Music + Drag = Art

Thorgy Thor headlines Night of Stars fundraiser

by Tammye Nash, Page 8
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SAY HER NAME: Trans teen Bailey murdered in Baltimore

A 17-year-old transgender girl known as Bailey was shot to death in the 4300 block of Parkwood in Baltimore on Labor Day, according to reports posted by WMAR2 News, the ABC affiliate in Baltimore, and on the Instagram account murder_ink_bmore.

Residents of the area told WMAR that around 8 p.m. they heard gunshots and then heard people screaming.

The WMAR report, posted online Tuesday morning, Sept. 3, says that Bailey and her friends had just left a party when the shooting happened. A comment on the murder_ink_bmore Instagram post said that Bailey was “just an innocent bystander.”

WMAR reports said that police detectives spent several hours at the scene on Tuesday recovering evidence and interviewing people, and the murder_ink_bmore post said police have asked anyone with information to call 410-396-2100 or Metro Crime Stoppers at 1-866-Tlockup.

Bailey is at least the 17th trans person murdered this year. Of those, 16 were trans women of color. And Houston trans activist and blogger Monica Roberts said via Twitter that she has heard reports of an as-yet un-named transgender woman found dead in a burned-out car in Clewiston, Fla.

“The bills we’re seeking are not radical,” Anchia said.

Rep. Nicole Collier, D-Fort Worth, summed up the feeling of the 10 legislators when she said she’s done with thoughts and prayers: “We’re sick and tired of being sick and tired.”

— David Taffet

Muhlaysia Booker’s mother announces new foundation benefitting trans women

On the same day that Judge Hector Garza rejected a defense attorney’s effort to dead-name her murdered daughter, Stephanie Houston announced Thursday, Aug. 29, that she is launching the Muhlaysia Booker Foundation, a nonprofit corporation dedicated to providing housing, advocacy, emotional support, counseling, employment resources and training to transgender women.

“We strive to inspire, nurture and provide a safe haven to this community by addressing acts of violence, homelessness, sex work and suicides,” Houston said in the press release announcing the new organization and her role as its executive director.

Ahmad Goree, elected as president of the board for the foundation, said he is “honored to have the privilege” of being the foundation’s first board president and helping set its agenda.

“I look forward to working with this progressive board of directors and Stephanie Houston. We are committed to honoring Muhlaysia’s legacy through meaningful work to an extremely marginalized segment of society.”

“It is most appropriate that I honor the legacy of my daughter by creating this foundation, which can help young women like Muhlaysia to feel loved, be safe and be greater,” Houston said. “I have chosen to be proactive rather than reactive in helping to save these young women. The brutal assault and murder of my daughter will forever leave a hole in my heart, but it will also serve as motivation for myself and others to fight the current government agenda against transgender women and the increasing acts of violence.”

Goree said that an event is being planned to launch the Muhlaysia Booker Foundation, with more information coming soon.

Democrats ask Abbott to call special session

Ten Dallas-area state representatives spoke at Dallas County Commissioners Court encouraging Gov. Greg Abbott to call a special session to address gun violence. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

Democratic Texas state representatives held press conferences across the state Wednesday morning, Sept. 4, to call for a special session of the Texas Legislature to deal with gun violence. Locally, 10 DFW reps spoke in the Dallas County Commissioners Court room, urging the governor to call them back into session.

Dallas state Rep. Rafael Anchia spoke on a bill he sponsored with Rep. Terry Meza that would prevent open carry of firearms on airport terminals. The bill passed with bipartisan support in the legislature earlier this year but was vetoed by Gov. Greg Abbott.

Lawmakers addressed their Republican counterparts, who criticized one bill filed as something that wouldn’t have prevented any one particular mass shooting. The
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Have an event coming up? Email your information to Managing Editor Timmye 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.

SEPTEMBER
- Sept. 7: A March to End Violence
Dallas Police Department sponsors a march to help end violence in the city and support those who have been victims. Meet at 9 a.m. in Deep Ellum at 200 N. Crowdus and march to 2639 Main St.
- Sept. 8: PositiviTEA
A Legacy brunch benefiting the Grace Project Women’s Conference from 1-4 p.m. at The Mack Grand Ballroom at SMU, 3300 Dyer St. Tickets at 1-4 p.m. at The Mack Grand Ballroom.
- Sept. 8: Prime Timers Games
Games at 2 p.m. hosted by Brian in Carrollton. For directions, call 214-218-0912. For more information go to PrimeTimersWW.net/DFW.
- Sept. 9: Creating Change Host Committee Meeting
The Task Force needs volunteers to plan the January 15-19 Creating Change Conference in Dallas. Committees include fundraising, special events, hospitality, recruitment. Dinner at 7 p.m. and meeting from 7:30-9 p.m. at Resource Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road. For more information visit CreatingChange.org.
- Sept. 9: Stonewall Democrats of Rockwall County
Meetings every Monday at 6 p.m. at Shenaniganz, 1290 I-30 East, Rockwall. shenaniganz.com/locations/rockwall.
- Sept. 9: Stonewall Democrats of Tarrant County
Legislative update with state Sen. Beverly Powell at 7 p.m. at The Women’s Club of Fort Worth, 1316 Pennsylvania Ave., Fort Worth.
- Sept. 10: Grief group
Grief group for persons who have lost a same-sex spouse meets the second and fourth Tuesdays each month from 6:45-8 p.m. at Resource Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road.
- Sept. 10: Pathfinders
Pathfinders group is a community resource for trans masculine individuals (including non-binary trans masculine people and binary trans men), age 18+

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Tootsie is waiting for you at the SPCA of Texas’ Jan Rees-Jones Animal Care Center in Dallas, 2400 Lone Star Drive (near I-30 and Hampton Road). Hours are noon-6 p.m. Sun-Wed and noon-7 p.m. Thurs-Sat. Regular adoption fees are $125 for puppies and kittens aged 0-6 months and $60 for adult dogs and cats aged 6 months or older. Fee includes spay/neuter surgery, age-appropriate vaccinations, a heartworm test for dogs six months and older and a FIV/FeLV test for cats 4 months and older, initial flea/tick preventative and heartworm preventative, a microchip, 30 days of PetHealth Insurance provided by PetPlan, a free 14-day wellness exam with VCA Animal Hospitals, a free year-long subscription to Activ4Pets, a rabies tag and a free leash. Call 214-742-SPCA (7722) or visit today.

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OBITUARY

Rik Wallin was born as Richard Michael Knapp on Nov. 26, 1961, in Connecticut. He graduated from Jonathan Law High School in Milford Connecticut in 1989, then attended and graduated from Housatonic Community College in Bridgeport with a degree in computer programming and development of computer software.

He met the love of his life, Sven (Wynn) Andreas Wagner, in 1995. In 2002, he was injured in a motorcycle accident that left him with a severe traumatic brain injury, blindness in one eye and deafness in one ear. He was in a coma for two weeks and in in-patient neuro-psycho rehab every weekday for nine months, learning how to talk, type, cook, walk and to regain motor and mental function.

Last year Rik lost his partner of more than 25 years and husband of three years, Sven Wallin, to suicide. He struggled to accept life without Sven and faced loneliness and increased amounts of social isolation, which unfortunately are common in older LGBTQ adults. He found brief moments of happiness and respite from the physical and emotional pain that ravaged his life by attending events with an LGBT grief support group and the Silver Pride Project.

Rik succumbed to the mounting pain in his life with an act of suicide last week.

Sunday, his friends from the Silver Pride Project and his grief support group celebrated his life with a memorial service at the Legacy of Love monument on Cedar Springs Road at Oak Lawn Avenue in Dallas, and toasted his memory at his favorite bar, the Hidden Door in Dallas, with the ritual of raising and sharing a beer and pouring a sip out for the brother who is no longer among us. He was loved and will be missed.

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Thorgy Thor: ‘Drag is the ultimate art form’

Thorgy Thor (aka Shane Thor Galligan) first gained national attention as a contestant on Season 8 of RuPaul’s Drag Race, and then again when he appeared on Season 3 of Drag Race All Stars. But Thorgy was already a force to be reckoned with in the Brooklyn drag scene.

Thorgy brings her unique brand of music-performance art-fashion-drag to Dallas’ Rose Room on Saturday, Sept. 14 to headline the Night of Stars 2019, a fundraiser for the Greg Dollinger Memorial AIDS Fund’s Team Metro for LifeWalk, and Dallas Voice chatted with her recently via email to find out more about this one-of-a-kind performer.

— Tammye Nash

Dallas Voice: How did your stage name, “Thorgy Thor,” come about? Thorgy Thor: My middle name is “Thor,” after my grandfather. He grew up in Norway, married a Thora, had four kids, then came over to Long Island. I’m proud of my Norwegian heritage, so I combined my middle name with my last initial, G — “THORGY.”

You started out as a musician. What was the catalyst for becoming a drag queen, too? I always found myself leading the violin section of an orchestra, playing Tchaikovsky and imagining how much more fun it would be to incorporate a ridiculous entertainer in the front, with musical score. In the middle of a Brahms symphony, I would think to myself, “Wouldn’t it be divine to have three figures move across the stage in unison, in cloaks … padding a canoe?” So, I started to experiment with makeup and costuming, and the rest is history. I dare you to find some early pictures of me in “drag!” They are hilarious. I was a pre-YouTube, pre-Facebook queen, so my scope of influence was minimal at best.

Can you describe the process you went through to combine your musical skill and talent with your talent for drag and performance art? Was it something you thought out and planned, or was it more spontaneous? I sat in front of my computer for years recording all four parts of a Mendelssohn string quartet and used that as the score to many of my earlier drag shows. I would add voice over and always tell a story. Most of time, I would incorporate what was going on in the news at the time. I should bring back my 12-minute number about Octomom. Remember her?

On top of the music, the drag and the performance art, you are into fashion, too. What sparked that interest, and what part does the fashion play into the rest of your stage persona? Who isn’t into fashion?! I’ve been collecting and restoring vintage clothing since middle school, so I have quite a collection. Truth be told, part of my week is taking inventory of my closet to include in my insurance! I have everything from fabulous McQueen pieces to Chanel suits to medieval armor! You cannot deny when you put on a vintage stone-washed denim studded jacket from the ’80s that your inner fashion clown doesn’t shine!

I read on Wikipedia that you consider yourself “a Brooklyn drag queen,” and that “Brooklyn’s drag style has contributed to [your] aesthetic.” What does that mean? What sets Brooklyn drag queens apart and makes them special? Describe the “Brooklyn drag style” for me and explain what makes it different. When I first moved to Brooklyn, there were two gay bars, and I could count on one hand the drag entertainers that worked. Now there are hundreds! Every time I return from tour, there’s a new queen who says “Hi, my name is Poopy Diapers, and I’m available for bookings!” I support all of it.

Brooklyn is just tons of fun. All the entertainment and venues are within walking distances from each other, so it’s fun to just hit the streets in fashion and go door-to-door showing off. I was the first Brooklyn girl on RuPaul’s Drag Race, and I’ll never forget RuPaul saying to me “Thorgy Thor, you brought the BK to the RDR, and I ain’t gonna lie, I’m loving it!” My good friend and BK Drag Race Sister Sashsa Velour stole the crown shortly thereafter, and I couldn’t be more proud that we both represent what Brooklyn is about: art, fashion, ridiculous ideas and supporting one another as a community.

Your bio on your website says that you “love to lip-sync just as much as create collaborative performance art that mashes together drag, music and comedy.” What is it about lip-sync that attracts you? If you had to choose just one — lip-sync or music and comedy performance art — moving forward in your career, which one would you choose, and why? Well, they are all very different. I would never choose to exclude any of those expressions; they are all intertwined. In my show “Thorgy and the Thorchestra” at Gramercy Theater on Aug. 24, we played Mendelssohn’s String Quartet No. 6 and in the next piece I was chugging a beer on stage then moving into a modern dance. There are no limits as an entertainer. Do what you feel and always try new collaborations.

With that said, there is nothing more gratifying than nailing a lip sync to your favorite Whitney Houston track and watching a kid in the front row living his best life.

Music, comedy and theatrical performances are art forms. What makes drag an art form, too? Do you think there is a difference between “just drag” and drag as an art form? Drag is the ultimate art form. There are no limits. It combines fashion, performance, movement, expression and comedy. What a great life to live! Use your body as a medium to express yourself. Drag is about ideas.

Drag is in a state of constant evolution, and RuPaul’s Drag Race is obviously affecting that evolution by constantly showing the difference in and dynamic between the different styles of drag — fashion drag, performance art drag, dance drag, pageant drag, etc. What do you see as the next step in that evolution? Skydiving in unison with 100 queens from the sky to open up the Met Gala next year!

Tell me a little bit now about Thorgy Thor off-stage, or in another words, tell me about every-day, real-life you. What are...
Night of Stars 2019

Thorgy Thor headlines the Night of Stars 2019, a fundraiser benefitting the Greg Dollgener Memorial AIDS Fund’s Team Metro and the 2019 LifeWalk. The show will be held from 5-9 p.m. at The Rose Room inside S4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road.

In addition to Thorgy Thor, the show will feature Carmella DuBuque, Jenna Skyy, Gloria Devine, Krystal Summers, Jada Pinkette Fox, Sabrina Starr, Linze Serrell and Wayne Smith. Kelexis Davenport will be the emcee.

VIP Reception and early seating is from 5-6 p.m. Doors open for general admission at 6 p.m., and a meet-and-greet will follow the show, from 9-9:30 p.m.

VIP Individual tickets are $50 plus service fees in advance. The Bronze VIP Package is available in advance for $175 plus service fees and includes early access and refreshments plus access for photos with Thorgy Thor for four people. The $250-plus-service-fees advance price provides VIP access for six people.

Advance tickets and sponsorship opportunities are available online at BrownPaperTickets.com/event/4272316.

Individual VIP tickets are $75 at the door, if any are still available.

General admission tickets are $25 plus service fees in advance and $30 at the door.
Sister Helen Holy joins Out in the Park

Ticket sales end midnight
Wednesday

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Gay Day at Six Flags has been held every year on Pride parade weekend since 1997. This year the parade moved to June, but the celebration in the park, now renamed Out in the Park, remains on the third Sunday in September.

This year’s event, along with the name change, features a “family picnic” meal from 2-4 p.m. at the pavilion located between The Titan and the New Texas Giant, highlighted by a performance by comedian Paul J. Williams as Sister Helen Holy, entertaining during the picnic.

This year, Out in the Park is sponsored by HELP’s Centers for LGBT Health and Wellness in Arlington and Fort Worth. Dallas Voice and Arlington Convention & Visitors Bureau are cohosting the event.

Tickets are $48.45 and include parking, a “family” picnic lunch, entertainment, raffle items and giveaways. That is a significant discount off the regular admission of $82.99, which doesn’t include food or parking.

Only those who have purchased special Out In The Park tickets can participate in the picnic, but season ticket-
Supporters of Brandon Woodruff will travel to Austin to petition Appeals Court to reopen case.

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Scott Poggensee will host a screening of Texas Justice: Brandon Woodruff at the LaQuinta Austin Capitol on Sept. 17 before presenting a petition to the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals the next morning asking for Woodruff’s case to be reopened.

Poggensee said he hopes friends from Dallas will join supporters in Austin to file the plea.

Woodruff was convicted of murdering his parents in 2010 when he was 19, despite no physical or DNA evidence linking him to the crime. Poggensee said prosecutors violated Woodruff’s 6th Amendment rights when they listened to all discussions between the accused teen and his attorney in the Hunt County jail.

The documentary maker said the appeal to the court includes pages full of evidence that doesn’t add up. For example, there were three murder weapons—two knives and a gun. That normally indicates multiple attackers. One knife was tested for blood and the lab found none.

When prosecutors sent the knife back for a second test, one drop of Woodruff’s dad’s blood appeared.

The timeline shows Woodruff had 14 minutes to kill his parents. The living room, where the bodies were found, was very bloody, with blood going right up to the bathroom. The bathroom, however, was scrubbed clean. Prosecutors contend Woodruff killed his parents with multiple weapons and then cleaned the scene and showered in that short time.

No trace of blood was found in Woodruff’s truck that he drove from their house, which he did visit earlier in the evening.

Phone records would prove Woodruff was not at his family’s new home in Hunt County when the murder took place are missing. He claims he was at their old house in Heath along Lake Ray Hubbard. While phone records exist for the day before and the day after the murder, the records for that day are mysteriously missing.

From Heath, Woodruff drove to North Dallas to pick up a friend and the two went dancing at S4 on Cedar Springs Road. The next morning, Woodruff returned to Abilene where he was a student.

The bodies weren’t found until two days later, giving someone else plenty of time to return to the house in Hunt County and clean the bathroom. But Woodruff couldn’t have been that person. He was with his friend at S4 that night and by the next morning had returned to school.

Poggensee said he’ll screen the documentary he’s been making about the case on Tuesday evening, Sept. 17, to an Austin audience and hopes the next morning someone will return to deliver the petition to the court.

On Wednesday, Sept. 18, they’ll walk from the hotel to the court at 8 a.m. and present the petition to become part of the public record. He said there are three possible outcomes. The court could overturn the verdict, call for new oral arguments or refuse to reopen the case.

Poggensee said he hopes people from Dallas who have followed the case will be able to come to Austin to present the petition. State Rep. Richard Raymond of Webb County will be accompanying Poggensee to the court.

To sign the petition, visit Change.org/p/texas-court-of-criminal-appeals-hear-brandon-woodruff-s-pdr
holders can participate by paying a fee of $24.95, which will cover parking and the family picnic gathering. And Out in the Park tickets are only available through midnight on Wednesday, Sept. 11, and won’t be available for purchase at the gate.

Tickets are available at SixFlags.com/OverTexas. Then in the top banner, click on Enter Promo Code and type out in the park. That takes you to the discounted tickets.

Six Flags’ friendly staff
Among the LGBT staff welcoming guests to Out in the Park at Six Flags will be First Aid and Safety Supervisor Niketa Watson. Watson’s job is year-round, but she said summer, when the guests are streaming through the park every day, is her favorite time of the year.

She said she offers medical treatment when needed and makes sure everyone’s doing things safely in the park. Usually the medical treatment involves bandages for blisters and, during the summer, attending to overheated guests. Most people, she said, perk up with some Gatorade and a short rest before going on their way to enjoy more rides.

Watson also does ride audits making sure coasters, parachutes, tea cups, cars and bobsleds and other attractions are being operated safely. She offered a few examples of her work: At the haunted houses in the upcoming Fright Fest, she’s moved some props to assure safe walking areas, and she’s added some lighting to highlight stairs.

Watson said her favorite ride is the Texas Titan roller coaster, but she’s looking forward to trying the Aquaman Power Wave coaster coming next season. She described it as a one-of-a-kind coaster and water ride all in one.

For those who will be staying late at Out in the Park and looking for dinner after the “family lunch” that afternoon, Watson suggested checking out her favorite restaurant, Chop Stix, a new Chinese restaurant located near the Tower.

Usually Six Flags winds down its season with Fright Fest then opens on weekends for Holiday in the Park before gearing up for the next spring/summer season. But just this week, the company announced the park will be open year-round on weekends, starting this fall.
We’ve celebrated the past, now we must look to the future

Celebrations surrounding the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots and the LGBT community’s struggle for equality are winding down. By now, surely only a minority of this planet’s residents are not aware of this impact.

As the myriad awareness and promotional campaigns began, I looked ahead with both pride and some ownership. I am so proud of what this incredible movement has accomplished. We have shined a light on the world that has changed lives as we taught acceptance of ourselves. I am grateful to have survived a darkness that claimed the lives of so many others, and my responsibility for having that privilege has not escaped me.

Through most of these 50 years since Stonewall, I have been active in the battle, and that earned familiarity had convinced me there was nothing left for me to learn.

But it never occurred to me that all of what I believed would be challenged and re-defined. It is ironic that in this 50th anniversary year, just as members of the trans community initiated this struggle on that June night in 1969, an entire trans movement is providing the rest of this community — and the entire world — with the possibly the deepest truths of who we are.

There has been a rapid increase in transgender visibility over the last couple of years. Trans people have become a force, demanding that their issues be understood and included in the struggle.

At the same time, they have been targeted by the most virulently hateful pieces of legislation. And the rate of anti-trans violence is higher than ever before. So, given all that they endure, their visibility and their willingness to articulate the truth about their nature is providing an amazing opportunity for everyone to begin understanding our own selves.

The 50th anniversary of the birth of the LGBT movement is the birth of its second wave. I believe this growing awareness will define LGBT culture; it is that important. The courage required for trans people to live openly has forced a growth in individuals’ gender considerations. Choosing to embrace non-binary roles challenges all LGBT people to reject the constraints of socially-determined gender. These gender roles have been the primary obstacle in our full development as a queer people.

It can be argued, that at our core we are all gender-fluid in some fashion. We all have some characteristics associated with the gender role of the opposite sex. Men or any orientation in our society are afraid to embrace their feminine qualities.

Femininity in men is equated with homosexuality, and the threat of violence is intensified for feminine gay men. So, many gay men have gone out of their way to hide vital parts of themselves to avoid being seen as feminine. In fact, more feminine gay men and even transgender women over time became human shields that the rest of us used to insulate ourselves from danger. Gay men developed our own class structure, the more feminine of us were the bottom rung.

We openly excluded the transgender community from any gains we achieved. That was amplified again in the midst of the AIDS pandemic when, our opponents launched their loathsome “family values” assaults against us. Gays and lesbians pushed back with the effective “We Are Family, Too” campaign, only that family quickly began to ape the hetero format and its traditional gender roles.

Many older gay men feel younger LGBT people have an air of entitlement springing from freedoms won by older gays and lesbians. The bitterness involved in that assumption is surprising. Our goal was always to create a world where LGBT children could live freely and safely as themselves. Now do we resent what we helped create?

The level of tolerance and acceptance in which younger LGBT people are coming of age is unprecedented. But it still takes great bravery, and these young people are willing to take those risks. The choice many make to be openly non-binary may be the same rite of passage we went through, but the environment allows them to fully submerge themselves to explore what had been taboo and to dismiss every long-held superstition in ways we as older LGBT people were too afraid to try.

Our younger LGBT people are getting closer to the true reality of gender identity — the reality that it is, in fact, pure myth, that our genitalia are not the lone demarcation of our gender. We are far more than our physical sex.

The majority of older LGBT never reached this understanding before. And if there is a trans-enlightenment occurring, it benefits everyone.

Trans folk are at times frustrated that the rest of us are so slow to understand our changing culture. They are frustrated that we are expected to provide the answers to our questions. I understand their wariness. As in overcoming other prejudices, one has to understand his or her own part in the oppression to move past it.

Recognizing the problem has never been enough to allow us to fully comprehend it, and each us must comprehend the problem to participate in any real solutions. As older LGBT people, we must accept that the future of this community is no longer in our hands, and if we want to help build a new world, we must adapt.

Our older generation got us to where we are now; we were pioneers. It took tremendous courage to present ourselves as strong men and women that defied sexual norms. We had to make it perfectly clear what we were to the outside. But we have to accept that our view of gay culture may well be outdated.

The progress we made ensures the success of our gay children. They have a natural understanding of the path forward. It involves seeing ourselves clearly and loving all that we see, and it will be a better world for all of us.

There is no gay. There is no lesbian. There is no bi. There are no trans. We are all the same. We are the same. Trans people understand who we truly are. It is possible for us to learn what their lives are teaching us.

Gary Bellomy is a long-time LGBT activist in North Texas and beyond.
K. Flay, here to slay

The out wordplayer wasn’t serious about pursuing songwriting. 3 albums later, it obviously struck a chord.

Ask genre criss-crosser K. Flay about all the music she grew up with, what the soundtrack of her youth is, which CDs she rushed to the store for just as they hit the shelves, and she, a two-time Grammy-nominated artist, will shock you: “I didn’t really care about music growing up.”

For kid K. Flay, who was born Kristine Meredith Flaherty and grew up in Illinois, there were no emotional ties to music — certainly not in the way teenagers eat up her pop-rock-rap style and relate to musical themes like unconditional self-love and newfound queer romance, which are scattered throughout her punchy, motivational and moving third studio album, Solutions.

Here, the 34-year-old artist talks about her career starting off as a joke, how she got outside her comfort zone for Solutions and navigating queerness in her music.

— Chris Azzopardi

Dallas Voice: In June, you performed alongside Kesha, Tegan and Sara, and Imagine Dragons frontman and festival creator Dan Reynolds at the LoveLoud Festival, a fundraiser for LGBTQ charities. For you, what was the highlight? K. Flay: Honestly, the highlight for me was… intellectually, I know what that festival’s about from knowing Dan since its inception, and also just kind of following it over the years, but often, no matter what the circumstance, when you’re playing shows you forget that you’re a part of something that’s bigger, you know? Dan gave this kind of pep talk to all the artists who were performing beforehand and just reminded people that, “Hey, this is an event where, for a lot of folks, it’s the first time they’re interacting with people who openly identify as LGBTQ. This is like the first Pride-ish event for a lot of people.” You take so much of that for granted as a performer and as a traveling person, and it was an important reminder. It reframed the whole day for me. I think if there was a highlight it was just kind of, in a weird way, that reframing moment of realizing that you’re part.

Photo courtesy Night Street/Interscope Records
of a day that can really change people’s lives in this quite profound manner.

Having recently spoken openly about your sexuality to GQ with your girlfriend Miya Folick, did Love Loud resonate differently? Did you get a different kind of response from the queer community? I think there’s always been a large contingent of people who listen to my music and come to the shows and engage online who are queer, so it hasn’t felt like a sea change. I always tried to create an environment that felt very open and welcome to everybody, so I haven’t; but we haven’t played a ton of shows yet, so maybe I’m still at the frontier of that. I might have a better answer in like four months!

You spoke with your record label to make sure they didn’t exploit your queerness to sell this record. Why was it necessary to have that discussion with your label? Certainly I did not want to capitalize on this identity and this community that in a lot of ways I’m kind of new to and still sort of figuring out my place and role there. The idea that I’d sort of be co-opting something or using something to my advantage just felt totally disingenuous and bad and not what I was trying to do in any way, or what my goal is. But I think the other side of the coin and story is that this record was made pretty much a week after she and I met. [Laughs]

So... it’s pretty queer? Yeah [laughs]. The process of writing this thing, in many ways, was informed by the process of not only falling in love with somebody, but I think really being outside of my comfort zone. That’s very fruitful territory for any creative enterprise, and the best work always comes from being outside of your comfort zone, but for me that comfort zone we’re talking about is a very specific kind of cultural, political and sexual place. I do think it’s relevant to discuss, and also we talked a little bit about that. Miya and I have talked about this at great lengths: that we do think it’s important and useful for all stories to be a part of the narrative because the great privilege of a straight, white man in the United States, or in the equivalent wherever, is the privilege of nuance. That a straight, white man can do anything and be anything and act any way and have a rich, complex inner life. And I think the idea that other people’s narratives have to fit into categories is a disservice to everybody. I just feel it’s very important to be a part of the nuance conversation, and I think it’s useful and it’s important, and I just wanted to make sure to do that in a way that was honest and authentic. Like, it’s not about selling a record; it’s just that it was created in this context and I feel it’s important for me to talk about that.

The album’s sound is more optimistic and lighthearted than your past work. Is that because of your relationship with Miya? Yeah, I think being in love, in general, you have to be kind of optimistic to do that.

The odds of it working are greater if you are optimistic. If you aren’t, it probably won’t work. Right, exactly! To successfully fall in love you need to be optimistic. But I think there was an optimism and a hopefulness that was emanating. I think the other component of that is that I’d gotten off the road; I was out for about two-and-a-half, three years touring, and I kind of lost the plot a little bit. I think I was sort of burning the candle at both ends, and I got off the road and just felt like I was out in the middle of the ocean pretty untethered and kind of fundamentally not grounded. I just felt like I was at a point in my life where I needed some answers, in a pretty basic way. For me, those kinds of solutions were really returning to the basic things I know about: how to live, how to treat myself well, how to hopefully treat other people well and how to be creative and productive. It’s hard to parse it all out because it’s all connected, but in a broader sense I felt like I had creatively and experimentally explored problems and I wanted to move toward solutions. [Laughs]

Hence the album title. Exactly.

You actually got a late start to music. In fact, you studied psychology and sociology at Stanford University before pursuing music. Were you a musical kid at all? My dad was kind of a hobbyist guitar player, and so my dad taught me how to play guitar — pretty basic guitar, maybe in fifth grade, something like that. I think in large part he just wanted a rhythm guitar player while he sort of drunkenly noodled [laughs], so I kind of learned some of the basics. Definitely my dad listened to a ton of music, so there was music in the house, but my parents are all pretty... I have two dads. One was a lawyer, one’s a doctor, and my mom is a lawyer. Everyone has these straight-laced professional jobs, so it wasn’t a super arty house but there was music in the air, you could say.

What artists did you latch onto growing up? I had no real emotional connection to music as a teenager, which is sort of interesting to me in retrospect. But the music I really started connecting with was in college. It was during the tail end of my freshman year when I started listening to a lot of West Coast indie-rap; the Bay Area has a pretty vibrant scene for that. What I really loved about it, and this is...
Final stretch

Scene-stealing ally Jillian Bell, finally leading a film, talks gay running friends and telling more queer stories

Rest assured, I’m not spoiling anything when I say Jillian Bell runs a lot in Brittany Runs a Marathon. All that sweat and all those tears aren’t exactly taken from the 35-year-old actress’ own life, but it metaphorically dovetails with Bell’s career and the infinite miles she’s clocked to get to her own finish of sorts: a starring role.

For her first lead part in a film, Bell portrays out writer-director Paul Downs Colaizzo’s real-life best friend in his heartfelt debut feature, which won the Audience Award at the Sundance Film Festival in February. When we first meet Brittany, her life is in shambles. Landlord issues, job issues, friend issues, and her commitment to telling LGBTQ stories.

Dallas Voice: In real life, do you have any gay friends who’d run a marathon with you? Jillian Bell: [My friend] Kyle would actually be good at running a marathon. He would be cheering the entire time. The only thing: He would want to stop midway to just grab a little bit of rosé, which would make us very sick for the rest of the marathon.

Conveniently, he might already have that in his Hydro Flask as you run. You know the ones that are attached to the hat and you just slurp out of them? That would be Kyle’s situation. But he’d be a blast. We’d have so much fun. We’d probably laugh the whole time.

Do you have LGBTQ friends in your life who’ve pushed you to be a better version of yourself in the way that Brittany’s gay friend, Seth, does in the film? Absolutely. One of my best friends is Fortune Feimster. She’s hysterical. She is the coolest friend of mine. We did [The Groundlings]’ Sunday Company together and then we ended up living next to each other in apartments. Then, when she moved into a house, I moved into a house nearby. I keep telling her I’m stalking her for the rest of her life.

She’s had me on her podcast and we’ve talked a lot about our careers, because we’ve both been very blessed to have some great stuff happen. She’s always encouraging me; I’m always encouraging her. And she’s kind of my touchstone of someone who just makes me very, very happy. I think she’s been so smart in her career — the decisions that she’s made and what she’s decided to do and what it says about her — and she’s one of my best friends, and I’m a big fan of hers.

I love Seth and how supportive he is of Brittany, but what I really love is that he’s not just the token gay best friend. He also has a whole, full life of his own. Remember when gay characters only existed in films for the sake of the female protagonist? This feels like progress. I know, I know. This was written by Paul, and he is a gay man, and the character he wrote that was basically inspired by his own story is Seth. This is sort of a love story for her of what she went through and how she achieved these goals, and Seth is a very important character in this movie. He’s always so positive and encouraging, and you’re right: He’s seen in the light that is different from a lot of films as the gay best friend. I think that is such a wonderful and important thing.

And of all the families portrayed in the film, he seems to have the most together, stable family unit. Yeah, he’s married, he has a kid, and all he wants is to have another kid and get in better shape in his life, and he’s doing great. He’s a successful human being, and that is important to showcase in film. It makes me really sad when it isn’t, and so I’m just happy that our film is a part of doing something hopefully right.

Do you find that gay male directors have a special way or a different sensibility when it comes to telling a female-centered story? I can only speak to my relationship with Paul and how we worked together, and there were moments where we would just cry together and moments of great strength. And we had moments where we would laugh till we were on the floor. We just had each other to lean on throughout this whole process, and it was a big bonding moment. Not only was he doing this almost for the second time in his life, because it’s about his real-life best friend, but it was his first film that he was directing and that he wrote, so that was a huge achievement. We just had a really strong connection, and we both were very passionate from the beginning about this story and how we weren’t sure if people would get it. We’re so excited now that, for the most part, people are understanding what this story is about. That makes
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When last we met those seven scrappy tweens from Derry, Maine, they were breathing heavy sighs of relief, having just — they hoped — killed the malevolent entity Pennywise, which they called merely “It.” They concluded by pledging to each other that should It ever return, they would reassemble to fight the child-murdering clown once again.

Tick, tock, fellas.

For audiences, only two years have passed since It became a sensation; for the characters, 27 years. And they are about to encounter even stranger things, because Pennywise has come home.

Because the original was such a smash, a follow-up was preordained but also necessary. It Chapter Two completes the plot of Stephen King’s massive 1986 novel, a tale made all the creepier by its generations scope. And the sequel doesn’t disappoint. Director Andy Muschietti isn’t afraid to manipulate his audience with shopworn clichés (ominous, or misleadingly soothing, music queues; grisly sound effects; jump scares when It is actually behind you!), but what he lacks in originality he more than makes up for in bravado: This It is damn-near operatic, clocking in at just shy of three hours. It balances flashbacks and creations from the kids in 1989, seamlessly interlinking them with clever editing, while deepening our understanding of the characters as adults. (Among the older cast, Jessica Chastain as the abused Bev, James McAvoy as stuttering Bill and Bill Hader as wisecracking Richie are the biggest stars.) The script breaks the plot into a manageable three act structure: gathering to form an insane-clown-killing posse, confronting individual demons on their own, and finally resolving to attack or die trying. (Seven kids survived last time; fewer adults emerge now.)

It Chapter Two is not, ultimately, a great movie. While it keeps a stranglehold around your throat almost constantly, there’s very little residual discomfort. You walk out of the theater jauntily and unafraid what you’ll see around a corner. It doesn’t burrow into your psyche the way, say, Hereditary did. Then again, it’s pretty much just what its audience wants: A slow dive down a scary rabbit hole, and we return unscathed, breathless and full of popcorn.
both of us very happy.

Before you began filming, you said it was going to be very challenging because of how the movie deals with women's perceptions of their bodies. But you also were hoping it might be more therapeutic than difficult. Well, you've done the film. Was filming this like therapy? You know what? Both kinds of happened. And I was expecting that. Sometimes you spiral out after these things, sometimes it's therapeutic. It was both, but in a healthy way. It just sort of made me look at my relationship with my own body and how I was talking myself up. I can only speak from my perspective, but sometimes you'll look at other people, some of your best friends, and think, “Oh, they're all wonderful and beautiful and lovely and smart,” and then you'll go home and you'll say awful things to yourself that you would never say about anyone else. I just felt like this movie hits on that and how society treats you but also how you treat yourself. What it feels like to choose yourself for the first time.

By doing this project, I also felt like I was running my own marathon. I didn’t really want to address [these themes] in either film or television unless it was doing it right, and this is the first film that I read that was sort of a transformation story, but it wasn’t like “girl gets skinny, girl has a better life.” To me, that’s very important to put out there for women and men. I shouldn’t say I’m surprised, but it’s been overwhelming how many men relate to that and how difficult it is when you don’t come out looking like Adonis. It’s a lot.

By the end of her journey, I was weeping. Because — shocker! — gay men have body image issues, too. Awww. I’m so glad you liked the film and you related to it. This is why we did it. I haven’t seen a movie like this in a very long time, maybe not ever, where I thought, “These are real humans, this is a real human story.” There are raw emotions here, and there’s vulnerability in a way that’s so beautiful and isn’t always showcased in film. I just really wanted to be a part of that kind of storytelling.

Your filmography has been very LGBTQ-inclusive. As Alice in Rough Night, you were the perfect ally-friend to Blaire and Frankie, played by Zoë Kravitz and Ilana Glazer. Absolutely! We wanted to get them back together! I mean, how cute is that couple? And they were always fighting with each other and we were like, “You like each other! Get back together!” I was so happy with that ending too, because I don’t think I was around when they were shooting that part of the scene where they end up being back together at the end and I loved the way it was handled. It was so beautiful and real.
sort of my entry point to really loving music, was wordplay. I mean, that’s the most fun and exciting part of hip-hop: just that it’s one giant crossword puzzle. Besides the content of what you’re saying, that just felt so exciting and energizing to me. I think it’s a very confessional genre in many ways, so that was what I started listening to. Then I started listening to music and started making music, and just discovering all sorts of different things, and then getting into more alt-indie rock, a lot of female driven stuff.

During college, a friend suggested you make a song and then you made a song. What was the first song you wrote? It was just a joke song, a parody of a song. I was at the time, again, very, very into indie-rap, and on the radio it was like the Ying Yang Twins and I was just on my high horse about why they don’t play this on the radio. It was sort of made in the spirit of that, which I think is a good spirit. I think when you see the world is some way and you would like it to be different, that’s often a good starting point. But it really just started out as a joke, just for fun. But I think there was something about the process that obviously struck a chord.

While on tour a few years ago, you brought along a blank notebook and had fans write entries about their experiences getting their heart broken or breaking someone else’s heart. Fittingly, you titled it the “Crush Me” book. For this current tour, can we expect anything along those lines? I don’t want to really just rehash that exact thing, but I do think — and this is something I just really believe, and then when I go out on the road that belief is confirmed — live shows still, especially in this moment, remain very unique spaces for people to just be themselves. I know people bring their phones to shows and that’s a part of this thing, but if you want to, it’s a real space to get away from that. It used to be movies were like that but nobody even sees movies anymore [laughs]. But it feels like this moment for a real exchange, so I definitely want to reinforce that feeling because I do think it’s special and it’s worth celebrating. So TBD. But that’s the spirit undergirding that enterprise, and I’d certainly like for it to live on.

As a comedian, are you conscious of what lines should and shouldn’t be crossed when it comes to queer content? Absolutely. One of my good friends is non-binary, and we’ve been trying to figure out a way to showcase more artists in the LGBTQ+ community. We would love to do something where there’s an actress who wants to work with a new up-and-coming director who is trans, or a non-binary short film where it’s showing them being the one who saves the day when there’s a plane attack. We are just like, “What are interesting stories we haven’t seen before in making people superheroes or just showing normal life?”

Like in our movie, with Seth. Just casing more of that. There was this sort of unofficial questionaire online, and they were asking a bunch of questions about what they have and haven’t seen in film and television. The amount of LGBTQ people that wanted to be seen but also not killed off immediately was so upsetting to me, and it opened up my eyes to the fact that that happens and how sad that is and, you know, if they’re gonna do a remake of Harry Met Sally, what is the gay version? I’m curious to see that. I would love to see that. I would pay for a ticket to go see that film because we’ve seen it the other way for so long.

Speaking of role reversal, what’s the latest on the Disney remake of Splash with Channing? Yeah, we’re trying, we’re trying! It’s being written right now. Really excited about it. Anything to work with him again, because he is a doll of a human being and, I mean, it would be such a dream come true. I would be playing, basically, the Tom Hanks part, and what is more thrilling than that?

And, to boot, Channing as a merman. Yes, Channing as a merman! I’m giving the people what they want. That’s what I’m trying to do.

At the very least you’re giving me what I want, so thank you.
Thursday 09.12 – Sunday 09.15

Dark Circles opens season with Peter Pan-themed premiere

Put away the white shoes and take out the ballet slippers — the first new dance production of the season has arrived. Dark Circles Contemporary Dance kicks off the autumn arts productions with A New Dance Musical. Dallas choreographer and DCCD founder Joshua L. Peugh drawing inspiration from J.M. Barrie’s classic story about the boy who refused to grow up explores themes of childhood, freedom and mortality, as well as addressing issues involving race, gender, sexuality and privilege.

DEETS: Hamon Hall at Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. ATTPAC.org.

Friday 09.06 – Sunday 09.08

‘Sleeping Beauty’ awakens in North Texas

The Texas Ballet Theater typically produces its ballets both in Dallas and Fort Worth, but for this season opener, it will be taking a bit of a break between performances. Aurora waits for her charming prince to kiss her to life in Tchaikovsky’s timeless classic The Sleeping Beauty, a whimsically dashing display of style and grace. While it will be at the Winspear this weekend, you’ll have to wait until October to see the production at Bass Performance Hall.


Saturday 09.07 — Sunday 11.03

Art gallery showcases creative photographic portraits

If you’re into brilliant images captured in decisive moments, then check out Afterimage Gallery’s latest exhibit, featuring contemporary photographic portraits taken by five photographers from across the U.S. Each exposure expresses a unique theme spawned from the artists. This display opens the same evening as the Dallas Art Dealers Association’s Fall Gallery Walk, which will run from 7–9 p.m. Friday.

ARTSWEEK

THEATER

2019 Fort Worth Fringe Festival. Play fest featuring 15 selected one-acts, including the headliners That Woman! And Bump! Performances at the Fort Worth Community Arts Center, 1300 Gendy St., Fort Worth. Sept. 6–8.


BALLET


DANCE

B. Moore Dance: 3D Vision. Bridget Moore, who has worked with Dallas Black Dance and Bruce Wood Dance, launches a new production from her own company. Addison Theatre Centre, 15650 Addison Road. Sept. 6–8. BMooreDance.org.

FESTIVAL


FINE ART


Caravaggio: Martha and Mary Magdalene. A stunning work from 1598, on loan to the DMA through the summer. Dallas Museum of Art, 1717 Harwood St. Free. Through Sept. 22. DMA.org.

SATURDAY 09.07

COMMUNITY

FrontRunners. Gay jogging/walking group meets weekly at 8:30 a.m. in Oak Lawn Park at Hall Street and Turtle Creek Boulevard for a run along the Katy Trail.

MONDAY 09.09

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 09.10

FILM

The Court Jester. The pellet with the poison’s in the vessel with the pestle. Comic adventure with Danny Kaye. 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 09.12

CABARET

Glitterbomb Denton. Weekly queer variety show with a new lineup every Thursday, now at a new locale and new time. Andy’s Bar, 12 N. Locust St., Denton. 8 p.m.

DANCE

Pete: A New Musical. Dark Circles Contemporary Dance company stages this world premiere, inspired by Peter Pan. Hamon Hall inside the Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. Through Sunday. ATTPAC.org.

this week’s solution

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

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

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I am a huge fan of spiritualist and author Miguel Ángel Ruiz Macías’ *Four Agreements*. In case you’re not familiar with them, here they are:

1. Be impeccable with your word.
2. Don’t take anything personally.
3. Don’t make assumptions.
4. Always do your best.

They are super simple on the surface. But they are incredibly powerful in practice. If everyone followed them, we would basically live in a near-ideal world, perhaps even a perfect one. Unfortunately, there’s no way on earth to get everyone to do that — it’s improbable you could even get each of your friends and family to commit to it. But if at least you and your partner can manage it, it can make a world of difference in your relationship.

I do my best. It’s not as easy as it looks, and I am far from perfect at it. But I try to live by these precepts. One of the hardest ones for me is No. 2: “Don’t take anything personally.” My gut reaction, sadly, is to take everything personally. It drives my 20-year-old daughter crazy. She doesn’t want a second helping of matzo ball soup? She hates my cooking. She doesn’t need my help decorating her new apartment? She hates my aesthetic. I can’t be there when she gets the flu? She hates me. I exaggerate, but you get the idea.

It’s nuts, and it’s an incredibly painful way to walk through life. Personalizing criticism is the first thought that comes to my mind, which is why my second thought is, “Stop thinking the entire world — and specifically your daughter’s world — in any way revolves around you. Because it doesn’t. She had plenty of soup. It’s her first apartment and she wanted to do it herself. And she didn’t ask you — nor did she want you — to come mother her. She wants her boyfriend to do that sort of thing now.”

The same thing happens with my wife. She’s frustrated at work and gets upset about something silly like something being misplaced or not done the way she would do it, and I am a mess of self-doubt and self-loathing in an instant. Even as I am spinning, I know how ridiculous I’m being. I know she’s stressed out. I know she’s tired. I know her travel and her work take a constant toll. But instead of shrugging it off, I have to go through mental gymnastics until I am truly able to not take it personally. People have crummy days, and people react in ways they would not otherwise react. That has nothing to do with me and everything to do with them.

We have to stop internalizing the external world. If our spouses want to do volunteer work that takes them away from home, we have to know that it’s because they want to make meaning of their life, not because they don’t want to be around us. If our partners don’t like a song or a meal or an activity or a piece of décor, we have to know it’s because it’s not their taste, not because something is wrong with ours. If the person we love is in a lousy mood and is not their usual sweet self, we have to know it’s because their allergies or their boss or their kid or their mom is driving them nuts. It’s not about us. It’s not about us. It’s not about us!!

I waste a lot of time taking things personally. I dwell and spin and self-flagellate. I’m not much for New Year’s resolutions, but I am huge on constant self- and couple-improvement. So working towards not taking things personally is my current cause. I’m learning to take a breath before I take a leap into the “What’s wrong with me?” pool of self-doubt, because treading that water is exhausting, if not seemingly never ending. We have to give ourselves a break and give our partners a break, too.

When we release ourselves from the burden of taking all things personally, we allow ourselves permission to deal with our own stuff — our own actual stuff — that we all have, that all needs working on. In a way, taking things personally is like an excuse. I’m so busy feeling terrible about all the things that aren’t my fault that no one is actually upset with me about that I have no time to wrestle with the baggage that it really would serve me to tend to and offload.

Most of us really are doing our best to be our best and, sometimes, it’s simply more than we can muster. But we don’t have to make it even harder on ourselves by taking on other people’s stuff. I have a friend who says I am an empath to my own demise. I can’t say he’s wrong. I take it all on, and I take it all on as my fault in some way, no matter how preposterous. The worst part is that I know better. So, I am going to try to do better — for my health, and for the health of my relationship. And I’m going to do my best to let my dad’s words on this subject rule the day. Whenever I get lost in the black hole of taking all things personally, he always says the same thing: “The world doesn’t revolve around you, kiddo. Never has. Never will.” Indeed.
Making the SCENE the week of Sept. 6–12:

• **1851 Club**: Kiana Lee hosts shows Friday and Saturday.
• **515 Bar**: Customer Appreciation Day on Sunday.
• **Alexandre’s**: Girls Night Out with Peggy Honea on Friday. Droo’s Peach Crush on Saturday. Wayne Smith on Sunday. K-Marie on Tuesday. Vero Voz on Wednesday. Chris Chism on Thursday.
• **Club Changes**: Wall of Food presents Rhonda Mae Memorial Show at 9:30 p.m. on Saturday.
• **Club Reflection**: Karaoke hosted by Tucker from 9 p.m.-2 a.m. on Sunday.
• **Dallas Eagle**: Discipline Corps Club Night from 10 p.m.-midnight on Friday. United Court Candidate Announcement and Show from 6-10 p.m. on Saturday. Line Dance Lessons with Yoshi from 2-4 p.m. on Sunday.
• **Havana**: Showtime at 11 p.m. on Thursday.
• **JR.’s Bar & Grill**: Dragula Season 3 Watch Party with Bleach at 7 p.m. on Tuesday.
• **Marty’s Live**: Miss Wanda at 9 p.m. on Sunday.
• **Round-Up Saloon**: Boys! Boots! Boxer Briefs! at 10 p.m. on Monday. Dragula Watch Party at 8 p.m. on Tuesday. Line Dance Lessons with Ray at 8:30 p.m. on Thursday. Lip Sync Battle at 11 p.m. on Thursday.
• **Sue Ellen’s**: Tuesday Tease at 9:30 p.m. Queer Off at 10:30 p.m. on Wednesday. Karaoke in the Music Lounge at 10 p.m. on Thursday.
• **The Rose Room**: Tasha Kohl in Icon: The Show with doors at 6 p.m. and show at 7 p.m. on Sunday.
• **Urban Cowboy**: King & Queen Of The Trailer Park from 7-10 p.m. on Saturday.
• **Woody’s Sports & Video Bar**: Relive the ’90s at 9 p.m. on Monday. Showtunes on Tuesday.

*Scene Photographers: Kat Haygood and Chad Mantooth*
Belting out some karaoke at The Round-Up
Giving a friend a lift on The Strip

Serving up fashion on The Strip

Hugging it out
Inspecting a tumbleweave on The Strip

Service with a smile — or two — at Hunky’s

All smiles at The Round-Up

Cocktailing with style at Aexandre’s

Serving up fashion on The Strip
Friends at Havana's

Friends out for fun on The Strip

Ladies' night on The Strip

Mike and Laura at Woody's

Working the pole at TMC: The Mining Co.

NIGHT of STARS

SATURDAY | SEPTEMBER 14TH

FEATURING
THORGY THOR
RUPAUL'S DRAG RACE & RUPAUL'S ALL-STARS

CARMELLA DUBUQUE
Gloria Devine
Kelexis Davenport
SABRINA STARR
JADA PINKETT FOX
Linze Serrell
WAYNE SMITH

VIP PACKAGES
MEET & GREET + FOOD/DINK

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TOYOTA
of IRVING

CAVEN ENTERPRISES
AH PHARMACY

HUSTLERS
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STX FILMS

The UPS Store
Prism Health
LifeWalk
Across

1 Line in a Rita Mae Brown novel?
5 No longer jail bait
10 Straddling
14 Tow job
15 St. Teresa’s town
16 Half of Lois and Clark
17 Where to find hot buns
18 “Music genre of Roddy Bottum
19 Become frayed
20 “Hazy Shade of Winter” cover band, with “The” (from the gay A League of Their Own)
24 Big name in China
25 The Music Man setting
26 Star’s rep
27 Parking place?
28 Home st. of Maupin
31 Janis Joplin’s Bobby
33 Most straight, at a bar?
36 Big name in oil
37 “Girls Just Want to Have Fun” singer (from the gay ALOTO)
44 Not even once, to Dickinson
45 Physique, informally
48 Colette’s Mrs.
49 Queen, to a dealer
52 “We’ll see”
54 “Livin’ on a Prayer” band (from the gay ALOTO)
56 “Blackbird” band (from the gay ALOTO)
58 “Tell me ___ haven’t heard!”
59 Landau’s Ed Wood award
61 Put on the staff
66 Hisser shaped like a pisser
67 Put out

Down

1 Vehicles for exploring Uranus
2 Pianist Oscar
3 How many gay people live
4 South Pacific kingdom
5 Liberace fabric
6 Eater of forbidden fruit, and others
7 “Scram!” to Gomer
8 You must remember this
9 Bochco TV drama
10 Words used in setting the tempo
11 Justin Suarez of Ugly Betty, for one
12 Juicy fruits
13 Jolly Roger fliers
21 Stuff in a closet
23 Dyke’s latex
25 Wilde country
29 Assholes
30 What you can take from me
32 Mother of Chaz
33 NASDAQ rival
34 Not nutty as a fruitcake
35 Dancer Tommy
37 Have an orgasm in the vicinity of?
39 Frolics about the streets of Vegas?
40 Sculptor Lewis
43 USMC barracks boss
45 Name in the Southern Voice
46 The king of fairies
47 ___ Hearts
50 Admits openly
51 Out of bed
53 Threesome member for Dumas
54 Not even once, to Dickinson
55 Iwo ___
56 Tan at South Beach
57 Language of 25-Down
60 Org. in many spy movies

Solution on Page 22
FUTURE FORUM

What’s next for our LGBTQ+ community?

Join us for an interactive LGBTQ+ Town Hall as we explore:
• Who we are • What does our future look like • What do we want as a community
• What challenges are ahead politically and socially • What’s the Gay Agenda

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