went, and still no sign of him. I called AT&T again to be told that the guy didn't show up. I was like, no shit, Sherlock — Now where is he? He said they would have to dispatch another repair guy and he would be there between 4 and 8 p.m. By now I am just about ready to explode. I am going on just a few hours sleep, and I don't know if you all know this about me but I can be a little moody.

Luckily, my husband got home before the repair guy, who finally arrived at 7 p.m. I took the dogs outside to let the guy fix my stuff without my Hulk-like energy hovering around. He was there all of 10 minutes. Basically he said a squirrel chewed its way into an AT&T cable box down the street and fried the box (and cooked

the poor squirrel), so everyone around here with AT&T was without Wi-Fi for about 24 hours. All the repair guy did was restart our system and we were good. He said as soon as the Wi-Fi was back up, all we would have had to do was restart the system and *voila*, it would have all worked. It seems like if the guy in India would have known about the squirrel, or at least knew what the tech guys in Texas knew, I wouldn't have spent 48 hours in the stone ages.

The computer messing up was just strange timing. Unless that was a really big squirrel. Who knows, between my husband and Soto with the Best Buy Geek Squad my computer is fixed, my Wi-Fi, cable and Alexa are all working, and I am back to my calm, demure self. Like I said: Technology is the devil. It's like a drug: Everything is hunky-dory when you have it, but when it's gone, things get dark real fast. There should be a support group for us addicts.

Hello. My name is Cassie Nova and I am a Technaholic! Hi Cassie Nova

Dear Cassie, Have you ever thought about reviewing movies in your column? I follow you on Facebook and love when you post about movies. We have very similar tastes because I always seem to agree with you. Now I wait to see if you like a movie before I go see it.



Signed, your future best friend.

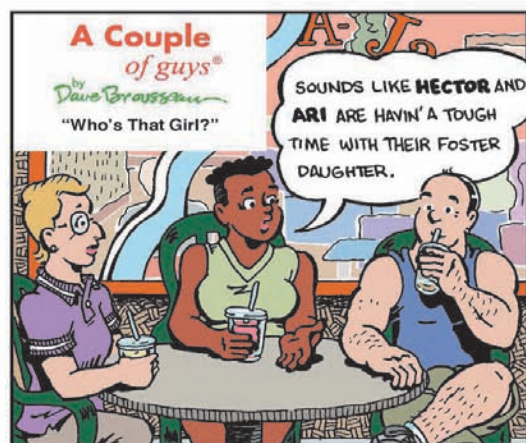
Dear Pushy, I appreciate that but no, I keep my movie reviews to just a few words or one sentence. No offense to professional movie reviewers, but I feel like it is their job to basically find things to dislike about a movie. It's easy to pick apart a movie and rip it to shreds over any number of things. I review movies with one criterion: Did I have fun watching it? If I did, regardless of plot holes or bad acting, I will say I liked it. I have a friend that nitpicks and tears apart every movie he sees. For instance, *Titanic*: He hated it. Said it was the worst movie ever made. Got on his soapbox and told me a thousand reasons why I was stupid for liking it. He said you are a sheep who only likes what he is told to like, you don't think for yourself. Bitch, please. I loved *Titanic*. It was fabulous on so many levels.

Since then, I decided to judge a movie mostly by whether or not I enjoyed watching it. Recently I saw *The Mummy*. Not the best film of the year, but I enjoyed it. It was creepy at times and the stunts were really cool. The underwater zombie things creeped me the fuck out. But it was ridiculous. It was goofy and laughable at times, but over all I enjoyed watching it. So my review was basically, "Good movie, fun to watch." I love movies and the whole theater going experience. I love movies that stay with you, that you think about months after you have watched them, but the truth is 98 percent of movies made are just fluff. A mental getaway for about two hours. There are plenty of movies I didn't enjoy and don't mind telling people when I hate one. Recently the movie *It Comes at Night* pissed me off. No one came. Seriously though, it had some cool, creepy elements but with no real payoff. I can enjoy a cerebral film, but this one just annoyed me.

For me, Tarantino is very hit or miss. I loved the *Kill Bill* films, but *Inglorious Basterds*, which a lot of my friends loved, I did not, endless scenes of supposed tense dialogue. It would have been better with some serious editing. It got a little wordy without saying much. Although I enjoyed the acting and some of the action, mostly it annoyed me. I guess I / pick things apart. I understand that my taste is questionable and I'm okay with that.

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.





Rob and Santi at The Grapevine

Making the **SCENE** the week of **July 24-27:**

- **Alexandre's:** K-Marie on Friday and Tuesday. **Chris Chism and the Band** on Saturday and Thursday. **Wayne Smith** on Sunday. **Bianka** on Wednesday.
- **Club Changes:** **Wall of Food** meeting at 8 p.m. on Wednesday.
- **Club Reflection:** **Trinity River Bears** meeting at 2:30 p.m. and cookout at 4 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Dallas Eagle:** **Wayne Davis** hosts the **United Court of the Lone Star Empire's Christmas in July** fundraiser for the **Greg Dollgener Memorial AIDS Fund** at 7 p.m. on Saturday.
- **JR.'s Bar & Grill:** **Road to Newcomers USofA**, a benefit show for **Rocky Tacoma**, hosted by **Kelexis Davenport** at 11 p.m. on Wednesday.
- **Round-Up Saloon:** **Bear Happy Hour** at 6 p.m. on Friday. **Boys, Boots, & Boxer Briefs** on Monday.
- **Sue Ellen's:** **Reckless Angels** on Saturday. **Kathy & Bella** at 3:30 p.m. and **Bad Habits** at 6 p.m. on Sunday.
- **The Rose Room:** **Miss Gay Texas America 2017** final night at 9 p.m. on Friday. **Miss LifeWalk** at 5:30 for VIPs, doors at 6 p.m. and show at 6:30 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Urban Cowboy Saloon:** **The Sh*t Show** with **Frida Monet**, **Bleach**, **Nia Courtland** and **Sofonda John** at 10:30 p.m. on Friday.
- **Woody's Sports & Video Bar:** **Karaoke** at 10 p.m. on Wednesday. **Jada Pinkett Fox** at 8 p.m. on Thursday.

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



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Friends at JR's. Bar and Grill



Night out at The Tin Room



Rita Fine at S4



Taylor and Steven on The Strip



Handsome man at The Round-Up Saloon



Wednesday night karaoke at The Round-Up Saloon



Sue Ellen's staff and patrons say welcome home Kathy Corbin



Selena forever! On The Strip



Asia O'Hara at S4



Friendly staff at The Round-Up Saloon



Tater and Tot at The Grapevine



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TOO HOT
for the
app store





The smartphone screen shows the SQUIRT app interface. At the top, there's a red header with the SQUIRT logo and a menu icon. Below the header, there are tabs for Guys, Mail, Chat, Cruise, and Search. The main content area is titled 'Viewing: Guys Online Now' and displays a grid of user profiles. Each profile includes a small photo, a name, and a distance indicator like '<1 km away'. Some profiles have a red 'TOO HOT' badge. The profiles shown are: hottrucker, huddlight, onlyjocknow, muscledup, foragoodtime, gynjockhottie, tophottotold, and dthotguy.

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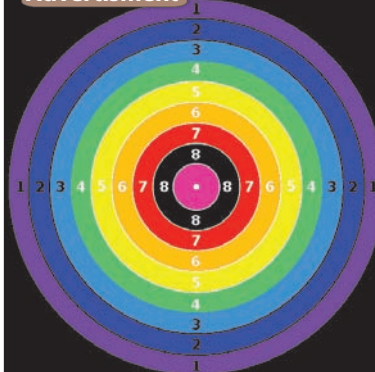
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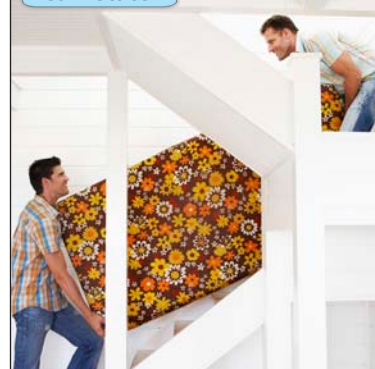
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6 Gay Icons

Solution on Page27

- Across
- 1 "I'm not in the ___!"

5 Left to pirates

9 *Rubyfruit Jungle*
writer Rita Mae

14 Shakespeare's Hathaway

15 US citizen

16 The sound of music?

17 One who does it just
for the money

19 "___ and tigers and
bears..."

20 MLK associate and
LGBT advocate

22 Verdi opera

23 Math degree

24 "Till There ___ You"

27 Work unit

29 Cowboy's job in
The Boys in the Band

32 Nine inches

36 *Zami* author

39 Star in Perseus

41 Leave open-mouthed

42 Sing part of
"The Lonely Goatherd"

43 San Francisco activist

46 Daly of *Judging Amy*

47 Time of frigidity

48 Gay rodeo affirmative

50 One who goes after
your honey

51 Jude of
The Talented Mr. Ripley
- 54 Bit of dental work

59 Stonewall veteran
drag queen

62 On the ocean

65 Type of leather from
a reptile

66 Lindsay of *Liz & Dick*

67 Inedible Apple

68 It's a gas on Broadway

69 Former congressman
Barney

70 Like young Abe Lincoln

71 Venus de Milo's lack
- Down
- 1 Latin dance

2 "___ at time!"
(serial monogamy motto)

3 Way to serve your meat

4 Kid's "tattoo,"
for example

5 Eve counterpart
on Lesbos

6 Nicky, in *Funny Girl*

7 *The Golden Girls* episode

8 No-tell motel meeting

9 Start of a song from
South Pacific

10 Totally screw

11 Rene Auberjonois role

12 Come out on top

13 Sixty-nine and others
(abbr.)
- 18 Gardner of mystery

21 Of ___ I Sing

24 Long-winded

25 Shakespearean forest

26 Ancient erection

28 One of the Marianas

30 Like a cunning linguist

31 Crotchety sort

32 Sir, in India

33 *Melrose* ___

34 *Hollywood Squares* choice

35 PBS science show

37 Motorist's offense, briefly

38 Trust, with "on"

40 Stocking stuffer?

44 "We're here!
We're queer!" e.g.

45 *Spartacus* director

49 Nice Nellie

52 To no ___ (in vain)

53 Sprinter Rudolph

55 Trump ex

56 Try to put a restraint on

57 One who handles
your horse

58 Picks up

59 Jack portrayer Hayes

60 Tug

61 *Six Feet Under*
creator Ball

62 TV character from
beyond Uranus

63 Rocky top

64 Singing syllable



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