

# WINDY CITY TIMES

THE VOICE OF CHICAGO'S GAY, LESBIAN, BI AND TRANS COMMUNITY SINCE 1985

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**Eartha Kitt Dies**

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# 2008

## A LOOK BACK



**Christopher Knight**

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## 2008: From Obama to Prop 8

BY ANDREW DAVIS

For LGBTs, 2008 was filled with triumph, tragedy and troops:

**Bugging out:** A controversial study (with results released Jan. 14) revealed that gay men are significantly more likely to become infected with the "superbug" MRSA—methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*—than heterosexuals are. However, some people question the logic of labeling MRSA as a "gay" disease.

**Political animals:** The primary elections on Feb. 5 ("Super Tuesday") established how tight the Democratic presidential race between Sens. Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton would be, as he won more states and she took the bigger states. However, on June 7, Clinton delivered her concession speech/endorsement of Obama in Washington, D.C. On Nov. 4, many members of the LGBT community experience the heights of euphoria when Obama—operating on a platform

of inclusion—defeated Republican candidate John McCain to become president-elect of the United States.

**Tragedy in California:** In Oxnard, Calif., 15-year-old Lawrence King—who identified as gay, and wore make-up and feminine clothing—was allegedly shot Feb. 12 by 14-year-old classmate Brandon McInerney because of the former's sexual orientation. King was removed from life support Feb. 16.

**Craig, borrow and plead:** A Senate ethics panel officially admonished Sen. Larry Craig, saying he acted improperly during and after an airport bathroom sting. The Senate Ethics Committee was displeased with Craig's actions after he was arrested for soliciting sex at a Minneapolis airport in June 2007, according to a letter of admonition signed by all six members of the panel on Feb. 13.

**On the money:** The estate of Ric Weiland—

one of the first people to work at Microsoft Corporation and a high school classmate of the company's founders, Bill Gates and Paul Allen—bequeathed \$65 million to gay-rights and HIV/AIDS organizations. Among the organizations that benefited from the bequest were Lambda Legal and the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network.

**Wade open:** Director-producer Cynthia Wade won a Best Documentary (Short Subject) Oscar for *Freeheld*, which recounts the recent struggle of New Jersey Detective Lt. Laurel Hester to transfer her pension to her domestic partner, Stacie Andree, before Hester's death.

**Causing a commotion:** Superstar musician and gay icon Madonna was among several performers inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in its 23rd annual induction ceremony March 10 at

Turn to page 6



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# WINDY CITY TIMES

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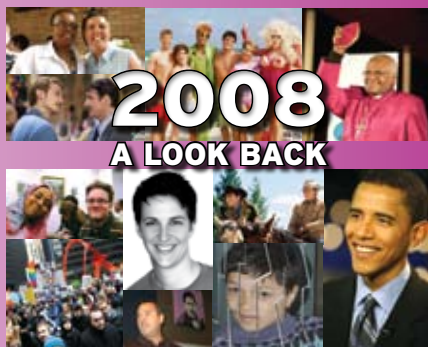
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WCT's cover shows those in the news in 2008, including (clockwise from upper left) Lisa Tonna (right, with partner Avis Jamison); the cast of Another Gay Sequel; Archbishop Desmond Tutu, who received the 2008 Outspoken Award from the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission; President-elect Barack Obama; Heath Ledger (right, with Jake Gyllenhaal), who passed away; Lawrence King, who was allegedly killed by a classmate because of King's sexual orientation; Rachel Maddow, who got her own MSNBC show; Center on Halsted Executive Director Modesto "Tico" Valle; thousands of Chicagoans protesting Prop 8 in November; Hontas Farmer and Sam Finkelstein at the Nov. 19 meeting where the proposal for an LGBT high school was scuttled; and James Franco and Sean Penn in Milk.

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Features include:  
 -World roundup  
 -Mombian by Dana Rudolph (right):  
 LGBT parenting in '08

Photo courtesy of Dana Rudolph



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# Living with HIV doesn't





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# NATIONAL ROUNDUP

BY ANDREW DAVIS

**A federal court in Louisiana has ordered the state registrar to recognize the New York adoption of a baby boy by same-sex couple Oren Adar and Mickey Smith; otherwise, the court said, the state would be violating the U.S. Constitution, according to a Lambda Legal press release. Lambda Legal filed suit on behalf of the couple in 2007, saying that the registrar violated the Full Faith and Credit Clause (which says that states have to respect the "public acts, records, and judicial rulings" of other states) of the U.S. Constitution by not acknowledging the adoption.**

The Williams Institute—a research center on sexual orientation law and public policy at UCLA School of Law—announced two new reports from the "The U.S.A. National Longitudinal Lesbian Family Study (NLLFS)," **a 22-year study that followed planned lesbian families with children conceived by donor insemination.** Among the findings was that the children are as healthy and well-adjusted as those raised in heterosexual families.

In a recent statement of answers to questions posed by the New York Times, Caroline Kennedy—who is seeking to replace Hillary Clinton in the U.S. Senate—said that **she "supports full equality and marriage rights for gay and lesbian couples."** In addition, Kennedy said that she is against restrictions on abortion rights.

Lesbian singer-songwriter Melissa Etheridge and her wife, Tammy Lynn Michaels, have written **a pair of articles that defend the Rev. Rick Warren**, President-elect Barack Obama's pick to deliver the inauguration's invocation, according to EDGE Boston. In a blog entry edited and republished by the Chicago Sun-Times, Michaels stated, "[Etheridge] spoke to him on the phone beforehand, giving us insight into the man the media has made our latest 'HE HATES YOU!' tar-

get. If I sit real still and think about it, it's almost like reverse smear-the-queer."

In Texas, Jennifer Gale, **a trans homeless person who unsuccessfully ran for more than a dozen political offices** in Austin and Dallas, was found dead Dec. 17 outside an Austin church, according to the Dallas Morning News. Among other things, Gale ran for the mayor of Dallas in 2007, finishing ninth in an 11-candidate field. A free spirit, Gale, 47, often addressed city councils and similar political bodies in song.

In Pennsylvania, Shawn Quinones—a trans, HIV-positive former inmate—**has been sentenced for up to eight years and six months in prison for spitting on a corrections officer**, the Associated Press reported. Quinones was convicted of assault, aggravated harassment and reckless endangerment.

In California, **a lesbian was allegedly kidnapped and gang-raped by four men** in the San Francisco suburb of Richmond, leading some people to be concerned about a possible rise in anti-gay violence because of Prop 8, according to EDGE Chicago. The suspects are wanted for sexual assault, robbery, kidnapping, assault with a deadly weapon and carjacking; police are offering a \$10,000 reward for information that leads to the alleged offenders' arrests.

The Rev. Ted Haggard—the evangelical leader who was caught up in a gay-sex scandal two years ago—**has agreed to help promote The Trials of Ted Haggard, a documentary about his life following that event**, the Associated Press reported. HBO is slated to air the documentary—directed by Alexandra Pelosi, the daughter of U.S. Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi—in January.

In Arizona, Travis Reiner has been cleared by a court after it was determined that **he was not one of four men who assaulted two gay men after a Flagstaff gay-pride festival**, according to the Associated Press. Police are calling the attack a hate crime.

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## 2008 from cover

New York City's Waldorf-Astoria. The year would prove to be bittersweet for the Material Mom; she later divorced husband Guy Ritchie.

**A Kern for the worse:** Gay-rights organizations criticized Republican Oklahoma State Representative Sally Kern after an audio recording of her denouncing gays was leaked. A YouTube video of Kern talking about the LGBT community to a group of approximately 50 Republicans revealed her saying, among other things, that "according to God's word, that is not the right kind of lifestyle. It has deadly consequences for those people involved in it."

**Oh, baby:** Thomas Beatie, 34, from Bend, Ore., made history as the first pregnant transgender man. He appeared on various television shows (including The Oprah Winfrey Show) and publications (such as The Advocate). He gave birth to a girl (Susan Juliette Beatie) on June 29—and is pregnant again.

**Altered state:** In a historic development, hundreds of supporters gathered at Grace Cathedral in San Francisco as Archbishop Desmond Tutu received the 2008 Outspoken Award from the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission. During his half-hour address, Tutu said that he felt it necessary to speak up "when people were frequently hounded ... vilified, molested and even killed as targets of homophobia ... for something they did not choose—their sexual orientation."

**I do—for now:** The California Supreme Court ruled May 15 that state laws prohibiting the recognition of same-sex marriages violate state constitutional rights of gay people; marriages commenced in mid-June. Marriage would again be thrust into the forefront in November when state residents passed the anti-same-sex-marriage initiative Proposition 8.

**Working it out:** The first-ever federal hearing on workplace protection from transgender persons took place June 26 before the education and labor subcommittee of the U.S. House of Representatives. Lesbian U.S. Rep. Tammy Baldwin, D-Wis., and openly gay U.S. Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass., were among those who testified.

**Bush league:** The United States international AIDS effort—the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR)—was renewed for another five years. The PEPFAR budget will more than triple to \$50 billion over the life of the program. Another major provision involved lifting travel and immigration restrictions on persons who are HIV-positive.

**Book thrown at library:** A federal judge found that the Library of Congress illegally discriminated against a transgender woman, Diane Schroer, in the process of transitioning when it withdrew a job offer to her.

**Now hear this:** The first congressional hearing on repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," held July 23, featured a heavy dose of inspirational patriotism from witnesses and representatives.

**Shootings in Tennessee:** On July 27, a man opened fire at Knoxville's welcoming Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church. Two people were killed and six others were injured.

**The numbers game:** New HIV infections in the U.S. topped 56,000 a year in 2006—about 40 percent more than previous estimates. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released those numbers at a news conference Aug. 2.

**Show time:** MSNBC announced Aug. 20 that it was giving political commentator Rachel Maddow her own weeknight show. The press statement included mention that Maddow lives with her "partner," artist Susan Mikula.

**Ban and boy:** In Florida, a judge ruled that the state's gay-adoption ban was unconstitutional. Monroe Circuit Court Judge David Audlin, Jr., delivered the ruling, which was in favor of a gay foster parent in Key West who wanted to adopt a 13-year-old boy.

**Outgoing:** Actress Lindsay Lohan and singer Clay Aiken both came out of the closet. Lohan confirmed her relationship with DJ Samantha Ronson.

**With this ring:** The Connecticut Supreme Court ruled Oct. 10 that gay couples in the state must be able to obtain marriage licenses the same as straight couples can. The decision was a 4-3 vote, with the three dissenting justices each submitting their own brief.

**No laughing matter:** Comedienne Wanda Sykes came out of the closet—and admitted that she married her partner Oct. 25—during a Nov. 15 anti-Prop 8 rally at the GLBT Community Center in Las Vegas, Nev.

**A matter of policy:** Retired Admiral Charles Larson, former superintendent of the U.S. Naval Academy, topped a list of 104 retired generals and admirals calling for an end to the military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy governing gay troops.

**Milk men:** On Nov. 26, Milk—the critically acclaimed filmic biography of late gay-rights activist/politician Harvey Milk—opened in select theaters around the country. The film stars Sean Penn, James Franco and Emile Hirsch (among others) and is directed by Gus Van Sant.

**Out of the closet:** Commercial Closet Association (CCA) announced that it would integrate its programs and operations with those of the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation—but it would happen without CCA Executive Director/Founder Mike Wilke, who was terminated from the association after months of mounting tension between himself and board members.

**The need to lead:** Over 600 LGBT elected officials and leaders attended the Gay & Lesbian Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C., which took place Dec. 4-7. Among the topics discussed was how President-elect Barack Obama can make improvements for LGBT people.

**Holding court:** On Dec. 9, the Iowa Supreme Court heard arguments in Lambda Legal's case on behalf of six Iowa same-sex couples who are seeking the right to marry.

**Warren of words:** Controversy erupted over President-elect Barack Obama's invitation to evangelical minister Rick Warren to deliver the invocation at his inauguration. Although Warren has been at the forefront of some causes such as the battle against the HIV/AIDS pandemic, he also is against same-sex marriage (equating it with incest and pedophilia) and abortion rights.

### Passages:

**Heath Ledger**—an actor who starred in many acclaimed movies, including the 2005 gay cowboy film *Brokeback Mountain* and the 2008 summer blockbuster *The Dark Knight*—was found dead in a New York City apartment of an accidental overdose of prescription drugs. He was 28.

**Jahna Steele**, a Las Vegas transgender legend, died Jan. 24 at the age of 49. The cause of death was an accidental mixed-drug intoxication.

**Mildred Loving**—who started a ball rolling toward knocking down laws banning interracial marriage and who, late in life, also spoke out against bans on gay marriage—died May 2, in Milford, Va. She was 68.

**Charles Moskos**, the architect of the anti-gay military policy known as "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," died of cancer at the age of 74.

**Jesse Helms**—the former North Carolina senator who opposed gays and liberals during his three-decade run in the U.S. Congress—died on the Fourth of July. He was 86.

**Del Martin**—the legendary lesbian activist who married her love of 55 years, Phyllis Lyon, June 16 in California—died Aug. 27 in San Francisco, Calif., according to a release from the National Center for Lesbian Rights (NCLR). Martin was 87.

**Gene Copello**, the executive director of The AIDS Institute, died Oct. 7 at the age of 49 at a Washington, D.C., area hospital. The cause of death involved complications of kidney disease.

**Eartha Kitt**, the sultry singer-actress and legendary gay icon, died of colon cancer in Connecticut on Christmas Day. She was 81.



Eartha Kitt entertained a Chicago crowd in an undated picture. Photo by Vern Hester

### PASSAGES

## Eartha Kitt

Sultry singer-actress and legendary gay icon Eartha Kitt died of colon cancer in Connecticut on Christmas Day. She was 81.

Kitt—who taped a PBS special in Chicago in November that will air in February—was nominated for a Tony three times, a Grammy and an Emmy twice, according to CNN.com.

Kitt (birth name: Eartha Mae Keith) was the child of a white father who shunned her and an extremely poor Black mother who gave her away at age 3, according to the Chicago Tribune. Kitt found her biracial background to be a liability.

Eventually, she auditioned for dance school and was performing in Paris in the late 1940s. Orson Welles—who called Kitt the "most exciting woman in the world"—later put her in a stage production. She later recorded hits such as *Santa Baby* and *C'est Si Bon*.

In 1968, Kitt caused much controversy by speaking out about U.S. society at a White

House event hosted by Lady Bird Johnson. Kitt's career suffered a downturn but in 1995, she won raves for shows in New York and Chicago.

Kitt was an outspoken proponent of gay rights. In a 2005 article published in Windy City Times entitled "Getting Catty with Eartha Kitt" ([www.windycitymediagroup.com/gay/lesbian/news/ARTICLE.php?AID=7907](http://www.windycitymediagroup.com/gay/lesbian/news/ARTICLE.php?AID=7907)), the entertainer said the following about same-sex marriage: "I support it because we're asking for the same thing. If I have a partner and something happens to me, I want that partner to enjoy the benefits of what we have reaped together. It's a civil-rights thing, isn't it?" She also expressed her appreciation of gay audiences.

Among Kitt's films were *Boomerang* and *The Emperor's New Groove*, according to IMDB.com. Her TV roles included her inimitable turn as *Catwoman* in the '60s series *Batman*.

Kitt is survived by daughter Kitt Shapiro and two grandchildren, Jason and Rachel.

# The year in review: Local news

BY ANDREW DAVIS

For Chicagoland LGBTs, 2008—if nothing else—proved that the community will rally around its own:

**Up in smoke:** Illinois' statewide smoking ban took effect Jan. 1. People who worked at and/or managed some local LGBT nightspots reported that business was scarcely affected.

**Natural election:** The Feb. 5 primary elections made history as Anita Alvarez became the first Hispanic and the first woman to take the Democratic slate for the post of Cook County state's attorney; she eventually defeated Republican Tony Peraica in November. Also, Democratic Illinois state rep candidate Deb Mell ran unopposed, paving the way for her to become the first out lesbian in the Illinois General Assembly. On the flip side, openly gay Cook County Board of Review commissioner candidate Jay Paul Deratany fell just short of ousting incumbent Joseph Berrios.

**Center of attention:** Center on Halsted received the Richard H. Driehaus Foundation Award for Outstanding Non-Profit Real Estate Project at the 14th Annual Chicago Neighborhood Development Awards.

**The thin blue line:** As part of new Chicago Police Superintendent Jody Weis' recent massive department overhaul, former 20th District Commander Kathleen Boehmer became the first woman to lead the Town Hall Police District, located in the heart of Boystown.

**A matter of principal:** A bill that would have repealed a state law that requires health departments to notify school principals of a student's HIV status was defeated in the Illinois House 62-43.

**The write stuff:** Gay writer Dwight Okita was originally one of 5,000 entrants in the Amazon Breakthrough Novel Award contest, Amazon.com's first writing competition in search of the next great American novel—and just missed taking the grand prize for his work, *The Prospect of My Arrival*.

**Model behavior:** Openly gay Chicagoan Ronnie Kroell—who became a 30 Under 30 honoree in June—did his city proud by coming in as the runner-up on Bravo's reality-TV program *Make Me a Supermodel*.

**No more words:** Several local LGBT people have come out in support of the Rev. Jeremiah Wright, then-Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Barack Obama's controversial former pastor, following media uproar over short clips from his past sermons. Obama eventually distanced himself from Wright.

**Capitol idea:** The eighth annual HIV/AIDS Lobby Days was a "huge success," according to the event's organizers. Over 120 people rallied in the rotunda of the State Capitol April 2, calling for sound HIV/AIDS policies.

**A steep bill to climb:** A measure that aimed to extend survivor benefits to the same-sex partners of Chicago Public School teachers failed, 43-67, after a long debate. HB 4731 was sponsored by openly gay state Rep. Greg Harris, D-Chicago, who vowed to keep fighting for its passage despite the setback.

**Si, se puede:** Rainbow flags dotted Chicago's May Day rally, as an LGBTQ contingent marched along with groups demanding the legalization of the undocumented; worker's rights; and an end to raids and deportations.

**Villa Park saga:** Nicole Abusharif, accused of murdering partner Becky Klein at their Villa Park home in 2007, was released from DuPage County Jail in May after a judge raised her bail for violating her home confinement; she is still awaiting trial. Robert L. Edwards, 42, of Elk Grove Village, was convicted in November of two counts of obstruction of justice in connection with Klein's death.

**Sexual healing:** On May 27, Berwyn's city

council voted 8-0 to add "sexual orientation" to the language in its city ordinance that protects against discrimination. Aldermen also voted to update other language within the ordinance and rename it the Human Rights Ordinance.

**Pride in the name of love:** As part of Pride Month, local television station WTTW-11 showed the special *Out & Proud*, a documentary about the local LGBT community, despite a bomb threat that it received. In a related development, the book *Out & Proud in Chicago*—edited by Windy City Times Publisher Tracy Baim—is released in September. The book is the first full-length history of the LGBT community in Chicago ever published.

**Racial dimensions:** The Coalition for Justice and Respect organized a "Unity March Against Racism and Harassment" in the Boystown area in June. This was the latest such event in Chicago to address the tensions that have pitted youth of color against police officers, condo dwellers and business owners.

**A new venue:** For the first time ever, Dyke March Chicago took place away from Andersonville as hundreds of participants marched in the primarily Latino area of Pilsen.

**The rain event:** Despite showers and a long delay mid-event, 450,000 celebrated the 39th annual Pride Parade June 29. The grand marshal was Eric Alva, an ex-marine who is a proponent of overturning "Don't Ask, Don't Tell."

**Giving them the benefit:** On July 1, Cook County commissioners approved a measure that changes a county ordinance to benefit same-sex couples who get married in another state. Only two commissioners—Liz Doody-Gorman and Gregg Goslin—voted against the measure.

**Splitting the difference:** Due to conflict and disputes, a schism developed in the Windy City Black Pride organization, resulting in Windy City Black Pride and the newly formed Chicago Windy City Black Pride holding separate celebrations.

**Bad luck:** Gentry on State, 440 N. State, closed its doors quietly in August. The site is now The Lucky Lady, an after-work beer-and-shot bar with a primarily straight clientele. Gentry's Web site simply says, "Thanks for the Memories ... Gentry on State & Gentry on Halsted no longer exist."

**Out of site:** Calling it "the end of an era," Bailiwick Repertory founder and artistic director David Zak notified patrons in a letter that the company would leave its space at 1229 W. Belmont at the end of this year. Jeremy Wechsler and Theatre Wit will take over the space in 2009.

**Happy anniversary:** The Cook County Clerk's Office held a celebration marking five years since it established a domestic-partnership registry.

**A family affair:** The mother, brother and nephew of singer and Academy Award-winning actress (and Chicago native) Jennifer Hudson were killed. William Balfour, 27—the estranged husband of Hudson's sister, Julia—was charged with three counts of first-degree murder and one count of home invasion in connection with the deaths of Darnell Donerson, Jason Hudson and Julian King.

**Yes, he did:** Chicago's Grant Park became the focal point of the nation Nov. 4, when Sen. Barack Obama delivered his victory speech after winning the presidential election, making history as the country's first African-American president-elect.

**In focus:** Hundreds of LGBT activists braved the bitter cold Nov. 8 to demonstrate downtown against anti-gay Focus on the Family leader James Dobson. Dobson was among those being inducted into the National Radio Hall of Fame.

**Protesting the 8:** An estimated 3,000-5,000 people attended a gay marriage rally at Chicago's Federal Plaza, at Adams and Dearborn, Nov. 15 as part of a nationwide series of simultaneous protests against the passage of the Proposition 8 gay marriage ban in California.

**School is out:** A proposal for a Chicago LGBT high school was abruptly taken off the agenda of the Chicago Public Schools Nov. 19 board meeting. Supporters and opponents of the proposal came to the downtown office of CPS, only to be

handed a memo from The Office of New Schools informing them, "The Social Justice Solidarity High School proposal has been withdrawn from consideration during today's Board meeting."

**Notes on a scandal:** On Dec. 9, FBI special agents arrested Gov. Rod Blagojevich and John Harris, his chief of staff. Blagojevich stood accused of conspiracy to commit mail fraud and wire fraud as well as solicitation of bribes. (As of press time, Blagojevich had refused to step down, although Harris had resigned.) The family of the governor's wife, Patti—including the father, Alderman Dick Mell, and her sister, newly elected State Rep. Deb Mell—went on television to defend Illinois' first lady.

**Clash in Boystown:** Things became quite intense at the Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted, when five members of God Hates Fags—also known as Kansas' anti-gay Westboro Baptist Church (headed by the Rev. Fred Phelps)—showed up Dec. 13 near the facility before a forum was scheduled to take place. More than 100 pro-LGBT counterdemonstrators showed up to support the center.

**Strike up the band:** Several Chicagoans were selected to be in the first LGBT band that will march in President-elect Barack Obama's inauguration parade.

## Passages:

**Lisa Tonna**, a former manager of the Center on Halsted's Anti-Violence Project and interim managing director of the Lesbian Community Care Project, passed away Jan. 8 of cancer.

**Earnest Hite, Jr.**, a prevention coordinator with the organization known as Better Existence with HIV, was killed in a car accident Jan. 14. He was 53.

**Eugene Sawyer**, a businessman and former Chicago mayor (1987-89) who was a longtime ally of the LGBT community, died at age 73 on Jan. 19.

**Mary York**, a Chicago attorney—who, as part of the firm Mulryan and York, was inducted with her legal partner Rosemary Mulryan into the Chicago Gay & Lesbian Hall of Fame in 2004—died Jan. 23 after a long battle with renal cancer. She was 52.

**Gloria J. Shoff**, executive director of the Northalsted Area Merchants Association, passed away in late January. Shoff, a lifelong Chicagoan who resided on the North Side, was 72.

**Michaeline Chvatal**, one of the founding members of the local lesbian feminist choral group The Artemis Singers, passed away Feb. 16. She was 60.

**Antonia "Tata" Flores**, a lesbian who, among other things, recruited other lesbians every June (since 1997) to represent the Dykes on Bikes in the annual Gay Pride Parade, passed away Feb. 17 of breast cancer. She was 50.

**Tom Koontz**—a Midwesterner whose life took him to New York, Puerto Rico and Chicago, where he was, among other things, a recent sales associate for Windy City Times—died Feb. 29. He was 56.

**James Owen**, an employee at the gay bar Little Jim's and partner of the late gay-rights activist Thom Dombkowski, passed away March 31 at the age of 54.

**Kathleen Rose Winter**, 51, passed away May 4. A lifelong Chicagoan and former Windy City Times writer, Winter was active in several fields of pursuit, including advocating for the rights of people with disabilities, athletics, writing, performing, and public speaking.

**Larry McKeon**—the first openly gay and the first HIV-positive member of the Illinois General Assembly—died May 13. He was 63.

**Dewey Herrington**, known as the "Mayor of Broadway," passed away Aug. 12 from complications from degenerative brain disease at the age of 62.

**Ron Ziebarth**, a popular bartender who served drinks at various LGBT establishments over the past 25 years, was found dead Sept. 23. He was 52.

**Studs Terkel**—a Chicagoan who was an actor, radio host and Pulitzer Prize-winning author—died Oct. 31 at the age of 96.



Joyce Love.

## PASSAGES

### Joyce Love

Joyce A. Love, 57, a longtime activist on women's and anti-violence issues, died Dec. 11 of complications from cancer.

Love was a former program officer at the Chicago Foundation for Women (CFW), where she helped fund numerous lesbian-friendly projects, including the Literary Exchange, an African-American women's group. Through CFW, where she worked 1990-1998, she led the group's delegation to the United Nations' 4th World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1996.

Love's partner of 17 years, Melba Poole, was a key founder of Literary Exchange in the 1980s. She said that Love was a dependable partner and friend, and a key supporter of both individuals and groups in the community.

"She was a passionate activist," said friend Renae Ogletree, who also recalled Love's support and friendship during Ogletree's own fight against cancer.

Most recently, Love was assistant director and an originator of CeaseFire, which does community-based outreach to stop violence. CeaseFire is part of the Chicago Project for Violence Prevention, where Love started working in 1998. This grew out of her work as a young community organizer, including the formation and development of POR (People's Organization of Robbins) and the Austin Block Watch Committee, which fought to keep gangs and drugs out of their communities.

A memorial service was held Dec. 28 at the Myogyoji Buddhist temple in West Chicago, followed by a repast at Room 43 in Chicago. The program book for the service stated in part: "No one believed in the mission of CeaseFire, or the work, more than Joyce. She fought hard to save lives, and to make life easier and better for others."

Love traveled extensively, starting as a teenager and throughout her life, to places including Africa, the Caribbean, Mexico, China and Japan. She was also a regular at the annual Michigan Womyn's Music festival.

She embraced Nichiren Shoshu Buddhism while a freshman at Carnegie Mellon University and was a faithful practitioner until the end of her life.

"Her word was her bond," Poole said after the service. "I could always depend on her. No matter what happened, we truly loved each other and wanted to be together. She was quiet, but so strong."

In addition to her partner Melba Poole, Love, born in Chicago Sept. 8, 1951, leaves behind her twin sister Jackie and other sister Carol; two nephews, Christian and Cameron; a brother-in-law, Bill; and many relatives and friends.



Jim Madigan. Photo by Kat Fitzgerald (MysticImages Photography.com)

## Morten, Madigan make transitions

BY YASMIN NAIR

Two prominent Chicago LGBT activists are making significant career transitions.

Mary Morten is stepping down as the interim executive director of Chicago Foundation for Women. Morten was the first African American and first out lesbian chair of the board in 1999. She became the interim executive director in November 2007.

Speaking about her future plans, Morten said that she is looking forward to new and ongoing projects, including returning full-time to her consulting business. Also, she will be launching Executive Retreat, for women executive leaders, with friend and business partner Laura McAlpine: "The retreats came out of something Laura and I would do for ourselves twice a year; we'd go on our own retreats. It's so critical for your own personal and professional development." Morten was cautious about the advancement of people of color in the nonprofit sector. She said, "I've seen more in the last several years than I'm seeing right now. What that signals to me is that we must continue to be inclusive and diverse and really living those values in all aspects of our organizations."

Morten will also be working on a documentary inspired by the Black Youth Project, a survey of 1,600 African-American youth overseen by Cathy Cohen at the University of Chicago. The survey looked at nine issue areas, including gender and politics.

On another front, James "Jim" Madigan has joined Equality Illinois as the interim executive director. He does not plan for this to be a permanent position: "I'm not going to run a

Dick Cheney-style search. My goal is to assist the organization make a push for civil unions, with their annual gala coming up and to focus on getting a long-term executive director. So really my goal is to help get everything ready to hand over to someone in the long term."

Madigan last worked at Lambda Legal. He counts among his legal successes his representation of a gay-student organization in Chicago; it was the first case in the country brought under the federal Equal Access Act against a charter school.

Madigan is excited about the organization's role in the upcoming and renewed push for a civil-unions bill, especially because he was one of those who helped draft the last version. "I got to see that we were really on the cusp of persuading a majority of people in Illinois and the legislatures that it was a good idea, so this seemed to be an exciting opportunity to help with that. I think the organization represents the one place where the entire LGBT community in the state can come together and marshal its resources."

## Inauguration cruise Jan. 16-24

The "Yes WE Can" 2009 Inauguration Cruise—celebrating President-elect Barack Obama's transition into the White House—will take place Jan. 16-24. The cruise will leave from Port Everglades in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., and sail round-trip to Baltimore, Md.

One of the highlights will be the "Yes We Can 2009 Cruise Ball" at the historic Frances-Merrick Performing Arts Center in Baltimore.

For more information, visit [www.yeswecan2009cruise.com](http://www.yeswecan2009cruise.com) or call 866-621-2560.

## Proposals for Black LGBT writers' confab due Jan. 6

Fire & Ink III: Cotillion—a conference that will bring together hundreds of LGBT writers of African descent in Austin, Texas, Aug. 8-11, 2009—is looking for proposals.

The abstracts of the proposals should be 500-1,000-words long and are due Jan. 6; full proposals are due March 30.

For more info, see [www.fireandink.org](http://www.fireandink.org); e-mail proposals to [fireandink2009@yahoo.com](mailto:fireandink2009@yahoo.com).

## Forgiveness seminar set for Jan. 3

"Forgiveness: A New Year, A New Life" will take place Saturday, Jan. 3, 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m., at Liv-



## Restocking the pantry

People's Gas recently presented Lakeview Pantry with a check for \$10,000 to help the latter business purchase items to restock. The photo shows Richard Turner (right), manager of corporate contributions for Peoples Gas, handing the check to Gary Garland, the pantry's executive director.

ing Well Ministries, 6554 N. Rockwell.

This recurring seminar opens with a thought-provoking film ideal for reflection on forgiveness at both the interpersonal and systemic oppression levels, such as the impact of ongoing homophobia.

The fee of \$100 covers registration, lunch, materials and one optional follow-up coaching session; the registration deadline is Dec. 31. E-mail [jacki@livingwellministries.net](mailto:jacki@livingwellministries.net) or call 773-655-4357 to register.

## TPAN announces new development director

Sean Smith is joining HIV-services agency Test Positive Aware Network (TPAN) as its director of development.

Smith joins TPAN after serving as the manager of individual giving at Chicago's Museum of Science and Industry. Previously, he was the director of government affairs at Howard Brown Health Center.

"Sean brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to this position, and we're excited to have him as part of our development team," said Bill Farrand, TPAN's interim executive director.

## Bailiwick clearance sale Jan. 2

Bailiwick Repertory will hold a final "Make Us an Offer" rummage and clearance sale Friday, Jan. 2, 12-5 p.m., in the Bailiwick Arts Center, 1229 W. Belmont.

Artistic Director David Zak said, "We are asking people to make a \$1 donation in support of the

theater to enter the sale, and then everything left in the building will be for sale on a 'make us an offer' basis." Items up for grabs include bookcases, costumes, trunks and vases. For more information, call 773-883-1090.

The company is leaving the space after 15 years.

## 'Gays Got Talent' finals Jan. 10

The finals for Gays Got Talent, a wide-ranging Chicago-area talent contest, will take place Jan. 10, 2009 at Sidetrack, 3349 N. Halsted.

Doors open at 4 p.m., and the show begins at 5 p.m.; the cost at the door is \$5. On that day someone will be crowned the "Most Talented Gay" of 2008.

"People were encouraged to come out and dance, sing, perform poetry, comedy or display their magic, drag, or puppetry skills," said Amy Matheny, host of Gays Got Talent. "And the final big show will have it all—from comics to singers, musicians, slam poets, magicians, and the oldest gay talent there is—drag kings and drag queens." The talent comes to the finals from many clubs around town including Stargaze, Crew, Jeffrey Pub, Mary's Attic and @mosphere.

The audience will vote to award the grand-prize winner \$1,000 cash, American Airlines tickets, a trip to Toronto, Broadway in Chicago tickets and more. See [www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com](http://www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com) for more.

## Leather Archives art show ends Jan. 9

Time is running out to see "ask," the mixed-medium exhibition and fashion show at Leather Archives & Museum, 6418 N. Greenview. It runs through Jan. 9, 2009.

"ask" reviews the latest in fetish inspired masks and works by local, national and international artist and producers. Exhibiting artists include Mephisto Leather, JOJO, Andy C and Fabrizio Cotognini.

See [www.leatherarchives.org](http://www.leatherarchives.org).

## Jan. 'In the Life' spotlights religion

In the Life—the public-television series that documents LGBT life—explores religious devotion and discord in the LGBT community in its January airing, "Ties that Bind."

In "A Conversation With..." Bishop Gene Robinson, the first openly gay bishop ordained by the Episcopal Church, and Rabbi Sharon Kleinbaum, spiritual leader of New York City's largest LGBT synagogue, discuss their spiritual journeys. The episode concludes with a "Real to Reel" highlighting Parvez Sharma's groundbreaking film, A Jihad for Love.

"Ties that Bind" will air locally Friday, Jan. 2, at 10:30 p.m. on WTTW-11. See [www.inthelife.tv](http://www.inthelife.tv) for more.

**Thursday, January 8**  
7:30 p.m.  
**Joan Corwin**  
"Safe Shall Be My Going"  
Press 53 Open  
Awards Anthology

**Friday, January 9**  
7:30 p.m.  
**Kim Bobo**  
Wage Theft in America



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## TRANSNATION

## 2008 trans year in review

BY JACOB ANDERSON-MINSHALL

Between the collapse of the economy, California's same-sex marriage flip-flops and Obama's election, it took a pregnant man to capture mainstream press' attention. But while media outlets around the globe carried that trans story, most of the year's transgender highlights received short shrift. Here's some of what they missed:

## Books

Last year, Haworth Press established itself as the publisher of trans-related nonfiction. In 2008, the press delivered *Principles of Transgender Medicine and Surgery* and *Head Over Heels: Wives Who Stay With Cross-Dressers and Transsexuals*. Financially crippled, the company was acquired by Taylor & Francis, which may or may not continue publishing transgender titles.

Two controversial memoirs—Thomas Beatie's *Labor of Love: The Story of One Man's Extraordinary Pregnancy and Savannah Knoop's Girl Boy Girl: How I Became JT Leroy*—overshadowed less contentious, but equally important *Intersex: (for lack of better word) by Thea Hillman and Scott Turner Schofield's Two Truths and a Lie*.

Other notable releases included the global anthology *Trans People in Love*, Susan Stryker's *Transgender History* and *10,000 Dresses*, a fabulous children's book by Marcus Ewert about a boy who dreams of wearing dresses.

## Film

Trans actor Joshua Bastion Cole starred in Joie Rey Cohen's short film, *Gender*; Jules Roskam's experimental documentary, *Against a Trans Narrative*; and Trannywood's erotic film, *Cubbyholes: Trans Men In Action*, (nominated for a 2008 GAYVN Award). But he wasn't in *Morty Diamond's* docu-porn, *Trans Entities: The Nasty Love of Papi' and Wil*.

Trans women were subjects of *Girl Inside* (about a trans woman's bond with her grandmother); *Catwalk '08*, (documenting the first high fashion trans modeling pageant); and film fest fave: *She's a Boy I Knew* (a self-biography of filmmaker Gwen Haworth).

The award-winning *Two Spirits* examined the life and death of Fred Martinez, a Navajo teen murdered for being a *nadlee*—someone with both masculine and feminine traits.

## Media coverage

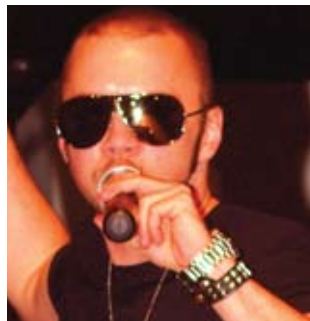
While trans kids continued to be a delicacy for daytime talk-show hosts, at least Atlantic Monthly and National Public Radio provided fair and compassionate coverage of gender-variant youth and their issues.

Out magazine covered the trans community in a special issue that was edited by trans author T Cooper, who also became Out's newest columnist. The LGBT syndicate *QueerCents* also brought on a new trans writer, launching the column, "Our Money is as Good as Your Money," by Ashley Wilson. *Positively Aware* magazine examined the high rates of HIV infection in the trans community. In other news, Los Angeles Times' sportswriter Mike Penner quietly returned to work under his masculine persona, eight months after coming out as Christine Daniels.

## Music

Trans-fronted The Cliks started 2008 off with their *Complicated* video as LOGO's first number-one of the year. Then they won a Nexty Award; appeared on MTV's TRL rejoined Cyndi Lauper's True Colors Tour; and later toured Germany and South Africa.

Trans pop star Joshua Klipp's L1FE remix made it onto a Billboard music chart and the video for *Tell Me The...* reached LOGO's Top 10 Click List. Baby Dee's fourth album, *Safe Inside the Day*, was lauded by Britain's *The Daily Telegraph* as



Joshua Klipp.

"the most remarkable record of the year so far."

Coyote Grace—trans musician Joe Stevens and partner Ingrid Elizabeth—played with the Indigo Girls, toured with Melissa Ferrick and produced a live album. Other new albums include jazz bassist Jennifer Leitham's *Left Coast Story* and gender-bending model/actress Jeffree Star's *Cupcakes Taste Like Violence EP*.

## Performances

A plethora of trans playwrights premiered theater pieces, including Scott Turner Schofield's sold-out *Becoming a Man in 127 EASY Steps*, Tobias K. Davis' *Standards of Care* and PoMo Freakshow's (FTM-to-femme Sassafras Lowrey and hir trans partner Kestryl Cael) *Traitors without (T) reason*, exploring the betrayal, invisibility, and loss "inextricably" linked to passing.

In its second year, trans comedian Ian Harvie's self-titled comedy cabaret featured a hefty LGBT line-up, including luminaries Leslie Jordan, Alec Mapa, Ant, Margaret Cho and Calpernia Addams.

## Politics/Law

A record number of trans delegates, alternates and standing committee members attended the 2008 Democratic National Convention. Although most trans politicians—including Presidential hopeful Ben "Bennie Lee" Ferguson—lost their bids, transgender Stu Rasmussen won his mayor's seat in the small town of Silverton, Ore.

In a potentially far-reaching decision, U.S. District Judge James Robinson ruled that the Library of Congress violated Diane Schroer's rights after they rescinded a job offer upon learning she was trans. Meanwhile, the Transgender Legal Defense and Education Fund settled a lawsuit with Caliente Cab Restaurant, which tossed a masculine-appearing woman out of its establishment when she attempted to use the women's restroom.

Detroit and Kansas City, Mo., banned discrimination against trans people while New York State adopted the Gender Expression Non-Discrimination Act (GENDA).

In sadder news, this year's Transgender Day of Remembrance marked the 10th anniversary of Rita Hester's still-unsolved murder. The stabbing death of this Boston activist sparked the creation of the now international annual memorial. This year the event also honored Lawrence King, a 14-year-old Oxnard, Calif., student who wore make-up and feminine clothing and was shot to death by middle school classmate.

## Television

The 2008-09 prime-time TV season offered two reoccurring trans characters played by Ugly Betty's Rebecca Romijn and real-life trans entertainer Candis Cayne on the now-canceled *Dirty Sexy Money*. Other real-life trans women appeared on America's Next Top Model (22-year-old contestant Isis King) and LOGO's reality-dating show *TransAmerican Love Story* (openly trans actress Calpernia Addams and her best friend and business partner, Andrea James).

After nine years of producing and hosting *GenderTalk* radio, transwomen Nancy Nangeroni and Gordene MacKenzie switched to creating *GenderVision* video programs like *Trans Partner: Gender & Relationship*, which featured Helen Boyd and her husband Betty Crow.

**In 2008, trans author Jacob Anderson-Minshall co-authored the *Blind Faith* mystery, began co-hosting the *Gender Blender* radio show on KB00-FM and helped launch *Portland, Ore.'s* monthly LGBTQ literary series, *QLiterati!***

# QUOTELINES

BY REX WOCKNER

**"IN JULY, WHEN THE MORMON CHURCH WAS BEGINNING TO BUILD ITS ORGANIZING MACHINE**—signing up volunteers, raising money, spreading the word—key members of the No on 8 leadership were literally absent. (Equality California head Geoff) Kors took a 2 1/2-week vacation. (L.A. Gay and Lesbian Center head Lorri) Jean went to Alaska for the month." — *The Advocate*, Dec. 16.

**"THE PROPOSITION 8 PEOPLE THOUGHT THAT THEY WON WHEN** they passed Prop 8, but what they didn't realize (is that) by passing Prop 8 they've just made it so now we're not going to settle for anything less than full equality throughout the entire country—not just in a few states. ... Our opposition—they haven't seen anything yet."

— Amy Balliett, co-founder and co-coordinator of *Join The Impact*, the group responsible for the huge Nov. 15 protests against Prop 8 that took place in all 50 states, to the Palm Springs gay magazine *The Bottom-Line*, Dec. 5.

**"EVEN FROM MY VANTAGE POINT,** I would have a wish list of things

I would have done differently ... to give our community a greater level of engagement. ... It's totally legitimate to say that the normal way of doing things did not get us to the finish line. And now some of those (mainstream gay) groups need to move over a couple of lanes to make room (for new activists)." — *National Center for Lesbian Rights Executive Director Kate Kendell*, a member of the No on 8 campaign's executive committee, to *The New York Times*, Dec. 9.

**"THE ANTI-PROP 8 CAMPAIGN WAS AN EXERCISE IN FRUSTRATION.** What we're seeing now ... is brilliant. ... These nationwide protests are a watershed moment of sorts—the moment when the gay community realized that it had the power to fight for change on its own, and didn't require any of its so-called, self-appointed 'leaders' to give them permission to engage." — *Daily Kos founder Markos Moulitsas Zúñiga*, writing at *DailyKos.com*, Nov. 17.

**"I SUSPECT HISTORY WILL SHOW THAT THE DEFEAT OF PROP 8,** rather than halt momentum toward marriage equality (as I once feared), will prove the spark that launches the movement nationwide." — *Daily Kos founder Markos Moulitsas Zúñiga*, writing at *DailyKos.com*, Nov. 17.

**"WE KNOW HOW MUCH THE RIGHT LIKES TO PLAY POLITICAL AND CULTURAL HARDBALL,** and then turn around and accuse us of lashing out first. You give a pass to a religious group—one that looks down upon minorities and women—when they use their money and membership rolls to roll back the rights of others, and then you label us 'fascists' when we fight back." — *Lesbian activist Candace Gingrich in an open letter to her brother, Newt Gingrich*, published Nov. 22 at *The Huffington Post*. Newt was speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives from 1995 to 1999 and was named *Time* magazine's person of the year in 1995 for his role in flipping the House to majority Republican.

**"WHAT REALLY WORRIES ME IS THAT YOU ARE ALWAYS WILLING TO USE LGBT AMERICANS AS** political weapons to further your ambitions. That's really so '90s, Newt. In this day and age, it's embarrassing to watch you talk like that. You should be more afraid of the new political climate in America, because, there is no place for you in it. In other words, stop being a hater, big bro." — *Lesbian activist Candace Gingrich in an open letter to her brother, Newt Gingrich*, published Nov. 22 at *The Huffington Post*. Newt was speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives from 1995 to 1999 and was named *Time* magazine's person of the year in 1995 for his role in flipping the House to majority Republican.



**I would have a wish list of things I would have done differently.**

—Kate Kendell

**"THE HISTORY OF MY COMIC STRIP IS LIKE A PICTURE OF THE GAY AND LESBIAN NEWSPAPER COMMUNITY.** These papers are folding left and right. I used to be in 70 newspapers and, by the time I quit, it was down to maybe thirtysomething. Many of them could not pay, and it was getting really tough. On the other hand, the only reason I was able to do the comic strip and nothing else for all these years was because of these newspapers and because of gay and lesbian newspapers starting up in almost every major city in the country." — *Dykes To Watch Out For cartoonist Alison Bechdel*, to *Chicago's Windy City Times*, Nov. 5.

**"I WAS NOT EMOTIONALLY HEALTHY BACK WHEN I WAS CLOSETED.** I was very fat, very disheveled, and I now know that job satisfaction is no substitute for personal satisfaction. ... When I had this secret, it stopped me from relating to people in a healthy way." — *U.S. Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass.*, to *Advocate.com*, Dec. 4.

**"I WOULD PREFER PEOPLE CHanneled THAT ENERGY (FROM THE PROP 8 PROTESTS)**—whether it's for marriage equality or employment nondiscrimination—into mobilizing and trying to persuade those who disagree with them. Notice that the NRA never marches. This is my continual debate with people in the gay community, many of whom want to hold rallies instead of doing political lobbying." — *U.S. Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass.*, to *Advocate.com*, Dec. 4.

**"I'VE NEVER REALLY BEEN, YOU KNOW, MARRIED** during a directorial time in my life. How do you, you know, balance the personal?" — *Barbra Streisand*, telling the *Washington Post* on Dec. 7 that she wants to make *Larry Kramer's* play *The Normal Heart* into a movie but is afraid the all-consuming task would affect her relationship with husband James Brolin.

—Assistance: Bill Kelley

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TRACY  
 BAIM

## An Obama wish list

Given that he's starting off on the wrong foot with our LGBT community, I thought I'd create an Obama wish list for 2009 so that he can make it up to us. After all, he received millions of dollars and millions of votes from LGBTs. If we truly are part of his agenda, he can make Pastor Rick Warren yesterday's news quickly by making progress on long-awaited rights for our community.

Now, of course, I know a top priority has to be cleaning up the massive toxic dump left by Bush/Cheney. The economy, the wars, the environment, all the criminal changes in rules and regulations, enforcement and oversight ... what a mess. But what I hate is when people think you can separate justice issues from "bread-and-butter" issues. You can't. Not just because it's morally wrong, but also because if you are a gay person kicked out of the military, that is an economic issue for you and for our government. They wasted tax dollars training you. They need to spend more to recruit a replacement. And it impacts our ability to defend our country; if all those gay Arab translators had not been kicked out, would we know more about terrorism? So gay issues are integral to solving many of the difficult tasks facing Obama. He just needs to think more broadly. If he involves more LGBTs in his administration, he will have that much more expertise and brain power solving all those big problems.

So, given the general top issues listed above, I have my own Obama LGBT wish list. While all may not happen in 2009, it won't get easier as the right wing rebuilds, so it may be best to do these early in the administration.

1) The Supreme Court: Start planning now,

just in case. Please do not compromise in a middle-right way on this one. Pastor Warren is bad enough; but if you "reach out" across the aisle on any Supreme Court picks, we are royally screwed for decades. You ran middle-left, you won middle-left ... please do not go "right" on this critical decision.

2) Employment: Make sure any statements and resolutions you include on employment in your administration include all our alphabet community: gay, lesbian, bi and trans. And then when you work to pass the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, make sure it, too, includes the "T" and makes its way through quickly. This is among the most important bills to help your LGBT allies. If you sign it into law, we promise to forget all about Rick Warren (even if Melissa Etheridge seems ready to have his baby; see HuffingtonPost.com).

3) Don't Ask, Don't Tell: Just do it—cut it down. Most generals support lifting the ban, and maybe you will even give us an openly gay Navy secretary to help you get this done fast. We need the troops; it's simple justice, and a lot more palatable than when Bill Clinton tried to do it. Most straight people are now OK with gays dying for their country.

4) Hate crimes: Hey, we know you get this one. Make sure there is not just a comprehensive law passed in your first six months, but also documentation and enforcement equally across the country.

5) Appointments: Your cabinet does not have any openly gay people. Maybe we have to wait now for some openings, or new positions. But come on, you know lots of LGBTs ... make sure your "to do" list includes some bench warmers from our community. As I said before, we can bring lots of talents and ideas to your team.

6) While you hypocritically believe marriage is for a man and a woman, you have also said marriage is a state issue. As a lawyer, you know that is only a partial truth. The federal government provides more than 1,000 benefits to married people. And because states are basically violating the full faith and credit clause of the U.S. Constitution (in not recognizing marriages legal in other states), this is a federal issue. The federal Defense of Marriage Act needs to be overturned; states may not allow marriage in their

own borders, but they must be forced to recognize those in others or we will have huge legal battles and tax nightmares ahead.

7) If we can't get all 1,000+ benefits fixed for marriage, at least fix a few important ones, such as: Inheritance made the same, so no gay tax on those who die and try to give their property and money to a surviving partner; immigration (married partners of citizens being allowed citizenship); and getting rid of taxes on work-related health benefits given to domestic partners.

8) Sign on to international United Nations resolutions supporting equal rights for LGBTs. Use your amazing goodwill worldwide to put our rights out front.

9) An LGBT round table: President Jimmy Carter made history in having a staffer invite gays to the White House. He didn't meet with them, but it still made history for its location. An ongoing presidential round table on LGBT issues (where sometimes you attend) would help advise you on a range of issues, and would be a good model for issues impacting other groups. Make sure, however, that those groups are not segregated or isolated, and that ideas are allowed to bubble up to the top (you), not just your advisors.

10) Finally, I think it is critical that each key area of your administration makes sure to be fully aware of issues of diversity, to make them smarter and more effective. Education, environment, healthcare (for better AIDS and cancer prevention policies and funding) and all departments should be fully diverse and integrated so that the very best our country has to offer, including LGBTs, are attracted to government work once again. Corporate America can tell you about its diversity policies, and how those help it attract top talent.

Despite the fact that he can sometimes be infuriatingly dispassionate and practical, I believe we have the best chance, under an Obama administration, to make solid gains on LGBT issues and on all areas of civil rights. But we need proof now, and we also need to make sure we are not taken for granted. During the lengthy presidential campaign, he talked a good talk. Now it's time to walk the good walk.

Tracy Baim is publisher of Windy City Media Group. She blogs at <http://tracybaim.typepad.com>.



## LETTERS

### More than marriage

New Orleans Police discovered the bodies of three young, Black, queer people in a 7th Ward house Dec. 13. [Editor's note: According to the New Orleans Times-Picayune, the three individuals were Felix Pearson, 19; Kenneth Monroe, 27; and Darriel Wilson, 20.] The three people, one of whom was gender-variant, were all shot to death in the house sometime around 3 or 4 a.m. Dec. 11. Mainstream media and the police are, as of now, ignoring the fact that the three people were queer and possibly trans. However, Facebook groups devoted to the three and comments on news sites have raised interesting questions by queer people of color as to why large lesbian and gay organizations are ignoring this. Many people have wondered as to whether there would be an LGBT organizational blackout on such violence had the three been wealthy and white gay businessmen.

The lesbian and gay movement is currently so focused on begging the state for a marriage license that they seem to have forgotten everyone who is not well-off and white. There is the incident with three queer people in New Orleans being shot and killed. On Dec. 17 Jennifer Gale, a homeless transwoman, froze to death because no shelters would take her in. And on Dec. 20, Join The Impact held silent candlelight vigils around the country for their "right" to marry.

Needless to say, that in this latest "struggle"

for same-sex marriage, white people have consistently demonized communities of color for their role in passing Prop 8. To many in the marriage movement, queer people of color and trans people do not even exist. It is typical for white people in the marriage movement to claim that trans people should wait until gays and lesbians get their rights. When violence is perpetuated against queers of color, the Human Rights Campaign and other marriage-oriented organizations are typically silent. (See Duanna Johnson, The New Jersey Four, the people just killed in New Orleans, Jennifer Gale and virtually every other trans person or queer/trans person of color.)

If we put all of the energy and money that is being wasted on the marriage movement into other projects, think of what we could do. We could easily open queer/trans-friendly spaces for the homeless throughout the country. We could successfully demand or, better yet, provide free and quality healthcare to all people. Instead of collecting food and giving it to institutions that are notoriously corrupt and, yes, homophobic, we could collect food and distribute it ourselves. We could actively confront classism, racism, sexism and transphobia amongst LGBTQ people—all the while, militantly raising hell in the streets and disrupting business as usual, as every generation of queers has since 1968. If we did all of these things and more, we would see more change than Barack Obama has ever offered us.

What's more important: a marriage certificate

or housing for people who are freezing on the street? A slip of paper or the guarantee that when multiple people in our community are shot at point blank range we stand up and bash the fuck back?! Why are we not focusing on the plague that is HIV/AIDS? Shouldn't we be making a big fucking deal, seeing that in the last week alone four queer/trans people that we know of are dead?

It is long past the time that queer and trans people got their shit together. We have been fighting since birth—by now you'd think we would now how to do it in an inclusive and effective manner.

Beau Vyne  
 Bash Back! Chicago

### Clan do

With regard to the Phelps clan, there are many of us who feel that the constant attention we pay to them and their protests are not the best way of treating this. What would happen if—instead of the hundred people who held the protest against God Hates Fags last week at Center on Halsted—we simply ignored the idiots? It's like the adage: "If you ignore it, it will go away." I vote no more attention to this circus.

Derek Worley

## GOINGS-ON

WINDY CITY TIMES' ENTERTAINMENT SECTION

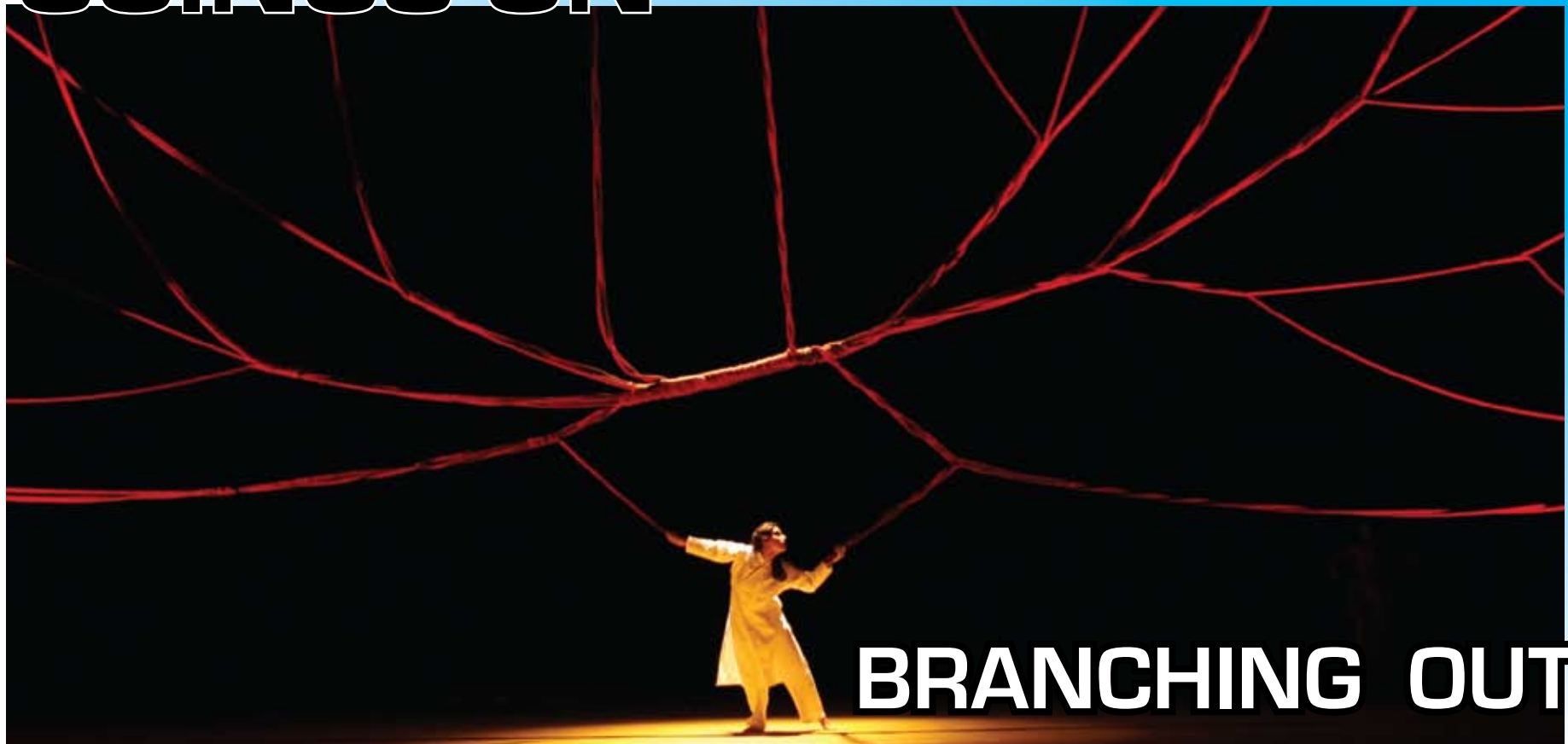


Photo  
courtesy of  
Chicago  
Opera  
Theater

## BRANCHING OUT

A Flowering Tree (above) is one of the productions spotlighted in Scott Morgan's 2008 theater roundup. See below.

## THEATER

High on the 'Dog'?  
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## MOVIES

Whole Milk.  
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## MUSIC

On the 'Brink.'  
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## 2008: A year of Chicago theater in review

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

'Tis the season to look back on 2008 and pronounce what was great and what was awful. But the problem with doing a "best of/worst of" list for the Chicago theater scene is that it's virtually impossible. That is, unless you have the time, money and wherewithal to see every single production in Chicago and its outlying suburbs.

Since nobody can be everywhere at once, here are multiple looks at 2008's theatrical highlights and lowlights from each of the Windy City Times' critics. Don't be surprised if our picks are duplicated or conflict with each other. As the clichés go, everyone is a critic and different strokes do things to different folks.

### On the up and up:

—**Best at keeping opera *au courant*:** In 2008, Chicago Opera Theater (COT) showed once again how it keeps the art form theatrically relevant. COT not only presented a visually stunning Midwest premiere of John Adams' 2006 opera *A Flowering Tree*, but its swanky nightclub/sex-club updating of Mozart's *Don Giovanni*, courtesy of director Diane Paulus and conductor Jane Glover rightfully, shocked the blue-hairs out of their seats.

—**Best tribute to Edward Gorey and Charles Addams:** Usually a long title like *The Mysterious Elephant and the Terrible Tragedy of the Unlikely Addington Twins* (\*Who Kill Him) would denote something pretentious or long-winded. But *The Strange Tree Group's* production of Emily Schwartz's macabre comedy was a whimsical delight. Kudos to its stylish production design of a moldering house and its decaying denizens.

—**Best leading ladies:** You can bet that there will be a major showdown in the category of best



The Boys from Syracuse. Photo by Johnny Knight

actress in a musical at next year's Jeff Awards. E. Faye Butler conveyed all the pain and resentment in the title role of *Caroline*, or *Change for the Court Theatre*. Then there's Hollis Resnik's dynamic double turn as an eccentric mother and her grown daughter in *Grey Gardens: The Musical* for Northlight Theatre. Let's pray that the Jeff vote ends up in a tie.

—**Best slam-bam musical:** Die-hard theater purists were no doubt outraged by David Bell's major overhaul of the 1930s Rodgers and Hart musical *The Boys from Syracuse* for Drury Lane Oakbrook. But the majority of audiences probably didn't care since the jazzy end result raised the roof with farcical laughter.

—**Best Chicago-to-New York export:** Lynn Nottage's *Ruined* is a play filled with rape, genital mutilation and murder in the civil war-plagued Democratic Republic of Congo. Yet far from being a self-important downer, *Ruined* at the Goodman Theatre proved to be a funny and admirable portrait of women who continue to live despite the horrors inflicted on them. Hopefully the New York critics will be as kind as the Chicago ones.

### On the down side:

—**Best intentions gone awry:** Elgin-based Janus Theatre Company tried to highlight the genius of German expressionist playwright Bertolt Brecht in a revue called *The Greatest Story eBertolt: A Brecht Review*. If that cutesy and punned title made you cringe, then consider yourself lucky that you missed out on director/creator Sarafina Vecchio's scattershot show with oddly chosen excerpts and misguided direction. The performers' execution of the material was just that: a sad slaughter.

—**Concepts best not to conjoin:** I finally got to see Shakespeare set in outer space when *The Bricklayers* and *Collectif Masque* collaborated on *Twelfth Night*. While the futuristic outfits and sound-designs were top-notch, the space-age setting didn't mesh with the bard's romantic comedy. The cast also acted the costumes more than the characters.

—**Best reason to save on gasoline:** My first experience with Theatre-Hikes at the Morton Arboretum left me disappointed and resentful. True, I probably should have picked a Shakespearean drama instead of a clunky children's

play like *Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm*. I also should have waited for the price of gasoline to drop, since this poorly acted performance didn't justify the amount of fuel it took to drive to Lisle and back.

—**Best wishes next time:** Sandhill Theatre Company certainly has a noble mission to produce plays exclusively about the Midwest. Too bad that the Chicago premiere of Nathaniel Wright's dysfunctional family comedy *Faith* was such a dire mess.

## CRITICS' PICS

**The Christmas Schooner**, Bailiwick Repertory; through Jan. 4. Time is running out to bid a fond adieu to the Bailiwick's longtime Belmont Avenue home and to this beloved home-grown holiday musical that the company helped to nurture to national prominence. SCM

**Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol**, Theatre Wit at Theatre Building Chicago, through Jan. 3. Remarkable actor and author Tom Mula performs a stage version of his magical Xmas tale of the afterlife and redemption of Scrooge's "dead as a doornail" partner. JA

**The Music Man**, Light Opera Works, through Jan. 4. We consider Rudy Hogenmiller's post-Christmas opening of Meredith Willson's classic nothing less than a bonus present. Bonus to the bonus: Larry Adams—a man who definitely knows the territory—stars as Professor Harold Hill, one of musical theater's most beloved rascals. CS

**The Seafarer**, Steppenwolf Theatre, through Feb. 8. The drunks aren't lovable this time, and the title is a grim joke to give strong men the chills, but trust Conor McPherson to pull a miracle from the hat for even the most undeserving of mortals. MSB

—By Abarbanel, Barnidge, Morgan and Sullivan



**Please read Important Safety Information below, and talk to your healthcare professional to learn more about PREZISTA.**

### ABOUT PREZISTA

PREZISTA (darunavir) is a prescription medicine. It is one treatment option in the class of HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) medicines known as protease inhibitors.

PREZISTA is always used with 100 mg ritonavir (Norvir®) in combination with other HIV medicines for the treatment of HIV infection in adults.

- The use of other medicines active against HIV in combination with PREZISTA/ritonavir (Norvir®) may increase the likelihood of your overall treatment response. Your healthcare professional will work with you to find the right combination of other HIV medicines
- The long-term effects of PREZISTA therapy are unknown at this time. It is important that you remain under the care of your healthcare professional

PREZISTA is not approved for the treatment of HIV infection in pediatric patients.

**PREZISTA does not cure HIV infection or AIDS, and does not prevent passing HIV to others.**

### IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

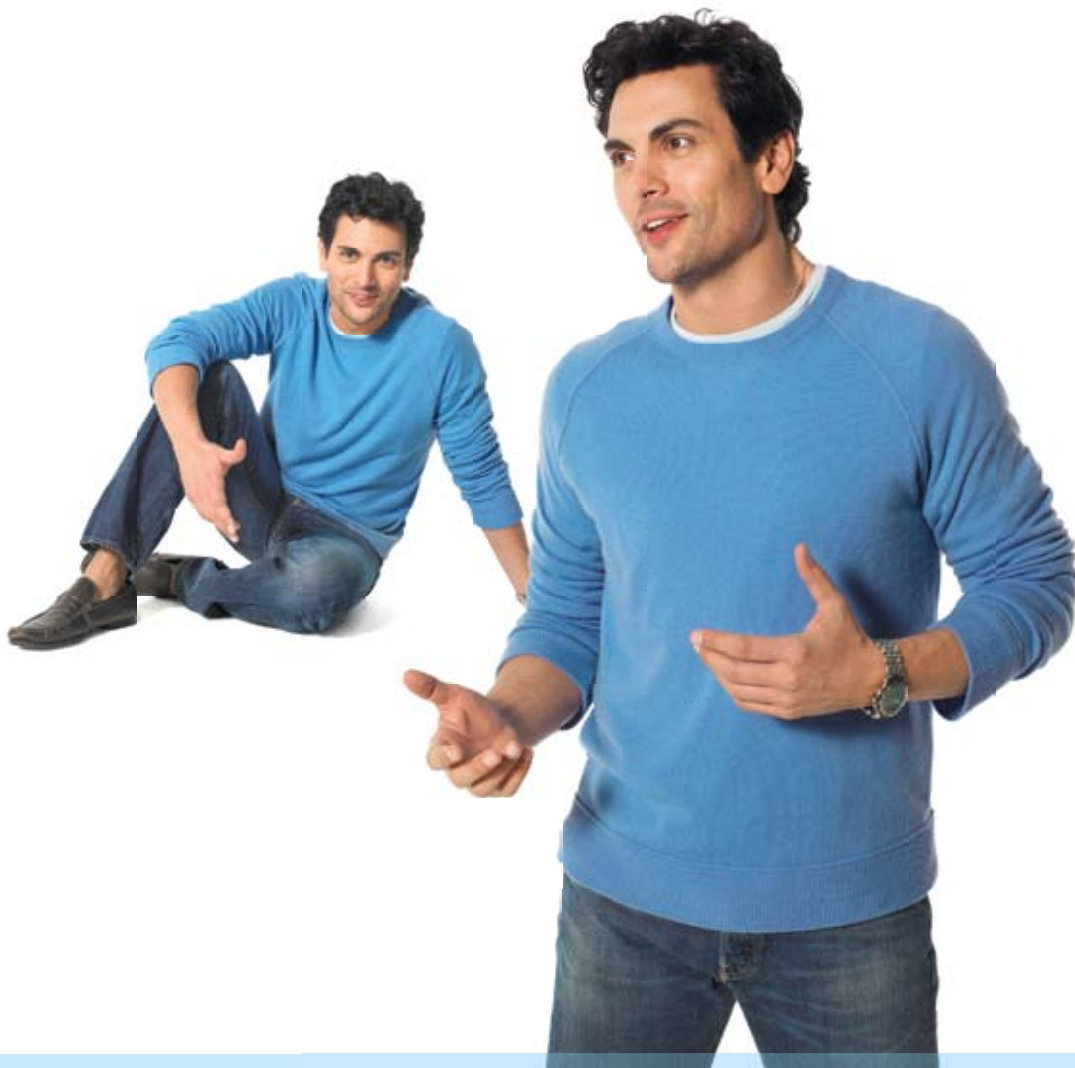
- **PREZISTA, together with Norvir® (ritonavir), has rarely been observed to cause liver problems that may be life-threatening. It was not always clear if PREZISTA caused these liver problems because some patients had other illnesses or were taking other medicines. Your healthcare professional should do blood tests prior to initiating combination treatment including PREZISTA. If you have chronic hepatitis B or C infection, your healthcare professional should check your blood tests more often because you have an increased chance of developing liver problems**

**Talk to your healthcare professional about the signs and symptoms of liver problems. These may include yellowing of your skin or whites of your eyes, dark (tea-colored) urine, pale-colored stools (bowel movements), nausea, vomiting, loss of appetite, or pain, aching or sensitivity on your right side below your ribs**

- **Skin rashes have been reported in patients taking PREZISTA. Rarely, PREZISTA has been reported to cause a severe or life-threatening rash. Contact your healthcare professional if you develop a rash**
- **Taking PREZISTA with certain medicines could cause serious and/or life-threatening side effects or may result in loss of its effectiveness. Do not take PREZISTA if you are taking the following medicines:** dihydroergotamine (D.H.E.45®, Migranal®), ergonovine, ergotamine (Wigraine®, Ergostat®, Cafergot®, Ergomar®), methylergonovine, cisapride (Propulsid®), pimozide (Orap®), oral midazolam, triazolam (Halcion®), rifampin (Rifadin®, Rifater®, Rifamate®), indinavir (Crixivan®), lopinavir/ritonavir (Kaletra®), saquinavir (Invirase®), lovastatin (Mevacor®), pravastatin (Pravachol®), simvastatin (Zocor®), or products containing St. John's wort
- **Before taking PREZISTA, tell your healthcare professional if you are taking sildenafil (Viagra®), vardenafil (Levitra®), tadalafil (Cialis®), atorvastatin (Lipitor®), atorvastatin/amlodipine (Caduet®), or rosuvastatin (Crestor®). This is not a complete list of medicines. Be sure to tell your healthcare professional about all the medicines you are**

# Belief

in myself  
in my doctor  
in my care



PREZISTA now offers **ONCE-DAILY** dosing for adults taking HIV meds for the first time.

PREZISTA must be taken with 100 mg ritonavir (Norvir®) and with food. PREZISTA must be taken in combination with other HIV meds.

Talk to your healthcare professional to see if PREZISTA is right for you.

 **PREZISTA**<sup>®</sup>  
(darunavir) tablets  
**NOW ONCE DAILY**

Please visit [www.PREZISTA.com](http://www.PREZISTA.com)

#### taking or plan to take, including prescription and nonprescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements

- Tell your healthcare professional if you are taking estrogen-based contraceptives (birth control). PREZISTA might reduce the effectiveness of estrogen-based contraceptives. You must take additional precautions for birth control, such as condoms
- Before taking PREZISTA, tell your healthcare professional if you have any medical conditions, including allergy to sulfa medicines, diabetes, liver problems (including hepatitis B or C), or hemophilia
- Tell your healthcare professional if you are pregnant or planning to become pregnant, or are breastfeeding
  - The effects of PREZISTA on pregnant women or their unborn babies are not known. You and your healthcare professional will need to decide if taking PREZISTA is right for you
  - Do not breastfeed if you are taking PREZISTA. You should not breastfeed if you have HIV because of the chance of passing HIV to your baby

- High blood sugar, diabetes or worsening of diabetes, and increased bleeding in people with hemophilia have been reported in patients taking protease inhibitor medicines, including PREZISTA
- Changes in body fat have been seen in some patients taking HIV medicines, including PREZISTA. The cause and long-term health effects of these conditions are not known at this time
- As with other protease inhibitors, taking PREZISTA may strengthen the body's immune response, enabling it to begin to fight infections that have been hidden. Patients may experience signs and symptoms of inflammation that can include swelling, tenderness, or redness
- The most common side effects related to taking PREZISTA include diarrhea, nausea, headache, and abdominal pain. Uncommon but severe side effects such as inflammation of the pancreas and increased blood fat levels have also been rarely reported. This is not a complete list of all possible side effects. If you experience these or other symptoms, talk to your healthcare professional. Do not stop taking PREZISTA or any other medicines without first talking to your healthcare professional

- Please refer to the ritonavir (Norvir®) Product Information (PI and PPI) for additional information on precautionary measures

**For adults taking HIV meds for the first time: PREZISTA 800 mg (two 400-mg tablets) must be taken at the same time with 100 mg Norvir® once daily every day. PREZISTA must be taken with food (the type of food is not important).**

**You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit [www.fda.gov/medwatch](http://www.fda.gov/medwatch) or call 1-800-FDA-1088. Please see Important Patient Information on the next page for more information, or visit [www.PREZISTA.com](http://www.PREZISTA.com).**

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## IMPORTANT PATIENT INFORMATION

### FDA-Approved Patient Labeling

#### PREZISTA® (darunavir) Tablets

Patient Information about

#### PREZISTA (pre-ZIS-ta)

for HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) Infection

Generic name: darunavir (da-ROO-nuh-veer)

**ALERT: Find out about medicines that should NOT be taken with PREZISTA.** Please also read the section "Who should not take PREZISTA?".

Please read this information before you start taking PREZISTA. Also, read the leaflet each time you renew your prescription, just in case anything has changed. Remember, this leaflet does not take the place of careful discussions with your doctor. You and your doctor should discuss your treatment with PREZISTA prior to the first time you take your medicine and at regular checkups. You should remain under a doctor's care when using PREZISTA and should not change or stop treatment without first talking with a doctor.

### WHAT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT INFORMATION I SHOULD KNOW ABOUT PREZISTA?

PREZISTA, together with NORVIR® (ritonavir), has rarely been observed to cause liver problems which may be life-threatening. It was not always clear if PREZISTA caused these liver problems because some patients had other illnesses or were taking other medicines. Your healthcare professional should do blood tests prior to initiating combination treatment including PREZISTA. If you have chronic hepatitis B or C infection, your healthcare professional should check your blood tests more often because you have an increased chance of developing liver problems. Please also read the section "What are the possible side effects of PREZISTA?".

Rarely, PREZISTA has been reported to cause a severe or life-threatening rash. Contact your healthcare provider if you develop a rash. Your healthcare provider will advise you whether your symptoms can be managed on therapy or whether PREZISTA should be stopped.

### WHAT IS PREZISTA?

**PREZISTA is an oral tablet used for the treatment of HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) infection in adults. HIV is the virus that causes AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome).** PREZISTA is a type of anti-HIV medicine called a protease (PRO-tee-ase) inhibitor.

### HOW DOES PREZISTA WORK?

PREZISTA blocks HIV protease, an enzyme which is needed for HIV to multiply. When used with other anti-HIV medicines, PREZISTA can help to reduce the amount of HIV in your blood (called "viral load") and increase your CD4 (T) cell count. HIV infection destroys CD4 (T) cells, which are important to the immune system. The immune system helps fight infection. Reducing the amount of HIV and increasing the CD4 (T) cell count may improve your immune system and, thus, reduce the risk of death or infections that can happen when your immune system is weak (opportunistic infections).

PREZISTA is always taken with and at the same time as 100 mg of ritonavir (NORVIR®), in combination with other anti-HIV medicines. PREZISTA should also be taken with food.

### DOES PREZISTA CURE HIV OR AIDS?

PREZISTA does **not** cure HIV infection or AIDS. At present, there is no cure for HIV infection. People taking PREZISTA may still develop infections or other conditions associated with HIV infection. Because of this, it is very important for you to remain under the care of a doctor. Although PREZISTA is not a cure for HIV or AIDS, PREZISTA can help reduce your risks of getting illnesses associated with HIV infection (AIDS and opportunistic infection) and eventually dying from these conditions.

### DOES PREZISTA REDUCE THE RISK OF PASSING HIV TO OTHERS?

PREZISTA does **not** reduce the risk of passing HIV to others through sexual contact, sharing needles, or being exposed to your blood. For your health and the health of others, it is important to always practice safer sex by using a latex or polyurethane condom or other barrier method to lower the chance of sexual contact with any body fluids such as semen, vaginal secretions, or blood. Never re-use or share needles.

Ask your doctor if you have any questions on how to prevent passing HIV to other people.

### WHAT SHOULD I TELL MY DOCTOR BEFORE I TAKE PREZISTA?

Tell your doctor about all of your medical conditions, including if you:

- are allergic to sulfa medicines.
- have diabetes. In general, anti-HIV medicines, such as PREZISTA, might increase sugar levels in the blood.
- have liver problems, including hepatitis B and/or C.
- have hemophilia. Anti-HIV medicines, such as PREZISTA, might increase the risk of bleeding.
- are pregnant or planning to become pregnant. The effects of PREZISTA on pregnant women or their unborn babies are not known. You and your doctor will need to decide if taking PREZISTA is right for you. If you take PREZISTA while you are pregnant, talk to your doctor about how you can be included in the Antiretroviral Pregnancy Registry.
- are breastfeeding. Do not breastfeed if you are taking PREZISTA. You should not breastfeed if you have HIV because of the chance of passing HIV to your baby. Talk with your doctor about the best way to feed your baby.

### WHO SHOULD NOT TAKE PREZISTA?\*

Together with your doctor, you need to decide whether taking PREZISTA is right for you.

#### Do not take PREZISTA if you:

- are allergic to darunavir or any of the other ingredients in PREZISTA
- are allergic to ritonavir (NORVIR®)
- take any of the following types of medicines because you could experience serious side effects:

Type of Drug	Examples of Generic Names (Brand Names)
Ergot Derivatives (to treat migraine and headaches)	dihydroergotamine (D.H.E. 45®, Migranal®) ergonovine ergotamine (Cafergot®, Ergomar®) methylegonovine
Gastrointestinal Motility Agent (to treat some digestive conditions)	cisapride
Neuroleptic (to treat psychiatric conditions)	pimozide (Orap®)
Sedative/hypnotics (to treat trouble with sleeping and/or anxiety)	oral midazolam triazolam (Halcion®)
Herbal Product	St. John's wort ( <i>Hypericum perforatum</i> )
HMG-CoA Reductase inhibitors (also known as statins) (to lower cholesterol levels)	lovastatin (Mevacor®, Altoprev®, Advicor®) simvastatin (Zocor®, Simcor®, Vytorin®)
Antimycobacterial (to treat tuberculosis or <i>Mycobacterium avium</i> complex)	rifampin (Rifadin®, Rifater®, Rifamate®, Rimactane®)

### CAN PREZISTA BE TAKEN WITH OTHER MEDICATIONS?\*

Tell your doctor about all the medicines you take including prescription and nonprescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. PREZISTA and many other medicines can interact. Sometimes serious side effects will happen if PREZISTA is taken with certain other medicines (see "Who should not take PREZISTA?").

Tell your doctor if you are taking estrogen-based contraceptives (birth control). PREZISTA might reduce the effectiveness of estrogen-based contraceptives. You must take additional precautions for birth control such as a condom.

Tell your doctor if you take other anti-HIV medicines. PREZISTA can be combined with some other anti-HIV medicines while other combinations are not recommended.

Tell your doctor if you are taking any of the following medicines:

Type of Drug	Examples of Generic Names (Brand Names)
Antiarrhythmics (to treat abnormal heart rhythms)	bepiridil lidocaine (Lidoderm®) quinidine amiodarone (Cordarone®) digoxin (Lanoxin®) flecainide (Tambocor®) propafenone (Rythmol®) warfarin (Coumadin®)
Anticoagulants (to treat and prevent blood clots)	
Anticonvulsants (to treat epilepsy and prevent seizures)	carbamazepine (Tegretol®, Carbatrol®) phenobarbital phenytoin (Dilantin®, Phenytek®)
Antidepressants (to treat depression)	trazodone (Desyrel®) desipramine (Norpramin®)
Anti-infectives (to treat bacterial infections)	clarithromycin (Biaxin®)
Antifungals (to treat fungal infections)	ketconazole (Nizoral®) itraconazole (Sporanox®) voriconazole (Vfend®) rifabutin (Mycobutin®)
Antimycobacterials (to treat tuberculosis or <i>Mycobacterium avium</i> complex)	
β-Blockers (to treat high blood pressure, heart attack, or heart failure or to lower pressure in the eye)	metoprolol (Lopressor®, Toprol-XL®) timolol (Betimol®, Combigan®, Istalol®, Cosopt®, Timoptic®)
Benzodiazepines (to treat anxiety and/or trouble with sleeping)	midazolam administered by injection
Calcium Channel Blockers (to treat heart disease)	felodipine (Plendil®) nifedipine (Adalat®) nicardipine (Cardene®)
Corticosteroids (to treat inflammation or asthma)	dexamethasone fluticasone propionate (Advair Diskus®, Cutivate®, Flonase®, Flovent Diskus®)
HMG-CoA Reductase Inhibitors (also known as statins) (to lower cholesterol levels)	atorvastatin (Lipitor®) pravastatin (Pravacho®) rosuvastatin (Crestor®)
Immunosuppressants (to prevent organ transplant rejection)	cyclosporine (Sandimmune®, Neoral®) tacrolimus (Prograf®) sirolimus (Rapamune®)
Narcotic Analgesics (to treat narcotic withdrawal and dependence)	methadone
Neuroleptics (to treat schizophrenia or bipolar disorder)	risperidone (Risperdal®, Risperdal® Consta®, Risperdal® M-TAB®) thioridazine
PDE-5 Inhibitors (to treat erectile dysfunction)	sildenafil (Viagra®) vardenafil (Levitra®) tadalafil (Cialis®)
Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitors (SSRIs) (to treat depression, anxiety, or panic disorder)	paroxetine (Paxil®) sertraline (Zoloft®)

Tell your doctor if you are taking any medicines that you obtained without a prescription.

This is **not** a complete list of medicines that you should tell your doctor that you are taking. Know and keep track of all the medicines you take and have a list of them with you. Show this list to all of your doctors and pharmacists any time you get a new medicine. Both your doctor and your pharmacist can tell you if you can take these other medicines with PREZISTA. Do not start any new medicines while you are taking PREZISTA without first talking with your doctor or pharmacist. You can ask your doctor or pharmacist for a list of medicines that can interact with PREZISTA.

### HOW SHOULD I TAKE PREZISTA?

**Take PREZISTA tablets every day exactly as prescribed by your doctor. You must take ritonavir (NORVIR®) at the same time as PREZISTA.**

- For adults who have never taken anti-HIV medicines, the usual dose is 800 mg (two 400 mg tablets) of PREZISTA, together with 100 mg (one 100 mg capsule) of ritonavir (NORVIR®), once daily *every day*.
- For adults who have taken anti-HIV medicines in the past, the usual dose is 600 mg (one 600 mg tablet or two 300 mg tablets) of PREZISTA, together with 100 mg (one 100 mg capsule) of ritonavir (NORVIR®), twice daily *every day*.

PREZISTA and ritonavir (NORVIR®) should be taken together at the same time every day. If you have questions about when to take PREZISTA and ritonavir (NORVIR®), your doctor can help you decide which schedule works for you.

**Take PREZISTA and ritonavir (NORVIR®) with food.** The type of food is not important. Swallow the whole tablets with a drink such as water or milk. Do not chew the tablets.

Continue taking PREZISTA and ritonavir (NORVIR®) unless your doctor tells you to stop. Take the exact amount of PREZISTA and ritonavir (NORVIR®) that your doctor tells you to take, right from the very start. To help make sure you will benefit from PREZISTA and ritonavir (NORVIR®), you must not skip doses or interrupt therapy. If you don't take PREZISTA and ritonavir (NORVIR®) as prescribed, the beneficial effects of PREZISTA and ritonavir (NORVIR®) may be reduced or even lost.

#### Patients taking 800 mg of PREZISTA once daily

**If you miss a dose of PREZISTA (two 400 mg tablets) or ritonavir (NORVIR®) by more than 12 hours, wait and then take the next dose of PREZISTA (two 400 mg tablets) and ritonavir (NORVIR®) at the regularly scheduled time.** If you miss a dose of PREZISTA (two 400 mg tablets) or ritonavir (NORVIR®) by less than 12 hours, take your missed dose of PREZISTA (two 400 mg tablets) and ritonavir (NORVIR®) immediately. Then take your next dose of PREZISTA (two 400 mg tablets) and ritonavir (NORVIR®) at the regularly scheduled time.

## IMPORTANT PATIENT INFORMATION

### Patients taking 600 mg of PREZISTA twice daily

If you miss a dose of PREZISTA (one 600 mg tablet or two 300 mg tablets) or ritonavir (NORVIR®) by more than 6 hours, wait and then take the next dose of PREZISTA (one 600 mg tablet or two 300 mg tablets) and ritonavir (NORVIR®) at the regularly scheduled time. If you miss a dose of PREZISTA (one 600 mg tablet or two 300 mg tablets) or ritonavir (NORVIR®) by less than 6 hours, take your missed dose of PREZISTA (one 600 mg tablet or two 300 mg tablets) and ritonavir (NORVIR®) immediately. Then take your next dose of PREZISTA (one 600 mg tablet or two 300 mg tablets) and ritonavir (NORVIR®) at the regularly scheduled time.

You should always take PREZISTA and ritonavir (NORVIR®) together with food.

If a dose of PREZISTA or ritonavir (NORVIR®) is skipped, do not double the next dose. Do not take more or less than your prescribed dose of PREZISTA or ritonavir (NORVIR®) at any one time.

### WHAT ARE THE POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF PREZISTA?

Like all prescription drugs, PREZISTA can cause side effects. The following is **not** a complete list of side effects reported with PREZISTA when taken either alone or with other anti-HIV medicines. Do not rely on this leaflet alone for information about side effects. Your doctor can discuss with you a more complete list of side effects.

PREZISTA, together with NORVIR® (ritonavir), has rarely been observed to cause liver problems which may be life-threatening. It was not always clear if PREZISTA caused these liver problems because some patients had other illnesses or were taking other medicines. Your healthcare professional should do blood tests prior to initiating combination treatment including PREZISTA. If you have chronic hepatitis B or C infection, your healthcare professional should check your blood tests more often because you have an increased chance of developing liver problems.

Talk to your healthcare professional about the signs and symptoms of liver problems. These may include yellowing of your skin or whites of your eyes, dark (tea colored) urine, pale colored stools (bowel movements), nausea, vomiting, loss of appetite, or pain, aching or sensitivity on your right side below your ribs.

Rash has been reported in 10.3% of subjects receiving PREZISTA. In some patients, PREZISTA has been reported to cause a severe or life-threatening rash. Contact your healthcare provider if you develop a rash. Your healthcare provider will advise you whether your symptoms can be managed on therapy or whether PREZISTA should be stopped.

Other relevant severe side effects reported at an uncommon or rare frequency were inflammation of the liver or pancreas, increased blood fat levels, diabetes, and changes in body fat.

Some side effects are typical for anti-HIV medicines in the same family as PREZISTA. These are:

- high blood sugar (hyperglycemia) and diabetes. This can happen in patients taking PREZISTA or other protease inhibitor medicines. Some patients have diabetes before starting treatment with PREZISTA which gets worse. Some patients get diabetes during treatment with PREZISTA. Some patients will need changes in their diabetes medicine. Some patients may need new diabetes medicine.
- increased bleeding in patients with hemophilia.
- changes in body fat. These changes can happen in patients taking anti-HIV medicines, including PREZISTA. The changes may include an increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck, breast, and around the back, chest, and stomach area. Loss of fat from the legs, arms, and face may also happen. The exact cause and long-term health effects of these conditions are not known.

- immune reconstitution syndrome. In some patients with advanced HIV infection (AIDS) and a history of opportunistic infection, signs and symptoms of inflammation from previous infections may occur soon after anti-HIV treatment, including PREZISTA, is started. It is believed that these symptoms are due to an improvement in the body's immune response, enabling the body to fight infections that may have been present with no obvious symptoms.

The most common side effects include diarrhea, nausea, headache, and abdominal pain.

Tell your doctor promptly about these or any other unusual symptoms. If the condition persists or worsens, seek medical attention.

### WHAT DO PREZISTA TABLETS LOOK LIKE?

PREZISTA 300 mg tablets are orange, oval-shaped, film-coated tablets mentioning "300" on one side and "TMC114" on the other side.

PREZISTA 400 mg tablets are light orange, oval-shaped, film-coated tablets mentioning "400" on one side and "TMC" on the other side.

PREZISTA 600 mg tablets are orange, oval-shaped, film-coated tablets mentioning "600" on one side and "TMC" on the other side.

### HOW SHOULD I STORE PREZISTA TABLETS?

Store PREZISTA tablets at room temperature (77°F (25°C)). Short-term exposure to higher or lower temperatures [from 59°F (15°C) to 86°F (30°C)] is acceptable. Ask your doctor or pharmacist if you have any questions about storing your tablets.

**This medication is prescribed for your particular condition. Do not use it for any other condition or give it to anybody else. Keep PREZISTA and all of your medicines out of the reach of children. If you suspect that more than the prescribed dose of this medicine has been taken, contact your local poison control center or emergency room immediately.**

This leaflet provides a summary of information about PREZISTA. If you have any questions or concerns about either PREZISTA or HIV, talk to your doctor.

For additional information, you may also call Tibotec Therapeutics at 1-877-REACH-TT or 1-877-732-2488.

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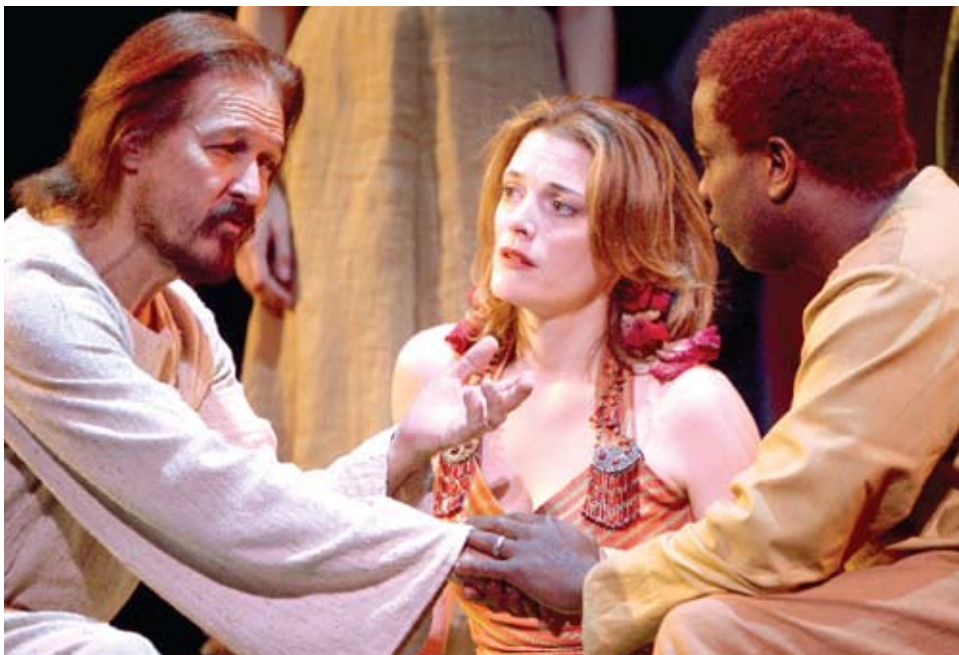
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Jesus Christ Superstar. Photo by Joan Marcus

## Looking back at 2008

BY CATEY SULLIVAN

In the waning months of 2007 at a theater that shall remain nameless, we sat through a production of Horton Foote's *Trip to Bountiful* that played out in real time. Or so it seemed. One hour, two hours, two-and-a-half—our watch surely stopped as we pondered digging our eyeballs from their sockets with the business end of a fountain pen.

Thus, when Horton Foote's tale of an octogenarian's road trip through Texas showed up on the Goodman's 2008 season, we were tempted to stay home and scrub our kitchen floor on press night. And we do not do housework.

Blessed be that we gave *Bountiful* another look. Otherwise, we would have missed one of

the most sublimely moving productions of the year. Starring Lois Smith, Foote's epic of outward and inward journeys was an odyssey of quiet yet earth-shattering emotion.

Here, in no particular order, are eight other performances that seared themselves into our heart during the past year—and one that was memorable for all the wrong reasons.

—**Craig Spidle, Cadillac, Chicago Dramatists:** Spidle's a rock of an actor—always solid, never showy. As the conflicted manager of a used-car shop, he was a heartbreaker with a comb-over, embodying the weariness and dubious wisdom of an aging Everyman stuck in a Sisyphean job.

—**Kelli Simpkins, Fair Use, Steppenwolf First Look Festival:** Sarah Gubbins' edgy comedy about copyright law was flawed. Simpkins' turn as an attorney whose wry braininess was matched by a glorious touch of the poet was not.

—**The casts of Requiem for a Heavyweight, Shattered Globe; and Our Town, Hypocrites:** Two dramas that have been done a bazillion times became revelatory all over again and defined ensemble perfection. They both oughta be going to New York.

—**Larry Yando, As You Like It, Writers' Theatre:** All the world is Larry Yando's stage and we're just living in it.

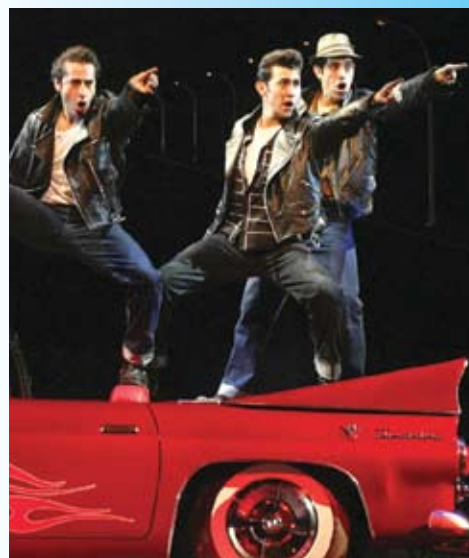
—**John Judd, Shining City, Goodman; Tom Irwin, "The Seafarer," Steppenwolf:** A monologue by the former painted a bone-authentic portrait of the hell on earth that is chronic depression and profound loneliness. A monologue by the latter condensed the whole of Dante's "Inferno" into an unbearably, uncompromisingly vivid portrait of eternal despair.

—**Judy Blue, Talking Pictures, Goodman:** Another triumph of the Horton Foote fest. And another reason to ponder the baffling riddle of why an actor of such depth and nuance must spend so much time touring in *Menopause, The Musical*.

—**Ted Neeley, Jesus Christ Superstar, Broadway in Chicago:** We liked Neeley well enough when we first saw him in this role 40 years ago, when we were 6. Now, not so much. And hello? History says Jesus was 33 when he died, not 63.

## SPOTLIGHT

Grease!



Any Chicago theater booster will tell you that **Grease!** originated in the Windy City in 1971 before it became a Broadway musical sensation and blockbuster Hollywood hit. Well, *Grease!* still is the word for 1970s nostalgia on the 1950s, but now it arrives back in town as part of another cultural phenomenon: reality TV. The current production of *Grease!* grew from a 2007 NBC-TV series *Grease: You're the One That I Want*, and the tour stars American Idol winner Taylor Hicks as the Teen Angel. *Grease!* plays Jan. 6-18 at the Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University, 50 E. Congress. Tickets are \$26-\$85; call 312-902-1500 or visit [www.broadwayinchicago.com](http://www.broadwayinchicago.com). Photo of the 2007 Broadway cast of *Grease!* by Joan Marcus



Carter's Way. Photo by Michael Brosilow

## Golden gifts and silver linings in 2008

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

During the subzero winter of 1994, Remains Theatre ran a newspaper ad for their show that proclaimed "Screw the Weather." Let us take that as our mantra in these dark times: Screw the economy! Art will endure—and here are the accolades to remind us why:

—**Playwrights aren't saying the same old stuff:** You found no caricatures among the shabby neighborhood immigrants in Tracy Letts' Superior Donuts, the occult-dabbling Latinas in Tanya Saracho's Jarred: A Hoodoo Comedy, the subversive teenage icon in Zak Berkman's Beauty On The Vine or the slave girl with no illusions in Lydia Diamond's Harriet Jacobs, but instead, a candor acknowledging our intelligence and our eagerness to learn. Adapters Katie McLean, Laura Eason, Jeffrey Hatcher and Charley Sherman likewise converted fables of profound complexity into dramatic lessons for a changing world.

—**Actors never slack off:** Some thespians are content to coast on reliable mannerisms, but players like Don Bender, Elizabeth Laidlaw, Roderrick Peeples, Rebecca Spence, Nigel Patterson, Helen Sadler, Will Schutz, Millicent Hurley, Chuck

Spencer and Jeremy Clark continue to make each role fresh and unique. Jeremy Rill, Harmony France and Bethany Thomas aren't just pretty voices, either. And how about amazing shape-shifters Nick Sandys, Anish Jethmalani, Gregory Isaac and Rom Barkholder?

—**Huge worlds in tiny storefronts:** The scenic design for Trap Door's No Darkness Round My Stone set us down in a graveyard's parlor, and RedTwist's True West kitchen deserves a boat-in-the-bottle award. The sensory ambience for Griffin's Journey's End mired us in a battlefield trench and that for Silent Theatre's Kane swept us through glamorous Hollywood. Let's not forget the dialect coaching for Bailiwick's Man of No Importance, Signal Ensemble's Birthday Party and Vitalist's Passage To India. Or the action sequences for BackStage's Bloody Bess and Factory's RenFaire: A Fistful Of Ducats.

—**Special stage magic:** There were the supernatural manifestations in WildClaw's The Great God Pan, Grey Zelda's The Skriker, Lifeline's The Picture Of Dorian Gray and Will Act For Food's Frankenstein In Love. There were also "wisteria and sunshine" in Circle's Enchanted April; mountain resorts in the Neo-Futurists' Fake Lake; and not one, but three, elephants in three different productions.

—**The ensemble ethos:** Steller ensembles shone in Steppenwolf's Superior Donuts and The Seafarer, Lookingglass' Around The World In Eighty Days, Northlight's Better Late, Profiles' Men Of Tortuga and The Thugs, Route 66's On An Average Day and Seanachai's Scenes From The Big Picture.

—**Innovative production concepts:** Steppenwolf's Carter's Way and Dead Man's Cell Phone, Chicago Shakespeare's Comedy Of Errors, Bai-

liwick's Hunchback of Notre Dame, City Lit's Dashiell Hamlet, Theo Ubique's Lonesome Losers Of The Night, The Hypocrites' Threepenny Opera

—**Shows where everything comes together right:** Lifeline's The Mark Of Zorro, Shattered Globe's Requiem For A Heavyweight and A Taste Of Honey, 5th Floor Productions' Tallgrass Gothic, Silk Road's Our Enemies: Scenes Of Love And Combat, and Steppenwolf's Dublin Carol

—**Stable addresses:** Bailiwick Repertory, Live Bait and Victory Gardens sold their playhouses. *The silver lining:* The new owners will continue to use the property for theaters. (But couldn't the Chemically Imbalanced comedy troupe have renamed the Artistic Home something more dignified?)

—**The persistence of paper:** The Chicago Reader was sold and downsized before declaring bankruptcy. *The silver lining:* It, as well as its fellow print publications, are still in operation.

## The good, the bad and the ugly: Theater 2008

BY JONATHAN ABARBANEL

Stage Door Jonny steps out of retirement to join his Windy City Times colleagues in assessing 2008 Chicago theater. We'll start with the good; it's far less interesting than the bad and/or the ugly, so it needs the fillip of going first.

### The good:

—Balancing equal measures of brutality and tenderness, Shattered Globe Theatre Company made Rod Serling's 1950s drama **Requiem for a Heavyweight** utterly honest, real and compelling. The tale of the washed-up boxer was the powerhouse play of the year.

—Julia Cho's **Durango**, presented by Silk Road Theatre Project, addressed gay themes in an intimate family drama concerning conflicts between first- and second-generation Korean Americans; the pressure to succeed; and the emotional damage of living in the closet for both a father and a son.

—Midsummer saw **Dancing at Lughnasa**, a story of five sisters with unbreakable bonds of love, given a compassionate and full-blooded production by the Festival Theatre in Oak Park, where the outdoor location perfectly fit Brian Friel's bittersweet elegy to 1930s rural Irish life.

—The musical triumph of the year was **Caroline, or Change**, presented by Court Theatre with a superb veteran cast lead by E. Faye Butler. Court Theatre delivered a splendid rendition of Tony Kushner and Jeanine Tesori's challenging pop opera about race, religion and changing times in 1963 New Orleans.

—Finally, several shows made splendid use of

environmental designs or site-specific productions supporting literate but non-traditional scripts. Kudos to **The Mysterious Elephant** presented by The Strange Tree Group, to Oracle Productions' **Termen Vox Machina** and to the Neo-Futurists' swimming pool production, **Fake Lake**.

### The bad and the ugly:

—"Ya gotta know the territory!" declare a gaggle of salesmen in **The Music Man**. Yet every year, out-of-town producers come to Chicago with a hit from Miami or Los Angeles or even New York and think it will be a hit here. They are wrong, and they pay the price. Among this year's deserved failures were the Danny Kaye bio-musical, **The Kid from Brooklyn**, the pseudo-1960s **Shout!** and the off-Broadway success **Gutenberg, The Musical**.

—Infamous Commonwealth Theatre Company presented the endless, aimless, American political allegory **Lewis and Clark Reach the Euphrates** by the pretentious, portentous, tendentious author Robert Schenkkan. Watching it was like the scene in **The Mummy** where the scarabs crawl inside you and you know you're going to die.

—Actor/director Frank Galati makes few mistakes, but sometimes his head is turned by literature. Haruki Murakami's **Kafka on the Shore** is a fascinating and challenging read, but Galati's Steppenwolf Theatre Company adaptation was impenetrable and unfathomable, far too metaphorical and/or allegorical. How long can you watch a work of kinetic sculpture?

—After five years in a noisy storefront, feisty little Steep Theatre Company moved to better digs. They celebrated the event with **Seven Days**, an original, company-developed piece which combined the worst elements of Lewis and Clark Reach the Euphrates and Kafka on the Shore. Think scarabs under your skin and chalk squeaking on a blackboard.

—Finally, when Johnny Galecki flashed his substantial dick for three seconds on Broadway, it sold tickets to Douglas Carter Beane's **The Little Dog Laughed**. But for its Chicago premiere at About Face Theatre, the play's brief nudity was cut. Beane was not amused, forcing director Eric Rosen to publish an embarrassing public apology. Ever fastidious about avoiding exploitation charges, Rosen bent over too far backwards, thereby making a big thing out of a little thing (no matter how big it is).

## Rent coming to Chicago next spring

The new national tour of **Rent**, starring original Broadway cast members Adam Pascal and Anthony Rapp, will play a limited engagement at Chicago's Ford Center for the Performing Arts, Oriental Theatre, 24 W. Randolph, March 31-April 12, 2009. The Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award-winning musical is produced by Jeffrey Seller, Kevin McCollum, and Allan S. Gordon.

**Rent's** 12-year Broadway run ended Sept. 7.

Tickets are now available for groups of 20 or more by calling 312-977-1710. Individual tickets will be available to the general public at a later date to be announced.

## Lesbian drama Stop/Kiss at Gift Theatre

**Stop/Kiss**—which focuses on a romance that blossoms between two female friends—will run at The Gift Theatre, 4802 N. Milwaukee.

The production will run Thursdays & Fridays at 7:30 p.m., and Saturdays at 2:30 and 7:30 p.m. Jan. 15-March 15. Previews run Jan. 15-18.

Tickets are \$15-\$25. Call 773-283-7071 or visit [www.thegifttheatre.org](http://www.thegifttheatre.org).

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The Little Dog Laughed.



## The best LGBT movies of 2008

BY RICHARD KNIGHT, JR.

Three years ago gay movies went mainstream, thanks mainly to *Brokeback Mountain* although, sadly, that trend did not continue—that is, until 2008, when conventional cinema again saw a slew of film releases with either positive portrayals of gay characters or gay themes. The year began on a sad note with the death of *Brokeback* star Heath Ledger; news of Ledger's passing came the same day as the Academy Award nominations. Ironically, his performance as the villainous Joker in *The Dark Knight*, his last completed film (and one of the year's biggest financial and critical hits) will surely see his name announced as a contender with this year's Oscar nominations (and it's my hope that that he'll win).

The ironies continued to pile up as the year progressed with the reinvigoration of the chick flick, a movie genre in desperate need of a hit, with two of the biggest of the year, *Sex and the City* and *Mamma Mia!*, both helmed by out directors making their feature-film debuts (Michael Patrick King and Phyllida Lloyd, respectively). And suddenly gays were being portrayed in straight male movies not as the shrieking, lisp-ing, mincing, limp-wristed disco dummies of old but as characters to be envied; emulated as paragons of cutting-edge cool; and looked up to by their straight counterparts. Cases in point included *Tropic Thunder*; *Zack and Miri Make a Porno*; and *Nick & Norah's Infinite Playlist*.

The ironies culminated with a serendipitous convergence of real life and cinema art: the year-end release of *Milk*, the long-awaited biopic of the slain pioneering gay activist Harvey Milk, just weeks after the passage of California's anti-gay marriage Proposition 8. The latter kick-started a new phase of gay rights that is being likened to the shift in the civil-rights movement in the early 1960s, helped in no small measure by out director Gus Van Sant's tremendous movie. At last, it seems, a healthy majority of heterosexuals are ready to stand with LGBT folks in securing our long-overdue rights. It's

not surprising that movies have helped point the zeitgeist in that direction.

I'd like to point out—as I do every year—that all these "best of" lists are completely subjective. My list tends to shift around with repeat viewings and reconsiderations. And what exactly constitutes a "gay" movie these days, anyway? As in the past, some of these pictures were "coded" so perfectly for our people that they made my list. And with that, here's my list of the best LGBT movies of 2008 (in preferential order):

—**1. Milk:** Sean Penn's acting acrobatics in the title role are wonderous in Van Sant's unadorned masterpiece that also features rich supporting performances by James Franco, Emile Hirsch and Diego Luna. The movie also has a great first-time feature script by gay writer Dustin Lance Black.

—**2. Were the World Mine:** The gay indie release of the year, this full-length version of the short "Fairies" finds queer writer-director Tom Gustafson again collaborating with offscreen partner Cory James Krueckeberg and songwriter Jessica Fogle in this delightful gay fantasia, a musical reimagining of Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

—**3. Tropic Thunder, Nick & Norah's Infinite Playlist, Rockrolla and Zack and Miri Make a Porno:** These are four films aimed at heterosexual audiences that feature gay characters as either just "one of the guys" or positive role models for their straight counterparts—a refreshing trend after decades of derision and a hopeful harbinger of things to come.

—**4. Save Me:** Gay actors Chad Allen and Robert Gant star and produce (along with co-star Judith Light) this moving character drama about a party boy (Allen) who turns to an ex-gay rehab center headed by Light and improbably finds a kindred spirit in Gant, another troubled resident. Out director Robert Cary helmed this movie.

—**5. Wall-E:** One of the year's biggest hits with audiences and critics was this futuristic tale of a lonely showtune-adoring robot who inexplicably finds true love with another robot and expresses it with the help of a forgotten gem from the score of *Hello Dolly!*—penned by gay musical theatre icon Jerry Herman.

—**6. Sex and the City and Mamma Mia!:** When out writer-director Michael Patrick King brought *Carrie & Co.* to the big screen, he brought along not just the hot fashions, the hot men and the dishy comedy that were staples of the HBO series but, more importantly, he brought his innate gay sensibility to his feature-film debut. The result was a huge success that single-handedly saved chick flicks from intensive care. Then there is out director Lloyd's frothy, sun-filled, ABBA-drenched musical concoction. Thanks to mighty Meryl, a strong supporting cast and Dominic Cooper's sensational abs, the film was a hit and gave Streep the box-office clout to match her acting credits.

—**7. Brideshead Revisited:** This is an admirable adaptation of Evelyn Waugh's sprawling novel that focuses on the super-rich, dysfunctional Marchmain family's effect on a wide-eyed innocent (played by a marvelous Matthew

Goode) who is torn between the gay son and his mysterious sister. Emma Thompson—as the siblings' controlling, religiously devout mother—is thrilling. Also, unlike the 1981 miniseries, the gay material isn't deep-sixed.

—**8. Chris & Don: A Love Story and Black, White + Gray: A Portrait Of Sam Wagstaff And Robert Mapplethorpe:** *Chris & Don* is a charming and moving documentary of the decades-long relationship between writer Christopher Isherwood and his much younger partner, painter Don Bachardy—and it's enlivened by the surviving Bachardy's memories and acidic assessments. The *Wagstaff/Mapplethorpe* documentary is a cogent look at a great collaboration between art collector/mentor and artist/student, and the impact both had on each other as their relationship blossomed and then withered.

—**9. The Witnesses:** This movie is Gay French writer-director Andre Techine's movingly observed character piece about the impact of a beautiful Adonis on a group of friends in France at the outset of the AIDS crisis in the early '80s.

The sun-drenched exteriors of the film presaged the terrible price the insidious pandemic would soon have on the world at large.

—**10. The Life of Reilly:** Gay actor-director Charles Nelson Reilly lived an extraordinary life long before he became the Match Game panelist that he's remembered for today. This one-man show is a fascinating, funny, heartbreaking tour of his life and, luckily, was lovingly recorded live on stage by director Barry Poltermann not long before Reilly's death.

—**Honorable mentions:** *Shelter*, a gay character-drama/coming-out story about West Coast surfers from out writer-director Jonah Markowitz and *Another Gay Sequel* were also popular with audiences and just two of the relatively few gay indies to actually get theatrical releases in 2008.

Check out my archived reviews at [www.windycitytimes.com](http://www.windycitytimes.com) or [www.knightatthemovies.com](http://www.knightatthemovies.com). Readers can leave feedback at the latter Web site.



Mamma Mia!



James Franco (left) and Sean Penn in *Milk*.

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This year saw tragedy strike Jennifer Hudson's family after her highly anticipated debut saw the light of day. George Michael and Boy George both faced much publicized legal troubles. Few were surprised when Clay Aiken and Lindsay Lohan came out. Besides these headlines, 2008 brought plenty of tremendous output from a variety of musicians.

**Cyndi Lauper** made a robust return with the dance-oriented *Bring Ya to the Brink*, which takes top honors as the album of the year. Working with an elite team consisting of Basement Jaxx, Scumfrog, Kleerup, Morel and Dragonette, Lauper still acted like she "just wanna have fun," all the while providing a supportive message throughout this set. Her signature booming vocals are present on tracks *Grab a Hold* and *Set Your Heart*; she then takes an uncharacteristic darker turn with *Raging Storm* without missing a beat. Other notable albums are Sia's *Some People Have Real Problems*, The Pack A.D.'s *Funeral Mixtape*, Matt Alber's *Hide Nothing* and Goldfrapp's *Seventh Tree*.

*Dream*, by **Angela McCluskey**, is the year's top song. This guitar-based number has a chorus, which is like a freefall into hope. *Dream* is used in the Pampers spot benefiting UNICEF. Another video set to *Dream* surfaced on YouTube, where same-sex couples are seen as everyday, loving parents. McCluskey, who lends vocals to *Telepopmusik* and *The Wild Colonials*, has a new album, *You Could Start a Fight in an Empty House*, due out in the spring. L.E.S. *Artistes* by Santogold, *Into the Nightlife* by Lauper, *Not A Love Song* by Uh Huh Her, *Only One* by Mono VCF and *Shiny Things* by The Pack A.D. are some of the other hottest songs from 2008.

Director Karl Giant outdid himself with the video to *When We Get Together* by **The Ones**. Here, the New York trio is joined by several other dance community and Big Apple fixtures, including Debbie Harry, Jody Watley, Ultra Nate, Colton Ford and Ari Gold. Showing just the backlit, glittery and glistening torsos, this video is irresistible. Contenders for best video of 2008 are Lauper's *Into the Nightlife*, Alber's *End of the World*, Grace Jones's *Corporate Cannibal* and Joshua

Klipp's *Tell Me The....*

The Klubjumper mix of **Salme Dahlstrom's** *C'mon Y'all* is the year's best remix. This absolutely catchy reworking transforms the track from a blissful pop ditty to a peak-hour anthem that is ideal for the dance club or health club. Jamie J. Sanchez's remixes of Joshua Klipp's *L1FE*, Josh Peace's mix of *The Ones' When We Get Together*, Johnny Vicious's spin on Jennifer Hudson's *Spotlight* and the Freemasons' dance version of Kylie Minogue's *The One* are also remarkable remixes.

The remixer of the year is Chicago's very own **Ralph Rosario**. His touches to Janet Jackson's *Feedback*, Robin's *You Turned the Table on Me*, Kerli's *Walking on Air* and Lauper's *Same Ol' Fucking Story* show he knows his divas and how to pack a dance floor. Rosario will be spinning Sunday, Jan. 18 at Smart Bar, 3730 N. Clark. Soul Seekerz, Morel and Freemasons have also provided superb remixes.

**Leona Lewis** is the year's biggest crossover from overseas. Her mega-hit, *Bleeding Love*, and her debut album, *Spirit*, reached the number-one spots on the charts. Performing *Whole Lotta Love* with Jimmy Page at the closing ceremonies for the Olympics cemented Lewis's arrival. Delta Goodrem, Duffy, Adele, Yelle, Kerli and Lykke Li also made an impression in the U.S. from abroad.

She's tall with wild hair, and is a madly talented singer-songwriter and multi-instrumentalist with a British accent. Combining brains and beauty, **Kirsten Price** is the sexiest artist of the year. Her impressive debut, *Guts & Garbage*, is a hybrid of R&B and pop. The Brooklyn-based Price will be returning to Chicago with a date at The House of Blues, 329 N. Dearborn, on Saturday, Feb. 7. Other artists that are gifted eye-candy include Matt Alber, Ferras, Sam Sparro, Sir Paul, Jules de Martino and Katie White from the Ting Tings, Little Jackie's Imani Coppola and Nomi from Hercules and Love Affair.

**Jinx Titanic's** farewell concert marked the end of an era—and the show of the year. Singing cuts like *Perfect* and a cover of *Trouble of the World*, Titanic still commanded the room with his stage presence. Chomping on a cigar, Titanic threw merchandise and flowers into the audience with abandon while his punk-flavored anthems blared. Is this the end of Jinx Titanic? We all know how Ozzy Osbourne, Cher and Tina Turner bid farewell time and time again. Chicago hosted several outstanding concerts such as George Michael, The Pack A.D., Sia, Ladies of the Canyon Presents, Yaz and The Spice Girls.

My biggest regret this year was missing **Tina Turner's** concert in October. Luckily, I have seen her 24/7 tour. Hopefully, she will be back to the

Windy City on the next leg of this tour's run. Turner's 18-track retrospective, *Tina!*, serves as the perfect keepsake, spanning her legacy.

After giving it a chance, I had to declare **Mariah Carey's** *E=MC2* the worst album of the year. I know she can do better, but she is milking the cash cow by following the formula for her comeback collection, *The Emancipation of Mimi*. There is little that is creative or artistic about this set. The Pussycat Dolls, Katy Perry, New Kids

on the Block and Madonna also have potential, but issued major disappointments this year.

The worst song belonged to **Pussycat Dolls** with *When I Grow Up*. The lyrics, over-production and video are completely embarrassing. Even remixes could not save this one. The Dolls will tour with Britney Spears next spring. Too bad Milli Vanilli cannot reunite for this one.



Robert Mapplethorpe, "Untitled (self-portrait)." Photo courtesy of Burke Patten

## Mapplethorpe and Michaelangelo at NU

Largely unknown works by photographer Robert Mapplethorpe and original drawings from the Prado Museum by Michelangelo and other 16th-century masters will be exhibited this winter during two major exhibitions at Northwestern University's Mary and Leigh Block Museum of Art, 40 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston.

The "Polaroids: Mapplethorpe" exhibition, featuring more than 90 photographs, in the Block Museum's Alsdorf Gallery Jan. 13-April 5. New York's Whitney Museum of American Art in collaboration with the Robert Mapplethorpe Foundation, New York, organized the exhibition. To see examples of works in the exhibition, visit [www.blockmuseum.northwestern.edu/exhibitions/future/mapplethorpe.html](http://www.blockmuseum.northwestern.edu/exhibitions/future/mapplethorpe.html).

"From Michelangelo to Annibale Carracci: A Century of Italian Drawings from the Prado," in the Main Gallery Jan. 23-April 5, focuses on artworks from roughly 1520 to 1620.

Admission is free. Call 847-491-4000 or see [www.blockmuseum.northwestern.edu](http://www.blockmuseum.northwestern.edu).

## South Asian version of Vagina Monologues at Strawdog

Rasaka Theatre Company will present the Chicago premiere of *Yoni Ki Baat*—a South Asian-focused event loosely inspired by Eve Ensler's *The Vagina Monologues*—at Strawdog Theatre, 3829 N. Broadway, Jan. 4-Feb. 1, 2009.

The show will include six new monologues by local writers, including ensemble members Anita Chandwaney and Mary Anne Mohanraj. Tickets are \$10-\$20; call 312-777-1070 or visit [www.strawdog.org](http://www.strawdog.org).

## Entertainment news

**Sean Penn** has been criticized for his role in *Milk* because of the actor recently praised Venezuelan dictator Hugo Chavez and Cuban leader Raul Castro, according to OneIndia. In the *Advocate*, writer James Kirchick stated, "Gay rights are human rights, as [Harvey] Milk said, and Penn discredits both when he rationalizes illiberal ideologies ... and rushes to the defense of thugs who posture as victims of the West." However, Penn's publicist, Mara Buxbaum, said that Penn actually addressed the topic of the oppression of gays in the full article, which is on the Huffington Post; the *Nation* apparently only ran an excerpt of said article.

**SPOILER ALERT: The L Word** will start its last season Jan. 18 with the death of a major character—Jenny Schecter, according to the Associated Press. Her body will be discovered in a swimming pool as friends and associates wonder if her death was an accident or homicide. However, Jenny will be present a lot during the season via flashbacks.

Former *American Idol* finalist Kimberley Locke said that she and out runner-up **Clay Aiken** "aren't really friends anymore," according to AccessHollywood.com. Locke and Aiken were roommates at one time. Locke was recently part of the *American Idol* Holiday Tour, a group of four former *Idol* finalists that included David Hernandez, who once worked as a stripper at a gay club.

**Project Runway** mentor **Tim Gunn** is concerned that the show's newest season may not air, according to The Washington Blade. Gunn said that he doesn't know when the sixth season will air because of an ongoing legal battle involving NBC Universal, the Weinstein Company, Bravo and Lifetime.

Talk-show queen Oprah Winfrey has reportedly slammed former Republican vice-presidential candidate **Gov. Sarah Palin** for refusing to appear on her show, according to IMDB.com. (Palin has talked with Greta Van Susteren, Matt Lauer and Larry King.) Winfrey, who made no secret of her support for President-elect Barack Obama, has said, "[S]he didn't talk to me. Maybe she'll talk to me now that she has a [multimillion-dollar] book deal."

John Costelloe—an actor who played the gay lover of a mobster on TV's *The Sopranos*—has died of an apparent self-inflicted gunshot wound, according to the Associated Press. Costelloe, 47, a former New York City firefighter, was cast on the television show as Johnny Cakes, a cook who was romantically involved with mobster character Vito Spatafore.

**Influential British playwright Harold Pinter** has died of cancer in London at the age of 78, the Washington Post reported. The winner of the 2005 Nobel Prize for literature, Pinter penned more than 30 plays, including *The Birthday Party* and *The Homecoming*.

**The death of Australian actor Heath Ledger** last January was deemed the top entertainment story of 2008 by U.S. newspaper and broadcast editors surveyed by the Associated Press, IMDB.com reported. Among others in the top five were Britney Spears' continued meltdown, the end of the Writers' Guild strike, the rise of political comedy and the box-office success of Ledger's *The Dark Knight*.

**Openly gay singer Rufus Wainwright** has made his thoughts about same-sex marriage known on his blog, according to AfterEllen.com. He supports the concept, but it's not something he is personally interested in.

**Actress Ellen Page—known for her roles in Juno and X-Men III—is attached to play in the feature-film adaptation of Freeheld**, the Oscar-winning documentary of a terminally ill lesbian and her fight to pass her pension benefits to her partner, AfterEllen.com reported. Page would play Stacey Andree, the partner of New Jersey police detective lieutenant Laurel Hester.

**Singer Kelly Clarkson** is getting set for her comeback after her most recent CD, *My December*, tanked, according to Yahoo! News. A new single, *My Life Would Suck Without You*, will be released in January and her CD is scheduled to drop in March.



Jinx Titanic.

# REAL ESTATE

## FOR SALE

### OUT OF TOWN

**FOR SALE HOTEL:** 46 room national flag hotel, constructed 2000, Saugatuck, Michigan. **John Mandich, Marcus & Millichap 248-415-2628.** (12/03/08-2)

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**FABULOUS HARBOR COUNTRY COTTAGE:** Near Downtown New Buffalo. Hand crafted Arts and Crafts cottage. 2 Bdrm w/ Studio. Private retreat. **Please contact for details and photos. 602-295-8331 travel@mac.com for photos** (9/03/08-8)

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**GAYVEGASCOUPONS.COM:** Everything Las Vegas!. **[www.GayVegasCoupons.com](http://www.GayVegasCoupons.com).** (1/07/09-4)

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## NUNN ON ONE

## Dude looks like a Brady: Talking with Christopher Knight

BY JERRY NUNN

Having missed an opportunity to meet The Brady Bunch's Marcia (played by Maureen McCormick) in the past, I jumped at the chance to meet

Christopher Knight, who played Peter Brady on that immortal '70s show.

Visiting his wife's (America's Next Top Model first-cycle winner Adrienne Curry) family in Joliet, Ill., Knight took a trip into the city and talked with Windy City Times.

**WCT: Let's cover the Brady Bunch stuff first. Maureen McCormick just wrote a book this past October called *Surviving Marcia Brady and Finding My True Voice*. When is your tell-all book coming out?**

CK: There have been some discussions on our end about me writing a book. It's funny; earlier in my career I thought there was no good ending. Then I met Adrienne and the whole career started up again. A child would be a better ending but we are not at that point in our lives yet.

My book would be a look at my irreverent life. There is a possibility, but I am not sure I have the discipline to write it. Someone has to ask a question and the synapses just start going.



Christopher Knight.

For Maureen, that book has been a truly transformative experience. The Maureen that sits here today is very different than the one in the past. She never really wanted to be a Brady. We were almost an embarrassment to her. We may have represented the people she disappointed, so perhaps she didn't want to be around us. Since purging all of this there is a great desire to be around the gang now. She asked me once, "Did you know that I had a drug problem?" I said, "Maureen, you are the only one that didn't know you had a drug problem!" That's pretty much how it wraps up in my mind. Maureen was in denial and pretty much everyone else could see it.

**WCT: And you were close with Robert Reed?**

CK: I loved Robert. He was an idol—a classy man who fought for what he believed in. He fought for art. He directed a few episodes and they were probably my favorite episodes. Mind you, this was his first time directing as well. He was really into it.

He asked me as a kid what I wanted to do. [That] was so empowering, someone asking my point of view. He really cared about other people's points of view.

**WCT: On VH-1's *My Fair Brady* you had a big reaction to Adrienne's nude photos. How do you feel about that now?**

CK: Not terribly comfortable because it was terribly real. Those weren't planned moments. Those are issues that I have. Adrienne has an extraordinary personality. She is over-the-top big and sometimes in life that makes great entertainment but it's hard to live with. She seems very simple but there are a lot of layers there. I was trying to discern if she knew who she was. That's what that whole bunk was about. How much should I entrust in someone who thinks that they know who they are when they are only 23? She's a giant risk. She's not the safe path. I am terribly in love with her. It's trying at times.

**WCT: My boyfriend is 22, so I know what you are going through.**

CK: Well, I don't know if it's the age difference, though. I had to get over that, too. I didn't know how judgmental I was. Doing the reality show was very difficult. I don't want to do it anymore. Adrienne is much better suited for it. She is an overt outer person. I am a more inner person.

**WCT: You played gay on *That '70s Show* with Barry Williams. How did that go?**

CK: That was a great part. Unfortunately, that was the last season or it would have been a recurring role.

**WCT: Now you are hosting *Trivial Pursuit: America Plays*. What is the toughest part of hosting your own show?**

CK: We finished the first year of production and we are hoping for a pickup. It was my first time doing a first-run syndicated show. Apparently, we are doing pretty well. The economy sort of sucks but in a normal economy it would have been a shoo-in. It's a pretty straightforward take on a board classic.

**Read the entire Nunn on One interview with Christopher Knight at [www.WindyCityMedia-Group.com](http://www.WindyCityMedia-Group.com).**

# Rhapsody for Blue

A benefit for Blue Gargoyle Community Services  
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For details and ticket sales call 773-955-4108 x312, or visit [rhapsody4blue.eventbrite.com](http://rhapsody4blue.eventbrite.com).

\*Artist appears through kind permission of Lyric Opera of Chicago

# WHAT TO DO?

## Wednesday, Dec. 31

**Equality Illinois New Year's Eve Party** at Sidetrack, benefiting the Equality Illinois Political Action Committee, advance tickets \$25, 7 p.m., 3349 North Halsted St., [http://eqfed.org/equality\\_illinois/events/nye\\_2008/details.tcl](http://eqfed.org/equality_illinois/events/nye_2008/details.tcl)

**Hydrate, New Year's Carnivale!** exclusive pre-party 8 p.m., through 4 a.m. with DJ Laura B. visit \$35 advance / \$40 at the door. 3498 N. Halsted. [www.hydratechicago.com](http://www.hydratechicago.com)

**Jagermeister** hosts the "Jager on Ice" Shoot the Puck Tournament, over 21, 1 p.m.—4 p.m., Murphy's Bleachers, 3655 N. Sheffield; 312-755-3522

**The Poseidon Adventure:** The Upside Down New Year's Eve Adventure film event, 11 p.m., \$20 in advance through [www.ticketweb.com](http://www.ticketweb.com); \$25 at the box office, day-of show only (tickets include a complimentary champagne toast, party favors and interactive movie guide) [www.music-boxtheatre.com](http://www.music-boxtheatre.com), [www.handbagproductions.org](http://www.handbagproductions.org), Music Box Theatre, 3733 N. Southport

**Spin New Year's Eve, Retro Prom,** 8:30 p.m., 800 W Belmont Ave, 773-327-7711

**Sidetrack, signature** New Year's babies and surprises, \$25, 7 p.m., 3349 N. Halsted, [www.sidetrackchicago.com](http://www.sidetrackchicago.com)

## Thursday, Jan. 1

**Newtown Writers,** GLBT writing workshop, 7:30 p.m., Gerber/Hart Library, 1127 Granville.

## Sunday, Jan. 4

**One of a Kind Show and Sale,** popular holiday shopping show and fine art and craft festival, offers opportunity to buy one-of-a-kind handmade creations, and a variety of special events and amenities. Thru Dec. 7 800-677-6278 or [www.oneofakindshow.com](http://www.oneofakindshow.com)

## Monday, Jan. 5

**Men on Mondays,** the first Monday of every month. Featuring a cabaret performance by Dominick Falaschetti, 6 - 9 p.m. \$20 includes 2 drink tickets and hors d'oeuvres graciously provided

by Sola Restaurant, [www.centeronhalsted.org](http://www.centeronhalsted.org).

## Wednesday, Jan. 7

**Heating it up in the New Year**—Sexy tips presented by Tulip Toy Gallery, 6 - 9 p.m. \$5, includes two drink tickets and snacks, [www.centeronhalsted.org](http://www.centeronhalsted.org)

**Howard Brown** seven session LGBT Specific Smoking Cessation Program begins. Group participants receive seven weeks of the program, free nicotine replacement patches and \$25 for completing the program survey at the end of the seven-week session. Howard Brown Health Center, 4025 N. Sheridan Rd. [www.howardbrown.org](http://www.howardbrown.org).

## Thursday, Jan. 8

**Joan Corwin,** author of *Safe Shall Be My Going*, Press 53 Open Awards Anthology, 7:30 p.m. Women & Children First Bookstore, 5233 N. Clark 773-769-9299 [www.womenandchildrenfirst.com](http://www.womenandchildrenfirst.com)

## Friday, Jan. 9

**Center on Halsted Art Show:** Jeff Stevenson: Many-One. Opening reception will be held on at Center on Halsted, 2nd floor gallery, 6:30—9:30 p.m. \$5 donation requested. Cash bar. Thru Feb. 15, 2009 RSVP to Ben Gannon at [ben@centeronhalsted.org](mailto:ben@centeronhalsted.org) or call 773-472-6469 x 177

**Leather Archives & Museum** last day of "ask", a mixed medium exhibition celebrates the mask and its ability to transform its wearer into dual persona of subject/object. 6418 N. Greenview Ave. 773-761-9200 [www.leather-archives.org](http://www.leather-archives.org)

## Saturday, Jan. 10

**Men Nurturing Men,** reunion potluck social: theme: 2009, Changing Men's Lives, One Man at a Time, at a member's home. 6:30 p.m. Bring comfort foods, RSVP by Jan. 07 to 708-439-5227 or [MNMChicago09@yahoo.com](mailto:MNMChicago09@yahoo.com).

**UBU Pornfest** Monthly hip-hop after hours with Freakzilla, Sexy, Falvamen, Model, DJ, Anton, DVD giveaways \$5. 1 a.m. \$10 Circuit, 3641 N. Halsted., [WWW.MYSPACE.COM/URBANONITES](http://WWW.MYSPACE.COM/URBANONITES) (773)325-2233

**Windy City Media Group Gays Got Talent semi-finals** contest (dance, comedy, magic, impersonation, drag, burlesque, music and more). 3 p.m. door, 5 p.m. start, \$5 cover, Sidetrack, 3349 N. Halsted

## Tuesday, Jan. 13

**Gerber/Hart lesbian book group,** to share readings and select new books for Spring 2009 7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m., Gerber/Hart Library, 1127 W. Granville

## Friday, Jan. 16

**Center on Halsted art show, Yes We Can:** John Gress on the Campaign Trail with Barack Obama. Opening reception 3rd floor Gallery, 6:30—9:30 p.m.; \$5 donation is requested. Cash bar will be available. Through Mar. 1. RSVP to Ben Gannon at [ben@centeronhalsted.org](mailto:ben@centeronhalsted.org) or call 773-472-6469 X 177

## Tuesday, Jan. 20

**Coalition for Justice and Respect,** A celebration of the inauguration of Barack Obama as President. Bus leaves Chicago for Washington D.C. on Jan. 19 at 4 p.m., \$350.00/person, RSVP to [cjr.chicago@gmail.com](mailto:cjr.chicago@gmail.com) or call 773-559-1751

## Thursday, Jan. 22

**Center on Halsted singOUT Lecture Series 2008-09,** a new collaboration with Lyric Opera of Chicago. Patricia Racette, soprano. Tix \$10. 7p.m. Hoover-Leppen Theatre, Center on Halsted, 3656 N Halsted Street. Purchase online: [www.centeronhalsted.org/singout.html](http://www.centeronhalsted.org/singout.html)

## Friday, Jan. 30

**Touche 2009 Mr. Chicago Leather Contest.** Full weekend events, including the contest (10 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 31). Contest application and details at [www.chicagoleather.org](http://www.chicagoleather.org).

## Thursday, Feb. 5

**The 8th Annual Freedom To Marry Reception** 6 to 9 p.m. National Museum of Mexican Art, 1852 West 19th Street. Info to come from Lambda Legal.

## Saturday, Feb. 7

**Equality Illinois "Justice for All" gala,** Hilton Chicago, 720 S. Michigan. Information to come.

## Thursday, Mar. 5

**Join LCCP** at the National Lesbian Health Summit! Expanding Our Movement Fri. Thru March 9, 2009, San Francisco. Info to come.

**Annual Winnetka Woman's Club Antiques Show.** "Champagne and Chocolate" Preview Party, \$30, 2 to 5 p.m. More than 40 vendors. Regular show hours are Friday, March 6, 10-6, Saturday, March 7, 10-6, and Sunday March 8, 11-5. Show admission is \$12 and good for all three days. 485 Maple St., Winnetka, 847-446-1830 or [www.winnetkawomansclub.com](http://www.winnetkawomansclub.com).

## Saturday, Mar. 7

**Women of the Western Suburbs Cabin Fever Dance,** 6-7 p.m. cash bar, 7-8:30 p.m. dinner, 8:30-12 p.m. dancing/cash bar, \$30 ea or tables of 10 \$300 [wow-sevents@yahoo.com](mailto:wow-sevents@yahoo.com) or 847-622-4327

## Saturday, Apr. 4

**2009 Club BEHIV & Cabaret** will be Saturday, April 4 at the Woman's Club of Evanston.

## Thursday, Jan. 1

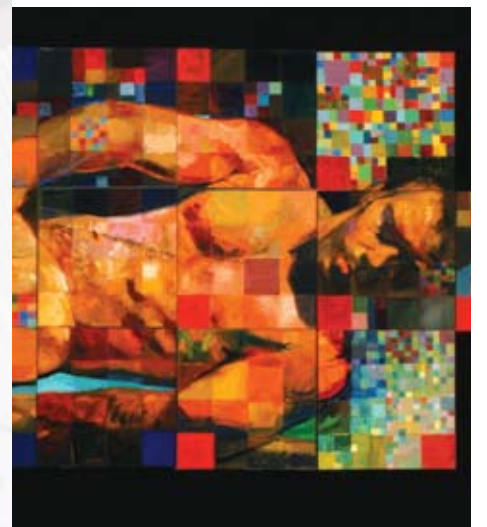


## WRITE ON

**NewTown Writers** will host a writing workshop at Gerber/Hart Library, 1127 W. Granville.

Photo by Owen Keehnen

## Friday, Jan. 9



## ART-FELT

The opening of "Jeff Stevenson: Many-One" will take place at the Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted.

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## Eder days

Renowned singer Linda Eder wowed the crowd Dec. 13 in Chicago in "Linda Eder Rocks the Holidays," which took place at the Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University, 50 E. Congress. The evening featured Eder's holidays favorites as well as tunes from her new solo recording, *The Other Side of Me*. Photos by Kat Fitzgerald; see [www.MysticImagesPhotography.com](http://www.MysticImagesPhotography.com).

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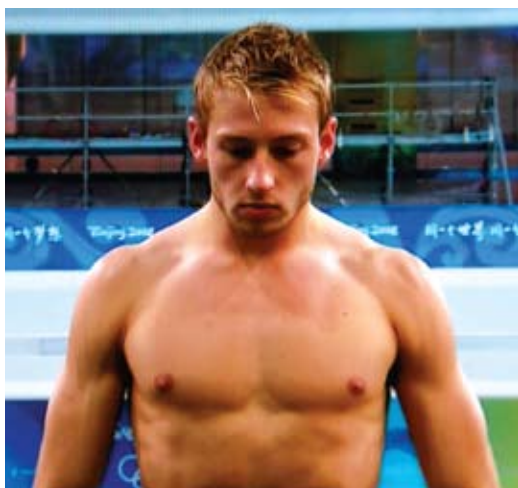
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From left: Matthew Mitcham, Jessica Andrasko and Joe Green.

## SPORTS LGBT athletes of the year

BY ROSS FORMAN

For me, the 2008 LGBT athlete of the year was an easy pick: out diver Matthew Mitcham who, in August, turned in one of the biggest upsets at the Beijing Olympics.

Mitcham won a gold medal in the 10m platform, shocking the heavily-favored Chinese. Mitcham actually trailed Zhou Luxin by about 35 points going into the final dive, but Mitcham hit an unbelievable score of 112.10 on his sixth and final dive to win by just over three points.

Mitcham's gold was even more amazing considering he quit diving two years ago battling depression and burnout.

Mitcham was supported in China by family and friends, and his partner, Lachlan.

In Chicago, thousands of LGBT athletes took the sporting route in 2008, playing for the Chicago Metropolitan Sports Association (CMSA) and other smaller leagues, such as the Windy City Athletic Association (WCAA) and the Women Playing Sports Association (WPSA).

Chicago's gay athletes truly run the gamut: old and young; skilled and rookies; and competitive and recreational. There are teenagers and senior citizens. Plenty live in Chicago, especially Lakeview and Andersonville, but the suburbs are represented too. So too are neighboring states, such as Wisconsin and Indiana, where players call home yet still drive to Chicago for the sports fever.

To find the Chicago LGBT athlete of the year (one male and one female), I asked a wide variety of athletes for their pick on who best represents Chicago ... and the winners are: Joe Green and Jessica Andrasko, who each played five sports in 2008.

### Jessica Andrasko

Jessica Andrasko's sporting highlight in 2008 was winning the softball championship, although the victory came against the team on

which her partner played. The two still laugh about it months later, and Andrasko really wants to repeat—although her partner said it won't happen.

"Sports is my release, my outlet. Sports helps keep me sane," said Andrasko, 36, who lives in Woodridge and is a science teacher at Romeoville High School. "After being at school all day, then grading papers, I really look forward to playing sports."

"I'm in my element when I playing sports. I absolutely love playing sports, participating, having fun."

Andrasko's 2008 campaign included softball, beach volleyball, flag football, dodgeball and indoor volleyball. This was her first season not playing for the Chicago Force after two seasons; however, she attended all of the team's home games.

Her second biggest sporting highlight in 2008 was in beach volleyball, where her team did not lose a game the entire season.

"I've been busy with sports my whole life," said Andrasko, who played volleyball at Bowling Green State University, and then professionally for a season in Norway. "Playing multiple sports [in a year] has never really been an issue for me. It's what my body feels good doing. If I wasn't playing sports, I feel like I would get older faster."

Andrasko has also coached volleyball at the collegiate level.

But what's the athlete's worst sport? "Soccer," she said laughing. "I'm really terrible at it."

As for 2009, Andrasko said she, "wants to spend more time playing golf, because I'm really starting to enjoy it. It's a challenge for me."

Away from sports, she enjoys playing Guitar Hero and singing karaoke.

### Joe Green

Joe Green's 2008 sports highlight was playing in the annual North American Gay Amateur Athletic Association (NAGAAA) Gay Softball World Series, held in late August in Seattle. His team ultimately finished in fifth place, a memory made even more special because he has family living in Seattle, "so they got to share in who I

am and what I do."

Green, 43, a realtor who lives in Andersonville, also played flag football, kickball, tennis and basketball in 2008.

"Sports are part of my social network," he said. "Early on when I was playing [LGBT sports], it was more about winning, about being competitive and going all out. But now it's more about the friendships that you build."

"Quite often you see or meet people who play a sport, and that gives you something to connect with, to talk about. It's really a bonding experience. Plus, sports are a physical activity, so it keeps you in somewhat decent shape."

Green, who has lived in the Chicago area since 1988, played tennis in high school. He then went to Central Michigan University.

Green's partner, Brian Kettner, also played on the same softball team.

Green has been on the CMSA board of directors in the past, including a stint as vice president. He also officiates football and softball, and has coached beginner softball players. Plus, he annually hosts a Super Bowl party for 250-300 people. "It's my way of giving back to them, for their friendship," he said.

"Sports are a very big part of my life. My fear is getting older and not being able to do as much as I enjoy doing."

Green won three bronze medals and one gold at the 2006 Gay Games in Chicago. He's not yet set on the 2009 Outgames in Copenhagen, but already is playing to participate in the 2010 Gay Games in Cologne, Germany.

## Aloha, 2008

BY ROSS FORMAN

The National AIDS Marathon Training Program (NAMTP) wrapped up its 2008 season in mid-December on the streets of Waikiki (on the Hawaiian island of Oahu), with almost all of the 50 runners from Chicago wearing the sky-blue finisher T-shirt, puka shells and a medallion.

Once again, dreams were fulfilled, some personal records were established and, most important, a ton of money was raised in 2008 to assist those affected by HIV and AIDS.

The Chicago chapter of the NAMTP featured 507 marathon runners in 2008, including 354 who ran the Bank of America Chicago Marathon on Oct. 12. There were 86 who competed in the Chicago Half Marathon & 5K; 17 who flew to the Netherlands for the annual Amsterdam Marathon, Half Marathon and 5K; and 50 who ran the Honolulu Marathon.

"I don't know how many people finished; it's hard to track every runner," said Steve Schapiro of the NAMTP's Chicago office. "Historically, 98 percent of the participants who complete training complete the marathon."

Of the AIDS marathoners who competed in '08, Schapiro confirmed that some finished the Chicago Marathon between 3:00 and 3:20. Other runners, meanwhile, needed eight hours to finish their marathon, but they did, in fact, finish.

About 50 to 60 percent of the AIDS Marathon runners in 2008 were running their first ever, and runners ranged from 16 to 65. "The oldest

[runner] we have ever worked with was 77," Schapiro said. "He did two marathons with us—one at age 76 and another at age 77."

And they come to the AIDS Marathon program from everywhere, not just Chicago. In 2008, there were runners from 17 states and the District of Columbia.

"We haven't closed the books yet for this year, but we expect to gross approximately \$1 million dollars," Schapiro said.

Over the past 10 years, more than 20,000 people have successfully completed the AIDS Marathon training program, and have raised \$80 million for AIDS organizations around the country, Schapiro added.

"Some runners choose to tell us if they are HIV-positive, but we don't ask, so we don't have any way to know a number [of all who are HIV-positive]. I do know we have runners who are HIV-positive run the program. I don't think it's a large percentage, but there are a few at least," Schapiro said.

The National AIDS Marathon Training Program returns to the lakefront for training in 2009, destined for three gems: the Bank of America Chicago Marathon, the Rock 'N Roll Chicago Half Marathon (formerly The Chicago Distance Classic) and the Maui Marathon in Hawaii.

For more information on the National AIDS Marathon Training Program, go to [www.aids-marathon.com](http://www.aids-marathon.com).

## Chicago Dragons show Jan. 24

Local gay and gay-friendly rugby team the Chicago Dragons will hold its 3rd Annual Ms. Ruck & Maul Contest Saturday, Jan. 24, at Sidetrack, 3349 N. Halsted, 5-8 p.m.

Tickets for the event—which will feature team members in drag—are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door. In exchange, patrons get four drink tickets and a whole lot of entertainment. This event is one of the team's biggest to help raise money for club expenses such as field costs, travel and equipment.

See [www.ChicagoDragons.org](http://www.ChicagoDragons.org).

## Milwaukee to host gay softball events; meetings in Jan.

During the week of Aug. 30-Sept. 5, 2009, Milwaukee and the Saturday Softball League will host the 33rd Gay Softball World Series (GSWS), also known as Series 2009.

In a related development, the city will present NAGAAAFest 2009 Aug. 29-Sept. 7. In addition to the softball tournament, NAGAAAFest will be a series of events, celebrations and parties for the entire community.

But before the tournament begins, the NAGAAA (North American Gay Amateur Athletic Association) Open Division winter meetings will take place Saturday-Sunday, Jan. 24-25, 2009, at the Hilton Milwaukee City Center (the host hotel for Series 2009). These meetings are held to set up the rules and criteria for organized gay softball.

See [www.nagaaasoftball.org](http://www.nagaaasoftball.org) and [www.nagaaafest.com](http://www.nagaaafest.com).

## Smucker's Stars on Ice at Allstate Feb. 21

The Smucker's Stars on Ice tour will stop in the Chicagoland area Saturday, Feb. 21, 2009, when famed figure skaters perform at Allstate Arena, 6920 N. Mannheim, at 3 p.m.

The all-new production, "On the Edge," will feature stars such as Sasha Cohen, Todd Eldredge, Michael Weiss, Ilia Kulik and special guest skater Evan Lysacek.

Tickets start at \$25. See [www.starsonice.com](http://www.starsonice.com).

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