

APRIL 27, 2021 • VOL XII • ISSUE #9

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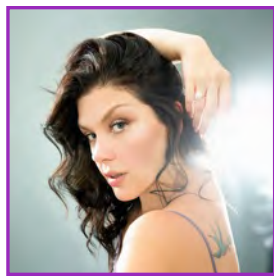
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## GRAB JUSTICE



Photo Courtesy of HBO Max

## Justice For All

The out ‘Genera+ion’ star wants to be an example of Black queer joy

By Chris Azzopardi

Last summer, Justice Smith wasn’t coming out but, instead, making a statement in solidarity with the Black trans and queer community. On Instagram, the 25-year-old actor posted a video while attending a protest against white supremacy and police brutality in New Orleans. He acknowledged he’s queer, yes. And yes, he revealed he was partnered, with then-boyfriend and “Queen Sugar” star Nicholas Ashe (the two have since broken up, Smith told us).

Still, he didn’t intend for the post to be about his own identity, exactly. It was more about visibility: “If your revolution does not include Black Queer voices, it is anti-Black,” he wrote. “If

your revolution is OK with letting Black trans people like #TonyMcDade slip through the cracks in order to solely liberate Black cishet men, it is anti-Black.”

Nearly a year later, the “Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom” and “Pokémon Detective Pikachu” actor is using the power of representation to continue these conversations with his role on HBO Max’s supremely gay series “Genera+ion.” On the show, he portrays Chester, a defiantly gay Gen Z’er who struts his high school halls in nipple-exposing crop tops — dress code be damned. In many ways, the series’ commitment to LGBTQ+ storytelling is next-level teen queerness. Writing for

MEL magazine, Joseph Longo described it as “post-‘It Gets Better’ TV,” noting that, when it comes to queer representation on TV, “It’s good we’re finally seeing our messes splayed on screen, not excused.”

Recently, Smith spoke about how Chester has emboldened him to embrace his femininity, being a role model for young Black queer boys to channel their Black joy, and going from being “so noticeably un-hot” to a half-naked heartthrob.

**Chris Azzopardi: I think the most obvious question to start with is: How many mesh shirts has Chester inspired you to buy?**





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Photo Courtesy of HBO Max

**Justice Smith:** (Laughs.) Um, so far zero, but I definitely am looking at the racks and being like, god, I really wish I had the confidence to get that crop top or to get that yada-yada-yada. I will say that there's been a few hoodies in my closet that I am like, "This doesn't need the bottom half of it," and I just cut it into a crop. It's liberating wearing clothes like that, you know?

**CA: Has Chester been influential in not just your style evolution but how you look at your own sexuality?**

**JS:** Chester has really done a lot for my own sense of feminine power. I think that everybody contains masculine and feminine qualities. And I think as a man, you're taught to repress or hide your femininity, and I've realized by playing Chester, who is somebody who rejects labels in general and expresses himself through all means of the gender spectrum, he's given me a sense of my own feminine power. Something that I've kind of ignored because of how I have internalized the messages that I have received from society.

**CA: You've played a lot of quiet introverts, until Chester, of course. What was it like to step into someone**

**who's unapologetically himself and also unabashedly loud about who he is?**

**JS:** I feel like I have that quality in my personal life; authenticity is really important to me, and I am someone who, at least within my close-knit group of friends, is bold and loud and not afraid to ask for what I want. But for some reason I was getting cast (as) a lot of these characters who were meek and insecure and quiet, which, you know, I also have those sides.

I still do consider myself an introvert. But I knew that it was time to show the world that I have all of these different sides of me, and that's what I set out to do: being an actor I set out to kind of express the multitude of my being, and I think Chester was the perfect person to show that side of me, of this, like, boldness. It's also being in that 24/7. Like, every day I go to set being in that confidence and boldness, it's cathartic, it's inspirational. It just juices up that self-confidence that I felt like I already had but definitely ignored.

**CA: I love hearing that. A little different than running away from Tyrannosaurus Rex.**

**JS:** A little different, but marginally. (Laughs.)

**CA: Running away from toxic masculinity and the patriarchy.**

**JS:** (Laughs.) Yeah, exactly. They are essentially the same thing.

**CA: I have been loving how much attention you've been getting for this role. How do you process comments on Twitter, or beyond Twitter, that are like, "I want Justice Smith" or "I can no longer ignore how hot I find Justice Smith." There was another one that said, "Justice Smith, having a hot boyfriend. Mmmm, I wanna make it a throuple."**

**JS:** Oh, no. Oh, wow. I don't ... I don't even ... I didn't even know that that was a thing (laughs). I'm, like, blushing. It's so funny because you spend most of your life being so noticeably un-hot and unattractive (laughs), and you're like, "I better develop a personality, because I don't really got anything else going for me." And then, I guess, as you get older, something clicks. I also do feel like a little bit is the way you hold yourself. Confident people just kind of are more attractive, so I think when they see me being confident on the show,



they're like, "Oh, he's hot," but I'm like, "Nah." (Laughs.) In real life, no, 'cause that's like an energy thing that I'm doing.

**CA:** There's something to be said about who you are on the show, you know, baring your midriff in almost every scene. I guess that's not you in real life, is what you're saying.

**JS:** No, no, no, no. But this show has made me, at first, very insecure, but now very secure in my body, because it's like I have to work out all the time because Chester's an athlete, and I am nothing of the sort. But also, I remember when we first started out, I wore that crop top and I was just like, "Don't you fucking breathe, tense all your muscles, act like you're, like, chilled but actually, inside, you're freaking the fuck out." And now I tell our costume designer, Shirley Kurata, "This needs to be sluttier; we need to show more skin." (Laughs.)

In the pilot, I was not breathing. When I do that strip-tease thing, I didn't breathe for one second. I was like, "Suck in, tense all of your abs." (Laughs.) It was intense. I was so nervous. But now it's like, "I am so used to being naked on set." Because I do it all the time.



Photo Courtesy of HBO Max

**CA:** While spending your teen years in Orange County, were you surrounded by as many queer people as Chester is in "Genera+ion"?

**JS:** Yeah, because I went to an art school in Orange County, I got — maybe that's a stereotype that, you know, "artists are just queer, they are fluid." That's why I love artists. There's a lot of artists that are \_not\_ queer, but sometimes young queer people are drawn to art schools.

Like at my high school, all the

popular kids were queer kids and it was predominantly female, and there were a lot of straight people too, but it just was not uncommon for people to embrace who they were. It was a little bit of a bubble, which I am grateful for in some ways, because it shielded me from the way the world thought about queerness, and when I got out into the real world, I was like, "Oh shit, that's not good." But I had a lot of strength from being surrounded by queerness all (during) my upbringing.

**CA:** Do you have a specific idea in mind of what you hope to accomplish in an industry that has been predominantly white and straight?

**JS:** I was just talking to my little brother about this today: I find that the most radical protest is unapologetic self-love and self-acceptance, and that there is so much leading I can do by example, by putting my face on screen so that young Black and biracial boys can see themselves represented. It's unfortunately radical, but also, it shouldn't be a radical thing, just my existence, but it is. And the fact that I can utilize it and be like, "Well, then I am going to represent myself, and people who look like me and people who love like me, and make them feel less alone." That I realize is my greatest power in all of this.

I am just doing what I love; acting is what I love to do, it is what I've always set out to do, and I just happen to exist in a



Photo Courtesy of HBO Max



Black queer body. And while I am very invested in social issues, it's unfair that as a Black queer person I am almost forced to speak out about social issues, when people of the majority are not necessarily inclined to do so or obligated to do so. I hope that paradigm shifts, in that white, straight, cis people are obligated to talk about social issues just as often as BIPOC or queer people have to when they exist in the public zeitgeist.

But until that happens, I'm so cool with just being like, "This is my face, this is who I love." Like, "Kids, see yourself in me. I am here; you can do this too."

**CA: I know that a part of that is you putting your relationship out there. I mean, that is also making a statement saying, "Well, queer love is love." I wonder how conscious you are of making that kind of statement by making your relationship public, but also: Do you draw a line somewhere?**

**JS:** It's interesting, because I have thought about this. That relationship was incredibly expansive to me. We're no longer together, but it really opened me up as a person. I don't wanna go into it too much, which is ironic 'cause that is exactly what we are talking about — how much I revealed about my relationship — but I think, moreover, there's so much Black boy, Black queer joy in my life, and there is so much Black pain in the zeitgeist, and I want to make sure that people know that I am aligned with this pain, and I am feeling this pain intimately, because I am a part of this community. But moreover, I want people to see the example of Black queer joy.

I was just talking to my little brother about this too: When you surround yourself (with) images of pain and tragedy and solitude constantly, or you internalize those messages that society gives you, it starts to manifest in your life. The minute you start to surround yourself with just images of joy, specifically of people of your community experiencing joy, it also shapes your brain, and it's like, "Oh, no, no, no, no; there is happiness for me out there. There is love out there for me, there is success out there for me, because I can see it. I see someone like me \_doing\_ it." And so that was really

important to me to just be like, I have all this Black boy joy, all this Black love, this Black queer love, and I want people to see it, so that other Black queers are like, "No, in all this pain there is light. There is love. There is happiness. There is joy."

But I do want to say, to answer your question, which I didn't (laughs), is that I am really private about my relationships. But I think that was more of a statement to my community, just to remind them of the good in all of this.

relationship when you are with your partner in bed.

And an album — yes! I would love to make an album. I have all these songs written. So I am just so honored that we get to share (this) with the world now, because it's something I never thought I would really do. But here I am.

**CA: You're going to have a lot of moments in your career when you are going to say that to yourself.**

**JS:** Yeah, that's true. That's very true. But that's always where the most



**CA: Your single "Bed" just came out. Can you tell me a bit about the song and how it came about? Also, are we going to get a full album at some point?**

**JS:** Yeah, the song I wrote about three or four years ago, about a relationship I was in, and I was really just in love with this person. I realized how much a relationship exists in the framing of a bedroom. Not just in a sexual way, but how the bedroom is a place where you share intimacy, where you share conciliation, where you can be lazy with one another, where you can laugh with one another, you can sit around watching TV. You can argue, you can cry. It's the most private, pure form of a

growth happens: when you do the things that you thought you would never do.

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

*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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# GRAB DAN

## Summer Beats Dan Slater and Zoë Badwi Bring Party People Together in “We Are”

By Shane Gallagher

Dan Slater and Zoë Badwi are starting the Pride season early with “We Are,” their uplifting and hands-in-the-air summer anthem about standing strong together. The track debuted last month at Miami’s Winter Party where it was named the weekend’s official anthem. Now the club music label, Swishcraft Music, is releasing the full remix package of “We Are” with tracks by heavy-hitting producers Dirty Disco, Toy Armada, and Brett Oosterhaus, among others.

“After the challenging year we have been through, it is important to remember that we need to stay united in solidarity,” says Dan Slater, echoing the main theme of the song. “We need to remain inclusive and treat everyone respectfully,” he says.

We spoke with Dan from his home in Miami.

**Shane Gallagher: What was it like for you growing up?**

**Dan Slater:** I grew up in Sydney, Australia. Both my parents were teachers, so I was a very diligent student. I remember there always being music in the house. Mum would play her favorite musicals, and Dad had his favorites like Christopher Cross, Stevie Wonder and The Jackson 5.

**SG: Were you always so devilishly sexy?**

**DS:** I was, and am still, a nerd. Growing up, I was really skinny, but once I began to study dance, I was forced to go to the gym. Something that I still enjoy today.

**SG: How were gay kids treated in your hometown?**

**DS:** Sydney was a pretty liberal city, but I kept the fact that I did dancing a secret from the kids at school because I didn’t want to get bullied. Being gay was something that I always thought was just a phase. I thought it would go away, but it didn’t and I’m glad I’ve had such an accepting and supportive

family and inner circle.

**SG: What led to your decision to pursue a career in clubland?**

**DS:** Before I even graduated high school, I had some pretty awesome experiences as a professional dancer. I was in the movie *Moulin Rouge*, danced for Kylie Minogue at the Sydney 2000 Olympics, and toured Australia and Asia in musicals like *Mamma Mia!*, *Fiddler On The Roof*, and *Chicago*.

**SG: That’s incredible!**

**DS:** Whenever I’d get the chance, I’d

do an extra club gig. Courtney Act was the first performer that I worked with! When I finished dancing, I needed a creative outlet so I secretly learned how to DJ. I got my first gig after winning The Sydney Mardi Gras DJ Spin-Off competition and have been very fortunate since.

**SG: What is the goal? Is it to produce more uplifting tracks like “We Are”?**

**DS:** My focus during Covid-19 has definitely shifted towards production. I’m trying a new sound, a little disco



Photo By Nathan Lane



inspired. But I definitely want to produce songs that make people happy and gives them that uplifting energy.

**SG: How did you come to work with Zoë Badwi on "We Are"?**

**DS:** I was on an Atlantis Cruise with Wayne G and I mentioned to him that I was working on some original tracks. He connected me with Zoë, and we started working together. So far, we have released "Respectable", "Sold My Soul" and "Hold Me". We started working on "We Are" last year and we have another track, "I've Been Waiting", releasing soon.

**SG: What make you and Zoë connect so well?**

**DS:** We're both from Australia, but I think we connect so well because we are both easy going and willing to compromise on ideas.

**SG: What is something fans would be surprised to know about Zoë?**

**DS:** She loves to drink tea. We are like two old ladies. Zoë will sit on the couch and have a cup of tea while I enjoy a glass of wine.

**SG: What is something fans would be surprised to know about you?**

**DS:** I love Yoga, and now that I have my bike, I love going for rides all around Miami.

**SG: Do you have a secret talent?**

**DS:** It wouldn't be a secret if I told you...

**SG: What nutty superstitions do you believe in?**

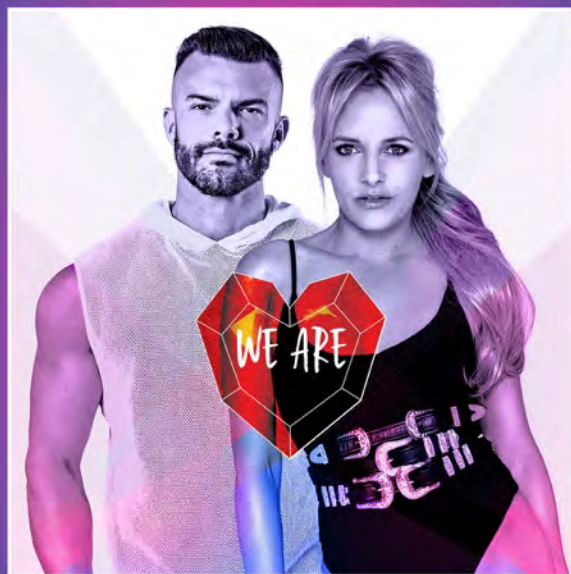
**DS:** I can't walk on lines or crack on roads or pavements. Weird, I know..

**SG: What makes you smile?**



Photo by Fernando Barraza

## DAN SLATER & ZOË BADWI



**DS:** Quite time at the beach, and FaceTime with my Mum and the family.

**SG: Which celebrity would you most like to slide into your DMs?**

**DS:** Ryan Gosling... Please!

**SG: You find a magic genie bottle. What are your three wishes?**

**DS:** To go home to Sydney to visit my family! Two: a happy and healthy in 2021. And three, that we can all be a little bit nicer, and accepting of one another. 2020 brought the best and worst out in

people. I've never been trolled on social media like I have been in the last twelve months.

**SG: How ready are you to get back on the dancefloor?**

**DS:** Absolutely ready! I said I was only going to take one or two gigs a week. But now I am fully booked until December. Bring it on!

**SG: Why should "We Are" be the anthem for summer 2021?**

**DS:** "We Are" is an uplifting, anthemic track that is about acceptance and inclusivity. It has a positive message which I think we all need right now.

*Dan Slater and Zoë Badwi's "We Are" is available now on Apple, Spotify and on all major music services. Visit <https://swishcraftmusic.com>. Follow Dan Slater on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/DJDanSlater](https://www.facebook.com/DJDanSlater)), Instagram ([www.instagram.com/danielsl8r](https://www.instagram.com/danielsl8r)) and Twitter ([www.twitter.com/danielsl8r](https://www.twitter.com/danielsl8r))*



## GRAB JANE



## “May” flower: an interview with Jane Monheit

By Gregg Shapiro

Since the beginning of the 21st century, vocalist Jane Monheit has been making her presence felt. Over the course of more than a dozen albums, including a live recording and a holiday record, Monheit has applied her jazz-influenced interpretive skills to songs from Broadway, the Great American Songbook, and of course, jazz. Her new album, “Come What May” (Club 44/Provident), is no exception to that rule, with Monheit leaving her distinctive mark on songs by Johnny Mercer, Frank Loesser, Irving Berlin, Billy Strayhorn, Hoagy Carmichael, Rodgers & Hart, and even Antonio Carlos Jobim. Monheit was kind enough to answer a few questions about the new album and more in March of 2021.

**Gregg Shapiro:** Jane, it’s been 21 years since the release of your debut

**album *Never Never Land*. How would you say that you’ve evolved as a performer since that first record?**

**Jane Monheit:** I’ve grown up! When that record came out, I was 22 years old. I was just a baby! My albums sort of follow the path of my maturation over the years. They really do.

**GS:** While we’re talking about time, it’s been five years between albums, which I think is the longest span you’ve taken. What was happening during that time before the release of *Come What May* (Club 44)?

**JM:** Mostly intense touring. Which I never stopped doing until the pandemic. It was 20 years on the road. And I didn’t feel pressured to put a record out at that time. I had made so many records. I’d made 10 records in 15 years. I didn’t feel like I had to just rush some kind of

product out that wasn’t inspired or heartfelt, just to have something on the market. So, I waited until I was really ready.

**GS:** As has been the case with your previous albums, many of the songs on *Come What May* are rooted in the Great American Songbook. What can you tell the readers about the process of selecting songs for the new album?

**JM:** This was interesting. This was different than previous albums because we were in a situation where there was no rehearsal possible. We were in the pandemic. We had to make this record as quickly as we could. So, what I did is rather than record all kinds of new arrangements that have not been played on the road yet, I recorded a bunch of unrecorded material that is sort of





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already road broken-in. Songs that we played for a couple of years. Man, that makes for a really nice recording session. You go in there feeling really confident with music that is just road-worn and perfected. It was awesome!

**GS: Did it make you feel more prepared than for previous recording sessions?**

**JM:** In the past there were periods of rehearsals, so it wasn't that we were more prepared. It was sort of a different comfort level. It was like putting on a familiar pair of shoes.

**GS: Good description! You cover a Jobim song, "Samba Do Aviao," on Come What May. Have you ever seen thought about doing an entire album of Brazilian music?**

**JM:** I definitely have thought about it. It's certainly something I'll do in the future, for sure.

**GS: As you've done in the past, you recorded show tunes, including "I Believe In You," on Come What May. Is there a show tune that you've sung that made you wish you'd had the chance to play the character in the musical from which it's drawn?**

**JM:** So many! I love musical theater. I used to do musical theater when I was young. I miss it so much. If I got an opportunity to do it again, I would be there with bells on. I think the songs that I'm drawn to in musical theatre are not the same ones that I use in a jazz setting. If I were going to sing a musical theater tune, I'd be drawn towards all of these like heavy Sondheim ballads and

things like that [laughs]. They're slightly different worlds for me, but I do bring them together as often as I can.

**GS: Country music is more popular than ever. Do you think you might have a country album in you?**

**JM:** My dad is a bluegrass musician. He's a banjo and guitar player. I grew up on bluegrass and folk music and country music as much as I did jazz. So, I've always thought that I'd love to do a project that is still a jazz project, but leans a little bluegrassy. Those lines cross. The Venn diagram of jazz and bluegrass has all kinds of good stuff in the middle. It's a possibility someday.

**GS: Because you are best known for your jazz-influenced renditions of popular tunes, is there a style of music that you enjoy that might surprise your fans?**

**JM:** You know what I love so much? Eighties hair metal!

**GS: No way!**

**JM:** Oh, my God, do we love Mötley Crüe! I've seen Mötley Crüe live! [Laughs] oh yeah, big time! My son is way into it, too. We're eighties rock all day!

**GS: That confession kind of leads to my next question. On the Come What May back cover photo we can see your tattoo.**

**JM:** I have a lot of tattoos.

**GS: Wow! What's the particular significance to the**

**tattoo near your right shoulder?**

**JM:** Is it the swallow or the mermaid?

**GS: The swallow.**

**JM:** In tattoo symbolism, swallows are usually tattooed in pairs; old Navy stuff. They symbolize safe travel, safe journeys. My husband and I are travelers. For our tenth wedding anniversary, we got a matching set of swallows, only one on each of us. His has a banner that says "True" and mine has a banner that says "Love."

**GS: You do a wonderful cover of the Billy Strayhorn classic "Lush Life," which leads me to ask about your awareness of your fans in the LGBTQ + community and what they mean to you.**

**JM:** They mean the absolute world to me. Growing up on Long Island, I was a theater kid. So many of my friends at the time were coming out of the closet. I was sort of the token straight kid. I remember that my family, my parents and my grandparents, were a safe space for so many of these kids. Countless kids I grew up with were having terrible troubles at home coming out. It was very difficult and my family gave everybody an umbrella to be safe under. That was huge. I'll never forget that. I'm deeply aware of how much support I have from the community and I try and give it back. My best friend on this planet is a trans man. Trans rights are incredibly important to me. They should be important to everybody. I try to be very aware of my community. Not just the LGBTQ community, but the fact that I sing Black music. I stand on the shoulders of Black jazz musician, so I try to make a practice of awareness and gratitude.







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# GRAB A PLANE



## Palm Springs, California

By Bill Malcolm

Palm Springs, California is a perfect vacation destination when you feel safe to travel again. With outdoor hiking and adventures, there is plenty of room to spread out and enjoy the desert and mountain scenery. The LGBTQ life is back open (socially distanced, outdoor dining and drinking, masks required). The LGBTQ scene includes a vibrant downtown street, Arenas, where most (but not all) of the bars are located.

The city is nestled against the dramatic San Jacinto Mountains. The often-snow-capped peaks tower over the desert community which is arguable the most LGBTQ friendly in the country. Palm Springs is one of seven or so cities in the Coachella Valley.

### GETTING THERE

I took Southwest Airlines which has started service from Oakland, Denver and Phoenix to the very handy Palm Springs Airport. To get downtown, walk

across the street to the Civic Center bus (#2) to get to your hotel. I took American back through Phoenix. Service was top notch on my favorite legacy carrier which had great in-flight entertainment and charging stations for your devices in the seat.

You can also take Amtrak direct three times a week or do an Amtrak bus/train combo to get to Palm Springs. The Sunline bus system also runs a bus to Riverside to connect with the commuter rail system into Los Angeles.

Long story short, you do not need a rental car or a car to visit this great city.

### WHERE TO STAY

You cannot beat the value of the Motel 6 Downtown (660 S. Palm Canyon Drive). Just steps from Starbucks, the French Bakery, the Organic Restaurant, the Antiques District, and the Toolshed Bar. Other options include the LGBTQ resorts, including the ones on Warm

Sands Drive (just east of downtown). The Best Western downtown is also very handy (and is right next to the Arenas area). I have also stayed at the Courtyard by Marriott. Also recommended is the Ace Hotel and Saguaro. You will find the LGBTQ resorts on Warm Sands and other locations. The Santiago resort is also very nice (<https://santiagoresort.com>)

### WHAT TO DO

Hike the Indian Canyons, the ancestral home of the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians. The desert oasis features the native Washington fan palm trees which are the only palms actually native to the Golden State. Both Andreas and Murray Canyons are great for hiking. Palm Canyon runs along a river filled with palms and is an easy hike for all. Bring plenty of water as it can get hot on the trail.

Also, hike the Henderson Trail as



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well or the trails at the end of Ramon Street. Both are free.

Check out the Modern Mid-Century architecture including north of downtown.

Don't miss the LaQuinta Farmers Market on Sundays. The LaQuinta Resort nearby was the destination for movie stars like Greta Garbo where you can still see her house. The beautiful grounds are worth a visit even if you don't stay at this posh resort. Stop by Lulu's Home and Fashion Accessories downtown.

Visit the Lotus Garden Center in Palm Desert for artwork and garden accessories.

Take the Tram to the top of the mountain.

Early risers may want to go for a walk or a run with the Palm Springs Front Runners/Walkers. Get the meeting times and locations at [www.psfr.org](http://www.psfr.org).

#### **WHERE TO EAT**

The Public Greens Café has great juices. Enjoy the French pastries at Peninsula Pastries. Bouschet Wines also serves food in the parking lot on weekends. The creative bistro food is a must. You will find all three just south of downtown.

Nature's Health Food (5555 Sunrise) has great and healthy salads and other treats. Enjoy the take-out food at the park across the street.

Sherman's Restaurant is great for New York style deli food.



The Native Food Café has a great taco salad. You will find them next to the Ralph's.

Casa Mendoza's Restaurant in La Quinta has great Mexican Food.

#### **NIGHTLIFE**

There's a bar for everyone on Arenas Avenue downtown Stacy's has jazz and piano. Hunter's is great for happy hour. You will find the leather crowd at the Eagle 501. Quad Z and Chill Bar are also fun as are Black Book Bar and Grill and Streetbar. Do some shopping at Gay Mart while you are in the neighborhood. All have set up

outside seating to maintain social distancing and masks are required.

The Tool Shed at 600 E. Sunny Dunes Road is also fun. Enjoy a slice of pizza for \$1. Further out is the Barracks which has a packed Sunday beer bust.

Upcoming Events The Dinah Shore golf tournament has been moved to this fall. The Pride Parade may (or may not) be held in November.

#### **TRAVEL TIPS**

Summer is your value season as temps can be toasty. Also, you will need a reservation on weekends as the city is quite popular with the LA crowd. During the week is quieter.

Check current COVID-19 restrictions before any travel. When I was there, masks were required everywhere – inside and out, including on hiking trails and sidewalks. Check COVID-19 travel recommendations from the CDC, the state of California, and Riverside County before booking your reservation to the area.

For more information visit Palm Springs, the official tourism website, has all you need to plan your Palm Springs vacation ([www.visitpalm Springs.com](http://www.visitpalm Springs.com)). Check out its LGBTQ guide which has all the information you need including on the variety of LGBTQ resorts.

Bill Malcolm is America's only LGBTQ value travel writer. Based in Indianapolis, he has written over 30 columns which have appeared in LGBTQ publications around the country. His opinions are his own. He is not recommending travel unless authorized by the CDC, the State of California, and Riverside County. Check current COVID travel recommendations and restrictions before booking your travel.





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	Artist	Title
1	The Kid Laroi	Without You (dEVOLVE Remix) (Radio Edit)
2	Sam Fischer & Demi Lovato	What Other People Say (R3HAB Remix)
3	Siedah Garrett vs Eden Prince	Do You Want It Right Now
4	Lucas & Steve x Blackstreet	No Diggity
5	Alesso x CORSAK	Going Dumb
6	Doja Cat	Streets (Ape Drums Remix)
7	JUBEL	Weekend Vibe (VICE Remix)
8	Harry Styles	Watermelon Sugar (Tommie Sunshine & Breikthru Remix)
9	Elderbrook	Body
10	Silk City x Ellie Goudling	New Love ft. Diplo & Mark Ronson
11	Tyron Hapi x If Found	Could've Been Us ft. Emily Falvey
12	H3000	July Heat (Original Mix)
13	Fred Again & The Blessed Madonna	Marea (We've Lost Dancing)
14	Dom Dolla	Pump The Brakes (Short Radio Edit)
15	Love Harder x HUGEL x Tobtok	My Bed ft. RBVLN
16	Major Lazer	Titans ft. Sia & Labrinth
17	Illenium x Dabin x Lights	Hearts On Fire (Lucas & Steve Remix Edit)
18	DJ Licos	Hope ft. Armen Paul
19	SAY SAY x ASDIS	Stories
20	Rony Rex	Fabric
21	Niiko x SWAE	I Ain't Going Home
22	Nitti Gritti	Where I Belong ft. RUNN
23	CamelPhat	Easier ft. LOWES (Radio Edit)
24	Riton x Nightcrawlers	Friday ft. Mufasa & Hypeman (Dopamine Re
25	Cosmic Gate & Diana Miro	Blame (Original Mix)
26	Fenix	Bring You Back ft. Chris Willis (Original Radio)
27	Alan Walker x Salem ilese	Fake A Smile (R3HAB Remix)
28	Oliver Heldens	Never Look Back ft. Syd Silairi (Radio Edit)
29	Markus Schulz x Ethan Thompson & Soundland	Make It Last Forever
30	L.L.A.M.A x NEYO x Carmen DeLeon	Shake (Main Mix)
31	Nervo	Gotta Be You ft. Carla Monroe
32	Lost Frequencies	Rise
33	GATTUSO	Somebody
34	Jonasu	Black Magic
35	Martin Garrix x Tove Lo	Pressure
36	Toby Romeo x Felix Jaehn x Faulhaber	Where The Lights Are Low (Radio Edit)
37	ONEDUO & Emily Vaughn	Leave This Place
38	Ultra Nate & Angelica Ross x Mila Jam	Fierce (Radio Mix)
39	Noizu	Summer 91 (Looking Back)
40	Joel Corry x Raye x David Guetta	Bed



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# GRAB ROGER

## Avoiding Problems When Buying A Residence

By Roger V. McCaffrey-Boss, Esq.

After looking at what seems like a hundred apartments you've picked the apartment of your dreams and the time comes to make a purchase offer. Some common problems that I see buyers face when buying either a house or a condominium:

**Falling in Love with the Model.** In choosing a building it is usually best to buy in the worst building in a good area than buy in the best building in an adequate or marginal area. Ask about the physical condition of the building – recent repairs, structural improvements and planned large special assessments. There have always been three rules in buying real estate: “Location, location and location.” Look for access to public transportation, nearness to good shopping areas and restaurants. And, walk the neighborhood, a drive through is never enough.

**Overpaying.** The seller's asking price for the apartment usually has been arrived at through negotiation

between the seller and the broker. Its is not uncommon for a broker to get a listing to sell an apartment because the broker has suggested a high asking price. Therefore, consider the asking price as the starting point.

When it comes time to make an offer instruct the broker to tell the seller of any offer you wish to make – brokers are obligated under law to convey your offer to the seller regardless of the price.

It will be up to you to do the price negotiation. Brokers aren't any more expert in the negotiating process, all they can do is tell you about the seller's personality. Once you have made your initial offer and the broker comes back with a counter offer you know that the bargaining has begun. If you get a response of “no,” look elsewhere. Oftentimes, it is best to sit down face to face with the seller. It can be harder for them to reject your offer in person than over the phone.

**Hire a Lawyer.** When an offer has been accepted, don't sign the final contract unless you consult with your attorney or there is an attorney

approval clause in the contract allowing your attorney five business days to review and cancel the contract. Your lawyer will need the time to review the contract and insist that safeguards and protections be put into the contract for your benefit.

If you, as a buyer, are feeling pressured to sign the contract with an attorney approval clause do not deposit the full amount of the earnest money. Only deposit \$500 to \$1,000. The balance can be paid when attorney review and the building inspection contingency is over.

The importance of the sales contract cannot be



underestimated. The contract defines the entire relationship between the seller and the buyer, it describes each parties rights and obligations. Merely because the contract is preprinted does not mean that the terms are standard or universally accepted. The law is always changing, costs are always increasing and no purchase of real estate is like any other. The boilerplate terms and fine print have to be reviewed and edited to correspond with your purchase. Most importantly the contract sets forth the seller's obligations to provide good title when it comes time to close.

**Pre-Closing Walkthrough.** Finally, make sure you have inspected the apartment on the day of closing. Check all the appliances, make sure all promised repairs are done and that the apartment is clean and vacant. This is the time to make sure the seller has done everything they were supposed to do – it will be too late after the closing.

Buying a home is probably the largest financial transaction that most people will ever make. The lawyer makes it easier for the buyer. And a good lawyer will make the purchase of your condominium a pleasure instead of agony.

Roger McCaffrey-Boss is a graduate of Hamline University School of Law, St. Paul, Minnesota, and is a member of the Chicago Bar Association. You can email him at [RVMLawyer@aol.com](mailto:RVMLawyer@aol.com). He suggests that you consult your own lawyer for any specific questions regarding the issues raised in this column.

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# GRAB HOLLY

## Who Knew?

By Holly Maholm

With every new generation, the phrase “A wolf in sheep’s clothing” requires more and more explanation. Few, indeed, are the shepherds alive today who know the wisdom of this phrase first-hand, and fewer still who can guess what the confluence of “sheep” (a wool-bearing ungulate) and “wolf” (a predator known for his clever, deceitful ways) might teach us. Nevertheless, I trust that you, dear reader, are well acquainted with the phrase. But I wonder, how many of you can guess the lesson of that lesser known phrase, “A unicorn in wolf’s clothing?” I was sitting out on the Green, keeping a protective eye upon a group of retirees, who were happily combing-out the mane of Victor, Commander of the Queen’s Stallions, Protector of Penelope, Queen of the Unicorns (but who – just then – was disguised as a Belgian). This being the time school let out, I was not surprised when Josh appeared and rushed up to me.

“Miss Holly!” he called out, “I need to tell you something!” He took a seat and began. “You know I’ve been camping out with the straight kids over at the Bible camp behind the bleachers. Now that the

LGBT kids are gone – and Coach Davis is in charge – things have changed. And especially since you and your horse ruined Roger’s drone. Once that happened, things got really bad!

“Mrs. Potter bought Roger a new drone – one bigger and faster than the old one. And from what I’ve seen, I think Roger and several of his friends are plotting some kind of revenge for destruction of their drone. They’ve been holding secret meetings where they whisper a lot and are plainly planning something. So, I wanted to warn you, cause I think either you, or your horse, or maybe both, are in danger.” I thanked Josh for this warning and paused to decide what to do next. Having heard the sermon by Pastor Potter that called for new threats against us LGBT-folk, my friends at Donut Time – and the unicorns in the frolic – had been amply forewarned to be on guard against an attack by Christian bigots. But this was no general caution to be vigilant – it was an out-and-out warning of attack! I was near Donut Time, so I hurried there to relay the warning.

Coming in the door, I saw Cindy taking a break in one of the booths. I sat down and began to share with her my “alarming news” in a manner I hoped would not alarm her.

(Cindy is one of those persons who reacts to “alarming news” by confronting – sometimes violently – the person who – often innocently – raised the alarm.) So I was prepared for Cindy to react with frantic agitation. But no. Not Cindy. Not today. She looked up from her egg cream and replied, “Yeah, I know all about it. Should be tomorrow when the assholes make their attack.” My mouth gaped in astonishment. “What! You know about this? What kind of attack?”

Cindy explained. “You know I started jogging. Recently, I discovered that a steady diet of donuts can cause a person to gain weight. Who knew? Anyway, I decided to take up jogging. I go every day at the same time – right after Donut Time closes for the day – and I keep to the same streets and run the



same circuit every day. So, the past three days, I noticed I was being followed... from above. It was a drone, which I assume is the new one Mrs. Potter bought, after your rescue horse pissed all over her old one.

She continued. “It’s obvious they mean to attack me in some way. They know the route I always run, and when I run it. They’ll be waiting for me in some secluded spot to give me a beating – they don’t want to kill me. That would spoil everything. They just want to hurt me in a way that won’t get them arrested. They’ll have an alibi all worked out in advance, so if I do go to the police, they won’t be prosecuted.

“You see, it’s all about sending a message. These religious types, they want to deliver a beating, but they don’t have the guts – the integrity, actually – to take responsibility for what they do. If I call the cops, they’ll claim I was back out on the corner, hooking, and one of my customers didn’t know I was actually a tranny, so when I pulled up my skirt and he found my cock, he beat me up for deceiving him. As if any of my customers were ever mistaken about who I am, or ever had any reason to complain about my blowjobs.

“No, I know exactly what they want to do, and when they want to do it, and where. What I can’t decide is what to do about it.”

*(To be continued)*

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

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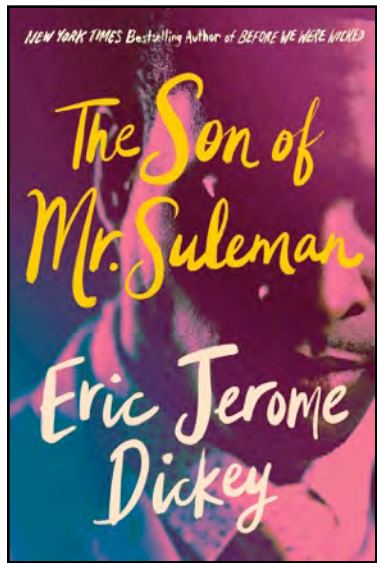


# GRAB A BOOK

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

**"The Son of Mr. Suleman"** by Eric Jerome Dickey

c.2021, Dutton \$27.00/\$36.00  
Canada 560 pages



The sins of the father shall be visited upon the son.

That's what's said, that a son pay for his father's misdeeds, but maybe the old man didn't intend to leave a negative legacy. Maybe he tried his best, but something went wrong. Maybe, as in the new novel *"The Son of Mr. Suleman"* by **Eric Jerome Dickey**, Pops meant well.

Adjunct Professor Pi Suleman didn't want to be at his employer's event. He had better things to do, better places to be than a room at UAN, but his boss, the white woman who hired him, the wife of a powerful judge, demanded that he be there or else.

Like a fool, he'd taken gifts from her, things given in what he understood was an effort to make his job easier. She was helpful to him but it came with a price: whenever she wanted to sexually assault him, she did, and when she threatened to say that he was to blame, there was little a Black Man from Memphis could do.

Meeting Gemma Buckingham was the only good thing to happen at that UAN event.

She was one of the most beautiful women Pi had ever seen, this child of London and Africa, and he wanted to know her better. Even when she mentioned that she was a fan of his father, a man who impregnated Pi's mother and then disappeared, a famous man, a writer Pi had never met but hated, Pi still wanted to know Gemma Buckingham.

She was coy with him, teasing him with information and curves. She was apparently well-off and she didn't care

that Pi wasn't yet tenured, didn't have the salary he needed, drove an old car. Yes, she had secrets – but then, so did he and the white one who was blowing up his phone with demands and traps and tricks was the secret who was going to pay...

There is an old rule for writers that says, "kill your darlings," meaning that a good writer should eliminate unneeded passages and overused phrases. If you've ever read anything by the late author Eric Jerome Dickey, you know that he generally ignored that advice; *"The Son of Mr. Suleman"*, filled as this brick-sized novel is with "darlings," is no exception.

And yet, it's hard to even slightly dislike a story that makes its characters tackle DWB, racism, classism, white supremacy, ill-placed power, and a dozen other societal issues between bodice-ripping erotica and page-ripping thrills. It's hard to let go of a book that makes you absolutely, one-hundred-percent need to know what happens next. The surprise is that Dickey does all this as he pushes readers to accept a degree of discomfort: unlike with his past novels, the sex isn't always sexy here, and the thrills are more threatening than thrilling.

Be prepared to be turned every which way with this book. Be set to let *"The Son of Mr. Suleman"* eat up your weekend. Just be ready, because missing it would be a sin.

**"From Archie to Zack"** by Vincent X. Kirsch

c.2020, Abrams Books for Young Readers \$17.99 / \$22.99 Canada  
40 pages

The girl who sits right behind you at school is really nice.

She shares her things if you ask nicely, and she likes to make you laugh. She seems very smart and polite and she never says mean things to anyone, even if they deserve it. All the kids in your class like her; you like her but in the new book *"From Archie to Zack"* by Vincent X. Kirsch, there might be someone you like just a little more.

There was no doubt in anyone's mind. Everybody knew it: Archie loved Zack and Zack loved Archie. The two boys were happiest when they did everything together, but the funny thing was, neither of them could say "I love you."

Oh, but you can bet they both really wanted to say it. Very much so. And then one day, Archie wrote Zack a note that said "From A. to Z. it's true. I love you."

Archie read the note to

himself and it really made him smile. But that note wasn't quite right, so he hid it in a tree and Zack was still his best friend.

He wrote another note, kind of the same. He read it to himself but it just wasn't quite right. He hid the second note in his band case and he and Zack were still best friends.

Just before Halloween, Archie wrote another note, with just a little more oomph and he read it to himself many times. What he wrote finally seemed right this time. He loved Zack! But for some reason, he couldn't give the note to Zack, so Archie hid it in his desk at school.

Then one day, Zuzella found a note in a desk. Zinnia found one in band class. Zelda found one in a tree trunk and all three girls knew who wrote them. They delivered the notes to Zack and that made him smile because he'd been working on a note that wasn't quite right. One that said the truth that everybody already knew.

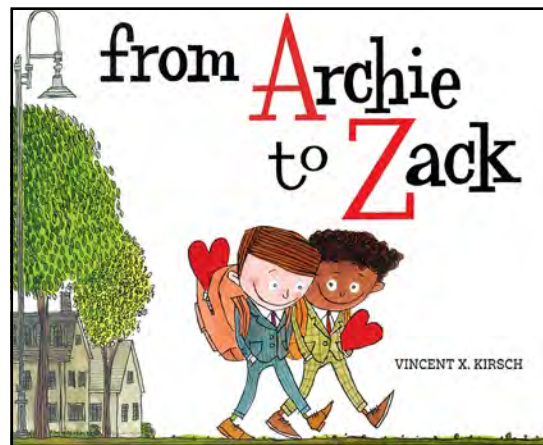
Nothing unusual.

That's not normally what you want to hear about a new book; you probably want to hear enthusiastic things like WOW! but that's not what you'll find here. *"From Archie to Zack"* tells young readers a sweet story in a calm, even, nothing-unusual manner.

The lack of drama is where unusual comes to play.

Author-illustrator **Vincent X. Kirsch** lets kids know that Archie and Zack can love one another and it's okay. The children in their class don't make fun of anyone. They barely even comment; in fact, they seem to think it's wonderful, a lesson that pulses like a heart here. Even the action-rich illustrations tell a story here, a story about kids that also serves as a surprisingly grown-up conversation-sparker about love, whether it's between friends, classmates, neighbors, or a child's two favorite uncles.

Perfect for anytime reading, kids ages 4-to-8 will love this book best. For them and for you, *"From Archie to Zack"* is a book to get behind.





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# GRAB A FILM

By Delven Shaw

**COPA 181** is an unexpected gem.



Set in a male bathhouse, **COPA 181** is a sweet gem from 2017 now on Amazon and Here TV.

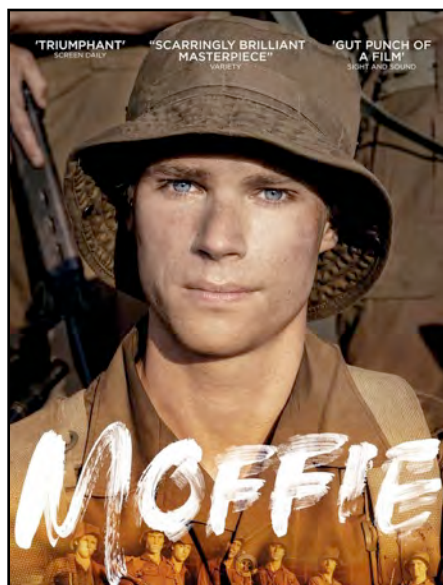
Tana (**Carlos Takeshi**) runs a one-man store in Rio, opening the steel garage doors without fail, before he heads to the place that is his real home - **COPA 181**. His wife Eros (**Simone Mazzzer**) has hopes to become an opera singer, but her talent is less than stellar. But when that doesn't work out, she decides to sing wherever and whenever she gets a chance.

As scripted and directed by **Dannon Lacerda**, **COPA** is a place full of camaraderie and joy and hustlers who are part of the team. Leo (**Caetano O'Maihlán**) is the hot top who charges 200 reals, while Davi (**Gabriel Canella**) is the resident muscle bottom. When the guys are not working, the clients enjoy entertainment, and Tana has a wonderful and welcoming birthday party. There is even Bingo where the winner gets a free night with one of the pros!

Is it throwback to an earlier more carefree time? Or just a bubble in which these men have bonded in every way, even bringing new clients who wander in directly into their fun friendships.

To say more is impossible without spoiling things. But the cast is full of unclad men and big hearted women who look like they are having the time of their lives. I think you will too.

**MOFFIE** pales when compared to other films.



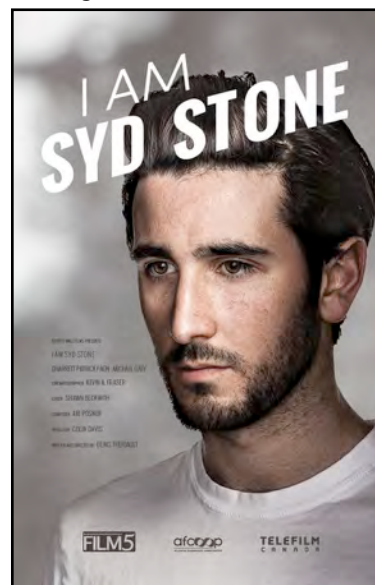
I had high hopes that **MOFFIE**, now being heavily marketed, would be one of the great gay movies of the year. Alas, while the material is compelling, it does not rise to the occasion of a *God's own Country* (2017) or *Brokeback Mountain* (2005), films that still evoke stroke visceral and emotional reactions when they come up today.

Perhaps the story of a young man who is drafted into the army to protect a border from an evil that seems imaginary is too familiar. We know he will go through horrible routines in boot camp in the efforts to make him a man. And we know that homosexuality is the greatest of all evils. All of that is well treated, although the language is strong, and I would not be surprised to find many are triggered by the violence the conscripts are dealt.

That fact that it is South African in 1981 makes it somewhat interesting, as the film is in many ways done in two languages.

**Kai Luke Brummer** (who could double for AJ Apa) is handsome and stoic, and buries his secret in long, lonely glances, and one cherished kiss. His complexion and hair are always perfect, and in a long shirtless scene at the film's conclusion, he looks terrific. I guess carrying your buddies in sheep holds and doing sit-ups with cement blocks will keep you in good shape. The rest of the cast delivers the various levels of terror and despair that writer/director **Oliver Hermanus** requires of them.

**I AM SYD STONE** is tight and moving.



**I AM SYD STONE** is a nicely plotted Canadian series that seems more like a regular movie chopped up into smaller segments. The handsome Travis Nelson, an action hero whose artistic career is a bit on the skids, ends up in an icy small town making an after school special. We have seen this character before – not agreeable to his agent, petulant to those who love him, abusive to those on the film crew.

But a late-night trip to the swimming pool with Matt, (**Benjamin Charles Watson**) a lawyer in town for a trial, sends Syd, into a tailspin. In subsequent short scenes, we see him relax from his bad boy persona, as he lets Matt great to know him. And after a naked night and day together, it is great to see Syd finally smile as he leaves Matt alone in the hotel and heads off to his shoot.

To reveal any other plot points would spoil the fun. But the cast of supporting players is excellent, and the story line is extremely gratifying.

Writer/director **Denis Theriault** made a short film with the same theme in 2014 before expanding it for this series. I don't know if a season 2 is planned, but if it is, I will be watching. I found **I AM SYD STONE** on Dekkoo.

The Next Issue of  
**GRAB** will be online  
Tuesday May 11th.





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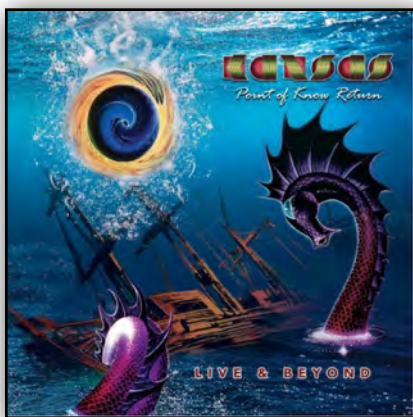
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## KANSAS Release New Track "The Wall (Live 2019-20)"



KANSAS, America's legendary progressive rock band has released another track from their upcoming, new live album *Point of Know Return Live & Beyond* out May 28, 2021.

This is the first live album since 2017 for the band that has sold more than 30 million albums worldwide and is famous for classic hits such as 'Carry On Wayward Son' and 'Dust in the Wind,' to progressive epics like 'Song for America.'

*Point of Know Return Live & Beyond* is co-produced by **Phil**

**Ehart** and **Richard Williams**, and is recorded and mixed by **Chad Singer**. The album features 22 songs selected from 12 shows recorded in 2019 and 2020 during KANSAS's Point of Know Return Anniversary Tour. The setlist includes classic hits, deep cuts, and culminates with the band's sextuple-platinum album, *Point of Know Return*, performed in its entirety.

Following the success of the band's Leftoverture Anniversary Tour, KANSAS followed that tour up with the even more popular Point of Know Return Anniversary Tour. The overwhelming success of that tour, and the previous live album, *Leftoverture Live & Beyond*, led the band, along with Inside Out Music, to release selected songs from the tour as a live album.

"We knew we wanted to release a live album of the Point of Know Return Anniversary Tour. Being unable to tour for more than a year has given us the opportunity to work on Point of Know Return Live & Beyond and release it for our fans who are missing live concerts as much as we are," said KANSAS drummer and album co-producer, **Phil Ehart**. "When we discussed who

would mix the album, we thought the best possible person would be the guy who mixes the band live every night and recorded the shows on the road. Nobody knows better how KANSAS sounds live than our front of house engineer, **Chad Singer**!"

"This live album sounds great," adds KANSAS guitarist and album co-producer, **Richard Williams**. "We wanted to make sure this album captures and represents how KANSAS sounds live in concert. Point of Know Return Live & Beyond does just that."

Along with original KANSAS band members **Phil Ehart** on drums and **Richard Williams** on lead guitar, Point of Know Return Live & Beyond, features **Tom Brislin** on keyboards and vocals, **Billy Greer** on bass and vocals, **Ronnie Platt** on lead vocals and keyboards, **David Ragsdale** on violin and vocals, and **Zak Rizvi** on guitar and vocals.

Fans can now stream "The Wall (Live 2019-20)" at this link:

<https://youtu.be/D3S-1p18> So

More information on the tour, including specific Point of Know Return Anniversary Tour dates, can be found at <http://www.kansasband.com>.

## PRONOUN 'OMG I MADE IT' NEW EP OUT JUNE 11

PRONOUN, the indie/bedroom/pop project of **Alyse Velturo**, has announced her first collection of songs since 2019 entitled, *OMG I MADE IT*, out June 11 through Wax Bodega.

"I WANNA DIE BUT I CAN'T (CUZ I GOTTA KEEP LIVING)" is about the uncomfortable feeling that everyone around you is growing into their own lives while I feel like nothing's changing within myself," says Velturo. "It's the uncomfortable feeling of not wanting to be on this planet but knowing I really have to put in effort and figure out how to make life work for me. It's about the uncomfortable but at the same time comforting feeling that others feel the same. It's literally a hard look in the mirror, by myself, in a bathroom, asking myself what the hell is up. I'm talking to myself throughout the entire thing, but these days who isn't."

On 'OMG I MADE IT',

Velturo's musical formula (bedroom pop panoramas completely written and self-produced) holds steady, but with the goey, emotional core even more self-reliant. With not-so underlying themes of mental health, honesty, and uncertainty, Velturo describes *OMG I MADE IT* as a replacement for catching up with someone over the past year; opening with the explosive ambulance siren in *SOUNDS THE ALARMS!!!!* to the exhale of an outro on *WASTING TIME*. "It's as if I bumped into an old friend who asked how I have been and I just started vomiting for 18 minutes and 9 seconds."

Throughout the EP, PRONOUN sounds larger than life. "I'M RIGHT BACK IN IT" is the soundtrack to when one of those Brooklyn nights are in full force, starry-eyed guitars and a room-spinning chorus goading you to give yourself up to the moment. "HALF OF

*THE TIME*" is swing-for-the-fences shoegaze with a dramatic key change before the final chorus. And the elegant "WASTING TIME" ends with Velturo harmonizing alongside Future Teens guitarist Amy Hoffman on a line that sends off the EP into fuzzy oblivion: "Have I lost my way / Am I falling behind / Am I on my way / Or just wasting time?"

Stream "I WANNA DIE BUT I CAN'T (CUZ I GOTTA KEEP LIVING)": <http://lnk.to/iwdbic>

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





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## Chicago LGBT Hall of Fame Announces Online Nominations



The Chicago LGBT Hall of Fame has announced that it has made its entire nomination process available online. Those wishing to nominate individuals, organizations, businesses, or "Friends of the Community, may now do so without having to download print and fill out forms. All steps of the nomination process are now available on the Hall of Fame's website. Nomination criteria and nomination forms, both downloads and online submissions are now available at [www.chicagolgbthalloffame.org/nominate](http://www.chicagolgbthalloffame.org/nominate).

To nominate someone for the Chicago LGBT Hall of Fame now only takes a few clicks of your mouse. Anyone can nominate an

individual, organization, or business for the Chicago LGBT Hall of Fame. The goal is to honor people and entities that have made significant contributions to the quality of life or well-being of the LGBT community in Chicago or the city at large.

To allow everyone to take advantage of the new, online nomination process, the deadline for nominations has been extended to May 28, 2021. The nominations will be reviewed by a committee comprised of current Chicago LGBT Hall of Fame members, after which a slate of inductees will be chosen.

**Kathy Caldwell**, the board's co-chair stated, "It is important to continue to recognize the achievements of Chicagoans, past, and present, especially since so many of the community's original movers and shakers have passed on. We need to ensure that their achievements are not forgotten."

The ceremony for inductees will be held in October 2021. At this point, it has not been determined whether it will be an in-person ceremony or a virtual one. Last year the Chicago LGBT Hall of Fame held its first virtual induction ceremony for its 2020 inductees.

The Chicago LGBT Hall of Fame is the first city-sponsored hall of fame dedicated to LGBT people,

organizations, community organizations, and allies in the United States. It was founded in 1991 as the Chicago Gay & Lesbian Hall of Fame.

From its founding in 1991 until 2016, the Gay & Lesbian Hall of Fame relied on financial and staff support from the City of Chicago. The first Chicago Gay & Lesbian Hall of Fame ceremony took place during Pride Week and was held at Chicago City Hall. Mayor **Richard M. Daley** hosted the ceremony and afterward, photos of the inductees were displayed in City Hall. The city ceased funding the Gay & Lesbian Hall of Fame in 2016 under then-mayor **Rahm Emanuel**. At that time, it was rechristened the Chicago LGBT Hall of Fame and has since been supported and maintained by the Friends of the Chicago LGBT Hall of Fame, a 501c3 not-for-profit organization, with approval from, and the cooperation of, the City of Chicago. The Hall of Fame has no physical facility but maintains a website that allows anyone to visit the Hall of Fame at any time. For more information, email [inquiry@chicagoLGBThalloffame.org](mailto:inquiry@chicagoLGBThalloffame.org), visit the organization's website [chicagolgbthalloffame.org](http://chicagolgbthalloffame.org) or its Facebook page, [facebook.com/groups/56108152083/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/56108152083/).

## CTA's Red and Purple Modernization (RPM) Project to Begin First Major Phase May 16, 2021

The Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) today announced the agency will begin on May 16 the first of two phases of major station and track reconstruction between approximately Lawrence and Bryn Mawr stations, as part of the agency's transformational \$2.1 billion Red and Purple Modernization (RPM) Phase One Project.

RPM will rebuild the 100-year-old Lawrence, Argyle, Berwyn and Bryn Mawr Red Line stations and tracks. The new stations will be modern, larger and fully accessible stations that will include elevators, wider platforms, and vastly improved amenities. CTA will also rebuild the century-old track structure between the four contiguous stations, which will provide a smoother, more comfortable and more reliable ride.

The work beginning in May will also include reconstruction of century-old CTA track structures that will provide a faster, smoother and quieter ride for customers. New track, support structures, bridges, and viaducts will be built along the approximately 1.3-mile segment between Leland and Ardmore Avenues, eliminating many deteriorated structures in the community.

### Lawrence to Bryn Mawr Stage A and Stage B

The Lawrence to Bryn Mawr Modernization Project will be performed in two stages, Stage A (2021-2022) and Stage B (late 2022-2024), with new stations expected to open near the end of 2024. Red and Purple Line service will continue throughout construction.

#### Stage A: Service changes

Lawrence and Berwyn stations close May 16 for demolition and reconstruction.

Temporary Red Line stations at Argyle and Bryn Mawr will open May 16 to provide customers with access to Red Line service, so the original Argyle and Bryn Mawr stations can be demolished and reconstructed. There will be temporary station access at Argyle and Bryn Mawr throughout construction.

New stations at Lawrence, Argyle, Berwyn and Bryn Mawr are expected to be completed and open near the end of 2024.

Red  
and Purple

Line service will continue throughout construction, with train service running on two tracks (the westernmost tracks) while CTA rebuilds the two easternmost tracks (normally the northbound tracks). Red and Purple Line trains will share a track in both directions. Customers should allow extra travel time.

Two bus routes, the #81 Lawrence and the #92 Foster, will be rerouted starting on May 16 to provide customers with convenient bus-rail transfers:

The #81 Lawrence will be rerouted to the Wilson Red and Purple Line transfer station.

The #92 Foster will be rerouted to the Bryn Mawr temporary Red Line station.

Learn more about RPM online at <http://www.transitchicago.com/RPM>





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