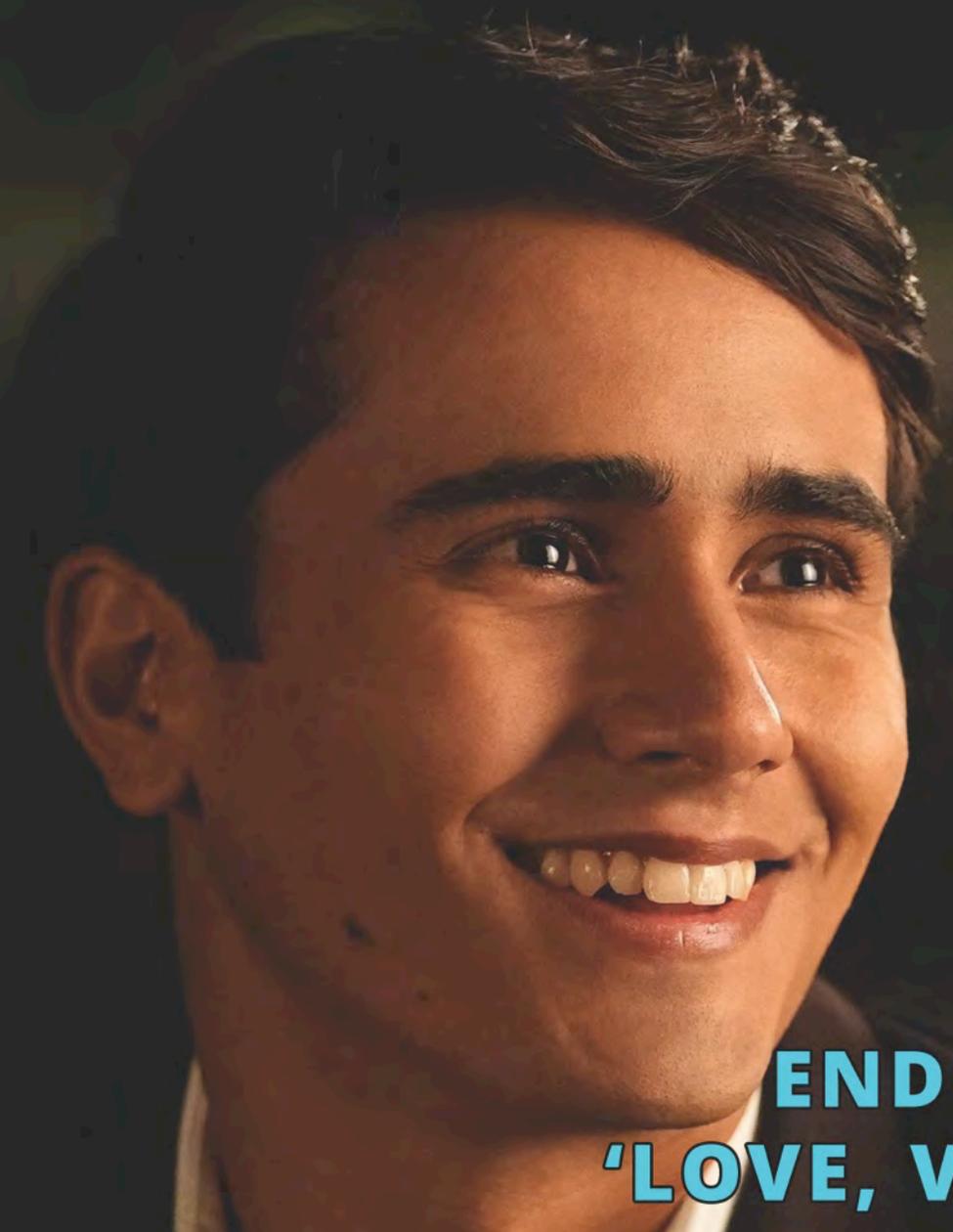


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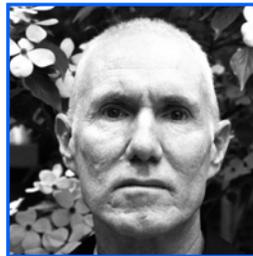
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GRAB MICHAEL & GEORGE



Loving Victor For the Last Time Michael Cimino and George Sear on the end of 'Love, Victor' and how their characters changed them

By Chris Azzopardi

For now, at least, it's the end of "Venji." Many watched Victor (Michael Cimino) and Benji (George Sear), the romantic heart of "Love, Victor," to find a much-needed love rush amid pandemic weirdness. The series launched on Hulu in 2020, just months into lockdown when we were all looking for some lighthearted teen romance (for some, to see themselves; for others, to revel in nostalgia), and now, after three seasons, the spinoff of the 2018 film "Love, Simon" is stepping off the ferris wheel. That is, until the very fans who made it the gay talk of Twitter inevitably insist on a Venji film.

In a recent chat, Cimino and Sear talked about their next possible collaboration (could we finally get a recorded song?), what mementos they kept from the set and whether they'll continue to represent the LGBTQ+ community in future roles.

Chris Azzopardi: I don't know how many tears you shed during the shooting of this, but based on the

face you're making right now, Michael, it looks like you shed some.

Michael Cimino: Yeah, I definitely cried quite a bit. I love this show, and I love this cast. It's been such an amazing experience. And yeah, it was emotional, dude. I love these people. So even though it's not a goodbye, it definitely felt that way, especially in the moment. And it was a goodbye to Victor, and that in itself was really hard, just [saying] goodbye to Victor. I loved playing Victor.

George Sear: It's such a big part of your life, you know? It was emotional. Especially as a Brit, like us being much more [transparent] with our emotions. That final night everybody was just so... there was just so much love there. Yeah, a lot of tears.

CA: What was your first impression of each other when you met, and how has your relationship changed from the first shoot to the last?

Cimino: The first time I met George was in the cam read, and I

knew that George was the guy. Immediately I was like, "This is our guy, for sure." Our relationship has just grown since then, and I would consider George one of my really good friends, one of my closest friends, and I know I can call George and chat to him about anything.

Sear: A hundred percent.

Cimino: I don't think that you get that often, to be honest. Sometimes you become part of a cast, and you're not really vibing with everyone, but with this cast, I love everyone so much.

Sear: Yeah, honestly. From the get-go there was definitely, like you said... it felt really right. So I was really grateful that I got to be a part of this experience. Everybody was lovely, but Michael was just so genuine and wanted everybody to feel good on set and brought such good energy. I do feel like our friendship really has evolved from Season 1 till now, and through jamming together. So much growth in this time, and sharing that with you bonded us.

Cimino: You can't really describe



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it. George would call me when his car broke down, and we had to push it...

Sear: A hundred percent. And he lent me his truck for, like, over a month.

CA:You mentioned music, George, and you're both musically inclined, and fans are really hungry for a collaboration between the two of you, a recording that we can just enjoy for the rest of our lives. Is that something you talk about?

Cimino: Yeah, actually, I don't know why we haven't talked about it.

Sear: That's something we definitely should [do]. We have played music together before. We used to host these jam sessions where everyone would switch instruments, and it was very fun. Maybe we can have a go at writing a little something. Funny that we both have our guitars, like, next to us [right now]. Let's do it now. What key?

CA:You've spent three years with these characters. What have

you learned about yourself by playing them?

Cimino: Dude, I feel like Victor's inspired me so much just to be brave, and I know I keep saying this, but [that's] because it's true. Victor has inspired me to just be who I am. And he has this big speech at the end about bravery, and that has been a really incredible inspiration [to] me for how I navigate life.

Sear: There's been so much that I've taken away from Benji: his confidence, and this season learning that he wasn't always confident, and he had these struggles, and he was doing a lot of work on himself. It was kind of cathartic to play that, because there's just parallels between things I've gone through. But then, other things, like the love of coffee. They gave me barista training and now I'm obsessed with that. When they got me in the studio to do that, a song in Season 2, and that just was so fun.

CA:Have you delved into Venji fan fiction? I mean, it would be hard

not to; there's a lot of it on the internet.

Sear: I see a lot of memes and things like that on Twitter.

Cimino: Yeah, I haven't dived into the fan fiction. We should actually, George. We could do a day where we link up, and we just read fan fiction online.

Sear: We should actually. We need some direct links.

CA:So a very shameless fan had this question for Michael, which is: Out of all the people that Victor has kissed, who is Michael's favorite kisser?

Cimino: You know, listen... I think...

Sear: Don't be shy.

Cimino: Yep, tread carefully. Um, I think everyone's great in their own regard. And I feel like that's all I can say 'cause any way that I answer this question, I'm so screwed.

Sear: But there is an answer!

CA:Do you think that you have interest in playing other LGBTQ+



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characters in the future?

Cimino: Yes, for sure.

Sear: Definitely, yeah.

Cimino: I've had some interest in some stuff that is LGBTQ-skewing. I'm never going to shy away from a role because it's LGBTQ-skewing. I think that's really dumb. It's a part of our

world, and people that are part of the LGBTQ+ community need to be seen.

Sear: I'm kind of back to the drawing board, auditioning quite a bit. And if a good part is a good part, and it's a good character, then yeah. Of course. Absolutely.

CA:What did you take from the set as a memento? And by "take," I mean borrow, not steal.

Cimino: Yeah. I didn't steal anything.

Sear: You got away with something quite hefty, didn't you?

Cimino: No, no! I don't know what you're talking about! I took some stuff from Victor's room that I felt like I needed to have.

Sear: I got this bracelet that I love, and it's sort of a memento of the character. And I also got the... I'm just looking at it over here. It's the tamper, for the espresso, where [Benji's] tamping the coffee. I got the tamper for that. So, I use that every day 'cause I make coffee at home every day. If a "Love, Victor" movie comes your way, would you say yes to it?

Cimino: Yeah.

Sear: Definitely. Yeah, yeah. A hundred percent. Love to work with Michael again, and everybody else.

Chris Azzopardi is the Editorial Director of Pride Source Media Group and Q Syndicate, the national LGBTQ+ wire service. He has interviewed a multitude of superstars, including Cher, Meryl Streep, Mariah Carey and Beyoncé. His work has also appeared in The New York Times, Vanity Fair, GQ and Billboard. Reach him via Twitter @chrisazzopardi.



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GRAB MARY

Seeing stars: An interview with singer/songwriter Mary Gauthier

By Gregg Shapiro

If you've been listening to out singer/songwriter **Mary Gauthier** for any length of time, say since the release of her 1997 debut album "Dixie Kitchen" (containing the song "Goddamn HIV"), you know that you are in for an emotional journey. This continued throughout her recording career, with examples such as 2005's "Mercy Now" (featuring the devastating title cut and "I Drink"), as well as 2010's deeply personal "The Foundling" and 2018's Grammy-nominated "Rifles and Rosary Beads" (a project created via Songwriting with Soldiers). While her new album "**Dark Enough to See the Stars**" (In The Black/Thirty Tigers) has its share of poignant moments, Gauthier will astonish you in unexpected ways. The album features honest and beautiful love songs, inspired by her relationship with musician Jaimee Harris (a gifted singer/songwriter in her own right). As it turns out, love, like comfortable pair of boots, is a good fit for Gauthier, who is a natural at writing these kinds of songs. Mary was generous enough to make time for an interview shortly before the release of the new album. **[Mary Gauthier performs on Sept. 18 at City Winery in Chicago and on Sept. 22 at The Acorn Theater in Three Oaks, MI.]**

Gregg Shapiro: Mary, I saw you and Jaimee in March 2022, when we were panelists and speakers at the annual Saints and Sinners LGBTQ+ literary festival in New Orleans. What was your experience at Saints and Sinners like for you?

Mary Gauthier: Oh my God, I loved it so much. I wish we could do that every weekend.

GS: I agree.

MG: It was so much fun. It's the community I'm looking for. It felt so

good. I loved the panels. I loved the books. I loved the authors. I loved the insights. I loved hanging out with everybody after. I loved sitting up there with Rickie Lee Jones. We became friends after that. Started to hang out a little Nashville when she came to play here. We're in communication. It built a lot of bridges for me to people that I am just grateful to know. It's an extraordinary event. Wow, is all I can say.

GS: Do you have another book, a follow-up to *Saved by a Song*, in the works?

MG: I'm pushing some stuff around. I'm working on it. I did a residency down in Key West for a month. I sort of wrote a foreword, so it gave me some kind of road map to where I think I might go. But, for me, writing books takes years. I'm not a quick writer, by any stretch. I'm writing songs all the time, but writing a book, to me, is strenuous. It's a long marathon.

GS: Well, we look forward to whatever comes next.

MG: Thank you.

GS: Would it be fair to say that some listeners might be surprised, even delighted, by the Mary Gauthier they hear on songs such as "Fall Apart World," "Thank God For You," "Amsterdam," and "About Time," from your new album "Dark Enough to See the Stars?"

MG: Yeah, I mean, I hope they're delighted. It's going to be startling, that's for sure. Because I've never chased down straight-up happy songs before. I tend to be broody and moody. Life has been hard, and my songs have

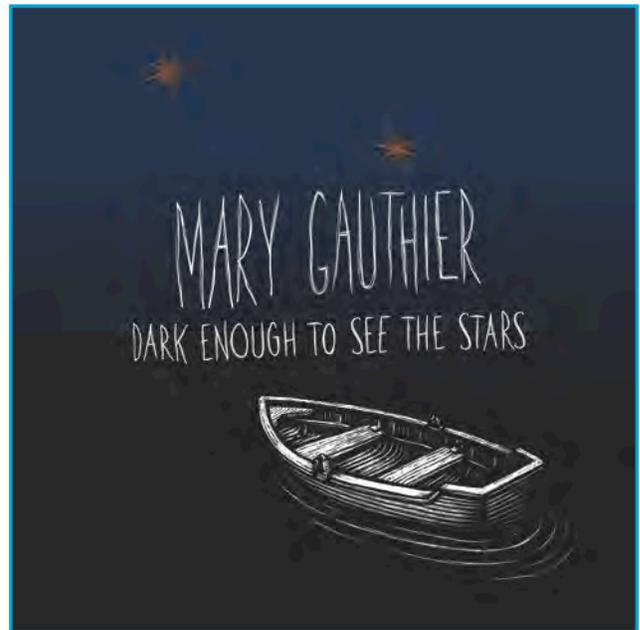


reflected it. But I've got this beautiful relationship with Jaimee, and we're in our fifth year together. It's incredible to me that this is working. I've never had a love that renewed itself. I've been in love, but it hasn't been the type of love we knew. It would slowly sort of drain out. I'm sure that's probably because of my own behaviors and my own inadequacies and my own dysfunction. But I've done a lot of work to prepare myself for this and grow and become a person who could have this. Prior to Jaimee, I intentionally stayed single for five years and did some hard work on myself to prepare for either I'm gonna be single or if I do get into a relationship it has to be different. I guess I laid the groundwork for this by doing that. I can't believe it, but it works. It's incredible to experience this later in life for the first time. I turned 60 in March, and this is my first relationship that's not crazy. I've had so many crazy relationships because I've been crazy. I'm not blaming. the people who have come through my life, and by any stretch, it's not anybody's fault but mine. But I had hard work to do, and I'm still doing it. I'm grateful that somehow, I became willing to do the work.

GS: Well, we're very happy for you, for sure.

MG: Thank you.

GS: In some ways, *Dark Enough to See the Stars* is also a pandemic



addresses life after loss and trauma on “How Could You Be Gone” and “Where Are You Now.” Please say something about the impact of the pandemic on your songwriting.

MG: Yeah, that’s right. I think you’ve got it. We’re on the same page. It’s a collection of songs about the transformative power of love, and it’s also about grief and loss, and all of this is happening inside a single heart at the same time. I’m looking at a list of people that I love that have died in the last two years. (Mary counts) 11 people. The only other time I’ve ever been through this was in the early days of the AIDS crisis.

GS: I was just gonna say that. I think for a lot of queer people, we can see so many of these parallels between COVID and AIDS, especially with the way Republicans fumbled the early days of both viruses.

MG: So many parallels! If you’re a queer person of a certain age, this is also familiar. This is not your first rodeo. The unfolding of it just rings so familiar.

GS: I’m a longtime fan of Beth Nielsen Chapman with whom you co-wrote the title cut for “Dark Enough

MG: She’s very meticulous, thorough. She’s one of the great melody writers of our time. She’s got an incredible amount of wisdom around music and songs, and patience. She’s also just like magic. That’s not an exaggeration. The woman is magic, and she knows. It’s not like she knows it in a way that’s arrogant. She just knows how to be a conduit for it. I love writing songs with her because she’s really committed to getting it right.

GS: That sounds like a good creative partnership. You are embarking on a multi-city concert tour in support of *Dark Enough to See the Stars*. What are you most looking to about performing live again?

MG: I just love it. I love being on stage. I love connecting. I love that I get to have Jaimee with me right now, and so we get to do this together. She’s gonna be coming out with her own record soon, and then she’ll be doing her thing. This is special because I get to have her with me. Also, I just feel right when I’m out there working and being in the work instead of talking about the work or doing all the things to get there. I’m a troubadour by nature. I like hopping around, town to

to See the Stars.” Beth is someone you’ve collaborated with in the past. What makes her a good songwriting partner?

town, meeting folks, and hotel rooms. The whole enchilada. I like it. I go around the world. It’s a real privilege to have this job.

GS: Will you be incorporating readings from *Saved by a Song* the way you did when I saw you perform in Fort Lauderdale in November 2021?

MG: Yes. I will. What I’ve learned about being an author is that if you want to sell a book, it’s up to you. The publishers not gonna do it. It’s a lot like a record company. “We’ll put it out, but you’ve got to sell it.” I want people to read it because I’m proud of it. I read it every night (of a show) and people come to the table and they purchase a copy and I sign it and it works in that way. I will be bringing books and I will be reading (from) them. I think it actually makes for an interesting show.

GS: It does! It breaks things up.

MG: Yeah. It works for a troubadour to tell stories, but also to read stories that have been crafted.

GS: The title of the album comes from a Martin Luther King Jr. quote, “Only when it is dark enough can you see the stars.” Do you think there’s any chance that during these dark times, there will be stars bright enough to illuminate the way to a better future?

MG: I absolutely have to believe that, yes.

GRAB ANDREW

Postcard from Florida

An interview with gay writer Andrew Holleran

By Gregg Shapiro

Many readers of gay fiction no doubt have their likes and dislikes. But one thing on which most of them can agree is that a new novel by Andrew Holleran is cause for celebration. Since the publication of his groundbreaking 1978 debut “Dancer from the Dance,” Holleran has created unforgettable fictional portraits of the emergence of gay life in the novels “Nights in Aruba,” “The Beauty of Men,” the short story collection “In September, the Light Changes,” and the novella “Grief,” as well as in his essay collections “Ground Zero” and “Chronicle of a Plague, Revisited: AIDS and Its Aftermath.” Holleran’s new novel, the Florida-set “The Kingdom of Sand” (FSG, 2022) is a welcome addition to his canon. In the book, the nameless gay narrator confronts the aging process, his own and those around him, as well as the prospect of what comes after. This is particularly poignant considering how many gay men of Holleran’s generation passed well before their time. Andrew was generous enough to answer a few questions about his new novel.

Gregg Shapiro: There are 16 years between the publication of 2006’s “Grief” and 2022’s “The Kingdom of Sand.” Were you working on the latter all along, or did it come about much later?

Andrew Holleran: I was working on other stuff. *Kingdom of Sand* took about a year and a half, I think, though it incorporated some of the stuff I’d been working on earlier, so I can’t really say how long *Sand* took.

GS: From my perspective, “The Kingdom of Sand” represents a connection between 1996’s “The Beauty of Men” and 2006’s “Grief,” the way it incorporates Gainesville and Washington DC. Am I on the right track, and if so, is that how you see it?

AH: Yes, there is a connection between, or should I say among, those books. In fact, I think of *Kingdom* as what happens to the narrator of *Grief*

after he returns to Florida.

GS: Early in the book, the daughter of a neighbor tells the narrator “Everybody here knows you’re gay.” Not long after that, the narrator’s mother asks about his friends, “Why are they all men?” Which leads me to ask, what would it have mattered if he’d come out to his parents?

AH: I have no idea, either in real life or in *Kingdom*, and that is why the narrator walks out of the room without answering; he can’t imagine the consequences of telling the truth, of coming out. I think this is a conceptual block a lot of gay people have or have had.

GS: In “The Dirty Hat,” the first of five sections in “The Kingdom of Sand,” the narrator details his experiences in an adult video store. There’s a story, “Kid A,” in John Weir’s new short story collection “Your Nostalgia is Killing Me” which is set in an adult booth-store. Would you describe this as a coincidence or a comment on our times?

AH: Well, I do think one of the hilarious ironies of what the Internet has done to our lives – much of it, in my mind, awful – is that one of the chief things people are using it for is pornography! When the narrator in *Kingdom* goes to the “dirty” video store, he says it’s because he’s been watching so much porn, he thinks he needs to see people having sex in real life. To me, it’s one of those things that is a Comment On Everything. As to why both John and I chose it, I can’t say. It’s

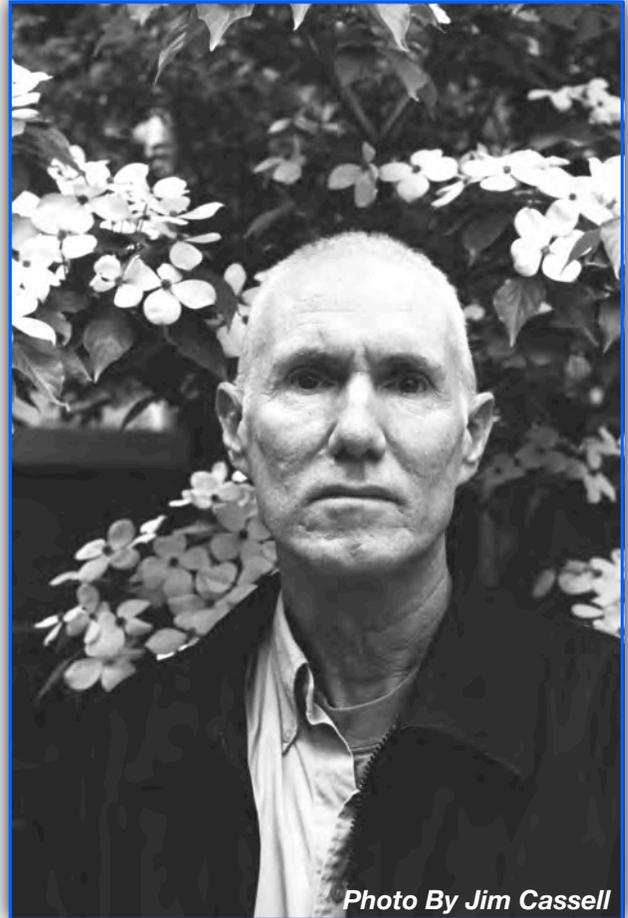


Photo By Jim Cassell

either in the Zeitgeist, or it’s some metaphor for gay life, or part of both our lives.

GS: Your Florida observations – including that Florida is “a state where you rarely see anything from a height” – are alternately heartwarming and heartbreaking, especially since I also live here during these challenging DeSantis years. As someone who has a longer history with the state, are you surprised or not by what is taking place here?

AH: I am and am not surprised, though I am concerned, because I have never forgotten the Ray brothers, who got HIV from a blood transfusion years ago, being burned out of their home down in Arcadia, Florida. You can’t make this up! That is, I’ve always been aware that there are two cultures in Florida... actually, many more, but in this case, I’m referring to the native, Protestant, rural, conservative bedrock – versus the invasive species: retirees,

snowbirds, etc. – which makes Florida both a “cracker” state and an extremely heterogeneous, multicultural one. The former has always been there and was exemplified a few decades ago not only by the treatment of the Ray brothers, but when the U.N. wanted to designate the St Johns River some version of a UNESCO world culture site or something like that, and people protested because they thought that would cede control of Florida’s government to the U.N.! I thought, “That’s looking a gift horse in the mouth.” And now we have a resurgence of that segment of the culture in DeSantis’ obvious appeals to the Trump base, though, of course, it could be sincere on his part. But these two Floridas are always going to be in contention, I think. But let’s face it: at this point, Florida is a long, long way from its roots.

GS: We’ve talked about movies many times; we both share a love of the medium. Movies are a central part of “The Kingdom of Sand.” Are the movies you mention in the book favorites of yours, and would you say that you are subliminally making recommendations to the reader?

AH: Actually, it occurred to me too late that I could have used those movie lists as a way to push my own favorites. But I didn’t because I wanted the movie choices to characterize (the narrator’s friend) Earl, and his generation, to summon up a vanished USA. There were so many movies Earl shows the narrator that the narrator has never heard of, with actors Earl knew from his own youth; it’s a generational difference, and therefore a difference between two Americas – Earl’s, and the narrator’s.

GS: If there was a movie version of “The Kingdom of Sand,” who would you want to play the narrator?

AH: I’m so out of touch with current movie and TV-making that I have no idea [laughs]. I leave that to you!

GS: Many writers, including Henry James, George Santayana, and Anton Chekhov, are also referenced throughout the book. Is this the educator in you sharing your knowledge in the hopes that readers will explore some of these writers on their own?

aphorisms from this writer and that – he reads books the way Earl watches movies. He’s got a distressed mind, searching here and there, and coming to no conclusion.

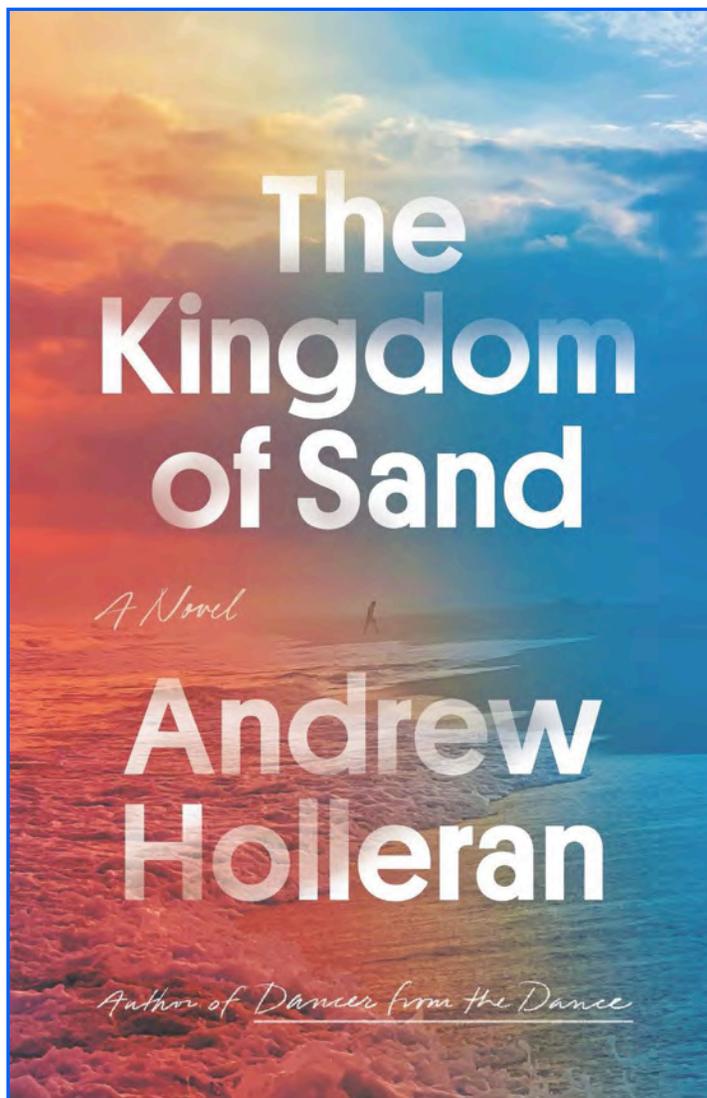
GS: Dogs, including the narrator’s friend Earl’s dog Betty, are also a presence in the book. Is there any chance that you’ve added what the kids today call a “fur baby” to your household?

AH: I love dogs, when they’re not off leash and running toward me with indeterminate intent outdoors, but the moment I realized I could not have a fur baby was when I lived with a wonderful dog whose owner was in the hospital for a month. Sitting at home reading or working on the laptop I’d look over at the dog and worry that it was bored. So, I’d get up and take him for a walk. And I thought, “If you’re such a people pleaser that you can’t bear the idea of a dog being bored, then I don’t think you can live with one.” Plus, the usual reason: If you have a dog, you can’t travel as freely.

GS: In the titular third section, you write about a “friend in Washington” who called the narrator to ask him for help in teaching a course. Is the friend in Washington based on the late gay writer and educator Richard McCann, and if so, what do you think Richard would have thought of “The Kingdom of Sand”?

AH: That is Richard McCann, and the sad thing is I had so much trouble with this book,

that I wish I’d taken Richard up on his offer to read it when I was working on it. But for some reason – a) not wanting to burden a friend with that task, and/or b) thinking I had to solve it on my own – I didn’t take him up on his offer. And you know that Richard would have seen the problems immediately and been of immense help, because he was so, so smart.



AH: Yes, I think so, though that wasn’t my idea when I wrote the book. It occurred to me that the novel form is so loose at this point, that one might as well do anything one wants, and I thought, “Why hide the narrator’s reading?” Earl reads the Bible and books about the Civil War. The narrator’s reading is all over the place; he has a sort of magpie mind, taking

GRAB J.R.



Photo Courtesy of Grizz Studios and Sarah Engel Designs

Price of Love Burned by his Ex, This Out Singer Turns His Relationship Ashes to Record Smashes

By James Booth

J.R. Price is best known for “Body Positive”, a track from his Daydream album that encouraged people to love their bodies. His latest album, Nightmare, is darker in theme but digs even deeper in its messaging. It’s rallying people to love themselves: their inner junk, past trauma and unresolved emotional turmoil. And yes, be a beacon for others, but not to the extent where you become a doormat.

“I had my album release party last week, and people I didn’t know were crying and telling me how my stories in Nightmare inspired them to be better to themselves,” Price says. “That was so important to me because it made me feel like my heartache was genuinely helping people.”

J.R. Price isn’t concerned with pop star fame or living the baller life. “I am just a coat check guy who sings personal songs about my reality,” J.R.

Price continues. “I love how music offers a platform for my story to be heard.” The video for “Tiny,” his first release from Nightmare, is on YouTube now.

James Booth: “Nightmare” digs deep into the five stages of grief. Where are you in journey right now?

JRP: I have more good days than bad days. Releasing the album and letting people hear my story has helped, but I still have bouts of depression when I think about my family abandonment, my poverty, and obviously, the heartache that developed this amazing work. I have emotional burdens, and sometimes I can’t control them. I’m human. I’m allowed to not be perfect and get down about my actual feelings. I will say, however, that I am doing the work and I’m seeing the light of hope at the end of a very dark tunnel.

JB: What was it about this last

relationship that affected you so much?

JRP: I think it was the false hope I was given. The master manipulation. He made me believe he was more important than me. I started doing everything I could to please him, and when I couldn’t help him anymore, because his needs were greater than my means, he cut me off with no explanation.

JB: That’s cold.

JRP: Every “you’re important to me,” “you matter,” “next year, when we are boyfriends” and “this is the best date I’ve ever been on”... they were all lies to get me to do things for him. I’m a helper. I pride myself in my ability to help others. I think the worst thing you can do to a helper is to make them feel like their help isn’t enough. It devalued my self-worth. If I couldn’t help the man I loved more than anyone, the man I put



*Photos Courtesy of
Grizz Studios and Sarah Engel Designs*



Photo Courtesy of Grizz Studios and Sarah Engel Designs



these legendary producers, or lie my way to get things, or sleep my way to the top. I just stayed true to my art and my emotions and the universe gave me what I needed to survive the obstacles I faced. I am still poor. I'm still a nobody, but I made a high-quality album that I will be proud of for the rest of my life. These producers turned me into a genuine artist. I don't think they realize how much their contributions meant to me. They saved my life.

JB: What is your favorite song on Nightmare?

JRP: The title track because it is the most vulnerable. I hold nothing back in it. I really get to the root of what I want in life and it is finding happiness. I want to love and I want to be loved.

JB: Now that the album is written and out, are you ready to move on?

JRP: So ready! I'm hard at work on my next album. I wrote the first and last track already. It won't be out for some time though 'cause this dreamer is poor and making and marketing music takes a ridiculous amount of money.

J.R. Price's "Nightmare" is being distributed independently and is available on Apple Music, Spotify and all digital platforms. Physical copies and JRP merch are also available at jrprice.org. Follow J.R. Price on Instagram @jrpriceless5eva and Facebook @JRPricePop. for more Visit www.JRPrice.org.

above my own needs, then who could I help? Could I even help myself?

JB: You sing about the devaluing of your self-worth in "Tiny".

JRP: Yes, "Tiny" is about how I was made to feel by the end of a very deceiving relationship. It's a song for anyone who has a man in their life that makes them feel so diminished, they can't see their own worth anymore. It is about me reclaiming my price tag. Thank you. I'm bigger now.

JB: It's a dark track. What happened to the bright and sunny J.R. Price that sang about "Body Positivity"?

JRP: I was living in a daydream. Now I'm coming out from a nightmare. It is the result of a man casting a shadow over my light. I am not the type who can paint a smile over my pain. I actually think that it is more debilitating to bottle things up, lie to people, say I'm fine when I'm not fine. If I can't be

honest in my music, where can I be honest? My music is my therapy. If I bottle these things up and don't work through them, they will eat me alive. I have to release it. If people feel hurt by my music, all I can say is, don't hurt a songwriter. What did you think would happen?

JB: The album is also a bit more theatrical ... not just in emotions but in its sound. Is that from your move to NYC?

JRP: Actually, yes! My new producer, Ricky Allson, messaged me when I lived in Nashville about a song he wrote, "Golden Hour," and it inspired me to dive into this new sound in NYC. It led to my meeting Feathers Wise and Grammy award winning producer Jeff the Jedi Master Jones who invited me to his studio to record the album. It's amazing how life works. I didn't hunt down this opportunity to work with

Photo Courtesy of Grizz Studios and Sarah Engel Designs





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Photos By Anthony Meade



GRAB A GETAWAY

WEEKEND FUN IN Madison, Wisconsin

By **Bill Malcolm**

You cannot beat a visit to Madison, Wisconsin. Situated on an isthmus between Lakes Mendota and Monona, the city is full of bike trails as well as kayak rentals. Everything revolves around the Capitol Square (home to the beautiful State Capitol Building) which features the best farmers market in the Midwest every Saturday morning.

GETTING THERE

Madison is a 2 ½ hour drive from Chicago which is also served by the Van Galder Bus. Or take the Amtrak from Chicago to Milwaukee and hop on the Badger Bus to Madison. Dane County Regional Airport has flights from around the country although the fares can be high.

WHAT TO DO

Rent a B Cycle electric bike and explore the city.

The Olbrich Botanical Gardens on the east side are a must.

Ride the Capitol City bike trail and afterwards stop by the new Garver Feed Mill Food Hall. Rent a kayak at the Brittingham Bay Boat House.

Enjoy the prairie flowers at Owen Park on the west side.

Take a swim at the UW Memorial Union Terrace pier and then grab a brat and brew to watch the sunset.

Take in the free Mad City Water Ski Club ski show Sundays at 6 p.m. in the summer. Brats available there too.

Ride the Lakeshore Path and then hike out to the end of Picnic Point.

WHERE TO EAT

Grab a sandwich or some cheese at Fromagination, 15 S. Carroll.

Cosetta's on West Washington is fabulous. Try the tomato sausage soup and grab some coffee at Barrique's across the street.

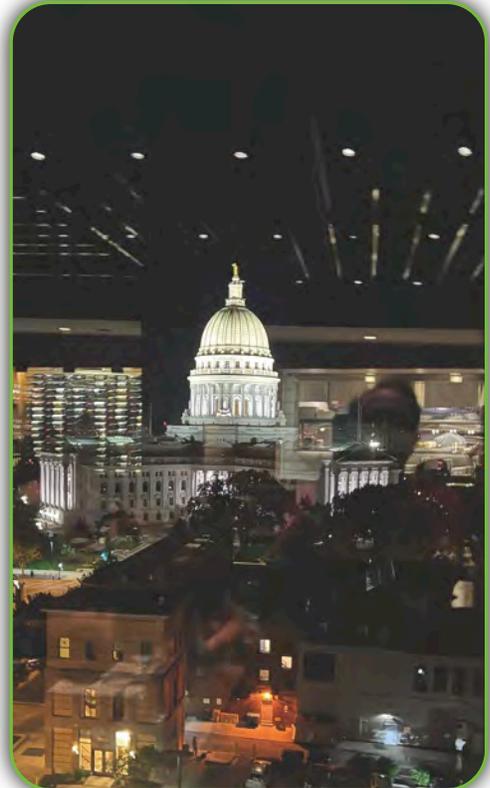
The Shamrock serves burgers.

Harvest and the Old

Fashioned are very good (at 215 S. Pickney) right on the Square.

WHERE TO STAY

I like the Hampton Inn and Suites downtown. If you are on UW business, try the Fluno Center. The Graduate is also very nice as is the Hilton Monona Terrace. If you want to



splurge, try the Edgewater but check for resort fees.

NIGHTLIFE

Woofs at 114 King is a lot of fun (especially for the Bear and leather crowd). Their Sunday Beer Bust is a must. Don't miss their PrideFest August 13. Enjoy the outdoor seating and grab a bite at their wine restaurant next door, Vino. The Club V out on the Beltline is another fun option.

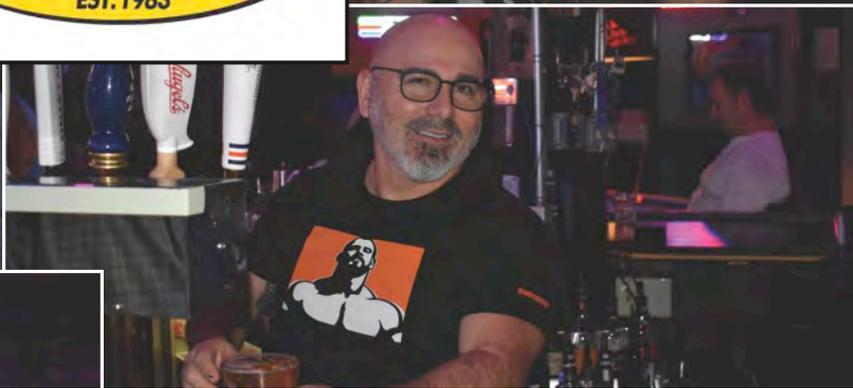
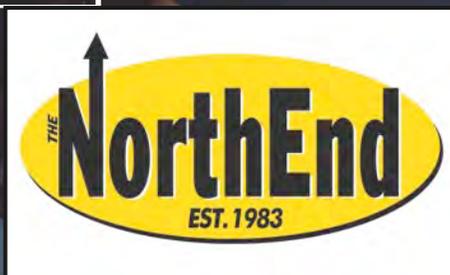
The Shamrock is also on the Capitol Square at 117 Main and is a lot of fun.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Pick up a copy of the monthly Isthmus. *OurLives* in Wisconsin's source for LGBTQ news. Outreach has a monthly calendar (outreachmadisonlgbt.org).

Bill Malcolm is originally from Madison. He now resides in Indianapolis. His syndicated LGBTQ travel column has appeared in publications around the country from the Seattle Gay News to the Toronto Pink Play Magazine as well as on the Travel Blog section of the IGLTA website.





Photos By Anthony Meade

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Daily Specials

Monday	<p>2 Bears Tavern Uptown: . \$5 Jager, Fireball & Malort \$4 Tallboy Beers (BuschLight, PBR, Hamm's), \$4StoliCocktails (Any Flavor). @mosphere: \$5 Well Cocktails & Draft Beer 6-8pm. Cell Block: Open 4pm-2am. Charlies: Bingo 7 – 11 pm Dancing until close. Hydrate: Lips and Mascara Doors at 8pm Show at 10pm. Lark: Happy Hour 5-7pm, Bottles of Wine 50% off with dinner entree purchase. Lucky Horseshoe: Open at 4pm, Dancers 8pm. Meeting House Tavern: \$5 Jäger, Fireball & Malort, \$4 Tallboy Beers. North End: Open at 11am, \$5 Well Drinks. Replay Beer & Bourbon Lakeview: Open 2pm-2am, \$5 Drafts & Cans, \$6 Stoli Vodka Cocktails, \$7 Glasses of Wine, \$8 Larceny Old Fashioneds, \$5 Bud Lights 4-6pm. Sidetrack: Open at 3pm, Musical Monday Show Tunes 8pm-2am. Steamworks: Every 3rd Monday TM4M (Trans Men For Men) 8pm-2am. The Sofo Tap: \$4 Whiskey, Rye& Bourbon \$3 Miller Lit Drafts \$5Big Ass Long Islands, \$4 Tallboys,5Jager, Fireball & Malort, \$4 Tall Boy Beers (Busch Light, PBR,Hamm's)Free Darts. Touche:7/4 Independence Day Beer Bust \$2 Bud LightDrafts & SodasClubroom open6pm, 7/11 Euchre Night, Come out and Play 7-10pm Sports on our screens Club room Open!</p>
Tuesday	<p>2 Bears Tavern Uptown: . \$5 Jager, Fireball & Malort \$4 Tallboy Beers (BuschLight, PBR, Hamm's), \$6 Big Miller Lite Drafts \$3 House Shots. @mosphere: \$5 Well Cocktails & Draft Beer 6-8pm, Game Night with Tony. Cell Block: Open 4pm-2am. Charlie's: TuneUp Tuesday Karaoke 7 – 11PM, Tag Team Tuesdays 11p – 2am, Dancing until close. Houndstooth: \$2 Tacos, ½ Off Bottles of Wine, \$5 Red or White Sangria, \$5 Chambongs, \$3 Fireball, \$22 Bud Light Seltzer Buckets, \$22 Mexican Beer Buckets. Hydrate: 8/10 TatTuesday XXL Doors open at 8pm. Kit Kat Lounge: Happy Hour 5-7pm \$8.95 Martinis Lark: 50% Off Bottles of Wine with any Entree Purchase, Bud Light \$5, Select Wine \$5, Well Cocktails \$6 5-7pm 50%off Bottles of Wine with purchase of an Entree. Lucky Horseshoe: Open at 6pm. Dancers at 8pm. Open auditions for male dancers 7pm. \$5 drink specials. Meeting House Tavern: \$6 Big Miller Lite Drafts, \$3 House Shots, \$5 Jäger, Fireball & Malort, \$4 Tallboy Beers. North End: Open at 11am, \$5 Canned Beers, Seltzers & Ciders. Replay Beer & Bourbon Lakeview: Open 2pm-2am, \$5 Drafts & Cans, \$6 Stoli Vodka Cocktails, \$7 Glasses of Wine, \$8 Larceny Old Fashioneds, \$5 Bud Lights 4-6pm. Sidetrack: Open at 3pm, Trivia Tuesday 8-10pm, TRL Tuesday: Totally Rad Line-up of 90's-to-Now Music Videos 10pm-2am, OUTspoken LGBTQ+ Storytelling 1st Tuesday of the month from 7-9pm. Steamworks: Every Tuesday 4 pm – 4 am Guys Under 25 Get In Free* (*Free 30 day membership and free locker). The Sofo Tap: \$4 Premium Well Cocktails, \$4 Tallboys,5Jager, Fireball & Malort, \$4 Tall Boy Beers (Busch Light, PBR,Hamm's)Free Darts.Touche: Hardcore Cruisin' Sponsored by Leather64Ten No Cell Phones/Wifi</p>
Wednes day	<p>2 Bears Tavern Uptown: \$5 Jager, Fireball & Malort \$4 Tallboy Beers (BuschLight, PBR, Hamm's), \$4 Premium Well Cocktails. @mosphere: \$5 Well Cocktails & Draft Beer 6-8pm. Cell Block: Open 4pm-2am. Charlie's: Country Line Dancing 7 – 10pm, Sapphire's Secret Shadows 10pm – 1 am, Dancing until close.Kit Kat Lounge: Happy Hour 5-7pm \$8.95 Martinis Lark: Free Bingo, 50% Off Nachos & Totchos, \$8 Villa One Margaritas Frozen or on the Rocks, Traditional Flavor only. Bud Light \$5, Select Wine \$5, Well Cocktails \$6 5-7pm.Lark: Happy Hour5-7pm \$4 Dud Light Drafts \$6 Well Cocktails. Buy One Pizza Get one half offDie In OnlyLucky Horseshoe: Open at 6pm Dancers at 8pm. \$5 drink specials. Meeting House Tavern: \$3 Miller Lite Drafts, \$4 Stolis (All Flavors), \$5 Jäger, Fireball & Malort, \$4 Tallboy Beers. North End: Open at 11am \$5 Lagunitas Draft & Cans. Replay Beer & Bourbon Lakeview: Open 2pm-2am, \$5 Drafts & Cans, \$6 Stoli Vodka Cocktails, \$7 Glasses of Wine, \$8 Larceny Old Fashioneds, \$5 Bud Lights 4-6pm Sidetrack: Open at 3pm, All Things Taylor & Ariana 1st Wed of month, All Things Beyoncé 2nd Wed of month, All Things Gaga 3rd Wed of month, FUN DMC: Dua/Megan/Cardi last Wed of month: all 9pm-2am. Steamworks: Bear Hump Every second Wednesday 6-9pm A monthly mid-week gathering of Furry Men. The Sofo Tap: \$3 House Shots, \$4 Titos Coctails,\$6Big Miller Lite Drafts. \$5Jager, Fireball & Malort, \$4 Tall Boy Beers (Busch Light, PBR,Hamm's)Free Darts. Touche:Jockstrap Night Sponsored by Full Kit GearFree Clothing Check.7/13 Full Moon Jockstrap NightContest @midnight.</p>
Thursda y	<p>2 Bears Tavern Uptown: \$5 Jager, Fireball & Malort \$4 Tallboy Beers (BuschLight, PBR, Hamm's), \$5 Whiskey, Rye & Bourbon.@mosphere: \$5 Well Cocktails & Draft Beer 6-8pm, RuPaul Drag Race All Stars 6 Viewing Party - 7pm. Charlie's: Survivor 10 pm – 1 am, Dancing Until Close. Hydrate: 5/26 Skin Trade Grabby Opening Party Doors open at 9pm brnefit for TPAN.. Kit Kat Lounge: Happy Hour 5-7pm \$8.95 Martinis. Lark: Happy Hour5-7pm \$4 Dud Light Drafts \$6 Well Cocktails . 7pm Extreme Bingwith Vian Dejour. 50%off Nachos or Tatchos \$8 Villa One Margaritas Frozen or on the Rocks Tradiional Flavor Only.Lucky Horseshoe: Open at 6pm. Dancers at 8pm. \$5 drink specials. Meeting House Tavern: \$5 You Call It's, \$5 Jäger, Fireball & Malort, \$4 Tallboy Beers. North End: Open at 11am, \$5 Deep Eddy Cocktails Replay Beer & Bourbon Lakeview: Open 2pm-2am, \$5 Drafts & Cans, \$6 Stoli Vodka Cocktails, \$7 Glasses of Wine, \$8 Larceny Old Fashioneds, \$5 Bud Lights 4-6pm Sidetrack: Open at 3pm, Let's Go Thursdays with Alex Kay & Friends 9pm-2am. Steamworks: Lights Out Thursdays, The Club goes Dark Every Thursday 4pm-4am. The Sofo Tap: \$4 Premium Well Cocktails\$4 TallBoys, \$5Jager, Fireball & Malort, \$4 Tall Boy Beers (Busch Light, PBR,Hamm's)Free Darts. Touche: Throwback Thursdays70's& 80's Music & Porn by BijouVideo.</p>

GRAB YOUR FRIENDS

Daily Specials

<p>Friday</p>	<p>2 Bears Tavern Uptown: \$5 Jager, Fireball & Malort \$4 Tallboy Beers (BuschLight, PBR, Hamm's), \$7 Big Miller Lite Drafts \$3 House Shots. @mosphere: \$5 Well Cocktails & Draft Beer 6-8pm, Dancers 10pm-1am. Baton Show Lounge: Doors open at 6pm, Shows at 7:30pm, 9:30pm & 11:30pm. Cell Block: Open 4pm-2am. Charlie's: 1st and 3rd Fierce Fridays 10p – 1am, 2nd Fierce Fridays - Traffic Light Party 10p – 1am, 4th Fierce Fridays - Glow Up Party 10p – 1am, 5th Fierce Fridays – Strut 10p – 1am, Dancing until close. GRABBYS: Gay Porn Awards Show 6pm at Metro Theater. 7pm show starts Tickets Available at the door or online grabbyAwards.com, Hydrate: Fresh Faces A New Drag Competition Second and Forth Friday of the Month. Kit Kat Lounge: Happy Hour 5-7pm \$8.95 Martinis. Lark: Happy Hour 5-7pm \$4 Dud Light Drafts \$6 Well Cocktails. Every Friday from Meeting House Tavern: \$5 Tito's, \$7 Big Miller Lite Drafts, \$5 Jäger, Fireball & Malort, \$4 Tallboy Beers. North End: Open at 11am, \$3 Miller Lite Drafts 4-7pm. Replay Beer & Bourbon Lakeview: Weekend Buckets \$25 All Day, Miller Lite, Corona Extra, Truly Punch Variety, Truly Wild Berry Seltzer, Freshie Tequila Seltzer (5 Cans per Bucket - Cannot mix and match.) Shakers: \$4 Domestic Bottles \$5 Well Mixed Drinks, \$10 Giant 23oz Long Islands in 22 flavors. Sidetrack: Open at 3pm, TGIF Show Tunes 3-7pm, RuPaul's Drag Race All Stars Viewing Party 7-9pm, Friday Night Dance Party 9pm-2am. The Sofo Tap: \$7 Big Miller Lite Drafts \$3 House Shots. \$5 Jager, Fireball & Malort, \$4 Tall Boy Beers (Busch Light, PBR, Hamm's) Free Darts. Touche: 7/8 WTNB Leather Social 8pm Friday Funder. 7/15 Mr Midwest Rubber 2022 Welcome Party 10pm.</p>
<p>Saturday</p>	<p>2 Bears Tavern Uptown: \$5 Jager, Fireball & Malort \$4 Tallboy Beers (BuschLight, PBR, Hamm's), \$5 Lagunitas IPADrafts \$5 Premium Well Cocktails \$12 mimosa Carafes. @mosphere: \$5 Well Cocktails & Draft Beer 3pm-5pm, Dancers 10pm -1am. Baton Show Lounge: Doors open at 6pm, Shows at 7:30pm, 9:30pm & 11:30pm. Cell Block: Open 2pm-3am. Charlie's: Country Line Dancing 7 – 10pm, The Main Event 10pm – 1am Dancing until Close. Lark: Lakeviews #1 Free flowing Brunch 11am-3pm Lucky Horseshoe: Open with dancers at 3pm. \$5 drink specials. Meeting House Tavern: \$5 Signature Margaritas, \$5 Premium Well Cocktails, \$12 Mimosa Carafes, \$5 Jäger, Fireball & Malort, \$4 Tallboy Beers. North End: Open at 11am, \$3 Miller Lite Drafts 11am-2pm. Replay Beer & Bourbon Lakeview: \$10 Champagne Bottles, \$5 Juice Kits, \$3 Bud Lights 12-2pm, Weekend Buckets \$25 All Day, Miller Lite, Corona Extra, Truly Punch Variety, Truly Wild Berry Seltzer, Freshie Tequila Seltzer (5 Cans per Bucket - Cannot mix and match.). Sidetrack: Open at 1pm, SaturGay Drag & Games with Zamora Love & Friends 3-6pm, Saturday Night Dance Party 9pm-3am, Dog Day 1st Saturday of the month 1-5pm. The Sofo Tap: \$4 Lost Coast Tangerine Wheat \$5 Signature Margaritas, \$4 Tallboys, \$5 Jager, Fireball & Malort, \$4 Tall Boy Beers (Busch Light, PBR, Hamm's) Free Darts. Touche: 7/16 Mr Midwest Rubber 2022 Contest & Gear Night. 7</p>
<p>Sunday Funday</p>	<p>2 Bears Tavern Uptown: \$5 Jager, Fireball & Malort \$4 Tallboy Beers (BuschLight, PBR, Hamm's), \$5 Signature Margaritas \$12 Mimosa Carafes. @mosphere: \$6 Jack Products, \$4 Domestic Draft, House Shots \$2. Baton Show Lounge: Doors Open at 11am, Shows at 7:30pm, 9:30pm & 11:30pm. Cell Block: Open 2pm-2am Charlie's: Queeriod! Every other Sunday 5pm – 7pm, Singational Sunday Karaoke 7pm – 11pm Mas Leche 11pm – 1am, Dancing until close. Hydrate: Doors open at 2pm Northalsted's Official after Brunch party. Kit Kat Lounge: Divalicious brunch with Madam X 11am-3pm, Happy Hour 4-7pm \$8.95 Martinis. Lark: Lakeviews #1 Free flowing Brunch 11am-3pm Lucky Horseshoe: Open with dancers at 3pm. \$5 drink specials. Meeting House Tavern: \$3 House Shots, \$5 Premium Well Cocktails, \$12 Mimosa Carafes, \$5 Frozens, \$5 Jäger, Fireball & Malort, \$4 Tallboy Beers. North End: Open at 11am, \$3 Miller Lite Drafts 7-10pm Replay Beer & Bourbon Lakeview: \$10 Champagne Bottles, \$5 Juice Kits, \$3 Bud Lights 12-2pm, Weekend Buckets \$25 All Day, Miller Lite, Corona Extra, Truly Punch Variety, Truly Wild Berry Seltzer, Freshie Tequila Seltzer (5 Cans per Bucket - Cannot mix and match.) Sidetrack: Open at 1pm, Sunday Funday Show Tunes 4-9pm, Sunday Funday After Dark Dance Party 9pm-2am The Sofo Tap: \$7 Big Miller Lite Drafts, \$6 Chicago Handshake, \$5 Prairie Vodka Cocktails, \$5 Jager, Fireball & Malort, \$4 Tall Boy Beers (Busch Light, PBR, Hamm's) Free Darts. Touche: 7/10 Beer Bust \$2 Bud Light Drafts & Sodas Club Room Open 6pm Movie Night 7pm</p>

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DANCE

	Artist	Title
1	Codeko & April Bender	Not Alone
2	Mabel x Jax Jones x Galantis	Good Luck
3	Kah Lo	Drag Me Out
4	ARTY	So Good To Me
5	Felix Jaehn & Zoe Wees	Do It Better
6	Roxette x Galantis	Fading Like A Flower
7	Swedish House Mafia	Heaven Takes You Home
8	Thomas Gold x Jex x Hugo Cantarra	Wasted
9	Ofenbach	4U
10	Manuel Riva & Alexandra Stan	Heal Your Soul
11	Sigala & Talia Mar	Stay The Night
12	Steve Aoki & HRVY	Save Me
13	Audien	One Last Dance ft. XIRA
14	Jetta	Honey (Jonasu & RUDY Remix)
15	Bastiqe xPaul Keen & Lena Sue	One New Rule
16	Lucas & Steve x MARF	Give Me Your Love
17	Jonasu & Rêve	All Night & Everyday
18	Becky Hill & Galantis	Run (Galantis & Misha K VIP Mix)
19	Cosmic Gate & Olivia Sebastianelli	We Got The Fire
20	Armin van Buuren & Sam Gray	Human Touch
21	Punctual	Do It All Again ft. Jordan Shaw
22	Alesso & Sentinel	Only You
23	David Guetta & Becky Hill & Ella Henderson	Crazy What Love Can Do
24	Gryffin & OneRepublic	You Were Loved (Manse Remix)
25	Shane Codd	Rather Be Alone
26	Alok & Bastille	Run Into Trouble (Jonas Blue Remix)
27	Wilkinson & Becky Hill	Here For You
28	Firebeatz	Don't Stop Moving
29	Kx5	Escape ft. Hayla (Radio Edit)
30	Lost Frequencies & James Arthur	Questions
31	SAINT JHN	The Best Part Of Life (Imanbek Remix)
32	Tritonal x Marlyh	Back To My Love
33	MO	New Moon
34	MadBoys	We Made It
35	Disco Fries x HARBER & Luxtides	Nothing
36	Nitti Gritti ft. Hadar Adora	Sex Drive
37	Diplo & Miguel	Don't Forget My Love
38	The Pressure	The Chills
39	John Newman	Waiting For A Lifetime
40	Allegra	He Ain't You (Sebastian Perez Remix)



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LEGAL

Owner Financing, Even With Low Interest Rates

Brad and his husband Ken are looking to buy a three-flat apartment building that needs work. They plan to fix it up and raise the rents to pay for the improvements and cover their operating costs. Although Brad and Ken are both hard workers they may have trouble qualifying for a conventional mortgage because of Ken's previous bad credit history.

Many interested buyers feel that now is a good time to buy property as lenders are currently offering fixed rate mortgages at historic low rates. And a once overheated real estate market has started to cool leaving buyers with a better selection of available rental buildings with eager sellers.

With conventional loans at such attractive rates seller financing, once a mainstay of the national housing market when interest rates soared past 18 percent, has dropped dramatically. Yet, an agreement by the seller to "carry paper" at one or two points below commercial lending rates can

still make the difference between a quick sale or no sale.

Sellers are now less inclined to finance part of the sale and buyers now have to look harder for seller financed bargains. Yet in some areas of the city where the housing stock is still awaiting its transformation into the next Lincoln Park, seller financing may be the only financing a buyer can find until the property can demand the rents to qualify for conventional financing.

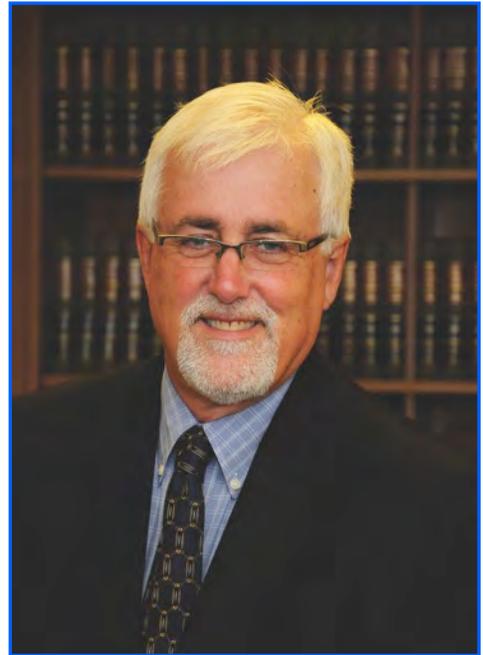
With seller financing, a buyer can get a fixed rate loan at a lower interest rate than from a conventional lender saving the expense of loan points and may be able to swing the purchase when he otherwise would not qualify for a conventional loan. And the seller gets cash, a return on equity exceeding the interest being paid by money market funds.

The most common seller financing is the "80/10/10" agreement where the buyer pays 10 percent down, the seller carries 10 percent of the financing and the bank through an assumable or new loan carries the remaining 80

percent. Most sellers carry loans for terms of three to seven years ending with a "balloon" payment. Buyers who offer their sellers an incentive – a 15 percent to 20 percent downpayment – usually have the best luck in getting seller financing on favorable terms. Sellers are usually turned off by no money down offers unless the property is a real wreck.

There are numerous advantages of seller financing:

- Because seller financing reduces or eliminates commercial lending requirements, it can speed up the sale of the property. Buyers can avoid the long application delay and red tape of conventional loans and qualify more easily for bank loans by reducing the amount they have to



borrow commercially.

Banks will generally insist upon a minimum of five percent to 10 percent downpayment, restrict the amount they will lend based upon income, require an appraisal and sometimes insist that repairs be made to the property before they will lend money on it. If a seller lends the money he or she can set the requirements for the loan, though a credit check should be made on all prospective buyers along with a financial statement.

- The seller also benefits from this arrangement because the loan to the purchasers can yield more than a certificate of deposit or a money market account. The seller's loan is secured because the building is collateral for the loan, the seller can foreclose (regain ownership of the real estate) if the purchasers default in the monthly payments.

Seller financing does have its risks. Real estate brokers often warn buyers that sellers offering discounted financing often raise the prices on their property to compensate. Also a default can be a problem when short term balloon loans come due and buyers can't find new financing.

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.

Chicago Premiere



Are you SMARTER than your 8th Grade NUN?

By Vicki Quade

The new interactive comedy game show, where audience members compete to see who was paying attention and who was daydreaming in school.

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SIDETRACK

Happy 40th Anniversary Sidetrack



“Photos By Anthony Meade

July 5, 2022

GRAB Magazine

33

GRAB HOLLY

No Introduction Necessary

By Holly Maholm

Victor (disguised as a horse and harnessed to the delivery chariot in which I was riding) used his unicorn powers to cloak us in invisibility, not that we could have been easily located in the dark. I heard Doug call out, "Holly, where did you go?" in a tone of voice that betrayed his fear and confusion. Nevertheless, I kept silent, as I had been instructed. Though neither Doug nor Lauren could see me, I could just make them out in the subdued moonlight, and I could see what was all too apparent to them.

There were three adult Grey Wolves (not unicorns in disguise) surrounding them; predators who were busy herding the teenagers into an ever-more inescapable trap. First, one wolf trotted left to right, all the while drawing nearer to the pair. Then another wolf sprinted on silent pads to the opposite side, cutting off escape in that direction. At last, the three wolves – working with as much silent intensity as so many Scottish Border Collies – had maneuvered the couple into each other's arms. Nevertheless, I was not concerned, nor did I pity them their predicament.

Having finished their assignment, the three wolves sat down where they

were and turned their heads towards the teenagers. Without warning, Glitter – who was standing less than 10 feet in front of the couple – removed her disguise of invisibility and simultaneously activated her most important magical powers. Instantly, she was surrounded by an overpowering aura of sparkling illumination! Nearby branches burned with an incandescent glow as beams of silver, white and gold shimmered and pulsed in the dark. Inexplicably, despite this aggressive display of magical power, the expression on Glitter's face remained gentle, sympathetic and soft. She spoke.

"I believe I have the honor of speaking to you, Lauren, and you, Doug. There is no one here to properly introduce us, but I hope you will forgive my lack of formality at this important moment." The two – stunned into silence – nodded a simple "yes," and Glitter went on. "I have been informed that you, Lauren, are 'expecting,' and I simply could not refrain from arranging this little get-together, here in the forest, so that I might share with you my joy at your impending happiness."

The teenagers being altogether stricken, Glitter continued. "I was likewise informed that you, Lauren, have been feeling anxious and uncertain concerning your pregnancy, and that there are those who would pressure you to put an early end to your unborn child. But, my dear, as a recent mother, myself, I thought it might be helpful for you to meet me – a proud mother – and also, now, my newborn foal."

Saying which, Glitter's newborn foal (whom Glitter and Fletcher had named 'Azura,' and who was standing just a few feet in front of Lauren and Doug), dropped her own disguise and activated all the power of her own unicorn magic. Both teenagers involuntarily threw up their arms to shield their eyes from the incandescent beauty that enveloped them! Azura stood in the center of an explosive, multicolored rainbow of vivid, ever-changing luminosity which cycled rapidly through purple, red, green and blue... then gave way to another rainbow of rich and energetic colors. Despite this tumultuous activity, the expression on the newborn's face reflected no



more than innocent wonder, tinged ever-so-slightly with a hint of amusement that these humans could find her appearance so surprising.

Glitter waited for the couple to feel the full effect, then continued. "It was previously explained to me, Lauren, that there are those who have suggested to you that a pregnancy is something 'inconvenient.' As if anyone on this earth might find a newborn creature – such as Azura, here – to be in any way 'inconvenient,' or that the source of so much supernatural wonder might be judged no more than 'bothersome.'

"Which I truly cannot understand, because it seems to me, Lauren, that if you were told you had won the lottery – some outlandish sum featuring lots of zeros – and if you were informed that in order to claim your prize, you must make a visit to the local courthouse to pick up your check, you would not begrudge the Lottery Commission their little ceremony, nor would you feel you had been 'inconvenienced' by having to do so."

Lauren and Doug stood motionless, mesmerized by the appearance of the two magical unicorns I have described. Meanwhile, I hastened to uncouple Victor's harness from the delivery chariot, and placing my palm on his shoulder to steady myself, Victor and I quietly picked our way through the forest underbrush to a place just a few yards from where Azura stood. Remaining under the shelter of overhanging branches, I prepared myself for the role which had been assigned to me by the unicorns, and which had my heart racing. Him whisper, "Lauren... I see wolves!"

(To be continued)

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

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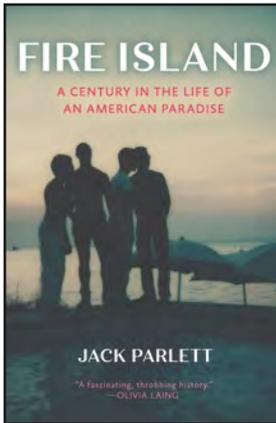


GRAB A BOOK

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

"Fire Island: A Century in the Life of an American Paradise" by Jack Parlett

c.2022, Hanover Square Press \$27.99 272 pages



Ugh, it's been a week.

Two hours into Monday and your brain was already screaming for something fun, something far removed from work, a get-away that lets you play. You need to dance this weekend. You need to feel the sun on your face and sand between your toes. And you may need to bring "Fire Island" by Jack Parlett with you, too.

Geographically speaking, Manhattan and Fire Island are a mere sixty miles apart.

Sixty miles – and half a world. Stretched out and very narrow but walkable, the island is home to several vacation communities. Two of them, Cherry Grove and Fire Island Pines, both located in about the middle of the island, feature prominently in LGBTQ history.

Parlett says that Native Americans sold Fire Island to White Europeans for a pittance, after which activities there were shifty and possibly illegal. By the 1820s, conversely, it was a hot vacation spot for the elite; in certain places, it was the place for finding romance, too, which Parlett says was a sign of the future. Famous men like poet Walt Whitman were big fans of Fire Island and over the next century, a then-quiet queer subculture began to grow.

Sometimes, it grew with families and children in the picture, the latter raised by nonconformists and theater people.

Even so, despite these many changes, Parlett says that Fire Island wouldn't be what it is today, were it not for a hurricane that hit the island on the afternoon of September 21, 1938. It devastated Fire Island and resulted in a real-estate bust. Cottage prices fell significantly, and vacationing there suddenly became affordable for gay New Yorkers.

Throughout the twentieth century,

Fire Island became a playground for performers, thinkers, and writers such as James Baldwin and W. H. Auden. It was a source of controversy for locals who objected to nude bathing. It was a source of embarrassment for Noel Coward. It allowed everyday gay men and women to dance, drink, and party freely.

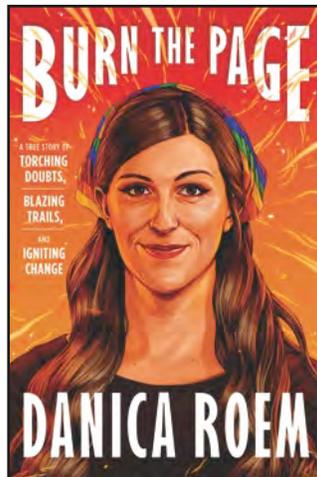
And later on, it was a place to mourn...

Considering that this is a book about a getaway destination, "Fire Island" isn't much of a vacation-y read. It's actually pretty dry, in fact, and filled with people that were once very famous but aren't exactly household names anymore. Their drama and the love triangles they struggled with are mildly interesting, in the way that you might perceive great-grandma's old Confidential magazines in the attic.

And yet – the history. Author Jack Parlett offers a lot of solid information beyond those tired scandals to further show how Fire Island came to be a gay hot-spot and why that was important. These tales envelope the rest of the island, as well as current events in America, as a whole, and the impact those outside influences had on LGBTQ life, even today.

More scholarly than not, this book also includes a fair bit of memoir for readers who are looking for something less frivolous. If you want a book for fun, though, "Fire Island" is weak.

"Burn the Page: A True Story of Torching Doubts, Blazing Trails, and Igniting Change" by Danica Roem
c.2022, Viking \$27.00 320 pages



Sometimes, the smallest things make you hot under the collar.

It doesn't take much: an idiot on the road, a disrespectful eye-roll, something muttered under someone's breath and that's it, you're torched. Sometimes, conversely, the smallest things can change your bad mood. In "Burn the Page" by Danica Roem, it was an email.

It seemed like Danica Roems was always crying.

To be fair, she had good reason: she was working two jobs and they weren't enough to pay the bills. Her car was a piece of junk, it was 2016, and her states' Republican delegates had just filed several anti-LGBTQ bills. For a trans woman like Roem, tears were perfectly appropriate until someone emailed her, asking why she didn't run for office herself.

Actually, why not?

So, in preparation, Roem hired a team to do "opposition research" to suss out any past behavior that her homophobic opponent might try to use against her. Born in the fall of 1984, Roem was three years old when her father committed suicide in their back yard; soon after, her mother's parents needed care and moved into the Roem household. This, Roem admits, was stressful all around. Even in fifth grade, Roem knew that she wasn't a "cis-het straight kid" but since she had no "positive representation of LGBTQ people," she stayed closeted. By 13, though, she knew she was trans but didn't want anybody to know; to help hide it, she participated in sports; fell in love with baseball and heavy metal music; and admired girls, albeit in ways different than did her male peers. Eventually, she made a community for herself.

But when she began to think about maybe having a relationship, Roem soon realized that she had some work to do. She couldn't expect someone to see her for herself until she did it first.

"I had to commit to being who I was..." she said.

"It was time to transition."

If you ever need proof of the concept that little things make big differences, you'll want "Burn the Page." Same goes if you want to read a memoir that bounces with energy.

Indeed, this book is a bit like taking a small kid into a toy store: they run amok, touching and examining everything. That's not unappealing; author Danica Roem careens about, but she always lands on the heart of this book – being honest, open, and authentic – which is likewise what she encourages readers to do. Her passion for this is contagious, and she sweeps readers along with her enthusiasm on other aspects of her life, whether it's heavy metal music, travel, or politics. Be aware that, because of her excitement over her career and her heavy coverage of it, the latter might slam shut the eyelids of readers who are not politically-minded.

On that, this book is like no other political memoir, ever. It's fun, wildly entertaining, and it aims to mean more than just one woman's story. For readers who want a good activist tale with a smile, "Burn the Page" is on fire.



Photos By
Ken
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**Bristol RENAISSANCE FAIRE
ANNOUNCES 2022 SEASON! THE
TOP RENAISSANCE FAIRE IN
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The iconic, summer-long Bristol Renaissance Faire will open the gates for the 2022 season after its epic return following the worldwide pandemic and subsequent closures. 'Our team is thrilled to be back and doing what we do best: presenting world-class, immersive entertainment that will put a smile on your face. We continue to work closely with the local health department and the most current CDC recommendations to ensure the safety of our guests, vendors, volunteers, and staff,' stated Linda McFeters, Owner and Producer.

Voted "Best Renaissance Faire" for the tenth consecutive year in 2021, the Bristol Renaissance Faire will open Saturday, July 19, for nine weekends closing on Labor Day Monday, September 5. The Faire offers an exciting, eclectic mix of fun and frivolity located on thirty-plus acres and just a short drive from either Chicago or Milwaukee.

Leave your burdens in the 21st century. Enter our gates and become a King, Queen, pirate, sorcerer, or anything you want to be for the day, and many other guests will play along! Or don't come in costume at all. It's your day. Enjoy it your way. Go on a stroll through the village with a gigantic turkey leg or steak-on-a-stake or one of the many scrumptious vegetarian delights like the perennially popular Garlic Mushrooms or Chocolate-Covered Strawberries. For the thirsty, craft brews, ciders, cocktails, teas, sodas and other refreshing beverages are readily available.

Take home a memory from one of the nearly 200 artisan shops where you can find everything from handmade chain maille, Scottish kilts, and handcrafted leather masks to Steampunk adornments, soaps, jewelry, and beautiful floral wreaths for the hair. Interesting, educational demonstrations by potters, blacksmiths, and other working artisans are offered many times throughout the day.

Special Event Weekends

Back by popular demand are four special event weekends including: 'RennCon™' July 16 and 17 which is a celebration of cosplay in all its forms; 'Marketplace' July 23 and 24 where our

guests are rewarded for their shopping with complimentary tickets, 'Pirate Weekend' August 6 and 7 where you can shiver your timbers with a whole crew of costumed swashbuckler and, lastly, 'Steampunk Weekend' August 13 and 14 to infuse time-traveling shenanigans into your Faire day. All the fun details are found at RenFair.com/ **Bristol**

Rides and Games

A wonderland of rides and games await you at the Faire! An Escape Room, 'DaVinci's Flying Machine' and 'Fight the Knight' are but a few. Set on a summer day in 1574 when Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth visited the English city of Bristol, the Bristol Renaissance Faire is open for nine weekends and located just west of I-94's Russell Road exit, near Kenosha, Wis. Open rain or shine, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., every Saturday, Sunday and Labor Day (Monday), July 9 through September 5. Tickets are \$30 for adults; \$15 for children, ages 5 to 12. Skip the box office lines and purchase discounted adult and children tickets at Menards. Show an I.D. to receive a discount for military or seniors aged 62 and better. Children aged 4 and under are admitted free. Season passes are also available. Visit RENAIR.COM for details. Follow the Faire on Facebook for real-time information regarding ticketing, entertainment, and safety protocols.

**2022 Legal Council Summer
Soiree August 18! at SIDETRACK**



Legal Council for Health Justice is returning to Sidetrack for Their annual Summer Soirée! After two long years, Legal Council returns to gather in-person on Thursday, August 18. During this difficult time of attacks on access to healthcare, it is more important than ever to come together in community. Join them for this fun and important annual event. Thursday, August 18, 2022 Sidetrack | 3349 N. Halsted St., Chicago | 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. Open bar and heavy appetizers Raffle and Silent Auction Please note that for the health and safety of our communities you must be fully vaccinated and up to date on vaccines for COVID-19 to attend. Tickets are now available for this fun evening, which will be filled with delicious food, an open bar, awards, a raffle and silent

auction, and the opportunity to come together once again in community with one another. Buy your ticket today at <https://legalcouncil.org>

**ANASTACIA, MICHAELA JAE
& MATTEO LANE HEADLINE
NORTHALSTED MARKET DAYS
2022**



Anastacia, Michaela Jaé (Golden Globe Best Actress Winner for playing Blanca Evangelista in POSE), Matteo Lane, Ginger Minj, Sammy Rae & The Friends, and Ada Vox are headlining this year's Northalsted Market Days® taking place August 6-7 in the city's landmark LGBTQ+ Northalsted community.

The Market Days street festival is celebrating its 40th year and attendance is expected to approach 100,000 visitors from across the globe. The event has become a much anticipated summer bookend to the community's June Pride festivities.

Other top performers include Sixteen Candles, Rod Tuffcurls and the Bench Press, Jaimie Wilson, the

Out at Wrigley Singing Contest Finals, Lynne Jordan and the Shivers, Meghan Murphy "Big Red" and more.

The DJ stage at Cornelia & Halsted, produced by Hydrate Nightclub, features international DJ/Producer Isis Muretech, Joe Gauthreaux, Dani Brasil, Isaac Escalante and more, with popular local drag performers in a high energy, outdoor dance club atmosphere. The half-mile long festival on North Halsted Street from Belmont to Addison, will feature a total of five music stages. The South stage at Halsted and Belmont has LGBTQ+ femme oriented programming by Peach Presents (Saturday) and Back Lot Bash Presents (Sunday). The Chicago Sound Stage will showcase breakthrough LGBTQ+ performers and a diverse mix of musical styles. Northalsted Business Alliance Vice-President Mark Liberson, who heads the Market Days organizing team, sums up his excitement for the festival's 40th anniversary. "This year's festival is going to be amazing! We are looking forward to international travelers and people from across the US to return to our city and have an amazing line-up planned for them on August 6 and 7!" A \$15 recommended donation for entry helps cover festival costs, supports local non-profits, and funds community programs. Generous public donations paid for the Chicago Pride Crosswalks; 14 rainbow paved intersections installed in 2019 make up the longest installation of its kind in the world.

For information visit northalsted.com.



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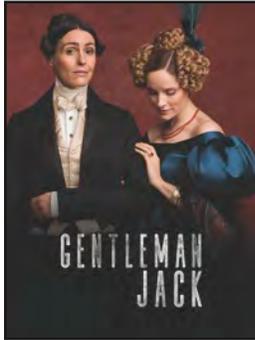
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GRAB A FILM

By Delven Shaw

GENTLEMAN JACK Is A Queer Classic



If you love *Bridgerton* but wish it was a little queerer, *GENTLEMAN JACK* is perfect for you. It brings to life Anne Lister's struggle with gender and her battle for acceptance as an intelligent businesswoman challenging the men who dominate the country and dictate societal expectations in England in the 1800s.

Suranne Jones is outstanding as Anne Lister, striding through the English countryside in a long coat and top hat like a windstorm. Her performance is so detailed. Athletic and hard-working when she needs to be, her exquisite use of her hands illustrates her knowledge, hunger for adventure, and most importantly, love of women.

Sophie Rundle plays the woman Lister adores. She embodies the expected innocence associated with privilege, coupled with the anguish when sharing her forbidden love with family, friends, and people of faith. The film makes note of two men in the area who had recently been executed for 'unnatural acts' so the stakes cannot be higher.

I am struck by Lister's fashion as she dressed almost always in black, which brings her more attention when in public. That makes the scenes we see her private self with her hair down and clothing removed even more powerful.

Anne's famous five million-word diary, written between 1806 and her death in 1840, includes unique details of her life and travels, business and scientific interests, and her determination to live with the women she loved. She wrote in a code that included the Greek alphabet, zodiac signs, punctuation, and mathematical symbols. The code was only broken decades after her death as the diary was preserved by family members. Watch the film closely, as her journals are always on a bedside table. After what seems to be a sexual episode, we see her check her pocket watch and jot the elapsed time in her journal.

Sally Wainwright is the creator of this award-winning series, and she has assembled an excellent team of writers and directors to bring each episode to life. As with *Bridgerton*, the costumes, settings, and period details are enough to make you freeze-frame each new floral

arrangement, tea set, or gorgeously photographed countryside.

Many will ascertain striking parallels between our society and hers. But like many of the trailblazers we now revere, her courage, and love are an inspiration to all.

Much of the attention for queer summer entertainment has gone to *FIRE ISLAND* on Hulu and *QUEER AS FOLK* on Peacock. Both of these shows have entertainment value; *GENTLEMAN JACK* has the substance that will bring it greater esteem in the coming seasons, making it a classic like *Carol* and *Maurice* - queer films that get only better as they age.

GENTLEMAN JACK is on HBO and HBOMax.

Your reaction to the 2022 version of *QUEER AS FOLK* might depend on whether you've previously had a relationship with the show.



For some, the 1999 British version by **Russell T Davies** set a standard for celebratory sex and creating a chosen family. Relationships kindled and flamed out, a child is born to a lesbian couple, with a slight threat of violence in the streets of Manchester. The central romance is between sexually addicted Stuart and Nathan, the 15-year-old student who falls for him.

The same character archetypes were seen in the American version, which ran from 2000 to 2005. Now set in Pittsburgh, this version seemed slightly less edgy but still features many sex-positive characters and events. Brian is now the older man adored by Justin, now of legal age. Sparkling **Sharon Gless** stood out for her portrayal of Debbie, the waitress and matriarch of the queer tribe.

Now set in New Orleans, the 2022 QAF starts when Brodie (**Devin Way**) returns after dropping out of med school. Brodie's ex (**Johnny Sibilly**) is now with Daddius (Chris Renfro). Julian (**Ryan O'Connell**), Brodie's brother, is gay with CP. Mingus (**Fin Argus**) is now a high school student heart stuck on an the older man who he meets on a fateful night at the Paradise bar. When Daddius is killed, Julian replaces his brother Brodie in Noah's bed. Brodie has provided sperm to Char, who gave birth

to the twins on the same night of the shooting. But he like Brian and Stuart in previous versions, is a feckless hero.

Fin Argus is charming as the young drag queen, and Juliette Lewis plays his eccentric mom. Deaf queer activist **Nyle DiMarco** has a nice cameo as a sex worker.

What struck me as odd was starting the series with a mass shooting - revealed in all of the trailers and promotional materials - making the comedy that follows shallow. The characters may have had weeks to adjust and grieve, but the audience has not had that time. Plot points involve a 'survivors fund,' which some cheat. We see charlatan preachers gaining PR as they give away free cars to the parents of those who died. It makes it hard to laugh when death hovers.

The vast diversity of cast employed to bring the story to life is the new QAF's most notable success. Like *Fire Island* on Hulu, a rainbow of race, gender, and differently-abled characters populate this chosen family, and are featured in both the political and romantic storylines.

The show seems more intent on making statements than its predecessors, as politics and parties are here hand-in-hand. QAF still has the high-energy soundtrack and is always easy on the eyes, but the locations in New Orleans are surprisingly dull and underpopulated.

As each generation retells its own stories, Russell T Davies' characters taught us much about parenting, partnering, the power of love, and choosing a family. I look forward to another version in 10 years to see what that take on LGBTQ reveals.

IS **RRR** the GOAT of Buddy Movies?



RRR is a rollicking three-hour epic that gloriously blasts the Buddy Movie into a completely new dimension. The title stands for Rise, Roar, Revolt, and the movie does all three to achieve maximum sustained excitement.

I imagine the creative team having the best of times in the planning. "What can we use as a weapon? How about tigers, snakes, flamingo motorcycles,

and perhaps grenades attached to an arrow? Why not?" There is lots of blood and cruelty, singing and dancing, and hot shirtless men performing heroic feats. What's not to love?

Set in the 1920s, when Britain still ruled India, the film follows two legendary revolutionaries who bond in nearly every way. Bheem has left his forest tribe to rescue a young girl plucked by the horrid English ruler and vapid wife from his village and who is now kept in a cage. Raju has his own reasons to seek revenge against the British and has left his people, vowing to bring back a weapon for everyone in his village. With a common enemy - but no shared language - the two bond through a series of exchanges on land, water, and air.

From the excellent opening sequence, with wild animals in the jungle in hot pursuit of human prey, we know that a rocking score will always accompany speed in RRR. The screenplay credit goes to three writers: **Vijayendra Prasad** (story), **Sai Madhav Burra** (Telugu dialogue), and **Madhan Karky** (Tamil dialogue). That is not a wasted scene or bit. Director S.S. Rajamouli is working at the top of his game, as the film - in addition to its three-hour running time - is monstrous in every way.

I don't claim to know much about the Indian history from which the narrative is drawn, but you will easily know which side to root for. The use of communication - sometimes spoken, sometimes sung, sometimes danced - is exciting and unique to this very multicultural love story and action flick.

Of course, buddy movies only work if the chemistry between the two stars is palpable, and **N.T. Rama Rao Jr.** plays Bheem, and **Ram Charan**, who plays Raju, frolic and fight with great power and abandon. They are superheroes, always looking great in the magnified action choreography, stunning stuntwork, and sophisticated computer graphics.

If your movie choice tends toward *Top Gun* and *Jurassic Park*, **RRR** is perfect for you. RRR is on *Netflix*.

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One-Of-A-Kind Immersive Cocktail Experience, Whim, is Officially open in Chicago



Unlike any other bar that's opened its doors in Chicago, Phase One of WHIM, an immersive cocktail experience, located at 1225 W Belmont Ave., is officially open to the public. Presented by Stage 773, the over-the-top venue combines a storied history of performative art with inviting and unprecedented libations. WHIM invites guests to partake in a whimsical night out inside a world where all art forms come together - paintings, music, sculpture, street art, and live performance. Snippets of the full WHIM experience, which will feature over 30 distinct spaces for guests, are on display to build anticipation before opening in the coming months.

The adventure begins the minute guests walk into WHIM. Guests are greeted by the stunning visuals of the Lobby of Second Chances, featuring an artistic explosion of creations (both big and small) fashioned out of found objects - giving them a second chance as a one-of-a-kind piece of art. Offering a lively space to lift a glass, celebrate the day, and connect with others, Second Chance also houses the Second Shots Bar, an extension of the lobby, also featuring found art installations. From there, visitors may enjoy the Enchanted Forest, featuring distinct areas inspired by future WHIM spaces, a stage for live performances, and a giant enchanted tree towering over it all.

"There have been many changes in the entertainment and hospitality industries over the past years, and as we enter into a new era, WHIM's mission is to put artists back to work and audiences back to play," said Jill Valentine, Executive Director and one of the creative forces behind WHIM. "We aim to offer Chicagoans and visitors more than a destination, WHIM is an exploration of creativity and inspiration where the line between artist, performer, and audience is blurred. The inner workings of the creative brain are explored and translated into reality for guests' play and enjoy. We're thrilled to open Phase One to introduce the WHIM concept and expand upon the environment later this year.

The cocktail menu features visual concoctions, ranging from the traditional to the truly outrageous, such as the Chain Smoker, with tequila reposado, mezcal, bitters, agave syrup, smoked with cherry wood chips and spritzed with orange zest; Fluffy Punch, made with white rum, pineapple juice, house made

raspberry syrup, topped with lemon lime soda and cotton candy; and Tarty Party, featuring vodka, triple sec, fresh lemon juice, fresh lime juice, topped with lemon lime soda and house made pea flower magic syrup. Guests can also enjoy a wide array of themed game nights and a variety of performances and entertainment at WHIM, including live music on Saturday nights.

WHIM is open from 6 p.m. - 12 a.m. Wednesday & Thursday, 5 p.m. - 2 a.m. Friday & Saturday, and 12 - 8 p.m. Sunday. WHIM is also available for groups and private events. For more information visit whimchicago.com.

The New Coordinates Presents AMERICAN SIDE EFECTOS July 22 - 31, 2022 at The Den Theatre



The New Coordinates, formerly The New Colony, is pleased to welcome back live audiences this summer with a workshop production of Debbie Baños's bittersweet memoir *American Side Efectos*, a raucous and ruthless dive into the American Dream directed by Esteban Arévalo Ibáñez. Originally produced as a solo show in the summer of 2021, TNC is pleased to present this piece-in-process as the artists deepen the storytelling to include an ensemble of actors. *American Side Efectos* will play six performances only July 22 - 31, 2022 at The Den Theatre (2A), 1331 N Milwaukee Ave. in Chicago.

American Side Efectos will feature Debbie Baños, Gabby Diaz, Sonja Lynn Mata, Dani Mauleon and Shannon Leigh Webber.

Debbie's second favorite holiday, right after Christmas, has always been the 4th of July, but this year she's not even in the mood for a festive hot dog. Tag along as little Debbie tries to make sense of Mami's mysterious medical issues as adult Debbie revisits her mother's journey immigrating from El Salvador to Arkansas.

Co-Artistic Directors Fin Coe* and Stephanie Shum* comment, "This show is wickedly funny and achingly sharp as only true stories can be, with laughter underscoring the moments that will stick with you long after. We are honored to be a part of this next stage of its development, and to present this story in a new form to a new audience. I invite you to join us in a world of fireworks, chicken coops, and coming of age, for this raucous and ruthless dive into the American Dream.

Tickets now on sale at thenewcoordinates.org.

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND! COMEDIAN MARIA BAMFORD RETURNS TO THE DEN THEATRE NOVEMBER 17 - 19, 2022



Following two sold-out engagements, The Den Theatre i welcomes back comedian Maria Bamford for six stand-up performances November 17 - 19, 2022 on The Heath Mainstage, 1331 N. Milwaukee Ave. in Chicago's Wicker Park neighborhood.

Maria Bamford is revered for her deeply personal and experimental comedy about mental illness. She starred in the surreal, semi-autobiographical Netflix comedy series *Lady Dynamite*, about a comedian who suffers a nervous breakdown, and is the star of three unconventional hour-long stand-up specials: *Weakness* is the Brand, *Old Baby* and *Maria Bamford, the special, special, special!* Maria was the first female comic to have two half-hour Comedy Central Presents specials and starred alongside Patton Oswalt, Zach Galifianakis and Brian Posehn in the Comedy Central series *The Comedians of Comedy: The Movie*. She also created and starred in the cult hit web series *The Maria Bamford Show*, in which she plays all the characters. Maria was also Emmy-nominated for a guest appearance on the Netflix children's series *Ask the StoryBots*.

Tickets are currently available at thedentheatre.com or by calling (773) 697-3830.

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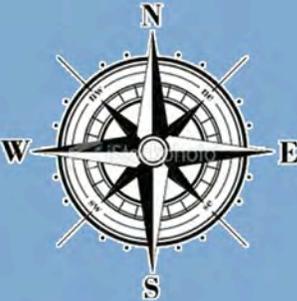
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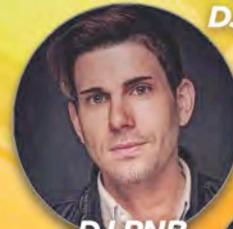
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