Arts + Entertainment in North Texas are coming back from COVID

By Rich Lopez, page 14
AHF Healthcare Center

Dallas Market Center
2600 North Stemmons Fwy
Suite 141B
(469) 828-5959
NEWS
08 | Tamika Perry takes the helm at Dallas Hope Charities
09 | A Dallas couple has joined a lawsuit against Greg Abbott

APPLAUSE
14 | The return to the stage has begun in North Texas
16 | Gay-founded American Baroque Opera defies expectations
17 | The lowdown on Ginger Layne and her new show
18 | Uptown Players’ new season begins with ‘Fun Home’

ON THE COVER
Bites from our Blog………………4
Voices…………………………6
Plan Your Week…………………31
Ask Howard……………………32
Scene…………………………35
Marketplace…………………38

When Pigs Fly opened the 2021-22 season for Uptown Players. Cover design by Kevin Thomas
LGBT Chamber cancels in-person awards luncheon, switches to virtual event

The North Texas LGBT Chamber of Commerce announced Thursday, Aug. 19, that the organization’s “15 Plus 1 Business & Community Excellence Awards ’21” event has been cancelled due to concerns over the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

In its place, the chamber’s Awards Committee has announced a new virtual event to recognize award finalists and recipients; the “2021 Business & Community Excellence Awards, a virtual celebration” has been set for Friday, Nov. 5. As a result, nominations for awards have been extended through Friday, Aug. 27. Those who previously submitted a nomination do not need to re-submit; contact Lisa Howe at 214-865-7313 to confirm your nomination was received or for more information. — Tammye Nash

A’keria Davenport to headline Night of Stars in September

The Greg Dolgener Memorial AIDS Funds and LifeWalk’s Team Metro are bringing their “Night of Stars” fundraising event back, with North Texas drag star A’Keria Chanel Davenport heading up the stellar array of entertainment on deck for the show, coming Saturday, Sept. 11, to The Rose Room inside S4. Cassie Nova is

Contact us today to schedule your appointment!

MAKE YOUR IN-OFFICE OR TELEHEALTH APPOINTMENT AT

214.823.2533
3409 Worth St. Suite 710 Dallas, TX

214.890.1616
9301 North Central Expwy. Suite 310
Dallas, TX

infectiousdiseases.com
or ntidc.org
Gov. Greg Abbott has tested positive for COVID

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott tested positive Tuesday, Aug. 17, for COVID-19, Mark Miner, a spokesman for the governor, said at the time of the announcement that Abbott is fully vaccinated and was not experiencing any symptoms. He is isolating at the Governor’s Mansion and is getting the Regeneron’s monoclonal antibody treatment.

He said Abbott has been testing daily, and this is the first time the results came back positive. His wife, Cecilia Abbott, tested negative.

The Tribune reports that Abbott has “kept up public appearances” in recent days. He spoke at a GOP event in Collin County on Monday night, Aug. 16, and later tweeted photos of himself at that event “addressing a maskless crowd. Less than three hours before his diagnosis was announced Tuesday afternoon, he tweeted photos of a meeting with guitarist Jimmie Vaughan.”

News of Abbott’s illness came as new COVID-19 cases, fueled by the Delta variant and lagging vaccination rates in the state, continue to surge in Texas and as Abbott continues to fight against allowing local officials to mandate safety measures to stop the spread of the virus.

— Tammye Nash

Pete and Chasten are having a baby

U.S. Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg announced this week that he and his husband Chasten are having a baby.

“For some time, Chasten and I have wanted to grow our family,” Buttigieg wrote on Twitter. “We’re overjoyed to share that we’ve become parents! The process isn’t done yet, and we’re thankful for the love, support and respect for our privacy that has been offered to us. We can’t wait to share more soon.”

— David Taffet

Adoptable / FRASIER & LILITH

Meet Frasier (right) and Lilith (left). Although they seem like polar opposites, their chemistry is undeniable. Lilith, a 1½-year-old hound mix is quite shy and fearful, while Frasier, a 4-year-old pit bull mix, is bright and friendly. Lilith prefers to hang back and just watch the action while Frasier gets all the attention from his human friends. But both dogs are happiest when they’re together.

These two were found as a pair of strays in Ellis County, so the SPCA of Texas doesn’t know much about their past, other than that they have formed an unbreakable bond. This odd couple is looking for a home with teens and adults, and would prefer a fenced-in yard but would be willing to try a quiet apartment. Frasier and Lilith have been spayed/neutered, microchipped and are current on all age-appropriate vaccinations. Right now, Lilith and Frasier’s adoption fees are just $25 each. Frasier and Lilith are waiting to meet you at SPCA of Texas Jan Rees-Jones Animal Care Center.

Regular adoption fees are $150 for puppies and kittens aged 0-6 months and $75 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 PetHealth, a free 14-day wellness exam with VCA Animal Hospitals, a rabies tag and a free leash.

The Jan-Rees Jones Animal Care Center is open for adoptions every day from noon to 6 p.m. Animals are available by walk-in on a first-come, first-served basis. Appointments are also available for select animals. Please browse 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.

The care you need. Right where you need it.

Methodist Health Center Oak Lawn is proud to announce the opening of our brand new facility in the neighborhood. And if you haven’t met him yet, we’re excited to announce that Oak Lawn has a new doctor and advocate in Blake Hatfield, MD. Board certified in internal medicine, Dr. Hatfield also has specialized training in treating HIV. A graduate of Texas A&M Health Science Center College of Medicine, he completed his Internal Medicine Residency at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio. Dr. Hatfield is joined by Jennifer Mouldenhauer, PA. Both Dr. Hatfield and Ms. Mouldenhauer are certified by the Texas Medical Board and the American Academy of HIV Medicine (AAHIVM).

Your Oak Lawn primary care team is here for all your needs.

Schedule an appointment with a primary care doctor today.

3500 Maple Avenue, Ste. 108, Dallas, TX 75219
214-526-3566  MethodistHealthSystem.org/OakLawn

Methodist Family Health Centers and Medical Groups are owned and operated by MedHealth/Methodist Medical Group and are staffed by independently practicing physicians who are employees of MedHealth/Methodist Medical Group. The physicians and staff who provide services at these sites are not employees or agents of Methodist Health System or any of its affiliated hospitals.
Scott Lively and his ‘crackpot bigotry’

I just returned from a cross-country trek with my wife and son, and I am happy to report that in much of the country, COVID-19 is over and only freaky liberals wear masks. Fun!

Seriously: It was often just the three of us wearing masks in many of the places we stopped. Meanwhile, my phone was blowing up with variations of the headline “COVID-19 Delta variant bad news!”

In Minnesota, we drove by a billboard with a photo of a doctor and a message that was not reassuring: “The COVID-19 vaccine will not alter your DNA in any way.” It’s not that I was hoping the vaccine would jazz up my DNA. It’s just not reassuring that there are so many people who believe such a thing that such a billboard exists. Billboards are not cheap! Stupidity is very expensive.

That said, I did see several Pride Flags in South Dakota, so hooray for that. I also did not see many Trump flags or even bumper stickers. I expected I would see quite a few, considering we were driving through Washington, Oregon, Idaho, South Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana and Michigan. But they were actually few and far between.

I saw a giant semi-trailer with TRUMP 2020 sitting in a field near the highway. I also saw a barn with a giant hole through it and a big Trump sign next to the hole and that felt like a metaphor.

Anyway, what I’m trying to say is that I think the majority of the country actually believes Joe Biden is our president now.

But, of course, there is still a very vocal contingent of folks who live in a world where Trump is a king, and the Jan. 6 insurrection was just people doing normal tourism. And they are very serious about being insane.

One such person is Scott Lively. Not up to speed on this walking bad idea with a well-trimmed beard? Here’s how the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) describes Lively: “A veteran of the anti-gay movement, Lively has been actively propagandizing against LGBT people since the early 1990s, but he’s perhaps best-known for co-writing the thoroughly discredited Holocaust revisionist book The Pink Swastika: Homosexuality in the Nazi Party (1995), which claims that the Nazi party was full of gay men who, because of their ‘savagery,’ were able to carry out the Holocaust.”

And here’s a fun fact about Lively: In a 2017 court decision, a federal judge described Lively’s social contributions as “crackpot bigotry,” in particular, his conspiracy to persecute LGBTQ+ people in Uganda.

Lively, true to form, was delighted by this depiction.

On Aug. 1, while I was in Wisconsin, Lively was at peak hysteria levels, this time live-streaming about violent insurrections in 2022 if Republicans don’t take back the house.

“Hopefully, we can take back the country in 2022,” Lively says. “If we don’t, if we don’t get it back by 2022, I don’t think it’s going to happen, short of some kind of violent insurrection, which is still possible. People are eventually going to stop putting up with tyrannical authority, and when the only remedy and the only avenue of resistance becomes armed rebellion, then some people are going to act in that way. And if they have any success at all, a lot of other people will follow them.”

This is a wild claim on so many levels. First, let’s start with the fact that he says that “violent insurrection” is “still possible,” as if that isn’t an avenue that’s already been very publicly taken.

Second, it’s worth noting that the same folks who claim that living under Biden is tyranny are the ones who are very excited about the idea of living in a fascist nation with Trump at the helm. They literally want to do away with democratic elections so that Republicans can stay in power even as their ideas are becoming less popular and they are earning fewer and fewer votes.

But Lively is spinning the opposite narrative, saying that if Democrats “cheat us in ’22” then it’s “a lost cause” and everybody should go live like the Unabomber.

“Just sort of hunker down, build your bomb shelter, gather your survival supplies, get your children out of the public school, move to a place where the government doesn’t know they exist, raise them without letting the government know who they are or where they are, and go underground with your church and your social network, your social structure,” Lively advises.

Yes, by all means go underground with your church. Become Christian mole people. Escape the tyranny of a public health campaign intent on saving lives and stopping a deadly virus, of LGBTQ people being treated like humans, of women being able to make their own reproductive health care decisions, of well-educated people running the federal government.

As Lively sees it, disconnecting “from the grid” is the only recourse if Republicans aren’t able to rig elections to ensure Republican victories — which is, really and truly, what Republicans are trying to do across the country right now. State by state, they are stripping voting rights and making it harder for people to vote, especially Black people.

It’s almost like the Democrats who control the presidency, the House and the Senate should do something about that. If only there was something — anything — that could be done.

There is, of course.

Democrats need to stop letting the Republicans govern as if they are the majority party. And to do that they need to eliminate the filibuster. The United States elected a Democratic majority, damn it. Use it or lose it.

D’Anne Witkowski is a writer living in Michigan with her wife and son. She has been writing about LGBTQ+ politics for nearly two decades. Follow her on Twitter @ MamaDWitkowski.
MEDICAL PRACTICE OF Dr. Steven M. Pounders

Experience where it counts!
Primary Care | HIV Specialists | Gender Affirmation | Cosmetic Procedures

Concierge Medicine offered by Steven Pounders, M.D.
Direct care access 24-hours a day, seven days a week
Same or next day appointments | More consultation time

Ask about PrEP

Erin Simms, FNP-C | D. Trew Deckard, PA-C, MHS | Steven Pounders, M.D.
Cameron Wyatt, FNP-C | Chad Nyland, D.O | Chad Crager, FNP-C
An award-winning medical practice with more than 30 years of experience! Located in the heart of our community!
3500 Oak Lawn Ave., Suite 600
Call today to schedule an appointment!
214.520.8833 | DrPounders.com
Tamika Perry takes the helm at Dallas Hope Charities, taking the organization to a new level

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Tamika Perry, the new CEO of Dallas Hope Charities, says she is stepping into her new role with high hopes of expanding the organization’s services across North Texas. And she plans to put her experience working for the Chicago Housing Authority to good use in reaching her goals for DHC.

After graduating college, Perry moved to Chicago to begin her career in nonprofits. Recently, though, family brought Perry to Dallas.

She worked for Catholic Charities and Gilda’s Club in Chicago, but her focus shifted to housing when she assisted the Chicago Housing Authority by overseeing a staff of 30 working to get 1,600 residents ready to move into mixed income and voucher programs.

What she described happening in Chicago was similar to what happened to residents of a large Dallas Housing Authority project in Oak Lawn when it closed: Residents moved to better or newer housing in some cases, but rather than being located near jobs, they scattered across the city — some with better outcomes, some worse, mostly due to transportation issues, she said.

During the pandemic, the housing crisis only got worse, Perry said, noting the problem middle income families are having in finding affordable housing. And if middle-income families are having problems, “What about lower income?” she asked.

Perry’s first job in Dallas was with Wellness Healthcare Solutions, where she dealt with housing for people with disabilities and handled case management involving issues like bathroom modifications.

Her next position was with Highland Park United Methodist Church as an impact coordinator monitoring housing partnerships with nonprofits like City Square and Austin Street Shelter.

But when the chance to work within the LGBTQ community arose, she jumped at the opportunity to join Dallas Hope Charities.

Dallas Hope Charities grew out of the charitable programs of Cathedral of Hope and was spun off into its own nonprofit in 2018. Among its core programs is Meals of Hope, which serves about 200 hot meals a day from a mobile food truck traveling to parts of the city that are food deserts.

With support from a number of churches across the area, the program has expanded to include a mobile food pantry.

Dallas Hope Center is a transitional living center for LGBTQ youth, ages 18 to 24, that opened in November 2020. That program has its roots in Cathedral of Hope as well, beginning when the church rented an apartment to house two homeless LGBTQ youth. Now DHC has its own property that can house as many as eight individuals for up to 12 months each.

The program wraps in a variety of services to guide youth toward independence. Counseling and social guidance are provided; so is transportation assistance. Each individual gets a cell phone so they can apply for jobs, set appointments and attend interviews.

As rents have skyrocketed in the Dallas area over the past couple of years, finding housing for homeless youth has become even more challenging. Perry said as youth in DHC’s housing program get jobs, they’re encouraged to save a portion of their income so they’ll have money to put down as a deposit. She said she encourages them to look for roommates and helps them apply for low-income housing.

The transitional living house is at capacity right now, giving eight youth a chance at a successful start in life as independent adults. But Perry is humbled by the enormous need. She said her waitlist of LGBTQ youth needing housing currently stands at 250.

Perry said most of the homeless LGBTQ youth she talks to tell her they are homeless because their parents asked them to move out.

Perry said she and her partner have been together 16 years and had planned to marry in March 2020, although the pandemic put those plans on hold. She said one way she tries to help the youth at Dallas Hope Center is by sharing her story and personal experience.

“I show them how healthy relationships can be done,” Perry said. “My partner encouraged me to get my masters degree.”

Then, she said, her partner took her shopping for “CEO clothes.”

And her partner is in education.

“She wears Dallas Hope Charities clothes to work because she’s so proud,” Perry said. “She believes I have the skill set to make a difference.”

Believing in each other is something Perry said she hopes the youth involved in her programs learn from her, so they can make a difference in each others lives.

Perry said partnering with other organizations that have enabled DHC to make an even bigger impact. In June 2020, DHC launched Collective Hope Coalition, aimed at eliminating suicide in the LGBTQ community in Dallas. She said the project is a coalition of more than 40 organizations that have come together to address the causes of suicide in the area.

This summer, DHC partnered with the Dallas Police Department to create the Safe Place program. Businesses displaying the Safe Place/Dallas Hope Charities sticker welcome someone in the LGBTQ community who is the victim of a hate crime or attack or robbery to report the crime and wait for police to respond.

Perry describes the program as just another way her organization can partner with others to make an impact and help keep the LGBTQ community safe.

Her plans for the future of the organization are simple: Meals? Expand them. Housing? Expand that across North Texas. LGBTQ youth are being thrown out of their homes everywhere, Perry reminds us, not just in the city.

Perry knows she and her organization are making a difference, and she’s confident that difference will grow.
A Dallas couple has joined a lawsuit to allow local officials to decide what’s best locally

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Dallas lesbian couple Deanna and Laura McFerrin Hogan are among six families who last week became counter-plaintiffs supporting Dallas County Judge Clay Jenkins in his lawsuit against Gov. Greg Abbott and Abbott’s executive order, issued in May, prohibiting mask mandates in public places and governmental buildings, including public schools.

Deanna McFerrin Hogan said this week that she and her wife joined the lawsuit because they want their children to be safe in school.

Jenna Royal, attorney for the intervening parents, is also a mom, and she wants children to be safe in school, too. She explained that the lawsuit the group filed is “on behalf of medically fragile students.” Those students, she said, are best served learning in person in school.

Under the Disaster Act, mayors, county judges and the governor all have the power to make disaster declarations. Usually, they’re issued locally, and the governor may intervene to help during especially bad situations.

Royal used the 2019 tornado in Dallas as an example: Jenkins issued a disaster declaration knowing where rescue and repair crews needed to be deployed. The governor intervened to offer help from the state.

What the governor didn’t do in 2019, Royal said, was issue his own disaster declaration forbidding the use of ambulances. After all, she added, an executive order shouldn’t make the situation worse.

“The governor, under the code, can take power away only if the local official’s order is not mitigating the situation,” Royal explained.

In Texas, there have been few state-wide disasters. Hurricanes have affected large portions of the state, and local disaster declarations have been aided by the governor calling out national guard troops to help in those situations.

The freeze this winter affected the entire state, and the disaster included all of Texas other than El Paso, which isn’t on the Texas power grid. State coordination may have helped some areas recover quicker.

The COVID-19 pandemic includes most areas of the state, although some sparsely populated areas have been mostly spared. The response may include different approaches for cities than rural areas, Royal explained.

A local response is appropriate, she said, with the state making recommendations. “But the governor can’t say, ‘You are not allowed to make this better,’” Royal continued. “We have protocols in place from last year that worked.”

As children began to return to school last spring, social distancing, masks, Plexiglas barriers and other procedures — such as lunch in the classroom with each student eating at their own desk — were put into place that kept students, teachers and staff relatively safe from infecting each other.

Last week, Dallas County District Judge Tonya Parker issued an order in Jenkins’ lawsuit, enjoining Abbott’s executive order and ruling that local mask mandates could stand. The governor appealed to the Texas Supreme Court, and that court put a stay on mask mandates Tuesday, Aug. 24, so the case will return to Parker’s courtroom then. Her order may be appealed to the 5th Court of Appeals in Dallas or directly to the Texas Supreme Court. Federal courts would not be involved, Royal said, unless a constitutional question arose.

What Parker will hear is Jenkins’ case, and Jenkins’ case will be appealed, she explained. Only if Jenkins loses at the Supreme Court level would Royal’s case representing the intervening parents be heard separately.

“We have slightly different legal grounds than Clay,” she said. “If he’s overturned, we can go forward.”

Royal noted that there are a number of other lawsuits raising the same issues. But one thing Royal’s not looking to do is turn this into something political; it’s solely about protecting kids and teachers. She said: “I’m not looking at this through a political lens,” then added that she is strictly looking at what the governor may or may not do by law.

At school board meetings she’s attended in her own Collin County school district, Royal said parents seem to be in favor of masking up for the safety of teachers, staff and students by a margin of about 6-1. Virtual options for classroom instruction have been taken off the table by the governor. But Royal said parents want that option, especially for when classes or schools go into quarantine.

McFerrin Hogan said she joined the lawsuit to protect her own two children, who are 7 and 10 years old. She said she considers the governor’s order illegal because it endangers her children’s lives.

“If an entity like DISD wants to require masks, they should be able to do that,” McFerrin Hogan said. “Conditions may be different in different parts of the state.”

She noted that the governor is threatening to remove funding from DISD.

“He’s saying he’s the ultimate voice,” she said. “Hinojosa has jurisdiction over DISD.”

And the Legislature has jurisdiction over the budget. The governor, she said, can’t just take funding away.

As for what she’s seen so far during this newly begun school year, McFerrin Hogan said it seems everyone at her children’s Oak Cliff school seems to be on board. “When we’ve taken the kids to school, all the students, all the teachers, all the staff had masks on,” she said.

About the idea of taking away anyone’s freedom, she said, “You can’t go into a restaurant and smoke.” While smoking is legal, you can’t do it where it will affect other people’s health. The masks worked.”

McFerrin Hogan said her kids are prone to colds. For the nine weeks they were in school wearing masks they remained healthy — not only no COVID, but no colds. Not even sniffles.

“I just want all teachers, staff and students protected,” she said. “They have a thankless job. Not only aren’t they paid enough, their lives are at risk from armed gunmen that could enter their class — and now COVID.”

But for COVID there’s something that can be done: “Wear masks and get a vaccine,” she said.

The alternative? “A teacher died at Grayson’s school,” adding that it was tough for her 10-year-old son and his classmates to get that news.

Royal said she admires the parents who’ve joined the lawsuit, adding, “It’s not easy [for them] to tell their stories,” she said.

Yet the parents have committed themselves to telling their children’s stories over and over to protect them and keep them healthy. And for that reason, Royal said, “I’m proud to represent them.”
Important Facts About DOVATO
This is only a brief summary of important information about DOVATO and does not replace talking to your healthcare provider about your condition and treatment.

What is the most important information I should know about DOVATO?
If you have both human immunodeficiency virus-1 (HIV-1) infection and Hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection, DOVATO can cause serious side effects, including:
- **Resistant HBV.** Your healthcare provider will test you for HBV infection before you start treatment with DOVATO. If you have HIV-1 and hepatitis B, the HBV can change (mutate) during your treatment with DOVATO and become harder to treat (resistant). It is not known if DOVATO is safe and effective in people who have HIV-1 and HBV infection.
- **Worsening of HBV infection.** If you have HBV infection and take DOVATO, your HBV may get worse (flare-up) if you stop taking DOVATO. A “flare-up” is when your HBV infection suddenly returns in a worse way than before.
  - Do not run out of DOVATO. Refill your prescription or talk to your healthcare provider before your DOVATO is all gone.
  - Do not stop DOVATO without first talking to your healthcare provider.
    - If you stop taking DOVATO, your healthcare provider will need to check your health often and do blood tests regularly for several months to check your liver function and monitor your HBV infection. It may be necessary to give you a medicine to treat hepatitis B. Tell your healthcare provider about any new or unusual symptoms you may have after you stop taking DOVATO.

For more information about side effects, see “What are possible side effects of DOVATO?”

What is DOVATO?
DOVATO is a prescription medicine that is used without other HIV-1 medicines to treat human immunodeficiency virus-1 (HIV-1) infection in adults who have not received HIV-1 medicines in the past, or to replace their current HIV-1 medicines when their healthcare provider determines that they meet certain requirements. HIV-1 is the virus that causes Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS). It is not known if DOVATO is safe and effective in children.

Who should not take DOVATO?
Do not take DOVATO if you:
- have ever had an allergic reaction to a medicine that contains dolutegravir or lamivudine.
- take doravirine. Taking DOVATO and doravirine can cause side effects that may be serious or life-threatening.

What should I tell my healthcare provider before using DOVATO?
Tell your healthcare provider about all of your medical conditions, including if you:
- have or have had liver problems, including hepatitis B or C infection.
- have kidney problems.
- are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. One of the medicines in DOVATO (dolutegravir) may harm your unborn baby.
  - Your healthcare provider may prescribe a different medicine than DOVATO if you are planning to become pregnant or if pregnancy is confirmed during the first 12 weeks of pregnancy.
- If you can become pregnant, your healthcare provider may perform a pregnancy test before you start treatment with DOVATO.
- If you can become pregnant, you and your healthcare provider should talk about the use of effective birth control (contraception) during treatment with DOVATO.
- Tell your healthcare provider right away if you are planning to become pregnant; you become pregnant, or think you may be pregnant during treatment with DOVATO.
- are breastfeeding or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed if you take DOVATO.
  - You should not breastfeed if you have HIV-1 because of the risk of passing HIV-1 to your baby.
  - One of the medicines in DOVATO (lamivudine) passes into your breast milk.
  - Talk with your healthcare provider about the best way to feed your baby.

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. Some medicines interact with DOVATO. Keep a list of your medicines and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist when you get a new medicine.
- You can ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist for a list of medicines that interact with DOVATO.
- Do not start taking a new medicine without telling your healthcare provider.
  - Your healthcare provider can tell you if it is safe to take DOVATO with other medicines.

What are possible side effects of DOVATO?
DOVATO can cause serious side effects, including:
- See “What is the most important information I should know about DOVATO?”
- Allergic reactions. Call your healthcare provider right away if you develop a rash with DOVATO. Stop taking DOVATO and get medical help right away if you develop a rash with any of the following signs or symptoms: fever, generally ill feeling; tiredness; muscle or joint aches; blisters or sores in mouth; blisters or peeling of the skin; redness or swelling of the eyes; swelling of the mouth, face, lips, or tongue; problems breathing.
- Liver problems. People with a history of hepatitis B or C virus may have an increased risk of developing new or worsening changes in certain liver tests during treatment with DOVATO. Liver problems, including liver failure, have also happened in people without a history of liver disease or other risk factors. Your healthcare provider may do blood tests to check your liver.

Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get any of the following signs or symptoms of liver problems:
- Your skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow (jaundice); dark or “tea-colored” urine; light-colored stools (bowel movements); nausea or vomiting; loss of appetite; and/or pain, aching, or tenderness in the right side of your stomach area.
- Too much lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis). Too much lactic acid is a serious medical emergency that can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get any of the following symptoms that could be signs of lactic acidosis:
  - Feel very weak or tired; unusual (not normal) muscle pain, trouble breathing; stomach pain with nausea and vomiting; feel cold, especially in your arms and legs; feel dizzy or lightheaded; and/or feel a fast or irregular heartbeat.
- Lactic acidosis can also lead to severe liver problems, which can lead to death. Your liver may become large (hepatomegaly) and you may develop fatigue in your liver (steatosis). Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get any of the signs or symptoms of liver problems which are listed above under “Liver problems.”
- You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or severe liver problems if you are female or are overweight (obese).
- Changes in your immune system (Immune Reconstitution Syndrome) can happen when you start taking HIV-1 medicines. Your immune system may get stronger and begin to fight infections that have been hidden in your body for a long time. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you start having new symptoms after you start taking DOVATO.
- The most common side effects of DOVATO include: headache; nausea; diarrhea; trouble sleeping; tiredness; and anxiety.

These are not all the possible side effects of DOVATO. Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects.

©2021 Viiv Healthcare or licensor. DLLAD1210114 March 2021 Produced in USA.
SO MUCH GOES INTO WHO I AM

HIV MEDICINE IS ONE PART OF IT.

Why could DOVATO be right for you? DOVATO is proven to help control HIV with just 2 medicines in 1 pill. That means fewer medicines* in your body while taking DOVATO. It’s proven as effective as an HIV treatment with 3 or 4 medicines. Learn more about fewer medicines at DOVATO.com

DOVATO is a complete prescription regimen to treat HIV-1 in adults who have not received HIV-1 medicines in the past or to replace their current HIV-1 medicines when their doctor determines they meet certain requirements.

Results may vary.
*As compared with 3- or 4-drug regimens.

Dovato
dolutegravir 50 mg/
lamivudine 300 mg tablets

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.

Where can I find more information?
• Talk to your healthcare provider or pharmacist.
• Go to DOVATO.com or call 1-877-844-8872, where you can also get FDA-approved labelling.

Trademark is owned by or licensed to the ViV Healthcare group of companies.
March 2021 DVT:SPIL

Morgan
Taking DOVATO
Compensated by ViV Healthcare

New to treatment? Considering a switch? Ask your doctor about DOVATO.
Hollywood Feed
SAME DAY DELIVERY
HOLLYWOODFEED.COM
ORDER BY 6PM!
Woof! We deliver in about an hour!
FREE DELIVERY
For orders over $49!
Check online for eligibility at
WWW.HOLLYWOODFEED.COM/TODAY

Peace Love & LifeWalk
HELP END HIV
AND REGISTER
TO FUNDRAISE
FOR LIFEWALK
All proceeds benefit Prism Health North Texas’ HIV programs and services.
Register and start fundraising today at LifeWalk.org
Join us for LifeWalk Marketpalooza and Bar Crawl on October 3!
Featuring local vendor booths, food trucks, entertainment, and a bar crawl around Cedar Springs.
LIVE THEATRE IS BACK!
JOIN US FOR THE REMAINING SHOWS IN OUR 2021 SEASON

FUN HOME
August 20 - 29

A Very Sordid Wedding
Sept 24 - Oct 3

The Kinsey Sicks in Oy Vey in a Manger
December 10 - 12

AND MAKE PLANS FOR 2022 BY PURCHASING YOUR SEASON TICKETS NOW!

uptownplayers.org

214-219-2718
The COVID comeback

WAIT… THERE’S MORE!

After a year of cancellations and scrambling to find ways to reach audiences, North Texas’ Arts+Entertainment companies and organizations have gifted us with so many new, renewed and amazing opportunities to be entertained and enlightened that we could not fit it all into the print edition of our 2021 Applause issue.

So what does that mean? Well, it means that you will find all of the print content AND MORE available online at DallasVoice.com. Be sure to log on and visit our website to see exclusive content such as a profile on the renovations and improvements now underway at Theatre Arlington, a review of Wicked, now on stage at Dallas Summer Musicals, an interview with LGBTQ ally and singer Betty Who, opening Friday night in Dallas for Kesha and full seasonal listings from companies in Dallas, Fort Worth and beyond.

But on a more cautious note, remember: COVID-19 continues to be a looming presence in our community, in our state and around the world. Please support our Art+Entertainment community across North Texas, but please do so responsibly. Get vaccinated if you can; wear a mask; wash your hands; practice social distancing. Help keep yourself and your friends, families and neighbors safe.

And, if the pandemic should force changes in the schedules and plans you see here, be patient and know that these organizations, companies and individuals continue to need your support and your understanding.

The return to the stage has already begun in North Texas, bringing hope back for the future of the arts

RICH LOPEZ | STAFF WRITER
rich@dallasvoice.com

No one needs to be reminded how bad the past year-plus has been for everyone. But the arts took some big hits. And those hits extend to audiences who are fans of live music, theater and dance. Shows and seasons were canceled. Shared experiences with fellow patrons moved to computer screens.

The pandemic is still upon us, but, with vaccinations and new Center for Disease Control guidelines and actors union rules, stages have started to make a comeback — and that gives audiences a whole lot of hope.

Area companies have offered their thoughts on what today looks like for them and more importantly what the future holds. For those who have made the return already, it’s been an emotional time.

“Oh my gosh! We returned to the stage for our UNITE show on June 4-6 at Moody Performance Hall. It was truly overwhelming to be back in front of an audience in a theater and feel the electricity between the audience and the dancers. Wow. It’s the magic of the theater whereby you are sitting in an amazing theater with excellent acoustics, lighting, sightlines, comfortable chairs, etc., and all attention is on the stage. We felt tremendous gratitude to the city of Dallas for running the Moody, our donors, grantors, technical crew, press, audiences and dancers. The synergy was electric. Gratitude was so heartfelt.”

— Gayle Halperin, Bruce Wood Dance executive director.

At UNITE, the company debuted two world premieres, including Blue by artistic director Joy Bollinger and Sombreristas by out choreographer Omar Roan De Jesus.

There were rules to follow, however, to ensure the safety of everyone involved.

“Uptown Players returned to the stage on July 9 in coordination with Actors Equity Association, the union for actors and stage managers. In order to reopen, Uptown Players followed all union safety requirements and applied those requirements to our staff, designers and musicians as well. Combining those requirements and restrictions with those of the CDC made us feel confident that we would be returning to the stage as safely as possible. Because we strictly follow these requirements, Uptown Players and its board of directors feels confident that our programming can continue.”

— Jeff Rane, Uptown Players founder.

While venues and companies presented shows this summer, there were some live stage offerings since 2020.

“The AT&T Performing Arts Center reopened its outdoor venue Strauss Square last September to socially-distanced audiences seated on its lawn and have been presenting shows ever since. We have since reopened the Winspear Opera House and Wyly Theatre as well.

Because almost no concert artists were touring at the time, the center made Strauss Square available to local performing arts
organizations while their traditional venues were closed. We waived rent only, just charging any hard costs. This provided a critical performance platform for these arts organizations. More than 30 Dallas arts organizations have performed on Strauss Square during the pandemic.

We were able to do this because our arts community worked together with experts to create a series of safety protocols for reopening, which dozens of groups adopted. We demonstrated that by following these, we could have live, in-person performances without them becoming super-spreaders."

— Chris Heinbaugh, vice-president of external affairs at the AT&T Performing Arts Center.

For all companies, preparation was key—from weekly tests to Actors Equity guidelines to collaborations and partnerships with other companies. Optimism is there, but it’s also circumspect. Plus, it’s not necessarily the fastest process. “While we expect it will take some time for our industry to fully recover, we are cautiously optimistic as we look toward the upcoming 2021-2022 season.

Before any audiences or patrons were welcomed back to the building, Performing Arts Fort Worth hired an outside consultant to conduct an assessment of the HVAC system in Bass Performance Hall. Based on industry standards and guidelines to reopen safely, Bass Performance Hall’s HVAC system scored a high level of compliance with spaces scoring at least an ‘excellent’ level rating.

Performing Arts Fort Worth has a multi-layer defense strategy in Bass Hall to reduce the risk of transmission of the coronavirus.”

— Jason Wise, Performing Arts Fort Worth vice-president of programming and engaging management. PAFW is the nonprofit owner and operator of Bass Hall.

Protocols had to be instilled by every company large or small. For nonprofits, this meant costs added to any upcoming productions, and that added to operating budgets. There is also the question of making such protocols permanent or keeping them only until this pandemic is over—whatever that is.

“For our weekly rehearsals, we have required all of our singers to be vaccinated to attend in-person, and, as the mask mandate has come back, we too are requiring our singers to be masked and to distance when possible. For our upcoming concert in August, we are going to require masks of our patrons and our singers. As we continue to plan for the fall, we are reaching out to our partner arts organizations to determine if we all can require our patrons to be vaccinated and what impact that might have. All of these protocols I believe would go away or be lessened as the threat of the pandemic lessens and as more people are vaccinated.”

— Jeremy Wayne, executive director of the Turtle Creek Chorale.

Others are still waiting it out for now. “We are continuing to delay concerts amidst the current COVID threat, and when deemed safe to hold performances, will liaise with the venues about what will be required and safe. The current feeling is for singers and staff to stay masked and distanced from the audience.”

— Crystal Koe, executive director of the Women’s Chorus of Dallas.

Along with protecting performers and crew, companies had to consider audience perspectives. Venues and companies needed to reassure their patrons that they were safe, the from beginning to the end of their performances. Approaches to this aspect vary.

“Currently, we are using paperless ticketing and programs. We are asking audience members to continue to wear masks. We are working with the touring companies to assure we are all on the same page with safety protocols. This is an ever-changing scenario right now, so all of this is shifting as need be, but TITAS is working closely with the AT&T Performing Arts Center to assure alignment and safety.”

— TITAS/Unbound executive director Charles Santos.

“We have hired Justin Miller to be our COVID safety professional, to give us guidance as to best practices. (He is serving the same function for The Dallas Opera.) Our planned return to Bass Hall is April 22 and 24. At this time, we are not mandating anything from our audiences. The challenge now will be keeping audiences mindful that there is still a pandemic going on, so that while they are inside theaters they are distancing and, if need be, wearing face coverings. It’s understandable that audiences are hungry to get back into theaters to see live shows, so we will really have to monitor the situation as it changes daily and weekly, and respond in the safest way possible.”

— Joe Illick, Fort Worth Opera artistic director.

The recovery effort involved in of all this is immense and expensive. For nonprofit theater companies, this is another challenge. But the general consensus across these companies is an overriding thrill to get back to the stage, face new challenges and make new goals. Often love wins, but by the sounds and looks of it, love of the arts is winning big.

“Goals: Make concerts more impactful than ever. Keep diversity, equity, and inclusion paramount. Move the singers and audience with every song we choose.”

— Melinda Imthurn, TWC artistic director.

“We will continue to perform live, so our only contingency plans are safety protocols with singers and audience alike. We know COVID will be with us for a long time to come, and it is our responsibility to keep the singers singing and the audiences engaged, entertained and hopeful.”

— Sean Baugh, TCC artistic director.

“I think some of the most unusual and fun shows were the two drag shows that TITAS presented featuring the artists from the Rose Room. These artists had not performed since shut down, and they did an amazing job on the stage. I’m not sure anyone quite envisioned that when the center opened 11 years ago, but every one of them did an amazing job. And because we were all tipping using Venmo, I think all of them had a pretty good night.”

— Heinbaugh.

“We are definitely moving forward. Our job is to serve the public and we’ll continue to adapt to the changing COVID situation. We will continue through the new 2021-2022 season. Probably the biggest challenge is that we’re going into the new season with burn-out from the past year. It’s hard to renew and continue to motivate onward. Financially — it’s always a challenge, but more so in the future when there will not be those PPP loans. It’ll definitely become harder.

We continue onward; it’s what we do.”

— Halperin.

Read additional responses from these companies online at DallasVoice.com.
Go for Baroque

Gay-founded American Baroque Opera defies operatic expectations

RICH LOPEZ | Staff Writer
richlopezwrites@gmail.com

In just its fourth season last year, American Baroque Opera faced the pandemic challenges like any other arts organization. But instead of just focusing on getting through it, founders and husbands Miguel Cantu and Eric Smith saw the pandemic as still a step forward in their 10-year plan.

For them, the last year-and-a-half has been a time of growth and learning with an all-digital season. However, the two feel good about being able — so far — to curate ABO’s upcoming fifth season for live audiences again.

“Our next season is going to be held at the AT&T Performing Arts Center in the Arts District to show an example of our growth and how serious of an organization we are,” Executive Director Cantu, 38, explained via email.

Still, despite the fact that ABO is now going into its fifth season with a trail of positive reviews since 2017, the organization is still working to get the word out on its contribution to the local arts community. And as the only Baroque opera in town, it’s been a challenging journey for the somewhat grassroots company. Foremost among those challenges, the founders say, are the perceptions that come up when someone mentions “opera.”

“I think people think it’s the stuffiest form of music, and when they hear ‘Baroque opera,’ they think that it’s probably even more stuffy,” Smith, the 36-year-old artistic director said by phone.

In reality, he insists, it isn’t stuffy at all — at least not the way ABO does it. Smith described it more as going to a small play, and both describe their shows as immersive and intimate in true Baroque style.

People will get the chance to experience that when ABO’s fifth season begins in January, with shows at Hamon Hall inside the Winspear Opera House at AT&T’s Performance Center.

When Cantu and Smith started the company, the two musicians both felt there was a need for this type of opera, and they wanted to deliver it in a way it would have been seen and heard back in the 17th and 18th centuries when the style came en vogue in music, architecture and art — characterized by grandeur, ornate details, luxe and emotional exuberance.

“We present our performances in a way that a Baroque audience would have heard them,” Cantu explained in the call. “All of the music and singing and instruments are from, or are replicas of, that period, and our staging, while sometimes modern, is authentic to the style.”

Also, with opera, there’s the idea of big lavish sets, grand venues and black ties. ABO veers the opposite way.

“People love that we can offer a more intimate setting. You can see the actors’ faces and expressions in our performance spaces,” Cantu said.

For Smith, that’s what makes ABO so distinctive.

“We tell people to come as you are. We are definitely not your standard idea of what opera is,” he said. “It’s a different experience, and we find that people, especially millennials, are looking for something different and trending away from big halls into these smaller offerings like us or chamber concerts.

“That intimacy is what makes this so special.”

The company is making strides in its 10-year plan. ABO was welcomed into OPERA America and has found funding through the city as well as a growing subscriber base.

And regardless of the challenges ABO faces as a small theater company, Cantu and Smith feel their timing is on point with the company.

“I told my university professors at UNT that I wanted to do Baroque opera. And I was told that I had to move to Europe to do that,” Smith said. “I traveled the country doing that, but I think the time was right when we started this five years ago, because Dallas has the talent to support it.”

While the two have built strong relationships with the local acting and music communities for its productions, they have been able to include a diverse roster that strongly represents the LGBTQ community.

“Not only is ABO LGBT-run and founded, but we have players and singers who are trans, nonbinary, gay and POC,” Smith said. “We want to show that the arts are diverse — even in opera.”

For more information, visit baroqueopera.org.

Upcoming from American Baroque Opera:

• Jan. 15-16: North American Premier of Alcyone
• March 26-27: Acis and Galatea
• May 21-22: Apollo and Hyacinthus
All performances held in Hamon Hall at the Winspear Opera House.
Tickets on sale for each show Sept. 13.
Michael B. Moore admits he’s no writer, but he is pushing full-steam ahead in creating his newest show, Last Call with Ginger Layne. As his alter ego drag queen, Moore is planning to deliver a little bit of Ellen, a little bit of Jimmy Fallon and a whole lot of sass in the “late night drag talk show you didn’t know you needed,” coming to the Pocket Sandwich Theatre at 11 p.m. on Aug. 27 and 28.

As Moore continued to work on his show hosting duties, he took some time to give Dallas Voice the tea on what audiences need to know and can expect.

New talk show, who dis? My name is Michael B. Moore. But my friends call me MBM, MnM or just “hey queen.” Now, a lady never reveals her age, but I’m a he/him/his sitting pretty at 45 — but thanks to Botox I can pass for 28.”

Have we met before? Aside from last call at any bar in Oak Lawn, you may have seen Ginger onstage in some of Uptown Players’ Rose Room parody shows, such as Blanche in The Golden Girls,” Charlene in Redesigning Women or Ginger Grant in Gilligan’s Fire Island. You older queens would have seen Ginger in that tiny little Rose Room of yesteryear or swinging on a pole at The Brick.”

One of a kind: I think what is unique about my drag is my infatuation with musical theater. It comes across a lot in my performances, my costume choices and definitely the soundtrack of my life. Ginger is all fish — at least in her own mind. She is confident, clumsy and carefree. And Michael has an extreme zest for life. As a two-time cancer survivor, he doesn’t take anything too seriously.

When was your first time to ... you know? I started doing drag on a dare when I was 18 years old. From that point on, the monster that is Ginger Layne was born. Back then, I was just a boy in a dress. We didn’t have YouTube, so I grabbed every fashion magazine and taught myself how to do make up.

Around the age of 30, while working for a cosmetic line, I went to hair school and discovered a new passion. Several years after working at the salon, my dear friend Coy Covington invited me to work alongside him on a musical. Now I am an associate wig and makeup designer for Uptown Players.

I’ve also been at my salon for almost 12 years and have no plans to leave.”

Living for the applause: I have not performed in front of a live audience in drag in several years. When the opportunity arose, I dropped everything to make this show happen. It’s something I didn’t know I wanted until it was presented to me.”

Survival mode: Having just undergone a stem cell transplant in summer 2019, surviving the first few months of COVID was a breeze. I had already been in quarantine for six months just when the lockdown started. I created a drag-based group on Facebook, which led to Facebook live drag shows once a month. It gave me something to do to keep the performance aspect alive, and also let me look a fool virtually. Plus, my mother was able to see me perform in drag, live for the first time — even if it was in my living room.

What’s the tea? I’ve known people at Pocket Sandwich for years. They approached me about doing a drag show, and I don’t quite see it as a venue for that. So we came up with the talk show concept with a live studio audience.

There will be some drag numbers, comedy, musical guests, a cooking segment and a live studio audience. There will be some drag numbers, comedy, musical guests, a cooking segment and a live studio audience. I’m still putting it all together and working with a writer to make the monologue more funny. I’m no writer, so this is all new to me. But I like this idea of bringing a different side to drag.
Uptown Players delivers big with ‘Fun Home’ opening and season announcement

RICH LOPEZ | Staff Writer
richlopezwrites@gmail.com

Well, if it wasn’t for COVID-19, Dallas audiences would have experienced Uptown Players’ Fun Home last year. The cast and crew were about to start rehearsals when, basically, the world shut down. Despite that mess, today’s opening of the Tony Award-winning musical seems like perfect timing.

“Back then we thought, ‘We’ll be back in two weeks, then two months,” Director Cheryl Denson said by phone. “We were ready to go, but now, we are excited and a little bit anxious.”

The majority of actors originally cast for the show have remained save one. But last year’s children had grown out of their characters. The cast includes Duke Anderson, Leslie Collins, Michael Diego Alonzo, Hunter Hall, Jennifer Kuenzer, Max Rudelman, Summer Stern, Emily Truelove and Ashlie Whitworth.

To get the show done, they’ve all proceeded with caution.

“Allison Bailey & Talia Suskauer in the North American Tour of WICKED (C). Photo by Joan Marcus

And that’s all of us — the actors, the musicians, the technicians. This is a collaborative art, and we’re a damned army,” she said.

Fun Home is based on Alison Bechdel’s biographical graphic novel of the same name. In it, she wrote about her own coming out process as well as her father’s. While a musical, the story is no Rodgers and Hammerstein.

The family in the show is a bundle of emotions that Denson said everyone — especially queer folks — will relate to.

“I don’t think everyone will say, ‘That’s like my family,’ but there are some close qualities that I think everyone will find a place that makes them think, ‘Yeah, that was me.’”

For Denson, this show was a must for her to direct. She had seen it in New York, and, upon her return, she pretty much declared she would do it if Uptown Players were to ever produce it — and here they are.

“I wanted desperately as a gay woman to tell my story,” Denson said. “That’s the fabulous thing about theater — that we get to watch our stories told.”

As it looks, Uptown Players is on an upward stride. Fun Home follows up the Players’ successful comeback to the stage of When Pigs Fly earlier this summer (which is featured on this week’s Dallas Voice cover). Despite, or in accordance with, COVID-19 protocols, the company pulled off its return.

Today, Uptown Players announces its new season for 2022 at its Kalita Humphreys Theater, 3636 Turtle Creek Boulevard.

The following listings are of companies and venues that have released season and show information by press time:

Uptown Players, 214-219-2718, uptownplayers.org. Performances are held at the Kalita Humphreys Theater, 3636 Turtle Creek Boulevard.

- Friday-Aug. 29: Fun Home
- Sept. 24-Oct. 3: A Very Sordid Wedding
- Dec. 10-12: Oy Vey in a Manger with the Kinsey Sicks

AT&T Performing Arts Center Broadway Series, attpac.org. All performances are held at the Winspear Opera House.

- Jan. 4-9: What the Constitution Means to Me
- April 26-May 1: Summer: The Donna Summer Musical
- May 10-15: Waitress
- July 26-31: The Prom

Ballet North Texas. All performances at Moody Performance Hall

- Sept. 17-18: Night on the Trinity
- Dec. 2-4: The Nutcracker
- Feb. 25-26: Innovations
- May 6-7: Sleeping Beauty

Bruce Wood Dance, 214-298-9212, brucewooddance.org.

The company returned to the stage in June with UNITE, which featured two world premieres including Sombreroestas by Omar Roman de Jesus and Joy Bollinger’s Blue. Its 12th season continues with three new shows.

- Oct. 9: Fall Arts Festival at Klyde Warren Park
- Nov. 19-20: Renew at Moody Performance Hall
- June 10-11: SPRING at Moody Performance Hall

Upcoming seasons in Dallas County

- May 10-15: Waitress
- July 26-31: The Prom
The Dallas Opera, 214-443-1000, dallasopera.org. All performances at the Winspear Opera House.

- Feb. 18-26: Madame Butterfly
- March 4-12: Flight
- March 19-27: The Barber of Seville
- April 2-10: The Pearl Fishers

Dallas Symphony Orchestra, 214-849-4376, dallassymphony.org. All performances at the Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center. Here are select listings from DSO’s season. For a complete list, visit the DSO website.

The Texas Instruments Classical Series

- Sept. 16-19: Copland and Brahms
- Sept. 23 and 26: Fabio Luisi conducts Aus Italien
- Oct. 14-17: Beethoven’s Emperor
- Oct. 28-30: Elgar Symphony No. 1

Pops Series

- Sept. 10-12: The Music of Selena
- Oct. 8-10: Chris Botti with the DSO
- Nov. 12-14: Patriotic Pops Veteran’s Day Celebration

DSO’s Movies-in-Concert

- Sept. 3-5: Coco Live in Concert

Dallas Winds

- Nov. 16: Dallas Winds: The Firebird with the Epoch Percussion Quartet

Dallas Symphony Presents concerts

- Oct. 7: Tribute to Ruth Bader Ginsburg
- Oct. 20: Erich Bergen’s Hollywood Songbook
- Oct. 22-24: Ben Folds with the DSO
- Oct. 31: Día de los Muertos concert

Holidays at the Meyerson

- Dec. 3-12: Dallas Symphony Christmas Pops
- Dec. 4: DSO Family Christmas Pops
- Dec. 6: Christmas with Cantus
- Dec. 14: Big Brassy Christmas and Organ Extravaganza
- Dec. 21: A Very Swingin’ Basie Christmas with the Count Basie Orchestra
- Dec. 22: Dallas Winds: Christmas at the Meyerson
- Dec. 31: New Year’s Eve

Special events

- Aug. 27-29: DSO Wine and Food Festival
- Sept. 25: 2021 Gala Concert: An Evening with Anne-Sophie Mutter
- Nov. 7-10: Women in Classical Music Symposium

Dallas Theater Center, 214-522-8499, dallastheatercenter.org. All performances at the Wyly Theater unless otherwise noted.

- Sept. 8-Oct. 16: Tiny Beautiful Things
- Sept. 8-Oct. 17: Cake Ladies (in repertory with Tiny Beautiful Things)
- Oct. 28-Nov. 21: The Supreme Leader at Kalita Humphreys Theater

Dallas Summer Musicals, 800-745-3000 (Ticketmaster), dallassummermusicals.org. All performances held at Music Hall at Fair Park.

- Through Sept. 5: Wicked
- Sept. 11: ’90s R&B Soulfest with Monica
- Oct. 29: Penn and Teller
- Nov. 6: Hasan Minhaj — The King’s Jester
- Nov. 15-Dec. 5: Hamilton
- Dec. 28-Jan. 9: Jersey Boys — The Story of Franki Valli and the Four Seasons

Echo Theatre, 214-546-8736, echotheatre.org.

- Sept. 17-Oct. 10: It’s My Party

The Elevator Project, attpac.org.

This initiative was created by the AT&T Performing Arts Center in 2014 to culture and promote smaller arts organizations that are emerging and/or feature marginalized arts. This gives them a performance platform in the district and includes a variety of performances including dance, music and theater and are selected through a competitive process and judged into the season schedule.

- Sept. 2-4: A Lily Among Thorns by Das Blumelein Project at the Winspear Opera House.
- Sept. 9-11: National Anthems by Verdigris Ensemble at the Winspear.
- Sept. 10-11: Kadacit — Once Upon a Time by Tejas Dance in Strauss Square.
- Sept. 16-18: Bridges: Sisters of Salem by Flexible Grey Theatre Co. at Sammons Park.

Winner of Five Tony Awards Including Best Musical!

August 20 - 29

Tickets $30-$55

Kalita Humphreys Theater

08.20.21 dallasvoice 19
DO IT AT
IT'S FAST IT'S EASY IT
AT HOME
IT’S FREE  CANHIVTEST.ORG
HISTORIC THEATER, NEW LOOK

Updated venue is changing the landscape in Tarrant County

RICH LOPEZ | Staff Writer
richlopezwrites@gmail.com

If you told Jeffrey Smith that art deco, Egyptian influence and Fort Worth’s western vibe couldn’t mix, he’d debate you. And he would win.

Earlier this summer, Smith and his wife, Debbie, reopened the Isis Theater in downtown Fort Worth. With a nod to its moniker, the renovated theater has some Egyptian interior influences while mostly harkening back to the glitzy 1920s.

Since its June opening with the red carpet premiere of 12 Mighty Orphans, the theater has hosted films, drag queens and music — and Smith intends to do much more.

Getting to that opening though was a laborious process for Smith.

“I knew that theater, and it pained me that it was no longer taken care of,” he said by phone. “I’ve always been involved in theater, my whole life, whether onstage or producing or directing. Then I became a theater educator, and I loved that. But I’ve always been connected to theaters.”

Smith recalled that it was Christmas-time 2016 when he and Debbie talked about the future and what they wanted to do. It was that conversation that led them to look at the old condemned theater on Main St.

“When we looked into it, it was wild because it was in an estate at the time, so we couldn’t find any info,” he said.

In the meantime, the Smiths got incorporated. After connecting with the family that “owned” the building, the couple was honored with the space, and it was full speed ahead.

In January 2017, Jeffrey Smith walked into the building for the first time.

“I always knew it to be this dilapidated building, but once I walked in, I just knew and jumped into it full gusto,” he said.

He brought in an architect who, coincidentally, was the grandson of the man who created the venue. During the archaeological process, Smith said they salvaged any and everything they could. Plus, since this was an historical landmark, he had to do it right. That process along with the excavation took 18 months.

In January 2017, Jeffrey Smith walked into the building for the first time.

“When the tax commission process was done, they were ready to go. But then — that darn 2020 happened.

“We were in year three at this point, and then COVID-19 hits. We were a bit lucky because we were considered essential. But it still affected our trans-

ports and deliveries. All of our materials were bottlenecked,” Smith said.

At that time, they were shooting for a December 2020/January 2021 opening.

Although he was eager to move forward, it was more important to Smith to do everything right throughout.

“Time no longer was an issue. It was more like, what can we get done and make progress one day at a time. It’s been frustrating but it’s been an amazing journey,” he said.

The space which the Smiths refer to as Downtown Cowtown at the Isis, is intended to be versatile enough to host a variety of entertainment. Already the venue has had an eclectic lineup of shows — including many that speak to queer audiences, such as Dixie Longate’s Sh*t Kicker show back in June and the Sex and the City one-woman show next week, as well as Grammy winner Bryan White and the opera trio Viva both in September.

“You name it, we can do it,” Smith declared. “We want to bring in all types of entertainment. We can’t do elaborate musicals, but that wasn’t our plan. Greater Tuna is more our barometer for theater.”

And as it just so happens, the Isis will feature Tuna co-creator Jaston Williams

STAGE WEST, Page 24
HISTORIC THEATER, NEW LOOK

ports and deliveries. All of our materials were bottlenecked,” Smith said. At that time, they were shooting for a December 2020/January 2021 opening. Although he was eager to move forward, it was more important to Smith to do everything right throughout. “Time no longer was an issue. It was more like, what can we get done and make progress one day at a time. It’s been frustrating but it’s been an amazing journey,” he said.

The space which the Smiths refer to as Downtown Cowtown at the Isis, is intended to be versatile enough to host a variety of entertainment. Already the venue has had an eclectic lineup of shows — including many that speak to queer audiences, such as Dixie Longate’s Sh*t Kicker show back in June and the Sex and the City one-woman show next week, as well as Grammy winner Bryan White and the opera trio Viva both in September. “You name it, we can do it,” Smith declared. “We want to bring in all types of entertainment. We can’t do elaborate musicals, but that wasn’t our plan. Greater Tuna is more our barometer for theater.”

And as it just so happens, the Isis will feature Tuna co-creator Jaston Williams
in his one-man show *Clear to Partly Crazy* on Aug. 27-28.

“I think the biggest thing is just coming to the theater,” Smith said. “It’s an historic landmark; it’s a tourist spot. But there’s such a rich history here, and you don’t have to be a history buff.

“Our bar is open every day. Come hang out, grab a drink and see what’s going on. Come be a part of history.”

The Isis is located at 2401 N. Main St. in Fort Worth. For more information, visit downtowncowtown.com.
Ready to take it?

PrEP
the pill that prevents HIV

FREE EXAMS, LAB WORK, PRESCRIPTIONS, HIV TESTING, & CONDOMS

Schedule an Appointment!

Protect yourself with free PrEP, TelePrEP, PEP, HIV & Syphilis TESTING, and CONDOMS & Lube.

HELP Center for LGBT Health and Wellness

FORT WORTH 817-332-7722
ARLINGTON 817-200-6500
Upcoming seasons on the west side of DFW

Broadway at the Bass by Performing Arts Fort Worth, 525 Commerce St., Fort Worth, 817-212-4450, basshall.com.

The 2021-22 season includes the following six shows performed at Bass Hall with one add-on. Season tickets are available now online and by phone, but individual tickets are not yet open.

- Oct. 19-24: Come From Away
- Nov. 16-21: Cats
- Jan. 4-9: Dear Evan Hansen
- June 21-26: Rodgers & Hammerstein’s Oklahoma!
- July 12-17: Jesus Christ Superstar
- July 26-31: Mean Girls

Rescheduled from its 2020 dates will be Hamilton Jan. 18-Feb. 6 as the season’s add-on show. Tickets will be honored from those 2020 purchases.

Those who purchase season tickets will also be privy to early access ticket sales to the show.

Fort Worth Symphony, Bass Hall, 817-665-6000, fwsymphony.org.

Tickets and subscriptions are on sale now for the symphony’s upcoming season.

- Sept. 17-19: Pulling Back the Curtain: Sibelius, Dvorak and Brian Raphael Nabors
- Oct. 8-10: World Premiere: Victor Agudelo, Rimsky-Korsakov and Brahms
- Oct. 29-31: Halloween on Bald Mountain: Mussorgsky, Liszt and Stravinsky
- Dec. 3-5: Hadelich’s Mendelssohn: Debussy, Mendelssohn and Brahms
- Jan. 14-15: Robert Spano conducts Scheherazade

- March 11-13: Spirituals and Jazz: Dawson and Gershwin
- March 25-27: World Premiere: Veronika Agnes Fancsik, R. Strauss and Tchaikovsky’s Fifth
- April 8-10: Rachmaninoff’s Rhapsody: Jennifer Higdon, Respighi and Rachmaninoff
- April 29-May 1: Beethoven’s Eroica and Talbot’s Ink Dark Moon
- May 13-15: Holst’s Planets: Bach, Tomasi and Holst

- Oct. 15-17: Legends: Paul Simon Songbook
- Nov. 26-28: Home for the Holidays
- Feb. 11-13: Back to the Future
- March 4-6: The Music of John Williams
- May 13-15: Holst’s Planets: Bach, Tomasi and Holst

Pops Series

- Sept. 3-5: Warner Bros. presents Bugs Bunny at the Symphony 30th anniversary Edition
- Nov. 26-28: Home for the Holidays
- Feb. 11-13: Back to the Future
- March 4-6: The Music of John Williams
- May 13-15: Holst’s Planets: Bach, Tomasi and Holst


Season tickets are available now in four tiers on the website. Season memberships include perks such as Happy Half Hour, Season Soiree invitation, member recognition and more. For more information about each show, visit the theater’s site.

- Oct. 7-31: JQA
- Dec. 2-24: Scrooge in Rouge
- Jan. 27-Feb 20: Church and State
- Feb. 3-20: On the Exhale
- March 17-April 10: Witch
- June 9-July 3: Into the Breeches!
- Aug. 18-Sept. 11: Riverside Between and Crazy

Mean Girls
Fort Worth Opera, Bass Performance Hall, 525 Commerce St., Fort Worth, 817-731-0726, fwopera.org.

The FWO will mark 75 years with its 2021/22 Diamond Season Celebration. The company also shifts from its festival mode to year-round programming and will return to its home at Bass Hall, with additional performances throughout several Fort Worth venues. Ticket sales to be announced.

**Fall performances**
- **Oct. 9:** *Ente Amigos*, a celebratory Hispanic Heritage Month Concert at Artes de la Rosa Cultural Center for the Arts at the Rose Marine Theater.
- **Oct. 9-10:** *Frida Kahlo and the Bravest Girl in the World*, composer Joe Illick and Pulitzer Prize-winning librettist Mark Campbell’s children’s opera with puppets at Botanical Research Institute of Texas.
- **Oct. 16:** *Frida Kahlo and the Bravest Girl in the World* at Reby Cary Library.
- **Nov. 6:** The 75th Anniversary Fall Preview at Firestone & Robertson Distilling Co.-Whiskey Ranch.
- **Nov. 20:** *Stone Soup*, Illick and Campbell’s second children’s opera at Fort Worth Public Library Northwest Branch.

**Winter performances**
- December Holiday in the Garden at Fort Worth Botanic Garden. Date to be announced.
- **Jan. 26-28:** *Noches de Ópera: Zorro* at the Rose Marine Theater.
- **Jan. 30:** *Zorro* at Will Rogers Memorial Auditorium.
- **Feb. 20:** *A Night of Black Excellence Past, Present, and Future* at L.M. Terrell Academy for STEM and VPA.

**Spring performances**
- **April 6:** Diamond Anniversary Gala at City Club Fort Worth.
- **April 22 and 24:** Giuseppe Verdi’s *La Traviata* with the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra.
- **May FWO Lesley Resident Artist Recital:** Date and location to be announced.

**Circle Theatre,** 230 W. 4th St., Fort Worth, 817-877-3040, circletheatre.com.

The theater celebrates 40 years this season by throwing it back to its first-ever production of the Tennessee Williams classic *The Glass Menagerie*. The company will only feature two shows, with a regional premiere opening the abridged season. Ticket sales to be announced.

- **Sept. 2-25:** The Last Wide Open
- **Oct. 28-Nov. 20:** Tennessee Williams’ *The Glass Menagerie*
- **Amphibian Stage,** 120 S. Main St., Fort Worth, 817-923-3012, amphibianstage.com.
- **Sept. 23-25:** Comedy Series Mo Welch

**Casa Manana,** 3101 W. Lancaster Ave., Fort Worth, 817-332-2272, casamanana.org.

This iconic Fort Worth theater offers a Broadway, children’s and cabaret series. For its 21/22 season, the theater is allowing subscribers to build their own seasons with four shows that can be mixed and matched among the series. Visit the website for more information.

- **Sept. 14-25:** *You Send Me — A Salute to the Life and Music of Sam Cooke* in the Reid Cabaret Theatre
- **Oct. 2-17:** *Grace for President*
- **Oct. 30-Nov. 7:** Smokey Joe’s Café: The Songs of Leiber and Stoller
- **Nov. 20-Dec. 23:** *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer*
- **Nov. 30-Dec. 18:** *Nashville Christmas* in the Reid Cabaret Theatre
- **Feb. 4-13:** *Matilda the Musical*
- **March 1-6:** *The Choir of Man*
- **March 18-23:** *Shrek the Musical*
- **April 23-May 8:** *Disney Descendants the Musical*
- **June 4-12:** Disney’s *Newsies the Broadway Musical*
- **July 23-31:** *Steel Magnolias*

**Hip Pocket Theatre,** 1950 Silver Creek Road, Fort Worth, 817-246-9775, hppocket.org.

This season which began in June, is the theater’s 45th. The company prides itself on simplicity while providing an array of experimental theater. Visit the site to purchase tickets for the following.

- **Aug. 20-Sept. 5:** *Walking on Wire* (Stories from the Feet)
- **Sept. 17-Oct. 3:** *The Slam Bang Story of Ichamore Twerpwhistle*
- **Oct. 10-24:** *Electra*


- **Sept. 17-26:** *The Wiz*

**Uptown Theater,** 120 E. Main St., Grapevine, 817-488-4842, runwaytheatre.com.

- **Sept. 2-5:** *Wait Until Dark*
- **Sept. 17-26:** *The Wiz*
- **Nov. 9:** *An Evening with the Stars* starring the Edwards Twins

**Winter performances**
- **Jan. 30:** *Zorro* at Will Rogers Memorial Auditorium.
- **Feb. 20:** *A Night of Black Excellence Past, Present, and Future* at L.M. Terrell Academy for STEM and VPA.

**Spring performances**
- **April 6:** Diamond Anniversary Gala at City Club Fort Worth.
- **April 22 and 24:** Giuseppe Verdi’s *La Traviata* with the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra.
- **May FWO Lesley Resident Artist Recital:** Date and location to be announced.

**Circle Theatre,** 230 W. 4th St., Fort Worth, 817-877-3040, circletheatre.com.

The theater celebrates 40 years this season by throwing it back to its first-ever production of the Tennessee Williams classic *The Glass Menagerie*. The company will only feature two shows, with a regional premiere opening the abridged season. Ticket sales to be announced.
Hey, It’s a Good Time to Check Your Status!

Free HIV/Syphilis Tests & Low-Cost STD Tests

817-479-1200

CheckYourStatus.org

The theater has not announced its upcoming season as of press time but will host the following special event fundraiser online benefiting the Del Shores Foundation Writers Search and its theater partners including KDT:


Shakespeare Dallas, 214-559-2779, shakespearedallas.org. Performances held at Samuell-Grand Amphitheater, 1500 Tenison Parkway.

• Sept. 8-Oct. 16: Romeo and Juliet

Texas Ballet Theater, 877-828-9200, texasballettheater.org. All Fort Worth performances are held at Bass Hall and Dallas performances are held in AT&T Performing Arts Center venues.

• Nov. 26-Dec 26: The Nutcracker in Dallas and Fort Worth
• Dec. 17: The Nutty Nutcracker in Fort Worth

Theatre Three, 2800 Routh St. Suite 168, 214-871-3300, theatre3dallas.com. For this “59½ season,” the theater heads away from its home venue for four of its shows – and due to construction in the Quadrangle. A hint of that was seen at this summer’s The Music Man which was held in three different outdoor spots across Dallas.

• Oct. 5-31: Little Shop of Horrors at Samuell-Grand Amphitheater.
• Jan. 27-Feb. 20: Maytag Virgin (location TBD)

TITAS/Dance Unbound, 214-880-0202, titas.org.

• Sept. 17-18: MOMIX at the McFarlin Auditorium
• Oct. 22-23: Doug Varone and Dancers at Moody Performance Hall
• Nov. 12-13: Rubberband at Moody Performance Hall

Turtle Creek Chorale, 214-526-3214, turtlecreekchorale.com. Stronger is TCC’s 41st season which began in April. The season will include the world premiere of Dreamland: Tulsa 1921 in its spring 2022 concert.

• Streaming: Leavin’ on a Jet Plane. Premiered April 16 and available for viewing on YouTube and Facebook.
• Aug. 29: TCC Small Ensemble Showcase: Songs of Strength and Survival at Cathedral of Hope
• Oct. 9-10: Broadway’s Back, Baby at McFarlin Auditorium
• Dec. 17-19: Sure Stars Shining at Moody Performance Hall
• Date TBA: Let Us March On
• July 9: Let Us March On at Carnegie Hall

Undermain Theatre, 3200 Main St., 214-747-5515, undermain.org.

Undermain celebrates its 38th season two ways. The theater will offer live streaming options for all its upcoming shows simultaneously unless otherwise noted.

• Dec. 20: Sarah Brightman: A Christmas Spectacular at the Winspear
• Dec. 21: Andrea Bocelli at American Airlines Center


The choral group’s next season will be Rise 2021-22 with concerts to be announced.

Select events presented by AT&T Performing Arts Center.

• Sept. 25-26: Viva Mexico! The Concert at the Winspear Opera House.
• Sept. 30: America 50th Anniversary Tour at Strauss Square.
• Oct. 20: Andrea Bocelli at American Airlines Center.
• Nov. 10: Gipsy Kings featuring Nicolas Reyes at the Winspear.
• Dec. 20: Sarah Brightman: A Christmas Spectacular at the Winspear.
• Dec. 30: Mannheim Steamroller at the Winspear.
SUMMER SOCIAL
8.26.21
6:30 PM
PARK PLACE MOTORCARS
6113 LEMMON AVE DALLAS, TX 75209

40TH ANNUAL BLACK TIE DINNER
NOVEMBER 13, 2021

PRESENTED BY
PNC BANK

END SUMMER WITH A BANG AND SUPPORT OUR 2021 BENEFICIARIES!
ENJOY CRAFTED COCKTAILS, LIGHT BITES, PLENTY OF ENTERTAINMENT, AND EXCLUSIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS.

MASKS ARE REQUIRED. LIMITED CAPACITY, SO GET YOUR TICKETS FAST!
ACT NOW BY GOING TO BLACKTIE.ORG TODAY!

Black Tie Dinner is now requiring masks at Summer Social for all guests. Please do not attend a Black Tie Dinner event if you are not feeling well or have symptoms, irrespective of your vaccine status. If you have a condition that weakens your immune system or take certain medications, you may need to take extra precautions even if you are fully vaccinated, as instructed by your doctor.

iHeart
MEDIA

SHERATON
DALLAS HOTEL

DAVID W. CARLSON & STEVE SMITH

American Airlines

Alcon
Brinker
Dallas Voice
OUT
Goldman Sachs
Lowe's

Central Market
H-E-B
JLL

Fidelity
Lenovo
Neman Marcus Group

Norbic
Park Place
Morgan
Morgan W. Cole & General
Morgan W. Cole, Inc.
Morgan
Tracy Locke

Santander
TPG

30  dallasvoice.com  08.20.21
Dallas Contemporary presents Japanese artist public art projects at Will Rogers Memorial Worth will premiere as the first of four major Quayola commissioned by the city of Fort New media artworks by Refik Anadol and • Aug. 20-21: New Media Artworks minger@hopecottage.org. information email Clyde Hemminger at chem days at 10 a.m. and Thursdays at 6 p.m. For The meetings are held alternately on Satur- hope cottage holds information meetings for • Biweekly: Hope Cottage Foster Parent Information Meeting Hope Cottage holds information meetings for those interested in becoming foster parents. The meetings are held alternately on Saturdays at 10 a.m. and Thursdays at 6 p.m. For information email Clyde Hemminger at cherminger@hopecottage.org.

AUGUST
• Aug. 20-21: New Media Artworks New media artworks by Refik Anadol and Quayola commissioned by the city of Fort Worth will premiere as the first of four major public art projects at Will Rogers Memorial Center. Free.

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.

• Every Monday: THRIVE Resource Center’s THRIVE Support Group for people 50 and older meets virtually from 11:45 a.m.-1 p.m. led by an intern from SMU’s counseling program. Email THRIVE@myresource-center.org to request the link.

• Biweekly: Hope Cottage Foster Parent Information Meeting Hope Cottage holds information meetings for those interested in becoming foster parents. The meetings are held alternately on Saturdays at 10 a.m. and Thursdays at 6 p.m. For information email Clyde Hemminger at cherminger@hopecottage.org.

• Aug. 24: Get Centered tour Virtual Resource Center tour streams for free at 5 p.m. Registration required. MyResource-Center.org.

• Aug. 26: Black Tie Dinner Summer Social Enjoy crafted cocktails, light bites, plenty of entertainment and exclusive announcements to share as we gear up for the 40th annual Black Tie Dinner. All proceeds benefit BTD beneficiaries. Park Place Motorcars Mercedes-Benz, 6113 Lemmon Ave. $25. BlackTie.org. 6:30-8:30 p.m. Tickets at Eventbrite.com/event-summer-social-hosted-by-black-tie-dinner-tickets-16519156795

• Aug. 26: Pride Across Texas The Texas LGBTQ Chambers of Commerce meet for virtual networking. Guest speaker is Jenn T. Grace, founder and CEO of Publish Your Purpose that gives first-time authors the secrets to getting their books written, finding an audience and marking their place in the publishing world. 4-6 p.m. LGBTChamber.com.

• Aug. 27: LGBT Rights in Texas AARP holds a Zoom meeting to discuss LGBT relationships and probate. What you need to know to protect your rights. Common law marriage, ceremonial marriage and how to obtain benefits based on relationships that began before marriage equality. From 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. txaarp@aarp.org.

• Aug. 28: NOH8 photoshoot Have your NOH8 picture taken from noon to 2 p.m. at W Hotel Victory, 2440 Victory Park Lane. Tickets at NOHcampaign.com.

• Through Aug. 28: Juried exhibition Contemporary 2D and 3D works selected by juror Caleb Bell, curator at the Tyler Museum of Art, will be included in the Texas Juried Exhibition at Artspace111, 111 Hampton St., Fort Worth. By appointment. ArtSpace111.com.

• Aug. 29: Songs of Strength and Survival The Turtle Creek Chorale Small Ensemble Showcase sings about the healing power of live music that was absent as we made our way through the pandemic 6 p.m. at Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. Tickets at TurtleCreekChorale.com.

• Aug. 30: Name and gender change workshop Lambda Legal discusses what the process looks like in Texas to secure state and federal identity documents. Lawyers can receive CLE credit. Meeting via Zoom. LambdaLegal.org.
A second summer of Rona

“Well in, I’d say!” goes the punchline to the world’s oldest honeymoon nuptials’ joke: At long last, the virgin bride’s conjugal evening has arrived — you’ve all heard this one before, kids — demure timidity and blushing purity personified is our fair maiden, breathlessly anticipating promissory fireworks and exploding stars! Her handsome new groom mounts her. She braces for newlywed lift-off.

The mattress begins gyrating, the bed posts start rattling, yet ... with no rocket launch discernible: An emergency abort? “Bunny Puff?” she inquires delicately, emotionless. “Apollo, are ... you in yet, my sweet?”

“Well in!” I’d say, indeed, during this — our second, melted-down summer in a row of euphoric expectations versus reality tumbled down a rabbit hole.

Here we are, bois AND girlz, returned once more to the raggedy bathhole end of August, with Rona having invited her even virally uglier sister Delta along to this summer’s beach blanket blast-off! Hope you haven’t thrown out your masks, kids!

Globally, and biblically, it becomes easier every month to concur the end days are nigh. And not least presciently as-suing is the Book of Revelations’ little reminder that wicked mankind’s second annihilation shall arrive in the exact opposite form bestowed by Genesis; hence, in case you haven’t noticed, folks, our whole fuckin’ world is ablaze! Be it literally, figuratively or both — bizarrely, in particular, Earth’s most traditionally rainy and/or most frozen regions — the Amazon Basin, the Pacific Northwest, Siberia — have turned powder-keg first.

Meanwhile, everything down here in the Great Plains this summer is (per Texas-in-August usual) merely torpid. However, as the running joke goes, Dallas only has two seasons anyhow: Summer and roadcrew. Oh, but did I mention every hospital’s emergency room nationwide is once again bursting at the seams? And just where’s our own, modern day anti-Noah for this new, ungodly era? Come on, man, hurry up and get here — things are starting to feel a bit, um, toasty!

Unanimously, my East Coast friends all gape the same utterance about my living in Texas: “My God, Howard, but the heat! How do you even stand it?” To which my stock answer usually goes, “Dallas is actually a very beautiful place to live from October through June; it’s only the other three months you gotta pay for it — which perhaps explains, guys, why I’ve been receiving a bit of overly zealous bitchery here recently, regarding just how ‘tame, politically correct and practically PG-rated’ my columns have apparently become. Really, now, bois?

This is the bone you wanna pick?

Granted, there was about a 6-month spate last year (during Rona’s crested lockdown peak) when I felt it just a trifle inappropriate to answer any of my usual rafts of cheating-dick questions or tawdry, assorted other sludge-mongering inquiries. Nonetheless, if it’s to the gutter you wish to return, kids, then a veritable Stygian trench of feces-flecked, felched and snowballed spogee shall we again flounce through — kicking straight-off with Howard’s number one most frequently asked question of all time. So, let’s just jump jizzily right in it, shall we?

Don’t you worry, bois, the bitch is back!

Dear Howard: How many calories are in an average blast of spunk?

— Rawnymous

Dear Rawnon: For some cryptically unrelenting, weight-watchers’ vision of girth control I’ve yet to figure out, this is (by far and away!) the single most oft-asked question I get. I’ve already answered it at least, oh, four or five times previously. So why not make it just a sugar-free/gluten-free half-dozen? A seem calorie-count of anywhere between 30-to-50 is the (presumably researched) correct number of empty calories you’ll be guzzling from any given esophageal sperm deposit, dependent, of course, on whether you’re the lucky recipient of your date’s first master-blower load of his day or whether you’re further down the scum-dance pole, sans any reservoir of recharging sleep he’s had in between.

Dear Howard: I teach freshmen high school English. School just started back, and it deeply saddens me to discover that four of my entering 14-year-olds this year are critically hospitalized. No, and it’s not COVID that’s culpable, either. It’s AIDS.

The standout horror here, to me, is that all four of them are fully four whole years away, still, from any adult being legally allowed to have sex with them, at all! In my opinion, Howard, in this day and age just one case of AIDS involving a minor would be an aberration. Two cases would be cause for alarm. Three cases would alert a disturbing trend. And four cases bode a crisis!

Also, for whatever it’s cryptically worth, I don’t think any of them are even gay! Howard, have you been hearing any underground reports such as these from any of your other readers? Honestly, I don’t believe my fellow high school staffers have even connected any these dots.

— Screaming Primal

Dear Scream Machine: Indeed, there’s a reason why “taboo” porn (i.e., Daddy/Son incest) out of all other fetish categories, has taken a surgent jump here lately to become the sudden, single most-popular gay brand, or genre, rather. Everything else — from plain vanilla to the scatological and all tastes in between — eats its dirt. Curiouser, still, the Daddy/Son taboo-vogue commonality seems to have leapt from “underground devian-cy” up to universal acceptance at warp-speed across the entire pansexual board.

If you ask me, the ever-fluid categories of porn’s popularity fetishes are the easiest, quickest and best societal-bellwether indicators of where Tomorrowland in the bedroom is headed; hell, I’m old enough to remember when AIDS first received its name — AIDS collided exactly with the very year I turned 18 — both milestones could be the beginning of my swift end.

I distinctly remember all the blonds died first. The dazzler kind — vivacious, fearless and frizzy. I was blond. And in my peer group of Birmingham friends, I alone lived — which I attribute to moving to NYC back in 1985 — back when AIDS was still a far away, sub-culture disease not anything relevant to the good people living in Alabama.

That’s the way all problems we could’t control used to be solved: If something went hotspot, we just packed up and sought refuge elsewhere. What do we do now, though, you ask, when everything’s gone hotspot — when everything’s shocking, electrifying no one?

Yes, our wells may all maddeningly, truly be running permanently dry; thus, why not give vigi to a sharp-tongued, tea-party-hosting milliner? During a psychotically global break, where else better to turn? Whether one calls it stumbling down a rabbit hole or a romp through Wonderland, ‘Alice had begun to think that very few things indeed were really impossible’ ... and began very cautiously her plotline concerns regarding the story-telling Dormouse’s mirthful tea party entertainment — an off-the-cuff tale invented of three sisters learning to draw, all of whom lived at the bottom of a treacle well.

 Asked Alice, “But I don’t understand. Where did they draw the treacle from?”

“You can draw water out of a water-well,” said the Hatter, “so I think you could draw treacle out of a treacle-well — oh, stupid?”

“But they were in the well,” Alice said to the Dormouse, not choosing to notice this last remark. ‘Of course, they were,’ said the Dormouse;— well in.”

Thus, children, how does Lewis Carroll bring us well into our contemplative thought for the day, pray you ask? Well, try a swallow of this tea: The average human lifespan consists of a but a pitifully mere 4,000 weeks — as I helplessly memory -monkeyed myself only yesterday, courtesy self-help guru Oliver Burkeman’s new-ly-published, tongue-in-cheek scoffing at what, exactly, do self-help books help one achieve?

Personally, I’ve already burned through more than 3,068 of my own paltrily allotted 4,000-weeks’ Earth-time. Now, if only I could remember just where in the treacle-blue blues could I have misplaced my bucket list, that I’d only just now finally begun a good start at taking things all so seriously with, anyhow?

My, August, but how coldly detached you do burn.
Can you hear that? That’s the orchestra tuning.
Can you feel that? It’s the excitement JUST before an amazing performance begins.
Can you see that? The chandelier is rising.

The long intermission has ended and we are thrilled to welcome you back to the AT&T Performing Arts Center.

Come discover what moves you.

attpac.org
Hair produced by Dallas Theater Center (Photo courtesy Karen Almond)

Give yourself a round of applause.

Thanks to the generosity of North Texans just like you, we can celebrate unforgettable moments just like this.

Make your investment go further. Support the arts by supporting TACA - The Arts Community Alliance - and help us lift up over 60 local arts organizations with 1 donation.

Text “TACA” To 41444 to give today.
Learn more at taca-arts.org
SCENE
PEOPLE, PLACES AND FACES

I’m seeing RED!

Patio vibes at The Hidden Door

Neil and Mark tie the knot

Who’s wears short-shorts?

Sherrell and Amanda of Real Live Connection for LGBT youth

Chaselyn Wade at the Fly Queens Brunch

Patio vibes at The Hidden Door

Neil and Mark tie the knot

Who’s wears short-shorts?
Ivana Gomez hosts the Cheer Dallas fundraiser for AIN at Cedar Springs Tap House.

Photos courtesy Jade Hoyle
The first That’s Show Biz dinner and drag event at Cedar Springs Tap House.
Photos Courtesy Jade Hoyle

**PUZZLE**

He’s a She Now

Solution on Page xx

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>6</th>
<th>7</th>
<th>8</th>
<th>9</th>
<th>10</th>
<th>11</th>
<th>12</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Across
1 Parenting couple, sometimes
6 With mouth wide open
10 Same-sex vow
13 Liquor, slangily
14 Clash of heavyweights
15 Snatch
16 **Così fan ___**
17 Type of balls
18 Do an impression of
19 TV show of 53-Across
22 **Much ___ About Nothing**
24 Like a Muscle Mary, maybe
25 Classic western
26 Review of **Cats,** perhaps
28 David Hyde Pierce and peers
30 Ogled a hottie in a bar, e.g.
31 Louise’s partner
33 It’s hard and woody
35 Character played by 53-Across
38 **Bus**
39 Solidarity leader Lech
42 Wine of da Vinci’s land
45 Anticrime acronym
47 **The King and I** setting
48 Big bills
50 Simba’s love, on Broadway
52 Sticky stuff
53 Actor who recently came out as trans
56 SEP, e.g.
57 Indiana Fever game officials
58 It tops the cake
61 Living in Fla., perhaps
62 The 411
63 He comes once a year
64 Ricky Martin’s that
65 The A of ILGA
66 Euphoric states

Down
1 San Francisco hrs.
2 Nonpro sports org.
3 Fool, with “on”
4 When Hamlet says “To be...”
5 Voyeurs, e.g.
6 Lash out at
7 Maker of what you shoot off
8 Melville novel
9 Garb for grads
10 Sorta
11 **Moon of Frasier**
12 Did as told
20 Lover of Franklin and Lorena
21 Beersheba bread
22 Michelangelo’s output
23 Morse’s long one
27 Mythological heaven
29 Jack London novel, with **The**
32 Where wrestlers lie together
34 **Gardner of Show Boat**
36 **Frasier** and “Maude,” e.g.
37 In power, as a queen
40 Saint, in Rio
41 First in a Latin threesome
42 Stuff in the closet
43 Dinah on a beach?
44 Red fruit used as a vegetable.
46 **Kressley of Queer Eye**
49 Lebanon neighbor
51 They won’t pose for nude photos
54 Pride places
55 Anti-oxidant berry
59 Math degree
60 **Jumpin’ Jack Flash,** to Jagger

FIND IT ALL HERE AT

**AMAZING**

INTIMATE ESSENTIALS Adult DVD, Novelties, Magazines
Watch All The Movies In
Our World Famous 1200 Channel Arcade

**Home of the**

**World Famous**

$10 Movie Pass!

**Video Rooms - $10 • Over 1200 Channels**

11211 Harry Hines Blvd. #603
Facing Joe Field Plaza on Joe Field
972-243-2707
Sun-Thu 10am-12am
Fri & Sat 10am-3am

© 2021 The Dallas Voice
All Rights Reserved
MarketPlace
Your calling card for LGBT Texas business
For information on advertising, call us at:
214-754-8710 ext. 110. Visit us online at:
dallasvoice.com/marketplace

The Premier Media Source for LGBT Texas

Services

THE PAINTER
Specializing In Interior Painting
25 Years Experience
Free Estimates
Extremely Meticulous
TONY R.
972-754-1536
TonyRThePainter@netscape.com

Services

EMERGENCY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
Program provides short-term assistance to low-income, low-income families who are economically distressed by COVID-19.

Coverage
- Utilities (electricity, gas, water, and telephone)
- Medical aid
- Food

Eligibility
- Current eligible household
- Household income
- Age 60 or over

Please call: (214) 940-4264
And someone will return your call as soon as possible.

Services

LEGAL

COVELL PC
Estate Planning • Probate • Business Law
- Wills
- Probate of Wills
- Powers of Attorney
- Trusts & Asset Protection
- Advanced Directives
- Business Law

Rebecca S. Covell
Attorney who is notcookie about ice cream.
12222 Merit Drive, Suite 340
Dallas, Texas 75251
(214) 443-0300
rebecca@covellpc.com

Services

Sandy Webb
Independent Beauty Consultant
archbon1@cox.net
www.marykay.com/SWebb0324
Shop online with me 24/7
MARY KAY®
Products to keep your man looking good!

Services

Legal

Stephanie Hall
Attorney at Law

Family Law
Collaboration Agreements, Adoption, Child Custody, Divorce, Property Division, Child Support

LGBT Issues
Specializing In Family, Estate Planning, Property Agreements & Divisions

Estate planning and Probate
Wills, Medical & Durable Powers of Attorney, Guardianship, Litigation

8610 Wooded Beck Court
Dallas, TX 75249 • 214-693-2959
Not certified by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization

Services

LEGAL

Stephanie Hall
Attorney at Law

Family Law
Collaboration Agreements, Adoption, Child Custody, Divorce, Property Division, Child Support

LGBT Issues
Specializing In Family, Estate Planning, Property Agreements & Divisions

Estate planning and Probate
Wills, Medical & Durable Powers of Attorney, Guardianship, Litigation

8610 Wooded Beck Court
Dallas, TX 75249 • 214-693-2959
Not certified by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization

Services

Legal

Stephanie Hall
Attorney at Law

Family Law
Collaboration Agreements, Adoption, Child Custody, Divorce, Property Division, Child Support

LGBT Issues
Specializing In Family, Estate Planning, Property Agreements & Divisions

Estate planning and Probate
Wills, Medical & Durable Powers of Attorney, Guardianship, Litigation

8610 Wooded Beck Court
Dallas, TX 75249 • 214-693-2959
Not certified by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization

Services

LEGAL

Stephanie Hall
Attorney at Law

Family Law
Collaboration Agreements, Adoption, Child Custody, Divorce, Property Division, Child Support

LGBT Issues
Specializing In Family, Estate Planning, Property Agreements & Divisions

Estate planning and Probate
Wills, Medical & Durable Powers of Attorney, Guardianship, Litigation

8610 Wooded Beck Court
Dallas, TX 75249 • 214-693-2959
Not certified by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization

Services

Medical

Guardian Health

General Medicine
Immune Disease
Trans Health
STD Treatment
General Dermatology
Affordable Pricing

Dr Terry Watson
8204 Elmwood Drive Ste. 206 (Mockingbird & Harry Hines)
214-221-8181 • drwatson@sbcglobal.net

Services

Advertising

LGBTQ+ podcast BFFU

Best Friends Forever University
Best friends forever University is on a mission to cultivate empathy and fight prejudice by representing LGBTQ+ people and their stories of power and courage to make change for the better.

New episodes every Wednesday on Apple, Spotify and Google
Podcasts. Link here:
tinyurl.com/y-4cfhflk5

Services

Fantastic Moves

VOTED BEST MOVERS 11 YEARS & COUNTING

Experience Counts! 120+ Years Supporting the Community
214.349.6683
www.FantasticMoves.com
10610 Metric Drive, Suite # 175 Dallas, TX 75243

Services
Love All the Time.
Love Every Time.

Ewing Means Love.