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The Premier Media Source for LGBTQ Texas

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Preserving  
the *past*

Queer History South Conference  
comes to Dallas

2022 QUEER HISTORY SOUTH

# Archives for ALL, *Y'all!*

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and former White House Advisor



MANDY CARTER – resistance  
fellow, southern social justice



MIKE ANGLIN – Baker v Wade  
Legal Panel, community activist

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Cover photo courtesy Jimmy Bartlett

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Jonathan Vogel, DDS

TOGETHER WITH  
**P R I D E**



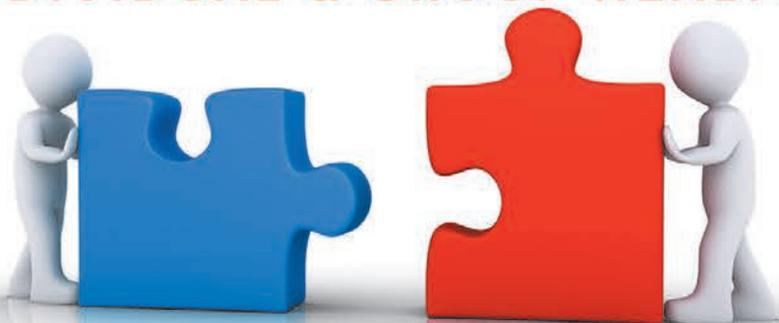
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# Bites from our blog

WHAT'S THE TEA: DallasVoice.com



## Texas Pride Impact Funds announces RFP for Texas Health Impact Grants

Texas Pride Impact Funds this week announced that the 2022-2023 Texas Health Impact Grants applications are now available for grassroots organizations in Texas currently leading work or seeking to develop innovative work that disrupts disparities and prioritizes the needs of people living with and impacted by HIV.

The multi-year initiative will focus on two key areas: 1. Linkage and engagement to care, and 2. Advocacy for people living with HIV/AIDS, those vulnerable to HIV and their families, focusing especially on Black and Latinx transgender individuals and Black and Latinx MSM.

Applicants may request up to a maximum of

\$12,500.

For more information visit Texas Pride Impact Funds. [www.txpif.org](http://www.txpif.org) To donate go here. [www.txpif.org/donate-today/](http://www.txpif.org/donate-today/)

— Tammye Nash

## Cuban voters overwhelming approve same-sex marriage, adoption rights

Cubans approved gay marriage and adoption by an overwhelmingly large margin in a government-backed referendum on Sunday, Sept. 25, according to number of sources. The referendum also boosted rights for women, Cuba's national election commission said today (Monday, Sept. 26).

National election commission president Alina Balseiro Gutierrez said in an interview broadcast on state-run television that 3.9 million — or 66.8 percent of voters — voted in favor of the proposed changes, compared to only 1.95 million — 33 percent — who opposed them, according to Reuters.

The 100-page family code approved Sunday by voters legalizes both same-sex marriage and civil unions, allows same-sex couples to adopt and promotes equal sharing of domestic rights and responsibilities between men and women.

According to Reuters, preliminary results show that 74 percent of Cubans eligible to vote cast their ballots in the referendum this weekend.

Cuban President Miguel Diaz-Canel tweeted: "Justice has been done."

— Tammye Nash

## Tarrant County Pride holding 'Silence to Solidarity' March on Saturday

Tarrant County Pride holds its "Silence to Solidarity" Pride March on Saturday, Oct. 1, beginning at 9 a.m. at The Water Gardens in Fort Worth. The event begins with a rally featuring speakers, with the Solidarity March set to step off from the Water Gardens at 10:30 a.m. There will be a presentation at 11:15 a.m., and a closing ceremony and photos at noon.

Tarrant County Pride officials noted that the usual Tarrant County Pride events in October — the Pride Parade, the Water Garden Festival and the Pride Picnic — have been cancelled the last two years due to COVID-19. This year's event is scaled down, but "We will be back in full force for 2023, rain or shine!" they said in a press release.

Celebration Community Church has invited all interested people to join the Celebration contingent in the Solidarity march. Those who want to march with the church can either carpool from the church on Pennsylvania or meet at the Water Gardens at 9 a.m. Celebration's pastor, the Rev. Jorene Swift, will be one of the speakers at the rally prior to the march.

Those wishing to march with Celebration are asked to RSVP at [scardinal@celebrationtexas.com](mailto:scardinal@celebrationtexas.com).

— Tammye Nash

## Screams opens 2022 season on Friday

Screams Halloween Theme Park 2022 opens for its 26th season on Friday, Sept. 30, and will run every Friday and Saturday night through the end of October.

Screams, located on the same property where Scarborough Renaissance Festival happens each spring, boasts five haunted houses, a bakery, a tavern and so much more.

The newest haunted house, Bootlegger's Bayou, is being unveiled and will feature "Gutt Family," and Screams is also introducing its brand-new walkthrough attraction, the Cool Ghoul Boulevard, the world's longest Halloween

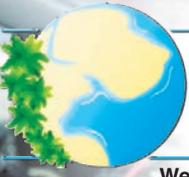
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light tunnel where only the coolest of ghouls reside! There will also be new live entertainment on the main stage, including the Hell Dolls' wickedly amazing show where aerials and fire collide! The Hell Dolls will be performing multiple shows each

night of the 2022 season.

You can also check out the all-new 13th Hour Bakery, the all-new Headless Horseman Tavern and the all-new Jack O'Lantern Pub debuting for 2022, and for the first time ever, Screams will

have a quiet zone where visitors can catch their breath before they confront more frights.

A big change for the 2022 season is the Screams ticketing: Tickets and Fast Passes are available exclusively online at [www.ScreamsPark.com](http://www.ScreamsPark.com). No tickets or Fast Passes will be sold at the gate.

Tickets and Fast Passes are both date spe-

cific; prices start at \$42 for tickets and \$30 for Fast Passes. Screams is located at the Scarborough Faire site just one mile west of I-35E at 2511 FM 66 in Waxahachie and is open Friday and Saturday nights, Sept. 30 – Oct. 29 from 7 p.m.-1 a.m.

— Tammye Nash

## ■ Adoptable / PRISSY



Meet **Prissy**, a young kitten now available for adoption at the Jan Rees-Jones Animal Care Center in Dallas. She is only five months old and weighs only 4 pounds. She is a domestic medium hair mix with soft fur that alternates gray to black and big yellow eyes. Prissy is a cat-lovers cat, and it would be best for her to go home to a new fur sibling. She is somewhat shy on first meeting and would do well with an experienced and patient human parent. Prissy came to

the SPCA of Texas from the Community Cat program and had been staying with a foster. It may take a bit of time for her to get used to her new surroundings, but she should make a totally adorable new addition for the right family. There is no appointment necessary to come and meet her in person.

Adult dogs and cats are normally a \$75 adoption fee from the SPCA of Texas. Puppies and kittens under the age of six months are \$150. Adoption fees vary for small mammals, equestrian and livestock. Fee includes spay/neuter surgery, age-appropriate vaccinations, a heartworm test for dogs six months and older and a FIV/FeLV test for cats four 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 to the public seven days a week, from noon-6 p.m. Appointments are required for foster animals. Please browse available animals at [SPCA.org/FindAPet](http://SPCA.org/FindAPet) and visit [SPCA.org/DogAdopt](http://SPCA.org/DogAdopt) to inquire about a dog or [SPCA.org/CatAdopt](http://SPCA.org/CatAdopt) to inquire about a cat.



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# Laurie Strode saved my life

Jamie Lee Curtis' iconic character from the 'Halloween' movies is a model of strength and survival

I love horror movies.

In the late '80s and '90s, each VHS tape I rented from the local video store introduced me to the "final girl" — woman who was a symbol of resilience, forced to look death in the face and who, despite having the odds stacked against her, was able to escape or defeat the killers and survive the trauma she endured.

As a minority and a gay youth, I related to the final girl and her struggles because it's what I had to do: survive. They inspired me to want to live in a world where I was strong enough to be my own hero — the "final boy."

Forty-four years ago, we were given the gift of witnessing the meteoric rise of Jamie Lee Curtis firsthand. Much of it happening over the 90-minute span of John Carpenter's horror classic *Halloween* in which we first met Laurie Strode.

Laurie Strode is a character Jamie Lee Curtis has played seven times, a character who has shown the world the evolution of a person who goes from victim to survivor by facing and overcoming loss, the stress of living under false pretense, paranoia and fear, addiction, mental health issues, suicidal tendencies, trauma and PTSD. Her inner-strength and courage allow her to face the Boogeyman over and over again.

The evolution and rebirth of Laurie Strode are special, ambitious and brilliantly human. And even as I write this, I am realizing that maybe it wasn't just Laurie who evolved and was reborn, but also those of us who have faced our own, real life horrors as we came to realize exactly who we are and what we are capable of. Because you never know how strong you are until being strong is the only choice.

I never thought Laurie Strode would



**Gilberto Rodriguez**  
Special Contributor

save my life. But she did.

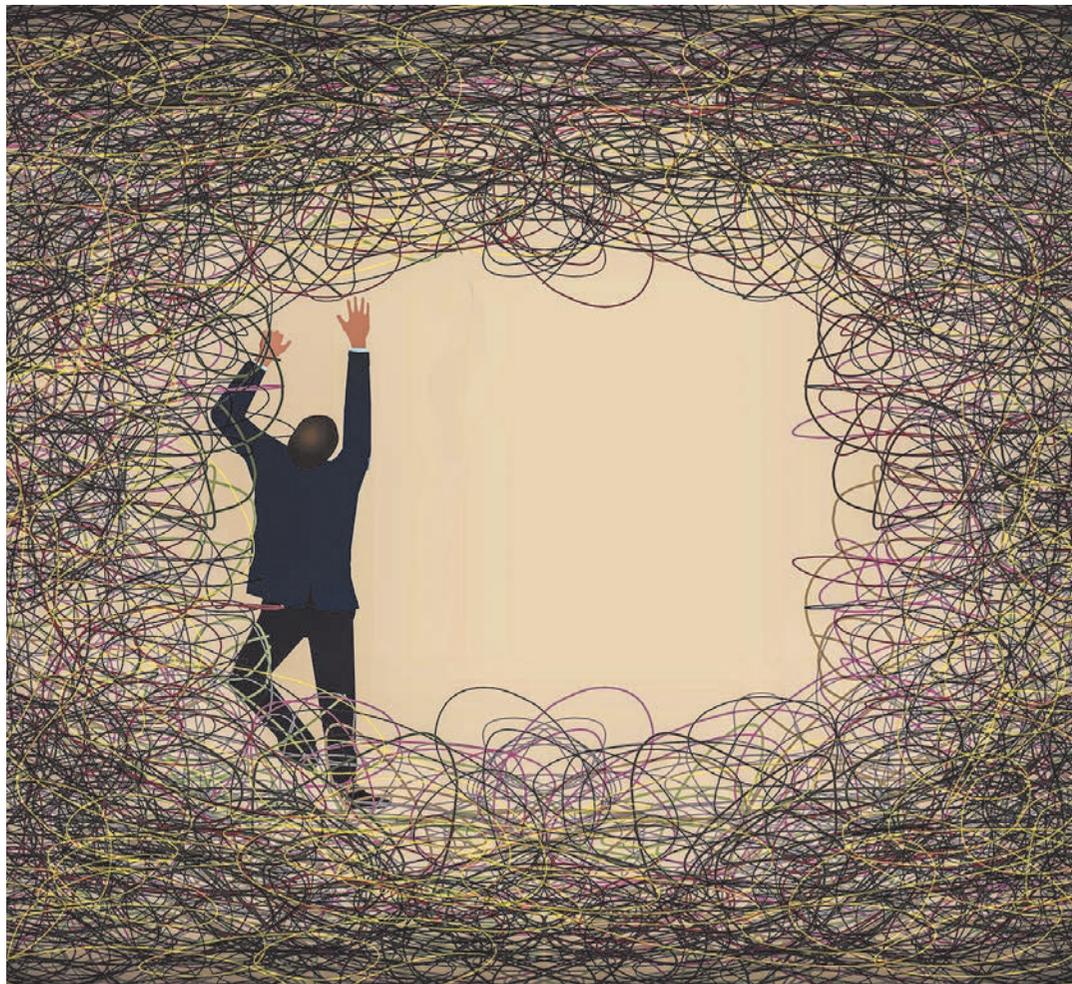
On Dec. 24, 2006; I was beaten and raped by three men while I was living in Madison, Wisc. That became my Halloween night, my Haddonfield, and for a long time, those men were the boogeyman figures in my life.

The physiological, neurological and emotional impact of a violent, traumatic act varies with each individual person. There is a lasting effect that can never be erased, but it does not have to define who you are as a person. And even though I was imprisoned by fear, anger, denial, sadness and shame, I did not allow those monsters to create another.

Like Laurie's journey, mine was not easy. I did not give myself a voice, making the decision to not report those individuals to the authorities. I went through about a decade of my life without any type of help or professional treatment.

Luckily, I had Laurie Strode to help navigate me through it all, and she eventually led me down a road to recovery and healing. Jamie Lee Curtis' portrayals of Laurie Strode have helped shine a light for me and other survivors looking for a path out of darkness.

It is said that, "Behind every strong person is a story that gave them no



choice." I am strong, I am alive, and I am here because of Laurie Strode.

And a few years ago, I got a tattoo of the hashtag #iamlauriestrode as a badge of honor, because Jamie Lee Curtis gave both me and Laurie Strode life, and at the same time, she saved us both. And they both will forever be a part of my life.

Sexual assault can happen to anyone, regardless age, sexual orientation or gender identity. Men and boys who have been sexually assaulted or abused may share many of the same feelings and reactions as other survivors of sexual assault, but they may also face some additional challenges unique to their experience.

If something happened to you, know that it is not your fault, and you are not alone. It can be hard to tell someone

what you have experienced, especially because of social attitudes, not being believed and stereotypes related to men and masculinity.

Being able to share my story with other survivors has been important in feeling less alone and connecting with others in my healing process. Take back the power of what you have endured and take ownership by rewriting the screenplay of your life — one that is written by you: the survivor, the Final Boy.

National Sexual Assault Hotline  
Available 24 hours  
1-800-656-4673

■  
*Gilberto R. Rodriguez is a native Texan with a big heart and a love for all things horror and Halloween who's on a mission to spread his "fearless is the new flawless" motto through his writing.*



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# More to LGBTQ history

## LGBTQ HISTORY

Moe Vela: History includes the challenges, obstacles pain and struggles, not just the highlights

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer  
taffet@dallasvoice.com

**D**on't expect to hear about his time at the White House when Moe Vela speaks at the Queer History South: Archives for All, Y'all conference in Dallas this weekend. And he won't be focusing on his Amazon Prime TV show *Unicorn Hunters*, which is in production for another season.

Instead, Vela said, he'll tell the story behind the story — how he grew up in the Rio Grande Valley without having the safety and security of a neighborhood like Oak Lawn.

"We usually view someone's successes, accolades and accomplishments to define a person," Vela said. But to learn from history, we need to know more



Moe Vela on the *Unicorn Hunters* set

than what was accomplished. We need to learn the details, the challenges, the obstacles and the pain and struggles behind the successes to truly learn from

our past, he said.

That's what he'll focus on when he's in Dallas for the 13-state LGBTQ history conference at Dallas College/El Centro

from Sept. 30-Oct. 2.

To get a full and fair understanding

HISTORY, Page 26

## Queer History South comes to Dallas

*Archives for All, Y'all features speakers who've been collecting, archiving, teaching and exhibiting LGBTQ history*

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer  
taffet@dallasvoice.com

LGBTQ history is more than Stonewall. It's stories of LGBTQ lives from cities across the country. And it is on display this weekend in Dallas as the Queer History South conference comes to town.

Queer History South is a network of community members from across a 13-state area who share best practices for those collecting LGBTQ histories, archives, exhibits, historical research and education. The organization holds its second — and pandemic-delayed — conference, dubbed Archives for All, Y'all, in Dallas this weekend, Sept. 30-Oct. 2.

The conference is of interest to archivists, historians, librarians, faculty, students, educators, nonprofit employees and community

members working to preserve their community's narratives. Moe Vela (see accompanying story) is the opening plenary speaker on Friday at 9 a.m.

The Dallas Way is the principle collector of LGBTQ artifacts and stories in the DFW area. Robert Emery will present a workshop on Outrageous Oral, The Dallas Way's speaker series that has included presentations by more than 100 community leaders.

Other local history organizations will also present, including Invisible Histories of the South based in Birmingham, Ala., and founder of Queer History South, and The Austin LGBTQ+ Oral History Project at University of Texas. A presenter from the LGBTQ+ Archives Project of Louisiana will discuss dealing with incomplete archives sometimes caused by state officials who destroyed or redacted incriminating documents.

On Friday night, attendees will visit the first and only LGBTQ historical marker in Texas, which stands on Cedar Springs Road, and then they will check out the world's largest LGBTQ cowboy dance hall — The Round-Up Saloon. Others may take the Green Line to Fair Park for the opening day

of the State Fair of Texas.

Mandy Carter is the opening plenary speaker on Saturday. She is the co-founder of Southerners on New Ground, the National Black Justice Coalition and Equality North Carolina. Her papers are archived at Duke University Libraries.

Speakers from the LGBTQ History Museum of Central Florida and the associate curator of education and outreach from the Orlando Museum of Art will discuss their work cruising for gay history outside the bars. In the afternoon, three speakers from University of North Texas will talk about the school's physical and digital archives, research and preservation of North Texas LGBTQ history.

The conference continues Saturday with a reception at the nearby Dallas Holocaust and Human Rights Museum, with a special presentation on the museum's LGBTQ exhibit. The bar at the museum opens at 6:39 p.m., two minutes after sunset signals the end of Shabbat.

*The conference takes place at Dallas College/El Centro, 801 Main St. For more information, visit [InvisibleHistory.org/qhs](http://InvisibleHistory.org/qhs).*



# Rainbow Rising

## ON THE STAGE

Political satirist Randy Rainbow talks about life beyond his spoofs and what it's like to offer levity during intense times

**CHRIS AZZOPARDI** | Contributing Writer  
chris@qsyndicate.com

**T**here are far worse things happening in the world, clearly, but political-parody sensation Randy Rainbow does have a bone to pick with some folks. And this time, it's not with Marjorie Taylor Greene, not even with Donald Trump.

"I'm throwing my team the hell under the bus," he joked on camera, after jumping on Zoom last minute when he was reminded of our interview, which was "on everyone's calendar but mine."

"I was getting ready to take a bubble bath," he said, "but I'm happy to be with you."

At the time of our interview in April, Rainbow was making his press rounds to chat about his debut memoir, *Playing with Myself*. The humanizing book recounts his life growing up as an imaginative and misunderstood boy before he became known for his playful digs at right-wing figures by reworking famous Broadway songs to poke at the sheer insanity of those making really terrible political decisions.

Through the book, we meet Nanny, his adoring late grandmother; we go back to the video that launched his viral career, when he pretend-called Mel Gibson; we learn about his comedy-meets-Broadway origins and how it became a full-blown career, earning him now four Emmy nominations and famous fans such as Patti LuPone and even, yes, Carol Burnett.

Along with the release of his book, Rainbow is also on the road. The Pink Glasses Tour is underway, and he brings his show of standup, music and more to North Texas on Friday, Sept. 30, at the



All photos courtesy Dirty Sugar Photography

Texas Trust CU Theatre.

For tickets to see Randy Rainbow's Pink Glasses Tour in North Texas, visit [axs.com/events](https://www.axs.com/events) and receive a Dallas Voice discount on tickets through 8 p.m. Friday, Sept. 30, using the code VOICE.

**DALLAS VOICE:** So the book — You are extremely vulnerable in it, and I just want to tell you that I appreciate you sharing intimate parts of your life with us. I have a real appreciation for the

fact that you went to some complex and complicated places, with your family, especially. Randy Rainbow: I'm glad I got on the Zoom today, because that's really nice to hear, and I appreciate that. I did go to some vulnerable places. I was certainly more raw than I've ever been before publicly.

**Was there a moment where you decided that, "If I'm going to write a book, I need to tell that part of the story to tell my full story"? And if so, when was that**

**moment in the process for you?** From the beginning, I had every intention of being as vulnerable and as real as I could muster. People have been so generous with their praises — mothers across the country. And everyone who has written to me over the years, especially the last five years, and has come to my show and my meet-and-greets, they're so generous with their praise and ... Gratitude. Gratitude is the word.

They thank me for getting them through — getting them through Trump, getting them through the pandemic, getting them through their own personal struggles. And they offer their emotional selves up to me, and in a way that's so real. And I realized that's so nice, but it's not really a two-way street at this moment, because these people only know the two-dimensional persona that they've come to know, which is certainly a part of me.



But they don't really know that I am a complicated person who has my own insecurities and flaws and heartbreaks and who has faced my own adversities in life. So I wanted to really seize the moment and, as a gift to those followers who have been with me for years and to myself, to really come out and put it out there on the table.

**What do mothers of LGBTQ kids tell you?** I meet so many mothers. So many of them come to my live shows, and a lot of

**RAINBOW**, Page 24

# Dance debut

DANCE ON STAGE



Gina Gibney Company

Lesbian-led Gibney Company opens TITAS' season with first Dallas appearance

**RICH LOPEZ** | Staff writer  
rich@dallasvoice.com

**F**or Gina Gibney, bringing her New York-based company to debut in Dallas is an exciting move. With a recent donor gift, she and the entire Gibney Company have been able to reshape the company not only as an arts company but as an organization. Part of that is hitting the road and introducing the Gibney Company to more dance fans.

"This is really an incredible moment

for us," Gibney said by phone. Whether she meant in general or the Dallas debut specifically — still, no truer words.

The Gibney Company opens TITAS/DANCEUNBOUND's new 30th season this weekend at the Moody Performance Hall in Dallas Arts District.

Gibney founded the company in 1991 to build an organization around her own artistic endeavors. In New York, she wanted to find a way to put her voice as a dancer and choreographer among a plethora of dance and arts organizations. Today, it's fair to say her team has carved its own space.

"I never expected to have a company this size. This has surpassed any vision I ever had in the most positive ways," she said.

A huge part of that was a recent gift of \$2 million to the company which allowed the company to expand in 2020. Technically, the donation — which came from Andrew A. Davis, a trustee of the Shelby Cullom Davis Charitable Fund — was given just before the pandemic started. But the company couldn't do anything with it until later. That also gave Gibney herself a bit of freedom to think creatively with the organization, since there was no conditions on how the company could proceed with that kind of gift.

"Aside from the faith he had in me, he allowed me to flesh out the vision of the company. There are no second guesses of our choices, and I think it all really lit the torch for us to move for-

ward," Gibney said.

The organization grew and received a slew of performance opportunities, and the company now has 23 studios in its facilities. Quite a long way for the out dancer to have come since 1991.

In New York, any and everything seems possible, but it was stunning to learn that Gibney is the only lesbian-led company in the Big Apple. Additionally, she hasn't had the easiest path despite the idea of how open the New York arts community seemed it would be.

"As an openly gay woman, it wasn't necessarily easy. I think I found acceptance in my profession, but for a while, the dance world didn't feel like a fertile place for a gay woman," she said.



Gina Gibney (Photo courtesy Erin Baino)

But Gibney turned that into a positive by creating an organization that wasn't just a dance company but one that spoke to issues of civil justice and advocacy.

"I had to work against that, so in my gender-based work, based in my own feminism or gender, there is a personal advocacy through the work," she said. "I didn't consciously go into the arts to combine them, but being completely engaged in my own life with social action, feminine and gender advocacy, it seemed natural to insert that into my work."

All that wraps up into an inspiring package that heads to Dallas this weekend. And while Gibney may certainly represent the community with her name on the company, she noted that the piece "Oh Courage," which will be part of the program, was choreographed by the openly-queer and Tony-winning Sonya Tayeh.

"I think we're really bringing that representation to Dallas, but this is such an opportunity to learn and how Dallas will respond as we watch alongside them," Gibney said. ■



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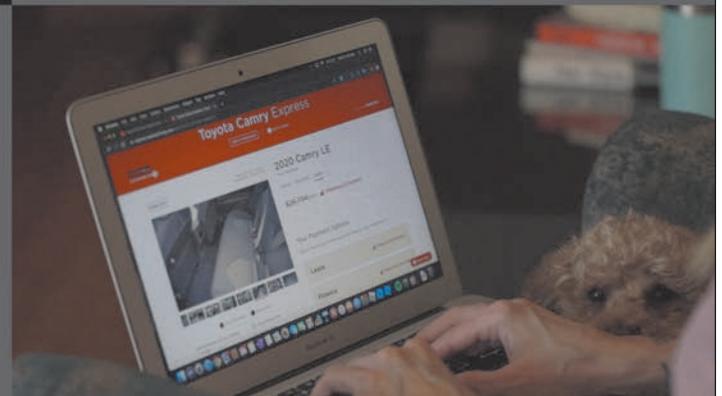


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# I do, while I still can

## MARRIAGE EQUALITY

A Dallas County judge concerned with the *Dobbs* decision is holding a day-long marriage event in his court

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer  
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After reading the U.S. Supreme Court's recent *Dobbs* decision, which overturned *Roe v. Wade* and which Justice Clarence Thomas used as a chance to propose overturning the court's 2015 decision on marriage equality, Dallas County District Judge Martin Hoffman felt frustrated that, as a trial judge, he couldn't do anything about it. But he decided he would do something, and that something was give people the opportunity to get married on Oct. 7.

In overturning *Roe v. Wade*, the *Dobbs* decision allows states to prohibit abortion even in cases of rape and incest and even in some cases where an abortion is necessary to save the life of the mother.

But it wasn't just that, Hoffman said: "I became concerned when I read Clarence Thomas's footnote in the *Dobbs* case."

In that pages-long footnote, or concurring opinion, Thomas wrote that just as the U.S. Constitution doesn't grant the right to an abortion, other previous decisions that were incorrectly decided should be re-examined. He enumerated exactly which cases he meant: *Griswold v. Connecticut*, which granted married couples the right to access birth control; *Laurence v. Texas*, which invalidated state sodomy laws, and *Obergefell v. Hodges*, which granted marriage equality.

Hoffman pointed out Thomas' hypocrisy in omitting *Loving v. Virginia*, which granted interracial couples the right to marry. That decision used the same bit of constitutional law as the others listed, but Thomas, himself, is in an interracial marriage.



Jack Evans, left, and George Harris wait in line for their marriage license on Marriage Equality Day. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

Hoffman, who's been a judge for 16 years, mentioned that he was in office the day *Obergefell* was decided. And it was, he said, "an amazing day."

Along with Judge Tonya Parker and most of the Dallas County judges, Hoffman set aside part of his day on June 25, 2015, to marry couples who had rushed to the County Records Building to get a license.

"There were so many wonderful stories about people who had to wait so long to get married," he recalled. That included the first couple to marry in Dallas County — Jack Evans and George Harris, who had been together 54 years by that historic morning.

Before deciding to offer to marry couples in his courtroom at no charge on Friday, Oct. 7, Hoffman discussed the idea with Parker. Then he approached Kristy Noble, chair of the Dallas County Democratic Party, and Stonewall Democrats, a group that he's been a member of since the beginning of his political career.

Hoffman said the idea of marrying couples as a way to stand up to *Dobbs* came to him after speaking to someone whom he used to work with. "She and her partner have been together for many years," he said. "She wasn't a big believer in marriage until she read *Dobbs*."

Hoffman explained why he was so passionate about marriage: "Marriage protects both of you, your future, your kids. The right to marry is so fundamental."

He said the COVID pandemic made it even clearer how important it is to allow people to marry, when only family members could visit someone in the hospital and make life-changing medical decisions.

To make the day special, Hoffman said he hopes a photographer will be there, and a reception for all couples who tied the knot will be held that evening from 5:30-7 p.m. at Alexandre's on Cedar Springs Road.

Alexandre's owner Lee Daugherty said the evening should be a fun reception of food, drinks and cake "presented in the disorganized way Democrats do things."

He called the evening a preview to the bar's current expansion with the addition of food as well as additional bar space prior to its grand re-opening. But he also called it "an important event in our history as a community."

When the Supreme Court issued its *Obergefell* ruling, "the wind went out of our sails," Daugherty said. "But in this country, the struggle continues."

Victories in court don't mean much in the long term, without concurrent legislation, he said.

"The world is having a rebirth of anti-LGBT and far right extremism," Daugherty continued, pointing to the Italian election this past week that will bring a party descended from Mussolini to power.

"And we have a sold-off court," he added.

Daugherty warned moderate liberals, including many members of the LGBTQ community, to care about more than their own rights. "If we don't care about trans attacks, you're next," he said. "Everyone has a term on the chopping block — marriage, adoption, medical treatment."

By medical treatment, Daugherty was referring to a recent court decision that removed PrEP from drugs required to be included in insurance drug plans, based on an employer's religious beliefs. PrEP prevents the spread of HIV.

But, on a lighter note, Daugherty said he was proud to host the marriage reception next Friday and thanked Judge Hoffman for his part in the event.

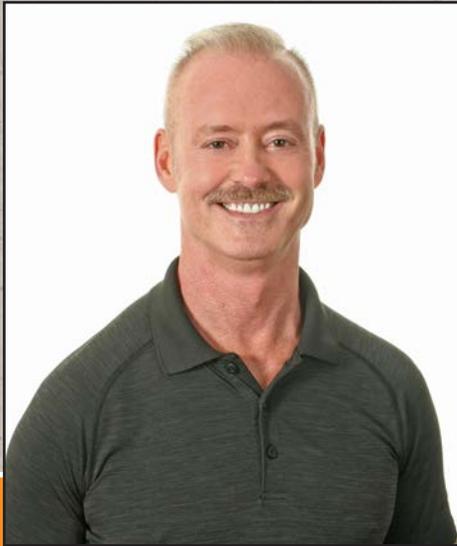
As for Hoffman, he said, "My hope is Clarence Thomas is wrong and this [marriage] is something that will be around for a long, long time. But I'm worried about it. The people on the Supreme Court right now don't seem to care what the majority of people think."

He noted the marriage event is open to everyone, including all same-sex, nonbinary and opposite sex couples.

To get married in Hoffman's court on Oct. 7, you must apply for a marriage license. That can be done online. Once you've completed the application, you'll be provided an order number that you'll give to the deputy clerk with acceptable forms of identification, which includes everything from a driver's license issued anywhere in the U.S. or Canada to a gun permit. ■

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Judge Hoffman's court is on the 5th floor of the George Allen Courts Building on Commerce Street.



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# Let them eat 'Cake'

## BEHIND THE CURTAIN

Theatre Arlington bakes up an all-too familiar dilemma in 'The Cake'

**RICH LOPEZ** | Staff writer  
rich@dallasvoice.com

**W**e've all seen the headlines: Some baker refuses a same-sex couple's request to make their wedding cake. And while courts usually handle that issue, Theatre Arlington is taking it on in its own way.

This weekend, the theater will open *The Cake*, a play about just such a scenario. TA's executive producer Steven D. Morris directs the play.

"It's about a woman named Della, and she's about to be a contestant on The Big America Bake Off. Her 'goddaughter' basically comes to her and wants her to bake a cake for her wedding where she's actually marrying a woman," Morris said. "She's not sure if she'll do it or not, and the show is about that struggle [over] whether she's able to accept someone that she loves or stick to her beliefs."

Cast with four actors, the show features Shannon J. McGann as Della, Rodney Honeycutt as Della's husband Tim and Sasha Maya Ada and Olivia Cinquepalmi as Macy and Jen, the engaged couple.

After seeing the show locally, Morris was certain he wanted it to be produced at Theatre Arlington.

"I saw the show at Uptown Players, and it was so funny and has such com-



passion for both sides of the story," he said. "That's what I really liked about it. It was also fair to Della's conservative side and her struggle with it all. And all these characters are so complex and three-dimensional."

Another reason Morris wanted to bring it to TA was that the story mat-

tered to him and was personal.

"I mean, I hope to get married someday, so in that aspect, this is personal to me," he said. "But also, I think it's a great story for here. I want the people I love and care about here to see this show."

Gay audiences and straight audiences may see the show differently. The chords the show could strike may just sound different to different audience members. Morris pondered on that notion.

"I feel the weight of it could be different. You know, when I saw it, most of us in the audience were coming from a similar place at Uptown Players. I laughed. Parts made me cry," he said. "I do wonder now how a primarily straight audience will respond to it in a fairly conservative area."

*The Cake* isn't a heavy play with a big, deep message, but it does perpetuate Theatre Arlington's initiative to be more

inclusive as well as offer representation — particularly with queer audiences.

Whether it's through eccentric characters — as in the recent *Black Comedy* where Micah Green slayed as the very out Harold Gorringer — or in musicals that have gay appeal, like *Sister Act*, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* and next season's *Avenue Q* and *Gypsy*.

Plus, for many — if not all — of its shows, TA hosts a Pride Night for discounted seats.

"The majority of feedback has been positive," Morris said. "Our board loves the direction we are moving. And there's so much beautiful literature that we can tell more than just straight white people stories."

"We have a very diverse population here, and it's ridiculous to just tell stories from one point of view. We want to represent all of our community here."

Morris admits it's a slow process, but he's seen how TA has grown in appeal for younger audiences. He's also glad that the theater can take on issues through laughter with such shows like *The Cake*.

"While they are laughing, later they'll realize that a show like this made a point," he said. "The author [Bekah Brunstetter] does a beautiful job with the characters, [and] I think people will relate, and I hope most it all leads to some great discussions after,"

*The Cake opens Friday and runs through Oct. 16. TheatreArlington.org.*

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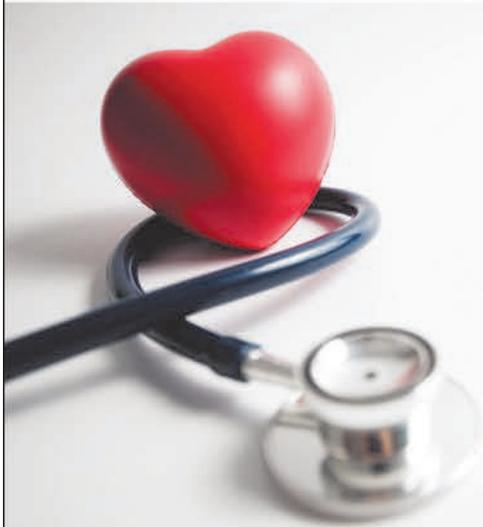
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# 'Mona Lisa' smile

## ON THE BIG SCREEN

Kate Hudson's career comeback continues in 3rd feature from Ana Lily Amirpour

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GreggShapiro@aol.com

In *Mona Lisa and the Blood Moon* (Saban Films), which can be best described as *Stranger Things* meets *Hustlers*, Kate Hudson continues her career comeback of 2022. The third full-length feature from writer/director Ana Lily Amirpour (*A Girl Walks Home Alone at Night*) is an unexpected showcase for Hudson, as well as her fellow castmates.



Craig Robinson, from left, Kate Hudson, director Ana Lily Amirpour with her dog Benny and Ed Skrein pose for photographers at the premiere of *Mona Lisa And The Blood Moon* during the 78th edition of the Venice Film Festival in 2021.

Set in New Orleans, *Mona Lisa and the Blood Moon* (AP Photo/Domenico Stinellis)

*Moon* opens while *Mona Lisa* Lee (Jeon Jong-seo) is a straitjacketed patient in a padded cell in an Advanced Security Unit. After turning the tables on an abusive nurse and using mind control to cause the nurse to stab herself multiple times with a pedicure tool, *Mona Lisa* escapes the facility.

With no set destination, *Mona Lisa* encounters a variety of surprisingly helpful people along the way. A trio of stoners gives her a pair of shoes. A drug dealer/DJ named Fuzz (hot Ed Skrein) gets her something to eat at a convenience store.

After finishing dinner in a Chinese restaurant, where his ominous fortune cookie fortune reads "Forget what you know," police officer Harold (Craig Robinson) is alerted via radio about a "violent Asian female" who escaped from the home for "Mentally Insane Adolescents."

As luck would have it, Harold's first encounter with *Mona Lisa* near the convenience store doesn't go well, and she makes him shoot himself in the leg.

On the run, again, *Mona Lisa* comes to the aid of Bonnie (Hudson) in a diner parking lot, where Bonnie's getting her ass kicked by a woman whose boyfriend was checking her out. Bonnie

repays *Mona Lisa* with a diner meal, and they head down to Bourbon Street where Bonnie works as a stripper at The Panty Drop.

*Mona Lisa* again comes to Bonnie's aid by getting a group of cheap frat boys to greatly increase the amount of their original lap-dance tip. Returning *Mona Lisa's* kindness, Bonnie offers her

a place to stay — on the couch in the house she shares with her 11-year-old son Charlie (Evan Whitten).

Charlie, who is very bright, is initially suspicious of *Mona Lisa*, but when she takes care of a school bully for him, they bond. It doesn't, however, improve his antagonistic relationship with his mother.

There's a lot of back and forth between Harold's pursuit of *Mona Lisa* and the development of the friendship between Bonnie and *Mona Lisa*. Soon Bonnie convinces *Mona Lisa* to use her gifts to stage a series of profitable ATM hold-ups, which only increases Harold's determination to capture *Mona Lisa*.

Before long, things begin to go wrong: Bonnie's co-strippers are suspicious of the amount of money she's raking in while their tips decline. Bonnie is also cornered and assaulted by the frat boys who demand their money be returned.

Meanwhile, Fuzz offers to help *Mona Lisa*, and by extension Charlie, get out of New Orleans to somewhere safer, leading to a tense confrontation at the Louis Armstrong Airport. The relatively happy ending, including a reunion and a getaway, somehow avoids feeling pat, due in part to the strong performances.

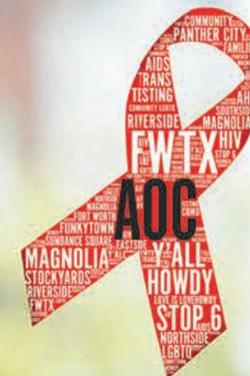
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# Lit up like Christmas

## INTERVIEW

An interview with gay actor David Pevsner

**GREGG SHAPIRO** | Contributing Writer  
GreggShapiro@aol.com

I first met out actor and writer David Pevsner when we were both “theater jocks” at Niles East High School in Skokie, Ill. We didn’t have a gay-straight alliance back then, so the theater department served that purpose.

Since that time, it’s been a delight to watch Pevsner’s career take off. He’s appeared off-Broadway, on television, in movies and even maintains a popular Only Fans page.

He wrote songs for *Naked Boys Singing*, including “Perky Little Porn Star.” His revealing memoir *Damn Shame: A Memoir of Desire, Defiance and Show Tunes*, was published in 2021. In 2012’s *Scrooge & Marley* (Dark Star Pictures), his first lead role in a feature film, Pevsner took on one of the most reviled but redeemed characters in literature — Ebenezer Scrooge — in a contemporary gay retelling of the Charles Dickens classic *A Christmas Carol*.

David was gracious enough to answer a few questions about *Scrooge & Marley*, which has recently been reissued on DVD and digital.

**Dallas Voice: What drew you to the role of Scrooge in *Scrooge & Marley*?** David Pevsner: At first, I saw the opportunity to work in Chicago. My family was still there, and I thought it would be great to spend time (with them).

As far as the role, I never thought of myself as the guy to play a typical Ebenezer Scrooge, but I loved the take on the character. He’s built this whole world for himself that has no real connection to anyone or anything except business. Yet in his earlier incarnation, we see him so full of love and wonder. How he gets back to connecting on a human level is the story here, and I found it so relatable. I love him throughout because even at his meanest, he’s still sort of witty.

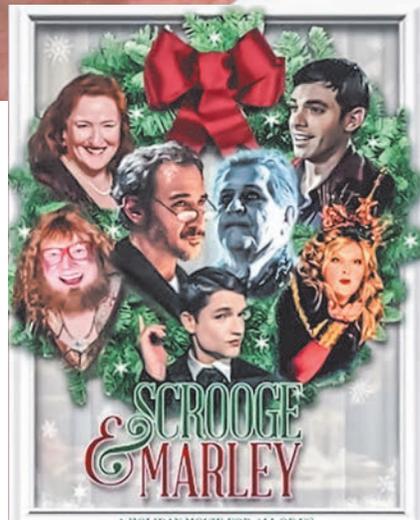
**How do you think people will react to this variation in the treatment of the Dickens’ classic?** I hope they take it to heart.



It’s a “gay” film in that a lot of the stock Dickens characters are in a gay context, but the feelings of family and inclusion and self-esteem and love are so universal. It’s sort of the family Christmas film for the gays and their friends and family.

There’s another fun gay Christmas film that was directed by my friend Rob Williams called *Make the Yuletide Gay*. *Scrooge & Marley* has an entirely different feel. Why can’t we have two perennials?

It would be so great if this could be a film that people revisit every year, like *Miracle on 34th Street* and *It’s a Wonderful Life*. Shooting it, it certainly felt that way. It was shot with such heart and goodwill.



Our directors Richard Knight Jr. and Peter Neville were terrific — supportive, funny,

smart, direct, always with an eye to make us look good. A pleasure all the way around.

**The cast of *Scrooge & Marley* includes out actors Bruce Vilanch and Richard Ganoung (of *Parting Glances* fame). What was it like to work with them on this project?** What a great group. I already knew Bruce from writing *Naked Boys Singing*, and I see him in L.A. a lot. I didn’t know David Moretti or Ronnie Kroell from L.A., but we certainly are in the same circles, and we had a ball together here. I only knew Richard based on his work, and he is a total sweetheart and a wonderful scene partner — all the gays were! That means you too, Megan Cavanaugh, and the honorary gay, Rusty Schwimmer!

The whole cast was so wonderful, mostly great Chicago-based actors who really stepped up to the plate and made me keep up.

***Scrooge & Marley* is a Christmas movie. Were you raised in a secular Jewish household with a tree at Christmas or in a more traditionally Jewish home?**

I’m Jewish and was raised as such in Skokie — Hebrew school, bar mitzvah, all of it. We did go to (the) Sauganash (neighborhood) to look at the Christmas lights, but we never had a tree. Every year I campaigned for a “Chanukah Bush,” but that was NEVER gonna happen! Face it, Chanukah is menorahs, dreidels, potato pancakes, and dirge-like songs, while Christmas is lighted trees, sugar cookies, decorated houses, and caroling. We Jews got the short end of the celebratory stick [laughs].

**Do you have a favorite non-gay holiday-themed movie?** I love *It’s a Wonderful Life* but as a little boy, my fave was Shirley Temple’s *Heidi*. I can imitate her calling for her grandfather, played by Jean Hersholt. “Grandfeather! Grandfeather!” [Laughs.]

**You balance a film and television acting career with one on the stage. Do you have a preference?** I really enjoy playing a great role. Luckily, I’m getting more substantial stuff in films these days, and it’s so damn fun. They say there’s no such thing as small roles, only small actors, but girl, I’ve done the small roles and still do on TV, and I like the big roles better [laughs]! It’s the role, not the medium.

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## RAINBOW , From Page 9

them bring their little kids who sometimes dress up like me, and they look like Liza Minnelli, and they've got the bows and the pink glasses. And they say a variety of things, one of which is lovely: "Thank you for being a role model to my child as someone who is unabashedly being

lighting the corners of my minds, to quote Barbra, for many years, but I never had an opportunity to really flush them out and put them down on paper. So it was very cathartic, very emotional, fun — I loved it, and [it was] different in that it was the first time I had done any sort of real



himself."

And then sometimes at the meet-and-greets they ask: "My son is behaving this way, and I want to support him or her or them. What is your advice?" I'm not an expert on the subject, but I do know that I had a mother who, in my opinion, did the perfect thing, which was create a safe environment for me to be whatever it is I was wanting to be. She didn't push [me] one way or the other; she didn't make it her own thing. She just simply provided a safe space, and, to me, that's the best advice I can offer any mother with a little boy or girl like I was.

I hope that some of those mothers will read this and get something valuable from it.

**This is your first book. So what was it like? Did you get up in the middle of the night with a thought and write a whole chapter at 3 a.m.? And how did it compare to writing your musical parodies?** Yes to all that. I don't have to tell you: As a writer, you walk around with these things just popping into your head. So yes, there was a lot of jumping up at 2 or 3 o'clock in the morning and taking lots of notes.

I found the experience to be a lot of things. It was much more emotional than I thought it would be; I was crying a lot through the good and bad.

These are the memories that have been

autobiographical writing. So that was a pleasure.... Some people love me, some people hate me, and my first thought when someone says anything positive or negative on social media or anywhere else is, it's interesting because you don't know me yet. You actually don't know me.

So here's a little bit of the real me, and then decide. Now you can really hate me. Or love me. Choose. But if you're judging, again, that two-dimensional, scripted, campy persona, then you don't know the full story yet.

**And there's an entire chapter for those who are still hating you because of tweets you sent in 2010 and 2011 that were deemed racist and homophobic, which you apologized for.** There's plenty of sunshine and Santa Claus in this book, meaning I talk a lot about the happy things and the joy and excitement and fun and positive. But that was something that was not so fun or positive that I went through. And I wanted to talk about it because it's a topic that I'm interested in. I'm interested in that conversation, and I now have a personal perspective that I didn't have before. So I wanted to add that to the public conversation.

It's not a 15-page mea culpa; it's not a whole apology, because I've apologized for what I've wanted to apologize for.

It was humbling, I learned a lot, but, as I say



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Dr. Allen B. Safir

in the end, I can't wrap it up neatly. It's a very nuanced discussion, especially coming from someone who is a comedian and doesn't like putting restrictions on art.

**Given what happened the night that Will Smith attacked Chris Rock on stage at the Oscars after Chris's joke, does it make you concerned at all for the state of comedy?** It was Kathy Griffin who recently expressed concerns about others following in Will's footsteps when a joke

any of my work. I have to question their intentions, because it's like, "Are you really that incensed about a song from 'The Music Man'?" People are really interested in being angry these days.

**Going back to the book, what was the most emotional topic for you to write about?** Certainly anything to do with my grandmother, my Nanny, was very emotional.

She's in the book a lot. It's not only a



is made that someone doesn't like. That is a concern of mine, but I don't know if it started that night. I think that we're in a very weird place, and people are angry and taking their aggressions out in places that it really doesn't belong.

We're in such a horrible place in the world, and there's war going on and pandemics, and it's just a really heavy time. And I felt bad for a country who tuned in to get a little levity and escape for a couple of hours and then had to see this hero, this person that they idolize — I certainly am a Will Smith fan — They had to see him attack another idol and another hero of ours.

That was just so sad to me. It was just sad that we couldn't get that little escape that we just wanted so badly.

**You said that you were concerned before this even happened about performing your own political comedy.** People ask me all the time, "Are you concerned about that?" I am satirical, and I spoof. My satire certainly leans in one direction. But it's something I try not to really overthink, because what can you do?

**I wonder if it's easier for people to digest your comedy since it's filtered through an almost cartoonish lens.** I think — I hope so. It's my opinion that I'm tackling these topics in the most innocuous way possible with show tunes. So it interests me when people get really ticked off by

beautiful tribute to her, but to unconditional love and what that can mean to somebody. You have to write the foreword for the paperback edition. You're saying such nice things and things that I hoped came through, and that's so nice. And she does pop up in the book, these cosmic entrances that she makes. Things that I hadn't even thought about until I was writing about emotional things.

When I talk about my cat dying at the beginning of the pandemic, Nanny made her presence known, I believe, in moments like those, too. That cat chapter — I feel there should be a disclaimer to the pet people in my audience.

I have been hearing from a lot of the readers who are cat or pet people who say that it's brutal and hard to get through, which I like. That means to me that I did it right. Because it was a brutal experience because we locked down, and then my cat, the only other soul that I was sharing this experience with, got sick two days later. So that was hard.

But the happy ending is I got a new cat, and she's sitting right here judging me like a bitch.

*Chris Azzopardi is the editorial director of Pride Source Media Group and Q Syndicate, the national LGBTQ+ wire service.*

*Dallas Voice's Rich Lopez contributed to this piece.*



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**SEPT. 30 — THRU — OCT. 23**



## HISTORY , From Page 8

of LGBTQ history, Vela said he likes to focus on more than history's highlights. Most people think of Stonewall and then a series of court decisions when they think of the steps to LGBTQ equality. But, he said, it was the individual stories behind each of these milestones that made them happen.

Vela holds a place in LGBTQ history himself as the first LGBTQ American and the first Hispanic American to serve in a senior executive role in the White House in two administrations — first working for Vice President Al Gore during the Clinton administration and then working for Vice President Joe Biden during the Obama administration.

He was appointed to his first senior White House role when he was in his 30s. How did he get there so young? "Everything is about relationships," he said.

Vela said he happened to have had a few drinks at the time, and so he piped up, commenting that he was himself a lawyer-type. So she said, "Send me your resume." He heard back promptly, was interviewed and got the job working for Gore.

And Vela did a great job of hiring staff. His chief of staff was Ron Klain, who now serves as chief of staff to President Biden.

From the onset, Vela said, both Gore and Biden were on the side of equality. Obviously, both had LGBTQ friends and understood the issues. But he explained how he made himself a valuable advisor on LGBTQ issues and used marriage equality as an example.

"The Bidens were passionate about marriage equality," he said. "They were there ethically, spiritually, mentally."

In fact, Vela said, they were ahead of



Moe Vela with then-presidential candidate Joe Biden in 2020

Having been born into a family with a legacy of service, Vela got a job with the Department of Agriculture in Washington, D.C.

"I was out drinking at a microbrewery with a number of other political appointees," he said. "The director of White House operations said, 'My Aunt Patsy's office said they're looking for a lawyer-type.'"

the Obamas on the issue. "Personally, I wanted to tell them, 'Oh, just say it.'" he said.

But Vela put his own self-interest aside and counseled respect and deference to the president and First Lady. He also understood that we were winning one marriage equality lawsuit after another, and each judge's ruling added another interesting argument. In the long run, it

was politically helpful to let these cases play out.

So understanding their role in the office of the vice president and thinking in context of history and progress, he advised the Bidens against making a statement earlier and getting out in front of the Obamas. Biden accepted the advice until, in response to a question, he came out in favor of marriage equality, prompting Obama to make his own pro-marriage equality statement within days.

As an advisor on Hispanic issues, Vela gave the example of immigration as another sensitive issue.

"Immigration is a very divisive issue," he said, "a confluence of morality, legality, policy and politics." He said Democrats make a mistake by not acknowledging it's illegal to enter the country without documentation.

"It's about messaging," he said. "We have to be supportive from a humanitarian perspective, but we can't ignore the law. [Support seeking] asylum through

ness and respect," he said. "Tell them, 'Let's show you how to apply for asylum.' Treat them the way we'd want to be treated."

And even if it's determined the person can't stay in this country, he added, they should be "deported with dignity. ... Let's get to the root of the problem."

Vela listed several reasons people leave their homes to come to the U.S. One of the main reasons is lack of available jobs. So one of the first things the U.S. should be doing is helping to create jobs in their home countries. "Help [those countries] empower their people so they don't need to leave," he said.

The second main driver of immigration is people being tormented in their home countries by the drug cartels. Noting that the U.S. is the number one buyer of drugs, Vela said, "If we cut off the demand, the supply would no longer be needed. We're part of the problem."

He said the U.S. must also address the climate change that's fueling some immigration. He suggested teaching these countries to "enter the clean energy world," by helping them create wind and solar power.

On trans issues, Vela declared, "Gay men have no idea what it means to be trans." He said as a gay man, he can be supportive from an equality standpoint, comparing it to the issue of domestic violence.

"You don't have to experience it to be supportive," he said. "I wasn't able to be who I was for the first 18 or 19 years of my life. Authenticity and living truth is very important to me."

Vela talked briefly about his current career as a creator and panelist, along with Steve Wozniak and Lance Bass, of *Unicorn Hunters*, a show he describes as *Shark Tank* on steroids that allows the audience to participate in the investments. But then he pivoted back to the conference in Dallas and its focus on LGBTQ history, describing himself part of the AIDS generation. That generation, he said, includes more perspectives than just that of ACT UP founder Larry Kramer.

Vela promised to share with conference attendees that bit of Texas and Southern gay history, but, he stressed, "My story wasn't any more special or more challenging than anyone else's as part of history. So we can affirm each other." ■

Hear Vela tell his own story at *Archives for All, Y'All at Dallas College/El Centro on Friday*.



the proper channels and system put in place."

If that system isn't working, he added, then let's fix it.

Vela said that while the GOP likes to accuse Democrats of supporting open borders, "more people have been turned away and deported this year under Biden than ever. We're not soft on the issue."

The trick is to find a balance. "Treat [undocumented immigrants] with kind-

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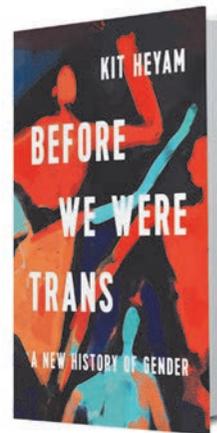
## Questions? Yes. Answers? Maybe

### ON THE PAGE

New book explores the concept of transgenderism in history

TERRI SCHLICHENMEYER | Bookworm Sez  
[BookwormSez@gmail.com](mailto:BookwormSez@gmail.com)

***Before We Were Trans* by Kit Heyam, c.2022, Seal Press; \$30; 352 pages.**



Yes or no: Before there were rockets, there were no astronauts. No, there wasn't a need for them without a vehicle to go where people

only dreamed of going. But yes — the word “astronaut” is more than a century old.

Words and labels matter, as you'll see in *Before We Were Trans* by Kit Heyam, and time is no excuse.

On the evening of June 8, 1847, John Sullivan was apprehended by gendarmes while weaving down a sidewalk in London. Sullivan was wearing a few women's garments and was carrying more, all of it stolen. Because it wasn't the first time he was arrested, he spent 10 years in an Australian penal colony for his crime.

“Is this story a part of trans history?” asks Heyam.

There aren't enough clues to determine Sullivan's truth, not enough “evidence that their motivation for gender nonconformity was not external, but internal ...”

The answer's complicated by the fact that “transgender” wasn't even a word during Sullivan's time. Presumably, Sullivan was white, but even so, we must also consider “that the way we experience and understand gender is inextricable from race.”

Surely, then, Njinga Mbande, the king

of Ndongo, can be considered trans; they were assigned female at birth but presented themselves as king, as did Hatshepsut of Egypt. In precolonial Nigeria, the Ekwe people were gender-fluid, to ensure that there was a male in the household.

Do political and social reasons fit the definition of trans?

In England, it was once believed that to dress like the opposite sex was to become that gender. In prison camps during World War I, men participated in plays to ease the boredom, and some ultimately lived permanently as women.

Early history shows many examples of people living as “both.” Were they trans or not?

Says Heyam, “Historians need to tread carefully and responsibly when we talk about the histories of people who blur the boundaries between intersex and trans.”

Moreover, can we allow that there's probably some “overlap”?

The answer to that could depend on your current situation and mindset. Absolutely, author Kit Heyam dangles their own opinion throughout this book, but *Before We Were Trans* doesn't seem to solve the riddle.

Judging by the narrative here, though, it's possible that it may be forever unsolvable. There's a lot to untangle, often in the form of partially-recorded tales that harken back to antiquity and that are shaky with a lack of knowable details. Even Heyam seems to admit sometimes that their thoughts are best guesses.

And yet, that tangle can leave readers with so much to think about, when it comes to gender. Ancient attitudes toward trans people — whether they were, indeed, trans or acted as such for reasons other than gender — absolutely serve as brain fodder.

This is not a quick-breezy read; in fact, there are times when you may feel as though you need a cheat-sheet to follow similar-sounding names. Even so, if you take your time with it, *Before We Were Trans* may put you over the moon. ■

# GAY AGENDA



She is coming back home, and she is coming as her true, authentic self! Kerri Colby, who grew up in Dallas, transitioned after moving to Los Angeles and then competed in Season 14 of RuPaul's Drag Race, will be the special guest at the Texas Trans Pride celebration on Friday night, Sept. 30, starting at 7 p.m. in the Rose Room inside S4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. The event is presented by Prism Health North Texas, Artitude and Transgender Pride of Dallas. Read Dallas Voice's interview with Kerri in our Sept. 16, 2022 issue, or online at [DallasVoice.com](http://DallasVoice.com).

## PLAN YOUR WEEK

- Red for community events
- Blue for arts and entertainment
- Purple for sports
- Green for nightlife
- Orange for civic events and holidays

### ■ Every Monday: THRIVE

Resource Center's THRIVE Monday Support Group for LGBTQ adults 50 and older meets virtually and is led by interns from the SMU counseling program. For more information on the support group and how to join, please send an email to [THRIVE@myresourcecenter.org](mailto:THRIVE@myresourcecenter.org).

### ■ Sept. 30: Randy Rainbow

Emmy nominee Randy Rainbow's The Pink Glasses Tour comes to Texas Trust CU Theatre. Tickets at [AXS.com](http://AXS.com).

### ■ Sept. 30-Oct. 2: Queer History South conference

QHS brings together archivists, historians, librarians, educators, students and community members invested in preserving and researching Southern LGBTQ history, to talk best practices, network, and have a great time celebrating the rich and diverse histories of LGBTQ people in the U.S. South. Dallas and Denton. [InvisibleHistory.org/qhs](http://InvisibleHistory.org/qhs).

### ■ Sept. 30-Oct. 1: Fairway to Equality

Calcutta, caddy and team auction on Friday at 6:30 p.m. at Sue Ellen's, 3014 Throckmorton St. Golf tournament on Saturday at 11 a.m. with a shotgun start at Indian Creek Golf Club,

1650 W. Frankford Road, Carrollton. \$125 individual, \$500 foursome. RSVP at [HRC.im/fte](http://HRC.im/fte).

### ■ Through Oct. 1: Matteo Lane

Queer comedian headlines the Addison Improv with five performances in three days. 4989 Beltline Road. [MatteoLaneComedy.com](http://MatteoLaneComedy.com).

### ■ Sept. 30: Business and Community Excellence Awards luncheon

The LGBT Chamber presents business excellence awards. In addition, Reps. Julie Johnson and Jessica Gonzalez will be recognized. The luncheon takes place at the Warwick Merose Hotel, 3015 Oak Lawn Ave. Tickets at [LGBTQChamber.net/BACE22](http://LGBTQChamber.net/BACE22).

### ■ Sept. 30: Texas Trans Pride

Prism Health North Texas, Artitude and Transgender Pride of Dallas celebrate the trans community of North Texas with resource information, STI and HIV testing, gender affirming items and performances by entertainers of trans experience from around Texas and featuring Kerri Colby of RuPaul's Drag Race. S4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. Doors open at 6 p.m., show at 7 p.m.

### ■ Sept. 30-Oct. 1: TITUS/DANCE UNBOUND

The Gibney Company makes its Texas debut with TITUS/DANCE UNBOUND. The company is led by out choreographer Gina Gibney, who also founded the company, the performance opens the T/DU season at Moody Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. [TITAS.org](http://TITAS.org).

### ■ Sept. 30-Oct. 2: Magnolia at the Modern: Loving Highsmith

The film looks at the life of the lesbian American author Patricia Highsmith, based on her diaries and notebooks and the intimate reflections of her lovers, friends, and family. Focusing on the Fort Worth-born Highsmith's quest for love and her troubled identity, the film sheds new light on her life and writing. The Modern, 3200 Darnell St., Fort Worth. [TheModern.org](http://TheModern.org).

### ■ Sept. 30-Oct. 16: The Cake

A baker has to make the tough decision of making a wedding cake for a same-sex ceremony – when the person getting married is someone close to her. Theatre Arlington, 305 W. Main St. [TheatreArlington.org](http://TheatreArlington.org).

## OCTOBER

### ■ Oct. 1-29: Two Spirit: Guinn Powell and Todd Smith

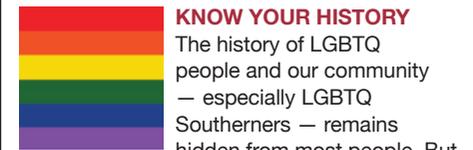
Married couple combines their passion for love and art in this exhibition at the Dallas Public Library - Oak Worth branch, 4100 Cedar Springs Road. Artist reception on Oct. 8 at 1 p.m.

### ■ Oct. 2: Mary J. Blige

The queen of hip-hop soul performs at Dickey's Arena, Fort Worth.

### ■ Oct. 2: Vampire Court of Dallas

Public meeting to answer questions, build public support and update members on current



### KNOW YOUR HISTORY

The history of LGBTQ people and our community – especially LGBTQ Southerners – remains hidden from most people. But

the truth is, LGBTQ people have made major contributions to society and culture overall, and we have a very rich, vibrant history all our own, beyond The Stonewall Riots, that is something to be proud of. **The Queer History South** conference is taking place all weekend long here in Dallas giving historians, librarians, educators, students and community members in general a chance to learn and love that history. Visit [InvisibleHistory.org/qhs](http://InvisibleHistory.org/qhs) for all the details.



### TEE UP SOME FUN

**Fairway to Equality** returns this weekend after a two-year, COVID-forced hiatus, and Dee Pennington and Deidre Burns are teaming up as event co-chairs again to

bring the charity golf tournament/Calcutta in grand style. The Calcutta – including a caddy auction and more – happens Friday night, Sept. 30, at Sue Ellen's, 3014 Throckmorton St., and the golf tournament gets underway with an 11 a.m. shotgun start Saturday, Oct. 1, at Indian Creek Golf Club, 1650 W. Frankford Road, Carrollton. See listings – and the interview with Dee and Deidre in the Sept. 23 issue of Dallas Voice and online at [DallasVoice.com](http://DallasVoice.com) – for details.



### INTERVIEW SOME VAMPIRES

A lot of people probably don't know that the **Vampire Court of Dallas** even exists. And those who have heard

of it probably have some real misconceptions about what the group is and what it does (HINT: The court is a federally-recognized nonprofit, and charitable work benefitting the community is high on its list of priorities). If you want a chance to find out for yourself, then here's your chance: Vampire Court of Dallas is holding a public meeting on Sunday, Oct. 2, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Union Coffee, 3705 Cedar Springs Road, to "answer questions, build public support and update members on current goings-on." See listings or the court's website at [VCDallasCharities.org](http://VCDallasCharities.org) for more.

goings on from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Union Coffee, 3705 Cedar Springs Road.

### ■ Oct. 4-5: Yom Kippur

Holiday begins and ends at sunset.

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

# Romeo San Vicente

DEEP INSIDE HOLLYWOOD

## Queer faces among the dozens cast in *Poker Face*

Casting roll call time! Filmmaker Rian Johnson (*Knives Out*, *Star Wars: The Last Jedi*) has assembled an enormous cast for his next project, the 10-episode Peacock series *Poker Face*. It's a mystery drama and is being referred to as something of an anthology series (which may mean interconnected characters or plots among its discrete episodes, who knows); otherwise it's a locked down vault situation where plot details are concerned.

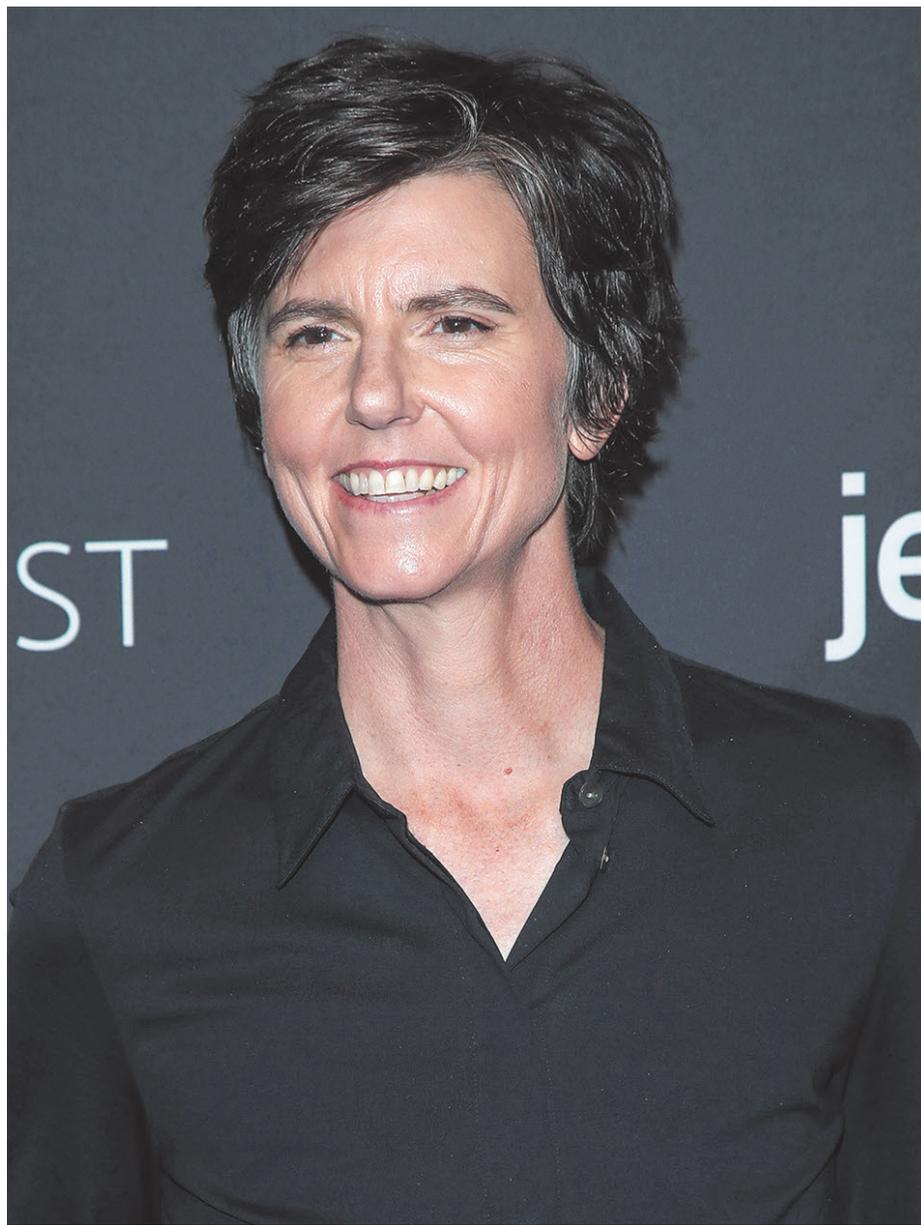
Now, to list the dozens of people booked for this thing would turn into a TL/DR situation, so we'll begin with the queer cast: Tony and Emmy winner Cherry Jones, Clea DuVall, Jameela Jamil, and honorary member of the LGBTQ community, Judith Light. They will be joined by — deep breath — Natasha Lyonne, Luis Guzman, Hong Chau, Reed Birney, Adrien Brody, Benjamin Bratt, Chloe Sevigny, Ellen Barkin, Joseph Gordon-Levitt, Lil Rel Howery, Nick Nolte, Ron Perlman, S. Epatha Merkerson, Simon Helberg, Stephanie Hsu, Tim Blake Nelson, Tim Meadows and more-more.

Sometimes you get quantity and sometimes you get quality; it's clear that Johnson is giving us both.

## The Dark legacy of *Midnight Cowboy*

This year's Venice Film Festival was dominated by *Don't Worry Darling* drama, and that sort of thing is always fun to gawk at. But there were also films that played and need the rest of our attention. One of them is a documentary about cinema itself, *Desperate Souls*, *Dark City* and *The Legend of 'Midnight Cowboy*, from filmmaker Nancy Buirski (*By Sidney Lumet*, *The Rape of Recy Taylor*).

One thing it isn't is a typical "making-of" doc. Instead *Desperate Souls* is about the lives of the creative people behind the only X-rated film in American history to win the Academy Award for Best Picture. Those people include not just the actors Dustin Hoffman and Jon Voight, but gay author James Leo Herlihy who wrote the original novel, formerly blacklisted screenwriter Waldo



Tig Notaro is joining the cast of *The Morning Show*

Salt and queer visionary filmmaker John Schlesinger at the reins.

Be on the lookout for this one in the near future, and get a glimpse of American culture and the place of gay men in it at a pivotal point in the 20th century.

## Turn it to Tig in the Morning

Cross prestige television's serious-minded exploration of real-life issues with messy, back-stabbing, workplace soap antics, and you have the not-so-secretly trashy, exceptionally entertaining Apple TV+ series, *The Morning Show*. And going into its third season,

the world-building that involves famous media faces deeply mired in personal hypocrisies can only benefit from adding more incendiary characters to the mix.

That means upping the ante and casting allure with Julianna Margulies, who'll be reprising her season two character, and adding Jon Hamm and *Honk for Jesus*, *Save Your Soul* star Nicole Beharie to the roster.

Meanwhile, out of comedy left field comes Tig Notaro, who'll play corporate boss Hamm's chief of staff. We already can't get enough of Jennifer Aniston and Reese Witherspoon's battling characters, and Notaro's deadpan energy ought to

be another thorn in, well, everyone's sides. Rubbing our nostalgic *Dynasty* and *Melrose Place* hands together over this.

## Danielle Fishel and Lance Bass went to prom. Now it's going to be a movie.

Dear children of the '90s: Danielle Fishel and Lance Bass really do care about your needs. And they're taking their real lives and turning it into art. See, back in the late '90s, the *Boy Meets World* star and the not-yet-out NSYNC heartthrob were dating, and they went to her high school prom together.

It was the classic "gay boy and his high school girlfriend" scenario. And it was a moment for Bass that caused him to realize he could be hurting his friend, and that he needed to address his sexuality and be honest about who he was.

Still close friends today, the two have Lauren Lapkus and Marie Holland working on a script that lots of queer people who came of age not so long ago will be able to relate to — a story about what it means when young people love each other, just not in *that* way. Very early stages here, but more on this one as it develops.

*Romeo San Vicente* was pretty in pink at prom.

## this week's solution

A	T	H	O	S	S	A	B	E	O	S	L	O		
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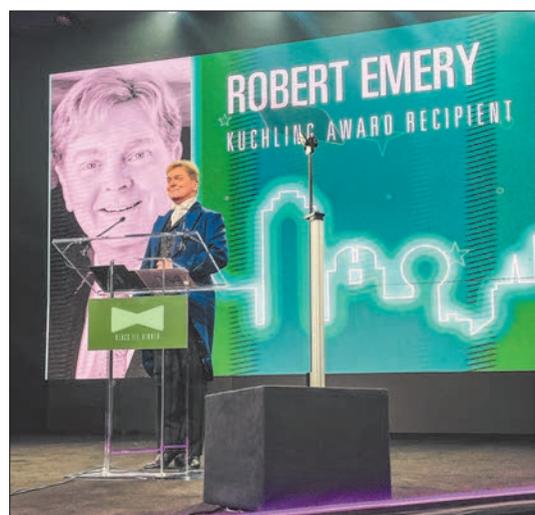


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# SCENE • Black Tie Dinner

PEOPLE, PLACES AND FACES





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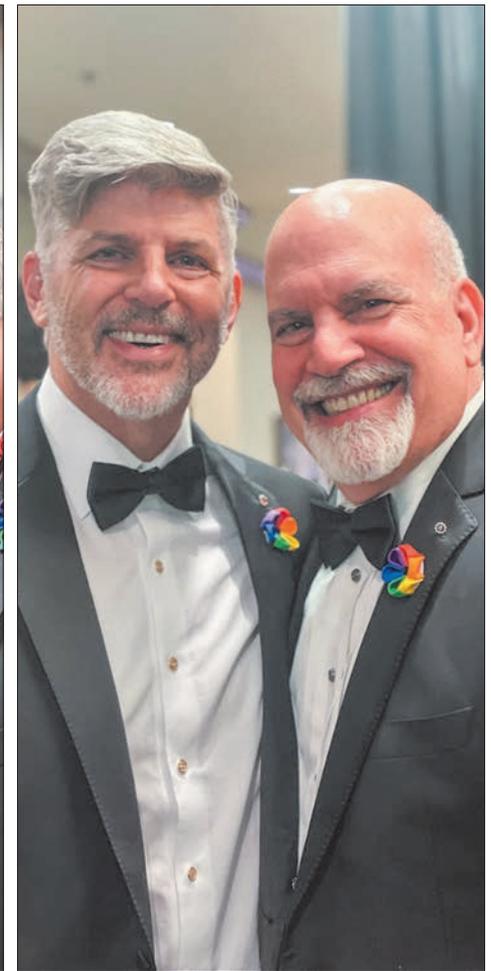
Uptown Players

THE EXCITEMENT IS BUILDING!



## Black Tie Dinner (continued)

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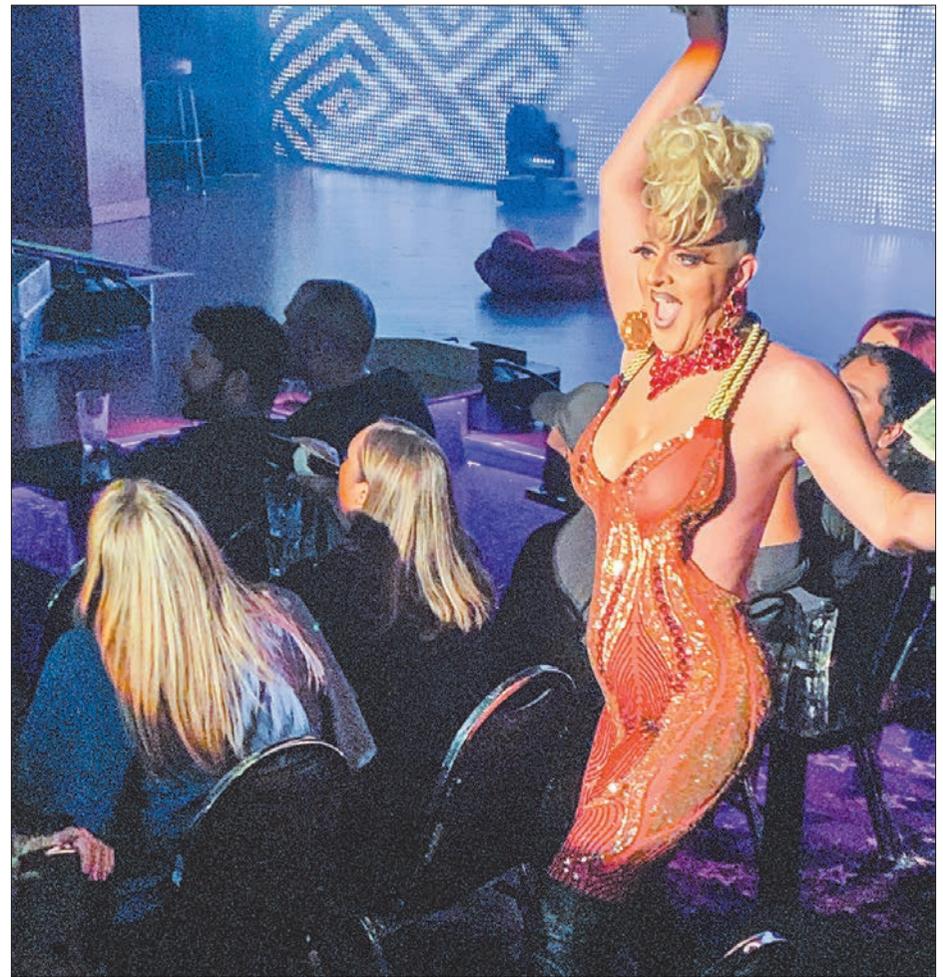
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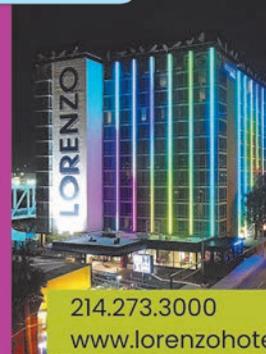


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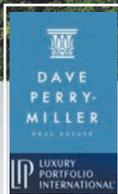
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1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13	
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61						62					63				
64						65					66				
67						68					69				

Solution on Page 30

### Across

- Member of a Dumas threesome
- Know, to Frida
- City where Dick Button won gold
- Be rude in line
- Pink and lavender
- Watermelon "ammo"
- Where they sing "Hello Dalai"?
- Hollywood canine
- Etcher's fluid
- Start of a quote by Richard Simmons
- Where Sheehan takes her driver?
- Rugby star Roberts
- Isle near Corsica
- Like Morissette's "Ironic"?
- Small quantity of lube, e.g.
- They're not everything
- Brand for cutting leaves of grass
- Hurry, to Shakespeare
- More of the quote
- More of the quote
- Granola lesbian's bit
- Jam ingredients?
- "Reduce Speed," on a sign
- Minute amounts
- Patsy's *Ab Fab* partner

### Down

- Born, in gay Paree
- Pull up stakes
- End of the quote
- Jungle warning
- Top drawer
- Hidden supply of porn, e.g.
- Prefix with potent
- Cut
- Word after "significant"
- Letter enc.
- Salty bodies
- Question type for "Advocate" polls
- Wine region of Michelangelo's land
- What you must remember, as time goes by
- Judy Garland concert persona
- Lap
- Words before "music," for Elton
- Stuck it to
- Starkly simple
- Words before a Stan Smith concert
- Morales of movies
- Port in the land of samurai
- Help for manual stimulation?
- Son of Eric the Red

- Ann Bannon's *\_\_\_ Girl Out*
- Bonehead
- Most like Nelly?
- St. \_\_\_ fire
- Word in the second Scout law
- James Ivory film, with *The*
- SEP, e.g.
- Will and Grace* first did this in 1998
- Flagmaker Ross
- Log Cabin and Stonewall lists
- Drag Queen's stole
- Place for a fruit dessert
- Frog-to-be
- South Pacific* setting, broadly
- Scandal deets
- Posed for Berenice Abbott
- Bone-chilling
- Star Trek* doctor
- New York Liberty teammates
- Caesar's city
- News agency of Nureyev's nation
- Newspaper publisher Adolph
- "Stop pouring"
- Emperor role of Charles Laughton



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