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weekly nightlife section in 

the DISH

Weekly Dining Guide in
WINDY CITY TIMES

SAVOR Farmhouse Chicago

BY ANDREW DAVIS

The people behind **Farmhouse Chicago** (228 W. Chicago Ave.; FarmhouseChicago.com) certainly believe in truth behind advertising.

As if the decor—which ranges from a pitchfork on the door to a tiny tractor on the bar on the place's second floor—doesn't tell patrons, Farmhouse (which has a capacity of 120 standing, or 99 seated people) specializes in the concept of farm-to-tavern dining. Of course, said concept isn't new—but it's done quite well.

The Farmhouse makes condiments, burgers and even sodas from scratch, and the care shows. However, another reason people may like this spot is that it offers almost 30 varieties of craft beer (and, if there's one thing I've learned, it's that Chicago is a drinking city). And, with me being a big



Shortrib dumplings (left) and the Juniper Jupiter at Farmhouse Chicago.
Photos by Andrew Davis

fan of cider, I certainly enjoyed what Farmhouse offers.

As for the food, there's one thing the reader must know: This is that time of the year when chefs gradually replace summer items with autumnal offerings—so some of the dishes I review here may not be at Farmhouse next week, even (so don't necessarily trust the menu you see online—but give it a couple weeks).

That being said (or typed), Farmhouse Executive Chef Emily Kraszyk (who I mistook for a server, partially because she looks so young) knows her way around a kitchen. I could've just eaten the shortrib dumplings (with creme fraiche and beef jus) for days, but there's much more to try. The bucatini (with brown butter, olive oil, aged ched-



dar, toasted walnuts, marjoram and red onion) is another must-try—and if loving the mac 'n' cheese is wrong, I don't want to be right.

The entrees lived up to expectations—mostly. The Slagel Farms half-chicken (which is on its way out, if it's not gone already) is one of the most popular dishes at Farmhouse—and with good reason, as it's expertly cooked. The double-cut pork chop is monstrous, although my friend and I had to get through what seemed like a substantial amount of fat to get to the well-seasoned meat.

If, by some miracle, you get through all that, please try the desserts. We sampled the apple streusel as well as the ice-cream sandwich. You can't go wrong either way—or with the rest of the menu, for that matter.



RPDR ALL STARS FINALE @ SIDETRACK

Photos by Jed Dulas

Sidetrack announces 'Dragapalooza,' Oct. 26 and 27

Two nights, two stages, dozens of queens, sexy dancers, and burlesque entertainers will be taking over Sidetrack for a production like no other to benefit Equality Illinois. For over 20 years, Chicago's longest-running drag benefit, Night of 100 Drag Queens, has celebrated the campy, the beautiful, the avant-garde and the just plain "sickening" Chicago drag community. This year the festival, celebrating all things drag, introduces its new name: Night of 100: Dragapalooza.

The show will take place for two nights only: Wednesday, October 26 and Thursday, October 27.

Directed by Jeffrey Lynch and hosted by Dixie Lynn Cartwright and Trannika Rex, Dragapalooza features a who's who of Chicago drag, including Chicago's own RuPaul's Drag Race favorites Dida Ritz and Jade Sotomayor. There will be solo acts, group numbers and highly choreographed production numbers. Queens come to Dragapalooza from such renown shows as Squad Goals, Geek Haus, Trannika's Most Wanted, Bio Hazards, Crash Landing and Dixie Wins a Talent Show, to name a few. A

special VIP reception will allow you in early to grab the best seats in the house and enjoy the sexy men of The Naughty Little Cabaret.

Miller Lite is the presenting sponsor and additional sponsors include Bacardi, Absolut Citron, Jägermeister and Hendricks Gin. All funds raised from tickets to the show go directly to Equality Illinois.

VIP tickets are \$20 per person in advance or \$25 at the door. Doors open for the VIP reception at 7 p.m. General admission tickets are \$15 per person in advance and at the door. Doors open for general admission at 8 p.m. Tickets are also available online at www.sidetrackchicago.com.

Dragapalooza is a benefit for Equality Illinois to support the work the statewide organization does on behalf of LGBT Rights. Equality Illinois is the state's oldest and largest organization advocating for full equal rights for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender ("LGBT") people. www.equalityillinois.us.

—From press release

Paula Sinclair
at 2015's
Night of 100
Drag Queens.
Photo by Kirk
Williamson



nightspots the big TO-DO

OUR WEEKLY PICKS TO PLAN
YOUR NIGHTLIFE CALENDAR

BARLESQUE 9: GODS AND GODDESSES



KICKOFF PARTY: Wed., Oct. 26, 6-9 pm Charlie's,

3726 N. Broadway

This November, contestants representing more than a dozen local businesses will bare all to empower and benefit those living with and vulnerable for HIV/AIDS in Chicago. Barlesque, the annual strip-a-thon fundraiser produced by TPAN (Test Positive Aware Network) returns this fall with its sexy competition to find "Chicago's Sexiest" bartender or performer.

Running from October 26 through December 3, **Barlesque 9: Gods & Goddesses** offers donors a unique treat for their generosity. Boudoir-style photos of contestants are available online at Barlesque.org. As donations are raised online and at in-person events, contestants' photos advance from fully dressed to "nature's best."

Barlesque culminates at midnight on December 3, when the participant who has raised the most money is crowned "Chicago's Sexiest."

This year's Barlesque, TPAN's ninth, celebrates the sexual power of mythological deities—a pantheon of Greek, Roman, and Egyptian figures await donors. Photographer KJ Heath has returned to shoot this year's contestants.

This year's Barlesque includes a number of new partnerships. Chicago performer and personality, host of QUEEN! at Smart Bar Sundays, Lucy Stoole is Barlesque's official host. Contestants will be paired with custom jockstraps from Chicago's own Crochet Empire, as well as Timoteo underwear. Chicagoans will also see a couple new contestant faces from the Chicago Burlesque community. This year's competition features support from 17 bars and participants from 13 bars and venues: Big Chicks; Boy Toy Pocket Cabaret; Charlie's Chicago; Elixir Andersonville; High Hat; Jackhammer; Kit Kat Lounge; Naughty Little Cabaret; Shaker's on Clark; Sofotap; Touché; Uptown Underground; and Vaudzilla.

The kickoff party takes place Wednesday, October 26 at Charlie's. Hostess Lucy Stoole will get the gods' and goddesses' fundraising started that night, leading Chicago into a fun Halloween weekend. Shortly afterwards, on November 1, Barlesque 9 will team up with Organized Grime for Tatt Tuesday – Barlesque 9 Edition.

Follow the competition and your favorite contestant all the way to the closing party, Saturday, December 3.

For more info on Barlesque 9 events and to see the sexy shots of the contestants, go to barlesque.org.

—From press release

Pictured: Alexander, representing
Charlie's in Barlesque 9.
Photo by KJ Heath



“Change the lines that were said before, we’re all dreamers, we’re all whores. Discarded stars like worn out cars litter the streets of this town.”—Jane Wiedlin and Charlotte Caffey’s “This Town,” The Go-Go’s homage to Hollywood.

It’s so easy to talk about people anonymously. But once you know them and their situations, it becomes quite difficult. Case in point, **Brent Corrigan**—subject of the film *King Cobra*, which I saw at the MiFo LGBT Film Festival in Fort Lauderdale. I used to have lots of fun at Brent’s expense. He was young, good-looking, involved in underage porn and was the center of a dramatic murder case. He was like a gay *Traci Lords*—with a little *Patty Hearst* thrown in! Since he appeared to have come out of it better than everyone else involved, I felt he was fair game—even when I was onstage in front of him! Then something terrible happened—I got to know him. Despite not liking my jokes, he was charming and we became friendly. The more I knew, the less funny it all seemed.

It should be mentioned that **James Franco’s** *King Cobra* was done without Brent’s assistance or blessing. And perhaps that’s why he comes out of it the least fully realized character. Most of the others comes across as damaged and desperate—specifically the guy who “discovered” and exploited Brent, and the two rival porn producers/stars who wanted to work with Brent. They decide the best way to eliminate Corrigan’s binding contract with his mentor is to eliminate the mentor. By the end of the film, you have sympathy for everyone involved—except, ironically, Brent. Corrigan comes out scarred but still standing—and showing off his backside to the camera and winking (his eye, not his ass). The real Brent Corrigan was wise to not get involved. But you would be wise to see this film—even if you think you know it all.

Also at the MiFo Festival was *Strike a Pose*, the documentary about **Madonna’s** dancers from the *Truth or Dare* film (and the “Blond Ambition” tour). It’s hard to imagine how different the world was 25 years ago—and how Madonna really took it all on with not only her best musical material, but also with a show that had all the bells, whistles, singers and dancers to push her agenda. The dancers (except for Gabriel, who died of AIDS in 1995) reunited for this documentary about that time, their experiences and the aftermath.

Madonna, who several of the dancers sued, is no longer a part of any of their lives. It’s clear that *Truth or Dare* captured these guys at their artistic (and physical) peak. And in a way, it ruined them for whatever life would later offer. They tried, they lived in hope and they still hope, but nothing will come close to that time of their lives. It was lovely to see how much personal growth they’ve gone through. There’s a normalcy missing from their lives, but they toured the world with Madonna—that’s the trade-off. It’s a curious doc that could have (and should have) been so much better. Blame it on the Dutch—it was funded in part by Dutch Public TV. I know it’s a small country, but couldn’t they find some good mikes? The person I understood the most was Jose’s mom—and she was speaking Spanish!

Many performers have what I call the “whore mentality”—to become famous at all costs. This leads to some news about the latest whore, **Robert Sepulveda** from *Finding Prince Charming*. First, no recap this week. (Please—we saw this



Guys have another reason to call Cheyenne Jackson “daddy” now. Photo by Karl Simone

meltdown coming a mile away.) Logo has announced there will be a second season. On Nov. 3-17, people can post photos of potential suitors. But who will Logo hire to be their next Prince Charming? Too bad *RentBoy.com* was raided by the feds. That would have been the perfect candidate pool—admittedly, not a pool you’d actually want to swim in, at least not without taking PreP and perhaps a morning-after pill, just in case.

Someone who is whore-adjacent is **Cheyenne Jackson**. His whore-ness became more visual when we got our hands on that nasty j/o video of him. (Some things last forever on *BillyMasters.com*.) But this week, our story is about another use for semen. Didya know it could be used to make babies? Chey and hubby Jason Landau just had twins. Last week, their surrogate gave birth to Willow and Ethan. Congrats.

I’ve often stated that my ideal mate would be an Italian national. But I’m starting to think fondly of the Germans. I should add that my first European sexual encounter was with a German near a bonfire on the banks of the Seine. (Leave it to me to be in Paris and sleep with a German.) The German government has introduced a law that will distribute \$30 million to gay men who were persecuted for their sexuality after World War II. While over 50,000 men were convicted, reparations will be paid to the 5,000 men who are still alive. So, if there’s a German who wants to share dual citizenship with a relatively attractive man with connections and a huge penis, I’m available.

Our “Ask Billy” question this week goes back to our first story. Joshua in Chicago asks, “What do you know about **Garrett Clayton**? He plays Brent Corrigan in that movie and is gorgeous. He must be gay.”

Must he? Depends on who you ask. If you ask Garrett, he’ll tell you, “I don’t really like talking about my personal life. I like a certain amount of veil.” Ask yourself this question—how many straight men use the word “veil” in a sentence? Exactly. While he’s undeniably hot, I don’t think he captured Corrigan’s *je ne sais quoi*. He needed more “*quoi*.” What he doesn’t need—or want—is more clothing. “I like to be as naked as possible,” he said. “If friends come over, I’ll just have on basketball shorts with no socks, no shirt, and maybe underwear. I hate clothes.”

When I’m showing off my foreign tongue, it’s definitely time to end yet another column. Let me once again remind you to check out www.BillyMasters.com—the site that has plenty of “*quoi*”. If you have a question for me in any language, send it along to Billy@BillyMasters.com and I promise to get back to you before Logo casts Brent Corrigan as its next Prince Charming. So, until next time, remember: One man’s filth is another man’s bible.



Northalsted Halloween Parade in 2014. Photo by Jerry Nunn

Halloween Parade Oct. 31 in Boystown

The 20th-annual Northalsted Halloween Parade, which the Northalsted Business Alliance is presenting, will take place Monday, Oct. 31.

First, however, there will be a Saturday, Oct. 29, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., celebration for kids at Space Park, 815 W. Roscoe Ave. In partnership with Triangle Neighbors and Children’s Learning Place, the event will feature tons of family fun including crafts, some tricks and

lots of treats.

There will also be a “Zombie Bar Crawl” on Saturday, Oct. 29, 4-8 p.m. The participation fee is \$20.

The parade—which, this year, has a “Scream Queen” theme—happens Halloween night at 7:30 p.m., kicking off from the corner of Halsted Street and Belmont Avenue, and traveling north to Cornelia Avenue. The competitive costume contest will award winners in four categories: Drag, Group, Scariest and Theme. Registration is 5-7 p.m.; participation is free.

See Northalsted.com.