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By Jenny Block, page 8

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Bites from our blog

WHAT'S THE TEA: DallasVoice.com



The clouds in the skies parted just in time for the total solar eclipse to put on a breath-taking show for North Texans on Monday, April 8. Visit DallasVoice.com to see this and other photos of the event by Dallas Voice Senior Staff Writer David Taffet as well as a time-lapse video featuring more photos by DVtv producer Tom Roma.

Lambda Legal announces Dallas Women's Brunch

Lambda Legal announced this week that the Dallas Women's Brunch returns in June with an event honoring Carol Meyer. Meyer is a "20 year LGBTQ+ ally and advocate, Partner in Equality award winner, board member and long-time Women's Brunch host."

The brunch is set for Saturday, June 8, from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. in The Turtle Room, 3525 Turtle Creek Blvd.

Registration deadline is June 3. All those who identify as women — including nonbinary, transgender, gender expansive and Two Spirit — are welcome.

"The Women's Brunch stands as a cherished tradition, offering a welcoming space for people to unite, exchange stories, forge bonds and advocate for the civil liberties of LGBTQ+ individuals and those affected by HIV," noted a press release announcing the event.

Tickets are \$30, available online at Classy.org.
— Tammye Nash

SPLC condemns NCAA's change to anti-trans policy

The National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics this week changed its policies to ban transgender women athletes from competing in women's sports, prompting outrage from LGBTQ advocates, including the Southern Poverty Law Center, officials of which noted that the move came "following a years-long campaign by far-right extremists and hate groups targeting transgender people."

In a written statement condemning the move, SPLC officials called on NCAA to "uphold an inclusive policy that allows all players to be able to fully participate."

Rachel Carroll Rivas, interim director of SPLC's Intelligence Project, said, "NAIA has historically understood the importance of access to competitive sports but has now codified discriminating against and harming trans people as organizational goals."

Scott McCoy, deputy legal director for SPLC's

Inclusion & Anti-Extremism Litigation Team, added, "The SPLC encourages associations, businesses and public entities not to be intimidated by the transphobic pressure campaign exerted by anti-LGBTQ+ hate groups."

The SPLC has previously identified a network of more than 60 groups that "generate anti-LGBTQ pseudoscience and share misinformation about LGBTQ+ people," the SPLC statement noted. "Anti-LGBTQ+ hate groups falsely claim that transgender athletes, including student athletes, represent a threat to cisgender women and girls. They are attempting to demonize transgender people by creating a wedge between the LGBTQ+ community and their civil rights allies."

Carroll Rivas concluded, "Hate groups have been disingenuous in their claims of support for women's rights. Instead, these groups use sports bans that aim to divide our civil rights coalitions. They won't win. We see hope in the leadership of some of the most successful coaches and organizations, such as Dawn Staley and the USWNT Players Association, who are elevating their game and bringing in record crowds while supporting the LGBTQ+ community."

— Tammye Nash

Arizona Supreme Court reinstates 1864 abortion law

The Arizona Supreme Court ruled April 9 that all abortions should be banned by reinstating a near-total abortion ban from 1864. The law also punishes doctors with 2-5 years prison time for providing abortion services and precedes Arizona's statehood status by nearly five decades.

Arizona already had a restrictive abortion ban on the books with no exceptions for rape or incest. The law revoked the licenses of abortion providers who violate its provisions and imposed hurdles for women seeking care.

This brings the number of states with abortion bans or very restrictive abortions laws to 25. All of those states have Republican-controlled legislatures.

— David Taffet

OBITUARY



Jo Bess Jackson of Dallas passed away on Wednesday, April 3, in Dallas. She will always be remembered as a powerful and loving mother, friend and colleague to all who knew and loved her.

She was born on March 7, 1943, in San Antonio to Joseph and Mabel VanderStucken. As a young adult, Jo Bess studied music and English at North Texas State University and became a trailblazing professional musician, culminating in her tenure as a clarinetist with the Fort Wayne, Ind. Philharmonic. A

student of the legendary Robert Marcellus, Jo Bess served as a teacher and mentor to countless younger clarinetists.

In the early 1980s, Jo Bess changed careers. She was salutorian in her Southern Methodist University law class, and went on to become a practicing attorney. She was a trailblazing attorney in the North Texas LGBTQ community through her involvement with Leadership Lambda, Women's Business Network, the Dallas LGBT Bar Association and the Extra Mile Awards.

Jo Bess is survived by son Joe Jackson of Bowie, Md., daughter Liz Donegan of Denton, granddaughters Olivia and Katie Donegan of Denton, grandson Jimmy Jackson of Crofton, Md., granddaughter Josie Jackson of Bridgeville, Del., and great-granddaughter Lyla Boorse and great-grandson Rowan Boorse of Bridgeville, Del. She was preceded in death by her parents, Joseph and Mabel VanderStucken, and her sister, Jan VanderStucken of Sonora.

Funeral services were held April 6 at Sparkman/Hillcrest Funeral Home in Dallas, followed by interment at Hillcrest Memorial Park. The family asks that memorial contributions may be made to Feeding America.

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Coexistence is possible

Anti-trans conservatives are up in arms over Biden's proclamation honoring Trans Day of Visibility, which also happened to be Easter

I am writing this on March 31, the 15th annual Transgender Day of Visibility. All over the world, people are celebrating the lives of transgender people, affirming their right to exist and expressing support, as they do every year on this date. It's a beautiful thing.

I'm also writing this on Easter ...

Wait, no. No, I am not. I'm sorry. It is not possible for two or more occasions of significance to happen on the same day.

So, are you #TeamEaster or #Team-Trans? You have to choose. You cannot be both.

I'm kidding. Obviously you can be both if you want. It's just the extremist conservatives that are demanding you choose.

President Joe Biden's office released "A Proclamation on Transgender Day of Visibility, 2024," which he has done since 2021. In it, he honors "the extraordinary courage and contributions of transgender Americans."

"Transgender Americans are part of the fabric of our Nation," the proclamation reads. "They deserve, and are entitled to, the same rights and freedoms as every other American, including the most fundamental freedom to be their true selves."

Biden may not get everything right, but he is right about this. I, for one, am grateful that we have an administration that issues proclamations like this instead of, oh, I don't know, the last one that actively sought to harm transgender people.

Biden also calls out conservative attacks on transgender lives: "[E]xtremists are proposing hundreds of hateful laws that target and terrify transgender kids and their families — silencing teachers,



D'Anne Witkowski
Creep of the Week

banning books and even threatening parents, doctors and nurses with prison for helping parents get care for their children,"

rently selling Trump-branded Bibles, issued a statement from his campaign attributed to Karoline Leavitt, his press secretary.

Leavitt said it was "appalling and insulting" for Biden to proclaim Easter Sunday as Transgender Day of Visibility. She called it part of Biden's "years-long assault on the Christian faith" and demanded "an apology to the millions of Catholics and Christians across America who believe Easter Sunday is for one celebration only — the resurrection of Jesus Christ."

A couple of things: Biden is a devout Catholic, and Catholics are

Christians. Biden is not using transgender people to assault Christians. But Christians are

the proclamation reads. "These bills attack our most basic American values: the freedom to be yourself, the freedom to

make your own health care decisions and even the right to raise your own child."

No lies detected.

Conservatives reacted to this proclamation with outrage. How dare Biden declare Easter Sunday as a day for transgender people!

Donald Trump, a criminal who has compared himself to Jesus and is cur-

rently selling Trump-branded Bibles, issued a statement from his campaign attributed to Karoline Leavitt, his press secretary.

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A couple of things: Biden is a devout Catholic, and Catholics are

Christians. Biden is not using transgender people to assault Christians. But Christians are

definitely using Christianity to assault transgender people.

And fuck off if you don't see the difference!

Also, International Transgender Day of Visibility has been on March 31 for the past 15 years. Easter? Not so much.

As for Jesus, he's Trump's second-favorite character in the Bible after himself. Saturday Night Live did an excel-

lent opening sketch about Trump's god complex and the sale of Trump Bibles. And wow, do I wish that Trump was not still relevant enough to be parodied on SNL!

Truly wild that anyone takes this grifter seriously. The right-wing Christian embrace of Trump is no surprise, though. They have been steadily working to amass political power since the days of Ronald Reagan. They have never seen anyone so selfish or shameless as Trump, and they fucking love it because they know exactly how to use Trump to their advantage. If Trump wins in November, we are all so fucked.

But Transgender Day of Visibility is supposed to be uplifting, so I'll leave you with something positive.

Did you know that Transgender Day of Visibility was started in 2009 by Michigan's own Rachel Crandall Crocker, the executive director of Transgender Michigan?

Crandall Crocker wanted an alternative to the Transgender Day of Remembrance, a day in November where we recognize the transgender people who have died due to anti-trans violence.

"I wanted a day that we could focus on the living," Crandall Crocker said. "And where we could have rallies all as one community all the way around the world."

And that's exactly what she got. "It really is amazing how far it has come," Crandall Crocker told NPR. "I wasn't expecting to start an international movement."

Sometimes things can feel too heavy and hopeless, pushing us toward inertia. But no good comes from curling up into a ball and ignoring reality. Crandall Crocker has shown us all that one of the best defenses against hate is joy. ■

D'Anne Witkowski is a writer living in Michigan with her wife and son. She has been writing about LGBTQ+ politics for nearly two decades. Follow her on Twitter @MamaDWitkowski.



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Making magic

BEYOND THE STAGE

Kathy Griffin turns the ups and downs of her life into comedy gold

JENNY BLOCK | Contributing Writer
jennyeblock@icloud.com

Kathy Griffin is magical. Her career was nearly totaled over a photo shoot depicting her holding a bloody severed head that looked like Trump. The incident meant she was investigated tirelessly, and it even got her put on the no-fly list.

Then she lost half of one lung to cancer. She's getting divorced at 63. She lost her mom. She was addicted to pills. She attempted suicide. She's being sued for advocating for a boy in a prom dress.

And yet, somehow, Kathy Griffin's still got it. She's as funny and as fiery as ever. She's also incredibly warm and insightful and as genuine and vulnerable as they come. She's incredibly grateful for the people who continue to love her, including her pal Gloria Steinem.

She's a TV star, television host, best-selling author and outspoken advocate. And now, after more than six years of not touring, the two-time Emmy Award- and Grammy Award-winning comedian is bringing her new show, *My Life On The PTSD List*, to Dallas' Majestic Theatre on Wednesday, April 17.

Dallas Voice had the chance to chat with Griffin recently about her triumphs, her tribulations and her current tour.

Dallas Voice: Were you a funny kid always putting on shows in the living room?

Is this always who you've been? Kathy Griffin: Oh yeah, I was this obnoxious kid. I used to do the "Captain Griffin Show" in front of my dinner table while my mom served her culinary cuisine called Hamburger Helper. And I would try to do scenes from movies or a scene from a book or try to sing or do a dance, all the



ridiculous stuff.

And the beauty of it is my family just kind of ignored me. Like, they were all just busy doing their own thing. So, at a young age I learned you've got to jump higher and work harder, damn it. Even to keep the interest of people having a few cocktails and some Hamburger Helper.

I love that. And then were you imagining then that you would do that one day as a job or were you just being goofy?

I really did have a dream, even in Forest Park, Ill. I wanted more than anything to be in comedy, but I wanted to be a sidekick. I loved the *Mary Tyler Moore Show*, but I wanted to be Rhoda or Phyllis. And I loved *Lucy*, but I wanted to be Ethel.

I felt like they got all the jokes. I thought, yeah, let the pretty girl be the lead. But it's so much fun to go in, get the laugh and get out. And I loved all those great iconic roles.

When it came to stand-up — I think I might even remember Ed Sullivan, but certainly Johnny Carson — that's when I fell in love with Moms Mabley and Totie Fields and Phyllis Diller and then, of course, Joan Rivers, who I was lucky enough to become very, very good friends with later on. ... She's somebody I miss every day.

Oh, I bet. And as you started growing up, did your parents or family at some point start taking notice and think, "Hey, that kid's actually pretty funny and yeah, you could do that?"

Oh no. I wanted me to be a dental hygienist, and my mother thought, even though we were Catholic, she thought I'd be better off with a nice Jewish dentist. And my dad wanted me to be a secretary. Good steady jobs.

All they would talk about was benefits:

"You've got to get good benefits, Kathleen. It's all about good benefits." So it took a long time of many years of me working for free. And that's what's so funny about the fact that I didn't even get paid to do what I do until I was 35 years old.

God love my parents because they hung in there, and they came to see me at every talent night at every gay bar, and I found that, obviously, gay audiences were better, and I would do anything the talent night would let you do. As long as they

served booze, my parents were happy to come and laugh in the back.

And what's funny is that's how my parents became — if I may say, since they're both resting in peace — they really were gay icons in their way. I think the reason that gay people so appreciated my mom and dad, Maggie and John on *My Life on the D List* is because my parents later on waved the Pride flag, and they kind of learned how to do actual activism.

But my mom and dad, they just loved the arts. And when they lived in California, they just happened to move to WeHo kind of by accident.

My mom would say, "Kathleen, we love a happy hour with free appetizers. And the gay bars always have the best ones. We always go to the gay bars." And it's really true. So my mom and dad, they just were always accepting, and I think it came across on *My Life on the D List*. They didn't have a judgmental vibe. I always hung out with the gay kid in grade school or the gay kids in high school. So, my mom and dad just knew I was always going to be around gay people, and it truly was organic.

You've just been such a huge supporter of

our community. Why is that? Because I think I relate to being an outsider looking in; that's why I call my little brand the D-List. It's kind of making fun of the idea that the D-list means you're invited to the party, but you're not necessarily in the VIP room. And you're kind of rubbernecking looking to see what's going on with the C-listers, the B-listers. And I think there's a lot of comedy in that, but I also think there's a lot of humanity.

And, so, I think I relate to the struggle of the community because just being a female in stand-up comedy with the misogyny and the ageism, I understand struggle, and I understand what it's like to be different because I was terribly picked on and bullied and all this other stuff. And I think that's where there was just a natural relationship there.

As far as being an ally, I take it very seriously. And there are many ways to be an ally. It's not just wearing a rainbow shirt, which is also great, especially in certain regions of this country at this time. But it's also really trying to get out the vote in gay communities with young gay people. And, also, since the Trump photo incident, I've had several people sue me from the MAGA world.

I have a case now in federal court in Tennessee. There's Samuel Johnson, a MAGA guy. And there were these kids just at their photo shoot for their prom. One boy was in a red dress, and this guy just starts harassing the hell out of 'em, and the video went viral. They're minors and they're saying, "Get away. Get away." And he won't leave them alone.

It had made the rounds on TikTok. So I advocated for these kids, and I said on Twitter, "Who is this guy? He should be named and shamed. He should be fired." And the guy got fired, swarmed with people saying, "Hey, this behavior is unacceptable."

And who does he sue because he got fired? Me. He doesn't blame his bad behavior. He sues Kathy Griffin. I don't know if the community knows I'm fighting that fight, but I'm not going to give in. I'm not going to give this guy a penny. I believe firmly that he deserves to be fired based on that behavior. And I think those kids needed somebody to stand up for them.

When all that stuff happened with the Trump thing, I was scared for you and I was scared for all of us. Your actual job is making fun of things. If you can't

make fun of things, then you're out of work. I make my most money from touring. I joke around — kind of half-jokingly, frankly — about how Hollywood is still afraid of me, and I've gotten in fights with many powerful executives. Luckily for me many of them have been me-tooled out of the business by now, but I have a real history of actually fighting directly with executives because, like a fool, I always think I'm going to get equal pay. But to have the president of the United States and the attorney general and two agencies within the Department of Justice, the secret service and the U.S. Attorney's Office investigate me and me alone They did a full investigation of me. They put me on the no-fly list, which made it unable for me to tour, because I had 50 cities that I was touring that year.

I had done 25 cities when the photo came out, and the other 25 cities were canceled because of bomb threats to the theaters and death threats to me and to the theaters, et cetera. And that is the government itself. And I'm not anti-government at all. I'm not one of those nut jobs. I'm pro-government; I'm pro-union — all that stuff. But to have the federal government

MAGIC, Page 20

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ACTIVISM

Montana state Rep. Zooley Zephyr refuses to be silenced in the fight for equality

MELISSA WHITLER | Dallas Voice Fellow
melissa@dallasvoice.com

This Friday, April 12, at the Dallas LGBTQ+ Global Symposium, Montana state Rep. Zooley Zephyr is presenting the keynote address. In conjunction with the symposium's theme of equality and human rights, Zephyr will speak on the importance of using one's skills in the spaces where one is needed most.

Zephyr was first elected as a Montana state representative in the 2022 midterm elections, and she was sworn in January 2023. During the 2023 legislative session, Zephyr called out Republicans on the effects a bill banning gender affirming care for minors would have. She emphasized the lives that would be lost as a result of this bill, and was subsequently censured and barred from the chamber for the rest of the session.

Despite this, Zephyr continued to fight, working from a bench outside the chamber. She refused to cower to threats and fears, continuing to represent the constituents who elected her.

With previous experience in community activism, going into politics was a logical step for Zephyr. In the past, she said, she had gone to her representatives and was met with disinterest. That inspired her to run for office.

Zephyr said she noticed a shift in dynamic once she was elected. The people who did not listen before now communicate with her almost every day. And the Republicans who vote in favor of anti-LGBTQ bills come to her and apologize after.

"When you're not in the room, they can ignore you or walk away," Zephyr said, "but now they come to me, looking



Montana Rep. Zooley Zephyr, alone on the house floor, stands in protest as demonstrators are arrested in the House gallery of the state capitol on April 24, 2023. (Photo by Thom Bridge/Independent Record via AP)

to confess."

These representatives know what they are doing is causing harm, she said, yet they continue to spout anti-LGBTQ rhetoric. So the question becomes, Zephyr said, how do you go into these spaces and hold them accountable?

For her, the answer is to hold herself with poise while refusing to back down or give these politicians absolution.

Even with increased national attention following her expulsion, Zephyr has maintained the same focus she has always had. She recalled that before she made the decision to run for office, she asked herself, "Where can I do the most good? And the legislature is where my voice can do the most good right now."

She continues to focus on that question using the new platform she has. "The space and place of work may have changed, but the effort stays the same," Zephyr said.

She extends similar advice to anyone

looking to become an advocate for their community. Stressing that we need representation not just in the spaces where these laws are being passed, but everywhere, she said, "I encourage folks to recognize there are a lot of rooms we need to be in."

There are, she added, a thousand different places to make your voice heard, you just have to find the room you feel called to be in. And with the attacks on the LGBTQ community, there is an urgency that calls for action now rather than later.

Zephyr also emphasizes the importance of taking care of yourself. "Make sure before you step out you have ways to recharge," she said. Advocacy can take its toll if not approached with balance.

Zephyr herself just came back from a trip to Vermont with her fiancé to watch the eclipse. Such breaks are needed in order to continue the long fight. We must

not lose the joy of our community, she urged, and having something outside of advocacy can help one stay grounded when things are hard.

Zephyr gave the example of art, saying "You can finish a painting, and the governor cannot veto your painting."

For Zephyr, it all comes back to why she got involved in this work in the first place. What keeps her going are the stories she hears everywhere she goes, whether it be from organizations fighting in small towns or groups of parents of LGBTQ youth. She recalled one young man she met last year at Pride. He approached her wearing a trans flag cape, introduced himself and said he had watched Zephyr stand up to a bunch of bullies in the legislature. He told her he thought, "If she can do that there, I can come out to my family."

The young man subsequently began his transition and was met with love and acceptance from his community. This is the kind of story that keeps Zephyr rooted in the fight.

Zephyr gave another example from the time she was at a conference in France: There was a mother there from Sweden who had a trans son and was asked about how the transition was for her. She said it was the happiest moment she ever felt, because, "I had watched my kid grow up and then vanish." But after he came out, she was able to see her child return and grow in confidence.

"These stories are what give me hope and a sense of purpose and drive," Zephyr said. "These are the stories I'm fighting for."

That fight is ongoing. Zephyr is currently running for reelection this year, and she affirmed her commitment to fighting wherever feels the most important in the present moment, whether that be in the Montana legislature, in Congress or being a stay-at-home mom.

And, Zephyr said, she feels blessed she feels to be in this fight. "The work I've been able to do has been a blessing and very humbling, and I am committed to continue fighting until we see our rights secured," she concluded. ■

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Pride Frisco hosts name, gender marker clinic

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DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Pride Frisco hosts its first Spring Name and Gender Marker Clinic on April 20 in Frisco. The clinic is free, but registration is required, and, for security purposes, the exact location will be provided only to those who register. The Dallas LGBT Bar Association is partnering with Pride Frisco to present the clinic.


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who would like help in legally changing their name and/or gender marker will be walked through the process by volunteer attorneys and law students.

Pride Frisco co-founder Jon Culpepper said the clinic is available to anyone 18 and older, and, he said, the organization hopes to be able to expand the service to those under 18 at future clinics.

Volunteers are still needed to help at the event, including paralegals, legal assistants, Texas licensed therapists and certified fingerprint specialists as well as ushers and greeters.

Culpepper said the clinic came about when Pride Frisco began looking at the needs of the most marginalized part of the community. As a preview, Dallas LGBT Bar Association President Callie Butcher did a presentation about what the process entails.

"Last year, the Dallas LGBT Bar Association hosted its first gender marker clinic," Culpepper said. "It was a huge success."

He said the two organizations have a good relationship, and he told Butcher then that Pride Frisco would "love to be able to collaborate."

Culpepper said part of the idea was to

bring the service closer to Collin County's nearly 1 million residents. But the organization has already gotten registrations from five north Texas counties. And while he thought registrations would skew younger and more professional, reflecting the county's demographic, applications have instead come in from "all across the board."

He said he hopes what can be a daunting task will be made easier when professionals with experience in name and gender marker changes assist.

Stronger together

Culpepper said the theme of much of what Pride Frisco offers is, "We're much stronger together." That applies to the transgender community as well as the LGBTQ community at large. He said his organization is always seeking resources, and, for the trans community, they've found transportation for families seeking medically appropriate gender-affirming care out-of-state.

In another example, Pride Frisco is co-sponsoring a Tarrant County event called Reality Check with Lambda Legal. Local Executive Director Shelly Skeen

will host a clinic about what to expect in the next session of the Texas Legislature.

Culpepper said his organization arranged for this to become a hybrid event which would be available for those who register to live stream. Reality Check takes place at 7 p.m. on April 24. He referred to this as amplifying services, resources and events offered.

An innovative upcoming program is an LGBTQ mental health forum for clinical and non-clinical participants to discuss various aspects of affirmative care. Among the partners is the Yale LGBTQ Mental Health Initiative, which uses evidence-based therapy created by and for LGBTQ people. That event takes place May 17 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. and is free to attend, but, as with the name and gender marker change event, it requires registration for security reasons. The location will be in the Frisco area and will be sent to those who register.

Not everything Pride Frisco does is serious. Earlier this month, for example, they held a Dungeons & Dragons meet-up.

"D&D builds community in a non-threatening environment," Culpepper said, calling that event a good bal-

ance with information and education.

But Pride Frisco's main event is its Pride celebration in October. In its first year, the event was held in a local church parking lot. In its second year — last year — it moved to Toyota Stadium, and thousands attended.

The festival included food, entertainment, vendors, games, door prizes, music and giveaways. FC Dallas and the Dallas Wings are among this year's sponsors, and area LGBTQ service organizations will be on hand offering information and resources. Keynote speakers and artists and artisans will also be featured.

This year's Pride festival takes returns to Toyota Stadium on Sunday, Oct. 6, from 1-5 p.m.

"If Covid taught us anything, it is that you can live and work anywhere," Culpepper said. "You shouldn't have to drive an hour to receive resources. Every other service we seek and enjoy is available locally."

Pride Frisco is connecting organizations providing some of those services and is filling in the missing blanks itself.

Visit PrideFrisco.org for links to register for their events.



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A perfect 'Murder'

BEYOND THE STAGE

Playwright injects some lesbian love into DTC's *Dial M for Murder*

RICH LOPEZ | Staff writer
rich@dallasvoice.com

In Dallas Theater Center's current production, the company delivers a classic murder-mystery. Only in this adaptation, while it is set in the past, playwright Jeffrey Hatcher brought some modern love to the tale. But the suspense remains the same.

DTC opened *Dial M for Murder* on April 10, with previews starting last Friday, April 5. Made popular by the 1954 film by Alfred Hitchcock, the story began as a play by Frederick Knott which premiered in 1952. In 2022, Hatcher put



The cast of 'Dial M for Murder'

his own spin on the play.

"The play was first commissioned by Barry Edelstein and the Old Globe The-

atre in San Diego," Hatcher said. "He asked me about playing around with the plot in a few ways and said that it would

be fun to give the women more to do."

As a big fan of the original play, Hatcher agreed that the character of Margot didn't have much depth. She's more acted upon than acting, he said while describing her.

So he and Edelstein then discussed the idea of making her lover a woman.

The mystery centers on a husband plotting to get revenge on his cheating wife. Or as Dallas Theater Center describes the play:

"Tony is convinced that his wife Margot has been cheating on him. Now it seems that the affair is over, but in his jealousy, Tony spins a web of suspicion and deception that will tighten around them and ensnare them both in danger, recrimination and murder. Will the killer get away, or will justice be served? You'll be kept guessing until the end and gripping the edge of your seat through the

MURDER, Page 21



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BEHIND THE CURTAIN

Queer actor Jeremy Webb explores spiritual role in 'Girl from the North Country'

RICH LOPEZ | Staff writer
rich@dallasvoice.com

The North Country has come to Dallas, and Jeremy Webb has come along with it. The actor stars in *Girl from the North Country*, now playing at Music Hall at Fair Park. The musical, based on songs by Bob Dylan, opened last Tuesday, April 9, as part of the Broadway Dallas season and runs through April 21.

Webb has been in the show since the end of August playing Reverend Marlowe, and the actor says it has allowed him to explore his own spirituality. Having said that, he does add that the character is also one of the show's antagonists.

"On the surface, he's really a Bible salesman. He's legitimately spiritual, but his faith journey is in conflict with his need to survive," Webb said. "His conviction is just as deep as his desperation for the next dollar or meal."

Girl from the North Country takes place in a boarding house in the 1930s, during the Great Depression. Characters stop to spend the evening with the family that runs the house, and Marlowe, in Webb's words, blows into the house on that fateful evening laced with blackmail, theft and violence.

Playing a reverend who may not be the nicest isn't the challenge for Webb — it's defending his character that takes the effort.

"Some things I do are indefensible. But he's created his reasons for that, and I have to stand by it. You have to think about Marlowe as being wholly human and thus, flawed. Too often we think in absolute terms, but what I'm learning with him is that people can hold space for two things at the same time even if



Jeremy Webb in the *Girl from the North Country* North American tour (Photo by Evan Zimmerman for MurphyMade)

they are diametrically opposed," he said.

This role has opened Webb's eyes to his own faith system.

"I am a spiritual person, and I've enjoyed this inner exploration — more than I normally would," he said. "While [Marlowe] is perceived to be the bad guy, it's not useful for me to think about [the character] that way. I have to like the guy and be the guy. So in some ways, I'm his defense. I have to defend my character to the audience every night to make him real to the audience."

That exploration is what the out actor loves about acting. He not only taps into the character's depths, but, Webb mentioned, for that amount of time he spends as the character, he gets to be an expert.

Does Marlowe ever intersect with Webb personally — most notably Webb's queer identity? "To me, every character is everything until they aren't," Webb said. "James does not have a love interest, so there's no romance to indicate anything. But I have been thinking about what life was like for gay



Aidan Wharton, David Benoit, Jennifer Blood and Jeremy Webb in the *Girl from the North Country* North American tour (Photo by Evan Zimmerman for MurphyMade)

people in the 1930s, and the stakes are higher.

"I'm not playing him as a gay man, but because I'm playing him, he does have a certain queerness in him," he added. "Really though, I'm basing it all on survival."

If he can't bind to a distinct queerness in his character, Webb said, he has bonded with his cast and crew.

"Oh, this is a very queer compa-

ny. We have this lovely community of queerness in this touring cast," he said. "That's been something really fun for us. We have our *Drag Race* nights, and we'll go out to explore."

That keeps him grounded while on the road for so long.

If there's one thing that's tough — beyond doing eight shows a week — it's being away from home.

Webb is based in New York City and *North Country* is his first tour of this magnitude (14 months). He describes it as exhilarating, uplifting and exhausting. But there are sacrifices that come with his art.

"I miss my husband and our life together. It can be a real challenge to be inspired when I start going down that road," Webb said.

Webb met his husband doing *Camelot*, and they have been married for 28 years. To combat any woes Webb may have on

the road, the couple has come up with a failsafe: "We have a three-week rule that wherever I am or the other is, we make it a point to travel there to be together," he said.

With his *Drag Race* nights with his show's queer family or those weeks he gets to see his husband, Webb said that he's more than able to stay rooted on the road.

For tickets, visit BroadwayDallas.org.

Italian style, electric

DRIVE

2024 Alfa Romeo Tonale plug-in is the Dodge Hornet's a la mode Italian sibling

CASEY WILLIAMS | Auto Reviewer
AutoCasey@AOL.com

If the Alfa Romeo Tonale Veloce compact crossover looks a little familiar to you, it's because it shares most of its body, interior and architecture with the Dodge Hornet. Don't get me wrong, both harbor accomplished bits straight from Italy, but our little Alfa goes further with a proper plug-in hybrid powertrain that optimizes efficiency while providing quick week-end reflexes.

The question, though, is: "Is the Alfa Romeo Tonale plug-in



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Base/as-tested price: \$43,845/57,450

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- Spirited performance
- Electric driving

Dislikes

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Hornet a bargain Alfa Romeo, or is the Tonale a fancy Dodge?"

Smooth Italian style

The styling is all Italian with a smooth, curvaceous body cribbed from the larger Alfa Stelvio crossover. The front pays homage to the Alfa Romeo Zagato concept with the brand's trademark grille, triple-sided headlamps, and angry mesh lower air intake.

Proper Grigio 20-inch, five-hole alloy wheels and red brake calipers convey purpose. It leaves its last impression with a thin light strip containing six more segments and a lower diffuser. It's all mostly for show here, but it all connects to a storied heritage.

Alfas are about driving, and in this one, everything falls readily at-hand. The thick leather-wrapped, three-spoke steering wheel is canted forward in the Italian tradition; seats wrap tightly, and large analog gauges add sporting touches. Of course, in a modern Alfa, gauges are flatscreen, a large touchscreen controls infotainment, and devices connect wirelessly via Apple CarPlay plus Android Auto.

You can charge your phone wireless-

ly, too. And heated front seats, heated steering wheel and thumping Harman Kardon audio system add delights to the drive.

Despite some very upscale features, the interior does not feel as rich as one might expect in an Alfa Romeo. There's a lot of hard plastic, even on the rear door tops — cost-cutting more appropriate in a Fiat than an Alfa Romeo. The expanse of light plastic across the dash looks cheapish in daylight, but has a very nice ambient glow at night. The steering wheel and seats are some of my favorite parts of the cabin.

Safety definitely was not done on the cheap. Adaptive cruise takes stress off the drive while automatic emergency braking, lane keep assist, blind-spot warning and rear cross path detection provide peace of mind. A rear seat reminder and driver attention monitor actively watch over occupants.

Enjoying open roads

Out on the road, the powertrain combines a 1.3-liter turbocharged four-cylinder engine, six-speed automatic transmission and batteries/motors for combined 285 horsepower, 347 lb.-ft.



Dodge Hornet

of torque and 77-MPGe. After plugging in, the Tonale can travel about 30 miles before the gas engine fires up. You can drive to the office and back on electricity or coast-to-coast on gas without looking for an outlet. Those looking for an EV without hassle will appreciate this set-up.

But driving it is a mixed bag. On smooth Autostrada, the Tonale's tight, adaptive suspension and quick steering are an absolute joy. But not so much as it jitters over rough city streets.

Drive modes adjust from maximum power to advanced efficiency, and it

scoots from 0-60 mph in under 6 seconds. But you'll wish for a nice Japanese crossover on rougher roads. My daughter and I made a two-hour interstate run to have lunch with Mother. It was a delightful drive.

I could have written nearly all of this about the Dodge Hornet. They're both legit Italian crossovers — fun to drive and beautiful to view. But it's a little easier to excuse some harshness and hard interior materials on a Dodge.

A base price of \$43,845 rose to \$57,450 for our well-equipped Veloce plug-in. Competitors include the Lincoln Corsair PHEV and Lexus NX plug-in hybrid.

Storm Forward!

Send comments to Casey at AutoCasey@aol.com; follow him on YouTube @ [AutoCasey](#).

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Magic, From Page 9



at the behest of the president, and this is a guy I've known for 25 years. I've known the Donald since the '90s.

I mean this guy would show up to the opening of an envelope. I was on *The Apprentice* twice, not as a cast member, but as part of challenges. And he called me up one time and begged me to do a gig for him. So to have him step in personally and make it impossible for me to make a living ...

Tell these gays that this comes from me:

They have to vote, and they have to vote Joe Biden, even if you think Joe Biden is too old or whatever your issue. Because let me tell you, if Trump wins, not only are you going to kiss gay marriage goodbye on day one, your rights are going to be stripped. You can never imagine.

All of that plus your health issues. It's all so horrible. And yet here you are. How has all of that informed sort of who you are and how you continue on? I think I would just be in bed with my dog. It's so funny you said that because I'm literally sitting in bed. Two of my four dogs are with me. They always know when Mommy needs them. And yet, I did a show last night in Palm Desert, and honey, the gays came out!

Barry Manilow was there. Lance Bass was there. Jesse Tyler Ferguson was there.

It was like the Gay Academy Awards.

The lesbians came out with their fucking matching rings and the whole thing. And it was magical.

I so appreciate people's patience with me because I talk about some heavy stuff in this new show. I mean, I have lots of fun celebrity stories, and don't worry, I'm still making fun of the Kardashians. And I have funny stories about Rosie O'Donnell, and I

went to Paris Hilton's Christmas party.

I have a hilarious story about Rosie having a meltdown because Paris wanted everyone to wear pink sparkly dresses. And I mean, you can imagine Rosie calling me going, "Griffin, what the fuck am I supposed to do? I'm a lesbian. I don't got a pink sparkly dress. What is she thinking? I don't even know where to buy a pink sparkly dress."

But I do talk about PTSD. I talk about my suicide attempt. I talk about my prescription pill addiction — for which I am three years and eight months sober.

I talk about my mom passing away during Covid because I feel like the audience really knew my mom. When people say to me, "I feel like I knew your mom," I say, "You did." She was just like that. There was no acting with my mom.

And I talk about how I just freaking filed for divorce three months ago. Can you believe that? I can't. I'm 63 and getting divorced. I thought I was going to be with this guy forever. But I am such a firm believer that in the darkest moment, maybe more than ever, you got to somehow, somehow twist yourself into a pretzel and find the laugh, find the joke. I have lung cancer.

I just find the humor in everything. And look, I didn't mean to be out there in an election year, and trust me, honey, I didn't think it would take people six-and-a-half years to finally say, okay, you can go out there and work. And all these theaters finally said, "Hey, we know you could sell tickets."

And as we know, money talks and bullshit walks, and I sell tickets. But it did take six-and-a-half years for the toxicity of that Trump situation to make people somehow go, "Okay, okay. Come to think of it, compared to the stuff he's done, that picture Kathy Griffin did was really no big deal."

Most of my friends deserted me, and they never came back. That's painful stuff. So at the tender age of 63, I'm starting over. But I'm so grateful for this tour, because to be 63 in Hollywood is like, bye-bye sister! They tried to dump me 30 years ago, 20 years ago, 10 years ago.

I can't wait to be at the Majestic. The Dallas audiences have always been so good to me. I'm warning you don't be late. I do two hours by myself. I don't have an opener, and I love every single minute of it. I absolutely am just so grateful to be doing what I love. I have the best job in the world.

No matter how bad things are in the world, it seems like we always need

comedy. Maybe we need it even more. I'm curious about your take on why that is? I have come to think it's chemical, because I feel like the brain touches something in the body. And the great Gloria Steinem had me host a couple of things for her. [She's introducing me and] she said, "I'm bringing out Kathy Griffin, but I want to tell you she's a little nervous. She gets a little vulgar sometimes. She uses four-letter words. But I want you to know laughter is the only involuntary emotion."

And I thought that was the most amazing thing. Think about the times when you didn't think you were going to laugh, and you just laugh. I call it the church giggles, because when I was a kid, I would get the worst giggles in freaking church, and my mother would be hitting me and pinching me, and I couldn't stop laughing at the priest or whatever.

So that's what I think it's like: Laughter is an emotion, and we should embrace it. And if you laugh at the wrong time, good for you. Come to my show.

Visit KathyGriffin.com for show and ticket info. Find the complete version of this interview online at DallasVoice.com.



MURDER, From Page 16

twists and turns of this stylish thriller of blackmail and revenge."

The play is set in the 1950s among London's upper class. In the original, Margot's love interest is a man. Here, the role has changed to Maxine. Hatcher said the change, without affecting the plot, added a richness to the show.

"It was fairly easy to switch because it didn't change anything, but it did deepen the relationship, and it made the stakes higher," he said.

Considering the time frame, a same-sex affair would certainly be kept under wraps. Such gossip could be devastating which, Hatcher noted, gave the show an added edge.

"I credit Barry with suggesting that," he said. "All those scenes considering the affair crackle in a different way. It even turned into more of a love story."

But he assures there's still all of the strangling and stabbing *Dial M* is known for.

The language however rings differently now.

"When you excavate the dynamics,

Dallas Theater Center presents *Dial M for Murder*

Currently playing through April 28 at the Wyly.

Adapted by Jeffrey Hatcher from the original play by Frederick Knott
Directed by Rachel Alderman

Cast:

Kia Nicole Boyer
Danny Gardner
Zak Reynolds
Marissa Stewart
Evan Zes

the language and dialogue does change but I also meant to do that in certain areas. All the characters are writers, which enlivens everything with an added sort of competition," he said.

To add to Maxine's presence, Hatcher said he modeled her after a famous literary lesbian.

"In a way, she is based on Patricia Highsmith who moved in certain lesbian circles without outing herself" he said. "Everyone knew about her. She

didn't suffer fools. She was funny and drank too much. So bits and pieces of that Highsmith are found in Maxine.

Hatcher added that not only did it change the texture of the relationship and other dynamics, but it also shifted the motivation. Not only was there a motive for an attempted murder, but with the victim as a lesbian woman, it's more unpleasant.

"The husband is not only cuckolded, but it's by a woman," Hatcher said.

The undertones of homophobia and straight masculine power under siege by a woman would seem evident in the show. But not to the point of distraction.

To people who know the story, all those familiar parts are there. People may know the movie more than the play, but all the signature elements — especially the big murder scene — are there. In short, Hatcher still ends up where Knott did, only with a bit more twists and turns.

Dial M for Murder runs through April 28 at the Wyly Theatre. For tickets, visit DallasTheaterCenter.org.

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Pride Frisco and the Dallas LGBT Bar Association are joining forces to offer the first "Name+Gender Marker Change Clinic" in Frisco on April 20, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Register at [Eventyeny.com](https://www.eventyeny.com).

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

Weekly: Frontrunners

Running club for the LGBTQ community and allies of DFW. Meet at 7:15 p.m. on Wednesdays and 8:30 a.m. on Saturdays at the corner of Hall Street and Turtle Creek Boulevard in Turtle Creek Park for a one-hour walk/run on the Katy Trail.

APRIL

■ Through April 12: 'Bedtime Stories'

Celebrates the art of the voice to tell engaging and immersive stories under the stars. At the Eisemann Center, 2351 Performance Drive in Richardson. Information and tickets available at [EisemannCenter.com](https://www.EisemannCenter.com).

■ April 13: 19th Annual 'Strut Your Mutt, The Race to End Animal Cruelty'

The SPCA of Texas hosts a 5k timed race and a 3k fun walk at Fair Park, 3809 Grand Ave, with same day registration beginning at 7 a.m. The race begins at 8 a.m. and the walk begins at 8:15 a.m. For more info, visit [RaceRoster.com](https://www.RaceRoster.com).

■ April 13: Momentum Artball 2024

The Dallas Museum of Art hosts Artball 2024: Momentum at 1717 N. Harwood St. For tickets and sponsorship information, visit [DMAArtball.org](https://www.DMAArtball.org).

■ April 13: Changing Perspectives Block Party

Dallas Arts District hosts this family-friendly event at Sammons Park at the AT&T Performing Arts Center, 2403 Flora St. from 3-8 p.m. This is a FREE event

and open to the public. For more information, visit [DallasArtsDistrict.org](https://www.DallasArtsDistrict.org).

■ Through April 13: 'Water By The Spoonful'

Circle Theatre, 230 W. Fourth St., Fort Worth, presents *Water By The Spoonful*. Showtimes and tickets are available at [CircleTheatre.com](https://www.CircleTheatre.com).

■ April 13: THRIVE presents: Disco Night

Enjoy a night of disco music, dancing, games and delicious food at the Resource Center Community Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road, from 6-9 p.m. Reserve your FREE spot at [Eventbrite.com](https://www.Eventbrite.com).

■ April 13: East Texas Rainbow Market

Join Tyler Area Gays the second Saturday of every month for the Rainbow Market from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at Bergfeld Park, 1501 S. Broadway Ave., in Tyler. For more information visit [TylerAreaGays.com](https://www.TylerAreaGays.com).

■ April 16: Up & Out: LGBTQ Caregiver Support Group

Up & Out is a welcoming supportive group for LGBTQ caregivers who are currently caring for anyone 50 and up. This is a virtual event from 6-7:30 p.m. RSVP at CSP@TheSeniorSource.org.

■ Aprils 18: Karen Morgan – 'Far Out Way Back Comedy Tour'

Karen Morgan performs at 7:30 p.m. at the Eisemann Center, 2351 Performance Drive in Richardson. Tickets are available at [EisemannCenter.com](https://www.EisemannCenter.com).

■ April 18: OASIS LGBT+ Monthly Social Support Group

Oasis is an online, 90 minute monthly social support group for LGBT+ folks 18 and up providing a safe, welcoming space for people to connect. To register,

email Oasis.Tag.Plus@gmail.com.

■ April 18: Liz Mikel

Liz Mikel delivers a hometown concert that promises to transport the audience directly to Broadway at The Sammons Center for the Arts, 3630 Harry Hines Blvd., at 7:30 p.m. Doors open at 7 p.m., and tickets are available at [SammonsArtCenter.org](https://www.SammonsArtCenter.org).

■ April 18-28: 'Kiss the Boys'

This sexy comedy hits the stage at Stone Cottage Theatre, 15650 Addison Rd. in Addison beginning at 8 p.m. on opening day. For more showtimes and to purchase tickets visit [MBSProductions.info](https://www.MBSProductions.info).

■ April 20: Family Friendly Scavenger Hunt

Join Fern Connections and explore Grapevine's Downtown as you race against the clock to solve puzzles, riddles and more! The scavenger hunt will begin at 1:30 p.m. at S. Main St. in Grapevine. Tickets and information are available at [Eventbrite.com](https://www.Eventbrite.com).

■ April 20: Legal & Financial Strategies for LGBT Seniors

Experts will share their extensive knowledge and answer questions at The Senior Source, 3910 Harry Hines Blvd., at 9 a.m. Register at [Eventbrite.com](https://www.Eventbrite.com).

■ April 20: Name Change & Gender Marker Change Clinic

The Dallas LGBT Bar Association and Pride Frisco host their Spring Name & Gender Marker Clinic from 10 a.m.- 2 p.m. Registration link coming soon.

■ April 20: Gaybingo

The Resource Center hosts this event each month from 6-9 p.m. at S4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. Tickets go on sale at 3 p.m. the Wednesday following each Gaybingo event at [MyResourceCenter.org](https://www.MyResourceCenter.org).

■ April 20: Beyond Vanilla Does Fire

Beyonce Vanilla hosts this event for anyone interested in learning about fire play from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at DFW Dungeon, 11528 Harry Hines Blvd. Visit [BeyondVanilla.org](https://www.BeyondVanilla.org) for information and to register.

■ April 21: Oak Cliff Earth Day

This annual community event celebrating nature, the environment and the majesty of our planet is taking place at Lake Cliff Park, 300 E. Colorado Blvd.

■ April 23: The Family Building Event

Medical City Las Colinas, 6800 N. MacArthur Blvd. in Irving, hosts this in-person and virtual event for anyone interested in growing their families through

IVF, egg, sperm or embryo donation and/or surrogacy. Tickets and information available at [Eventbrite.com](https://www.Eventbrite.com).

■ April 23-28: 11th Annual Black Trans Advocacy Conference

This distinct educational and empowerment program event takes place beginning at 10:30 a.m. on April 23rd at the Hilton Garden Inn, 800 N. Main St., in Duncanville. Visit [BlackTrans.org](https://www.BlackTrans.org) for information and to register.

■ April 23: Women+ Social Group

Tyler Area Gay's hosts their monthly social group for those who identify as feminine. Kizer's Grill, 15902 County Rd 165 in Tyler, from 6-8 p.m. Visit [TylerAreaGays.com](https://www.TylerAreaGays.com) for more information.

■ April 24: Same-Sex Partner Grief Group

Meets the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month on Zoom and in person. Contact Richard DeKnock for details at tastefullyrichard@gmail.com.

Have an event coming up? Email your information to [Mathew Dominguez at Mathew@DallasVoice.com](mailto:Mathew@DallasVoice.com) by Monday at 5 p.m. for that week's issue.

Look for extended listings online at [DallasVoice.com](https://www.DallasVoice.com)



Comedian Karen Morgan performs Thursday, April 18, at the Eisemann Center in Richardson. Check listings for details.

Cassie Nova

ASK A DRAG QUEEN

Madonna and an anniversary — what a life!



Oh my God y'all, I had a great week to close out March! It started with Madonna and ended with our anniversary!

First off, I haven't been to a Madonna concert since I was 18 years old and went to see the *Blonde Ambition Tour*. It was everything little baby gay me needed to feel like I belonged in this world. In March, I got to see the *Celebration Tour*, and it was a renewal of love for my community. If you were there — and who wasn't? I felt like I saw just about everyone I have ever known. I even half-smiled at a few of my enemies; nothing was going to wipe the smile off of my face — you know what I mean.

We had tickets to see her back in 2012, and they were great seats — ground level, fourth row from the stage. Then she cancelled, due to "severe laryngitis." I wouldn't have been so upset, except she didn't cancel her second night. Good for the second-night ticket holders, but just fuck my drag. Madonna and I were not on speaking terms after that.

Luckily, we made up just in time for the recent concert. And I am so glad we did. The concert was everything I wanted it to be and more. It was nostalgic and beautiful. It was uplifting and emotional. It was 40 years of great music, and I realized I have been a fan since I was 11

years old.

We danced through just about the entire concert. I woke up the next day sore as fuck, but it was so worth it. Yes, she started late, but we knew she was starting on Diva Time, so we took our time to get there. We didn't leave the gayborhood until about the time the concert was supposed to start. We bar-hopped and cocktailed until it was time to go. We took our time. No wait or lines to park or get into the venue. The only line we waited in was for drinks, so we double-fisted it when we finally got ours.

Everywhere you looked there were people dressed up for a Madonna concert. Cone bras, sheer shirts and every variation of costumes from every video or performance Madonna has ever done. One of our good friends, McWhorter, wore a white cowboy hat and white fur coat...just like Madge did in the video for "Music." You know he was a hot sweaty mess before the concert even started.

We saw an older lady — older than me — wearing a bondage type outfit straight out of the Erotica era. She looked fabulous. Everyone was taking pictures with everyone. It was such a great feeling. No drama or judgement, just everyone living their best lives openly and honestly. That is the power of Madonna.

Bob the Drag Queen did an amazing job hosting the entire night. The dancers were all hot and amazing. When Madonna spoke, she reminded me of me when I have to host a show in a bad mood. You know — kind of a bitch but still had us eating everything she was serving.

Bitch, she's Madonna! I expected nothing less!

I was a blubbering mess during "Live To Tell." It was a beautiful tribute to people we have lost to AIDS, and I couldn't help but mentally put the friends I have lost in between the pictures of Keith Haring and Freddy Mercury. It was cathartic and beautiful and totally intensified everything you were feeling. "Live To Tell" took on a new meaning for me that night.

Madonna puts on an amazing show — period! I still feel like I am on cloud 9 from the energy from that night. Thank you to one of my besties, Justin, for including me. I love you!

Speaking of love, Jamie and I just celebrated 21 years together. That means if he had knocked me up on our first date, our child could drink now. That is crazy. Thank God I had my tubes tied.

Seriously, I am crazy proud of 21 years. My life has been so much better with him in it. He is my safety net for when I am

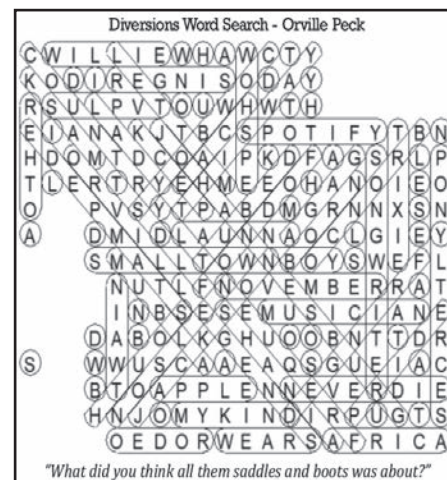
spiraling, and my tether for when I need grounding. He was the stability I needed in my life when we met and is still that for me today.

Not every day is bliss, but we rarely raise our voices and actually argue. Do we annoy each other? Fuck yes. Some days I wanna throw him and his phone in the lake, and I know for sure that he mentally murders me at least once a day.

But all of that is light and superficial. None of that goes deep. Down deep is only love. I am a lucky bitch!

Remember to always love more, bitch less and be fabulous! XOXO, Cassie Nova

word search solution



this week's solution



browse

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

submit

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

SCENE

PEOPLE, PLACES AND FACES



Ready to dance and drum the day away on opening weekend at Scarborough Renaissance Festival. The festival continues each Saturday and Sunday and on Memorial Day Monday through May 27. (Photo courtesy of Anita Jenniges)



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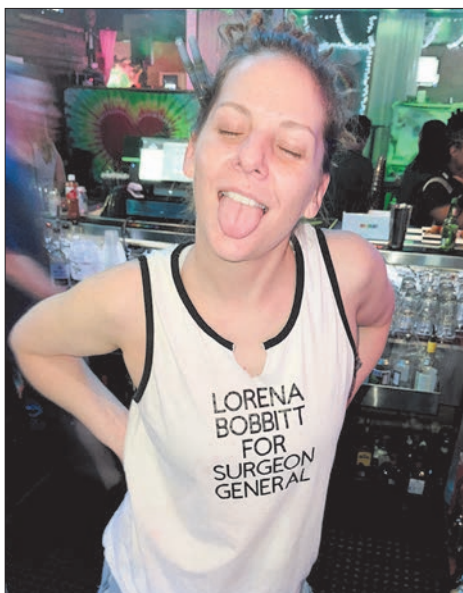


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WORD SEARCH

Diversions Word Search - Orville Peck

Find the words in the list hiding across, backwards, up, down and diagonally in the grid. Words separated by a slash "/" are found individually in the puzzle. Words in parentheses "(" are not in the puzzle. The unused letters starting at top left and going down by row will reveal a quote by him!

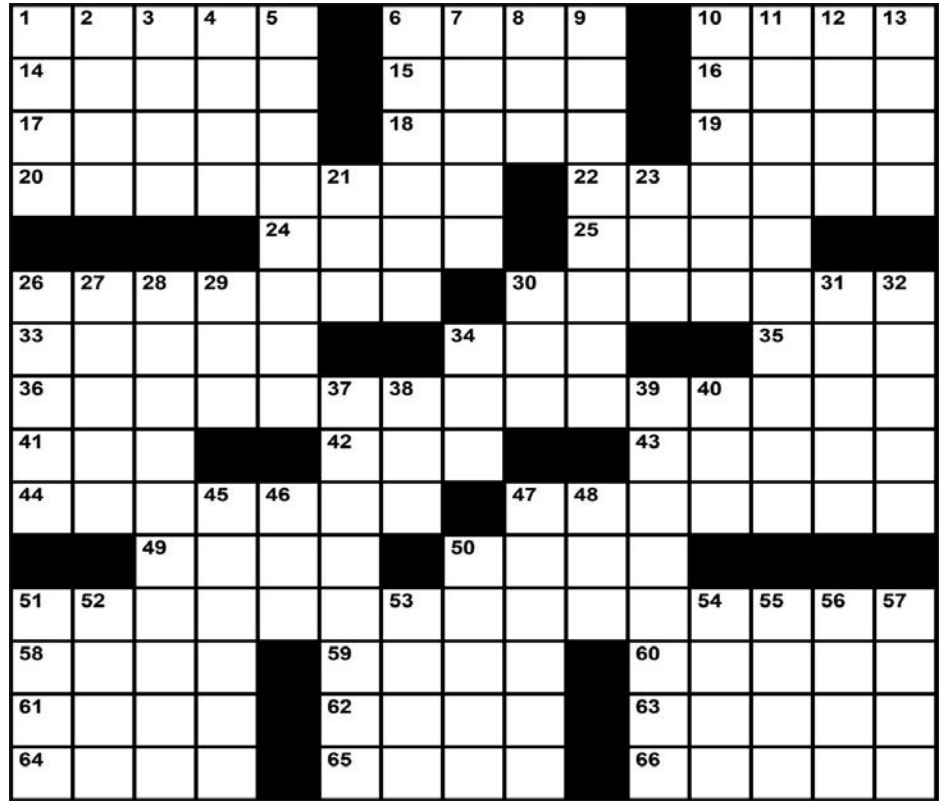


C	W	I	L	L	E	W	H	A	W	C	T	Y							
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H	D	O	M	T	D	C	O	A	I	P	K	D	F	A	G	S	R	L	P
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Orville/Peck Country/Musician Singer/Songwriter (Born in) Johannesburg South/Africa Wears/Fringed/Mask	Debut/Album/Pony (2019) EP Show (Pony in 2020) Bronco (2022) Stampede (TBA 2024) My Kind (of Country) Apple/TV Plus (2023)	Smalltown Boy Spotify/Pride (2020) Legends/Never Die (with) Shania/Twain Jackson (with)/Trixie Mattel (2021)	Born/This Way (for) Lady/Gaga (10th Anniv.) Cowboys (Are)/Frequently Secretly/Fond of/Each Other/(w/) Willie/Nelson Annual/Rodeo/November
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Visit <https://www.facebook.com/DiversionsPuzzles> for more free puzzles and book info by Kerry Shatzer!

Solution on Page 24



Solution on Page 24

Across

- 1 Bumper of boat bottoms
- 6 Family group, in the land of Barrie
- 10 Give the once-over in a bar
- 14 Gertrude painter
- 15 Oxen collar
- 16 Word after fish
- 17 Not erect
- 18 Egg on
- 19 Cockpit figs.
- 20 Start of a Candis Cayne quote on the "weird looks" you get when you're transitioning
- 22 More of the quote
- 24 Apt anagram for "yeas"
- 25 Jerky meat
- 26 Danced wildly
- 30 Blitzes, in Esera Tuaolo's sport
- 33 Valuable strings
- 34 Old PC program
- 35 Golden Girl McClanahan
- 36 More of the quote
- 41 ___-de-sac
- 42 One-eighty
- 43 Conquers, sexually
- 44 Indication of a used rubber
- 47 Pretentious deception

Down

- 49 Bottomless
- 50 Shaped meat dish
- 51 End of the quote
- 58 Fag ___ (women with gay friends)
- 59 Troy Perry and others
- 60 Like phone sex
- 61 Hawkish deity
- 62 Cut
- 63 Sound of oral enjoyment
- 64 Ventimiglia of *This Is Us*
- 65 *Lady Sings the Blues* star
- 66 Compels to go

- 23 Ref for Woolf
- 26 Psychic Edgar
- 27 Colette's love
- 28 *How I Learned to Drive* playwright
- 29 "Yadda, yadda, yadda," briefly
- 30 Legendary big bird
- 31 Early trade union
- 32 Gaydar, e.g.
- 34 Home improvement letters
- 37 One who offers a breast, e.g.
- 38 Turtleneck alternative
- 39 Lickety-split
- 40 Boater's paddle
- 45 Lays down the law
- 46 Club where you can dance with a sailor
- 47 Goes down on a hill
- 48 Silver screen computer
- 50 Bell bottoms, perhaps
- 51 George Michael's old band
- 52 Part of a name in espionage
- 53 What "let" means to Martina
- 54 Johnny ___ (Nick Adams' rebel role)
- 55 Sea bordering Kazakhstan
- 56 Event for George Frenn
- 57 Lodge members

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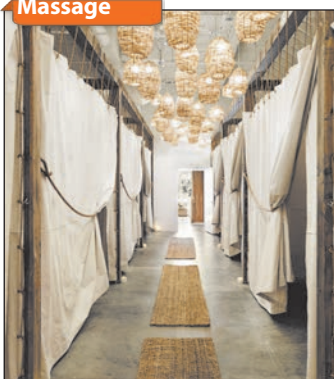
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