

# dallasvoice

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## 2017 Teddy Bear Party

by Tammie Nash, Page 8



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Teddy Bear Party founders Jason Hanna and Joe Riggs with sons Ethan and Lucas. Photo by Tammye Nash

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## instanTEA

[DallasVoice.com/Category/InstanTea](http://DallasVoice.com/Category/InstanTea)

### Arrest made in Bianca Davenport murder

Fort Worth police have arrested 26-year-old Fayaka Dunbar in connection with the Dec. 8 murder of popular drag performer Bianca Giselle Davenport Starr. Dunbar was arrested Tuesday night, Dec. 12, and is facing one charge of capital murder.

There is no word yet on what led up to the shooting Friday morning at the Fort Worth home Davenport Starr reportedly shared with two other drag entertainers, one of whom — London Starr — was critically wounded in the incident. There is also no word yet on what other charges Dunbar may face.

According to the Tarrant County Medical Examiner's Office, Jason Bradley (Davenport's legal name), 35, died at 9:58 a.m. Dec. 8, in the living room of the residence on Rogers Avenue. Cause of death was "gunshot wounds to the torso," and manner of death is listed as homicide.

NOTE: Dallas Voice is using Davenport Starr's legal name in this report because that is how it is listed on the medical examiner's site, and because as far as we understand, Davenport-Starr was a drag performer but did not necessarily identify as a transgender woman.

— Tammye Nash

### Tamar Braxton refused entry to JR's; Caven releases statement

Tamar Braxton, sister of Toni Braxton, was refused entry into JR's Bar and Grill on Monday, Dec. 11.

"Evidently, I look like a gangster," Tamar said in a video posted to Facebook. "Here in my favorite town Dallas they have zero tolerance for black people." Tamar Braxton

Braxton is a solo recording artist who began her career in 1990 as a member of the group The Braxtons. The family reunited for the show *Braxton Family Values* in 2011.

According to posts on Facebook, Braxton was turned away by a doorman. On the video she posted, a show can be heard going on onstage in the background.

JR's Bar & Grill, has released the following statement in response:

"For more than 40 years, JR's has been a community anchor, proudly serving and entertaining people of all genders, ethnicities, sexual orientations and religions.

"Serving the community with fairness, and always committed to diversity and inclusion in a safe environment.

"To maintain that safety of our patrons and employees, we have strict guidelines that have been designed in collaboration with city and state regulators.

"Compliance with government and community is of the utmost importance and responsibility

when serving alcohol in the state of Texas.

"Our posted policies regarding entrance into JR's Bar & Grill are to both ensure the safety of all our customers and to certify that our staff are in accordance with the law when serving alcohol — without exception.

"JR's has served a vast array of communities, including residents in the Oak Lawn neighborhood, throughout Dallas, and visitors from around the world.

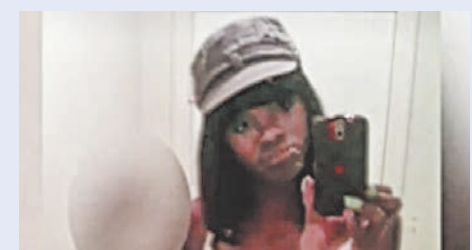
"We take immense pride in the diversity of our employees, contractors, patrons and our commitment to maintain a culture of inclusion and responsible celebration.

"In this instance, we were simply following our published procedures. It would have been a beautiful experience and honor to add Tamar Braxton to the long list of celebrities who have enjoyed JR's as a safe and inclusive entertainment venue. We are deeply saddened that she didn't experience the love that awaited her inside."

— from staff reports

### Trans woman murdered in Houston

A transgender woman was murdered in Houston on Wednesday, Dec. 13. Brandie Seals is the 28th trans person killed in the U.S. this year and



Brandie Seals

the fourth in Texas.

The murder took place in the Sunnyside neighborhood, which is south of I-610 and west of Hobby Airport.

According to a report on Houston's Fox 26, she was in her car and shot. Witnesses heard at least six bullets.

The Fox report repeatedly dead-named and misgendered Seals, although it did identify her as transgender. A Houston police detective identified Seals as "a man in women's clothing."

— David Taffet

### Jones wins in Alabama

Former prosecutor Doug Jones won the special election to replace Jeff Session as U.S. senator from Alabama, defeating anti-LGBT former state Supreme Court Chief Justice — and accused pedophile — Roy Moore by a razor-thin margin.

Although Republican leaders in Congress and the National Republican Party had pulled away from Moore when the Washington Post first published reports that Moore had allegedly dated and had sexual contact with teenage girls, one as young as 14, when he was a county prosecutor in his 30s, in the final days before the election Donald Trump came out full force in favor of Moore, calling on Alabamians to elect him to give the GOP a stronger majority in the Senate to allow him to enact more of his right-wing agenda.

— Tammye Nash



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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:** David Taffet hosts the second annual **Jewish Music Hour Totally Inappropriate Christmas Show with Horrible Hanukah Songs To Get You Out of the Holiday Spirit** at noon on Sunday on 89.3 KNON-fm followed by **Lambda Weekly** at 1 p.m. on 89.3 KNON-FM. This week's guests are from the **Alzheimer's Association**; **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 3918 Harry Hines Blvd.; **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 3918 Harry Hines Blvd.; **Fuse-Connect** 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.

## DECEMBER

- **Dec. 15: Holiday at the Heard**

Heard Natural Science Museum and Wildlife Sanctuary brings the beauty of the holiday season into nature at 6:30 p.m. at 1 Nature Place, McKinney.

- **Dec. 16: The Teddy Bear Party**

Teddy bears for Children's Health from 7 p.m.-1 a.m. at Hall of State, Fair Park. Tickets are \$50/\$75 the day of the event, available online at [TeddyBearParty.org](http://TeddyBearParty.org) and at the door. For information, see the story on Page 8.

- **Dec. 16: Introduction to BDSM**

Leather Masters and H.O.M.E. sponsor a class covering the basics of the BDSM lifestyle, with topics including history, etiquette, dominant and submissive dynamics and playing safe, sane and consensual. The class takes places from 1-3 p.m. at Leather Masters, 3000 Main St. Cost is \$10, and tickets are available at [Leather Masters](http://LeatherMasters.com) or online at [leathermasters.com](http://leathermasters.com).

- **Dec. 16: Champagne brunch at Legacy Cottage**

To celebrate the new inspiration garden at 11:30 a.m. at Legacy Cottage, 828 S. Tyler St.

- **Dec. 17: Tribute to Bianca Davenport Starr**

Hooky Bar, 2800 Bledsoe St. in Fort Worth, will host a tribute to the late Bianca Giselle Davenport Starr, Miss Gay Texas State At Large 2017, beginning at 10 p.m. For information call the club at 817-945-2839

- **Dec. 17: Lessons & Carols**

The Cathedral Arts Choral Artists and selected readers unfold the Christmas narrative with familiar choral settings and scriptural accounts. Organ prelude at 3:30 p.m. and service at 4 p.m. at St. Matthews Cathedral Arts, 5100 Ross Ave.

- **Dec. 17: Pack the Pantry**

Christmas Edition from 8:30-11 a.m. at Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road.

- **Dec. 17: Christmas at Cathedral Holiday Concert**

Christmas music from the Cathedral of Hope Music Ministries, including the Sanctuary Choir, Orchestra, Handbell Choir, and Voices of Hope at 7:30 p.m. at Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road.

- **Dec. 21: Holiday Mixer**

From 5:45-8 p.m. at Resource Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road.

- **Dec 25: Christmas**



Hooky Bar in Fort Worth will host a show paying tribute to the late Bianca Giselle Davenport on Sunday. See listings for details.

- **Dec 26: GALA Family & Friends**

Social evening with 10 percent of proceeds going to GALA Youth from 5-8:30 p.m. at Durkin Pizza, 8930 TX121, McKinney.

- **Dec. 31: New Year's Eve**

- **Dec. 31: New Year's Eve @Nerdvana**

AMD sponsors a New Year's Eve party @Nerdvana, 5757 Main St., No. 112, from 9 p.m.-2 a.m.

## JANUARY 2018

- **Jan. 1: Happy New Year**

- **Jan. 2: 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.

- **Jan. 3: Wine Walk**

Cedar Springs Merchants Association presents the monthly first Wednesday Wine Walk. Buy glass in front of the Round-Up Saloon from 6-9p.m.

- **Jan. 11: PFLAG Dallas**

PFLAG meets the second Thursday of every month from 7-9 p.m. at Northaven United Methodist Church, 11211 Preston Road. 972-849-0383. [PFLAGDallas@outlook.com](mailto:PFLAGDallas@outlook.com).

- **Jan. 12-15: DSGA hosts Sin City Classic**

Different Strokes Golf Association hosts the golf portion of the Sin City Classic in Las Vegas. The two-day tournament one-day fun round takes place at Bali Hai Golf Club. Pricing and info at [SinCityClassic.org](http://SinCityClassic.org). Early registration ends Dec. 15.

- **Jan. 18: Toast to Life mixer**

From 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Zatar Lebanese Tapas Bar, 2825 Commerce St.

- **Jan 20: Slumber Party 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).

## FEBRUARY

- **Feb. 8: PFLAG Dallas**

PFLAG meets the second Thursday of every month from 7-9 p.m. at Northaven United Methodist Church, 11211 Preston Road. 972-849-0383. [PFLAGDallas@outlook.com](mailto:PFLAGDallas@outlook.com).

- **Feb. 10: Love Equality**

Benefit for Equality Texas at 8 p.m. at 7 for Parties, 150 Turtle Creek Blvd Suite 107.

- **Feb. 14: Valentine's Day**

- **Feb. 17: Gold Medal 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.

• **Feb. 17: Krewe to Cure Arthritis-Mardi Gras Ball**

From 6-11 p.m. at The Hall on Dragon Street, 1500 Dragon St.

• **Feb. 20: Early voting begins**

Early voting for the March primary runs Feb. 20-March 2. Vote at any early voting location in your county.

**MARCH**

• **March 4: The Women's Chorus of Dallas**

TWCD performs with TWU and DISD singers at 7:30 p.m. at City Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. TWCD.org.

• **March 6: Democratic and Republican primaries**

Vote in your precinct polling location only.

• **March 8: PFLAG Dallas**

PFLAG meets the second Thursday of every month from 7-9 p.m. at Northaven United Methodist Church, 11211 Preston Road. 972-849-0383. PFLAGDallas@outlook.com.

• **March 17: Leprechaun 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.

• **March 23-25: Turtle Creek Chorale**

The Turtle Creek Chorale presents Anthems, the songs that shaped the movements, at 7:30 p.m. on Friday-Saturday and 2:30 p.m. on Sunday at City Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. TurtleCreekChorale.com.

• **March 24: Green Tie for Green Haus**

The Gay and Lesbian Fund for Dallas event benefits Shared Housing Center from 7-10 p.m. at 7 for Parties, 150 Turtle Creek Blvd. www.GLFD.org/greentie.

**APRIL**

• **April 7: No Tie Dinner**

Benefits AIDS Services Dallas from 7-11 p.m. at the Frontiers of Flight Museum, 6911 Lemmon Ave. \$75-150.

• **April 12: PFLAG Dallas**

PFLAG meets the second Thursday of every month from 7-9 p.m. at Northaven United Methodist Church, 11211 Preston Road. 972-849-0383. PFLAGDallas@outlook.com.

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# A Bear-y good time

7th annual Teddy Bear Party is Saturday at the Hall of State

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

**W**hat started out as a Christmas tree decorating party has since become a much-anticipated holiday gala that puts thousands of dollars into the tills of local nonprofits and hundreds of teddy bears into the arms of sick children.

"That first year, I had a party at my house, a Christmas tree decorating party," explains Jason Hanna, one of the founders of the annual Teddy Bear Party. "I invited some of my friends over, and everyone had a really good time."

When the holiday season rolled around again, Hanna started planning for his next party, "but this time, I wanted to have a good reason for a party," he said. So he decided to turn it into a donation party for Toys For Tots.

And the party grew.

Then came November 2011, the month that Hanna's mother, Kaye Hanna, was diagnosed with stage four lung cancer.

"My mother loved kids dearly, and she loved being able to do things for kids," Hanna said. "So I decided to change the party. I decided I wanted to turn it into a teddy bear

drive in her honor." He chose to donate the teddy bears to Children's Health hospital.

So he put out the word, and the RSVPs started rolling in. Before long, the guest list had grown to 150-175 people, "a lot larger crowd than my house could accommodate," Hanna said. "That was the first year that we moved to an outside venue."

His mother, Hanna said, was determined to make it to that party, despite the debilitating effects of the chemotherapy treatments she was undergoing. She made it to the party, but it was the last event she was able to attend. Kaye Hanna died just three-and-a-half months after first being diagnosed.

But the party she inspired lives on, in grand style. Each year, the Teddy Bear Party is held on a Saturday night in December, and the next morning, party founders, and anyone else who wants to volunteer, gather to count the donated teddy bears, load them up and caravan over to Children's Health to deliver them.

"Since 2011, the event has taken on a life

of its own," Jason Hanna said. "We had 225 people in 2011, what we think of as the first official Teddy Bear Party. And every year since then, we've averaged 450 to 600 people attending."

Hanna said he chose to make the event a Teddy Bear Drive to honor his mother and brighten the lives of sick children in part because his mother loved children so, but also because he had always hoped to have children of his own some day. A little more than three years ago, that dream came true when he and his husband, Joe Riggs, became the parents of two boys, Ethan and Lucas, thanks to a surrogate mother.

And Hanna got to see first hand the benefit of Children's Health's teddy bear program when Lucas, at age 9 months, had to have an out-patient surgical procedure at that very hospital.

"As he was waking up, they gave him a stuffed puppy. He brought it home and, ironically enough, Ethan is the one who has become attached to it," Hanna said. "Ethan takes it with him almost everywhere he goes. It's an absolute requirement when his bedtime comes around every night. He uses that puppy as his pillow when he sleeps."

"It's interesting that something meant to comfort Lucas has become Ethan's core comfort item," he said.

This year's party marks yet another time of growth and changes. Where in previous years the party has been held at venues in and around the

Oak Lawn gayborhood, this year's event is moving across town, to the Hall of State at Fair Park.

"This will be our first time at this venue, and we are really looking forward to it," Hanna said. "It was recommended due to the architecture, the history, the artwork as well as the location."

"Moving it out of the Oak Lawn-Cedar Springs pocket makes the party more of a destination event," he continued. "And we feel like the Hall of State is perfect for the entertainment we are bringing in, for the corporate lounges we are setting up for our sponsors. And it's a perfect place to display vehicles from Park Place Maserati. They've been a sponsor since the first Teddy Bear Party, and this year they are bringing in four Maserati vehicles to have on display at the entrance to the venue."

(Other sponsors are listed on the Teddy Bear Party website, [TeddyBearParty.org](http://TeddyBearParty.org).)

**BEAR**, Page 12

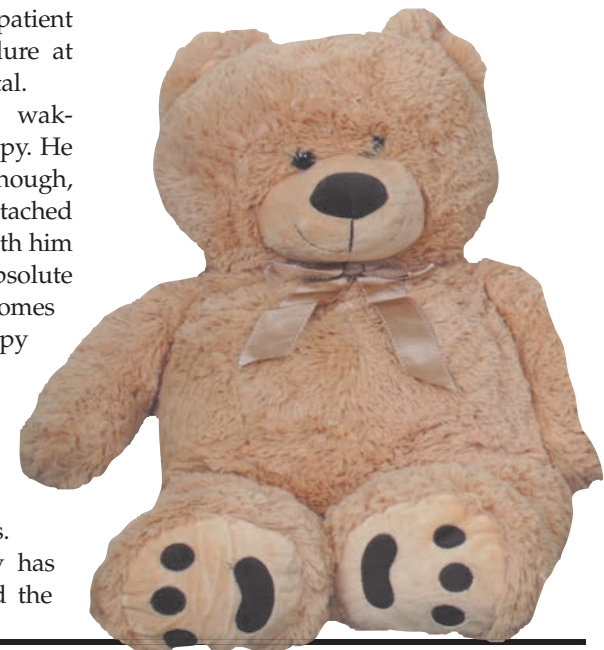
## 7th Annual Teddy Bear Party

Saturday, Dec. 16, at the Hall of State in Fair Park, 3939 Grand Ave.

Doors open at 8 p.m., Kristine W performs at 11 p.m.

Admission requires a ticket and a 24-inch teddy bear. Tickets are \$50 in advance, available online at [TeddyBearParty.org](http://TeddyBearParty.org). Tickets the day of the event, online and at the door, are \$75.

Teddy Bear loading and delivery begins at 11 a.m. on Sunday morning, Dec. 17, at the Hall of State.





# New HIV clinics open

Abounding Prosperity, Prism Health open new South Dallas facilities

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer  
taffet@dallasvoice.com

**A**n arson fire on July 7 helped set Abounding Prosperity on a new course. On World AIDS Day, the South Dallas AIDS organization opened a “bridge clinic” that will help its clients get into treatment faster than ever.

When Abounding Prosperity opened its original community center, founder Kirk Myers rented a house across the street from Peabody Clinic, operated by Prism Health North Texas (then known as AIDS Arms). From its community center, Abounding Prosperity did HIV testing and counseling and conducted groups for people newly diagnosed with the virus.

But most importantly, Myers walked new clients across the street to Peabody Clinic to introduce them to the medical staff and get his clients into care.

Services expanded and Abounding Pros-

perity rented a second building a few blocks away on Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard. The agency then began working with additional doctors and clinics across the city and won large grants recognizing the success of its work.

But the fire was a game-changer for the organization.

Although video taken by cameras at Peabody Clinic showed a man pouring gasoline on and around the building — and on himself, briefly catching his clothes on fire — police have not yet apprehended the arsonist, nor have they determined a motive. Sure, this may have been an anti-gay or anti-HIV hate crime, but police theorized the suspect actually got the wrong building and that his intended target was a house a few blocks away.

After the fire, AP quickly found and rented a space in an historic building on MLK Jr. Boulevard, just a few blocks from the remaining office. They renovated the



Kirk Myers cuts the ribbon on the new Abounding Prosperity Community Center as Zach Thompson and Dr. Chrisette Dharma watch. (David Taffet/ Dallas Voice)

space in time to cut the ribbon on the new facility on Dec. 1 — World AIDS Day.

The new Abounding Prosperity Community Center includes a “bridge clinic” run by Dr. Chrisette Dharma. Clients who test positive will receive three months of care to begin treatment on HIV medication before transferring to Prism Health, AIDS Healthcare Foundation, Parkland or another doctor or clinic for ongoing medical care.

## Prism Health North Texas

Since the fire, not only has Abounding

Prosperity relocated its community center, Prism Health has relocated its Peabody Clinic as well.

The new South Dallas Clinic, at 4922 Spring Ave. off Dolphin Road, is in a facility formerly occupied by Children’s Health.

Prism Health’s Tori Hobbs said renovating Peabody would have required completely rebuilding the facility from the ground up. The new location only needed a retrofit with new exam tables, computers and updated equipment.

Although the new building isn’t that much bigger than the old facility, the layout and patient flow is improved compared to the previous clinic space.

“We can see twice as many patients,” Hobbs said.

The new South Dallas Clinic has confidential office space, on-site behavioral healthcare and facilities to do research trials. Until the move, Peabody patients had to go to the Oak Cliff Clinic to participate in drug and other trials and for counseling care.

Because of the additional space, patients can usually be seen the same day they call for appointments.

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Jeff Roberts and Kellye Tallent show off some of LimeBike's inventory. (David Taffet/ Dallas Voice)

# Getting there gets easier

LimeBike wants to be a solution to Dallas' mobility problems and help reduce the area's carbon footprint

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer  
taffet@dallasvoice.com

**L**ocally, people have burned 2.3 million calories riding LimeBikes since the bright-lime-green-colored bikes were put on the streets of Dallas in August. That's the equivalent of working off

4,085 Big Macs.

Currently LimeBike has 2,600 bicycles on Dallas streets (and bike trails, sidewalks and medians) — probably more by now. By the end of the year, the company plans to have 5,000 bike deployed around the city.

Just a few years ago, Fort Worth pulled ahead of Dallas in the battle to be area bike friendly by adding a number of docking stations — racks where bicycles could be picked up and returned.

But LimeBike's Dallas operations manager, Jeff Roberts, says that now, that model is "antiquated."

Docking stations are fine for someone who wants to go for a bike ride, he explained, but not for people using bicycles as a form of transportation.

First, those docking stations cost host cities a fortune in infrastructure charges, he said. LimeBike and its three local competitors cost Dallas nothing.

Bike shares like LimeBike can be picked up almost anywhere in the central part of the city, then dropped off at the rider's final destination, wherever that is. So if a DART station is just a mile or two too far from the destination, that person can rent a bike to cover that distance.

Car in the shop? Check the app to find the

closest location someone has parked a bike and pick it up to get home or to the office. Just want to go for a bike ride? Check the app.

The first step in using LimeBike, Roberts explained, is downloading the app. Each bike is equipped with GPS, so the app shows where the closest bikes are.

Find a bike and point the phone at the QR code located in three locations on the bike. That unlocks the latch on the back wheel, and you are off.

When you are done, press down the lever near the rear wheel to lock the tire. That signals the app that your ride is done.

LimeBike charges \$1 per half hour. Frequent riders can purchase 100 rides for \$30, and anyone with a valid .edu email address rides for half price.

If bikes are being dropped where no one is picking them up, Roberts said, GPS tells him exactly where those bikes are, and he sends out a team to round them up and reposition them.

The LimeBike app has info for the rider as well as for the company. For instance, when the rider is done, the app tells them how far they traveled, how long the trip took them, how many calories they burned during the ride and the carbon savings from that trip.

Vandalism has been a surprisingly minor issue, Roberts said, and theft has been nonexistent. Bikes may be stolen, but Roberts said he knows exactly where they've been taken because of the GPS system.

Only about 1 percent of the bikes have been damaged in accidents or vandalized. Roberts said he expects even that small figure to drop as customers get better at how and where to drop the bikes since, some damage is due to bikes falling over or being hit by cars after they're parked.

Roberts said riders aren't allowed to leave bikes where they would block sidewalks or other rights-of-way. The best place to park them, he added, is on medians and out of traffic.





Roberts called bike sharing “a solution for mobility” in large cities, but even he’s been surprised at how far and wide his bikes have been taken. A number of people have picked up a bike in Dallas, taken the TRE to Fort Worth and rode from Intermodal Station. Since LimeBike doesn’t have an agreement with Fort Worth — yet — the company heads across the river to pick those bikes up themselves.

Not everyone in Dallas is sold on the idea of dropping bikes wherever you end up. Roberts said he gets complaints from some properties about bikes being left on their grounds. But then, on the other hand, he gets *more* calls asking for bikes to be placed nearby.

And, he said, he’s happy to comply with either type of request.

LimeBike’s founders got the idea from China and founded the company in San Mateo, Calif. in January. They’re already in 25 markets.

In flat, beach areas, the bikes are equipped with just one speed. For hillier cities — like Dallas — the bikes come with three-speed, handlebar gearshifts. And for anyone laughing about the idea of Dallas being “hilly” — well, travel the city on a bike before you laugh.

For truly hilly cities, like Seattle, Lime-

BIKE, Page 12

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Bike has a third model with eight gears.

Flat tires should be a constant problem for a company with a fleet soon to number 5,000 locally, but LimeBikes are equipped with solid rubber tires.

LimeBike distributed its first bikes in Oak Lawn, downtown and Lower Greenville. Bishop Arts sees so many bike visitors, special parking is available. As more bikes arrive, they'll be spread farther and wider around the city, especially at hubs like DART stations and transfer points.

The company rented a large warehouse south of Deep Ellum. The huge facility is mostly empty now, but Roberts said the plans are for it to be a distribution point regionally and for the East Coast until the company establishes itself there. Houston is the next Texas city LimeBike where expects to open.

LimeBike actively recruits a diverse workforce especially in the LGBT community, which includes a large part of the Dallas team. They're part of Out in Technology and do targeted outreach to LGBT student groups.

Roberts said there are several reasons to use LimeBike and his company's outreach to the LGBT community is just one. The bike, itself, he said, is simply better built than those of his competitors and has more features.



Kellye Tallent takes a LimeBike for a test ride. (David Taffet/ Dallas Voice)

The seat can be raised and lowered farther than those on competitor's bikes and can be done with the flip of a lever — no tools required.

The lights run on a solar battery located in the basket. A cell phone mount adjusts for the variety of sizes.

But Roberts' number one reason to try LimeBike first may be the most important.

"We have the biggest basket," he said.

There's another "first" happening this year, too. The Perry Twins DJs will be there to provide music throughout the evening, but for the first time in Teddy Bear Party history, founders are bringing in a special music guest to perform.

"Kristine W will be there performing live," Hanna said. "She goes onstage at 11 p.m., along with her dancers. And once she performs, the event will transition from the usual cocktail party to more of a dance party vibe.

"In the past, people would come to the party around 8:30 or 9, stay a couple of hours and then wind up at The Strip to go dancing," Hanna explained. "This year, our goal was to make it a destination for the entire evening, to start with a cocktail party and end with a dance party."

Then at 11 a.m. Sunday, founders and volunteers return to the venue to load up the stuffed animals and take them to Children's Health, where a hospital administrator will be on hand to accept the donations and explain the teddy bear program.

To make that even more fun, Hanna said, Kristine W will be helping with the loading

and delivery of the teddy bears, too.

Tickets to the event are \$50 in advance, available online. At midnight tonight (Friday, Dec. 15), the price goes to \$75. Tickets will be available at the door, too.

Because organizers always bring in enough corporate sponsorships to cover all the costs of the party, Hanna said, 100 percent of the proceeds from ticket sales is divided between the Teddy Bear Party's beneficiary organizations. This year, those beneficiaries are Equality Texas, the Family

Equality Council, Stand Up To Cancer, Rainbow Roundup and The Trevor Project. And because The Teddy Bear Party is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, donations — including the ticket purchase

— are tax deductible.

"It's so great to see our list of sponsors growing each year and to see previous sponsors so eager to sign on again," Hanna said. "But the best thing is knowing that we can come together to do something to help the worthwhile organizations that are our beneficiaries and to help the children in the hospital who need a little extra cheer at the holidays. And I think this is going to be the best year yet."

### Teddy Bear Party Founders

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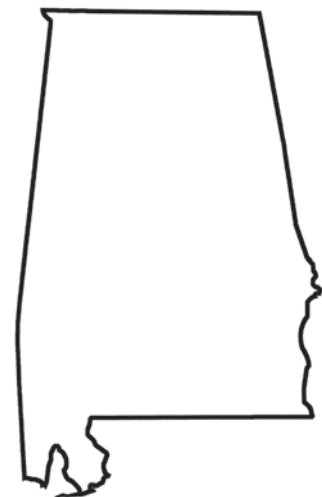
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# Lessons out of Alabama



I spent much of Tuesday evening, Dec. 12, in a state of panic, watching as the results of Alabama's special election came trickling in. My stomach was in knots at the prospect of Roy Moore — the man twice kicked out of his position as chief justice of his state's Supreme Court for refusing to follow the rule of law — replacing Jefferson Beauregard Sessions III as a U.S. senator from Alabama.

When I first opened up the New York Times live election results web page, Democrat Doug Jones, the former federal prosecutor who had prosecuted two members of the Ku Klux Klan for the roles in 1963 church bombing in Birmingham that killed four young black girls, was a tiny bit ahead of Roy Moore, the Republican who has been accused of "dating" and having sexual contact with teenage girls — one as young as 14 — when he was an assistant district attorney in his 30s.

(Let me take a minute to point something out: Roy Moore has been accused of having behaved inappropriately with teenage girls when he was in his 30s. He has denied that. However, he wrote in his own autobiography, released in 2005, that he knew the first time he saw Kayla Kisor, now his wife, performing in a dance recital that she would be "a special person in my life." She was 16 or 17 then; he was 30 or 31. Anyway, back to this week's election.)

Then, a few minutes later I refreshed the page and felt sick to my stomach when I saw that Moore was in the lead. The Times' website had more than just the reported numbers, though. They had some in-depth analysis that kept assuring me Jones was going to end up winning.

I was still feeling pretty queasy, though. Even after the Times and the Associated Press and others had officially called the race for Jones, I wasn't really at ease. That didn't

come until some time later, when I was SURE, for real sure, that Jones had won. I almost cried in relief. I am sure there were plenty of people who actually did cry in relief.

So today as I write this, less than 24 hours later, I am still basking in the glory of Jones' victory. For once, good won over evil. The homophobic, racist, right-wing extremist pedophile will not be serving in the U.S. Senate. I am elated. I know a lot of other people are, too.

But I also can already feel the elation beginning to fade. Why? Because Doug Jones won by a margin of only 1.7 percent.

Because, as Mikel Jollett tweeted on Wednesday, even after Roy Moore said gay people should be put in jail, that this country was better off under slavery, that Muslims have no place in the public life of this country and even after he was outed as a serial pedophile, the Republican National Party endorsed him and funded his campaign.

Because 54 percent of Alabamians ages 45 and older who voted Tuesday voted for Moore. Because 56 percent of fathers and 32 percent of mothers who voted voted for Moore. Because 25 percent of voters identifying as moderate and 74 percent identifying as only "somewhat conservative" voted for Moore.

That's one of the most important lessons we — as liberals or progressives or just-not-right-wing-assholes or whatever we want to call ourselves — must take away from this election is that although we won, we won by only the thinnest of



**Tammye Nash**  
From Where I Stand

razor-thin margins.

The pendulum swung our way this week. Let's grab hold tightly and make sure it doesn't swing back to the other extreme in November 2018.

But there is another, equally important lesson we must take to heart.

In a conversation this morning with my friend Buster Spiller, I quoted author J.K. Rowling, who tweeted after the election that Roy Moore was right; the outcome of the vote was in God's hands. Moore just didn't know God was a black woman. It was a nod to the fact that black women voted for Jones by a margin of 97 percent to 3 percent. Among black men who voted, Jones won 92 percent to 7 percent.

Jones would not have won without those votes.

But Buster turned it around and pointed out to me that only 18 percent of those who voted Tuesday were black women, and only another 12 percent were black men. In other words, a full 65 percent of those who voted in this election were white men and women. So while only 32 percent of white women voted for Jones — a statistic that, quite frankly, turns my stomach — without that 32 percent, Moore would have won.

There's your lesson: No one group won this battle alone. No one group will win this war alone.

Those of us who oppose racism and homophobia and xenophobia and misogyny and hatred and discrimination of any and all kinds must put aside the pettiness and selfishness that has divided us and fight together. And we have a long way to go.

Stand fast, my friends. Stand strong. And stand together. It's the only path to victory in the end. ■

*Tammye Nash is managing editor of the Dallas Voice. She is also a proud member of The Resistance.*



# Getting to know Jose Llana

The star of 'The King & I' on being out, Asian and visible

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor  
jones@dallasvoice.com

It's been more than a decade since Jose Llana made Broadway history as the first speller in the cast of *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* to misspell a word ... only to explain, the reason why via one of William Finn's signature songs: "My Unfortunate Erection," about how the teen boy he was playing, Chip Tolentino, couldn't concentrate due to an embarrassing adolescent woody.

## THE KING & I

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"I always like to bring up that, officially, the title of that song is 'M.U.E.' Like ['Dance 10, Looks 3' from *A Chorus Line*], Finn saves the joke," Llana laughs over the phone. (It's obvious other reviewers have pointed this out for him before.) "Still, it is one of my signature songs, though obviously one I can't sing everywhere — it's a hard song to sing out of context."

Musically, it might seem a long way to go from frank teenaged angst to the incomparable melodic firepower of Rodgers & Hammerstein... which is exactly what Llana is doing now, starring as the King in the national tour of *The King & I*. So, which is better as a performer: William Finn or R&H?

"I think you have to like both," Llana says. "Rodgers & Hammerstein is arguably the foundation of what American musical theater is based on. I grew up watching *The Sound of Music* and *Oklahoma*, but when I came out as a senior in high school, one of the first pieces of art that made me think there were other people out there like me was [Finn's] *Falsettos*."



Embracing the classic and the evolutionary, the traditional and the groundbreaking, is nothing unusual for Llana. As a gay Filipino immigrant with an enviable resume, Llana has straddled diverse worlds throughout his career. Before *Spelling Bee* opened in 2005, he played one of the leads in a tribute concert to Finn ...

a role not written for an Asian actor. Now, he tours (following a Broadway run) as perhaps the most famous Asian character in theatrical history. And this path has made Llana a fiercely passionate advocate — for race-blind casting, as well as for gay acceptance.

"I'm actually proud [of being an Asian

acting in *The King & I*]. You can't have a conversation about racial casting in American theater and TV and film without acknowledging that it's directly related to the history of immigration to this country. I came to the U.S. in 1979 as a 3-year-old, but now there is a much bigger population of a casting pool — bigger than there was in the 1940s and '50s when *The King & I* was cast. That excuse is harder to make today. As much as I love Yul Brynner, I am proud I am playing the King and reclaiming it. It's empowering."

And Llana admits that, with all their hummable, orchestral songs and solid book-style musical structure, R&H were vastly ahead of their time as progressive artists: of their output of 11 musicals, fully half deal in some ways with racial and social justice.

"People forget that Rodgers and Hammerstein were both very liberal people for the time period — they were the Lin-Manuel Miranda of the 1950s. *Flower Drum Song* [set in Chinatown] was their only contemporary show, and they were writing about 1950s San Francisco — let's talk about racism right now. They [wrote] strong-willed, outspoken women fighting against the norm of acceptable behavior. Bart Sher [the director of this tour] really wanted to bring up feminist tones in our production, because they were there in the script. The song 'Getting to Know You' — it's all about race relations! 'We don't know each other, now we're friends.' It's a liberal dream! Tell a story with some catchy tunes, but it's really about accepting people who are different from us and aren't necessarily bad. That's the genius of their work."

Being out about his ethnicity as well as his orientation is practically a mission for Llana. He fights stereotypes with his art.

"Representation means everything," he says. "I've benefited from open-minded casting directors and directors [open to] non-traditional casting. And I hate it when people use it against us — 'If you can play Billy Bigelow, then why can't I play the King of Siam?' But it's not the same. The stereotype is that Asians are the polite minority. But every city [we go to], looking out into the audience and seeing young Asian-American kids looking back? It means a lot to see yourself represented onstage."

Llana, friendly and smart, even welcomes a serious discussion about the generic term Asian when applied to people of different Eastern heritages. For instance, when he and Tony winner Lea Salonga were in *Flower Drum Song*, they were two Filipinos playing Chinese.

"I welcome that kind of criticism, because it means people are talking about



race,” he enthuses. “I’m happy to defend it. People are always guilty of assuming that you have to handle your public with kid gloves. But polite conversation kills opportunity for moral growth. My mom and dad have always been outspoken liberal people. They love having a gay son and an engineer daughter, which is why I

am always at the center of uncomfortable conversations!”  
So how does he, as an out gay man, feel about “stealing” the role of the uber-het-ero King of Siam from a “qualified” straight actor? Llana laughs.  
“I have a hard time sleeping at night,” he jokes, “but I manage.” ■

STAGE REVIEW: ‘FADE’



A Mexican-born novelist named Lucia (Melisa Pereyra) decides to “slum” it by accepting a staff writing job on a network cop show featuring a Latina lead, only all the writers are middle-aged white men. Lucia knows nothing of script-writing and disparages not only her colleagues but the medium, believing she’s faking her way long enough to pay off student loans and credit card debt so she can finally write her second novel. Lucia starts up a conversation (in Spanish) with the only other brown face in the building, the janitor Abel (Franco Gonzalez), feeling they must be sympatico: After all, both are Hispanics (or is it Latinos?) givin’ it to The Man. Abel bristles initially at the presumed connection (his family is Mexican, but he was born in L.A., and speaks uninflected English at work), but Lucia wears him down, probing into his life. But is she being social or doing research?

*Fade*, by Tanya Saracho, is a two-hander that wears its theme like a brightly-colored serape — Lucia is all squishy politically-correct liberalism, but just as judgmental, and just as quick to stereotype, as the well-heeled male assholes in the writers’ room. She’s not a pleasant woman, and despite her insecurities, difficult to sympathize with. She’s coy, falsely self-deprecating (Abel calls her a *fresa* — a bougie rich girl — which she balks at, but

we know it’s true), insufferable, tone-deaf and flirtatious. (At one point, she spontaneously, unexpectedly and unwelcomely kisses Abel; if a male writer had done that to the help, we would perceive this story in a much darker light.)

There are many details that don’t ring true, not the least of which is a framed cover of Lucia’s novel, instead of the novel itself, which she seems obsessed with (I don’t know a single writer who fetishizes a book cover instead of the book itself) and the very predictable telegraphing of how Lucia’s fashions and diction change as she becomes part of the establishment. There’s also a key but predictable plot turn (the play runs nearly two hours, without intermission, which is way too long) where Lucia’s immorality offends everyone, yet she can’t bring herself to apologize, which only cements our distaste for her. Pereyra does little to humanize her; her acting style approximates the excesses of a telenovela. Gonzalez, however, carries himself with aplomb and dignity; he’s a very watchable actor. It’s too bad he’s stuck in an unsubtle social commentary without any surprises.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

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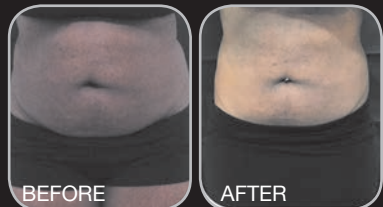
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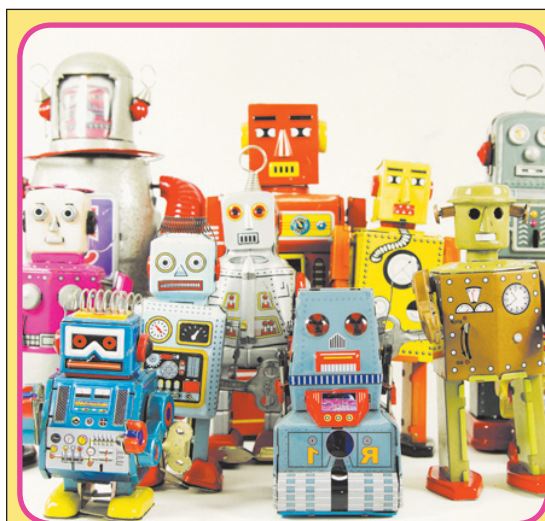
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# The show must go on

'The Last Jedi' stumbles, but only a little;  
being a sucker for 'The Greatest Showman'

**ARNOLD WAYNE JONES** | Executive Editor

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



Mark Hamill returns as Luke Skywalker, above, in 'Last Jedi;' Hugh Jackman dazzles as 'The Greatest Showman.' below

A friend of mine — a huge *Star Wars* fan — mildly griped that while he liked the last film in the series' canon, *The Force Awakens*, he found it basically a remake of the one that started it all, now called *Episode IV: A New Hope*. Assuming he's right, then the latest entry, *Star Wars Episode VIII: The Last Jedi* could probably be characterized as a remake of *The Empire Strikes Back*, with bits of *The Return of the Jedi* thrown in. There's the Big Reveal about the parentage of the young proto-padawan Rey (Daisy Ridley), a Jedi training sequence on a remote and mystical planet, with Luke Skywalker (Mark Hamill) serving as Yoda; the conflict within the Darth Vader heir, Kylo Ren (Adam Driver); the confrontation with the wrinkled Supreme Leader (Andy Serkis), even a Lando-ish vagabond (Benicio del Toro) who may or may not be trustworthy.

And yet, while *The Last Jedi* is longer than any other *Star Wars* movie by a good 10 minutes (and half an hour longer than the original), amazingly, not all that much seems to happen. There are fewer action sequences, and certainly fewer lightsaber battles (the swashbuckling signature of the series) than probably any previous entry. New characters are introduced or expanded while old ones are managed. There's more humor, but less charm.

Nonetheless, only a blackguard would



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
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poo-poo on this continuation of the most satisfying movie serial of all time, an epic space opera of good-versus-evil tropes and eye-catching visuals that, for 40 amazing years, has swept us along with its soaring emotional rawness.

It's all but impossible to watch *The Last Jedi* and not be cued to choke up, seeing the late Carrie Fisher, erstwhile kittenish spank-bank fodder, age into the elder statesman of the Rebellion, or ruminate on how Hamill is now older than Alec Guinness was when he first played Obi-Wan Kenobi. There's a history here, one that writer-director Rian Johnson seems fully aware of and which he revisits in several touching moments. Still, its derivative underpinnings and over-full structure (too many McGuffins, too many villains to hiss at) serve as distractions.

*The Last Jedi* doesn't have the heart-racing thrill that we got two years ago when *The Force Awakens* reunited the original cast with the new generation. But that John Williams fanfare, those silly star-wipes, the archly fascist iconography? Well, that's all enough to fuel the 12-year-old in all of us. Who needs perfection when the Force is around us?

If you want the thrill of a new film discovery akin to previous *Star Wars* episodes, you couldn't do much better than *The*

*Greatest Showman*. I confess going into this film without many expectations: A biopic about P.T. Barnum (Hugh Jackman), who arguably invented not only the modern circus, but the entire idea that any publicity is good publicity, and that if you give the people what they want — to be amazed — the truth can always take a backseat. I imagined how it would play out, with rags-to-riches predictability, megalomania that torpedoes his personal relationships, confidence when the naysayers shot him down on his way to eventually immortality.

That's exactly how the plot shakes out.

But what surprised, delighted and thrilled me was the way it was told. This is a newfangled musical of the highest order — colorful, exciting, chock full of terrific songs and eye-popping choreography. I just loved it.

It's not often you feel the desire to get all gooey-lovey-dovey about a movie, but if you're going to, a musical is the way to go. The songs are by Justin Paul and Benj Pasek, the duo responsible for the lyrics to last year's *La La Land* as well as the Tony darling *Dear Evan Hansen*, and they are infectiously fun as well as emotionally rich and plot-driving. You leave the movie-


■ **SHOW** Page 19



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# Your trans-Christmas reading list!

Books about gender identity to peruse around the fireplace

***"You're in the Wrong Bathroom!" And 20 Other Myths and Misconceptions About Transgender and Gender-Nonconforming People* by Laura Erickson-Schroth, M.D. and Laura A. Jacobs, LCSW-R (Beacon Press 2017) \$16; 182 pp.**

One million. That's approximately how many transgender people live in the U.S. Chances are, even within the gay community, you've met someone who is trans and you didn't even realize it.

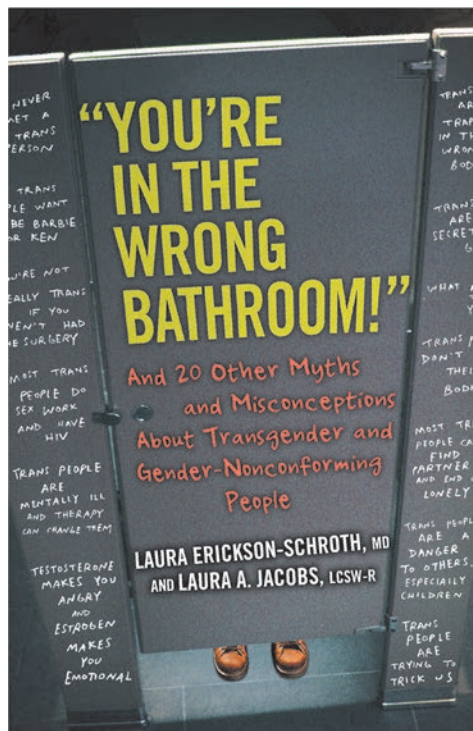
But trans people have been around for centuries and were once revered in various cultures. They are not "broken" or "trapped in the wrong body" and they do not need to be "fixed." They've gone through many steps to transition, and the vast majority will not regret it. And using "safety" as an argument for denying them bathroom usage is incorrect — unless you're talking "safety" for the trans individual zierself.

The sexuality of a trans person may be complex, or it may be a fluid process filled with surprises, but transitioning isn't a way to "trick" anyone into anything. Disclosure to friends, family and potential mates is likewise not easily defined, so it's best left to the individual. Obviously, none of this is "easy."

Questions. You've got a zillion of them and, especially if you're transitioning or thinking about it, so do your friends and family. *You're in the Wrong Bathroom!* can answer 20 of them.

It's a myth to believe that any single thing can define a trans person, write authors Laura Erickson-Schroth and Laura A. Jacobs. Each individual decides on who they are or will be, what they'll be called, whether to have surgery, how they'll dress. And no, you cannot ask what's in their pants, but you can respectfully inquire about preferred pronouns.

Beginning at the basics with "Identity," the authors take the most common lore about the "T" in LGBT and gently correct any wrong beliefs that may be lurking in readers' minds. That's a good start, but there were times when the authors seemed too nice; more adamant language could have been appropriate. Even so, there's a good sense of mind-easing in most cases here, followed by a carefully-measured MYOB tone. At some point, then, the book transitions (no pun intended) more toward



gender-nonconforming readers and less for cisgender folks, allowing the latter even better insight.

There's a lot of education as well as food for thought inside this book, for those who've transitioned as well as those who are pondering it and for their loved ones. If you need something to help set the naysayers right, this book will work.

***True Sex: The Lives of Trans Men at the Turn of the 20th Century* by Emily Skidmore (New York University Press 2017) \$27; 253 pp.**

In 1902, women in the United States could not vote legally. Many couldn't hold property or get credit, and joining the military was forbidden. None of that was a concern to Harry Gorman, though: well-traveled, adventuresome, and married, Gorman lived in Buffalo, N.Y., where he was known as a good man.

Except he wasn't. Anatomically, Gorman was a woman.

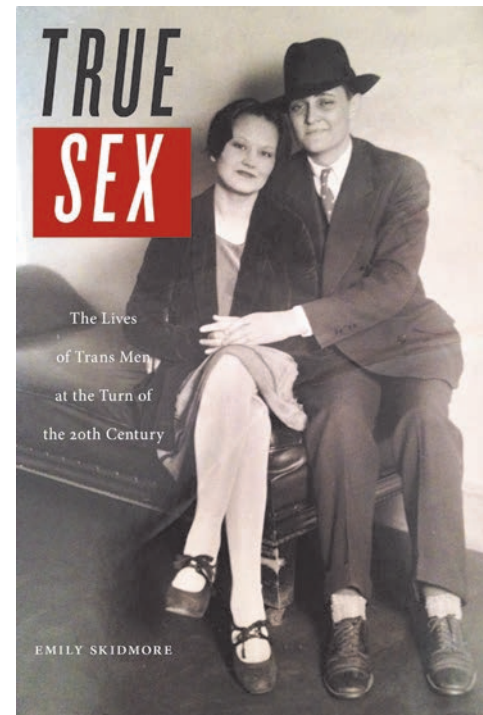
Surely, that came as a surprise to doctors, jailers, and undertakers who discovered the secrets of Gorman and men like him, but in this book, Emily Skidmore says that the opposite is true of everyday folks: As evidenced by articles in many small-town newspapers, locals often knew the "true sex" of trans men in their midst and didn't seem to much care.

Many trans men in the late 1800s and early 1900s, says Skidmore, married, perhaps to cement their appearance as "good men" to their communities." Once discovered, they were often known in the press as "female husbands" because the term "lesbians" hadn't taken hold yet and, at that time, women were largely believed to be asexual or unable to be passionate. Even so, though titillated, small-town Americans then weren't quite as naïve as we might think they were.

Perhaps because the science of sexuality was still in its infancy and words were lacking, many of the men explained their actions as a way to make a living, or because it was more comfortable to dress and live as a man. Some didn't explain at all, while others said they lived as men to take advantage of the rights men had, and continued in order to avoid embarrassment for their new wives. In many cases that Skidmore found, those reasons were no matter to neighbors. But intolerance was never far away.

When one considers the attitudes toward LGBT individuals, pre-Stonewall, it's eye-opening to know that tolerance was practiced well before discrimination was. It gives you more respect for your elders — and yet, as you'll see in *True Sex* laissez faire attitudes weren't widespread.

Using the tales of many trans men, as garnered from newspaper accounts of the day, Skidmore shows how small-town residents around the turn of the last century viewed trans men and, at the same time, women who loved women. Not only are those stories fascinating, but they contain a certain quaintness that belies what's



between the lines: The newspapers had a lot to say, but there was an equal amount that they didn't say that readers, Skidmore believes, surely implicitly understood.

This book veers off into the scholarly now and then; even so, it's readable by anyone who's interested in this history. If that's you, *True Sex* is a book you'll want for yourself.

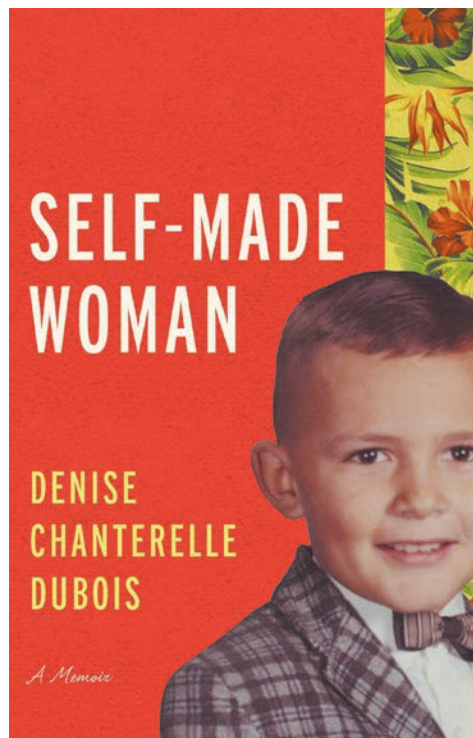
***Self-Made Woman: A Memoir* by Denise Chanterelle DuBois (University of Wisconsin Press 2017) \$27; 224 pp.**

It began near a lakeside cabin in Wisconsin. A curious little boy of 4 loved the water, until he fell in and nearly drowned. Once fished out, he was dressed in girl's clothing while his dried.

He was enchanted. He fought his mother's demands that he give the clothing up. That was the beginning of Denise Chanterelle DuBois' lifetime journey toward womanhood.

Though his parents were both abusive alcoholics, Catholic school nuns were the ones who showed DuBois that sexual stimulation could come from humiliation. In grade school, he preferred playing with girls because he identified as a girl himself, but teachers forbade it. When embarrassed in class, he felt stirrings; he asked playmates to spank him, and he learned to welcome negative attention.

This led to petty theft and a secret life: DuBois began sneaking into his sister's closet to wear her clothing. He broke into random buildings to steal panties from strangers, and he lost a babysitting job when his client's child caught him wearing his client's lingerie; the ensuing humiliation only enhanced the experience. He dabbled in domination by being a slave to women who wanted his money. He experimented with drugs and alcohol; there were run-ins with the law. He became suicidal.





And yet there were bright moments in his life. DuBois fell in love with a woman who went along with fetishes that had grown into full-blown obsessions. He made friends — albeit the kind who were into drugs. He got married. And he started learning what it would take to be the woman he always knew he really was.

Self-Made Woman is a lot of things. It's sad. Poignant. Scary. It's also TMI sometimes and, at just over 200 pages, it's a bit too long.

From a Wisconsin boyhood to womanhood in Bangkok, DuBois tells readers of a multi-city, lifetime self-search, in an account that feels overly detailed ... and overstuffed. Unabashed details about the

world of submission and female domination may be titillating for those who share DuBois' fetishes, but cruelty and graphicness make them wince-worthy to others. Add in memories of drug and alcohol abuse and an account of imprisonment that seemed rushed and you could have a mess of unreadability, were it not for the overall uniqueness, vulnerability and the truthfulness in this tale.

When the story itself lags, those are the things that redeem it. They're what make this matter-of-factly-told memoir one that sets itself apart by its brutal honesty. It's what will make you want to put *Self-Made Woman* in your hands. ■

— Terri Schlichenmeyer

■ **SHOW** From Page 17



house with a whistle in your head and a skip in your step.

A lot of that falls in the lap of Hugh Jackman. Jackman is probably the only legit movie star today who is perfectly at ease in the flamboyantly open-hearted genre of song-and-dance musicals. He's got the chops: A Tony for *The Boy from Oz*, a Oscar nomination for *Les Miz*; his big break was on the London stage playing Curly in *Oklahoma*. He's talented and guileless, and he doesn't so much show off as embody the musicality of his character. From the first shot — his silhouette in a dramatic pose, with the score grabbing you with its first notes — the director, newcomer Michael Gracey, projects his aesthetic: Let the showmanship speak for itself. Unlike *La La Land* — a kind of post-modern take on the *nouvelle vague* movie musicals of Jacques Demy, populated with capable actors who sing and dance, but who aren't really "singer-dancers" — *The Greatest Showman* luxuriates in its widescreen showboating and frenetic editing. It's much closer in tone to *Moulin Rouge*, or even the winsome, animated musical *Sing!*, than *La La Land* or *Chicago*. It wears its heart on its sleeve.

But for all the credit rightly heaped on Jackman, the rest of the cast sells this show. The "freaks" in Barnum's show are mostly in the background, but impressively developed as individuals, especially the stupendous Keala Settle as the Bearded Lady. Michelle Williams not only sings like an angel, she transitions flawlessly from hap-

pily poor helpmate to patrician, sad rich wife. Zac Efron, who has his own legitimacy with musicals, plays Barnum's business partner; theirs number set in a bar, where Jackman convinces Efron to join him in this fantastical enterprise, is a brilliantly staged and edited sequence. (One of the film's editors, Tom Cross, also did *La La Land*.) And Rebecca Ferguson as the "Swedish nightingale" Jenny Lind wows you in her introductory number.

The song she sings, of course, isn't from the canon of 19th century coloratura, but a contemporary, elaborately orchestrated number — the kind Celine Dion might open a show with today, not an opera star from 150 years ago. But that fits in with the Baz Luhrmann-esque ethos of the movie. It speaks in modern idioms to adequately convey the experience of an age long past.

Indeed, the legacy of Barnum is at its lowest ebb ever; the show he created, which became the Ringling Bros./Barnum & Bailey Circus, shuttered its tent forever earlier this year, its treatment of animals seen as incompatible with 21st century progressivity. But *The Greatest Showman* doesn't occupy itself with such social hot potatoes. Instead, it concentrates on the celebratory nature of humankind's diversity, the groundbreaking development of entertainment. Maybe I'm a sucker, but that enchants me. ■

The Last Jedi now playing in wide release. The Greatest Showman opens wide on Dec. 20.

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## Saturday 12.16

### Credo street choir rings in the holidays

Jonathan Palant has long had a passion for choral music, but that enthusiasm extends to doing good works in the community, as well. That's one reason he established Credo, a "street choir" comprise of homeless and sheltered folks who nonetheless love to sing. For Christmas, Palant has devised two separate concerts both on the same day: Behold!, a family-focused, pay-what-you-can concert including the Children's Chorus of Collin County and Rejoice!, an evening concert that features an appearance by the Booker T. Washington Choir. Both take place on the SMU campus.

**DEETS:** 1601 Bishop Ave. 4 p.m. (pay-what-you-can); 7:30 p.m. (\$20 suggested donation). CredoChoir.org.

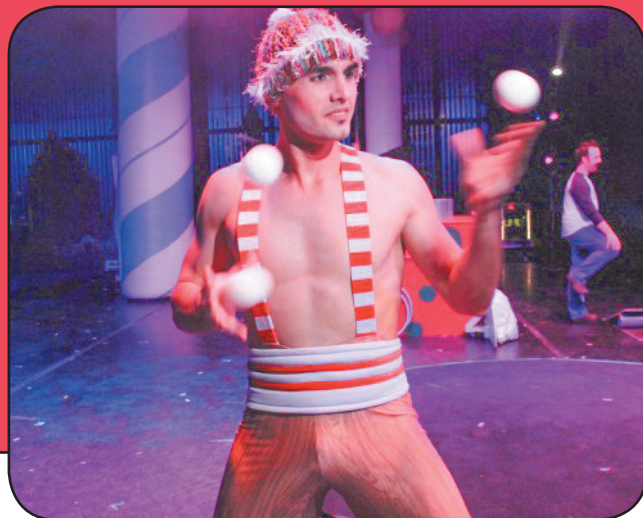


# LIFE+STYLE

## best bets

## Friday 12.15 — Saturday 12.16

### Cirque Dreams returns for the 'Holidaze'



Gay impresario Neil Goldberg's Cirque Dreams offers stunning acts from sexy, talented and sometime death-defying artists, but he really hits his stride during Christmas-time with his Holidaze show. An energetic sleighful of jugglers, acrobats, strongmen and musicians will delight everyone in three shows over two days.

**DEETS:** Verizon Theatre, 1001 Performance Place, Grand Prairie. Friday at 7:30 p.m., Saturday at 1:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. AXS.com.

## Saturday 12.16

### 7th annual Teddy Bear Party welcome Perry Twins, Kristine W

The Teddy Bear Party began as a smallish gathering of members of the gay community to raise money and spirits for children during the holidays by donating time and a huggable toy bear. It has since grown into a popular holiday charity event benefiting Rainbow Roundup, Children's Health, The Trevor Project and more. This year's event includes performances from dance diva Kristine W and smokin' DJs The Perry Twins.

**DEETS:** Hall of State at Fair Park, 2929 Grand Ave. 8 p.m.–1 a.m. \$50 requested minimum donation plus one new teddy bear (unwrapped). TeddyBearParty.org.



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## calendar highlights

### ARTSWEEK

#### THEATER

**Act of God.** B.J. Cleveland, typecast once again, as the Almighty in a regional premiere from David Javerbaum about the secrets of the universe. Stage West, 821 W. Vickery Blvd., Fort Worth. Through Dec. 31. StageWest.org.

**A Christmas Carol.** Brad Leland (*Friday Night Lights*) stars as Ebenezer Scrooge this year. Wyly Theatre, 2400 Flora St. Through Dec. 28. DallasTheaterCenter.org.

**Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas! The Musical.** Max and Cindy Lou Hoo transform the furry green curmudgeon. *Final weekend.* Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. ATPAC.org. (Reviewed in this issue)

**Fade.** Lucia, a Mexican novelist, gets a job as a TV writer and realizes she has more in common with the cleaning crew than her fellow scribes in this comic drama from Tanya Saracho. Studio Theatre of the Wyly Theatre 2400 Flora St. Through Jan. 7. DallasTheaterCenter.org.

**The Great Distance Home.** Kelsey Leigh Ervi conceived of and directs this immersive, multi-discipline theater event about a boy search for home wherever that may be. *Final weekend.* Studio Theatre at Addison Theatre Centre, 15650 Addison Road. WaterTowerTheatre.org.

**The Legend of Georgia McBride.** A low-rent Elvis impersonator discovers a new direction when he embraces drag in this region premiere from Uptown Players. *Final weekend.* Kalita Humphreys Theater, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. UptownPlayers.org.

**The Beulaville Baptist Book Club Presents a Bur-Less-Q Nutcracker!** The return of the send-up of the famed ballet. Addison Theatre Centre, 15650 Addison Road. Through Dec. 26. MBSProductions.net.

**Santa Claus: A New Musical.** When Santa announces his retirement after a millennium, the North Pole goes crazy. Casa Manana, 3101 W. Lancaster Blvd., Fort Worth. Through Dec. 23. CasaManana.org.

**Things Missing/Missed.** A movement-theater piece from DGDG, about a hermit who lived in the woods without human contact for 30 years. J. Erik Jonsson Central Library, 1515 Young St. Dec. 15–17. All performances free. DGDGDanceGroup.com.

**The Three Musketeers.** Theatre Britain's annual Christmas panto, with Ivan Jones returning in the hilarious cross-dressing role in this family-friendly treatment of the Dumas novel. Cox Playhouse, 1517 H. Ave., Plano. Through Dec. 30. Theatre-Britain.com.

#### BALLET

**The Nutcracker.** A real version of the Tchaikovsky ballet, presented by Texas Ballet Theater. Bass Performance Hall, 535 Commerce St., Fort Worth. Through Dec. 24. BassHall.com. TexasBalletTheater.org.

#### CIRCUS

**Cirque du Soleil: Varekai.** The final tour of the display of derring-do with a forest setting arrives in North Texas. Fort Worth Convention Center, 1201 Houston St., Fort Worth. Dec. 13–17. Dr Pepper Arena, 2601 Avenue of the Stars, Frisco. Dec. 20–23. Cirqueusoleil.com/varekai.

browse

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

submit

To submit an item for inclusion in the Community Calendar, visit Tinyurl.com/dvevents.

The Nearly Naked Nutcracker, a burlesque take on the ballet, returns for its 7th year to Viva's Lounge in the Design District on Friday and Saturday.

**Cirque Dreams Holidayze.** The touring collection of Christmasy circus acts from impresario Neil Goldberg. Verizon Theatre, 1001 Performance Place, Grand Prairie. Dec. 15–16. AXS.com.

#### BURLESQUE

**Nearly Naked Nutcracker.** The 7th annual burlesque show inspired by the ballet. Viva's Lounge, 1350 Manufacturing St., ste. 120. Dec. 15–16. 8 p.m.

#### 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. Through Jan. 7. NasherSculptureCenter.org.

**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 god by Japanese artist Yayoi Kusama. Dallas Museum of Art, 1717 Harwood St. Through Feb. 25. DMA.org.

## this week's solution

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# Ask Howard

How to do the wrong thing right

Yes, virgin readers, there is no Santa Claus. Not this Christmas. Rather, instead, I've got one believer wanting a penis-enlargement recipe (what a shocker!), one requesting a surefire pickup line to lure guys already in monogamous relationships into his own steamy bed instead (yet another thunderbolt out of the clear gay-blue!) and one asking me (sans *any* irony) for a "plausible" lie to feed his husband as to why he's returning home from a weekend "business trip" with an utterly destroyed pooter. Although horse cocks, Scruff apps and saggy sphincters do not a sleigh-full of Santa's toys make, nonetheless, jolly entertainment they sure delightfully do. So let's all fill our cups full of cocoa, throw another

faggot on the fire, and just get brown-nosed, I mean, red-nosed right to it.

**Dear Howard,**

What's a 100 percent foolproof pickup line to use on "monogamous" guys who already have steady boyfriends? Time and again, I'll spot some stud giving me the once-over at the grocery store or gym, but whenever I make the move to introduce myself and, you know, ask them out for a bite or a flick, they'll suddenly look all super-shocked and go, "Oh, but I'm dating someone already." I just want to yell, "Then, why the heck were you cruising my bubble-butt, dude?" Howard, do you know of *any* surefire comeback that'll, you know, maybe make

them consider giving me at least a hay-wagon shot? — **Clay**

**Dear Cassius,**

This is a far easier one than it may initially appear. As you well know, sexual-superficiality is 100 percent my specialty; *of course* I have the ideal comeback line. It'll work reliably for you every single time; however, do *not* begin with the temptingly sophomoric rookie faux pas of boasting that you're, you know, hung like a Louisville slugger; nor do you oh-so-casually just let it slip that you'll ensure your Tesla will be fully charged-up this Friday, if he'd perhaps enjoy, you know, going out for a soundless spin. No, instead, the next Miss Prissy Pants who sasses, "Oh, honey, please, I'm dating someone already," you're to simply flash him your most dazzling lothario grin and whisperingly purr, "Dump the bastard; I'm more fun." Trust me, Clarice; they'll dump him in one millisecond, flat. You know.

**Dear Howard,**

A few issues back you ran a column exposing some of the "tricks" pulled by male escorts to deceive their clients: Renting out my erection is how I pay the bills. I've been a professional call-boy for nearly two decades, but things just don't go up now so easily as they once did, and with what seems like every Millennial boy now moonlighting in my staked-out territory, the competition just gets stiffer (pun intended) all the time. Those "erectile dysfunction" pills make me feel all woozy, flu-like and plain weird: Does there exist, *anywhere*, such a thing as, say, a natural food recipe for penis enlargement? — **Luka**

**Dear Lucretia,**

Oh, just fuck me, please, Santa, now. OK, believe it or not, there actually *does* exist a famous ancient Hindu recipe promising *anyone* a "horse" status within an hour (presuming, of course, one can track down the elusively but necessary seven ingredients). Here's the "official" English translation of said recipe:

"Take equal quantities of **chicana** [which, to the best that Dear Howard here can decipher, is either Himalayan yak lard, or, a paste made from Hare Foot Uraria leaves], **lechi fruit** [not to be confused with lychee fruit; however, either pulasan fruit or rambutan fruit may be substituted should lechi fruit be out-of-season], **kosth** [aka crepe ginger flower — which, dear unhung hero, must *not* be confused with ginger root *nor* the powdered holiday spice available year-round in glass jars from McCormick in the spice aisle], **verkand** [iris root], **gajapippali fruit** [whatever the hell that is], **ashwagandha root** [an Indian herb most commonly used in Kama Sutra love potions], and **kanther root** [oleander root]. Pound these seven ingredients [using a mortar and pestle, natch] and mix with butter [quantity not provided]. Apply this composition to the organ [i.e., your gossip-of-the-gayborhood's laughably tiny tee-tee] and after about two ghari [45 minutes] it will attain the largeness of the member of a horse." Good luck!

FYI, whilst mixing and mortaring-and-pestling your earthily aromatic donkey-dick poultice, make sure



you're simultaneously viewing the 2013 Patrick Moote documentary, *Unhung Hero*, about a morbidly heterosexual's hilariously-unflinching quest to make his teensy-weensy penis mutate, miraculously, into something minimally girth-worthy enough for an actual member of the opposite sex to willingly marry this poor hangdog, hung-like-a-light-switch straighty. Meanwhile, stud, best wishes grocery shopping!

**Dear Howard,**

How do I plausibly get away with coming home to my alpha-top, sex maniac husband from a travel "business trip" having, what one would politely call, a destroyed sphincter? — **Dino T.**

**Dear Dianthia,**

Was *every* businessman at The Red Roof Inn rotating numbers to your ancient-world gangbang for the *entire* weekend? Who was in charge of peeling the grapes? Hell, sweet Howard's sphincter is clenched bear-trap-tight at just the frictional thought of how very many assorted erections, fists and arms would be required to, politely, "destroy" it within 48 hours. Fortunately, nonetheless, Lady Echo Chamber, hoodwinking Howard here has a *perfect*, pass-inspection alibi just for you: You're to dash by the local smut emporium on your way home from the airport, pick up a few King Kong sized dildos, and simply wink over-your-shoulder at your already masturbating husband whilst you're unpacking them Sunday night, shrugging, "Hey, babe, a bored man in a strange city can hardly be expected to survive on just bad hotel pay porn in his room all alone." Also, Dildolina, don't forget to grease them down with a bit of Boy Butter to effectively produce that still slightly sticky, just-used sheen. Oh, and a faint *tinge* of schmear couldn't hurt either, along with perhaps a few tiny, barely visible stray flecks of randomly attached Tootsie Roll; why, you'll then be more above reproach to your own husband than even Caesar's street-whore wife!

— 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.*





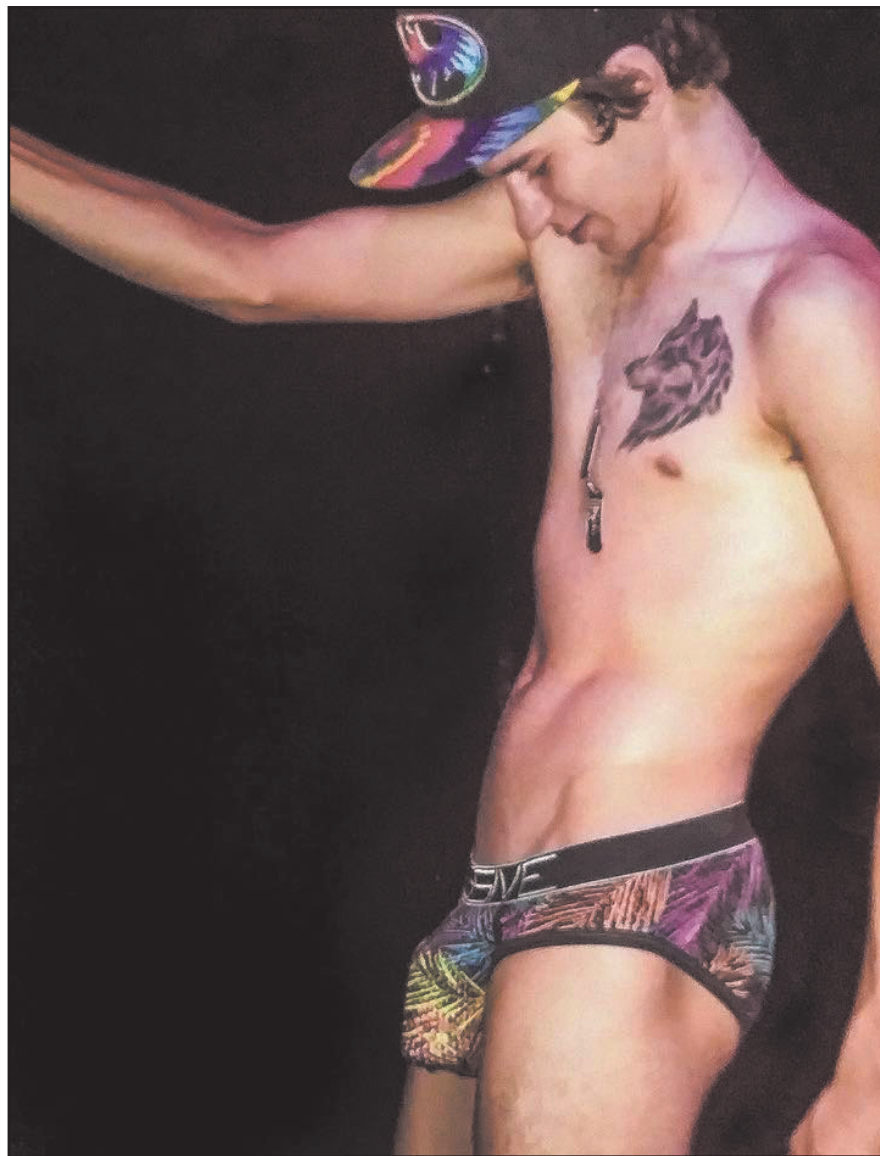


The Grinch takes a break from the grind to stretch his muscles. *Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas* continues through Sunday at The Winspear.

Making the **SCENE** the week of **Dec. 15-21**:

- **Alexandre's:** **K-Marie** on Friday and Tuesday. **Linny Nance and The Network** on Saturday. **Wayne Smith** on Sunday. **Anna Fredericka Popova** on Wednesday. **Chris Chism** on Thursday.
- **Club Changes:** **The Divine Miss Divas Christmas Show** at 10 p.m. on Friday.
- **Club Reflection:** **Imperial Court** cookout at 4 p.m. followed by show at 6 p.m. on Sunday. **Wall of Food** show at 9 p.m. on Thursday
- **Dallas Eagle:** **Ugly Christmas Sweater Party** from 8-10 p.m. on Friday. **Employee Turn-Around Show** from 7-10 p.m. on Saturday. **Onyx:** **Central Southwest Chapter club night** from 10p.m.-1 a.m. on Saturday.
- **Hidden Door:** Happy 38th Anniversary!
- **JR's Bar & Grill:** **Cassie's Freak Show** at 11 p.m. on Monday. **Dreamgirls** at 11 p.m. on Thursday.
- **Liquid Zoo:** Monday Steak Night.
- **Marty's Live:** Manila Luzon with special performances by **Nicole O'hara Munro, Bleach, Raquel Blake, Leyla Edwards** and **Mulan** on Saturday.
- **Pekers:** **Linda Petty and the Main Event Christmas Show** at 7 p.m. on Friday.
- **Randi's Alternate Route 2 to 2:** **TGRA-Imperial Court Christmas Show** at 8 p.m. on Saturday.
- **Round-Up Saloon:** **Bear Happy Hour** from 6-9 p.m. on Friday. **Boys, Boots & Boxers** hosted by **Sassy O'hara** at 10 p.m. on Monday.
- **Sue Ellen's:** **Mustache Envy** on Friday. **Chix** on Saturday. **Anton's 16th annual Christmas Party Extravaganza** from 6-9 p.m. on Sunday. **Tuesday Tease** at 9:30 p.m. every Tuesday.
- **TMC: The Mining Company:** **Trashy Tuesday.** The tradition continues.
- **Urban Cowboy Saloon:** Duel artistry, creativity, drag hosted by **Chanel LeMasters** at 10:30 p.m. on Wednesday
- **Woody's Sports & Video Bar:** **Cowboys at Oakland Raiders** at 7:30 p.m. on Sunday. **Kimmi's Ugly Sweater Party** at 8 p.m. on Tuesday.

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



Thinking big at Club Stallions



All smiles on the patio at JR's





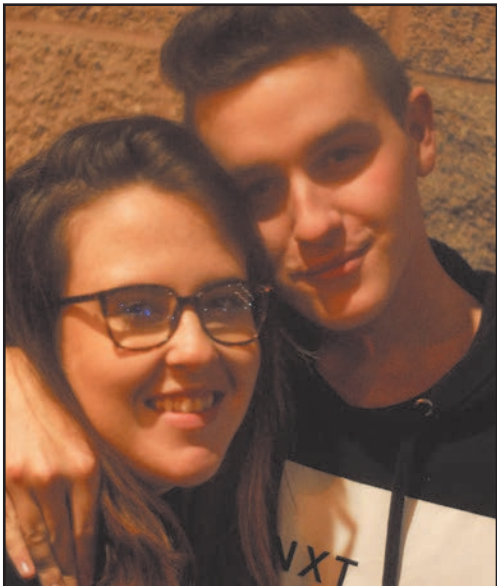
Round-Up staff can ward off the chill of winter



Photo-bombing at TMC: The Mining Company



Husbands just want to have fun on The Strip



Besties on The Strip



Out and about in the gayborhood



Athena O'hara on stage at TMC: The Mining Co.



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Sue Ellen' friendly elves



# Pride Parade Committee Holiday Party





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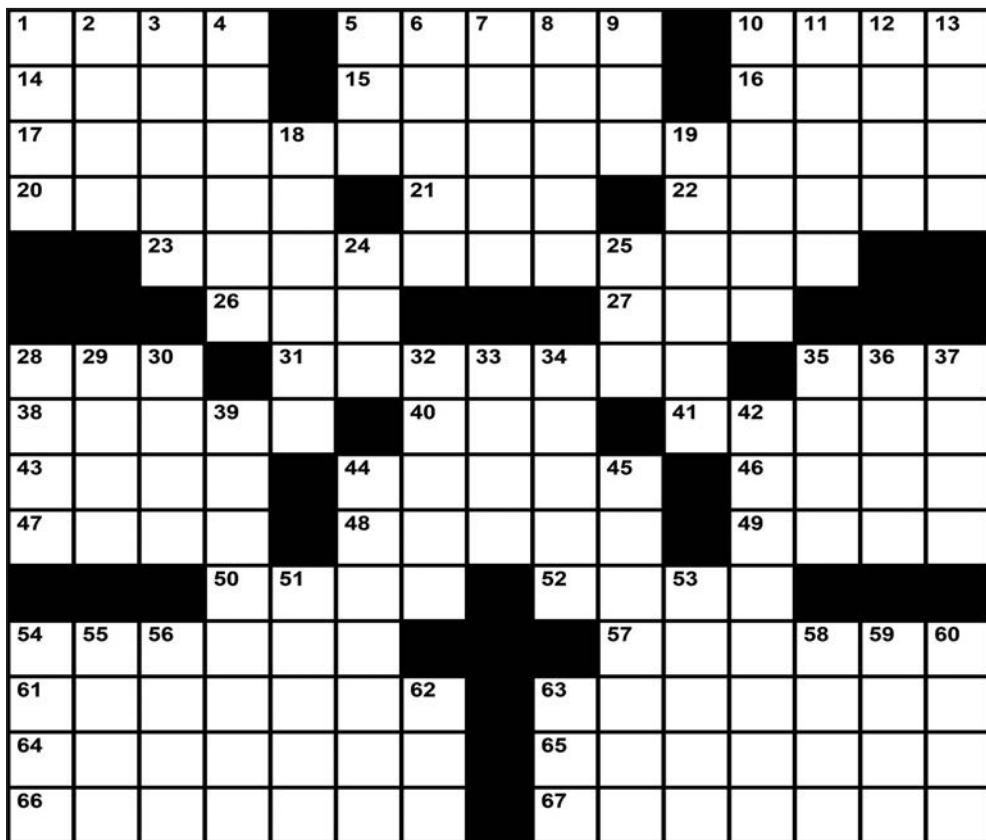
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# q-puzzle



## Double Play

Solution on Page 22

### Across

- 1 Connoisseur Allen and others  
5 The Village People's kind of man  
10 They're performing, in *Fame*  
14 Drilling org.  
15 Wife of Portia  
16 Leg smoother  
17 In a recent episode she played a man who was playing a woman  
20 Milano opera house, with "la"  
21 Foaming at the mouth  
22 Jude Law title role  
23 Character played by 17-Across  
26 Contemporary of architect Johnson  
27 Dorm VIPs  
28 *Arsenic and \_\_\_ Lace*  
31 Ruled like a queen  
35 Title for Oedipus  
38 Member that stands tall  
40 Deer in Maria's song  
41 Go down  
43 Glenn Burke, formerly  
44 Become husband and husband on the fly  
46 *A Summer Place* actor Richard  
47 Gilbert of *Roseanne*  
48 Gold Olympic award for Megan Rapinoe

- 49 Skirt worn by a

Hawaiian man

50 Will of *The Waltons*

52 Early newspaper

publisher Ben

54 Porter musical

57 San Francisco's Eagle,

e.g.

61 Stop up

63 Civilians prepared to

shoot off

64 *The Double Man* author

65 Separates the men from

the boys, e.g.

66 Where sailors sleep with

their first mates?

67 Ogle in a gay bar, for

example

### Down

- 1 Pussycat counterparts  
2 *Spartacus* or *Ben-Hur*  
3 Kid's "tattoo," for one  
4 Lug around  
5 Rev. White of Soulforce  
6 \_\_\_ Children  
7 "On a \_\_\_ day..."  
(Streisand line)  
8 Drag queen \_\_\_ Lettuce  
9 "Every Man Has a Man"  
singer Yoko  
10 Bend over and grab them  
11 Boat bottom bumpers  
12 Polo of *The Fosters*  
13 It makes watching porn

harder

- 18 Hamburger Mary's, e.g.

19 Where PrideVision

originated

24 Reason for extra innings

25 Land of O. Wilde

28 Doesn't rent

29 Marlene's *Blue Angel* role

30 Gay activist, e.g.

32 One who screws around

33 With 42-Down, TV series

of the episode

34 Tibet neighbor

35 Spaghetti sauce choice

36 It comes at the bottom of

a list

37 Warrior Princess of the

boob tube

39 Where 17-Across played

a man who played a

woman

42 See 33-Down

44 What Michael Denney

did to text

45 One who doesn't use

pica?

51 \_\_\_ Cologne

53 Music style for Ricky

Martin

54 Bullies

55 BenGay target

56 Trojans' org.

58 Verb of Verlaine

59 Novelist \_\_\_ Mae Brown

60 Tammany Tiger creator

62 Rosie O'Donnell has two

63 Rainey and Kettle

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