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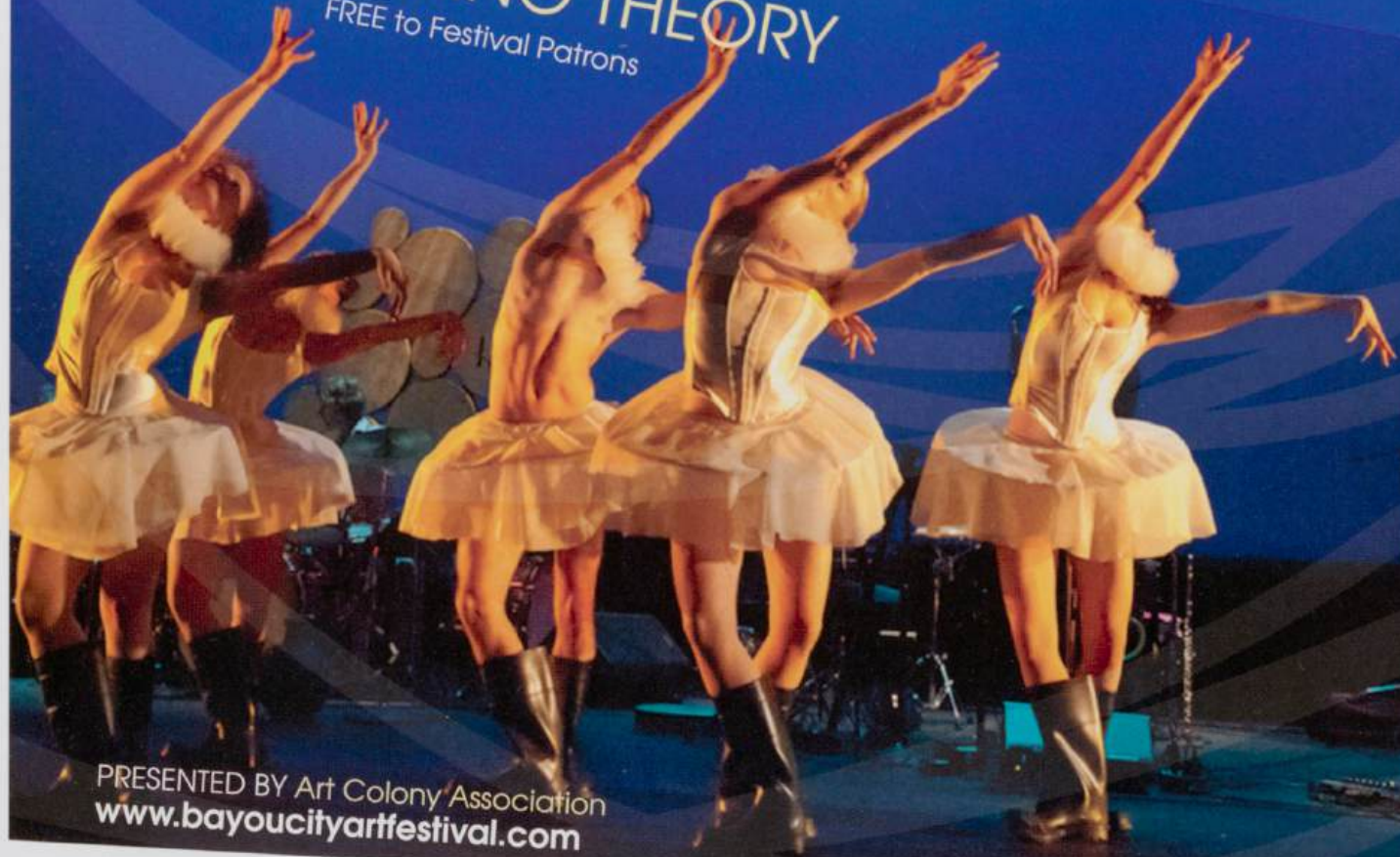
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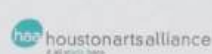
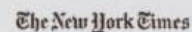
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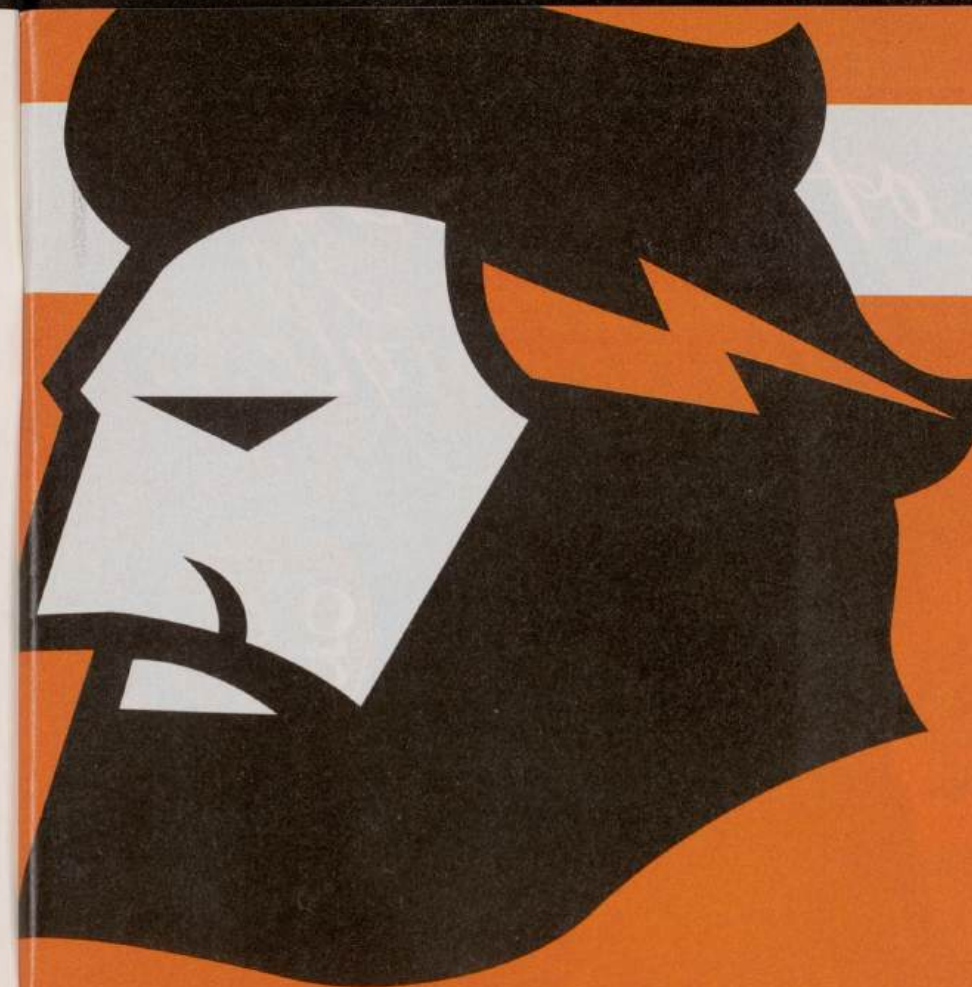


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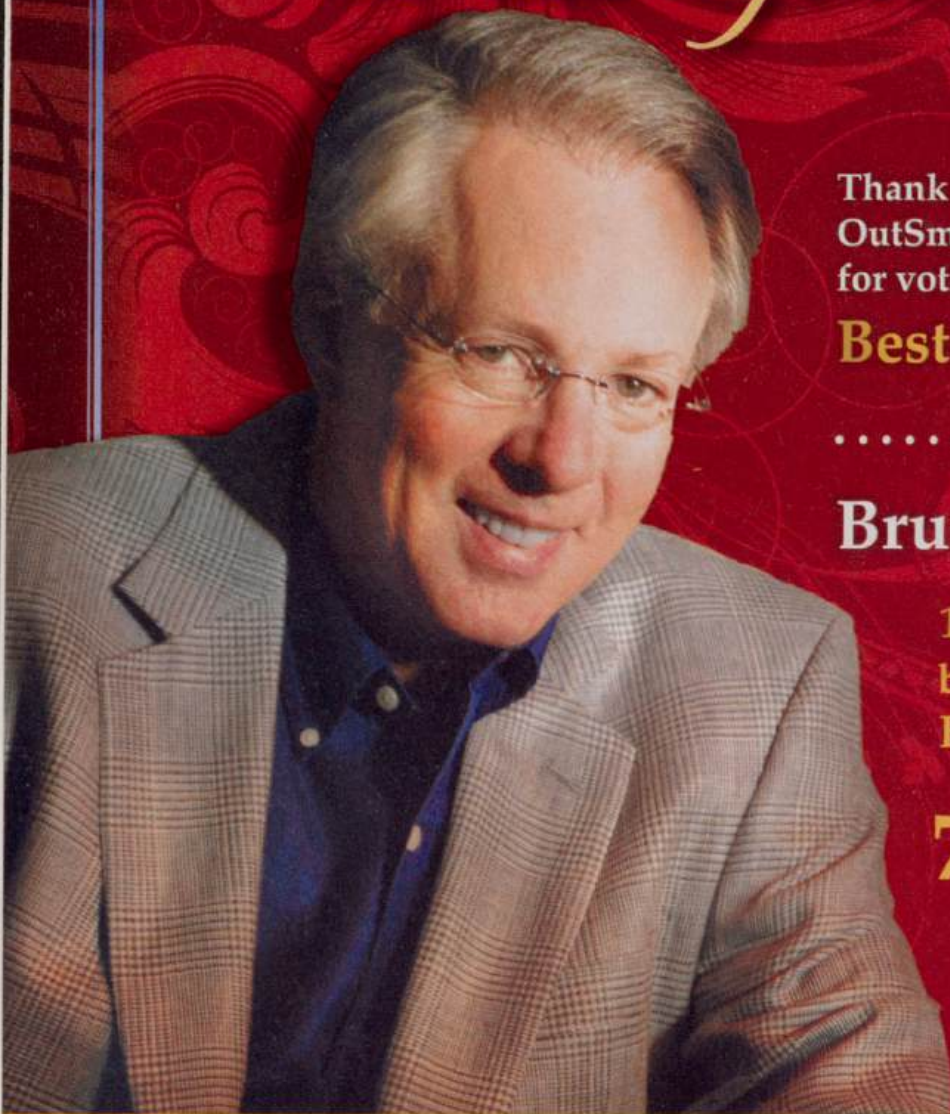


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Photographs from *Gay in America*  
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(see page 26)

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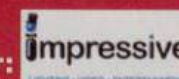
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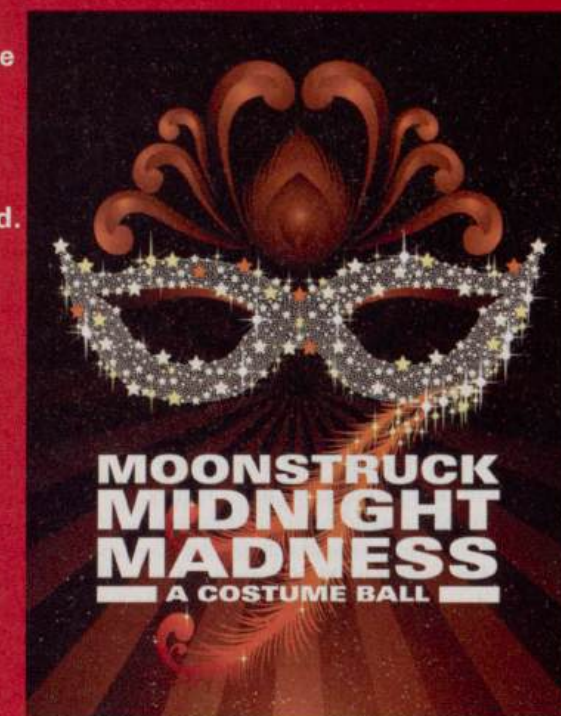
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## Is There Discrimination in District Court?

Ask William Flowers

by Marene Gustin

In Harris County, gubernatorial and presidential elections only draw between 40 and 60 percent of registered voters—and even then, voters often vote a straight party ticket, or don't bother voting at all in lesser races due to down-ballot fatigue. So who can be bothered with being informed about all the judicial races?

For the LGBT community, however, voting for judges can be more important than voting for higher-profile positions.

Attorney Connie Moore, of Moore & Hunt—the first woman-owned boutique law firm in Houston to concentrate on LGBT issues—believes it's more important to pick judicial candidates than gubernatorial ones, because judges have a greater impact on family issues.

"Absolutely, it is very clear that there are antigay vibes in family court in Harris County," Moore said. "Not from every judge, but there is from some."

A case in point is the current plight of William Flowers.

Flowers, like many gay men, married a woman and fathered children. When he realized he needed to be true to his orientation, he divorced his wife in 2004, with both parties sharing custody of their three children. His former wife had primary custody, and Flowers says there wasn't really a problem until he decided to try for primary custody two years ago.

As the case dragged on, Flowers and his partner, Jim Evans, legally married in Connecticut last year. This June, the custody case finally went to trial.

"I did not abuse my children," Flowers said. "I did not abandon them, I do not do drugs. They love Jim and his children. They have a really good life when they are with us. We attend Deer Park United Methodist Church and are involved in family events there."

But his wife, Flowers said, asked for a jury trial in the custody case, and the jury decided that she should retain primary custody of their 14-year-old son and twin 9-year-old girls. But it's what happened after the decision that shocked him and the community.

The Hon. Charley E. Prine Jr., an associate judge for the 309th District Court, and a former Regional Political Director of the Republican National Committee, issued a ruling stating that Flowers could not leave his children alone with any male to

whom the kids are not related by "blood or adoption."

It further reduced the amount of time Flowers could spend with his children, gave the mother exclusive rights to move the children wherever she chose without notifying the father, and reduced his educational and medical access.

That means his husband cannot watch the kids if he has to run out, since Texas does not recognize same-sex marriages and thus doesn't consider Evans to be related.



William Flowers and his partner, Jim Evans, have asked the community to assist in their legal fight.

Nor can he leave them with a male babysitter, or any other nonrelated male.

Judge Prine could have issued a paramour restriction, often applied in custody cases, that prohibits a nonmarital sexual partner from being present during visits. But even then, without allegations of abuse, it could be overturned.

Last year the American Civil Liberties Union helped overturn the restriction in the case of a lesbian couple. In *Chandler v. Barker*, a Tennessee Court of Appeals unanimously held that the trial court had abused its discretion in imposing the paramour restriction. In reversing the trial court's decision, the court noted that there was absolutely no evidence that the paramour restriction served the best interests of the children.

But Prine didn't do that; instead he imposed restrictions on Flowers without imposing any sort of paramour restrictions on his wife, who has not remarried. Judge Prine's office did not return calls at press time, and because it is an ongoing case, it's likely he would not be able to comment anyway. But based on previous cases involving gay custody rights, the rendition

seems oppressive, if not downright antigay.

"There was one point during the trial when the judge actually laughed at an antigay comment," Flowers said. "Yes, I think this is an antigay ruling, there is no other way to look at it. These are the kind of restrictions people get when they leave their children on the side of the road."

Flowers is planning to appeal and has reached out to friends and family for financial aid, saying that both he and his husband have exhausted their savings and credit on legal expenses. But even if he does raise the money he needs, it may still depend on the luck of the draw regarding which judge hears the case.

"I'll never change the religious beliefs of some judges," said Moore. "I'm not even going to try. But legally, they are not supposed to discriminate against gays and lesbians."

And as Flowers added: "This fight isn't just about William Flowers and his children, it's about every single gay parent."

Flowers is turning to the community for assistance. If you would like to contribute to Flowers's legal fund, make your checks out to Flowers's attorney, Stephanie Proffitt. Mail to: Stephanie Proffitt, 917 Franklin, Suite 100, Houston, TX 77002.

### New Legacy Clinic to Open in Montrose

LEGACY COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES will begin seeing patients in its new 40,000-square-foot clinic at 1415 California starting September 12, in the heart of Houston's Montrose neighborhood. The medical facility houses eight specialty clinics, ten support programs, four education-based community programs, and a pharmacy. Its official grand opening is on October 16.

Legacy Montrose Clinic brings together two of Legacy's current clinic locations under one roof, allowing the community to access primary and behavioral healthcare services, eye care, wellness services, a gym, and new dental care, all at one convenient location.

The new facility also offers pediatrics, pediatric behavioral health, family planning, HIV/STD testing and counseling, HIV specialty care, and an array of support programs for people living with HIV/AIDS.

Individuals who want to schedule an appointment can call 713/830-3000.

News continued on page 14

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**News** continued from page 12

## New Immigration Policy Benefits Same-Sex Cases

IMMIGRATION OFFICIALS HAVE MOVED closer to recognizing the validity of same-sex relationships with two pending cases in the U.S., thanks to a recent announcement by Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano that illegal immigrants without a criminal record could be allowed to stay in the country if they face deportation.

Napolitano announced the plan on August 25 in a letter to a group of senators who support revamping the immigration system. Under the change, approximately 300,000 deportation cases pending in immigration court will be reviewed case by case.

In California, the decision halted a deportation case against a Venezuelan man in a same-sex marriage.

Lavi Soloway, an attorney for Venezuelan citizen Alex Benshimol, says Immigration Judge Marilyn Teeter administratively closed the deportation case against his client at the request of Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Benshimol was fighting to stay in the country with his American husband, Doug Gentry, after overstaying his visa. The Cathedral City couple was married last year.

Soloway asked for the deportation to be halted, in line with a June memo from ICE director John Morton outlining the discre-

tion prosecutors have in immigration cases.

ICE said the decision is consistent with the agency's focus on deporting foreigners convicted of crimes.

In Colorado, a lesbian couple gained more time in their case because of the policy change.

Attorney Lavi Soloway said Denver immigration Judge Mimi Tsankov told the court that lawyers from both sides of the case should take additional time to review the case in light of the decision. Soloway said the judge also cited recent questions surrounding a law defining marriage as between a man and a woman.

Soloway said his client, Sujei Pando, was expecting a ruling in her case on August 26, but Napolitano's announcement won them more time.

"It definitely impacted the courtroom, and I think to some extent it mellowed the position of the trial attorney," Soloway said. "This was a Hail Mary pass, and we got very, very lucky that this hearing was scheduled the day after Napolitano's statement."

In May, Attorney General Eric Holder set aside the ruling of an immigration judicial panel in the deportation case of Paul Wilson Dorman, a gay man illegally in the U.S. who wants to stay with his partner, whom he married in a civil union in New Jersey.

Holder asked the panel to reconsider the case, and whether Dorman's civil union or same-sex partnership would qualify him as a spouse under immigration law were it not for the Defense of Marriage Act, which the Obama administration has declined to defend in court. It defines marriage as between a man and woman. —AP

## Milestones

**DIED. Paul Amos Pruitt** (April 3, 1958–Aug. 15, 2011), a beloved member of our community and long-time designer/co-worker of Copy.com. He was a private man and loyal friend whose love of political blogging and cooking will be greatly missed, as well as his jolly hearty laugh. As Rosy Cheeks, he was an entertainer, fundraiser and champion for finding a cure for AIDS. He was a member of the Zambuka Sisters, the DeBris Sisters, and the Texas Cowgirls. He held the titles of Miss Mary's, Miss Montrose, and Mother of Montrose. In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation to AIDS Foundation Houston or any charity of your choice. A celebration of his life will be held in Houston at Bering Chapel on September 3 at 10:30 a.m.



**DIED. Gordon Harry Weisser** died on August 5, 2011. Weisser wasn't a casual member of organizations. He was proud to be an Episcopalian (Christ Church Cathedral), a Democrat, a member of PFLAG (Parents, Friends and Families of Lesbians and Gays), and a founder of PHYSE, the PFLAG/HATCH Youth Scholarship Foundation. In 2001, he was the honorary grand marshal of the LGBT Pride parade. In lieu of flowers, please consider making donations in honor of Gordon H. Weisser at: PHYSE (scholarship fund) P.O. Box 667010, Houston, TX 77266; The Beacon at Cathedral Health Ministries, 1117 Texas St., Houston, TX 77002, or the charity of your choice.

## Transgender Inmates Win Appeal Over Treatments

IN A DECISION THAT COULD IMPACT future court decisions for transgender inmates in Texas, a federal appeals court has upheld a ruling striking down a Wisconsin law banning publicly funded hormone therapy for transgendered inmates, saying denying the treatment amounted to torture.

The 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals decision came on August 12 in a case brought by a group of male inmates who identify as female. They argued they needed the hormones to treat their gender identity disorder, and not having them would lead to severe health problems.

The state appealed after a federal judge struck down the 2005 law last year.

A three-judge panel of the appeals court upheld the ruling, saying the law violates a constitutional ban on cruel and unusual punishment because it denies medical treatment.

"Surely, had the Wisconsin Legislature passed a law that DOC inmates with cancer must be treated only with therapy and pain

*News continued on page 16*



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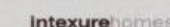
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## Of Babies, Blogging, and Death Threats

There are something like four million mommy bloggers out there, according to *Ad Week*. Then there are the daddy bloggers. Parenting blogs are big. But it's a pretty good bet that not many of those millions of folk blogging about everyday parent-hood issues receive death threats.

There's one blog in Houston that does. The *Houston Chronicle's* new Gayby Boom blog went live in June, racking up 17,000 visits the first month—and a few death threats. That's because the blog chronicles the lives of two gay men—attorneys Michael Pearce and Matt Burrus—and their quest to start a family.

"We did get hate mail," said Pearce. "And some death threats. Negative comments about homosexuals as a group are one thing, but it's something else when you get people saying you should die when you're blogging about baby shoes."

Comments on the blog are monitored, so you won't see the haters' comments—but that doesn't mean that Burrus and Pearce don't see them.

"There was one guy who essentially just spewed a bunch of stuff about us," said Burrus. "We didn't post his comments, but I did respond to him. I repeated what we state on our blog."

Which is: *While we realize there are those in the world who may disagree with our family model, and we support everyone's right to freedom of opinion, it is our hope that we can share the many similarities in our family and support each other and celebrate the differences, hopefully with a bit of humor along the way.*

"And I told him we just want to give a loving family to our little girl," Burrus added. "He actually wrote back and said he didn't agree with our lifestyle, but he wished our little girl well. And we never heard from him again."

"Of course, my first draft of that response wasn't so kind."

But Burrus and Pearce have learned not to hate the haters.



Michael Pearce and Matt Burrus wearing faux pregnancy bellies at a baby shower for their new daughter.

"We're learning to respond in the way that we want our daughter to respond to hate speech," Pearce said. Not with more hate, but with kindness and a hope to educate.

Pearce and Burrus met eight years ago. Their first date seemed like more of an interview, but it got both men to admit they wanted marriage and children. It seemed

like fate. In 2008, they were married in Beverly Hills during the brief window when California allowed gay marriage before Prop 8 was passed.

Two years later they were told there might be a baby available for adoption. They added a nursery to their home and got everything ready.

But no baby came.

Then they decided to try the surrogate route. They found a willing womb, an egg donor, and began the process using pre-implantation genetic diagnosis (PGD), an often-controversial process, to select healthy and gendered eggs.

In one of their favorite stories, they relate meeting the surrogate and her family. The woman's mother actually told them, "We'd really rather see this baby go to a gay couple. You never see on the news that a gay couple drowned their baby in the bathtub."

For a while after the fertilization process they thought they would have twins, a boy and girl, one from each of their sperm. But the boy wasn't viable, and they are left with a girl that's due on September 26. They've decided to call her Estelle Lillian Burrus-Pearce, after their grandmothers.

They have blogged about all the pain, frustration, and excitement of getting to this point. And despite the haters, there have been more than enough supporters.

"We were both big on Facebook and social media," said Pearce. "I would keep up with family and friends and tell them about our quest to have a family. I would ask what kind of baby bottles to use, and get 50 responses."

Then an attorney in Burrus's office suggested they blog about their experiences, and a mutual acquaintance's friend at the *Houston Chronicle* got the newspaper to ask them to do a blog at *chron.com*.

"Even though we're two guys trying to have a child," Burrus said, "it's a universal experience."

Pearce added: "We have a surprising number of moms chiming in. That's been very nice."

Burrus said they've gotten positive and helpful responses from as far away as Kansas and the Bronx, probably because of their social media connections on Facebook and Twitter. Pearce said the reach is much greater than they ever expected, with many gay couples who are wanting children contacting them for advice.

"We've been so grateful for the advice we've gotten from our cyber village," he said. "We want to pay it forward."

And as for little Estelle, will she someday be Googling herself?

"We are very conscious that she will read this someday," Pearce said. "We are going to put the blogs into a book for her so she knows what we went through to get her, and how much we love her." —Nancy Ford

Follow Michael and Matt's parenting blog at <http://blog.chron.com/gaybyboom/>.

## News continued from page 14

killers, this court would have no trouble concluding that the law was unconstitutional," the appeals court judges wrote. "Refusing to provide effective treatment for a serious medical condition serves no valid penological purpose and amounts to torture."

## Lutheran Church Passes Anti-Bullying Resolution

IN ITS BIENNIAL MEETING LAST MONTH, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America passed a resolution that seeks to eliminate bullying in church, school, and society.

By a 932–23 vote, the assembly voted to "encourage new partnerships among the church-wide organization, synods, congregations, campus and outdoor ministries, Lutheran School Associations, Lutherans

Concerned/North America, Lutheran Social Services organizations, public schools, counseling centers, and other governmental organizations in order to support the prevention of bullying, harassment, and other related violence."

The assembly heard from a series of young people who have been bullied or seen the consequences of bullying. The assembly heard them speak of being attacked for physical attributes that can't be changed, of being vilified because of their sexual orientation, of not knowing what to do when friends are bullied, and of losing a friend to a violent attack.

The anti-bullying resources—a booklet of stories, theological reflections and devotions, and a curriculum for large- and small-group discussions about bullying, appropriate reactions, and prevention—are available for download from [lcna.org](http://lcna.org) under the Resources tab. ■



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## Commentary

by Col. Terrel S. Preston, USAF (Ret)

### CELEBRATE... the end of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell"

On September 20, 2011, the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell Repeal Act of 2010" goes into effect for all U.S. military active duty, National Guard, and reserve personnel. This is truly an historic moment for gays and lesbians in America, and a colossal achievement by an army of activists across the country. What we're celebrating on that Tuesday is a watershed event in the struggle for gay rights—a tribute to the American people's resolve to eliminate the only Title 10 code that actually discriminated against an entire class of citizens.

The character of DADT was the key to its undoing. The toll: more than 14,000 service members discharged for doing nothing more than being who they are. It's estimated that several times that number chose not to re-enlist due to the hostile climate generated by a draconian policy hatched by partisan politics and igno-

rance. But the real crime of DADT was the effect it had on the military's psyche. Over the policy's 17-year run, new recruits were told that, in the eyes of Congress, gays were second-class citizens and a danger to military readiness. Over time, that bigotry made less sense to the troops—half of whom are 18 to 22 years old, a demographic that now overwhelmingly supports equality. Ultimately, when the troops were surveyed last year in a desperate attempt to thwart the repeal, the vast majority favored scrapping the silly law.

DADT's repeal will finally allow gays and lesbians to openly serve their country without fear of losing their careers because of who they love. Instead of constantly looking over their shoulders and pretending to be someone they're not,

they can concentrate on their military duties and perform at an even higher level, pursue their personal lives, and share stories about loved ones with their fellow warriors.

Repeal will also have some surprising effects. In the military, unit commanders desperately want equal opportunity and a level playing field for all of their troops. Commanders, who allowed discrimination under DADT, will now be compelled to protect every service member from discrimination or mistreatment, on or off base. Commanders are

already voicing concerns about potential inequalities in housing, base access, and compensation for legally married gay spouses who, because of federal marriage laws, are not recognized as "dependents" →



Col. Terrel S. Preston

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### Commentary continued from page 19

eligible for the military benefits that straight spouses receive.

Commanders also have in their equal-opportunity arsenal the ability to make any discriminating local business or organization "off limits" to all personnel under their command. That's a designation no business wants, and I dare say town governments and chambers of commerce will go to great lengths to avoid that scarlet letter of homophobia now that the military will be respecting and protecting its gay and lesbian personnel.

It's indeed an interesting twist to see the institution that "fired more LGBT youth than any other employer," according to the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network, now become the protector and champion of equal rights and equal treatment for LGBT troops. That's worth celebrating!

*Col Terrel S. Preston is a 26-year veteran of the U.S. Air Force where he served as pilot, operations analyst, and commander of three squadrons, including a provisional unit in Saudi Arabia during Operation Desert Storm. Since retirement, he has served as a board member of Equality Texas, as a military advisor to SLDN, and as a project manager for the Human Rights Campaign in San Antonio and Houston.*



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## 'THE TOO-HOT BLUES'

—and who to blame when it gets hotter

Drop an egg on a sidewalk. These days, it won't fry. It simply disintegrates, leaving behind an ashy little stain under a mini-mushroom cloud.

It's so hot that my neighborhood's streets are buckled and ridged to the point that if you drive over them at just the right speed, the vibration causes your car's tires to play "It's Raining Men." At least it's raining something.

It's so hot that the most popular urban destination for sizzling Americans is Costco's spacious, delightfully windy fresh produce department. Or just go to your local grocery store, proceed to the frozen food section, open the door, and rest your head on a bag of frosty Brussels sprouts. The manager will understand.

It's so hot that Marcus Bachmann's botox is even waxier than normal. Or, if you prefer, it's hotter than Marcus Bachmann at a

Ricky Martin concert. One more: it's hotter than Marcus Bachmann in a latex bodysuit.

Too far? Sorry for the visual. I get the blues when I'm hot.

*I got the heat-stroking, sidewalk-smoking, too-hot blues.*

Likewise convulsing with said heat, our sickly Mother Earth has belched up an earthquake so powerful it produced enough cracks in the Washington Monument to shut it down—a feat terrorists who mean harm to America can only dream of.

*I got the world-ending, tongue-extending, too-hot blues.*

Like much of the rest of our country, Texas has set a new record for the most number of days hitting a temperature of 100 degrees or more. According to the National Climatic Data Center, 2,712 high-temperature records were either tied or broken in July, compared with 1,444 last year. That's almost double. California and Arizona tied for the hottest temperature recorded in July, hitting 120 degrees.

*I got the hurricane-forming, Atlantic-storming, too-hot blues.*

Just like our planet, the campaign trail is heating up with Republican candidates vying for their party's nod toward the White House. Like everyone else, politi-

cians love to talk about the weather. But when politicians talk about it, they give us more insight than just random chatter. They also tell us what we can expect from them, in terms of how they intend to approach the climate crisis.

Speaking in June at a town hall meeting in New Hampshire, former governor Mitt Romney had this to say about that: "I think it's important for us to reduce our emissions of pollutants and greenhouse gases that may well be significant contributors to the climate change and global warming that you're seeing."

Reasonable? Yes. Temporarily. Within 24 hours, Romney spokeswoman Andrea Saul

Redding, Washington, former Alaska governor/reality show star Sarah Palin spoke of how protections for polar bears under the Endangered Species Act could impede oil exploration. "We knew the bottom line... was ultimately to shut down a lot of our development," she said. "It didn't make any sense because it was based on these global-warming studies that now we're seeing is [sic] a bunch of snake-oil science."

*I got the polar bear-killing, irresponsible off-shore-drilling...*

During her first House reelection, in 2008, Rep. Michele Bachmann declared: "The big thing we are working on now is the global-warming hoax. It's all voodoo, nonsense, hokum, a hoax."

A year later: "Carbon dioxide is natural, it is not harmful," Rep. Bachmann said in a House floor speech. "It is part of Earth's life cycle, and yet we're being told that

we have to reduce this natural substance, reduce the American standard of living, to create an arbitrary reduction in something that is naturally occurring in Earth."

*... ocean-boiling, thong-soiling...*

Maintaining consistency, Bachmann told the New Hampshire GOP candidates' debate on June 13 that she would eradicate the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, calling it "a job-killing federal agency."

*... road-raging, coup-staging...*

On the more moderate hand, Republican presidential hopeful and former Utah governor Jon Huntsman disagrees with his colleagues. In August, he told ABC News' Jake Tapper: "When we take a position that basically runs counter to what 98 of 100 climate scientists have said... about what is causing climate change and man's contribution to it, I think we find ourselves on the wrong side of science, and, therefore, in a losing position." Just like the position Gov. Huntsman is likely to find himself in if he doesn't start toeing his party's line on the environment.

*... scalp-toasting, toe-roasting... lunch-hurling, weave-uncurling... saliva-evaporating, nudity-necessitating... too, too, too-hot blues!*

Oh, yeah. ■

**Just like our planet, the campaign trail is heating up with Republican candidates vying for their party's nod toward the White House.**

had clarified: "Gov. Romney does not think greenhouse gases are pollutants within the meaning of the Clean Air Act, and he does not believe that the EPA should be regulating them. CO2 is a naturally occurring gas. Humans emit it every time they exhale."

*Sing with me! I got the hair-splitting, dust-spitting, too-hot blues...*

Speaking of hair and spit, Texas governor Rick Perry doesn't need a staffer to clarify how he feels about mankind's contribution to global climate change:

"I think there are a substantial number of scientists who have manipulated data so that they will have dollars rolling into their projects," Gov. Perry stated on August 17 at a business roundtable in New Hampshire. "Almost weekly, or even daily, scientists are coming forward and questioning the original idea that man-made global warming is what is causing the climate to change. I don't think, from my perspective, that I want America to be engaged in spending that much money on still a scientific theory that has not been proven, and from my perspective, is more and more being put into question."

*I got the stomach-turning, oil profits-earning, too-hot blues...*

At a February logging conference in

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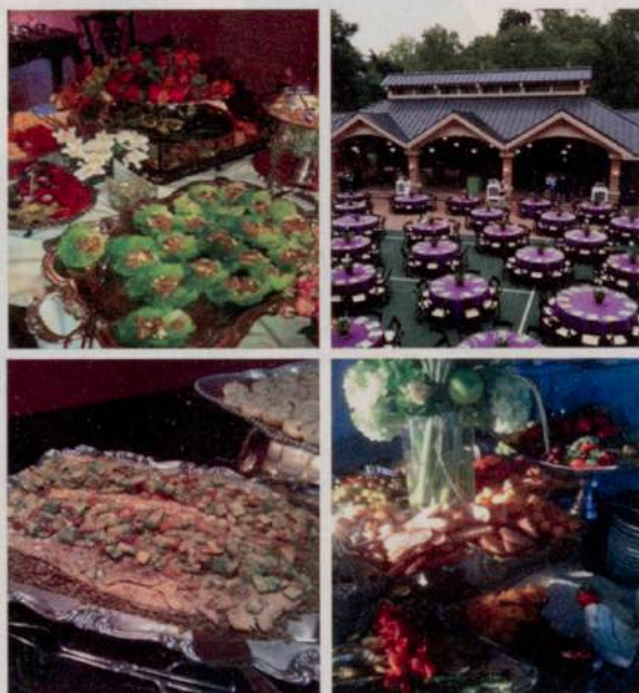




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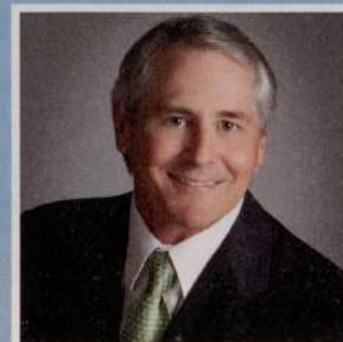


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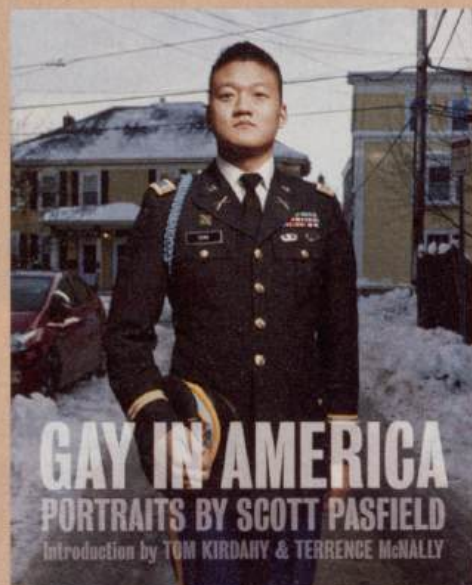
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# MOVING PICTURES

Photographer Scott Pasfield turned his lens from high-paying editorial commissions and instead focused on the U.S. of Gay. The result is a richly composed collection of images that creates a sprawling, often surprising portrait of what it looks like to be a gay man in America.



by Steven Foster  
Photography by Scott Pasfield

There are no sequined drag queens gliding along parade floats festooned with rainbow balloons. No smoke-haloed Tom of Finland leather daddies clenching half-ashed cigars in their teeth. There is not one chiaroscuro nude soccer player posing in a steamy locker room in the entire book. Nor are there any lesbians. (Sorry, ladies.) Yet it is not who the book excludes so much as who's included that makes *Gay in America*, Scott Pasfield's vivid, rich, and frequently moving coffee table tome, a particularly captivating affair.

After recruiting volunteers from each of the 50 states who were willing to offer themselves and their homes to his gently prying Pentax, Pasfield logged thousands of air and land miles to meet his subjects. Each one would be shot in their environs, not some scythe-draped studio or art-directed set that was propped within an inch of David LaChapelle's life. As a result, the portraits reveal a surprisingly diverse yet curiously common photographic pastiche of gay male America. The men in this glossily lustrous book are down-home as well as cosmopolitan. As model-handsome as they are mall-ordinary. →



"I'm an Englishman living in America with my partner. . . . My perspective on being gay in this country is tainted by my immigration issue and wanting to stay with my partner—a hot green-card carrying Spaniard. Like any straight couple, we chose to live together. But unlike any straight couple, our relationship is not validated by state or federal law. This leaves me jumping through hoops to stay with this man in this country legally. But would I choose a different way of being. Hell No! So I will continue to work to be happy and legal."

—Daniel, San Francisco, California



They are both privileged and impoverished. The parent and the childless. To the manor born and fresh off the farm. The quick and the dead. Like the flag that flies over

sional, seemingly unremarkable (yet still artfully executed) photograph into something that demands a more informed and, thusly rewarded, second glance. Likewise, this autobiographical voice transcends even the Pulitzer-worthy portraits into soul-wrenching confessions that border on agonizing,

with histories so intimate they're almost too much to bear. A picture may indeed be worth a thousand words, but the words that travel with Pasfield's photos tend to be well-chosen ones indeed.

The men are presented with deceptive simplicity, identified by first names only, and their city and state of residence. This seemingly rudimentary cataloging of subjects takes on a startling profundity: they are every man. And they are everywhere.

**STEVEN FOSTER: Who was the first person you shot for the book?**

**SCOTT PASFIELD:** It was a guy in New York, actually, who ended up not being in the book. He was a really interesting guy, but he just wound up not coming around. It became such a huge leap of faith for people to really share and divulge the honestly important things about themselves that I felt needed to be in the book.

**You placed ads to find subjects, correct?**

Correct. I went through various profiles on dating sites and contacted people that way. I also created ads

on Craigslist, personals, and gay social media networks. I came at it from many different angles. In

some places it worked well and in other places it didn't. Sometimes the ads got snagged in more conservative states.

I'm not sure if that was because I wasn't following some guidelines or

if there was some resistance to a "gay agenda."

**So you would search on dating sites? I'm not saying you went trolling on Manhunt...**

The dating sites were actually a great place to look because that was a really unifying place for men. All men are looking for a date, if they're not in a relationship. And sometimes if they're in a relationship

they're still looking for a date. [I was] looking for someone who is out, who is willing to show their face, who might be willing to talk to me.

I mean, I didn't want to look at naked pictures. It became very obvious who the right people were. Reading their profile told me a little bit of who they were as a person. Once I started doing it, I tried never to repeat a story. I was always looking for something I hadn't heard before. Someone who did something else for a living, or had a different viewpoint or outlook on life. And in profiles, people tended to show that a lot—if they were really genuine people.

**And how many did you cull that down from?**

There are 105 different shots in the book, so there's quite a few from some states. The "gay electoral college," as I like to say. Every state was represented at least once, but for certain places like California or New York, where there was a large gay scene, [I included more than one shot].

**Do you remember one of your more difficult subjects to shoot?**

There was a couple who had a son who was dying of brain cancer. That story really affected me before I went there. Emotionally, it was just so difficult to see this amazing kid who was facing death with such a resilient spirit. When I was there he was so pumped up from steroids, and really affected, that he

continued on page 30

"Love. That's what it means to be gay in America."  
—Dan,  
Cambridge, MA



"The normalcy and redundancy that so many people take for granted—we have the same worries, stresses, joys, and loves as everyone else and I can't imagine being happier."

—Josh & Joseph & Sabin, Eugene, Oregon

them, this tapestry of gay male testosterone is a field of stars, uniformly similar yet snowflake-unique in its genetic stitching—each star framed by the bold, ordered stripes of Pasfield's vision. Floating free, they would dissipate, lost in the sea of America's vastness. But when Pasfield's lens forces us to focus on each, they are glowingly, marvelously, fearfully individual. Visually, the book glows. Yet *Gay in America* is more than just a collage of pretty portraiture.

These days, every book goes for the standard celebrity Forward. *Gay in America's* comes courtesy of award-winning playwright Terrence McNally and husband Tom Kirdahy. Wisely, the book proper is written by the subjects themselves. This first-person narrative simultaneously complements and enhances Pasfield's goal and vision. Here, the subjects' own words elevate the occa-

"I have HIV, it doesn't have me."  
—Paul,  
Phoenix, AZ



"I'm sure there are many out there who have never met a pair like us: a gay couple in the Deep South—one African American, a military brat, and a computer geek hailing from a liberal western state; the other of strong British descent, a roaming scholar with dual citizenship originating from the UK..."

—Rob & Keith, Atlanta, Georgia

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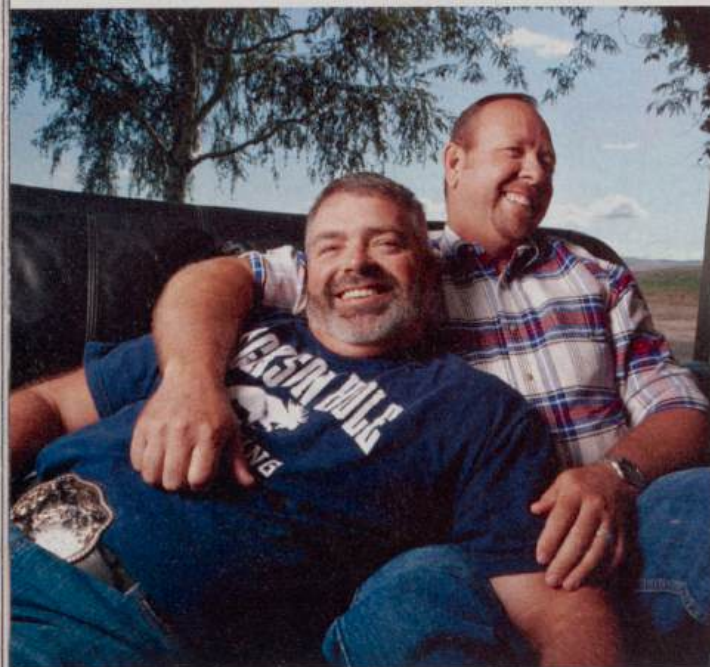
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## Moving Pictures

continued from page 28

could barely hold his head up. So I had his father and his stepfather lean their heads into his to support him. The shoots that involved death or someone dealing with illness were the ones that were the most impactful



"We are out, but we don't wear our sexuality on our shirtsleeves. We love the small-town life and are well respected in our community. We have many straight friends in town who have never known a gay person before, and have commented that we don't fit the typical stereotype. They tell us we've led them to see gay men in a different light. We love to hear that!"

—Kevin & Tracy, Pendleton, Oregon

for me. I think just four months after the shoot he passed away.

**That photograph has an almost Pietà quality to it. The way his eyes are closed, how he's being cradled. It's almost angelic in a way.** Yeah, yeah. And he had an angelic spirit for sure. I think that shot nicely reflected such a sweet moment. Thank you.

**What session surprised you the most? Or moved you in some way that you hadn't anticipated?**

[Long pause] There's a guy, Ken from Maryland, who lost his lover in a car accident. A drunk driver hit them. The emotional impact that had on him, and then meeting him in person... and how surprising he was in person... He's such a rugged farmer. He took me around the farm and he was really very shy. It was just not... not what I expected. A really great guy who taught me a lot about

love through his relationship. I walked away just shaking my head [about] the amazing stories and twists this project had taken.

**And it's strange because when you look at his portrait, and then you start reading the text, you have no idea this story is going to lead where it winds up taking you. There's a disconnect between so many of the portraits and their essays. Was that a conscious decision on your part? To have that kind of dichotomy between what they wrote and the portraits you took?**

It's interesting you say that, because the stories came to me first. The stories came to me well before the shoot, so I had that knowledge going in. But so many times I just had to make the most out of the environment I was in to make the most compelling photograph. But that doesn't take into consideration the emotional impact I was trying to get.

**A lot of these men were incredibly honest with you. I'd like to turn the meta-**

**phorical lens around and ask you what you were feeling after you left them. Can we do that?**

Sure. I think a lot of the reason I did the book was not only to educate people and share my world, but also to go on a self-healing journey. It was a personal project I did for personal reasons. And to get this wisdom from these men all around the country, to ask them questions about their lives, to get the wisdom of how to be a gay man in this country, how to be happy—and how to overcome tragedy in many cases—was

definitely moving to me. I learned a lot from these guys. And that was a big part of the reason why I did it—growing up with my father the way I did, having a disapproving, born-again dad, and taking care of him at the end of his life and the impact that had on me. I had a lot of healing to do from that.

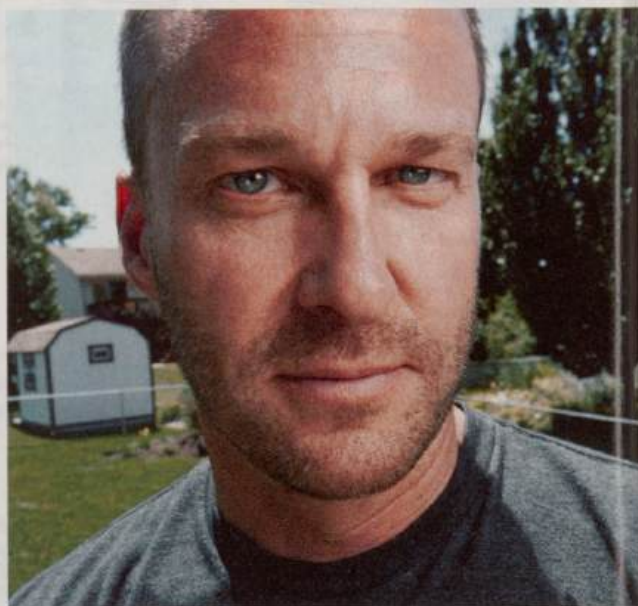
**Some photographers like Herb Ritts and Mark Se- liger are famous for their relationships with their subjects. Others tend to keep their distance. Annie Leibovitz once said that the camera was a protection. How do you approach your subjects?**

Well, I usually try to intimidate by befriending everybody. [Both laugh]

**What would you like this book to accomplish?**

I want to educate people. I want it to be a resource for kids who are troubled, who just want to know that they can be normal, that they can live wherever they want and do whatever they want. They don't have to follow a prescribed path. I selected a lot of these guys because they never thought they were gonna be in the spotlight. They're not out there marching in pride parades, they're just out there living their lives. They don't define themselves by being gay, but they're content with being gay. I think that goes under the radar so much that people don't know that. Hopefully, people will see that there are gay people and they're in their town and they should love them and respect them and treat them as equals.

continued on page 32



"... About halfway through my coming-out speech, my son, who was 10 years old at the time, came over, squeezed my shoulder, and said, 'Just a second here, you are still my dad, right?' I said, 'Yes, of course.' He then said, 'Well then, what's the big deal?' Wow! That was all I needed to hear. Love wins!"

—John, Omaha, Nebraska

"Gay pride, to me, isn't about parades and festivals. It's about who you are and what you contribute to the community in which you live."  
—Paul, Bloomfield, CN



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## Moving Pictures

continued from page 30

I'd like to ask you about some of the other subjects you've shot in the past. You've shot Colin Farrell, Famke Janssen, Joan Rivers, Lili Taylor, Maggie Gyllenhaal. Beautiful stuff. Your photograph of Dom Deluise with a cigarette in one hand and a martini in the other is hugely famous. Wasn't that one of the last pictures taken of him before his death?

Yeah. Thank you. I don't know how famous it is, but it did get a lot of obituary play. [Laughs] I did a lot of work for the Independent Film Channel, and he was a guest on a show called *Dinner for Five*.



Photographer Scott Pasfield

Oh, man, I loved that show. Jon Favreau and just four other actors, or comedians, writers, or musicians, just sitting around telling stories, sharing lessons, having dinner, drinking, and sometimes getting high. Yeah, what an amazing experience. I did portrait stills of the show, portraits beforehand, and the location shots they used in the opening credits.

Oh my God—I loved that s---. I knew those photos looked familiar. That's where the Famke Janssen shot was from.

Yeah, a lot of those you mentioned were from that show. I was, like, their staff photographer for...

what? ... 25 of those shows? They did 50 or so. The producers flew me out to L.A. quite a bit—until they went with somebody cheaper. [Laughs] But, yeah, what an amazing opportunity to meet so many legends.

### What's next for you?

More projects like this, hopefully. I'd like to do one on gay men in Europe, or stay in this country and do one on lesbians.

I'm glad you brought that up. Why didn't you include lesbians in the book?

It would have been very difficult for me. I originally thought about doing both men and women. But it became very clear to me that I couldn't infiltrate their world without being a woman. I know a lot of gay men. I don't have a lot of lesbian friends. And that's

"The first time a friend painted my face and put a wig on my head, a new personality was born. I was larger than life, 10 feet tall, and bulletproof."

—Joe  
Sioux City, Iowa

a whole other issue that is great for conversation, in terms of the division between the L, the G, the B, the T, and the Q in our own community.

Well, when you and your camera are ready to take on that conversation, we'll speak with you again.

I look forward to it.

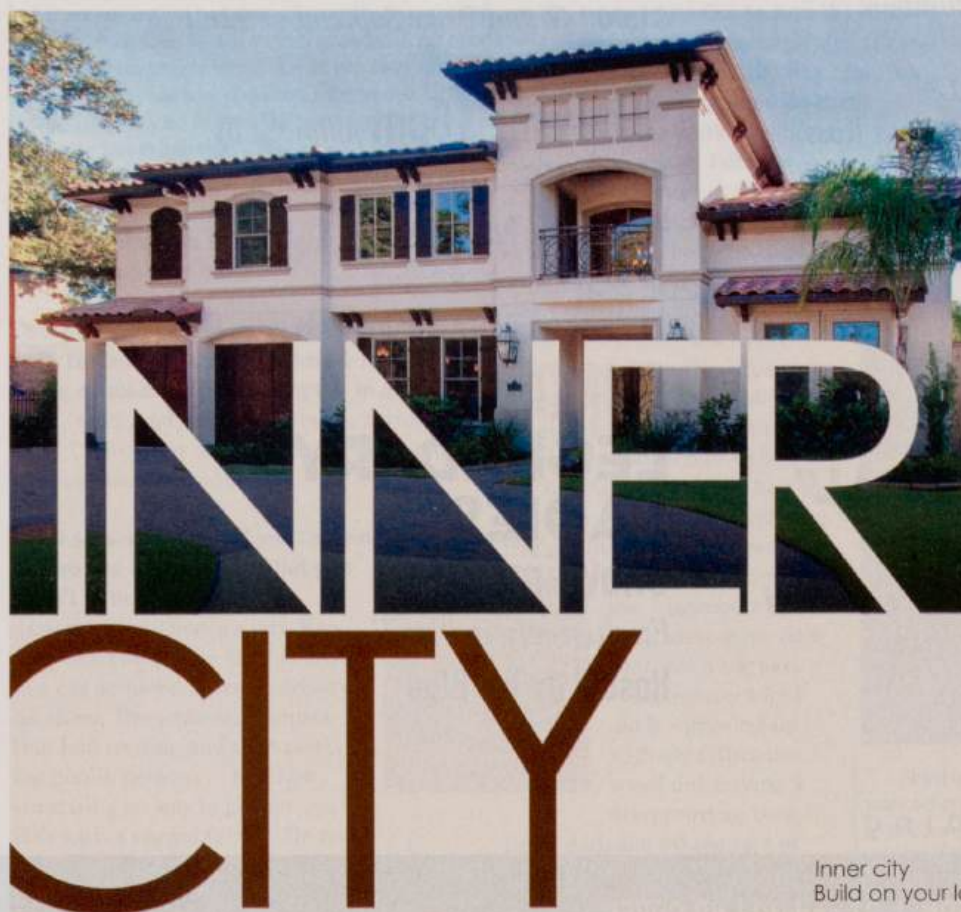
Steven Foster is a regular contributor to OutSmart magazine.

### Scott Pasfield Booksigning Events

- Monday, October 24, 3 p.m.  
Presentation and signing at Brazos Bookstore, 2421 Bissonnet Street
- Tuesday, October 25, 6 p.m.  
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# HISD Becomes LGBT-Inclusive

Jenifer Rene Pool's five-year effort pays off

by Brandon Wolf

Photos by Brandon Wolf



The moment: on August 11, 2011, the Houston Independent School District Board of Trustees voted 8-0 to add sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression to the District's Employment Non-Discrimination Policy.

Late in the afternoon of August 11, HISD Board of Trustees President Paula Harris called for a vote on agenda item B-3, the "Revisions to Board Policy, Employee Welfare: Freedom from Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation." Votes were cast and the video screen above her head showed that the board members had voted 8-0 in favor of the revisions.

For Houston's LGBT community, it was a momentous step forward. This revision means that HISD employees are now protected from employment discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression. There was no great show of emotion in the boardroom, but for those who understood what had just happened, it was an historic moment.

A casual observer might have assumed the vote would be a slam-dunk—a sign of the times, or HISD just trying to catch up with other school districts around the nation.

But in reality, the board's action was a sweet victory for a number of local activists who have been working relentlessly on this issue for the last five years.

### Tireless Activism Pays Off

Heading the HISD reform effort has been Houston transgender activist Jenifer Rene Pool. Although she officially started her efforts in 2006, her passion for LGBT civil rights dates back to her work on the successful 1997 campaign of

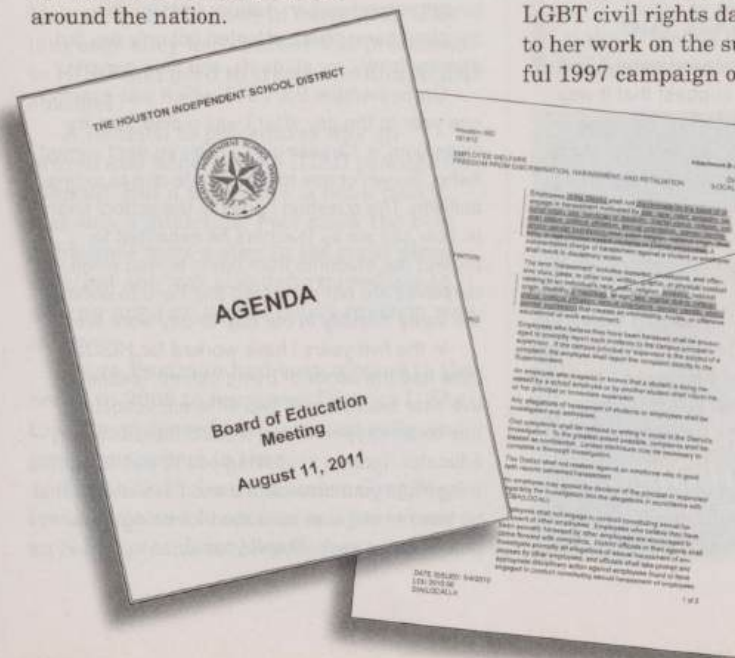
then-city councilmember Annise Parker. "Electing a lesbian public official was a big deal, and I realized I was part of it," Pool says.

Following her new passion, Pool became close to Houston transgender pioneer Phyllis Frye, long-time gay activist Ray Hill, and political whiz Grant Martin. "They were my mentors," she says.

Pool's partner at the time became the vice-president of the Houston GLBT Political Caucus, and Pool began attending meetings regularly and learning about the issues. She was

soon volunteering to screen candidates for endorsements.

By 2004, Pool had been elected to the Caucus board. In 2006, her mentors all encouraged her to run for the presidency of the organization, and she won. "I was concerned that there might be issues with me being the first transgender president of the Caucus," Pool remembers. But she proved



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Employees who believe they have been harassed shall be encouraged to promptly report such incidents to the campus principal or supervisor. If the campus principal or supervisor is the harasser, the employee shall report the complaint to the district principal or supervisor.



## HISD Becomes LGBT-Inclusive

continued from previous page

to be a popular president and served three terms, through 2008.

### Opening Dialogue with HISD

In 2007, Pool was contacted by HISD. "They wanted us to support an \$805 million bond issue," she says. "I felt that since LGBTs have children, this was a valid issue to consider. The bonds would be used to renovate school campuses."

Pool insisted that HISD Superintendent Abelardo Saavedra screen personally with the Caucus. Endorsement of the bond issue was approved, and the

Caucus became the first organization to support the issue.

"We feel that the Caucus endorsement helped swing the final vote," says Pool.

With the Caucus endorsement of the bond issue, there was an expectation that Saavedra would work to revise the Student Code of Conduct and the HISD Employment



Two women: board member Anna Eastman (center) worked hard to get the policy revisions before the HISD Board, and keep it there. She was later joined by newly elected board member Juliet Stipeche (r), who also kept the pressure up to pass the revisions.



Jenifer Rene Pool (standing, and inset) addresses the board on August 11, 2011, just minutes before she witnessed the historic board vote that she had persistently lobbied for over the past five years.

Non-Discrimination Policy. Pool began working with the HISD administration to draft the language of the revisions to include sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression.

Despite repeated meetings with HISD, no progress was made. Pool decided not to run for the Caucus presidency in 2009, but in her parting address to the members, she promised to continue working on the HISD policy revisions.

Saavedra announced he was leaving HISD in September 2009, and any leverage that the Caucus had gained from supporting his bond issue seemed lost. But Pool refused to give up, and kept the dialogue open even when no change appeared to be occurring.

## HISD Harassment

A teacher's firsthand experience

On June 23, 2011, HISD teacher David Embry delivered this speech to the HISD Board of Trustees:

My name is David Embry. I am a kindergarten teacher at T. H. Rogers and I have a story to tell. When I first interviewed for my current position, I had to deliver a model lesson to students, their parents, faculty, and staff. Later, a coworker informed me that after I exited the interview, the parents said, "We want him to be our child's kindergarten teacher." An administrator then proceeded to ask the parents, "Does it bother any of you that he's gay?" This assumption was made into an issue before they had even hired me.

A call was sent home before the first day of school outing me. The call informed parents that I was a "young man" and that I was a "homosexual" and asked them if they were "okay with that." I learned as a result of this message several parents pulled their children out of my class.

The first week of school, my principal went around telling several of my coworkers that I

was gay. The school seemed to take on a mob mentality, and I endured several degrading comments from staff members, such as "Lady," and "Ms. Embry."

During the second week of school, allegations were made that some students in my class were behaving "inappropriately" and the administration tried to suggest that it was because of my sexual orientation. The third week of school (September 23, 2009), I was pulled from my classroom and investigated. I had to report to the West Regional Office every day for three weeks, where I sat in a small space referred to as "The Rubber Room." They interviewed all 23 of the five-year-old students in my class, exposing them to leading, perverted, and inappropriate questions. They tried to portray me as a threat—a monster. I had to start seeing a therapist and was diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder. This was the darkest period of my life.

After being proven innocent, I returned to the school where the students and their parents greeted me with open arms and a sign that read,

"Welcome Back Mr. Embry!" However, I continued to experience harassment. In November, my principal sent home a survey asking every parent what gender they preferred for their child's kindergarten teacher: male or female? This constant harassment affected not only me, but also my family, my students, and their parents.

On September 23, 2010, which was exactly one year to the day after I was pulled from my classroom, a 13-year-old Cy-Fair student named Asher Brown chose to end his life due to antigay bullying. The question I pose to the school board is: how can we as teachers be expected to protect our students from being bullied when we ourselves are not protected and have to endure the same hostility in our day-to-day work lives?

In the five years I have worked for HISD, I have had the honor of being named Teacher of the Year twice, and at two different schools. If this could happen to me, it could happen to any educator. Today, I am asking you to do the right thing. Vote your conscience and pass B-3 so that no teacher will ever be bullied for being gay or perceived as such. Thank you!

Terry Grier became the new HISD Superintendent in November 2009. Grier came from the Guilford County Schools in Greensboro, North Carolina, which he had headed for almost eight years. During that time, he helped to make that district's policies inclusive by adding protections for sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression.

Pool continued to schedule meetings with the HISD administration even as HISD's legal counsel was telling her that LGBTs were already protected under the word "sex."

Pool knew this was not specific enough. In 2005, she had joined KPFT's *Queer Voices* show and had interviewed LGBTs who had been hassled or terminated by HISD. The most common way to get rid of teachers was to not renew their contracts.

At this point, Pool talked with Frye about the problems with HISD. Frye suggested that she do research and provide specifics to the administration, so Pool collected 200 pages of material regarding the nondiscrimination policies of other school districts across the nation. The HISD administration still refused to consider revisions for the Houston district.

Undaunted, Pool then began collecting material documenting school districts that had been successfully sued for discriminating against LGBTs. "The material showed that districts had lost over \$32 million from lawsuits," she says.

Finally, the HISD administration began to take the subject seriously, fearing possible lawsuits. They started to work with Pool, drafting language for procedures to follow if an LGBT student or employee filed a complaint of discrimination.

By that point in time, Josephine Titsworth and Christopher Busby had successfully worked to change policies at the University of Houston in early 2010. The language they had drafted was presented to HISD and used to create the final HISD changes.

A revision to procedures was approved and added to the HISD procedures manual. But a procedure is not a policy; it is only a guideline. Pool knew the new guidelines were a step in the right direction, but she was also determined not to give up until an actual policy revision was made.

Anna Eastman had been elected to the board in 2009 to represent District I. She took the proposed revisions seriously and gave her support to them.

But in 2010, board member Greg Meyers was elected to serve a one-year term as board president. Meyers represents →

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## HISD Becomes LGBT-Inclusive

continued from previous page

District VI, which includes the highly conservative Memorial area. As board president, he refused to bring the revisions to the table.

In late 2010, Juliet Stipeche was endorsed by the Caucus for Board Position VIII. With the support of the Caucus, she won the race by 44 votes.

Just two months before her victory in September 2010, nine gay students across the nation had committed suicide as a result of bullying. One of those students was 13-year-old Asher Brown in Houston's Cypress-Fairbanks district.

"The HISD board passed a resolution indicating their concern about the situation, but did not specifically mention LGBTs," says Pool. In fact, HISD administrators told Pool that the district didn't have a problem with LGBT students being bullied.

Pool gave them a copy of the results of a project undertaken by the students in Rice University's LGBT Studies class. Under the guidance of instructor Dr. Brian Riedel, the students had conducted a survey of LGBT bullying in HISD. The survey revealed that the HISD adminis-

tration was seriously uninformed about the realities of bullying in Houston schools. "The elephant was in the room," says Pool.

### It All Comes Together

"In 2011, we had 'the perfect storm,'" Pool explains. "Paula Harris had been elected as the new board president and indicated she would bring the revisions to the table; Anna Eastman was now joined by Juliet Stipeche in pushing for the revisions, and the recent gay teen suicides kept the issue alive in the media."

"The issue was brought to the board," says Pool, "and everyone worked every connection they had."

On June 23, 2011, the first reading of the revisions was made by the board. During the time allotted for public comments, three people spoke in support of the issue—transgender activist Cristian Williams; Zeph Capo, an executive board member for the Houston Federation of Teachers; and David Embry, an HISD teacher who had been the subject of repeated harassment because of his sexual orientation [see sidebar]. The board passed the motion 7-0.

The revisions required a second reading, which was made on August 11, 2011.

Busby addressed the board during the open microphone period and was followed by Pool. The board passed the motion 8-0, and history was made.

After the successful passage of the revisions, Pool reflected on the victory: "Don't quit—keep on pecking away—and stay consistently in front of them."

By speaking from the heart during her lobbying campaign, Pool forced the dialogue to continue year after year. "I even got up early in the morning to be in parking lots and catch people as they were walking in to work, pressing for those revisions."

Pool is currently making plans with Christopher Busby and other local activists to begin lobbying smaller school districts in Harris County and the surrounding areas. Because HISD is the seventh-largest school district in the nation, Pool is convinced that the HISD victory will play a key role in bringing change to surrounding districts.

Read the expanded version online at [OutSmartMagazine.com](http://OutSmartMagazine.com), including a letter to the HISD school board from teacher Juan Alvarado.

Brandon Wolf is a frequent contributor to OutSmart magazine.

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## A Fresh Face . . .

for a 91-year-old organization

by Karen Derr • Photo by Yvonne Feece

**A**t 31 years old, Christina Gorczynski has been involved in political campaigns since she was a child, when her father served as the first Houston District H city councilmember. In 2009, as a board member of the Houston GLBT Caucus, she worked on that organization's efforts to select candidates for endorsement—including Mayor Annise Parker—and organize field work to get them elected.

That history-making year in LGBT politics concluded with Gorczynski accepting the position of executive director with the League of Women Voters of the Houston Area in December of 2009. No longer wrapped up in the adrenaline-charged world of political races, Gorczynski speaks passionately about issues in which the League of Women Voters takes a stand. The local organization is currently taking a stand against human trafficking, she explains. "Nationally, the League took a position on marriage equality in 2010," says Gorczynski, "that moved me to tears. They voted unanimously to support marriage equality."

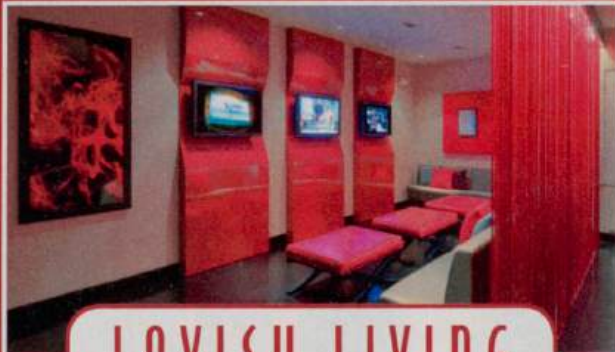
Despite its name, the Houston League of Women Voters membership does include men and most of its members are well over 50 years old, some having been members of the League for 50 years. Gorczynski feels her age and the young members she has attracted are a great fit with the extensive knowledge and experience of the League's more mature board. Gorczynski says she's learned a lot working with the League's eldest members, whom she believes are sometimes passed by and treated like "little old ladies." She describes them as "just brilliant," knowing more about the political process than anyone she knows—lavish praise, perhaps, but well-deserved, she says.

"The League wants their work to go on," Gorczynski says, "and there is a sense of urgency"—one of the reasons that her personal pet project is youth engagement. As a young lesbian directing a 91-year-old organization, Gorczynski often speaks about bridging →



Generation next: League of Women Voters executive director Christina Gorczynski brings new blood and energy to an organization that has provided nonpartisan electoral information for more than nine decades.





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### A Fresh Face continued from page 41

generation gaps. She encourages senior women to think twice before they ask a younger woman if she's married or when she plans to have children. "For a huge segment of our community, marriage is illegal, as it is for me," points out Gorczynski. She encourages women of all ages to celebrate life accomplishments such as college degrees, job promotions, and home purchases, just as they do births and marriages.

Christina Gorczynski has many accomplishments to celebrate. She completed her law degree and MBA at the University of Houston in 2009. In 2010 she passed the state bar. She's currently training for a triathlon and loves to travel, whether with friends or alone. Gorczynski says she was lucky to have lesbian role models in public office, such as Sue Lovell and Annise Parker, giving her the courage to achieve in her own life. Her father had encouraged her to meet then-councilmember Annise Parker because of their common interest in women's studies, the field in which Gorczynski received her undergraduate degree.

She admits, "I thought for years

### The League of Women Voters

was born in 1920 out of the women's suffrage movement. They neither supported nor opposed political candidates. Through the years, the League has continued its nonpartisan role, earning a reputation for being a fair and unbiased voter resource for 91 years. Before the era of television debates, communities depended on League-sponsored public debates, where candidates announced and defended their stands on issues of the day. Originally concerned with educating new women voters, today the League continues its new-voter focus with its programs for educating 18-year-olds and new citizens. Voter registration is also one of their continuing efforts. While being nonpartisan with regard to candidates, the League has long taken stands on environmental issues and issues of social justice, such as the 18-year-old vote of the Vietnam era and their recent stand in favor of same-sex marriage. Further information regarding the League and its activities is available on its website, lwv.org. The League's 2011 *Voters Key: Guide to Voting Information and Elected Officials Representing Houston and Harris County* is also available on the website and can be downloaded as a pdf file. —K.D.

that coming out would affect my father's political career." Her father, Judge Dale Gorczynski, is probably best known these days for his work preventing and dealing with animal cruelty in Houston and often appears on episodes of *Houston Animal Cops*. "I feared it was something that people could attack about my family. I feared it would limit my ability to serve, too," Gorczynski says that when she came out to her mother on Valentine's Day in 2003, her mother asked her if she had a valentine. "Yes," she replied. "Her name is Ann." Next she called her father. "Daddy," she began, "I think Annise and I have more in common than you know."

Christina Gorczynski now lives in the Heights, where she grew up, and works just blocks away from where she went to elementary school. "I love living in the Heights," she says. "I feel very rooted here. I've grown in 31 years and the city has grown, too. I'm proud to tell people I'm from Houston."

Karen Derr, a Houston-area Realtor for over 20 years, writes and speaks about home and small-business topics.

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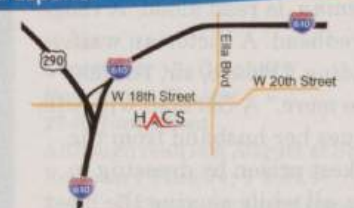
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## Get up and get out!

by D. L. Groover

Photo by Joan Marcus

**A** leprechaun named Og. A guy who turns into a doll. Ice skating dancers. The heady whiff of ether. Rolling cigars while Tolstoy's tale of marital infidelity, *Anna Karenina*, is read aloud. A vengeful redhead. A Victorian waif pleading, "Please, sir, I'd like some more." A German wife who rescues her husband from the dankest prison by dressing in drag, all while singing the most difficult of soprano arias. Movie mogul David O. Selznick popping peanuts and pills trying to finish the most popular motion picture ever made. A teenage king wrapped in solid gold. These are just a few of the artful gems to be savored in the Bayou City this fall. Go out and enjoy them.

### Goodbye Charlie

September 2-24

Theater Southwest, 8944-A Clarkcrest St.

In a grand gesture of heavenly revenge, when womanizer Charlie gets killed by a jealous husband, he's reincarnated as a woman. In George Axelrod's 1959 sex farce, Charlie learns a few valuable life lessons: how to dress and talk correctly, how to confront an old mistress, and how to evade some queasy new feelings for his oldest male friend. From the author of *The Seven Year Itch* and, later, *The Manchurian Candidate*.

### Ode to Joy

September 8, 9

Houston Symphony

Jones Hall, 615 Louisiana St.

Ludwig van Beethoven's *Ninth Symphony*, perhaps the epitome of orchestral music, was rhapsodically embraced at its premiere in 1824. Musician Carl Czerny was in the audience and wrote about it glowingly: "The Scherzo (incontestably the greatest thing of its kind in existence) so overwhelmed the entire house that it broke in with thunderous, spontaneous applause, which was repeated at the heavenly Adagio and would have reached its peak even if the Finale had merely consisted of an instrumental piece [without an added choir] ...

the large orchestra covered itself with glory and sweat." Maestro Hans Graf, you have your work cut out for you.

### Finian's Rainbow

September 8-11

Bayou City Concert Musicals

Heinen Theatre, 3517 Austin St.

Who'd ever have thought that a musical about leprechauns, a buried pot of gold, and a bigoted southern senator turning black would be such a hit—and a classic, to boot? Well, if it's composed by Burton Lane (discoverer of Judy Garland, and, later, composer of *On a Clear Day*) with lyrics by the incomparable E.Y. Harburg, and book by Harburg and Fred Saidy, you get a hit.

It's the sunniest of musicals even with its racist context, filled with delightful songs like "How Are Things in Glocca Morra," "When I'm Not Near the Girl I Love," and "Old Devil Moon," and many more. This rare work should be a real treat, thanks to BCCM's artistic director Paul Hope who brings his considerable skill and love of all things Broadway to the production.

### Return of the Masters

September 8-18

Houston Ballet

Wortham Theater Center, 501 Texas Ave.

The three pieces that comprise Houston Ballet's fall mixed rep have the finest pedigree and are full of wonder. First is the comic ice skat-

ing knockoff *Les Patineurs* by English master Sir Frederick Ashton; then there's Jerome Robbins's romantic, starry night dance *In the Night*, with its three heartsick couples; finally, Sir Kenneth MacMillan's sumptuously evocative *Song of the Earth*, set to Mahler's wondrous song cycle. One could dance the night away.

### Ether Dome

September 14-October 9

Alley Theatre, 615 Texas Ave.

From mesmerizingly opaque and theatric (*The Swan*) to the baroque and melodramatic (*The Reagans*), attention must be paid to playwright Elizabeth Egloff. This is a world premiere, and a coup for the Alley, about that "extraordinary

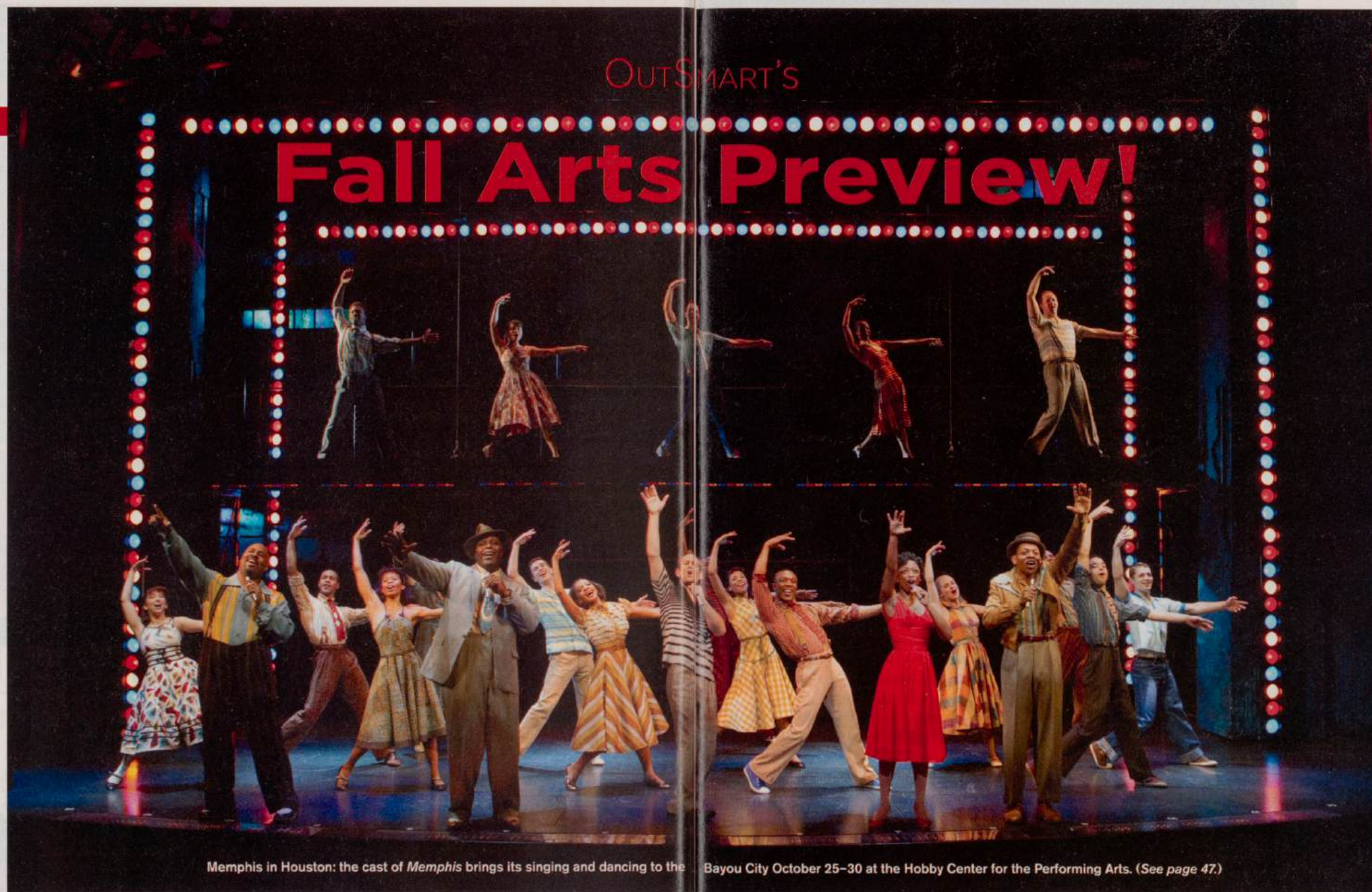
### Brahms' Violin Concerto

September 16, 17, 18

Houston Symphony

Jones Hall, 615 Louisiana St.

One of music's Killer B's, Dr. Brahms' magnificent concerto for violin (1878) was written for his best friend at the time, Joseph Joachim, Europe's preeminent virtuoso violinist. Later, they had a parting of the ways when Brahms took Joachim's wife's side in their divorce settlement. Brahms always had a thing for younger women, but during the writing of the concerto, Brahms insisted on his friend's input. "What excuses me a little is that the concerto bears your name, and that therefore you are somewhat responsible for the violin writing." →



Memphis in Houston: the cast of *Memphis* brings its singing and dancing to the Bayou City October 25-30 at the Hobby Center for the Performing Arts. (See page 47.)



## OUTSMART's Fall Arts Preview

continued from previous page

### Pacino: One Night Only

September 19

Society for the Performing Arts  
Jones Hall, 615 Louisiana St.

Intense. Dramatic. Over-the-top. Heat. Passion. Academy Award. The ultimate New Yorker. Brando's successor. All that and more, when the gifted Mr. Pacino (*The Godfather*, *Serpico*, *Dog Day Afternoon*, *Scent of a Woman*) makes a one-night-only stand to chew the fat.

### Daughter of the Regiment

September 22–October 2

Opera in the Heights, 1703 Heights Blvd.

Gaetano Donizetti's sparkling comedy (1840) is one of those gender-bender stories that Romantic theater was so fond of. Marie is a tomboy, hanging about with her soldiers and sighing for Tonio. It's the singing that's so superb, not the illusory story, and if the tenor can get through the nine high Cs in his showstopper "Pour mon âme," all will be well.

### Gyps and Dolls

September 27–October 9

Theatre Under the Stars  
Hobby Center, 800 Bagby St.

Frank Loesser's classic 1950 musical, adapted from the rough-and-ready Manhattan tales of Damon Runyon about tinnier gamblers and 42nd Street Salvation Army reformers, is one of the great ones, rich with atmosphere and plenty of laughs. It never stops. Loesser made his name as a composer of film musicals, mostly at Paramount with Betty Hutton, but when he tried his hand at Broadway, he was equally at home and no less successful (*How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*, *Where's Charley?*).

### Lotto

September 29–October 23

Ensemble Theatre, 3535 Main St.

Cliff and Bryan Roquemore's family comedy revolves around that wonderful dream we all aspire to: winning the big one. Naturally, it's not all that easy to put \$10 million in your pocket when relatives, friends, and complete strangers toady up to you and tell you you're the best, most handsome, most generous man in the world.

### Galveston! The Musical

September 30–October 9

Masquerade Theatre

Hobby Center, 800 Bagby St.

Mark York's musical about the Prohibition years on Galveston Island, written with André Newport and Robert Wilkins, receives a re-thought-out production by our own pre-eminent musical company. The Sicilian brother duo, Rosario and Sam Maceo, started bootlegging on Galveston and gradually turned their "wine importing" into the underground empire of prostitution and gambling, establishing the Hollywood Dinner Club and, later,



Family feud: James DeMarse (l-r), Hallie Foote (playwright Horton Foote's daughter), Maggie Lacey, and Devon Abner starred in the playwright's *Dividing the Estate*, which was nominated for a 2009 Tony Award for Best Play. Former Alley Theatre associate director Michael Wilson (inset) directs again, and Foote reprises her role in Houston. (See below for more on *Dividing the Estate*.) The openly gay director also helms *Ether Dome* (see previous page).



the Balinese Room as *ne plus ultra* in night-club chic. When the heat was finally applied, they sold out to the Fertittas (their families had already intermarried),

hightailed it to Las Vegas, and built the Desert Inn. Rosario was nicknamed Papa Rose. There's already a Mama Rose cemented in Broadway history, so let's see if there's room for a Papa.

### The Blond, The Brunette, and the Vengeful Redhead

October 5–30

Stages Repertory Theatre

3201 Allen Parkway

Rhonda (the redhead) is a complacent housewife with a son and loving husband. Suddenly, husband Graham informs her that he's moving out. Next-door neighbor, trashy Lynette (the brunette) knows all about it, too. Therapist Dr. Doucette becomes involved, as does another neighbor, while Tanya, Graham's mistress (the blond), finds herself on the receiving end of Rhonda's gun. Seven characters, eight monologues, and one actress delineate Robert Hewitt's monodrama of a woman's controlled world spinning out of control. Houston's theatrical treasure Susan O. Koozin licks her chops and dives in.

### Wait Until Dark

October 6–30

Texas Repertory Theatre

14243 Stuebner Airline Road

Who can forget frail and blind Audrey Hepburn battling those mean old thugs in her swanky NY apartment, as they trick her mercilessly and make for the heroin in the doll. Hah, she's too smart for that! She's got a final trick up her Givency sleeve. She's blind, so she'll make them blind, too, by turning out all the lights. Frederick Knott's hit suspense (1966) was preceded by *Dial M for Murder* (1952), in which another lonely woman is menaced by an intruder. *Murder* was filmed in 3D two years later by Alfred Hitchcock.

### Dividing the Estate

October 12–30

Alley Theatre, 615 Texas Ave.

Horton Foote's delicate realism evokes porch swings, church fans printed with undertaker names on the back, starched linen trousers, sundresses, and iced tea—lots of iced tea. His work has won prizes: Pulitzer, Oscars, and a Medal of Freedom. What sets him apart from the other talented writers is his overweening humanity. He loves all his characters, even the scoundrels and wastrels, and his Chekhovian plays have an old-fashioned, rugged quality that suits his gentle folks who teeter on the brink of modern chaos.

### Tutankhamun: The Golden King and the Great Pharaohs

October 16–April 15, 2012

Museum of Fine Arts, Houston

1001 Bissonnet St.

He's back! Perhaps the most famous guy in the world, thanks to the uniqueness of the discovery of his intact tomb, King Tut (circa 1350 B.C.) certainly possesses the highest Q factor of any ancient person, and is the most stunningly bejeweled teenager ever. We can't get enough of him, with or without that curse that follows him around like a bad smell. He was 18 when he died, and though his tomb had been broken into soon after the burial, the thieves were caught or escaped and everything was put back in hasty order—resealed until 1922 when Howard Carter, the great Egyptologist, guessed that the one tomb still undiscovered in the Valley of the Kings lay underneath the rubble of another pharaoh. The rest is history—and the greatest discovery in archeology.

### The Barber of Seville

October 21–November 6

Houston Grand Opera

Wortham Theater Center, 501 Texas Ave.

Nearly 200 years old, Gioachino Rossini's scintillating bauble of an opera hasn't lost any of its sparkle. It's the mother of all *opera buffa* stories. Rossini constantly recycled his own music, but it's still amazing that he dashed off this masterpiece in record time—apparently in under three weeks. Pretty good for an opera that's never gone out of style. Even for those who couldn't care a fig about opera, this is the one to see. You'll be thoroughly enchanted and amused as Barber Figaro helps his former master Count Almaviva win the heart of beautiful Rosina. It's the best of fairy tales.

### Oliver Twist

October 21–November 12

Theater Southwest, 8944-A Clarkcrest St.

A new adaptation by Neil Bartlett puts a "music hall" spin on Dickens's chillingly melodramatic tale of orphan Oliver sliding into Victorian London's underworld—a production far from the famous musical's Broadway gloss. In the original London production (2004), designed like a "penny dreadful" theater of the macabre, a cast of 13 played over 50 parts, making this an epic, while master criminal Fagin was, as more than hinted at in the novel, a little too close to "his boys." Bartlett comments on Dickens while he reimagines him. It's a bold theatrical take, and we look forward to this production being one of the most memorable this season.

### Memphis

October 25–30

Gexa Energy Broadway

Hobby Center, 800 Bagby St.

The 2010 Tony Award-winner for Best Musical is an exuberant ode to rhythm and blues, something like a more serious and modest *Hairspray* with whites appropriating the black sound but without the gay antics of Edna Turnblad. It samples the lives of legendary →

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## OUTSMART's Fall Arts Preview

continued from previous page

manic Memphis DJ, Dewey Phillips, and Cleveland's father of rock and roll, Moondog Alan Freed, that's part *Dreamgirls* and a little bit *Porgy and Bess*, too. Whatever the mixture, it's ultimately pure Broadway with a great deal of fun and energy.

### Huey Lewis and The News

October 27

Society for the Performing Arts  
Jones Hall, 615 Louisiana St.

Truth to tell, I didn't know they were still around. But that '80s sexy icon with the gravelly voice has just recorded a new tribute album, *Soulsville*, with his group The News, and they want a little promotion. Is that so wrong? Come hear standards "Heart and Soul" and "Power of Love," as well as classic soul from those way-back years of 1965 and 1974. Remember those years?

### Fidelio

October 28–November 13

Houston Grand Opera

Wortham Theater Center, 501 Texas Ave.

When Beethoven's mighty opera about freedom and matrimonial bliss premiered in Vienna in 1805, the audience consisted mostly of unruly French troops who had just invaded the city—and lots of harlots who were there to service them. Beethoven considered the whole affair a disaster and constantly tinkered with the work until he was happiest with a version from 1814. He told his librettist Georg Treitschke, "I assure you that this opera will win me a martyr's crown. You have, by your cooperation, saved what is best from the shipwreck." This shipwreck is now considered one of man's greatest glories.

### Speed-the-Plow

November 4–November 19

Country Playhouse, 12802 Queensbury Ln.

David Mamet's 1988 dissection of Hollywood's ice-cold contempt for artistry over money thrives on words. They're used as shields to protect or hurl against enemies, to guard against getting too close to anybody. It's the art of the deal for Bobbie and Charlie, and the big one is just at their doorstep. If only secretary Karen hadn't entered the room.

### The Winter Wonderettes

November 9–December 24

Stages Repertory Theatre

3201 Allen Parkway

These gals never go away. They've been such a smash that Stages might as well build another stage just for their continuing shows. Here's the holiday version using the girl group, those Marvelous Wonderettes, crafted by Roger Bean, king of jukebox musicals. Wait for the 4th of July show!



A doo-wop Christmas: Stages Repertory Theatre seized on a good thing with the nostalgic musical, *The Winter Wonderettes*. The show gets even jollier with a holiday makeover, scheduled November 9–December 24. (See bottom of this page.)

### Così fan Tutti

November 10–20

Opera in the Heights, 1703 Heights Blvd.

Perhaps Mozart's most comic opera, this gem from 1790, ever fresh from the rapier pen of master librettist Lorenzo da Ponte, details the fickleness of women. Off to war, Ferrando and Guglielmo wager Don Alfonso that their sweethearts will be faithful. The women swear their fidelity, but almost as soon as the men depart (and secretly come back disguised as "Albanians"), the two sisters fall into the arms of the complete strangers. This opera, which was practically forgotten after its premiere, is now one of Mozart's crown jewels.

### Lion in Winter

November 11–December 17

Company Onstage, 536 Westbury Square

"Don't interrupt, dear, mother's fighting." This lovely bit of anachronistic dialogue from Eleanor of Aquitaine sets the mood for James Goldman's biting and witty up-close-and-personal look at English royals from the 12th century (yes, nothing ever changes). It's all a grand chess match as the aging Henry II battles his dysfunctional family for control of his throne. Wickedly good fun.

### It's a Wonderful Life

November 17–December 30

Texas Repertory Theatre

14243 Steubner Airline Rd.

Frank Capra's seemingly immortal 1946 fantasy movie became a mainstay of popular holiday entertainment only when its original copyright ran out in the '60s and it was broadcast nonstop on TV. Even overexposed, it's a lovely movie, and the theatrical adaptation

has just enough wistfulness and real feeling not to cloy. Any plot involving angels getting their wings has to tread carefully.

### Cinderella

November 17–December 30

Ensemble Theatre, 3535 Main St.

The African-American Shakespeare Company's musical adaptation of the classic fairy tale returns for another holiday run. Carlton Leake wrote the jazzy tunes and lyrics, while wizard director/choreographer Patdro Harris spins the stage into gold—oh, wait, that's another story.

### Fruitcakes! A Very Special Holiday Special

November 18–January 15

Music Box Theater, 2623 Colquitt St.

Houston's very own, and first, cabaret troupe—all veterans from Masquerade Theatre—regales us with its holiday show. It's an original evening of song and comedy, and if it's anything like their last show, *Damaged Divas* (which is still playing until November 13), then this one should be most entertaining. Rebekah Dahl, Brad Scarborough, Cay Taylor, Luke Wrobel, and Colton Berry are the ultra-talented quintet.

### My Fair Lady

November 18–27

Masquerade Theatre

Hobby Center, 800 Bagby St.

Could this 1956 Alan J. Lerner (book and lyrics) and Frederick Loewe (music) adaptation of G.B. Shaw's *Pygmalion* be the best musical ever? Let's see: it's got class, charm, wit, personality, delicious Edwardian period flavor, two indelible lead roles, a host of vivid characters, social satire, and those hats! Masquerade should do just fine with this one.

### A Christmas Carol

November 19–December 27

Alley Theatre, 615 Texas Ave.

Alley's cash cow has enough Dickens flavor to set just the correct mood for the holiday season, if you can put those curtain-opener dancing Halloween wraiths out of your mind. But ultimately, triumphantly, Dickens's heartfelt story sings through loud and clear as three wondrous Christmas ghosts bedevil Scrooge and lead him—and us—into a better life.

### The Nutcracker

November 25–December 27

Houston Ballet

Wortham Theater Center, 501 Texas Ave.

Another cash cow, and another glorious one, too. Ben Stevenson's Victorian adaptation of Petipa and Tchaikovsky's grand ballet classic is a wondrous tribute to stage magic and the magic of dance. Living rooms explode, snowflakes race over the hills, giant rats battle nutcracker soldiers, a candied sugarplum finds romance in the arms of her cavalier prince. Who doesn't like Christmas?

### Santaland Diaries

December 2–31

Alley Theatre, 615 Texas Ave.

I'll tell you who doesn't like Christmas: Crumpet the Elf, that's who—and he'll be the first one to whine about it. Storyteller deluxe David Sedaris once had a job at Macy's being an elf in the toy department during the holidays. His experiences were so horrendous that he turned them into the funniest play of the season. There's nothing like a gay man in striped leggings and curled Aladdin shoes, battling little screaming tots and their big screaming mothers, to make one forget Christmas charity.

### White Christmas

December 6–18

Theatre Under the Stars

Hobby Center, 800 Bagby St.

Something was missing when this lumpy adaptation of the 1954 VistaVision movie first came to town—oh, yeah, Bing Crosby, Danny Kaye, Rosemary Clooney, and Vera-Ellen. The show's been reworked a little to iron out the rough spots, and there's always plenty of feeling even when Irving Berlin dusts off some second-rate tunes, the exception being the hottest hit tune of all: "White Christmas." When this opens, Houston's temperature may still be 101 degrees, so the final scene should drive us batty.

### The Irish Tenors

December 7

Society for the Performing Arts

Jones Hall, 615 Louisiana St.

Even standing outside in Jones Plaza, you'll be able to hear these three. This is their touring holiday show, and singers Anthony Kearns, Finbar Wright, and Ronan Tynan, accompanied by full orchestra, will radiate enough Irish charm to make us believe in leprechauns. →

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### Forbidden Broadway

December 13-17  
Masquerade Theatre  
Ovations, 2536 Times Blvd.

All Broadway queens will salivate with this revue from the sharpest queen in the room: Gerald Alessandrini, who won a special 2006 Tony Award for his biting satires. All the showbiz greats, near-greats, and has-beens get skewered—lovingly, of course—in this musical parody to end all musical parodies. In the more intimate setting of Ovations nightclub, the pros at Masquerade will get appropriately bitchy and catty. This is catnip for them, and for us.

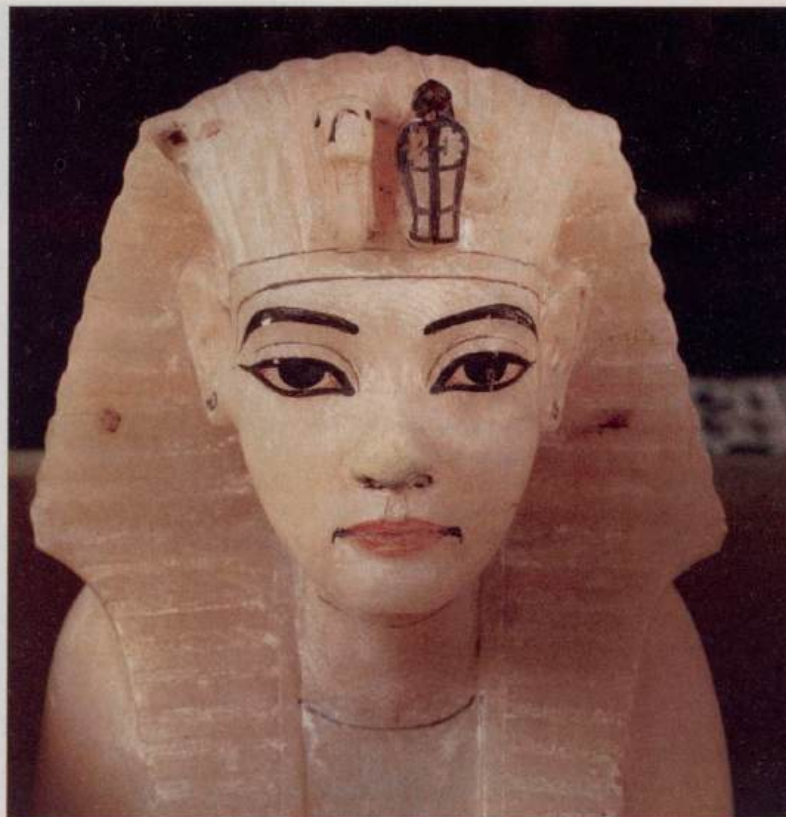
### Moonlight and Magnolias

December 31-January 21  
Theater Southwest, 8944 Clarkcrest St.

What better way to end the year and begin anew than with the backstage story of the making of *Gone with the Wind*. Filming has begun, but legendary producer, busybody, all-round pest, and pill-popper David O. Selznick doesn't have a complete script for his epic of the Ol' South. He locks himself, along with newly hired screenwriter Ben Hecht and director Victor Fleming, in his office for the weekend and won't let anyone leave until they hammer out a movie. They can have all the peanuts and bananas (and bennies) they want. In this somewhat true comic retelling, the South will rise again, but it might be over their three dead bodies.

Read more A&E at [OutSmartMagazine.com](http://OutSmartMagazine.com).

D.L. Groover writes the Arts & Entertainment article annually for OutSmart magazine.



Organs not included: Houston Museum of Fine Arts scores yet another coup, exhibiting artifacts from the 14th-century B.C. reign of young King Tutankhamun, including this sarcophagus-like container that preserved the boy monarch's own internal organs. (See page 47.)

# A Big Musical Umbrella

Bayou City Performing Arts expands to house more than just choral music

It's not just gay men and women on risers singing in unison anymore.

In the early 2000s Bayou City Performing Arts' anchor group, the Gay Men's Chorus of Houston, welcomed the Bayou City Women's Chorus and Bayou City Chorale into its fold. Taking the next natural step, BCPA has now also adopted the symphonically oriented Houston Pride Band and Unhinged Productions, a gay-themed theatrical group.

The mass merging increases BCPA's ability to better market all four of the groups, says Beau Heyen, BCPA's general manager since April. "This move also enables all four groups to better share our audiences with each other.

"We're already getting great response from our season ticketholders!" Heyen adds.

In all, BCPA plans to mount seven concerts this season featuring the men's and women's choruses and the Pride Band; Unhinged Productions' schedule adds to that total, opening with Charles Busch's



It's all about the eyes and lips: Bayou City Performing Arts' Unhinged Productions presents *Vampire Lesbians* and a Halloween ball.



*Vampire Lesbians of Sodom*, directed by Joe Angel Babb, at Frenetic Theatre (October 14-22).

Dr. Linus Lerner maintains the baton for the choruses, with Skip Martin conducting the Houston Pride Band.

Between concerts, the groups maintain the community buzz with assorted public performances, including the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure (October 1); Moonlight Madness, a costume ball at Magnolia Hotel Houston featuring *Vampire Lesbians of Sodom* cast members (October 28); World AIDS Day (December 1); and social events including an open mic cabaret (January 7).

All four performance groups celebrate their new-found togetherness with Let's Get Loud, its annual meeting and kick-off event scheduled September 10, 4 p.m., at Meteor (2306 Genesee St.).

For a complete roster of Bayou City Performing Arts' full season, log on to [bayoucityperformingarts.org](http://bayoucityperformingarts.org) or call 713/868-2020. —Nancy Ford

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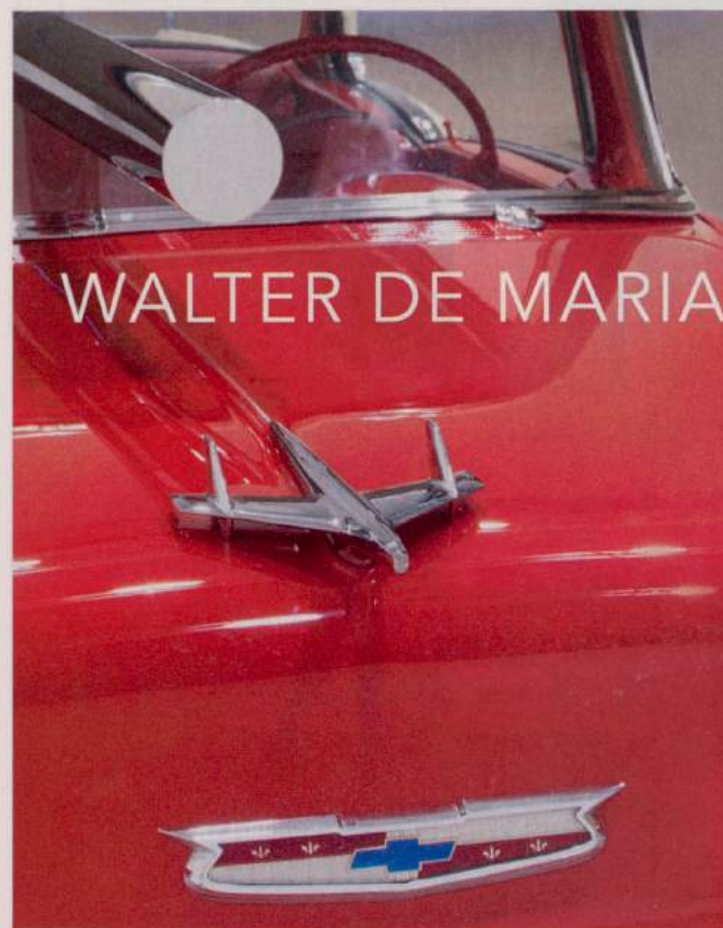
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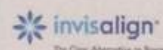
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# Idol Chatter

Colton Berry's considerable talents  
benefit Music Box Theater  
both behind and in front of the curtain

by David Goldberg

One often wonders where all those *American Idol* contestants cast away to after their auditions, challenges, and eventual eliminations. Do they become local stars or fame-whores? Do any of them bear fruit? Luckily for Houston, former contestant Colton Berry, 21, has settled in to establish a productive performance presence.

The young performer was a proud member of the LGBT community long before his days on the reality show. "I've been 'out and proud' for as long as I can remember," Berry says. "I think coming out early really helped to bolster both my confidence and my shield-for-negative-energy while leaping into the industry."

Since his days in the top 24 of the seventh season of *American Idol*, Berry has toned down his hair—and his act. He now performs every weekend at the brand-new Music Box Theater, a local cabaret and comedy revue that opened in May. The Virginia native recently relocated back to Houston to perform in the show. Though this is not his first time living in Houston, he is thrilled to be back. "When this opportunity presented itself to me, it was like a godsend," Berry says. "I'm here for the long haul. As long as Houston will have me, I'm here."

Berry argues that Houston's performance community seems phenomenal, especially to outsiders. "The theater scene is incredible," he says. "When I first visited, I was floored by the industry and quality all over the place. It is great to live in a city that you can sink your teeth into and work as a performer."

The Music Box Theater has a cast of five musical performers and one host, though everyone pitches in with the comedy. This structure allows every participant to shine. Their current show, *Damaged Divas of the Decades*, features Berry, along with Brad Scarborough, Rebekah Dahl, Luke Wrobel, and Cay Taylor. The show features a range of songs, from Patsy Cline to Etta James to the



*Idol's loss is Music Box's gain: Berry Colton now performs in Houston at the new Music Box Theater, along with (inset, l-r) Cay Taylor, Colton, Luke Wrobel, Brad Scarborough, and Rebekah Dahl.*

Dixie Chicks. Berry sings and does impressions—which include beloved divas such as Britney Spears and Liza Minnelli—and has more machinations for potential diva impersonations. "I really want to play Christina Aguilera in this show and in the future, but she wasn't damaged enough for this show. And I've always wanted to do Oprah." →



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## Idol Chatter continued from previous page

While Berry has a strong stage presence, his backstage involvement is impressive. "I did all the costume, hair, and production design for *Divas*," he says. "I also wrote probably 45 percent of the show." Considering the amount of costume changes and wigs thrown around, his contribution is pretty impressive. The Music Box's fluid creative environment allows Berry and the other writer/performers to create material on the go. "When gay marriage passed in New York, we wrote a whole new scene and put it in until the run of the show completed," Berry says. "So everything is very current and flows with the world around us."

Dahl and Scarborough's theater is charming and quaint, with a friendly live band and an accessible cast. And the ascription of certain songs with particular singers shows that each cast member is involved in choosing the music that he or she loves to perform. But while the comedy and impersonations are honest, they often throw off the balance and mood of the show. And, as any drag queen can attest to, attempting to imitate Liza, Barbra, or Judy is like playing with fire—on stage. But hopefully the theater will work through these kinks in the rest of its season, which includes *Fruitcakes!* (a very special holiday special), *Oscar in a Box*, and *Travelsty*.

Berry says he looks forward to the upcoming *Rocky Horror Show* at the Music Box Theater this October, just in time for Halloween. "We are doing the musical that the movie is based on, completely 100 percent live, with a punk-rock design," he says.

The Music Box Theater has much potential. So do its performers, especially Berry. As a gay man, he is very comfortable in his surroundings. "The Music Box has been a wonderful opportunity, as it embraces my true self and my community, while doing a wonderful job of breaking stereotypes and labels," Berry says.

Hopefully, the rising star stays in town, and develops alongside his new workplace.

**What:** *Damaged Divas of the Decades*  
**Where:** The Music Box Theater, 2623 Colquitt  
**When:** Through November 13. Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m., and Sundays at 2 p.m.  
**Tickets:** [themusicboxtheater.com](http://themusicboxtheater.com), 713/522-7722  
**Cost:** \$25 (reserved seating \$35)  
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David Goldberg is a frequent contributor to OutSmart magazine.

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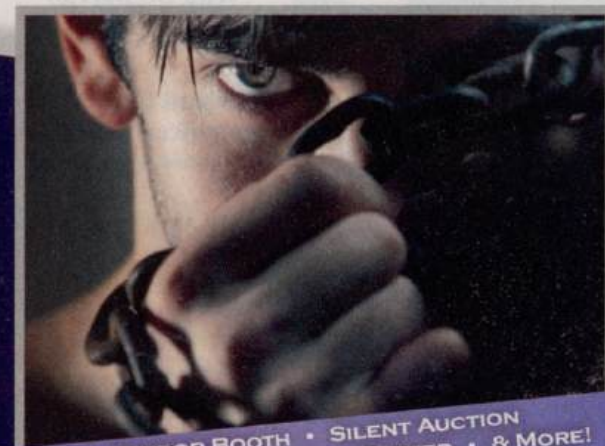
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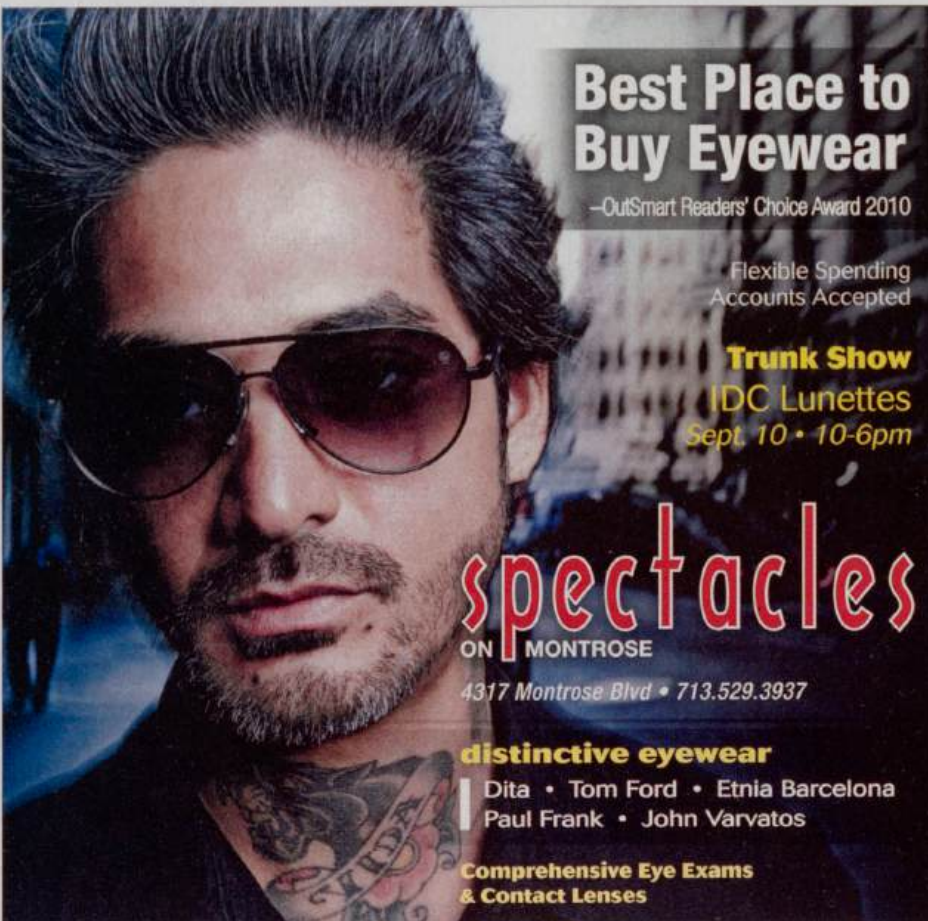
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## Steven Jamail's Rosie Life

continued from previous page

At Rice, Jamail got to know his *VOTE!* writing partner, Ryann Ferguson, when he was a music director on a production of *Sweeney Todd* at Rice, and Ferguson played a patient in an insane asylum. "She was this crazy girl," he says, "who was on a full-ride scholarship majoring in creative writing, so I figured she's got to be a genius."

"A Catholic boy from Friendswood and a Buddhist from Las Vegas. What a pair!" Jamail says that *Sweeney Todd* was one of several shows that their dormitory, called Brown College, put on each year at Rice in competition with other dorms (also called colleges). "Those were some of the coolest artistic experiences I've ever had," he recalls. "The unique spirit of competition was like something out of *Harry Potter*. It definitely spoiled me."

Following graduation, Ferguson moved to New York to become a theatrical producer while Jamail stayed in Houston. He came out at age 22. "I came out to everyone at once," he says. "There was literally no drama. I have a really great family."

"Houston has a really strong gay community, and one of my regrets is that I

didn't participate more in the community," he adds.

Jamail stayed busy practicing the piano. "I knew what it would take for me to become a musical director in New York and eventually make my living full-time as a writer."

While honing his skills on the ivories, Jamail enjoyed the good fortune of penning two scores under the direction of famed Broadway impresario Stuart Ostrow at the University of Houston. "It beat Julliard," says Jamail. "The man is a genius. He would talk to me as a business person, and he was really specific with what he taught me about writing musicals."

Jamail was weighing a move to the Big Apple when he saw an advertisement at Playbill.com for a full-time music supervisor for Rosie's Theater Kids, a Rosie O'Donnell charity that teaches music and dance to students in New York City's poorest schools.

In New York, Jamail also re-teamed with Ferguson to write *VOTE!*, which follows three high school students running for student council president.

Attending *VOTE!* and conducting *Guys and Dolls* will be a working vacation from Jamail's day job with O'Donnell, a



The right direction: Steven Jamail conducts the "Telephone Song" for the finale of Rosie O'Donnell's Broadway Kids Gala.

gig that offers a variety of opportunities for Jamail to collaborate with Broadway professionals.

In May, he accompanied O'Donnell to Chicago for her appearance on "Surprise Oprah! A Farewell Spectacular" at the United Center to commemorate *The Oprah Winfrey Show* ending its run after 25 years. Jamail's job was to arrange a parody of the song "Fever" for O'Donnell. The serenade to Winfrey included quips about Dr. Phil, Dr. Oz, and Nate Berkus. "It was a lot of fun to be part of that crazy Oprah finale thing," says Jamail.

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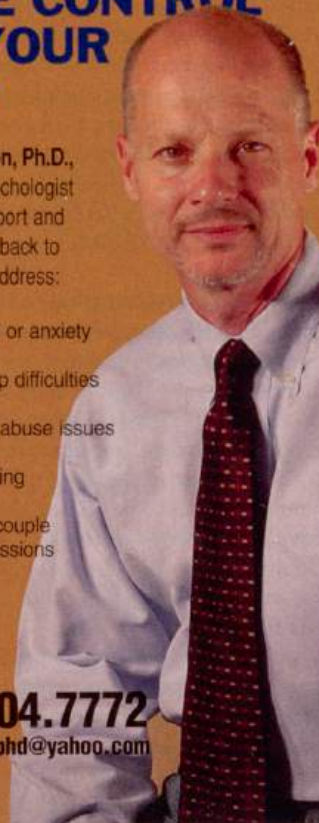
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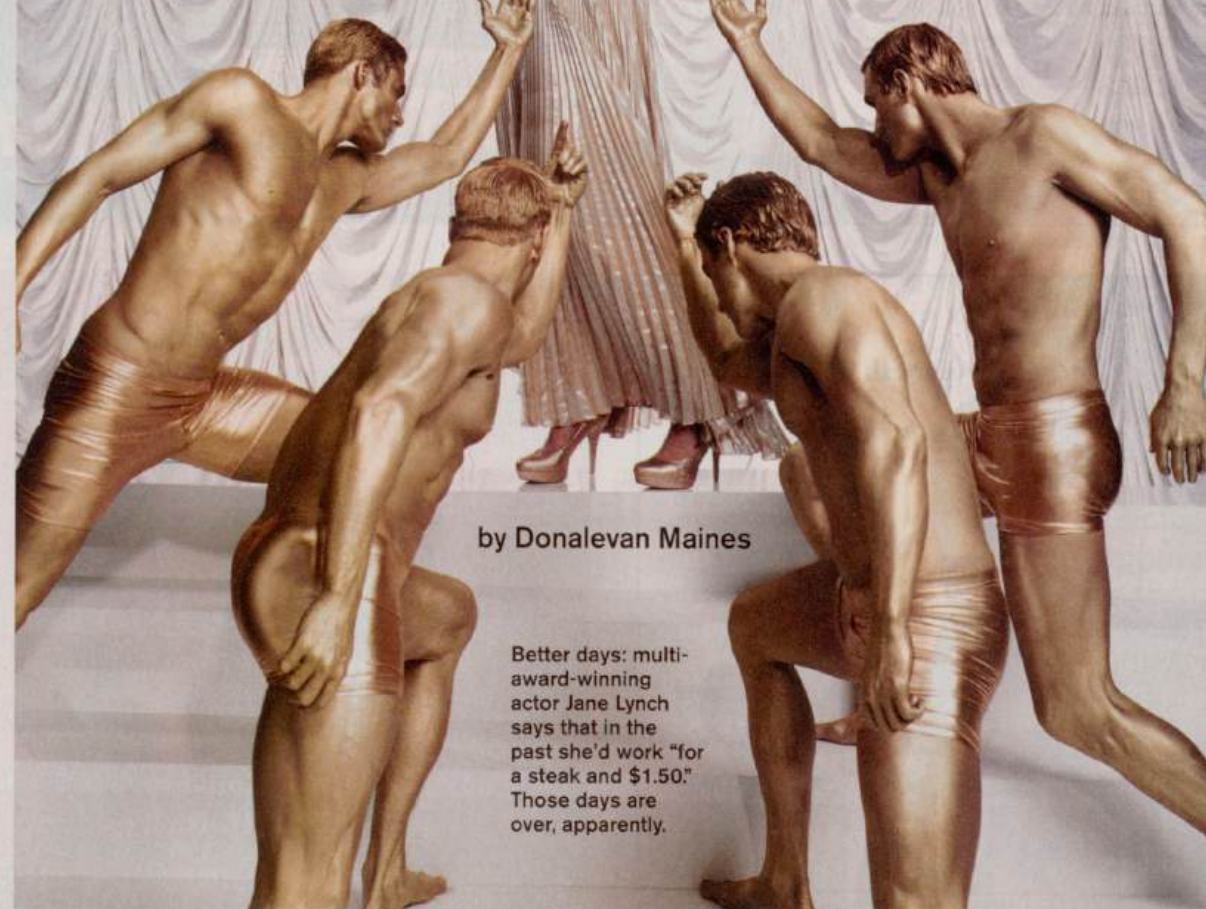
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# The Emmys Get Lynched

Another lesbian—this time Jane Lynch—hosts the Emmys



by Donalevan Maines

Better days: multi-  
award-winning  
actor Jane Lynch  
says that in the  
past she'd work "for  
a steak and \$1.50."  
Those days are  
over, apparently.

It's nice that producers finally figured  
out who still watches award shows.

These days, to be considered for  
the hosting job, it seems that you  
have to be a lesbian (see Ellen DeGeneres,  
Jane Lynch), a gay man (see Neil Patrick  
Harris, Sean Hayes), or at least Ryan  
Seacrest (see Kathy Griffin).

Lynch, who won last year for her

portrayal as Coach Sue Sylvester in *Glee*,  
hosts the Emmy Awards ceremony when  
it's broadcast September 18 on Fox.

Out actors Chris Colfer (as *Glee*'s gay  
Kurt Hummel) and Jesse Tyler Ferguson  
(as *Modern Family*'s gay dad Mitchell  
Pritchett) square off for best support-  
ing actor in a comedy series, with Colfer  
already taking home this year's Golden

Globe. A gay man winning for playing a  
gay character? Someday you won't have  
to be William Hurt (*Kiss of the Spider  
Woman*) or Tom Hanks (*Philadelphia*) to  
nab an Oscar in a gay role!

Alan Cumming, a Tony Award winner  
for Broadway's 1988 revival of *Cabaret*, is  
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## Emmys Lynched continued from previous page

Someday, out actors will be nominated in leading roles.

For now, should we be content that Ryan Seacrest scored another nomination in the category of outstanding reality-competition host? Or that Emmy showed some love for gay faves Pee-wee Herman, Lady Gaga, Jim Parsons, Nathan Lane, Matt LeBlanc, Bette Midler, and *OutSmart* cover-girls Kathy Griffin and Kristin Chenoweth?

Seacrest also returns as host of E!'s red carpet arrival show, another indication of how Hollywood understands that gay fans are award-show bread and butter, insisting that celebrities answer burning questions like "Who are you wearing?" while sweating out stinging critiques from the likes of Cojo and Joan Rivers.

Another Joan—the late Miss Crawford and her Oscar-winning role in the 1945 film noir *Mildred Pierce*—will be on the minds of high-camp fans after HBO's miniseries retelling picked up 21 nominations, including major bids for out director Todd Haynes, Academy Award-winner Kate Winslet as the long-suffering mother, and Evan Rachel Wood as ungrateful daughter Veda. IMHO, Veda should have been beaten with wire hangers, and it's just not enough that the actress had to wear a merkin and go full frontal. (You'll recall that, as Wood's mom in the 2003 film *Thirteen*, Holly Hunter rode the full monty to an Oscar nomination.)

Nominated for outstanding nonfiction special is *Becoming Chaz*, the documentary about Sonny and Cher's daughter's transition to male, which screened in January at the Sundance Film Festival before its TV premiere in May on OWN.

Also of note is the best miniseries or movie nod for HBO's *Cinema Verite*, which fictionalized the making of *An American Family*, the 1973 PBS documentary series that caused jaws to drop over the coming-out of son Lance Loud.

Have I missed anything? If so, it's because our cup runneth over. When nominations were announced on July 14, Emmy delighted discerning viewers of many persuasions by singling out *Friday Night Lights*, *Boardwalk Empire*, and *Parks & Recreation*, along with heartthrob Timothy Olyphant, Mireille Enos, Kathy Bates, Louis CK, Johnny Galecki, Christina Hendricks, and others often criminally overlooked.

For the complete list of nominations, visit [emmys.com](http://emmys.com).

Donalevan Maines is a regular contributor to *OutSmart* magazine.

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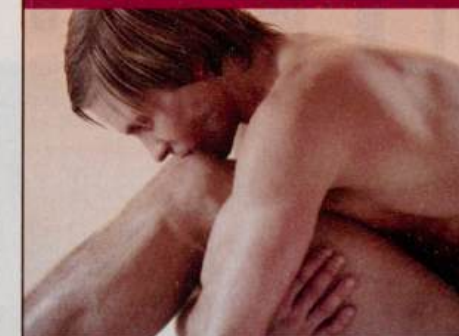


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## The Legacy Continues

*Jay Hollyfield lives on through the Bayou City Art Festival  
and the community he loved*

by Nancy Ford

**E**mo's. Club Some. The Locker. The Drum. Hollyfield Cleaners. Houston Glass. Sheridan Apartments. Officers Club. These are just a few examples of Montrose properties and interests that were at one time owned and/or operated by Jay Hollyfield. Hollyfield, a flamboyant gay man who lived life to the fullest in Houston's pre-AIDS gay heyday, died of complications from the disease that decimated Houston's gay community. But before passing in 1994, Hollyfield left a considerable legacy to the city he loved in the form of two of Houston's most respected institutions: Hollyfield Foundation, and the biannual Bayou City Art Festival.

### In the Beginning

A native Houstonian, Hollyfield came from a "silver spoon, silk stocking" background, attorney Donald Skipwith says. "There was a group of people who really did call themselves 'The A Group.' That kind of went away too, but they were a serious group, and they knew who they were, and Jay was part of that 'A' group.

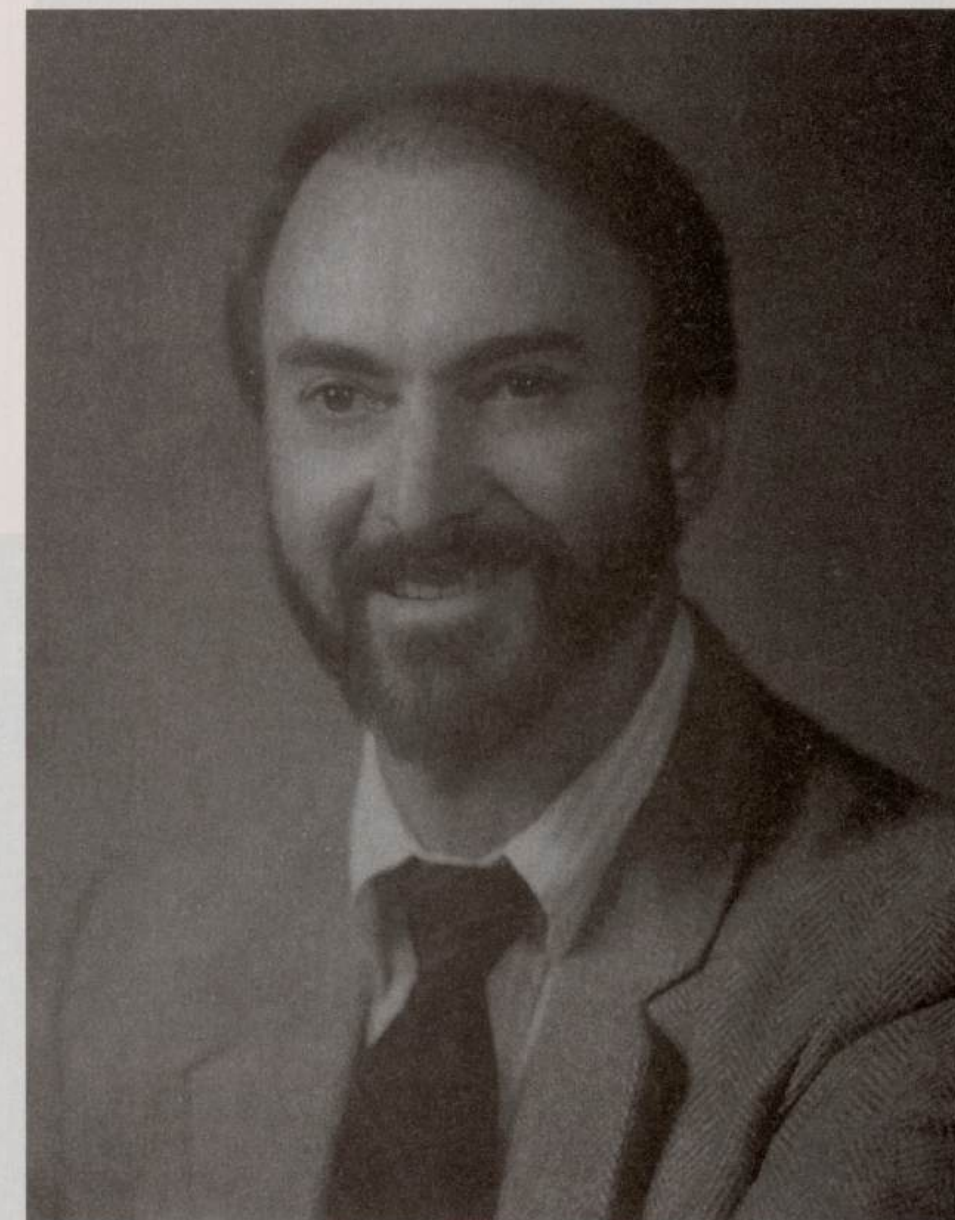
"To be perfectly honest, when I think about some of these times—they're not times I think about too much—it conjures up Houston and my life before AIDS," he says quietly.

Skipwith recalls his relationship with Hollyfield as "friendship at first sight."

The two met on the dance floor of "The Bushes Party." The Bushes, Skipwith says, referred to an area similar to Cherry Grove and The Pines on Fire Island.

"It was a big old extravaganza party near MacGregor and 288 in this old mansion that somebody tore down," Skipwith says. "It was 1980 or '81, when HIV was there, but we didn't know it," he says, adding that friends believe that the Bushes Party may have introduced HIV to Houston. "It was kind of an infamous event. I'm sure that the majority of the people who were there are no longer on this planet. It was a different time."

Hollyfield liked to dance, Skipwith says, and during that period when gay people were beginning to peek out of the



A living legacy: prior to his death in 1994, philanthropist Jay Hollyfield was intent that his name live on in Houston's LGBT community, which it does, through the Hollyfield Foundation and the biannual Bayou City Art Festival.

closet, there was no reason not to dance. "It was outside, under the stars, and we were feeling good," he says, his voice picking up. "We said goodbye to each other that next morning."

Eventually, Hollyfield asked Skipwith to join the boards of the Hollyfield Foundation

and the Westheimer Art Festival, which would become the Art Colony Alliance, better known as Bayou City Art Festival. Though they never went on to become partners, or even "an item," as Skipwith says, the two remained friends until Hollyfield's death, and beyond. →





#### NO JEST, IT'S THE BEST FEST!

As many as 1,500 artists apply to exhibit works at the Bayou City Art Festival, says longtime Art Colony Association board member Bart Truxillo. "It's a very difficult, complicated task of eliminating down to the 300 artists—one that we take very seriously."

One of the United States' most prominent outdoor fine art gatherings, Jay Hollyfield's downtown Bayou City Art Festival has been ranked in *American-Style Magazine's* "TOP 10 Festivals" for the past two years and was listed among Sunshine Artist's "200 Best List" for the past two years, in addition to receiving a slew of local recognitions. In October, the festival displays the work of featured artist Kreg Yingst, a printmaker and painter whose work reflects "the science of perspective, with geometry and optical illusion." (Pictured above is Yingst's "Night and Day.")

Since its inception 40 years ago, Bayou City Art Festival has donated more than \$2.6 million to Houston-area charities. This season's festival helps fund Art League of Houston, Bering Omega Community Services, Buffalo Bayou Partnership, City ArtWorks, Downtown YMCA, FotoFest, Heritage Society, Houston Center for Photography, Houston Center for Contemporary Craft, Lawndale Art Center, Multicultural Education & Counseling through the Arts, Museum of Fine Arts Houston, Museum of Cultural Arts Houston, Opera in the Heights, Orange Show Center for Visionary Art, Several Dancers Core, Spay & Neuter Assistance Program, and SPARK. —N.F.

#### The Legacy Continues

continued from previous page

##### From Tearoom to Black Tie

Skipwith recalls his friend Jay as having been a very mischievous person. That mischievous spirit was responsible for an early precursor of Houston's tony Black Tie Dinner.

"The Auditorium Hotel was an old, fleabag place before the Lancaster went in there and did their magic to it. Apparently, there was this infamous tearoom in this fleabag hotel. So Jay sends out invitations to his A-Gay friends, engraved, inviting them to a champagne reception in this tearoom in the Auditorium Hotel."

By this time, Skipwith is laughing as he relates the memory. "He and his couple of friends show up around 7 o'clock that evening, start icing down the urinals and putting champagne in them. And it was all black tie! So all these people descend upon the lower level of what is now the Lancaster Hotel, and proceed to have a party. People were so confused by what was going on, but nobody questioned it and nobody called the police!

"It was another day, and another reason to put on a tuxedo. It was just another excuse to get loaded and meet somebody new and have a new adventure."

In the early '90s, health-care executive Janine Brunjes wanted to become more involved in Houston's LGBT community. One of Hollyfield's pet projects, Houston's Black Tie Dinner, a philanthropic formal gala that raised formidable cash for the Human Rights Campaign and other LGBT charities, caught her eye.

"There weren't any women on the board, and so my first time to meet Jay was when I walked into Frank Campisi's home." Brunjes found herself to be the only lesbian in a sea of gay men. "They all looked at me like, 'What in the hell does she want?'—'she' being the word. It was really interesting because Jay was sitting there very quietly and he was very polite and very welcoming—unlike some of the other guests that I became fast friends with down the road."

Ultimately, Brunjes remembers Hollyfield as "a real gentleman."

"The first real Black Tie Dinner that benefitted the Human Rights Campaign would have been late '80s, in Tony's Wine Cellar on Post Oak," Skipwith says. "I think there were probably 50 people there, at the most."

There is an accompanying, more "respectable" precursor to Houston's Black Tie Dinner: the highly successful Black Tie Dinner held annually in Dallas. Hollyfield was determined that if Dallas had one, then Houston would have one too?

After more than a decade of raising funds for—and champagne glasses to—worthy LGBT causes, Houston's famed Black Tie Dinner dissipated over the years. A New Year Eve's party was hosted by the committee in 2008, but the gala itself is no more.

"I was one of those that was so disappointed when it disappeared a couple of years ago," Brunjes, who now resides in Albuquerque, New Mexico, adds. "I think it's missed. It raised a lot of money for our 501(c)(3)s."

Unsubstantiated rumor has it that there's a push to reinstitute the gala. "There's talk about it. They need seed money. And people are reluctant to do it because it's such a challenge," Wendy



Water works: a favorite feature of the Bayou City Art Festival Downtown is Art on Water, offering varied works floating on the reflection pool in front of Houston City Hall.

Harshbarger, executive director at the Hollyfield Foundation, says. "Poor Jay would be rolling over in his grave if he knew we'd dropped the ball on the Black Tie Dinner. He loved that thing."

##### Funding a Community

Brunjes has maintained her relationship with Hollyfield as a long-term board member of the Hollyfield Foundation. "He was very much focused on the mission of the foundation," she says. "He really wanted to ensure the future and the prosperity of the LGBT community. Hollyfield Foundation distributed \$100,000 to local LGBT and supportive charities in 2010. Harshbarger, executive director for the foundation, estimates the group has distributed more than \$1 million since its inception.

"When Jay died in 1994, we created the Hollyfield Foundation," Harshbarger explains. "All his property was turned over to the foundation and we became property owners. But we sold every bit of it, because they found it would be easier just to put it in the stock market." The foundation's purpose, Harshbarger says, is to fund the community in two different areas that Hollyfield was most concerned with: equal rights for lesbians, gays, bisexuals, and transgenders.

"We said 'gays' back then," Harshbarger recalls of the less-inclusive period. "It was the gays on one end, and lesbians did their thing. Somewhere in the '80s it all came together, thank God." When HIV hit Houston's gay community in the early '80s, "the girls stepped in and showed us that wonderful side of them," Harshbarger says. "We've never forgotten that."

Last year, Hollyfield Foundation put that appreciation into action by gifting Lesbian Health Initiative with a \$10,000 grant. "We really believe in their health fairs," Harshbarger says.

"Jay wanted us to be focused on AIDS education and advocacy and GLBT civil rights, and we've stayed steady to that, but it's expanded to include some women's organizations," Brunjes continues proudly. "And now we've got a board that's getting to be half-and-half [male and female members], so that's a good thing."

PFLAG/HATCH Youth Scholarship Foundation and Texas Civil Rights Project also received \$10,000 each from the Hollyfield Foundation in its most recent disbursement, with several other local charities receiving smaller grants.

"Jay came from another world," Skipwith laughs, "a world that was about the finer things in life. But he really was very interested in his bigger community. He certainly, not by accident, left his legacy to this foundation with his name." →

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## The Legacy Continues

continued from previous page

### The Main Event

Houston's Black Tie Dinner has gone dark. Hollyfield Foundation continues to bestow local charities with integral funds, though somewhat quietly.

However, Jay Hollyfield's other legacy is alive, kicking, and expanding by leaps and bounds.

"Our art festival is celebrating its 40th year," Harshbarger says. "It's unbelievable to think it's lasted this long."

That other legacy Harshbarger speaks of is the Bayou City Art Festival, the famed biannual gathering that sprang

City Hall."

Now called Bayou City Art Festival, the events developed into "more of a fine-arts, more civilized crowd," Harshbarger says.

"I'm trying to be nice here," he adds. "It's a real healthy crowd, if you ask me, from all kinds of cross-sections across town. Everybody loves art. And everybody that does love art is going to be there."

The festival changed radically with the move, Skipwith recalls. "This was after AIDS hit, so I wanted to bring in some charities. I wanted them to be our volunteer corps, because none of that was happening."

Forty years later, Bayou City Art

dance at Memorial, we make more money downtown. We peaked out at Memorial—we can't get any bigger unless we have it out in the woods. Downtown, we just keep adding extra blocks. We're three-and-a-half blocks now. When I first started in 1999 we were, like, one and a half blocks."

Early on, Hollyfield invited Bart Truxillo to join the board of the Westheimer Art Festival, which led to Art Colony Association, which in turn produces the art festivals.

Truxillo says works created by 300 participating artists aren't the only draw to the festival. "We always have different sorts of entertainment. The Core Dance Company comes back every year, and they do something completely different. This year they're doing a very intriguing, somewhat musical performance art thing with wires. It's so complicated, I can't really explain it. It's just one of those things you've just got to see."

"Every year we try to do something that people have not seen before," Truxillo continues. "We've had puppetry, our music stages, all kinds of things like that. The Walking Tree has been very popular."

Beyond the food, drink, and entertainment, the festival's main focus is the actual art and artists, Truxillo believes. Patrons come with a purpose, not just for diversion. "People really come with the idea that they're looking for gifts and something for their house. And they put money in their pockets, and they're shopping for art. They are loyal to us and, you know, it's amazing."

"Jay and I were friends," Truxillo concludes, "and without question, I know that he would be extraordinarily proud of what has happened to the Bayou City Art

Festival, and the fact that it is not just a Westheimer thing. It is internationally known, and has an extraordinary rating, and it's twice a year."

"He was a wonderful man, and he put this thing together and it was all for the right reasons. He would be tickled pink to know that it's gone on to be such a success."

"I think he would be extraordinarily proud."

### Bayou City Art Festival Downtown

- October 8–9, 10 a.m.–6 p.m.
- Houston City Hall, 901 Bagby Street, and surrounding blocks
- Tickets \$12, free for children under 12
- bayoucityartfestival.com. ■



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from the bohemian Westheimer Art Festival of the 1970s and '80s.

"Jay was the total glue in the Westheimer Art Festival," Skipwith says. Logistics forced the festival out of Montrose and into more spacious pastures in 1994, as many locals fear is the likely fate of Houston's Pride festivities.

"Basically, it was no longer a doable deal to make any money and keep it on Westheimer. All these little vendors would open up and never contribute to it. So it ended up on a couple of downtown blocks on Main Street for a while. But that didn't work out," Harshbarger says. "Then they made a deal with the parks division to have it in Memorial Park and in front of

Festival distributes between \$300,000 and \$400,000 annually to its beneficiaries.

"It always amazed me: you milk this cow twice a year?" Skipwith says, laughing. "You learn that it's quite an economic machine, an art festival. Jay was there as we were taking it to the next level."

Aside from the obvious geographical differences, Harshbarger says there is a definite difference between the spring and fall festivals.

"A lot of people only go to the one in the spring because of the ambience of the park. But the Montrose crowd, downtown, Midtown—they love the downtown festival. It's livelier," Harshbarger says. "And even though we have a bigger atten-

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# Singing for His Supper

Meet Dominick DiOrio

by Marene Gustin

Photo by Matthew Fried



**T**enor, teacher, conductor, composer. Dominick DiOrio's life is all about the sweet sounds of music. Well, that and food.

"My brothers would be outside shoveling snow," says the 27-year-old, "and I'd be inside helping my mom cook." His mom also started him on his career path by teaching him piano at age 7.

"I guess if you had to sum me up in two words, it would be music and food!" he laughs.

DiOrio has every right to sound happy these days. He is currently the choral director and associate professor of music at Lone Star College-Montgomery, where his students just voted him a Star Award as their favorite →

The sound of music and more: it's hard to determine what openly gay Lone Star College-Montgomery associate professor of music, Dominick DiOrio, is most passionate about—music, food, or his students, who recently named him their favorite instructor for 2012.

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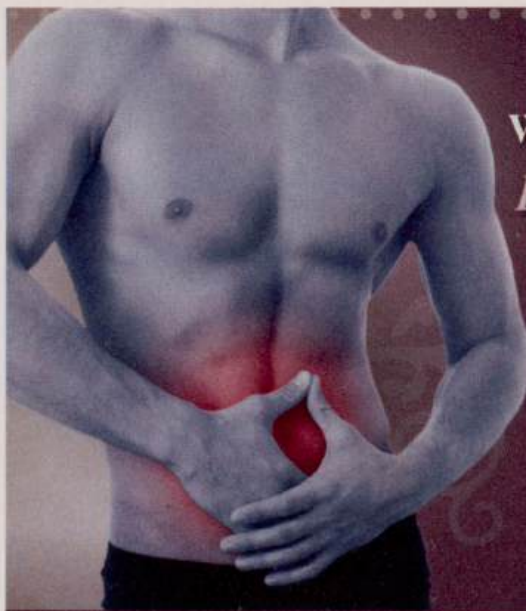
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### Singing for His Supper

continued from  
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instructor for 2012. The Houston Chamber Choir, where he's been a tenor since 2009, will premiere his full-length composition *A Dome of Many-Coloured Glass* next year. The work is influenced by a poem of the same name written by lesbian poet Amy Lowell. Lowell's works were largely forgotten after her death in 1925, but she made a comeback when gender studies took hold in the 1970s, and she was even awarded a Pulitzer Prize posthumously.

"I was drawn to her poetry," DiOrio says. *A Dome of Many-Coloured Glass*, published in 1912, deals with the seasons. "As a composer using text, it was very fertile ground."

The blue-eyed musician joined band and choir in high school, and actually started composing as a teenager, writing compositions for the marimba and xylophone, which he also played. He also started designing websites at 13 (yes, he designed his own site), came out at 18, and earned a summa cum laude Bachelor of Music degree in composition from the Ithaca College School of Music in 2006—all while winning a slew of competitions and scholarships. From there, he went on to earn a Master of Music degree in choral conducting from Yale University in 2008, and he's set to finish his Doctor of Musical Arts degree from Yale next year. The whole Houston Chamber Choir will be heading to Yale next April for a rare choral residency and a performance of *A Dome*.

"I'm very excited," he says of the choir trip. "It's like my two worlds are colliding. I can't wait to see some of my old professors."

He'll also get to see John, his partner of three years, who is also finishing his DMA degree. DiOrio says that the couple hopes to eventually make Houston their home.

"When I first came to Houston, I wasn't sure what to expect," he says. "But then I found the gay scene in Montrose and all of my fear was turned on its head." He loves the food, the art, the music, and doesn't even mind the long commute to Montgomery. "I go to the museums here—I love the Menil, and just walking through the parks," he says. And then there are the restaurants. This self-professed foodie loves to haunt Monica Pope's T'afia and its Saturday farmer's market, Nit Noi Thai Restaurant & Café, and his favorite, Hugo's.

"I also love to cook," DiOrio says. "But I don't have a lot of time these days. He also doesn't have time for pets. 'I leave the house at 7 a.m. and rehearse most nights, so I'm afraid I'd kill them.' However, he does try to hit the gym three times a week to keep in shape."

My, he is a busy boy—and still riding high from the reviews of his opera *Klytemnestra* for Divergence Vocal Theatre in January, while working on some new commissions. He worries that some day he may have to choose between conducting and composing, but for now he'll continue to do both, as well as singing and teaching.

"I love working with the Chamber Choir members—they are so talented," DiOrio says. "They really are one of the best choirs in the country. And I also love teaching. I'm so honored about the student award; it really humbles me. But even better is that 'aha moment' when your students get it. I've always wanted to teach."

### Houston Chamber Choir

The choir kicks off its 16th season September 20 with *Ave Maria—Music of Devotion to Our Lady* at the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart. DiOrio's premiere of *A Dome of Many-Coloured Glass* will be held on March 24 at The Church of St. John the Divine. For season subscriptions, visit [houstonchamberchoir.org](http://houstonchamberchoir.org) or call 713/224-5566.

Marene Gustin is a frequent contributor to OutSmart magazine.

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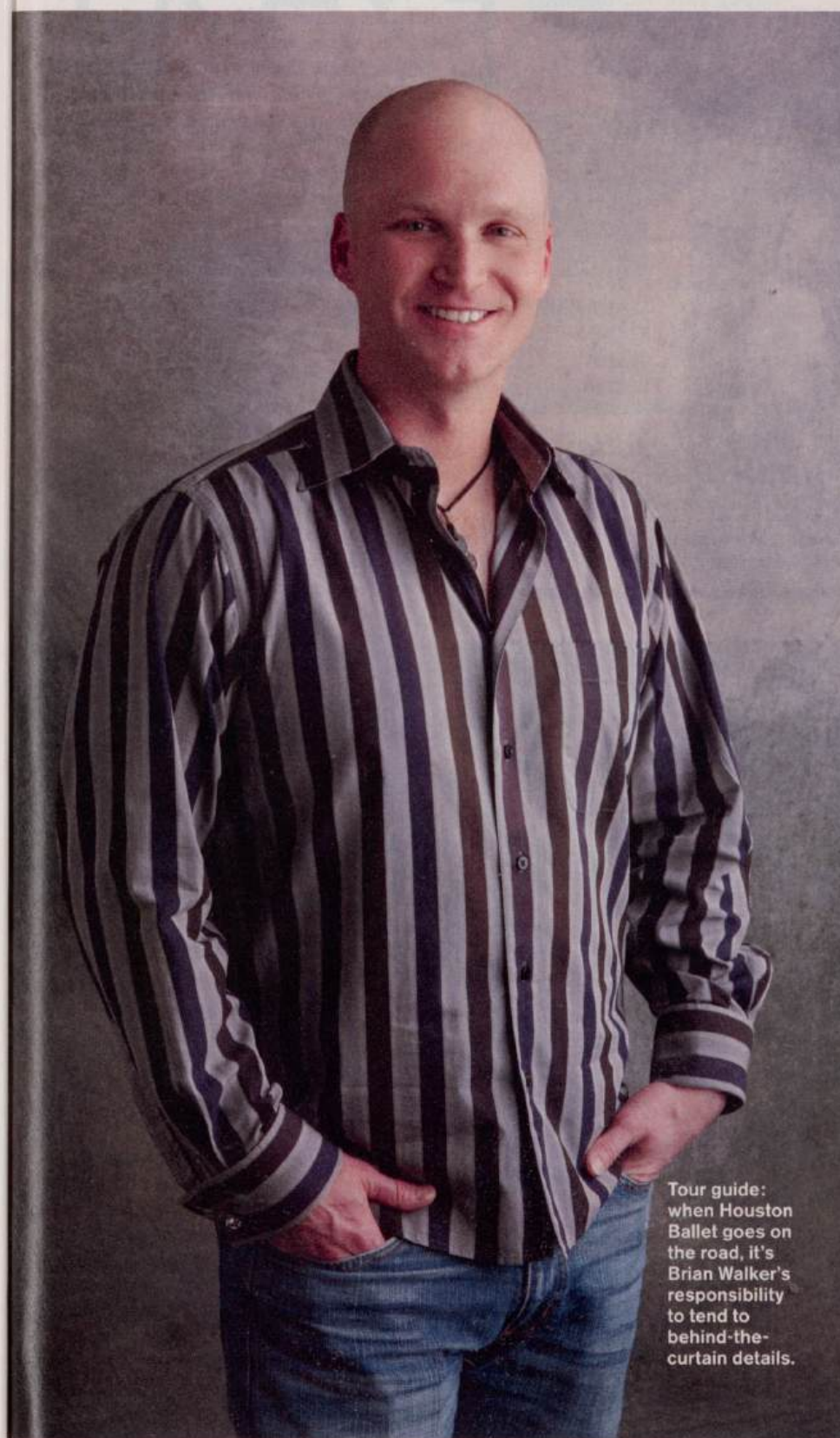
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# 'Get It Done'

Houston Ballet keeps production manager Brian Walker on his toes

by Marene Gustin • Photo by Pam Francis



**P**ay no attention to that man behind the curtain." —*The Wizard of Oz*  
Unless that man is Houston Ballet's Brian Walker, that is.

"The first big show I saw [as a child] was *Starlight Express* in London," says the 35-year-old Walker. "And I was hooked."

So much so that he and his little friends put on their own home production, making sets and passing out flyers. His mom made the costumes. Maybe it was Andrew Lloyd Webber's rock score—or more likely, the roller skates. Whatever the cause, a theater nerd was born.

"I was just a 'let's do a show' kinda person," Walker says. Shades of Judy Garland and Mickey Rooney.

Walker, a Houston native, spent his childhood in Saudi Arabia. The family often flew through London, where his parents would take him to shows in the West End. He knew early on that he wanted a career in theater, and attended the University of North Texas in Denton where he got his degree in lighting design and stage management.

Despite being a non-dancer, he got on well with the dance faculty and wound up lighting all of the university's dance performances, as well as those of local dance companies. The school even asked him back after graduation, and in 1999 he was offered the production manager's job at the Fort Worth Ballet (now Texas Ballet Theater). When a comparable job opened up at Houston Ballet in 2002, he jumped at it.

Today, as production manager for Houston Ballet, the five-foot-ten man with a shaved head, who is now bearded, oversees a large staff of wardrobe workers, electricians, stage managers, carpenters, and lighting designers—all of whom work hard to make sure performances come off without a hitch.

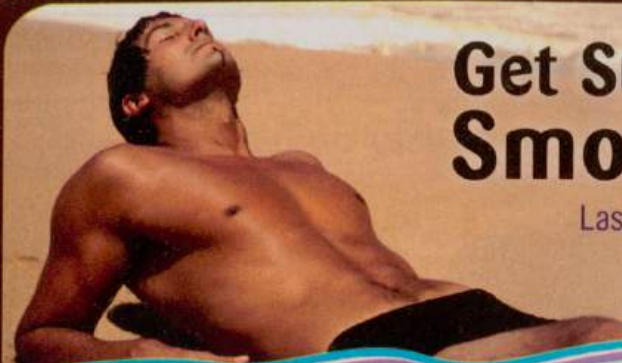
"It's my job to make sure the show looks good," Walker says. "But there's a whole slew of things I do in a day. If I've done my job, then during the show all I have to do is sit back and watch."

But getting to a show's opening night is often stressful—particularly when mounting a new production, or during company tours to a new venue.

In 2009, Houston Ballet took Artistic →

Tour guide:  
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### 'Get It Done' continued from previous page

Director Stanton Welch's full-length *Marie* on the road at the invitation of the New Orleans Ballet Association. The three-act story of Marie Antoinette has massive sets and lots of moving pieces—not an easy production to tour. "They have a very different attitude in New Orleans," says Walker. "It was interesting. But in the end, we pretty much got the crew to understand what we wanted. And I don't think the audience noticed any problems. Luckily, they didn't see the chaos backstage."

Walker was also on the road with the company when it performed at the historic Bolshoi Theatre in St. Petersburg, Russia—an event he calls "pretty amazing."

As part of the upcoming 2011–2012 season, Houston Ballet returns to New York City for performances at The Joyce Theater in October. "That's very exciting," Walker says. "It's been a long time since the company has been to New York City for a full performance run [25 years, in fact], and never at The Joyce." Luckily, Walker had previously done shows at The Joyce when he was with Fort Worth Ballet.

From a production standpoint, Walker sums up his touring work simply: "Get it in, get it up, get it done."

The self-described theater nerd also has an un-nerdlike passion for sports. He's been involved with the Montrose Softball League for the past nine years. And not only does he play, he also manages a team that has made it to the Gay Softball World Series for the last two years.

Besides being an outlet for fun and exercise, his softball passion led him to another passion: it's how he met Paul Samson a year and a half ago. They've been dating ever since. Basically, they like to be low-key and just hang out, sometimes cooking at Walker's home in the Heights.

So who's the better chef?

"It depends on who you ask," laughs Walker. "He's definitely the more creative one—or I should say more inventive. He'll put green tea in something just because he thinks it sounds good."

#### Houston Ballet's Upcoming Season

Besides the New York City tour, Brian Walker manages the backstage chaos for a new version of *Giselle* this season in Houston, as well as a world premiere by Artistic Director Stanton Welch and standards such as *The Nutcracker* and *Romeo and Juliet*. For more info on Houston Ballet's season, visit [houstonballet.org](http://houstonballet.org).

Marene Gustin is a regular contributor to OutSmart magazine.

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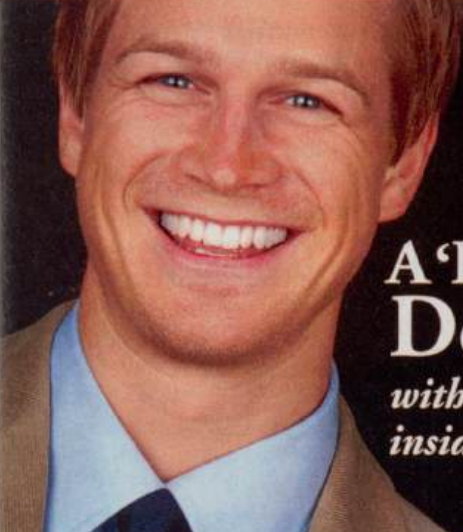
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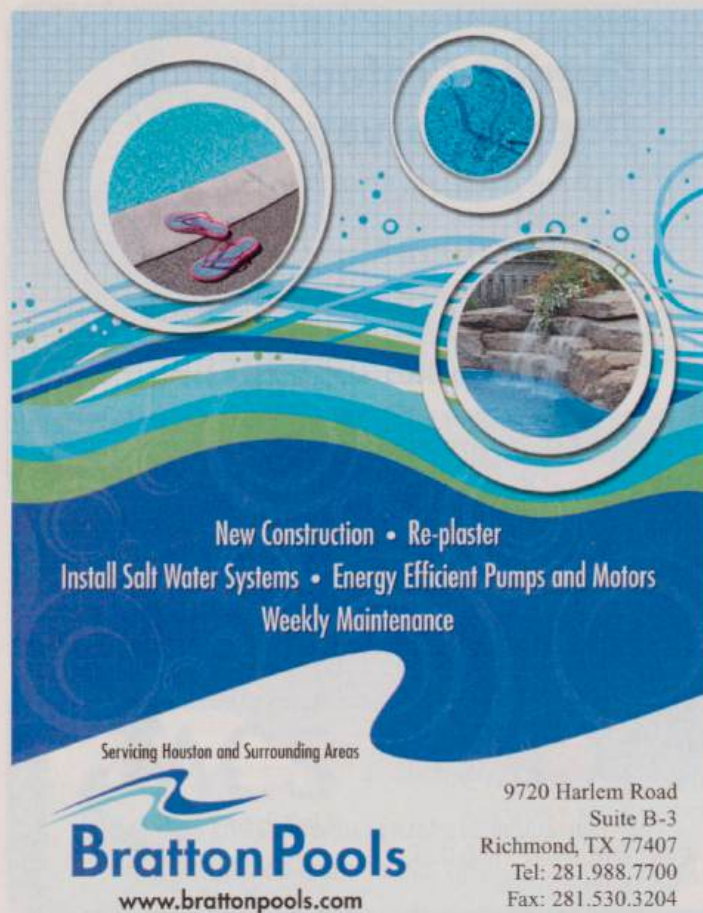
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## Kathy & Justin

(popwatch.ew.com, 8/26/11, Kate Ward)

Taking a page from creepy cute no, definitely creepy Jim Carrey, who professed his love for the much-younger Emma Stone in a video . . . , Kathy Griffin has decided to make public her illegal affection for 17-year-old Canadian treasure Justin Bieber. "Justin Bieber," said the comedienne, "I want you to know that you are all the way beautiful. Even with those, like, lesbian bangs."

## Kathy & Michele

(huffingtonpost.com, 8/16/11)

Appearing on *Conan*, [Kathy] Griffin recalled the time she met [Michele] Bachmann in Washington while researching for her rally to repeal Don't Ask, Don't Tell.

Perhaps mistaking Griffin for someone else, one of Bachmann's staffers pulled out a video camera to capture their interaction for her website. First, Griffin says she asked the Congresswoman if she'd support an effort to repeal the law that banned homosexuals from the military. When Bachmann declined, Griffin got personal.

"Congresswoman Bachmann, were you born a bigot or did you, like, grow into it?" she asked—on tape.

As for Bachmann's answer?

"That's a good question. I'm gonna have to get back to ya," she said, perhaps not creating the best of campaign slogans.

## Frank & Marcus

(The Joy Behar Show, 8/1/11)

Frank Rich is a writer at large for New York Magazine.

**Joy Behar: A lot of people are criticizing [Marcus Bachmann for running the clinic where they pray the gay away] and even implying that he's gay himself. . . .**

Frank Rich: The truth is that [Michele Bachmann] co-owns that clinic. So if they practice policies that are demeaning and hurtful to people and have been denounced by the American Psychiatric Association and other mental health groups, she's responsible. . . . She's not just a spouse. . . .

**So when she says don't go after her husband. . . .**

That's nonsense. There are legitimate times when you shouldn't go after a spouse, if a spouse is really in private life. . . . You know, he really makes a Fuller Brush man look like Albert Schweitzer. He's really sort of low down on the cultural totem poll.

## Fred & Marcus

(mediatite.com, 8/19/11, Dave Rubin via Alex Alvarez)

Fred Karger, who has worked as a senior consultant to the campaigns for Ronald Reagan, George H.W. Bush, and Gerald Ford, calls himself an "Independent Republican" and is an openly gay GOP presidential hopeful.

**Dave Rubin: Marcus Bachmann . . . What's the deal?**

Fred Karger: Isn't he gay? I'm allowed to answer in the form of a question. I'll tell ya: I was at the straw poll, and I was approached. We had a little table set up, and a group of atheists came over, we're chatting, and they had just taken pictures of Marcus Bachmann. I said, like, "Oh my God, you've met him? What was he like? How is he?" And they said, "Oh, well, somewhere between Paul Lynde and Liberace."

# Queer Quotes

Compiled by Blase DiStefano



## Glenn Burke

(Out: The Glenn Burke Story, 8/9/11, Versus)

Glenn Burke, who died in 1995, was the first openly gay Major League baseball player. Out: The Glenn Burke Story was nominated for Outstanding Documentary at the 22nd Annual GLAAD Media Awards.

On Burke's homosexuality and the homophobia in Major League baseball, Burke's childhood friend and sports agent, Abdul-Jalil al-Hakim, says, "It was uncompromising on both ends. Glenn was comfortable with who he was. Baseball was not comfortable with who he was."

EDITOR'S NOTE: for more on Out: The Glenn Burke Story, log on to OutSmartMagazine.com.

## Jane Lynch

(TV Guide, William Keck)

**William Keck: An awards-show staple is an opening video showing the host spliced into different series. Where might we see you pop up?**

**Jane Lynch: Mad Men. Though in drag as a guy. I wouldn't want to be one of the girls. They had no power.**

EDITOR'S NOTE: Jane Lynch is hosting this year's Emmy Awards show. See page 61.



## Piers & Christine

(cnn.com, 8/18/11)

When the former Delaware GOP Senate candidate [Christine O'Donnell] appeared on *Piers Morgan Tonight* . . . , one question about gay marriage led to a terse stand-off—and eventually, the end of the interview.

Host Morgan asked O'Donnell about whether she supports gay marriage, which O'Donnell found to be "a little bit rude."

"I obviously want to talk about the issues that I choose to talk about in [my book, *Troublemaker*],"

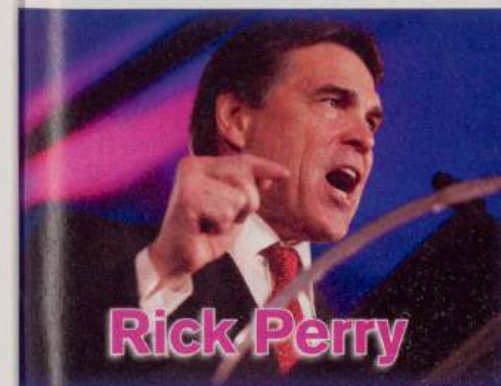
she went on. "What relevance is that right now? Is there a piece of legislation?"

Morgan didn't drop it there, though. "It's obviously a highly contentious political issue. I'm just curious what your view is. You keep saying it's in the book, but I'm bemused as to why you won't just say it in an interview." O'Donnell responded that she didn't think it was a relevant query, or what she's "championing right now."

Finally, Morgan asked why she was being so weird about the whole thing, but since O'Donnell still found him to be rude, she told him as much and proceeded to end the interview. After all, she'd given up another interview for this! "I was supposed to be speaking at the Republican Women's Club at 6 o'clock, and I chose to be a little late for that, not to endure a rude talk show host—but to talk to you about my book, to talk about the issues that I address in my book," she told Morgan.

And with that, she starts to remove her earpiece, and the camera trained on O'Donnell cut away.

"It would appear the interview has just been ended, because I have the audacity to ask questions based on stuff that's in this book," Morgan told his audience, holding up a copy of O'Donnell's text. Morgan joked, "I think we now know why it's called *Troublemaker*."



## Rick Perry

(swampland.time.com, 8/24/11, Mark Benjamin)

Since leaping into the GOP presidential race, Texas Gov. Rick Perry hasn't been asked if he thinks gays are born or made. But in a little-noticed passage in his first book, *On My Honor*, an encomium on the Boy Scouts published in 2008, Perry also drew a parallel between homosexuality and alcoholism. "Even if an alcoholic is powerless over alcohol once it enters his body, he still makes a choice to drink," he wrote. "And, even if someone is attracted to a person of the same sex, he or she still makes a choice to engage in sexual activity with someone of the same gender."

In *On My Honor*, Perry also punted on the exact origins of homosexuality. He wrote that he is "no expert on the 'nature versus nurture' debate," but that gays should simply choose abstinence. Perry's campaign did not respond to a request for comment on whether he maintains this view.



by Nancy Ford

# IF IT AIN'T BROKE . . .

Thanks to fashionistas and their friends, reality television stays gay in new season

Neat, sweet, petite:

he loves his female pop icons, doesn't he? Former Madonna designer **Jean Paul Gaultier**, who became famous in the '90s for giving Mo's underwear an industrial spin, sits down to interview **Lady Gaga** at his Paris workshop. In *Gaga by Gaultier*, expect the two to chat about fame, fans, and (of course) fashion. September 12, 7 p.m. The CW (cwtv.com).



If your favorite genre of television programming revolves around gay men, their straight female gal-pals, and what they're all wearing, grab that remote control and get ready for a good time. The lucrative, incredibly popular stream of reality shows capitalizing on this proven equation continues with *The Rachel Zoe Project*, now entering its fourth season. This time, Zoe's pregnant and has a new clothing line. September 6, 9 p.m. Bravo (bravotv.com).

Those most needing one receive an unconventional makeover from rhyming designer Garo Sparo in *Unleashed by Garo*. Among the makeoveres are a recovering alcoholic, a sister abused by her hopefully reformed brother, a burlesque performer, a cancer survivor, and other

deserving souls. Six Fridays, beginning September 9, 9 p.m. Sundance Channel (sundancechannel.com).

Snarkinista Kathy Griffin serves as a guest judge alongside the regular panel of veteran supermodel Tyra Banks, fashion editor André Leon Talley, and photographer Nigel Barker in *America's Next Top Model's* "Cycle 17" (that means the 17th season, for those not fluent in runway-ese). This season features the return of former contestants, including current Houstonian Allison Harvard. September 14, 8 p.m. The CW (cwtv.com).

The 2011 *Miss Universe Pageant* (the granddaddy of all televised pairings of gay men and straight women) features Andy Cohen, gay host of Bravo's *Watch What Happens: Live* emceeing with Natalie Morales (*Today*). September 12, 8 p.m. NBC (nbc.com).

Christina Aguilera (*Burlesque*), Sara Ramirez (*Grey's Anatomy*), out singer Ricky Martin, *Desperate Housewives*, and *Modern Family* are all nominees for the 2011 NCLR ALMA Awards. Eva Longoria and George Lopez host. September 16, 7 p.m. NBC (nbc.com).

In a departure from the above theme, finally, on September 11, 2001, Sir Paul McCartney was attempting to fly out of New York City. Upon being grounded with the rest of the country, McCartney set out on foot, walking through Manhattan to assess the damage following the attacks. *The Love We Make* commemorates that stroll and the tribute concert McCartney spearheaded 10 days after the tragedy. Features appearances by Sir Elton John, President Bill Clinton, Sheryl Crow, Mick Jagger, and other luminaries. September 10, 9 p.m. Showtime (sho.com).

Jane Lynch is hosting the Emmy Awards ceremony, which airs September 18 on Fox. Read more about it on page 61.

For more gay influence on the new TV season, visit *OutSmartMagazine.com*.

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by David Goldberg

## MORE SHOWING, LESS TELLING

'Glee: The Complete Second Season' is still worth singing about

Ryan Murphy and the producers of *Glee* have mastered complex musical arrangements, harmonies, choreography, and glitzy costumes. Unfortunately, they still have trouble with basic storytelling devices. But through the inconsistencies, *Glee*'s second season still offered many sparkling moments.

Musically, *Glee*'s second season is packed with gay magic. This year featured the Britney Spears tribute episode, a "Rocky Horror Glee Show," and renditions of such classics as "Papa, Can You Hear Me?" and "River Deep, Mountain High." What's more, these covers were good—sometimes better than the originals. When Lea Michele channels Barbra Streisand on "My Man," she really reaches her inner Barbra. And the co-ed cover of Jamie Foxx's "Blame It (on the Alcohol)" far surpasses its maker's version. There are few platforms that embrace and interpret the works of almost all our favorite icons. There may not be again for a while, save for your local drag show.

*Glee*'s original out character, Kurt (Chris Colfer), was central to this season, as he battled bullying and sought to carve out his own identity. Colfer's intense performance earned a well-deserved Emmy nomination for the part.

Unfortunately, Kurt's character went to the point of being annoying—very often. It seems that Kurt can't break a nail without complaining about how hard it is to be gay in high school. We get it!

It seems that the writers of *Glee* cannot



Let Gleedom ring: Sue Sylvester (Jane Lynch) is not-so-gleefully surrounded by her singing students.

escape the pressure of holding up TV's homosexual torch, and neither can Kurt. They have not yet learned that the best lessons and inspirations are shown and not necessarily told. Just like its prized gay teen, *Glee* is young, naive, and often over the top. Its inspirational potential to young gay viewers cannot be challenged. But its delivery should be.

Fortunately, Kurt was one of many gay characters this season. Darren Criss skyrocketed to teen stardom of cosmic proportions when, as dashing gay Warbler Blaine, he nailed Katy Perry's "Teenage Dream." As the apple of Kurt's eye, Blaine has proven that

one doesn't have to be straight to be an American obsession.

Santana (Naya Rivera) and Brittany (Heather Morris), who usually serve as saddles for the male Glee Club members, pushed their constant flirtations with each other to the forefront this season. Both girls struggled with labels, social status, and emotions as they reconciled with their girl-on-girl love. Unlike Kurt, who seems to always have the answers, these girls were confused, excited, and frightened by their budding attractions. For once, *Glee* felt real.

In some ways, season two improved on many of *Glee*'s assets, but in others, it stumbled and crashed. A 24-episode season is simply too much for this sophomore series. Storylines were either dragged out or resolved far too quickly. In the span of one episode, teenagers flirt, fight, fall in love, and break up again. Characters and plotlines vanished and rematerialized, testing the viewer's patience and allegiance. There are many show-stopping single episodes on this DVD, but as a whole, there is no consistency or development.

While *Glee* may have some structural housecleaning to do, the attention it is gaining is critical for its gay viewers, actors, and characters. Jane Lynch, the out lesbian darling who plays the series' sinister villain Sue Sylvester, is hosting this year's Emmy Awards. Now isn't that worth singing about?

*Glee: The Complete Second Season* (which includes 10 extra features) is available September 13 from 20th Century Fox Home Entertainment (foxconnect.com).

David Goldberg is a frequent contributor to OutSmart magazine.

## HOLLYWOOD CONFIDENTIAL

Carrie Fisher is damaged goods, and she's the first to tell you so



Cheers: Carrie Fisher's *Wishful Drinking* is available September 13 from HBO Home Entertainment (hbo.com).

The daughter of superstar actress Debbie Reynolds and superstar crooner Eddie Fisher—Hollywood's early prototype of America's Sweethearts—was just a toddler when her famous parents' divorce made international headlines. But Carrie Fisher has turned the lemons of her tumultuous childhood, and the ensuing battle with alcohol, drug, and food addictions, into lemonade. *Wishful Drinking*—originally a memoir, then a solo stage show—is her lemonade stand.

Now famously clean and sober, Fisher is also to be congratulated for losing some of her weight, thanks to Jenny Craig. The difference in her physique is considerable in her closing credit-recording studio footage singing the show's theme song, "Happy Days Are Here Again."

We so want to believe Fisher's days are happier, finally. But she just seems world-weary. Like she says at the top of the show, if the outrageous particulars of her life weren't funny, they'd just be true. And it's a bit painful (no pun) to wonder whether or not she's joking about her endorsement of electroshock therapy.

There are several truly hysterical moments here, like Fisher's informative "Hollywood Inbreeding" flowchart, and her salute to her Princess Leia legacy. But mostly, *Wishful Drinking* recalls that old showbiz chestnut: comedy = tragedy + time. Lots of time. It reminds us even more of the lifelong toll that irresponsible parenting takes.

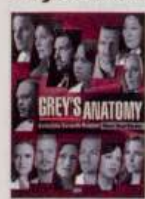
And it makes us wonder if, had this brilliantly gifted woman been properly nurtured in a healthy environment as a child, she might have shared even greater talents with us as an adult. —N.F.



## DVD Shorts

Previews by Nancy Ford

### Grey's Anatomy: The Complete Seventh Season



All 22 episodes of the stellar season are included in this six-disc set, but the real treat here is in the bonus features. In addition to including extended and "behind the scenes" versions of "Song Beneath the Song," the series' popular music episode, the set also offers outtakes and unaired scenes, as well as "Seattle Grace: Messages of Hope" webisodes. Suffice it to say, the doctors are in. Sept. 13. ABC (abc.com).

### Leading Ladies



Melanie LaPatin, Benji Schwimmer, and a bunch of other hoofers from *So You Think You Can Dance* star in this comedy about ballroom dancing and a family that thrives on it. In addition to being screened at Cannes and 44 other film festivals, it won honors from San Francisco, Sonoma, and Palm Beach. 2010. Daniel Beahm and Erika Randall Beahm direct. Sept. 13. Wolfe (wolfevideo.com).

### Baby Jane?



This even-campier salute to the 1962 cult classic *What Ever Happened to Baby Jane?* somehow avoids lawsuits. It stars renowned impersonators Matthew Martin as the Bette Davis character and J. Conrad Frank as the Joan Crawford character, and also features Alotta Boutte, Henna Rintz, and other cleverly named drag queens. William Clift directs. 2010. Sept. 27. Ariztical Entertainment (ariztical.com). ■

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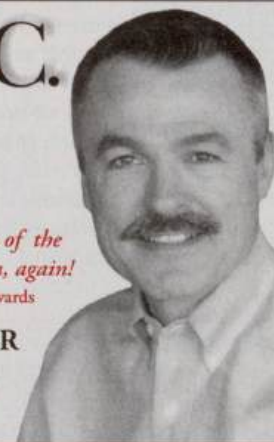
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## BE DAZZLED

An interview with Diamond Rings

One of the most exciting debut albums of 2010, *Special Affections* by queer Canadian musician Diamond Rings (aka John O'Regan), was reissued by Astralwerks in June. It arrived just in time for Pride month and was the perfect soundtrack for all the parties and pre-parade brunches. A one-man band, Diamond Rings is dazzling listeners on tracks such as "Wait & See," "On Our Own," "You & Me," "Pre-owned Heart," and "All Yr Songs." This interview took place in late spring, and Diamond Rings is performing in Houston on September 15 at Fitzgerald's.



Gregg Shapiro: John, I want to begin by congratulating you on getting signed to Astralwerks. What does that mean to you?

Diamond Rings: It means a lot to me. It shows other people—other aspiring artists and musicians—that if you work at something and are focused and dedicated and have a passion for something, it's possible to make it happen. You can make what you love doing into something that's real and that other people like, too. Astralwerks is



Diamond Rings (aka John O'Regan) dazzles Houston on September 15 at Fitzgerald's.

rereleasing an album that I essentially made in my bedroom on GarageBand. They are releasing it on a label that puts out albums by Kylie Minogue and Bryan Ferry and Pet Shop Boys—all these fantastic bands that have been making great music for so long, and who are also pretty technically sophisticated. So that just reaffirms my belief that if you work hard and really concentrate on doing your best, other people will recognize that.

Are there any new tracks on the reissue of *Special Affections*?

There's a reworked version of "Something Else," which was the lead single from the album. When we were working on the deal, doing our record label dates (or whatever you want to call them), getting to know each other before deciding things, they booked me on some studio time in New York and I did an acoustic version of that song with a piano and some other things. It was just live off the floor, and it turned out really well. I did a few other songs too, but there was this one version that we really liked. That's going to be on the record as a bonus.

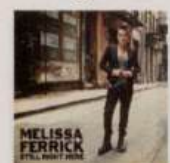
What is the genesis of the band's name *Diamond Rings*?

Originally, it was something that just kind of fit with the sort of brash flashiness that I was trying to project. A big part of what I was doing was kind of a reaction to what was going on in Toronto at the time. There are a lot of great bands, but there weren't very many that were really striving to perform and do something glamorous and exciting. Canada is a really self-deprecating place. I suppose the name was meant to allude to a kind of quality that I found was lacking →

## GrooveOut Shorts

Reviews by Nancy Ford

**Melissa Ferrick**  
*Still Right Here*



A long-time staple of the women's independent music universe, Ferrick does not rely on her sterling reputation in her 17th album: her intense six-string-slapping delivery, especially on the title track, has not faded in the 20 years she's ridden the music fest circuit. Friends Kaki King ("Headphones On") and Ani DiFranco ("You Let Me Be") also step up to collaborate. MPress Records (mpressrecords.com).

**Barbra Streisand**  
*What Matters Most*

Over the decades, composer/lyricists and masters of imagery Marilyn and Alan Bergmann have supplied Streisand with her top hits, like "The Way We Were," "You



Don't Bring Me Flowers," "Papa, Can You Hear Me?" and others. Here she serves up the duo's Academy Award-winners previously recorded by other superstars, like the impossibly complex "The Windmills of Your Mind," an ultra-smooth version of Sinatra's "Nice 'n' Easy," and Astaire's "That Face." For diehard fans, a second CD, included in the deluxe edition, also includes those aforementioned Streisand hits. Columbia Records (columbiarecords.com).

**Matt Zarley**  
*Change Begins with Me*



Apparently, the lead single of this album, "WTF," was inspired by his breakup with a closeted celebrity. Unfortunately, his album is less WTF and more *whatever*. Zarley's new release is seemingly heartfelt,

but fails to meet any common criteria of vocal range or lyrical quality. He needs to focus on the music, not the out-of-studio drama. Get more Matt at mattzarley.com. —Review: David Goldberg

**Grace Jones**  
*Hurricane*



Oh yes, she's back. The rhythmic, tribal throb that was Jones's signature sound in the '70s and '80s has returned, stronger than ever. The opening cut, "This Is Life," propels us straight back to the primordial landscape, and builds from there. Nearly every cut here sounds like the final-word, roll-the-credits tune on a feature film. "Corporate Cannibals" is quease-inducingly brilliant, with "Well Well Well" offering an appealing Caribbean flavor. The second of the double-disc set provides dub mixes of each tune. Pias America (pias.com). →

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## GrooveOut Shorts continued from page 84

Patti Smith  
*Outside Society*



The very essence of Smith's work seems to eschew the concept of her ever blessing a "greatest hits" project, but that's exactly what she has done here, even including her own personal recollections of her original songs in a bonus booklet. Contains "Gloria," "Because the Night," "Rock N Roll N\*\*\*\*r," and 15 other reasons she is still the Godmother of Punk. Enjoy this newly remastered double-disc set, which musically spans 1975 through 2007, while reading Smith's new memoir, *Just Kids*. Legacy Recordings (sonymusic.com).

## GO LOCAL

Houston harmonies

Paige Lewis  
*One Good Day*

A favorite among Houston audiences, this openly lesbian singer/songwriter is likely to get airplay with her fourth CD, particularly with the thoughtful "It Goes On," the philosophical, multi-layered "Other Side," and the optimistic title track. Good, solid, turn-up-the-volume-and-drive pop rock. (See "Finding Her Voice," *OutSmart*, August 2011.) Cry Holy Music (thepaigelewis.com). —Review: N.F.



Lewis was featured in the August 2011 issue of *OutSmart*.

Derek Mayo  
and Mike Burton  
*High Drama!*  
*Soundtrack Vol. 1*

Here we have the musical accompaniment to the web cartoon series that openly gay creator Mayo describes as "Dynasty meets Melrose Place meets Remington Steele." Frenetic and pulsing, it's also addictive, particularly "Make Love," the collection's opening salvo, as is the "Nitelyfe" supa-fly single. Bonus tracks are included in the online package. Independently produced (derek mayo.bandcamp.com). —Review: N.F. ■



Mayo was featured on the August 2005 cover of *OutSmart*.

## GrooveOut continued from page 84

in the Canadian music scene.

I really like Brian Eno, and I've been reading a lot about him. There's a quote in his recent biography from Robert Fripp, who was one of his guitar players. He was comparing artists like David Bowie and Brian Eno and himself to diamonds—which I thought was really cool. He was saying that, on the surface level, people just talk about how brilliant they are—that they're flashy, attention-seeking objects—but beneath that there's a kind of toughness or hardness to the actual material, just like a diamond is really one of the hardest rocks there is.

Were there other names under consideration?

No, that was always the name. I have a tendency to come up with band names all the time—it's like one of my favorite things to do. I'll find a good name and be like, "Oh, there's a cool name for a band that sounds like this or a band that looks like this." So I come up with the name, and more or less fit the musical concept around that, if that makes sense.

Sure. In addition to Diamond Rings, one-person bands—such as Vincent Minor, Owl City, The Ready Set, and fellow Canadian Owen Pallett's former moniker *Final Fantasy*—are becoming increasingly popular. Why do you think that is?

Well, it's cool that you mentioned Owen. For sure, his work was a big influence on me, and still is. He was one of the first artists who went out on a limb and took me on tour with him, back when I was first starting out. I was just playing with my backing tracks on an iPod. Sure enough, he's putting his neck on the line and having me open for him in churches and stuff. [Laughs]

I think we're at a point in music history where audiences are really open to different kinds of music and different ways of performing. At least for me, I'm not one who cares so much about seeing an entire band necessarily recreate an album live without using backing tracks, or using different kinds of technology to assist in performing. For me, it's more about the performance and being able to engage with the audience. I've been messing around with a few different setups, and I did shows with some other band members when I was starting out. It got to a point where I just realized I felt that the best way for me to make a connection and inspire people was to do it on my own. Get up there, dressed up with makeup and everything else on, and just really kind of go for it. It was really about finding a way to make myself almost as scared as possible. I imagine the scariest thing I could do on stage, and then →

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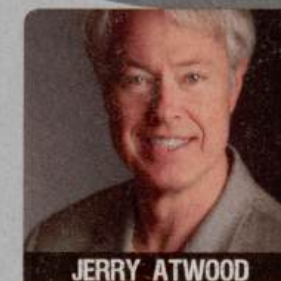
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**GrooveOut** *continued from previous page*

I do it. [Laughs] I don't know if that's true with other artists or not, but I feel like audiences are ready now, more than ever, to see genuine performances. They don't care about the package as long as there is a connection.

**You credited Owen as an influence. Who do you consider to be your musical influences and inspirations?**

Brian Eno, for sure. David Bowie, for sure. Grace Jones, for sure. Salt-n-Pepa, Neneh Cherry. I listen to a lot of music where I live and work—a studio space with some other artists in Toronto. Between the three of us, we probably have eight or nine milk crates of records, so there's always something on. I think more than anything, though, I'm influenced more by personalities than by what the music actually sounds like. Like I love watching old TLC or Salt-n-Pepa videos, where it just looks like kids having fun, getting paid to make music and loving it, and not worrying about necessarily being cool or being super high-budget or technically polished. It's just about translating an emotion and a feeling. So anyone who does that and is not afraid to take risks, I really respect.

**I'm glad you mentioned videos, because I love the "Wait & See" video. Were Pat Benatar's moves in the "Love Is a Battlefield" video an inspiration to you?**

[Laughs] I'm sure, somewhat. That was one of the first videos we made, and the first without a green screen trying to incorporate other people. The party scene at the end—that's our loft that I was talking about. We filmed almost every video in the space, somehow, and we were kind of running out of ways to disguise it as something else. It was just about, "Okay, well, we want dancing in the video, and here are my friends that are willing to be in it. Let's try to do something that we can all remember, and try to do the whole shoot in one day." [Laughs] We made that well over a year ago, and a few parts are kind of cringe-inducing for me at this point.

**In "You & Me," you sing, "My mind has a tendency to wander, my heart has a temperamental beat." Is this your way of saying that you might not be able to remain faithful in a relationship?**

[Laughs] I think, for sure. With me, at least, it's not in the typical rock-star sense of being on the road and sleeping around. It's more that so much of my time and energy goes into my art and into my music, and it can become all-consuming. It's something that I'm aware of. I'm not necessarily the best at relationships, at least not yet. Right now I'm trying to learn to play the guitar. [Laughs] I'm still

learning how to be supportive of other people. It's hard to balance. But I get so much from performing and creating my work that it's really kind of addictive and exciting.

**In "It's Not My Party" you make reference to age and being "grown up." Is growing older a subject that concerns you?**

No. I honestly can't wait to get older. I'm really excited about it. I really am inspired a lot by artists who have had longevity and have had careers that you can trace and follow through different periods and stages. Also, I think there's a tendency for music fans and critics to value the work and the opinions of people who have been doing things for a while. Like when Neil Young writes a song, you definitely listen to it differently than you would listen to someone like Kurt Vile. For me, Neil Young is kind of inescapable here [in Toronto]. If you're into music in Toronto, you'll have some Neil Young records. I don't like them all, but I really appreciate an artist like him who takes risks, and is still taking risks. Like his last album [Le Noise]—I thought it was amazing, him and Daniel Lanois just recording noise. To me, that's the coolest. I like to imagine that I can age and still not get caught in a rut, and keep things exciting and stay excited about music while growing and changing. It will be fun to see how that's reflected in what I do.

**You did a national tour with Robyn in early 2011. What was that experience like for you?** In hindsight, it was a really an enlightening and eye-opening experience, for sure. Getting to see a performer like her up close, night after night—someone who has been making music and being a public figure for half of her life—getting to see that and learning from that was invaluable.

I feel very fortunate to have just been able to see the kind of work and dedication that goes into keeping a career going, making great music and engaging with the audience. It's a lot of work, and I'm really fortunate to have been part of that experience. I learned a lot, and I think my own skill as a performer really improved a lot from that. It was a kind of a sink-or-swim position to be in. I was up there by myself, with two to three thousand people in the audience, and the onus was on me to keep them entertained and engaged and excited. I think for the most part I was able to do that. Like I said, it's addictive to feel that kind of energy in a room, and have a part in creating or dictating the way people react and respond to what you're doing. That's really kind of fun. It just made me more excited about wanting to keep getting better.



Read the complete interview at  
OutSmartMagazine.com.

Gregg Shapiro is a regular contributor to OutSmart magazine.

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## TWO OF A KIND

E. Lynn Harris posthumously pleases with new novel

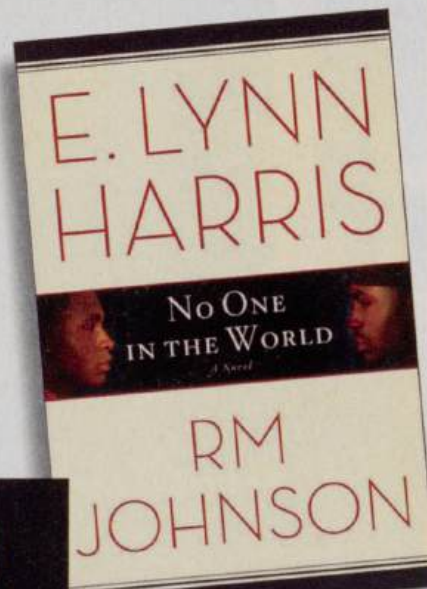
You have 24 hours in a day. Over 1,400 minutes, around 86,000 seconds, and you still can't do everything you need to get done. Some days, you just want to clone yourself. With two of you, maybe you'd get things finished. Double yourself, and you might even get ahead.

Cobi Winslow just found his doppelgänger in the last place he'd ever think to look. And in the new book *No One in the World* by E. Lynn Harris and RM Johnson, it might be the last thing he ever does.

Cobi Aiden Winslow always had whatever he wanted—except for one thing. From the moment he was adopted, he had maid service in a mansion in Chicago's best neighborhood. He had nice clothes, a law-school education, cars, and antiques—but he didn't have his father's acceptance.

Cobi Aiden Winslow was gay. His father hated that, so acceptance was never going to come. Cobi's parents were killed in a plane crash, but not before telling him that he had a twin brother . . . somewhere. Absent a father's love, a long-lost brother was all Cobi could think about.

Sissy Winslow learned about the family business at her father's elbow. She thought it would be hers someday, so when her parents' will was read and her brother



*No One in the World* by E. Lynn Harris and RM Johnson • 2011 Simon & Schuster (simonandschuster.com) • \$25 • 305 pages  
INSET: E. Lynn Harris



got half of the company stock, she was stunned. Cobi didn't know a thing about Winslow Products. He was a lawyer, not a CEO. Worse yet, the will stipulated that Cobi had to be married to a woman by his 34th birthday or his stock would be sold.

A takeover was imminent.

Cobi turned 34 in 25 days. There was no woman on the horizon.

Thinking quickly, Sissy Winslow de-

vised a plan to save the business. As she searched for a stylish, smart, Winslow-worthy society woman who could be bought, Cobi searched for his twin brother.

But as Cobi was finally reconnecting with a part of him he never knew about, he was also inviting trouble. Though he'd been successful in hiding it thus far, there were suddenly too many people who knew he was gay. And that knowledge was going to cost him.

Author E. Lynn Harris has been gone for two years now, and in the book's preface, co-author RM Johnson says that he and Harris collaborated on this novel before Harris's death. So is this book reminiscent of Harris's other books, or . . . ?

*No One in the World* is spicier than you might be used to. There's an underlying feeling of threat that's irresistible, and though you might think you know what's going to happen, you'd be wrong. Granted, there were a few times when I thought the story got a little silly, but I did like how it unfolded overall, and how there were surprises in the creases.

If you're looking for something to grab for a lazy weekend read, you can't go wrong with a book like this. *No One in the World* will grab you in a second, and you'll want to read it all day.

Terri Schlichenmeyer has been reading since she was three years old, and she never goes anywhere without a book. She lives on a hill in Wisconsin with two dogs and 11,000 books.

## ReadOut Shorts

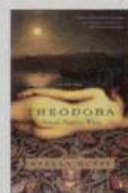
**Tierra del Fuego: Colony Ship**  
Caron Cro



Trevathan Ivins has achieved her dream to be an officer on the *Tierra del Fuego*, the first of the off-Earth colony ships. The Compact the settlers have devised has unusual rules covering procreation, family units, and the rights of animals. A radical sect is outraged by the Compact and manages to get a saboteur on board. Trev and her friends work together to stop outrageous conduct on the part of the captain, find the menace they know is on board, and along the way find true love for all people, including the beautiful, and very gay, Trev. Although reminiscent of the *Naiad* novels of the 1970s, this book has a very

subtle plot irony that put me into a seize-the-moment frame of mind. Dog Ear Publishing (dogearpublishing.net). —Review: Angel Curtis

**Theodora: Actress, Empress, Whore**  
Stella Duffy



Theodora is one of my favorite figures of the ancient world. This woman devised a life that took her from a performer (read: prostitute) to Empress of Constantinople. In this volume, Stella Duffy shows all the passion of the real woman, weaving a story that entertains and ensnares. While not a gay book per se, Theodora's affairs with women are an integral part of the story. This is the perfect not-quite-historical-fiction, not-quite-romance

read. September 27. Penguin Paperback Original (us.penguin.com). —Review: A.C.

**Queer: The Ultimate LGBT Guide for Teens**  
Kathy Belge and Marke Bieschke



A manual for coming out. This volume is designed to help teens—or, more realistically, their therapists—understand labels, reconcile with family and friends, and pursue a successful high school career as a member of the LGBTIQ community. Belge and Bieschke may not be the most in touch with today's youth, but their positive language and constant affirmations make this a fantastic first volume for any questioning teenager. Zest Books (zestbooks.net). —Review: David Goldberg ■



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# Calendar of Events

Compiled by Nancy Ford

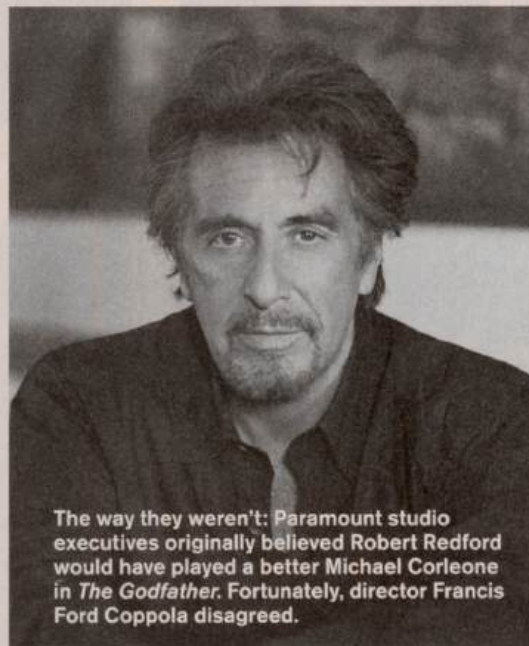
## Words to Live By

Society for the Performing Arts  
presents an evening with Al Pacino

You know those little quote books that clever "authors" put together, containing notable utterances from an actor's body of work? Publishers pull the most recognizable lines from the artists' movies or television shows or plays, categorize them under headings like "Love" or "Success" or "Family," then merchandise them at bookstore checkout counters to capitalize on impulse buying.

A smart publisher should do that with Al Pacino, if one hasn't already. If any actor's accumulated characters have succinctly imparted mega-wisdom with a mere paucity of words, it would be Pacino's.

Take these gems from Pacino's perfect portrayal of Michael Corleone in *The God-*



The way they weren't: Paramount studio executives originally believed Robert Redford would have played a better Michael Corleone in *The Godfather*. Fortunately, director Francis Ford Coppola disagreed.

father, parts I and II (1972 and 1974): "Don't ever take sides with anyone against the family again. Ever." So nurturing, yet so threatening.

The sage Lt. Colonel Frank Slade from *Scent of a Woman* (1992), the role that earned Pacino his lone Oscar, shared: "There are two kinds of people in this world. The first group is the people who face the music; the second group are those who run for cover. Cover is better."

Even the succinct (albeit grammatically impaired) Carlito from *Carlito's Way* (1993), had his way with

words: "If you can't see the angles no more, you're in trouble."

But it was Pacino's portrayal of the AIDS-ridden Roy Cohn in *Angels in America* (2003) whose dying sentiments ring most memorably true: "Don't be afraid; people are so afraid; don't be afraid to live in the raw wind, naked, alone. . . . Learn at least this: what you are capable of. Let nothing stand in your way."

Society for the Performing Arts presents *Pacino: One Night Only*, an onstage-interview featuring film clips, reminiscences, surprise readings, and a question-and-answer session with one of the greatest actors of all time. It's an offer you can't refuse.

Sept. 19, 8 p.m. Jones Hall, 615 Louisiana St. • spahouston.org • 713/227-4SPA. —Nancy Ford

## SEPTEMBER

### FILM

**SBorn to Be Wild 3D, Sea Rex 3D, and Sharks 3D.** Houston Museum of Natural Science, One Hermann Circle Dr. • hmsn.org • 713/639-4629.

**Obsession** (1943). Luchino Visconti directs. Sept. 11. Museum of Fine Arts Houston's Brown Auditorium Theater, 1001 Bissonnet St. • mfah.org • 713/639-7300.

**About Face: The Story of the Jewish Refugee Soldiers of World War II**, with filmmaker Steven Karris. Sept. 14, 7pm. Holocaust Museum Houston, 5401 Caroline St. • hmh.org • 713/942-8000.

**Ratatouille** (2007). Disney's animated culinary comedy. Donated canned food items benefit Houston Food Bank. Sept. 16, 8pm. Discovery Green, 1500 McKinney St. • discoverygreen.com • 713/400-7336.

**The Bicycle Thieves** (1948). Vittorio De Sica directs. Sept. 17. Museum of Fine Arts Houston's Brown Auditorium Theater, 1001 Bissonnet St. • mfah.org • 713/639-7300.

**Fantasia** (1940). Disney's animated classic presented by IKEA Houston. Sept. 24, 7:30pm. Discovery Green, 1500 McKinney St. • discoverygreen.com • 713/400-7336.

**Design & Film: Splitting the Screen Video Salon** with Peter Lucas. Sept. 25, 1pm. Aurora Picture Show, Barnvelder Movement Complex, 2201 Preston St. • aurorapictureshow.org • 713/868-2101.

**Manhattan Short Film Festival.** Sept. 30. Museum of Fine

Arts Houston's Brown Auditorium Theater, 1001 Bissonnet St. • mfah.org • 713/639-7300.

### PERFORMING ARTS

**Sylvia.** A. R. Gurney's comedy for dog lovers. Through Sept. 11. Texas Repertory Theatre Co., 14243 Stuebner Airline Rd. • texreptheatre.org • 281/583-7573.

**A Behanding in Spokane.** Martin McDonagh's volatile, outrageous comedy. Through Sept. 26. Alley Theatre, 615 Texas Ave. • alleytheatre.org • 713/220-5700.

**Damaged Divas of the Decades** salutes popular music's most talented but troubled singers. Through Nov. 13. Music Box Theater, 2623 Colquitt St. • themusicboxtheater.com • 713/522-7722.

**The Rocky Horror Show.** Richard O'Brien's live stage production. Sept. 2–17. Stage Door Inc., 284 Pasadena Town Square Mall • stagedoorinc.com • 832/582-7606.

**Goodbye, Charlie.** George Axelrod's comedy about life's regrets. Sept. 2–24. Theatre Southwest, 8944-A Clarkcrest Dr. • theatresouthwest.org • 713/661-9505.

**Return of the Masters** includes "Les Patineurs," "In the Night," and "Song of the Earth." Sept. 8–18. Houston Ballet. Wortham Center's Brown Theater, 501 Texas Ave. • houstonballet.org • 713/227-2787.

**The Triumph of Love** by Pierre de Marivaux. Sept. 8–25. Classical Theatre Company at Talento Bilingüe de Houston, 333 S. Jensen Dr. • classicaltheatre.org • 713/963-9665.

**Republic Day** by Tom Stell. One family's struggle in a fictional republic. Sept. 8–Oct. 1, 8pm. Big Head Productions at Obsidian Art Space, 3522 White Oak Dr. • obsidianartspace.org.

**Opening Night: Ode to Joy.** Hans Graf conducts Houston Symphony and Chorus. Sept. 9–10, 7:30pm. Jones Hall, 615 Louisiana St. • houstonsymphony.org • 713/224-7575.

**Pieces of 9/11, Memories from Houston.** Houston Grand Opera commemorates the 10th anniversary of 9/11. Sept. 9, noon: Houston City Hall Reflection Pond, 901 Bagby St. Sept. 11, 2 & 4pm: Rothko Chapel, 1409 Sul Ross St. • houstongrandopera.org • 713/228-6737.

**Mama Won't Fly.** World premiere of Jones Hope Wooten's southern comedy. Sept. 9–25. Crichton Theatre, 234 N. Main

St., Conroe • crighton-theatre.com • 936/441-7469.  
**Madcap 24**, eight original one-act plays. Sept. 10, 8pm. The Country Playhouse, 12802 Queensbury Ln. • countryplayhouse.org • 713/467-4497.

**Guitar Shorty.** Jimi Hendrix's mentor plays the blues. Sept. 10, 10pm. The Big Easy Social and Pleasure Club, 5731 Kirby Dr. • thebigeasyblues.com • 713/523-9999.

**Farragut North.** Beau Willimon's drama about electoral chicanery. Sept. 10–24. Black Lab Theatre at Frenetic Theater, 5102 Navigation Blvd. • blacklabtheatre.com • 713/417-3552.

**Woof.** World premiere of Y York's tale of a fallen sports hero seeking redemption. Sept. 10–Oct. 9. Main Street Theater–Rice Village, 2540 Times Blvd. • mainstreettheater.com • 713/524-6705.

**In the Blood** by Suzan-Lori Parks. Sept. 14–25. Barnevelder Theatre, 2201 Preston St. • thebackporchplayers.com • 800/494-8497.

**Ether Dome.** Elizabeth Eglhoff's world premiere about love, medicine, and the relationship between the men who discovered ether. Sept. 14–Oct. 9. Alley Theatre, 615 Texas Ave. • alleytheatre.org • 713/220-5700.

**Sniff** with Karolina Sobecka. A CG-animated dog follows and responds to the viewer's gesture. Part of Aurora Picture Show's Media Archeology 2011: Rewind-Play-Fast Forward. Sept. 15, 8pm. Chick and Chica, 3710 Main St. • aurorapictureshow.org • 713/868-2101.

**Two Alike.** Jack Ferver dances on Marc Swanson's set, a world premiere. Sept. 15–17, 7:30pm. Contemporary Arts Museum Houston at DiverseWorks Art Space, 1117 E. Frwy. • diverseworks.org • 713/335-3445.

**Chiptune Crooner** with Robert Thoth. Live cinema accompanied by a low-tech eight-bit orchestra created from vintage computer parts. Part of Aurora Picture Show's Media Archeology 2011: Rewind-Play-Fast Forward. Sept. 16, 8pm. The Orange Show, 2402 Munger St. • aurorapictureshow.org • 713/868-2101.

**Music that Should Be Danced: World Edition!** Salsa featuring local dance and music groups. Sept. 16, 8pm. Miller Outdoor Theatre in Hermann Park, 100 Concert Dr. • milleroutdoortheatre.com • 281/373-3386.

**Vote! A New Musical** examines high school student council elections featuring students from the Humphreys School. Sept.

16–17. Hobby Center for the Performing Arts, 800 Bagby St. • tuts.com • 713/558-8887.

**Brahms' Violin Concerto, Dvorák's Symphony No. 6, and Jallbert.** Hans Graf conducts violinist James Ehnes and the Houston Symphony. Sept. 16–18. Jones Hall, 615 Louisiana St. • houstonsymphony.org • 713/224-7575.

**Anna in the Tropics.** Nilo Cruz's drama about Tolstoy, the tropics, and the American dream. Sept. 16–Oct. 1. The Country Playhouse, 12802 Queensbury Ln. • countryplayhouse.org • 713/467-4497.

**Texas Romance.** Judy Reeves directs Ellsworth Schave's comedy. Sept. 16–Oct. 15. Theatre Suburbia, 4106 Way Out West Dr. • theatresuburbia.org • 713/682-3525.

**Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons** sing their greatest hits from the '60s and '70s. Sept. 17, 8pm. The Grand 1894 Opera House, 2120 Postoffice St., Galveston • thegrand.com • 409/765-1894.

**Wizard Takes All,** a live computer-game performance with Eddo Stern, part of Aurora Picture Show's Media Archeology 2011: Rewind-Play-Fast Forward. Sept. 17, 8pm. Menil Collection, 1515 Sul Ross St. • aurorapictureshow.org • 713/868-2101.

**Ave Maria: Music of Devotion to Our Lady.** Houston Chamber Choir. Sept. 18. St. Thomas Episcopal Church, 906 George Bush Dr., College Station. Sept. 20: Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, 1111 St. Joseph Pkwy. • houstonchamberchoir.org • 713/224-5566.

**Sunday Gospel at the Green,** presented with Houston Arts Alliance Folklife and Traditional Arts Program. Sept. 18 and 25, Oct. 30, 11:30am. Discovery Green, 1500 McKinney St. • discoverygreen.com • 713/400-7336.

**Pacino: One Night Only.** Actor Al Pacino in an on-stage interview with film clips. Sept. 19, 8pm. Society for the Performing Arts. Jones Hall, 615 Louisiana St. • spahouston.org • 713/227-4SPA.

**Maya Angelou,** the renowned poet, celebrates International Day of Peace, benefiting Brilliant Lecture Series' youth education programs. Sept. 22, 7pm. St. Paul's United Methodist Church, 5501 Main St. • brilliantlectures.com • 713/974-1335.

**Writing & C/Sitting Houston: From Hip Hop to Sugar Hill.** Readings by Marco Cervantes, Bao-Long Chu, David Theis, and Roger Wood, presented by Houston Arts Alliance. Sept. 22. Bohemio's, 708 Telephone Rd. • haatx.com • 713/581-6123. →

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## LookOut (It's like Calendar, only gayer)

by Nancy Ford

**Vote for the Vocalist.** You Betta Sing vocal competition, hosted by Tye Blue, continues **Sept. 1** and each Thursday at 10 p.m., and concludes **Sept. 15**. F Bar, 202 Tuam St. • fbarhouston.com • 713/522-FBAR.

**Focus on the "Family."** Music Box Theater, which has taken over the space previously occupied by Radio Music Theatre, presents "family" presentations of *Damaged Divas of the Decades*. The Friday installments of the show saluting popular music's most talented but troubled singers are "a bit more risqué," and offer a \$5 discount per ticket with reservation made online using the code "OutSmart." Through **Nov. 13**. 2623 Colquitt St. • themusicboxtheater.com • 713/522-7722.

**There's a Rainbow in the Title, So It Must Be Gay.** Bayou City Concert Musical's *Finian's Rainbow* runs **Sept. 8–11** at Houston Community College's Heinen Theatre, 3517 Austin St. • bayocityconcertmusicals.org • 713/465-6484.

**Leatherpalooza.** Leathermen from across the nation pour into Houston for a week-end-load of festivities beginning with Meet the Meat, **Sept. 9**, 10 p.m., at the Ripcord, 715 Fairview Ave. The Mr. Leather Houston annual competition is set for **Sept. 10**, 10 p.m., also at The Ripcord. Applications are available at Black Hawk Leather, the contest's sponsor, and The Ripcord. The fun concludes **Sept. 11**, 5 p.m., with Misfits Ball at Numbers, 300 Westheimer Rd. • theripcord.com • 713/521-2792.

**Sing Out and Party!** *Sing for Hope: An Evening of Art Songs & Arias* includes a prelude dinner at the Houston Club with honorees Daniel and Gabriela Dror, a concert at Wortham Theatre featuring international rising opera arias and Broadway hits, and an after party back at the Houston Club, honoring Brian Leary. Benefits Bering Omega Community Services. **Sept. 10**. beringomega.org.

**Partying Like Rock Stars.** Bayou City Performing Arts, now the umbrella organization of Gay Men's Chorus of Houston, Bayou City Women's Chorus, Houston Pride Band, and Unhinged Productions, presents *Let's Get Loud*, its annual meeting and kickoff event. **Sept. 10**, 4 p.m. Meteor, 2306 Genesee St. • bayocityperformingarts.org • 713/868-2020.

## Doing the Happy Dance.

AssistHers, a charitable group that provides non-medical assistance to lesbians who are ill, has produced its chief fundraiser, Decadent Desserts and More, for 15 years. This year, the event specifically honors the care group's founders and volunteers. "AssistHers would be nothing without the people who have given so much of themselves to help our clients,"



AssistHers president Lavita Marks says. "This year, we want to recognize all of our volunteers for their contributions, especially the contributions of our founding mothers." The afternoon emphasizes dancing, and also offers a raffle and food provided by Houston's most generous and talented caterers and restaurateurs. **Oct. 9**, 4 p.m. South Beach, 810 Pacific Street • assisthers.org.

**Cajun Celebration.** Zydeco queen Marcia Ball celebrates the release of *Roadside Attractions*, her fifth release for Alligator Records. **Sept. 10**, 3 p.m. Texas Music Fest by the Bay, Carlos Garza Sports Park, 3300 Magnolia Dr. in Texas City • bythebayfest.com • 409/643-5990.

**Singing Under the Stars.** Singer/songwriter Whitney McCray parties on the patio with the women of The Usual. **Sept. 10**, 10 p.m. 5519 Allen St. theusualpub.com.

**On the Boards.** Local LGBT leader and author Judy Reeves directs *Texas Romance*, Ellsworth Schave's comedy. **Sept. 16–Oct. 15**. Theatre Suburbia, 4106 Way Out West Dr. • theatresuburbia.org • 713/682-3525.

**No Bullied Child Left Behind.** Youth, educators, administrators, and anyone interested in making schools safer for all students are welcomed at 2011 Voices of Houston LGBTQ Youth Summit: Taking Back Our Schools. \$15; free for participants under age 18. **Sept. 17**, 8 a.m.–5 p.m. GLBT Cultural Center, 401 Branard St. • montrosecounselingcenter.org/2011voices.

**A Weighty Conversation.** *OutSmart's* Nancy Ford discusses her weight-loss journey and more at The Women's Group, a feminist group for all women. **Sept. 18**, 10:15am. First Unitarian Universalist Church's Sojourner Truth Room, 5200 Fannin St. • 713/529-8571. That after-

noon, Ford speaks to the women of LOAF (Lesbians Over Age Fifty), regarding how Lesbian Health Initiative was instrumental in that journey. 2 p.m. Montrose Counseling Center, 401 Branard St. • loafhouston.org • 281/467-2578.

**Notable Achievements.** Bill Sampson, Paul Guillory, and Salangi Legacy host the second annual Black Achievers of Houston 2011 Awards, honoring LGBT community advocates Rainbow Pages' Cristina Martinez and Lonnie Davis, and 14 other local leaders. The evening features red-carpet arrival, silent auction, photo booth, dancing to DJ Woodson, and a book signing with author Micheal W. Moore. **Sept. 23**, 8 p.m. House of Dereon Media Center, 2204 Crawford St. • hodmediacenter.com.

**Leather, Levi, and Lace Ball.** Chris "Sushi" Valk and Mona Lott-Gill host Empire of the Royal Sovereign Imperial Court of the Single Star's Imperial Prince and Princess Ball, featuring entertainment and refreshments. Benefits Montrose Counseling Center, Lesbian Health Initiative Houston, and ERSICSS' Kimberly Anne O'Neil Believe in a Dream Scholarship Fund. **Sept. 24**, 7 p.m. GLBT Cultural Center, 401 Branard St. • 713/721-4590.

**Guys and Dolls and Gays.** Theatre Under the Stars hosts Out@TUTS, a post-show, cabaret-style event following the performance of *Guys and Dolls* at Artista Res-

taurant for TUTS's LGBT friends. **Sept. 29**. TUTS.com/OUT.

**Mark Your Leadership Calendars.** Houston is the site of the 27th International Gay & Lesbian Leadership Conference, which brings together hundreds of openly LGBT leaders in government, politics, advocacy, business, and community organizations to work on key issues facing out leaders and their communities. Dec. 1–4. Registration is free for international attendees before **Sept. 30**. victoryfund.org.

**Beating Breast Cancer.** The Susan G. Komen 2011 Race for the Cure, fighting breast cancer, has set a goal of \$3 million. Members of Bayou City Performing Arts support the walkers and runners with a performance. **Oct. 1**, with opening ceremony at 7:45 a.m. Sam Houston Park, 1100 Bagby St. • bayoucityperformingarts.org • 713/868-2020.

**Road Trip.** Strap on those chaps and spurs for the 25th anniversary of International Gay Rodeo Association's World Gay Rodeo Finals. **Oct. 7–9**. Will Rogers Memorial Center's Watts Arena in Fort Worth • igra.com • 877/392-8160.

**Gridiron Gays.** Houston is the host city for National Gay Flag Football League's Gay Bowl XXI, kicking off **Oct. 7–9**. Cullen Park, 9008 Saums Rd. • 281/578-0693.

**Batter and Battress Up!** Celebrate National Coming Out Day and cheer your favorite local team at Kindred Spirit Foundation's Second Annual Softball Tournament. Mixed teams compete for trophies; hot dogs and cools drinks, commemorative T-shirts, and koozies available. **Oct. 8**. Memorial Park, fields 1, 4, and 5. Benefits AssistHers, Lesbian Health Initiative Houston, and Expert Nutrition's Ellen's Hand. kindredspiritshouston.org.

**40 Years of Festival Fun.** Originally known as the Westheimer Art Festival, Bayou City Art Festival Downtown features 300 artists, entertainment, food, and fun for the whole family (see page 65). **Oct. 8–9**. bayoucityartfestival.com.

**Sing Out, Sisters!** Tickets are currently on sale for Houston Women's Festival, returning to downtown Houston for a full day of music, art, vendors, food, drink, and open-air fun. Performers include Ginger Leigh, Terri Hendrix, Shelley King Band, GBmojo with Ginger Doss, Wishing Chair, and others. **Oct. 22**, noon–10 p.m. • hwfestival.org. ■

## Calendar continued from page 93

**Richard Strauss's A Hero's Life, Rouse's Odn Zhizna—One Special Life, and Liszt's Piano Concerto No. 2.** Hans Graf conducts pianist Olga Kern and the Houston Symphony. **Sept. 22–25**. Jones Hall, 615 Louisiana St. • houstonsymphony.org • 713/224-7575.

**Daughter of the Regiment.** Donizetti's tale of civilian love in a military family. **Sept. 22–Oct. 2**. Opera in the Heights, 1703 Heights Blvd. • operaintheheights.org • 713/861-5303.

**Brentano String Quartet and Friends.** presented by Da Camera. **Sept. 23**, 8pm. Wortham Theater Center, 501 Texas Ave. • dacamera.com • 713/524-7601.

**Weekend of Texas Contemporary Dance.** **Sept. 23–24**. Miller Outdoor Theatre in Hermann Park, 100 Concert Dr. • milleroutdoortheatre.com • 281/373-3386.

**There Is a Happiness that Morning Is.** Mickle Maher's rhyming lecture/play about two William Blake scholars defending their tenure. **Sept. 24–Oct. 15**. Catastrophic Theatre, 1540 Sul Ross St. • catastrophictheatre.com • 713/522-2723.

**A Behanding in Spokane.** Martin McDonagh's volatile, outrageous comedy. **Sept. 26–Oct. 15**. Island ETC/East-End Theater Co., 2001 Postoffice St., Galveston • islandetc.org • 409/762-3556.

**Guys and Dolls.** the golden-age, swing-era musical comedy revival. **Sept. 27–Oct. 9**. Theatre Under the Stars, Hobby Center for Performing Arts, 800 Bagby St. • tuts.com • 713/558-8887.

**Lotto.** a comedy by Cliff Roquemore. **Sept. 29–Oct. 23**. Ensemble Theatre, 3535 Main St. • ensemblehouston.com • 713/520-0055.

**Emperor: Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 5 and Coriolan Overture, and Schubert's Symphony No. 8, Unfinished.** David Afkham conducts pianist André Watts and Houston Symphony. **Sept. 30–Oct. 2**. Jones Hall, 615 Louisiana St. • houstonsymphony.org • 713/224-7575.

**Hot L Baltimore.** Lanford Wilson's comedy. **Sept. 30–Oct. 8**. Houston's School of Theatre & Dance. UH's Wortham Theater, 133 CWM Center for the Arts • theatre.uh.edu • 713/743-2929.

**Galveston! The Musical.** World premiere of Andree Newport, Dr. Bob Wilkins, and Mark York's new work. **Sept. 30–Oct. 9**. Masquerade Theatre. Hobby Center for the Performing Arts, 800 Bagby St. • masqueradetheatre.com • 713/861-7045.

**La Donna Musicale.** music by women composers. **Oct. 2**, 5pm; pre-concert talk, 4:15pm. Presented by Houston Early Music. Christ the King Evangelical Lutheran Church, 2353 Rice Blvd. • houstonearlymusic.org • 713/432-1744.

**Bruckner's Te Deum.** Paula Acord Blackmon conducts the organ dedication concert. **Oct. 5**, 7pm. Houston Masterworks Chorus. Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, 1111 St. Joseph Pkwy. • houstonmasterworks.org • 713/529-8900.

## FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

**Sagosund Storytime** features Swedish storytelling, costumes characters, magicians, and free kids' lunch. Tuesdays in September, noon. IKEA, 7810 Katy Frwy. • ikea.com.

**Popcorn Kids Workshop.** presented by IKEA and Aurora Picture Show. **Sept. 10**, noon. IKEA Houston Restaurant, 7810 Katy Frwy. • ikea.com.

**If You Give a Moose a Muffin.** Magik Theatre's original musical adaptation. **Sept. 21**, noon. Society for the Performing Arts. Wortham Center, 501 Texas Ave. • spahouston.org • 713/227-45PA.

**Velveteen Rabbit.** **Sept. 26–30**. Opera to Go! presents Margery Williams's timeless tale. Miller Outdoor Theatre in Hermann Park, 100 Concert Dr. • milleroutdoortheatre.com • 281/373-3386.

**Diary of a Worm, a Spider and a Fly.** Joan Cushing's adaptation of the children's series. **Sept. 26–Oct. 28**. Main St. Theatre—Chelsea Market, 4617 Montrose Blvd. • mainstreettheater.com • 713/524-6706.

## RADIO

**After Hours: Queer Radio with Attitude** features the QMZ (Queer Music Zone) with Jimmy Carper. Sunday mornings, 1–4am. KPFT 90.1 FM • kpft.org • 713/526-5738.

**Queer Voices.** Features, news, music, interviews, reviews, and commentary. Monday nights, 9–11pm. KPFT 90.1 FM • kpft.org • 713/526-4000.

## ART/PHOTOGRAPHY

**Simpson Kalisher: The Alienated Photographer.** 1950s and '60s street scenes. Through **Sept. 5**. Museum of Fine Arts



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Houston, 1001 Bissonnet St. • mfah.org • 713/639-7300.

**Texas! The Exhibition** features historical Texas artifacts including James Bowie's knife. Through Sept. 5. Houston Museum of Natural Science, One Hermann Circle Dr. • hmns.org • 713/639-4629.

**Ancient Ukraine: Golden Treasures and Lost Civilizations.** Through Sept. 5. Museum of Fine Arts Houston, 1001 Bissonnet St. • mfah.org • 713/639-7515.

**Book Club of Texas.** Stanley Marcus's choice of the best printers, binders, and designers in the state. Through Sept. 10. Museum of Printing History, 1324 W. Clay St. • printingmuseum.org • 713/522-4652.

**Four Exhibitions** feature works by Noah Simblis, Joe Meiser, Jonathan Leach, and Houston Art Scouts. Through Sept. 10. Box 13 ArtSpace, 6700 Harrisburg St. • box13artspace.com.

**My Caribbean Self.** A group exhibit. Through Sept. 10. PG Contemporary Gallery, 3227 1/2 Milam St. • pgcontemporary.com • 713/523-7424.

**Charles LeDray: workworkworkworkwork.** Small-scale handmade sculptures. Through Sept. 11. Museum of Fine Arts Houston, 1001 Bissonnet St. • mfah.org • 713/639-7300.

**Galveston Arts Center's Art for All Education Outreach Exhibition.** Through Sept. 11. Moody Mansion, 2618 Broadway St. • contemporaryartgalveston.org • 409/763-2403.

**The Spectacular of Vernacular** features 20 artists utilizing craft, folklore, and roadside kitsch. Through Sept. 18. Contemporary Arts Museum Houston, 5216 Montrose Blvd. • camh.org • 713/284-8250.

**Star Wars: Where Science Meets Imagination** features props from all six films, a full-size replica of the Millennium Falcon cockpit, and more. Through Sept. 18. Health Museum, 1515 Hermann Dr. • thehealthmuseum.org • 713/521-1515.

**Body Image.** Through Sept. 22. The Arts Alliance Center at Clear Lake, 2000 NASA Pkwy, Nassau Bay • taaccl.org • 281/335-7777.

**A Five-Installation Exhibit** features *Southern/Pacific*, works by Houston, Marfa, and Portland, Oregon artists; *The Power of Negative Feedback*, works by Jeremy DePrez and Francis Giampietro, *Mexicanos*, Joel Hernandez's photography; *A Time to Celebrate*, Mark Ponder's contemporary funeral rituals; and *Detritus*, Jeff Forster's reclaimed and natural materials. Through Sept. 24. Lawndale Art Center, 4912 Main St. • lawndaleartcenter.org • 713/528-5858.

**Helmut Newton: White Women, Sleepless Nights, Big Nudes.** Photographs from his first three groundbreaking books. Through Sept. 25. Museum of Fine Arts Houston, 1001 Bissonnet St. • mfah.org • 713/639-7300.

**Second Nature: Contemporary Landscapes from the MFAH Collection.** Through Sept. 25. Museum of Fine Arts Houston, 1001 Bissonnet St. • mfah.org • 713/639-7300.

**The Whole World Was Watching.** Civil Rights-era photographs from Edmund Carpenter and Adelaide de Menil. Through Sept. 25. Gregory School, 1300 Victor St., and Menil Collection, 1515 Sul Ross St. • menil.org • 713/525-9400.

**Window into Houston.** Works by Patrick Renner and students from Blaffer Gallery's Summer Young Artist Apprenticeship Program. Through Sept. 28. 110 Milam St. • blaffergallery.org • 713/743-9971.

**Large-Scale: The Painting Show.** Paintings by multiple artists. Through Sept. 30; reception, Sept. 9, 6pm. Wade Wilson Art, 4411 Montrose Blvd. • wadewilsonart.com • 713/521-2977.

**Second Edition.** Works created by University of North Texas in Denton graduate students using restored letterpress equipment. Through Sept. 30. Museum of Printing History, 1324 W. Clay St. • printingmuseum.org • 713/522-4652.

**Japanese Calligraphy My Way: Graphite Drawings by Mayuko Ono Gray.** Through Oct. 2. Galveston Arts Center, 2501 Market St. • contemporaryartgalveston.org • 409/763-2403.

**Perspectives 175: Marc Swanson—The Second Story.** Taxidermy, tattoos, and more. Through Oct. 9. Contemporary Arts Museum Houston, 5216 Montrose Blvd. • camh.org • 713/284-8250.

**Anton Ginzburg: At the Back of the North Wind.** The search for Hyperborea, a mythical northern territory. Through Nov. 27. Blaffer Gallery, University of Houston, Cullen Blvd. • blaffergallery.org • 713/743-9971.

**Working in the Abstract.** Through Nov. 28. Glassell School of Art, 5101 Montrose Blvd. • mfah.org • 713/639-7515.

**Celebrating Fifteen Years of History with Holocaust Museum Houston.** A visual storytelling. Through Dec. 31. Holocaust Museum Houston, 5401 Caroline St. • hmh.org • 713/942-8000.

**Ours to Fight For.** The role of Jewish servicemen and women during World War II. Through Dec. 31. Holocaust Museum Houston, 5401 Caroline St. • hmh.org • 713/942-8000.

**Spirit of Modernism: The John R. Eckel Jr. Foundation Gift.** Through Jan. 29. Museum of Fine Arts Houston, 1001 Bis-

sonnet St. • mfah.org • 713/639-7515.

**Famous Monsters.** Daniel Anguilla's exterior mural. Through June 30, 2012. Lawndale Art Center, 4912 Main St. • lawndaleartcenter.org • 713/528-5858.

**The Impact of Racist Ideologies: Jim Crow and the Nuremberg Laws** focuses on Houston's segregationist past. Through July 22, 2012. Holocaust Museum Houston, 5401 Caroline St. • hmh.org • 713/942-8000.

**Inspire Golf Experience.** A nine-hole miniature golf course created by local artists. Sept. 1–Nov. 27. Discovery Green, 1500 McKinney St. • discoverygreen.com • 713/400-7336.

**Kathryn Kelley: The Edge of My Unreadiness.** Sept. 2, 6pm. Darke Gallery, 320 B Detering St. • darkegallery.com • 713/542-3802.

**Happenstance: Paintings by Anita Nelson.** Sept. 3–30; reception, Sept. 10, 5pm. Archway Gallery, 2305 Dunlavy St. • archwaygallery.com • 713/522-2409.

**State Fair.** Texas-based artists explore street peddling. Sept. 9–Oct. 29. DiverseWorks ArtSpace, 1117 E. Frwy. • diverseworks.org • 713/335-3445.

**MannHands.** Photographs by Lyn Sullivan. Sept. 11, 4pm. Hungry's Café and Bistro's H Gallery, 2356 Rice Blvd. • thehgallery.com.

**Acid on Metal: The Art of Etching and Aquatint.** Sept. 11–Nov. 27. Museum of Fine Arts Houston, 1001 Bissonnet St. • mfah.org • 713/639-7515.

**Weaving and Beyond.** Contemporary Handweavers of Houston 27th annual sale includes art, home furnishings, jewelry, holiday decorations, and more. Sept. 15–17. Houston Center for Contemporary Craft, 4848 Main St. • crafhouston.org • 713/529-4848.

**Walter De Maria: Trilogies.** One painting and two sculpture series. Sept. 16–Jan. 8. Menil Collection, 1515 Sul Ross St. • menil.org • 713/525-9400.

**Houston Fine Art Fair** exhibits post-war, contemporary, and Latin American works from 80 galleries. Sept. 16–18; preview party, Sept. 15, 6pm, benefits Museum of Fine Arts Houston's Glassell School of Art Core Program. George R. Brown Convention Center, 1001 Avenida De Las Americas • houstonfineartfair.com.

**15th Annual Museum District Day** offers free bus shuttles and admission to Buffalo Soldiers National Museum, Byzantine Fresco Chapel, Children's Museum of Houston Contemporary Arts Museum Houston, Czech Center Museum Houston, Holocaust Museum Houston, Houston Center for Contemporary Craft, Houston Center for Photography, Houston Museum of Natural Science, The John C. Freeman Weather Museum, The Jung Center, Lawndale Art Center, The Menil Collection, Museum of Fine Arts Houston, Rice University Art Gallery, and Rothko Chapel. Sept. 17, 10am–5pm. houstonmuseumdistrict.org.

**Apocalyptic Wallpaper.** New Paintings by artist Howard Sherman. Sept. 17–Oct. 15. McMurtrey Gallery, 3508 Lake St. • mcmurtreygallery.com • 713/523-8238.

**English Taste: The Art of Dining in the Eighteenth Century.** Sept. 17–Jan. 29. Museum of Fine Arts Houston, 1001 Bissonnet St. • mfah.org • 713/639-7515.

**Life & Luxury: The Art of Living in Eighteenth-Century Paris.** Sept. 18–Dec. 11. Museum of Fine Arts Houston, 1001 Bissonnet St. • mfah.org • 713/639-7515.

**Martini Madness! 10th Birthday Bash.** A mid-century-themed cocktail party. Sept. 22. Houston Center for Contemporary Craft, 4848 Main St. • crafhouston.org • 713/529-4848.

**Seeing Stars: Visionary Drawing from the Collection.** Early 20th-century surrealists. Sept. 23–Jan. 15. Menil Collection, 1515 Sul Ross St. • menil.org • 713/525-9400.

**Ana Serrano: Salon of Beauty.** Small sculptures. Sept. 29–Dec. 11; reception, Sept. 29, 5pm. Rice University's Rice Gallery, 6100 Main St. • ricegallery.org • 713/348-6069.

**Archway Artists' Retrospective Installation.** Sept. 30–Oct. 31; reception, Oct. 1. Archway Gallery, 2305 Dunlavy St. • archwaygallery.com • 713/522-2409.

**Hands-On Family Festival** honors Mayor Annise Parker, a free community celebration offering indoor/outdoor activities, artist demonstrations, entertainment, and more. Presented by Houston Center for Contemporary Craft, Oct. 1. Houston Center for Contemporary Craft, 4848 Main St. • crafhouston.org • 713/529-4848.

**DAILY**

**Weekly (Sundays)**

**The Women's Group.** a feminist group for all women, 10:15am. First Unitarian Universalist Church's Sojourner Truth Room, 5200 Fannin St. • 713/529-8571.

**Urban Harvest Farmers Market,** presented by Central City Co-op. Noon–4pm. Discovery Green, 1500 McKinney St. • discoverygreen.com • 713/400-7336. →

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**Love and Rackets.** Houston Tennis Club welcomes players and enthusiasts of all skill levels. Sundays, 9am-noon; Wednesdays, 7:30-9pm; clinics, every Saturday 9-10:30am. Memorial Park Tennis Center, 1500 Memorial Loop. Annual membership, \$30; court fees, \$3 per session. houstontennisclub.org.

**Weekly (Mondays)**  
**Helping TransGenders Anonymous.** a facilitated support group for all transgenders, supporters, family, and significant others. 7-9pm. 604 Pacific St. • tgctr.org

**Fathers First.** Houston's original gay fathers group supports gay dads who are dealing with coming-out issues and family challenges of life after being married to a woman. First three Mondays of each month, 7:30-9pm. Bering Memorial United Methodist Church, 1440 Harold St., room 230 • fathersfirstofhouston.com.

**Gay Dads' Support Group** helps gay men who are or were previously married to a woman and who had children within that relationship. 7:30-9pm. Grace Lutheran Church's parlor, 2515 Waugh Dr. • 281/608-8134.

**Weekly (Wednesdays)**  
**Center Mid-Week Madness.** Bring your own brown bag and board games. 11:30am-3pm. Houston GLBT Community Center, Historic Dow School, 1900 Kane St. • houstonglbtcommunitycenter.org • 713/524-3818.

**Houston Pride Band** seeks all brass, woodwind, and percussion players of all skill levels for rehearsal. 7:30pm. Bethel UCC, 1107 Shepherd Dr. • 713/315-2525 • houstonprideband.org.

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**Weekly (Thursdays)**  
**Center HIV Support Group.** Facilitated support group for HIV-positive individuals. 6pm. Houston GLBT Community Center, Historic Dow School, 1900 Kane St. • houstonglbtcommunitycenter.org • 713/524-3818.

**GLBT-Friendly Depression & Bipolar Support Group.** 7:15-8:30pm. Free. Ecclesia Church, 2015 Taft • 713/526-1018.

**Southern Country.** a country-and-western dance troupe, offers free dance lessons. Thursdays, 8:30pm. Brazos River Bottom, 2400 Brazos St. • southerncountryhouston.com.

**Weekly (Saturdays)**  
**Urban ForesTree Keeper** classes teaches Houstonians to better care for trees. Sept. 10-Oct. 1, 9am. Hermann Park • treesforhouston.org • 713/840-8733.

**Recycling Saturdays.** Bring your glass, paper, plastic, and aluminum. 10am-2pm. Discovery Green, 1500 McKinney St. • discoverygreen.com • 713/400-7336.

**Semi-monthly (1st and 3rd Fri.)**  
**Positive Brothers United.** a social/support group for GLBT, HIV-positive men of color. Montrose Counseling Center, 401 Branard St. 6pm. csmithpbu@yahoo.com • 713/454-7548.

**Monthly**  
**The Houston Gay Couples Meetup Group** brings Houston-area gay and lesbian couples together for a monthly, fun, and laid-back gathering. http://www.meetup.com/gaycouples231/

**Monthly (1st Sun.)**  
**Free Legal Consultations for PWAs.** AIDS Foundation Houston and Katine & Nechman L.L.P. offer 30 minutes of free legal consultation on any legal issue to persons with HIV and AIDS, by appointment. Katine & Nechman, 1111 North Loop West, Suite 180 • lawkn.com • 713/808-1000.

**Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) Houston** provides educational presentations of LGBT topics, small-group confidential discussions, and supportive fellowship. 2pm. St. Paul's United Methodist Church, 5501 S. Main St. • pflaghouston.org.

**Monthly (1st and 3rd Wed.)**  
**Center Coming Out Group** for LGBT individuals at any stage of the coming-out process. 7pm. Houston GLBT Community Center, Historic Dow School, 1900 Kane St. • houstonglbtcommunitycenter.org • 713/524-3818.

**Monthly (1st Fri.)**  
**First Friday Happy Hour.** Northwest Corner, a social and civic organization for GLBT Houstonians living northwest of Loop 610, meets. Time and location TBA. nwccorner.org.

**Monthly (1st Sat.)**  
**First Saturday Arts Market.** Local artists display and sell original works of art, local musicians entertain. 6-10pm. Free. Wind Water Gallery, 548 W. 19th St. • yalestreetmarket.com.

**First Saturday Queer Bingo** benefits Houston GLBT Community Center. 4:30pm. Houston GLBT Community Center, Historic Dow School, 1900 Kane St. • houstonglbtcommunitycenter.org • 713/524-3818.

**Monthly (2nd Tues.)**  
**Center Dinner.** hosted by the Houston GLBT Community

Center. Diners pay for their own meal. 6:30pm. Bibas, 607 W. Gray St. • houstonglbtcommunitycenter.org • 713/524-3818.

**Monthly (2nd Sat.)**  
**AssistHers** helps lesbians coping with life-threatening illnesses by providing non-medical assistance. Volunteers meet for fellowship and education followed by lunch at a local restaurant. 9:30am-noon. Bering Memorial United Methodist Church, 1440 Harold St. • assisthers.org • 713/521-4628.

**Centro Grupo Latino.** Spanish-language support group facilitated by Chris Escalante for individuals affected by HIV/AIDS. 4pm. Houston GLBT Community Center, 1900 Kane St. • houstonglbtcommunitycenter.org • 713/524-3818.

**Monthly (3rd Sun.)**  
**LOAF Meet and Greet.** Lesbians Over Age Fifty meet for munchies and fellowship; bring some of both. 2-4pm. Montrose Counseling Center, 401 Branard St. • loafhouston.org • 281/467-2578.

**Monthly (3rd Tues.)**  
**Center Seniors & Friends Potluck.** organized by the Houston GLBT Community Center at Bethel Church UCC, 1107 Shepherd Dr. • houstonglbtcommunitycenter.org • 713/524-3818.

**Monthly (3rd Wed.)**  
**Bingo with the Divas.** hosted by An' Marie Gill and Jessica Van Shelton. 8-10pm. Benefits Bering Omega Foundation. Tony's Corner Pocket, 817 W. Dallas St.

**Monthly (3rd Thurs.)**  
**HIV Testing.** 1-2pm. Houston GLBT Community Center, Historic Dow School, 1900 Kane St. • houstonglbtcommunitycenter.org • 713/524-3818.

**Share with PFLAG Houston** in a safe, confidential setting. 7:30-9pm. St. Stephen's Episcopal Church's Chatham Room, 1805 W. Alabama St. • pflaghouston.org.

**Monthly (4th Sun.)**  
**Share with the Clear Lake satellite of PFLAG Houston** in a safe, confidential setting. 2-4pm. Bay Area Unitarian Universalist Church Fellowship Hall, 17503 El Camino Real, Clear Lake • pflaghouston.org.

**Monthly (4th Wed.)**  
**Lesbian Dinner Group.** Single and coupled women come for a meal but stay for the camaraderie. 7:30pm. Cafe Express, 1422 W. Gray St. • lesbian.dinner.group@gmail.com.

**Monthly (4th Fri.)**  
**Lesbian Discussion Hour.** Facilitated support/conversation group. 6:30pm. Houston GLBT Community Center, Historic Dow School, 1900 Kane St. • houstonglbtcommunitycenter.org • 713/524-3818.

**September 8-10 (Thurs.-Sat.)**  
**Simon Fashion Now** celebrates fall fashion. The Galleria, 5085 Westheimer Rd. • simon.com.

**September 9-11 (Fri.-Sun.)**  
**Compassionate Partner 2011** project commemorates the 10th anniversary of 9/11 by encouraging individuals and organizations to participate in community service projects. Participants include Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center, The Beacon, City of West University Place, Compass, Amschwand Sarcoma Cancer Foundation, Servant Hands of Texas, and others.

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compassionatehouston.org.

**September 23-25 (Fri.-Sun.)**  
**Galveston Island Shrimp Festival** features a 5K run, children's parade, merchant walkabout, a boat show, a decorating contest, and more. Galveston's downtown district • yagaspresent.com/shrimpfestival.

**September 24-25 (Sat.-Sun.)**  
**25th Texas General Land Office Adopt-a-Beach Fall Cleanup** restores 29 sites along the Texas coast. 8:30am. Pre-registration: texasadoptabeach.org.

**PLANNING AHEAD**

**October 2 (Sun.)**  
**6th Annual Bicycle Rally & Scavenger Hunt.** presented by Houston Heights Association, features a 20-mile ride and scavenger hunt and/or a five-mile ride and scavenger hunt for families. 3:30pm, with entertainment, fabulous door prizes, and great refreshments, including picnic fare, beverages, and more at 4:30pm. Marmion Park, 700 Heights Blvd. • houstonheights.org • 713/861-4002.

**October 5 (Wed.)**  
**7th Annual Home Safe Home Gala** features 12 top Houston chefs. Benefits Aid to Victims of Domestic Abuse. 6:30pm. Home of Becca Cason Thrash and Dr. John Thrash • avda-tx.org • 713/715-6921. ■

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## Business News

by Nancy Ford

**Ballet Maneuvers.** Following 17 years of dedication that grew Houston Ballet into the United States' fourth-largest ballet company, Houston Ballet executive director Cecil C. Conner Jr. has announced he will retire. Houston Ballet's current general manager and former dancer, James Nelson, becomes the ballet's executive director beginning February 2012, when Conner steps down. The "Jubilee of Dance" has been scheduled Dec. 2 to honor Conner's contributions. [houstonballet.org](http://houstonballet.org).



C.C. Conner on April 2011 cover of *OutSmart*.

**New Dean at Glassell.** Museum of Fine Arts Houston has named Patrick Palmer as Faculty Chair/Dean of the Glassell School and Art History Department. An artist whose work hangs in the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, the Denver Art Museum, and elsewhere, Palmer was tapped for the position following former chair/dean Suzanne Mann's retirement. [mfah.org](http://mfah.org).



Patrick Palmer

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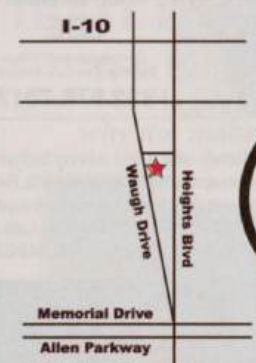
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 Contact person/instructor: David Lewis,  
 713.240.5508. Email: [empower2010@aol.com](mailto:empower2010@aol.com);  
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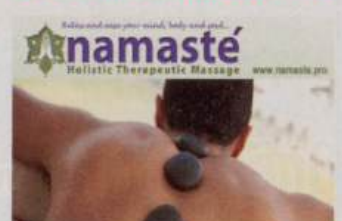
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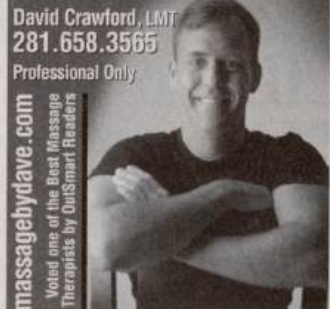
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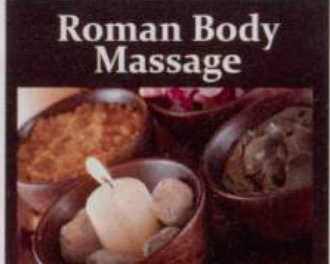
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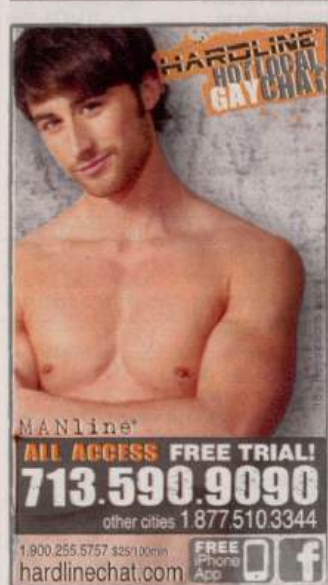


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## BAR & CLUB GUIDE

### Houston

#### 13 ENTERTAINMENT

Formerly In-N-Out, this comfortable club located in the northern Heights is a convenient alternate to inner-Montrose haunts. Patrons journey past the comfy seating and romantic lighting to find a spacious patio where they sometimes fire up the barbecue grill. 1537 N. Shepherd • 713/426-1313.

#### AZTECA'S VIP LOUNGE

The talented DJ Rocky B holds court and spins for "the best girl-4-girl night in Houston," held each Friday atop this Greenway-area Mexican restaurant. 2207 Richmond Ave. • throb parties.info.

#### BAYOU CITY BAR & GRILL

DJ Wild and DJ CJ provide tunes for this lively, down-home bar in the heart of Montrose known for its cheap drinks, Wednesday's steak night, and Thursday's 25¢ wings during happy hour. 2409 Grant St. • bayoucitybar.com.

#### BEER ISLAND

Tropical touches combine with Texas roadhouse chic at this comfortable Heights hangout. Beer is king, but the island is also becoming famous for their sake shots. 2631 White Oak Dr. • 713/862-4670.

#### BLUR

This multi-level dance club features an expansive patio upstairs lounge, and balconies that overlook the busy Pacific St. traffic. The ladies enjoy Wet and Wild Wednesdays, 18-year-olds are welcome on Thurs., resident DJ Lorenzo spins Wed.-Sat. nights, DJ Pollo spins Karumba Latin night on Sun. Happy hour, 8-10 p.m.; free cover before 11 p.m. 710 Pacific St. • blurbar.com.

#### BOCADOS

Patrons enjoy dining on the deck at this cozy Menil-area Mexican restaurant that also accommodates special events, like charitable dinners for AIDS Foundation Houston and American Cancer Society. 1312 W. Alabama • 713/523-5230.

#### BOHEME CAFÉ & WINE BAR

Located deep in the heart of Montrose, this European-inspired spot showcases art within and without, featuring a 40-foot bar and a huge garden space. 307 Fairview Ave. • 713/529-1099 • barbohome.com.

#### BRAZOS RIVER BOTTOM

The BRB, Houston's leading gay country-western bar, is located in Midtown, just outside Montrose. Expect to see some fast and fancy two-stepping. Southern Country dance club offers lessons on Thurs. night. 2400 Brazos • 713/528-9192 • brbhouston.com.

#### CLUB 2020

Located downtown near the Toyota Center, this urban club features Clubbers Friday with male and female dancers. Its 6,400 square feet also offers theater-sized viewing screens and VIP rooms. 2020 Leeland • 713/227-9667 • club2020houston.com.

#### CLUB CRYSTAL

If you miss the now-closed Inergy, you'll find many of its former staff, management, and décor at this two-room Latin/hip-hop club. Sunday even-ing drag shows rule the roost. 6680 Southwest Fwy, next to Colorado • 713-278-2582 • crystaltheclub.com.

#### CLUB CURVE

This upscale, dual-level club carries a strict "no hats, no T-shirts, no sneakers, no shorts" policy, and offers "Gay Night" on Thursdays. 410 Main • houstonclubcurve.com.

#### CROCKER BAR

Resident DJ Johnny spins on Friday and Saturday nights at this comfortably remodeled Montrose nightclub that also offers karaoke on Tuesdays and Thursdays and extended happy-hour prices throughout the week. 2312 Crocker • 713/529-3355.

#### THE DRAKE

This upscale, usually straight bar on the Washington strip goes LGBT for FREEdom Sundays, starting at 8 p.m. 1902 Washington Ave. • areyoufarn.com • thedrakebar.com.

#### EAGLE HOUSTON

This 12,000 square-foot dance club with its private nooks and crannies for dancing and cruising is downtown's bar for masculine men. Resident DJs JD Arnold and Spinbear man the turntables. Sundays only, 4 p.m. 709 Franklin St. • eaglehouston.com.

#### EJ'S

Located on the western front of Montrose, EJ's retains the charm of a colorful, local hangout. Frequent shows, including community benefits, pack the stage. The upstairs martini bar offers a quiet retreat. 2517 Ralph • 713/527-9071 • ej'sbar.com.

#### EVO LOUNGE

Burlesque-style performers and the rooftop lounge's skyline view are highlighted at this lesbian dance club offering Bo's Night Out Sunday, Karaoke Tuesday, Working Women's Wednesday, Two-Step Thursday, with DJ Kittie spinning Friday, and DJ Melle Mel and DJ Joy De La O spinning Saturday. Bottle service available. Evo Lounge, 2707 Milam St. • 832/359-6624.

#### F BAR

This elegant yet "boutique club" offers a spacious

patio with a fire pit, marble and slate components, a glass-enclosed quiet bar, VIP area, and express bar. DJ Joe Ross spins for "F-n-tastic Sunday," plus "Drag Live" on Tuesday, "L to the F" women's happy hour on Wednesday, and "F Tunes Live" karaoke Thursday and Sunday. 202 Tuam St. • 713/522-3227 • fbarhouston.com.

#### GEORGE

Regulars rule at this comfortable neighborhood sports bar, just like most other neighborhood sports bars in town. But George's occasional benefit drag show makes it a wonderful, campy alternative. Sports Saturdays start at 3 p.m. with dart and pool tournaments; Steak Night is Sun., 3-7 p.m. 617 Fairview • 713/528-8102.

#### GUAVA LAMP

This trendy and friendly video and cruise bar gets busy during happy hour and stays busy 'til closing. Karaoke on Wednesday and Sunday, sometimes offering prizes, always packs the place. 570 Waugh Dr. • 713/524-3359.

#### JR'S BAR & GRILL

With house emcee Kofi, OutSmart's Gayest and Greatest reigning drag champion, this Montrose standard offers shows Sun.-Wed., as well as pool tables, go-go boys, and karaoke. 808 Pacific St. • 713/521-2519.

#### LADY BARBARA'S CLUB TRUE COLORS

Lady Barbara and MC Zip, who previously held court at Bella Aida Gardens and Bartini, have opened this southwest club for "everyone in the community" featuring "Free For All" open mic on Sundays. 2727 Crossview Dr. • 713/266-6505.

#### MAINSTAGE

Downtown's swanky new gay dance club starts the week with Weiner Wednesdays, serving free hot dogs and popcorn while screening movie musical and classic television series on video screens, and offers drink specials, DJs, and other enticements through Sundays. 2016 Main St. • leavetheboyfriendathome.com.

#### METEOR

The men of Manwatch and Muscles in Action rinse down in the newly added "Meteor Shower" stall, with VJs DJ Jimmy Skinner and Joe Ross playing videos every night in this posh but comfy lounge on the downtown edge of Montrose. 2306 Genesee St. • 713/521-0123 • meteorlounge.com.

#### MICHAEL'S OUTPOST

Jerry Atwood, Clay Howell, Neil Massey, Steve Wheaton, and Roger Woest take turns at the keys at this comfortable neighborhood piano bar. 1419 Richmond Ave. • 713/520-8446.

## BEHIND THE BAR



WHO: Alan Gomez

WHERE: 13 Entertainment  
1537 N. Shepherd Dr. • 713/426-1313

WHAT'S UP: Enjoy karaoke on Sundays and the complete makeover at this Heights-area nightclub.

NANCY FORD

#### MONTROSE MINING COMPANY

Study male dancers bump and grind every night at this leather/denim spot. The two-tier back patio bar provides a perch for viewing the Pacific Street scenery. 805 Pacific • 713/529-7488.

#### PABLO'S BAR & GRILL

Formerly known as the Pasadena Sky Bar, this LGBT-friendly venue located on the eighth floor of the Camden Plaza Hotel boasts a brand-new dance floor and resident DJ. 114 Richey St. in Pasadena • 832/884-7276 • pasadena-skybar.com.

#### THE RIPCORD

This well-kept, multi-roomed, leather bar for men and their friends boasts a busy patio, especially on the weekends. The Black Hawk Leather shop is located inside the club, providing BDSM essentials. 715 Fairview Ave. • 713/521-2792 • theripcord.com.

#### THE 611

This neighborhood club is a popular spot with pool sharks. On Fri. and Sat., the 611 dishes up buffet dinners. Features include a garden-style patio. 611 Hyde Park • 713/526-7070.

#### SOUTH BEACH

This mega-danceclub is a frequent winner of OutSmart's Gayest and Greatest awards, with DJ Tucker playing pop & dance music videos on Fridays. Billboard contributor DJ Jimmy Skinner spins on Saturdays. Open Fri. & Sat. with after-hours; 18 & older. 810 Pacific • 713/529-SOBE • southbeachtheclub.com.

### STATUS

DJ Ill Set spins for Lipstick Wednesday, a weekly "all girl" party at this lush and spacious dance club on the southern tip of downtown. No cover for 21+. 2404 San Jacinto St. • 713/659-5400 • statushouston.com.

### TC'S SHOWBAR

New owners, Tim and Corey, have revamped the deep-Montrose neighborhood bar, erasing any hint of its former occupant, Cousin's. Numerous flat-screen televisions and day-long drink specials highlight the updated décor. 817 Fairview • 713/526-2625 • tcshowbar.com.

### TONY'S CORNER POCKET

This comfortable club located close to downtown has one of the friendliest bar staffs in town, both inside & outside at its patio bar. The raised stage where local charities perform also features an amateur dance contest each Thurs., Fri., & Sat. at 11 p.m. Opens daily at noon. 817 W. Dallas • 713/571-7870 • tonyscornerpocketbar.com.

### THE USUAL

Formerly a house of ill repute, this lesbian-owned neighborhood bar now has plenty of repute, especially on Wednesday, when "Her Usual" night packs in the women. Enjoy drink specials, dancing, karaoke, & gazing at the downtown skyline from the spacious front deck. 5519 Allen St. • 281/501-1478 • theusualpub.com.

### VIVIANA'S

This club, in a new location, appeals to fans of Latino music and drag alike. 4624 Dacoma • 713/681-4104.

### Spring

### RANCH HILL SALOON

With its two pool tables, 52-inch plasma televisions, and large dance floor, this popular northside spot also offers Humpty Hump Wednesdays with DJ Brian Moya and a monthly drawing for a flatscreen TV. 247041 I-45N Suite 103 • 281/298-9035 • ranchhill.com.

### THE ROOM

Northside GLBTs relax on couches & enjoy multiple television screens, pool tables, & an ample dance floor where famed local DJs Triple-S and Dylan Barnes rotate to provide the music on Retro Fridays, New Mix Saturdays, & Trash Disco Sundays. Open daily. 4915 FM 2920 #148 • theroombar.net.

### Humble

### WHISPERS

Northerly GLBTs meet at this comfy neighborhood bar that offers pool, darts, video games, karaoke Thursday, and dancing. 226 First St. • 281/359-2900 • whispersbar.com.

### Galveston

#### 3RD COAST DOWNTOWN

Just because its owners moved the club from its longtime Seawall location, it doesn't mean it's not still one of the most popular spots for Galveston's LGBTs. Its new "urban chic" look maintains its tropical flair. 2416 Postoffice St. • 409/765-6911.

#### BACCHUS WINE BAR

Nestled snugly within the Crows Bar and The Mediterranean Chef, this purveyor of rare international wines also offers a 30-foot bar and a pub atmosphere with a sumptuous menu. 2404 Strand St. • 409/765-9463.

#### BAR NONE

The island's newest gay gathering place offers stylish, modern surroundings with a wraparound veranda framing some of the best sunsets on Galveston Island. Located in the highly rated Diamond Beach resort, it boasts a luxurious Miami Beach lounge attitude with sleek appointments. 10327 Seawall Blvd. • galveston.com/barnone.

#### PINK DOLPHIN

A familiar name returns to Galveston's roster of gay bars, with new owner Tom Long. The friendly, neighborhood BYOB spot offers affordable setups and an off-the-Seawall, downtown-based island escape. 1706 Tremont St. • 409/621-1808.

#### ROBERT'S LAFITTE

A neighborhood bar, the island institution attracts a colorful crowd of regulars and travelers. The private patio includes a swimming pool. On Sat. and Sun. nights, the Ladies of Lafitte show takes the stage. 2501 Avenue Q (at 25th) • 409/765-9092.

#### STARS BEACH CLUB

The island's newest entry into its ever-growing roster of gay bars is energized by visually stunning touches of light throughout. DJ Joe Rios spins for the spacious club, which also offers ample outdoor seating. 3102 Seawall Blvd. • 409/497-4113 • starsbeachclub.com.

### Beaumont

#### ORLEANS STREET PUB AND PATIO

The place to hang for food, fun, and booze in a newly renovated pub, in good weather or bad. Open every night from 7 p.m.-2 a.m. 650 Orleans • 409/835-4243.

#### Bryan/College Station

#### HALO VIDEO BAR

The only GLBT dance club in Bryan/College station, this sleek spot is open Thurs.-Sat. Smack in the middle of Aggieland, "our venue is always packed with the hotties," the owners promise. 121 North Main • 979/823-6174 • halobcs.com.

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## SignOut

by Lilly Roddy

This time of the year has always been a busy one—especially during the last 20 years. This is the time of year when the outer planets (Uranus, Neptune, and Pluto) go direct, putting more pressure on our decision-making. Pluto, planet of transformation and release, goes direct this month on the 16th. This will have the most impact on the Arians, Cancerians, Librans, and Capricorns. • We have some tough days during the last two weeks of the month. However, Mercury is fully direct in September, so it's a good time to get your projects under way. • The sun is in Virgo as the month begins, and enters Libra on the 23rd (the first day of fall). Mercury is finishing her stay in Leo and entering her home sign on the 9th, before joining the sun in Libra on the 25th. Venus is in Virgo, and enters her home sign of Libra on the 14th. Mars continues to float through Cancer and moves into the hot fiery sign of Leo on the 18th. Jupiter remains in Taurus, as does Saturn in Libra, Uranus in Aires, Neptune in Aquarius, and Pluto in Capricorn.

**ARIES** (March 21–April 19). A focus on getting things in order and getting your life more organized is clearly on your agenda this month. You are generally more health-conscious this month. Relationships play a major role for you this month, and your relationships with coworkers are going more smoothly. This is a time to renew your partnerships. You are interested in meeting new people. If your current relationships are feeling restrictive, you may break away from them since you have already been reevaluating your relationships and finding that they need new boundaries. This is a good month to do something different with your partner.

**TAURUS** (April 20–May 20). You are more playful as the month opens. This is a good time to express your creative side and be out in public. Your charms will carry you through many different situations. About mid-month, you are ready to get into your work and health modes. You will be a lot more focused on getting things done. Your coworkers could find you a little pushy and obsessive this month. Your temper could be shorter than usual. You may even have some trouble sleeping. Issues at home will demand your attention.

**GEMINI** (May 21–June 21). As the month opens, you are clearly focused on home and family. You are trying to make your home as comfortable as possible. Also, you are putting energy into making money this month. You want more than you have had, and you are ready to do something about that. Your creative energies open up by mid-month, and you are just flowing along—a great time for business connections or mixing business with pleasure. Speaking your mind is even easier as the month progresses.

**CANCER** (June 22–July 22). Organizing your life still seems to be the continued push this month. Mars, planet of action and confrontation, is still



**VIRGO** (August 23–September 22). Happy birthday to the Virgoans. This is the time when you are ending and beginning a new solar cycle—reviewing the past year's choices, assessing how well you did, and setting new goals for the coming cycle. As the month begins, you are feeling more social. This continues through the 18th. After that, you are in a more restful time. Begin new projects as the month opens. By mid-month, finances enter the picture and it will be time to get all of that organized and addressed.

in your sign until the 17th. This is an excellent time to begin new projects you have been trying to start. Watch your spending after the 18th. By mid-month, you are working on making your home a safer place. Some of you are remodeling, and some will be moving. Be sure and take some time off so you don't feel so trapped. Family issues may resurface at this time. There is a better feel of compromise in the air.

**LEO** (July 23–August 22). The first half of the month will be about you getting ready and prepared for Mars, planet of action and courage, to enter your sign on the 18th and leave on November 18. As the month begins, you are paying attention to your finances and personal resources. This would be a good month to review the way you use your talents for the most amount of income. There is a lot of opportunity for you in your career sector if you want to change or seek more money for what you are doing. After the 18th, you will have plenty of courage to pursue your goals.

**LIBRA** (September 23–October 23). Career challenges are still strong this month as you are trying to get clear about the direction you are going. The support of friends becomes very important after the 18th. You are still resting or retreating as the month begins. By mid-month, you are getting your energy back and coming out of your retreat. The last half of the month is a very decisive time for you. Saturn is running the show, and she expects clarity and assurance about what you are going to do. Be your own authority and take your cues from your heart.

**SCORPIO** (October 24–November 21). You'll have a mixed bag of tricks this month and it's not even Halloween. As the month opens, you'll want to focus on social organizations and supportive friends. You are certainly feeling more social. At mid-month, Mars, planet of action, enters your career sector for the next 45 days.

This is certainly the time to act on that area of life by starting something on your own, taking on a new project, or considering taking a new position in your company. Don't overdo it, or you will be more tired than you expect. Take some time to review your beliefs and philosophy about life.

**SAGITTARIUS** (November 22–December 21). You are certainly career-directed as the month opens. Many of you are looking at responding more to your artistic urges than you have in the past. It's a good time to convert those urges into something real and practical. You are also looking to be more of a leader in the groups and organizations that you belong to, so you won't feel the need to withdraw from those groups. You are definitely more playful as the month progresses. Freedom is a big issue from the 22nd through the 29th. Don't over-schedule yourself.

**CAPRICORN** (December 22–January 19). With the planets in Virgo, you are being stimulated to learn more, to open up to new ideas, and to have more fun in general. You are more flexible, but your sense of urgency about decision-making is getting stronger. It will be strongest by mid-month. You could feel edgy about making a decision, but you'll nevertheless have to make it. Your career becomes the focus by mid-month, and you are looking at life in a long-term fashion. You may make some sudden moves, so don't be surprised at yourself!

**AQUARIUS** (January 20–February 18). Relationships are an important highlight this month. You are initially concerned about increasing the level of intimacy in your relationship. You are more open, and expect others to be that way as well. To others, you may come across as critical. Mars, planet of action, enters your relationship sector on the 18th, turning up the fire. It's a great time to renew your relationship or to confront the problems that are there. You and your partner need to pursue some sort of adventure to help renew your relationship. You'll become more easy-going as the month progresses. Seek a larger world view than the one you have now.

**PISCES** (February 19–March 20). What a rock-and-roll time you have been having! Some of the craziness and lack of clear direction will subside after the 8th. This could be affecting your work and health habits and routines. You may be experiencing some stress from not getting the right answers from the people you have to deal with. You will be more impatient as the month progresses. Be sure to renew your exercise and diet regimen after the 18th. Relationships are better this month as you and your partner try to get closer during the next 30 days. It could be that new long-term relationship goals are needed.

Read Lilly Roddy's forecast for all of 2011 at [OUTSMARTMAGAZINE.COM](http://OUTSMARTMAGAZINE.COM). For more astro-insight, log on to [lillyroddy.com](http://lillyroddy.com).

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## OUT IN HOUSTON

Dennis Draper, Ernie Manouse, Elizabeth McLane, Shawna Forney, Kristian Salinas, Marian Luntz, Rachel Boyle, Mary Lampe, and Michael DeVoll at QFest's closing night honoring those who started QFest, August 1.



Lou Weaver, Paige Schilt, Jordan Johnson, and Siobhan Cooke at the Texas Transgender Nondiscrimination Summit, August 12-13.



Noel Freeman, Garnet Coleman, Jenifer Rene Pool, Dennis Coleman, Bryan Hlavinka, and Michael Diaz at the LGBT Texans Against Hate Rally, August 5.

Daniel Dror (l-r), Gabriela Dror, Steven Skiff, Angelica Chapman, Timothy Jones, Ed Chapman, Daniel Snare, Dr. Roland Maldonado, Joel Bickley, and Vicki Ellis during the "Sing for Hope" pre-gala kickoff party at Bering Omega Community Services, August 9.



Clifford Pugh and Justin Myers during White Linen Night in the Heights, August 6.



Ben Montalbano, Norman Nelson, Sharon Steahl, Bill Colburn, Beau Miller, and Paul Simmons at LIVE Consortium's "Inspire" mentor reception, July 29.



*The Hollyfield Foundation*  
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The Hollyfield Foundation fosters and protects individual rights and freedoms by providing direct and indirect funding to qualifying 501(c)3 organizations that work to prevent discrimination, educate and secure equal rights for sexual minorities and assist in health care issues for the community.

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