

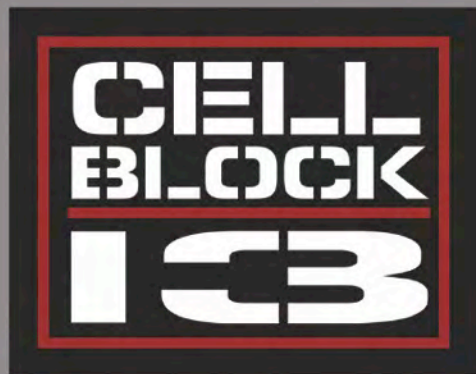
FEBRUARY 2, 2021 • VOL XII • ISSUE #3

GRAB

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CHICAGO'S BIWEEKLY LGBTQ PUBLICATION

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GRAB A GIFT

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By Mikey Rox



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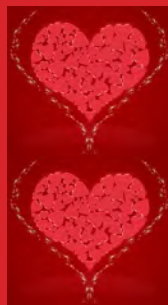
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Mikey Rox is an award-winning journalist and LGBT lifestyle expert whose work has been published in more than 100 outlets across the world. Connect with Mikey on Instagram @mikeyroxtravels

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GRAB MAYIM

Call her rad: An interview with Mayim Bialik

By Gregg Shapiro

When it comes to recognizing and embracing promising talent, the gays have been at it longer than practically everyone else. Remember the Bette Midler/Barbara Hershey movie *Beaches*? Remember the opening sequence with the lead characters as children? That was a young **Mayim Bialik** in one of her earliest film roles, playing Midler's C.C. Bloom as a kid. Ask any of us and we'll tell you we knew she was going to be a star. Since then, Bialik has had her own hit network sitcom in the nineties as the titular *Blossom* and stole the show in every scene in which she appeared in the even more successful 21st century sitcom *The Big Bang Theory* as Amy Farrah Fowler. She also managed to find the time to earn a PhD in neuroscience from UCLA. In *Call Me Kat*, her first sitcom following the end of the long-running *Big Bang Theory*, Bialik plays Kat, the single and sassy owner of a Louisville cat café. I had the pleasure of speaking with Bialik in January 2021, shortly after the show debuted on Fox.

Gregg Shapiro: Before signing on to do *Call Me Kat*, would you consider yourself a fan of Miranda Hart's British sitcom *Miranda*, on which it's based?

Mayim Bialik: Honestly, I hadn't seen it until Jim Parsons brought it to my attention towards the end of *Big Bang Theory*. So, I did not know about it until Jim said, "What do you think of this?" And I said, "I think it's delightful." He said, "No, I'm not asking your personal opinion; I'm asking for you to be part of it." [Laughs], that was really the first that I heard of it. That's how we got here [laughs].

GS: One of the first things the viewer sees in *Call Me Kat* is the breaking down of the fourth wall. Can you please say something about working in that mode?

MB: I think a lot of people don't understand that we are literally motivated by our desire to honor the original *Miranda* for all the good that it has brought us. I was on *Blossom* when



I was a teenager, and *Blossom* actually kept a video diary, so I'm used to talking at the camera [laughs], to be honest. When we decided to keep that piece of *Miranda*, it seemed to make a lot of sense that this character is a woman who is not necessarily lonely, but she is alone a lot. In that sense, breaking the fourth wall is really her having the audience be part of her life. It's the way that people who do spend a lot of time on their own often do have to be creative with picturing who's listening and who cares about them. In this case, the audience cares about her is how she sees it.

GS: *Call Me Kat* allows you to display other aspects of your talents including your skills as a physical comedian. You even got to do spit-takes in an episode.

MB: [Big laugh.]

GS: What do you like best about that kind of humor?

MB: Keep in mind, not everything I do is stuff that I think is the funniest [laughs]. When I'm told to do a spit-take, I do a spit-take. That's kind of how it works. I've always been a very physical person. I was a dancer from the time I was very young. I grew up watching Lucille Ball and Carol Burnett and Tracey Ullman, women who really all inhabited their bodies in a very specific and comedic way. For me, I think that Darlene Hunt, our showrunner and creator, just incorporated a lot of things about me. I am very physically flexible, so she's capitalized on that. I like to say that if my mom, when I was 11 and started acting, could have designed a show for me, it would have been *Call Me Kat*, because this show takes everything I can do and it puts it in there [laughs]. She can sing, she can dance, she's funny with her

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body, she can kick high [laughs]. That's what it feels like.

GS: I'm so glad you mentioned singing because you do get to sing on the show. Is it daunting or fun to sing with and in the presence of Cheyenne Jackson who plays Max?

MB: It's absolutely terrifying! I specifically requested that I not have to sing in front of him for extended periods of time because, first of all, he's absolutely incredible. He also is a person who, if you ask him to sing something 62 times, it's going to sound amazing every single time. With me, you get about four takes out of me, and then my voice starts to suffer because I'm not a professional. It's incredibly lovely how welcoming he is and how much support he gives me, but it really is standing in the presence of greatness to work with him and, especially, to sing in front of him [laughs].

GS: Cat has a secret crush on Max.



Have you ever had a secret crush on someone, and if so, how did that turn out?

MB: [Laughs] Well, they're not usually secret. I usually post on social media about them [big laugh]. I don't know if I've had a secret crush. Like I said, I feel like nothing's secret anymore thanks to the Internet

GS: I'm also glad we started talking about Cheyenne, because your queer fans will no doubt be delighted that he, as well as Leslie Jordan, are a couple of your *Call Me Kat* co-stars. Is it as much fun to work with them as it appears?

MB: Oh, absolutely! What I say about Leslie Jordan is, everything that you wish he's like is what he's like. That is no joke. Everything he says is a sound bite. We get to hear him be a little raunchier with his language because we get to see parts of him that other people don't. He's delightful, he's hilarious. Everything he says is an unbelievable story or joke. I did not know much about Cheyenne, to be honest, before getting to work with him. He's just one of those people...his presence and his heart are so stunning. He's goofy and playful. He's adorable! We have a great time. I wouldn't say that if it wasn't true. I would just say, "Oh, he's really nice to work with."

GS: Early in your acting career, you played the young version of Bette Midler's character C.C. Bloom in *Beaches*. Did you develop a sense of a gay following after that?

MB: I was told that I did and I found that to be true. I was raised by two very liberal documentary filmmakers who lived in the Village and had gay friends when that was a scandalous thing to



do. I was raised with a very strong love and appreciation for the gay community. My parents had gay friends. I grew up seeing men as couples in our home; having dinner with us and celebrating holidays with us. I have gay family members, as many of us do. I'm a happy liberal and loving ally. For sure the Bette Midler connection is a very specific thing, which I love to be part of.

GS: Lainie Kazan played your mother in *Beaches*, Kathy Bates played your mother on *The Big Bang Theory* and now Swoozie Kurtz is playing your mother on *Call Me Kat*. When it comes to playing a mother yourself, do you think you'll look to the examples they set for inspiration?

MB: [Big laugh] oh my God, that's an amazing question! I'm probably most like Lainie Kazan. I don't think I can avoid that. Actually, there's a lot of my mom in the Swoozie Kurtz character. But my mom's really the Bronx Jewish version.

GS: Kat owns and operates a cat-themed café. Do you have any of your own pets, say a cat or a dog?

MB: I do. I have three cats. I had four and, unfortunately, I lost one of them



during COVID. It was definitely a rough year in the cat department. But I do have three fur babies, as we call them. And like Kat, I like to say, "I'm not a sad cat lady, I'm a rad cat lady."

GS: Finally, what are you most looking forward to about being a guest host on Jeopardy!?

MB: Oh, my gosh. When I think of it, it feels like it's going to be like a dream. I got to go to Egypt many years ago. I remember standing in front of the

sphinx and the pyramids. I felt like I had walked into a postcard; it's that iconic an image. I guess I'm comparing the Jeopardy! set to the sphinx and the pyramids, but in terms of I feel like it's going to feel like I've been placed into a postcard of Jeopardy! I can't imagine it won't feel that way. I'm beyond excited! It is one of the most iconic things I think I'm ever going to do in my in my career.

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GRAB RUFUS



Rufus, In Retrospect

A Grammy nominee this year, the trailblazing crooner reflects on his ‘funny little boy’ past and talks virtual pandemic concerts

By Chris Azzopardi

It all started with Rufus Wainwright in his bathrobe. The crooner, at the forefront of virtual pandemic performances in March 2020, performed a song a day at his home piano in the Hollywood Hills during his “Quarantunes Robe Recital” series for fans on IGTV.

Nearly a year into the pandemic, Wainwright has found himself doing what, for him, once seemed impossible – embracing the very technology he had adamantly abhorred. But since concert halls are still temporarily shut down due to COVID, Wainwright has, like many artists, turned to virtual platforms and has even realized their virtues.

“A song a day” turned into 45-minute concerts (no robe, real clothes) for live-

streaming concerts platform Veeps, entitled *Rufus-Retro-Wainwright-Spective!* The series continues this year as Wainwright reaches back into his catalog to perform parts of his studio albums *Out of the Game*, *Take All My Loves: 9 Shakespeare Sonnets* and *Unfollow the Rules*, along with cover songs. Additionally, Wainwright performs a special program of soundtrack songs called *Rufus at the Movies* and two *Rarities* concerts.

Released in 2020, *Unfollow the Rules* is Wainwright’s latest studio album, which earned him his second Grammy nomination for Best Traditional Pop Vocal Album. Winners will be announced March 14.

Chris Azzopardi: How would you describe where you are on the pandemic front now?

Rufus Wainwright: Well, I’m in L.A., arguably the worst place to be on Earth. Obviously we have a new administration, and that’s a great thing. L.A. is actually a good example of just the need of a kind of national strategy. I think without the government behind you, you’re gonna eventually fail (laughs) when you’re dealing with pandemics. So sadly, we are the guinea pig in that experiment. I’m pretty sure we’ve learned that lesson.

CA: I talked to you last year, and at that point we didn’t know what was going to happen with the pandemic.

So much has changed that you have had to sort of become more technologically advanced. You have a whole crew working with you.

RW: Yeah, one of the plus sides of this pandemic situation is that before COVID I really had a very negative view of the internet and social media. I tended to pooh-pooh it on a regular basis and thought it was kind of, you know, below me.

I think it's still a double-edged sword, obviously, in the sense that there's very frightening sides of it, especially when you look at the political landscape. But nonetheless, I now rely on it, and I have a lot to be thankful for in terms of what it's brought me. It's kept my career going.

I do have a strong sense that there will be a kind of Renaissance after this period. I don't know if it will match the Italian Renaissance necessarily, but there's going to be a real outburst of creative work because there's just a lot to process, obviously.

CA: Are you tapping into that right now?

RW: Oh yeah.

CA: How so?

RW: I've been writing a lot. Even though I've written two operas and worked on the Shakespeare sonnets project and made a lot of albums, everybody's always like, "Rufus, when are you going to write a musical? I mean, it's ridiculous." So I've actually had a chance in this pandemic period to really think of stories that interest me and really start to talk to writers and directors and producers about starting to lay the groundwork for some of the project.

CA: Stage or movie musical?

RW: Either. I think the main goal is just to find that story that speaks to me and others.

CA: What happened to the locks?

RW: I just ... what happened? Well, I'm of a certain age (laughs) where long hair just makes you ... it starts to make you look scary. When you're young – or not even too young, but let's say in your 30s and under – you can pull the Jesus card occasionally, but not when you're over 40. It starts to look more John the Baptist.

CA: A "Rufus-Retro-Wainwright-Spective!" is a mouthful. I actually have to slow down to say it. Can you say that three times in a row?

Because I can't.

RW: Well, it's good to slow down. Rufus-



Retro-Wainwright-Spective, Rufus-Retro-Wainwright-Spective. I say it all the time, so I know it, but yeah, that being said, it's good to slow down.

CA: How did these retrospective concerts come about?

RW: I have to credit a lot of these ideas to my husband, Jörn (Weisbrodt), who's also my manager. Before COVID, he started filming me every morning when I would rehearse a little bit and would occasionally put things out on Instagram because that's what one was starting to

do a lot of. Then when COVID (happened), he immediately had the idea of doing a song day, which we did for about 60 days – the Robe Recitals.

So that started then, and that really meant a lot to a lot of people, myself included. It was a wonderful opportunity for me to go through my catalog, and so forth, and sing a lot of songs I hadn't thought of in a long time.

But then tours were canceled, band members had to be furloughed, and I was like, "I gotta start charging for this." (Laughs.) We just said, "Well, let's



make it into a real retrospective of my studio albums with a more COVID-friendly ensemble.” So there’s only three of us playing together. It’s been wonderful. It’s been really great.

I also have one or two celebrity guests who come. We’re all tested and we’re all wearing masks, except me. I’m not wearing a mask because I’m singing. We also raise money for a charity of their choosing. We’ve had Jamie Lee Curtis; we had Darren Criss, we had Joel McHale. It’s a bit of a Hollywood hang.

CA: Are you getting used to not performing in front of a real audience? Is that still weird?

RW: I miss performing in front of an audience. I will say that before COVID, I was working too much. I was touring my ass off for years, and that first three or four months, even five months, of COVID was actually a real godsend. I needed to stop. I needed to slow down. I think even the world needed that, just to kind of get some perspective. So I learned to appreciate that, and feel very fortunate that I was able to do that and not lose my job and keep my house and everything. But that being said, I’m dying

to go out now. I’m really itching to hit the road.

CA: You’re slated to tour this summer in Europe. Do you still expect to?

RW: Your guess is as good as mine. If I had to put money on a date or a period, I would say August, probably. I could see August really happening. But that’s all I can say. It doesn’t mean that the rest of the summer won’t happen, but I just feel like (there will) be more of a solid system together by August for touring, whether it’ll be socially distant or have smaller capacities. We’ll see.

CA: You’ll also be doing a virtual *Rarities* program. What is that going to look like?

RW: That was a suggestion from one of the fans. It’s kind of an interesting idea. I haven’t gone over the list yet totally, so I can’t really express too much of what’s going to happen. But what’s fun is: I think now I write songs for lots of purposes, whether it’s trying to get on the radio, or for a musical, or for a movie, or what I’m experiencing myself personally. But I think there was a time when I was younger when I really went

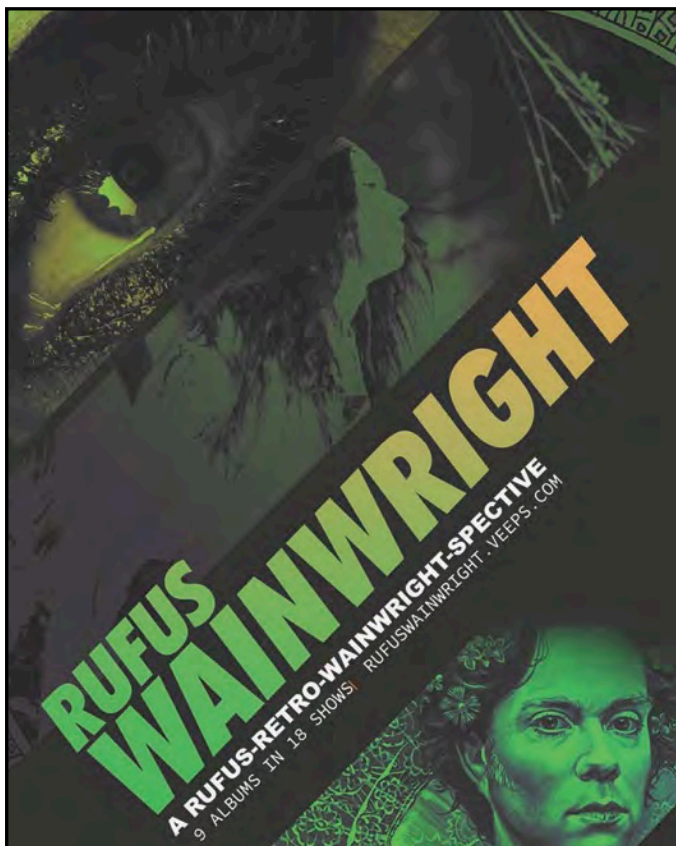
out on a lot of weird limbs, that kind of youthful sophomoric confidence that I think some of those songs (are) imbued with.

CA: What do you think are your “weird limbs”?

RW: There are probably a lot of songs I wrote back then where I had no sense of purpose. It was completely experimental and completely just getting lost in the material. Like, I hadn’t really loved yet, I hadn’t really experienced loss, I hadn’t really been sick or seen death. So there’s this sort of innocence that exists in some of them, so I’m excited to revisit that funny little boy.

CA: Now that you have lived through some of those life experiences, perhaps your perspective might’ve shifted in how you perform them or interpret them.

RW: It’s funny because right before COVID, or a few months before, I had gone out for the 20th anniversary tour of my first two albums, the *Poses* tour, so I did *Rufus Wainwright* and *Poses* with a band and went all around the world for that. I was pleasantly surprised (laughs)



in terms of hitting that material again 20 years later by how – I don't know, for lack of a better word – profound my emotions were at that age, or at least how sincere and true they were. You know, I wasn't being melodramatic; I was really searching. Because I took myself very seriously when I was young. (Laughs.) Probably too much so. But within the music, it was warranted.

CA: Regarding *Unfollow the Rules*, I can't believe this is only your second Grammy nomination.

RW: I'm not totally surprised only because I don't know what I do. (Laughs.) I've never been able to define myself. So God forbid the Grammys can! But I think this one – I've admitted it before, and I kind of regret that a

little bit, but the cat's outta the bag and, I mean, I wanna win this. (Laughs.) Just to get it over with. So, therefore, I probably won't. But we'll see.

CA: Does this nomination feel any different than the nomination you got for *Rufus Does Judy at Carnegie Hall*?

RW: Yeah, I think when the Judy Garland album was nominated over 10 years ago, I kind of knew in my bones that I didn't stand a chance mainly because at that time I was up against Natalie Cole and Natalie Cole was very sick. She had kidney transplants and stuff, so I was like, "There goes my Grammy." But I feel that with this one there's more of a sense of ... I think precisely what you said: I think a lot of people in the know are like, he probably deserves one at this point.

This interview has been condensed and edited for clarity.

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

GRAB RENO

Reno Strikes Gold

By Shane Gallagher

25-year-old model Reno Gold was raised most of his life in Reno, Nevada. Hence his stage name. Gold was added because he mistakenly thought Nevada was the gold state. He would later learn it's actually the silver state.

While gogo-ing and stripping at area clubs, he learned how guys were flocking to a new website called Onlyfans. He followed their lead and created his own page. It was slow to take off but as he focused on quality and consistency with content, he saw his earnings grow. The page really blew up when he started cross promoting on YouTube and marketing his personality just as much as he was his body.

Today he makes close to \$100,000 a month -- recently surpassing the one-million-dollar mark -- and has over 6,000 online boyfriends from around the world. "It's a lot of work maintaining all of these relationships and keeping everyone satisfied," he laughs. "At first, money was the main motivator for my work, but now I want to go down in history as the best content creator in the second golden era of porn!"

We spoke with Reno Gold from his home in Miami.

Shane Gallagher: What is like running one of the most popular pages on OnlyFans?

Reno Gold: The best part is being able to connect with fans all over the world. I message my fans daily so I'm never lonely. I also get to be creative and direct all my own scenes. The worst part would probably be that most people don't understand my work. I created a YouTube channel to fight the stigma surrounding sex work.

SG: How does being so public impact



your dating life?

RG: I'm not dating and not really looking to date, so, I'm not sure.

SG: When you are looking, what do you seek for in guy?

RG: I look for someone who's silly and doesn't take themselves too seriously. I

find it attractive when someone is well educated and driven. Physically, I like someone who's in shape and active.

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

RG: I think fans would be surprised to know how much they've actually







changed my life with their support.

SG: Are you superstitious?

RG: I'm a big believer in the law of attraction and how what you put out in the universe, you receive back.

SG: Do you have a secret talent?

RG: I can suck my own d*ck but I guess that's not much of a secret anymore. I'm an artist! I do surrealism, mainly in charcoal.

SG: What would a film of your life be called, and who would star as you in it?

RG: Gold Digger: The Musical, starring James Franco.

SG: What makes you smile?

RG: Finishing a video project.

SG: What makes you angry?

RG: People who think they are better than others.

SG: Who are your heroes?

RG: My heroes would definitely be my family. I'm so close to both my parents and sisters.

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

RG: To eliminate pollution, end corruption and I'd love to be given more time in a day! Just some small wishes.

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

RG: I'd love for Audrey Plaza to message me. I think she's so funny.

SG: You're about to be hit by a truck (sorry). What flashes before your eyes?

RG: Too. Many. D*cks.

SG: What does your gravestone read?

RG: Here lies the pinkest hole and largest pole.

SG: What is the biggest misconception about Reno Gold that you would like to clear up now?

RG: The biggest misconception is that I'm in it for the money. I literally can't

imagine doing anything else. I love being able to be creative every day and to give back to my community.

For more follow Reno on Instagram @reno_gold



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	Artist	Title
1	Brando	Don't Call Me (Galantis Remix)
2	Route 94	Sad Songs ft. L Devine
3	Lucas & Steve	Another Life ft. Alida
4	Joel Corry	Head & Heart ft. MNEK
5	Topic X A7S	Why Do You Lie To Me ft. Lil Baby (Twocolors Remix)
6	Rene Rodrigezz ft. Sophia May	The Moment (Intro Edit Mix)
7	Justin Caruso	Highs & Lows
8	Tommy Capretto	Breath (Original Mix)
9	Sofia Carson	Guess I'm A Liar (Tracy Young Radio Mix)
10	Martin Jensen x Alle Farben x Nico Santos	Running Back To You
11	Wilson x ManyFew x Kelli Leigh	No More Chances (Radio Edit)
12	Rudimental	Come Over ft. Anne Marie & Tion Wayne (Tommy Farrow Radio Edit)
13	Sub Focus & Wilkinson	Freedom (Sub Focus x Wilkinson x High Contrast Remix)
14	Bingo Players x Felguk x Fafaq	Devotion (Will Sparks Remix)
15	Fiorious	Follow Me (Roger Sanchez Radio)
16	Imanbek & Goodboys	Goodbye (Main Mix)
17	Nathan Dawe x Little Mix	No Time For Tears
18	Promise Land	I Want Your Love ft. Sandy B
19	Drove	Places ft. Dillon Francis
20	Tungevaag & Rat City	Afterparty ft. Rich The Kid (Joe Stone Remix)
21	Jax Jones	I Miss U ft. Au/Ra
22	Steff Da Campo	Saving Your Soul (Radio Edit)
23	OneUpDuo	Trn It Up (StoneBridge & Lil' Joey VIP Mix)
24	Cat Dealers & Guz Zanotto	Save Me Now ft. Moore
25	DJ D Sol	Someone Like You ft. Gia Koka
26	Allegra	Do What I Want (Alex Gaudino & Dyson Kellerman Remix)
27	Gryffin & Audrey Mika	Safe With Me
28	Bingo Players & Disco Fries	Forever Love ft. Viiq
29	Diplo & Sonny Fodera	Turn Back Time
30	Moodshift	What About My Love
31	Kylie Minogue	Magic (Nick Reach Up Remix Edit)
32	Felix Cartal	Harmony
33	David Guetta x MORTEN	Dreams ft. Lanie Gardner
34	Dixie D'Amelio	Be Happy (Dillon Francis Remix)
35	NOTD & Catello	Nobody
36	The Shapeshifters	Finally Ready ft. Billy Porter (David Penn Remix)
37	Ytram & Elderbrook	Fire
38	M22	Think About Us (90's Club Mix)
39	Embodiment & Love Harder	Fall In My Arms
40	KREAM	Water ft. Zohara

GRAB DYLAN

Covid Valentine

By Dylan Seitz

It's that time of the year again that some of us love or love to hate. Either way, love is involved as we approach Valentine's Day! Despite being in a quarantine, things in Chicago are beginning to pick up and restrictions are beginning to loosen. The weather may be icy, but that doesn't mean you can't escape your home and go out and enjoy some stuff. In today's article, I'm going to cover five fun things to do on Valentine's Day that you can do with your boo or even if you are by yourself.

One thing to do this Valentine's Day is take an online mixology class. This pandemic has left a lot of people home with plenty of booze, so why not spend some time learning how to make your drinks even better? Depending on the occasion, you'll want to dress the part. I say in the event of Valentine's Day, simply a nice jockstrap, and nothing else, will do. The next thing is to find something to fit the mood. If you have a boo, I'd recommend a nice chocolate martini for that nice combination of boozy and sweet. My choices of

romantic drinks are martinis, champagne, or some sangria. Plenty of recipes exist online from which to choose, so stick to what your significant other may like. Just make sure you have the appropriate things like garnish, mixers, a shaker and a bottle opener.

Another thing that you can do is getting creative with your food and looking up new and exciting recipes. Lately, I have been on a diet to help me lose my COVID weight and get back my beach body. In order to do it though, you need to be smart about what you put in your body! I have found that getting rid of the carbs in my diet has helped slimmed me down in almost no time at all, but getting rid of carbs means taking out some of the fun. This means having removed bread, potatoes, rice and pasta from my diet. The good thing, however, is that not all is lost. You can find great substitutions like zucchini noodles which only have about 20 calories per squash. In addition to substitutes, cauliflower has more nutritional value with fiber and B-vitamins than potatoes with far less calories. I find mash cauliflower mixed in with some broccoli pairs nicely with some lemon, asparagus, and scallops.

Third, on the list is having a romantic movie marathon. This, of course, can leave the genre to you on what you want to binge. I personally don't like romances and prefer action and adventure. There are plenty of streaming apps from which to choose, including Hulu, Crunchyroll, Disney+, Netflix, and HBO Max. Lately, I have been watching "Ozark" on Netflix that follows the life of Marty Byrd and his family that deals with the drug cartel and laundering money for them in central Missouri. If you watched "Breaking Bad," then this show is for you. I won't spoil the details, but it is an exceptional watch.

Nearing the end of our list I have a simple, but fun recommendation for everyone and that is to take a romantic bath. Hygiene is sexy and so are romantic baths, even better if it is a



jacuzzi bath for two. What better way to relax for the evening than to enjoy one of the romantic drinks you poured yourself earlier, have a nice and healthy meal, and relax with a nice warm bath while watching some of your favorite shows on your phone or tablet? Make things extra special with a bath bomb, some rose petals and maybe some champagne and chocolate dipped strawberries within arm's reach. Make sure to clean up in every nook and cranny for any sexy activities you may be participating in later.

The final thing on today's list is a relaxing and seductive massage. After doing all of the previous things on the list, it is nice to top things off with a little relaxation before you get down and do the dirty. You don't need to be a licensed massage therapist in order to give an effective massage. There are five points on the body that you can use to relieve stress and get you in the mood. One of these areas for stress relief is the top of the head known as the "Du 20" and massaging it actually helps lower this activity out of the head and back to the core of the body. The next area is the KI1 and SP4 which are on the base of your feet and directly tie to the male and female reproductive organs. The calf massage, being our third point. Massaging this area increases blood flow in the body and are known as the KI7 and SP6. Then we have the Ren 6 which is located approximately two finger spaces down from your belly button. Massaging this area to nurture a sense of intimacy and arousal all at once. The final location is the ST30 located right above the crotch where the hip hinges. This area is near a main artery and improves bloodflow in the body. With all the in mind, use it for a sexy night that you won't forget. With all these points in mind, you'll have a great Valentine's Day!





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GRAB ROGER

Health Care Power of Attorney

By Roger V. McCaffrey-Boss, Esq.

The Illinois legislature periodically enacts legislation designed to update the Illinois Power of Attorney for Health Care Act. Recent changes concern who may act as agent or witness the form, as well as significant changes to the lengthy Notice section and the form itself that broadens its scope and attempts to make it more user-friendly. Gone are definitions of "incurable or irreversible condition," "permanent unconsciousness," and "terminal condition" which relate in the previous form to points when life support may be withdrawn. The new form no longer calls for such trigger-points.

There are changes to as witness requirements and who may witness health care agencies. The law expressly prohibits these enumerated "licensed professionals providing services to the principal" from serving as witnesses: attending physician; mental health service provider; advanced practice nurses; physician assistant; dentist;

podiatric physician; optometrist; and relatives of any such professionals.

Health care facility operators (e.g., directors and executives) may not witness, but that prohibition does not apply to "non-owner chaplains or social workers, nurses, and other employees."

The statutory short form presumes that the principal is granting broad-based authority to his or her agent to make decisions in all types of health care scenarios. The choices for life-sustaining treatment have changed significantly and the form now asks the agent to choose between quantity of life and quality of life. There are also check-box options for invoking the start of the authority (upon execution of the form or upon the physician's determination).

The law rewrites the "Notice to the Individual Signing the Power of Attorney for Health Care," which appears at the beginning of the health care form, and continues for roughly five pages. It adds a number of sections in Q&A format, illustrating the breadth of the power and addressing various circumstances that may arise:

"What are the Things I Want My Health Care Agent to Know?" warns of the importance of choosing a trustworthy agent, but recommends particular topics and considerations to independently address with the prospective agent.

"What Kind of Decisions Can My Agent Make?" outlines numerous dilemmas that an agent may face and provides examples as to how the principal may limit or direct these decisions.

"Whom Should I Choose to be My Health Care Agent?" elaborates considerably upon the prior version's mere

recommendation that the agent be "trustworthy." For example, a person should choose an agent who "would not be too upset to carry out your wishes if you became very sick" and is "comfortable talking with and questioning physicians."

"What if My Agent is Not Available or is Not Willing to Make Decisions for Me?" explains the role of successor agents and their importance.

"What Will Happen if I Do Not Choose a Health Care Agent?" describes the surrogacy statute and the potential benefits of appointing an agent over relying on the default authority provided for by statute.

"What if I Change My Mind?" addresses how to destroy the documents or fill out a new form.

The Health Care Power Act supersedes all other Illinois laws that remain inconsistent with it. In particular, if an individual has signed a Living Will Declaration under the Illinois Living Will Act, the Declaration will remain inoperative as long as an agent remains available under the health care power of attorney to address life-sustaining or death-delaying procedures on behalf of the individual.

Under the Saving Clause, all powers of attorney for health care that were validly created prior will be grandfathered in under the statute. Nevertheless, I always encourage people to review plans periodically to ensure that they still adequately address needs.

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



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GRAB HOLLY

The Prescience of Penelope

By Holly Maholm

Queen Penelope, Sassy Pants and I had just finished watching a recording of a sermon (given the day before at the local True Holiness Baptist Church) in which the pastor called for a new Crusade of Hostility to be directed at our town's LGBT population, he being willing to violently twist and distort the words of Scripture (and to altogether disregard the commandments of his Savior) so as to arrive at that result.

Likewise, we heard the principal of the high school announce that the ongoing "fraternization" between the LGBT students of the school and various members of the football team was to be immediately terminated in favor of what we could only assume would be a "new era" of enforced hostility.

The Queen spoke up. "Oh, Holly, this is so unfortunate, and yet... so completely predictable. You and your tranny friends at Donut Time have become a much-appreciated fixture in our little town. And not just for the donuts and coffee so many enjoy, but for the wedding carriage and that wonderful, charitable activity by which the elderly are provided the opportunity to share in the love and care of the rescue horses.

"Despite these activities being nothing

but beneficial to all concerned, still, they have raised the profile of you LGBT folks to such an extent that you have become a target for those who see you as a source of evil. You must go warn your friends, and prepare."

"As you wish, Your Majesty," I responded. I asked Siri for a copy of the sermon on a thumb drive, and I hurried back to town. There, I called an urgent meeting of Cindy and Xandra (for Donut Time) plus Mike and Dave. It was not until later in the day – when school was over – that Dave was able to join us. We met in my room at the stable, where we could watch the recording. When Dave arrived I could see he already knew the news about the campers, but he remained silent until we had all had a chance to listen to the sermon.

Xandra quietly seethed in anger, but Cindy showed once again why she had selected as her personal motto the words, "Don't fuck with me, Bitch!"

Cindy laid down a marker. "If that oily, frog-faced, dickless blob of grease dares show his sorry ass in Donut Time, I'm gonna..." Xandra cut her off. "Cindy! Don't let him drag you down to his level. We'll defend ourselves; we'll be ready for them if they try anything violent or illegal." There was a brief pause, and I interjected.

"You need to show Aly, Grandma Lily and the Outlaws this video. They need to know what's going on. And tomorrow, I'm going to get closed-circuit cameras installed both outside and inside of Donut Time and at the stable. We can't be too careful. Now... take this thumb drive so the others can watch." Cindy grabbed it, and the two of them left for Donut Time.

I turned to Dave, who spoke up. "The principal called a meeting with me and Mr. Davis, the coach, and he told us what he said in the sermon. The straight kids were breaking camp and folding up their tents when I left. But I gotta tell you, I think there's something more to this than just anti-LGBT bigotry. Honestly, I think there's something else at work here, too."

He looked to Mike to



get his reaction, and both of us were shocked at what Mike replied. "I'm not surprised. I've been expecting this for months." He paused to give Dave a long, supportive hug, and I heard him whisper, "Don't worry. We'll get through this."

Mike turned to me. "So... you're not a minister – or married to one – and you don't attend church services, so there's something I need to explain. Churches are entirely 'optional.' By which I mean, they don't provide any essential product or service – for which they might earn a profit. And they aren't like government, which relies on taxes, which we know are in no way 'optional.'

"Put simply," he continued, "churches are one hundred percent supported by voluntary donations from those who take a seat in one of the pews to hear a sermon. And a minister – if he wants to eat, and afford a nice car, and a big house, and an attractive wife – will know exactly what 'message' he needs to preach to fill up those pews and – especially – those offering baskets.

"And the one sermon that never fails to fill those baskets – which I refuse to give – is the one that warns those parents in the pews that their little Janes and Johnnies are in mortal danger of being seduced into a life of immorality and sin by those gays and trannies running free in our city."

(To be continued)

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

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IMPORTANT UPDATE FROM MILWAUKEE PRIDE



Milwaukee Pride, Inc. - parent organization of PrideFest, Wisconsin's largest LGBTQ+ event - announced today that it is officially canceling the four-day event slated for June. The festival was set to take place at the Henry W. Maier Festival Grounds from Thursday, June 3-Sunday, June 6, 2021. This is the second year in a row PrideFest has been canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"After much consideration, we cannot move forward with planning a June 2021 festival without knowing how and when a vaccine will be distributed throughout our community equally" said **Wes Shaver**, Milwaukee Pride, Inc. President. "It is still unclear as to how (or if) public gatherings will happen in 2021 and we cannot risk the health and wellbeing of our community by putting the festival ahead of the people it serves. Now, more than ever, we need to amplify the work of our community partners and increase accessibility and awareness of the many services, resources, and programs available to support LGBTQ+ people."

Even though Milwaukee Pride is looking for later, alternative dates for PrideFest, we are committed to working with other LGBTQ+ community partners to increase visibility of the opportunities LGBTQ+ people have for their individual health, wellness, and self care needs.

"I appreciate the early decision Milwaukee Pride has made to cancel the traditional PrideFest for 2021 to ensure everyone's safety. Although we are disappointed that we will not be able to meet in person at PrideFest, we look forward to working with Milwaukee Pride and our community partners on other ways to celebrate Pride and support our health, wellness and self-care needs in 2021" - **Gerry Coon**, President/CEO, Diverse and Resilient

Every year, PrideFest hosts a Health & Wellness area that's open to organizations to showcase their programs, services, people and resources that serve the community (as well as other underserved and represented groups). While the physical space is unavailable for 2021, Milwaukee Pride is launching a digital Health & Wellness space that allows quick access to anyone. This digital platform will allow participants a FREE listing, so no cost to the organization, to participate in the state-wide directory. Milwaukee Pride IS accepting donations towards the initiative, but, this is a FREE service and opportunity.

"When I first realized there may be rules, regulations, and guidelines for entry into a public space, I knew we would not be able to have a June festival," said Shaver. "There are serious

inequities within our community when it comes to accessibility to health care, medicine, and COVID-19 testing. The idea that, hypothetically, someone with quicker or more readily available access to health care resources could attend, while others could not- was not an option. PrideFest is a space for everyone. We cannot have any additional factors that create divides and fractures within our community."

The Milwaukee Pride Board of Directors are working with Milwaukee World Festival Inc. leadership on possible alternate dates for later this year, hoping there's a more clear path for hosting safe, public events. The board is also exploring the possibility of different formats and locations if the Henry W. Maier Festival Park is unavailable. Milwaukee Pride will continue to engage with the Milwaukee community on other, smaller events this summer to keep the Pride movement strong and present, adhering to all recommended and mandatory guidelines.

"We don't want people to think there will be no PRIDE this year," said **Luke Olson**, PrideFest Festival Producer and VP of Milwaukee Pride, Inc. "We simply want to ensure we're taking the right steps forward. We hope people trust that our intentions are for the safety of the community, and for efforts for a digital Health & Wellness will continually put access at the forefront of our community efforts year-round."

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

Chicago LGBT Hall of Fame Calls for 2021 Nominees



The Chicago LGBT Hall of Fame, celebrating its 30th year, is seeking nominations for new inductees. The deadline for nominations is May 31, 2021. The nominations will be reviewed by a committee comprised of current Chicago LGBT Hall of Fame members, after which a slate of inductees will be voted in. Nomination criteria and nomination forms are available at www.chicagolgbthalloffame.org/nominate.

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

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

United States. It was founded in 1991 as the Chicago Gay & Lesbian Hall of Fame. Its purpose then, as now, is to honor people and entities, nominated by the community, who have made significant contributions to the quality of life or well-being of the LGBT community in Chicago.

From its founding in 1991 until 2016, the Gay & Lesbian Hall of Fame relied on financial and staff support from the City of Chicago. The city ceased funding the Gay & Lesbian Hall of Fame in 2016 under then mayor **Rahm Emmanuel**. At that time, it was rechristened the Chicago LGBT Hall of Fame and has since been supported and maintained by the Friends of the Chicago LGBT Hall of Fame, a 501c3 not-for-profit organization, with approval from, and the cooperation of, the City of Chicago.

Current board co-chair **Kathy Caldwell**, a 2017 inductee explained, "We have assembled a strong cadre of volunteers and board members who are committed to keeping the Chicago LGBT Hall of Fame vibrant." The group includes some fresh voices, such as recent new and current board members; secretary **Gary Liss**, treasurer **Marcia Hill**, Greg McFall, tech whiz **Kevin Bryson**, and experienced community organizers **Jorge Valdivia** and **Dalila Fridi**.

Former board members **Gary Chichester**, **Israel Wright**, **Owen Keehnen**, **Mary Morten**, and **Phil Hannema** are valued advisors.

Rick Karlin, the board's co-chair added, "It is important to continue to recognize the achievements of Chicagoans, past and present, especially since so many of the community's original movers and shakers have passed on. We feel it is was essential to pick up the baton and to ensure that their achievements are not forgotten."

The first Chicago Gay & Lesbian Hall of Fame ceremony took place during Pride Week and was held at Chicago City Hall. Mayor Richard M. Daley hosted the ceremony and afterwards, photos of the inductees were displayed in City Hall. The Hall of Fame has no physical facility but maintains a website which allows anyone to visit the Hall of Fame at any time. Traditionally, the City of Chicago has displayed the Hall of Fame materials during induction periods, Pride and in October, Gay & Lesbian History Month.

For more information, email outreach@chicagolgbthalloffame.org, visit the organization's web site chicagolgbthalloffame.org/ or its Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/56108152083/>.

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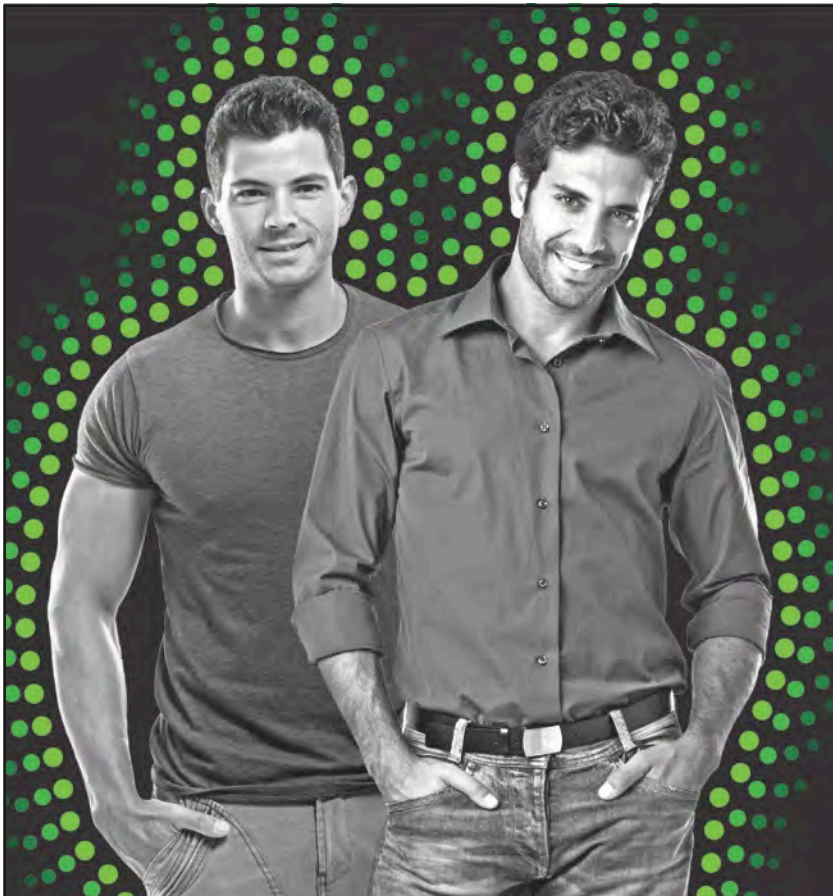
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JESSIE VILLA SHARES SWEETLY SINISTER NEW SINGLE "THRILLER"



Multi-genre singer/songwriter **Jessie Villa** shares her sweetly sinister new single "Thriller." Listen exclusively on Parade. Of the song's inspiration, Villa shares: "There's a reason we make art about our most tumultuous, addicting relationships. They're the ones we can't resist because they keep us on the edge of our seats. Completely intoxicated by the ups and downs, sometimes being in love can feel more like a thrill than anything else. This song embodies that craze and is a cautionary tale for any naive listener, with an overall sentiment that it's still well-worth."

Jessie Villa first encountered the music scene by winning multiple songwriting competitions in New Jersey and working with a NYC-based manager, who started setting writing sessions up for the artist in Nashville, TN. After winning Simon Cowell's "The You Generation" live covers competition, Villa transferred to Belmont University, and in her first month living in Nashville, she opened for Kris Allen and Boyce Avenue at Cannery Ballroom on their No Limits tour. Shortly after, she had her first songwriting cut with popular YouTube cover artist Alice Kristiansen with her song "Twilight Blue" (co-written with Mark Conklin and Jessica Cayne).

After taking a break from performing and writing to focus on earning a degree in Music Business, Villa joined Nashville music licensing and tech company Soundstripe as the only staff topliner. In the past three years, she has written and performed hundreds of songs for filmmakers in a wide spectrum of genres. Her first song with Soundstripe music was a collaboration with EDM artist My Buddy Mike ("Mad Love"), reaching over 6 million streams. Her indie pop project Luna Wave with production powerhouse Aaron Sprinkle saw success with their song "Chasing the Light", which appeared on New Music Friday in the U.S. and 5 other countries and has been featured on numerous Spotify playlists. Other noteworthy collaborations include working with rising EDM duo BEAUZ,

writing and performing on their first single "Feel the Light", released through top EDM label Spinnin' Records' Asia endeavor (Spinnin' Records Asia). The three later released an Alex and Sierra cover ("Little do You Know") on BEAUZ's debut album Genesis. Villa also appears on rock band Acceptance's single "Wildfires" from the 2020 album Wild, Free on Tooth & Nail Records.

Pushing her limits as an artist and writer at Soundstripe has afforded her the ability to hone in on who she is as an artist and what she really wants to say. Carrying right along with this new sense of self, January 2021 Villa will be introducing a new era of her artistry, one that will see some of her most personal writing and performance. After trying on count.

For more information on Jessie Villa, visit: <https://www.facebook.com/JessieVillaMusic/>.

FRANK IERO AND THE FUTURE VIOLENTS RELEASE EP HEAVEN IS A PLACE, THIS IS A PLACE



Serving as a companion piece to 2019's critically acclaimed full length, *Barriers*, the EP is split into two distinct movements.

Side A reveals the true meaning of "Violence", a song title **lero** has teased on bass drums in all his *Future Violents* music videos. Indeed, it's opening gambit of "You got so sick, I thought I'd die, you got so down, I couldn't get high" before the chorus refrain of "Your violence feels like kisses to me, your silence makes it harder to breathe, your distance feels like I'm not enough... I need your touch." see's lero at his most scathing and damaged. Never have these words felt more relevant as they do now. This ferocity and redemptive anger continues into "Sewerwolf" where in the chorus lero professes, "I come alive forged in fire, My love will break these chains built from pain, they can't hold me down."

In total contrast to side A, side B finds the band more delicate and thoughtful, complete with soaring soundscapes before the final

crescendo of Record Ender. All while paying beautiful tribute to lero's journey with The Future Violents and it's members musical fortitude.

In 2016, lero and his guitar-playing brother in law, **Evan Nestor**, were involved in a brutal motor vehicle accident in Australia – one they barely survived. During the process of recovery, the REM song, "Losing My Religion" started making pivotal appearances in unusual places / weird circumstance and the mantra repeated itself as time went on.

When lero resumed touring, post accident in 2017, one of the members of the support band, **Kayleigh Goldsworthy**, struck a chord both literally and proverbially.

"The Future Violents was the perfect band at the perfect time for me. The creativity flowed through us like rapids and we didn't stop writing because we ran out of inspiration...it was just time to go to the studio. In fact I was still writing at the studio, but I allowed myself the luxury of 14 songs on the record leaving 3 to survive in the shadows. Lying in wait. I knew I wanted them to see the light, it was just a matter of how and when."

Elaborating on the origins of the EP, lero comments, "The title of the EP actually comes from the night before we started recording *Barriers* at Electrical Audio in Chicago. The band went out to eat and get drinks at a local Tiki bar called, Lost Lake. On the menu that night there was a drink called Heaven is a place/This is the place." shares lero on the meaning behind the EP title. "I love when the universe gives you gifts like that. You just have to be in tune to your surroundings. The name struck me as clever and I started to think about how changing one word in that title meant something way more profound to me. Heaven is a place, if you believe in that sort of thing...It is the reward at the end of a long hard journey of fighting the good fight and living your life to whatever standards you hold dear. But it's just a place. And so is this...This is a place, the earthly realm, miraculous on so many levels but also just a place. The difference is you and your perception."

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