

# dallasvoice

The Premier Media Source for LGBT Texas | [DallasVoice.com](http://DallasVoice.com) |   DallasVoice | Established 1984 | Volume 34 | Issue 19 | FREE | Friday, September 15, 2017

A vibrant photograph of the Dallas skyline at dusk, featuring the Reunion Tower and various skyscrapers. A large, semi-transparent rainbow arch is superimposed over the right side of the image. In the foreground, the words "2017 DALLAS PRIDE" are displayed in large, bold, 3D letters. The "2017" is white, "DALLAS" is light blue, and "PRIDE" is filled with a rainbow gradient. The text is reflected in the water in the foreground.

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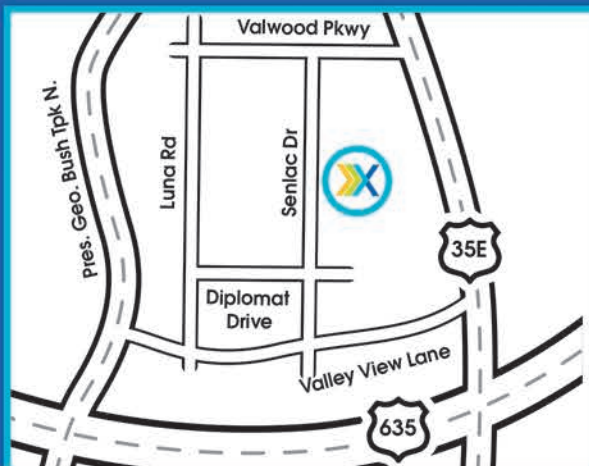
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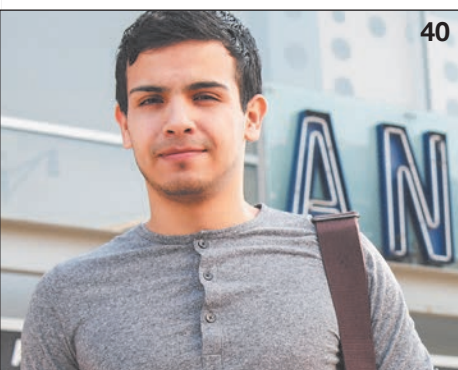
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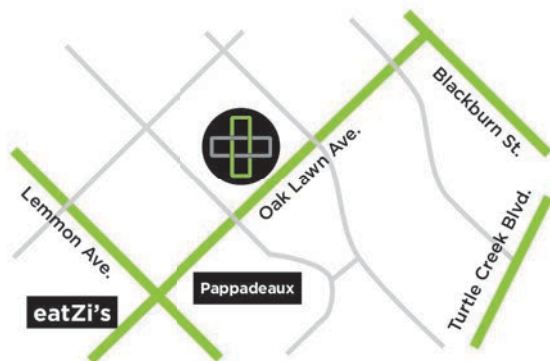


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### Pro-statue rally set for Saturday in Lee Park

A man identified as Mr. Beverly has notified Dallas city officials that a "pro-open carry group" will be holding a rally Saturday afternoon in Lee Park, apparently to call on city officials to leave in place the bronze statue of Confederate army Gen. Robert E. Lee, which has stood in the park since it was donated to the city in 1936.

According to an email sent to city staff on Wednesday, Sept. 13, by city spokeswoman Vernesha Cathey, Mr. Beverly "has been cooperative and is working with DPD Intelligence Unit detectives regarding rally logistics."

The rally will be held midday and Beverly estimated the crowd of 200 will also be armed as they are a pro-open carry group.

Cathey said that "as always," Dallas police would not interfere with "a lawful and peaceful assembly of any individuals or groups expressing their first amendment rights ... ." But officers will not hesitate to step in "if any type of criminal offense is committed against any person or property."

Officers will also keep demonstrators from impeding traffic in the area or attempting to "shut down a freeway," Cathey said, stressing that the "safety of our officers and citizens is the primary concern as individuals or groups gather to express their first amendment rights."

— Tammye Nash

### Dallas City Council votes down N.C. travel ban

The Dallas City Council voted down a proposed travel ban to North Carolina, which has never fully lifted its anti-transgender bathroom bill. The Dallas council's vote was 8-7 against the travel ban.

Voting to ban travel to North Carolina were Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Adam Medrano and

council members Kevin Felder, Mark Clayton, Omar Narvaez, Philip Kingston, Sandy Greyson and Scott Griggs.

Voting against the ban were Mayor Mike Rawlings, Mayor Pro Tem Dwaine Caraway and council members Adam McGough, Casey Thomas, Jennifer Gates, Lee Kleinman, Rick Callahan and Tennell Atkins.

New York, one of the first states to ban travel to North Carolina, lifted its travel ban after North Carolina partially repealed its bathroom bill earlier this year.

Some council members who voted against the travel ban were worried about the city's relationship with its bank, Bank of America, based in Charlotte, N.C. Question: Why is the city of Dallas using a bank based in Charlotte and not a bank based in Dallas?

— David Taffet

### Three companies accused of price gouging during Hurricane Harvey

Although every gas station raised prices by about 70 cents, only one Dallas Texaco is being accused of price gouging during the days during and following the onslaught of Hurricane Harvey in charges filed by the attorney general's office.

Bains Brothers, owners of Dallas area Texaco stations, are accused of posting prices in the \$3-4 range but charging \$6.99 per gallon on Aug. 31. They don't own stations in the city of Dallas, but in surrounding suburbs.

The two other companies charged with gouging in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey are Best Western Plus Tropic Inn in Robstown, a city just west of Corpus Christi. The hotel is charged with tripling its room prices the weekend Hurricane Harvey hit. And a Chevron station outside of Laredo is accused of charging \$8.99-9.99 per gallon for gas on Aug. 31.

For each violation, the penalty can be as much as \$20,000. When the victim is 65 or older, the penalty may increase to \$250,000.

— David Taffet

### Texas Values protests San Antonio schools protecting LGBT students, employees

Austin-based right-wing lobbying group Texas Values is leading the protest against the San Antonio Independent School District's new policy protecting LGBT students and employees in the district from discrimination based on their sexual orientation, gender identity and gender express.

Opponents of the policy, approved by a unanimous vote during the school board's August meeting, criticized the board for allegedly passing the new policy without adequate public input.

Texas Values President Jonathan Saenz — who apparently found his calling as an anti-LGBT zealot after his wife left him for another woman — said at a Monday press conference, "The parents weren't given consent, why were [they] shut out of the process?"

(As an aside, when a reporter with San Antonio Current asked the about 30 people attending Saenz's Monday protest how many were actually parents of SAISD students, only two raised their hands. But one woman in the crowd made sure the reporter knew they were all taxpayers.)

— Tammye Nash



# GO OUT AND SHINE

Whether it's your favorite bar or Sunday brunch, make sure your fun is free from tobacco. Because even the occasional cigarette can do harm. So go out, have fun, and shine **free from tobacco.**



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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; 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 2:30–4:30 p.m. at Grace United Methodist Church, 4105 Junius St. For more info, email [pegasussquares@gmail.com](mailto:pegasussquares@gmail.com); **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.

## SEPTEMBER

- **Sept. 14-24: In the Tall Grass**

A play about the 2015 murder of Shade Shuler, a Dallas trans woman, at 7:30 p.m. at Bishop Arts Theatre Center, 215 S Tyler St. Tickets at [BishopArtsTheatre.org](http://BishopArtsTheatre.org). Advanced Discount Code: ITTG15.

- **Sept. 15: Red Party**

Dallas Red Foundation presents the 9th annual Red Party, at 8 p.m. at South Side

Music Hall, 1135 S. Lamar St. Tickets \$45–\$100. [Redparty9.eventbrite.com](http://Redparty9.eventbrite.com).

- **Sept. 15: Prizm/The Dallas Pride Opening Party**

The Purple Foundation presents the Prizm/The Dallas Pride opening party at 9 p.m. at Lizard Lounge, 2424 Swiss Ave. For information visit [PurpleFoundation.org/pride](http://PurpleFoundation.org/pride).

- **Sept. 15: Federal Club Mixer**

6–8 p.m. at Alamo Drafthouse, 1005 S. Lamar St.

- **Sept. 16: Shine!/ The Dallas Pride Pool Party**

The Purple Foundation presents Shine!/ The Dallas Pride Pool Party, from 2–8 p.m. at Sisu Uptown, 2508 Maple. For information visit [PurpleFoundation.org/pride](http://PurpleFoundation.org/pride).

- **Sept. 16: Miller Lite Music Festival in the Park**

T-Mobile presents the Miller Lite Music Festival and Family Pride Zone from 11 a.m.–7 p.m. at Reverchon Park, 3505 Maple Ave. \$10.

- **Sept. 16: Teen Pride**

Safe space for LGBT teens aged 13–19. Food contests, bands, DJs, booths and on stage entertainment featuring Kennedy Davenport from 11 a.m.–7 p.m. at Reverchon Park, 3505 Maple Ave. Free for teens and \$5 for those accompanying them.

- **Sept. 16: We Are Family 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).

- **Sept. 16: A Night Out for Trevor**

Fundraiser for Trevor, the hotline for LGBT youth. VIP at 7 p.m., general admission from 8 p.m.–midnight at W Hotel, 2440 Victory Park Lane, 33rd Floor. Tickets at [trvr.org/dallaspride](http://trvr.org/dallaspride).

- **Sept. 16: BEAT**

Impulse Group Dallas presents BEAT, a Pride weekend party, from 9 p.m.–2 a.m. at Stereo Live Dallas, 2711 Store Lane. For information visit [Facebook.com/Events/1956845721196772](https://Facebook.com/Events/1956845721196772).



Celebrate Pride Night with discounted tickets to see the Tony Award-winning musical Fun Home at the Winspear on Tuesday, Sept. 19. See listings for details.

- **Sept. 16: Opening reception for 'Expressions of Color'**

Bivins Gallery, 300 Crescent Court, Ste. 100, hosts an opening reception, from 5–8 p.m., for Richard Hickam: Expressions of Color. The exhibit runs through Oct. 21. For information visit [BivinsGallery.com](http://BivinsGallery.com).

- **Sept. 17: Alan Ross Texas Freedom Parade**

T-Mobile presents the Lakewood Brewing Alan Ross Texas Freedom Parade, on Cedar Springs Road from Wycliff Avenue to Turtle Creek Boulevard at 2 p.m.

- **Sept. 17: Spectrum/ The Dallas Pride Tea Dance**

The Purple Foundation presents SPECTRUM/The Dallas Pride Tea Dance, from 4–10 p.m. at The Patio at S4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. For information visit [PurpleFoundation.org/pride](http://PurpleFoundation.org/pride).

- **Sept. 17: Brüt Dallas Pride Closing Party**

Marty's Live, 4207 Maple Ave., hosts the Brüt Dallas Pride Closing Party with Brüt Masters Peter Napoli and Dan Darlington, from 9 p.m.–2 a.m. For information visit [Facebook.com/Pages/Msartys-Live](https://Facebook.com/Pages/Msartys-Live).

- **Sept. 18-19: Rev. Pamela Lightsey**

Public lecture sponsored by Carpenter Initiative on Gender, Sexuality and Justice on risk-taking in the era of alternative facts at 7 p.m. on Monday followed by reception and chapel service at 11 a.m. on Tuesday at Brite Divinity School, 2925 Princeton St., Fort Worth.

- **Sept. 19: Fun Home Pride night**

Discounted tickets at [ATTPAC.org/PRIDE17](http://ATTPAC.org/PRIDE17) for the Tony-winning musical

Fun Home at 7:30 p.m. at the Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St.

- **Sept. 19: Classic Chassis Car Club**

Happy hour at J.R.'s Bar & Grill, 3923 Cedar Springs Road.

- **Sept. 20: Erev Rosh Hashanah**

Congregation Beth El Binah services at 7:30 p.m. at Northaven UMC, 11211 Preston Road.

- **Sept. 21: Rosh Hashanah**

Congregation Beth El Binah services at 10 a.m. followed by luncheon at Northaven UMC, 11211 Preston Road.

- **Sept. 21: Gray Pride**

Monthly mixer from 5:30–7 p.m. at Resource Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road.

- **Sept. 21: TAG Dinner Group**

Tyler Area Gays Dinner Group gathers at Salt Grass Steak House, 7214 S. Broadway Ave. in Tyler, at 7 p.m. For information visit [Facebook.com/TylerAreaGays.com](https://Facebook.com/TylerAreaGays.com)

- **Sept. 21: Third Thursday Mixer and Annual Vendor Fair**

GALA business networking from 5:30–8 p.m. at Randy's Steakhouse, 7026 Main St., Frisco.

- **Sept. 21: Eyemart Express fundraiser for LifeWalk**

Eyemart Express, which is sponsoring a team raising funds for LifeWalk, will partner with the North Texas GLBT Chamber of Commerce to host a ribbon cutting at the new store and the LifeWalk Get 10 Give 10 fundraising event. For every pair of glasses sold from 6–8 p.m. on this day, the customer will receive a 10 percent discount and Eyemart will donate 10 percent to LifeWalk on



behalf of the Eyemart Express LifeWalk Team. Customers must bring a current prescription to take advantage of the discount offer. For information visit [EyemartExpress.com](http://EyemartExpress.com).

• **Sept. 22: Depeche Mode**

Depeche Mode presents its Global Spirit Tour, with special guest Warpaint, at 7:30 p.m. at Starplex Pavilion, 3839 S. Fitzhugh Ave. Tickets start at \$59.02. For information visit [Facebook.com/DepecheMode](http://Facebook.com/DepecheMode).

• **Sept. 23: Federal Club Fall Luncheon**

The DFW Federal Club Fall luncheon will be held at The Tower Club in Thanksgiving Tower, 1601 Elm St., 48th floor, with coffee and mimosas at 10:30 a.m., then lunch and the program at 11 a.m. Guest speaker will be U.S. Sen. Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota. RSVP required. For information and tickets visit [DFWFederalClub.org](http://DFWFederalClub.org) or email [co-chairs@dfwfederalclub.org](mailto:co-chairs@dfwfederalclub.org) for details.

• **Sept. 23: Night of Stars**

JuJuBee joins a local cast of stars plus silent

auction, LifeWalk raffle tickets and more to raise money for the Greg Dollgener Memorial AIDS Fund from 6-9 p.m. at the Rose Room, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. \$10-25. Tickets at [GDMAF.org](http://GDMAF.org)

• **Sept. 24: Last Chance Splash**

DFW Federal Club hosts the Last Chance Splash pool party, 2-6 p.m., featuring special guests and DJ Larissa Baxter. Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$30 at the door. Address provided upon RSVP. For information and tickets visit [DFWFederalClub.org](http://DFWFederalClub.org) or email [co-chairs@dfwfederalclub.org](mailto:co-chairs@dfwfederalclub.org) for details.

• **Sept. 24: The Queer Queens of Qomedy**

Poppy Champlin, Jen Kober, Sandra Valls and Crist Guzman are the Queer Queens of Qomedy who perform a benefit for Resource Center and Houston relief at 5 p.m. at Hyenas Comedy Night Club, 5321 E. Mockingbird Lane. \$25. [HyenasComedyNightClub.com](http://HyenasComedyNightClub.com).

• **Sept. 24: Freedom is Sweet**

Entertainment, desserts, raffle and keynote

AGENDA, Page 16

▪ pet of the week / ZAYDA

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Texas Freedom Parade presented  
by T-Mobile Dallas’ 34th annual  
Pride Parade

Pride Parade Facts

- What day is the Parade? Sunday, Sept. 17.
- Are pets allowed on the parade route? Yes, but please be aware that some areas along the parade route can become very crowded and cumbersome for pets.
- Are coolers allowed on the parade route? Yes.
- Can I bring a pop-up tent? Not in the congested areas of the parade route. Personal pop-up tents are no longer permitted on the parade route prior to Oak Lawn Avenue. Only pre-approved merchant tents will be allowed. If you would like to set up a tent, please use Cedar Springs Road between Oak Lawn, Avenue and Turtle Creek Boulevard. Look for the “No Tents” signage to assist you with correct placement areas.
- Can I bring folding camping chairs? Yes. Adequate pedestrian pathways must be honored. You cannot block sidewalks.
- Can I bring a grill to cook with along the parade route? No. This is a city code and will be enforced. Tickets may be issued.
- What time does the parade start? 2 p.m.
- How long does the parade last? About 2-and-a-half hours.
- Where do I park? Parking is an issue. Some paid lots are available. Street parking fills up fast. For later arrivals, some street parking may be found around Lemmon Avenue, Maple Avenue or north of the tollway on Cedar Springs Road.
- Can I pass out flyers from my business or club to patrons along the parade route? No.

- Can I sell merchandise, food, or beverages along the parade route? No. This is a city code and required a permit.
- Festival Rules**
- No outside food or drink allowed.
  - Clear bags only, as per policy.
  - We reserve the right to refuse entry to any person for any reason.
  - No glass containers allowed.
  - Children must be supervised at all times
- Festival Facts**
- What day is the festival? Saturday, Sept. 16.
  - Where is the festival? Reverchon Park, Maple Avenue at Turtle Creek Boulevard.
  - What are the times of the festival? 11 a.m.-7 p.m.
  - Can I bring the kids? Yes, kids are welcome and there is a Family Pride Zone inside the festival designed just for kids. Children must be supervised at all times. Changing stations are available.

- Is there a teen area? Yes, Teens are welcome and there is a Teen Pride area inside the Festival, designed just for teens 13-19.
- How much does it cost? \$10 for adults, cash only. Free for children under 13 when accompanied by an adult. The Teen Pride area is free for teens and \$5 for adults.
- When does the entertainment start? 11 a.m. on the Community Stage and 11:30 a.m. on the Main Stage.
- What time does the festival end? 7 p.m.
- Are animals allowed at the festival? No. Only service dogs and pets associated with authorized pet adoption vendors.
- Are coolers allowed inside the festival? No. Food and beverages will be available for purchase inside the festival.
- Will people be allowed to carry firearms at the festival? No. Due to alcohol sales and to promote safety for all, signs will be posted prohibiting both concealed carry and open carry inside the festival.
- Are backpacks or other bags allowed inside the festival? No. Backpacks are not

- allowed inside the festival. However, a clear bag policy has been implemented.
- Where do I park? Parking is an issue. Some paid lots are available. Street parking fills up fast. For later arrivals, some street parking may be found on side streets off Oak Lawn Avenue, Maple Avenue or Cedar Springs Road.
  - Where do I get an Uber, Lyft or Taxi? The drop-off and pick-up location for all car services, app-based shared rides and taxi cabs will be located near the corner of Turtle Creek Boulevard and Fairmont Street (one block off Maple Avenue at the park entrance).
- For more information about the Pride parade and the music festival, visit [DallasPride.org](http://DallasPride.org)

- 3 p.m.:** RR Park Play (video with Philip Wier)  
**4 p.m.:** Wildlife On The Move  
**5 p.m.:** Dennis Lee Productions

Teen Pride Stage

- 10 a.m.:** DJ Holy Mecca  
**Noon:** Duh always NAUGHTY (band)  
**1:15 p.m.:** SMU Hip-Hop Club  
**1:30 p.m.:** Voogy (band)  
**2:30 p.m.:** DJ Stephen Jusko  
**2:30 p.m.:** Paris Amour  
**3:15 p.m.:** UNT HSU (dance group)  
**3:30 p.m.:** Teen Pride Cast of Drag Entertainment, featuring Raquel Blake, Ruby Scott, Devin Bankx, Bianca Starr Davenport, Kennedy Davenport of *RuPaul's Drag Race*, Barbie Onassis-Dupree Davenport, Kiana Lee, Paris Amour and Trenton Johnson  
**4:15 p.m.:** UNT HSU  
**4:25 p.m.:** Teen Pride Dance Battle  
**4:50 p.m.:** Paris Amour  
**5 p.m.:** Children of Indigo (band)  
**6 p.m.:** Ratchet Action Cult (band)

Miller Lite Music Festival  
in the Park Presented by  
T-Mobile at Reverchon Park

- (Maple Avenue at Turtle Creek Boulevard)  
Saturday, Sept. 16, 11 a.m.-7 p.m.  
\$10 admission (includes entertainment); children under 13 free when accompanied by an adult
- Entertainment**
- Main Stage  
**11:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m.:** Time Machine Band  
**12:15-1 p.m.:** Ken Chicosky Jazz Quartet  
**1-1:45 p.m.:** Time Machine Band  
**2-2:45 p.m.:** Pat Peterson Jazz on Keys  
**3-3:45 p.m.:** Time Machine Band  
**4-4:15 p.m.:** Alyssa Edwards  
**4:15-4:30 p.m.:** Voice of Pride Winners  
**4:30-4:45 p.m.:** stage change-out  
**5-5:45 p.m.:** Kristine W  
**6-7 p.m.:** Mi Diva Loca

Community Stage

- 11 a.m.-noon:** Recorded music  
**noon-12:20 p.m.:** Kulhana (hip-hop)  
**12:35-12:55 p.m.:** Antonial (synthesizer) and Keytar (singer)  
**1:10-1:30 p.m.:** Sinjin (singer)  
**1:45-2:05 pm.:** Kory D (singer)  
**2:20-2:40 p.m.:** Chris Chism (singer)  
**2:55-3:15 p.m.:** Chynaman (EDM/hip-hop dance music)  
**3:30-3:50 p.m.:** K-Marie (Top 40 cover singer)  
**4:05-4:25 p.m.:** Dizzie the Wizard (rapper and singer)  
**4:40-5 p.m.:** Kendra (drag queen solo sax performer)

Family Pride Zone Stage

- 1 p.m.:** Dennis Lee Productions  
**2 p.m.:** Wildlife On The Move



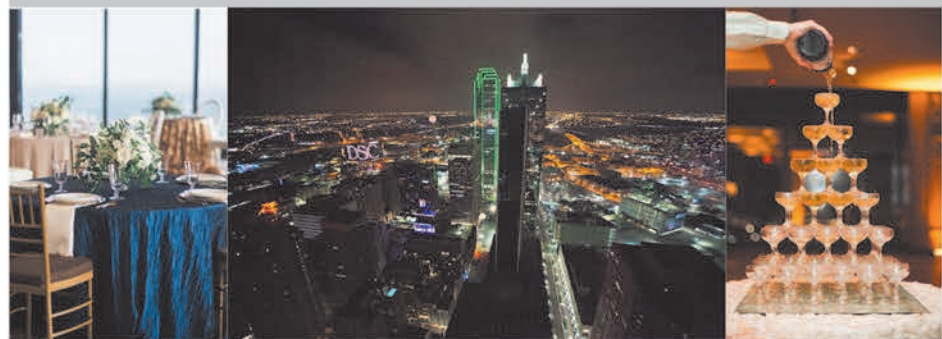




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AGENDA, From Page 13



Drag Race star JuJuBee joins a cast of local entertainers in a show at the Rose Room on Saturday, Sept. 23, to benefit the Greg Dollgener Memorial AIDS Fun. See listings for details.

speaker Rebecca Lopez from WFAA raises money for Families to Freedom to help domestic violence victims from 3-5:30 p.m. at Bella Luna Hall, 11834 Harry Hines Blvd. \$50. FamiliesToFreedom.org/RSVP.

• **Sept. 26: GALA Family Night**

Gay and Lesbian Association of North Texas hosts LGBT Family and Friends Night at Durkins Pizza, 8930 Texas 121 in McKinney, from 5-8:30 p.m. For information visit Facebook.com/GALANorthTexas.

• **Sept. 28: 'Will & Grace' Viewing Party**

Sue Ellen's, 3903 Cedar Springs Road, hosts a viewing party for the revival of Will & Grace, from 7-9:30 p.m. For information visit Facebook.com/Events/186558770710245.

• **Sept. 28: Broadway's Leading Ladies**

Tony Award-winning Cady Huffman, Judy Kaye and Donna McKechnie perform a one-night concert at 7:30 p.m. at Fair Park Music Hall, 909 First Ave. \$150. Tickets at BackStageAccess.org.

• **Sept. 29-Oct. 22: State Fair of Texas**

• **Sept. 29: Kol Nidre**

Congregation Beth El Binah service at 7:30 p.m. at Northaven UMC, 11211 Preston Road.

• **Sept. 30: Yom Kippur**

Congregation Beth El Binah services begin at 10 a.m. followed by break the fast at

sunset at Northaven UMC, 11211 Preston Road.

• **Sept. 30: Fur Ball 2017**

The SPCA of Texas presents a black tie gala at 6:30 p.m. at Omni Dallas Hotel, 555 S. Lamar St. \$300. Tickets at FurBallDallas.com.

• **Sept. 30: Stop HIV Get Tested Workshop**

Workshop and testing are from from noon-3 p.m. at St. James A.M.E. Church, 1107 E. Oak, Denton.

**OCTOBER**

• **Oct. 1: LifeWalk**

Steps off at 1 p.m. from Lee Park. For information visit LifeWalk.org.

• **Oct. 5-8: Dallas Southern Pride**

Dallas Southern Pride presents Black Pride Weekend, Black by Popular Demand, which will include the State Fair Classic (Grambling vs. Prairie View A&M), the Ball/House and Pageant Communities Conference, and parties across the Metroplex all weekend. Visit DallasSouthernPride.com for information.

• **Oct. 5: Classic Chassis Car Club**

Monthly Tire Kick and Dinner. Love of old cars required, not ownership to attend at 7 p.m. at Ojeda's, 4617 Maple Ave.

• **Oct. 6: Burgers + Burgundy**

DIFFA/Dallas presents a culinary evening with silent auction and sneak peek at



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AGENDA, From Page 16



Crist Guzman is one of four "Queer Queens of Qomedy" performing Sunday, Sept. 24, at Hyenas Comedy Night Club in a show benefiting Resource Center and hurricane disaster relief efforts. See listings for details.

House of DIFFA from 6:30-9:30 p.m. at Eyeball at the Joule, 1601 Main St. \$150. DIFFA.org.

### • Oct. 8: Spanke's TP Party

Friends continue the annual party, founded by the late Spanke Studer, collecting grooming supplies and more for residents of AIDS Services of Dallas,, at 3955 Hawthorne Ave. For information visit Facebook.com/dmask2.

### • Oct. 11: National Coming Out Day

### • Oct. 14: Texas Latino Pride

The annual Texas Latino Pride festival, with live entertainment and special guests from 2-9 p.m. at Reverchon Park, 3505 Maple Ave. \$5. For information visit Facebook.com/events/429365350783238.

### • Oct. 19: GALA Ally Awards

GALA honors allies who work for equality in North Texas from 5:30-8 p.m. at Holiday Inn Plano, 4301 Paige Road, The Colony.

### • Oct 20: Turtle Creek Chorale

The Turtle Creek Chorale presents After Dark, a special event, at 8 p.m. at 3015 at Trinity Groves 3015 Gulden Lane. \$75-125. TurtleCreekChorale.com

### • Oct 20: Spooktacular IV

Presented by the North Texas GLBT Chamber of Commerce.

### • Oct. 21: My Haunted 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.

### • Oct. 22: Hope Walk

The 26th annual Hope Walk, a pet-friendly 5K benefitting AIDS Outreach Center in Tarrant County will be held 1-5 p.m., beginning at the Trinity Park Pavilion, just off 7th Street in Trinity Park in Fort Worth. There will also be a Pooches on Parade costume contest. Visit AOC.org/walk.

## NOVEMBER

### • Nov. 2-5: Strength Conference

for Men Living with HIV AIDS Walk South Dallas presents the third annual Strength Conference for Men Living with HIV at Hilton Dallas Market Center, 2727 N. Stemmons Freeway. Register at Strength2017. EventBrite.com. For more information and for vendor and sponsorship opportunities, visit AIDSWalkSouthDallas.com or call 469-410-3755.

### • Nov. 4: Summit on LGBT aging

The Coalition for Aging LGBT presents its annual summit on aging from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at Mountain View College, 4849 W. Illinois Ave.

### • Nov. 7: Classic Chassis Car Club

Monthly Tire Kick and Dinner. Love of old cars required, not ownership to attend at 7 p.m. at Ojeda's, 4617 Maple Ave.





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# The art of the float

A Dallas family has been building parade floats for decades, and the Dallas Pride parade brings them a lot of customers

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer  
taffet@dallasvoice.com

With less than a week to go before the 34th annual Lakewood Brewing

Alan Ross Texas Freedom Parade steps off, float-maker Clyde Watts said he still had 14 floats to construct before Friday, Sept. 15. In total, he's made 30 entries in this weekend's Pride parade.

Hurricanes Harvey and Irma have had an effect on his business. Watts said he had some assets that were left in Houston, and those were under water. "Harvey devastated everything we had there," he said.

Of the materials in Houston, Watts said he expects the wooden frames he uses to build his floats to be rotted and the metal trailers upon which they sit to be more trouble to repair than they're worth.

Hurricane Irma also could have had an impact. Watts explained that while the supplies he uses to decorate the floats come from around the country, the glitter comes from Florida. No glitter on Pride parade floats? Unthinkable!

The Lone Star Floats glitter room appeared to be amply stocked this week, so parade-goers shouldn't fret about the supply for Dallas' Pride parade. But Austin's parade, which was postponed until Sept. 30 because of Hurricane Harvey, and Fort Worth's parade scheduled for a week after that, may be slightly glitter-deprived if

Florida's glitter factory took a direct hit.

Lone Star Floats on Westmoreland Avenue in West Dallas is the only float-maker in Dallas. Watts said he builds floats for 77 parades every year, throughout Texas, and some as far away as San Francisco. Whether he's delivering to the West Coast or just a few miles down the road to Cedar Springs, he explained that each float has to be folded and compressed to legal road size.

So after each parade entry is built, it's folded and wrapped with three layers of protection, so neither the hot sun nor rain will ruin it.

The frames used in the floats are recycled and reused. After the parade is done, the floats are returned to Lone Star's West Dallas headquarters, where they are stripped down to their bare wooden bones. Each float takes half a day to prepare.

Each staple is removed by hand — and since the decorations on the average float are secured on the frame with 15,000 staples, that's no easy task. If those staples are caught out in the rain and aren't removed quickly, they'll rust and ruin the frame, Watts said.

The floats, he continued, are covered in floral sheeting, a product designed just for parades. Other supplies come from places like Walmart.

Designs sometimes come from the customer, but Watts said he does 95 percent of the designs himself. "Sometimes customers give me a sketch or tell me an idea," he said. "For Pride, they know what they want to do."

Watts does all of this with a tiny staff — his immediate family, including his son and daughter, his wife, in-laws and a couple of additional employees. He has about half a dozen truck drivers to deliver the floats to the parade site.

Despite the fact that the number of floats making this one of his three largest events of the year, Dallas Pride is easier to manage



Clyde Watts with a corny dog he uses on a State Fair float, top. His daughter fitting a float with rainbow sheeting, below.



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than some parades, Watts said. All floats are delivered to Cathedral of Hope's parking lot on Saturday morning, the day before the parade, beginning at 8 a.m. At 10 a.m., the tarps are untied.

On Sunday morning — parade day — parade entrants pick up their floats, beginning at 8 a.m., with the specific pick-up time determined by entry number.

Then Watts' job still isn't done. "I'm the enforcer," he said.

He wants to make sure everyone's safe. That goes beyond just making sure every float's equipped with a fire extinguisher and that handles are provided for float-riders to hang on to, keeping floats up to city code. Accidents, he said, can come from people having a good time who just aren't thinking.

Floats for clubs with dancers, he said, "always scare me." He said he's always worried the pole dancers are going to dance right off the float. Despite his worries, though, there's never actually been a problem. That's because his floats are built to be balanced and sturdy.

Working with the Dallas Tavern Guild, the organization that stages the parade each year, is a pleasure, Watts said, because the guild appreciates his emphasis on safety. The Greenville Avenue St. Patrick's Day parade, on the other hand, breaks every city rule.

Watts described float-building as a repetitive job. Automation has changed just one thing: Cutting out the logo for an organization used to take hours, but now a machine cuts the stencil-like form out in just minutes. For a job as large as the Dallas parade, that saves days of work.

The job may be repetitive, but it's one Watts loves. He's been at it since 1968, when he worked in his parent's float-building company in South Carolina.

After serving in the military, Watts decided to join friends who lived in Dallas. In 1982, he opened his own float-building company and built his first float for the Parade of Lights in Fort Worth. For the first 11 years, he worked alone.

At the time, there were three other float-making companies in Dallas. Lone Star Floats is the only one left.

After Hurricane Katrina, New Orleans' largest float-builder, known as Mr. Parade, moved to Dallas. The owner was known for the detailed — and expensive — floats built for Mardi Gras. When the Dallas Morning News did a story on Mr. Parade, they asked Watts what he thought of the move. Watts said he welcomed the newcomer to Dallas and that he wasn't worried. The New Orleans float-maker's prices



were much higher, and he didn't lose a single customer. Mr. Parade moved back to New Orleans within three years.

Despite any controversy within the LGBT community itself over the scheduling of the Dallas Pride parade, Watts said he likes the parade just when it is, but not for any historical reasons. (The Dallas parade commemorates a Dallas event, a 1982 court ruling striking down the Texas sodomy law, rather than the New York event, the Stonewall Riots, that are the reason for June Pride events.) Watts' preference is based on availability: In June, he's already making floats for the Houston Pride parade — nine each year — which falls on the Saturday night closest to Stonewall, and for San Antonio Pride two weeks later. He's also building floats for Fourth of July parades in various locations in June.

And while other Texas Pride parades are held at night to beat the heat, Watts said he likes that Dallas's parade is held during the day, because having to add a generator to power the lights on a float for a night-time parade, and then stringing those lights, adds about four hours of construction time. With 30 floats, it would become a logistical nightmare and add about 50 percent to the cost.

With the success he's had, Watts could open additional facilities. He has a couple of San Antonio locations, but those are strictly for the Battle of Flowers Parade, his larg-

est client which has very specific and elaborate needs. But Watts doesn't want to send any other work elsewhere.

"I want to touch it, feel it," he said. "I want to make sure it's up to my standard."

His standard is so high that the national cheerleading competition had him create and send a float to an event in London, and he's currently negotiating to do work for a parade in Dubai.

At 65, Watts has no plan to retire. Why should he? And what would he do if he did retire? After all, one of his favorite things to do is go to a parade.

"And the thing I like most about this business is I spend all my time with my family," he said.

His son and daughter have been helping build floats since they were 5. During a reporter's recent visit, his son was building a

new frame; his daughter was decorating a float for this week's parade, and his wife was decorating signs in the glitter room.

And having built floats for Dallas, Austin, Houston and San Antonio Pride parades, Watt said he has noticed something about Dallas: "Dallas is organized and efficient — at least from my perspective."

Yeah, we've been accused of that before. ■



**TRIUMEQ is a once-a-day pill used to treat HIV-1. In some people, TRIUMEQ should not be used by itself. Take TRIUMEQ exactly as your healthcare provider tells you.**

## APPROVED USES

TRIUMEQ is a prescription HIV-1 (Human Immunodeficiency Virus-type 1) medicine used alone or with other antiretroviral medicines to treat HIV-1 infection in adults. HIV-1 is the virus that causes AIDS. TRIUMEQ is not for use by itself in people who have or have had resistance to abacavir, dolutegravir, or lamivudine. TRIUMEQ should not be used in children under the age of 18.

**TRIUMEQ does not cure HIV-1 or AIDS.** You must keep taking HIV-1 medicines to control HIV-1 infection and decrease HIV-related illnesses.

## IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

**What is the most important information I should know about TRIUMEQ?**

**TRIUMEQ can cause serious side effects, including:**

- **Serious allergic reactions (hypersensitivity reaction)** that can cause death have happened with TRIUMEQ and other abacavir-containing products. Your risk of this allergic reaction to abacavir is much higher if you have a gene variation called HLA-B\*5701. Your healthcare provider can determine with a blood test if you have this gene variation. **If you get symptoms from 2 or more of the following groups while taking TRIUMEQ, call your healthcare provider right away: 1. fever; 2. rash; 3. nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, or stomach pain; 4. generally ill feeling, extreme tiredness, or achiness; 5. shortness of breath, cough, or sore throat.** Your pharmacist will give you a Warning Card with a list of these symptoms. **Carry this Warning Card with you at all times.**

**If you stop taking TRIUMEQ because of an allergic reaction, never take TRIUMEQ or any other abacavir- or dolutegravir-containing medicines again.** If you have an allergic reaction, dispose of any unused TRIUMEQ. Ask your pharmacist how to properly dispose of medicines. If you take TRIUMEQ or any other abacavir-containing medicine again after you have had an allergic reaction, **within hours** you may get **life-threatening symptoms** that may include **very low blood pressure** or **death**. If you stop TRIUMEQ for any other reason, even for a few days, and you are not allergic to TRIUMEQ, talk with your healthcare provider before taking it again. Taking TRIUMEQ again can cause a serious allergic or life-threatening reaction, even if you never had an allergic reaction to it before. **If your healthcare provider tells you that you can take TRIUMEQ again, start taking it when you are around medical help or people who can call a healthcare provider if you need one.**

- **A buildup of acid in your blood (lactic acidosis).** Lactic acidosis can happen in some people who take TRIUMEQ. This serious medical emergency can cause death. **Call your healthcare provider right away if you** feel very weak or tired; have unusual muscle pain; have trouble breathing; have stomach pain with nausea and vomiting; feel cold, especially in your arms and legs; feel dizzy/light-headed; or have a fast/irregular heartbeat.

- **Serious liver problems** can happen in people who take TRIUMEQ. In some cases, these serious liver problems can lead to death. **You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or serious liver problems if you are female, very overweight (obese), or have been taking nucleoside analogue medicines for a long time. Call your healthcare provider right away if you get any of the following signs or symptoms:**
  - yellow skin, or the white part of the eyes turns yellow (jaundice); dark urine; light-colored stools; loss of appetite for several days or longer; nausea; pain, aching, or tenderness on the right side of your stomach area

- **Worsening of hepatitis B virus in people who have HIV-1 infection.** If you have HIV-1 and hepatitis B virus (HBV), your HBV may get worse (flare-up) if you stop taking TRIUMEQ. A “flare-up” is when your HBV suddenly returns in a worse way than before. Worsening liver disease can be serious and may lead to death. Do not stop taking TRIUMEQ without first talking to your healthcare provider, so he or she can monitor your health.

- **Resistant hepatitis B virus.** If you have HIV-1 and hepatitis B, the hepatitis B virus can change (mutate) during your treatment with TRIUMEQ and become harder to treat (resistant).

- **Use with interferon and ribavirin-based regimens.** If you're taking TRIUMEQ and interferon, with or without ribavirin, tell your healthcare provider about any new symptoms. Worsening of liver disease that has caused death has happened in people infected with both HIV-1 and hepatitis C who were taking antiretroviral medicines and interferon.

**Who should not take TRIUMEQ?**

- **Do not take TRIUMEQ if you:**

- have the HLA-B\*5701 gene variation
- are allergic to abacavir, dolutegravir, or any of the ingredients in TRIUMEQ
- take dofetilide (Tikosyn®)
- have liver or kidney problems

**What are other possible side effects of TRIUMEQ?**

- People with a history of hepatitis B or C virus may have an increased risk of developing new or worsening changes in certain liver tests during treatment with TRIUMEQ. Your healthcare provider may do tests to check your liver function before and during treatment with TRIUMEQ.
- When you start taking HIV-1 medicines, your immune system may get stronger and begin to fight infections that have been hidden in your body for a long time. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you start having new symptoms after you start taking TRIUMEQ.
- Changes in body fat distribution can happen in people who take HIV-1 medicines.
- Some HIV-1 medicines, including TRIUMEQ, may increase your risk of heart attack.

**The most common side effects of TRIUMEQ include:** trouble sleeping, headache, tiredness

These are not all the possible side effects of TRIUMEQ. Tell your healthcare provider if you have any side effect that bothers you or that does not go away.

**What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking TRIUMEQ?**

- **Before you take TRIUMEQ, tell your healthcare provider if you:**

- have been tested and know whether or not you have a gene variation called HLA-B\*5701
- have or have had liver problems, including hepatitis B or C infection; have kidney problems; have heart problems, smoke, or have diseases that increase your risk of heart disease such as high blood pressure, high cholesterol, or diabetes; drink alcohol or take medicines that contain alcohol
- are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if TRIUMEQ will harm your unborn baby
- are breastfeeding or plan to breastfeed. **Do not breastfeed if you take TRIUMEQ**
- **You should not take TRIUMEQ if you also take:**
  - abacavir (EPZICOM®, TRIZIVIR®, or ZIAGEN®)
  - lamivudine (COMBIVIR®, Dutrebis™, EPIVIR®, EPIVIR-HBV®, EPZICOM, or TRIZIVIR)
  - emtricitabine (Emtriva®, Atripla®, Complera®, Stribild®, or Truvada®)

**Important Safety Information continued on next page**



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HIV in 2015

Garland  
Diagnosed  
with HIV  
in 2016

Leo  
Diagnosed with  
HIV in 2003

Jeannette  
Diagnosed with  
HIV in 2011

Jack  
Diagnosed with  
HIV in 2010



- **Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take**, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines (for example, antacids or laxatives; vitamins such as iron or calcium supplements; anti-seizure medicines; other medicines to treat HIV-1, hepatitis, or tuberculosis; metformin; or methadone), vitamins, and herbal supplements (for example, St. John's wort). Some medicines interact with TRIUMEQ. **Keep a list of your medicines to show your healthcare provider and pharmacist. Do not start taking a new medicine without telling your healthcare provider.**

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 TRIUMEQ on the following pages.

Real patients with HIV-1 taking TRIUMEQ as of 2014 or later. Individual results may vary.  
Individuals compensated for their time by ViiV Healthcare.

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learn more at [triumeq.com](http://triumeq.com)



## IMPORTANT FACTS

This is only a brief summary of important information about TRIUMEQ and does not replace talking to your healthcare provider about your condition and your treatment.

### MOST IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT TRIUMEQ

**TRIUMEQ® may cause serious side effects, including:**

- **Serious allergic reactions (hypersensitivity reaction)** that can cause death have happened with TRIUMEQ and other abacavir-containing products. Your risk of this allergic reaction to abacavir is much higher if you have a gene variation called HLA-B\*5701. Your healthcare provider can determine with a blood test if you have this gene variation. **If you get symptoms from 2 or more of the following groups while taking TRIUMEQ, call your healthcare provider right away: 1. fever; 2. rash; 3. nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, or stomach pain; 4. generally ill feeling, extreme tiredness, or achiness; 5. shortness of breath, cough, or sore throat.** A list of these symptoms is on the Warning Card your pharmacist gives you. **Carry this Warning Card with you at all times.**
- **If you stop taking TRIUMEQ because of an allergic reaction, never take TRIUMEQ or any other abacavir- or dolutegravir-containing medicines again.** If you have an allergic reaction, dispose of any unused TRIUMEQ. Ask your pharmacist how to properly dispose of medicines. If you take TRIUMEQ or any other abacavir-containing medicine again after you have had an allergic reaction, **within hours** you may get **life-threatening symptoms** that may include **very low blood pressure** or **death**. If you stop TRIUMEQ for any other reason, even for a few days, and you are not allergic to TRIUMEQ, talk with your healthcare provider before taking it again. Taking TRIUMEQ again can cause a serious allergic or life-threatening reaction, even if you never had an allergic reaction to it before. **If your healthcare provider tells you that you can take TRIUMEQ again, start taking it when you are around medical help or people who can call a healthcare provider if you need one.**
- **Build-up of lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis),** which is a serious medical emergency that can lead to death. **Call your healthcare provider right away if you have any of these symptoms:** feeling very weak or tired, unusual muscle pain, trouble breathing, stomach pain with nausea or vomiting, feeling cold (especially in your arms and legs), feeling dizzy or lightheaded, and/or a fast or irregular heartbeat.
- **Serious liver problems,** which in some cases can lead to death. **Call your healthcare provider right away if you have any of these symptoms:** your skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow (jaundice), dark “tea-colored” urine, light-colored stools (bowel movements), loss of appetite for several days or longer, nausea, and/or stomach pain on the right side.

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

- **Worsening of Hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** If you have both HIV-1 and HBV, your HBV may suddenly get worse if you stop taking TRIUMEQ. Do not stop taking TRIUMEQ without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to check your health regularly for several months.
- **Resistant HBV.** If you have HIV-1 and HBV, the HBV can change (mutate) while you’re on TRIUMEQ and become harder to treat (resistant).
- **Use with interferon and ribavirin-based regimens.** Worsening of liver disease that has caused death has happened in people infected with both HIV-1 and hepatitis C virus who are taking antiretroviral medicines and are also being treated for hepatitis C with interferon with or without ribavirin. If you are taking TRIUMEQ and interferon with or without ribavirin, tell your HCP if you have any new symptoms.

### ABOUT TRIUMEQ

- TRIUMEQ is a prescription HIV-1 medicine used alone or with other antiretroviral medicines to treat HIV-1 infection in adults. TRIUMEQ is not for use by itself in people who have or have had resistance to abacavir, dolutegravir, or lamivudine. TRIUMEQ should not be used in children under the age of 18.
- **TRIUMEQ does not cure HIV-1 infection or AIDS.** You must keep taking HIV-1 medicines to control HIV-1 infection and decrease HIV-related illnesses.

### DO NOT TAKE TRIUMEQ IF YOU

- have a certain type of gene variation called the HLA-B\*5701 allele. Your HCP will test you for this before prescribing treatment with TRIUMEQ.
- are allergic to abacavir, dolutegravir, or any of the ingredients in TRIUMEQ. See the full Medication Guide for a complete list of ingredients in TRIUMEQ.
- take dofetilide (Tikosyn®). Taking TRIUMEQ and dofetilide (Tikosyn) can cause side effects that may be life-threatening.
- have liver or kidney problems.
- If you also take: abacavir (EPZICOM, TRIZIVIR, or ZIAGEN); lamivudine (COMBIVIR®, Dutrebis™, EPIVIR®, EPIVIR-HBV®, EPZICOM, or TRIZIVIR); emtricitabine (Atripla®, Complera®, Emtriva®, Stribild®, or Truvada®).

### BEFORE TAKING TRIUMEQ

**Tell your healthcare provider if you:**

- have been tested and know if you have a particular gene variation called HLA-B\*5701.
- have or had any kidney or liver problems, including hepatitis B or C virus infection.
- have heart problems, smoke, or have diseases that increase your risk of heart disease such as high blood pressure, high cholesterol, or diabetes.
- drink alcohol or take medicines that contain alcohol.
- are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if TRIUMEQ will harm your unborn baby.
- are breastfeeding (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. **Do not breastfeed if you have HIV-1** because of the risk of passing HIV-1 to your baby.

**Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take:**

- Keep a list that includes all prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements, and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist.
- Ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist about medicines that should not be taken with TRIUMEQ. **Do not start taking a new medicine without telling your healthcare provider.**

### MEDICINES THAT MIGHT INTERACT WITH TRIUMEQ

- antacids, laxatives, or other medicines that contain aluminum, magnesium, sucralfate (Carafate®), or buffered medicines. TRIUMEQ should be taken at least 2 hours before or 6 hours after you take these medicines.
- iron or calcium supplements taken by mouth may be taken at the same time with TRIUMEQ if taken with food. Otherwise, TRIUMEQ should be taken at least 2 hours before or 6 hours after you take these medicines.
- anti-seizure medicines: oxcarbazepine (Trileptal®), phenytoin (Dilantin®, Dilantin®-125, Phenytek®), phenobarbital, carbamazepine (Carbatrol®, Equetro®, Tegretol®, Tegretol®-XR, Teril®, Eptol®).
- any other medicine to treat HIV-1, medicines used to treat hepatitis virus infections (such as interferon or ribavirin), a medicine that contains metformin, methadone, rifampin (Rifater®, Rifamate®, Rimactane®, Rifadin®), St. John’s wort (*Hypericum perforatum*).

### POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF TRIUMEQ

**TRIUMEQ can cause serious side effects including:**

- See “What is the most important information about TRIUMEQ?” section
- Changes in liver tests
- Changes in your immune system
- Changes in body fat distribution
- Some HIV-1 medicines including TRIUMEQ may increase your risk of heart attack.

**The most common side effects of TRIUMEQ** are: trouble sleeping, headache, and tiredness. These are not all the possible side effects of TRIUMEQ. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you have any new symptoms while taking TRIUMEQ.

**Your healthcare provider will need to do tests to monitor your health before and during treatment with TRIUMEQ.**

**You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.**

### GET MORE INFORMATION

- Talk to your healthcare provider or pharmacist.
- Go to TRIUMEQ.com or call 1-877-844-8872, where you can also get FDA-approved product labeling.

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# Setting his sights on Austin

Jeffrey Payne is a businessman, bar owner, leather titleholder and now, gubernatorial candidate

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

Texas has been good to me. Texas has been very, very good to me,” Jeffrey Payne said in an interview this week.

Now he wants to repay the favor.

That’s why, the Dallas businessman said, he is running for governor in 2018.

Payne was born in Maine, but when he was 3, his mother passed away and he, his brother and their father moved back to their father’s home state of Louisiana. His father remarried, Payne said, but then, “in a nutshell, he went out one night for that infamous pack of cigarettes and never came home.”

Payne’s stepmother then chose to leave him and his brother in an orphanage in Ruston, La., where they were separated and put on different campuses to live. Payne went into the foster care system at age 15, then graduated high school and aged out of foster care at 18.

“I went to Louisiana Tech, but I didn’t graduate from there,” Payne continued. He got married, and moved with his wife back to her hometown of Lake Charles. A short time later, they moved to Alexandria and opened a jewelry store.

The marriage ended after five years, and Payne moved south, eventually ending up in New Orleans. He went to work for the Department of Labor, in the EEOC office there.

“Then in August of 2005, we had a hurricane in New Orleans, and I lost everything,” Payne said, referring to the devastation of Hurricane Katrina. “I financed a new car for myself. Then I put my two puppies in my new car and drove to Dallas, with nothing to my name but \$2,000, a hope and a prayer in my pocket.”

He started out with a job at a flooring company, then opened the first of many of his own businesses — a court reporting firm called Notarias, which he still owns. Then bought into the Dallas Eagle bar with co-owner Mark Frazier, before buying out Frazier two-and-a-half years later to become sole owner of the bar.

Payne’s business empire continued to grow, and today he owns Notarias, Dallas Eagle, a retail clothing store, a property management company and a land management company.

“Dallas has been really good to me,” Payne said. “Texas has been really good to me.”

Payne has made his mark on Dallas’ non-profit community, too. In 2009, he founded the Sharon St. Cyr Foundation in honor of his mother, who was deaf. The organization gives grants to those with hearing loss who can’t afford to buy hearing aids. It also gives grants to help pay for ASL interpreters at community events, “so we have equal access for everyone, so everyone can enjoy the events,” Payne said.

“We are going strong,” he said of the foundation. “This is something that is very near and dear to me, knowing that my mother was deaf, my father was deaf and my brother has hearing loss. I have hearing loss, too, and I know that hearing aids are not cheap. Not at all.”

In 2009, Payne entered — and won — the title of Mr. Texas Leather. One of the perks of winning was a chance to compete in the 2010 International Mr. Leather contest, and Payne won that title, too. That title gave him the chance to travel the world, participating in educational events and fundraising efforts.

Five years ago, Payne purchased another leather contest system — International LeatherSIR/boy and International Community Bootblack, a family of 15 regional contests, the winners of which travel to Dallas each Labor Day weekend to compete in the international contest.

“It is a great event each year,” Payne said of the annual gathering. “It’s not just the contest. We have workshops and vendors. It’s always a lot of fun.”

ILSB/ICBB was a for-profit enterprise when Payne bought it. But he chose to turn it into a nonprofit fundraising organization.

“Now we are able to raise money for other nonprofits with ILSB/ICBB,” he said, adding that the organization is able to donate between \$30,000 and \$50,000 a year to other charitable efforts.

“I’m very blessed. I know I am very blessed,” Payne said, explaining why he chose to make ILSB/ICBB a nonprofit. “The community supports this organization. And this organization needs to give back to the community, not give back to me.”

## Launching a political career

It was the idea of giving back, Payne said,



that prompted him to launch a political career on top of his business enterprises and community work.

"I thought about it, and I realized, I could go to another protest, and protests are great. It's incredible when people march and make their voices heard. That's spectacular," Payne said. "I could write another check. That's great, too. It's wonderful when people can give money to important causes."

"But I realized that, by God, we need someone in office who is actually listening, who really wants to represent all Texans. When we go after certain groups for the sole purpose of riling up the 'base,' that's not leadership; that's fear-mongering. And that's what's happening with our government now," he said. "So I couldn't just sit back and wait and watch and hope that someone else would step up. I had to step up myself."

Payne said he and his husband, Sergio Saragoça, had talked about his decision to run for governor for about a year. "I wouldn't do it without his support," Payne said. "And one day, he looked at me and he said, 'I support this. It's time.'"

Payne said he and Saragoça already have in place people and plans for running their various businesses, so that "when I am governor, I will be governor. I won't have to focus on anything else."

Most office holders now, Payne said, are more concerned with getting re-elected than with what's right. "They'll say whatever they think they have to say to get re-elected," he said. "And they are on the wrong side of history."

Payne said he is concerned about a number of issues, starting with an educational system that he described as "horrid. Somebody needs to stand up and say that, to say our education system needs to be fixed and here's how to fix it. Instead, they just said, let's give the teachers a \$1,000 raise, but they didn't give the schools any way to pay for it. So the school's have to lay off teachers or cut services. That's not the way to fix education."

He continued, "I care about healthcare for women and about a woman's right to make her own decisions about her own body. Right now, the governor and the lieutenant governor spend all their times in our bedrooms, in our bathrooms, telling us what we can and can't do with our own bodies. It's time for them to get out of our bedrooms, to get out of our bathrooms. And while they're at it, they need to get off our property, too!"

Payne said he knows that his opponents are going to try to use the fact that he is a gay man — and the owner of a gay bar, and a leather titleholder — against him. But, unlike so many politicians, Payne said, he's



not hiding any secrets in his closet. He believes that by refusing to try and hide anything about his identity, he takes away their power to use that against him.

"Yes, I am gay. I don't think people care that much about that anymore," he said. "And yes, I won International Mr. Leather. But let's face it, it was a pageant, and I won it. And winning it meant I got to travel the world for a year. Culturally, it was incredible. In that year, I attended more fundraisers than most people do in a lifetime. That was my job, really, to raise money. When it comes to charity, some people wear leather, some people wear sequined gowns. But that's just what we wear."

"My mantra is, whoever you are, celebrate who you are," Payne said. "Whether you are fetish or kink or vanilla or whatever, celebrate yourself and who you are. The thing is, they need to be careful what they try to throw at me. Nothing I do is illegal. I just am who I am . . . They can come after me. I've been through worse. I went through Katrina and lost everything. Nothing they can do would be worse than that."

Payne said that he won't accept campaign money from PACs or special interests, and he won't owe anybody any political favors. Running for governor isn't about getting a job, he said, adding with a laugh, "I've already got plenty of jobs. And it's not about power. It's about doing what's right for the economy, what's right for the state. It's about doing what's right for the people of Texas."

"I want to do what's right for Texas. After all, we only get one shot at this . . . well, unless you're Shirley MacLaine!"

Jeffrey Payne will formally announce his campaign for governor at a celebration at 6 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 7, at Hyatt Regency Dallas, 300 Reunion Blvd. The event is open to the public.

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# Crossing thresholds



Oak Lawn UMC's new senior pastor says her church is welcoming, not just tolerant

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer  
taffet@dallasvoice.com

**H**er clerical collar gives her away as the church's pastor, but the Rev. Rachel Baughman's dreads contrast with the traditionally conservative image of the historic Oak Lawn United Methodist Church.

When Baughman talks about welcoming all people to her church, she is talking not

only about her LGBT members, but also about the housed or the homeless and immigrants, regardless of status. Caring for refugees isn't just something she includes in her work, it's her passion.

Through her work with Faith Forward and the International Rescue Committee, Baughman has helped care for refugees who've come to Dallas. But she takes her calling to help many steps farther. Her mission work has taken her to central Lebanon, where she's building a school for children trapped in child labor, including those who have escaped from Syria. She said just \$100,000 would outfit the school and pay for 280 students for a year.

The program, she explained, focuses on accelerated learning to bring the students up to grade level.

THRESHOLDS, Page 32



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THRESHOLDS, From Page 31



Why is she doing all of this? "It drives my spiritual well being," she said.

And how does she rate the job we as Americans are doing caring for refugees?

"We're not showing up," she said, referring to both Americans and Christians worldwide who are doing little for the Syrian refugees pouring into neighboring countries and seeking asylum around the world. Baughman has been to Lebanon twice already this year, and she'll be going back later in September.

Methodist ministers are appointed to congregations by district superintendents, who supervise congregations. And the OLUMC staff and members of its congregation are delighted Baughman showed up

as their new senior pastor.

"So many people said, 'That's such a perfect appointment,'" Baughman said. "I found out very quickly the reason that was true."

She said people at OLUMC live by the biblical mandate to "let love continue" and "don't forget to show hospitality to strangers." So she calls her match to the congregation and the neighborhood "unbelievably perfect."

"I consider it a huge blessing," she added.

The church, at the corner of Oak Lawn Avenue and Cedar Springs Road, was

THRESHOLDS, Page 35

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completed in 1915, and the building is on the National Register of Historic Places. The building is currently under renovation with a goal of making it more inviting. Lighting is being designed to make the colorful stained glass windows visible from the outside.

"Thresholds can be really hard to cross," Baughman said, explaining that some people might find an historic and imposing building uncomfortable to enter, and some people may have a hard time entering a church because of their own personal past or the church's own outreach.

Several years ago, OLUMC became a reconciling congregation, a process that ensures the church knows how to welcome the LGBT community and ensures standards of acceptance. Baughman said her church is welcoming, and that goes way beyond tolerance.

"Who wants to be tolerated?" she asked. At her former church, Baughman said, she was simply tolerated. So she understands that doesn't always feel good.

But that process helped the church welcome everyone.

"We welcome you at Oak Lawn whether you're housed or homeless, gay or straight, citizen or immigrant," she said.

And when she refers to her LGBT members, she loves when they can be out and open about who they are: "We're better able to be who God calls us to be if we can be our whole selves," she said.

For the last several years, Oak Lawn UMC's participation in the parade has grown. It began with welcoming people to sit on the church steps or relax on the lawn to watch the parade, and with opening the doors so parade-goers could use the church's bathrooms.

Last year, the church added a tent to provide shade for those watching the parade and as a water distribution site.

This year, the church arranged with Jaime Vazquez's office — which is located behind the church — to offer handicapped parking. Church volunteers will help get people from their cars to a special parade viewing section set aside for anyone with disabilities.

And the church has arranged emergency medical care. Off-duty paramedics will be on site providing assistance to anyone who needs it. Of course, bathrooms will again be available to anyone who needs them.

But at the mention of bathrooms, Baughman turns red thinking about how much time the Texas Legislature wasted this year trying to hurt members of her congregation and others in the surrounding neighbor-

hood. "I'm proud our clergy showed up to talk to the legislature about the bathroom bill," she said.

Baughman knows that just opening the doors won't get most people into her church, so she goes out into the neighborhood.

"I spend a good number of nights on The Strip," she said. "I go to bars. God's love might not be where you expect."

During a recent visit to The Grapevine

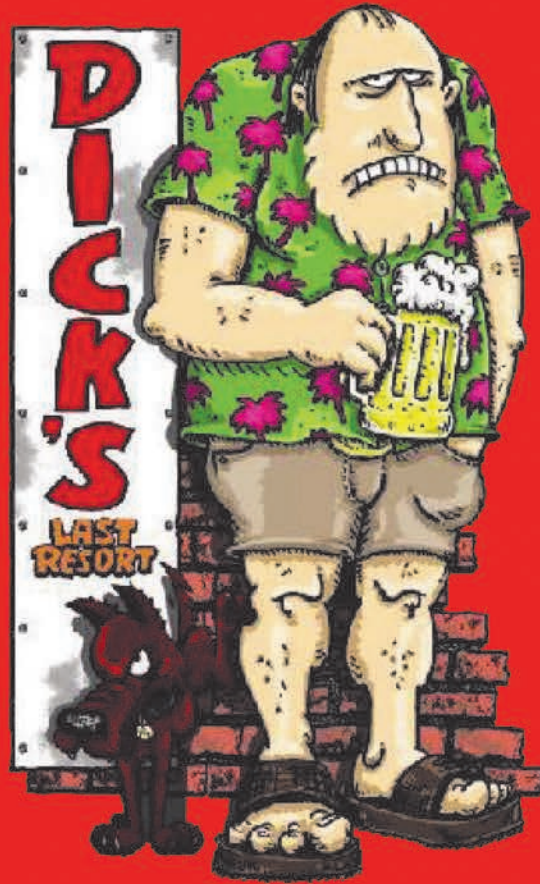
on Maple, she said, "One conversation began with, 'I really like your dreams.'"

Baughman is married, and she and her husband have four children, ages 8 to 16. "Having two pastors as parents, they'll have a lot to tell their therapists," she joked.

Whether she's talking about her church and its diverse congregation or the children she's helping in Lebanon, Baughman said what keeps her going is the knowledge that, "I can make a difference." ■



This piece of art, titled *Lost in the City*, was brought to the church by a member who is a regular guest at our Sunday Community Meal. The piece is a visual representation of the everyday experience of people seeking shelter by nightfall. It also reminds us that God is with us everywhere. If we open our eyes to see Him.



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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.**





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- ◆ 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.

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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<sup>™</sup> (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.

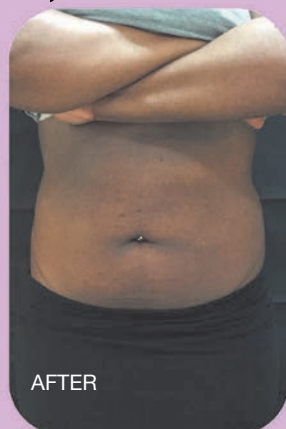


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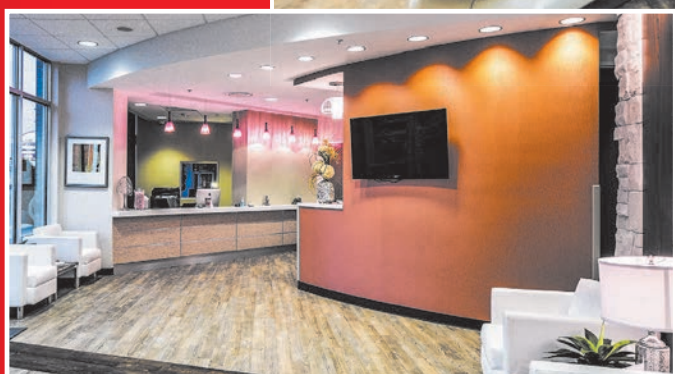
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# Dreaming of citizenship



DACA recipient Francisco Rojero sits on the steps of the Angelica Theater where he works.  
(David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

A 22-year-old DACA recipient contemplates being deported from the country where his great-grandparents and most of his relatives are citizens

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer  
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Francisco Rojero's great-grandparents are American citizens. He's not. But he took advantage of DACA — Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals to stay in this country. Rojero, 22, is a full-time

student at Collin College in Plano, taking more than a full load of classes, and he works 30 hours a week at the Angelika Film Center at Mockingbird Station. When President Donald Trump announced an end to DACA, Rojero said he was heartbroken.

He said more than 90 percent of his family members are U.S. citizens. His great-grandparents became citizens in 1986 through an amnesty granted during the Reagan administration. His grandmother was in the process of receiving her citizenship when she died suddenly of a heart attack at the age of 40, leaving her younger children without green cards.

For years, Rojero's parents traveled freely between the U.S. and Mexico. "Before Sept. 11 (2001), it was easy to travel back and

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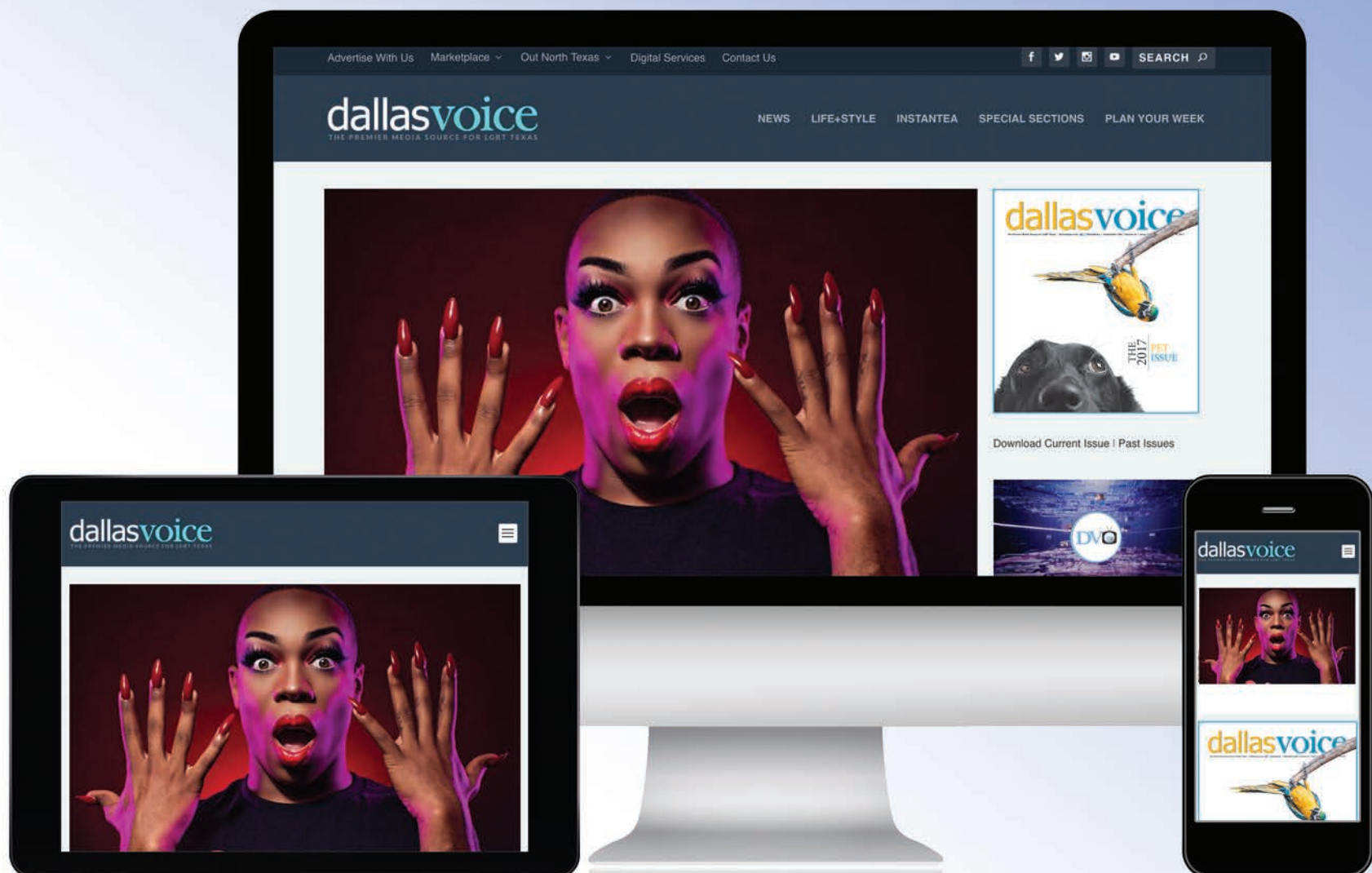
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DREAMER, From Page 40

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forth," he said.

Then, 12 years ago, his parents decided to move to Littlefield, 35 miles northwest of Lubbock, where they had relatives. Rojero was 10.

"My parents didn't look for ways to legalize themselves," Rojero said.

For that final move to this country, his parents hired a white couple to drive the three children across the border in the family car. He said he thinks the couple gave the kids a sedative so they'd be sleeping as they crossed into the U.S., but he remembers forcing himself to stay awake to care for his younger brother and sister, who were 3 and 5 at the time.

His mother walked for 48 hours to meet them on the American side.

Rojero vaguely remembers the town of Sombrerete, in the north central Mexican state of Zacatecas, where he was born. But his brother and sister have no memory of life in Mexico. And though he still speaks Spanish fluently, Rojero recently tested for a translation job and scored higher in English than Spanish.

After living in Littlefield for about six months, the family moved to San Jose,

Calif., but then returned to Texas seven years ago because there were more job opportunities here. Rojero's father works in construction and is steadily employed, especially in the wake of Hurricane Harvey, since there will likely be more need for construction workers than there are construction workers.

His mother works temporary jobs in the fields or in restaurants.

Rojero always excelled in school and was always top of his class. When the family moved to California, he was in a Spanish-English program for two years. Once he learned English, though, he wasn't learning much else.

So he spoke to a counselor and tested out of the program and again began to stand out once more. Although he was among the best students, he knew he was at a disadvantage.

"I kept nagging my parents," he said. "I wasn't going to be able to go to college like the other kids."

Then, when he was a junior in high school, President Barack Obama issued an executive order establishing DACA. And, Rojero said, "My life changed dramati-





"It feels like being rejected from your own country," he said. "I'm a patriotic American. I have American values. I wish he [Trump] would sit down across from me so I could tell him why he's wrong."

Rojero called coming out as undocumented a "second coming out." In school, he said, teachers would talk about "illegal immigrants," not knowing his immigration status. There was stigma attached to it.

Congress is considering the DREAM (Development, Relief and Education for

Alien Minors) Act, which was first introduced in 2001. It would provide relief similar to DACA. Rojero isn't confident it will pass this year.

If he's threatened with deportation, he said, he'll leave the country. But he has no intention of moving to Mexico. He's already looked into immigration to Canada, and knows that he qualifies with his education. He said he doesn't mind the cold weather and likes that Toronto is such a diverse city.

Although he can't vote, he said, six of his friends did, at his urging. One friend, however, didn't vote. And Rojero said he's glad she didn't: "My best friend's a Republican," he said. "She might not understand until I'm not here."

He said his friends have been very supportive of him as his future hangs in limbo, and some even offered to marry him to get him his citizenship. But Rojero's having none of that: "I don't feel I should do that to prove I'm American."

ly."

DACA meant he was able to get a driver's license, go to college and get a job.

Rojero was among the original group that signed up for the program, and he helped friends who were having trouble with the application enroll. His sister has registered as well, but his brother, now 15, isn't old enough to participate in the program.

When Rojero was 18, he moved out on his own and began working. "I've always been independent," he said.

He said when Trump was elected, he was working in Plano. The morning after the election, he walked out of his office crying and met a Muslim woman, an aviation engineer in a neighboring office, sitting on the curb crying as well. That's when he decided he needed to get as much education as possible and enrolled in college.

Now, he said, with DACA scheduled to end, he faces deportation. He said he sees Trump's move to end DACA as the act of a bully, and bullying the most helpless is something tyrants and dictators do to maintain power, not something an elected official in the world's greatest democracy does.



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# Home of the Genderbrave

New Resource Center program reaches out to trans, gender nonconforming young adults

**JAMES RUSSELL** | Contributing Writer  
james.journo@gmail.com



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# KNOW YOUR STATUS



A new program at Resource Center, combining the center's young adult and transgender and gender-nonconforming programming, officially launches today (Friday, Sept. 15).

Empowerment Programs Manager Jalenzi Brown, who also manages United Black Ellument and FUSE, also oversees the new GenderBrave program.

Catering to young adults ages 18-29, the program largely replaces the services provided by the Gender Education, Advocacy and Resources group — GEAR — that the center launched in 2005. That popular program will not cease completely, however. The group will still meet every Tuesday for its weekly support group but continue under the GenderBrave umbrella.

GenderBrave uses the Mpowerment model created by the Center for AIDS Prevention Studies at the University of California at San Francisco in the 1990s. The model uses behavioral intervention practices to promote safer sex with cisgender gay and bisexual men.

"The researchers noticed in the early 21st

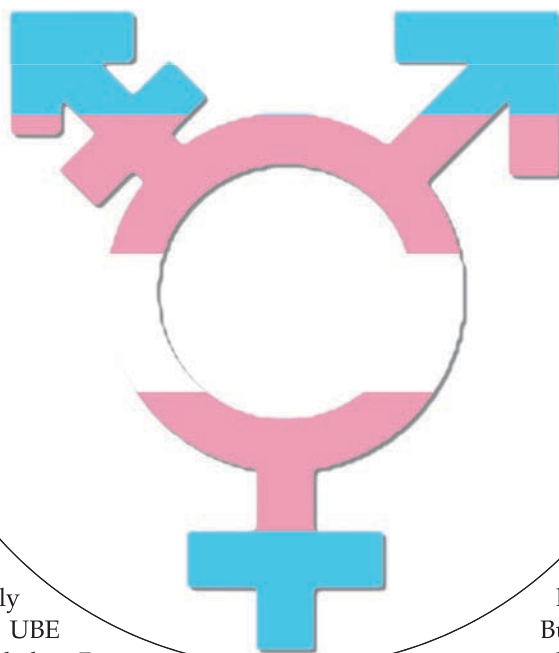
century that black men were not using the program as they like. Researchers

launched a pilot program for two years to study intervention methods," Brown said. Locally that study became UBE and was acquired by Resource Center.

Working alongside Johnny Humprey, program manager for GEAR, Brown also addressed another concern: the Mpowerment model lumped men who have sex with men together with transgender men and women.

Brown noticed as much when pitching GenderBrave to a group of transgender and gender-nonconforming young adults.

The group was hesitant about the frame-



work when Brown first introduced the concept.

"They felt misgendered,"

Brown said. "But we worked on the language."

Burt Brown and the group adapted the language of the Mpowerment model to align more closely with the needs of transgender and gender-nonconforming populations.

They are adapting the overall empowerment model to include a breadth of programming opportunities as well. Since July, a core group of members — think of them as founding members — have spent months planning events and testing different opportunities on Resource Center's campus.

Some programs include self-defense and make-up application workshops. On Sept. 25, the group hosts a Self Care Workshop.

Those decisions are guided by a core group who are a microcosm of the community, Brown said, and includes transgender, genderqueer and gender-nonconforming young adults.

Their ideas include support group sessions like GEAR's and social events. Other plans include movie nights, social mixers, and workshops where attendees can learn to apply make-up. But the focus is still rooted in the empowerment model of HIV awareness and prevention.

Brown also got a financial boost as Human Rights Campaign's HIV 360 Fellowship. The program, focused on HIV awareness, is open to those in managerial leadership roles who work at a non-profit providing HIV-related services as well as HIV-related advocacy, according to the fellowship's website.

Fellows are required to engage in programs enhancing the community. Brown's fellowship involves implementing GenderBrave.

"Trans issues are a hot topic right now. Folks are looking for space to connect," Brown said.

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# Putting women's health first

Amanda Ryan-Smith left a job with NCLR to oversee philanthropy at Planned Parenthood in Texas

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

Amanda Ryan-Smith, an Oklahoma native, was a student at Baylor University in Waco when she first came out as a lesbian. It was not — and still isn't — a particularly welcoming environment for LGBT people.

"I got an incredible education at Baylor, but I definitely disagree with their policies on LGBTQ issues," Ryan-Smith said. Recalling the days after Matthew Shepard's murder in October 1999, she said, "There was going to be a vigil for him, and I remember talking to my friends about whether or not we should go, because there was a chance we would be seen and somebody might find out" that they were lesbians.

But when she did come out, Ryan-Smith added, "I decided I would never live the pain of the closet again."

It was also while she was in Waco that Ryan-Smith started volunteering with Planned Parenthood, an experience that

helped strengthen her decision to get a master's degree in social work from the University of Texas and then go to work in the field of fundraising.

"I started in fundraising because I wanted to learn how to keep the doors open at nonprofits," she said. "I did an internship [in development with a nonprofit] as a grad student, and I raised a ton of money. I learned then that the power is in philanthropy."

"We make change happen. We help these organizations grow and achieve great results."

After working in development for a variety of agencies — domestic abuse organizations, the United Way, the Austin Humane Society — Ryan-Smith decided to turn her efforts toward fundraising for the LGBTQ cause.

"My partner and I had been together for 10 years when we went to Vancouver in 2009 and were [legally] married there, before it was legal everywhere in the U.S.," she said. "Our daughter was born in 2011,

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and then we moved to San Francisco and I went to work for the National Center for Lesbian Rights, as the head of fundraising nationwide. We wanted to be part of our liberation as it was happening."

Living in San Francisco and working for NCLR as the battle for marriage equality reached its height was "an incredible adventure," Ryan-Smith said. "But it wasn't the place for us long term. We were living in a small apartment; I had to take a train to work. I wouldn't trade that time for anything. But I love a house, and a yard, and a more Texas way of life."

So, just a little more than two years ago, the family packed up and headed for Austin, and Ryan-Smith went to work for Planned Parenthood as senior vice president of development. Although she started out in Austin, Ryan-Smith said it soon became apparent that Dallas was really the place for her and her family to be.

"All my predecessors were based out of Dallas, and most of the development staff is in Dallas. It just made more sense to live here," she said "We moved here about a month ago, and it has been easier than I would have ever thought it could be. The

people here are friendly and welcoming, and everything has just fallen into place.

"Our daughter's school is wonderful. Working here is great. It's been a really easy transition."

While her job with NCLR put her at the center of the LGBTQ rights movement, Ryan-Smith said working for Planned Parenthood isn't that far off.

"Our mission is to make sure people have access to healthcare, and donations make that possible," she said.

Some 12 percent of the agency's patients are men who come to Planned Parenthood for STD testing and treatments. Kelly Hart, senior director of public affairs, said the agency also offers a wide range of preventative health care services including clinical breast exams, referrals to mammograms and other. "For a lot of our patients, we are their primary care source. We are their first line of defense against other conditions," Hart said.

Ryan-Smith stressed that "LGBT inclusivity is an integral part of the fabric of Planned Parenthood, at every level. Our purpose is to provide quality, nonjudgmental and affordable care to everyone who

needs it. We don't just welcome LGBTQ patients, we embrace them. And we have folks from the community involved at every level."

In recent years, Planned Parenthood's right-wing enemies, rallying behind the demand to deny federal and state funds for abortions, have managed to get right-wing politicians to cut government funding to the agency. When the cuts hit in Texas, Hart said, Planned Parenthood found ways to make up the difference.

"We've had state funding denied to us since 2011, and that's been a challenge. But that's when we looked at new ways to make health services available. We made sure that we could see commercial insurance patients and that we had ways to cover the costs for those without insurance," Hart said. "We did have to close a few health centers because of that. But we have re-opened some of those, and others we were already working on consolidating before the cuts. These last few years have really been a whirlwind."

Ryan-Smith noted that she oversees fundraising for the agency across Central and North Texas, encompassing more than

20 health centers. She is also in charge of development for Austin, Waco, Fort Worth and Dallas, which means that in 2016, she oversaw some \$14 million in donations, accounting for a little more than 42 percent of the agency's revenue overall.

Hart and Ryan-Smith explained that the agency receives its primary federal funding through Title X grants, allowing six health care centers to provide free care. Those six are mostly in smaller communities with fewer healthcare options. Some Medicaid patients are also able to choose Planned Parenthood as their primary care physician.

If the agency's right-wing enemies get their way and Planned Parenthood loses all its government funding, Hart said, "we estimate about 17 percent of our funding could be impacted. That would add up to a little more than \$6 million a year."

It's up to philanthropy, Ryan-Smith said, "to help fill the gaps."

She said Planned Parenthood has gone from having 600 monthly donors a year ago to some 4,000 monthly donors now, giving an average of \$13 a month.

"That's what we really need, people

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## Planned Parenthood opens trans clinics

Planned Parenthood has recently opened two clinics in Texas specializing in treating transgender patients. One is in North Austin, and the other is in Plano.

Beth Watson, Planned Parenthood's vice president of health services, said the clinics offer gender-affirming hormone therapy, starting with taking patients' full medical history to make sure they qualify because some medical conditions could disqualify them from the therapies. The clinics also offering counseling, make sure patients are aware of possible side effects and what to expect during the treatments.

Planned Parenthood can prescribe hormones for patients and while some have to pick their medications up at a participating pharmacy, others are able to get their prescriptions filled right there at the clinic.

"We talk to patients about their goals," Watson said. "Surgery isn't the end goal for every patient. Whatever their goals, we want them to feel comfortable and to be able to get to wherever it is they want to be. And, we do

give referrals for surgery, if that's what they want."

Watson said the clinics also offer pap tests for those patients who have a cervix, and "all the services we offer to any patient, we offer to trans patients. Our staff all have extensive training and our clinicians have extra training on how to manage the medical portion of our services for transgender patients."

Planned Parenthood is planning to expand its service locations for transgender patients, possibly opening a trans care center in Fort Worth in the fourth quarter of the year. "But we take the training for these centers very seriously," Watson said. "We want to make sure the staff is ready first. But the goal is to get care to those who need it. Care, no matter what. That's what we do."

For information call 1-800-230-PLAN. To schedule an appointment at Planned Parenthood's Plano transgender clinic, visit PPGreaterTexas.org and click the "make an appointment now" button.

— Tammye Nash

standing with us by donating, by volunteering, by advocating," Ryan-Smith said. "A lot of folks are really angry over these attacks on women's health care. Donating to Planned Parenthood is a way to channel that anger into something positive."

Hart added, "This [attempts to get funding cut] is a real threat. There are already tens of thousands of women going without care because Texas defunded Planned Parenthood. We're doing everything we can, but we haven't been able to bring care back to everyone."

She continued, "Still, we're going to be here no matter what. The philanthropy is awesome at helping make sure of that, but even that can't make up for all of it."

Ryan-Smith concluded, "Healthcare should not be a political issue. Unfortunately, this administration has chosen to make it a political issue. So we need help. You don't have to stand at a rally to do that either; you can support candidates who support women's health. Pay attention to elections at every level."

"Donate. Vote. Participate. We need everyone's help."

For information on how to donate or get involved at some level with Planned Parenthood, visit PPGreaterTexas.org

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# Shaken and Stirred:



Jasper (aka Miss Wanda), Candace and Sassy broke ground in their roles as black bartenders on The Strip.

(New photos by Brandi Amara Skyy, with special thanks to Spayse Studios and Israel Luna.

**BRANDI AMARA SKYY** | Contributing Writer  
nash@dallasvoice.com

Pride is a time when we celebrate our diversity — out loud and proud. But it is also a time when we take a deeper look at the challenges we, as a community, have faced and overcome, the barriers we've broken down and the glass ceilings we have busted through.

It's when we pay homage to people who have paved the way for our generation to

have it just a little bit easier than the ones before.

Chances are if you've been in a gay bar, on or off The Strip in Dallas, you've seen the familiar faces of three of Dallas' night-life staples: Jasper, Sassy and Candace. In fact, if you've walked into a bar anytime in the last 20 years, you've probably been served by one — or all — of them, without any idea of their history and courage it took for them to get there.

Because in 2017, we often forget that it's a privilege to walk into a gay bar in broad daylight or to see ourselves — whether we are black, brown, trans, female and/or



# How Three Dallas Bartenders Changed the Face of the Strip



non-binary — represented behind the bars in our favorite clubs. We forget that there was a time when we weren't allowed access into bars, let alone the opportunity to work in one.

## Jasper and 'Miss Wanda'

In 1988, when Terry Schmidt first asked Jasper if he wanted to work at Village Station, Jasper told him, "I'm not going to work there; there are no black people that work there." But after getting fired from Burger Street for being gay (yes, you read that right), Jasper started working the door

at the Station. Within two months, he was promoted to barback, and two months later he started bartending in the Rose Room.

That made him the first black bartender to work for Caven Enterprises. But that wasn't the only barrier he broke through.

In 1994, Jasper birthed "Miss Wanda" via Caven's turnabout show. Donald Solomon, then manager of JR's, saw the performance, told Jasper he was funny and was going to get his own comedy show.

The Miss Wanda Show began in 1995 as a tattoo and hot body contest that quickly evolved into JR's first and — at the

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time— only drag show. The show ran for 10 years, every Sunday from 8-11 p.m. In 2005 the show moved to a later time slot, 11 p.m.-1 a.m., but that didn't work out. So The Wanda Show moved to Woody's from 2005 to 2007 and then to Havana's for the next 10 years.

Now, 25 years after it started at JR.'s, The Wanda Show calls Tekilas its home. But every year for Black Pride in October, it returns to Caven, for a one-night-only exclusive show in the Rose Room.

## Candace

Around the same time Wanda was coming into the community, Candace fell into bartending after a stint as a waiter at Bennigan's. In 1993, became the first black female bartender to work at that specific Bennigan's location.

While she worked at Bennigan's, she frequented the black gay bars. But JR.'s was the first bar on The Strip she went into. Soon after, she applied at Sue Ellen's (twice) and Moby Dick, a Howard Okon bar located where Woody's now stands. But neither bar hired her. It was in 1997, as she and some friends were hanging out on

the freshly-remodeled JR.'s patio, that the defining moment came to her.

She was watching the bartender upstairs, she said, and, "I couldn't believe that people were actually waiting that long to get a drink and would still leave a good tip. I saw that, and I said, 'I have to work here,'" she recalls.

But the people she was hanging out with told her she couldn't work there because she was a woman, and she was black — a statement she says, that "only made me want to work there even more."

Later that year, Candace came across an ad in the Dallas Voice promoting a job fair Caven was holding, n the dance floor at Village Station, to find staff for all their clubs. She applied and went through three interviews before she got hired.

In her last interview, Donald Solomon told her that the only black woman to work at JR.'s before then had been a cook.

Candace started bartending within nine months of being hired, but her first actual bartending shift was at Village Station, not JR.'s. That first JR.'s shift came a few months later when Solomon gave her the Sunday night shift — the same shift she still works today.



Jasper, aka Miss Wanda.





Sassy

Candace was bartending at the height of The Miss Wanda Show's popularity, and Jasper — sensing the herstory Candace was making — gave her his original tip bucket with a T-Dance sticker on it. She still has it today.

But the first night Candace worked for JR.'s was the night of the 1997 Halloween Block Party. She was handed a hand counter and stationed at the bottom of the patio stairs. Her job was to click every time someone walked upstairs. Before her shift started Donald told her, "Don't quit." She didn't and will be celebrating 20 years at JR.'s as the bar's first and only black female bartender.

## Sassy

It's easy to read Jasper's and Candace's stories and dismiss the idea that those kinds of barriers still exist for people of color and for women. After all, their stories started more than two decades ago. But gender barriers still existed in our community in 2016 just as much as they did in the 1990s when Candace was hired.

Don't believe it? Ask Sassy.

Sassy has been a staple in the community for 23 years, since she started at The Anchor Inn then worked her way into S4 in the early 2000s. At the time, she says, "There were

no other trans bartenders, and the only other bartenders of color that I remember were Candace and Jasper."

But it wasn't until she stepped into her current job that she really felt the magnitude of the herstory she was paving.

Sassy had applied at the Round-Up five years before she got hired. But it wasn't until last year, when Round-Up bartender Frank Martinez persuaded Sassy to do The Miss Round-Up Pageant, that her fate — and the bar's — changed.

Sassy won the pageant, and she ended up winning the hearts of the Round-Up's owners who, after meeting her one Friday night while she was working the crowd as Miss Round-Up, called her into a meeting. Sassy was afraid she had done something wrong and they were going to strip away her title, never dreaming they were calling her in to offer her a job.

But they did. And she began bartending June 26, 2016, working Monday through Friday from 2-9 p.m. She's since been promoted to Friday and Saturday nights on the patio.

When asked if customers understand the herstory of her being the first female bartender at the Round-Up, Sassy says, "Customers will order drinks and do a double take and be like, 'Wait a minute you're a

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He grew up in Yonkers, N.Y., graduated from SUNY Albany and moved to Dallas in 1979. He's owned several businesses, including a travel agency. His extensive world travel led to his writing a travel column for Dallas Voice that continued for 10 years followed by freelance assignments and ultimately a staff position. Since 1990, he's been a host of Lambda Weekly, the oldest, longest running LGBT talk show in the U.S. currently airing on Sundays at 1 p.m. on 89.3 KNON-fm.

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BARTENDER, From Page 51



Candace

girl. I've never seen a girl working in here."

Understanding the impact

Those Round-Up customers get it. Some of Candace's long-term regulars who've seen the strip evolve get it. Decade-long fans of The Wanda Show get it.

But we all need to get it. These stories of being "firsts" are important voices that need to be included in Dallas' LGBTQ history because they remind us not to take our access into spaces — whether it's a bar, a bathroom or a job — for granted.

These stories remind us to understand that nothing is a given and inequalities do exist, but so do people who are open to bringing about change.

And they remind us to celebrate the awesome diversity that is our Rainbow Community, that is the spirit of our Pride, by raising a glass to pioneers like Jasper, Candace and Sassy, who are ready and willing to be the change we not only wish to see, but our society needs them to be. Cheers to that!



Candace behind the bar with a coworker at JR.'s in 1998

Photos taken specifically for this article are by Brandi Amara Skyy, with special thanks to Spayse Studios and Israel Luna. Older photos are courtesy of Jasper, Candace and Sassy.





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# LGBT employment discrimination case appealed to SCOTUS



Jameka Evans

If the court takes the case, *Evans v. Georgia Regional* could have a huge impact, whichever way the ruling goes

LISA KEEN | Keen News Service  
lisakeen@mac.com

Lambda's appeal, at least four of the nine justices will have to agree to review the lower court opinion. If four do not agree to hear the case, the lower court ruling will stand.

That lower court ruling came from the 11th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals, which covers Georgia, Florida and Alabama. A three-judge panel of that 11th Circuit ruled that Title VII of the Civil Rights Act does not prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation. The full 11th Circuit declined to hear Lambda's appeal to review the panel decision.

Jameka Evans was a security guard at the Georgia Regional Hospital in Savannah for about a year and, though she never told her employer she was gay, her physical appearance and dress made it "evident that she identified with the male gender," said the appeals panel. Lambda's petition notes she was subjected to a hostile work environment and forced to leave for "failing to carry herself in a 'traditional woman[ly] manner.'"

Evans filed a complaint with the court, saying her treatment at work amounted to a violation of Title VII of the federal Civil Rights Act, which prohibits discrimination based on sex. "Sex" has been interpreted by the U.S. Supreme Court (*Pricewaterhouse v. Hopkins*, 1989) to include discrimination based on gender stereotyping.

But a magistrate judge ruled that Evans' complaint amounted to sexual orientation discrimination and said such discrimination is not covered by Title VII. The judge said that discrimination based on gender non-conformity is "just another way to claim discrimination based on sexual orientation," and he dismissed her case.

Could it be that federal law prohibits firing LGBT people because they do not conform to gender expectations but does not prohibit firing them just because they are lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender?

That is the question Lambda Legal posed this month in a petition to the U.S. Supreme Court.

The organization is asking the country's highest court to rule that an existing federal law prohibits employers from discriminating against employees based on sexual orientation.

If the court takes the case, the outcome — no matter what it is — would likely have profound implications for LGBT people in employment, education, housing and other arenas.

And if Lambda Legal is victorious, the case could also achieve a legislative goal that has been priority for the national LGBT civil rights movement more than 40 years.

The case, *Evans v. Georgia Regional*, is one of several cases around the country brought by LGBT people who have been fired because of their sexual orientation. This is the first to reach the Supreme Court.

Before the Supreme Court can hear

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The district court appointed Lambda Legal to represent Evans on appeal, and the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) filed a brief on her behalf. EEOC said that discrimination based on sexual orientation “fall[s] squarely within Title VII’s prohibition against discrimination based on sex.”

The district court ultimately ruled that Evans failed to provide sufficient evidence to sustain the claim that “her decision to present herself in a masculine manner led to the alleged adverse employment actions.”

But it said Evans had a right to amend her complaint to remedy that weakness.

## Walking a thin line

The 11th Circuit panel noted that, in a 2011 case (*Glenn v. Brumby*), it held that discrimination against a transgender person for gender non-conformity did constitute sex discrimination. It said the lower court erred in dismissing the gender non-conformity argument as “just another way to claim discrimination based on sexual orientation.”

It sent that claim back to the district court for rehearing.

But in doing so, the 11th Circuit panel dismissed Evans’ argument that discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation is covered by Title VII, saying that previous decisions by the circuit made clear that “[d]ischARGE for homosexuality is not prohibited by Title VII.”

In other words, Title VII prohibits firing a person for looking or acting lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender; but it does not prohibit firing them if they acknowledge being LGBT.

“Forcing all sexual orientation discrimination claims into a sex stereotyping pigeonhole,” said Lambda’s petition to the high court, “creates an uncomfortable result in which the more visibly and stereotypically gay or lesbian a plaintiff is in mannerisms, appearance, and behavior, and the more the plaintiff exhibits those behaviors and mannerisms at work, the more likely a court is to recognize a claim of gender non-conformity which will be cognizable under Title VII as sex discrimination.”

In its Sept. 7 petition to the Supreme Court, Lambda notes that “almost all” of the other federal circuits and two federal agencies differ on the issue of whether discrimination based on “sexual orientation” constitutes discrimination based on “sex.” And such conflicts often compel the Supreme Court to resolve an issue.

In April, the 7th Circuit, which covers the states of Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin, ruled that Title VII does cover sexual orientation. That case is *Hively v. Ivy Tech*.

Later this month, the full 2nd Circuit (covering New York, Connecticut and Vermont) will consider the issue through another Lambda case, *Zarda v. Altitude Express*. In that case, U.S. Attorney Jeff Sessions has submitted a brief arguing (unlike the EEOC) that the Department of Justice does not believe Title VII prohibits sexual orientation discrimination.

“The current geographic checkerboard of Title VII’s coverage is untenable for employees and employers alike,” states Lambda’s petition. “...[A]t present, a lesbian or bisexual employee working in Indianapolis, Ind., who is offered a promotion that will require her to relocate to Indianola, Miss., is forced to choose between Title VII protection and advancing her career.

“Furthermore, lesbian, gay and bisexual employees who are entitled to insurance and other forms of employment benefits for their spouses might be wary of telling their employers about their marital status, for fear of revealing their sexual orientation and subjecting themselves to termination on that basis.”

Jon Davidson, Lambda’s national legal director, says how the Supreme Court resolves the issue is likely to have an impact on how courts interpret the meaning of discrimination based on “sex” in other federal laws, such as Title IX of the Education Amendments Act.

“I believe that, if the Supreme Court ultimately agrees that the ban on sex discrimination under Title VII includes a ban on sexual orientation discrimination, the decision will control other federal laws barring sex discrimination, including Title IX (which governs discrimination in federally-funded educational programs), the Fair Housing Act, the Equal Pay Act, section 1557 of the Affordable Care Act (which bars discrimination in health care and health care insurance), and the Equal Credit Opportunity Act.

“That is because the arguments we are advancing are not particular to any particular statute,” said Davidson, “but rather are about the logical connection between sexual orientation discrimination and sex discrimination, which applies equally to all of those laws.”

Joining Lambda staff on the petition to the Supreme Court are two national legal luminaries from Stanford University: Jeffrey Fisher, who has been identified as having the third most experience arguing before the Supreme Court (out of 17,000 advocates), and Pamela Karlan, an openly gay litigator who has often been said to be on the “short list” of some Democratic presidents as a potential Supreme Court nominee. ■

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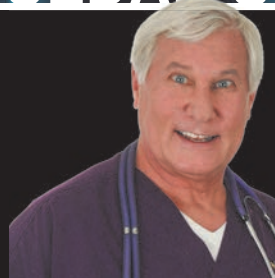


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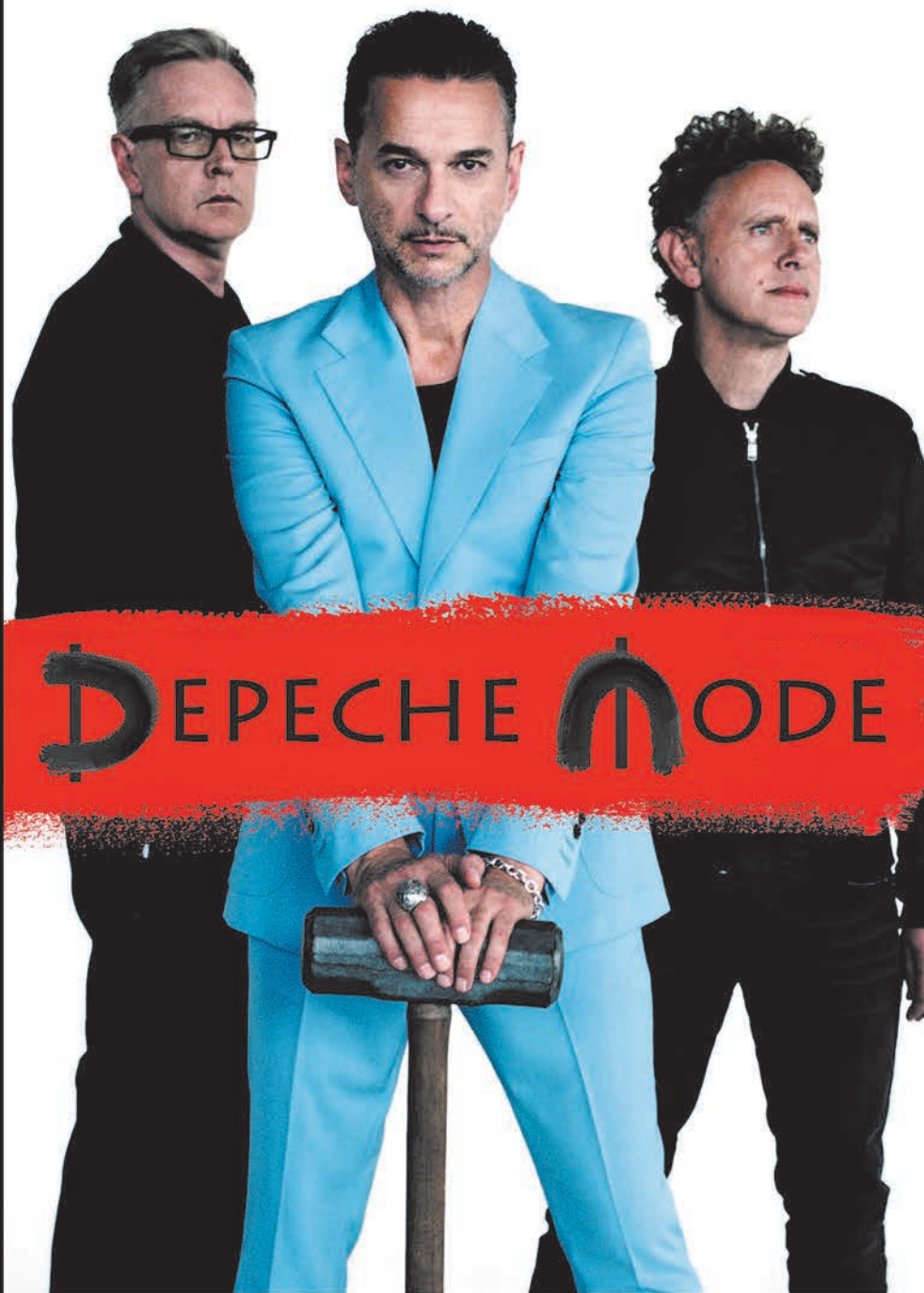
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# Getting sporty

Varsity Gay League offers a social life outside the bars, and a chance to find the athlete within

**MAT SHAW** | Contributing Writer  
nash@dallasvoice.com

**G**rowing up, Los Angeles resident Will Hackner was unathletic and small for his age. But that didn't stop him from growing up to start one of the largest LGBT sports organizations in the world.

When Hackner started Varsity Gay League in 2007, he wanted something more out of gay culture than the typical bar scene. While playing a game of Capture The Flag at the park, he found 50 like-minded people. Then through a combination of word-of-mouth, social media exposure and pure

luck, the league expanded into more than eight cities and now has more than 8,000 members.

"A lot of the organization was sort of started selfishly, because I really wanted to play games with my friends, live that Peter Pan-complex lifestyle of playing games," Hackner said. "It was kind of exciting for me on a personal level just to see all these people around the country who were so childlike, like me."

Hackner intended the league to be a part-time gig while he continued to be a Hollywood producer. But even though he was happy with his career at Warner Bros, he was unhappy with his social life.

"The entertainment industry has really changed," he said. "Now it's supremely just focused on making money and creativity seems to be lacking."

That lack of creativity deprived Hackner of one thing he said he has always loved doing: entertaining people. But, "When I

SPORTY, Page 64



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GenderBrave is a new Resource Center program for transgender and gender non-conforming young adults ages 18-29. Activities and events are developed by the program's core group members under the support of Center staff.

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Events offered in the new program are weekly social programming, support groups, quarterly mid-size events and semi-annual large events.

For location, event and meeting times visit **genderbrave.org**

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**SPORTY**, From Page 62



switched to the Varsity Gay League for the first time, I found I was still entertaining people in a different way," he said. "It was like theater."

Disillusionment with the bar scene also played a part in inspiring the league, Hackner said. "We're conditioned to socialize in bars because that's the only place where we really live safe," he said. "We go there for community; we go there to have fun. But a lot of times, it brings out some of the worst behaviors within ourselves the more we consume alcohol."

Even though he is not opposed to the bar scene, Hackner said he feels it can be detrimental when it's a community's only option for socializing.

Currently, Varsity Gay League has a presence in 11 cities across the country, including Dallas and Austin. According to Hackner, there are nearly 9,000 members nationwide.

Kickball is the sport the league first launched with and is also the most common sport in all the chapters across the country. "We launched with kickball because it's an underserved sport in most of the LGBT Varsity Gay League chapters also offer dodgeball, tennis, bowling, indoor and beach volleyball, soccer, ultimate frisbee, drag competitions, trivia, paintball and scavenger hunts.





summer camp for LGBT youth.

The league has also worked with Trevor Project. Hackner said he loves the idea of doing partnerships with LGBT youth.

"It's really important to me, as well, to remember what I was like at that age," he said. "I went to a musical theater summer camp. If I had known then and was comfortable being out and proud at the summer camp, I think my experiences would have been so different."

Hackner said he did not start puberty until he was 16, and was always bullied in

school. He had no gay role models in his youth and did not come out until he was 19. He did not even play organized sports until age 24, when he played beach volleyball.

But he said he has seen all kinds of people with all kinds of body types excel in sports, from a 350-pound man doing the splits to tiny girls crucifying people in tennis. But one person who stands out to him in particular was a guy in Los Angeles who could not catch a ball no matter how hard he tried, despite coming to practice for eight months every week.

"He intellectualized the game to the point where he was able to compete, and finally someone threw a huge pop-fly," he said. "It was a really big pop-fly that he kicked in the air and he caught it and everybody there stopped what they were doing. Every single person there applauded. It was so remarkable and wonderful to see a wide array of people celebrating somebody for something as simple as catching a ball." ■

*Varsity Gay League in Dallas offers kickball. For information visit [VarsityGayLeague.com/dallas-kickball](http://VarsityGayLeague.com/dallas-kickball).*



"We've pretty much done almost anything you can imagine relatively within the organization," Hackner said. "It's always been under the veneer of what's fun. My sensibilities are, 'If I think it's fun, then other people are going to think it's fun.'"

Varsity Gay League is partnering with Camp No Counselors to host an LGBT summer camp next month in California. The camp, for adults only, will include an open bar and will benefit Camp Brave Trails, a



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# The truth about Dreamers

If ever a group of people faced a conundrum, it surely would be “Dreamers,” those 1.7 million people born in foreign countries and brought as children by their parents to be raised in the United States, without benefit of citizenship.



**David Webb**  
The Rare Reporter

Ignorance among conservative Americans about the plight of these Dreamers threatens to put them on a cruel, terrifying path back to their origins. Other, more informed conservatives lack compassion and simply don't care what hardships the Dreamers might face.

Raised as Americans and often knowing little to nothing about other cultures, the Dreamers essentially became foreigners in the nations of their birth. They might not even know the language of their parents because of the Americanization process many immigrants embrace.

They were children brought to the U.S. by their parents. They had no choice in the matter.

Being deported to a country where they might not have any family or friends would be shattering in terms of finding employment to finance life's basics such as food and shelter. If the Dreamer is a member of the LGBT community, the dilemma can, for obvious reasons, become even more dire, depending on where they were born.

President Obama authorized, by executive order, the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program to protect the estimated 800,000 Dreamers who registered for the program, allowing them to reapply for work permits every two years. Those eligible must have been brought to the U.S. since 2007; they must have been under the age of 16 at the time they were brought to this country, and under 31 on June 15, 2012. They must also have no criminal record.

But President Trump recently announced he would cancel the DACA program in six months, a delay that gives Congress an opportunity to pass protective legislation. That announcement threw many of these young people into chaos and fear.

The biggest challenge to gaining widespread public support for Dreamers is the mistaken belief that they simply failed to apply for citizenship while living in the



United States illegally. The truth is that any Dreamer living in the U.S. illegally would be deported if they applied for citizenship after cancellation of DACA.

Once, the immigration system allowed people who overstayed visas to apply for citizenship, but that changed as immigration became more controversial and regulations became more stringent. Now, without protection, any Dreamer over the age of 19 wanting to become a citizen would be required to return to their native country for up to 10 years before being eligible to apply for citizenship.

Conservatives who argue that Dreamers are a drain on federal tax dollars are also spreading misinformation.

These young people are not eligible for benefits available to citizens. Dreamers attending college generally are working at the same time, possibly with the help of scholarships and private loans. At the same time they must register with Selective Service, and they can join the armed services as a form of employment.

President Trump's stance on Dreamers seems to have softened since his early campaign days, and he hinted he might revisit the issue if Congress fails to act within six months.

In 1986 President Reagan granted amnesty to 2 million immigrants, so there is a

precedent for an act of benevolence.

The best solution would probably be new legislation by Congress, so it is essential for Americans to learn the truth about Dreamers and follow their conscience when they provide input to their congressional representatives.

*David Webb is a veteran journalist with more than four decades of experience, including a stint as a staff reporter for Dallas Voice. In 2016, 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.*

## Letter

### Kudos to David Taffet

I am writing to compliment David Taffet on his opinion piece, “It's not about history, it's about hate,” about the debate over the statue of Robert E. Lee in Dallas' Lee Park and other Confederate monuments, published in the Sept. 8 issue of Dallas Voice.

It was a very good story, and I especially appreciate the contrast he brought to light in the differences in how those in the north and those in the south view these historical war characters, and how the south has insured they are memorialized in bronze.

For me, having grown up in Texas, then living much of my adult life outside the U.S. while working for Texas Instruments, David's vantage point was a new perspective that confirmed what I had thought would be the viewpoint of a northern transplant to Texas. It is a perspective I have always agreed with, and I always thought it was an odd practice to erect these monuments here in Texas.

But I have lived with these statues and with schools named after these human-bondage-supporting characters for almost 60 years, and I find it interesting that we as a nation have just now have become sensitized to the element of hate inherent in them.

Another aspect of this story I want to mention is the strong journalistic tone to the story. It seems so much of the news from the LGBT community is fraught with camp. But this story offered a much more cerebral experience, which I, for one, really enjoy. I love it when you write after you dig deep and research hard and give me the chance learn something new or gain a new perspective.

**Cannon Flowers**  
Dallas





# Legendary (times 2)

Broadway royalty Chita Rivera and Tommy Tune unite for the first time onstage in the revue Chita & Tune — Two for the Road

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor  
jones@dallasvoice.com

It's a cliché to say "Been there, done that" as a way of indicating an experience you've already had and become bored with. The only differences when Chita Rivera says it are: 1. She means it. 2. She's not casual about it in any way.

This is the woman who starred as Anita in the original production of *West Side Story*, helping introduce a young lyricist named Stephen Sondheim to the Broadway canon. She originated the roles of Rosie in *Bye Bye Birdie*, Charity Hope Valentine in *Sweet Charity* and Velma Kelly in *Chicago*. She even spun her web on audiences as the title character in *Kiss of the Spider Woman*, winning two Tonys along the way. Any one of these achievements would be enough to secure a star in the musical firmament, but she can claim *all* of them, plus many others. Yes, she's done it all. And she doesn't need a T-shirt to prove it.

#### CHITA & TUNE

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In fact, when it comes to Broadway legend status, Rivera is practically without a living rival... unless you include Tommy Tune, the 10-time Tony Award winner responsible for *Nine*, *The Will Rogers Follies*, *Grand Hotel*, *My One and Only* and many more. Remarkably, the two superstars of theater have been longtime friends, but never worked together.

Until now. They are about to unite for the national concert tour Chita & Tune — Two for the Road, a revue of showtunes and stories that have brought them joy. And one of its first stops will be in Richardson's Eisemann Center for Performing Arts on Sept. 22.

We chatted with each separately before rehearsals began — about their careers, their lives and each other. Here's what they each said.





## CHITA RIVERA

Rivera is loaded with anecdotes from her storied career. Like any performer with a huge catalogue of roles, picking a favorite is something that differs from moment to moment. But we asked her to anyway.

"I have so many favorite moments — *West Side*, *Chicago*, *Spider Woman*, *The Visit* — all of these shows are great. But the minute I hear a downbeat of *West Side*

*Story*, I get teary-eyed. That is the one that brought the attention to all of us.... *Chicago* conjures up all kinds of wonderful feelings. *Mr. Wonderful!* That was a fun show."

Here are some more memories and reminiscences:

**On how it could be 2017 before she and Tommy Tune worked together:** "Our lives just never crossed — it was as simple as

■ CHITA Page 94



## TOMMY TUNE

Doing a one-man show is nothing new to Tommy Tune — he's done, by his count, five of them. The alchemy of doing a revue with such a tiny cast and creative team is that he can play everything close to the vest; he doesn't need to release any information about it until he's ready.

So when he found out that Dallas "jumped the gun" and announced his two-

handler with Chita Rivera many months early, he was concerned. There went the element of surprise.

"I don't like to announce [my projects] too soon," the lanky Texas native says. "I like to sit on it. It's like ... imagine your show is a brown paper bag and you fill it with sand — that's your show. So someone

■ TOMMY Page 95

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A portrait of Tuomas Hiltunen, a man with short brown hair and a slight smile, wearing a blue and yellow plaid button-down shirt. He is standing with his arms crossed in front of a red brick wall with a dark metal lattice railing. The background is slightly out of focus.

LIFE+STYLE

opera

# From start to Finnish

Tuomas Hiltunen, the FWO's new out general director, readies to reposition the storied opera company

MARK LOWRY | Contributing Writer  
[marklowry@theaterjones.com](mailto:marklowry@theaterjones.com)



Since Tuomas Hiltunen arrived in Texas to begin his post as general director of the Fort Worth Opera on Aug. 1, he's had 11-hour-plus workdays trying to determine what's next for this company. On one hand, the organization — in the past decade or so — had made national news by being on the forefront of the “new opera” trend that is now standard at every major opera company in America. On the other, there's been some mess to clean up from the former general director, Darren K. Woods, the man who put the now-72-year-old company on the map, who was dismissed earlier this year.

“Whenever I leave work, it's like a vacation,” says the slender, 45-year-old, Finnish-born man with soulful eyes.

But the work is, of course, what he was hired to do, when he was announced as the new man in charge, six months after Woods was fired. (At the same time Hiltunen was hired on as G.D., the organization also announced that longtime music director Joe Illick would be promoted to the role of artistic director.)

At our afternoon interview at the opera's offices in Downtown Fort Worth, just east of its home at Bass Performance Hall, Hiltunen was awaiting a conversation with two longtime patrons who had come to discuss some concerns — most likely, the taste level of the Fort Worth Opera's 2016 world premiere production of *JFK*, a costly endeavor that has left the company making some adjustments to get back on financial track.

“The company has fumbled,” Hiltunen concedes. “Our goal is to make choices that are best for this company that are sustainable. We are restructuring the company and repairing some of the damage that was caused to our brand, and that takes considerable effort and energy. As a company, we need to listen very carefully to our audiences.”

So far, he has made some “necessary trimming” of staff and rethought how a full-time staff of 10 could accomplish the FWO's immediate goals. The company recently announced a collaboration with the Texas Christian University Opera Studio for an apprenticeship program; hired David Gately — TCU's director of opera and a renowned opera director with a history working for the FWO — to lead the company's discovery and training program; and upgraded longtime part-timer Sheran Goodspeed Keyton as the company's new coordinator of educational outreach.

There will be more changes as Hiltunen acclimates to Cowtown, having relocated from New York with his husband, Damon Clyde, a San Antonio native who works

for OutRight Action International, a New York-based organization promoting global LGBTIQ human rights.

Hiltunen's credentials seem to make him perfect to sort this out. He was most recently director of administration and management of the international Barenboim-Said Foundation U.S., where he focused on growing the foundation's endowment, advancing its brand, and development and business plans and strategies. The American branch of the Seville, Spain-based foundation (started by Daniel Barenboim and Edward Said) operates from New York's Columbia University, where Hiltunen is an adjunct lecturer in the Finnish Studies Program. He also taught in the Barnard College theater program, and — being from Scandinavia — is an expert in Nordic drama, such as the work of modern drama pioneers Henrik Ibsen and August Strindberg.

The big question for LGBT audiences that have become more prominent at Fort Worth Opera because of Woods' programming — from the regional premiere of the opera of *Angels in America* to the world premiere *Before Night Falls*, about gay Cuban writer Reinaldo Arenas — is whether Hiltunen and Illick will continue offering some LGBT content.

Hiltunen says he's not ready to answer that but does promise that the FWO will continue to champion new work and continue the Woods-initiated program *Frontiers*, in which snippets of new works are performed in a reading setting during the opera festival. In fact, shortly after Hiltunen arrived, a new world premiere was announced for 2020, an opera about Mexican artists Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera, by composer Gabriela Lena Frank and playwright Nilo Cruz. That is part of the company's Opera of the Americas program, which began several years ago with a 10-year commitment to works created by Latin American artists.

The 2017 production of the mariachi opera *Cruzar la Cara de la Luna* “did very well for us,” Hiltunen says, “and we realized that most of the people who were in the hall were probably there for the first time. ... This tells me that there could be more Spanish-language programming, and ticket prices needs to be affordable.”

The Fort Worth Opera's 2018 festival season, which includes Piazzolla's *Maria de Buenos Aires*, Wagner's *Das Rheingold* and Donizetti's *Don Pasquale*, was announced before Hiltunen was hired; we'll have to wait until the 2019 season announcement to see how Hiltunen's

■ FINNISH Page 84



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





If you've met Cassandra Cass — or even seen her statuesque, top-heavy frame from a respectful distance — it's difficult to imagine how she got to where she is considering where she started. Look at her now: Busty, tall, with big hair, big heels and tiny costumes. She is an exaggerated form of femininity, and one of the most memorable burlesque performers you're likely to encounter — a towering version of petite Dita von Teese.

And, of course we should mention, she's trans.

Indeed, the place Cassandra occupies now is a far cry from her childhood in Iowa, where she was the third of four boys reared by a single-dad basketball coach.

"Being third was the perfect place to fall — the middle child always needs attention," she admits. "But he was in super denial [about me being trans]. He would ask me, 'Did you watch the basketball game?' I would say, 'Dad, I have Care Bears and Cabbage Patch Dolls — I don't watch sports!'"

It's never easy being "different," but consider being that different in the conservative Midwest: Her mother left when she was 8 or 9 years old, so she didn't have a feminine role model. Her father was obsessed with porn, and so she developed a fascination with looking like a sex bomb. Obsessed with fashion, with glamour, with fabulosity drowning in a sea of flannel and denim overalls... especially in the macho household Cassandra grew up in.

"I was a junior — I was supposed to be 'the one,'" she says. "And I still thought like a man, having problems with emotional intimacy." It didn't help that she butted heads with her father a lot.

"As you can tell, I'm a pretty pushy personality, and I would shove my sexuality in [my dad's] face. I'm not a regular chick I am super feminine, and he would ask, 'Why do you have to show so much skin?' I love my dad, but Midwesterners can be so misogynistic — like, he won't carry my bags for me, and every time a birthday comes up he's like 'you're gettin' older,' the way men say that to embarrass women. But I can tell this: now, I'm his favorite — I'm living the Hollywood dream. I've done TV shows, I've met Angelina Jolie. He likes that."

She's done a lot more than that. Currently, she's traveling the country doing multiple on-location photoshoots with the likes of Mike Ruiz for her upcoming calendar (her fourth), preparing her audition for the next season of Project Runway ... and appearing as the featured entertainment at Friday's Red Party during Dallas Pride.

"We're in the Instagram Age," she says. "My whole philosophy is to make my whole life about being Cassandra." It's all part of being a fantasy girl — she models herself after pinup Bettie Page and sex goddess Marilyn Monroe. "I have a passion for fashion, I make all my own costumes. I love dressing up and creating moments people will remember. So to me I'm living my ultimate dream."

There is, however, also a character. While Cassandra admits to a level of vanity — "I wanted to transition and be beautiful, not look like a football player [in a dress]" — she reveals that her private self is not the same as her public persona.

"I give what the people want — on-stage], but the last thing I want is to be looked at when I'm at the gym. I've dated guys who wanted that Cassandra all the time. It's [like the quote from '40s movie bombshell Rita Hayworth], men 'go to bed with Gilda and they wake up with me.' I do so much sensuality in my act, but the best sex in bed is when you have a real connection." (She readily offers that she has had complete transition surgery — "I have an innie, not an outie anymore.")

As you might conceive, Cassandra has definitive ideas about sexuality ... as well as activism.

"I tend to keep to myself around other trans women," she says. "I'm such a go-getter that I deal with a lot of jeal-

ousy and competitiveness and find it very hard to have friends in the community. I relate more to gay men. I don't even label myself as 'transgender' — I am Cassandra. I don't like being put in a particular category. [I think of sexuality] as a rainbow. What you're attracted to has nothing to do with how you view yourself. I think people overthink it. If you're into someone, you're an adult, that's your business.

"It never ends," she continues. "I look at this body as just a body — like a car. I'll shine it up every now and then. But my soul feels feminine... I just like big boobs, what can I say?"

Her look, she says, is her politics. "My activism is by living my life. That in its own way is inspiring. A lot of people march, but I think we also need to show we can be vivacious and provocative. Madonna said, 'I am my own piece of art.' That's how I feel."

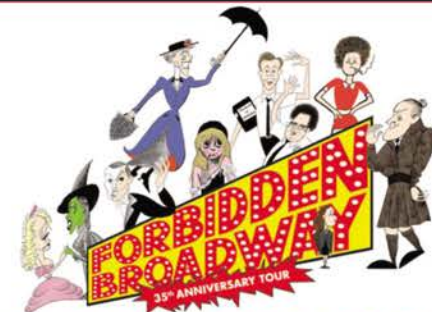
And she's looking forward to bringing her art back to Dallas.

"I'm based in Hollywood, but I love Texas. It is like a second home to me now — the people are so kind."

Of course we are nice to her: We like things bigger in Texas ... and that's Cassandra Cass.

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PRIDE '17

## From bridesmaid to bride

Juliana Jeffrey *finally* becomes  
the Voice of Pride



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For years, Juliana Jeffrey was a staple singer in the finals of the annual Voice of Pride competition — but always a bridesmaid, never a bride. When she became a mom a few years ago, she stepped back from singing publicly, but the itch remained. So she came back this year ... and found herself, finally, in the top spot.

We spoke with Jeffrey about her triumphant return to the stage and what it means to her to be, finally, the Voice of Pride.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

**Dallas Voice: What songs did you perform at the finals?** Juliana Jeffrey: “I Have Nothing” by Whitney Houston and “Rise Up” by Andra Day.

**You usually sing country music. Why the change?** I actually have [my friend Greg Castillo] to thank for that. I *always* do country. He said, “Sing Whitney — the gays love her!” I said, “That’s terrible!” He said, “Yeah, but it’s true.” I was struggling singing it in the shower and in front of the kids. Then one moment, I decided I would just go for it. I was in the shower and the kids were napping I thought, I’m just going to sing it. And I did — over and over until I got it.

**Still, taking on Whitney is ballsy.** I didn’t want people to think I was trying to copy Whitney — I don’t sound like her. But people are really sensitive about Whitney. Even at semi-finals, I wasn’t uber-confident about singing it. But everybody said “You did such a good job.” So I got over myself and out of

my head about it. I just tried to honor her and stay true to myself — I had to do me.

**Where did you qualify for VOP? What did you sing then?** Marty’s. I sang country — Carrie Underwood. I started out where I was comfortable.

**You won *both* the big prize and shared the duets prize with Michael Duane....** When they called [our named with the duet prize] I was like, “There’s no way! I’m not trippin’.” We sang “That’s What I Like” by Bruno Mars. Michael picked it. The audience chooses [the winner in the duet competition, not the judges] so we were like, “We can be as ratched as we wanna.”

**How did you celebrate after the victory?** We went to the Round-Up afterwards for champagne. It was the perfect night.

**What will you be doing at Pride?** [The festival] is on a Saturday *and* Sunday now. I only have to sing once, in the park on Saturday. Then Sunday I’ll just be riding in the parade. So I just get to have fun and celebrate with everybody. And I don’t have to worry about [not consuming alcohol on Sunday] to save myself for the concert! I told my mom, “I’ll be drunk all weekend, so if you can, just keep the kids!”

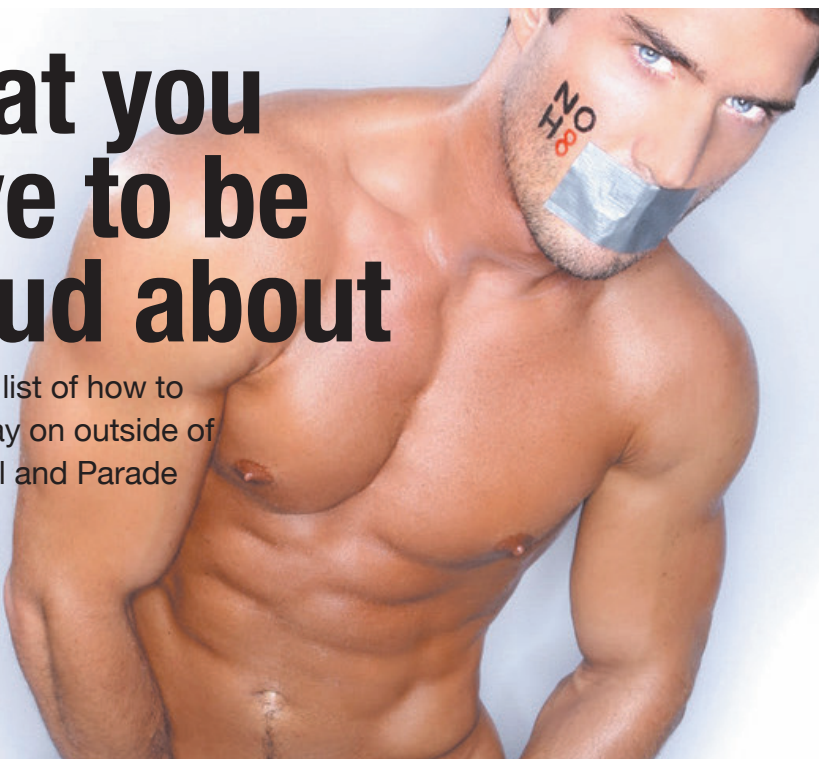
**What advice would you give someone competing next year?** I know this sounds so *After-School Special*, but it’s also true: Take a chance but be true to yourself. Step outside the box. It helped with my confidence. I just always have played it safe every other year, but this year? Zero fucks given. Just sing like nobody’s watching.

**What will you do with the prize money?** Pay off my last student loan. I already got rid of the credit card debt. I’ll be debt-free! How is that not a good thing?



# What you have to be proud about

A selected list of how to get your gay on outside of the Festival and Parade



**ARNOLD WAYNE JONES** | Executive Editor  
jones@dallasvoice.com

Of course this year's Pride has been divided into two days — the parade on Sunday and the festival on Saturday — but there's more than music, floats and kiosks to occupy your weekend. Try to squeeze as much of these official, unofficial and happenstantial events into your Pride celebration (not everything is this weekend — we've added more gay fun throughout the month).

Sept. 15

**9th Annual Red Party: Studio Red.** A late-'70s/early-'80s disco theme. See story Page 72.

Sept. 16

**Say No To Hate.** The NOH8 campaign returns to Dallas for more photoshoots in the iconic white T, temporary face tattoo and taped mouth from photographer Adam Bouska, pictured. Great Room of the W Hotel, 2440 Victory park Lane. 2–6 p.m. NoH8Dallas.eventbrite.com.

**A Night Out for Trevor: Dallas Pride.** To mark 20 years of the Trevor Project, the group hosts a big bash on the 33rd floor of the W Hotel. Dress-wise, anything nautical goes! VIP 7–8 p.m., general admission 8 p.m.–midnight. \$50–\$150. TVRV.org/dallaspride.

**Dallas Symphony Gala Concert and After-Party.** Music director Jaap Van Zweden begins his final season with the DSO, with soloist Yo-Yo Ma performing at the Meyerson. The concert begins at 8:45 p.m. MyDSO.com.

**BEAT.** A tribal-house dance party featuring DJ Tony Moran, sponsored by Impulse Group Dallas takes place

at Stereo Live, starting at 9 p.m. Visit BeatHIV.eventbrite.com.

Sept. 17

**Hedda Layne Brunch Sundays.** The faboo drag queen settles into a new residency of drag every Sunday from 11 am.–2 p.m. at Tutta's in the West End.

Sept. 20

**The AAA Girls.** Three notable *Drag Race* alums — Willam Belli, Courtney Act and Alaska Thunderfuck — join forces at the Granada Theater to launch this fall's North American tour. For tickets, visit AAAGirls.net.

Sept. 21

**Sammons Cabaret.** The series begins its new season at the Sammons Art Center at 7 p.m. SammonsArtCenter.org.

Sept. 23

**Night of Stars Starring JuJuBee.** The Greg Dollgener Memorial AIDS Fund hosts this drag show. The Rose Room inside S4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. 6–9 p.m. GDMAF.org.

Sept. 29

**The Naked Magicians.** Two straight men bare it all (eventually) in this magic act where you *know* there is nothing up their sleeves. House of Blues. 7 p.m.

Oct. 5

**2017 Dallas Southern Pride.** North Texas' major black gay Pride celebration runs Oct. 5–8

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# From Matamoros to moviemaking



Bold, defiant Ana Torres feels a need to tell her life story through film

**M**atamoros, Mexico, is a city familiar to many Texans. Located just across the Rio Grande from Brownsville and close to the spring break destination of South Padre Island, the town was once overrun by college kids in search of cheap beer, no-I.D.-necessary laxity and others seeking a laid-back, touristy day in this manufacturing town of about half a million. Sadly, of late, Matamoros makes the news more for the intense violence that sparks up there as the Mexican drug wars rage on.

That's how Texans know Matamoros — in broad terms that border on caricature. But what's it like to be born there, to grow up in Mexico and then suddenly move to Texas? And what's it like when you do all this and you're a lesbian?

Ana Torres was born in Matamoros in 1987 and moved to Dallas at 17. Her experience has been one of challenge after challenge; and yet, in the end she's found her home — and her purpose — here. That purpose is to tell her story ... and to do so through the movies. Torres is currently in the process of making a film based on her

life.

Titled *Gloria*, it's being supported in conjunction with the Movie Institute of Dallas, Media Tech Institute and the Dallas Film Commission.

"I've always wanted to do *Gloria*," Torres says. "Last year I just got up in the morning one day and was like, 'I'm gonna do it.'"

That kind of determination is very on-brand for Torres. She relocated to Dallas by herself, as a teenager, hoping for some help from a family member who lived here. "I thought I could rely on him," she says. "I couldn't." So she finished up high school, living alone and figuring out life quickly — and sometimes the hard way, "It was a lot of fun in the beginning," she says with a laugh. "I was the cool kid. Everybody was flabbergasted I lived by myself. But they didn't know my personal struggle."

In addition to adjusting to an entirely new culture (and language), Torres had to figure out the practicalities of the world; she once spent two weeks without electricity because she didn't know anything about paying bills. But her inner strengths also began to blossom. Torres is a quick study, talented in many areas, and has an undeniable charm. "I've always been able to rely on myself," she says. "If I needed a job, I'd talk my way in."

One job she landed was at a staging company, where she spent hours shoving around giant, heavy cases and pulling miles of cable. She loved it.

It's no coincidence she landed there. Growing up, Torres was an obsessive reader — gobbling up issues of *Popular Mechanics* and *Reader's Digest*, along with the stories of Don Quixote — and also excelled at music. She studied at the Mexican Music Conservatory, San Juan Siglo XIX, where she followed her passion for music, studying violin, cello and other instruments.

But it was movies that emerged as her true love. Torres realized that telling stories from behind the camera, from her perspective, was her dream.

"I've been obsessed with films since I was a kid," she says. Torres recalls that one singular moment stands out to her. After watching the bittersweet movie *Life Is Beautiful*, "I thought no matter what life would bring your way, you can have hope."

Torres put in her time learning the business. In addition to her staging job, she studied video production and computer graphics at local community colleges and trained at a top lighting company, Syncrolite of Dallas. Between school and work, there were times when Torres only got

three hours of sleep at night.

Her world seemed to be coming together. Yet two major challenges loomed.

The first, in fact, threatened her very life. At 19, Torres was in a car accident that shattered her spine. "I'm still trying to recover," she says. "It's been 10 years. My bones didn't heal properly, so it's still a struggle" The pain, she says, "is bearable only because I've gotten used to it."

The second challenge was realizing she was lesbian and the effect that had on her relationships. Torres no longer speaks with her family. It's something that makes her sad, she says, but she doesn't regret who she is.

In 10 years, Torres still struggles with her physical pain, but in many ways she has become whole. One can't help but wonder: What if all these things had happened to someone of lesser intelligence or lesser determination? Or someone with less belief in life itself?

That, Torres says, is why she wants to make *Gloria*.

"I've always been a fighter no matter what life throws my way," she says. "I want to tell people, 'Stay true to yourself. It doesn't matter how many times you get knocked down.' I just want to give people hope."

— Jonanna Widner



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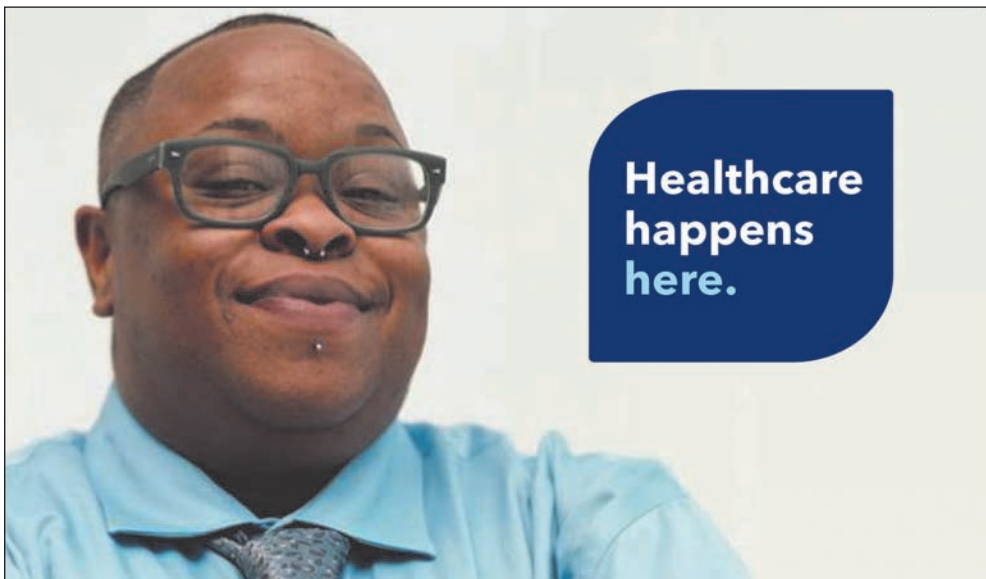


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L+S books

# Orwell and good

Local author's dystopian political novella will ring with familiarity

It has been nearly 70 years since George Orwell published *1984*, and so profound was its impact, it's now nearly impossible to imagine a literary landscape in which his insidious dystopian allegory was not around to inform every futuristic, cautionary tale that followed. Orwell's book was a "next logical conclusion" premise extended to the Nth degree: how far would society go if there were no constraints on the power of the state? Books (and inevitable movies) like this always feel exaggerated in their time; it's only later when they usually reveal themselves as prescient. Everything from *Network* to *Blade Runner* to *The Truman Show* seems outrageous .... until you tune into FoxNews, or visit Tokyo, or watch *Big Brother* (which, of course, was named for a concept in *1984*).

Elaine Liner — a Dallas native with an estimable writing pedigree in journalism — is a smart lady. She's read Orwell. And Ray Bradbury and Shakespeare. Even more, she's woke — politically savvy and trenchant in her Cassandra-like pronouncements, which coalesce in the intentionally referential novella *2084* (available online in print and e-book forms). She even subtitles it *An American Parable*, as if to shake the readers by the shoulders to say, "I'm not kidding here!! PAY ATTENTION!"

What she posits is a world of the not-so-distant future in an America run as a right wing Christian theocracy. The nation's capital has been renamed Jesus City. Prayers are enforced five times a day by siren-and-loudspeaker dictate; subversives (basically anyone expressing a non-state-approved opinion) are sent to "retraining camps" for "creatives," from which they never return. Sound outrageous? Then consider the backlash to taking down confederate monuments, or how minarets are used even in Muslim countries, or gender at North Korea (and even the United States' own penal system) and get back to me.

Liner slathers it on thick, but with clear purpose. The evil overlord is named Rex Evangeline ("Rex" is Latin for king, of course, though he is putatively the



president). The heroine's best friend is Winton Nesmith, a near anagram of *1984*'s hero Winston Smith. She wants you to "get" it quick, and pick up the comparisons to Orwell — it helps with the heavy lifting when the readers' pumps have been primed with suspicion and nervous anticipation of what the future holds if insanity continues to prevail politically. The messages in *2084* are not subtle; subtlety is for people who have time to spare. Liner is saying, "We don't."

The anti-Jesus-freak sentiment runs deep in the book. Our young heroine, Katnis... I mean, Waring Foster has known little of life that wasn't state-run, fake-news, privacy-denying autocracy. And yet, she craves more. She's still hopeful that her parents will return from their gulag, though she acknowledges that no one ever has. She's not a cynic — she's Anne Frank, believing in the good of mankind while Nazis stalk Jews in the streets of Amsterdam.

I think Liner could have dialed back the elbowing slightly with misdirection (like she does when anti-privacy laws are passed under the name Privacy Protection Act, or describing torture as "laying



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# The gayin' in Spain

WorldPride celebration highlighted Madrid's gay-accepting culture

**M**ore than a million people flooded Madrid amid tight security over the summer for WorldPride 2017, which for the first time combined WorldPride and EuroPride, with Madrid Pride going along for the ride effectively making it a Pride trifecta. The festivities lasted ten days, with the passing of the baton to New York City, which will host WorldPride 2019, during the 50th anniversary of Stone-

wall. The closing ceremony also included a memorial tribute to gay flag creator Gilbert Baker, who died in March.

The WorldPride parade began on a Saturday at 5 p.m. and didn't conclude until after midnight. Organizers had expected as many as three million people would attend at least some of the 10-day celebration. Two TV stations broadcast the entire parade live. Local media reported that 1.5 million turned out to watch or participate in Saturday's parade.

Tourists from all over the world attended the celebration. The chance to capitalize

on LGBT travel was not lost on tourism officials who hoped Pride would encourage more tourists to regularly return to Madrid and other parts of Spain. Madrid more than lives up to its claim as being one of the world's most gay-welcoming cities.

"This is not just a gay-friendly city, we are a gay city and we are very proud of that," said Miguel Sanz, the openly gay director of Madrid's tourism bureau. Sanz spoke before a press conference with LGBT journalist from the U.S., Canada, Latin America, Australia and other parts of Europe. He presented a promotional

video showing male and female same-sex couples enjoying the city.

The tourism chief also reiterated the city's slogan, "Whoever you love, Madrid loves you." The press briefing was held in the tourism office in the historic Plaza Mayor, which was adorned with that slogan on a banner in English and Spanish. The plaza is celebrating its 400-year birthday this year.

Sanz noted that the city's gay friendliness extended even to the city's traffic signals. Madrid has installed pedestrian walk/don't walk sign that depict same-



sex couples walking hand-in-hand at 72 intersections around the city. Those signs went up in advance, of Pride in early June and the city plans to keep them up.



was the scene of a Madrid Pride tradition. At one point, crowds lined two blocks of the narrow street for a famed high heels race.

A 2013, Pew Research study backs Spain's claim to gay-friendliness. It scored the highest among 39 countries surveyed on whether homosexuality should be accepted by society. The survey found 88 percent acceptance of gays in Spain. That is contrasted with 60 percent gay acceptance in the U.S.; at the bottom of the survey: Jordan, Egypt, Indonesia and Ghana all tied for last place at 3 percent.

Spain experienced one of the most dramatic changes in LGBT tolerance in the years following the death of the country's longtime dictator, Francisco Franco, in 1975. Franco's regime routinely imprisoned gays. Spain's first gay Pride march was held in Barcelona in 1977, and a year later in Madrid. But homosexuality wasn't legalized until 1979. Spain eventually more than made up for lost time when it became the third country in the world to legalize gay marriage in 2005.

In time for WorldPride, the city's landmark CentroCentro Palacio de Cibeles building includes a floor dedicated to the country's LGBT history. Exhibits include photos of some of the early marches, as well as mug shots of people arrested for being gay, and even a shock-therapy machine designed to "cure" people of homosexuality.

Many of WorldPride's events were held in Madrid's gay neighborhood, Chueca, which evolved along with Spain's acceptance. In the late 1970s, it was a downtrodden area best known as the place in the city to buy drugs. Gay entrepreneurs took advantage of the cheap real estate there opening the first gay businesses in 1980. Others soon followed and today it is one of the city's most attractive neighborhoods. Chueca is also a favorite spot for tourists because of its wealth of restaurants and shops just north of the city's old historic center.

WorldPride's nine venues were spread out throughout the city. Three were in and around the Chueca gayborhood. Some of Madrid's famed landmarks served as backdrops for the eclectic entertainment presented throughout the 10-day celebration. The WorldPride Park took over the park along the Madrid River, near the historic Spanish royal castle. The city's most tourist-popular square, Puerta del Sol, was another focal point for Pride entertainment. Chueca's picturesque Pelayo Street

American entertainers included Ultra Nate known for her LGBT anthem, "Free," and the Weather Girls, who of course, delighted the crowd with "It's Raining Men." Austrian Eurovision gender-bender star Conchita Wurst was another crowd favorite.

But WorldPride was not all entertainment. It included a three-day international human rights summit that brought together more than 200 activists, politicians and leaders in the fields of education and culture. It is the first time that a Spanish-speaking country hosted WorldPride, and the summit put a focus on LGBT rights in Latin America and its close continental neighbor, Africa. A separate conference was held over the same three days at the University Autonoma de Madrid to focus on HIV in the LGBT community with panelists who discussed treatment and prevention strategies.

Organizers said they expected WorldPride would generate about 110 million euros economic activity in Madrid during a traditionally slow time for tourism in Madrid. But the city also returned much of that money in security and cleanup costs.

Madrid brought in extra police and sealed off the streets around entertainment venues as well as the parade on Saturday. Patrol cars were set up in the roads around the Pride celebrations to prevent vehicles from being used by terrorist as has been seen most recently in Paris and London. Participants were searched before entering venues. Glass bottles or anything that could be used as a weapon were not permitted inside. Just two days before WorldPride began, Spanish authorities arrested three men suspected of jihadist terrorist activity.

As Spain's celebration ended, New York City officials were officially given the reins of WorldPride 2018. The city was chosen in large part because 2019 will mark 50 years since the city's Stonewall riots which symbolized a turning point for many in the gay rights movement.

Baker was also honored for creating the rainbow symbol that is universally adopted in countries around the world as a symbol for LGBT rights and unity. Baker would undoubtedly be proud to see his flag on virtually every street in Madrid and the rainbow colors of his flag on the city's landmarks and fountains.

— Ed Walsh

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# Gather 'round

The new organic fast-casual Gather Kitchen bridges health and taste

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor  
jones@dallasvoice.com

"I think I've reached a point," revealed Valentine, my cohort in adventure dining, "where I will eat for health instead of taste."

It's a reasonable conclusion to make in an era when gluten, high fructose corn syrup, and the demarcation "processed foods" are enough to get you banned from yoga class. Eating *well* is in; eating *good*? See, that's where there's often a problem.

The three flavors humans crave most — salt, sugar and fat — are valued precisely because in the natural world, those are some of the most difficult elements to come by. Our paleo ancestors sought out meats and sweets because they grew weary of the blandness of hunter-gatherer staples. And they weren't the only ones. The spice road revolutionized cooking in the West (say what you want about immigrants, but they aren't afraid of bold tastes). And since the advent of America P.V. (Post-Velvetta), we have had a hankerin' for things that

aren't good for us but nevertheless trigger our salivary glands. The legacies of such cravings have been diabetes, obesity, heart disease. Contemporary food movements — including raw, organic, local, low-sugar, gluten-free, reduced fat and no cholesterol — have set the bar(s) for what's healthy to use as fuel for our bodies. But, as the axiom warns, vegans live five years longer than carnivores... it's just that they make life less *worth* living. The idea of modern society is to eat with gusto, just don't kill yourself in the process.

So someone like Valentine — who tends to squirt Tabasco on everything from popcorn to cheesecake, making spiciness his go-to sinecure for bland-tasting meals — will be happy to discover **Gather Kitchen**, the bright and spacious fast-cazh resto on the ground floor of Thanksgiving Tower. Newly opened, it employs the structure of many similar eateries, from Chipotle to Pokebop to the salad bar at Whole Foods: a bowl into which you can pour all your



The system at Gather Kitchen allows you to build your own meal, or try one curated for you by the chef. This was one of our own creations. (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)

culinary wishes, from protein to vegetables to nuts and sauces, and not die trying.

We've seen it before. But the latest somehow feels fresh.

And fresh is certainly one watchword.

I can't think of a cafeteria-style concept as comfortable in its diversity as Gather Kitchen. The "entree" station offers choic-

■ DINING Page 84

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The snack bar is basically for your sweet tooth, but much healthier. (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)

■ **DINING** from Page 82

es of "bases:" cauliflower "rice;" quinoa; sweet potato or zucchini "noodles" among them. This isn't the usual "steamed or brown rice" or "romaine or iceberg" non-choice; each base boasts a different volume and texture — a unique palette on which to compose your flavors. Pick one (or two if you want to explore more) as a foundation, and construct the tower of tastes from there — virtually every one of the options locally-sourced, organically sustainable, non-GMO certified, from black beans to onions to broccoli, prepared *a la minute*. Add lean beef, organic chicken or falafel as a protein; top with one of the half-dozen house-made salsas (a tangy sweet-and-sour that catches you off-guard; a spicy roasted pepper sauce that packs a kick). You can even throw on some almonds or chia seeds if the mood strikes you. Everything is fair game.

But even more important, everything is *good*. The trope that healthy is synonymous with "bland" finds no purchase here. It's home cooking if your mom didn't have access to clarified butter or refined sugar. (They also offer in-house-designed options to take the worry out of constructing your own, but you can still modify it to suit your specific needs.)

For lighter fare — or dessert, which is

how Valentine and I approached it — the snack bar has its own "bases," among them vanilla chia-seed pudding, a faux tiramisu (flavored with cashews, but indistinguishable from the authentic recipe), a dairy-free chocolate mousse (order it early; they run out fast) and a banana-and-nut melange that, taste aside, conjures up recollections of baby food. You can probably mask that, though, behind gobs of fresh fruit (huckleberries, strawberries, kiwi), nuts (walnuts, pecans, etc.), shaved coconut, apple butter and more. No need to mask it, though, if you get the chia pudding, which has the consistency of ice cream but doesn't melt instantaneously.

The owner, Soraya Spencer — who hails from North Africa and has brought many traditions and tastes with her, including a ras-al-hanout spice mix that exudes comfort cooking — says customers have already started asking for a soft drink fountain (she offers only infused waters, like lime and watermelon). She told me she's looking into adding a carbonated water option but turns a deaf ear to the suggestion of syrupy soft drinks. Our pancreases salute you. So do our taste buds. ■

*Gather Kitchen, 1601 Elm St. in Thanksgiving Tower. Mondays-Saturdays. GatherKitchen.com.*

■ **FINNISH** Page 71

findings affect programming.

"When I arrived in Fort Worth, I had a strong emotional connection and visceral response to the city," he says, noting that his roots in a family of reindeer herders in the Arctic Circle town of Rovaniemi,

Finland, gives him a connection to the city's "cowboys and culture" slogan. "I'm looking forward to getting to know the people and the audience. It is my job to get to know people, so we can tailor our programming to what they want." ■



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— Charles McNulty, *Los Angeles Times*

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# The book of Mermen

Chris Edwards (aka Merman Lir) hopes to make a splash by opening up merculture to everyone

When little girls are fantasizing about being other characters, they often choose princesses or mermaids. And little boys? Cowboys and superheroes are the norm.

And Chris Edwards doesn't think that's fair.

There is actually a mermaid craze at the moment, with little girls — and grown women — jumping on board to take swim classes and inviting red-haired, green-tailed sea princesses to their birthday parties. Not so much for boys. But Edwards — a local stage actor who has worked for numerous troupes across North Texas — is giving them, and anyone who has ever wanted to pursue a fantasy, the chance to embrace it in all its diversity.

Edwards, aka “Merman Lir,” is the only professional working merman in the Metroplex, and one of a handful of professional mermen across the entire country. He is a troupe member and senior performer with The MerFriends, a DFW-based fantasy entertainment company.

And how did he get there? Well, that's what you might call a tall tail.

“I always loved magical creatures as a kid,” Edwards says. “I read a lot of fantasy novels. I practiced swimming with my knees together, pretending all the time. I never thought when I grew up that I would really get to be a merman.” But the first time he put on a tail in 2015? “Life-changing,” he says.

Edwards has taught classes with The Mercademy, the training program offered by The MerFriends, and is always excited to see young boys who seek that magical transformation.

“It's an investment, no doubt, to make your imagination reality. Most professional merfolk perform in silicone or latex tails costing hundreds or thousands of dollars. I may not recoup that cost from gigs as a male in this business, but there are moments that are just worth it.”

His favorite gig so far was a birthday party for a 7-year-old boy who wanted to be a merman. “We get so many little girls [as clients], but this boy had a dream. It was so cool that his parents hired me. He

said it was the best day of his life, which was really cute. You can't put a dollar value on that,” Edwards says.

The fun doesn't have to stop when you grow up. Adults love having real merfolk and magical characters around for grown-up events, such as cocktail parties and corporate celebrations. It gives them permission to step out of their real lives and just enjoy the moment. The suspension of disbelief is a remarkably freeing experience.

“My first gig in my current silicone tail was an all-adults neighborhood pool party,” Edwards recalls. “I remember a man trying to pick me up for a picture ... literally. I'm not a small man in human form, and I'm wearing a 40 pound costume that is currently full of water... You do the math!”

Though readily accepted at most events, and is even greeted with *oohs* and *ahhs*, “Merman Lir” has been blatantly denied entry to events at times. Laura Watson, owner of The MerFriends, has enforced her inclusion policy with clients time and again. The MerFriends were contracted to do a major event for a certain Broadway show that came into town, and part of the contract included the photos, names and descriptions of each performer that would appear in the theater's lobby during pre-show and intermission. Everything was signed off and Merman Lir was scheduled along with our mermaids.

“We got to the gig and the organization's [then-president] took one look at the merman and said ‘no,’” Watson says. “He said, ‘It would not be appropriate for their conservative patrons.’ Mind you, there's a merman *in the show* all these people bought tickets to see, but one taking photos with patrons was too much? It felt like a slap in the face and we threatened to leave if he was excluded based on his gender.” They've had other situations where clients have doubted a merman would fit in, “but by the time they see their guests' reactions, it's proof enough that mermen belong in the entertainment business, too.”

For Edwards, it was an eye-opening brush with a kind of discrimination he has rarely encountered.

“I was hurt and angry about that — something I admit that a white, cisgender man doesn't experience often,” he says. “They loved half-naked females around



their kids but what about the boys? That sends a clear message to little boys that this magical world is not for them. It's for their sisters and their moms and their cousins but they are not welcome. I have never had a negative reaction from a child. They don't see gender as a strict division unless they are told to. They want to give you a hug or touch your fins; they want to know what you eat for breakfast everyday.”

Only adults worry about bigger issues of gender or sexuality, he finds. This discrimination stems from generations of strict gender roles, where girls are encouraged in ethereal fantasy play and boys into destructive violence.

“Boys, young and old, deserve a little

magic and pretend in their lives,” Edwards says. “From an early age, little boys are only encouraged to play ‘masculine’ roles when they pretend: cowboy, policeman, soldier, etc. This is an unsung gender exclusion to our children. Playing dress-up as more magical or make-believe beings isn't un-masculine and really has nothing to do with gender or sexuality. It's just good fun.”

As it turns out, this Texas merman is part of a whole team of merfolk, pirates, and fairy characters who can turn up to make any event just a little more mer-mazing. ■

— Jonanna Widner

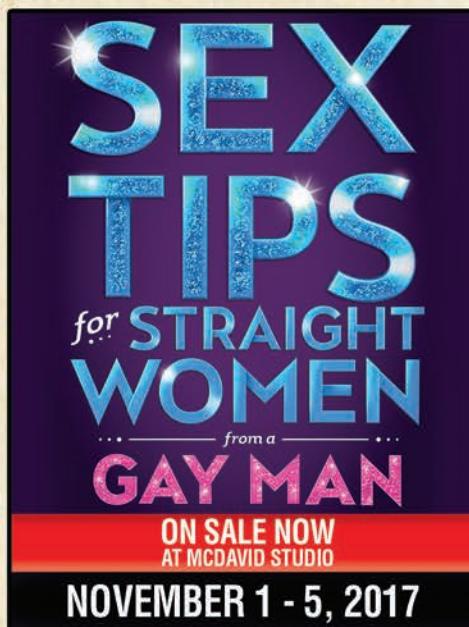
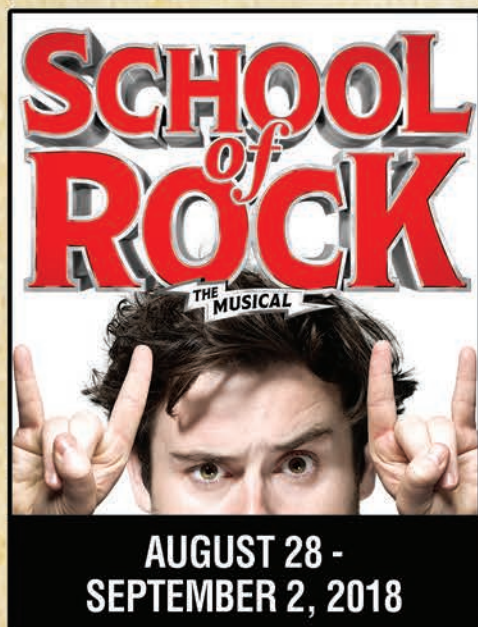
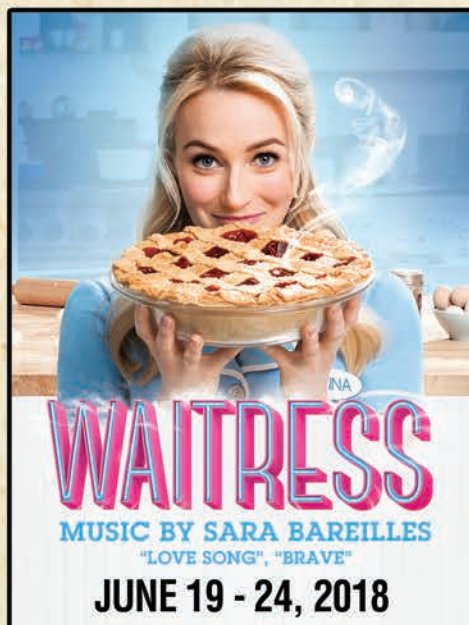
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# A hate crime, word for word

Playwright Paul Kalburgi has turned the tragic murder of Shade Schuler into a verbatim documentary for the stage

**ARNOLD WAYNE JONES** | Executive Editor  
jones@dallasvoice.com

When Paul Kalburgi first moved to Dallas in the summer of 2015, he knew he wanted to get involved in the gay community. He had no idea how deeply he would get involved... or how soon.

"I had been here literally a week in

August [2015] when I was scanning the local LGBT news," he recalls. He read, for the first time, the story of Shade Schuler, a 22-year-old whose body had only recent-

ly been discovered dumped in a lot. It shocked him.

"I hadn't heard of the atrocity before that," Kalburgi recalls. "They had just

released, the images of the tattoos on Shade's body and she was identified as trans." That's when a comment made by one of Schuler's cousins struck a chord.



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"They said that this [crime] would be swept under the carpet," he says. And so Kalburgi set out to do his part to make sure that would not happen.

It has been more than two years since he began his project to bring the cause of Shade Schuler — and by extension, the broader tragedy of trans violence to the forefront. And finally, he has a final product to share with the public: The world premiere *In the Tall Grass*, now at the Bishop Arts Theatre Center.

*In the Tall Grass* takes the form of a segment of theater known as a "verbatim play."

"Basically it's 'documentary theater' — ideally, a playwright immerses himself in the events [while they are] happening, and records verbatim what the [witnesses and people involved]" say. Their exact words form the entirety of the script.

"*The Laramie Project* is the one I reference," Kalburgi explains, referring the Moises Kaufman's celebrated play about the effect of the murder of Matthew Shepherd on the town of Laramie, Wyo. "It kind of helps them understand what I'm doing. I'm not [imposing my] voice, but

trying to give the story a bigger platform" through the words of those who lived it, he says.

Kalburgi spent much of the months of October and November 2015 interviewing subjects, recording and transcribing each word, complete with *umms* and *ahhs*. "I don't take anything out of context, but leave it the natural rhythm of speech," he says. "It gives a real authenticity to the characters. Interviewing the people in the heart of the story — I'm really just a custodian of their words."

Of course, he does give the stories structure and context, and puts them in the mouths of actors. The process alone was exhausting: He applied for a

small arts funding grant in February of last year, held auditions later that spring, and did a workshop in May 2016. At the time, his goal was to mount a full-scale production in time for Transgender Day of Remembrance ... in November 2016.

"The play has developed substantially since the conclusion of the R&D period in Dallas last [year]," Kalburgi says. "With all the feedback [I received, including additional interviews], I have been able to restructure the play and include a new

story angle for the second act. It has also benefitted from the surprise addition of an interview with a family member of Shade Schuler."

Although it took longer than expected, he says all the work was worth the effort.

"There is a sense of urgency about this project that we couldn't ignore, especially given our political climate," says Teresa Colman Wash, executive artistic director of the Bishop Arts Theatre.

"All of my work is LGBT-focused, even my fictionalized plays," says Kalburgi, who moved to Dallas with his husband and two sons from his native England (they are currently residing in Madrid, Spain, pending a full-time relocation to Dallas this December). He had written a previous verbatim play about a trans person, and wanted to get into the nitty-gritty of how people felt about the events at the time, not reconstructed from hindsight.

"What works well is when a playwright can immerse himself in the community and when emotions are still raw," he says. "White middle-class cisgendered male shouldn't be telling this story — I think it is everyone's story. Trans people are telling this story — and I'm using their words."



on of hands" or worse, "baptism"). But Liner paints word pictures with deft and evocative writing. "Like all buildings in the capital city, the main branch of the Bureau of Encouragement was both grand and sinister," she opens one chapter, and you're hooked. The plotting is brisk and inventive, the imagery evocative (although the twist that the jacket promised I'd "never see coming" ... I did). There's even a gay thread that she sneaks in, because of course sexual orientation is not up for debate in Trumplandia... well, Jesus City. Same diff. Just look to our vice president, and tell me you don't see the potential for her ideas to become reality. It's enough to make you vote.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

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# Drawing Dallas

Native Dallasite Juan Guereca Robles  
has a dreamer's soul

**MARK STOKES** | Illustrator

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**Name and age:** Juan Guereca Robles, 21

**Occupation:** Server/host

**Spotted at:** Oak Lawn Library

Born in Dallas to Mexican parents, Juan is the youngest of five siblings. Creative and industrious, he was active in high school, where he was in the marching band, JROTC, tennis and track. More than a jock, Juan became the president of the Anime Club and, after coming out at age 12, he started his high school's first LGBT organization, GLASA (Gay Lesbian and Straight Alliance). He also started Lost and Found, an organization where LGBT youth could come together and discuss personal things relating to growing up LGBT in the ghetto, all while being in a safe place.

His interests include film history, pop culture, music's impact on society, sociology, politics, fantasy/science fiction and comedy.

**The future:** His aspirations include higher education. He'd like to do his undergrad at UNT and grad work at UT Austin. He wants to analyze social issues, "to find healthy solutions for today's problems." He also wants to make a film and put his vision through the lens of film language.

His hobbies include reading, doodling, writing lyrics and poems. He loves critical analysis of film and music, dancing, and drinking with good company.

**Motto:** "Take life Juan step at a time."



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Probably like most of you, I admire mid-engine Italian exotics from Ferrari and Lamborghini for their beauty and brawn. Sexy bodies, carbon fiber structures and handling of the gods raise them up. There's a finesse to Italian cars that underlines their nation's heritage. Most of these rides cost well into six or seven figures... but not the Alfa Romeo 4C.

It gets noticed. Last evening, my husband came to me and said some strange guy stopped his car and was taking photos of the Alfa in our driveway. Near the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, people were taking selfies with it. Points and stares are part of the experience with this little red toy.

Styling is inspired by the 1967 Alfa Romeo Stradale. From the rear, wide with lower diffuser and round taillamps, it could be mistaken for a Ferrari. It's a small car with Alfa Romeo's trademark "plunging neckline" grille up front. Plastic bodywork, single wiper, and 18/19-in. wheels front/rear ring of performance. Available Bi-Xenon headlamps, carbon fiber spoiler and carbon fiber Italian flag mirror caps add flash.

Flexing, bending and stooping over the

wide threshold qualifies as exercise. Once inside, the cabin is roomy enough for two planted in red leather buckets. Our car's leather-trimmed dash and doors with red stitching, suede flat-bottom steering wheel and exposed carbon fiber frame add allure. The air-conditioning froze my nuggins, and the flatscreen instruments worked flawlessly, but the '90s-vintage chicklet radio is cheesy even with thumping Alpine speakers attached to it.

Placed like a jewel in its setting, the mid-mounted turbocharged 4-cylinder engine is visible through the rear window. Displacing just 1.75 liters, but moving only 2,500 lbs., it conjures 237 horsepower to fling the car from 0-60 mph in 4.1 seconds

on the way to a 160 mph top speed. You can leave the twin-clutch 6-speed transmission in auto mode or paddle-shift it yourself. A perfectly-tuned

exhaust note and the sound of the turbos behind your head cause elation. Frugal fuel economy rates 24/34-MPG city/hwy.

Handling is exquisitely balanced, but you'll need to tone your arm muscles as the 4C goes without power steering. Honestly, the 4C doesn't need it. You'll have to wrench it at a dead stop, but it lightens up immediately after wheels start moving. Flipping through challenging switchbacks, or flat out on the highway, it was so nice

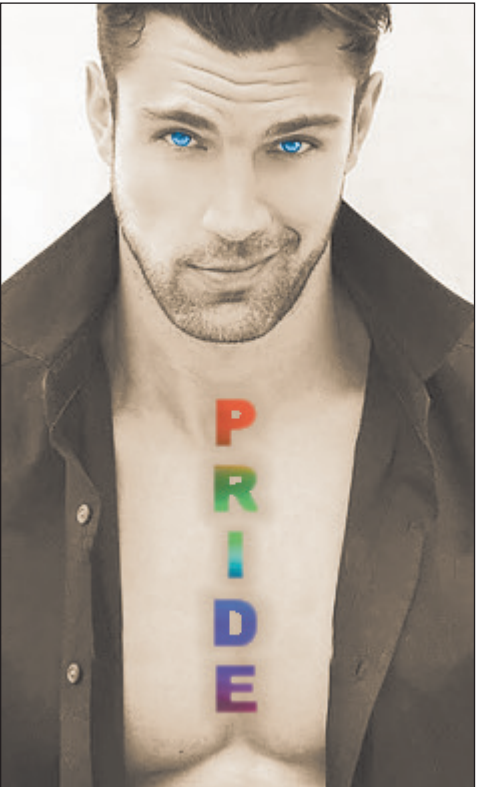


not to have electrically power-assisted vagueness typical of today's cars. Brembo brakes stop the car with a stiff leg.

But the car is still quite sophisticated. The carbon fiber monocoque body structure is incredibly rigid, allowing for light weight, but also enabling the little car to rumble over rough pavement with virtually no harshness reaching the cabin. The sport-tuned suspension is firm, but not brutal. You can tune the powertrain through Alfa Romeo's DNA system — that's Dynamic (sharp throttle, loud exhaust note), Natural (comfort setting) and Advanced Efficiency (maximizes fuel economy).

What if you want an open-air driving experience? Well, you have two choices. There is a 4C Spider that costs about \$10,000 more, or if you wish for a modern version of the classic front-engine Alfa Spiders, there's always the Miata-based Fiat 124 across the showroom.

You can comfortably drive a Corvette cross-country, and the Porsche Cayman dresses like an Audi, but the 4C is for enthusiasts who want nothing polluting their driving experience. A base price of \$55,900, or \$71,045 as tested, puts this sexy little rocket well below those other Italian exotics from Maranello and Sant'Agata Bolognese.



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that. He was directing while I was starring in some shows, then he was on contract to a movie studio for seven years so was in California."

**On how their parallel but separate histories informed their reminiscences and the show itself:** "First of all, we like each other — that's important. We've been around long enough that we know the Golden Age [of the American Musical] — that was a great time. Every theater had a great hit, and we were all a part of it. To have met the Bob Fosses and the Michael Kidds and Jerome Robbinses... All of that keeps you very much alive when you're doing great shows. The librettos were all interesting."

**On the rehearsal process:** "We know a lot [about what the show will be like], but we're still forming. We've done music rehearsals, and next week we start putting it all together. It takes every minute you're in that rehearsal hall. It's a time of discovery. Nine times out of 10, that's when you really kick it really hard."

**On *The Visit*, her most recent Broadway show:** "I was a little heartbroken [when that show closed after an all-too-brief run]. Hopefully we will get that up again and take it to London. It was a challenging subject matter for the American public [a tale of love and revenge], which I think *should*

be challenged. That was a piece where everyone in the show was superb," including actor Roger Rees, her co-star who died less than a month after the show closed. That was a huge loss for her.

"When you've been around a long time, you say you don't need anymore friends ... and then all a sudden, a Roger Rees comes into your life and you think, 'I do have room for more friends.' I really do feel I was cheated [by losing him too soon]. Roger was very, very, very special."

**On Dick Van Dyke, her co-star in *Bye Bye Birdie*:** "I've adored him from the moment I set eyes on him for *Bye Bye Birdie*. He's still funny and still dances and still the best friend. One of my [great career pleasures] was to be with Dick Van Dyke every night."

**On the ground-breaking *Kiss of the Spider Woman*, which won her a second Tony Award:** "I was so proud of that show for all the reasons it was written and couldn't wait to take it all over the world just to spread that story of man's inhumanity and how two people can be so totally different and at opposite end and then be the best of friends and even lovers ... they love each other because they understand each other. It has such a great message great score and libretto. Brent Carver and Tony Crivello were just extraordinary. ...

You know, Rob Marshall [whose big break was choreographing *Spider Woman*] was in the chorus of *The Rink* and broke my finger. I told him, 'When you become famous, I'm gonna tell everybody you broke my finger.' And so I do. He's doing so beautifully now. He *means* something now."

**On the show that started it all — *West Side Story*:** "I hear music from *West Side Story* and I am reminded [of that time in the rehearsal hall 60 years ago] and get goose-pimply. I definitely have an active memory of hearing those rhythms and [being excited] — it's all very fresh. Because of the anniversary, I have been reminded of a lot of stuff, seeing my old buddies from the show."

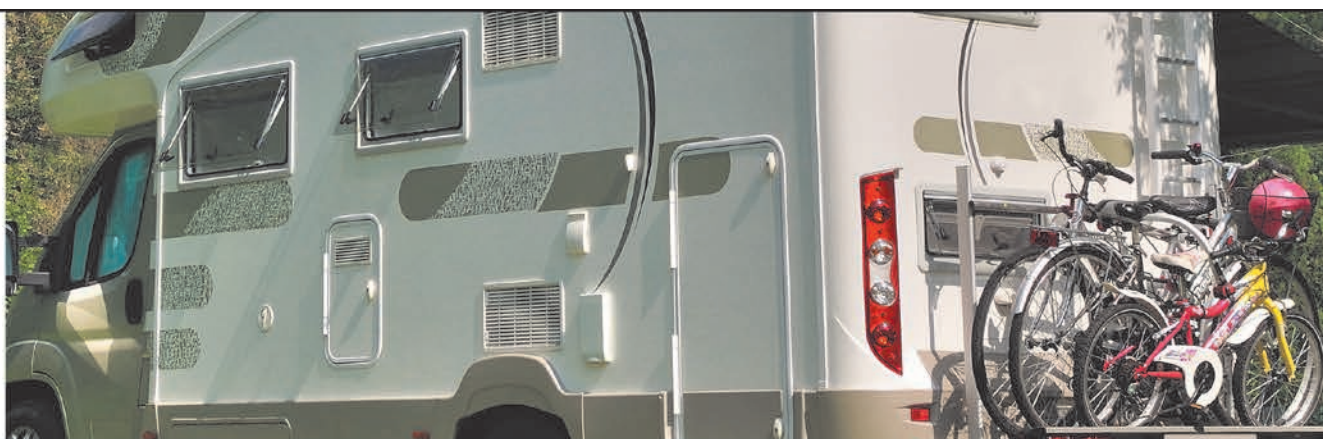
Indeed, she met her ex-husband Tony Mordente during rehearsals. "Tony was a Jet and I was a Shark, and one of Jerome Robbins' rules was, 'I don't want the Jets and the Sharks hanging out.' What did I do? I married a Jet!" I point out that that is basically the plot of the musical. "It sure was," she says.

**On *Will & Grace*, on which she had a memorable guest shot (opposite fellow Broadway baby Michele Lee) — a rare TV appearance:** "I could have been very happily a permanent part of that show if they had asked me ... I'm really excited about seeing [the new show] and how they

are. But they don't need me — they need nothing else."

**On her legendary longevity:** "For some reason I am deliberately hanging on — perhaps for spite," she jokes. "Laugh and scare people — those are my favorite pastimes. I've been really lucky that way — with genes and training, but also the heart. I love what I do and care about being a performer. My mother [instilled that in me]. I think all of that keeps you involved — when you have a passion for what you do. You constantly meet people who put extensions on your own life."

**How the meaning of various numbers have changed for you over the years:** "You can't do a song without its lyrics — you're putting yourself in that, all the experience, all the teachings you had and what you learned. I remember seeing Mabel Mercer many years ago when she was like in her 90s, and she was practically speaking the songs, and I remember thinking, 'Let me be that in depth — that mature and elegant — when I get to be that age. I hope I can make people feel the way I'm feeling.' I'm fortunately still singing and still go for the notes. ... I think a lot had to do with [the audience] ear and eye and how it affects you. What goes around comes around — it's how we interpret it and see how they have gotten older and their interpretation."



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comes up to you and asks, ‘What’s in the show?’ and you push a hole in the bag and the sand comes out and people look at the sand and say, ‘Oh, that’s the order and the speed and the way it falls and the amount of sand’... and within an hour, that bag is empty. You have blown it. I like the surprise elements of it. I wanna surprise you!”

It’s little wonder, then, that just a few weeks before the show opens, he’s still not talkin’ about what’s in it. “I don’t want to tell you what songs we’re doing!” Tune laughs. “It’s a process, putting together a show. I call it Broadway boot camp.”

Frankly, I don’t wanna know what will be in it. Just knowing at the wealth of material he and Rivera have to draw on means you can’t imagine a clunker in the bunch. In fact, what Tune will say is that they are “currently in the process of what to leave out.”

“We have such good material,” he says. “Our combined experience spans 115 years! We have such a memory bank to pull from — [Chita] worked with the greats. I got in right at the end of the Golden Age, right before it changed. That was when hit songs for American [radio] came from Broadway and showed up on The Hit Parade. That isn’t the case anymore. I defy you to sing a song from *Dear Evan Hansen*. I mean, it’s a thing, [but it doesn’t have catchy songs].”



Tune is not just a maker of musicals, but a consumer of them... and not just *Evan Hansen*. He lavishly praises the Bette Midler version of *Hello Dolly!*, a show he has his own history with. He performed in Thornton Wilder’s *The Matchmaker* (the play on which the musical was based) while at the University of Texas, and appeared in director Gene Kelly’s 1968 film adaptation alongside Barbra Streisand, though he calls that period of his career, when he was under a movie studio contract, as “the lowest time of my life — I don’t like making movies. It’s boring. I’m of the school that you

do not sit in your costume like we do in the theater, because you don’t want to wrinkle it. And that was a lot of standing [on a movie set].” (He does acknowledge, though, that Kelly gave him “the best direction I have ever received. He came up to me and said, ‘Tommy, dance better.’”) He’s much happier to finally share the marquee with Rivera. “I don’t know [how I haven’t worked with her before] — I have worked with everybody!” He did perform one number from *Bye Bye Birdie* for Rivera’s 80th birthday celebration when Dick van Dyke was unavailable. That planted the

seed of the current show.

He shares one special connection to Rivera as well. Tune got his Actors Equity card by appearing in the Dallas Summer Musicals production of *West Side Story* more than 50 years ago. “DSM got the rights to do *West Side Story* while it was still playing on Broadway, and I was in the first [non-New York] company; I played a Shark named Anxious,” he recalls.

So, finally members of the Sharks — Anxious and Anita — will be reunited. That’s a thrill not just for them, but for audiences.



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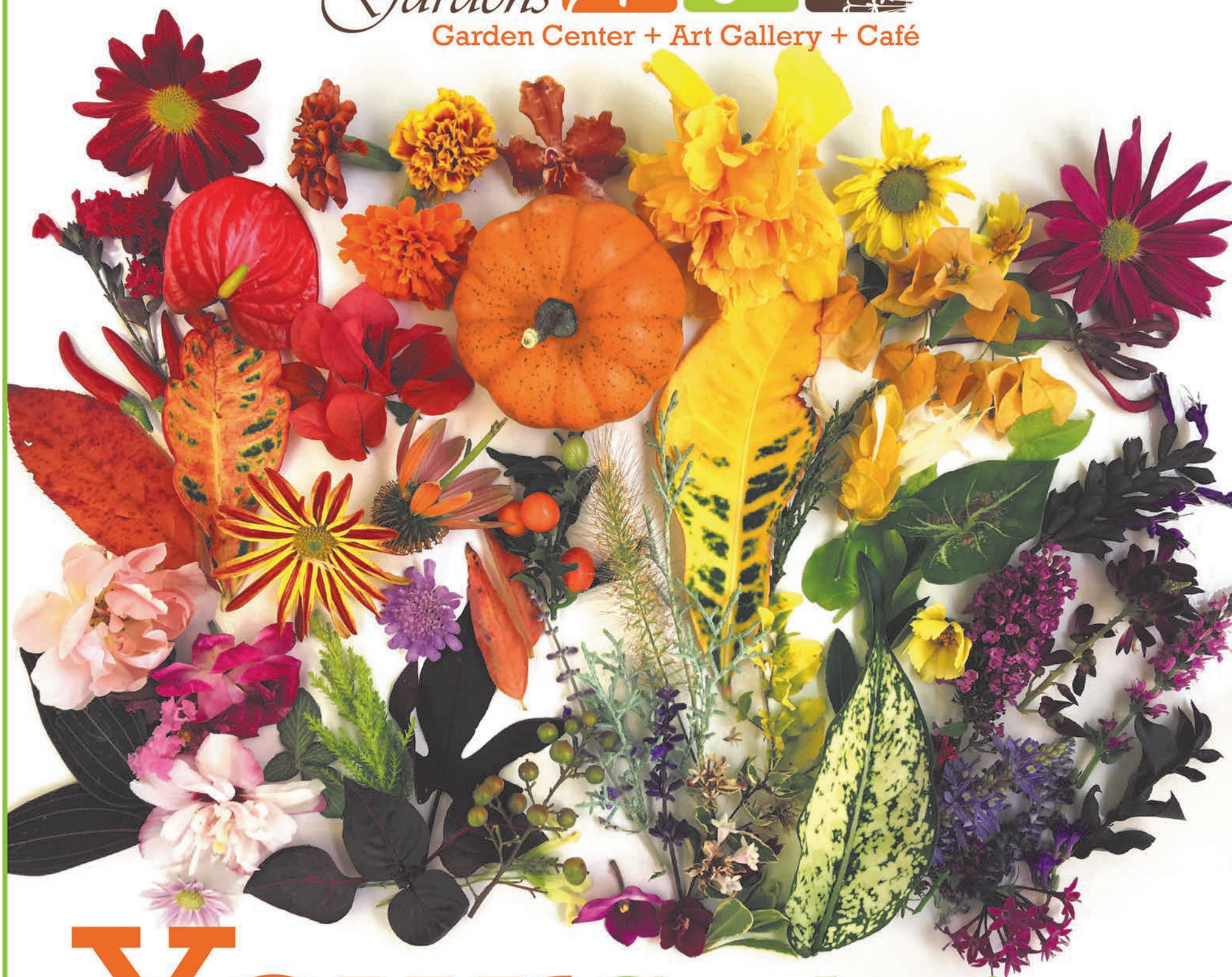
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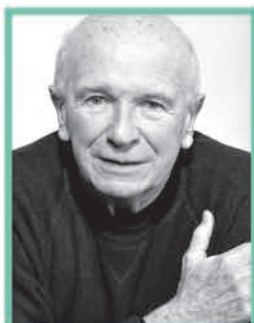
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**Ballet Hispanico adds Latin flair to dance**

TITAS is always tracking down the most amazing dance companies worldwide and bringing them to North Texas audiences. The latest is Ballet Hispanico. Infusing Latin dance with classical and contemporary styles, the company presents an eclectic and broad range of dance culled from the minds of choreographers from South America, the Caribbean, Europe and Mexico. *Olé!*

**DEETS:** Moody Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. 8 p.m. ATPAC.org.

**Friday 09.15**

**OUTWOD wants to pump you up**

Former Dallasite Will Lanier battled back from cancer to become an evangel for fitness, and he brings that passion back to his hometown with this workout that is functionally-oriented and appeals to all levels of fitness, with an LGBT mission. Come by the workout!

**DEETS:** Social Mechanics, 2010 Greenville Ave. 6:30 p.m. \$30. Outwod.com/events.



**Wednesday 09.20**

**The AAA Girls sashay right into the Granada**

Although they didn't all appear on the same season of *RuPaul's Drag Race*, the triumvirate of Willam Belli, Alaska Thunderfuck and Courtney Act surely qualify as some of the most memorable queens never to take the crown on the show. And they bring that sassy sense of style — musical, comedy, illusion — to the stage of the Granada Theater on Wednesday. General admission gets you a seat in the house, but there are packages that can also get you autographs, meet-and-greet and even a chance to get onstage.

**DEETS:** Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. 8 p.m. ATPAC.org.



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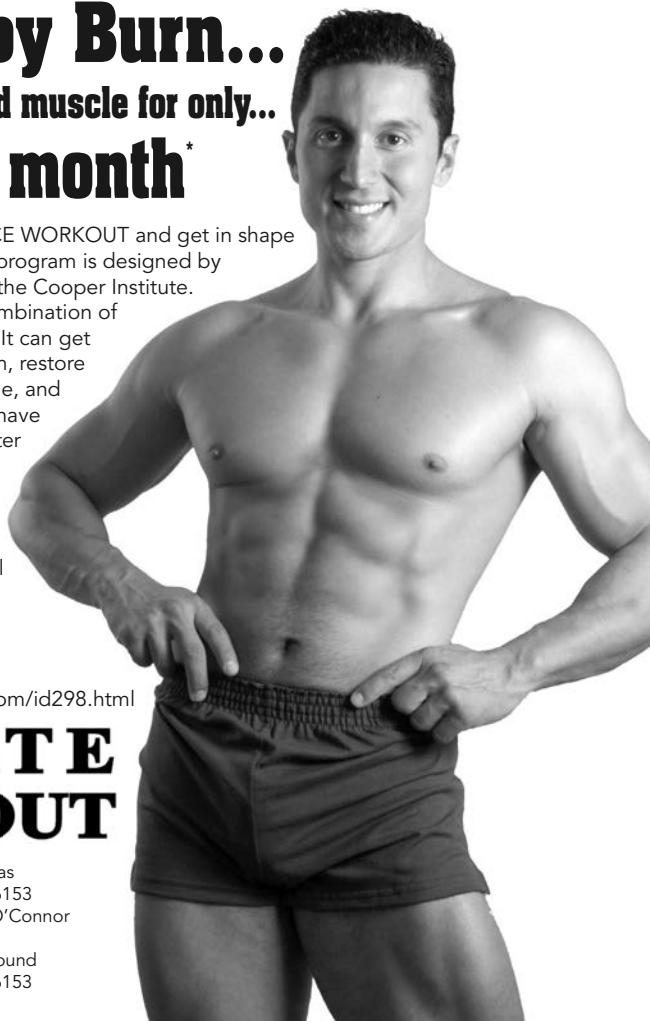
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## calendar highlights

### ARTSWEEK

#### THEATER

**Beautiful: The Carol King Musical.** Musical tale of one of the great pop composers of the 20th century. Bass Performance Hall, 525 Commerce St., Fort Worth. Through Sunday. BassHall.com.

**Cedar Springs or Big Scary Animals.** Theatre Too, 2900 Routh St. in the Quadrangle. Through Oct. 1. Theatre3Dallas.com.

**Deferred Action.** The new local play about DACA "Dreamers" returns, more timely than ever. Bob Hope Theatre at the Owen Art Center on the SMU campus, 6101 Bishop Ave. Sept 15–17. Latino Cultural Center, 2600 Live Oak St. Sept 27–29. 7:30 p.m. CaraMiaTheatre.org.

**Fun Home.** Tony Award-winning musical about growing up lesbian in a funeral home. Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. Through Sept. 24. ATPAC.org.

**Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat.** Webber and Rice musical telling an Old Testament story tunelessly. Casa Manana, 3105 W. Lancaster Blvd., Fort Worth. Final weekend. CasaManana.org.

**Miller, Mississippi.** A world premiere from playwright Boo Killebrew, which tracks the slowness of change in Mississippi during the Civil Rights Movement. Presented by the Dallas Theater Center. Wyly Theatre, 2400 Flora St. Through Oct. 1. DallasTheaterCenter.org.

**The Royal Society of Antarctica.** What would it take to get you to move to the bottom of the world? That's the question explored in this comedy. Stage West, 821 W. Vickery Blvd., Fort Worth. Through Sept. 24. StageWest.org.

**Winston's Birthday.** The American premiere of this comedy by Paul Baker, presented by Theatre Britain. Cox Playhouse, 1517 H Ave., Plano. Through Oct. 1. Theatre-Britain.com.

**Ripcord!** The residents of an assisted living facility engage in a game of oneupsmanship, with hilarious results. *Final weekend.* Circle Theatre, 230 W. 4th St, Fort Worth. CircleTheatre.com.

#### DANCE

**Ballet Hispanico.** TITAS presents this company with Latin-infused dancing from Hispanic choreographers. Moody Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. Friday–Saturday. ATPAC.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. CrowCollection.org.

**Tom Sachs: Tea Ceremony.** The Nasher presents this exhibition of Sachs' reworking of Japanese traditional tea service. Nasher Sculpture Center, 2001 Flora St. Sept. 16–Jan. 7. NasherSculptureCenter.org.

### FRIDAY 09.15

#### COMMUNITY

**9th Annual Red Party: Studio Red.** Fundraiser sponsored by the Red Party. South Side Music Hall, 1135 S. Lamar St. 7 p.m. RedParty9.eventbrite.com.

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

#### FESTIVALS

**Addison Oktoberfest.** 30th anniversary. Friday–Sunday. AddisonOktoberfest.com.

### SATURDAY 09.16

#### PRIDE

**Pride Festival.** Music and fellowship. Reverchon Park. 11 a.m.–7 p.m.

**Say No to Hate.** Adam Bouska hosts photoshoots with his distinctive look, to oppose homophobia. Great Room of the W Hotel, 2440 Victory Park Lane. 2–6 p.m. RSVP at NoH8Dallas.eventbrite.com to set up an appointment.

**A Night Out for Trevor: Dallas Pride.** A nautical-themed party and fundraiser for the 20th anniversary of the Trevor Project. 33rd Floor W Hotel, 2440 Victor Park Lane. 7 p.m. TVRV.org/dallaspride.

**BEAT.** Dance party with DJ Tony Moran, sponsored by Impulse Group Dallas. Stereo Live. 9 p.m. BEATHiv.eventbrite.com.

#### CONCERTS

**Dallas Symphony Gala.** The DSO celebrates with its season opener with soloist Yo-Yo Ma. Meyerson Symphony Center. MyDSO.com.

### SUNDAY 09.17

#### PRIDE

**Alan Ross Texas Freedom Parade and Festival.** Come to Cedar Springs any time, you'll find it.

#### BROADCAST

**Emmy Awards.** The best in TV is honored. Hosted by Stephen Colbert. Aired on CBS at 7 p.m.

### MONDAY 09.18

#### CABARET

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

### TUESDAY 09.19

#### FILM

**Carousel.** Perhaps Rodgers & Hammerstein's darkest musical, and the one closest to an operetta, is this tale of death and redemption. You'll never walk alone. 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 09.20

#### DRAG

**The AAA Girls.** William Belli, Alaska Thunderfuck and Courtney Act team up once again as The AAA Girls and they're bringing their fierce, humor-filled show. Granada Theater, 3524 Greenville Ave. From \$39. AAAGirls.net.





The colorful show 'Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat' continues through Sunday at Casa Manana in Fort Worth.

**THURSDAY 09.21**  
**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.

**FRIDAY 09.22**  
**THEATER**

**Hair.** The hippie musical. Wyly Theatre, 2400 Flora St. Sept. 22–Oct. 22. DallasTheaterCenter.org.  
**Chita & Tune — Two for the Road.** Chita

Rivera and Tommy Tune perform. See story Page 68. Eisemann Center for Performing Arts, 2351 Performance Drive, Richardson. 8 p.m. EisemannCenter.com.

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Inside the main gates of the Music Festival is a fenced off safe space created for the Family PRIDE Zone. Security professionals will staff our entrance. Park entrance fees are \$10 for adults and children under 13 are free. No coolers, no alcohol and proper attire will be listed among other house rules.

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# Cassie Nova

A Golden Age for Stephen King fans

Hello, my lovelies! What an exciting time we live in right now ... especially if you are a Stephen King fan. Last night, I saw the new *It* movie. I loved it. The old-school made for TV miniseries was such a whitewashed version of the tale of the shapeshifting killer clown in Derry, Maine, who feeds off of children. The only good thing about the 1990 version was that Tim Curry did a very respectable job as Pennywise the clown. I hate that I always have to be "that guy" who says the book was so much better, but the book almost always is better.

I think diehard fans of the novel will love this new version. They kept enough of the original story that it felt nostalgic but changed just enough to keep you guessing. Bill Skarsgard did an amazing job as Pennywise: Creepy, cool and terrifying. I kind of understand now why people don't like clowns. One of the other things they really got right with this movie was the comradery between the members of the Losers Club. They were funny, loving and most of all believable as friends in this horrifying, child killing world created by King. I can't wait for *It's* next chapter.

Here's a bit of useless trivia. Bill Skarsgard is the brother of Alexander Skarsgard, who played that fine-ass vampire Eric Northman on *True Blood*. They have three other brothers that are also actors, and their dad is Stellan Skarsgard, who has been in a shit-ton of movies, including the *Thor* and *Avengers* movies. Talk about an actor's dynasty.

On the flip side, the *Dark Tower* movie, was a letdown. I am a huge fan of the books, and I knew that any movie they attempted was not going to go it justice. I didn't hate the movie,

I just wanted so much more. *The Dark Tower* universe is so vast and awesome it would take a *Game of Thrones*-type treatment to do it right. A girl can dream. King's book *Mr. Mercedes* has been made into a series on some DirecTV channel called the Audience Network. I'm really liking that show so far. Oh, and Netflix will soon be premiering a movie of *Gerald's Game*. That's a pretty twisted tale of a woman handcuffed to the bed by her kinky husband, and then he dies on top of her, leaving her trapped!

Okay I will quit with my King adoration and help out my people.

Cassie, Why is it that when someone transitions people automatically think they are attracted to — and should be with — the opposite sex? I get this a lot from the gay community itself. I personally believe the opposite but the consensus is that people don't understand that even trans people are gay. Why is that so fucking hard?! Signed, A Trans Man

Dear ATM, I cannot imagine the frustration a trans person feels having to explain things to the uninformed, but you should cut them a break. We have all been brought up in a world where we are taught man-with-woman rules. It has taken, decades to make gay a little more normal, and we still have a long ways to go there. We are taught there are two gender norms, but the new truth is that we have a much broader spectrum. Those stereotypes of a man with a woman are so ingrained in us that even when we are educated and informed, we still tend to force our perceived normalcy on others.

Yes, it must be frustrating, but there are so many different people. So many different ways

to categorize a person's sexuality and gender that it can be a little confusing. Don't get mad, get teachy! Explain to anyone who will listen that gender and sexual norms do not fit everyone. If they are like most people and are somewhat decent, you will only have to explain things once. If they don't get it after that... fuck 'em. Good luck, Cassie.

Hiya Cassie, My partner and I have been together for two years now — actually living together a year. What was the period of adjustment like for you and your husband after y'all finally moved in with each other? Was it easy dividing up the household chores? Right now we're splitting the bills, but at what point does one start talking about combining bank accounts or keeping them separate, etc.?

We love our time together at home, but I know there are still little idiosyncrasies that drive each of us crazy, things such as I'm usually neat and organized and he's carefree and messy; I'm disciplined with the dogs while he's more relaxed with them; I enjoy coming out to the drag shows occasionally on the weekends while he's more of a homebody, etc. We're still getting used to each other's eccentricities, but it would be nice to hear an opinion from a voice of experience! Signed, Sorta Newbies Still!

Dear SNS, Don't put so much pressure on



turning your relationship into some kind of well-oiled machine. It just kind of eventually happens. As far as finances go, we have separate accounts but have access to the others' account in case of an emergency. We split the bills — he pays the mortgage and insurance, I pay electricity, cable and utilities, but I know if I ever need help with my side of the bills I can count on him and vice versa. The subject of money is where a lot of couples fuck up. Eventually it all feels like our bills and finances, but no one wants to feel like they are being taken advantage of. Split things in a way that works for you.

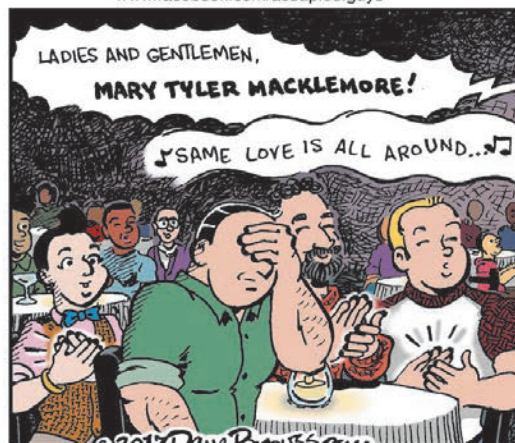
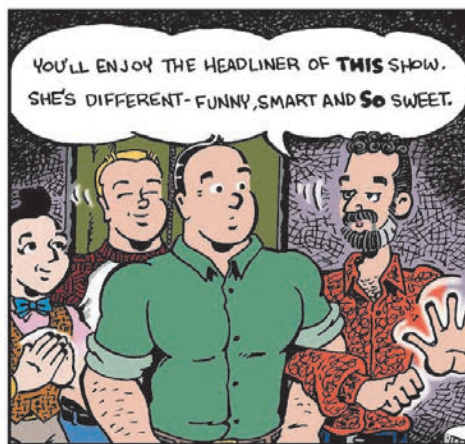
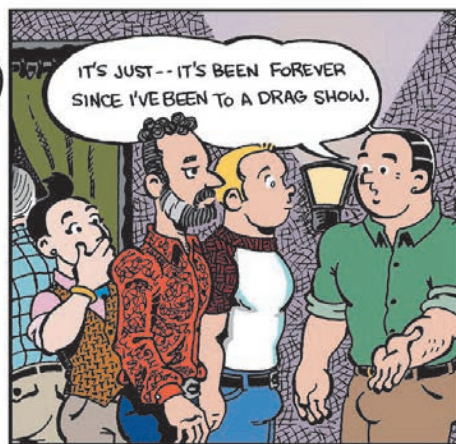
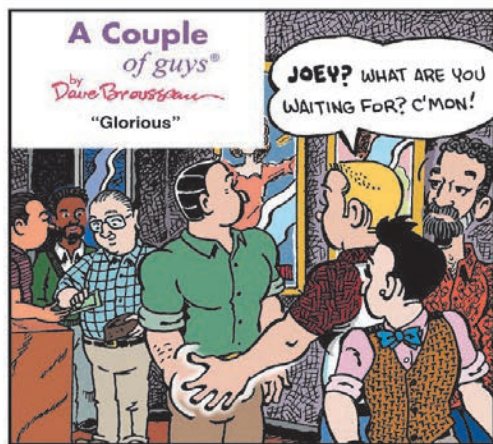
Jamie and I were the same way when we first got together. He's neat, I'm messy, but now we have it figured out. Don't be afraid to ask for help cleaning something, and don't be a little bitch if he asks you to help him with something. You are a couple so do things as a couple. Even the unpleasant things like house and yard work. Where the dogs are concerned, I have figured out I will always be the bad daddy. I am the one that has to discipline the pups, and he is the one that they wanna run to when I yell, but I am the alpha and the one they listen to. It is a little frustrating, but we have learned what works for us.

As far as going out sometimes versus staying home: I have found that if we plan something, like a night out, we are more likely to agree on doing it. Don't be afraid to go out without your partner. Unless there is a big mistrust between you, but that's for another column. Go out with friends, watch a drag show. Post and send him pics. He will probably suffer from FOMO! Fear Of Missing Out! So next time he will want to come out with you. Finding a balance is... well...not a struggle but it is sometimes work. It's a little give and take until one day it is just your normal.

Your relationship is important so nurture it, and do everything you need to do to make it work. Sometimes you will need to bite your tongue and pick your battles, but having a life partner you love is so worth it. Except the fact that you will forever get on each other's nerves in some way, but knowing you have someone that always has your back and loves you endlessly makes all the stupid shit worth it. Good luck.

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.







She ain't heavy ... . Making music at Sue Ellen's

Making the **SCENE** the week of **Sept. 15–21**:

- **Alexandre's**: **Genre** featuring **K-Marie** on Friday. **Chris Chism** and **The Band** on Saturday. **Wayne Smith** on Sunday. **K-Marie Broadway** on Tuesday. **Anna Fredericka Popova** on Wednesday. **Chris Chism** on Thursday.
- **Club Changes**: **The Divine Miss Divas Show** at 10 p.m. on Friday.
- **Club Reflection**: **Cowtown Leathermen** anniversary dinner from 4-7 p.m. **Wall of Food** show at 8 p.m. on Thursday.
- **Dallas Eagle**: **DsMP Basket Fundraiser** from 6-10 p.m. on Friday. Big hair, bigger music as **DJ Blaine** spins **Back to the '80s** from 5-9 p.m. on Sunday.
- **JR.'s Bar & Grill**: **Cassie's Freak Show** at 11 p.m. on Monday.
- **Marty's Live**: **Poker** at 3 p.m. on Saturday.
- **Round-Up Saloon**: **Bear Happy Hour** on Friday. **Mancandy** on Sunday. **Boys, Boots and Boxer Briefs** on Monday.
- **Sue Ellen's**: **Mustache Envy** on Friday. **Ciao Bella** on Saturday. **Anton Shaw Band** from 5-8 p.m. on Sunday. Open mic night with **Kathy & Bella** on Wednesday.
- **The Rose Room**: **Miss Gay USofA at Large** prelim nights at 8 p.m. on Wednesday and Thursday.
- **TMC: The Mining Company**: **Trashy Tuesdays** — the tradition continues.
- **Urban Cowboy Saloon**: **Mr. and Miss Turnabout Pageant ICFWA** from 7-9 p.m. on Saturday.
- **Woody's Sports & Video Bar**: **Pride Weekend** kickoff on Friday. **Pre-Parade Party** on Saturday. **Parade Back Lot Party** hosted by **Jada Pinkett Fox** on Sunday. **Showtunes** at 9 p.m. on Tuesday.

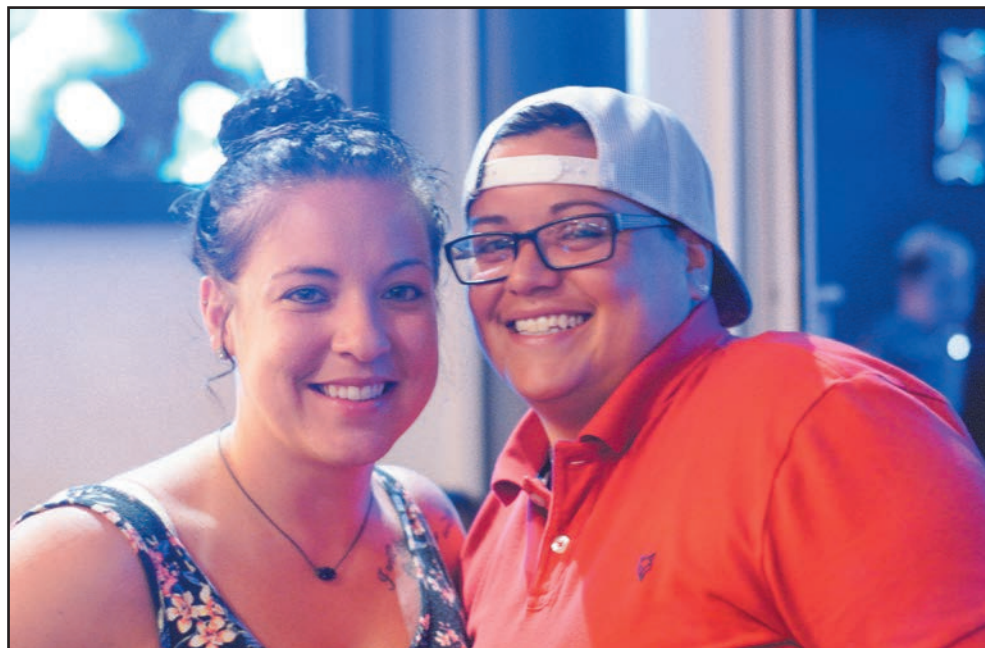
Scene Photographers: **Kat Haygood** and **Chad Mantooth**



Friends on The Strip



The ol' smackeroo at The Tin Room



Love birds at Sue Ellen's

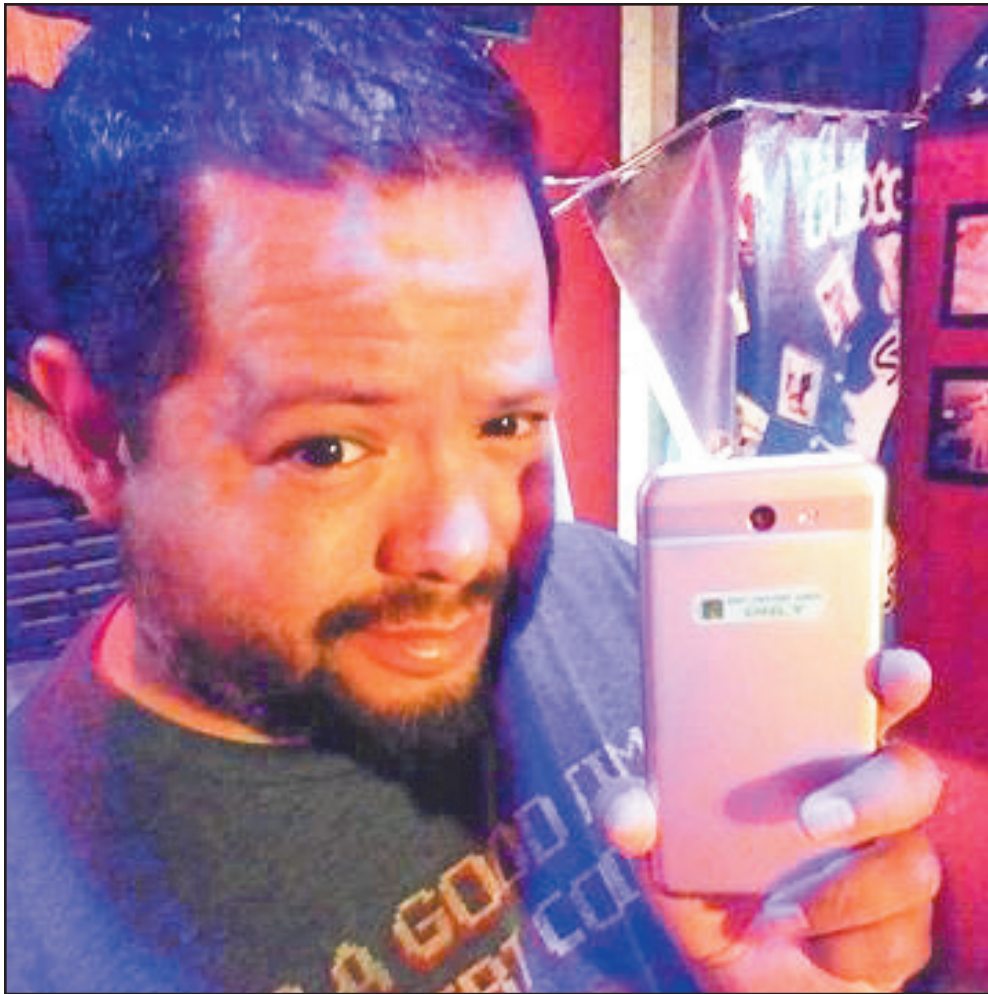


# Jennifer Hudson! Performing at Winspear to benefit CitySquare

*Photos courtesy of  
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Selfie time with Mark at The Grapevine



Hugging buds at The Grapevine




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Taylor at Woody's



Drag Brunch at the Hard Rock Cafe



Kevin at Pekers

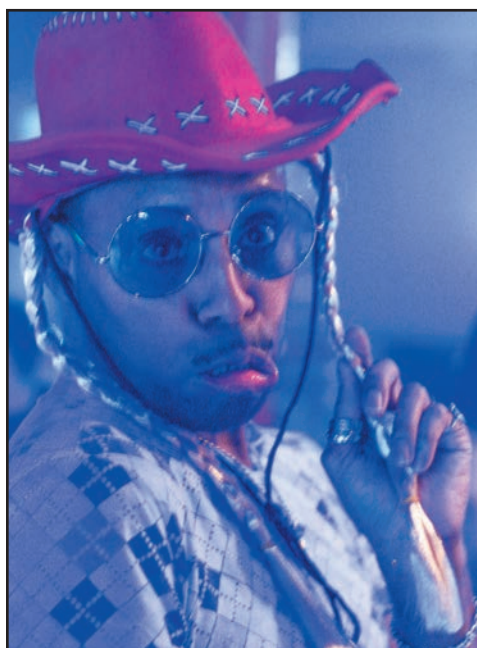




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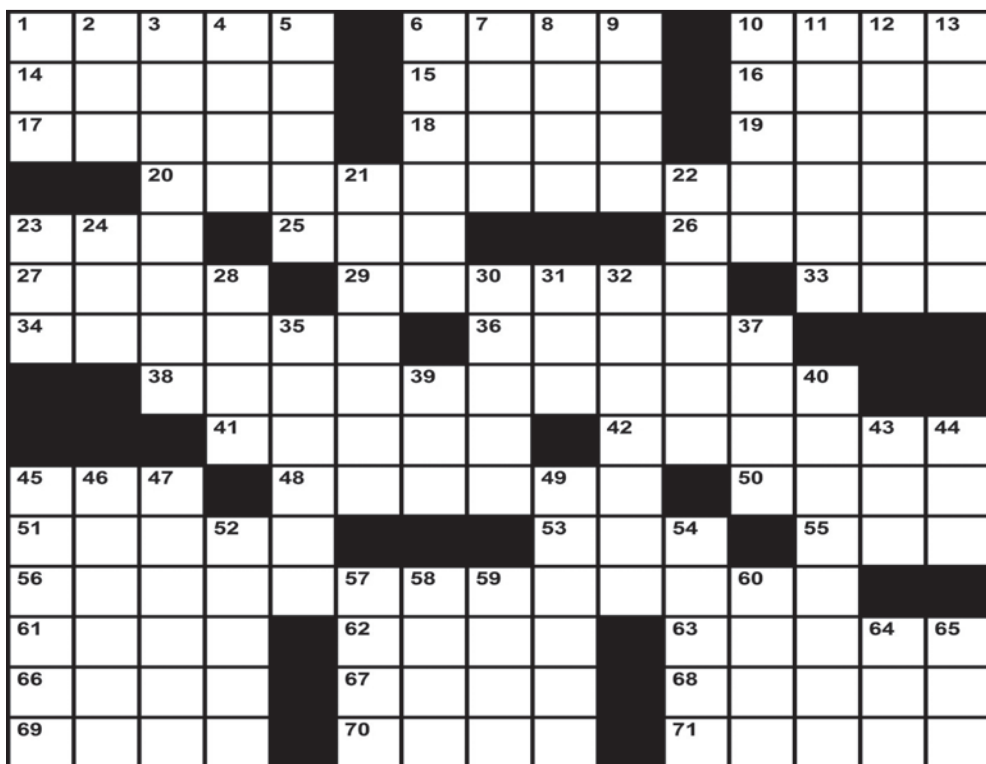
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## Politics Makes Strange Bedfellow

Solution on Page103

### Across

- 1 Scout promises to be "morally straight"
- 6 Samoan investigator Margaret
- 10 Frat hazing sounds
- 14 Solid gold measure
- 15 Trucker's shaft
- 16 Sex Dr.
- 17 Oily rock
- 18 Simba's Broadway love
- 19 Start to climax
- 20 Russian strange bedfellow
- 23 Colette's Mrs.
- 25 *Mamma* \_\_\_\_!
- 26 Not straight up
- 27 Outed, for example, with "on"
- 29 Boas for drag queens, e.g.
- 33 Curve shape
- 34 Didn't go straight
- 36 It may slip over one's head
- 38 American strange bedfellow
- 41 Rap sheet item
- 42 Contents of a good head
- 45 It bit Cleopatra
- 48 Behind with the bucks
- 50 Angelina Jolie's \_\_\_\_ *Interrupted*
- 51 Greek philosophical type

### 53 Brit. word ref

- 55 Coral isle
- 56 What 20-Across said about 38-Across
- 61 Kind of hall
- 62 Shakespeare's foot
- 63 Promised to be wife and wife, e.g.
- 66 Sheltered, at sea
- 67 Caesar's "See!"
- 68 Remove a slip, perhaps
- 69 Kristy McNichol sitcom *Empty* \_\_\_\_
- 70 Enjoy E. Lynn Harris
- 71 Like pinker meat

### Down

- 1 Brief endorsements
- 2 Postcoital sigh
- 3 Walked with the ball, to Sue Wicks
- 4 Michael of *Six Feet Under*
- 5 Put a head on cappuccino
- 6 Song from *Flashdance*
- 7 Doctors make you strip for it
- 8 "\_\_\_\_ want is a room somewhere..."
- 9 What you may call your life partner
- 10 Rocket guy Wernher von \_\_\_\_
- 11 Em, e.g.
- 12 Top floors
- 13 Stands out
- 21 Feeling of contempt
- 22 Old \_\_\_\_ (*Book of Practical Cats* name)
- 23 Where you might see R.E.M.
- 24 Brother of Curly and Shemp
- 28 Go down
- 30 *Corydon* author Gide
- 31 "Poppycock!"
- 32 *A Room with a View* author
- 35 Opera tenor Caruso
- 37 On-line 'zine
- 39 Airport in Israel
- 40 Intense competition at Barneys
- 43 Sung syllable
- 44 Like a cunning linguist
- 45 Disney lyricist Howard
- 46 *Remington* \_\_\_\_
- 47 Groups of manhunters
- 49 Moved up and down
- 52 Atlas blow-up
- 54 Louganis, for one
- 57 Opera house level
- 58 Defensive spray
- 59 Hit with hand motions
- 60 Nickelodeon explorer
- 64 Tongue ending
- 65 Augsburg article

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