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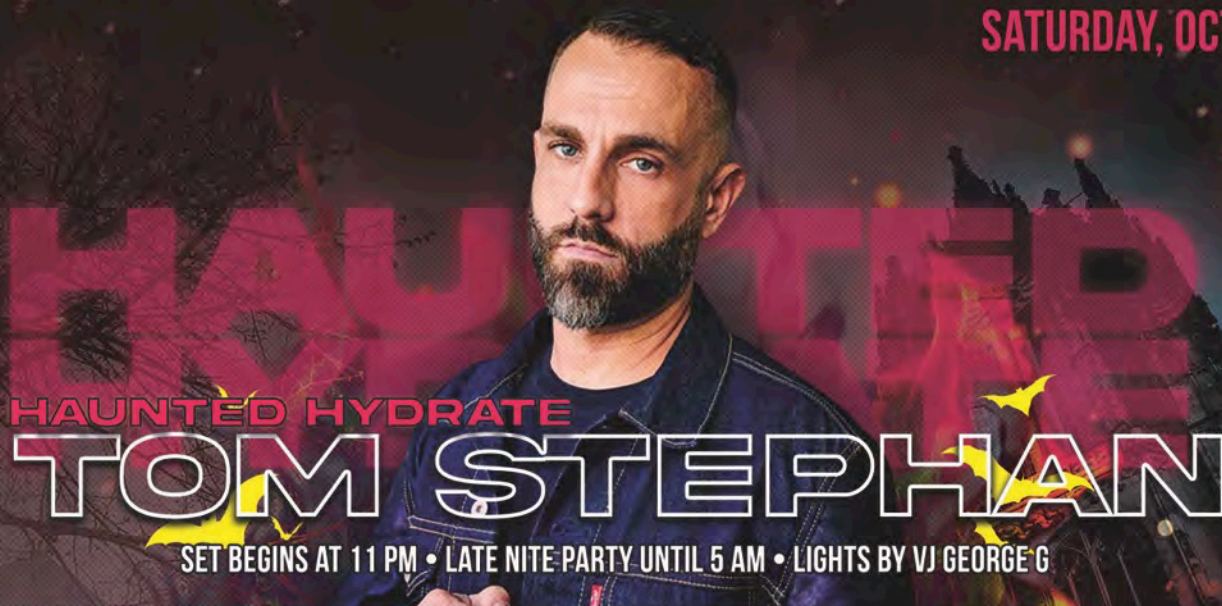
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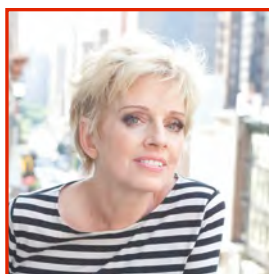
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3712 N. BROADWAY #315
CHICAGO, IL 60613
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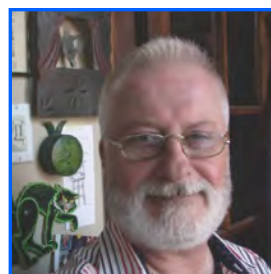
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Publisher
 Stacy Bridges

Creative Director (Web)
 Miguel Ortuno

Contributors
 Chris Azzopardi
 Roger V. McCaffrey-Boss
 Erik Sosa-Kibby
 Holly Maholm
 Gregg Shapiro
 Terri Schlichenmeyer

Production
 Stacy Bridges
 James Gumb

Photography
 Bear Lens Photography
 Ken Brown

Sales
 Erik Sosa-Kibby
 Judy Kyle

Public Relations
 Nick Wille

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Apollo Venom Summers.
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GRAB ELVIRA

No Trick, Just a Treat Elvira actor Cassandra Peterson on revealing her sexuality in new memoir, disappointing (some) straight men and the LGBTQ+ community's support

By Chris Azzopardi

Cassandra Peterson, famously known as pop culture Halloween icon Elvira, isn't scared anymore — at least not when it comes to saying that, yes, she's a member of the LGBTQ+ community. Peterson came out in September in her new tell-all book, *"Yours Cruelly, Elvira: Memoirs of the Mistress of the Dark,"* where she writes about the relationship she's been in with a woman, Teresa "T" Wierson, since 2002.

Now, Peterson says the reaction from queer and straight men alike has been immense and warm — a response she didn't think would be quite this positive. "I am just so glad that so many people are interested, you know?" says Peterson, humbled, when we connected recently.

During our interview, Peterson spoke frankly about sharing the hardest, most intimate details of her tumultuous young life and extravagant career in the book, and by the end of the chat, said she was a fan of interviews like this, "where I don't [go]. 'Yeah, so I began Elvira in 1981.'" Less thrilling for her? Having to recite the most basic elements of her Wiki page: "I want to say, 'Read the freaking book!'"

And, well, now she can.

Chris Azzopardi: RuPaul was right — this memoir is juicy. You've spared no detail, it seems. Were you ever reluctant to include anything?

Cassandra Peterson: I mean, I thought about doing this book for like the last 15, 17 years, and as I went forward and kept getting closer to actually doing it, I really thought, "I'm gonna talk about everything." I was most worried about the relationship between me and my mom. But my mom passed away and I felt [laughs] a lot better about exposing that because

— that's strange, you know, here I am protecting my mom who was abusive to me, but I thought if I came out with that book and she read all of that stuff, that would probably kill her, so I didn't want to do that.

CA: Until now, so much about your life and Elvira has been a mystery. Were you ever concerned that sharing your personal story might affect the overall mystique you've built around Elvira?

CP: Oh, yeah. It was on my mind all the time. I mean, that is the main reason for hiding my relationships and my personal life and keeping it very private — that I own and run a business that is entirely dependent upon this one brand. [Laughs.] And if I tarnish that brand in any way, I may lose my livelihood. And I'm not going to start back at square one in show business. Mm, no, I've been doing that forever, you know? So I didn't want to blow it. Finally, I just got to the point in my life when — I just turned 70 years old and I have enough money. I'm comfortable enough that I felt like, "OK, I can risk it now. If my brand does go to hell, I'm OK. I live in a nice place, and I have enough money to last me the rest of my life and be comfortable."

CA: Has the response to the book been what you expected?

CP: It's better than I expected. It's better. I got so much wonderful support and love and comments from my fans and from people who weren't even



really fans. I had a straight guy run up to T at the farmers market a couple of days ago; a straight guy comes up and goes, "I just want you to tell Cassandra that her book completely changed my mind about what straight is, what gay is. It just completely changed the way I think. And please tell her thank you for that."

CA: I think you've addressed how you've had some regret for not coming out about your relationship sooner. Do stories like that make you think, "If I had done this 15 or 20 years ago, perhaps I could have changed more minds at a time when maybe it was more crucial"?

CP: I don't know. I'm afraid if I would've done it 15 or 20 years ago, I don't think people would have been ready. I do think it would have very possibly damaged the character. I have a couple of friends — I will not name their names — and they are celebrities and 15, 20 years [ago] they both came out and they pretty much didn't get any more acting work. Just spiraled down.

So people think that doesn't happen anymore. But it does, and especially in Hollywood. I mean, one of them was a handsome leading man,

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SATURDAY OCT 30

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HALLOWEEN COSTUME CONTEST 10PM-3AM

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and he kind of never got any of those roles again. I had gay male friends telling me, "If anybody asks about if you are in a relationship with T, you just deny, deny, deny." I mean, it's a horrible thing to say, and it makes me feel like a big hypocrite because I am so involved with the gay community, and I was very worried. I knew I was gonna have some straight guys go, you know, "Oh, she's a big lesbo!"

One of my social media platforms, 11,000 people quit following me; most of the comments were like, "Hey, you were lying the whole time. I don't like Elvira anymore. I used to be a fan but I'm done." And I know those are straight guys thinking, "My chances of being with Elvira are all ruined now." Anyway, I lost 11,000 people, but the good news was I gained 60,000 people.

CA: And those are people you'd rather have as fans, I'm sure.

CP: Absolutely.

CA: What has the support from the LGBTQ+ community been like?

CP: I did a big book signing last night. I signed between 500 and 600 books and I think many, if not most of the people, were in the gay community. They were like, "Oh my god, we love you more than ever. I didn't think it was possible to love you more. I love you so much now." Everybody there — every single person — was so sweet, caring and loving. They gave me notes that I've been reading today that are just like, ah! Almost heart-wrenching, they're so sweet and kind. The love last night was like I've never had before at any appearance that I've made with my fans. So I'm thrilled.

CA: How did you manage to keep this relationship and your sexuality a secret for so long?

CP: [Laughs.] I don't know! I have this very inner circle of friends who I told, and they were shocked, but they quickly got over that and [are] very, very loving and accepting, of course. And then I have a little farther out circle of friends who I didn't tell, and they are really good friends, but I never told [them]; I'm sure they all just suspected but didn't say anything. Because T is always around me. You know, she's fairly androgynous — some people might call her butch. I don't really call her butch. I think she's more androgynous. But we're together all the time. It was funny: somebody was saying, "We were at dinner this time



and I remember T reaching over and brushing some crumbs [off you]" — I always drop all my food on my chest, let me tell you — "and I thought, oh, that's very friendly of her assistant." But they said, "You know what? Yeah, we had our suspicions about it." But I don't know. She works with me as my assistant and has for all these years, and traveled with me on the road. It's funny, before me, she used to travel as an assistant for Mickey Rourke a few years ago. That's something nobody knows. She was even his sparring partner when he was boxing! [Laughs.] And now she's my sparring partner. We don't even box; we just spar.

But I don't know how we managed to do it. Honest to God, when I go to signings or conventions and all of that stuff, she's right next to me, working away. I don't think anybody ever suspected 'cause they know, uh, what a gigantic horndog I am and Elvira is and they just thought, "No, that's not possible."

CA: Now that you're publicly out, does this mean that there are more lesbians lusting for Elvira than there were before?

CP: Who knows? It's so funny, I haven't even thought about that. Maybe I'm gonna start getting tons of fan mail from lesbians. But you know, I always have. And I always have quite a large crowd of lesbians come to see me when I make appearances and stuff. Yeah, I don't know if they're going to think I'm available now, 'cause I'm not.

CA: Sorry, ladies.

CP: In a relationship!

CA: What is it about your sexuality that led you to conclude that you're pansexual or sexually fluid, as you've said?

CP: Yeah. I don't know. I mean, is it possible to just turn that way when you're like 50 years old? I don't know what happened. I certainly didn't consider myself that my whole life. I was always with men. But I did have a penchant for gay men, I'll tell you that. Most of my boyfriends throughout my life and most of my relationships were with gay men, and they were basically straight relationships.

I actually thought of myself as a gay man — I really did, my whole life. I swear. I feel like a gay man, and that's why when I dress up as Elvira, I feel like I'm doing drag, which I absolutely am. There's no difference between me and a drag queen, except for tucking. And I don't do that. Saves me a lot of time and pain. But yeah, I hung out with so many gay men, that I finally just felt like I was one. So now, I'm a gay man in a relationship with a woman, so what does that make me?

CA: I guess whatever you want it to make you.

CP: Yeah. I know. I'm confused! [Laughs.]

CA: The book beautifully explores these relationships that you had with gay men throughout your life. I mean,

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so much of it is devoted to those relationships, in fact. What was it like revisiting these special bonds you had with your gay friends?

CP: Probably the closest and, you know, heaviest relationships I had in my life were with gay men. And probably still are. My closest friends in the world are gay men, and I love talking about it in the book because they were so, so dear to me. We were so close. I mean, my friend, John Paragon, who without him I would not be the Elvira I am. And my friend Robert [Redding]. John Paragon wrote everything with me for 27 years, and Robert Redding designed my look and my outfit, and he was my closest friend.

I mean, I just had gay men guiding me through my whole life, and writing about it was really, really fascinating. But the sad culmination of it was that almost all of them are dead, and mostly because of AIDS. That was one of the hardest things to write about in my book. It just crushed me. I couldn't even get through a paragraph without sobbing and going outside and breathing, and then coming back in and sitting down and writing about it again. I mean, everybody I knew just died. Young, handsome, healthy guys. They were in the prime of their life. I just think young gay men — nobody understands what that time was like. I mean, imagine getting Covid and you are gonna die from it, period, end of story. There is no way to get better. You get it, it's a death sentence, and you die within just a few weeks. People just can't imagine what that was like. I was scared to death. I was so scared for every friend I had.

CA: As I was reading the book, I was thinking to myself how hard it must've been to go back through the grief and trauma of that.

CP: Oh, just gut wrenching. Barely could get through it, really. People have asked questions about the book and go ... then the AIDS epidemic came along. I can't even talk about it, I start sobbing. When I read for the audio tape for my book, when I got to the part about AIDS, I couldn't get through it. I started sobbing my eyes out. I had all these people [in the studio] waiting on me, I couldn't get through it. I had to leave. I had to go in the bathroom and cry for about 30 minutes non-stop, sobbing my brains out, and then pull myself back together and go in and try to read it again. It was one of the hardest things I've ever done. Talking about it, I couldn't handle it.

CA: What's next for you? Any interest

in another sitcom?

CP: Oh, I wish. I would love to. My next steps that I really wanna concentrate on are three things: I want to do a documentary, kind of based on the book, and I would love to do a biopic with another actress playing me. Maybe a six-episode thing, or a film.

CA: I'm thinking about who might play you. Can we get Dolly Parton?

CP: Ah! You stole my joke, man! [Laughs.]

CA: No way.

CP: Oh my god, we're all on the same wavelength here. Everybody used to say to me, "If there was a biopic of your book, who would you want to play you?" And I go: "Dolly Parton."

CA: I mean, there's really nobody else.

CP: I know, right? And the third thing that I would really love to do, and I've thought about this for so many years, is a Broadway play of "Mistress of the Dark," the movie. I just think it would be so awesome. Kind of along the lines of "Hairspray" or "Legally Blonde," the Broadway plays of those. And have it be a musical, and obviously somebody else would play me, but I just think it would be a really uplifting, really fun musical for Broadway. So I'm gonna start working on all of those projects. I actually have a meeting today already for the documentary. I actually have so many production companies coming to me right now asking to do the documentary.

CA: I have to ask you about Halloween, obviously.



CP: Oh, god, yes. Halloween is coming up. I mean, I think this has been the busiest Halloween I've ever had. I've been booked up, and basically have done my Halloween projects for TV and stuff — those are all in the can and finished. So who knows, I might get to stay home on Halloween.

CA: Please tell me you'll pass out candy as Elvira then. Or that you have before!

CP: One time I did it. It was the weirdest thing. I have never, never, never been home at Halloween in 40 years, but one night in the mid '80s I went home. I think I did "The Tonight Show" with Joan Rivers. I ran home and stopped there for a few minutes to do something before I headed out to Knott's Berry Farm where I do my live show for Halloween, and I forgot it was Halloween night and the doorbell rang. I just ran over to the door and threw it open and there are these stunned little trick-or-treaters. And more stunned than them were their dads who were standing behind them. You should've

seen their faces. I had no idea it was Halloween night because, yeah, obviously in October, every night is like Halloween to me. So I was like, "What are they doing there?" But the kids were in costumes, so I'm like, "Is it Halloween? Oh my god." And I didn't have anything for them, so I ran to my purse and I gave them dollar bills. So stupid.

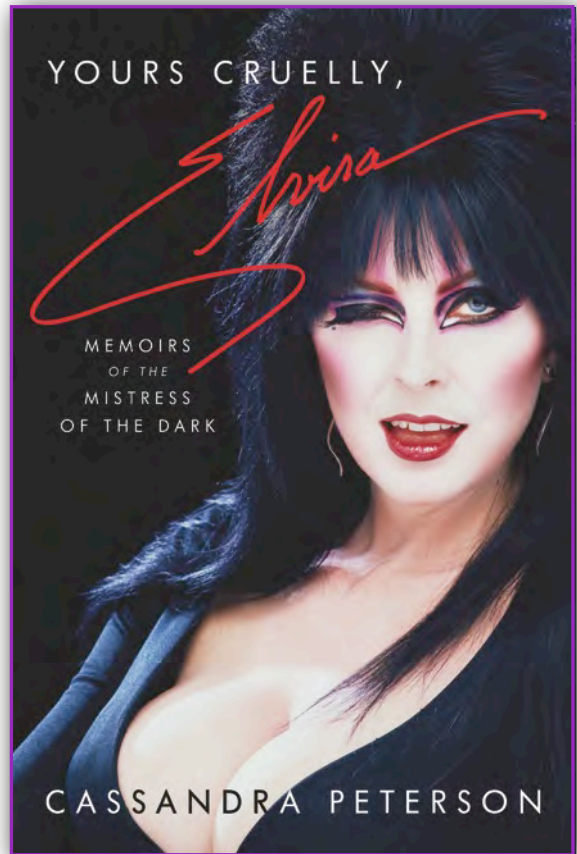
CA: As the Queen of Halloween and now an out member of the LGBTQ+ community, what kind of light can you shed on why you think Halloween is so popular among queer people?

CP: It is, and let me tell you, the gay community obviously had a huge, huge influence on taking Halloween from a pretty much strictly kids' holiday, which it was when I was a kid, to an adult holiday. I mean, I used to go to Santa Monica Boulevard on Halloween night in Boystown every single year and have this huge party with everybody in costume. But I think it's a little bit like getting in drag. It's so fun, and you can be somebody else for a night, and it's OK. It's so freeing, and you know, the gays, they love to dress up in costumes. And there's nothing like a gigantic gay party on Halloween night. No other straight parties come close to

that.

And I just think that gay people are more open to dressing up and being somebody else and looking fabulous than your general straight crowd, you know? Everything there is — the masquerade balls, the carnivals — the gays are the ones who are the heads of it. They're the ones who are the leaders; they're the ones who do the best costumes and have the best time. It's just a born-in thing. [Laughs.]

Chris Azzopardi is the Editorial Director of Pride Source Media Group and Q Syndicate, the national LGBTQ+ wire service. He 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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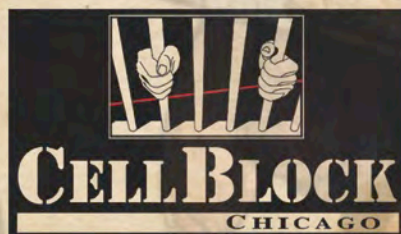
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GRAB ELLEN



Photo By Bruno Cornil

The other Ellen: An interview with Ellen Foley

By Gregg Shapiro

When it comes to impressive curriculum vitae, it's hard to beat that of actress and music legend **Ellen Foley**. From her duet vocal on Meat Loaf's hit single "Paradise by the Dashboard Lights" to her performance in the "Black Boys/White Boys" number in the movie version of *Hair* to playing public defender Billie on the NBC sitcom *Night Court* and originating the role of the witch in *Into the Woods*, Foley's outstanding career achievements speak for themselves. Her timeless 1979 debut album *Night Out* remains a classic and perfectly shows off her amazing vocal abilities. ***Fighting Words*** (Urban Noise Music), Foley's first new album in eight years is a return to form featuring catchy tunes mostly in a rock vein and closing with her cover of "Heaven Can Wait," her tribute to the late Jim Steinman (the writer of Meat Loaf's biggest hits). Ellen was gracious enough to make time for an interview

about her career and the new album.

Gregg Shapiro: Because I'm a gay man of a certain age, I have to begin this interview by asking what was it like working with Selma Diamond on *Night Court*?

Ellen Foley: Selma Diamond was fantastic! She was so funny and so acerbic. I remember her actually being supportive of me. I was in L.A. in a situation with a boyfriend in New York, and she goes, "What are you doing? You're Ellen Foley!" I'm like, "Yeah, you're right Selma Diamond, I am Ellen Foley!" She was so adept at timing and knew how to mold the lines. Because, obviously, the writing she had done in her life, a lot of it was probably superior to the material she was working with on *Night Court*. She had another side to her. You know Richard Moll, the actor who played Bull, she was so mean to him [laughs]! I remember telling her, "You're a real put-down

artist, aren't you?" But my favorite line of hers, of all time, she must have been maybe five feet tall. There was (John) Larroquette, Moll and Harry Anderson who, on average, were 6'3. She looked around her and said [in Diamond's voice], "I'm working in a forest of men!" After a point, she started getting sick, and you saw changes in her personality. But she was always Selma Diamond.

GS: One of the most distinguishing aspects of your musical career is your history of collaboration – from Meat Loaf's 1977 *Bat out of Hell* album to Mick Ronson and Ian Hunter on your 1978 debut record *Night Out* to your ex-boyfriend Mick Jones and his *Clashmates* on your 1981 *Spirit of St. Louis* album all the way to the present day via your collaborations with Paul Foglino on your new album *Fighting Words* and Robert I.

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Rubinsky on the off-Broadway musical Club Dada.

EF: I'm so glad you have Robert in there because he's my only gay collaborator. In rock and roll, it's a pretty hetero genre. But, of course, in the theater where I've been in between rock and roll, I have a lot of gay friends. In this project, Club Dada (in difficult times), it's just me and Robert I., and his husband Tom Aulino directed it.

GS: Well, this was just a long way of asking you what makes you so good at playing well with others?

EF: Well, I went to Catholic school [laughs]. They taught us to play well with others. I'm a singer and I'm not saying I can be molded, but I am an interpreter and I'm able to take other people's ideas and create something that's my own. I basically worked with people – basically, let's underline that – basically worked with people who I really respected and felt respect from. Even Ronson and Ian! I came to New York in 1972 and by '77 I was making the Meatloaf record. I was like, "Well, this is incredible! What a great piece of music this is as a whole, and certainly "Paradise..." That was a blast, but then I didn't think about it that much because I had never sung on a record before. Then the head of the (Cleveland International Records) label, a guy named Steve Popovich, who was just a brilliant guy putting at people together, he's the one that after everybody rejected Meatloaf, signed him. He then gave me a deal and put me together with Hunter and Ronson, which was sort of like being thrown into the deep end of the pool.

GS: Right!

EF: I mean, holy crap! This is Mott The Hoople! This is David Bowie! Like I said, I had literally been in New York for seven years and now, here I am, being given these opportunities.

GS: Such lucky breaks!

EF: I remember it being fun, which is so important.

GS: In some ways, a few of the songs on Fighting Words, including "Leave Him, Janie," "Are You Good Enough," and "Be Nice," offer the listener words of wisdom and advice. What's the best advice you were ever given?

EF: I'll just say it out loud. The whole being in England thing in 1980. So close after I was just establishing my own identity and sort of being subsumed into that world. A friend of mine said, once again, "You're Ellen



Photo By Aleksandr Karjaka

Foley!" I just had the Night Out record that made a big splash. She said, "You've got to get out of this and show your own strength as yourself." It was hard to do, but eventually I got back to feeling who I am. This kid who came from St. Louis who is a real New Yorker and how important New York is and was in my work. I had to get back to remember that, to who I was, who I wanted to be.

GS: That was good advice! How did the wonderful duet with fellow Meat Loaf alum Karla DeVito on "I'm Just Happy To Be Here," come to pass?

EF: Strangely enough, Karla and I, although our careers sort of intersected, never really knew each other, never really hung out. I think in the first few years, the whole thing was stuck in my craw about the ("Paradise by the Dashboard Lights") video [that

featured DeVito and not Foley]. She represented the thing that was kind of upsetting to me, even though anytime I ever saw her she was this little ball of cheer. A few years back there was a tribute show to Jim Steinman. He was already quite sick. Barry Keating, who was Jim's friend from Amherst College and a guy named Pat Cerasaro put together a tribute at 54 Below. It was us and a bunch of young kids, chorines. I was pissed! She didn't care because she's nice, but they didn't really respect us or understand who were. We just sat together[laughs] in the dressing room and we so clicked talking about our families. Her married name is Mrs. Benson...

GS: She's married to Robby Benson.

EF: Yes! Benson is derived from a Jewish name. I'm Mrs. (Doug) Bernstein. We're both nice Jewish

HALLOWEEN 2021

WED

20TH

8pm to 11pm

Wicked Workshop
Pumpkin Painting

TUE

26TH

8pm to 10pm

BIG Ghastly
Geyme Show

THUR

28TH

9pm to 1am

Thirsty Thursday
Scaryoke

FRI

29TH

9pm to 1am

Dirty Circus
Show & Costume Contest

SUN

31ST

2pm to 6pm

Hall-o-Kween
Drag & Burlesque Revue

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wives with kids. Jim was there in a wheelchair. I sang the song "Heaven Can Wait" and I think she sang "Lost Boys and Golden Girls." It became a friendship, and we would stay in touch. Then we sang as a trio with Meat Loaf on a Steinman song on his last record *Braver Than We Are*. When you get older, you have all your friends, but then to make a new friend and feel a real connection, I just said to Paul (Fogolino), "I would love to sing something with her. Go home and write us a song!"

GS: I'm so glad you mentioned "Heaven Can Wait," because Fighting Words closes with your stunning rendition of the song. Did you choose to record it for the album because you had performed it at the Jim Steinman tribute show?

EF: No. "Heaven Can Wait" has been part of my repertoire since '77. I met Meat and Steinman doing this tour of this National Lampoon show which ended in '76. Then Jim put together a production of his musical called *Neverland* at the Kennedy Center and I played Wendy who's got the virginal mother/goddess figure and sang "Heaven Can Wait" in that. I think it might have been the first time it was sung in public. I'm sure Meat Loaf would disagree [laughs]. "[In Meat Loaf's voice] No, I sang it at the Elks Club [laughs]." In all my rock and roll bands and cabaret acts I've always sung it. This version was recorded for a little indie film I did called *Lies I Told My Little Sister*. The producer wanted me to sing it and Jim gave us permission. The track was recorded in L.A. by Andrew Williams. He did this really beautiful orchestral version and sent it to me, and I recorded it in New York. It played over the closing credits.

GS: There's a powerful country influence on "I Call My Pain By Your Name," from its retro country song title to its retro country arrangement. Looking back over the course of your music career, did you ever imagine yourself recording a full-fledged country tune?

EF: I always loved (country) because of the way it lets you sing. It's a whole

different kind of singing and I think I can stick my voice in that genre pretty well. One of my favorite songs ever to sing is "Wichita Lineman." It was (written) by Jimmy Webb, but it's definitely a country song. I thought when Paul first brought me the song, and we would do it in my living room, that the song had a really natural sort of Appalachian sound or like you say, retro country when it adds the band. It's such a great song.

time it is because they're being buffeted through time and space. It's really funny! Robert I. wrote it. He's an incredibly funny writer. He has quite a history. He was in the original cast of *Hair*. I've known him since the '70s. He was, at one point, married to my girlfriend Zora Rasmussen. They're still best friends! We've all known each other since she and I did a crazy show called *YMCA* which was written by (James) Rado and (Gerome) Ragni (of *Hair*).



Photo By Gregg Delman

GS: There are all these Hair connections.

EF: Yes. We had done a 50th anniversary *Hair* tribute down at La MaMa (in New York) and afterward he (Robert) goes, "You should do a show of all Bertolt Brecht songs. I said, 'I've always wanted to do that.'" We started working on it and it became this original piece and a lot of it has the Germanic sort of feel. There's a song that Steinman wrote called "Who Needs the Young," and it's got that Brecht/Weill style. But the rest of it is a lot of famous songs that if we ever tried to do it in a theater it would cost us a billion dollars. We've worked on it for a long time. First Robert lived in Ohio because his husband Tom teaches at a university. Then they were in Vermont. We had to work on it when he was in New York. It took us like three years. Then we finally got this production down at La MaMa. It was March sixth and seventh of 2020, and you know what happened then. Just a couple of weeks ago, we did this really fun livestream thing with, once again, La MaMa. They're kind of our go-to

place which we hope we can perform at again, but they still haven't opened. Robert, he's my bud! I guess I've settled into not doing anything unless it seems they are my real people. People I'm really comfortable with like Robert and Tom and Paul, people in my band, it's a family sort of feel.

GS: You get to a certain point where you're able to surround yourself with the people you want to be surrounded by.

EF: Exactly!

GS: There is, no doubt, a whole generation of gay men who became

GS: I agree! Earlier we mentioned Club Dada. What can you tell the readers about it?

EF: Dada was a School of Art in the '20s and '30s which preceded the Surrealist movement. It's really about these two people who are controlled by this voiceover provided by Jonathan Freeman who was the voice of Jafar in *Aladdin*. We're these ancient vaudevillians forced to perform songs. Then things happen, like explosions, and you think you're dead, and then and you're woken up again. There's a line I say, "Indeterminate times!" and you don't know where you are or what

aware of you from your stage work on and off-Broadway, as well as from your performance in Miloš Forman's Oscar-nominated movie version of Hair. How aware are you of a gay following?

EF: Always! Obviously, the gays are so important to me because they're my friends and being in the theaters. But rock and roll had always been more of a hetero genre, so I didn't know how many (gay) fans I had. It turns out I did! When I hear from people -- Twitter and all that it is kind of a blessing because you hear (from people). It's really important to me to have a gay fan base. I sing rock and roll, but I sing it as a woman, and I think a lot of stuff I sing is really passionate and there's a humor to it that the gay audience would dig. They knew me from theater stuff and, of course, I originated the Witch in Into the Woods, which I think the community is aware of this. I'm really dying for the community to hear this record.

GS: I think they'll love it! Have you ever come across a drag queen performing an Ellen Foley number in her routine?

EF: Oh, my God, no! Have you?

GS: Not yet!

EF: [Laughs] Wouldn't that be cool? Imagine sitting there watching RuPaul's Drag Race All-Stars and somebody sings "We Belong to the Night"? That would be perfect because it's so dramatic! Do you have any influence in those circles?

GS: Unfortunately, I don't. Maybe someone will read this interview and act on it.

EF: That would be great!

GS: In closing, are you able to promise not to keep us waiting so long between albums?

EF: Who knows? I don't like to say it, but who cares, but I'm 70. The fact is this album really rocks! I'm in the midst of booking at least one show here in New York and possibly going to Europe. I feel no trepidation about that. I'm healthy and I manage to keep it together. I look good. I think I sound good on the new record. These past 15, 16 months I haven't really been singing, but after we finish talking, I'm going to go down and vocalize. When you know you have a gig, all of a sudden, you're singing every day. But in terms of a record, who knows? Paul



Photo By Gregg Delman

kind of snuck up on me with this record. He had all these songs, so maybe he'll do it again. Why not? Look at my idol, my hero, my true love Mick Jagger. Look at him! Holy crap!



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GRAB DAN

Illustrated man: An interview with gay artist and writer Dan Crowley

By Gregg Shapiro

Chicago-based gay visual artist Dan Crowley is a creative person with a considerable adult following. Working in multiple media, including sculpting, painting and illustration, Crowley has established himself with pieces in private collections as well as public and commercial exhibitions. He even had a popular comic strip, "Uncle Dan," that ran for three years in the now-defunct gay publication, *Nightspots*. With his first book, ***Danny, Growing Up Gay & Creative*** (Rattling Good Yarns Press, 2021), Crowley enters the world of all-ages books. As he writes, "It's not easy growing up in a world that tells you to hide who you are," and via a series of illustrated vignettes, Crowley tells his story of learning who he was and how he became himself. I spoke with Dan Crowley in advance of the publication of his book.

Gregg Shapiro: Dan, I'd like to begin by congratulating you on the publication of your first book *Danny, Growing Up Gay & Creative*. How long was the book in the works?

Dan Crowley: *Danny, Growing Up Gay & Creative* was the project I decided to focus on when quarantine time struck on March 12, 2020. I had several book projects in pieces and wanted one of them to be completed during that time. I worked on it all during the lockdown. I decided on this book because I needed to be sure to send out healing thoughts to people who are going through this now.

GS: Were any of the drawings in the book already in existence or did you create them specifically for *Danny: Growing Up Gay & Creative*?

DC: All 50 drawings are new and were drawn for this book. Some of the images are based on old family photos.

GS: Who do you see as the target audience for the book?

DC: When book sellers ask about a target audience, they want to know

what part of the store to put your book in. My book deals with childhood and growing up so it wound up being labeled a children's book, which in a way it is but I want people who are grown to see it too, and to remember the moments in their lives that are like mine.

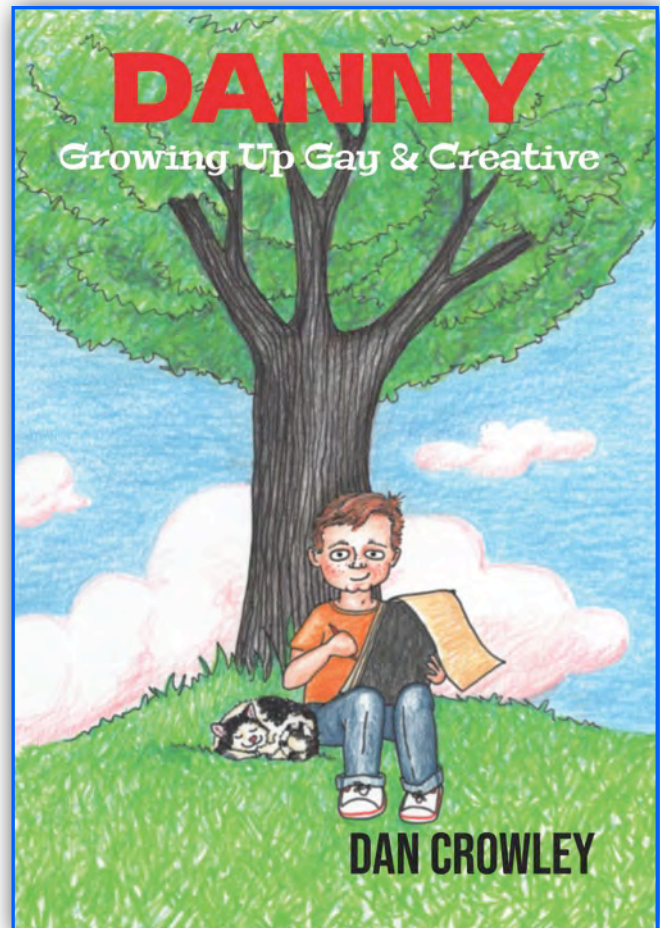
GS: Who are some of your favorite children's book authors?

DC: Some of my favorite children's book authors are Dr. Seuss, Maurice Sendak, Charles Dickens and all the folks who wrote about puppetry.

GS: Please say something about the decision to make it personal, your story, as opposed to creating a character.

DC: It never occurred to me to make up a character for this book because it was always meant to tell my story. If I changed things, it would have lost the honesty that's there. At first, it was going to be a written book with a few drawings and then the drawings took over and it became two books. I worked on the drawn book because it seems to be more universal. I want people to remember their own stories. Overburdening them with written details about my experience makes it too much about me. This is about all of us. Making it about my moments but leaving it open to what the reader brings to it.

GS: Since it's not a traditional story in terms of plot, such as having a




beginning, middle, and end, how would you describe *Danny: Growing Up Gay & Creative* to potential readers?

DC: So far, my story doesn't have an end, true. This book is fifty drawings showing a gay child developing from birth up till his high school graduation. It's a one-character book full of those moments when being gay or creative popped out. The moments that were my "shame" I turned into my glory. By focusing on Danny having his moment and not the adults' reaction to it, I explored the freedom I had and what I did with it naturally.

GS: As is so often the case, religion played a role in your upbringing, from "ruining Easter" (p. 7) to Adam in the movie *The Bible* (p. 13). What role, if any, does religion play in your present life?

DC: I was raised Catholic. It left a mark. I know wonderful people who lived as nuns or priests, but I learned that people are people. Some good and some not. There are wonderful people in each religious community who are



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there for the right reason, but not all. I went to an Episcopal church for 10 years and now I find my path of spiritual discovery has me focusing on a more personal spirituality (rather) than an organized religion. I have strong beliefs on creation and the artist. I think what I do is a form of prayer.

GS: Dr. David Reuben delayed and impacted the coming out of a lot of young queer people of a certain generation with his book *Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Sex*. Would you say that you were one of those people?

DC: That book came out when I was nine years old. I read it when I was eleven. I didn't know anything about gay sex or the world of homosexuals, but I knew I wanted to be loved. That book told me that wouldn't ever happen for me. That was soul-crushing. I came out in stages with the final steps at 23 years old. That book, the Catholic church, and everyone I knew were my reasons for not wanting to come out and be myself. I didn't know who I was! Positive gay role models were not to be found then.

GS: Thankfully, Barbra Streisand and other strong female icons including Mae West, Liza Minnelli, Helen Reddy, Bette Midler, Joan Crawford, and Glenda Jackson provided comfort and inspiration to you and many others. Please say something about the importance of those women, depicted in the book, to you.

DC: I love to sing. For me, it was always about emotional release. Singing along with Barbra started when I was six and would see her sing on talk shows in black and white. She taught me how to release feelings through music. I wish I had a film of my 11-year-old self singing "Maybe This Time," full of tears and heart. Yes, powerful women have always caught my eye and taught me something.

GS: Another "woman," although one made of injection molded plastic, namely Barbie, is included in the book. Please tell the readers something about Barbie and her influence on your work.

DC: When I was a baby boy in diapers, I loved Barbie. My sisters each received one, but not me. When I would play with my sister's Barbie I would get yelled at. "Danny! No!" it would go. One day while changing my dirty diaper my mother saw a face peeking out from the poop. Barbie's head had come off while I was playing with her, so I stuck it in my pants. My mother yelled.



(Pictured Dan Crowley)

"AHHHH!" Then laughed. I still play with Barbie and have many. She's a muse, not a role model.

GS: Before *Danny: Growing Up Gay & Creative*, you have had a successful career as a visual artist. Are there any projects at which you are currently at work that you would care to mention?

DC: Throughout my very long career I've done all sorts of projects. I've done window display, poster design, sculptures, paintings; all sorts of things. Right now, I'm learning about publishing. My first book was a learning curve. I have a couple other books that I'm working on and, as always, sculpting commissions for portrait puppets keep coming in. I've done those for over thirty years now! My Etsy page, Dan Crowley Studio, is filling up with new work for the holidays.

GS: You mentioned other books in the works. Would one of them be based on your popular series of famous people in history depicted as frogs?

DC: Two new books in the works, but neither about frogs. I began drawing my frog characters when I was in seventh grade. My Fargo Frog was to be my Mickey Mouse. From the beginning, I also drew my frog as characters from history and pop culture, but then people wanted their portraits done as frogs, too. I've done many paintings of them at this point, lots from my old family photos. Would they wind up in a book? I don't know yet. One of the exciting things about following where my interests take me is that I get surprised!

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GRAB A PLANE



Pride Journey - Savannah, Georgia

By Joey Amato

Taking a trip to Savannah is like taking a journey back in time. Even the airport is designed with architectural elements in mind that make it clear to guests that they are in for a unique experience.

Savannah is a city of squares. Designed in the 1700s, the city contains 22 squares, most of which are named in honor of a person or historical event, and many contain monuments, memorials or statues in the center. One can spend an entire day strolling around the city squares, admiring the stunning landscape and foliage.

I would highly recommend spending your first day in Savannah on foot rather than jumping on a packed trolley filled with tourists. You'll get a better lay of the land if you discover the city on your own at first. There are many walking tours which operate during the day as well as at night which can provide you with a boat load of historical data and in some cases, you can learn about Savannah's haunted

past.

Savannah has been called the most haunted city in the country for good reason. The city has been the site of war, disease, fire, murder, and slavery. According to one source, a French ship called Grietely arrived in Savannah in 1854 to pick up 71 escaped slaves. The ship sank while exiting the Savannah Harbor and many sailors say they feel a force pulling them off course and hear voices speaking in French and Bantu even today.

There are dozens of stories like this so if you are looking to go on a ghost hunt during your stay, join a Haunted Savannah Walking Tour from 6th Sense World – a woman-owned business that prides itself as being Savannah's original ghost tour company. The nighttime tour visits multiple haunted areas of the city including the famed Mercer House.

Wake up bright and early the next morning and catch a glimpse of the sunrise along the riverfront in the Plant

Riverside district, home to numerous restaurants, boutiques, and art galleries. One block south on East Bay Street lies B. Matthew's Eatery, a two-story restaurant which serves up some of the best brunches in the city. Since I was planning on walking a lot during my stay, I ordered the Fried Green Tomato & Crab Cake Benny, a delicious fried green tomato coupled with a blue crab cake, poached egg, mixed greens, and goat cheese served over a homemade buttermilk biscuit and topped with mornay sauce. Calories don't count when you're on vacation!

If you feel like you need a bit more exercise than walking, the fitness center at the Perry Lane Hotel is probably one of the largest and nicest hotel gyms I've ever seen. After your workout, head up to the rooftop for a stunning view of the city. The hotel consists of two buildings, the north building houses the rooftop bar and pool, while the south tower has a rooftop event space. Grab some complimentary champagne from the

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Before heading out on your next adventure, swing by The Emporium Kitchen & Wine Market located on the ground floor of the north tower and order the Crispy Brussels Sprouts with chili bacon jam...you'll thank me later.

There really is a surprise around every corner in Savannah and one such surprise is a wonderful boutique called Frieze. Bailey, the store dog, greets customers when they walk in and is quite possibly the most well-behaved dog ever. The store contains a variety of exotic treasures from around the world hand-selected by the owner, which are perfect for your home or a gift for that special person.



Mercer House

History buffs will enjoy the American Prohibition Museum which sits just outside of Ellis Square. The 6,000 square foot building contains 13 different galleries, four vintage cars and a functioning speakeasy. The 18th

amendment to our Constitution was passed in 1919, prohibiting the sale, transportation, and consumption of alcohol, so of course people tried to find a way around this law, leading to the rise of organized crime, as gangsters began to form well-organized and profitable bootlegging operations. The museum shines a spotlight on this era paying tribute to the good, the bad and the ugly.

Art enthusiasts should swing by the SCAD Museum of Art, a contemporary art museum featuring the works of internationally renowned and emerging artists.

The museum serves as a source of inspiration for the students of the Savannah College of Art & Design, which has grown to encompass multiple locations throughout the city and an enrollment of almost 15,000 students, many of which travel here from other countries to attend the institution.

With a student population that large, the city boasts a decent LGBTQ community despite the number of nightlife options. Club One, the city's only official gay club offers daily entertainment ranging from Drag Bingo on Monday evening to karaoke and full drag performances in their showroom every Friday and Saturday night. The club was home to world-renowned transgender performer The Lady Chablis, who was known as the 'Grand Empress' of the club. Chablis was a superstar in her own right, playing herself in the Clint Eastwood-directed movie adaptation of *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*, starring Kevin Spacey and John Cusack. Although Chablis passed away in 2016, Club One honors the icon every week with performances the bear her name.

Whether you are looking for great food, culture, history, paranormal activity, or a little bit of everything, Savannah is a great destination to explore.

For more information, visit www.visitsavannah.com. To book your Savannah gaycation, visit www.Orbitz.com/Pride





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WED

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9PM-3AM

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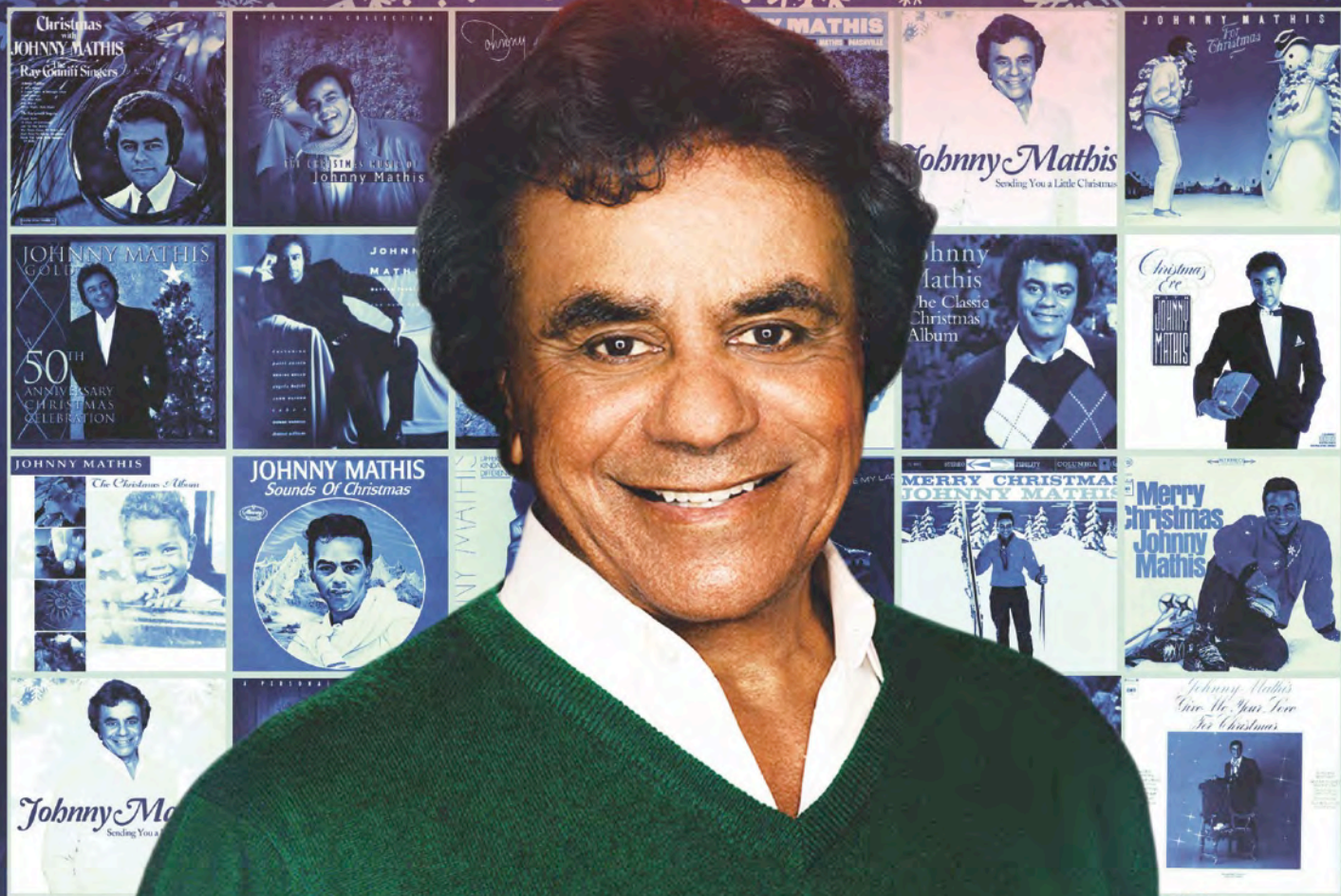
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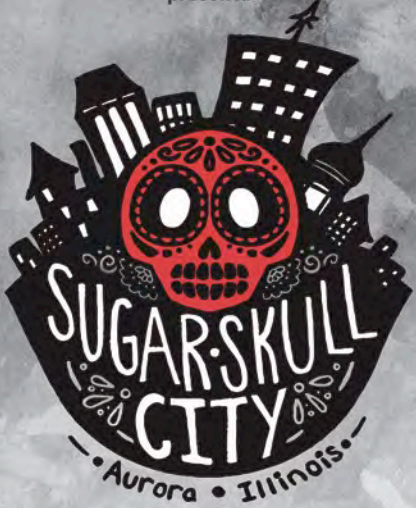
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Daily Specials

Monday	<p>@mosphere: \$5 Well Cocktails & Draft Beer 6-8pm. Cell Block: Open 4pm-2am. Charlies: Darla Dae's Bingo 7 – 11 pm Dancing until close. Houndstooth: .75 Boneless Wings, \$12 Domestic Pitchers, \$15 Premium Pitchers, \$5 Chambongs, \$3 Fireball, \$22 Bud Light Seltzer Buckets, \$22 Mexican Beer Buckets. Hydrate: Lips and Mascara Doors at 8pm Show at 10pm. Lark: Happy Hour 5-7pm, Bottles of Wine 50% off with dinner entree purchase. Lucky Horseshoe: Open at 4pm, Dancers 8pm. Meeting House Tavern: \$5 Jäger, Fireball & Malort, \$4 Tallboy Beers. North End: Open at 11am, \$5 Well Drinks. Replay Beer & Bourbon Lakeview: Open 2pm-2am, \$5 Drafts & Cans, \$6 Stoli Vodka Cocktails, \$7 Glasses of Wine, \$8 Larceny Old Fashioneds, \$5 Bud Lights 4-6pm. Sidetrack: Open at 3pm, Musical Monday Show Tunes 8pm-2am. Steamworks: Every 3rd Monday TM4M (Trans Men For Men) 8pm-2am. Touche: Euchre Night Come out and Play 7-10pm Club Room open. 11/8 Monday Night Football Chicago Bears vs Steelers 7pm.</p>
Tuesday	<p>@mosphere: \$5 Well Cocktails & Draft Beer 6-8pm, Game Night with Tony. Cell Block: Open 4pm-2am. Charlie's: TuneUp Tuesday Karaoke 7 – 11PM, Tag Team Tuesdays 11p – 2am, Dancing until close. Houndstooth: \$2 Tacos, ½ Off Bottles of Wine, \$5 Red or White Sangria, \$5 Chambongs, \$3 Fireball, \$22 Bud Light Seltzer Buckets, \$22 Mexican Beer Buckets. Hydrate: 8/10 TatTuesday XXL Doors open at 8pm. Kit Kat Lounge: Happy Hour 5-7pm \$8.95 Martinis Lark: 50% Off Bottles of Wine with any Entree Purchase, Bud Light \$5, Select Wine \$5, Well Cocktails \$6 5-7pm. Lucky Horseshoe: Open at 6pm. Dancers at 8pm. Open auditions for male dancers 7pm. \$5 drink specials. Meeting House Tavern: \$6 Big Miller Lite Drafts, \$3 House Shots, \$5 Jäger, Fireball & Malort, \$4 Tallboy Beers. North End: Open at 11am, \$5 Canned Beers, Seltzers & Ciders. Replay Beer & Bourbon Lakeview: Open 2pm-2am, \$5 Drafts & Cans, \$6 Stoli Vodka Cocktails, \$7 Glasses of Wine, \$8 Larceny Old Fashioneds, \$5 Bud Lights 4-6pm. Sidetrack: Open at 3pm, Trivia Tuesday 8-10pm, TRL Tuesday: Totally Rad Line-up of 90's-to-Now Music Videos 10pm-2am, OUTspoken LGBTQ+ Storytelling 1st Tuesday of the month from 7-9pm. Steamworks: Every Tuesday 4 pm – 4 am Guys Under 25 Get In Free* (*Free 30 day membership and free locker). Touche: Hardcore Cruisin' Sponsor Leather 64Ten. No cell phones/Wifi.</p>
Wednesday	<p>@mosphere: \$5 Well Cocktails & Draft Beer 6-8pm. Cell Block: Open 4pm-2am. Charlie's: Country Line Dancing 7 – 10pm, Sapphire's Secret Shadows 10pm – 1 am, Dancing until close. Houndstooth: \$4 Appetizers, \$7 Burgers, \$3 Domestic Drafts, \$5 Premium Drafts, \$5 Chambongs, \$3 Fireball, \$22 Bud Light Seltzer Buckets, \$22 Mexican Beer Buckets. Kit Kat Lounge: Happy Hour 5-7pm \$8.95 Martinis Lark: Free Bingo, 50% Off Nachos & Totchos, \$8 Villa One Margaritas Frozen or on the Rocks, Traditional Flavor only. Bud Light \$5, Select Wine \$5, Well Cocktails \$6 5-7pm. Lucky Horseshoe: Open at 6pm Dancers at 8pm. \$5 drink specials. Meeting House Tavern: \$3 Miller Lite Drafts, \$4 Stolis (All Flavors), \$5 Jäger, Fireball & Malort, \$4 Tallboy Beers. North End: Open at 11am \$5 Lagunitas Draft & Cans. Replay Beer & Bourbon Lakeview: Open 2pm-2am, \$5 Drafts & Cans, \$6 Stoli Vodka Cocktails, \$7 Glasses of Wine, \$8 Larceny Old Fashioneds, \$5 Bud Lights 4-6pm Sidetrack: Open at 3pm, All Things Beyoncé 2nd Wed of month, All Things Gaga 3rd Wed of month, All Things Taylor & Ariana 4th Wed of month – all 9pm-2am. Steamworks: Bear Hump Every second Wednesday 6-9pm A monthly mid-week gathering of Furry Men. Touche: Jockstrap Night Sponsored by Full Kit Gear, Free Clothing check.</p>
Thursday	<p>@mosphere: \$5 Well Cocktails & Draft Beer 6-8pm, RuPaul Drag Race All Stars 6 Viewing Party - 7pm. Baton Show Lounge: Doors open at 6pm, Shows at 7:30pm, 9:30pm & 11:30pm. Cell Block: Open 4pm-2am. Charlie's: Survivor 10 pm – 1 am, Dancing Until Close. Houndstooth: \$2.50 Minis • \$3 College Beer, \$6 40'S, \$5 Absolut Bombs, \$5 Chambongs, \$3 Fireball, \$22 Bud Light Seltzer Buckets, \$22 Mexican Beer Buckets. Hydrate: RuPaul's Drag Race Season All Stars Viewing Party Doors Open 6:30pm, Bubble POP Hosted by Khloe Coulee 9pm. Kit Kat Lounge: Happy Hour 5-7pm \$8.95 Martinis. Lark: RuPaul's Drag Race All Stars 6 viewing party & Bogo Pizza 7pm, Buy One Pizza, Get One Pizza Half Off (Dine in Only), Bud Light \$5, Select Wine \$5, Well Cocktails \$6 5-7pm Lucky Horseshoe: Open at 6pm. Dancers at 8pm. \$5 drink specials. Meeting House Tavern: \$5 You Call It's, \$5 Jäger, Fireball & Malort, \$4 Tallboy Beers. North End: Open at 11am, \$5 Deep Eddy Cocktails Replay Beer & Bourbon Lakeview: Open 2pm-2am, \$5 Drafts & Cans, \$6 Stoli Vodka Cocktails, \$7 Glasses of Wine, \$8 Larceny Old Fashioneds, \$5 Bud Lights 4-6pm Sidetrack: Open at 3pm, Chicago's RuPaul's Drag Race Viewing Party 7pm, Drag & Games Dance Party 9pm-2am Steamworks: Lights Out Thursdays, The Club goes Dark Every Thursday 4pm-4am. Touche: 10/28 Pumpkin Fisting, 11/4 MIR Welcome Party.</p>

GRAB YOUR FRIENDS

Daily Specials

Friday

@mosphere: \$5 Well Cocktails & Draft Beer 6-8pm, Dancers 10pm-1am. **Baton Show Lounge:** Doors open at 6pm, Shows at 7:30pm, 9:30pm & 11:30pm. **Cell Block:** Open 4pm-2am. **Charlie's:** 1st and 3rd Fierce Fridays 10p – 1am, 2nd Fierce Fridays - Traffic Light Party 10p – 1am, 4th Fierce Fridays - Glow Up Party 10p – 1am, 5th Fierce Fridays – Strut 10p – 1am, Dancing until close. **Houndstooth:** \$6 Pulled Pork or Pulled Chicken Sandwich, \$6 Absolut Mules, \$12 Domestic Pitchers, \$5 Chambongs, \$3 Fireball, \$22 Bud Light Seltzer Buckets, \$22 Mexican Beer Buckets. **Hydrate:** 8/6 Fresh Faces A New Drag Competition Second and Forth Friday of the Month. **Kit Kat Lounge:** Happy Hour 5-7pm \$8.95 Martinis. **Lark:** Bud Light \$5, Select Wine \$5, Well Cocktails \$6 5-7pm. **Lucky Horseshoe:** Open with dancers at 6pm. \$5 drink specials.. **Meeting House Tavern:** \$5 Tito's, \$7 Big Miller Lite Drafts, \$5 Jäger, Fireball & Malort, \$4 Tallboy Beers. **North End:** Open at 11am, \$3 Miller Lite Drafts 4-7pm. **Replay Beer & Bourbon Lakeview:** Weekend Buckets \$25 All Day, Miller Lite, Corona Extra, Truly Punch Variety, Truly Wild Berry Seltzer, Freshie Tequila Seltzer (5 Cans per Bucket - Cannot mix and match.) **Shakers:** \$4 Domestic Bottles \$5 Well Mixed Drinks, \$10 Giant 23oz Long Islands in 22 flavors. **Sidetrack:** Open at 3pm, T.G.I.F. Show Tunes 4-9pm, Friday Night Dance Party 9pm-2am. **Touche:** 10/29 Snake Pit Party 11/5 Touche 43rd & 44th Anniversary Party.

Saturday

@mosphere: \$5 Well Cocktails & Draft Beer 3pm-5pm, Dancers 10pm -1am. **Baton Show Lounge:** Doors open at 6pm, Shows at 7:30pm, 9:30pm & 11:30pm. **Cell Block:** Open 2pm-3am. **Charlie's:** Country Line Dancing 7 – 10pm, The Main Event 10pm – 1am Dancing until Close. **Houndstooth:** Brunch 11am-3pm \$15 Bottomless Mimosas, \$6 Michelada's, \$2 Breakfast Sliders, \$5 Stadium Cups (ALL DAY), \$5 Chambongs, \$3 Fireball, \$22 Bud Light Seltzer Buckets, \$22 Mexican Beer Buckets.. **Lucky Horseshoe:** Open with dancers at 3pm. \$5 drink specials. **Meeting House Tavern:** \$5 Signature Margaritas, \$5 Premium Well Cocktails, \$12 Mimosa Carafes, \$5 Jäger, Fireball & Malort, \$4 Tallboy Beers. **North End:** Open at 11am, \$3 Miller Lite Drafts 11am-2pm. **Replay Beer & Bourbon Lakeview:** \$10 Champagne Bottles, \$5 Juice Kits, \$3 Bud Lights 12-2pm, Weekend Buckets \$25 All Day, Miller Lite, Corona Extra, Truly Punch Variety, Truly Wild Berry Seltzer, Freshie Tequila Seltzer (5 Cans per Bucket - Cannot mix and match.). **Sidetrack:** Open at 1pm, SaturGay Drag & Games 3-6pm, Saturday Night Dance Party 9pm-3am, Dog Day Saturday 1st Saturday of the month 1-5pm. **Touche:** 10/31 Halloween Party DJ HarryT, 11/6 Bear Night.

Sunday Funday

@mosphere: \$6 Jack Products, \$4 Domestic Draft, House Shots \$2. **Baton Show Lounge:** Doors Open at 11am, Shows at 7:30pm, 9:30pm & 11:30pm. **Cell Block:** Open 2pm-2am **Charlie's:** Queeriod! Every other Sunday 5pm – 7pm, Singsational Sunday Karaoke 7pm – 11pm Mas Leche 11pm – 1am, Dancing until close. **Houndstooth:** Brunch 11am-3pm \$15 Bottomless Mimosas, \$6 Michelada's, \$2 Breakfast Sliders, \$6 40'S (ALL DAY), \$12 Domestic Pitchers (ALL DAY), \$5 Chambongs, \$3 Fireball, \$22 Bud Light Seltzer Buckets, \$22 Mexican Beer Buckets. **Hydrate:** Doors open at 2pm Northalsted's Official after Brunch party. **Kit Kat Lounge:** Divalicious brunch with Madam X 11am-3pm, Happy Hour 4-7pm \$8.95 Martinis. **Lark:** Free Flowing Brunch 11am-3pm. **Lucky Horseshoe:** Open with dancers at 3pm. \$5 drink specials. **Meeting House Tavern:** \$3 House Shots, \$5 Premium Well Cocktails, \$12 Mimosa Carafes, \$5 Frozens, \$5 Jäger, Fireball & Malort, \$4 Tallboy Beers. **North End:** Open at 11am, \$3 Miller Lite Drafts 7-10pm **Replay Beer & Bourbon Lakeview:** \$10 Champagne Bottles, \$5 Juice Kits, \$3 Bud Lights 12-2pm, Weekend Buckets \$25 All Day, Miller Lite, Corona Extra, Truly Punch Variety, Truly Wild Berry Seltzer, Freshie Tequila Seltzer (5 Cans per Bucket - Cannot mix and match.) **Sidetrack:** Open at 1pm, Sunday Funday Show Tunes 4-9pm, Sunday Funday After Dark Dance Party 9pm-2am **Touche:** 10/31 Big-Boo Beer Bust \$2 Bud Light Drafts, Movie Night 7pm. 11/7 Beer Bust \$2 Bud Light Drafts, Movie Night 7pm



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	Artist	Title
1	Warren	Dream About U (Radio Edit)
2	Afrojack x Lucas & Steve x DubVision	Anywhere With You
3	Tiesto & Karol G	Don't Be Shy
4	AC Slater x Bleu Clair	Green Light ft. Kate Wild
5	Kito x Bea Miller	Steal My Clothes (Clean Version)
6	Kygo x Zoe Wees	Love Me Now
7	Gryffin & LOVA	Piece Of Me
8	Drove	Know ft. Ex Love
9	Syn Cole	Drift
10	DJ Kuba & Neitan x Skytech	Dancing (Wh0 Festival Remix)
11	Audien ft. Cate Downey	Wish It Was You
12	SACHI	Down On Your Luck (Dance Radio Edit)
13	Becky Hill & David Guetta	Remember
14	Riley Clemmons x GOLDHOUSE	Headspace
15	Jonas Blue & Leon	Hear Me Say
16	Shane Codd	Always On My Mind Feat. Charlotte Haining
17	ARTY	One Night Away (Original Mix)
18	Billen Ted	When You're Out ft. Mae Muller
19	Mahalo	Nothing Matters
20	Morgan Page & Lights	Turn Off My Mind (Clean Edit)
21	Dallask x Lauv	Try Again
22	Da Buzz	Wanna See you Dance With Me
23	Goodboys	Bongo Cha Cha Cha
24	Sam Feldt & Sam Fischer	Pick Me Up
25	Bombs Away	Don't You Dare
26	DubVision x AMNL KNGDM	I Wanna Be There (Radio Edit)
27	MAKJ x MADDS x Mila Jam	Just Sayin
28	Lucas & Steve x Tungevaag	Paper Planes
29	Paul Oakenfold & Aloe Blacc	I'm in Love
30	Gregor Potter	Mean It
31	SHOUSE	Love Tonight (David Guetta Edited Remix)
32	KREAM x Millea	What You've Done To Me ft. Bemende
33	Louis The Child	Hate You Cause I Don't ft. Bea Miller
34	Mark Villa ft. Alessia Labate	Underneath
35	James Arthur	September (MENTIS Remix)
36	Thoby	I'll Be There
37	Stash Konig x Morgan Harvill	Numb
38	Shaun Frank	Together ft. Prinze George
39	Sigrid	Mirror (Paul Woolford Remix)
40	MABEL	Let Them Know (Dimitri From Paris Remix)



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GRAB HOLLY

Does It Pale of Its Allure?

By Holly Maholm

Often, in the recent past, when I have been faced with a perplexing problem that frustrates my powers of analysis, I have asked myself "What do the unicorns know that could help me solve this problem?" This was just such a case.

Queen Penelope had instructed me to discover why humans are failing to produce offspring, and – as in so many cases in the past – I decided to seek guidance from Victor – a unicorn (also my bf). Now, me being a transgender woman, I felt that loyalty to my currently-identified gender required that I avoid just coming out and asking him for his opinion. No. That solution involved too much "masculine privilege" to suit my current gender.

Instead, I decided to do what I usually do: I would wait until he and I again had sex, and then immediately afterwards, while he was bathed in that gratifying afterglow that accompanies ejaculation, I would pose my question. Usually I could depend upon that afterglow to both "loosen his lips" and open the floodgates of his wisdom, at the cost (to me) of a sore jaw and activated gag reflex (the latter attendant upon the opening of his male floodgates).

Thus, when next he entered that period of afterglow (but before he could drift off to dreamland), I posed my question. "Victor," I whispered (all I could manage, considering my nearly dislocated jaw), "why do you suppose we humans are failing to produce babies? You know, to keep our species from dying-out?" He pondered the question (using those few brain cells not lost in afterglow) and replied.

"Don't worry about it, Holly. You're not in any danger. You humans have been in this position before, and you always get out of it the same way." I could see I was in danger of losing him to La Petite Mort, so I pressed on.

"So, anyway, I asked Dave this question, and he blamed feminists. He had good reasons why they're responsible, but neither of us can see how humans can be induced to start making babies again, while at the same time respecting the equal rights of women."

Victor began to nuzzle my neck as he gave his reply. "You don't realize this, Holly, but it's only you LGBT folks today who are having what I would call 'authentic sex.' Meaning: It's only you Ls, Gs, Bs and Ts who are having the same sex you have always had, which I admire. But your hetro brothers and sisters have been having less and less authentic sex for years, and it's beginning to show.

"That 'sexual revolution' you had back in the '60s changed everything, and like every revolution, the result – the animating goal of that revolution – was to provide everyone alive at the time with unprecedented freedom. With birth control, you could have sex without unintended pregnancy; elective abortion made up for any failures of the pill; and antibiotics could cure nearly all STDs.

"Accordingly, all the barriers to having sex freely and 'upon demand' evaporated. Women got jobs, which gave them the personal freedom not to be dependent upon a man for support. Very shortly, women became even more sexually active than men, as there was no one around to 'keep score' on the number of her partners, nor shame her for having multiple, nameless hook-ups.



This was your sexual revolution, which is ongoing today.

"You asked me, Holly, when does it end? When will babies come back into fashion? It's simple. Every 'revolution' has an unavoidable, built-in 'expiration date.' And your sexual revolution has its own, which is this: Eventually, so much 'free sex' begins to pale of its allure. You wouldn't think that would be possible, but it is.

"You humans – always greedy for more sexual experiences, always seeking someone new, younger or more erotic than you have enjoyed before – in time you become weary of the pleasures you find in your bed. Even that feast of hungry orifices, tumescent flesh and spurting protuberances becomes tiresome and mundane. Yes, even that most iconic heterosexual act – the one needed for reproduction – degenerates into just one more forgettable instance of a man masturbating into a stranger's vagina.

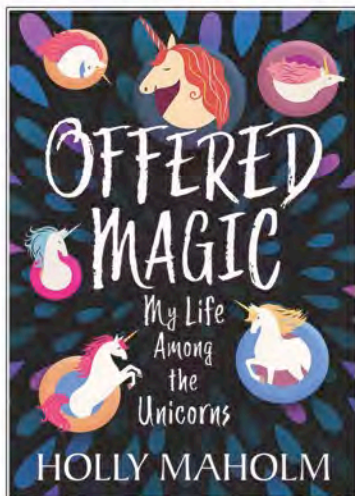
"Thus, devoid of any meaning or purpose, in time that sexual freedom loses its power to engage the imagination, and fades away. You see, every revolution contains within itself the seeds of its own demise, which in the fullness of time ripen into new life, a new generation, and a new world heir to the freedom in which it was conceived."

I would have asked Victor to explain more, but I held in my hand all the answers I needed. As I stroked him, I could feel him becoming more and more insistent to share with me that... urgent, swelling part of him that satisfies all my needs.

(To be continued)

Holly Maholm is a transgender woman living in Cleveland, Ohio. Look for Holly's new book *Offered Magic: My Life Among the Unicorns* (now available on Amazon) which collects the first 126 episodes of Holly's adventures involving both magical unicorns and her LGBTQ friends. Send a message to Holly at www.hollymaholm.com

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GRAB CHASE

Chase, The Dream Fans Can't Help but Fall for Helix's Newest Dreamboat

By John Stein

Chase Williams calls his latest Helix film, *Beach Bums*, his best work to date and says it was his favorite to shoot. "We traveled to San Diego and Florida and both locations were just beautiful," he explains with youthful exuberance. "Then I saw who I'd be shooting with, and, oh my gawd, I was in love."

Chase Williams is Texas born and raised. His parents adopted him at birth from a small Texas town and brought him home to Austin where he's been ever since. He loves the city for its diverse culture and rich live music scene.

Still, growing up in Texas had its share of hardship for the Chase. Though Austin is a progressive area of the Lonestar State, he has encountered homophobia. In fact, he was bullied so badly in Junior High that he was forced to transfer schools. Things got better in High school where he found his tribe of close-knit friends, but Williams admits he always carried that feeling of not being entirely welcome because of who he is. He sought community and comradery and says he found it in the gay adult film industry.

John Stein: What's something your fans would be surprised to learn about you?

Chase Williams: That I'm really shy in person! Working in the adult industry has helped me to come into my own. I find it's easier to embody the confident, collected, sexy version of myself when filming. While that certainly is a part of who I am, that's not how I am in real life. I tend to be more soft-spoken and reserved, especially when I first meet people. When I feel more comfortable, the goofier, fun-loving side comes out.

JS: Why did you decide to launch an adult film career?

CW: When I got into college, I figured why not? I look great naked and having a little fun never hurt anybody, either!

JS: What are you studying in school?

CW: I'm chasing a degree in nursing.

JS: Wow, what sparked your interest in medicine?

CW: When I was younger, I got really sick and spent some time in the hospital. It was a scary time, but the nurses were so incredible and took such great care of me that it made me want to be able to give that kind of comfort to other people.

JS: Do you worry your adult film career may be an obstacle to a future career in nursing?

CW: That's a fair question and yes, I do worry about it, but I can't let what might happen prevent me from chasing my dreams. Honestly, diving into adult film was one of the best decisions I ever made. I can't overstate enough how happy I am with where I am. I absolutely love the culture and all of the people I've met and the places I have travelled to. I have no regrets!

JS: What is the biggest misconception people have about young men who work in adult film?

CW: There are so many! Among the biggest is that the industry is some kind of drug-filled, objectifying, negative atmosphere where we're forced or

coerced into doing scenes. I've never had anything but professional, respectful experiences with everyone I've worked with, both on camera and off, and I've been nothing short of an enthusiastic participant in everything we've filmed.

JS: Have you formed any strong relationships with anyone in adult film?

CW: Absolutely! Max Carter and Travis Stevens from Helix Studios are two of my nearest and dearest friends. We do everything together! We've started calling ourselves the Platinums because we share a love of *Mean Girls*. Us Texas boys have to stick together!

JS: Are they the reason you chose to become an exclusive with Helix?

CW: No, I didn't meet them until after I joined Helix. I joined the studio



Photo by AJ Ford

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room for pieces that feel more like me!

JS: How would you describe your ideal man, Chase?

CW: I get asked that question a lot on socials and, honestly, I don't have a strict physical type. My ideal man is somebody that can love me the way I love them. I'm a lot more focused on the emotional and mental aspects of people. Respect and communication are super important. And maybe a guy who appreciates my skill at making killer cocktails? (Laughing) All I can really say is I'll know my ideal man when I see him.

*Chase Williams stars in "Beach Bums".
Learn more at [HelixStudios.com](https://www.helixstudios.com).*

Photos by AJ Ford



because it was always my favorite. The guys are all so sexy! I could picture myself being a part of the gang and I was right. The community and family atmosphere at Helix is incredible and the work I get to do is truly liberating.

JS: Do family and friends know about what you're doing?

CW: They do! I'm lucky to have an accepting, loving group of blood and chosen family around me. I know several guys who aren't so lucky; and that just proves to me how blessed I am to have these people in my life.

JS: Can you tell us about your tattoos?

CW: Sure! The musical note on my shoulder is pretty self-explanatory: I love music and musical theatre. As far as the lady on the back of my arm, my grandmother drew it. I lost her to Alzheimer's my senior year of high school and it was my way of keeping her close. The other two tattoos are small pieces I got when I was 18 as my own little form of rebellion! I think everybody does stupid shit as teenagers and looking back on them now makes me laugh. I'm in the process of getting them removed so I have more

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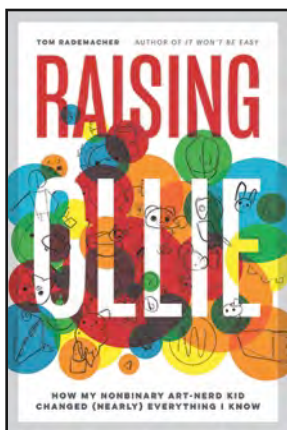


GRAB A BOOK

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

Raising Ollie: How My Nonbinary Art-Nerd Kid Changed (Nearly) Everything I Know by Tom Rademacher

c.2021, University of Minnesota Press \$18.95 200 pages



Fill-in-the-blanks.

That's what you get when you have a baby: unknowns. Its birth-date is often a guess, length and weight are surprises. Will it have your eyes, long fingers, Dad's smile, Grandma's nose? Fill in the blanks: not boy, not girl but, as in the new memoir, *"Raising Ollie"* by **Tom Rademacher**, neither, thank you. When his daughter, Olive, was an infant, Tom Rademacher says he "struggled in those early months... to enjoy much of parenting..." There were vast amounts to learn, and little "Ollie" was a patient teacher.

As a toddler, Ollie was particularly talented in language and arts, attributes their teacher-father and therapist-mother encouraged. Early-on, they were super-observant, wise, and curious about completely everything; when they were in second grade, suspicions that they were an intelligent kid were confirmed when they were labeled as an "advanced learner."

But school was a trial, even for a uber-smart seven-year-old.

Ollie suffered from anxiety. They hated crowds and making friends and unwanted attention; they had the wit, open-mindedness, and understanding of an adult sometimes, but with little-kid coping skills. Normally a voracious lover of learning, they began to dread each school morning, and they seemed tearfully fearful of some classes and teachers. Obviously, a change in schools was needed; Ollie did their own research. Shortly after starting third grade, Olive, who prefers "daughter" and uses they/ them pronouns begun loudly, confidently, assertively identifying as a nonbinary kid. At around this same time, their father had school issues of his own. A 2014 Minnesota Teacher of the Year,

Rademacher had been unemployed due to budget cuts but was beginning a semester teaching language arts to eighth graders in northeast Minneapolis. He was also working on how to offer the best support for his students, just as he wanted for his child...

"Raising Ollie" is absolutely delightful. It's filled with funny stories that will make you laugh. It's a peek inside today's classroom, with a teacher who offers relatable lessons to a notoriously tough audience of teens.

It's also less than half about actually raising Ollie.

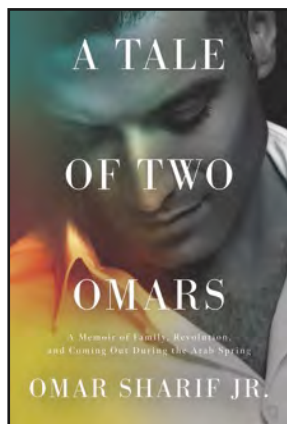
Author Tom Rademacher starts this memoir with a teasing warning to readers that stories are important in his family. He fulfills his promises to tell tales about his life, his parents, racism and his efforts to eliminate it in the schools where he works, and the stellar students he's had. His stories make you want to be seated at his table at a conference and yes, he tells stories about his smart, funny, talented child who is an "art-nerd" and loves cosplay and wore girly dresses until about age seven – but just not enough.

These are sometimes-hilarious tales of a Midwestern growing-up, idyllic and happy and nostalgic, followed by a typical, angsty, identity-searching teenage-hood.

But Ollie? Just not enough. Sigh. Teachers will adore this book. There are laughs all over the place for just about every reader who can appreciate a little self-depreciation. But if you're looking for a parenting book about rearing a nonbinary child, *"Raising Ollie"* may leave you blank.

"A Tale of Two Omars" by Omar Sharif Jr.

c.2021, Counterpoint Press \$26.00 / higher in Canada 224 pages



You always wanted to make your mark.

There'd be no footstep-following in your life. You'd carve your own path, select your own adventures, seize the opportunities that appealed to you, and blaze trails for the sake of others'

journeys. You'd take the best of those you knew and loved, and you'd go your own way. As in the new memoir, *"A Tale of Two Omars"* by **Omar Sharif, Jr.**, you'll also make your own mistakes.

Born into a family that had ties on several continents, Omar Sharif, Jr. never had to worry about money or a place to live. On one side of the family – his maternal side – the Holocaust left a mark on his mother's parents, who'd barely escaped the concentration camps. On the other side, Sharif's paternal grandparents were both famous and beloved actors with roots in Egypt. Sharif was close with his entire family, but particularly with his grandfather, Omar Sharif.

Sharif recalls many a dinner party, listening, while his grandfather held court at dinner, laughing and telling stories. Everyone, everything seemed so elegant and refined and those meals showed Sharif a life that he could have if he wanted it. As time passed, the lessons he received were paid back: he was one of the few allowed to help his grandfather as Alzheimer's took hold at the end of the great actor's life.

But this is not a story of a famous actor or a grandfather. It's the story of a man who's not just half-Jewish and Egyptian. He's also gay, a part of himself that Sharif kept hidden until well into adulthood, although he says that other children must've sensed it when he was young. It was a part of himself that he feared revealing to his father. It helped him land a dream job that ultimately became a nightmare.

The title of this book – *"A Tale of Two Omars"* – is a bit of a misnomer. Judging by what author Omar Sharif Jr. writes here, there are several Omars: the activist; a globe-hopper; a son and grandson; a writer; and a grandfather whose life was impactful but who has a surprisingly small footprint in this book.

Which is not to say that readers will like them all.

Indeed, parts of this book may seem as though you've read them before: bullied as a child, fear of coming out, the college revelation, the mismatched first love. Those ubiquitous bits are here, but they pale in comparison to Sharif's ultra-urbane life and the hair-raising, terrifying account of getting and getting out of what seemed like the ultimate job with a wealthy sheikh, a job that slowly grew dangerous. That story-within-a-story is so edgy, so mouth-drying, that you'll throw away the thriller you bought last week.

Then there's the part about his life-threatening activism, a tale that starts and ends this book...

And so beware at the unevenness of this memoir, but understand that the tedium doesn't linger. Skip past the humanness of *"A Tale of Two Omars"* and the rest is remarkable.



Photos By Anthony Meade

GRAB A FILM

By Delven Shaw

MAYOR PETE is good, but I wanted great.



Mayor Pete, the new documentary about the impressive Buttigieg campaign for president, is a well-made, if standard, political doc. If you followed his campaign, you may already have known everything that is revealed here. There is very little that is fresh, and no moments like we hope for in the best documentaries where we see weakness or fear. Perhaps Pete is not programmed with flaws like that.

Lis Smith, the publicist who engineered the innovative ‘nobody knows who we are so let’s go on every media channel’ strategy that rocketed Pete from unknown mayor into frontrunner, is seen in exciting bits, where she is blunt, vulgar, and driven.

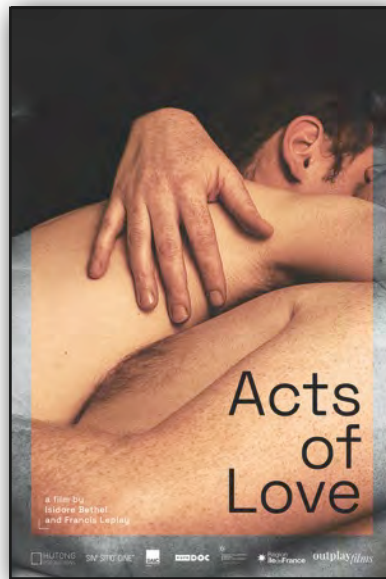
Chasten, Pete’s husband, is new to politics, and still new to their marriage – only just a year old when Pete brought up the idea of a presidential campaign. Chasten is here seen as the kindly challenging and supportive political spouse, but it would have been great to see more of them alone. Their only date – at what looks like a Dairy Queen – is painful.

Sadly, there is literally no footage of Pete’s speeches, and no way to connect how exciting it was to be in a crowd in person watching him.

Pete struck a match that lit the way for many people. Sadly, this film did not catch fire.

There are a lot of queer culture available screening right now. Check out the two-minute reviews at DelvenShaw.com for more!

ACTS OF LOVE More questions than answers.



A filmmaker (**Isidore Bethel**) is dumped by his older lover, so he leaves Mexico to come to Chicago to create a documentary about love, sex, and rejection. His script is not yet written, but he starts interviewing people who want to be in the film and might inspire him. Some get naked, he gets naked, one gets off. Some people are seen rehearsing lines, while other scenes are clearly improvised.

But this mix of documentary and fiction is unsettling. Is there a bar for what is real, and what is fiction? Isidore keeps getting calls from his mother who tells him that no one is interested in his sex life.

He only goes for older guys, and he gets off a couple of times with a guy (not credited) with a huge dog. Another tells him his husband is town Friday through Sunday, but he can see him any other time, but when they go to a cabin in the woods, is the confession of regret real, or fiction?

There is a scene at Jackhammer in ‘The Hole’ and plenty of other full nudity. A fair amount of the film is comprised of still images with voiceover, which breaks up the tedium. The segment in which all 1787 texts he got from his ex lover is dizzying as they flash by rapidly.

In the end, he returns to Mexico to great sex with his former lover. But I ended up agreeing with mom – who cares about his sex life these days?

I saw *Acts of Love* streaming at Chicago International Film Festival, but it is come soon to a streaming service where you live.

OPERATION HYACINTH Impossible to Look Away.



I knew nothing of *Operation Hyacinth* when we started to watch. The film is an exciting thriller set in a dark time in Polish history – 1985-88 – in which gay men were inventoried to suppress homosexuality. Like *The Dance of the 41*, a better historical film set in Mexico in xxxx, *Hyacinth* explores history through a personal lens.

Robert (the excellent **Tomasz Zietek**) is a rising detective, son of the leader of the police, and girlfriend to a police archivist. It seems like an ideal life with a bright future. However, the death of a gay man not far from a public washroom, and a villa in which gay escorts may have been brought to entertain guests are discoveries which change his life.

He purses Arik (a lovely **Hubert Milkowski**) in a chaotic run from the washroom. Robert keeps his identity hidden as he grooms him to be an informer. Arik assumes Robert is also on the run, and the relationship is complex, haunting, and in the end beautiful.

Pressures between father and son, other members of the force (some of whom may be closeted), and plans for his impending wedding add to the intensity of what is a very satisfying film.

Piotr Domaleswski directs a screenplay by **Marcin Ciaston** with panache. The settlings in Poland are beautiful, and the art direction – especially the use of light and shadow – make the story pop better than most Hollywood thrillers.

Operation Hyacinth is the best kind of film – one that leaves you wanting to know more, and touched by the many lives captioned on film.



Photos By Anthony Meade



**DAVID ROSALES
SHARES NEW SINGLE AND
VIDEO
"TURN IT AROUND"**



Singer-songwriter **David Rosales** is ready to spread a much-needed dose of positivity with his new single and video "Turn It Around", premiering now on Hollywood Life. The track blends Rosales' signature Americana style with twinges of 60's R&B and pop-soul for a final product that begs to be blasted through the speakers on a west coast road trip. The single is paired with a sunshine-infused music video that aims to inspire inclusivity in board sports.

The track is released alongside a music video that rides the same wave of positivity as the track itself. Join professional boarders **Juli Hernandez** and **Malia Ward** – both of ABC's *The Ultimate Surfer* – as they surf the streets of Los Angeles, from Downtown to Venice Beach, inspiring the next generation of athletes.

On the video, Rosales says, "I want to empower the next generation of female athletes. Traditionally male-dominated board sports are now much more open than when I was growing up, and as the dad of a sporty 10 year old girl, that is something I'm glad to see. I want to be part of that evolution. While filming the video so many women and girls of all ages were pumped to see Juli and Malia. Strange times need good vibes... and these are the good vibes I want to spread."

David Rosales is ready to make people feel good again with "Turn It Around" – the first single from his much anticipated sophomore album, *Revive* (Spring 2022). Rosales makes it clear in "Turn It Around" that his sound has grown since the release of his acclaimed 2018 debut, *Brave Ones*. With the addition of a Memphis Horns style brass section to his group of backing musicians, Rosales & His Band of Scoundrels chart a new course with shades of 60's R&B and soul music added to their brand of West Coast Americana.

Never one to sit still and with *Revive* shelved due to the pandemic until 2022, Rosales shifted gears. Seeing how scared and stretched his community was, he took to playing weekly neighborhood "Driveway Hop" concerts so people could have a release and feel socially connected. Additionally, through his non-profit charity,

Brave Ones Foundation, Rosales was able to distribute PPE's and food to various in-need families and health care heroes throughout the local community.

For more information visit <http://www.DavidRosalesMusic.com>

**ELTON JOHN
THE LOCKDOWN SESSIONS
NOW OUT**



Elton John's *The Lockdown Sessions* was released last week on Interscope Records and available to stream online. An album of collaborations recorded remotely over the last 18 months *The Lockdown Sessions* features UK #1 single "Cold Heart (PNAU remix)" with **Dua Lipa**, and previous instant grat tracks "Finish Line" with **Stevie Wonder** and "After All" with **Charlie Puth**.

In March 2020 Elton was forced to pause his record breaking *Farewell Yellow Brick Road* tour due to the unfolding COVID pandemic. As the world began to shut down, different projects presented themselves with artists Elton had enjoyed getting to know through his Apple Music show *Rocket Hour*. This was the beginning of one of Elton's boldest and most interesting records to date that he has billed *The Lockdown Sessions*. This album saw Elton coming full circle and returning to his roots as a session musician. While it was no easy feat recording during a pandemic, a completely new way of working for Elton, he leaned into the challenge with some magnificent results.

Kicking off with global hit single "Cold Heart (PNAU Remix)" with Dua Lipa, the album takes the listener on a heady journey through many different genres, all held together with expert finesse and understanding by one of the greatest champions of music of our time. Much more than a mere collaboration album, *The Lockdown Sessions* is a dazzlingly diverse collection of 16 tracks with 10 brand new unreleased tracks that celebrates togetherness and sees Elton collaborating with an unparalleled range of artists only he could draw together. The enduring influence of his musical milestone with one of the most ambitious projects ever conceived. An unprecedented 20+ artists feature spanning an unbelievably vast range of genres, generations, cultures, continents and more, each contributing a unique style to the album that is sure

to hold its place amongst one of pop and rock's greatest songbooks.

Available to stream at <https://eltonjohn.lnk.to/TheLockdownSessionsPR>

**MATT ROSA RELEASES NEW
SINGLE "USED TO KNOW ME
WELL"**



Alternative artist, **Matt Rosa**, has returned with his third single, "Used To Know Me Well." The understated and nostalgic track reflects on love lost, with Rosa sharing, "Some songs take days on end to formulate but others have this magic where it almost seems to come together on its own. You really don't know what you're writing about until it's done and you take a step back; 'Used To Know Me Well' is one of those songs. It's about the nostalgic dread of losing someone that once played an important roll in your life. It damages you to the point where you begin to question your identity and figure maybe it was all a figment of your imagination."

"Used To Know Me Well" -- along with previous singles "Times Have Changed" and "Half Asleep" -- are drawn from Rosa's debut album *Times Have Changed, and So Have I*, due out October 29. The 10-track album was produced by **Ace Enders** and shares Rosa's real, uncut story about love, lust, relationships, success and the peaks and valleys that come along with it.

Rosa elaborates, "True happiness is something we create. I live a very fast paced life, never in the same city for too long, always with massive amounts of people around me, and thoughts constantly running through my head that I haven't been in a state of true reflection and creation in too long. Writing and recording 'Times Have Changed, and So Have I' allowed me to live in that creative space with some of the most talented and gifted people I know. It's a story of family, love, losing it all, and getting it back. Something I think everyone has gone through, will go through, or is currently going through. This is years of life in 9 songs and I'm so excited to finally share it with the world."

Matt Rosa turned to music as a kid to escape a dark and turbulent childhood. He found his escape playing shows as a teenager, screaming into mics about the things that kept him up at night.

For more on Matt visit <https://www.itsmattrosa.com/>



Photos By Anthony Meade



Bobby Loves



HOLY GHOST BINGO: GOD, GOBLINS, & GAMES REOPENS AT THE GREENHOUSE THEATER CENTER FOR THE 2021 HALLOWEEN SEASON NOW THROUGH OCT 31

Holy Ghost BINGO

God, Goblins & Games
by Vicki Quade

Who is the patron saint of werewolves? Which saint died and went to hell, then came back to life? Can you dress as a sexy nun for Halloween? You'll learn the answers

to these and more in the hit comedy, Holy Ghost Bingo: God, Goblins, & Games, opened October 1st, at the Greenhouse Theater Center, Chicago.

Written by **Vicki Quade**, who is also the co-creator of the hit comedy, Late Nite Catechism, this Halloween bingo show will have you howling with laughter.

The premise is that Mrs. Mary Margaret O'Brien, a former nun, is here tonight to raise money while playing bingo and talking about Halloween traditions, scary movies, condemned board games, haunted churches, the best candy, and the worst costumes. It's a crazy night of Halloween trivia, audience interaction, and the funniest costume contest you've ever seen.

Add to that a box of wacky prizes, some Halloween candy, fun bingo cards, and a lot of Catholic humor for a night of entertainment you'll never forget. And in this interactive bingo show, you'll actually play bingo. What could be more fun?!

You'll be laughing so hard, you'll have to be careful watching your bingo cards!

Actress Nancy Greco joins the Nuns4Fun family, and will star in Holy Ghost Bingo, along with creator Vicki Quade, Kathleen Puls Andrade, and Liz Cloud.

Holy Ghost Bingo will run for five weeks only throughout the Halloween season, starting Friday, October 1, through Sunday, October 31. Show times are Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m., Sundays at 2 p.m.

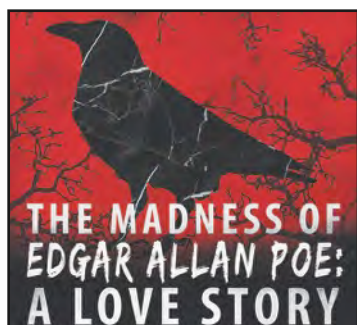
Late Nite Catechism continues on the schedule at 5 p.m. Saturdays.

All performances are at the Greenhouse Theater Center, 2257 N. Lincoln Ave., Chicago.

All ticket buyers will have to show proof of COVID-19 vaccination. The City of Chicago mandates that masks are to be worn indoors in public places.

Ticket prices are \$35, group rates available, call the box office at **773-404-7336** or visit www.nuns4fun.com

OAK PARK FESTIVAL THEATRE'S POPULAR IMMERSIVE "THE MADNESS OF EDGAR ALLAN POE: A LOVE STORY" NOW THROUGH NOV. 7



Following its sold-out summer show of "The Tempest," Oak Park

Festival Theatre brings **David Rice's** immersive "The Madness of Edgar Allan Poe: A Love Story" to the historic Pleasant Home for Festival Theatre's final remount of the play, Oct. 15-Nov. 7.

Two years after the death of his beloved wife, **Edgar Allan Poe** (played by Christian Gray) grapples with love and madness in this wildly innovative theater experience. The audience will follow the ghost of **Virginia Poe** (played by Erica Bittner) as she stirs up memories from beyond the grave, or follow Poe himself as he winds his way from "The Telltale Heart" to "The Pit and the Pendulum." This unique performance composed of six of Poe's poems and short stories, leads audience members through historic Pleasant Home's dark halls with a different tale of terror in every room.

The Wednesday Journal hails Oak Park Festival Theatre's production as "an exciting, captivating tale of love, heartbreak, and horror... a unique theater experience I think I will always remember." And the Chicago Reader applauds the "universally high level of performance brings out the best in Poe...Christian Gray is especially sublime as Poe."

The 2019 cast returns to remount "The Madness of Edgar Allan Poe" one final time, this time in Pleasant Home. The cast includes **Christian Gray** (Edgar Allan Poe), **Erica Bittner** (Virginia Poe/Rowena), **Joan Nahid** (Ligelia), **Dina Monk** (Policeman/Angelo), **Sara Rachel Schol** (Luciana), **Jillian Patterson** (Helena/Ensemble) and **Drew Straub** (Soldier/Ensemble).

For tickets or more information visit oakparkfestival.com.

COLIN QUINN: THE LAST BEST HOPE COMING TO THE DEN THEATRE DECEMBER 17 - 18



Comedian Colin Quinn will bring his new show Colin Quinn: The Last

Best Hope national tour to The Den Theatre (1331 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago) on December 17 - 18, 2021 following a November 2 - 20, 2021 run at New York City's Lucille Lortel Theatre. Quinn's NYC residency and tour is the latest offering from the standup comedian and off-Broadway favorite whose past beloved shows include Red State Blue State, New York Story, Unconstitutional (all streaming on Netflix), and Long Story Short.

Colin Quinn has become one of the most beloved voices in comedy. His most recent one man show, Red State Blue State, premiered in January 2019 to rave reviews at The Minetta Lane Theatre in New York City. The New Yorker lauded the hour as "among Quinn's funniest so far" and The New York Times lovingly described Quinn as a "barstool

philosopher." The show aired on CNN as the network's first comedy special in May 2019 and is currently streaming on Netflix. Red State Blue State followed the wildly successful off-Broadway run of Colin Quinn: The New York Story, directed by Jerry Seinfeld, and Colin Quinn: Long Story Short, which garnered a Drama Desk Award nomination.

Tickets are now available at thedentheatre.com or by calling **773-697-3830**.

**Visit us
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Photos By
Anthony Meade

Charlie's



SUGAR SKULL CITY RETURNS TO AURORA NOW THROUGH NOVEMBER 7



Aurora Downtown once again will turn downtown into Sugar Skull City from October 15 to November 7 and fill downtown with Day of the Dead activities.

The event's second year features a three week celebration honoring the beloved Mexican cultural tradition of Day of the Dead, and coincides with events during First Fridays on November 5, and a Day of the Dead festival on November 6.

Downtown storefronts will be decorated with festive displays for the holiday. Local artists will paint storefronts with Day of the Dead artwork.

This year, Sugar Skull City will feature alebrijes for its downtown-wide scavenger hunt. Alebrije art submitted by two dozen local artists and students will be displayed in downtown windows.

Aurora Public Art is installing an alebrije mural on the BNSF viaduct wall along New York Street, under the railroad bridge east of Broadway. Ofrendas, or altars, honoring the dead will be on display at Santori Public Library and at several downtown merchants including multiple storefronts on Broadway including Balderas Beauty Salon and Divas, 25 N. Broadway.

Day of the Dead items will be for sale including fresh flower bouquets from Blissful Blooms, 55 S. Lake St., and Sugar Skull City tote bags and artisan items at Wyckwood House, 14 W. Downer Pl., and The Cotton Seed Creative Exchange, 8 N. Broadway.

Virtual content that includes a sugar skull making tutorial, an Aztec dance ceremony, and more is available on Aurora Downtown's Facebook and YouTube pages. "We welcome everyone to visit downtown and to learn about Day of the Dead while supporting Hispanic-owned businesses that are vital to our local economy," said **Marissa Amoni**, manager of Aurora Downtown.

For more information, a schedule of events, restaurant specials, downloadable coloring pages, and virtual content, visit auroradowntown.org.

HAUNTED HALSTED BAR CRAWL SATURDAY OCTOBER 30TH



Celebrate the gay high holiday on North Halsted with a Halloween Bar Crawl on Saturday Oct. 30. Stops include all the gayborhood's favorite haunts; The North End, Lark, Kit Kat Lounge, Replay, Cell Block, Splash, Hydrate, Roscoe's, The Lucky Horseshoe and Sidetrack. The bar crawl starts at 12 noon at The North End and you will then be off to follow the rainbow crosswalks to all the haunts on Halsted. Costumes encouraged but not required.

\$10 entry includes participation wristband, entry into all locations, access to special deals at certain locations, as well as treats and tricks along the way.

Schedule will be released at The North End when event kicks off at noon. If you join after the crawl starts at noon, stop by The North End first to pick up the schedule to join the crawl in progress.

For tickets visit <http://www.halstedbarcrawl.com>

HAUNTED HALSTED IS BACK WITH PARADE, COSTUME CONTEST AND LIVE MUSIC OCTOBER 31, 2021

Chicago's spectacular Haunted Halsted Halloween Parade with costume contest and awards show returns, after a year's absence, on October 31, 2021.

The 24th annual Halloween night tradition continues to grow and will now stretch from Aldine to Waveland, in the heart of the landmark LGBTQ+ Northalsted corridor. The Parade is free to attend.

An Awards Show stage at Waveland will feature Grand Marshalls **Matthew Rodrigues**, host of NBC5's Chicago Today, with **Batty Davis** the Dancing Diva, and live music by local legends "chicks that rock," Catfight. A festival area next to the stage will offer a Halloween photo landscape, plenty of dancing room and a beer tent.

There's no cost to enter the costume contest with big prizes! \$6,000 in cash prizes include a \$500 first place and \$250 runner up in each of 6 categories: Scary, Drag, Creative, Cosplay, Youth <13, and Group <6. The Large Group category

for 6 or more people has a \$1,000 first prize and \$500 runner up.

Participants can register in advance on the website <http://www.hauntedhalsted.com> or on-site before the event.

ALAN CUMMING: TALES FROM A FULLY PACKED LIFE SUNDAY NOVEMBER 21



The Chicago Humanities Festival will host Tony Award-winning actor **Alan Cumming** at the Music Box Theater this fall on Sunday, November 21st from 6-7 PM.

By his own admission, Alan Cumming is a "happy, vulnerable, fearless middle-aged man, with a lot of baggage." He is also an award-winning actor, advocate and author. His latest memoir "Baggage: Tales from a Fully Packed Life" recounts tales from his life in Hollywood and reminds us not to buy into the movie star ending. At CHF, Cumming will share the lessons learned from meeting legends, making bad decisions, finding joy, and acquiring baggage along the way. He will be joined by editorial page editor of The Chicago Tribune, Chris Jones, for a frank conversation about the baggage that comes with a Hollywood life.

The Chicago Humanities Festival is pleased to partner with the Seminary Co-op Bookstores, a not-for-profit bookstore whose mission is bookselling. Ticket purchase includes a copy of Baggage shipped directly to customers (U.S. addresses only).

Alan Cumming is the author of the New York Times bestselling memoir *Not My Father's Son* and an award-winning actor, singer, writer, producer and director. He recently starred in an acclaimed one-man staging of *Macbeth* on Broadway, and appears on the Emmy Award-winning television show *The Good Wife*. He won a Tony Award for his portrayal of the Emcee in the Broadway musical *Cabaret*, a role he reprised in 2014. He has appeared in numerous films, including *Spy Kids*, *Titus*, *X2: X-Men United*, *The Anniversary Party*, *Any Day Now*, and *Eyes Wide Shut*.

For tickets or more information visit <https://www.chicagohumanities.org/>



Photos By Anthony Meade



October 26, 2021

GRAB Magazine 53

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Photos By Anthony Meade

REPLAY

beer & bourbon
Lakeview



GRAB A DRINK

16	@MOSPHERE • 773-784-1100 5355 N. Clark
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6	BATON SHOW LOUNGE 312-644-5269 • 4713 N. Broadway
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15	BIG CHICKS • 773-728-5511 5024 N. Sheridan
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20	CELL BLOCK • 773-665-8064 3702 N. Halsted
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49	CLOSET • 773-477-8533 3325 N. Broadway
67	ELIXIR ANDERSONVILLE 773-975-9244 1509 W. Balmoral
51	ELIXIR LOUNGE 773-975-9244 3452 N. Halsted
3	FANTASY NIGHTCLUB 773-325-2233 • 3641 N. Halsted
10	GRANVILLE ANVIL 773-973-0006 • 1137 W. Granville
31	HYDRATE • 773-975-9244 3458 N. Halsted
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44	LUCKY HORSESHOE 773-404-3169 • 3169 N. Halsted
48	MARTYS MARTINI BAR • 773-561-6425 • 1511 W Balmoral
70	MEETING HOUSE TAVERN • 773-696-4211 • 5025 N. Clark
1	RAVENSWOOD TAP • 773-528-3253 • 1829 W. Montrose
67	REPLAY • 773-654-1369 3358 N. Clark (Andersonville)
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40	STEAMWORKS BATHHOUSE 773-929-6080 • 3246 N. Halsted

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219-852-0222 (Hammond, IN)

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513 E. State Street
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The Club Indianapolis-317-635-5796
620 N. Capitol Ave (Bathhouse)

MICHIGAN

Dunes Resort - 269-857-1401
333 Blue Star Highway, Douglas
FIVE 15 - 248-515-2551
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Club St. Louis - 314-533-3666
2625 Samuel Shepard Dr (Bathhouse)
Rehab Bar & Grill - 314-652-3700
4054 Chateau Ave (Bar)

OHIO

The Club Columbus- 614-291-0049
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WASHINGTON DC

DIK Bar - 202-328-0100
1637 17th Street NW
Annie's Paramount Steakhouse -
202-232-0395 1609 17th Street NW



GRAB CLASSIFIEDS

APARTMENTS

ONE BEDROOM GARDEN APARTMENT -Bedroom can accommodate a queen size bed. All, and we mean all utilities included in rent; heat, A/C, cooking gas. Shared parking space available but additional. One cat or no pets. Very near Belmont/Kimball Blue line subway stop. Security deposit, \$1,200/Mo. **312-973-2035**, Please leave message.

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HELP WANTED

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I SCREAM

Pumpkin Spice, Gurl!

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Tickets Available at CircuitMOM.com