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Singer talks name, breakups. Photo by Shervin

34



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STARTING ON PAGE 8







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TRUCK AND FIELD

The 2019 GMC Sierra Denali (left) recalls the classic Suburban pickups. Photo courtesy of Gaywheels.com

GREAT SCOTT



The series 10 Questions with Vic continues with trans actress Amiyah Scott.

Photo courtesy of Fox Entertainment

HISTORY LESSONS

WCT continues its series on selections for LGBT History Month.

THAT'S SHOW BIZ

Find out the latest about Daddy Yankee, Queen Latifah and the show Arrow.

plus **DAILY BREAKING NEWS**

This Week's Featured Properties



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Protesters demand justice for slain trans community members

BY MATT SIMONETTE

Several dozen community members, among them many transgender activists and their allies, gathered at Chicago Police Department Headquarters (CDP), 3510 S. Michigan Ave., the evening of Oct. 25 to demand that the recent murders of two local transgender women be more thoroughly investigated, and that CPD work harder overall to ensure the safety of transgender Chicagoans.

Reyna Ortiz, board vice-chair of Equality Il-

in one of the victims was a gay man—CPD announced that they had 40 detectives on the case. He added that there was "no justice for the entire LGBT community" until justice was achieved for members of the transgender community.

Entertainer/activist Lia Stokes added that, being a transgender woman who has reached the age of 51, she is somewhat of an anomaly since the average life span of a transgender woman in America is about age 30. She added, "The time has come for us to ignite and initiate change at



At the mic, Valerie Griffin, mother of Dejanay Stanton, who was killed Aug. 30. Windy City Times staff photo

linois, opened the presentation, insisting that CPD was being put on notice about the lack of progress in the investigations of the murders of Dejanay Stanton, who was killed Aug. 30, and Ciara Minaj Carter Frazier, who was killed Oct. 3.

"We are not going to sweep this under the rug," said Ortiz.

Stanton's mother, Valerie Griffin said that "being who she was was no reason for what happened to her."

Griffin further led the crowd in a chant: "Justice for Dejanay and Ciara."

Brace Space Alliance Executive Director LaSaia Wade added, "We've got to find ways to survive. ... My sisters have been slain left and right."

Wade noted that, for decades, murders of transgender women of color have never been solved. Beyond the general demands echoed by nearly all the speakers—active investigations of the recent murders and assurances of safety overall—Wade said that a trans woman of color should be a member of the city's Police Accountability Board.

"It is stated that Chicago is a 'sanctuary city'—prove it to me," she said.

Equality Illinois CEO Brian Johnson noted that, after two recent murders in Rogers Park—where-

every turn."

Activist Gearah Goldstein further noted, "I understand that I owe my life to transgender women of color who stood up under pressure that I can barely imagine."

Other speakers included Broadway Youth Center Manager Channyn Lynne Parker and community advocates Beverly Ross and Elise Mallory. Performer Karma Munez led the crowd in a performance of "We Shall Overcome," wherein transgender individuals gathered and sang, surrounded by their cisgender allies.

Both 5th District state representative candidate Lamont Robinson and mayoral candidate Lori Lightfoot attended the event. Lightfoot told Windy City Times,, "It's incredibly important that we bear witness to the injustices happening all over our city, and that there is a focus on these two homicides in particular that remain unsolved. This is obviously a huge issue across the city but people in this community are still on the frontlines, frankly for abuse and discrimination, and it's critically important that we make sure that we are uplifting these moments and these lives that do matter."



Attendees at Oct. 28 vigil in Federal Plaza. Photo courtesy of Emmanuel Garcia

Tree of Life vigil draws hundreds

On Oct. 28, hundreds of people attended a candlelight vigil in Chicago's Federal Plaza that commemorated the 11 victims from a Pittsburgh synagogue shooting and the two African-American people killed Oct. 24 in a seemingly racially motivated shooting at a Kentucky grocery store, according to The Chicago Tribune.

The Pittsburgh mass shooting, which occurred Oct. 27 at the Tree of Life Synagogue, has been called the deadliest attack on Jewish people in U.S. history.

LGBTQ-rights activist Emmanuel Garcia said he attended the vigil because he remembered how many people supported his community after the 2016 Pulse nightclub shooting at a gay nightclub in Orlando, Florida, and he wanted to do the same for others.

The Tribune article is at https://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/breaking/ct-met-chicago-vigil-synagogue-victims-20181028-story.html.

Marge Summit to receive Jon-Henri Damski Award Nov. 4

Businesswoman Marge Summit will receive the 22nd Annual Jon-Henri Damski Award Sunday, Nov. 4, 2-4 p.m., at The Call, 1547 W. Bryn Mawr Ave.

There will be videos, guest speakers and former honorees at this free event.

Many consider Summit as being on the ground floor of shaping Chicago's LGBT community. She has a 40-year history that includes founding the iconic bar His 'N Hers, nestled under the Addison L stop; being a founding member of the Chicago chapter of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG); and being a longtime activist, appearing in numerous videos and documentaries—including the film Before Stonewall, which chronicled the pre-

1968 activities of the national gay and lesbian community.

In addition, Summit pioneered the "Gay \$ Project" together with gay businessman Frank Kellas, creating an ink stamp to mark paper currency as coming from gays and lesbians, demonstrating economic impact on every day commerce. She helped lead the charge picketing Evergreen foods, educating it's owners and other 'mainstream' business persons that gays and lesbians were among their regular customers and deserving of common courtesy and respect.

Damski was an weekly columnist, poet and community activist who died in 1997 at age 60. Among other things, he was considered among those who were critical in the passage of Chicago's Human Rights Ordinance in 1988 and the local hate-crimes bill in 1990. He contributed to many publications, including Windy City Times.

For more information about the event, contact Sharyl Holtzman at 773-398-9009 or sharyl@girlrockltd.com.

LGBT-friendly Lee Lumber closing

Lee Lumber—the largest family-owned lumberyard in Chicago that had a float that once won a prize in Chicago's Gay Pride Parade—is closing after 66 years, The Chicago Tribune reported.

The company's materials and workmanship are part of many Chicago structures, including the windows on the Chicago River bridge houses and the restored ornamental ceiling at Holy Name Cathedral.

The company will hold an auction Nov. 6 to sell everything that remains, including show-room merchandise, building materials, tools, manufacturing equipment and the iconic neon sign.

Lee Lumber is at 633 W. Pershing Rd.

The Tribune article is at http://www.chica-gotribune.com/business/ct-biz-lee-lumber-closed-20181018-story.html.

WINDY CITY TIMES Oct. 31, 2018 5



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Intersex-rights activists stage train 'takeover'

BY MATT SIMONETTE

About 25 activists observed Intersex Awareness Day Oct. 26 with a protest on Chicago Transit Authority trains, calling attention to a local hospital's performing of what they say are medically unnecessary surgeries on intersex youngsters.

Many in the intersex community and their allies have been critical of reconstructive surgeries performed by Lurie Children's Hospital; they maintain that most of the patients are too young to give informed consent and unknowingly face serious long-term physical, psychological and medical consequences.

Before departing the Belmont "L" station with her colleagues the afternoon of Oct. 26, Pidgeon Pagonis, who is intersex and received such surgeries, said, "No children deserve a forced sex change, and that's especially true of vulnerable, young patients that go to Lurie who are born in intersex bodies."



Intersex-rights activists prior to train "takeover." Photo by Matt Simonette

Groups release first intersex-affirming hospital guide

Just ahead of Intersex Awareness Day (Oct. 26), interACT: Advocates for Intersex Youth, Lambda Legal, and Proskauer Rose LLP released the nation's first intersex-affirming hospital policy guide.

The report is entitled "Providing Ethical and Compassionate Health Care to Intersex Patients: Intersex-Affirming Hospital Policies." The guide outlines recommended policies

including the provision of affirming mental healthcare and patient-centered decision making to avoid non-consensual interventions such as clitoral reductions, vaginoplasties, and phalloplasties.

"Intersex" describes up to 1.7 percent of the population born with natural variations in chromosomes, hormones, or genitalia that transcend an outdated understanding of biological sex as a male/female binary.

The guide is at https://www.lambdalegal.org/sites/default/files/publications/downloads/resource_20180731_hospital-policies-intersex.pdf.



From left: Donita M. Lake, Kelly Lee Williams, Marc Loveless, Sista Yaa Simpson, Joel Desmond Jackson and Darren Calhoun.

Photo by Carrie Maxwell

Annual S.O.S. ball, panel discussion held at CSU

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

The 16th annual S.O.S Ball and panel discussion, Respect for Equality, took place Oct. 27 at Chicago State University (CSU).

Panelists included Evangelicals for Social Action Associate Fellow Darren Calhoun, University of Chicago Medicine Assistant Director of Inclusion and Training Joel Desmond Jackson, Clinical Mental Health Counselor and The Psych Cafe Owner Donita M. Lake, Coalition for Justice and Respect Executive Director and Cook County Commission of Social Innovation Commissioner Marc Loveless, Chicago Department of Public Health Community Epidemiologist Sista Yaa Simpson, Brave Space Alliance Executive Director and State of Illinois Comptroller Board Member LaSaia Wade and Rewind Sports Co-Host and comedian Kelly Lee Williams. Jackson is also House of Balmain Midwest Father JD Balmain while Wade is the House of Lauren Chicago chapter mother.

Ahead of the discussion, In Demand Entertainment (IDE) Founder/Executive Director Solomon Arnold spoke about the importance of turning advocacy into activism that will work toward a more equitable future for LGBTQ people of color.

Calhoun said he hid from his gay identity by living in the basement of a church for awhile and that caused him harm. Because of this, Calhoun explained that he became a community advocate for queer religious people.

Jackson spoke about how community organizing is not the same as activism. He said both are important to move society forward and one example of this is the Southside Health Advocacy Resource Partnership of which he is a newly appointed co-chair.

Lake said it is important to remove the stigma of being different because suicide rates within the LGBTQ community are very high. She explained that these suicide rates can be lowered if health professional better acclimate themselves to reaching the LGBTQ community.

Loveless said he is running for Chicago city clerk, adding that he wants to turn it into an ombudsman office. He said people cannot make real change without exercising their right to vote.

Wade described herself as a revolutionary and that includes how she approaches the work she does running Brave Space Alliance. She explained that sometimes one has to clear the table in order to bring marginalized people to the table. Wade also said voting is not the only option to make real change in society.

Simpson spoke about the importance of using science and data to back up one's arguments for any issue they believe in. She also said everyone needs mental health first aid because because no one in America can escape the problems that need to be addressed.

Williams explained that it was important for him to be on the panel because he wants his gay child to have the same opportunities as his other children. He said that being the parent of an LGBTQ child comes with great responsibility.

Loveless, Lake and Wade said there are not enough resources being funneled into Chicago's South and West sides to help the LGBTQ community and that has to change.

As for how to confront churches that marginalize the LGBTQ community, Lake said it starts within the family so they can be advocates, if that church cannot embrace their LGBTQ family member, then find another home church or create their own church. Williams explained that it is important to confront the leaders of anti-LGBTQ churches and call them out for their biases in great numbers. Calhoun said asking one's grandmother to think twice about their tithe money going to these churches is another approach, while Lake said leaving these churches all together will make a difference. Jackson explained that denying them revenue is the key because money talks.

A Q&A session followed.

CSU Student Government Association (SGA) Speaker of the Senate Mario Knowles spoke about the responsibility of student's involvement in order to "be the change they want to see."

The ball competition featured more than 30 categories including many that were open to all—best dressed, lip sync, dance and prance, hair affair, legendary runway, legendary performance and sex siren, among others.

CSU SGA, IDE and the Overall Icon House of Infiniti were the sponsors of the vent, which also featured free HIV testing, courtesy of Chicago House.

For more information, contact Arnold at idemgmt@yahoo.com.

Oct. 31, 2018

ELECTIONS 2018

Civil-rights activists to donors: Stop funding anti-LGBTQ candidates

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

Representatives from Equality Illinois, Human Rights Campaign (HRC) and community activists held a press conference Oct. 24 at Federal Plaza downtown to call on major donors like Citadel Founder and CEO Ken Griffin and Uline Founder Richard Uihlein to stop funding anti-LGBTQ candidates in Illinois.

Federal Plaza is located across the street from Citadel's headquarters.

Speakers included Equality Illinois Public Policy Director Mike Ziri; Equality Illinois Civic Engagement Director Anthony Galloway; HRC Youth and Campus Engagement Program Assistant Director Candace Gingrich; LGBTQ advocate Gearah Goldstein; and LGBTQ activist, writer and Snatched podcast co-host Ken Mejia-Beal.

"In Illinois, our values are fairness, equality and inclusion," said Ziri. "These values are the foundation that make Illinois the best state in the Midwest for LGBTQ equality. However, today, we are in the midst of an election that will deter-

mine our futures and LGBTQ people are continually under attack by the Trump administration."

Illinois must have an Attorney General that upholds laws and court decisions that have codified LGBTQ equality across the board, Ziri said. He added that Republican candidate Erika Harold has a record of opposing LGBTQ equality, having supported a constitutional amendment to ban samesex marriages and opposed national workplace non-discrimination protections.

"Megadonor Ken Griffin, the richest person in Illinois, donated \$1.5 million to Harold's campaign last week," said Ziri. "That is on top of his earlier \$200,000 donation to her campaign. Richard Uihlein also gave Erika Harold \$100,000 last week. We call on these donors to stop contributing to anti-LGBTQ candidates like Erika Harold."

Mejia-Beal said hate is like a fire that can spread everywhere and the only way to stop it is to take away its oxygen.

"No candidate with the background and policy positions like Erika Harold should be receiving millions of dollars so they can fund hateful messages to take away rights from Americans like myself," said Mejia-Beal.

"HRC stands in solidarity with Equality Illinois in asking Ken Griffin and Richard Uihlein and others to stop funding candidates who do not represent Illinois values," said Gingrich. "These candidates have hate in their political platforms,



In front, from left: Gearah Goldstein, Ken Mejia-Beal, Candace Gingrich, Mike Ziri and AnthonyGalloway.

Photo by Carrie Maxwell

including denying healthcare, dehumanizing immigrants, belittling women and stripping LGBTQ people of what basic human rights they have. Erika Harold is a prime example of someone who has made demeaning and hurtful statements about LGBTQ people and our ability to be good parents."

Gingrich explained that Uihlein ranks third and

Griffin ranks eighth in contributions to anti-LG-BTQ candidates across the country. This includes Alabama's Judge Roy Moore and Wisconsin GOP Senate candidate Leah Vukmir, who is running against Sen. Tammy Baldwin, the country's only openly LGBTQ senator.

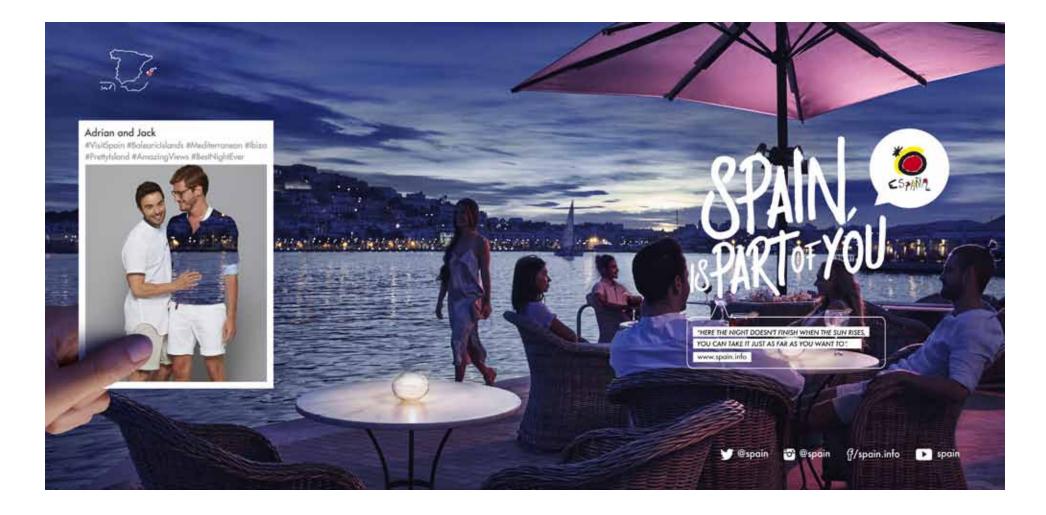
"I will be voting for the first time as a new Illinois resident for the entire Democratic slate and that includes my wife, state Rep. Kelly Cassidy," said Gingrich.

Goldstein spoke about being an advocate for trans youth. She said that although she does not usually speak about politics publicly, it was necessary for her to do so at this event due to Illinois elected officials and candidates trying to restrict the rights and equity of trans youth across the state.

"Richard Uihlein has funded candidates throughout his lifetime that do not stand for the equality that Illinois has achieved over the years," said Goldstein. "Erika Harold was simply chosen as a candidate by wealthy funders like Uihlein to leave the corporate sector and serve his personal and restrictive interests."

Goldstein added that companies who have pro-LGBTQ policies that also purchase Uline products should stop doing so because of Uihlein's donation history.

"I am so angry because these anti-LGBTQ policies really impact how communities are able to operate," said Galloway. "This divisive rhetoric being funded by Ken Griffin and Richard Uihlein that is manifested on the streets of Chicago is completely unacceptable."



ELECTIONS 2018

LGBT candidate Maggie Trevor takes on conservative incumbent

BY ANGELIQUE SMITH

Having received endorsements from the LGBTQ Victory Fund and the Equality Illinois PAC, Maggie Trevor is an out lesbian running as a Democratic candidate for the 54th District of the Illinois House of Representatives. The district includes Palatine and Rolling Meadows.

Trevor, who has a Ph.D. from the University of Chicago, decided to run because she feels her opponent, Tom Morrison, is way too conservative for her community. "His views on social issues are completely out of step with the majority of people who live in the northwest suburbs," said Trevor, "and I could not abide by him running unopposed again."

Windy City Times: How did you feel when you marched in this year's Pride parade?

Maggie Trevor: It was interesting and fun—an incredibly enthusiastic crowd. There was a pretty big contingent of people form the northwest suburbs who marched in that parade, too, which I thought was pretty impressive.

WCT: Did you ever think that being out would hinder your political career?

MT: I never thought I'd have a political career before this election and I have no intention of doing this as a career. I'm 55 years old, I've had three careers, at least, depending on how you count. I specifically want to run for state representative to represent my community. I also feel that in this particular race, being out is important. It's important that people know that [LGBTQ people] are out here in the suburbs, we are your friends, neighbors, and family members, and there's this person in the suburbs [incumbent Morrison], who is trying to shut the door on us.

WCT: Unlike your opponent, you've stated that you will protect the right to marry and support policies for trans youth to access bathrooms that correspond with their gender identity.

MT: Correct.

WCT: What else do you propose to do to further support the LGBTQ community?

MT: I think that Illinois is one of the best states for LGBT rights, but I think that we have to have strong protections for employment discrimination more than anything else. The key is making sure there is the potential of enforcement for that.

WCT: Would you say that's what you're most passionate about in terms of issues that impact the LGBTQ community?

MT: It's central to everything else. If you're afraid of losing your job, it restricts your freedom to do so many other things. Because of that, I think it's absolutely crucial to address.

WCT: Would you ever proactively increase funding for agencies combatting LGBTQ home-



Maggie Trevor. Photo courtesy of campaign team

lessness, for example?

MT: I would like to. Given the budget circumstances, there are a lot of competing things. But I think homelessness in general is a huge problem and disproportionately affects LGBTQ youth. I grew up in a house where my mother was a political activist and one of the many things that she did was that she was the volunteer welfare officer for the city of Rolling Meadows. Through watching her work, I really came to understand how important it is to keep people from becoming homeless. Once [they do], it becomes that much harder to get people services to help them get back on their feet.

WCT: Do you support banning employment discrimination based on criminal records?

MT: Under most circumstances, yes. But I think are still circumstances where it does need to be taken into account.

WCT: Can you talk through what some of those circumstances may be?

MT: Not easily. There are types of circumstances where that would be relevant. I'm thinking certain aspects of financial industries, healthcare, where you have access to the type of information, that can be very sensitive. But, by and

large, it shouldn't be a bar to employment.

WCT: What are your thoughts on the repeal of laws that mandate criminal penalties for the transmission of HIV/AIDS?

MT: I think those need to be repealed.

WCT: Do you support the decriminalization of marijuana?

MT: As long as there are two conditions [met]: one, enforceable safeguards against driving under the influence; second, I favor legalization taxing. That tax needs to be, at a minimum, enough to cover any public health considerations that may arise from increased use of marijuana, kind of like what we do with cigarettes. There are public health concerns with respiratory diseases and things like that. We need to make sure that any impact that happens to our public health system is covered as well as being a source of revenue for other concerns.

WCT: Still on the subject of marijuana, do you favor restorative justice measures?

MT: Can you explain that a little more?

WCT: If we start legalizing something that predominantly people of color get put in jail for, what do we do to retroactively go back and lessen sentences, etc.?

MT: That's something we should reconsider regardless, not only for social justice reasons, but because we as a state are spending a lot of money incarcerating people for non-violent crimes. Whether or not we legalize marijuana, that's something we need to look hard at.

WCT: On your Facebook page, you shared a story about what unions mean to your family when they came to the United States. Can you

tell us more about that?

MT: My mother's family were Italian immigrants. My grandmother came over just before World War I as a teenager and my grandfather came over in the 20s. When my grandmother came over, she came with her entire extended family and she was the oldest of [her siblings] by 10 years, so she helped support the family through a job as a seamstress. It was a union job and she ended up making more money than her parents did, who were factory workers.

WCT: Interesting.

MT: That union job is basically what helped bring my extended family into the middle class. They were able to purchase property in Chicago, which was the typical immigrant model of them all sharing and chipping in for this property. It gave them a toe hold. Because of that, I understand the value of unions and I also understand just how much has been lost in terms of the ability for workers to organize collectively for a living wage and safe working conditions.

WCT: What do you love most about living in Rolling Meadows?

MT: Rolling Meadows has changed tremendously over the years through the work of a lot of people, my mother included. It's now a diverse place; not only in terms of ethnicity and income, but there's also a very vibrant LBGT community out here. On top of that, Rolling Meadows also has a very wonderful small-town feel. I appreciate the fact that it's become a very accepting community.

Learn more about Maggie Trevor at https://trevorforstaterep.net/.

ELECTIONS 2018

Rauner ad depicts Madigan, Pritzker in mock gay wedding

A new political ad from incumbent Illinois Gov. Bruce Rauner, depicting a marriage between rival J.B. Pritzker and House Speaker Mike Madigan, has been blasted by advocates and politicians for its anti-LGBT overtones.

"Rauner just vetoed a law to protect LGBTQ Illinoisans from workplace discrimination," tweeted state Rep. Greg Harris Oct. 23. "Now he is mocking same-sex marriage as an 'unholy union'. Rauner's blatant homophobia has no place in Illinois."

The ad, paid for by Citizens for Rauner, features stand-ins for the governor's adversaries—their faces are not seen—in a mock wedding ceremony. At the end of the vows, the presiding minister pronounces Illinois "fucked."

Equality Illinois CEO Brian Johnson also denounced the ad in an Oct. 23 statement: "We are deeply disappointed by Gov. Rauner's new campaign ad that mocks marriage equality by tying two of his opponents together in a parody wedding.

"We remind the governor that the official platform of the party he leads opposes marriage equality. A recent national poll found that a plurality of Republicans still oppose marriage equality. There is still much work to be done to move the hearts and minds of many Republican voters to value the dignity of same sex-weddings. As someone who has officiated same sex weddings, Gov. Rauner could serve as a model of inclusivity and use his campaign to vigorously promote full acceptance of LGBTQ Illinoisans. Instead, he chooses to raise the specter of gay marriage to turn out the most extreme elements of his base. We recognize a dog whistle when we hear one.

"The governor should be ashamed of using the LGBTQ community for comedic value to make a political hit. Our weddings are not a joke. Gov. Rauner does not represent Illinois' values with this ad."

ELECTIONS 2018

Free Divvy bikes on Election Day

Chicago is among the cities making it easier for people to vote with free rides.

According to Mashable, the code BIKETOVOTE will work on the bike-share apps in all participating cities—except Chicago. However, in Chicago, Divvy riders can use the code VOTE18 on Tuesday, Nov. 6, for the free 24-hour pass.

However, people do have to sign up, and have a bike-share account and app.

The article is at https://mashable.com/article/motivate-bike-share-greyhound-free-voting/#TVipo4_Fraq1.



Did you know...

My "Little Town" was the first community in the South to practice marraige equality, and is considered the most liberal town in Arkansas?



287 Center Rd, Eureka Springs, AR 72631

\$499,000







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3 Dogwood, Eureka Springs, AR 72632

\$224,900







Currently being used as retail space, easy to remodel. Nice location on US 62 with exceptional visibility. Additional lots that could become rentals or sold off. There is plenty of land for expansion or parking.



78 County Road 116, Eureka Springs, AR 72631

\$499,000







Secluded log cabin resort. Off the beaten path so very quiet and relaxing. Close to Beaver Lake area and only 10 minutes from Eureka Springs. 5 Units each with own patio. Interiors are beautiful in natural pine. Property contain 31+ acres.



304 Mundell Rd, Eureka Springs, AR 72631

\$350,000







Beautiful lake views on both levels. 3 dining area, and 2 possible bars. Built in's, stain glass features and a fireplace that will give your business a cozy feel. Mundell Peninsula has the highest tax base in Carroll Co. and yet the closest restaurant is 20 minutes away.



15 County Road 1163, Eureka Springs, AR 72631

\$170,000







Super cute and clean cabin looking over Beaver Lake. The inside has a wonderful open feel that is full of natural light that comes in the oversize windows that face the lake. Detached garage with a carport that will a perfect place for your hobbies and your boat.



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CENTURY 21. Woodland Real Estate

Indivisible Aurora, Nicole Maines honored at HRC Chicago gala

BY LIZ BAUDLER

Amidst the usual fundraising and celebration, Human Rights Campaign (HRC) Chicago's Oct. 27 gala at the Marriott Downtown perhaps had a more somber tone than usual. Speakers often referenced the day's earlier news of the mass shooting incident at the Tree of Life synagogue in their remarks as a reminder of why activism like theirs was important to support.

The hundreds of well-dressed guests adorned their faces with masquerade masks, in keeping with the pre-Halloween theme of "Equality Unmasked." After a pre-dinner reception and perusal of the many silent-auction items donated by Chicago-area businesses, organizations and artists, the crowd filed into the ballroom for the main program.

Gala co-chairs Penelope Garcia and Tory Mitchell opened the evening by highlighting HRC's work on various issues throughout the year, including video headlines of some of the Trump administration's actions against LGBTQ equality.

Deena Fidas, director of workplace equality for the national HRC, talked about the organization's grassroots campaign to turn out voters for the Nov. 6 midterm election, which she called the largest in the organization's history.

"These are the most critical votes America will cast in decades," she said, and referred to the record number of LGBTQ candidates as "not just a blue wave, but a rainbow wave."

According to Fidas, 30,000 voters have been registered by HRC volunteers, but she still encouraged the room to "bring out the vote and take people with you."

She also mentioned that a history-making 609 businesses received a score of 100 percent on the Corporate Equality Index, which is in its 16th year.

HRC Federal Club Xavier Esters shared his personal story about his and his trans aunt's coming out as an example of the kind of people HRC's work helps protect. After dinner, lesbian comedienne Dana Goldberg ran a spirited live auction peppered with political humor. And American Idol finalist Kimberly Locke closed the evening with a selection of her songs, crediting the LGBTQ community with making her a success.

Indivisible Aurora, who brought the state's second-largest city its first-ever Pride Parade, received a Community Leadership Award. The organization's LGBTQ director, Gwyn Ciesla, recalled her surprise when she learned the city where she'd lived for 11 years hosted no formal Pride events. "I assumed, as an introvert, I missed it," Ciesla joked.

Despite some initial opposition, Ciesla called the inaugural parade a success. With 3,000 marchers, she said the group had to turn people away. The group is planning a two-day event with speakers and a 5k run for next year. In addition, Ciesla highlighted the need of suburban Pride events for those who can't make it to Chicago.

"It's important to see events like this in your hometown," she said, and left the stage to a standing ovation.

Currently starring as TV's first trans superhero, Dreamer, on the CW show Supergirl, actress Nicole Maines was once part of the first lawsuit to ensure proper trans bathroom usage in schools. Maines, who received an HRC Visibility Award at





WINDY CITY TIMES

Left: Dana Goldberg. Right: Nicole Maines.

Photos by Kat Fitzgerald, www.MysticImagesPhotography.com. See many more online.

the gala, called being the first trans superhero on TV "very scary," as she's terrified of letting down young fans who might see themselves in her character.

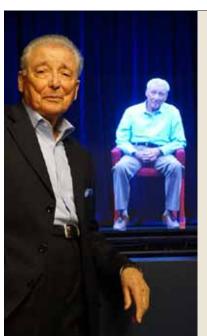
Yet she was moved by the outpouring of love and support fans showed her as she assumed the role. Admitting to rage and despair when she read the recent New York Times article about the Trump administration's attempts to redefine her identity, she thanked her mother and her family for helping keep her grounded throughout the years. While she called the progress her com-

munity has made "fragile," Maines also sounded notes of defiance and hope.

"We cannot be erased by policy," she said to cheers. "We cannot be torn down by rhetoric. When faced with adversity, a person goes into fight or flight mode. The Trump administration assumed we would choose flight, and they were wrong. The LGBTQ community is one of fighters ... and we will be here long after he's gone."

More than \$30,000 were raised for the organization's super PAC (political action committee).



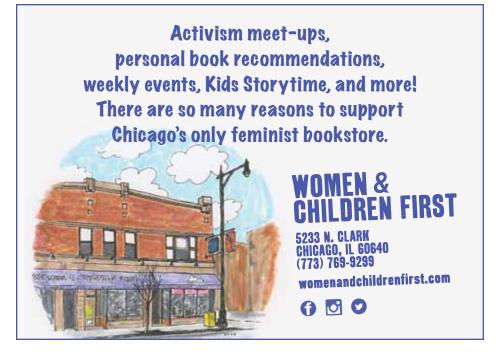


WHAT CAN A HOLOGRAM TELL YOU ABOUT THE HOLOCAUST?

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ELECTIONS 2018

Early voting info; election judges needed

Early voting for the Nov. 6 general election has started.

Currently, early voting is taking place at at 69 W. Washington St. on the fifth floor and on the pedway for suburban Cook County voters. For Chicago residents, early voting is available at the Loop Super Site at 175 W. Washington St.; at the 50 ward sites, it is available through Monday, Nov. 5.

Voters do not need a reason or excuse to use early voting; however, voters may need to present government-issued photo identification.

Ballots cast in early voting are final. After casting ballots in early voting, voters may not return to amend, change or undo a ballot for any reason. It is a felony to vote more than once—or to attempt to vote more than once—in the same election.

To view a list of sites, visit Chicago Elections. com/en/early-voting.html and https://www.cookcountyclerk.com/service/early-voting-locations (for Chicago and suburban residents, respectively).

Also, election judges are needed. Qualifications include being a registered voter in Cook County; not being a committeeman, precinct captain or candidate; and agreeing that by law, the name, address and party affiliation are subject to public

disclosure; among other criteria.

The pay is \$200 each for those who complete training and then serve on Election Day; visit https://chicagoelections.com/en/serving-as-a-iudge-of-election.html.

ELECTIONS 2018

LGBTQ activists start expenditure committee

LGBTQ activists have created Fair and Equal Illinois, an Illinois independent expenditure committee.

According to a press release, "the purpose of this committee is to allow those who care about LGBTQ equality to aggressively support candidates who will promote LGBTQ equality and to oppose candidates who will not."

When asked about the difference separating this organization from Equality Illinois PAC, Equality Illinois CEO Brian Johnson (who chairs Fair and Equal Illinois) emailed Windy City Times, "Fair and Equal Illinois is an independent expenditure committee separate & distinct from Equality Illinois PAC. An independent expenditure committee has different rules that govern it than a standard political action committee does."

For more info, contact Johnson at brianjohnson@fairandequal.org.

HRC's newest Congressional Scorecard out

With elections taking place next week, the Human Rights Campaign (HRC), released its Congressional Scorecard measuring support for LG-BTQ equality in the 115th Congress.

Members of Congress were scored based on a range of key indicators of support for LGBTQ equality—from votes in the Senate to confirm anti-LGBTQ Trump-Pence cabinet officials and judicial nominees to votes and co-sponsorships in both chambers on pieces of legislation that significantly impact LGBTQ people and their families.

Both U.S. senators from Illinois—Tammy Duckworth and Dick Durbin—received perfect scores of 100. Regarding U.S. representatives from Illinois, several people—including Democrats Bobby Rush, Robin Kelly, Luis Gutierrez, Mike Quigley, Raja Krishnamoorthi, Jan Schakowsky, Brad Schneider, Bill Foster and Cheri Bustos—all scored 100. (Democrat Danny Davis scored an 88 and fellow party member Daniel Lipinski rated a 58.) On the other end of the spectrum, Republicans Peter Roskam, Mike Bost, Rodney Davis, Randy Hultren, John Shimkus and Darin LaHood received scores of zero, with Adam Kinzinger rating a three.

HRC President Chad Griffin said in a statement, "The HRC Congressional Scorecard serves as an important tool to understand where Members of

Congress stand on LGBTQ equality. As we face one of the most important elections of our lifetime, HRC's Congressional Scorecard makes clear that it is crucial for fair-minded voters turn out in force to elect a pro-equality majority to Congress."

The full report is at https://www.hrc.org/resources/congressional-scorecard.

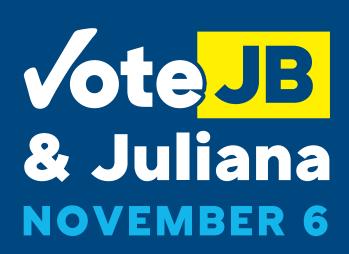
Forward Illinois coalition launches election agenda

A coalition of progressive organizations—including Sierra Club Illinois, SEIU, Planned Parenthood Illinois Action, Equality Illinois, Illinois Coalition Against Handgun Violence, Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (ICIRR), UFCW 881, Chicago Votes and Citizen Action Illinois—has formed Forward Illinois.

The coalition detailed has revealed that new polling data shows nearly 70 percent support (across party lines) an agenda that protects abortion rights; raises the minimum wage to \$15; strengthens firearm restrictions; protects the environment; expands access to quality, affordable healthcare; protects LGBTQ rights in schools; and protects immigrant families.

Between now and election day (Nov. 6), the coalition will embark on this agenda through a campaign that includes phone banking, doorknocking, and a digital engagement strategy via text, email and social media.

See ForwardIllinois.org.



Find your polling location here: > www.jbpritzker.com/getready.<

PAID FOR BY JB FOR GOVERNOR



ELECTIONS 2018

J.B. Pritzker addresses reasons for candidacy

BY MATT SIMONETTE

Businessman J.B. Pritzker has been locked for months in an aggressive challenge to Gov. Bruce Rauner's incumbency. Each man has spent millions in order to win the post Nov. 6, leading to one of the most expensive elections in history. Pritzker recently summarized his qualifications and outlined his commitment to the LGBT community.

Windy City Times: Why do you think that you will be a better choice for voters than Bruce Rauner?

J.B. Pritzker: There's been a complete uncertainty around state government as a result of his failures. I think I've proven over the course of my lifetime that I've gotten big things done working together with people. I founded 1871, which has created thousands of jobs and created hundreds of companies here in Illinois; it's now the number one small-business incubator in the world. I led the effort to expand the school breakfast program for low-income kids all across the state—230,000 kids now can get school breakfast as a result of the work that I did. There are thousands of children who get early childhood education-preschool and childcare—as a result of of the work that I've done for more than 20 years as a national leader.

Here's a big difference between me and Gov. Rauner: I've gotten real things done for working families all across the state. I fought discrimination as the chairman of the Human Rights Commission. I led the building of the Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center, which teaches more than 60,000 kids every year in Illinois to fight bigotry, hatred and intolerance.

WCT: What can LGBT residents expect from you should you be elected?

JBP: I'd begin my reminding you what Bruce Rauner failed at, when it comes to the LGBTQ community: His budget crisis threatened the lives of LGBTQ people by cutting critical funding for HIV-testing and -prevention, and gutting homeless youth, substance abuse and mental health services, all of which are critically important to people in the LGBTQ community. I think we need a governor who will restore civility to those services and defend the rights of every person in our state.

In my administration, I'll fight hate wherever it occurs in our state, by rooting out bullying in our schools and enforcing workplace nondiscrimination laws. I'll continue to fight for a federal law that protects LGBTQ workers' rights, but of course we have to make sure that we are prosecuting those laws that we have on the books here in the state properly. I'll work with legislators to pass budgets that fund the services that Bruce Rauner failed to [fund].

I've proven over the years that I have been an ally of the LGBTQ community. My mother was an activist in 1970s, working with the LGBT leader-



J.B. Pritzker.Photo courtesy of campaign team

ship, where I are up, so I've been engaged in this literally since I was a little kid. I was marching in the Chicago Pride Parade long before to was just a celebration and instead it was a protest march.

I worked hard near the end of the fight for marriage equality in Illinois, to flip one vote in particular. It was the vote of state Rep. Jack Franks, and it was a critically important vote. I feel like a played an important role there—working with others, of course—to make a difference when it comes to marriage equality, which we all take for granted today, but that was only a few years ago. People in the LGBTQ community know that they can count on me to stand with them, and up for them, in state government and as the leader of our state.

WCT: Playing off one part of that, Illinois has very strong anti-discrimination laws, but different aspects of those laws are coming under attack from the Trump administration. What can the Illinois governor do to shore up protections for our residents as those attacks come down from the federal level?

JBP: You want a governor who's willing to stand up to Donald Trump. Gov. Rauner has been utterly silent about most things around Donald Trump. He's been most willing to allow to take away people's healthcare. He's willing to go without response for days when Trump referred to the "many sides" of the Charlottesville civil rights marchers versus the neo-Nazis. It literally took the governor four days to finally say something. Standing up to Donald Trump and looking for every way that we can to protect the rights that we hold dear in the LGBTQ community in the state of Illinois ... is something that people should know that their government will do.

See JBPritzker.com.

ELECTIONS 2018

Sam Yingling re-election campaign focused on economy

BY TIM PEACOCK

Rep. Sam Yingling—an openly gay Democrat in the Illinois House's 62nd District—faces familiar challenges this year as he seeks re-election.

Following his original election in 2014, Yingling focused his efforts on the economic health from attempting to address the budget crisis to tackling the property tax issues in his district.

Heading into the 2018 election, he faces criticisms from Republican opponent Ken Idstein similar to those in prior election campaigns.

Windy City Times: Should you be elected to another term, what types of legislation should your constituents expect to see over the next two years?

Sam Yingling: I will continue to be an independent voice in Springfield for the people of my district. I'll keep fighting to rein in property taxes, consolidate government, and improve equitable funding for public education.

WCT: Your opponent, Ken Idstein, says one of his primary campaign issues is property taxes—an issue you've attempted to tackle with legislation that would have allowed a referendum on making the Lake County assessor an elected office. How do you respond to his proposed strategy, and what are your future plans to address this topic?

SY: Lake County has one of the highest property taxes in the country and people are being forced out of their homes. We have an unaccountable and regressive property tax system that forces homeowners to choose between keeping their homes and paying for other basic needs like utilities and healthcare. This is unacceptable and it must be changed.

I have been leading efforts to lower property taxes and make our property tax system more accountable to the voters. As the Chairman of the Government Consolidation and Modernization Committee, I fight to make it easier for local governments to consolidate and save money on duplicative services. I also voted to fix the school funding formula to bring more state money to local schools and provide a way for local school districts to lower their property taxes. I also introduced legislation to help homeowners and businesses impacted by historic flooding Lake County experienced last summer.

This year, I passed SB2544 with bi-partisan super-majorities in both chambers of the General Assembly. The bill would have given the voters of Lake County the opportunity to vote this November on the question of whether to elect the Lake County assessor. That position is currently appointed, leaving the people with no way to hold the Assessor accountable for decisions that impact how much they pay in property taxes. It was supported by good gov-



Sam Yingling. Photo courtesy of campaign team

ernment advocates, Republicans and Democrats on the Lake County board, the Lake County Township assessors, and thousands of Lake County residents who made phone calls, signed petitions, and testified at local hearings on the bill.

Unfortunately, Gov. [Bruce] Rauner denied the taxpayers of Lake County their right to vote this November on whether to elect the Lake County assessor. Lake County homeowners pay some of the highest property taxes in the country, but Gov. Rauner denied voters the power to hold the Lake County assessor accountable for decisions that affect how much they pay. That's wrong, and I will keep fighting to hold our property tax system accountable.

WCT: Much like your 2016 campaign, criticism of your connections to, support from and of House Speaker Mike Madigan is prevalent. How do you respond to charges that you are "Madigan's go-to guy?"

SY: I am proud to be an independent Democrat who will continue to put the priorities of my constituents first. I work across the aisle on the issues most important to my constituents, including property tax relief, government consolidation, and government accountability.

WCT: With the installment of [Brett] Kavanaugh on the Supreme Court, LGBTQ-specific federal precedents like *Obergefell* may now be in danger. What is the path forward in protecting the civil liberties of LGBTQ people in your district? Do you believe the state legislature can adequately tackle issues like LGBTQ employment, housing and public accommodation non-discrimination protections?

SY: I will always fight to protect equal protections and equal opportunity for LGBTQ people in the legislature.

For more information about Sam Yingling's campaign, visit SamYingling.com.

Guide to the LGBTs

This year's primary elections featured a record number of openly LGBT candidates thorughout Illinois. From those races, several of those individuals are vying for various political offices in November:

-Kelly Cassidy

Race: Illinois state representative (14th District)

Website: citizensforcassidy.com

The skinny: Cassidy, who recently wed activist Candice Gingrich, has served her district since 2011. Cassidy, the only openly lesbian member of the General Assembly, defeated Arthur Noah Siegel in the primary and now runs unopposed in the general election.

-Marcelino Garcia

Race: Metropolitan Water Reclamation Commissioner

Website: MarcelinoGarcia.com

The skinny: Garcia, an attorney, is director of community affairs for the Cook County health and hospitals system the nation's third largest public health system. He is also a Partner with Overseas Strategies, LLC, an international business development consulting firm that helps small and medium-sized companies with the logistics of import and export and market development. He finished third in the primary elections in March.

-Greg Harris

Race: Illinois state representative (13th District)

Website: GregHarris.org

The skinny: Harris who was chief co-sponsor of SB10, the legislation that brought about marriage equality in Illinois has a district that includes several North Side neighborhoods. Harris (who was first elected to the state House in 2006, and is the first openly gay person in Illinois to become a member of legislative leadership) ran unopposed in the March 20 primary.

—Cecilia Horan

Race: Cook Circuit judge (Hartigan Vacancy) Website: voteforjudgehoran.com

The skinny: The Illinois Supreme Court appointed Horan was appointed a judge in the Circuit Court of Cook County on Jan. 19, 2017. She is presently assigned to the First Municipal Division where she hears cases involving alleged breaches of contract, the rights of landlords and tenants, debtors and creditors, and traffic matters. In March, She easily took the seat Cook Circuit judge (Hartigan Vacancy), defeating Keith Spence 78-22 percent.

-Mike McHale

Race: Circuit Court of Cook County

The skinny: McHale, who handles cases in the Criminal Division, is running for retention this year. He was inducted into the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame (now the Chicago LGBT Hall of Fame) in 2005. After being elected in 2006, McHale was retained in 2012 for a term that expires this year.

-Kevin Morrison

Race: Cook County commissioner (15th Dis-

Website: KevinBMorrison.com

The skinny: A Democratic resident of Elk Grove Village, Morrison—who studied environmental sciences at DePaul University—squeaked by and is facing Republican incumbent Commissioner Tim Schneider in November. Should Morrison prevail, he would be the first openly LGBTQ Cook County commissioner ever.

-Mary Colleen Roberts

Race: Circuit Court of Cook County

The skinny: Roberts is running for retention this year. She is a judge on the Cook County 11th Subcircuit in Illinois. Like Mike McHale, she was elected in 2006 and was retained in 2012. Prior to the bench, Roberts was a hearing officer for the Cook County Circuit Court and assistant corporation counsel for the Chicago Law Depart-

—Lamont Robinson

Race: Illinois state representative (5th District) Website: VoteLamontRobinson.com

The skinny: Robinson—who runs two Chicago Allstate Insurance offices, in Bronzeville and Humboldt Park—will fill the Illinois House's 5th District post currently held by state Rep. Juliana Stratton, who is running for lieutenant governor alongside gubernatorial candidate J.B. Pritzker. Robinson is making history as the first openly gay African-American person in the General Assembly.

—Debra Shore

Race: Metropolitan Water Reclamation District commissioner

Website: https://www.debrashore.org/

The skinny: Shore has served on the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District board since 2006. She is a member of the Illinois Women's Institute for Leadership and served on the board (and was past chair) of the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund. She is running for her third six-year term in the 2018 election.

-Maggie Trevor

Race: Illinois state representative (54th District)

Website: http://trevorforstaterep.net/

The skinny: Trevor, who identifies as lesbian, is the only candidate in the Democratic primaryand incumbent Tom Morrison is the sole candidate in the Republican primary. Trevor was born and raised in Rolling Meadows, where her parents were among the city's original residents.

—Sam Yingling

Race: Illinois state representative (62nd Dis-

Website: SamYingling.com

The skinny: Grayslake resident Yingling ran unopposed in the primary for his fourth term. He is the first openly gay House member from outside metropolitan Chicago. Yingling proposed to longtime partner Lowell Jaffe at the party former Illinois Gov. Pat Quinn threw to celebrate the passage of Illinois' marriage-equality bill in 2013. (They married in 2015.)

VOTE "YES" TO RETAIN AN EXPERIENCED JUDICIARY ON NOVEMBER 6, 2018 or DURING EARLY VOTING WHICH STARTS OCTOBER 22nd

Voting for judges is one of the most important votes you will cast this November. Fair, ethical and experienced judges make a difference. There is no substitute for experience.

The experienced judges running for retention are at the end of the ballot. It is very important you vote the entire ballot, top to bottom.

> Supreme Court Anne M. Burke #201

Appellate Court Margaret Stanton McBride

13

Circuit Court Judges

#205 - Kathy M. Flanagan

#207 - Moshe Jacobius

#209 - Stuart F. Lubin

#211 - Martin S. Agran

#213 - Ronald F. Bartkowicz

#215 - E. Kenneth Wright, Jr.

#217 - Catherine Marie Haberkorn

#219 - James M. Varga

#221 - Marcia Maras #223 - Peter Flynn

#225 - Paul A. Karkula

#227 - Maura Slattery Boyle

#229 - Mary Margaret Brosnahan

#231 - Matthew E. Coghlan

#233 - Joyce Marie Murphy Gorman #295 - Carl B. Boyd

#235 - Joan Margaret O'Brien

#237 - Thomas David Roti

#239 - Colleen F. Sheehan

#241 - Carl Anthony Walker *

#243 - Daniel Patrick Brennan

#245 - Grace G. Dickler

#247 - Ellen L. Flannigan

#249 - Carol M. Howard

#251 - Jill C. Marisie

#253 - James Michael McGing

#255 - Mike McHale

#257 - James Patrick Murphy

#259 - Thomas W. Murphy #261 - Ramon Ocasio, III

#263 - Mary Colleen Roberts

#265 - Diane M. Shelley #269 - Celia Louise Gamrath

#271 - Lorna Ellen Propes

#273 - Tommy Brewer #275 - Andrea M. Schleifer

#277 - Thomas R. Allen

#279 - Erica L. Reddick

#281 - Aicha Marie MacCarthy

#283 - Lionel Jean-Baptiste

#285 - Michael R. Clancy

#287 - Regina Ann Scannicchio

#289 - Diann Karen Marsalek

#291 - Pamela M. Leeming

#293 - Larry G. Axelrood

#297 - Daniel R. Degnan

#299 - John H. Ehrlich

#301 - Terry Gallagher

#303 - William G. Gamboney

#305 - Elizabeth Mary Hayes

#307 - Martin C. Kelley

#309 - Kimberly D. Lewis

#311 - Edward M. Maloney

#313 - Lisa Ann Marino #315 - Michael Tully Mullen

#319 - Karen Lynn O'Malley

#321 - Paul S. Pavlus

#323 - Cynthia Ramirez #325 - Beatriz Santiago

*Denotes Cook County Circuit Court Judge Assigned to the Appellate Court

VOTE YES!

TO RETAIN AN EXPERIENCED JUDICIARY

cookcountyjudges.org

Authorized and paid for by Committee for Retention of Judges in Cook County. A copy of our report is filed with the State Board of Elections and is available for review on the Board's official web site or for purchase from the Board of Elections in Springfield, IL.

Election 2018

ILLINOIS GOVERNOR

WCT = Windy City Times questions, number listed is of the total questions correct for that race.

PP = Planned Parenthood Illinois Action

PPAC = Personal PAC

ORI = Our Revolution Illinois

CAI = Citizen Action Illinois

RC = Reclaim Chicago

EI = Equality Illinois PAC

IND = Indivisible Illinois

• = Lt. governor candidate; running with candidate above

WCT PP PPAC ORI CAI RC EI IND

JB Pritzker (D)

37/38 Y Y

• Juliana Stratton (D)

Bruce Rauner (R)

• Evelyn Sanguinetti (R) Grayson Kash Jackson (L)

• Sanjeev Mohip (L)

William "Sam" McCann (CSV)

Aaron Merreighn (CSV)

ATTORNEY GENERAL

WCT = Windy City Times questions, number listed is of the total questions correct for that race

PPAC = Personal PAC

IVI = Independent Voters of Illinois/Independent Precinct Organization

PP = Planned Parenthood Illinois Action

EI = Equality Illinois PAC

WCT PPAC IVI PP EI

Kwame Raoul (D)

Erika Harold (R)

Bubba Harsy (L)

SECRETARY OF STATE

WCT = Windy City Times questions, number listed is of the total questions correct for that race

PPAC = Personal PAC

EI = Equality Illinois PAC

PP = Planned Parenthood Illinois Action

WCT PPAC EI PP

YY

Jesse White (D) Jason Helland (R)

Steve Dutner (L)

COMPTROLLER

WCT = Windy City Times questions, number listed is of the total questions correct for that race

PPAC = Personal PAC

EI = Equality Illinois PAC

PP = Planned Parenthood Illinois Action

WCT PPAC EI PP

Susana A. Mendoza (D) Darlene Senger (R) Claire Ball (L)

TREASURER

WCT = Windy City Times questions, number listed is of the total questions correct for that race

PPAC = Personal PAC

EI = Equality Illinois PAC

PP = Planned Parenthood Illinois Action

IVI = Independent Voters of Illinois/Independent Precinct Organization

WCT PPAC EI PP IVI

YYYY

Michael W. Frerichs (D) Jim Dodge (R)

Michael Leheney (L)

COOK COUNTY RACES

WCT = Windy City Times questions, number listed is of the total questions correct for that race

PPAC = Personal PAC

EI = Equality Illinois PAC

RC = Reclaim Chicago

CNOW = Chicago NOW PAC

ORI = Our Revolution Illinois

IVI = Independent Voters of Illinois/Independent Precinct Organization

PP = Planned Parenthood Illinois Action

CAI = Citizen Action Illinois

WCT	PPAC EI	RCCNOWORI	IVI	PP	CAI
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BOARD PRESIDENT

Toni Preckwinkle (D) 38/38 Y

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SHERIFF

Thomas J. Dart (D)

TREASURER

Maria Pappas (D)

ASSESSOR Frederick "Fritz" Kaeqi (D)

Joseph Paglia (R)

COMMISSIONER, COOK CTY. BOARD-1ST DISTRICT

Υ

Υ

Υ

Brandon Johnson (D)

COMMISSIONER, COOK CTY. BOARD-2ND DISTRICT Dennis Deer (D)

COMMISSIONER, COOK CTY. BOARD-3RD DISTRICT

Bill Lowry (D) George Blakemore (R)

COMMISSIONER, COOK CTY, BOARD-4TH DISTRICT Stanley S. Moore (D)

COMMISSIONER, COOK CTY. BOARD-5TH DISTRICT Deborah Sims (D)

COMMISSIONER, COOK CTY. BOARD-6TH DISTRICT Donna Miller (D) 37/38 Y

COMMISSIONER, COOK CTY. BOARD-7TH DISTRICT Alma E. Anaya (D) 37/38

COMMISSIONER, COOK CTY. BOARD-8TH DISTRICT

Luis Arroyo Jr. (D) Walter Zarnecki (R)

COMMISSIONER, COOK CTY. BOARD-9TH DISTRICT

Frank L. McPartlin (D) Peter N. Silvestri (R)

COMMISSIONER, COOK CTY. BOARD-10TH DISTRICT Bridget Gainer (D)

COMMISSIONER, COOK CTY, BOARD-11TH DISTRICT

John P. Dalev (D) Steven S. Graves (R)

COMMISSIONER, COOK CTY. BOARD-12TH DISTRICT Bridget Degnan (D)

COMMISSIONER, COOK CTY. BOARD-13TH DISTRICT 38/38 Y Υ Larry Suffredin (D)

COMMISSIONER, COOK CTY. BOARD-14TH DISTRICT

Scott R. Britton (D) Gregg Goslin (R)

Chris J. Hanusiak (R)

COMMISSIONER, COOK CTY. BOARD-15TH DISTRICT

Kevin B. Morrison (D) 38/38 Y Y Timothy Owen Schneider (R)

COMMISSIONER, COOK CTY. BOARD-16TH DISTRICT Jeffrey R. Tobolski (D)

COMMISSIONER, COOK CTY. BOARD-17TH DISTRICT Abdelnasser Rashid (D) Sean M. Morrison (R)

COMMISSIONER, COOK CTY. BOARD OF REVIEW-2ND DISTRICT Michael Cabonargi (D)

COMMISSIONER, COOK CTY. BOARD OF REVIEW-3RD DISTRICT Larry Rogers Jr. (D)

METROPOLITAN WATER RECLAMATION DISTRICT

Debra Shore (D) Υ 38/38 Y Υ Kari Steele (D) 36/38 Y Marcelino Garcia (D) 38/38 R. Cary Capparelli (R) Shundar Lin (R) 33/38 Christopher Anthony (G)

Karen Roothaan (G) Tammie Felicia Vinson (G) 37/38

Geoffrey Cubbage (G)

METROPOLITAN WATER RECLAMATION DISTRICT (UNEXPIRED TERM) Kimberly Neely Dubuclet (D) Rachel Wales (G)

METROPOLITAN WATER RECLAMATION DISTRICT (UNEXPIRED TERM) M. Cameron 'Cam' Davis (D)

US REPRESENTATIVE RACES WCT = Windy City Times questions, number listed is of the total questions correct for that race CPC = Congressional Progressive Caucus		WCT 15TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT John M. Shimkus (R) Kevin Gaither (D)	CPC	SEIU	RC OR	I IV	I INC) PP	HRC 16	23RD SENATE DISTRICT Seth Lewis (R) Thomas Cullerton (D)	WCT	PPAC Y		CAI	RC O	RI I	VI I	'P Υ
SEIU = Service Employees International Union RC = Reclaim Chicago ORI = Our Revolution Illinois IVI = Independent Voters of Illinois/Independent Precinct Or IND = Indivisible Chicago	ganization	16TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT Adam Kinzinger (R) Sara Dady (D) 38/38				Υ			36	24TH SENATE DISTRICT Chris Nybo (R) Suzanne "Suzy" Glowiak (D)		Υ	Υ	Υ		١	Y	Υ
PP = Planned Parenthood Illinois Action HRC = Human Rights Campaign 114th Congress, ratings are a age of total 100% based on HRC tracking of how candidates the 114th Congress	percent- oted in	17TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT William W. "Bill" Fawell (R) Cheri Bustos (D)						Υ	100	- , ,	34/38	Υ	Υ	Υ		١	Y	Υ
WCT CPC SEIU RC ORI IVI IN	D PP HRC	18TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT Darin LaHood (R)							0	27TH SENATE DISTRICT Tom Rooney (R) Ann Gillespie (D)	38/38	Y	Υ	Y		,	Y	Y
1ST CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT Bobby L. Rush (D) Jimmy Lee Tillman II (R) Thomas Rudbeck (I)	Y 100	Junius Rodriguez (D) STATE SENATE RACES								29TH SENATE DISTRICT Barrett Davie (R) Julie A. Morrison (D)	,	Υ						Υ
2ND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT Robin Kelly (D) 38/38 Y David Merkle (R)	Y 100	WCT = Windy City Times questions, n tions correct for that race PPAC = Personal PAC EI = Equality Illinois PAC	umb	er lis	sted is o	of th	e tot	al qu	ies-	30TH SENATE DISTRICT Soojae Lee (R) Terry Link (D)		Υ	Υ					Υ
3RD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT Daniel William Lipinski (D) Arthur J. Jones (R)	57	CAI = Citizen Action Illinois RC = Reclaim Chicago ORI = Our Revolution Illinois IVI = Independent Voters of Illinois/	/Inde	epen	dent Pre	ecino	t Ord	aniz	ation	32ND SENATE DISTRICT Craig Wilcox (R) Mary Mahady (D)		Υ	Υ			١	Y	Υ
4TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT Jesus "Chuy" Garcia (D) 38/38 Y Y Y Y Mark Wayne Lorch (R)	Υ	PP = Planned Parenthood Illinois Act	tion		CAI RC					33RD SENATE DISTRICT Donald P. DeWitte (R) Nancy Zettler (D)		Υ	Υ	Υ				Υ
5TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT Mike Quigley (D) 38/38 Tom Hanson (R)	Y 100	2ND SENATE DISTRICT Omar Aquino (D) 38/38 3RD SENATE DISTRICT	Y	Υ	Y			Υ		36TH SENATE DISTRICT Neil Anderson (R) Gregg Johnson (D)		Υ	Υ	Υ				Υ
6TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT Sean Casten (D) Peter J. Roskam (R)	Y 0	Mattie Hunter (D) 5TH SENATE DISTRICT Patricia Van Pelt (D)	Y	Y				Y		38TH SENATE DISTRICT Sue Rezin (R) Heidi Henry (D)		Υ	Υ	Υ		١	Y	Υ
7TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT Danny K. Davis (D) 38/38 Y Craig Cameron (R)	Y 96	6TH SENATE DISTRICT John J. Cullerton (D)	Υ	Y				Y		39TH SENATE DISTRICT Don Harmon (D) 41ST SENATE DISTRICT	38/38	Y	Υ	Y				Υ
8TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT Raja Krishnamoorthi (D) Y Jitendra "JD" Diganvker (R)	Υ	8TH SENATE DISTRICT Ram Villivalam (D) 9TH SENATE DISTRICT		Υ	Y Y	Υ		Y		John Curran (R) Bridget M. Fitzgerald (D) 42ND SENATE DISTRICT		Y	Υ					Υ
9TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT Janice D. Schakowsky (D) 38/38 John D. Elleson (R)	Y 100	Laura Fine (D) Joan McCarthy Lasonde (R) 11TH SENATE DISTRICT	Y	Y	Y			Y		Linda Holmes (D) 45TH SENATE DISTRICT Brain W. Stewart (R)		Y	Y					Υ
10TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT Brad Schneider (D)	Y	Martin A. Sandoval (D) 12TH SENATE DISTRICT	Y					Υ		David Simpson (D) 48TH SENATE DISTRICT Seth McMillan (R)		Υ						Υ
Douglas R. Bennett (R) 11TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT Bill Foster (D) Neal Stalls (D)	Y 100	Steven Landek (D) 14TH SENATE DISTRICT Emil Jones, III (D)	Y	Υ				Υ		Andy Manar (D) 56TH SENATE DISTRICT Rachelle Aud Crowe (D)		Y	Y Y	٧				Y
Nick Stella (R) 12TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT Michael Bost (R) Brendan Kelly (D)	16 Y	15TH SENATE DISTRICT Napoleon B. Harris, III (D) 17TH SENATE DISTRICT								Hal Patton (DOWNSTATE UNITE) 57TH SENATE DISTRICT Tanya Hildenbrand (R)	D)							
Randy Auxier (G) Y 13TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT Rodney Davis (R)	32	Elgie R. Sims, Jr. (D) 18TH SENATE DISTRICT Bill Cunningham (D)		Υ				Υ		Christopher Belt (D)		Υ	Y	Y				Υ
Betsy Dirksen Londrigan (D) 14TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT	Y	20TH SENATE DISTRICT Iris Y. Martinez (D)	Υ	Υ	Y			Υ										
Randall M. "Randy" Hultgren (R) Lauren Underwood (D) 37/38	Υ 0	21ST SENATE DISTRICT Michael Connelly (R) Laura Ellman (D)	Υ	Υ				Υ										

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67TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT

Maurice A. West II (D)

Fred Crespo (D)

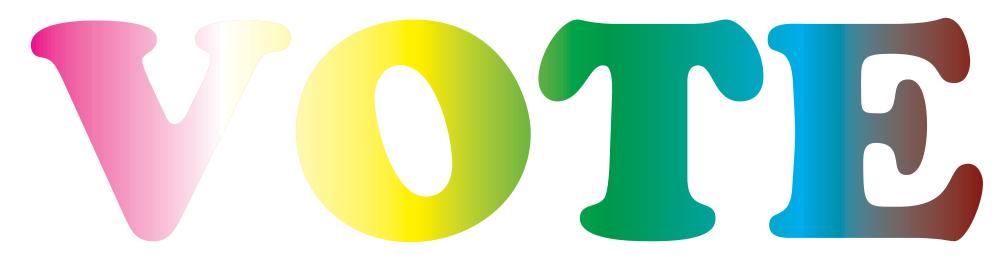
Celina Villanueva (D)

WIND CITT TIMES	NCT	PPAC	EI	CAI	RC	ORI	IVI	PP	
68TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRIC John M. Cabello (R) Jake Castanza (D)	T	Υ	Υ	Υ				Υ	
69TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRIC Joe Sosnowski (R) Angelique "Angie" Bodine (D)	т	Υ		Υ			Υ	Υ	
70TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRIC Jeff Keicher (R) Paul Stoddard (D)	Т		Υ	Υ				Υ	
71ST REPRESENTATIVE DISTRIC Tony M. McCombie (R) Joan Padilla (D)	Т	Y	Υ	Υ					
72ND REPRESENTATIVE DISTRIC Glen Evans Sr. (R) Michael W. Halpin (D)	T	Y	Υ	Υ				Υ	
77TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRIC Anthony Airdo (D) Kathleen Willis (D)	Т	Y	Υ					Υ	
78TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRIC Camille Lilly (D)	т	Υ						Υ	
80TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRIC Anthony DeLuca (D)	т	Υ						Υ	
81ST REPRESENTATIVE DISTRIC David S. Olsen (R) Anne M. Stava-Murray (D)	т						Υ		
83RD REPRESENTATIVE DISTRIC Linda Chapa LaVia (D)	T	Υ	Υ					Υ	
84TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRIC Patty Smith (R) Stephanie A. Kifowit (D)	т	V	v					V	
Stephanie A. Knowit (D)		Y	Υ					Y	

wcт	PPAC	EI	CAI	RC	ORI	IVI	PP
85TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT John Connor (D)	Υ	Υ					Υ
86TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Rick Laib (R) Lawrence "Larry" Walsh, Jr. (D)	Υ						Υ
88TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Keith P. Sommer (R) Jill Blair (D) 38/38		Υ	Υ			Υ	Υ
90TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Tom Demmer (R) Amy Davis (D)	Υ	Υ	Υ			Υ	Υ
91ST REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Michael D. Unes (R) Carolyn Blodgett (D)	Υ						Υ
92ND REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Jehan Gordon-Booth (D)	Υ		Υ				Υ
93RD REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Norine K. Hammond (R) John Curtis (D)	Υ	Υ	Υ				
95TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Avery Bourne (R) Dillon Clark (D)		Υ					
97TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Mark Batinick (R) Mica Freeman (D)	Y	Υ					Υ
98TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Alyssia Benford (R) Natalie A. Manley (D)	Υ	Υ					Υ

WCT	PPAC	EI	CAI	RC	ORI	IVI	PP
99TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Mike Murphy (R) Marc Bell (R)	Y	Υ					Υ
101ST REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Dan Caulkins (R) Jennifer McMillin (D) 35/38	Υ	Υ	Υ			Υ	Υ
103RD REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Carol Ammons (D)	Υ	Υ	Υ				Υ
104TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Mike Marron (R) Cynthia E. Cunningham (D)						Υ	
105TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Dan Brady (R) Benjamin Webb (D)		Υ	Υ				Υ
107TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Blaine Wilhour (R) David J. Seiler (D)						Υ	
110TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Chris Miller (R) Shirley A. Bell (D)		Υ	Υ			Υ	
112TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Dwight D. Kay (R) Katie Stuart (D)	Υ	Υ					Υ
113TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Doug Jameson (R) Jay Hoffman (D)		Υ					
114TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Jason Madlock (R) LaToya N. Greenwood (D)	Υ	Υ					Υ

Individual races for which none of the organizations listed provided an endorsement were removed for the print version of this chart. For a full listing, see www.WindyCityTimes.com.



Get to the polls Tuesday, Nov. 6 or take part in early voting. See chicagoelections.com for more information on voting options in Chicago.

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JUDICIAL EVALUATIONS

Windy City Times does not endorse candidates. Rather, we list their answers to our questionnaire as well as the ratings of legal organizations so that readers can make informed choices when they vote.

Key to Organizations:

WCT – Windy City Times questions, number listed is of the total questions correct for that race PPAC – Personal PAC IVI - Independent Voters of Illinois/Independent

Precinct Organization

CNOW - Chicago NOW PAC

RC - Reclaim Chicago

CBA - Chicago Bar Association

CCL - Chicago Council of Lawyers

CCBA - Cook County Bar Association

DSL - Decalogue Society of Lawyers

ISBA - Illinois State Bar Association

LGB – Lesbian and Gay Bar Association of Chicago WB – Women's Bar Association of Illinois

VF - LGBTQ Victory Fund

Key to Ratings:

Q – Qualified

NQ - Not Qualified

WQ - Well Qualified

HQ - Highly Qualified

HR - Highly Recommended

R - Recommended

NR - Not Recommended

NE - Not Evaluated (through no fault of candidate)*

(D) = Democrat

(R) = Republican

* Candidates who do not participate in the evaluation process are rated NR.

	WCT	PPAC	IVI	CNOW	RC	СВА	CCL	ССВА	DSL	ISBA	LGB	W
Cook Circuit Court												
Brewer vacancy)												
Kathryn Maloney Vahey (D)			Υ			Q	Q	R	R	Q	R	R
Cook Circuit Court												
Clay vacancy)												
(athaleen Theresa Lanahan (D)						Q	Q	R	R	Q	R	R
Cook Circuit Court												
Dooling vacancy)												
om Sam Sianis (D)	31/31			Υ		Q	Q	R	R	Q	NE	R
cook Circuit Court												
Egan vacancy)												
Rosa Maria Silva (D)	31/31					Q	Q	R	R	Q	R	R
Cook Circuit Court												
Dunford vacancy)												
homas F. McGuire (D)				Υ		Q	Q	R	R	Q	NR	F
Cook Circuit Court												
Flanagan vacancy)												
reston Jones Jr. (D)	31/31	Υ				HQ	Q	R	R	Q	NE	F
Cook Circuit Court												
Hartigan vacancy)												
ecilia Anne Horan (D)	31/31					Q	Q	R	R	Q	R	F
Cook Circuit Court												
Jordan vacancy)												
lare Joyce Quish (D)	31/31					Q	Q	R	R	Q	R	ı
Cook Circuit Court												
McGinnis vacancy)												
eter Michael Gonzalez (D)	31/31	Υ		Υ		Q	NQ	R	R	Q	NE	F
Cook Circuit Court												
Rooney vacancy)												
ack Hagerty (D)	31/31	Υ		Υ		HQ	Q	R	R	Q		- 1
Cook Circuit Court-1st Sub												
Hambright, Jr. vacancy)												
rika Orr (D)	31/31					Q	Q	R	R	Q	NE	-
Cook Circuit Court-2nd Sub												
Lampkin vacancy)												
iana Ellis Blakely (D)						Q	Q	R	R	Q	HR	
Cook Circuit Court-2nd Sub												
Laws vacancy)												
drienne Elaine Davis (D)	31/31	Υ		Υ		HQ	Q	R	R	Q	HR	-
Cook Circuit Court-2nd Sub												
Rhodes vacancy)												
oya T. Harvey (D)	31/31	Υ				HQ	Q	R	R	Q	R	- 1
cook Circuit Court-2nd Sub												
Turner, Jr. vacancy)												
eshia Gray (D)						Q	Q	R	R	Q	R	- 1
Cook Circuit Court-2nd Sub												
Willis vacancy)												
ebra A. Seaton (D)	30/31	Υ	Υ	Υ		HQ	Q	R	HR	Q	R	- 1
cook Circuit Court-2nd Sub												
Turner vacancy)												
Arthur Wesley Willis (D)						NR	Q	R	R	Q		١
Cook Circuit Court-3rd Sub												
Delehanty vacancy)												

2016									AATIA	יזטו	CIII	I IIv	Ų.
	WCT I	PPAC	IVI	CNOW	RC	СВА	CCL	ССВА	DSL	ISBA	LGB	WB	
Cook Circuit Court-4th Sub													
(Davy vacancy) David R. Navarro (D)	31/31	v				HQ	WQ	R	HR	Q	HR	R	
Cook Circuit Court-4th Sub	31/31	•				ΠŲ	WQ	IX	1111	ų	1111	IX.	
(Riley vacancy)													
Elizabeth Ciaccia-Lezza (D)						Q	Q		R	Q			
Cook Circuit Court-5th Sub						_	-			-			
(Banks vacancy)													
H. Yvonne Coleman (D)	31/31		Υ			Q	Q	HR	R	Q			
Cook Circuit Court-5th Sub													
(Jones vacancy)							_		_	_	_	_	
Marian Emily Perkins (D)			Y			NR	Q	HR	R	Q	R	R	
Cook Circuit Court-5th Sub													
(Washington, II vacancy) Robert Harris (D)			Υ			но	Q	R	R	Q	NE	R	
Cook Circuit Court-6th Sub						ΠŲ	ų	IX	IX.	ų	INL	IX.	
(Chevere vacancy)													
Kent Delgado (D)	31/31	Υ	Υ	Υ		HQ	WQ	R	HR	HQ			
Cook Circuit Court-6th Sub	- /-						•						
(Cooke vacancy)													
Andrea Michelle Webber (D)						Q	Q	R	R	Q	HR	R	
Cook Circuit Court-6th Sub													
(Lopez Cepero vacancy)													
Linda Perez (D)						Q	Q	HR	R	NQ		R	
Cook Circuit Court-8th Sub													
(Fabri vacancy)	21/21	v	Υ			ЦΩ	0	D	R	0	NE	R	
James "Jamie" Shapiro (D) Cook Circuit Court-8th Sub	31/31	Y	Ť			HQ	Q	R	ĸ	Q	INE	K	
(Liu vacancy)													
Lindsay Huge (D)	31/31		Υ			Q	Q	NE	HR	Q	R	R	
Cook Circuit Court-8th Sub	31,31					~	~			~	••	••	
(Pethers vacancy)													
Jeanne Marie Wrenn (D)	31/31		Υ			Q	Q	R	R	Q	R	R	
Cook Circuit Court-10th Sub													
(O'Neill Burke vacancy)													
Stephanie Saltouros (D)	31/31	Υ		Υ		Q	Q	R	R	Q	HR	R	
Cook Circuit Court-10th Sub													
(Suriano vacancy) Colleen Reardon Daly (D)	31/31	v		Υ		Q	Q	R	R	Q	R	R	
Cook Circuit Court-11th Sub	31/31	•		'		ų	ų	IX.	IX.	ų	IX.	IX.	
(Kennedy vacancy)													
Joanne F. Rosado (D)	31/31	Υ	Υ	Υ		Q	Q	R	R	Q	R	R	
Cook Circuit Court-12th Sub	,												
(Maki vacancy)													
David Studenroth (R)						Q	Q	R	HR	Q	R	R	
Joel Chupack (D)	31/31	Υ	Υ			HQ	Q	R	R	Q	R	R	
Cook Circuit Court-13th Sub													
(Crane vacancy)						0	0	n	n	0		n	
Gary William Seyring (R) Ketki "Kay" Steffen (D)						Q Q	Q Q	R R	R HR	Q HQ	HR	R R	
Cook Circuit Court-13th Sub						ų	ų	K	ПК	пų	пк	K	
(Lawrence vacancy)													
Daniel Patrick Fitzgerald (R)						NR	Q	R	R	Q	R	R	
Shannon P. O'Malley (D)	31/31					NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	
Cook Circuit Court-13th Sub	,												
(O'Donnell vacancy)													
Christine Svenson (R)						NR	Q	NR	R	Q			
Sameul J. Betar III (D)	31/31					HQ	Q	R	R	Q		R	
Cook Circuit Court-14th Sub													
(Garcia vacancy)	21/21				Υ	ND	NO		ND	NO			
Beatriz A. Frausto-Sandoval (D) Cook Circuit Court-15th Sub	31/31				ī	NR	NQ		NR	NQ			
(Scully, Jr. vacancy)													
Michael B. Barrett (D)						HQ	Q	R	R	Q	NE	R	
Cook Circuit Court-15th Sub							~	•••		~		••	
(Zelezinski vacancy)													
Karla Marie Fiaoni (R)						HQ	Q	R	NR	NQ			
Scott McKenna (D)						Q	Q	R	R	Q	NE	R	
18th Circuit Court													
(Creswell vacancy)													
Jeff Mackay (R)	00/-												
Linda E. Davenport (D)	30/31												

ELECTIONS 2018

Lamont Robinson Jr. wants to be the 5th District's 'champion'

BY ANGELIQUE SMITH

"I want to be a safety net for the citizens of the 5th district and make sure that they have somebody listening, looking out for their best interests and being a champion for their issues and concerns." –Lamont Robinson Jr.

As a small-business owner serving Bronzeville and Humboldt Park—and a mentor through, and director of, the Kappa Leadership Institute, a non-profit that helps African-American male high school students prepare for higher education through test prep and college tours—Robinson said he believes in paying it forward. "I've been very, very fortunate; and, for me, these are just others ways for me to give back to my community," says Robinson, when speaking of his work as a local insurance agent and helping students.

A Democrat running unopposed for the Illinois House (5th District), Robinson has received endorsements from the Equality Illinois PAC, Chicago Teachers Union and Planned Parenthood, among other organizations.

Windy City Times: Earlier this year, you talked about the specific priorities you'd have as a state legislator to help the LGBT community, such as making social services more local to your district and job placement for trans folks. Are those priorities the same and, if not, how and why have they changed?

Lamont Robinson Jr.: They're definitely the same, but I will tell you that I have met with folks at Howard Brown, the AIDS Foundation and other nonprofits that work in the HIV prevention space to understand what their issues and concerns are. What has come out of those meetings is that we need to do Medicaid expansion, put funding into getting to zero by 2030, and really having a stable budget to make sure that human services, particularly for the LGBTQ community, is included. That is certainly my plan of attack: making sure our resources are divvied up, particularly to our community.

WCT: What are your thoughts on the repeal of laws that mandate criminal penalties for the transmission of HIV/AIDS?

LRJ: It's something, to be honest with you, that I have not studied. But any time we're increasing penalties in this society, it can be problematic

WCT: Do you support the decriminalization of marijuana and favor restorative- justice measures?

LRJ: I certainly do.

WCT: In the past you've said that "we need to make sure that we are supporting and putting funding toward our LGBTQ homeless teens." What are your plans for making that happen?

LRJ: It's going to be working with nonprofits and making sure that we have resources from the

state and city to be able to stem homelessness. I think there are a couple things that lead up to homeless: 1) lack of affordable housing, 2) lack of education, and 3) folks being unable to find jobs that are sustainable. There's a lot of other parts to it that I'd like to conquer, as well: putting money into our neighborhood schools; making sure that we continue to fight for \$15 an hour; making sure that our trans brothers and sisters feel comfortable and can stay in school, and also that the jobs are there for them specifically.

WCT: Do you support banning employment discrimination based on criminal records?

LRJ: Yes, I do; that's another barrier to folks getting jobs. In my district, there's high unemployment because of discrimination. What I also want to look at is bringing green energy jobs into the district [and] I've been working with former state representative Elaine Nekritz on that.

WCT: With the midterms coming up and reports of voter suppression all over the country, there's also a lot of public debate about whether, for example, felons should be able to vote once they're out of jail. What are your thoughts on that?

LRJ: Once someone pays their debt to society and has done their time, I think most definitely they should be able to vote. Hands down.

WCT: When you hear about what's been happening in Georgia with Brian Kemp kicking voters off the rolls, what do you think are some measures that can be taken to help ensure that people, marginalized groups in particular, can exercise their voting rights?

LRJ: We need to make sure that we're educating people on what they need to be able to register to vote; make sure that we don't have laws that are barriers to someone who wants to vote, particularly in the trans community. For instance, someone might not want to give up their ID, right? We have to make sure we're making it easy and accessible. We have to go out to communities, meeting people where they are, to get them to understand the importance of voting and that their voices can be heard.

WCT: Speaking of barriers, how does it feel to know that you'll probably be the first openly gay, African-American male Illinois state rep?

LRJ: I'm certainly humbled and honored by that. I also want to make sure that I represent the 5th district entirely. That's what I plan to do. And also making sure that I keep an eye on issues and concerns that affect our community across the state of Illinois is important to me.

WCT: What do you plan to do to lessen the violence on the south end of your district? In the past you've referenced community policing?

LRJ: We definitely need to make sure that we're putting more resources into community policing.



One of the main issues that I heard, and continue to hear while out in the district, is the lack of jobs. My number one priority is to make sure that I create jobs in my district, which I believe will stem the violence that we're seeing. We need to create opportunities for economic development and for people to start businesses.

WCT: Can you explain what your idea of community policing would be?

LRJ: My idea of community policing is having police officers that are stationed, and if not stationed, have a certain block or area that is theirs so that the neighbors know "Officer Smith" is our direct contact. Officer Smith needs to be able to build relationships in that community and know the residents; that way, if something does happen, the residents know that they can go to that police officer. What I'm hearing is that the officers in the community don't look like them, they don't go to them, and we need to change that. Also, that those officers are at community events, that they work with the state rep and aldermen to be part of the fabric of the neighborhood.

WCT: More so than being seen in the neighborhood and looking like the people that they represent, how would you start building necessary trust, especially given the tensions between police and people of color?

LRJ: The police department, hopefully with support from our next mayor and next superintendent, needs to follow the suggestions from the investigative report on CPD from the United States Department of Justice Civil Rights Division and United States Attorney's Office Northern District of Illinois (for reference: https://www.justice.gov/opa/file/925846/download).

There's years of mismanagement there, but we

need to start someplace. I believe the Justice report is a good place to start to fix the issues that have been rampant. From my district's standpoint, when we talk about community policing, good relationships with the police are extremely important. Also making sure we put more money into training officers, particularly around sensitivity in the LGBTQ community.

Learn more about Lamont Robinson Jr. at https://www.votelamontrobinson.com.

Jewish groups taking part in project, summit

Keshet—a national organization working for LGBTQ equality and inclusion in Jewish life—announced that 21 Chicago-area Jewish organizations will participate in Keshet's first Chicagoland Leadership Project.

The year-long Leadership Project will kick off with a day-long leadership summit Thursday, Nov. 8, at Evanston's Beth Emet Synagogue, 1224 Dempster St.

At the initial summit, leaders from the participating Chicago-area organizations will learn how to foster LGBTQ inclusion and formulate a practical, specific action plan for doing so. Keshet will then provide a full year of follow-up support and training to help participating groups realize their LGBTQ-inclusion action plans.

Chicago's Response Center, a program of Jewish Family and Child Services, is co-sponsoring the project.



Dana RUDOLPH

MOMBIAN Children's and YA books on LGBTQ history

LGBTQ History Month offers us a wonderful opportunity each October to look at the growing number of books for children and youth on LGBTQ history—including several that are new this year.

Elementary school

Pride: The Story of Harvey Milk and the Rainbow Flag, written by Rob Sanders and illustrated by Steven Salerno (Random House: 2018), is an inspiring biography of Milk that stresses his friendship with Gilbert Baker, who designed the rainbow flag as a symbol of hope and inspiration. It does mention Milk's assassination, although as gently as possible, but parents should still be prepared to address kids' concerns there.

Sewing the Rainbow: A Story About Gilbert Baker (Magination Press: 2018), written by Gayle Pitman and illustrated by Holly Clifton-Brown, flips the perspective Sanders used, and takes us along with Baker from his childhood, through adversity, to the request by his friend Milk to create a new symbol for their community. A few rough transitions may take adult explanation, but all will be inspired by this story and how Baker regained his lost sparkle.

The Harvey Milk Story, written by Kari Krakow and illustrated by David Gardner (Two Lives Publishing: 2001), conveys Milk's significance with warmth and appreciation. It is wordier and more detailed that Sanders' book, and probably best for older elementary students. Unfortunately out of print and only available in very expensive used versions; I include it here in case people wish to seek it in a library.

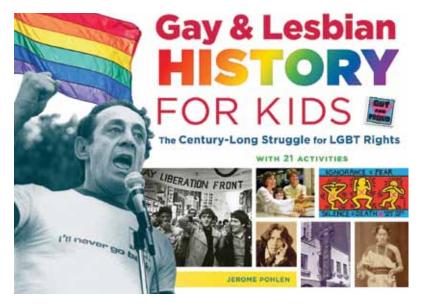
When You Look Out the Window: How Phyllis Lyon and Del Martin Built a Community, by Gayle Pitman (Magination Press: 2017), tells of the transformation that LGBTQ-rights pioneers Lyon and Martin helped bring to San Francisco and its LGBTQ community. The book begins with them falling in love, buying a house, and observing the lack of rights for women and gay people in their neighborhood. "So we worked to change that," they say. We then see the many welcoming buildings now in the neighborhood, often bedecked with rainbow flags, and the sense of community in the streets. There's little in the main text about what Lyon and Martin actually did to effect these changes, but adults can review the Reading Guide at the end and explain to kids that the pair brought people together to fight for LGBTQ and women's rights and created safe spaces for women who, like themselves, loved other women.

Middle grade

Pride: Celebrating Diversity and Community, by Robin Stevenson (Orca: 2016), blends a history of the event with a broader look at the struggle for LGBTQ equality, along with a look at what it means to come out, what to expect at Pride events around nately, in some cases), but the spectre of Anita Bryant, even shakier employment protections, and inpassing mentions of pop culture figures of the time help convey the important lesson that girls falling in love with girls is nothing new.

Young adult

Gay America: Struggle for Equality, by Linus Alsenas (Amulet: 2008), is explicitly limited to gay men



the world, a glossary, and an explanation of gender identity.

Gay & Lesbian History for Kids: The Century-Long Struggle for LGBT Rights, by Jerome Pohlen (2015), starts with Sappho, Alexander the Great, and other figures from distant history, but then focuses mostly on U.S. social and political history. A series of activities throughout the book add fun and engagement. Despite the main title, Pohlen is inclusive of the LGBT spectrum.

One True Way, by Shannon Hitchcock (Scholastic: 2018), is a rare fictional look at historical LGBTQ identities for this age range. In 1977, protagonist Allie Drake wants to join the newspaper staff at her new middle school in North Carolina, where she and her mother moved following her older brother's death and her parents' separation. On her first day at school, she meets Samantha "Sam" Johnson, a "handsome" basketball star who moves effortlessly among the school's social cliques. The girls fall for each other, but must deal with the prejudice of Sam's conservative Christian parents, Allie's overprotective but ultimately more understanding mother, the bigotry promulgated nationwide by actor Anita Bryant, and the ramifications for two of their teachers who are also a same-sex couple. All this transpires as Allie seeks to find her place at the new school and to understand her parents' pending divorce. There's little in it that couldn't still happen today (unfortuand lesbians, and a little dated now, but worthwhile within those limits, covering politics, culture, relations between the lesbian and gay rights movement and other civil rights movements, entertainment, the evolution of gay and lesbian identities, and more.

Queer There and Everywhere: 23 People Who Changed the World, by Sarah Prager (HarperCollins: 2017), aims for the teen audience, but adults will also learn much from her engaging profiles. Prager offers a thoughtful exploration of historical terms for what we now call "queer" identities, an overview of queerness in every populated region of the world, and profiles that are both informative and entertaining. The figures run the gamut from the famous Abraham Lincoln to the relatively unknown Union soldier Albert Cashier. Phyllis Lyon and Del Martin are there, as is Harvey Milk, but so are lesserknown figures like the Roman Emperor Elagabalus, erstwhile Queen of Sweden Kristina Vasa, Mexican nun and poet Juana Inés de la Cruz, and more. One might quibble with some of the choices (did Cashier really change the world?) and wish for others, but no book this length can encompass all the gueer people in history. We can only hope there's a sequel.

Dana Rudolph is the founder and publisher of Mombian (mombian.com), a GLAAD Media Awardwinning blog and resource directory for LGBTQ parents.

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ARTSCTHEATER

WEEKLY



THEATER REVIEW

The Real Life Adventures of Jimmy de las Rosas

By: Ricardo Gamboa At: Free Street Theater, 1419 W. Blackhawk St Tickets: http://clata.org/destinos-main; \$20-\$25 Runs through: Nov. 2

BY AMELIA OROZCO

Here are the ingredients for a Ricardo Gamboa production: A community, strong Latino, black and queer characters, and most importantly, supernatural abilities. Oh, and mutant Chihuahuas. You will find all of these in the Real Life Adventures of Jimmy De Las Rosas. The show is part of the Chicago Latino Theater Alliance (CLATA's) 2nd International Latino Theater Festival.

You may have seen Jimmy de las Rosas' grand-



Ulises Acosta in The Real Life Adventures of Jimmy de la Rosas.

Photo by Alejandro Reyes

mother (Ruth Guerra) before. She sells fruit, snow cones and Mexican corn in Little Village. It is also likely you have met met Juani (Mia Arevalo), a transgender woman loved by everyone for her sassy spirit. And you may know someone

like Jimmy himself (Ulises Acosta). He's a young kid, loves baseball and a DREAMer. The only difference between a kid you may know and Jimmy de las Rosas is that Jimmy can move things with his mind

He plans on using this to his advantage by becoming a professional baseball player. This way, like many other boys and girls in Chicago, he will fulfill his dream of becoming a true hero. He will be the one to move his family out of such a dangerous neighborhood, and his mom can quit her factory job.

There are only two problems with this plan—his protective mom (Elizabeth Nungaray) and his worrying grandmother. Because they are undocumented, working hard to make ends meet, they are afraid of being found out and deported. They beg him to keep his powers to himself as they are not pleased with his antics in the baseball field. So Jimmy complies for as long as he can.

That's until he learns of the hundreds of people disappearing from the neighborhood, and when someone close to him falls prey to this, he has no choice but to act fast. He befriends Ayana (Ashley Bland) and Eddie (Kyle Johnson), two homeless black kids. He soon find out that they have more in common than meets the eye—special abilities. The trio are still discovering their strength and the true purpose of their gifts when they set out into the night to get to the bottom of the mystery.

Who or what is the mysterious kidnapper, and will Jimmy be a hero or just another boy from the hood with shattered dreams?

Worthy of becoming an after-school special, Real Life Adventures of Jimmy de las Rosas touches on issues impacting communities today, from the undocumented status of some Chicago families to police brutality and (spoiler alert) pollution.

Get to Jimmy's neighborhood and experience the adventure in Free Street Theater's before the show's run ends.

The Chicago Latino Theater Alliance (CLATA's) 2nd International Latino Theater Festival runs through Nov. 2. For more information about addition Festival productions, go to http://clata.org/destinos-main.

THEATER REVIEW

Small Mouth Sounds

Playwright: Beth Wohl At A Red Orchid Theatre, 1531 N. Wells Ave. Tickets 312-943-8722 or ARedOrchidTheatre.org; \$30-\$40 Runs through: Dec. 9

BY CATEY SULLIVAN

The wordlessness of A Red Orchid Theatre's Small Mouth Sounds takes getting used to, at least initially. But playwright Beth Wohl's 100-minute drama about a "silent retreat" lacks nothing in drama or storytelling. In director Shade Murray's seven-person ensemble, the intricate lives of six retreat participants and their increasingly frazzled teacher are vivid, compelling and dynamic.

A largely dialogue-free play could seem gimmicky, more of an exercise for actors than anything an audience could fully appreciate. But

Wohl has descriptive powers that many more conventional wordsmiths lack. Murray's ensemble is up to the formidable task of creating characters largely without the benefit of words.

As the group trudges in toting various backpacks and satchels, each individual in it takes shape. Rodney (Travis A. Knight) is some kind of Youtube yogi, tall, supple, and a fan of shirtlessness, leather necklaces and the micro-bikini briefs that male Bikram devotees favor. Joan (Jennifer Engstrom) and Judy (Cynthia Hines) arrive as a couple, their faces etched with stress and hope. Alicia (Heather Chrisler) is wried with tension and can't stop twiddling with her phone. Ned (Levi Holloway) has the bearing of somebody who has been beaten down, repeatedly, for years. Jan (Lawrence Grimm) is uneasy, all suspicious glances and awkward limbs.

Wohl incrementally, ingeniously illuminates the reasons that brought everyone to this wilderness of wordlessness. Holloway gets a monologue (in the retreat's "satsang," aka a sacred gathering and/or Q and A session) that reveals a lifetime of woes that would try Job. It's to Holloway's credit

that his soap-opera worthy litany makes Ned a figure of genuine empathy. You'll feel for the guy, even if he is all but wearing the thumb-and-index finger "L" on his forehead.

Engstrom and Hines' Joan and Judy are also dealing with tragedy—or rather, the very real possibility that tragedy will hit them both with tremendous force in the very near future. When Joan has a meltdown that sends her fleeing for the nearest Starbucks, it's as primal as it is relatable. Hines' Judy doesn't have the same emotional pyrotechnics, but in her stillness, there's immeasurable, unmistakable anger and sorrow.

Chrisler shows the reason behind Alicia's inability to unplug with ferocious impact during a feral moment when the only sounds are screams and the lulling birdsong of the forest. Rodney, meanwhile, is wholly fascinating. He's one of those people who seem to glide with ease through the world: Exceptionally, conventionally beautiful by any measure and wholly at ease with his body. Rodney's issues, Wohl leads us to conclude, aren't necessarily rooted in things that have been done to him but rather things that he has done.

Gerachis' off-stage teacher offers guidance you can find in just about any self-help book you'd care to peruse, but it's not without wisdom. Still, her soothing tranquility cracks as the retreat continues, eventually revealing that enlightenment is always a destination, never a place one actually reaches.

Grimm has one of the toughest assignments as Jan, for reasons that don't become clear until the final moments of the production. There's a short, searing (wordless) moment when he reveals the reason for his stay, a quick shrug that makes up understand precisely what has happened to him. But when the retreat ends and the others grasp in relief at the connective tissue that words provide, Jan remains misunderstood and isolated.

Sound designer Jeffrey Levin fills the space with the alternately soothing and fearsome sounds of untrammeled nature, while Myron Elliott-Cisneros' costumes provide a thousand words (at least) worth of character development.

MUSICAL REVIEW

Women of Soul

Written and directed by: Daryl D. Brooks At: Black Ensemble Theater, 4450 N. Clark St. Tickets: BlackEnsemble.org; \$55-\$65 Runs through: Jan. 27, 2019

BY JEAN ALBRIGHT

If you're in need of music to feed your soul, dance on over to Black Ensemble Theater for Women of Soul (With a Tribute to the Queen), written and directed by Black Ensemble Theater Associate Director Daryl D. Brooks. The queen, of course, is Aretha Franklin.

Most of the singers in this talented ensemble hold up fiercely against the originals. A few knock it out of the auditorium.

Tribute subjects include Mahalia Jackson, Whitney Houston (a fantastic medley to end Act 1), Natalie Cole, Donna Summer, Etta James, Anita Baker, Diana Ross, Janet Jackson, Mavis Staples, Janis Joplin, Jill Scott and Big Mama Thornton. Some numbers are done in full or medley form, others are just a taste of the diagram.

The cast includes Cynthia Carter, Robin DaSilva, Jerica Exum, Hannah Efsits, Dwight Neal, Colleen Perry, Rhonda Preston, Jessica Seals, Aerial Williams and Jayla Williams-Craiq.

The singers play multiple divas, and standout voices include Carter, Seals, Preston, DaSilva and Williams. But they all give their heart—and

soul.

The creative team includes Denise Karczewski (set and lighting design), Aaron Quick (projection design), David Samba (sound), Reuben Echoles (costume design) and Nic Bellanger (technical direction).

The excellent musicians making the show work smoothly are led by musical director/arranger Robert Reddrick (drums). The musicians include Adam Sherod (keyboards), Dolpha Fowler Jr. (keyboard 2), Mark Miller (bass) and Gary Baker (guitar).

The stories told are simple, with just a few facts of the main singers featured, and one could beg to see many more divas from the past. But this is rousing, invigorating show, and a terrific escape in these troubling times.

CRITICS'PICKS (

Flyin' West, American Blues Theater @ Stage 773, through Nov. 3. In all-Black Nicodemus, KS in 1898, four feisty farming women deal with a rogue male. An endearing cast puts over this enjoyable melodrama-comedy blend. JA JA

Blue Man Group, Briar Street Theater, open run. If your nieces and nephews are too old for Bunnicula, but too young for Golden Girls: Bea Afraid, the silent blue men with the splashy drums and oozing vests still conjure some spell-binding spectacle. MSB

Frankenstein, Remy Bumppo Theatre Company at Theater Wit, through Nov. 11. The theater company associated with tidy classics embraces British playwright Nick Dear's visceral interpretation of Mary Shelley's horror masterpiece to deliver what may be the scariest menace ever created by technology gone bad. MSB.

-By Abarbanel and Barnidge



Betty Buckley and Lewis J. Stadlen in Hello, Dolly!

Photo by Julieta Cervantes

THEATER REVIEW

Hello, Dolly! Authors: Jerry Herman and Michael Stewart

Authors: Jerry Herman and Michael Stewart At: Oriental Theatre, 24 W. Randolph St. Tickets: BroadwayInChicago.com; \$27-\$95 Runs through: Nov. 17

BY SEAN MARGARET WAGNER

Broadway in Chicago's touring Hello Dolly! is a gigantic spectacle that has everything a lavish musical needs: rainbow gowns, fleets of impeccably timed dancers, grand set-pieces, perfect pitch, and a gleefully mugging Broadway veteran at the helm. It's perfect; so why does it feel like a bit of cotton candy dissolving in water?

Director Jerry Zaks and choreographer Warren Carlyle have crafted an inoffensive production that takes no risks, has no speaking roles for actors of color, and offers minimal commentary on life in 2018. But if you're mostly on board for one woman's descent down a red carpeted staircase while a chorus of waiters sing her name, you've come to the right place.

It's 1895 and cranky Yonkers half-millionaire Horace Vandergelder (Lewis J. Stadlen), has decided to take a second wife. He consults Dolly Gallagher Levi (Betty Buckley) to arrange the match. Dolly however, would much rather have Horace's estate and fortune to herself. She schemes of ways to introduce him to unsuitable women, woo him and trick a marriage proposal out of him.

To add to the chaos, Dolly has also promised to help artist Ambrose Kemper (Garrett Hawe) to wed Horace's niece Ermengarde (Morgan Kirner), despite her uncle's objections. Oh, and Horace's shop clerks, Cornelius (Nic Rouleau) and Barnaby (Jess LeProtto) have stumbled into the fray, inadvertently tricking a widowed milliner Irene Molloy (AnaLisa Leaming) and her apprentice Minnie Fay (Kristen Hahn) into thinking they are wealthy playboys. Of course there's singing and dancing, that's the point of having an exclamation point in the title, right?

Betty Buckley's Dolly will have you eating out of her hand. She has the beating heart, the soaring vocal, and the comic timing (holding just long enough for those balcony laughs) you've been wanting

Supporting the grand dame are Lewis J. Stadlen, simmering with cartoonish gruff as Vandergelder, and Jess LeProtto speaking volumes with just spinning arms and feet as Barnaby. Nic Rouleau and AnaLisa Leaming flood the mezzanine with perfect vocals as Cornelius and Irene, and Kristen Hahn? Lock up your impressionable comediennes or she will easily inspire a dozen hilarious copycats in Chicago alone.

Make no mistake, this Hello, Dolly! is a testament to what good funding and a ridiculously talented cast can do. But, seeing the safest musical theatre libretto staged with the safest cast only makes you wonder if a more inclusive staging would have made a good production profound. For all this talent and precision, and for the sheer number of costume changes, I wish these artists had something more substantive to say.



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ON



Still searching for (something free, cool and fascinating) to do Halloween? It's final call for **Director's Haven 2018**, Haven Theatre's showcase of early-career directors. Charlotte Drover's directs Madame Rachilde's "horror ballet" The Crystal Spider (pictured above); Airos Sung-En Medill directs Josefina Lopez' Simply Maria and Dani Wieder directs William Inge's People in the Wind. The Haven Theatre production starts at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 31 at the Den Theatre, 1331 N. Milwaukee. Tickers are pay-what-you-can; visit HavenTheatreChicago.com.



Photo by Austin D. Oie





Tenor shines on stage in 'Idomeneo,' finds true love off stage

BY AARON HUNT

David Portillo makes his role debut as Arbace in Mozart's Idomeneo at Lyric Opera of Chicago. The tenor has been out on social media for years, but his interview with Windy City Times marks coming out in the press.

"This is the first time I'm going to be out that isn't a personal, social media-thing. "I'm happy about it. I had a wedding!," the San Antonio native said of his May nuptials to David Lawrence. "I can't imagine spending my life with anybody else. He makes me the kind of person I strive to be," Portillo said. He and Lawrence live in Minneapolis.

Portillo makes his debut as Arbace (running through Nov. 2), but he's no stranger to Chicago: From 2007-10, Portillo—then in his late 20s—was a member of the Lyric's Patrick G. and Shirley W. Ryan Opera Center, a training ground for young singers. Portillo has since returned to the Lyric to sing David in Die Meistersinger, Trin in La fanciulla del West, and Andres in Wozzeck. He returns to the New York's Metropolitan Opera later this season for his debut as the Chevalier de la Force in Dialogues des Carmélites.

The flimsy, fable plot of Idomeneo would be laughable if Mozart hadn't blessed it with his genius: King Idomeneo (played at the Lyric by Matthew Polenzani) makes a pact with Neptune. If Neptune saves Idomeneo from a shipwreck, Idomeneo will kill the first person he sees when safely ashore. Arbace is the king's counselor and confidante.

Known for his portrayals of Mozart's tenor roles (Tamino, Don Ottavio, Ferrando, and Belmonte) Portillo wasn't always sure the role of Arbace would end up in his wheelhouse.

"I saw [a production of Idomeneo] a long time ago with Luciano Pavarotti [as King Idomeneo]. I never dreamed that I was going to be a part of something like this. I thought Arbace had great arias, so I learned it years ago. But when I was

OPERA

younger, I didn't know how to handle its vocal challenges," he said.

"I love this opera. There aren't tunes that you've heard a million times. But there are powerful, beautiful things that sound like the emotions of what's going on onstage; you can just feel the theater in the music," Portillo said.

When Portillo was new to the Ryan Center, he faced both the personal stress of being the closet with his family and the professional stresses of a fledgling opera career.

"When I went home, I could talk to my family about what I was doing professionally but I couldn't talk about why I wasn't bringing anybody home or why I hadn't been on dates. I couldn't share what I was going through with my family," he said.

"My father was a minister, and my mother was the music leader at my church," Portillo said. "They raised us up in the most spirit-filled family. We learned how to sing together, and how to keep a tight-knit community. There's group of people there who are still really close to my mom, and really close to me."

When Portillo came out to his parents at 30, a member of that community helped him through. "I have a really good friend who I grew up with in the church who helped me a lot. He didn't ask me, 'Hey David, are you sure you're not gay?' but instead said, 'Let's hang out and talk about who you are, what you like, what you want for your life.'

"I was held back by my need to make sure my family didn't disown me. Being that age and not having a partner already, they knew, everyone knew. I just had to admit to myself, first and foremost, that that's who I was. (I)t's not a sin,

it is because that's how I was made," he said.

At the Ryan Center, Portillo's professional career flourished. Learning to trust was a crucial part of that.

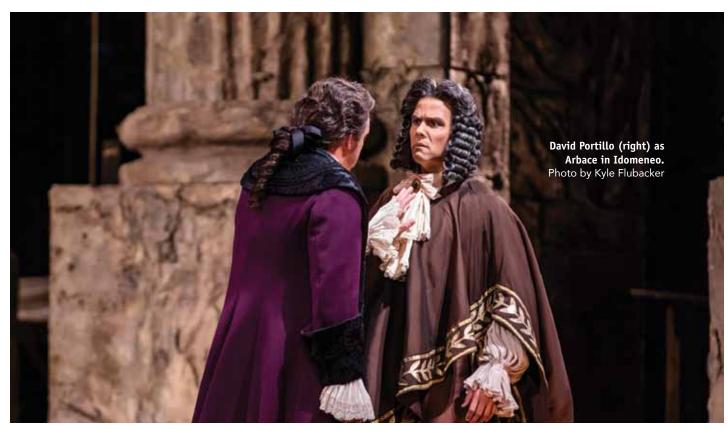
"My first year in the [Ryan Center] program, I remember thinking it's a big season for a young person, but I was very honored to be there. There's a lot of things I could have been better at, and I was hoping to represent myself well.

"By my second year I realized I wasn't going to be given role-assignments I couldn't handle. The biggest lesson I learned was to trust the conductors, coaches, teachers [and] other colleagues to help create the best sort of collaborative experience, which is all this is about, to create something beautiful for the audience."

Like many other industries, the world of opera has been shaken by allegations of sexual harassment and abuse, and criminal investigations into the same. After 40 years at New York's Metropolitan Opera, conductor James Levine was fired in March after allegations that of sexual abuse and harassment. Renowned countertenor David Daniels, who is married to conductor Scott Walters, in currently under investigation by the Houston police department after vocalist Samuel Schultz accused both men of drugging and raping him after a performance at Houston Grand Opera in 2010.

"Gay or straight, being a victim is not a good thing," Portillo said of the scandals and their their potential impact on young singers just entering the field. "I don't think that we should ever allow those who have made bad choices to force us back into the closet, to outshine the community we're creating," he said.

Idomeneo plays at Lyric Opera of Chicago, 20 N. Wacker Dr., through Friday, Nov. 2. Tickets are \$49-\$279 each; call 312-827-5600 or visit LyricOpera.org.



THEATER REVIEW

In the Canyon

Playwright: Calamity West At: Jackalope Theatre at the Broadway Armory, 5719 N. Broadway Tickets: JackalopeTheatre.org; \$30 Runs through: Nov. 25

BY CATEY SULLIVAN

Here's the thing about abortions. Despite what Republicans and many men of all persuasions insist, they don't generally leave women with a lifetime of weeping trauma and regret.

As Calamity West underscores with In the Canyon, the procedure is fast, safe and about a painful as a severe case of menstrual cramps. As Hope (Liz Sharpe) makes clear in the first segment of In the Canyon's five-part, 60-year span, abortion does not result in some baby ghost that haunts you for the rest of your days.

Tellingly, the most traumatic part of Hope's abortion is the ensuing judgment. Sometimes that judgment is merely annoying, as

when her boyfriend (actually, some guy she slept with a few times) has a tantrum because his budget took a hit on account of Hope getting pregnant. Hey, if Hope can afford a post-abortion burrito, why is the boyfriend stuck paying the doctor's bill? And sometimes, as in the not-so-shocking future that In the Canyon imagines, that judgment has far more dire consequences.

For those of us who remember the pre-Roe v. Wade world, Wes's depiction of the future is an entirely inaccurate of the past (or present, depending on where in the world you live). Pre-Roe, abortion could mean prison time—or, all too easily, death.

Starting in 2007, In the Canyon follows Hope and eventually Hope's daughter Wendy (a magnificent Shariba Rivers) through roughly 60 years. Over the decades, the world of Obama becomes the world of Trump and then a world not unlike Margaret Atwood's Gilead.

That a fiftysomething woman could be legally murdered for a legal procedure she had decades earlier seems, on the surface, almost unthinkable But as deftly directed by Elly Green, In the Canyon shows just how the unthinkable becomes normalized.

As that progression unfolds, In the Canyon become alternately exhausting and distressing before ultimately landing in violent ca-

tharsis. It's far better to take the energy you'd spend bemoaning your weariness and use it to actually do something—work a phone bank, canvas for progressive candidates, learn to use a shotgun.

West writes like a vise, slowly tightening the screws until her characters are trapped and her audience is rapt. Sharpe's Hope and Rivers' Wendy provide the ferocity that keeps In the Canyon moving relentlessly from the present into the foreseeable future. But Green's mostly double-cast supporting cast (Paloma Nozicka, Peter Moore, Andrew Swanson, Diego Colón, Helen Joo Lee and Asia Jackson) is ruthlessly effective. You'll know these people, from the annoying roommate to the scarlet-red, evangelizing relatives you really don't want to see at Thanksqiving.

Green's design team use stark visuals to enrich the story and amp up the tension. Cinderblock gray and deceptively simple, William Boles' set morphs from apartment to prison cell to frontier outpost with grace and efficacy. Shain Longbehn's sound and projection design gives the production a gritty, kinetic, cinematic feel.

West is far too gifted to preach or hammer the obvious, endless hypocrisies of the anti-choice, "Christian" right. Those points come through with insidious, chilling banality, especially when Hope gets together with her family in the wake of the 2017 election.

THEATER REVIEW

Master Class

Playwright: Terrence McNally At: TimeLine Theatre Company, Stage 773, 1225 W. Belmont Ave. Tickets: 773-327-5252; TimelineTheatre.com; \$42.50-\$56.50 Runs through: Dec. 9

BY KERRY REID

Terrence McNally first wrote about Maria Callas in 1989's The Lisbon Traviata, in which "La Divina" is the shared obsession for a group of gay men. By 1995, he put Callas front and center in Master Class, based on open-to-the-public sessions Callas conducted for Juilliard students in the early 1970s. The play has drawn stage legends such as Zoe Caldwell, Patti LuPone and Tyne Daly to the role.

Add to that list Janet Ulrich Brooks, whose performance as Callas in TimeLine's current revival is not to be missed. What's astonishing about Brooks' take on the role is that she, like McNally's Callas herself, knows exactly how to calibrate her performance for both her fellow actor/students and for we the audience as she slides from generosity to bitterness and back again.

Although McNally's script provides melodramatic reveries as Callas recalls her unhappy love life (first with a husband much older than she and then with Greek shipping tycoon Aristotle Onassis), Nick Bowling's staging and Brooks' smart intense performance never devolve into cheap histrionics. As Brooks' Callas—long retired but still capable of throwing shade on other singers, such as Joan Sutherland—takes a trio of students through their vocal paces, she's also taking us through her own development as an artist and a woman.

Essentially, she's trying to find bits of herself in each of her students—from sweet ingenue soprano Sophie (Molly Hernandez), who improbably insists that she too is "fiery," to smug tenor Tony (Eric Anthony Lopez), to formidable diva-in-waiting Sharon (Keirsten Hodgens). It's the latter, so upset by her first encounter with Callas' caustic side that she runs offstage to vomit, who finally calls out the mentor. "You want to make the world dangerous for everyone, just because it was for you," she accuses. (All three are excellent, but Hodgens' delivery of the letter aria from Verdi's Macbeth is stunning.)

Is it a fair cop? The beauty of McNally's script and this



Janet Ulrich Brooks as Maria Callas in Master Class.Photo by Lara Goetsch

production is that it takes no sides. Callas is right to note that too many of us are "looking for an easy way out." Her insistence that her students really listen to the music and do their homework is spot-on—singing is a form of acting. And yet, despite saying that the classes aren't about her ("Poof! I'm invisible!"), inevitably every encounter Brooks' Callas has with the students strips away part of them as well as herself, leaving them exposed and vulnerable. Is she there to help them, or is she more interested in making them—and us—see her as more than a fading legend?

There are plenty of operatic in-jokes here, but like Arnel Sancianco's handsome-but-austere rehearsal room set, those are just the backdrop for a story that could be about any powerful woman mourning her lost gifts and lost loves, yet still struggling to make herself heard.

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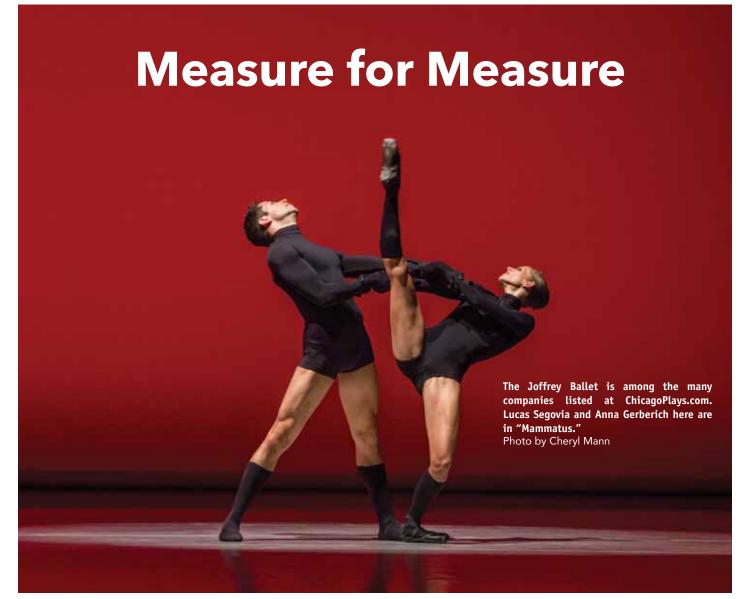
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ABOUT FACE



26 Oct. 31, 2018 WINDY CITY TIMES



BY JONATHAN ABARBANEL

As part of its newly expanded arts coverage, Windy City Times is resuming Measure for Measure, a monthly digest of news about classical music in Chicago that first appeared in 2000 but has been on hiatus for several years.

The name references both Shakespeare and a musical score. Of course, a great deal of work in this category is thoroughly modern and contemporary, and we doubt anyone will mistake Philip Glass for Johann Sebastian Bach. What we mean by classical music is work derived from historic formal structures such as trio sonatas, fugues or operas, as well as musical organizations that keep the classical tradition alive. This writer is old enough to remember when it was called longhair music, in the era before the Beatles changed male hairstyles forever.

Even those who are thoroughly up-to-speed about things symphonic, operatic, choral and chamber may be unaware that one of the best information and ticketing sources for classical music events is the League of Chicago Theatres website, ChicagoPlays.com. For some years now, the League membership has been expanding to include classical music and dance organizations,

not only theater companies, and the result is a website with extensive listings of performing arts goings-on.

Last week, the site had several dozen listings/ links for dance, classical music and opera representing both major organizations—such as the Joffrey Ballet, Harris Theater for Music and Dance, Lyric Opera, Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Pick-Staiger Hall and Chicago Opera Theater—plus many smaller groups such as Rembrandt Chamber Musicians, Lira Ensemble, the Gilbert & Sullivan Opera Company and Petite Opera Productions. Filters allow you to access info by city or 'burbs and select a time period from today to 30 days out. There's also a link (bottom of the page) to Hot Tix, the League's half-price ticket program. These listings are for last-minute or this-weekend performances, with classical music, opera and dance listings appearing from time to time, so it's your go-to place if you are flexible and want to save

As we scrolled through the League's music and opera listings, Petite Opera Productions (POP) caught our attention, initially because we weren't familiar with it and then because of POP's slogan, "Saving Opera Heroines From Certain Death." The troupe's website pledges to "take the stuffy out

of opera" with small-scale productions in English and an emphasis on comedy. Seems POP was formed in 2009 by three classically trained vocalist comedians.

POP's Nov. 3-18 production of Mozart's Don Giovanni seems to typify what they are all about. They are calling it Don Giovanni #MeToo, and debuting a completely new English translation that updates the story to modern Hollywood where Donny G. is a producer and Leo Porello is his fixer-lawyer and Donna Anna is a starlet. All performances are at the Mary Wilson House Beyer Auditorium of St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Park Ridge. Info/tickets: PetiteOpera.org

The violins made by Antonio Stradivari are the most famous in the world, but those made by Giuseppe Guarneri (1698-1744) are nearly as renowned and held by many to be equally superlative or better (a darker tone, some say). His name has been given a modest re-birth in Chicago's newest chamber music venue, Guarneri Hall, a performance space seating 85 at 11 E. Adams St., third floor. The venue, which opened Oct. 23, is acoustically engineered and equipped (lighting, audio, video) for live performances, recording and webcasting, including a three-camera high-definition video capture system and rear

MUSIC

projection capabilities. It's available for rentals. (Contact Executive Director Barbara Goff.)

It's operated by a non-profit concern, Guarneri Hall NFP, which promotes music education by offering live performances at Guarneri Hall and elsewhere in Chicago and by sponsoring music education programs aimed at young people with limited access to classical music. For example, Guarneri Hall events are live streamed via https://guarnerihall.org. The next live event at Guarneri Hall is a January 30 tribute to the 200th birthday of Clara Schuman, in which pianist Orion Weiss joins chamber music ensemble Frankly Music in works by both Clara and husband Robert Schuman.

When I was a kid growing up in Highland Park, the high school auditorium became the venue several times a year for classical music concerts featuring professional recitalists or chamber music ensembles. I remember a family friend—who was a clarinetist and a wag—once sent a note backstage to a pianist requesting The Muskrat Ramble as an encore. Obviously, Highland Park classical music (beyond Ravinia) has come a long way as the Highland Park Strings celebrates its 40th anniversary season.

Founded in 1979 by Lawrence Block (still coprincipal cellist), the Strings is a full chamber orchestra of advanced amateur players and young professionals tackling the symphonic repertory as well as chamber works. For the 40th season, the Strings is offering three free concerts (all Strings concerts are free), with the next one on Dec. 2 featuring works by Bach, Vivaldi, Saint-Saens and Schubert, under the baton of principal conductos Dr. Robert G. Hasty. The concerts still are at the Highland Park High School auditorium. More info is at HighlandParkStrings.org. FYI: The 2018-19 season also is the 150th anniversary of Highland Park itself, the successor town to Port Clinton and originally home to Potawatomi Native American settlements.

Nov. 11 is the 100th anniversary of Armistice Day (now Veterans Day), which brought World War I to an end, and a number of arts-related events will mark the occasion. Perhaps none will be grander or more evocative than the concert presented by the Rembrandt Chamber Musicians, "War and the Human Heart," which will combine a chamber orchestra, chorus, film, and live narration in a moving performance that honors the experience of war for every veteran, past or present. Rembrandt Chamber Musicians will be joined by the Valparaiso University Chorale, the Valparaiso University Bach Choir in works by Beethoven, Strauss, Holst, Schumann, and others under conductor Craig Jessop (former director of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir). The concert date actually is Nov. 10, at St. James Cathedral on the Near North Side. Info/tickets: RembrandtChamberPlayers.org

Veteran theater critic Jonathan Abarbanel has written extensively over the years about classical music for the Lerner Papers, Lyric Opera of Chicago and Virgin Records. He created the original Measure for Measure column in 2000.



Political apathy has dire consequences for everyone, but especially for marginalized groups who bear the brunt of draconian conservative policies and police shootings.

So when a white gay activist confronts his mild-mannered Black boyfriend's lack of political engagement, love becomes very tricky, indeed.

This is the crux of the Chicago premiere of This Bitter Earth, produced by About Face Theatre. Written by Harrison David Rivers, (winner of the McKnight Fellowship for Playwrights, a Jerome Foundation Many Voices Fellowship, an Emerging Artist of Color Fellowship, a Van Lier Fellowship and the New York Stage & Film's Founders Award) and directed by Mikael Burke, (winner of a 2017 Princess Grace Award Winner in Theatre and a recipient of the 2012 Robert D. Beckmann Emerging Artist Fellowship)—both Black queer men in interracial relationships—this non-linear love story follows two men who meet at a Black Lives Matter rally and explores the ways their relationship changes over the years, affected by the shifting political tenor of the United States.

Although not autobiographical, playwright Harrison David Rivers calls This Bitter Earth "the most personal of my plays." The play originated thanks to a commission from Ed Decker at the New Conservatory Theatre, seeking work that centered on Blacks in this country. After several drafts, a seminal moment in the development of the work occurred when Rivers realized that many of the characteristics of his own life were rarely portrayed onstage. This prompted him to begin writing from the heart, realizing that if he felt this way, others must as well.

Most of Rivers' work is about queer relationships, and This Bitter Earth is reflective of his mission to portray the specific dynamics of those relationships and the way that the world inter-

THEATER

acts with Black men with nuance. Although both characters in the play hold wildly different views on activism, Rivers deeply identifies with both. The Black character Jesse prefers to stand outside of the political maelstrom, often feeling as if he doesn't have anything to say, or feeling reluctant to place his body within the action.

As these emotions began to hit close to home, Rivers realized that the action of writing This Bitter Earth was indeed powerful activism. Neil, the white character, inspires passion and engagement, and is informed by Rivers view that true activism is showing up for your community when they need you. One need not always be a leader on the front lines, but one must be there somehow; in the group or behind the scenes.

For many years, Rivers didn't believe his writing was political. On the surface, his play And She Would Stand Like this is simply a retelling of The Trojan Women by Euripides. Yet through his lens of Black and Brown bodies moving through the world, the work is clearly political and prescient. Staged as members of a diverse family receiving a mysterious unnamed diagnosis, the varied reaction of the hospital staff to each family member comments on the way that marginalized groups interface with large and powerful organizations in healthcare and beyond.

This story, as does much of his work, is an extension of the experiences that the LGBTQ community is having—specifically those surrounding HIV/AIDS. Alarmingly, awareness seems to be dropping in importance, especially in communities of color where the disease is still decimating large numbers and healthcare is sorely lacking.

Rivers said he's excited to have This Bitter Earth staged with About Face Theatre, a company that has a reputation for championing challenging work by queer voices. His personal mandate is not only to shed light on these issues, but to make sure that his stories are the most deeply and thoroughly human he can possibly create, not steeped in stereotype like so many. In his plays, his characters can express love, anger, sadness and all of the emotions that makes us real in the deepest possible way.

As a child, Burke was fascinated with building worlds. He would assemble his toys by first following the directions, then dismantling them and reimagining them in his own unique way. Today Burke's work is highly imagistic, and his propensities for deconstruction and reconstruction pushed him into this field. He originally started undergrad in music, then switched to theatre halfway through.

As he worked to translate This Bitter Earth from page to stage he queried the experiences of each man in the play. Being a queer Black man in an interracial relationship comes with a particular set of complications, and each character has different coping methods. One strong underlying theme involved love and trust—in personal and broader terms.

In a world where people are bombarded with images of Black bodies enduring pain daily, Black folx can find it hard to trust that white people have their best interests at heart. Work-

THEATER REVIEW

Radio Culture

Authors: Maxim Dosko, Natalia Fedorova and Amber Robinson At: TUTA Theatre, 4670 N. Manor Ave. Tickets: TUTATheatre.org; \$20-\$30 Runs through: Dec. 2

BY SEAN MARGARET WAGNER

TUTA Theatre has concocted one of the most tightly packed, powerful theater experiences from source material that should be the opposite.

Radio Culture, by Maxim Dosko (translated by Natalia Fedorova and Amber Robinson), stems from the eastern European "New Drama" movement, hyper-focused on the normalcy we all exhibit. Director Amber Robinson has wisely avoided embellishments with the understanding that a page from this central character's life will be more than enough.

It's 2013 and Volodya (Kevin V. Smith) is terribly alone. He is not an eloquent person, nor is he a charming person. He is prone to anxiety and insecurity; he structures his waking hours so that he can withdraw into the hum of a Belarusian national radio program everyone else thinks is old fashioned. The compartments of his life are un-touching and sterile, and it affords him ample time in the company of his endless mundane



Kevin V. Smith in Radio Culture. Photo by Austin D. Oie

thoughts.

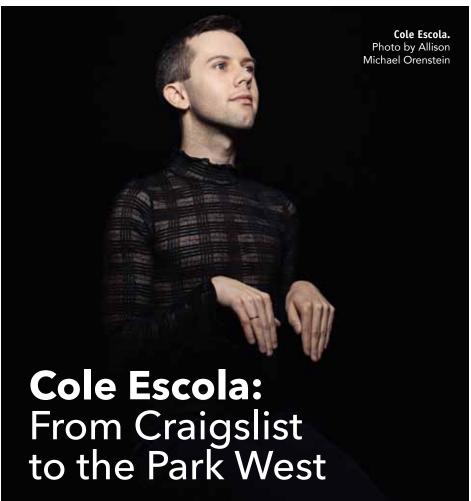
Lucky for us, we can hear every single one; his observance over the men on his construction site that are prone to drink (Huy Nguyen and Wain Parham), his dislike of counterfeit jeans and raisin bread, if he should get his mother a plot of land or a meat grinder for her birthday. He doesn't spare us a single detail, and it feels fa-

miliar and foreign at the same time.

His thoughts are so specific they become universal, and so trivial, they encompass whole lives. It's no mistake that we've reached Volodya on this day, when his tether to a quiet existence is down to some measly strands and all the normally comforting things can't walk him back from the verge of tears. "It's not normal to worry so much," he says and fixates so hard on keeping his life pristine, that it gives way to an unspoken concern that his thirtysome years of work has been a waste.

Smith is still and calm as Volodya, and seems to have his eyes on everyone, including the workmen on his site, and the Chicagoans fidgeting in their seats. He is purposeful and serious, exhibiting the precise judgments he levies on the people who are not there—and you can't help but wonder what he must think of you. Huy Nguyen and Wain Parham join him very tangentially as Dimon and Serjogin, mostly silent, and staring in what could be menace, but really is just a vast unknown. Volodya assumes Dimon and Serjogin are comprised of nothing but disdain and apathy, so we do too, until we are afforded a glimpse behind the curtain.

That's the thing: Volodya may be terribly alone—but so are all of us, and it's a profound experience to hear an internal voice that is not your own.



BY LAUREN EMILY WHALEN

The home page of Cole Escola's website features an irreverent commercial parody. Decked out in a brunette wig, pink lipstick and a sensible pastel plaid button-down, Escola plays a stay-at-home mom who breezily describes her devotion to her children before outlining a dark path of ruin involving cocaine, guns and hiding out in Phoenix—all while pulling cookies out of the oven. The product the commercial is advertising? Orange juice with less sugar, much healthier for the kids she abandoned for two weeks.

This is trademark Escola: darkly oddball situational humor, available at the click of a mouse.

The college dropout turned YouTube star, whose TV credits include Mozart in the Jungle and At Home With Amy Sedaris, will bring his touring solo sketch show Help! I'm Stuck! to Chicago's Park West on Sunday, Nov. 4.

"The [show's] title has nothing to do with anything. I just thought it was funny," Escola, 31, said via phone from his home in New York. "I play multiple characters, but there's [someone] offstage reading all the other parts. I do all the costumes and wig changes onstage, so I'm in my underwear a lot. Take your seasick medication before you get there."

Known for his original comedy shorts on You-Tube and A.V. Club and in Paste Magazine, Escola has also earned acclaim from The New York Times. His live shows sell out throughout the country.

Not bad for someone who once ate body butter. After dropping out of Marymount Manhattan for

COMEDY

financial reasons ("they wouldn't let me take out any more loans, which looking back is a godsend because I don't have any debt!"), Escola opted not to return to his hometown of Clatskanie, Oregon, population 1,500. However, playing Clifford the Big Red Dog at the Scholastic Bookstore couldn't pay the rent, so Escola eventually went back, noshing cosmetics en route.

"I was on a bus to Oregon for three days," Escola said, "and I had no money and no food. I had some body butter from The Body Shop and I was like, 'it says Vitamin E! The ingredients look natural!' It was a dark time."

After living on his mother's couch for three months "with an application for community college on the coffee table that I never filled out," Escola heard from a friend in New York who had a room to rent. He set a new goal. "If I [went] back, I needed to have time for myself to do something creative, and I also needed money to get by."

With that, Escola returned to New York and turned to sex work.

"I called myself 'the laziest prostitute," he said, laughing. "At that point, I was 22 and very inexperienced with gay sex in my personal life, so I had a long list of things that I wouldn't do." Despite his inexperience, and with the help of a Craigslist-savvy friend, Escola slowly built up a client list while working part-time at a vegan bakery. "That covered my rent," he said, "but

food or going out money or whatever, that was all through sex work."

His former job, Escola said, "has been on my mind lately because of Stormy Daniels. We're so happy to have her when she has something we want, but [we're] not very respectful of sex workers in general, especially trans sex workers and sex workers of color that have been murdered. I was lucky, and maybe I was also stupid, because I never felt endangered."

Sex work's flexible schedule and extra income enabled Escola to write and star in low-budget comedy videos with friend Jeffery Seif. The videos gained a following, which led to live shows in New York. In 2009, the Logo television network gave the duo their own sketch show, Jeffery & Cole Casserole.

"We shot on a Mac through the fish-eye lens [and] edited it on iMovie, and the sound was awful," Escola said. "Nobody watched it, but we got to say we had a show on TV."

Meanwhile, Escola built up a name in the local and national comedy scenes, which led to his role as flamboyantly gay waiter and aspiring actor Matthew on the Hulu original series Difficult People.

"I happened to be in LA when they were doing a table read," said Escola, who also wrote for the show in its second and third seasons. "I knew Julie [Klausner] through the alt-comedy, downtown cabaret scene here in New York, and I was a fan of hers for years before that," he said of the series creator and star. Though Klausner could only guarantee him exposure to producers, Escola was cast as Matthew immediately after reading.

Escola described his time on the snarky buddy comedy as "a dream," especially playing off of "incredibly sweet and supportive" costar Billy Eichner, who also made a name through online videos and low-budget TV series, and Gabourey Sidibe, who played Matthew's boss and best friend. "I was so nervous because like, Oscar nominee! But it just felt like summer camp."

Since Difficult People's cancellation in 2017, Escola has shot more episodes of Mozart and Sedaris—in the latter, he plays Amy's nosy female neighbor Chassie—as well as a guest spot on the TBS comedy-noir series Search Party. He's also producing a pilot directed by fashion designer Todd Oldham called (wait for it) Pee Pee Manor.

"It's about a woman trying to start her life over as a real estate agent...and in order to get the job, she has to sell this dilapidated haunted mansion," Escola said. "There are flashbacks to people who have died in Pee Pee Manor, all played by me, and I play the woman as well."

Although Escola has carved out a niche for himself—"old show queen" flair crossed with dark millennial sensibility—and accrued an impressive resumé, one of his proudest accomplishments is a mention on his hometown's Wikipedia page.

"Raymond Carver and I are both listed as notable people of Clatskanie," Escola said with pride. "And I did not add myself!"

"Cole Escola: Help! I'm Stuck!" will play at the Park West, 322 W. Armitage Ave., on Sunday, Nov. 4, at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$20; visit ParkWestChicago.com.

For more about Escola, visit ColeEscola.com.

Wachowskis to sell Chicago studio space BY MATT SIMONETTE

Lilly and Lana Wachowski—transgender sibling filmmakers behind the Matrix trilogy and the lesbian-themed thriller Bound—are attempting to sell their Ravenswood Avenue studio space, Crain's Chicago Business reported Oct. 22.

The Chicago-based filmmakers' familyowned firm, Kinoworks, is listing the 21,500 square-foot facility for just under \$5 million; the listing is with Brad Lippitz, of Compass.

The filmmakers, whose work also includes the Netflix series Sense 8, generally film their live-action material in Berlin and do pre- and post-production work in Chicago, according to Crain's. They have been in the current North Side facility since 2007 and had no new productions following the Sense 8's production closing.

The Crain's article is at https://www.chi-cagobusiness.com/commercial-real-estate/matrix-filmmakers-listing-chicago-studio-building.

LGBTQIA policy handbook out

The Routledge Handbook of LG-BTQIA Administration and Policy, with Wallace Swan as editor, is now available.

It is the first book to utilize up-to-the-minute empirical data to examine "post-



factual" changes affecting traditional assumptions of LGBTQ public-policy development.

Established scholars and rising stars lend their perspectives to issues of broad interest—including homelessness, bisexuality, transgender rights, health care, immigration, substance abuse, senior care, youth and higher-education issues, resilience, international LGBTQ policy and more.

Montgomery Clift films at Siskel in Nov.

Showcasing noted filmmakers and actors, the Gene Siskel Film Center of the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, 164 N. State St., celebrates gay icon Montgomery Clift as part of its November Spotlight along with Hal Ashby, Ingmar Bergman and Buster Keaton.

Among the Clift movies are the documentary Making Montgomery Clift (Nov. 2-5) as well as the films I Confess (Nov. 2, 4) and A Place in the Sun (Nov. 3, 6), which co-stars Elizabeth Taylor.

More details and showtimes can be found at SiskelFilmCenter.org/montgomeryclift.

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CELEBRATIONS

Wanda B, Stephanie Green renew vows after 25 years

On Oct. 12, Wanda B—found of the social club Stud ("Solidarity, Trustworthiness, Understanding and Dependability") 4 Life—and wife/First Lady Stephanie Green renewed their vows after being together for 25 years.

The event took place at Grand Ballroom, 6351 S. Cottage Grove Ave.

According to Wanda, the event "was elegant, filled with a room of nothing but love, family and friends." There were more than 200 guests. Rev. Sam Davis officiated, with Jeanette Spencer as the photographer.

This is a special year for the couple—and not just because of the anniversary. According to Wanda, their first grandbaby is on the way, and she added, "The ceremony was emotional, seeing my wife walk toward me; we then made up our own vows, which I was told had everyone crying. Our marriage shows we can do this in the LGBTQ family."

Photos courtesy of Wanda B









Festival celebrates queer punk rock for people of color



BY VERNON HESTER

On Oct. 20, the Black, Brown, and Indigenous Collection presented the 2018 edition of "Will It Explode?," an annual festival celebrating queer punk rock for people of color.

The festival featured afternoon workshops such as "Punk and Zines: Self Publishing for Our Movement" and "Decolonizing Punk Rock: Understanding Indigenous Identity," and a concert in the evening featuring six bands who played everything from electronica to rap to hardcore punk. The line-up of artists and bands for the night included Megiapa, Mermaid N.V., The Breathing





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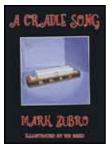
Light, K.E.N., Moleajete and Blacker Face. The event took place at DIY space Caliwaukee North.

The Black, Brown, and Indigenous Punk Show Collective and its festival support communities of color through art, activism and fundraising and work to challenge oppressive attitudes in DIY scenes and spaces, especially against LGBTQ individuals. The beneficiary of this year's festival was Chi-Nations Youth Counci, a local youth-led Native American organization that focuses on environmental and social justice.



Left, above: Jolene Whatevr of Blacker Face and her friend, Johnny. Left, below: Rapper K.E.N. Above: Jorge of Maleajete.

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A Cradle Song: Part Three

WRITTEN BY MARK ZUBRO; ILLUSTRATED BY W.S. REED

A Cradle Song, written by Mark Zubro and illustrated by W.S. Reed, debuts in the Windy City Times as the new holiday classic. Filled with travail and woe, warmth and great joy, it is a story for the ages. It will appear in ten installments from October 17 to

December 19 and will also be available for gift giving as an e-book and as a paperback. For the true joy and meaning of the season, this is the book you want to read.

Today A Cradle Song: Part Three.

Chapter Two: Matthew Part Two

Then one day in his wanderings, Matthew had found a hospital. Ill people coughed and shuffled in a huge gray room with dark plastic chairs. The people in uniforms seemed very busy.

Just as he got to the front of the line, the emergency room doors crashed open. Bleeding and screaming people had rushed in

Matthew had been lost in the cacophony. Desperate people who had accompanied the screeching and dying patients had shoved him aside. One moment, as he'd been trying to inch out of the way, he was knocked over by one of the gurneys as it dashed by.

He'd picked himself up and found a corner to huddle in. He'd watched from there as the rush to heal flowed past. To him, his vigil seemed to last forever. While sitting in his corner, he'd fallen asleep. He'd awoken as another shrieking ambulance pulled in.

Matthew had given up and left. At least, he'd been warm while he'd waited and watched.

Each night huddled in his own narrow space, his mind swirled in confusion and worry. Fortunately, he had some blankets from his own home. Often, he'd pile all his clothes around him and he'd be warm as he leaned himself against the warmth of his wall.

Matthew most often fell asleep to the memory of his father. He'd loved it when his dad would sit on the side of his bed and sing songs in his deep voice. No matter what the problems of the day or how tired his dad was, he'd had time for a song for his son. The comfort of those memories were some of the few that Matthew could cling to. When he had those, he slept almost as well as he did when they were a reality.

Matthew would give anything for one more song just like he remembered.

Chapter Three: Luke

At the war, Matthew's dad was a medic. His name was Luke. In their town, he'd worked part-time in a bakery. He'd cleaned and toiled. Somedays, he brought home day-old bread. On rare days, he returned with a sweet treat that he and his family shared. At night, he'd studied to be a medic. He had more years to go before he'd get official certifications.

Like all wars, no one was sure who to blame. Someone started it, and someone was angry. Lots of people shouted and cheated and lied. The ordinary people in the gunsights of the enemy were always the ones who suffered the most. Some of those who died were fighters in uniforms. Others were civilians huddled in hovels or caught in the crosshairs as they rushed from building to building, sometimes missing life and safety by inches.

Some months before winter, in an obscure corner of the nearly forgotten war, Luke huddled in the camp as near to the fire as he dared. Not too close, as that would make him a target. Few remembered or thought of those who fought but that didn't make any difference to the bullets and bombs. Forgotten or remembered, they were just as deadly.

That evening, Luke stayed with a wounded child who was a stranger to him, a local who hadn't run fast enough or soon enough. As he treated the boy, he thought of his son and his wife and daughter. Memories of them were all that permitted hope to enter his heart. Luke put pressure on the wound to stop the bleeding, which eased off. The child had a fever, so Luke gave him some drugs from the emergency kit. They were low on all kinds of medicine, and he had to use them sparingly.

Planes and helicopters roamed the sky and buzzed overhead. From the surrounding hillsides and heavens above, gifts of death rained on him and his friends and foes alike. Their lethal, random choices of who lived or died wore down the spirits of the bravest.

Luke was an ill-trained medic trying to

keep people alive. Local people, members from all branches of the military, sometimes battered and torn bodies from both sides showed up. He fixed them all as best he could to get them on to the doctors in hospitals in the rear. Sometimes, he held their hands as they spoke their last words. Every day, when he awoke, he wondered if this would be the day someone would be holding his hand as he breathed his last.

Every minute he thought of his wife, his little son and daughter, left behind when he had no choice but to go.

He slept between bomb blasts which meant that some nights he never slept at all, but he always tried to do his weary best to make the woundeds' pain and suffering go away, or at least, become less.

He wrote letters home, but now they came back unopened. He'd begged for leave, but they said the military needed him. He'd tried to go over his commander's head, so he'd become known as a troublemaker. That had caused his commander to send him to the most dangerous parts of the war.

Luke didn't dare try to go AWOL. If his side didn't catch him, the other most likely would. He knew they would kill him for sure. Even if he got away, he had oceans and continents to cross. He couldn't just walk home.

Then the most horrible day had come. He'd been captured by the enemy.

The day had started in misery and ended in horror.

He'd been scraping together bits for breakfast for the wounded in the dim morning light. The drizzle when he woke had turned to rain.

He'd heard a few distant bombs go off, but they seemed far away. Then wild shouts broke out. People began to run in all directions. Then the gunfire went mad followed by a continuous bombardment. He ran to help the wounded, but they died faster than he could work. Ages of hours crawled past.

Bits of blood and brain, bone and flesh flew past him. Spatters of he dared not think what dotted his uniform. Sorrow and anger for the folly and stupidity of war filled his heart.

As he tried to staunch the wounds and ease the pain, in his deepest heart he held onto compassion, gentleness, and the memory of his family.

The surrounding horror fueled by folly and stupidity might kill or maim him, but it would not take his soul. Hatred and enmity might triumph for the moment, but he would not let it erase who he was.

Compassion, empathy, and gentleness filled his heart for their suffering. The men, women, and children he treated would know at least something of the good of being human.

As the light of the gloom-filled day began to fade, he'd felt a searing pain in his left leg a few inches below his knee. He saw his pants were torn. Flecks of blood dotted the tear.

There was no one to examine him. He'd examined himself. It wasn't a deep wound. He'd put on a few dabs of antiseptic inside it, and as clean a bandage as he could find to cover it. He suspected it wasn't serious. He didn't take anything for the pain as he knew others far more seriously wounded needed the medicine more than he.

Luke had gone back to work. The terror of the assault and the rush of people to mend had, for a time, caused him to forget his own pain.

Then late that night, the enemy made their most fierce attack.

Chapter Four: Matthew

Every day, Matthew made a journey. In the time after his mom and sister had been taken away, his life had become a ritual of hiding and running and sneaking and starving and being thirsty.

At first, he was successful in going to their old apartment. He'd wait across the street behind some trash cans. Eventually, the landlord would leave for at least several hours. He'd use their old place to take care of himself. The food had quickly gone bad, but he could keep himself clean, and be warm for a little while until he braced

himself to go out into the city to hunt for his mom and sister.

Once the landlord had come back early and almost caught Matthew. That time, the boy had run out the back door and through the alley. That was the day he'd been chased and found his current hovel.

He was more careful after that. To avoid the landlord, he crept into every nook and cranny and around every corner. Then one day, a month or so later, Matthew's key hadn't worked. So he had to find new places to spend the hours of daylight.

The adults in the city ignored him. A few tried to hurt him. Now, if any of them approached him, he ran.

He wanted to be clean and go to the bathroom. He knew if he went to the same places day after day, he'd be noticed so he tried to vary his route as best he could.

Different all-night laundromats were the best. Sometimes, he found an old gas station, or a coffee house, or the library. He'd find his way to the bathroom when no one was looking. He'd wash his face, neck, and ears the way his mom and dad taught him. He really wanted to take a bath or a shower, but he didn't know where to do that. He'd use the soap in the dispenser. He'd wipe off the damp with paper towels when they had them. When he could, he'd use the electric machines that made so much noise when they blew hot air.

Matthew hid in rubble and dirt and soot. Most times at night, he shivered. He wished he could change his clothes. Over time, he'd learned to sleep in all he owned instead of piling them all around him as he had in the beginning.

He'd accumulated a few things besides the blankets from his home. They had been bulky and heavy and hard to carry down the many streets and turns to his hovel. In his wanderings, he'd even found a few more that were threadbare and worn. At night, he spread them out and then folded and stacked them over himself as best he could.

He knew if his daddy was around, he would make everything all right.

But his daddy was gone. And now his mom and his sister were too.

Over time, he'd developed a pattern which he changed as often as possible so people wouldn't catch him and ask questions. On different days, he'd make different stops. He had to be alert and wary. He didn't know which adults would be kind or cruel, which might mean him harm. He knew about stranger danger.

Some days, he could sneak into the subway system. He followed some homeless adults at a distance and found places where they managed to squeeze in underground.

It was warmer and drier, but Matthew was afraid to stay underground too long. Someone could see him, or take him, or try to harm him. He saw homeless adults fighting. A few tried to take what little money he had managed to beg or scrounge.

If he stayed on a bus or on the subway, he knew to be careful to keep close to, but not be part of a crowd. If a bus driver or train conductor or security guard saw him too often and unaccompanied, they might get suspicious and ask questions. So he couldn't sit too long and not by himself.

He tried to enter and exit with a crowd and linger near others so a casual observer would think he was with someone.

He got most of his water from a bubbler in the park. As it got colder, he sometimes had to crack the thin ice that had formed in the night. The water always tasted good and fresh. In the park, the trees were barren. He gathered bunches of the fallen leaves and took them to his hiding place. He found that the more of them he could stuff between himself and the ground, the warmer he would be.

He knew that during school hours, he couldn't go out as much. And scrounging at night was better anyway. Fewer people to avoid, more shadows to hide in. Also, it was better to sleep when the sun was out. The heat of the day helped. At night, he could keep moving to help him get warm.

On the streets, he'd seen some awful things. One day, he'd been approaching a trash basket on a corner. Two men had been hunting through it at the same time. At the same instant, they both grabbed onto a sandwich bag. They began shouting at each other and snatching at the bag. The bag ripped. The contents spilled out. One struck out at the other and then they were a flurry of arms and legs and shouts. Then they rolled on the ground as they cursed and fought.

People had stood by and watched. When the police finally came, they snatched and yanked and pulled on them as roughly as they'd been fighting with each other. One of the combatants tried to bite a policeman. He got clubbed unconscious for that. At the end, the officers dragged each of the combatants away.

After they were gone and the crowd had dispersed, Matthew had walked by the scene. He saw drops of blood on the pavement. He could see the contents of the bag, several moldy pieces of bread covered in crawling ants.

Another day, he'd watched a robbery. Ahead of him on the street, he'd seen an old woman walking with a cane. Two men rushed past Matthew and shoved her to the ground. They grabbed her purse and ran. Matthew had hurried to the woman. Several people joined him. They helped her up. She shook them off and snarled at them.

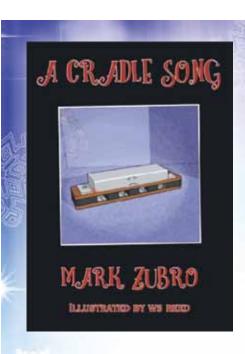
She'd complained and cried. She didn't want the police. Matthew had walked away mystified. He wanted to help. She needed it, but rejected all those who held out their hands or offered kind words.

Matthew didn't understand people very well.

Such incidents made him even more cautious. When he picked through trash cans, he kept careful watch on his surroundings. When he walked on the streets, he kept keen eyes out on the people around him. He was wary of the streets, but he had to eat.

Matthew was ashamed when he begged for money. He saw other kids doing it. Bigger kids. He avoided them. If he had anything, they would take it. Sometimes, they hurt him. He learned to run. And he could go very fast, but he wasn't a very big kid. So, he had to be extra vigilant.

End of part three. Part four coming next week



"A Cradle Song is my very favorite of Mark Zubro's books. Tender, full of insight and love, it made me cry—but they were happy tears."

—**Jeanne M. Dams,** author of the Dorothy Martin mysteries

"A Cradle Song is a wonderful, heartwarming story, and just right for Christmas. Open this present and enjoy!"

—Barbara D'Amato, author of the Cat Marsala series and the recent Other Eyes

A Cradle Song will be available soon as an ebook and as a paperback online and from **Unabridged Bookstore** in Chicago and **Outwords Books** in Milwaukee.

Mark Zubro is the author of thirty-six books and seven short stories. He has won the Lambda Literary award for A Simple Suburban Murder and been nominated eight other times. All are available as ebooks and most as paperbacks online or at Unabridged Bookstore in Chicago and Outwords Books in Milwaukee.

MOVIE REVIEW

'Suspiria' casts suspicion on the artistic mindset

BY BRIAN KIRST

It's 1977, and Berlin is still divided by eastern and western borders.

Lufthansa Flight 181, with several prominent Germans onboard, has been hijacked by the Commando Martyr Halima and the country is still bowing under the weight of the evils that many of its providing fathers had committed in World War II. This is the real-life, emotionally combative setting in which Academy Award-nominated director Luca Guadagnino has placed his reimagining of Dario Argento's popular, fantastical horror film Suspiria.

Keeping with this more naturalistic mood, Guadagnino replaces the rich, vibrant blues and reds of Argento's fairy-tale vision with earthier strands of green, brown and white. This muted landscape is also reflected in Thom Yorke's (Radiohead) soft score and keeps the Mennonite countryside, wherein heroine Suzy Bannion (portrayed by Dakota Johnson) was raised, as a constant touchstone in the film's design as well.

The story begins in earnest upon Suzy's not entirely expected arrival at the Markos Dance Academy. Nearly forcing her way into an audition for the company, Bannion's animalistic technique quickly gains the approval of the artistic staff. Soon Susie has earned the lead in the revival of one of the company's groundbreaking pieces and is working, forehead to forehead, with the troupe's enigmatic director, Madame Blanc (Tilda Swinton). But Blanc and the whispering tribes of women who rule the walkways and rehearsal halls seem to have darker, mysterious plans for Susie that have more to do with witchery than prima ballerina glories. As Dr. Klemperer (Lutz Ebersdorf), a concerned psychiatrist, begins to search for Patricia (Chloe Grace Mortiz), the missing woman who once held Blanc's prime attention, and other troupe members begin to disappear or suspect their mistresses' intentions, the naturally strong-willed Susie seems destined to alter the predestined courses of all within her reach.

Furthering the already Gaia-drenched source material, Guadagnino—an openly gay man who has admitted to a long-term obsession with Argento's original movie—adds shades of such odd, '70s femme-based horror films like Burnt Offerings and The Sentinel to the mix here as well. Meanwhile, a more modern, perhaps unwelcome, influence may be Darren Aronofsky's controversial 2017 offering Mother! Like Aronofsky, Guadagnino seems more concerned with exploring artistic, vaguely inscrutable notions of feminity, culminating in an orgiastic ending that either will set up deep contemplation or frustrated cries of bewilderment.

Fully using the power that he gained from last year's Call Me By Your Name for a totalitarian vision, Guadagnino creates a world far from the

FILM

male gaze, a common attribute of mainstream horror. Even the Sapphic bonds that one may assume would be explored among a company of spell-weaving women in close guarters are defined by proud affection and mentoring gazes, not sheet-rolling lust. Themes of maternal omnipresence, the fight to escape from it, and the longstanding consequences of the bloodthirsty patriarchy all seep through the celluloid cracks here. Interestingly, the violence perpetrated against the victims here is more self-involved and personal than the swish of a serial killer's blade. It revolves, almost exclusively, around the more natural consequences of being a woman in the arts. The injuries inflicted upon the unfortunates are often gross exaggerations of the abuse that professional dancing can inflict upon the female body.

Nicely, unlike Argento's film, which had a handful of semi-prominent male cast members among the confines of the dance troupe, there are almost no men on display here. Their presence may be felt, but it is more of an emotional after effect than a controlled attention. Even Klemperer, in a stunning feat of acting prowess, is actually played by Swinton, who adopted the Ebersdorf moniker as a stage name. Thus, Klemperer's dreamy reunion with his/her supposedly long-dead wife, played in a heartfelt cameo by original Suspiria star Jessica Harper, takes on an almost non-binary, inclusive aspect.

Guadagnino works wonders with the rest of the cast as well. Johnson radiates with a quiet maturity, particularly in her final moments, that is miles beyond her work in the popular 50 Shades of Grey series; she is the granddaughter of Tippi Hedren, whose work with twisted auteur Alfred Hitchcock on The Birds and Marnie brought everlasting fame. With a skittering sense of mania, Moritz also does her finest acting thus far as the nerve ravaged Patricia. The showy presence of Golden Age movie queen Joan Bennett and savage European beauty Alida Valli in the original is also echoed here. Renée Soutendijk, a regular in Paul Verhooven's early films who aimed for American superstardom with projects like Eve of Destruction in the '90s, brings a creepy irresistibility to her Mrs. Huller. She is aided in atmospheric depth by such foreign indie superstars as Fassbinder collaborator Ingrid Caven and top Sudanese fashion model Alek Wek.

The presence of these fine performers' cinematic luster should appeal to even those who find fault with other aspects in this work of singular, dreamy feministic Gothicism.

After a special Halloween screening, Suspiria begins its regular run Friday, Nov. 2, at The Music Box Theatre, 3733 N. Southport Ave.; see MusicBoxTheatre.com.



Dakota Johnson in Suspiria. Image by Sandro Kopp, courtesy of Amazon Studios

SIDEBAR

Filmmakers reflect on original 'Suspiria,' LGBT appeal

BY BRIAN KIRST

From its intense visuals and color schemes to its focus on female protagonists, Dario Argento's original Suspiria has not only inspired director Luca Guadagnino with his reimaging, but other creators as well. Here, Chris Moore, the openly gay director of the upcoming horror-comedy Triggered, and Adam Marcus, the straight mind behind Jason Goes to Hell, one of the most inclusive and homoerotic Friday the 13th film entries, talk about how Suspiria has inspired them and why it means so much to the queer and other minority communities.

WCT: Can you talk about how first reacted upon seeing Suspiria for the first time?

Chris Moore: I first saw Suspiria when I was 9 or 10 years old. Entertainment Weekly had listed it as one of the top 50 or 100 scariest movies of all time and I was really intrigued by the picture of Sara tangled up in the razor wire. I rented the VHS a few weeks later and had to turn it off 10 minutes in. I was so terrified. It reminded me so much of nightmares that I had when I was a kid and I just couldn't handle it. I'd never seen anything like that before. An hour or so later, I came to my senses and finished the movie and, by the end, I was a total fan.

Adam Marcus: I want to let you know that it was the first commercial I ever saw that almost scared me to death! I was seven years old when Suspiria was first released in the US and they

ran the commercials endlessly on WPIX—holy shit!

I was so absolutely frightened. The "roses are red" poem being teased over the image of a head of raven hair being brushed—only to discover it's the head of a skeleton! Then the fleshy title font coming to life across the screen ... followed by Suzy's roommate, glass dagger in hand, eyes bloody, coming out of the door and straight for us. Come on, now! The commercial was so terrifying that I didn't see the film until I was 11 or 12. And even then, I saw it in the middle of the day with all the lights on. But I LOVED IT!

WCT: Why do you think the original has resonated with the LGBTQ community and female cinema enthusiasts?

CM: I feel like it appeals to us so much because it's so wacky and different. I remember feeling like I'd discovered some strange, hidden gem that only a select group of people knew about. It's like having a little secret. Plus, the set design and the costumes and the lighting are so stylish. It's like a Douglas Sirk movie on crack or one of those bright, colorful MGM musicals.

AM: I think what's incredible about the politics of the film is that the heroes and villains of the story are women. I mean, the whole movie is female. The men are marginalized the way most movies marginalize women. They are there for exposition or to be servicing the plot for the female characters to go further on their journeys. It's a movie that says you really don't need men to tell a compelling horror story. There is also a wonderful bitchiness to the witchy proceedings—a touch of All About Eve festering in the dance academy.

Marcus' current project, Secret Santa (Facebook.com/secretsantathemovie), a holiday slasher featuring a strong LGBTQ presence, and Moore's Triggered (www.facebook.com/FindUR-SafeSpace) are currently on the festival circuit.

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BY JERRY NUNN

Out singer Alyse Vellturo (aka pronoun) is attempting to outdo her counterparts—and going by the name pronoun is just the start.

The songwriter grew up in Boston and graduated from the Berklee School of Music. She took her music business major to New York and currently manages independent music labels during the day. At night, she plays her music around town and is heading out on tour.

Her single "it's the way" benefitted Planned Parenthood and her latest song, "you didn't even make the bed," covers the ending of a past relationship with her ex-girlfriend. The new record is planned for spring 2019.

Windy City Times: Have you spent much time in Chicago?

pronoun: We played Riot Fest there this year—very early, at noon.

WCT: When did you first start playing music? pronoun: I started this almost three years ago. I grew up with music and played a bunch of instruments. In high school I started making my own music. I went to college for music, but gave up on creating my own stuff. I worked with artists and did engineering.

I also studied business and work at a music distributor now. I manage indie labels.

After a bad breakup, I decided to make music and test the waters.

wct: How did the name pronoun come about? pronoun: I wanted to be called "Monachopsis," which is the feeling of being out of place. My friend thought that was a bad idea. I gave her 30 minutes to think of a better one and she came

MUSIC

back with pronoun. I lower cased the p. It happened in about an hour.

As you dive deeper, pronouns can stand alone, which I felt like I was doing. It can be subject or the object of a conversation. It makes a lot of sense that I am called this. At first, I just liked how it looked as I typed it out.

WCT: Look how important pronouns are in the LGBT community.

pronoun: Totally—but that is not why I named myself that. I didn't think about gender much until now—and have to, thanks to the government! I work at a company where the leaders are all women. I didn't realize how special that is until recently.

My preferred pronouns are she and her. That conversation is brought up a lot these days. I think it is great people are talking about it now more than ever.

WCT: Do you prefer to be called a lesbian, gay or queer?

pronoun: I like being called gay, but I have friends who identify with all of those names. I just call them whatever they prefer.

WCT: Let's talk about music. Is "you didn't even make the bed" a track that had you venting?

pronoun: That song and some others that are about to come out are very old. I wrote it three years ago and I was in a sad breakup mode. It was right when I got back to our apartment and it was trashed. She left all of her laundry. She wanted me to bring it to her. She left a big mess

in a so many ways. This inspired me writing about all of the lazy things that happened during our relationship.

WCT: Has she heard the song?

pronoun: It was so long ago, but it is not out yet for her to hear it. It doesn't feel like a bad thing anymore.

The breakup was meant to happen. I am a true believer in everything happens for a reason.

WCT: Tell our readers about your live show.

pronoun: There are three people onstage. I play guitar and sing. I have a bass player who also sings. There is a drummer too.

We are rock, but the EP is very quiet, because I recorded it in my bedroom with drum machines. The live shows bring it into a different space. There are so many influences in my live shows. Guitar riffs are the way I view things and based off of things I have been listening to for a very long time.

WCT: Who do you listen to?

pronoun: I'm obsessed with The 1975. In the past, it was Jimmy Eat World and Death Cab for Cutie. Julien Baker's first album inspired me to get back into music. I have my own record label, so I listen artists on that.

WCT: What advice do you give to new musi-

pronoun: Don't give up on your dreams, work really hard, and above all be yourself. That is what I try to do.

See pronoun live at Lincoln Hall, 2424 N. Lincoln Ave., on Thursday, Nov. 1, with Justin Courtney Pierre. Tickets can be purchased at LH-ST.com.

Lyric adding 'boheme' shows in Jan.

Lyric Opera of Chicago announced that it will add two performances of its sparkling new coproduction of Puccini's La boheme in late January 2019.

The added performances are a 2 p.m. matinee on Tuesday, Jan. 29, and a 7 p.m. performance on Thursday, Jan. 31. Casting for these added performances will be announced at a later date.

Patrons who had previously purchased tickets to the performances that were cancelled are being given the opportunity this week to exchange into the added dates, as well as into other performances during the run. Call 312-827-5600.

Joffrey's 'Nutcracker' to run Dec. 1-30

The Joffrey Ballet's reimagined classic, The Nutcracker, by Tony-winning choreographer Christopher Wheeldon, will return to open the holiday season at the Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University, 50 E. Congress Pkwy., in 29 performances on Dec. 1-30.

The Chicago Philharmonic, led by Joffrey Music Director Scott Speck, will provide live accompaniment of Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky's classic score for every performance. The full Joffrey company will also be joined onstage by almost 90 young dancers from the Chicagoland area and young vocalists from local choirs.

Single tickets are \$35-\$199 each; people can visit the lobby of Joffrey Tower, 10 E. Randolph St., as well as the Auditorium Theatre's box office; call 312-386-8905; or go to Joffrey org.

'Activists and Icons' at Holocaust Museum

"Activists and Icons: The Photographs of Steve Schapiro," an exhibit at Skokie's Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center, will run through June 23, 2019.

Schapiro, a Chicago-based photographer, has works that have been featured in publications such as Life, Newsweek, Rolling Stone, Vanity Fair and numerous others. The exhibition's 46 large-format photographs tell the story of seminal moments in history from the March on Washington (1963) to Robert Kennedy's presidential campaign (1968).

Visit https://www.ilholocaustmuseum.org/activists-and-icons/.





"It was a little thing I did in London and Joe Fiennes played Michael Jackson and there was a lot of to-do about the fact that he was a white guy. And I always thought about Fred Armisen on Saturday Night Live playing Obama and nobody seemed to give a ... about that." — Stockard Channing talks about people portraying characters of other races. It's worth noting that toward the end, Michael Jackson was paler than me. Also, SNL previously featured Armisen as Prince, Darrell Hammond as Jesse Jackson, Billy Crystal as Sammy Davis Jr. and Maya Rudolph as Donatella Versace.

The big story last week was about **Megyn Kelly** and blackface—two things I never thought would go together. Megyn Kelly and a lobotomy, yes. Megyn Kelly and peroxide poisoning, yes. Megyn Kelly and a Botox mishap, yes. But blackface? If you don't know, Meg tackled the issue of using blackface for Halloween by saying it was OK.

And that leads us, inevitably, to **Designing** Women. Now, I know my audience-you all saw this coming a mile away. In the famous episode, the ladies were in a talent show lip-synching to The Supremes. There were many problems with this scenario. First off, there were only three Supremes, while there were four "DW." Second, they performed "Ain't No Mountain High Enough," which was a hit for Diana after she left The Supremes (although here's a fun fact—The Supremes and Temptations recorded a cover of the Tammi Terrell/Marvin Gaye version of this song in 1968). Third, and the issue germane to this situation, The Supremes were Black women, while the ladies on "DW" were white. Suzanne had her beautician whip up skin bronzing makeup. Julia balked, saying it was insulting to Black women. Come showtime, the three girls are onstage au natural when Suzanne walks out with tinted skin.

And that brings us to the question—if you are dressing up as someone famous of a different color, how far do you go? And before you answer, I'm not talking about minstrel makeup with exaggerated lips; I'm talking natural coloring. In theater, this is commonplace. When an opera singer plays "Aida," she must look Ethiopian. When someone sings or acts Othello, he must look like a Moor (although the Met recently stopped doing this). When Whoopi Goldberg hosted the 1999 Academy Awards, she came out as Queen Elizabeth I—complete with the Virgin Queen's heavily powdered white face. For all those reasons—and believe me, I am no fan—I think NBC was just looking for an excuse to dump her.

I've previously expressed my admiration for Max Ehrich, an actor who previously appeared on Under the Dome and The Young and the Restless, and is rumored to have played an active role in the private life of Chris Colfer—speculation, of course, but circumstantial evidence points in that direction. Young Max recently posted the following on Twitter: "I am currently being stalked. I am putting this out there so that this person (ppl involved) are aware that the police are now in-



Opera singer David Daniels is facing even more heat now, Billy says.

Photo by Bernard Benant/Virgin Records

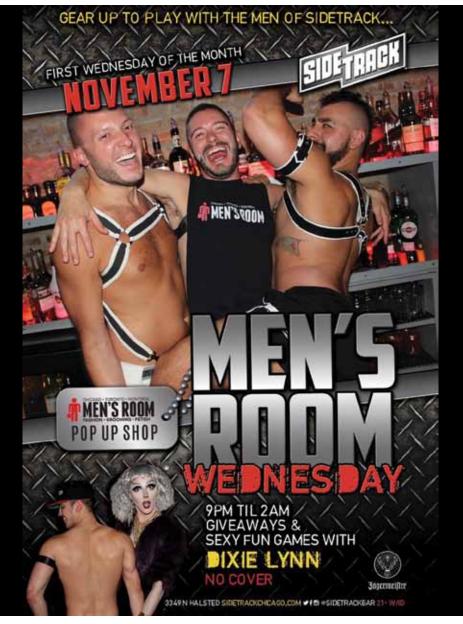
volved. Please leave me alone. I wish I could say that this is all over, but I'm continuing to get my safety threatened even with a security team. I have to step away from social media at this time. Love you guys."

He then posted a photo of a burly gent sitting on his hotel bed with the word "SECURITY" printed on the back of his T-shirt (note to self—never hire a security guard who wears a T-shirt that says "SECURITY"). Max then said, "Just wanted to update you guys that I am safe & secure. I appreciate the messages. Don't take your safety for granted. There really are some sick people out there. Stay safe x." He later told TMZ that a realtor became infatuated with him, sexually aggressive and, at one point, brandished a gun! That fills in some of the blanks, but not all of them. Sources say that this wasn't so much a business relationship that went south as an online hookup that went wrong. Not to victim-blame, of course, but let this be a cautionary tale (or tail).

I recently reported that opera singer David Daniels and his husband, William Scott Walters, were accused of drugging and raping a 23-yearold student singer back in 2010. Now two more men have come forward with similar accusations against the singer (but not his husband). Andrew Lipian says that he was drugged and assaulted by Daniels while he was a student at University of Michigan in March of 2017. He claims Daniels invited him to his apartment and gave him several drinks of bourbon. Later, Daniels gave Lipian what he thought was Tylenol PM, but turned out to be Ambien! Lipian says Daniels then removed his clothes, groped him and, throughout the encounter, told Lipian that he'd probably get a full scholarship for the rest of his studies. Lipian also says Daniels sent him a video of the famed singer masturbating and referencing "our bourbon-and-Ambien night."

As if that wasn't bad enough, a third singer who studied with Daniels at UM claims that he, too, was solicited for sex. The 19-year-old claims that he received the solicitation on Grindr, which I really don't think counts. I mean, when you're on a hookup app, you've gotta expect solicitations.

Austin Wolf made headlines for his mile-high encounter with a Delta flight attendant. (The video can be found on BillyMasters.com.) Wolf continues to make the rounds of people in the



transportation industry. Last week, he posted a video of an Uber driver servicing him—presumably it was part of his tip. As always, we'll post the video.

Our "Ask Billy" question comes from Gary in San Francisco: "I don't know if you watch The Good Place, but the guy who plays **Chidi** just was shirtless, and WOW—for a bookworm, he sure is jacked!"

That revelation was the twist nobody saw coming on The Good Place—a ripped Chidi! I admit that the sight of his body really distracted me. Apparently Chidi isn't just a dorky nerd into heavy reading—he's also into heavy lifting! Whatever he's doing, keep it up. Once you see the pics on BillyMasters.com, I predict you'll do the same.

When brains also have brawn, it's time for me to end yet another column. Before I show you my sheepskin, let me remind you to check outBillyMasters.com—the site with nothing to hide. If you have a question, send it along to Billy@BillyMasters.com and I promise to get back to you before Megyn gets a job on the Hallmark Channel! 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 Brunch at etta; The Florentine's aperitivo

BY ANDREW DAVIS

Let's get one thing out of the way: the new Bucktown spot **etta** (1840 W. North Ave.; https://ettarestaurant.com/), from the creators of Gold Coast restaurant Maple & Ash, is not named after singer Etta James or any other famous Etta who might come to mind.

Rather, as a server informed me during a recent brunch there, the name means "keeper of the hearth"—a nod to the wood-fired menu items there.

And there's quite a selection at etta, which has friendly staff, open spaces, some groovin' music



Biscuits and gravy with chicken at etta. Photo by Andrew Davis

(like Alice Merton's "No Roots") and some tasty offerings. (However, there was one negative: the

rickety table with an unintentionally spinning top—although that would be cool in allowing people to share dishes.)

If you're carb-phobic, you might be in trouble, as etta has a tempting selection of breads and pastries—including the multilayered kouignamann, which has been called one of the fattiest of European breads. There are also items like focaccia (with ricotta and strawberry preserves), various croissants, buttermilk biscuits and cinnamon pecan-glazed banana bread.

The plates cover the savory and sweet—but they're all nice comfort foods. The scrumptious tarte flambe featured uplands cheese, bacon, onion, creme fraiche and egg; the buttermilk biscuits and sausage gravy are savory, and the optional chicken accompaniment was wonderful; and the huge pancakes come with honey butter, bliss maple syrup and strawberry jam. The Sando is an intriguing dish that's topped with mortadella, Italian sausage, pepperoni, avocado, mozzarella, arugula, tomato, onion, giardiniera and fried egg. There's also an intoxicating mix of cocktails (pun intended), although I opted for tangerine juice during this outing.

Regarding brunch, it is a must at this place. In a city where brunch is taken quite seriously, that's saying (or writing) a lot.

Aperitivo at The Florentine

In Italy, the time known as "aperitivo" is taken quite seriously in Italy. It's more than a traditional happy hour, as it's more like a cocktail hour with upscale food.

And local Italian restaurant **The Florentine** (151 W. Adams St.; https://the-florentine.net/) is reflecting that time of the day/evening with its own aperitivo.

The Florentine's aperitivo takes place weekdays at 4-7 p.m., with some great offerings, in the gustatory and financial senses. Divided into "sips" and "bites," drinks include the Campari spritz, the Lillet Blonde (lillet, elderflower, grapefruit juice, lemon bitters, soda water) and the Suze Bellini (suze, peach puree, prosecco, tarragon garnish), among others. Culinary treats include burratina (with baby burrata), mini crab cakes, nduja, meatball sliders and crostini—with no item being more than \$5.

In addition, people can receive a complimentary pizza for their group with the purchase of any alcoholic beverages. If that's not a reason for trying out this place, I don't know what is.

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











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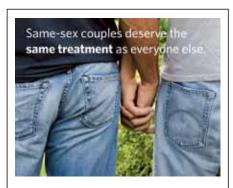
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BITTER from page 27

ing through that distrust can be difficult, and it can be challenging to "give even the most well-meaning the benefit of the doubt," Burke said, acknowledging that this sounds more cynical than it is. As happens in the play, when terrible things occur, people put up walls that can prohibit them from living their fullest possible lives.

Burke said that, compared to the real world, queer and interracial stories are rare in mainstream media. And when they do occur, the stories tend to center on categorization rather than humanity, where race and queerness is simply a matter of fact.

His view is that it is the job of a director to facilitate the audience through the experience of a story, and to find the most effective, compelling and engaging way to allow them to walk in someone else's shoes for just a little while. When approaching a play, he said he asks himself, "Why this play? Why now?" Great art has necessity to it. Burke said he'd rather start a conversation with one person about what the play is wrestling with, rather than to have 100 people leave the theatre and never think about it again.

Ultimately, Burke is a big proponent of stories and their amazing power in shaping who people are and become. It is his personal mission to challenge the narrative people typically hear about marginalized folx in order to create togetherness instead of divisiveness. The collaboration between Burke and Rivers on This Bitter Earth aims to do just that.

This Bitter Earth, which About Face Theatre is producing, runs Nov. 1-Dec. 8 at Theater Wit, 1225 W. Belmont Ave. Tickets are \$15-\$38 each; visit AboutFaceTheatre.com or call 773-975-8150.

CONNEXIONS





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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Wed., Oct. 31

22nd Annual Haunted Halsted Halloween Parade & Costume Contest Costume Contest has \$4,000 in cash & prizes in four categories: Theme, Group, Drag & Scary. Featuring a panel of drag queen judges and spectator Instagram hashtag voting! Winners Ceremony presented by Circuit Mom. Halsted St from Belmont Ave to Brompton Ave. Kick Off: X:XX pm at Halsted & Belmont 7:30pm Kick Off at Halsted & Belmont and go to Brompton Ave. http://HauntedHalsted. com

Halloween at Daley Plaza Celebrating 35th anniversary of the Thriller. Come in costume. Performance by Michael Jackson: The Live Experience. 12:00pm - 1:00pm Daley Plaza, east lobby on Randolph and Dearborn. Free. 12:00pm - 1:00pm Daley Plaza http://www.facebook.com/events/459555474452762/

Thursday, Nov. 1

American Veterans for Equal Rights monthly meeting AVER is a non-profit, chapter-based association of active, reserve and veteran servicemembers dedicated to full and equal rights and eq-



Sunday, Nov. 4

Businesswoman Marge Summit (above) will be honored with the Jon-Henri Damski Award. Photo by Tracy Baim

uitable treatment. This monthly meeting supports the chapters work in outreach and visibility for LGBTQ veterans year round. On Facebook, see AVER Chicago Chapter. 7:00pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted Chicago

Vote Her in: Your Guide to Electing Our First Woman President Book Launch Party with Rebecca Sive, founding board member of the Chicago Foundation for Women and member of groups advising presidents Clinton and Obama, and Karen Hawkins, founder of Rebellious Magazine 7:00pm Women & Children First Bookstore 5233 N Clark St Chicago https:// www.womenandchildrenfirst.com

Friday, Nov. 2

Orlando Traveling Memorial Art installation created by Pulse Nightclub shooting survivors, first responders and family members, The Orlando Traveling Memorial (OTM), will make its first stop here. Through Nov. 23 12:00pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted Chicago http:// www.windycitymediagroup.com/lgbt/ Orlando-Traveling-Memorial-to-debutat-Center-on-Halsted/64350.html

Author Reading of Grabbing Pussy Author Karen Finley. celebrated performance artist's mesmerizing riffs on sex in American politics Based on her widely praised performance piece Unicorn Gratitude Mystery 7:00pm Women & Children First Bookstore 5233 N Clark St Chicago http://www.womenandchildrenfirst.com

Saturday, Nov. 3

The Rugby Weekend World-class international rugby by USA Rugby and TLA Worldwide (TLA), along with host city partners Chicago Sports Commission (CSC) and Soldier Field. USA Women's

Eagles open against the 2017 Women's Rugby World Cup Champion Black Ferns. 1:00pm Soldier Field 1410 Museum Campus Dr Chicago http://TheRugby-Weekend.com

Gypsy, A Musical Fable Stars E. Faye Butler as Rose, Broadway's legendary "stage mother" who raises her daughters to assume the heights in the world of show business. Through Nov. 25. \$20 - \$66 8:00pm The Ruth Page Center for the Arts, 1016 N. Dearborn St. 773.777.9884 http://PorchlightMusicTheatre.org

Black Gold: A Casino Night with Affinity Community Services Affinity's casino night fundraiser supports programming of Affinity Community Services. \$50-\$100. Additional VIP reception 7-8 p.m. re-guires a special ticket purchase. 8-11 p.m.; Charles A. Hayes Family Investment Center at 4859 S Wabash Ave.; 773-324-0377; http://affinity95.org

Sunday, Nov. 4

18th Jon-Henri Damski Award to Chicago Legend Marge Summit Honoring Marge Summit for a lifetime of activism 2:00pm - 4:00pm The Call (Chicago) 1547 W Bryn Mawr Chicago http://www.facebook.com/Jon-Henri-Damski-Tribute-Pa ge442134295851328/?eid=ARC8bWJR A3xqZRyS27Xek0hS17Pd-QFauiamzomn74rDBc7rusV-fBLz8yNo73dDXXFlnQsrf-5nx4rT1/

The Care Plan 3rd Anniversary Providing excellent care navigation services for all

and training organizations in affirming practices serving LGBTQ older adults 2:00pm - 4:00pm Original Soul Vegetarian, 203 E. 75th Street, Chicago https:// www.eventbrite.com/e/the-care-plan-3rd-anniversary-tickets-50377902663

Tuesday, Nov. 6

OUTspoken monthly storytelling evening OUTspoken occurs on the first Tuesday of every month, new storytellers, stories from the perspective of LGBTQ persons Doors 6pm 7:00pm Sidetrack 3349 N Halsted St Chicago

Elections Aren't a Drag Watch midterm election returns with Maggie O'Keefe for 40th Ward Alderman starting when the polls close. Emceed by the Coco Sho-Nell. Win prizes donated from local small businesses. Free. Donations accepted for O'Keefe 7:00pm - 10:00pm The Call (Chicago) 1547 W Bryn Mawr Chicago http://www.callbarchicago.com

Monthly Pride Film Fest Pride Films and Plays' monthly festival of LGBTQ independent short films will return with an election night special program, theme "Queer Survival: Art & Activism Will Set Us Free." 71-minute program will explore LGBTQ citizen activism. 7:30pm The Broadway, Pride Arts Center, 4139 N. Broadway http://www.pridefilmsandplays.com



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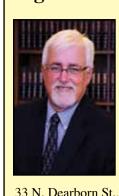
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