

DECEMBER 20, 2022 • VOL XIII • ISSUE 24

GRAB

MAGAZINE

CHICAGO'S BIWEEKLY
LGBTQ+ PUBLICATION



HAPPY NEW YEAR
2023

**Every love story is beautiful...
but yours should make history.**



Celebrate your special day at Chicago's most memorable museum. And yes - these wedding crashers are the kind you want.

Learn More Today: 312.665.7600 | events@fieldmuseum.org
Start discovering now at fieldmuseum.org/weddings

FIELD.
MUSEUM



SATURDAY, DEC. 31
DOORS AT 8 PM

NEW YEAR'S EVE

COUNT 2023 DOWN

FEATURING

DEANNE

**HOSTED BY MIMI MARKS AND VERONICA POP,
FEATURING SEXY GOGOS ALL NIGHT!**

\$65 EXPRESS/NO WAIT ENTRY PASSES

\$100 ULTRA VIP PACKAGE

**HYDRATE TAKES OVER ELIXIR LOUNGE, SAME BEATS, EXCLUSIVE VIBE!
INCLUDING GREY GOOSE VODKA AND VILLA SANDI PROSECCO PACKAGE
FROM 8PM-11PM. ACCESS TO HYDRATE'S DANCE FLOOR ALL NIGHT LONG.**

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT [HYDRATECHICAGO.COM](https://hydratechicago.com)

HYDRATE • 3458 N. HALSTED • [HYDRATECHICAGO.COM](https://hydratechicago.com)

CONTENTS

THIS ISSUE

LILY
TOMLIN
6



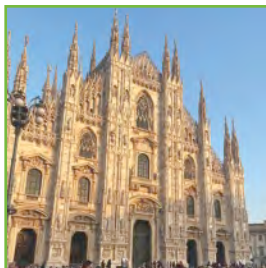
MICHAELA
JAÉ
RODRIGUEZ
12

JIM
ANDRALIS
16



CHRISTINE
EBERSOLE
22

TRAVEL
MILAN
36



GRAB A FRIEND
(DRINKSPECIALS) 28
NEXUS DANCE CHART 30

GRAB HOLLY 32
GRABTHEATRE 44
Bar/Restaurant/
Directory/ 46 & 48
MAP 49
CLASSIFIEDS 50

GRAB MAGAZINE
3712 N. BROADWAY #315
CHICAGO, IL 60613
TEL: 773-707-2660
WWW.GRABCHICAGO.COM
WWW.GRABBYAWARDS.COM
EMAIL: GRABSTACY@GMAIL.COM

GRAB MAGAZINE
CHICAGO'S BIWEEKLY LGBTQ PUBLICATION

Publisher
Stacy Bridges
Creative Director (Web)
Miguel Ortuno

Contributors
Chris Azzopardi
Roger V. McCaffrey-Boss
Erik Sosa-Kibby
Holly Maholm
Gregg Shapiro
Terri Schlichenmeyer

Production
Stacy Bridges
James Gumb

Photography
Bear Lens Photography
KenBrown
CHRIS K.

Sales
Judy Kyle

Public Relations
Nick Wille

**NATIONAL SALES
REPRESENTATIVE**
RIVENDELL MEDIA
908-232-2021

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

Cover:
New Year's Eve 2023

All rights reserved. Publication of the name, photograph or likeness of any person, organization or business in this publication is not to be constructed as an indication of the sexual orientation or preference of that person, organization or business. The opinions expressed by writers and other contributors are their own and are not necessarily those of this magazine, publishers or its staff. GRAB Magazine is owned and operated by Grabbys, LLC.



HOSTED BY FIFI DEPRAVED & ALEXANDREA DIAMOND
FEATURING PERSEPHONE DIAMOND • LUNA LACATRINA • SAPPHIRE FELICIANO
BELLA DEBALLE • PIXEL • ALIYA HOLMES • PIKADITA BROOKLYN

Come Fly into 2023!

SATURDAY,
DECEMBER 31
10:00PM



Charlie's AIRLINES NEW YEAR'S EVE

DRINK SPECIALS:
\$3 APPLE PIE MOONSHINE
\$5 DOMESTIC DRAFT BEERS
\$6 WELL COCKTAILS

\$60 NEW YEAR'S EVE ADVANCE TICKETS INCLUDES:

- 10 YOU-CALL-IT DRINK TICKETS
- FOOD
- FREE COAT CHECK
- PARTY FAVORS
- VIP ENTRANCE (NO WAIT FOR ENTRY OR RE-ENTRY)
- RAFFLE ENTRY FOR SPECIAL GIFT!
- CHAMPAGNE TOAST AT MIDNIGHT

\$30 COVER AT THE DOOR INCLUDES:

- PARTY FAVORS &
CHAMPAGNE TOAST ONLY
BEFORE MIDNIGHT

DJ LIGHTNING
LUU

ENTERTAINMENT & SPECIALS SUBJECT TO CHANGE FOR HOLIDAYS AND/OR SPECIAL EVENTS.



Charlies_ChicagoBar



CharliesBarCHI



CharliesBarCHI

charlieschicago.com

3726 N. Broadway St. • Chicago, IL 60613 | (773) 871-8887 | 21+

GRAB LILY

Lily Tomlin Remembers the Magic of Allee Willis

Acting legend looks back on her dear late friend as Willis' inaugural Night of Wonders launches

By Chris Azzopardi

The “Classic Lily” tab on Lily Tomlin’s official website — noted as “the world’s only” — is, today, barely operational. It looks like it was created at the dawn of the internet and never updated.

The reason for this might be, simply, the same reason why, when we lose someone we love, it’s impossible to let go of what they left behind. Updating it means erasing a special footprint on that site — that of Tomlin’s friend Allee Willis, who years ago (“quite a while ago, I can’t even recall,” Tomlin says) made that webpage.

Willis, who sometimes went by the name Bubbles, created the page with “dignity and taste,” as noted in the signature seen at the bottom of that page. Willis was a Broadway composer, a multimedia visual artist, a graphic artist, a songwriter and, says Tomlin, “an all around fantastical person.” She famously wrote the “Friends” theme song and was the only woman inducted into the Songwriters Hall of Fame in 2018.

“She was so involved in video and did so many things and had mastered it,” Tomlin told Pride Source. “And of course I was totally fumble floozy. Couldn’t do anything.”

Tomlin believes this was the beginning of a wonderful, enduring friendship as the two artists, both gay and from Detroit, bonded instantaneously. Though Tomlin couldn’t pinpoint exactly what

brought them together, “once you [were] exposed to her, she just became a fixture in your life.”

Recently, Tomlin, 83, attended the L.A. launch event for the Willis Wonderland Foundation, called Night of Wonders — a fitting tribute to the magical mind of Willis, who died suddenly in 2019, at age 72, after suffering a cardiac arrest. The foundation supports the education and advancement of songwriters and multimedia artists, notably those in underserved communities.

Tomlin was eager to talk about the foundation, her friend and the event, which RuPaul also attended. So eager she and Willis’ partner, Prudence Fenton, tried to contact Pride Source on their own, unprompted, one recent Saturday evening, without a publicist involved, but were met with a voicemail. Prudence left a message. That’s just how important Willis was to Tomlin.

Chris Azzopardi: I’m sorry that you couldn’t get through to us, but I



Photo courtesy of Lily Tomlin

really appreciate the fact that you two looked up our business line and tried. Because it just says how much you want to talk about Allee. Clearly, she was a very special friend in your life.

Lily Tomlin: Allee was so amazing. I think this Willis Wonderland Foundation is a wonderful, multi-level idea in keeping with Allee’s legacy.

She just blew me away, really. She was a total original. And all the people around her were always like a part of her family and they were so devoted to her, and the foundation plans on so many ideas and practical extensions of who Allee was. And her house. I mean, her house is going to be the headquarters for the foundation. That magical, ideal ‘50s house that’s filled with art. Have you been there?

CA: I haven’t been there. Can you

CELEBRATE

NYEVE 2023

SATURDAY **DECEMBER 31**

AT

SIDETRACK

GREY GOOSE
The World's Best Tasting Vodka



SILVER
PATRÓN

\$40 ADVANCE TICKETS AT
SIDETRACKCHICAGO.COM

**BENEFITING
THE LEGACY PROJECT**

DOORS OPEN AT 7PM

**CHICAGO DRAG
SHOWCASE 8-10PM**

LITE BITES
PARTY FAVORS
GIVEAWAYS
DANCEFLOOR
CHAMPAGNE TOAST
AT MIDNIGHT



3349 N HALSTED SIDETRACKCHICAGO.COM @SIDETRACKBAR 21+ W/ID

**SUNDAY
JANUARY 1**

new year's day

**one one
onesie
party**

SIDETRACK



★ **1-10PM WEAR YOUR
ONESIE TO OUR
ALL-DAY PARTY** ★

**4-10PM SUPER-SIZED
SHOW TUNES
MAIN, CHERRY & NORTH BARS**

**10PM-2AM SUNDAY
FUNDAY AFTER DARK
DANCE PARTY**

NO COVER

★ **DOORS
OPEN
1PM** ★

GREY GOOSE
The World's Best Tasting Vodka

SILVER
PATRÓN

walk me through it?

LT: Well, it's just an incredible, typical '50s suburban house with '50s cars parked in the driveway. Old Chryslers and things. I have a '55 Dodge Royal Lancer myself. She's got seven bowling balls in the front yard. And then in the back she has a beach blanket around her pool. And then in the house itself, it's totally magical. She had an alter ego, Bubbles the artist, that she never admitted to being, but she managed Bubbles. And Bubbles created all this porcelain dinnerware and display pieces. And I have several pieces myself with

Ernestine's [Tomlin's famous telephone operator character] image on it.

She testified before the Congress on behalf of the songwriters in fighting for their access, their right to their material, and not being ripped off by the media in certain ways. And her wardrobe alone was a visual statement. Her massive wardrobe alone. Her haircut. Everything about her, she was tireless. Just constantly had a big audio visual setup that she worked.

CA: The way you're describing her, and from what I know about you and your work, it just makes all the sense in the world that you two would be friends.

LT: I'm so grateful for her friendship. She was a terrific person. I can still see her up in the middle of the aisle at [historic Hollywood restaurant] Musso and Frank. She talked at the top of her voice no matter what she was talking about. She had something to say about everything and just telling it to you in really big ways.

CA: Do you remember a time when something made her that passionate?

LT: I remember that one of the last times I saw her at Musso's was, I'd

Photo courtesy of Lily Tomlin



gone to the theater to see some production or something at the Pantages [Theatre] and she had a little party there at Musso's. She was standing up outside the booth and as soon as she saw me, "Oh, Lily!" and then blah, blah, blah. I can't even possibly recreate it. It was just... she was excited about everything. Excited and interested and bigger than life. And her death was sudden, just like that. It shocked all of us.

CA: Did living in Detroit have anything to do with your friendship?

LT: I think it really does. I think so many people, especially from our era, were from Detroit.

CA: But you didn't actually meet Allee here in Detroit?

LT: No, I didn't meet her in Detroit. Not that I'm aware. I was looking at her bio and her awards on the internet. And she came to L.A. in '69, which is the year I'd just gone to California to be on [the TV series] "Laugh-In."

CA: Did you two ever bond over Detroit?

LT: Oh yeah. If you're from Detroit, I mean, it's in your blood. You just don't turn away from it. It's imprinted. I thought it was the

greatest city in the world. It was gritty, it was hardcore, it was political. I mean, I lived in that kind of neighborhood. And then, a very short distance for me were the rich sections like Sherwood Forest and Palmer Park, Palmer Woods and then I was aware of Grosse Pointe. And my first character was a Grosse Pointe matron. I did it in a college show.

CA: Wait, really?

LT: Yeah. It was just about the time that Grosse Pointe had found out that it had a merit system where it rejected sales of ownership to anybody of questionable origins. Which meant not Waspy. Kathy Ford became a good friend of mine, and she was Henry Ford's third wife. And I've had so many connections. When I was doing "9 to 5," she was stopped in the car with Henry when he said [his famous line], "Don't complain, don't explain." We were on the same page in Time Magazine when they had those old news items, and Kathy and I were both there. And I renewed my friendship with her around that time.

Aside from the website, what else did you work on with Allee professionally?

She would do things at the gay

INTRODUCING A NEW WAY TO LIVE
YOUR BEST LIFE.

THE WELLNESS HOME INITIATIVE

PRIMARY HEALTHCARE, WELLNESS
SERVICES, AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH.

Taylor and Andre from our
Wellness Home on Halsted

WHAT WE OFFER:

**LGBTQ Primary
Healthcare**

Wellness Services

Sexual Health

Behavioral Health

Integrative primary care including medical
visits, medication management, & labs.

Hormone therapy, erectile dysfunction, hair
restoration & IV Infusions for true integrative health.

On demand STI testing, long acting HIV
protection and medication & PrEP services.

Talk therapy for mood disorders and support on your
gender identity and sexual orientation journey.

To learn more about the
Wellness Home model of
integrative wellness and
health care, please use
your smartphone to
capture the QR image
below.



Wellness Home on Halsted (Bridgeport)
773-823-9434



Wellness Home at Northstar (Lakeview)
312-296-2400

<https://wellnesshome.org>

center [Los Angeles LGBT Center] and I would present her, or I would present Bubbles. And she would hang her China on the walls. One time she did a plate of me and my partner, Jane [Wagner]. Separate plates. And they were so outrageously funny. When I walked in and I saw those plates on the wall, I started laughing. I just was overcome with laughter.

CA: What did these plates look like?

LT: I have this big red, smiling mouth and stringy looking hair, but you knew it was me. And then Jane was really stoic, blonde, passive, soft smile.

You want me to send you a photograph of them? You'll get a kick out of them. I'm sorry. I'm forcing all this stuff on you.

CA: Oh, are you kidding me? Nothing is being forced on me. I want to see those plates, Lily.

LT: I should start taking them on the road with me! Anyway, I know I was older than Allee. I was five or six or seven years older than she was. But she went to Mumford High School, which was almost in my neighborhood. But I wound up going to Cass Tech because I was in the northern district, and Northern High School was a really tough high school. And so, a lot of kids went over to Cass Tech. And it was supposed to be where the smart kids were anyway. And I was happy to play that role and fell right into it. They weren't all that smart, believe me. Oh my god. Wait. And so, the best part was... I grew up in a Black neighborhood. I couldn't stand the Beatles. I mean, not the Beatles, but whoever would be the big stars of... They were '64, I was already out of

high school. But like Pat Boone or some... don't say any denigrating stuff. Even Elvis. I didn't think Elvis was so hot because I liked all the Black artists and dancing. It was so much cooler.

CA: Before we wrap, I'd like to ask you about the Night of Wonders event. It sounded magical. And it also sounded very queer to have you and RuPaul there. What was that like?

LT: It was wonderful because everybody was so devoted to Allee. They're all freakish, anyway. And they have great fun and they love to dress up. And they're running back and forth on the stage and carrying

cast right there is a queer man's dream.

LT: It is, right? My god. Something appeals! But Tom Brady is... it was just none of us knew anything about football.

But it was great fun; we had fun with the director. We had fun doing the project. In fact, they're having a screening today and a few people are going. I'm not going. The first time I see it, I don't want to have to be with other people.

CA: Do you like to watch your movies by yourself first?

LT: Yeah, or with just people I know real closely. It's going to be at the agency and there'll probably be a lot of agents there. I'm not as brazen and outgoing as I might appear.

CA: You and Jane have spent a lot of time on screen together over the last decade. What's that feeling like to know that you are so beloved on your own, but also so beloved together, especially by LGBTQ+ fans?

LT: I'm so grateful that I have an audience in the gay community. And it doesn't compute to you that you're anything. I realize that people like "Grace and Frankie," or enough people liked it. And I know that over the years I've had hardcore

fans that I've really enjoyed being with and relating to, because I've kept the stories of my characters going all those years.

To contribute to the Willis Wonderland Foundation, visit the official site at one.bidpal.net/williswonderlandfoundation.

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.



Photo courtesy of Lily Tomlin

signs. It was filled with artistic joy.

CA: Lastly, Lily, what do you have coming up?

LT: Well, Jane Fonda and I, right after "Grace and Frankie," like a month later, we went into this movie with [director] Paul Weitz. I'd done a couple of movies with him before and I really like him. It's called "Moving On." It's a very small, intimate little movie. And I know they've sold it and they're negotiating the distribution, but that's all I know. And we had great fun doing that. And then about a month after that we did "80 for Brady" with Jane [Fonda] and I, and Sally Field and Rita Moreno. And Tom Brady.

CA: You have to know Lily, but that
December 20, 2022



HOLIDAY 2022

5025 N. CLARK ST. CHICAGO, IL

**13
DEC**

BIG GAY HOLIDAY GAME SHOW

WITH SOFONDA BOOZ: 7-10PM

**14
DEC**

**WIL'S WINTER WORKSHOP:
ORNAMENT DECORATING**

8-11PM

**17
DEC**

**BIG UGLY HOLIDAY SWEATER
COMPETITION PARTY CONTEST**

WITH SOFONDA BOOZ: 3-6PM

**18
DEC**

SUNDAY SOCIAL: NO NO NEAUX

DRAQ, BURLESQUE & VARIETY REVUE: 2-6PM

**22
DEC**

**THIRSTY THURSDAY KARAOKE:
BRADLEY K8'S XXX-MAS MIRACLE**

KARAOKE & "DON YOUR GAY APPAREL" CONTEST: 9PM-1AM

**24
DEC**

OPEN

2PM-3AM



**25
DEC**

**CLOSED
CHRISTMAS**

**29
DEC**

**THIRSTY THURSDAY KARAOKE:
BRADLEY K8'S BIG FINISH**

PRE-NYE PARTY: 9PM-1AM

**31
DEC**

**GAME OVER: NEW YEAR'S EVE
PJAMA PARTY GAME NIGHT**

8PM-3AM

WWW.MEETINGHOUSETAVERN.COM

GRAB MICHAELA

What's In a Chosen Name? Everything, That's What Michaela Jaé Rodriguez on her historical Golden Globe win and the importance of chosen-name recognition for the trans community

By Chris Azzopardi

In early 2022, Michaela Jaé Rodriguez made history as the first openly trans actor to win a Golden Globe, an award she earned for her role on "Pose." Nearly a year later and she's yet to properly celebrate that groundbreaking moment for herself and the trans community, she told me during our recent interview.

And it's not just because she's been busy bossing around Maya Rudolph in the Apple TV+ sitcom "Loot," which was recently renewed for a second season. Rodriguez assured me she'd pop open a bottle of bubbly soon, but not until she was done with her ambassador duties for Citibank, which recently expanded its transgender-friendly chosen name feature to debit customers, allowing eligible Citi cardholders to update their cards with their chosen first name without requiring a legal name change.

In our interview, Rodriguez chatted about her own chosen-name experiences, her upcoming foray into music, and why "Loot" was such a "glorious surprise."

CA: Why was it important for you to get involved with Citi's chosen-name campaign?

Michaela Jaé Rodriguez: It was most important to me [because of] the youth. I think about their level of confidence when they receive something that they've always wanted. And I also think about just trans individuals in general, regarding who they are and their

identity, how that's most important to them. Knowing that Citibank was willing to partner [with me] was not only, I feel, outstanding and kind of an honor, but to know that they're willing to make sure we feel protected in ourselves and our identity. Also, they're not slow in the process because they make it happen at the drop of a dime. There's no long hauling to giving your information and giving all of this documentation that is quite embarrassing. You don't have to go through that process.

So thinking of all those things, and regarding the youth as well, and just trans people in general, that's why I partnered with them. It'll give them a peace of mind. And they can walk out and know that not only they have a card that they're going to be using, but a card that represents the name to their identity.

CA: Growing up, what was the thing for you that had your chosen name on it that meant the world to you?

MJR: I was 11 years old and I was in a music program, and I remember my dad taking me to go see "Spider-Man" with Tobey Maguire and Kirsten Dunst. And I remember them calling her MJ. And I was like, "Oh my god, those are my initials." I wanted to be called MJ



because she's really cool, and she's quite fab, and I love her red hair.

I remember receiving my first Equity card and them saying, "What's your stage name?" And I said, "Well, it's MJ Rodriguez. I've been called MJ all my life. That's my name." And they were like, "OK, perfect." And from then on it stuck. Then, obviously, growing older, becoming a grown woman, you're like, "OK, those little girl days are gone. People need to know who Michaela Antonia Jaé is. Who the creative artist is."

The significance of Michaela is people getting to understand who the person is outside of the actress MJ Rodriguez. Michaela Jaé is my artist name. I wanted people to see the differentiations. I didn't want them to stronghold me to just one character, but a multitude.

CA: What are some of the challenges you've run into with changing your name?

MJR: I mean, there's always a worry or a setback on the documentation



Holiday 2022

4923 N. Clark St. Chicago, IL

**09
DEC**

**GRRR: BEARY MERRY
ONESIE PARTY: 9PM-2AM**

**10
DEC**

**DOGGY DAYS WITH SANTA
PICTURES WITH SANTA: 12-3PM**

**11
DEC**

**JOLLY OL' BEARAOKE
WITH PAT DA' BEAR: 9PM-1AM**

**17
DEC**

**LUMBERSEXUAL PRESENTS:
SLOPPY OTTER XMAS: 9PM-3AM**

**21
DEC**

**POLAR BEAR TRIVIA
WITH BEARTENDER THOMAS 8-10PM**



**OPEN CHRISTMAS EVE
12PM-3AM**



**OPEN CHRISTMAS DAY
12PM-2AM**

**31
DEC**

**NEW YEAR'S EVE COUNTDOWN
WITH DJ BEARBIE: 9PM-3AM**

www.SoFoTap.com



and giving your dead name when you don't want to give your dead name. All of these lawyers that I feel aren't [necessary]. But yeah, I've gone through that, but it also didn't deter me. It didn't make me sad, it didn't break me down. It just kind of pushed me a little farther.

I won't say I was embarrassed, but I know a lot of my sisters who have also gone through this and have felt quite embarrassed about the process they have to go through with getting a name changed. And the youth won't have to go through this anymore. They won't have to worry about that when it comes to Citibank.

CA: Recently, we've seen a wave of anti-trans legislation, much of it focused on chosen names. What do you have to say to school administrators and politicians who've made it difficult for trans students to change their names and pronouns?

MJR: More than anything, I would say they need to probably open their minds and, even though they may not even receive a message like this, to open their minds and dig a little deeper into the actual human being that is there, beyond your expectations or your stigmas and ideas of who we are as people. I think what most importantly needs to be broken down is how we are as human beings. I would say just pay attention. If I were the person to give

them the energy of anger, that would defeat the purpose of love. But I would say the disappointment that I have, as well, is needed for every trans person and every person who is an ally.

CA: Regarding your Golden Globe — do you carry it everywhere you go?

MJR: [Laughs.] Believe it or not, and I always say this to everyone, but I'm a regular shmegular girl, but I still have it in my case. This may be TMI, but I don't know if I've actually yet really celebrated that moment of winning it. I know it's weird to say, but I probably need to do that.

CA: I'd say that celebration is overdue.

MJR: Yeah, it definitely is. It's a process. It was a lot that I had to process when I won that Golden Globe. I was so, so happy. But I also felt like I didn't deserve it. But that's due to, I guess, the shame, and what comes with transness in the industry, and how you feel you fit or how you belong. And when I got that, I was like, "Oh my god, does this mean I truly belong?" Maybe even worse, I was wondering, "Am I deserving of this?" And I had to really take the moment, and I'm still obviously in that space. Don't think for a second, though, that I'm not proud of myself for winning because it was a feat for so many girls who have not had space. It opened, hopefully, a good

amount of doors, but also what comes with that is my reality.

CA: I want to ask about your role on "Loot" as Sofia Salinas, which feels groundbreaking because it's not about being trans. I read that you decided that the character would be trans, but it wouldn't be a primary characteristic. Why was that important to you?

MJR: Being cast on this show, just a general role, was such an amazing moment in my life. I did not expect it. I did not believe I was even capable of getting that. Again, this was a totally different lane from what I am used to. I'm a drama girl, and being thrust into comedy in the most beautiful way was such a glorious surprise.

So being trans, I didn't want people to just subject her to transness. People know me as Michaela Jaé, as a trans woman in the world. So being in that role of a woman who could possibly be trans or cis, it really bridges the gap between what actually we all go through as women, aside from being marginalized as trans. I had a show ["Pose"] where it showed the true experience of what trans women go through and I wanted, now in this moment, to try something different, make people laugh, and also let them see the struggle of not only just trans women, but cis women in general, and women in general. How we grow, how we fight, how we strive. And Sofia — she is starchy

and real stiff, OK? That is just not Miss Michaela. I love the crap out of her. I love that she's this way. You need someone like her in your life. So I'm just like, "She helps me." When I read the script, I was like, "Damn, sis."

CA: There's a lot you could influence in the coming years. Have you thought about that and where you want your career to go from here?

MJR: I've continued to pursue my acting career, but I also am really excited for my music career to start fully next year. I promise it's something that... well, I think it will be good. I promise I'm not biased.

CA: You released the single "Something to Say" in 2021, so a full album?

MJR: Well, I don't think it's going to be a full album. I'm going to do an EP, just to give people a snippet and see if they like [it], and then start writing more. Because my fans are really important. I really like having

my hand in being creative and having a say.

Chris Azz-opardi 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.



Are you on the **VIP** list?

Sign up for the Grab Magazine **VIP** email list and we'll let you know when our new issues are available to download for free!

Plus, you'll be the first to read our new articles, interviews and learn about upcoming events, specials, promotions & more!

Sign up now at
www.grabchicago.com

GRAB
MAGAZINE
CHICAGO'S BI-WEEKLY **LGBTQ** PUBLICATION



GRAB JIM

Never stop trying: An interview with gay singer/ songwriter Jim Andralis

By Gregg Shapiro



PhotobyBobKrasner

Sometimes, it takes awhile to be able to connect, one-to-one, with an artist. I've been listening to and writing about gay singer/songwriter Jim Andralis for more than six years. From his debut album "Your Dying Wish Come True" to his just released new full-length "I Can't Stop Trying," Andralis' music touches me in a way that makes me want to share it with everyone. From his emotive vocals to his effortless gift for turn of phrase, I mention him to other pop music fans every chance I get. Finally, after all this time, I got the chance to interview Jim, and it was well worth the wait.

Gregg Shapiro: Jim, you're a Pennsylvania native.

Pennsylvania's a big state – can we narrow that down a bit?

Jim Andralis: I am from Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, which is eastern Pennsylvania. Pittsburgh is the western steel town, Bethlehem is the eastern steel town; about an hour-and-a-half to two hours west of New York City, and the same amount of time north of Philadelphia. Lehigh University is in Bethlehem. It's near Allentown, which Billy Joel wrote the song about.

GS: When did you relocate to New York and what was it that brought you there?

JA: I went to school at Muhlenberg College, which was about 20 minutes away from my house where I grew up. Part of the way into that, I needed to get out. I really felt that something needed to propel me out of the Lehigh Valley. I studied abroad in Rome, in Italy. I love it there so much. It felt like a place where I felt

at home in a way that I never knew that I could. I moved back to Rome for two years, and it was really tough for me to make any money there. I said, "Here's what I'm going to do. I'm gonna move to New York City for one year." We're talking 1993. "I'm going to find somebody who's Italian to bring me back with their company so I can become an Italian citizen." I just planting roots in New York City and, I've got to be honest with you, Gregg, next year it will have been 30 years that I'm here, but I would say it was only ten years ago that I made the conscious decision to stay. It's weird. I was super ambivalent about it. I was like, "I love this about it, but I can't stand this about it!" I had to really fight through my own brain.

GS: In the early 2000s, you could be heard performing as a member of the band The Isotoners, as well as on records by the late LD Beghtol's LD & The New Criticism. In 2016, you released your solo debut album "Your Dying Wish Come True." How did you know it was the right time to put out a solo record?

JA: I don't know that it was, Gregg. When I became a part of The Isotoners, the idea of being in a band and writing adolescent songs about queerness and gay sex and all the shit that would make us laugh and making songs about it that were kind of super earnest, that was a way into songwriting for me. I was one of the songwriters in The Isotoners, and I was in LD's band at the same time. When I went into grad school to become a therapist in '04, soon after that I left The Isotoners, and immersed myself in

training to be a therapist. In 2010 or 2011, I was with my husband (my then boyfriend) Larry and our friend Amy Bezunartea. Larry had installed a piece of his artwork as part of a Visual AIDS exhibit in the East Village and we were there. I was talking with Amy, and we were saying that we weren't writing enough songs, we weren't doing it enough. We created a songwriters' group that would meet once a month to hold one another accountable. It began with me and Amy and Larry. All we had to do was write a song a month. We're not critiquing, we're not evaluating. It was just a way for us to all keep up our practice as songwriters. It'd been 12 years since we started that. I think by the time I started recording "Your Dying Wish Come True" in 2014 or 2015, I had so many songs. It was also a moment of really big losses. Loss after loss after loss. I could feel an album coming together. I went into it without any idea of how to do it; just by pulling people in that I love, that I wanted to do it with. That's how that record happened. "Maybe I'll make a record!" At that time, I was like, "I'll make a record, I'll be famous [laughs], and my life will be very different [laughs]." "You're Dying Wish Come True" was a time capsule of my life then.

GS: All four of your solo full-length albums, including the new one "I Can't Stop Trying" (jimandralismusic.com), were produced by musician Tom Beaujour. What makes Tom someone with whom you want to collaborate repeatedly?

JA: There are many answers to that question. The first one is, I love him.



HAPPY HOLIDAYS

CHRISTMAS EVE

DEC 24TH

SAT 2^{PM} - 5^{AM}

CHRISTMAS DAY

DEC 25TH

SUN 2^{PM} - 4^{AM}



RING IN THE NEW YEAR

2023

SATURDAY DEC 31ST 2^{PM} - 5^{AM}

1140 W. WILSON AVE. CHICAGO, IL
WWW.2BEARSTAVERNUPTOWN.COM • 773-672-4900

I love being around him. I think I'm a very musical person, but I don't read music. I don't have a language for what I want things to sound like. Tom comes in with a lot of ideas. He also really listens to what my ideas are. He's a wonderful collaborator. Every once in a while, he'll be like, "Hold on a second, I want to try something." And then he does, and it sounds beautiful in a way that I never thought a song of mine could sound. He's really skilled, but he's also super-gifted. He's an artist and he's also somebody, and I think this is hard for anybody, able to lend that to somebody else's vision in a way that complements and brings something out of it that should have been there.

GS: Your multi-hyphenate husband Larry Krone, whose House of Larréon created the fashion capsule collection for Joe's Pub, has been a presence on all four of your solo albums. How does your life partnership coincide with your creative partnership?

JA: There was a place in the East Village called Starlight Lounge. Our friend Julian Fleisher would host a Monday night music thing there. I played there a few times with my band, with LD's band, with our friend Kenny Melman.

GS: Kenny Melman of Kiki & Herb fame?

JA: Yes! Kenny did a solo show at Starlight Lounge and had special guests. I was one of them. I feel like that's the first time that Larry became aware of who I was with these overlaps that we had. Larry was doing his own show at Starlight Lounge and contacted me on Friendster to ask whether I would play accordion at his show. Larry knew LD and we had a whole bunch of people in common. LD was also instrumental in us meeting, now that I think about it. So, we began collaborating musically. I have a fraught relationship to my own voice. I used to get nervous, less so now. When I'm doing a show, I will put in

the setlist a song with Larry very early. When I'm singing with him, my voice opens up. There's something about singing together that's like, "OK, I'm not alone. Larry's here, and we're making these sounds together." I feel like it's something we both treasure. That we can be each other's love, and also fan, and also collaborator. I usually pop up in Larry's shows. He always pops up in mine. Afterwards, it feels like, "OK, there's some things that are good about our life."

GS: As a dog-person myself, I couldn't help but notice the presence of dogs in your life. The video for your Bridget Everett duet "Hit The Ground Fuckin'" featured



a stellar cast of pooches. The cover photo for "I Can't Stop Trying" is of your rescue dog Dory, and the wonderful song "Believe Me" is sung from her point of view. What do Dory and the other dogs in your life mean to you?

JA: It's hard for me to talk about this, but there are two songs on "Your Dying Wish Come True" about my first dog Nikko. One is called "For A Minute or Two." After she died, I was trying to think about what it felt like. There was this time when I let her off her leash and she just took off. It's about that moment where I couldn't see her or hear her running. I thought, "This could be it. This could be the last time I ever see her." Then she ran back to me. She was just having her own little adventure. After her death, it was like that feeling, but forever. The other one is called "It's Not Love," which is about the messiness of the end of her life. I always felt like she needed something from me but I didn't know

what it was. I got Nikko when I was in my late 20s. When I got Nikko, I hadn't been able to keep a plant alive. I was lonely and I had a hard time being by myself. I come from a family where we say "I love you" repeatedly before we hang up. We always say, "I love you." There's always a verbal aspect to love. Nikko was the first relationship that I had that transcended language. In some ways, I feel like she taught me how to love in a way that had to do with presence and not words. I finished a song the other day that is also about Nikko. It's been 10 years since she died, and she's come back into my brain in a way that's really complicated. I feel like Dory we're doing right. We are with her. We're completely permissive [laughs]. Some people would think we were terrible dog parents. But with Nikko, I didn't know what the fuck I was doing. I'm haunted by the way I feel like I didn't come through for her. This last song that I wrote is sort of about this dog's nature which is to not hold a grudge. They don't care if you fuck up. They don't care if you walk around naked. They are yours. They are there for you.

GS: No judgment.

JA: Yes! This song is like, "Why do I need a ghost of a dog to forgive me for these things that she probably forgot about in two seconds?" It's my own brain fucking with me. I see dogs as an inspiration. My husband talks about how Dory will come out with whatever she's feeling. She's not self-conscious about it, usually. She'll be like, "Don't leave me! I missed you! I need you!" She's exactly who she is in the moment, and that's always changing. I think that's something we both aspire to.

GS: I really love the wordplay in your songs, which I think stands out on the songs "Soloflex," "New York City Spring," and "Dead Man's Porn." Which comes first in your songwriting process, the words or the music?

JA: Sometimes both, but usually the words. I'll be thinking of a phrase or an experience, an emotional experience. I think the way I get to big experiences is through little details. I try to trust that that will

SATURDAY DECEMBER 31

STARRING KIT KAT DIVA

Kinley Preston

LIVE PERFORMANCES,
PARTY FAVORS &
CHAMPAGNE TOASTS!

6:30PM SEATING \$65

PLUS TAX + GRATUITY / INCLUDES 4 COURSE
DINNER, MARTINI, CHAMPAGNE TOAST

8:30PM SEATING \$85

PLUS TAX + GRATUITY / INCLUDES 4 COURSE
DINNER, MARTINI, CHAMPAGNE TOAST

11PM BAR PACKAGE \$50

PLUS TAX + GRATUITY
3 HOURS FREE-FLOWING WELL DRINKS TIL 2AM

SEATING IS LIMITED
RESERVATIONS 773-525-1111

3700 NORTH HALSTED / 773-525-1111 / KITKATCHICAGO.COM

**SATURDAY
DECEMBER 31**

2023
HOUSE
NEW YEAR'S EVE
PARTY

NO DATE REQUIRED!!!



Lark



FEATURING:

BINGO / KARAOKE
NAME THAT TUNE
PRIZES + MORE!!!



INCLUDES:

OPEN BAR
PARTY APPETIZERS
DESSERT BAR
CHAMPAGNE TOAST
AT MIDNIGHT

HOSTED BY:

DRAG STARS

**VIVIAN DEJOUR
+ FRIENDS**

9PM-MIDNIGHT
SHOW STARTS 9:30PM

TICKETS ON SALE NOW
AT EVENTBRITE.
SCAN OR CODE FOR
MORE INFO.

3441 N. HALSTED / 773-799-8968 / LARKCHICAGO.COM @LARKCHICAGO

translate to people. That I'm talking about a really specific thing.

GS: I think that definitely comes through.

JA: Thank you. In some ways, "Dead Man's Porn," on the most basic level, is about masturbating to the porn that belonged to a person who died of AIDS who bequeathed his porn collection to whoever the fuck wanted it. It's also about how fucked it was, for me personally, that much of my experience of the darkest moments of the AIDS crisis was me staying closeted because I was so scared. Sneaking these tiny little erotic moments on the backs of all these people who had died. It's something that I'd always experienced as super shameful, but it's my story. "I can't be gay! Look at what's happening." In the meantime, there were people fighting for themselves, and for me, even though I was...

GS:... you were afraid.

JA: Yes! It was this complicated thing that when I distill it, it's about my roommate and one of my very best friends Mark, was a volunteer for the Gay Men's Health Crisis. He was out there helping people, living his gay life. (He would) bring back porn that I would wait until he left to watch [laughs]. It was so crazy. I was like, "OK, I'll write about that." It's a way of taking the most tender, shameful thing, and just being, "This is a part of me, and maybe someone else out there had this experience." It's like a little morse code to whoever else is listening.

GS: One of the most surprising tracks on "I Can't Stop Trying" is your cover version of Neil Diamond's "Play Me," performed as a duet with your husband Larry. Why did you want to cover that tune?

JA: We've been covering that tune for years. I love Neil Diamond. I sort of brought Larry in to loving Neil Diamond. I don't know that that's 100 percent true [laughs]. I have this thing for Neil Diamond. I think he's really handsome. I think his songs are fucking weird. "Play Me" is a weird song, but it's so romantic. It's kind of sexy. We sang it at our wedding. We sing it when we're just sitting around. We have songs that we do together. It feels silly and

loving, but we just love the song. It's become a touchstone for us.

GS: Do you know if Neil Diamond has heard it, and if so, what does he think of the queer take on the song?

JA: I can guarantee you that he has not heard it [laughs]. I think that Dolly Parton listens to every cover of one of her songs before she signs off on it. I just went to some website and said, "I would like to license this song," and the robot gave me permission. This is probably my internalized homophobia, but I imagine that he'll hear it and be like, "NO! This was meant to be sung to a lady!"

GS: On the other hand, he's friends with Barbra Streisand. I'd imagine he's probably had some crossover with queer people. Jim, by day, you're in private practice as a trauma-focused psychotherapist. We are speaking a few days after yet another shooting in a gay bar – this one in Colorado Springs, where five are dead and there were multiple injuries. The prescient song "Almost Dead" sounds like it addresses the issue of anti-LGBTQ+ violence. Am I on the right track and, in your professional opinion, how do we heal from yet another deadly event aimed at our community?

JA: You are on the right track. I think that we heal within our community. We heal by surrounding ourselves with our own love and by fighting people who are killing us. Here's the thing that I'm learning more and more, the more I do both jobs. I think it's our own responsibility. I don't know about you, and I don't know what you're own experience is, growing up in the closet or growing up queer, but I feel like part of the reason I have a commitment to doing my own work is that I've done plenty of harm within our own community. I have all kinds of shit



that I'm trying to deprogram myself from, I have been. We all have a responsibility, particularly those of us with more privilege, to do our own work so that we can be loving, supportive members of our own community for one another. I feel like I'm done trying to prove my own, or anybody else's, value or humanity to somebody who's too fucking lazy to see it. That song is rage! If you try to hurt me, I'm gonna hurt you back and I hope that I'm gonna hurt you a lot [laughs]. That's the thing about that song – when Trump got elected, I was like, "OK, I've got to get really strong. I've got to get so strong because I'm going to have to fight." I'm not a person who's like, "Oh my God, I'm feeling all this rage. I'm going to work out." It's more like that moment of, "OK, motherfucker!" I feel like that song is mostly fantasy. The revenge part is fantasy. I don't know how much of an impact my rage can make, but I'm going to feel it anyway. It's almost from the perspective of somebody who's already been attacked, imagining revenge.

GS: The violence of the attack in the song is palatable.

JA: When I sang the song at our songwriter's group, and I finished, Bridget said she thought it would be really fun to sing "Kick you in the head/so you're almost dead" live [laughs]!

GS: It does feel like an empowerment anthem.

JA: Yeah! Great! That's so good.

GS: Especially at this time when we need to be empowered.

JA: I like it! Thank you!

THE SATURDAY NIGHT

NEW YEAR'S EVE EXTRAVAGANZA
2023

DRAG SHOW

Hosted by
TENDERONI

Hosted by
LUCY STOOLE



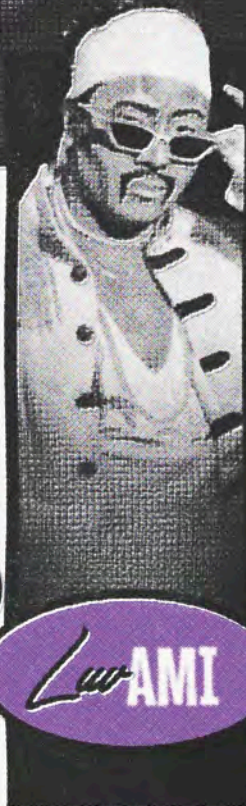
Irregular
GIRL



Luc AMI



Ari
GATO



Luc AMI

DJS: GREG HAUS, STASNEY, RIKA B | DOORS 9PM SHOW AT 10PM

BERLIN
934 W BELMONT AVE

A D M I S S I O N \$ 1 0
21+ | P R O O F O F V A C C I N A T I O N

GRAB CHRISTINE

On the “Ball”: An interview with Tony Award-winner Christine Ebersole

By Gregg Shapiro

Christine Ebersole, the two-time Tony Award-winning actor and singer, has returned with a new album, the personal and moving “After The Ball” (Club 44). The basis for the 10-track album, featuring songs that span more than 80 years, is her acclaimed cabaret act of the same name. A familiar face from theater, television, and movies, Ebersole is a true multi-hyphenate. She was gracious enough to make time to answer a few questions about the new album before the Thanksgiving holiday.

Gregg Shapiro: Beginning with the 1891 Charles K. Harris song “After The Ball” and continuing through the early 1970s with Joni Mitchell’s “Little Green” (1971) and Lieber & Stoller’s “Ready to Begin Again” (1975), the songs on your new album cover a period of more than 80 years. Was that your intention as you were putting the music together or did it just happen organically?

Christine Ebersole: I just picked the songs for the narrative, for the story I wanted to tell. “After The Ball” is about what happens the music stops and the lights go down. The confetti’s on the floor and the champagne is empty. What happens next?

GS: Four of the eight selections are medleys. As the performer, how do you know when two or even three songs belong together?

CE: Again, it’s kind of what tells the story. With (the medley of) “Little Green” and “Wait Till You See Her” and “Inchworm,” it all came out of the story I was telling (in my cabaret act) at The Carlisle (in New York) in

2016. It coincided with my being in Chicago during (the pre-Broadway run of) “War Paint.”

GS: At The Goodman Theater.

CE: Yes, with (music director) Larry Yurman (co-producer of the “After The Ball” album). It was a complete collaboration. What happened was, I wanted to tell the story because all my children are adopted, and Joni Mitchell’s story of “Little Green” is about her personal experience of giving up her child for adoption. Her only child, when she was quite young.

GS: Her daughter Kilauren.

CE: Yes, her daughter who she actually reunited with 35 years later. “Wait Till You See Her” was what Larry brought to the table. It was a juxtaposition of the mother losing the child and then the adoptive mother getting the treasure. Within her loss was my treasure.

GS: Following her health scare from a few years ago, Joni Mitchell is experiencing a massive career resurgence and has begun performing again. Have you ever met Joni?

CE: I did! I met her at a hair salon. It was such a thrill for me because she’s been such an idol of mine. She was getting a manicure or something, and I went over to her. I had recorded her (song) “The Circle



Game” on my very first album. I told her. I said, “I’m such a big fan!” I was just gooping over her. She was great! For some reason, she thought that I was really young or something. Like, “What are you, in high school or something?” Maybe it was my enthusiasm. She was very welcoming. She wasn’t put out by me bothering her in a hair salon while she was getting a manicure.

GS: I love that you do a cover of the wonderful Lieber & Stoller tune “Ready to Begin Again,” which was first recorded by Peggy Lee.

CE: Peggy Lee! Doesn’t it feel like a Kurt Weill/Bertolt Brecht song?

GS: It does! Especially since Lieber & Stoller were known for writing ‘60s pop tunes.

CE: Yes, rock and roll.

GS: And “Ready to Begin Again” is such a poignant and slyly humorous song. Why did you want to record it?



**STEAM
WORKS**
BATHS



NEW YEAR'S WEEKEND 2023

FRI DEC 30 FRIDAY NIGHT @ THE BATHS
FEAT DJ HARRY CROSS 10PM-4AM

SAT DEC 31 BUBBLES AND COUNTDOWN
WITH DJ J-DADDY 11PM-5AM

SUN JAN 1 RECOVERY SUNDAY SERVICE
WITH DJ KEVIN CHOW 2PM-8PM

[f Steamworks Chicago](#) [@SteamworksCHI](#)

STEAMWORKS BATHS 3246 N HALSTED **CHICAGO** 773.929.6080 **STEAMWORKSBATHS.COM**

CE: It was telling the story. The inspiration for the whole album and the evening at the Carlyle, which was the genesis of that, was "Who am I? Where am I? Where am I going?" It's the identity of being a mother with children in the face of being in show business where I've missed out on a lot of the growing up, and now they're gone, I'm nearing my dotage. So, what do I do? What's my identity?

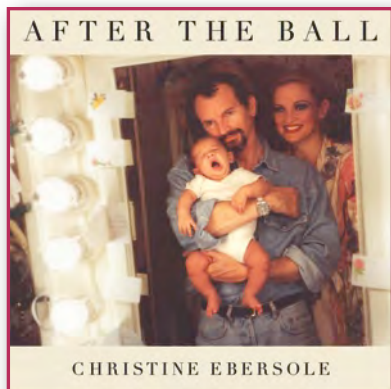
That's why that song spoke to me. It's like, well, you just put your teeth in and you put your wig on and you keep going!

GS: The album artwork for "After The Ball" has the feel of a family photo album, which made me wonder if any of the songs were sung to you when you were a child and if you, in return, sang them to your children?

CE: Yes, I did. But to get to tuck them in bed was a really rare thing. Because I was always on stage singing the 11:00 number wondering if they brushed their teeth. That was one of the basic tenets of mother-hood I didn't get very often.

GS: In 2021, you were in Paul Thomas Anderson's Oscar-nominated movie "Licorice Pizza," playing L Doolittle, a character loosely based on Lucille Ball. When it comes to your work in comedy, how much influence did Lucy have on you?

CE: She was an icon for me. Her timing was impeccable. Comedy, to me, is music and rhythm. It's how you



emphasize a word. It's like playing an instrument. It's fascinating how it's so connected to music.

GS: Since 2019, you've been playing Dottie, the mother of Bob in the CBS sitcom "Bob Hearts Abishola." What do you enjoy most about that series?

CE: It's family. The people that are on that show it's really like a family. We genuinely enjoy one another and laugh all day. It's an unbelievably blessed experience to have. That doesn't always happen. There's not a bad apple in the bunch. It's a great, supportive, fun-

loving, funny family.

GS: In the "Morenike is Gay" episode of the show, Bob tells another character, regarding being able to tell if someone is gay, "You can't really tell that kind of thing by looking. Although my mom thinks she can."

CE: [Big laugh]

GS: How reliable is your personal gaydar?

CE: [Still laughing] I thought I was really good [laughs]. I always thought I was good at it.

**CELL
BLOCK**

13

Now Get What YOU Wanted



FK

FULL KIT GEAR

5021 N CLARK STREET WWW.FULLKIT.COM

RUFF 'N' STUFF'S
HOLIDAY
SPECTACULAR

A
**RAZZLE
DAZZLE**
of a
SHOW!

5
SHOWS
ONLY

with
THE DRAGETTES
DEC 1, 8, 15, 22 & **SPECIAL SHOW** DEC 24

Lips®

THE ULTIMATE IN DRAG DINING

312.815.2662 • 2229 S. Michigan Ave • Chicago • LipsUSA.com

OPEN CHRISTMAS EVE

THE BEST PLACE IN TOWN FOR NEW YEAR'S EVE!

NEW YEAR'S EVE

Glitz & Glam BALL



SATURDAY DECEMBER 31

hosted by **SHAVONNA BROOKS**

DINNER • LIVE DRAG SHOWS • DANCING
3 COURSE PRIX FIXE DINNER • \$45 EARLY SEATING • \$85 LATE SEATING

Lips

THE ULTIMATE IN DRAG DINING

312.815.2662 • 2229 S. Michigan Avenue • Chicago • LipsUSA.com

THIS WILL BE THE BEST PLACE TO PARTY!

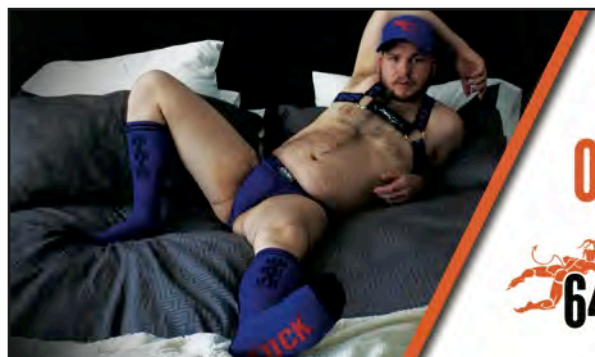
GRAB YOUR FRIENDS

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. 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. Shakers on Clark: Comedy Night \$1 off Well Drinks and Well Shots. 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: 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: 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. Shakers on Clark: Game Night, Free Pool, \$3 Domestic Bud, Bud Light, Michelob Ultra, Miller Lite, Miller High Life and PBR. 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' No Cell Phones/Wifi</p>
WEDNESDAY	<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 Shakers on Clark: Karaoke Night \$1 Off Long Islands. 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, All Things Britney & Rihanna 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. Free Clothing Check.</p>
THURSDAY	<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: 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 Tradional 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. Shakers on Clark: Darts Night \$1 off Fireball, Jager, Malort and Well Shots, \$2.50 PBR Cans. 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

FRIDAY	<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.</p> <p>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. 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 4-9pm, 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:</p>
SATURDAY	<p>2 Bears Tavern Uptown: . \$5 Jager, Fireball & Malort \$4 Tallboy Beers (BuschLight, PBR, Hamm's), \$5 Lagunitas IPA Drafts \$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 Sasha & Zamora Love 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:</p>
SUNDAY	<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, Singasational 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 Frozen's, \$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: Beer Bust \$2 Bud Light Drafts Movie Night 7pm.</p>



**SAVE 20% & MORE OFF
OUR CHAIN COLLECTION LINE!**

HURRY, SALE ENDS JANUARY 3, 2023



64TEN
CHICAGO

6410 N CLARK, CHICAGO | 773.508.0900
WWW.LEATHER64TEN.COM | 00000/LEATHER64TEN

GRAB A HIT

Top 30 Dance Chart this week

Visit nexusradio.fm



	Artist	Title
1	M22 & Ella Henderson	Heartstrings
2	BONNIE X CLYDE & FOMO	Need Ya (Radio Edit)
3	Andrew Rayel x Sam Gray	Wild Feelings
4	Galantis x David Guetta & MNEK	Damn (You've Got Me Saying)
5	Dillon Francis x ILLENIUUM & EVAN GIA	Don't Let Me Let Go
6	ILLENIUUM & Teddy Swims	All That Really Matters
7	Neptunica x Martin Trevy x Paul Schulze f	Under The Night
8	Martin Garrix x Dallask & Sasha Alex Sloan	Loop
9	Paige x Nihil Young x Lauren L'aimant	River (Radio Edit)
10	Tom Ferry & Anasa	Summer Of Love
11	RUDY	No Touchin
12	Robbie Mendez	Run
13	OneRepublic	I Ain't Worried (Liam Keegan Radio Edit)
14	Audien	Drifting Away ft. Joe Jury
15	Tiesto ft. Charli XCX	Hot In It
16	AVIRA & The Golden Boy	Reach Out For Your Love
17	Armin Van Buuren	Roll The Dice ft. Philip Strand (Intro Radio Edit)
18	NIIKO X SWAE ft. Allie Crystal	Nothing On Earth
19	Manuel Riva & Alexandra Stan	Heal Your Soul
20	Syence	Forever For Now ft. Riley Biederer
21	Benny Benassi & Anabel Englund	Lightwaves
22	Hayden James	Good Life ft. Emie (Radio Edit)
23	ManyFew x Mr. Belt & Wezol	Body Rock
24	HEATT	Wild (Radio Edit)
25	David Guetta & Bebe Rexha	I'm Good (Blue)
26	ARTY	So Good To Me
27	D.O.D & Raphaella	Like You Do
28	Tritonal x Marlhy	Back To My Love
29	Alok x Sigala x Ellie Goulding	All By Myself
30	Gryffin & Olivia O'Brien	Caught Up (Zack Martino x Leondis Remix)

NICE ^{AND} NAUGHTY

A TOUCHE' HOLIDAY WEEKEND!



Touche

**SATURDAY
DECEMBER 31**



46TH ANNUAL

black & blue
new years eve

BUFFET, CONTEST AND PRIZES, PARTY FAVORS, CHAMPAGNE TOAST
LIGHTS OUT AT MIDNIGHT / DJ HARRY T \$10 TICKETS AT THE BAR

FRI. DECEMBER 23
**12 "LAYS" OF
CHRISTMAS**
CONTEST AT MIDNIGHT

SAT. DECEMBER 24
CHRISTMAS EVE WITH SANTA
TAKE A PHOTO WITH THE BIG GUY! / GET A FREE GIFT!
\$5 BOTTLES OF HO HO HOEGAARDEN

SUN. DECEMBER 25 OPEN AT 2PM
CHRISTMAS DAY BEER BUST
\$2 BUD LIGHT DRAFTS
AND SODAS ALL DAY!

MOVIE NIGHT
7PM IN THE CLUB ROOM

FRI. DECEMBER 30
RIPE PARTY
DIM LIGHTS / HOT GO GO DUDES
DEEP BEATS BY DJ HARRY T

SUN. JANUARY 1 2023
HUNGOVER & HORNY
BEER BUST
\$2 BUD LIGHT DRAFTS
AND SODAS ALL DAY

\$5 MONSTER BLOODY'S
BEARS VS LIONS / KICKOFF AT NOON

Photo Credit: Kiri Taylor RagingClad.com

6414 NORTH CLARK **TOUCHECHICAGO.COM**

GRAB HOLLY

Are “Crypto-Donuts” a Half-Baked Idea?

By Holly Maholm

“Here’s your problem,” Sassy Pants began. “You want to give multiple dozen donuts – of varying varieties – to each of two dozen unicorns, and you want to give them as gifts to be opened Christmas morning. However, inasmuch as you face certain unavoidable ‘supply chain’ issues, you prefer to dole out those donuts not on Christmas morning, but over the six- to eight-week period thereafter. Does that sound right?” “My problem exactly,” I replied.

“Very well,” Sassy resumed. “Then here is my solution, which you will perceive borrows from your recent human invention of ‘crypto-currencies.’ I am proposing the production – by you, Holly – of what I call ‘crypto-donuts.’ These will serve as ‘tokens’ – each one of which will represent One Dozen real-life donuts. And I emphasize, such tokens must exist in the real world: They cannot be just a list of numbers recorded in some computer program in the cloud.

“You humans have created several forms of ‘crypto-currencies,’ each of which is to be found only in some ‘virtual reality,’ and each of which owes its continued existence to the continuous and uninterrupted operation of the server on which it is hosted. But honestly! Only an idiot would think that any form of ‘money’ which exists only in the cloud can be a secure form of value. Look back over history and you will see many instances of persecuted minorities – like Jews in pre-WWII Germany – who fled their country with gold coins sewed into their coats or jewels hidden in chocolate bars. No. Crypto-currencies are not to be trusted.”

Sassy went on to explain her proposal for “crypto-donuts,” and since her idea solved all my problems, I adopted it. Here is her proposal.

Each “crypto-donut” was to

represent One Dozen donuts of some particular variety, and because each such token had to be produced – baked – by me in the oven at Donut Time, I had to simplify that process. Thus, each token would be baked in the form of a sort of mini-donut (as to size) having a hole in the middle. But these could not be sugary, flavorful donuts, as that would defeat the purpose. No, each token had to be baked out of hardtack, which is dense, tasteless and near-unbreakable.

Next, the flavors and varieties of donuts symbolized by each token were to be distinguished using two mechanisms: First, each was identified with a designated color (using food coloring in the mix), and second, each hardtack token had pressed into its surface one or more colorful, hard-candy decorations. Thus, for example, a dozen “Chocolate Eclairs” might be represented by a green colored token having two red and two green hard-candies baked into its surface. In this way, I would know what crypto-tokens I should give to each unicorn as a gift, and each unicorn would be thrilled to know what delightful Christmas Gift they had received – to be “cashed-in” at a later date for a real-world sugary treat!

Thus: The “crypto-donuts.” But we know every investor who owns “crypto-currency” needs a “crypto-wallet” in which to keep his precious treasure. So... I got a big piece of scrap plywood and prepared it as follows: I wrote out across the top a row of five names, starting with Queen Penelope, then her Chief Attendant, Sassy Pants, then my bf, Victor, then Glitter (recent mother), and finally her foal, Azura. Beneath each name I pounded in a 10-penny nail, upon which would be hung the crypto-donuts belonging to the named unicorn. I then added four more rows of five names each, so that each unicorn in the frolic had his or her designated “wallet” (nail) upon which to hang those crypto-Christmas-donuts he or she had received.

I affixed the crypto-wallet to the wall in the tack room across from my room in the stable, where I could lock it away from prying (human) eyes. I found an old horse blanket and hung it in front of the crypto-wallet, and in the evening – when it was only me, the rescue horses and the unicorns in the stable – I planned to unlock the tack room and pull



aside the blanket to let the unicorns come in and feast their gaze upon their crypto-treasures!

Once I had finished, Sassy brought Queen Penelope around to hear our plans for “crypto-Christmas-donuts” kept safe in our “crypto-wallet.”

Penelope heard our plans, then spoke. “Yes, very nice, Sassy. I like your idea. And you, Holly have done a good job preparing the little tokens and the pegboard. But now, you must take steps to educate your friends in the frolic as to the nature and purpose of your ‘crypto-donuts.’ If you want them to feel the innocent joy of receiving such gifts on Christmas morning, they must understand what they are receiving. I leave that job to the two of you.”

(To be continued)

*Holly Maholm is a transgender woman living in Cleveland, Ohio. Look for Holly’s 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.*

**Have a safe and
Happy
New
Year’s
Please
don’t drink and drive**

THE **HARNESSES** SALE

SAVE
UP TO **30%**

ON OUR CUSTOM HARNESSES MADE
HERE IN OUR CHICAGO STUDIO

FREE GIFT OFFER

SPEND \$25 IN-STORE & GET
A FREE PAIR OF OUR CHAIN
COLLECTION SOCKS! (\$17 VALUE)

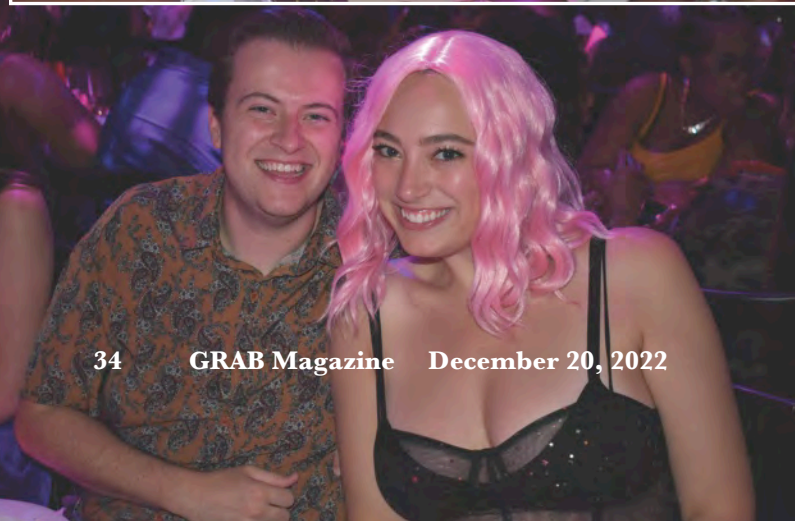
MUST MENTION THIS AD. WHILE SUPPLIES LAST.
EXPIRES 12/31/2022



6410 N CLARK, CHICAGO | 773.508.0900
WWW.LEATHER64TEN.COM |  /LEATHER64TEN



Photos By Anthony Meade



**FREE
ESTIMATE**
773.725.9800

Add a lil'

Color
to your space.

Residential | Commercial | Industrial

We specialize in: Exterior & Interior Painting | Specialty Finishes
Drywall & Plaster Repair | Deck Staining | Power Washing
Handyman Services | General Contractor

Proudly serving: Boystown, Andersonville, Lincoln Park,
Oak Park and North Shore since 1973.

ABBOTT PAINTING CO

773.725.9800 | www.abbottpainting.com

Add us on facebook.com/abbottpaintingchicago

GRAB A PLANE

Stylish Milan Worth a Visit

By Bill Malcolm

I attended the International LGBTQ+ Travel Association Conference held near Milan and thoroughly enjoyed my trip to this vibrant, stylish northern Italian city. Located just south of the Alps in the northern part of the country, it is the country's second largest (and wealthiest) area. The people are very stylish and there is lots to do.

You will find the Puerto Venezia neighborhood to be the designated gayborhood although Milan's LGBTQ venues are actually more scattered. The neighborhood features lots of cafes, restaurants and shopping (plus gay bars) within steps of each other and the metro is very convenient as is the Tram (streetcar). The Esselunga Supermarket features food to go where you can grab some fresh fruit and yogurt for breakfast.

I stayed at the Mercure Milano Centro Hotel, part of the Mercure brand by Accord Hotels. The service and rooms were great at this small hotel. It made for a perfect base to explore the city. It is located in the Piazza Oberdan in the Puerto Venezia district.

The subway station is literally in front of the hotel. Cute shops and restaurants abound. The room was comfortable after I insisted, they let me control the room temperature instead of the front desk. An Italian restaurant was next door was on one side and a coffee bar on the other. And just steps to the bars, the city park (Giardini Pubblici), and Buenos Aires street shopping district. However, skip paying for the hotel breakfast and enjoy one of the many nearby cafes for the morning double espresso and fresh baked rolls. (Like Spain, Italians don't drink a regular cup of coffee although the Café Americano comes close.)



WHAT TO DO

The wonderful natural history museum (Museo di Storia Naturale) and nearby huge city park (Giardini Pubblici "Indro Montanelli") are just steps from the Mercure Milano Hotel.

The Duomo cathedral and plaza are a must. Check out the nearby shopping at the Galleria Vittoria Emanuele II.

Don't miss the Sforzesco Castle. This huge fortress is complete with a moat and features works of Michelangelo and Leonardo da Vinci.

Wander along Navigli's canal district.

Visit the new City Life District and stroll along the contemporary art park. Lunch options abound. The

new downtown skyscraper district is also worth a visit with stylish new buildings and a "tree house" apartment high-rise.

NIGHTLIFE

The city's gay life is centered around the Porta Venezia neighborhood, specifically down Via Lecco (Lecco Street). Check out LeccoMilano, the Red Cafe and MONO. They even have a LGBTQ-friendly gelato stand. The MONO Bar was great for an appetizer. Appertivi is a pre-dinner semi-sweet alcoholic beverage. Try the Aperol Spritz which consists of aperol, spumante, soda, and fetta di Arancia. The Mono offered it with free chips for nine euros. This is a pre-dinner cocktail. Like in Spain, Italians eat late.



Photos By Anthony Meade



WHERE TO EAT/WHAT TO EAT

Do you like risotto, pasta, fresh breads, eggplant parmesan, pizza, smoked meats, or cheeses? How about wine? They all are Italian specialties. Great coffee is everywhere including the Coffee Joint next door to the Mercurio Hotel. Enjoy a cocktail on the rooftop bar of the Dome Milano (Via Giuseppe Mazzini).

GETTING THERE

I took Easy Jet from Barcelona to Milan. It was cheap but modelled after the U.S. budget airlines (charge for everything including a carry-on bag, on board beverages, etc.). They made us stand in the jet way for a half-hour before letting us sit down and then they announced a delay due to a crew change. But I made it. And it is reportedly better than Ryan Air, another budget carrier as well as Vueling Airlines. I took American Airlines from Milan to JFK. The lengthy flight (7.5 hours) went over the Alps as well as the Maritimes of Canada and Boston Harbor. The meal service was good (pasta or meatballs) followed by ice cream and then a pizza snack before landing. The free wine and beer was a surprise. I am growing to like American Airlines.

From Malpensa airport, take the



Malpensa Express train (13 euros) to the Carcano metro stop and transfer to the M1 subway line to get to the hotel. The subway is known as the ATM and you can get an all day pass for seven euros.

THE IGLTA CONFERENCE

The International Gay Lesbian Travel Association had its 38th Global Convention in Pero. Fifty five hundred attendees from 39 countries attended. Key themes included that travel is an agent of change.

FUN FACTS

Despite all the pasta, bread, smoked meat and cheese (not to mention the tiramisu), the Italians are a slim bunch with only 10 percent being overweight. The Mediterranean diet is very healthy, and they don't snack and graze all day like many (overweight) Americans do.

The chic dressed up Milanese are amazing. Perfect stylish haircuts, modern eyewear and designer outfits make them the best dressed folks in the world. Italian design also spills over into the architecture and autos (Porsches). I had never been to Italy and was

stunned at this classy crowd. Even the barista at the coffee bar looks like she is headed to a wedding. Leave room in your suitcase for some shopping.

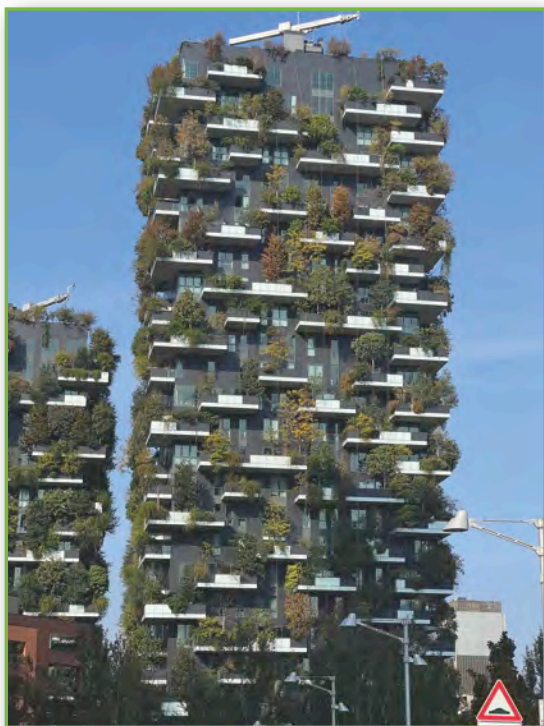
With the euro at par with the U.S. dollar, Italy (like Spain) is a bargain right now. Before you book a domestic vacation, compare it with a trip to Europe. Airfares are more reasonable for travel to Europe than they are to many U.S. cities and the hotels are about the same (but still a bit high for this value traveler).

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Pick up a copy of VIVA (vivaboy.com) has a listing of bars and restaurants throughout Spain. Also check out www.Yesmilano.it. Don't miss Milan's only printed publication, *Quiiky Magazine*, or take a tour with Quiiky Travel. Visit IGLTA's website for all your LGBTQ+ travel resource needs.

Special thanks to Visit Milan, Sonders and Beach, Visit Ft. Lauderdale, and *Quiiky Magazine* for hosting events at IGLTA.

Bill Malcolm is North America's only syndicated LGBTQ value travel columnist. Bill's columns appear or have appeared in LGBTQI+ publications in Toronto, Seattle, LA, DC, Chicago, Dallas, Atlanta, Detroit, Charlotte, Ft. Lauderdale, and other cities.





NAUGHTY
OR *Nice*
PARTY

Photos By Steven Koch

CRAM
FASHION



December 20, 2022

GRAB Magazine

39



Photos By Anthony Meade



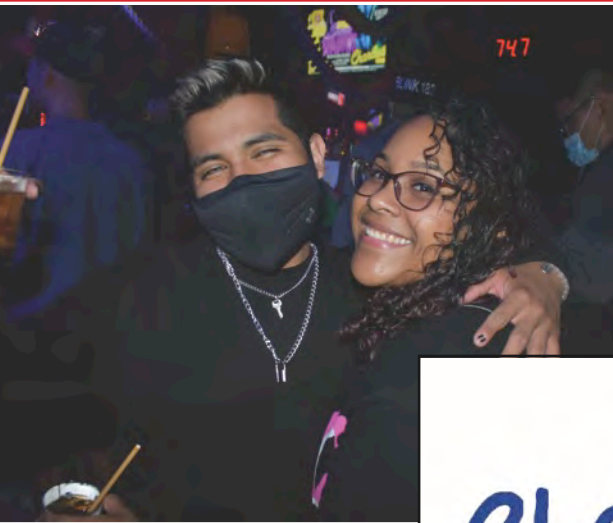


Photos By Anthony Meade

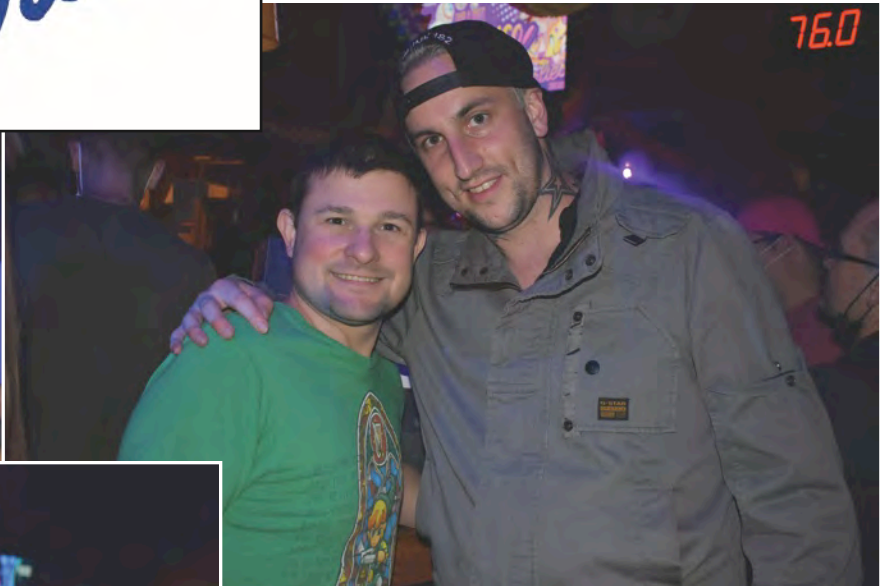


December 20, 2022

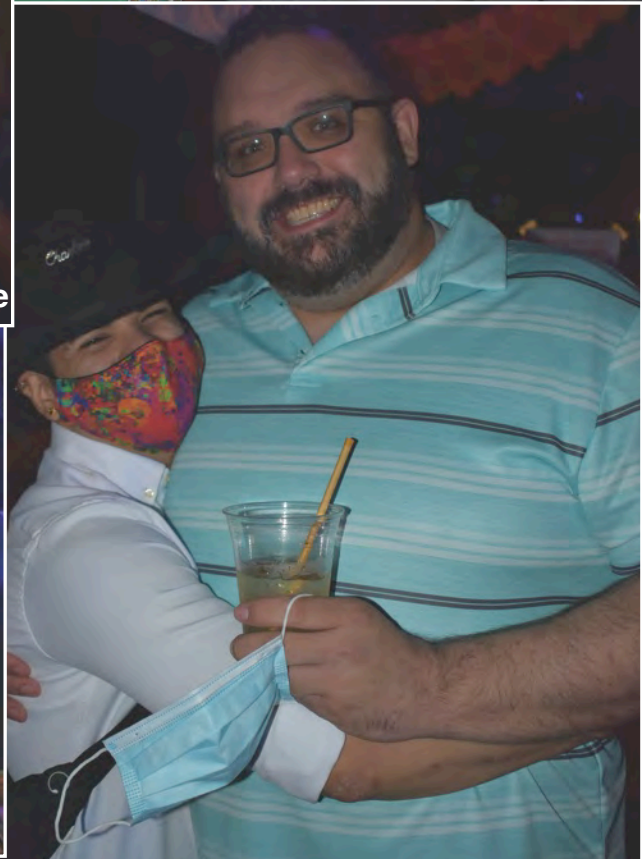




Charlie's



Photos By Anthony Meade





Book Now

- 206 REFRESHED SLEEPING ROOMS
- CRAFT COFFEE LOBBY BAR
- CURFEW RESTAURANT IN PARTNERSHIP WITH CELEBRITY CHEF FABIO VIVIANI
- STATE OF THE ART FITNESS FACILITY
- UNRIVALED LOCATION JUST A WHISPER FROM THE MOST MAGNIFICENT MILE
- JUST 1 BLOCK FROM DOWNTOWN'S ONLY GAY BAR

SAVE 20% WITH PROMO CODE: GAY

162 EAST ONTARIO STREET CHICAGO, IL 60611 | PH: 312.787.3580 | THEHOTELSAINTCLAIR.COM



**STEPPENWOLF THEATRE
COMPANY CONTINUES ITS
47TH SEASON WITH THE
WORLD PREMIERE OF
VICHET CHUM'S BALD
SISTERS DECEMBER 1, 2022 –
JANUARY 15, 2023**



Ma is dead; now what happens? Vichet Chum's world premiere follows two sisters – at odds since birth – as they settle the affairs of their strong-willed, wise-cracking mother while reconciling their family's Cambodian heritage with its ever-so-complicated American present. Where's the will? A burial or cremation? And what happens with Ma's teeth? *Bald Sisters* is an irreverent, comic and ultimately poignant examination of the ties that bind multigenerational families of immigrants together: history, spirituality and humor. Tickets are now on sale at steppenwolf.org and the Box Office at 312-335-1650.

**LOOKINGGLASS THEATRE
COMPANY'S THE STEADFAST
TIN SOLDIER
CREATED AND DIRECTED
BY ENSEMBLE MEMBER
MARY ZIMMERMAN IS NOW
PLAYING!**



Lookingglass Theatre Company's *The Steadfast Tin Soldier* is now playing!

Based on Hans Christian Andersen's story about a little tin soldier who never gives up, this gorgeous spectacle of music and movement is a classic the whole family will treasure! Adapted and directed by Ensemble Member Mary Zimmerman, *The Steadfast Tin Soldier* runs through January 8, 2023,

at Lookingglass Theatre located in the Water Tower Water Works building, 821 N Michigan Ave.

The ensemble cast for Chicago's beloved holiday tradition features Lookingglass Ensemble Members Kasey Foster as Ballerina and **Anthony Irons** as Goblin, with **Christopher Donahue** as Nursemaid, **John Gregorio** as Rat, and **Adeoye** as Tin Soldier. Original music for *The Steadfast Tin Soldier* is composed by Ensemble Member **Andre Pluess** and **Amanda Dehnert**. Musicians include **Shramen Ghosh** (Conductor/Piano), **Juan Horie** (Cello), **Pascal Innocenti** (Violin), **Dalia Chin** (Flutes) and **Constance Volk** (Flutes). Understudies include **Scottie Caldwell**, **Jack DeCesare**, **Avery Slade Fountain**, **Quinn Kelch**, and **Scott Westerman**. Get Tickets Online: lookingglasstheatre.org/event/steadfast-tin-soldier-2022 by Phone: (312) 337-0665 or In Person: 165 E Pearson, Chicago.

**STRAWDOG THEATRE
COMPANY PRESENTS THE
HOLIDAY HIT
HERSHEL AND THE
HANUKKAH GOBLINS
DECEMBER 11, 2022 –
JANUARY 1, 2023**



Strawdog Theatre Company, Chicago's newest free theater, is pleased to launch its 35th season with its holiday family favorite *Hershel and the Hanukkah Goblins*, returning for its fifth year. Based on the award-winning book by **Eric Kimmel**, *Hershel* is adapted by ensemble member **Michael Dailey**, with music and lyrics by Jacob Combs, direction by **Hannah Todd** and music direction by **Ricky Harris**. *Hershel* will play December 11, 2022 – January 1, 2023 at The Edge Off-Broadway Theater, 1133 W. Catalpa Ave. in Chicago's Edgewater neighborhood. In this adaptation of the **Caldecott Honor**-winning book, a traveling troupe of actors comes to town to find no one celebrating Hanukkah. They must put on a show to save the holiday! Will they bring back the spirit of Hanukkah to the town? Will Hershel of Ostropol

outsmart the goblins who haunt the old synagogue?

Director **Hannah Todd** comments, "I am so excited to bring this show to you. I grew up with this book so I have a great warm spot in my heart for it. Whatever your background and whatever your faith, its a special story to be enjoyed by everyone."

Tickets for all performances are FREE with reservations now open at www.strawdog.org.

**PRIDEARTS TO CO-
PRODUCE DRAMEDY IN THE
FAMILY WITH CHICAGO DRAG
ARTISTS TIRRARY REIGNS
AND RAMONA MIRAGE
ORIGINAL STORY OF A DRAG
FAMILY'S TRIBULATIONS
JUST AFTER NEW YEAR'S EVE
WILL PLAY JANUARY 6-15TH
2023**



PrideArts will celebrate the arrival of the year 2023 by teaming up with the Chicago drag performers Tirrary Reigns and Ramona Mirage to stage Reign's original Queer Family Dramedy, set just after New Year's Day. The play follows a drag family facing the trials, tribulations, and hangovers that come from a major loss in the family and a raucous New Year's Eve. Mirage and Reigns will co-direct Reigns' script, which features a cast of seven actors. *IN THE FAMILY* will play two weekends only: January 6-8 and 13-15 at the Pride Arts Center, 4139 N. Broadway, Chicago. The performance schedule is Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 pm and Sundays at 3:00 pm. Tickets are \$25 for all performances, \$20 for seniors and students. Tickets are on sale at www.pridearts.org

NOV. 25 THROUGH DEC. 27

**BUY
\$100 IN GIFT CARDS
GET A
\$20 GIFT CARD
FREE!**

THE LOGAN THEATRE

GIFT CARD

WWW.THELOGANTHEATRE.COM

Join us in December for big screen viewings of E.T., Gremlins, A Christmas Story, Batman Returns, & The Shop Around the Corner!

"Picture it..., Chicago, 2022"
The World Premiere of:

Heil in a Handbag Productions

The Golden Girls

THE LOST EPISODES

A Handbag Parody

The obligatory Holiday show

by david cerda Directed by spenser davis

November 26 through December 30

Heil in a Handbag Productions

The Hoover-Leppen Theatre* at The Center on Halsted 3656 N. Halsted Ave.

General Admission Tickets: \$29 in advance
Reserved VIP and Group Rates available

TicketTailor

Tickettailor.com for ticket options

*The Hoover-Leppen Theatre is Fully accessible

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED! I loved this show!
— Chicago Reader

Who's Holiday!

By **MATTHEW LOMBARDO**

Directed by **CHRISTOPHER PAZDERNIK**

starring **VERONICA GARZA**

Tickets available at www.theaterwit.org • 773-975-8150 • 1229 W Belmont Ave

NEW YEAR'S DAY JAZZ BRUNCH!

SUNDAY JANUARY 1

11AM-2PM

Mia Francesca

3311 North Clark Street

Reservations 773-281-3310

WWW.MIAFRANCESCA.COM

GRAB A CART
BEATNIX • 773-281-3214 3400 N. Halsted
UNABRIDGED BOOKSTORE • 3251 N. Broadway - 773-883-9119
WOMEN & CHILDREN FIRST BOOKSTORE 5233 N. CLARK 773-769-9299

GRAB CLOTHES
BROWN ELEPHANT - SHOPS • Andersonville - 5404 N. Clark 773-271-9382 Lakeview - 3020 N. Lincoln Ave 773-549-5943 Oak Park - 217 Harrison Street 708-445-0612
CRAM FASHION • 773-477-1737 3331 N. Broadway
EGOIST • 773-857-0882 3739 N. Halsted
FK - FULL KIT GEAR • 773-657-8000 - 5021 N. Clark
LEATHER 6410 • 773-508-0900 - 6410 N. Clark
MEN'S ROOM • 773-857-0907 - 3343 N Halsted St

GRAB A DOCTOR
HOWARD BROWN HEALTH CENTER - 773-388-1600
TOM KLARQUIST, M.D. AMG PROGRESSIVE MEDICAL GROUP • 773-296-5090 3000 N. Halsted #509
MK CHIROPRACTIC DR DONALD MASON 312-291-8277 711 W. North Ave Suite 201
NORTHSTAR HEALTHCARE 773-296-2400 - 2835 N. Sheffield

GRAB A HAIRCUT
CHICAGO MALE SALON 773-281-6005 • 3418 N. Halsted
FLASHES HAIR DESIGN 773-472-3355 • 3740 N. Broadway
GREAT HEAD SALON 773-525-6123 • 612 W. Belmont
MEN'S ROOM Barbershop 773-857-0907 - 3343 N Halsted St
SLADES BARBER SHOP 773-880-9858 • 3314 N. Halsted

GRAB HELP	
AIDS HOTLINE (ILLINOIS) - 800-AID-AIDS (800-243-2437)	
ANDERSONVILLE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE - 773-728-2995	
ASIANS/FRIENDS OF CHICAGO - 312-409-1573	
BROADWAY YOUTH CENTER - 773-388-1600	
CENTER ON HALSTED 3653 N. Halsted - 773-472-6469	
CHICAGO ANTI-BASHING NETWORK - 888-471-0874	
CHICAGO COMMISSION ON HUMAN RELATIONS - 312-744-4111	
CHICAGO HOUSE 2229 S. Michigan Ave - 773-248-5200	
CHICAGO WOMEN'S AIDS PROJECT- North Office: 6363 N. Broadway - 773-262-5566 South Office: 2317 E 71st St. 773-955-8709	
CITY OF CHICAGO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOTLINE - 877-863-6338	
CONGREGATION Or CHADASH - 773-271-2148	
DIGNITY CHICAGO -312-458-9438	
EDGE ALLIANCE - 773-935-4663	
EQUALITY ILLINOIS - 773-477-7173	
GLSEN - 312-409-1835	
HEARTLAND ALLIANCE 773-907-0367	
HOWARD BROWN HEALTH CENTER - 773-388-1600	
HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN - 312-252-0012	
LAKEVIEW EAST CHAMBER OF COMMERCE - 773-348-8608	
LAMBA LEGAL - 312-663-4413	

GRAB HELP
LESBIAN COMMUNITY CANCER PROJECT (LCCP) 773-561-4662
OAK PARK AREA LESBIAN AND GAY ASSOCIATION • Oak Park, IL 708-557-3003
PARENTS, FAMILIES & FRIENDS OF GAYS & LESBIANS (PFLAG) - 630-415-0622
PRIDE CHICAGO (Pride Parade Organizers) - 773-348-8243
RAINBOW SASH MOVEMENT JMurray@RCN.COM
RECOVERY CENTERS OF AMERICA • 331-234-5598 St. Charles, IL
ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH 3857 N. Kostner - 773-725-9026
TEST POSITIVE AWARE NETWORK (TPAN) • 5537 N. Broadway - 773-989-9400
UNITY LUTHERN CHICAGO 1212 W. Balmoral - 773-878-4747

GRAB A LAWYER

ROBERT LEYSHON - 312-782-2308
Attorney at Law, Personal Injury

ROGER V. MCCAFFREY-BOSS
312-263-8800 - 33 N. Dearborn
Street #800

GRAB A MOP
CHESTNUT ORGANIZING &
CLEANING SERVICE -
312-332-5575

GRAB A VIDEO

BANANA VIDEO - 773-561-8322
4923 N. Clark

To Place an ad in GRAB Magazine contact us today
at 773-707-2660

**FIND
GRAB
MAGAZINE
ONLINE AT**
WWW.GRABCHICAGO.COM
WWW.GRABCHICAGO.COM
WWW.GRABCHICAGO.COM

NATIONAL

SUICIDE

PREVENTION

LIFELINE

TM

1-800-273-TALK (8255)

suicidepreventionlifeline.org

This Ad sponsored by GRAB Magazine

GRAB A DRINK

GRAB A DRINK

GRAB A TOWEL

14 **2 Bears Tavern Uptown**
773-672-4900 • 1140 W. Wilson Ave

16 **@MOSPHERE** • 773-784-1100
5355 N. Clark

5 **2ND STORY BAR** • 312-923-9536
157 E. Ohio

6 **BATON SHOW LOUNGE**
312-644-5269 • 4713 N. Broadway

26 **BERLIN** • 773-348-4975
954 W. Belmont

15 **BIG CHICKS** • 773-728-5511
5024 N. Sheridan

24 **BOBBY LOVES** • 773-525-1200
3729 N. Halsted

20 **CELL BLOCK** • 773-665-8064
3702 N. Halsted

27 **CHARLIES** • 773-871-8887
3726 N. Broadway

49 **CLOSET** • 773-477-8533
3325 N. Broadway

67 **ELIXIR ANDERSONVILLE**
773-975-9244 1509 W. Balmoral

51 **ELIXIR LOUNGE** 773-975-9244
3452 N. Halsted

3 **FANTASY NIGHTCLUB**
773-325-2233 • 3641 N. Halsted

10 **GRANVILLE ANVIL**
773-973-0006 • 1137 W. Granville

31 **HYDRATE** • 773-975-9244
3458 N. Halsted

8 **JACKHAMMER** • 773-743-5772
6406 N. Clark

68 **JEFFERY PUB** • 773-363-8555
7041 S. Jeffery Blvd

71 **LIPS** • 312-815-2662
2229 S. Michigan Ave

44 **LUCKY HORSESHOE**
773-404-3169 • 3169 N. Halsted

48 **MARTYS MARTINI BAR** •
773-561-6425 • 1511 W Balmoral

70 **MEETING HOUSE TAVERN** •
773-696-4211 • 5025 N. Clark

1 **RAVENSWOOD TAP** •
773-528-3253 • 1829 W. Montrose)

67 **REPLAY** • 773-654-1369
3358 N. Clark (Andersonville)

35 **REPLAY** • 773-975-9244
3439 N. Halsted (Lakeview)

58 **ROGERS PARK SOCIAL**
6920 N. Glenwood

34 **ROSCOES** • 773-281-3355
3356 N. Halsted

38 **SCARLET** • 773-348-1053
3320 N. Halsted

63 **PROGRESS** •
773-697-9268 • 3359 N. Halsted

45 **SHAKERS ON CLARK** •
773-327-5969
3164 N. Clark

39 **SIDETRACK** • 773-477-9189
3349 N. Halsted

69 **SPLASH** • 773-904-7338
3339 N. Halsted

23 **THE NORTH END** •
773-477-7999 • 3733 N. Halsted

52 **The SOFO Tap** • 773-784-7636
4923 N. Clark

7 **TOUCHE** • 773-465-7400
6412 N. Clark

71 **WHISKEY GIRL TAVERN** •
773-654-1766 • 6318 N. Clark

GRAB A BITE

2 **DREW'S ON HALSTED** •
773-244-9191
3201 N. Halsted

21 **F.O'MAHONY'S** • 773-549-0226
3701 N. Broadway

22 **KIT KAT LOUNGE & SUPPER CLUB** • 773-525-1111
3700 N. Halsted
Open Daily 5:30pm-2am

32 **LARK** • 773-799-8968
3441 N. Halsted

67 **REPLAY ANDERSONVILLE**
773-654-1369 • 5358 N. Clark

43 **WOOD** • 773-935-9663
3335 N. Halsted

CULTURE

25 **CENTER ON HALSTED**
3656 N Halsted • 773-472-6469

11 **GERBER/HART LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES** •
6500 N. Clark 773-381-8030

9 **LEATHER ARCHIVES & MUSEUM** • 6418 N. Greenvew
773-761-9200

53 **BANANA VIDEO**
773-561-8322
4923 N. Clark

40 **STEAMWORKS BATHHOUSE**
773-929-6080 •
3246 N. Halsted

SUBURBAN BARS

CLUB KRAVE •
13126 Western Ave
708-597-8379 (Blue Island, IL)

DICKS RU CRAZEE •
1221 E. 150TH ST
219-852-0222 (Hammond, IN)

THE OFFICE •
513 E. State Street
815-965-0344 (Rockford, IL)

To Place your BAR or
Business in this section
of GRAB Magazine Call
Today
773-707-2660

GRAB SLEEP

33 **BEST WESTERN PLUS HAWTHORNE** 773-244-3434
3434 N Broadway St

**FIND
GRAB
MAGAZINE
ONLINE AT**

WWW.GRABCHICAGO.COM
WWW.GRABCHICAGO.COM
WWW.GRABCHICAGO.COM



GRAB CLASSIFIEDS

CLEANING

CHESTNUT ORGANIZING & CLEANING SERVICE - 312-332-5575. We are a home and office house cleaning service. But more importantly, we are also an organizing/cleaning service for people who need that service because of their depression, chronic or long term illness or disabilities, the elderly, the deceased and much more. We are never judgemental; we've already seen and done worse than your home currently is. For more information about us, see us: **www.ChestnutCleaning.com** or please call **312-332-5575**. With your help, we can help you.

HELP WANTED

MALE DANCERS WANTED; The Lucky Horseshoe Lounge 3169 N. Halsted. Open Auditions every Tuesday at 7pm. 21+ I.D.

PETS

GET YOUR PET WORKING IN TV Commercials, Films, Magazines, Etc. **CALL/TEXT www.MyTalentedPet.com 708-833-6673.**

IN HOME SERVICES

Sewing&Alterations, ClosetFridge Clean Out, Whole Home Apartment Boxing/Moving, Home Chef/Barber, Handyman In Home Services Brought to you byChristian Crawford Design, LLC **805-464-8077 Christian@christiancrawfordblog.com**

GRAB A REALTOR

MARK ZIPPERER, RE/MAX 3401 N Broadway 773.612.6628 mark@markzipperer.com www.markzipperer.com

RECOVERY

STRUGGLING WITH CRYSTAL METH? We can help. Crystal Meth Anonymous (CMA) Chicago. **info@cmachicago.org 312-600-5590**

MASSAGE

Massage THERAPY IN PALATINE years of experience all are welcome Thank for time and book ahead of time to get your time you need. Phone number is **847-202-3234.** Ask for Gary.

The Next Issue of GRAB hits the streets and Online Tuesday January 3rd 2023

Reserve your Ad Space Today

GrabStacy@gmail.com
or Call **773-707-2660**

Place your Classified ad on this page for as little as \$15 per Issue!Email us Today!
GrabStacy@gmail.com or
Call**773-707-2660**



SHOP LOCAL • DRINK LOCAL

KOVAL

Whiskey, gin, and specialty spirits crafted with **unique grains**, signature **heart cut** techniques, and only the very **best quality** distillate.

Made in Chicago's Malt Row since 2008

ORGANIC | HEART CUT | INDEPENDENT

KOVALDISTILLERY.COM    @KOVALDISTILLERY

PLEASE DRINK RESPONSIBLY

