

dallasvoice

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A career in *caring*

Steven Pace leads the way
as CEO of AIN

by David Taffet, Page 8



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Photo by David Taffet
Design by Kevin Thomas

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Alamo Drafthouse rocks the *Rocketman* experience



Alamo Drafthouse is crocodile rockin' the upcoming *Rocketman* biopic about Elton John. The Texas-based exhibitor is offering moviegoers who purchase tickets to the film on its website the opportunity to make a \$1, \$3 or \$5 donation to Elton John AIDS Foundation. In addition, the theater chain has designed a specific RocketMenu for the film's release, with such offerings as I Think It's Gonna Be a Long Long Thyme pizza and cocktails like In Fact It's Cold as Hell Shake.

Rocketman opens May 31.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

AP Inc. answer questions regarding money raised for Booker

Abounding Prosperity CEO Kirk Myers answered questions Wednesday, May 22, about what happened to money raised through a GoFundMe campaign for Muhlaysia Booker after she was attacked in April, saying that all of the about \$10,000 was refunded to donors.

In the month following the assault, Abounding Prosperity paid for Booker to stay in a hotel as it prepared Nicole's House, a transitional home for transgender women, to open. And, Myers said, as far as he knows Booker had no outstanding medical bills.

"She had no clothing when she came to us," Myers said, so Abounding Prosperity provided food and clothing as well as legal counsel for each of her visits to police, the D.A. and FBI investigators. Myers said his organization also provided access to mental health counseling for Booker.

— David Taffet

QueerBomb reschedules to support Pride is a Protest

QueerBomb Dallas organizers have announced that this year, instead of organizing a

separate event in June, QueerBomb is participating in the Pride is a Protest march organized Transgender Pride of Dallas for Sunday, June 2, before the Alan Ross Texas Freedom Parade.

Pride is a Protest begins at noon at Dallas City Hall, then participants will march from City Hall to Fair Park in time for the parade.

Fifty years after Stonewall, QueerBomb organizers said in a post on Facebook, "we see continued discrimination, harassment and violence directed at our trans and gender-non-conforming communities, on our young people, on the most vulnerable among us. In Dallas alone, 2019 has seen trans lives under renewed assault and danger.

"It is with this in mind that the QueerBomb Dallas organizing committee has made the decision to postpone our 2019 celebration and march to throw our full support and our full hearts behind Transgender Pride of Dallas and their Pride Is a Protest March on June 2 at Dallas City Hall. In the spirit of Stonewall and the names of Marsha P. Johnson and Sylvia Rivera, in the name of #Justice4Muhlaysia, we call on the entire LGBTQ community and all allies to remember PRIDE by standing with the community who gave it to us. Show your love and support for the Dallas Trans family by making this march by their sides."

QueerBomb Dallas 2019 is being rescheduled for October in observance of National LGBT History Month, and organizers will release details soon.

— Tammye Nash

Alyssa launches new eye palette



Alyssa Edwards, Dallas' world-famous dancing queen, has just debuted a new eyeshadow palette with Anastasia Beverly Hills, according to an exclusive report published Tuesday, May 21, by Elle.com. The new palette drops Wednesday, May 29.

Anastasia Beverly Hills and founder Anastasia Soare have been sponsors of *RuPaul's Drag Race* since season 7, providing the winner of each season with a one-year supply of ABH makeup, Elle noted, while Alyssa appeared in both Season Five of *Drag Race* and in *Drag Race All Stars 2*. Alyssa — aka Beyond Belief Dance Company owner Justin Johnson — has also starred in his own Netflix series, *Dancing Queen*.

The Alyssa Edwards eyeshadow palette includes a mix of matte and shimmers in champagne gold, violet, yellow, pink and blue, along with neutrals, and "While the shadow selection may seem especially bright, it's actually versatile enough to wear day to day," Elle assures.

— Tammye Nash

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



Voted 2019 Readers Voice Awards
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BEST General Practitioner

THE GAY AGENDA



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.

MAY

• **May 24: Mr. Miss Mx Denton Pride**
Mr., Miss and Mx Denton Pride from 6-10 p.m. at Campus Theatre, 214 W. Hickory St., Denton.

• May 25: Dixie Longate Has No Instructions

QCinema presents Tupperware saleswoman Dixie Longate's show at Scott Theater, 1300 Gendy St., Fort Worth. Tickets at Qcinema.org

• May 25: Prime Timers

Pool party hosted by Steven Shaw. BYOB, towel, folding chair at 5 p.m. at 9902 Wood Forest Drive.

• May 26: Prime Timers

Games hosted by Jason at 2 p.m. at 503 Shoreview Drive, Rockwall.

• May 28: 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.

• May 28: Family Night at Durkins Pizza

GALA family night's 10th year of networking, socializing, happy hour, rock n' roll and pizza and 10 percent of proceeds benefits GALA Youth from

5:30-8:30 p.m. at Durkins Pizza, 8930 State Hwy 121, McKinney.

• May 29: Prime Timers

Dinner at 5 p.m. at Big Al's Smokehouse BBQ, 3317 Inwood Road.

• May 29: Pet Photo Fundraiser

Pet photographer Adam Goldberg visits Dallas and hopes to photograph 200 dogs to raise \$7,000 for animal charities nationwide. From 5-6:30 p.m. at Community Beer Company, 1530 Inspiration Drive #200.

• May 31: Pride Kick-off

Second annual Dallas Pride kick-off: Women with Pride is celebrating strong LGBTQ women with free food, open bar, free t-shirts, vendor tables and entertainment from 6-10 p.m. at Resource Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road.

JUNE

• June 1: Miller Lite Music Festival

The Pride festival moves to the Esplanade in Fair Park.

• June 1: Bloomin' Ball

Annual dinner and silent auction benefiting AIN from 6 p.m.-midnight at Renaissance Hotel, 2222 N Stemmons Freeway. Tickets at eventbrite.com.

• June 1: Family Pride Zone

Pride Train, face painters and glitter tattoos, bounce houses, gigantic slides, ventriloquist Dennis Lee with Nana Puddin', The Micro Chicks, Wild Life on the Move from 11 a.m.-7 p.m. at the

Esplanade at Fair Park.

Park admission \$10. Under 13 free.

• June 2: Pride is a Protest March

Pride is about visibility. Visibility is necessary in the struggle for equality and human rights. Transgender Pride of Dallas organized this march. Queerbomb will be marching. Everyone is welcome to join the march from Dallas City Hall to Fair Park at noon.

• June 2: Alan Ross Texas Freedom Parade

The Pride parade moves to June and to Fair Park. Begins at 2 p.m.

• June 4: Classic Chassis Car Club

LGBT car enthusiasts meet from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Ojeda's, 4617 Maple Ave.

• June 6: Hope for Tomorrow

LGBT and allies caregiver support forum includes presentations on finding welcoming housing and care options, estate and financial planning, long term care ombudsman program, caring for the caregiver presented by Alzheimer's Association, AARP, Coalition for Aging LGBT from 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m. at Senior Source, 3910 Harry Hines Blvd. Free but RSVP requested at tinyurl.com/LGBTQHope.

• June 7: MetroBall 14

Maxine Nightingale, Robin S and Lisa Lisa headline the 14th annual Greg Dollgener Memorial AIDS Fund fundraiser at 7 p.m. at S4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. Tickets at GDMAF.org.

pet of the week / TRIxie



Meet **Trixie**, a 4-year-old, chocolate-and-white pit bull mix weighing 52 pounds. She's a goofy, fun-loving gal who

loves to play with toys, go for walks and meet new people. She always has a smile on her face and enjoys living life to the fullest. She makes friends with all people she meets and is convinced that she is a lap dog. She has lots of energy and is up for just about anything, anytime. She can be a little picky about her dog friends, so please bring any other dogs to meet her to see if they get along. She enjoys car rides, appears to be housetrained and is the perfect pup to take on adventures. Trixie has been spayed and

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• **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 Pride board member **Jeremy Liebbe**; **The Silver Pride Project Coffee and Convo for LGBTQ+ seniors** meets every Tuesday from 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Grauwylar Park Branch Library, 2146 Gifford St.; **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; **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 pegassussquares@gmail.com; **Dallas Frontrunners** meet for a walk or run on the Katy Trail at Turtle Creek 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 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.; **DVtv in Spayse**, news and entertainment discussion live streaming every Friday, 4-5 p.m., on the Spayse Station YouTube channel.

OBITUARY



Joe David Richmond: In 1952, in McAlester, Okla., Frances Kathrine Lucas Richmond and the Rev. Joe Paul Richmond welcomed their firstborn, David, the Golden Child, the brilliant, gay, brutally honest son-of-a preacher-man. (Full disclosure: David wrote this. Like you didn't already know.)

David loved being smart. In the third grade he got called into the principal's office where his parents were waiting for his teacher to show them his remarkable scores on an IQ test. Always being the smartest kid in the room was not a recipe for popularity, but it did make for one smug sissy boy. In 1990, he won \$44,000 on Wheel of Fortune.

Being a preacher's kid is a story in itself, but a religious upbringing taught David valuable life lessons, expanded his deep love of music and introduced him to the beauty of Elizabethan English: "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." In 1970 he was awarded a scholarship to Oklahoma Baptist University.

David loved being gay. In 1975, gay men weren't expected to go to church, watch football, join the military, get married or have kids. It was a perfect world. Southwestern Bell Yellow Pages was under fire from EEOC to eliminate gender-based jobs, and it turns out gay boys can type and file and gossip along with the best women workers. So David basically got hired because he was gay. He retired 37 years later.

David loved working out. In 1976 a confluence of events — Bruce Jenner's decathlon

gold, the opening of Nautilus Fitness Centers and a little bodybuilder named Herb — got him into the gym. Muscles improved his social life dramatically.

When David told people what he was looking for in a lover, they accused him of wanting a handsome prince on a white horse, to, which he responded, "I keep a bale of hay on the patio." In 1982 he found his prince, Bil Buchanan. Their relationship had two titles: One of the Great Romances, and Love at First Grope. Their 13 years together were fairytale magic.

David found love again, with the fascinating, multi-talented John Seawright. They saw cliff dwellings in New Mexico and naked statues in Italy. They shared two wonder-filled years.

David also loved wild shoes, crazy earrings, the Texas State Fair, Christmas, summer, anything purple and beer.

In addition to his parents and lovers, David was predeceased by his sister, Paula Kay Richmond Ballard Honeycutt, and his niece, Mary Kathryn Kidwell Crocker Sanchez.

He is survived by his beloved baby sister, Martha Fay Richmond Kidwell, and her children Michelle Rene Kidwell and Joe Ross Kidwell and Joe Ross' wife, Jessica Kidwell, and a host of extended family and dear friends.

In the height of the AIDS crisis, David found a mantra that helped him cope: The Dead Ones Is the Lucky Ones. And now David, the Golden Child, is one of the Lucky Ones.

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A career of caring

Steven Pace's varied career experiences contributed to his successful 20-year run as AIN's executive director

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Steven Pace started his working life in the family business, a rural cafe in a small town in Missouri. From there, he became a restaurant and bar manager in 70s-era fern bars in Springfield and Branson.

While those early jobs may seem a far cry from his job now, Pace said each position he's ever held contributed to how he's been able to raise money and sustain programs at Access and Information Network, formerly AIDS Interfaith Network and now simply known as AIN.

"We had big happy hours and bands on Fridays," Pace said of his fern bar job. That hospitality background made planning events like AIN's upcoming Bloomin' Ball easier. And creating AIN's breakfast and lunch programs were second nature to him.

Pace is about to begin his 21st year at the helm of AIN, the longest tenure of any North Texas AIDS organization CEO since the recent retirement of Don Maison from AIDS Services Dallas. Pace has headed AIDS programs and organizations longer than anyone in the country when you add in his experience with such organizations and programs prior to joining AIN.

Although Pace grew up in a Pentecostal family, he had walked away from his religion as a teen and came out as gay at 18 as he was graduating high school.

He decided in his 20s to move to a larger city, narrowing his choices down to New York, San Francisco and Dallas. To someone from rural Missouri, New

York and San Francisco may have been a little intimidating, but Dallas felt right. And he already knew a few people here.

So, in 1980, Pace moved to Texas where he planned to live his life as an openly-gay man.

Pace said that his family accepted him when he came out to them. His father, who came and went from religion, had fewer objections than his mother. His three brothers and his sister all already knew on some level.

As for Pace himself, he said his attitude toward religion had always boiled down to "I'll leave you alone if you leave me alone." But then he began attending MCC of Dallas, located then on the corner of Reagan and Brown where Resource Center's Health Campus now stands. He was, he said, amazed to find a denomination that embraced LGBT people and welcomed them to the table.

"As a child I had a call" to the ministry, he said. "I didn't or couldn't act on it, and then I walked away. At MCC, that reawakened."

Pace went through MCC's ordination process at the time, which included completing a specified amount of theological study. But at the time, seminaries had students sign morals clauses that prohibited gay seminarians. "That," he said, "created an ethical dilemma."

So Pace chose to study through Samaritan Institute, which required an internship supervised by a church. He did his internship at MCC Dallas, which under the leadership of Don Eastman was a hub of activity. And Pace was right in the middle of it.

As Pace was going through the process to become an ordained minister, the AIDS crisis came to Dallas.

"Life already wasn't easy for LGBT people," Pace said, describing life in Dallas at the beginning of the AIDS crisis. "Bars were being raided. Police were taking down license plate numbers in the church parking lot. It wasn't unusual for the KKK to show up at church."



Steven Pace

Many MCC Dallas members found themselves disowned by their families when they were diagnosed with AIDS. Even a lay minister at MCC contracted the virus.

And fear of AIDS infected every aspect of life, for those with the virus and those around them. Pace described visiting people in hospitals where hospital staff left food trays outside patients' doors out of fear they might contract the disease if they went into the room.

"The first time I took [an AIDS patient's] hand, we didn't know how HIV was transmitted," he recalled, adding that it was during that visit that he realized caring for people with AIDS was going to be part of his life from then on.

"That was the moment I was called to do this," Pace said, adding that the people he visited at Parkland Hospital who were dying begged him, "Do something about this so other people don't have to go through what I've been through."

Over the next few years, Pace said, he watched almost all of his friends die. "By the time I reached my 40th birthday, all but three or four of my friends had died," he said.

And at MCC, he was conducting or attending as many as three funerals a day.

As he battled on the front lines of the epidemic, Pace put aside the idea of ever having much of a personal life. But at the height of the AIDS crisis, he met Duane Trammell. They've been together now for 32 years.

At the same time he was training as a minister, Pace worked in the Design District where, once again, a job unrelated to working at an AIDS organization taught

him a skill he needed to run an AIDS agency. "They could create and produce, and I could put it on paper," he said of his job in the design industry. "That became the proposal and grant writing piece" of work in the AIDS services field.

Pace decided to continue his education and attended UT Arlington, earning a bachelor's degree and then a master's degree in social work.

Later, Pace attended the opening of Howie Daire's and Candy Marcum's counseling center, the organization that evolved into became Oak Lawn Community Services. That organization renovated two houses on Nash Street where the entrance to Cathedral of Hope from Inwood Road is now. But after all of their work, the landlord broke the lease.

So Pace began working with Mike Merdian and Daryl Moore, the founders of the PWA Coalition, and they purchased a house in Oak Cliff where they could provide housing for people living with AIDS. That organization became AIDS Services Dallas.

Pace became the director of HIV services for OLCS in 1996. Then when OLCS ran into financial trouble in the late 1990s, Pace began working at AIDS Interfaith Network. His experience with some of the programs at OLCS — the Buddy Project, transportation, the Daire Center, meals, case management — eased the transition when OLCS closed at the end of 1999 and those programs moved to AIN.

With that transition, AIN went overnight from being a small agency with 300 clients focused on connecting church



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Booker murder may be linked to other attacks

Dallas police investigating similarities between the deaths of Muhlaysia Booker and Brittany White and an attack on a 3rd black trans woman

TAMMYE NASH | Managing Editor
nash@dallasvoice.com

As Muhlaysia Booker's family was planning her funeral service this week, Dallas police announced that her murder may be connected to two other attacks on Dallas transgender women that left one woman dead and another seriously injured.

Booker — who made national headlines after an April 12 video went viral showing her being beaten into unconsciousness in the parking lot at her apartment complex as a crowd of onlookers laughed and jeered — was found shot to death on an East Dallas street early Saturday morning, May 18.

At a press conference Tuesday afternoon, May 21, Dallas Police Department's Maj. Vincent Weddington said that while investigators as yet have found no direct connections between them, Booker's murder shares a number of similarities with an attack in April in which a black transgender woman was stabbed numerous times but survived, and with the October 2018 shooting death of another black trans woman, Brittany White.

(Police reports at the time identified White as 29-year-old Traylon Brown, and a friend told Dallas Voice that while Brown liked to dress in women's clothing and used the name Brittany White, he identified as a gay man.)

Booker, 23, was at about 6:44 a.m. Saturday, May 18, by officers responding to a shooting call in the 7200 block of Valley Glen Drive, according to the DPD blog, DPDBeat.com. Officers found her "lying face down in a public street," and Dallas Fire-Rescue pronounced her to be "deceased from homicidal violence."

Initial reports described her only as a black female; it wasn't until about 3 p.m. the next day, reports show, that she was identified as Booker.

Edward Thomas, 29, has been indicted by a grand jury on charges of aggravated assault in connection with the April



12 attack on Booker, and prosecutors are still debating whether to add hate crime enhancements to the charges.

Although Thomas had been released on bail after being arrested for the April assault, records show that he was back in custody on bail violations by May 20. Police have given no indication that Thomas is considered a suspect in Booker's murder.

White was found "deceased inside [her] vehicle from homicidal violence" at about 3:12 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 21 in the parking lot of an apartment complex at 7100 Gayglen Drive. Like Booker, White had been shot to death.

Police did not identify the trans woman injured in the stabbing assault in April. Maj. Weddington also noted that the murder of a fourth Dallas black trans woman, 22-year-old Shade Schuler, remains unsolved. Schuler's badly decomposed body was found the morning of July 29, 2015, in a field in the 5600 block of Riverside Drive, a few blocks west of Parkland Hospital.

The primary similarity between three latest attacks is that all the victims were black transgender women. Weddington said that two of the three are known to have gotten into someone's car just prior to their deaths, while the third allowed someone into her car. At least two of the three women are known to have been near the intersection of Spring Avenue and Lagow Street in East Dallas just prior to their deaths.

The woman who survived the stabbing assault described her attacker as a large black man driving a silver-colored vehicle. Police have asked that anyone with information on any of these attacks contact Homicide Detective David Grubbs at 214-671-3675 or via email at david.grubbsjr@dallascityhall.com.

Police also note that Crime Stoppers will pay up to \$5,000 for information called into Crime Stoppers that leads to an arrest and indictment for these or any other felony offenses. Call Crime Stoppers at 214-373-TIPS (8477), 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Abounding Prosperity Inc., a non-profit dedicated to providing services addressing health, social and economic disparities primarily among black LGBT people, had been providing housing and other assistance to Booker since she was attacked in April.

On Thursday, May 23, officials with Abounding Prosperity issued a statement saying that the organization is "moving forward with a strategic action plan to collaborate with city and county officials to address the community issues impacting black transgender women," and that AP Inc. "stands in solidarity with our district attorney's office, Dallas Police Department and all partnering law enforcement agencies who are aggressively seeking justice" for Booker.

While applauding the indictment of Edward Thomas in connection with the April 12 attack on Booker, AP Inc. CEO

Kirk Myers asked "our community to please come forward if you have any information that will help the Dallas Police Department find the remaining suspects and bring closure to this case."

Five trans women murdered this year

Booker was the fourth transgender woman murdered in the U.S. so far in 2019, and within about a day of her death, the toll rose to five when police in Philadelphia confirmed that trans woman Michelle Washington — identified by some sources as Michelle Simone — had been killed there early Sunday morning, May 19.

All five trans women murdered this year have been black women, and all five were shot to death. Also murdered this year have been Dana Martin, 31, shot to death Jan. 6 in Montgomery, Ala.; Ashanti Carmon, 27, shot to death March 30 in Prince George's County, Md.; and Claire Legato, 21, of Cleveland, Ohio, who was shot during an argument on April 15 and died at a Cleveland hospital on May 14.

At least 26 transgender individuals died violently in the U.S. in 2018, and at least 29 were killed in this country in 2017. According to the Human Rights Campaign, the death toll was at least 23 in 2016, and at least 21 in 2015.

Accurate numbers are difficult to determine because transgender victims are often misgendered and dead-named by family and in police and media reports.

According to the National Center for Transgender Equality, trans people "face extraordinary levels of physical and sexual violence" in all aspects of their lives, and more than one in four trans people has been the victim of a bias-driven assault. Those rates, NCTE noted, are higher for trans women and trans people of color.

Jayla Wilkerson, founder of Transgender Pride of Dallas, puts much of the blame for violence against trans women on "toxic masculinity."

She said, "Men with narrow minds, who love their male privilege and hate any challenge to male dominance, cannot fathom why a 'man' would 'choose' to give up that power and privilege.

"The fact that trans women exist is an affront to their entire world view," she continued. "It pisses them off, and it scares them. They react, as toxic masculine men do, with violence."

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House approves discriminatory SB 1978

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Despite impassioned pleas from the Texas House of Representatives' five openly-LGBT members, the House this week passed Senate Bill 1978, a so-called "religious freedom" measure that will "prohibit a governmental entity from taking any adverse action against any person based wholly or partly on the person's membership in, affiliation with, or contribution, donation or other support provided to a religious organization."

Gov. Greg Abbott has indicated he will sign the bill into law.

A statement issued this week by the Texas House LGBTQ Caucus said that instead of focusing on that disappointment, Caucus members are looking ahead to finding ways to protect and support the Texas LGBT community.

In 2017, the statement notes, 42 percent of LGBTQ teens in Texas said they had considered suicide. State Rep. Celia Israel, a founding member of the caucus, offered them a message of hope: "Youth across our state might be fearful of the headlines they're seeing and reading regarding this bill; however, we're here today to say 'You are not alone, and there is a team of dedicated leaders that will

fight tooth and nail for you and your prosperity.'"

State Rep. Mary González, chair of the LGBTQ Caucus, said, "We sent a clear message to our colleagues: Vulnerable lives are at risk with this piece of legislation."

And Caucus Vice Chair Jessica González added, "When people look to the state of LGBTQ life in our state, they will see this effort as a disappointing maneuver to continue minimizing the voice and dignity of LGBTQ Texans and other marginalized groups such as Muslims Americans and immigrants."

Kathy Miller, president of the Texas Freedom Network, applauded the caucus members for having "succeeded in removing this bill's worst provisions as originally filed, which would have allowed businesses to use their religious beliefs as a justification for discriminating against gay and transgender Texans."

Samantha Smooth, interim executive director of Equality Texas, described SB 1978 as "a 'dog whistle' to encourage discrimination against LGBTQ Texans and advance messages that hurt the LGBTQ community." It is, she said, "an outrage that the Texas Legislature is continuing to advance rhetoric that harms LGBTQ people, in defiance of public support for equal rights and violation of pledges made in January that there would be no attacks on the LGBTQ community this session." ■



ATTACKS From Page 10

Trans women of color are more at risk, Wilkerson said, "due to institutional racism and the intersectionality of race, gender and other classifications of marginalization. Trans people of color tend to not have the resources, social capital, and support network that white trans people enjoy almost naturally."

Wilkerson also suggested that "violent toxic masculinity is more prevalent in certain cultures than others," pointing to the fact that "Many Hispanic nations, like Brazil, lead the world in incidents of anti-trans or transphobic violence every year."

"Toxic masculinity and violent anti-social behaviors are also more prominent in impoverished areas and among people with limited education and employment opportunities — which is also

Services for Malaysia

A wake for Malaysia Booker will be held from 6-7 p.m. Monday, May 27, at Golden Gate Funeral Home, 4155 S. R. L. Thornton Freeway. Funeral services will take place at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, May 28, at Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. Both the wake and funeral are open to the public.

based on institutional racism and other societal factors," she said. "People of color are more likely than others to be in those locations and surrounded by violent people. Dismantling the patriarchy, eradicating institutional racism, increasing gender equality and spreading feminism are the only ways to combat the societal problem of violence against transgender women, and especially transgender women of color." ■

Bobrow Trust donates \$600K in first year

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Anthony Bobrow Trust in May has distributed donations of \$100,000 each to both Legacy Counseling Center and AIN (Access and Information Network, formerly AIDS Interfaith Network) in May, bringing the trust's total donations to more than \$600,000 in its first full year of operation.

The Anthony Bobrow Trust was created by the estate of Anthony Bobrow, the Hidden Door owner who had died in February 2018, in May 2018, distributing \$250,000 to AIN, Legacy and Resource Center in its first donations.

Harvey Meissner, the Hidden Door's president and general manager, says the trust's donations so far are just the beginning.

"Tony never forgot that The Hidden Door's and his success came from its customers in the Dallas LGBTQ community," Meissner said. "He left his entire estate

to the Trust. Its investment income and the net annual revenues of The Hidden Door make our contributions possible."

In its first year the Anthony Bobrow Trust has donated \$187,333 to AIN, \$187,333 to Legacy Counseling Center, \$125,000 to Hope Charities and \$87,333 to Resource Center, and more than \$15,000 in smaller donations to other Dallas groups.

Meissner noted that Bobrow grew up in Teague, Texas, about 100 miles southeast of Dallas, and that the trust has also donated more than \$50,000 to organizations there.

"Tony's trust was established in a way that it will continue to fund Dallas and Teague service groups in future years," Meissner said. "And the trustees have already named their successors, who will perpetuate its activities."

Meissner also noted that part of the donations in the first year came from the closeout of the Jim Roberts Trust, established from the estate of the man who founded The Hidden Door in 1979. Bobrow purchased the bar following Roberts' death in 1988.



Top, Harvey Meissner, president and general manager of The Hidden Door and one of the trustees of the Anthony Bobrow Trust, presents a check for \$100,000 to Access and Information Network (AIN). Pictured are, from left, AIN's Development Director Mark Quigley, Meissner, AIN's CEO Steven Pace, AIN's COO Joni Wysocki and AIN's Event and Volunteer Coordinator Miranda Grant. (Tammye Nash/Dallas Voice)

Above, Harvey Meissner, president and general manager of The Hidden Door and one of the trustees of the Anthony Bobrow Trust, presents a check for \$100,000 to Legacy Counseling Center. Pictured are, from left, Meissner, Legacy's Executive Director Melissa Grove, and Legacy's Development Director Emily Parker.

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CARING, From Page 8

groups with programs like ASD's super clubs or with people with HIV who needed care teams to help them live, to being an agency with 1,100 clients.

Since Pace became head of AIN, the organization has evolved many times, "always toward the populations with the greatest need," he explained. One of the major concerns now is caring for people with HIV as they age.

Half of the people who are HIV-posi-

tive today are 50 years old or up, and half of those people are 60 and older. Now people with HIV are facing heart conditions, diabetes and other issues people normally encounter as they age.

Pace said he is also encountering a whole new generation of young people who are less aware of healthcare. As co-pay costs have risen and insurance has become more unaffordable, parents haven't been able to afford regular doctor



The Daire Center at AIN

visits for their children.

As it has been since the AIDS crisis began, funding is a constant concern. "Two thirds of our funding comes from [federal] government grants," Pace said, and policies that change with the whims of whatever administration is in charge in Washington, D.C., makes an organization like AIN vulnerable.

About \$600,000 of AIN's budget comes from other sources. Among those sources of valuable unrestricted funds is AIN's signature event, Bloomin' Ball.

This year's Blooming Ball takes place on Saturday, June 1 at the Dallas Renaissance Hotel. Everyone from clients to a wide range of donors — including church groups as well as members of the LGBT community and corporate sponsors — mix at what Pace called "an inclusive event."

The event is not so formal as to be intimidating, but it is dressy, Pace explained. There is a wide variety of silent auction items at a range of prices, and there is an entertaining two-hour program.

"Bloomin' Ball is just another way we bring diverse people together," Pace said. "The event speaks to who we serve. Those people need to know other people care."

While Pace's work has been recognized in the past, he has received two awards over the last year that were, he said, particularly meaningful: His board presented him with a Lifetime Achievement Award and has named the award that will be presented in the future for him, and he received D Magazine's Non-profit and Corporate Citizenship Award for Leadership Excellence.

And while he already has earned recognition for his longevity in the field of AIDS service organizations, Pace isn't done yet. AIN still has work to do, and he is there to keep helping that work get done. ■

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Hey Mike, you don't know from persecution!

To hear Mike Pence tell it, poor Christian Americans are a persecuted minority. Let that sink in for a while.

The idea that a person of a religion with which more than 70 percent of Americans identify could believe the delusional idea that they are a minority is stunning. More stunning is that 24.5 percent of Christian Americans identify as evangelical protestants, by far the largest group within the Christian category, according to the Pew Research Center for Religion and Public Life.

That would be the group that includes Mike Pence.

So, I think it's time to give Mike Pence a little lesson in being an oppressed minority — not that he will read this or would understand it if he did read it.

I can speak from a few minority standpoints. While my experience is by no means representative or typical of everyone, it does represent my experience.

I was raised in the Jewish faith. My father was a Reform Jew, and my mother converted after they were married. Prior to that she was mostly Methodist.

Growing up, I found that every morning in my school, the prayer that was broadcast over the PA system each morning was Christian. (I'm really old, and we had school prayer back then.) The prayer usually ended with the words, "in Jesus name, amen."

For a Jew, this was problematic since the whole Jesus thing was a bit of a sticking point, and since I never repeated those words, my classmates often asked me why.

After explaining for the hundredth time, I went to our principal, who I knew well in elementary school, and asked if I could give the prayer one morning. She was glad to let me do it, and I ended my prayer with a short passage spoken in Hebrew. I then spent the rest of the week justifying having spoken that "furrin" language in my prayer.

By the time I hit college — I attended Baylor University — my constant declarations that I really didn't want to be "witnessed to" again fell on deaf ears. The theology students made me their class project and were intent on converting "the campus Jew." Add to that the fact that I came out during that time, and



Hardy Haberman
Flagging Left

my sexuality led me to fall away from religion completely, and I moved back to Dallas to attend a community college.

I also started going out to gay clubs, and though I did find lots of other LGBT folk to associate with, I also found the police visiting the clubs on a regular basis.

It was illegal to dance with someone of the same sex, so the clubs had special lights they would turn on to alert guests when police were present. We would quickly grab the closest person of the opposite sex and continue dancing. Occasionally, the vice squad would raid a club, and all the patrons would be harassed with ID checks and checks to make sure we weren't wearing articles of clothing of the "wrong" sex.

Luckily, this practice had mostly stopped by the late 1970s as the Dallas LGBT community got more politically active. I was a part of that activism and remember well during our early gay Pride events being harassed by spectators lining the street as well as by organized protests from groups like the Campus Crusade for Christ and Christ for the Nations Institute. These junior evangelists regularly occupied the corner of The Crossroads handing out their comic book tracts detailing how we would all burn in a fiery hell if we didn't repent.

It amazes me still that I one day found Cathedral of Hope and a message of true Christian compassion and love — but that is a different story.

My point is this: for a white, cisgender, rich, straight, evangelical to pretend that he is somehow "oppressed" is beyond laughable. The fact that so many of his followers believe that lie is equally disturbing.

My suspicion is that it stems from their realization that the world is not

completely homogenous. Their eyes are being slowly opened to the reality of the world as it is and that not everyone believes or behaves like them.

When you have lived in the bubble of white, cisgender, straight Christian privilege, and you start to see the real world outside with all the wonderful diversity that exists, it's a bit scary.

Well, I say buckle up buttercup, because it's the big, scary world the rest of us have been living in all along, and although we all insulate ourselves in some ways, we cannot live in the bubble forever.

Besides, if you are really Christians, shouldn't you follow the lead of Jesus and spend most of your time with outcasts, tax collectors and ne'er-do-wells, the very marginalized people you seem to fear?

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

LETTER


Remember Meyer's SB 1978 vote in 2020

We were all dismayed to hear of the passage Monday, May 20, of Senate Bill 1978 by the Texas House of Representatives, which will codify potential anti-LGBTQ discrimination into Texas law. But it was particularly dismaying to note that among the representatives voting in favor was Dallas' own Morgan Meyer, representing District 108, which covers a wide swath of north and east Dallas, from downtown out to Royal Lane.

Rep. Meyer won his election in 2018 by a mere 220 votes over a highly-qualified Democrat, Joanna Cattanch, and if this vote on SB 1978 can be remembered, it shouldn't be difficult to defeat Mr. Meyer in 2020. We deserve a representative who will vote the values of the city he or she represents.

In the meantime, please let Mr. Meyer how you feel about his vote. His complete contact information can be found at House.Texas.gov/members/member-page/?district=108.

Peter Fekety
Dallas



Take your 'Medicine'

Returning with her first album in 3 years, queer icon Melissa Etheridge talks inspiration in world crises and being 'totally fueled by cannabis'

Ain't it heavy? Ain't the night heavy? The opioid crisis, national anxiety, school shootings. Our political zoo. The general feeling that the world is always, probably ending.

Because she's a human being even though she's Melissa Etheridge, this all weighed considerably on the 57-year-old LGBTQ icon when she went into the studio to confront the disheartening present-day with a state of mind she calls "balanced," resulting in *The Medicine Show*, her first album in three years.

There were deep, self-reflective dives into her past, reframing older experiences with a newer, richer perspective, and there was last year's tragic Parkland shooting, which happened while she was in the recording studio. To find these songs, wherever Melissa Etheridge finds them (not even Melissa Etheridge knows), she blazed cannabis because, she says, why the hell wouldn't she? But the real roots of *The Medicine Show* grow from a place of renewal, reconciliation, reckoning, compassion and healing.

From a stop in March in Copenhagen while on her Yes I Am 25th Anniversary Tour (which hit Dallas last month), Etheridge spoke about seeking answers in inner space, the statement she knew she was making with Amy Grant, and being proud of the fact that she led the way for a song called "Pussy Is God." ■

— Chris Azzopardi

Dallas Voice: When we last spoke, you were in the early stages of writing *The Medicine Show*. You said then you didn't want to create a protest album, that it was going to put a face on some serious issues, which it does. Why take that approach with these topics? Melissa Etheridge: Because — oh, gosh — it goes to your soul more than just preaching something, saying, "We should do this." People are gonna turn off the minute they hear a "should," you know? And so making it — that's art. That's *my* art. You make it personal, and then that's how you change hearts and minds, I think.

As a music consumer, what have you been connecting with in terms of songs that speak to our current times? Well,

I do listen to Kendrick Lamar. I listen to a lot of hip-hop.

Some of those hip-hop sounds have even snuck into your own music over the years. I'm not very good at making it, but I love to listen to it. With some help, I can make it! But even "Medicine Show," the song, is kind of a rap. So I listen to [hip-hop]. Boy, social media now just really connects you up with other artists, and I've been watching the paths of other folks. And even pop artists like Kesha, the choices she made, the things that affect the things that affect people and then the art that they make from it. I wouldn't say I was listening to anybody else and them speaking about their times [while making this album]. I listen to their *experiences* of the time.

By examining the world right now through your own personal lens, did *The Medicine Show* bring you closer to any kind of truths about the world and the subjects that you wrote about? I'm pretty solid about what truth is and how the way that I hold my own experience and the way that I define my experience and perceive it is the most important thing. So, taking care of how

I receive things is one of the reasons it's hard for me to condemn anyone else. It makes more sense to me to experience and speak of finding a way to stay out of being a victim and stay out of being a judge. You gotta ride right in the middle. And that's balance.

I like the word balance, because we're constantly given opportunities to define ourselves — and we can define ourselves as a victim of something, or we can judge others, or we can understand that I make my own life; I make my own choices, and how I'm going to be affected by life. So you can't really blame anybody else or become a victim. But that's a whole other conversation. That's, like, an hour-long conversation.

I recall reading that after your battle with breast cancer, you went on an identity and self-love journey. And many of these songs look inside yourself as well as outside. Which songs for you fit into that journey that you've been on since beating breast cancer? My first instinct is to say all of them, even "The Last Hello," which is just an observation. I was in the studio when the Parkland

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Of wigs, Wicks and witches

Screen legend Anjelica Huston on her heroine roles, dodging a gay Pride penis, and why Morticia was 'almost drag'



Give Anjelica Huston a character so fierce it will single-handedly galvanize the gay community, and she'll devour the role. Unapologetically powerful, her Grand High Witch in *The Witches* wielded kid-hexing Wiccan powers, her ghastly face both a hideous fright and a delicious, drag-queen-dream marvel.

A year later, in 1991, she made weirdness cool as Morticia Addams, bringing a grace all her own to *The Addams Family* as the household's ghoulish glue. On NBC's short-lived musical-drama *Smash*, from 2012 to 2013, the Academy Award winner played legendary tough-as-nails producer Eileen Rand. Now, complete with Russian accent, she portrays The Director — the leader of the assassins' headquarters — opposite Keanu Reeves, Halle Berry and non-binary actor Asia Kate Dillon in *John Wick: Chapter 3 Parabellum*. A mighty role for a mighty woman.

During a recent call with the 67-year-old actress, just hours before the *John Wick* premiere in New York, Huston discussed her affinity with the LGBTQ community, her wig in *Smash*, and going head-to-head with a giant latex penis during a Pride parade.

— Chris Azzopardi

Dallas Voice: What do you think is the connection between your strength and resilience as a woman — both in life and in film — and the gay men who are empowered by you? Anjelica Huston: Aww! Well, I like to think I empower the people around me, and that definitely is something that I would wish. I think maybe, hmm... I've never really considered it. But I think maybe it's just a sort of similar feeling, similar reaction to certain things, and I think maybe the ability to speak out for yourself even though it might get you in trouble sometimes. I think that's something, you know, that we all have to deal with.

You laugh like you might have just had experience with the latter. Recently, I had a little experience with this Vulture interview [Huston recently gave a controversial tell-all to the news site]. But you know, it has to do with speaking your mind and speaking your truth, and I think that's something that has gone a little bit out of fashion since I've been working and giving interviews.

One of the things about the gay community is that they've always been outspoken; they speak their truth, and they've taken a lot of chances in their lives, because often these opinions aren't popular. But it takes all kinds to make a world, and I think we narrow our sights very much when we constantly adapt to the sort of rigors of

everyday life and that everything has to be safe and that everything has to be presentable.

And you don't do that. You don't play it safe. I'm afraid I don't. I'd like to a lot of the time, but I don't really think that that's my truth, though sometimes it is. But overall, I like to have the freedom to have my opinions that don't necessarily adhere to everyone else's. And I think that's sort of an individuality, maybe. A sign of speaking one's own mind and not necessarily being influenced by trends and what people consider to be proper.

Because you play these powerful women, and because those women sometimes dress exuberantly, many gay men have even given you credit for their gayness. Looking back, what roles of yours do you think could have had that kind of power over them? I don't know, and I'm sort of hesitant to say because, again, everyone's different, and I think different things attract different people. But I think overall the parts that I've done that are not necessarily cookie-cutter, in which characters have some kind of power even though it's not necessarily going to win them any kudos [laughs], are the ones who have a personal power that I think is attractive to the gay community.

There was a real appreciation in the gay community for the shade you threw as the evil stepmother in *Ever After*, and with simply a single eyebrow raise.

Aww, well, thank you.

Some in the LGBTQ community have classified Morticia Addams as a gay icon. Do you think she has what it takes to be one? I can only wish! I loved playing Morticia, and I think, also, probably because she had so much going on — so many corsets and wigs and nails — that yeah, she was almost drag.

Your role as The Director could be potential inspiration for drag queens. When it comes to her look — but also her attitude — what should a drag queen keep in mind? I don't know. I think she's a tough gypsy; she knows the score; she's lived the life, she is rigorous; she's strong. And I think that appeals to people. It certainly appeals to me.

How do you explain the fact that, while most kids were scared of you in *The Witches*, gay boys wanted to be you? Well, she has fabulous powers, and she revels in her ugliness and in her vileness; she's somebody who takes full advantage of being horrible! And in a way, I think that's something very attractive, to be able to really enjoy your hideous outer shell; there's something to be said for fully being who you are. And I think it doesn't necessarily just belong to the gay community; it belongs to all of us who are searching to find a way or searching to find out who we are and how far we can go.

What do you think of Anne Hathaway playing the role you originated? I think,

great, good luck to her. And I hope they find a way to not have to encase her in rubber for seven hours at a time [laughs]. The makeup was very challenging on that movie.

CGI has certainly come a long way. It has, it has. But I think one of the things that's so beautiful about the Nic Roeg movie is that there was practically no CGI. A little bit around the mice, but overall it was all makeup. It was the Jim Henson workshop, and I enjoyed the reality-based visuals of that film. And actually, it's rather simply shot. There weren't a lot of trick shots or anything like that. A few fish-eye lenses, but all of it was sort of based on what the camera could do and not what you could do post.

Will you star in the remake? Oh, I have no idea. They haven't spoken to me about it at all. I know nothing about the remake or how closely it will adhere to the Roald Dahl story. I have no idea.

Some gays had problems with your *Smash* wig. They said it could've been softer, that it made you look like a drag queen. Are we to assume a gay man did not pick out that wig for you? I don't know — it helped me because I felt it was kind of an armor for my character, and she's dealing with a lot of volatile, crazy stuff and kind of has to be the anchor in the middle of it. Something about that particular wig — although, no, it wasn't the soft approach — helped me and kind of grounded me.

What about your role in *Transparent* spoke to you as an actress and as a longtime supporter of the community? I think *Transparent* was just kind of a wonderful show, and I started to watch it for quite some time before they invited me on the show. I thought it was very moving and also very reality-based, and I loved these characters. I found it very involving. For me, to play a member of the LGBTQ community was important and fascinating. I didn't want to make it a caricature in any way, and so I didn't go to great lengths to kind of change Vicki's sexuality. I felt like, you know, she's a sexual person; she's not someone who has a rule book about who she should be or if she should fall in love, but she's a person who's making it on her own — who's got her cheese shop! A normal woman making a life who happens to be gay, which I think many people in the community are.

It's not that you carve yourselves out to be sexually different or to make those choices. A lot of the time the choices make you, and it's up to you to find your way and negotiate your life. And there's a lot of resistance out there. People love to criticize. And people really think they know better. I think a lot of the time we're dictated by our feelings and by who we find ourselves to be. It's not that we can

go out and carve ourselves a personality a lot of the time.

Your history with the LGBTQ community goes back: In fact, you met your late husband, Robert Graham, at Pride. What brought you there? I'm not quite sure. I think probably because — I don't want to say. I can't really remember why now that you've stirred my memory!

Do you have a memory from being at Pride that day? I'm trying to put two things together. I can only say that it would've been a perfect day for Bob and I to meet, for Bob and I to get together, because I think it was a coming together of individuals — and a very artistic love-match, as far as I was concerned. I fell in love with his work; I fell in love with the man, and I think something about the liberation of gay Pride weekend is always a thrill, and it's always a great day in Los Angeles. And probably [in NYC], although I haven't spent many gay Pride weekends here. But I think it's an ebullient moment; it's a moment you can get out there and show who you are and not be ashamed. And flaunt it!

And weren't you almost run over by a giant latex penis at a gay parade? Oh, yes! That was in New York, on 10th Street. That was a gay Pride weekend. Yes, I was stuck behind a latex penis for at least 20 minutes trying to get downtown.

Is there photo evidence of this? No! None! *None.* And also, the skies opened, and it began to rain, so it was a huge latex penis and me struggling through the crowd. But there's actually very little that's funnier than gay Pride weekend in New York, now that I think about it. The imagination, the costumes! I remember there was a whole team of cocktails trotting down the street, and another one where the people put their faces inside milk cartons and were dancing down the street [laughs]. There's a great sense of fun and liberation and celebration.

With *Smash* and *Transparent*, both of which represent the underrepresented, how much did their cultural significance factor into your involvement? Well, I think, because they're current, and they're modern, they hopefully represent the strengths in the community, and I think in some way those kinds of characters symbolize a certain freedom and a declaration of independence, and I think we all need that.

Especially now ... *Especially now*, where things are very safe. In actual fact, they're not that safe. I think our normal news every day is — there's a lot that they worry us with. One of the wonderful things about the LGBTQ community is that they kind of throw caution to the winds, and it's a moment where people get together and celebrate the positive rather than the negative.



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Glorious summer

Inside Shakespeare, high school and magic carpets

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor
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Kenneth Branagh may be the perfect director for his time — a stage-trained Shakespearean actor who understands language and poetry and character and how to make that cinematic, as well as a Hollywood veteran who has helmed superhero movies and melodramatic potboilers. His unique alchemy of smarts and sass means he can bring heft to the trivial and turn stuffy exposition into motion pictures.

His gifts have rarely (at least recently) been put to better use than they are in *All Is True*, a hybrid of sorts for Branagh. He plays William Shakespeare — not one of the Bard's heroes, but the man himself, in the final years of his life in retirement in Stratford-Upon-Avon. William had all but abandoned his family years earlier to become the toast of London society 100 miles away. In truth, we know little about Shakespeare's private life, even less about it when not spearheading the Lord Chamberlain's Men, but the screenplay (by Ben Elton) happily speculates. What was his relationship with his wife Anne Hathaway (Judi Dench) — an older illiterate countrywoman who seemed ill-matched for the dapper dandy? How about his surviving daughters (a son, ominously named Hamnet, died at age 11)? Not in dispute: His authorship of 38 known plays and 154 sonnets, though the general topic does rear its head in a surprising twist. Rather, it's a question of inspiration:



The Shakespeare family is as complicated as William's characters in 'All Is True,' above; below, a genie counsels 'Aladdin.'

Who was Shakespeare's muse?

If it sounds like a candlelit *Downton Abbey* ripoff, well, it's much deeper than that. There's unexpected humor, bracing revelations, heart-wrenching pathos. Branagh and Elton explore how Shakespeare's major literary themes actually plagued him personally, how he was the sum total of all his tragic heroes. And the cast performs those roles perfectly — Branagh and Dench, of course, but also Ian McKellen in a brief two-scene role that injects a bolt of electricity around the midpoint. His duet with Branagh, aching with unspoken understanding, is one of the acting triumphs of the year.

It's all framed by a gorgeous cinematography (almost every shot could be a Rembrandt or Vermeer), tactile set and costume design and an air of mystery. Like the best of Shakespeare's own works, *All Is True* resonates with hidden depths.

Booksmart is about as far from Shakespeare as you can get. Set in the present day, it's about two best friends (Beanie Feldstein and Kaitlyn Dever) on the eve of high school graduation who have relied on each other to get through the social minefield of adolescence on the way to Ivy League success. Only they come to realize their goofy classmates have achieved success on their own without academic excellence... and got invited to parties and made bad teen decisions all the while. Tonight is the girls' last shot at a genuine high school experience, and they set out to make it memorable.

The set-up echoes John Hughes comedies, *Risky Business* and Judd Apatow clichés with a feminist bent, but those shorthands don't fully embody the rich humor, poignant performances and woke attitude. The screenplay magpies the best parts of *Mean Girls*, *Clueless*, *Hairspray* and *Gilmore Girls*, and first-time director Olivia Wilde populates it with a dozen endearing characters, from the nerdy protagonists (Feldstein is particularly winning) to the gay drama kids (Noah Galvin and Austin Crute), the cool teacher (Jessica Williams), the school slut-with-a-heart-of-gold (Molly Gordon) and the dreamy heartthrob (Mason Gooding). *Booksmart* is one of

those "teen comedies" that elevates the genre with its painful accuracy and loving respect as it navigates the fraught landscape of young adulthood.

The modern renaissance of Disney animation originated with 1989's *Little Mermaid*, followed quickly by the 1-2-3 punch of *Beauty and the Beast*, *Aladdin* and *The Lion King* — tuneful musicals (three scored by Alan Menken with lyrics by Howard Ashman) that catered to adults but overflowed with childlike wonder, concocting a formula more magical than a flying carpet.

Of those first salvos, *Aladdin* was always the sauciest, propelled by the jet fuel of Robin Williams voicing the genie. As the spate of live-action remakes of Disney classics continues to unfurl (*The Jungle Book*, *Dumbo*), it's proving to be a problematic adaptation... and not just because the absence of Williams is a black hole in its comic heart that Will Smith simply cannot defibrillate.

The reason for live-action versions of animated films is to lend verisimilitude to the outrageous fantasy of enchanted lamps, talking teapots and anthropomorphic antelopes. But this *Aladdin* suffers by not scaling its chimeras away from the cartoonish. For instance, the villainous Jafar (dully played with teeth-gnashing banality by Marwan Kenzari) wields a cobra-shaped staff that appears more prop department hand-me-down than mystical wand; the city of Agrabah feels like a backlot set in a way Wakanda never did. It's all flat, two-dimensional. The director/co-writer Guy Ritchie flexes some of his creative visuals in the parkour scenes and Jasmine's "Speechless" number, but you can feel Mickey's jackbooted foot on his throat all the time — Ritchie himself is the genie, cursed to serve his master's whims, never able to really do good on his own.

Nonetheless, Mena Massoud as Aladdin and Naomi Scott as Jasmine have charm to spare, and the central set-piece — the song "A Whole New World," which does not include the genie — conjures memories of excitements past. This doesn't bridge the threshold between adult and kid movie in any meaningful way; it's just corporatized marketainment frantically pushing the nostalgia button until we bend, even just slightly, to its programmatic and reductive emotionalism. Our reactions are merely Pavlovian, conditioned over decades of inoffensive optimism. I begrudgingly relent. ■



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■ MEDICINE From Page 16

shooting happened, and their choices — the way that they chose to not be a victim and to come out and say, “We need change” — affected me deeply in seeing, “Ah, yes, I’m finally seeing outside of myself,” and what I believed in is how we can move forward and create change. So all of the songs, even the subjects that might seem outside of myself, all come from this journey of mine.

How did your song for Parkland end up being a song about the survivors and not the victims? When I heard the surviving students, and when I saw Emma Gonzalez and David Hogg get up and speak from their hearts the next day, it was so powerful. I remember reading where there are over 150,000 survivors of school shootings — survivors! — and I thought, “Oh gosh, that’s a lot of people alive who are affected by this and how deeply they are affected,” and so instead of writing a sad song about the victims I said, “What about these survivors, and how can one give them hope?”

On the song “The Medicine Show,” you say, *Come on down to mama’s farm*, referencing your own marijuana business, called Etheridge Farms. What would I find on mama’s farm? You would find medicine. You would find an interest in a growing desire to bring plant medicine to the world, to have people understand health in a different way. And though we talk about — whooo! — getting stoned and people only talk about it in that little area, there is so much healing and understanding and consciousness-raising and awareness that plant medicine brings. I’ve always told people we’re trying to go to outer space, but all the answers are in inner space.

How does marijuana enhance the songwriting experience for you? And did it on this album? Yeah! This whole

album is totally fueled by cannabis. Oh goodness, yes. For one, it quiets the left side of my brain; the left side of our brain is in charge of keeping us alive, keeping us from stepping out in front of a car; it worries about the future; it regrets the past; it’s that voice saying “you’re no good.” Its job is to keep us alive, so it worries. And cannabis, scientifically, I can go into detail: Cannabis quiets that part of your mind, and it allows the intuitive [to kick in], the right side, which is all in the now. In the infinite now. Which is really all there is. And that place is where I can open up to the thoughts and instincts and inspiration. I mean, I’ve been writing songs for a long time, and I’m the first one to understand that they come from nowhere. (Laughs) I can’t explain to you how I got that idea. But that’s what it does. It quiets it.

When have you written a song high that you didn’t think you could’ve pulled off otherwise? I don’t know! I’ve never thought about it that way! I suppose I could pull it off in another way, without it ... but why? That’s a funny question.

I guess I wonder if it really allows you to tap into something that you don’t think you could without quieting the left side of the brain first. Well, I don’t think I have to be in the world of cannabis to do that. I think one can meditate, and one can get to where plant medicine can get them. But, again, why?

You’re scoring the stage adaptation of the 1988 film *Mystic Pizza*, which starred Julia Roberts. Are you done writing it? Oh, no — I just started writing it. Once I said yes to doing it, they made a big press release. I was like, “Oh my god, I haven’t even started.”

What’s the connection between the story and what you bring to the table as a musical and lyrical artist? What I liked

about it is it's a very strong woman story. I went back, and I watched the movie, and I remember it making a big impression in the '80s because it was three lead women and their stories, and it's about immigrants, and it's about taking the Old World into America and keeping those secret ingredients. Then it's about the freedom to go find your own dream. It's a beautiful little story that I think has some beautiful moments, and it's my first try at this.

As someone who's won two Grammys and also performed during the telecast, was a change palpable this year for women and the LGBTQ community? It's easy to look around and see a lot of change in how our society's holding women and sort of the empowerment that women have felt since the presidential election of 2016. Because you feel that slipping back, and you're like, "No, no, no, no, we were moving forward," so you see a lot of empowerment in #MeToo and just equality and equal pay and in the music business. The music business is funny.

How so? It's run by 90 percent men, and so it was sort of the last place [to change]. And the men in charge of the Grammys, they've been around for a long time, and we witnessed [Neil] Portnow's, "Well, women need to step up" comment. I wanted to put on my album [and say], "Well, Neil, did I step up?"

But you feel a shift from even opinions like his? So much. It's an awareness. It's a, "Oh, we never thought about it that way," and that's what's happening. I don't think anyone did it nefariously. I don't think they said, "We gotta keep the women down." They just didn't think about it. And that's the problem right there: The myopic view of music, as just men making music. I myself have even looked and gone, "Wow, I didn't think it could be that way either." It's been a real change for the last two years. It's been pretty amazing.

You and recent Grammy winner Brandi Carlile went back and forth on Twitter about how much you admire each other. She actually recorded background vocals for your 2004 song "Lucky," but you didn't know each other at the time, right? Yeah, no. Josh Freese was producing the track and brought her in. She was in Seattle, but then I ran into her at some music convention thing where she ran up to me backstage and said, "Oh my god, I'm such a huge fan." I've been watching her career since then, and I love her music so much, and I would love to do more with her and would love to be in more contact with her. I'm just so proud of her.

When I think about your collaborations, one of the most unexpected to me is your duet with Amy Grant on "You Can Sleep While I Drive" in 2000. Growing

up, it meant a great deal to me as an Amy fan. My gay world and my Christian world were colliding. At the time, were you aware of the significance of a major Christian artist performing with a very out lesbian? Absolutely! I met Amy in 1988 at a hotel in Amsterdam. We hung out and talked, and she's just a sweet-heart and a big friend. I'd seen her around at things, and when she and Vince [Gill, who she married in 2000 after a divorce from Gary Chapman in 1999] got together she got flak from the Christian community, and so she always had the belief that it's un-Christian to hate someone for

loving and did not stop for one moment from saying, yes, she would come and sing with me. I thought it was huge, and I was very aware of what it meant.

Looking ahead, you're headlining the WorldPride Closing Ceremony, which takes place June 30 in Times Square. What kind of message do you plan on bringing to the event? I'm doing three songs, and I'm probably gonna stick to the big gay songs. [Laughs] I'll have to look and see what the audience is like. At the moment I know I start the thing off that night, so maybe ... I really don't know. It just means a lot to be there. It

means a lot that there's a thing called WorldPride. Just amazing being there, and I'm just gonna love being in the presence of my brothers and sisters.

Which LGBTQ artists give you hope for the future for LGBTQ inclusion in music? I can't tell you how excited I am about King Princess. [Laughs] Ahh! Dig her! My daughter's really into her, and so we're listening and all of a sudden "Pussy Is God" comes on, and I just said, "Well, I'm glad that 25 years ago I did what I did so that today a woman could release 'Pussy Is God.'" It's like, so my work here is done. Thank you.

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When spring is in the air, things bloom... including balls. Not that kind. AIN's annual gala fundraiser, the Bloomin' Ball, returns to the Renaissance Hotel. The chic dinner, live musical performance, auction and award ceremony is preceded by a cocktail reception and concludes with dancing into the night.

DEETS: Renaissance Hotel Dallas, 2222 N. Stemmons Freeway. 6 p.m. doors. AINDallas.org.

Thursday 05.30 —
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It's elementary — Stage West solves 'Holmes and Watson'



Tuesday 05.28 — Sunday 06.02

'Anastasia' returns to North Texas

Did Russia's royal family, the Romanovs, die out entirely at the end of the 1918 Revolution, or was the child *Anastasia* spared? It's a mystery that has lingered for a century, becoming a live-action melodrama in 1956 and later an animated movie musical. Those threads coalesce in the stage musical *Anastasia* which, after a run at Fair Park Music Hall earlier this year, opens for a week-long stint at Bass Performance Hall.

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

It's been three years since Sherlock Holmes was presumed to have died, but three inmates in an asylum all claim to be the legendary detective, and only pal John Watson can figure it out. Stage West takes on the twisty mystery *Holmes and Watson*, thriller veteran Jeffrey Hatcher's thrilling puzzle play making its regional premiere. Mark Shum stars as Watson; Susan Sargeant directs.

DEETS: Stage West, 821 W. Vickery Blvd., Fort Worth. StageWest.org



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The documentary 'Running with Beto,' which premiered at SXSW this spring, debuts on HBO Tuesday.

ARTSWEEK

THEATER

Babette's Feast. Stage adaptation of the beloved comedy film. *Final weekend.* Amphibian Stage Productions, 120 S. Main St., Fort Worth. AmphibianStage.org.

Cruel Intentions: The '90s Musical.

Final weekend. Wyly Theatre, 2400 Flora St. APPTAC.org.

Miss Saigon. Tour of the musical twist on *La Boheme*, set during the Vietnam War. *Final weekend.* Fair Park Music Hall, 901 First Ave. DallasSummerMusicals.org.

Percy Jackson: The Lightning Thief.

Final weekend. Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. APPTAC.org.

Real Women Have Curves. Stage adaptation of the hit film about Latinas dealing with life and body issues. *Final weekend.* Kalita Humphreys Theater, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. DallasTheaterCenter.org.

BALLET

Pinocchio. Texas Ballet Theater's story about the wooden puppet who became a real little boy. A joint production with the National Ballet of Canada. Bass Performance Hall, 525 Commerce St., Fort Worth. May 24–26. TexasBalletTheater.org.

FINE ART

Jonas Wood. Mid-career exhibition of the modern American painter. Dallas Museum of Art, 1717 Harwood St. Free. Through July 14. 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.

FRIDAY 05.24

COMMUNITY

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

MONDAY 05.27

CABARET

Mama's Party. Weekly cabaret night with special guest performances. Uptown Theatre, 120 E. Main St., Grand Prairie. 7:35 p.m. \$10

TUESDAY 05.28

FILM

2001: A Space Odyssey. Stanley Kubrick won his only Oscar — ironically, for special effects — for this trippy, seminal sci-fi masterpiece. 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.

THURSDAY 05.30

BROADCAST

Project Runway. The design competition returns. Now back on Bravo. 7 p.m.

CABARET

Glitterbomb Denton. Weekly queer variety show with a new lineup every Thursday, now at a new locale and new time. Andy's Bar, 122 N. Locust St., Denton. 8 p.m.

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Cassie Nova

Things to be grateful for

It's another beautifully fucked up day in America. Between all of the abortion drama, the death of Grumpy Cat and me stubbing my toe on the metal post of my bed, I feel like I want to punch the wall. Negativity everywhere you look. Shitty people being awful to others.

But not today Satan! Today I am going to force myself into a good mood if it kills somebody. I am going to fake smile and grit my teeth like I am on meth. I am going to happily click-clack these keyboard keys with purpose. I might even shake my weenie at my husband. Anything to keep myself in a good mood. This world we live in can be rough, but if we make a conscious effort to be happy, most of the time it works.

I've had a lot of reasons to be happy this week. I saw *Miss Saigon*. It was a fabulous production. If you get a chance to see it, you gotta. The ending is heartbreaking, but the songs are so freakin' good. I was a crybaby through part of it, but I was still joyful just getting to experience it again. I saw it years ago and told my husband if it ever toured again, I wanted him to see it. It's nice to share something you love with someone you love, and it's even better when they love it,



too.
My ridiculous herd of doggies make me smile every day. I have one, a Pomeranian

that weighs 5 pounds but thinks he weighs 500 pounds. He thinks he is such a badass and that he runs the world, and the other dogs just let him think it. I have one that had a few teeth removed a few months ago, and now when he smiles, he has the most adorable gap-toothed grin. I can't stand it! It's so cute.

I smiled at the fabric store the other day buying some sickening fabric for a dress I had made to emcee the talent portion of the Miss Gay USofA Pageant. This is the 34th year of this pageant. That is an amazing legacy. I feel very lucky to be asked back to emcee such a prestigious event.

Another thing that really made me smile this week...? We bought a boat! We don't have it yet, because it is coming direct from the factory, but we will have it in a few weeks. What really makes me happy about this is how excited my husband is to get his new toy. He works really hard, and I'm so grateful to be in a place in our lives that he can have the boat he has always wanted. I can't wait to get out on the water and turn my translucent pale skin into bright red leather.

Now let's hope to spread the cheer by helping out a few other folks.

Dear Cassie, I hope I don't sound like a complete bitch for saying this, but one of my really good friends is getting fat. I do not have a problem with him gaining weight at all, except he is really letting himself go and becoming so unhealthy. I don't know how to start a conversation with him about it. He told me he has grown out of most of his clothing, and the new shirts and vests he recently bought, in a larger size, are already looking tight. The buttons on his shirts look like they are screaming and barely holding on. I care deeply for my friend and don't

know how I can help him. Do you have any advice for me? Thanks, Dennis.

My dearest Dennis, You sound like a skinny bitch. I hope you are not one of those people that can eat whatever they want and not gain a bit of weight. If you are a skinny bitch, have one of your thicker friends talk to your friend for you.

As someone whose weight fluctuates from thick to really thick to just fat, I feel for your friend. Getting older, your metabolism slows down to a crawl, and you don't have the energy to do shit, and you find yourself in a weight gain spiral that is hard to get out of. You want to get motivated, but some days you just can't.

If you really want to help your friend, invite him to go on a bike ride or a walk. Invite him over and make a really good low calorie dinner. Grilled fish and grilled vegetables are healthy and really easy to make.

The truth is, your friend won't change, what he is doing until he wants to change, but a good friend can provide motivation. Be that good friend without feeling the need to shame him. If you are truly good friends, you should be able to talk to him and open a conversation that helps. Let him know you are worried about him, and ask him what you can do to help. Offer to work out with him. Use it as an excuse to look at guys. Motivation comes in many forms.

Gay culture makes it extra hard to be overweight, and confidence can be zapped with one wrong word. So choose your words wisely, and be the friend I know you can be.

Good luck and remember to always love more, bitch less and be fabulous! XOXO, Cassie Nova.

Miss Gay USofA final at South Side Ballroom on May 24. Doors open at 6 p.m.

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Making the SCENE the week of May 24–30:

- **1851 Club:** Candi Carroll, Kristie Davenport and Nia Courtland on Friday. Tara St. Stone, Caress Riata and Sapphire Davenport on Saturday.
- **515 Bar:** Karaoke from 9-midnight on Wednesday.
- **Alexandre's:** Wayne Smith on Sunday. K-Marie on Tuesday. Vero Voz on Wednesday.
- **Cedar Springs Tap House:** 2-4-1 Burgers at 11 a.m. on Thursday.
- **Club Changes:** Rhonda Mae's Wall of Food Show at 7 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Club Reflection:** Twisted Tuesday Talent Show at 11 p.m. on Tuesday.
- **Dallas Comedy House @ RBC:** Stand-up comedy with DVtv's Brian Kennedy and others at 8 p.m. on Thursday.
- **Dallas Eagle:** DFW Sisters Red Dress Party at 9 p.m. on Saturday.
- **Deja Vu:** Memorial Day Party is free from 9-10 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Havana:** Show starts at 11 p.m. on Thursday.
- **JR.'s Bar & Grill:** Cassie's Freak Show at 11 p.m. on Monday. Dreamgirls at 11 p.m. on Thursday.
- **Liquid Zoo:** Jack Mason performs Friday on the patio.
- **Marty's Live:** Sexcapade Fridays hosted by Rudeboy Dallas and Nicole O'Hara Munro.
- **Pekers:** Dallas Pinup Dolls Karaoke Night benefits The Family Place from 10 p.m.-2 a.m. on Saturday.
- **Round-Up Saloon:** Memorial Day Beach Party on Sunday. The Beard Down at 11 p.m. on Tuesday.
- **Southside Ballroom:** Final Night of Miss Gay USofA on Friday.
- **Sue Ellen's:** Vivienne presents Shining Starlets on Saturday. Suessapalooza Music Fest with Kathy and Bella, Mike Randall, Mojo Dolls and Primadonna on Sunday.
- **TMC: The Mining Company:** Fuego Wednesdays at TMC at 11:30 p.m.
- **Urban Cowboy:** Drag Brunch at 10 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. on Sunday. \$20.
- **Woody's Sports & Video Bar:** Karaoke on Sunday and Wednesday. Showtunes on Tuesday.
- **Zippers:** Giovanni at 8 p.m. on Tuesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

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

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Friends having fun at Panda's



A pageant face at The Round-Up Saloon

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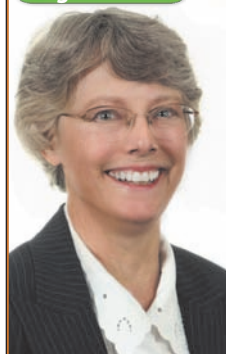


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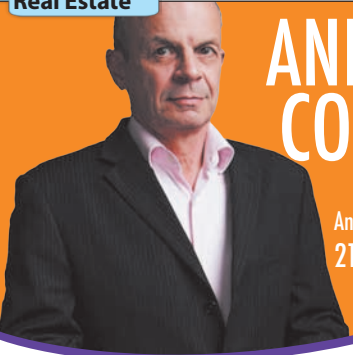
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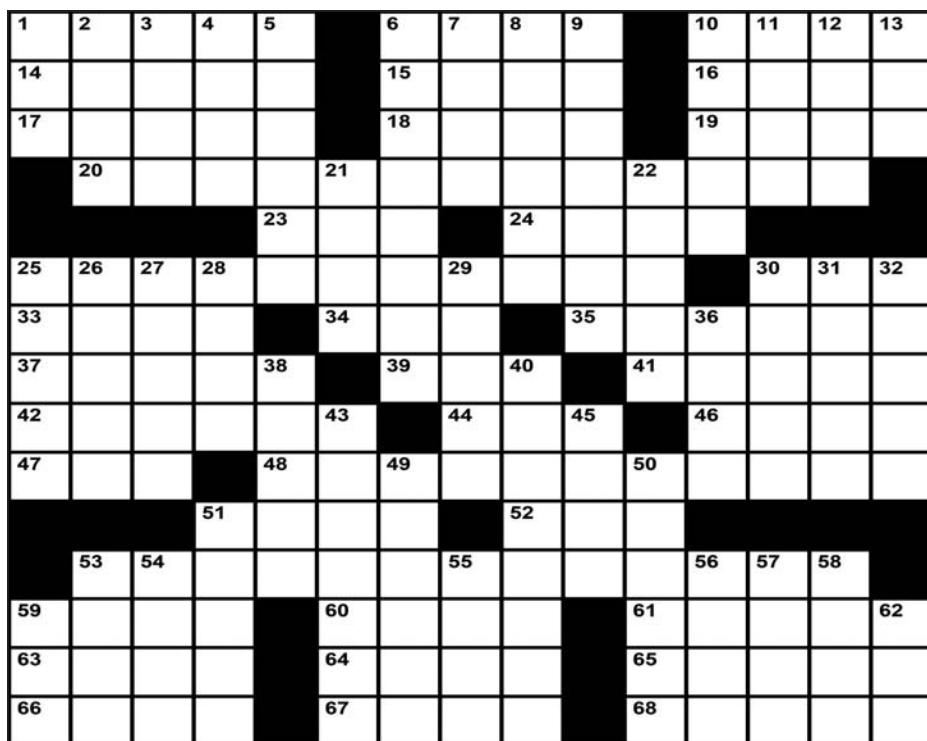


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I Rise

Solution on Page26

Across

- 1 Brooklyn dyke
neighborhood Park ____
6 Rubber vessel, perhaps
10 Hand job, for one?
14 *American Idol* judge
Callow
15 Falco of *The Sopranos*
16 "I'm ____ your tricks!"
17 Where a queen
may rule
18 Mandlikova of tennis
19 Break under strain
20 Start of a quote from
Madonna's "I Rise"
23 Danny to Rosie,
for short
24 Garr of *Tootsie*
25 More of the quote
30 Baudelaire's evil
33 Humerus neighbor
34 Unknown degree
35 Canonized gay guy?
37 Baked, to Buonarroti
39 Skeptical ejaculation
41 Conger hunter
42 Rex Reed, for one
44 Straight line
46 Part used in
forking around
47 Ending for lemon
or lime
48 More of the quote
51 Starch source

52 Cukor's *A Life*
of ____ Own

- 53 End of the quote
59 Word before cock
60 Film director Kazan
61 Career option for
Jack McFarland
63 Like a slick head
64 Split
65 Garson of Hollywood
66 "Don't leave me!"
67 Bills stuffed in a
stripper's G-string
68 *Oliver Button Is a ____*

Down

- 1 The USA, perhaps,
if Trump is reelected
2 Willingly,
to Shakespeare
3 Barbra's *Funny Girl* guy
4 A fireman goes down
on it
5 Put on some fishnet
stockings?
6 Vacation spot in
Delaware
7 Cukor's rib donor
8 Subject to limitations
9 They help show off
your oolong
10 Reagon of the Big
Lovely band
11 Girl who goes
both ways?

- 12 RBI to Glenn Burke
13 Keystone figure
21 Diva Celine
22 Practiced Vidal's art
25 Desert plant
26 Prayer starter
27 Release from bondage
28 Women's suffrage
leader Carrie
29 She had her hand
up Lamb Chop
30 Sasha Obama's
big sister
31 "Looks ____ everything"
32 The Greeks plucked
around with them
36 The M in SMU (abbr.)
38 Gillen of *Queer as Folk*
40 Glory hole inserts?
43 Jockey Angel
45 Put an edge on
49 Like undies that
scratch your
nether parts
50 Hate crimes,
for example
51 Bear type
53 Vidal's *Rocking the ____*
54 Scat queen Fitzgerald
55 Baseball number
56 Doctor Zhivago
57 Vein contents
58 Objectifies, sexually
59 Network for
The Ellen Show
62 Trick's tail?

Dallas Pride Weekend

is making tracks to **June 1st & 2nd...**
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Our BIG Dallas Pride issue of
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