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# nightspots

weekly nightlife section in





## BILLY Masters

"I do think it's dangerous, personally. I feel like in any of this sort of stuff, you have to take each situation. We copped a bit of flack at the time, 'Why are there three straight actors playing three gay roles?' It's a difficult subject to get into." — **Guy Pearce** shares his thoughts on the idea that straight actors should only play straight roles, and that only gay actors can play gay roles, apropos of his turn in *Priscilla, Queen of the Desert*.

**Neil Meron and Craig Zadan** are primarily known as the team that brought live musicals back to television. They also produced the theatrical film of *Chicago*. And produced the Oscars telecast. And produced the Broadway revivals of *Promises, Promises* and *How To Succeed in Business*. And, and, and ... the list is endless. These guys love this business we call show. They're filled with drive and passion that's not solely motivated by the bottom line. Alas, this past week, Craig died unexpectedly after complications from shoulder-replacement surgery. I can honestly say that I never saw Craig (or Neil for that matter) without a smile, without exuberance, without an encouraging word. They both individually "discovered" me and subscribed to BillyMasters.com. They were supportive of me, and so many others. While we mourn Craig being taken from us way too soon, we are secure in the knowledge that his legacy will live on—and I'm sure we haven't heard the last of Neil.

While **Aretha Franklin** was on her deathbed, several tabloids were trotting out old stories about her father, the Rev. C.L. Franklin. In case you don't know, C.L. had what could politely be called a colorful sexual life, which allegedly included bisexuality and orgies. It's even been rumored that ... well, not even I can bring up such a distasteful subject.

Elsewhere in music, we have yet another sex scandal. **Opera singer David Daniels** and his hubby, **conductor William Scott Walters**, are alleged to have drugged and raped baritone Samuel Schultz. Way back in 2010, when the incident occurred, Daniels was 44 and Walters (who goes by the name Scott and was not yet Daniels' husband) was 28. Schultz was a 23-year-old student at Rice University.

He says that the couple invited him back to their apartment after a performance with the Houston Grand Opera, adding they gave him a drink and, after a few sips, he blacked out. He awoke hours later (as he says in his police complaint) "in a bed alone, completely naked. I was sore and I didn't know why. I made my way to the bathroom to figure out why I hurt. I was bleeding from my rectum. I became numb. I was paralyzed with fear. What had happened? How could I escape? How would I get out? Where were my clothes? I tiptoed out of the bedroom to discover that David and Scott were not there. When they came back from eating somewhere, I think they asked if I had a good time." He added one additional tidbit: "I remember David saying, 'Don't worry about the BB thing, I'm totally negative.'



Opera star **David Daniels** (above) and his husband have been named in a scandal.

PR photo by Bernard Benant/Virgin Records

BB in this case meant bareback, otherwise known as raping me without a condom."

Schultz says he stayed silent because he was embarrassed and frightened of any professional repercussions. However, he did confide in a friend and a therapist. The friend did not advise Schultz to go to the police. He went public now after learning that Daniels is a tenured professor at the University of Michigan, where he'll be working with young singers. Schultz filed a complaint with the university's police department in July. They in turn passed it along to the Houston Police Department, since that's where the alleged incident occurred. Within hours of Schultz's claim going public, Daniels took a leave of absence from teaching. There's no word on Walters, who happens to be artistic director of the OutLoud Chorus in Ann Arbor, Michigan. However, both Daniels and Walters have denied the claims. Not that it's relevant, but when Daniels and Walters got married in 2014, the ceremony was officiated by Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. Oh, no—don't drag RBG into this!

By the way, we hear that there's a new sexual-assault charge against **Kevin Spacey**. For those of you playing at home, that makes two charges that the Los Angeles district attorney is reviewing.

The big gay news last week was that **Garrett Clayton** finally spoke publicly about being gay—apropos of his new film, *Reach*, in which he plays a suicidal high school student. "Reach deals with some very serious and timely topics that have affected me personally, and have likely influenced many of your lives as well," he said. He also said he wanted to post this news on Instagram "instead of in some random magazine or online article—because you are the ones that have been rooting for me and following me on my professional and personal journey in life."

Our "Ask Billy" question comes from Jarrod in Milwaukee. "Whatever happened to **Taylor Lautner**? It seemed like he was gonna be the next big thing, but then nothing happened. Does he still act?"

Did he ever? I mean "act?" I don't think anyone thought Taylor would be the next great thespian. Did anyone anxiously await the Taylor Lautner Hamlet? But, hot? Yes—in that way that

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DOG DAY SATURDAY 1-5PM

SUNDAY 9.2 OPEN 1PM  
SUPER-SIZED SHOW TUNES 4-10PM  
SUNDAY FUNDAY DANCE PARTY 10PM-2AM

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so many teenage young men are. *Glamour* listed him as second on its list of "The 50 Sexiest Men of 2010." Of course, in 2010 Lautner was all of 18—to paraphrase Britney, not a boy, not yet a man. That same year, *Men's Health* even detailed his workout regime—as if a teen's regime was relevant to an adult male (but the photos were good). If one wants proof of that, check out the recent pics of Lautner cavorting on the beach during some of his seemingly endless free time. If you ask me, the visibility of abs are in direct proportion with his career. See for yourself at BillyMasters.com.

When we're spotlighting the twilight of 2010's second sexiest man, it's definitely time to end yet another column. We ran so long, I barely have time to remind you to check out [www.BillyMasters.com](http://www.BillyMasters.com)—the irreverent site that's even popular with reverends. If you have a question, send it along to [Billy@BillyMasters.com](mailto:Billy@BillyMasters.com) and I promise to get back to you before the fat lady sings. So, 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

### Locanda; The Dearborn

BY ANDREW DAVIS

Italian restaurant **Locanda** (201 E. Walton St.; <https://www.locandachicago.com/>), opened very quietly a few months ago—but the laid-back casually elegant spot practically deserves a parade.

How low-key is Locanda? It's actually housed inside a Residence Inn (although it's a separate space within that establishment). However, this place is a little treasure.

The restaurant is the brainchild of chef Antoine Cedicci, who was behind the Italian spots Pane Caldo (famed for its window-display seating of one table while the rest of the spot seemed virtually secluded) and Trattoria Ultimo. Locanda specializes in seasonal dishes, rotating its menu weekly in addition to offering daily specials.

Starters include items such as parma-and-duck prosciutto and sautéed fresh wild mushrooms. The tuna terrine (with mesclun and lemon-oil vinaigrette) was creamy without a fishy taste; the beets (roasted in sea salt, and served with burrata and honey-lime vinaigrette) were tasty and refreshing; and the parmesan ravioli were simply delightful, accented with crispy prosciutto and corn sauce.

Of course, Locanda has pasta dishes—and the king-crab ravioli in saffron-fennel sauce was one of the most memorable items I had eaten in



**Burrata at Locanda.**  
PR photo

ages. (Moreover, it's pretty affordable, at \$18.) Thankfully, there aren't too many dishes (to spare the indecisive), but they include gnocchi with braised beef short rib (with a gluten-free option), butternut-squash tortellini and fruttati di mare (assorted seafood with squid-ink tonnellari and light tomato sauce).

Entrees offer some variety. The roasted duck breast, with cherries, was expertly done. However, there are also options like chicken with wild mushrooms; and grilled lamb chops, with rosemary and mustard sauce.

Lastly, desserts should definitely be sampled. The justifiably named "magic cake" is a three-layered item based in vanilla—but the fig-and-goat cheese gelato just didn't do it for me, "forcing" me to return to the cake. #FirstWorldProblems (You can also try the peach tart, flourless cake and tiramisu.)

By the way, "locanda" means "inn," in Italian. Antoine said he always wanted to open his own

hotel, and Locanda is his "inn" where he felt he could take care of guests, offering great food and accommodations. Mission accomplished.

### The Dearborn (update)

I've visited The Dearborn (145 N. Dearborn St.; <https://www.thedearbornatavern.com/>) a few times over the last couple years (for business and/or pleasure)—and I'm happy to report that the quality of the Block 37 spot's cuisine has not flagged one bit.

I witnessed this during a recent lunchtime visit as co-owners Amy and Clodagh Lawless, along with Chef Aaron Cuschieri, continue to serve top-quality food and drinks. (The Loop spot opened in June 2016.)

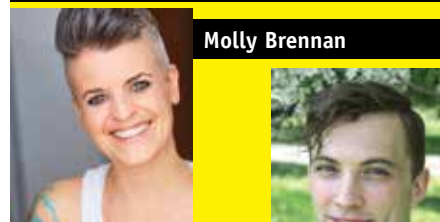
I loved the housemade parmesan gnocchi (served with morel mushrooms, snow peas, white and green asparagus, heirloom cherry tomatoes, spinach, edamame emulsion and grana padano)

as well as the kicky Midwest fried chicken (with a maple mustard glaze and hot sauce). However, there are so many other fun items on the menu, ranging from the Not Billy's Scotch Egg (with spicy pork sausage) to the Veggie Dagwood to the grilled pear-and-Gruyere sandwich.

BTW, The Dearborn is planning a Prohibition-themed party for the release of its Dearborn Gin, in collaboration with North Shore Distillery's husband-wife team Derek and Sonja Kassebaum. The event—on Monday, Sept. 10, at 5 p.m.—will feature one complimentary cocktail for guests showcasing the custom spirit, plus party bites by Cuschieri. Local jazz at the Jensemble Brooklyn Britches and The Whispers will perform live, and you will take home custom Dearborn shot glasses, while supplies last. (Be sure to RSVP.)

Note: Restaurant profiles/events are based on invitations arranged from restaurants and/or firms.

## Sidetrack's OUTspoken! Series: September's featured storytellers



Molly Brennan



Devlyn Camp



Scott Duff



Lori Lightfoot



Eddie S. Pierce



R.C. Riley

The September edition of **OUTspoken!** LGBTQ storyteller series takes place Tuesday, September 4, at Sidetrack, 3349 N. Halsted St. Doors open at 6 pm, stories begin at 7.

See [www.outspokenchicago.com](http://www.outspokenchicago.com) for more info.

—**Molly Brennan** is an actor in Chicago. She is currently hosting the Fly Honey Show at the Den Theatre. Her next project is returning to terrorize a Rich White Cisman as the Ghost of Christmas Past in the Goodman's A Christmas Carol.

—**Devlyn Camp** is the producer and host of the podcast Mattachine: A Serialized Story in Queer History. Their podcast earned them a place on the Windy City Times "30 Under 30" this year, as well as a feature in the Chicago Tribune. Devlyn is also the co-host of a queer talk radio show called They & Them every Tuesday at 2 on Que4 1680. They also have covered queer topics for the Chicago Reader.

—**Scott Duff** is a Chicago-based actor, comedian, radio host and professional gay. A regular at Laugh Factory, he is the host/producer of The Kiki: Queer Comedy with Variety and has gayed up audiences at venues all over the city. You can catch his weekly radio show OUT CHICAGO every Sunday from 11am-1pm on WCPT, Chicago's Progressive Talk.

—**Lori Lightfoot** is running for mayor of Chicago. She grew up in a working-class neighborhood and worked her way through school to become an accomplished lawyer, police-reform advocate, and leader in several city departments, where she supported small businesses and improved emergency response. If elected, Lori will be the first African-American woman and first LGBT person to serve as mayor of Chicago.

—**Eddie S. Pierce** is a Master's of Fine Arts in Creative Writing degree recipient from Chicago State University. Mr. Pierce considers himself to be primarily a fiction and prose writer, but was afforded the opportunity to be published in 95Notes Literary Magazine for poetry and Sage Publishing's Encyclopedia of Identity for an article on the phenomena of "passing."

—**R.C. Riley** is a writer and performer who gets a big 'ol kick out of making her childhood friends cringe when she talks about sex-uality and spirituality in the same sentence. Over the years she has been mistaken as straight, "reformed" and/or out of fellowship with God. But her haters can take two seats because she is 40 and gives no - watch your mouth! R.C. makes no bones about the fact that she was created QUEER and she absolutely adores her Creator!



Sunday Slushies ... and what they can lead to.

Photos by Jed Dulanias