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Premier Media Source for LGBTQ Texas

DallasVoice.com | Volume 40 | Issue 15 | FREE | Friday, August 18, 2023

Applause

arts + entertainment 2023

Highlights of the 2023-24 seasons
of performing arts organizations
around DFW including
Dallas Symphony Orchestra

Coverage starts page 12





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Patti LuPone:
A Life in Notes
Sat, Mar. 23 at 8 pm



Contemporary West Dance Theatre
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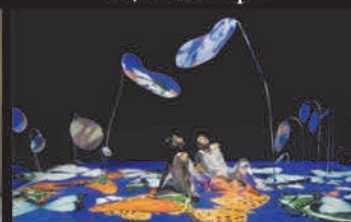
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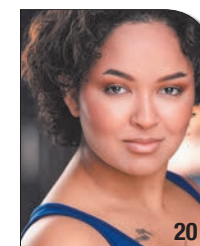
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Dallas Symphony Orchestra Music Director Fabio Luisi.
Photo by Sylvia Elzaforon

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WHAT'S THE TEA: DallasVoice.com

Chamber, TCRP to host info session on SB 12

The North Texas LGBT Chamber of Commerce and the Texas Civil Rights Project, along with the Dallas Theater Center and the AT&T Performing Arts Center, are hosting an information session Monday, Aug. 21, on SB 12, the Texas "drag ban law" set to go into effect on Sept. 1. The event will be held from 3-5 p.m. at the Wyly Studio Theater, 2400 Flora St., and is open to everyone. There is no fee to attend, but those attending are asked to register at LGBTChamber.Chambermaster.com/EventRegistration/Register/8966.

Travis Fife, staff attorney with TCRP, will be the guest speaker. He will discuss the history of SB 12; review the version of the law that finally passed, including what performances are prohibited; penalties for performers and businesses that host, including three separate enforcement mechanisms in the law; what is being done to challenge the law, including the recently-filed lawsuit with the Chamber and others as plaintiffs; and what to do if you get charged, including

how to protect yourself.

The event will include a question-and-answer session.

— *Tammye Nash*

All in for Equality Coalition sues to block SB 14

Members of the All in for Equality Coalition along with plaintiffs and lawyers in the *Loe v. Texas* case spoke about the ongoing fight to stop SB 14, a law that bans health care for trans youth, from going into effect on Sept. 1. They held a press conference in Austin at noon Wednesday, Aug. 16.

Speakers included Ricardo Martinez, CEO of Equality Texas, who said SB 14 allows some parents to make healthcare decisions, but parents of trans kids can't. He noted hate crimes against trans people are up, calling that statistic unacceptable.

Attorney Brian Klosterboer with the ACLU of Texas, a member of the legal team suing to block the law from going into effect, said, "No trans child should have to go to court just for the

right to exist. No doctor should have to go to court just to practice medicine."

Klosterboer said the law, as written, violates the right for parents to choose medically indicated healthcare for their children, targeting trans kids specifically, and that it violates the rights of doctors whose practices are based on science, he said.

Human Rights Campaign's Texas State Director Melodía Gutiérrez threw her organization's support behind the lawsuit and commented on the legislative session: "We had hoped this session would address real issues like fixing the grid," she said wryly. Transgender Education Network of Texas Executive Director Emmet Schelling said, "If you take one thing away from here today, cruelty is the point of this."

— *David Taffet*

Madonna reschedules her 'Celebration Tour'

Live Nation confirmed Tuesday morning, Aug. 15, that most of the North America dates of Madonna's Celebration Tour have been rescheduled

Obituary

Bruce R. Coleman



Dallas theater legend Bruce R. Coleman died Tuesday, Aug. 15, at the age of 62 of an apparent heart attack.

Bruce was born Dec. 3, 1960, at Bethany Hospital in Kansas City, Kan., to Richard Charles Coleman and Carol Joan Askew Coleman. He attended Frank Rushton School and Rosedale Middle School in Rosedale, Kan., before the family moved to Carrollton. Bruce graduated from Newman Smith High School in Carrollton in 1979 before attending Midwestern State University, where he graduated in 1985 with a bachelor of fine arts degree in theater arts.

Bruce taught theater arts at MacArthur High School in Irving and, periodically, at Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing Arts. He also taught classes at the Kim Dawson Agency.

He was also an ordained minister.

In the North Texas theater community and beyond, Bruce was known as a director, a costume and scenery designer, a playwright, a screenwriter, a visual artist in drawing and painting, a fabric artist, a photographer and an illustrator.

Bruce had been working as a professional theater artist throughout the Dallas/Fort Worth area since 1985. During that time, he worked with most local theater organizations, including a 200-year association with Theater Three, which included a two-year stint as interim artistic director from 2015-2017.

Bruce wrote *Andi Boi*, the story of a transgender teen, which was commissioned for and premiered at Dallas Children's Theater in February 2020. His work has been recognized by The Theatre Communications Group, The Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, The Dallas/Fort Worth Theatre Critics Association, The Leon Rabin Awards, The Column Awards, The South West Playwriting Festival and The Pride Write Playwriting Festival.

During the COVID pandemic, Bruce worked sewing standard CDC designed masks while at the same time designing, creating and altering clothing for people and illustrating a children's book.

As a child, his family said, Bruce would direct little backyard shows with other kids on the block, inviting all the parents to come and watch. He was a big fan of well-written sitcoms, showtunes and most popular music, especially 1980s music. He also loved talking on the phone with his mother before her death in October 2022.

He was, his friends and family said, a man who understood that love, kindness and compassion are at the core of every decent human being, and lived it.

Bruce was preceded in death by his father, Richard Charles Coleman, and mother, Carol Joan Askew Coleman.

He is survived by brothers Brett Matthew Coleman and Brian Lee Coleman; sisters-in-Law Thalia Coleman and Mimmie Coleman; nephews Carrek Coleman and Brandon Coleman; niece Carolyne Coleman; great-nephew Jackson Coleman and great-niece Pepper Ann Asebedo, as well as a myriad of friends, mentees, loved ones and associates.

Details for services are yet to be determined. In lieu of flowers, the family asks instead for donations to "the fine arts institution/ company/ organization of your choice."



Fairway to Equality returns next month

Calling all golfers: Fairway to Equality, the Human Rights Campaign's annual fundraising golf tournament in North Texas, returns next month, with the famous Calcutta, Caddy and Team Auction on Sept. 24, followed the next weekend by the tournament on Sept. 30.

and will follow her originally announced UK and Europe dates. Those rescheduled dates include her Dallas stops.

Earlier this summer, she had to postpone the tour due to hospitalization for a bacterial infection. But today, fans can hit the play button again. Madonna's resumed rehearsals to get back into the groove and on the road.

She was originally set to headline American Airlines Center on Sept. 18 and 19 but will now perform March 24 and 25. Her Houston dates moved from Sept. 13 and 14 to March 28 and 29. Tickets for the previously scheduled shows will be honored on the new dates.

— Rich Lopez

The tournament, now in its 26th year, supports "HRC's mission to end discrimination against LGBTQ+ people and to realize a world that achieves fundamental fairness and equality for all," notes the press release announcing the event.

The Calcutta, Caddy and Team Auction starts at 1 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 24, at Sue Ellen's, 3014 Throckmorton St. The tournament will be held the following Saturday, Sept. 30, at Indian Creek Golf Club, 1650 W. Frankford Road in Carrollton, with an 11 a.m. shotgun start.

To compete, RSVP at act.hrc.org.

— Tammye Nash

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40 years of LGBTQ radio

ON THE AIR

'Lambda Weekly' cohosts talk about the longest-running LGBTQ radio program anywhere

TAMMYE NASH | Managing Editor
nash@dallasvoice.com

Lambda Weekly is celebrating its 40th anniversary this summer, and cohosts David Taffet, Lerone Landis and Patti Fink took a minute to share their thoughts about the program and its meaning to the LGBTQ community.

These days *Lambda Weekly* gets to claim the distinction of as the longest-running LGBTQ radio program in the country. Back in 1983 when it first started, it was one of the first radio shows in the country offering "news, information and interviews of interest to the gay and lesbian community."

The very first show hit the airwaves

Lambda Weekly

Each Sunday, 1-2 p.m.
KNON, 89.3 FM

You can find it live-streaming at KNON.org and podcasts are available on the website under show listings.



Lambda Weekly cohosts, from left, David Taffet, Lerone Landis and Patti Fink

on July 30, 1983, with Bill Nelson, one of Dallas' leading LGBTQ activists at the time, hosting along with a group of others. Taffet, who has more years with the program now than anyone, said this week he doesn't remember exactly what the topics were for that first broadcast, "But I know they played music by gay and lesbian singers, and they probably discussed AIDS, which has just been renamed from GRID [Gay-Related Immune Disease] the month before."

Over the next decade, Nelson left to run for a spot on Dallas City Council and was replaced by Bill Travis and Alonzo Duralde. Taffet joined the crew in 1990, providing a recorded travel spot each week, based on the travel articles he wrote for Dallas Voice.

In the early 1990s, both Travis and

Duralde moved to California, and Steve Walters stepped in as Lambda Weekly host. "I came down to the studio for Steve's first show," Taffet recalled. "He was so nervous, so I sat down at a mic, and we began chatting on air. The only thing he had planned was music, but we did half the show chatting about random topics.

Kathy Tipps joined us a year or two later," he continued. "So did a few others, like Steve Shatsky and Dave Wozniak. Kathy stuck, and she and I did the show when Steve left in about 1998."

When Walters left, Taffet said, he announced on air that he was looking for a new cohost; Lerone Landis answered the call.

"He came by the next week, sat down

at the mic, and we began chatting and had a wonderful rapport," Taffet recalled.

Over the new six months or so, Tipps left the show, and local activist Erin Moore cohosted for a while. Then, about six months after Landis joined the show, in early 2000, Fink — Moore's wife — was a guest on the show.

"And the three of us worked together so well that we invited her back," Taffet said. "It's been the three of us ever since."

For Taffet, joining *Lambda Weekly* on March 1990 was the fulfillment of a childhood dream. "As a kid, I set my basement up as a TV studio, with a curtain that opened and a desk and a couch, and I used to play talk show host," he

said. But the only actual on-air experience he had at the time was as a guest on late-night radio call-in talk shows in Albany, talking about being gay, representing our school's gay alliance with my friend Sue, who was a lesbian."

And now, with *Lambda Weekly*, "I get to play talk show host for real."

For the three volunteer co-hosts, it's the wide range of guests they get to interact with that keeps the show fresh and interesting.

"Charo sent me a handwritten letter after she was on the show, and she said no one who ever interviewed her asked questions about how her career developed," Taffet said. "All anyone normally ask was for her to do her coochi-coochi routine. She also told the

story of walking down the street in the Castro and seeing a bar that was having a Charo lookalike contest. She entered and lost. She was a hoot to have on." He also always enjoyed Leslie Jordan who would "tell ridiculous stories until we had to cut him off for a break or because the show was over," as well as actress Ruta Lee with whom he spent the show "chatting like old chums." And local activist and therapist Candy Marcum has been invaluable as a regular guest "who always helps with pledge drives."

For Taffet, the toughest show of his *Lambda Weekly* career happened the Sunday after his husband, Brian, died unexpectedly. "We just talked about his death, and people who'd listened for years stuck with me and emailed."

Landis laughs at the idea of naming his favorite *Lambda Weekly* "segment," declaring the show "too undisciplined to have segments." But one of the most memorable shows for him was when Pastor Frank Schaefer on the show.

"He was defrocked from the United Methodist Church for officiating at his gay son's same-sex wedding. In addition filming this episode to use as part of the pastor's documentary.

knowledge to share about our varied LGBTQ community. It's one of the main reasons I have continued to do the show all these years.

"I have met and interviewed so many wonderful and intriguing people that I feel have enriched my own personal knowledge in a way that I would never have been able to had I just existed as part of the community. And there's not a single other local, live media outlet in the DFW area where one can hear about LGBTQ topics."

As much as they enjoy the gig, the cohosts agree that it is not always an easy job. They have developed many relationships over the years with guests and with the community, and that can make for a hard show when they are sharing bad news.

"For me, the hardest shows are those where we've learned that a former guest or someone in our KNON or *Lambda Weekly* family has died," Fink said. "It's also incredibly painful when we focus a show on the active discrimination happening against our community, especially right now with the deplorable hate and vicious ignorant attacks against trans kids, and especially in Texas.

"It's difficult to say which shows had the most impact," she continued, "and perhaps the most important thing about *Lambda Weekly* is our consistent presence and 'visibility' for 40 years. I remember a listener writing to us many years ago before

we began simulcasting online to share that as a student at Baylor in Waco, he'd drive up I-35 to Hillsboro on Sunday nights and park somewhere just to listen to our show and then drive back to Waco. Because it was literally the only gay thing anywhere for him at that time and Hillsboro was the first place he could get the radio signal.

"Young people in East Texas would write to us to share how important our show was for them, that they'd count on us as a lifeline. I've been in the grocery store or out somewhere and been approached by listeners who recognize my voice and want to tell me how much the show means to them.

That's the impact we really cannot quantify, it's so unseen on radio." ■

Look for complete Q&As with each cohost at DallasVoice.com.




"It was the first time I ever met a straight parent in such a prominent position that exuded that much love and, not just acceptance but embracement for the LGBT child," Landis said. "He was genuine, brave, kind and gracious as they come. And it was a real pleasure to meet and interview him."

Great guests and great hosts are certainly part of the reason *Lambda* is still around and thriving. But it's the community that is at the core of its success, Landis said: "If we didn't have dedicated listeners who help keep the show alive, we would not exist."

He added, "I believe it is the incredible array of guests that draws people to the show. We've had just about everyone from the community who's had something to share on the show at some point. They have rich and interesting stories,

Noise over Oak Lawn

NEIGHBORHOOD

Long-standing noise abatement agreements between neighborhoods and Love Field are being broken

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

The debate over noise levels at Love Field is getting noisy again. No, this isn't about wanting to close down an airport that's been there 100 years now that we've just moved into the area. That was the argument made against those wanting regulations in the 1970s and '80s after DFW Airport opened and Southwest

still wanted to fly out of Love Field. It is about wanting the airport to stop violating noise agreements already agreed to by all sides and already in place.

Most people who live in Oak Lawn love that they're just minutes away from their flight. But the airport and airlines did make some concessions to be a good neighbor.

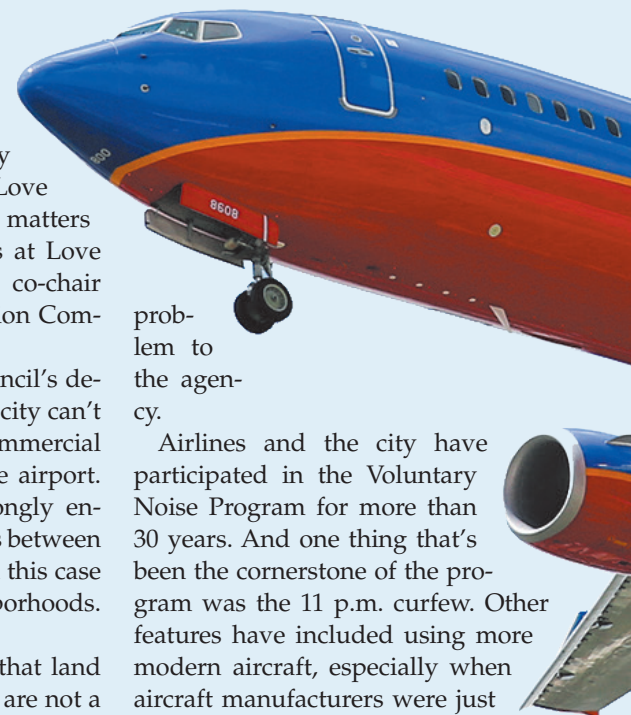
Love Field agreed to limit scheduling flights to between 6 a.m. and 11 p.m. And neighborhood groups agreed that two flights after hours was something the area could live with. But two flights have turned into 11 flights.

That's 11 flights scheduled for later than 11 p.m. plus some charter and business flights that don't adhere to the agreements at all and generally fly smaller — but noisier — aircraft than Southwest, Delta or Alaska Airlines.

Although the Dallas City Council will hear proposals on how to address the problem, and even though the city of Dallas owns and operates Love Field, "The FAA regulates all matters relating to aviation operations at Love Field," explained Steve Klein, co-chair of the Love Field Citizens Action Committee.

So, regardless of the city council's decisions on those proposals, the city can't actually enforce a curfew on commercial or even general aviation at the airport. Still, Klein said, the FAA strongly encourages voluntary agreements between airlines, airport operators — in this case the city — and affected neighborhoods. But the FAA gets the last word.

And so far, those 11 flights that land between 11 p.m. and midnight are not a



problem to the agency.

Airlines and the city have participated in the Voluntary Noise Program for more than 30 years. And one thing that's been the cornerstone of the program was the 11 p.m. curfew. Other features have included using more modern aircraft, especially when aircraft manufacturers were just



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coming out with quieter jet engines in the 1990s. Southwest made it a priority to fly its newest planes in and out of Love Field.

One problem with Southwest using its quietest planes recently is that its quietest plane — the 737 Max — was grounded after two crashes by foreign airlines involving the plane.

In 2021, City Manager T.C. Broadnax wrote to City Auditor Mark Swann that the Voluntary Noise Abatement Program hadn't been reviewed in 30 years. The Department of Aviation, he said, would be responsible for making recommendations to update the program to bring it in compliance with current federal law taking into consideration residents who live around the airport.

In a letter addressed to stakeholders, among Klein's other recommendations to address the growing problem is to retain the 20-gate limit at Love Field. Adding gates would allow airlines to add flights and more flights increase noise frequency.

Klein recommends the airport and city "communicate regularly with area neighborhoods and citizens, and increase advisory efforts with airlines and general aviation regarding status of the Voluntary Noise Program."

Klein said he expects a report to be released and reviewed at the Sept. 20 Dallas City Council meeting. ■

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MUSIC ON STAGE

DSO's Terry Loftis works to build bridges between classical music and LGBTQ communities

RICH LOPEZ | Staff writer
rich@dallasvoice.com

The Dallas Morning News once described Terry Loftis as a “rain-maker” for the arts — certainly an apropos description of his time leading The Arts Community Alliance, which doles out grants to area arts organizations which has been helping theaters, dance companies and the like rebuild their foundations post the height of the pandemic.

But today, the out arts advocate, who left TACA late last year, is on the other side of that equation as chief advancement and revenue officer for the Dallas Symphony Orchestra, the largest arts organization in the southwest.

“TACA is a grants funder for the cultural arts,” Loftis explained. “Now I’ve moved from an ecosystem where I was making grants to working for a grantee.”

The position of chief advancement

and revenue officer was created by DSO President and CEO Kim Noltemy, and Loftis assumed those duties in December.

In a statement last December announcing his new position, Loftis said he was “delighted” to join the Dallas Symphony executive team in what he expects to be an important role.

“I’ve been privileged to collaborate with Kim Noltemy for several years, admiring her leadership skills up close,” Loftis said at the time of the announcement. “She has set the DSO on a path towards unprecedented growth and innovation, and I look forward to helping fulfill her vision to take the DSO to even greater heights.”

A former Broadway producer and a performing musician and singer, Loftis is no stranger to the arts. For his job at DSO, he fuses his knowledge of the industry both from the perspective of an artist and from the perspective of the administrative side. With the DSO, he oversees marketing, media relations, fundraising, corporate support and guest services teams.

Putting it in simpler terms, he said,



DSO's Terry Loftis

“I’m responsible for all of the development.”

There is a bigger picture here. Loftis shares Noltemy’s vision, and the two are working together to move the DSO into a new space of relevance for Dallas and North Texas.

“All the performing arts were facing challenges for audience engagement and re-engagement from the pandemic,” Loftis said in an interview with Dallas Voice earlier this year. “So we are taking into account our core audience and asking ‘What is our impact in the community?’

“We are 122 years old,” he added, “but we still will maintain and grow our promise to produce great music and programming. We also want to immerse diverse communities into what we do.”

Those diverse communities Loftis hopes to help immerse in the work of the DSO include, of course, the LGBTQ population throughout Dallas and North Texas. Toward that end, last spring the DSO hosted pre-concert Pride Night

events. The organization also introduced its Friday Nights OUT series of concerts that have extra appeal to queer music lovers.

That focus on drawing in diverse communities continues as DSO moves into its 2023/24 season, with a series package that includes three concerts for \$99 including the Sept. 1, Jan. 26 and April 19 performances (see sidebar).

These are new outreach initiatives launched by the DSO soon after Loftis joined the team. However, he acknowledged with a laugh, “I wish I could take full credit for that!

“One criticism we had received was that this part of the community [the LGBTQ community] that loves the arts wasn’t being marketed to directly. Kim’s vision is to be the DSO for all of Dallas, including LGBTQ communities.”

The organization hired its first vice president of equity, diversity, inclusion and social impact last year in October in order to build bridges to not only the Dallas queer community, but to persons

Dallas Symphony Orchestra's 2023/24 season

The DSO has a hefty schedule of performances set for its next season. These select performances noted here are high on our radar.

All performances will be at the Morton H. Meyerson unless otherwise noted. To see the full calendar that includes DSO's Texas Instruments Classical Series, the Pops Series by Capital One and holiday offerings, visit DallasSymphony.org.

- **Sept. 1-3: Dallas Symphony Presents: Amadeus Live in Concert**
- **Sept. 8-10: Pops Series: Prohibition: Music of Moulin Rouge, Boardwalk Empire and More**
- **Sept. 19: Dallas Symphony Presents: Turtle Creek Chorale: Sing for Our Lives**
- **Oct. 12-15: Classical Series: Snapshots**
- **Oct. 27-29: Pops Series: Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban in Concert**
- **Oct. 31: Dia de Los Muertos celebration with conductor Maurice Cohn**
- **Nov. 6: Classical Series: The world premiere of DSO commission Concert for Cello and Orchestra**
- **Dec. 1-10: Pops Series: Christmas Pops**
- **Dec. 31: New Year's Eve Celebration with conductor Maurice Cohn**
- **Jan. 26-28: Pops Series: Rajaton Sings Queen**
- **Feb. 16-18: Pops Series: Uptown Nights: It Don't Mean a Thing if It Ain't Got That Swing**
- **Feb. 22-25: Classical Series: The world premiere of DSO commission Year 2020: Concerto for Trumpet, Violin and Orchestra.**
- **March 21: Dallas Symphony Presents: Ludmilla by Erich Ziegler and Willy Losen**
- **April 19: Pops Series: Troupe Vertigo**
- **May 1-5: Classical Series: Wagner's Ring Cycle: Das Rheingold and Die Walküre, separate performances**
- **May 10-12: Pops Series: Country Hits: Songs from Nashville**
- **May 23--26: Classical Series: The world premiere of DSO commission of a new work by Andrea Basevi**

of color, women and disabled populations. And Loftis takes all of these initiatives seriously.

"These are not optics," he declared. "We definitely want all these people in the building," he said.



The DSO earlier this year hosted its Young Professionals Gala that featured "The Music of Tchaikovsky X Drake" concert benefiting its Young Musicians Program. This new kind of programming is significant to the direction and appeal in which Loftis wants to lead — even if he admits he had a bit of anxiety

about it.

"Drake set to classical music — I was nervous," he said. "But we sold out, with 75 percent of our audience under 45. So a major part of what we're doing is to bring these other demographics into what we're doing."

Loftis is leading his team to change the narrative and perspective of classical music for Dallas. From there, the organization's reputation grows as do, potentially, its supporters.

But if he and the DSO are putting Drake in the classical mix for younger audiences, how about some Drag and Dvorak or a Rainbow Ravel?

"We'd be thrilled!" he declared with a laugh. "I want this organization to look like the community we engage with and do business with and educate as well as the staff and the members on stage," he said. "To do my job in this fashion is a great opportunity to grow and nurture our next generation of supporters." ■

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Queer highlights on stage

UPCOMING SHOW



A scene from the musical *Jagged Little Pill*

Find the great rainbow way at these upcoming productions

RICH LOPEZ | Staff writer
rich@dallasvoice.com

The stage is upon us, and the variety of performing arts shows coming up over the next year across North Texas does not look to disappoint. World and regional premieres, classics in music and onstage, touring and local productions — all that plus a slew of original works and local talent on the horizon for area stages.

But let's narrow it down a bit.

There is nary a shortage of queer representation throughout the performing arts in these parts. But we're here to sift through the upcoming seasons to hone in on what's the LGBTe (and Q+) on shows that speak to the community. From personal stories, grande dames with showtunes queer choirs and more

will deliver a season full of variety and entertainment with that extra hint of mint.

But first, we can start easily with a few companies' entire repertoire of upcoming productions because they are speaking the same language. Uptown Players, Turtle Creek Chorale, the Women's Chorus of Dallas, American Baroque Opera, MBS Productions and Bruce Wood Dance each have ties to the community through its mission, members, leaders or founders. So basically, go see everything they do.

The queer-owned **American Baroque Opera** presents this season of three productions for its seventh season titled *Revenge and Fury*. **Nov. 18:** *Semele*, location to be announced. **March 1:** *Giulio Cesare* at Moody Performance Hall. **June 7 and 8:** *Ormindo*, location to be announced. BaroqueOpera.org.

The company **Bruce Wood Dance** opens its season this week at the Battery Dance Festival in New York. Founded by the late and out dancer/choreographer, BWD has perpetually built a strong following not just for its queer-centric pieces but for its provocative performances

of Wood's works and artistic director Joy Bollinger's creations. **Sept. 16:** *Homecoming 2*, will feature Bollinger's *Blue* along with Wood's *The Only Way Through Is Through* and his '70s homage, *Polyester Dreams*, at the W.E. Scott Theatre in Fort Worth. **Sept. 21-23:** Fort Worth Dance Festival. BWD and four professional local companies close the festival at the Terrell Performing Arts Center. **Nov. 17-19:** *SOAR*, the world premiere by out choreographer Norbert de la Cruz III along with Bollinger's *In My Your Head* and Wood's *Home*, at Moody Performance Hall. **March:** *WOOD/SHOP: New Works* by Company Dancers in the BWD Gallery Dates to be announced. **April 6:** 14th Anniversary Performance and Gala includes the Dallas premiere of Twyla Tharp's masterpiece, *Nine Sinatra Songs* with Wood's *Anything Goes* at Moody Performance Hall. **June 7-9:** *Radiance*, will feature an encore performance of *Nine Sinatra Songs*, a world premiere by Bollinger and Wood's *Boléro*, at Moody Performance Hall.

Turtle Creek Chorale's 43rd season is already underway and will conclude this December. **Sept. 19:** *Sing for Our Lives* with the Dallas Symphony Orchestra at the Meyerson Symphony Center. **November:** *Border Songs*, works in English and Spanish of the stories of immigrants from our southern border. Date and location to be announced. **Dec. 18 and 19:** *Sing for Joy: A Celtic Holiday Celebration* at the Meyerson Symphony Center. TurtleCreekChorale.com.

Uptown Players has been presenting queer-based stories through theater, musicals and cabarets for more than 20 years. Even with some slight shakeups like a pandemic and the use of other venues, the company continues to slay all day and nights depending on your ticket. All performances at the Kalita Humphreys Theatre unless otherwise noted. **Dec. 1-10:** *Jada Bells: A Holiday Extravaganza* with Lee Walter. **March 7-17:** *Fire and Air* by Terrence McNally (regional premiere) in the 6th Floor Studio Theater at the Wyly. **May 2-5:** *Broadway Our Way* annual fundraiser revue. **July 12-28:** *The Prom* (regional premiere). **Aug. 16-25:** *The Boys in the Band* by Mart Crowley. UptownPlayers.org.

As of press time, **The Womens Chorus of Dallas**, led by Melinda Imthurn, and **MBS Productions**, led by Mark-Brian Sonna, have not released their new seasons. TWCD.org. MBSProductions.info.

Now, put these performances by other companies on your gaydar (in alphabetical order by organization):


Art Centre Theatre: **Sept. 29-Oct. 15:** *Firebringer* by Art Centre Theatre: Cave people – mostly women – discover fire and queer feminist themes in this kitschy musical at this plucky theater in Plano. The company follows up with *The Best Little Whorehouse* in Texas **Nov. 11-29.** ArtCentreTheatre.com.

Bishop Arts Theatre Center: Next year, BATC will stage *Jet Fuel* inspired

STAGE, Next Page




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STAGE, From Previous Page



Tina: The Tina Turner Musical

by the story of South African lesbian runner Caster Semenya who was tested on her gender identity due to her athletic performances. Amy Evans' play will run **Aug. 8-25**. BishopArts-Theatre.org.

Broadway at the Bass: The big musicals have already started at Bass Hall, but the season is bringing all the divas to Cowtown. Alanis Morissette's *Jagged Little Pill* runs **Sept. 15-17**, the theatrical pop icons of *Six* run **Nov. 28-Dec. 3**, from **Feb. 6-11** *Tina: The Tina Turner Musical* will headline the stage and dancing queens can rejoice for *Mamma Mia!* **July 9-14**. BassHall.com.

Broadway at the Center: The AT&T Performing Arts Center will boots the Winspear house down with one big gay icon — or a facsimile of. The series presents *The Cher Show* **Dec. 14-16** to get things rolling. That's followed by Morissette's *Jagged Little Pill* **Jan. 12-14** and then some razzle dazzle with *Chicago* **April 4-6**.

Broadway Dallas: Dallas will be home to some big musical names soon (Hamilton, anyone?), but The Music Hall at Fair Park will host some big names in 2024 like *Tina: The Tina Turner Musical* from **Jan. 24-Feb. 4**, *Hairspray*, based on the John Waters film, **June 18-30** and *Funny Girl* **Aug. 6-18**. Hello, gorgeous, indeed. BroadwayDallas.org.

Circle Theatre: The Fort Worth stage will open *The Other Josh Cohen* on **Aug. 24-Sept. 16**. The comedy about a down-

on-his-luck guy who can't rise about his bad luck is directed by Joel Ferrell with music director Cody Dry. CircleTheatre.com.

The Classics Theatre Project: Dallas theater legend Terry Martin will direct the company's next show, *The Seagull* by Anton Chekhov which runs **Sept. 1-24** at the Stone Cottage in Addison. TheClassicsTheatreProject.com.

The Dallas Theater Center: DTC will open its season with the camp classic *The Rocky Horror Show* **Sept. 23-Oct. 29** at the Kalita Humphreys Theater. In 2024, the company returns to the Kalita with Jonathan Norton's *I Am Delivered't*, an original play and world premiere that celebrates same-gender loving church folks. Kevin Moriarty directs the season's closer, Disney's *The Little Mermaid* at the Wyly **July 12-Aug. 4**.

Eisemann Center: The venue is delivering Broadway legends in its new season including the show *Get Happy: Michael Feinstein Celebrates the Judy Garland Centennial* on **Nov. 11**, Tony-winner Brian Stokes Mitchell on **Feb. 24** and then the icon Patti Lupone delivers *A Life in Notes* on **March 23**. EisemannCenter.com.

Garland Civic Theatre: Lose your mind at *Sondheim's Follies* in the burbs **March 8-24**. GarlandCivic.org.

Lakeside Community Theatre: Always enough Sondheim to go around. *Head to The Colony* for the audience-favorite *Sweeney Todd* this fall from **Oct.**

13-Nov. 4. LCTTheColony.com.

Lewisville Playhouse: Don't sleep on this suburban theater cranking out good stuff. The musical comedy beauty contest *Pageant* runs **Feb. 9-25** followed by Howard Ashman's *Little Shop of Horrors* **June 14-July 7**. LewisvillePlayhouse.org.

Lyric Stage: This Dallas company has expanded its 30th season across two venues. Ashman's *Little Shop of Horrors* will give the Majestic Theatre monster vibes **Oct. 26-29** and even more of the same next spring for Sondheim's *Sweeney Todd* in the new Lyric Stage Studio **March 15-April 20**. LyricStage.org.

MainStage ILC: BJ Cleveland is set to direct *Grand Hotel: The Musical* that will run **May 3-18** at the Dupree Theater in the Irving Arts Center. MainStageIrving.com.

side a *Human Heart* about being Black and queer, **Oct. 12-23**. SoulRep.org.

Stage West: The Fort Worth company goes Oscar Wilde in 2024 with *The Importance of Being Earnest* **Sept. 5-22**. StageWest.org.

Theatre Three: The company has a killer season beginning with *Lizzie the Rock Musical* by gay composer Steven Cheslik-Demeyer, queer characters come up in *Deathtrap* **Dec. 7-31**, Joel Ferrell directs both *The Seagull* **April 4-28** and *Pirates of Penzance* **June 13-July 14**. Theatre3Dallas.com.

Undermain Theatre: The Deep Ellum space will stage Harold Pinter's *No Man's Land* with its queer undertones **Nov. 9-Dec. 3**. Brian Dang was the 2022 recipient of the Katherine Owens/Undermain Fund for New Work for *This time*, about three maids in the 1900s



Turtle Creek Chorale

Repertory Community Theatre: The Richardson company puts its spin on Sondheim's *Sweeney Todd* **Oct. 20-29** and then gives us a showtune revue with *Broadway's Best* **March 15-24**. RCT-Theatre.com.

Shakespeare Dallas: See Ryan Mathieu Smith's costuming work at the fall production of *King Lear* at the Samuel-Grand Amphitheater **Sept. 14-Oct. 15**. ShakespeareDallas.org.

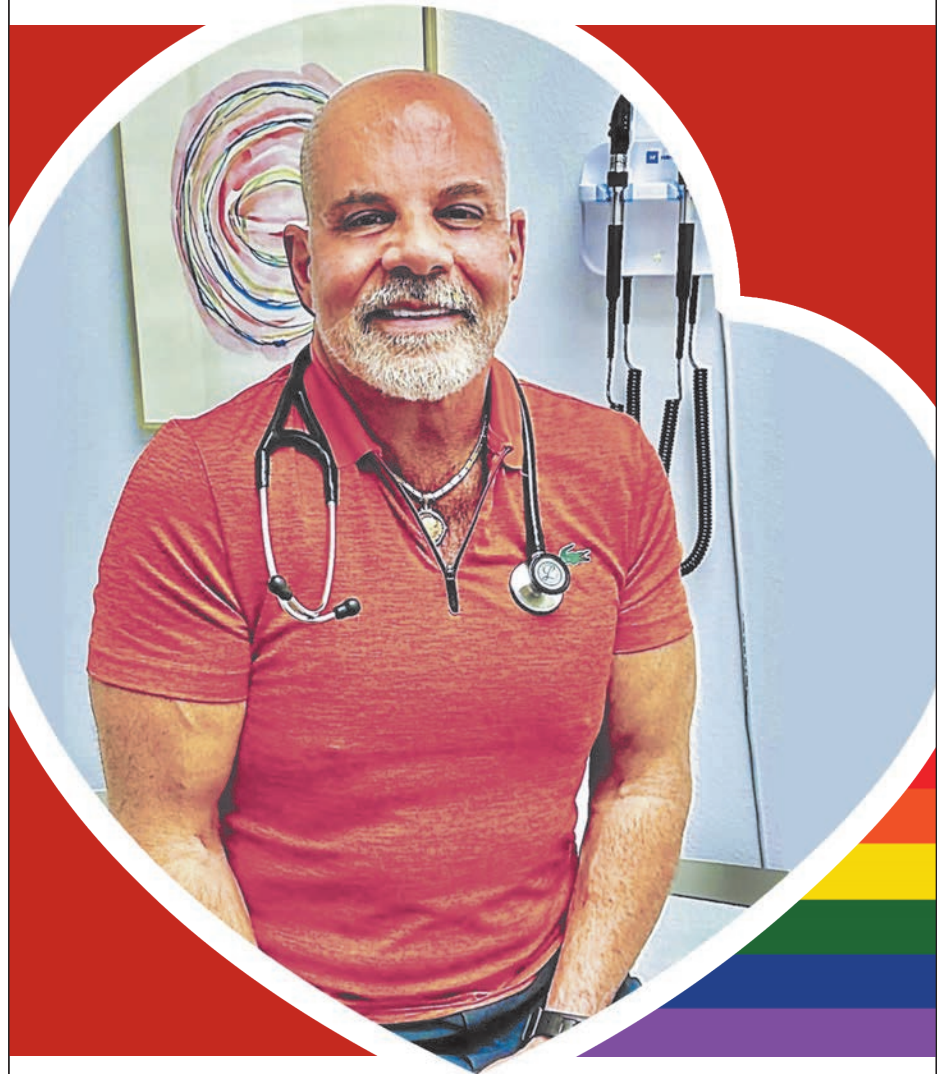
Soul Rep Theatre: SRT commissioned local playwright Erin Malone Turner to create the play *What Fits In-*

with secret desires, which premieres **Feb. 29-March 17**. Undermaing.org.

Upright Theatre: The Eules theater brings a little bit of Victorian fab to its stage with gay playwright Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest*, **Aug. 25-17**. UprightTheatre.org.

WaterTower Theatre: Cheryl Denson directs the season opener *Chaplin the Musical* **Nov. 8-19** and then the company will present *Ann* about our favorite former governor Ann Richards **Feb. 14-25**. WaterTowerTheatre.org. ■

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ON THE STAGE

Nonbinary actor Jayden Russell talks about their love for theater life

MELISSA WHITLER | Contributing Writer
melissa.whitler@verizon.net

Avenue Q is far from your typical musical. Nonbinary actor Jayden Russell describes the show as “an adult *Sesame Street*.” There was, they noted, always a random celebrity in each episode of the actual kid’s show. And in the parody, opening Aug. 25 at Theater Arlington, the random celebrity is Gary Coleman — played

by Russell.

While you probably remember Coleman as the child actor who starred in *Diff’rent Strokes*, in the musical he is the washed-up superintendent of a building on *Avenue Q*.

Russell is especially excited about this role because it is their first time playing a specifically male character. They’ve had fun taking the source material on who Coleman was and playing around with his mannerisms. When performing, Russell has found they don’t like to distance themselves completely from the character. “I like to keep some of myself, find a balance between my own intentions and thought processes and that of the character,” they explained, noting that this is especially true for pieces covering heavier subject matter.

This musical, however, is far from serious. While it covers a lot of different themes, it is decidedly a comedy.

“The boundary in this musical is almost nonexistent,” Russell said, and they have found themselves asking how far can they go during rehearsals. The whole cast has had the freedom to push and throw their whole selves into the story, and Russell has really enjoyed watching everyone play around it.

Adding to the wildness of the show is the fact that eight of the 11 characters are portrayed by puppets. Russell said it’s been an adjustment in rehearsals, as “it’s very different acting with a puppet.”

First off, they found that making eye contact with unblinking black eyes is very jarring. Also, while the puppe-

teers are on stage, the rest of the cast is meant to ignore them.

While the puppeteers might do natural facial reactions, there is only so much a puppet can do. To try and compensate for what the puppeteers can’t do, Russell asked themselves, “What can I do to clearly portray the emotions in the scene?” so that the audience doesn’t miss anything.

While acting might not be Russell’s full-time gig, they have been in love with theater most of their life, they said. Growing up in Irving, they were obsessed with *Pirates of the Caribbean* and were convinced that if they just took a theater class, they could star in one of the movies.

So even though they are very shy and hate attention, Russell began act-

PUPPETS, Page 25



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Jayden Russell

TA Gala brings Broadway magic to Arlington

Theatre Arlington has been celebrating a half-century of shows throughout 2023, but its 50th Anniversary Gala coming up in September will be the centerpiece of the company's golden anniversary season with Arlington Mayor Jim Ross as the event's honorary chair.

The gala will be held on Sept. 16 at the Bluebonnet Ballroom in the Hereford University Center at UT Arlington. The night will include dinner, dancing and a raffle. There will be a live luxury auction including a Texas Rangers luxury suite, a seven-night stay in Cabo and a progressive dinner in Arlington Highlands among other items.

The magic of the night will be provided by Broadway actor and Tarrant County native Major Attaway, who starred as Genie in Disney's *Aladdin*. Attaway's road to New York included appearances here in North Texas, including roles at Theatre Arlington, Casa Mañana, Jubilee Theater and Theatre Three. Attaway recently directed TA's production of *Fly By Night* and is honored on the TA Walk of Fame which was unveiled this year.

Individual tickets are \$150, \$1,200 for a table, available at TheatreArlington.org.

Theatre Arlington's 2024 season

The company announced its next lineup of shows on Thursday afternoon for its 51st season. The theater will produce six mainstage shows and two for the Family Series. Here are the shows for TA's next season:

Mainstage Season

- Feb. 9-March 3: *Cabaret*
- May 3-19: *Steel Magnolias*
- June 7-23: *Chicken & Biscuits*
- Aug. 9-25: *Big Fish*
- Sept 13-29: *Visiting Mr. Green*
- December: Show to be announced.

Family Series

- March 29-April 14: *Alice In Wonderland*
- Nov. 1-10: *The Musical Adventures of Flat Stanley*

— Rich Lopez

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Dealing with challenges

DANCE ON STAGE

TITAS leader Charles Santos moves forward with looming challenges

RICH LOPEZ | Staff writer
rich@dallasvoice.com

At April's performance by Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre, TITAS/DANCE UNBOUND (T/DU) announced its 2023/24 season of shows. And the presenting company is back to normal post-COVID, if you will, with the usual amount of shows. The season will feature 10 performances with companies from five countries including Japan, Canada, France, Israel and the United States.

"Our mantra this year is 'Nothing Replaces the LIVE Experience.' This season is filled with some of the world's most intriguing dance companies and to enjoy them, you have to come to the



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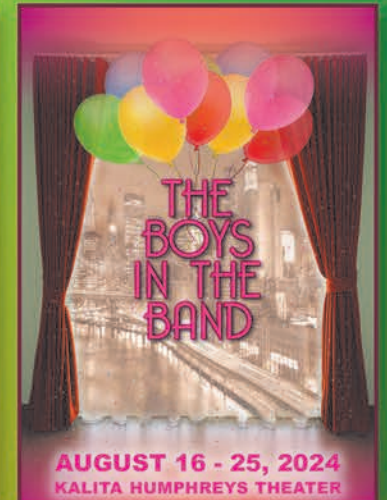
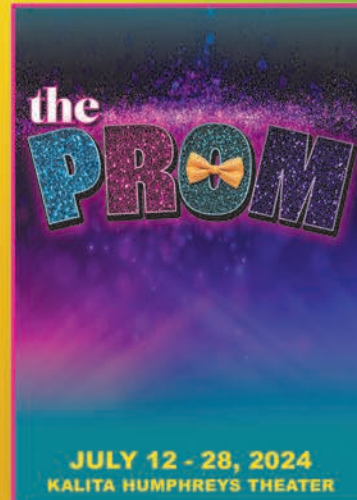
'Alice' by MOMIX

theater," T/DU Executive and Artistic Director Charles Santos said in a press release about the season. "Dance doesn't get any better than this, and our devoted TITAS audience is well aware that TITAS is where you see diverse works from around the globe."

The good news was T/DU was back to 10 productions for its season, but there was bad news — or, at least, potentially bad news: Earlier this year, the federal government proposed a substantial rise in immigration fees that were as high as almost 300 percent, making a visa process costly and difficult for visiting companies or anyone from another country coming here to perform or compete.

"We're international presenters, so for many companies to come here for our season, they have to have a tax ID number and a visa as a working artist — and that's every single person in the company," Santos said. "Athletes will have the same challenge, only they tend to have more money."

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CHALLENGES

From Page 22

So a passport is not enough. Dancers from outside the United States have to apply for working visas individually. The proposed increase by United States Citizenship and Immigration Services is 265 percent — per visa. The fee to expedite has also gone up more than 150 percent as well, according to Santos. With proposed increased fees, that could prove expensive, not to mention a change in the normal 15 calendar days to get approval.

“Now it’s 15 work days to expedite, which is essentially a month,” Santos said. “This will devastate international exchange and is cost ineffective.”

There is some good news. The proposal has been tabled until next spring, meaning this TITAS season is fine, but Santos will have to figure it out for future seasons.

“I don’t know what we will do now. Those fees for the artist would get passed on to the audience, and I don’t want to have \$200 tickets for TITAS,” he said. “This will have a devastating effect on our place in the global stage.”

On the Dallas stage for the next year, the story is a bit different and a lot more exciting and for this season, Santos is ready to get people back into the theater. “Coming out of COVID, we’ve noticed the lackadaisical notion of people re-entering the world. We’ve become so attached to our devices, but the live experience is important,” he said.

Santos continued, “Another thing we saw is that some of our last shows were selling out and mostly those with recognizable names.” So with a healthy mix of both familiar and new (or at least “been a while”), the 2023/24 season has a diverse roster offering something for everyone.

For the more familiar, the season opens with the return of MOMIX’s *Alice* that will also be part of the Broadway series at the AT&T Performing Arts Center. *Complexions Contemporary Ballet*, *Parsons Dance* and *Giordano Dance Chicago* all have big followings or strong reputations for dance fans.

Santos is equally excited about the re-

TITAS DANCE UNBOUND 2023/24 season

- **Sept. 22 and 23:** *Alice* by MOMIX. MOMIX returns to Dallas with its fantastical *Alice*. Performances at Moody Performance Hall.
- **Oct. 13 and 14:** *KŌSA* by Sankai Juku. Founder Ushio Amagatsu’s new work is an immersive experience, rich with Japanese culture. Performances at Moody Performance Hall.
- **Nov. 3 and 4:** *Passagers* by Les 7 Doigts is a work of dance and circus exploring life. Texas debut. Performances at Moody Performance Hall.
- **Dec. 8:** *Complexions Contemporary Ballet*, led by Dwight Rhoden and Desmond Richardson, pairs its evocative style with musical ranges from David Bowie to Johann Bach. Performance at the Winspear.
- **Jan. 19:** *Sol Invictus* by Compagnie Hervé Koubi. A “masculine beyond belief” dance company returning to Dallas with new work. Performance at the Winspear.
- **Feb. 2 and 3:** *Rome & Jewels* by Rennie Harris PureMovement — American Street Dance Theater. Performances at Moody Performance Hall.
- **March 15 and 16:** Parsons Dance Company is renowned for its contemporary American dance and bold works. Performances at Moody Performance Hall.
- **March 29:** Giordano Dance Chicago celebrates 60 years of jazz dance and will make its Dallas debut. Performance at the Winspear.
- **April 12 and 13:** Vertigo Dance Company makes its Dallas debut, with its new work, *Makom*, which means “place” in Hebrew, describes a real or imaginary location. Performances at Moody Performance Hall.
- **May 31 and June 1:** Micaela Taylor’s TL Collective is considered one of the hottest tickets in the contemporary dance world and makes its Texas debut. Performances at Moody Performance Hall.
- **April 27:** Command Performance features TITAS/DANCE UNBOUND commissioned works created specifically for this gala performance. Held at the Winspear.

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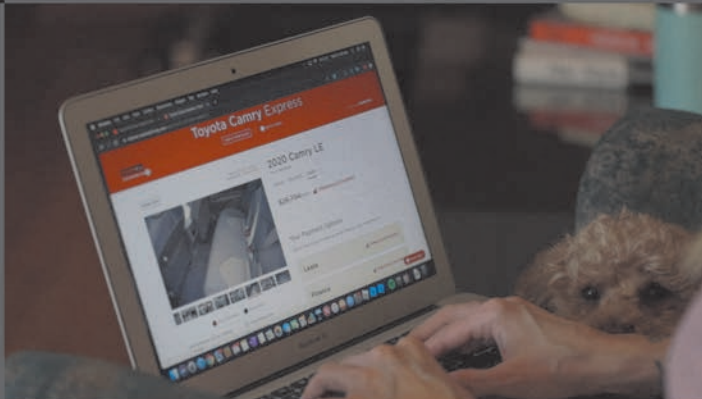
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and *Juliet* but with a cast of all-male dancers.

"I am a firm believer in 'Never say never,' but Les 7 Doigts' *Passengers* is an exception," Santos said. "We don't do cirque shows because this is a dance series, but this piece about passengers on a train is choreographed with acrobats and others within an inch of its life. It's so sophisticated and cool, I had to have it."

With the combination of familiar names and compelling pieces — not to mention the hulking male dancers of Com-

pagnie Hervé Koubi — TITAS is giving 10 strong reasons throughout its next season to get back into the theater. "I anticipate a very exciting season for everyone," Santos said. ■

See the full TITAS/DANCE UNBOUND season in the sidebar. For more information, visit TITAS.org.



PUPPETS From Page 21

ing freshman year of high school. Despite how much they enjoyed it, they tried hard to not want to be an actor, knowing the job's reputation.

Russell tried forensic science for a while but never loved anything as much as they love being on stage. Acting on stage is like therapy for them, they said, a chance to be the complete opposite of themselves. Playing a character and performing that persona comes very naturally to them, no matter the gender of the character.

The moment Russell knew the Dallas theater scene was for them actually came in high school. One year their class went to see a show at the Dallas Theater Center as part of Project Discovery. By the end of that show Russell knew that they wanted to be a part of this.

Now they've been with Theater Arlington for more than a year, and *Avenue Q* is Russell's fifth show during that time. They've found the experience to

offer the perfect balance with their day job, as well as a good mix of familiar and new faces.

Their favorite part, Russell said, is attending rehearsals and making new connections. And with this show, Russell gets to work with some of their favorite people, who "are just really funny, strong comedic actors." They find it mesmerizing getting to see such talented and incredible people in their element.

Of course, Russell is most excited to start performing for an audience. They said they are eager to hear that first laugh and applause, as they really feed off an audience's energy. And of course, they are excited for their mom and grandma to watch the musical, as the two go to almost all of Russell's shows. ■

Avenue Q runs at Theater Arlington from Aug 25 to Sept 10. Tickets and more information are available at theatrearlington.org/production/avenue-q/

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Roger Jahnel, center, with his Big Brothers, couple James and Dennis Bradanese, will be there Saturday, Aug. 19, when Big Brothers Big Sisters take over the Naked Stage at Union Coffee to tell their stories and provide information on the BBBS program. See listings for details.



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

■ **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 chemminger@hopecottage.org.

AUGUST

■ **Aug. 18: HRC August Social and Summer Movie Night**

Human Rights Campaign hosts the August Social and Summer Movie Night from 6-8 p.m. at Cinépolis in Victory Park, 2365 Victory Park Lane, starting at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$5-\$10, available online at EventBrite.com.

■ **Aug. 19: Under the Sea Gaybingo**

Gaybingo at 6 p.m. Play for a chance to win cash and prizes. Station 4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. Tickets at myresourcecenter.org/gaybingo.

■ **Aug. 19: BBBS Takeover**

Big Brothers Big Sisters Takeover of The Naked Stage at Union Coffee to tell their stories and provide information as a community building, volunteer recruitment and child outreach event. From 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Union Coffee, 3705 Cedar Springs Road.

■ **Aug. 19: Rainbow Market**

Tyler Area Gays presents Rainbow Market at 10 a.m. at Bergfeld Park, 1510 S. College Ave., Tyler.

■ **Aug. 19 FIIT Camp**

WIL Turner hosts FIIT Camp, a health and wellness group fitness workshop, from 8:30-9:30 a.m. in Reverchon Park, 3505 Maple Ave. Register at LivingWellWithWil.com.

■ **Through Aug. 20: 'Disney's Frozen'**

Elsa is gonna "Let It Go" herself when this blockbuster musical returns to North Texas. Fort Worth hosts the snowy fairy tale musical which may offer a break from this heat. BassHall.com.

■ **Through Aug. 20: 'The Color Purple'**

Jubilee Theatre presents the musical adaptation of Alice Walker's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel that centers on Celie's tumultuous life and her secret love. Performances held at Arts Fort Worth. JubileeTheatre.org.

■ **Aug. 20: Pride Frisco-FC Dallas Youth Soccer Training Day**

Pride Frisco-FC Dallas present a free Youth Soccer Training Day with FC Dallas athletes and coaches, from noon-4 p.m. at the training field next to Toyota Stadium, 9200 World Cup Way in Frisco. For ages 5-18, but parents/legal guardians must accompany participants. Register online at Eventeny.com or call 972-665-6452.

■ **Aug. 22: Stonewall Democrats of Dallas**

In person and hybrid meeting at 6:30 p.m. at The View, 525 S. Riverfront Ave.

■ **Aug. 22: Women's Group**

Tyler Area Gays presents Women's Social Group at 6 p.m. at Daniel Boone's, 1920 E SE Loop 232, Tyler.

■ **Aug. 22: Men's Group**

Tyler Area Gays presents Men's Social Group at 6:30 p.m. at Mario's, 7916 S. Broadway Ave., Tyler.

■ **Aug. 24: Resource Center's film premiere and conversation**

Premiere of Resource Center's 40th anniversary short film followed by "I Survived the Texas Legislative Session," a conversation with Rep. Venton Jones, Shelly Skeen and Patrick Hanlet moderated by Sharon Fancher from 5:30-7 p.m. at Violet Crown Cinema Dallas, 3699 McKinney Ave. Free.

■ **Aug. 24: Come Out Against Cancer**

North Texas Get Screened Campaign to support LGBTQ communities by providing cancer screening outreach, education and referrals. Featuring DJ Spencer Huff. Open bar, appetizers, auction, wine pull from 6:30-10:30 p.m. at Howell and Dragon, 1130 Dragon St. #120. Tickets are \$65 and available at COAC2023.givesmart.com.

■ **Aug. 24: Thrift Studio Preview Party**

A ticketed event previewing the annual Thrift Studio pop-up show presented by Dallas designers partnering with Dwell With Dignity, with proceeds benefitting Dwell With Dignity. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at The Levee, 1833 East Levee St. Tickets available at EventBrite.com.

■ **Aug. 25: BRUT Party-Dallas Renegades**

Rev your engines because the BRÜT Renegades are coming to town. Brace yourself for a night of unparalleled fun and excitement, where we celebrate the true spirit of freedom and the fearless spirit of BRÜT. DJ's DAN DARLINGTON and DEANNE are ready to pull the throttle with a full tank of TECH HOUSE mayhem from 10 p.m.-4 a.m. at S4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road.

■ **Aug. 25: Astrid Merriman Cabaret and Cabernet**

Kicking off the fall concert series with a parade of stars singing cabaret and show tune hits. Individual tickets \$65; tables available for parties of four, six and eight. Sammons Center for the Arts, 3630 Harry Hines Blvd. Call 214-520-7788 for details.

■ **Aug. 25-Sept. 16: 'Importance of Being Earnest'**

Upright Theatre Company, 2501 N. Main St., Ste. 210 in Euless, presents *The Importance of Being Earnest*. For details online at UprightTheatre.org.

■ **Aug. 25: Panoptikon Back to School Party**

Panoptikon's Back to School Party with DJ Red Vamp, plus DJs Lord Byron and Son of Sam on deck and PAN's official go-go dancers. Theme attire encouraged. From 9 p.m.-2 a.m., for ages 21 and up., \$10 cover.

■ **Aug. 25-Sept. 22: Pekers Karaoke Contest**

Dallas Pride in conjunction with Real Live Connection and Hot 93.3 presents a Karaoke Contest each Friday at 9 p.m. at Pekers Bar, 2615 Oak Lawn Ave., with finals on Sept. 23. 2615 winner gets Pink tickets. Sign up each Friday night at Pekers.

■ **Aug. 26: Fashion Cited**

Legal Hospice of Texas hosts its annual fundraiser, Fashion Cited, a fashion show featuring up-and-coming local clothiers and designers from 6:30-9:30 p.m. at The Empire Room, 1225 N. Riverfront Blvd. Tickets at LegalHospice.org.

■ **Aug. 26: The Legacy's Angels Variety Show**

Cassie Nova hosts a celebrity cast in The Rose Room, 3911 Cedar Springs Road from 7-9 p.m. \$25 early bird, \$30 in advance, \$40 at the door. LegacyVarietyShow.Eventbrite.com.



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

Pride Frisco joins with FC Dallas for a free Youth Soccer Training Day, from noon-4 p.m. at the training field next to Toyota Stadium in Frisco. See listings for details.

Ask Howard

HOW TO DO THE WRONG THING RIGHT

Climate change, pangolins and rude dates

Aaaaand we've done it, folks! Yes, the history books are ours: This summer of 2023 has now, officially, become the very hottest human civilization has ever experienced. Or rather, we're now individually reduced to our very survival being dependent upon access to air conditioning. The sweltering citizens of Switzerland have even begun suing their government for not taking climate change seriously enough back when it still had the chance to. "Extreme fire behavior" is suddenly the worldwide, seasonal norm. Just ask Canada.

And here in Texas, with August firmly entrenched again, let us count our blessings that we're merely residents of blazing Dallas where, this time of year, venturing outside always feels like opening the door to a blast furnace anyhow — as opposed to, say, Maui's former capital of the Hawaiian Kingdom, Lahaina. Whoever imagined that verdant Hawaii could conflagrate so quickly? Or that the only way to survive would be by literally leaping into the sea and swimming away from shore fast as one's legs could paddle?

What does it portend for our future when Canada and Hawaii are in flames, and the waters off Miami are hotter than the air? Will the summer of '23 be looked back upon by historians of the future as our long-warned-of climactic "tipping point?" Is there truly no turning back from here now? Meanwhile, the noxious junk we have ignored at our peril and still keep pumping into our atmosphere sure ain't gonna magically dissipate on its own anytime soon.

So let's just get rabid dog-dazed right to it, shall we?

Dear Howard: My brother's husband knocked on my door the other day with a pair of "souvenirs" he'd just brought back from their Vietnam summer vacation. Gary's always dragging my homebody husband off to exotic locales; they once returned with a plastic garbage sack stuffed full of reeking, giant apple snails he'd plundered from some river in Uruguay. So I was prepared for anything this time — or so I thought, until seeing two live, miniaturized baby stegosau-

rus scramble from his swaddled elbows onto my kitchen countertop.

"Vietnamese penguins," Gary clucked. "Aren't they just the coolest critters, ever!"

Now I don't know how this fool ever got his paws on any "Vietnamese penguins" or why they weren't confiscated at customs, but the whole thing gives me the heebie-jeebies. I feel like an accessory to ... to I don't know what. And I may not exactly be the sharpest point at the Fist-Fest, but I've sure seen penguins before, and I sure as heck know they don't live in no jungles. Them things weren't penguins!

— **Wrecked Jimmy**

Dear Jungle Jim: Yeah, well, that's the thing about pangolins. They're not remotely related to penguins to say nothing of even being birds. Think of them more as sort of anteaters with scales. Pangolins are by far the world's most trafficked mammal, comprising up to 20 percent of all illegal wildlife trade. Assuming your brother-in-law is as dunderheaded as you make him out to be, perhaps he simply wasn't aware of the very seriousness of such trafficking.

Grown pangolins range in size from that of a housecat to that of a large dog and are covered in scales composed of keratin (the same material human fingernails are made of). They resemble little more than oversized, waddling pinecones. They are timid, shy and harmless — in other words, they are the ideal exploitation animal. Their habitat once encompassed most all of Asia and Africa; yet, an estimated 1 million pangolins, in the past decade alone, have been



poached. That's about 300 per day. In Vietnam, pangolin scales — purported to possess mystically curative properties (think rhino horns) — can easily fetch northward of \$1,000 dollars. Per pound!

Subsequently, all eight species of pangolins are now either in steep decline or critically endangered. Which brings us to the following existential question: If an animal goes extinct in plain sight, without anyone even really noticing at all, did the species even matter to begin with?

In Alabama, the state bird is the yellowhammer, a small woodpecker, presumably, and yellow in color (I'm guessing), but I certainly never recall seeing one growing up, and to my knowledge nobody else in Alabama ever has either.

Are yellowhammers extinct? Who knows?

Do we care what human advancements, or missed opportunities were forever lost with, say, the passenger pigeon, the thylacine, or the ivory-billed woodpecker, all of which exist now only as taxidermy? As for your brother-in-law's illegally smuggled baby pangolins, please do keep me abreast as to how long he manages to actually keep them alive. Heck, and if you really want to be the good Samaritan, Jim, why not just contact the Dallas Zoo? Regardless, it hardly takes a clairvoyant to see into these creatures' near-future a same shared rendezvous with destiny as the dodo.

Dear Howard: This new guy I've been seeing lately has a habit I find totally offensive. Whenever we're together alone and I'm talking, he's always on his phone texting or sexting or maybe just playing Candy Crush for all I know. The point is, his attention never seems focused on me, the live human in the room. Any advice?

— **Prove You're Not A Robot**

Dear PYNAR: Check all the squares that have crosswalks. Seriously sweetie, as relationship offenses go, phubbing — which The New York Times' pruriently refers to as "a portmanteau of 'phone' and 'snubbing'" — may appear innocuous enough on the surface. But it can prove malignantly insidious so far as harboring any long-term hopes for a relationship goes. Phubbing by any definition is rude and offensive and shows a total lack of respect for whom you're with. Howard's rule of thumb regarding people choosing their phones for entertainment instead of engaging with the person sitting next to them is that they shall be shot at sunrise after first having their phones shoved up their anus.

—Howard Lewis Russell

Any scorcher questions, kidz, should you care to send me; well, y'all know where to find me: AskHoward@dallasvoice.com.

this week's solution

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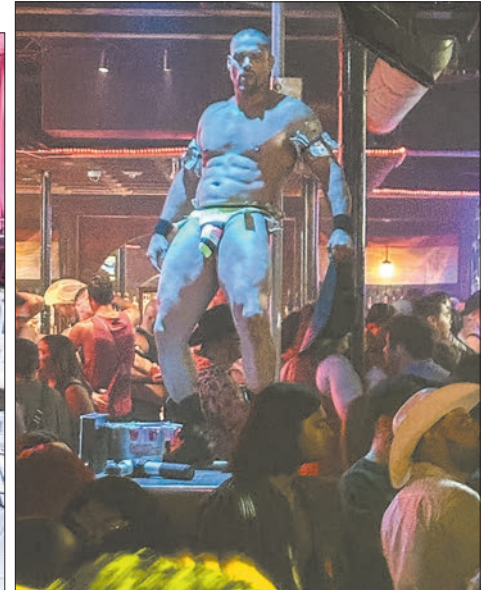
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Solution on Page 28

Across

- 1 S&M souvenir
- 5 Jailhouse Rock singer
- 10 Brandy bottle letters
- 14 Put on the staff
- 15 Fill for you-mouthful
- 16 Inflamed end?
- 17 Business letter abbr.
- 18 A League of ___ Own
- 19 South Pacific island
- 20 Start of a line from
- 38-Across
- 23 City Porter loved in song
- 24 Series ender
- 25 Out
- 28 Ceremonial anointing
- 31 Suffix with prefer
- 32 End of the line
- 35 "... a ___ of troubles" (Hamlet)
- 36 Celebration of the fall of the Axis
- 37 Mar. basketball tourney
- 38 Song about a lesbian triangle
- 40 Cobbler containers
- 43 Song from Sondheim's Passion
- 44 Disney dog Old ___
- 46 Barrymore of Whip It
- 48 His mother made him a heterosexual

- 52 Writer of 38-Across
- 56 Every Man Has a Man singer Yoko
- 57 Years ago
- 58 Went down (on)
- 59 Fagged out
- 61 He owns a gay dog on South Park
- 62 Gomer's loaf
- 63 Mother-and-son piece
- 64 stopaids.com, e.g.
- 65 One who looks into crystal balls
- 66 Influential member of a tribe

Down

- 1 Murder, ___ Meowed
- 2 Pres. Buchanan to the military
- 3 Rainbow shape
- 4 Be bad again
- 5 Artist Hernandez
- 6 Chicago Hope actress Christine
- 7 Vistas in a gay bar?
- 8 Prefix that means "queer"
- 9 Bewitched actor Dick
- 10 Use a sex toy
- 11 Virile guys
- 12 Lubricates
- 13 Pitchfork-shaped letter
- 21 Motor oil can letters

- 22 Problem for skin
- 25 Joe of JFK
- 26 What you might lend Marc Antony
- 27 Nervous Nellie, perhaps
- 28 180
- 29 Taking care of business
- 30 The Phoenix Mercury strip them
- 32 Triangle side
- 33 Singer Anita
- 34 Not nuts
- 36 Straight to ___
- 39 Connor robe for Sara Gilbert
- 40 Symbol on Bernstein's score
- 41 Loads of paperwork, figuratively
- 42 William Tell's canton
- 45 Screw around
- 47 Stoles at the Oscars, e.g.
- 49 Guided a gondola
- 50 Come together
- 51 Titanic-seeker's tool
- 52 Pleasure oneself, with "off"
- 53 Start to climax
- 54 Gin flavor
- 55 Fruity drink
- 60 Like a one-incher, in Dogpatch

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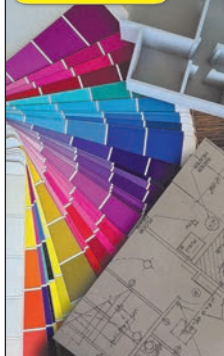
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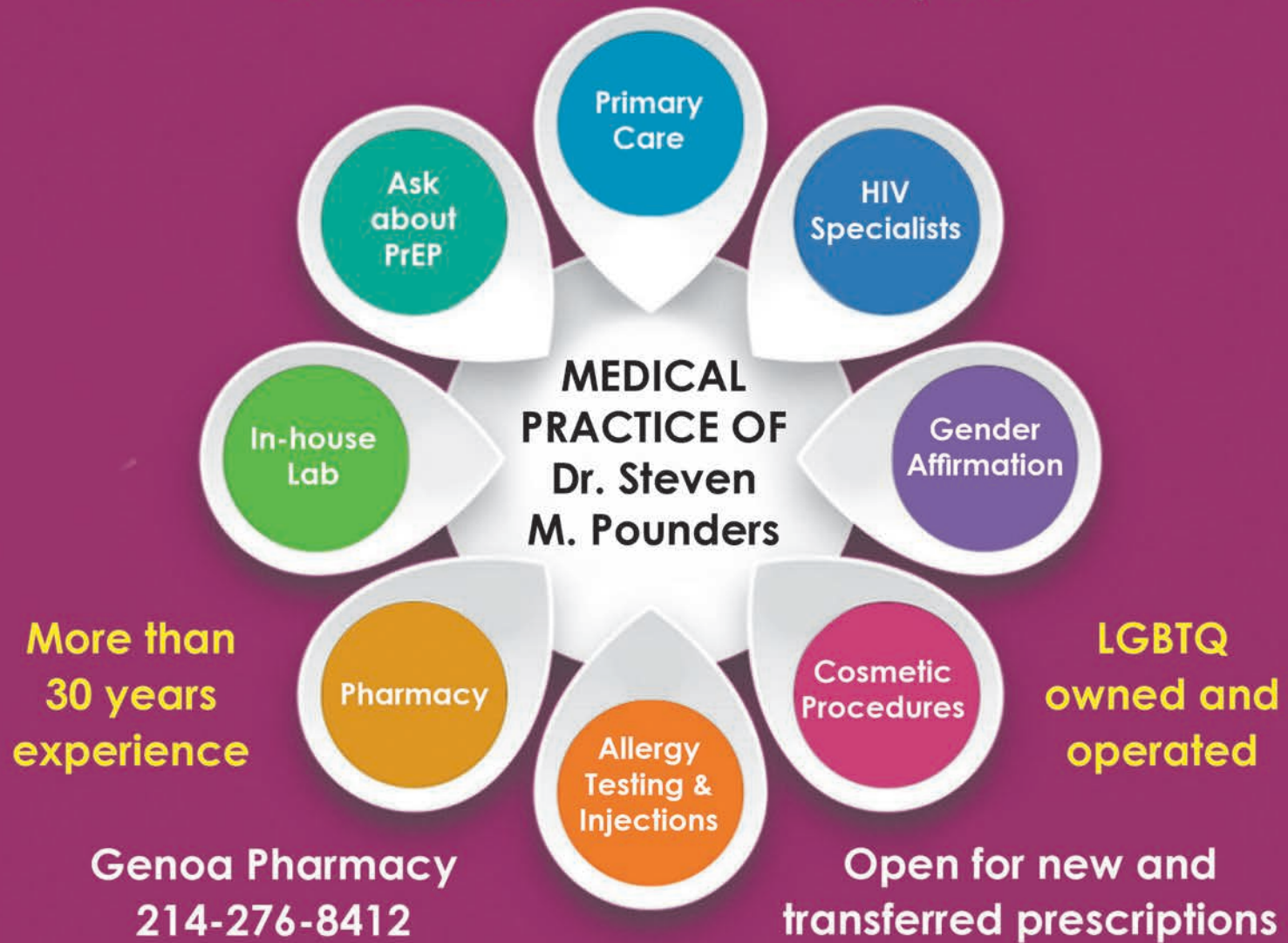
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