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# nightspots

weekly nightlife section in





## BILLY Masters

"All of my best friends are gay. I support the community. I love the community. They love me. That has nothing to do with this."—**Kim Kardashian** speaks out about possibly accusing **Tyson Beckford** of being gay after he criticized a photo of her booty. Yes, it's as ridiculous as it sounds.

Nobody ever questioned **Aretha's** talent—certainly in its prime, it was beyond reproach. But one rarely heard of a fun-loving Aretha who loved people. She wasn't that kinda diva. It takes a special skill to come off badly in your own autobiography, but Auntie Ree did it in *Aretha: From These Roots*. As with everything, she lived on her own terms. PETA didn't like that she wore furs? She started wearing them onstage. People criticized her weight? She wore dresses with spaghetti straps. A personal shopper informed her that purple was the only color that didn't suit her? She showed up at the next concert in purple. People gossiped about her skipping **Whitney's** funeral? She sent a largely incoherent and endless fax to the press saying nothing that defended herself and fueled a feud with **Dionne**. She was always Aretha—spaghetti-strap, fur-wearing, purple, petty Aretha. But when she strolled onstage and plopped her purse on the piano (she reportedly didn't trust anyone backstage), it was magic. The queen is dead—long live the queen.

Did you hear about the latest church sex scandal? For several years, the Pennsylvania attorney general has been investigating six Catholic Church dioceses in the state. According to the 900-page court document, more than 300 priests have been accused of sexually assaulting and grooming children in their parishes. The ring-leaders are alleged to have been a "gang of four priests" who worked together. The report claims that when a priest found a boy he felt was, um, "compliant," he would give him a gold cross to wear around his neck. "The crosses were markings of which boys had been groomed for abuse," said Attorney General Josh Shapiro. "One boy was forced to stand on a bed in a rectory, strip naked, and pose as Christ on the cross for the priests." If I've said it once, I've said it a million times—nothing good happens in the rectory.

As you probably know, churches are non-profit organizations and are typically granted tax-exempt status from the Internal Revenue Service. Last week, the IRS granted such an exemption to a new church called the Pussy Church of Modern Witchcraft! The group claims that they "come together to form a congregation of adherents to our female born, lesbian-feminist-based religion beliefs and traditions." That all sounds fine and dandy, but the group that formed this "church" are Transgender Exclusionary Radical Feminists! And it's exactly what you think it is—and kudos to them for not trying to hide their bigotry. "Males are not permitted to participate, regardless of how they identify." This sounds like it could be a plot point on the new *Charmed* series—coming soon to The CW.



**Billy talks about Armie Hammer (above) coming to Kate Bornstein's defense.**  
Photo from Sony Pictures Classics

The good news—Disney's first openly gay character appears in the upcoming live-action film, *The Jungle Cruise*. The bad news—the guy playing the gay character is straight. The upshot—people are pissed. Because apparently acting is no longer "acting." Only Jews can play Jews, lesbians can play lesbians, etc. It was not long ago that gay actors bemoaned the opportunities to play straight parts. "I'm an actor—I can play any role," they'd say in frustration. I do hope they all remember this when the only roles available to them are the gay best friend.

**Armie Hammer** is appearing in the Broadway play *Straight White Men* alongside trans performer **Kate Bornstein**. At one of the preview performances, Kate began the play with the opening line—"Good evening ladies, gentlemen, and the rest of us." Well, this was too much for one woman in the audience, who exclaimed, "You're not welcome here!" It is reported that the woman and her husband frequently interrupted the play by booing.

Armie later tweeted, "To the woman in our audience who felt it was appropriate to yell, 'You're not welcome here!' at Kate Bornstein, our beloved friend, co-worker, and now family member ... feel free never to come back." This led to another audience member Tweeting back that she sat behind the woman and her husband. Armie asked for the specific seat number, which the lady provided. It still begs the question—if audience members are being disruptive, why aren't they dealt with by the theater right then and there?

Last week was the 40th annual Carnival celebration in Provincetown. To commemorate the event, there were 40 grand marshals. One of the honorees was the beloved **Bruce Vilanch**, which was fortuitous since he happened to be in town to perform two shows at The Crown & Anchor. We recently did a Queery Q&A with Vilanch for the *Los Angeles Blade*, which you can read online.

Another honoree was **David Drake**, the new artistic director of the Provincetown Theater. He also directed and stars in the theater company's

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current offering, Terrence McNally's *Love! Valour! Compassion!*, which runs through Aug. 30. If you don't know the play, the entire cast is nude at various points. As luck would have it, some footage from the show has fallen into our hot little hands. If I'm not mistaken, this will provide the first public viewing of the fabled Drake Dick. And it's just as big as you heard, as you'll see on *BillyMasters.com*.

When we're showcasing Drake's snake, it's definitely time to end yet another column. But we do have one more important thing to say—Happy anniversary to ME! Yes, way, WAY back in August 1995, I was cajoled into writing my first column. And now, 23 years later, week in and week out, we're still here. As they used to say in those ads that no longer run on television, "You've come a long way, baby!" In fact, we've come all the way to our own website—*BillyMasters.com*—the site where you'll be coming before too long. If you want to send me a question (or an anniversary greeting) you can write to [Billy@BillyMasters.com](mailto:Billy@BillyMasters.com) and I promise to get back to you before I celebrate my silver jubilee! Until next time, remember: One man's filth is another man's bible.

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# the DISH

Weekly Dining Guide in  
WINDY CITY TIMES

## SAVOR

### Out restaurateur Bruce Bozzi Jr. brings changes to Palm Chicago

BY ASHLEY COLLINS

Bruce Bozzi Jr., executive vice president of The Palm Restaurant Group, is the fourth-generation descendant of a company that his great-grandfather co-created.

With 22 locations in the United States and Mexico—including one in Chicago's downtown area, at 323 E. Wacker Dr.—recently underwent renovations last year and re-opened its doors in April. The new renovations feature additions to



**Bruce Bozzi Jr.**  
PR photo

the design, artwork, menu and more. The Palm Chicago has been a part of the city for more than 30 years, and still continues to deliver exceptional experiences and classic cuisines—and patrons might see a famous star or two.

"We've been in Chicago for over 22 years and this is our second location. A restaurant after a certain amount of time needs some tender love and care," Bozzi said.

The Palm Restaurant Group began its journey in the heart of New York during the 1920s, when two Italian immigrants originally created a

restaurant that served lunch and dinner and was a favorite of cartoonists and writers from the local newspaper syndicates. As an Italian restaurant, it first opened offering similar dishes, later adding steak, beef and seafood options to the menu. As its popularity grew, the next opened in 1972.

Celebrating 92 years of service, the restaurant group continues to be operated by members of the Bozzi and Ganzi families since its founding in 1926 and upholds The Palm's philosophy when it first started: "Treat guests like family, serve great food, and always exceed expectations."

"I am very proud of the tradition that my family and the Ganzi family carried on—delivering great service and building relationships it's pretty awesome," Bozzi told Windy City Times. "I feel honestly really proud to keep the family business going."

Currently in California, Bozzi said he spends a lot of his time in the restaurant working the floor and engaging with customers during lunch, along with his social-media component. In 2011, Bozzi created the radio show "Lunch with Bruce," during which he features a different well-known individual to have lunch and casual conversation which sparked after his interview with his good

friend Andy Cohen.

"I have a really great time doing what I love to do which is, eat and talk," Bozzi said.

Along with working in the restaurant, Bozzi also assists in directing the company's marketing, culinary, and human resource teams. The future for The Palm Restaurant Group is growing and the company is currently looking at new cities to explore and share their hospitality culture. With appearances on the The Tonight Show starring Jimmy Fallon and All of the Above with Norman Lear, the restaurant is constantly gaining exposure, which is leading to new ideas.

After asking Bozzi who he would have dinner with, living or dead, he named Marilyn Monroe, former President Barack Obama, and Harvey Milk. Bozzi is a true restaurateur who believes that the start of a great experience is to eat and have a good conversation. He strives to deliver great customer service to his guests while working alongside his team who helps develop creative marketing strategies, menu changes, artwork detail and more.

More information on the history and locations of The Palm Restaurant Group can be found at [ThePalm.com](http://ThePalm.com).



### Dominique Jackson Elektra-fies at Hydrate

TEXT AND PHOTOS BY JERRY NUNN

Actress Dominique Jackson made an appearance at Hydrate on Aug. 16. She told an early VIP audience how much she appreciated the support for Pose, the FX television show on which she plays Elektra Abundance, making history with the largest transgender cast ever for a scripted series.

A Mini Ball event followed with over \$1,000 in cash prizes and a variety of categories, including Best Dress, Sex Siren and Up in Pumps. Commentators for the runway competition were Kentrele Mizrahi and Mz Ruff n Stuff with music provided by DJ Matty Aga and DJ Kid Riott.

Look for future events at [HydrateChicago.com](http://HydrateChicago.com).



@MOSPHERE

Benefit show for Natasha Douglas' quest for the Continental crown.  
Joseph Stevens Photography



TOUCHE

Miguel is high in the saddle as the winner of this year's Cowboy Eye For the Leather Guy.  
Joseph Stevens Photography



## SAVOR Sidetrack holds MOMosa Benefit for Equality Illinois

TEXT AND PHOTOS BY VERN HESTER

On Aug. 18, Sidetrack hosted the sixth annual MOMosa benefit in support of Equality Illinois. The event featured an eclectic brunch menu and a

special martini mixing class by Grey Goose Vodka ambassador Emile Chaillot.

Equality Illinois board member and event organizer Kevin Hauswirth said of the event, "We decided to do something for all the moms of gay kids who support us. My mother told me that she supports all these events but she never meets any other moms of gay kids. So we decided to have a brunch to bring out the moms and support a worthy cause."



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## KYLE'S BED & BREAKFAST

by Greg Fox

