

# dallasvoice

The Premier Media Source for LGBT Texas | Established 1984 | DallasVoice.com | Volume 35 | Issue | FREE | Friday, April 5, 2019

# NO TIE

Annual ASD fundraiser  
returns Saturday

by David Taffet, Page 8



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Design by Kevin Thomas

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application from Turtle Creek Conservancy, which runs the park, to name it Turtle Creek Park.

While Take Back Oak Lawn members argued that stripping away the Oak Lawn name was intended to make the LGBT community invisible, black speakers pointed out that when the park carried the Oak Lawn name in the early 1900s, only whites were allowed to use the park.

The name change came down to marketability. Conservancy board members who spoke said they believed they'd be able to market the park with the Turtle Creek name easier than with the Oak Lawn name.

The name change is immediate and can't be reconsidered for 60 years.

— David Taffet

## Oak Lawn Park becomes Turtle Creek Park

The Dallas Park and Recreation Board voted 11-3 Thursday, April 4, to change the name of the former Lee Park/current Oak Lawn Park to Turtle Creek Park. When the statue of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee was removed from the park in 2017, city officials decided to temporarily return to the park's original name of Oak Lawn Park. Several groups submitted applications for a permanent name. Two were considered — an application from Take Back Oak Lawn to make Oak Lawn Park the permanent name, and an

## DGLA PAC issues mayor and city council endorsements

The Dallas Gay and Lesbian Alliance PAC has issued endorsements in the Dallas mayor's race and in all 14 Dallas City Council races. DGLA President Patti Fink, Erin Moore's wife, recused herself from any participation in the endorsement process.

Endorsed candidates are:

Mayor: Scott Griggs  
District 1: Chad West; District 2: Adam Merano; District 3: Davante Peters; District 4: Asa Woodberry; District 5: Jaime Resendez; District 6: Omar Narvaez; District 7: Calvin Johnson; District 8: Erik Wilson; District 9: Erin Moore; District 10: DeDe Alexander; District 11: Lee Kleinman; District 12: Cara Mendelsohn; District 13: Laura Miller; District 14: Philip Kingston  
— from staff reports

## SB 17, allowing discrimination, passes Senate

The Texas Senate on Tuesday, April 2, passed Senate Bill 17, which would allow professionals — including health professionals — to discriminate based on their own "sincerely-held religious beliefs." The bill was authored by Sens. Charles Perry, Paul Bettencourt, Brian Birdwell, Donna Sue Campbell, Brandon Creighton and Bob Hall, all Republicans, and Democratic Sen. Eddie Lucio.

The final vote was 19-12. Lucio was the only Democrat to vote for the measure, and Sen. Kel Seliger of Amarillo was the only Republican to vote against it.

Perry defended his bill as providing "pre-emptive protection for religious employees at a time when, he claimed, religion is under attack." Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick has put Perry's bill on his list of "top 30 priorities" for this session, and his spokesman, Alejandro Garcia told the Tribune last week that SB 17 "will ensure that anyone can practice their profession in Texas without being forced to compromise their

religious faith."

But opponents said SB 17 is just bigotry poorly disguised as religious freedom.

Sen. Royce West, a Dallas Democrat, said during Tuesday's debate that "the practice of faith has been tied to a lot of hideous practices," such as prohibiting interracial marriages. He added, "The reality is that a lot of people have done things that were not consistent with being a Christian" while claiming religious motivation.

— Tammye Nash

## Women's Chorus of Dallas to sing at Carnegie Hall

The Women's Chorus of Dallas will be singing Saturday, May 25, at New York's Carnegie Hall as the "nucleus" of an ensemble performing "music by women, for women's voices, according to an announcement today by MidAmerica Productions.

The performance will be conducted by Women's Chorus of Dallas Director Melinda Imthurn as part of MidAmerica Productions' 36th concert season. While WCD has already performed four times at Carnegie Hall "under MidAmerica's auspices," this will be the chorus' first appearance there since Imthurn took over as director 13 years ago.

Imthurn said, "I am delighted to be the first conductor of The Women's Chorus of Dallas to lead them in an all-women's-voices performance from the podium at Carnegie Hall. This is truly a landmark event for all involved."

— Tammye Nash



David M. Lee, M.D. • Marc A. Tribble, M.D. • Donald A. Graneto, M.D. • Eric Klappholz, NP  
Peter Triporo, NP • Jason Vercher, PA-C • Vanessa Bludau, NP  
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Dr. Marc Tribble and Dr. Donald Graneto named to D Magazine's Best Doctors in Dallas for 2017 in Infectious Disease and Family Medicine respectively.



Peter Triporo, NP named Top 10 in 2018 America's Top Nurse Practitioner Awards presented by Point of Care Network



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# THE GAY AGENDA



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

## APRIL

### • April 6: Prime Timers

Brunch at 11 a.m. at Deli News, 17062 Preston Road.

### • April 6: No Tie Dinner

Dress is informal for the silent auction and dessert party that benefit AIDS Services Dallas from 7-11 p.m. at Frontiers of Flight Museum, 6911 Lemmon Ave. Tickets at [tickets.notiedinner.org](http://tickets.notiedinner.org).

### • April 6: Taste of Italy

Annual wine tasting fundraiser includes four one-ounce pours of Italian wine paired with chef-prepared food samples plus a swag bag with each paid entry from 2-5 p.m. at Embrace UCC, 7500 Glenview Drive Suite B, Richland Hills. \$30-40. [EmbraceUCC.com](http://EmbraceUCC.com).

### • April 6: LGBTQ+Latinx Leadership Summit

LULAC, HRC and AIDS Healthcare Foundation learn about pro-equality legislation, health care, culture and history from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. at Ana G. Méndez University System - Dallas Area Campus, 3010 N. Stemmons Freeway.

### • April 7: Miss Red Pageant

Dallas Red Foundation presents the 4th annual Miss Red Foundation at 6 p.m. at The Rose Room, 3911 Cedar Springs Road.

### • April 7: Turtle Creek Home Tour

Turtle Creek Association presents a home tour that includes three high-rise residences and a single family home. Proceeds benefit area beautification. From 1-5 p.m. Tickets at [TurtleCreekAssociation.org](http://TurtleCreekAssociation.org). Park at 3811 Turtle Creek Blvd.

### • April 7: Prime Timers

Games at 2 p.m. at 2925 Myerwood, Carrollton.

### • April 9: Prime Timers

Dinner at 7 p.m. at Spring Creek BBQ, 3514 W. Airport Freeway.

### • April 9: Grief support group

LGBT grief support group for people who have lost a same-sex partner from 7-8:30 p.m. at Resource Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road.

### • April 11: Gay and Lesbian Fund for Dallas

In the Heights kickoff event to showcase the partnership between GLFD and Dallas Theater Center with a special unveiling of Lin-Manuel Miranda's musical from 6-8 p.m. in The Turtle Room, 3525 Turtle Creek Blvd. RSVP on Eventbrite.

### • April 11: Kickoff 2019

Black Tie Dinner kickoff party to reveal this year's theme and beneficiaries from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Sixty Five Hundred, 6500 Cedar Springs Road. Free.

### • April 11: Dallas Young Professionals Mixer

Learn about Lambda Legal's work locally and across the country from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Community Beer Company, 1530 Inspiration Drive #200.

### • April 12: Compassion Fatigue Symposium

Keynote speaker is author Kristina Hallett and Denette Mann speaks on mindful self-compassion from 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. at Lovers Lane UMC, 9200 Inwood Road.

### • April 12: Prime Timers

Happy hour at 5:30 p.m. at JR.'s, 3923 Cedar Springs Road.

### • April 13: FashionCited

FashionCITED is a locally produced fashion show featuring up and coming Dallas clothiers and designers and benefits Legal Hospice of Texas at 6:30-9:30 p.m. at sixty five hundred, 6500 Cedar Springs Road. Tickets at [Givezooks.com](http://Givezooks.com).

### • April 13: Different Strokes Golf Association (DSGA)

DSGA, the LGBT golf organization, plays at 10 a.m., at Twin Creeks, 501 Twin Creeks Drive, Allen. \$60 includes golf, cart, range balls



The Dallas Red Foundation presents the fourth annual Miss Red Pageant Sunday, April 7 at The Rose Room. See listings for details.

and prizes. Information at [DSGADallas.org](http://DSGADallas.org) or email [communications@dsgadallas.org](mailto:communications@dsgadallas.org).

### • April 13: Pride in the Park

Live music by Tipsey the Band and Tat Girl DJ, food trucks, vendors, bounce house, face painting, children's story time tent, community organizations from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at Betty Virginia Park, 3901 Fairfield Ave., Shreveport.

### • April 13: The Circle open call

Casting call for contestants in Netflix ultimate popularity contest The Circle from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at The Redrock Bar & Grill, 18110 Midways Road #208. Info at [TheCircleCasting.com](http://TheCircleCasting.com). Register at [thecircleus@studiolambert.com](mailto:thecircleus@studiolambert.com).

### • April 13: Leather & Lace

Leather Masters celebrates its 30th anniversary with Leather & Lace, a show by the DFW Sisters from 7-10 p.m. at The Hidden Door, 5025 Bowser.

• **Weekly: Lambda Weekly** at 1 p.m. on Sunday on 89.3 KNON-FM with David Taffet, Lerone Landis and the late Patti Fink. This week's guest is filmmaker Scott Poggensee; **Silver Pride Project Coffee and Conversation** from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. on Monday at Oak Lawn Library and 10 a.m.-1 p.m. on Wednesday at Grauwylar Library; **Unwired Group of Crystal Meth Anonymous** meets Sunday at 5:30 p.m., Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday at 11:30 a.m. at Resource Center, 2701 Reagan St.; **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](mailto:jalenzski@myresourcecenter.org); LGBT square dancing group **Pegasus Squares** meets the second and fourth Sunday from 2-4 p.m. at Grace United Methodist Church, 4105 Junius St. For more info, email [pegasussquares@gmail.com](mailto:pegasussquares@gmail.com); **Dallas Frontrunners** meet for a walk or run on the Katy Trail at Oak Lawn Park, Turtle Creek and Hall Street, every Wednesday at 7:15 p.m. and every Saturday at 9 a.m.;

**Leadership Lambda Toastmasters** practices and develops speaking and leadership skills from 6:30-8 p.m. on Tuesdays at First Unitarian Church, third floor of the Hallman Building, 4012 St. Andrews; **Thrive** 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; **LGBT Sex Addicts Anonymous** meets at 6 p.m. every

Friday at 1919 Independence St., Room 19, Plano. 972-316-9188 for details; **Leadership Lambda Toastmasters** gay-identified Toastmasters group meets from 6:30-8 p.m. every Monday at the First Unitarian Church, 4015 Normandy Road (does not meet on Mondays that are holidays); **United Black Illument** 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.; **DVtv in Spayse**, news and entertainment discussion live streaming every Friday, 4-5 p.m., on the Spayse Station YouTube channel.



## OBITUARY



**Jordan Robinson**, 29, died on March 30.

The cause of death is undetermined.

Jordan was a bartender at Alexandre's on Cedar Springs Road where he was well loved. Customers stopped by leaving flowers when they heard of his death. He also worked at Paper Street Soap Company.

He went to Cedar Hill High School and was married to Eric Mahone.

Funeral services for Jordan will be held on Saturday, April 6, at Inspiring Body of Christ Church, 7710 S. Westmoreland Road at 10 a.m.

### • April 13: Prime Timers

Potluck hosted by Sean at 5 p.m. at 1521 Heidi Drive, Plano.

### • April 13-14: Turtle Creek Spring Arts Festival

Two-day arts festival featuring local and regional artists and crafters, live music, food trucks and more from 10 a.m.-

5 p.m. on Saturday and 11 a.m.-5 p.m. on Sunday at Reverchon Park, 3505 Maple Ave.

### • April 14: Palm Sunday

### • April 14: GDMAF Cookout

Cookout to support Gloria's quest to be Miss LifeWalk at 3 p.m. at The Hidden Door, 5025 Bowser. \$5.

## pet of the week / KYRA & CHIRA



Kyra



Chira

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# No tie? No problem

ASD's signature fundraiser started as — and still is — a casual way to have fun and help a good cause

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer  
taffet@dallasvoice.com

The 15th annual No Tie Dinner, one of AIDS Services of Dallas' largest annual fundraising events, takes place on Saturday, April 6, with participants gathering at the Frontiers of Flight Museum following dinners at individual homes.

No Tie began as the casual alternative to Black Tie Dinner, according to its founders. "Have dinner with friends then join us for dessert" has long been the theme, stressing the informal atmosphere of the event.

Groups of people go to social gatherings before No Tie — anything from a seated dinner in someone's house to a barbecue in a backyard to a casual potluck. The groups may be small or as large as 30 people.

After dinner, the groups head over to the Frontiers of Flight Museum on Lemmon Avenue at Love Field for dessert, drinks, entertainment and a silent auction. Admission is a \$75 per person donation to AIDS Services of Dallas.

When former ASD CEO Don Maison referred to No Tie as the casual alternative to Black Tie, he said the name was never meant as a slap in the face to the large, seated dinner that benefits a variety of organizations throughout the LGBT community. The name was meant to be fun, and ASD was targeting a different audience, Maison explained.

But he was glad when the entire Black Tie board of directors showed up to the

second or third No Tie Dinner and had a good time.

Maison said ASD was already participating in LifeWalk and Black Tie Dinner, but they were looking for their own signature event. "We were looking for something that was ours," he said.

One staff member began looking at what other AIDS organizations around the country were doing. An HIV non-profit in the Carolinas was doing what Maison described as "Guess who's coming to dinner. You didn't know where you were going to have dinner."

Starting with that concept, AIDS Services tweaked the idea so that people would go to dinner at someone's house and then end up at one big event.

Board member Dennis Kershner recalled, "We were looking for something to do," and when Maison shared they were looking for that signature event, Kershner said, "I can do that."



As Kershner remembers it, Maison threw the name No Tie Dinner out before they even formalized what the event would be.

Kershner said the formula they came up with was "the easiest thing to do. We'd drag in family and friends. We're going to have dinner parties and then converge."

The first year, No Tie was held at Southside on Lamar. The problem with the space was that the silent auction was held on the opposite side of the building from the main party.

"There was little signage," Maison said. About 250 people attended, but that first event didn't make much money. Kershner said it raised about \$18,000.

The second year No Tie Dinner moved to the Frontiers of Flight Museum, and the event began to take off. That year, they raised about \$36,000. The third year brought in \$50,000, and the fourth raised

about \$100,000, Kershner recalled.

He also noted that around the community big events had big sponsor parties. He hosted those for the first seven years.

At the end of 10 years, Kershner said, he told the board, "I'm out of friends and out of ideas." But he still enjoys having friends over for dinner before heading over to the No Tie Dinner grand finale.

Maison said Frontiers of Flight Museum is a fun venue with exhibits that change all the time. The airplanes hanging from the ceiling just give the evening an interesting vibe. He also said it was accommodating to an event like No Tie.

The Frontiers of Flight Museum is one of the few venues in town that allows an organization to bring in its own catering and alcohol, helping the event to be profitable for ASD.

Traswell Livingston, interim president and CEO of ASD since Maison's retirement in February, said this year there are 28 official dinners — including his own. He lives in the Fair Park historical district, and his party begins in the afternoon with a DJ in the backyard. A neighbor does one as well and the guests run back and forth between parties.

Livingston said he's heard some of the dinners are on Friday night, and a couple were held last weekend. That way the individual dinner parties aren't cut short, and on No Tie Dinner night, no one is rushed to get to the museum.

Volunteers are especially needed after the dinner is over. Because the party takes place on the floor of the museum, desert and silent auction tables, bars, stage, sound equipment and everything else has to be set up the day of the event. After the event, everything must be torn down before organizers leave.

Livingston said many ASD residents help with tear down, but other volunteers are always welcome to help. ■

For information visit [NoTieDinner.org](http://NoTieDinner.org).



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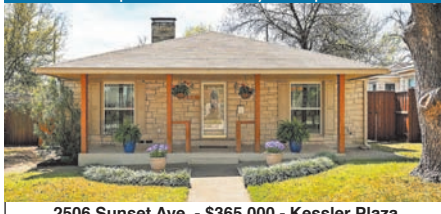
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# Huge change: Everything's the same



Dr. David M. Lee, left and Dr. John Carlo

Uptown Physicians and Prism Health NTX form a partnership

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

Officials with Uptown Physicians Group and the non-profit Prism Health North Texas this week announced that they are forming a partnership, but for patients and employees, nothing will change.

Doctors and physicians' assistants from both organizations will continue to work at the same offices in which they've worked all along. No names will change. And patients should call the same number they have always called and will see the same healthcare provider they have been seeing.

While this combination of a non-profit and for-profit to provide community healthcare is a first for Dallas, Legacy Community Health in Houston formed with a similar collaboration between the Montrose Clinic and a general medical practice and now has at least nine clinics across the city and another five across

Southeast Texas.

Dr. David M. Lee, founder and president of Uptown Physicians Group, said the idea of working together developed over years of [representatives from both organizations] knowing each other and having the same vision.

Prism Health CEO John Carlo said, "We've known each other many years and talked about the challenges of patient care. Patients are having trouble affording medications."

Prism Health NTX cares for people with HIV and has a PrEP clinic for HIV-negative clients. Uptown Physicians does general primary care with a specialty in HIV. As Prism has done more preventive care and as Uptown has gained experience with changing insurance coverage, their offices and medical specialties have crossed.

"What's expected of our patients has increased over the years," Lee said. "What used to be a \$20 co-pay has increased in some cases to \$6,000 out-of-pocket."

Lee gave an example of how the synergy of the two organizations will benefit clients. He said he's seen a number of patients who were on PrEP but couldn't afford the preventative medications when they lost their jobs and their insurance.





# Calling all visionaries

Creating Change staff and co-chairs from the 2019 conference attended Detroit Pride last year to generate interest in the event. (Photo courtesy of Creating Change)

Creating Change host committee launch party is Monday

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

The National LGBTQ Task Force's 2020 Creating Change Conference is set for Jan. 15-19 at the Sheraton Dallas hotel, and Task Force organizers are asking local advocates to get involved with the planning process by becoming part of the conference host committee.

Planning begins in earnest with an event to launch the host committee on Monday, April 8, at Resource Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road. The event begins with dinner at 6 p.m., followed by a meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Evangeline Weiss, director of leadership programs for the Task Force, that a team of four Creating Change staff members, including her, will be at the meeting to explain the role the host committee will play in organizing the conference.

"We are calling all queers and all allies and all people who care about social justice," Weiss said. "The whole process begins Monday, and we are looking for co-chairs for the host committee."

She said each of the co-chairs will take responsibility for one portion of the planning process — hospitality, special events, fundraising and recruiting and marketing.

"Host committee members will be our ambassadors" to the North Texas community, she said.

"Members of the host committee are really an outreach branch of [the Task Force], and at the same time they bring with them to us knowledge of the community and the people in North Texas," Weiss said.

"It is important to us to highlight the work that is happening in the community and the people who are doing that work," she added. "We can do that through plenary sessions focusing on local issues and by recognizing local people with awards at the conference. We need to the host committee's input to be able to do that."

The first Creating Change Conference was held in 1988, organized to help build on the momentum of the national march on Washington, D.C., for LGBT equality held the previous year in October. Andy Garcia, director of the Creating Change department at the Task Force the purpose remains to build community and keep the LGBTQ community's momentum moving forward, nationally and in local communities. That's why, he said, the conference is held in a different city each year.

"We could hold the conference in D.C. every year. That would be easy for us since that is where we are headquartered. But we very consciously don't do that," Garcia said. "A large part of the magic [of the conference] is working with people locally, learning the issues that impacting these communities and the people who are working to address the issues."

Weiss said that requests for workshop and plenary panels for Creating Change 2020 will be issued in July, with the deadline for submitting proposals "right around Labor Day. One of the functions of the host committee is to help identify fantastic workshop proposals. In early November, we will notify people whether their workshops were accepted."

Garcia added that organizers will give deference to locally-driven content in choosing workshops. "The range of topics is whatever people want to submit to us. What drives Dallas? What are the challenges and the opportunities there? In submitting proposals, think about what Dallas — and Texas, more broadly — can offer the movement."

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## CHANGE, From Page 10

Prism Health NTX has a solution that will keep someone on the HIV-preventive treatment, even during periods of lapses in insurance.

Carlo said his organization has only taken insurance since 2012, while “Uptown is health insurance savvy.”

Carlo and Lee said they’ve been in discussions on coming together in a partnership for more than a year. And making sure there was no disruption in patient care has been their primary concern.

“We don’t want to fall out of network for a patient,” Lee said. “There are no changes in current networks.”

Carlo called the combination a matter of patient choice, although he doesn’t want patients to change from exactly the same clinic and provider they now use. But as the two groups begin to work together, “we may find better options for certain patients with more complex needs.”

Uptown has nine providers, and Prism has eight plus psychiatry services. Lee suggested in some cases, Uptown pa-

tients may benefit from the psychiatry component at Prism, and a Prism patient may benefit from a specialty of an Uptown doctor.

But both agreed: More doesn’t change for patients than does change. Most importantly, patients will see the same doctor at the same location, and the locations will retain their same names.

With the partnership, new services will be added. While North Dallas has at least one CVS or Walgreens on every major corner, South Dallas doesn’t. Car-

lo said they’re adding a pharmacy to the South Dallas Clinic where there’s not a pharmacy for miles.

While Prism Health NTX has been a community health center for people with HIV, the LGBT community in Dallas has no community health center. Uptown Physicians Group hopes to become that resource.

“Transgender care — together we can tackle that issue,” Lee said, calling the trans community an underserved population. “Trans people drive to us from out-of-state for care.”

Together, Uptown Physicians and Prism Health NTX are building a new prevention clinic on Lemmon Avenue near Central Expressway. People on PrEP need to have a quick check up four times a year; rather than a long wait at a doctor’s office from either side of the new partnership, they can stop by the new prevention clinic for a fast blood draw to check for HIV and other STDs, get any questions answered and then be on their way.

Lee and Carlo expect more business from the prevention clinic to be coming from Dallas County, whose STD clinic on Stemmons Freeway is so busy, they’re turning away 200-300 people a week.

Carlo said clients would be assured of a “quick, efficient visit” with “a good affirming team” they’re putting in place.

Development director Tori Hobbs stressed that the new partners “still need community support.” Although she expects more visits will be covered by insurance, she said that contributions help keep people in care. And more resources mean bringing more uninsured people into care.

Carlo said he was excited about the change as he and Lee began telling their teams about the new partnership last week. He said he’s telling them to be collaborative and solve healthcare problems together.

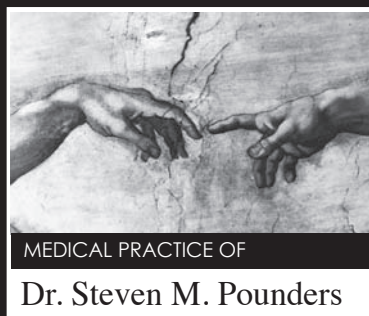
“Helping our patients is the biggest advantage of this,” Lee agreed.

In the new organization, Carlo is CEO, and Lee is chief strategy officer. And while the move for Uptown Physicians Group from profit to non-profit and for Prism Health NTX to double the providers and resources seems like a huge change, Carlo said, “nothing will change. Current services will continue. Call the same number. Keep the same appointment schedule. See the same provider.”

Lee added that thanks to the new partnership, clients and the community can expect new opportunities for increasing health equities and sharing specialties. ■



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# Remembering to live in the Now

I found a path of spirituality that resonated with my understanding early in my adult life. Reading the seminal writing *Be Here Now*, authored by Ram Dass (Richard Alpert), was an awakening for me. It is the only spiritual experience I have known. It is the only one I will ever need.

Many people would dismiss this as some 1970s fad-du-jour that swept me away for a time. I understand the reasons behind that assumption; it was a time period that spiritual practices promising enlightenment proliferated. I no more expect a true skeptic to accept my belief than they would accept the concept of a real God.

In the book, Alpert narrates his very private search for meaning and his encounter with an Eastern spiritual practitioner. That was his journey, one that he brilliantly shared. I was smart enough to understand the power of the written word. Even then I possessed a healthy sense of skepticism.

That said, to this day, I am convinced that the message he gained from his experience somehow managed to penetrate the core of my own understanding of life's meaning. Somehow, the knowledge imparted by that teacher changed me forever.

I am someone that teacher never met. I have no connection to him or Mr. Alpert. I have no explanation. But from that moment on, I understood the naked beauty of inhabiting each moment. I am convinced that in the eternal NOW is where happiness abides.

Through that filter, I can appreciate another's religious beliefs. For me, it is all the same experience. Awakening can never be rationally explained; you just have to believe. Inhabiting this moment to me is seeing eternity. It is the always-changing and always-remaining NOW. That's it.

In the ensuing years, I have often chosen to mistake my gains and losses as my true reality. They consumed all of my attention for long stretches in time. The steady peace of the moment was replaced by the chatter in my own head.



**Gary Bellomy**  
Contributing Columnist

Something/someone was always making me happy, and that happiness would surely last forever.

It takes a lot of effort to keep that illusion going.

At other times, people and things were often horrible. Misery and suffering were all I could see. Life's adrenalin is difficult to step back from.

I forgot that staying present and witnessing everything that life threw at me allowed me to feel each joy and each sorrow and not lose the sheer beauty of it all.

It is no surprise that my expectations that involve sexual partners reflect this core spiritual belief. What matters to me is the deep connection that derives from such intimacy. The sex is incredible when two people are fully present in the moment. Time stops; the world fades away.

While the reality of my sexual experience has included the full gamut, sex for its own sake does little to enhance my life on any deep level. In my concept of how to live as a whole person, each encounter should be deeply felt. The exchange, I feel, becomes a part of me. Every contact I ever made at that level is remembered and cherished. From my understanding, that is the heart of true polyamory.

This attitude has created problems in my life. I found little reciprocity for my true feelings. At this late stage in life, I am still astounded that men who have been able to connect at that level often act as total strangers upon a happenstance public encounter. I want nothing from them beyond an acknowledgement of shared bliss that doesn't even require

words. I am not built to have any other reaction.

I have also grown to understand how dangerous it is for me to sexually engage when there is no connection. By doing so, I only contribute to my emotional and spiritual destruction. In the same way, continuously connecting at that level yet treating it as a casual encounter void of any meaning becomes yet another small death inside of me.

At some point, it becomes clear to most of us what drives our attraction to others. For many it's a specific person. Other individuals have a certain type they pursue. I acknowledge that in my experience the individuals have been extremely important. They were all similar in ways that clearly indicate my taste in men.

It is always the connection for me above all else. These fleeting glances into the god-souls that manifest into flesh as men are my sense of truth in this life. I will respect that ideal today.

The desire to live in the now permeates my experience. I may be seemingly immersed in life's challenges, but in that inner realm, that sense of mindfulness, there continues some strangled progression.

I seem to move into the present moment, in spite of myself. The other day, I came across a long-held collection of old photographs I had saved throughout my earlier life. Without any planned intention, I sorted through them. When I was done, I had thrown out 80 percent of them. What was pictured in those discarded no longer held any draw for me. I have none of the feelings remaining that obligated me to keep them. Most of those people are gone. That life went with them. What remains is my truth about that time and knowing that my life is now.

I will never be found with my head bowed in prayer. Even as a child it seemed foreign. What I know of God exists in the moment. This is my religion. Others achieve that union through prayer or their meditations. That contact is there for all who share in humanity. ■





LIFE+STYLE

music

# Take her hand

With the release of her first album in 6 years, Dido reflects on gay fans, genre-hopping and realizing she'll never be Madonna (that job is already taken)

Photo by Simon Emmett.



If you want Dido to tell you a story, don't be weird. It helps if you're a fan. It especially helps if you're a fan in a sea of other fans, "White Flag" sweeping you away to that soothingly introspective Dido place at one of her shows. Just don't be some nosy journalist out to get a good Dido story — you won't get a good Dido story. And don't ask her to say her full, iconic birth name. She'll playfully decline because the name — Dido Florian Cloud de Bouneville O'Malley Armstrong — is "terrifying," she says.

But when I recently jumped on the phone to discuss the British chill-queen's first album in six years, *Still on My Mind*, Dido did tell stories ("Sand in My Shoes," from her 2004 album *Life for Rent*, is literally about *sand in her shoes!*). In fact, according to a rep for the artist who called me after with some feedback, she apparently broke through her usual press-shyness, laughing her way through our talk about dressing like Madonna, getting over stage fright and being a "messy" producer. ■

— Chris Azzopardi

**Dallas Voice: Has a gay man ever told you your full name would make a good drag name?** Dido: [Laughs] Oh, I love that.

**If I asked you to say your full name, would you?** Do I have to? [Laughs] It's just terrifying. I love getting other people to say it, and it's actually really funny because they always say it slightly differently, but I've never thought about it like that. But I feel better about it now!

**You grew up as a Madonna fan, like many gay boys.** Yeah, like most everyone! She's just amazing.

**Was your interest in her something you shared with your gay friends?** With everybody. I was trying to dress like her in the "Papa Don't Preach" video as soon as I could, as soon as I was allowed to cut my hair off and dye it blonde. But I remember going to see *Desperately Seeking Susan* with my mom, and I think even my dad came, and we were all just completely enamored with her. She was just the most awesome thing ever.

**What about Madonna appealed to you at that age?** She just felt so strong and could sort of do everything and was so unique and so confident. She just has this confidence that as a teenage girl I was looking at like, "Wow." Everything she wore in the video, when you're a teenage girl, and you're just feeling really insecure and anxious and not comfortable in your own skin, you see this woman being so proud to be herself. I think she's so inspiring.

**And you dressed like her for a period of time, didn't you?** I did! Allegedly, accord-

ing to my husband, I still do! I came down the other day and he was just like, "You know, you're dressed as the 'Papa Don't Preach' video right now?" And he was just laughing because my hair is really white-blond at the moment.

**My next question was gonna be: When did you realize that being Madonna wasn't possible?** I can still dream.

**What song of yours do gay fans tell you they connect with most?** Originally it might've been "Take My Hand." That was the first song I wrote, I think, that ever got recorded, and I remember that always used to connect.

**After 20 years, how do you end up coming back to a sound that is quintessential Dido?** I don't really know. I did this album in a very instinctive way. I didn't really overthink anything. Because when I was making the record, I didn't have a record deal. When I was doing this album, and I wasn't even sure I was gonna put this out, I just thought, "We're just gonna do it." It inadvertently ended up very similar to when I made *No Angel*, and I didn't think anyone was going to hear that record. I think a lot of the feeling of starting again and that feeling around that time 20 years ago sort of crept into this record, just because I felt like what I'm having is a good time here, and I might put it out; there was a point I even thought I'd give these songs to someone else. I just didn't know.

I was learning all sorts of stuff about production, so a lot of them, I was producing and doing the beats more so than I'd done before on songs like "Hell After This" and "Mad Love." I was experimenting, and people started really enjoying that sound because it was a bit less professional than my brother [laughs] — he's much more professional with his productions; mine are way more haphazard. I have such low patience, and everything I do has to be in one take because I'm just like, "I don't know, this edit button is just driving me mad," and I'm always deleting stuff. I basically record everything in one take, every beat and every bassline, so it's a mess. But I think it's created a bit of fun on this record as well.

**Are the long breaks you take between album releases a necessary part of your creative process?** I think it is. It just sort of happens. I don't know how to write any differently because I'm writing from such a personal point of view, like I have to go through the experiences to be able to write them. I've never approached making records in any sort of methodical way; it just happened. I go through life and I write songs because that's how I see the world, and it's what I see when I look around the world and how I process any thought I have, and then it sort of builds up into

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# DIFF's queer content

Promising films, local and foreign add gay appeal to film festival

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor  
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The Dallas International Film Festival begins its 13th iteration this week, with seven days of screenings of features, shorts and documentaries of all kinds ... and among them, several gay-themed entries. But while the festival — by its name — is “international,” some of the most prominent queerness is highly local.

First, the Texas stuff:

One queer short (which screens as part of the Narrative Shorts 3 program) is *Chicle*, which deals with a teenaged Latina and the unexpected visitor on

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the day of her grandfather's funeral. It is directed by DFW-based filmmaker Lizette Barrera. (It debuted last month at SXSW.)

*Mack Wrestles* (which screens as part of the Documentary Shorts 2 program) is about a trans boy from Euless who struggles for acceptance despite his athletic prowess.

*The Queen's New Clothes* (which screens as part of the Documentary Shorts 1 program) profiles out 90-year-old costume designer Winn Morton, who prepares outrageous outfits for small-town Texas pageants. Also in that program, but from farther away, is *Lasting Marks*, a short about the effects of Thatcher's Britain on her LGBT constituents.

Which leads us into some overseas features with gay content.

*Diamantino* is a goofy sports fantasy from Portugal about the world's greatest soccer player, who loses his gift only to discover the real meaning of life. (Look for a review next week.)

*Sorry Angel*, pictured, is a queer romance from French filmmaker Christopher Honoré. Set in Paris in 1993 during the height of the AIDS epidemic, it profiles an HIV-positive writer who meets a

spirited young man and finds hope just as his diagnosis would indicate something more dire.

Also of interest to local queer filmgoers: *Running with Beto* (which I saw at SXSW) profiles El Paso Congressman Beto O'Rourke's campaign to become the first Democrat elected to state-wide office in Texas in more than a generation, when he took on Canadian-born Sen. Rafael "Ted" Cruz.... *International Falls*, the film adaptation of North Texas-based writer-actor Thomas Ward's play *International Falls*, which debuted at WaterTower Theatre several years ago.... and *Extremely Wicked, Shockingly Evil and Vile*, which profiles serial killer Ted Bundy (played by Zac Efron) from the perspective of his devoted girlfriend. The feature is directed by documentarian Joe Berlinger, whose nonfiction series *Conversations with a Killer: The Ted Bundy Tapes* — which prominently features Dallas journalist Hugh Aynesworth — is currently streaming on Netflix.

The 13th Dallas International Film Festival runs April 11–18 at Landmark's Magnolia Theater in the West Village. For more information and a complete lineup, visit [DallasFilm.com](http://DallasFilm.com).

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a record. It feels like they all sort of just appear.

**Do you read reviews?** I read some of them, yeah. I read a couple really lovely reviews.

**I wondered what you thought of Uncut referring to the dancier songs on this album as "mum at the disco."** [Laughs] I love it.

**I mean, I'm here for "mum at the disco" music. Could be a whole new genre of music!** Can you imagine? I love it! I didn't read that, but yeah, I do think that should be a new genre, basically. I just think on this album I'm pretty unashamedly just doing the music I like and also, a lot of people on this album — well, it's basically me and my brother — were on the first record as well. So, it's sort of nice. I mean, I haven't changed my friends much in the last 25 years, so I think there's a familiarity there. It's so nice that that can just be who you work with through your whole career.

**Is there a genre of music you want to explore completely outside the musical identity you've created for yourself?** I don't know if I know how to. I think the nice thing about what I do is I do so many different things on a record, so I can go from dance music to more hip-hip stuff. I don't feel restricted. If I wanted to do

something in a genre I haven't done, I would do it because, in a way, it all works as long as there's a song at the core. For me, that's always been the sort of principle: to make whatever music you wanna make but have a good song. That's what I tried to do anyway.

**What's the most unusual place that has given you inspiration for a song?** I wrote "Sand in my Shoes" literally on a plane when I took my shoes off, and they were full of sand. One of those really stupid moments. It was actually a really stressful flight because my dad had got really ill, and I just arrived in L.A., and I wanted to go straight home. While I was on the plane, I was just writing, because it's all I know how to do to get through. I sort of took my shoes off, and I literally had just run off the beach onto a plane, and all this sand went everywhere and sort of followed. Anyway, it was cool. It gave me the idea for the song. I wrote that whole song on the plane.

**What about songs on *Still on My Mind*?** The last song on the album, "Have to Stay," we recorded it as I was writing it, and that's what's on there, as in that's all just a first thought. ["Have to Stay" was

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# Naughty, knotty and not-y

The conundrum that is 'Shazam'



Zach Levi plays the muscular but still immature incarnation of teenager Billy Batson (alongside Jack Dylan Glazer) in the problematic 'Shazam'.

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor  
jones@dallasvoice.com

**S**hazam is a “not” movie — one of those Hollywood studio productions more defined by what it isn’t than what it is. It is not, for example, a kids’ movie — too gross, too sexual, too violent — but nor is it for adults — too childish, too banal, too cartoony. (It’s also too homoerotic for tweens, and not homoerotic enough for gayboys.) It isn’t a comedy *per se*, though its light-heartedness removes it squarely from the action category. (Imagine *Deadpool Lite*.) It’s not an outright magic movie like *Harry Potter*, or an outright superhero movie — it’s closer to spoofs like *Super*, *Mystery Men* or *The Tick*, with lots of meta-references to other comic book characters.

It’s not good. But it isn’t bad.

Generating *any* real feelings for *Shazam* is a huge problem for it. Though technically part of the DC Extended Universe, it is being released by New Line Cinema, a smaller imprint of Warner Bros. That even glazes it with the patina of a red-headed stepchild... which, in terms of the plot, isn’t far from the truth. Billy Batson (Asher Angel) is

a foster kid who has run away from too many group homes to count, always in search of the mom who lost him at a carnival a decade before. He finally ends up with a new family, a warm hodgepodge of good kids who seem to have few troubles... and just ethnically diverse enough to play to all demographics (they might as well have called it *United Colors of Foster Homes*). Billy bonds with the other white boy about his age, Freddy (Jack Dylan Grazer), just as Billy is “chosen” by a wizard’s spell to take on the attributes of Solomon, Hercules, Atlas, Zeus, Achilles and Mercury — whose acronym becomes his character *and* his war cry: Say “SHAZ-AM,” and become a mid-30s superhero (Zachary Levi), clad in Spandex and a white cape that must be a bitch to keep clean.

Underneath padded muscles, though, is still a 14-year-old kid, who seems to have skipped over the “wisdom of Solomon” in his incantation. And so for most of its runtime, *Shazam* is just Big Meets Superman. (The just-marginally-competent director, David F. Sandberg, even adds a scene in a toy store with a “dancing keyboard,” just to hit home on the theme. This is not a movie

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that traffics in subtlety.)

The character of Shazam — originally named Capt. Marvel, but let's not cloud those skies right now — was a better version of the boy inside, not merely a stronger one. The plot basically betrays the entire theme of the comic (even posited in the movie) that only the purest soul can attain these powers. It seems like Billy just happened to be closest when the telemarketer called.

That's just the tiniest of the knotty problems in this movie, which feels so divorced from reality that even when bullies *run over a disabled kid with a truck*, nobody — not a teacher, not a parent, not another student — seem to register the felony that just occurred. Tragedies befall, and disappear, like sand. The film aggressively avoids *any* consequences, like a story written by a first grader. At one point, the villain *throws corporate executives* out of the upper window of a skyscraper to their bloody deaths... and yet cops don't seem to notice (they do, however, respond to an anonymous tip about drug dealing at a pawn shop, and track down truants like they are Pinkerton agents).

But despite its appalling sloppiness, it's also difficult to dislike *Shazam* with much enthusiasm. I can't fathom the target audience for the film, but I don't feel it's filled with ill-will, just misguided detritus. The actors are appealing enough, and near the end, when superhero versions of the foster kids appear, I did find myself marveling at the beefcake... Sorry, DC'ing at the beefcake? Shazaming? Whatever.

DIDO, From Page 17

written about Dido's son, Stanley Gavin.]

**That probably doesn't happen very often, does it?** No, and it was really cool: I had the idea for the song, and I knew what I was singing, and the guy I was writing with was literally feeling out the chords, and that's why he doesn't actually move chords for the first two verses, because he's getting to grips with what I'm singing. So, it's actually making it up as we go along. I just love the feel of it. When I came to record it properly, it never felt the same, so I just kept that very original idea of it.

**Because you're used to recording in an intimate setting with your brother, I imagine taking songs from the record this close to you and performing them in front of massive crowds must feel a little different.** It does.

**How so?** I sort of love it. When I first went on tour with *No Angel*, I was just like, "Oh

my god, why are you making me sing these songs with other people [around]?" Like, they are so personal. I remember my manager saying to me, after running on stage and running away as soon as I'd sung, "It wouldn't hurt for you to talk a little. You could say your name. You could say what city you're in. Anything, just the basics. Like, 'Hello, New York!' *Anything*. Just say something because you just look so scared right now." And it was really scary for me! Then I performed on stage for nine years, and I just have to say I genuinely have such cool fans and they make me feel we're part of something together.

Before the days of having recording devices at shows, I remember journalists used to get so annoyed with me, like, "Why do you tell all these stories when you're on stage that you would never tell us?" Like, "You tell stuff to your fans that you don't ever say in an interview." It's not intentional. It just felt like a really friendly environment, and I'm quite an instinctive person, and if I feel comfortable, I'm a very open person, so it was just really funny. Because they'd come to the show and they were like, "I just did an hour interview with you, and you didn't tell me anything, and then you get on stage and tell all these

stories." With fans, the feeling that I get back is such a two-way thing and such a magical thing.

**Do you feel comfortable now?** Yeah. Now I'm older so I'm like, "Yeah, whatever!"

**So you'll tell me a story then?** No. You're gonna have to come to a show. I just think I've always felt pretty comfortable singing the songs because I always have felt a lot of love coming from the fans, that they've made the effort to come out and see you, and you're sharing an experience, and it just feels good to sing the songs live. It always feels different every night.

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**Wednesday 04.10  
— Sunday 04.14**

### Gloria Estefan musical 'On Your Feet' makes Bass Hall debut

"I hope Gloria likes that song, cuz she's gonna be singin' it the rest of her life!" cracks a record producer in *On Your Feet*, the jukebox musical based on the music of Miami Sound Machine and its founders, Gloria and Emilio Estefan. And when you are reminded of the catalogue of their catchy hits — "1-2-3," "Conga," "Turn the Beat Around" — you are glad she was willing to sing them all a lot. After a run this time last year in Dallas, *On Your Feet* makes its Cowtown debut this week as part of the Broadway at the Bass Series.

**DEETS:** Bass Performance Hall, 525 Commerce St., Fort Worth. BassHall.com.

**Friday 04.05 —  
Saturday 04.27**

### The horrors of war are made real in the modern drama 'Lela & Co.'

Lela is a young woman whose seemingly magical life is transformed when she encounters horror after horror in the

middle of a war zone. As she recounts her tragedy, she is haunted by the series of men who exacted a terrible toll. Second Thought Theatre takes the "Me Too" movement one step further in this contemporary play about the unspeakable atrocities visited upon women the world over. Natalie Young and Garret Storms star in *Lela & Co.*

**DEETS:** Bryant Hall on the Kalita Humphreys campus, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. 2TT.co.



**Friday 04.05 —  
Saturday 04.06**

### Ever-favorite dance company Pilobolus returns to the Arts District

TITAS has presented dance in Dallas long enough to know exactly what local audiences' favorites are, and certainly Pilobolus is one of an elite group of national touring companies that always deliver the goods. In fact, it's so popular TITAS added a Saturday matinee to the lineup. But if you've seen Pilobolus before, it can still be new to you this time as the troupe launches *Shadowland: The New Adventure* in this mixed media quest with movement.

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

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## ARTSWEEK

### THEATER

**Bubbling Brown Sugar.** Lively musical revue about the music of the Harlem Renaissance — Duke Ellington, Billie Holiday and more. Jubilee Theatre, 506 Main St., Fort Worth. Through April 28. JubileeTheatre.org.

**Disaster!** Seth Rudetsky and Jack Plotnick co-wrote this musical spoof of 1970s-era disaster movies. Presented by Uptown Players. Kalita Humphreys Theater, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. Through April 14. UptownPlayers.org.

**A Few Good Men.** The stage play (later a movie) about hazing in the military and the quest for justice. Presented by Theatre Arlington, 305 W. Main St., Arlington. Through April 14. TheatreArlington.org.

**Foxfire.** A gritty play set in Appalachia, written by Hume Cronyn and Susan Cooper. *Final weekend.* Theatre 3, 2800 Routh St. in the Quadrangle. Theatre3Dallas.com.

**Hamilton.** A small musical you may have heard of. Fair Park Music Hall, 909 First Ave. Through May 5. DallasSummerMusicals.org.

**Once on this Island.** Calypso-flavored fantasy adaptation of The Little Mermaid. Presented by The Firehouse Theatre, 2535 Valley View Lane, Farmers Branch. Through April 14. TheFirehouseTheatre.com.

**The Wolves.** A finalist for the Pulitzer Prize, this play deals with the cutthroat world of girl's high school soccer. Studio Theatre at the Wyly Theatre, 2400 Flora St. Through April 14. DallasTheaterCenter.org.

### DANCE

**Pilobolus.** Return of the engaging and original modern dance troupe, presented by TITAS. Moody Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. April 5–6. ATPAC.org.

### MAGIC

**Jason Bishop: The Illusionist.** The magician performs. Presented by Casa Manana, 3101 W. Lancaster Ave., Fort Worth. Through Sunday. CasaManana.org.

### FINE ART

**Berthe Morisot: Woman Impressionist.** One of the most acclaimed of the Impressionists in her lifetime, Morisot fell into obscurity in the 20th century but has been rediscovered for her talent in this comprehensive exhibition. Dallas Museum of Art 1717 Harwood St. Through May 5. DMA.org.

**Fortuny: Friends and Followers.** Examination of the influence of the 19th century Spanish painter. Meadows Museum, 5900 Bishop Blvd. on the SMU campus. Through June 3. MeadowsMuseumDallas.org.

## TUESDAY 04.09

### FILM

**Born Yesterday.** Judy Holliday won a best actress Oscar (beating out competition that included Gloria Swanson in *Sunset Boulevard* and Bette Davis in *All About Eve*)

as the not-so-dumb blonde in this sweet, smart comedy. Screens as part of the Tuesday Big Movie New Classic Series, which now includes a matinee. Landmark's Magnolia Theatre in the West Village, 3699 McKinney Ave. Screens at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

## WEDNESDAY 04.10

### THEATER

**On Your Feet.** Musical about the lives of Gloria and Emilio Estefan and featuring the music of Miami Sound Machine. Part of the Broadway at the Bass Series; presented by Performing Arts Fort Worth. Bass Performance Hall, 525 Commerce St., Fort Worth. April 10–14. BassHall.com.

## THURSDAY 04.11

### THEATER

**Wolf at the Door.** Marisela Trevino Orta's new dark fairy tale about Isadora, who finds the strength to stand up against her abusive husband Septimo. Presented by Kitchen Dog Theater. Trinity River Arts Center, 2600 N. Stemmons Freeway. April 11–May 5. KitchenDogTheater.org.

### FESTIVAL

#### 13th Annual Dallas International Film Festival

The week-long festival will screen 130 films and host numerous filmmakers and celebrities. Festivities are centered around the Magnolia Theatre, 3699 McKinney Ave. Consult the website for full details. April 11–18. DallasFilm.org.

### BROADCAST

**Project Runway.** The design competition returns, with two Dallas designers in the mix. Now back on Bravo. 7 p.m.

## this week's solution

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# Ask Howard

How to do the wrong thing right

Well, shove a straw into some sweet coconut milk, peel me a big banana and spank the pretty monkey on my back — April is here, and already going apeshit. Apparently, you boys' testosterone levels must have simultaneously emerged from a winter's hibernation at once, with your first blinking thought being, "I need me some condom-free porn—NOW!"

And why the hell not? After all, some of us, way back, crawled into a "Trump news-black-out den" and may, just now, finally be working up the nerve to see what new and exciting has happened since. Well guess what? Surprise, surprise, it's just the same-old/tired-old expected monkey business, conducted by the same tired-old blustering, orange orangutan we all know and none love — a man who (*sigh*) learns nothing, sees nothing, hears nothing and does *nothing* but whump his portly, puffed-out chest. Successfully maneuvering through the tar-sludge of TrumpWorld exacts nothing short of the nimble agilities of a flier monkey; The New Yorker's Adam Gopnik recently "demystified" what makes the inner-clockworks of this particular psychopathic primate tick: "Back in 1980, Trump destroyed the façade of the old Bonwit Teller building, which he razed to make way for Trump Tower, after being told that he shouldn't and when no one expected that he would. He has learned that, if you just *do* things, ordinary people with normal expectations about human behavior will have a hard time believing that you're doing them."

I've never heard it put better; so, let's all us sinless amongst the monkey bars here get right to it.

**Dear Howard:** Ok, I'll go ahead and be first to fess-up to what we all *know* is the solid truth: As every other man alive, gay and straight, I am addicted to VOD porn... and the more fetish-friendly its "models," the more I'm spanking my monkey right there along with them. No drugs come even close to giving me the kind of opioid-rush sensation I feel whenever I'm able to coax a live, private webcam show out of some porn star, then follow it with a free, one-on-one hookup. Others pay full retail rates for their own favorite porn star's companionship; I've learned to game it gratis.

Most, I know, would probably be stunned how someone like me — middle-aged, under-developed and just a few extra pounds overweight — could score *any* sex, say nothing of sex with porn stars, and iconic ones, too! Not to toot my own horn, but I'm talking the likes of even such super-legends as the mighty Mr. Horse Cock himself (everybody knows his name but respecting the deceased, I'll halt there). In fact, Howard, here's just one juicy nugget that'll whet your men's hoochies: I once asked one of those blessed Rockland brothers (I can't remember now whether it was Vince, Hal or Shane) how many days they had to "save it up" to deliver such impressive money shots, and he just grinned, "That's a secret between me, one cleverly hidden turkey

baster and two cans of sweetened condensed coconut milk." Talk about bursting balloons! Anyhow, I'll be happy to divulge for your readers some currently still fuckable conquests of mine they could, wink-wink, enjoy for themselves a private-sampling of. So here, in alphabetized order, is my full legendary list [fully deleted here by Howard]. — **Super Ron**

**Dear Super Con:** I suppose it but loomed inevitable, this fun notion to collect vintage gay porn stars in the same way once far-more-innocent boys traded baseball cards. However, the near venal glee you take in, wink-wink, outing the privacy of these men's current lives springs to my mind Gene Hackman's belly-splitting turn in *The Birdcage*, playing fair-weather Sen. Kevin Keeley of Ohio (of course) — an anxiety-rattled, candy-gorging, ultra-right-wing moralist and vice president of The Coalition for Moral Order, whose co-founder has just expired in a seedy hotel room atop an underage black prostitute. Hackman's disgust isn't the hypocrisy; rather, his stomach-churning horror is that the hooker lived to tell the tale. As the old political truism goes, the only thing *worse* than being caught in bed with a dead girl, would be a live boy.

Anecdotal tangents aside, the peak-performance of any given porn star's career-longevity is about three years, *maximum*. Exceptions only prove the rule, naturally: "Hetero" performer, Peter North, for instance, now in his 60s and still in front of a camera, is not only the wealthiest male entertainer in the entire jizz biz, but as many of you vintage porn enthusiasts may know, North actually jumpstarted his career back in the early '80s performing as a bottom, under the gaily-precious sobriquet, Matt Ramsey.

**Dear Howard:** Last Sunday night, my roommate vlogged in like some wastrel straight out of Dickens, having spent the entire weekend (per usual) squandering both his fine health and good youth in pursuit of his life's goal: To bed down every living veteran of a dead porn career whose worn out face, and penis, might still vaguely be recognizable from his collection of pre-condom classic porn, courtesy the long-gone Bijou Productions' archives of 16,000 titles.

"Jackpot!" he yowled with fist-pumping triumph. "Boys, you'll never guess who I just fucked!" Beaded sweat glistened even his earlobes. "Uh huh, that's right — even if a little plumper, and grayer, for the wear since his beefcake-blond halcyon days. But I'm the man who just made Leo Ford's toes curl!"

Our other roommate rolled his eyes. "In your G-fueled dreams did you just zombie-fuck Leo? He's been dead for decades — longer, even than porn-partner Lance: A motorcycle accident in the early '80s."

"Did I say Leo Ford?" he redounded. "I meant Rex Chandler... or was it, Cole Carpenter? It'd be easier if the dude's dick had gotten hard."

Question: Howard, should we just once-



and-for-all kick this clown out? On the one hand, he always pays his share of the rent promptly, and god knows, we all do enjoy his antediluvian porn collection — those dudes were so much hotter back then! But he's just such a semen-spilt train wreck most the time.

— **DTS**

**Dear Delirium Tremens:** Kick him out? Hell, he's the ideal roommate: He's never there... and even when he is, he's never there. What I'm stuck on, upon reflection here, is the very *existence* of over 16,000 pre-condom 1980s gay porn titles! It seems oddly flinch-worthy...especially considering that as early as even 1983, word was already out regarding just exactly how AIDS is transmitted. (Perhaps the '70s comprises the preponderance of those titles?)

Regardless, meeting the stars still alive today from these films, in any normal comparison, would be of the same breath-inhaling/tabloid-fodder equivalency to stumbling across one of those rare photos of past eras' entertainment/politics stars mundanely doing, only in retrospection's prism, what today would incite picketing on The Capitol's steps: Jackie Kennedy serenely smoking atop the deck of the Honey Fitz, flaunting an elegant, summery baby bump; Elizabeth Taylor flashing crimson lipstick-smudged teeth, as she descends the curved marble staircase of a 747's First Class Lounge swathed in thigh-length leopard skin, its matching turban ornamentally adazzle of a flawless blood diamond large as a damson; Greg Louganis's 1984 diving preliminaries at the summer Olympics in Los Angeles, hysterically resultant of the pool being drained following a blood droplet's

photo-bombed red glare, way atop the diving board in midair.

Sometimes, sweet readers, fame-versus-infamy needs to remain observed in the same boxy era within which it originated: To go opening up musty discoveries to the light of present-day does nothing but accelerate decay.

**P.S.:** Oh, and presuming any of your curiosities have been piqued regarding what's up with the pic of that monkey on my own grinning back: Well, coincidentally enough, I just returned from my honeymoon in Grenada: My betrothed and I took in a meandering, day-excursion hitting the local highlights—my personal favorite being the protected rain forest in Grand Etang National Park, a verdant amalgamation of Kong Island meets The Emerald City, dystopic of creeping mists and monstrous ferns, amidst crystal waterfalls gurgling down mountains fragrant of wild nutmeg, cinnamon, cacao, tamarinds, breadfruit and bananas — especially bananas, which the park rangers enthusiastically hawk, assuring every tourist a live monkey photo-op theirs for the taking. FYI, these "Mona monkeys" of Grenada originally arrived as stowaways on African slave ships back in the 1770s. There are no primates indigenous to The Caribbean, to which Howard here (call me Dr. Doolittle of The West Indies!) says, "Strand me on a desert island half run amok with Mona monkeys from the 1770s and gay porn icons from the 1970s — and I can I can guarantee you that it'll be a monkey who's getting *my* banana!"

— Howard Lewis Russell

Send your questions to AskHoward@dallasvoice.com.





Scarborough Renaissance Festival opens its 2019 season this weekend, opening at 10 a.m. both Saturday and Sunday.

### Making the SCENE the week of April 5–11:

- **1851 Club:** Chanel St. John, Dantel McKim and Kristie Davenport on Friday. Candi Carroll, Sapphire Davenport and Nia Courtland on Saturday.
- **Alexandre's:** Wayne Smith on Sunday. K-Marie on Tuesday. Vero Voz on Wednesday. Chris Chism on Thursday.
- **Cedar Springs Tap House:** Geeks Who Drink and Taco Tuesday at 7 p.m. on Tuesday. *RuPaul's Drag Race Watch Party* at 7 p.m. on Thursday.
- **Club Reflection:** Drag Show at 11 p.m. on Tuesday.
- **Dallas Eagle:** Discipline Corps Club Night at 10 p.m. on Friday. Dallas Diablos Cook-Out from 5-9 p.m. on Sunday.
- **JR.'s Bar & Grill:** Raquel Blake and Bleach at 11 p.m. on Tuesday. Krystal Summers hosts *RuPaul's Drag Race Watch Party* at 7 p.m. on Thursday.
- **Liquid Zoo:** Kennedy Davenport hosts *RuPaul's Drag Race Watch Party* at 7 p.m. on Thursday.
- **Marty's Live:** Sexcapade on Fridays.
- **Round-Up Saloon:** Dance Competition at 9 p.m. on Tuesday. *RuPaul's Drag Race Watch Party* at 7 p.m. on Thursday. Lip Synch Battle at 11 p.m. on Thursday.
- **Sue Ellen's:** The Queer-off Season Two at 10:30 p.m. on Wednesday.
- **The Rose Room:** Krystal Summers hosts the Miss Red Pageant at 6 p.m. on Sunday. Mr. and Miss Gay Dallas USofA at 10:30 p.m. on Sunday. \$10.
- **TMC: The Mining Company:** Sasha Andrews hosts Fuego at 11:30 p.m. on Wednesday.
- **Urban Cowboy:** Celebrating Brittney's Dirty Thirty on Saturday with a Flashback to the '80s and '90s.
- **Woody's Sports & Video Bar:** Sign up for Varsity Gay League Kickball by Wednesday, April 10, for early bird pricing. Big after-parties at Woody's.

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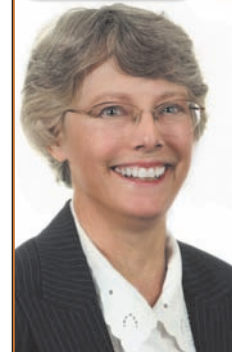


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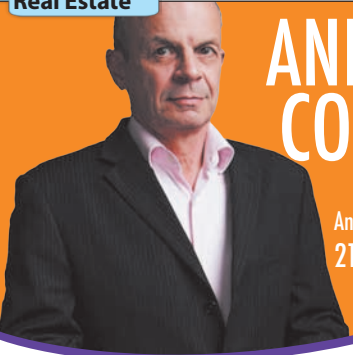
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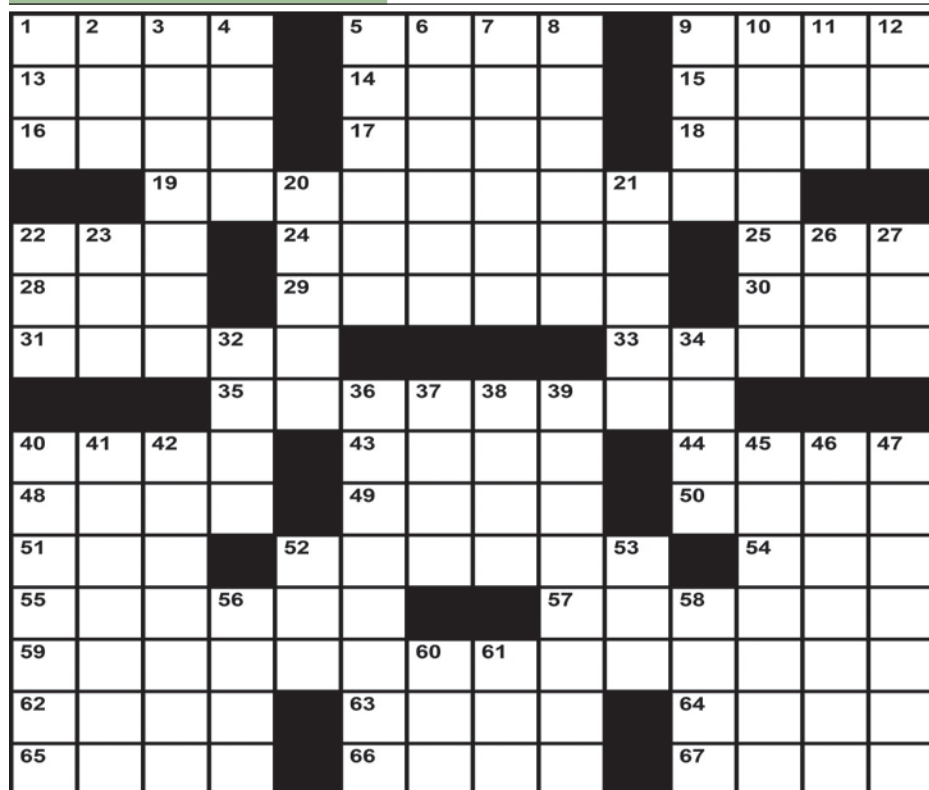
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## Gay World Leaders

Solution on Page 22

### Across

- 1 Early AIDS play
- 5 Weathercock
- 9 Fairy tale start
- 13 Wise guy
- 14 Debussy contemporary  
Satie
- 15 Vague sense
- 16 His brother laid him  
in his grave
- 17 Garb for Troy Perry
- 18 The life of Riley
- 19 Xavier Bettel's country
- 22 Home st. of Tallulah  
Bankhead
- 24 Make airtight
- 25 Rainbow shape
- 28 \_\_\_\_ Tin Tin
- 29 Starts
- 30 Opponent of Wade
- 31 Comic strip named  
for a vine
- 33 Online prostitution?
- 35 The Orlando shooting,  
for example
- 40 Go across
- 43 On-line 'zine
- 44 Two queens, e.g.
- 48 Terse oral refusal
- 49 Disney's *That \_\_\_\_ Cat!*
- 50 Rubik of cube fame
- 51 "Climb Ev'ry  
Mountain" peak

- 52 Ana Brnabic's country

- 54 Dam agcy.
- 55 Susan Feniger  
may pleasure it
- 57 Bear or bull
- 59 Gay leaders of three  
countries in this puzzle
- 62 Positions for  
Patty Sheehan
- 63 Emma Donoghue's  
country
- 64 Official records
- 65 Petrol station choice
- 66 Initiated phone sex
- 67 "Methinks thou \_\_\_\_  
protest too much"

### Down

- 1 Khan's title
- 2 Where to put your  
meat, in a deli
- 3 Leo Varadkar's country
- 4 George Takei's role on  
*Star Trek*
- 5 Dancer Ben
- 6 They come from  
pansies
- 7 Tug on a fishing line
- 8 Barely make
- 9 Out partner
- 10 1953 Marilyn Monroe  
film
- 11 *Some of My Best Friends*  
network

- 12 Shrek's shoe size,  
perhaps
- 20 Lines through
- 21 Unexpected victory
- 22 Boat with a pair  
of bears
- 23 Lucy of *Charlie's Angels*
- 26 Rimbaud's king
- 27 Animation unit
- 32 Billy of *Titanic*
- 34 Be a hunter and pecker
- 36 Christ the \_\_\_\_ (Rio  
landmark)
- 37 Sharif of *Funny Girl*
- 38 Prep for a marathon,  
with "up"
- 39 Arsonist activity
- 40 Type of fruit juice
- 41 Shiny part of the Little  
Bear's tail
- 42 Brings to bear
- 45 Erte's style
- 46 Turns inside out
- 47 Guffaws about, as a  
Kate McKinnon skit
- 52 Sault \_\_\_\_ Marie
- 53 Caesar's arts
- 56 Schoolyard retort
- 58 Not much
- 60 "Got a Rainbow"  
lyricist Gershwin
- 61 Anais who went both  
ways

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