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# 11.27.20 | Volume 37 | Issue 30







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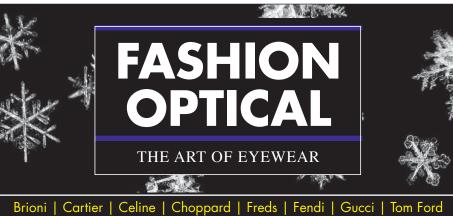
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# Instant TEA Dallas Voice.com/Instant-Tea Highlights from the Dallas Voice Website

# Black trans woman murdered in Houston on TDOR



Asia Jynaé Foste

Asia Jynaé Foster, a 22-vearold Black trans woman, was found dead on a street in southwest Houston on Friday, Nov. 20, which was Transgender Day of Remembrance. ABC

Eyewitness News Channel 13 in Houston reported that she was shot multiple times.

Police have said that they believe Foster was shot to death elsewhere and then her body dumped and bound where it was found, along Skyline Drive and Greenridge (3400 block of East Greenridge). A friend of Foster's told reporters that the body was found near where Foster lived.

Foster is the first transgender person killed this year in Houston and at least the 38th trans or non-binary person to die violently this year. Two black trans women - Tracy Single and Itali Marlowe — were murdered last year in Houston, along with two Black trans women in Dallas - Muhlaysia Booker and Chynal Lindsey. Two more trans women have been murdered in Texas this year: Helle Jae O'Regan in San Antonio and Merci Mack in Dallas.

Anyone with information on the murder of Asia Jynaé Foster is asked to call Crime Stoppers at 713-222-8477.

Tammye Nash

# 33rd Creating Change conference will be virtual

The National LGBTQ Task Force recently announced plans for the 33rd annual Creating Change Conference, taking place virtually from Jan. 28-31. The conference is, organizers said, "the foremost political, leadership and skills-building conference for the LGBTQ social justice movement."

Registration is now open at TheTaskForce. org/CreatingChange.

This will be the third Creating Change Conference managed by Andy Garcia, who has guided this year's complete overhaul of the conference as an entirely virtual experience. He said, "We knew that 2020 was going to be a critical year for all of us but could never have predicted the overwhelming challenges we face, from a global pandemic to an economic depression to the uprising against racial injustice facing this country."

Sandra Valls will emcee the conference, with Dominique Jackson delivering the open keynote and adrienne maree brown as closing keynote speaker. The conference will also include the annual State of the Movement Address, performances by Big Freedia and two days of day-long institutes, dozens of workshops and caucuses, the annual Agents of Change Ball and more.

"When Creating Change begins we will be living under a new White House administration and hopeful, but also facing a possible sea change in the status of queer rights from the Supreme Court and needing to see real institutional and policy change for racial and economic justice," Garcia continued. "All while we continue to grapple with the impact of the pandemic and other obstacles we face as a community. Given its virtual nature, we hope more queer people than ever before participate in Creating Change, as we need each other now more than ever."

The Creating Change Conference is committed to radical accessibility. When you register online for Creating Change, you can request: ASL interpretation, Spanish interpretation.

Tammye Nash

# **Brandi Carlile nominated** for 2 Grammy Awards

Lesbian singer/songwriter/performer/ producer Brandi Carlile, already a five-time Grammy Award-winner, is nominated in two categories at the upcoming 63rd Grammy Awards. Carlile is nominated for "Best Song Written for Visual Media" (for "Carried Me With You," from Onward, written with Phil Hanseroth and Tim Hanseroth), and for "Best Country Song" ("Crowded Table," performed by The Highwomen, written with Natalie Hemby and Lori McKenna).

Carlile also produced The Secret Sisters new album, Saturn Return, which is nominated for Best Folk Album.

Earlier this fall, Carlile released a new duet with Alicia Keys, "A Beautiful Noise." And Carlile's memoir, Broken Horses, is set to be released April 6, 2021, via Crown, an imprint of the Random Housing Publishing Group, a division of Penguin Random House LLC.

Carlile also co-wrote the song "Bring My Flowers Now" with country music legend Tanya Tucker. The song won the 2020 Grammy Award for "Best Country Song" and was nominated in the all-genre Song of the Year category.

- Tammye Nash

# **DPD** reclassifies Alan White disappearance to 'endangered'

Dallas police have changed Alan White's status from "missing person" to "endangered missing person," but LGBT Liaison Officer Chelsea Geist said she was unable to comment on the change in classification because it is an ongoing investigation.

White disappeared Oct. 22 after leaving the LA Fitness at CityPlace in Dallas to return home. The vehicle he was driving, a Porsche Macan on Ioan from Park Place Motors, was found in Oak Cliff a week later on Oct. 29.

Then about a week ago, a new video emerged of White putting gas in the car at the RaceTrak gas station on Inwood Road at Maple Avenue. In that, he is wearing a red tank top rather than the gray tank he was wearing about 15 minutes earlier when he left LA Fitness, but his family confirmed that the person at the gas station was White.

From the gas station, White left driving north toward his home rather than south toward Oak Cliff where the car was found.

According to the DPD's blog, "The Youth

Operations Unit is in charge of the investigation. Detectives are actively investigating all workable leads into the report of Mr. White. Detectives are also actively communicating with Mr. White's family. If anyone has any additional information regarding Mr. White, we ask that they contact the Dallas Police Department Youth Operations at 214-671-4268 or by email at missingpersons@dpd.dallascityhall.com."

- David Taffet

# pet of the week / GERTRUDE & STEFAN



Meet **Gertrude** (*left*), a female 2-year-old Doberman Pinscher mix, and **Stefan** (*right*), a male 2-year-old, Doberman Pinscher mix. These two big, beautiful pups have sleek black coats, floppy ears and the characteristic narrow Doberman snout. That's not all they share: Gertrude and Stefan share a whole lot of love for each

other! They're the best of friends, and the SPCA of Texas has pair bonded them so that they must find a home together. They can be a bit timid around new folks, but once they get to know you, they are huge sweethearts. They love to play together, cuddle and spend time outdoors. They are searching for a home with a large, fenced backyard where they'll have plenty of room to run and romp around together. They'd do best as the only dogs and would prefer to share their home with teen and adult humans only. Gertrude and Stefan are waiting to meet you at the SPCA of Texas' Jan Rees-Jones Animal Care Center in Dallas.

In an effort to reduce the potential for spreading COVID-19, the SPCA of Texas' shelters, clinics, mobile adoption events and mobile wellness events remain closed to the public until further notice. Adoptions are available by appointment only. Adopters will need to submit an adoption inquiry form in order to begin the tele-adoption process and schedule an appointment to complete the adoption. Browse our available animals at spca.org/findapet and visit spca.org/dogadopt to inquire about a dog or spca.org/catadopt to inquire about a cat.



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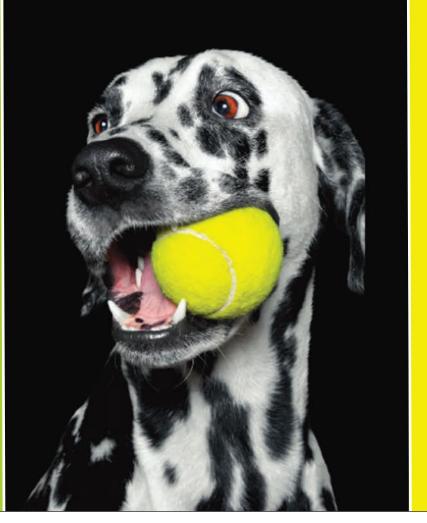
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This is only a brief summary of important information about BIKTARVY and does not replace talking to your healthcare provider about your condition and your treatment.

(bik-TAR-vee)

### MOST IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT BIKTARVY

# **BIKTARVY** may cause serious side effects, including:

Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection. If you have both HIV-1 and HBV, your HBV may suddenly get worse if you stop taking BIKTARVY. Do not stop taking BIKTARVY without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to check your health regularly for several months.

### **ABOUT BIKTARVY**

BIKTARVY is a complete, 1-pill, once-a-day prescription medicine used to treat HIV-1 in adults and children who weigh at least 55 pounds. It can either be used in people who have never taken HIV-1 medicines before, or people who are replacing their current HIV-1 medicines and whose healthcare provider determines they meet certain requirements.

**BIKTARVY does not cure HIV-1 or AIDS.** HIV-1 is the virus that causes AIDS.

# Do NOT take BIKTARVY if you also take a medicine that contains:

- dofetilide
- ▶ rifampin
- > any other medicines to treat HIV-1

# **BEFORE TAKING BIKTARVY**

# Tell your healthcare provider if you:

- Have or have had any kidney or liver problems, including hepatitis infection.
- Have any other health problems.
- Are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if BIKTARVY can harm your unborn baby. Tell your healthcare provider if you become pregnant while taking BIKTARVY.
- Are breastfeeding (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed. HIV-1 can be passed to the baby in breast milk.

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

- Keep a list that includes all prescription and over-the-counter medicines, antacids, laxatives, vitamins, and herbal supplements, and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist.
- BIKTARVY and other medicines may affect each other. Ask your healthcare provider and pharmacist about medicines that interact with BIKTARVY, and ask if it is safe to take BIKTARVY with all your other medicines.

# POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF BIKTARVY

# **BIKTARVY** may cause serious side effects, including:

- Those in the "Most Important Information About BIKTARVY" section.
- ▶ Changes in your immune system. Your immune system may get stronger and begin to fight infections. Tell your healthcare provider if you have any new symptoms after you start taking BIKTARVY.
- **Kidney problems, including kidney failure.** Your healthcare provider should do blood and urine tests to check your kidneys. If you develop new or worse kidney problems, they may tell you to stop taking BIKTARVY.
- ▶ Too much lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis), which is a serious but rare medical emergency that can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: weakness or being more tired than usual, unusual muscle pain, being short of breath or fast breathing, stomach pain with nausea and vomiting, cold or blue hands and feet, feel dizzy or lightheaded, or a fast or abnormal heartbeat.
- > **Severe liver problems**, which in rare cases can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow, dark "tea-colored" urine, light-colored stools, loss of appetite for several days or longer, nausea, or stomach-area pain.
- ▶ The most common side effects of BIKTARVY in clinical studies were diarrhea (6%), nausea (6%), and headache (5%).

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

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

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

# **HOW TO TAKE BIKTARVY**

Take BIKTARVY 1 time each day with or without food.

### **GET MORE INFORMATION**

- This is only a brief summary of important information about BIKTARVY. Talk to your healthcare provider or pharmacist to learn more.
- ▶ Go to BIKTARVY.com or call 1-800-GILEAD-5
- If you need help paying for your medicine, visit BIKTARVY.com for program information.





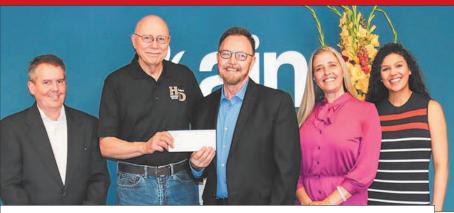
# **Battling HIV/AIDS** in Dallas and Fort Worth

World AIDS Day, Dec. 1, 2020



# **Abounding Prosperity Inc.**

Abounding Prosperity Inc. celebrated National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day on Feb. 7 with the grand opening of the HOPE Health and Wellness Center at 1619 Martin Luther King Blvd. Then in August, Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson announced that Abounding Prosperity had received a total of \$565,000 through two federal grants from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services as part of the Special Projects of National Significance Program — to increase rapid access to lifesaving HIV medications for HIV-positive populations and to expand the delivery and utilization of comprehensive care and treatment services for Black women with HIV in Dallas County. (Pictured: Dallas Mayor Pro Tem Adam Medrano, API CEO Kirk Myers and API COO Tamera Stephney at the February grand opening)



# AIN

AIN (AIDS Interfaith Network, dba Access and Information Network) offers case management services — including intake and enrollment, non-medical case management and medical case management — for people with HIV/AIDS. They also offer medical transportation and linguistic services, as well as the Daire Center with day care and meals for people with HIV/AIDS. AIN also provides outreach initiatives, health education and HIV prevention programs. In the most recent year with data available, AIN distributed 190,000 DART bus passes; provided 90,000 hours of day center services; served 25,000 meals; contacted 12,000 persons through outreach and prevention services; provided 9,000 van rides; provided 7,000 sessions of Spanish language interpretation and translation, and coordinated care through case management for 2,000 clients. (Pictured: Harvey Meissner with the Hidden Door presents a donation to staff at AIN, including President and CEO Steven Pace)

# **AIDS Services of Dallas**

In August, an empty building at 511 N. Lancaster Ave. owned by AIDS Services of Dallas caught fire and burned to the ground. ASD was about to renovate the property to create additional housing units. ASD still plans to build on the property to provide additional housing for its residents.



# AIDS Outreach Center

After the death of Shannon Hilgart, executive director of AIDS Outreach Center, Patrice Williams was named the new E.D. of, Tarrant County's largest HIV service organization. Williams took the helm in July.

# **HIV** and the trans community

HIV statistics among the transgender community:

- Transgender persons accounted for approximately 2 percent of diagnoses of HIV infections in the U.S. or about 760 newly diagnosed infections.
- Of the diagnoses for transgender people, 92 percentwere among MTF.
- The number of diagnoses of HIV infection among transgender adults and adolescents in the Northeast and West increased while the numbers for transgender adults and adolescents in the Midwest and South remained stable.

# **HIV/AIDS Statistics**

HIV and AIDS remain a persistent problem for the United States and countries around the world, the CDC writes on its website. While great progress has been made in preventing and treating HIV, there is still much to do.

These statistics are for 2018, the most recent year for which AIDS information is available:

- 37,968 people received an HIV diagnosis in the U.S. and six dependent areas.
- Men accounted for 30,691 or 81 percent of the 37,968 new HIV diagnoses.
- Black/African American gay and bisexual men accounted for 9,712 or 26 percent of new HIV diagnoses.
- The annual number of new diagnoses decreased 7 percent from 2014 to 2018.
- An estimated 1.2 million people in the U.S. had HIV at the end of 2018
- Gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men accountedfor 69 percent of all new HIV diagnoses in the U.S. and dependent areas. Heterosexuals madeup 24 percent of all HIV diagnoses.
- There were 15,820 deaths among adults and adolescents with diagnosed HIV in the U.S. and dependent areas.
  - Of the 37,968 new HIV diagnoses, 51 percent were in the South.

# **An HIV/AIDS Directory for North Texas**

- · Abounding Prosperity Inc.; Abounding Prosperity.org
- · AIDS Healthcare Foundation; AIDSHealth.org (AHF)
- AIDS Interfaith Network dba Access and Information Network; AINDallas.org
- · AIDS Outreach Center, Tarrant County; AOC.org
- · AIDS Services of Dallas; AIDSDallas.org
- AIDS Walk of South Dallas;
- AIDS Walk of South Dallas.com
- CAN Community Health-Arlington;
- CanCommunityHealth.org
- Greg Dollgener Memorial AIDS Fund; GDMAF.org
- HELP Center for LGBT Health and Wellness;
  HelpCenterTX.org
  Legacy Counseling Center and Hope Founders
- Cottage; LegacyCares.org
   Legal Hospice of Texas; LegalHospice.org
- · Prism Health North Texas; PHNTX.org
- Resource Center; RCDallas.org
- Tuckers Gift: Facebook.com/TuckersGift

# **CAN Community Health - Arlington**

CAN Community Health (CAN) added a new health clinic in Arlington to deliver premier HIV medical care and services to patients regardless of their insurance status or ability to pay. CAN first opened a clinic in Florida in 1991 and now has 36 locations nationwide serving those with HIV, Hepatitis C, STDs and more. (Pictured: The staff at CAN in Arlington)



# HELP Center for LGBT Health and Wellness

The HELP Center for LGBT Health and Wellness in Arlington and Fort Worth offers PrEP at no cost through TelePrEP. Executive Director DeeJay Johannessen explained TeleHealth has become the new standard of care during the pandemic. Through TelePrEP, a new patient can go online, request an appointment and receive paperwork electronically. All TelePrEP services are free.

# **Resource Center**

For World AIDS Day, Resource Center hosts the Red Ribbon Tree Lighting, which will stream virtually on Wednesday, Dec. 2 from 6:30-7 p.m. with a candlelight vigil and entertainment from the Turtle Creek Chorale. The event will be streamed via Resource Center's Facebook page and YouTube channel. Afterwards, from 7-7:30 p.m., the community is invited to the Center's Community Center located at 5750 Cedar Springs Road for a drive-thru experience to view festive holiday lights and enjoy hot cocoa compliments of Starbuck's. (Pictured: The HIV/AIDS mural on the side of Resource Center's Nelson Tebedo Clinic)

**HELP** Cente

# **Prism Health North Texas**

Prism Health North Texas provides primary care for people living with HIV at three clinics — in South Dallas, Oak Cliff and Oak Lawn, pictured, with a variety of services plus PrEP for HIV prevention and STI testing and treatment and a pharmacy.

# **Legacy Counseling Center**

Legacy Counseling Center Executive Director Melissa Grove will discuss HIV, the early AIDS crisis, and what similarities she sees in the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic in a virtual presentation for Dallas College students on Tuesday, Dec. 1, at 2 p.m. The event will stream only at https://bit.ly/WorldAIDSDay2020-DallasCollege.

# **NTIDC** researchers: Pfizer vaccine is safe, ready to ao

he doctors at North Infectious Texas Disease Consultants in Dallas have been involved in conducting trials for the COVID-19 vaccine being developed by Pfizer pharmaceutical company, a vaccine that Pfizer officials said last week is "95 percent effective against COVID-19 beginning 28 days after the first dose."

According to a statement from Pfizer last week, during the clinical trials, "170 confirmed cases of COVID-19 were evaluated, with 162 observed in the placebo group versus 8 in the vaccine group. Efficacy was consistent across age, gender race and ethnicity demographics, [and] observed efficacy in adults over 65 years of age was over 94 percent."

The statement noted that the Pfizer vaccine trials have achieved the "safety data milestone required by U.S. Food and Drug Administration for Emergency Use Authorization. Data demonstrate that the vaccine was well tolerated across all populations with over 43,000 participants enrolled; no serious safety concerns observed; the only Grade 3 adverse event greater than 2 percent in frequency was fatigue at 3.8 percent and headache at 2 percent."

The statement also noted that Pfizer



Dr. Mezaebe Berhe

planned to submit its vaccine to the FDA for emergency use authorization "within days" and to share data with "other regulatory agencies around the globe." The Pfizer companies "expect to produce

globally up to 50 million vaccine doses in 2020 and up to 1.3 billion doses by the end of 2021."

NTIDC in Dallas was the largest tester for the Pfizer vaccine, with more than 500 participants in its trials, including some

NTIDC, Page 12



This is your place





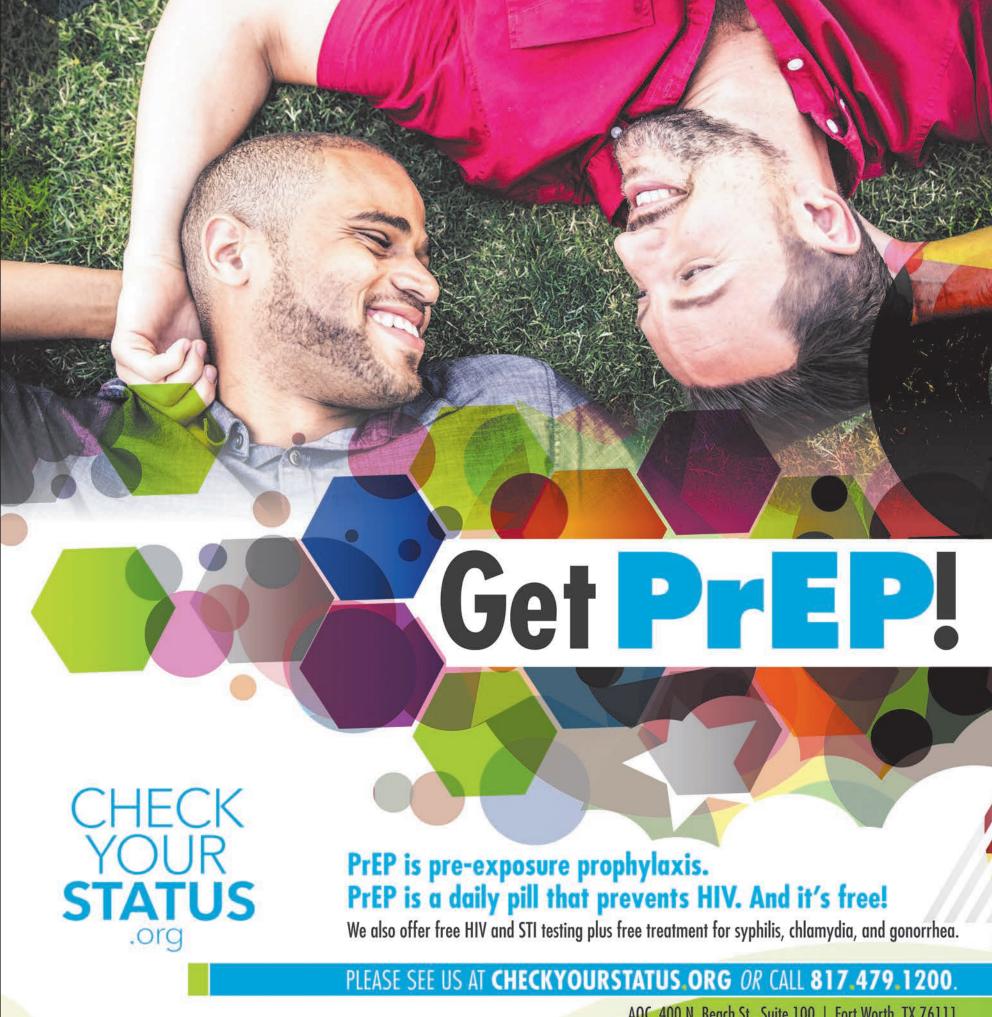
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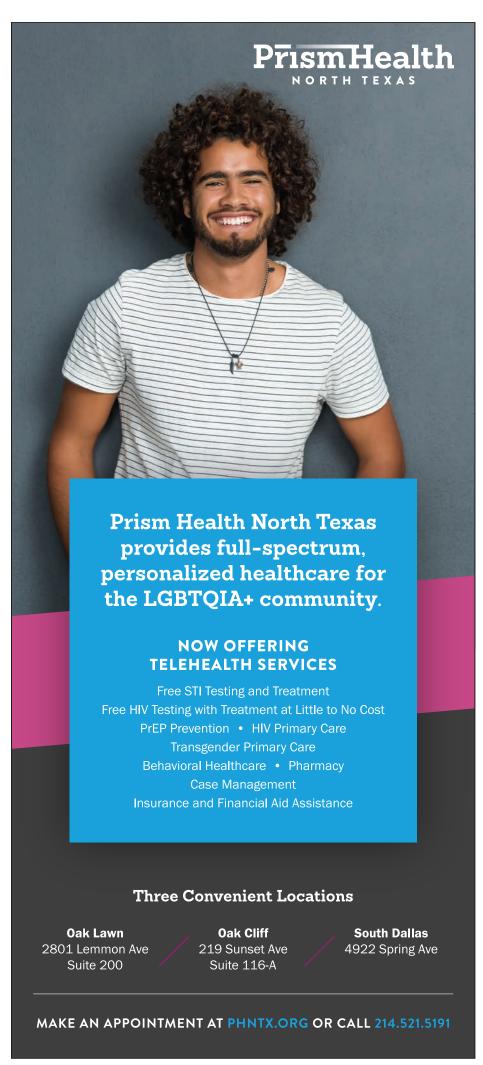
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who were HIV-positive. This week, Dr. Mezgebe Berhe with NTIDC answered a few questions about the vaccine and NTIDC's role in its development.

— Tammye Nash

Dallas Voice: Is the Pfizer vaccine ready to be distributed? If not, where in the process is it? Dr, Mezgebe Berhe: If [Emergency Use Authorization] is approved (and hopefully [that happens] soon), distribution is expected [soon after]. I don't know how much vaccine Pfizer has already produced to date, but I am sure some will be available for distribution.

When do you think that people can start getting the Pfizer vaccine? What about other vaccines? Do you know anything about timelines with other vaccines? So far, the leaders in SARS COV 2 vaccine in the U.S. are Pfizer and Moderna. We expect both to get EUA approval based on the interim analysis. These companies will start distributing soon, and vaccines may be available for some people in December 2020. Other companies are not far behind (Janssen, AstraZeneca), but likely [will be approved and distributed] at the beginning of 2021.

What do the trials show in terms of effectiveness for the Pfizer vaccine? Interim data analysis showed highly promising results both in early effectiveness and early safety. It appears the vaccine prevented illness in 95 percent of vaccinees. Also an interesting observation was that 90 percent of the people who developed severe disease had [a] placebo; therefore, the vaccine is not only effective in preventing disease, but it is also effective in preventing severe disease. There was also no significant safety concerns.

You have said before that vaccine development can take up to 10 years; these

COVID vaccines have been developed in less than a year. What was the primary reason for that? Different platforms. We are now in an era of medical technology that can help with faster development of some vaccines. The process of determining effectiveness and safety remains same.

Vaccines still have to go through pre-clinical trials and the different phases of clinical trials. Vaccines still have to be monitored by an independent safety monitoring board. Their safety and effectiveness still goes through rigorous, well-designed and monitored trials before they can get approved.

What is different is how they get produced and how they get delivered.

What role did the federal government's Operation Warp Speed play in the development of the Pfizer vaccine? I don't know if there was any role with Pfizer [but] the federal government has played a significant role with many vaccine makers by encouraging production. This is what we call time vs. money. If your production starts after a vaccine is proven effective and safe, it takes a long time - months - to produce and distribute. If production starts before effectiveness and safety is determined, the worst-case scenario would be you lose the money you spent on production if the vaccine is not effective or safe. The best-case scenario is that the vaccine is proven effective and safe. Then you have saved time for production. You can immediately start distributing. So there you have it.

Talk a bit about what role NTIDC played in the development of the Pfizer vaccine. NTIDC is one of the clinical trial sites and contributed to the development of vaccine by enrolling volunteers, monitoring their safety and assuring accuracy of data provided to Pfizer.





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### **AVAILABLE SERVICES**

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- ✓ PrEP (Pre-exposure prophylaxis for HIV)
- ✓ Infectious diseases diagnosis & treatment
- ✓ STI testing & treatment
- ✓ Comprehensive LGBT medical care
- ✓ General internal medicine care

\*HIV Specialists certified by the American Academy of HIV Medicine



# **UPTOWN PHYSICIANS GROUP**

New location at 2801 Lemmon Ave, #400, Dallas, TX 75204 214.303.1033 | uptownphysiciansgroup.com



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.

The Gay Agenda is now color-coded: Red for community events; blue for arts and entertainment; purple for sports; green for nightlife and orange for civic events and holidays.

See the complete agenda at DallasVoice.com

### **NOVEMBER**

# • Nov. 27-Jan. 3: Swinging Christmas

This tribute to Ella Fitzgerald features Feleceia Wilson at WaterTower Theatre, 15650 Addison Road, Addison. Tickets and info at WaterTowerTheatre.org

# • Nov. 27-Dec. 22: The Naughty List

Stage West presents a new holiday work as an outdoor experience at Texas Wesleyan University Mall, 1201 Wesleyan St., Fort Worth. \$20. \$10 youth. 7 p.m. 817-784-9378. StageWest. org. Streaming available starting Dec. 4. \$30 per household.

### • Nov. 29: Lambda Weekly

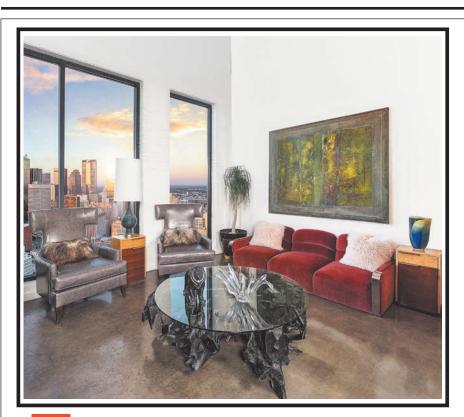
The longest-running weekly LGBTQ radio talk show in the country with David Taffet, Lerone Landis and the late Patti Fink at 1 p.m. on 89.3 KNON.fm or streamed live at knon.org.

### **DECEMBER**

• Dec. 1: World AIDS Day

# • Dec. 1: Elizabeth Taylor Ball to End AIDS

The Elizabeth Taylor AIDS Foundation hosts its Ball to End AIDS World AIDS Day virtual broadcast with celebrity guests and an auction in partnership with Christie's. More information about the one-hour broadcast at ElizabethTaylorAIDSFoundation.org.





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### • Dec. 1: World AIDS Day Service

The United Methodist Global AIDS Committee commemorates World AIDS Day at 1 p.m. Central Time with a virtual worship service online at Facebook.com/UMCglobalaidsfund and umc.org/en/content/world-aidsday-2020-worship.

# • Dec. 2: Red Ribbon Virtual **Tree Lighting**

Unite in the fight against HIV/AIDS from 6:30-7 p.m. MyResourceCenter. org/redribbon.

### • Dec. 2: Arts & Letters Live

Maggie O'Farrell in conversation with Kate Mosse, co-founder of the Women's Prize for Fiction in a pre-recorded virtual event at 7 p.m. Tickets at DMA.org.

# • Dec. 4-20: Reliant Lights **Your Holidays**

Enjoy 550,000 LED lights illuminating the Winspear Opera House, Wyly Theatre, and the many trees in Sammons Park from 5:30-10 p.m. Free.

# • Dec. 5: DRAGAPALOOZA

**DRAGAPALOOZA** is a concert film featuring some of the best drag queens from around the world — Courtney Act, Derrick Barry, Rhea Litre, Trixie Mattel, Coco Montrese and Sharon Needles. The film will stream exclusively on MySongbird.com beginning Dec. 5.

# • Dec. 5: TITAS Does Drag II

Back by popular demand. TITAS Does Drag II, The Rose Room on Tour brings some of the most glamorous stars in Dallas to the socially distanced Winspear Opera House. Cassie Nova emcees. Tickets at ATTPAC.org.

# • Dec. 5-20: Jingle All the Way

A holiday family concert sung by your favorite holiday characters. Casa Manana, 3101 W. Lancaster Ave., Fort Worth. CasaManana. org. Box office 817-332-2272.

# Is today another day of **EMOTIONAL SWINGS?**



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Subscriptions via First Class Mail are available: Three months (13 consecutive issues), \$65. Six months (26 consecutive issues), \$85. One year (52 consecutive issues) \$130. Contact Dallas Voice at 214-754-8710 x123.

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# **■commUNITY**voices

# An open letter to Donald Trump

Hardy Haberman

Flagging Left

ear President Trump,

You lost the election. There is no shame in that. However, your failure to accept reality and your attempts to subvert the will of the American people are most definitely shameful.

Lawsuits might have served you well as you bullied your way through business dealings, stiffing contractors and then threatening expensive legal action when they tried to collect. But it won't work now.

I am — and I am sure many others are — appalled that you called state legisla-

tors to the White House to try to convince them to change the election results or, at the very least, not certify the count of votes.

It's time for you to get over the loss and move on to bigger and better scams.

You have managed to nickel-and-dime as much money as you can from the presidency, and there are bigger sheep to fleece out there. Imagine how much you could make woth future projects in Russia or Saudi Arabia! Those guys are still impressed with you, and I would bet you could score some never-to-be-

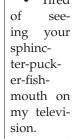
repaid loans from them just on your signature alone.

(Of course, all of this I say ironically because I know your reputation, and I can't afford a big slander suit! So remember this is satire!)

Meanwhile, on a personal level, I am tired:

- Tired of your whining and petulant grumbling.
- Tired of your sniveling "attorney" Rudy and his flop-sweat-dripping hair dye.
- Tired of your brain-dead sons and your "hot" daughter with her trophy
  - Tired of your constant lying and your

overuse of the word 'tremendous." Tired



Tired

trum against an international agreement, agreements worked out over years by diplomats and leaders only to be used as toilet paper by you and your lackeys.

- Tired of waking up every morning and checking the newspaper just to see what you have managed to mess up overnight.
- Tired of living in a self-imposed quarantine because you and your "task force" haven't taken COVID-19 seriously and have been so lax in your precautions that just about everyone in the White House has caught it.



of watching you riff on whatever weird thought crosses your addled mind while you are giving speeches.

- Tired of seeing that same, shapeless blue suit and overly long red tie.
- Tired of your late-night-sitting-onthe-toilet tweet storms.
- And speaking of that, I'm tired of you sucking all the air out of every news cycle. There are far more important things going on in the world beyond your latest grudge or crackpot theory.
- Tired of worrying that a grown man who acts far more like a spoiled baby has the nuclear launch codes.
- Tired of seeing America's reputation in the world sullied by your latest tan-

But enough about me, here is my request to you: Admit you lost the election. Graciously concede to President-Elect Joe Biden.

Then start packing.

Finally — and I most sincerely hope it is finally - on Jan. 20, haul yourself and your entire bus-and-truck version of The Godfather out of America's House. Move to sunny Florida and Mar-A-Lago, and don't let the door hit you on the way

Sincerely, Hardy Haberman

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.

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# LIFE+STYLE

# stage

Choreographer Adam McKinney tackles prejudice in Bruce Wood's virtual "Hope"

RICH LOPEZ | Contributing Writer richlopezwrites@gmail.com

n today's strange days, Bruce Wood Dance won't be kicking off its 11th season on stage. But instead of COVID-19 putting them out of commission, the company will move forward, launching "HOPE | A Virtual Dance Experience" for 78 hours on its Vimeo channel in December. The event combines seven original dance films celebrating the strength of the human spirit.

It's a new day for Bruce Wood.

"Bruce Wood Dance has moved with the challenges of the day by advancing with innovation and adaptation," Artistic Director Joy Bollinger said in a press release. "With the dance films we have created, we seek to share stories of overcoming, lift Black voices and shed light on one of the most vital characteristics of the human spirit: Hope.

"Bruce Wood Dance offers this virtual performance to you as a gift of healing and a declaration of hope as we move forward together."

The show features the choreography of Bollinger and artistic advisor Kimi Nikaidoh along with guest choreographers Jonathan Campbell and Adam McKinney.

Among the premieres is McKinney's tribute to Reuben Johnson, "Promise Me You'll Sing My Song," a piece based on the lynching of Johnson near Mountain Creek Lake in Dallas County. Beyond the tragedy, McKinney says his work means to inspire.

"Too often, histories of violence against Black people are forgotten then normalized. My goal with this work is not to re-traumatize; rather, it is to inspire thoughtful reflection and invite actionable responses to anti-Black racism," McKinney said in the release,

McKinney, an assistant professor of dance at Texas Christian University, described the piece also as research. For him, "Promise" not only tells a story but offers a space for healing.

"I think dance in and of itself has the capacity to be a natural process of healing,"

# DIGITAL Display

he said by phone, "Our emotions are more available to us. In that way, I feel dance has the capacity for telling the truth; telling stories not often told."

In the book Hangings and Lynchings in Dallas County, Texas 1853–1920, author Terry Baker described Johnson as a man of principle who refused to provide a false alibi for a thief and was killed for it. The

was able to tell the story cinematically, with music by local artist Najeeb Sabour. Thus, he returned to the area in which Johnson was

"We went to Mountain Creek Park, and



"Promise Me You'll Sing My Song" is Adam McKinney's tribute to, Reuben Johnson, a Black man lynched in Dallas Couinty.

story, even to when we're bopping to bangers on the dance floor.

"I felt it is important to identify what queer dance is and the connections to our own bodies which we all hold stories in," he said. "What stories are we telling in the open or not in the open."

A two-man dance titled "DISconnection" (although McKinney doesn't recall why he named it such) is available on YouTube. In that piece, McKinney explored the friendship dynamic between a gay man and a straight man.

But for now, the past is present for McKinney with "Promise," where he mixes tragedy with creation for a complete piece.

"My work as an artist attempts to use creative, choreographic processes to fill in the holes of history," he said. "I have delighted in working with Black artists — dancer Matthew Roberts, filmmakers Jirard and Pockett Brown and Najeeb Sabour — on this work. Something on which we have been focusing is leaving space for the spirit to come into the process of this artistic collaboration, allowing for the space and time for the work to unfold before us with clarity and intent."

"HOPE" will also include the premiere of "Life Interrupted," choreographed by Bollinger and based on COVID-19 experiences, as well as works by Kimi Nikaidoh and Jonathan Campbell. The show will also feature the seldom-seen inaugural Bruce Wood Dance Project work, "Know Thyself." ■

The show will screen online Dec. 4-7 at brucewooddance.vhx.tv. Tickets are \$30.

murderers were never brought to justice.

To this day, the murderers of Black people are often never brought to justice. For McKinney, this reality was a double-edged sword.

"I began to think of the murder of black trans women and gay black men," he explained. "My hope is that viewers are inspired to learn this history but also make these historical connections. As a gay person, I cannot turn my gaze away from the intersection of racism and homophobia."

Each piece in the program is its own short film, so for "HOPE," McKinney

while it wasn't the exact spot, the site informed our artistic choices. I think space holds history, too, as do our bodies," he said.

While this piece focuses on anti-racism and history, McKinney has brought specific queerness to the stage before, particularly with 2018's "Queer Dance: Falling with a Freak Technique" based on a chapter from the book *Queer Dance*. Written by Anna Martine Whitehead, the chapter explores the intersection between blackness and queer culture. McKinney added to that in his piece that we, as gay people, are always telling a



'The Jinkz and DeLa Holiday Special' film premieres Dec. 1

TAMMYE NASH I Managing Editor nash@dallasvoice.com

hristmas — it's the most wonderful time of the year. Except when it isn't. That is kind of the moral of the story in *The Jinkz and DeLa Holiday Special*, premiering Tuesday, Dec. 1, online at JinkzAndDeLa.com.

Filmed on a soundstage following all the COVID-19 protocols, the hourlong original film is the first film project executive produced and directed by BenDeLaCreme under her production company, BenDeLaCreme Presents. It is not, however, DeLa and Jinkz Monsoon's first holiday show together.

"Jinkz and I have been working together for a decade," DeLa said in a telephone interview this week, and a holiday show of some sort has been part of their schedule for years.

"I've actually been doing holiday shows for 14 years," DeLa said. "I started doing holiday shows when I first moved to Seattle [in 2006] with a bunch of burlesque dancers." And although she has always loved the classic Christmas variety show specials, like many in the LGBTQ community, DeLa said, she had a complicated personal relationship with the holiday.

"A bit part of it was that I grew up in Connecticut, with the picture-perfect

Connecticut Christmases — all snowy landscapes and singing Christmas carols around the tree," she explained. "But as a flamboyant and unique queer child, it all felt kind of empty to me. I never felt liked I belonged; I never saw myself as truly part of the whole family/homecoming thing. It made for a holiday I did not enjoy."

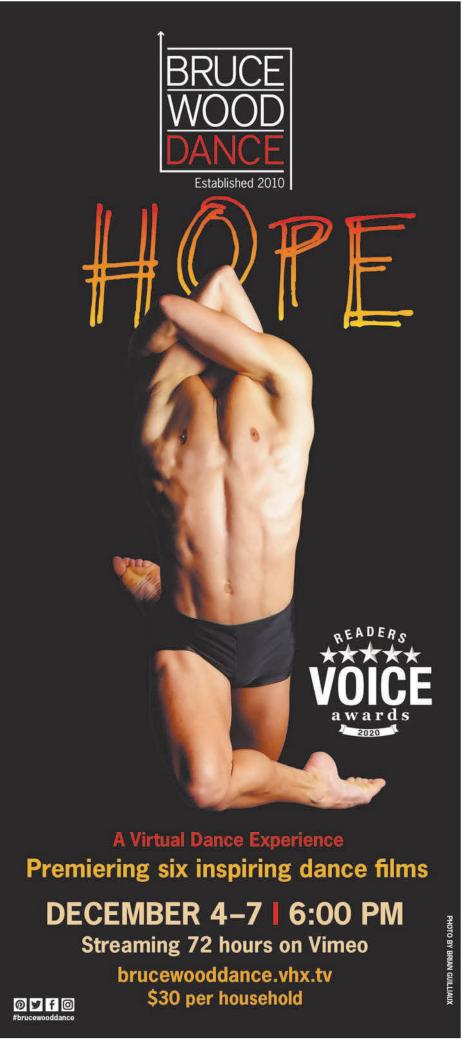
So once she got to Seattle and began to find her own community there, "I decided to reclaim [Christmas] for myself. I decided to make it more fun for people who had a more complex and less traditional relationship with the holiday."

Not long after, DeLa heard of Jinkz Monsoon, who was attending the Cornish College of the Arts in Seattle. "I went to see her perform, and she had a kind of skill and professionalism and humor that I had not seen in a long time. I cast her immediately in my next holiday show back then."

That was a decade ago, DeLa said. Then two years ago, DeLa and Jinkz decided to take it up a notch and take their holiday show on the road in the form of a Christmas Tour. "This was the first time we teamed up as just the two of us and my first time producing a national tour. It was a big risk for us, but it went so well!

"The following year, it grew exponentially bigger in terms of the number of cities and venues we played," DeLa

■ CLASSIC Next Page



### ■ CLASSIC From Previous Page

continued. "And we went to the U.K. as well as the U.S. that year. That was my first international production credit."

After that success, the duo had big plans for their third tour. But then came 2020 and the COVID-19 pandemic. But they refused to have their holiday squashed. "So we turned [the show] into a film," DeLa said. "This has been a really difficult year for everyone, especially for people in marginalized communities who already felt separate.

DeLa, left, loves Christmas and a classic Christmas special, but, Jinkz has a different history with the holiday. (Photo by Matt Baume)

and some warmth and a sense of family for the people out there, even when we can't be together."

DeLa said she has always been "smitten with the classic Christmas specials," from the Judy Garland and Bing Crosby shows of old to the more modern version like Stephen Colbert's Christmas special and even the PeeWee's Playhouse Christmas Special.

"The premise is always that you are invited into this person's home to share





and DeLa are living on a sound stage, and DeLa wants to put on a classic Christmas special," she explained. "But this is the story of two friends with different upbringings and different views on the holidays. Jinkz wants to use the show to make fun of Christmas traditions and tell dick jokes and drink a bunch, while DeLa is trying to hold up the Christmas traditions to a fault."

The two friends end up in a big argument, but as is the way with holiday tales, it all works out in the end — but not before they've learned an important lesson. And it's a lesson that could help many in the queer community.

"The real moral of the story is that the two of them can find common ground," DeLa said. "They realize that their different connections to the holidays are all valid, but they also realize that the traditions of the past don't necessarily work for everyone these days.

"Jinkz and DeLa get to come together after having this big all-out fight over what the holiday should be. But at the end, at the heart of it all, they are spending the holidays together, and that's what really counts," she said. "It's like that with a lot of people in the queer community. The old traditions don't really fit us, but it is okay for us to make new traditions of our own. We get to choose our own families, and we get to choose our own way of coming home.

"I hope that is the bigger message that people take away from the film."

The Jinkz and DeLa Holiday Special is a 60-minute musical special made for the screen and available worldwide on Dec. 1. The digital soundtrack featuring original songs written and composed by BenDeLaCreme, Jinkz Monsoon, Keith Harrison and Major Scales, will be released Dec. 11. The film was written by Jinkz Monsoon and BenDeLaCreme and was directed and produced by BenDeLaCreme.



# TUES 12.1

Melissa Grove, executive director of Legacy Counseling Center, will be the guest speaker at Dallas College's World AIDS Day event, presented online via Webex. Grove will discuss the early days of the AIDS crisis and what similarities she sees between those days and now as the world deals with the COVID-19 pandemic. She will also offer cutting-edge information in layman's terms on PrEP, U=U and other HIV/AIDS topics.

2-3 p.m. online at DallasCollege.Webex.com.



# TUES 12.1

The Golden Gays — for LGBTQ people 50 and older and those that love them — hold their First Tuesday Matinee Movie outing, hosted by GALA (the Gay and Lesbian Alliance of North Texas. 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. at the AMC Stonebriar 24, 2601 Preston Road in Frisco. Look for Lisa and Jeanne in the lobby.

Visit the event page at Facebook.com/events/499371770686615/ for more information.



# WED 12.2

Resource Center hosts the Red Ribbon Virtual Tree Lighting Ceremony and Candlelight Vigil to commemorate World AIDS Day, to show support for those diagnosed with HIV/AIDS and remember those who have been lost to HIV/AIDS. The live-streamed event, presented by Gilead, will include entertainment by Turtle Creek Chorale and a Community Center drive-thru with lights and more.

6:30- 7 p.m., live-stream event; 7-7:30 p.m., Community Center drive-thru.

For more information visit
MyResourceCenter.org/RedRibbon.

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# Cassie Nova

Nerve-wracking elections and quality TV

Hello my babies. Y'all, 2020 is almost over. This has been the longest — and shortest year — of my life. Some days seem to go on forever, while others fly by. Last month could have been April or September; it all just runs together. My brain, which is never been the brightest star in the sky, has turned to mush. I feel like I am losing my edge and my quickness. I'm on my way to Forest Gump'dom.

I swore I would not talk about the election or that titty-baby. But I rarely listen to myself these days. The B.O.B. (Big Orange Baby) still thinks he won the election, and I still worry there is a way he can change it to his favor. There is some shady shit going on, and it terrifies me!

Can you imagine if the Democrats had tried this bullshit?

I'm not going to get on my soapbox and preach about this mess because I know that most of you that read this already agree with me — and thank you. I just want him to be gone.

I will say that one of the things I wanted to come from this election is a better, kinder America. I want a president that doesn't call people names or make fun of them for disabilities. That bad behavior we've had to deal with for four years sets an example that far too many people follow. I, of course, want to gloat and do a big ol' middle finger to the Right. But it wasn't right when they did it, and, if we want a kinder America, then we should be the change we want to see in others.

But it is so hard! They don't make it easy, and you can only say "Bless their hearts" so many times before you want to punch someone.

That does not mean we should not celebrate. The Saturday that they called the election for Joe Biden, we toasted with margaritas and smiled in a red county restaurant. I wanted to dance topless on the table, but I held it in — you know, for a



better America.

Inauguration day for Biden, we will celebrate. I'm thinking shots and dancing here at the house. I will gloat in private. Actually, it is not gloating; it is a sincere celebration of hopefulness.

Okay enough about the weighty world stuff. I have a confession to make: I love cartoons and do not care who knows. I love animation. From Disney to Adult Swim, I don't care; I will watch it.

Adult cartoons are my favorite. Big Mouth, Hoops, Family Guy, Rick and Morty, Bless the Harts and — my new favorite — Harley Quinn on HBO MAX. That is the funniest show out there right now, and almost every character is voiced by an actor you know. I am embarrassed by how much I am enjoying that damn show.

Another confession I have is my almost blinding love for British reality competition shows. The Great British Baking Show feeds my soul. I am not a baker at all, but I find myself caring about those damn contestants more than I care for most people I actually

know. A few weeks ago, when Laura's ice cream cake didn't set in time, my heart broke!

I also develop such a crush on these adorable British guys. One season, there were like four cuties, and there always seems to be an adorable ginger on the show. Growl! I tend to go into a slight depression after the season finale.

Another one that got me in the feels is The Great Pottery Throwdown. God, I sound like the biggest weirdo! But I could not stop watching that show when I found it on HBO MAX. I watched all three seasons in eight days. I get slightly obsessed. That is another show where they always seem to have eye candy, and I will root for a cute boy, even if he is terrible. I'm talking about Kitt in Season 3.

Now I find out that there is a Great British Sewing Bee! It's about fucking sewing, and I must find it to watch. If anyone knows where to find it, lemme know!

There is something about these British shows that just warms my heart. None of them have some big cash prize at the end; the winner of the baking one gets a cake plate as a prize, and the pottery one gets a hideous vase-trophy thing. They get bragging rights, and that is about all.

The other thing I love about those shows is how supportive the other contestants are. They hug and cry for just about every contestant when they leave the competition. I'm not a super competitive person, so I love to see that.

So basically, what I am saying is, I watch way too much television. I know I do, but during a pandemic when you are stuck at home, there is not much else to do. I tell my husband all the time, "That TV ain't gonna watch itself!" He shouldn't have gotten such a big TV if he didn't want me to sit in front of it.

When I was a kid, we had four channels to watch, plus PBS and three UHF channels. If you know what I am talking about, you know!

Then most of the channels went off the air at like 1 or 2 a.m. Now, there is so much stuff to watch...good stuff; hell, some of it is even great!

The caliber of shows out right now is amazing. The Crown, Queen's Gambit, The Haunting of Bly Manor — and that is just on Netflix alone! It is the a golden age of quality shows, and if you can't find something to watch, well, their is always The Golden Girls reruns on Hulu.

I think I know why my brain is mush ... . Remember to always love more, bitch less and be fabulous! XOXO, Cassie Nova







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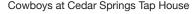




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# LIFE+STYLE









Marissa Kage at the Round-Up



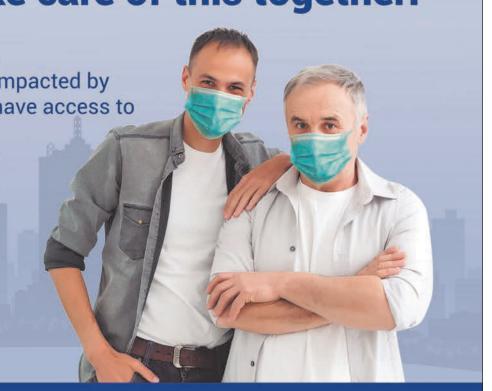
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Patrick Mikyles and Kiana Lee



Scene flashback - Kennedy Davenport in The Rose Room



Bruises, the rainbow angel



# q-puzzle

# **Tom of Finland**

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- 14 Spot for gay honeymoons
- 15 Peace Nobelist Wiesel
- 16 At the center of
- 17 Bump from office
- 18 Give the slip to
- 19 Start of how Tom of Finland said he could tell if his work was no good
- 22 Chip off the old flock?
- 23 Motoristís offense 24 Dr. O'Malley's suture,
- e.g. 27 Horror film character
- that sucks?
- 31 Prefix with sphere
- 32 Serpico author Peter
- 33 Airport in Israel
- 34 More of the quote
- 38 Constellation over Rio
- 39 The New York
- Liberty's org.
- 40 Pink on the inside
- 41 Sexual imagining 43 Come to mind

- 45 A Chorus Line song
- 46 Voting group
- 47 End of the quote
- 53 Ladder part
- 54 Penn of Milk
- 55 \_\_\_ Abby
- 57 Light brown
- 58 Potent opening
- 59 Former weeknight comic
- 60 Golden showers cry?
- 61 Moves the head
- 62 Go almost to orgasm and stop

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- 1 The Gay '90s, for one
- 2 *La BohËme* character 3 Cry before getting off
- 4 Like a masochist's
- partner
- 5 Lock lips
- 6 Regular hangout
- 7 Czech Rep. neighbor
- 8 Pull the butt plug out
- 9 Like some thrusts
- 10 Personal lubricant
- ingredient 11 Bart Simpson's sis
- 12 James Baldwin's

  The Evidence of Things

  Not \_\_\_\_

- 20 Present mo.?
- 21 Up to one's butt (in)
- 24 Bundle of grain
- 25 Nero's land
- 26 Clarification beginning
- 27 Delany of *Desperate Housewives*
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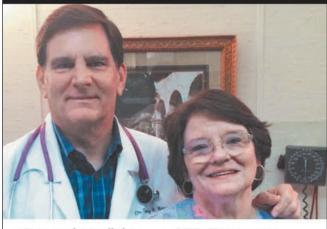
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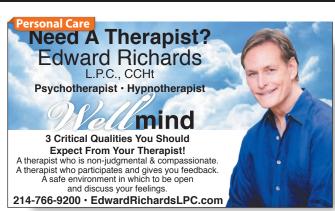




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