

AUGUST 20, 2024 VOL XV • ISSUE#8

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MONDAY:

(OPEN TILL 4AM)

BINGO 7PM - 11PM

HOSTED BY AURORA DIVINE & BELLA DeBALLE

CHARLIE'S LIVE 11PM - 2AM

HOSTED BY REGGAY BOOTS

TUESDAY:

(OPEN TILL 4AM)

LET'S ROULETTE KARAOKE 7PM - 11PM

HOSTED BY BELLA DEBALLE AND SUTTON FISTER

KNOCK OUT DANCE NIGHTS 11PM

HOSTED BY SAPPHIRE FELICIANO & PERSEPHONE BROOKLYN

WEDNESDAY:

(OPEN TILL 4AM)

SCCDA COUNTRY DANCING 7PM - 11PM

FREE LESSONS AT 8PM

SAPPHIRE'S SECRET SHADOWS - 11PM - 2AM

HOSTED BY SAPPHIRE FELICIANO

THURSDAY:

(OPEN TILL 4AM)

POWER UP GAMING NIGHTS 1ST AND 3RD THURSDAY 11PM - 2AM

HOSTED BY PIXEL

MADE ME GAY WATCH PARTY 2ND THURSDAY 10PM

HOSTED BY PIXEL

MOTHER DRAG COMPETITION 1ST AND 3RD THURSDAY 8PM - 10PM

HOSTED BY AJA AJANI

FRIDAY:

(OPEN TILL 4AM)

BOOMBOX! A CELEBRATION OF THE 80S/90S 1ST FRIDAY 11PM - 2AM

HOSTED BY ANGELICIA MARIA

FIERCE FRIDAYS 2ND AND 3RD FRIDAY 11PM - 2AM

HOSTED BY YOUR CHARLIE'S HOUSE QUEENS!

FIERCE FRIDAYS PRESENTS: GIRL GROUPS! 4TH FRIDAY 11PM - 2AM

HOSTED BY CHARLIE'S HOUSE QUEENS

CAGE FIGHT EVERY FRIDAY 8PM - 11PM

HOSTED BY MATT CAGE

SATURDAY:

(OPEN TILL 5AM)

SCCDA COUNTRY DANCING 7PM - 11PM

FREE LESSONS AT 8PM!

MAIN EVENT DRAG SHOW 1ST AND 3RD SATURDAY 11PM - 2AM

HOSTED BY BELLA, PIXEL AND PERSEPHONE

BOYS AND BOOZE 2ND AND 4TH SATURDAY 11PM - 2AM

HOSTED BY BELLA, PIXEL AND PERSEPHONE

SUNDAY:

(OPEN TILL 4AM)

QUEERIOD AN OPEN STAGE SHOW 5PM - 7PM

HOSTED BY LUC AMI AND MALE SPICE

SUTTONLY SINGSATIONAL SUNDAY KARAOKE 7PM - 11PM

HOSTED BY SUTTON FISTER

SAZÓN SUNDAYS WITH DJ X-TASY 11PM - 2AM

HOSTED BY LUNA LA CATRINA AND PERSEPHONE BROOKLYN

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GRAB AN INDUCTEE

CHICAGO LGBT HALL OF FAME ANNOUNCES 2024 INDUCTEES Former Mayor Lori Lightfoot among 19 Individual Inductees in the “Class of 2024”



The Chicago LGBT Hall of Fame, the only city-sanctioned LGBT Hall of Fame in the world, has announced its slate of 2024 inductees: 19 LGBT-identified individuals, two LGBT-identified organizations, and one “Friend of the Community” (ally). The 2024 inductees, who represent a wide cross-section of the diverse Chicago community, this year include **Lori Lightfoot**, former Mayor of Chicago; WGN Weekend Morning News co-anchor **Sean Lewis**; Reverend **Charles Straight**, senior pastor of the Faith United Methodist Church; **John von Rhein**, longtime music critic of the Chicago Tribune; and **LaTony Alvarado** Rivera, executive director of the Chicago Freedom School.

“Mama Gloria” Allen



(posthumous inductee), who pioneered a “Charm School” at the Center on Halsted conducting life lessons on appearance, etiquette, personal interaction, job-interview comportment, hygiene, safe sex, healthy relationships, and self-respect to predominantly young unhoused transgender people.

Dr. Daniel S. Berger



Dr. Daniel S. Berger, founder of Northstar Medical Center (Wellness Home at NorthstarHealthcare), a pioneering researcher in the treatment of HIV through drug therapies, and a nationally noted art collector, for his lifetime of work in health/medicine, civic involvement, and leadership in the arts.

Amailia Black



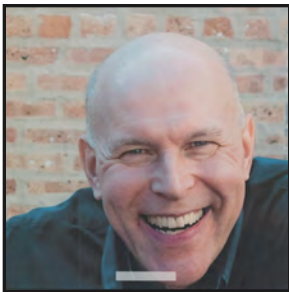
Advocate for trans rights and visibility and former Special Projects of National Significance researcher, Volunteer and Community Engagement specialist, and executive assistant to the CEO for Howard Brown Health.

Bonsai Bermudez MSW



Co-founder and executive artistic director of the Youth Empowerment Performance Project (YEPP), a program creating a brave environment for LGBTQI+ youth experiencing homelessness to learn new ways to address their struggles and celebrate their strengths through personal leadership and community involvement.

Daniel Dever



Former development director for Howard Brown Memorial Clinic and Children's Place Association and longtime volunteer with Equality Illinois, American Civil Liberties Union of Illinois, Rainbow Railroad, and other organizations. Daniel is currently a board member of the Reader Institute for Community Journalism.

John Foos



Character artist John Foos, aka *Miss Foozie*, noted fundraiser and entertainer since 1997 with a passion for making people feel welcome and have fun at community events including the Northalsted Halloween Parade and the Proud Pet Parade.

Timothy K. Frye



Lead coordinator of PrideChicago and longtime co-coordinator of Chicago's annual LGBT Pride Parade with his husband, Hall of Fame inductee Richard Pfeier, until Pfeier's death in 2019. Following a two-year pandemic-related hiatus, Frye started the Pride Parade tradition again in 2022, continuing to lead the annual event.

(Continued)

Demetrius “Dem” Hopkins



(posthumous inductee), Attorney and music entrepreneur whose influential music nightclub Oz helped establish Chicago's 1980s punk rock scene on a national level. In the 2000's he served on the board of the Chicago Coalition for the Homeless and helped to forge a lasting relationship between CCH and Riot Fest.

Antonio King



The first gay/bi Black man to serve as LGBTQ Health Outreach Liaison at the Chicago Department of Public Health and a founding member of the Chicago Black Gay Men's Caucus, whose dedication to the art of female impersonation and pageantry has been a cornerstone of his advocacy work for more than 25 years.

Sean Lewis



Emmy Award-winning broadcast journalist and Chicago's first out gay news anchor for WGN/Channel 9. Sean has also volunteered hosting events for community organizations including Chicago House, Equality Illinois, The Legacy Project, Test Positive Aware Network, and Brave Space Alliance.

Lori Lightfoot



Former Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot, who served from 2019 through 2023 as the city's first Black female and first out LGBT mayor. She is the first openly lesbian Black woman to serve as mayor of a major American city, making Chicago the first and still only one of the United States' three largest cities to boast an out LGBT chief executive.

(Continued)

Kenneth Martín-Ocasio



Former president of the DuPage Hispanic Task Force, former co-chair of the Latino Consortium, and longstanding board member of the Association of Latinos Motivating Action (ALMA), for his dedication to advancing professional, social, economic, and educational opportunities within the Latinx and LGBTQ+ communities.

Ken Mejia-Beal



Ken Mejia-Beal, advocate and trailblazer in the Black LGBTQ community and leader in numerous political, media, advocacy, and community organizations within and outside the LGBTQ+ community. As the first Black openly gay elected chair of the DuPage County Democratic Party, Ken made history as the first out LGBT political party chair in Illinois.

Channyn Lynne Parker



CEO of Brave Space Alliance, the first Black-led, trans-led LGBTQ + center on Chicago's South Side, recognized for her visionary approach to human rights and social justice. Her advocacy began with achievements at the Cook County Department of Corrections, where she was the first openly transgender woman and advocated vigorously for those in protective custody.

John Peller



President/CEO of AIDS Foundation Chicago (AFC) since 2014. His keen understanding of how health care and policy intersect and his support for innovative practices have established him as a national leader in the HIV field, greatly improving quality of life and health for the LGBTQ+ community in Chicago and beyond.

(Continued)

LaTony Alvarado Rivera



Executive director of the Chicago Freedom School, a 17- year-old nonprofit organization that equips young people and adult allies with the tools to develop strategies for social change. He began his activism at 18 with the Coalition for Sexual Orientation (Illinois Safe Schools Alliance) and served on the education subcommittee for Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson’s transition team.

W. Robert Schultz III



Campaign organizer for the Active Transportation Alliance, whose mission is to advocate for walking, bicycling, and public transit to create healthy, sustainable, and equitable communities. He has been a leader in activist eMorts in Illinois ranging from the successful eMort to repeal the death penalty to marriage equality. He also serves on the board of Howard Brown Health and was a founding editor of BLACKlines magazine and a founding member of the Lakeside Pride Music Organization.

Reverend Charles Straight



Senior pastor of the Faith United Methodist Church, president of The People's Lobby Education Institute, and volunteer coordinator for Kuponu Network, the first Black HIV service organization in Chicago. He has more than 35 years of committed service in the ministry.

John von Rhein

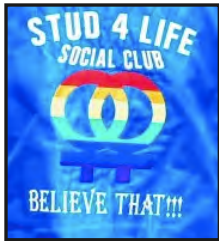


Classical music critic for the Chicago Tribune for 40 years, whose reviews and features played a significant role in establishing Chicago as a world- class cultural center. His involvement with the Rainbow Railroad, an international organization dedicated to providing life-saving assistance to LGBTQ+ individuals and families fleeing violence and persecution around the world, exemplifies his steadfast commitment to protecting the most vulnerable among us.

(Continued)

Organizations:

STUD4LIFE



A non-profit organization, founded in 2012, whose mission is to give back and mentor to underserved juvenile LGBTQ individuals.

Womyn of All Cultures Together (WACT)



Founded in 1993, which has made a significant long-term contribution of advocacy and education to Chicago's lesbian community.

Friend of the Community::

Sol Flores



Founding executive director of La Casa Norte, an organization dedicated to helping thousands of young people and families escape homelessness, and former Deputy Governor in the administration of Illinois Governor JB Pritzker. Her advocacy and leadership have created safe, inclusive spaces for LGBTQ+ youth and families in Chicago.

The Annual Chicago LGBT Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony is scheduled to take place on Tuesday, October 1, 2024, at the Chicago History Museum, 1601 N Clark, Chicago. The plaques for the new inductees are traditionally given out by the Mayor of Chicago. Mayor Brandon Johnson has been invited and we hope he will participate this year.



The Chicago LGBT Hall of Fame, the only city-sanctioned LGBT Hall of Fame in the world, was founded in 1991 to honor Chicago's people and entities, nominated by the community, who have made significant contributions to the quality of life or well-being of the LGBT community and the city of Chicago. The first Chicago Gay & Lesbian Hall of Fame ceremony took place during Pride Week 1991 at Chicago City Hall. Then-mayor Richard M. Daley hosted the ceremony and afterward, photos of the inductees were displayed in City Hall. The Hall of Fame maintains a website, which allows anyone to visit the Hall of Fame at any time at <https://chicagolgbthalloffame.org>. Traditionally, the City of Chicago has displayed the Hall of Fame materials during induction periods, Pride Month, and in October for LGBT History Month.

GRAB PRETTI BOI ROQ



Photo by Nicholas Eastman

Fast and Furious PrettBoiRoq Takes Fans on a Wild Spin in New Single, “In My Ride”

By Jamie Booth

After the success of “*Bad Bitch Alert*”, his single with trans rapper Chanel Jole, PrettBoiRoq is gearing up to show a different side of his music and aesthetic. “I’m out to prove that I have more to say than ‘shake your ass and f*ck,’” he says.

His latest track, “*In My Ride*”, is lighthearted, pop-oriented fun. “I don’t feel like we have enough representation of love in gay hip hop,” he continues. “We have plenty of tracks about sex and casual hook-ups, but not much about real romance, even though most of us live both pretty equally.”

“*In My Ride*” personifies summer love. It was inspired by the artist’s own short-lived but high-octane romance. “I had just ended a long-term relationship and was discouraged with the dating scene when I met my ‘In My Ride’ guy,” PrettBoiRoq recalls. “He showed me I could connect with someone and that I had the ability to love again.”

PrettBoiRoq explains more from his LA home.

Jamie Booth: “*In My Ride*” is a big change from your previous track with Chanel Jole. Why the 180? PrettBoiRoq: I’m showcasing my

diversity as an artist. There will always be a level of Bad Bitch energy to anything I create. It’s part of my brand.

JB: Can you take us back and tell us about your journey into hip-hop and what inspired you to start making music?

PBR: I’ve always been a creative human. I went to school for visual arts and when I moved from North Carolina to Los Angeles, I originally wanted to pursue acting. I quickly realized it wasn’t really where my heart was. I would spend a lot of time writing music. I started performing locally and I got a great response. Queer music has always been a thing, but the element that I bring is a main stream appeal. While my lyrics are unapologetically gay, my sound is very top 40.

JB: How has your identity influenced your music and the stories you tell through your lyrics?

PBR: I think gay culture is inherently sexual, especially within the gay male community. I also think a lot of gay males resonate with female artists, especially within hip-hop so I

think a combination of those two aspects shape both my sound and my lyricism.

JB: What are some of the biggest challenges you’ve faced in the hip-hop industry as an out rapper?

PBR: The biggest challenge any artist faces, regardless of sexuality or orientation, is being taken seriously; proving I’m more than a gimmick. I also struggle because within the community most of the music made is what people would consider drag queen music, which, don’t get me wrong, I love. Drag queens have been pillars of our community since the beginning and I love that we celebrate them through music. The music I make, however, doesn’t fall under that umbrella.

JB: How do you feel about the current state of LGBTQ+ representation in hip-hop?

PBR: We have way more representation within the queer community now than ever before, but it’s still severely lacking. I would love to see more queer artists achieve mainstream success for their talent rather than some novelty. I think we are on the cusp of it.

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JB: Who are your biggest musical influences, both within and outside the hip-hop genre?

PBR: Anyone who follows me knows that Nicki Minaj is a huge influence for me. I would also say Iggy Azalea and I love Cazwell. I would watch him on YouTube in my high school days and it was inspiring to see a gay man making music unapologetically. I think you can see little pieces of these artists trickle throughout my work. I certainly don't think I would be where I am today without them.

JB: Can you walk us through your creative process when writing and producing a new track like "In My Ride"?

PBR: When the producer first shared the beat track for "In My Ride", I instantly thought about summer and love and how, as we get older, a lot of the magic of being young and in love dies. It's sad. I think we become more realistic in our expectations. When I started writing this track, I had just started dating someone and it was the first real relationship I had had since I ended an eight-year relationship. I had almost forgotten what it was like to fall in love with someone, and while the relationship didn't last, it gave me hope that I could experience that feeling again.

JB: How have your fans responded to your music and your openness about your sexuality?

PBR: I think the funniest interactions are when I'm recognized outside of performance and people expect this hypersexual over-the-top being and I'm actually very chill and calm. It's an interesting dynamic meeting fans when I'm Cory and not PrettiBoi because we're very different. Even when I'm in the studio with another artist, it's fun to watch them react to me turning on in the booth and then coming out calm, cool and collected.

JB: What advice would you give to other LGBTQ+ artists who are looking to break into the hip-hop



Photo by Nicholas Eastman

industry?

PBR: Be ready to put your money where your mouth is. You have to be willing to invest in your talent before anybody else will. A lot of people think you make one track, it takes off, you become famous, and the money starts pouring in. That's not how it works. I work two different jobs, six days a week. I manage my own social media and pay for all my studio, recording and mixing out-of-pocket. I work with a team of close friends to help alleviate some of the

creative direction as far as videos and rollouts but again I pay everyone who works for me. I would say stay focused, listen to those close to you, and no matter how hard it gets, never give up on your dreams. The only people who fail are those who stop trying.

PrettiBoiRoq's "In My Ride" is available on all digital platforms. Visit <https://www.prettiBoiroq.com>. Follow PrettiBoiRoq on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter @prettiBoiroq

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GRAB WILLI



PhotoBy Jackie Clark

Willi, wontcha?: an interview with queer singer/songwriter Willi Carlisle

By Gregg Shapiro

For the longest time, queer country and folk music fans didn't have much good music by queer artists from which to choose. Sure, country music provided them with plenty of divas, including Dolly Parton and Reba McEntire, to worship. Willie Nelson was the closest thing to a leftie as could be found in the genre. Whereas folk music was a bit more welcoming to both queer followers and performers.

Much has changed with more country artists coming out, from Lavender Country, Chely Wright, Ty Herndon, and Billy Gilman to Brandy Clark, TJ Osbourne, Brandi Carlile, Jaime Wyatt, Orville Peck, Amethyst Kiah, Jake Blount, Melissa Carper, and Brooke Eden, to name a few. If Arkansas-based Willi Carlisle isn't on your radar yet, he should be. Not only do Carlisle's distinctively poetic lyrics separate him from most of the pack, but as an accomplished multi-instrumentalist, his talent is sure to make a lasting impression. Carlisle, whose remarkable new album "Crittterland" (Signature Sounds), was released earlier this year, generously made the time for an interview.

Gregg Shapiro: Willi, I'd like you to say a few words about your musical influences in the folk, country, and LGBTQ+ music worlds.

Willi Carlisle: Welp, I'm an interdisciplinary artist, so my influences are pretty varied! Classic American authors like Walt Whitman and Melville, folksingers Utah Phillips and Ramblin' Jack Elliot, as well as many writers in our contemporary Americana scene. Recently, Anna Tivel, Adeem the Artist, Tyler Childers. I'd also count outliers like the puppeteers Peter Schulman and Micheal Sommers, folk punks like Apes of the State and Defiance! Ohio, plus drag queens and clowns everywhere. A newspaper once called Walt Whitman "a queer occultist or a blethering yokel," and I thought I'd try to be both.

GS: You received an MFA in Poetry from the University of Arkansas.

There have been some wonderful queer visiting writers at the school including Robin Becker and Natalie Diaz. With whom did you study while in the MFA program?

WC: People make much of my master's degree in poetry [laughs]! I enjoyed some aspects of it, but frankly spent more time with a fiddle

under my chin than with a pen in my hand. I moved to Arkansas to be a folksinger, and the MFA was perhaps a means to an end, even if I didn't see it at the time. I called a square dance or played old-timey music a few nights a week. I studied with Jeffrey Davis, Kentuckian Davis McCombs, the neo-formalist Geoffrey Brock, the late Ellen Gilchrist, and, briefly, Henri Cole. I was not a great student, but I adored my colleagues. Closeted and struggling in Arkansas, I was mostly chasing music and love.

GS: Have you published a full-length poetry collection or chapbook?

WC: Nah. Maybe someday.

GS: Does your background in poetry have anything to do with the inclusion of spoken word tracks such as the title cut from "Peculiar, Missouri" and "The Money Grows On Trees" from "Crittterland"?

WC: Sure! But "Peculiar" is my attempt to do a song in the tradition of dozens (if not hundreds) of talking blues story songs, too. "Money Grows on Trees" might be spoken word, but it's a bad-man-ballad like the ones I heard sung about local legends all over Arkansas. Which is



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to say, vernacular poetry and songs have always been in our world, our tradition. The most common question I get is the difference between poetry and music, and there's none. No difference! Lord, let me eschew obfuscation and yank the highfalutin chain of our histories out of every lowly lover.

GS: To my ears, songs such as "I Won't Be Afraid," "Life On the Fence," and "Your Heart's A Big Tent," from "Peculiar, Missouri" and "The Arrangements" and the title tune from "Crittlerland" wear their queerness on their denim sleeves. Do you have a sense of how these songs been received by folks in the LGBTQ+ community?

WC: They seem to like 'em. Because I'm a "daywalker," and spent most of my life passing as straight. I guess I got pretty good at writing queer-coded things. Our audience is diverse and welcoming, and that's my favorite thing about my work. As many bi/pan/yes/and people do, I often don't feel "queer enough." I've never been part of certain queer subcultures or visibility movements. For me, being queer always lived at truck-stops, on Craigslist, while couch-surfing, and frequently involved being afraid, closeted, and tough. It never presented itself in a "respectable" way, so I feel very seen when other LGBTQ+ people like it. At the heart of queerness is a relationship to love, friendship, and sex that goes beyond procreativity, marriage, property, or gender. If I get to sing that into the world, I'm happy.

GS: How do you think these songs have been received by non-LGBTQ+ folks in the folk and country music world?

WC: Honestly? People rarely notice they're queer songs. Or maybe they do but stay hushed about it? In one instance, the brilliant writer Steacy Easton (whose debut memoir "Daddy" I'm stoked to read) said my song "Tulsa's Last Magician" was queer. They're right, but someone took umbrage, said that they thought it was a song about a working-class guy and not a "gay thing," said he was bummed that he'd missed the point. Thing is, the song is both queer and working class. Sometimes straight folks seem to think if something isn't

straight that they're not allowed to connect to it. Hooley like that keeps our worlds too far apart.

GS: Speaking of which, it was a pleasant surprise to hear musician and ally Darrell Scott playing on most of the songs on "Crittlerland."

How did that collaboration come to be?

WC: We wanted to work with a dynamic writer and multi-instrumentalist, a DIY-doer, and man of letters. Darrell fit the bill perfectly. We talked about poetry and literature most of the first night, forgetting to work on songs. [Laughs] Honestly? My management put us in touch. I'm new to this industry and travelled the country playing in honky-tonks without any support or industry bona fides for the better part of a decade before I could've found my way into Darrell's studio.

GS: Many of your songs have a cinematic quality which made me wonder if any of your music has been used in any movies or TV show.

WC: Nah [laughs]! Wouldn't that be cool though?

GS: Is there a style of music that you listen to for your own enjoyment that might surprise your fans?

WC: I'm pretty eclectic! I've enjoyed the rise of Chappell Roan this year, and also like grindcore, extreme metal, doom metal, and polka. I'm not an expert in any of this stuff and



PhotoBy Jackie Clark

refuse to be too knowledgeable.

GS: Even though she's missing an S, could there be a Willi Carlisle and Brandi Carlile collaboration in your future?

WC: [Laughs] Just sitting here waiting on the call! Let's do this, Brandi.

GS: Finally, you are performing on September 7 as part of the initial Evanston Folk Festival, along with Patty Griffin, Madi Diaz, and Nora O'Connor, among others. What does it mean to you to be part of this festival and line-up?

WC: It means there'll be a big party. As a younger man, I used to go to the Chicago Zen Center in Evanston, and afterwards sit and hit on people in the bookstores, and play banjo insufferably on the streets, hoping Northwestern students would find me handsome. I'm basically doing the same thing, but, getting paid. It's an epic lineup, and I'm gonna give it my all.

KARAOKE

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THURSDAYS 10PM-1AM

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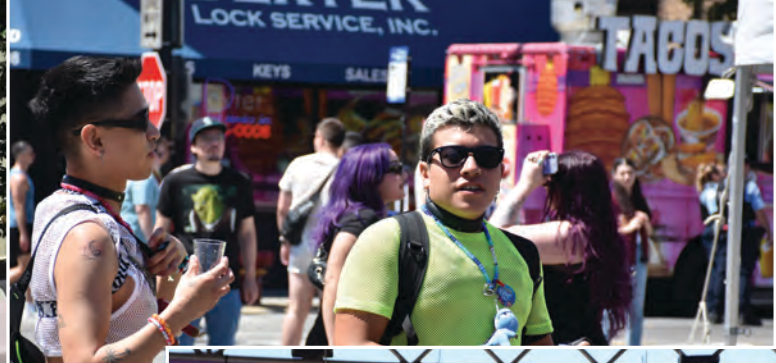
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19TH ANNUAL

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GRETA SANDQUIST



LIVE MUSIC SATURDAY

MAIN STAGE

12:00PM..... Raíces
1:15PM..... Just
2:45PM..... Arnie
4:00PM..... wht.
6:00PM Midr
7:30PM..... Old S
9:00PM char

SUNDAY,

MAIN STAGE

11:45AM..... 3rd C
1:00PM 3 Ma
2:30PM..... Cosm
4:00PM..... TIME
5:30PM..... Steep



120+ A
LOCAL
KIDS A
ON BR
FROM BEL

ON TWO STAGES

SEPTEMBER 14

Jazz **GARDEN STAGE**
 12:00PM.....Dr. Murphy's Band
 1:30PM.....The Half Brits
 3:00PMFresh Hops
 4:30PMImpulsive Hearts
 6:00PMScreeners
 + his gear

SEPTEMBER 15

GARDEN STAGE
 12:00PM.... Steven Hashimoto
 Pat Fleming Duo
 1:30PM..... The Beaus
 3:00PM Kent Rose
 4:30PM The Spindles
 6:00PM The Simple Remedy

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Daily Specials;

MONDAY

2 Bears Tavern Uptown: . \$5 Stoli Cocktails (Any Flavor), Everyday Specials: \$5Jager, Fireball & Malort \$4 Tallboy Beers (BuschLight, PBR, Hamm's), Free Pinball & Darts. **@mosphere:** \$5 Well Cocktails & Draft Beer 6-8pm. **Cell Block:** Open 4pm-2am. **Charlies:** Bingo 7 – 11 pm Dancing until close. **Hydrate:** Lips and Mascara Doors at 8pm Show at 10pm.. **North End:** Open at 11am, \$5 Well Drinks. **Shakers on Clark:** Comedy Night \$1 off Well Drinks and Well Shots. **Sidetrack:** Open at 3pm, Musical Monday Show Tunes 8pm-2am. **Steamworks:** Every 3rd Monday TM4M (Trans Men For Men) 8pm-2am. **The Sofu Tap:** \$5 Whiskeys, Ryes & Bourbons. Everyday Specials: \$5 Jager, Fireball & Malort, \$4 Tall Boy Beers (Busch Light, PBR,Hamm's) Free Darts. **Touche:** Open 5pm-4am. Horny Bastards A Night for those who just didn't get enough over the weekend.ClubRoom Opens at 6pm, 6-9pm \$3 Well Drinks \$1 Off call-imports, \$3 PBR/Rolling Rock.

TUESDAY

2 Bears Tavern Uptown: . \$3 House Shots, \$7 Big Miller Lite Drafts Everyday Specials: \$5Jager, Fireball & Malort \$4 Tallboy Beers (BuschLight, PBR, Hamm's), Free Pinball & Darts. **@mosphere:** \$5 Well Cocktails & Draft Beer 6-8pm, Game Night with Tony. **Cell Block:** Open 4pm-2am. **Charlie's:** Tune Up Tuesday Karaoke 7 – 11PM, Tag Team Tuesdays 11p – 2am, Dancing until close. **Hydrate:** TatTuesday XXL Doors open at 8pm. **Kit Kat Lounge:** Happy Hour 5-7pm \$8.95 Martinis **Lucky Horseshoe:** Open at 6pm. Dancers at 8pm. Open auditions for male dancers 7pm. \$5 drink specials. **Meeting House Tavern:** \$3 House Shots, \$7 Big Miller Lite Drafts. Happy Hour Specials 5pm-8pm: \$5 Stoli Mules (all flavors). Everyday Specials \$5 Jager, Fireball & Malort. Free Darts & Pool. **North End:** Open at 11am, \$5 Canned Beers, Seltzers & Ciders. **Shakers on Clark:** \$3 Domestic Beers. **Sidetrack:** Open at 3pm, Trivia Tuesday 8-10pm, TRL Tuesday: Totally Rad Line-up of 90's-to-Now Music Videos 10pm-2am, OUTspoken LGBTQ+ Storytelling 1st Tuesday of the month from 7-9pm. **Steamworks:** Every Tuesday 4 pm – 4 am Guys Under 25 Get In Free* (*Free 30 day membership and free locker). **The Sofu Tap:** \$5 Amsterdam Cocktails, \$5 Tallboys Everyday Specials:,\$5Jager, \$5 Fireball & Malort, \$4 Tall Boy Beers (Busch Light, PBR,Hamm's) Free Darts. **Touche:** Open 5pm - 4am.Hardcore Cruisin' No Cell Phones/Wifi. 6-9pm \$3 Well Drinks \$1 Off call-imports, \$3 PBR/Rolling Rock.

WEDNESDAY

2 Bears Tavern Uptown: \$ New Amsterdam Cocktails \$5 Tallboy Beers Specials: Everyday Specials \$5 Jager, Fireball & Malort \$4 Tallboy Beers (BuschLight, PBR, Hamm's), Free Pinball & Darts. **Cell Block:** Open 4pm-2am. **Charlie's:** Country Line Dancing 7 – 10pm, Sapphire's Secret Shadows 10pm – 1 am, Dancing until close. **Jackhammer:** \$5 Whiskeys, Ryes & Bourbons, Everyday Specials: \$5 Fireball, Jager & Malort Shots, \$4 Tallboy Beers(Busch Light, PBR & Hamm's). **Kit Kat Lounge:** Happy Hour 5-7pm \$8.95 Martinis **Lucky Horseshoe:** Open at 6pm Dancers at 8pm. \$5 drink specials. **Meeting House Tavern:** \$4Miller Lite Drafts, \$5 Stolis (All Flavors). Happy Hour Specials 7pm-10pm: \$6 Any BIG drafts Everyday Specials \$5 Jager, Fireball & Malort. Free Darts & Pool. **North End:** Open at 11am \$5 Lagunitas Draft & Cans. **Shakers on Clark:** Karaoke Night \$1 Off Long Islands. **Sidetrack:** Open at 3pm, All Things Taylor & Ariana 1st Wed of month, All Things Beyoncé 2nd Wed of month, All Things Gaga 3rd Wed of month, All Things Britney & Rihanna last Wed of month: all 9pm-2am. **Steamworks:** Bear Hump Every second Wednesday 6-9pm A monthly mid-week gathering of Furry Men. **The Sofu Tap:** \$3 House Shots, \$5 Tito's Cocktails, \$7 Big Miller Lite Drafts Everyday Specials: \$5 Jager, Fireball & Malort, \$4 Tall Boy Beers (Busch Light, PBR,Hamm's)FreeDarts **Touche:** Open 5pm - 4am. Jockstrap Night Free Clothing Check. 6-9pm \$3 Well Drinks \$1 Off call-imports, \$3 PBR/Rolling Rock

THURSDAY

2 Bears Tavern Uptown: \$5 Whiskeys, Ryes & Bourbons . Everyday Specials:\$5 Jager, Fireball & Malort \$4 Tallboy Beers (BuschLight, PBR, Hamm's), Free Pinball & Darts. **@mosphere:** \$5 Well Cocktails & Draft Beer 6-8pm, RuPaul Drag Race All Stars 6 Viewing Party - 7pm. **Charlie's:** Survivor 10 pm – 1 am, Dancing Until Close. **Jackhammer:** \$3 House Shots \$5 New Amsterdam Cocktails \$5 Miller Lit Tallboys Everyday Specials: \$5 Fireball, Jager & Malort Shots, \$4 Tallboy Beers(Busch Light, PBR & Hamm's). **Kit Kat Lounge:** Happy Hour 5-7pm \$8.95 Martinis. **Lucky Horseshoe:** Open at 6pm. Dancers at 8pm. \$5 drink specials. **Meeting House Tavern:** \$6 Tito Cocktails, Everyday Specials \$5 Jager, Fireball & Malort. Free Darts & Pool. **North End:** Open at 11am, \$5 Deep Eddy Cocktails. **Shakers on Clark:** \$1 off All Call Liquor Mixed Drinks,Karaoke 10pm-1am. **Sidetrack:** Open at 3pm, Let's Go Thursdays with Alex Kay & Friends 9pm-2am. **Steamworks:** Lights Out Thursdays, The Club goes Dark Every Thursday 4pm-4am. **The Sofu Tap:** \$5 New Amsterdam Cocktails\$5 Tallboy Beers Everyday Specials: , \$5 Jager, Fireball & Malort, \$4 Tall Boy Beers (Busch Light, PBR,Hamm's)Free Darts. **Touche:** Open 5pm - 4am.Throwback Thursdays70's & 80's Music & Porn by BijouVideo. 70's & 80's Music. 6-9pm \$3 Well Drinks \$1 Off call-imports, \$3 PBR/Rolling Rock

Daily Specials;

FRIDAY	<p>2 Bears Tavern Uptown: \$7.50 Big Miller Lite Drafts \$3 House Shots. Happy Hour Specials: 3pm-6pm: \$4 New Amsterdam Cocktails \$5 Chicago Handshakes. Everyday Specials: \$5 Jager, Fireball & Malort \$4 Tallboy Beers (Busch Light, PBR, Hamm's), Free Pinball & Darts. @mosphere: \$5 Well Cocktails & Draft Beer 6-8pm, Dancers 10pm-1am. Baton Show Lounge: Doors open at 6pm, Shows at 7:30pm, 9:30pm & 11:30pm. Cell Block: Open 4pm-2am. Charlie's: 1st and 3rd Fierce Fridays 10p - 1am, 2nd Fierce Fridays - Traffic Light Party 10p - 1am, 4th Fierce Fridays - Glow Up Party 10p - 1am, 5th Fierce Fridays - Strut 10p - 1am, Dancing until close. Jackhammer: \$5 Miller Lite Tallboys \$8 New Amsterdam & Redbull Happy Hour Specials 5-9pm: \$5 Whiskeys, Ryes and Bourbons \$5 Chicago Handshake Everyday Specials: \$5 Fireball, Jager & Malort Shots, \$4 Tallboy Beers (Busch Light, PBR & Hamm's). Kit Kat Lounge: Happy Hour 5-7pm \$8.95 Martinis. Sidetrack: Open at 3pm, TGIF Show Tunes 4-9pm, Friday Night Dance Party 9pm-2am. The Sofo Tap: \$3 House Shots, \$7.50 Big Miller Lite Drafts Happy Hour Specials: 3pm-6pm: \$4 New Amsterdam Cocktails. Everyday Specials: \$5 Jager, Fireball & Malort \$4 Tall Boys Beers (Busch Light, PBR, Hamm's), Free Darts. Touche: 8/23 These Boots Are Made for Walkin' Boot Fetish Party, 9/6 Nipple Play Party, 9/13 Hot Wheels Friday Funder for our Bartender Darrick, \$3 Well Drinks \$1 Off call-imports, \$3 PBR/Rolling Rock.</p>
SATURDAY	<p>2 Bears Tavern Uptown: \$6 Lagunitas IPADrafts. Happy Hour Specials: 1/2 Off All Drafts \$5 New Amsterdam Cocktails. Everyday Specials: \$5 Jager, Fireball & Malort \$4 Tallboy Beers (Busch Light, PBR, Hamm's), Free Pinball & Darts. @mosphere: \$5 Well Cocktails & Draft Beer 3pm-5pm, Dancers 10pm - 1am. Baton Show Lounge: Doors open at 6pm, Shows at 7:30pm, 9:30pm & 11:30pm. Cell Block: Open 2pm-3am. Charlie's: Country Line Dancing 7 - 10pm, The Main Event 10pm - 1am Dancing until Close. Jackhammer: \$3 House Shots \$5 New Amsterdam Cocktails \$5 Miller Lite Tallboys Happy Hour Specials 5-9pm: \$5 Whiskeys, Ryes and Bourbons \$5 Chicago Handshake Everyday Specials: \$5 Fireball, Jager & Malort Shots, \$4 Tallboy Beers (Busch Light, PBR & Hamm's). Jackhammer: \$3 House Shots \$5 Miller Lite Tall Boys Happy Hour Specials: \$5 Whiskeys, Ryes and Bourbons. Everyday Specials: \$5 Fireball, Jager & Malort Shots, \$4 Tallboy Beers (Busch Light, PBR & Hamm's). Lucky Horseshoe: Open with dancers at 3pm. \$5 drink specials. Meeting House Tavern: \$5 Signature Margaritas Happy Hour Specials 2pm-5pm: \$5 New Amsterdam Cocktails \$12 Mimosa Carafes, Everyday Specials \$5 Jager, Fireball & Malort. Free Darts & Pool. North End: Open at 11am, \$3 Miller Lite Drafts 11am-2pm. Sidetrack: Open at 1pm, SaturGay Drag & Games with Sasha & Zamora Love 3-6pm, Saturday Night Dance Party 9pm-3am, Dog Day 1st Saturday of the month 1-5pm. The Sofo Tap: \$5 Lost Coast Tangerine Wheat, \$5 Signature Margaritas, Happy Hour Specials: 12pm-3pm: 1/2 Off All Drafts Everyday Specials: \$5 Jager, Fireball & Malort, \$4 Tall Boy Beers (Busch Light, PBR, Hamm's) Free Darts. Touche: Open 2pm - 5am. 8/24 Glory Hole'D, 8/31 RIPE PARTY Dim Lights, Deep Beats Go-Go Dudes DJ Harry T. 9/7 Chicago's Bear Night Midnight Pizza Panic.</p>
SUNDAY FUNDAY	<p>2 Bears Tavern Uptown: \$5 Signature Margaritas, \$6 Chicago Handshakes Happy Hour Specials 2pm-5pm \$5 New Amsterdam Cocktails Everyday Specials: \$5 Jager, Fireball & Malort \$4 Tallboy Beers (Busch Light, PBR, Hamm's), Free Pinball & Darts. @mosphere: \$6 Jack Products, \$4 Domestic Draft, House Shots \$2. Baton Show Lounge: Doors Open at 11am, Shows at 7:30pm, 9:30pm & 11:30pm. Cell Block: Open 2pm-2am Charlie's: Queeriod! Every other Sunday 5pm - 7pm, Singational Sunday Karaoke 7pm - 11pm Mas Leche 11pm - 1am, Dancing until close. Hydrate: Doors open at 2pm Northalsted's Official after Brunch party. Jackhammer: \$5 New Amsterdam CoctKails \$7 Jackhammered Long Islands Happy Hour Specials :1st Sunday: \$7 Planter's Punch 2nd Sunday: \$5 Dog Bowls (Premium Well) 3rd Sunday: \$3 Busch Light, PBR & Hamm's Tallboy Beers 4th Sunday: \$5 Stoli Cocktails (Any Flavor) 5th Sunday: \$6 New Amsterdam & Red Bull Everyday Specials: \$5 Fireball, Jager & Malort Shots, \$4 Tallboy Beers (Busch Light, PBR & Hamm's). Kit Kat Lounge: Divalicious brunch 11am-3pm, Happy Hour 4-7pm \$8.95 Martinis. Lucky Horseshoe: Open with dancers at 3pm. \$5 drink specials. Meeting House Tavern: \$3 House Shots, \$12 Mimosa Carafes. Happy Hour Specials: 7pm-10pm: \$5 New Amsterdam Cocktails. Everyday Specials \$5 Jager, Fireball & Malort. Free Darts & Pool. North End: Open at 11am, \$3 Miller Lite Drafts 7-10pm Shakers on Clark: \$1 off Bloody Mary's, \$1 off Mules: Vodka, Tequila, or Whiskey. And \$1 off all Revolution beers. Sidetrack: Open at 1pm, Sunday Funday Show Tunes 4-9pm, Sunday Funday After Dark Dance Party 9pm-2am. Touche: Open 2pm - 4am. Beer Bust \$2 Bud Light Drafts, \$2 Sodas, Clubroom Opens 6pm, Movie Night 7pm. 9/1 "Drop Your Pants" Jockstrap & Underwear Fetish Party BNC 3pm.</p>

Educate yourself about Project 2025.
Vote November 5th!

GRAB A HIT

Top 30 Dance Chart For the First week of August

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	Artist	Title
1	Casso x Raye x D block Europe	Prada
2	Rufus Du Sol	Music Is Better (Radio Edit)
3	Wanrooy x JES	We'll Be Together
4	Nathan Dawe	Ten (Get Back Up) Ft. Mnek
5	Hugel	Shimmy Shake
6	Romy	Always Forever
7	Anabel Englund	A Lesson In Chemistry
8	Seven Lions & Above & Beyond	Over Now ft. Opposite The Other
9	Brooks	Monster (Radio Mix)
10	Adam Port x Stryv	Move (Radio Edit)
11	Drove x Dillion Francis	Waterfall
12	Gravagerz	Chihiro (Radio Edit)
13	Martin Garrix & Dubvision	Wherever You Are Ft. Shaun Farrugia
14	Kream	Where Are You Tonight
15	Zack Martino & Higher Lane	Pieces
16	Armin Van Buuren & David Guetta	In The Dark Ft. Aldae
17	Cascada	Ain't No Mountain High Enough (Jax Jones Remix)
18	Zerb & The Chainsmokers	Addicted ft. Ink
19	Sick Individuals	No Drama
20	James Chris & Chris Willis	Eyes Wide Open (Radio Mix)
21	Felix Jaehn & Jonas Blue	Past Life
22	Laidback Luke	Left Or Right Ft. Matthew Nolan
23	Miramar	Poison Ft. Dakota
24	Tritonal & Kuala	From The Inside
25	Jayhem x Jamie Hiron	Can't Get Enough
26	Brando	Too Close
27	Lucas & Steve	What We Know ft. Conor Byrne
28	Seven Lions & Illenium	Not Even Love Ft. Asdis
29	Shygirl	Mr Useless ft. SG Lewis
30	Kiesza	I Go Dance

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FRIDAY, AUGUST 30

HAND BALLER NIGHT

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SATURDAY, AUGUST 31

GLORY HOLE'D

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FROM THE INFAMOUS
BIJOU THEATER!



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

JOCKSTRAP & UNDERWEAR FETISH PARTY

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LABOR DAY WEEKEND
LABOR DAY WEEKEND
LABOR DAY WEEKEND

GRAB ROGER

Buying a Condominium; Avoiding Financial Hell

By Roger V. McCaffrey-Boss, Esq.

Q: I just bought my first condominium and one week after I moved in, the association sent me a notice that there would be a special assessment to fix the back porch and stairs and that my share was \$5,000 of the cost. Do I have to pay this? At closing, I also had to pay a large transfer tax to the City of Chicago. What are my options?

A: Before you buy any condominium, you should be prepared to examine a fair amount of paperwork. It is better to work hard before the closing than to wake up to a nightmare of problems afterwards.

When you buy into a condo building, you have to pay the assessments, you are bound to pay the assessments. And if you don't, they will put a lien on your property or evict you. That's why it's important to be diligent before buying a condo unit, looking into the financials of the governing association before closing on a deal.

Before buying, find out if special assessments are anticipated, get a statement of the reserves and find out how they compare to the most recent reserve study.

A reserve study will analyze the financial state of the association's reserves and anticipate expenditures that will be needed down the line. If a study hasn't been done, step back and think about what you're getting into – an Association that may not be adequately prepared for future expenses.

When you buy make sure your sales contract is subject to your review and approval of the following condominium documents:

Declaration, bylaws, rules and regulations. You must be satisfied that you can live within the guidelines that each building imposes. The bylaws can cover pets, leasing your condominium and requirements that the apartment floors must always be carpeted to reduce noise.

Statement of any large expenditures by the association. This information will let you know if the association is planning a major building repair or improvement that could cause your assessment to increase.

Statement of the amount of the reserve or replacement fund. This information will tell you how well the board of managers is running the building and providing for future unforeseen repairs.

As for transfer taxes, if you will be making an offer to purchase, have your realtor submit your offer with a provision that the city transfer tax and all other transfer taxes, including State of Illinois and Cook



County be split 50/50 by the Seller and Purchaser. This way, some of the pain can be shared with the Seller.

If you are 65 or over, you can obtain a refund if you purchase property valued at \$250,000 or less and live in the premises for at least one year.

Know that if you are purchasing a new condominium, the Illinois Condominium Property Act provides that a "detailed accounting" is to be provided by every developer within 60 days after election of the first unit owner board of managers. The issue that comes up is whether the developer has properly paid assessments. The law requires that the developer pay assessments on unsold units beginning with the first conveyance and to collect assessments from owners of sold units during the period from the first sale until turnover to the unit-owner controlled board.

Also, be aware of the Illinois Home Repair and Remodeling Act, 815 ILCS 513/1. This law requires every contractor who performs home repair, improvement, or remodeling on residential real estate for a sum in excess of \$1,000, to obtain a written contract signed by the home owner, and a give them a copy of the pamphlet "Home Repair: Know Your Consumer Rights," prior to the beginning of the work.

Roger McCaffrey-Boss is a graduate of Hamline University School of Law, St. Paul, Minnesota, and is a member of the Chicago Bar Association. You can email him at RVMLawyer@aol.com. He suggests that you consult your own lawyer for any specific questions regarding the issues raised in this column.

SUICIDE WARNING SIGNS FOR YOUTH

You Are Not Alone

It's time to take action if you notice these signs in family or friends:

1. Talking about or making plans for suicide.
2. Expressing hopelessness about the future.
3. Displaying severe/overwhelming emotional pain or distress.
4. Showing worrisome changes in behavior, particularly in combination with the warning signs above, including significant:
 - Withdrawal from or changing social connections/situations.
 - Changes in sleep (increased or decreased).
 - Anger or hostility that seems out of character or out of context.
 - Recent increased agitation or irritability.

If you or someone you know is struggling or in crisis, help is available.

Text or call 988 or chat 988lifeline.org, or reach out to a mental health professional.

988

SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE

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FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 13

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GRAB HOLLY

When You Double Down on Demons

By Holly Maholm

Dot and I were sitting with Sassy Pants in the orchard when the Queen's chief attendant launched into yet another rant on the subject "More Reasons Why Humans are a Lesser Species." Since Dot had heard this rant before, I realized Sassy was speaking solely for my edification. She ranted on...

"Here is what drives me crazy about you two-legged half-wits – which is only to be expected, cause you would need two more legs to enjoy the same 'wit' as that extinct Species Centaur. Anyway, when a human is in the midst of making a big mistake – or a lot of little mistakes that add up to one big catastrophe – your kind often refuses to discontinue making that mistake. Instead, the reaction of your species to an 'Awareness of Error' is often to 'double down' on that very error!

"You humans are wont to conclude that... if 'Over-indulgence in Alcohol' is leading to poor decision-making on your part, the solution to your problem is to begin drinking earlier in the evening, and to leave off drinking bar-whiskey in favor of the name brand stuff."

Sassy decided she needed to tell me a story to illustrate her point. "You recall what I told you about the time Dot and I tried to warn the local mean girls not to get 'In Debt to a Demon.'

And you might have assumed they recognized their mistake and turned back from disaster, but no. Those girls were members of the Species Human, and accordingly, they concluded that their actual error had been their unwillingness to go deeply enough in debt to that demon."

Sassy turned her head and dipped her muzzle into the pail of fresh spring water sitting at her shoulder, and after fortifying herself with that revivifying nectar, went on. "In short, the mean girls – having been confronted by a terrifying, demonic Dire Wolf (me in disguise) – were shocked to observe that some other human (whom they were tricked into thinking was Sarah) had succeeded in making a bargain with another, equally powerful and malevolent Demon.

"So, my point is this: Those girls – being all-too-human – decided the only cure for their misadventure in the forest was to 'Double Down' on that very Demon who had threatened them!"

Dot picked up the story. "A few days after that confrontation, one of the mean girls – Kaitlyn – came to me with a proposition: 'Since I was friends with Sarah, would I tell her they were sorry about what happened in the forest, and they would let her be friends with them if she would agree to introduce them to that... "giant furry horse or whatever it was" she was riding near the campfire in the forest.'

"I consulted with Sassy, and we devised a plan. I told Kaitlyn that she and the other girls should go back out to the forest during a full moon and build a big bonfire where it was before. Then they should wait for the Demon to appear. This they did, and I watched from the darkness as Sassy assumed her disguise as a Demonic Dire Wolf, who trotted out of the woods and sat down majestically before the terrified girls."

Sassy resumed telling the story. "So, speaking as a Demonic Dire Wolf, I instructed them: 'If you young women wish to enter into an arrangement with a demon such as me, but without thereby incurring a "Debt to a Demon," here is what you must do: You must make no demand upon the Demon for



any benefit for yourself. Instead, you must take on willingly the obligation to satisfy whatever desire most pleases the demon. Are you willing to do that?' All the girls nodded yes.

"Then next, I set the trap!" Sassy enthused. "I told them, 'I am always in need of attendants who – though not actually possessing any "demonic" powers – nevertheless instill fear in the heart of any ordinary human they encounter. Now, if you are willing to assume the role of Demonic Attendant to me – an Upper Level Demonic spirit appearing before you in the form of a Dire Wolf – then place your hands over your hearts and repeat these words: 'I swear obedience to you, my Demonic Overlord, and I agree to make whatever sacrifice you require of me, in service to you and all other Demons Greater than You.' All six girls swore that oath.

"Then... I sprang the trap!" Sassy gleefully announced. "'Since you have all sworn the oath, I will now use my demonic powers to bestow upon each of you great power to instill fear in others.' Whereupon – pretending to seal the Demonic Bargain the girls had made – I used my unicorn magic to disguise each of them with the appearance (and odor) of an enormous skunk."

(To be continued)

Holly Maholm is a transgender woman living in Cleveland, Ohio. Look for Holly's book *Offered Magic: My Life Among the Unicorns* (now available on Amazon) which collects the first 126 episodes of Holly's adventures involving both magical unicorns and her LGBTQ friends. Send a message to Holly at www.hollymaholm.com.

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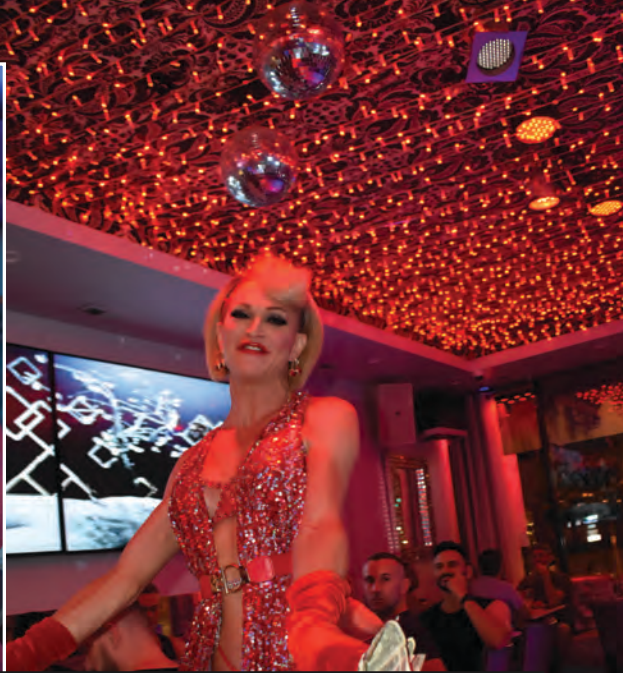


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Photos By Anthony Meade



GRAB A PLANE



Florida Without the Glitter and Glitz or Gays in the ‘Glades

By Rick Karlin

We all know the Florida we’ve seen on TV and in the movies. From Tampa to Orlando to Fort Lauderdale, Miami to Key West, it’s non-stop partying. Everything’s fabulous: drag queens rolling around in the streets, glitter falling from the ceiling, disco balls spinning, strobe lights flashing, “Yaassss Queeeeeen!” It’s exhausting. Next time you plan a trip to Florida, add a couple of extra days to your trip and schedule a few days at the Parkway Motel & Marina on Chokoloskee Island to decompress.

Choca-what, you ask? It’s in the middle of nowhere, darlings. And that’s just the point!

Chokoloskee Island native, Aaron Tabor, with husband and business partner David Ardelean (a partner in Drynk), went back home to visit Aaron’s family and discovered that the local motel and marina, dripping in mid-century charm, was for sale. Being the entrepreneurial types they are, they thought why not make this a little gay getaway? So, they bought it. While they were at it, they also bought the HavAnnA Café, the best restaurant in town. And how are the locals taking it in this deep red part

of the state? Just fine because they love “the boys” as they refer to David and Aaron. It helps that Aaron’s a hometown boy, and the money it brings into town doesn’t hurt either. Oh, there are a few locals that make sure you see their Trump signs, but that’s about as far as it goes.

Built in 1956 and originally owned by the Smallwood Family, Parkway Village was Chokoloskee’s first fishing camp with direct access to gulf channels, and mangrove islands just a few hundred yards away. Surrounded by millions of miles of wilderness with Everglades National Park to the east-southeast, and 10,000 Islands National Wildlife Refuge to the north-northwest. To get there from Fort Lauderdale or Miami, you head west on I-75, aka Alligator Alley, for about an hour and a half. Just before getting to the West Coast of Florida, you hang a left and drive about another half hour until you can’t go any farther. It’s like a mirror image of Florida on either coast. It’s about as rural as you can get, although there have been some recent condominium developments as folks are beginning to discover the easy access to the Gulf of

Mexico’s glorious sunsets and reasonable real estate prices.

The Parkway Motel and Marina is located at the end of Highway 29 in southwest Florida’s unspoiled coastal estuary on the Ancient Calusa Indian Barrier Island named Chokoloskee. Myriad wildlife brings nature enthusiasts from all over the world to this UNESCO World Heritage Site.

The Parkway Motel offers clean comfortable standard rooms and kitchenette suites. This historic 1950s motel gives you a charming and laid-back Caribbean flair. Standard rooms offer one queen and one full bed, a microwave, mini-fridge, and can comfortably sleep up to four. The kitchenette rooms offer a bit more space; a small kitchen, along with cooking and eating utensils for meal prep, and can sleep up to four.

A variety of trailers and a cottage are available as accommodation, all air-conditioned. Two of the “modular homes” include a two bed/one bath with a junior kitchen, pull-out sofa sleeper, BBQ grill, and a screened-in patio, a third is a two bed/two bath with central air, pull out sofa, full-sized kitchen, and a washer/dryer.

All three sleep six comfortably. There's also a three bed/two bath double-wide, with a king in the main bedroom, and a futon in the third bedroom. There's a dining area for when you're feeling fancy, covered parking, and a fire pit in the yard. It also sleeps six comfortably.

To get the true backwoods feel rent one of the original homes of the area. Originally owned by the Smallwoods, the historic cottage overlooks the marina. It's a spacious 1,800 square foot, two bedroom/two bath home with a family-sized kitchen and dinette area, a family room with a pull-out sofa sleeper, an en suite main bedroom with a king-sized bed, and twin beds in the second bedroom. It comfortably sleeps six. You can watch the gorgeous sunsets safe from the mosquitos from the screened-in patio which overlooks the marina basin.

If you've got a boat, avoid the traffic, and sail your way to Parkway Marina. It has the closest access to the Gulf and the Everglades National Park in the area. The boat docks are available for rent and can manage most boats. Its full-service marina and tackle shop has everything you'll need for an enjoyable day of fishing, including an incredible historic boat lift.

What is there to do? Not much. And that's the point. Rent a boat and



tour the mangrove jungles or take an airboat tour of the Everglades. Visit one of the quaint little museums, such as The Smallwood Store, or one of the five Collier County museums. Step back in time and have a cocktail at the historic Rod & Gun Club (skip the food.) Take a side trip to Everglades City. Be sure to rent a boat and head out to the Gulf to watch the sunset. You might even see some dolphins playing in the wake of your boat as I did. Head over to the Fakahatchee Strand

Preserve and walk along the miles of boardwalks through Big Cypress Bend State Park, where you can see nature – at a safe distance. We spotted a couple of alligators. At night, coat yourself with bug spray, put on your long pants and long-sleeved shirts, and sit out and watch the stars.

Dining options in Chokoloskee are limited. There's HavAnnA Café, started in 2003 by Carlos and Dulce Valdez. Carlos worked his kitchen magic while Dulce brought her crowd-pleasing expertise, creating the brand and making it

the go-to spot for the best Cuban cuisine in Collier County. Aaron and David are carrying on traditions in the restaurant while making the cuisine even more delightful. They've added new, mouthwatering "cracker cuisine" to the menu and expanded it with serene outdoor garden seating, Aaron's contemporary sculptures, a few live chickens, and a selection of beers and wines. They've amped up the fun with lively music and weekly activities, making life on Chokoloskee Island even more enjoyable. Occasionally, they'll bring in drag queens from Fort Lauderdale, Tampa, Orlando, or Miami for weekend shows. We found this place so charming and reasonably priced that we dined there for breakfast and dinner, and were so full after breakfast, that lunch wasn't required. It's a favorite for visitors and locals alike, who seem to have accepted "the boys" as part of the Chokoloskee community. You can also drive to nearby Everglades City to check out a variety of restaurants.

After a few days of rest and relaxation at The Parkway Motel and Marina, you'll be ready to return home, refreshed from your vacation and thinking about when you can return for some of the queer Florida hospitality. For more information on parkway Motel & Maina visit <http://www.parkwaymotelmarina.com>



David Ardelean and Aaron Tabor, Parkway Marina co-owners

GRAB JIM

Life “Lessons”: An interview with gay writer Jim Provenzano

By Gregg Shapiro

Young adult (aka Y/A) fiction has come a long way since many of us were, well, young adults. I’m not just talking about maniacal TERF J.K. Rowling’s inexplicably popular fantasy novel series either. The presence and representation of queer characters in books, including Alice Oseman’s “Heartstopper” series, is central and necessary. This is something of which gay journalist and Lambda Literary Award-winning novelist Jim Provenzano is keenly aware in his debut Y/A novella, “Lessons in Teenage Biology” (Myrmidude Press, 2024). While set in the late 1970s, the story of queer high school student Tom Mollicelli’s daily struggles, could just as easily be taking place today. Subjects such as bullying, secret crushes, and family situations, still have the resonance they did almost 50 years ago (or more). Jim was gracious enough to make time for an interview during Pride month 2024.

Gregg Shapiro: If I’ve done my research thoroughly, “Lessons in Teenage Biology” is your first novella. Do you foresee writing additional novellas about Tom Mollicelli?

Jim Provenzano: I’ve only written one novel sequel, and that was “Message of Love,” the sequel to my fourth novel, “Every Time I Think of You.” It wasn’t expected, but by the time I finished it, I had already had a bunch of side notes that developed into the sequel. Several advance readers said they wanted more. But I’m not sure about that because I originally wrote this back in 1986. To write more would be kind of impersonating the voice that I had at the time. I’ve done that before, but I’m not sure I want to do that this time.

GS: I’m guessing that you’ve been out of high school for a while. However, you’ve succeeded in giving the setting gravitas and authenticity. What are the rewards and challenges for you when it comes to writing about the 1970s?

JP: I feel a kind of responsibility to describe that era because those who experienced that are part of an elder generation that needs to tell their stories. It’s also a very rich time in terms of music, fashion, good or bad, and just the whole era of it was innocent in some ways. And since the 1970s are now 40 years ago, I like to presume that it could be considered historical fiction [laughs].

GS: The 1970s setting of “Lessons in Teenage Biology” made me think about the Y/A books being read during the 1970s, including those by Paul Zindel, Judy Blume, and S.E. Hinton, among others. Do you have a favorite Y/A author from this period?

JP: I was a voracious reader for as far as I can remember, including getting stickers from the public library for the amount of books I read, or going to the Scholastic Book Fairs as a teen. It’s kind of obvious, but JD Salinger’s “Catcher in the Rye” just struck a chord for me at the time.

GS: Each of the chapters uses a biological term as its title. Was that something you planned from the start, or did it come later?



JP: As I said, I wrote this in 1986. The first draft was just a flurry of writing on a manual typewriter with paper that I taped together to try to make a scroll like Jack Kerouac did. He was, of course, a big influence for me back in college with my early scribbles. The biological terms came later when I realized I wanted it divided into chapters instead of being a big run-on as the original was written.

I wanted a title that was clearly Young Adult but also clever, like a textbook. The original title was “Little Volcanoes,” which is a reference to acne. But in looking up other titles with volcanoes, they were literally about volcanoes, so I didn’t want to make that mistake. Of course, Bonnie Garmus’ book (and TV series) “Lessons in Chemistry” was a big inspiration for the title. It has a double meaning and I like that.

GS: Bullying, which I think has been around since the beginning of time, appears in the book, prominently represented by the vicious Joe Briggs. Did you experience bullying when you were a teen?

JP: Well, a lot of this is based on actual experiences and yes, I did actually get bullied by a guy in school which led to a fight, and then it was broken up by my late sister.

It's really all an homage to her. The sister character is basically her, too.

GS: I appreciated the way you wrote about religion in the book, particularly at the opening of the "Metaphase" chapter. It serves as a reminder of the way religious fanaticism has been infiltrating public schools for years.

JP: Yes, there were a lot of well-intentioned Christian schoolmates who tried to get me to go to church meetings. Mostly I just went because I had a crush on the guy, but it never took. And yes, they would slip those awful Chick Comics in your locker slats, as if a tiny comic book would convert us [laughs]!

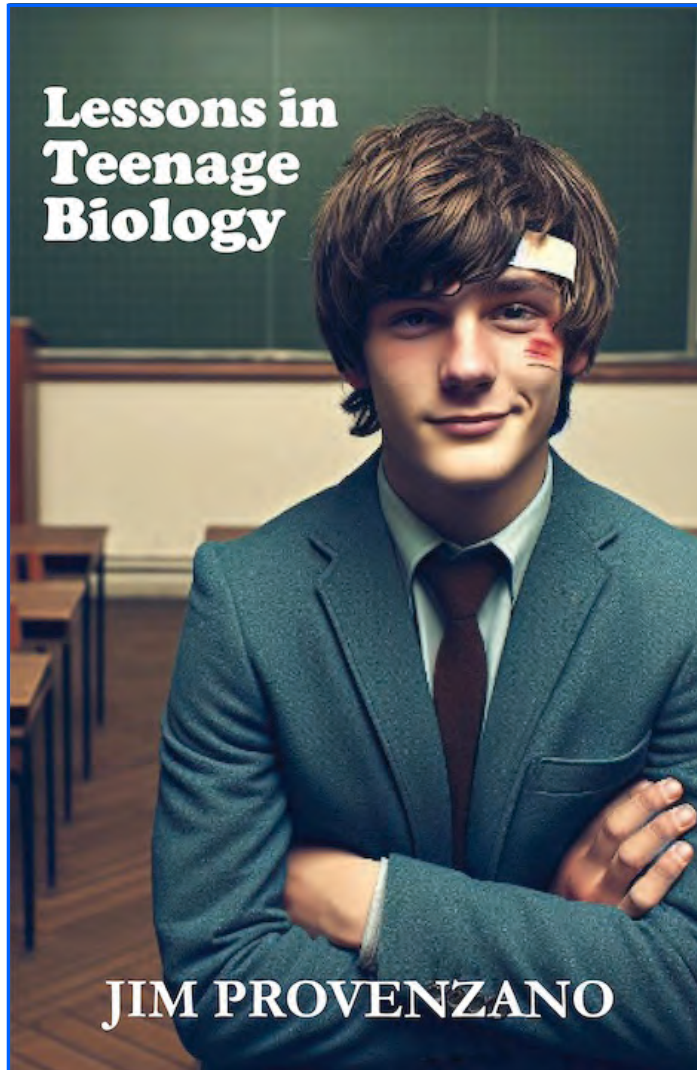
GS: In the second and fifth chapters of the book you write about Tom shoplifting a "Playgirl" magazine, which was a kind of rite of passage for a generation of gay men.

JP: I think at that time teenagers didn't have access to gay pornography, and "Playgirl" was so commonly found in mall bookstores. My mom even had a couple copies at one time, and I would sneak into her bedside dresser to get a peek. When I started shoplifting, I would hide them up in the attic. But my brother found one once and it was very embarrassing.

GS: Writing about sex in a Y/A book seems like a big responsibility. You handle it with ease, including the subjects of masturbation, blow jobs, homoeroticism, when "boners bumped," and, of course, the last page! What are the challenges and rewards of writing about sex?

JP: Writing about sex can either be intentionally erotic or comic. And I tried to do both. The main point of pornography is the plumbing, I guess. The main point of literary descriptions is that you describe everything else that's going on, including the sex.

their efforts often backfire. There are a lot of groups that are fighting to keep books on shelves and to defend librarians and libraries. It's a constant struggle. But being a small mostly self-published author, I'm just happy to get in any public library. My books are in 83 different libraries around the U.S., so it's really great to know that they're there.



GS: If there was a movie version of "Lessons in Teenage Biology," who would you like to see as Tom? Who as Chuck?

JP: Actually, I'm not very well informed about young actors today, except the "Heartstopper" guys. As long as the actors were comfortable playing the roles, I'd be happy. Whoever played Chuck would have to be beguiling and charming. Whoever played Tom would have to be a bit naïve; clever, but not completely all there.

A long time ago, I had a literary agent for my first novel, and a bite from a film producer for "Pins." Of course, it never panned out, and I was led by the nose for a long time that it might happen. So, I'm not very enthusiastic about fantasizing about film adaptations.

The best success I had was being asked to write a stage adaptation of "Pins,"

which was done here in San Francisco at New Conservatory Theatre Center in 2002. That was a great experience, because some of the actors were just perfect and it had a successful run. I'm certainly open to film adaptations, and I have a few incomplete screenplays, but I don't get my hopes up. I'd just like people read my books and imagine the characters on their own.

GS: I don't know if you were thinking about book banning while you were writing "Lessons in Teenage Biology," but if you were, what would it mean to if your novella was banned?

JP: I've joked with other fellow authors that we would love to be banned for publicity purposes, but it's actually a serious issue. Thousands of books have been stolen or taken from schools and public libraries by right wingers, and

GRAB A BOOK

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

"Blessings" by Chukwuebuka Ibeh c.2024, Doubleday \$28.00 288 pages



Sometimes, you just need to step back a minute.

You need time to regroup, to think things through, and a scenery change is the place to do it. Get past your current position, and situations can become clearer somehow. Thoughts can be re-organized. Problems pivot. As in the new novel "Blessings" by Chukwuebuka Ibeh, you'll have a different perspective.

Obiefuna didn't say much on the road to the seminary.

What was there to say? His father had caught him in a too-cozy situation with a young man who'd been taken in as an apprentice and for that, Obiefuna was being sent away. Away from his mother, his younger brother, Ekene, and from the young man that fifteen-year-old Obiefuna was in love with.

Life in seminary was bad – Obiefuna was always on alert for Seniors, who were said to be abusive because abuse was allowed, even encouraged – but things weren't as bad as he thought they might be. He made friends and good grades but he missed his mother. Did she suspect he was gay? Obiefuna wanted to tell her, but he hid who he was.

Mostly, he kept to himself until he caught the eye of Senior Papilo, who was said to be the cruelest of the cruel. Amazingly, though, Senior Papilo became Obiefuna's protector, letting Obiefuna stay in his bed, paying for Obi's first experience with a woman, making sure Obiefuna had better food. Maybe Obiefuna loved Senior Papilo but Senior had other boys, which made Obi work twice as hard to be his favorite. Still, he hid.

And then Senior Papilo passed his final exams and moved on.

So, eventually, did Obiefuna. Sure, there were other boys – one who almost got him expelled, a chaplain who begged forgiveness, and there was even a girl once – but Obi grew up and fully embraced his truth: all he wanted was to be accepted for himself, to be loved.

As Nigeria moved toward making same-sex marriage illegal, though,

neither one looked likely...

So here's the puzzle: the story inside "Blessings" is interesting. Obiefuna is a great character who takes what happens with quiet compliance, as if he long-ago relinquished hope that he could ever control his own life. Instead, he passively lets those who surround him take the reins and though reasons for this are not clearly stated and it's uncomfortable, it's easy to grasp and accept why. This goes, too, for the Seniors whose actions readers will tacitly understand.

What's not easy to accept is that author Chukwuebuka Ibeh's story often slows to a glacial pace, with great chunks of the books' multi-year timeline crunched into basically only highlights. You'll be left loving this story but hating its stride.

The best advice is to embrace this moving novel's message and accept the slowness, love the excellent characters, but don't be surprised if you find yourself checking to see how many pages you have left to crawl through. Yes, you'll enjoy the soul-touching cast in "Blessings" but if speed in a plot supersedes good characters, then step back.

"Pixel Flesh: How Toxic Beauty Culture Harms Women" by Ellen Atlanta c.2024, St. Martin's Press \$30.00 384 pages



Your face is lovely, dewy, and softly unlined.

You paid a lot for that, both monetarily and in pain, in time and in worry. You've tested every product, tried every fad, talked to many dermatologists about staying younger-looking, and you certainly can't stop now. As in the new book, "Pixel Flesh" by Ellen Atlanta, you can't stop aging, either.

Beauty must suffer.

You've heard something like that time and again. Curling your hair tight hurts. It's painful to exercise beyond your limits. Most medical procedures are not without at least a little ouch. But is it worth it?

Many women believe so – in some cases, nearly 1 in 3 of us – but Ellen Atlanta shows that our obsession with

cosmetics and body-altering methods comes with some concerns. These are things that are so-called "empowering," but she sees danger.

It's never-ending, she says: as soon as a woman does one thing to alter her looks, she will be expected to do another because beauty standards escalate and change over time. What was beautiful thirty years ago – both in clothing size, body size, and cosmetically speaking – is no longer acceptable or enough.

"Young girls then look to us, ideal women, to discover that their pursuit of beauty means lifting, shaping, dieting, dyeing, injecting, slicing, scarring, painting, curling, padding, cutting, starving, concealing, and revealing."

It continues, Atlanta says, with high heels (and foot pain), everyday make-up, "or apologising! profusely! as a form of subservience." This, she says, leads to "censorship of women's bodies," especially women of color, overweight women, and "queer women."

To change our attitudes about beauty won't be easy. Google searches for implants and "bum lifts" have risen among 16-to-21-year-olds. Cosmetics counters are full of preteen anti-wrinkle users. A recent survey indicated that one in four seven-year-olds say they've dieted.

In other words, when it comes to negative talk about body image, your children are listening...

A nip here, a tuck there, a whole new look with no harm to it? Or, as author Ellen Atlanta hints, is being "beautiful" toxic from the inside out? The answer – or at least a new way of perceiving the subject – may lie inside "Pixel Flesh."

Just know this: changing the beauty industry is no easier than reading about it. Atlanta throws statistic after survey result at readers, along with outrageous information about patriarchal attitudes toward the female body, sexual harassment, and how porn ties into all this. It's hard to read, both because of the information itself, and because the narrative feels stiff and sometimes a little more complex than it perhaps needs to be. Atlanta seems to focus highly on a certain controversial Hollywood family, rather than general (or other) fashion icons, which also takes some relevance off the table for readers who struggle to totally grasp this issue.

Still, if you've got a young adult in your life, or if you want to step off the treadmill yourself, this book may be the start you need. "Pixel Flesh" may put a new wrinkle in your beauty routine.



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LAKEVIEW EAST CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ANNOUNCES THE 19TH ANNUAL LAKEVIEW EAST FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS, SATURDAY AND SUNDAY SEPT 14 & 15



The Lakeview East Chamber of Commerce is proud to host and produce the 19th Annual Lakeview East Festival of the Arts. The official hours for the Lakeview East Festival of the Arts are Saturday, Sept. 14 from 11 a.m. – 7 p.m. with additional hours for live music, food and drink tents until 10 p.m. and Sunday, Sept. 15 from 11 a.m. – 7 p.m.

Lakeview East is a dynamic diversified neighborhood community rich in culture, history and the arts. The Lakeview East Chamber of Commerce works hand in hand with its local residents and business owners and is pleased to offer its neighbors and the Chicagoland area with one of the premier fine art outdoor festivals. For more than 18 years, the Lakeview East Chamber of Commerce has presented one of the most unique and popular art festivals in Chicagoland.

Every aspect, from artists to musicians to vendors and everything in between, is specifically selected by the Lakeview East Chamber of Commerce in order to bring the best to the heart of Lakeview and to all who visit during the Festival.

Lakeview East Festival of the Arts asks for a \$5 donation upon entrance, this fee goes to supporting additional events and offerings in the Lakeview East area.

The 2024 Lakeview East Festival of the Arts showcases more than 120-juried artists featuring world-class original paintings, sculpture, photography, furniture, jewelry and more. In addition to the diverse artists' booths, the Festival also includes live music on multiple stages, a children's play area, wine, beer and food booths, an interactive garden oasis and much more. The image chosen for the 2024 Festival is Ethos Meets Reality by **Greta Sandquist**, known for her modern

impressionist oil and acrylic paintings.

Visit www.LakeviewEastFestivalOfTheArts.com for more information.

NAVY PIER LINES UP CHICAGO HOUSE MUSIC LEGENDS FOR 40TH ANNIVERSARY TRIBUTE AT 'CHICAGO LIVE!' 2024 SEPTEMBER 21-22



Chicago Live! at Navy Pier will bring together the legends and top names of Chicago House music at this year's festival, Sept. 21 - 22. Capping off the city's summerlong celebration of the 40th anniversary of the genre, the two-day tribute will feature iconic Chicago House singers **Dajae**, **Suzanne Palmer**, **Andrea Love**, **Shawn Christopher**, and the first lady of disco, **Linda Clifford**, sharing the bill with pioneering DJs **Ralphie Rosario**, **Derrick Carter**, **Psycho Bitch**, **Lady D**, **Ron Carroll**, **Michael Serafini**, and **Ca\$h Era**.

"These are the local names that revolutionized dance music globally," said **Erika Taylor**, Navy Pier's Vice President of Arts, Culture, and Engagement. "With Chicago Live! we strive to shine a spotlight on all facets of Chicago's vibrant performing arts community – none of which has been more intrinsically linked to our city's unique rhythm for the past four decades than Chicago House music."

According to **Frederick Dunson**, President and Executive Director of *The Frankie Knuckles Foundation*, a collaborating partner in the Chicago Live! tribute, "House music brings people together in ways few other mediums can. It's meant to be felt. At Chicago Live!, we'll have the best-of-the-best pumping up the music to help people feel it...in their hearts and souls."

The largest free performing arts festival in the Midwest, this year's fourth-annual Chicago Live! will welcome more than 100 Chicago-centric artists and performing groups in back-to-back

performances across five Pier stages. The 40th Anniversary Tribute to Chicago House Music will take place on the Wave Wall Stage from 3 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Saturday, and 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday.

For more information, visit NavyPier.org.

REELING: THE 42nd CHICAGO LGBTQ+ INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES NEW PRESENTING PARTNER SKITTLES®



Reeling: The 42nd Chicago LGBTQ+ International Film Festival has announced a new partnership with SKITTLES®. SKITTLES has come in as a Presenting Sponsor of REELING and will have a tangible presence during the festival, which is running in-person this year from September 19 to 29 and online from September 28 to October 6, 2024.

As a part of their sponsorship, SKITTLES will be presenting a special award, The SKITTLES Community Pride Prize, to the film that best represents the spirit of the LGBTQ+ community. The winning film will be selected by audience vote from among films nominated by a jury of LGBTQ+ community members.

The winner will be announced and presented with the \$10,000 award during the closing night of Reeling.

Reeling is honored to be one of five communities across the United States being sponsored by SKITTLES as part of its global Pride celebration. More about the celebration, partnerships and communities can be found at SKITTLES.com/pride.

Reeling and SKITTLES are thrilled to bring audiences together to "See The Rainbow" at this year's festival.

For more information about Reeling: The Chicago LGBTQ+ International Film Festival or the new SKITTLES Community Pride Prize, visit reelingfilmfest.org.

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**REDTWIST THEATRE'S
PRODUCTION OF LARRY
KRAMER'S *THE NORMAL
HEART* NOW RUNS AUGUST 25 -
SEPTEMBER 29 AT THE
RENOVATED ROGERS PARK
THEATRE**



Award-winning Redtwist Theatre has announced that due to ongoing

construction at the theatre, *The Normal Heart*, written by **Larry Kramer** and directed by Ensemble Member **Ted Hoerl**, will now run August 25 - September 29. The performance schedule is Thursdays - Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 3:30 p.m. The anticipated running time, including intermission, is 120 minutes.

Larry Kramer's beautiful, searing play about the earliest days of the AIDS epidemic, based on his experience organizing Gay Men's Health Crisis, opens Redtwist's newly renovated venue. The play, winner of

Tony, Drama Desk and Olivier Awards, tells the story of an advocacy group that struggled against government suppression and internal strife in the face of the disappearance of their community. This heart wrenching, humanist play, written more than 40 years ago about a small group of advocates calling for action from a government that insists that nothing is wrong, seems darkly familiar and more universal than ever.

For Tickets or more information visit RedtwistTheatre.org

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Highland Park Players proudly presents the seven time Tony Award nominated musical, *The Prom!*, running August 16th through August 25th at the McGrath Family Performing Arts Center, 3424 Illinois Road, Wilmette, IL.

At its heart, *The Prom!* is a

heartwarming story about finding the bravery to love, and the desire to be seen as our true, authentic selves," says director, **Lauren Katz**. "We hope audiences can learn alongside these characters as they discover their voices. Who knows? Maybe you too will find the courage to get up and dance - to live in the joy and be unapologetically you, no matter who is watching."

To purchase tickets go to www.highlandparkplayers.org.



**PARAMOUNT THEATRE
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Paramount Theatre in downtown Aurora is ready to prove the naked truth - anything can be accomplished with the right mix of friends and

courage - with its cheeky 2024-25 Broadway Series opener, *The Full Monty*.

Director **Jim Corti** and Associate Director **Creg Slavi**, fresh from their acclaimed production of *Million Dollar Quartet* at Paramount's new Stolp Island Theatre, are teamed again to stage this side-splitting musical about blue-collar steelworkers from Buffalo, New York, who trade the unemployment grind for a different kind of grind.

The songs in this 10-time Tony Award nominee, including "You Rule My World" and "Breeze Off the River," capture the spirit of the '90s, creating

a feel-good experience that challenges stereotypes and celebrates the triumph of the human spirit.

So throw any old thing on top of your birthday suit, and see why Paramount Theatre is the largest subscription theater in the U.S. Previews of *The Full Monty* start August 21. Press opening is Friday, August 30 at 8 p.m. Performances run through October 6 at Paramount Theatre, 23 E. Galena Blvd. in downtown Aurora.

For Tickets or more information, visit ParamountAurora.com, or call (630) 896-6666, or stop by the Paramount box office.

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OPENS 49TH SEASON WITH
NOISES OFF BY MICHAEL FRAYN
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DOWNSTAIRS THEATER**



Steppenwolf Theatre Company,

the nation's premier ensemble theater company, is pleased open its 49th season with a revival of **Michael Frayn's** classic comedy *Noises Off*, directed by Tony Award-winning ensemble member **Anna D. Shapiro** (August: Osage County, *The Minutes*), presented in a co-production with Geffen Playhouse. Steppenwolf's take on the funniest farce ever written will play September 12 - October 27, 2024 in Steppenwolf's Downstairs Theater, 1650 N. Halsted St. in Chicago.

The cast and crew of *Nothing On* are scrambling to prepare for opening night, but despite their earnest efforts, the production is an absolute mess.

Line flubs and lost props and missed cues, oh my! Can this beleaguered ensemble overcome egos and jealousies to pull the show together in time?

Onstage antics collide with offstage foibles in Steppenwolf's production of *Noises Off*, the classic comedy that writes an ingenious, slapstick and zany tribute to "theatre people" everywhere. By the end of this dizzying play-within-a-play, you won't know stage right from left.

Tickets are now on sale at steppenwolf.org or the Box Office at (312) 335-1650.

A20 THE NEW YORK TIMES, FRIDAY

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Featuring ensemble members **Audrey Francis, Francis Guinan, Ora Jones and James Vincent Meredith** with **Vaneh Assadourian, Amanda Fink, Rick Holmes, Andrew Leeds and Max Stewart.**

The cast and crew of *Nothing On* are scrambling to prepare for opening night, but despite their earnest efforts, the production is an absolute mess. Line flubs and lost props and missed cues, oh my! Can this beleaguered ensemble overcome egos and jealousies to pull the show together in time?

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A photograph of three shirtless men in a locker room. The man in the center is a Black man with dark, wavy hair and a serious expression, looking towards the right. He has several tattoos on his chest and arms. To his left is a man with a goatee and short hair, looking towards the center. To his right is a young man with short brown hair, looking towards the center. The background consists of red lockers.

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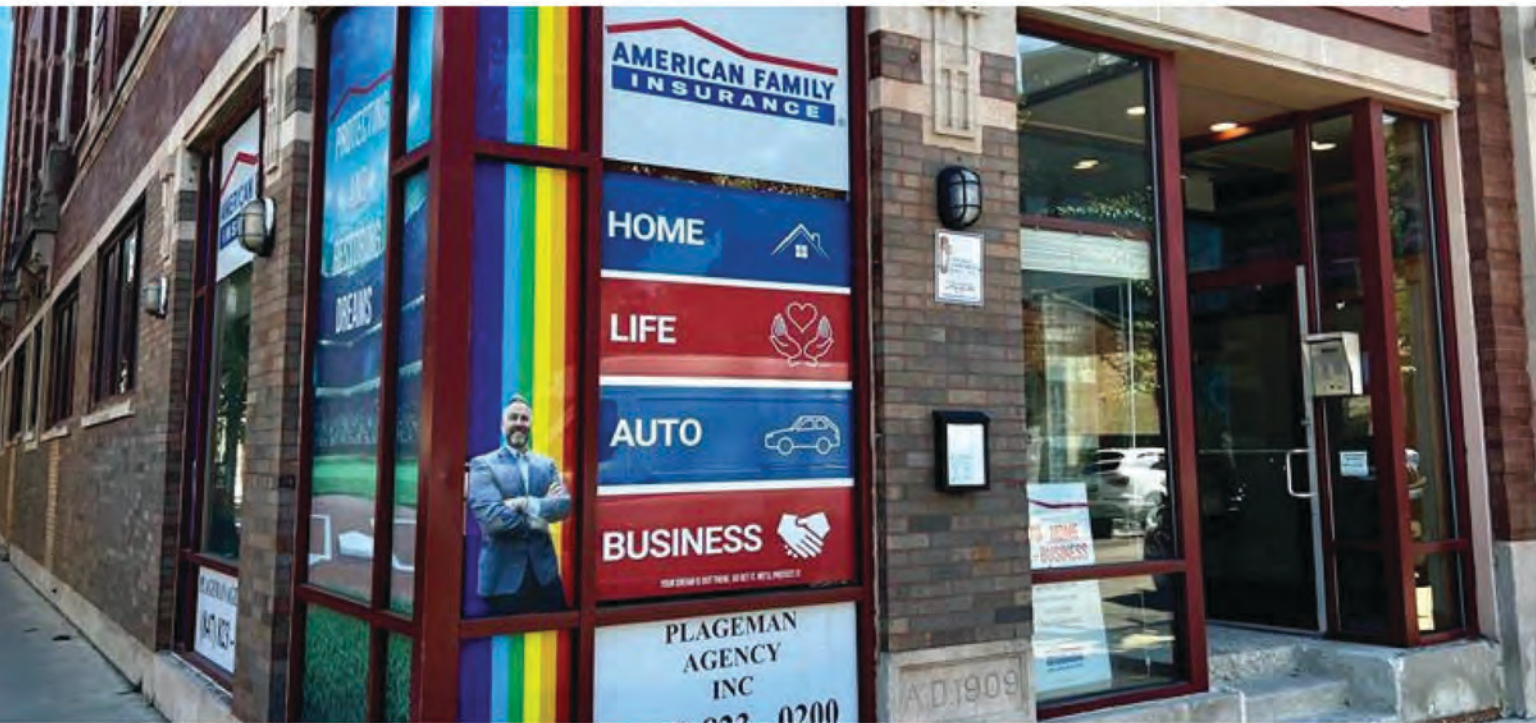
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