

NOVEMBER 19, 2024 VOL XV • ISSUE#11

# GRAB MAGAZINE

CHICAGO'S MONTHLY  
LGBTQ+ PUBLICATION

Cyndi  
Lauper

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TOUR



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# GRAB CYNDI



## “Fun” farewell: An interview with Cyndi Lauper

By Gregg Shapiro

When I did the tally, I realized that, including this one, I've had the pleasure of interviewing Cyndi Lauper nine times since 1997. Of course, that doesn't match the number of times I've been fortunate to see her perform live – that would be 12, beginning in 1984. And now, as I prepare to see her for a 13th time, it's with a touch of sadness as Lauper is embarking on her farewell tour. One of the best friends the LGBTQ+ community has ever had, Lauper's multi-artist True Colors Tours, which ran from 2007-2010 and raised funds for the Matthew Shepard Foundation, PFLAG, and HRC, and the subsequent founding of True Colors United in 2008, which continues to help homeless LGBTQ+ youth, are just a couple of examples her activism. Additionally, Lauper is a lifetime musical trendsetter. For instance, she recorded a duet with the late Tony Bennett, more than 10 years before Lady Gaga did, as well as releasing dance-oriented and country music albums, 14 and 8 years, respectively, before Beyoncé. When it comes to her legendary personal style, social media fashion critic Nicky Campbell recently

declared Lauper an icon in his review of the 2024 VMA fashions. Now, as we prepare to say farewell to Lauper on the concert tour circuit, she was generous enough to make time for an interview before hitting the road.

**Gregg Shapiro: In preparing for this interview, in which we're talking about your farewell tour, I pulled out my 12 ticket stubs from your concerts I've attended since 1984, beginning with two that year in Boston. Do you remember what that first, headlining tour as a solo artist felt like for you?**

**Cyndi Lauper:** I just wanted to make sure I had places to go. I wanted the sound to be really great. I don't know if I accomplished that, but I did have those big speakers that I used to run up on. That's me! I loved that. Because I saw all those wonderful English groups, the ska bands...  
**GS:**... you mean Madness and The English Beat and The Specials?  
**CL:** The Specials! I thought they were extraordinary. The singer (Neville Staple), I don't know where his family was from, I guess he could have been Jamaican English. He was so fierce, singing so great, and he climbed up on top of the speaker and put up his fist and he's singing

his guts out. I'm thinking, "It's Mighty Mouse!" When I was a kid that was kind of my favorite show, I don't know why [laughs]. But it always influenced me, and I remember in '84, '85 I was still free. When '86 came then I became a prisoner of the system.

**GS: Being on a major record label, and all that.**

**CL:** I wasn't allowed to touch anybody. I wasn't allowed to go out to them (in the audience) or have them come to me. It was totally different, and I totally hated it.

**GS: Did you ever imagine that 40 years later you would be embarking on a farewell tour?**

**CL:** Well, at some point, sure. I think that for me this is the perfect time. Because it's a kind of bucket list of what I always wanted to do. In the beginning, it was roughneck style. Whatever I could jimmy-rig, I did. When I got to a certain point, like we were doing the (live) "Money Changes Everything" video. I had fantasies of a cherry-picker. Because of our budget, everyone said "Well, you can't get a cherry-picker but we'll give you a garbage pail and a pulley system. I thought to myself, "Oh no, like Oscar the Grouch?" I

had a friend who was a great interviewer, and she used to interview everybody from a garbage pail. So, of course, that's what my people gave me to go up in the crowd. I thought it was a pulley system. The pulley system was actually 10 men with rope holding it. When I started to shake (while singing), I started to slip out of their hands. They brought me right in. That could have been the reason that the lawyer made me sign my will before I left.

**GS: Are you planning to sing songs from each of your albums?**

**CL:** I'm really trying. I didn't get anything from the blues album (2010's "Memphis Blues") in there because there's too many songs. I usually get to the point where (I say), "Hey, guys, if the visuals look good for this, can we switch the songs?" What I did was I wanted to do visuals (on the tour). I wanted to do performance art. That means you have to be on a click. Like when I went out on the (Rod) Stewart tour and we used the lyric video of "Sally's Pigeons." You can't do that and not be on a click, because the guy running visual has to be on the click. If nobody's together, it's like, "Hey, what the hell now the words are there... no they're not."

**GS: It's like a badly dubbed movie.**

**CL:** Yeah. But this time I got this wonderful visual director, Brian Burke, who worked for years with the creative director of Cirque Du Soleil, and not having people flying through the air. In the beginning of all that, that was my fantasy! I wanted to fly through the air, and all I got was a cherry-picker – not a cherry-picker, but a garbage pail. It wasn't going to happen for me. Now, I'm 71! I'm not gonna go flying through the air. It's a mixture of collabs with artists and art. Art and music. The whole thing is an artist collective, any time you go out on tour. It's not just you. You're with other dance artists if you're a dancer, or you're with musicians. Or you're with lighting designers, that's art, too. We did these collabs and I'm excited to present a show like this because it's something I always wanted to do. Fingers crossed that it all works out. I'm even going to do costume changes this time, which you know I never do because it's so

bothersome. But I can do it in a way now that I'm comfortable with. I just want to be able to do this as a gift to all the people that followed me through all my crazy twists and turns. I did all those twists and turns because I kept hitting brick walls. You keep hitting the gatekeeper, you gotta find your way around that gatekeeper.

**GS: Earlier this year, "Let The Canary Sing," Alison Ellwood's documentary about you received a theatrical release. After having your memoir published in 2012, did it feel to you like the documentary was the next logical step, a continuation of sorts?**

**CL:** Well, not for me. I didn't want to have a documentary. It was the pandemic, and everyone was saying, "Everybody's doing documentaries now, Cyn! Come on, what are you doing?" I was like, "I'm not dead!" Then I started watching documentaries on the streaming services and I saw "Laurel Canyon." I felt it was an extraordinarily captivating documentary for me because it was the history of music. All of the people and players in that story were very much influential for me as a growing artist, especially in the '70s. I looked and saw who directed it...

**GS: Alison Ellwood!**

**CL:** When they came at me again, I said, "I want a film, not a TV special. So, how about Alison Ellwood? She makes films." She wanted to do it! I think she did a good job. It's not your typical story. I don't think anybody's story is typical. Right? We



Photo by Ruven Afanador

think we know people but I guess we don't. You think, "It's typical! You start a band." Which is always my theory! If something's wrong, start a band, start playing out, you'll feel a lot better!" [Laughs] It doesn't always go that way.

**GS: With the end of touring in sight, is there a possibility that you might do more film work for a potential Oscar to complete your EGOT status?**

**CL:** Listen, I happen to love independent films. For that I would write. I wrote "Unhook The Stars" for...

**GS: ...the Gena Rowlands movie.**

**CL:** Right! Usually, I like an independent movie because then you get to talk to the director and then you have to understand what their vision is. That's interesting, because each director is a different personality and a different kind of artist. You have to listen and see what story they're trying to tell and then have a couple of different suggestions. When we first wrote "Who Let In the Rain," I wrote it with

Photo Courtesy of  
Timothy Greenfield-Sanders



Allee Willis...

**GS: Oh, the late Allee Willis.**

**CL:** Allee Willis was a great songwriter.

**GS: Did you see that documentary?**

**CL:** No, I wish I did because I miss her so much. I guess I was talking to the director, and we didn't have a band, so I just sang (sings) "They fall like rain," and, in between, her dog, Orbit would bark. I was like, "OK, the dog is musical," and everyone laughed. Then, I described it to the director as "Chinese Motown." That would scare most people. To me, I hear influences of every culture in American music. That's how I make my music: with different influences. Like cooking, like spices. I feel grateful that I was brought up in New York City because I was exposed to so many different cultures.

**GS: On a final serious note, when I saw you perform in Boca Raton in 2016 in support of your "Detour" album, you asked for a moment of silence to honor Christina Grimmie who had been shot and killed in Orlando the night before. The next morning, after your concert, many of us woke up to the news of the shooting at the Pulse nightclub in**

**Orlando. With those tragedies in mind, and this upcoming election, which is so terribly important, especially for women and LGBTQ+ folks, is there anything you'd like to say to your fans?**

**CL:** Absolutely! There is an organization called Vote411.org. Taylor Swift recently, finally put that up. You go online and you find out all the questions and all the people that are running and what they voted for so that you can make an intelligent decision on who is going to represent you, not them. This war against women has been going on since the '60s, it's just been going and going, and we need to stop it because we are half the population. As far as the LGBTQ people, you have to vote. You have to be informed. Every time you have to vote, you vote! Don't say, "Oh, it doesn't matter for this one." It matters! Because they put laws in there. There are community people that represent you and you need to start on a community level, a grassroots level to ensure that there are people that are going to speak for you as a human being. We are all human beings here. As I said, women are half the population and LGBTQ, I venture to bet are pretty large part, too. This country was founded on the separation of church and state. Separation! I don't want anybody to have

ownership over my body. They say they want local communities in charge but yet they have SCOTUS making federal laws about what you do in your bedroom and what you do with your body and who you are and nullifying families. Oh, I have a lot to say about that. You need to vote! You vote on every voting occasion. You can't just lie down and get rolled over. This is our country, too. And always share your stories. Because people who work with you, that you're friends with, sometimes they don't understand. They don't know. What's really interesting now, from when we started with True Colors United, I think that people do not understand gender identity, which is a whole different thing. If you want people to listen to you, you've got to listen to them. Just because they're different from you, doesn't mean that you have to be like them. You have to learn on both sides of the fence. Knock the fence down, because we're all human beings; just everybody's different, that's all.

*Cyndi Lauper Girls Just wanna have fun farewell Tour Will be at The United Center in Chicago Thursday December 5th at 8pm. For Tickets Visit <http://www.unitedcenter.com>*

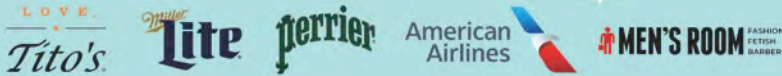


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BIKTARVY is a complete, 1-pill, once-a-day prescription medicine used to treat HIV-1 in adults and children who weigh at least 55 pounds. It can either be used in people who have never taken HIV-1 medicines before, or people who are replacing their current HIV-1 medicines and whose healthcare provider determines they meet certain requirements.

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- ▶ Have any other health problems.
- ▶ Are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. Tell your healthcare provider if you become pregnant while taking BIKTARVY.
- ▶ Are breastfeeding (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Talk to your healthcare provider about the risks of breastfeeding during treatment with BIKTARVY.

**Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take:**

- ▶ Keep a list that includes all prescription and over-the-counter medicines, antacids, laxatives, vitamins, and herbal supplements, and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist.
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- ▶ **Kidney problems, including kidney failure.** Your healthcare provider should do blood and urine tests to check your kidneys. If you develop new or worse kidney problems, they may tell you to stop taking BIKTARVY.
- ▶ **Too much lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis),** which is a serious but rare medical emergency that can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: weakness or being more tired than usual, unusual muscle pain, being short of breath or fast breathing, stomach pain with nausea and vomiting, cold or blue hands and feet, feel dizzy or lightheaded, or a fast or abnormal heartbeat.
- ▶ **Severe liver problems,** which in rare cases can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow, dark "tea-colored" urine, light-colored stools, loss of appetite for several days or longer, nausea, or stomach-area pain.
- ▶ **The most common side effects of BIKTARVY** in clinical studies were diarrhea (6%), nausea (6%), and headache (5%).

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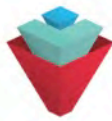
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### GET MORE INFORMATION

- ▶ This is only a brief summary of important information about BIKTARVY. Talk to your healthcare provider or pharmacist to learn more.
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# GRAB A GIFT

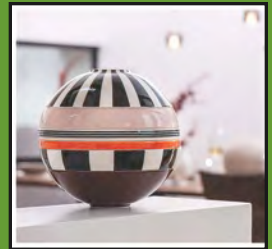
## Mikey Rox's Guide to Gay Gift Giving 2024

By Mikey Rox

The Holidays are an excellent distraction after an election cycle – makes ya wonder if it was planned like that, huh? – and this year is no exception. Instead of churning out endless political memes on social media (really, give it a rest), turn your attention to making memories and exchanging gifts, like these carefully curated selections that'll lighten the mood, facilitate festiveness, and bring joy to those on your Nice List (because we not givin' Naughty List-ers nothin' this year).

### ***La Boule Dinnerware Set***

Home-based meals are anything but avante garde these days (and, no, Uber Eats doesn't count), but Villeroy & Boch brings a splash of panache to the table with its multicolored, premium porcelain La Boule seven-piece dinnerware sets – in Miami and Memphis styles – which include two stackable regular bowls, two pasta bowls, two plates and one serving tray that form a single nesting round and an artistic conversation piece after the dishes are done. \$450, [Villeroy-Boch.com](https://www.villeroy-boch.com)



### ***Le Creuset Bread Oven***

Honed your sourdough skills during Covid? Level 'em up in Le Creuset's handsome enameled cast-iron bread oven, available in seven of the French manufacturer's signature ombré hues, for stunning artisan loaves ideal for gifting or your own private gluttony. Make it a meal with Julia Turshen's Fastest Chicken Noodle Soup recipe from the queer cook's latest book, "What Goes with What." \$300, [Food52.com](https://www.food52.com)



### ***Pepper Pong Game***

Make room, table tennis – there's a new player in the game. Pepper Pong – a 2023 Best New Game winner – is ping pong's "go-anywhere, do-anything, challenge-anyone cousin... with a mean mullet and pickleball-infused DNA," according to its website, and that translates to a whole lotta fun for the whole family... if you're into that sorta thing. \$70, [PepperPong.com](https://www.pepperpong.com)



### ***Dwayne Chestnut Sunglasses***

Did Vontelle sleep on the opp to name its Dwayne Chestnuts flip-up transitioning glasses the Dwayne Waynes, paying homage to the iconic spectacle-shades popularized by Kadeem Hardison on "A Different World"? Perhaps. But slap on a pair of these bad boys and you'll bring all the early-'90s vibes (and maybe a few Whitleys or Ron Johnsons) to the yard. \$189, [Vontelle.com](https://www.vontelle.com)



### Tom of Finland Duffel

Henry Cavill is a prime candidate for the anatomical embodiment of a Tom of Finland illustration, and it's hard not to fantasize about the oversized actor decked out in head-to-toe leather, especially after you cop Loqi's Tom of Finland Day & Night Recycled Weekender, featuring all-over printed ToF artwork that looks suspiciously like the Super Man that lives rent free in our collective spank banks. \$40, [Loqi.com](https://loqi.com)



### Andy Warhol x Absolut Vodka

Art imitates life imitating art in Absolut Vodka's full-circle Andy Warhol collab featuring elements of the pop icon's overlooked 1985 blue bottle painting, rediscovered in 2020. With colors extracted directly from the original work and made with multi-layer screen printing to create an authentic sensory experience to touch, the spirited 2024 collector's item also includes a QR code that opens a portal into the world of Warhol and the story behind both brands' historic and enduring connection, this limited-edition release now among them. \$26, [ReserveBar.com](https://ReserveBar.com)



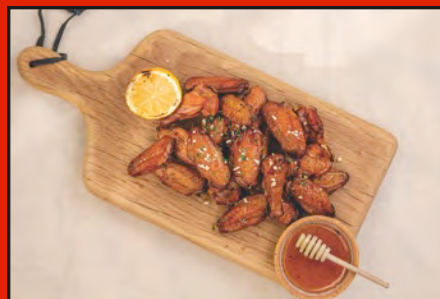
### Cedar Ridge The QuintEssential

You're gonna need a buffer that packs a punch – so none are thrown – this holiday season, and Cedar Ridge The QuintEssential is the American single-malt whiskey up to the task with its notes of caramel and vanilla combined with a persistent pepperiness that's H-O-T-T-O-G-O. \$60, [CedarRidgeDistillery.com](https://CedarRidgeDistillery.com)



### Pasturebird Chicken/"Hot Ones" Season 25 10-pack

Read the reviews for Pasturebird free-range chicken products (five stars across the board, including its holiday-ready party wings), and you'll be an instant convert – especially after you light 'em up with Heatonist's "Hot Ones" Season 25 10-pack, featuring flavors like Little Dick's Ghost Pepper Pear, Pepper North's Jerk & Scotch Bonnet, and Hot Ones' own The Last Dab: Xperience, an apropos name for the Pepper X-based sauce with a Scoville Heat Unit rating of over 2.6 million. (For reference, a classic buffalo clocks in at a mere 1,800 SHU.) Santa might be S.O.L. on milk this year. \$10-25, [Pasturebird.com](https://Pasturebird.com); \$120, [Heatonist.com](https://Heatonist.com)



### **FinaMill Grinder**

Save your knuckles from skin-chewing microplanes and graters with a convenient automated replacement in the rechargeable FinaMill Grinder that allows kitchen whizzes to season with ease thanks to its one-handed click-grind-release technology. Max and Pro Plus pods pulverize everything from cardamom seeds to coffee beans sans blood, sweat or tears, in complementary culinary mill colors that include black, white, red and gray. \$100, [FinaMill.com](http://FinaMill.com)



### **Imogene + Willie Tees/Accessories**

Streetwear takes the sophisticated track via imogene + willie's audacious selection of graphic tees and accessories, like its popular "bolt" in black and increasingly prescient "burn it all" tees, along with accessories that include the standout "bronco" trucker and "dead wrong" knit watch cap. For queers of a certain age (you know who you are), these style-forward mix-ins give edge without looking desperately trendy or – God forbid – completely out of touch (you know who you are, too). \$38-\$68, [imogeneandwillie.com](http://imogeneandwillie.com)



### **Danish Creamery UCS**

Danish Creamery – renowned for its fresh-churned European-style butter – keeps you and your sticks rizzed up and ready to spread this holiday season with its branded ugly Christmas sweater that includes a tiny additional sweater to dress up your serving dish, in a twofer that's both salty and sweet. \$80, [UglyChristmasSweater.com](http://UglyChristmasSweater.com)



### **The Energy Lounger**

Need a timeout? You'll get one with a kickback on the EnergyLounger wellness platform offering cutting-edge, full-body red and near-infrared light therapy sessions designed for relaxation and rejuvenation in the comfort of your own home. Benefits include reduced pain and stiffness, improved blood circulation, and cell regeneration for an experience that'll take you away when Calgon ain't cuttin' it. \$7,500-\$9,998, [EnergyLounger.com](http://EnergyLounger.com)



# SHOP LOCAL

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**Mikey Rox is an award-winning journalist and LGBTQ+ lifestyle expert whose work has appeared in more than 100 publications around the world. Connect with Mikey on Instagram @mikeyroxtravels**

# GRAB MUSIC

## Q-Music: Listening to lesbians

By Gregg Shapiro

It must be a testament to the commitment of the members of the B-52s that each of its remaining long-term members, **Kate Pierson**, Fred Schneider, and Cindy Wilson, have only released two albums apiece under their own names over the course of the band's 45-year recording career. Pierson's latest album, "Radio & Rainbows" (Long Meadow Music/Crush Music/SongVest Records), arrives 9½ years after 2015's "Guitars and Microphones" (anyone else see a pattern here?). Dedicated to Pierson's wife, Monica Nation, the album takes Pierson in a variety of musical directions, including dance ("Take Me Back to the Party," co-written with Jimmy Harry, who has worked with RuPaul, Pink, Kelly Clarkson, and others, and the soaring "Wings"), the suitably spooky "Every Day Is Halloween" (co-written with and



featuring Sia), the island breeze of "Pillow Queen", the funky "Dream On" and "Living In a Monet" (featuring queer musician Gail Ann Dorsey), and the colorful title cut.

After 25 years of releasing albums (nearly a dozen!) on the indie Blue Corn Music record label, the amazing queer singer/songwriter **Ruthie Foster** is now on the legendary Sun Records label with her newest release "Mileage" (Sun). Pressed on vivid baby blue vinyl, the 10-song album, consisting of nine Foster originals

(co-written with the record's producer Tyler Bryant and Rebecca Lovell) contains Foster's blend of influences, such as gospel ("Good For My Soul" and "Six Mile Water"), searing blues-pop ("Done," featuring sister duo Larkin Poe, "Heartshine," and title cut), a radiant love song ("Rainbow"), and soulful stomp ("Slow Down"), all delivered in her powerful vocal style.

Led by queer frontwoman Jen Dot and featuring trans

musician Jesse Fevvers, Chicago quintet **Beastii** makes rip-roaring dance punk on its new album "Follower"

([beastie.bandcamp.com](http://beastie.bandcamp.com)). At just over two minutes in length, the second track "The Limit" exemplifies the spirit (and blistering brevity) of early classic punk. "Spilt Milk" and "Butch Beach" conjure images of surfers riding the waves of Lake Michigan, while "Evil Eye" and "Trusted Mystik" represent darkwave at its eeriest.

Ever since "The Omnichord Real Book," **Meshell Ndegeocello's** Grammy-winning 2023 career comeback, the queer singer/songwriter and bassist extraordinaire has been on a thrilling trajectory. Her new album, "No More Water: The Gospel of James Baldwin" (Blue Note), continues that stellar course. A tribute to Baldwin for his centennial, as well as fellow lesbian literary legend Audre Lorde, and other queer thinkers, including biracial poet Staceyann Chin who can be heard reciting Baldwin's words ("Baldwin Manifesto I," "Baldwin Manifesto II") as well as her own poetry ("Thus Sayeth The Lorde," "Tsunami Rising," and "Raise The Roof"), the album is an incredible combination of music, song, and spoken word that once again proves Ndegeocello's genius as a collaborative artist.

**Melissa Carper** has her queer country bona fides in her blood, as





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she sings in the title track to her magnificent new album “Bored In Ya” (Mae Music/Thirty Tigers). If’n you didn’t know any better, you might think you were listening to a vintage 78 RPM on the old Victrola. The arrangements are pure country swing and Carper’s vocals are somewhere between Billie Holiday and Patsy Cline. The 10 Carper originals (some of which are co-written), including the flawless title cut, “Your Furniture’s Too Nice,” “Somewhere Between Texas and Tennessee,” “Let’s Get Outta Here,” “Lucky Five,” and “Let’s Stay Single Together,” effortlessly conjure a sensation of nostalgia crossed with déjà vu. Carper’s reading of Cole Porter’s “Every Time We Say Goodbye,” breathes new life into the chestnut.

After releasing albums on the Arista and Velvel labels, as well as Indigo Girl Amy Ray’s Daemon Records, lesbian singer/songwriter **Michelle Malone** found a home on her own indie SBS Records. Her aptly titled new album, “Southern Comfort” (SBS) is where Southern rock and country music intersect, with the title track about homesickness being a perfect example. “I Choke On My Words” is a stunner and deserves to be a hit for Malone (or anyone wise enough to cover it). Also noteworthy are “I Want To Be In That Picture,” “Like Mother Like Daughter,” “One Track Mind,” and “Wine and Regret.”

If you’ve been following fruitful queer singer/songwriter **Rachael**

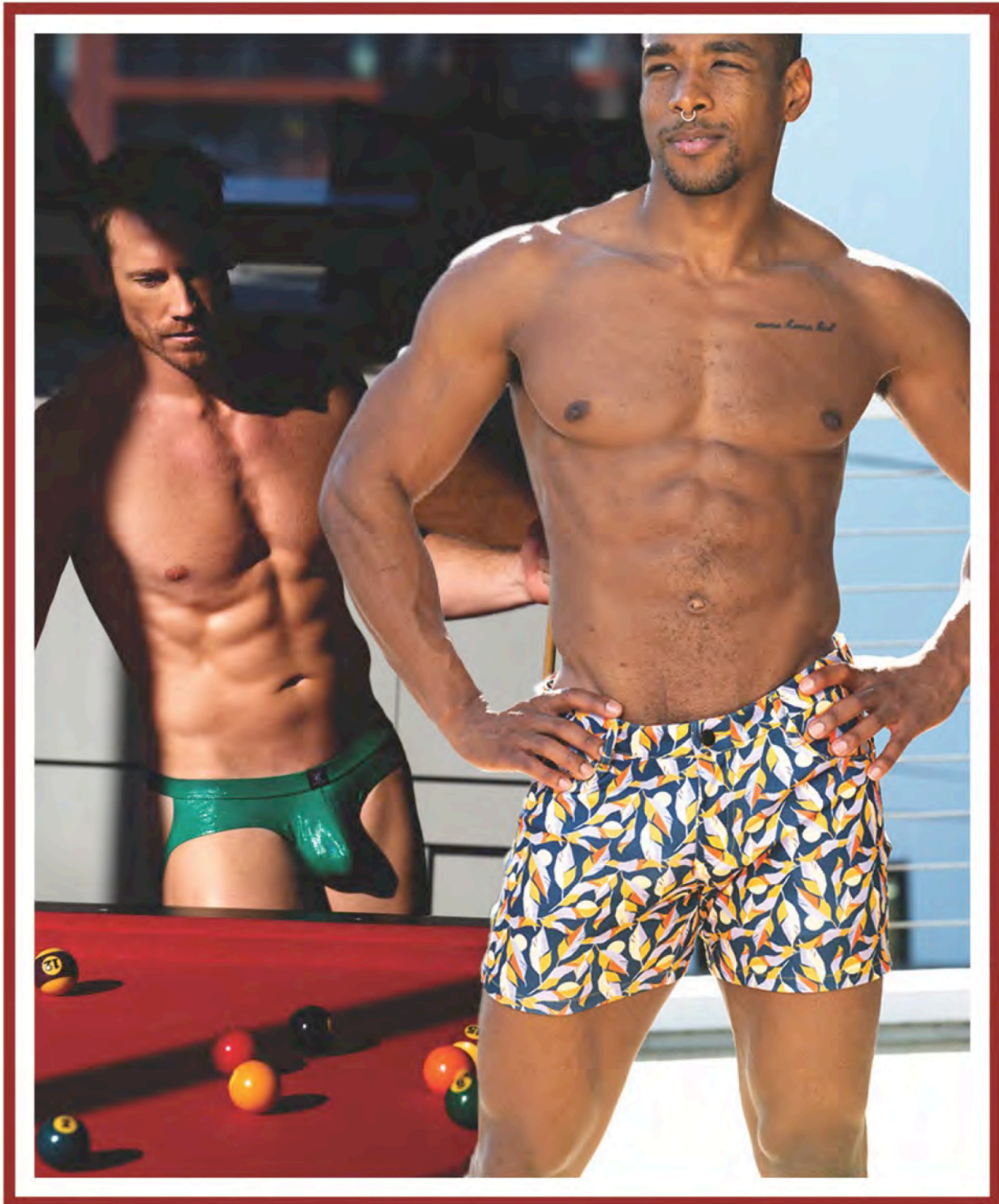


Michelle Malone Photo by Jolie Loren



Rachael Sage

**Sage** throughout her nearly 30-year career, you may remember that, backed by a band, she mainly accompanied herself on piano and or organ. On later albums, such as 2014’s “Blue Roses,” Sage began to show off her guitar skills, then took it a step further by releasing acoustic rerecordings, including 2019’s “Pseudomyopia” (another take on 2018’s “Myopia”). All of this is to say that it’s not all that surprising that Sage’s new album, the marvelous “Another Side” (MPress), consisting of “acoustic reimaginings” of her 2023 record “The Other Side,” is a pleasure. The addition of harmony vocals by queer singer/songwriter Crys Matthews on “Albatross” is truly a bonus.



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# GRAB SMASHBY

## Smashby Hearts Himself

By Tim Blankenship

Born in the industrial UK city of Bradford, West Yorkshire, Smashby's journey as a music artist has been shaped by the challenges he faced growing up queer in a conservative environment. While bullying was tough in Bradford, things didn't improve much when his family moved to the Yorkshire Dales countryside. Despite the struggles, Smashby found solace in the support of his mother, who he describes as more like a big sister, and his grandparents, who have become his biggest cheerleaders, attending every show he performs.

Smashby came out at 15, embracing his identity despite the tough reactions of those around him. Today, he doesn't concern himself with labels or gender stereotypes, focusing instead on living authentically and bringing light into people's lives through his music.

His latest track is "Love Myself (How I Used to Love You)". We caught up with Smashby from his recording studio.

### **Tim Blankenship: What inspired your new song?**

**Smashby:** "Love Myself (How I Used to Love You)" was inspired by my first heartbreak. He just got engaged and it made me reflect on that time in my life. How in love with him I was and how much of my energy was wasted on him! That energy would have been better spent on learning to love myself.

### **T.B: Is that the main message of the song?**

**Smashby:** The song's message is to understand your worth as a person. It's important to accept your flaws and imperfections the way you would with somebody you wanna be with. People come and go in our lives all the time; we have ourselves for as long as we live, so put more love into



yourself rather than someone who might break your heart.

### **T.B: How would you describe its sound?**

**Smashby:** It is an uplifting country pop banger! Every time I listen to it, I feel like I'm driving on an open road with the rooftop down.

### **T.B: How would you describe yourself as an artist?**

**Smashby:** I'd describe myself as honest and adventurous.

### **T.B: Smashby is an adventurous name!**

**Smashby:** Smashby was a nickname given to me by a P.E teacher I had in school. I hated P.E but my teacher was hot so I liked the nickname.

### **T.B: What are the main themes that you explore in your music?**

**Smashby:** I write songs about people I've been in love with who have no idea, fights and friendship break ups, strains on some of my relationships with my family and my own personal insecurities.

**T.B:** Was there a time that you struggled with loving yourself?

**Smashby:** My whole adolescence! Once I came out, a lot of my insecurities started to disappear. I finally began to live within my own boundaries.

**T.B:** Do you tend to put the needs of others before your own?

**Smashby:** Yes, I'm a bit of a people pleaser.

**T.B:** What made you realize it was time to love yourself for who you are?

**Smashby:** The last time I realized I needed to work on loving myself was when I totaled up how much I was spending on cosmetic enhancements. I'm all for a little anti-aging tweak but I became so addicted to filler and changing my appearance! Getting the treatments made me feel special and important, but I've managed to finally get over that and calm it down.

**T.B:** What do you hope fans

ultimately take away from song?

**Smashby:** I hope they feel a sense of empowerment when listening to this song; a feeling of not needing someone else to feel complete.

**T.B:** Are you currently working on additional songs?

**Smashby:** I'm working on a bunch of songs right now with my team, (writer) Emmie Jay and (producer) Velvet Code and it's my best work yet! I scrapped a whole album that I was working on with some other producers over the past three years. It wasn't me anymore and I had to break away to work with my new team. It was the best thing I could have done for my artistry.

**T.B:** We can't wait to hear!

**Smashby:** I'm just so grateful for everyone that's been supporting me



these past few years. It's been such a journey already and its only chapter one. I have a really good feeling about everything I'm working on and where I'm at in life right now.

Follow on Instagram @  
smashbyofficial.

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# GRAB A GETAWAY



Photo Courtesy of Bedrock-Kellin-Wirtz and Visit Detroit

## Motor City Rebound: New Mid Town Food Hall, New Cork Town Hotel, New Bridge to Canada and More

By Bill Malcolm

The rebound of the Motor City continues unabated. The once downtrodden area has transformed itself. A vibrant downtown, a stunning new bridge to Canada, a new food hall in Midtown Detroit, a new hotel in Cork Town, and fun suburbs like Ferndale, Clawson, and Royal Oak are full of things to do.

### WHAT TO DO

Run or walk with Frontrunners on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. They meet in front of Prontos in Royal Oak. Explore the gayish village, Ferndale. You will find the Affirmation's Community Center at 205 W. Nine Mile. Enjoy the refurbished Michigan Central train station in Corktown and explore the historic Detroit neighborhood. Walk along the Detroit River and take in the Campus Martius campus. Ride the new Q Line Street car and enjoy the museums in midtown including the iconic Detroit Institute of Arts. Explore Clawson and its new hipster downtown. We liked the Whiskey Taco Foxtrot (28 Main Street in Clawson). Try the Mini Beef Nachos. Strohs (a local beer) is just \$2. The Royal Oak Farmers

Market on Saturdays is a must.

### GETTING THERE

Amtrak has great service including to Detroit, Royal Oak, and Birmingham from Chicago. Trains run three times a day and go 100 mph. Detroit Metro Airport in Romulus features a new express bus to downtown.

The new SMART Fast Bus moves you around town.

Otherwise, you will need a car. You are in the Motor City.

### WHERE TO STAY

I stayed at the Hampton Inn Madison Heights and then the Baymont Madison Heights. Walk to nearby restaurants and the Powerhouse Gym plus the Value Center Marketplace grocery store. Right off I-75 at 14 Mile Road. The Hyatt Place in downtown Royal Oak is another favorite.

The new Godfrey Hotel in Corktown in Detroit has a great rooftop bar (The I/O Rooftop Lounge) on the seventh floor. Nice and extremely high end. Stunning views of downtown and the

Ambassador Bridge. You will find them at 1401 Michigan Avenue complete with brick streets. This is Detroit's oldest neighborhood.

### WHERE TO EAT

The new food hall in Midtown, Detroit Shipping Company (474 Peterboro, DetroitShippingCompany.com) features two bars and around 10 carry outs set in containers with seating in the middle and upstairs, the fun scene features Thai Food (Bangkok 96 Street Food), Mediterranean (Halal Street ) and more. Try the crispy fried chicken bowl at Bangkok 96. The spring rolls were excellent.

Enjoy the Lebanese (Middle Eastern cuisine) which features great fresh juices like raw carrot juice. There are over 400 restaurants in the metro area. 400! I liked the Royal Grill in Madison Heights (1467 W. 14 Mile in Madison Heights). Try the Gallyah Sandwich which features vegetables and meat). Even the gas stations have Lebanese food to go!

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## **NIGHTLIFE**

Pronto is a fun bar and restaurant in Royal Oak with a drag bingo bar next door (the Five 15) which is quite popular. Prontos has a great dance floor and outdoor patio too.

SOHO is the Ferndale staple on 9th Mile and the best bar in Detroit.

Surrounded by shops and restaurants, explore Ferndale while you are there.

Next door in the 215 West which features special events and is owned by SOHO. Nearby is the Ferndale Elks Lodge which my friends like. Live bands, music bingo, trivia nights, and karaoke happen at this welcoming venue. Also in Ferndale is Affirmations LGBTQ+ Community Center.

See *Metra Magazine* for a list of all the bars.

## **FUN FACTS**

Bring your passport and take the tunnel or Bridge to Windsor, Ontario Canada. Great shopping. Pick up some British candies (made in Britain, not the U.S.), and more. Listen to the French language radio stations (AM 1550 and on the FM dial). Detroit is right on the border, and you go south into Canada. Go figure. The new Gordie Howie Bridge is a stunner and opens later in 2025.

Detroit is a very historic city first settled by the French (hence the many French street names downtown).

Detroit has an excellent freeway system. You can be anywhere in 20 minutes going 70 mph on the



*Photo Courtesy of Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority and the Gordie Howe International Bridge project*

freeway although the area is very spread out.

Michigan has FOUR campgrounds for the LGBTQ+ with something for everyone.

## **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

*Between the Lines* is an every other week publication. *Metra Magazine* is your bar guide. *METRO*

*Weekly* is the alternative weekly full of ideas.

*Bill Malcolm* is a former resident of Royal Oak, Michigan. His syndicated travel column has been carried in LGBTQ publications throughout North America and on the travel blog of the IGLTA website.



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Daily Specials;

<b>MONDAY</b>	<p><b>2 Bears Tavern Uptown:</b> . \$5 Stoli Cocktails (Any Flavor), Everyday Specials: \$5Jager, Fireball &amp; Malort \$4 Tallboy Beers (BuschLight, PBR, Hamm's), Free Pinball &amp; Darts. <b>@mosphere:</b> \$5 Well Cocktails &amp; Draft Beer 6-8pm. <b>Cell Block:</b> Open 4pm-2am. <b>Charlies:</b> Closed for Renovations will reopen Spring 2025. <b>Hydrate:</b> Lips and Mascara Doors at 8pm Show at 10pm.. <b>North End:</b> Open at 11am, \$5 Well Drinks. <b>Shakers on Clark:</b> Comedy Night \$1 off Well Drinks and Well Shots. <b>Sidetrack:</b> Open at 3pm, Musical Monday Show Tunes 8pm-2am. <b>Steamworks:</b> Every 3rd Monday TM4M (Trans Men For Men) 8pm-2am. <b>The Sofo Tap:</b> \$5 Whiskeys, Ryes &amp; Bourbons. Everyday Specials: \$5 Jager, Fireball &amp; Malort, \$4 Tall Boy Beers (Busch Light, PBR,Hamm's) Free Darts. <b>Touche:</b> 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. Club Room Open!</p>
<b>TUESDAY</b>	<p><b>2 Bears Tavern Uptown:</b> . \$3 House Shots, \$7 Big Miller Lite Drafts Everyday Specials: \$5Jager, Fireball &amp; Malort \$4 Tallboy Beers (BuschLight, PBR, Hamm's), Free Pinball &amp; Darts. <b>@mosphere:</b> \$5 Well Cocktails &amp; Draft Beer 6-8pm, Game Night with Tony. <b>Cell Block:</b> Open 4pm-2am. <b>Charlies:</b> Closed for Renovations will reopen Spring 2025 <b>Hydrate:</b> TatTuesday XXL Doors open at 8pm. <b>Kit Kat Lounge:</b> Happy Hour 5-7pm \$8.95 Martinis <b>Lucky Horseshoe:</b> Open at 6pm. Dancers at 8pm. Open auditions for male dancers 7pm. \$5 drink specials. <b>Meeting House Tavern:</b> \$3 House Shots, \$7 Big Miller Lite Drafts. Happy Hour Specials 5pm-8pm: \$5 Stoli Mules (all flavors). Everyday Specials \$5 Jager, Fireball &amp; Malort. Free Darts &amp; Pool. <b>North End:</b> Open at 11am, \$5 Canned Beers, Seltzers &amp; Ciders. <b>Shakers on Clark:</b> \$3 Domestic Beers. <b>Sidetrack:</b> 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. <b>Steamworks:</b> Every Tuesday 4 pm – 4 am Guys Under 25 Get In Free* (*Free 30 day membership and free locker). <b>The Sofo Tap:</b> \$5 Amsterdam Cocktails, \$5 Tallboys Everyday Specials:, \$5Jager, \$5 Fireball &amp; Malort, \$4 Tall Boy Beers (Busch Light, PBR,Hamm's)Free Darts. <b>Touche:</b> Open 5pm - 4am. Hardcore Cruisin' No Cell Phones/Wifi. 6-9pm \$3 Well Drinks \$1 Off call-imports, \$3 PBR/Rolling Rock.</p>
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<p><b>2 Bears Tavern Uptown:</b> \$ New Amsterdam Cocktails \$5 Tallboy Beers Specials: Everyday Specials \$5 Jager, Fireball &amp; Malort \$4 Tallboy Beers (BuschLight, PBR, Hamm's), Free Pinball &amp; Darts. <b>Cell Block:</b> Open 4pm-2am. <b>Charlie's:</b> Closed for Renovations will reopen Spring 2025. <b>Jackhammer:</b> \$5 Whiskeys, Ryes &amp; Bourbons, Everyday Specials: \$5 Fireball, Jager &amp; Malort Shots, \$4 Tallboy Beers(Busch Light, PBR &amp; Hamm's). <b>Kit Kat Lounge:</b> Happy Hour 5-7pm \$8.95 Martinis <b>Lucky Horseshoe:</b> Open at 6pm Dancers at 8pm. \$5 drink specials. <b>Meeting House Tavern:</b> \$4Miller Lite Drafts, \$5 Stolis (All Flavors). Happy Hour Specials 7pm-10pm: \$6 Any BIG drafts Everyday Specials \$5 Jager, Fireball &amp; Malort. Free Darts &amp; Pool. <b>North End:</b> Open at 11am \$5 Lagunitas Draft &amp; Cans. <b>Shakers on Clark:</b> Karaoke Night \$1 Off Long Islands. <b>Sidetrack:</b> Open at 3pm, All Things Taylor 1st Wed of month, All Things Beyoncé 2nd Wed of month, All Things Gaga 3rd Wed of month, All Things Dua &amp; Ariana last Wed of month: all 9pm-2am. <b>Steamworks:</b> Bear Hump Every second Wednesday 6-9pm A monthly mid-week gathering of Furry Men. <b>The Sofo Tap:</b> \$3 House Shots, \$5 Tito's Cocktails, \$7 Big Miller Lite Drafts Everyday Specials: \$5 Jager, Fireball &amp; Malort, \$4 Tall Boy Beers (Busch Light, PBR,Hamm's)FreeDarts <b>Touche:</b> Open 5pm - 4am. Jockstrap Night Free Clothing Check. 6-9pm \$3 Well Drinks \$1 Off call-imports, \$3 PBR/Rolling Rock.</p>
<b>THURSDAY</b>	<p><b>2 Bears Tavern Uptown:</b> \$5 Whiskeys, Ryes &amp; Bourbons . Everyday Specials:\$5 Jager, Fireball &amp; Malort \$4 Tallboy Beers (BuschLight, PBR, Hamm's), Free Pinball &amp; Darts. <b>@mosphere:</b> \$5 Well Cocktails &amp; Draft Beer 6-8pm, RuPaul Drag Race All Stars 6 Viewing Party - 7pm. <b>Charlie's:</b> Closed for Renovations will reopen Spring 2025. <b>Jackhammer:</b> \$3 House Shots \$5 New Amsterdam Cocktails \$5 Miller Lit Tallboys Everyday Specials: \$5 Fireball, Jager &amp; Malort Shots, \$4 Tallboy Beers(Busch Light, PBR &amp; Hamm's). <b>Kit Kat Lounge:</b> Happy Hour 5-7pm \$8.95 Martinis. <b>Lucky Horseshoe:</b> Open at 6pm. Dancers at 8pm. \$5 drink specials. <b>Meeting House Tavern:</b> \$6 Tito Cocktails, Everyday Specials \$5 Jager, Fireball &amp; Malort. Free Darts &amp; Pool. <b>North End:</b> Open at 11am, \$5 Deep Eddy Cocktails. <b>Shakers on Clark:</b> \$1 off All Call Liquor Mixed Drinks, Karaoke 10pm-1am. <b>Sidetrack:</b> Open at 3pm, Let's Go Thursday! Pop Music Videos in Glass/Side Bars 9pm-2am, Pink Pony Club 1st Thur of month in Main Bar, All Things K-Pop other Thursdays in Main Bar. <b>Steamworks:</b> Lights Out Thursdays, The Club goes Dark Every Thursday 4pm-4am. <b>The Sofo Tap:</b> \$5 New Amsterdam Cocktails\$5 Tallboy Beers Everyday Specials: , \$5 Jager, Fireball &amp; Malort, \$4 Tall Boy Beers (Busch Light, PBR,Hamm's)Free Darts. <b>Touche:</b> Open 5pm - 4am. Jockstrap Night Free Clothing Check.</p>

Daily Specials;

FRIDAY

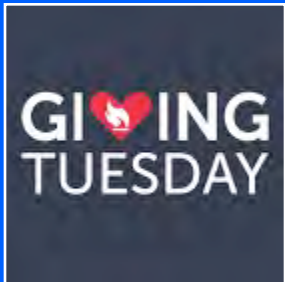
**2 Bears Tavern Uptown:** \$7.50 Big Miller Lite Drafts \$3 House Shots. Happy Hour Specials: 3pm–6pm: \$4 New Amsterdam Cocktails \$5 Chicago Handshakes. Everyday Specials: \$5 Jager, Fireball & Malort \$4 Tallboy Beers (Busch Light, PBR, Hamm’s), Free Pinball & Darts. **@mosphere:** \$5 Well Cocktails & 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:** Closed for Renovations will reopen Spring 2025. **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:** 11/22 Full Moon Cowboy Round Up. 11/29 Spanksgiving Spanking Fetish Night.

SATURDAY

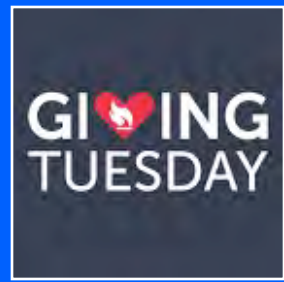
**2 Bears Tavern Uptown:** \$6 Lagunitas IPADrafts. Happy Hour Specials: ½ Off All Drafts \$5 New Amsterdam Cocktails. Everyday Specials: \$5 Jager, Fireball & Malort \$4 Tallboy Beers (Busch Light, PBR, Hamm’s), Free Pinball & Darts. **@mosphere:** \$5 Well Cocktails & Draft Beer 3pm–5pm, Dancers 10pm–1am. **Baton Show Lounge:** Doors open at 6pm, Shows at 7:30pm, 9:30pm & 11:30pm. **Cell Block:** Open 2pm–3am. **Charlie’s:** Closed for Renovations will reopen Spring 2025. **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 TallBoys 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, Post-Brunch SaturGay Fun 1pm–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: ½ Off All Drafts Everyday Specials: \$5 Jager, Fireball & Malort, \$4 Tall Boy Beers (Busch Light, PBR, Hamm’s) Free Darts. **Touche:** Open 2pm – 5am. 11/23 RIPE Party Dim Lights Deep Beats Go-Go Dudes DJ Harry T. 11/30 Glory HOLE’D.

SUNDAY FUNDAY

**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:** Closed for Renovations will reopen Spring 2025 **Hydrate:** Doors open at 2pm Northalsted’s Official after Brunch party. **Jackhammer:** \$5 New Amsterdam CooctKails \$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..



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Top 30 Dance Chart For the First week of November



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	Artist	Title
1	KC Lights & Welt	Fly
2	KC Lights	Turn Around
3	David Guetta & Alesso	Never Going Home Tonight Ft. Madison Love
4	Warren	What U Gonna Do Ft. Lena Sue
5	Jorden Dux & Alphadogs	As Long As I Got You (Radio Edit)
6	San Holo x Tchami	Feel Again
7	Duck Sauce	Fallin In Love (Radio Edit)
8	MKL	You & Me (Radio Edit)
9	Hedegaard x Martin Jensen x Victoria Nadi	Favorite Mistakes
10	Manyfew	Wanna Love U Ft. Darah
11	Brooks	Monster (Radio Mix)
12	Clean Bandit x Anne Marie x David Guetta	Cry Baby
13	3lau & Justin Caruso	Music Is The Answer
14	Audien	Living In Color ft. Jeoff Harris
15	Nathan Dawe & Joel Corry	Higher Ft. Sacha
16	Daya	Don't Call
17	Punctual & Lewis Thompson	Perfect
18	Madism & Thierry Von Der Warth	Chemicals (Radio Edit)
19	Will Sparks & Darren Styles	Scars (Radio Edit)
20	Party Favor	I Want U
21	Snakehips & Absolutely	Shades
22	Tobtok & Oliver Nelson	In Control
23	Dutchican Soul & Yogi	Tonight Ft. Nada Leigh
24	Duke Dumont	Ain't Giving Up Ft. Clementine Douglas
25	R3hab x Sophie And The Giants	All Night
26	San Holo	Disappear ft. Artemis Orion & Dobi
27	Wuki	Justagroove (Radio Edit)
28	Badger & Icona Pop	Body Type
29	Twinsick x Saint Raymond	Chase The Sunlight (Radio Edit)
30	Lavern x Sigala	Like Sunshine



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November 19, 2024

GRAB Magazine

31

# GRAB ROGER

## TENANTS BY THE ENTIRETY VS. JOINT TENANCY

By Roger V. McCaffrey-Boss, Esq.

**Q: My lover and I bought our house together and hold title in joint tenancy. After many years together, we got married two years ago. Our lawyer said that in case one of us should die the house would go to the survivor with or without a will. I put up all the money for the down payment for the house and am concerned that I will be protected. My partner is in business for himself and is struggling financially. I am worried he will have creditors that may try to take away the house. Does owning the house in joint tenancy give me the protection I need?**

**A:** Many couples own title to their homes as “joint tenants with right of survivorship” to ensure that title to the house will pass to the surviving partner if one should die. When one joint tenant dies, the remaining joint tenant automatically owns the entire property, without the necessity of probate court proceedings. Even if

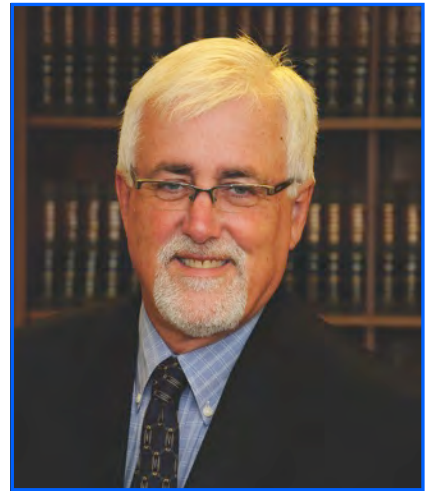
the deceased partner had a will, title to the property transfers to the survivor, regardless of the terms of the will.

When a joint tenant dies, all that is usually required to clear the title of the deceased joint tenant’s interest is to submit to the title insurance company, which examines the status of title, an affidavit of survivorship and a certified copy of the deceased joint tenant’s death certificate.

Ownership as tenants in common for two people, means that upon the death of either owner, their 50 percent interest in the real estate transfers to their heirs (or if they have a will to the person named in the will) and the survivor will only own the other 50 percent of the real estate along with the heirs of the deceased partner.

With the passage of Illinois Marriage and Illinois Civil Unions, there is now a third way LGBT couples can own real estate together. Since 1990, married couples in Illinois have

enjoyed the option of owning their Illinois marital home as tenants by the entirety. Tenancy by the entirety combines the survivorship attributes of joint tenancy with the bonus of limited protection against creditors. That is, a judgment creditor of just one of the married homeowners cannot enforce its lien against the residence of the homeowners owned as tenants by the entirety. Tenancy by the entirety has often been touted as ideal for people who are married, in business for themselves, or whose work leaves them vulnerable to the lawsuits of disgruntled clients,



patients or customers.

This means that if you enter into a Civil Union in Illinois or get married and sign and record a new deed conveying the title of your house, which has to be your residence, to yourselves, as tenants by the entirety, the creditors of one of you cannot take away the house. This is asset protection in its greatest form. There are some rules, however, a creditor may tear down the tenancy by the entirety protection when the property is conveyed with the sole intent to avoid the payment of debts existing at the time of the transfer. There is no protection if both owners are liable to the creditor for the debt. And the protection only applies to your main residence, homestead, and not to a vacation house or vacant real estate such as farmland. It is a common misconception, however, that joint tenancy is the best answer for all couples who want protection from all the problems that can arise when real estate is involved. There are many ways to purchase and hold title to real estate in order to achieve each couple’s ownership and estate planning goals. As this subject involves considerable legal and tax consequences, one should first consult with their own attorney.

*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](mailto: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](http://988lifeline.org), or reach out to a mental health professional.

988

SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE

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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 hair and a serious expression. He is being touched on the chest by a white man on the left and another white man on the right. The background consists of red lockers.

# COME

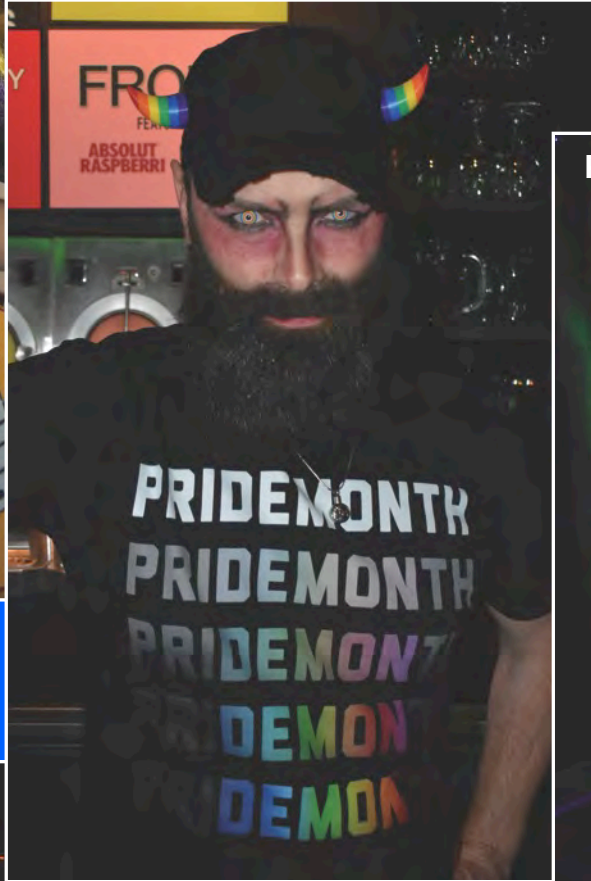
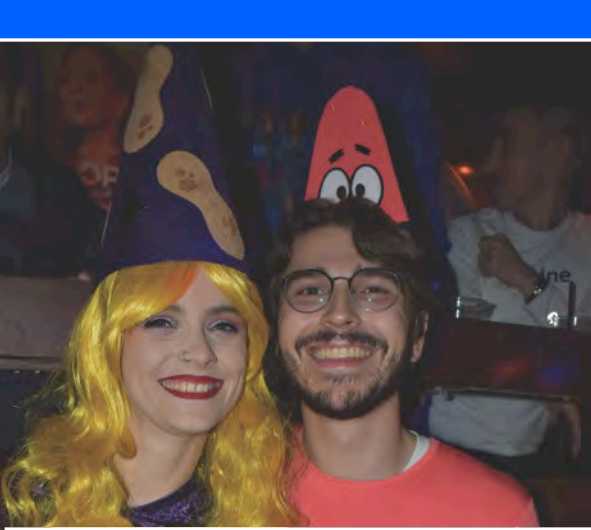
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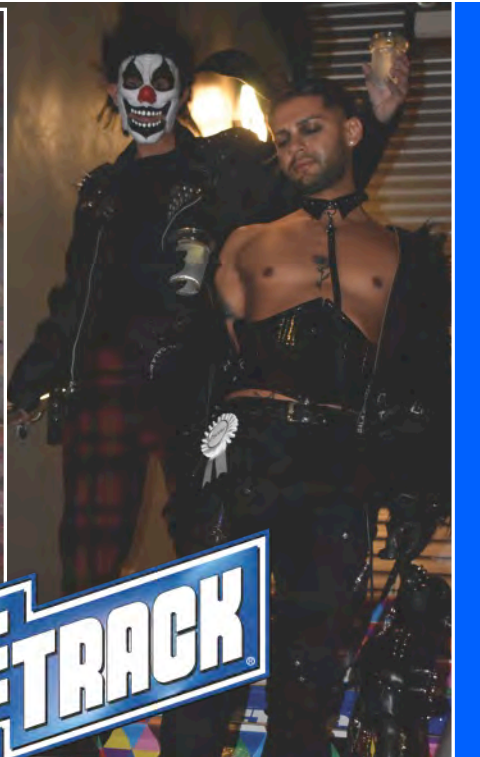


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Photos By Anthony Meade



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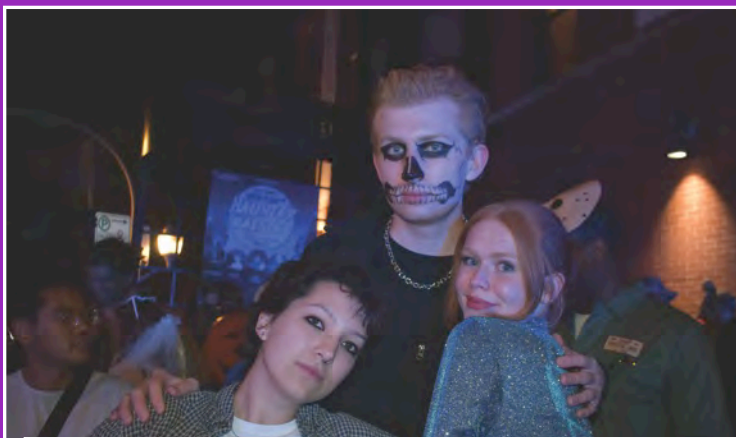
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Photos By Anthony Meade



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# GRAB HOLLY

## *Ephemera of a Bygone World*

By Holly Maholm

Penelope, Queen of the Unicorns, and I were resting quietly in the shade of the orchard at the Horse Rescue. Seeing us from afar, you would not have guessed that we were engaged in a tense confrontation, which only ended when she confessed a painful truth: That the Species Unicorn and the Species Human had once enjoyed a close and sympathetic relationship, but regrettably, that warm and affectionate bond was now irreparably severed. The Queen struggled to explain the cause of our estrangement.

"Imagine, Holly, if you can," the Queen began, "a time many, many tens of thousands of years ago, a time when unicorns and humans lived peacefully together: Your species residing in small villages of tents made of animal hides, and my species living in the fields and forests surrounding your village.

"Now... this was a time before you humans had developed that technology we call 'writing.' Yes, your species had mastered an early form of mathematics, allowing you to tally up the game animals you observed, counting them: 'One, two, three, many.' But your species had not yet discovered writing, nor any alphabet, grammar, punctuation or pronouns. All knowledge possessed by your species existed solely in the minds and memory of those few humans then drawing breath.

"But, Holly, do not imagine that the

humans of that time were ignorant, crude or brutish. No! They were as clever and creative as you, today. Why, you have only to examine some of those ancient cave paintings – featuring horses, bison and other animals – to see how sophisticated your species was. Though those images do not constitute 'writing,' the skill and sensitivity of those ancient artists was more than enough to capture the unique personalities of those animals."

Penelope was warming to her subject. "Next, let us travel in our imagination to that ancient time and eavesdrop upon a gathering of the local humans and unicorns. We find them finished with their evening meal; their stomachs full, seated cozy around a fire, and not yet ready for bed.

"For many thousands of years, such gatherings were always the same: One or more humans (or unicorns) who had pleasant voices, who could carry a tune, would stand up and sing songs passed down to them. Then, perhaps, another (human or unicorn) would tell a funny story, followed by one of the young hunters recounting something exciting that had occurred during a recent hunt. And finally, sometimes, the 'unofficial storyteller' of the village would recount a stirring, dramatic scene featuring venerated hunters of the past, whom all the young men dreamed they might one day equal in bravery and skill.

"For many generations, if there were songs, it was because the singer had learned that song at her mother's knee. If there was humor, it was because those jokes and comic observations were 'common currency' among the cleverest. And if there was any saga of brave hunters and virtuous mothers, it was because the Storyteller kept in his memory the legendary deeds of their ancestors, and wove those stories into a never-ending narrative of danger, sacrifice and survival.

"Perhaps you are thinking, 'How tragic that those primitive humans and unicorns had to rely so much upon memory; and when that failed all else was improvised, unscripted and imagined. How tragic that their songs and stories could not be written down nor recorded anywhere except in the hearts and memories of those gathered around that fire.



"And, you might wonder, what impromptu 'Hamlets' were performed around those fires, by playwrights for whom all drama was spontaneous? How many 'Yesterdays' were first performed in a cappella harmony, beneath a sky that never yet knew light from any source but moon and stars and burning branches. All these things are but ephemera, lost to us today.

"Nevertheless, we can be sure that the close, familial bonds between those ancient artists and their audience ensured that no performer would repeat any song which his listeners did not find melodious. And no storyteller would waste his breath – nor keep in memory, nor pass down to his understudy – any story, characters or events which were judged unpleasant, rude or hateful.

"Those evening performances, lit only by fire, and wholly dependent upon the living voices of those ancient artists and storytellers, provided a sure guarantee against divisive, hurtful words which – had they been uttered aloud in the midst of such a coming-together of souls – would have shamed both speaker and audience. Though the time of which we speak is impossibly remote from us today, we can be certain that anything... malicious or spiteful was not only not recorded, but was immediately erased from the memory of unicorns and men.

"Now, Holly, if you have grasped what I have just explained, I will tell you of the door whereby evil came into this world."

*(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](http://www.hollymaholm.com).*

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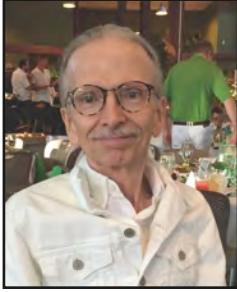
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## CHICAGO HONORS PRIDE PARADE LEADER RICH PFEIFFER WITH DEDICATED STREET SIGN



The City of Chicago honored longtime Chicago Pride Parade coordinator **Richard Pfeiffer** with an honorary street sign—"Rich Pfeiffer Parade Way"—at the northwest corner of Belmont Avenue and North Halsted Street. The sign was unveiled during a dedication ceremony on Sunday, October 27, in tribute to Pfeiffer's lifelong work advocating for the LGBTQ+ community.

Pfeiffer, who led the Chicago Pride Parade from 1974 until his passing in 2019, was instrumental in transforming the parade into one of the oldest, largest, and most celebrated Pride events in the country.

"One of our earliest and longest-serving activists, Rich Pfeiffer made history through decades of dedicated and impactful service to our community," says **Art Johnston**, co-owner of Sidetrack and co-founder of Equality Illinois. "Under Rich's year-round leadership, the Chicago Pride Parade grew from a small gathering of a few hundred participants to a grand celebration with thousands of marchers and over a million viewers, reflecting the incredible growth of our community."

Pfeiffer passed away just months after successfully leading the Chicago Pride Parade in 2019, on the 50th anniversary of the 1969 Stonewall riots in New York City. His dedication to the community helped shape the parade into a landmark event.

"Richard's leadership and passion shaped the parade and our community for more than 45 years," said **Ron Thomas**, PRIDEChicago board member and parade co-coordinator. "This honorary street sign ensures that his legacy will be remembered by all who participate in or witness the parade."

Pfeiffer's legacy continues through PRIDEChicago, the all-volunteer organization he created

and led. In September of this year, the organization secured its 501(c)(3) nonprofit status and announced a Board of Directors, paving the way for expanded community initiatives.

"We are now positioned to ensure that the spirit of pride and progress endures for generations to come," said **Steve Long**, board chair and parade co-coordinator.

Pfeiffer's contributions to Chicago's LGBTQ+ community extended far beyond the parade. He was a founding member of the Committee on Gay/Lesbian Issues under Mayor Harold Washington and was later reappointed to the Advisory Council on Gay and Lesbian Issues by Mayor Richard M. Daley. Pfeiffer was also inducted into the Chicago Lesbian and Gay Hall of Fame in 1993.

44th Ward Alderman **Bennett Lawson** and the Chicago Department of Transportation coordinated the street sign dedication with PRIDEChicago. The ceremony was attended by Pfeiffer's husband, **Tim Frye**, along with family, friends, elected officials, and community leaders.

*The 54th annual Chicago Pride Parade returns Sunday, June 29, 2025. For more information and updates visit: [pridechicago.org](http://pridechicago.org).*

### CHICAGO PRIDE PARADE ORGANIZERS ANNOUNCE NEW NOMINATION PROCESS FOR 2025 COMMUNITY GRAND MARSHALS

The all-volunteer organization that has produced the iconic Chicago Pride Parade for more than 50 years, has announced a new nomination process for Community Grand Marshals to be honored in the 54th annual Chicago Pride Parade.

Starting with the 2025 parade, PRIDEChicago is seeking community nominations for individuals who embody the spirit of Pride and have advanced the principles of equality, inclusivity and empowerment.

"We are looking for icons who have tirelessly championed social justice, promoted health and wellness, advocated for education and civil rights, fostered economic equality, or demonstrated exceptional leadership," said **Terra Campbell**, PRIDEChicago director of community engagement.

Nominations for the once in a lifetime recognition are now open until December 31, 2024 through the form located at [pridechicago.org/nominate](http://pridechicago.org/nominate).

"Let us come together to celebrate and honor those who have made a profound impact within our local LGBTQ+ community," said Campbell.

The final selection for Community Grand Marshals will be made by the PRIDEChicago Board of Directors in late March 2025.

Three prominent couples served as Grand Marshals in 2024. Comedian **Fortune Feimster** and her wife, **Jax Smith**, served as celebrity Grand Marshals. The two met at Chicago Pride in 2015, just days after the Supreme Court's historic ruling for nationwide marriage equality.

Feimster and Smith were joined by Community Grand Marshals **Art Johnston** and **José Pepe Peña**, longtime LGBTQ+ activists and owners of Sidetrack, and high-profile transgender couple and community organizers **Myles** and **Precious Brady-Davis**.

The 54th annual Chicago Pride Parade is Sunday, June 29, 2025 at 11 a.m. in Chicago's landmark LGBTQ+ Northalsted neighborhood.



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All are welcome to attend this one-of-a-kind, small scale, intimate tattoo convention featuring dozens of talented tattooers from across the country. In addition to live tattooing, the Windy City Invitational offers a fine art gallery, local street food, coffee all day, signature cocktails, tattoo removal by Removery, book release by Heart and Bone Signs, tattoo publications, and a select group of local vendors. The event runs all weekend, free entry, no appointment required to get tattooed.

Friday Nov 22: 3pm - 10pm  
Saturday Nov 23: 12pm-10pm Sunday  
Nov 24: 12pm-8pm

For more information visit <http://www.thewindycityinvitational.com>

**GIVING TUESDAY,  
DECEMBER 3RD**



Giving Tuesday is an annual day of giving held on the first Tuesday after Thanksgiving. This year, Giving Tuesday will be held on December 3, 2024. Following traditional days of spending, including Black Friday and Cyber Monday, Giving Tuesday stands in contrast.

GRAB readers & followers can show our generosity in a variety of ways during Giving Tuesday—whether it's helping a neighbor, advocating for an issue, sharing a skill, or giving to causes, everyone has something to give, and every act of generosity counts. Refer to pages 26 and 27 please give to those GLBT friendly organizations who need us most.

**SANTA SPEEDO RUN  
NORTHALSTED RETURNS THIS  
YEAR FOR A FUN-FILLED  
CELEBRATION!  
SATURDAY DECEMBER 7TH**



The eagerly anticipated Santa Speedo Run Northalsted is back Saturday, December 7, 2024, promising a day filled with laughter and goodwill. The annual event will kick off at noon, with an entertaining afternoon of festivities that culminate in a fun 1-Mile run for a great cause. All proceeds from this annual gathering will once again benefit Center on Halsted, a cornerstone of support for the LGBTQ+ community in Chicago. For more information or to register to run visit <http://www.santaspeedorun.centeronhalsted.org>.

**CHICAGO BE FREE TOURS  
RETURN IN APRIL 2025**



Chicago Be Free Tours has announced their return in April 2025, offering Chicago another year of LGBTQ bus tours. Chicago Be Free Tours serves as an excellent tourist attraction for individuals seeking fresh experiences connected to LGBTQ history in the city. Our tours guide participants to significant LGBTQ landmarks in Chicago, providing them with the opportunity to discover untold stories of Stonewall history.

Step back in time at Hull House Museum, a historic settlement house founded in Chicago in 1889. Explore the site where residents provided vital social services to immigrants and championed progressive reforms. Tour exhibits and learn about the home's fascinating role in shaping Chicago's history.

Explore Chicago's Boystown neighborhood on this insightful tour.

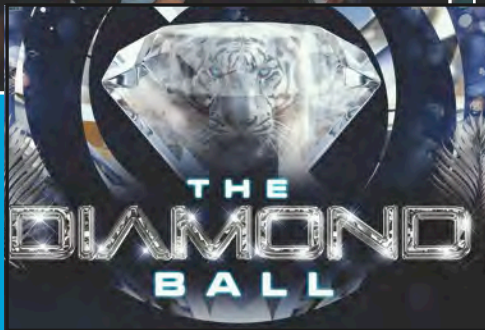
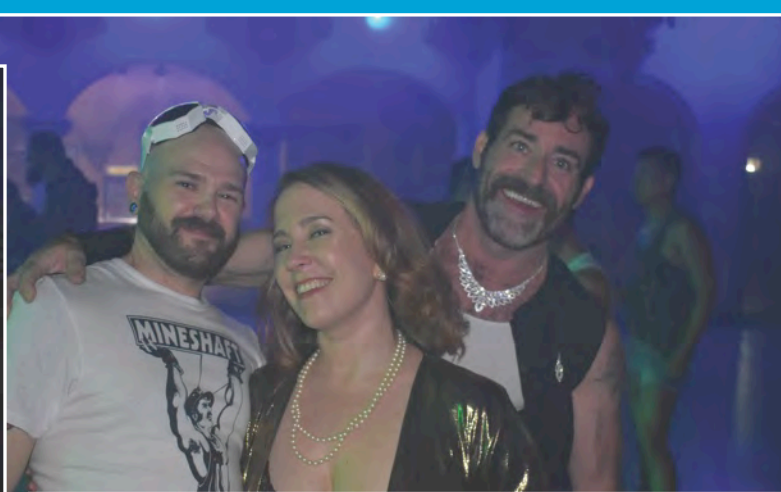
Learn about the historic significance of this LGBTQ+ hub and its ongoing impact on the community. See the iconic rainbow sidewalk and snap a photo, then discover the AIDS Garden, a place of remembrance and hope.

Uncover the rich history LGBTQ+ culture of Chicago's Andersonville with us! Learn about the hidden gems and discover how it became a cornerstone of the city's LGBTQ+ community.

We will walk uncovering Chicago's vibrant LGBTQ+ history during the 20th century (First Ward Ball site). Explore the Magnificent Mile, a significant landmark for the community, and delve into the stories of how it became a meeting point.

Visit [chicagobefreetours.com](http://chicagobefreetours.com) for more information and further details about the tours.

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**Photos By Anthony Meade**



**COURT THEATRE AND  
TIMELINE THEATRE COMPANY  
PRESENTS FALSETTOS  
NOVEMBER 8 THRU  
DECEMBER 8**



Court Theatre (under the continuing leadership of Executive Director **Angel Ysaguirre**, with interim artistic leadership from Associate Artistic Director **Gabrielle Randle-Bent** and Managing Director **Heidi Thompson Saunders**) and TimeLine Theatre Company (under the leadership of Artistic Director **PJ Powers** and Executive Director **Mica Cole**) present **William Finn** and **James Lapine's Falsettos**, a tribute to family and its many forms; a playful interrogation of faith and identity; and a celebration of the beauty, complexity, and necessity of love. This production will run November 8 – December 8, 2024 at Court Theatre, 5535 S. Ellis Ave.

Marvin has left his wife, Trina, for his male lover; Trina has married Marvin's therapist; and their son, Jason, is grappling with his parents' divorce and his looming bar mitzvah. Everyone's world has been upended and now they must explore what their new lives may hold. Featuring a sung-through score and set against the backdrop of the AIDS epidemic, Falsettos is a humorous and heartbreaking web of ex-spouses, co-parents, new lovers, and the lesbians next door.

"This is Marvin's story, a man coming out of the closet in the late 1970s," explains Director and TimeLine Associate Artistic Director **Nick Bowling**. "The production celebrates a time of adventure and self-expression, set against the sexual revolution, the disco era, and the very first days of the AIDS epidemic. In writing about Marvin, William Finn and James Lapine have created one of the very first musicals celebrating a 'normal' gay life, which, of course, turns out to be equally flawed and fabulous."

For more information visit [www.CourtTheatre.org](http://www.CourtTheatre.org). For tickets visit their box office at 5535 S. Ellis Avenue or call 773-753-4472 or visit their website.

**AMERICAN BLUES THEATER  
PRESENTS ITS 23RD ANNUAL  
PRODUCTION OF IT'S A  
WONDERFUL LIFE: LIVE IN  
CHICAGO! NOVEMBER 29-  
DECEMBER 22**



American Blues Theater announces its 23rd Annual Production of *It's a Wonderful Life: Live in Chicago!* from **Frank Capra's** film and directed by Executive Artistic Director **Gwendolyn Whiteside** with musical direction by Ensemble Member **Michael Mahler**. *It's a Wonderful Life: Live in Chicago!* will run November 29-December 22, 2024.

For almost 25 years, American Blues has treated audiences to a live retelling of the Frank Capra classic in a 1940s radio broadcast tradition, making *It's a Wonderful Life: Live in Chicago!* the second longest-running holiday play in Chicago!

Tickets are on sale at [www.americanbluestheater.com](http://www.americanbluestheater.com) or by calling (773) 654-3103.

In the long tradition of honoring heroes during the run of *It's a Wonderful Life*, American Blues will honor a teacher at each performance with a "Teacher Tribute." Nominations are accepted at [www.americanbluestheater.com](http://www.americanbluestheater.com). Selected recipients will receive complimentary tickets to a performance of *It's a Wonderful Life* and a live tribute during the show.

**CHRISTMAS BINGO: IT'S A HO-  
HO- HOLY NIGHT COMES TO  
MADISON STREET THEATER  
ONE DAY ONLY, DECEMBER 1ST**



Did Santa babysit the baby Jesus? Why were the Three Wise Men so lost? Who remembers the silver Christmas trees with color wheels? The answers to these and other humorous questions are answered in the hit holiday comedy *Christmas*

*Bingo: It's a Ho-Ho-Holy Night.*

*CHRISTMAS BINGO* comes to Madison Street Theater, 1010 Madison St., Oak Park, for one day only, at 3 p.m., Sunday, December 1.

Written by **Vicki Quade**, one of the creators of the hit comedy *Late Nite Catechism*, *CHRISTMAS BINGO* brings together two of the best things about being Catholic: Christmas and Bingo. The show features the character of Mrs. Mary Margaret O'Brien, a former nun and current bingo caller.

Tickets available at <https://madisonstreettheater.org/events>

**HELL IN A HANDBAG  
PRODUCTIONS ANNOUNCES  
23RD SEASON: 25TH  
ANNIVERSARY EDITION!  
RUDOLPH THE RED -HOSED  
REINDEER DECEMBER 13 THRU  
JANUARY5, 2025**



Hell in a Handbag Productions has announced its 2024/25 Season, featuring a fan favorite and two world premieres. Now in its 23rd year, Handbag continues to serve Chicago audiences with the best camp and parody – thus ensuring the preservation and celebration of this unequivocally queer art form.

Handbag's season kicks off this winter with the 25th anniversary edition of Artistic Director **David Cerda's** holiday classic *Rudolph the Red-Hosed Reindeer* (An Unauthorized Musical Parody), directed by **Anthony Whitaker**. This beloved and twisted musical parody of the animated 1967 children's television special features all your favorite misfits and Rudolph – the cross-dressing reindeer with a penchant for red hose and heels. In trademark Handbag style, Rudolph combines parody with heartfelt moments and a splash of scathing social commentary. At Hoover Leepen Theatre at Center non Halsted 3656 N. Halsted St Chicago.

For Tickets or additional information, visit [handbagproductions.org](http://handbagproductions.org).

**NOV 29 - DEC 22**

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