

# JOE PACETTI'S

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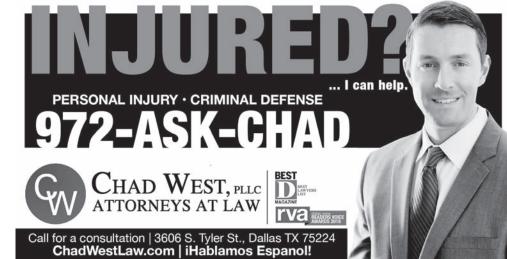
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## instanTEA

#### FW Opera announces lineup

The 2018 Fort Worth Opera Festival doesn't open until April 27 - with Maria de Buenos Aires, Don Pasquale and the program of multiple short operas called Brief Encounters — but we already know what to expect next year.

In a deviation of the festival format launched in 2007, the list of three productions will be performed over the course of about five weeks, but not in repertory - each production will end before the next one begins.

The lineup kicks off with George Gershwin's American English-language classic Porgy & Bess, featuring favorites from the Great American Songbook including "Summertime" and "Bess You Is My Woman Now." Lesbian director Francesca Zambello becomes only the second woman in the company's more than 70-year history to direct a mainstage production.

Next up will be El Pasado Nunca se Termina, composer Jose "Pepe" Martinez's Mariachi-inspired opera. It is part of the FWO's ongoing commitment to operas composed in Spanish and reaching out to Spanish-speaking audiences and cultures. It will play May 10 and 12 at Bass.

The final mainstage presentation will be El Ultimo Sueno de Frida y Diego, presented as a showcase. The FWO announced the commission of this world premiere opera, about bisexual artist Frida Kahlo and her stormy relationship with husband Diego Rivera, last summer. Originally it was set to premiere in 2020. The score is by Gabriela Lena Frank with a libretto by gay Pulitzer Prize-winner Nilo Cruz. It will take place May 30 and 31, but the venue has not

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been decided upon.

In addition, FWO will bring back its Frontiers program — a showcase for in-development operas - during the festival, with dates to be determined. Arnold Wayne Jones

#### Texas GOP won't let Log Cabin come to the party

As Gomer Pyle would have said: Surprise! Surprise! Surprise!

I guess I should have already posted a blog pointing out that the Texas Republican Party has - once again - voted NOT to allow the Log Cabin Republicans to have a booth at the state convention.

But since it's happened the same way every time for the last 20 years, I guess I am just surprised that anybody might have expected a

Michael Baker, chair of LCR's Texas state chapter, told the Austin American- Statesman: "Nothing happens overnight. I'd hoped by 2018 we could have been a lot further than we are, but here we

Considering that the GOP continues to languish in the grasp of the Trumpettes, who are doing their best to systematically erase the LGBT community from the public and governmental spheres, I can't imagine why Mr. Baker would think things would be different this time.

Citing the Statesman, LGBTQ Nation said that the State Republican Executive Committee "debated for two hours last week whether or not to allow the group of gay conservatives to come out at their big party. In the end, they decided the answer was no; no other group was denied a booth.

LCR's opponents reportedly cited their religious beliefs and the state party platform as reasons why the gay GOP organization should be excluded, and more committee members spoke against inclusion than in favor of it.

Again, let me say: Surprise! Surprise! Surprise! Not.

- Tammye Nash

#### Legendary civil rights activist Donna Red Wing has died

After an eight-month battle against cancer, legendary LGBT rights activist Donna Red Wing died Monday, April 16 at her home in Des Moines. She was 67.

In a lengthy article announcing her death and recounting her career in activism, the Des Moines Register noted that Red Wing had spent more than three years as an activist, and that she was once called "the most dangerous woman in America" by the Christian Coalition, one of the more vociferous enemies of equality.

Red Wing was executive director of the LGBT rights organization One lowa from 2012 to 2016. For the last two years, Red Wing served as director of the Eychaner Foundation, an organization in Des Moines that promotes tolerance and non-discrimination, according to its website. In the early 1990s, Red Wing was head of Oregon's Lesbian Community Project and led the successful efforts to defeat that state's rabidly homophobic Measure 9. In recognition of her efforts, The Advocate named Red Wing its Woman of the Year in 1992.

Red Wing had been executive director of Grassroots Leadership and chief of staff at Inter-

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faith Alliance in Washington D.C. She also held leadership roles at the Gill Foundation, Human Rights Campaign and the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation. She was the first recipient of the Walter Cronkite Award for Faith and Freedom and co-chaired the Obama for America 2008 LGBT Leadership Council. The Des Moines Civil and Human Rights Commission recently honored her by naming its annual Lifetime Achievement award after her.

Red Wing, a native of Massachussets, is survived by her wife and partner for more than 30 years, Sumitra Red Wing, son Julian, grandson Jasper and twin brother David. A celebration of her life will be held at a later date.

- Tammye Nash

#### Oz ablaze: No injuries reported in fire at New Orleans gay bar

Oz, the popular gay nightclub on Bourbon Street in New Orleans' French Quarter, was damaged Monday, April 16 in a fire that broke out around noon, according to various new reports. The fire appears to have been started by a malfunctioning sound system.

Video of the fire posted by WWLTV, a CBS News station in New Orleans, showed black smoke pouring from the second floor of the bar, as the rainbow flags lining the balcony rippled in the wind, alarm bells clanged and fire trucks with sirens blaring maneuvered down the narrow street.

The club is open 24 hours a day, but only the manager and the bartender were in the building at the time of the fire, according to a report by The Advocate. No injuries were reported.

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Mytesi is a prescription medicine used to improve symptoms of noninfectious diarrhea (diarrhea not caused by a bacterial, viral, or parasitic infection) in adults living with HIV/AIDS on ART.

**Do Not Take Mytesi** if you have diarrhea caused by an infection. Before you start Mytesi, your doctor and you should make sure your diarrhea is not caused by an infection (such as bacteria, virus, or parasite).

#### **Possible Side Effects of Mytesi Include:**

- Upper respiratory tract infection (sinus, nose, and throat infection)
- Bronchitis (swelling in the tubes that carry air to and from your lungs)
- Cough
- Flatulence (gas)
- Increased bilirubin (a waste product when red blood cells break down) For a full list of side effects, please talk to your doctor. Tell your doctor if you have any side effect that bothers you or does not go away.

You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit www.fda.gov/medwatch or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

#### **Should I Take Mytesi If I Am:**

#### Pregnant or Planning to Become Pregnant?

- Studies in animals show that Mytesi could harm an unborn baby or affect the ability to become pregnant
- There are no studies in pregnant women taking Mytesi
- This drug should only be used during pregnancy if clearly needed

#### A Nursing Mother?

- It is not known whether Mytesi is passed through human breast milk
- If you are nursing, you should tell your doctor before starting Mytesi
- Your doctor will help you to decide whether to stop nursing or to stop taking Mytesi

#### Under 18 or Over 65 Years of Age?

- Mytesi has not been studied in children under 18 years of age
- Mytesi studies did not include many people over the age of 65. So it is not clear if this age group will respond differently. Talk to your doctor to find out if Mytesi is right for you

#### What Should I Know About Taking Mytesi With Other Medicines?

If you are taking any prescription or over-the-counter medicine, herbal supplements, or vitamins, tell your doctor before starting Mytesi.

#### What If I Have More Questions About Mytesi?

For more information, please see the full Prescribing Information at Mytesi.com or speak to your doctor or pharmacist.

To report side effects or make a product complaint or for additional information, call 1-844-722-8256.

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Mytesi comes from the *Croton lechleri* tree harvested in South America.





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

#### • Through April 22: Main St. **Fort Worth Arts Festival**

The largest arts festival in Texas spans more than 27 city blocks on Thursday from 10 a.m.-10 p.m., Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m.-11 p.m., and Sunday from 10 a.m. -8 p.m. MainStreetArtsFest.org.

#### • April 20-22: Rainbow Roundup camping trip

Camping trip includes hay rides, crafting, fishing, face-painting and a BBQ dinner. Tent camping at \$30 per day, cabins at \$131 per day and RV sites for \$50-65 daily at North Texas Jellystone Park, 2301 S Burleson Blvd., Burleson. Promo code is: rainbow18. There's a \$9.25 per person per day entrance fee to the park.

#### • April 21: Turtle Creek Cleanup

Meet at the Beasley Steps to the Katy Trail on Hall Street. Clean up coincides with It's My Park Day and is from 9-11 a.m. RSVP to dallastravelindude@gmail.com to make sure they bring enough equipment.

#### • April 21: Gaybingo of Oz

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.

#### • April 21: Chamber Gala

The North Texas GLBT Chamber of Commerce hosts its Gala from 6:30-10:30 p.m. at a private estate in Old Preston Hollow. Includes a silent auction, hors d'oeuvres and libations. Individual tickets are \$65; sponsorships are available. Contact the chamber at 214-821-4528 for details.

#### • April 21: Cirque du SoGay

Mayhem Miller joins Ivana Tramp, MayMay Graves and Ryan Tiffin for an Impulse Group party from 9 p.m.-2 a.m. at The Urban Cowboy, 2620 E. Lancaster Ave., Fort Worth.



Rainbow Roundup hosts a weekend camping trip to North Texas Jellystone Park in Burleson. See listings for details.

#### • April 21: Gender Spectrum workshop

Gender Spectrum workshop on "Raising Gender Expansive Children and Teens," from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Community Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road. For information call 214-521-5124.

#### • April 21-22: White Rock Home Tour

The 2018 White Rock Home Tour showcasing seven mid-century and modern new build homes, is open from noon-4 p.m. each day. Purchase tickets online at WhiteRockHomeTour.com or at the Hexter Café at Hexter Elementary. Cost is \$15 through April 20. Tickets on the weekend of the tour are \$20.

#### • April 23-29: 7th Annual National Black **Trans Advocacy Conference**

Workshops and the Mr & Miss Black Trans International Pageant. Wyndham Dallas Suites-Park Central, 7800 Alpha Road. BlackTransMen.org.

#### • April 24: BTD Table Captain **Happy Hour**

Black Tie Dinner hosts an informational happy hour for anyone interested in becoming a table captain from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Stirr, 2803 Main St.

RSVP to BlackTie.org/rsvp.

#### • April 24: Family Night

GALA holds family night from 5-8 p.m. at Durkin's Pizza, 8930 S.H. 121, Suite 594, McKinney.

#### • April 24: Resource Center tour

CEO Cece Cox leads a behind-the-scenes tour of Resource Center from 5-6:30 p.m. at 5750 Cedar Springs Road. RSVP to kfields@myresourcecenter.org.

#### • April 25: Resource Center **Volunteer Appreciation Party**

Resource Center holds its annual Volunteer Appreciation Party from 5-7 p.m. at the Community Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road. For information call 214-521-5124.

#### • April 25: Woman to Woman luncheon

Jill Biden is the keynote speaker at the Jewish Family Services luncheon at 10 a.m. at Hyatt Regency Hotel, 300 Reunion Blvd. E. Tickets at jfsdallas.org/woman.

#### • April 25: LGBTQ Book Club

Join fellow readers for a monthly book club by LGBT authors and from the LGBTQ collection at 6 p.m. at Oak Lawn Branch

Library, 4100 Cedar Springs Road. For info email: oaklawn@dallascityhall.com

#### • April 27: Pride Ball Prom

Youth First Pride Ball Prom for 12 to 18 year olds. Resource Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road.

#### • April 27: Pre-Need Educational Seminar

Scottlyn Colgrove with Lincoln Funeral Home hosts a free dinner and pre-need educational seminar at 7 p.m. at El Fenix Restaurant, 6811 W. Northwest Highway. For information or to reserve your seat, call Scott at 214-398-8133.

#### • April 28: TAG Game Night

Tyler Area Gays meets for game night at Tyler Area Chamber of Commerce, 315 N. Broadway Ave., Ste. 100, Tyler. For information visit TylerAreaGays.com.

#### • April 28: University of Drag Showcase

Resource Center presents its University of Drag Showcase from 7-9 p.m. at the Community Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road. For information call 214-521-5124.

#### • April 29: Pop-Up Photography Show Harlowe MXM, 2823 Main St. in Deep

• Weekly: Lambda Weekly at 1 p.m. on 89.3 KNON-FM with David Taffet, Lerone Landis and the late Patti Fink. Texas Senate District 2 candidate Kendall Scudder is this week's guest; 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.; FuseConnect every Wednesday from 7 p.m. For more information call or e-mail Jalenzski at 214-760-9718 ext. 3 or Jalenzski@myresourcecenter.org. LGBT square dancing group Pegasus Squares meets every Sunday from 2:30-4:30 p.m. at Grace United Methodist Church, 4105 Junius St. For more info, email 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.

Ellum, hosts the Pop-Up Photography Show, featuring the work of LGBT photographers Robyn North, Tiffany Brown and Cindy Higby, in the Atrium from 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

#### • May 1: Grief support group

LGBT grief support group for people who have lost a same-sex partner from 6:45-8 p.m. at Oak Lawn Library, 4100 Cedar Springs Road.

GAY AGENDA, Page 17

#### pet of the week / GEORGETTE

Meet **Georgette**, a 2-1/2-year-old, chocolate and white hound/ labrador mix weighing 52 pounds. She's sweet, gentle and very laidback. She loves to being petted and walks well on her leash. She does well with children and loves to cuddle with people. If you're looking for a loving, kind-hearted girl, she's the one for you. She is heartworm positive, but her treatments will be free at VCA Animal Hospitals once she's adopted. Georgette has been spayed and microchipped and is current on all age-appropriate vaccinations. Come meet her today, you won't want to leave without her. #162093

**Georgette** is waiting for you at the SPCA of Texas' Jan Rees-Jones Animal Care Center in Dallas, 2400 Lone Star Drive (near I-30 and Hampton Road). Hours are noon-6 p.m. Sun-Wed and noon-7 p.m. Thurs-Sat. Regular adoption fees are \$100 for puppies and kittens aged 0-6 months, \$50 for adult dogs and cats aged 6 months or older, \$25 for senior dogs or cats aged 7 years and older and \$25 for VIP dogs and cats (available for adoption for 30 days or more.) Fee includes spay/neuter surgery, age-appropriate vaccinations, a heartworm test for dogs six months and older and a FIV/FeLV test for cats 4 months and older, initial flea/tick preventative and heartworm preventative, a microchip, 30 days of PetHealth Insurance provided by PetPlan, a free 14-day wellness exam with VCA Animal Hospitals, a free year-long subscription to Activ4Pets, a rabies tag and a free leash. Call 214-742-SPCA (7722) or visit today.



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# Design team work

Wyrick, Nusrallah are partners in life and partners in design

**DAVID TAFFET I Senior Staff Writer** taffet@dallasvoice.com

avid Wyrick is a Realtor and locator at Dallas Luxury Realty in Uptown. His parter is Nicholas Nussrallah, who works with DW Design Group. Often they work together. If Wyrick's buyer wants a redo on the property, Nussrallah offers the design expertise.

These pictures come from one makeover where, Nussrullah said, his partner got him the lead from a cocktail party.

"Just goes to show you can network just about anywhere," Nussrullah said.

DW Design group painted the house with updated colors and all new furnishings — rugs, furniture, accessories, light fixtures, floral arrangements, custom artwork, and window treatments.

The couple also recently worked on a full remodel that took about six months to com-

"The clients gave us carte blanche on design and material selections, which included new custom hardwood floors, cabinets, lighting layout, plumbing, appliances and stone and tile in all the bathrooms," Nusrallah said. "Now that they are moving in, we are looking forward to working with them on all the furnishings and making their new house into a home.





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# Get ready for Mayhem

Drag Racer Mayhem Miller headlines Impulse Dallas event in Ft. Worth

TAMMYE NASH I Managing Editor nash@dallasvoice.com

sk, and she'll tell you: Mayhem Miller is "the queen of the party." And this weekend, Mayhem brings the party to Fort Worth as the special guest at "Circque de SoGay," a special event presented by Impulse Dallas Saturday night at Fort Worth's Urban Cowboy Saloon.

Mayhem is one of the 14 drag queens chosen to compete in *RuPaul's Drag Race Season 10*, now underway and airing Thursday nights on VH1. Going into Episode 5 — set to air just hours from now as I am writing — Mayhem has one win under her belt, two weeks safe and, in Episode 3, had to lip-sync for her life against Yuhua Hamasaki, who ended up being eliminated.

Despite that brush with elimination, Mayhem is determined that she will make the most of an opportunity that has been a long time coming for her.

In an interview earlier this week, Mayhem explained that she began doing drag after "one weird night" when she went to her local bar — she's from Riverside, Calif. — to support a friend who was entered in that night's amateur competition. She said she went in drag herself, with the help of a friend who did her makeup, just as another level of support for her friend who was competing.

"That was the night I got bitten by the drag bug," Mayhem said. "I ended up getting on the stage that night, and ever since then I've been doing drag."

While landing a spot on *Drag Race* has long been a goal, Mayhem said it took a while to get there.

"For those that don't know me, I come from a prestigious group of friends," Mayhem explained, and many of those friends have been on previous *Drag Race* seasons. In fact, Mayhem's drag family includes her sisters Raven, Morgan McMichaels, Delta and Detox, all of whom are *Drag Race* alums.

But until Season 10, "I've always been the odd one out, always on the outside looking in," she continued. "I auditioned year after year but never made it. It was really hard to be so close but not make the show.

"Of course I wanted to be on the show. *Drag Race* is the pinnacle of our industry, the top of the top. And if you are one of the best, you want to be acknowledged as one of the best," she continued. "When I finally got that call, it meant the world to me. This is finally it, my moment to shine and to be seen as equal to my sisters."

While fans have only seen the first four episodes, with seven more queens left to be eliminated before the final three head to the finale where the top two will lip-sync for the crown, every episode except the finale, which will air live, has already been filmed. The contestants, though, are sworn to secrecy about who goes home when, and who goes all the way.

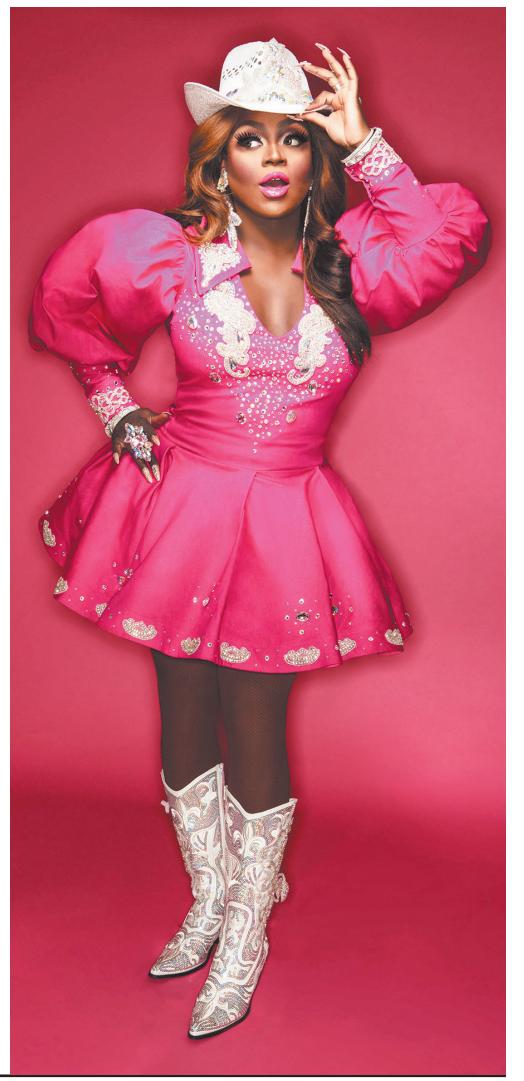
But Mayhem did say competing on the show has been "what I expected — and so much more."

She continued, "Going into the show, especially when you have so many friends who have competed before, you know what to expect. But you also know you have to expect the unexpected.

Contestants are not allowed to tell anyone they were chosen for the show until the big reveal, when all the competitors are announced — after all the episodes except the finale have been filmed. And during the two or so months they are away for filming, they aren't allowed contact with family and friends so that the secret stays safe.

The experience can be a real eye-opener.

MILLER, Page 15



#### What is TRUVADA for PrEP?

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

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

#### **IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION**

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

#### **Before taking TRUVADA for PrEP:**

- You must be HIV-negative before you start taking TRUVADA for PrEP. You must get tested to make sure that you do not already have HIV-1. Do not take TRUVADA to reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 unless you are confirmed to be HIV-negative.
- Many HIV-1 tests can miss HIV-1 infection in a person who has recently become infected. If you have flu-like symptoms, you could have recently become infected with HIV-1. Tell your healthcare provider if you had a flu-like illness within the last month before starting or at any time while taking TRUVADA for PrEP. Symptoms of new HIV-1 infection include tiredness, fever, joint or muscle aches, headache, sore throat, vomiting, diarrhea, rash, night sweats, and/or enlarged lymph nodes in the neck or groin.

#### While taking TRUVADA for PrEP:

- You must continue to use safer sex practices. Just taking TRUVADA for PrEP may not keep you from getting HIV-1.
- You must stay HIV-negative to keep taking TRUVADA for PrEP:
  - Get tested for HIV-1 at least every 3 months.
  - If you think you were exposed to HIV-1, tell your healthcare provider right away.
- ◆ To further help reduce your risk of getting HIV-1:
  - Know your HIV status and the HIV status of your partners.
  - Get tested for other sexually transmitted infections. Other infections make it easier for HIV to infect you.
  - Get information and support to help reduce risky sexual behavior, such as having fewer sex partners.
  - Do not miss any doses of TRUVADA. Missing doses may increase your risk of getting HIV-1 infection.
- If you do become HIV-1 positive, you need more medicine than TRUVADA alone to treat HIV-1. TRUVADA by itself is not a complete treatment for HIV-1. If you have HIV-1 and take only TRUVADA, your HIV-1 may become harder to treat over time.

#### **TRUVADA can cause serious side effects:**

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

#### Who should not take TRUVADA for PrEP?

#### Do not take TRUVADA for PrEP if you:

- Already have HIV-1 infection or if you do not know your HIV-1 status. If
  you are HIV-1 positive, you need to take other medicines with TRUVADA to treat
  HIV-1. TRUVADA by itself is not a complete treatment for HIV-1. If you have HIV-1
  and take only TRUVADA, your HIV-1 may become harder to treat over time.
- Also take certain medicines to treat hepatitis B infection.

#### What are the other possible side effects of TRUVADA for PrEP?

#### Serious side effects of TRUVADA may also include:

- Kidney problems, including kidney failure. Your healthcare provider may do blood tests to check your kidneys before and during treatment with TRUVADA. If you develop kidney problems, your healthcare provider may tell you to stop taking TRUVADA.
- ◆ Too much lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis), which is a serious but rare medical emergency that can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: weakness or being more tired than usual, unusual muscle pain, being short of breath or fast breathing, stomach pain with nausea and vomiting, cold or blue hands and feet, feel dizzy or lightheaded, or a fast or abnormal heartbeat.
- Severe liver problems, which in rare cases can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow, dark "tea-colored" urine, light-colored stools, loss of appetite for several days or longer, nausea, or stomach-area pain.
- ♦ **Bone problems,** including bone pain, softening, or thinning, which may lead to fractures. Your healthcare provider may do tests to check your bones.

**Common side effects** in people taking TRUVADA for PrEP are stomach-area (abdomen) pain, headache, and decreased weight. Tell your healthcare provider if you have any side effects that bother you or do not go away.

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

- All your health problems. Be sure to tell your healthcare provider if you have or have had any kidney, bone, or liver problems, including hepatitis.
- If you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if TRUVADA can harm your unborn baby. If you become pregnant while taking TRUVADA for PrEP, talk to your healthcare provider to decide if you should keep taking TRUVADA.
- If you are breastfeeding (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed. If you become HIV-positive, HIV can be passed to the baby in breast milk.
- All the medicines you take, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. TRUVADA may interact with other medicines. Keep a list of all your medicines and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist when you get a new medicine.
- If you take certain other medicines with TRUVADA, your healthcare provider may need to check you more often or change your dose. These medicines include certain medicines to treat hepatitis C (HCV) infection.

You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit www.FDA.gov/medwatch, or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

# We're open, not unprepared.

We know who we are. And we make choices that fit our lives.

TRUVADA for PrEP™ is a once-daily prescription medicine that can help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 when taken every day and used together with safer sex practices.

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

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



Learn more at truvada.com





#### (tru-VAH-dah)

#### MOST IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT TRUVADA FOR Prep

#### **Before starting TRUVADA for PrEP:**

- You must be HIV-1 negative. You must get tested to make sure that you do not already
  have HIV-1. Do not take TRUVADA for PrEP to reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 unless you are
  confirmed to be HIV-1 negative.
- Many HIV-1 tests can miss HIV-1 infection in a person who has recently become
  infected. Symptoms of new HIV-1 infection include flu-like symptoms, tiredness, fever, joint or
  muscle aches, headache, sore throat, vomiting, diarrhea, rash, night sweats, and/or enlarged
  lymph nodes in the neck or groin. Tell your healthcare provider if you have had a flu-like illness
  within the last month before starting TRUVADA for PrEP.

#### While taking TRUVADA for PrEP:

- You must continue to use safer sex practices. Just taking TRUVADA for PrEP may not keep you from getting HIV-1.
- You must stay HIV-negative to keep taking TRUVADA for PrEP. Get tested for HIV-1 at least every 3 months while taking TRUVADA for PrEP. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you think you were exposed to HIV-1 or have a flu-like illness while taking TRUVADA for PrEP.
- If you do become HIV-1 positive, you need more medicine than TRUVADA alone to treat HIV-1. If you have HIV-1 and take only TRUVADA, your HIV-1 may become harder to treat over time
- See the "How To Further Reduce Your Risk" section for more information.

#### TRUVADA may cause serious side effects, including:

Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection. TRUVADA is not approved to treat HBV. If you
have HBV, your HBV may suddenly get worse if you stop taking TRUVADA. Do not stop taking
TRUVADA without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to check your health
regularly for several months.

#### **ABOUT TRUVADA FOR PrEP**

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

• To help determine your risk of getting HIV-1, talk openly with your healthcare provider about your sexual health.

#### Do NOT take TRUVADA for PrEP if you:

- Already have HIV-1 infection or if you do not know your HIV-1 status.
- Take certain medicines to treat hepatitis B infection.

#### **HOW TO TAKE TRUVADA FOR PrEP**

- Take 1 tablet once a day, every day, not just when you think you have been exposed to HIV-1.
- Do not miss any doses. Missing doses may increase your risk of getting HIV-1 infection.
- Use TRUVADA for PrEP together with condoms and safer sex practices.
- Get tested for HIV-1 at least every 3 months. You must stay HIV-negative to keep taking TRUVADA for PrEP.

#### IMPORTANT FACTS

This is only a brief summary of important information about taking TRUVADA for PrEP™ (pre-exposure prophylaxis) to help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 infection. This does not replace talking to your healthcare provider about your medicine.

#### POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF TRUVADA FOR PrEP

#### TRUVADA can cause serious side effects, including:

- Those in the "Most Important Information About TRUVADA for PrEP" section.
- New or worse kidney problems, including kidney failure.
- Too much lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis), which is a serious but rare medical emergency
  that can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: weakness
  or being more tired than usual, unusual muscle pain, being short of breath or fast breathing, stomach
  pain with nausea and vomiting, cold or blue hands and feet, feel dizzy or lightheaded, or a fast or
  abnormal heartbeat.
- Severe liver problems, which in rare cases can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow, dark "tea-colored" urine, light-colored stools, loss of appetite for several days or longer, nausea, or stomach-area pain.
- Bone problems.

**Common side effects** in people taking TRUVADA for PrEP include stomach-area (abdomen) pain, headache, and decreased weight.

These are not all the possible side effects of TRUVADA. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you have any new symptoms while taking TRUVADA for PrEP.

Your healthcare provider will need to do tests to monitor your health before and during treatment with TRUVADA for PrEP.

#### **BEFORE TAKING TRUVADA FOR PrEP**

#### Tell your healthcare provider if you:

- Have or have had any kidney, bone, or liver problems, including hepatitis.
- Have any other medical conditions.
- Are pregnant or plan to become pregnant.
- Are breastfeeding (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed. If you become HIV-positive, HIV
  can pass to the baby in breast milk.

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

- Keep a list that includes all prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements, and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist.
- Ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist about medicines that should not be taken with TRUVADA for PrEP

#### **HOW TO FURTHER REDUCE YOUR RISK**

- Know your HIV status and the HIV status of your partners.
- Get tested for other sexually transmitted infections. Other infections make it easier for HIV to infect you.
- Get information and support to help reduce risky sexual behavior, such as having fewer sex partners.
- Do not share needles or personal items that can have blood or body fluids on them.

#### **GET MORE INFORMATION**

- This is only a brief summary of important information about TRUVADA for PrEP. Talk to your healthcare provider or pharmacist to learn more, including how to prevent HIV infection.
- Go to start.truvada.com or call 1-800-GILEAD-5
- If you need help paying for your medicine, visit start.truvada.com for program information.



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"One thing I will say is that I wasn't expecting to miss my family and my friends so much," Mayhem said. "When you are cut off from all social media and everything and everyone that is familiar to you, you realize how much it all really means to you."

The contestants have each other, of course. But at the same time, most of them are strangers to each other, and when you get right down to it, they have to remember they are all competing for the same prize.

"It's interesting. You're in this situation with a bunch of strangers, and you're all put through this ringer together," Mayhem said. "You want to support each other, and you try to support each other. We all feel the same way; we're all there for the same reason: to win. It really pushes you."

And with so many bigger-than-life personalities crammed into such close proximity day after day to compete against each other, there will be conflict — for example, the loud and long dust-up between Eureka O'Hara and The Vixen in week four.

It happens, Mayhem acknowledged, "but I try to always be neutral. That's my nature. I don't like conflict and I don't like fighting."

Although expecting the unexpected is a necessary part of competing on *Drag Race*, the queens know some things are definite. For example, there will definitely be design challenges. And for Mayhem, those were some of the hardest parts of the competition.

"The design challenges were difficult for me because I don't make my own stuff," she said. "Yes, I can sew if I have to. But I don't do it regularly. But the show pushed me into doing something I am not familiar with, that I don't like doing — it pushed me into doing it, and doing it well."

Competing in *Drag Race* also can be a hard reality check for some of the queens. "A lot of the girls are big names where they are from, but then you get here and you realize, oh wow! This person has *way* more experience than I do!

"You might be the top dog at home, but you get to the competition, and that is all thrown out,:" she said. "Everybody starts from scratch. You realize that even though you might have a lot of experience in this one area, somebody else has more experience in a different area. When you get right down to it, it's almost a level playing field."

Mayhem said she has just focused on taking it all in stride and taking each challenge as it comes. "My drag is very varied," she said. "I am well-versed in all aspects of drag — from the glamour side of it to the avant garde and the crazy, out-of-the-box side. Then we get into the comedy and the acting side of my drag, and the fashion side

of my drag.

"I pride myself on being a well-rounded entertainer."

Mayhem said she knows the role drag has played in the history of the LGBT movement, and "I feel it is an honor to be able to say I am a drag queen. I know that I have a platform to continue the legacy of those who came before us, and I am proud to be out there, pushing for our rights and pushing for our visibility."

And participating in events like Impulse Dallas' Cirque du SoGay is part of that, she added.

Impulse is a national organization focusing on promoting "healthier sexual lifestyles using modern social approaches." Mayhem said that she has worked with Impulse Los Angeles many times over the years, and when the opportunity to work with Impulse Dallas came up, she jumped at it.

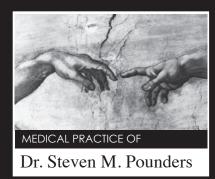
"As an individual and as a public figure, I think it's important to give back as much as you can and to support your community," she said.

Impulse Dallas and Tito's Vodka present Cirque du SoGay, featuring Mayhem Miller, Ivana Tramp, May May Graves and DH Ryan Tiffin, from 9 p.m.-2 a.m. at Urban Cowboy Saloon, 2620 E. Lancaster in Fort Worth. Admission is free, but RSVP at CirqueDuSoGay. EventBrite.com is required for admission.



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# Police investigating death at FW bar

TAMMYE NASH I Managing Editor nash@dallasvoice.com

Fort Worth man died Monday evening following an altercation last weekend at a bar on South Jennings Street. Officer Daniel Segura with the Fort Worth Police Department's Public Information Office said investigators in the department's homicide division "will be looking at the case."

Joe DeLane, 51, died shortly after 6 p.m. Monday at JPS Hospital in Fort Worth, according to the Tarrant County Medical Examiner's website. Cause and manner of death were listed as pending as of press time on Thursday, April 19.

Segura said police were called to the 515 Bar, located at 515 S. Jennings St., shortly after midnight on Saturday, April



Joe DeLane

He said that according to the report filed by responding officers, DeLane entered 515 Bar after having left another bar, and that the bartender on duty asked DeLane to leave 515 Bar after he began causing a disturbance.

Segura said that according to the police report, DeLane punched the bartender, and the bartender responded by pushing DeLane. At that point, according to the report, DeLane fell backwards and was knocked unconscious as he hit the ground.

DeLane was transported by ambulance to IPS Hospital.

Police reports identified the bartender only by his last name, Cantu.

Friends of DeLane are questioning that version of events, saying that DeLane was not a violent or aggressive person. In posts on social media, they have described him as a friendly person who loved to dance and who was an avid supporter of the Imperial Court de Fort Worth/Arlington and other charitable organizations and efforts





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**Internet Manager** 214.904.3318







#### CITY OF DALLAS

FAIR HOUSING OFFICE

The city of Dallas Fair Housing and Human Rights Ordinance makes it illegal to discriminate against a person in regards to:

Race | Color | Religion | Sex | National Origin | Handicap (Mental or Physical) | Familial Status (Children Under 18) | Source of Income (social security, spousal support, child support or veterans with housing assistance vouchers)  $\mid$ Sexual Orientation | Gender Identity

> The actions that are covered by the City Ordinance are:

RENTAL, including leasing, using and keeping a unit, and property management;

SALES, including brokers, sales agents, lenders, mortgage brokers, insurance agents and sellers;

ADVERTISEMENT, including brokers, sales agents, lenders, mortgage brokers, insurance agents and sellers:

EMPLOYMENT, including brokers, sales agents, lenders, mortgage brokers, insurance agents and sellers;

PUBLIC ACCOMMODATION, service in restaurants, theaters, retail store, and nongovernmental public services (relative to sexual orientation only).

If you suspect discrimination in these areas and wish to file a complaint call: 214-670-FAIR (3247)



#### • May 3: Bryan's House 30 anniversary

Bryan's House Medern Pearl Luncheon and Fashion Show celebrates the organization's 30th anniversary from 11:30 a.m.-1:15 p.m. at 3015 Trinity Groves, 3015 Gulden Lane. \$125. Purchase tickets at BryansHouse.org/events. The agency is also selling raffle tickets for a week at a private villa in Cabo San Lucas, including airfare on Southwest Airlines, a white-gold-and-pearl necklace from Bachendorf's and a sports package with tickets to the Texas Rangers June 8 game against the Houston Astros and a baseball autographed by Nomar Mozara, a basketball autographed by Dallas Mavericks star Dirk Nowitzki and a 2019 ticket package to the Dallas Stars games. Tickets are \$20 each or six for \$100. Email mcavazos@bryanshouse.org for details.

#### • May 4: Couple Communication Workshop

Candy Marcum, LPC, and Jimmy Owen, LPC, present a four-part Couple Communication Workshop, taking place over two weekends, from 5-7 p.m. May 4 and 11, 10 a.m.-noon on May 5 and 12. Designed to help couples understand each other better by learning effective communication skills. Cost is \$450 per couple, which includes two workbooks and eight hours of instruction. Registration is required. For information contact Marcum by phone at 214-521-1278 or be email at candy@candymarcum.com, or visit CandyMarcum.com.

#### • May 8: Resource Center tour

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.

#### • May 8: Young Professionals Advisory Council mixer

From 5:30-7 p.m. at Ferris Wheelers Backyard and BBQ, 1950 Market Center Blvd.

#### • May 10: 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.

#### • May 11-14: Purple Party

#### • May 12: House of DIFFA: Alter Ego

Celebrate fashion, design and philanthropy at the annual black tie galaincluding runway show and after party at the Omni Dallas

#### • May 12: Gray Pride Prom

Live DJ, dancing, raffle prizes and more from 7-11 p.m. at Resource Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road.

#### • May 13: Mother's Day with The Women's Chorus of Dallas

TWCD performs at 12:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. at Texas Discovery Gardens, 3601 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

#### • May 14: First day of early voting

Early voting for the primary runoff election runs May 14-18. Vote in any early voting location in your county.

#### • May 15: Grief support group

LGBT grief support group for people who have lost a same-sex partner from 6:45-8 p.m. at Oak Lawn Library, 4100 Cedar Springs Road.

#### • May 16: Health Campus Open House

Resource Center's health campus holds an open house from 5:30-7 p.m. at 2701 Reagan St.

#### • May 19: AOC Evening of Hope

AIDS Outreach Center of Fort Worth hosts its annual Evening of Hope gala at the Hilton Hotel Fort Worth, 815 Main St. Single tickets are \$200. Sponsorships are available. For information visit AOC.org/eoh.php.

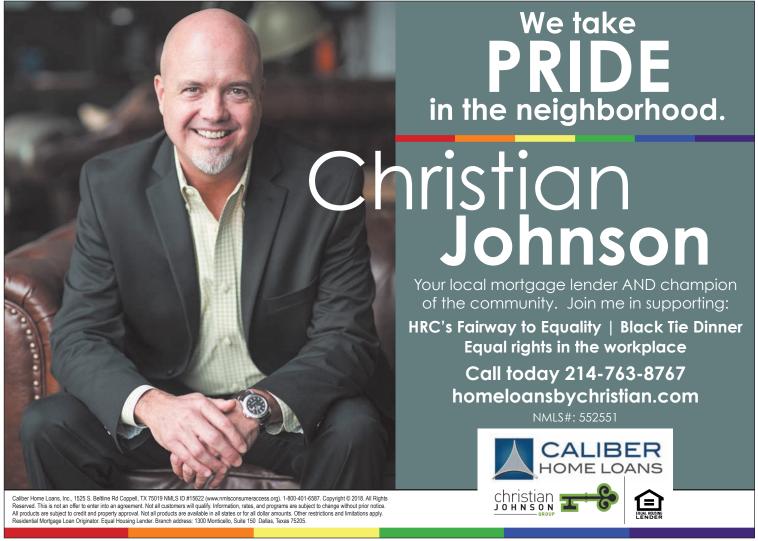
#### • May 19: Marvel vs. DC Gaybingo

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.

#### • May 19: GLAAD Media Institute

Equality Texarkana presents Engagement 101: Telling Your Story: Messaging and Media Tools for Today's Activist from 9:30 a.m.-6 p.m. at Texas A&M Texarkana, 7101 University Ave., Texarkana, Texas. Tickets at GLAAD.org/institute/courses.





# Comedic Uprising

The Dallas Comedy House and the taming of diversity in Dallas

**BRANDI AMARA SKYY I** Contributing Writer brandi@dallasvoice.com

arly this year while searching for public speaking classes, I stumbled upon Dallas Comedy House's class curriculum—storytelling, six levels of improv and standup comedy. Immediately I knew I wanted in, and when I discovered they offered Diversity Scholarships that would cover the cost of classes, I dropped everything I was doing and applied.

A month later, I received an email saying I was awarded a scholarship and signed up for my first class, Storytelling.

When I arrived at DCH, I fully expected to be ushered into the building in which the theater is located. Instead, I learned our classes were being held in DCH's training center — the gray building right next to the theater.

The moment I stepped foot in the room, I knew this place was special. The training center was full of rooms with names like "Hall" and "Vutam." There was a family-style room full of couches, and every wall was decorated with pictures of DCH students sprinkled in with Saturday Night Live inspiration. I could feel the life and laughter in the building, and when I made my way to the other end of the room, I saw they had LGBTQ flyers on the walls and gender-neutral bathrooms. I knew that I would not only be welcomed here as an out loud and proud gay, but celebrated. I felt like I was home — a feeling that was solidified further when my wife and I attended the special scholarship reception the following week.

At the reception, I met the whole DCH family and my mentor Scriven, aka Miracle, who is one of the founding members of DCH's LGBTQ+ group that produces the improv-turning-variety show "Let's Get Busy Tonight." I also met Amanda Austin who, I would later find out, was the owner of this magical space.

Amanda and I chatted about chunky big jewelry, hoop earrings and how said earrings were a part of her uniform staple, a la Steve Jobs' black turtleneck. I had fallen in love with her and DCH, but what I was most excited about was that this was only the beginning of what I knew was going to be a long and special relationship with this amazing place and these colorful humans.

Only it wasn't.

Two days after being introduced to a new potential family, I learned through Amanda's Facebook that the Dallas Comedy House was being threatened with eviction by the new owners of the building, Black Market Investments, the same people that own Terry Black's BBQ in Austin.

Amanda wrote, "I'm faced with a new landlord, one whose introduction to me wasn't a phone call or meeting, but a default letter, and I'm staring at a termination of tenancy notice based on trumped up and bogus claims of being in default under my lease."

She continued, "They effectively bought the building with the knowledge I had two more years on my lease, with an additional option to renew, but told me they wanted me out."

And just like that, something that was so full of potential became the source of immediate pain.

At first, I was heartbroken at the thought of losing something that I just found, but then I got mad. Mad for myself because I may not get to see where this chapter of my story takes me, and mad for all these people I had just met for whom DCH is home, their reprieve from the outside world's noise just like how the Gayborhood is mine.

And then I got even angrier as I started thinking about the impending and imminent threat of losing yet another community and cultural collective space AND all the spaces that we've already lost.

Because for those of us who love Dallas' unique local flavor of neighborhoods and businesses what's happening with DCH is not an isolated incident. We have seen this all too often before — an infamous and historical community favorite being forced to shut it doors because the owner of the land wants to sell out to some corporate giant.

We saw it happen with The Loon on Lemmon when CVS bought the land and kicked out the 22-year old business — and the place the Mavericks went to celebrate their 2011 championship — to build their store.

We saw it happen in our community when BJ's NXS was forced to close — even after the owner offered to pay the landlord double rent to stay open the remainder of 2017.

While each of these situations may be different, the questions and answers are still the same: Does Dallas really need a CVS right across the street from Walgreens? Does Dallas really need another barbecue joint in Deep Ellum?

CH PCH

Dallas Comedy House is battling eviction.

Even if you believe the answer is yes and that these conglomerates expansions are the cost of "development" and growth for our city, that's only part of the problem.

The real issue here is Dallas is losing its charm, personality and culture to the highest bidder — and it just keeps getting worse. Just this week the tycoon and billionaire from Austin, Michael Dell, teamed up with Dallas-based realtor service Retail Connection and bought up a majority of land in another infamous Dallas neighborhood — Knox. And what's really troublesome is the manner in which these corporate and company giants come after the little people and small businesses they want out.

In that same Facebook post, Amanda described the behind-the-scenes bullying she endured the first week of April: "Last week, at the beginning of our 9th annual Dallas Comedy Festival, when we had comedians from all over the country fly in for performance opportunities, we got a 'surprise' visit from representatives from the fire marshal's office, who said they'd just received a complaint about us. When the fire marshal didn't shut us down that night, I received another default letter shortly thereafter."

When I reached out to Boyd Mouse, the lawyers representing Black Market Investments and Terry Black's BBQ for a statement, they didn't have one ... yet. But I'm not sure we need one, because this is a classic story of David and Goliath, and unfortunately for us and the Dallas cultural landscape, 99 percent of the time Goliath wins.

That was
the case for the
historic The Elbow
Room on Gaston Avenue.
Because despite Dallas preservationists trying to save The Elbow Room
as an historical site, we (Dallasites who
would rather keep Dallas real than pretentious) still lost because Texas A&M
played the eminent domain card and
seized the building for its new dental
school.

What I'm pretty ours Black Market In

What I'm pretty sure Black Market Investments, Terry Black's BBQ and their lawyers didn't expect was all-out resistance —from the DCH owner, the media and the community — old and new. From calls of protest to a Change.org petition to DCH members and comedy lovers using the weapon of words and penning articles for the media, the people of Deep Ellum and beyond have DCH's and Amanda's back. And she has ours.

They wanted her out by Monday April 16, but DCH is still here. Amanda will not be bullied, and we'll not budge an inch. ■

On April 20, DCH will host Let's Get Busy Tonight at 9 p.m. Tickets available online at DallasComedyHouse.laughstub.com/event. cfm?cart&id=505678.

On June 23 at 8 p.m., DCH will host it's first-ever drag pageant, "Drag Reflex." Tickets available soon.

## Remembering Crae Pridgen

Once celebrated as an activist and a symbol of the fight for equality, Pridgen died recently in relative obscurity

**DAVID WEBB |** The Rare Reporter

quarter-century ago, the nation fixated on President Bill Clinton's proposal to enact a "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy for the U.S. military. The bitter controversy erupted in the national media on Jan. 30, 1993, when three Marines from Camp Lejeune and the patrons of a gay bar named Mickey Ratz in Wilmington, N.C., went to battle.

The bar fight and the injuries sustained by one of the patrons, Crae Pridgen Jr. — who lived in Dallas for a brief time and has recently died — dominated the headlines.

Since then, the event that garnered so much notoriety at the time has faded in history. Everyone has forgotten that the LGBT community celebrated Pridgen, who suffered cuts, bruises, a black eye, a cut lip and a lost tooth, as a star in the aftermath of the bar melee.

Back then, Pridgen's appearances in restaurants and bars frequented by the LGBT community anywhere in the country triggered crowds of admirers and well-wishers. The Human Rights Campaign penned a fundraising letter under his name; he appeared at the March on Washington as a headliner, and the Southern Poverty Law Center filed a lawsuit against the Marines on his behalf.

He also made an appearance on the Today show.

But it proved to be a short-lived celebrity. Everything changed in April 1993, when a judge in Wilmington acquitted the Marines on assault charges after a six-day trial that was covered live on television.

The judge ruled the prosecutors failed to meet the burden of proof, and that she believed the Marines had acted in self-defense. The Marines claimed they were taunted by gay patrons, while Pridgen maintained that the military men, who entered the club with their girlfriends, attacked and yelled "Clinton must pay," an alleged reference to the new military policy allowing gay and lesbian soldiers to serve.

The loss of the criminal case devastated Pridgen's civil suit, and it later was settled



out of court. The three Marines signed a statement saying that harassment is wrong, and they made a \$100 contribution to the American Foundation for AIDS Research.

Pridgen found it difficult to find employment after the debacle of the criminal trial, and his church expelled him from the congregation. He endured widespread criticism in his hometown and nationwide from straight conservatives.

As is the case with most victims of violence, Pridgen suffered the classic symptoms of post traumatic stress syndrome, such as anxiety and depression. He attempted to relocate to other cities, spending some time in Montgomery, Ala., the home of the Southern Poverty Law Center, before returning to North Carolina. While in Alabama he served as a volunteer lobbyist for the newly-formed Gay and Lesbian Alliance of Alabama.

Pridgen, who relocated to Fort Lauderdale in 1999, died March 2 at the age of 53. He appears to have lived a much quieter life in his final years, in comparison to his former high media profile. His obituary in the Wilmington Star News said that he died unexpectedly at Florida Medical Center in Fort Lauderdale.

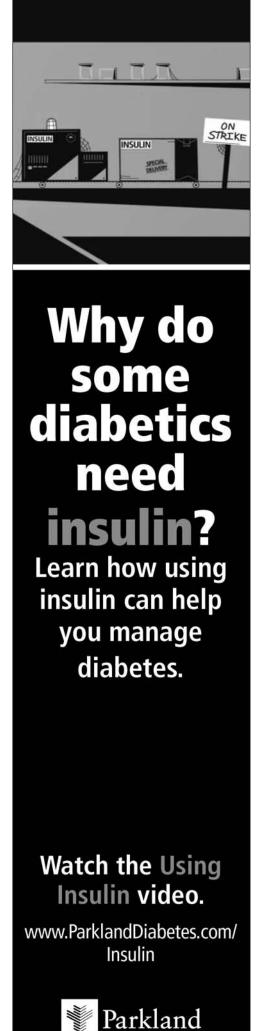
During his time in Florida, Pridgen worked as a mental health technician. He also became active in Lambda South, a 12-step recovery program for LGBT people, and in Florida Roundup, a statewide conference of LGBT recovery groups, as the chair of various committees.

Few people today remember him, but Pridgen should be recognized by the LGBT community for bringing widespread attention to the ongoing effort to combat hate crimes and promote tolerance. He gave all he had to give, and he paid a heavy price for his contribution.

David Webb worked at the Southern Poverty Law Center as a writer and researcher at the time the organization represented Crae Pridgen. Webb was assigned to Pridgen's case and worked with him closely.







Care. Compassion. Community.

# Fundraising kicks off for QueerBomb 2018

FROM STAFF REPORTS



pay for the party, rally and march.

QueerBomb Dallas 2018 will be held Saturday, June 16, at 7 p.m. at RBC, 2617 Commerce St. in Deep Ellum. Founded in 2014, the event is marking its fifth year, and founder and organizer Daniel Mullens-Spencer said this year's Bomb is as important as ever.

"With the current political and social climate it can be really difficult sometimes to find a reason to celebrate, that's exactly why we must," Mullens-Spencer said. "Pride

means loving yourself and your community even when the world around you may be working to shove you back into a closet. It's an act of resistance, and we are serving it loudly and proudly."

Alex Stone, another QueerBomb organizer, stressed that the event remains "sponsor-free."

"We have never compromised on that," she said. "That's a radical thing in a time where it is often compromise or die for Pride events. It keeps this celebration in the hands of the community and hearkens back to Pride's activist roots."

Still, there are costs involved, so organizers each year turn to the community to fund the event. And organizers have launched an online fundraiser at GoFundMe.com/QueerBombDallas2018, so that the community can respond.

"It doesn't take much to make Queer-Bomb happen, only about \$5,000 each year," Mullens- Spencer noted. "We raise all of that money in the community, and



that allows us to hold a Pride celebration that won't ask you to change your internet provider. Whether you give \$1 or \$100, everything helps."

Stone explained that donations help the organizers cover the costs of permits necessary for the event, lighting and sound equipment, venues and entertainment. And, she added, "It also helps us keep this celebration free and open to all ages, which is vital."

Stone said that while donations to Queer-Bomb are not yet tax-deductible, organizers

have filed for official 501(c)(3) tax status to ensure QueerBomb's sustainability. "We want to be around for a long time," she said.

QueerBomb 2018 will be held June 16 at RBC, 2617 Commerce St. in Deep Ellum. Gates open at 5 p.m. The event is open to all ages and is free to the public. To donate to the event visit www.gofundme.com/queerbombdallas2018. Donations will be accepted right up until the day of the event. For information email queerbombdallas@gmail.com.





# Asia O'Hara to emcee MetroBall 13

FROM STAFF REPORTS

fficials with the Greg Dollgener Memorial AIDS Fund, the organization that each year presents MetroBall, this week announced that local favorite and RuPaul's Drag

Race Season 10 contestant Asia O'Hara will be emcee for MetroBall 13, set for June 29 at S4.

O'Hara joins an already-announced lineup of entertainers that includes icons of 1980s and '90s dance/pop music, Exposé ("Come Go With Me" and "Point of No Return") and Shannon ("Let The Music Play").



titles in drag pageantry systems, including the Miss Gay America crown in 2016. O'Hara will perform herself as well as in-

troducing Exposé and Shannon.

one of the best-known female impersonators in North Texas. She has won several national

More than 700 guests are expected to attend MetroBall 13, which in addition to the entertainers will feature a silent auction with more than 100 items to bid on and a DJ-dance party.

Over the past two decades, the MetroBall has raised more than \$600,000 for GDMAF, which has used the money to provide as-

sistance for more than 3,000 people with HIV/AIDS across the Dallas Metroplex. GDMAF was founded in 1996 with a mission to provide emergency financial assistance to individuals living with HIV/AIDS that are otherwise unable to receive other social services assistance, and to provides assistance to other North Texas AIDS service programs once their primary funding is exhausted.

VIP tickets and sponsorship packages for MetroBall 13 are available through June 28, ranging from \$250 to \$15,000, and silent auction donations are being accepted through June 20. Those donating auction

items valued at more than \$400 will receive two tick-

ets to the VIP reception, two complementary drink tickets, an early preview of the silent auction and general admission to the concert and DJ-dance party.

For information on sponsorships and auction donations, contact David Hearn by phone at 972-743-6323 or by email at planobar@aol.com.

General admission tickets are \$30 advance and \$40 at the door. Advance tickets are available now online at GDMAF.org/metroball and at metroball2018.brownpapertickets.com, and in person at The UPS Store at 3824 Cedar Springs Road.

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## **■commUNITY**voices

SESTA-FOSTA is no fiesta



The national disaster that is the Trump presidency has rolled back a lot of protections for LGBT people. But the latest atrocity to spew from the maw of the beast is something called SES-TA/FOSTA.

It's a mash up of "The Stop Enabling Sex Traffickers Act" of 2017 (SESTA) from the Senate and the House equivalent, the "Fight Online Sex Trafficking Act" (FOS-

Now at first glance, some might think, "Well, stopping trafficking is a good thing, especially if it's underage individuals."

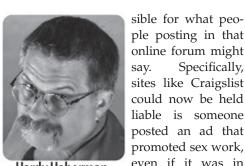
Think again.

This unholy acronym is a direct attack on freedom of speech as well as on the millions of people who make their living doing consensual sex work. But it actually does little to protect anyone being "trafficked."

It is also having a direct and devastating effect on marginalized populations, like economically challenged transgender folk.

Let me break it down for you.

The biggest hit from these laws is that they are rolling back parts of Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act (CDA). That law protects publishers from things their members might say — in other words, a site with an online forum is not respon-



Hardy Haberman Flagging Left

even if it was in veiled language. Already,

sible for what peo-

ple posting in that

online forum might

sites like Craigslist

could now be held

posted an ad that

Specifically,

page has been taken down. And Craigslist is shutting down its popular "Personals" section. Many more sites will follow suit to avoid prosecution for content their users

To avoid any chance of implication of promotion of prostitution, many sites that featured personal services like Massage Therapists and Personal Trainers are dropping those categories. Just to be safe.

Now comes the even worse part.

Because of the vague wording of these bills, many sites may start censoring any speech that could be construed as remotely associated with "trafficking." That means automatic filtering of keywords like "massage," "sugar daddy," "escort" and "companionship."

It won't take long before words like "gay", "lesbian", and "transgender" are added to the list.

This is a threat the Electronic Frontiers Foundation has been warning about. But big corporate players like Amazon backed the bill, and money talks in Congress.

So how is this affecting transgender people? Well, in the past many low-income transgender people made money doing sex work on the side. Using the internet to screen clients was much safer than being out on the street, and it offered a certain level of protection from predators who could be blacklisted and blocked.

Now, according to a report in The Daily Beast, transgender sex workers in New York are soliciting on the street again. I expect that the same thing is happening in Dallas.

Additionally, the law has resurrected the infamous character, the Pimp, figures notorious for abusing and exploiting transgender sex workers.

Beyond the immediate effects on sex workers, these bills are already stifling free speech with organizations that promote sexual freedom and advocate for sex workers rights. The vague legislation could make any organization responsible



for language on their website that could be somehow interpreted as promoting "trafficking."

The idea that mere discussion of sex work could be seen as a violation should send chills down your spine.

SESTA-FOSTA is a lazy piece of legislation. While it's hard not to agree with it's intended mission of stopping "trafficking" (ostensibly under-age trafficking), the bill is so vague that it does little to actually change anything except Americans' right to free speech.

It addresses none of the nuances surrounding sex, sex work and personal bodily autonomy. Instead, it creates more danger than it prevents. Forcing sex workers back onto the streets and back underground will result in injuries, exploitation and even deaths.

That is far too high a price to pay so lawmakers can boast that they are "doing something" about trafficking. Much like the ill-fated "war on drugs," this poorly written law will do nothing good and so much bad.

Hardy Haberman is a longtime local LGBT activist and a board member of the Woodhull Freedom Alliance. His blog is at DungeonDiary.blogspot.com.

# Representation matters — even when it's not of happy shiny families

ometimes the thing society most objects to about your family isn't what's wrong with it at all. In my house, mental illness hid in the shadow of the showier word — lesbian — where it festered and grew.

I loved my parents. I just wanted the yelling to stop. But of course I told no one — not my favorite teachers or even my counselor. Even as a child, I knew it was a forbidden topic.

Adult queerspawn whisper to me, "I can't tell my story, because my childhood wasn't happy." We all worry about the neighbors who view our families as inferior, unnatural, abominations. We keep our secrets and still our pens. We let the shiny people be the poster children for our movement.

Yet I have never been good at silence. My mom is gay and my family wasn't okay. There is deep love in there, composting with resentment and fear and laughter. Like most—dare I say all? — families.

The problem with only turning our good sides to the light isn't only that it isn't honest, it makes us one-dimensional cardboard cutouts. We are not allowed the luxury of dysfunction — that's for straight people, rich people, white people. All of the above and some of the below.

When I write about having lesbian parents who were also trying to reign in mental illness, I am often gently reminded that it is imperative that I make sure people know that most lesbian families are great, happy, sparkly, well-adjusted ... well, just great.

I needed to qualify that my experience isn't how it is for all lesbian families. If gayness was ethnicity, they might tell me that I needed to be a credit to my race. Certainly, I'm not the poster child they wanted.

Taking a survey of my objectors, the majority are straight white women indignant on behalf of queer people — my people. Queer people, by and large, understand.

"The problem is that the world is so incredibly hard on queer people," one lesbian woman confided in me, "yet we aren't allowed to let it break us or even wound us. We are expected to be paradigms of mental health — mentally stronger than straight people to prove our worth."

We must be smiley happy people to appear





Laura Lillibridge Special Contributor

nonthreatening.

I don't write for well-adjusted people who had happy childhoods. Of course I love when they can relate to my writing — don't get me wrong. But I want to reach everyone who didn't have a

family that cherished them and protected them from the terrors of the world.

And I write for my queer community who isn't allowed to speak about mental illness.

I remember my drag queen roommate, who moved in with me after his boyfriend hit him one too many times. How he said that the cops laughed and didn't intervene because it was "a fair fight."

I remember the whispers of my lesbian friends: "No one wants to talk about abuse in the lesbian community, but I was abused." And another, "She told me no one would believe me, because I'm butch." And still another, "She took our children away and married a man. She wants to erase the fact that she was ever a lesbian."

I can't totally own the queer label, because the parts that make me queer are easily hid. But that small distance creates space for me to tell my story.

As long as queer people are being beaten and murdered, fired or denied housing based on their sexuality or gender identity, we won't be able to hear everyone's voices. But it is safe for me to write, and so I write for those who can't.

What we need is more space on bookshelves for queer writers. We need happy stories and tragic stories. We need books by asexual, intersex, gay, lesbian and bisexual writers as well as other queerspawn like me. We need stories about people who refuse categorization.

And we need more than just coming out stories. We need queer main characters and bit parts in novels and movies — mainstream stories where characters just happen to be queer. Only then will we have a three-dimensional view of a very diverse group of people.

That fight is far from over, but representation in pop culture will help society to catch up — as we are seen as everyday people, friends and neighbors, teachers and mechanics, three-dimensional people with problems and struggles not unlike everyone else's — acceptance will be easier.

Or so we hope.

Lara Lillibridge sings off-beat and dances offkey. She is a graduate of West Virginia Wesleyan College's MFA program in creative nonfiction. In 2016, she won the Slippery Elm Literary Journal's Prose Contest and American Literary Review's Creative Nonfiction Contest, and was a finalist in both Black Warrior Review's Nonfiction Contest and Disquiet's Literary Prize in Creative Nonfiction. Lara resides in Cleveland, Ohio.

#### LIFE+STYLE

opera

# he homecoming

John de los Santos revisits the tango opera 'Maria de Buenos Aires,'and returns to the Fort Worth Opera where it all began for him

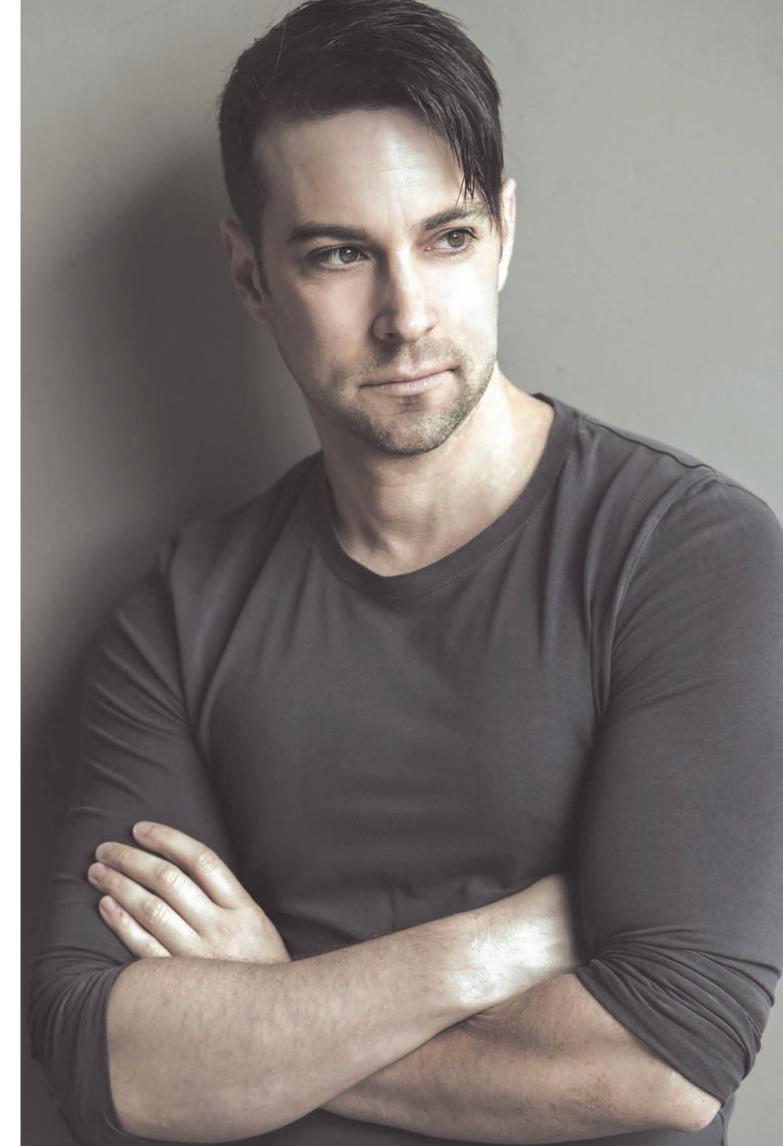
Bass Performance Hall, 535 Commerce St., Fort Worth. April 27–May 6. FWOpera.org.

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

ohn de los Santos had already spent years as an actor, dancer and choreographer in plays and musicals before getting his first exposure, at age 23, to the world of opera, when Fort Worth Opera asked him to choreograph a production for them. It would not be the last — in fact, in the intervening years, his opera portfolio has both spread and deepened.

But even he had not heard of the 1968

■ **HOMECOMING** Page 28



#### Dallas Opera's triumphant 'Don Giovanni'



Although written more than 200 years ago, Mozart's Don Giovanni is an unexpectedly timely opera in the #MeToo era. A woman named Stormy... er, Donna Elvira, spurned by a small-fingered vulgarian, sets out to let everyone in earshot know what a sexual reprobate he is. But the object of her wrath is also the object of her obsession. Once you go Giovanni, it's difficult to go back. Most of the three hours (relax — it flies by) is a lively sex romp, full of flirtatious antics and Mozart's impossibly lively, elegant music. Eventually it turns — not just a veer, but a hard left into some of the darkest content in the canon. Remember the horror film *Drag Me to Hell*? Yeah, that literally happens here. It's harrowing.

Don Giovanni is a fictionalized libertine who stood, presumably, as a cautionary tale of excess — Dorian Gray for the Renaissance. If he's not a callous rascal, there's no arc. He either learns the errors of his ways and repents, or pays for them. It's very Catholic that way.

Mozart played within the cultural rules, but he clear knew his audiences should enjoy themselves, first and foremost. His opera has all the bawdy rakishness of a Restoration comedy, where sexual conquests leave a wake of broken hearts but not much comeuppance for the central scalawag... until the end, when we are reminded, with prudish Biblical chastising, that the wages of sin is death. (I finally realized how much the final scene was co-opted by the "Don't Eat the Plants" coda that concludes *Little Shop of Horrors*.)

That could feel arresting and wrong — diabolus ex machina — but it's astonishing how organic it feels. This production's stage director, Robert Falls, known more for theater than opera, does little to foreshadow the nightmare to come, deciding instead to focus on the hedonistic bacchanalia, and seducing the audience with the wonders of amorality the way Giovanni seduces his women. (If he had lived 200 years later, he'd probably be Patient Zero.) Even the few hints at the future aren't heavy and scary, but comic. Using

costumes, sets and a style reminiscent of the 1920s, Falls presents our anti-hero as a kind of Bizzaro Gatsby: He doesn't pine for his One True Love, but assumes if he has everyone, she'll naturally fall within his ambit. His end is no better than Gatsby's, but he has more fun along the way.

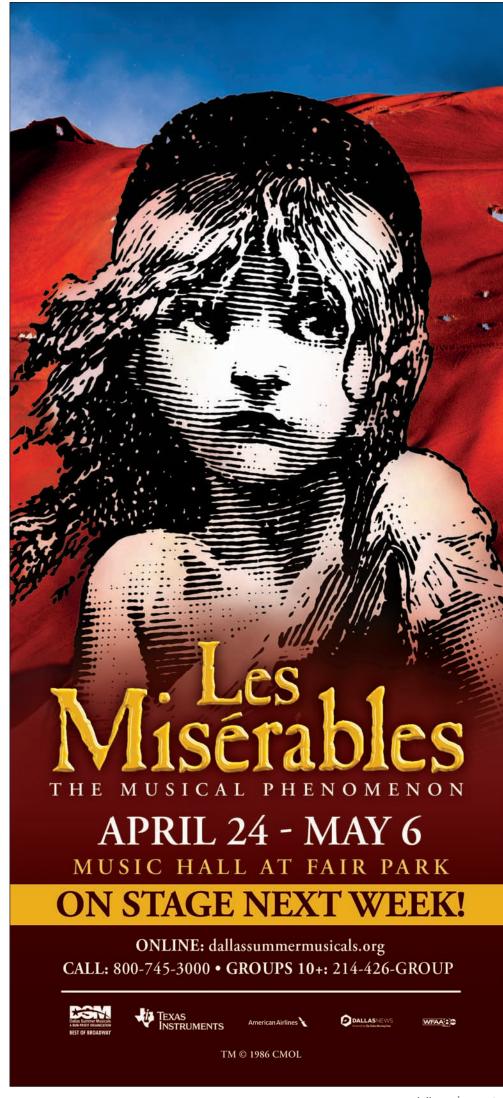
And so do we. Nothing about this production is anything shy of delightful, from the sets to the textbook conducting by Emmanuel Villaume to the best overall cast in an opera in memory. That is no small feat. Giovanni was played on opening night not by the marquee star, Mariusz Kwiecien, but by a last-minute replacement, baritone Craig Verm. Verm had been cast in the much smaller role of Masetto, but he stepped into the leading role with authority, fine voice, charisma... and a damned sexy mien. Everyone is pretty much beautiful here — and even better, can act the pantaloons off their parts. Verm is amazing.

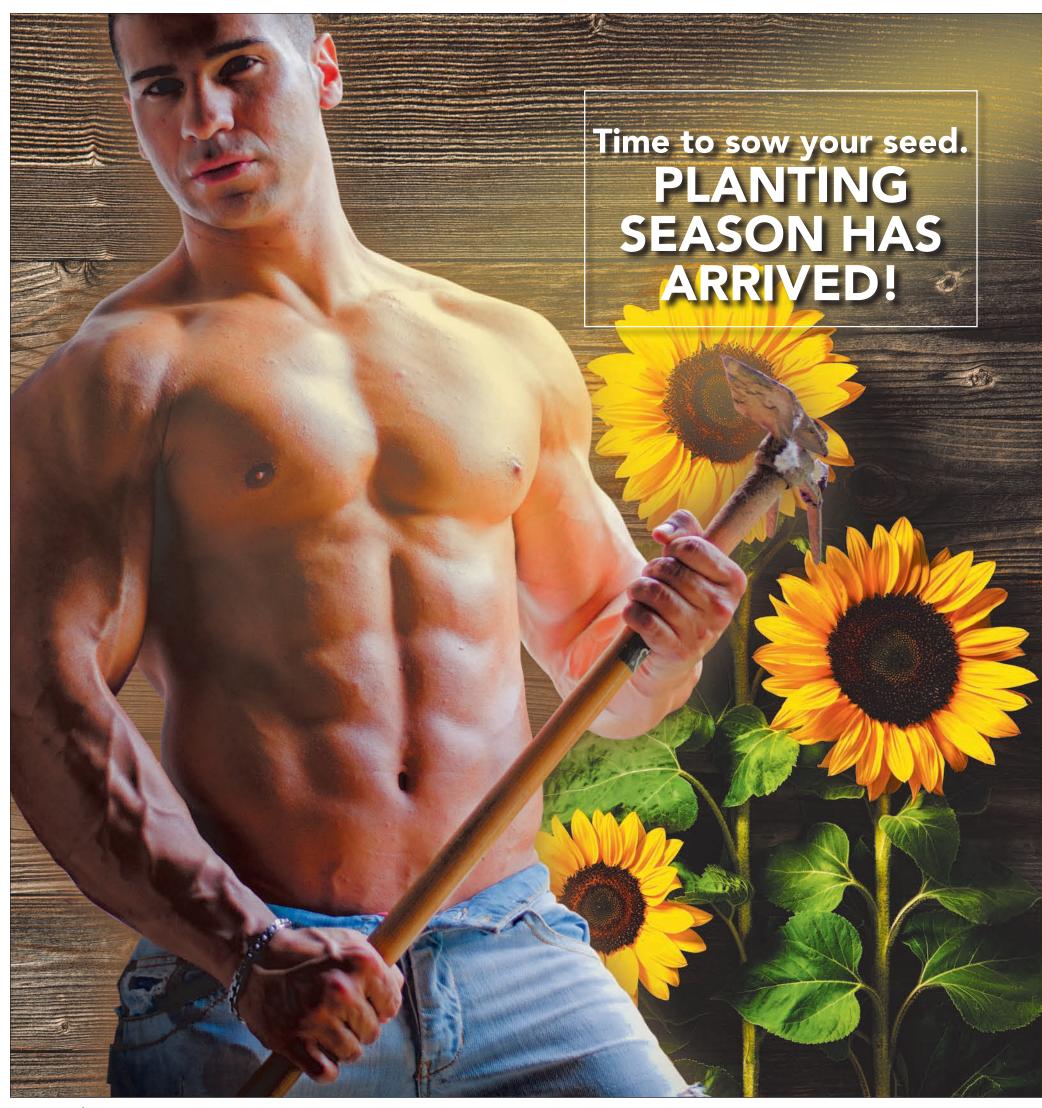
But even he isn't the primary scene-stealer. Katie Van Kooten as Donna Elvira, who pops up to cock-block Giovanni as often as possible, turns pain into laughter. Mezzo Virgine Verrez as Zerlina projects a sensual energy while remaining the naive victim of Giovanni. Laura Claycomb actually overplays a bit as Donna Anna, but her rich soprano is captivating. And best of all, baritone Kyle Ketelsen owns the Winspear stage as Leporello, Giovanni's disgruntled valet and de facto wingman. He's handsome and physical, expressive and sympathetic, all wrapped up in an outstanding voice. (I'd love to see him in another Mozart role, the wily Figaro, or as Sancho in Massenet's *Don Quichotte*.)

Although the supernatural element is a rough fit, the final 15-minute confrontation spirals the show into a deeper meaning. It sweeps you into the showdown between Don Giovanni and one of his victims with great power. It leaves you breathless. The whole production does.

Arnold Wayne JonesHouse, 2403 Flora St.

Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. April 21 and 27 at 7:30 p.m., April 29 at 2 p.m. DallasOpera.org.





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## ANNIVERSARY PARTY



Gene Street and Phil Cobb, co-founders of the Black Eyed Pea, will host a Two-Year Anniversary Party on Wednesday May 23. Street's will bring back a limited menu of Gene and Phil's favorite recipes. Raffle tickets will be sold all month for a chance to win a hefty gift basket featuring local items donated from restaurants and stores. All raffle proceeds will be donated to the Resource Center.



A scene from Maria de Buenos Aires which opens the Fort Worth Opera Festival April 27.

#### ■ **HOMECOMING** From Page 24

operetta Maria de Buenos Aires, or even its composer Astor Piazzolla, until he was tapped by the Lexington (Ky.) Philharmonic to direct it in 2012.

"I didn't have a lot of time — four days to get the show [on its feet], to direct it, choreograph it, design it and dance in it," de los Santos recounts. "I just immersed myself in it."

It wasn't the ideal way to approach a new work. "If anyone offered me [that job] in that amount of time today, I would say no,. but I was young and eager," he says. But good show business stories are all about second chances.

And sometimes third and fourth.

Later this month, de los Santos returns to Bass Performance Hall, the birthplace of his association with opera and home base of the FWO, to stage — for the third time — the opening night production of the FWO Festival, Maria de Buenos Aires, a woozy, surrealistic "tango operita," as Piazzolla called it. The second time was only months ago, when, with an entirely different cast, de los Santos mounted the production for the San Diego Opera. And he'll get a fourth bite at the apple early next year, when the Arizona Opera will have him back for its season opener.

It's not all that uncommon for opera companies to team up to produce an opera and spread around costs. But it is a rare opportunity for de los Santos to be able

to revisit a show that didn't get the full treatment on his first go-round.

"In Lexington, we did it in a warehouse, it was already cast [when I began directing] and there wasn't a lot of time or money," he says. "I had a lot of ideas, but we did it so quickly there wasn't a lot of time to flesh it out. But we all learned the piece and the ideas. Now, it's fully realized. It's a six year gestation period for this piece."

The opera itself is unusual — more about moods and emotions than a fixed plot, all set to the intoxicating rhythms of tango. The central figure, Maria, was born in the slums of Argentina and turns her back on her old life, only to meet with cruelty and sadness on the streets of the city and end up a prostitute. Maria encounters two negative forces — El Payador, and El Duende, a goblin-like creature.

The conductor for the FWO production, as well as the mezzo (Solange Meridien) and the baritone (Luis Orozco), all worked with de los Santos in Lexington, but he implemented one major change for the new versions: El Duende is played by a woman — in this case, Emmy-winning Latina broadcaster Gaby Natale.

"When [the three opera companies approached me about directing the production], I said, 'I want to cast El Duende, who is always played by a man, with a woman.' I have had nothing but positive feedback — I got nothing in response except, 'What



a great idea!'"

It wasn't just a bit of stunt casting, either. De los Santos says, in light of the current cultural climate, it makes a strong statement about the treatment of women in society. But it also changes an important emphasis without altering any text.

"The piece deals with rape and prostitution and chauvinist with the villains [represented by El Payador and El Duende]. When you have these two male forces against this one female force [it seems very aggressive]. But when you have two women playing against one man, it changes the dynamic. The idea of a woman tapping into her femininity and masculinity was something I wanted to play into," he says.

"It's a piece about a horrible situation a woman is put through, and it needs to be examined a little bit closer. It has definitely illuminated things in a new way — bringing darkness to the fore. I think a lot of people think *Maria* is a great tango opera, but without depth. But the idea of a woman surviving is very deep to me."

In many ways, the bigger risk for de los Santos was in tapping Natale for the role. She had never performed onstage before, certainly not in an opera. (El Duende is a non-singing part, although she speaks in a poetic rhythm.)

"I spoke with Gaby for a long time and convinced her to do it. The authenticity she brings to it is mind-blowing because the poetry is in her blood — she's from Argentina, and it's her heritage."

It was not, however, in de los Santos', despite his Latin roots. He was not familiar with Piazzolla — the foremost composer of what has been called *neuvo tango* — or tango music in general. Now, he's obsessed with it.

"I liked tango dancing, but this was my first foray into his music, and now I'm a huge fan," he says.

A lot of other people are learning about it as well. *Maria de Buenos Aires* was not widely performed prior to a few years ago, when many opera companies began a concerted effort to extend their outreach to

Spanish-speaking communities. And there simply are not as many operas written in Spanish as in other romance languages.

"Companies are trying to draw in Latino audiences — it's an under-represented [segment]. There are a lot of great Spanish and Latin composers, and we're trying to encourage more exposure to them. You hear this and think this is tango?"

And this one, de los Santos thinks, is a perfect entree for newcomers.

"I say that this is the opera for people who don't know if they like opera," he says.

"It's only 90 minutes long, it has dances and pretty sets. It's not so much a formal opera as a song cycle, a cabaret, a tango suite. It has sexy people in it. It's short. You go home and tango horizontally afterward!"

Maria de Buenos Aires kicks off the Fort Worth Opera Festival, April 27, with a subsequent performance on May 5. In addition, the FWO stages Donizetti's comic opera Don Pasquale (April 28, may 4) and Brief Encounters, three short operas about love (April 29–May 1). Visit FWOpera.org.

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## **Cool** hand lake

White Rock's retro homes go on display

If it's spring, it must be the time for home tours. And historic Lakewood in East Dallas offers some doozies, especially for all the fans of Mid-Century Modern and its descendants. (Naturally, some of the homes are gay-owned.)

For the first time in its 13-year history, the White Rock Home Tour has branched out to a home in Garland, thereby adding a bonus home to its usual lineup.

This year's WRHT will showcase four Mid-Century Modern homes and three new builds, each selected for its architectural significance and ability to offer a unique experience, for a total of seven homes. The "bonus home" is 4606 Chapel Hill, pictured above — a 13,000 square foot estate built in 1967 by Robert M. Brittingham and designed by architect Gilbert Greenman. Located in the exclusive Cloisters neighborhood, it boasts floor-toceiling windows for panoramic views from its lakefront location.

Six miles away in a scenic Garland neighborhood sits a sprawling 1965 time capsule on Glenbrook (pictured below, and owned by couple Royce Mathews and Johnny Johnson), centered around an indoor pool but also exuding a campy colorfulness

Other properties include a "green home" at 8626

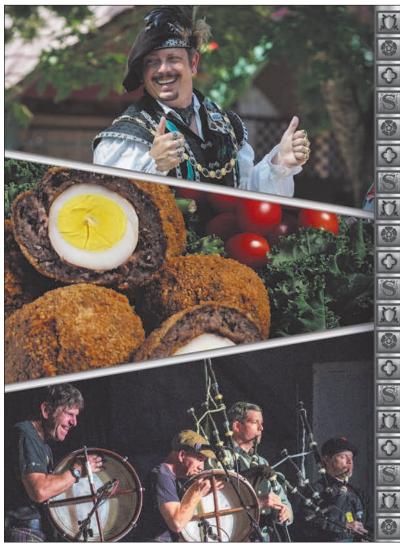
Diceman, built around the sun's rotation to increase energy efficiency and loaded with earth-friendly features inside and out; and a proto-"tiny home" of sorts: the pool house at 10845 Eden Roc.

— Arnold Wayne Jones



Tickets are \$15 (\$20 at the door) and benefit DISD's Hexter Elementary School. Hours are noon to 5 p.m. April 21–22. For more information, visit WhiteRockHomeTour.org.







Just 30 minutes south of Downtown Dallas/Fort Worth in Waxahachie

# Time for a spring clean!

8 tactics for getting your house to look like a gay person lives there

Whether you have kids, pets or just a messy housemate or partner, your home can turn into a disaster area before you know it. From dirty walls to unorganized closets to stained carpets and couches, every area of your abode is susceptible to disrepair. To keep things in check — and looking fresh — here are a few preemptive tips to make sure your place is at its best all year round.

Scotchgard your furniture. To protect fabric, furniture and carpet from stains, Scotchgard is essential. You can purchase the treatment at virtually any store that sells cleaning products, and many furniture companies offer the protection for an additional fee before you take your new digs home. Scotchgarded furniture can be costly if you have the retailer do it for you (so if you're pinching pennies, do it yourself), but it's worth the fee to ward off having to replace or reupholster your couch and chairs before you need or want to.

**Bust out the broom, duster and mop.** Nobody likes dusting, but it's amazing how a good wipe down of electronics, art

and decorative items can restore a room to its original shine. Likewise, a sweep of the floor followed by a serious mopping can give the room an immediate aura of clean. The lemon-fresh scent doesn't hurt either.

Use bleach in the bathroom. There's nothing more powerful or potent than bleach. It gets your whites whiter, but it's also a critical cleaning agent to remove mildew and prevent mold in the bathroom. Tile grout can get gross quickly, especially around the tub, which makes it essential to attack the problem areas with bleach once a month before too much gunk builds up. To protect yourself from the fumes, open the windows and turn on the exhaust. To keep your clothes from getting stained, get naked and clean the shower while you're taking one. Two birds, one stone.

Wipe down the walls. If you think dust, dirt and grime are only on your floors, furniture and appliances, you're wrong. Inspect your walls and baseboards closely and you'll see stains that will make you scratch your head. How did they get there? Who knows — but a quick wipe down

with a rag, soap and water will restore your walls to pristine condition. Avoid chemical cleansers at all costs in this area careful

because some of them can strip the paint right off — a preventable problem you don't need.

Put things away habitually. Even if your home is "clean," it won't seem that way if you have odd items like clothing, newspapers, magazine and dishes lying around everywhere. For some, this is a hard habit to break, but making it a point to put your stuff where it belongs will keep your place guest-ready at all times, prevent unwanted intrusions from pests, and free up your time since you won't have to schedule time to do what you should have done throughout the week.

Windex your mirrors and glass. Fingerprints, toothpaste and dust seemingly appear on your mirrors, windows and other glass out of nowhere. A paper towel

and a few spritzes of glass cleaner go a long way to maintain their natural sparkle. And don't forget about framed artwork when you're in glass-attacking mode, an often-overlooked necessity in making sure your home appears cultured but also clean

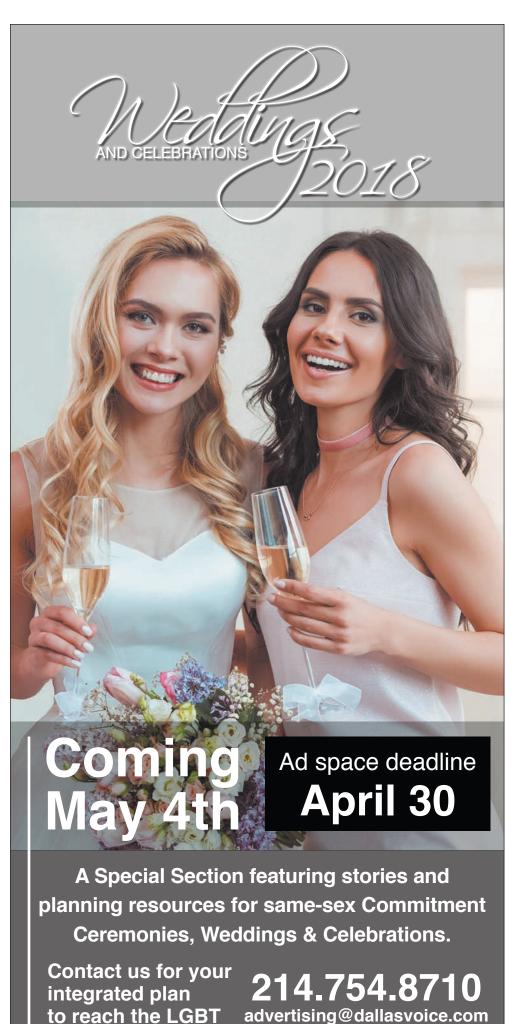
and comfortable.

Clean out your closets every six months. Yes, every six months. Get rid of old clothes; donate dust-collecting electronics and media, like CDs and DVDs; and sell any unwanted-but-still-valuable items on Craigslist, eBay, Amazon, or local marketplace apps like Letgo. Fold your clothes and place them neatly in the closet. Buy organizers to hide shoes and accessories. Chaos only breeds more chaos; you'll feel better about your space when everything is tidy and in its place.

- Mikey Rox







www.dallasvoice.com



# Elevate your garden

Portable plantings are perfect for urbanites with green thumbs



Make no mistake: Starting a garden is a huge commitment of time and energy. And choosing a space to start one is no easy task either, especially if you live in an apartment or have limited yard space.

Elevate your gardens to waist high level for convenience and easy access. Elevated gardens are easy on your back and knees and are perfect for the patio,

balcony, deck or any area where a bit of planting space is desired. Place them near your kitchen door, grill or table for easy cooking and serving access. You'll be able to plant, weed and harvest with minimal bending even from a chair.

Purchase one on wheels or add casters to the legs of your elevated garden for added mobility. Then wheel it into the

marketplace.

sun or shade as needed each day or out of the way when you entertain.

Set the garden in place first. Once it's filled with soil, it will be very heavy and difficult to move. Those gardening on a balcony should confirm the space will hold the weight of the elevated garden you select when filled with soil and mature plants.

Make sure you have easy access to water. Since this is basically a container, you will need to check the soil moisture daily and water thoroughly as needed. Fill the elevated garden with a well-drained planting mix that holds moisture while

tomatoes and peppers. Support vining plants or try compact ones like Mascotte compact bush bean. Add color and dress up your planter with flowers like edible nasturtiums and trailing herbs like thyme and oregano which will cascade over the edge of the planter.

Maximize your growing space by planting quick maturing vegetables like radishes, beets and lettuce in between tomatoes, peppers, cabbage and other vegetables that take longer to reach their mature size. You'll be harvesting the short season vegetables just as the bigger plants need the space.

Further increase your garden's productivity with succession plantings. Fill vacant spaces that are left once a row or block of vegetables are harvested. Add more planting mix if needed.

Select seeds and transplants that will have time to reach maturity for harvesting before the growing season ends. Broccoli, cabbage, compact Patio Pride peas, lettuce, spinach and other greens taste best when harvested in cooler fall temperatures.

Replace weather-worn flowers with cool weather beauties like pansies, neme-

sias, dianthus, alyssum and snapdragons. Fertilize the whole planter so new plantings and existing plants have the nutrients they need to finish out the season.

Protect your fall flowers, herbs and vegetables from hard frosts with floating row covers. These fabrics allow air, light and water through while trapping the heat around the plant.

Once you discover the fun, flavor and ease of waist high gardening, you'll likely make room for more elevated planters for your future gardening endeavors.

— Melinda Myers



providing needed drainage.

Incorporate a low-nitrogen, slow release fertilizer like Milorganite at planting. Slow release fertilizers provide plants with needed nutrients for several months, eliminating the need for weekly fertilization.

Grow a variety of your favorite herbs and vegetables like basil, parsley, compact



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# Signs of the times

Out geometric artist Pedro Morales finds beauty in the digital age



From a distance, Pedro Morales' work appears to be abstract shapes, but closer up (opposite) you see the fractals are 3D prints inspired by QR codes, and sense a contemporary interest in technology.

The Museum of Geometric

and MADI Art, 3109 Carlisle St. April 27–July 15. GeometricMADIMuseum.org.

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

s an engineering student in France in the 1980s, Pedro Morales developed an interest in art, but it wasn't until decades later that he came in direct contact with MADI art in his native Venezuela.

"I have been working in geometric abstractionism for many years, even before I learned about the MADI movement. Even

when I didn't realize it, or I wasn't on purpose following it, [it was] portrayed in the tile floors of my inner land-scapes."

Then in the early '90s, Morales fell in love with fractal geometry and its abstract forms, "penetrating into the invariability of scale to even generate stereograms," he says. "Exploring the beauty of geometric shapes, and learning and exploring their complexities, have been a magnet."

"Magnetism" of one form or another has pulled Morales in many directions, not just his career. He now lives internationally, dividing his time between homes and Houston and Versailles with Marco, his partner of 30-plus years (and husband since it first became legal in France). And

now it draws him to Dallas for an exhibition at the Museum of Geometric and MADI Art in Uptown.

MADI art — an acronym for Movement, Abstraction, Dimension, Invention — was born in South America in 1946, an intentional reaction to other forms of more traditional art. Its characteristics include being non-representational, playing with

depth and spatial relationships, a colorful palette and a style that's definitely outsidethe-box... or really, outsidethe-frame: MADI is irregular

and sculptural without cleaving to predictable forms. And that certainly describes Morales' work.

It makes sense that as an engineer, immersed in technology, he eschewed canvasses and brushes and was an early exponent of the potential of the computer and everything that has derived from it, from the web to 3D printing and beyond.

"In the 1980s, [I wanted to] learn about the new media that was starting to emerge in people's lives: the computer, [which eventually] gave way to my participation at the Venice Biennale in 2002 with *City* 



*Rooms,* a piece created in and for a still-little-known internet."

Morales' interests have continued to develop with the geometric expansion of modernity; since 2007, his art has focused on "exploring the relation between this beauty and technology, how it has become an integral part of our lives while we mostly ignore it.

"I quickly sensed that the appearance of computers represented significant challenges for artistic creation," Morales explains. "That [required] overcoming the early and somewhat shallow astonishment towards the novelty, creating my own language, exploring the possibilities new technologies offered, even defeating the apocalyptic interpretations of using digital means. Assuming these dilemmas has shaped a creative body of work that, through time, has used a variety of options always related to the cross breeding of art and new technologies. I have explored stereography, digital animation, video games, virtual reality, using the web as a platform, QR-code, HCCB codes, AZTEC codes and incorporating 3D printing techniques where art operates as a physical reproduction of something previously created in the computer's screen."

For Sign & Symbols, his upcoming installation at the exhibit he shares with fellow Venezuelan MADI artist Miguel Prypchan, Morales delves into the unacknowledged beauty of the contemporary age — digitized barcodes, "mobile tagging art" (a term he coined) and the like.

"They were not created with beauty in mind, but rather with an utilitarian purpose, to be ignored one second after," Morales says. "They're beautiful, nonetheless, and exploring that beauty has given me great pleasure. For this exhibit I have

conceived an installation that will cover the walls with a mesh — a fabric-like weave consisting of thousands of small panels created using my open-source 3D printers. People will enter into a space of texture and colors created with those codes. Given their very nature, they can't help but portray messages, links, content. One can argue about the pertinence of this phenomena in the context of MADI; however its pure geometric beauty, the textures I have found, the poetic environment they create are far more important than the consequences of their nature. No matter how I distort them, these codes cannot help but carry something. I leave it up to the audience to chose — or not to — to go beyond the apparent."

As a native of a country ravaged by political upheaval, Morales also says his work inescapably deals with the political.

"Of course, I cannot ignore what goes on around me, and I suffered it the hard way, when the Venezuelan government censored my work and harassed me," he says. "I dare to find the beauty in technology created to be anything, but I explore the ways I can translate it into art. Daring, exploring and learning thrills me."

Although Morales insists that "the relationship between art and technology is nothing new — art is a reflection of the times artists have lived in," he is convinced that the beauty of our current golden age of science has been under-appreciated.

"I want [visitors to the museum] to have a beautiful experience, to enter a space where they can pause from the daily rush and enjoy themselves, to feel wrapped up in my work."

You can follow Morales at his website, PedroMorales.com, and on social media via the term MobileTaggingArt.









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# The fateful Baker boys

WTT's world premiere of 'Bread' packs a punch



A mother (Stormy Demerson) and son (Elliot Marvin Sims) bond in 'Bread.' (Photo/Evan Michael Woods)

Addison Theatre Centre,

15650 Addison Road. Through May 6. WaterTower.org

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

¬ he Bakers are a typical nuclear family of wife Ruth (Stormy Demerson), husband James (Djoré Nance), son Jr. (Elliot Marvin Sims), plus one on the way. James has been laid off for a few months, and Ruth can't work 'til the baby comes, but they own their South Oak Cliff house in a gentrified neighborhood and are doing OK... for now. But James' college friend Al (Calvin Scott Roberts) has a real estate scheme he wants the two to pursue, and his brash older brother Jeb (Bryan Pitts) has just returned home after two decades away in the army, with his nouveau riche girlfriend Carol (M. Denise Lee) in tow. Ruth is beset with worry —

for her unborn son, for her rap-loving but inexperienced teenager, for the future. All of these points converge one day in early 2017, illumi-

nating not only these people's lives, but something substantive about the black experience in America today.

Bread — playwright Regina Taylor's world premiere, now at WaterTower Theatre — employs a number of tools and tropes familiar to fans of Arthur Miller, Tracy Letts, Lorraine Hansberry and other classic American playwrights: The quasi-successful family forced to a brink by the arrival of a charismatic outsider and a flamboyant, wise-cracking woman, who compel them to confront long-buried secrets. Images of All My Sons, August: Osage County and A Raisin in the Sun burrowed in my brain early, and never escaped. This is not intended as criticism, but praise for Taylor's careful curation of the elements of drama into layers that subtly, inevitably reveal not just the souls of her characters, but the themes of her world view.

Although set on inauguration day 2017, Bread doesn't once reference "45" by name; it can't be weighed down with detritus. It does, however, repeatedly mention Obama and what he meant as a beacon for African-Americans as a model of aspiration. Obama turned a page; but how close are we coming to the book being slammed

Taylor explores this uncertainty with a slate of culturally-specific touchpoints: Hip-hop music (impressively rapped by Sims), African tribal chant, code-switching, couched references to lynching, mythic storytelling and, ultimately, food, as represented by bread, in all its meanings:

> nourishment, communal ritual, money.

The characters are sharply drawn, though complex. Ruth stands as the unifying but

rigid matriarch who dominates James in the house, though he tries to exercise his independence outside to prove he's not whipped; Al is a shady politico whose family legacy is exploiting the black community more than serving it; Jeb and James clash with Jr. over the proper behavior of a black man today — a sort of Martin-vs.-Malcolm dialectic that manifests itself in a shocking way.

The cast is uniformly excellent — there's not a false beat — and director Leah H. Gardiner does an excellent job of overlapping the dialogue with such naturalism that you really feel you have stepped into a family barbecue. And the Dallas-centric references conjure life around the Trinity with such understanding and insight, the city becomes its own character — in many ways, it's most tragic one, doomed and not realizing it. What a punch that packs.

# Are you PrEPed for summer?

Spring is here so you are probably thinking of getting on that diet and hitting the gym harder to get your Summer body in shape. In order to get fully in shape you may want to get on PrEP as well. The HELP Center is the only PrEP clinic in North Texas that provides access to PrEP free of charge.

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# **Wednesday** 04.25 — **Sunday** 04.29

**USA Film Festival kicks off with** gay film... and many more to come

The USA Film Festival has been around for nearly 50 years, and this version is a feast for queer film enthusiasts. In addition to the opening night feature *Disobedience*, directed by the Oscar winner for this year's *A Fantastic Woman*, the lineup include an appearance by gay screen legend Richard Chamberlain, a profile of makeup artist Kevyn Aucoin, Texas' Jim Parsons in *A Kid Like Jake* and more. Look for more coverage in next week's edition of Dallas Voice.

**DEETS**: Angelika Film Center Mockingbird Station. For full lineup and tickets, visit USAFilmFrestival.com





## Friday 04.20 — Sunday 04.22

Margaret Cho is Fresh Off the Bloat for 5 Dallas shows

She has become one of the grande dames of standup comedy, she's a pioneering (and pioqueering) actress and sitcom star, a fierce advocate for gay and women's rights ... and she'll be in Addison this weekend for five shows. Each performance is different with Cho, so check out Fresh Off the Bloat once, twice or more. She's the politically incorrect standup for our time.

DEETS: Addison Improv, 4980 Belt Line Road, ste. 250. ImprovAddison.com.

## Friday 04.20 — Sunday 05.06

Kitchen Dog premieres absurdist original 'Pompeii'

It's the end of the world as we know it, but the folks of Pompeii — the first century town devastated by a volcanic pyroclastic explosion — feel fine. They are having a bit of Vaudeville, with singing, dancing and comedy in the face of doom. That's the premise of the world premiere play by local stagemakers Cameron Cobb, Max Hartman and Michael Federico. *Pompeii* is a quirky piece of absurdism, courtesy of Kitchen Dog Theater. The short run opens tonight.

**DEETS**: Trinity River Arts Center, 2600 N. Stemmons Freeway. KitcheDogTheater.org.







# **INCOME TAX RETURNS**



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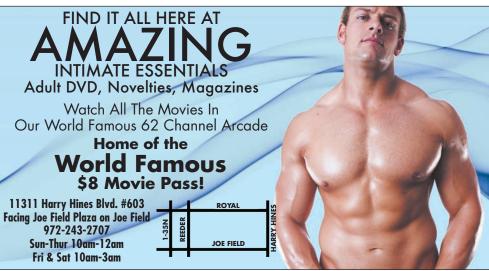
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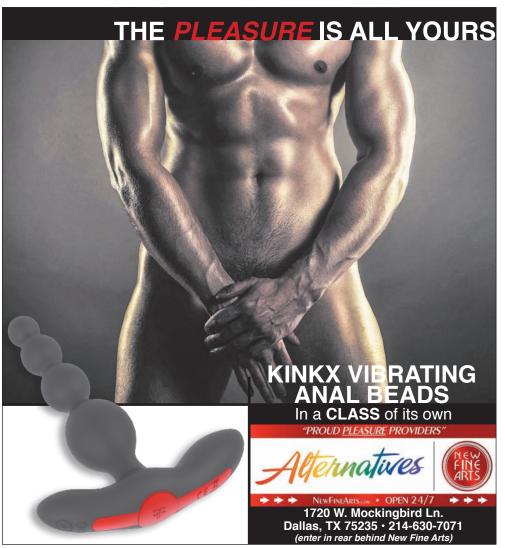


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#### calendar highlights



The monster musical extravaganza 'Les Miserables' opens at Fair Park Music Hall Tuesday.

#### **ARTSWEEK**

#### **THEATER**

**Bread**. A world premiere play from Dallas native Regina Taylor, set in Oak Cliff in 2017 and concerning a middle class family's need for money. Addison Theatre Centre, 15650 Addison Road. Through May 6. WaterTowerTheatre.org.

*Empathitrax*. The local premiere of a comedy about relationships, mental health and the drug society. Presented by Second Thought Theatre. Bryant Hall on the Kalita Humphreys campus, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. Through April 28. 2TT.co.

**Pompeii.** An original world premiere work from local theater artists Cameron Cobb, Michael Federico and Max Hartman, it's a zany vaudeville in the wake of volcanic Armageddon. Presented by Kitchen Dog Theater. Trinity River Arts Center, 2600 N. Stemmons Freeway. Through May 6. KitchenDogTheater.org.

The Trials of Sam Houston. The legendary Texans governor, hero of San Jacinto and metropolis namesake was actually involved in two trials that formed his legacy. Aaron Loeb's world premiere play, directed by Kevin Moriarty. Kalita Humphreys Theater, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. April 20–May 13. DallasTheaterCenter.org

#### COMEDY

Margaret Cho: Fresh Off the Bloat. The standup performs five shows. Addison Improv, 4980 Belt Line Road, ste. 250. April 20–22. ImprovAddison.com.

**Let's Get Busy Tonight**. An LGBT comedy show at Dallas Comedy House in Deep Ellum, 3025 Main St. 9 p.m. DallasComedyHouse.com.

#### **OPERA**

**Don Giovanni**. Mozart's dark classic about the lothario and his sinful lifestyle. Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. Through April 28. DallasOpera.org.

#### **FESTIVALS**

Scarborough Renaissance Festival. The Middle Ages come to life in the 38th annual celebration of European festivities. Scarborough Fairgrounds, FM 66 off I-35, exit 399B, in Waxahachie. Through May 28. SRFestival.com.

Thin Line Film Festival. A film, music and arts festival in Denton, that includes the screening of a gay documentary, *Between the Shades*, on Friday at Saturday. Festival runs April 18–22 in Denton. For a complete schedule, visit ThinLine.us.

#### FINE ART

Beauty and Subjugation: From the Goss-Michael Collection. The Goss-Michael Foundation presents this new exhibition curated from international arts advisor Filippo Tattoni-Marcozzi. More than a dozen artists' works are represented. Goss-Michael Foundation, 1305 Wycliffe Ave. Through May 31. G-MF.org.

First Sculpture: Handaxe to Figure Stone. An exhibit of found and modified objects from the Paleolithic era of human enterprise. Nasher Sculpture Center, 2001 Flora St. Through April 28. NasherScultureCenter.org.

Memory Mind Matter: The Sculpture of Eduardo Chillida. The work of 20th century Spanish sculptor and artist. Meadows Museum, 5900 Bishop Blvd. Through June 3. MeadowsMuseumDallas.org.



#### **FRIDAY 04.20**

COMMUNITY

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

#### **SATURDAY 04.21**

FrontRunners. Gay jogging/walking group meets weekly at 9 a.m. in Oak Lawn Park at Hall Street and Turtle Creek Boulevard for a run along the Katy Trail.

GayBingo. The monthly fundraising party and bingo game benefiting Resource Center. Station 4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. 5 p.m. doors, 6 p.m. curtain. \$25-\$45. MyResourceCenter.org

#### **TUESDAY 04.24**

Lust for Life. Kirk Douglas' overwrought performance as Vincent Van Gogh anchors this biography, but Anthony Quinn won the Oscar for his glorified cameo as Paul Gauguin. 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.



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



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

Les Miserables. Do you hear the people sing? Music Hall at Fair Park, 901 First Ave. April 24-May 7. DallasSummerMusicals.org

#### **WEDNESDAY 04.25**

**USA Film Festival**. The 48th annual local film fest begins its lineup with an opening night with three films, including the queer drama Disobedience, the Ruth Bader Ginsburg documentary RBG and the coming-of-age memoir We the Animals. The festival continues through Sunday, with numerous films with queer content. All screenings at the Angelika Film Center Mockingbird Station. For a complete schedule and tickets, visit USAFilmFestival.com.

#### this week's solution

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#### **COALITION FOR AGING LGBT - DFW**

214-577-7976 | CFA.lgbt

#### **FEDERAL CLUB**

214-428-3332 | DFWFederalClub.org

#### **DALLAS GAY AND LESBIAN ALLIANCE**

214-528-0144 | info@dgla.com | DGLA.com

#### **DALLAS LATINO PRIDE**

texaslatinogaypride.com

#### **DALLAS SOUTHERN PRIDE**

214-405-5475 | DallasSouthernPride.com

#### **DALLAS TAVERN GUILD**

214-571-1073 | DallasPride.org

#### **GAY AND LESBIAN FUND FOR DALLAS**

GLFD.org | 214-421-8177 | volunteers@glfd.org

#### **COMMUNITY COUNCIL GREATER DALLAS**

Health Insurance | 844-831-9600 | ccgd.org

#### **HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVE OF N. TEXAS** 214-855-0520 | info@hrionline.org

#### JOHN THOMAS LGBT COMMUNITY CTR.

214-528-9254 | MyResourceCenter.org

#### **LAMBDA LEGAL DEFENSE AND EDUCATION FUND, SOUTHWEST REGION**

214-219-8585 | lambdalegal.org

#### TARRANT COUNTY GAY PRIDE WEEK

president@tcgpwa.org | TCGPWA.org

#### SOCIAL

#### **BATTALION MOTORCYCLE**

commander@battalionmc.com | BattalionMC.com

#### **CLASSIC CHASSIS CAR CLUB**

214-446-0606 | ClassicChassis.com

#### **COUPLES METRO DALLAS**

CouplesMetroDallas.com

#### **DALLAS BEARS**

DallasBears.org

#### DAMN

oaklwnguy@hotmail.com | DAMNmen.org

#### **DFW FUSE**

214-540-4435 | DFWFuse.com

#### **DISCIPLINE CORPS**

disciplinecorps.com

#### **EAST TEXAS PFLAG**

Tyler | 903-330-8901

#### **FIREDANCERS**

mikeykeith@cs.com | firedancers.org

#### FRISCO PRIDE 469-324-4123 | FriscoPride.com

**GRAY PRIDE** 

#### 5750 Cedar Springs Road | 214-528-0144

**IMPERIAL COURT DE FORT WORTH** careteam@icfwa.org | ICFWA.org

214-540-GIRL | MyResourceCenter.org

214-395-8460 | LeatherKnights.org

#### **LEATHER KNIGHTS**

LVL/PWA CAMPOUT

#### Rick: campout@lvlpwa.com | LVLPWA.com

**MEN OF ALL COLORS** 

#### 214-521-4765 | pulliam\_preston@yahoo.com NATIONAL LEATHER ASSOC. - DALLAS

info@nla-dallas.org | NLA-Dallas.org

#### **NATIONAL TEXAS PRIDE FOUNDATION** NorthTexasPride.com

**ONCE IN A BLUE MOON** 

#### 214-662-4706 | Once-In-A-Blue-Moon.org

**PEGASUS SQUARES** 214-444-9696 | Pegasus-Squares.com

**POZ DALLAS** 

#### pozdallas@gmail.com PRIME TIMERS OF DALLAS/FORT WORTH

972-504-8866 | information@primetimers-dfw.org

#### PROJECT TAG

903-312-2081 | TylerAreaGays.com

#### **RAINBOW GARDEN CLUB** 214-941-8114 | RainbowGardenClub.com

**RAINBOW ROUNDUP** 

#### info@rrup.org | rrup.org

**REAL LIVE CONNECTION-TEEN PRIDE** 

#### 469-666-7325 | rlc365.org **SAVVY SINGLES NEWS DFW**

Singles.meetup.com/2049

#### **SPECTRUM MOTORCYCLE CLUB** 214-289-1179 | Spectrum-MRC.com

STRENGTH IN NUMBERS DFW

#### Groups.yahoo.com/group/sindallasftworth**UNITED BLACK ELLUMENT**

214-760-9718 | UBEDallas.org

#### UNITED COURT OF THE LONE STAR EMPIRE DallasCourt.org

 $a carbajal@rcdallas.org \mid Valor Dallas.com$ 

#### **WOMEN OF DISTINCTION** Twitter.com/WODDallas

**VALOR LATINO** 

**SPIRITUALITY** 

#### **AGAPE MCC**

Fort Worth | 817-535-5002 | AgapeMCC.com

#### **ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH**

Garland | AscensionTexas.org

#### **CATHEDRAL OF HOPE**

Dallas | 214-351-1901 | cathedralofhope.com

#### **CATHEDRAL OF LIGHT**

Farmers Branch | 972-245-6520 | COLight.org

**CELEBRATION COMMUNITY CHURCH** 817-335-3222 | Celebration-Community-Church.com

#### **CELEBRATION CHURCH ON THE LAKE**

Mabank | 903-451-2302 | COTLChurch.org **CONGREGATION BETH EL BINAH** 

#### Dallas | BethElBinah.org

**CROSSROADS COMMUNITY CHURCH** 214-520-9090 | CrossroadsCommunityChurch.us

#### **DALLAS MEDITATION CENTER**

972-432-7871 | DallasMeditationCenter.com

#### **DIGNITY DALLAS**

972-729-9572 | DignityDallas.net

#### **EAST DALLAS CHRISTIAN CHURCH** Dallas | 214-824-8185 | EDCC.org

**EPISCOPAL - ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE** Dallas | 214-352-0140 | The Doubter.org

#### **FELLOWSHIP OF LOVE OUTREACH CHURCH**

Fort Worth | 817-921-5683 | FOLOchurch.org FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF DALLAS

#### Dallas | 214-528-3990 | DallasUU.org THE GATHERING PLACE

Dallas | 214-643-3250 | TheGatheringDallas.org **GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH** 

#### Dallas | 214-824-2533 | GraceUMCDallas.org **GREENLAND HILLS METHODIST CHURCH**

#### Dallas | 214-826-2020 | GreenlandHills.org

**HARVEST MCC** Denton | 940-484-6159 | HarvestMCC.org

#### HORIZON UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH Carrollton | 972-492-4940 | HorizonUU.org

**KESSLER PARK UNITED METHODIST** 

#### Dallas | 214-942-0098 | kpumc.org **LESBIAN & GAY UNITARIANS**

214-691-4300

#### LIVING FAITH COVENANT CHURCH Dallas | 972-546-0543 | LivingFaithDFW.org

**LUTHERANS CONCERNED** 

#### Dallas | 214-855-4998 | ReconcilingWorks.org

MCC OF GREATER DALLAS 972-243-0761 | MCCGD.org

#### **MIDWAY HILLS CHRISTIAN CHURCH** Dallas | 214-352-4841 | MidwayHills.org

NORTHAVEN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH Dallas | 214-363-2479 | Northaven.org

#### **OAK LAWN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH** Dallas | 214-521-5197 | oaklawn@olumc.org

PATHWAYS UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST Hurst | 817-803-5941 | PathwaysUU.org

#### PROMISE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST Dallas | 214-623-8400 | PromiseUCC.org

#### ST. FRANCIS ANGLICAN CHURCH Dallas, 75229 | 214-351-1401

ST. STEPHEN UNITED METHODIST 972-279-3112 | GBGM-UMC.org/StStephen THE ONE CHURCH IN CHRIST JESUS

#### Dallas | 214-462-5979 | GraceOasisChurch.com

TRINITY MCC Grand Prairie | 817-265-5454 | TrinityMCC.org

#### **UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH**

Dallas | uuc@oakcliffuu.org | OakCliffUU.org

#### **UNITY CHURCH OF CHRISTIANITY**

Dallas | 214-826-5683 | DallasUnity.org

#### **UNITY OF DALLAS**

Dallas | 972-233-7106 | UnityDallas.org

#### WHITE ROCK COMMUNITY CHURCH

Dallas | 214-320-0043 | WhiteRockChurch.info

#### SPORTS

#### **DALLAS DIABLOS**

P.O. Box 190862, Dallas, 75219

#### **DALLAS FRONTRUNNERS**

FrontrunnerDallas.org

DIFFERENT STROKES GOLF ASSOCIATION

#### **LOST SOULS RUGBY FOOTBALL** LostSoulsRFC.org

#### 214-632-8512 | ntxwsa.net

Dallas | 214-358-1382 | OakLawnBowling.com **OAK LAWN TENNIS ASSOCIATION** 

#### PEGASUS SLOWPITCH SOFTBALL ASSOC.

817-540-0303 | rainbow\_rollers\_league@yahoo.com

### SUPPORT

Dallas | 214-264-0222 | Dallas Al-Anon.org

#### 1-855-BLK-TMEN | BlackTransMen.org

#### 214-766-8939 (Dallas) | 817-834-2119 (Fort Worth) | CoDependents.org

Dallas | 214-345-8230

drugrehab.com/guides/lgbtq | 855-668-8329

#### 817-881-3949 G.E.A.R Gender, Education, Advocacy &

Resources 214-540-4498

#### **GAY LESBIAN ANGER MANG. GROUP**

469-328-1980 | Marial33@gmail.com

**LAMBDA GROUP NICOTINE ANONYMOUS** 

#### **PFLAG-DALLAS** 972-77-PFLAG | info@pflagdallas.org

817-428-2329

#### **SEX & LOVE ADDICTS ANONYMOUS**

#### Dallas | 214-821-8510 | SharedHousing.org

214-632-1588 | txabc.org | stand4kind.com

214-879-0400 | youth@myresourcecenter.org

#### **DALLAS INDEPENDENT VOLLEYBALL**

214-578-6206 | DIVADallas.org

#### info@dsgadallas.org | DSGADallas.org

#### **NORTH TEXAS WOMEN'S SOFTBALL**

**OAK LAWN BOWLING ASSOCIATION** 

#### OLTADallas.org

972-879-7900 | DallasPSSA.org **RAINBOW ROLLERS BOWLING LEAGUE** 

#### **TEXAS GAY RODEO ASSOCIATION** 214-346-2107 | TGRA.org

**BLACK TRANSMEN INC.** 

**ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS LAMBDA** 

#### **CANCER SUPPORT COMMUNITY N. TX**

#### **CODEPENDENTS ANONYMOUS**

DRUGREHAB.COM

#### **FAMILY PRIDE COALITION**

**GAY AND LESBIAN ALLIANCE OF N. TX** GALANorthTexas.org

#### 214-629-7806 | NICADFW.org

PFLAG-FORT WORTH

#### **TEXAS ANTI BULLYING COALITION**

STONEWALL NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS

Men's Group | 972-458-7762 or 214-673-8092 **SHARED HOUSING CENTER** 

#### 5910 Cedar Springs Road | Dallas



#### L+S scoop

# Girls on girls

Jenny Block: Gardening as metaphor? No, as fresh start



We planted a garden one week before our wedding. It wasn't pre-planned. It wasn't intended to be some grand metaphor about sowing the seeds of love for the future of our marriage. It was just a garden. It was just a decision that could not have come at a better time.

Sometimes life pulls at you. Work. Family. Friends. Pets. Houses. Traveling. It's all part of the wonderful lives we have designed for ourselves. But they can get to be a lot, even the very parts we love and would never dream of giving up. Pre-wedding jitters are a real thing, too. And even though everything was set, including the perfect team to execute it all, it was hard to think of anything else. Until Robin said, "I'm going to plant a few things out front."

It was a simple statement. While at the time, I am sure I heard nothing more than, "I'm going to plant a few things out front" what my sub-conscious heard was, "Let's focus on something else. Together." We stood in the yard and talked about what to do with the waiting palette. Robin had renovated the '70s-era lake

house into a full-time residence. All that was left was landscaping.

We don't always agree. In fact, we often compromise because of differing ideas and tastes and experiences. But that weekend, we were exceptionally gentle with one another, listening to ideas and discussing possibilities, letting go of attachments to earlier thoughts or plans. We thought and planned together like two people who are committed to more than pretty flowers, but rather to a lovely life.

Into the truck we jumped and off to Lowe's we went. Robin stacking pavers on the cart as I wandered the aisles of plants and flowers and shrubs and trees. Then together, we chose plant by plant, flower by flower. It was interesting. There were no disagreements. It was as if we wanted, no needed, to simply agree on something simple.

And you know what? It was nice. Really nice. When we got back to the house, we got down to the hard work of pulling out the old edging, installing the new pavers, pulling

weeds, turning the soil, potting the plans, putting down the mulch. You get the idea. I even got the bright idea to pull out all of the monkey grass, and there was a lot of monkey grass.

I don't know how much you know about monkey grass. I didn't know much, other than that I'm not a fan. I learned that it has a serious root system. This wasn't a matter of pulling out a handful of plants. Instead, it was a matter of plunging a pointed shovel into the ground, jumping on the little edges to get it really in there, then digging up the roots.

Robin thought I was nuts. "You'll never be able to get all of that out," she said. That was all I needed to hear.

We worked until the sun went down and, by God, that monkey grass was out of there. She was amazed. So was I. honestly. I'm not much of the gardening kind. Heck, I'm not much for the outdoors. But there it was: A pile of monkey grass and a beautiful, clean slate. And suddenly, it was impossible not to feel the metaphor hanging in the air, about doing the hard work,

clearing the way, doing it together, treating each other gently, designing your vision, planting the seeds, and then spending your life tending what you have sowed and watching it bloom.

The next day, we were right back at it, and after another full day, we had transformed our humble entryway into a lovely garden of pots and plants, bricks and blooms. It was welcoming and cheery and it was all ours. Planting that garden was a happy accident. The intention had been to simply fill a few pots. So too is it with our relationship. A happy accident of the very best kind. The intention had been to meet someone new. To simply have a little fun.

Instead, we decided to commit to something far more beautiful. And with love and patience and kindness and hard work, I believe we have planted something that isn't just beautiful for the right now. But also for the long run. Our relationship, like our garden, will have to be tended. But with just the right amount of love and light, we just might cultivate something beautiful that will bloom forever.



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The staff at the new restaurant on The Strip, Taqueria La Ventana



Lost Souls Rugby won first place at the Spring Fever Tournament in St. Louis

#### Making the SCENE the week of April 20-26:

- Alexandre's: Stephanie Sallie on Friday. Chris Chism and the Band on Saturday. Wayne Smith on Sunday. K-Marie on Tuesday. Anna Fredericka Popova on Wednesday. Chris Chism on Thursday.
- Club Changes: Imperial Court presents Come Out, Come Out Wherever You Are at 8 p.m. on Friday.
- Club Reflection: Trinity River Bears meet at 2:30 p.m. and have a cookout at 4 p.m. on Sunday.
- Dallas Eagle: Dallas Bears and Onyx: Central Southwest Chapter club night on Saturday, which is also DIVA Night with DJ C-Rail.
- JR.'s Bar & Grill: Asia O'Hara hosts a watch party for RuPaul's Drag Race Season 10 on Thurs-
- Marty's Live: Sexcapade Fridays hosted by Nicole O'hara Munro and DJ Rudeboy Dallas.
- Merion at Midtown Park at Meadow Road and 75 celebrates the grand opening of its dog park from 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. on Saturday with lite bites, mimosas and giveaways from Hollywood Feed.
- Pekers: A Salute to Earth Day fundraiser presented by the Miss Gay Texas State Pageant **System** with food at 4 p.m. and show at 5 p.m. on Sunday.
- Round-Up Saloon: Ellie Mae Goes to Camp hosted by the Dallas Titans raises money for Camp Esperanza for children with cancer from 9-midnight on Friday. Mr/Miss Gay South Central UsofA at 3 p.m. on Sunday.
- Sue Ellen's: Ciao Bella on Saturday. Bella & Darla followed by Sarah Slaton on Sunday.
- The 515 Bar: Manana Cowboy returns at 9 p.m. on Friday.
- The Rose Room: Sasha Adams on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.
- Urban Cowboy Saloon: Impulse Dallas presents Mayhem Miller at 7 p.m. on Saturday. Queen of the Rodeo contestant show with Jerika Tailor at 7 p.m. on Sunday.

Scene Photographers: Kat Haygood and Chad Mantooth



Lisa Loeb at the Peacock Theater



Catch the German Brothers on the Ivanhoe Stage, Saturday and Sunday at Scarborough RenFest

# **North Lake College Pride Event**







# **No Tie Dinner**



















# Lady Quins Rugby & Dallas Elite Football: Lip-Sync Battle at Sue's







# **Federal Club Spring Luncheon**

















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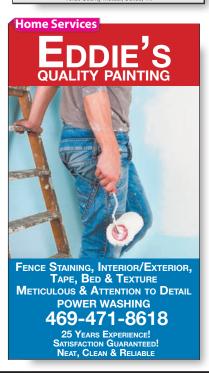
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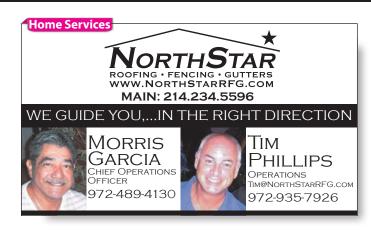
















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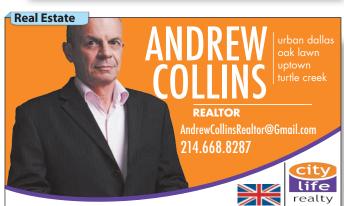


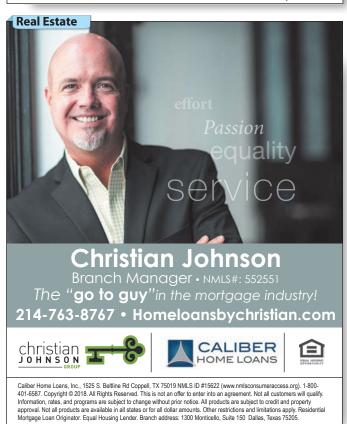












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# A REAL Social Network For Kinky Minded People www.MyFetWorld.com









#### q-puzzle

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13
14					15					16				
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55						56					57			58
59	П					60					61			
62						63					64			

# **Trendsetting Lips**

#### Solution on Page 41

#### Across

- 1 Low-quality meat
- 5 Biweekly tide
- 9 Langston Hughes' "The Weary
- 14 Disneyland feature
- 15 Biblical trial word
- 16 Title character for Barbra
- 17 Zipper problem
- 18 Larry Kramer and peers
- 19 "Couldn't get out of it"
- 20 She played CJ Lamb on Stephen Bochco's LA Law
- Hai"
- 24 Suffix with deposit
- 25 LA Law lawyer
- 30 Fag follower
- 33 Cheers like an athletic supporter?
- 34 Homeopathic plant
- 35 Great service from Mauresmo
- 36 Nathan of The Producers
- 37 Place for non-breeder fertilization
- 39 Old Italian coin
- 40 Poet's before
- 41 Cry after getting the shaft
- 42 The Wild Bunch, for one
- 43 '60s radical org.

- 44 The two characters in this puzzle shared this groundbreaking event
- 47 OR workers
- 48 Riviera resort
- 49 She played 25-Across
- 55 Roo's mom
- 56 Chloe director Egoyan
- 57 Queens do this
- 59 Actor Merlin
- 60 Peter Krause in Six Feet Under
- 61 Makes tats
- 62 Placed in position
- 63 The A in GLARP (abbr.)
- 64 Canadian oil company

#### Down

- 1 AARP members
- 2 Part of a fruity drink
- 3 Figure skater Rippon
- 4 "\_\_\_ my shorts!" (online taunt?)
- 5 Tool for making tats
- 6 Dessert that can cream in your mouth
- 7 LSD, e.g.
- 8 Coin for Kahlo
- 9 How mail was once delivered
- 10 Patrick of Vermont
- 11 Disengage, as a bra hook
- 12 Suffix with leather

- 13 Road warning
- 21 Breaks for Heather's mommies
- 22 Pairs for Nanette?
- 25 Inspiring city for Van Gogh
- 26 Come on a ship
- 27 They're crossed on a pirate's flag
- 28 Meat that gets stuck
- 29 Suffix with project
- 30 Cole Porter's "Katie Went to \_\_\_"
- 31 Eva Gabor's green areas
- 32 Engaging parts
- 37 "One of \_\_\_ days ..."
- 38 Us, to Rilke
- 39 Place for Ohio ferries
- 41 Experienced masturbator?
- 42 Years ago
- 45 Nongay bars
- 46 Earhart's male counterparts
- 47 Janis Joplin's "Me and Bobby
- 49 Neighbor of Senegal
- 50 Kinsey's org.
- 51 Star Turner
- 52 JFK predictions
- 53 Women who don't have sex with men
- 54 Some lodge members
- 55 Cold-cocks
- 58 Anka's "\_\_\_ Beso"





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