JUNE 22, 2021 • VOL XII • ISSUE #13

MAGAZINE

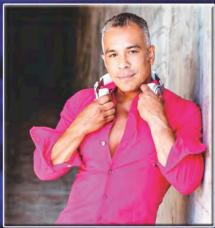
CHICAGO'S BIWEEKLY LGBTO PUBLICATION

PRIDE IN THE
PRIDE

















CELEBRATING OUR 12 YEAR ANNIVERSARY





THIS

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GREYSON CHANCE 20





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RIVENDELL MEDIA 908-232-2021

In Memorium Mark Nagel (Co-Founder) 1961 - 2019

Cover: Pride in the Park Saturday June 26th & **Sunday June 27th**



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Stacy Bridges
Publisher

Letter from the Publisher

It has been 12 Years! On June 19, GRAB Magazine celebrated our 12 year anniversary. When Mark Nagel and I launched this publication in summer of 2009, we did so with a commitment to provide Chicago's LGBTQ+ community with a lifestyle and entertainment publication that speaks to and celebrates them, and to give back to this (our) community as much as we could.

Mark and I met 20 years ago through our mutual friend, Ralph Paul Gernhardt, the publisher and founder of Gay Chicago Magazine. In addition to being colleagues, Mark and I would become very close friends who shared the same ideas and dreams. We ultimately left Gay Chicago Magazine in 2009 and started this publication. For nearly 10 more years, Mark and I maintained our commitment to support the LGBTQ+ community each and every day. When Mark unexpectedly passed away two years ago, he left behind some very big shoes for me to fill as the sole publisher.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, we, like all small businesses, were impacted significantly and not able to print due to many of our local friends and advertisers being shut down. We did continue to publish online, and I am happy to now say how excited we are to be printing once again — just in time for Pride month!

If you plan to attend some of the upcoming summer festivities (Pride in the Park, Northalsted Market Days and Chicago Pride Fest), we hope you will stop by and see us. We are back, Chicago is back!

I would like to extend my gratitude to our readers, advertisers, writers, community partners, as well as family and friends — without whom this publication would not be possible. We are looking forward to many more years of publishing and serving our vibrant LGBTQ+ community in Chicagoland and the Midwest.

Sincerely,

Stacy Bridges

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GRAB MATT

Matt Suave performs at Pride in the Park

By Chez Ordoñez

Chez Ordonez: Tell us about who you are.

Matt Suave: I'm a DJ/Producer from LA and a dedicated househead. I've been throwing laser light fog machine parties in my basement since I was 10, and I don't plan to stop anytime soon.

CD: Being a part of the LGBTQ community, what does Pride mean to you and the community?

MS: To me, Pride is the celebration of all those who dealt with hardships before us. Without their bravery and sacrifices, we would not get to live the lives we do no. Secondly, it's a party about love and a reason to dance!

CD: What's new with you and your music?
MS: I just finished a few of my first original songs. They're basically wailing disco vocals combined with funky baselines. I've finally gotten to a place as a producer where I can make good stuff and want to share it with people. I'm looking to release it later this year!

CD: So many artists spoke their truths during the pandemic, and with everything being shut down or canceled, especially Pride celebrations. How did you cope during the pandemic, and what are your feelings now that Pride is back, starting with Pride in the Park and the community-at-large ready to celebrate. MS: The pandemic was

hard for all artists, and it sucked to not be able to play for live crowds and feed off that energy. A lot of us in the industry need that energy to thrive! However, I took the break as a chance to reset and relax. I normally have terrible FOMO (Fear Of Missing Out), and it was kinda nice to not have that during 2020 since nothing was happening. I also used it as a chance to improve my skills in making music!

CD: As we celebrate Pride, which includes the achievements we've made as a community and the work that still needs to be done, now Juneteenth Day is a federal holiday (which is long overdue), how do you think you can raise awareness in the LGBTQ community on its history and significance?

MS: Thankfully a lot of the LGBT community has already openly accepted that the fight of any

oppressed community is also our fight. It's great to see the Pride flag being altered to reflect our new family members, but this is just the beginning, and there's a lot to do. House music, my heart, and my soul were created by the Black gay community in Chicago. Each time I play, I strive to create an open free environment just like those that came before me. I also want to use my platform to raise up those around me who might otherwise not have a voice.

CD: Any teasers you can give us on what you have planned for Pride in the Park?

MS: I've created a few mashups and remixes that have never been played live yet. Pride In The Park will be the first time! I also plan to play my original songs for the first time ever. So come early at 3 pm on Sunday if you want to dance with me!





GoPuff Pride Stage

SATURDAY JUNE 26TH 8:20PM Tiësto

7:15PM Betty Who

6:05PM Miss Toto, Naysha Lopez, JoMama

4:30PM Derrick Carter

4:00PM Ballroom Pride

3:30PM Alyssa Edwards

2:00PM Avi Sic

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7:45PM Pride Bowl Closing Ceremonies

5:00PM Hector Fonseca

2:00PM Tony Moran

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Denali Foxx, and Chamilla Foxx

SUNDAY JUNE 27TH

8:30PM Gryffin

7:15PM Chaka Khan

6:00PM The Vixen, Tenderoni, Kinley Preston

5:25PM Mila Jam

3:00PM Tracy Young

SUNDAY JUNE 27TH

7:30PM Karsten Sollors

5:00PM Lady D

3:00PM Matt Suave

Special Performances by Sheeza Woman,

Hinky Punk, Kara Mel D'Ville, and O'laysia

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GRAB MISS TOTO

Miss Toto performs at Pride in the Park

By Chez Ordoñez

Chez Ordonez: Tell us about who you are as an individual and who Miss Toto is.

Miss Toto: Miss Toto is the premiere body builder Barbie! Outside of drag, I work in education and fitness, but drag is a creative outlet for me and my passion.

CD: What got you started in Drag and performing? Being a part of the LGBTQ community, what does Pride mean to you, and for the community?

MT: I started doing drag when I was super young but not knowing it was drag. The first time I felt like I was in drag was in 2015 at this queer party in Miami called Courner Corner.

CD: So many artists spoke

their truths during the pandemic and everything being shut down or canceled, especially Pride celebrations. How did you cope during the pandemic, and . what are your feelings now that pride is back, starting with Pride in the Park and the community-atlarge ready to celebrate? MT: Pride to me is very special and with it coming back and being one of the talents makes me feel so good. I

Chicago to be a part of this diverse scene, specifically the Black queer scene, so it feels very full circle.

CD: As we celebrate Pride, which includes the achievements we've made as a community and the work that still needs to be done, now Juneteenth Day is a federal holiday (which is long overdue), how do you think you'll be able to raise awareness in the LGBTQ community on its history and significance?

MT: I feel like at this point the

education should be on the people and not Black peoples' responsibility. There are tons of resources out there to be a significant ally and make change and people just need to do it!

CD: Any teasers you can give us on what you have planned for Pride in the Park?

MT: My Pride in the Park number is nothing like I've ever done before so you will be getting PRODUCTION.



moved to



















PRIDE IN THE PARK 2021

CHAKA KHAN · GRYFFIN ::: TIESTO

BETTY WHO - ALYSSA EDWARDS - TRACY YOUNG - DERRICK CARTER CIRCUITMOM · HECTOR FONSECA · TONY MORAN · LADY D THE VIXEN · DENALI FOXX · KARSTEN SOLLORS · TENDERONI · MISS TOTO

MILA JAM · KINLEY PRESTON · NAYSHA LOPEZ JOMAMA · HINKYPUNK · KARA MEL D'VILLE · SHEEZA WOMAN AVI SIC - MATT SUAVE - O'LAYSIA - CHAMILLA FOXX BALLROOM PRIDE & GUEST SPEAKERS

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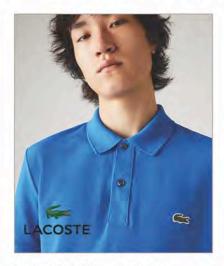
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GRAB TY



Still going strong: An interview with gay country artist Ty Herndon

By Gregg Shapiro

Ty Herndon knows a thing or two about love and acceptance. Initially embraced by country music fans in the mid-to-late 1990s, a series of unfortunate events, including some related to his sexuality, sidelined his career. After proudly coming out as a gay man in 2014, and finding personal and public acceptance, Herndon has performed at Pride festivals and released albums in which he sings songs with same-gender pronouns. One of his greatest accomplishments is the formation of The Foundation for Love & Acceptance and its annual music event the Concert of Love & Acceptance. The all-star 2021 Concert for Love & Acceptance takes place on June 30 at 8 p.m. ET and is going to be livestreamed exclusively on CMT's Facebook and YouTube channels, and at F4LA.org/concert. Performers include Herndon, Kristin Chenoweth, Kathy Mattea, Brothers Osborne, Terri Clark, Brooke Eden, Chris Housman, Gretchen Peters and Tenille Townes, to name a few. This year's event

beneficiaries include GLAAD, MusiCares, and Nashville's Oasis Center. Ty was generous enough to answer a few questions in advance of the concert. [Ty Herndon also performs August 8 on the Roscoe Stage at Northalsted Marked Days.]

Gregg Shapiro: Ty, would you please say a few words about the genesis of the Concert for Love & Acceptance? Ty Herndon: At the beginning of creating Love & Acceptance, I'm so happy I trusted my heart. I've said this many times, but I stand by this. I wanted to do something for that 14year-old kid that's at home watching the CMA Awards. For me, it was Hee Haw [laughs]! (Thinking to myself) "Oh my God, I want to sing with Tammy Wynette one day." But now it's that kid, who wants to sing with Maren Morris and feels like they're broken, and they don't fit in. I don't know one actor, singer[laughs], anybody in entertainment that has ever felt like they fit in. It's a nomadic job. I said from the beginning

that I wanted to make that kid, who was also me, sitting out there, wherever they're from, or their gender, think that they can do anything they want to in this world. It's just getting the right messaging.

GS: On June 30, the latest Concert for Love & Acceptance, is being presented with an all-star cast. Did you ever imagine when you first came up with the concept that you would still be involved with each one that followed, and the success of it? TH: I hear "you've got to stay relevant in the business" so much! Reba (McEntire) told me one time, "You're constantly reinventing yourself, and there's nothing wrong with that. It's always moving, always evolving." I always credit my Concert For Love & Acceptance for keeping me kind of relevant [laughs]. In a great way, because I get to meet and talk and work with all these affirming hearts. Whether they're on our red carpet or whether they're on the show or whether it's a friend like Terri Clark



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who's been around with me forever. Or Kathy Mattea! A lot of these generations of kids will be watching the show because of Brothers Osborne and some of these amazing new acts that are on the radio today. (But) they don't know who Kathy Mattea is! So we're going to tell them!

GS: I'm so glad that you mentioned Kathy and was happy to see her in the line-up! I remember how supportive she was during the early years of the AIDS crisis, performing at benefits, as well as contributing songs to the Red Hot +

Country album. What does it mean to you to have her be part of the concert? TH: I was watching the CMA awards that evening when she was the only artist who had on a red ribbon. A lot of the artists were wearing the green ribbon for supporting the earth and environmental awareness. That red ribbon stood out like crazy! I remember thinking, "Wow, she's really brave!" There are soldiers out there who tell the truth, no matter what the cost. I love that! I try to stand for that today. Having the opportunity to be the word "authentic." I hear a lot of kids say, "What does that mean today?" I'm like [laughs]... I can see the window for me to learn something, so I go, "I don't know. Why don't you tell me?" Back to Reba, "Constantly growing. Moving forward."

GS: Also among this year's performers is longtime ally and icon Kristin Chenoweth. What does it mean to you to have her on the roster?

TH: Well, she really didn't have a choice because she's one of my best friends [big laugh]. I was talking to her yesterday. I said, "Oh, you saw your picture on the announcement? Oh yeah, you're doing the show!" With a star of her magnitude, friend or not, I have to go through the proper channels. She has a great team of people and they were so delighted. We're closing out the show with Kristin and my performance this year. It's gonna be...I can't tell you, but make sure you stay tuned [laughs].

GS: Has it gotten easier over the

years to get performers to say yes, to agree to take part in the Concert for Love & Acceptance?

TH: I'm gonna tell you something right now and I'm probably gonna get emotional. On press day, two days ago, the amount of stuff we used to have to fight for just to get noticed, it just was there. I work hard, yes, but I have a team of people that work so hard. We had a meeting yesterday and we were talking about this. It's nice to have the phone ringing, for people to actually want to do the show. It's mind-blowing and I get emotional about it.



GS: That's understandable. You mentioned the Brothers Osborne and the 2021 Concert for Love & Acceptance features some incredible out country acts including TJ Osborne of the Brothers Osborne, Brooke Eden and Chris Housman. Since coming out, would you say you are encountering more LGBTQ+ folks in country music?

TH: You know what it's like to turn on (SiriusXM country music station) The Highway and hear (lesbian country artist) Lily Rose? I'd mean like, wow! Hold on a second, you got me all

emotional again.

GS: Sorry. I have that effect.

TH: [Laughs] the fact that I am a big old strong cowboy and I cry about this; that's the answer to your question. Things are changing and we've been able to see that. It's awesome.

GS: Do you think that Cody Alan, being an out person on CMT, has helped the Nashville and country music-loving community become more accepting and open-minded? TH: I think everybody knows how

luxurious and awesome and wonderful

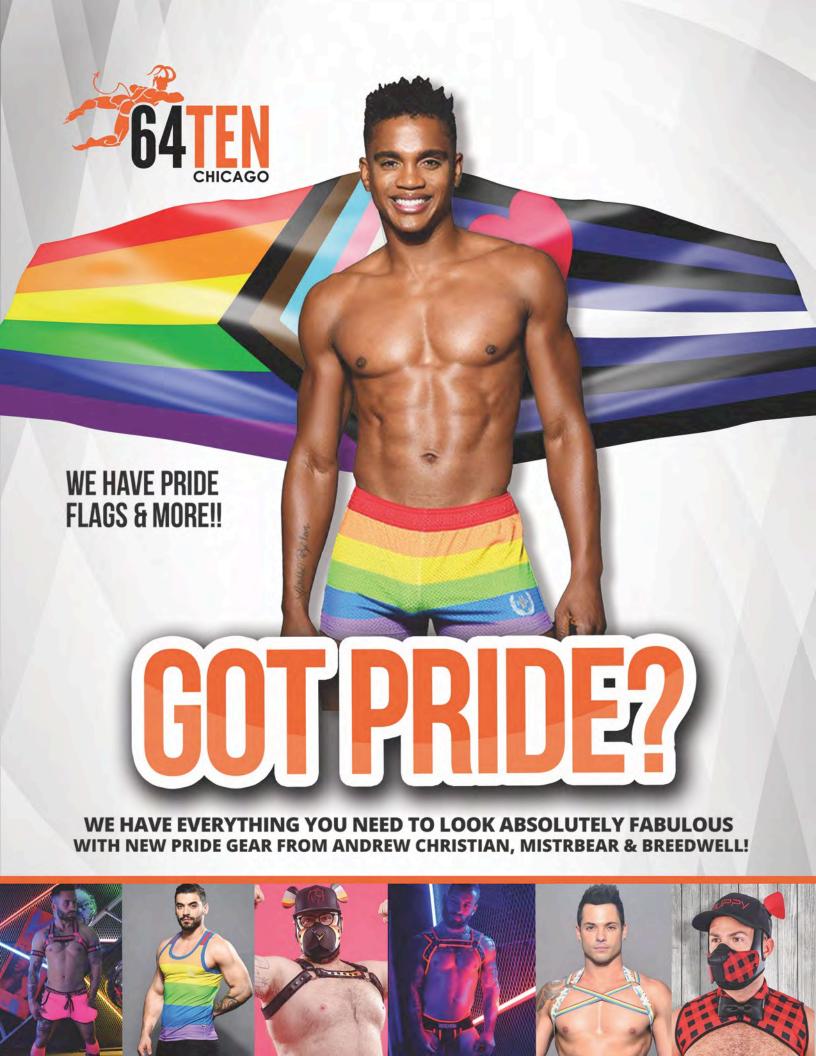
Cody Allen is. The way he speaks into his confidence and his authenticity, and how he can stand next to people who agree and people who don't agree and still matter and know that he matters. I've told him this to his face, "What you're doing is probably the greatest work."

GS: Yes, it's good to have him in the community. **Because of the Concert for** Love & Acceptance, and your involvement in various charitable events, you can proudly call yourself a philanthropist. What does it mean to you to be able to have such a distinction? **TH:** [Laughs] I'm going to say something, and I think all my LGBTQ brothers and sisters will laugh about this. I've often thought that that word sounds like the name of a drag queen. "Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to the stage, Miss Phyl-Ann Thropist." But seriously, I just try, on a daily basis, to wake up and, you know I'm a sober guy, so as long as I follow my program and I do something for someone else, it saves my own ass. I feel like being who I am today keeps me alive.

GS: Finally, Ty, is there are any chance that there is new music from you in the works?

TH: I'm going to give you the scoop, my friend. The album is called *Jacob*. It's a body of work that I have written with some of the most wide-awake, sober, intelligent, life-changing people in the world. These lyrics mean a lot and we tracked nine songs yesterday. It was one of the most emotional days I've ever had because the album is so personal.







GRAB GREYSON

The Unleashing of Greyson Chance

The openly gay artist on his new music, new tour and new beau

By Chris Azzopardi

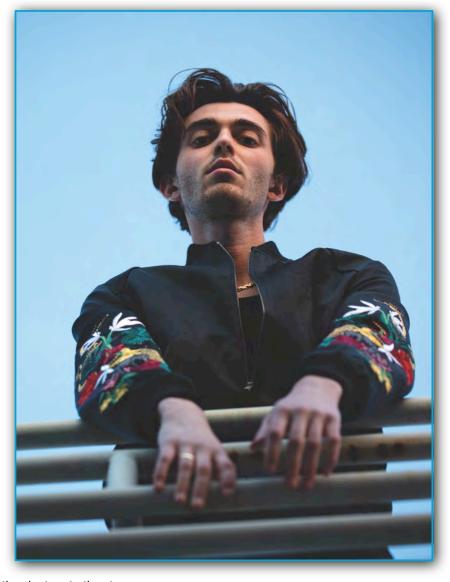
Seven years before Greyson Chance came out in 2017 in an openhearted and emotional Instagram post, he became a viral sensation thanks to Ellen DeGeneres. The year was 2010 when Chance's profile rocketed after appearing on "The Ellen DeGeneres Show," where the Oklahoma native was invited to perform Lady Gaga's "Paparazzi" after producers came across his video performance of the song at his middle school talent show on YouTube.

That video blew up, going from a million page views to 30 million after the show. It has since ballooned to nearly 70 million views. Chance, the first artist signed to DeGeneres's now-defunct record label (and who had Madonna and Lady Gaga's managers representing him), was just 12 years old then.

Chance, now 23, has a new eightsong EP, "Trophies." It's a followup to his second studio release, "Portraits," which dropped in 2019. With titillating lines like "If you don't know how to touch it, let me educate you," "Trophies" is the perfect soundtrack for your slutty Pride summer.

He's even touring for the album. Called the "Trophies World Tour," Chance hits the road on June 25 for a North American tour that runs through August before he heads to Europe and South America. In anticipation of COVID-era demand for live music after more than a year without it, a second round of North American dates is already set for January 2022.

From his plant-overrun home in Oklahoma City ("I live basically in a greenhouse"), Chance chatted about how finding pandemic-era love inspired "Trophies," how uncouth it is to be a homophobe in 2021, and foreseeing an



emotional return to the stage.

Chris Azzopardi: This tour is gonna give you a real opportunity to break loose.

Greyson Chance: (Laughs.) Very much so.

CA: And this era feels a bit like a

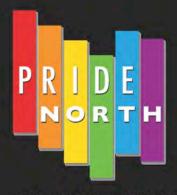
sexual awakening, at least musically. GC: Full disclosure: I write all of my own music, and this record covers a lot of different topics, that definitely being one of them. I wanted to show this other side of myself to the world and to just have fun with it, right? "Hellboy" is a record that, for me, is a lot about just unleashing your inner beast and that badass side of yourself. And so, after a year of the pandemic, it was a record

that really helped me find my

confidence again.

CA: What has it been like to live out your sexuality in your music and really tap into your openness and authenticity?

GC: It just finally felt like such a weight had been lifted off my shoulders. Now being able to walk freely around in the industry and as an artist — to be known for who I truly (am) — was so important to me. But what's funny is everyone asks, "How did the songwriting change after you came out?" And to be completely honest, it really didn't. I sort of grew up and learned from songwriters that were always so open about this message of, "Hey, the best music is honest, it's authentic." So whether or not I was using certain pronouns in my music when I was writing, I think I was always channeling that vulnerability.





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CA: What was something unexpected that happened to you during the pandemic?

GC: Falling in love. I actually met my boyfriend during the pandemic, and a lot of that I talk about on "Trophies." Remembering these first touches of romance and how you can feel in those first relationships. Another thing that I talked about on the record was having that fear of losing love. That was something that I think was really pertinent in my mind as our relationship was deepening and growing. And I wrote a lot (about) that.

But in the pandemic I think the one thing that surprised me the most was just how much I needed... I'd like to think that I'm a bit of an introvert. I like a quiet night by myself. But after not having any ability to go out and be around people, you start to realize that we need that as human beings. And especially in the queer community where most of our interactions with our peers happen in those venues, and they happen in those clubs and in those bars. And so not being able to tap into that was hard. It was so challenging. It was very demanding on my mental health, as it was for so many people. So I think that was a surprise to me that I realized, oh, actually I do love going out to the club probably a little bit more than I thought.

CA: You recently clapped back at a homophobe who commented on an Instagram pic of you and your boyfriend, Ben. You wrote: "shut up. if someone is in any way homophobic or not for queer rights, please don't stream my songs and please don't come to my show." Based on that, you don't seem to be standing for any homophobia on your social media pages these days.

GC: It's past the time that we just put our tail between our legs and say, "Oh yeah, we'll just accept this and some people are who they are." I don't like that messaging. I think hate is hate, no matter how you cut it. And discrimination is discrimination, no matter how you cut it. And so for me, I

just want to show people that, no, I'm not gonna stand for that anymore. I'm not gonna stand for sitting back and saying, "Well, they just have a difference of opinion; it's OK." No. We're past that moment in time. And I mean, my god, can you imagine being homophobic in 2021? What a sad life. It lacks so much color. I'm guessing these people aren't listening to "Chromatica."

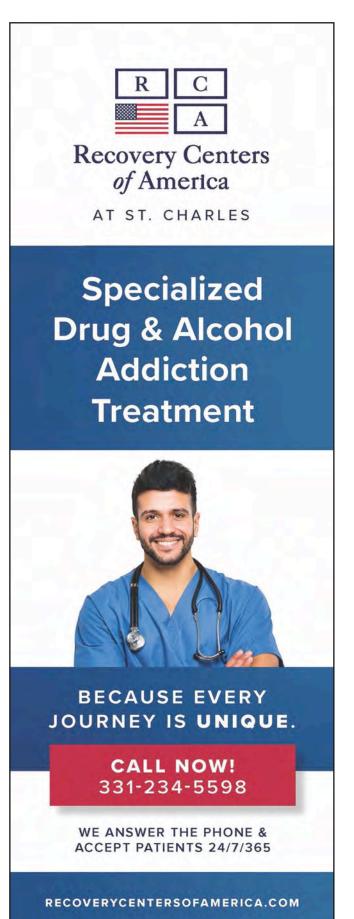
CA: I was looking at the photos of you when you sang Lady Gaga's "Paparazzi" on "The Ellen DeGeneres Show" at 12 years old. How do you reflect on your big breakout moment?

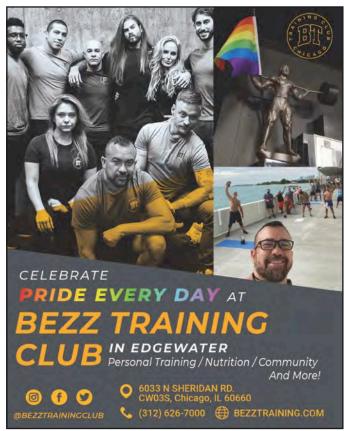
GC: When I look back at that period of my life, it's so blurry because it all

happened so quickly. I had never even flown on a plane before - my first plane ride was flying from Oklahoma City to Los Angeles to be on the show. And to now think about where I've come, 11 years later, it invokes a lot of emotions. Being an artist in this industry is tough. There were many moments, post that big breakout, where I wanted to give up, and there were some moments where I did and said, "I'm done with music for a minute." It's such a tough journey to be an artist, especially in 2021. But when I look back at that kid, I just wish he could see me now.

CA: I've heard you say that you are still questioning the fashion choices









you made when you went on "Ellen." If you could dress yourself now, retroactively, what would you dress that kid in?

GC: More black, less stripes. It's the same thing when my mom looks back at pictures of her in the '80s. I look back at it and I'm like, "How was I wearing Hollister on national TV?"

CA: That hair. You could call it a mane.

GC: It was a mane. yes, very much so.

CA: I guess we're never going back to that again, are we?

GC: And thank god that we aren't. (Laughs.)

CA: What songs on "Trophies" did Ben inspire?

GC: "O Violet" is probably one of my favorite songs from the record. (It's) about settling into love. It's not just the great moments - it's the bad ones too. And everything in between. It's a very romantic song.

CA: Do you have a rulebook for navigating your relationship in public?

GC: We're writing our rulebook as we go. I have to remind myself because I'm like, "OK, don't be too cringe-y online." When I was single. I would see some of my friends or

other artists post pictures with their partners and I remember just being like, "Oh my god, I'm gonna unfollow these people. They're so happy all the time; it's just disgusting."

So I think about that sometimes. But I like to stay as private as possible. I like to show parts of my life that I think are fun, but most of the time I'm just secluded in my house cooking pasta, watching true crime documentaries and writing music.

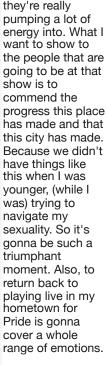
CA: How excited are you to hit the road after being sequestered for the last year?

GC: It's a mixed emotion, if I'm being honest. I'm particularly very nervous. It's like getting back on a bike again, but I'll wake up in the middle of the night and I'm like, "Do I even know how to perform? It's been so long." I feel like the first few shows back will be just so emotional to celebrate being back in venues and playing again. But I also

CA: You're from Oklahoma, and so I assume opening the tour at Oklahoma City's Pride Festival will be really special for you. Why was it important for you to launch this tour there? GC: I was born and raised here, as a gay person, as a person in the queer

community. And Oklahoma City for, really, the first time in its history is not only having a Pride, but having this big moment. This is something that the city

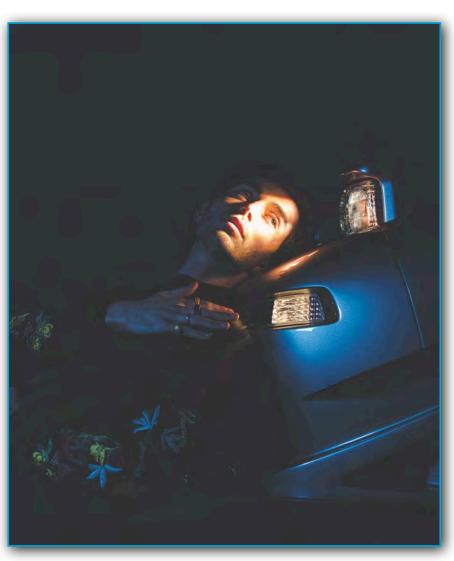
> is aettina verv behind and that playing live in my hometown for



CA: What was it like for you growing up in **Oklahoma City** when the city was less progressive? GC: It was difficult. It was hard. I don't think it was any more or less difficult than what kids go through all across America

and all across the world, but it was, "You're an outsider, don't be a part of that, stay in line, follow the rules.

As we look to the next generation of queer youth, we wanna make a life that's gonna be a lot better for them, and a world and a society that's gonna be better for them. And so as an artist, what I think my role is, is to create a space at my concert where I know anyone who feels like an outsider can come and finally fit in and really express themself and be true to themselves.



want to let anybody know coming to my show that we are still operating in a safe manner. I'm encouraging my fans to wear masks at the show if they would like, and also please get vaccinated. There's no reason why you shouldn't be doing it. It's a safe thing to do. I got my two (doses).

CA: Have you stepped on a stage yet?

GC: I have not, and I think that will be a tearful afternoon where it will just feel like a lot of joy.

That's what I think my job is as an artist, and especially as a queer artist.

CA: What kind of messages do you hear from LGBTQ+ youth?

GC: It's crazy for me to hear sometimes because I have artists that I know who were so influential in helping me step out of the closet. And when I hear that I'm that person for somebody, it throws me for a loop. I don't even know what to think about it. I'm like, "No, no, no, no. no. I'm not that

important." (Laughs.) I don't put that on me. But I have to remind myself that I am for a lot of my fans. It makes all the other stuff that I have to deal with (during) my day-to-day, that's maybe a little more annoying, worth it. Because if I know that I can at least have one positive influence over somebody to help them in their journey, then that's why I'm here. It makes me feel very fulfilled when I hear that.

CA: Did you write and record "Trophies" during the pandemic?

GC: Yeah, all of it. And this body of work had many iterations. 2020 was a year in which I felt a significant amount of imposter syndrome, and I think a lot of that came from not being able to play live. I all of a sudden really didn't know

my purpose anymore. I felt such a lack of purpose.

And so, I kept on writing through it and, to be honest with you, a lot of the music (laughs) was really bad for a second. You have to let yourself be bad sometimes (laughs) and just kind of accept it. Once I let go of this pressure, the record really came about.

CA: What constitutes a bad Greyson Chance song?

GC: There are a lot of bad Greyson Chance songs out there, and thank goodness that there are a lot of them that are unreleased. There are also a lot of them that are on Spotify and Apple Music, and I have to live with that.

CA: Take me back to the ones that you can't stand to listen to or sing anymore.

GC: I think it is incredibly amazing that "Unfriend You," which is a song I did when I was 14, has had such a random resurgence and I do blame TikTok for that. I will never listen to that song. The only good thing about that song was Ariana Grande being in the music video and she was absolutely stunning and I love her so much. That's about the only good thing I have to say about "Unfriend You." (Laughs.)

CA: What does Pride this year mean to you?

GC: I think this one is gonna be extra special because, as I mentioned, the pandemic was not only hard for everybody, but I think it was especially hard for the queer community because our places of where we're truly able to go and let our hair down and really be ourselves are in areas and in places where we weren't allowed to go during the pandemic. So, I think this one is gonna be such a celebration of life, of progress, of knowing that, especially in America, we made it through four years of a very tough presidency. It shows you that the common good is still very, very strong and very alive. So it's gonna be a monumental Pride this year. And, again, my job as an artist is to make sure I can put on a really good show for everybody in the audience for Pride.

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.



GRAB A BAT



Sha-wing Batter!

Queer Facts About America's Favorite Pastime

By Mikey Rox

After a season-long hiatus from hosting in-the-stands fans at its 30 ballparks and stadiums due to the Covid-19 pandemic, Major League Baseball (and its Minor League Baseball feeder system) is back – and you know what that means: All them butts! Aside from gawking at your favorite players' posteriors in form-fitting pinstriped pants – while following CDC protocol, of course – there are plenty of queer cheers to give for America's national pastime. These are gayest things you didn't know about pro ball.

Glenn Burke broke the first barrier – but it may have cost him

As an outfielder for the Los Angeles Dodgers from 1976 to '78 (and widely regarded co-inventor of the high-five – true story), Glenn Burke broke ground as the first active MLB player to come out as gay to his teammates and bosses. While he was asked to refrain from making his sexual orientation public by Dodgers' top brass, Burke told People magazine in 1994 that his

"mission as a gay ballplayer was to break a stereotype" and he thought it worked. In other interviews and in his autobiography, however, he suggested that prejudice drove him out of the sport, not the injury that sent him back down to the minors after a year with the Oakland Athletics.

The A's released Burke from his contract before the end of his injured farm-team season, and he retired from the game in 1980.

In the initial years following his retirement, Burke competed in 100- and 200-meter sprints at the inaugural Gay Games in 1982 and in basketball at the 1986 Games, and for many years he played for the San Francisco Gay Softball League. Burke died of complications from AIDS in 1995.

Burke befriended Tommy Lasorda Jr. – and Tommy Senior wasn't happy about it

Legendary Dodgers manager Tommy Lasorda Sr. – who led the team to two World Series championships, four National League pennants and eight division titles during his 20-year stewardship from 1976 to 1996 – had a gay son. Burke befriended the younger Lasorda Jr., which angered the "family values" manager, causing a rift that likely contributed to Burke being traded to the A's after three seasons in Los Angeles. Lasorda Jr. died of AIDS complications in 1991 at age 33. Lasorda Sr. died earlier this year without ever having admitted he had a gay son.

It's been 22 years since the second MLB player publicly acknowledged his sexual orientation

Billy Bean, an outfielder for the Detroit Tigers, L.A. Dodgers and San Diego Padres from 1987 to 1995, came out in the Miami Herald in 1999, four years after retiring. Besides Burke, he remains the only other former MLB player to publicly acknowledge his homosexuality post-career; no active player has ever come out publicly and no former players have come out since. In 2003, Bean released his

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autobiography Going the Other Way: Lessons from a Life in and out of Major League Baseball, and in 2014 he was named MLB's first Ambassador for Inclusion. In 2016 that role was expanded to Vice President of Social Responsibility and Inclusion, and today Bean serves as Vice President and Special Assistant to the Commissioner.

The L.A. Dodgers are the only team with both players who have come out as gay

Both Burke and Bean played for the Dodgers during their MLB careers – and as history tends to repeat itself, maybe there's a gayby on the Dodgers' roster right now. If that's true, here's hoping he has the courage to come out and make history while an active player, put the final nail in the coffin of the Dodgers' homophobic past, and serve as an inspiration to aspiring young pro ball players everywhere.

No pressure.

Statistics suggest there are dozens of closeted pro baseball players

In a 2015 article for the New York Times, economist and public policy scholar Justin Wolfers wrote that based on the proportion of American men who have admitted to being gay or bisexual (though not necessarily out), there must be closeted MLB players actively taking the field. Thirty MLB teams each have 40-men rosters equaling 1,200 players who don't publicly identify as queer.

"If baseball players are as likely to be gay as other men their age – let's go with an estimate of 1 in 25 – then the odds that none of these men are gay is one in two sextillion," Wolfers wrote. "A sextillion comes after a trillion, quadrillion and quintillion; it is a thousand billion billion."

Of course, there may be gay or bisexual men in MLB who have ripped a page from Burke's playbook and only confided within their own club. Time will tell

Lower-level pro ball has a much better coming-out average

Since Sean Conroy, former pitcher for the independent Sonoma Stompers, came out publicly in 2015 while still on the team's roster – the first-ever active pro ball player to do so – a handful of others have followed in his pioneering footsteps (at various stages of their careers), including MiLB players David

Denson, Tyler Dunnington, Jason Burch, and John Dillinger.

There are 30 MLB teams – and all but one of them host a Pride night

Twenty years ago this summer, the Chicago Cubs kicked off MLB's Pridenight tradition with its now-annual "Out at Wrigley" celebration, and almost every club in the organization has followed suit. Twenty-eight teams in the United States and one in Canada host an evening of LGBTQ inclusiveness, usually with special ticket packages that include seats in a dedicated Pride section and rainbow-colored baseball swag. The lone holdout? The two-decades-too-late New York Yankees.

Two years ago, the Yanks acknowledged the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall Uprising and honored five first-annual Yankees-Stonewall Scholarship winners in a special pre-



game commemoration ceremony that unveiled a plaque behind the center-field fence dedicated to the occasion. Yet still no Pride night.

The San Francisco Giants made rainbow history for Pride 2021

MLB teams are known to incorporate cause-based logos and patches into their uniforms throughout the season, like the pink breast cancer awareness ribbon, for instance, or camouflage to show military appreciation. But on June 5, 2021, the San Francisco Giants became the first team in big-league history to rainbowize its uniforms, including a right-sleeve home jersey patch in Pride colors and a matching logo on players' hats, in celebration of its LGBTQ+ fans.

"We are extremely proud to stand with the LGBTQ+ community as we kick off one of the best annual celebrations in San Francisco by paying honor to the countless achievements and contributions of all those who identify as LGBTQ+ and are allies of the LGBTQ+ community," San Francisco Giants CEO Larry Baer said in a statement.

A scripted series about gay professional ball players may be coming soon

Author Peter Lefcourt's novel, The Dreyfus Affair: A Love Story (1992), about homophobia in baseball that follows two MLB players who get caught up in a sex scandal should be required reading for any on-the-spectrum queer sports fans, but if you're adverse to cracking open a dusty book, the liveaction TV adaptation may be coming to a streaming service near you.

Universal Television has optioned the novel for development with Oscar- and Emmy-winner David Frankel (The Devil Wears Prada) tapped to direct and cowrite the pilot with Lefcourt.

The project has been in

development in some form for the past 28 years. Studios put the kibosh on Lefcourt's and Frankel's original movie scripts in 1996 – Disney was even interested as one point – citing lack of commercial appeal.

But we all know that's just industry code for "We're too pussy to make this gay movie, so here's Evita."

These are the best butts in baseball according to Us magazine

There's no definitive queer ranking of the best butts in baseball (and it's a shame there isn't) but a few years ago Us magazine

asked its readers, majority females, to rank MLB's greatest assets. Phillies left fielder Rhys Hoskins, Cincinnati Reds pitcher Matt Harvey, New York Yankee Giancarlo Stanton, Nationals right fielder Bryce Harper, and Dodger Cody Bellinger rounded out the top five – figuratively and literally.

Perfectly acceptable. Fine donkadonks all around.

But are there better booties at-bat? Consider Diamondback David Peralta, Los Angeles Angel Mike Trout, and Orioles first baseman Chris Davis the next time they take the plate.

Seventh-inning stretch, anyone?

Mikey Rox is an award-winning journalist and LGBT lifestyle expert whose work has been published in more than 100 outlets across the world. He currently works for the Atlanta Braves. Connect with Mikey on Instagram @mikeyroxtravels









GRAB A HIT



Top 40 Dance Chart this week Visit nexusradio.fm

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	Artist	Title
1	Robin Schulz	All We Got ft. KIDDO (Lodato Remix)
2	Louis The Child	So What ft. A R I Z O N A
3	Elderbrook	Body
4	Rompasso & Leony	Love Me
5	Ritt Momney	Put Your Records On (DJ Scooter House Bootleg)
6	Hook N Sling & Galantis ft. Karen Harding	The Best
7	DLMT x Mahalo	Destination
8	Major Lazer	Titans ft. Sia & Labrinth
9	Don Diablo & JLV	Problems ft. John K
10	David Solomon	Cross Your Mind (Clean Original Mix)
11	Lucas & Steve	I Want It All
12	Diplo & Sonny Fodera	Turn Back Time
13	Shaun Frank	Save Me ft. Ryland James
14	Jonas Blue x AWA	Something Stupid (Radio Mix)
15	Silk City x Ellie Goudling	New Love ft. Diplo & Mark Ronson
16	Dom Dolla	Pump The Brakes (Short Radio Edit)
17	Melsen	You
18	Carla Monroe	Shapes
19	Alesso x CORSAK	Going Dumb
20	Lost Frequencies	Rise
21	Afrojack & David Guetta	Hero
22	Glass Animals	Heat Waves (Oliver Heldens Remix Edit)
23	TELYKast with Loren Gray	Nobody To Love (LM Mix)
24	Regard x Troye Sivan x Tate McRae	You (Radio Edit)
25	Years & Years	Starstruck (Radio Edit)
26	Zookeper	Think Of You ft. Marlhy
27	Niiko x SWAE	I Ain't Going Home
28	RAYE ft. Rudimental	Regardless
29	Tommy Capretto	Situationship
30	Moodshift	Heartless
31	Paige & Nihil Young	Mercy ft. Sarah De Warren (Radio Edit)
32	Shift K3Y & Tinashe	Love Line
33	Bebe Rexha	Sacrifice (Niiko X Swea Remix)
34	Bear Grillz	Head In The Clouds ft. Nevve
35	London Grammar	Lose Your Head (Dave Glass Animals Remix)
36	SAY SAY x ASDIS	Stories
37	Robin Schulz & Felix Jaehn	One More Time ft. Alida (Quarterhead Remix)
38	Dimitri Vegas & Like Mike x DVBBS x Roy Wo	Too Much
39	Bombs Away	Love Magic
40	Harry Styles	Watermelon Sugar (Tommie Sunshine & Breikthru Remix)
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GRAB ROGER

Stonewall: Stand Up, Stand Proud

By Roger V. McCaffrey-Boss, Esq.

In the 40-plus years that I have been an attorney, I have witnessed the growing trend for professionals to come out of the closet, band together to further their careers and businesses and battle discrimination in the workplace. Everywhere people are forming support groups to provide needed business contacts, job referrals and mutual support.

I have seen LGBT persons from all different aspects of life build a tradition of helping each other by working together to advance their professions and businesses and promote their status in society. All over the country LGBT people are organizing support groups in their various professional fields to keep their members abreast of innovations in their field and alert each other to the availability of jobs through newsletters and group meetings.

The growing network of business contacts and support groups not only provide economic benefits to LGBT

persons but also help deal with the stress, alienation and discrimination at work.

Discrimination acts to alienate us from society and lessens our job performance and careers. It is discrimination that promotes the fear that if it's discovered that someone is LGBT they'll be rejected by their fellow employees and be fired. Working together in our community, however, helps us deal with this hostility, improve our self-esteem and increase our sense of pride so that we will feel worthwhile and succeed in our jobs and professions.

The strongest tool of LGBT pride is the effective use of the "gay dollar." By supporting local LGBT businesses and professionals, the true economic clout of the LGBT community can be felt.

For each dollar spent with a LGBT business or professional, be it a doctor, lawyer, accountant, real estate broker etc. that business or professional can return those dollars back into the LGBT community by supporting other

businesses and hiring LGBT persons who can be paid a living wage to be able to live openly and outside of the closet.

Each LGBT business or professional can, in return, support local gay publications through advertisements and with fundraisers support those community organizations that stand up for LGBT rights and provide needed services for those in need. It is the community organizations that present the first line of defense to ignorance and intolerance.

Each day there are still battles for civil

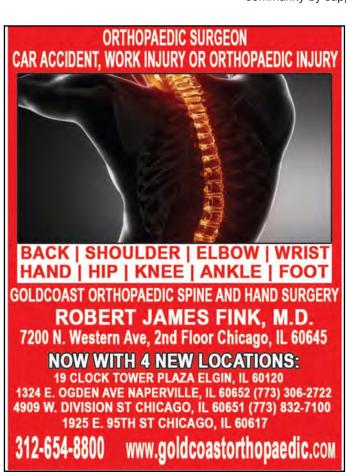


and legal rights that must be fought by all LGBT persons. To give up that fight would be to surrender to ignorance and prejudice; only by our standing proud, setting the example of acceptance will there be economic success. It is from our diversity and differences that our strength and unity is nourished.

Everyone can work for and support local organizations which are committed and established to serve the needs of LGBT persons and advancing the cause for civil rights. The example of strong, well supported and effective community organizations will make those whose intent it is to reverse the progress of LGBT rights to seriously reconsider their stance or be subject to intense, united opposition.

All people can show the unity of the community by their commitment to work together and accept each other for their differences as well as their commonness. Be it someone who dresses in leather, clothing of the opposite sex, tattooed, pierced or in a business suit; pride must never be allowed to die. To exclude anyone who is LGBT because they look or act different buys into the same prejudice of society that we battle against. Our acceptance of everyone's differences sets the example for others of how we should be treated. We cannot expect others to do for us that which we cannot do for ourselves.

Roger McCaffrey-Boss is a gradute 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**. 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

Apology Accepted

By Holly Maholm

When does a boy become a man? There are countless ceremonies, rituals and commemorative traditions by which society confirms to a boy that "Henceforth, you are a man." But these are only events by which an inner

transformation is given the public recognition his parents want him to have. Because also, there are those... subjective realizations by which the boy concludes "I can't live as a child any more. Hereafter, I must be a man." Here is one such story.

I was sitting in my kitchen at the stable, taking one of those internet clickbait tests entitled "Ten Signs You Might Be Transphobic" when Dave called to me from the front door. I hurried out to greet him, and found he was part of a most unexpected duo. Standing next to him was Roger, the high school student and former Legionnaire who had attacked Victor with his drone, and the ringleader of that small group of Christian bigots who had ambushed Cindy (me in disguise) and her attendant convoy of Dire Wolves (unicorns in disguise).

Roger, I saw, could not raise his eyes to me, and his posture perfectly reflected

the attitude of a person standing one step down from the main platform of the guillotine, and anticipating his unavoidable ascent in the near future. Dave spoke.

"Hi, Holly. I hope we're not interrupting." I shook my head no. "We are here because Roger has something he wants to tell you." There was an ever-lengthening pause, but finally Roger looked up, squared his shoulders and spoke. "I am here to apologize. To you and your unicorn. If you'll accept what I have to say." He groped for more words, but I cut him off.

"Roger. I am willing to hear what you want to say, but you've got to say it to Victor, as well. He was the horse wearing the unicorn costume at the time, so let's go back to his stall, and you can tell us both." We retired to the stall where Victor was napping, and he swung around to face us. Roger resumed.

"What I did was wrong. The things I said were hurtful and stupid." He turned and spoke directly to Victor. "Trying to hurt you with that drone was inexcusable. I could have injured you. I'm glad I didn't, but I'm ashamed I tried." Victor brought his head lower and turned to look compassionately at the youth. Then, Roger surprised us all. He stepped forward and threw his arms around

Victor's neck, burying his face in Victor's mane. Before he released his hug, we heard him say, "I'm so sorry. I promise I'll make it up to you." Roger turned 'round and gave me a hug, as well, saying, "I know what I did was wrong. Give me a chance, and I'll be a better person from now on."

We returned to the front of the stable, and Roger excused himself. Once he was out of earshot, Dave explained. "Roger came to me this morning, and he was pretty upset. I'm not sure what happened, but it must have been traumatic. He begged me to let him return to the Legionnaires' encampment. He said he wants to learn all he can about the war chariots - and especially the horses. I think his apology was

Dave had to leave, and – having heard



that more horses would be required to pull another war chariot – I sought out the Outlaws to give them the news. I found all three gathered in the shade on the Green, giving their horses a rest and taking time for a vape. I briefly explained the need for more horses, when all three began laughing.

Recon explained. "We thought something was going to happen! That boy was gobsmacked! Something had to change." Fender and Tuco smiled, and Recon continued. "Last evening, we were here with the horses and chariots when that boy – Roger – came up to us. He said he had a question that he wanted to be sure. He said his mom and dad told him there were no wolves living in the forest at the State Park, but what did we think?

"OMG! We laughed and told him, 'Wolves? Hell, yes! There's wolves! There's a pack of huge wolves (!) living in these woods! They chased us, and they would've run us down and killed us if it weren't for our horses."

"Yeah," Fender interjected, "we told him... 'If it weren't for the horses, we'd be goners. So now, we trust our horses more than any mere human.' – no offense, Holly."

Recon concluded. "Our advice was... your parents were only doing their best. They told you all they know, but there comes a time when a boy realizes he can't depend on his parents any more. That's when he knows he's a man."

(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.

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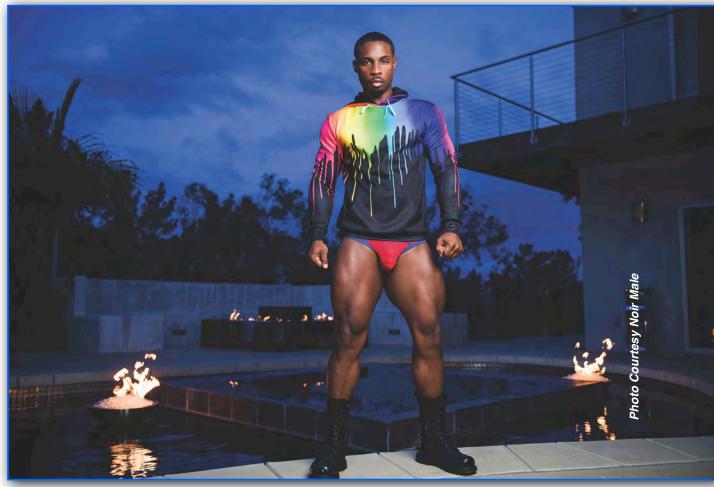


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Being DeAngeloThe Grabby Winner on *Being Black in Porn*, His **New Documentary Film**

By Max Jimenez

DeAngelo Jackson entered the adult film industry as a way to make extra money while he was studying Criminal Justice at Florida State University. Having never been with a man or woman, he lost his virginity on camera. While he doesn't regret any of the choices he has made in his lengthy adult career, he acknowledges he's had to make difficult decisions, especially when first starting out.

His journey and the lives of three other gay adult film stars of color -Dillion Diaz, Max Konnor and Rock Rockfella - are chronicled in the new documentary film, Being Black in Porn. Through interviews with the men in Chicago, NYC, Las Vegas, and Los Angeles, the film examines the unique experiences, including racism and

inequality, that the men have encountered in the competitive and often complicated adult film industry. It also delves into their personal lives, exploring the impact their careers have had on their families and friends, on social media and in the global Black Lives Matter movement.

"I had to share my story," says DeAngelo Jackson who is also the film's executive producer. "I had to do it for my fellow brothers and sisters of porn who are all navigating through different stages of the adult industry and making important choices on the directions they should take next. I've seen lots of good in the industry but also some not-sogreat matters that need to come out in the open. It's important we speak out because I learned early on that if we

don't stand for something, we will fall for anything."

We spoke with DeAngelo Jackson to learn more.

Max Jimenez: What are some things that black adult film actors face that their white colleagues do not? **DeAngelo Jackson: Negative** stereotypes are probably the biggest problem within the industry right now, beginning with penis size. Black talent with large penises are not only prized, they're expected. If guys don't measure up, it will be really hard to find work.

MJ: That's a good point. While large endowed white actors are prized, average or even below average sized white men are still cast in films.



DJ: Another problem we face is being cast in servant roles or as thugs. It's important that we push against these stereotypes as much as we can.

MJ: Have you been cast in subservient roles because of your skin color?

DeAngelo Jackson: No because I would never accept a role playing a servant or anything even remotely resembling a slave. I'm very selective in the roles that I accept. But some actors, unfortunately, aren't as lucky to have the platform that I do.

MJ: As one of the highest profile persons of color in the industry, do you feel a responsibility to make change in the industry?

DJ: Yes, absolutely. It's important for me to represent men of color in a positive light and not play into tired stereotypes. I'm careful to choose roles that don't feed into any of the negativity. I don't want the next group of young black men to go through what I did in the beginning of my career. It's been a long road and luckily, I have survived with few missteps, but it hasn't always been easy. I think it's important that I encourage the next generation of black gay porn stars to respect themselves and their bodies.

MJ: Let's discuss the term BBC. It is one of the most searched terms in porn today.

DJ: I hate the term BBC. It's outdated and offensive. Black actors are more than their BBCs. We're people, with hearts and souls and our own stories. I am quick to correct anyone that still uses it.

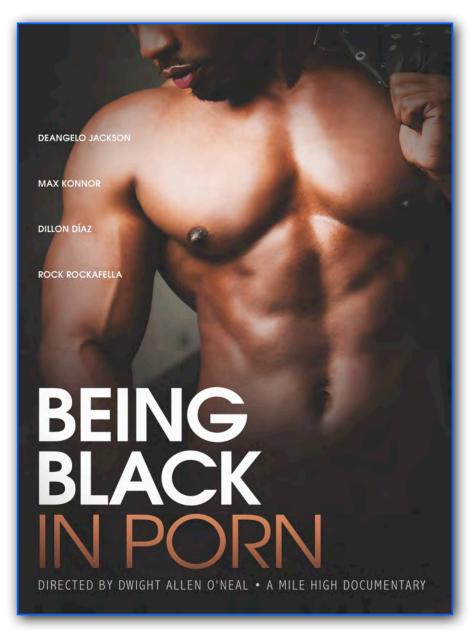
MJ: Are there any film titles that you believe should be taken off shelves immediately?

DJ: Any film titles that fetishizes black men with words like Ebony, BBC, Buck or Chocolate should be tossed out.

MJ: Being Black in Porn also touches on pay inequality. Is it true that black talent are paid less than white talent?

DJ: This was eye opening to me! I've been in the industry for ten years and while I've heard through the grapevine that some white models were being paid more than me, I had never seen it. It's not like we're flashing our paychecks at each other. But in the documentary, one of our sources who works behind the scenes in film production confirmed that there are, in fact, pay differences.

MJ: One thing I found eye-opening



was learning some black actors have encountered white actors who refuse to work with them because of the color of their skin!

DJ: I couldn't believe it! I honestly didn't realize that was an issue. As I far I know, it's never happened to me, but I'm not privy to all negotiations that happen behind closed doors.

MJ: Have black talent considered banding together to demand equality in the industry?

DJ: I've spoken with a few other models about banding together but truthfully, many fear the repercussions that may happen, including being blacklisted within the industry. There aren't many roles and many of us feel replaceable. I think a big reason for this documentary is to tell our story, hope it might highlight some of the issues we face and start a discussion.

MJ: Maybe bring about more equality within the porn industry?

DJ: That's the ultimate goal.

MJ: What new adult projects are you working on?

DJ: I have a few films in the works. I am also gearing up to celebrate my second anniversary with Noir Male. I am their first exclusive model and I owe them a great deal! I truly love what I do and hope to continue in porn for a long time.

Being Black in Porn is being distributed by Mile High in association with Novo Novus Productions and adult production house Noir Male. For more information, visit http://www.Noirmale.com.

AUG 6-8

CHICAGO



Trixie Mattel * Todrick Hall * Greyson Chance

Fierce Project starring Ultra Naté a Angelica Ross ft. Mila Jam

Lisa Lisa * Jody Watley * CeCe Peniston
Steve Grand * Inaya Day * Ty Herndon

International DJs

Alex Acosta Nina Flowers Danny Verde Joe Pacheco Cindel Deanne Alexander Marti Frieson

Rod Tuffcurls & the Bench Press Boy Band Review Catfight
JC Brooks Queen Explosion Hello Weekend The Gingers
Chicago Gay Men's Chorus Too Much Molly & Triple Trouble To the 9's
Lynne Jordan & the Shivers Jacob Bjorge Rosie & The Rivets
Sam Fazio The Flat Cats Peach Presents Back Lot Bash
Meghan "Big Red" Murphy DJs: X-tasy Laura Bee

Fr 5-10p, Sa-Su 11a-10p \$15 suggested donation



Halsted St - Belmont to Addison marketdayschicago.com

Pride in the Park Announces Legendary Lineup in Grant Park June 26 and 27



Pride in the Park Chicago, presented by Truly Hard Seltzer, announces the legendary lineup for this years' Main event in Grant Park (downtown Chicago) on June 26 and 27, along with being one of the city's first in-person festivals.

Heading this year are • Chaka Khan, the legendary Queen of Funk, Queer Icon, and ten-time

Grammy-winning artist.
• GRYFFIN, the self-taught prodigal producer, with a #1 on Spotify's US and Global Viral charts and #2 on Spotify's New Music Friday playlist.

 Tiësto, a Grammy award-winning artist, dubbed "the world's greatest" DJ," the Godfather of EDM, and

Navy Pier Pride Returns for **Sixth Annual Celebration** of Diversity, Inclusivity and Love - Saturday June 26

Navy Pier, Chicago's iconic lakefront destination and nonprofit institution, is hosting its sixth annual Navy Pier Pride, supported by ComEd and Ørsted, on Saturday, June 26 from noon to 11:30 p.m. This free, full-day event celebrates diversity, inclusivity and support for the LGBTQIA+ community. Festivities include live music, educational programs, performances from local LGBTQIA+ artists, on-site resources from community partners and a special Pride-themed fireworks show.

The event will kick off with Muffy Fishbasket's Drag Queen Story Hour, featuring a live reading of popular children's books by one of Chicago's famous drag queens, *Miss* Mini Pearl. This program promotes an early understanding of gender fluidity through glamorous, positive queer role models. After story time, guests can enjoy a series of live DJ sets, a dance showcase via the Pier's weekly Wave Wall Moves program, and a performance by

Chicago Gay Men's Chorus. From 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., TaskForce Prevention and Community Services and PFLAG will be available at booths on the South Dock to share key resources and provide

commanding the title of "best DJ of the last 20 years.

Dusty Carpenter, Pride in the Park Chicago President and Lead Organizer, said, "To say we are excited is an understatement. We have legendary artists – with 12 Grammys combined – diverse Allies and Queer icons that are going to simply bring the house down. What better way to celebrate our Pride than with amazing music in a diverse and inclusive atmosphere? We continue to celebrate Pride to remind us of our achievements and to also remind us of our history, struggles, and work that is yet to be done

The Full Lineup includes; Betty Who, the Australian-American singer and songwriter of "I Love You Always Forever," peaked inside the

top ten in Australia and reached the top of the Billboard Dance Club Songs chart in the United States.

• Tracy Young, a Grammy awardwinning producer, history-maker, and proud member of the LGBTQ community,

she is the first woman ever to win a Grammy in the category of bestremixed recording.

• Alyssa Edwards, the iconic star

from Emmy-winning television series "RuPaul's Drag Race," American

entertainer, choreographer, and television personality.

 Derrick Charter, a Queer, Black Chicago-native, was named No. 53 in the 100 Most Famous.

Among these show-stoppers, there will be other renowned and diverse artists such as CircuitMOM, Hector Fonseca, Tony Moran, Lady D, The Vixen Denali Foxx, Karsten Sollors, Tenderoni, Miss Toto, Mila Jam, Kinley Preston, Traci Ross, Naysha Lopez, It Jomama, Hinkypunk, Kara Mel D'Ville, Sheeza Woman, Avi Sic, Matt Suave, O'Laysia, Chamilla Foxx, Zoliy Miyake Mugler for Ballroom Pride & Guest Speakers.
Ticket pricing information -

Limited Capacity:

General Admission

Teen/Adults (15 years old+) \$80.00 and up – Individual, Weekend Pass *VIP (21 years old+)* \$210.00 and up – Individual,

Weekend Pass

Children 11-14 years old must have a ticket and be accompanied by a ticket-holding adult.

Children 10 & years old and under admitted free of charge with a ticketholding adult.

Limit 2 children per adult.

Tickets sales sale now at http:// www.PrideParkChi.com

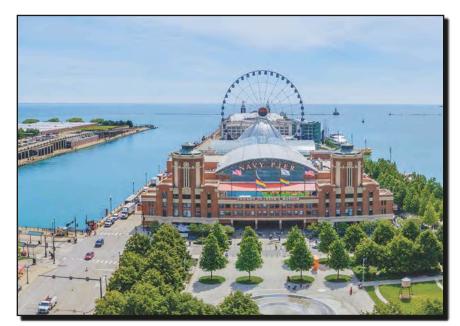
Fifth Third Bank Family Pavilion and near the Ørsted Wave Wall Platform. In celebration of Pride month and

the LGBTQIA+ community, Navy Pier will host a free Pride-themed firework show at 10:15 p.m. The vibrant and colorful 10-minute display will be synchronized to a special playlist, heard across the Pierwide speakers.

For more information, visit http:// www.navypier.org.

information about local community programs. There will also be Vogue Demonstrations from the Vogue School from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Young adults and teens from the TaskForce Prevention and Community Services will offer quests tutorials of the iconic dance form at the Ørsted Wave Wall Platform.

Guests are also invited to snap a picture of Navy Pier's new Pride Flag decals on the grand staircase in the



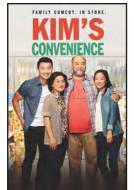


GRAB A FILM

By Delven Shaw

KIM'S CONVENIENCE aims to

please.





THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD is riveting and essential.

THE BREEDING follows a dangerous path.



KIM'S CONVENIENCE is a Netflix comedy that wildly surpassed its humble beginning as a storefront theater production in 2011.

Now Ins Choi's beloved characters are completing a five-season run, achieving worldwide fame for the casts and creative team. Each episode is a genuinely nice way to spend 30 minutes.

Paul Sun-Hyung Lee and Jean Yoon, who starred in the original play, anchor the series as Appa and Umma, the husband-and-wife team that own and run the store. Their backgrounds as Korean immigrants who came to Canada early in life provide much of the humor of the early seasons.

Their daughter Janet (*Andrea Bang*) and estranged son Jung (*Simu Liu*) add complementary layers of comedy and tension, and Liu brings his highly effective sexual energy as well. In the first seasons, Jung works for Handy Car Rental, along with his best friend Kimchee (*Andrew Phung*) and their boss Shannon (*Nicole Power*) who becomes romantically involved with Jung.

As season 5 begins, Janet, an aspiring photographer, has returned from a trip to Tanzania, and Jung has gone off to California to complete his schooling. Thus, the Shannon and Jung relationship is a less central to the follies of the remaining family and other store regulars.

At times can be as obstinate and outrageous as Archie Bunker, as when he attempts to take advantage of Pride Week or insists on reading Janet's journals surreptitiously. And Umma can be charming and conniving, and her recent diagnosis of MS is a pivotal plot point in season five.

The writing is always sharp in the 30minue episodes, and you get a great glimpse of Toronto's many distinct vistas as the various scenes change.

These characters will immediately charm you, and as time wears on, you too will want to be a regular at *Kims Convenience*.

director *Barry Jenkins'* masterful 10-part series developed from *Colson Whitehead* 's Pulitzer Prize winning book, is powerful, revolting, spectacularly beautiful and riveting. Anyone expecting historical accuracy will have their expectations dashed within the first moments as a real underground train pulls into view. But if you approach the work knowing that Jenkins and his production team and providing bits of magical and historical realism with

THE UNDER

GROUND

RAILROAD

THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD.

This is the story of Cora, an escaped slave who is striving to make her way north. On the way sh discovers an idealized black owned winery, an all-white religious town that is as dark as it's houses, an affluent city which seemingly treats blacks with respect. And many, many cruelties.

characters and images that will live with

you always, you till not be disappointed.

Underneath it all, you know sadness and horror awaits.

Jenkins does not pull any punches. The language is shocking, the imagery deliberately offensive even when the images are of hell on earth. The music – except for the jarring contemporary songs which conclude each episode – is magical.

You will want to turn away, but Cora - a masterful performance by Thuso Mbedu – will always bring you back. Joel Edgerton is perfectly evil as a slave catcher intent on bringing her back to her chains.

While the first episodes were hard to sit through, I found myself drawn in. And while based in history, there is so much to learn for our society today.

Here TV is never afraid to use sexually explicit material to get you to peek! There are lots of titles in their Steamy category. If you like films that push a button or two, **THE BREEDING** will not disappoint, as it is sexy and frustrating, and in the end worth the time

Told in episodic short films, *The Breeding* starts a bit slow, but has some good music video type segments. My favorite was a great bit with a gay man confessing some heavy-duty sins to his priest. But we get to the heart of the matter when we meet an artist who despite having an incredible boyfriend spends his time drawing erotic nudes while dreaming of exploring bondage and race play.

The other episodes - a white guy placing an ad for a BBC party, etc. - fade in comparison to what the artist experiences. It is not for the faint of heart. Marcus Bellany stars, in this work directed by Daniel Armando written by Dane Harringon Joseph.

With all of the discussion of race in America - from *The Underground Railroad* on Amazon to the Tonynominated *Slave Play* on Broadway - and *The Breeding* does not have the depth to compete with those works. But it is a valid addition to the conversion.

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

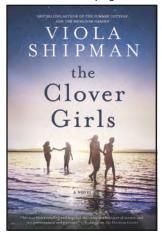


GRAB A BOOK

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

"The Clover Girls" by Viola Shipman

c.2021, Graydon House \$16.99 / \$21.99 Canada 416 pages



The grass is greener on the other side of the fence.

Someone else's life is always better than yours, warts and all, and you wanted what she got, partly because she got it first. Greener grass often goes with sour grapes but, as in the new novel, "The Clover Girls" by Viola Shipman, it ultimately depends on how well you tend your garden.

V, formerly known as Veronica, felt fat.

She was sure that her husband, David, was embarrassed by the weight she'd put on since the kids were born and she'd had to give up her modeling career. Yes, she was once a cover model, lithe and beautiful. Now, she had an extra 15 pounds, but no career, no forward-looking future, and no friends.

And then she got the letter.
When they were kids at Camp
Birchwood, Rachel told her camp-mates
that she'd be a famous actress someday.
More than twenty years later, she was
famous alright – as the spokeswoman for
a misogynistic politicial candidate.
Everybody hated what Rachel said on his
behalf and they sometimes hated her,
too. But she was happy – wasn't she?

And then she got the letter.
As Liz sat next to her dying mother, it hit her: Liz's own kids and grandkids would never take care of her like that when the time came. So what kind of legacy was she leaving, then? There was her online store and a respectable amount of sales, but the creativity she had as a girl – the talent her friends appreciated – had never quite taken hold. And where were those friends these days, she wondered.

And then she got the letter. Em said she'd be dead by the time they read their letters, that the cancer had metastasized too far for a cure. Sweet, dear Emily was the only one who'd kept track of everyone; she'd hoped the friendship-shattering event that happened years ago was forgivable and she took a drastic move to try and make it so.

But is a four-leaf clover that's missing a leaf still lucky?

There's a meme-thread going around social media chiding men who write awkwardly about female characters. You might ask yourself, then, how author Wade Rouse, a gay man writing under a female pseudonym, would do it.

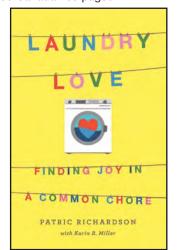
The answer is: with a semi-contrived plot and a whole lotta heart.

On one end, readers who are used to more action-packed novels may roll their eyes: the main characters in "The Clover Girls" are all celebrity look-alikes, their spat was schoolgirl-silly, the plot lines are oh-so-convenient, how many times will they spread Emily's ashes, and where did Liz get all that fabric?? It's enough to make you squint – and yet, the basic story here is sweet and not outrageously dramatic. Shipman/Rouse instead makes it gentle, loving, squeakyclean, and perfect for sharing with anyone who devours women's fiction like this.

So put aside the go-go-go novels. Look beyond the contrivances, and "The Clover Girls" may be your next obsession. Find it, and you might not be able to leaf it alone.

"Laundry Love: Finding Joy in a Common Chore" by Patric Richardson with Karin B. Miller

c.2021, Flatiron Books \$25.99 / \$34.99 Canada 185 pages



Tomorrow's outfit is on a chair over there.

That's where it's been since you last washed it. What you wore today came from a basket and off a hanger, the shirt needed ironing, there was a tiny stain on the pants but who noticed? and you just bought new socks, so there's that. Time

to do the wash? Yeah, but get a load of this: "Laundry Love" by Patric Richardson (with Karin B. Miller).

In one of his earliest memories, Patric Richardson's uncle holds him aloft so that Richardson could watch laundry swimming in the washer. He was almost a baby then, but the fascination was set: at age three, Richardson was "over the moon" when he received a toy washing machine as a birthday gift. He remembers that it was Harvest Gold.

Growing up, Richardson absorbed washday secrets from an extended family of women and he learned the appeal of laundry hung on a line outside. While at the University of Kentucky, he met three professors who taught him about textiles, and employers educated him further. Love of fabric eventually became Richardson's career and laundry is his love-language: "caring for your loved ones' clothes shows them love."

The first thing to know, Richardson states, is that "our clothes are bossy." If something you enjoy wearing says "Dry Clean Only" on the label, lay it on the kitchen counter, grab a pair of scissors, and cut that label off because, "anything can be washed at home."

Here, you'll learn how to save time on wash day. Find out why big-brand-name detergents are unsafe, and see what you need to care for your clothes properly. Learn to iron, eliminate horrible stains, wash woolens and other awkward-to-clean items, and see how to rescue yellowed linens and special-event clothing like a pro.

Remember, says Richardson: "You don't have to do laundry – you get to do laundry."

These days, though, author Patric Richardson doesn't "get to" very often. His husband, he says, does their wash while Richardson runs a clothing store and offers "Laundry Camp" at the Mall of America. But since not everyone can be a happy camper, there's "Laundry Love."

If you're thinking that a book about joyfully washing clothes would be a mighty skinny book, you're right but laundry is only a part of this story here. The rest is biography, and a love-letter to Appalachain and Southern women. In giving props to the women who raised him, Richardson shows how his interest in fabric grew, too; the subject of textiles, which may be perceived as mundane by many, is treated in this light as something precious and accessible.

If you come for the biography, you'll be glad you stayed for the hints as Richardson shows how even the most delicate items can be safely home-cleaned. That fur you love? Done. That stinky-perfumed vintage item you found? Clean. Ahhhhhhh, so pick up the undies in the corner, use Grandma's linens, shop thrift-stores with impunity. Go ahead, fear-free. Having "Laundry Love" should take a load off your mind.



DE'WAYNE Releases Intoxicating Track "Super 8"



Rising genreless artist **DE'WAYNE** has unleashed a brand new music video for "Super 8". On the intoxicating new track, DE'WAYNE shares "This is actually a little embarrassing to write but it says it all in the hook! I was too nervous to come out and ask so I wrote my girl a song about it and here we are playing it out in this video."

A lifetime in the making, DE'WAYNE's debut album STAINS dropped Friday, June 18th via Hopeless Records. The eleven-track album blends the incendiary nature of his live show with a story that needs to be told and a genreless freedom. Instead of trying to fit into a ready-made scene, Stains is driven by energy, emotion, excitement. "Every song on this record is urgent because it has to be. I want to put out music that feels like you have to listen to it right now."

"Super 8" joins a "Stains", "Walking to Work", "I Know Something", "National Anthem" and recent radio hit "Perfume" featuring **Awsten Knight** of Waterparks from the forthcoming album, which was created over the course of six months this last year.

DE'WAYNE's first taste of performing came at age 12 when he got his first lead song at his local church. "Singing in front of people, fuck, I got turned on man. I was always very insecure and could never say what I felt but holding that mic, having people listen..." he felt seen. Alongside a crash course in Houston rappers from his dad, it wasn't long before he was writing his own tracks. "They were shit 'cos I hadn't lived,"he explains. That changed when he moved to L.A. aged 19 though.

Once there, DE'WAYNE "really went to the school of being dirt poor, learning how to write songs and about where you want to put your voice in the world." There was a string of songs that saw DE'WAYNE following exactly what had come before, before a run of live shows found him discovering what sort of artist he wanted to be. "If I'd stayed in Houston, I'd just be my Mom's son. I'd be doing a job I wouldn't want to do." Five years of searching later and "now, I'm fully DE'WAYNE."

Moving effortlessly through an eclectic range of styles, scenes and

genres, DE'WAYNE is a superstar in the making. Greatness has never sounded so good.

Stains is available to pre-order at http://smarturl.it/DEWAYNESTAINS.

MAROON 5 Unveil New Album "JORDI"



Three-time GRAMMY® Award-winning multi-platinum band **Maroon 5** proudly presents their seventh full-length album, *JORDI* (222/ Interscope), in stores and at all DSPS now.

Additionally, the band just shared the music video for the new single "Lost" directed by GRAMMY® Award winner and recent collaborator Sophie Muller.

The band is also set to launch the first ever Fan Community Decentralized Autonomous Organization (DAO) as part of an NFT series that will be released alongside Maroon 5's latest album titled "JORDI." In addition to the DAO, YellowHeart, the NFT marketplace for music and ticketing, which accepts both crypto and credit card payments, will be minting open edition animated album artwork and portraits of Maroon 5 band members hand drawn by long-time friend and collaborator Sage Vaughn.

The summer of Maroon 5 has only just begun. The band will embark on a full-scale North American Headline Tour in August following the postponement of their tour in 2020.

Canvasing the country for eight weeks, and produced by Live Nation, the tour kicks off on August 10 in Auburn, WA at White River Amphitheatre and stops at legendary venues such as Wrigley Field in Chicago, IL on August 30 and Fenway Park in Boston, MA on September 12. Additionally, the group will play its biggest hometown headline show ever at the new Banc of California Stadium in Los Angeles, CA on October 2 before the tour comes to a close on October 8 at Concord Pavilion in Concord, CA. blackbear will support on all dates. As part of their upcoming 2021 tour, Maroon 5 is set to be one of the headliners at the Music Midtown Festival in Atlanta this September.

Maroon 5's new album JORDI is the band's most personal offering to date, with the title nodding to the group's original manager Jordan Feldstein. Frontman Adam Levine shared the following on Instagram: "I miss him every single day. And I'm proud to have etched his name into the history of this

band that he helped build from the ground up...every step of the way. We love you Jordi."

For more visit https://www.maroon5.com/

THE SPINS DEBUT NEW SINGLE "ACID RAIN"



Indie/alt-rock quartet, The Spins, have premiered a new single entitled "Acid Rain" via Aesthetic Magazine. "Acid Rain" follows the release of singles "Lucky Cig," "Vibe Police" and "Switchblade" released the past three months respectively, and all three of which come off of a larger body of work, slated to be released later this year.

On the track, the band shares, "This is a song about longing to escape society's rat race and enjoy the fundamental things in life that really matter like personal relationships and the beauty of nature. Touches on the overstep of corporate intrusion into human nature and its impact on the human soul and the environment. Inspired by 'Into the Wild."

Founded in August of 2016, The Spins quickly began building a large local fan base right away with the release of several Soundcloud demos, followed by the release of their debut EP, Tank'd, which was supported by their first-ever tour as a band. They released their 2nd EP, 4 Day Stay in 2019 after a long period of live performances focused on building their following since the release of Tank'd.

Today, the band is made up of founding members Nick Coombs (vocals/rhythm guitar), and Freddy Smith (drums), as well as Jimmy Barr (lead guitar) and Phil Dunphy (bass), the latter of which joined the band in early 2019. The addition of Phil to the band inspired new elements in their writing not seen on their previous releases.

They focused on refining their songwriting skills in order to craft a full-length record that showed their diverse influences and inspirations. They tracked the record at Sound Acres Studios with Gary Cioni over the span of a three-week stay and released the first single from the record, "Fade Away," in January of 2021 with great reception. They plan to release several more singles over the course of the first half of 2021 until the release of a larger body of work later this year.

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Victory Fund Endorses 10 More **LGBTQ Candidates for 2022**



Washington, DC - The LGBTQ Victory Fund – the only national organization dedicated to electing LĞBTQ leaders to public office endorsed 10 more LGBTQ candidates for the 2022 election cycle, raising its total number of 2022 endorsed candidates to 14. Among the candidates is Lincoln City Council Chair *James Michael Bowers*, who would be the first out gay man to serve in the Nebraska state legislature if elected. Victory Fund has endorsed more than 100 candidates for the 2021 cycle.
"While we remain focused on the

historic candidates running in 2021, the early investments we make in our 2022 races will pay dividends in the months to come," said Mayor **Annise Parker**, President & CEO of LGBTQ Victory Fund. "We expect more LGBTQ candidates to run than ever before next year, so we must start now to build visibility and fundraising support for our candidates and

ensure our community is ready to rally around them. We are proud to endorse these champions for equality
– including our newest and most vulnerable members of Congress."

The complete list of candidate endorsements announced is below:

2022 General Candidate **Endorsements**

James Michael Bowers (He/Him/ His) Nebraska State Senate, District 46 Primary Election: 5/10/2022 General Election: 11/8/2022 **Brett Smiley** (He/Him/His) Mayor of Providence, RI Primary Election: 9/6/2022 General Election: 11/8/2022 **Rick Zbur** (He/Him/His) California State Assembly, District 50 Primary Election: 3/11/2022 General Election: 11/8/2022

2022 Game Changer Incumbent Candidate Endorsements Angie Craig (She/Her/Hers) U.S. House of Representatives, MN-02

Primary Election: 8/9/2022 General Election: 11/8/2022 Sharice Davids (She/Her/Hers) U.S. House of Representatives, KS-03

Primary Election: 8/2/2022 General Election: 11/8/2022 Mondaire Jones (He/Him/His) U.S. House of Representatives,

Primary Election: 6/21/2022 General Election: 11/8/2022 Chris Pappas (He/Him/His) U.S. House of Representatives, NH-01

Primary Election: TBD

General Election: 11/8/2022 Ritchie Torres (He/Him/His) U.S. House of Representatives,

Primary Election: 6/21/2022 General Election: 11/8/2022

2022 General Incumbent Candidate Endorsements Megan Hunt (She/Her/Hers)

Nebraska State Senate, District 8 Primary Election: 5/10/2022 General Election: 11/8/2022 **Brianna Titone** (She/Her/Hers) Colorado State Representative,

House District 27

Primary Election: 6/28/2022 General Election: 11/8/2022

More information about all of Victory Fund's endorsed candidates is available at victoryfund.org/ ourcandidates.

Since 1991, Victory Fund has helped thousands of openly LGBTQ candidates win local, state and federal elections.

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

Chicago LGBT Hall of Fame **Seeks Members for Selection** Committee



The Chicago LGBT Hall of Fame, celebrating its 30th anniversary, invited the LGBTQ+ community to nominate individuals, organizations, businesses, and allies for the 2021 Chicago LGBT Hall of Fame and the response was tremendous. The Chicago LGBT Hall of Fame now has a slate of possible inductees for the 2021 Hall of Fame. A selection committee, comprised of Individuals inducted into the Chicago LGBT Hall of Fame, will review the slate of candidates and select the candidates in a meeting on July 17. Anybody

inducted into the LGBT Hall of Fame as an Individual is entitled to serve on the selection committee. Those interested in participating should send an e-mail to

outreach@LGBTHallofFame.org by July 1. The names of the inductees for 2021 will be released on or before

The ceremony for inductees will be held on Tuesday, October 5 at the Chicago History Museum. The Chicago LGBT Hall of Fame was founded in 1991 as the Chicago Gay & Lesbian Hall of Fame. Its purpose then, as now, is to honor people and entities, nominated by the community, who have made significant contributions to the quality of life or well-being of the LGBT community in Chicago. It is the first city-sponsored hall of fame dedicated to LGBT people, organizations, and allies in the United States.

From its founding in 1991 until 2016 the Gay & Lesbian Hall of Fame relied on support from the City of Chicago. The city ceased funding the Gay & Lesbian Hall of Fame in 2016 as part of then-mayor Rahm Emanuel's cost-cutting programs. 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 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 inductées were displayed in City Hall. The Hall of Fame has no physical facility but maintains a website, which allows anyone to visit the Hall of Fame at any time. Traditionally, the City of Chicago has displayed the Hall of Fame materials during induction

For more information, visit the organization's website. chicagolgbthalloffame.org/ or its Facebook page, https:// www.facebook.com/groups/ 56108152083/.

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AIDS HOTLINE (ILLINOIS) -800-AID-AIDS (800-243-2437)

ANDERSONVILLE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE - 773-728-2995

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10
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