

# dallasvoice

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## The return of country diva Shania Twain

See story on Page 14





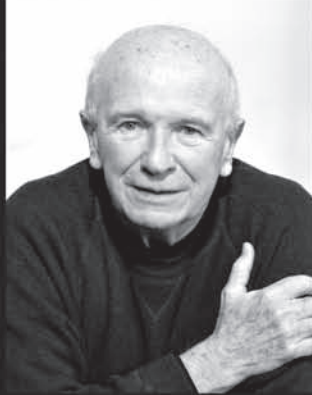
# TOGETHER

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Mert Alas and Marcus Piggott

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# 2017 ANNUAL Summit on lgbt aging

The Coalition for Aging LGBT and AARP Texas are proud to present The 2017 Annual Summit on LGBT Aging. This event promises to shine a bright light on the unique situation facing our aging LGBT communities in North Texas. This Summit features a recently-fielded research report on the uncommon issues our community experiences. We will also include lively, action-oriented break-out sessions that dig deeply into areas of primary concern: housing, legal/financial issues, legislation, transgender-specific issues, caregiving and supportive social spaces.

The goal of this Summit is to explore the needs of the aging LGBT population in North Texas and to develop a plan of action that aptly addresses our diverse needs. As our 55+ LGBT population continues to grow, due to an unprecedented demographic shift, there is a great urgency to ensure each person lives their life with dignity, respect and without fear of discrimination.

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### Gay Houston judge announces run for Texas Supreme Court



Steven Kirkland, an openly gay former district court judge, announced he will run for state Supreme Court.

"GREAT NEWS! I will be candidate for Justice, Place 2 of the Texas Supreme Court," he announced on his website.

He is the first openly gay person to run for Texas Supreme Court. Kirkland became a Houston municipal judge in 2001 and served in that position until 2008 when he was elected to the 215th District Court, where he served until 2012. He currently works on economic development projects in the Houston city attorney's office.

Among his awards are three LGBT-related accolades: Houston GLBT Political Caucus Leadership Award—2009, Judge Norman Black Award, State Bar of Texas, LGBT Law Section—2009 and Harvey Milk Award, Houston Stonewall Young Democrats—2008.

He has been a board member of the International Association of LGBT Judges from 2010 to present and was treasurer of former Houston Mayor Annise Parker's campaigns from 1991 to 2001.

— David Taffet

### HRC responds to Trump's joke about hanging gay people



President Donald Trump likes to needle Vice President Mike Pence on his positions on abortion and LGBT rights. So recently when asked about a gay issue, Trump said, "Don't ask that guy. He wants to hang them all."

Here's Human Right's Campaign's statement on Trump joking about Pence wanting to hang LGBT people:

HRC President Chad Griffin said of the New Yorker anecdote, "It's disturbing and sickening that Donald Trump would 'joke' about Mike Pence wanting to 'hang them all' in reference to LGBTQ people. Hate violence is tragically still a fact of life for LGBTQ people across this country, even without Donald Trump and Mike Pence helping to fan the flames. Mike Pence has spent his career attacking LGBTQ people in Congress, in the governor's mansion, and now in the White House. Donald Trump's remark lays open the depth of their hostility and animosity toward LGBTQ people and just how deeply they believe we should be treated as second-class citizens in our own country. That's not funny, that's dangerous and un-American."

The Trump-Pence administration's hostility toward LGBTQ people does not exist in a vacuum. In January, the HRC Foundation released the results of a groundbreaking post-election survey of more than 50,000 young people ages 13-18 revealing the deeply damaging fallout the November election has had on youth across the United States.

The online survey, believed to be the largest ever of its kind, found that 70 percent of respondents have witnessed bullying, hate messages or harassment since the election, with racial bias the most common motive cited. More than a quarter of LGBTQ youth said they have been personally bullied or harassed since Election Day — compared to 14 percent of non-LGBTQ youth — with transgender young people most frequently targeted.

In 2016, advocates tracked at least 23 deaths of transgender people in the United States due to fatal violence, the most ever recorded. These victims were killed by acquaintances, partners and strangers, some of whom have been arrested and charged, while others have yet to be identified. Some of these cases involve clear anti-transgender bias. In others, the victim's transgender status may have put them at risk in other ways, such as forcing them into homelessness.

— David Taffet

### BBBS raises more than half million at gala

Big Brothers Big Sisters, a Black Tie Dinner beneficiary, held its annual Big Black Tie Ball on Oct. 6 at the Hilton Anatole.

Dallas Police Chief U. Renee Hall spoke about Bigs in Blue and the importance of mentoring in the lives of children across Dallas. Bigs in Blue is an initiative to pair police officers with children through caring, professionally-supported one-to-one relationships.

Matthew Morrison from *Glee* entertained.

The event raised \$548,000, and 550 guests attended.

This is the 90th anniversary of Big Brothers Big Sisters in Dallas.

— David Taffet



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# THE GAY AGENDA

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

• **Weekly: Lambda Weekly every Sunday at 1 p.m. on 89.3 KNON-FM.** This week's guest is the **Rev. Neil Cazares-Thomas** from **Cathedral of Hope UCC**; 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 Oak Lawn Park, Turtle Creek and Hall Street, 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.

## OCTOBER

### • 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](http://TurtleCreekChorale.com)

### • Oct 20: Q19 Sneak Peak

QCinema reveals its official film lineup

for this year's festival. Trailers shown and filmmakers who will be in attendance announced at 6 p.m. at Urban Cowboy, 2620 E. Lancaster Ave., Fort Worth.

### • Oct 20: Bowling league registration

New LGBT bowling league registration from 6:30-9 p.m. at AMF Garland, 1950 Marketplace Dr., Garland. League runs Nov. 3-Feb. 9. \$20. 214-704-3531.

### • Oct 20: Federal Club Mixer

Mixer from 6-8 p.m. at Zatar, 2825 Commerce St.

### • 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](http://MyResourceCenter.org/gaybingo).

### • Oct. 21: Spooktacular IV

GLBT Chamber of Commerce Foundation presents Superhero Spooktacular with auction, appetizers, costumes and cocktails to benefit its scholarship fund from 7-10 p.m. at ilume Park, 3109 Douglas Ave. [GLBTchamber.com](http://GLBTchamber.com).

### • Oct. 21: Let's Get Weird Halloween Party

Annual Halloween party that's become an all day affair from noon-9 p.m. at Lakewood Brewing Company, 2302 Executive Drive, Garland. \$15.

### • 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](http://AOC.org/walk).

### • Oct. 24: LGBT Grief Support Group

Anyone who has lost a same-sex spouse is welcome to join at 6:45 p.m. at Oak Lawn Library, 4100 Cedar Springs Road. For more info [raymond.sablack@gmail.com](mailto:raymond.sablack@gmail.com).

### • Oct. 24: Profiling and Situational Awareness seminars

Seminar for non-profit staff and administration at 9 a.m., business owners at 1 p.m. and professionals at 3 p.m. at Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road.



The 26th annual Hope Walk benefiting AIDS Outreach Center in Fort Worth takes place at 1 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 22. See listing for more details.

### • Oct. 24: Brite Divinity School open house

LGBT-friendly Brite Divinity School on the TCU campus holds an open house for prospective new students to learn about degree programs from 8:30 a.m.-3:45 p.m. Brite Divinity School, Harrison Building, 2925 Princeton St., Fort Worth. [Brite.edu/openhouse](http://Brite.edu/openhouse).

### • Oct. 24: Lambda Legal and Vinson & Elkins happy hour

Networking reception with leaders and members of LGBT employee resource groups and get an update on Lambda Legal's recent cases from 6-7:30 p.m. at Vinson & Elkins, 2001 Ross Ave., Suite 3900. Business casual. Parking in Trammell Crow Center will be validated. RSVP at [anorton@velaw.com](mailto:anorton@velaw.com).

### • Oct. 25: PositiviTea 2017

Champagne Imperial Tea benefits Legacy's Grace Project for women from 3-4:30 p.m. at La Duni NorthPark, 8687 N. Central Expressway.

### • Oct. 25: Protest Trump in Dallas

Indivisible DFW and Texas Resistance Coalition protest Donald Trump's Dallas appearance at a Republican fundraiser. Location TBA.

### • Oct. 25: Diversity and Inclusion in the Legal Profession

Symposium on diversity and inclusion presented by the Dallas LGBT Bar Association from 2-6 p.m. hosted by AT&T at 208 S. Akard St. \$25 members, \$50 non-members. [DGLBA.org](http://DGLBA.org).



• **Oct. 28: Outing LGBT Domestic Violence**

Candy Marcum moderates a panel discussion and Q&A session with Criminal District Court Judge Brandon Birmingham, DPD Domestic Violence Unit officer Kylee Hawks, trans activist Aricles James, Angela Lee of the National Domestic Violence Hotline and Roy Rios from the Texas Council on Family Violence from 1-3 p.m. at Cathedral of Hope, Interfaith Peace Chapel, 5910 Cedar Springs Road.

• **Oct. 28: Halloween Street Party**

Annual street party on Cedar Springs Road from sunset to midnight.

• **Oct. 29: Trunk or Treat Cathedral of Hope UCC and Oak Lawn**

UMC offer trick or treating for member and neighborhood kids from fun and festively decorated care trunks plus hot dog cookout, bounce houses, a marionette show and a visit from Peincess Elsa from 4:30-8 p.m. in the Cathedral of Hope parking lot, 5910 Cedar Springs Road.

▪ **pet of the week / TUFFY**

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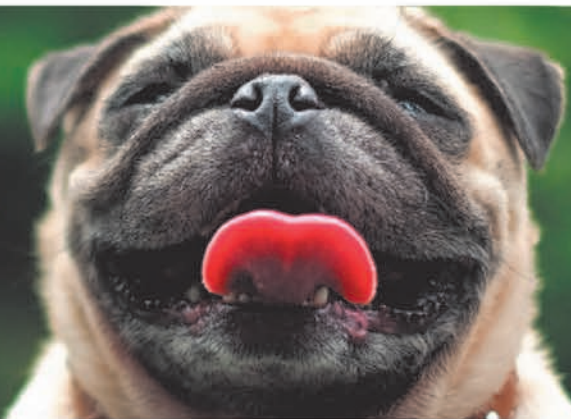
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# Seeing the **signs** of domestic abuse

Ari James has experienced domestic violence as a lesbian and as a trans man, and he wants organizations to do a better job for the LGBT community

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer  
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Aricles “Ari” James spoke on the issue of domestic violence before coming out as transgender. “My mother was a domestic violence victim,” he explained. “There’s a pattern to the way domestic violence works.”

He said that people who come from homes where there’s been domestic violence are more likely to become victims themselves, and once you’ve been a victim of domestic violence, you’re more likely to be revictimized.

But you can’t meet someone and know, “This is going to be an abuser.”

James said he’s been in a variety of relationship patterns that have involved domestic abuse — lesbian, poly and straight. But he chose to talk with Dallas Voice about his most recent experience when he was in a relationship with another trans man.

“I had gotten to the point in my transition that I was mostly comfortable dating other trans people,” he said. He met another trans man, and they began dating. The man was from “a blue state” but moved to Texas.

“We had fun,” James said. “He said the right things. We had long conversations. I got lulled into a false sense of security.”

James said he shared deep, dark secrets about himself with his boyfriend. They had similar relationship issues, and he felt safe being open about his secrets. He was sure that “Things that happened in the past wouldn’t continue.”

At the time, James lived in rural Oklahoma where he owned a home. He was about to have top surgery, and the trans man he was dating promised to come up from Texas after the operation.

“Looking back I can see the manipulation now,” James said, acknowledging the micro-aggressions that happened. For instance, his boyfriend would ask, “Why

don’t you have body hair like I have?”

“I’d say, ‘My, that’s hurtful,’ and he’d apologize,” James recalled. “But then he’d do it again and again and again and again.”

James said the man would push sexual things James wasn’t comfortable doing, but James felt he might as well give his boyfriend what he wanted. He blames that partly on still being in a post-surgery fog for a few weeks and not fully understanding what was happening.

Then James called a local domestic violence office. He knew the staff there as both a client and a co-worker. He felt safe contacting them for help.

“But when I called and they gendered me as masculine, they gave me the batterers intervention hotline,” he said. “No questions. No ‘What’s going on?’ That’s where we are in advocating for LGBT people.”

James stressed that people who work with domestic violence victims and perpetrators shouldn’t make assumptions. “That’s why people don’t get the help they need,” he said.

He said that as a domestic violence advocate himself, as someone who knows the signs and who knew he needed to get out, if he couldn’t connect with the resources he needed, how can we expect other people to be able to find the help they need?

James said the most dangerous time in a domestic violence situation is after the victim has left the abuser. “More murders and physical violence happen after ties are severed,” he said, “when the perpetrator no longer has power.”

In James’ case, the man he was dating had just become a truck driver and was going to be gone. Still, James said, he thought about selling his house as a way of distancing himself. But it was after a physical altercation between them that he knew he had to get the other man out of the house.

“I went to work with bruises,” James said. “I went to the gym” with bruises.

So he changed the locks and upgraded the windows. He let police know the situation.

When James broke up with the man, he responded with threats of suicide. And although James knew that was just more manipulation, he said, “I’d [still] try to help him ... It’s not in my make up to ignore that.”

What James calls the last hurrah came when the boyfriend broke into the house while James was gone. James said that



Aricles James

when he got home, “It looked like a bomb went off in my house. He wanted to sleep with me. When I told him that wasn’t going to happen, he got angry and called his father and told him he was suicidal.”

He cornered James and said things, James said, that most trans people would find hurtful coming from anyone. But coming from another transgender person, he added, it was worse.

“He used my dead name,” James said.

Then the man called police and told them James came at him, resulting in James being arrested. The ex did his best to share that information with anyone who would listen to him.

James said in the queer community, when someone who’s the victim of domestic violence has a bad experience reporting it once, they won’t report it again. He said many domestic violence victims have bad

experiences with peers, and often the victim is shunned.

James will be part of a panel at Cathedral of Hope on Oct. 28 to talk about domestic violence in the LGBT community. “If we’re not talking about it, it’s not going to get fixed,” he said.

He said there’s no exhaustive list of warning signs of abusive relationships, but there are a number of patterns he’ll discuss.

Candy Marcum will moderate the discussion. Other panelists include 292nd Judicial District Court Judge Brandon Birmingham; Kylee Hawks of the Dallas Police Department’s Domestic Violence Unit; Angela Lee from the National Domestic Violence Hotline; and Roy Rios from the Texas Council on Family Violence.

*Domestic violence panel from 1-3 p.m. on Oct. 28 at Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. Free.*



# Equality Texas adds staff

Three hired for education, accounting and religious outreach

FROM STAFF REPORTS

**E**quality Texas announced the appointment of three new staff members: Rachel Gonzales, Javier Osorio and Kimberly Shappley.

Equality Texas CEO Chuck Smith said each of the new staff members had proven records in advocating for fairness and equality issues, who will work on education, base building, and organizational development inside and outside of the organization across the state of Texas.

"Rachel, Javier, and Kimberly bring to Equality Texas outstanding skills in building coalitions with the business community,

a proven track record in nonprofit administration and much needed experience working within interfaith communities" said Chuck Smith, Equality Texas CEO. "All three new members of the team will build upon our growing capacity as an organization. We are pleased to welcome them."

Education and Resource Coordinator Rachel Gonzales has testified several times at the Texas Capitol, spoken at rallies and protests, and has maintained a local to national media presence in the fight for equality for transgender Texans. As the mother of a transgender child, equality for LGBTQ youth is her passion. She is delighted to be able to combine her passion with her background in cultural applied anthropology to

advocate for the equal treatment of LGBTQ youth, providing support for families to be their own best advocates. She is an active member of Dallas-Fort Worth Trans Kids and Families (DFWTKF) and a member of the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) National Parents for Transgender Equality Council.

As a first generation immigrant from Peru, Finance and Administrative Coordinator Javier Osorio earned a Bachelor of Business Administration degree in accounting from the University of Texas at San Antonio. He joined the Equality Texas staff in August 2017, after the 85th special legislative session ended. His specialty is financial planning, reporting and analysis.

Faith Outreach Coordinator Kimberly Shappley is a registered nurse, an international board certified lactation consultant, ordained minister and mom of a whole bunch of amazing people, including a transgender daughter who has turned Kimberly into an accidental advocate. Kimberly is a nationally recognized sought-after speaker as a southern conservative Christian parent of a transgender child. The Today Show told her family's story, and Good Housekeeping and Huffington Post among others have told her story. Her recent work includes cultural diversity training for college faculty, as well as speaking at medical and mental health conferences, Christian congregations and women's retreats.



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Uptown Physicians Group would like to congratulate Dr. Marc Tribble and Dr. Donald Graneto for being named to D Magazine's Best Doctors in Dallas for 2017 in Infectious Disease and Family Medicine respectively.

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# LGBT people are more prone to eating disorders

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National Institute of Mental Health  
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National Eating Disorders  
Association Resources  
[NationalEatingDisorders.org](http://NationalEatingDisorders.org)

NEDA Information on  
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Mon.-Thurs.: 10 a.m.-10 p.m.  
Fri.: 10 a.m.-6 p.m.



30 million Americans have eating disorders and I am among them

**JAMES RUSSELL** | Contributing Writer  
[james.journo@gmail.com](mailto:james.journo@gmail.com)

I developed an eating disorder when I was 15 or 16. I was a stressed out high school student who went on a diet the summer of my freshman year of high school. I was actually a healthy weight at that time. People noticed. I had been at that point at

my small private school since kindergarten. My fellow students noticed my dramatic weight loss. I even got a few compliments.

So I just kept losing weight after that, dropping to around 110 pounds at one point. I would work out every day for probably three hours and eat no- or low-fat foods for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

I was anorexic. The scientific term anorexia nervosa is defined as an eating disorder “characterized by weight loss; difficulties maintaining an appropriate body weight for height, age, and stature; and, in many individuals, distorted body image,” according to the National Eating Disorders

Association.

I had one eating disorder. There are countless others, however, including binge eating and bulimia.

All sorts of factors lead to eating disorders, said Dr. Stephanie Setliff, medical director at the Eating Recovery Center Dallas, a national health care system devoted to treating eating disorders at all stages of illness.

From 50 to 80 percent of eating disorders are bio-genetically mediated. There are plenty of commonalities among people with eating disorders. Among the factors is our shared experience of simply growing

up.

“Puberty is a huge trigger. Your body is growing and changing. Those dramatic changes come with their own issues. You’re struggling so much anyway,” Setliff said. People prone to eating disorders also have a personality profile.

“You’re usually anxious, a people pleaser, perfectionist, smart,” Setliff said.

I was also not alone when dieting to the extreme.

“Diets are a common entry into eating disorders,” Setliff said. “Someone will start dieting and start exercising around four times a week then lose weight. People no-





tice. The positive feedback — ‘you look so good!’ — could trigger a person already at risk. They become anxious, adding more restrictions to their diets and exercise more.”

Many of my heterosexual classmates were suffering too. I did not think about these facts at the time.

While eating disorders are most associated with straight, young, white females, heterosexual men struggle too.

“If you think about straight men, they deny problems. Even if something is wrong they don’t go to the emergency room,” Setliff said.

I clearly was not the only one needing, but not getting, help. Only 30 percent seek treatment because of stigma, misperceptions, lack of education, diagnosis and access to care.

Being a young man struggling with his sexual orientation did not help my situation, however. It’s no wonder studies show gay and bisexual men are 12 times more likely to report an eating disorder than their heterosexual peers.

“Think about it: you’re facing bullying, discrimination, fear or rejection. Of course [you] are afraid,” Setliff said.

Unfortunately, few conclusive studies connecting eating disorders to the larger LGBT community exist. NEDA suggests looking at eating disorders in our community within a broader cultural context of oppression.

Beginning as early as 12, gay, lesbian and bisexual teens may be at higher risk of binge eating and purging. But many studies are inconclusive. Yet other studies show few significant differences between heterosexual women and lesbians and bisexual women in the prevalence of any of the eating disorders. Lesbian, gay and bisexual African Americans and Hispanics are just as susceptible to eating disorders, too, given extra stressors they face.

Research is conflicted about eating disor-

Dr. Stephanie Setliff, right, is with Eating Recovery Center in Plano. (James Russell/Dallas Voice)



ders among lesbians and bisexual women. Even worse, few comprehensive studies exist about eating disorders in the transgender community.

Eating disorders impact people regardless of their identity. But the lack of comprehensive information makes education difficult.

“When people bring up eating disorders, lots of education is needed. People feel like they are of choice, but they are mostly linked to genetics. Binge eating, for instance, is associated with a lack of will power,” Setliff said.

Yet you can recover and have a normal relationship with food, Setliff said. “But the condition lingers, and you maintain the core of the eating disorder. Stress or change could trigger it. Typically those prone to eating disorders have personalities that do not take changes or transitions well even if they are positive stressors. You can still be rigid about changing your mind and seeing the big picture. But the difference is if you say, ‘I have these thoughts. What do I do?’ as opposed to immediately reverting to bingeing or purging.”

As LGBT resources expand and younger generations report being more accepting of their LGBT peers, organizations catering to the LGBT community have an imperative to fight the stigma. A survey of local LGBT organizations shows no recent listings of programming related to eating disorders.

“We need to get into more places where LGBT people go,” Setliff said. ■

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## Silencing LGBT Pride in Egypt

Donald Trump and his fake excuse and misdirected attack on the NFL players who are kneeling for social justice have some people saying it's a sign of a leader cracking down on the First Amendment, which leads to an authoritarian state. Think that's an overreach? Take a look at a similar issue in another country with an already-authoritarian state.

A few weeks ago at a concert in Cairo, Egypt, by a Lebanese band, Mashrou' Leila, several people in the audience proudly waved the rainbow flag — and guess what happened? Police arrested seven people, reportedly for “promoting sexual deviancy,” even though there is no law against homosexuality in Egypt — no less against the rainbow flag.

The band issued the following statement: “Dear everyone, we were on a flight to New York, where we will be teaching a workshop for the next two months, when the media frenzy began. We have not yet commented about the situation in Cairo, as we have received conflicting reports, and honestly have not been able to figure out what is actually happening. Our trusted sources on the ground have not been able to verify anything pertaining to the arrests or the alleged ban on future performances. We hope everyone is safe and well, and appreciate your patience.”

According to the BBC, the Egyptian state news agency reported that public prosecutor Nabil Sadek ordered an investigation after images of the Pride flag being raised at the concert were uploaded on sites like Facebook and subsequently condemned by certain politicians and members of the media.

You might be surprised to know the band comes from Beirut, which at times is known as the Paris of the Middle East. I've been there a number of times and, like many others, I found it to be one of the most tolerant areas in the region. That attitude is the result of a delicate balancing act due to its neighboring countries and the culture of various religions that call it home, but somehow this one city has had a government whose



**Mark Segal**  
Mark My Words

members comprise a diversity of religions, which makes a statement that we can all live together.

After the flag incident, Mashrou' Leila was banned from performing in Jordan. The band's response

and spirit should be applauded:

“We also have been unofficially informed that we will never be allowed to play again anywhere in Jordan due to our political and religious beliefs and endorsement of gender equality and sexual freedom,” band members wrote. “We deeply regret having to cancel this event in this country that we have made our own. Jordan is the home of some of the most supportive, beautiful and kind people we have had the pleasure of working with and playing for. Jordan is also the only place where we get to perform for our Palestinian audience, who organize elaborate bus trips to come from Palestine to see us play. Jordan is the birthplace of our lead singer's mother, a formative part of his identity and writing and a place we have always considered our second home.

“We denounce the systemic prosecution of voices of political dissent. We denounce the systemic prosecution of advocates

### An open letter to NRA-supported members of Congress

Dear ...,

I'm not one given to excess emotion; I think I learned that from being in the Army. And I have never written a letter like this one but it's way overdue.

You who have long been supported by the NRA and have followed its commands in lockstep, you are drenched in the blood of the massacred. I don't mean that figuratively, I mean that almost literally.

After all of these massacres, your consistent and blind refusal to save the life of even one of our people by passing legislation outlawing assault weapons means, frankly, that you are complicit in the deaths of so many, including those in Las Vegas.

You can turn away but you can no longer hide. You have become, and listen to me, Un-American. The land of the free; freedom from the carnage, not freedom to own assault rifles and semiautomatic weapons. Our Founding Fathers had no concept of that, so don't try to wrap yourselves in the Second Amendment. It won't work this time.

of sexual and religious freedom. We denounce the censorship of artists anywhere in the world. We apologize for having thus far failed at creating a cultural environment that allows our children to speak their minds. We believe whole-heartedly that we have only ever acted with the intention of making our world a more equal and just place, even if ‘only through song.’ We pledge to our audience that we will continue to place the integrity of our art as our foremost priority, and to never succumb to the pressure to compromise our message or to waive our freedom to speak. We promise to continue to write out of love, and with the desire to spread love. We will fight, as we have always done, for our right to freely play our music and speak our mind.

“We urge our fellow musicians and artists across the world to continue to produce work that challenges any unfair status quo, despite the difficulties confronted.”

Egypt is about to open a new national museum to relaunch its lagging tourism campaign. It might want to rethink how this act looks to people who might want to visit that amazing country.

It's a place I had hoped to revisit. As a gay man, am I no longer welcome? ■

*Mark Segal, PGN publisher, is the nation's most-award-winning commentator in LGBT media. His recently published memoir, “And Then I Danced,” is available on Amazon.com, Barnes & Noble or at your favorite bookseller.*

You have become the Dorian Grays of legislators, except now we see you for what you really are: cowards, kneeling at the foot of that cold, stone faced NRA.

You now have a sense of how infuriated I am with you. And before you get all indignant, I want remind you of something you have long since forgotten: constitutionally, you serve me, not the other way around.

I am so unbelievably angry at you because I saw death in Vietnam and understand its awful consequences. Young men, on both sides, eyes open, in their uniforms, limp. Wasted. You, you've seen it in some open casket at a funeral home. Congratulations you hypocrites. You've seen death too, but you have little real understanding of it or you would have been advocates for gun control instead of perpetrators of death.

I don't believe in Hell, and I do believe in forgiveness. But at this very moment, just for right now, I wish there was one and that you all would be damned to it.

And I am not alone in that sentiment.

Yours in raging anger and utter disgust,

*Jon Nelson*



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# Come on back!

The return of country diva Shania Twain

LIFE+STYLE

interview



Contrary to popular belief, some things *do* impress Shania Twain. The country-pop icon and paragon of leopard print has great admiration for her LGBTQ fans, who she says have become guiding lights in her own life.

Twain's inspiring story is one of survival, from her childhood hardships while growing up in the small town of Timmins, Ontario, where she raised her three younger siblings after her parents died in a car accident in 1987, to her 2009 divorce from Robert "Mutt" Lange, producer of Twain's cross-over behemoth, 1997's *Come on Over*. The best-selling country album of all time was a game-changer with an impressive track record — 40 million copies sold globally, 50 weeks atop the Billboard country charts over three years, 11 singles — that Twain is still champion in the female-artist arena.

Fifteen years after dropping her last juggernaut, 2002's *Up!*, Twain, 52, is again demonstrating slay status to her legions of loyal, boot-stompin' queer fans. Even a

neurological voice disorder called dysphonia couldn't keep the genre subverter, who once thought she'd never sing again, from recording her long-overdue fifth LP, *Now*. Released in September, Twain wrote every song, and her shiny résumé got even shinier when the album instantly seized the No. 1 spot on the Billboard albums and country charts.

Country-pop's comeback queen was an open book during our recent conversation, speaking passionately and candidly about her LGBTQ activism at the onset of her country career

in 1993, having to "agree to disagree" with those who aren't pro-gay, and bringing drag queens and Bud-guzzlin' bros together with "Man! I Feel Like a Woman!"

But, also, you don't get Shania Twain on the phone without reminiscing on 1998's *VH1 Divas*, when Twain shared the stage with an epic mix of icons — Aretha Franklin, Mariah Carey, Celine Dion and Gloria Estefan — for one of the most legendary, gay-loved nights in diva hair-story. ■

— Chris Azzopardi



**Dallas Voice:** Do you have enough leopard print gloves to go around for all the gays to partake in celebrating your comeback? Shania Twain [Laughing]: I should make them, right? What do you think would be the preferred fabric? Silk or...?

**Velour.** Yeah, like, velvet.

**We need a million of those by tomorrow. But first, Shania, after all these years, how do you explain your connection to the LGBTQ community?** I can't really explain my connection in any sort of theoretical way to anyone. But I would say my intentions are to inspire and connect with people, to be relatable then and now. I think that it is what resonates — we relate to one another, we relate to struggle, and then surviving struggle and celebrating who we are and what we are and appreciating that as a community of people regardless of what it is. Just celebrating together to the anthemic nature of some of those songs, and on this new album there are several like that as well.

**Is there something specific you hope to convey to LGBTQ audiences with this album?** Surviving against the odds. A song like "I'm Alright" — just that statement there and telling yourself, "I'm alright. I've made it through. I've survived." And with a fist-in-the-air attitude, with conviction.

**What was your introduction to the gay community?** I work with a lot of gay people and they're just a part of my almost daily family world. So, they're just part of my friends and my community. I guess more when I started to become successful, I was really surrounded by more creative people, and there are so many creative people in this industry who are gay, both men and women. It just becomes the norm.

**During some of your rough patches, did you get any sage advice from your gay friends?** Oh, I get good advice from gay friends all the time! I think more than anything I'm inspired by the spirit of where the gay community is right now and that conviction to be who you are. I love standing up for that. It's just so important to be transparent and open about who you are and to not hide behind fear.

**Have you clung to that sentiment as a way to push past your own personal pain?** Completely! I mean, my whole transition into where I am now in this moment has been facing fears and taking that leap of faith myself, and that would be my advice to anyone out there. A gay person who has been living behind their fears and then makes that courageous decision to start living as who they really are and stop pretending and embrace it — it takes a lot of courage.



For me, I've just learned that there's no time to waste. You need to take that leap and be who you are, and we're in a society now that is making it easier. We still have a long way to go, but there are a lot more outlets.

But the gay community — and minority communities in general — are always fighting. I have a song on the album called "Swingin' with My Eyes Closed" and it's a fun party song, but the true depth of the song is about even when you can't see what is in front of you, you still have to move forward. You can't move backwards; you gotta keep moving forward and fighting for that freedom to exercise independence and courage.

**There couldn't be a better time for a song like that. In 2013, you tweeted about the Supreme Court overturning the Defense of Marriage Act, saying, "Congrats to everyone celebrating equality today in the U.S. #loveislove." Why is it important for you to take a stand on gay rights and other LGBTQ issues?** I just feel very saddened by any kind of oppression in our society in today's day and age. I mean, it's so negative. Equality should be a no-brainer, automatic, all the way around. We need to have mutual respect all the way around. Supremacy of any sort is just poison. I just feel like we're not above each other in any way and mutual respect and an admiration for an individual's abilities, talents, heart, commitment — I mean, what does that have to do with any minority status that we might be labeled with today, whatever that may be? Certainly, I know that gays feel that.

**How does it feel knowing that your songs "Forever and For Always" and "From this Moment On" have probably been the first dance at a number of same-sex marriages?** Awww! That's lovely. It's so lovely. But love is beautiful, and music is very much a part of our lives and monumental moments of our lives.

**Because country music has long been deemed conservative in its views, could we speak as openly as we are now about LGBTQ issues at the beginning of your career?** I mean, I did. You know what this is really about? This is about pro-equality, this is about pro-mutual respect. And if you're really for those things in life, then why would there be any boundaries? Why would you side where there are? Why would you draw a line there?

**In the country community, I think it comes down to the fear of potentially alienating conservative fans. I think everybody has the right to their opinion, and that I would never argue with. That is a huge part of freedom of speech and mutual respect, having the right to your own opinion. If you're not pro-gay, then you're not pro-gay, and we just have to agree to disagree. I would never get into a fist fight with somebody who didn't agree. I just think that would be counterproductive. So, I think we all have to respect each other's opinions on these issues.**

But, listen, with a song like "Man! I Feel Like a

Woman!" — and this is, what, 20 years ago? — I'm over that come a long time ago. A lot of straight men sing "Man! I Feel Like a Woman!" just for the sheer entertainment of it. So, I think songs like that have been great, maybe, contributors to bringing us together, if not for anything than just for the common denominator of music and owning that for whatever it means to them, and that breaks down barriers.

**How do you reflect on your gender-bending style, when you donned menswear, in that video?** I like to have a sense of humor about everything, especially things that can have a lot of tension. A song like "Man! I Feel Like a Woman!" just smacks it dead for me. The audience issue is not something I worry about. I'm respectful to my audience and I appreciate them for relating to my music regardless of their point of view on whatever it is, whether it's politics or social issues. I'm not here to judge.

**Tell me about the first time you encountered a Shania drag queen.** I went to an imposter show in Las Vegas and it was incredible. You brought up the country world and maybe how that might be more conservative, but it's funny, three of the artists that were in the show were myself, Reba McEntire and Dolly Parton. I thought that was so wonderful. It's like, "OK, we're country artists, and we're in there!" Any artist that is, on a visual level, very expressive would make a great imposter night subject!

**What is the one thing a queen cannot go without if they truly want to feel like Shania Twain?** Probably something leopard print, and I would say a top hat. The boots, for sure!

**For gay men everywhere, 1998 was one of the best years as it was the inaugural VH1 Divas, the best and most iconic. It doesn't get any better than you, Mariah Carey, Gloria Estefan, Celine Dion, Aretha Franklin and guest performer Carole King. Of them, who are you still in touch with?** Mariah Carey. Celine Dion. We still cross paths — it's great. I always like to catch Mariah when she is live; Celine, too. It was such a wonderful group of ladies, really terrific.

**Who most lived up to the diva title during the show?** I think Mariah had the biggest hair, so probably her!

**You were second, I think.** I was! I said, "OK, I gotta look at Mariah's hair. I want to try for it to be as big as hers," because she has this naturally big, amazing hair. So I'm like, "Come on, let's go for it. I know Mariah's gonna have bigger hair than me, so I'm gonna go for it and have fun with it." She has that hair that I want, that naturally big hair with this gorgeous wave and those ringlets.

**When you all performed "Natural Woman" as your encore, I wasn't sure who was stealing the spotlight: Mariah's hair or Aretha.** I know! Nobody can kill Aretha's spotlight.

■ TWAIN Page 23

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# A very gay 'Pride'

More farce than drawing-room comedy, WTT's Austen adaptation tickles

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor  
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Truth be told, critics can grow weary of reviewing shows based on the same source material over and over. There's only so much Shakespeare, Rodgers & Hammerstein, *Nutcracker* and Moliere the human brain can withstand in a lifetime.

Among those over-exposed items in the public domain is surely Jane Austen — a masterful constructor of smart-observed social comedies in novel form that playwrights, screenwriters and librettists have exhausted for two centuries. (This year was the 200th anniversary of her death at age 41.) She only turned out six novels

plus some short stories, but even Emma became *Clueless*, and *Pride & Prejudice* became *Bridget Jones' Diary* (book, movie and sequels!). Just

how much Regency era social satire is a third millennium curmudgeon expected to endure?

The correct answer appears to be, "At least one more." For Kate Hamill's clever and fast-paced adaptation by Austen's signature opus, *Pride & Prejudice*, now at Addison's WaterTower Theatre, is a kind of exception-that-proves-the-rule that ubiquity is not a vice when accompanied by flourishes of great style.

It matters, I suppose, that the source material *is* so familiar. A play is a much nimbler medium than a novel, but one

constrained by its scenes and casting limitations. A passing knowledge of the plot points — the estrogen-heavy Bennets (Bob Hess and Wendy Walsh) have been saddled with four unmarried daughters and no assets except an estate that will pass to a cousin with Mr. Bennet's death — are trying to find marriageable material. Jane (Kate Paulsen) is the eldest beauty and prize filly in the pony show of bucolic courtship. Younger Lizzy (Jenny Ledel) is defiantly anti-marriage, embracing her plainness and affinity for reading over quadrilles and small-talk. Onto the estate

appears Mr. Darcy (John Michael Marrs), a priggish but fabulously wealthy bachelor who seems to have as much disdain for Lizzy and she him.

Of course they actually love each other, though ego makes them take two full acts to acknowledge it. The formula has been reliably employed from *Taming of the Shrew* through *Big Bang Theory*, so Austen doesn't deserve all the credit, but the idea of a dreamy, unreachable millionaire, the sisterly worry about "marrying well" and the proto-feminist idea of not settling for a man you don't love has hardly been bettered. It's a drawing-room comedy of manners that oozes primness.

But not in this version. A mere eight actors portray more than 14 characters with

the energy and ravenous timing of a farce. The actors wear a mix of Empire-waisted frocks, Reeboks and jeans; the music queues are more hip-hop than Handel, more disco than dirge. This Bennet clan resembles the Fezziwigs, not the Granthams.

Anachronisms can be hit-or-miss; the forced Mod '60s extravagance of WaterTower's *One Man, Two Guvnors* last season was so incessantly hectoring I darted at intermission faster than Napoleon leaving Russia. Here, director Joanie Schultz hits the sweet-spot with Hamill's script, which balances between bawdy Restoration comedy and *Ferris Bueller's Day Off*. There's very little winking at the audience; Ledel and Marrs play *only* Lizzy and Darcy, and with a focus that gives a classic through-line to the show. But she allows everyone else to ham it up like William Shatner on a bender.

The actors are having a ball, and the audience willing joins them. Brandon Potter in three roles — the boorish Mr. Collins, the lecherous Mr. Wickham and the catty Miss Bingley — creates three distinction scene-stealers; Justin Duncan cuts a dashing figure as Mr. Bingley and a riotously sourpussed spinster; Bob Hess' weary Mr. Bennet transforms into a dithery country maiden; and Steph Garrett emerges in Act 2 from playing the flippant Lydia to being an imperious Lady Bracknell-esque dowager. That may be the perfect metaphor



WTT does Austen as a lively, cross-dressing comedy. (Photos courtesy Jason Anderson)

for this production: It's wild... but also Wilde.



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# King of the Middle



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Out baritone Michael Chioldi makes his Dallas Opera debut — just another step following his philosophy of *carpe diem*

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

Michael Chioldi can barely remember a time before he loved to ham it up onstage. But becoming an operatic baritone? Well, that took a while longer to realize.

"I came to opera through acting," the out singer says over a coffee inside the Winspear Opera House. He liked musical theater and light operetta roles. But it was his father who foresaw a serious future in



Michael Chioldi took on the role of Abimelech — ‘who has one aria and dies’ — for the chance to make his Dallas Opera debut. (Photo courtesy Karen Almond/Dallas Opera)

opera.

“My dad said, ‘When your voice catches up with your acting, you’ll be a star,’” he recounts. Initially, the assessment stung the younger Chioldi as a criticism; now he sees it as a useful insight into a career arc that he jokingly assesses as imbuing him with the title King of the Middle.

Baritones, you see, are “middles” in many ways — the mid-range between counter-tenor and tenor at the top and bass and basso-profundo at the bottom. They are often the villains, the heavies and the “best friends” in opera, not the leading man. And Chioldi

concedes that while he doesn’t have the name recognition of, say, Paulo Szot (though he has been

included in the Barihunks fan-boy blog), he works constantly in a variety of roles.

“I’ve spent many years working at big regional houses. I just feel very fortunate, very lucky,” he says.

Chioldi has been a staple in North Texas operas for a number of years now, with four or five local productions ... all with the Fort Worth Opera, though. With Saint-Saens’ *Samson & Dalila* — which opens the Dallas Opera’s season this week — Chioldi marks his Dallas debut.

“It’s funny — sometimes you work for one company in a city and the other [company] doesn’t hire you. Opera is still one of those businesses where there’s a pecking order,” he says. Which is one reason by he took on the role of Abimelech in *Samson*. He just wrapped performing the larger role of the High Priest in another production, but accepted this part — “I have one aria in Act 1, then I die,” he jokes — for the chance to work with maestro Emmanuel Villaume and everyone else at the Winspear.

“I wanted to get to Dallas and sing my debut here,” he says. “I’d rather get onstage and in front of the Dallas Opera [artists and audiences] than to [worry about the size of the part].”

It’s all part of a journey that Chioldi has shepherded wisely, but with a sense of humor.

“When you work in the bigger companies, unless you’re a star, time is too precious so you have to be a quick study to fit in. But I had an opportunity for 10 years at [New York] City Opera to collaborate with directors and conductors.” That experience helped Chioldi explore and refine his craft... and also carve out a

specific path.

He jokes that the career of a baritone is, “we all start with Papageno [in Mozart’s *Magic Flute*] and we end with Wotan [in Wagner’s *Ring Cycle*]. And back when I was thin and pretty, I did all the very light-baritone repertoire. But as my voice grew, I cultivated my [work with] Verdi, which I love.” (In 2013, the bicentennial year of Verdi’s birth, he debuted in *five* Verdi roles in a single season.)

“I love the Verdi repertoire because he loved baritones — I am convinced he was writing for himself through the baritone voice,” Chioldi says. Verdi even special-

ized in putting baritones in leading roles: The title characters in *Macbeth* and *Rigoletto*, and the juicy lead of Iago in *Otello*, among others. But he

stresses, he’s more than content with his “middle” honorific; he has come to realize that he accomplishes more with his talent than he once imagined.

“About 10 years ago, I thought of myself, ‘I’m just a performer, just an entertainer,’ but I see it differently now,” he says. “I’ve met so many established and impressive people along the way. I’ve sung for Congress, and when these people come up and say, ‘Thank you — this let’s me do my job better,’ I realize, the arts are [more than entertainment] — they are the fabric of society.”

Chioldi shamelessly embraces the cliché that opera singers tend to be bigger, though he proudly stays fit while conceding he’s more bear than twink.

“I’ve tried to maintain my physical fitness — I’m still the most in-shape baritone for my class... and there’s no rotten mayonnaise in this hot face!” he winks about avoiding Botox. “Sometimes I’m a bit of an operatic pig, because I like the high notes. You know, you cook what you love to eat, and I have good high notes, so I go to my strengths. My timbre and color has gotten darker but the tone is still high. I’m right in the meat of my vocal prowess. I’m having a big second act.”

That second act is more than just career highlights; less than a year ago, he and his long-time partner wed in a blowout at Trinity Church on Wall Street and Broadway.

“We had a *faaabbulous* wedding,” Chioldi coos. “It was wall-to-wall with the Who’s Who of opera people and great friends and family. And, at least that day, he wasn’t King of the Middle — he was King of the World.”

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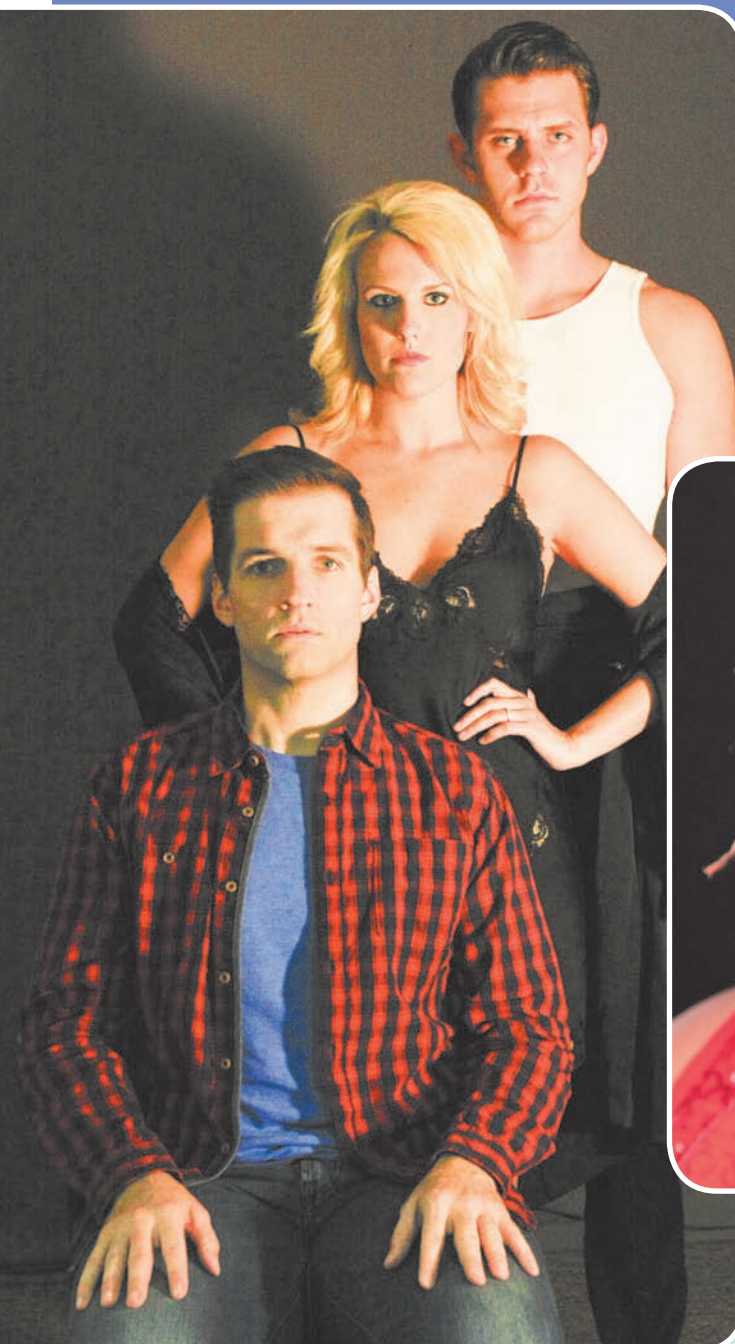


**Thursday 10.26 —  
Sunday 10.29**

### Chilling ghost story 'Haunted' get limited run in Lewisville

Barry has been living in the shadow of his parents' murder for 30 years. Now at a breaking point, and with the support of his boyfriend Kevin, Barry returns to the scene of the crime to solve this life-changing mystery. *Haunted* is a world premiere ghost story by local playwright Bruce R. Coleman, and runs for one-weekend-only in Lewisville.

**DEETS:** MCL Grand, 100 N. Charles St., Lewisville.  
OurProductionsTheatreCo.org.



**Friday 10.20**

### Denise Lee croons for you at TCC's *After Dark*

The Turtle Creek Chorale is known for making great music, but they turn the song singing over to local legend Denise Lee for one night. She will serenade attendees of *After Dark*, TCC's annual fundraiser and party. You'll enjoy cocktails, desserts and of course live music, all while supporting Dallas' storied gay men's chorus.

**DEETS:** 3015 at Trinity Groves, 3015 Gulden Lane.  
8–11 p.m. \$75–\$125. TurtleCreekChorale.com/after-dark.



There are only two Gaybingos left in 2017, and to spook you up, this month's carries a 'haunted' theme. And the Rose Room will be haunted, by an appearance by former *RuPaul's Drag Race* Season 1 contestant Tammie Brown. So grab your ghoulfriender and drag yourself out for fun and funny at this fundraiser for the Resource Center.

**DEETS:** The Rose Room inside S4,  
2911 Cedar Springs Road. 5 p.m. doors, 6 p.m. show.  
\$25–\$45, MyResourceCenter.org.

**Saturday 10.21**

### Drag Racer Tammie Brown appears at a 'Haunted' Gaybingo



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\* Bernadette Peters was originally scheduled to perform at the 2017 DSM Gala. A change in entertainment had to be made due to Ms. Peters recently being cast in the lead role of HELLO, DOLLY! on Broadway.

calendar highlights



The revue comedy show 'Forbidden Broadway,' which lovingly mocks theater, comes to the Eisemann this weekend.

ARTSWEEK

THEATER

**Adding Machine: The Musical.** A darkly comic musical adaptation of Elmer Rice's incendiary 1923 play about the effects of automation on the modern American male psyche. Directed by Blake Hackler. *Final weekend.* Theatre 3, 2800 Routh St. in the Quadrangle. Theatre3Dallas.com.

**Application Pending.** Janelle Lutz (*End of the Rainbow*) stars as 40 characters, including a kindergarten assistant thrust into the cutthroat world of upper-class pre-school admissions. Circle Theatre, 230 W. 4th St., Fort Worth. Oct. 19–Nov. 18. CircleTheatre.com.

**Blood Fest: A Play About Sibling Rivalry.** A world premiere from Mark-Brian Sonna, with an appropriately ghoulish title for Halloween. Studio Theatre at Addison Theatre Centre, 15650 Addison Road. Oct. 19–Nov. 5. MBSProductions.net.

**The Full Monty.** Uptown Players presents this story of working class men who start a strip show to raise money. Book by Terrence McNally, score by David Yazbek. Kalita Humphreys Theater, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. Oct. 20–Nov. 5. UptownPlayers.org.

**Hair.** The hippie musical. *Final weekend.* Wyly Theatre, 2400 Flora St. Through Oct. 22. DallasTheaterCenter.org.

**A Lost Leonardo.** With his artistic career in turmoil, the Renaissance master starts an association with Cesare Borgia in this comedy. Presented by Amphibian Stage Productions. 120 S. Main St., Fort Worth. Through Nov. 5. AmphibianStage.com.

**Occupant.** WingSpan Theatre opens its 20th anniversary season with a late play by multiple Pulitzer Prize-winner Edward Albee. *Final weekend.* Bath House Cultural Center, 521 E. Lawther Drive. WingSpanTheatre.com.

**Pride and Prejudice.** New adaptation of Jane Austen's classic, directed by

Joanie Schultz. *Reviewed this week.* WaterTower Theatre, 15650 Addison Road. Through Nov. 5. WaterTowerTheatre.org.

**Rent.** The 20th anniversary tour of the groundbreaking musical returns to Cowtown. Bass Performance Hall, 525 Commerce St., Fort Worth. Oct. 17–22. BassHall.com.

**Stiff.** Actress Sherry Jo Ward won two recent DFW Theater Critics Forum Awards for her solo show about her diagnoses with Stiff Person Syndrome. She brings back the show for three consecutive Tuesdays at Stage West, 821 W. Vickery Blvd., Fort Worth. StageWest.org.

COMEDY

**Forbidden Broadway: The 35th Anniversary Tour.** The comedy revue show that mocks the best of Broadway, from Phantom to Book of Mormon. Eisemann Center for Performing Arts, 2351 Performance Drive, Richardson. Through Sunday. EisemannCenter.com.

FINE ART

**Yayoi Kusama: All the Eternal Love I Have for the Pumpkins.** The DMA features the only Infinity Mirror Room of its kind in a North American collection, this tribute to the gourd by Japanese artist Yayoi Kusama. Dallas Museum of Art, 1717 Harwood St. Oct. 1–Feb. 25. DMA.org.

EXHIBITIONS

**Pumpkin Patch Village.** Dallas Arboretum, 8525 Garland Road. Through Nov. 22. DallasArboretum.org.

**State Fair of Texas.** *Final weekend.* 1300 Robert B. Cullum Blvd. BigTex.org.

HALLOWEEN

**Screams.** Annual Halloween-themed park on the Scarborough Faire grounds, 2511 FM 66, Waxahachie. Through Oct. 28. ScreamsPark.com.



**Dark Hour Haunted House.** Primetime for the best scary-creepy mansion tour in North Texas. 701 Taylor Drive, Plano. Weekends and Halloween through Oct. 31. [DarkHourHauntedHouse.com](http://DarkHourHauntedHouse.com)

**FRIDAY 10.20**  
**FUNDRAISER**

**After Dark.** Turtle Creek Chorale's annual fundraiser, a dessert-and-cocktails party with a performance by Denise Lee. 3015 at Trinity Groves, 3015 Gulden Lane. 8–11 p.m. \$75–\$125. [TurtleCreekChorale.com/after-dark](http://TurtleCreekChorale.com/after-dark).

**SATURDAY 10.21**  
**COMMUNITY**

**GayBingo.** This game and fundraising party benefits Resource Center. This month's theme is My Haunted Gaybingo, and features Drag Racer Tammie Brown. Station 4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. 5 p.m. doors, 6 p.m. show. \$25–\$45. [MyResourceCenter.org](http://MyResourceCenter.org).

**CONCERTS**

**Something Wicked This Way Comes.** The Oak Lawn Band performs a free concert of spook-tacular music for the season. Oak Lawn United Methodist Church, 3014 Oak Lawn Ave. 8 p.m. [OakLawnBand.org](http://OakLawnBand.org).

**TUESDAY 10.24**  
**FILM**

**The Haunting.** The influential Robert Wise film from 1960, in which the ghosts are never seen. 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.

**THURSDAY 10.26**  
**CABARET**

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

this week's solution

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■ **TWAIN** From Page 15

**If you did another *Divas*, what other diva would you want to sing alongside?**  
Rihanna, for sure. She's just so awesome. I love her voice; I never get tired of it. Never, never. And we hear it so much on the radio, right? She's every second song on the radio and I just never get tired of it. Even with "Love on the Brain" — I mean, it just doesn't get better than that. So, she'd definitely be on my list.

**I'm hoping for you and Taylor to team up — our two country-gone-pop queens.**  
Taylor would be a good one. She'd be a must on *Divas*, for sure. She's awesome.

She's such a great creative person and a super songwriter and really uses her brain, so it's lovely to watch her.

**Lastly, how many costume changes can gay audiences look forward to when you hit the road?** How many would a gay audience find ideal, do you think?

**At least 15.** Whoa! OK, that is a friggin' high demand. I'd have to change every two songs!

**As long as you bring out the iconic ensembles, no harm, no foul.** Gotta have a little flashback moment here and there, yeah!

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# Ask Howard

How to do the wrong thing right

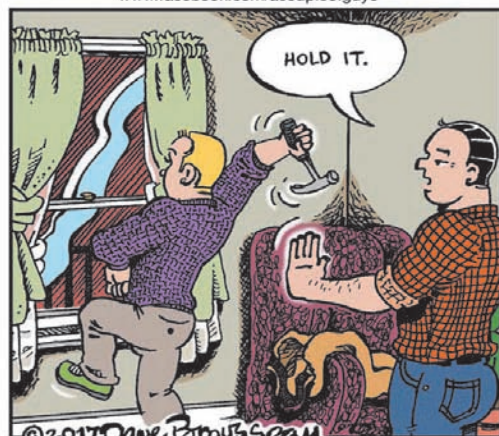
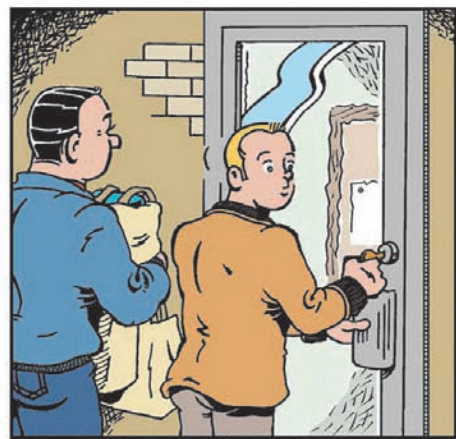
Happy nocturnal tricks-and-treats to all you diabolically dear boyz-of-the-night! Candy-ass Howard here, in keeping with the scream-worthy spirit of the season, is about to go all whistleblower on a couple of your more devilish tricks (pun!) that you play so ghoulishly on your, ahem, clientele: The “loads” of call-boy queries I regularly receive astound even jaded ol’ me, so let us plunge deep, deep into the double-entendre bowels of *caveat emptor* advertising as I lift the abominable veil of miasmic fog from the swamper Rent-A-Ramboner ploys. But fret not, shady boyz! I won’t expose *all* your demented favorites; but let’s everyone now turn rapaciously “pro” for just a moment, drop our filthy drawers, toss a few wadded Benjamins onto the hotel nightstand, and get frighteningly right to it.

**Dear Howard,**

I live on a very fixed income, which on a retired teacher’s pension is mandatory, not

optional. I don’t smoke, nor drink alcohol, I’ve never used drugs... and I’ve also *never* had a lover, or even a long-term boyfriend. I came to peace many years ago with the sober truth that I’ve never been, to phrase it kindly as possible, “a looker.” As Lincoln said, “Show me a man without vices, and I’ll show you a man without virtues.” My sole “vice” is that every couple months I’m able to afford a splurge for sex, although I’m too ashamed to rent locally; instead, I always import someone here from out-of-state for an “overnighter.”

Long story short, I’m flying in a new boy the day before Halloween — a really nice-sounding kid from Charleston, whom I’ve been emailing and texting for a couple weeks now. His ad’s headline says he’s a big “NC Buddy” and my experiences with guys from North Carolina have always gone well; it was only as I was purchasing his airfare when I stupidly realized Charleston isn’t actually *in* North Carolina?



Howard, please tell me that “NC” is oblate for, say, “Network Computer” Buddy, or “Non Competitive” Buddy, or “No Complaints” Buddy? — **T. Rex**

**Dear Trixie,**

Oh, lordy, girlene, I don’t know whether to laugh *at* you or cry *for* you. But even Howard had to do some research on this one. The news, sadly, isn’t particularly appetizing. I’d much rather report that “NC” stands for, oh, a buddy who enjoys (wink/wink!) consensually “non-consensual” twisted sex, or “negative control” S&M bedroom adventures. However, I’m afraid you’ll be experiencing thrills with your “NC Buddy” more along such sodomite-lines of obfuscation that one would, most likely, never request even an edgy “fetish” as this of his very own boyfriend/lover/spouse. In essence, Trixalicious, when Mr. Rent-A-Dick arrives at your (please, God!) fleabag motel with (no doubt) his portable rimming seat in tow, you should probably expect something just a trifle more.... um, “flavorfully homemade” for your hors d’oeuvres’ course than mere felched spooze prior to taking him out to dinner: “NC” Buddy is the abbreviation for “nature calls.” P.S. Make sure the room is well-stocked with towels!

**Dear Howard,**

I’m in my late 40s with a bit of a jellyroll/muffin-top kind of thing going on around the middle. My hair’s all taken the last chopper out of Saigon, and what few listless stragglers remain are now “melanin-challenged” ... all right, I’m closer to, like, my early ... OK, mid-50s, we’ll say. Anyhow, Howard, my point is: I haven’t been cruised by even so much as *one* single man in at least a dozen years. What little sex I get, I have to hire it. I’m scared witless about putting myself out there on Grindr,

BoyAhoy, Bender, Hornet, Scruff and the like, although most the people at my office are on them — the Millennials, in any case — but those sites are way too “shameless” for me. My generation didn’t selfie our own dick pix. So what do I do? I pay-to-play with the gay-for-pay: Whenever I go online to hire an escort, though, the “advanced search filter” lists four options of “safe sex” to choose from: 1. Always. 2. Sometimes. 3. Needs Discussion. 4. Never. Naturally, I *only* choose “always,” but what does it mean when a “safe only” escort lists for his “preferences” that he’s “friendly” to providing a “BF Experience?” Does it mean he won’t mind pretending to be my boyfriend when we’re out in public, or, does it mean that he’s friendly to a long-term relationship with just one client? — **B.M.B.**

**Dear Bamboozled Mush Brains,**

Seriously, just how big was that pile of used dildos you rode into town on? I’m one-hundred-percent presuming here that you’re one of my precious adorable, fame-at-any-cost boys, whose sole aim is but to see his “shockingly” creative, I’m-such-an-innocent-doe-among-wolves question published; if so, congratulations, Bambi! The “Boyfriend Experience” means that your very “magnetic” full of “positive” energy “safe only” hired rental cock will be positively elated to blast a massively gifted wad up your tweaking butt, sans using any condom whatsoever. That’s what his “safe only” ad, promising to provide you a fully “friendly BF Experience” you’ll never forget means.

— **Howard Lewis Russell**

*Do you (attention-seeking freaks and all) have a question — about etiquette, love, life or work — that needs a special spin from Howard? Send your problem to AskHoward@DallasVoice.com and he may answer it.*





Wayne Smith and Cathy

Making the **SCENE** the week of **Oct. 20-26**

- **Alexandre's:** **K-Marie** on Friday and Tuesday. **Bad Habits** on Saturday. **Wayne Smith** on Sunday. **Anna Fredericka Popova** on Wednesday. **Chris Chism** on Thursday.
- **Club Changes:** **Mr and Miss Goth 2018** from 9-11 p.m. on Thursday.
- **Club Reflection:** **Trinity River Bears** cookout from 4-6 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Dallas Eagle:** **United Court of the Lone Star Empire Out of Town Show** from 6-10 p.m. on Friday. **Cowboy Black and His hot truckers** calendar signing from 4-7 p.m. on Saturday.
- **Onyx:** **Central Southwest Chapter club night** on Saturday. **Lone Star boys of Leather demo party** from noon-3 p.m. **UCLSE victory party** at 3 p.m. and show at 4 p.m. on Sunday.
- **JR.'s Bar & Grill:** **Zombie Walk** on Friday.
- **Liquid Zoo:** **Wayne Smith** at 10 p.m. on Friday, Saturday and Wednesday.
- **Randi's Alternate Route 2 to 2:** **LGBT Comedy Night** at 8 p.m. on Thursday.
- **Round-Up Saloon:** **Bear Happy Hour** on Friday. **Sassy O'hara** hosts **Boys, Boots & Boxer Briefs** with cash prizes at 10 p.m. on Monday.
- **S4:** **Zombie Walk** on Friday.
- **Sue Ellen's:** **Zombie Walk** on Friday. **Mustache Envy** on Friday. **Edison** on Saturday. **Kathy & Bella** at 3:30 p.m. followed by **Jennie Dale Lord** on Sunday.
- **The Rose Room:** **Sugar Skull Soiree** hosted by **Contessa Piranha** and **Lotta Pink** benefiting GDMAF at 6:30 p.m. on Sunday.
- **TMC:** The Mining Company: **Zombie Walk** on Friday.
- **Urban Cowboy Saloon:** **Qcinema** reveals its film lineup at 6 p.m. on Friday. **The Villbergs** and **DJ Sno White** at 8 p.m. on Saturday.
- **Woody's Sports & Video Bar:** **Dallas Cowboys** at **San Francisco** at 3 p.m. on Sunday.

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

## Black Tie 30 Day Out Party at Park Place Mercedes





# Texas Latino Pride in Reverchon Park



Kathy and Kene on Cedar Springs



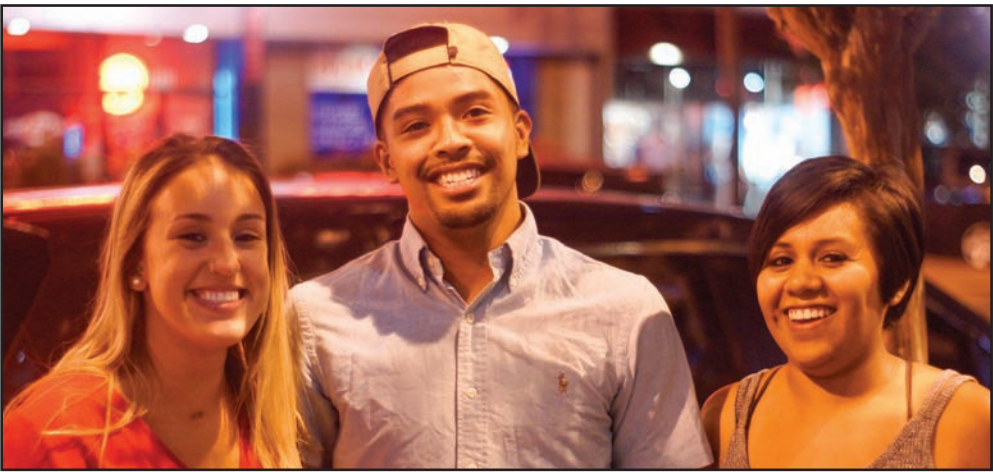
Nia and Nookie at The Hidden Door

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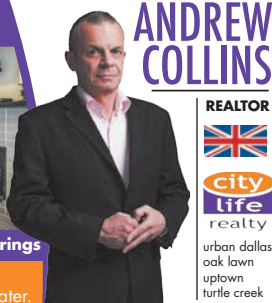
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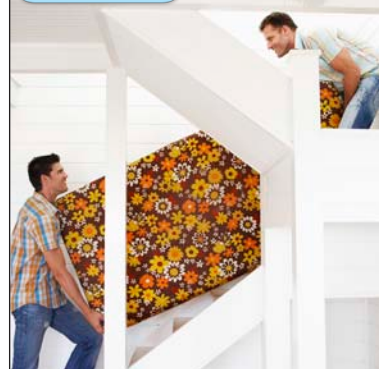
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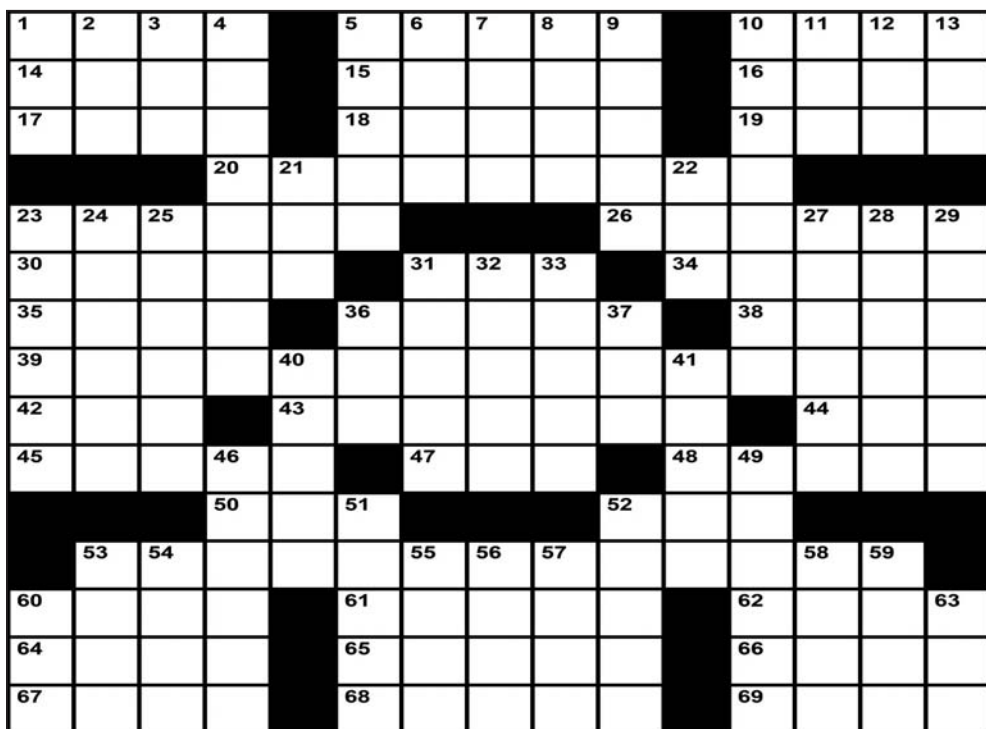
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## Suzanne Summarizes

Solution on Page 23

### Across

- 1 A shade of the color purple  
 5 What comes out of your head  
 10 Abercrombie & Fitch event  
 14 Attack with wrecking balls  
 15 Queer activist Murphy  
 16 A doctor makes you strip for it  
 17 Something the nose knows  
 18 Sample some buns, e.g.  
 19 Mounts, to Maria von Trapp  
 20 Suzanne's nickname on *Orange Is the New Black*  
 23 Not getting enough credit  
 26 Place for pinballs  
 30 *Designing Women* actress Annie  
 31 Queen in *Romeo and Juliet*  
 34 Like cornstalks that bear  
 35 *Star Trek* counselor Deanna  
 36 Shore of Palm Springs  
 38 Mulan's male persona  
 39 Start of a quote by Suzanne about autoeroticism, perhaps  
 42 Spring month for Vivien  
 43 Ferrera of *Ugly Betty*  
 44 Title for Laurence Olivier  
 45 Come out in the long run  
 47 Head job?

### Down

- 48 Metal waste  
 50 Nurse in a bar  
 52 Pitching stat  
 53 End of the quote  
 60 The Queen Elizabeth, for one  
 61 Number of sides to a gay symbol  
 62 Suffix with beef or fruit  
 64 Wilde land  
 65 *King Lear* daughter  
 66 Took a bough?  
 67 2000 Ian flick  
 68 Kelly Clarkson and Will Young, e.g.  
 69 Box tops
- 1 Solidly behind  
 2 Young chap  
 3 Actress \_\_\_ Aduba, who plays 20-Across  
 4 Pal of Romeo  
 5 Where to see Tom, Dick, or Harry  
 6 Star of *There's Something About Mary*  
 7 Stephen McCauley's *The \_\_\_ Way Out*  
 8 It comes before date?  
 9 "So long!"  
 10 Albee Pulitzer Prize work  
 11 Guns N' Roses frontman Rose  
 12 \_\_\_ dance (stripper's offering)  
 13 Printers' measures

- 21 Workers under Dr. Torres  
 22 Palindromic preposition  
 23 Working hours  
 24 Role for Anthony or reddie  
 25 Stone-faced  
 27 Like a melody, to Bernstein  
 28 Sandy of *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf*  
 29 They can cut leaves of grass  
 31 Worked one's shaft  
 32 *Hedwig and the \_\_\_ Inch*  
 33 Count contemporary of Ethel Waters  
 36 Soft in the head  
 37 Word after post or ad  
 40 Lacking life  
 41 Moraga's mother  
 46 Frequent grand slam title of Billie Jean King  
 49 One who may act up  
 51 Dish name  
 52 Makes straight  
 53 Passing fancy  
 54 Put in a position?  
 55 Where you stack wood or spank a fanny  
 56 Therefore  
 57 Ginsberg's "*In Back of the \_\_\_*"  
 58 Ankle-length skirt  
 59 Just managed, with "out"  
 60 Safe follower  
 63 Some staffers at The Advocate (abbr.)

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