

APRIL 13, 2021 • VOL XII • ISSUE #8

# GRAB

MAGAZINE

CHICAGO'S BIWEEKLY  
LGBTQ PUBLICATION

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SONGWRITER  
DODIE

**TRAVEL**  
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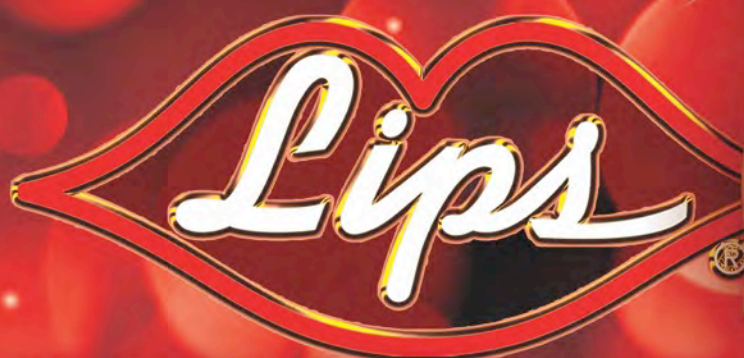
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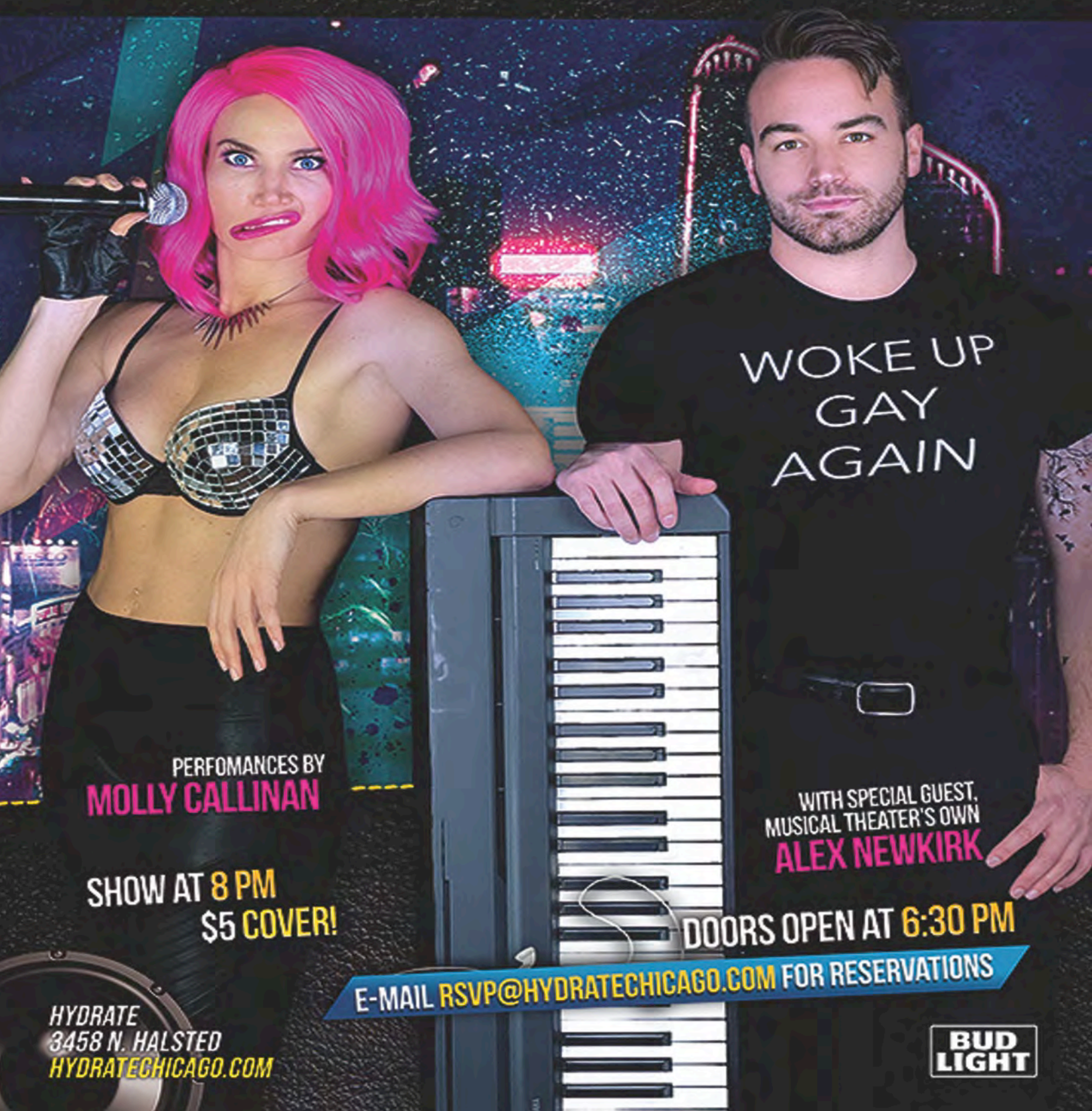




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**GRAB MAGAZINE**  
**3712 N. BROADWAY #315**  
**CHICAGO, IL 60613**  
**TEL: 773-515-0293**  
**WWW.GRABCHICAGO.COM**  
**WWW.GRABBYAWARDS.COM**  
**EMAIL: GRABMAGAZINE@AOL.COM**

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**Publisher**  
 Stacy Bridges

**Contributors**  
 Chris Azzopardi  
 Roger V. McCaffrey-Boss  
 Owen Keehnen  
 Erik Sosa-Kibby  
 Holly Maholm  
 Tom Olah  
 Gregg Shapiro  
 Terri Schlichenmeyer  
 Dylan Seitz

**Production**  
 Stacy Bridges  
 James Gumb

**Photography**  
 Bear Lens Photography

**Sales**  
 Erik Sosa-Kibby  
 Judy Kyle

**Public Relations**  
 Nick Wille

**NATIONAL SALES  
REPRESENTATIVE**  
 RIVENDELL MEDIA  
 908-232-2021

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## GRAB FORTUNE

## Fortune Feimster Is Giving the Gays Something to Talk About

The comedian on her pandemic success, going hard on the wine and getting closer to an even bigger break

By Chris Azzopardi

Fortune Feimster's mouth has been going and going and going. "I talk a lot right now," says the Southern comedian who hails from North Carolina, coughing and clearing her throat as we — that's right — talk on Zoom.

In addition to a daily radio show and her weekly podcast, Feimster, who rose to fame as The Person You See Everywhere in Bit Parts (including "Chelsea Lately," "The Mindy Project" and "The L Word: Generation Q"), has been doing press to talk about the projects she's a part of that have all come out during the pandemic to satiate our need for existential relief. Aside from her own Netflix comedy special "Sweet and Salty," she can be seen hamming it up in a steady flow of films: "Barb and Star Go to Vista Del Mar," "Chick Fight," "Friendsgiving" and "Yes Day," a Jennifer Garner-led family comedy also for Netflix. On TV, she stars in Kenan Thompson's NBC sitcom "Kenan" and voices multiple characters on the Fox animated series "Bless the Harts."

The pandemic has been good to her booming acting career, but also to her love life: Feimster married wife Jacquelyn Smith in a small ceremony in October. She says it's made her an even bigger fan of Michigan given that Jax, as she calls her, is from the Mitten State. "We try to spend at least one holiday — or weekend or two — out there in either Detroit or East Lansing or Grand Rapids. We like it all."

During our conversation, Feimster, yes, talked some more — this time about how her character in "Yes Day" might actually be gay, being drawn to the insanity of "Barb and Star," and feeling like, at last, Hollywood might be

ready for her to go from bit part to *big* part.

**Chris Azzopardi:** How are you doing? I feel like, finally, there's some light at the end of the COVID tunnel. Fortune

**Feimster:** I'm doing a lot better. It does feel a lot more hopeful, thank goodness. I mean, it's been a doozy. I can't believe it's been a year. I think we're all thinking back to, you know, where were you when Tom Hanks got COVID? (Laughs.)

**CA:** Shit got real at that point.

**FF:** It got real. I don't know why it took that. That first half ... you know, I was supposed to go on this big tour, and my first tour date was actually going to be Grand Rapids on March 15, and they canceled it the night before I was supposed to leave.

We were so excited to go to Michigan, 'cause all (Jax's) family was coming in. But then it just kept going and kept going. (Laughs.) And everybody had to kind of make the most of it. But no one was, like, having a great year, so you have to think and realize the whole world is going through this really hard time. And I think we're getting through it, so I'm feeling optimistic.

**CA:** A year ago, here in Michigan, at least, it was like, "OK, 14 days. Just

stay in your apartment. Don't leave. And then it's gonna be over."

**FF:** Yeah, we were so naive. We were rescheduling shows for May of last year, which seems laughable now because we're still trying to figure it out for fall of 2021. I was lucky I got to hunker down with my lady Jax and my dogs. My pets — that's who got us through this time, for sure.

**CA:** Are you still on the bottle-of-wine-every-other-day regimen?

**FF:** I got better. That was definitely the first, like, four months. We had to finally be like, "OK, maybe not every night. Maybe once every couple days." Thank god Hollywood started trying to get back rolling (in) I want to say October or so. So I've been really lucky the last few months to be working again. And so, I feel some normalcy when I go to work, even though it's very different at work. Everyone's masked up and (in) face shields. It's a different environment, but whatever it takes to get to do it.

**CA:** What kind of projects are you



Courtesy of Fortune Feimster



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**2ND WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH**

**ALL THINGS BEYONCÉ**

**3RD WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH**

**ALL THINGS GAGA**

**LAST WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH**

**ALL THINGS TAYLOR & ARIANA**





Photo Courtesy of Netflix

**working on right now?**

**FF:** I just wrapped the sitcom “Kenan” for NBC. I have a recurring role. I did not foresee that one coming, so that was a nice little cherry on top. I’ve been doing “The Netflix Afterparty,” which is really cool, with David Spade and London Hughes. And then I had all these movies — I think I’ve had five movies — come out in the last six months. (Laughs.) Which is crazy, but it’s because I filmed all of them before the pandemic and they all got held up, the release dates got pushed. They were supposed to originally come out at different times and then, all of a sudden, it was just like, release the movies! (Laughs.) People are like, “You’re everywhere.”

**CA:** You seem to pop up in the most random of places. You’ve played janitors, grave diggers, a fairy gay mother...

**FF:** Now I need Hollywood to let me do more than be the fun pop-up that brings some laughs. I’m ready to really sink my teeth into some bigger roles. So hopefully that’s coming.

**CA:** Is that what you’ve been working

**toward?**

**FF:** Yeah, I do a lot of development, I do a lot of writing, and I’ve sold a couple movies to Amblin (Entertainment). In the past I’ve sold TV shows to ABC. So I’m trying to get one of those movies off the ground that we’ve written. We wrote another movie in quarantine that we hope to pitch around. I created those TV shows because I was trying to give myself an opportunity to, like I said, be a bigger part of a show.

And I got to film my pilot for ABC, which is really cool, even though that didn’t move forward. It eventually led to me doing “The Mindy Project.” So now with movies, I’ve been kind of focused on writing movies, because I’ve been lucky to be in a lot of movies, especially lately. Sometimes in Hollywood you just have to write that yourself.

**CA:** So I have, in honor of “Barb and Star Go to Vista Del Mar,” this special little “Barb and Star” cup.

**FF:** I love it. That was one of my favorite movies to do. That was such a treat, seeing that come out. The only bummer is: that’s a movie you want to see with a house full of people in a theater. It’s one

of those movies, I think, that is infectious, ‘cause people are laughing (and) it makes other people start laughing and you’re all laughing together. So I’m glad it came out (so) people can enjoy something silly during quarantine. But hopefully — I don’t know if you can, like, release the movie online and then also put it back in the theater. (Laughs.)

**CA:** The movie’s gonna live on in gay cult film culture anyways, so every year, actually, it should get a theatrical release.

**FF:** I hope so. It does seem that gay men in particular really took to that movie, which makes me so happy. People either loved it and are obsessed with it, or they were like, “I hated it. I turned it off after 20 minutes.” And I just wanted to be like, “Well, maybe you aren’t the target audience.”

**CA:** Did you know what you were getting yourself into when you signed up for that movie?

**FF:** I knew that my part was pretty subdued. Like, we were the Talking Club and that we were sitting around, talking





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about ridiculous stuff. I was on a plane and I read (the script), and I was crying laughing reading this. Most scripts you're just kind of going through like, "Yeah, that's cute. That's cute." You know? But this had me crying. So I knew the movie was insane, and I was like, "God, how are they going to pull this off?" And I was like, "If they're asking me to be in this movie, I'm being in this movie. It's the best thing I've read in so long."

**CA: Why Pinky? Is there a story behind your character's name?**

**FF:** There's no backstory. There's very little backstory on the Talking Club, which makes me want Kristen (Wiig) and Annie (Mumolo) to write a sequel, which also involves the Talking Club. I want the sequel to be them coming back from their trip, telling the Talking Club.

**CA: Do you know any women like Barb and Star, or Pinky? Are you friends with any?**

**FF:** Oh, gosh. I mean, I've hung out with plenty. I'm from the South, so those outfits are certainly, uh, not foreign to me. We're all like, "These outfits are

hysterical." And people from home were like, "That's what I wear."

**CA: In addition to "Barb and Star," of course, you're in "Yes Day." You play Jean, the paramedic. Is it safe to say that you probably shouldn't be, um, driving an ambulance?**

**FF:** One-hundred percent, I should not be. Yeah, Jean (owns a) fleet of ambulances, even though she sucks at driving that one. It's always fun to pop in as these characters, like you said, that kind of just are a little off. That's kind of my brand of humor.

And I love this movie, 'cause, well, first off, Jennifer Garner. I've been a fan of hers for so long. And I was nervous to meet her just because she's done so many projects and is still in my category of "movie star," which you don't have as many these days. And she was so lovely. In my very first scene with her I had to drive the ambulance. And I felt like Jean because I was ... I didn't know. I mean, they teach you how to work everything and they make sure you're comfortable, but I'm trying to do my scene and, like, pull the air brakes and do the siren and it was just like walking

and trying to rub your head and your stomach at the same time. It was a lot to sort of figure out, having just met Jennifer Garner. (Laughs.)

**CA: I feel like in the last year because of the pandemic every day has been a "no day." I mean, even for the adults, right? What will be your "yes day" when you can finally say yes to the things that you've been saying no to?**

**FF:** Oh, man, just hugging people. My friends, especially. A lot of hugs. I mean, every day is a yes day for me when it comes to like, "Are we gonna order out or have wine?" I'm always like, "Yes." So I probably need to reel in my yeses. But I will just be excited to get to travel again and see my family. And so, I'll be saying yes to a lot more social activities, whereas before I was like, "I just wanna go home and sit on my couch."

**CA: What's the history between you and the other ambulance driver, Karen, in the movie? Because I get the impression that they could have been a couple. I mean, you took her life savings.**

**FF:** I know. I feel like they were alluding



to ... I mean, they never told me what their actual relationship was: if it was a relationship, if it was best friends, if I was her best friend and took her life savings. Uh, then that's a really bad friend. If it's her partner, then that's OK. (Laughs.) I'm gonna assume that Karen's probably my partner and my lady.

**CA:** You're also featured in the upcoming FX docu-feature "Hysterical." Can you talk a bit about your involvement and what it seeks to examine about you and other queer women comedians?

**FF:** It was spearheaded by Jessica Kirson, who's a very hilarious, respected comedian out of New York, who is also gay. She and the producers just picked what women they wanted to highlight, and we were lucky enough to be included and just share experiences about being a woman in comedy and what that means. They filmed us each at our house and then a little bit on stage. It's definitely not easy being a woman in comedy. And so, it just sort of highlights our journey.

It's a journey that isn't talked about as much. You see tons of things on standup, and it's usually very male-dominated. So this is just coming at it from a very different perspective, a very

inclusive perspective, as far as LGBT and women of color. People with different backgrounds, people with different voices, women with different experiences and what they talk about on stage. I'm happy to be a little part of it.

**CA:** Before you go, I want to wish you congratulations on your Netflix special, "Sweet and Salty," which received a Critics' Choice nomination.

**FF:** Oh, thank you. Appreciate it. Yeah, it was my first hour special. I had done a half hour with Netflix, and this was a big jump for me to get to do an hour. I was so ready for it. I was working this material a ton. I was really proud of it. And to get to share my story and my journey about coming out and figuring out who I was, and being representation for people and having it be on this worldwide platform, where people who might live in places where they don't know a lot of gay people or they don't see themselves in another person — it was really special to me to be able to do that, and make people laugh at the same time.

I got so much love from it and it was incredible, but I didn't know if the industry was paying attention at all. That they are watching and that they saw



Photo Courtesy of Lionsgate

something in it was really special. Just really made me feel, finally, after all these years of being out in LA and putting in this work, that people noticed, and it meant a lot to me. And now I've got to work toward the next one.

*This interview has been lightly edited and condensed for clarity.*

*As editor of Q Syndicate, the LGBTQ wire service, Chris Azzopardi has interviewed a multitude of superstars, including Cher, Meryl Streep, Mariah Carey and Beyoncé. His work has also appeared in The New York Times, Vanity Fair, GQ and Billboard. Reach him via Twitter @chrisazzopardi.*

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# GRAB A PLANE



## San Francisco, California

### History, Hiking, and More During Your City By the Bay Visit

By Bill Malcolm

No sooner had I stepped off my Southwest Airlines flight at San Francisco International Airport (SFO) than I was in a LGBTQ history exhibit like none other.

The new Harvey Milk Terminal (aka Terminal One) which has been open less than a year at SFO showcases the life of former San Francisco Supervisor Harvey Milk. Milk was a LGBTQ political trail blazer in so many respects. He was the first openly gay individual elected to office in California (in 1977) and served just 11 months before being murdered by another Supervisor, Dan White who also murdered Mayor George Moscone. The amazing life of one of the nation's first openly LGBTQ politicians is showcased in a half mile exhibit as you walk down the new terminal named in his honor. The terminal exhibit alone is worth a visit to the City by the Bay.

#### WHERE TO STAY

I always stay at Beck's Motor

Lodge near the Castro right on Market Street. Shops and restaurants are nearby and the rates are reasonable. It is also out of the touristy areas and in the heart of the gayborhood. It has free parking but you won't need a car. Other options nearby include the Parker Guest House and The Willows.

#### WHAT TO DO

A walk along Castro Street is another history lesson with famous LGBTQ folks embedded in gold sidewalk displays. Learn about the lives of LGBTQ legends, many from the Bay Area. The City was and is a magnet for LGBTQ folks and is still cutting edge today.

San Francisco safe outdoor hiking options abound. From my motel (Becks Motor Lodge), you can hike up to Buena Vista Park for great views of the Bay Area and Twin Peaks.

Then hike over to Corona Heights for more great views of the City by the Bay (with lunch at the Joesphine Café

at the Randall Museum). A hike up to Twin Peaks is another option from the Castro.

A bit further is the amazing Golden Gate Park and the beaches on the Pacific Ocean.

We took BART from 24th/Mission down to the Embarcadero. We stopped at Rincon Center with 1930 era murals of the history of California. Then we headed over to the Ferry Building for lunch and shopping.

Head over to the new rooftop gardens at the Salesforce Tower Transbay Transit Terminal that features a display in the mile-long garden of the various types of ecosystems that thrive in the Mediterranean climate of this amazing state. Don't miss the redwood garden.

A walk through the Financial District up to Union Square is another must.

If you have a car, try Edgewood County Park on the Peninsula just down I-280 south of the City on the









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#### NIGHTLIFE

The bars are open in the Castro Street neighborhood are slowly re-opening and include The Lookout (3600 16th Street at Market) has a great deck overlooking the street scene.

Twin Peaks Tavern at Market and Castro (401 Castro) bills itself as the Gateway to the Castro and features Irish Coffee and drink specials. It also has outdoor seating and great views of the street action. Hi Tops at 2247 Market is another fun sports bar with outdoor seating.

#### RESTAURANTS

Eric's on Church Street (accessible via the J Church Metro Line) has great lunch specials. It is a Chinese restaurant with tasty home-cooked healthy ingredients.

In nearby West Portal, enjoy Italian food at the amazing Spiazzo Restaurant. Try the salmon. (Catch the K or L line bus from the Castro.) West Portal also abounds with other options for dining.

Peet's Coffee is across the street from Beck's Motor Lodge is a great

breakfast option for to go selections.

#### GETTING THERE

I took Southwest to SFO and flew back out of Oakland International Airport (OAK). Both are convenient options served by the BART transit system. Get a Clipper Card and you

can also use it on the San Francisco bus system, Muni.

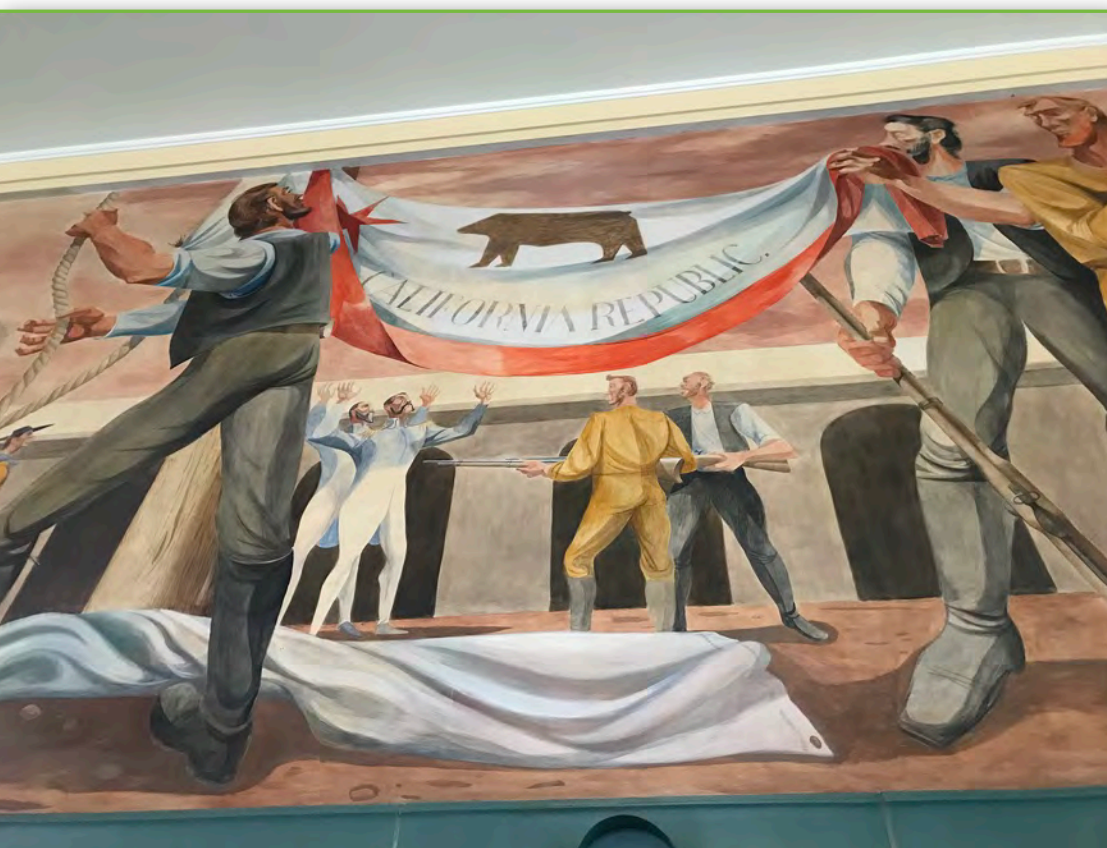
#### FOR MORE INFORMATION

Check out the *Bay Area Reporter* (<http://www.ebar.com> or pick up a printed copy). They just celebrated their 50th anniversary. *Bay Times* is the other local LGBTQ publication. Both are great sources for ideas on what to do while visiting and current updates on what is open and what is not.

*Bill Malcolm is the nation's only LGBTQ value travel syndicated columnist. He lived in San Francisco for 12 years after attending college at UC Santa Cruz and working at Yosemite National Park.*

*He co-founded the San Francisco Hiking Club, a LGBTQ group which is still going strong today. Check its website for upcoming hikes (<http://www.sfhiking.org>) although COVID limits the number of attendees.*

*Check with the CDC, the State of California, and the City and County of San Francisco for travel updates, COVID 19 travel restrictions, and other regulations before considering travel to the Bay Area. This column can help you plan your travel when it is safe for you to do so. Until then, you can use it to learn about other cities.*







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## GRAB KEITH



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## Keith Stryker needs our help to battle prostate cancer

Keith Stryker was 47 when he was diagnosed with a rare and very aggressive form of early stage 4 prostate cancer, that according to his urologist, would have killed him in two years.

### Keith's Story

People often ask me, "How did you know you had issues with your prostate, what made you get checked?" For me it was listening to my body, being aware of subtle changes, those little indicators that something is off. It's not as blatant as a "check engine" light but you know there's an issue. I was urinating more frequently and ejaculation was different than the usual 'hitting the headboard'; instead it was just a sad dribble. I made an appointment to see my doctor right away. That was December 2019.

A digital rectal exam showed it to be hardened and enlarged. The PSA test (prostate specific antigen, a blood test that detects an antigen produced by your prostate when there's infection, irritation or cancer) was 17.6 ng/ml; well past the normal range of 0-2 ng/ml for a healthy prostate. A biopsy of the prostate

showed about 60% of it cancerous and scans appeared to show an early spread to a nearby lymph node and fatty tissue surrounding the prostate.

This past February, after 6 months of very successful hormone deprivation therapy, I had a prostatectomy (prostate removal) surgery and removed the surrounding lymph nodes. The tumor on the prostate had shrunk 80%. The lymph node in question had only scar tissue remaining. I have 5 months of hormone therapy left and treatment will be complete. According to all recent tests and scans, there is no sign of cancer and the next 5 months of HT will ensure that any possible microscopic metastatic cancer cells don't survive.

I can only speculate, but had I waited another 6 months to look into what I knew were subtle changes in my bodily functions, the cancer might have metastasized to major organs and I'd be undergoing chemotherapy or even worse, dead. (This is not the case for most prostate cancers as it's generally slow growing.)

Men, listen to your body. Don't be

afraid of your butt. Let's be real, that IS what prevents most men from getting their prostates checked. Get over it. And finally, educate yourself on the prostate and its functions. One in eight men in the US will get prostate cancer and of those men, 99% will survive with proper treatment.

Keith Stryker is the founding member and Captain of TEAM CÛR (Chicago Urban Riders), and you may recognize him from years of working as a bartender on the Halsted strip. Since 2011, he has done 11 rides including Ride For Life Chicago (formerly RFAC), AIDS/LifeCycle, and Bike Zambia, raising over \$63,000 personally and raising roughly \$640,000 as a team for HIV charities.

If you would like to help Keith on his journey and return the favor for all of his fundraising throughout the years, consider donating to the GoFundMe for his Medical Fund. You can read more about his fight against prostate cancer at: <http://www.GoFundMe.com/f/Keith-Strykers-Medical-Fund>





2019 Bike Zambia



2016 AIDS/LifeCycle Team CÜR



2014 TPAN's Ride For Life Chicago (Formerly RFAC) Team CÜR



2018 AIDS/LifeCycle Team CÜR



2016 AIDS/LifeCycle Team CÜR Orientation in San Francisco



2018 AIDS/LifeCycle Team CÜR



## GRAB DODIE



Photo By Parri Thomas

## Dodie Is Building an Understanding of Herself

After feeling rushed to come out to find community, the YouTuber's debut LP had the bisexual artist reexamining her sexuality

By Chris Azzopardi

To know Dodie is to *really* know her. Since 2011, the British singer-songwriter's diary-wide-open authenticity has drawn millions of fans to her YouTube channel doddleodde and its sister channel, doddlevloggle.

Those faithful fans — she once considered calling them “doddlers” — were with her in 2016, when, after establishing an online presence, she released her first EP. The result was the intimate “Intertwined,” a collection of songs tackling mental health, sexuality and friendship. Another EP, “You,” followed in 2017. Her third, “Human,” was released in 2019.

“Build a Problem,” though, is Dodie's full-length debut, written over a two-year span during a period of self-discovery

after she came out in 2017 as bisexual with a song and video called “I’m bisexual — a coming out song!” (the video has amassed six million views on YouTube). After being pushed back three times, she's eager for the album to come out on May 7, she tells me over Zoom from her studio flat in London. But first things first: all the stuff strewn across her floor that she thought she hid.

“Excuse my room,” she says, after rushing home from a walk to get on the call. “I didn’t realize how messy it was, and that it was gonna show.”

**Chris Azzopardi: When the album finally comes out, how do you anticipate that you will feel?**

**Dodie:** (Laughs.) Relieved, released.

Free. And yeah, I mean, I have no idea. It's why I gritted my teeth when I heard that you listened to it, because I just have no idea how people will respond. I've already spoken to a lot of people who have listened to it, like my friends and also some fans, and that's been nice. From what I hear, they all really like it. And that, honestly, is enough for me. If I could just share the Dropbox link around to everyone and get their feedback, that's enough to keep me going.

**CA: It must feel weird to create a piece of work that is so close to you and so intimate and not know how anyone will respond to it.**

**Dodie:** Yeah. I'm just so ready to move





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on. I feel like I'm holding onto this album and to all of these feelings associated with it. And like, obviously, my life has moved on. I've grown up and grown since writing (it), but I feel like I can't properly move on until I've released it, which I don't know if it's healthy or not. But it definitely feels like a part of my life.

**CA: How would you compare the songwriter you were when you first started writing songs to the songwriter you are on this album?**

**Dodie:** I think I've always been very dramatic in my songwriting. Not, like, in an overt way. I think what I mean is: I love building tension and release in my songs. I love over-soaring melodies. I love creating dynamics, like such a range in my songs. So I think that's similar.

The difference is that I'm better. (Laughs.) I honestly just think the way in which I look at life has changed. I look at life in a more nuanced way now, whereas when I was younger I wrote more black and white, obviously, because that's how I saw the world. So, if anything, the meanings of my art have gotten more mature. Probably the sound of my music as well. In terms of writing style, I really don't know, to be honest. That's a good question. I have to think about it.

**CA: Did the pandemic open up this creative well for you? And did you write the album, or any of it, in the pandemic?**

**Dodie:** I wrote half of the album in the pandemic. The deluxe side, and all of those songs, I was uploading them in the first wave, as it were. And I felt, yeah, definitely creatively inspired. It gave me all of the time I needed and the space I needed to start writing and finishing all of these little snippets of songs and tweak them and form them into demos. Then the next wave of the pandemic was the complete opposite and I just sort of fell into a slump.

**CA: A lot of this music, from what I read, brought you closer to the person that you are right now. Did any of it help inform your sexuality or the discovery of new parts of your sexuality?**

**Dodie:** Yes! Great question. I think it took me a while to really understand what it meant to come out as bi. I think when I was younger I was so excited to (come out) because, firstly, it felt like a very exciting thing and I wanted to rush out and say it, like get in with the crowd because I felt very kind of lonely and weird in it. I wanted to immediately be a



Photo By Parri Thomas

part of this community. And it felt good. And then I grew up. (Laughs.)

I realized that all of those sort of inner biphobic workings of growing up where I did, and the family that I had, caught up with me, and I realized it was a bit more difficult than I thought and that I had a lot more to work through and a lot more to understand about it. And I'm still working through it; I'm still trying to understand. And, yes, everyone always says that sexuality is complex — as is gender, as is everything in life — but I think I'm only just beginning to understand what that means and still understand myself more.

**CA: So when it comes to identity, are you still using the bisexual label?**

**Dodie:** I think it's easier to say bisexual because that's what I am. It's hard to even talk about what love is for me and what attraction is for me because it just keeps shifting. I still don't really know myself very well when it comes to relationships. So, I just don't think I can land solidly on talking about any of that. All I know is that I'm bisexual and that means something to me.

**CA: It's pretty incredible to think that six million people watched you come out on YouTube in 2017 with "I'm**

**bisexual — a coming out song!" That's a lot of people. How do you reflect on that moment and coming out in such a big way?**

**Dodie:** I think it's very sweet. I think I have a lot of queer fans. A lot of young queer fans, right? At least I definitely did at that time, probably following a song that I put out when I was even younger than that called "She," which was about liking a friend of mine who was not bi or gay in any way. Also, before I even knew that I was, it was just this vague, flirty song about really finding someone attractive and kind of knowing what it was, but not really sticking a pin (on) it. It just makes the whole feeling so much softer when I understand that so many have gone through that feeling and are now going through that feeling.

**CA: Bisexuality still seems to be taboo. Do you think we're past that? What is your personal experience with that?**

**Dodie:** I think we're past it in a way, but I still think there's so much stigma inside that label even. To be fair, I see it talked about on TikTok a lot in a very nice way, in a comforting way, where people explore how you can be bisexual but still be in a "straight" relationship. Just all of the complexities. Basically, your history



doesn't have to align with your orientation. It's just a very confusing mess that I think people still don't understand because the world looks at things in a very strict putting-in-boxes way when really, of course, everything is more nuanced than that.

**CA: When I think of boxes now, the boxes are even less so than the boxes that I had to put myself in.**

**Dodie:** I would have lost my mind. I don't know what I would have done. I mean, I still am because the inner bi-phobia (is) still there. Sometimes I lie in the bath and I'm like, "Oh, fuck! I think I'm gay." Like, "Oh fuck, I've been lying to everyone, I've been lying to myself." And I'll be like, "Shit, I must be completely straight, I just love girls, like everyone else, oh god." I still flip back and forth because we've all been brought up in this "either-or" world and then as soon as I find the word bi again and I really understand what that means, I'm like, "OK, everything's better now."

**CA: I'm interested in knowing a little more about your queer fans, because you have such a following. What kind of fans are they?**

**Dodie:** Yeah, they're very sweet. I mean, I haven't really come into contact with them for a while. You know, for at least a year or so. (Laughs.) But I've seen so many grow up, kind of, with me. I get really emotional when I think about how weird I felt as a teenager, or a kid even, just like a complete outsider, and very dramatic and deep-feeling.

And yeah, OK, I'll say it: I have a friend called Elle Mills. She's a YouTuber and she's really cool. You can tell her fans apart from mine because hers are all the cool kids in school, and mine are all of the arty-farty fairies who are a bit weird. And like, I felt ... I don't know ... slow in the hierarchy of school. And now I understand there wasn't a hierarchy at all; it's just kind of people. And I feel like I've collected a community of them and

that makes me feel really good.

**CA: That's really sweet. Do you have a name for these fans? You know, like Mariah has her "lambs" and Gaga has her "little monsters."**

**Dodie:** (Laughs.) I toyed around with "doddlers," but I didn't want to imply that we're an army or anything like that. I didn't want to be like, you know, the leader of this army or whatever. I think that's strange.

**CA: And yet you kind of are that leader. It's you who brings these**

there's a lot of pain and shame in there. I would hope in sharing that it lightens their load a bit, because I know that it's a really heavy thing to carry around. And I would love for us to share that and feel better together.

**CA: Celebrities were once people who seemed so unattainable. But you've built an entire career on being your most authentic self. Do you think it's important for people in the LGBTQ+ community to be able to relate to the artists that they listen to and that they love?**

**Dodie:** I don't think it's necessary. I wouldn't want to enforce a breaking of boundaries on anyone. I grew up seeing, yeah, you're right, celebrities as these like unreachable aliens that I didn't really understand existed. And so when I kind of became someone that people knew about, that I probably would have deemed to be famous when I was younger, I wanted to break that and almost reach into my younger self and shake her and be like, "Look! These people are human and everyone is human. You walk this earth with these people." Yeah, I'm not sure if it's necessary or incredibly important, but I do find it interesting and I like that I am someone who can do that.

**CA: What will you be doing to celebrate Pride this summer?**

**Dodie:** I haven't even thought about it. Isn't that so weird? I think probably just connecting with people online. I don't know. Maybe I should work on that. Maybe Pride is something I should partake a little bit more in.

**CA: It sounds like you've had some new thoughts about sexuality in the last several years, so maybe it's time for a follow-up to "I'm bisexual."**

**Dodie:** Yeah. Though I don't know if I'm ready to share them yet, because I don't even know what they are. I still don't understand myself, really. Maybe I'll just say that.

*This interview has been lightly edited and condensed for clarity.*



**people together, right?**

**Dodie:** Kind of. I don't know. I like it when I become a very separate thing. There's a sort of fandom that I'm not even really a part of. I really love that. I think that's so sweet.

**CA: What do you hope your queer fans take away from your example in living so openly in regards to your sexuality?**

**Dodie:** I would love for them to feel better about the complexity and the guilt of it all, I think. I don't really know how many (songs) exactly are about being queer; I'm sure it floats in and out of all of my writing. But in "She" and a song called "Rainbow," there's a lot of struggle. As much as it is a celebration,



# POSITIVE THOUGHTS

## Black AIDS Institute Founder Phill Wilson on Living Through Dual Pandemics

By Ashley Innes

We're coming off a historic year in 2020. A year that devastated us and empowered us. A year that tested us and made us stronger. A year that put systemic racism and health disparities front and center for the world to see. It reminded us that there is still much work to be done in the fight for equality and equity yet inspired us to act toward progress.

We are still in the middle of a pandemic that has claimed the lives of over 500,000 Americans, but amid the struggle we are beginning to see a light at the end of the tunnel. As the COVID vaccine allows us to feel hope, I reflect on what this feeling must be like for long-term survivors of HIV. Many remember when a new unknown virus emerged that was claiming the lives of their loved ones. A virus that they still live with today.

As we work to manage the current pandemic, many who have been living with HIV for decades once again find themselves losing loved ones. Reliving the past, grateful for what science has brought so quickly, and cautious to not let history repeat itself.

I recently had a conversation with Phill Wilson, founder and former CEO of the Black AIDS Institute. As many know, Phil is a gay Black man who has been living with HIV since 1981. He has been a champion and leader in this work for decades and understands better than anyone the concerns facing people living with HIV and the parallels to COVID, especially in Black communities. He says:

"This experience presents both an emotional as well as a physical health risk. We're living dual experiences because we're not yet finished with the HIV pandemic, and we're now living with COVID. There is kind of a painful déjà vu going on as COVID-19 is manifesting itself in our communities in the way HIV continues to manifest itself in our communities. Chief among them are the disparities. Black communities

were slow to respond to the HIV/AIDS pandemic while we were

disproportionately impacted, and policy makers were not sufficiently concerned about our needs. That is being replayed with COVID-19 as well."

It should be very apparent at this point that ending HIV and COVID-19 is about more than just access to medicine and vaccines. It's about dismantling the systems of oppression that allow these viruses to thrive and recognizing that Black and other marginalized communities have a long history of distrust of the medical system. Many remain traumatized by the Tuskegee experiment, Henrietta Lacks, the experimental procedures performed on enslaved women, and the list goes on.

"Black people have very legitimate reasons to have medical mistrust because the medical community has not always been responsive to our needs," Wilson says. "The most dominant way we have been mistreated by the medical community is by them withholding treatment from us." Tuskegee is an example of that, as the Black men involved received no treatment for syphilis, and Wilson believes that is exactly why we should be fighting for information and access to the vaccine now.

I wholeheartedly agree with him and at the same time understand that as much as I urge Black communities to get into HIV care, utilize PrEP and take the COVID vaccine, I know it's not that simple. Medical racism is real, and the challenge is on America to overcome it. We can urge people to take this vaccine without shaming them or judging them for being skeptical. It's not Black people's fault



Pictured Phill Wilson

that they don't trust the medical system. America has been medically unethical since the founding of this country. That legacy never goes away.

Therefore, my job and that of everyone who calls themselves an advocate or is a part of the medical system in any way is to improve trust by providing equitable care and accurate information that allows people to make informed decisions about their health. We need all of us collectively working together. So many people have already lost their lives. Wilson cautions us to not repeat past mistakes, saying:

"These are lessons that we've learned and, frankly, the consequences of screwing up. I'm hoping we can take the lessons of HIV/AIDS, apply them, and come up with more equitable solutions as we fight the pandemic. And one of them is making sure that medicine, vaccines, and prevention tactics and strategies are open and accessible to Black, brown and other marginalized people."

Simply put, we honor the past by fighting for the now, fighting for the future. Let's ensure we all survive.

Ashley Innes is a writer and HIV advocate. Follow her on Twitter @Ash\_Innes. This column is a project of TheBody, Plus, Positively Aware, POZ and Q Syndicate, the LGBTQ+ wire service. Visit their websites – <http://thebody.com>, <http://hivplusmag.com>, <http://positivelyaware.com> and <http://poz.com> – for the latest updates on HIV/AIDS.





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	Artist	Title
1	Syence ft. Ruuth	A Little Bit Bored (Club Edit)
2	Cowens Brothers	So Pure ft. Sam Welch
3	Doja Cat	Streets (Ape Drums Remix)
4	Aviella	Tell Me What You're Thinking (Disco Fries Remix)
5	Fred Again & The Blessed Madonna	Marea (We've Lost Dancing)
6	ONEDUO & Emily Vaughn	Leave This Place
7	Cosmic Gate & Diana Miro	Blame (Original Mix)
8	Markus Schulz x Ethan Thompson & Soundlar	Make It Last Forever
9	Alan Walker x Salem ilese	Fake A Smile (R3HAB Remix)
10	Lost Frequencies	Rise
11	Nitti Gritti	Where I Belong ft. RUNN
12	Rita Ora x David Guetta x Imanbek	Big ft. Gunna
13	Sam Fischer & Demi Lovato	What Other People Say (R3HAB Remix)
14	Tyron Hapi x If Found	Could've Been Us ft. Emily Falvey
15	Riton x Nightcrawlers	Friday ft. Mufasa & Hypeman (Dopamine Re
16	Oliver Heldens	Never Look Back ft. Syd Silairi (Radio Edit)
17	Niiko x SWAE	I Ain't Going Home
18	Robin Schulz	All We Got ft. KIDDO (Lodato Remix)
19	Noizu	Summer 91 (Looking Back)
20	David Solomon	Cross Your Mind (Clean Original Mix)
21	Shane Codd	Get Out My Head (Swarmz & S1mba Mix)
22	GATTUSO	Somebody
23	Silk City x Ellie Goudling	New Love ft. Diplo & Mark Ronson
24	Martin Garrix x Tove Lo	Pressure
25	Toby Romeo x Felix Jaehn x Faulhaber	Where The Lights Are Low (Radio Edit)
26	Nervo	Gotta Be You ft. Carla Monroe
27	Mako	Ocelot (Rat City Radio Remix)
28	Sleepwalkrs	More Than Words ft. MNEK (Clean)
29	Ultra Nate & Angelica Ross x Mila Jam	Fierce (Radio Mix)
30	Loud Luxury & Ship Wrek	Amnesia ft. Gashi (Radio Edit)
31	SAY SAY x ASDIS	Stories
32	Dimitri Vegas & Like Mike x DVBBS x Roy Wo	Too Much
33	Rony Rex	Fabric
34	Leony	Faded Love (NOØN Remix)
35	Prince Kaybee x Msaki	Fetch Your Life (Radio Edit)
36	Gorgon City x Drama	You've Done Enough (Radio Mix)
37	Jonas Blue x AWA	Something Stupid (Radio Mix)
38	Lucas Estrada & AJ Salvatore f. Calica	Kiss Me
39	L.L.A.M.A x NEYO x Carmen DeLeon	Shake (Main Mix)
40	Firebeatz	On Top Of Mind ft. Kelli Leigh



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3	23	★	61	9
62	59	6	19	33
2	19			

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# GRAB A VOTE

## Registering The New Voter: Why It Is More Than Registering Voters

By Dave Mulryan

The 2020 elections saw a massive surge of voting, drawing the largest number of voters since the election of 1900. This huge increase in voting showed, with some unexpected results, that the care and feeding of the world oldest and most important democracy really does rest on just one thing: voting. This map shows what happens to voting when we look only at the young vote: Arizona, which birthed Barry Goldwater, and has long been a conservative bastion, turns blue. Texas turns blue. That this can be attributed to the young vote is hardly a surprise.

The 2018 mid-term elections saw an uptick in voting, as many people, especially the young, voted at higher rates. Although this uptick was welcome, we still have a crisis of voting, in that not enough of us do it.

Why? The Founders, the white men who wrote the constitution, who muscled the adoption of it through the warring factions that made up the original 13 colonies, made compromises to get the 2/3rds of the colonies votes needed to allow its adoption. They allowed the adoption of the compromise that there would be NO federal oversight of voting, that the states would be in charge of all elections, even federal ones. The small colonies were concerned that they would be overwhelmed by the large states, so they insisted on equal numbers of Senators, 2 per state, and used the House Of Representatives as a way for proportional representation. They also restricted voting to white men with property, and for the state legislators to choose their Senators — direct election of Senators would not take place until 1913. Voting was for elites, and echoes of that resonate today.

There has been progress — women got the vote in 1919, minorities got the vote when President Lyndon Johnson pushed through the Voting Rights Act, and the Civil Rights Act. He failed to get the voting age lowered to 18, although he tried. Two states, Oregon and Texas, used the federal courts to delay the implementation of 18 year old voting, and the voting age was only lowered

after President Nixon brokered a deal, and the constitution was amended to allow for 18 year olds to vote.

So, there has been progress, yet voting remains anemic. Most federal elections are decided with 50% of the eligible voters voting; some elections, like Mayor's races and school board elections can be decided with as little as 6% of the eligible voters turning out. The 2020 elections, with a presidential race, saw voter turnout in New Mexico of a little over 52%. This is still awful.

We are now facing a huge bulge of new voters, the millennials, and their numbers are astounding. This chart shows birth rates, and this bulge of population can determine every election, if they choose to vote and choose to register to vote and to vote. The 64,000 dollar question: Will they?

We, Everybody Votes, and The New Mexico Voter Group, have established organizations to focus on registering voters. We have focused on the nuts and bolts of registering voters: setting up tables, getting forms, getting the young voter to register, getting the forms to the County Clerk. Yet, we despair that we are not doing enough. Many eligible voters, especially the young ones, breeze by us, muttering something vague about “no voting.” We have registered a huge chunk of voters, with few resources, and so we know that it can be done. Yet, we are NOT efficient, we need to scale, we need to have voter registration brought to the fore all over the country. Clearly we could use resources, money, but we also believe that we need a revolution in the person that registers the vote, the Voter Registration Agent. How do we do this?

In short, we need to move voter registration from a passive endeavor to an active one. Oregon, with its automatic voter registration, is showing how this can work. Vote by mail elections seem to increase



participation. Yet, the adoption of these nationwide seems to be a ways off, and we need to register these voters now.

“We have listened closely to the voters that we do register, and the ones that don’t want to register. Although we are reluctant to draw broad conclusions, because there was no designed research study, it was simply observational, there was enough data for us to draw some conclusions:”

The person who registers someone to vote is the very first contact that people have with the mechanics of democracy. The Voter Registration Agent needs to be prepared to both register the voter, and to give the person registering a reason WHY to register, and why they need to vote. That is asking a lot, but it seems to be the requirement to have a successful encounter.

1. Few states require any training for people that want to register other voters. New Mexico, which requires a training class, is one of the strongest. Their training, handled by the county clerks, requires an understanding of the registration form, and requires a formal issuance of a voter registration number. The state issues a VRA certificate, and assigns a number, which allows for the tracking of the activities of the Voter Registration Agent.

2. We have, in New Mexico, a huge number of people who have taken the class required to register their fellow citizens to vote. Yet, we have few who actually do it. It appears that many



people are willing to register others to vote, but then after taking the class, they fail to do so. We hypothesize that many of the VRA's feel ill-equipped to register voters, even after the class, so they don't.

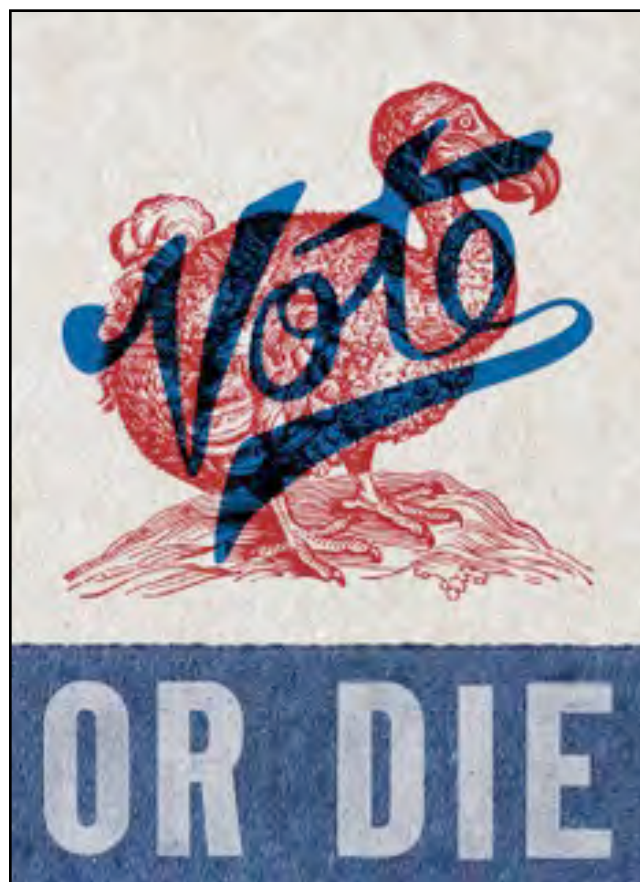
We have a huge task ahead of us. We have proven, as evidenced by the turnout in the 2020 elections, that voting is the key. The election saw the best turnout in 120 years. We need to continue, and to train and make sure that the people doing voter registration are prepared. They need to know when the next election is. They need to be able to explain the role of the voter in the democratic process. They need to be able to rebut conventional wisdom, in that "My vote doesn't count," and explain how that vote DOES count.

None of this will simply happen. We need a complete curriculum that teaches people to register voters. We need to teach the person that is registering what they need to know: facts, how the process works, what is coming up in the very near term that the new voter will vote on. Stacy Abrams, who led a group that registered 800,000 voters in Georgia, shows what can be done with leadership and political will: she, and her group, will help decide the balance of power in Washington. If the two

Senate seats that are in a runoff can both go Democratic, then the Democrats will hold a razor thin margin in the Senate, giving the Biden Administration the ability to govern.

We need resources, we need direction, we need to scale. We can and have identified the problem, and we need to quickly implement the solution. We can do it, if we want to. Do we, as citizens of the worlds oldest and most important democracy, have the will to do this? I hope we do. I believe we can.

*Dave Mulryan is the Co-Founder of Everybody Vote, a group that registers high school Seniors to vote. He is President of Mulryan/Nash Advertising, Inc.*



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# GRAB HOLLY

## Intermittently Gay

By Holly Maholm

After Tuco and I bid adieu to Mike and Dave, we walked together in the direction of Donut Time. When we walked in, Tuco left for his shift in one of the delivery chariots, and – seeing Xandra and Cindy reposing in one of the booths – I joined them. Xandra was licking powdered sugar off her fingers, and Cindy was studying a page from our local newspaper.

“Anything interesting?” I queried. “No,” Cindy replied, “I was only checking today’s weather report. I was thinking of bringing one of the rescue horses to the Square, where the retirees could get in a little Aerobic Currycombing, but I can’t do that if it’s going to rain.” She fell silent, then found what she was looking for. “Here it is. ‘Cloudy with intermittent showers.’ Well, that’s useless. Some weatherman trying to Cover His Ass. He won’t let himself be pinned down to either ‘Rain’ or ‘Cloudy but no rain.’ So he avoids all responsibility by using the word ‘intermittent.’”

“See,” (she was getting worked up), if they have “showers,” he claims that was exactly what he predicted, and if it doesn’t rain, he claims all that dry weather was the ‘intermittent’ part.

Actually, Holly, if this were not a weather forecast, I might think it was written by a lawyer – considering all the ‘weasel words.’”

Cindy glanced at me and inquired, “Where were you?” “With Tuco,” I replied, “over at Mike and Dave’s. Just a social call.”

Cindy was not buying what I was selling. “I detect more weasel words. What were you really doing?” I remained silent.

Xandra broke in. “Let me guess. The big news at Donut Time is Tuco getting lucky with Aly, not that there’s anything about that which is attributable to ‘luck.’ Aly made that happen, and more power to her. Tuco is a sweetie pie, and he’ll be as loyal to her as any man has ever been. So, Holly, why the consultation with Mike and Dave?”

I spilled my guts. “I promised Tuco I wouldn’t tell his secret, but as soon as he told me what it was, I realized it’s one of those deep, dark mysteries that only a Man in Love would not realize is perfectly obvious to everybody. So now that he’s sleeping with Aly, he’s afraid he might be gay.”

Cindy and Xandra locked eyes, then Cindy spoke for both. “All the years we worked the street corner, picking up guys who wanted ‘something special’ – meaning a tranny – was there ever a customer who – after he got his dick sucked – didn’t break into a sweat, begging us to reassure him he wasn’t gay?”

Xandra took over. “And what about the guys who – one week – wanted me to suck their cock, then – two weeks later – wanted to go down on me? What those guys want is nothing shameful. It’s something... in their psyche, their ‘inborn nature.’ And how is it any different from what straight guys want? The guys we had sex with were normal, ordinary men – men who just wanted to get their rocks off. Cindy and I never felt degraded by the experience.”

Cindy jumped in. “Honestly, there were a lot of those guys I grew to like, and even now, when I remember them, I miss them and wish them well. The fact is, those men are worse off than guys like Mike and Dave. At least gay guys can be ‘out’ and even



get married, but the guys we used to suck could never ‘come out’ – they would have lost their wives, job, family and friends. And for what? For the same oral sex that every married couple enjoys twice a week?”

Cindy went on. “Nothing would please Xandra and me more than to see Tuco and Aly happy together. God knows there were several guys I met who – if they had asked me out for a drink – I would have gone with them right that minute and never walked that corner again.”

“Okay,” I interjected, “I appreciate all you’ve said, but still, you need to keep this conversation quiet. Right now, he thinks with Aly being so sexy and hot, that he can’t possibly be gay, even if he fools around with her cock – and enjoys it.” Xandra replied, “No, of course, we’ll keep his secret.”

We sat for some minutes, then Cindy spoke. “Every day I read the weather report, and every day it’s different. ‘Sunny with scattered clouds. Cloudy with intermittent showers.’ Or whatever. It’s never the same from one day to the next. Weather is like that.”

“Fact is, it’s disturbing – and confusing – for a guy who’s been telling himself that he’s totally straight, to find out that his ‘erotic weather report’ sometimes calls for ‘Intermittently gay’ or maybe ‘Periodic pussy with occasional intervals of cock.’”

*(To be continued)*

Holly Maholm is a transgender woman living in Cleveland, Ohio. Look for Volume 2 of *What Would a Unicorn Do?* (now available on Amazon) which contains additional episodes of Holly’s on-going story of her life among the unicorns, plus additional articles and a short story of a transgender woman confronted by Satan! Send a message to Holly [www.hollymaholm.com](http://www.hollymaholm.com).

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# GRAB A FILM

By Delven Shaw

## ELITE



If you have not caught up to *ELITE* yet on Netflix, Season 4 is about to drop and will no doubt be as hot and exciting as the previous seasons. This Spanish Netflix from Spain has a great and simple starting point. Three working class students have been granted scholarships to the most elite high school in town because their high school collapsed due to shoddy workmanship. The new kids are not only in a different social class but are different religions and genders. It makes for a fiery and sexy stew.

The show is unabashedly sexual in what seems to be the standard European way as the kinds mingle in straight and gay relationships. There is a lot of skin, and great partnerships to cheer for as the new students learn how to navigate this strange new world. The school is a spectacular setting, with a lot of action in the huge swimming pool, matched only in elegance by the residences of the wealthy kids. Its all very sensual and impressive.

Of course once love breaks out, can envy and murder be far behind? Season 1 will have you on the edge of your seat, and Season 2 looks back at cues we might have missed as the murderer is identified.

This is great popcorn material, but presents interesting questions about

religion and acceptance. The fact that the non-traditional bi and gay relationships are included as part of the spectrum of the students lives, and gives you hope for kids in the future.

The ensemble cast members have become international superstars known for their 'thirsty' photos on IG, including **Miguel Bernardeau**, **Itzan Escamilla** and many more.

*SOTUS* is from Thailand, and has some of the same themes, without the flesh and obvious sexuality.



In another spectacular school setting, this time university, the juniors, led by **Perawat Sangpotirat** are in charge of hazing the incoming freshman class. But one freshman immediately attracts the wrath of the upperclassman, and **Prachaya Ruangroj** is wonderful in his sly and innocent resistance.

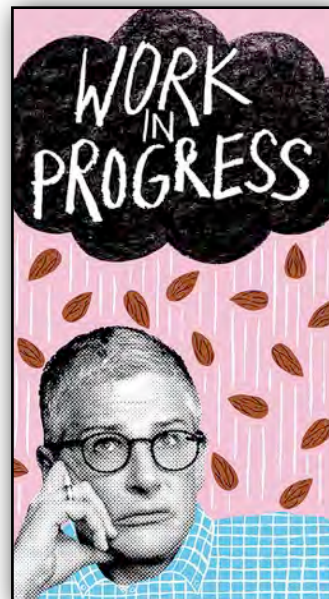
Like *ELITE*, *SOTUS* has a huge ensemble of minor players who each make an impression, this time with shirts on.

I would recommend both *ELITE* and *SOTUS* as a great way to see the

pressures of the youth of our world. The insults, the hazing and the bullying are as old as time. However, the new forms of acceptance and resistance give hope.



*WORK IN PROGRESS* showcases Chicago Queer Scene!



We are a year late getting to *WORK IN PROGRESS*, **Abby McEnany** and **Tim Mason** have brought a brilliant slice of queer life to the forefront of Showtime On Demand. McEnany has been a standout in the Chicago comedy scene for 20 years, and all that training shows in episodes that – perfectly matched by Mason's directing – are funny, crisp, and educational.

This is a great show for people wondering about pronouns, what non-binary means, and worry about the future of gender discussions in years to come. In *WORK IN PROGRESS*, the future is here.

McEnany stars as Abby, a woman ill at ease in both her own body and the world around her. When her sister sets her up on a date with Chris, an attractive server, we hope that Abby can indeed find love with this handsome transman. But if she cannot find love, perhaps there is comfort and contact. Fans of Chicago theater will no doubt recognize some ensemble players including Delia Kropp and Parker Guidry, among others. Another part of the fun is identifying the many Chicago locations...street corners, restaurants, the great late Uptown Underground, and many more.

It's easy to catch *WORK IN PROGRESS* on demand, but hurry – Season 2 is already on the air.

For more reviews of other films visit <http://www.delvenshaw.com>



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# GRAB DALLAS

## Ultimate Fighter Dallas Preston

### The Jersey Boy Goes for the Take Down in His Adult Film Debut

By Shane Gallagher

Dallas Preston grew up on the Jersey Shore and still calls the Garden State his home. Earlier this year, a little text changed his life forever. The next thing the 21-year-old knew, he was on a flight bound for Las Vegas to meet with the casting team at Helix Studios. This month, Dallas makes his adult film debut in Helix Academy Wrestling, the next chapter in their popular Helix Academy series.

In the new season, Helix's leading man Josh Brady stars as captain of the Helix Academy wrestling team. He is pushing the team to keep their heads in the game, but the guys are finding it hard with so many... um... distractions. Studio favorites Travis Stevens and Seth Peterson also star alongside a bevy of Helix hotties. We spoke with newcomer Dallas from his Jersey home.

**Shane Gallagher:** Hi Dallas! Did you imagine you'd be wearing tights in your first adult film?

**Dallas Preston:** No, I didn't! But I think it's an amazing way to start an adult film career.

**SG:** How did a nice Jersey boy like you find your way to Helix?

**DP:** I applied on the website and not too long after, I got a text inviting me to an audition!

**SG:** Has it been fun getting to know the other Helix guys?

**DP:** It has been really great with the other guys. Everyone gets along so well! I love being able to talk and connect with other guys pursuing careers in the industry.

**SG:** How did you learn you had been cast in Helix Academy Wrestling?

**DP:** The director texted me that the studio was doing something really big and that they wanted me to be a part of it. He didn't tell me what the film was exactly, just that there was wrestling

involved.

**SG:** Were you an athlete in high school?

**DP:** I was a partier in high school, but I always managed to keep my grades up.

**SG:** Did you win best eyes? You should have!

**DP:** No, I didn't, but thank you so much!

**SG:** In Helix Academy Wrestling, you

get paired with Jacob Hansen and Kane Fox. Who would win in a real wrestling match?

**DP:** In a real match, I would beat both of them. I might be little but I can pack a punch.

**SG:** Did you have a say in who you were teamed up with in the film?

**DP:** No, it was all in the script. We didn't have a say.

**SG:** What did you remember most

## HELIX ACADEMY WRESTLING



Photo Courtesy of Helix Studios





Photos Courtesy of Helix Studios

**about your experience with Jacob?**

**DP:** What I remember most about Jacob was how kind he was. It was my first scene experience! He made it so great and I'm incredibly thankful.

**SG: What did you remember most about your experience with Kane?**

**DP:** What I remember the most about

Kane was how he and his boyfriend were arguing.

**SG: Spill the tea!**

**DP:** (Laughing) I have no idea what they were so upset about; just that it created drama on the set.

**SG: What would you like fans to know about you?**

**DP:** I would like fans to know that I'm sweet and I'm always up for having a little fun! And if you want to send me presents, my birthday is on the Fourth of July.

**SG: That means you're a Yankee Doodle Dandy!**  
**DP:** I am!

**something fans would never guess about you?**

**DP:** I know the alphabet in sign language.

**SG: Craziest thing left to do on your bucket list?**

**DP:** I don't know if it would be considered crazy but I'm dying to go to Brazil so I can meet the people and explore the country, especially Rio de Janeiro.

**SG: Who is the most important in your life right now?**

**DP:** My mom is my best friend.

**SG: You're a momma's boy, too?**

**DP:** I love all of my family. They are so important to me. I can't thank them enough for being there with me every step of the way. Even with my new career, they still love me the same as they always have.

**SG: Where do you see yourself in five years?**

**DP:** I see myself still shooting videos, owning a property, and continuing to love life as much as I do now.

**For more on Dallas visit <http://www.Helixstudios.com>**

**SG: What's**





## KRISTAL LARSON IS SECOND OUT TRANS PERSON ELECTED IN IL HISTORY

Washington, DC – LGBTQ Victory Fund endorsed candidate **Kristal Larson** won her election for Avon Township Clerk and became the first out trans person ever elected to a non-judicial position in Illinois history. She is also just the second out trans person to ever win election in the state, the first being **Jill Rose Quinn** in her race for Circuit Court of Cook County last year. Larson faced a transphobic attack in the lead-up to election night, when an Avon Township supervisor distributed a flyer using her deadname. The flyer encouraged voters to oppose her election.

Mayor **Annis Parker**, President & CEO of LGBTQ Victory Fund, released the following statement about Larson's victory:

"Kristal won this election because she knows her community well and will be a committed public servant, but the impact of her victory will extend far beyond the borders of Avon Township. At a time when trans people are under constant attack by

politicians who weaponize hate for political gain, Kristal's victory will counter their bigoted narrative and help transform perceptions of who trans people are. Kristal will become a role model and inspiration for many trans people who too rarely see themselves in positions of power. Her victory is a reminder that despite the anti-trans rhetoric from politicians, voters believe trans people can make great elected leaders."

Larson previously won election as an Avon Township Trustee, however she was not out as trans at the time.

LGBTQ Victory Fund works to achieve and sustain equality by increasing the number of openly LGBTQ elected officials at all levels of government while ensuring they reflect the diversity of those they serve.

For more information visit <http://www.victoryfund.org>



## GRABBY's ANNOUNCE NOMINATIONS ARE LIVE NOW FOR FAN VOTING SATURDAY AND SWISS NAVY LUBE AS OFFICIAL GLOBAL LUBE SPONSOR

Chicago, IL - The annual GRABBY Awards, highlighting top productions, talent, and performances in the gay adult film industry, will take place on Saturday, May 29, and streamed live on GayVNStars.com.

The nominations for the 2021 GRABBY Awards were open to the fans and industry from Saturday, February 27 through Saturday, March 27. During this month long period, fans nominated their favorite gay adult movies and stars. Starting Saturday April 10th through Saturday, May 1st fans and industry can vote from the list of nominees that we have combined from the over 100,000 votes that were cast. Be sure to visit [www.GrabbyAwards.com](http://www.GrabbyAwards.com) to cast your vote!

"We are excited to announce that voting goes live Saturday April 10th," said show producer **Stacy Bridges**. "Also returning for the 10th Year Swiss Navy Lube will be our Official Lube, so if you are sitting at home watching the live stream make sure you have a bottle of Swiss Navy lube handy in case you need it."

"We are so excited to be able to keep up the tradition that M D Science Lab/Swiss Navy has had



with the Grabbys for over 10 years now... I also want to Congratulate Stacy and the entire staff of the Grabbys for not only keeping up the tradition of the Grabbys but also for the combining of the European Grabby Awards (Formerly The Prowler Awards) ... Mark would be so proud. I personally want to Thank all y'all for your continued support of Swiss Navy!" said **Ellen Friedman** Regional Director of Sales & Marketing for Swiss Navy Lube.

"In Europe, our hosts Crystal Lubrikunt & LoUie CYfer will hold everybody's hand as they walk us through a star-studded night of glamour as excited winners take home Europe's most prestigious adult award. We hope that this year's online event will be enjoyed by porn fans and the industry professionals from every corner of the planet and we promise you, this year's line up of Europe's best, is absolutely stunning so take a moment, visit [GrabbyAwards.com](http://GrabbyAwards.com) and make sure that you vote for your favourites" said

European show producer **Benjamin Willis**.

To announce all the American winners, **ChiChi LaRue** and **Honey West** will once again host the live-stream from Chicago Saturday May 29th as viewers watch who walks away with the winning trophy in categories such as Hottest Cock, Hottest Daddy, and the coveted International Pornstar of the Year. For the second year, GayVN Stars is the presenting sponsor. "We are delighted to be the presenting sponsor of this historic edition of the Grabby Awards and equally excited to stream both of these incredible events on the GayVN Stars platform," said **Tony Rios**, CEO of AVN Media Network. "The Grabbys have become part of the fabric of our industry and it is our great honor to help them continue this tradition of excellence."

For more information and updates visit: <http://www.GrabbyAwards.com>



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## HELP WANTED

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